

Your Comments Are Important!

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Dislike:

Removing Tuolumne Lodge and Glen Aulia entirely would remove access to the area for thousands of people over the years

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Dislike:

Same as 1

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Like:

Removing some housing away from the river (18) and keeping Tuolumne Lodge

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Like:

Keeping Tuolumne Lodge, even if dining hall and housing are moved away from river

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

*substantially
The preferred alternative looks good unless the river would be better preserved by relocating the dining hall + housing a short distance away*

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in Tuolumne and Glen Aulia.

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Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Like #3, Remove internal parking. Dislike #14, Leave camp loop in, #18 do NOT remove Tuolumne Lodge

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

#10 Do NOT consolidate visitor ctr #1 Formal parking at Pothole Dome; #9 Improve campground. #14 Leave loop campsites intact.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

RETAIN STORE & GRILL; Like #14 no change #3 Like restoring Wagon Road Overall, my vote for best plan.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Do NOT relocate visitors center #9 Dislike consolidation of services #18 RETAIN Tuolumne Center & Lodge

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Preferred Alternative #3, Best Overall plan

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What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

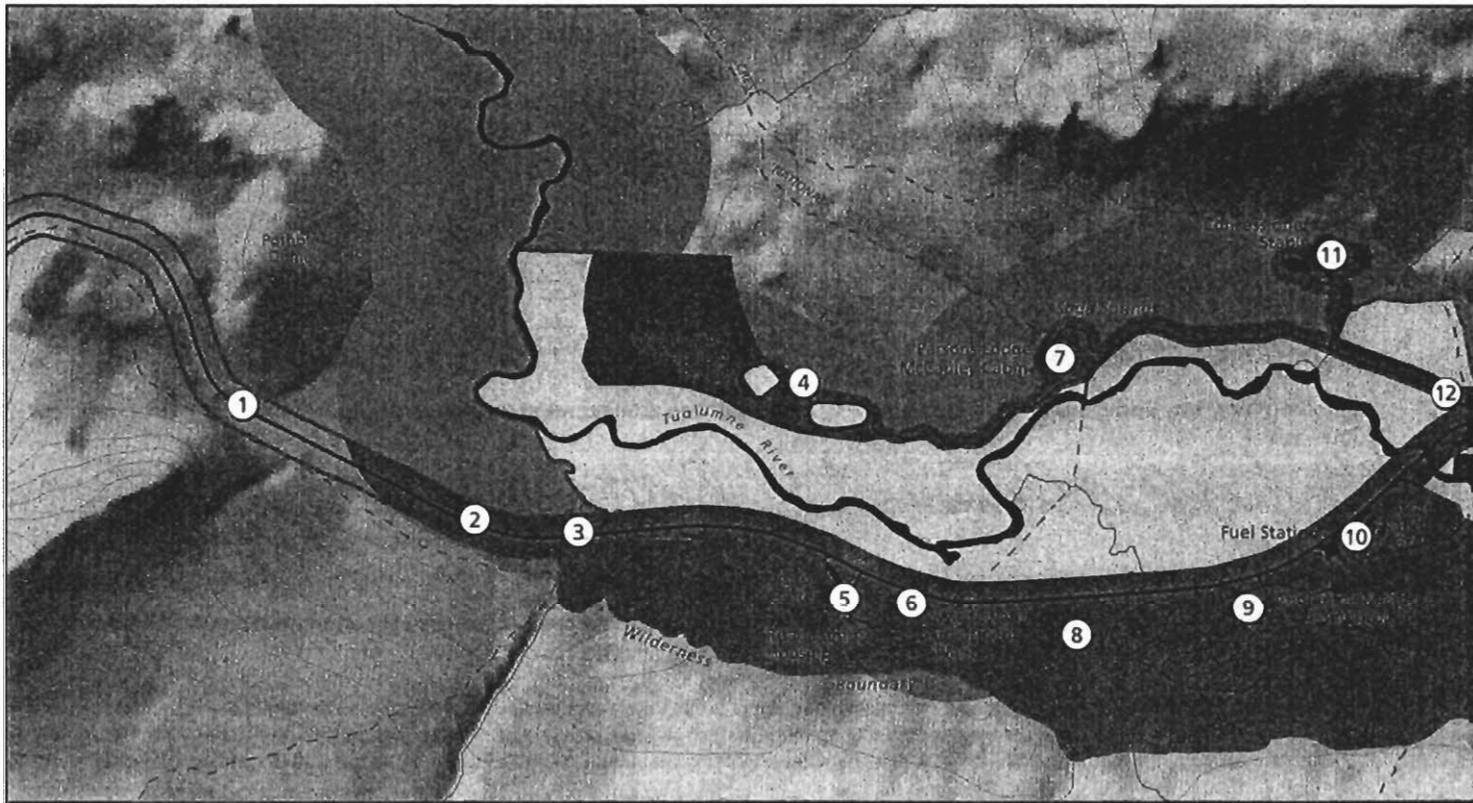
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations:

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

*Preserve shoulder parking & social trails, Preserve
Parsons Lodge, Tuolumne Lodge, store & grill.
Makes logical to consolidate NPS & Concessions
stores. The future of this unique environment
should be handled so future generations
can enjoy Tuolumne Meadows.*



NW LS

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Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Like: restoration to wildness & undeveloped.

Dislike: Restricts visitors to a tiny portion of the population namely the self reliant.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Like: Facilitating stewardship development in the minds and attitudes of first time visitors.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Like ① Reduction of use levels at crowded sites.
② Protection of cultural landscape values

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Dislike: Use levels not limited

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

please see "Your own site plan page"

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This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

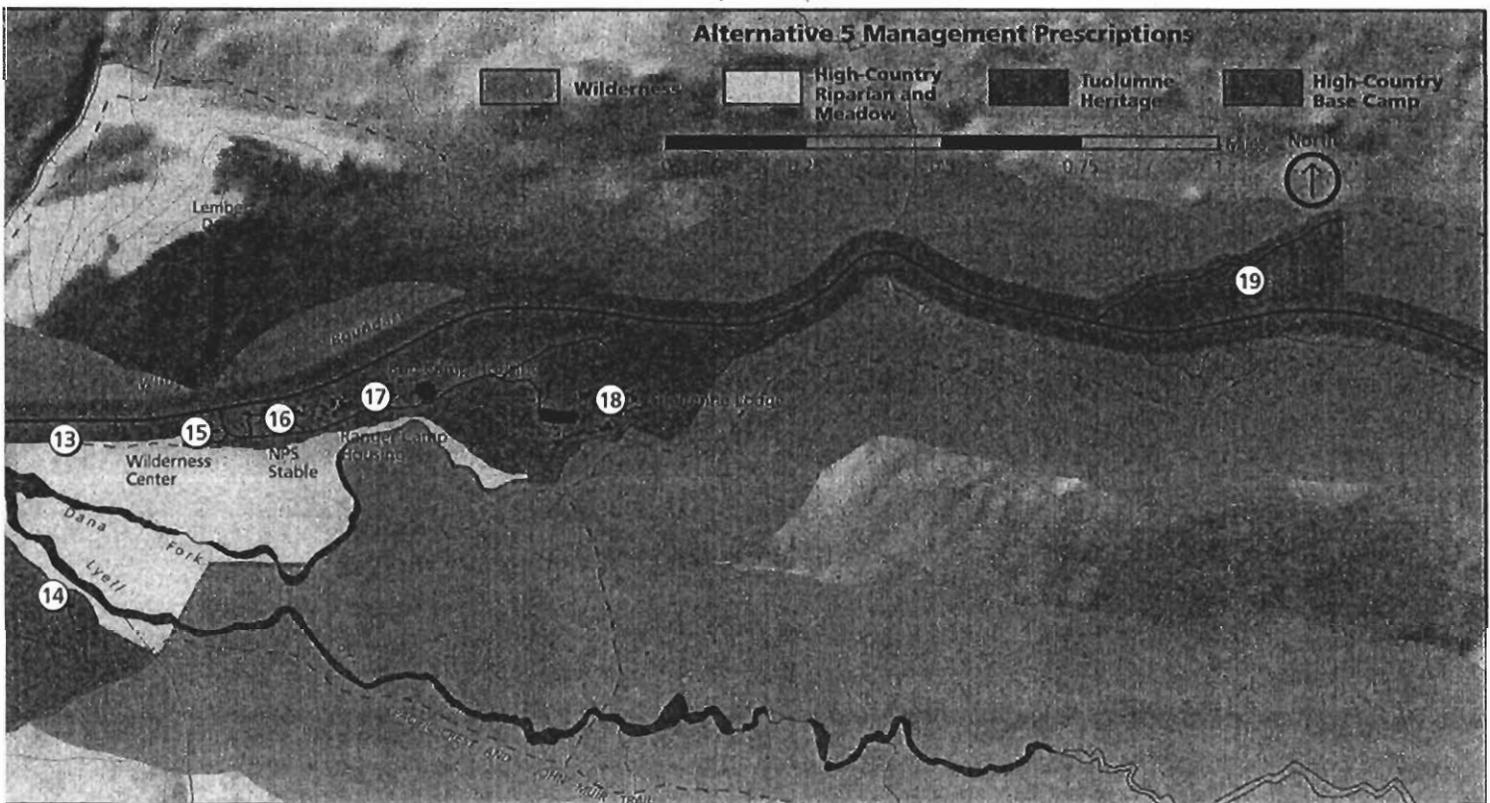
Some General Considerations:

- Restoration of wild & ~~scenic~~ Scenic; Very Important
- Education of children about nature, conservation, & recreational activities in national parks; Very important
- Subtle education about energy use (cars, electric power, air pollution, etc.) Very Important. New development of facilities should educate by example; best energy conservation practices; which are practical & cost effective
- Experiences (~~programs~~) should invite new comers to return and learn more about the values in Glen Avlin, the meadows & the river and the mountains and gradually help them to become stewards of our natural resources.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code:

Richfield, Utah 84701

July 17, 2008



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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

I like the maximum area included as wilderness in alternative 1.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

This alternative affords great day-use opportunities.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

I like the emphasis on preserving structures. Making newer washrooms more rustic is great. (rustic)

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

I like the restoration aspect - esp. removing the wastewater-treatment ponds.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

I like the Preferred alternative's (no. 5) providing for so many "uses."

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What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

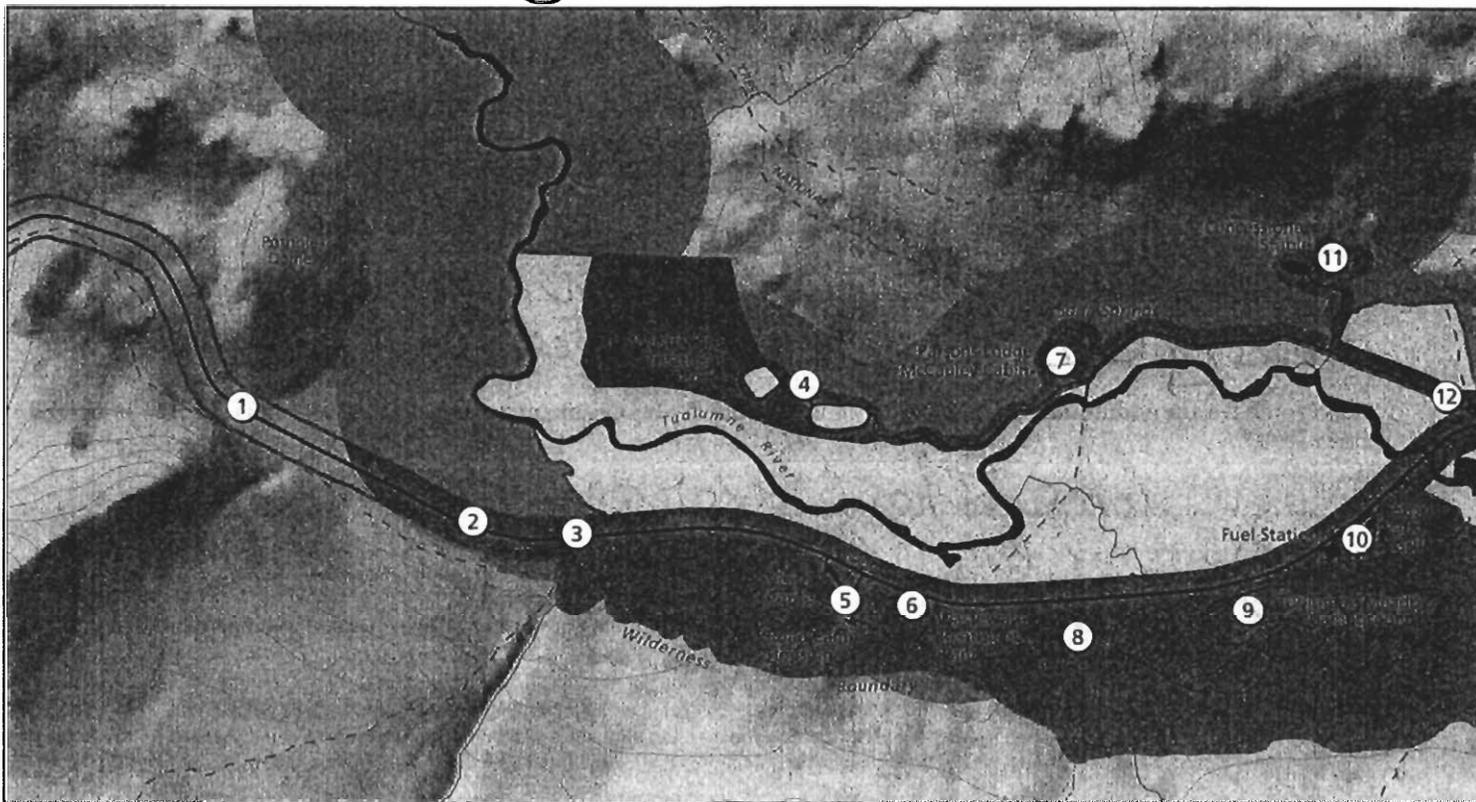
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workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

I like all the "uses" accomplished in the Preferred Alternative.

I am just a city-boy type, not adept at planning these things; however, I am no stranger to wilderness, either.



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

I've been in wilderness in Grand Teton, Glacier, and I visited Yosemite often.

What strikes me about the Preferred Alternative is all the "uses", or things, it accomplishes. Ingenious! (That's all I know.) Compliments to NPS.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code:

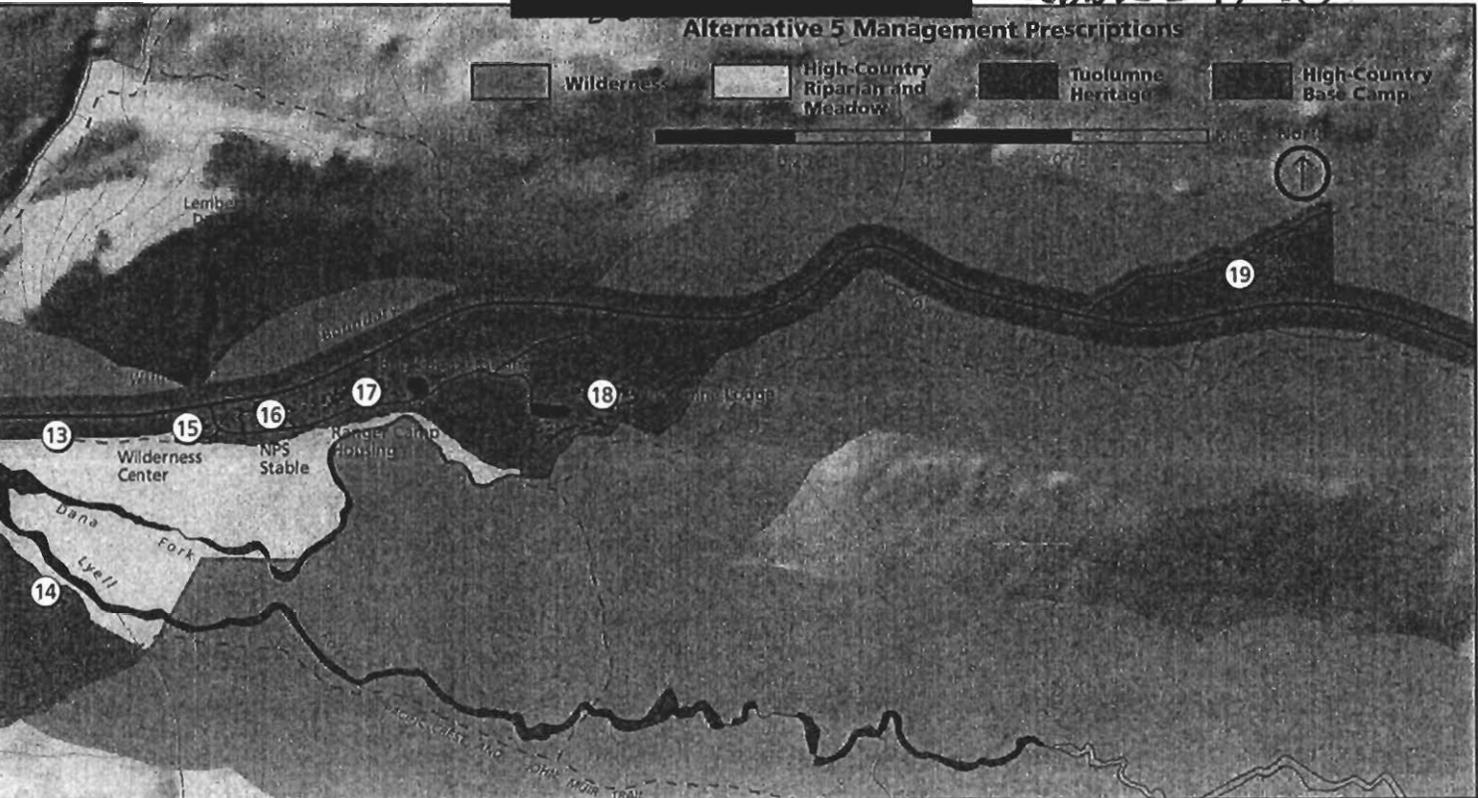
[Redacted Name and Address]

dllivis 60192()

Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions

- Wilderness
- High-Country Riparian and Meadow
- Tuolumne Heritage
- High-Country Base Camp

Scale: 0 1000 2000 Feet



NW LS

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Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I

dislike the idea of removing Glen Aulin H.S.C & discontinuing most amenities at Tuolumne Meadows & removing Tuolumne Lodge,

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I

like the idea of retaining opportunities for over night use at Tuolumne Meadows & Glen Aulin. I'm leery of providing opportunities for Kayaking

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like

everything about this alternative! It is probably the most expensive

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I

like the idea of eliminating commercial trail rides to reduce user conflicts on trails.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Alternative 5 (Preferred) seems ideal so long as achieving visitor experience goals ^{negatively} does not impact the fragile ecosystem

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NW LV

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? How the heck would you maintain Parsons/McCauley w/o vehicle access? Oh, mules would carry in supplies! A plus - define parking at Pothole/Cathedral

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Kayaking/boating OK - preserve Parsons/McCauley OK
No housing at Gaylor Pit! Define parking OK

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Improve campsite delineation - ^{remove some sites} - yes - & bathrooms - rustic character - yes - By far the best Alternative 3

Improve Defined parking - yes
Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

for everything

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Whatever happens, make it simple, easy & w/o spending billions !!! US Govt ^(NPS) spends too much \$ as it is!

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Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I dislike that it excludes too many people who love the place & removes needed facilities & employee housing

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I like most aspects of #2 except parking & picnic area at Pothole Dome, meadow intp trail - direct people away from delicate Meadow

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I like many aspects of #3 except loop A needs to be moved, concession stable need to move, and Gaylor Pt parking is too far away to walk.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I don't like most of #4 - A loop needs to go, Don't remove lodge dining hall, stable in wrong place, leave Lambert Parking

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What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

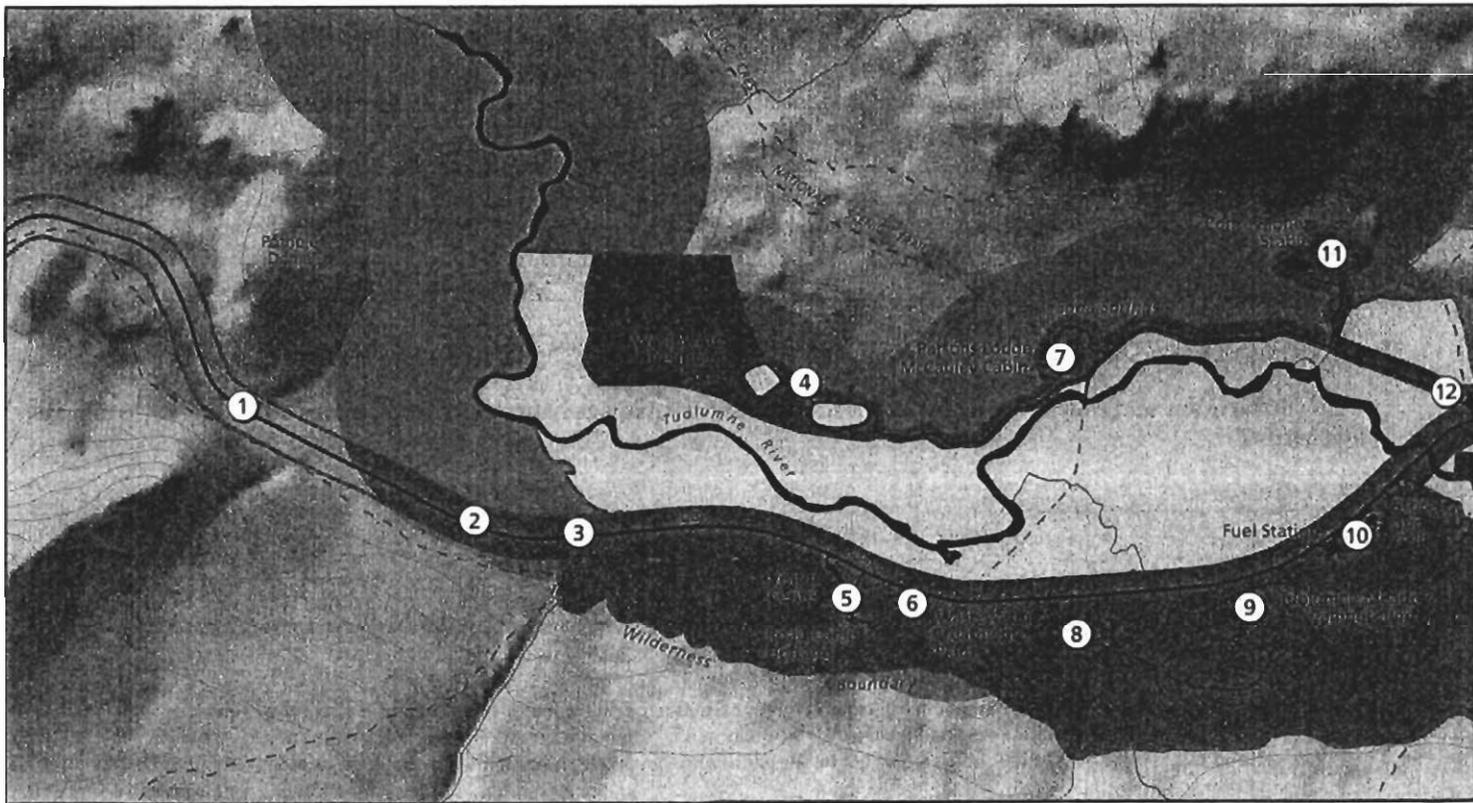
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- #14 remove A Loop
- #11 move stables and use the area for Parking & Picnic
- #17 Keep employee housing and keep rustic character and tent cabins
- #6 treatment plant area can be used for maintenance and moved from VC area
- #19 can be overflow parking with pump toilets
- #18 Keep rustic nature of lodge
- #15 move Gov Stables & concession stables to #8

