



Meeting Summary Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan El Portal Community Workshop

October 27, 2011





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Merced River Plan will provide overarching guidance for river protection and public use within the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor inside Yosemite National Park. The overall goal of the plan is to “protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated wild and scenic leaving the river unimpaired for future generations.” The El Portal Community Workshop was one of six meetings held in October and November 2011 to gather community input on preliminary management considerations and options. This input will be used to develop management alternatives for the Merced River. Draft alternatives will be available for public review in Spring 2012 and will be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement to be released in Summer 2012.

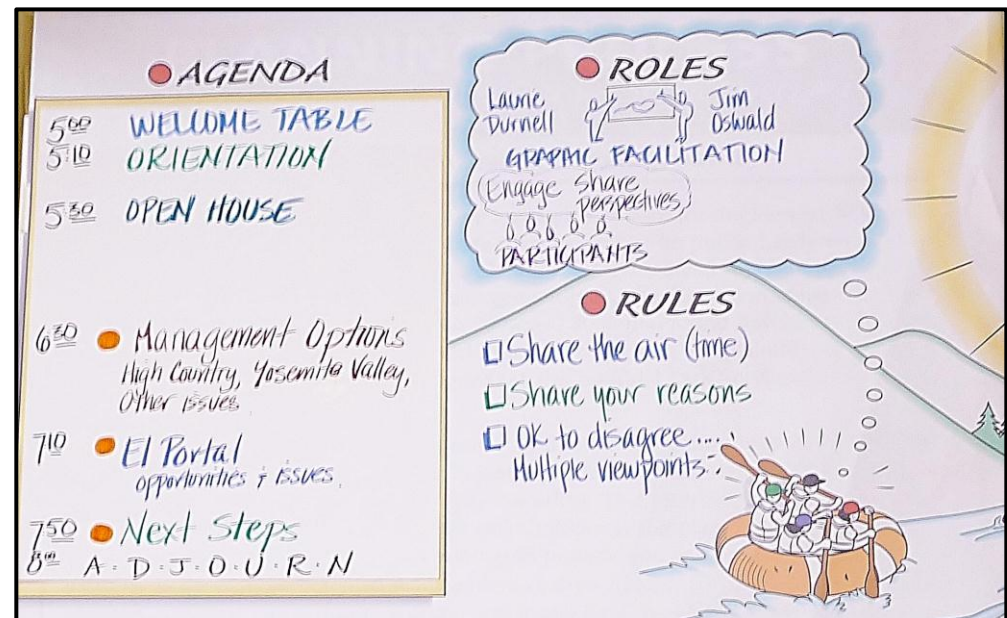
Community input received during scoping in 2007 and 2009 through 2011; and during the community workshops in Spring 2011 will be considered in developing alternatives. The alternatives will also reflect the findings of the numerous scientific and socio-cultural studies that have occurred over the past year. Ultimately, each alternative must reflect the goals of the Merced River Plan and protect and enhance the river’s outstandingly remarkable biological, geologic/hydrologic, cultural, scenic and recreational values, as well as water quality and the river’s free flowing condition.

Merced River Plan: El Portal Workshop

The El Portal Community Workshop for the Merced River Plan was held on October 27, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Approximately 25 participants attended the workshop. Most were residents of El Portal, California.

The El Portal workshop had four parts:

- Part 1: Welcome and Orientation (detailed description begins in Appendix 1: Meeting





Notes on page A1-1). This part of the workshop included an overview of the agenda; a description of the workbook including the planning process, Merced River Plan goals, and outstandingly remarkable values; and an explanation of the display board exercise.

- Part 2: Open House – Participants reviewed the display boards and the Merced Wild and Scenic River Planning Workbook and commented on the Merced River management options. Participants also used colored dots to identify which options they wanted to discuss in the group discussions. Comments received on the various management options are included in Appendix 2: Display Board Comments beginning on page A2-1.
- Part 3: Small Group Discussion – Participants gathered in small groups to discuss the management options of greatest interest to them based upon the placement of their colored dots. The topics that emerged as most important to this group are listed below. Their small group comments are incorporated into this Executive Summary and are included in their entirety in Appendix 1: Meeting Notes, page A1-3.
 - Merced Lake High Sierra Camp (Management Consideration 4)
 - Camping (Management Considerations 7, 12, 14 and 23)
 - Camp 6 Intersection (Management Consideration 15)
 - Meadow Restoration and Informal Trails (Management Considerations 16, 17 and 21)
- Part 4: Large Group Discussion – The final part of the meeting was a group discussion about El Portal and the management issues and opportunities unique to the community. The large group comments are incorporated into this Executive Summary and are included in their entirety in Appendix 1: Meeting Notes, page A1-7.

The following sections summarize the key topics of discussion and include comments received on each topic via the display boards, and the small and large group discussions.

Merced Lake High Sierra Camp

Opinions on the future of Merced Lake High Sierra camp were diverse. Some supported retaining the camp because it concentrates use and provides a wilderness experience for those who may never experience the wilderness in any other way. Others felt the amenities and/or

“Merced Lake High Sierra Camp provides a wilderness experience for those who may never experience wilderness in any other way.”

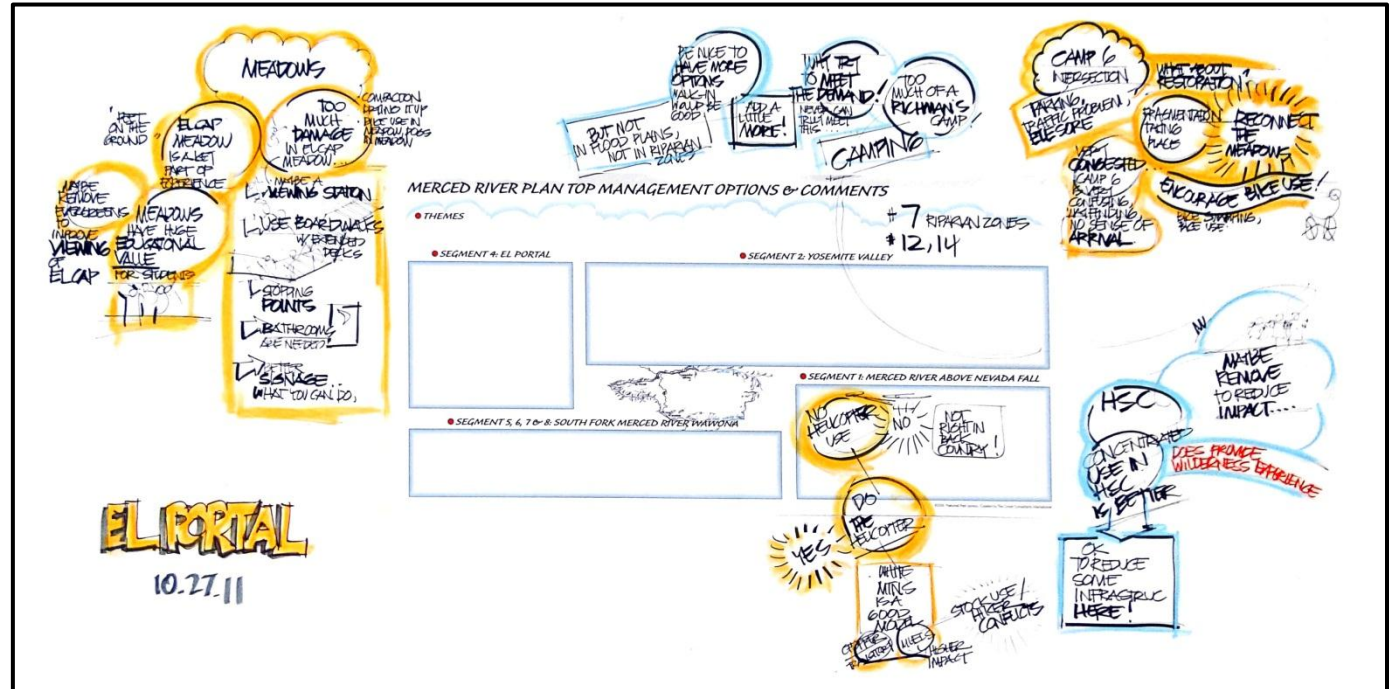


number of beds should be reduced to lessen impacts on vegetation and the designated wilderness.

