

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED

TWSR-101-ELS

AUG 18 2006

P. 1071
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

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

Name: MaryAnn Torney Date of Comment: 8/13/06
Address: [REDACTED] Marshfield, VT 05458

Comments

Less cars - more shuttle buses
hikers stay on trails

In general - you are doing a lot of great
things - great park!

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS	

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
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Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED
TWSR-102-EIS
AUG 18 2006
P. 1081
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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Name: Bee Michaels Date of Comment: 8-9-06

Address: [REDACTED] Hauppauge N.Y. 11788

Comments

We stopped for a nice lunch but you don't enough seating. The one table with bench is completely off balance.

Bee Michaels

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS	

Yosemite National Park

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Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

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TWSR-103-E/S
AUG 18 2006
P. 1071
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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Name: P Jatabha Date of Comment: 8-10-06

Address: [REDACTED] 1 Quarrysite, A2 85346

Comments

Need more seating for lunch

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
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Yosemite National Park

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Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

RECEIVED

TWSR-104-EIS

AUG 18 2006

p. 1031
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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Name: EVAN FOWLER Date of Comment: 8/12/06
Address: [REDACTED] Cazadero CA 95421

Comments

Please Please Yosemite is wonderful as it is. Please
NO PAVING/MOREBUILDING/CONSTRUCTIVE RULES. Park Administration
should focus on creating a positive wilderness experience for everyone.
This means if more people are coming here, focus on minimizing
their impact (no cars?) and reducing their needs, not accommodating
all of their perceived needs. This is a lesson most people in western
society could benefit from.

★ Road Removal creates JOBS !! ★

Peace Evan ☺

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Yosemite National Park

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RECEIVED

TW SR-105-E/S
AUG 18 2006
p. 1871

Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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Name: Gayle Chait

Date of August 15, 2006

Comment: _____

Address: [Redacted] Seal Beach, CA 90740

Comments

Last week was the first time me + my family visited Tuolumne Meadows. We have always visited the valley and decided to see the "other" side of Yosemite. What I noticed right away was the lack of congestion + people on Tuolumne! The air was clear, the sounds were all natural + the rivers + lakes were pristine. Don't turn the "upper" Sierra portion of Yosemite into the valley - you will lose something very special!

My only suggestion = Create bike paths so we can enjoy Tuolumne without using gas + causing pollution + allowing us to enjoy the nature without being in a car or bus.



"Curtis Gray"

[Redacted]

08/16/2006 12:23 PM
MST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne Rive/Meadows Plan

RECEIVED
TWSR-106-EIS
AUG 18 2006
P. 1072
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

To Yosemite Planning:

I am sad that I cannot attend one of your public meetings but would like to comment in you initial scoping phase.

First I would like to say that I was at Tuolumne Meadows a few weeks back and attended a Ranger talk targeted toward rock climbers and their activities. I thought this was great service that was being provided and my biggest comment on that would be that I dont feel it was reaching as far as it needs to. Most of the climbers there seemed very interested and concerned about policy and preservation and the impacts that there actions make, but it was only reaching a handful of people and many of them I think were only there because it was raining (myself included) I feel that there is a great need for more public education programs such as this that reach more visitors and address more activities than just rock climbing (a relatively small group)

It also concerns me that in your "Participant Guide" you state that Hetch Hetch/O'Shaughnessy Dam will not be addressed as part of the Tuolumne River Plan. I understand that the mere existance of the reservoir excludes that section from being federally designated as wild and scenic, however there is no denying that it is within the tuolumne river watershed and activies at the reservoir affect both the down- and upsteam watershed. Obviously there is no way for the NPS to know what the outcome of the Dam relicensing/reservoir planning will be, but your statement about excluding it from the planning process makes me feel that you are avoiding it due to political ramifications. This sadens me, Yosemite has always been a leader, from the establishment of a park system, to fire management and wilderness management. I feel you should take a proactive role in watershed restoration especially since this is such a good example of how human activites have adversely affected what would have been part of this "wild" area. Decisions and changes at the dam are going to happen wheather or not the park takes an official stance on them. Bare mininum, integrating large public works projects such as this with our wilderness/watersheds and ecosystems need to be addressed to manage the system as a whole.

My third comment has to do with existing infrastructure and possible directions of future projects. In a parks that claims such cultural and historical treasures such as the Ahwahnee hotel and even Curry Village, the concessions allowed at Tuolumne are an embarassment. I personally would rather see no devolpment in a place like Tuolumne meadows, but I understand that facilities and concessions are an integral part of park business and revenue. However the effort to integrate the stuctures in the meadows area with the natural landscape seem very minimal. Prefab toilets made of cheap plastic, gas stations/half empty mountain shops, rust stained canvased sided convience stores??? The last thing I want is more development however I would like the infrastucture and building that are developed in the park to be something becoming of the enviroment in which they live.

Sorry this got so lengthy, my last few comments are just on trends that I notice in the park and feel need addressing. I feel like there are more and more RV's and less tent campers. I dont like this, but feel that this trend

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needs to be addressed in facilities at the park and access. (personally I would like a ban or quota at least on this, but at least address where to put all of them) Last time I was there (two weeks ago there was a traffic jam of RV's trying to turn around at the store.)

This last summer I have visited Cathedral peak and several other popular climbing sites and have found an increasing number of dogs running around. I personally like dogs but I understand the need for rules especially in places like yosemite. There is need for more education and enforcement on this issue.

Parking in Tuolumne is horrible, much off the road parking leading to unsightly car messes, and dangerous situations. I personally would not mind a ban or quota on cars, but atleast address where to put them all.

Thanks for reading my comments, I hope they come off showing the appreciation I have for the park and the enviroment.

Curtis Gray

[REDACTED]

Truckee, CA 96161

[REDACTED]

P.S. I work as a GIS analyst and would be more than willing to volunteer some time to your efforts if needed.



"Laurel Rematore"

[Redacted]

08/15/2006 02:04 PM
MST

To: <YOSE_planning@nps.gov>

cc: [Redacted]

Subject: FW: Scoping info on Tuolumne Meadows

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TWSR-107-215
AUG 18 2006
P. 102
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Hello Planning folks:

Please see Jack Henshall's comments below.

Laurel Rematore
Membership & Development Director
Yosemite Association
Phone (Mariposa office) 209-966-6386; Fax 209-966-6397
We are a nonprofit membership organization promoting education and
stewardship of Yosemite National Park. Join us! Learn more at
www.yosemite.org

-----Original Message-----

From: JACK HENSHALL [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2006 11:31 AM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Scoping info on Tuolumne Meadows

I would appreciate if you would relay this on to the Park Service.

Dear Sirs: I know that Mr. or rather Dr. Carl Sharsmith is well respected both by the Park Service and by many generations of visitors to the Park that had the pleasure to participate in one of his guided tours.

The Tioga Road that is now on the South Side of Tuolumne Meadows was in times past on the Northern Side of the Meadow. It crossed the Tuolumne River where the foot bridge is now located to give excess to the South side of the river. The bridge has been narrowed but the original piers are still in place. It was constructed at the same time Parsons Memorial Lodge was built.

It was his feelings at the time the road was located to the present site that the Meadow would become drier because the moisture coming off the mountain to the South would be diverted into a few culverts under the new highway. When this occurred over time the water or moisture runs thru the Meadow and is gone down stream before it have time to moisten the meadow.

As you can see in the present the trees are encroaching on the meadow faster than the would if more moisture was present.

Changing the road back to the North side of the Meadow would also give improved excess to Parsons memorial lodge and the area know as Soda Springs.

I have never seen an old map that shows where the old road stayed to the North side of the Meadow is it went west of Parsons Memorial Lodge. The road now ends near ore in the area of the waste plant.

I fear at this time that the damage has been done and there is no way to turn back the hands of time.

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p. 282

I have spent many pleasant days as a Volunteer in Parsons Memorial Lodge.

I realize that all facilities are on the South side of the current highway. As is the visitors Center that was built by the WPA or CCC. What great work

the performed. I do not know but it would make sense that this Center was constructed after the Highways was relocated to the South side of the Meadow.

Jack Henshall

[REDACTED]
Lubbock, TX.



"Mark Holmes"
 [REDACTED]
 08/18/2006 06:17 PM
 MST

To: <YOSE_Planning@nps.gov>
 CC:
 Subject: Tuolumne Planning

RECEIVED
 TWSR-108-E15
 AUG 22 2006
 P. 1072
 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

I recently became aware of the scoping effort in process for the Tuolumne Comprehensive Management Plan. I have some comments and concerns. I am a rock climber as well as a Civil Engineer so though my concerns may be biased towards climbing I do have some understanding of your goals.

My primary concern within the Meadows is access. Access for climbers as well as day hikers and back country hikers. The main issue I see with access is parking.

The current parking for Fairview and Daff Domes are dirt areas which I would guess started out from people trampling vegetation further and further until it became roadside parking. I'm sure there is sediment from these areas washing downstream in rain storms from these areas, and getting into these spots can be dicey when it is crowded. Expansion of these areas with proper grading, and putting down a proper gravel base would be a nice improvement. Regarding the expansion of these lots, keep in mind that the climbing that these lots typically provide access to can only handle slightly more traffic, so major expansion would be unnecessary.

The parking for the John Muir trailhead is my second concern. The limited parking here seems to mainly consist of roadside parking on a gravel shoulder. An actual parking area here would be nice, though perhaps not at the cost of losing some of the fantastic meadow. If there is not a location for a parking area that would spare the nice meadowland, perhaps the shoulder parking could be improved and widened. Perhaps even angle parking on one side of the road would be better than the current condition.

My second concern for the Meadows is the availability of easy overnight camping. Many of the climbs accessed from the John Muir trailhead (namely Cathedral Peak, and Matthes Crest) are typically done as single day climbs. For many teams this is a very long day. Climbers must either be camping in the northern part of the park, must drive into the park very early in the morning, or must illegally camp within the park (typically just sleeping in the car), or along the Tioga Pass highway. Unfortunately the latter is the easiest for many climbers (perhaps an anonymous survey would help shed light on this). It would be nice if there was a way to allow climbers to have close access to the trailhead with an overnight stay. I think you would find climbers very receptive to the idea of being able to stay one night in a vehicle before leaving a trailhead. This could be limited to a certain area, furthest from the trailhead to keep open spots, and bathrooms could be provided to keep people from urinating on the side of the road. Perhaps if you could identify the needs of hikers and climbers accessing these trailheads (limited overnight stay, bathrooms) you could come up with a system that would meet both the needs of the park as well as the users, providing easier, more sanitary access. Perhaps I am missing some of the reasoning, but if it could be managed, I don't understand the harm in letting people stay in their vehicle provided that food is locked in a bear box.

On that note, many of the Camp 4 bear boxes have got five approximately 1" holes in the bottom. One hole in the middle and one in each corner. There are mice that have figured this out and climb through these holes to get into people's food. Not only is it disgusting and unsanitary since mice defecate and urinate while they eat, but it really makes me mad to find that my properly locked food is ruined from mice. Also it is unhealthy for the little rodents. I've tried to cover the holes with duct tape or keep a plastic box over the holes when staying there, but as you know animals are persistent. Are there any plans to cap these holes?

Thanks for your time. I appreciate the opportunity to comment, and I am looking forward to hearing more about your plans for the park. I am sure that the Management Plan will bring great things to Tuolumne.

Mark Holmes, PE

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TWSR-108-815
p. 2 of 2

Project Manager

Perteet Inc.

