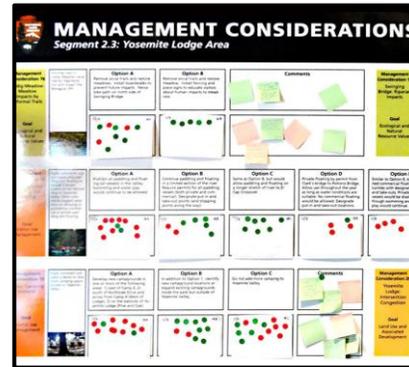




# Meeting Summary Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan Yosemite Valley Community Workshop #2

November 7, 2011





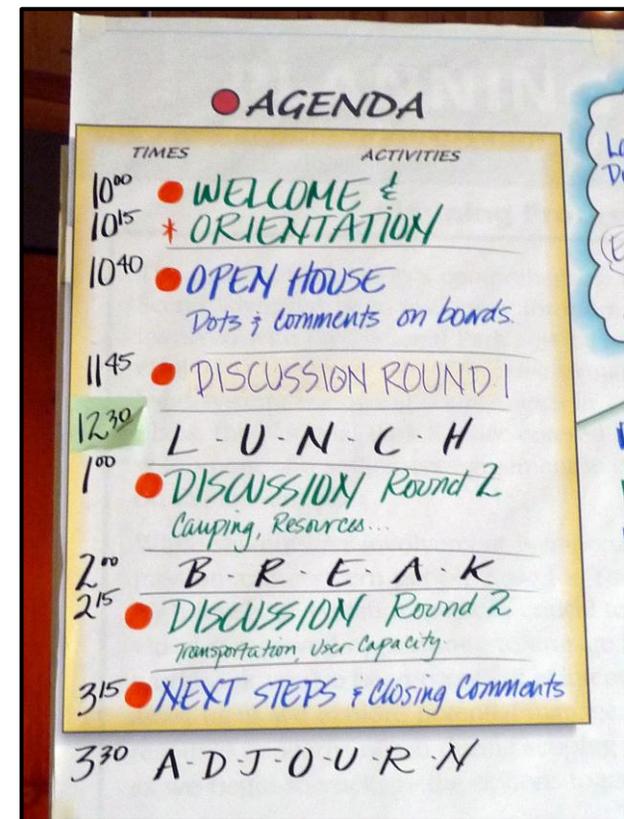
## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 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 Yosemite Valley Community Workshop is one of six meetings held in October and November 2011 to gather community input on preliminary management considerations and options. This feedback will be used in the next phase of the project - development of alternatives. Draft alternatives will be available for public review in the spring of 2012 and will be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement to be released in summer 2012. Community input received during scoping in 2007, and between 2009 and 2011; and during the community workshops in spring 2011 will also be considered in developing alternatives. The alternatives will also reflect data from 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: Yosemite Valley Workshop #2

The Yosemite Valley Workshop for the Merced River Plan was held on November 7, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This was the second workshop held in Yosemite Valley and the fourth of five total community workshops (there were also web meetings) held in October and November 2011 to address the Merced River Plan. Approximately 35 participants attended the workshop. A number of participants were from Mariposa and San Francisco. Approximately one third had attended the Merced River Plan workshops in spring 2011. For another one third,





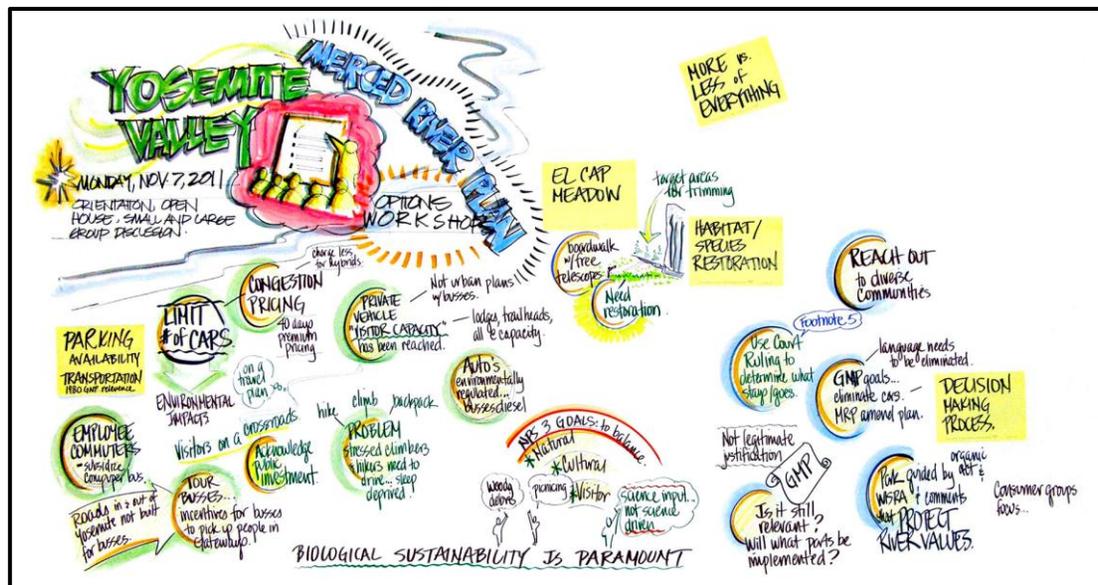


- High Sierra Camp (Management Consideration 4)
- Sugar Pine Bridge (Management Consideration 10)
- Paddling and Floating/Large Woody Debris (Management Considerations 6 and 18)
- Part 4: Large Group Discussion – The final part of the meeting was a group discussion about Yosemite Valley and the management issues and opportunities within the Merced River corridor. 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 including comments received on each topic via the display boards, and during the small and large group discussions. Verbatim comments can be found in Appendix 1: Meeting Notes and Appendix 2: Display Board Comments.

## Camping

Camping was the topic that received the most discussion and comment by this group. Comments were generally in support of additional camping with a number of people concerned about the decrease in campsites since 1980 and the desire to return to these larger numbers. Generally the group agreed that camping should be located in areas that were already disturbed although there were mixed opinions on whether the Rivers Campgrounds and other areas near the river should be used for camping or be restored to a natural state. A number of people suggested separating camping user groups – tent, car and RV – to provide a better user experience. Many people felt that more camping should be developed outside of the Valley to reduce ecological impacts and crowding. A few people in this group felt that the river, land, and wildlife should be considered first, before





adding more camping and other human activities.

## Stock Use

Opinions surrounding stock use were mixed. Some would rather see more people and fewer stock, others would rather see more stock and fewer people. Stock droppings bothered a few people. Others felt it was an historic use. Helicopter use was discouraged by some and a subject requiring more information by others.

## Merced Lake High Sierra Camp

About half of this group agreed that the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp allowed people to experience the wilderness that they may not experience otherwise and therefore, should remain open. One person supported enlarging the camp but most felt its current size was appropriate. Others felt the camp was an inappropriate wilderness use. Some suggested locating the camp on the wilderness periphery or reducing services to reduce impacts.

***“High Sierra Loop trails have a profound effect on people who take them.”***

## Traffic and Congestion

This group was in general agreement that traffic congestion and crowding detract from the visitor experience. Related impacts include noise, air pollution, and wildlife disturbance. Several people suggested solutions including implementing a parking permit system, charging a premium on crowded days, and locating parking outside of the park. A few participants mentioned retaining the private vehicle (and not implementing the 1980 GMP provision eliminating cars from the Valley) citing that cars were less polluting than buses and buses were part of an urban experience. Seasonal measures were cited as an acceptable method of easing traffic congestion.

## Floating and Rafting/Large Woody Debris

This group generally felt rafting has too great an impact on the river – aesthetically, ecologically, and experientially. Most felt the current system of rafting was “out-of-control” and too commercial and unnatural. Solutions included a permit system; strategic placement of large woody debris and beach hardening; and reduction/elimination of





commercial rafting. One person suggested that rafting should be a commercial operation only as it would allow greater control over rafting and its impacts. A number of participants mentioned the impact of rafting on Sentinel Beach and suggested that rafting and picnicking should be separated or commercial rafting should be eliminated from this location. A minority of this group felt both commercial and private rafting should be retained.

***“It’s on the commercial side and unnatural compared to what usually goes on in a natural area.”***

## **Picnicking and Day Use**

Participants felt more day use areas were needed, especially group picnic areas that would accommodate a more diverse group of visitors. Many people felt that parking and picnicking should be separated; that all picnic areas should have a restroom; and that crowds in picnic areas should be controlled. Several people mentioned that picnic areas should be as natural as possible and there should be no fencing.

## **User Capacity and Natural Resource Protection**

A number of people mentioned user capacity and overuse of the land in the Valley as a concern during the discussion of most of the above topics. Determining user capacity was linked to protecting river values and the natural environment. Woven throughout all the discussions was the sentiment by some participants that river and resource protection should be placed before human use and activities.

***“The biological sustainability of this place is paramount and trumps everything we want to do.”***



## APPENDIX 1: MEETING NOTES

### Part 1: Welcome and Orientation

Laurie Durnell of The Grove Consultants International welcomed meeting participants and stated that her role as a neutral facilitator was to assure that everyone's voice and perspectives were heard. Feedback from the meeting will be used to develop a set of alternatives for managing the Merced River. She gave a brief overview of the day, pointing out the informational and interactive boards around the room, and described the ways of providing feedback on the boards and in the workbook. She mentioned that, following the Open House, the group would discuss the issues that seemed to be of greatest interest to the group based upon the placement of sticky dots. There would be three rounds of discussion on these topics.