Stock and Helicopter Use

Most of the comments about stock use focused on the impacts to riparian areas. Those in favor of reducing stock use suggested rerouting stock trails outside of sensitive areas. A few people were in favor of stock use, stating that it was a historic use, but also agreed that it was important to route stock trails around sensitive riparian areas.

There was mixed support for the use of supply helicopters. Some felt it was a good idea, especially if it reduced stock use on the trails. Several participants cited other parks where this has been successful. Others felt strongly that it was an inappropriate use for the wilderness.



Camping

There was overall support for more camping with the general opinion that there is not enough affordable lodging in Yosemite and camping is affordable. Most agreed that it is impossible to meet the demand for camping but there should be more campsites. Several people noted that the existing campsites are over capacity and that new camping should be walk-in, tent only and not require a reservation. One person noted that “even a few more campsites will increase public support for any other changes made in

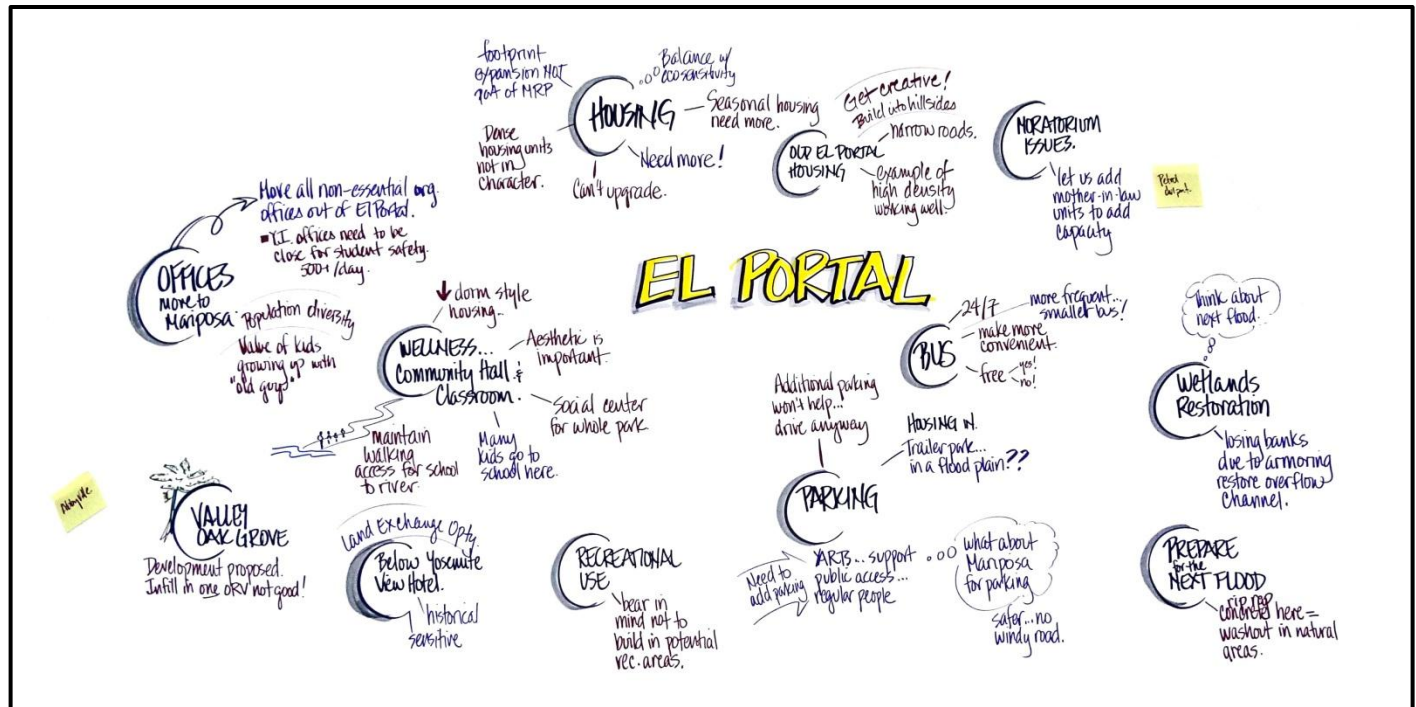
“If you increase camping just a little, it will make people think their chances of getting a campsite are better.”



the plan.” Some were concerned that locating new campgrounds in the west valley or at the old Rivers Campground would increase traffic and congestion.

Circulation, Parking and Bicycle Use

There were disparate comments on these topics but no single point of consensus emerged except that circulation and parking are significant issues. There was some support for various shuttle types. Some felt that all workers should take a shuttle into the Valley. Others felt the bus system should be improved by running more frequently and for longer hours with more stops. This would encourage more use. Most felt that buses entering the valley should also be hybrids. A number of people stated that the park should do everything it can to promote bicycle use.



Meadow Restoration and Informal Trails

The focus of this discussion was El Cap Meadow. Most people agreed that the meadow was a place where people like to congregate, watch the climbers, picnic, and view El Capitan from the grass. They felt that any improvements added to protect the meadow (boardwalks, etc.) should not preclude use of the meadow. Most agreed there need to be restrooms. Several people



suggested removing some of the trees so El Cap can be viewed from the road. This would reduce the number of people going into the meadow. There was less support for restoration of El Cap Meadow than for making it a place for people.

El Portal

Sense of Community

Participants stressed the importance of maintaining El Portal's strong sense of community in whatever changes are proposed.

Housing

Participants felt there was a need for more housing in El Portal but it needs to be appropriate. High density housing is inappropriate. The existing housing is a good example of high density that doesn't destroy the community feel.

Land Use

Several people suggested moving all non-essential office space out of El Portal in order to solve the housing, parking, and commuting issues.

Parking and Transportation

There was a general sentiment to avoid having visitor parking in El Portal stating that if people have already driven as far as El Portal they are unlikely to stop and take a bus. A few comments addressed improving the bus system by increasing frequency and hours of operation. If the buses ran more frequently, they would not need to be so large.





APPENDIX 1: MEETING NOTES

Part 1: Welcome and Orientation

Laurie Durnell of The Grove Consultants International welcomed the group. She stated that the meeting purpose was to gather feedback from the group on some of the management options for the Merced River. Information gathered at this meeting will be used to develop management alternatives for the Merced River.

Laurie provided an overview of the agenda and meeting ground rules and stated that her role as a neutral facilitator was to make sure that all meeting participants were heard. She provided an overview of the workbook including plan goals; the color coding system used throughout the workbook and on the meeting boards; the planning process; and the challenge of balancing the four goals. She stated that comments on the management options would be accepted until November 30, 2011. Participants may write their comments on the last two pages of the workbook and may be submitted at the meeting, at any ranger station or by mail.

Laurie described the preliminary site concepts for various areas in the river corridor and encouraged people to comment on these. She stated that in the Merced River planning process, the community is being involved in developing the options and alternatives. This is a significant difference between the Merced River planning process and other park planning processes where the options and alternatives are developed by staff and brought to the community for feedback.

