



HOW YOU CAN HELP!

THANK YOU!

We couldn't do this plan without you!

All through our planning process, we will be asking you – our very important public – to provide comments and answer questions that will help us understand your opinions about what may work best for the Merced Wild and Scenic River in Yosemite National Park.

It's a new planning effort with new planning elements, so we need to hear what you think will be good for the park.

You can help us in this process by doing the following:

- Attend our public scoping meetings that will be held in July and August 2009.
- Visit the Merced River project online at <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/newmrp.htm>.
- Tell your friends and family about the new plan and invite them to come with you to a meeting or to visit our website.
- Give us your comments regarding the plan.

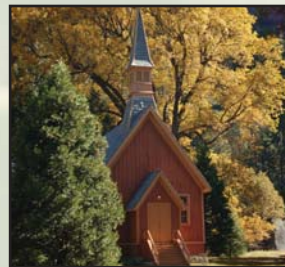
We are committed to complying with the 9th District Court's direction and vision regarding process, and for ensuring the long-term protection and enhancement of Merced River outstandingly remarkable values in Yosemite National Park.

We know that you are busy, and appreciate your participation in this planning process.

Your comments are important, and they will be heard! You can:

- Fill out the questionnaire that is included with this guide and hand it to us;
- Fax your comments to 209.379.1294;
- Email us at yose_planning@nps.gov; or
- Mail your comments to:

Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
Attn: Merced River Plan
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389



Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



PARTICIPANT GUIDE



Yosemite Valley



El Portal



Wawona



Upper Merced River

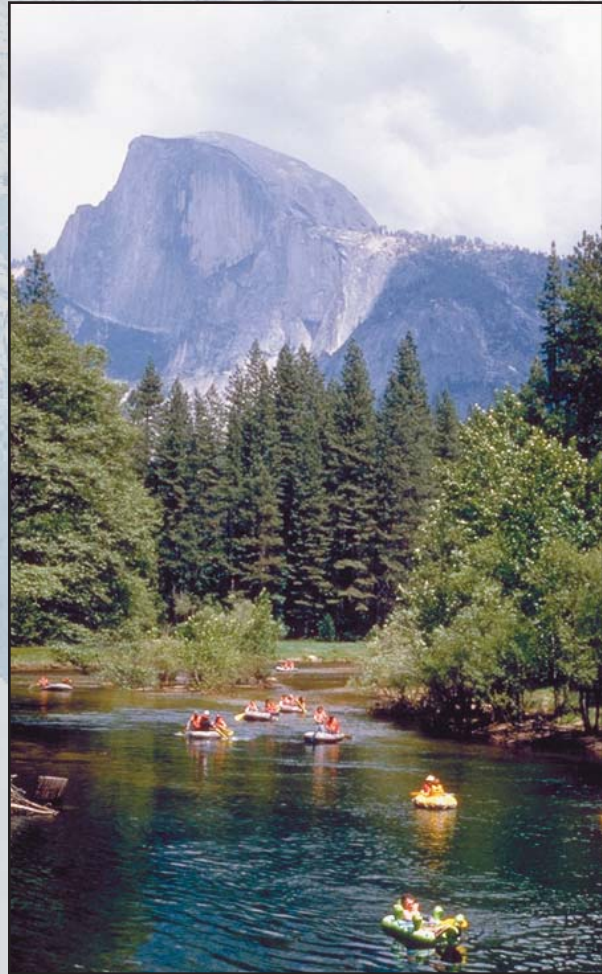
Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan



OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PARK AND THE PUBLIC

THE MERCED RIVER PLANNING TEAM WILL:

- Be transparent during the planning process and with our communications.
- Do everything that we can to make sure that the process is understood.
- Provide you with timely information and responses.
- Listen!