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Everett, Washington 98201



Jerry and Marge
 [Redacted]
 08/20/2006 01:41 PM
 MST

To: YOSE_Planning@nps.gov
 cc:
 Subject: toulumne meadows planning

RECEIVED
 TWSR-109-EIS
 AUG 22 2006
 P. 1081
 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

toulumne meadows comments:

The campground is an estimated 75 years old. No need to change for the sake of change, BUT in today's world of RV campers it just doesn't fit the need. And, frankly, tents and RVs are less than perfect neighbors. Suggestions:

1. Designate separate sections for each. At the same time make RV sites easier of access by slanting site driveways better and improve the need for very sharp turns. If fewer sites for RVs, that is fair because they may take more room. Also, limiting length is appropriate with present campground configuration. (Ex: 30')
2. Build a separate RV campground. Where is a major issue. Assuming limit of, say, 25 sites, is there space South of the present area, fairly close to the river? How about expanding in the Horse camp area? Near the wilderness permit/parking area?

Regarding the Lodge tent cabins, we vote 100% for keeping them. Also, NPS should approve/require upgraded rest room.

Thanks for all your hard work

Jerry Smith

Stay in the know. Pulse on the new Yahoo.com. Check it out.

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"John Noonan"

08/20/2006 09:32 PM
GMT

To: Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne Meadows Plan

RECEIVED
TWSR-110-EIS
AUG 22 2006
P. 1071
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

To whom it may concern,
I have just returned from my first visit to Tuolumne Meadows with my daughter (age 12) after a 6 day visit. I cannot express enough that this is clearly in my opinion one case where the adage of "If it isn't broke don't fix it!" only I wish to add the word PLEASE. The ONLY thing that I found that you might consider doing is increasing the size of the recycle containers but aside from that you cannot improve on what is there both naturally and manmade. I feel confident that the funds that would be used for any changes will not go to waste in some other much more justified upgrades within the park.
Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion in this matter and I wish to take this time to thank you for your time and attention in this matter. Please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly, John Noonan

[Redacted signature]

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"Kevin"
 [Redacted]
 08/20/2006 09:37 PM
 MST

To: "Yosemite Planning" <yose_planning@nps.gov>
 CC:
 Subject: Tuolumne Meadows Planning

RECEIVED
TWSR-III-EIS
 AUG 22 2006
P. 1081
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Hi,

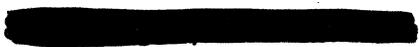
I attended the open session at Parson's Lodge on Saturday, August 12th. There I pointed out on the brochure titled, *Welcome to Planning for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River and Tuolumne Meadows* the wording the TMP "will identify opportunities for restoration and reduced facilities...." Questioning the word "reduced" I was told by the NPS person that that word was an error. I know that a lot of thought and planning goes into creation of these brochures and wonder how an error of that seriousness could wind up in print. But that's not the point.

What I would like is confirmation that, in fact, "reduced" is not a criterion of these Plans - or is it?

I have a lot more to say, hopefully of a positive and helpful nature, but would first like to get this point established.

Thank you,

Kevin Cronin

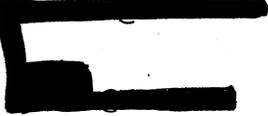


Playa del Rey, CA 90293

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Kaija Webster



08/21/2006 08:55 AM
EST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
CC:
Subject: Tuolumne Meadows Planning

RECEIVED
TWSR-112-EIS
AUG 22 2006
P. 1081
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Hi,

I heard that you are working on a management plan for Tuolumne Meadows and I'd like to add my input in regard to climbing.

I consider climbing at Tuolumne Meadows to be great privilege and a national treasure. It's a favorite travel destination of mine. I hope to bring my children there climbing someday. And their children.

In my job as the director of a climbing school, I see the wonder on the faces of climbers young and old as they consider trips to your park. Often this is a once-in-a-lifetime trip for us midwesterners. I am grateful that your park exists and that your management plan allows for climbers as a user group.

I sincerely hope that your plans for the area will consider rock climbing to be an important activity at Tuolumne and continue to manage the area in a way that supports climbing.

Please accept my appreciation for your management of Yosemite as one of the major natural wonders of our country. Know that I and the climbers that I know would be happy to participate in volunteer efforts to benefit the park in any way. Please keep us informed on what we can do to help improve and maintain the natural beauty of the park and the integrity of the environment there.

Thanks again,

Kaija

Kaija Webster
University of Minnesota Duluth
Recreational Sports Outdoor Program

[Redacted]
Duluth, MN 55812
[Redacted]

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Glen Rothell
 08/21/2006 02:41 PM
 PDT

To: YOSE Planning@NPS
 cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Tuolumne River Scoping

RECEIVED
 TW512-113-EIS
 AUG 22 2006
 p. 181
 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Please consider the following items when developing the Management Plan for the Tuolumne W&S River:

- Retain all trails and trail bridges within the corridor, including the Soda Springs footbridge . If trails are having a detrimental effect on water movement then make improvements such as causeways with permeable subgrades or boardwalks to alleviate the impacts.
- Revise the trailhead quota system to include day users and limit the number to assure the river is not adversely impacted.
- Implement a minimum tool policy in the backcountry river corridor areas that does not permit gas powered equipment. Electric powered equipment would be OK.
- Remove stock stables from the river corridor to assure surface water quality.
- Require stock wear bags to catch "road apples" while traversing the river corridor
- Require stock camp outside the river corridor.
- Limit helicopter use to medical emergencies only within the river corridor . Remove any helicopter landing pads from the river corridor.
- Require vehicles park on paved areas and install oil separators on parking areas to assure surface water quality.
- Assure the Tioga Road has a permeable subgrade to allow subsurface waters to flow freely to the meadow.
- Remove fuel stations from the river corridor.
- Remove all employee housing from the river corridor. It is not essential it be located within the corridor.
- Remove all operational facilities except essential utility systems from the river corridor . Remove the sewer system holding ponds and spray field from the river corridor.
- Retain the Tuolumne Campground and Lodge but remove any campsites or lodging units that are within 150 feet of the river.
- Retain the Tuolumne Lodge Dining Hall
- Relocate the Store/Grill out of the river corridor .
- Retain the Glen Aulin HSC

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"Barbara Steinberg"

08/22/2006 06:28 AM
GMT

To: YOSE_Planning@nps.gov
cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SUGGESTIONS FOR YOSEMITE

RECEIVED
TWSR-114-EIS
AUG 22 2006
P-1081
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

please consider not allowing horses to stand in the rivers in Yosemite National Park as they do urinate and deficate . It would be great if they could just be on the land for the most part as sometimes you see people standing in the river on horse back . Another suggestion is classes to teach children to respect nature and learn to be more quiet around wild animals instead of run and shout like they do in the play ground ; just education basically.

Also make no walking dogs signs more visible like 10 ft X 10 ft where dogs are not allowed as they disturb the natural wildlife .

thanks alot

Mr and Mrs Orlowski [REDACTED] kihei HI 96753 [REDACTED]
with aloha spirit, Barbara
may the blessings be!

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RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR TS



"Tom McMillan"
 [Redacted]
 08/22/2006 11:16 AM
 MST

To: <YOSE_planning@nps.gov>
 cc: [Redacted]
 Subject: Tuolumne Planning Effort

RECEIVED
TWSP-115-EIS
 AUG 22 2006
P. 1072
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Sirs:

With regard to your compilation of suggestions for the Tuolumne planning effort, here are my suggestions and comments.

My first comment has to do with the presence of permanent structures in Tuolumne

I am opposed to new permanent structures. I have been told that the DNC would like to convert the existing store tent to a permanent structure. I am opposed to that. I think that the plan should reduce the number of permanent structures. For example, the gas station should be removed. I believe that its presence there may actually be illegal per current law. Tuolumne should be as primitive as possible. Any for-profit enterprises should be looked upon with extreme skepticism. Tuolumne should be all about primitive recreation and natural values.

Second comment has to do with sanitation. The planning process should investigate the use of solar composting toilets in Tuolumne. In some years the meadows campground cannot open due to water table issues that affect the septic system. Solar composting toilets would not have this problem and also do not require permanent structures such as piping systems.

My third comment has to do with camping management in Tuolumne. I would like to see more primitive, free or inexpensive, walk-in camping and less drive-to camping. A self registration ("iron ranger") system should be used if fee collection (bad), food storage education (good), or usage tracking are found to require some sort of registration system. The registration system design should prevent time-consuming interactions with campground host at a kiosk. This serves visitors better; it's a very negative experience when you have to wait in line behind the tailpipe of a large RV just to enter or exit the campground I imagine its not a very fun job for the person in the kiosk either. Campground host or ranger to visitor interaction should be minimized except for the component of bear and wildlife educational purposes (proper food storage for example). The current climate of being subject to interrogation by rangers for purposes other than wildlife and wild lands preservation is a detriment to the outdoor experience and would not be needed under a different paradigm.

An ample supply of walk-in camping would be valuable in many ways. Walk-in camping provides a more peaceful experience since there are not cars driving through the area, and the area will be cleaner. There is less impact on the land and less permanent structure requirements. The camping can be more dense, more campers can be accommodated in less space. Currently it is common for visitors to be traveling through Tuolumne and unable to camp there because the meadows campground is full. The visitor may be from another state or country and be unaware of the reservation system, or may be traveling on a flexible schedule which makes reservation inconvenient or impossible. The same holds true for many people from in-state who due to their work schedules may not be able to plan ahead. I like the idea of keeping a good proportion of sites first-come first-served, but I think the ample provision of primitive walk-in camping would work even better in terms of not being forced to turn people away. If they really want to camp and they are willing to walk a short distance they can find a place to camp.

My last comment has to do with large RVs on the Tioga Rd. This road is too narrow and these ultra-large vehicles are a safety hazard. Many are rentals driven by people without enough experience since no special license is required to drive them. I wonder if some thought could be put into limiting vehicle size on the Tioga Rd based on safety considerations.

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p. 1072

Thanks
Tom McMillan
Member, American Alpine Club

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN and TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which closes September 7, 2006. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Tuolumne Planning). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Tuolumne Planning). Comments can also be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/trp.

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

Name: STUART KLAPP Date of Comment: 8/15/06
Address: [REDACTED] OAKLAND CA 94611

Comments

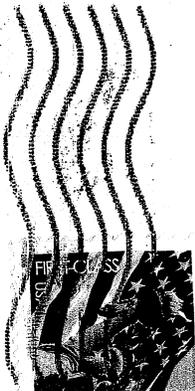
- ① Tent camping ONLY at Tuolumne camp ground.
RV Restricted to Crane Flat.
- ② Eliminate Gas Station at Tuolumne
Expand Gas Station at Crane Flat
- ③ Provide parking for Cathedral Lake trail head

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Stuart T & Alicia S Klapp
Oakland CA 94611

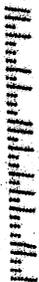
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Superintendent
Resonite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite CA
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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Public Scoping Comments (Question/Answer Format)
Groveland Public Scoping Meeting
August 17, 2006

Facilitators: Kristina Rylands (NPS), Elexis Mayer (NPS), Jen Nersesian (NPS)

What do you love about the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows?