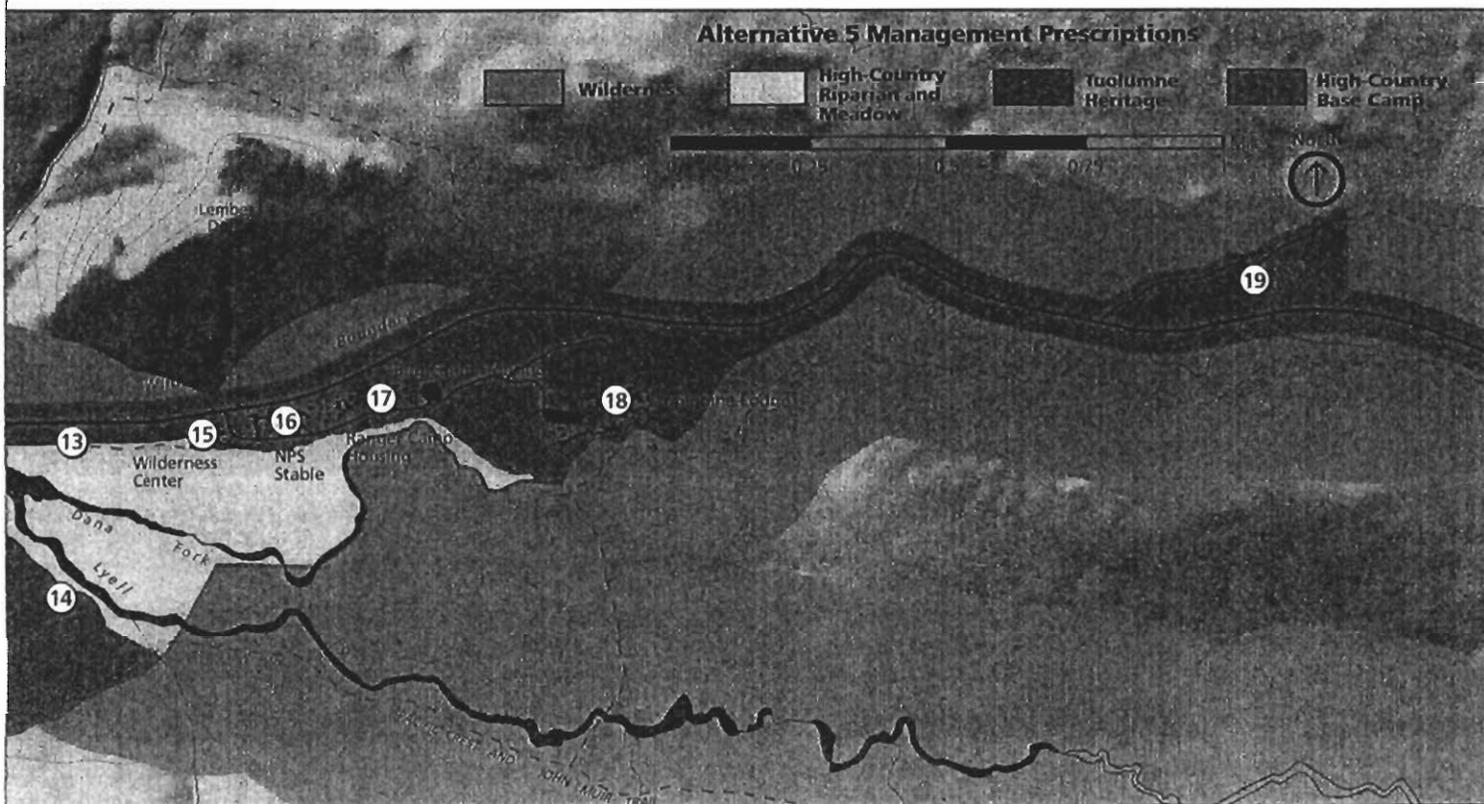


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8 use area for stables & parking

7 Keep same as is

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: _____



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Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

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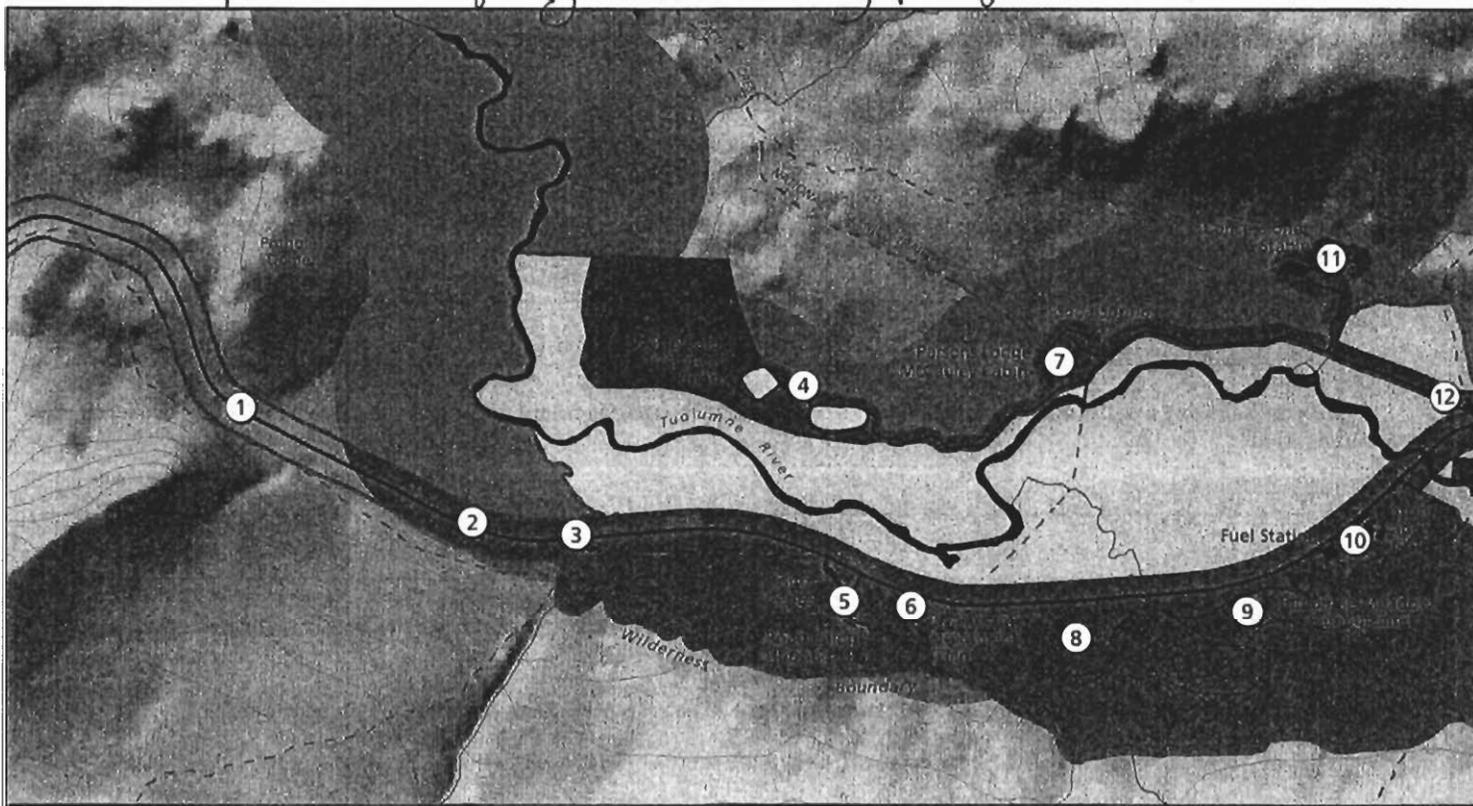
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

- ① improve wayside @ pothole dome
- ② if scenic pullouts are added consider providing interpretive panels to help visitors understand this incredible resource as well as how to protect it.
- ⑤ Consider either relocating visitor center function to a more accessible location or improve signage directing people there.

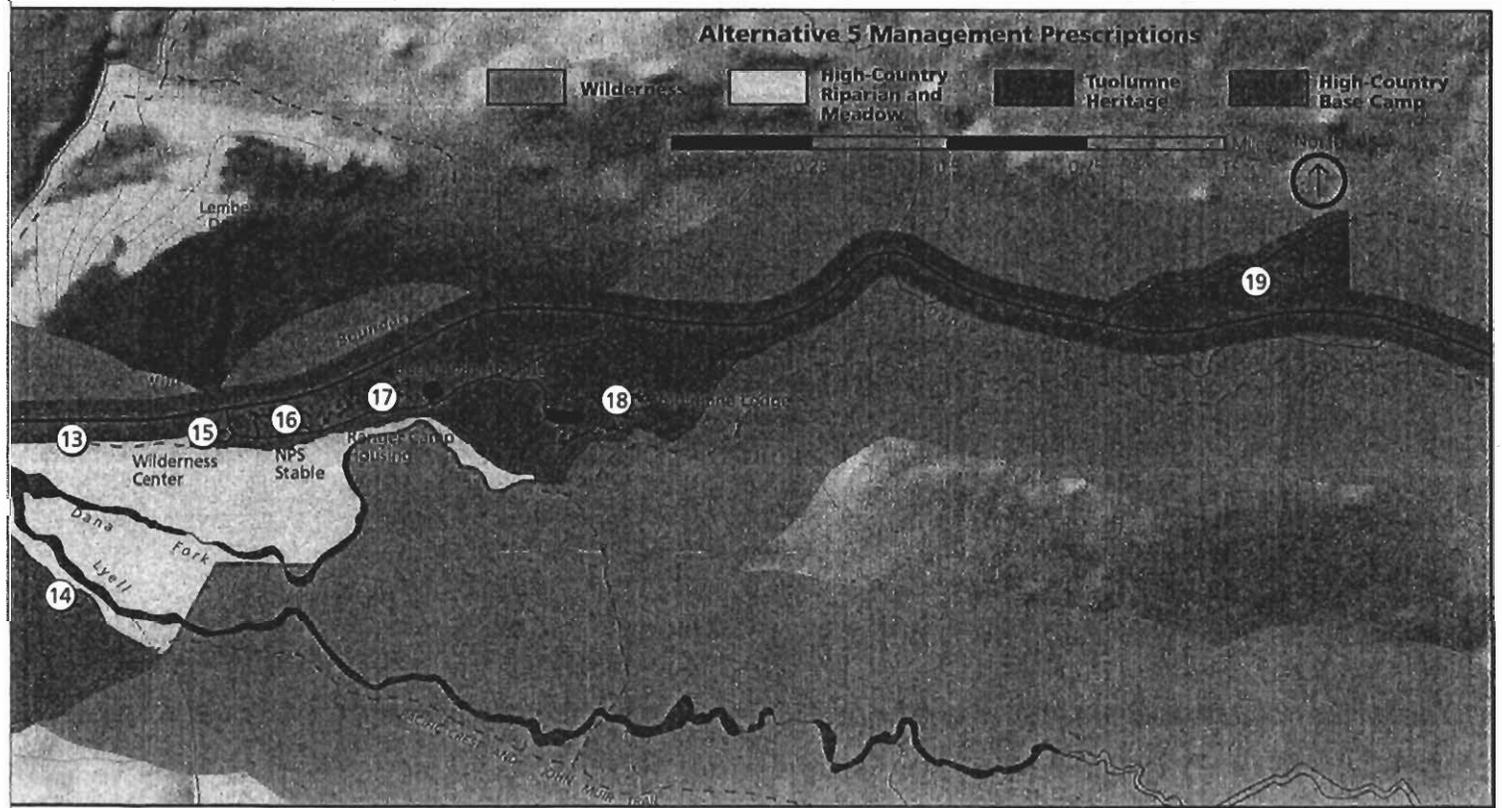


This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- ⑦ Keep interpretation (waysides) along the wagon rd. + near Parsons + McCauley
- ⑩ Consider removing fuel station - there is one in Crane Flat + several in Lee Vining.

In general, providing interpretive experiences should be included as part of the site plan for the preferred alternative - call out where waysides, self-guiding trails, visitor center + contact stations and programming fit w/ the management prescription.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted] 95389



NW L9



08/02/2008 09:09 AM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>

cc

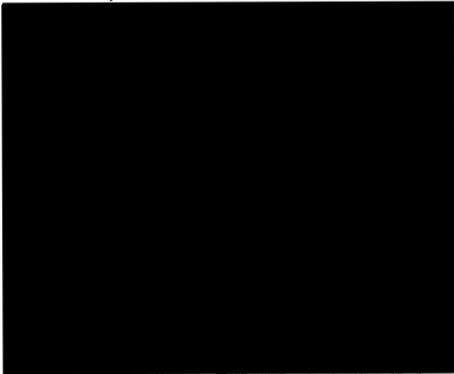
bcc

Subject Toulumne Meadows Plan Comments on Alternative Development Process

Thank you for including the attached in your review . I spent 4 days doing day hikes in Tuolumne in July. We hiked 38 miles over that time. Did bus rides, hitch hiked and toured the Lodge and facilities.



Chualar, California 93925



Yosemite Tuolumne Meadows Plan 8 01 08.doc

August 2, 2008

YOSEMITE TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN
COMMENTS TO PLANNING WORKBOOK

SUMMARY:

I believe Tuolumne Meadows the overall goal of management of TM should be to allow as many people of differing abilities to experience some part of TM as best described in Alternative 2. I do not agree with limiting use as in the other alternatives.

Comments:

1. TM should be available at some level to each person (young or old; physically fit or not; disabled, etc.).
2. Activities should be more monitored, controlled and specific in the main TM area to control impact of vehicles and foot traffic.
3. TM needs lodging and facilities to make it user friendly.

To accomplish:

I agree with Alternative 2 the most thinking about the following modifications:

1. Defined Trails only: I would mark all trails in the Meadows as the only way to walk so no one enters the meadows except on the trails. Personal freedom is practiced outside of the TM main meadows and facilities. Inside this area (say outlined in the box on page 19 that defines TM) this area is sacrosanct and not free for traffic anywhere except on designated paths. I would develop walking paths on both sides of the Tioga Road in the heart of defined TM and mark those well.
2. Bikes: I would not allow bikes. I am a mountain biker and TM should be wheel chair and walking only.
3. Horses: I would not allow day use horse trips in TM. I would consider moving the stables and minimize horse traffic in TM. I understand horses are needed for rescue and supplies to the High Sierra Camps. However, any horse traffic in TM would be thru traffic only and not out and back traffic. Consider a new stables facility in a set alone place like Murphy's Creek, Porcupine Flat or even White Wolf. All as a means of minimizing the impact of horses. Maybe consolidate all horse traffic from Yosemite Valley. I have had 5 horses and two mules and have done horse packing. I love it; but it does not belong in TM now with the increased population using the TM area.

4. TM Lodge: I would refurbish TM Lodge and bring up to a higher standard. It clearly is run down. I would increase prices to be higher than motels in Lee Vining. People then have the choice of staying in Lee Vining motels at a lesser price or at TM Lodge at a higher price.
5. Other Lodging: I would increase advertising (on website and in literature) of "other lodging" outside of TM, say in Lee Vining so day visitors can get a better idea of TM as a day use area.
6. Buses: I would then consider a bus service from Lee Vining up to TM to tie into the existing bus services. I would upgrade the Yosemite bus services to make more "user" friendly. I used it over the four days I was in TM in July. It needs more business management to upgrade. As example, more "milk run" buses from the Valley and other entrance points up to TM and back so day hikers, back packers and visitors can connect to more points on a timely basis. People in the Valley or outside the park can get around easier without using their cars. Right now, hitch hiking is approved by YPS personnel, but in time this will be reduced for personal security and liability reasons. I would develop a bus ticket that is a day use fee to help compensate for the increased traffic so it is not free, but reasonable. I would advertise that there are few areas beside the roads for parking and that buses are the best way to see the upper park. Get on and get off and explore. This needs to be clearly articulated on the Yosemite website.
7. Website: TM needs a clearly defined link on the Yosemite website. On that link all of the usage and restrictions need to be listed. Links to bus services, local lodging, local restaurants, links to TM Lodge reservations, links to day hikes and user areas. Links to phone contacts in YNP.

Thank you for this opportunity.



NW L10



07/28/2008 01:51 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Feedback on Tuolumne Meadows Planning

Here's my input into the review.



Prescott, Arizona Tuolumne Meadows.doc

Comments on Plans for Tuolumne Meadows

1. Suggestions about the alternative site plan concepts.

Alternative 1. Like: remove Tioga Road shoulder parking; preserve Parsons Lodge and McCauley Cabin; suggested campground improvements.

Dislike: remove Tuolumne Lodge, store, grill, fuel station, and mountaineering school; eliminate commercial trail rides; remove Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp.

Rationale: I'm always in favor of striking a balance. Although I personally appreciate and enjoy wilderness, I don't expect to find wilderness within a mile of a highway. (I do some backpacking and taking long day hikes—as much as 15 miles or more in a day—so I do get my share of the wilderness experience.) For the “unconverted” travelers, who may not venture into wilderness, having some amenities probably gives them a more welcoming experience and makes them feel good about their visit to a national park. Therefore, a more “civilized” experience is acceptable along the highway corridor, leaving the backcountry more pristine for those of us who do venture there. I support retaining Glen Aulin because I realize that some people are not going to backpack into the backcountry and need overnight accommodations. The High Sierra Camps are a good way of getting people into the backcountry who otherwise would not try to go there. I know we can't satisfy everybody, but people aren't going to support the national parks unless their own experiences in the parks are positive ones.

Alternative 2. Like: remove Tioga Road shoulder parking; consolidate stables; preserve Parsons Lodge and McCauley Cabin; retain campground; consolidate visitor center, store and grill, fuel station, and mountaineering school; provide showers/restrooms; provide hike/bike trail along Tioga Road.

Dislike: none really.

Rationale: My reasons here are pretty much the same as in #1. I always camp at the campground and don't stay at the Lodge, but I still think the Lodge serves a purpose for a certain type of visitor. The idea of showers is nice; I wouldn't have to go to the Lodge to take a shower (and be limited by the few hours showers are available for non-guests). Overall, I think that if the informal trails in the meadows can be eliminated so as to reduce impact, this alternative meets the needs of most of the visitors who currently spend time in Tuolumne Meadows. For people who would complain that this alternative leaves Tuolumne Meadows too developed, they're likely just to head into the backcountry anyway. A bike path is an intriguing thought. I've bicycled Yosemite Valley many times and have often wished that similar opportunities existed along Tioga Road.

Alternative 3. Like: remove informal parking, social trails, and shoulder parking; retain visitor center; preserve Parsons Lodge and McCauley cabin; retain campground and concessionaire facilities; retain Tuolumne Lodge; extend shuttle service.

Dislike: none really.

Rationale: This looks pretty much like the way Tuolumne Meadows is managed currently. I thought the addition of the shuttle service several years ago was a good thing because it reduces the number of cars on Tioga Road. Although I primarily go to the national parks for the scenic beauty, I'm also very appreciative of the cultural and historical heritages of the parks. To make park visits satisfying to a wide range of visitors, there needs to be a blend of the cultural, historical, and aesthetic.

Alternative 4. Like: the general idea of mitigating impact and restoring the ecological integrity of the riparian habitat; retaining Glen Aulin and Tuolumne Lodge; moving concessionaire facilities away from the road and the river.

Dislike: none really.

Rationale: I'm a big advocate of managing ecosystems to promote biodiversity. This appears to be the primary goal of this alternative.

2. I like Tuolumne Meadows pretty much the way it is, as long as degradation of habitat along the river and in the meadows is minimized. Alternative 5 seems to try to achieve that result.

3. My own site plan concept:

- Eliminate all parking along Tioga Road except in designated parking lots and pullouts.
- Retain all concessionaire facilities as they are now.
- Keep the campground the way it is, except remove loop A (#14 on map). Provide showers.
- Keep Glen Aulin and Tuolumne Lodge.
- Relocate all park employee and concessionaire housing to areas that minimize impact.
- Discourage informal trails.
- Keep the Parsons Lodge and Soda Springs area in use but as pristine as possible.
- Provide more picnic tables at established parking areas.
- I'm not too keen on the idea of kayaking on Tuolumne River. I think that would contribute to streamside erosion and degradation.

4. Other information

I just thought I'd point out that I've been camping in our national parks all my life. (My parents first took me to Tenaya Lake as a toddler in the early 1950s when a person could just camp along the shore of the lake.) In recent years, I've visited the following national parks: Yosemite, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Joshua Tree, Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, Saguaro, Mesa Verde, Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Rocky Mountain, Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef, Guadalupe Mountains, Carlsbad Caverns, Glacier, Yellowstone, Theodore Roosevelt, Denali, Katmai, Glacier Bay, and numerous national monuments, national historic sites, and national recreation areas. My experiences today are different than when I was raising children. With the children, it was just as important to emphasize the historical and cultural features of a park as it was the park's natural features. Also, my children loved camping, ranger nature walks, the ranger campfire programs, riding the shuttle buses, going to the visitors centers and nature centers like Happy Isles, bicycling, and rafting. We logged countless miles day-hiking when they were younger, and 100s of miles backpacking at the Grand Canyon when they were older. I would like to think that the national parks can continue to offer similarly diverse experiences to today's families—and to tomorrow's families—so that our children, and their children, will continue to enjoy, and to be inspired by, their experiences in the parks.


Prescott, Arizona



07/15/2008 01:25 PM

NW L10

To Kristina_Rylands@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Re: Tuolumne Public Workshop Saturday, June 21, 10am-2pm

Dear Kristina: I had planned to attend the Tuolumne workshop this Friday but must go to a memorial service in Walnut Creek for my cousin's husband (he died in April of a long, debilitating illness and I'm not sure why it took so long to set a date for the service but...one does the family obligations).

Some comments on the plan: I think most Alternatives except 1 have merit. While i will fill out the form and send in I think some of my comments may be of use Friday.

There are always those people who would limit access to "their park" as is reflected in Alternative 1. As a nation, and for much of the world, we are increasingly bound by cities and virtual worlds. Anything we can do to introduce people to the wilderness is critical to its preservation. The High Sierra Camps perform this function quite well I think. I visit Tuolumne frequently in season and have crossed the Sierra, staying in Winter, about 20 times. Commercial facilities are a bit rag tag and could certainly be better organized. Eliminating roadside parking and having more group parking lots particularly if they could be somewhat out of sight would help. The location of DNC stables is out of the way and if possible should be combined with NPS. All involved in a planning process come to it with formed opinions and I think all of us want to see the natural beauty of the area. But, we are in the lodging business and get to know our guests. Most guests do not have problems with traffic in Yosemite Valley for example. They are used to far worse in their cities. So Tuolumne already seems like "wilderness" to most of the visitors. Also, I was once a school administrator and knew all the education jargon. Many things we wrote for the public were incomprehensible to our audience. Lots of NPS jargon in the workbook. Thanks for the summary and maps which definitely help clarify. Hope Friday is productive!

Kay Pitts

On Jun 20, 2008, at 11:13 AM, Kristina_Rylands@nps.gov wrote:

- >
- > Dear friends of the Tuolumne planning effort,
- >
- > I am busily preparing for tomorrow's public workshop up in Tuolumne
- > Meadows
- > tomorrow, but wanted to leave you with a few important pieces of
- > information before Saturday:
- >
- > 1) The workshop will take place at Parsons Lodge from 10am to 2pm.
- > Be sure
- > to allow at least 20 minutes to park and walk to the venue (located
- > across
- > the meadow near Soda Springs). Tuolumne has been enjoying clear
- > skies with
- > amazing afternoons in the high 60s, but the mornings can be chilly.
- > If you

Your Comments Are Important!

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Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

LIKE: ELIMINATE TIOGA ROAD SHOULDER PARKING & SOCIAL TRAILS
DISLIKE: RETENTION OF LEMBERT DOME PICNIC & PARKING

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

LIKE: ELIMINATE TIOGA Rd SHOULDER PARKING. DON'T LIKE (2), REDESIGN PARKING & EXPANSION OF PICNIC AREA

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

SAME AS ABOVE: ALL PARKING SHOULD BE ON SOUTH SIDE OF ROAD.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

LIKE SITE PLAN # ①, ②, ③, ④, ⑤, ⑥, ⑦, ⑧, & ⑩ THROUGH 19
LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SITE ⑨.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

ALTERNATIVE #1 WOULD GIVE THE ADVANTAGE TO SELF CONTAINED R.U.'S!!!