Using the boards, Laurie described the wild and scenic river plan area and the goals of the Merced River Plan. She mentioned that the overall planning goal was to leave the river unimpaired for future generations but the challenge was in balancing the four subgoals which sometimes conflict that requires trade-offs. She mentioned the color coding which links the goals to the management considerations.

Jim Oswald, also of The Grove, described the planning process, pointing out the scoping in January 2011 and the spring 2011 workshops that addressed various scientific and recreational issues. He also mentioned the ongoing studies designed to provide a strong science basis for the Merced River Plan. This data and community feedback will be considered in developing plan alternatives to be completed in spring of 2012 and in the DEIS to be completed in the summer of 2012.

Jim described the two display boards developed for each river segment. For each segment, the first board provides an overview of the character of the segment and the second board provides management considerations and options for that segment. Participants were requested to spend about an hour reviewing the boards. Participants were provided with both red and green sticky dots and asked to place them on the boards under the management options that they would most like to discuss. Green dots indicated the management options they felt were appropriate and red dots indicated the management options they felt were

● AGENDA	
TIMES	ACTIVITIES
10 <sup>00</sup>	● WELCOME & ORIENTATION
10 <sup>15</sup>	* ORIENTATION
10 <sup>40</sup>	● OPEN HOUSE Dots & Comments on boards.
11 <sup>45</sup>	● DISCUSSION ROUND 1
12 <sup>30</sup>	L - U - N - C - H
1 <sup>00</sup>	● DISCUSSION Round 2 Camping, Resources...
2 <sup>00</sup>	B - R - E - A - K
2 <sup>15</sup>	● DISCUSSION Round 2 Transportation, User Capacity
3 <sup>15</sup>	● NEXT STEPS & Closing Comments
3 <sup>30</sup>	A - D - J - O - U - R - N



inappropriate. Participants were also asked to provide the reasoning for their dots on the pink and green sticky notes. Participants were encouraged to make notes in their workbooks and turn in their comments at the end of the day or return them by mail no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Audience Questions and Comments

- *What work is being done on user capacity?*

**Park Response:** Understanding user capacity is an inherent part of the planning process and work is ongoing related to user capacity.

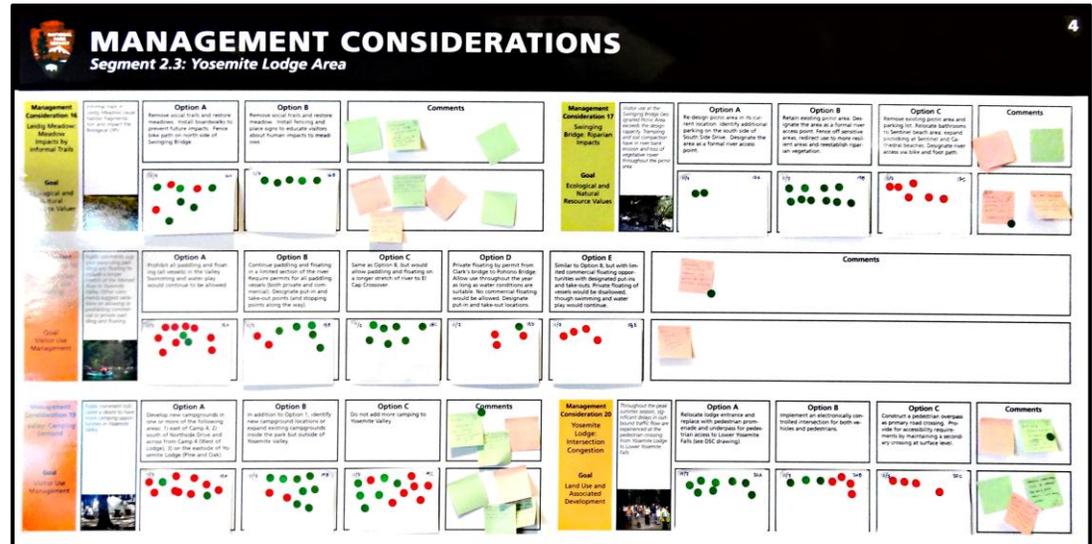
- *Is someone looking at what is the maximum number of campers that can be accommodated in the Valley?*

**Park Response:** Don Neubacher stated that consultants are addressing this issue from two perspectives. First, what is the visitor experience we want to have and second, what infrastructure is needed to support the visitor experience. Camping will be considered along with all the other uses. This will be evaluated against the capacity of the infrastructure. The main issue is that there is congestion three months out of the year and the peak days are weekends.

- *There is an error in the workbook on page 15, #7 Management Considerations. Upper Pines should be labeled as North Pines.*

## Part 2: Open House

Participants spent approximately an hour placing dots and comments on the interactive boards. Each board addressed management considerations for one of the river segments and included an area to comment on the potential management considerations and options for that segment. Not all management options received comments. Where comments were received they are included in Appendix 2: Display Board Comments Participants also placed comments and dots on the preliminary site plans for Yosemite Lodge and Old El Portal as well as on the Merced River Plan goals. These are also included in Appendix 2.





## Part 3: Small Group Discussions

Laurie Durnell of The Grove identified the management opportunities that were of greatest interest to the group based upon the concentration of green and red sticky dots placed on various management concerns. These issues were:

- Camping (Management Considerations 9, 12, 14, 19 and 23)
- Access and Picnicking (Management Considerations 24 and 25)
- Recreational User Conflicts (Management Consideration 2)
- Merced Lake High Sierra Camp (Management Consideration 4)
- Sugar Pine Bridge (Management Consideration 10)
- Paddling and Floating/Large Woody Debris (Management Considerations 6 and 18)



## Camping

Laurie suggested that the first small group discussion focus on camping. She asked each table group to discuss the information about camping and camping demand that would be most helpful to park staff. She asked participants to place their comments on the tabletop template maps using the red and green sticky notes. In addition to camping, the other topics discussed in the small groups and reported to the larger group were Recreational User Conflicts/Merced Land High Sierra Camp/Stock Use; Access/Picnicking/Recreational Use; and Floating and Rafting. Comments for these topic areas follow.

- *“It didn’t strike me that camping was the biggest impact. Turn River Campgrounds into day use. They are already pretty well damaged. Maybe there are opportunities for nature trails, day use parking, and interpretive programs in amphitheater.”*
- *“Repair flood damaged campgrounds to preexisting conditions for group camping. Rivers Campground and Lower Pines are camping land waiting for repair, not open space. NPS has the money to do this. Campers were left out of 1980 GMP. Protect the river but put the campgrounds back that were taken away. But we need more campsites in addition to that. Campers*

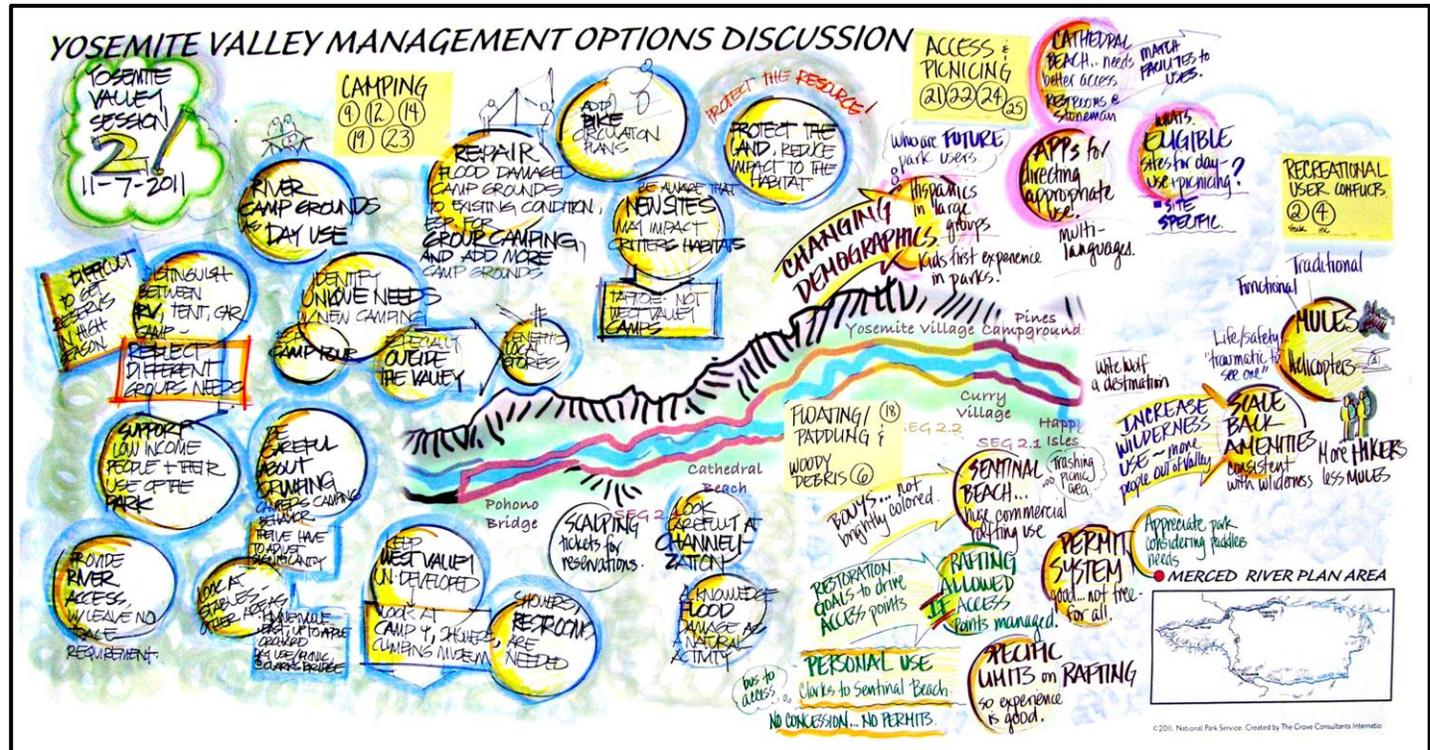


*want to park cars and get on bikes – need a bicycle circulation plan. Have ice and wood vending in campgrounds so we don't have to get in our cars."*

