



Merced Wild and Scenic River:

Cultural Outstandingly Remarkable Values

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- How have we assessed conditions of the Cultural Outstandingly Remarkable Values?
- Segment by segment discussion
- What do we know to be management issues & concerns?



We assess conditions of the Cultural
Outstandingly Remarkable Values by
examining integrity:

- *Location*
- *Design*
- *Setting*
- *Materials*

- *Workmanship*
- *Feeling*
- *Association*



Archeological rock ring feature in Wilderness



Assessing integrity of archeological resources:

- *Are the sites preserved in place?*
- *Can we recognize features such as this rock alignment?*
- *Are sites managed to retain features and artifacts?*
- *Are sites managed to prevent modern intrusions or disturbances?*



Assessing integrity of ethnographic resources:

- *Are the traditionally used plants still present?*
- *Are they managed to promote their cultural and ecological health?*
- *Are the important historic villages, spiritual areas, and other places accessible to traditionally associated peoples?*
- *Do these resources maintain the important connection between people and place?*



Assessing integrity of the historic Wawona Covered Bridge:

- *Is the structure in its original location?*
- *Does it retain its historic design and materials?*
- *Does the setting still evoke the historic era?*
- *Does the workmanship reflect the building traditions of the historic period?*
- *Is the structure still used for its intended purpose?*



Yosemite Valley Archeological District:

- *Archeological landscape of more than 100 sites*
- *Sites are the tangible remains of past lifeways*
- *Sites include pounding rocks, midden soils, artifacts, rockshelters, rock art panels, and cemeteries*
- *Intricately linked to history and culture of the today's associated American Indian people*
- *Contain important scientific data about past lifeways*



Yosemite Valley: 2011 Condition Assessments

- *Standard NPS methodology: Archeological Sites Management Information System*
- *47% in good condition*
- *33% in fair condition*
- *19% in poor condition*
- *1% unknown*



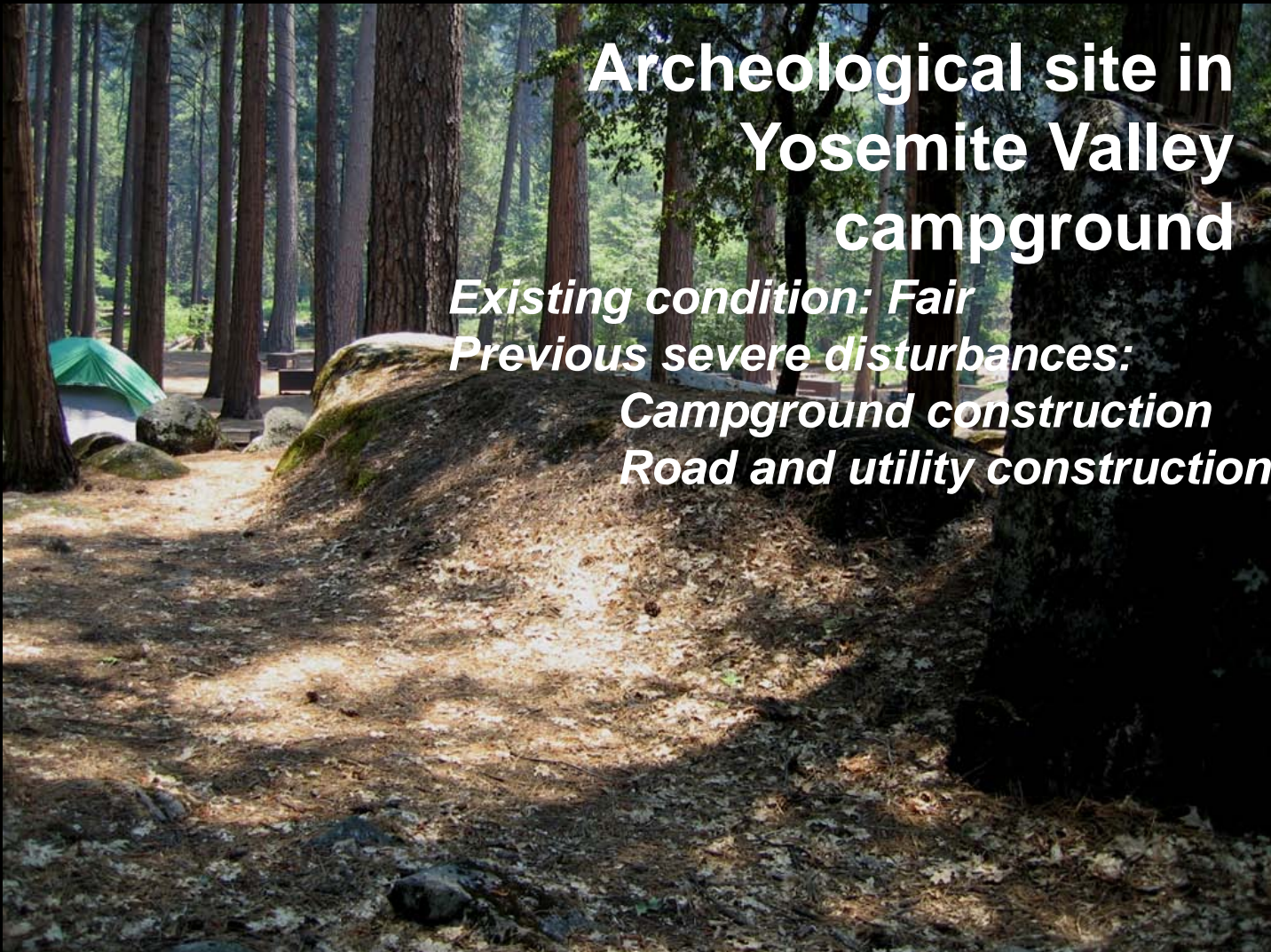
Archeological site in Yosemite Valley campground