- The Merced River Plan and Yosemite Valley Plan both need to be re-written. Not just acts when writing plan; need to look at all other studies, reports, case law, other plans and policies (all tied together relative to these plans).
- Transportation overlays – put everything on the table that is driving this plan. Stressful to have to read 400 pages to understand the plan and all guidance driving the effort.
- Why does the NPS get 18 mo. for internal scoping/ and public only gets 2 mo?
- Functional relationships need to be identified between MRP and TRP
- Draft ORV Report has tons of stuff – do not want to repeat this effort (present list and ask for additional information rather than redo/create new list)
- NPS is trying to respond to lack of data with 1 yr of data collection.
- Official scoping for Tuolumne Meadows Plan needs to be re-initiated next summer.
- Running things in parallel makes it extremely difficult for the public to follow/keep up with and participate.
- Hard to comprehend all things running in parallel.
- Understand pressure and appreciate the effort to be transparent.
- Can we extend scoping for 30 more days because people are busy during summertime and additional time would allow for focus in the fall?
- Need to be careful with “need to get moving with this plan” because it expresses expediency.
- Wish we had more time to think about this process and digest what the NPS is up to...have heard from the community that we need more time.
- Other T.C. districts are vacant and not up against park.
- Want to see plan put on hold until the MRP is fixed.
- NPS decisions in YNP are driven by Washington – why rush a decision that is precious to all of us?
- Change in policy to open Tioga Road in early May – where was the environmental documentation/issues (people have died trying to rush the road being open). Pressure comes from other side of the mountain (Mono County) other political powers are pushing; not Groveland merchants.
- We need to be gentle about this river.
- Public scoping for TMP should be done in two phases (next summer for TMP).
- Is the Tuolumne Meadows Plan focused on Tuolumne Meadows (segment 3)? What is the project area?
- Not a comprehensive plan because it does not include Hetch Hetchy Valley.
- What portions of the TWSR will require an implementation plan?
- Wilderness Management Plan will pick up only 80% of the river, not 100%
- Glen Aulin is a special use area that could be addressed within the TMP
- Want to focus on river corridor, not Tioga Lake
- The entire Tioga Road is a cultural resource (historic pullouts) and will it be addressed if discussion of mass transit junk continues? Do not want to see it widened, fattened, straightened.

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- What is the baseline data for the plan (temp, flow, landscape)? How far back does it go?
- Don't know enough about the Sierra Nevada; delighted to hear we are spending \$1,000,000.
- Landscape (economic effects) planning will have profound effect on river – single biggest impact to managing the river. Clashes of perspective in policies doesn't allow us to walk away from it.
- 1996 caused turbidity issues for river.
- Ecosystem approach to looking at river/broader evaluation is very appreciated.
- No UC Merced (biggest threat to YNP is the air quality of Central Valley)
- Would like to see Hetch Hetchy restored and oranges back in Orange County.
- What about lowering Hetch Hetchy level and gain another ¼ mile of river?
- Effects of raising dam – impacts need to be addressed in plan.
- Silt migration at Hetch Hetchy should be addressed in plan (some ends up in Groveland). Almost all silt is diverted into canyon tunnel and ends up in Priest Reservoir.
- Comprehensive Management Plan must have Hetch Hetchy section in it and discuss impacts (while knowing it is not part of classified river).
- Water quality that reaches Tuolumne River affects water quality at Hetch Hetchy and affects water quality in SF and Groveland. - Tuolumne Meadows water plan addressed in plan
- Better water quality in Hetch Hetchy – the better water quality downstream.
- ORV Draft: description of segments should address size of Tuolumne Meadows area. – entire Lyell Fork drainage. – eastern park boundary to Tuolumne Meadows (Dana Fork).
- Don't think the NPS has detailed info on temp variations of the river, already don't believe NPS has extensive data and cannot collect generate in a 12 mo span without extrapolating with error. The CMP will not be in cement because we don't have enough data (just like the 1980 GMP).
- Is the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) going to be integrated/how is the info being utilized to manage river as part of the whole Sierra Nevada? If not included, then we want a response as to why.
- Management Plan must address Hetch Hetchy (influences lower reach of river); or at least it exists and effects river.
- We cannot afford to not know
- The single biggest economic issue is water – CA should put \$ into state rivers.
- Describe end-points of segments; Fork itself is not clean (Dana Fork goes beyond park boundary). Not clear right now; if cover both will need a congressional designation (artful wording).
- Extending boundaries to watershed is not in the act; but is a good idea.
- Would those areas not within the legal corridor need to be included in implementation plan? Those areas may not need an implementation plan because it will be addressed in the CMP.
- Trail to Pate Valley is not a horse/people friendly trail – growth inducing impacts if were to be improved.
- User/Visitor capacity: how will it be addressed – what methodology – intend to decrease/increase and what are socio-economic impacts to gateways?
- Who, where and what are people doing- need to understand that- Methodology- evidence of impacts needs to be addressed.
- Overnight visitors are being accounted for; but what about the day visitors?

- Thousands of people may not have their voices heard as part of this scoping process because they don't visit store or other places and no attempt is made to contact DNC or visit a place where info is.
- Make sure all bases are covered- there is a big perception built up in the area that buses are the only way to get into YNP (example of 140 closure and reaching EP was incorrect!)
- NPS does have effective ways of communicating like buses/mass transit proposal.
- Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River is still not on the radar for many people – legal dilemma.
- NPCA should know the consequences of garnering donations/influencing decision-making/have a moral obligation of actions and follow up with them.
- Discussion of visitor/user capacity hinged upon transportation plan (# that walk-in is fairly low vs. those who walk out) Mostly based on Hwy 120 plan and months road is open between Crane Flat and Tioga Pass.
- Commercial/economic asset side of things: parking overlay, transportation circulation, emergency services, Tioga Pass accessibility impact and all impacted by capacity, visitor counts and types (characteristics) – need good visitor counts.
- Know more about the types of visitors and how they are coming through the park.
- Change methodology of how we conduct traffic counts.
- Strengthen relationships with gateways to help with data gathering related to visitors and visitor use.
- Do not impact the privacy of visitors, particularly related to data gathering that might involve them, their demographics, their destinations, etc. Need to know WHO the visitor is, but respecting rights to privacy.
- Partner with gateway communities on creation of surveys. Bring the people who conduct the survey to the gateway group to share in the communication of how survey will be conducted.
- Consider USFS downstream.
- Consider impacts on TOT; emergency services; service excellence (facility and service experiences of visitors in the park) and how these affect market; park maintenance and not adding to current backlog (benign neglect is not an option) – factor in follow-up and remedial activities; visitor education and interpretation – make sure it is factored into the plan as a key component of CMP – it adds value when people see agency acting responsibly; visitor information services...timely and truthful, including CalTrans info.
- “Commercial ORV” Provision services (food, lodging, etc.) including Glen Aulin: quality of the visitor experience, relationship between services in the park and those offered in the gateways, fuel and repair services, public protection services, fee administration (wait times at gates, park passes, benefit of passes when visitors still end up waiting), emergency services and impacts it has on neighbors, effects of helicopters.
- ORVs: panoramic views from domes.
- What are the differences/similarities between short wheel-based vs. long wheel-based model vehicles.
- BRW Transportation Study: How will this study affect plan in terms of addressing buses vs. private vehicle model?
- Buses bring more people per hour into park. Increases magnitude of visitor load in resources and facilities.
- Will we address wilderness users and their effects on available parking?
- Will we consider the re-introduction of extinct or endangered species?
- Now hear this: Present REAL alternatives where solid distinctions can be drawn pointing to distinctly different end results.

- Present plan and all elements in a simplified form, connected to the details, written in plain English and that doesn't take two weeks to read. Perhaps conduct focus groups on readability of draft plan.
- Consider the impacts of making everything - the place - more "attractive": amenities that draw people to areas around the park and resulting in growth in the surrounding communities.
- 1st priority is protecting the resources
- I love the Tuolumne River because it is.
- Get rid of Dana Fork impoundment and come up with a better water source that does not rely on the affecting the free flow of the river.
- Parker Meadow camping allowed?
- There's nothing like Tuolumne in the winter.

What kind of services and/or facilities would you like to see offered, improved, or removed in Tuolumne Meadows or along the Tuolumne River?

- No new facilities needed except a restroom for those just using the highway. Replacement of worn out facilities would be ok.

What would you like to see protected along the Tuolumne River and in Tuolumne Meadows?

- Need to consider visitor experience beyond social factors - commercial factors, emergency services. Planning needs to take these into account. These may not be specifically called out in Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, but need to be considered as necessary for good management of park under the Organic Act. In the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and in Interagency Council guidance which discussed ORVs for the entire corridor, "ORVs" and how they're defined implies a priority of all the factors.
- This process should be shelved until the MRP is sorted out and fixed. NPS doesn't have \$ or staff to do "a sterling version" of both at the same time. Too much for public to follow with both going on at once.
- TRP and TMP should be separated. - I want a chance to give formal public scoping comments of the TMP based on what I see proposed in the TRP.
- Outsource the TRP if need to do it at the same time as MRP. NPS doesn't have enough money or credibility.
- Until we finish the MRP, we don't know what an acceptable plan is.
- Merced and Tuolumne same watershed - concerned with Sierra Nevada.

What do you enjoy doing in the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows area?

- Hiking - backpacking - take visitors to Hetch Hetchy.
- Concerned about ecosystem management of the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers.
- Don't accentuate commercialism in Yosemite Valley, and do not make the same mistake for the Tuolumne Meadows area.

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Public Scoping Comments (Question/Answer Format)
 Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting
 July 19, 2006

Facilitators: Kristina Rylands (NPS), Elexis Mayer (NPS), Jen Nersesian (NPS).

What would you like to see protected in the Tuolumne area?

- Good Air Quality
- Frogs
- Ability to experience solitude
- View shed
- Protect backcountry trails from damage by stock
- Rock-climbing access
- Protect meadows from unnatural hydrological conditions
- General social scene – not just employees.
- Protect Tuolumne Meadows Lodge
- The resource: plants, animals, natural communities, river. Perhaps the current visitor center is old and distinctive enough to be considered “historic” but all other buildings should be on the chopping block, including the (Tuolumne Meadows) Lodge.
- Climbing access trails protected/maintained
- The natural fire/hydrologic regime of the meadows
- Hiking opportunities/cross-country exploration/winter use/ski hut
- Swimming/kayaking/navigation

What kind of services/facilities would you like to see offered, improved, or removed?

- Keep access points for visitors consolidated/concentrated
- Bathroom facilities so people don't just go anywhere – make it easy to do the right thing
- Pave dedicated turnouts, better delineation of road vs. off-road
- Remove gas station
- Consider removing stables/grill etc. – vestiges of old way of thinking – what is appropriate in a national park?
- Improve damage from stock – Remove/move stables
- Like seasonal/temporary nature to development/facilities
- Like knowing in winter-time there's nothing there
- Crowding in front of Campground Office
- Need more seasonal employee housing (NPS and DNC) but similar style (tent cabins, etc)
- Consider additional employee housing in Lee Vining but as a choice
- Improved public transportation
- More employee housing
- Keep 'historic' services (Grill, Lodge, etc)
- Do more programs with Parsons Lodge
- If you can get rid of the gas station in the Valley, you can get rid of one in Tuolumne Meadows
- Parking is a BIG Issue
- Better contain roadside parking – Not necessarily alleviate with more parking lots

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- Better Public Transportation
- Remove cell phone tower in/from Tuolumne Meadows
- Treat sewage with natural wetland system if possible
- The septic system is a constraint to annual road opening and access to high country. An upgrade should look at addressing this
- Assess avalanche hazard with road – will it always be this way? Does it have to be? Old road used to avoid it
- Park resources need to be put into road opening. The park shouldn't need contribution of Mono County, a small rural county
- Safety improvements on Highway 120 in keeping with National Park theme – e.g. rock walls instead of guard rails.
- Local Mono Transportation Commission looking at safety improvements – some problems with CalTrans. This planning effort could help foster better inter-agency cooperation on these issues.
- Work with Devil's Postpile to address employee housing shortage/issues for eastern sierra.

What services are essential?

- Bathrooms
- Place people can ask questions regarding the meadows and get information about resources
- Source of clean drinking water
- Place that provides information/basic supplies for hikers and climbers

What services are not essential?

- Grill
- Post Office
- Gas Station
- Stables

Is it essential that people overnight in the meadows?

- Lodge and Campground contribute to the need for a certain amount of employee housing
- Possibly limit lodge capacity? The Lodge requires more employees than Campground
- If there is less housing (overnight accommodation) for visitors then housing in Lee Vining (or other areas) will increase to accommodate overflow. That's OK

What do you do when you are in the Tuolumne Area?