Jim Oswald, also of The Grove, explained the interactive portion of the workshop. Each participant was to use red and green dots to indicate which management options were most important to discuss at the meeting. Green dots indicated options a participant thought were going in the right direction. Red dots indicated options a participant felt was not appropriate for the park. Participants were asked to explain their dot placement using red and green sticky notes and were also asked to add any options that were not included on the boards. The group then was given approximately an hour to comment on the interactive boards.





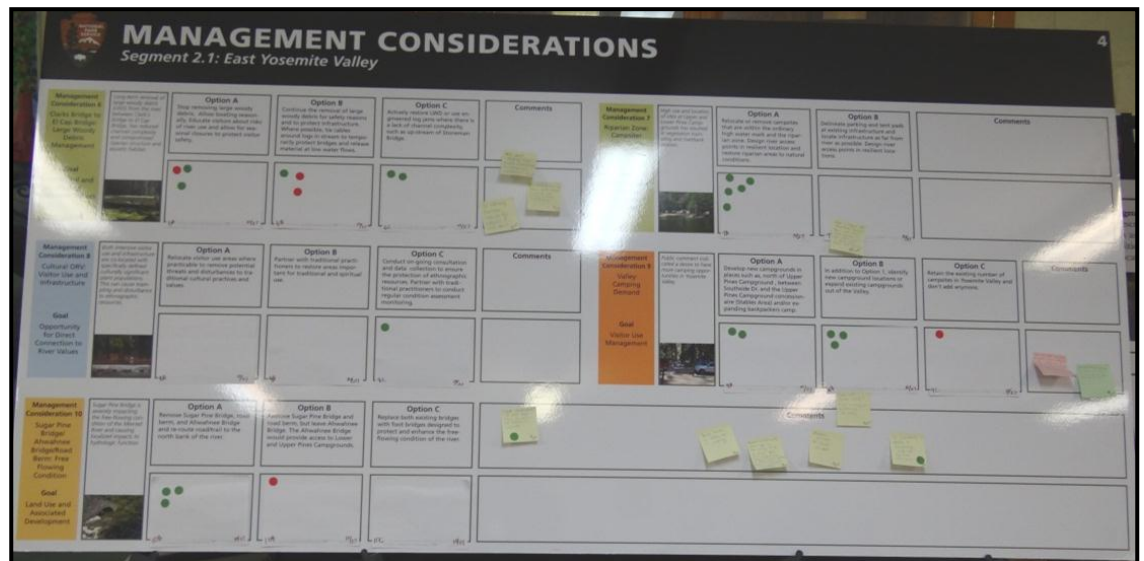
Comments

Members of the El Portal Town Planning Advisory Committee requested more meetings like this to address community issues:

- *“One night is not enough to digest everything here.”*
- *“Issues addressed in this plan must align with what is happening in El Portal so community uses are not cut out due to decisions made in this plan.”*
- *“The concepts are very detailed.”*

Part 2: Open House

Participants spent approximately an hour placing dots and comments on the display boards. Each board addressed one of the river segments and included an area to comment on the potential management options for that segment. Not all management options received comments. Any comments received on the management options are included in Appendix 2. Comments and dots were also placed on the preliminary site plans for Abbeville Trailer Court and Old El Portal. These are also included in Appendix 2.





Part 3: Small Group Discussions

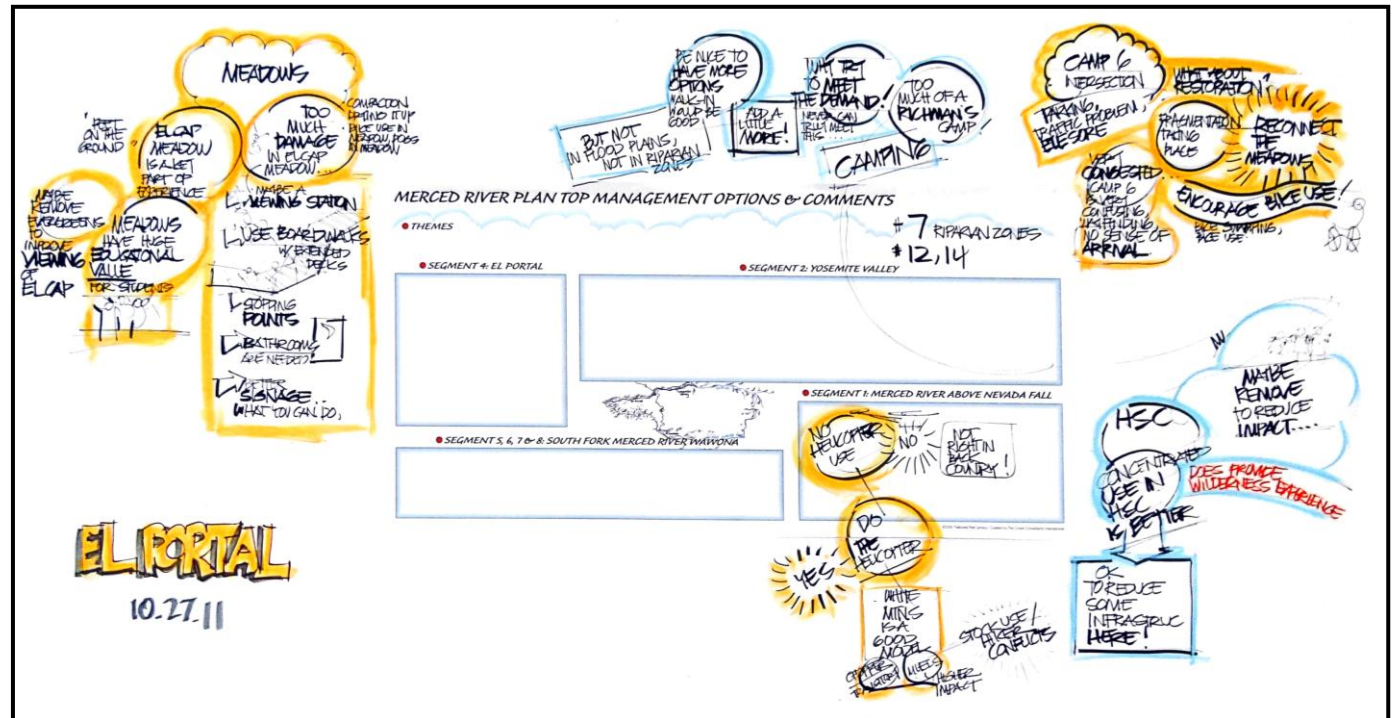
Meeting participants gathered in groups of approximately 5 to 7 people. Based upon the concentration of dots various management options received, the following topics were identified for the small group discussion:

- Merced Lake High Sierra Camp (Management Consideration 4)
- Camping (Management Considerations 7, 12, 14 and 23)
- Camp 6 Intersection (Management Consideration 15)
- Meadow Restoration and Informal Trails (Management Considerations 16, 17 and 21)

Each small group discussed an issue for several minutes and then summarized their comments to the larger group. The graphic above summarizes the small group comments.

Merced Lake High Sierra Camp

- *“Not a lot of support for increased helicopter use but if it decreases stock use it’s a good trade off.”*
- *“Concentrated use at Merced Lake High Sierra Camp is OK.”*





Better than the first option. Consider a sacrifice area. Some people who are going there will never have another wilderness experience. People who are looking for a pristine wilderness experience will go elsewhere. Amenities will decrease the number of people and stock.”