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

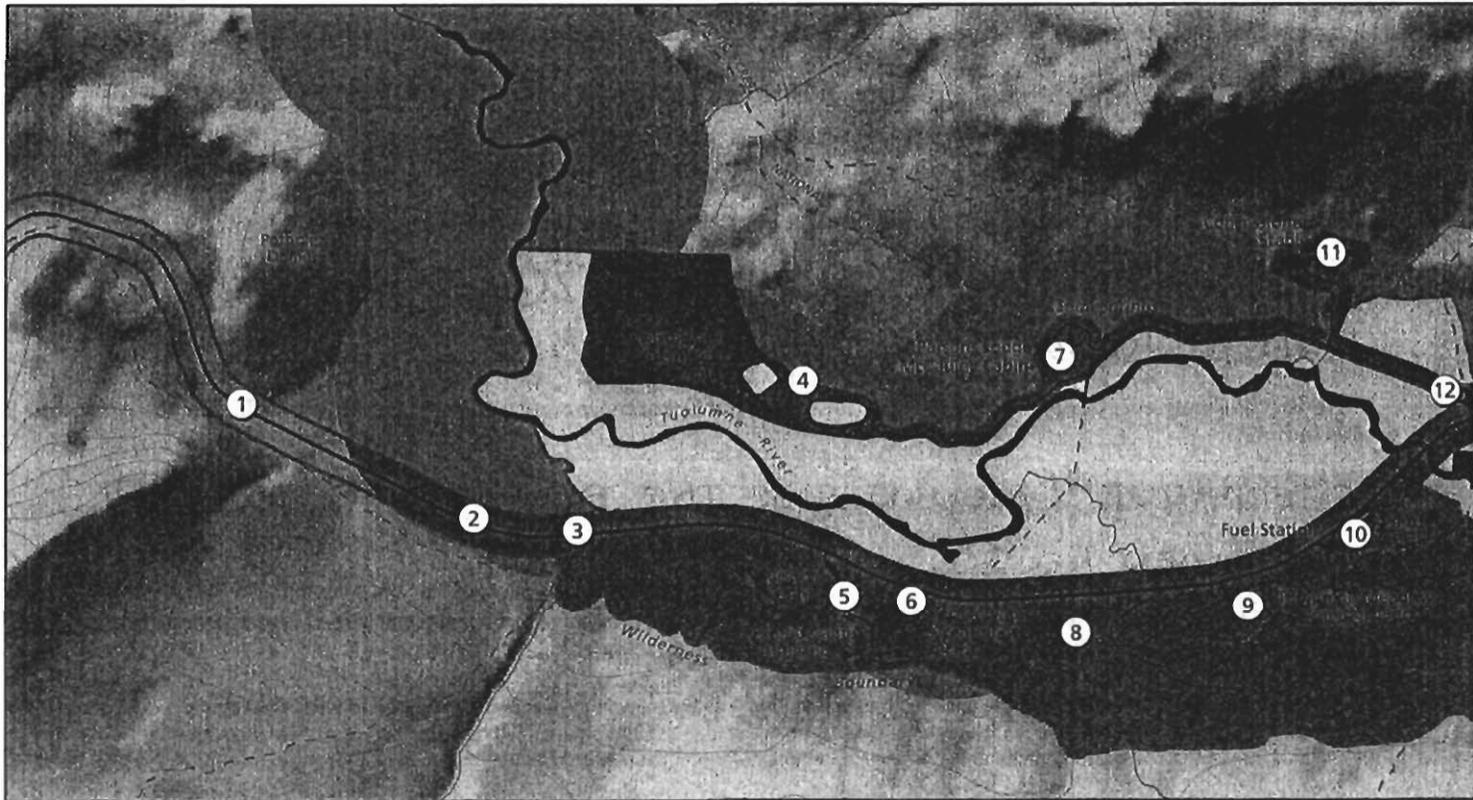
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

- ① REMOVE INFORMAL PARKING & SOCIAL TRAILS; RESTORE NATURAL CONDITIONS.
- ② REMOVE ALL TIOGA Rd. SHOULDER PARKING & SOCIAL TRAILS; RESTORE NATURAL CONDITIONS. PROVIDE SCENIC PULLOUTS.
- ③ PROVIDE FORMAL PARKING WITH VISITOR CONTACT STATION & TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO CATHEDRAL LAKES
- ④ RETAIN WASTEWATER TREATMENT POND & ACCESS Rd.
- ⑤ RETAIN VISITOR CENTER FUNCTION; ADD PICNIC AREA. RETAIN HOUSING. RELOCATE MAINTENANCE YARD & OPERATIONS OFFICE TO SITE, NEAR ⑥.
- ⑦ PRESERVE PARSON'S LODGE & McCauley CABIN.
- ⑧ PROVIDE FORMAL DAY PARKING & PICNIC AREA. FORMALIZE TRAIL TO PARSONS LODGE.
- ⑨ RETAIN ALL CAMPGROUND LOOPS; IMPROVE SITE



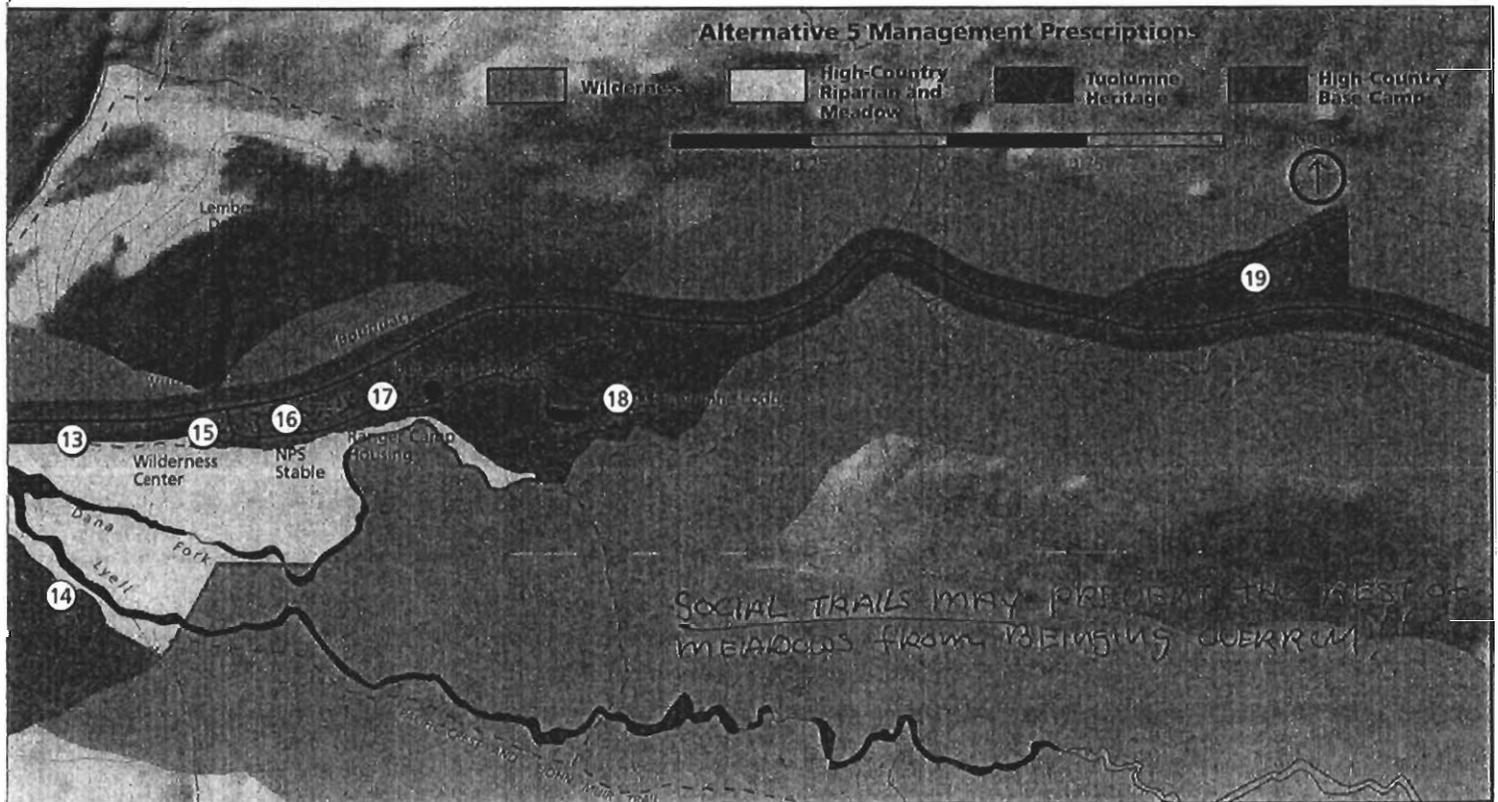
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

DELINEATION. (10) RETAIN STORE & GRILL, FUEL STATION & MOUNTAIN WEEVING SCHOOL; PROVIDE PICNIC AREA. REMOVE HOUSING. (11) CONSOLIDATE NPS STABLE & CONCESSIONER STABLE (OR) RELOCATE IT AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PARKING & PICNIC TABLES. (12) REMOVE PARKING & PICNIC AREA; RESTORE NATURAL CONDITION. (13) PROVIDE HIKE/BIKE TRAIL ALONG TUOLUMNE RD. & HISTORIC GREAT SIERRA WAGON RD. (14) RELOCATE A LOOP CAMPSITES AWAY FROM RIPARIAN AREAS. (15) RETAIN RANGER STATION; REDESIGN WILDERNESS CENTER EXTERIOR. (16) RETAIN NPS STABLE ? (17) ENHANCE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE & UPGRADE HOUSING. RETAIN & EXPAND DOGLAKE/JMT PARKING. (18) RETAIN TUOLUMNE LODGE; REMOVE SOME HOUSING AWAY FROM RIVER. (19) PROVIDE SATELLITE PARKING & WATERLESS TOILET. EXTEND SHUTTLE SERVICE. RETAIN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS INCLUDING HELIPAD.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code:



COARSEGOLD, CA
93614



Your Comments Are Important!

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I feel

this is too restrictive. There are plenty of opportunities for a wild
backcountry experience. Let us "normal" campers enjoy the meadow too. I
have no interest in backpacking, but love to camp.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

No Kayaking! Again - many opportunities for that on other
rivers outside the park

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I like plans 3 & 4

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

I visited T. Meadow for the 1st time last week ^(July 18-19) & loved how
different it felt from the Valley Floor, in terms of less
inside →

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

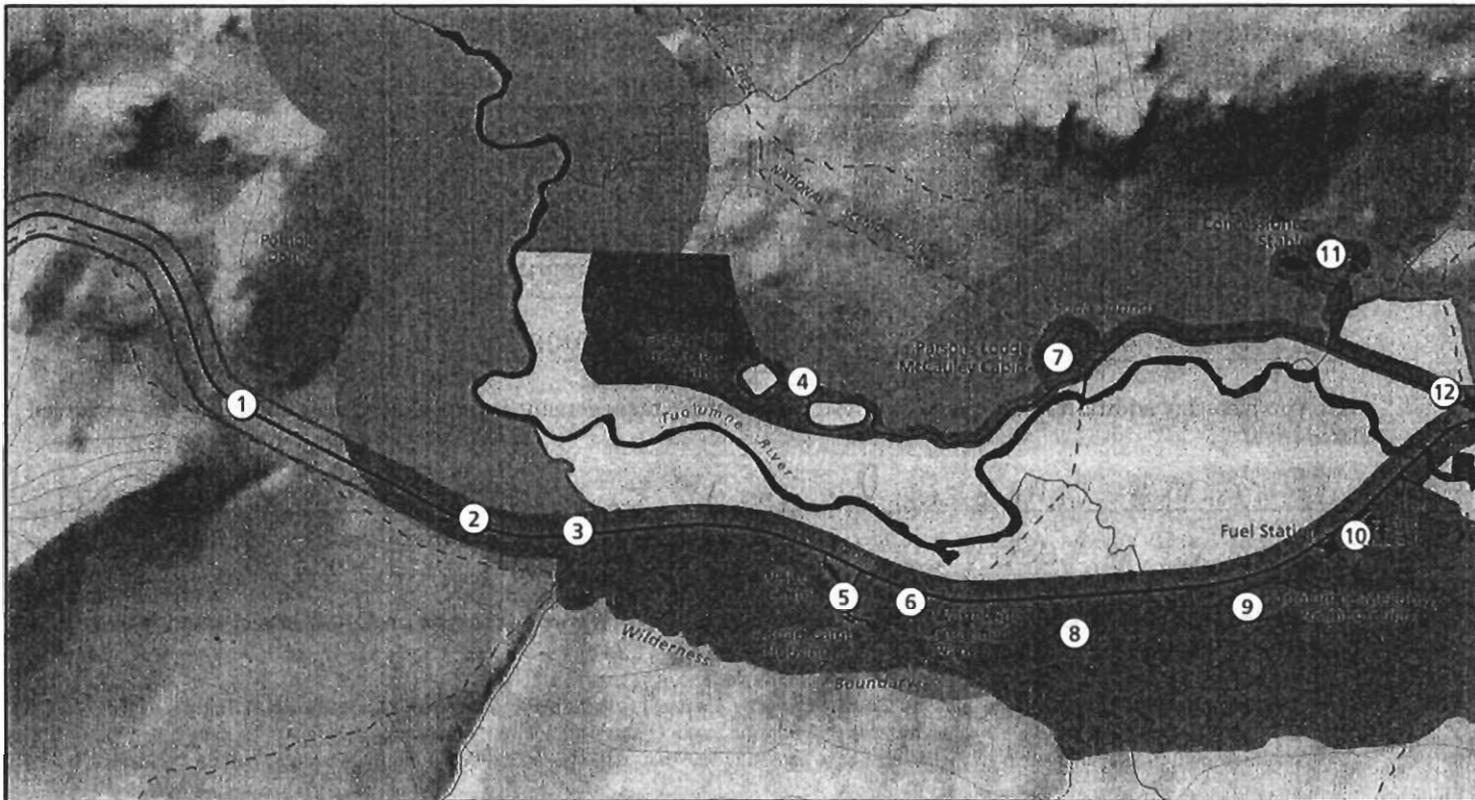
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

Continuation of # 2: people, feeling more "wild" + less developed. We camped @ White Wolf, saw no-one on 2 hikes we took, had a great hike w/ Ranger Anne - not too many people + she showed us part of the Meadow we wouldn't otherwise have found on our own. We'd be going back + spending our time along the Tioga Road in the future.



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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

remove formal off road parking, expand housing, consolidate maintenance facilities, consolidate washrooms, preserve parking loops, remove A-loop road & connectors, retain ranger station, make best use of

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

do not consolidate maintenance, store, grill & maintenance school -

(Just another Costco or WalMart) it's an historic national treasure

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Please keep employee housing & great respect - employees need to be close to work & concessions in Yosemite - please open west end of Tuolumne Meadows campground - less traffic through groundsites

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

is it possible to consolidate stables - concessions NPS? keep Helgafell

Please keep Tuolumne Lodge High Sierra Camp. There's a great need for disabled & elderly. No explore & discover Tuolumne

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

The preferred alternative 5 seems to embrace & preserve the cultural & ecological & historic conditions/traditions of Tuolumne

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

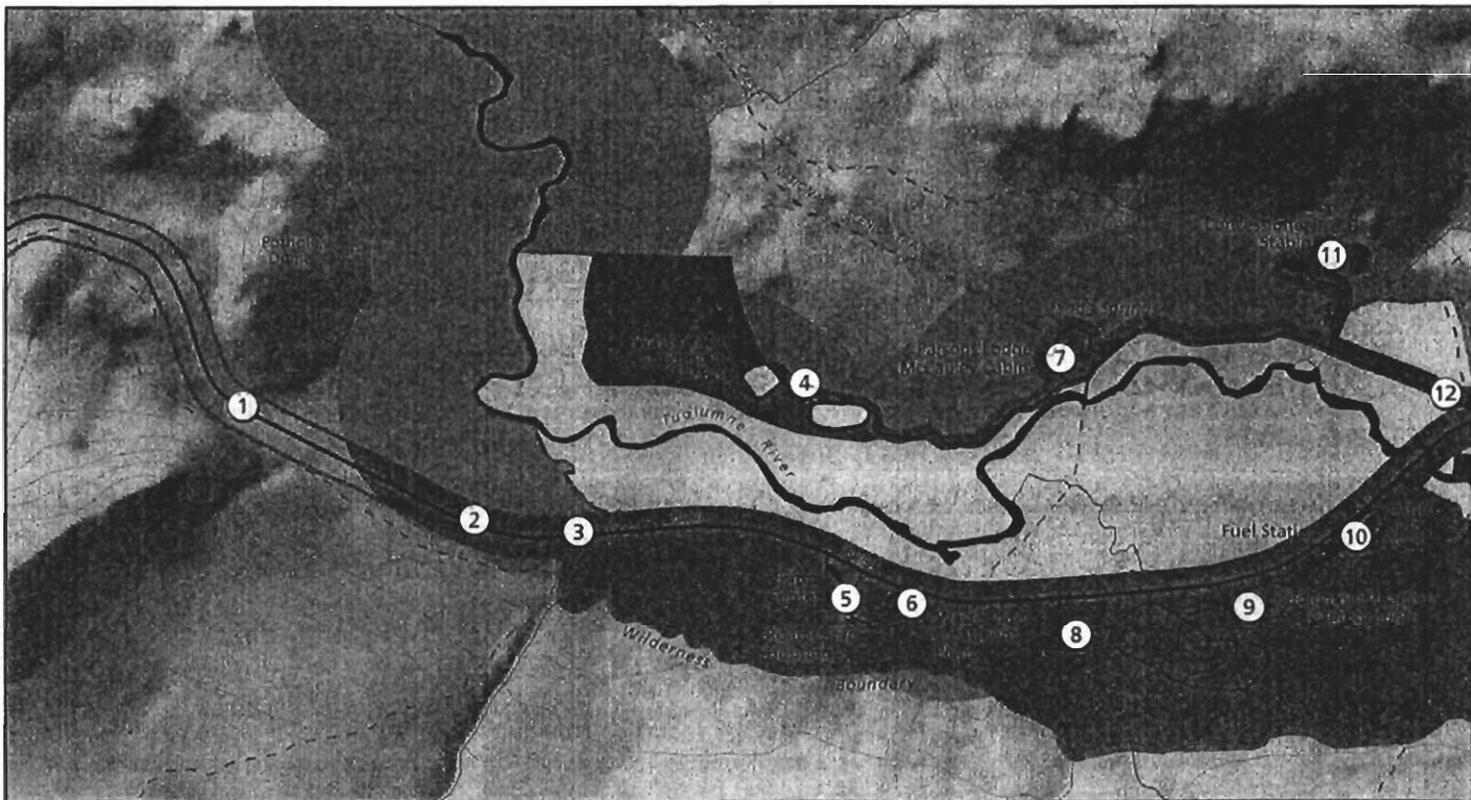
workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

* Preserve & protect, educate & keep sacred grounds available to all.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: alternatives

To Honor the traditions of Tuolumne while looking to the future -

- ① Restore previous disturbance to ecological integrity of meadow & riparian areas through intensive research & management.
- ② manage visitor use to protect sensitive meadow & riparian areas.
- ③ Shuttle service
- ④ Honor the employees & "in the park" adequate housing -
- ⑤ Honor the horses that carry food & visitors -
- ⑥ Preserve & restore historic buildings & other cultural landscape ^{elements}
- ⑦ Protect & provide for resource management & research

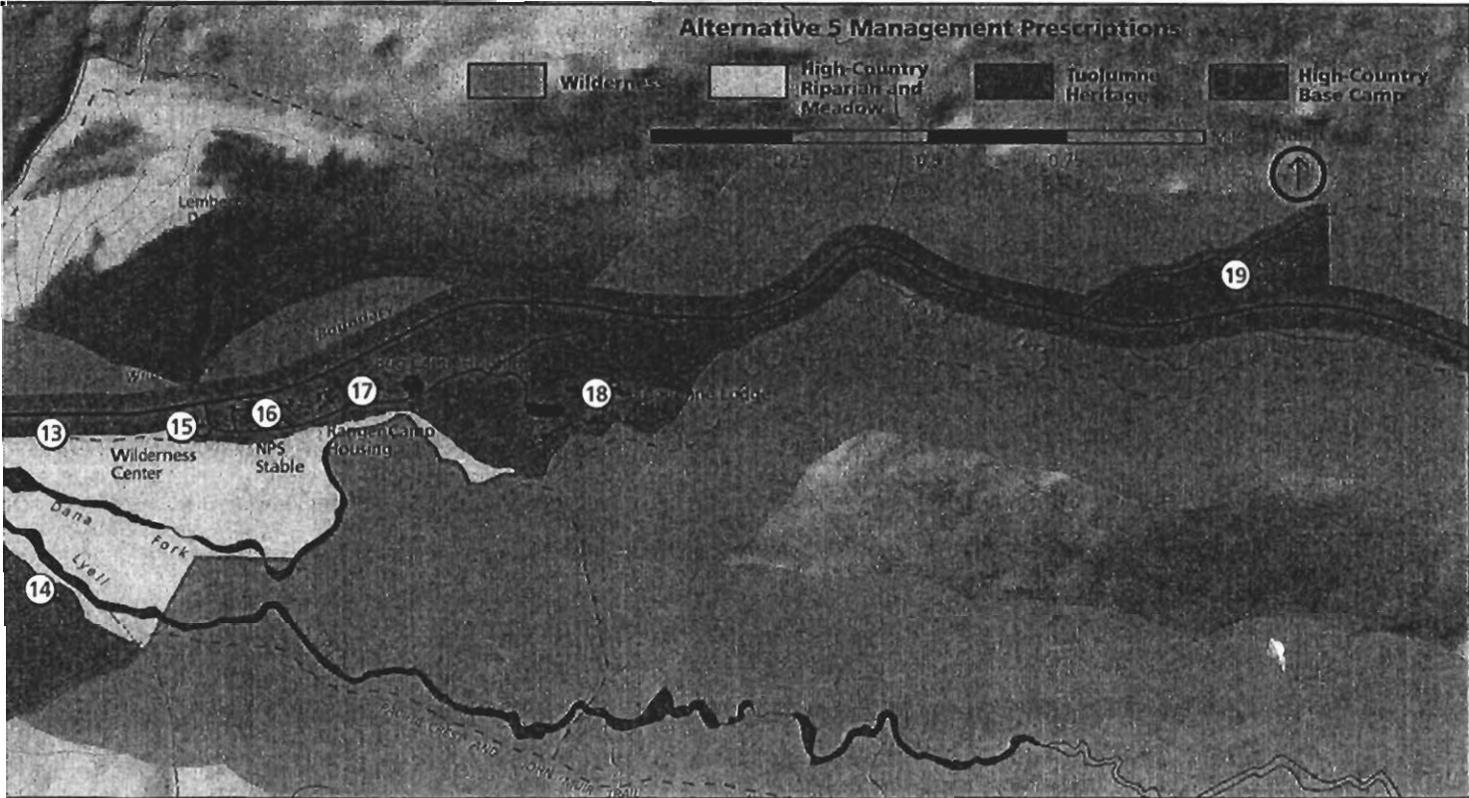


This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- #1 remove informal parking - restore natural conditions
- #2 remove high rd shoulder parking
- #3 we need parking for cathedral lakes
- #4 I don't know enough about wastewater tx ... are those ponds removable? is there a way to consolidate ponds & wastewater treatment?
- #5 maintain visitor center - expand housing & maintenance - whether here or at the Tuolumne lodge area.
- #6 consolidate ponds wastewater tx.
- #7 preserve Parks lodge, McCauley Cabin
- #8 ?? where is it? #9 do not consolidate visitor center, gas, store, maintenance store & fuel station - just another Costco or walgreens. No need for mega anything in the back country - small & non-invasive blending = the environment. #10 may work to consolidate Ranger station & wilderness center

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code:

[Redacted] El Sobrante, Ca 94803



- #11 Is it possible to consolidate stables?
- #12 leave better some parking & picnic
- #17 & 19 (keep housing & maintenance)

Create Your Own Site Plan

NW LIS

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Some A loop sites are to close to the river, relocate
The Grill is a nice amenity, don't remove. ^{Not a fan of} alternative 1

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Would love a shower facility and be able to
know river access is non-detrimental by all visitors.
My favorite alternative.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Status quo.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Too vague on how protecting the environment ~~may~~ ^{will}
limit human access. Not a fan of alternative 4.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Yellow Zone is too vague on expectations
of human access.

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

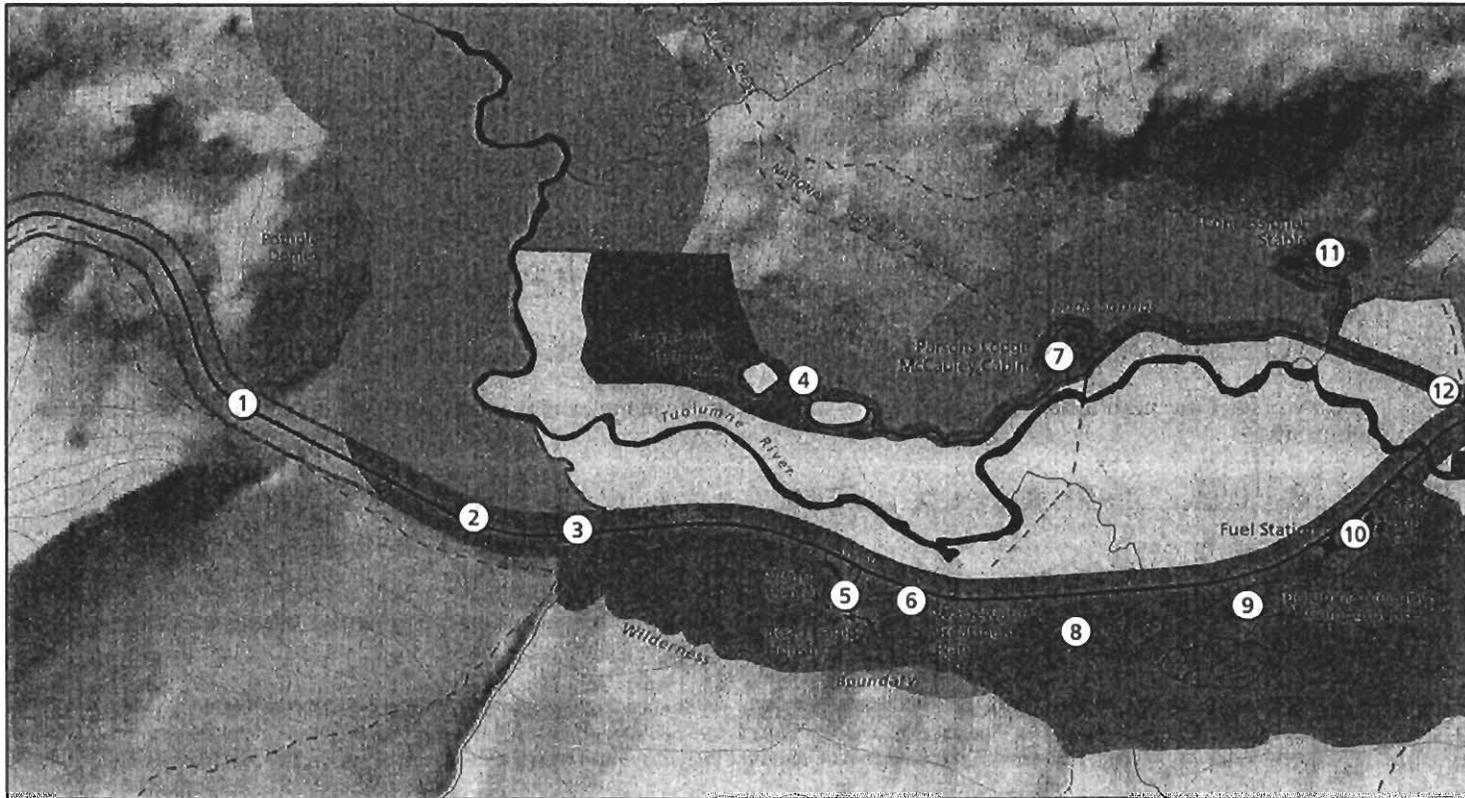
workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

• I'm a yearly, week-long, visitor for 2 decades.