- *"The impact of any expansion over the amount of camping today is not just the footprint but increased smoke and disturbance to wildlife. What are unique needs that might be served with expansion of camping? People that might use a campground outside valley are different than those that carry their climbing equipment. Tailoring camping to specific groups is better."*
- *"Camping located outside of the Valley benefits the Gateway Communities when campers buy supplies in these areas. This ties to user capacity."*
- *"Need to make a mindful decision to have new campgrounds and campsites. Taft Toe and totally new proposed spots do not seem like the best idea. That area of Valley is undeveloped. New campgrounds would bring in smoke, and increase traffic and parking. Animals don't have a voice. There is a road on either side of river. Consider the number of bears and animals killed – they don't have access on the river."*
- *"Users should have a good experience while camping. Camping is reflective of people – RV versus walk-in versus tent versus lodging. Not catering to those with a certain income strata. Reflects those who come to the park. Availability of parking is difficult during certain times of year. Restore group campsites. Difficult to get in at certain times."*
- *"Rebuild campgrounds lost by flood. Need more opportunities in Yosemite Valley for low income to enjoy overnight stays in Yosemite. Park is for all people not just elite."*
- *"Essential that we start from standpoint of protecting land. When we look at campground restoration we should remember that we need to protect the land and resource and restore what we can with the minimum amount of human impact. Consider compaction. Prior to the flood, tremendous compaction in campground near Stillman Bridge."*
- *"Campers have adjusted to lots of restrictions. There were 10,000 sites in Valley in 1968. Now there are a few hundred. People on bikes, cars. Look at how much campers have adjusted. I understand there are 100 campers that want to be there per site. We need to open our minds to find opportunities. East of Ahwahnee parking lot, Kinneyville, replace stables (we don't need a concession that runs ten horses per hour), Clark's Bridge north side, and western end of Upper Pines. Day use is a bigger issue than camping."*



- “Around the country there are dozens of wild and scenic rivers where people can access areas for camping using a leave no trace policy. Do this and it would require none of the infrastructure we are talking about.”
- “Keep camping in areas already disturbed. Keep west Valley undisturbed. Quality not just quantity. Amenities.”



- “Provide showers. This controls human waste in the river.”
- “To encourage safe climbing, open campgrounds to climbers so camping isn’t just a day use.”
- “Concerned about definition of restoration. Don’t use riprap if you are going to channelize river to get spaces back. River is dynamic. Think carefully about what the river wants to do and don’t put anything in its path.”
- “Define floods as a natural process and flood damage as a natural outcome. Design campgrounds to recover from flooding.”



## Recreational User Conflicts/Merced Lake High Sierra Camp/Stock Use

- *“When high country backpacking, I don’t find mules that disruptive but would discourage helicopter use. I would rather have a mule come by than ten backpackers.”*
- *“I’d rather see more people and fewer horses and mules.”*
- *“Our table had a range of opinions. Some people can see the inspiring experiences they have had at the High Sierra Camp while others wonder if it’s appropriate to have this type of facility in wilderness. If the High Sierra Camp remains, make facilities scaled back to be more consistent with wilderness.”*
- *“Stock is traditional, serves as emergency rescue, maintains viability of backpacking. If we don’t enhance visitation in wilderness more people will come to the Valley. There is no option of increasing access to the wilderness. Increase size of Merced Lake High Sierra Camp. What if it was a destination? This will get people out of the Valley. Make them destinations.”*
- *“How many helicopter rounds will it take to mitigate use of stock?”*

## Access/Picnicking/Recreational Use

- *“Picnic areas and current usage – different cultures using park in different ways. More Hispanic users using picnic areas in large groups. Important for future of schoolchildren – half of children are Hispanic. How to manage – make more, expand what is there, use footprint more efficiently. Questions about the future users of the park.”*
- *“Different languages. Don’t oversign but use digital media to convey information. Make it less of an urban experience – not a ‘this is your parking place’ message.”*
- *“What are eligible sites for day use and picnicking? NPS has bottled up opportunities for picnicking and day use and concentrated parking at Camp 6. Need to do this site specifically. Maximize day use and manage better.”*

## Floating and Rafting

- *“Needs to be a discussion about whether commercial rafting will continue and what it is doing to Sentinel Beach. It is a quiet, away-from-the-crowds picnic area but is being ruined by rafting, buoys, and commercial operators. It looks like an amusement park.”*



- *“Commercial and private use of rafting should be allowed as long as access points are developed that minimize the impact on the river.”*
- *“Have a permit system for any additional areas opened up. Don’t want to see overuse or the current free for all use. Limit access. Use restoration goals (restore large woody debris) to discourage people from using these areas.”*
- *“It’s on the commercial side and unnatural compared to what usually goes on in a natural area. Commercial activities should be downplayed with very hard limits so that activity doesn’t interfere with experience of a natural Yosemite.”*
- *“Buoys on river. People put in brightly colored rope buoys to make sure people are in proper channel. This is not appropriate.”*
- *“From Clark’s Bridge to Sentinel Bridge allow personal watercraft only. No concessions, no commercial rafting, no buses, no dragging of rafts, no permits. Expand shuttle to include Bridalveil and Sentinel Beach to eliminate pick-up car trip.”*
- *“Wherever people picnic with their kids, the kids will go in the water. At Stoneman Bridge there is a beach but no restroom. Plan facilities to accommodate picnicking, restrooms, and beaches in same location.”*
- *“Thank the park service by allowing people to paddle along various segments.”*

## Part 4: Large Group Discussion – Yosemite Valley

Participants initially identified topics for discussion as a large group but the conversation evolved into comments on a broad range of issues. Comments have been sorted by topic rather than appearing in the order presented.

### Big Picture

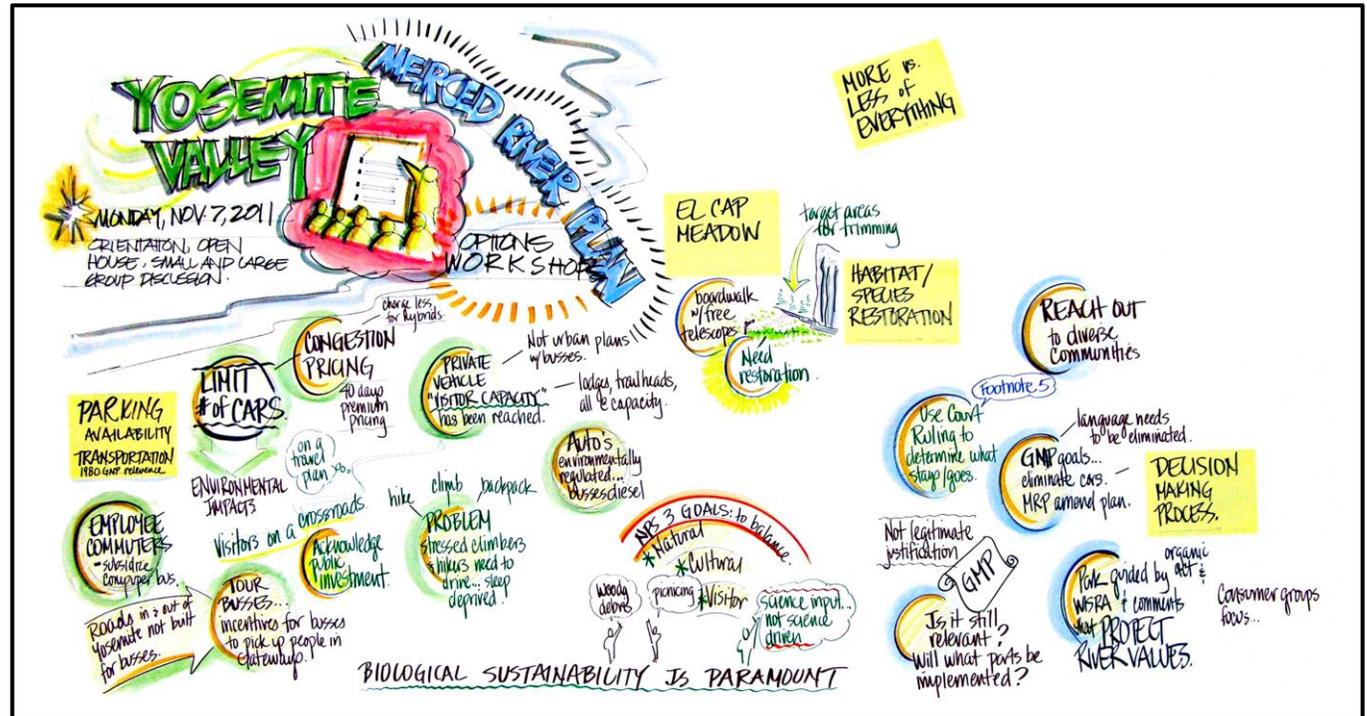
- *“How will decisions be made?”*
- *“Overarching comment – at the Wawona Workshop comments were about ‘we need more of everything’. There should be discussion about do we need less of everything?”*
- *“When you go through a major planning process, things are interrelated, and it results in a holistic plan. Once that plan is adopted, if you pick and choose what is implemented, you end up with a shell of the original plan. Nullifies the validity of the whole thing. NPS is using 1980 GMP in ways that are not legitimate.”*



- “9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court ruling – if you want to reduce impacts on environment, look at facilities in the Valley and see what needs to be there and what needs to be removed.”
- “NPS mission – balance natural, historic, and visitor experience – all are equally paramount to management. Plan must embrace all even if people only talk about one of these areas.”

