



07/19/2008 05:20 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject High Elevation Aquatic Resource Management Plan

RECEIVED

ARM-S-16
JUL 25 2008

p. 10/1

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

The purpose of this e-mail is to make a few comments on the High Elevation Aquatic Resource Management Plan. I have been visiting Yosemite Park for 4 years and enjoy hiking, climbing, fishing, and wildlife viewing. I have been studying amphibians in the Sierra for 3 field summers, focusing on the Mountain Yellow-legged Frog and Yosemite Toad. Establishing and maintaining fishless habitat will be key to the survival of these two species and chemical fish removal must be considered as an option due to the problem of complete fish eradication with mechanical removal. Important research is currently underway in Sequoia-Kings Park looking at effects of chemical removal on aquatic ecosystems; excluding chemical removal from the High Elevation Aquatic Resource Management Plan without complete information could limit the effectiveness of fish removal and severely hinder the recovery of the Mountain Yellow-legged Frog. A balance must be met between fish and frogs, I would advocate complete fish removal for entire water basins to establish as much habitat as possible for the frog, while still maintaining some basins with fish for recreational fishing opportunities. Overall, frogs should have priority over fish due to the detrimental effects of fish on the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems they occupy. Thank you for considering my thoughts.



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[Redacted]
07/21/2008 07:42 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject HARM Plan Scoping Comments

RECEIVED
ARM-S-17
JUL 25 2008
P. 181
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent:

This letter provides my scoping comments on Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan. It is my hope that you will use this opportunity to craft a strong plan to protect Yosemite's fragile high-elevation resources from the harm being caused by recreation and administrative activities. Please consider the following specific comments:

Because domestic livestock (such as horses and mules) spread weeds, contaminate water with pathogens and foul odors, harm threatened species (such as the Yosemite toad), compete with wildlife for forage, frighten native mammals (such as the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep), and cause substantial erosion of trails, your HARM Plan should include an alternative tophase out all domestic stock use (except for essential administrative purposes) throughout Yosemite's high country.

Because the High Sierra Camps pollute Yosemite's high-elevation aquatic ecosystems (with human sewage, gray water, livestock manure, soil erosion, etc), these archaic commercial developments should be closed, and the sites restored. Your HARM Plan should embrace this opportunity to protect Yosemite's high country by closing these polluting developments as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted line]

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07/21/2008 09:05 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Yosemite Plan

RECEIVED
ARM-S-18
JUL 25 2008

P-102

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to provide scoping comments on Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan. I am concerned about the harmful impacts of recreation and administrative activities on Yosemite's high country, and I urge you to adopt a strong plan to protect Yosemite's fragile high-elevation aquatic resources. My specific comments are as follows:

Because domestic livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) are known to pollute water, spread weeds, and trample sensitive wetlands (including habitat for threatened species such as the Yosemite toad), the plan must include an alternative to prohibit all grazing by domestic livestock in Yosemite's high country. A "no grazing" alternative would allow stock use to continue while preventing many of the harmful effects of stock use. Such an alternative is entirely reasonable; many other national parks require stock users to carry their own feed and to keep animals tied up when not being used so that park lands are not trampled and grazed.

I object to drinking water that has been contaminated by stock manure or urine because it is a health hazard and because it detracts from my aesthetic enjoyment of Yosemite's high country. Because of documented water pollution caused by pack and saddle stock animals, all recreation and administrative stock should be required to wear diapers (which are now widely available and easy to obtain), and the manure should be properly disposed so that water is not contaminated.

Horses and mules produce about 33 pounds of manure and 18 pounds of urine per-animal per-day. This means that a group of 25 stock animals on a one-week trip produces nearly three tons of manure and 400 gallons of urine that are left behind in the park. Currently, there are no controls on where this material is deposited, and much of it ends up in surface waters, wetlands, meadows, and on trails. While the use of diapers and proper disposal of manure may mitigate some effects of the manure, the unavoidable impacts of stock use such as erosion of trails and the discharge of livestock urine can only be controlled if stock use is limited. Therefore, your plan should adopt strict upper limits on the number of stock animals that may enter the Yosemite high country each year.

Because livestock are known to spread invasive weeds by importing weed seeds on their coats and in their manure, all stock animals should be strictly required to be properly washed and quarantined before they are allowed to enter Yosemite's high country.

The waste produced by the High Sierra Camps (i.e., human sewage, gray water, livestock manure) is polluting Yosemite's high country. These outdated commercial developments should be closed, and the sites restored. Your HARM Plan should utilize this excellent opportunity to protect Yosemite's high country by closing these aged and ugly developments once and for all.