- *“Strong support for increased helicopter option. Use of helicopters in White Mountains provides a good model for Yosemite. Impact of helicopter is transitory but impact of mules is long lasting.”*
- *“Soundscape is an issue – jets, motorcycles.”*
- *“Either or isn’t an issue. Is it appropriate to have park facilities in the back country?”*
- *“Reduce or limit HSC to remove impacts to ground vegetation and the sight of camp on John Muir Trail. Camps are magnets for backpackers.”*
- *“Trail head quotas – large number of people going to one spot limits people from going to other areas.”*
- *“Can see both viewpoints – reducing number of beds is good, less of a magnet but it’s a way for people who don’t normally experience high country to experience it.”*
- *“No helicopters.”*
- *“Stock use is necessary to support camp, it’s an historic use, but a conflict with hikers. Build a special trail for stock through sensitive areas.”*

Following the discussion of Segment 1 and the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp, the discussion evolved into a group discussion on the remaining topics:

Camping

- *“Yosemite will become a rich person’s park. If people want to camp and can’t afford to stay in facilities, camping is limited.”*
- *“Will never meet demand for campsites and will always have more than six people per site. If you increase camping just a little, it will make people think ‘Oh my chances are better.’”*
- *“Even though you increase campsites you will always be over limit.”*



- *“Need to enforce six person limits.”*
- *“Great to have more camping options available. Have more walk in campgrounds for people who don’t plan ahead.”*
- *“Increase camping but not in riparian areas. Camping is one of the best experiences in the park.”*

Camp 6 Intersection

- *“Default parking area where housing area was taken down because people were killed by falling trees. Sensitive area along river, beautiful. Eyesore, traffic problem and it didn’t exist before.”*
- *“There aren’t enough parking lots. Plan doesn’t show Camp 6 as being restored.”*
- *“Fragmentation. View from glacier point – look at parking lots and fragmentation. Reconnect meadows and natural processes.”*
- *“Summer gridlock – 2 hours from entry to village. Left turn at Camp 6 intersection – no sense of arrival. To right buses. Visitor center is unattainable unless you park. Most visitors go all the way to village and think ‘I guess we’re here.’ No sense of arrival.”*
- *“Do whatever we can to encourage bike use.”*
- *“Have free bikes and bike swapping stations.”*

Meadow Restoration and Informal Trails

- *“Sad to see destruction in El Cap Meadow.”*
- *“Viewing station or boardwalk. Road going down El Cap straightaway is big problem with meadow. Water isn’t getting across. Compaction from road.”*
- *“Bicycling across meadow. Dogs. Impact of large visitation.”*





- *“El Cap meadow is inspiring. Continue to provide an opportunity for people to put their feet on ground and lie down.”*
- *“Stoneman Meadow boardwalks really helped.”*
- *“In El Cap would boardwalks not let people picnic in meadow? People should be able to picnic, lay down on a blanket.”*
- *“Need viewing platform to watch climbers – areas of meadows impacted by people wanting to watch climbers.”*
- *“Meadows as teaching tool for Yosemite Institute. Great place to bring students. Use fencing and boardwalks. Extension of boardwalk as viewing platform is good. Provides an opportunity. Transitional stopping place.”*
- *“El Cap Meadow – people want to stay in meadow to stare at El Cap. Put in bathrooms (a number of people voiced agreement). Think of it as El Cap Lawn. Pretty deteriorated. This meadow is special for something other than vegetation.”*
- *“Better signage about where to go. Few designated areas for people to walk. Use this area for picnics, etc.”*
- *“Makes sense to eliminate trees so people can see El Cap from the road. This will help people not go into meadow.”*



Part 4: Large Group Discussion – El Portal

The last segment of the meeting addressed issues of concern in El Portal. Jim Donovan of the National Park Service presented the preliminary site concepts and stated that these concepts were a reflection of comments heard during scoping. Laurie Durnell of The Grove then asked the group to comment on the most significant issues that the planning staff should be aware of as they proceed with developing the alternatives. Several common themes brought up by the group are summarized in the graphic below:

El Portal's Sense of Community

- “We value the community feel and the deep seated long term care of the park in El Portal. Bring wellness to the community – revamp the community hall. Revamp old schoolhouse – it’s a good classroom/meeting space. Keep feeling of Old El Portal. Dorm style housing isn’t appropriate.”
- “Let El Portal support the park but don’t lose the feel of the community.”
- “Consider the nexus between schools and daycare.”





Need for Housing

- *“Housing in El Portal a good example of high density without a lot of destruction.”*
- *“Areas ignored due to archeological impacts could be restored in a sensitive way. Building into hillside instead of taking down hillside. Opening up lots. Get around the regulations.”*
- *“There are 80 private houses in El Portal. It is important to have kids go to school where there are older people. Often in a company town you don’t have that. El Portal has a diverse population.”*
- *“Need for more housing in El Portal. Needs to be well placed. Shortage – no opportunity. There was a staff of 12 and two seasonal beds – they had to find housing in people’s homes, etc.”*
- *“Not supportive of condensed housing in El Portal community center. Plan should enhance what is here.”*
- *“No matter what we say, are those dense housing units going to be built anyways?”*
- *“Building of private homes – this shouldn’t be a part of Merced River Plan. Moratorium on expanding homes in El Portal.”*
- *“If we are looking at adding housing then encourage current owners to add mother in law units. If we want to add capacity, let owners add.”*

Land Use

- *“Moving office space to Mariposa makes sense – DNC, NPS and Yosemite Institute.”*
- *“Housing, parking, commuting, and busing interrelated – move all non-essential offices to Mariposa or Oakhurst. This will solve parking, housing, and commuting issues. Needs to come with good busing. Move offices out then people can find own housing.”*

Parking and Transportation

- *“YARTS – critical to have parking here – controversial in trailer court area. Might lose habitat and trees but it protects park. Need parking. Consider social equity and environmental justice so regular people can take the bus into the park. This is a tradeoff.”*



- *“Parking proposal for trailer park – in a flood plain – why put more housing in there?”*
- *“Parking and transit from here to park. Why does parking have to be here and not in Mariposa. Why should people drive the extra miles up here. Give the business to Mariposa. Don’t want this business here.”*
- *“Parking – will adding parking do any good? If people have already driven here will they stop and park.”*
- *“Look at bus system. To encourage people not to drive it must be 24-7 and run frequently. Needs to be more convenient to take the bus. Should be free.”*
- *“If bus is that frequent, vehicles don’t have to be so big.”*
- *“El Portal Elementary School. Maintain walking access to river from El Portal Elementary School.”*

Resource Protection and Enhancement

- *“In the former river plan there was a potential land exchange downstream. This is the only place in entire river canyon where a railroad wasn’t built. Help preserve that area.”*
- *“Positive part of El Portal plan - restoring wetlands and El Portal Channel – old river and flood overflow channel. Losing bank down below when there are floods. Restoring that channel would be helpful in a flood. Investigate this. Wetlands get groundwater from river.”*
- *“Restore Greenmeyer Sand Pit too.”*
- *“History repeats itself. Be proactive and prepare for next flood. Grouted riprap sends energy down to the next natural area that then washes out.”*
- *“Ogder’s Oil site is also in a flood plain – not a good location.”*

Other Comments

- *“County wants to do an overview of possible recreation sites. Don’t put things on sites that could have a better use for recreation.”*



- *“Town planning advisory committee – part of the county with NPS representatives. Only committee members show up. Have a meeting before the comment deadline and look at more detail at planning issues. Look at bulletin board for agendas and meeting times.”*



APPENDIX 2: DISPLAY BOARD COMMENTS

SEGMENT 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall

Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 1: Segment 1 Wilderness Trails: High Encounter Rates

Management Option 1A: Reallocate wilderness permits to reduce use on this trail.