- Hike
- Bird watching
- Camp
- Attend interpretive programs
- Contemplate life
- Look at alpine flora
- Rock climb – current access that climbers have is terrific – don't want to see it limited. Except for weekends, one can climb with seeing very few people; this is an important part of the experience. This applies to hiking too – choose places where can run into few other

- people. When parks try to manage climbing experience, they usually mess it up – better to take a hands-off approach.
- Drop by Visitor Center. It should be larger, it is barely adequate. Could be used as a teaching center (e.g. Leave No Trace principles). It is important to provide opportunities for people to educate themselves.
 - There is something wrong with the fact that the Visitor Center is smaller than the store. If they remain, would like to see store/“strip” screened from the road, like the Visitor Center – “Every building you see detracts from the meadows”
 - Appropriate to have climbing school
 - Campsites like a “rabbit warren” not a pleasurable experience – leave the park to camp because of this
 - Grill may not be necessary for “Tuolumne Experience”
 - Take out public gas station – can coast down the hill if need be.
 - Get rid of store, put out (install?) water faucet – store and grill really detract from experience
 - Get rid of post office
 - Or, have all services (sans gas station) in one building to reduce footprint. Cutting these things back will reduce need for other infrastructure such as sewer
 - Get some parking off the road, especially Cathedral Trailhead – no reason for pavement, you’re on granite
 - Big groups have more impact than small groups – encourage/require small groups? (e.g. break up bus tours into smaller groups
 - Need to consider impacts to Lee Vining if additional housing is planned for outside the park
 - More education on how to act in sensitive areas/wilderness. Certain user groups are not getting the information, especially day-users.
 - Trails through meadows – educate people on not creating new ones.
 - Hike – special because of elevation, scenery, unique habitat, and convenience – ACCESS. But, access cuts both ways in terms of impacts.
 - Wilderness Quota System needs to stay.
 - Need more data on which areas are getting more use (for user capacity management)
 - Look at focused recreational areas that are appropriate to direct use. “Self discovery” might be better for other areas.
 - Educate people rather than using quotas.
 - Timing of road opening – need to plan with meadow recovery, but also considering socioeconomics. May be an educational component to this as well.
 - Swimming, boating
 - Wildlife watching (frogs!)
 - Trans-Sierra travel – use the area/road as a through-route from east side to Fresno, sometimes stop for a hike.

What do you love about the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows?

- Rock climbing
- I like that it is an unrestricted backcountry environment for day use
- The high elevation/high country environment with easy access.
- All the people who care about the place
- Stunning scenery

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- Uncrowded backcountry
- Day-hikes/trips
- Love that you can drive by and see few parking lots – almost pristine; but then it is hard to find a place to park. It is hard to stop there.
- Comparing Yellowstone to Yosemite: It's easier to pull over and look at wildlife. Here, there may not be as much wildlife to view from the road as Yellowstone, but it would be nice for people to be able to stop and appreciate it (the view, etc.), for 10 minutes. The trick is to somehow provide more parking, but not destroy the view shed in doing so.
- Tioga Road is our access to the other side of the mountains.
- Fishing on the Tuolumne River and some of the close lakes both inside/outside the park boundary
- The natural feel of the meadows, even though there are facilities and buildings amongst the meadows
- I like the permanent stone buildings and cabins
- I like the sound of the frogs
- I like social scene
- I love to be in Tuolumne biking before the road opens
- I love the domes, the geology

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Public Scoping Comments (Question/Answer Format)
 Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting
 August 7, 2006

Facilitators: Kristina Rylands (NPS), Elexis Mayer (NPS), Jen Nersesian (NPS) **YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

What kind of services and/or facilities would you like to see offered, improved, or removed in Tuolumne Meadows of along the Tuolumne River?

- Parsons Lodge should remain open to the public for functions and general access, so long as resources are not impacted.
- Like High Sierra Camps at Tuolumne, visitor center.
- Would like showers at campground.
- Perhaps boardwalks for trails to provide access but not harm meadow.
- Interpretive signs around Hetch Hetchy.
- Parking is "challenging".
- Don't particularly value gas station personally but could see how other visitors might.
- So many services all along the road – unsightly – Yellowstone example- congregate all services in 1 area.
- Very uneven use of trails – some are jammed (Cathedral) yet other side of Pothole Dome is empty.
- Trail is gone between VC and Cathedral trailhead.
- Pedestrian-friendly resources (get from Point A to Point B without getting back in a car).
- VC at heliport at Hetch Hetchy is needed – geol/sociological, etc. – like Mono Lake VC.
- Create Southwall trail at Hetchy for scenic vistas.
- More info needed, like waysides, but then you run into need for adequate parking there.
- Directional and informational signage needs improvement
- All for encouraging non-personal car ways of getting around up there (i.e., YARTS, shuttle buses).
- Target signage/educational info at places where people naturally gather – often happens to be near bathrooms.
- Inadequate restrooms at store
- "Nobody finds VC because people care all going to the store for directional information".
- Hate question mark on informational sign.
- "You are here" maps like in the valley.
- If you co-locate services, you would need to provide parking there.
- If you provide parking away from collocated services, need a short convenient way to get people to services – NOT like the day-use parking to VC in valley.
- Like the ability to park near trailhead- "don't want part of hike to be on sidewalks".
- Ideally, wouldn't have any cars parked at trailheads.
- Could Gaylor Pit be a good site for a parking area (or other facilities)? Already disturbed.
- Preference to park cars out of sight.
- Current VC parking lot is well-designed – can't see from road, etc.
- Employee housing should be situated where you walk to work.

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What would you like to see protected along the Tuolumne River and in Tuolumne Meadows?

- Fracturing of meadow ecosystem due to trails and road. (Large ecosystem fragmented into smaller areas).
- Protect trails and opportunity for hiking.
- Protect fish habitat and access for fishing.
- Balance access with protection of the ecosystem.
- Protect the canyon panoramas, overlooks, and scenic vistas.
- Incredible canyon vistas, including those at Hetch Hetchy (Wapama Falls, Tueulala Falls, etc.)
- Protect meadow vistas and that unique TM experience by moving facilities out of that area.
- Concentrate visitor services in areas that do not detract from the Tuolumne Meadows experience.
- Opportunities for solitude even in areas where there is relatively high use (e.g., far side of Pothole Dome).
- Help people learn and understand what is unique and special about the Tuolumne Meadows area through increased information.
- "You are here" maps including info on shuttle bus stops, wherever people congregate (e.g., grocery store, grill), parking lots, bathrooms.
- Co-locate facilities and visitor services so people know WHERE to go for WHAT.
- Ideally, do not locate parking at any of the trailheads. Minimize visibility of autos in the meadows "proper". Move cars out of the viewshed.

How do we define the extent of Tuolumne Meadows?

- Look at habitats and drainages
- Existing development
- Day hike areas, immediate watershed
- Biological definition of meadow
- Visitor services – e.g., VC, bookstore, groceries.
- Visitor experience – what kind of expectations are there? What kind of impacts?

How far beyond the meadow "proper" should we consider in the plan?

- Tuolumne Meadows: Pothole Dome (west) to Lember Dome (east)?
- Consider drainages and various habitats
- Existing development
- Hydro study area (~425 acres)

What do you love about the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows?

- The hiking and opportunities for solitude.
- Good fishing
- Access to fishing
- Canyon panoramas/gorges (i.e., 10 lakes)
- Poopenaut Valley overlook
- Scenic vistas

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P. 3 of 3

- Experiencing the meadow

What do you do while in Tuolumne Meadows or along the Tuolumne River?

- Hike (day-hiking)
- Stay at the High Sierra Camp at Tuolumne
- Fish
- Backpacking
- Drive through (to other east-side locations) and in the other direction! Traffic from Las Vegas over Tioga.
- Mobil station

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Public Scoping Comments (Question/Answer Format)
 Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting
 August 14, 2006

Facilitators: Kristina Rylands (NPS), Elexis Mayer (NPS), Jen Nersesian (NPS)

What do you want to see protected in Tuolumne?

- Access to the river for fishing, with the understanding that it needs to be controlled, both visitor use and access.
- Perhaps use boardwalks to provide access
- Manage/ and better to facilitate access.
- Acknowledge that some natural features are part of the challenge of the fishing experience
- Protect the feeling of wilderness, the ambiance
- Continue screening "civilization" from casual observation.
- Reduce impacts to RV generator noise by installing electrical hook-ups at some sites.
- Campgrounds: sites are too close together, road is "uniformly horrible", needs to be better organization for parking at walk-in sites, or more walk-in campgrounds, remove DNC from operation.
- A jump-off point for wilderness-
- Tuolumne should be operated under separate commercial use permit/contract from Yosemite Valley concession, etc. (e.g., someone from Lee Vining or Bishop). It's a different visitor use than in the valley.
- Tuolumne Meadows offers many ways to experience nature alone.
- Acknowledge the experiences and needs of all people, including ADA accessibility. There are ways to design an area to help those with disabilities escape crowds and have a quiet connection with nature (e.g., a deck area that extends over meadow but somewhat away from the road).
- Giving folks a little bit of the experience can go a long way, have deep meaning.
- Define uses at different areas to better identify parking and use issues.
- Recognize that people have different perspectives on scenery and allow them places to park that are adjacent to or along the road. Paving is a way of protecting nature/ the environment.
- "I don't mind being controlled if you give me options. This provides for an individual experience with nature. This is most important to me."
- Concessioner is not connected with the visitor needs up in Tuolumne and the unique needs for the Tuolumne visitor.
- Trails: could be better marking of trails out of campground, south
- "It's great up there. It's my favorite area of the park."
- Allow people to park along the road and control, rather than concentrating parking in a few lots.

What do you love about Tuolumne River/Tuolumne Meadows?

- 7,500 years of habituation for my people
- First trail from east side to Hetch Hetchy
- Sacred sites: gathering sites (basket, medicine), food (fishing, deer), traditional travel between Hetch Hetchy and Mono Lake.
- Non-disturbance -no digging/no disturbance of ground: Construction (roads, sewers, building site), anywhere the earth is disturbed.

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- Hetch Hetchy is a high use Indian area, burial grounds, beads, gathering of food – brought back to Mono Pass.
- Pate Valley (petroglyphs) – restrict access to prevent defacing/keep it preserved.
- Openness of it; being so encroached all around the edges by vegetation/trees needs to be cleared like 50 years ago – includes rivers / creeks.
- Just looking at river, greenness, sounds, rocks, wildlife, flowers
- Feel good
- Accessible campsites, need to double drive-in sites
- Double camp areas for backpackers along the ‘river’ from top to bottom (east to west)
- Simplify reservation system
- Reduce fees for nightly stays
- NO FENCES around campsites
- Relatively clean air (attributed to Central Valley/traffic through park) people in transit to Tahoe/Death Valley
- Innumerable things enjoyed/appreciated will be protected once plan is finished → so long as things are not changed.
- Exhilarated by environment and experience clean air/water, clear water in rivers, fresh untouched snow during winter, early greening of meadows, herds of deer, badgers/wolverines, critters, voles
- Unrestricted access to Pate Valley archeological
- Opposed to closing any part of the park for resources management – other way to manage it.

What do you do while you’re in Tuolumne?