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ARM-5-18
P. 2072

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely yours,





07/23/2008 07:13 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Comments: Yosemite High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan,

RECEIVED
ARM-5-19
JUL 25 2008
P. 182
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to provide comments on Yosemite's **High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan**. I am very concerned about the harmful impacts of recreation and administrative activities on Yosemite's high country, and I urge you to adopt a strong plan to protect Yosemite's fragile high-elevation aquatic resources. My specific comments are as follows:

Horses and mules produce about 33 pounds of manure and 18 pounds of urine per-animal per-day. This means that a group of 25 stock animals on a one-week trip produces nearly **three tons** of manure and **400 gallons** of urine that are left behind in the park. Currently, there are no controls on where this material is deposited, and much of it ends up in surface waters, wetlands, meadows, and on trails. While the use of diapers and proper disposal of manure may mitigate some effects of the manure, the unavoidable impacts of stock use such as erosion of trails and the discharge of livestock urine can only be controlled if stock use is limited. Therefore, your plan should adopt strict upper limits on the number of stock animals that may enter the Yosemite high country each year. Commercial pack groups pack very heavy, building large camps in prime areas. There should be limits that force groups to pack conservatively so that fewer animals are required.

Because domestic livestock are known to pollute water (that we need to drink!), spread weeds, and trample sensitive wetlands, the plan must include an alternative to prohibit all grazing by domestic livestock in Yosemite's high country. A "no grazing" alternative would allow stock use to continue while preventing many of the harmful effects of stock use. Such an alternative is entirely reasonable; many other national parks require stock users to carry their own feed and to keep animals tied up when not being used so that park lands are not trampled and grazed.

Because livestock are known to spread invasive weeds by importing weed seeds on their coats and in their manure, all stock animals should be strictly required to be properly washed and quarantined before they are allowed to enter Yosemite's high country.

The waste produced by the High Sierra Camps (i.e., human sewage, gray water, livestock manure) is polluting Yosemite's high country. These outdated commercial developments should be closed, and the sites restored. Your HARM Plan should utilize this excellent opportunity to protect

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ARM-5-19
P. 2/2

Yosemite's high country by closing these aged and ugly developments once and for all.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely yours,



Seal Beach, CA 90740



07/22/2008 12:31 PM

To <Yose_Planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Response re HARM

RECEIVED

ARM-5-20

JUL 25 2008

P. 182

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

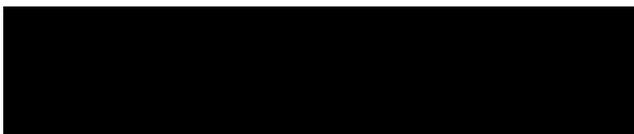
We have been backpacking for 40 yrs. in the High Sierra. I have seen stock animals contaminate stream crossings all along the Muir Trail and its east and west branches...and including John Muir's Lake Ediza where the animals were turned out into THE HEADWATERS of the lake ruining the quality of the water to our immediate area and downstream. Your form letters ignore the abuse of Delaware North Company that has promoted the rape of the High Sierra Camps by their abusive supply pack trains, their poorly functioning and design of their sewage system, their permitting too many people from utilizing the camps during the regular season and their greedy policy of extending their season beyond the original lottery ending dates during mild weather. (e.g.: Sept. '07). Their poor sewage drain fields have flowed down to the Lyle Fork of the sensitive Tuolumne system, Glen Ellen HSC and on the Hetch Hetchy (San Francisco's water source). Delaware North Company continues to promote availability of ample toilet and shower facilities for 30 or more guests through, out the High Sierra Camp system only telling their clients that they are dysfunctional when the scheduled hikers are on their way or have arrived at the camp. There they learn of the lack of advertised

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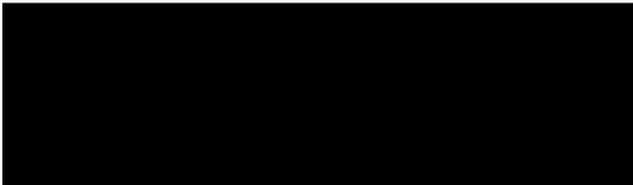
showers and one toilet for 30 people...or occasionally supplemented by a walk to a composting toilet which is likely to be dysfunctional and treated with huge amounts of ammonia to hide the odor of waste. (Ammonia is specifically NOT to be used in composting toilets).

