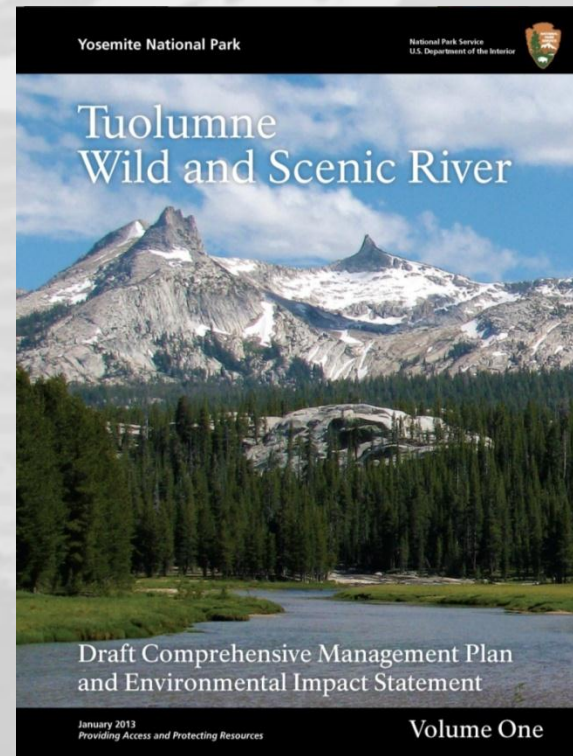
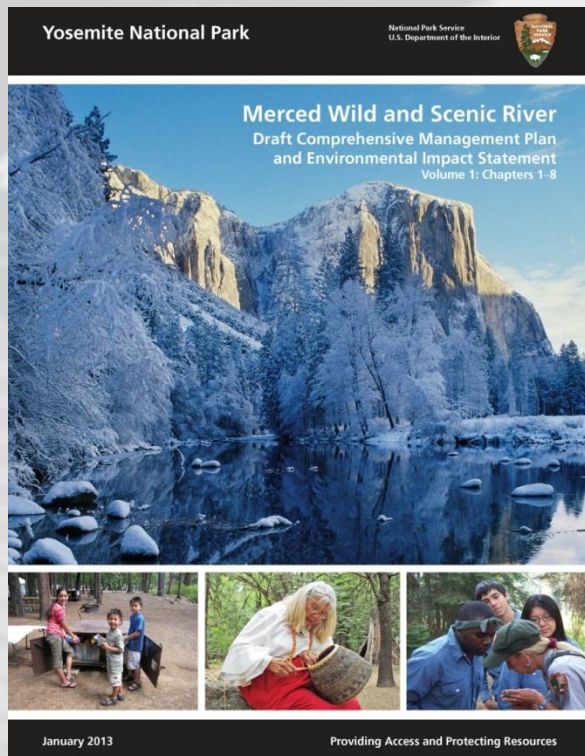
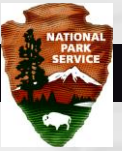


# MERCED AND TUOLUMNE RIVERS

## Draft Comprehensive River Management Plans and Environmental Impact Statements





# Today's Speaker

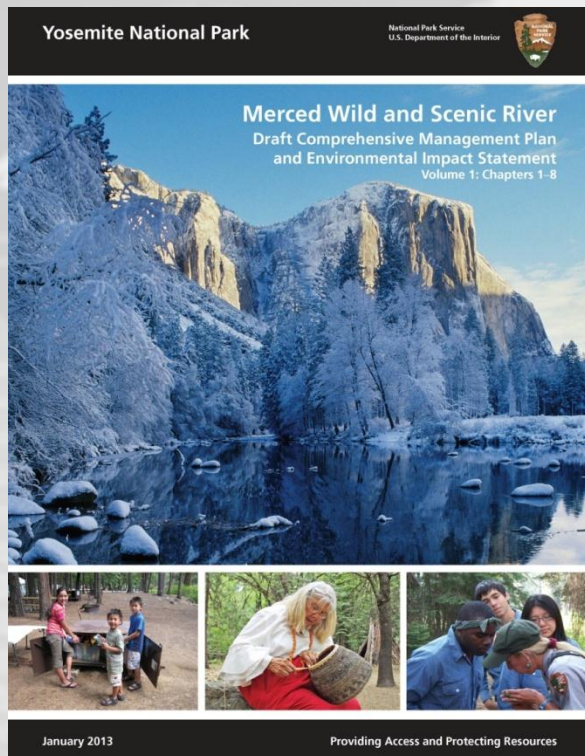


Kathleen  
Morse



# MERCED WILD & SCENIC RIVER

## Draft Comprehensive River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

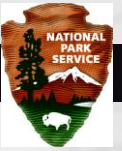


Draft Preferred  
Alternative Webinar  
Tuesday, February 5, 2013  
1:00 pm



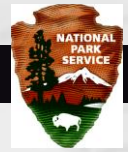






Merced River Plan

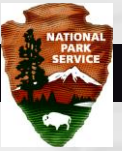
# **DRAFT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**



## Goals of the Draft Preferred Alternative:

- Ensures that the experiences enjoyed by generations of families are sustained over time.
- Provides visitors the freedom to access Yosemite Valley by private vehicle.
- Reduces traffic congestion and crowding with organized and efficient day-use parking.
- Creates a sense of arrival by redesigning the primary day-use parking area and removing of industrial and administrative functions.
- Improves circulation, reduces congestion and provides for a more relaxed visitor experience.





## Section One

# PROTECTING & ENHANCING RESOURCES



# Wild and Scenic River Act

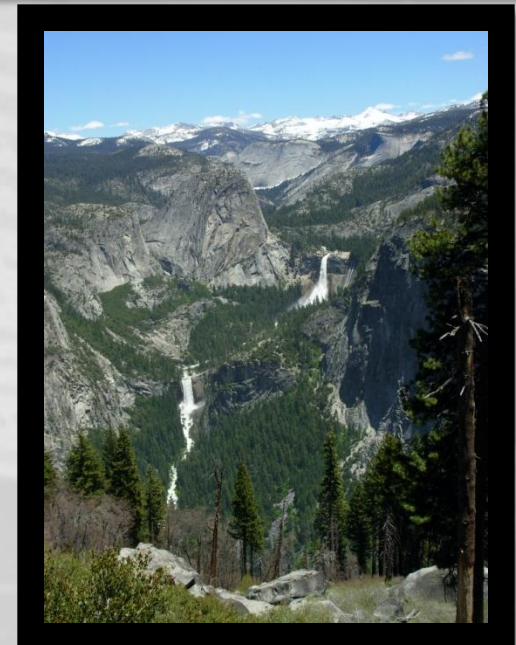
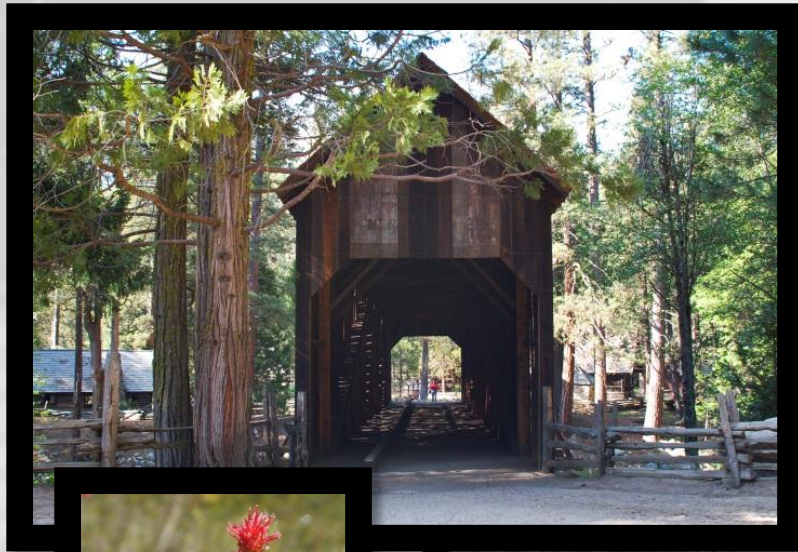
***"Each [river] will be managed to protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated, while providing for public recreation and resource uses which do not adversely impact or degrade those values."***

***WSRA Guidelines, 1982***





# Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values





# Merced Baseline Condition Assessment

- Draft Baseline Conditions Report released in July 2012 – Chapter 5
- Local impacts in El Capitan Meadow
- Riparian areas between Clark's and Sentinel Bridges
- Hydrologic impacts of Sugarpine Bridge
- Informal trails through valley meadows
- Improve condition of national historic landmarks



