

Tuolumne River Plan

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

REMOTE WILDERNESS

The Remote Wilderness prescription is generally reserved for areas of congressionally designated Wilderness that are far enough removed from access roads that considerable time and effort are required to access them. People traveling through these areas may experience a sense of self-reliance and adventure that is not possible in areas managed under other prescriptions.

This prescription emphasizes

- Restoration and preservation of natural ecosystem function
- Protection and interpretation of cultural resources, including American Indian enhancement and use of traditional cultural resources, to the maximum extent feasible while restoring and/or protecting natural ecosystem function
- Abundant opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation characterized by physical challenge, freedom, adventure, and self-reliance in an environment that appears pristine
- Minimal to low use levels; sense of solitude
- Access by backpacking and stock packing
- Minimal facilities needed to protect river values and other resources, preserve wilderness character, and provide for basic visitor safety

Desired Natural Resource Conditions

Fundamental physical and biological processes shape and control wilderness ecosystems to the maximum extent possible. Natural hydrologic processes, such as periodic flooding and deposits of woody debris into the river, occur without human interference. The river is free of unnatural impoundments. Water quality is excellent, but natural pulses of turbidity may occur during periods of seasonal storm, snowmelt runoff, and other natural processes. Natural ecological processes, such as flooding and fire, sustain the inherent integrity of natural and physical resources. Ecological communities are intact, including the natural distribution, numbers, population composition, and interaction of native species in the context of the ecosystem as a whole. Geologic features and processes are intact.

Although Class I air quality is affected by pollutants generated outside the park, in-park sources are not detectable, with the exception of smoke associated with the natural role of fire in the ecosystem. Natural soundscapes and lightscapes are as intact as possible, with minimal, localized intrusions.

Desired Cultural Resource Conditions

All archeological and historic resources listed on (or eligible or potentially eligible for listing on) the National Register of Historic Places retain their current levels of integrity to the maximum extent feasible while allowing for natural ecosystem processes. Surface artifacts are generally left in place as important aspects of site integrity and visitor experience, unless they are at risk of loss. Unimpeded ecological processes may lead to the deterioration or loss of resources, in which case

appropriate treatment measures, such as data recovery, are implemented in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines.

American Indian enhancement and use of traditional cultural resources are perpetuated to the extent possible without interrupting natural ecosystem function.

Desired Visitor Experiences

Visitors enjoy abundant opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation characterized by solitude, physical challenge, freedom, adventure, and self-reliance in an environment that appears pristine to all the senses (natural scenic vistas, clean air, largely intact natural soundscapes and lightscapes, etc.).

Use levels are low, and people generally travel alone or in small groups. Encounters with others happen infrequently.

Enjoyment of natural and cultural resources is generally through self-discovery, with no interpretive signing and only occasional guided hikes.

Recreational activities typically include backpacking, private and commercial stock packing, dispersed primitive camping, day hiking, nature study, rock climbing and mountaineering, fishing, swimming, and wading. All activities must be in compliance with park wilderness management policies, such as those regulating where camping may occur.

Appropriate Types and Levels of Management, Access, and Facilities

Desired conditions are maintained by managing visitor use to protect wilderness character and natural resources. The tolerance for resource degradation from human activities is extremely low, and management action is taken to change the patterns of human use before degradation can occur. Facilities are restricted to the minimum necessary to protect river values and resources, preserve wilderness character, and to provide for basic visitor safety while encouraging a sense of adventure and self-reliance (e.g., unpaved trails, minimal directional signs).

The Management Toolbox below provides examples of appropriate management strategies and facilities that might be used over time to achieve and maintain the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences.

Management Toolbox: Types and Levels of Management, Access, And Facilities Appropriate for Achieving and Maintaining the Remote Wilderness Prescription

General Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory, documentation, and monitoring of cultural and natural resources to ensure timely management response to prevent resource degradation
Management of Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological restoration and restoration of fire regimes to the extent necessary to restore and prevent degradation of wilderness character • Scientific activities (including inventories, monitoring, and research) to develop the knowledge and tools needed to sustain wilderness ecosystems and values • Consultation with appropriate agencies that may have jurisdiction, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Management of Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of resources unless removal is necessary to restore and/or protect natural ecosystem function, in which case appropriate treatment measures are implemented in accordance with law and policy. • Consultation with appropriate groups, including associated American Indian tribes • Possible designation of a specific area for American Indian traditional cultural uses • Consideration of sites with unique features or artifacts, or representative and intact deposits, for scientific study

All treatment of archeological and historic resources must be in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines.