Throughout the Sierra it is common to find uncovered pit dump (garbage) sites that the pack trains leave behind much like the Himalayas. The animals themselves are often hobbled within smell and sight of the camps including the HSC and within 30 or fewer feet of the water (See Glen Ellen HSC). I have experienced these animals breaking loose in the middle of the night and galloping through the camp sites and water sources.

There must be strong leadership and strict enforced regulations to protect these sensitive ecosystems for the future.



Walnut Creek, CA.





07/22/2008 09:51 AM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject HARM Plan

RECEIVED
ARM-S-21
JUL 25 2008
P. J. B.
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent,

I am an elementary teacher, avid backpacker, and member of the Yosemite Association . I would like to provide scoping comments on Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan. I urge you to adopt a strong plan to protect Yosemite's fragile high -elevation aquatic resources .

My specific concern is with livestock . Domestic livestock pollute water, spread weeds, and trample sensitive wetlands. The HARM plan must include an alternative to prohibit all grazing by domestic livestock in Yosemite's high country. A "no grazing" alternative would allow stock use to continue while preventing many of the harmful effects of livestock use . These harmful effects could further be eliminated if all stock were required to wear diapers . What a simple solution! In addition, to limit degradation of sensitive wetland areas, there should be strict upper limits on the number of stock animals that may enter the Yosemite high country each year .

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. A strong HARM plan to protect high-elevation aquatic resources is needed at this time .

Respectfully yours,



Sebastopol, CA 95472

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[Redacted]

07/21/2008 09:03 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc [Redacted]

bcc [Redacted]

Subject HARM plan

RECEIVED

ARM-S-22

JUL 25 2008

P.182

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

[Redacted]

Winthrop, WA 98862

Superintendent

Attn: High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

P.O. Box 577

Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Mr. Superintendent,

I am writing to provide scoping comments on Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan. I am a professional engineer and my career has focused on water quality issues both in the US and internationally. I am also a mountaineer who cut his teeth on Yosemite's unsurpassed granite walls.

I am concerned about the harmful impacts of recreation and administrative activities on Yosemite's high country, and I urge you to adopt a strong plan to protect Yosemite's fragile high-elevation aquatic resources. My specific comments are as follows:

Because domestic livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) are known to pollute water, spread weeds, and trample sensitive wetlands (including habitat for threatened species such as the Yosemite toad), the plan under NEPA and CEQA guidelines must include a "No Project" alternative.

The function equivalent would be to prohibit all grazing by domestic livestock in Yosemite's high country. A "No Project" alternative would allow stock use to continue while preventing many of the harmful effects of stock use. Such an alternative is entirely reasonable; many other national parks require stock users to carry their own feed and to keep animals tied up when not being used so that park lands are not trampled and grazed. Many other national parks also require stock users to capture the manure from these animals in what the Grand Canyon rangers colloquially call a "honey bucket". Functionally this retards the transport of invasive weed species. Livestock are known to spread invasive weeds by importing weed seeds on their coats and in their manure. Therefore all stock animals should be strictly required to be properly washed and quarantined before they are allowed to enter Yosemite's high country.

The High Sierra Camps pollute Yosemite's high-elevation aquatic ecosystems (with human sewage, gray water, livestock manure, soil erosion, etc.), these commercial developments should be closed, and the sites restored. Your HARM Plan should embrace this opportunity to protect Yosemite's high country by closing these polluting developments as soon as possible.

In summary domestic livestock:

- 1) Spread weeds;
- 2) Contaminate water with pathogens and foul odors;

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ARM-5-22
p. 2 of 2

- 3) Harm habitat of threatened species such as the Yosemite toad and the yellow-legged frog;
- 4) Compete with wildlife for forage, frighten native mammals such as the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, and
- 5) Cause substantial erosion of trails.

Your HARM Plan should include a "No Project" alternative to phase out all domestic stock use (except for essential administrative purposes) throughout Yosemite's high country.

As I taxpayer, and a park user, I depend on you to protect the Yosemite wilderness in accordance with the strictures of the Wilderness Act of 1964. I look forward to reviewing your HARM plan and thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]



[Redacted]
07/22/2008 07:59 AM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject High-Elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

RECEIVED
ARM-S-23
JUL 25 2008
p. 101
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

July 22, 2008

Dear Superintendent:

This letter provides my scoping comments on the Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan. I feel very strongly about the long term mismanagement of these valuable resources.

As an example of how upside down some of the management logic currently is, would you allow me, as a foot powered hiker, to spread weeds, contaminate water with dangerous pathogens, harm and frighten native and threatened species? Of course not!!