Flooded informal trail in El Capitan Meadow

Localized riparian impacts

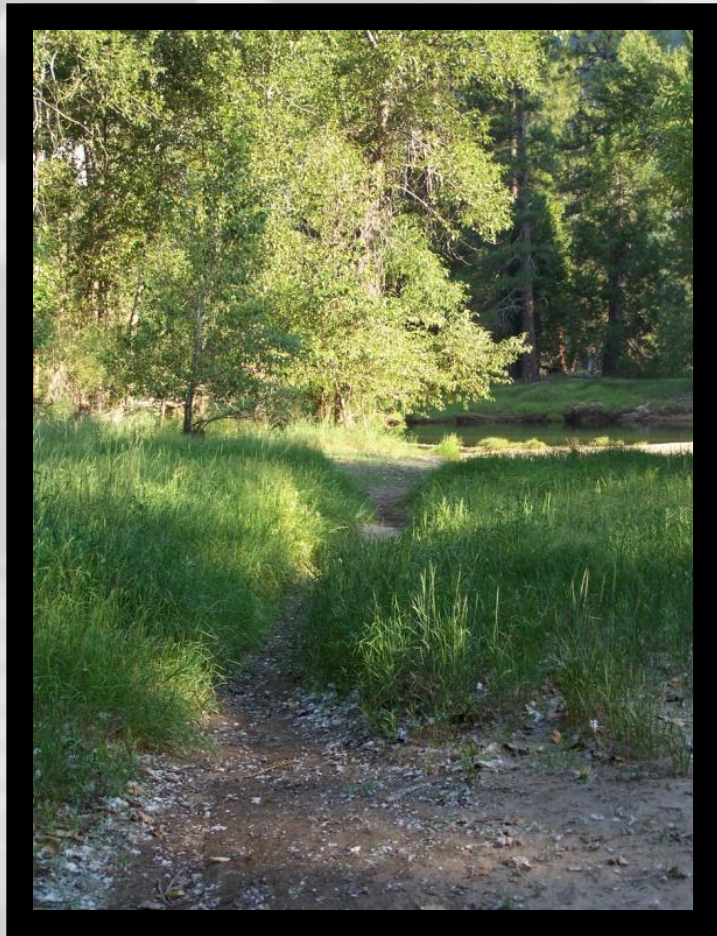


Hydrologic impacts of Sugar Pine Bridge





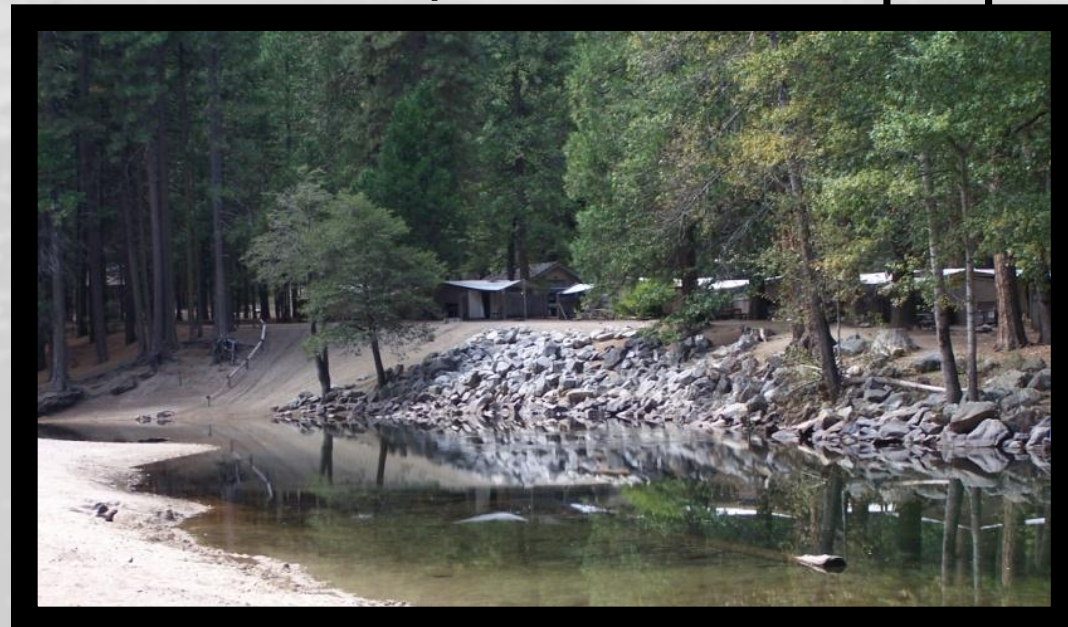
## Restore 203 acres of Yosemite Valley meadows