Management of
Visitor Activities

- Management of visitor use in order to protect natural or cultural resources (e.g., rerouting trails, obliterating social trails, and promoting a Leave No Trace ethic.)
- Infrequent interactions with park staff

Access

- Backpacking and stock packing

Facilities

Minimal facilities necessary to protect river values and resources, preserve wilderness character, and provide for basic visitor safety, e.g.,

- Unpaved trails
- Footbridges
- Directional signs at trail junctions

The following facilities *would not* be considered appropriate:

- No roads or paved trails
- No support facilities such as ranger stations, utilities, campgrounds, overnight facilities
- No interpretive signs or exhibits

DAY-USE WILDERNESS

Day-Use Wilderness generally includes those areas in congressionally designated Wilderness that are accessible on a day hike. Areas adjacent to designated Wilderness may also be appropriate for this prescription. The level of resource protection in this prescription is the same as in Remote Wilderness; the primary difference in this prescription is an increased level of visitor use. Depending on where this prescription is applied, backpacking, stock packing, and overnight camping may occur in these areas (consistent with park wilderness management regulations).

This prescription emphasizes

- Restoration and preservation of natural ecosystem function
- Protection of cultural resources, including American Indian enhancement and use of traditional cultural resources, to the maximum extent feasible while restoring and/or protecting natural ecosystem function
- Opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation characterized by physical challenge, freedom, adventure, and self-reliance in an environment that appears pristine
- Low to moderate use levels; ample opportunities for solitude, but with the expectation of occasional to frequent encounters with other visitors on trails and at sites of interest
- Access by day hiking, backpacking, and stock packing
- Minimal facilities needed to protect river values and other resources, preserve wilderness character, and provide for basic visitor safety

Desired Natural Resource Conditions

Same as the Remote Wilderness prescription.

Desired Cultural Resource Conditions

Same as the Remote Wilderness prescription.

Desired Visitor Experience

Similar to the Remote Wilderness prescription; however, because of the proximity to roads and other access points, day use predominates and visitor use levels are low to moderate. Encounters with other visitors happen occasionally on marked and maintained trails and may be more frequent at key trail junctions, vistas, cascades and swimming spots, and campsites. This prescription protects ample opportunities for solitude, although they are somewhat less pervasive than in Remote Wilderness. As in Remote Wilderness, all activities, including dispersed primitive camping, must be in compliance with park wilderness management policies.

Appropriate Types and Levels of Management, Access, and Facilities

Management of visitor activities is similar to the Remote Wilderness prescription, except that the presence of park staff is somewhat greater, particularly on trails in areas frequented by visitors. Interpretive displays at trailheads provide visitor information about river values and other resources and provide strong protection and preservation messages.

Facilities are limited to those necessary to protect river values and resources, preserve wilderness character, provide for basic visitor safety, and provide an introduction to Wilderness ethics and resource protection mandates, (e.g., directional and informational signs).

The Management Toolbox below provides examples of appropriate management strategies and facilities that might be used over time to achieve and maintain the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences.

Management Toolbox: Types and Levels of Management, Access, And Facilities Appropriate for Achieving and Maintaining the Day-Use Wilderness Prescription

General Resource Management	Inventory, documentation, and monitoring of cultural and natural resources to ensure timely management response to prevent resource degradation
Management of Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological restoration and restoration of fire regimes to the extent necessary to restore and prevent degradation of wilderness character • Scientific activities (including inventories, monitoring, and research) to develop the knowledge and tools needed to sustain wilderness ecosystems and values • Consultation with appropriate agencies that may have jurisdiction, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Management of Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of resources unless removal is necessary to restore and/or protect natural ecosystem function, in which case appropriate treatment measures are implemented in accordance with law and policy. • Collection of surface archeological resources • Consultation with appropriate groups, including associated American Indian tribes • Possible designation of a specific area for American Indian traditional cultural uses • Consideration of sites with unique features or artifacts, or representative and intact deposits, for scientific study <p><i>All treatment of archeological and historic resources must be in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines.</i></p>
Management of Visitor Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More intensive management of visitor use than under Remote Wilderness in order to protect natural or cultural resources (e.g., rerouting trails, obliterating social trails, and promoting a Leave No Trace ethic) • Occasional interactions with park staff at areas frequented by visitors
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day hiking • Backpacking and stock packing
Facilities	<p>Minimal facilities necessary to protect river values and resources, preserve wilderness character, and provide for basic visitor safety, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpaved trails • Footbridges • Directional signs at trail junctions • Directional and informational signs at trailheads <p>The following facilities <i>would not</i> be considered appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No roads or paved trails • No support facilities such as ranger stations, utilities, campgrounds, overnight facilities, • No interpretive signs or exhibits