- I go hiking
- Camping
- We hiked Mount Dana
- Sit on a rock, look at the river
- It’s wonderful because there’s so much rock along it – you don’t see the impacts, all the people like you do in Yosemite Valley.
- I don’t want to see (while hiking) the split rail fences along the main hiking path (1/4 mi. away from Tuolumne Meadows store, gas station, etc.).
- I like to be a part of nature when I hike, so I don’t like split rail fences around, as it appears too man-made.
- I understand that with more people, you need to control use, but once you get away from developed areas (like store, gas station, parking along road, etc.), I prefer it left in a natural condition.
- The people that explore away from developed areas understand how to better care for the resource, and may not need controls.
- Managing where people go – manage by better distribution/communication to manage crowded.
- What do: hiking, swimming and playing in creeks, photography
- Olmstead Point – great views
- Love that when you get up there there’s not that many people.
- Mountain vistas are incredible
- “Ditto” for photography, hiking, camping

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- Love to go fishing there, but the “vegetation has just taken over up there in both the meadow and the creek.”
- People don’t bother me – “people that don’t have a lot if money, can’t afford expensive vacation, this is about as great as it gets – for nothing.”
- Think buses are great, for poorer people, handicapped people, people who are afraid to drive in the mountains.
- Photography (need retail photo supplies)
- Would like photography walks in Tuolumne Meadows
- Hiking/backpacking
- Utilize the Tuolumne Meadows store for basic backpacking supplies (different needs than Valley retail – need different products than those in Valley.) Could other concessioner manage Tuolumne Meadows retail? Products and management should be more wilderness-oriented.
- Hike and take pictures
- Bike ride
- Like kids interpretive center (need more - teach them about treading lightly).

What kinds of services/facilities would you lie to see offered, improved, or removed?

- Place to take kids (site/building) where kids could get interpretation about river.
- Want to be able to walk across meadows without harming meadow (walkway, for example)
- Hard to find parking spots by campground.
- Look into modern septic systems small contained, etc.
- NO BUSES in Tuolumne Meadows, period.
- No more development – no more square footage – keep rustic tent-style (like store, housing, etc.)
- “Permanent structures would be a negative in my mind.”
- Campgrounds: no fences, have sites well-defined (e.g., RV and walk-in and group) with better separation. Have more for RVs (not just 3 or 4 here and there).
- Would like to have place to camp in park on short notice
- No problem with buses – helps people with handicaps, people afraid to drive, older people, etc.
- More parking spaces – prefer more along road (as is) than affecting new areas.
- Remove vegetation around edges of all meadows to get back to size they used to be (bigger 50 years ago)
- More camping spots for low income visitors.

Processes/Park policies

- Restrooms and sites to comply with disability acts
- Campsites to be drive-in with 7 night stays max at river’s edge.
- DO NOT INSTALL SPLIT RAIL FENCES
- If there is a legal issue with this process, should be brought to the attention of the courts – perhaps a conservation organization would take it up in court.
- Keep group camping
- “Well grade” the use – need to provide for the whole spectrum of experiences – i.e., in campgrounds, things like backpacking, campgrounds, day-use, group camping, river access,

etc. – applies to policies, facilities, everything - and “make it multiple” – not two here or four there, but enough to accommodate use.

- Don't want to see Tuolumne turn into the Valley
- Don't “point load” activity – i.e., focus use in specific, limited areas – without restriction, use will distribute itself and have less impacts than the concentrated impacts that go with concentrated use.
- Consider how kids and elderly enjoy the park

Lou Aceto:

- Newspaper ad did not publish correct dates
- Misusing public's time
- No buses in Tuolumne
- Lawsuit will have to see its course
- Hopefully plaintiffs will win
- Projects do not constitute restoration, especially Lodge
- Curry housing is in a known rockfall
- Get the MRP right before you start Tuolumne Plan.
- Took campsites out to accommodate busses
- MRP results were pre-determined.
- Blacktop at falls not ADA compliant

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Public Scoping Comments (Question/Answer Format)
 Sonora Scoping Meeting
 August 15, 2006

Facilitators: Kristina Rylands (NPS), Elexis Mayer (NPS), Jen Nersesian (NPS)

What do you want to see protected in Tuolumne?

- Leave the area downstream of Hetch Hetchy (1 mile and west) completely wild, without any trail or enticement to bring hordes of users into that totally wild – key wildlife area.
- While prescribed burns or wildland fire ignition burns provide important ecological benefits in conifer stands within the watershed, that reality is that old, late seral state forest groves often lose old growth sugar pines due to cambium kill at the baser as fires burn through. Goal- balance the loss of so many Old Growth conifers with fire return frequency objectives by monitoring how many old growth trees are being lost/damaged.
- Give high protection to at-risk amphibians
- Retain the primitive, wild land wilderness values of the river canyon north of the Tioga Pass road.
- Protect from any further encroachments or invasion as proposed by San Francisco Public Utilities Commission due to greed and arrogance- preposterous idea to raise the height of the dam.
- Don't lose what we already have.
- There needs to be more interpretive information available: natural history, rivers, glaciers, uplift, Native Americans and the great debate over the role of YNP in providing water and power to a major city.
- A visitor center
- Presidential/Department of the Interior (HODEL) secretary-proposed restoration study and current debate (governor is looking at looking at restoration as well).
- Bird habitat
- Air quality
- Protect/enhance wilderness in Tuolumne Meadows. Tuolumne Meadows is a contrast to the valet, as the valley isn't as wild.

What do you do in the Tuolumne Area?

- "I hope this plan articulates values more on the 'wild' side of the scale."
- Commercial development in meadows beings more use- creates bare ground, crowding, lack of solitude. Want to see less developed.
- Take gas station out.
- Campgrounds are appropriate.
- Getting people out of cars is a good thing.
- Birdwatching
- Disadvantage of getting people out of cars" "Yeah, I'm out of my car, but now I can't get anywhere."
- Want adequate shuttle/transportation system
- More shuttles
- Put parking out at Lee Vining and Crane Flat.
- Tuolumne Lodge should not be there – same commercial service is provided 15m down the road.

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- Road is a transportation corridor – some of the traffic is using it to get from 395 to Central Valley. Move some of this through traffic to other routes so can slow people in Tuolumne down and get them out of cars. Our goal as a park is to provide people a park experience, not provide a transportation corridor.
- Like that you actually stand a chance of getting a site at campgrounds sometimes – just don't like that it's a congested area.
- It's a special place and a unique place in the park – and it's its wild qualities that make it special.
- Photography and hiking

What facilities and services do you want to see offered, improved, moved, added, or removed?

- Build new, visually sheltered parking nooks at periodic locations along the Tioga Pass Road, especially west of Tuolumne Meadows, to reduce unsafe parking, parking in highly scenic locations or over congestion at Tuolumne Meadows.
- Boating needs to be recognized and allowed, all the way down – entire 54 miles.
- Visitor Center at Hetch Hetchy (at least in summer). All other major visitation areas have a visitor center.
- All NPS personnel should refer to the precious mountain temple as “Hetch Hetchy Valley” to show it proper respect.
- Get people out of cars and provide adequate shuttle transportation.
- Fewer cars and more shuttles.
- Place parking at farthest periphery to Tuolumne Meadows, even as far out as Crane Flat, Lee Vining and take shuttle in to Tuolumne Area.
- I don't go to the park to see parking, gas stations, etc., but there needs to be infrastructure (i.e., removal of gas station in Valley has been a hardship).
- “I love the store...how it looks, supplies for camping, etc.”
- Concentration of facilities at store is too congested. Eliminate gas station. Move store and related concentration of facilities out of meadows area, perhaps near Wilderness Center.
- Visitor Center is screened from view. Hot a huge intrusion on the meadows area. Perhaps co-locate the Visitor Center and Wilderness Center.
- Tuolumne Meadows Lodge: I like its ‘rusticity’. Not sure it can handle the demand, there are more people who want to camp and stay at the Lodge than there are available facilities.
- Lines at the restrooms! But solution isn't making more bathrooms, but limiting people. It's linked to well, water quality, wastewater treatment.
- Area is being loved to death.
- Defacto limit on places to stay; would like to see a limit on cars.
- Make more accommodations for the ordinary family who wants to use the area. Safe for kids, affordable, comfortable accommodations, parking, etc.
- Would like to see portable toilets that are pumped out.
- Increased number of toilets = increased capacity of treatment system. Do not increase!
- I want to be able to drive my car to see scenery. Elderly people need opportunity to access road and vistas. Perhaps have a slow shuttle linked to specific stations/stops.
- Needs to be shuttles/transportation to the Hetch Hetchy area, even if it's seasonal. Might take some of the heat off the valley. Great place for hiking, fishing, etc.

What do you love about Tuolumne?

- Want to see the biological impacts to the entire river corridor (above and below reservoirs) considered as a result of the dam, including hydrological, biological, geological – all the “ological” things. The illogical thing is the dam.
- I love the wild places and the remoteness away from the overly-congested, heavily visited locations.
- Scenery, river and the mountains, trees
- Parking should be located on the periphery to reduce crowding/congestion with cars and people (okay to deal with people; but at least not cars.)
- Keep air quality good.
- The store because it is a place to get supplies; would not change to look of store.

Public Scoping Comments (Question/Answer Format)
 Tuolumne Meadows Scoping Meeting, Parsons Lodge
 July 18, 2006
 Facilitators: Kristina Rylands (NPS), Elexis Mayer (NPS), Jen Nersesian (NPS)

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

What would you like to see protected along the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows?

- Everything natural
- Biodiversity (historic levels, not current levels)
- Ability for continuous discovery
- Air quality – short car trips discouraged
- Public transportation
- More frequent options for travel to and from Tuolumne
- What about closing Tioga Road and use of trails, etc?
- Darkness/dark night sky – contribute by Central Valley
- Sustainable infrastructure (water, energy because in a very valuable natural area). Logical that NPS would experiment/exemplify. Less destruction to surrounding area/resources
- Veggie oil fuel (use extra DNC gill to fuel busses)
- Protect water by employing wilderness rangers to protect watershed and educate visitors with a smile and no firearm.
- Visitors right NOT to see firearms
- Firearms invade wilderness experience – peace of mind is disrupted
- (Law enforcement) contacts are intimidating – has to do with each individual person
- By definition, YNP is a police state because NPS are the only ones with firearms
- History of climbing in YNP: recognize it is part of history, experience, and culture
- Not restricting access: Include access trails, lengths of stay in Campgrounds
- Protect 5,000 years of history before pre-contact
- Wildflowers behind TM lodge employee housing: educate and hang-out
- Places for employees – these are public use areas/not entertainment lilies/orchids (maybe boardwalks)
- Reconsider approach to non-native species eradication because it has an effect on other species – causes damage to ecosystem that have re-established around these areas naturally
- No use of Parson’s Lodge
- Reconsider need to re-establish “historic conditions” Accept change in nature – let it run it’s course
- Let river take it’s course too (floodplains, riparian vegetation)
- Freedom of people to be/exist here. Yosemite Valley has eliminated parking spots
- There is more room for people on the trails here.
- Keep park low-impact. No new concessions, don’t expand facilities, no frills, no new destroyed habitat
- Feeling that this place in not inhabited all the time. Permanent structures would change this feeling
- Protect/establish places for native peoples to work/live here/ceremonies
- Inform us on interactions with this place with some historical context
- No manufacture walk-ways/boardwalks like the Yosemite Falls project

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- Keep gifts and junk out of the store, only provide the necessities – produce: buy from local farms
- Maintain ski-hut program (as it is now, stocked wood/food cache): way to experience during the winter
- Don't plow road beyond status quo
- Historical structures protected (like the lodge). Maintain through historic preservation practices, they are getting dilapidated
- Repair existing employee housing vs. destroy an new non-disturbed site
- Monitor campground fires in order to protect air quality – limit days fires can burn
- Bears: education, another aspect like wildlife crossing of roads. People don't read signs, big flashing "crossing" signs, speed bumps, signs in Campgrounds
- Need more people power to talk and educate (paid/volunteers)
- Monitoring number of people and cars in campsites. Monitor more than permitted amounts/visually unpleasant
- RV's don't use/need bear boxes – best for bears because all kept inside of RV
- Stop studies that hurt wildlife (trapping bears, tagging squirrels) Observe vs. trapping
- Areas to the east of the protected-surrounding areas are important to the core of the park (John Muir)
- Unless we consider global warming, we will not have a river to protect. Population control
- The NPS can show that global warming is affecting the park – by observation, obvious
- Swings in weather patterns over the years
- Population growth in surrounding areas will eventually overcome the park (people on roads, slow process, not notice until too late!
- Limit number of passes into park (public knowledge) but conflicts with declaration of park. Re: visitor use and enjoyment.
- Control thru transportation – control people who come through, drive in/drive out
- Facilities in the meadows don't seem like they are run by DNC – seem more family run and keeping with the rustic ambiance
- Stores could be better stocked with healthy foods
- A Loop in campground could be open to all like Tenaya Lake beach/ not just for people who happen to get a campsite.
- No stock on back-packing trails (dust, feces bad for lungs)
- No NEW development: do not tear down old buildings and build new ones – continue to maintain
- No central areas, not confusing as is, not a good excuse to consolidate
- Don't allow loud, thumping motorcycles through the meadows (solo hogs only)
- Option to protect rustic feel – Campground along Tioga Road corridor complemented by a shuttle system to TM (natural gas)
- Employees experience the elements (16F mornings, afternoon storms) and are able to talk with visitors convey and relate about the Tuolumne experience – Keep employee housing in Tuolumne Meadows
- Employee housing in Lee Vining needs to consider safety hazard of rockslide. Subsidized commute? Conservation needs to be considered (fuel use)
- Find a way to increase night use (without encouraging OB camping) in the meadow. Not all star gazers are OB Campers. Rangers have harassed people in meadow at night.