• I appreciate Tuolumne's delicate ecosystem and the tough balance to provide for nature's and humans' needs.

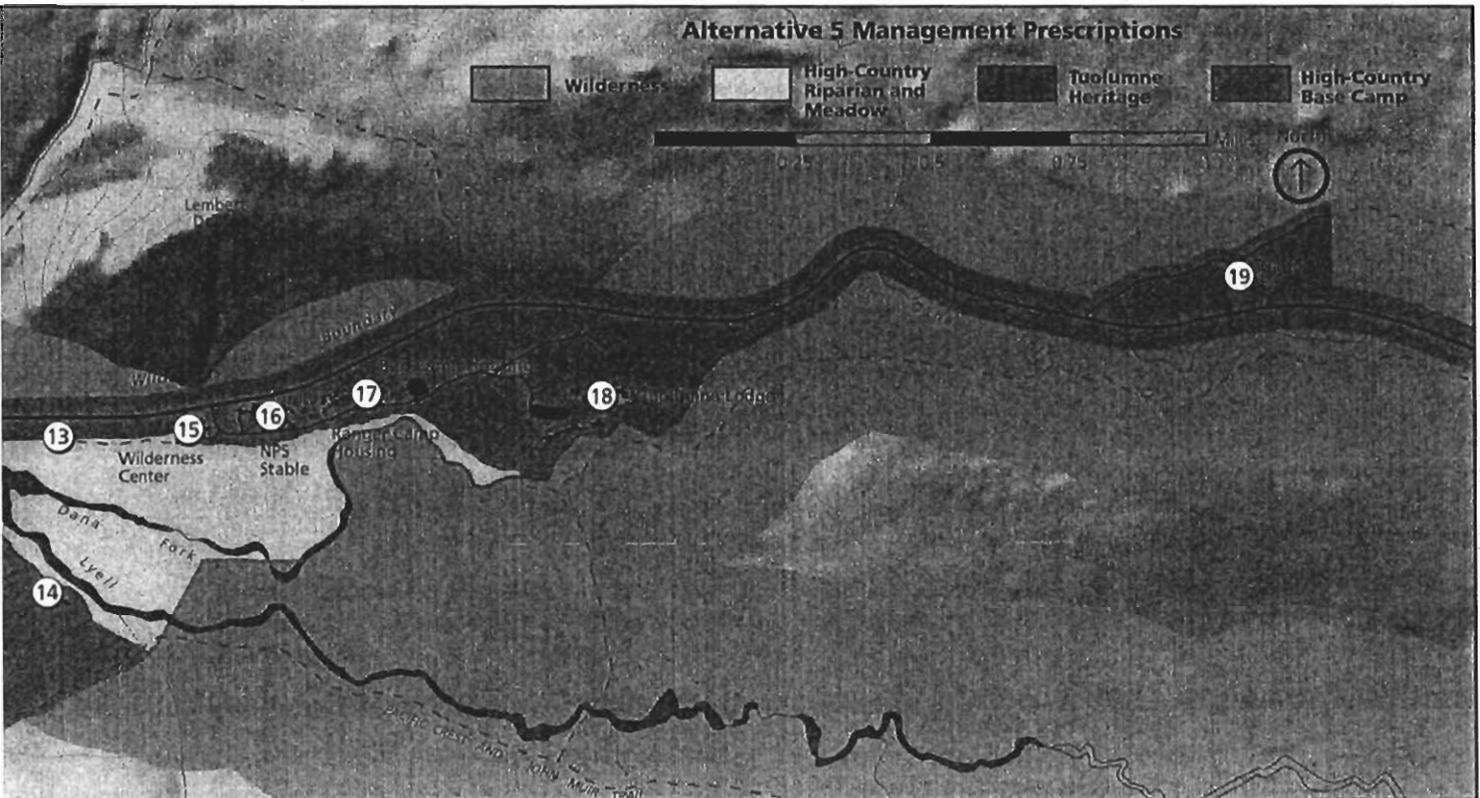
I have seen 'idiots' and the damage they can cause.



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- As added input, my wishes are:
- move A loop sites deemed too close to river, ^{maintain} capacity
 - keep grill
 - add showers
 - allow kayaks & inner tubes
- ∴ Alternative 2 is my preference.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: _____



Your Comments Are Important!

NW L16

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Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

like restoration of "natural" conditions in meadow and by extension backcountry surrounding - dislike relocate housing to Lee Vining - #5 fuel and CO2 emissions!

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

like preserving natural character - dislike adding kayaking, cycling and stables; retain Glen Aulin

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

like preserve opportunities for primitive unconfined recreation dislike manage lodgespoles and retain Glen Aulin

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

like waste water facilities near existing plant dislike hi cycle path; no change A-loop remove sediment dome from picnic area

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Planning implies conflict between preserving the resource and people's enjoyment of it. Preservation must prevail every time - development must only prevail once.

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

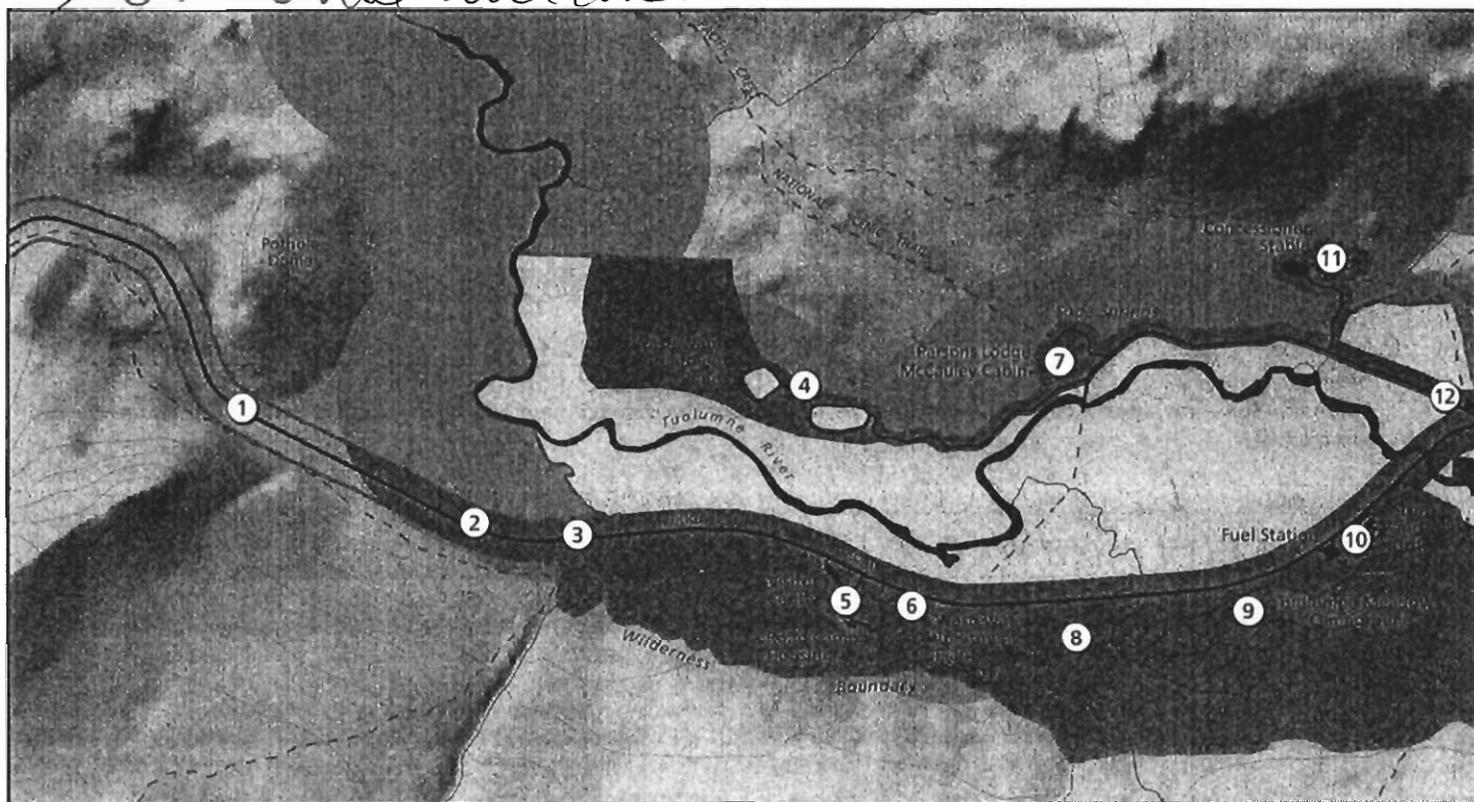
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

- ① families and groups with a history of visiting the meadows could share experiences with a new generation
- ② Visitors could enter the meadows without the aid of interpretative rangers to hike, sketch, photograph
- ③ "Natural" process such as fire, flood would prevail
- ④ Retain the rustic CCC style of building in new construction.



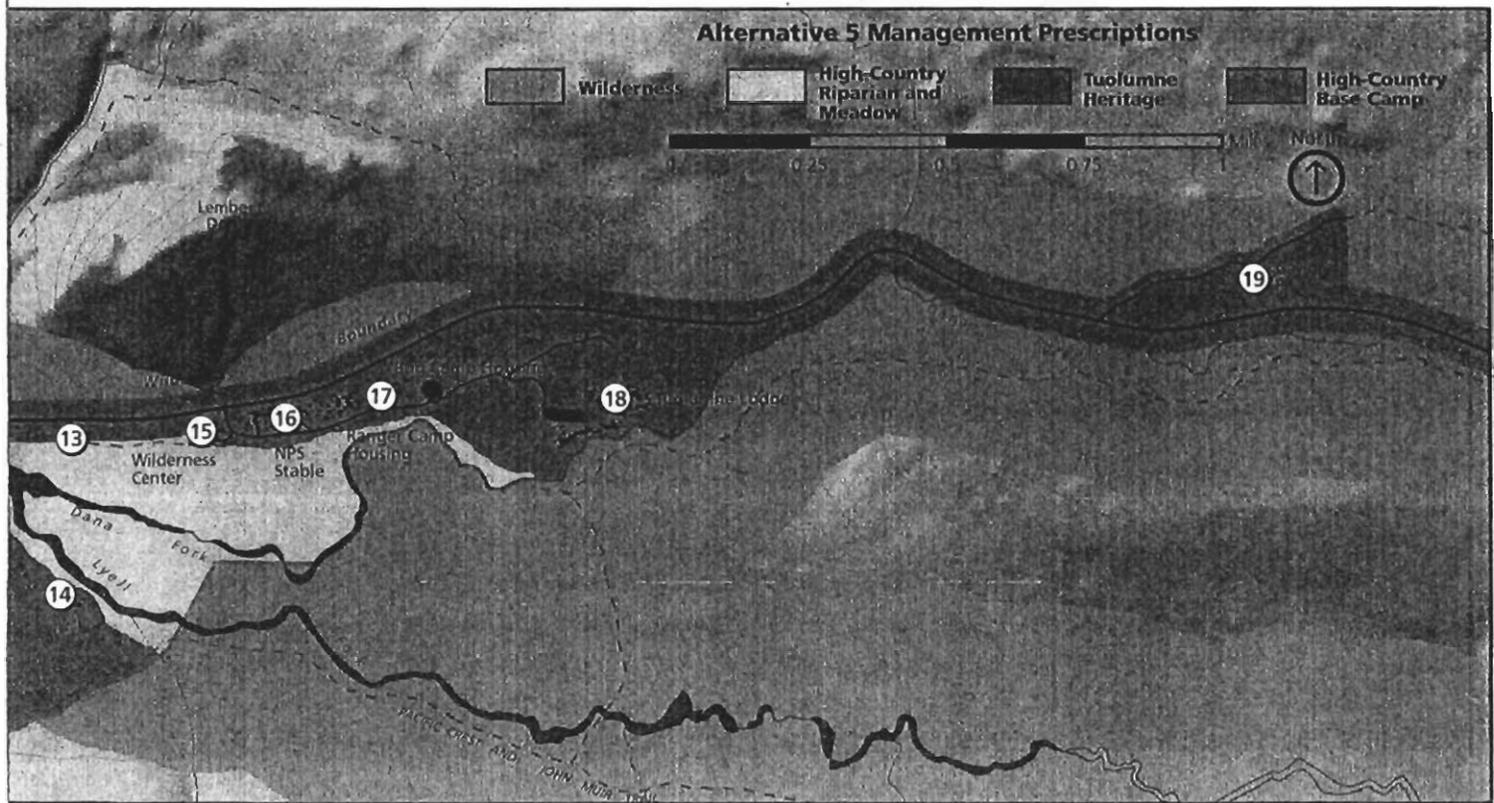
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- 1 and 2 - same as alter #4; 3 - shuttle bus on walk from ⁵⁰⁰⁹
- 4 - same as alter ~~5~~ - relocate $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 9; same as alter 4
- 6 - same as alter 4, new plant near existing
- 7 preserve 8 - no change 9 - reduce size of camp-ground; services ($\frac{1}{2}$ c, etc.) same location
- 10 consolidate wilderness center, mt'n's school & ranger station
- 11 - add NPS stable with DNC 12. Lembert - retain
- 13 NO BIKE TRAIL!!! 14. remove A & restore
- 15 relocate to # 10 - restore 16 NPS stable - see # 11
17. same as alter. 4.
18. T. Lodge - reduce facility removing dining & housing from river
19. retain helipad.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code:



94702



NW L17

SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94901

July 21, 2008

Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389-9905

Re: Tuolumne Meadows Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

Below please find my comments with regard to the workbook that was provided to me at Tuolumne Meadows. I have attempted to conform this letter with the comment form that was included in your workbook.

1A. With regard to Alternative 1:

I dislike proposals on Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 15 (by adding the visitor center to ranger station), 17, (removing NPS Housing), and 18. The remainder of the items in Alternative 1 are fine.

1B. With regard to Alternative 2:

I dislike proposals on Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17 (but like Dog Lake parking) and 18 (Do not touch Tuolumne Meadows Lodge). The rest of Alternative 2 is fine.

1C. With regard to Alternative 3:

I dislike proposals on Items 1, 2, 3, 5, (no need for Cathedral Lake parking here), 18 (Do not touch Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, housing or dining hall). The rest of Alternative 3 is fine.

1D. With regard to Alternative 4:

I dislike proposals on Items 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 (do not touch Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, dining hall or housing). The rest of Alternative 4 is fine.

2A. Do not touch Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, dining hall or housing.

3. Below is the preferred plan based upon my understanding of the different alternatives:

- Item 1 - No change
- Item 2 - No change
- Item 3 - See Alternative 4 on this item (provide formal parking with visitor contact station and trail connections to Cathedral Lakes)
- Item 4 - See Alternative 3 on this item (retain wastewater treatment ponds and access road)
- Item 5 - See Alternative 4 on this item (relocate visit center function expanding housing, retain maintenance operations)
- Item 6 - See Alternative 1 on this item (locate new wastewater treatment facilities near existing treatment plant)
- Item 7 - See Alternative 1 on this item (preserve Parsons Lodge and McCauley cabin; eliminate vehicle access and utilities)
- Item 8 - No change
- Item 9 - See Alternative 1 on this item (retain current capacity at campground; improve site delineation and traffic flow)
- Item 10 - See Alternative 3 on this item (retain store and grill, fuel station, and mountaineering school; provide picnic area. Remove housing)
- Item 11 - See Alternative 4 on this item (consolidate NPS stable and concessioner stable)
- Item 12 - See Alternative 2 on this item (redesign parking and expand picnic area; upgrade comfort station)
- Item 13 - See Alternative 4 on this item (provide hike/bike trail along Toga Road and historic Great Sierra Wagon Road)
- Item 14 - No change

Item 15 - No change

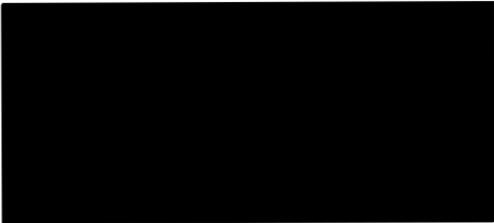
Item 16 - See Alternative 4 on this item (relocate NPS stable,
restore natural conditions)

Item 17 - See Alternative 3 on this item (enhance historic
landscape and retain housing, retain Dog Lake/JAP
parking)

Item 18 - **DO NOT TOUCH TUOLUMNE MEADOWS LODGE, DINING HALL OR
HOUSING**

Item 19 - No change

Zip Code 94930



P.S. I have been coming to Tuolumne Meadows

for 30 years

Your Comments Are Important!

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Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Like - Increased Wilderness; Dislike - Removal of existing facilities & ^{roadside} parking areas.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Like - Preservation of historical bldgs. & lodge; Dislike - Retention of Concessioner Stable and removal of roadside parking areas.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Like - Retention & preservation of existing facilities & historical bldgs; Dislike - Removal of roadside parking areas.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Like - Same as above; Dislike - Same as above

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Keep wilderness as priority #1; But retain access and historical bldgs. including Lodge, Store, etc.

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

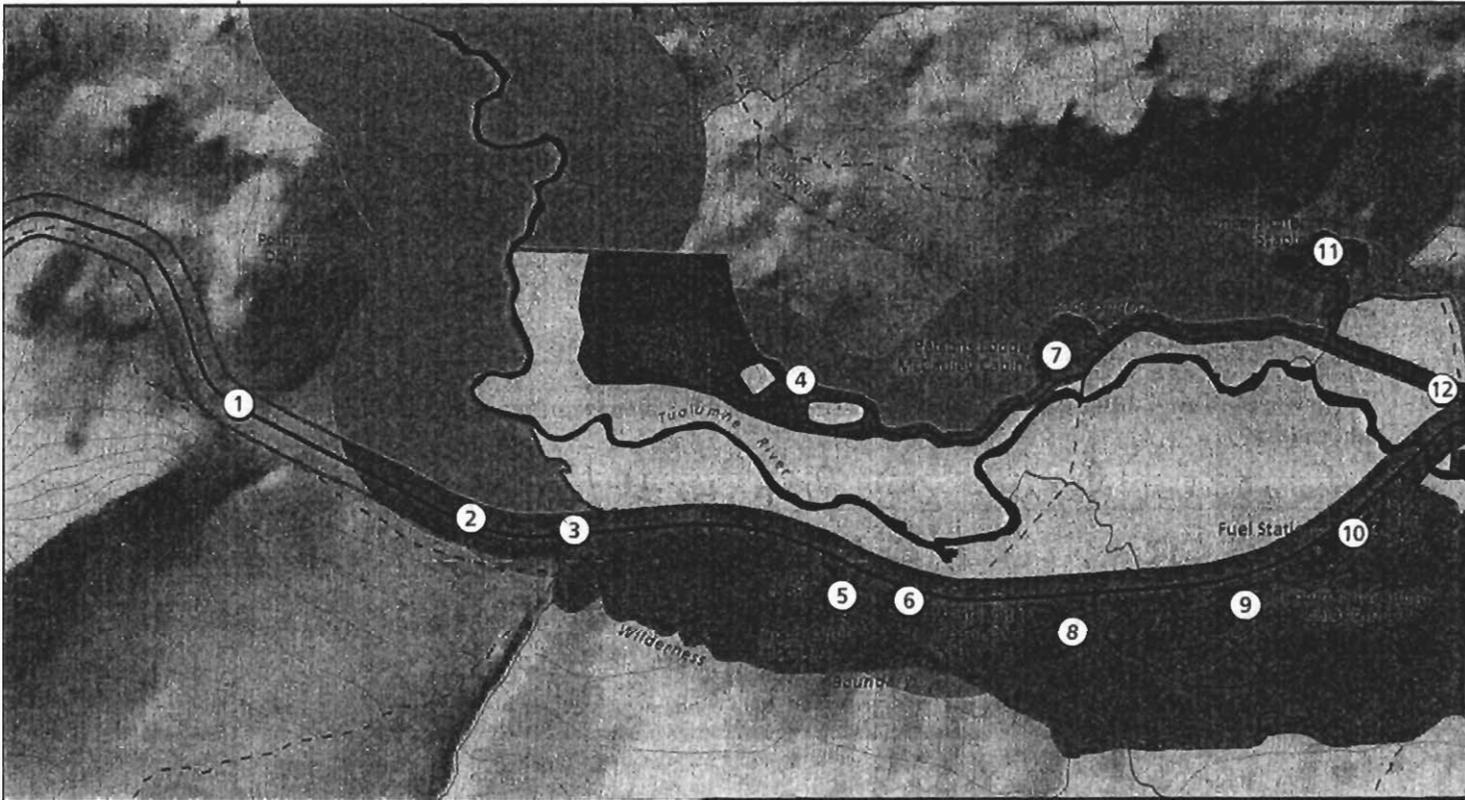
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

1. Retention of wilderness character;
2. Preservation of existing facilities & buildings, & roadside access;
3. Eliminate occasional stables.



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

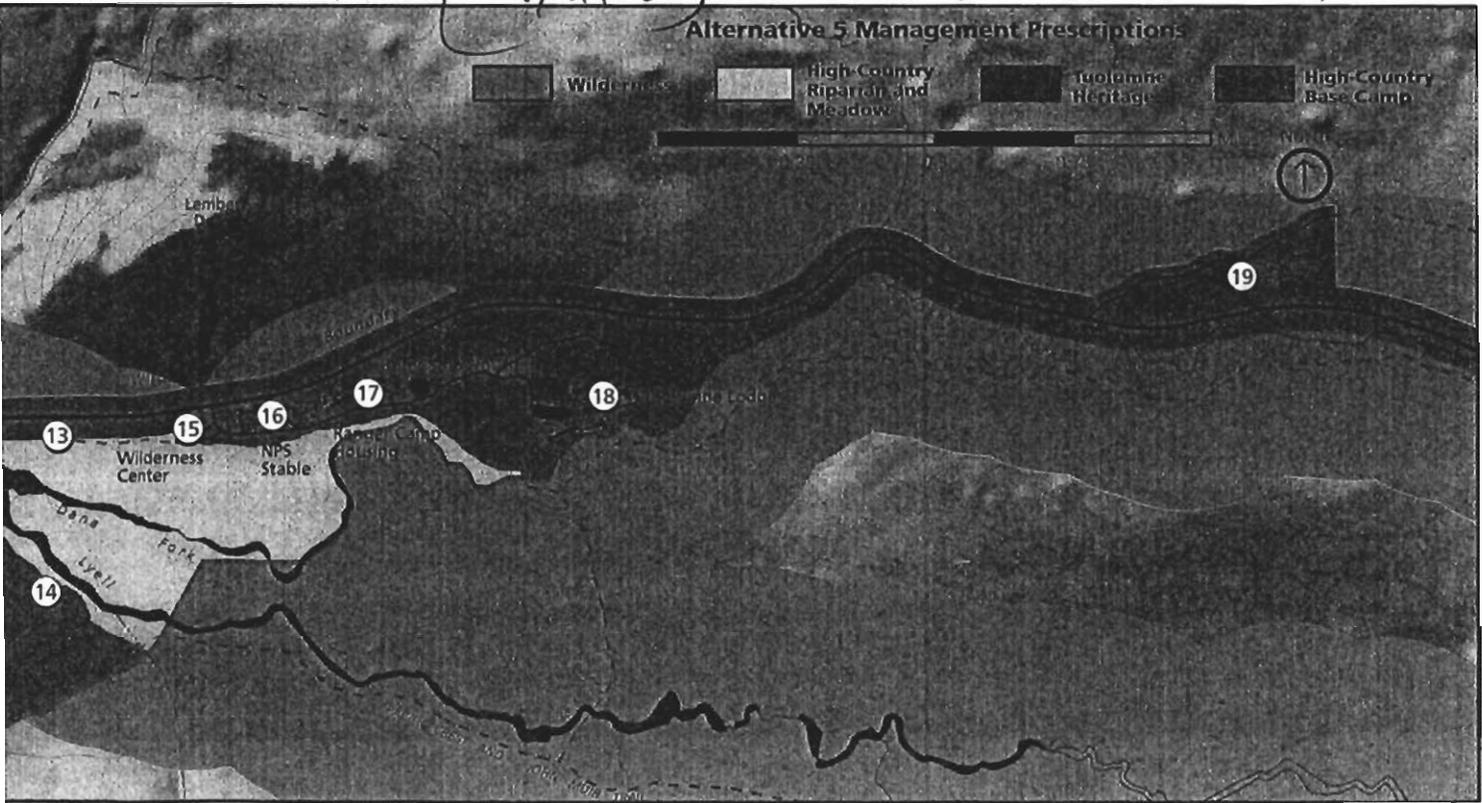
(★) ~~1~~ Keep (perhaps expand?) roadside parking to allow access to wilderness yet balanced with wilderness character and at the same time, retain existing facilities (except Grasshopper Stables) and preserve Gulpe, Purson's Lodge, Store & Campground etc.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code

7/11/08

[Redacted Name]

Poway, CA 92064



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L19

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I like preserving Tuolumne meadows area as a place w/ opportunities for solitude & wilderness experience in a relatively undeveloped/pristine place - don't create a "little Yosemite Valley".