HIGH-COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

High-Country Experience areas are relatively undisturbed natural areas, accessible by short hikes or walks, where visitors of varying ages and abilities can appreciate and learn about natural and cultural resources and enjoy dispersed, resource-based day-use recreation. High-Country Experience areas are not within congressionally designated Wilderness; however, they are set against a backdrop of the rugged High Sierra, and visitors may experience a largely natural and peaceful setting within short reach of conveniences and amenities.

This prescription emphasizes

- Restoration and preservation of natural ecosystem function, with some management activity where necessary to mitigate the impacts of visitor use or to protect important cultural resources
- Protection and interpretation of cultural resources, including American Indian enhancement and use of traditional cultural resources, to the maximum extent feasible while restoring and/or protecting natural ecosystem function
- Appreciation and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources and dispersed, resource-based, day-use recreation
- Moderate use levels; ample opportunities for a sense of escaping civilization and finding serenity in nature; ease of use by families and groups
- Walking or hiking access for visitors of varying ages and abilities
- Minimal facilities to protect natural and cultural resources and to support access to sites of interest

Desired Natural Resource Conditions

Natural hydrologic processes, such as periodic flooding and deposits of woody debris into the river, remain largely intact, with some localized management activity to mitigate the impacts of visitor use or to protect important cultural resources. The river is free of unnatural impoundments. Water quality is excellent, but natural pulses of turbidity may occur during periods of seasonal storm, snowmelt runoff, and other natural processes. Natural ecological processes, such as flooding and fire, sustain the inherent integrity of natural and physical resources. Ecological communities are intact, including the natural distribution, numbers, population composition, and interaction of native species in the context of the ecosystem as a whole. Distinct or iconic geologic features, such as glacial polish and erratics, are intact; minimal soil manipulation may take place to achieve or enhance another resource or visitor experience goal.

Although Class I air quality is affected by pollutants generated outside as well as inside the park, air quality is well above existing standards for in-park pollutants except when associated with the natural role of fire in the ecosystem. Natural soundscapes and lightscapes are largely intact; however, localized, intermittent occurrences of unnatural sound or light may be associated with visitor and administrative activities.

Desired Cultural Resource Conditions

Archeological and historic resources listed on (or eligible or potentially eligible for listing on) the National Register of Historic Places retain their current levels of integrity to the maximum extent

feasible while allowing for natural ecosystem processes. Ecological processes may lead to the deterioration or loss of resources, in which case appropriate treatment measures, such as data recovery, are implemented in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines.

The historic resources may be restored to their period of greatest significance to enhance visitor understanding and enjoyment. Archeological resources are a significant component of the cultural landscape, and surface artifacts may be considered for onsite interpretation and education. The cultural landscape is generally enhanced by the restoration of natural ecosystem functioning.

American Indian enhancement and use of traditional cultural resources are perpetuated to the extent possible while protecting natural ecosystem function and achieving visitor experience goals. Visitors are invited to learn about American Indian use of traditional resources if it is possible without interfering with the traditional use.

Desired Visitor Experiences

Visitors enjoy day-use opportunities to experience and learn about the High Sierra and the outstandingly remarkable values of the Tuolumne River corridor in an environment that is suitable for people of varying ages and abilities, without losing its inherent naturalness. Some human alteration of the landscape is apparent, but visitors generally perceive natural scenic vistas, clean air, and natural soundscapes and lightscapes.

The level of use is moderate. Because of the ease of access, families and groups are attracted to and often establish enduring ties to these portions of the river corridor. Although opportunities for the kind of solitude found in Remote Wilderness are not expected, visitors enjoy ample opportunities for a sense of escaping civilization and finding serenity in nature.

Enjoyment of natural and cultural resources may be through self-discovery or may be augmented by guided interpretive walks and/or a moderate amount of on-site interpretation.