- *“The Half Dome permit system may reduce crowding at Little Yosemite Valley.”*

Management Consideration 2: Recreational User Conflicts

General Comments

- *“Helicopter use is not supported by all.”*
- *“Stock use is an historic use in the park but need properly built trails that bypass sensitive areas.”*
- *“Against reducing beds at high camps. Having camps opens up use to older people that don’t want to carry heavy packs.”*
- *“Build a causeway or alternative stock route around wet meadow areas.”*
- *“Can stock be given their own trail or brought to camps via a different route? Save riparian trail for hikers.”*
- *“Limiting any impacts on trails by stock would be welcome. Seeing stock, scat, and the trail impacts from heavy animals does not contribute to a wilderness experience.”*

Management Option 2C: Reduce the extent of trails maintained for stock in this area, thus reducing the number of stock needed to maintain them.

- *“This seems to go against the idea of wilderness.”*
- *“Helicopters are used in the White Mountains effectively and you only have to do it a couple of times. Less overall impact on visitor experience and wilderness than mule trains.”*



Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 4: Merced Lake High Sierra Camp: Wilderness and ORV Impacts

General Comments:

- *“People like to be near infrastructure – they camp near bear boxes, etc.”*
- *“Consider Merced Lake High Sierra Camp a sacrifice area.”*
- *“Merced Lake High Sierra Camp – reducing amenities is supported.”*
- *“Concentrated use at Merced Lake High Sierra Camp OK, better than dispersing use.”*
- *“If increased helicopter use, decrease stock on trails and stock impacts to experience and trail.”*
- *“In favor of reducing number of beds.”*
- *“Keep Merced Lake High Sierra Camp separate from quotas for backpackers. No reduction in backpackers.”*

SEGMENT 2.1: East Yosemite Valley

General Yosemite Valley Comments

- *“Maintain pullouts for climber access.”*
- *“Create infrastructure to make “free-hikes” as easy and user friendly as possible.”*
- *“Do everything possible to encourage bike use. Free bikes, bike lanes.”*
- *“Bike lanes on roads, not on walkways.”*
- *“Housing in El Portal and Valley; bikes; Segment 2.1; Bus noise; Parking and changing trailer court access for climbing.”*
- *“Reduce or eliminate stock use in the valley or up to Nevada Falls. It is dangerous on steep trails and breathing in horse and mule dung dust is absolutely disgusting.”*
- *“What is difference between “day use reservation” and day use permit? On page 27 it is presented as two separate questions.”*



- *“Require all vehicles to follow muffler laws. No un-muffled motorcycles.”*
- *“I support closing the gates when visitor numbers are too high.”*
- *“Assumption that the public will always visit in cars.”*
- *“Parking demand is a result of inadequate public transit. Employee transport?”*
- *“Make entrance stations two lanes. Prohibit workers from parking in Yosemite Valley. Provide free commuter buses for all agency workers (NPS, Yosemite Institute, Yosemite Conservancy etc.) with buses and small vans.”*

Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Management Consideration 6: Clarks Bridge to El Camp Bridge: Large Woody Debris Management

General Comments:

- *“What about floating large wood downstream to un-impacted locations?”*
- *“Is rafting the main reason for removal of large wood?”*
- *“Allow boating, educate the public about dangers, discontinue DNC boating and keep large woody debris natural.”*

Management Consideration 7: Riparian Zone: Campsites

Management Option 7B: Delineate parking and tent pads and locate as far from the river as possible. Design river access points in resilient locations.

- *“What is meant by delineation? Fences? I don’t like that idea because I’m not confident it would keep people out effectively.”*



Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 9: Valley: Camping Demand

Management Option 9B: Identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds outside of the valley.

- *“Like at White Wolf? Not in support of more in the valley.”*

Other Comments:

- *“Even a few more camping areas will increase public support for any other changes made under the plan.”*
- *“We will never be able to meet camping demand in the valley but it would be nice to provide some more sites. The sites we already have are over capacity because more than six people per site camp on a regular basis. I’m sure this will still occur if we add more sites. Is the park prepared to actually enforce the limits to not go over user capacity?”*

SEGMENT 2.2: Yosemite Village Area

Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Management Consideration 11: Housekeeping Camp: Riparian and Flood Plain Impacts

Management Option 11B: Keep all sites, delineate river access in resilient locations and restore riparian area.

- *“At least some of this may have already been done.”*

Management Consideration 12: Upper and Lower Rivers Campground Areas: 1997 Flood Impacts

Management Option 12A: Provide visitor use opportunities only in the northern part of the former campgrounds.

- *“This sounds great but realistically, many campgrounds will be out of the ordinary high water mark/riparian zone?”*

Management Option 12B: Restore visitor use opportunities throughout the entire area of the former campgrounds.



- *“It would be great to use the rivers area for visitor use since it’s just been a construction zone for years. However, it will add a great deal more people trying to get through the Camp 6 intersection.”*

Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 14: Valley: Camping Demand

General Comments:

- *“Add more camping but not RV. Make it walk in and not reservation based. Tent only.”*

Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 15: Camp 6 Intersection: Congestion

General Comments:

- *“Camp 6 overflow parking was a housing area that was supposed to be restored. Then it became a construction staging area. Now there is no option to change the use and restore.”*
- *“We need a better bus system that operates 24/7 during peak season and runs every 15 to 30 minutes between 8AM and 7PM from Mariposa to the Valley. The bus needs to be frequent enough so people won’t feel their time is impacted if they take it – that’s the only way.”*
- *“All buses that come into Yosemite National Park should be mandated hybrid. Decrease noise pollution.”*
- *“Bring employee housing in the Valley up to code and make it aesthetic.”*
- *“Encourage bikes! Supply free-bikes and have drop off stations.”*
- *“Consider removing Camp 6.”*

Management Option 15A: Design a roundabout and pedestrian undercrossing to address intersection performance.



- *“How do you plan to prevent the under crossing from flooding in winter and spring when this intersection is normally pretty wet from the creek?”*
- *“Love the idea of a roundabout but would it confuse American visitors? Europeans would probably be fine.”*

Segment 2.3: Yosemite Lodge Area

Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Management Consideration 17: Swinging Bridge: Riparian Impacts

Management Option 17A: Redesign picnic area in its current location to better manage visitor use.

- *“I am not in favor of parking on the south side of Southside Drive due to safety considerations.”*

Management Option 17B: Retain existing picnic area. Designate as formal river access point.

- *“Excellent access directly across bridge. Huge sand bar.”*

Other Comments:

- *“Fences never work.”*
- *“Keep Swinging Bridge picnic area and improve Sentinel access and delineation.”*
- *“No development/boardwalks in El Cap Meadow.”*

Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 18: Yosemite Valley: Paddling and Floating

- *“Allow paddling, no permits but do not allow commercial/concession paddling. Educate for personal paddling. Keep LWD and the river natural.”*



Management Consideration 19: Valley: Camping Demand

Management Option 19A: Develop new campgrounds in one or more areas.

- *“Don’t like East of Yosemite Lodge but others seem like reasonable locations.”*

Management Option 19C: Do not add more camping in Yosemite Valley.

- *“More non reservation camping and tent only.”*

Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 20: Yosemite Lodge: Intersection Congestion

- *“Would the electronically controlled intersection take into account vehicles at one time? Traffic density.”*

Segment 2.4: West Yosemite Valley

Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Management Consideration 21: El Cap Meadow: Informal Social Trails

General Comments:

- *“Please no boardwalks in or development in this magical meadow.”*
- *“Maintain pullouts for climber access.”*
- *“Have a bike lane and free-bike station. Do everything we can to encourage biking.”*
- *“El Cap Meadow seems ecologically irrelevant but is one of the best places for a picnic. Needs bathrooms”*
- *“All shuttle stops need a bathroom. Yosemite Valley is up to its ears in poop. Especially El Cap Meadow. Ick!”*
- *“Visitors should be allowed to pull off road and swim. Boulders limit parking so where are the visitors to park?”*



- *“El Cap Meadow is always going to have use. It’s El Cap!”*

Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 22: West of Pohono Bridge: River Access

- *“Illegal to cut off river access when no public need to do so.”*

Management Consideration 23: Valley: Camping Demand

Management Option 23A: Develop new campgrounds in one or more areas.