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I don't think this is a good idea. This area is not appropriate to accommodate increased traffic. Some types of visitors can best enjoy other areas of the park.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I like reducing use levels at crowded sites to enhance traditional experiences & protecting cultural landscape values.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I like this concept. Concern about the relocation of so many current facilities - may cause more harm than good?

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

I would again emphasize that #2, would hurt the ecology, character, culture, & visitor experience.

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

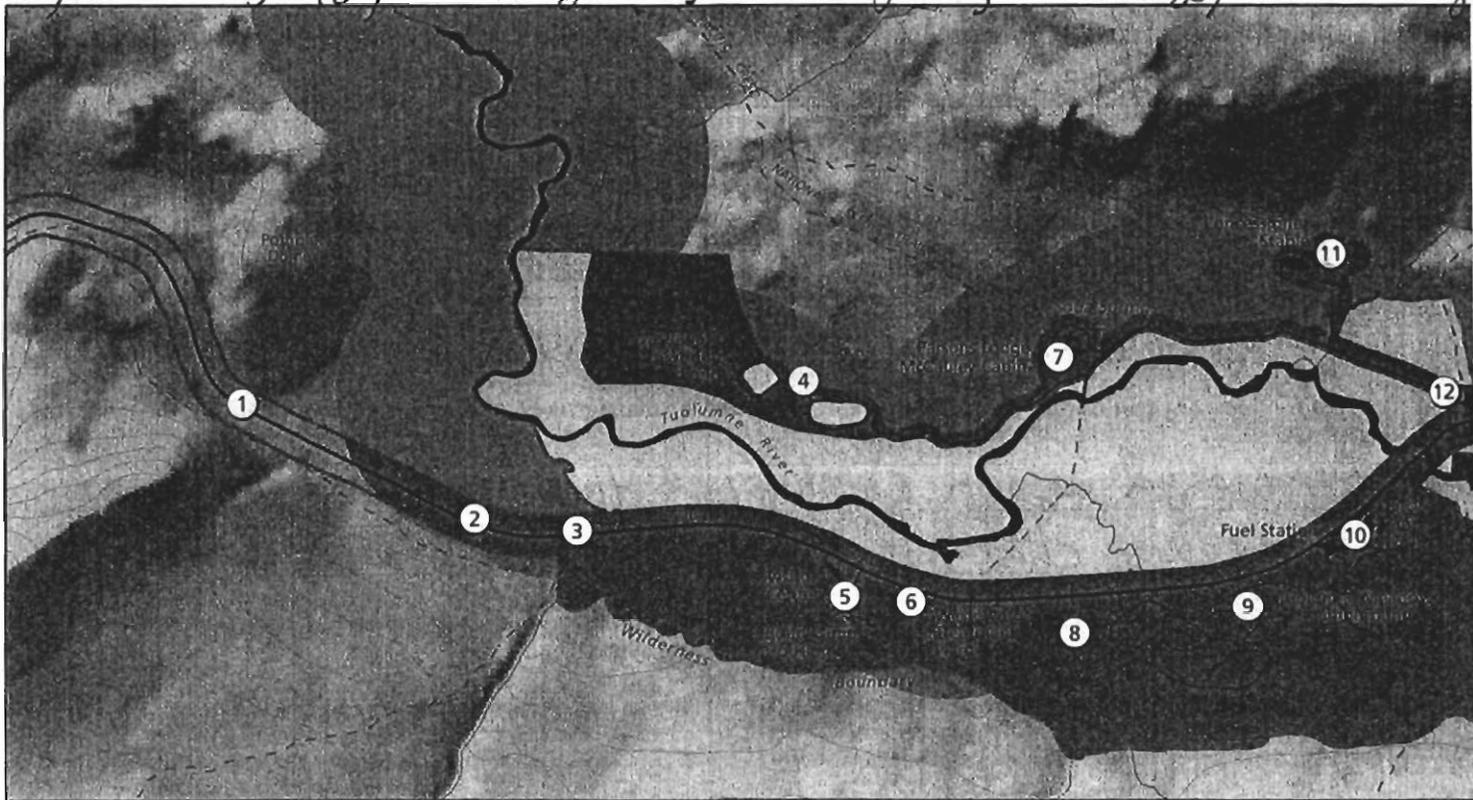
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

- keep this as a high country experience for visitors alienated by crowds in valley & more serious about wilderness experience. - keep historic bldgs & cultural assets. - rigorously preserve ecology of area & recovery of damage from overuse.
- 9) cont'd traffic flow.
- 10) keep store, fuel station, mountaineering school; - remove grill; expand picnic area.
- 11) retain concessioner stable 12) retain parking & picnic area; redesign comfort station. 13) retain historic trail 14) remove A loop campsites; restore Nat'l conditions; retain/improve hiking trail. 15) no change. 16) no change. 17) no change. 18) retain lodge, move housing



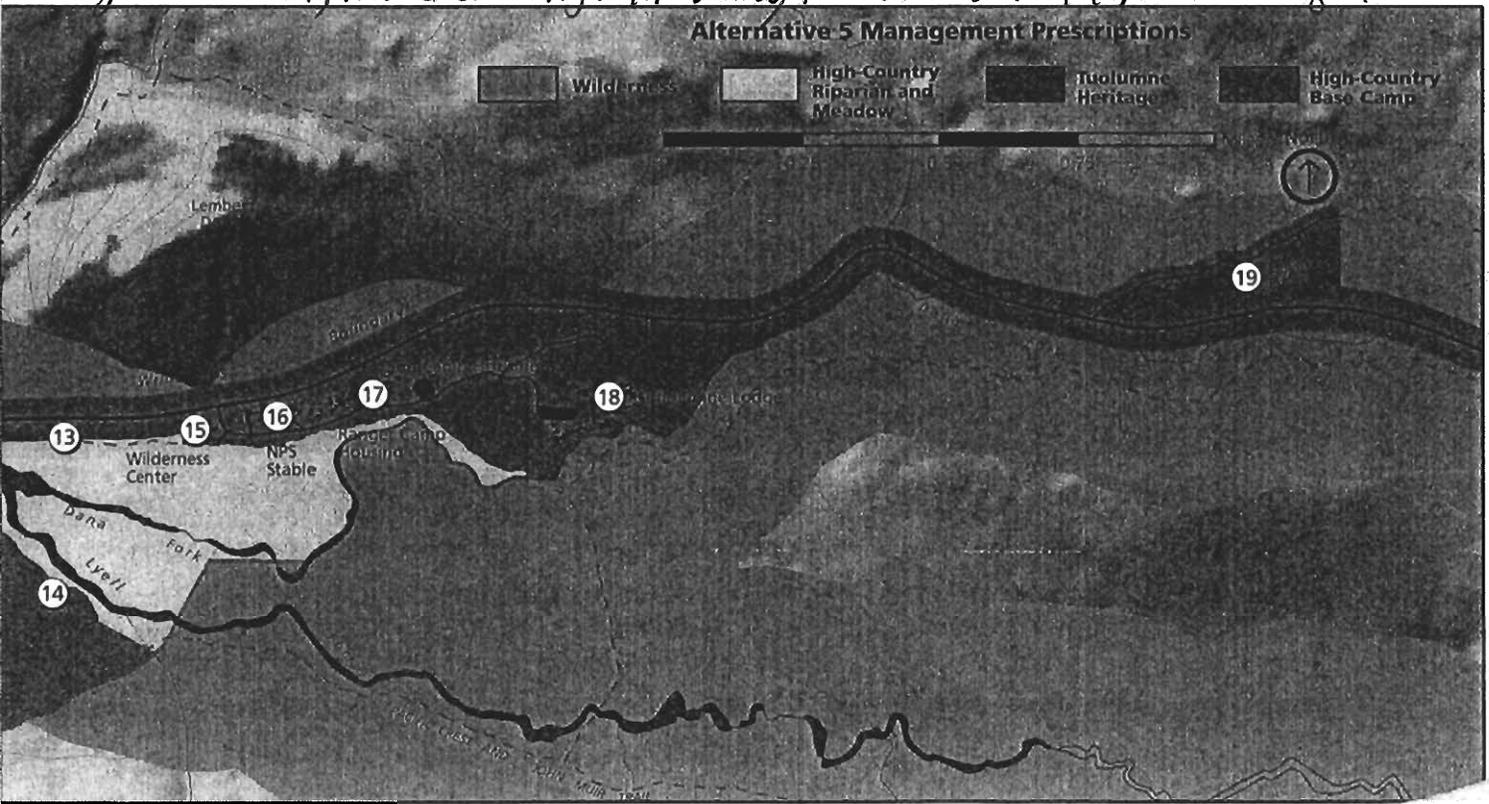
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- 1) no change
- 2) remove shoulder parking. Provide scenic pullouts.
- 3) remove informal parking. Restore natural conditions.
- 4) Retain wastewater treatment ponds & access road
- 5) Retain visitor center function; retain housing; relocate maint operation; provide cathedral lakes parking.
- 6) Provide NPS maint yard/operations office near wastewater treatment plant.
- 7) preserve Parsons Lodge & McCauley cabin; keep vehicle access & utilities.
- 8) no change
- 9) retain current capacity at campground, improve site delineation &

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code

[Redacted] 94931

away from river, move dining hall away from river. 19) no change.



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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? This is my preferred plan because it turns this area back to it's natural state.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Not preferred because you still retain stores, a grill, lodging, etc.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? See above.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I

appreciate the attempt to recover healthy ecological conditions but we are the virus and all these modern amenities makes it too easy & crowded.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

DO NOT TURN IT INTO YOSEMITE VALLEY!
CONTROL TRAFFIC - BUS PEOPLE IN!!

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What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

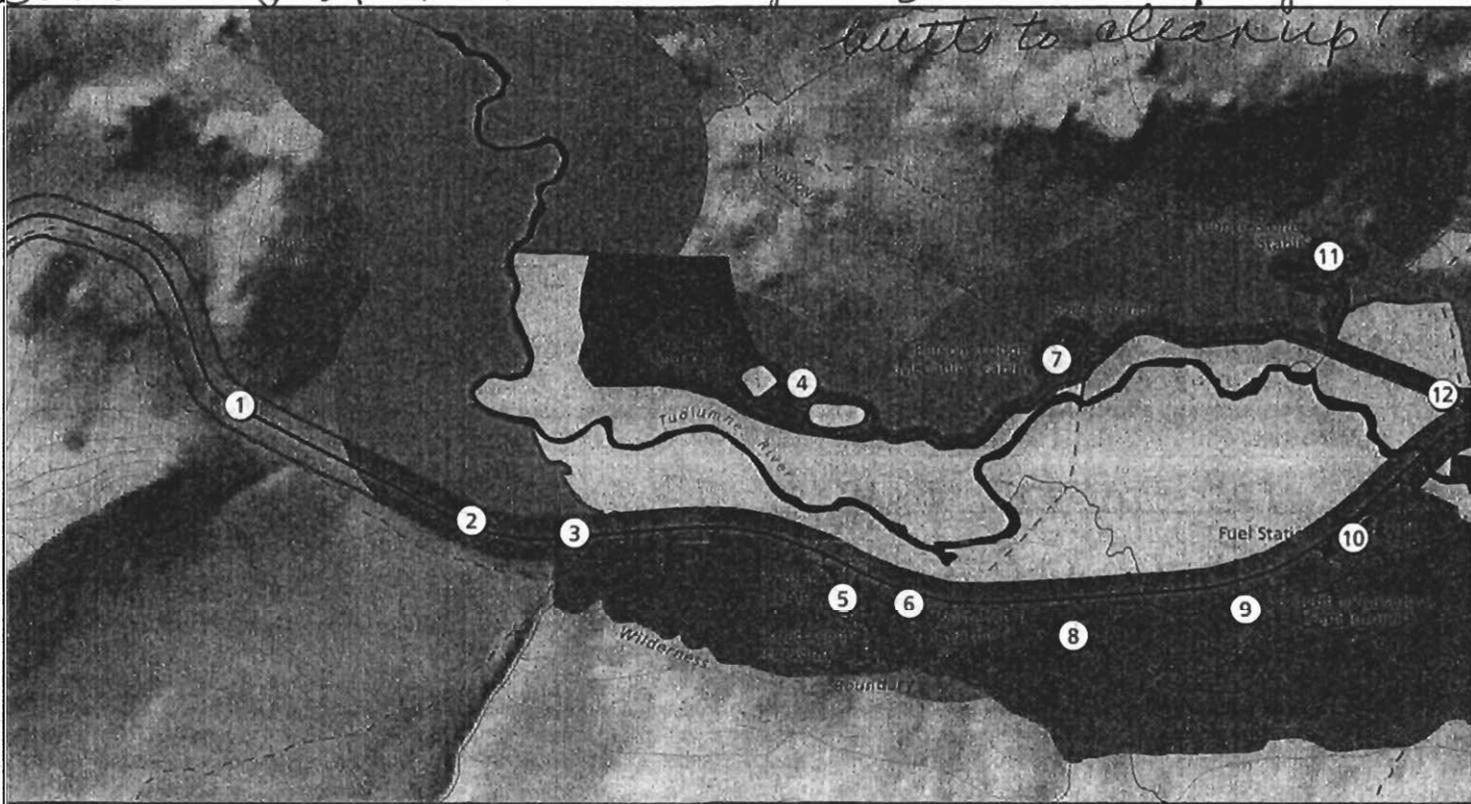
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: I

repeat: turning Tuolumne Meadows into a "wilderness" Disneyland like the valley would be heartbreaking. Keep the area natural and bus people in who intend to stay overnight in campgrounds.

Eliminate parking lots or at least don't create any new ones. I'm concerned about Alt. 5 (your preferred plan) that states that you would like to expand opportunities for people to discover the river! That means more plastic bottles & cigarette butts to clean up!



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

④ Remove

(1, 2, 3) Agree with Plan 1.

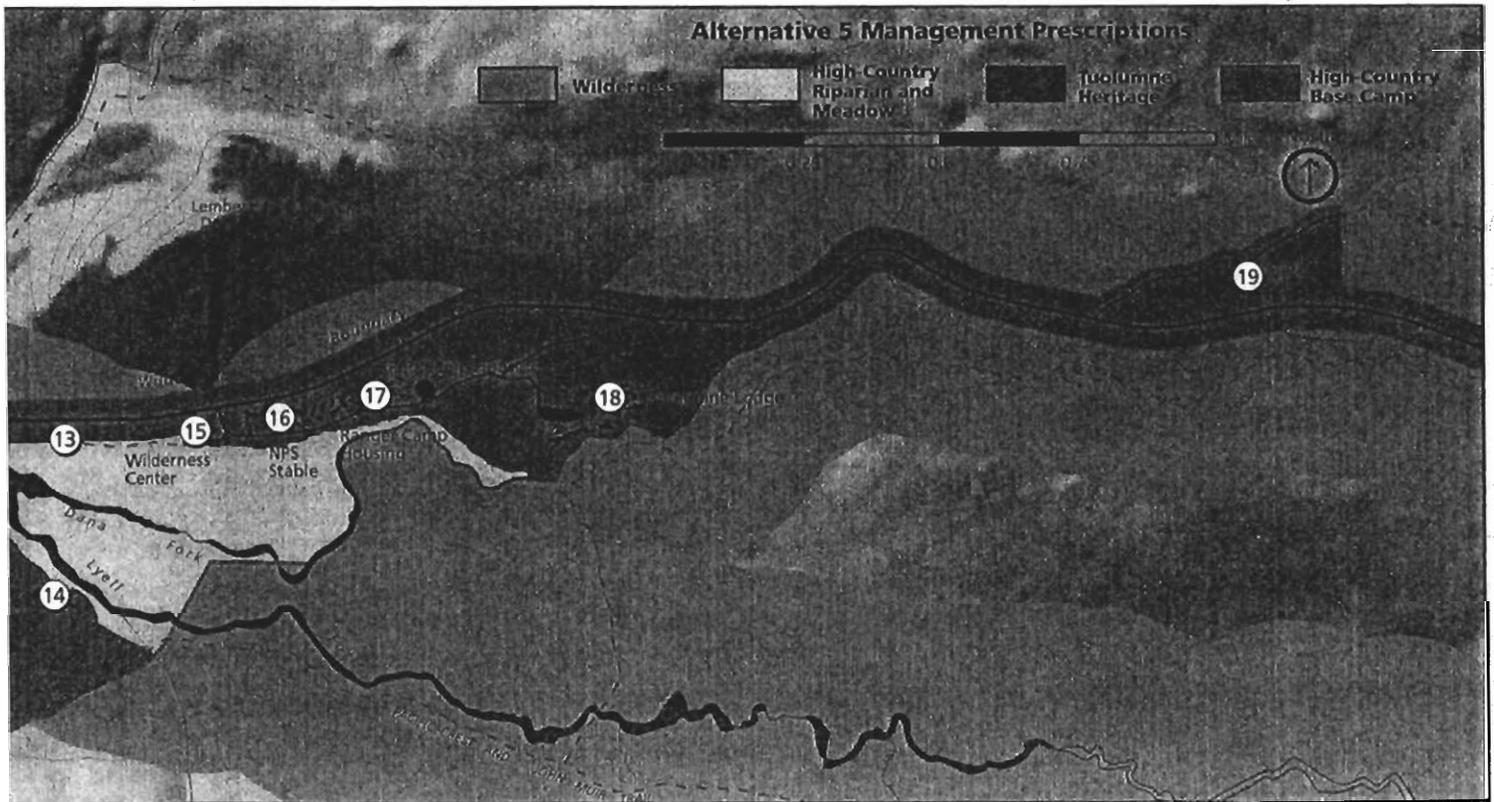
No sense in going through each point. I agree with Plan 1 100%.

I would seriously give some thought to re-paving campground roads.

Also, I'm curious as to why you didn't detail the changes that would be made under Alt. 5 (preferred by you.) Very minor

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code:

[Redacted] Novato
94947 CA



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L 21

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Too "purist." Most of YNP is for backcountry use. T.M. is compromise area

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Too far the other way. T.M. does not need more infrastructure

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Already overemphasis on a hand full of storage people who visited T.M. for short periods. No more P.C. Disney stuff

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Like the degree of sharp definitions even tho don't agree with all. Pretty good

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Too many glorious generalities, Example? Does #5 promise no reduction in # of campsites?

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

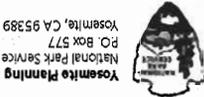
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Step 1: Fold in half along the spine.

Step 2: Fold in half again, along this line.

Steps 3 and 4: Seal the open end and sides with tape, apply postage, then deposit into your nearest mailbox.

YOSEMITE PLANNING
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PO BOX 577
YOSEMITE, CA 95389-9905



Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Please place postage here

Comment Form

What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

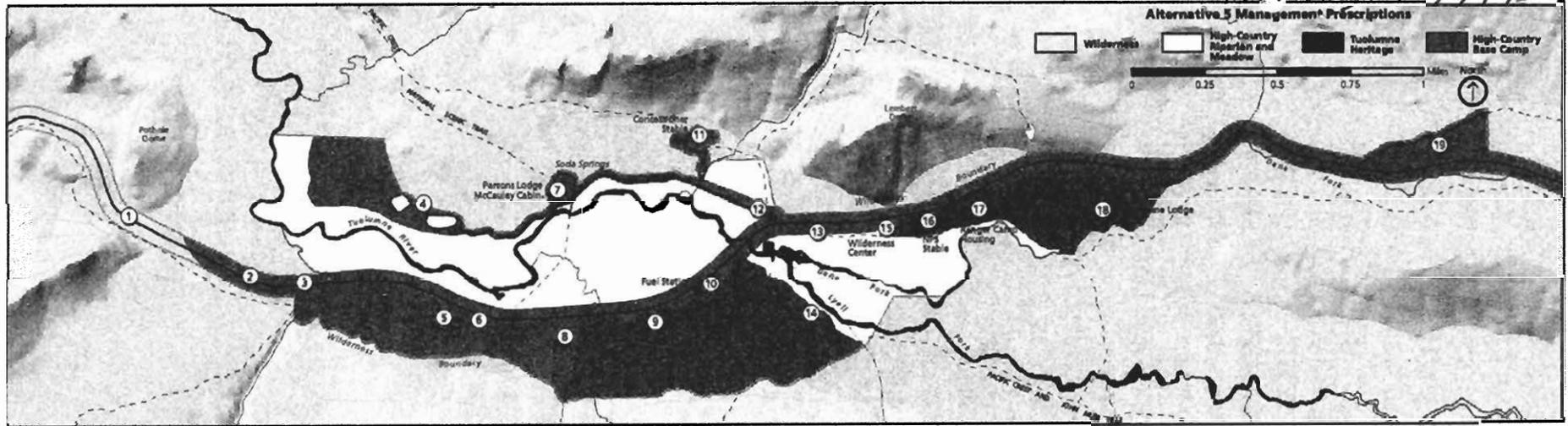
1. Keep T.M. very closely to "as is".
Improvements modest/restrained but OK
2. Agree The road thru meadows is a mess. Would rather see 5(?) smallish designated parking areas, along the way, rather than a couple of oversize areas of blacktop.
3. Less emphasis on "celebrating" indian practices. Remember the reality

This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- was to kill any possible living thing.
4. No watercraft in the river
 5. Soda springs restored to which earlier historic conditions (I have seen a lot of variety in the last 65 years)
 6. IF remove wastewater ponds and replace with new facilities, will be very expensive. The money would be better spent elsewhere. (Ex: Trails repair & maintenance within 5 miles of T.M.) The ponds are rarely visited and invisible from anywhere
 6. You are on the right track - keep going

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code:

Novato, CA 94945



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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Most dislike: Tuolumne Meadows Lodge is removed.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Most dislike: housing at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge is removed.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Most dislike: some housing at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge is removed away from the river.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Most dislike: Dining Hall and housing is moved away from the river

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Tuolumne Meadows Lodge is an important facility for persons with disabilities that make camping impossible. It should NOT be removed

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

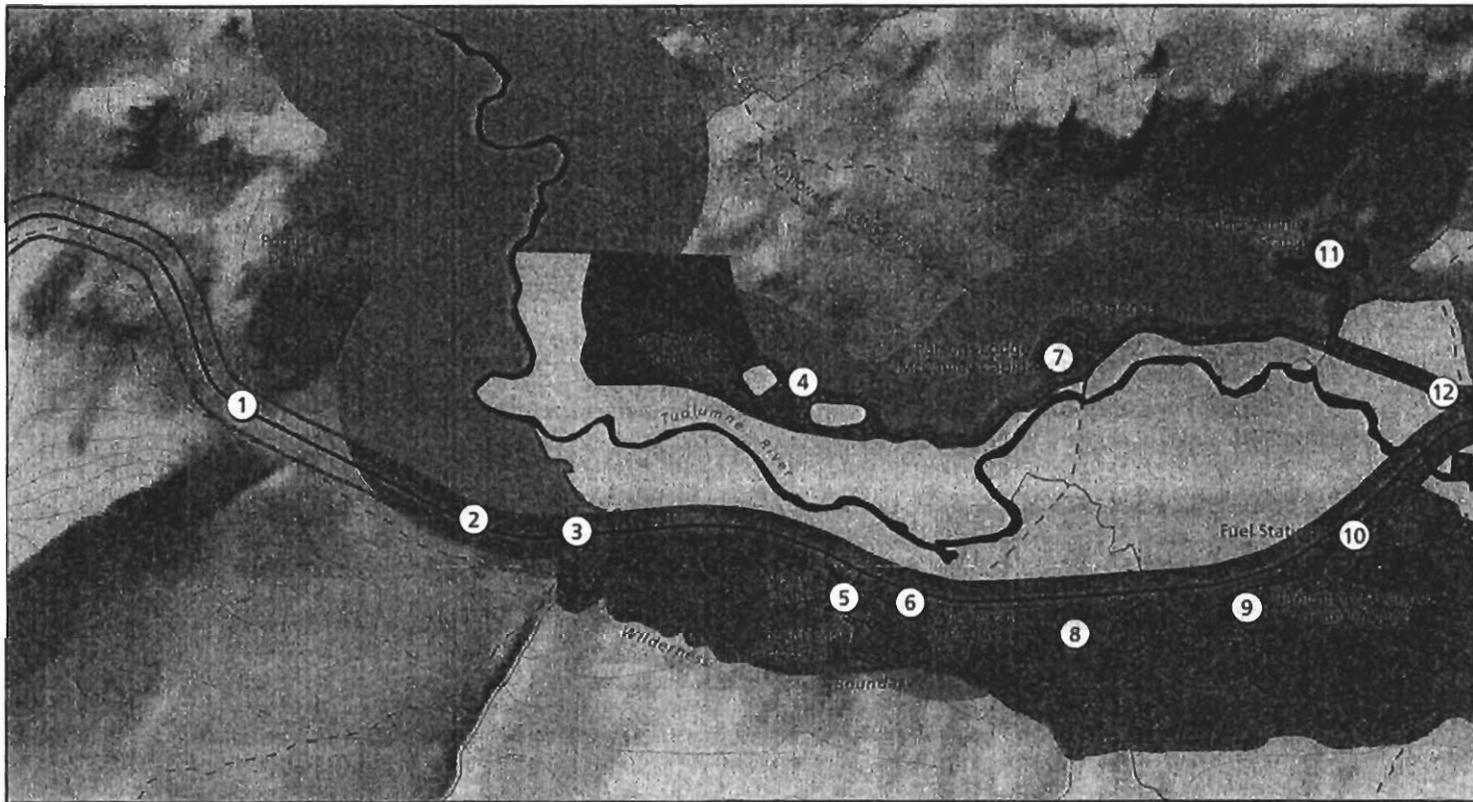
Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views: Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

Keep Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. It is an important component of the High Sierra Camps. It also allows persons who are unable to camp at campsites to visit and stay in the area.