Recreational activities typically include day hiking and walking, horseback riding, nature study, rock climbing, fishing, swimming, and wading.

Appropriate Types and Levels of Management, Access, and Facilities

Desired conditions are maintained through a modest amount of resource management coupled with management of visitor use. The tolerance for resource degradation from visitor use is low. Visitor impacts on natural and cultural resources are routinely monitored, and management action is taken to change the patterns of human use before degradation can occur.

These areas are managed for day use only, and activities are widely dispersed to maintain a relatively undisturbed, quiet, natural setting. Facilities are limited to the minimum necessary to support access to sites of interest and to protect those sites from adverse impacts associated with moderate concentrations of visitor use (e.g., vault toilets may be needed to protect water quality). These facilities are designed to be as unobtrusive as possible on the natural setting. Unpaved service roads, for administrative use only, may be allowed to maintain the minimal infrastructure.

The Management Toolbox below provides examples of appropriate management strategies and facilities that might be used over time to achieve and maintain the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences.

Management Toolbox: Types and Levels of Management, Access, And Facilities Appropriate for Achieving and Maintaining the High-Country Experience Prescription

General Resource Management	Inventory, documentation, and monitoring of cultural and natural resources to ensure timely management response to prevent resource degradation
Management of Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of the best available technology to restore biological and physical components of natural systems that are impacted from human disturbance such as the introduction of invasive species; the contamination of air, water, and soil; changes to hydrologic patterns and sediment transport; and the disruption of natural processes • Localized manipulation to maintain features or processes that cannot be sustained naturally because of an ongoing disruption associated with the desired visitor experience or the protection of important cultural resources • Scientific activities (including inventories, monitoring, and research) are conducted to develop the knowledge and tools needed to sustain river and park values. • Consultation with appropriate agencies that may have jurisdiction, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Management of Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of resources unless removal is necessary to restore and/or protect natural ecosystem function, in which case appropriate treatment measures are implemented in accordance with law and policy. • Consideration of on-site interpretation of historic or archeological resources or American Indian traditional cultural uses • Consultation with appropriate groups, including associated American Indian tribes • Possible designation of a specific area for American Indian traditional cultural uses • Consideration of sites with unique features or artifacts, or representative and intact deposits, for scientific study <p><i>All treatment of archeological and historic resources must be in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines.</i></p>
Management of Visitor Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction of use to resilient areas • Temporary or permanent closing of sensitive areas to access • Occasional interactions with park staff, primarily along trails and in locations of concentrated use
Access	Walking or hiking
Facilities	<p>Minimal facilities necessary to support protection and visitor enjoyment of natural and cultural resources, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-marked unpaved trails connecting areas of interest • Footbridges • Minimal unpaved service roads for administrative use • Trailheads with directional and informational signs • Interpretive wayside exhibits • Vault toilet, if needed to protect water quality • Boardwalk • Fencing <p><i>All new facilities incorporate universal design concepts, including accessibility for people with disabilities.</i></p> <p>The following facilities <i>would not</i> be considered appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No roads, other than unpaved service roads • No paved trails • No overnight lodging, campgrounds, or food service • No interpretive centers or information stations • No administrative facilities such as offices, maintenance facilities, or employee housing

HIGH-COUNTRY BASE CAMP

The High-Country Base Camp is a predominantly natural area with basic accommodations and services, where visitors can spend a few hours, stay overnight, or stage an excursion into the Wilderness supported by road access, abundant informational and interpretive programs, campgrounds, and modest levels of food service and lodging. Administrative needs are met by management facilities, employee housing, access roads, and utility infrastructure. This prescription is generally reserved for relatively resilient landscapes. If outstandingly remarkable or highly sensitive resources are included in this zone, design guidelines and mitigation standards ensure their protection.