- *“Keep public camping at east end.”*
- *“Camping on west end will make traffic worse unless frequent shuttles offered.”*

Management Option 23C: Do not add more camping to Yosemite Valley.

- *“Add walk in campground for tent only camping.”*

Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 25: Sentinel Beach Picnic Area: Visitor Experience

Management Option 25B: Remove raft take-out access to accommodate expansion of picnicking.

- *“DNC raft takeout is bad. Buses – bad – get rid of raft buses. Can you imagine picnicking near an idling bus?”*
- *“How would parking delineation occur?”*

Management Option 25C: Relocate picnic/day use sites to accommodate raft take-out only.

- *“Seems like bus idling could be easily solved- make it illegal to do so.”*



Segment 4: El Portal

General Comments

- *“El Portal Community Hall – Make two-story with rooms upstairs for music lessons, Boy Scouts and office space for El Portal Community Association.”*
- *“Have a bike lane between trailer court and Old El Portal and between Old El Portal and new El Portal.”*

Management Consideration 27: Infrastructure: Valley Oaks Impacts

- *“Need to support recruitment in original habitat location.”*

Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 28: Maintenance Administrative Complex: Roadside Parking

Management Option 28B: Relocate parking from river’s edge. Build new parking east of Foresta Road at the Administrative Facility.

- *“Add BMPs to this option too.”*

Segments 5, 6, 7 and 8: South Fork Merced River Wawona

No comments were placed on the interactive boards for these river segments.



Yosemite Lodge Concept Comments

1 – Redesign and relocate but do not excavate Mother Earth.

Yosemite Village and Camp Six “T” Intersection Option Comments

These actions do very little to restore function, reduce fragmentation, or keep development out of floodplain.

YOSEMITE VILLAGE AND CAMP SIX ROUNDABOUT INTERSECTION OPTION

GOAL: REDUCE VEHICULAR, PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE CIRCULATION CONFLICTS

ACTIONS:

1. PROPOSE 200FT (INSIDE DIAMETER), ONE WAY, ROUNDABOUT. MAINTAIN THE (4) EXISTING INTERSECTIONS
2. CREATE PRIMARY PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE LINKING CAMP & PARKING WITH YOSEMITE VILLAGE
3. PROVIDE A NEW PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS UNDER NORTHSIDE DRIVE, WITH AN 8% RAMP APPROACH
4. PROVIDE A NEW, SECONDARY ENTRY/EXIT TO THE CAMP & PARKING LOT, UTILIZING THE EXISTING UTILITY BASEMENT, OFF SENTINEL DRIVE
5. PROVIDE A NEW PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS UNDER SENTINEL DRIVE, WITH A 5% RAMP APPROACH
6. PROVIDE NEW & IMPROVED VISITOR DROP-OFF/ ORIENTATION/RESTROOM FACILITY AT THE CAMP & PARKING AREA
7. SEPARATE PEDESTRIANS FROM BICYCLE TRAFFIC ALONG THE (2) EXISTING PATHWAYS CONNECTING THE VILLAGE & CAMP & PARKING. PEDESTRIANS ALONG THE EAST (ADJACENT TO THE VILLAGE STORES) & BICYCLES ALONG THE WESTERN PATH
8. REMOVE & RELOCATE THE EXISTING DVC ADMINISTRATION & GARAGE/MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS
9. REDESIGN THE EXISTING PARKING & ACCESS TO THE ANNIWASSEE HOTEL VIA THE INTERNAL VILLAGE ROAD. PICK UP A NET (60) ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES (20) TOTAL PARKING SPACES; CREATE A FORMAL POUGHAY & ENTRY SEQUENCE TO THE ANNIWASSEE HOTEL
10. REMOVE ALL RV PARKING IN CAMP & RELOCATE RV PARKING IN THE DESIGNATED NEW AREA WITHIN THE YOSEMITE LODGE COMPLEX. INCREASE CAR PARKING SPACES IN A 2:1 RATIO TO RELOCATED RV SPACES
11. THE LIMIT OF THE RESTORATION ZONE IS SCHEMATIC ONLY AND REPRESENTS A 50 FOOT BUFFER. THE LAYOUT OF THE CAMP & PARKING SHALL BE MODIFIED TO ACCOMMODATE THE RIVER RESTORATION AREA

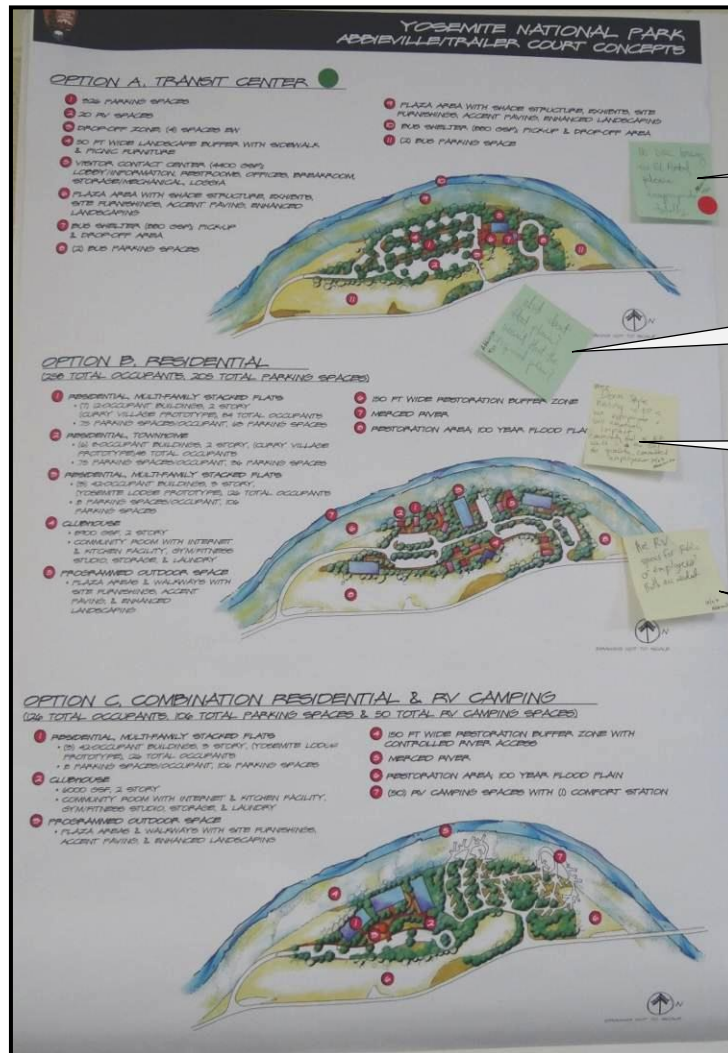
Two separate roads to Camp 6 parking might reduce congestion compared to the 'T' concept.

3, 5 – Don't excavate Mother Earth.

Segregation of pedestrians and bicycles is desirable.



Abbeville Trailer Court Site Plans



No DNC housing in El Portal please.

What about flood plain? Wasn't that the original plan?

Dorm style housing in El Portal is not appropriate and will negatively impact community feel of El Portal which is the soil for quality committed employees.

Are RV spaces for public or employees? Both are needed.



