



## Merced River Plan – Spring 2011 Workshop Series

### ***April 29, 2011:*** User Capacity

#### **Presenter Bios.**

**Jim Bacon, M.S.:** Jim is an Outdoor Recreation Planner with the NPS Denver Service Center stationed at Yosemite National Park. His work focuses on visitor use and user capacity issues. For the last three years he has been working on Wild and Scenic River Plans for the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers in Yosemite. In particular, he has lead efforts to address user capacity. Much of this work has been in direct response to a multi-year lawsuit over how the Merced River Plan addressed user capacity and related visitor use issues. Other project work includes the Snake River Headwaters Comprehensive Management Plan for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the Brooks Camp Access Plan for Katmai National Park and Preserve. Jim previously served as a social scientist in Yosemite and helped to start and implement a visitor use and impact monitoring program. Prior to Yosemite he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala where he advanced community-based ecotourism and environmental education projects. Jim has a Master's of Science in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Vermont.

**David N. Cole:** David is a research geographer with the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, an interagency research institution that is part of the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station is located in Missoula, MT. He has degrees in geography from the University of California, Berkeley (B.A.) and the University of Oregon (Ph.D.). He has studied the ecological impacts of recreation use in wilderness since the early 1970s. Recently he has worked on effective ways to restore areas from visitor use impacts and to develop an understanding of the nature of human experience in wilderness, as a means of assisting managers make good decisions about how to balance protecting experiences with providing recreational access and managing visitors. In his free time he likes to pursue outdoor activities, particularly hiking and boating.

**Bo Shelby:** Bo is a professor of Forest Ecosystems and former Director of the Natural Resources Program at Oregon State University. He has over 35 years of research and teaching experience in natural resource use and management, and has published hundreds of reports and journal articles on capacity or related recreation management issues, including a 1986 book with Tom Heberlein, *Carrying Capacity in Recreation Settings*. His capacity-related work includes studies or planning on the Chattooga River (NC / GA / SC), Colorado River in Grand Canyon (1975-79; 1998-99; 2001-2007), several coastal and forest areas in Oregon, and several rivers in Oregon (Rogue, Clackamas, Illinois, Deschutes, Snake in Hells Canyon); Washington (White Salmon); California (Klamath, Pit, McCloud), and Alaska (Kenai, Gulkana).

**Doug Whittaker:** Doug is a researcher and planner with Confluence Research and Consulting. He has over 25 years of experience working on natural resource issues, and has been an outdoor recreation planner with the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. His capacity-related work includes studies or planning on the Chattooga River (NC / GA / SC), Colorado River in Grand Canyon (AZ), and several rivers in California (Klamath, Pit, McCloud), Oregon (Deschutes, Clackamas, Snake in Hells Canyon), and Alaska (Talkeetna, Little Susitna, Deshka, Lake Creek, Talchulitna, Nenana, Kenai, Gulkana, Delta, Situk, Brooks, Kanektok, Goodnews, and Togiak). He has also conducted workshops and written dozens of journal articles and book chapters on capacity and visitor use management. He is based in Anchorage, Alaska.