



[Redacted]
07/23/2008 09:12 AM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan.

RECEIVED

ARM-S-31
JUL 25 2008

P. 181
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing about Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan.

I understand that you need to allow horses and other livestock into the backcountry, but you should be aware that they have a tremendous impact on the region and on the experience of most backcountry users. Please add a "NO GRAZING" clause to the plan and prohibit grazing by livestock. They can carry their own food just like the rest of us.

I also understand that the equestrian community objects to the use of horse diapers, which are common in urban environments and would prevent horses from contaminating my water supply and trails. I urge you to find some compromise position on this issue. At least reduce the number of undiapered horses- any improvement will make a difference.

Thank you for your consideration,

[Redacted]
San Mateo, CA 94402



| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| J | I | E | E | H | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR | TS |



[Redacted]

07/23/2008 01:10 PM

[Redacted]

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

RECEIVED
ARM-S-32
JUL 25 2008
P. 181
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent
Attn: High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

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 to phase 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.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Cupertino, CA 95014 US

[Redacted]

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | X | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR | TS |



[Redacted]

07/23/2008 04:08 PM

To Yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Yosemite HARM Plan

RECEIVED
ARM-5-33
JUL 25 2008
P.101
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent:

I would like to offer these scoping comments on Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan so that you can create a strong document to protect Yosemite's high-elevation resources.

The HARM Plan should include an alternative to phase out all domestic stock use throughout Yosemite's high country, except for use essential for administrative purposes.

It should also phase out the polluting, commercial High Sierra Camps as soon as possible, with subsequent restoration of the sites. These anachronistic developments are no longer compatible with current environmental concepts and standards.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]

Marina del Rey, CA 90292

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| \$ | 1 | 2 | 2 | X | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR | TS |



07/22/2008 09:32 AM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Saving this wonderful gift.

RECEIVED
ARM-S-34
JUL 25 2008
P. 1031
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely yours,



Los Angeles CA. 90045

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| T | I | E | E | X | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR | TS |



John Buckley
 <johnb@cserc.org>
 07/17/2008 08:56 AM

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

RECEIVED
 ARM-S-35
 JUL 25 2008
 P. 182
 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

July 17, 2008

From John Buckley, executive director
 Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
 Box 396
 Twain Harte, CA 95383

Please add these e-mail comments to our Center's previous written and oral comments provided to Park planners.

Thank you to the staff who provided a high quality, informative, and well-facilitated scoping and information meeting at Parson's Lodge last weekend. Despite a somewhat insistent, fairly intense member of the public who was there to preach his vision, rather than to contribute scoping comments, the overall session was productive and informative.

1) CSERC reiterates our Center's understanding that the Park Service has a mandate and full legal authority to remove or reduce invasive, non-native plants and animals that are deemed by Park scientists and Park managers to pose risk to native species in the Park ecosystem. Despite strongly held views and possible political pressure by various interest groups, the reality is that the Park has a legal mandate and obligation to sustain and preserve the Park resources in a manner that will allow future generations to enjoy those resources. If introduced trout are now inhabiting waters located thousands of feet higher in elevation than any fish habitat that existed prior to transport and introduction by humans, then those fish are invasive. If those fish are known, as is the case, to be contributing clearly to the demise of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs and to large insects that are a key part of the food chain for the Yosemite toad and other amphibians, then the Park has a legal obligation to take swift action to reduce the fishes' impacts on amphibians.

2) CSERC believes that the proposed action in the High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan should be based on a high objective for restoration of aquatic resources, not simply an "improvement" over the current degraded, degenerating condition. As was mentioned at the scoping session, climate change poses risks that no one can current predict with any assurance of accuracy. Aquatic species may face extremes of flood, cold, heat, drought, and other factors that could substantially interfere with dispersal, survival, and reintroduction. A key objective in any management plan should be to err on the side of survival for dwindling species or diminished aquatic resources.

3) The current description of the Management Plan ties to an objective of continuing to offer high quality recreational fishing opportunities in a wide variety of habitats. With an admitted strong bias as a life-long, ardent, zealous fisherman, I totally understand the desire for many Park-lovers who believe that fishing for trout in high country lakes and streams is a key part of a satisfying visit. However,

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| P | 1 | 9 | 2 | 082 | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR | TS |

despite being a zealous fisherman, I recognize that the bottom line for Park management must always be sustaining in a healthy, viable condition all native species in the ecosystem -- not providing a recreational experience for fishermen. Any NEPA evaluation of fishing will show that there are not only high levels of fishing opportunities on private lands throughout the State and throughout the mountain range, but there are already incredibly high levels of high mountain, back-country fishing opportunities in national forest wilderness areas to both the north and the south of the Park. The ecological needs of the ecosystem should and must take precedence over outdoor recreation desires of a segment of Park visitors.