Without the Lodge, High Sierra Campers who wish to acclimate themselves to the high altitude ^{before hiking} would have to ~~set~~ Camping equipment to the area, then store such equipment somewhere.



Los Angeles, CA
90068
July 14, 2008

Superintendent
Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to the Tuolumne Planning Workshop, July, 2008. I have the following recommendations for the final plan. These are based upon site location numbers.

Site 18. Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. No change, redesign, or relocation should take place, including the employee housing.

Site 14. Loop road in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. No change should take place.

Site 9. Tuolumne Meadows Campground. No change should take place, except as noted below.

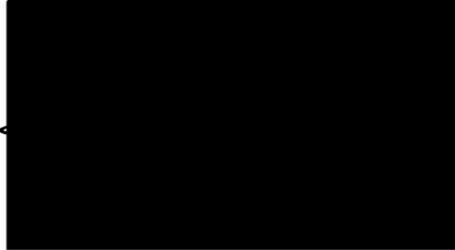
Site 10. Store, grill, fuel station, and mountaineering school. Relocate these further south into the campground, and away from the Tioga Road. Some of these facilities have visibility from as far away as Soda Springs, which diminishes the wilderness character of Tuolumne Meadows.

Site 11. Concessioner Stables. Relocate this to a new location south of the Tioga Road, and consolidate with NPS stables. Close the access road and restore the existing location to natural conditions. The present facility is in an elevated location, highly visible from wide areas in the eastern Tuolumne Meadows, which diminishes the wilderness aspects of the surroundings. For that reason, the site should not be developed into a picnic area, or any other use.

Site 4. Wastewater Treatment Ponds. It would be desirable to remove these, including the access road, and restore the area to natural conditions. However this may depend upon other changes taking place that are not advisable (see note 1). In that case, no action should be taken, and the area left as it currently exists.

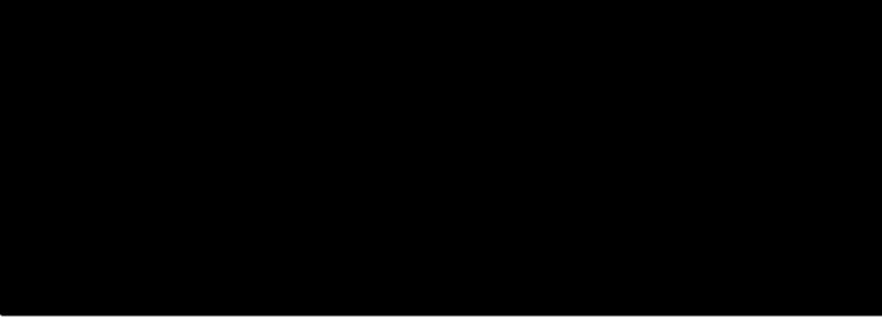
I am pleased to contribute these views to the planning effort.

The management of Tuolumne Meadows over the years has generally been good. A few mistakes have been made that can be corrected. The area has the potential for an unsurpassed level of visitor opportunity and experience.



1. The removal or reduction in size of Tuolumne Meadows Lodge is not advisable.

NW L 24



Your Comments Are Important!

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Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Why remove UTILITIES?
LIMITS USE of PARSONS! Need Power
FOR EXHIBITS AND MEETINGS

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

ALT #5 is Best

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

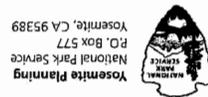
Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

Step 1: Fold in half along the spine.

Step 2: Fold in half again, along this line.
Steps 3 and 4: Seal the open end and sides with tape, apply postage, then deposit into your nearest mailbox.

YOSEMITE PLANNING
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PO BOX 577
YOSEMITE, CA 95389-9905

Please place postage here



Comment Form

Re SODA SPRINGS. EARLY MUYBRIDGE STEREO VIEWS OF THE SPRINGS ARE IN THE YOSEMITE MUSEUM (FROM MY FOREMAN COLLECTION)

[REDACTED]

TO [REDACTED]

DATE: March 10 1969

Number _____ Page 1

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: PARSON'S MEMORIAL LODGE

I had a fine visit with the Veretts in Santa Barbara last week, and we discussed some of the problems at the Parsons' Lodge.

- A. It seems that the water service which will come to the new Stable area will be about 1800 feet from our present intake area. I think this should be continued as it will certainly solve the troublesome water problem we must face almost every year.

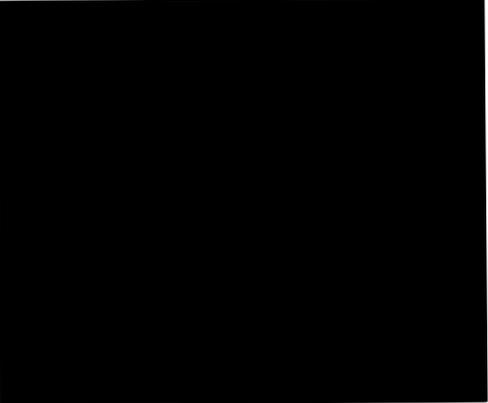
I assume there are engineering difficulties to meet, but I cannot believe they will be serious.

- B. When the power line comes in to Tuolumne Meadows we should consider a hook-up -- if only to prevent possible fire hazard from lamps and candles.

Perhaps both subjects should be presented to the proper Committee of to the Board at the same time?

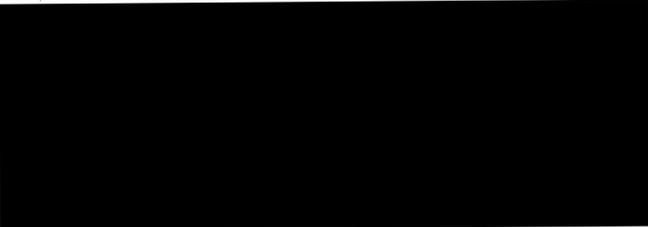
- C. We can anticipate trouble with our out-houses. A septic tank, or tanks, MUST be considered in the very near future.
- D. We discussed a fine permanent exhibit for the Lodge (and, perhaps, provision for changing exhibits). If we get lights, the problem is simple. If we will not have lights, then I suggest skylights over the exhibit areas -- openings in the roof between the main beams. Skylights composed of wired glass above and opal plastic below will give a beautiful light. They can be very strong and will take a tremendous load of snow. With proper flashing they can be thoroughly leak-proof.
- E. We need more books - Sierra Club Books and others. This presents a problem sales control, sales tax, etc.
- F. Last, but not least!! Camping and parking space. The Parking area below the Memorial is an abomination; it ruins the noble view east from the Lodge. Most of the cars parked there are not Sierra Club cars. It is, in effect, a public parking area which we have gathered unto ourselves. I would favor removal of this parking area, and development of another area to the north (and east) along the base of the escarpment east of the camping area. This for S.C. Members only - let the public camp near the new stable area. AND -- the trail from the stable area should pass well north of the Lodge, along a natural plateau at the base of the "Juniper Ridge".

sincerely [REDACTED]



San Francisco 94104

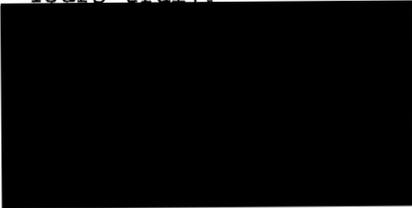
July 28, 1969



A belated thanks for your letter of mid-June giving us the good news about the plan to install new powerlines in Tuolumne Meadows underground. This is most gratifying in light of the efforts that we made in this matter.

The credit is due you for this conservation achievement. Congratulations. I know the Club will be long grateful to you for what you have done here and what you continue to do for our lodges and lands.

Yours truly,



MM:slp

NW L25

Your Comments Are Important!

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Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

DISLIKE REMOVAL OF STORE AND GRILL. THESE ARE AN ASSET TO BACK COUNTRY BACKPACKERS.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

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Umm... do not get rid of Tuolumne Lodge!

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

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Please leave Tuolumne Lodge alone

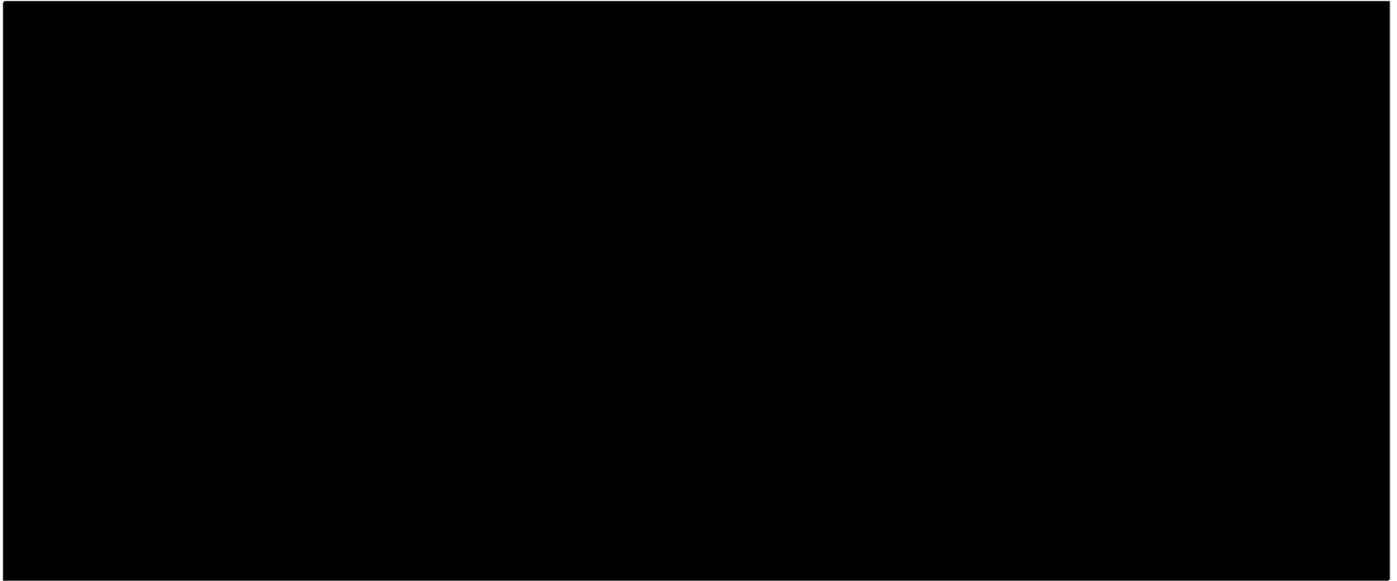
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NW L27

Monday, July 14, 2008

RE: Tuolumne 2008 Workbook





07/11/2008 05:30 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne River Plan



I recently have become aware of actions under consideration that would remove Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp. I have been visiting the High Sierra Camps whenever I can obtain reservations for some 10 or more years and would be deeply saddened if the above were to occur. Over the years I have seen nothing that impacts the river nor the wildlife either. I have seen, however, how greatly appreciated and treasured times at the Lodge and the surrounding areas have been by individuals and families from all over the world. The location is unique. Families introduce their children to the wilderness. Hikers like myself are seeing environment never possible to see other than on foot. Hikers from the Pacific Crest Trail can take respite from their lengthy trek from Mexico to Canada. And all of us need the wilderness in order to regain our sense of serenity and equilibrium from the pressures of modern life.

The Tuolumne lodge is gateway to the entire high country providing access to the trails and camps that could otherwise not be utilized. To quote F.D. Roosevelt "There is nothing so American as our national parks. The scenery and wildlife are native. The fundamental idea behind the park is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people that it is in the process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us. The parks stand as the outward symbol of this great human principle."

The Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp are dear to those of us lucky enough to have the gift of time there. I hope that such a treasured experience can be available for generations to come.





07/11/2008 05:30 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

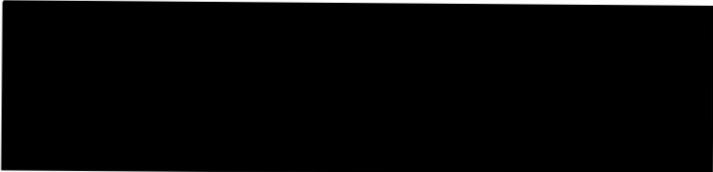
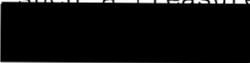
Subject Tuolumne River Plan



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The Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp are dear to those of us lucky enough to have the gift of time there. I hope that such a treasured experience can be available for generations to come.



NW L 28



07/21/2008 03:53 PM

To YOSE_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Meadows plan

I do not have complete information regarding the plan, but was told that Tuolumne Meadows Lodge might be closed, as well as Glen Aulin. From purely a logical standpoint, closing the Lodge makes no sense. It has changed little since I started going in the early sixties, and seems to have only improved since then in terms of environmental impact. The trash is now under control, and you have significantly reduced the amount of laundry. Now with global warming, you could probably eliminate the stoves, or limit them to rainy days. If the sewer system and water system are in good shape, why go to all the work of removing a very useful lodge? It seems to have minimal impact on the river.

I understand that the High Sierra Camps might not be fiscally worthwhile any longer, but unless they are doing serious environmental harm, you might as well keep them. They have probably produced more environmentalists than most institutions.

It just seems like the park has bigger fish to fry than worrying about the Lodge.... like how to control the air pollution and congestion in the valley, what to do about the disappearing frog population, etc.



Fairfax, California

NW L29



07/30/2008 11:01 AM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

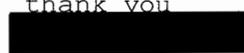
bcc

Subject removal of tuol mead lodge and Glen Aulin

i was at Yosemite this past week-end
comment

please keep Glenn Aulin high sierra camp open...
such a beautiful place especially It is not a hard
hike for the younger children that just started
hiking.

Tulumne meadow lodge can be down size as a
negotiating factor
thank you



NW L30



08/04/2008 04:02 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject My Comments on Planning for Tuolumne Meadows

7-4-08

Dear Sirs: Having enjoyed this area since 1955, my concerns run deeply. It is a precious place primarily because of its wilderness qualities. These should be maintained (or preferably improved) by:

1. Restoring damage to river banks, meadows, and trails due to overuse and fishing.
2. Impose quotas, if necessary, to avoid overcrowding.
3. Severly limit cars, and encourage public transportation.
4. Making most campgrounds "walk in"



Got Game? Win Prizes in the Windows Live Hotmail Mobile Summer Games Trivia Contest [Find out how.](#)

NW L31



07/25/2008 03:39 PM

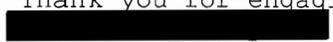
To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Comment

Attached are my comments regarding the Tuolumne Planning Process. I have put my comments in the form of a letter. If sending a signed letter would increase its impact, just let me know and I will send one. Thank you for engaging in this planning process.



TuolumneManagementComments.doc

[REDACTED]
Salt Lake City, UT 84105
July 25, 2008

Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389-9905

Re: Tuolumne Meadows Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

Below please find my comments with regard to the workbook that I noticed while visiting Tuolumne Meadows a few weeks ago. I have a great deal of emotion invested in the Tuolumne River area as well as Yosemite National Park in general. I have visited the Park since 1971, was married there in 1977, and my family and I have spent a week at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge for each of the last twenty years. I appreciate this opportunity to express my views.

In general terms, I found it difficult to balance the various criteria by which the alternatives are presumably being compared. In particular, there is some inevitable tradeoff between enhancing the natural resources of Tuolumne Meadows and providing a variety of opportunities for people to have a high-quality visitor experience there. (No doubt, this conflict lies at the heart of the planning process.) My overall opinion is that the current uses of Tuolumne Meadows strike this balance fairly well and that no major changes should be made that would reduce the number and kind of facilities there.

While I can see the value of placing some restrictions on roadside parking and reducing the creation of "social trails," **I am strongly opposed to any alternative that involves closing Tuolumne Meadows Lodge as a place to sleep and eat.** I do not see the wisdom of moving either the dining hall or tent cabins away from the river. People currently approach the dining hall from the side farthest away from the river. If anything, the dining preserves the integrity of the area immediately adjacent to the river. With respect to the tent cabins that are closest to the river, moving them would not help restore natural conditions because people would still walk through these areas to access the river, especially in the vicinity just upstream from the current dining room.

With regard to changes in parking, I would caution against "solutions" that create new problems. I agree that there are some safety and aesthetic problems currently posed by cars that park just off and parallel to the highway. I do not believe, however, that the answer to this problem is to

create a small number of large, formal parking areas. Rather, there should be more small unpaved areas in which people can park among trees several yards from and perpendicular to the highway. I have in mind the parking area that is near the west end of Tuolumne Meadows, north of the highway. My fear is that the creation of a small number of formal parking areas will result in a lot of people being dropped off where they really want to go and drivers pulling a lot of U-turns as they shuttle back and forth between parking areas and trailheads.

I do not understand the rationale behind consolidating the visitor center, store and grill, fuel station, and mountaineering school. As a general rule, I think that dispersing these facilities is likely to have less of a negative impact on the natural resources than creating one, large, paved mega-area. Without a clear rationale, I would advocate no changes in the locations of these activities.

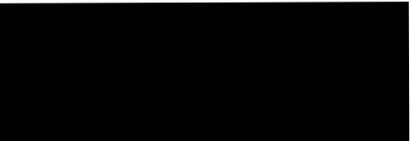
I strongly favor retaining, updating, and if necessary, enlarging wastewater treatment facilities. Maintaining the purity of Tuolumne River is critical, but not by transforming Tuolumne Meadows into a wilderness area that largely serves as the staging point for backpackers.

As a final comment, the facilities in Tuolumne Meadows are currently clustered around the highway. While this pattern probably came about in a haphazard fashion, it makes a certain amount of *post hoc* sense. It slows down traffic and makes the functioning of the shuttle bus system easy to understand. It also creates a narrow ribbon of facilities that is easy and quick to escape. One need walk only a few yards before the impact of man becomes relatively invisible.

By virtue of its unique and wonderful (literally, wonderful) qualities, Tuolumne Meadows has become the center for intense activity. This has some inevitable down sides, but not to the point where the magic of the place is in jeopardy. By continuing to make Tuolumne Meadows accessible to a variety of users and uses, this area of the park produces a cadre of "ambassadors" for Yosemite and the natural world more broadly.

I do not quite understand the idea of Alternative 5 Preferred) because it lacks the degree of detail of the other four alternatives. It appears, however, that Alternative 5 makes no drastic changes, a position that I support.

Thank you for soliciting my comments.



NW L32



08/09/2008 02:10 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject Response to July, 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook

August 10, 2008

We have recently reviewed the July 2008 *Tuolumne Planning Workbook*. We are pleased to note that the preferred option is Alternative 5, which appears to represent more or less the status quo. The comments that follow pertain to one aspect of two other options, as well as to the unresolved matters of parking and air traffic.

1. We observe that Options 2 and 3 entertain the possibility of augmented uses of Gaylor Pit (point 19 on the map). These uses range from satellite parking to employee housing. We regard any enhanced human impact on that area as potentially disastrous. We speak with clear memories of the last time Gaylor Pit was “developed.”

During the 1980s, the Gaylor Pit area was opened very quietly to use by a Mariposa equestrian association. It became a horse camp about which very few people knew. The effect on the region—Gaylor Pit and the entire Gaylor Creek drainage—was appalling. The area was severely degraded by people, vehicles, and animals. It took years to recover. At length, after damning public testimony connected with the Yosemite plan of that era, park administrators had to shut the operation down.

Positioning satellite parking and especially housing there would have the same impact all over again. The whole drainage, which is very fragile and presently rather isolated, would be subject to constant human impact. There would be little effective means of controlling abuse, as was the case a quarter-century ago. In effect, a whole domain of the Tuolumne region, now semi-isolated, would be urbanized. From a housing standpoint, in particular, this would make no sense. Employees would be isolated there, and would have to commute to their work sites.

Rather, we recommend filling Gaylor Pit and restoring it to nature.
2. Our original suggestions of 2007 urged that parking areas be developed off the highway so that the long lines of cars parked by backpackers, visitors to the high sierra camps, etc., would no longer degrade the marvelous vistas that Tuolumne affords. We still hope to see off-highway parking in the final plan, notably at the John Muir Trail/Sunrise High Sierra Camp/Cathedral Lakes

trailhead and at Lembert Dome.

3. In addition, we are concerned that the constant drone of airplanes overhead is degrading the experience of visitors to the park. We have recently been exposed to what appear to be scenic flights at some of the most remote lakes in the Tuolumne area -- small planes overhead and larger planes higher in the sky. There is almost constant airplane noise in Yosemite now, a problem which was predicted by legendary ranger Will Neely back in the 1950s. He spoke of the eventual need for "quiet zones" above Yosemite, and we feel that the time has come to establish them.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ojai, CA 93023

[REDACTED]

NW L33



To YOSE_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject From NPS.gov: Tuolumne River Plan/Tuolumne Meadows Plan

Email submitted from: /yose/parkmgmt/contact.htm

Please do not remove the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge complex. It is so necessary for people who love the area but are not physically in top condition. People with handicaps and old people especially need this. Many people who love the Tuolumne Meadows area of Yosemite come every year, into their eighties.

It is beautiful and so appreciated by millions. I come there every year, and while I am healthy, I am so grateful for a bed, a shower, and dinner after a day's hiking.



Nw L34



[Redacted]
08/13/2008 02:01 PM

To YOSE_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Toulumne Meadows Lodge, Glen Aulin

Dear NPS,

I am upset to hear talk of closing the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, and Glen Aulin. I am 49 years old and have been visiting the T. Meadows L. since about 1965. My father originally took me there. Now I am taking my children there. I look forward to the day when I will see my grandchildren there, but now I find that day to be threatened by the possible closer of T. Meadows L.

I have also stayed a Glen Aulin a couple times.

I view the proposed closing of these two places as over-reactionary. If the reasons are to preserve the environment, and I don't see what else it could be, it is obvious to me that this goal is already being met. The area is still in very good condition after decades of use.

A balance of preservation and minimal impact usage needs to be exercised, and I feel that the current conditions are balanced.

There are those who want to exclude all except a privileged few to enjoy this area. They will not be happy until the highway is removed and access is only by trail with a special permit.

Most of the park already is accessible only by trail with a wilderness permit. Let them be happy with that.

I say leave the Lodges there. It is not causing any damage that is deteriorating the present conditions. The meadows appear to be in a state of balance as far as human activity is affecting them, and the conditions have been staying in this good state for decades.

Please register my "vote" to keep the lodges there, and please put me on a list for when further public opinion is being solicited.

Thank you,
[Redacted]

It's time to go back to school! Get the latest trends and gadgets that make the grade on [AOL Shopping](#).

NW L 35



08/14/2008 09:52 AM

To <YOSE_Planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Comment

My family has been going to Yosemite for approx. 20 years. Every year it has been increasing difficult for us to find accommodations. We like to camp and this year we ended up in housekeeping on a cancellation. Housekeeping is always a lot noisier than a camp site. We like to raise early and hike during the days. Trying to get a camp site is so difficult!! You stay on the phone, calling getting busy sounds and calling/busy sounds over and over for five hours to find out there is no sites left. Forget the computer I'm way to slow for that. If you make reductions in overnight accommodations we will

never be able to enjoy Yosemite. It's an amazing spot and we love it. But....we won't be able to enjoy it if we can't get in. There are a lot of people that want to enjoy Yosemite and it should be enjoyed by all! Before you start taking away accommodations you need to realize that Yosemite is for all. I also believe in keeping it preserved but for what reason if my family can't get in to enjoy it? Please consider what I'm saying.



NW L 36



08/14/2008 03:19 PM

To YOSE_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Planning

To whom it may concern,

Please do not make changes to Tuolumne that will make it more difficult to enjoy.

My family has enjoyed the beauty of Tuolumne for over 75 years. My 83 year old father first came with his parents when he was only 7 years old. As a child, camping was the only vacation that we could afford. So we spent 2 weeks there every summer. Now my grown and married daughters and grandson are continuing the family tradition of vacationing in Tuolumne Meadows. We love to hike the trails, sing at campfire, dip in the streams and lakes, photograph the beauty, relax in our campsite, and meet people from all over the world.