Old El Portal Site Plan

OPTION A

- RESIDENTIAL, MULTIFAMILY STAGED PLANT
- ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OFFICE
- COMMERCIAL, PROFESSIONAL OFFICE
- OFFICE
- RESIDENTIAL, MULTIFAMILY STAGED PLANT
- ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OFFICE
- COMMERCIAL, PROFESSIONAL OFFICE
- OFFICE

OPTION B

- RESIDENTIAL, MULTIFAMILY STAGED PLANT
- ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OFFICE
- COMMERCIAL, PROFESSIONAL OFFICE
- OFFICE
- RESIDENTIAL, MULTIFAMILY STAGED PLANT
- ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OFFICE
- COMMERCIAL, PROFESSIONAL OFFICE
- OFFICE

Comments:

- Housing in flood plain seems like an iffy idea.
- These are infill in the valley oak grove a designated ORV. This is neither preserving or enhancing an ORV.
- Some buildings are proposed within valley oak habitat.
- Old oaks no huge complex. Move to warehouse location (#3)
- We really need more NPS housing. It needs to be built with sensitivity to the environment. No huge single family homes. More 2 and 3 bedroom apartments/condos. Both for perms and seasonals.
- Nature Bridge needs to retain administrative space in El Portal.
- Good - this is critical.
- Make any new parking gravel not asphalt.
- Would like bike and walking paths heading from Old EP to Rancheria.
- No multi "stacked" buildings. Does not fit town's tradition. Single family homes put at main facility.
- Architecturally new two story townhomes do not fit in with the historic look and feel of old EP. Site #2 best for non-residential use = Noisy central.
- Use old market site for commercial services (café or coffee house).
- There should have been consultation with EP Town Planning Committee so that the visions of community members could be part of your planning process
- Build flow through area. Relocate gas station away from river edge.
- Restore overflow channel.
- No more clustered housing in Old El Portal. No DNC dorm units or NPS apartment units either.
- Make El Portal for people who work in the park only and enforce it.
- Community highly values addition of coffee shop.
- Dorm style house will dramatically negatively impact El Portal community. Old EP is not a suitable site for new housing.
- Please incorporate lighting regulations to prevent light pollution in old El Portal. No night lights!
- Office structure in ORV valley oak grove.
- Move NPS and DNC offices to Mariposa - no on B3.
- Gateway visitor center - small with information #6.



MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATION

Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall

Management Consideration	Option A	Option B	Comments
Management Consideration 1 Segment 1 Wilderness Values Goal: Visitor Use Management Program	High elevation trails are used by hikers, horse riders, and mountain bikers. Consideration 1 is a high elevation trail. This option is a high elevation trail.	Realize wilderness permits to increase use on the trail.	Incorporate High Sierra Camp use into trailhead quotas.
Management Consideration 2 Merced Lake Backpackers Campground Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	Merced Lake Backpackers Campground is a high elevation trailhead. Consideration 2 is a high elevation trailhead. This option is a high elevation trailhead.	Reduce use by lowering quotas for trailheads that lead to the Merced Lake area.	Allow only limited digger and camping at Merced Lake.
Management Consideration 3 Little Yosemite Valley Backpackers Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	Little Yosemite Valley Backpackers Campground is a high elevation trailhead. Consideration 3 is a high elevation trailhead. This option is a high elevation trailhead.	Reduce trailhead quota 25% near competing trail.	Return backpacker camp to its original use as a horse camp. This strategy seeks to protect resources and address human waste concerns.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Segment 2.1: East Yosemite Valley

Management Consideration	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments
Management Consideration 4 Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	Merced Lake High Sierra Camp is a high elevation trailhead. Consideration 4 is a high elevation trailhead. This option is a high elevation trailhead.	Close Merced Lake High Sierra Camp and restore to natural condition.	Reduce capacity from 65 beds to 42 beds (equal to that of the next largest camp (Tonguecamp)).	Convert MHSJC to yurt-style camps as shown in full.
Management Consideration 5 Clark Bridge to El Capitan Bridge Cultural and Infrastructure Goal: Opportunity for Direct Connection to River Values	Clark Bridge to El Capitan Bridge is a high elevation trailhead. Consideration 5 is a high elevation trailhead. This option is a high elevation trailhead.	This remaining large woods. Allow existing trails. If El Capitan region about 20% of trail use and allow for seasonal high stream to remain open.	Continue the removal of large woods, allow for safety, and provide riparian habitat.	Actively manage riparian zone to use an improved log area where there is a lack of riparian habitat.
Management Consideration 6 Sugar Pine Bridge Cultural and Infrastructure Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	Sugar Pine Bridge is a high elevation trailhead. Consideration 6 is a high elevation trailhead. This option is a high elevation trailhead.	Remove Sugar Pine Bridge and make roadbed to the north bank of the river.	Continue Sugar Pine Bridge and road bed, but leave Abrahams Bridge. The Abrahams Bridge would provide access to Lower and Upper Pine Campgrounds.	Restore both existing bridges and foot bridges designed to protect and enhance the free flowing condition of the river.



MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 2.2: Yosemite Village Area

Management Consideration 11 Housing/keeping Camps, Riparian and Flood Plain Impacts Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values	Option A Remove all lodging units up to 13 lodging units and associated campsite located within the riparian area. Where possible, relocate these lodging units to an area that meets riparian habitat requirements.	Option B Remove all lodging units adjacent to the river as outlined in the 1980 General Management Plan.	Option C Remove all lodging units, infrastructure and camp and restore the riparian and riparian area to natural conditions.	Comments	Management Consideration 12 Upper and Lower Rivers Carriageway Areas Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values	Option A Provide visitor use opportunities, including parking and picnic areas, away from the riparian area. Relocate parking areas, away from the riparian area, away from the riparian area, away from the riparian area.	Option B Relocate visitor use opportunities, including parking and picnic areas, away from the riparian area. Relocate parking areas, away from the riparian area, away from the riparian area.	Option C Fully restore the riparian and riparian systems and bring riparian area areas back to riparian use and minimize future impacts.	Comments
Management Consideration 13 Cultural OHV Visitor Use Impacts Goal: Opportunities for Direct Connection to River Values	Option A Remove visitor use areas where practicable to avoid on-going impacts and disturbance. Conduct regular condition assessment monitoring.	Option B Stabilize archeological sites where practicable to prevent additional loss of data. Conduct archaeological investigations to determine other sites on same location within the site. Conduct regular monitoring.	Option C Conduct data recovery as a mitigation measure for potential loss of data. Conduct archaeological investigations to determine other sites on same location within the site. Conduct regular monitoring.	Comments	Management Consideration 14 Valley Camping Demand Goal: Visitor Use Management	Option A Restoration camping at the former Burns Campground.	Option B In addition to Option A, identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds inside the park but outside of Yosemite valley.	Option C Do not add more camping to Yosemite valley.	Comments
Management Consideration 15 Camp & Intersection Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	Option A Design a trail and road and pedestrian crossing to address intersection performance. Due to space considerations, this would likely require that the intersection headquarters be moved.	Option B Relocate pedestrian crossing to protect riparian zone and improve operational efficiency.	Option C Relocate pedestrian crossing to northwest corner of parking area along utility corridor. Relocate information kiosk within the site. Install electronic pedestrian and vehicle crossing signals.	Option D Install temporary seasonal electronic pedestrian crossing signals.	Option E Relocate information kiosk to a trail. Install way stop. Install access to parking area along utility corridor. Relocate information kiosk within the site. Install electronic pedestrian and vehicle crossing signals.	Comments			

