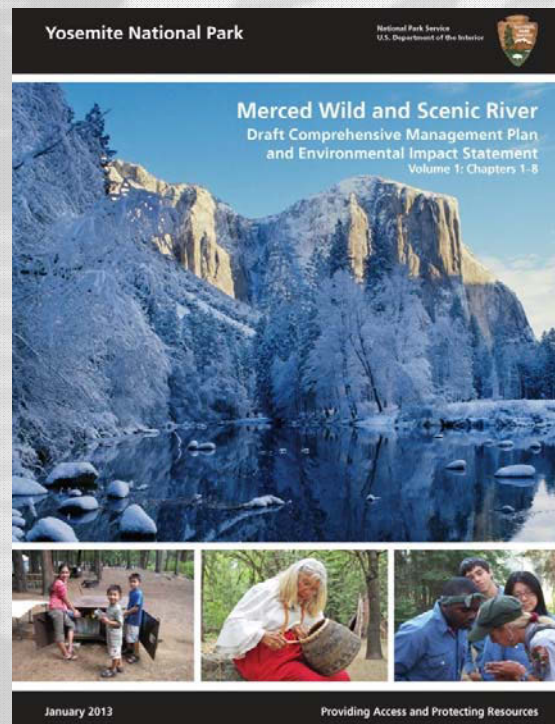




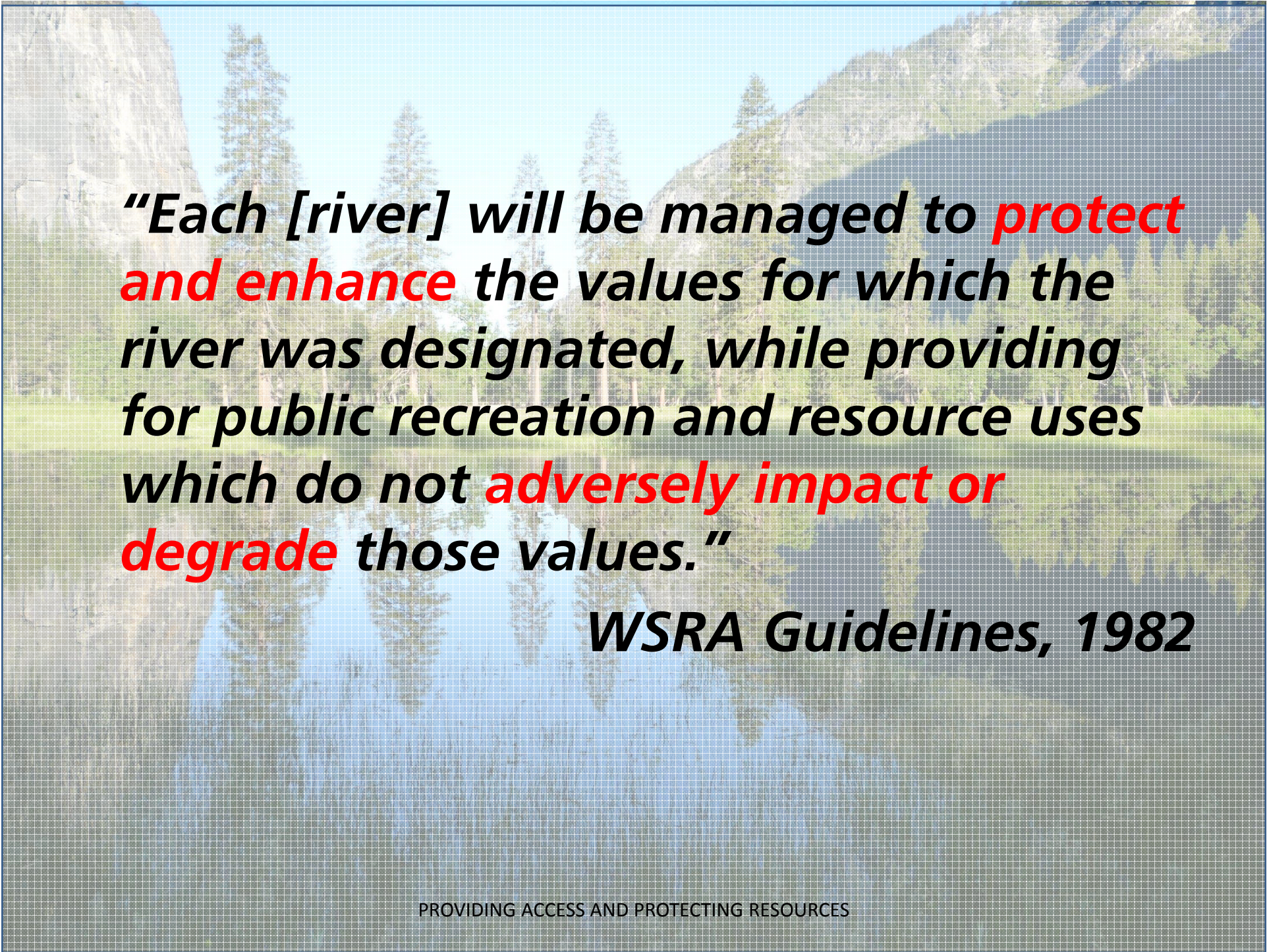
MERCED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

Draft Comprehensive River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



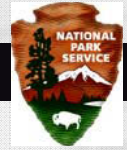
**Groveland, San Francisco, & Los Angeles Public Meetings
March 20, 21, & 26, 2013**



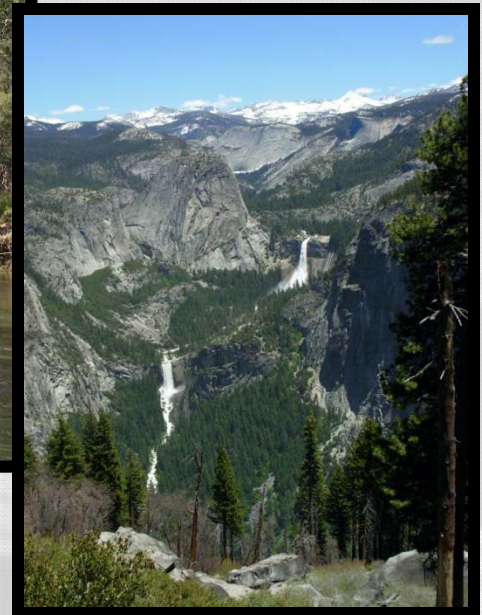


*“Each [river] will be managed to **protect and enhance** the values for which the river was designated, while providing for public recreation and resource uses which do not **adversely impact or degrade** those values.”*