Some of the proposed changes are suppose to affect the store, lodge, grill and number of campsites. The convenience of the store, and the joy of a meal that I don't have to cook by eating at the lodge or grill, are simple pleasures that make our trips even more memorable. It has been increasingly more difficult to secure a campsite. There are many campsites, but unless you can get a reservation online, (which we have only been able to do once) we have to get to the ticket office by 5:30 in the morning in order to secure one of the available sites. One year we were third in line, and there were only 4 open sites available for that day! I am not sure how that happens when 1/2 the sites are suppose to be saved for same-day reservations... Reducing the number of campsites as proposed will make camping in Tuolumne even more difficult.

In addition to the tax dollars that I pay to support this National Park, I still have to pay an entrance fee, as well as a per day camping fee. I don't mind that as long as my government doesn't make it more difficult to enjoy - please make the **least restrictive** changes to this place that we consider our favorite vacation spot.

Thank you for your consideration,



Altadena, CA 91001

NW L37



[Redacted]

To
cc
bcc

Subject Fw: High Sierra Camps, Transition and Glacier Bay



[Redacted]

08/28/2008 09:53 AM

[Redacted]

cc

Subject Fw: High Sierra Camps, Transition and Glacier Bay

----- Forwarded by Garry Oye/WASO/NPS on 08/28/2008 09:15 AM -----



[Redacted]

08/27/2008 10:51 PM MST

[Redacted]

Subject Back country camp sites in National Parks

[Redacted]

I am writing at the suggestion of Jane Corwin with whom you met recently. We spent last week in the High Sierra camps of Yosemite NP, operated by the concessionaire Delaware North Companies. We learned that these camps have been an integral part of Yosemite, and indeed the NPS itself, for about 90 years. And we learned that they (as a group of camps) are unique to Yosemite. I write to encourage you to look into whether they should become a model for other parks too.

The Yosemite camps are available to people who do not or cannot carry tents, bedding, and food for week-long trips into remote areas. They are so popular that they must be reserved by lottery even at a time of decreasing domestic visits to the Park. We met young couples, families with young children, groups of middle-aged friends from around the country, and people in their 70's. Many people return year after year. There was uniform enthusiasm. The camps certainly seem to continue to fulfill their original objectives -- to bring citizens into the park, increase their awareness of and support for the park, and enrich their lives.

Many countries have similar fixed camps in remote areas that provide shelter, bedding, and hot meals, all for a fee. We have used such camps in New Zealand, Chile, and Japan, and they also exist in Europe. Those countries use the camps to promote domestic and international tourism. It seems odd for the USA to have such camps only at Yosemite.

We were told that the High Sierra camps are not fully self-supporting and rely on a subsidy from DNC's Yosemite Valley concessions. That seems like a viable business model for other parks too, although it may not cover the start-up capital costs which may take some direct federal investment or at least loan. However, other countries have figured this out so it cannot be impossible.

Thank you, as part of NPS, for sustaining such a wonderful aspect of the Park Service, and for being open to suggestion about making such camps available in other Parks too.

Sincerely

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

NW L38

[REDACTED]
08/27/2008 11:10 AM

To [REDACTED]

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Merced River Plans

[REDACTED]

Sometimes, if you stand on the bottom rail of a bridge and lean over to watch the river slipping slowly away beneath you, you will suddenly know everything there is to be known .

- A.A. Milne

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] on 08/27/2008 11:10 AM -----



[REDACTED]

08/20/2008 01:32 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

Subject Merced River Plans

To Whom It May Concern,

I am another yosemite lover, one of the first "clean" climbers, a back packer, a Camp 4 Rat, a true environmentalist who has a over ten year old \$11 billion State environmental program on my resume that is going strong and will continue on for years (without court involvement, I might add). My large business facilities are totally solar powered also with a 135KW system (that takes about 1000 panels).

I have not participated in the planning process in quite a while as I am totally disallousioned by the process. We have been involved in Park planning since the very beginning, way before the flood gave people so many excuses to eliminate input.

In the beginning the process looked like it might lead to something good, then the courts were brought in to "supervise the process" much later the flood came and the wacos won and removed the river campgrounds in a classic knee jerk, heavy on the JERK, reaction (fully supported by the Park Service (light on the service part).

Now all planning is in the hands of the courts and we all know where that will go. The ultimate goal is not to make Yiosemite user safe and friendly, the goal is simply the elimination of all visitors

except the chosen few who feel that they are above use "normal folk" because they are true "protectors of the environment." "Fence it off" they say, close it, remove it, don't use it. This is eliteist plane and simple.

I am frustrated that I cannot camp in the Valley anymore. I want more campsites for us campers, and I want meaningful input that will not be just thrown in the round file when it is recieved.

I also wonder why so many meetings are held in San Francisco? (see my elitist comment, and follow the money) Has there ever been a meeting in Stockton? Meetings in the Yosemite Valley are great for the people who live there, but they are employees and people who have a NIMBY small town opinion of "their" park.

I want more camp sites in the valley and less people living in houses and apartments there. Where did the idea to replace the lost sites go?

Last thought, The Tuolumne River plan will succeed in eliminating most camp sites from the Meadows, what are you going to do about that? When that happens the park will become a daily drive through like the Grand Canyon or Great Smokies where the average stay is measured in minutes or hours not in days and there will be many who will want to stop that also.

Sincerely,

 Stockton

NW L39



[Redacted]

08/28/2008 08:57 AM

To [Redacted]

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Tuolumne Planning July 2008

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

08/26/2008 03:36 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

Subject Tuolumne Planning July 2008

Hello Planners,

I've attached my recommendations.

Good luck with the process.

Regards,

[Redacted]



TuolumneRecs.doc

- Until the advent of the self-composting pigmy horse (and mule), please keep stock to an absolute minimum, including reduced supplies to the high camps, as trails used by these animals are too often unpleasant, unsanitary and unsafe sand boxes with fecal material and flies. Who in their right mind would invite their (grand)children to walk through that stuff, really, and then have the gall to call it wilderness? More specifically, please consider: (1) use of horses/mules only for emergency including fire services; (2) reducing the frequency and load of high camp supplies to a bare minimum; (3) eliminating horse/mule rentals.
- The recent availability of cell phone service has diminished the everyday not to mention the wilderness experience without enhancing security—indeed it may diminish security with excessive calls. Please curtail or eliminate this new and unwanted (di)service.
- We tested the prospect of kayaks moving along the Tuolumne with a mental simulation; the results were disastrous for all parties. Please do not permit this practice in future.
- The food service at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and at the High Camps could be greatly simplified with more emphasis upon organic, sustainable, fewer choices, more of the basics, fewer frills.
- Several current practices could also be simplified, diminished or eliminated including daily towel and sheet replacement.
- Recreational Vehicles of more than one foot should be banned: too big, too dangerous, too noisy (including the noise of their generators at night).
- The roar of multiple motorcycles along highway 120 can be heard many miles into the back country. With all due respect to motorcycle riders, do they really need to travel in packs for 4-6-8-? How about limiting groups to two machines? Since they don't seem to dismount, why not take the Sonora Pass Road or route 50?
- Eliminate the public gas station in Tuolumne. It encourages more and more heavy traffic. There's plenty of gas in Lee Vining and in Big Oak Flat. The only gas available in Tuolumne should be for service vehicles.
- The Parsons Lodge summer events are wonderful and should receive all the encouragement and support possible.

NW L40

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
08/27/2008 02:25 PM

To [REDACTED]
cc [REDACTED]
bcc [REDACTED]
Subject Fw: Comments on 7.08 Tuolumne Planning

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
08/19/2008 02:19 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
[REDACTED]
Subject Comments on 7.08 Tuolumne Planning

Please consider the following comments regarding the Tuolumne Plan :

Page 5, Corridor boundaries and classifications - There is no explanation of what happens to the incorrect portion of the Dana Fork. Does it remain within the W&SR or get removed?

Alt 1, item 4, should include removal of the spray fields, chlorinator building and river crossing utility corridor.

Alt 1, item 15, the ranger station is not at this location

Alt 1, item 18, the high country base camp should include the water intake dam, pipeline, treatment facility and tank.

Alt 2, item 4, should include retaining the spray fields and chlorinator building and the high country experience zoning should allow for utility crossings .

Alt 2, items 15 & 16, which stable site will the ranger station and wilderness center get relocated to , the NPS stables or the concession stables?

Alt 3, item 4, should include retaining the spray fields and chlorinator building and the Tuolumne Heritage zoning should allow for utility crossings .

Alt 3, item 15, the ranger station is not at this location.

Alt 4, item 4, should include removal of the spray fields, chlorinator building and river crossing utility corridor.

Alt 4, item 18, change the word remove to relocate. Make sure the water intake dam and pipeline are in the appropriate zone.

Alt 5, item 4, should include the spray fields, chlorinator building and river crossing utility corridor .

All alternatives should consider moving the western boundary as far east as possible (almost to the ponds and visitor center) instead of following the wilderness boundary. The area should be treated the same as wilderness.



08/15/2008 06:04 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Yosemite National Park

~~08/15/2008 06:04 PM~~
NW L41

Yosemite National Park Superintendent Michael J. Tollefson,

I understand that Yosemite is planning for the Tuolumne River and Meadows . I have read the *Tuolumne Planning Workbook*, and appreciate the opportunity to comment on the alternative options by September 15. I believe that national parks are one of America 's best ideas. I have visited most of our national parks, and feel that Yosemite is one of the finest . I have been fortunate to backpack or hike almost every trail in Yosemite National Park . Recently I spent several days in Tuolumne Meadows, so got to know the area and issues well . I just backpacked the John Muir Trail from Yosemite to Mt . Whitney, so had plenty of time to think about the Tuolumne River and Meadows alternatives .

Currently Tuolumne Meadows facilities are spread over two miles along highway CA 120. This makes it difficult for backpackers and hikers to get from facility to facility, some people try to hitchhike, this can create a traffic hazard . I recommend "Alternative 1: Manage more of the Tuolumne River as wilderness", with a few exceptions . Referring to the *Tuolumne Planning Workbook* map and numbers, specifically I recommend :

1. Remove informal parking and social trails to Pothole Dome; restore natural conditions .
2. Remove all Tioga Road shoulder parking and social trails; restore to natural conditions. Provide scenic pullouts.
3. Cathedral Lakes and Pass trailhead currently has no parking lot, dozens of cars park along both sides of CA 120, this is a safety hazard where a pedestrian may get hit and injured or killed. Remove informal parking; restore natural conditions . See 5 below.
4. Remove the two wastewater treatment ponds and access road; restore natural conditions.
5. Relocate visitor center function . Retain maintenance facilities . Provide Cathedral Lakes parking.
6. Locate new wastewater treatment facilities near existing treatment plant .
7. Preserve Parsons Lodge and McCauley Cabin; eliminate vehicle access and utilities .
8. No change.
9. Retain campground current capacity; improve site delineation and traffic flow .
10. Remove store and grill, fuel station, and mountaineering school . Provide picnic area .
11. Remove concessioner stable; eliminate commercial trail rides . Remove shoulder parking.
12. Retain Lembert Dome parking and picnic area .
13. Retain historic trail.
14. Remove campground A loop road and campsites; restore natural conditions .
15. Retain ranger station and wilderness center . Add visitor center function to wilderness center.
16. Remove NPS stable; it is obsolete .
17. Remove NOS housing; restore natural conditions . Expand Dog Lake/John Muir Trail parking.
18. Remove Tuolumne Lodge; restore natural conditions .
19. Retain emergency operations, including helipad .

20. Remove all High Sierra camps.
21. Remove Wawona golf course.



NW L42



[Redacted]

08/28/2008 09:01 AM

To [Redacted]

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Tuolumne Plan Comments

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

08/24/2008 02:51 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

Subject Tuolumne Plan Comments

Hi, I've posted some comments here:

<http://tuolumneplan.blogspot.com/2008/08/comments-on-tuolumne-plan-post-trip.html> - I hope it is okay to do that. I paid my first visit to Tuolumne Meadows and Glen Aulin from August 11 through 16, 2008. It was a lovely trip, thank you!

Regards,

[Redacted]

Carmichael, California

[Redacted]

The Tuolumne - Wild and Scenic River

Sunday, August 24, 2008

Comments on the Tuolumne Plan (post trip)



Tuolumne Plan Management Prescription Nicknames & Map Codes (from planning workbook):

Wilderness (Dark Green): Areas in this zone are managed to protect wilderness values, including natural ecosystem function and opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation. All congressionally designated wilderness must be in this zone, and areas adjacent to designated wilderness may also be included if they are under consideration for wilderness-like management as part of an alternative zoning plan.

High-Country Riparian & Meadow (Light Green): Areas in this zone are managed to preserve the ecological integrity of riparian and meadow areas outside designated wilderness to the maximum extent possible. Management of resources and visitor use may be intensive if necessary to restore and protect the integrity of the ecosystem.

High-Country Experience (light blue): Areas in this zone are managed to allow visitors to appreciate and learn about undisturbed natural areas and cultural resources, and to enjoy dispersed, resource-based recreation against a backdrop of the rugged High Sierra.

High-Country Base Camp (dark blue/blue violet): Areas in this zone are managed to provide basic accommodations and services, providing opportunities for visitors to spend a few hours, stay overnight, or stage an excursion into the wilderness supported by road access, informational and interpretive programs, campgrounds, and modest levels of food service and lodging. Administrative needs are met by management facilities, employee housing, access roads, and utility infrastructure. This prescription is reserved for resilient landscapes.

Tuolumne Heritage (purple/red violet): Areas in this zone are managed to protect the cultural landscape character of places where historic sites or structures are prominent and can serve as a platform for visitors to explore how the layering of human experiences over time in the Tuolumne River corridor has contributed in significant ways to the American experience. The preservation or enhancement of the integrity of archeological resources, American Indian traditional cultural properties and places, and historic sites and structures is a critical component of this prescription.

General comments

I recently visited Tuolumne Meadows as a first time visitor, so I do not have as much experience with the Tuolumne River corridor as many other folks. Still, I hope my comments are useful. I like the idea of American Indian cultural ideals and opportunities becoming more opaque in park planning. Perhaps we visitors should obtain a permit from the People in addition to wilderness permits. Nature, of course, is the underlying "blanket" for the "quilt" of human experience. The daily, historical, and cultural patterns of the People and other humans are embroidered together upon it. If the blanket decays, the threads are also

lost. If the threads are lost, there is no "traditional" quilt – but perhaps the blanket won't suffer a swift decay. The preferred plan seems a good way to keep the whole quilt beautiful for generations. I'm posting all the alternatives for reference, and including my comments under ALT 5.

Tuolumne Plan Alternative Nicknames (in caps, with explanations from the Planning Workbook):

- ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Manage More of the Tuolumne River as Wilderness
 ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT: Expand Opportunities for People to Discover & Connect with the Tuolumne River
 ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Celebrate the Cultural Heritage of the Tuolumne River
 ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Facilitate Recover of Healthy Ecological Conditions in Disturbed Meadow & Riparian Areas
 ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: Honor the Traditions of the Tuolumne while Looking to the Future

Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp

- ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Remove the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp; naturalize the site; designate as wilderness.
 ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT: Retain opportunities for overnight use at Glen Aulin.
 ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Retain opportunities for overnight use at Glen Aulin.
 ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Support opportunities for day & overnight use, focusing on understanding & experiencing a largely undisturbed natural area.
 ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: Chart shows Glen Aulin in the "Tuolumne Heritage" zone. Protection of the historic built environment (rustic lodging) at Glen Aulin. Most of the people I talked to want to keep Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp. If any American Indian traditions are associated with Glen Aulin, these could be made more visible, if that is desired. My observation of Glen Aulin as a first-time visitor was that it still seemed remote even with the built environ. Seemed intimate and like a reward at the end of a rigorous hike (I had the dinner and it was amazing!).

Tuolumne Meadows

Location 1: Pothole Dome (Tioga Road west of Visitor Center)

- ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Provide formal parking with trail connection to Pothole Dome.
 ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT: Provide formal parking & picnic area with trail connection to Pothole Dome.
 ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Remove informal parking; restore natural conditions.
 ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Remove informal parking & social trails; restore natural conditions.
 ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: Charts for all alternatives show Location 1 outside of Management Prescription zones. I did not observe the area and can make no comment other than informal parking in general along Tioga Road should be discouraged (I saw that the road dust damaged meadow areas). If creating a formal parking/picnic area would help steer folks away from roadside stops, then that might be a good thing.

Location 2: Tioga Road West of Visitor Center

- ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Remove all Tioga Road shoulder parking & social trails; restore to natural conditions. Provide scenic pullouts.
 ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT: Remove all Tioga Road shoulder parking & social trails; restore to natural conditions. Provide scenic pullouts.
 ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Remove all Tioga Road shoulder parking & social trails; restore to natural conditions. Provide scenic pullouts.
 ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Remove all Tioga Road shoulder parking & social trails; restore to natural conditions. Provide scenic pullouts.
 ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: Remove all Tioga Road should parking & social trails; restore to natural conditions. Provide scenic pullouts.

Location 3: Tioga Road West of Visitor Center

- ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Remove informal parking; restore natural conditions.
 ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT: Remove informal parking; restore natural conditions.
 ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Remove informal parking; restore natural conditions.
 ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Provide formal parking with visitor contact station & trail connections to Cathedral Lakes.
 ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: Provide formal parking with visitor contact station & trail connections to Cathedral Lakes. Extend shuttle service to include this location. Interpretive signs at trailhead re: historical, American Indian, & ecological significances.

Location 4: Wastewater Treatment Ponds (west of Soda Springs)

- ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Remove wastewater treatment ponds & access road; restore natural conditions (would be relocated to location 6 near existing wastewater treatment plant).
 ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Retain wastewater treatment ponds & access road.
 ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Retain wastewater treatment ponds & access road.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Remove wastewater treatment ponds & access road (to Location 6); restore natural conditions.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I did not observe this location. I like the idea of Alts 1 and 4, but do not know how easy or desired this idea is to accomplish.

Location 5: Visitor Center, Road Camp Housing & Maintenance facilities

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Relocate visitor center function (to location 15). Expand housing for essential employees; retain maintenance facilities. Provide Cathedral Lakes parking.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Relocate visitor center function (to Location 10). Retain housing. Consolidate most NPS maintenance operations. Provide Cathedral Lakes parking.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Retain visitor center function; add picnic area. Retain housing. Relocate maintenance operations (to Location 6). Provide Cathedral Lakes parking.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Relocate visitor center function (to Location 9). Expand housing. Retain maintenance operations.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: Chart for Alt 5 shows Visitor Center in Heritage zone. I visited the center and it is a beautiful little building that made me think of the early days of the conservation corps. The porch or decking on the restroom facility is an idea that could be extended to new structures, such as a waiting area with seating for shuttles and pickups. Traditional structures could be built to showcase American Indian heritage aspects & provide educational opportunities.

Location 6: Wastewater Treatment Plant (east of Visitor Center)

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Locate new wastewater treatment facilities near existing treatment plant.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Consolidate stables east of wastewater treatment plant; add bridle path.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Provide NPS maintenance yard & operations office near wastewater treatment plant.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Provide new wastewater treatment facilities near existing treatment plant.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I like the idea of moving the ponds to this location because it is farther from the river. But I do not know what the logistics would look like (especially in the opinions of any affected staff). I took the trail from the Visitor Center to the Campground and only heard the hum of the Treatment Plant – did not see anything. That was kind of a nice illusion.

Location 7: Parsons Lodge & McCauley Cabin

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Preserve Parsons Lodge & McCauley Cabin; eliminate vehicle access and utilities.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Preserve Parsons Lodge & McCauley Cabin.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Preserve Parsons Lodge & McCauley Cabin.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Preserve Parsons Lodge & McCauley Cabin.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I only stopped briefly near these structures and do not really know their significance or the significance of Soda Springs. I was very glad there was a nearby toilet available. In my imagination, I saw this area as a teaching zone for painters, photographers and ecologists.

Location 8: an area east of Campground D Loop

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: No change.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Provide formal day parking & picnic area. Formalize trail to Parsons Lodge.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: No change.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: No change.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I do not know the significance of this area enough to be able to comment. Is it the area near the bridge and trail that eventually leads to Campground D Loop? If so, I think it should be left alone.

Location 9: Tuolumne Meadows Campground

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Retain current capacity at campground; improve site delineation & traffic flow. Reopen western campground exit.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Retain current capacity at campground; improve site delineation & traffic flow. Reopen western campground exit.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Retain all campground loops; improve site delineation.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Consolidate visitor center, store, & grill at current campground D loop; provide picnic area. Retain campsite numbers through redesign.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I like the idea of a western campground exit. Might not be a bad idea to close the eastern access to keep folks away from the river and A Loop road. Improved site delineation is a good idea. It was my first time in the campgrounds and I did not know the boundaries of sites. I also like the Alt 4 idea of utilizing more of Campground D Loop for other functions. When I passed through on the back trail, it seemed far away enough from the river for consolidating some functions there.

Location 10: Tuolumne Meadows Store, Grill, Fuel Station, & Mountaineering School

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Remove store & grill, fuel station, and mountaineering school. Provide

picnic area.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Consolidate visitor center, store & grill, fuel station, & mountaineering school; provide showers/restrooms. Add meadow interpretive trail.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Retain store & grill, fuel station, & mountaineering school; provide picnic area. Remove housing.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Consolidate ranger station, wilderness center, and mountaineering school.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I did not make any observations about the Mountaineering School. I thought the store and grill were either too small or just laid out too poorly for the flow of existing foot traffic. It seemed to be the most popular spot in Tuolumne Meadows judging from the number of people congregating there. Such a mix of folks, too: backpackers, day hikers, families of all sizes and ages, etc. I like the ideas of ALT 4 because those functions seem to belong together. I also like the idea of utilizing Campground D Loop for store & grill and picnic area. Any redesign should take into account the shuttle stops and ease of access for the shuttle drivers and potential passengers.

Location 11: Concessioner Stable northwest of Lembert Dome parking

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Retain concessioner stable; eliminate commercial trail rides. Remove road shoulder parking.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Relocate concessioner stable (to Location 6). Provide meadow overlook picnic area & parking.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Retain concessioner stable.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Consolidate NPS stable and concessioner stable.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I did not make any observations about this location and cannot comment.

Location 12: Lembert Dome parking & picnic area

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Retain parking & picnic area.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Redesign parking & expand picnic area; upgrade comfort station.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Retain parking & picnic area; redesign comfort station.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Remove parking & picnic area; restore natural conditions.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I see from the Alt 5 map that the preference might be similar to that of Alt 4. I noticed that the parking lot was very crowded and that the road extending up to the trailhead for Glen Aulin was also very crowded. Also, some deer were trying to breakfast along the gravel road. I did find the toilet and shaded picnic tables a welcome feature when I exited the Glen Aulin trail on the way back to the Tuolumne Meadows Campground. I had a nice chat with a couple of lady backpackers who were also looking for a shady spot to sit down. It seems that this spot is pretty popular for all of us critters. Any redesign should take into account all of these factors. If removed, where would parking go? Also the shuttle drivers find it hard to get in, around, and out of the parking lots. Redesign for shuttle stops would be a good idea.

Location 13: Trail along Tioga Road, east of TM Campground

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Retain historic trail.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Provide hike/bike trail along Tioga Road & historic Great Sierra Wagon Road.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Restore historic Great Sierra Wagon Road as an interpretive trail.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Provide hike/bike trail along Tioga Road & historic Great Sierra Wagon Road.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I noticed that the meadow along the stretch of the road between the campground and wilderness center seemed damaged. I did not know a trail existed until I accidentally came across a social trail that led from the road down to the "real" trail. Following the trail to Tuolumne Lodge was a nice experience – a lot better than trying to walk alongside Tioga Road. Plus the look of the trail put me in mind of prairie schooners. Entryway(s) could be made more obvious. Any interpretive markers could include historic, American Indian, and ecological commentary.

Location 14: Tuolumne Meadows Campground A Loop near Lyell Fork of T. River

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Remove A loop road and campsites; restore natural conditions.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Relocate A loop campsites away from riparian areas.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: No change.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Map summary says "No change," but concept summaries not "Convert campground A loop road to an interpretive river walk."

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I noticed that the Campground A Loop road led to the Lyell Canyon trail. I like Alt 2 and turn the road into part of the trail. Make the trailhead more evident farther north, as if to say, "From this point forward, it's a trail, not a main thoroughfare." On the other hand, not a lot of folks were wandering up along the Lyell Canyon trail, which gave a "remote" feeling to my hike. So maybe the road should be turned into a trail but the trailhead signs left the way they are, farther south.

Location 15: Wilderness Center

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Retain ranger station & wilderness center. Add visitor center function to wilderness center (from Location 5)

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Relocate ranger station & wilderness center (to Location 16 after moving NPS stable); restore natural conditions.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Retain ranger station. Redesign wilderness center exterior.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Relocate ranger station and wilderness center (to Location 10); restore natural conditions.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I accessed the Wilderness Center by walking along Tioga Road – that was before I found the trail near the bridge (by the campground). I think making the trail more evident and/or making a “sidewalk” or other pedestrian accessway along Tioga Road might actually help the meadow and make the wilderness center easier to access.