This prescription emphasizes

- Protection of natural ecosystem function as much as possible while achieving the visitor experience goals; control of some processes, such as fire, to protect human life and property
- Protection and interpretation of cultural resources, including American Indian enhancement and use of traditional cultural resources, to the maximum extent feasible while accommodating visitor experience goals; possible rehabilitation of historic structures for modern uses
- Opportunities for visitors to enjoy a variety of day and overnight recreational, creative, and educational activities supported by rustic-style accommodations and services
- Vehicle and walking access for visitors of varying ages and abilities
- Moderate level of facilities, including campgrounds, lodging, food service, fuel station, stables, administrative offices, maintenance facilities, employee housing, and utilities

Desired Natural Resource Conditions

Natural processes are protected as much as possible while achieving the visitor experience goals. Natural hydrologic processes, such as periodic flooding and deposits of woody debris into the river, and natural ecologic processes, such as fire, may be controlled to protect human life and property where such processes pose an unacceptable risk. Existing unnatural impoundments may remain. Some hydrologic features may be locally affected by disruptions to natural processes; however, features contributing to the outstandingly remarkable values of the river are strictly protected. Also, no disruption to natural hydrologic processes is allowed to diminish natural system functioning in adjacent areas. Water quality is excellent, but natural pulses of turbidity may occur during periods of seasonal storm, snowmelt runoff, and other natural processes. Ecological communities are as intact as possible with active management. Concentrated human activity and infrastructure may have localized effects, but not to the extent that would diminish native biodiversity or the overall health of ecological communities in or adjacent to the river corridor. Distinct or iconic geologic features are intact; minimal soil manipulation may take place to achieve or enhance another resource or visitor experience goal.

Although Class I air quality is affected by pollutants generated outside the park, in-park sources are limited to localized emissions from vehicles and campfires, as well as smoke associated with the natural role of fire in the ecosystem. The sounds and sights associated with automobile traffic, concentrations of people, and overnight facilities are often discernible against the backdrop of natural soundscapes and lightscapes.

Desired Cultural Resource Conditions

All archeological and historic resources listed on (or eligible or potentially eligible for listing on) the National Register of Historic Places retain their current levels of integrity to the maximum extent feasible while achieving visitor experience goals. Surface archeological resources are collected, and construction and use of essential facilities may lead to the collection of subsurface archeological resources. Historic resources may be rehabilitated and adapted for modern uses. Human activities may lead to the deterioration or loss of resources, in which case appropriate treatment measures, such as data recovery, are implemented in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines.

American Indian enhancement and use of traditional cultural resources are perpetuated to the extent possible while protecting natural ecosystem function and achieving visitor experience goals. Visitors are invited to learn about American Indian use of traditional resources if it is possible without interfering with the traditional use.

Desired Visitor Experiences

The High-Country Base Camp is a place where journeys begin and end. People go out from these areas to experience the High Sierra, and they come back with stories. Even visitors who choose to remain close to camp enjoy this atmosphere of adventure. Within the "camp," visitors of varying ages and abilities enjoy opportunities for day and overnight use. A variety of recreational, creative, and educational activities are available in a setting characterized by natural scenery and rustic-style facilities.

Use levels are high, and many activities are highly social. Because of the ease of use by families and groups, they are attracted to and often establish enduring ties to the area.

Enjoyment of natural and cultural resources through self-discovery is augmented by a full range of interpretive programs (e.g., information stations, ranger-led walks and talks, high-country seminars, campfire programs, interpretive exhibits).

Visitors enjoy a great variety of recreational opportunities in these areas. Road access and parking support activities such as motor and bicycle touring, and staging for backpacking and stock packing trips into the Wilderness. Relatively intensive management to mitigate the effects of visitor use allows for activities such as picnicking or camping in designated areas with amenities provided to support those activities. Recreational activities also typically include day hiking or walking, nature study, rock climbing, fishing, swimming, and wading.

Appropriate Types and Levels of Management, Access, and Facilities

Desired conditions are maintained through relatively intensive resource management coupled with direct management of human activities. Human impacts on natural and cultural resources are routinely monitored, and management action is taken to change the patterns of human use before resource degradation can occur.

Areas are accessible by vehicle, as well as on foot. The desired visitor experience is supported by a moderate level of development. Facilities may be retained, removed, replaced, or supplemented as necessary to meet the visitor experience goals and to support area administration in ways that are as protective as possible of ecological processes and features. Consistent with law and policy,

floodplains, wetlands, and archeological resources are protected through strict compliance with applicable laws and regulations. No new development occurs in highly sensitive areas, such as habitat for threatened and endangered species. Development may be dispersed throughout a predominantly natural yet resilient area or consolidated into more efficient grouping surrounded by a natural area. However, development will not be allowed to the extent that it changes the overall natural character of the place. All visitor facilities have a rustic style (timber and stone architecture or tent cabins, low-density, blending into the natural setting), although the infrastructure required to support them may be considerable (i.e., water and sewer systems, electricity, telecommunications).