## Remove Sugar Pine Bridge



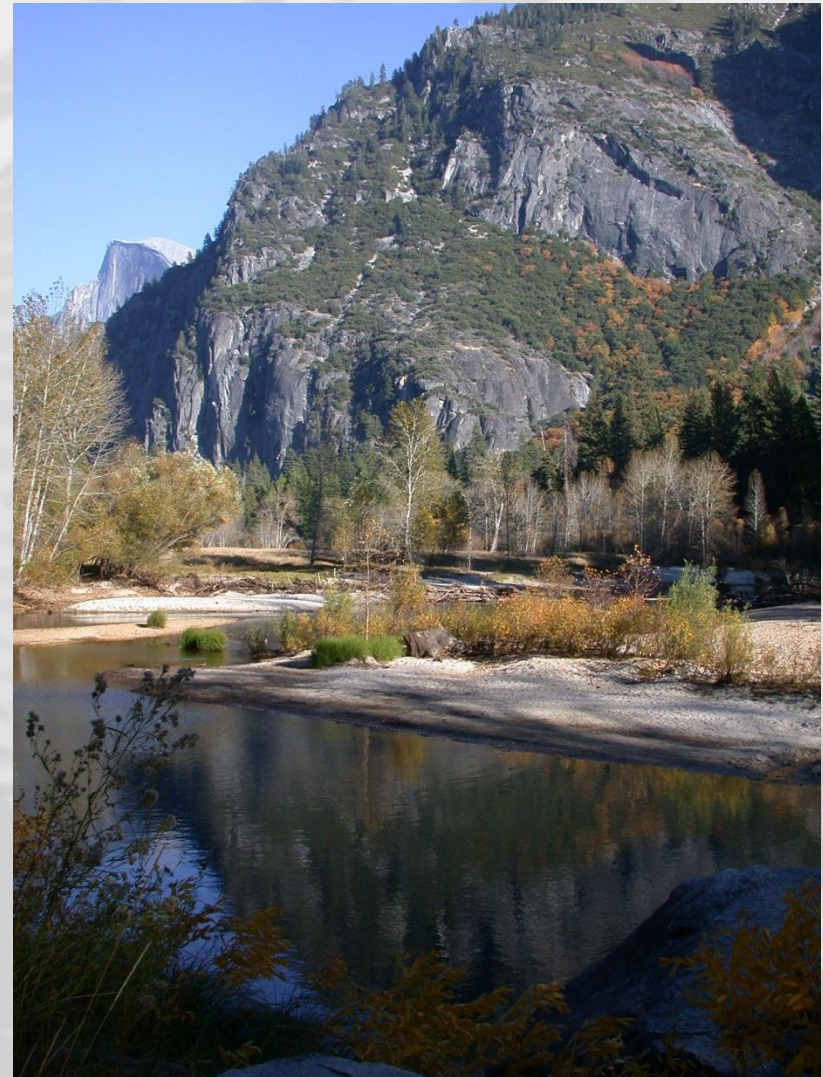
## Remove 6,135 linear feet of rip-rap



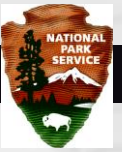




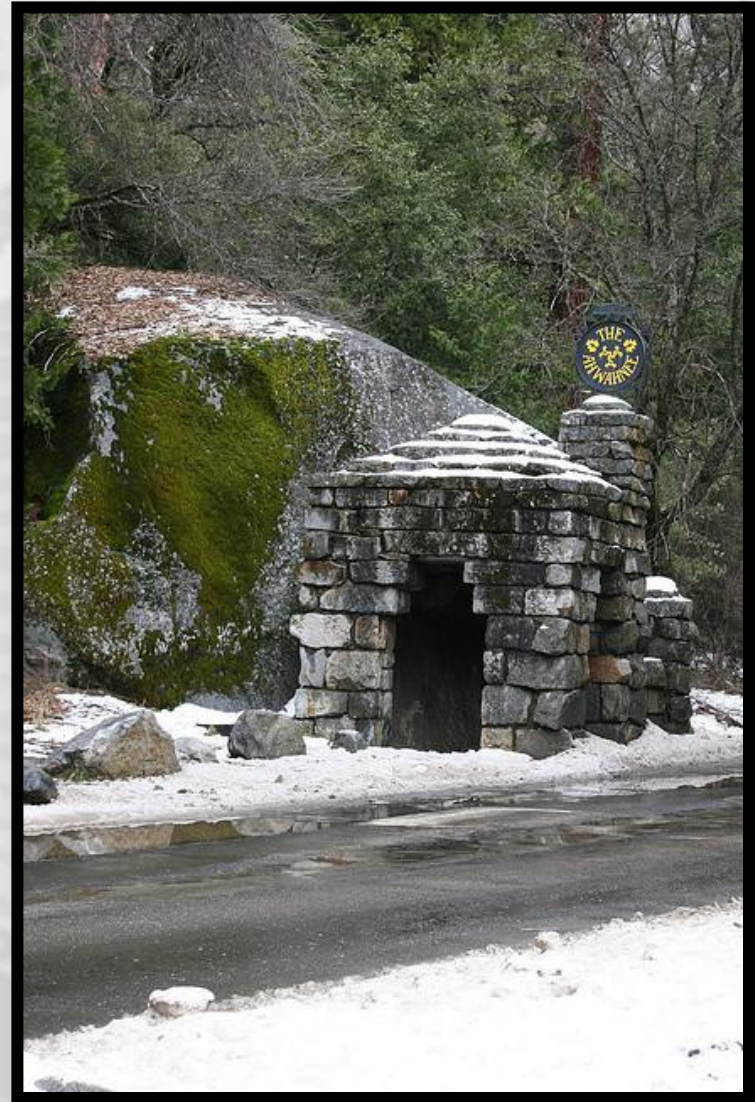
# Riverbank Restoration







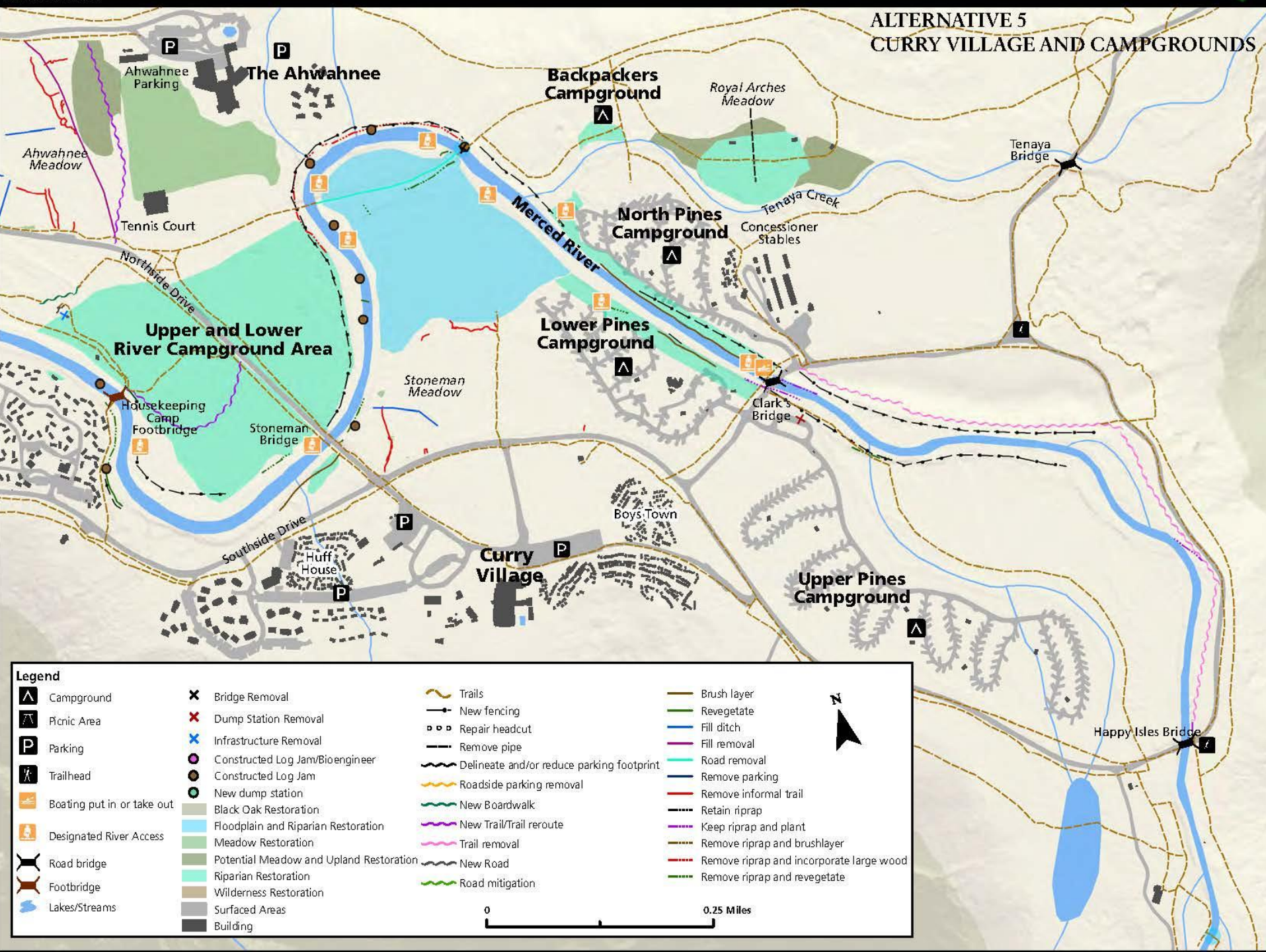
## LeConte Memorial Lodge historic preservation