- Encourage employees and visitors to use bicycles: provide a fleet of bicycles “leave the bike program” make it a priority; give bikes to use
- Darkness, quiet, the fact that nothing is happening – opposite of Yosemite Valley. No nightlife – Keep that way
- Fix sewer, leaks from gas station
- Don’t add facilities and services – fix or improve those that already exist
- No bike rental facility
- Bike path/lanes would be great but not in meadow
- Bike paths appropriate near or adjacent to road or upland areas not through meadow/wetland areas
- Restore old roadbed (to natural conditions) from Tioga Road to Parsons Lodge – replace with boardwalk.
- Move the parts of TM lodge near river away from river (i.e., employee housing/parking, kitchen)
- Don’t have central visitor services/operations like Yosemite Valley. Keep things where they are.
- A Loop removed, not off limits, just no facilities along the river
- Don’t add new facilities that would add long-term use (i.e., rooms at lodge – Keep at 200)
- Make employee housing inhabitable so we can get up and running/serve the public
- Corrals – both away from the river (flies are a health problem) and away from housing
- Hard-top cabins bathrooms, showers (furniture/stoves removed and replaced each year)
- Modernize facilities, bathrooms, roads in campground, lights for night use
- Back loops in campground are rough campsite surrounded by lush green vegetation
- Hard-top store – lots of money to set up and break down
- Everything but stables/horse camp in campground because unnecessary impact – based on tradition alone (same groups use every year)
- Stables/horse camp in campground is a limited use, doesn’t provide for many people’s enjoyment.
- Tent cabins – seasonal place (max of 4 months) No need to build something that can withstand winter “bomb proof” Over the top.
- Opportunity to come and experience myself, fantastic that cell phones don’t work
- This place needs to be kept as a haven for people who come from far away or not that often
- Should be a place where people come and experience something different from the rest of YNP and other park units
- If Hetch (Hetchy) were restored, it could alleviate pressure on other areas
- Experience in wilderness is violated when people are talking to their stock broker on the trail (or anyone) – coordinating family outings via cell phone
- Frustrating that campsites are so close together and wilderness is empty/expansive – spread campsites out more
- A Loop should be public, like having private property on the coast
- ORV – view from meadows/river of the surrounding area 360 degree view – very impressive. Preserve integrity of the view shed Store should be further back in trees or a new location
- Historic complex of development (store, gas station, restrooms) is too close to the road (screen from view)

- All this clutter along the road (like Crane Flat) get rid of. Facilities need to be within the general vicinity
- Remove/don't remove gas station (did in the Valley). People would ride the shuttle more. Could be an administrative problem (fueling emergency vehicles) LEAKS BAD for river
- Less organized roadside parking – less crowding. Should have a diversity of opportunities along the roadway
- Used to be able to stop and enjoy the park (an individual experience) vs. now specific/identified/directed to “stops”
- Inconsistent signage for mileage traveled – roadway exhibits are the “tourist stuff” for people who are not hikers
- Would like to see a Sierra Club campground in order to stay with people who care. Perhaps different kinds of areas within the campground
- Come here to experience night – lights left on by other campers inhibit ability to experience the quiet night
- Evening campfire programs by rangers get people out to experience this place
- People need things to do like programs (free – wander up and wander away) These things give people some direction and something to focus on while here. Some people don't know what to do with themselves once they get here. NO FEES WITH TICKETS
- Café has nasty hamburgers. Someone who cares about food (like a “Mom & Pops”) should run the place – evil. I don't come here for junk food.
- Can have more than one contractor providing food because there is no competition. DNC can serve what they want and people will eat it because there is no other option.
- Tuolumne Meadows is not commercial/undeveloped: unpaved roads in campground/no light/limited shower access/no hot water provides a different type of visitor experience. (Development) would change dynamics and what sets Tuolumne Meadows apart from Yosemite Valley.
- People expect a different level of convenience – more (development) would bring different type of visitor.
- Rare plants along the whole corridor. Some have such a short growing season that it is extremely difficult to study them in one summer. Please consider that impact upstream impacts all plants down river. Let's not wait until we find out that they are already gone to protect them.
- Keep store, etc. rustic/primitive so visitors don't expect a Yosemite Valley “civilized” experience.
- Find ways to further encourage (require?) use of shuttle system by day and camping visitors.
- Whether or not I ever get to experience the remoter area (e.g., Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, Waterwheel falls, etc) it's important to me to know that they exist as wild as possible, so perhaps have quotas on wilderness trail usage
- Water Quality: Looks clean now, but people should be educated on how to keep the water clean by staying away from it, if they have to relieve themselves (i.e., packing out garbage)
- Inspire people by keeping the bathrooms clean
- Inspire them to keep the area clean which keeps water quality clean, clean banks, etc
- Protect meadows
- Extend High Sierra Camps – Make it possible to really explore corridor if not a die-hard backpacker – That is appropriate use of the area.

What do you NOT want protected?

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- Gas station
- Remove a loop in TM Campground in order to protect (adapt)

What do you love about Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows?

- The scenery; apparently few people at first look – they are nicely tucked away in specific places, leaving most of the area relatively un-crowded.
- The apparent lack of “rules, regulation” – It is, so far, not offensive, not too much, most are clearly necessary. Along this, few “fenced, limited” boundaries on areas.
- Introduced my children to the wilderness here
- Swimming in the river, lake, hiking
- Star-gazing, walking
- Access for everyone is very important (to river and meadows)
- Equity of access is important (e.g., motorcycles rumbling acceptable, experience from and car window)
- Access for families – kids, future generations, other ethnicities
- This will ensure that the park, Tuolumne remains protected into the future
- Providing for the future and continued access will bring about the protection of river, meadows, flowers, animals
- ACCESS=FUTURE
- Can't preserve things in a vacuum
- Quiet, few disturbances for wildlife
- Clear air to see stars at night (fewer campfires)
- Ability to really feel at peace here. The natural beauty has been well protected up until now, I feel fortunate to be able to experience Tuolumne in its current, natural and wild state
- What I love: biodiversity, rock climbing, swimming in the Tuolumne River, stargazing, spending time with friends, watching the succession of wildflowers, abundant and active wildlife, etc....
- **BACKPACKING!** Being alone in nature in the backcountry!!!!
- Lack of lights at night
- The silence...sounds of rivers, storms, wind, birds
- I love how things are spread out (opposite of Yosemite Village). Keep the store, lodge, visitors center separate
- Open conversation between FAA and NPS about commercial over flights
- When I am in my bed during a full moon, the moonlight casts the shadows of the pines on my tent cabin canvas.
- Tuolumne is quieter, less crowded, and lower impact on the resources, than Yosemite Valley. Maintain these qualities. No new development. Maintain and fix what's already here.
- “When my water freezes on cold mornings”
- “When the electricity goes out during lightning storms”
- “When the Chickadee wake me up!”
- Talking to visitors about Tuolumne's qualities
- Simplicity of life in Tuolumne Meadows (water issues, lack of phones, simple cabins)
- Ranger Programs

- Temporary store
- Informality of the whole operation in Tuolumne Meadows
- Community of employees
- Opportunity to work with people for the greater good for all living things
- Challenge ourselves to the Reality of what it means to be human
- Recognize our responsibility and the Critical time globally and locally
- That it's not as developed as the Valley
- Peace and Quiet in the river canyon

What do you do in Tuolumne Meadows or along the Tuolumne River?

- Like to hike and bird watch; look for wildlife; identify wildflowers and the "meadows" and along the river
- Like to stay at eh lodge in Tuolumne and enjoy meeting other people and share common experiences, eat together in the dining area (common tables)
- Like to meditate and be grateful
- Listen to the owls at night
- "Use my hands and feet and get up to high places"
- Like to rock climb
- "Like to stare at the river endlessly"
- "swim in the swimming holes"
- Like to make dinner with my friends in the tent cabins
- Like to watch the storms come and go
- Like to bicycle, but don't like the fear of being run over by rented RVs
- Like to day hike and camp
- Like to read in campgrounds, meadows, and hiking destinations
- Swim in lakes and in the river
- Watch children play in the river
- Relax, hike, and earn a living
- Work and live here
- I work here and do education here
- I hike here
- I live and work here during the summer season, and this is where I center myself
- I climb and hike and run and just sit on rocks and enjoy
- I am able to mark the path of the seasons or passage of time here; it doesn't change
- I'm a V.I.P. and I teach a sketching program (sketching along the river)
- I live and work here in the summer
- We enjoyed the Ranger Program
- Programs at Parson's Lodge are great entertainment
- I backpack. I climb the domes at sunrise and sunset. I drink chai and listen to the birds and watch the sunrise. I play my guitar and do yoga by the river. I educate people
- I work and live here all summer
- I live and work here

- I sit on my tent cabin steps and drink coffee. I educate people on how to be wilderness stewards and how to protect the clean water and fragile meadows
- I climb the domes. I backpack in the wilderness. I fall asleep on a rock by the river. I run along the river
- I fish here
- I hike
- I hang out by the store and the picnic areas
- I work as a liaison with the park
- I look at scenery. I take short hikes
- I go out to dinner with Rangers
- Basically, I like to soak up all the scenery and vistas
- I work here. I take people for walks. I interpret Tuolumne Meadows for the visitors. I live here in the summers
- I go fishing
- I smile and say "Welcome to Yosemite"
- I love it cause I horseback ride - 9 miles down the river today. I talked to about 69 people today
- I tell people about Yosemite before they get to the park
- I use Tuolumne Meadows for a staging point for backpacking trips
- I sit in the meadow and relax and smell (scent of the meadow)
- I like to listen to the nature so that I can understand what it needs me to do in relation to protecting it. The last time I was listening (to nature) it is asking me to commit to being helpful for the people to understand that the pollution in the air and water is poisoning all the living things (frog people) they are indications that we are in this line up, just like they are, on the trail to extinction. So, if this message can be heard, and we commit our human lives to protecting this sacred, our children's children may be able to enjoy this life here in Yosemite and throughout the world.
- Definitely keep ability to swim in/use the river - don't let SF forbid bodily contact

What kinds of services would you like to see offered, improved, or removed in Tuolumne Meadows?