4) Finally, looked back at papers provided to me through Park planning notifications to try to understand why I originally had down July 18th as the date for the Parson's Lodge high-elevation scoping session. I found an e-mail sent out by Kristina in May that listed the meeting and showed the date to be July 18th. Fortunately, because I attended the Yosemite Partners session I learned of the correct date and was able to attend the session last Saturday. But if I had only kept the original Park notice about the meeting being on the 18th, I might be showing up tomorrow and be highly frustrated to find that the meeting had been held last Saturday. Perhaps someone needs to be up there on the off chance that others also relied on that early notification.

Thanks for considering this input...

John Buckley, CSERC



[Redacted]

07/25/2008 05:23 AM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc

RECEIVED
ARM-5-36
JUL 25 2008
P. 1081
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Subject High Elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

Dear Superintendent -

As your considering the options to help keep and restore the high country of Yosemite to its proper place as one of, if not the premier high elevation ecosystem in the lower48 states, I'd like to voice my opinion that one thing key to helping prevent degradation of the high altitude environment, meadows, trails, and water supply is a limitation on the number of stock animals- horses and mules - that are allowed to be there. Of course, some use is necessary, particularly by Park staff but the use of horses and mules by commercial outfitters needs more restrictions than at present, in Yosemite and throughout the High Sierra. A quote from hiking journal sums this up, describing the last day of a weeklong hiking trip- "It is a huge letdown coming out of the beautiful High Sierra, having been in trailless wilderness, to hiking on a horse-turd filled trail full of flies." I recognize that stock use is a historic use of the Park, but what was once acceptable or even encouraged use of the backcountry- much like sheep grazing a hundred years ago - is no longer acceptable now. I strongly urge a reduction in the use of stock animals in the High Elevation areas.

[Redacted]

Los Angeles, CA 90066

[Redacted]

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| I | | 99 | X | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR TS |



07/25/2008 11:38 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

RECEIVED

ARM-S-37

JUL 25 2008

P. 10/2

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Here are at least 20 suggestions as to the High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan- and the Hack driven Experimental Fish Removal:

-Spend 90% of your funding to reintroduce frogs/toads/tadpoles into the 90+% fish-less lakes, tarns, creeks, ponds, etc.

-Leave completely alone all of the Yosemite lakes that contain trout, as these are 9% of the lakes in Yosemite that have self sustaining populations of fish. Leave these lakes for the fisherman! 9% of the lakes of Yosemite are available for fishing? That isn't enough! Maintain this enjoyment level!

-Take off the table any fish kill strategy as the trout are already threatened in the park. Use the funding in the reintroduction efforts for the amphibians.

I hike and backpack the Yosemite wilderness and I see and hear all kinds of frogs, salamanders, toads in all kinds of settings in different environments in Yosemite. I find that the level of sounds they make already at a comfortable level. There is no need for supplementing their levels for 'our enjoyment'. I do not enjoy listening to their noise. "Thousands of tadpoles...piled on top of each other." (Yikes, NO thank you!).

-Find, fund, explore agents or remedy's to mitigate or eradicate the fungus. The fungus, not the fish, is the problem.

-A solution is to hire a scientist(s) with the mindset that the fungus, not the fish are the problem.

-Don't hire hacks, who's simplistic view and experience is to do what they have done in other Sierra waters: to propose more of their fish kill mentality.

-Yosemite already has a 90% fish-less lake environment. If the amphibians are already in decline with a near 90% fish-less environment, removing more fish from 9% of Yosemite lakes will only be productive in 10% of Yosemite lakes. The program/plan has lost its focus.

-Redirect 90% to 100% of your efforts, manpower and resources in those 90% lakes where you can make an immediate impact. (If, as some have said, that 50% of those 90% lakes are not 'prime candidates' for reintroduction, then to limit one's self to only those prime candidates is a defeatist mentality. -Get to work on those 50% your in love with, and experiment with some of the other 50%, think out side of your research box!)