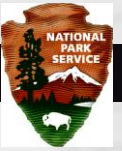


Ahwahnee Hotel Gate House



# ALTERNATIVE 5 CURRY VILLAGE AND CAMPGROUNDS



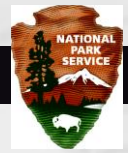


Merced River Plan

# **PROVIDING ACCESS**

*systems-based solutions*

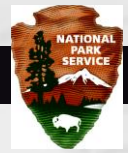




# Roadway Conditions 2011





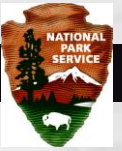


# Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area

## Current Condition





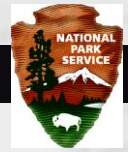


# Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area

- Misaligned 4-way
- Pedestrian vehicle conflicts







# Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area

- Misaligned 4-way
- Pedestrian vehicle conflicts
- Non-effective intersection





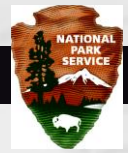


## Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area



Parking Pulled Back from River

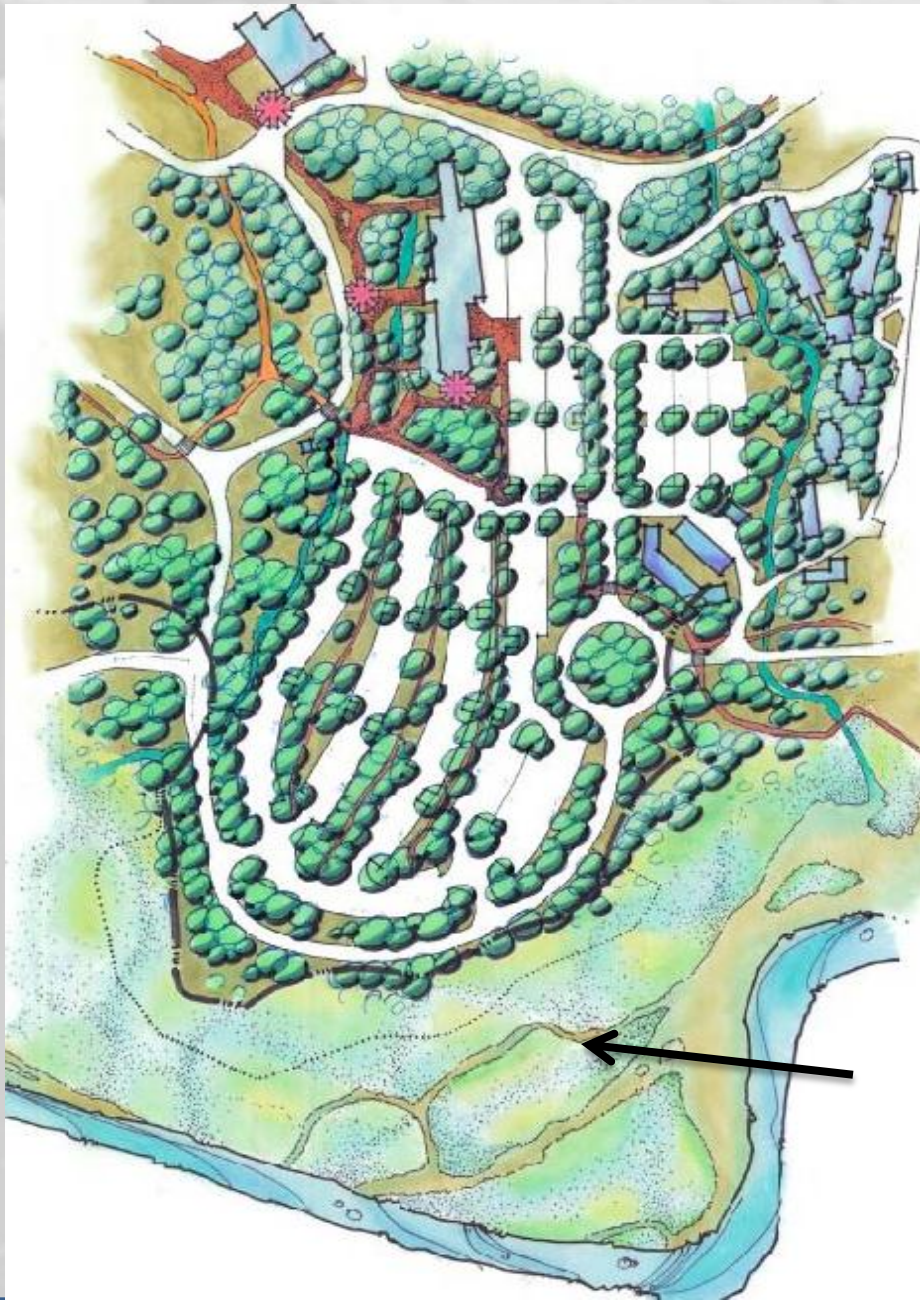




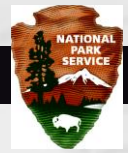
# Draft Preferred Alternative

## Yosemite Village Day-use Parking Area (Camp 6)

1. Pull parking away from the river

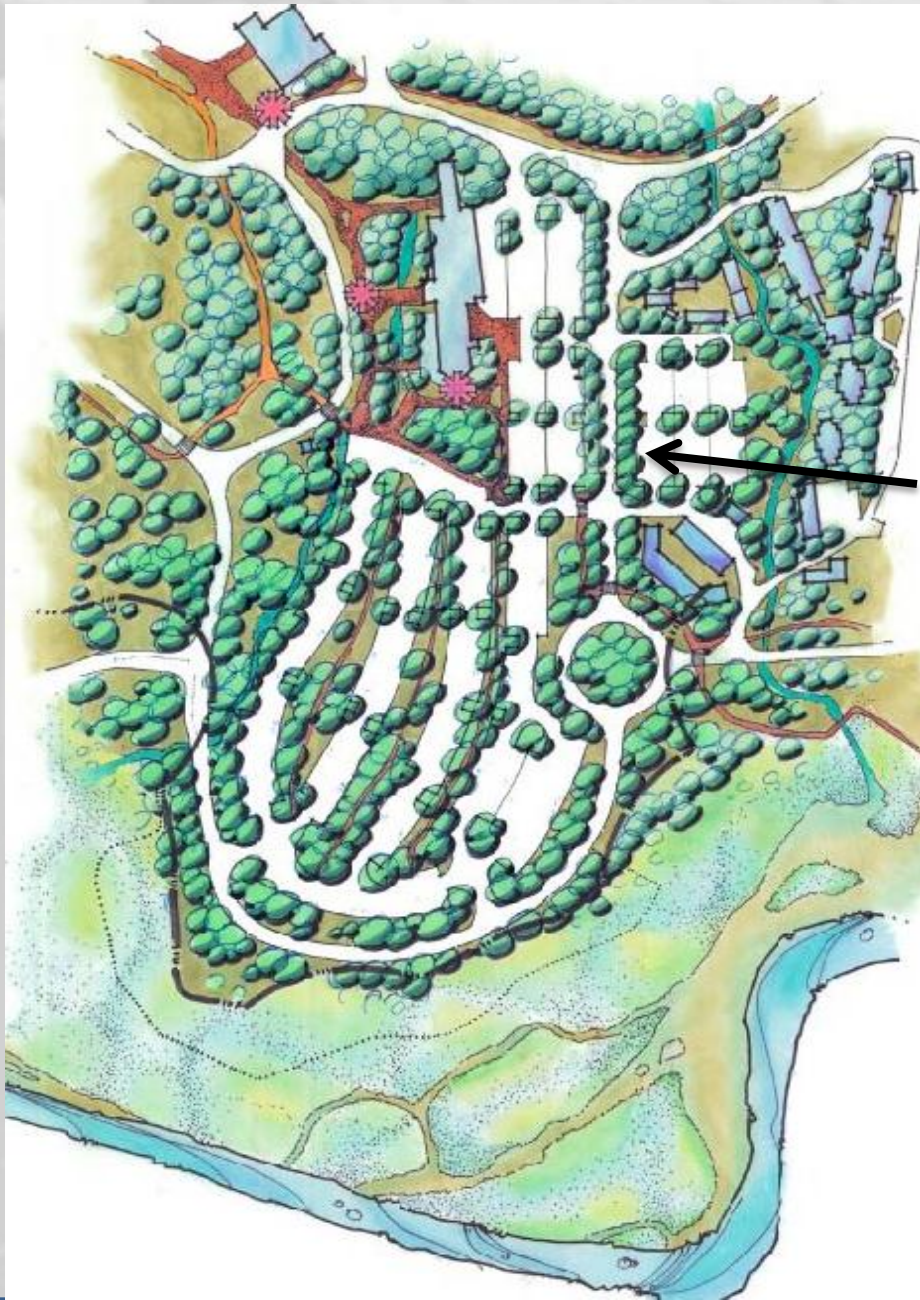






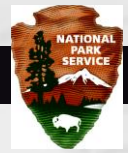
# Draft Preferred Alternative

## Yosemite Village Day-use Parking Area (Camp 6)



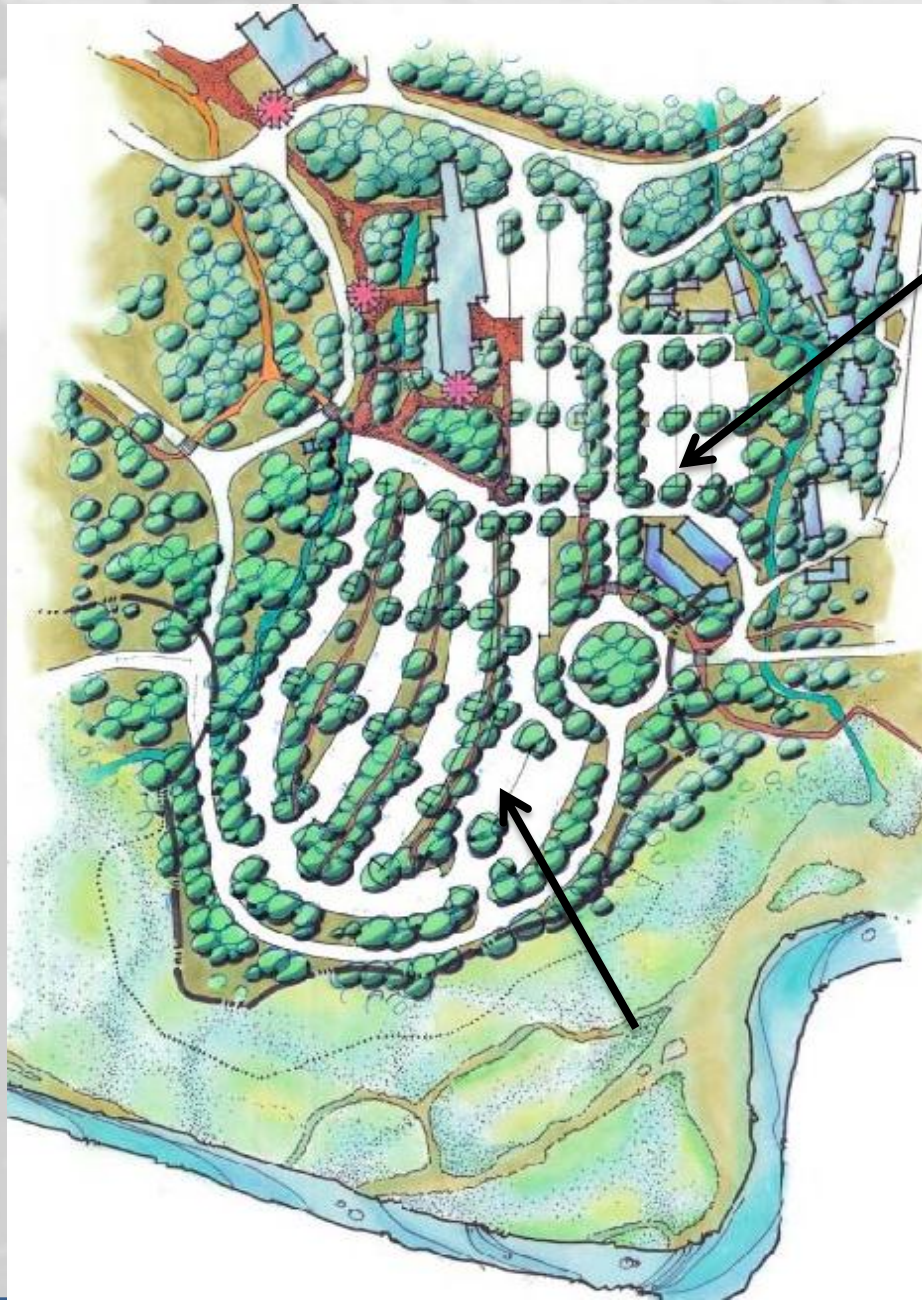
1. Pull parking away from the river
2. Relocate Administrative facilities