Existing condition: Fair

Previous severe disturbances:

Campground construction

Road and utility construction



Archeological site with mortar feature, or pounding rock, Yosemite Valley campground



Current threats to site integrity:

- *Visitor use*
- *Campground*
- *Social trail*
- *Fuel build-up*
- *Care of modern facilities*



Archeological site with mortar feature, or pounding rock, Yosemite Valley campground



Yosemite Valley Ethnographic Resources

The significance of Yosemite Valley ethnographic resources is derived from the role they play in the continuing, historically-rooted beliefs, customs and practices of traditionally associated American Indians.

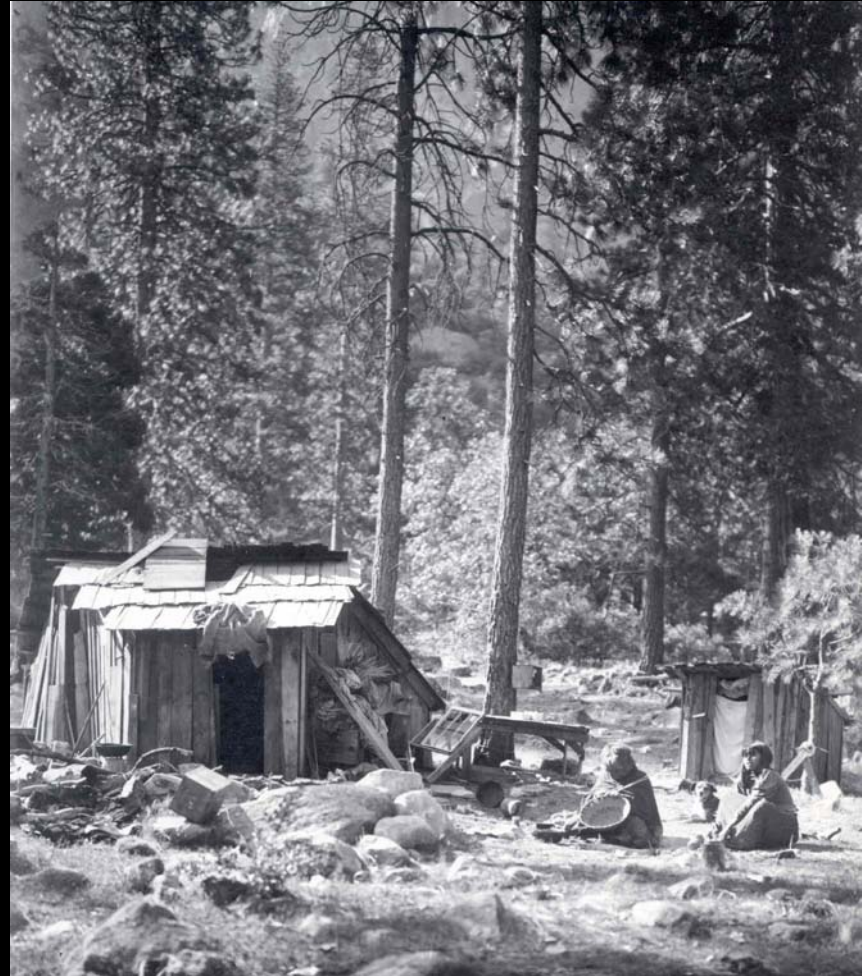


Bracken fern root is important in the practice of basket making



Yosemite Valley Ethnographic Resources

- Traditional Use Plants in >40 documented historic gathering areas
- Historic village sites represented in 43 archeological sites
- 14 sacred and spiritual areas
- Yosemite Valley in its entirety is considered a sacred place to American Indian peoples



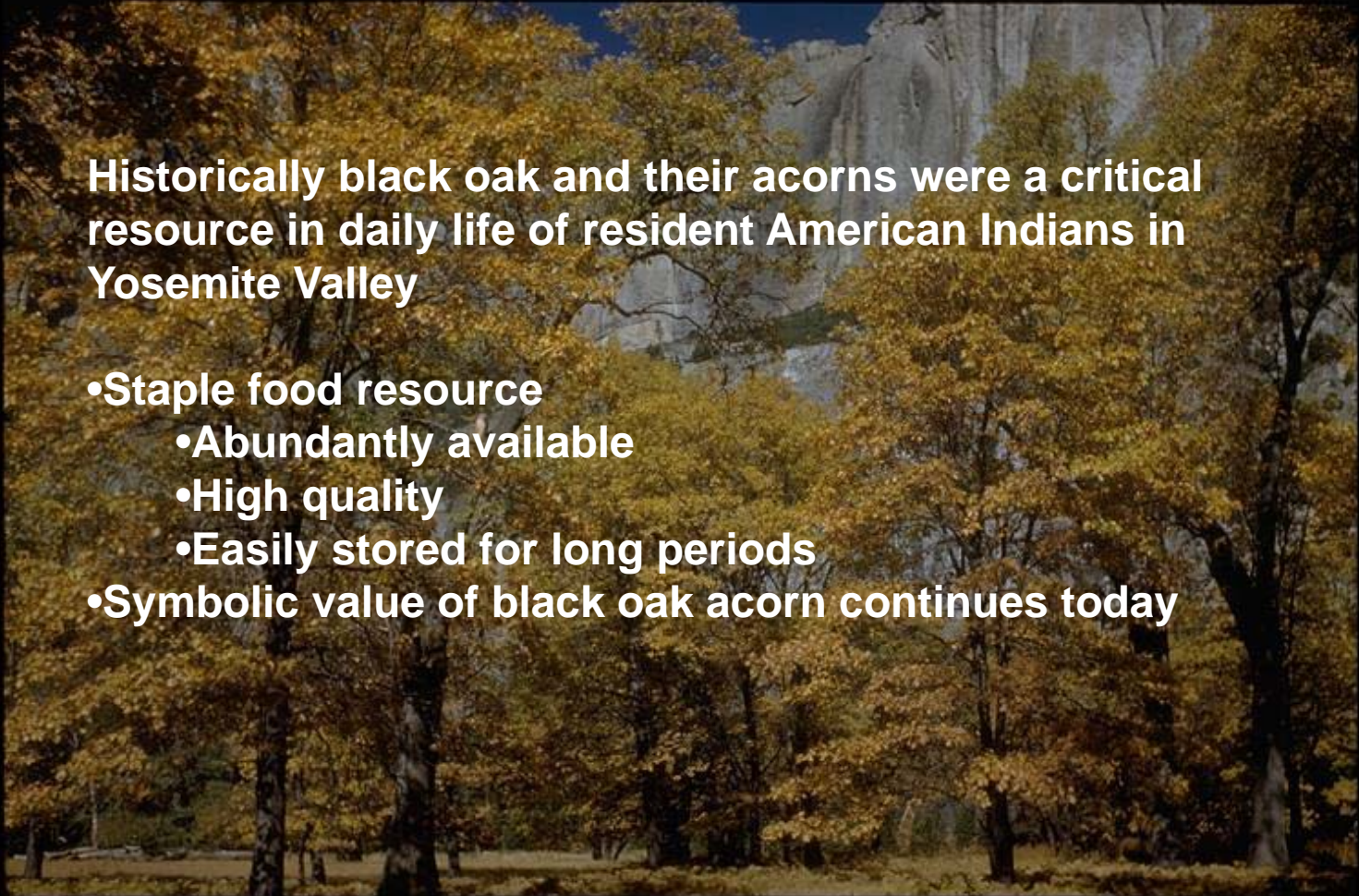
Historic village in Yosemite Valley, circa 1901