## Natural Resources and Science

- “Today all conversations have been around what a visitor wants for the experience but not what are the ORVs, especially biological values that have to be protected at minimum level. Is species restoration being considered or preserving habitat so species can sustain?”



- “The biological sustainability of this place is paramount and trumps everything we want to do. As urban people we might not make a decision that is right for park (e.g. put in or remove woody debris – biological integrity). As the population increases, we have to preserve this place. It becomes irrelevant if it isn’t biologically preserved.”
- “I disagree with woman who said the visitor takes a second seat. Science drives decisions.”



- *“Park should reach out to more diverse communities. Planning processes in various ethnic groups of concern. Demographics are changing. Need their input.”*

## Transportation and Congestion

- *“Experience is that all comments and opinions will be weighted the same. NPS should be guided by Organic and Wild and Scenic River Acts. It is best to protect the natural resources. Final plan will not reflect resurrection of YVP. Parking is already limited – spaces removed. If start bringing cars back you need to widen roads, reinforce, etc.”*
- *“Continued reference to 1980 GMP you are tiering off of. Shouldn’t tier off of this. Vehicle removal. Be candid about vehicle usage 30 years ago and now. Is the 1980 plan relevant?”*
- *“As long as the GMP exists and as long as the Park adheres to goals of GMP to eliminate all private vehicle access to Yosemite Valley we can’t have a broad-based discussion about how to deal with traffic and parking. The Merced River Plan could amend the GMP so we can address this.”*
- *“Parking availability needs to consider whether we need a limit on the number of cars. If you don’t limit cars you will overwhelm parking areas. The two go together. Number of cars will need to be restricted at some point.”*
- *“Role for public transit from Gateway Communities. Publicly operated buses are more expensive. There are many more private buses. Provide an incentive system for private operators pick up the people in Gateway Communities.”*
- *“Roads in and out of Yosemite are not designed for buses. I don’t understand why busses come in for free. Autos have emission controls, buses don’t. I support the private vehicle.”*
- *“What is visitor capacity? What are controls? Removing day parking exacerbated the problem.”*
- *“Whatever solutions we decide upon, remember the public has invested a huge amount of money in a crossroads transportation system. There are huge numbers of people in the park on a travel itinerary. System needs to make it available to the car traveler. How will a transportation system work around the park?”*
- *“What is the point of bus system? If the 1980 plan is true, we are reaching user capacity under the current method of access (prefers visitor capacity). By having buses, we can double attendance. 1980 plan is a hatchet over our head. We should be using science and transportation science. Buses are an urban experience. Cars are more appropriate to the rural experience.”*



- *“Congestion pricing. Park has forty days per year congested. Charge a premium on those days.”*
- *“Environmental impact in transportation area. NPS isn’t restricted in terms of incentives we can put in place. Have pricing that relates to type of vehicle – e.g. hybrid receives discount, or small car.”*
- *“NPS could subsidize a bus system that brings employee commuters into park. If they do this, they would need fewer resources to manage roads, parking, etc.”*
- *“Availability of parking and transportation.”*

## Camping and Lodging

- *“Reservation tickets – scalping needs to be addressed.”*
- *“People come in to hike. Go to Backpacker’s parking lot. Hike in and out. Sleep deprived people drive in and home because there is no place to stay. This is a life safety issue.”*

## El Cap Meadow

- *“Visitor use and ecological value competing in El Cap Meadow. If a boardwalk is placed, add some telescopes to watch climbers.”*
- *“You used to be able to park along the road and see climbers. Providing target areas for trimming to see climbers will reduce meadow impacts.”*

Jim Oswald closed the meeting by reminding participants that all commentary received will be used to develop alternatives. The preliminary draft alternatives will be available in the spring of 2012 and the DEIS in the summer of 2012. Workshop notes will be summarized and posted online.

## Tabletop Worksheets

Each table group was provided with a worksheet divided into sections for each river segment (Segment 1, Segment 2, Segment 4 and Segment 5 through 8). During the small group exercises, participants were asked to add comments to the worksheet as they



saw fit. The following are the comments sorted by topic as written by meeting participants. There is some redundancy among these comments, the group discussion comments and the display board comments included in Appendix 2.

## Camping and Lodging

- *“Think carefully about what river wants to do if ‘restoring’ former campgrounds. If to replace campgrounds we’d need to channel or control the river – that would be a negative thing.”*
- *“Why do so many NPS and DNC employees live in the Valley? Space could be used for camping.”*
- *“Hard to separate lodging and camping issues. There are too many people to think about adding more. User capacity.”*
- *“Look at campsites out of the Valley and connect them via mass transit. No more sites in Valley. Add more out of the Valley.”*
- *“Enhance and add out of Valley campgrounds.”*
- *“Out-of-Valley campgrounds lead to increased numbers of day users in the Valley. They want to be in the Cathedral.”*
- *“Look at Tuolumne, Big Oak Flat for additional camping opportunities.”*
- *“How do we determine a ratio of what is desirable between the different types of camping and lodging? A ratio might help.”*
- *“Conditions were worse a couple of decades ago. Don’t go back. Too many sites in the ‘90s.”*
- *“GMP goals - 684 drive-in campsites; 14 group sites; 34/38 walk-in sites.”*
- *“Petition with 2000 signatures with comments not presented in this process. Overuse of group campgrounds.”*
- *“Restore to pre-flood conditions or return damaged campgrounds equal to pre-existing.”*
- *“New and expanded camping at Eagle Creek. New picnic area ‘West of Lodge day parking’ and ‘Taft Toe’.”*
- *“Stronger NPS interest in new camping rather than replacing camping at damaged facilities.”*
- *“There are many opportunities for walk-in camping in High Country. Consider access issues.”*
- *“Will campgrounds be planned for separate users – dog owners, RVs (generators, extra-long vehicles)?”*



- *“Must address user capacity, quality of recreational experience. Don’t balance user capacity on the backs of campers.”*
- *“Capacity is integral to camping.”*
- *“Expand camping in currently impacted areas – 1. DNC Stable area – remove stables and attendant infrastructure and housing. 2. Add loop to Upper Pines. 3. Equestrian area east of Ahwahnee.”*
- *“No camping in Upper and Lower Rivers Campgrounds. Restore both Upper and Lower Rivers Campgrounds to a natural floodplain area.”*
- *“Expand camping where current infrastructure is not as integral to Yosemite experience. Look at sites that are already disturbed.”*
- *“Focusing on new camping outside of Yosemite Valley can not only reduce congestion in the Valley but can steer more visitation to National Forest lands around the Park.”*
- *“If camping expanded in Valley, Camp 4 and climbing users are a logical priority for allowing.”*
- *“Will never meet camping demand in Valley – but people want in-Valley camping.”*
- *“More balance of lodging versus camping.”*
- *“Camping improvements at Camp 4 (showers, cooking pavilion) – please revisit.”*
- *“Explore Kennyville for camping. Already impacted site, few resource issues.”*
- *“West Valley campground – several miles from needed infrastructure (stores, facilities).”*
- *“Look at north of Devil’s Elbow for camping.”*
- *“Consider a campground accessible only by river. Very primitive, with complete carry-in, carry-out ethic. By permit only.”*
- *“Increase camping opportunities in the Valley near the river.”*
- *“Leave existing. Move the new camping out of the valley. Increase picnicking and day use.”*
- *“If adding sites, move them away from the river or further west away from existing infrastructure. Any new sites need to be mindful of the environment.”*



- *“Take sites out that are in floodplain (Housekeeping and campgrounds).”*
- *“Allocation of campsites/reservation systems need to be revamped to avoid scalping, etc.”*
- *“Any new sites need to consider the need to remove human waste if there are additional people.”*
- *“Never meet demand for camping – people will always want to come and camp.”*
- *“Other impacts: California State Parks closure may increase demand for camping. May shift more people.”*
- *“If add sites – more walk-in sites to allow for more peaceful experiences. Segregate RVs versus tent campers, etc. All RVs in one place.”*
- *“Flood of 1997 took out campsites in a high use/impact area. Any restoration of campsites should be geared toward low impact – walk-in, bikes, etc. Reduce cars in Valley.”*
- *“Consider some campsites in Yosemite Valley that are not for cars. Look at a campground in El Portal Trailer Village with a day use parking lot with transportation to Yosemite Valley as planned in 1980!”*
- *“Use El Portal Trailer Village for half camping/half parking, restroom, shower, laundry, visitor information.”*
- *“What about increasing walk-in sites?”*
- *“Increase availability of camping.”*
- *“Like to see a distinction between RV, auto and walk-in camping. Like camping styles should be grouped together.”*
- *“A little more organization would be good – cement pads might be overkill, too industrial. Not a city park concept.”*
- *“It is too hard to get a site for camping in the Valley using the current reservation system.”*
- *“RVs are noisy, invasive. They need larger roads and turning radius.”*
- *“Camping accommodations are the least expensive and should be favored over lodging.”*
- *“Restore campgrounds to pre-flood conditions while modifying to the riparian/flood protection.”*
- *“Still need to provide RV camping and bus systems interior to the park for getting around the Valley.”*