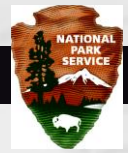
# Draft Preferred Alternative

## Yosemite Village Day-use Parking Area (Camp 6)



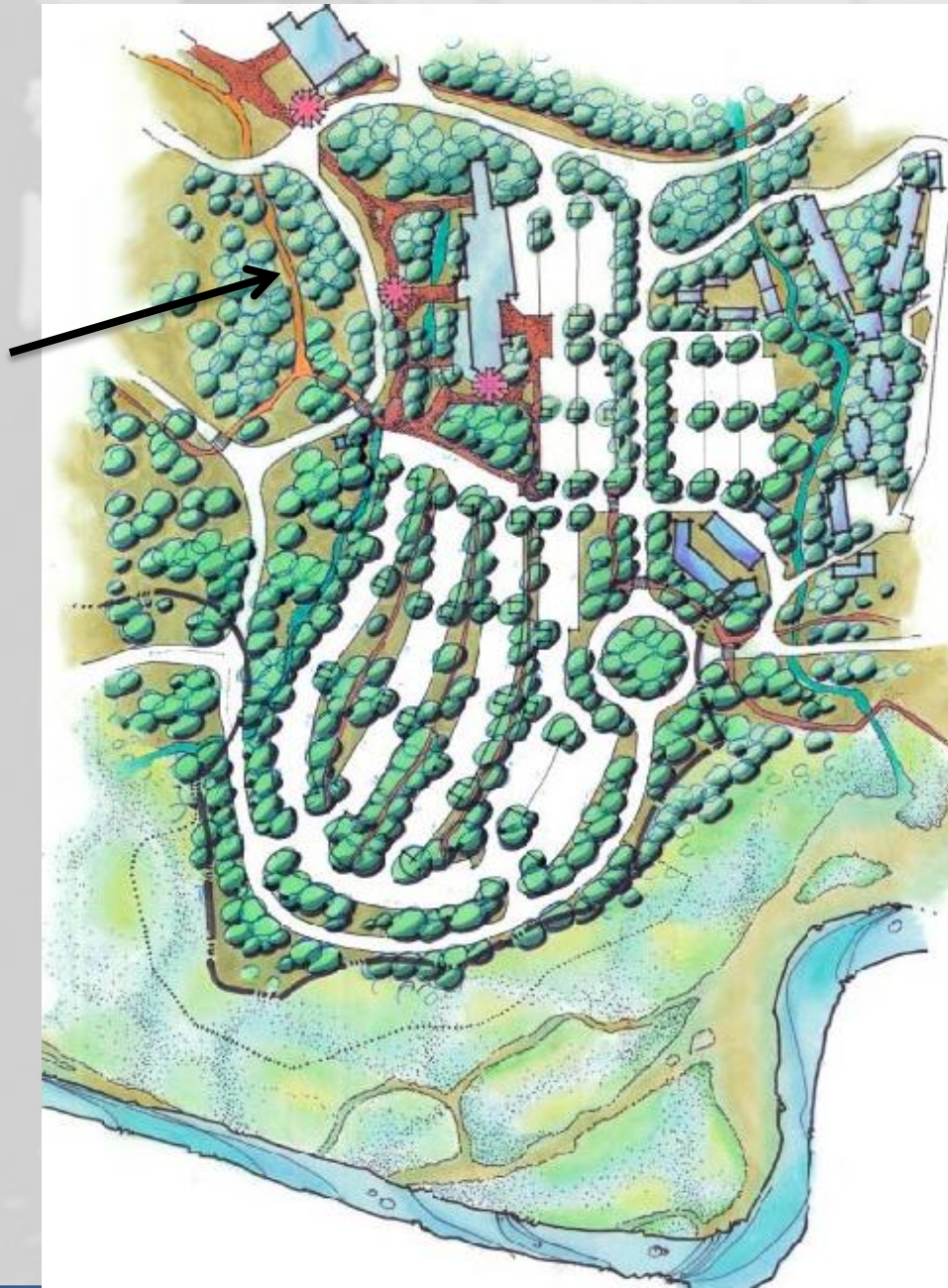
1. Pull parking away from the river
2. Relocate Administrative facilities
3. Increase Parking Capacity





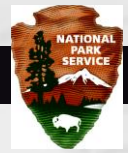
# Draft Preferred Alternative

## Yosemite Village Day-use Parking Area (Camp 6)



1. Pull parking away from the river
2. Relocate Administrative facilities
3. Increase Parking Capacity
4. Designate walkways to visitor services





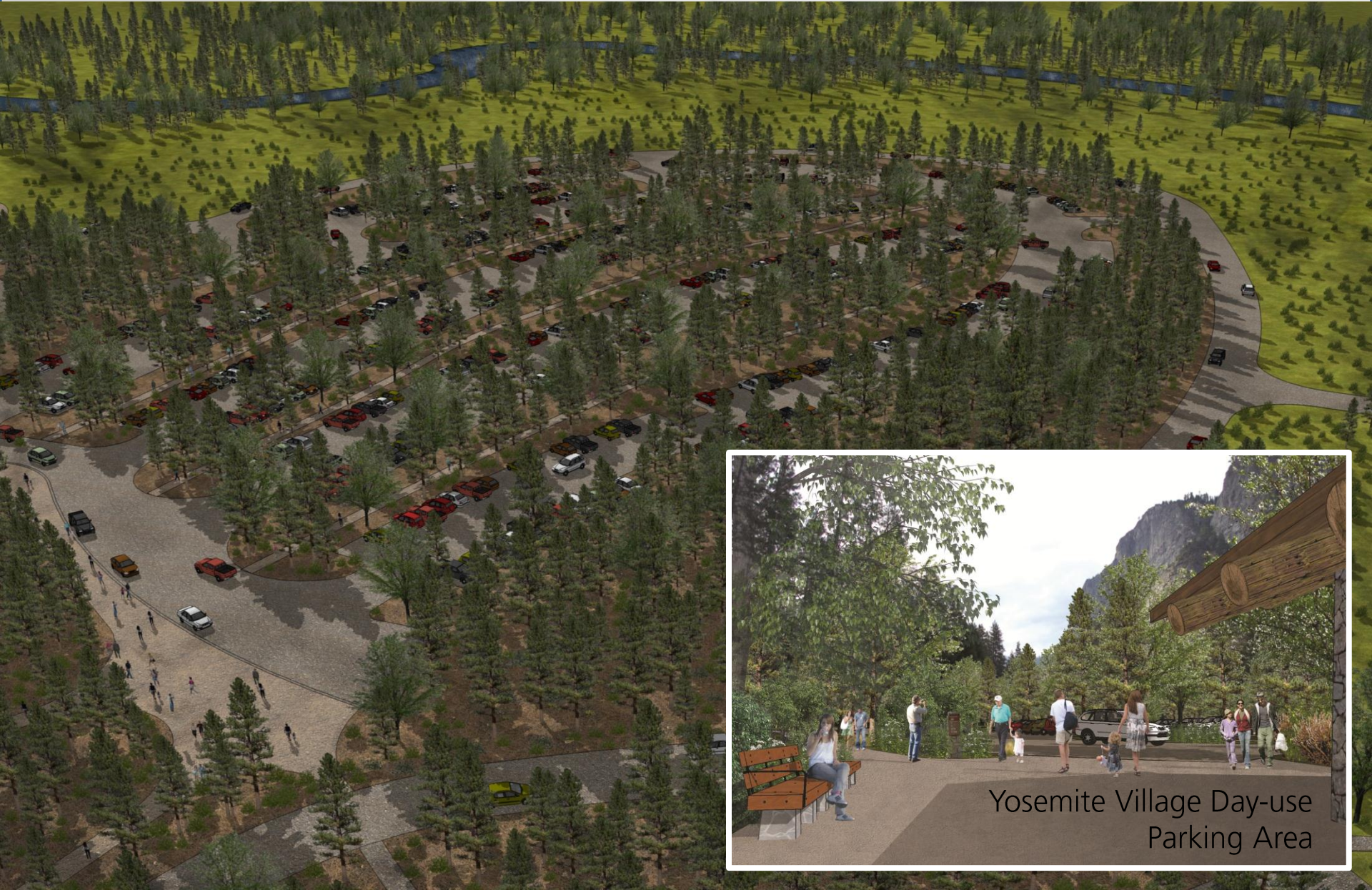
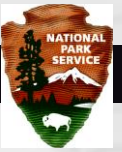
# Draft Preferred Alternative

## Yosemite Village Day-use Parking Area (Camp 6)

1. Pull parking away from the river
2. Relocate Administrative facilities
3. Increase Parking Capacity
4. Designate walkways to visitor services
5. Realign roads to promote vehicle flow











## Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4



Employee Housing



Employee Housing





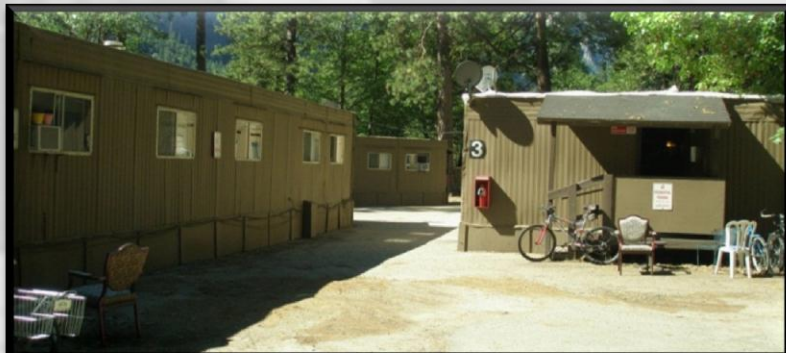


Yosemite Lodge  
and Camp 4

Falls Crosswalk

Employee Housing

Employee Housing





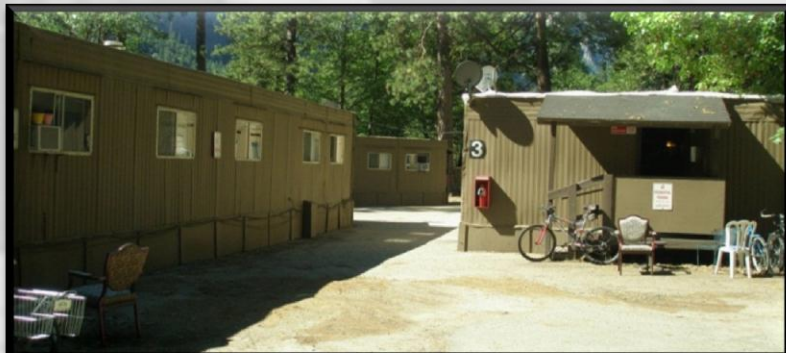


Yosemite Lodge  
and Camp 4

Falls Crosswalk

Registration Area

Employee Housing



Employee Housing







Employee Housing



Yosemite Lodge  
and Camp 4

Falls Crosswalk

Registration Area

Employee Housing

Bus Parking







Employee Housing



Yosemite Lodge  
and Camp 4

Falls Crosswalk

Registration Area

Employee Housing

Bus Parking







# Replace Substandard Housing



New Curry Green Housing



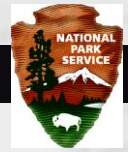


# Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4



**Draft Preferred Alternative**





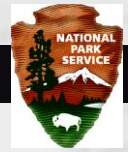
# Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4



## Draft Preferred Alternative

- New Camp 4 walk-in sites





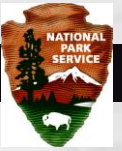
# Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4



## Draft Preferred Alternative

- New Camp 4 walk-in sites
- Additional Day-use parking spaces





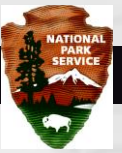
# Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4



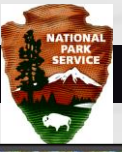
## Draft Preferred Alternative

- New Camp 4 walk-in sites
- Additional Day-use parking spaces
- Pedestrian Underpass



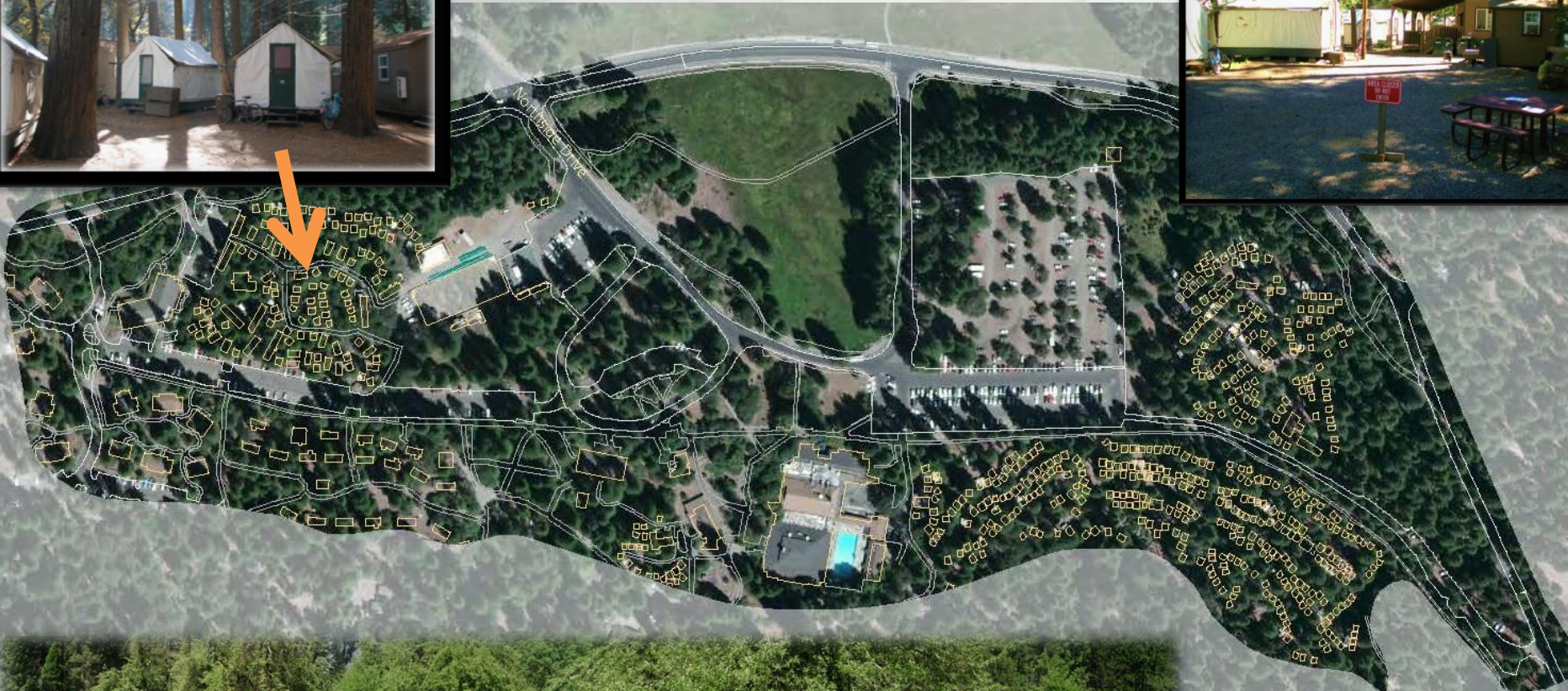






Huff House - Housing

Boys Town – Visitor Accommodations



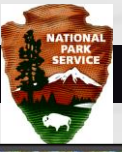
**Alternative 1: No Action**  
Curry Village

Yosemite National Park  
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service



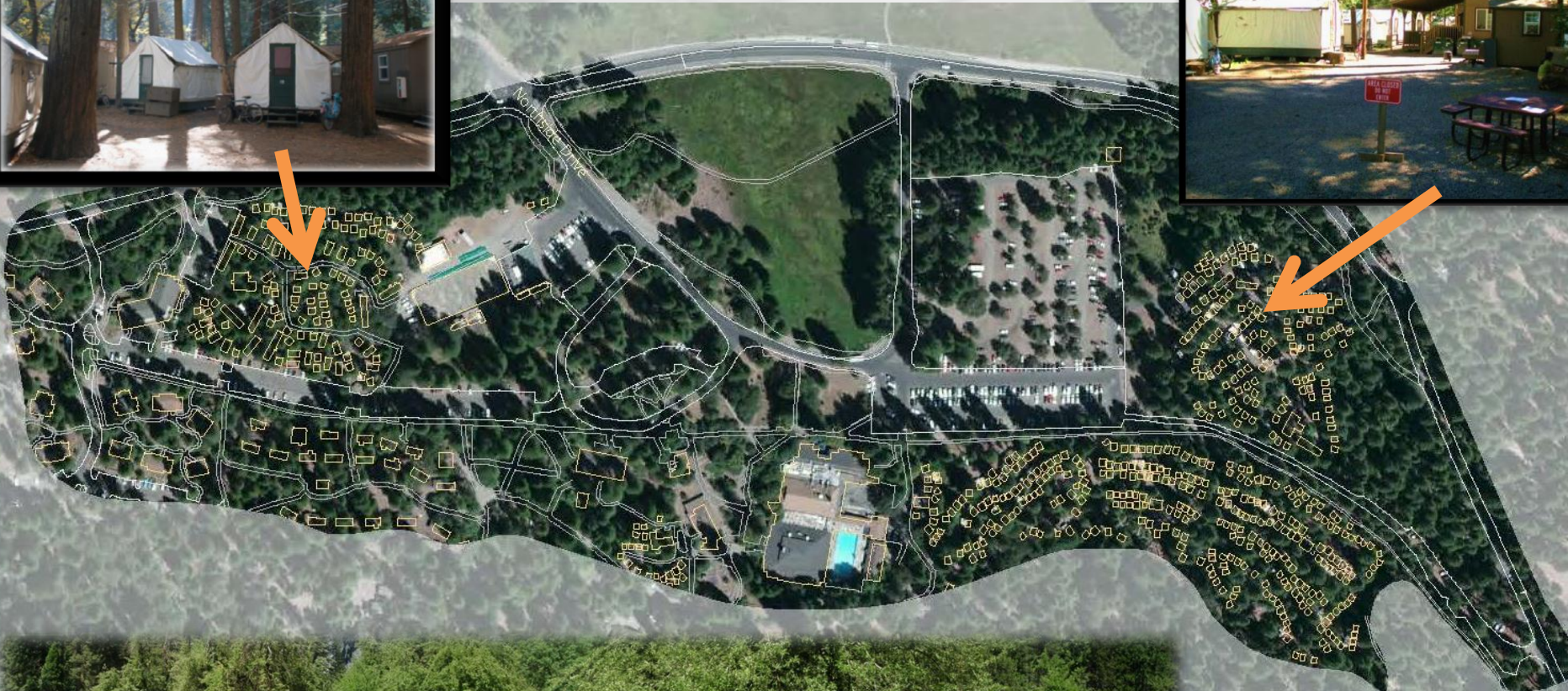
Curry Orchard Parking Lot





Huff House - Housing

Boys Town – Visitor Accommodations

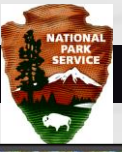


**Alternative 1: No Action**  
Curry Village  
Yosemite National Park  
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service