- Compost toilets
- Speed inhibitors for 120/wildlife fatality prevention
- Thinning forest project/forest health
- Repair multi-parallel trails/make one wide trail
- Meadow restoration/boardwalks for flood sensitive areas
- No new structures/facilities
- Remove RV dump, limit RV camping
- Bike lane through entire park
- No more expansion of bike rentals
- Eliminate of limit (in term of days) individual campground fires - providing a group campground fire for the experience and getting to know your neighbor. By this the Air Quality would be more natural.
- Redesign Lodge employee housing - take out dirt parking lot and move tents away from river
- Take out road to DNC stables or recreate without serpentine rock (asbestos)

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- Move lodge kitchen and dining away from river but recreate in same historical context (tents!)
- Remove all High Sierra Camps, per legislative history raising concern in 1984 CA W. Act. Remove Tuolumne Stables and all non-emergency (i.e. all touring) stock-use
- Limit what is sold in the store to “more essential supplies” and fewer souvenirs
- You have to keep the tents – you know you are in Tuolumne when you see the tents
- Add culverts to the road to restore natural flood levels, negating the need to remove trees to maintain meadow
- Remove old road (now trail) from Parsons Lodge that goes across meadow, over river, to near visitors center and replace with boardwalk
- Have harsher regulations on maintenance set-up and teardowns on cleaning up after they’re done (NPS and DNC)
- Keep the campground roads narrow and difficult to navigate to promote driving slowly and reduce capacity for large RVs
- Redesign Glen Aulin’s water and sewer systems and add composting toilets
- Repair and upgrade toilet facilities (volunteers hear that as most frequent complaint)
- Keep trail system and good signage
- Keep facilities dispersed! From the summits of most peaks/domes you can NOT see much development. Consolidating structures/parking/services into one central area would create visual impacts, and feel “mall-like.” Tuolumne is wonderful because it is NOT like Yosemite Village.
- Re-establish water flow to meadows by lifting the road, perhaps like Cook’s Meadow boardwalk, and not moving it so as to destroy more animal and plant habitat.
- Using and building infrastructure (especially water and energy related) that reduces destruction of surrounding area and natural resources. We should exemplify and partake in the process of leaving this place undisturbed for future generations, including green building, energy-efficiency, and air quality protection, habitat protection, species protection, water protection....
- Within designated protected corridor, what will happen to already existing development?
- Don’t add anything in protected zones that isn’t already there
- Transportation solution for a post automobile YNP
- Light rail system
- Hyper efficient bus system
- Think long and hard about placement of roads and permanent structures because even if they are “removed” these types of infrastructure leave a PERMENANT IMPACT!
- Facilities that reduce water needs and usage such as composting toilets and efficient showerheads/faucets. We need to show the public that we don’t need to poop and pee in water.
- Raise standards for energy efficiency in new and old structures.
- Maintain simple building concepts for employee housing
- No new asphalt or concrete
- No new parking lots
- Think objectively about the quickly changing world and what transportation infrastructure and methods will look like in the relatively near future (aka the near future is next 5 to 10 years). The near future is going to necessitate major changes so let’s not lay concrete and asphalt that will antiquated in the near future.

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- New sewage/water treatment system should address current needs and the number of stores/gas stations/visitor use accommodations should not increase
- It is more important to listen to input of the non-DNC stakeholders – don't let this plan get influenced by mega-corporation (A concern that it might be)
- Tuolumne already has a gas station, store, lodge, restaurant, etc, etc...we do not need any more development! The store should focus more on good food for the people who live here over the summer, rather than on tourist trinkets
- I agree with everything written above in red (last bullet). I also like the way things are spread out here in Tuolumne. I would not want a centralized "shopping" area. Good food for those who live and visit here would be a welcome addition if possible.
- Keep Tuolumne NOT like the Valley – leave things as is. Leave bug camp and ranger camp. "There is a spirit in that old wood" Upkeep but in same rustic way.
- Encourage employee use of bicycles (Amsterdam style) – needs to be same, provide fleet of bikes. (And not by developing bike paths) Maybe in already impacted areas along road (and maybe a cedar fence on outside so you can't park there)

Operations and Employee housing

- Need new ranger office for all divisions. Centralized operation that can provide up-to-date work spaces and facilities (computers, Xerox machine, telephone system)
- Perhaps have housing operations in other areas, tucked away from public and public view (i.e. old dump). There have been proposals in the past. What happened to them?
- Perhaps have some non-essential service housing in Lee Vining
- Perhaps have Lee Vining housing to help stage staff to facilitate spring opening
- Single storm will wipe out telephone and electricity. Happens frequently. Entrance gate cannot have computerized cash system because of the threat of lines going down. Waste of money. Surge protectors don't work.
- Living and working where you live is so important. It connects you to the place. Makes you more a part of the experience so you can in turn share it with visitors and better serve the public.
- Don't relocate NPS staff outside the park. In order to protect the park for public enjoyment (for future generation), we need to be intimately familiar with the place. Safety, interpretation, and maintenance all contribute to fulfilling the NPS mission. If we move out – as happened in the Valley – our work becomes a job, losing some of its sense of purpose, its mission. Having lived in the Valley, and then in El Portal, I found that I felt more connected to the place and did my job more effectively when I lived with the resource. If NPS employees moved out, we'd also lose a sense of community that makes us an effective team.
- Provide a fleet of Bicycles for employees to use to get around Tuolumne. It sets a positive, eco-friendly example for visitors. Have it become a part of the employee culture in Tuolumne. But only on side of road (not in meadows). Use bike lanes with split-rail cedar fences.
- We need to understand why/how social trail are created. Is the cure worse than the ill?
- We need more employee housing – at least 8 NPS seasonals having to sleep in their cars, etc.
- Bigger recycling bins in campground, especially to accommodate less frequent pick-ups (due to rockslide)
- Speed bumps to slow traffic along 1st meadow view
- Remove riverside campsites in the campground. Some of them are closer to the shore than one would be allowed to camp in the backcountry!

- Multi-lingual, international signing in areas that require more protection (ex - Pothole Dome Meadow Area Restoration)
- I worry that DNC will unduly influence process (promises of money, etc.) Corporations have no place in these decisions. No hotels like Teneya up here!!!
- High Sierra Camps - at 1st seems good to eliminate - but perhaps they protect the greater wilderness by focusing the impact in a few areas
- Keep the High Sierra Camps - that's exactly the experience we should be trying to encourage!
- I want better/more consistent cell coverage - safety/modern convenience
- 30 years of wrong development will KILL this place - 30 years of protection is just TOO SHORT!
- Build sustainable and aesthetic, safe facilities and walking areas (pedestrian areas)
- If designated paths were built and were recognizable as such, then you would see less social trail near meadows and camping areas.
- Raised walkways/boardwalks in meadows would allow meadows to recover - would protect them (specifically JMT)
- Tuolumne High Sierra Camp has too many social trails by showers. Restrict pedestrian pattern to one trail or two, while preserving the natural design of a trail (like a Japanese garden as a model)

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Public Scoping Comments (Question/Answer Format)
 Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting
 August 12, 2006
 Facilitators: Kristina Rylands (NPS), Jen Nersesian (NPS)

What do you want to see protected in Tuolumne?

- The WILD “remote” feel of the river and environs....flora, fauna, quiet, solitude.
- The road being closed in winter
- The interpretive programs
- The health of the meadows
- The air quality
- Vegetation – Bedrock is not damaged by foot traffic. Visitor use can be high on Lembert, Pothole, etc.
- Trails near river – do not close “use trails” but harden and build for more use. Use trails are best places to enjoy the river.
- The sense of wildness – of being at the edge of the inhabited world.
- The sense of history; all that contributes to it – long time employees, buildings, written record.
- A kayak-free/ boat-free river: Valley boating has degraded river habitat and led to management decisions that favor human use rather than natural processes ← yes!
- Include the Dana For as a wild segment (change from Scenic designation).
- Keep the river as it is!
- Retain and encourage the hiker, backpacking, climbing theme/ identity of Tuolumne (vs. the ‘must – visit’ ID of Yosemite).
- The meadow itself – it’s threadbare from overuse and we need to find a way to educate people about how to care for it.

What do you do while here?

- Hiking, volunteering, rejuvenating
- Learning
- Exploring wild nature
- Meeting friends
- Climbing peaks, hiking through the meadows
- Writing
- Wading in the waters
- Swimming (skinny-dipping too – you can do that here without being seen!)
- Botanizing
- Camping
- Birding
- Photography
- Star watching
- Fishing
- Rockclimbing
- Hiking, backpacking

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- Painting, sketching, class sketching along the river
- Hiking in wilderness
- Wandering off trail and on
- Ride horses
- Hike and visit surrounding areas (e.g., E. Sierra)
- Sketch, badly!
- Sleep by the river and listen to the stories ;capture images to make paintings from
- Look at all things natural
- Fishing
- Photography
- Lie on a rock, watch the Perseids meteor shower
- Don't close the gates – quotas deny people their rightful experience of the park.
- Tuolumne experience “not antiseptic” – want to preserve the “anarchy”, an experience that isn't as GUIDED as in other parks.

What do you love about the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows?

- Everything!
- Darkness
- Quiet
- Birds
- Flowers
- Parsons Lodge
- That we can't drive here in winter! Ditto, Ditto!! ditto!
- Wildness
- Wild music of river, wind and wildlife
- Expansive mind blowing vistas and wild spaces
- Connection to the natural world unlike anything on earth! (The place that does not duplicate the valley)
- The light
- The sense of community and shared values and love of this place – among the staff, the visitors, and all the native inhabitants
- Ground squirrels
- Storms
- Open views
- Clean water
- Clean air
- Granite, climbing, open space, lack of car noise
- That it's not developed in the usual homogenous ways; the buildings here are either historic of unique – like nowhere else – memorable – intrinsic to the historic cultural landscape – rustic- not centralized, like a village, but dispersed in a way consistent with a wilderness setting.
- Even though Tuolumne must be very popular it doesn't 'feel' overcrowded – the campsite though larger is out of the way; the river, though accessible feels uncluttered.

- The most beautiful and peaceful landscape in the known world (got engaged in the Lyell Fork).
- Sense of community
- The (mostly) natural soundscape – would be great to look at improving this by limiting overflights and raucously noisy vehicles.
- Please do not change a thing! This is the most special and unique place and it would a shame to commercialize it. Upgrade existing structures as needed – not bigger, just better if absolutely necessary.
- Concerned with integrity of the Lodge – too much deferred maintenance.
- Question use of international workers by DNC – replacing traditional college seasonals.
- Only staffed 50%
- Should be expansion of services for people on Pacific Crest Trail – e.g., internet facility.

What kinds (and levels) of facilities and services should be offered (or NOT)?