WSRA Guidelines, 1982



Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values



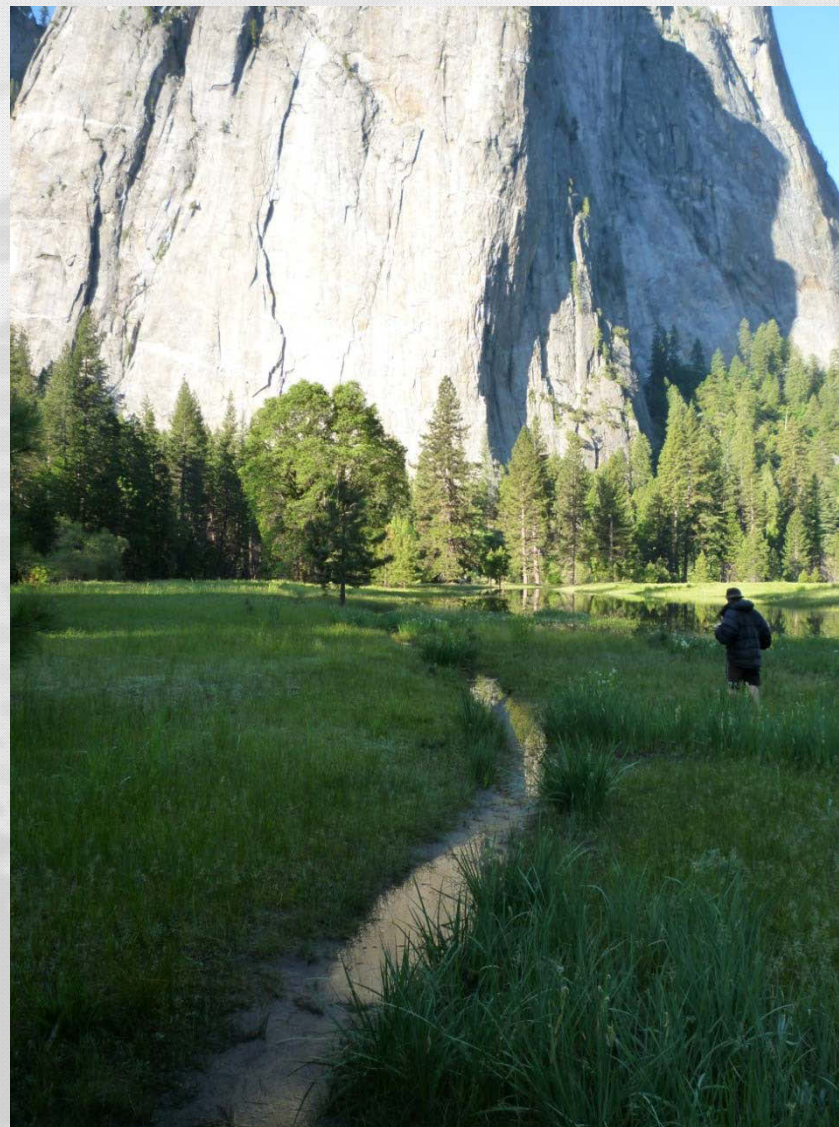
PROVIDING ACCESS AND PROTECTING RESOURCES



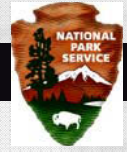
Sugar Pine Bridge



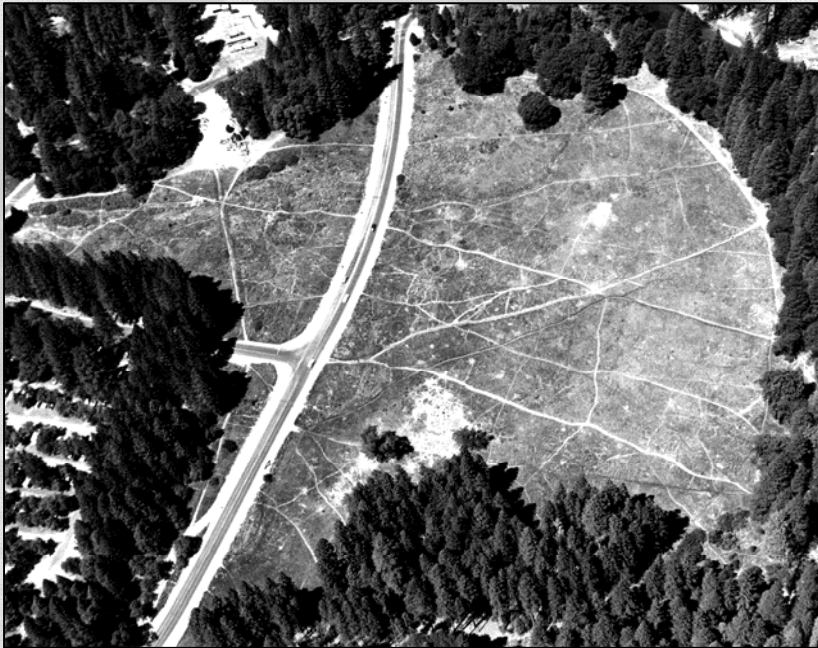
Stoneman Bridge at high water



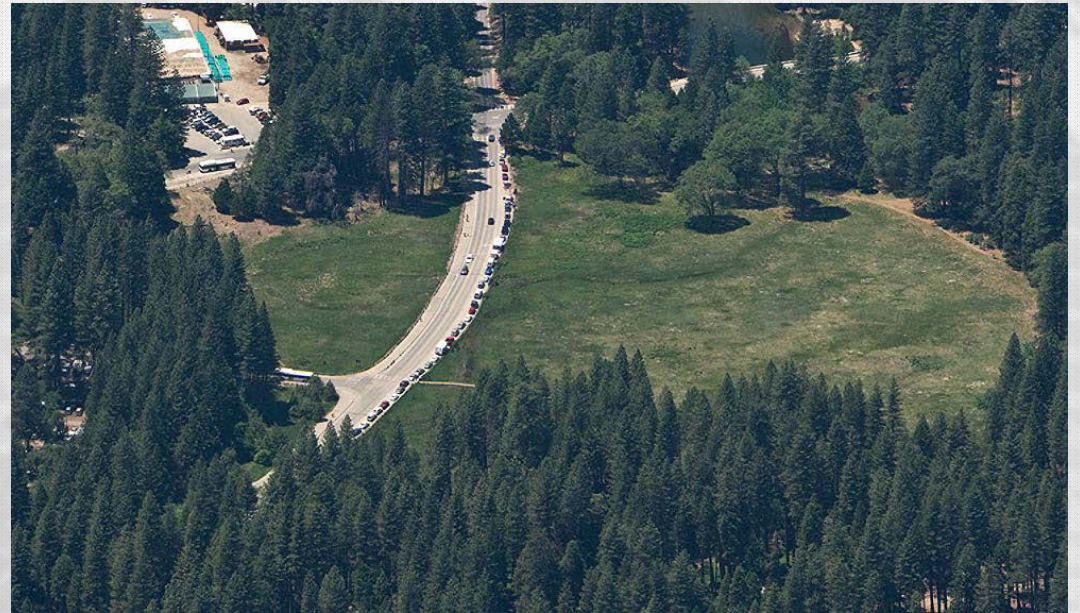
Flooded informal trail in El Capitan Meadow