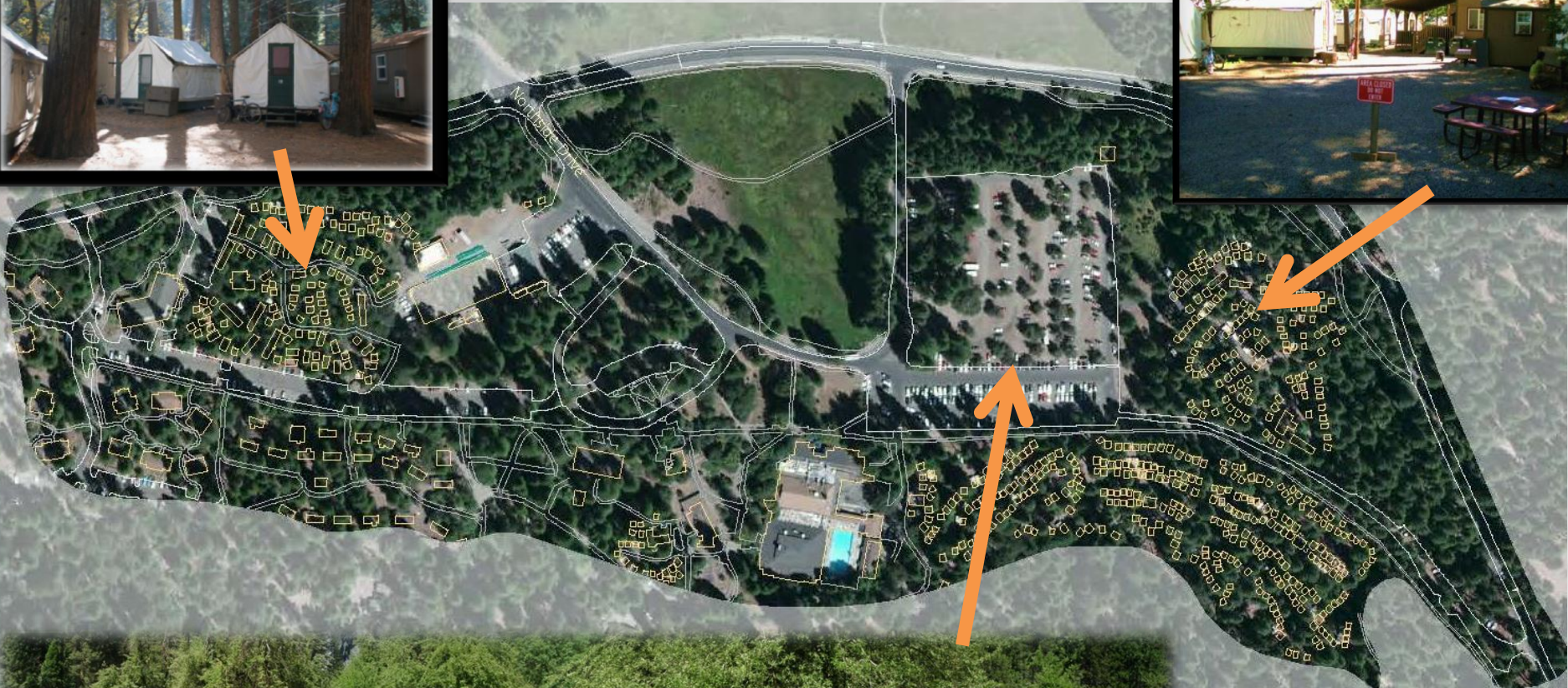
Curry Orchard Parking Lot





Huff House - Housing

Boys Town – Visitor Accommodations

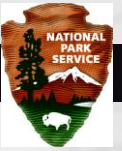


**Alternative 1: No Action**  
Curry Village  
Yosemite National Park  
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service



Curry Orchard Parking Lot

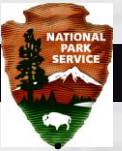




# Curry Village





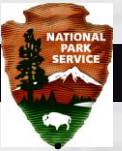


# Curry Village

## Replacement of Substandard Housing





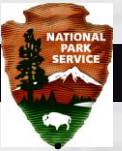


# Curry Village

Replacement of Substandard Housing  
Replace Boystown with Hard-sided Units







# Curry Village

Replacement of Substandard Housing  
Replace Boystown with Hard-sided Units  
Redesign Orchard Parking Lot







# Lodging Units

	Alt 1	Alt 5	Details
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.





# Enhancing Camping Opportunities

- Expand low-cost camping by 37% in Yosemite Valley
- Provide riparian buffer, and resource appropriate river access
- Additional Camping includes
  - RV camping loop (36 sites)
  - Drive-in camping (42 sites)
  - Group Camping (4 sites)
  - Walk-in Camping (132 sites)





# Upper Rivers Campground



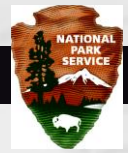




# Camping Units

	Alt 1	Alt 5	Details
<b>Yosemite Valley</b>			
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
<b>Wawona</b>			
Wawona Campground	99	86	Sites removed within 100 feet of river or culturally sensitive areas
<b>Total Camping in Corridor</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>726</b>	





# Wilderness

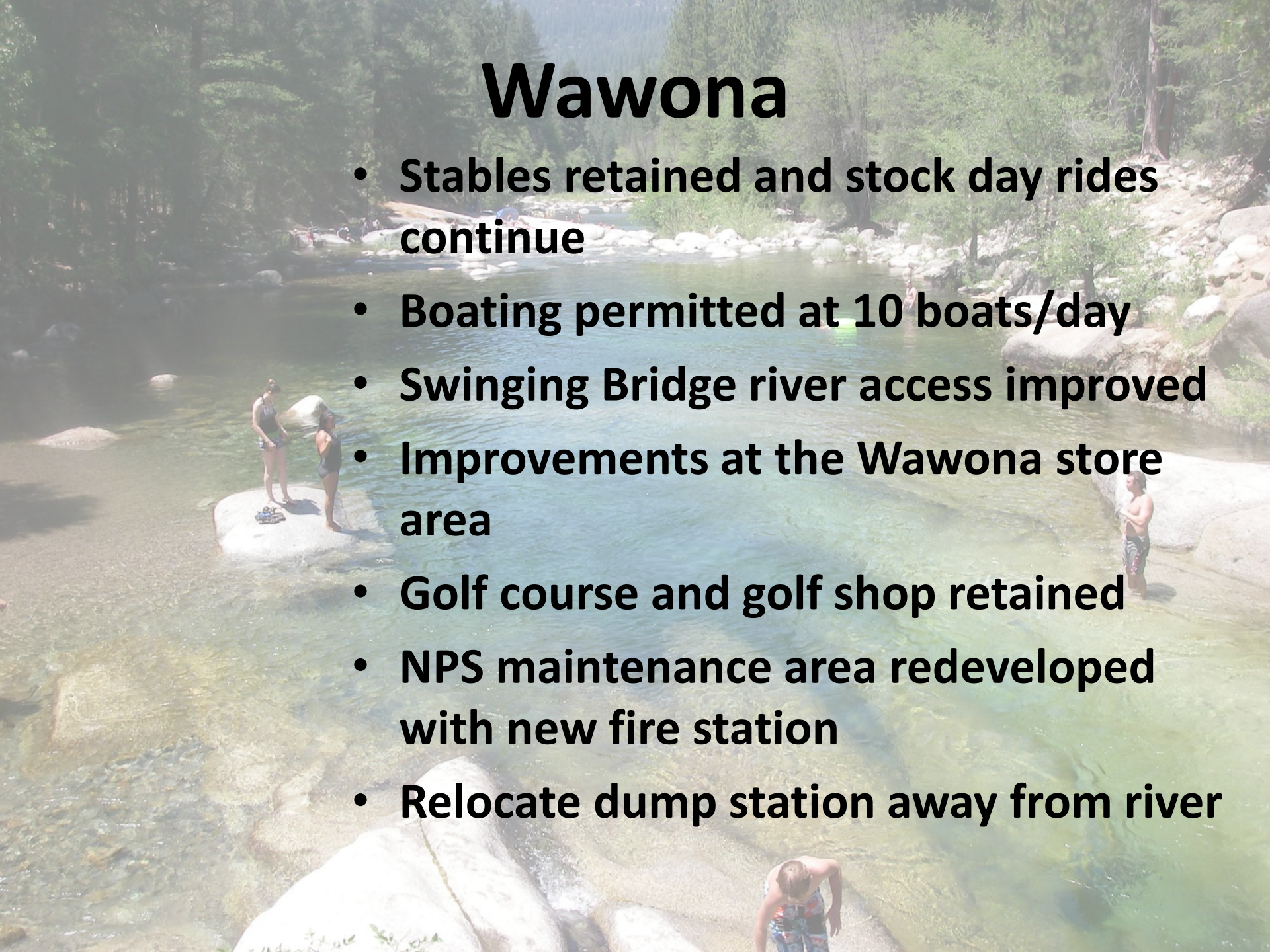
- All zone capacities would remain the same
- Capacity at Merced Lake HSC reduced
- Meadow restoration near Merced Lake
- Boating permitted in all wild segments @ 10 boats/day