The Management Toolbox below provides examples of appropriate management strategies and facilities that might be used over time to achieve and maintain the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences.

Management Toolbox: Types and Levels of Management, Access, And Facilities Appropriate for Achieving and Maintaining the High-Country Base Camp Prescription

General Resource Management	Inventory, documentation, and monitoring of cultural and natural resources to ensure timely management response to prevent resource degradation
Management of Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling natural processes as necessary to protect human life and property • Relatively intensive manipulation to restore and maintain features or processes that cannot be sustained naturally because of an ongoing disruption associated with concentrated human activity or infrastructure. • Scientific activities (including inventories, monitoring, and research) are conducted to develop the knowledge and tools needed to sustain river and park values. • Consultation with appropriate agencies that may have jurisdiction, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Management of Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of resources unless removal is necessary to restore and/or achieve a visitor experience goal in which case appropriate treatment measures are implemented in accordance with law and policy. • Collection of surface archeological resources • Rehabilitation of historic structures or sites for adaptive use • Consultation with appropriate groups, including associated American Indian tribes • Possible designation of a specific area for American Indian traditional cultural uses • Consideration of sites with unique features or artifacts, or representative and intact deposits, for scientific study <p><i>All treatments of archeological and historic resources must be in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines.</i></p>
Management of Visitor Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction of use to resilient areas • Temporary or permanent closing of sensitive areas to access • Frequent interactions with park interpreters and rangers
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle access • Walking
Facilities	<p>Moderate amount of facilities necessary to meet the visitor experience goals and to support area administration while protecting natural and cultural resources, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paved roads with turnouts and parking areas • Bus stops • Bike paths • Vehicle and foot bridges • Paved and unpaved trails • Visitor orientation and interpretive facilities • Ample signing • Boardwalk • Fencing • Picnic areas and campgrounds • Lodging and food service facilities • Fuel station • Stables

Utilities:

- Electric power
- Domestic water and sewer
- Trash removal
- Communications systems

Administrative facilities:

- Offices
- Maintenance facilities
- Employee housing
- Stables

All new facilities incorporate universal design concepts, including accessibility for people with disabilities.

The following facilities *would not* be considered appropriate:

No level of development that would change the overall natural character of the area

HISTORIC TUOLUMNE

The Historic Tuolumne prescription places the greatest importance on the preservation and enjoyment of the historic places that inspired a modern national conservation ethic and an appreciation for the values of wilderness. This prescription is generally reserved for areas with concentrations of historic sites or structures that evoke images, understandings, and other perceptions of past events and experiences that have contributed in a significant way to how Americans today think about wilderness and recreation.

This prescription emphasizes

- Preservation of natural ecosystem function as much as possible while protecting the historic landscape; possible localized disruptions to natural processes such as flooding or fire
- Restoration and preservation of historic landscapes for continuing use; may involve removal of noncontributing elements
- Protection of archeological resources and American Indian enhancement and use of traditional cultural resources to the maximum extent feasible while protecting critical elements of the historic landscape
- Opportunities for visitors to experience and learn about the historic values of the High Sierra; opportunities may include overnight as well as day use, depending on the historic use of the landscape
- Access for visitors of varying ages and abilities; may include paved trail and road access, depending on the historic landscape
- Historic facilities and amenities, possibly including campgrounds, lodging, and food service, supplemented by minimal new facilities to support the protection and enjoyment of the historic landscape

Desired Natural Resource Conditions

Natural processes are protected as much as possible while protecting the elements of the historic landscape that are critical to helping people understand and appreciate the importance of the events and the experiences that occurred here. Conditions are similar to the High-Country Base Camp prescription, except that the river is free of unnatural impoundments.

Desired Cultural Resource Conditions

The restoration and rehabilitation of elements contributing to the historic landscape is strongly encouraged to enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of the events and experiences that have contributed in a significant way to how many Americans today think about wilderness and recreation. Historic sites and structures may retain their current levels of integrity or be restored to an earlier condition. Historic sites and structures that are not contributing elements to the historic landscape are considered for removal. Historic uses are perpetuated wherever feasible to support preservation and maintenance. Sites or structures may also be adapted for modern uses that are compatible with the preservation of the cultural landscape. Any new facilities are compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

Archeological resources are protected as much as possible while allowing for the restoration and visitor enjoyment of the historic landscape, and may be interpreted as integral parts of the landscape. Human activities or natural processes may lead to the deterioration or loss of

resources, in which case appropriate treatment measures are implemented in accordance with law and policy.