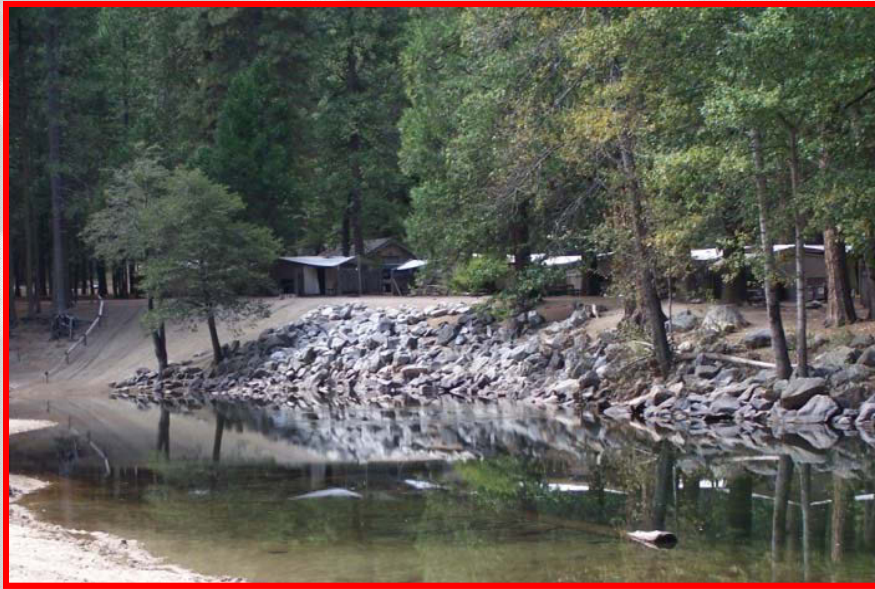
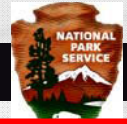
Removing Informal Trails



Stoneman Meadow in 1987 before restoration, showing informal trail network



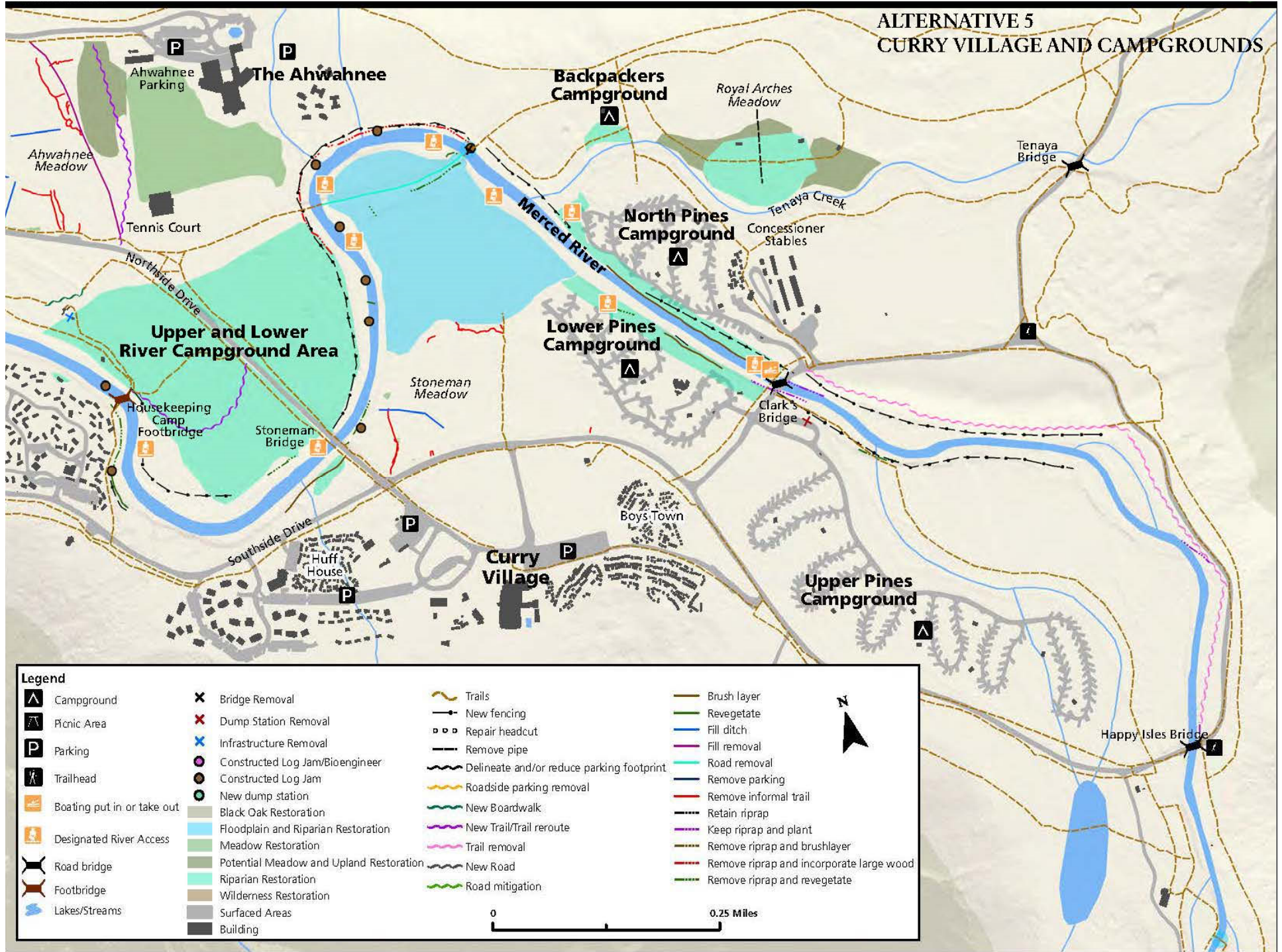
Stoneman Meadow in 2008 after restoration and boardwalk installation



Devil's Elbow, pre-restoration, 1993

Devil's Elbow, post-restoration, 1995

ALTERNATIVE 5 CURRY VILLAGE AND CAMPGROUNDS





Draft Preferred Alternative

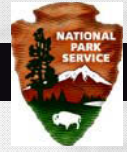
- Ensures that the experiences enjoyed by generations of families are sustained over time.
- Provides visitors the choice of accessing Yosemite Valley by private vehicle or transit.
- Reduces traffic congestion and crowding with organized and efficient day-use parking.
- Creates a “sense of arrival” with redesign of the primary day-use parking area and removal of industrial and administrative functions.
- Improves circulation, reduces congestion and provides for a more relaxed visitor experience.



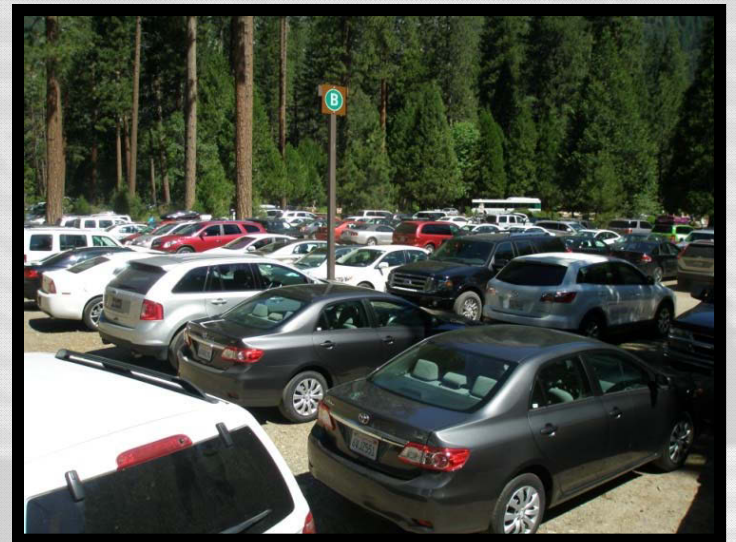


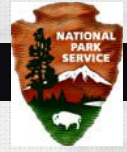
Providing Access





Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area (Camp 6)