- *“Auto-based camping is more family-oriented – they should be favored over RV. Walk-in is the same as auto.”*
- *“Impacts for new camping should be isolated to areas that have already been impacted by previous development.”*
- *“Like to see more camping in the Valley where it won’t create a negative impact.”*

## Day Use, Access and Picnicking

- *“Stoneman Bridge steps to river. Nice but no restrooms. Need more facilities.”*
- *“Cathedral is currently a mess. Parking is a problem. Needs to be relocated. More parking away from picnic area. Keep cars out. Formalize parking area.”*
- *“Identify and formalize picnic and access areas. Provide appropriate infrastructures.”*
- *“Create a loop at Cathedral Picnic Area. Create a load and unload area.”*
- *“TaftToe, Sentinel and Cathedral Beach – return to picnic area and day use and non-paved roadways.”*
- *“New picnic area at Clark’s Bridge and camping and picnicking at Stables and west end of Upper Pines.”*
- *“West of Lodge picnicking.”*
- *“Redesign/replace stables area for public access, picnicking, enjoying the river.”*
- *“Consider scaling back use at popular picnic sites. Park employees at peak times to enforce. Otherwise sites become ‘sacrificial lamb’.”*
- *“Need a program in place that keeps a natural feel by educating the public about which areas picnic benches can be located.”*
- *“Don’t single out equestrians. They are one of many forms of recreational user potentially having an effect on park resources.”*
- *“More restrooms or less people in entire Valley.”*



## High Sierra Camp

- *“Alternate fuel to reduce stock use? More solar?”*
- *“Mule poop on trail detracts from experience. Add another trail for stock only.”*
- *“Merced Lake High Sierra Camp allows people to experience wilderness they would not otherwise experience.”*
- *“How much impact would reducing services have on stock use?”*
- *“Eliminate more essential services like linen service, hot foods, showers, to reduce impacts.”*
- *“Merced Lake High Sierra Camp is contrary to wilderness experience.”*
- *“Locate High Sierra Camps more at the periphery of wilderness rather than in far back country.”*
- *“High Sierra Loop trails have a profound effect on people who take them.”*
- *“Helicopter use – sound and visual impacts are negative.”*
- *“Stock experience is another recreational experience and not seen as offensive.”*
- *“You need to invest time and effort into studying visitor preferences and opinions. These studies should sample visitors in situ. Public can tell you what they think but many of these users don’t utilize the designated wilderness. This then should be taken into account with biodiversity and other ecological concerns. One question that came up is user conflict with stock use – is this anecdotal, or empirically founded? Find out if visitors would prefer eight hours of helicopter use twice a summer versus a summer full of pack/stock impacts on trails. What is entailed in helicopter use? How long? How many days?”*
- *“Like to keep the High Sierra Camps because they provide mobility to people who otherwise could not access the area.”*
- *“Merced Lake High Sierra Camp conveys an historic context to Yosemite.”*

## Sugar Pine Bridge

- *“Need to keep Sugar Pine and Ahwahnee Bridges for circulation. Emergency access.”*



## Paddling and Floating

- *“Personal rafting enhances the quality of visitor experience.”*
- *“Remove restrictions on personal rafting from Clark’s Bridge to Sentinel Beach.”*
- *“Remove all raft concessions.”*
- *“Cathedral Beach does not need to be re-designed. It’s a nice, hidden place. Eliminate commercial rafting activity and let Sentinel Beach return to peace and quiet.”*
- *“Lift ban on boating in Yosemite in general.”*
- *“Support for limited access points to the river. Boating is one medium to lessen demand for river access because they experience the river via boat.”*
- *“Direct river access for boating to hardened areas and where enhancing large woody debris, place at points that are difficult to access.”*
- *“Support for permit system for rafting/boating for positive experience of the boaters.”*
- *“Floating/boating – Delineate put-in and take-out areas to reduce bank erosion, trampling, habitat destruction. Designate specific areas.”*
- *“Potentially more control over rafting if commercial only?”*
- *“Sentinel Beach – perhaps separate users – rafting versus picnicking?”*
- *“Relocate the rafting take-out if keeping the parking/picnicking in Sentinel Beach.”*
- *“Rafting creates an enjoyable experience for some and if it’s not harming anything then it should be continued.”*
- *“Eliminate commercial rafting on the Merced in the Park, then conflict at Sentinel Beach doesn’t matter.”*
- *“Specific limits should be placed on the number of commercial rafts allowed in the Valley.”*



## El Cap Meadow

- *“Take out some conifers. Too many trees. In the last 20 years trees have blocked views. Restore vistas.”*
- *“Put up barriers to allow social trails. Guide people to view points. Restore view points and cut some evergreens.”*
- *“Put up free telescopes if boardwalk in El Cap Meadow is built – people can watch climbers.”*

## User Capacity and River Values

- *“Concerns about user capacity and overuse of land in Valley. Need to protect river values.”*

## Transportation and Congestion

- *“Conflict between access and experience. Avoid Valley in summer.”*
- *“Bicycle circulation plan. Vending operations in campgrounds.”*
- *“Oversized vehicles are adding to congestion. Enact size limits.”*
- *“There is concern that adding new car-focused camping in the Valley exacerbates user capacity issues tied to noise, congestion, smoke, and disturbance of wildlife.”*
- *“Initiate a volunteer parking permit requirement for east Valley destinations east of El Cap . Gives visitor guaranteed access during high use periods.”*
- *“Day use system for peak times in Valley via parking permit.”*
- *“Rivers Campground parking area development – no.”*
- *“Taft Toe area bad to develop as it opens up the west half of the Valley to more development and congestion.”*
- *“This year, traffic, visitation had greatly increased – sheer numbers! This crowding takes away from visitor experiences.”*
- *“Eliminate motorcycles – soundscape issues.”*



- *“Need to limit cars in the Valley?”*

## General

- *“Make Lower Yosemite Valley more accommodating. Think about incentives to encourage use.”*
- *“West Valley not already disturbed. This is where you get the ‘Cathedral’ feeling. Campfire smoke and congestion also affects wildlife values.”*
- *“Want to hear Park Ranger talks not Delaware sales talks.”*
- *“NPS employees are great. Thanks for taking the time and effort.”*
- *“Could have a smart phone app that tells people what they can do in a particular area in multiple languages.”*
- *“Don’t continue to advertise recreation in the Park that will bring additional people to the Valley (i.e. Bracebridge Dinners, commercial rafting, etc.).”*
- *“Opposed to homogenizing or citifying.”*



## APPENDIX 2: DISPLAY BOARD COMMENTS

### SEGMENT 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall

#### Visitor Use Management Program

##### Management Consideration 1: Segment 1 Wilderness Trails

###### General Comments

- *“There is a clear trade-off choice between having a high quality wilderness experience and serving high demand. The Park should err on the side of wilderness and resources.”*
- *“A wilderness experience is not wilderness with so many people. Remember the designation of wilderness and perfect that.”*
- *“What are average numbers of High Sierra Camp users? What are the average (quota) number of users on trail?”*

##### Management Consideration 2: Recreational User Conflicts

###### General Comments

- *“Require stock animals to pack out manure.”*
- *“Do not close the High Sierra Camps.”*
- *“Close High Sierra Camp to eliminate administrative stock use.”*

#### Land Uses and Associated Development

##### Management Consideration 3: Merced Lake Backpackers Campground

###### General Comments

- *“Expand restricted camping limit on all High Sierra Camps – all within two not one miles must camp at High Sierra Camp area.”*



## Management Consideration 4: Merced Lake High Sierra Camp

### General Comments:

- *“NPS deemed High Sierra Camps as interpretive when opened. Keep them!”*
- *“High Sierra Camp does not fit self-reliant definition of ORV. Not appropriate in wilderness.”*
- *“A developed camp, despite historic heritage use, clearly conflicts with the Wilderness Act and its intent. If a developed camp is deemed essential, relocate camps to perimeter areas of wilderness to most appropriate sites.”*
- *“Allow paddling in wilderness.”*

## Management Consideration 5: Little Yosemite Valley Backpackers

### General Comments:

- *“Trailhead quota may be better at higher reduction than just 25%.”*

## SEGMENT 2-1: East Yosemite Valley

### Ecological and Natural Resource Values

## Management Consideration 6: Clarks Bridge to El Cap Bridge: Large Woody Debris Management

### General Comments:

- *“Eliminate or significantly reduce rafting on the Merced.”*
- *“Our mission is to preserve natural processes – provide for their enjoyment – but ONLY in such a way that will leave them unimpaired. Removing LWD is impairing the resource.”*

## Management Consideration 7: Riparian Zone: Campsites

### General Comments:

- *“Do not remove parking access from campsite. Retain drive-in campsite access necessary for young families and elderly.”*



## Opportunities for Direct Connection to River Values

### Management Consideration 8: Cultural ORV: Visitor Use and Infrastructure

#### General Comments:

- *“Seems like this might need to be on a site-specific basis. I’m not clear where the plant populations are but am all for retaining traditional cultural and spiritual use.”*
- *“Involve all associated native American tribes not just the Mariposa Band.”*