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 2.3: Yosemite Lodge Area

Management Consideration 16 Lodge Meadow Impacts by Informal Trails Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values	Option A Remove all trails and restore meadows. Install benchmarks to prevent future impacts. Fence back park on north side of meadow.	Option B Remove trails and restore meadows. Install fencing and green signs to reduce impacts to meadow.	Comments	Management Consideration 17 Swinging Bridge Riparian Impacts Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values	Option A Re-design picnic area in its current location. Identify additional parking spaces. Fence off meadow area. Relocate picnic area as a formal river access point.	Option B Relocate picnic area and parking lot. Relocate picnic area and parking lot. Relocate picnic area and parking lot. Relocate picnic area and parking lot.	Option C Remove picnic area and parking lot. Relocate picnic area and parking lot. Relocate picnic area and parking lot. Relocate picnic area and parking lot.	Comments
Management Consideration 18 Yosemite Valley Parking and Flooding Goal: Visitor Use Management	Option A Prohibit all parking and float and all floats in the valley. Submitting and water play would continue to be allowed.	Option B Continue parking and floating in a limited section of the river. Require permits for all parking except float and water play. Designate park in and take-out points. Land dropping points along the way.	Option C Same as Option B, but would allow parking and floating on a larger section of river to El Cap Creek.	Option D Private floating by permit from Clark's bridge to Ribbon Bridge. Allow use throughout the year as long as water conditions are suitable. No commercial floating would be allowed. Designate park in and take-out locations.	Option E Similar to Option B, but with limited commercial floating opportunities with designated put-in and take-out. Private floating of youth would be allowed. Through swimming and water play would continue.	Comments		
Management Consideration 19 Valley Camping Demand Goal: Visitor Use Management	Option A Dedicate new campground in area or more of the following areas: 1) East of Camp 4, 2) North of Northside Drive and adjacent to Camp 4, 3) East of Sentinel, 4) on the eastern of Yosemite valley (Elmer and Oak).	Option B In addition to Option A, identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds inside the park but outside of Yosemite valley.	Comments	Management Consideration 20 Yosemite Lodge Intersection Congestion Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	Option A Relocate lodge entrance and parking with adjacent to riparian area. Relocate picnic area and parking lot. Relocate picnic area and parking lot. Relocate picnic area and parking lot.	Option B Relocate lodge entrance and parking with adjacent to riparian area. Relocate picnic area and parking lot. Relocate picnic area and parking lot. Relocate picnic area and parking lot.	Option C Construct a pedestrian walkway as a primary road crossing. Provide for a secondary crossing by maintaining a secondary crossing at surface level.	Comments



MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Segment 2.4: West Yosemite Valley

Management Consideration 21 Cap Meadow Informal Social Trails	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Comments
Informal trails and meadow parking in the T100 meadow, northeast of the T100 parking area, are not currently managed by the Biological Resources Division.	Use vegetation fencing to limit foot traffic into the meadow and designate appropriate access routes using boardwalks and viewing platforms.	Use vegetation fencing to limit foot traffic into the meadow and designate appropriate meadow access points in more resilient locations.	Selectively remove vegetation that is blocking roadside views of El Capitan.	Limit meadow parking to search and rescue and other emergency use. Consolidate view for roadside parking along the east end of the meadow near parking spots for T100 and other admin trails.	
Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values					

Management Consideration 22 West of Pohono Bridge, River Access	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments	Management Consideration 23 Valley Camping Demand	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments
There are no designated parking areas west of Pohono Bridge. River access is not currently under existing conditions.	Place limited parking areas and designate access to the river, use existing or existing parking. Use existing or existing parking.	Close this access point, block parking areas on both sides of the road (except for river access) at other sites in the corridor.	Designate river access and use boardwalks to limit parking in unimproved parking areas.		Public comment on the proposed plan to limit parking in the valley.	Potential areas for campground development T100, east of El Capitan Meadows, Yellow Pines.	In addition to Option 1, identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds inside the park but outside of Yosemite Valley.	Do not add more camping to Yosemite Valley.	
Goal: Visitor Use Management					Goal: Visitor Use Management				

Management Consideration 24 Cathedral Beach Picnic Area	Option A	Option B	Comments	Management Consideration 25 Sentinel Beach Picnic Area	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Comments
The Cathedral Beach picnic area requires a redesign of the picnic area. The resulting picnic area will be more resilient and require less maintenance.	Redesign picnic area to better manage the level of river use and designate the area as a formal river access point. Focus on river access areas and resilient riparian vegetation.	Reduce existing picnic area, designate the area as a formal river access point. Focus on river access areas and resilient riparian vegetation.		The Sentinel Beach picnic area is not well managed to provide for appropriate river access and riparian vegetation. Redesign picnic area to accommodate parking and parking, formalize vehicle access and parking, designate river access.	Remove left side of access to accommodate expansion of parking, formalize vehicle access and parking, designate river access.	Remove parking area to accommodate expansion of parking, formalize vehicle access and parking, designate river access.	Remove parking area to accommodate expansion of parking, formalize vehicle access and parking, designate river access.	Remove parking area to accommodate expansion of parking, formalize vehicle access and parking, designate river access.	
Goal: Land Uses and Development				Goal: Land Uses and Development					

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS















Segment 4: El Portal

Management Consideration 26 Greenway Landscaping	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments	Management Consideration 27 El Portal Valley Cuts Impacts	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments
Greenway landscaping along the El Portal road is not currently managed by the Biological Resources Division.	Restore to natural conditions, remove all material and vegetation.	Cultivate riparian habitat to restore riparian habitat and riparian habitat.	Using best management practices, conduct administrative actions including signage and signage management.		Remove all facilities and restore the understory.	Restore riparian habitat as needed. Riparian area where infrastructure is removed to natural conditions.			
Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values					Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values				

Management Consideration 28 Maintenance Administrative Complex Roadside Parking	Option A	Option B	Comments
The off-street and roadside parking areas at the Maintenance Administrative Complex are not currently managed by the Biological Resources Division.	Conduct mitigation measures (Best Management Practices) and formalize existing parking area to accommodate parking and parking, formalize vehicle access and parking, designate river access.	Relocate parking from the river's edge. Build new parking east of Forest Road at the Administrative Complex. Relocate the Maintenance Administrative Complex from the river.	
Goal: Land Use and Associated Development			



MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 5-8: South Fork Merced

<p>Management Consideration 29 Wawona Campground campground activity near river</p> <p>Goal Ecological and Natural Resource Values</p> 	<p>Option A Relocate or close camp sites that are too close to the river.</p> 	<p>Option B Designate access points to the river to reduce resource impacts.</p> 	<p>Comments</p>	<p>Management Consideration 30 Camp A.E. Wood</p> <p>Goal Opportunities for Direct Connection to River Values</p> 	<p>Option A Stabilize archeological remains of Camp and provide interpretive displays. Provide interpretive displays highlighting the importance of Camp A.E. Wood as an example of African-American history in park history.</p> 	<p>Option B Remove debris legacy of archeological remains of Camp. Provide interpretive displays highlighting the importance of Camp A.E. Wood as an example of African-American history in park history.</p> 	<p>Comments</p>
<p>Management Consideration 31 South Fork paddling and floating</p> <p>Goal Visitor Use Management Program</p> 	<p>Option A Continue to allow paddling and floating in this segment without any management or large woody debris. No limits on the number of floats or boats would be in place. No designated pull-in or take-out.</p> 	<p>Option B Continue to allow paddling and floating in this segment with designated pull-in and take-out for the number of floats or boats per year. No limits on recreational floating and water play.</p> 	<p>Comments</p>	<p>Management Consideration 32 Picnic area near Wawona Store</p> <p>Goal Land Uses and Associated Development</p> 	<p>Option A Relocate picnic area to its current location, designate river access.</p> 	<p>Option B Relocate picnic area to a different location, designate river access in this area.</p> 	<p>Comments</p>
<p>Management Consideration 33 Impoundment Effects on Free-Flowing Condition</p> <p>Goal Land Uses and Associated Development</p> 	<p>Option A Investigate reasonable options, such as water system development from Elwell Spring or Big Creek. Assess the impoundment until other options are developed.</p> 	<p>Comments</p>					