American Indian enhancement and use of traditional cultural resources are perpetuated to the extent possible while protecting the critical elements of the historic landscape. Visitors are invited to learn about American Indian use of traditional resources if it is possible without interfering with the traditional use.

Desired Visitor Experiences

Visitors of varying ages and abilities enjoy outstanding opportunities to experience and learn about the historic values of the High Sierra in settings that evoke images, understandings, and other perceptions of the past. Opportunities may include overnight as well as day use, depending on the historic use of the landscape.

Use levels are moderate to high, depending upon the historic landscape where this prescription is applied. Visitors enjoy ample opportunities for a sense of escaping civilization and finding serenity in nature, interspersed with opportunities for social interaction. Because of the ease of access, families and groups are attracted to and often establish enduring ties to the area.

Enjoyment of cultural and natural resources through self-discovery is augmented by a full range of interpretive programs (ranger-led walks and talks, high-country seminars, campfire programs, interpretive exhibits).

Recreational activities depend upon the historic landscape (for example, whether or not it is roadless) and may include backpacking, day hiking or walking, horseback riding, nature study, rock climbing, fishing, swimming and wading, motor touring, bicycle touring, and camping.

Appropriate Types and Levels of Management, Access, and Facilities

Desired conditions are achieved and maintained through relatively intensive resource management coupled with direct management of visitor use. The tolerance for resource degradation from visitor use is low. Visitor impacts on natural and cultural resources are routinely monitored, and management action is taken to change the patterns of human use before degradation can occur.

Historic structures retain their historic character, although the infrastructure required to support them may be considerable (i.e., water and sewer systems, electricity, telecommunications). Utilities are designed to be compatible with the historic landscape. New facilities are limited to the minimum necessary to support protection and visitor enjoyment of the historic landscape and are designed to be compatible with that landscape.

The Management Toolbox below provides examples of appropriate management strategies and facilities that might be used over time to achieve and maintain the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences.

Management Toolbox: Types and Levels of Management, Access, And Facilities Appropriate for Achieving and Maintaining the Historic Tuolumne Prescription

General Resource
Management

Inventory, documentation, and monitoring of cultural and natural resources to ensure timely management response to prevent resource degradation

	Management of cultural and natural resources in consultation with appropriate groups, including associated American Indian tribes and other agencies that may have jurisdiction, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Management of Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling natural processes as necessary to protect human life and property • Relatively intensive manipulation to restore and maintain features or processes that cannot be sustained naturally because of an ongoing disruption associated with concentrated human activity or infrastructure. • Scientific activities (including inventories, monitoring, and research) are conducted to develop the knowledge and tools needed to sustain the outstandingly remarkable values of the Tuolumne River and other important park values.
Management of Cultural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of historic structures or sites • Restoration of historic structures and sites • Rehabilitation of historic structures or sites for adaptive use • Removal of noncontributing elements from the historic landscape • Preservation of archeological resources unless removal is necessary for the restoration and visitor enjoyment of a historic landscape, in which case the data are recovered prior to removal • Possible designation of a specific area for American Indian traditional cultural uses <p><i>All treatments of archeological and historic resources must be in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines.</i></p>
Management of Visitor Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction of use to resilient areas • Temporary or permanent closing of sensitive areas to access • Frequent interactions with park staff (e.g., interpreters and rangers)
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Possible vehicle access, depending on the historic landscape
Facilities	<p>Historic structures</p> <p>Minimal new facilities necessary to support visitor enjoyment of the historic landscape while protecting natural and cultural resources, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-marked trails • Possibly paved or unpaved roads, depending on where this prescription is applied and the historic use of that area • Trailheads with directional and informational signs • Interpretive wayside exhibits • Toilets • Boardwalk • Fencing <p>Utilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric power • Domestic water and sewer • Trash removal • Communications systems <p><i>All new facilities incorporate universal design concepts, including accessibility for people with disabilities.</i></p> <p>The following facilities <i>would not</i> be considered appropriate:</p> <p>No new structures that were not compatible with the historic landscape character</p>