## Visitor Use Management Program

### Management Consideration 9: Valley: Camping Demand

#### General Comments:

- *“Suggest camping locations to better accommodate recreation goals or type of activities (e.g. RV’s, large and small group tent camping, backpackers).”*
- *“More camping in Upper Pines, DNC Stables area, and East of Ahwahnee.”*
- *“New campsites only in stables, Upper Pines new loop. Maybe expand Backpackers Campground.”*
- *“Repair (put back) all flood damaged campgrounds – upper River/Lower River/Lower Pines/group campground. GMP – 684 drive-in valley campsites; 14 group sites.”*
- *“Would like more campsites outside Valley and improve camping and transportation to and from Valley to areas along Hwy. 41 and Hwy. 120. Valley should have fewer cars and more mass transportation.”*
- *“No camping in former Upper and Lower Rivers Campground. Restore to natural conditions.”*



## Land Uses and Associated Development

### Management Consideration 10: Sugar Pine Bridge/Ahwahnee Bridge/Road Berm: Free Flowing Condition

#### General Comments:

- *“Retain “historic” bridges as they are.”*
- *“If footbridges are constructed, must be as beautiful as old historic ones.”*
- *“Our mission is to preserve natural processes, provide for their enjoyment but only in such a way as will leave them unimpaired. Resource protection trumps our enjoyment (or historic resources).”*
- *“Amend GMP to eliminate all language that calls for removal of private vehicle access to Yosemite Valley.”*
- *“Initiate a voluntary day use parking permit for East Valley destinations east of El Cap to guarantee entry status in advance of visit. Use bar code technology to administer system.”*

## SEGMENT 2-2: Yosemite Village Area

## Ecological and Natural Resource Values

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

#### General Comments:

- *“The GMP states that there were 300 housekeeping cabins. After the 97 flood there were 266 cabins. Using the GMP as a starting point – Option 11A leaves 207 cabins; Option 11B leaves 232 cabins.”*
- *“If ever there was a location to bend over backwards to restore and protect riverbanks, Yosemite Valley is that location. Do it.”*
- *“Hwy. 120 would be a good place to move the units towards Groveland.”*



## Management Consideration 12: Upper and Lower Rivers Campground Areas

Management Option 12B: Restore visitor use opportunities (camping, parking and picnic areas) throughout the former Upper and Lower Rivers campgrounds, locating infrastructure above the high water mark and outside of the riparian area.

- *“To pre-flood quantities”*

Management Option 12C: Fully restore the floodplain and riparian ecosystems and designate river access points to manage visitor use and minimize future impacts.

- *“Radically against public comment.”*

### General Comments:

- *“Re-establish all flood damaged campsites: Upper River, Lower River, Lower Pines, Group Campground. Use GMP numbers. 684 – drive in sites.”*
- *“What about turning the Rivers Campgrounds into day use parking and turning areas into nature trails and Lower River Amphitheater programs – areas already impacted from construction.”*
- *“Riverbank erosion and reconstruction using proven engineering methods and local log placement.”*
- *“By infrastructure I take it to mean restrooms and not campsites. Campsites to be restored to pre-flood quantities and location and expanded if possible that may involve areas to the north.”*
- *“Close road from Stoneman Bridge to Ahwahnee Bridge.”*

## Visitor Use Management Program

### Management Consideration 14: Valley: Camping Demand

Management Option 14A: Reestablish camping at the former Rivers Campground.

- *“See VCC petition at [www.yosemitevalleycampers.org](http://www.yosemitevalleycampers.org)”*



**Management Option 14B:** In addition to Management Option 14A, identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds inside the park but outside of Yosemite Valley.

- *“But inside the Valley.”*

**Management Option 14C:** Do not add more camping to Yosemite Valley.

- *“See petition at [www.yosemitevalleycampers.org](http://www.yosemitevalleycampers.org).”*

### General Comments:

- *“Repair and restore all the flood damaged campgrounds to pre-flood conditions including group camping especially.”*
- *“Not every demand for use can be met if the cathedral is to be protected. Put new camping outside the valley.”*
- *“Restore Upper and Lower River Campgrounds to natural conditions.”*
- *“New camping means more parking and people. Traffic and human congestion is our #1 problem.”*
- *“Taft Toe Area: This area should not be developed for camping. This side of the valley is one of rare undeveloped areas in valley. Leave it alone.”*
- *“Also strongly disagree with developing Eagle Creek and West of El Cap for camping. Parking, access, developing new areas doesn’t need to happen. If expansion, use already impacted sites.”*

## Land Uses and Associated Development

### Management Consideration 15: Camp 6 Intersection

**Management Option 15E:** Realign intersection to be a true four-way stop. Inbound access to parking area along utility corridor from Sentinel Drive. Include pedestrian under-crossing and relocate other pedestrian crossing.

- *“Undercrossing may not be cost effective.”*
- *“No signal lights within YNP boundaries.”*
- *“Remove garage in Yosemite Valley to relocate Camp 6 parking.”*



## General Comments:

- *“Option F: Prevent congestion by closing park to incoming traffic before the number of cars reaches saturation.”*
- *“Bicycle trail – help relieve congestion by creating safe bicycle lanes in Valley and in and out of park.”*
- *“Cannot recommend specific action but this makes a good solution to provide traffic (auto and pedestrian) flow.”*
- *“Amend GMP to eliminate all language calling for removal of private vehicle access to Yosemite Valley.”*

## SEGMENT 2-3: Yosemite Lodge Area

### Ecological and Natural Resource Values

#### Management Consideration 16: Leidig Meadow: Meadow Impacts by Informal Trails

##### General Comments:

- *“Evaluate social trails. Are they used by wildlife also? Perhaps they could be appropriate to retain and/or develop?”*
- *“Social trails should stay.”*
- *“Option B – visitors don’t read or actually follow verbiage from signs.”*
- *“Define which trails should remain and develop them with good signage. Plan indigenous plants, erect log or rock barriers where appropriate to recover meadows.”*

#### Management Consideration 17: Swinging Bridge: Riparian Impacts

Management Option 17A: Re-design picnic area in its current location. Identify additional parking on the south side of South Side Drive. Designate the area as a formal river access point.

- *“Identify additional parking on south side of Southside Drive.”*
- *“Do not homogenize picnic area. Retain informal rustic feel.”*



## Visitor Use Management Program

### Management Consideration 18: Yosemite Valley: Paddling and Floating

#### General Comments:

- *“Eliminate commercial rafting. No permits for private floating.”*
- *“Allow rafting – both commercial and private.”*

### Management Consideration 19: Valley Camping Demand

#### General Comments:

- *“Expand camping only in currently impacted areas (i.e. DNC stable area or equestrian area east of Ahwahnee).”*
- *“Restore campgrounds to pre-1997 flood conditions and comply with Congressional direction.”*
- *“Identify camping locations inside park and outside Valley. Then provide mass transportation to access Valley for day use.”*
- *“What about existing Camp 4? The Lodge Redevelopment Plan (prior to MRP litigation) considered improvement to Camp 4 such as showers and cooking pavilion and climbing museum.”*

## Land Uses and Associated Development

### Management Consideration 20: Yosemite Lodge: Intersection Congestion

#### General Comments:

- *“Keep using seasonal employees to regulate people and cars. It works and is cost effective.”*
- *“No signal lights! Overpass creates visual obstruction of the area’s natural beauty.”*
- *“Pedestrian undercrossing could be seasonal – use during peak season and not during winter.”*



## SEGMENT 2-4: West Yosemite Valley

### General Comments

- *“Consider bus stops in Lower Gorge for climbers – Cookie Cliff, etc.”*
- *“Visual barriers and restoration of plants should be incorporated as will view areas.”*

### Ecological and Natural Resource Values

#### Management Consideration 21: El Cap Meadow: Informal Social Trails

Management Option 21A: Use restoration fencing to limit foot traffic into the meadow and designate appropriate access routes using boardwalks and viewing platforms.

- *“Yes to boardwalks. No to fencing.”*
- *“No fencing!”*

Management Option 21C: Selectively remove vegetation that is blocking roadside views of El Capitan.

- *“Need to understand how much and what vegetation (trees?) would be removed.”*

### Visitor Use Management Program

#### Management Consideration 23: Valley: Camping Demand

Management Option 23A: Potential areas for campground development: Taft Toe, east of El Capitan Picnic Area, west of El Capitan Meadow, Yellow Pines.

- *“Develop more camping outside Valley.”*



**Management Option 23B:** In addition to Management Option 1, identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds inside the park but outside of Yosemite Valley.

- *“Restore all campgrounds lost to flood.”*
- *“No camping at Taft Toe. Parking potential at Taft Toe.”*
- *“Consider walk-in camping in West Valley.”*

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

- *“Recognize the historic and cultural significance of private vehicle day visitor access and do not continue to enforce the 1980 GMP goal of eliminating this form of access to the Valley.”*
- *“Restore campgrounds to pre-1997 flood condition and comply with Congressional directive on funding allocation.”*

## Land Uses and Associated Development

### Management Consideration 24: Cathedral Beach Picnic Area

General Comments:

- *“No fencing. Do not have to designate every spot along the river. Leave as natural as possible.”*
- *“Retain existing. No fencing.”*
- *“Do not redesign. Retain rustic feel. Do not homogenize picnic area.”*

### Management Consideration 25: Sentinel Beach: Picnic Area

Management Option 25C: Relocate picnic/day use sites to accommodate raft take out only; formalize vehicle access and parking; designate river access.

- *“Eliminate commercial rafting!”*



## SEGMENT 4: El Portal

### Land Uses and Associated Development

#### Management Consideration 28: Maintenance Administrative Complex Roadside Parking

Management Option 28B: Relocate parking from the river's edge. Build new parking east of Foresta Road at the Administrative Facility. Restore sites between Foresta Road and the river.