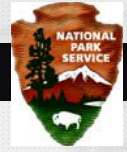




Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area



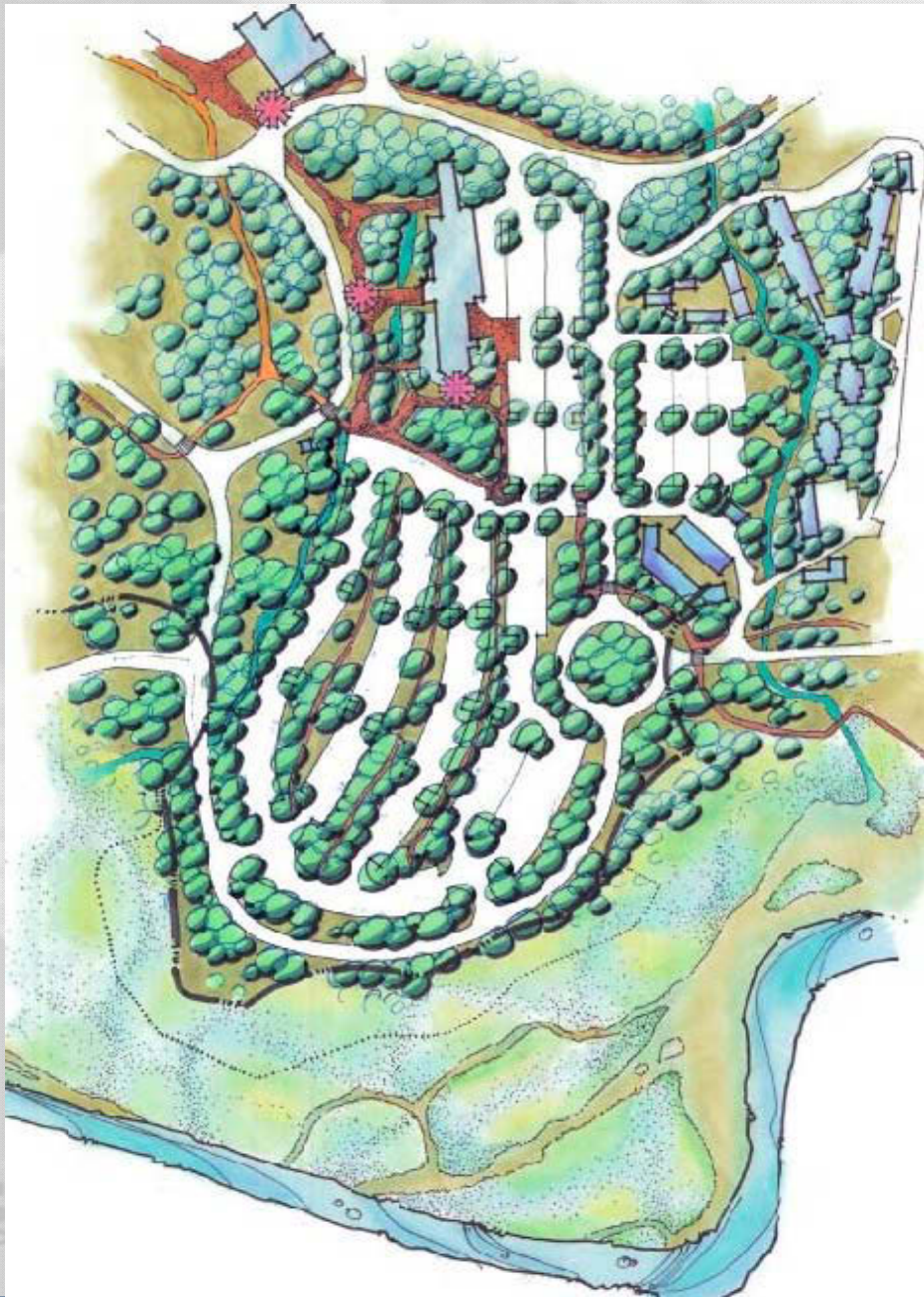
Parking Pulled Back from River



Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area

**Draft
Preferred Alternative**

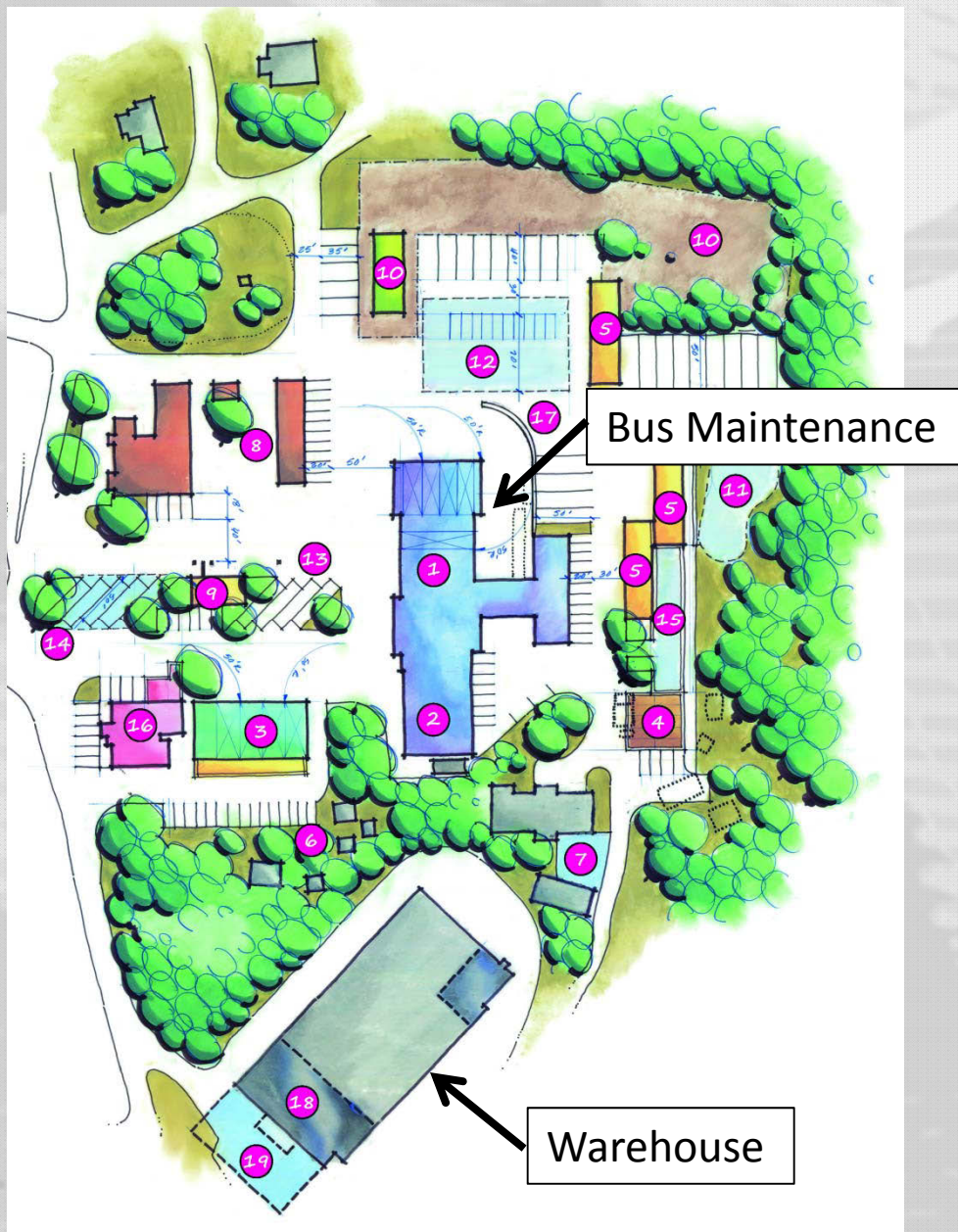
PROVIDING ACCESS AND PROTECTING RESOURCES

