

# Public Scoping Meeting – DNC

Date: January 27<sup>th</sup> 2010

## Agenda

9:15 AM	Welcome
	Presentation
9:45 AM	Open Forum Q&A

- ◆ Please sign in
- ◆ Welcome
- ◆ Presentation
- ◆ Open Forum Q&A
- ◆ Group Comments
- ◆ Report out

## What needs to be fixed or improved?

## What needs to stay the same?

- Increase trail maintenance / foot bridges for trails along the river, especially early season to discourage social trails. People wanting to ford the river tend to create social impacts
- Better communication between rangers on trails and visitor center related to trail conditions might not have traffic when trail is more delicate (i.e. streams are crossing the trail)
- Add small blinking lights to stop signs during the day to try to minimize the number of people that just blow by the signs. This doesn't seem to depend on the season and people seem to see the signs more frequently at night (not a big problem at night)
- Dedicate bike trails in the Valley – not trails shared with pedestrians. If you can't make different trails, paint a yellow stripe so people know it is 2 way traffic

Follow up on comment about parking lots:

If you had major parking areas at annex of Yosemite Lodge / Camp4 / Gas station, when people went to car to leave at the end of the day, they would already be put major intersections and congestions areas when they try to leave. Already shuttle stop construction site there. Would help with Camp 4, a Camp parking too.

## What do you love about the Merced River corridor?

## What do you want to see protected?

- Will there be a new visitor use studies?
- Transportation plan: park wide or just in Merced River corridor?
- NPS may need to control vehicles entering the park?
- NPS should hold off on letting a new concessions contract until the MRP is done
- NPS has ability to extend concessions contracts in 1 year increment
- What are the ORV's for the Merced?
- How detailed will the site plans be and how will they be integrated into the MRP?
- How will real time communications work?
- NPS + DNC need to continue to communicate in reference to the effects of MRP (current planning + future decisions) on Valley + Wawona projects
- Consider allowing new lodging + other structures as a way to address over use / unregulated use
- Consider ongoing social science surveys to specifically inform land use planning in Yosemite. Create specific questions that will inform the MRP + which can be analyzed quantitatively
- Merced Lake HSC provides an opportunity for people who wouldn't ordinarily use the backcountry to do so – and to develop an appreciation for wilderness values
- NPS should consider replacing Merced Lake HSR. Each field with a composting toilet
- Consider an MRP link on the [yosemitepark.com](http://yosemitepark.com) website

## Comments / questions

- Are other plans and studies associated with the Merced River Plan available (online)?
- Will there be updated visitor use studies? Yes
- As populations grows, need to look at people coming into the park and consider solutions given these conditions

### **Flag to Management (to be clarified)**

- Concessions services plan and GMP and MRP:
  - How will they interrelate?
  - Will CSP be amended during MRP?
  - Need to clarify this in planning process
- Yosemite is one of the most valuable jewels. Thing of value are protected. Most “garbage” will need to go out. Soon things will be taken out and people will be left “on the outside of the fence”
- What are the ORV’s and how do you determine what they are?
- What is the difference between wild, scenic and recreational segments?
- It’s confusing about the legal status of the CSP. Where is the legal status since it’s not articulated in any of the legal documents?
- Laws does not require enhancement or “upgrading” of classifications
- In the plan, would like to see level of detail:
  - I.e.: signage, places to throw trash, use restrooms, etc
- Visitor outreach: people who stay in facilities are not necessarily aware of this planning process is underway. They may not know that restrictions could result. This is complicated and as a visitor I may not understand the implications.
- How will previous scoping comments (2000 MRP, YVP, etc) be folded into plan?
- What is being considered in terms of real time transportation communication?
- More social science is good but the silent majority is day visitors. How do you reach out to those who are not coming to the park?
- Seems one of the biggest problems in the Valley is congestion. Seriously needs to be addressed
- What has been taken from Valley that is contributing to this congestion? Flood took out parking. Perhaps consider converting former flood damaged campgrounds to parking
- How many days in a year is congestion so bad that NPS staffs traffic managers at the lodge and the bank 4 way? Seems like it’s only about 30 days in a year.
- Comments should consider solutions to congestion (i.e. bridge from lodge to falls)