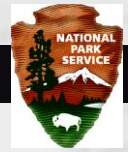


# Wawona

- Stables retained and stock day rides continue
- Boating permitted at 10 boats/day
- Swinging Bridge river access improved
- Improvements at the Wawona store area
- Golf course and golf shop retained
- NPS maintenance area redeveloped with new fire station
- Relocate dump station away from river





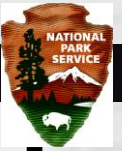


# El Portal

- Remote parking at Abbieville
- Infill housing in Old El Portal
- Infill housing at Rancheria
- Removal of bulk fuel facility
- Boating allowed below Yosemite View Lodge to Foresta Bridge
- Establish valley oak recruitment area
- Remove above-ground abandoned infrastructure







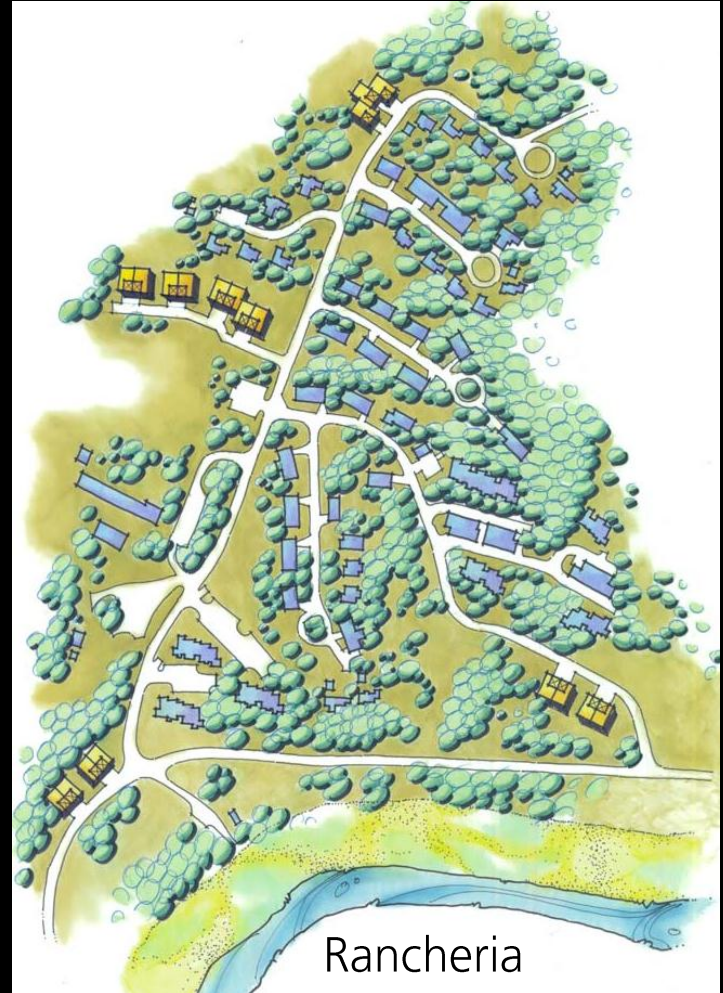
# Relocate Housing to El Portal?

## Old El Portal and Rancheria

**LEED Gold or higher performance standard for all new construction**



Old El Portal



Rancheria



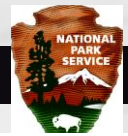


# Facilities and Services Analysis

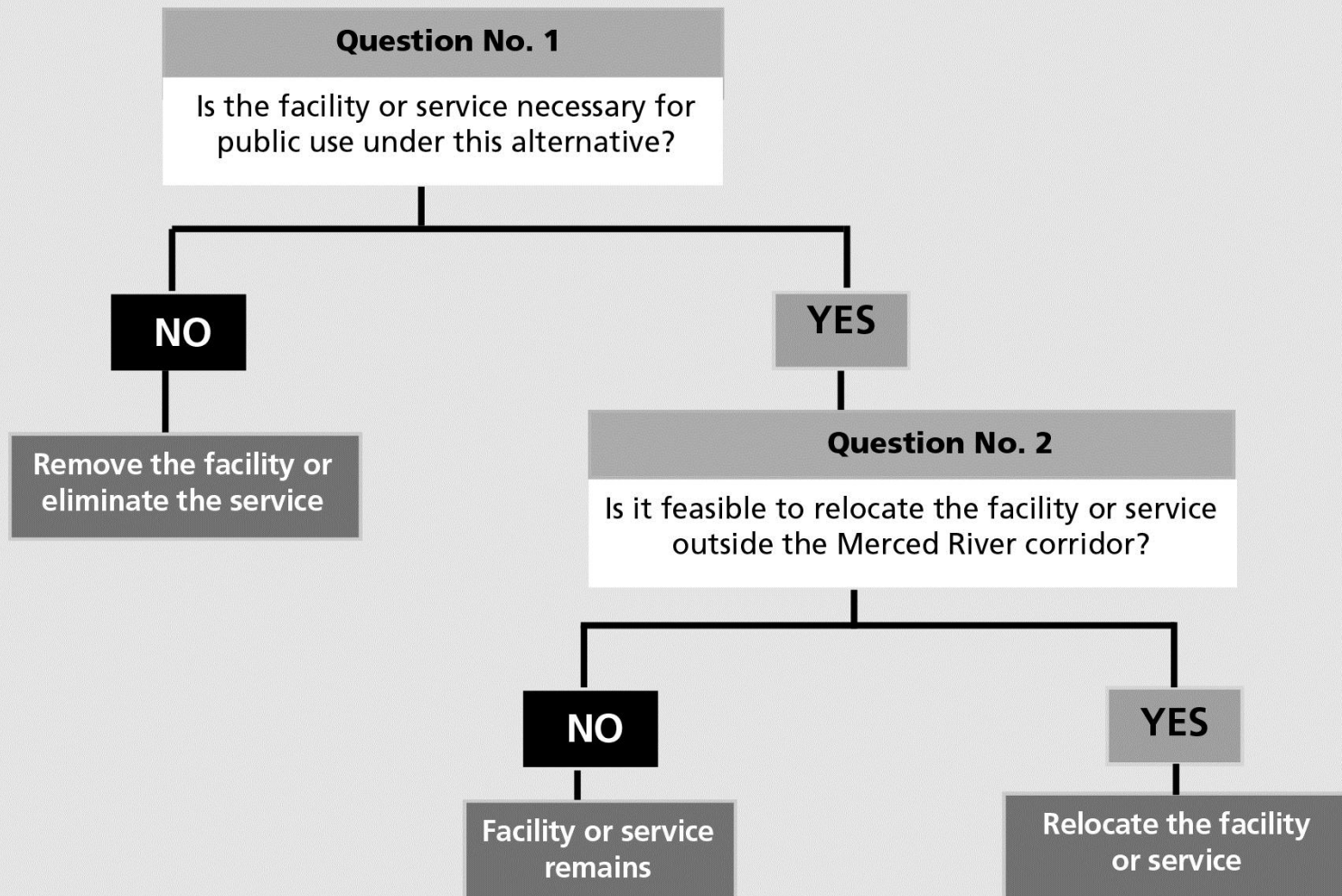
## Facilities Removed – Under All Alternatives

- 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

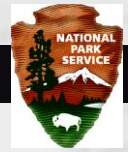




# WSRA Requirements for Facilities Analysis







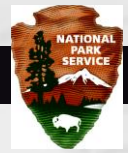
# Facilities Analysis

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*, 9<sup>th</sup> 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.”





# User Capacity/Visitation

## East Yosemite Valley Peak-Day:

Current User Capacity (People-at-one-time): 13,594 PAOT

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

Effective 2011 Capacity 14,836 PAOT

2011 Observed Visitation 20,900 **people**

Alternative 5 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**

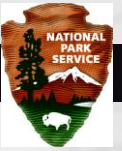




# Range of Alternatives

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

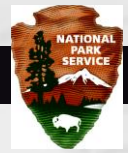




Merced River Plan

# PROJECT TIMELINE



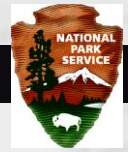


# What's Next

- **Next Webinar Feb. 7, 1:00 p.m.**  
Protection and Enhancement of River Values  
+ Feb 14, 27
- **Public Meetings:**
  - Feb. 27, Yosemite Valley
  - March 6, El Portal
  - 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/Decision: July 2013**







# Public Review & Comment Periods

## Merced River Plan:

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

## Comment on-line on PEPC:

[http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mrp\\_deis](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mrp_deis)

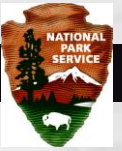
## Or via mail:

National Park Service  
Merced or Tuolumne River Plan  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite NP, CA 95389

Or via [yose\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:yose_planning@nps.gov)







# CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