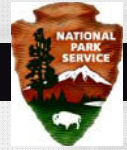




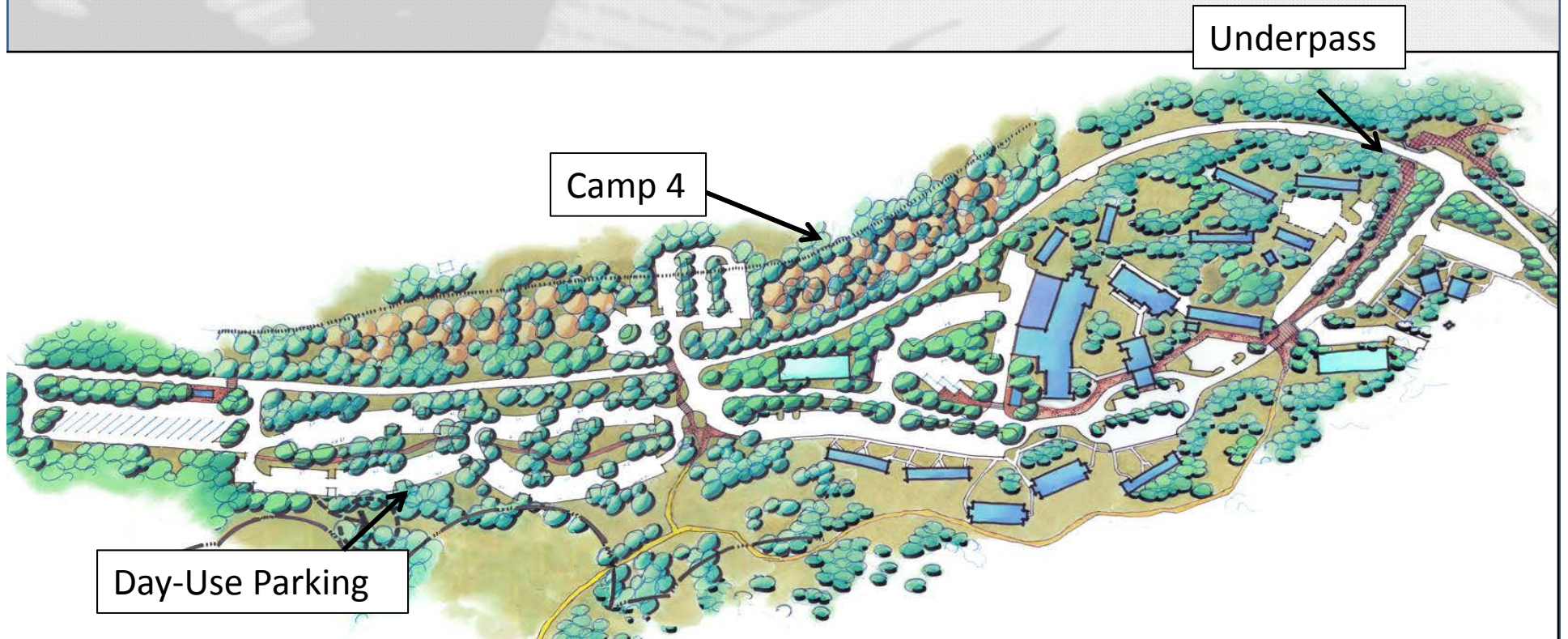
NPS Valley Maintenance

Draft Preferred Alternative



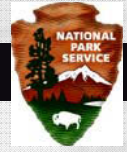


Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4

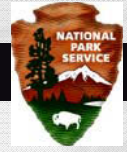


Draft Preferred Alternative

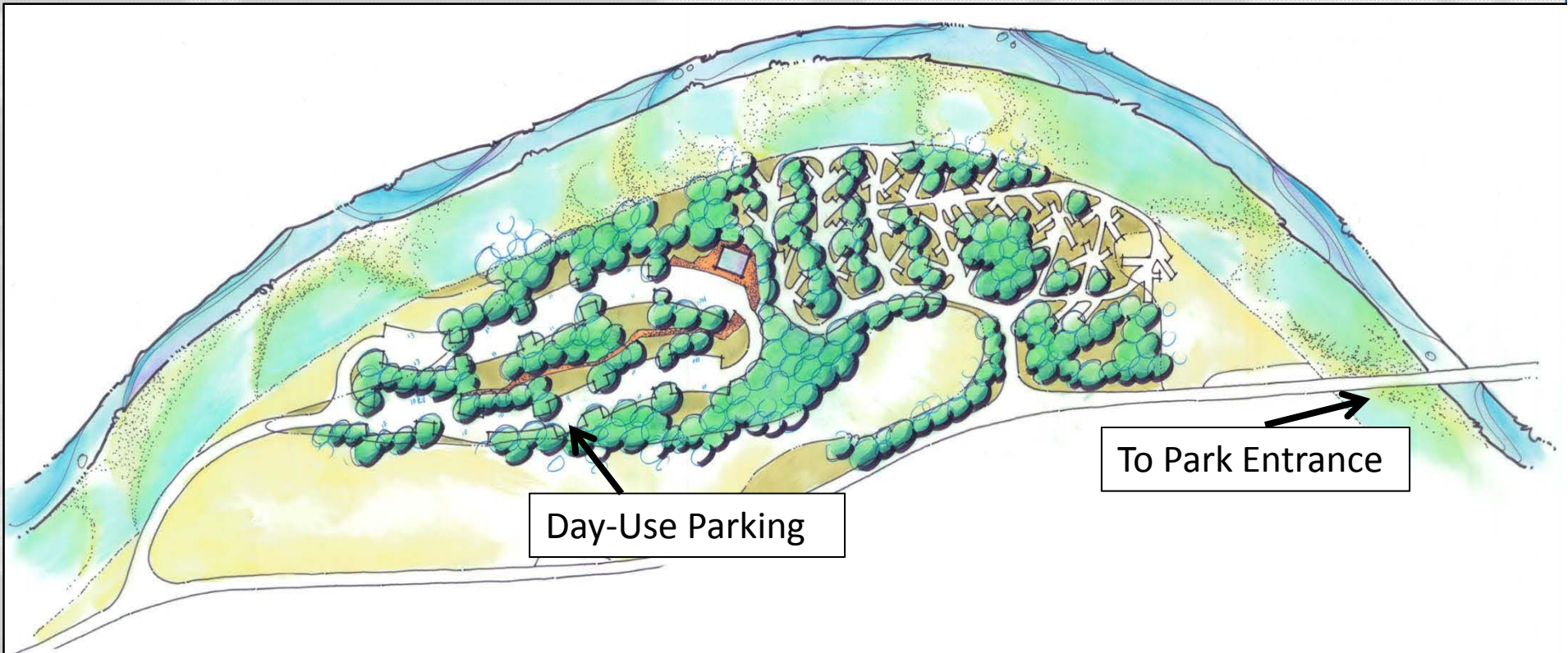
PROVIDING ACCESS AND PROTECTING RESOURCES



PROVIDING ACCESS AND PROTECTING RESOURCES



El Portal - Abbieville

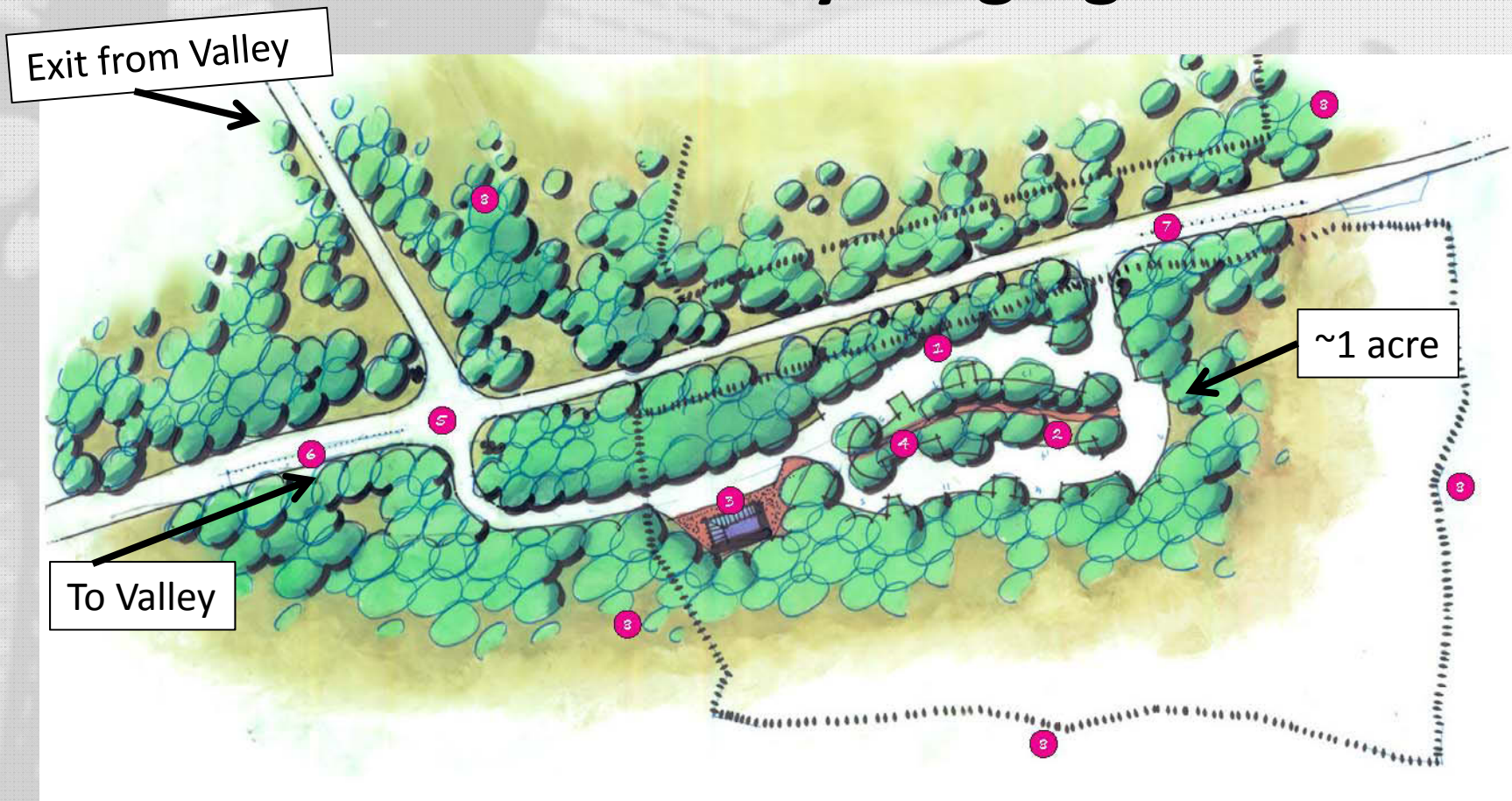


Draft Preferred Alternative

PROVIDING ACCESS AND PROTECTING RESOURCES



West Valley Staging



Draft Preferred Alternative

PROVIDING ACCESS AND PROTECTING RESOURCES



Camping Units

	Alt 1	Alt 5	Details
Yosemite Valley			
	(No Action)		
Backpackers	25	10+16	16 walk-in sites outside of the 100 year floodplain
Camp 4	35	35 + 35	No change to this National Historic Register site, 35 walk-in sites constructed east of Camp 4
Lower Pines	76	71	5 sites within 100 feet of the river removed
North Pines	86	72	14 sites within 100 feet of the river removed
Upper Pines	240	238 + 87	36-site RV, 49 walk-in, 2 group sites
Yellow Pine Admin Site	4	4	Group administrative sites
Former Upper River	0	30	30 walk-in sites
Eagle Creek	0	42	40 auto sites and 2 group sites
Wawona			
Wawona Campground	99	86	Sites removed within 100 feet of river or culturally sensitive areas
Total Camping in Corridor	565	726	



Lodging Units

	Alt 1	Alt 5	Details
(No Action)			
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp	22 (60 beds)	11 (42 beds)	Remove 18 beds
The Ahwahnee	123		No change to National Historic Landmark
Housekeeping Camp	266	232	Remove 34 units from bed and banks
Curry Village	400	453	290 tents and 163 hard-sided units
Yosemite Lodge	245	245	No changes
Total Valley Lodging	1,034	1,053	
Wawona Hotel	104		No Change to this National Historic Landmark
Total Lodging in Corridor	1,160	1,168	

* El Portal: Private accommodations exist but are not on NPS land; therefore, they are not listed here.