- FINE TUNE the village in terms of services/environmental impact of traffic, #'s of people; could be expansion of some services, “but up at Tuolumne it’s different – and it SHOULD be different”
- Tuolumne is a special entity
- Reshape the Tuolumne Meadows campground to conform to Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, including relocation of entrance and registration facilities west of gas station while maintaining total # of sites.
- Get rid of gas station – people can fuel up outside park.
- Certainly don’t need more development than what’s here - and probably LESS
- Cathedral Lakes Trailhead parking: lines of cars are an eyesore all along the road → permits for rock climbers.
- Leave employee housing where it is, where folks can develop an esprit de corps, a connection to this place....as there is today.
- Employees should keep their cars and their “home” ...as they do today.
- Lower the number of stock allowed in a group. Current max is excessive.
- Replace mules/horses with llamas or easier. On-/and stock (to supply HSCs).
- Consider the type of employee housing here in Tuolumne (tent cabins – ok). No apartments. Should have historic feel.
- Tuolumne Meadows Campground – Since 1980, there has been zero improvement. There ought to be a way to rethink arrangement.
- Cathedral Lakes trailhead parking: couldn’t there be sequestered parking out of view?
- Don’t open road for winter use.
- Need some way to minimize use on peak days – limited parking? Promote use of shuttle bus – and/or extend
- Need to consider what employees need in terms of service.
- If move employees out of park, will increase traffic – would need to consider employee transportation.
- Tent cabins “quaint and historic”, but UGLY. Replace with small, hard-sided structures without plumbing. Or, choose a canvas color that blends in better – more environ-centric design.
- Tent cabins are a good “in-between”

- Current employee housing worse than tent cabins
- PLANNING DOC/PROCESS: Should specify time frames for when things will be implemented. Should include the follow-up – a way to measure whether you’ve achieved what you set out to, and what impact those objectives have had on those they serve (visitors).
- Stock use should continue. Impacts could be better managed. Maybe limiting numbers would be good.
- Stock use important historically, and there’s a segment of the population that enjoys this just as much as hiking – “you can see nature by horseback too” – maybe can educate visitors more, but there are other activities that would use education too.
- Have a hotel that fits in with the park, rustic buildings.
- I like the campground: not too big, reservation system ok, meet people from all over the world.
- A little bit of development is ok as long as it makes sense.
- Need store, restaurant
- Amenities are good.
- Maintain the rustic nature of facilities focused on hikers, backpackers, and climbing rather than try to attract a new audience of visitors.
- Concerned that there will be additional hotels in Tuolumne Meadows
- Camping and primitive/natural environment is part of Tuolumne Meadows. People come up here for the natural beauty and enjoying what’s around.
- Can’t close the gate after a set number, but can manage by limiting parking spaces – encourages people to come up early/late when parking is available. OR take shuttle
- Tuolumne attracts a different kind of visitor than valley. Closer to the place, “freewheeling”, they may be more aware of how to care or the place. TUOLUMNE CULTURE
- OK to limit numbers of cars to help make it a better experience.
- Hiker mentality but pedestrian mentality with lots of cars
- Parking along the road lengthens the lines of cars. Larger lots to alleviate trailhead parking congestion; “hide” the lots. Keep parking closer to road to minimize impacts
- Horses should not be allowed in wilderness; impacts water quality. Reduce concession operation but allow stock for NPS operations (patrols, etc.)
- Generations keep coming back and want to see it preserved.
- Make parts of Tuolumne Meadows ADA accessible so everyone can experience meadows. These types of accommodations do not take away from the beauty and nature of the place.
- KEEP GAS STATION: Stay up here long-term, use propane; visitors need gas station
- Not improving the campground SLOWS PEOPLE DOWN
- More bear boxes for food storage in group areas
- Overall, infrastructure fine the way it is – don’t make bigger or smaller.
- NO NEW DEVELOPMENT
- DON’T TURN TUOLUMNE INTO A YOSEMITE VALLEY!
- Formal representation needed by key public communities in creating 1) Record of Decision and 2) Final Drafts

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 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Weekly Tuolumne Report

August 4, 2006

It is up to you to take the reigns and help shape this process.

Comment Box Collection

TM VC: 6

Store/Grill: 19

TM Campground: 11

Mono VC: 0

Parsons Lodge: 7

Watershed Walk

Monday, July 31st, 3:30: 12 visitors

Tuesday, August 1st, 3:30pm: 0

Visitor Comments- Roving

August 1, 2006

- Store/Grill, 12:25pm

Joeson, PCT Hiker- San Diego, CA

- *Strong need for user capacity limits*
- *Preserve this area (TM) as is or if possible, remove existing development (Gas Station, Store, etc)*
- *Do NOT allow further development; draw the line at what is here now at worst.*

Adam and Connor, Climbers- Oakland, CA

- *Would like to see a bike path that runs from Pothole Dome to the Lembert Dome*
- *Stressed preservation balanced with use/access*

Korean Harley Davidson Group (13 people) - Korea

- *They are riding for 10 days and just stopping through the park at the 'famous YNP Grill'*
- *They love being able to just pass through such a beautiful place*

Rosie and family (4 people), Backpackers- Spokane, WA

- *Traffic and Parking need to be dealt with in TM (too many people, too many cars!)*
- *They love the facilities offered now (Grill, P.O., and Store)*
- *Would like to see showers added to the Campground*

- TM Campground, late afternoon

Suzanne Gleeson and family (5 people) - Butte, Montana

- *Has heard rumors about a Village Center in TM, and is not happy with this idea*

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- *Bad Roads in the Campground equal safe and slow drivers (this is a good thing!)*
- *Loves the rustic, unorganized feel of the Campgrounds*
- *We need to do something about parking, perhaps underground parking?*

Peget- Yosemite Association

- *Need more campsites to accommodate more visitors*
- *Campsites need to be resurfaced so sites are flat and even*

Paul and family (6 people) - San Diego, CA

- *Love coming to Tuolumne in late July early August because they enjoy camping in cooler weather*
- *They hope that TM does NOT develop like Yosemite Valley*
- *The only thing this plan should deal with is traffic; there are too many cars in TM*

Mike- Boston, MA

- *First time to the park and is very surprised at the amount of development in TM*
- *Something needs to be done with Traffic and Parking along Tioga Road*

Contact

*Kassandra Hardy
SCA/Unilever Congressional NPS Intern
Yosemite National Park*

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Weekly Tuolumne Report

August 9, 2006

It is up to you to take the reigns and help shape this process.

Comment Box Collection

- TM VC: 9
- Store/Grill: 24
- TM Campground: 6
- Mono VC: 0
- Parsons Lodge: 3

Watershed Walk

- Monday, August 7th, 10am: 9 visitors
- Tuesday, August 8th, 3:30pm: 1 employee

Visitor Comments- Roving

August 6, 2006

Alan- San Francisco, CA

- *Is frustrated about why we need a management plan in the first place*
- *Thinks we should leave well alone and not increase our footprint in TM*
- *Took some materials and a comment form to look into it further*

Emily- Bay area, CA

- *She enjoys backpacking in the Tuolumne Watershed; it is a close getaway from civilization*
- *She also likes to paint in the meadows*
- *Hopes to see little to nothing change in the TM area*
- *Likes the temporary feeling that the services possess right now*

August 7, 2006

Rene- Santa Rosa, CA

- *Been coming to YNP for the past 14 years*
- *Strong desire to preserve the Meadow (is very happy to see the park removing the Lodgepole Pines)*
- *Would like to see the free shuttles be as available as Yosemite Valley shuttles*
- *Would like to see fewer spaces/availability for large RVs in the campground*
- *Hopes that we will continue to prohibit rafting on the Tuolumne River*
- *She thinks that music in the campground should be prohibited*

John, Matt, Steve, and Pete- Portland, OR

- *They love to climb and backpack in TM*
- *They hate the development in Yosemite Valley and hope that it never reaches TM*

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- *They think we should not be preserving the meadow for the vista (one of the visitors worked in the park last summer and was familiar with the Lodgepole Pine removal project)*
- *Would like to see more bike paths in the meadows area*
- *Remove all stock from TM*
- *They want to see fewer cars allowed into TM; perhaps set strict limits like Wilderness does for trails*

Luk and Family (5 people)- Holland

- *Need better toilet facilities in TM*
- *Would like to see showers added to TM campground*
- *They hope that TM will not be subject to similar development as Yosemite Valley*

Caylin- Twin Cities, Minnesota

- *Loves to climb and boulder in Tuolumne*
- *Likes the proximity of A loop because it is close to the river*
- *Would like to see more bike paths around Tuolumne Meadows*

Student Geologists (3 people) - University of North Carolina

- *Have been camping in TM Campground for a month*
- *They love to fly fish in the river and hike around the meadows*
- *Wish there was a place for long term researchers to have access to electricity*
- *The campground needs to do a better job sharing of camping etiquette (people staying out of others sites, noise at night/quiet hours, etc)*
- *Perhaps a second entrance to the campground by the store, allowing people to get to C loop a bit quicker*

Will, Sarah, and Mitch- New Jersey

- *They come to YNP once a summer to climb for 10 days*
- *Would like to see more than one bear box in each campground*
- *Quiet hours in the Campground need to be enforced*
- *Would like to see RVs either prohibited in campground, or a loop designated just for them- they come to have a primitive camping experience and this is not possible with RVs on either side of them blasting their generators*
- *Store hours should be extended until 8pm at least*
- *Need more recycling containers- if we expect people to recycle then we need to do a better job at removing the materials so people can actually use the containers*
- *More frequent shuttles are needed*

Drew- San Diego, CA

- *An artist and climber, loves pursuing both hobbies in TM*
- *Would like to see all facilities removed from TM, besides the campground and Visitor Center*
- *Would like the campground to be extremely primitive*
- *Thinks the Visitor Center should be open during the day, and have little to no electricity- provided by the sun (solar power)*
- *Thinks stock should also be removed from TM; he does not like hiking on the trails that stock use*

Family (5 people)- Germany

- *Are confused about why we are cutting down all of the trees in the meadows*
- *Would like to see better toilet facilities*
- *Would like to see a free shuttle offered from Yosemite Valley to TM*
- *Would like to have a more secluded campsite; they felt like the campsites were too close to one another*

John and family (3 people) - Arizona

- *Would like to see paper towels, soap, and lights put in the bathrooms in TM*
- *More frequent shuttles*
- *Smoker/Cigarette deposits, perhaps by dumpsters- and/or a designated smoking area*
- *Cell phone service would be nice*

Beth and John- Colorado

- *First time in the park*
- *They are interested in Conservation and Preservation; they took materials and comment forms, but didn't want to comment on the plan at the time*

Rachel and Mike- Washington, D.C.

- *They enjoy backpacking in YNP and swimming in the pools along the Tuolumne River*
- *Would like to see the O'Shaughnessy Dam within this planning effort (in hope of removal)*
- *There should not be any more services offered, if anything they should be removed*

Family (3 people) – Sarasota, Florida

- *First time to the park; stayed at TM Lodge one night, and are spending 3 nights in TM Campground*
- *Would like to see showers added to TM Campground*
- *They enjoyed walking in the meadows and are glad to see so many trails in the meadows*
- *They like the current services offered (Grill, Store, and Lodge)*
- *Need more parking*

August 8, 2006

Mike- Bear Valley, CA

- *Would like to see the Tioga road removed from Olmstead Point to Tioga pass- He thinks we could redirect vehicles from here- was excited about imagining a ten mile hike into the meadows with no vehicles present*
- *Would like to see all stock removed from the Tuolumne Meadows and River corridor*
- *Would like to see A Loop in TM Campground removed*

Paul- Access Group (they are submitting comments as an organization soon)

- *Wants to see A Loop of TM Campground either removed, or used by walk-in backpackers*
- *Limit or prohibit Motorcycles- thinks motorcycles ruin the atmosphere that TM has provides*
- *Extend/Increase TM Campground by at least 20 sites*

Karen- NPS TM Interpretation

- *Thinks there is a lack of communication and/or miscommunication between planning team and TM*
- *We need to push back this TRP/TMP and give this place and plan more time and dedication*
- *If we do push back the plan, we need to let everyone know ASAP (it seems as though many people are worried about this)*

Jim May- Yosemite Association

- *He has been coming to the park for the past 50 years, and now volunteers here*
- *He thinks we (as a planning team) need to give the public more direction with the TRP/TMP (For instance, what impacts do we have to worry about?)*
- *We need to figure out a healthy way to expand TM campground to accommodate visitors*
- *He loves being able to walk and lay in the Meadow- he doesn't want to lose this ability*
- *The park and TM specifically, is resilient- the numbers continue to increase over the years, and the impact remains minimal- we only need a bit of fine tuning*

Allison and Mary- Ohio

- *Mother-Daughter road trip*
- *TM Campground fire smoke is terrible- we should either limit the hours even more, or prohibit fires in TM*
- *They love how easy it is to be isolated or secluded in TM*
- *They are disturbed by the Lodgepole Pine removal program*
- *The traffic and parking in TM needs to be addressed- perhaps only allow shuttles into the TM area*

Family (4 people)- Santa Monica , CA

- *They have been coming to YNP for the past 12 years*
- *They love hiking to the top of Lembert Dome for sunset every evening they stay in the park*
- *They haven't seen much change over the years*
- *Would like to see something happen with the traffic and parking*
- *Improved services in the campground would be nice (showers, better restrooms, etc)*

Contact

*Kassandra Hardy
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Yosemite National Park*