Then why is it that current management policies allow just this type of contrary activities from domestic commercial stock? Clearly the administration has a direct need for utilization of stock animals, however the time has come to cease turning a blind eye to the harm that commercial stock cause. Additionally, the High Sierra Camps are also comprising the wilderness values and cause devastating soil erosion and human waste issues.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to incorporate language into the Yosemite High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan that effectively ceases all commercial activities in the high country. Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

Diamond Bar, CA 91765

[Redacted line]

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[Redacted]

07/22/2008 08:20 AM

To <Yose_Planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Horses In The Wilderness

RECEIVED

ARM-S-24

JUL 25 2008

P. 181

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

My first hike into the Sierras in the 1970's was up Bubbs Creek to Lake Reflection, at that time completely surrounded by snowpack. It was instant love of the magnificent Sierras, and has been followed by several more 8-12 day treks on foot to various areas of this range. These treks were interspersed with numerous day hikes, and up to 2 week hikes (an estimated 100-150 total), from Big Bend to the Cascades. This period of my life also included 3 extended hikes in Alaska, numerous kayak trips in Northern Canada, Minnesota, The Northeastern United States, as well as isolated trips throughout the Southeast. Fortunately my life style and occupation, a 30 year pilot with TWA, allowed a great deal of bunched time off to see a much of this planet we live on. Without any doubt, the greatest destruction of any remaining semblance of wilderness, has been done by the burning desire of the controlling agencies to develop them. Development induces growth, resulting in promotions, money, power, etc, all of which are completely detrimental to the objective of retaining a place of solitude in which to regenerate oneself. It is my conservative estimate that a single horse does as much damage to the wilderness as fifty individual hikers. Considering America's obesity problem, wouldn't it be far better if we ate the low fat horsemeat, and used that energy to propel us on foot into the wilderness? Also, in this way, wouldn't our grandchildren have a much better world in which to live.

Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

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[Redacted]

07/21/2008 07:22 PM

[Redacted]

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject HIGH ELEVATION AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

RECEIVED

ARM-S-25

JUL 25 2008

P. 182

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to provide scoping comments on Yosemite's **High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan**. I am concerned about the harmful impacts of recreation and administrative activities on Yosemite's high country, and I urge you to adopt a strong plan to protect Yosemite's fragile high-elevation aquatic resources. My specific comments are as follows:

Because domestic livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) are known to pollute water, spread weeds, and trample sensitive wetlands (including habitat for threatened species such as the Yosemite toad), the plan must include an alternative to prohibit all grazing by domestic livestock in Yosemite's high country. A "no grazing" alternative would allow stock use to continue while preventing many of the harmful effects of stock use. Such an alternative is entirely reasonable; many other national parks require stock users to carry their own feed and to keep animals tied up when not being used so that park lands are not trampled and grazed.

I object to drinking water that has been contaminated by stock manure or urine because it is a health hazard and because it detracts from my aesthetic enjoyment of Yosemite's high country. Because of documented water pollution caused by pack and saddle stock animals, all recreation and administrative stock should be required to wear diapers (which are now widely available and easy to obtain), and the manure should be properly disposed so that water is not contaminated.

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ARM-5-25
p. 2 of 2

Horses and mules produce about 33 pounds of manure and 18 pounds of urine per-animal per-day. This means that a group of 25 stock animals on a one-week trip produces nearly **three tons** of manure and **400 gallons** of urine that are left behind in the park. Currently, there are no controls on where this material is deposited, and much of it ends up in surface waters, wetlands, meadows, and on trails. While the use of diapers and proper disposal of manure may mitigate some effects of the manure, the unavoidable impacts of stock use such as erosion of trails and the discharge of livestock urine can only be controlled if stock use is limited. Therefore, your plan should adopt strict upper limits on the number of stock animals that may enter the Yosemite high country each year.

Because livestock are known to spread invasive weeds by importing weed seeds on their coats and in their manure, all stock animals should be strictly required to be properly washed and quarantined before they are allowed to enter Yosemite's high country.