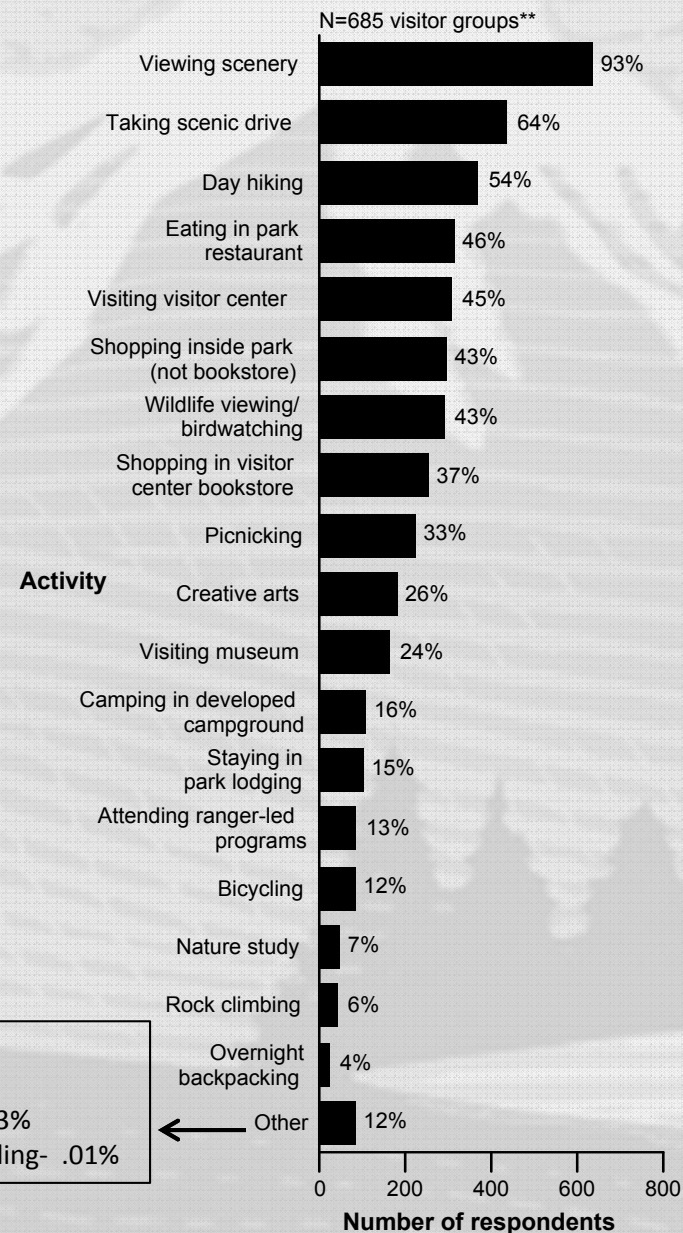
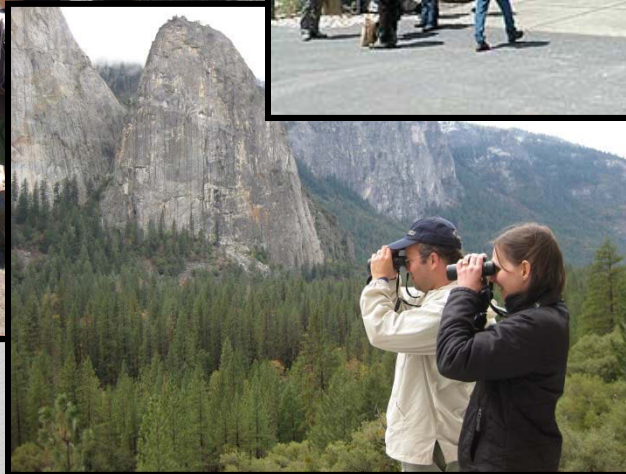
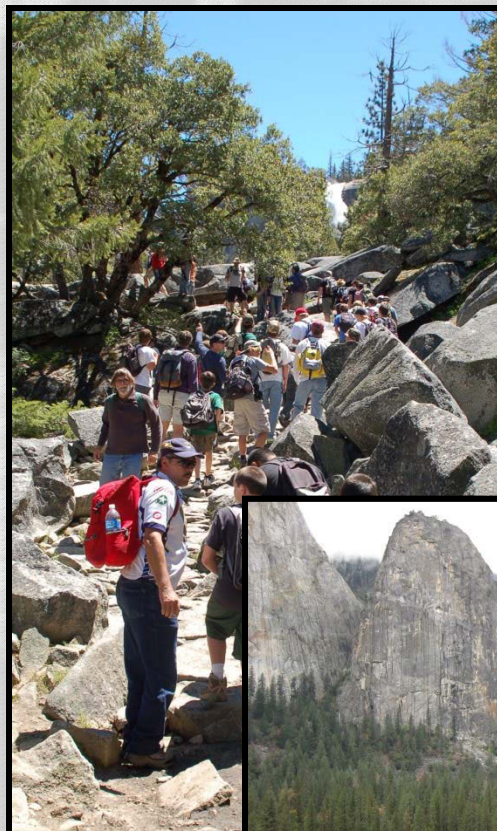
Replace Substandard Housing



Replace temporary, substandard housing with code compliant residences



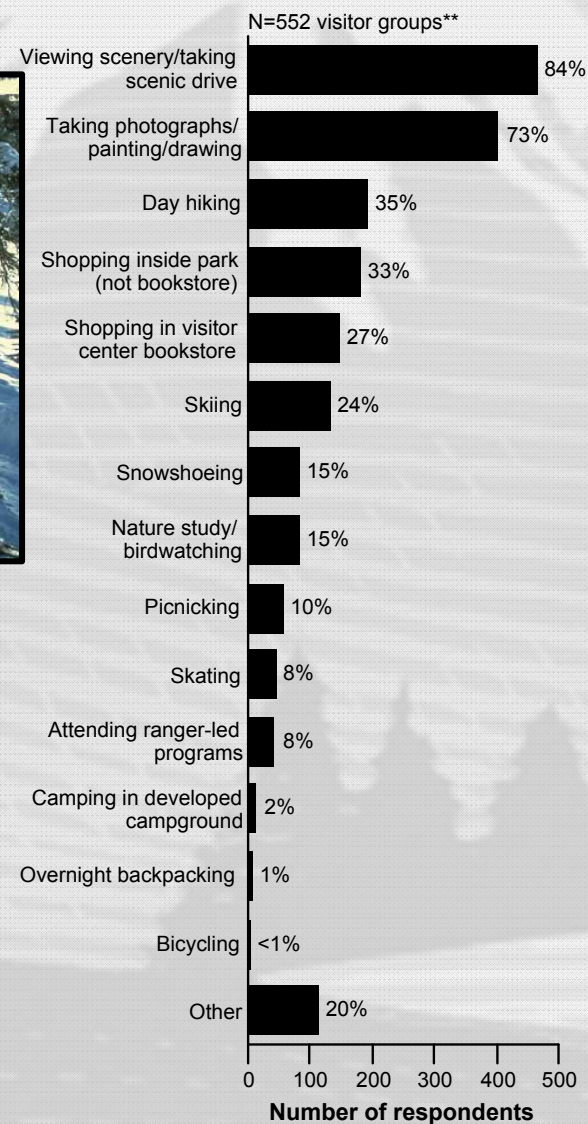
Visitor Activities: Summer Use

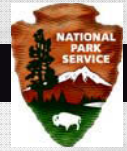


Including:
Rafting- .03%
Swimming- .03%
Horseback Riding- .01%



Visitor Activities: Winter Use





Merced River Plan Facilities Analysis

5 “To illustrate the level of degradation already experienced in the Merced and maintained under the regime of interim limits proposed by NPS, we need look no further than the dozens of facilities and services operating within the river corridor, including but not limited to, the many ...

-- (*Friends of Yosemite v. Kempthorne*, 9th Circ., 2008)

... swimming pools, tennis courts, mountain sports shops, restaurants, cafeterias, bars, snack stands, and other food and beverage services, gift shops, general merchandise stores, an ice-skating rink, an amphitheater, a specialty gift shop, a camp store, an art activity center, rental facilities for bicycles and rafts, skis and other equipment, a golf course and a dining hall accommodating 70 people.”