-Promote fishing in lakes that contain fish.

-Advertise fishing reports to encourage fishing.

-How about a fishing with the ranger program?

-Increase fish limits, and fish harvest in lakes that contain fish.

-Educate the public as to the fungus containing drainages.

-Formulate a continuous sanitation plan as the science evolves, then educate the public that visit those drainages that the fungus has been found. (Maybe people are inadvertently spreading the fungus)

-Increase the camping distance from lake fronts and aggressively enforce. (I've seen people camping at the shore line).

-Publish more research, data, and information (immediately! Why the secrecy?) as to the problems and conditions of the lakes and water bodies in Yosemite

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| I | 1 | EE | # | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR TS |

ARM-S-37
P. 2072

instead of the biased propaganda in your plan and experimental plan fliers.

-Know your your limitations: drought, higher snow lines, and climate change and other environmental changes maybe in the offing, but we are not God's. Stop trying to band aid everything with patchwork solutions. Do all the monitoring and assessing, but stop trying to get back to the garden. Yosemite is in a state of equilibrium (fish, amphibians, and other animals) now after years of not planting trout. Frogs (and now somehow toads all of a sudden are having troubles, hmm, PROVE it: see info request suggestion) are suffering from the C. fungus, but that is an infectious agent that needs to be mitigated (maybe it has to run its course).

-Monitor and assess Yosemite aquatic environments as to the modern era.

-Do not rely only on unreproducible/unverifiable data from a century ago.



Sent by ePrompter, the premier email notification software.
Free download at <http://www.ePrompter.com>.

--

Be Yourself @ mail.com!
Choose From 200+ Email Addresses
Get a Free Account at www.mail.com



[Redacted]

07/25/2008 12:50 AM

[Redacted]

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject High-Elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

RECEIVED

ARM-5-38

JUL 25 2008

P. 181
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

July 25, 2008

Superintendent

Attn: High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

E-mail: Yose_Planning@nps.gov

Dear Superintendent,

This letter provides my scoping comments on Yosemite's High-Elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan and environmental assessment (Aquatic Plan EA). I am concerned about the harmful impacts of domestic stock use in Yosemite's high country, and I urge you to adopt a strong plan to protect Yosemite's high-elevation aquatic resources.

The Aquatic Resources Plan and EA should include an alternative to phase out all domestic stock use in the Yosemite's high country. This is because domestic livestock - specifically horses and mules - spread non-native vegetation, contaminate water with urine and feces, harm threatened aquatic species, and substantially erode trails creating runoff that contaminates streams and rivers. Indeed, from personal experience of over forty years in the Yosemite high country, I have witnessed numerous examples of damage to aquatic resources (streams, rivers, meadows) caused by domestic stock. This includes areas near the Lyell fork of the Tuolumne, Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, the Merced, Spiller Creek, and Yosemite Creek. This phase out of stock is within the context of "development of Best Management Practices for recreational and administrative use of high-elevation aquatic ecosystems to ensure that park resources and values remain unimpaired."

In summary, please consider an alternative for Yosemite's High-Elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan and environmental assessment (Aquatic Plan EA) to phase out all domestic stock use in the Yosemite's high country.

[Redacted]
San Jose, CA 95120
[Redacted]

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | X | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR | TS |



07/24/2008 09:11 AM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on Yosemite High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan

RECEIVED

APM-5-39
JUL 25 2008

P-1081
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent:

The following are my comments on Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan (HARM).

I am in favor of phasing out all domestic stock use in Yosemite's high country. The impacts of pack stock are so dramatic that it should be banned to protect the fragile ecosystem (with the exception of needed administrative uses).

We also need to shut down the High Sierra Camps and restore the sites on which they are located. The level of pollution and impacts that are caused by the camps are so great, that even though they are so popular, it is our responsibility to close them.

Sincerely,



San Jose, CA 95121

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 11 | 22 | 22 | X | | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR | TS |



[Redacted]
07/24/2008 08:58 AM

To Yosé_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject HARM Plan

RECEIVED
ARM-5-40
JUL 25 2008
P. 1031
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Sirs,

I am opposed to domestic animals such as cows, horses and mules in the Yosemite NP. I request that you plan to eliminate all uses of these animals in the park, with the possible exception of ranger use in rescue situations.