- *“Need to explore more camping in El Portal.”*
- *“Limit parking near the train and community hall so that the downtown area is not full of cars.”*

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

### Visitor Use Management Program

#### Management Consideration 31: South Fork: Paddling and Floating

Management Option 31B: Continue to allow paddling and floating in this segment with designated put-in and take-out for boating in the section through Wawona proper and limits on the number of boats per year. No limits on recreational floating and related water play.

- *“Option A with designate put-in and take-out OR Option B without boat limits.”*
- *“Will woody debris be managed in Option B?”*

### Land Uses and Associated Development

#### Management Consideration 33: Impoundment: Effects on Free-Flowing Condition

Management Option 33A: Investigate reasonable Management Options, such as water system development from Biledo Spring or Big Creek. Retain the impoundment until other Management Options are developed.



- *“Do not disturb Biledo.”*
- *“Remove NPS maintenance building/storage yard alongside river.”*

## General Comments

- *“Amend GMP to eliminate all language calling for removal of private vehicle access to Yosemite Valley.”*
- *“Initiate a voluntary day use parking permit for East Valley destinations east of El Cap to guarantee entry in advance of visit. Use barcode technology to administer system.”*

## Merced River Plan Goals

- *“I still do not see in the goals specific attention to the plants and animals that use this zone. I would put it under user capacity. These beings are primary users of the river for habitat, drinking water, etc. This comes up for me especially with traffic and roads on either side of the river which cut off some of these users of the river to access. (28 bears killed last year by vehicles). So, more specific verbiage – ‘To ensure access to the river for those beings that do not have a voice – animals, invertebrates, etc.’ I’d like to see a sentence in goals specifically relating to the plants and animals and protecting their access to the river.”*
- For the Direct Connection to River Values goal: *“Using this river access as educational opportunities to promote info about the importance of health of Merced River watershed.”*
- For the Ecological and Natural Resource Values goal: *“Ensuring river access for animals in the river corridor (not just human access).”*

## Yosemite Lodge Concept Plan

- *“Existing Camp 4 – What happened to showers, cooking pavilion, climbing museum?”*
- *“#2 – Moving concessions vehicle maintenance to the Fort creates only very minimal maintenance opportunities. Will require other maintenance facilities at another location.”*



## El Portal Site Plan

- *“#2 – No high density housing in Old El Portal. Inappropriate. NPS housing can remain in Rancheria.”*
- *“I notice no parking areas are provided for either the ‘new construction’ or for housing. Why?”*
- *“High density residential buildings in Old El Portal inappropriate for many reasons – 1) Safety – vulnerable to many natural disasters; 2) Ecological; 3) Ecological; 4) Character of town (historical).”*
- *“Make El Portal model a sustainable eco-village and have management decisions flow from that concept.”*
- *“Love community gardens, composting, bike lanes and bike lending library. . . a town square based around railroad and community hall, restoring Old El Portal Schoolhouse for community and NPS use. Sustainable ‘town’ feel at center of Old El Portal. As a former NPS employee commuting from Mariposa to the Valley, I recognize the need for more housing. If there’s high-density housing, I’d suggest making it ‘Ranger-Clubesque’ (rather than ugly dorms) and place in new El Portal where NPS employees are currently sited and will better understand the housing need. This would keep character of Old El Portal intact.”*
- *“#1 And #8 in top and #3 and #8 in bottom – There should be no buildings in this area due to sensitivity of historic trees and visual impact.”*
- *“#1 and #8 on both Option A and B – should be free of any development (oak grove and historic site).”*



## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall

<b>Management Consideration 1</b> Wilderness Trails Goal: Wilderness Management Program	<b>Option A</b> Allow public access to permit to hike on the trail.	<b>Option B</b> Hike on the trail.	<b>Comments</b> [Sticky notes]	
<b>Management Consideration 2</b> Recreational User Conflicts Goal: Visitor Use Management Program	<b>Option A</b> Close or reduce Merced Lake High Sierra Camp opening to 42 beds to allow for more stock use.	<b>Option B</b> Use hikers instead of stock to reduce user conflicts.	<b>Option C</b> Reduce the extent of trails maintained for stock in this area, which would in turn reduce the number of stock needed to maintain them.	<b>Comments</b> [Sticky notes]
<b>Management Consideration 3</b> Merced Lake Backcountry Campground Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	<b>Option A</b> Reduce use by locating trails to backcountry that lead to the Merced Lake area.	<b>Option B</b> Allow only limited dispersed camping at Merced Lake.	<b>Option C</b> Retain backcountry camp so that visitor use is concentrated. This strategy helps to protect resources and address human waste concerns.	<b>Comments</b> [Sticky notes]
<b>Management Consideration 4</b> Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	<b>Option A</b> Close Merced Lake High Sierra Camp and return to natural conditions.	<b>Option B</b> Reduce capacity from 60 beds to 42 beds (equal to that of the next largest camp (Vegetation)).	<b>Option C</b> Reduce amenities such as shower facilities to accommodate only staff members, eliminate food service for hikers, and provide food service to cold meals only.	<b>Option D</b> Convert MLEC to outfitter's camp, in which all structures are temporary & removed in fall.
<b>Management Consideration 5</b> Little Yosemite Valley Backcountry Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	<b>Option A</b> Reduce trailhead queue 25% to reduce competing issues.	<b>Option B</b> Retain backcountry camp so that visitor use is concentrated. This strategy helps to protect resources and address human waste concerns.	<b>Option C</b> Convert to dispersed camping and remove competing issues, which will necessitate a 25% reduction in trailhead queue and associated zone capacity.	<b>Comments</b> [Sticky notes]

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Segment 2: East Yosemite Valley

<b>Management Consideration 6</b> Riparian Zone Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values	<b>Option A</b> High use and impact of off-trail and on-trail use.	<b>Option B</b> Retain or remove campgrounds that are within the ordinary high water mark and the riparian zone. Design river access points in riparian location and restore riparian areas to natural conditions.	<b>Option C</b> Actively restore LWD or use an existing log jams where there is a lack of channel complexity, such as up stream of Bowman Bridge.	<b>Comments</b> [Sticky notes]
<b>Management Consideration 7</b> Cultural Resource Goal: Opportunity for Direct Connection to River Values	<b>Option A</b> Retain or remove campgrounds that are within the ordinary high water mark and the riparian zone. Design river access points in riparian location and restore riparian areas to natural conditions.	<b>Option B</b> Retain or remove campgrounds that are within the ordinary high water mark and the riparian zone. Design river access points in riparian location and restore riparian areas to natural conditions.	<b>Option C</b> Actively restore LWD or use an existing log jams where there is a lack of channel complexity, such as up stream of Bowman Bridge.	<b>Comments</b> [Sticky notes]
<b>Management Consideration 8</b> Valley Campground Demand Goal: Visitor Use Management	<b>Option A</b> Develop new campgrounds in areas such as north of Upper Pine Campground, between Northside CC and the Upper Pine Campground concession area (Dillon Area) and/or existing backcountry camp.	<b>Option B</b> In addition to Option 1, identify these campground locations or expand existing campgrounds east of the valley.	<b>Option C</b> Retain the existing number of campgrounds in Yosemite valley and don't add anymore.	<b>Comments</b> [Sticky notes]
<b>Management Consideration 9</b> Sugar Pine Bridge Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	<b>Option A</b> Remove Sugar Pine Bridge, road dam, and Bowman Bridge and on-river road to the north bank of the river.	<b>Option B</b> Remove Sugar Pine Bridge and dam, and Bowman Bridge. The Ahwahnee Bridge would provide access to lower and upper Pine Campgrounds.	<b>Option C</b> Replace both existing bridges with two bridges designed to protect and enhance the free flowing condition of the river.	<b>Comments</b> [Sticky notes]



## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Segment 2.2: Yosemite Village Area

**Management Consideration 11**  
Housekeeping Camp, Riparian and Flood Plain Impacts

**Goal**  
Ecological and Natural Resource Values

**Option A**  
Strategically remove up to 11 buildings units and associated fuel tanks located within the riparian flood plain within Yosemite Valley.

**Option B**  
Remove all existing units, including fuel tanks, and restore the floodplain and riparian ecosystems to natural conditions.

**Option C**  
Remove all existing units, including fuel tanks, and restore the floodplain and riparian ecosystems to natural conditions.

**Comments**

**Management Consideration 12**  
Upper and Lower Rivers Corridor Area

**Goal**  
Ecological and Natural Resource Values

**Option A**  
Remove all buildings and fuel tanks located within the riparian flood plain within Yosemite Valley.

**Option B**  
Remove all buildings and fuel tanks located within the riparian flood plain within Yosemite Valley.

**Option C**  
Remove all buildings and fuel tanks located within the riparian flood plain within Yosemite Valley.

**Comments**

**Management Consideration 13**  
Cultural OHV Visitor Use Impacts

**Goal**  
Opportunities for Direct Connection to River Values

**Option A**  
Relocate OHV use area where practicable to avoid ongoing erosion and disturbance. Conduct regular condition assessment monitoring.

**Option B**  
Stabilize archeological sites where practicable to prevent erosion and disturbance. Conduct regular monitoring.

**Option C**  
Conduct data recovery as a mitigation measure for potential erosion and disturbance. Develop site-specific treatments to minimize erosion and prevent future degradation. Conduct regular monitoring.

**Comments**

**Management Consideration 14**  
Valley Camping Demand

**Goal**  
Visitor Use Management

**Option A**  
Relocate all existing units, including fuel tanks, and restore the floodplain and riparian ecosystems to natural conditions.

