

Public Scoping Meeting Comments

11/9/2009

4-8 p.m.

Sacramento Southside Clubhouse, Sacramento, CA

Comments/Questions

- How does GMP define “crowding”? perception? gridlock?
- Will the NPS “throw away” the older history of park? (in particular “discovery” of Yosemite/documented history on signs which depict early residents as Miwok and not Mono Lake Paiute)?
- What about direct lineal descendants who have traditionally been excluded from planning/consultation?
- When you find archeological evidence in the corridor, who does the park contact? How does the NPS determine who to contact?

What do you Love about the Merced River in Yosemite? (Yose Valley, Wawona, El Portal, high country)

- Expand bike use, bus schedules, rafting on river. Encourage Merced Lake visits (to encourage use of HS camp loop trail)
- Night-time Ranger programs
- Personal tent camping
- Skating rink
- Ranger-led daytime programs
- Wawona is never crowded even on 4th of July. Good hikes. Golf in Wawona is unique
- Hiking and biking trails, views, Ranger talks, finding uncrowded areas
- Finding my true self there

What should stay the same?

- Natural qualities
- Natural processes (where possible). Keep in mind processes that may not have been seen/recorded by humans
- Famous views
- Make sure collaboration with other parks
- Restore some famous views
- Archeological area/artifacts have been lost due to development. Would like to see that decisions are not made based on net gain or net loss. It’s a loss that can’t be regained
- New information is coming to light about history that will alter cultural program in Yose NP (Indian Cultural Center). Cultural history of Yosemite lineal descent is with Paiute, not Miwuk. Yet it is a history that appears on signs throughout the park

- People working in park not taking concerns seriously (i.e. NAGPRA consultation)
- Transportation in Yose: How far along are you in making decisions lawsuit had to do with capacity? Busy 100 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Need to come up with a system that works. It's a major problem to be addressed in this plan
- Per settlement agreement, NPS will hire consultants. How will it be dealt with in plan?
- Concerned about soundscapes in the park, natural quiet. Helicopters are used in emergency ops. But noticed that more and more, training ops are being conducted and land in Valley
- Making it inconvenient for cars – congestion comes from people looking for too few spaces
- Include more Latino history. Give Latinos something to identify with – that will be able to bring more Latinos inside
- Reach out to Latinos (employees) that have given programs re Latino history
- Human footprint on the Valley – how will NPS reduce it?
- NPS past plans to reduce human footprint caters to elite groups
- Park is a place to enjoy nature. Park should be focused on park experience – no Disneyland
- Park is never ending construction field. Hide construction until we leave
- Park has consolidated facilities to one area
- When in NPS going to wrap up construction?
- 30 years of maintaining park was neglected, now NPS is catching up
- Restoration is not laying down more concrete
- Should be some sort of reasonable transit but not 30 busses driving in circles
- Thank you. It is a challenge...thanks for listening

What do you want to see fixed? changed? improved?

- Outlaw any POV bigger than SUV/pickup
- Reduce vehicles in Valley (parking lots outside Valley floor)
- Save as many old cabins/tent cabins from Camp Curry during creation of new housing outside fall area
- Outlaw horse use; expand bike use
- No tv use outside SUV, no radio broadcasting outside SUV
- Remove corrals, remove old storage sheds
- Visitor capacity – transportation system is malfunctioning esp during 100 days of summer (spring –summer). Dealing with this is probably the major problem
- User capacity , accountability and credibility must be defined, established, clarified
- Raft rentals should be eliminated. In the 1950s, 60s and 70s, people could bring their own and the river was less crowded
- Tent cabin “train wreck” at Highland Ct & Boystown at Curry Viilage – fix it!

- Employee housing at Curry Village and behind the post office at Yose Village
- Employee numbers may be high due to unnecessary concession sales, like mountaineering and apparel stores
- Sundry, obsolete buildings in Yose Village – repair shops, warehouses full of junk, should be removed and replaced with more parking to reduce scale at Camp Six
- Restore balance at Camp Six
- Put parking spaces closer to buildings where they are needed
- Road from Stoneman Bridge to Yose Village could be eliminated so that Upper and Lower River campgrounds may be restored to natural conditions. Why is this road needed if the goal is to restore former campgrounds to natural condition?
- Curry Village – Sentinel Bridge Rd would have to revert to two-way traffic
- Eliminate concessions stable
- Create camping at concessioner’s stables and NPS storage site east of Ahwahnee Hotel
- Only walk-in or group camping should be accommodated at new sites
- Do something to landscape campgrounds with native vegetation – too much dust and disturbed areas
- Parallel parking at El Cap Meadow: relocate it north to old road bed, closer to Valley cliffs (Old Big Oak Flat roadbed)
- #1 objective: Regulate day use vehicles. Take advantage of new technologies, electric signs, reservation systems on line, etc
- Add restrooms in West Valley – practically none exist there
- Expand shuttle service to West Valley
- West Valley should otherwise remain undeveloped
- Remove golf course, convert to a wetland, and tennis courts at Wawona, also decommissioned tennis courts at Ahwahnee
- Wawona- provide a second crossing of South Fork of the Merced for fire and emergency access. Could be one lane, but two-way traffic is appropriate
- Information provided by NPS about first Tribe should be amended to acknowledge Paiute people, not Miwuk. Paiutes are the original people of Yosemite. Tenaya translates to “our father” in Paiute
- Control burns are too infrequent and often too late. Medium-large trees are being killed off. Remainder trees need to be removed
- Get the youth involved in these planning processes!
- More frequent and comprehensive surveys by USGS for RFHZs
- Native American resources monitors should be neutral third party – not NPS, nor specific tribal reps
- Several years ago a user capacity forum was held. Posting on web would be helpful
- Parallel parking is useful at some locations – provides access for some who cannot walk or walk so far

- The shuttle system is working well, but the parking situation won't be resolved through added controls. Fix transportation system before further reducing the number of parking spaces

What do you want to see protected?

- Paiute heritage and accuracy in NPS information about ancestry
- Archeological sites must be preserved in place. All of them are important
- Honest and open consultation processes with Native American Tribes
- Yosemite unique to capacity planning. Ideas with user of river, climber, sightseeing at the Falls
- Soundscape, understand helicopters have to rescue, however fire training is a bit much
- River from raft rentals. Personal rafts are okay
- Climbing access protected. Camp 4, making sure camping opportunities available
- Noisescapes
- Keep Jess McGahey
- Wilderness access from many locations
- Public access to park employees, likes to be able to visit with park staff
- View of the night sky
- Astronomy programs
- Glad that security lighting is gone
- Merced Lake with ability to backpack there and the fact that it is a difficult hike; one of many places with opportunity for solitude, exercise
- Cultural Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Indian burial, spiritual landscape, etc. Once it is removed, it is gone forever
- El Portal 1962 sewer plant burial site. Leave it alone. Don't remove plant. Just leave it alone