Merced River Plan Facilities Analysis

Proposed for Removal:

- ✓ Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge temporary employee housing
- ✓ The Ahwahnee Swimming Pool and Tennis Court
- ✓ Yosemite Village Concessioner Garage and Concessioner General Office
- ✓ Yosemite Lodge Swimming Pool, Snack Stand, Bike Stand, and Post Office
- ✓ Yosemite Art Activity Center
- ✓ Happy Isles Snack Stand
- ✓ Curry Village Ice Rink, Bike Stand, and Raft Stand
- ✓ Commercial Horseback Day Rides in Yosemite Valley
- ✓ Odgers Bulk Petroleum Storage in El Portal
- ✓ Old Wastewater Treatment Plant in El Portal

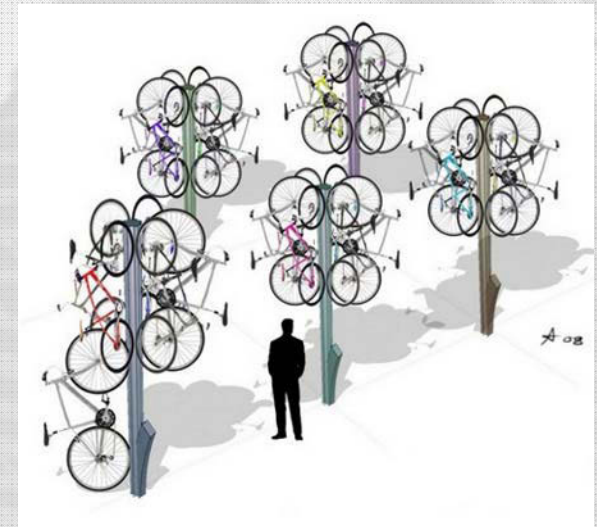


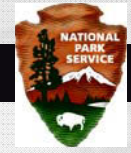
Merced River Plan Facilities Analysis

Opportunities for bike rental relocation within and outside river corridor



- Consider "safe" spots outside the river corridor
- Reduce scale and function to accessory uses outside other facilities (lodging, retail outlets, food service, commercial stables)
- Use self-service kiosks activated by charge cards or cell phone payment
- Concessioner maintains bicycles with a mobile service vehicle





Merced River Plan Facilities Analysis

Opportunities to keep ice skating as a seasonal recreation activity



- Replace the existing facility elsewhere with a seasonal installation
- Consider Winter use of a temporary rink over existing parking facilities or paved areas
- Consider temporary rink as an overlapping Winter use of Curry Village swimming pool
- Concessioner is responsible for annual installation and operation





User Capacity/Visitation

East Yosemite Valley Peak-Day:

Current free-flow visitation: **14,800 people**

2011 Facility Capacity 14,836 PAOT

+ "capacity of extra cars on road" 3,480 PAOT

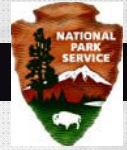
= Total 2011 Capacity 18,316 PAOT

2011 Observed Visitation **20,900 people**

Alternative 5 Planned User Capacity: 16,683 PAOT

Alternative 5 managed peak-day visitation: **19,900 people**

Range of Alternatives – peak-day visitation **13,200 – 21,800 people**



Merced River Plan's Range of Alternatives

Actions	No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6
Acres Restored	0	347	302	223	203	170
Peak East Valley Visitation	20,900	13,900	13,200	17,000	19,900	21,800
Day Visitors	14,800	9,400	8,500	10,500	12,800	13,700
Overnight Visitors	6,100	4,500	4,700	6,500	7,100	8,100
Yosemite Valley Lodging Units	1,034	556	621	823	1,053	1,248
Yosemite Valley Campsites	466	450	477	701	640	739
Parking Spaces for East Valley	5,200	4,000	4,300	4,905	5,600	6,099
Total Project Cost (\$M)		\$263	\$187	\$223	\$235	\$418



Arriving to the Park

(70% of All Visitors Travel to Yosemite Valley)

- Personal Vehicle = 84.4%
- Commercial Tour Bus = 4.8%
- RV = 3.2%
- YARTS = 1.3%
- Motorcycle = 1.1%
- Bicycle = 0.2%
- Walk = 0.6%
- Other = 4.4%

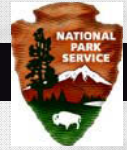




Transit Options

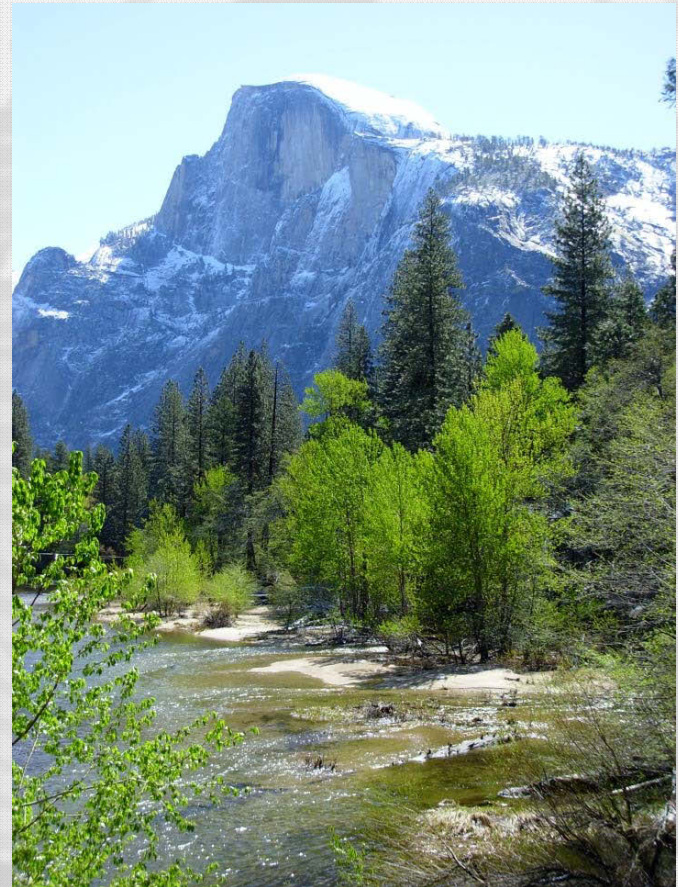
Corridor	Alt 1 (No Action)	Alt 5 (Preferred)	Range of Alts
Highway 140 From: Merced/Mariposa	8 round trip runs / day	12 round trip runs / day Additional stop at the El Portal remote day-use parking area	8 -12 runs
Highway 41 From: Fresno/Oakhurst	No service	12 runs / day	1-12 runs per day
Highway 120 West From: Groveland/Sonora (summer only)	1 run per day	4 runs / day	1-8 runs per day
Highway 120 East From: Inyo/Mono County (summer only)	1 run per day	2 runs / day	1-2 runs per day

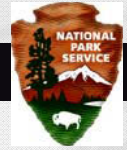
	No Action	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6
Total Visitors per Day by Regional Transit	523	475	475	648	1295	1468



Merced River Draft Plan

- **Public Meetings**
 - March 7: Mariposa
 - March 14: Oakhurst
 - March 15: Wawona
 - March 20: Groveland
 - March 21: San Francisco
 - March 26: Los Angeles
- **Comment Analysis**
April and May 2013
- **Final Plan/Record of Decision:**
July 2013





Merced Public Review & Comment Periods

Merced River Plan

- 100-day review period
- Comment period closes April 18

Comment

Online:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mrp_deis

Mail:

National Park Service

Merced River Plan

P.O. Box 577

Yosemite, CA 95389

Email: yose_planning@nps.gov

Fax: 209 / 379-1294