Black oak groves in Yosemite Valley

Historically black oak and their acorns were a critical resource in daily life of resident American Indians in Yosemite Valley

- **Staple food resource**
 - **Abundantly available**
 - **High quality**
 - **Easily stored for long periods**
- **Symbolic value of black oak acorn continues today**



*Black oak grove in Cooks Meadow, Yosemite Valley
Image courtesy of Charles Webber © California Academy of Sciences*



Existing condition and integrity of groves varies

Threats to integrity of include:

- **Lack of fire**
- **Conifer encroachment**



Historic extent of meadows



Current meadow extent



Wawona Archeological District

- *Landscape of about 90 sites*
- *Tangible remains of past lifeways*
- *Pounding rocks, midden soils, artifacts, rockshelters, rock art panels, burials*
- *Intricately linked to history and culture of the today's associated American Indian people*



Pounding rock at large site along riverbank in Wawona



Wawona Archeological District

2011 Condition Assessments

- *33% in good condition*
- *38% in fair condition*
- *19% in poor condition*
- *10% unknown*



Pounding rock at large site along riverbank in Wawona



Rock ring archeological feature along South Fork Merced, Wilderness segment



Regionally-rare rock ring features

- *Demonstrate unique precontact-era land use in high elevation river corridor*
- *Contain important scientific information*
 - *Important ancestral resources*
- *Demonstrate high degree of integrity*



Rock ring archeological feature along South Fork Merced, Wilderness segment



Wawona Covered Bridge



Wawona Covered Bridge 1999 Repair Project



Wawona Covered Bridge

Current condition: Good

- *Retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, and workmanship*
- *Some wooden elements replaced over time*