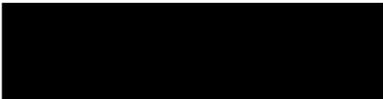
The waste produced by the High Sierra Camps (i.e., human sewage, gray water, livestock manure) is polluting Yosemite's high country. These outdated commercial developments should be closed, and the sites restored. Your HARM Plan should utilize this excellent opportunity to protect Yosemite's high country by closing these aged and ugly developments once and for all.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely yours,



Moraga, California
94556-1219



07/22/2008 10:54 AM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Back Country Planning

RECEIVED
 ARM-S-26
 JUL 25 2008
 P. 181
 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent, As a long time user of Yosemite's Back Country, I am always dismayed at the noise, and mess of the High Sierra Camps and their surrounding areas. I try to plan my trips so as to get as far away from these "cities" as possible. The amount of over use is staggering, and the accompanying horse pollution is problematic. I would highly recommend taking the High Sierra Camps out and returning the areas into natural habitats once again. I would also think it prudent to limit horse travel and grazing to better protect our precious back country resources. Thank you for giving the users of the National Park an opportunity to share our opinions.

Sincerely, [Redacted] Walnut Creek, CA 04596



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07/22/2008 04:49 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Scoping Alternatives for HARM

RECEIVED

ARM-S-27

JUL 25 2008

P. 1071

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to strongly support the placement of a "no grazing" alternative for the park high country. I have been backpacking in the Sierras for over 20 years and have seen first hand what enormous damage livestock and grazing animals can do. Please fulfill your duty to protect these highly fragile areas by allowing an alternative point of view to be reviewed.

Thank you.



Chico, CA 95928-4353

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[Redacted]
07/22/2008 10:46 PM

To <Yose_Planning@nps.gov>
cc
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Subject High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

RECEIVED
ARM-S-28
JUL 25 2008
P. 1031
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear NPS,

Writing to provide scoping comments on Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan.

Based on my frequent experiences hiking in Yosemite, the biggest threat to stream water quality is stock animals. Besides the direct degradation caused by urine and manure deposits in or near the water, they often breakdown stream and lake banks causing muddy waters and lack of shore vegetation.

The best plan would include a 100% prohibition of all stock animal use.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

danville, CA 94526

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07/22/2008 10:00 AM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc
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Subject High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan.

RECEIVED

ARM-S-29
JUL 25 2008

P. 192

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

I am asking that you include an option in the plan that greatly limits and restricts stock usage.

I am writing you about high altitude grazing of stock animals . I believe all domestic stock should be prohibited or greatly restricted (both in numbers and areas) from high elevation in order to preserve the natural resources .

1. I have personally observed mules dropping manure in streams .
2. I have personally seen mules stop in mid stream to urinate in the water .
3. I have personally seen stock animals breaking stream and lakeshore banks .
4. I have watched while stock animals eat the wild flowers that I so much appreciate.

I resent this pollution of my water source and destruction of meadows .

Entry of stock animals in the High country should be greatly limited in number . Also the animals should be required to carry their own feed . They should be tied when not traveling. Stock animals should NOT be allowed to roam free and graze.

I strongly believe that domestic stock animals should be greatly restricted from high elevations to preserve the wilderness .

In addition I believe the commercial High Sierra Camps have outlived their usefulness. Supplying these camps causes great damage to the high meadows and trails. with today's increased usage we can not have a select group of people living better than others when their money causes destruction . Supplying their demands creates excessive damage. High Sierra Camps should be phased out.



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ARM-5-29
P. 2072

Sonoma, CA 95476



07/23/2008 05:52 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject High-Elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

RECEIVED
ARM-5-30
JUL 25 2008
P. 102
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent

Re: High-Elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

P.O. Box 577

Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Superintendent:

Hereby I am responding to your invitation to comments on a Yosemite High-Elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan. I urge you to develop a plan that will provide excellent protection while allowing some recreational use.

I have hiked in the area many times over four decades. The greatest harm I noticed was from horses and mules. It was unpleasant to see the invasive dandelions and other non-native plants likely introduced by them. The realization that I was breathing dust contaminated by their deposits on the trails was disturbing. The thought that their contamination was affecting the streams and ponds caused me to question why these non-native animals were allowed in this otherwise pristine area. Certainly they have an adverse effect on the aquatic resources. Therefore, please provide for the restricting their presence to the most essential official uses.

The above restriction of domestic livestock use will mean the closing of the high Sierra camps. That is a excellent idea as they probably the greatest source of pollution that affects the aquatic resources. Many years ago I noticed the disappearance of almost all frogs. Clearly stringent provisions should be in the

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ARM-S-30
p. 2 of 2

plan until they have returned.

As other adverse impacts on the resources may come from global warming and increased air pollution, other impacts need to be strictly limited. Recreation in this area should be limited to a monitored number of persons on foot.

I urge a HARM Plan with the above restrictions to be implemented as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



SantaFe, NewMexico 87507