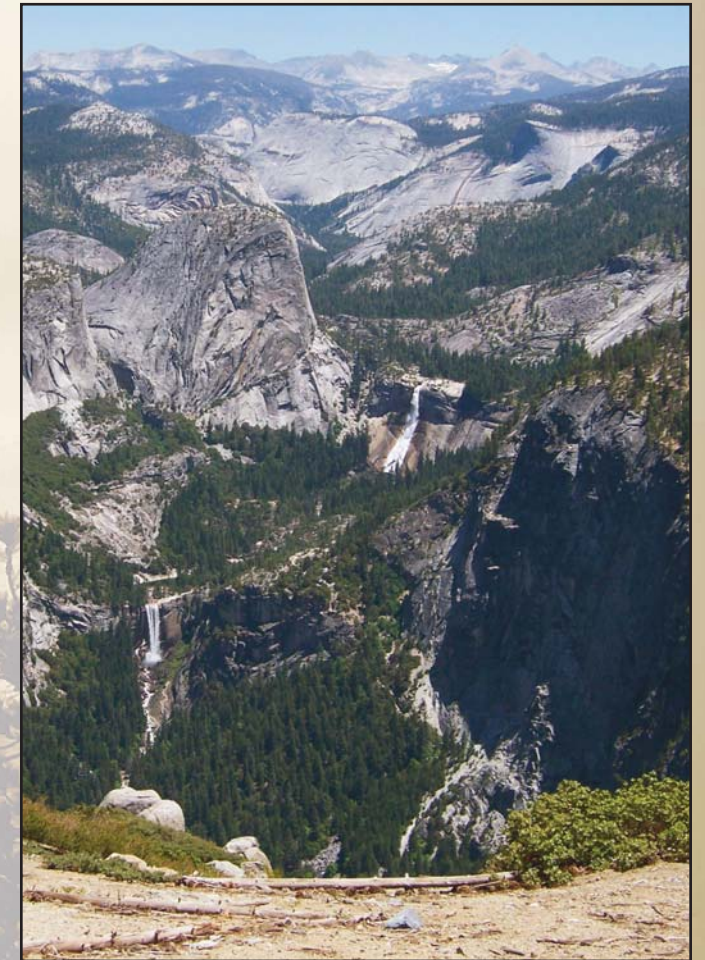
WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS PLAN?

The results will include identification of the quantity and mixture of recreation and other public uses, including the maximum number of people who may visit the river. For each river segment, the plan will develop specific measurements that will be used to protect and enhance the Merced River's outstandingly remarkable values, including the scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.

The new Merced River Plan and environmental impact statement will include extensive public outreach and participation. Our communications with you will not change. We cannot do this plan without you!!

New approaches to the Merced River Plan planning effort will address:

- An assessment of the current state of protection and enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable value conditions in the Merced River and South Fork Merced River corridors.
- Identification of those facilities and activities, which occur in such manner as to protect and enhance the river's outstandingly remarkable values.
- Development of a user capacity program to address the kinds and amounts of use in the river corridors.
- Determination of how existing uses and facilities, if they are allowed to continue, will protect the rivers' "esthetic, scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features."





SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

In response to the ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, a new Merced River Plan and environmental impact statement will be completed by February 2012.

The Merced River Plan will be a comprehensive document that considers the amenities, opportunities, and operations in Yosemite National Park.

The Merced River Plan will include the following:

- A wild and scenic river corridor of a quarter-mile on either side of the Merced River and South Fork Merced River.
- Site-specific planning for developed areas in the Merced River drainage, including Yosemite Valley, Wawona, El Portal, and Merced Lake High Sierra Camp.
- Consideration of park-wide elements, such as transportation, in the context of their effects on the Merced Wild and Scenic River.



It is anticipated that the Merced River Plan will amend the park's 1980 General Management Plan and will guide park planning and improvements in the future.

The Merced River Plan will address:

- Resource protection.
- Existing and potential development of lands and facilities.
- User capacities, including the kinds and amounts of use that the river area can sustain while continuing to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated as wild and scenic.



OUR TIME FRAME

	Estimated Time Frame	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunity
WE ARE HERE	Summer 2009	Scoping – Identify concerns, expectations, and values related to the Merced River and South Fork Merced River, with input from the public, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review participant guide and send us your ideas and concerns by letter or post to the NPS planning website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose . Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns.
	Spring 2010	Develop Preliminary Alternatives – Outline different possible futures for the Merced River and South Fork Merced River corridors in Yosemite National Park and provide opportunities for review and comment by the public, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review preliminary alternatives and send us your ideas and concerns by letter or post to the NPS planning website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose . Attend public meetings and comment on the preliminary alternatives.
	Summer 2011	Prepare and Distribute a Draft Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement – Review and comment by the public, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review the draft wild and scenic river comprehensive management plan and environmental impact statement and provide written comments. Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns or submit written comments.
	Summer 2012	Prepare a Final Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement – Describe the selected alternative and respond to comments on the draft.	Review the final wild and scenic river comprehensive management plan and environmental impact statement.
	Fall 2012	Implement the Approved Plan – Prepare and issue a record of decision and implement the wild and scenic river comprehensive management plan.	Work with the park to implement the plan and provide feedback on plan success and effectiveness.





1987
Designation of Merced River as a Wild and Scenic River



1997
Flood closes Yosemite National Park and causes substantial losses to roads, utilities, visitor services, and employee housing



2000
Merced River Plan completed, followed by release of Yosemite Valley Plan



2009
Today, the NPS begins preparing a new Merced River Plan with a target completion in 2012 which will include:
Parkwide transportation planning
Updated user capacity program
Area plans for Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and El Portal

1998
El Portal Road Reconstruction Project



1999
NPS initiates Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan



2005
Revised Merced River Plan completed, containing user capacity program and El Portal boundary adjustment