Location 16: National Park Service (NPS) Stable east of Wilderness Center

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Retain NPS stable.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Relocate NPS stable (to Location 6). Consolidate ranger station & wilderness center at former stable site.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Retain NPS stable.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Relocate NPS stable (to Location 11); restore natural conditions.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: Did not observe enough to comment.

Location 17: NPS Ranger Camp & Bug Camp Housing

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Remove NPS housing (would be expanded at Location 5 and also removed to Lee Vining or another area outside Tuolumne Meadows); restore natural conditions. Expand Dog Lake/John Muir Trail parking.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Retain some NPS housing; otherwise restore natural conditions. Relocate maintenance functions (to Location 5). Retain Dog Lake/John Muir Trail parking.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Enhance historic landscape & retain housing. Retain Dog Lake/John Muir Trail parking.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Consolidate concessioner housing at Ranger Camp. Remove Bug Camp housing. Expand Dog Lake/John Muir Trail parking.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: Did not observe enough to comment. Saw it from the backside, following the trail from the campgrounds to the lodge. Seemed like a great place to live and work. I heard a comment from one of the shuttle drivers that he would like more disguised cell phone towers along the shuttle routes so that he can easily access rangers, etc. with good phone reception.

Location 18: Tuolumne Lodge

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Remove Tuolumne Lodge; restore natural conditions.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Retain Tuolumne Lodge visitor facilities; remove housing and restore natural conditions.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Retain Tuolumne Lodge; remove some housing away from river.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Retain Tuolumne Lodge; remove dining hall & housing away from river.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: I noticed the parking lot was always full. I noticed the shuttle stop was in full sunlight (and oppressive heat of hot days). A shaded shuttle spot would be great. I noticed that the Lodge “concierge” or “front desk” building was very tiny and the traffic flow was awful. There were a couple of tables under which John Muir Trail hikers could (and did) stretch their tired dogs while reading the first newspaper they had seen in days. But these tables are right in the path of the beer and icecream coolers. I noticed there only seemed to be one toilet/shower facility so when the cleaning staff was cleaning, a long line developed (at the ladies’ facility, of course). I like the idea from Alt 4; moving facilities away from the river is a good idea.

Location 19: Gaylor Pit

ALT 1: RIVER WILDERNESS: Retain emergency operations, including helipad.

ALT 2: DISCOVER & CONNECT Provide housing. Retain emergency operations, including helipad.

ALT 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE: Provide satellite parking and waterless toilet. Extend shuttle service. Retain emergency operations, including helipad.

ALT 4: MEADOW RECOVERY: Retain emergency operations, including helipad.

ALT 5: PREFERRED HONORS: Did not observe this location & have no comment, except that, while I was at the Wilderness Center, I overheard a radio exchange that dealt with a visitor needing medical attention and that the helicopter was used. So the emergency ops center is definitely an asset.

Posted by Amy S at 2:14 PM

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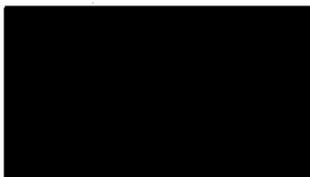
▼ August (4)

[Link for some Tuolumne photos](#)

[Comments on the Tuolumne Plan \(post trip\)](#)

[Resources \(Books, Web, etc\)](#)

[Tuolumne Pre-Trip Notes](#)



Tuolumne Meadows Alternative 5

Key Concepts

My goals are to fix what needs fixing, consolidate functions into logical areas if similar use, provide some added places to encourage visitation where it is contained, interpreted, and planned, and reduce the overall impacts on other parts of the meadows and river.

A high level of commitment to preserving the natural, cultural, heritage resources, and, when possible, interpreting some is paramount. That commitment seems to be present in all alternatives and is intended to be present in my alternative 5.

Functional Consolidation

Consolidating similar functions would reduce both employee and visitor trips between functions. Likewise, consolidation would likely improve communication between functions. For example: bringing the VC, ranger station and wilderness center allows rangers to easily move between functions as visitor traffic changes and visitors to move between without driving. Likewise, consolidation stables would allow single stop provisioning.

Visitation Enhancements

By reconfiguring some and adding other visitor enhancements, I believe visitors will be encouraged to follow those trails and not create as many informal trails, parking areas. Further, increased interpretation will add to the visitor experience as would reviving the Great Sierra Wagon Road. Another such enhancement would be a formal trail from an improved pothole dome parking area, south of 120, to the campground with "stops" at Cathedral Lakes trailhead, VC/WC/Ranger complex, Parsons Lodge trailhead. The meadow lookout where the concession stables presently are would provide a shorter trip for picnicking campers with smaller children. The Revived GSWR would be a great draw; providing biking and walking as far as one would want to go, including stops at historic ranger quarters, Lyle meadows, and connections to the John Muir trail, Pacific Crest trail, and Lembert Dome resources and all the way to pothole dome.

Reduced Impact

Removing roadside parking to parking areas back from and shielded from the road for CL trailhead would make driving safer as well as provide enhanced viewing. Parking in scenic turnouts would consolidate impact. Reducing trips to multiple and similar function locations (VC, WC, Ranger stations) would improve traffic and reduce pollution. Likewise, provisioning of stables, employee housing, and visitor facilities would be reduced when they are consolidated.

Fix What Needs Fixing

Clearly, there are resources that need upgrading: sewage treatment, campground, Tuolumne Lodge, Glen Aulin, and parking areas to name a few. So, fix without fouling.



Tuolumne Meadows Alternative 5

Key	Description	Suggested Changes
1	Pothole dome informal parking	Formalize parking area; add "Intro to TM" interpretation signs; connect to pothole dome, CLakes, Visitor Center
2	Tioga Rd shoulder parking	Remove shoulder parking, add scenic pullouts, and connect to trail in #1. Restore roadside.
3	Cathedral Lakes trailhead parking	Remove shoulder parking; formalize parking near Visitor Center. Restore roadside.
4	Treatment ponds	Retain, upgrade as necessary or move to treatment plant if feasible and restore meadows.
5	Visitor center	Historic bldg becomes museum, new VC with all outward facing ranger functions (WC, etc); increase parking to include CLakes trailhead, WC. Add Picnic area with good view of meadows and add interpretation
6	Treatment plant	Upgrade as necessary; add both stables; centralize maintenance facilities
7	Parsons Lodge, McCauley Cabin	Preserve; reduce vehicle access and restore where possible (depends on #4)
8	West of campground	Continue formal trail: Pothole dome to campground; add day parking and picnic area with interpretation
9	Campground	Retain capacity; improve traffic flow & site delineation. Upgrade 50's kybo's.
10	Gas station, grill, ranger station	Move ranger station to VC; retain ranger station bldg, grill, gas station; move employee housing to #19; add parking and showers; possibly move mountaineering climbing center to VC.
11	Concession stables	Move to #6; add meadow outlook picnic area & trail connecting to Parsons, Lambert, campground; eliminate road
12	Lambert dome parking area	Preserve resource elements; redesign parking or move to #13; improve picnic area. Restore.
13	Across from Lambert done	Establish a bike/hike trail along the Great Sierra Wagon Road from here to east as far as practical; perhaps move LD parking to this side of H120; add interpretation along GSWR; add bench stops.
14	Campground loop A	Relocate selected campsites away from riparian areas. Restore.
15	Ranger station & Wilderness Ctr	Relocate functions to #5; retain wilderness parking to serve JM Trail & GSWR use. Restore.



Tuolumne Meadows Alternative 5

Key	Description	Suggested Changes
16	NPS stable	Relocate to #6; restore.
17	Ranger housing	Relocate to #19; preserve only historic bldgs with connections to GSWR. Restore.
18	Tuolumne Lodge	Relocate necessary parts away from river.
19	Gaylor pit	Add employee & ranger housing; retain emergency operations; connect to GSWR if feasible; add shuttle stop
20	Glen Aulin	Change what is minimally necessary for compliance

Alternative #1 Comments

This alternative would certainly satisfy folks like me that want to see TM use reduced and TM themselves restored. However, I believe it would be so restrictive; visitors would simply increase their informal use of the meadows and river, thus doing further damage. Also, reducing services at the campground would increase auto trips to those services and frustrate visitors unnecessarily.

Alternative #2 Comments

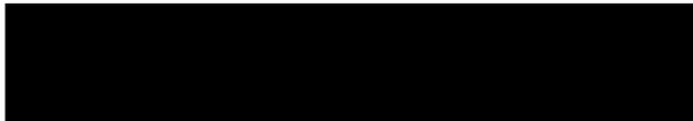
This alternative is pretty close to the one I have proposed; just some deck chairs are rearranged to maximize benefits from consolidation. This level of expansion for a wide spectrum of visitors is too much and too wide spread. I believe it is critical to leave some room for exploring while providing targeted areas for most visitations to minimize impact.

Alternative #3 Comments

See comments for alternative #2.

Alternative #4 Comments

See comments for alternative #2.



NW L45
9/8/08



[Redacted]
09/07/2008 02:05 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Comments on Tuolumne Planning Workbook

September 7, 2008

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning Workbook
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Superintendent,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Yosemite2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook. My comments follow:

I. I strongly oppose Alternative 5, labeled the Preferred Alternative ("Honor the traditions of the Tuolumne while looking to the future"). This alternative simply ignores the highly adverse effects of commercial activities (such as pollution and habitat degradation) in the planning area. Justifying them as part of our heritage is wildly inappropriate.

II. Because of the adverse impacts of domestic livestock (water pollution, spreading of weeds, destruction and contamination of trails, etc.), the workbook should specifically consider the elimination of all commercial horse rides in the planning area.

III. The Workbook should include consideration of closing the High Sierra Camps (because of unacceptable amounts of pollution and habitat degradation), separate from the future of other facilities, such as the store, fuel station, grill and mountaineering school, which should be maintained. Grouping these options together in one Alternative for planning purposes is completely inappropriate.

IV. Alternative 4, titled "Recover Healthy Ecological Conditions in Disturbed Meadow and Riparian Areas," should include specific consideration of the closure of the High Sierra Camps and elimination of commercial horse rides, since these operations have a major impact on meadows and riparian areas.

The planning workbook should include a full range of alternatives to truly protect the natural values of the area, not just cosmetic approaches while maintaining the status quo.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide comments.

[Redacted]

Newark, DE 19711

[Redacted]

NW 246



[Redacted]

09/06/2008 10:00 PM

[Redacted]

To <Yose_Planning@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject

September 6, 2008

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning Workbook
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to provide comments on Yosemite's 2008 **Tuolumne Planning Workbook**. I am very concerned about the harmful impacts of commercial activities originating at Tuolumne Meadows and elsewhere in and near the Tuolumne River corridor. My specific comments are as follows:

I object to and am offended by Alternative 5, the so-called "Preferred Alternative," which is titled "*Honor the traditions of the Tuolumne while looking to the future.*" What this really seems to mean is continuing and condoning the commercialism and polluting activities of the past, while looking the other way. This alternative inappropriately would continue the polluting commercial horse rides, High Sierra Camps, and other harmful activities by labeling them as part of our "heritage." The NPS can and must do better to protect the magnificent Tuolumne Meadows and River.

The Workbook does not present a range of reasonable alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Clearly, the ugly and polluting "High Sierra Camps" (HSCs) at Glen Aulin, Tuolumne Meadows, and Vogelsang should be closed, and the sites restored. But removal of the HSCs (and the commercial horse rides) is only considered under a single alternative that is accompanied by the removal of nearly all of the facilities at Tuolumne Meadows. It is plainly obvious that Alternative 1 (which includes removal of the store, grill, fuel station and mountaineering school) will not be seriously considered by the NPS. Lumping the fate of the HSCs and commercial horse rides with such a radical "fringe" alternative is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to make it appear as if the NPS has considered their removal. This is illustrated by the fact that removal of the polluting HSCs and damaging horse rides is not even included in Alternative 4, which purportedly aims to "Recover Healthy Ecological Conditions in Disturbed Meadow and Riparian Areas." This is unacceptable. The HSCs, which are outdated and polluting commercial eyesores, should be removed, and their removal must be included in more than a single radical alternative that will not be seriously considered.

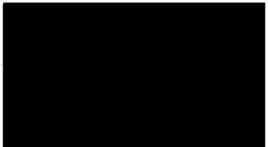
Because domestic livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) are known to pollute water, spread weeds,

and pulverize trails, your plan for Tuolumne Meadows/River should end, once and for all, the commercial horse rides, unless:

1. ...all stock animals are strictly required to wear diapers to prevent pollution from animal manure and urine. Such diapers are now widely accepted and available. See, for example: <http://www.equisan.com.au/> Further, the operators of the commercial horse stables must be required to properly dispose of the stock manure and urine from the diapers to prevent pollution of water, trails, and camping areas. Such measures are necessary because stock animals have been shown to contaminate water in the Sierra Nevada, including the Tuolumne River. I strongly object to the continued pollution of the Tuolumne River by stock manure and urine. The NPS must take action to stop it.

2. ...all stock animals are sufficiently quarantined before entering the park to prevent the spread of weeds, and the commercial operators are required to use only weed-free feed. See, for example: <http://www.extendinc.com/weedfreefeed/> 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, and only weed-free feed should be allowed.

Please craft a range of reasonable alternatives that will truly protect Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.



Woodland, CA 95695

NW L47



09/06/2008 09:26 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Horses in Tuolumne Meadows

September 6, 2008

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning Workbook
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to provide comments on Yosemite's 2008 **Tuolumne Planning Workbook**. I am very concerned about the harmful impacts of commercial activities originating at Tuolumne Meadows and elsewhere in and near the Tuolumne River corridor. My specific comments are as follows:

I object to and am offended by Alternative 5, the so-called "Preferred Alternative," which is titled "Honor the traditions of the Tuolumne while looking to the future." What this really seems to mean is continuing and condoning the commercialism and polluting activities of the past, while looking the other way. This alternative inappropriately would continue the polluting commercial horse rides, High Sierra Camps, and other harmful activities by labeling them as part of our "heritage." The NPS can and must do better to protect the magnificent Tuolumne Meadows and River.

The Workbook does not present a range of reasonable alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Clearly, the ugly and polluting "High Sierra Camps" (HSCs) at Glen Aulin, Tuolumne Meadows, and Vogelsang should be closed, and the sites restored. But removal of the HSCs (and the commercial horse rides) is only considered under a single alternative that is accompanied by the removal of nearly all of the facilities at Tuolumne Meadows. It is plainly obvious that Alternative 1 (which includes removal of the store, grill, fuel station and mountaineering school) will not be seriously considered by the NPS. Lumping the fate of the HSCs and commercial horse rides with such a radical "fringe" alternative is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to make it appear as if the NPS has considered their removal. This is illustrated by the fact that removal of the polluting HSCs and damaging horse rides is not even included in Alternative 4, which purportedly aims to "Recover Healthy Ecological Conditions in Disturbed Meadow and Riparian Areas." This is unacceptable. The HSCs, which are outdated and polluting commercial eyesores, should be removed, and their removal must be included in more than a single radical alternative that will not be seriously considered.

Because domestic livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) are known to pollute water, spread weeds, and pulverize trails, your plan for Tuolumne Meadows/River should end, once and for all, the commercial horse rides, unless:

1. ...all stock animals are strictly required to wear diapers to prevent pollution from animal manure and urine. Such diapers are now widely accepted and available. See, for example: <http://www.equisan.com.au/> Further, the operators of the commercial horse stables must be required to properly dispose of the stock manure and urine from the diapers to prevent pollution of water, trails, and camping areas. Such measures are necessary because stock animals have been shown to contaminate water in the Sierra Nevada, including the Tuolumne River. I strongly object to the continued pollution of the Tuolumne River by stock manure and urine. The NPS must take action to stop it.
2. ...all stock animals are sufficiently quarantined before entering the park to prevent the spread of weeds, and the commercial operators are required to use only weed-free feed. See, for example:

<http://www.extendinc.com/weedfreefeed/> 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, and only weed-free feed should be allowed.

Please craft a range of reasonable alternatives that will truly protect Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.



Oakland, CA 94610

NW L48



09/07/2008 05:49 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Planning

September 7, 2008

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning Workbook
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to provide comments on Yosemite's 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook. I am very concerned about the harmful impacts of commercial activities originating at Tuolumne Meadows and elsewhere in and near the Tuolumne River corridor. My specific comments are as follows:

I object to and am offended by Alternative 5, the so-called "Preferred Alternative," which is titled "Honor the traditions of the Tuolumne while looking to the future." What this really seems to mean is continuing and condoning the commercialism and polluting activities of the past, while looking the other way. This alternative inappropriately would continue the polluting commercial horse rides, High Sierra Camps, and other harmful activities by labeling them as part of our "heritage." The NPS can and must do better to protect the magnificent Tuolumne Meadows and River.

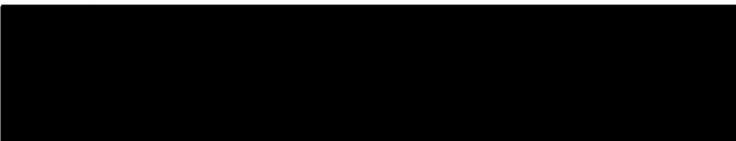
The Workbook does not present a range of reasonable alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Clearly, the ugly and polluting "High Sierra Camps" (HSCs) at Glen Aulin, Tuolumne Meadows, and Vogelsang should be closed, and the sites restored. But removal of the HSCs (and the commercial horse rides) is only considered under a single alternative that is accompanied by the removal of nearly all of the facilities at Tuolumne Meadows. It is plainly obvious that Alternative 1 (which includes removal of the store, grill, fuel station and mountaineering school) will not be seriously considered by the NPS. Lumping the fate of the HSCs and commercial horse rides with such a radical "fringe" alternative is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to make it appear as if the NPS has considered their removal. This is illustrated by the fact that removal of the polluting HSCs and damaging horse rides is not even included in Alternative 4, which purportedly aims to "Recover Healthy Ecological Conditions in Disturbed Meadow and Riparian Areas." This is unacceptable. The HSCs, which are outdated and polluting commercial eyesores, should be removed, and their removal must be included in more than a single radical alternative that will not be seriously considered.

Because domestic livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) are known to pollute water, spread weeds, and pulverize trails, your plan for Tuolumne Meadows/River should end, once and for all, the commercial horse rides, unless:

1. ...all stock animals are strictly required to wear diapers to prevent pollution from animal manure and urine. Such diapers are now widely accepted and available. See, for example: <http://www.equisan.com.au/> Further, the operators of the commercial horse stables must be required to properly dispose of the stock manure and urine from the diapers to prevent pollution of water, trails, and camping areas. Such measures are necessary because stock animals have been shown to contaminate water in the Sierra Nevada, including the Tuolumne River. I strongly object to the continued pollution of the Tuolumne River by stock manure and urine. The NPS must take action to stop it.

2. ...all stock animals are sufficiently quarantined before entering the park to prevent the spread of weeds, and the commercial operators are required to use only weed-free feed. See, for example: <http://www.extendinc.com/weedfreefeed/> 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, and only weed-free feed should be allowed.

Please craft a range of reasonable alternatives that will truly protect Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.



Livermore, CA 94550

NW L49



09/06/2008 09:11 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Planning Workbook comments

9/6/08

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning Workbook
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Superintendent,

I am a teacher and for the sake of our children's children am writing to provide comments on this year's Yosemite's Tuolumne Planning Workbook. I am very concerned about the harmful impacts of commercial activities originating at Tuolumne Meadows and elsewhere in and near the Tuolumne River corridor. My specific comments are as follows:

The tradition of stock animal damage in our nation's park has proven impossible to explain and justify to our students. I object to and am offended by Alternative 5, the so-called "Preferred Alternative," which is titled "Honor the traditions of the Tuolumne while looking to the future." What this really seems to mean is continuing and condoning the commercialism and polluting activities of the past, while looking the other way. This alternative inappropriately would continue the polluting commercial horse rides, High Sierra Camps, and other harmful activities by labeling them as part of our "heritage." The NPS can and must do better to protect the magnificent Tuolumne Meadows and River.

Having chosen to be a teacher is part of my pursuit of honor and integrity. By not presenting a range of reasonable alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the Workbook does ignore those qualities. Clearly, the ugly and polluting "High Sierra Camps" (HSCs) at Glen Aulin, Tuolumne Meadows, and Vogelsang should be closed, and the sites restored. But removal of the HSCs (and the commercial horse rides) is only considered under a single alternative that is accompanied by the removal of nearly all of the facilities at Tuolumne Meadows. It is plainly obvious that Alternative 1 (which includes removal of the store, grill, fuel station and mountaineering school) will not be seriously considered by the NPS. Lumping the fate of the HSCs and commercial horse rides with such a radical "fringe" alternative is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to make it appear as if the NPS has considered their removal. This is illustrated by the fact that removal of the polluting HSCs and damaging horse rides is not even included in Alternative 4, which purportedly aims to "Recover Healthy Ecological Conditions in Disturbed Meadow and Riparian Areas." This is unacceptable. The HSCs, which are outdated and polluting commercial eyesores, should be removed, and their removal must be included in more than a single radical alternative that will not be seriously considered.

Because domestic livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) are known to pollute water, spread weeds, and pulverize trails, your plan for Tuolumne Meadows/River should end, once and for all, the commercial horse rides as soon as possible out of respect for children and nature, unless:

1. ...all stock animals are strictly required to wear diapers to prevent pollution from animal manure and urine. Such diapers are now widely accepted and available. See, for example: <http://www.equisan.com.au/> Further, the operators of the commercial horse stables must be required to properly dispose of the stock manure and urine from the diapers to prevent pollution of water, trails, and camping areas. Such measures are necessary because stock animals have been shown to contaminate water in the Sierra Nevada, including the Tuolumne River. I strongly object to the continued pollution of the Tuolumne River by stock manure and urine. The NPS must take action to stop it.

2. ...all stock animals are sufficiently quarantined before entering the park to prevent the spread of weeds, and the commercial operators are required to use only weed-free feed. See, for example: <http://www.extendinc.com/weedfreefeed/> 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, and only weed-free feed should be allowed.

For the sake of our children's children please craft a range of reasonable alternatives that will truly protect Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments



Santa Cruz, CA 95065

NW L 50



09/05/2008 12:57 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne River Plan Comments

1- suggestions/concerns about alternatives-

Alternative 1

I like: restoration of native habitat; removal of lodge, A loop, grillfuel/school, housing, treatment ponds, commercial trail rides; better parking/access at pothole and cathedral lakes. I think it's a good idea to limit housing but not camping.

I don't like: the loss of the store, which is a very convenient resource and limits in-and-out driving for campers.

Comment: I think this alternative does a great deal to clean up the meadows, and sets good priorities (primitive over indulgent), but I fear that removal of the store would create unnecessary traffic (and we have to recognize that some of these drivers may be re-entering the store after drinking alcohol, which could be a public hazard).

Alternative 2

I like: consideration of use efficiency.

I don't like: most everything else. I BELIEVE TM CANNOT ACCOMMODATE MORE USERS, and I further believe that hyper-accommodating access exaggerates the impact of each individual visitor. More visitors is not the problem, but more impact has to be avoided at all costs

Comment: I think increased day use is not, in and of itself, a bad thing, but I think increased accommodation requires harmful development and obscures the proximity and fragility of wilderness. Expanded development is harmful to the park and its wild character. If more people want to visit the park, let them do so on the park's terms.

Alternative 3

I like: consideration of Native American and early Western history.

I don't like: additional development. Increased interpretive signage might be helpful, but additional building is unnecessary.

Alternative 4

I like: habitat restoration, even where it limits access. Elimination of commercial trail use. Relocation of certain facilities.

I don't like: loss of the store.

Comment: I think increased ecological restoration is an important priority and should be pursued regardless of which alternative is ultimately chosen

Alternative 5

Generally speaking, my personal preference would be to:

- 1- Preserve access for primate recreation, especially rock-climbing.
- 2- Protect sensitive habitat and reduce impact off trails, meadows, and the rivers. Interpretive signage would probably be helpful.
- 3- Maintain natural processes (fire and flooding) without human intervention (barring immediate threats to human life, of course).
- 4- Pursue increased ecological restoration.
- 5- Protect or encourage primitive access (camping), though I agree the A loop is in the wrong place.
- 6- Better delineation and organization of campsites.
- 7- Organize access at sprawling roadside parking sites (especially cathedral lakes trailhead; interesting idea to include this parking in the visitor center)
- 8- Remove luxurious accommodations, especially TM Lodge, as these reduce the primitive

wilderness character of the area and increase impact-prone traffic.

9- Limit commercial activities, including gasoline/restaurant sales and trail rides.

10- Keep the store. It's actually a thoughtful way of reducing overall traffic on HWY120, as campers and day-hikers regularly need re-supplies and would otherwise have to travel far to get them.

11- Consolidate structures/functions. All NPS resources should have a single entry/exit point, and all public resources should have a single entry/exit point. Too many people get lost and spend way too much time driving and making haphazard u-turns and starting/stopping their cars. The "Village Model", like the one in the valley, may not be the prettiest thing in the world, but it does simplify the transition from car to feet.

12- Limit new building. Much of the existing infrastructure has created a precedent that has to be recognized, but new building will surely require additional resource use, construction traffic, and impact. If we can't reuse something, take it out, but let's be very careful how much we bring in.

Thanks for this opportunity. I'm pleased to provide feedback.

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