El Portal Archeological District

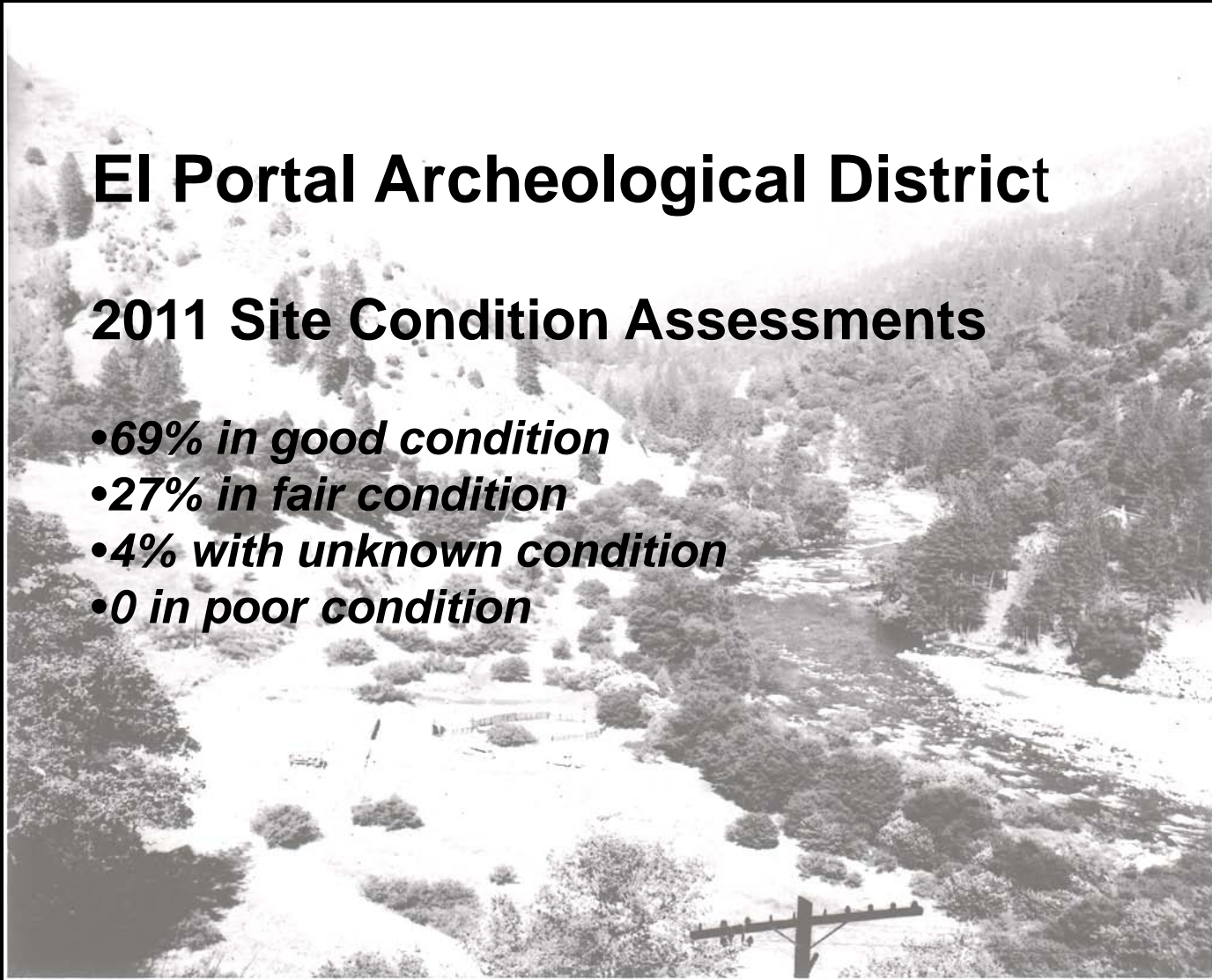
- *Archeological landscape of 25 sites*
- *Pounding rocks, midden soils, artifacts, rockshelters, and cemeteries*
- *Represent historic American Indian as well as the oldest remains in the Yosemite area*
- *Intricately linked to history and culture of the today's associated American Indian people*
- *Sites contain important scientific information*



El Portal Archeological District

2011 Site Condition Assessments

- **69% in good condition**
- **27% in fair condition**
- **4% with unknown condition**
- **0 in poor condition**





Archeological site in El Portal residential area



Cultural ORV Management Considerations

- ***Ethnographic resources***
 - ***Maintaining important plant communities***
 - ***Protecting archeological sites, spiritual areas and sacred places***
 - ***Maintaining important associations between people and place***
 - ***Continuing to involve traditionally associated American Indian tribes, groups and individuals in ongoing consultation***



Cultural ORV Management Considerations

- ***Archeological resources***
 - ***Understanding this is a snapshot in time***
 - ***Can't undo previous impacts***
 - ***Must consider cumulative impacts to archeological districts***
 - ***Continue site documentation and monitoring programs***
 - ***Continue to consider archeological resources in all planning efforts***
 - ***Continuing to consult with traditionally associated American Indian tribes, groups and individuals about archeological resources management***



Cultural ORV Management Considerations

- ***Covered Bridge***
 - ***Continue preservation maintenance***
 - ***Perform regular inspections***
 - ***Continue existing use***



Questions?