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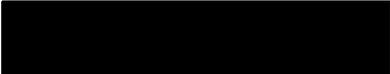
To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tenaya Lake Area Plan

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TEN-S-24
OCT 20 2008
Pg 1 of 3
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



Fresno, CA 93755



18 October 2008

Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
ATTN: Tenaya Lake Area Plan
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

This is being emailed to yose_planning@nps.gov.

Sir:

Normally I would be submitting comments on behalf of an organization. However, on this issue I have not had an opportunity to work with my committee to develop a set of comments which would represent the views of the organization. So these particular comments are of a personal nature, representing my views, and it is unknown to what extent these views may be shared by others.

These are scoping comments on the Tenaya Lake Area Plan process.

Having an integrated, comprehensive planning process for the Tenaya Lake area makes a lot of sense, rather than dealing with issues on a piecemeal basis. So I approve of this planning approach.

At the same time, I have some trepidation because this planning process is funded by a grant from an entity which has become noted for preferring big, glossy, high-visibility projects which tend to be overblown and inappropriate for their respective settings. There has been a tendency to go for excessive rock work, formalized viewing platforms, and bronze plaques.

ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED: How to get back to the concept that "less is more"?

Or, perhaps more directly: How to prevent the potential availability of money from driving the process in an inappropriate direction?

I believe that the scenic quality of Tenaya Lake and its surroundings is so great that maintaining the quality of that scenery is of paramount importance. That means keeping human development

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and activity as unobtrusive as possible. It is quite unique to have a lake of such high scenic quality so readily accessible.

ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED: How can access be maintained without compromising the scenic values?

ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED: What types of facilities can be permitted, and where, without impairing the scenery?

It is clear that the natural values of the Tenaya Lake area are in better condition now than when there were campgrounds on three sides of the lake. I do not have a problem with campgrounds per se, but there are often problems associated with them. For this reason, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to re-establish campgrounds in the vicinity of the lake, and certainly not at the west end. Perhaps there would be an opportunity in the woods at the east end of the lake, but the opportunity would probably be very limited. It probably would be more feasible to consider opportunities to expand camping in the Tuolumne Meadows campground area.

ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED: Is it feasible to have camping in the Tenaya Lake area, or should it be directed toward Tuolumne Meadows?

The north shore of the lake is overdeveloped. While it is nice to have picnic opportunities within sight of the lake, the present facilities are too extensive and too close to the lake. The present impacts of these day-use facilities are excessive.

ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED: To what extent, if any, should picnic facilities continue to be provided on the north shore?

I recently walked around most of the lake. The scenic quality of this walk is so great that I believe more people should be encouraged to experience it. That would mean that the trail needs to be better delineated and signed. (This is a different position than that which I recently articulated to your staff before I walked the trail. After walking it, I became convinced that more people should be encouraged to do the same.) One problem is that more people on the trail means that more parking space would be needed.

ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED: Would the disadvantages of making the trail more evident be outweighed by the advantages?

Demand for parking at the Sunrise trail head is often far in excess of the designated parking space capacity, resulting in parking along the shoulders of the road for great distances.

ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED: Can additional parking space be created in order to reduce the number of vehicles parked along the road shoulders?

If not, what other actions might be available to address the problem?

Turning left (west) onto the road from the Murphy Creek day use area can be problematic, and potentially dangerous, because the curvature of the road interferes with a clear view of oncoming traffic. Perhaps a merging lane needs to be created. Or perhaps the entrance needs to be relocated. Getting traffic to slow down would help.

ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED: How can the ingress/egress for the Murphy Creek day use area be made less dangerous?

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these ideas for consideration in the Tenaya Lake Area planning process.