**Option B**  
Relocate all existing units, including fuel tanks, and restore the floodplain and riparian ecosystems to natural conditions.

**Option C**  
Relocate all existing units, including fuel tanks, and restore the floodplain and riparian ecosystems to natural conditions.

**Comments**

**Management Consideration 15**  
Camp 5 Intersection

**Goal**  
Land Use and Associated Development

**Option A**  
Design a roundabout and pedestrian undercrossing to all three intersection performance. Use the same conditions, this will likely require that the roundabout be designed to meet.

**Option B**  
Reconfigure parking area to pedestrian undercrossing and improve operational efficiency.

**Option C**  
Reconfigure parking area to pedestrian undercrossing to all three intersection performance. Use the same conditions, this will likely require that the roundabout be designed to meet.

**Option D**  
Install temporary, seasonal electric signs pedestrian crossing sign.

**Option E**  
Realign intersection to be a true four-way stop. Inbound access to parking area along valley open. All from Sentinel Drive. Include pedestrian undercrossing and seasonal other pedestrian crossing.

**Comments**

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Segment 2.3: Yosemite Lodge Area

**Management Consideration 16**  
Landing Meadow Impacts by Informal Trails

**Goal**  
Ecological and Natural Resource Values

**Option A**  
Remove all trails and restore meadow. Install benches to prevent future impacts. Fence take path on north side of landing meadow.

**Option B**  
Remove all trails and restore meadow. Install benches to prevent future impacts. Fence take path on north side of landing meadow.

**Comments**

**Management Consideration 17**  
Swinging Bridge Riparian Impacts

**Goal**  
Ecological and Natural Resource Values

**Option A**  
Re-design picnic area to current location. Identify additional parking on the south side of South Side Drive. Designate the area as a formal over-look point.

**Option B**  
Relocate existing picnic area. Designate the area as a formal over-look point. Fence off existing picnic area. Relocate picnic area to more open area and reestablish riparian vegetation.

**Option C**  
Remove existing picnic area and parking lot. Reestablish riparian vegetation. Relocate picnic area. Relocate picnic area to more open area and reestablish riparian vegetation.

**Comments**

**Management Consideration 18**  
Cultural OHV Visitor Use Impacts

**Goal**  
Opportunities for Direct Connection to River Values

**Option A**  
Relocate OHV use area where practicable to avoid ongoing erosion and disturbance. Conduct regular condition assessment monitoring.

**Option B**  
Stabilize archeological sites where practicable to prevent erosion and disturbance. Conduct regular monitoring.

**Option C**  
Conduct data recovery as a mitigation measure for potential erosion and disturbance. Develop site-specific treatments to minimize erosion and prevent future degradation. Conduct regular monitoring.

**Option D**  
Private floating to picnic from Clark's bridge to Pohono Bridge. Allow use throughout the year as long as water conditions are suitable. No commercial floating would be allowed. Designate picnic area and take-out locations.

**Option E**  
Similar to Option B, but with limited commercial floating opportunities with designated paths and take-outs. Private floating of rafts would be allowed. Designate picnic area and take-out locations.

**Comments**

**Management Consideration 19**  
Yosemite Lodge Intersection Congestion

**Goal**  
Land Use and Associated Development

**Option A**  
Relocate Yosemite Lodge intersection to current location. Relocate Yosemite Lodge intersection to current location. Relocate Yosemite Lodge intersection to current location.

**Option B**  
Relocate Yosemite Lodge intersection to current location. Relocate Yosemite Lodge intersection to current location. Relocate Yosemite Lodge intersection to current location.

**Option C**  
Relocate Yosemite Lodge intersection to current location. Relocate Yosemite Lodge intersection to current location. Relocate Yosemite Lodge intersection to current location.

**Comments**



## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 2.4: West Yosemite Valley

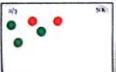
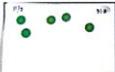
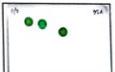
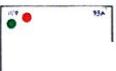
<p><b>Management Consideration 21</b> El Cap Meadew Informal Trails</p> <p>Use restoration fencing to limit foot traffic into the meadow and designate appropriate access routes using footwalks and viewing platforms.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Ecological and Natural Resource Values</p>	<p><b>Option A</b></p>	<p><b>Option B</b></p>	<p><b>Option C</b></p>	<p><b>Option D</b></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>				
<p><b>Management Consideration 22</b> West of Pohono Bridge Road Access</p> <p>Five limited parking areas and designate access to the river, use existing parking to formalize parking, use existing parking to formalize parking.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Visitor Use Management</p>	<p><b>Option A</b></p>	<p><b>Option B</b></p>	<p><b>Option C</b></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>	<p><b>Management Consideration 23</b> Valley Camping Demand</p> <p>Public comment only. User allowed to have more camping areas in Yosemite Valley.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Visitor Use Management</p>	<p><b>Option A</b></p>	<p><b>Option B</b></p>	<p><b>Option C</b></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>
<p><b>Management Consideration 24</b> Cathedral Beach Picnic Area</p> <p>The Cathedral Beach Picnic Area is a popular area for picnicking and is currently managed as an informal picnic area. The area is currently managed as an informal picnic area.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Land Uses and Development</p>	<p><b>Option A</b></p>	<p><b>Option B</b></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>	<p><b>Management Consideration 25</b> Sentinel Beach Picnic Area</p> <p>The Sentinel Beach Picnic Area is a popular area for picnicking and is currently managed as an informal picnic area. The area is currently managed as an informal picnic area.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Land Uses and Development</p>	<p><b>Option A</b></p>	<p><b>Option B</b></p>	<p><b>Option C</b></p>	<p><b>Option D</b></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 4: El Portal

<p><b>Management Consideration 26</b> Greenmeier Sandpit Flood and Riparian Plant Impacts from Fill Material</p> <p>Greenmeier sandpit contains fill material that prevents natural flooding and riparian habitat. The area is currently managed as an informal picnic area.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Ecological and Natural Resource Values</p>	<p><b>Option A</b></p>	<p><b>Option B</b></p>	<p><b>Option C</b></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>	<p><b>Management Consideration 27</b> Infrastructure Valley Oaks Impacts</p> <p>Infrastructure built at El Portal and parking lot among the Valley oak producing seedling recruitment in its footprint.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Ecological and Natural Resource Values</p>	<p><b>Option A</b></p>	<p><b>Option B</b></p>	<p><b>Option C</b></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>
<p><b>Management Consideration 28</b> Maintenance Administrative Complex Roadside Parking</p> <p>The off-trail and roadside parking area is located between the Merced River and Foresta Road. The area is currently managed as an informal picnic area.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Land Use and Associated Development</p>	<p><b>Option A</b></p>	<p><b>Option B</b></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>						



## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 5-8: South Fork Merced River

<p><b>Management Consideration 29</b> Waters Campground campground activity near river</p> <p>Goal Ecological and Natural Resource Values</p>	<p>The proximity of camp sites to the river is close. Trampling and trampling around their wooden support may impact riparian growth.</p>	<p><b>Option A</b> Relocate or close camp sites that are too close to the river.</p> 	<p><b>Option B</b> Designate picnic points to the river to reduce resource impacts.</p> 	<p>Comments</p> 	<p><b>Management Consideration 30</b> Camp A.E. Wood</p> <p>Goal Opportunities for Direct Connection to River Values</p>	<p>Public use for a picnic area and additional interpretive use with a focus on riparian and cultural resources. Provide interpretive display highlighting the importance of Camp A.E. Wood as an example of African-American soldiers in park history as well as archeological interpretation.</p>	<p><b>Option A</b> Stabilize archeological remains of Camp and preserve in situ to meet existing interpretive use requests. Provide interpretive display highlighting the importance of Camp A.E. Wood as an example of African-American soldiers in park history as well as archeological interpretation.</p> 	<p><b>Option B</b> Conduct field recovery of archeological remains of Camp. Provide interpretive display highlighting the importance of Camp A.E. Wood as an example of African-American soldiers in park history.</p> 	<p>Comments</p> 
<p><b>Management Consideration 31</b> South Fork parking and floating</p> <p>Goal Visitor Use Management Program</p>	<p>Public comment has been received in continuing to allow parking and floating opportunities in this segment.</p>	<p><b>Option A</b> Continue to allow parking and floating in this segment without any management of large woody debris. No limits on the number of boats or floats would be in place. No design buffer out on take-out.</p> 	<p><b>Option B</b> Continue to allow parking and floating in this segment with designated picnic and take-out for boating in the section through Wawona project and limits on the number of boats per year. No design buffer out on take-out.</p> 	<p>Comments</p> 	<p><b>Management Consideration 32</b> Picnic area near Wawona Store</p> <p>Goal Land Uses and Associated Development</p>	<p>The existing picnic area at Wawona is overcrowded and does not meet current needs for picnic and parking.</p>	<p><b>Option A</b> Redesign picnic area in its current location, designate river access.</p> 	<p><b>Option B</b> Relocate picnic area to a different location, designate river access in this area.</p> 	<p>Comments</p> 
<p><b>Management Consideration 33</b> Impoundment: Effects on Free-Flowing Condition</p> <p>Goal Land Uses and Associated Development</p>	<p>Further study with riparian and instream habitat effects of the new floating condition of the river on riparian and instream habitat.</p>	<p><b>Option A</b> Investigate reasonable options, such as water system development from Snake Spring or Big Creek. Retain the impoundment until other options are developed.</p> 	<p>Comments</p> 