Also I would like to phase out the High Sierra camps due to the pollution and ugliness of these developments. These wilderness areas should remain true wilderness, whereas developed areas such as Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley provide ample access to the outdoors for citizens not willing or able to walk into the wilderness areas.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
San Rafael, CA 94901

Get fantasy football with free live scoring. [Sign up for FanHouse Fantasy Football today.](#)

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| I | I | E | E | X | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR | TS |



07/28/2008 07:12 AM

To <Yose_Planning@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject High Elevation Aquatic Resource Mgt Plan

RECEIVED
ARM-S-41
JUL 28 2008
p. 10/2
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Heather McKenny
Aquatic Ecologist
Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Re: High-Elevation Aquatic Resource Management Plan

Dear Ms McKenny-

On July 26 I was in Yosemite to give a lecture at Parson's Lodge. My wife and I were approached by several Park biologists and asked to provide comment on the H-EARMP. They indicated July 25 was the last official day for public comment, but that our comments would be included if we got them to you today (Monday, July 28).

We have been asked to comment on the proposed high elevation aquatic management plan; however, we were refused access to basic information that would help us provide germane input. Per email dated July 14, 2008 I was noticed by Steve Thompson, branch chief of the wildlife division, that the location of trout within Yosemite National Park was Classified Government Information and that he was told by his supervisor not to release that information to us.

I requested specifically:

1. The name (if named) of each lake which contains introduced, invasive trout.
2. The location of each lake (UTM).
3. The trout species living within each lake.

I did NOT ask for information regarding, sensitive, threatened or endangered species. I did NOT ask for past, present, or possible future management actions.

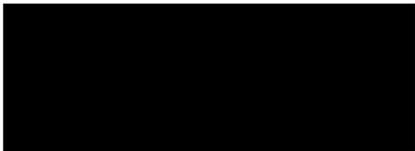
That the Park will not disclose the location of introduced, non-native trout, yet ask for public comments how to manage them within the greater Park ecosystem is as ludicrous as it is disingenuous.

Please enter this letter into the public record of scoping comments and keep us informed as the EA process continues. Thank you.

Sincerely,

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----|----|----|----|
| <i>J</i> | <i>D</i> | <i>E</i> | <i>E</i> | <i>X</i> | | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR | TS |

ARM-5-41
p. 202



Nevada City, CA 95959





**Yosemite National Park
Meeting Notes**

RECEIVED

ARM-S-412
JUL 25 2008 P.1072

| <i>Meeting Reference</i> | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Group/Committee/Etc.:</i> High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan (Aquatic) | |
| <i>Date of Meeting:</i> Saturday, July 25, 2008 | |
| <i>Purpose of Meeting:</i> Public Meeting on Aquatic Plan | |
| <i>Prepared By:</i> Heather McKenny | <i>Date:</i> Tuesday, July 15, 2008 |
| <i>Meeting Participants</i> | |
| Heather McKenny, Project Manager, Aquatic Ecologist, Wildlife | |
| Teri Tucker, Compliance Specialist, Planning & Compliance | |
| Niki Nicholas, Division Chief, Resources Management & Science | |
| Steve Thompson, Branch Chief, Wildlife | |
| See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees | |
| <i>Meeting Notes</i> | |
| <p>Purpose: The purpose of this meeting was: 1) to provide the public with an overview of the High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan; 2) an overview of planning, public involvement, and the NEPA process; 3) to answer questions and hear the public's comments and concerns regarding this planning effort.</p> <p>Teri presented an overview of decision making in the National Park Service including to roles of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling legislation • NPS Organic Act • Other laws (Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and many more) • Park Policy <p>Her presentation included an overview of the NEPA process and how this legislation, along with NPS policy, guides the public scoping process. She also used a flowchart to show how project milestones and agency decisions fit into the process.</p> <p>Heather provided an overview of the plan that included: 1) native high-elevation aquatic food web; 2) the life-history, habitat and decline of the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog; 3) multi-factors contributing to frog's decline including non-native fish and chytrid fungus; 4) history of non-native fish stocking in Yosemite; 5) life-history, habitat and decline of Yosemite toad and suspected factors contributing to its decline; 6) other potential threats to high-elevation aquatic systems; and 7) plan's draft purpose, goals, and concept development for alternatives.</p> <p>The following public concerns, comments were recorded during the discussion session that followed the presentations:</p> <p>Page 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFS actions & studies of amphibian declines; NPS needs to focus on factors that they can control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chytrid fungus ○ Non-native fish – government can control ○ Pesticide drift ○ Livestock/pack stock grazing – government can control ○ Climate change • Need diverse alternatives • Why are trout non-native? • If fish are only in 9% of YOSE lakes, why target those lakes? Why not target lakes that are already fish-free? • How does the NPS mission compare to other agencies mission? How does this mission inform how NPS manages invasive species? <p>Page 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why not focus on lakes without trout? • If listing of the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged trout and Yosemite toad is warranted, isn't action warranted? Could NPS be litigated for not looking to remove from all feasible lakes? • Action is time sensitive (10% loss of yellow-legged frog/year) <p>Page 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should move frogs into lakes that are already fishless | |

ARM-S-42
p. 2 of 2

- Is it possible that people are spreading chytrid?
- Can some basins be “off-limits” or temporary restrictions/access to evaluate benefits?
- Are there ways to concentrate use to more resilient areas (traditionally well-used areas)?
- Can fishing opportunities be enhanced in other areas?
- Do not kill trout because there are ample fishless lakes

Page 4

- Transplanting frogs is “iffy” at best, tadpoles take a long time to mature NPS should choose areas where the frog is persisting minimally and boost populations
- Don’t use chemicals to remove fish
- Are there other ways to distribute fish carcasses besides sinking them in lakes?
- Non re-introduction into systems where frogs/tadpoles may introduce chytrid
- Are researchers potentially spreading chytrid?

Page 5

- USFS does not allow livestock in wet meadows/ponds until after tadpole stage
- Consider limiting livestock use to protect Yosemite toad tadpole stage
- Consider studying similar lakes under different management approaches
- Consider removing licensing/take limits on fish
- If native predators are an issue consider non-lethal control/management actions

Handouts: High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan Fact Sheet, Experimental Fish Removal Fact Sheet, NEPA flowchart, Public Participation Fact Sheet
 Presentation: See attached M.S. PowerPoint

Decisions, Courses of Action and/or Assignments

Approval

Signature:

Date:

DRAFT

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



RECEIVED
ARM-5-43
JUL 25 2008
10-18/1
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Public Comment Form HIGH-ELEVATION AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public comment period for the Environmental Assessment, which began on June 23, 2008 and will end on July 25, 2008. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, PO Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan) or may be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan). Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/aquatic.htm

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, the National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments; however names will be made available.

Name: _____ Date of Comment: 7/12/08

Address: _____

①
PLANN
15160

Comments

Heather did a really good job - not being rattled by some aggressive comments.
① [The NPS could/should avoid bottled water as the impact of plastic containers on our environment is so tremendously negative. I would suggest a cooler w/ the degradable cups]
Terry did a great job of recording.

(continue comments on back of page)

| | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| RT | DT | UT | IT |
|----|----|----|----|

RECEIVED
ARM-544
JUL 25 2008
p. 1071
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

[Redacted]

Oakland, CA 94610

[Redacted]

E:ma

Superintendent
High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Superintendent:

I wish to comment on Yosemite's High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management (HARM) Plan. Please create a strong plan to protect Yosemite's fragile high-elevation resources from the harms caused by recreation and administrative activities.

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.

The HARM Plan should include an alternative to phase out all domestic stock use throughout Yosemite's high country.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

11120X1
RT *
OR TS

July 22, 2008

Superintendent
Attn: High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

RECEIVED
ARM-S-45
JUL 25 2008
P. 1072
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

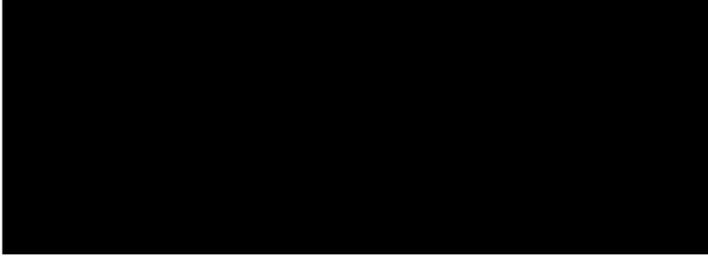
| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| ↑ | 1 | 2 | U | X | | | |
| RT | #S | LT | DT | UT | IA | IR | OR |

ARM-5-45
p. 2 of 2

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,



New Brighton MN 55112-7273