

Public Scoping Meeting Comments
10/26/2009
4-8 p.m.
Masonic Lodge, Oakhurst, CA

Comments/Questions

- Plan needs to have the flexibility to adjust to future technologies, etc. for the benefit of future generations
- New people managing the park, planning for the park. Who's going to be here to see it through?
- "Most plans are obsolete the day they're signed." Important to stick to the schedule. Hope the emphasis is on the best ideas for now
- Yosemite Valley Plan was rescinded. Back on the table: all transportation strategies, campgrounds, lodging, etc.
- NPS Director is advocating to not return campgrounds in Yose Valley. How can this be if the plan is moving forward with a clean slate?
- What do we count? buildings, horses, cars, etc. Look at history from late 1800s regarding user capacity
- Upper/Lower River Campground closure: Was it a knee-jerk reaction? Were there public meetings? What safeguards are in place (where decisions are made behind the public's back) that it won't happen again?
- There are lots of different ideas and opinions. What may be good for one group or gateway may not be good for another
- Need a true range of alternatives, broad and includes the spectrum of opportunities. That was part of the success of the GMP
- Today, there's no reason why everybody can't be kept in the loop. Best way for groups to stay tuned and provide input or a reaction as the plan develops
- Wawona property condemnation. Will that be the case now?
- Involving everyone, even those who aren't coming, who think that Yose is closed
- Gateways are discussing early warnings to provide real-time info, avoid congestion
- Congestion is a parkwide problem. Plenty of room if managed properly. Lots of things can be done. Lots of groups with historical ties, (campers, tribes, etc) need to bring them along too
- User capacity; how will workshops work? Concerned that three guys will come up with ideas, set in concrete decrease in use. What is the process?
- Carrying capacity has been an issue for 100 years. Cars were limited, Tremendous adjustment will be made in future
- GMP was a 20 yr old plan that never was completed. Is there a way to build in a five year review to revisit ideas and not be locked in?
- Open up the thinking
- Can build into plan an adaptive management cycle to incorporate new ideas when uncertainties exist

- Work with an established group to provide oversight, accountability
- Grow NPS constituency to promote parks. If you have no students, you flop. Reduce, diminish capacity
- What are the strategies for addressing user limits?
- Public safety in a box canyon – evacuation; how do you get folks out, flooding, wildfires?

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

- Unique view
- Campgrounds – need more! (youth campground for school groups, Boy Scouts, etc)
- Enjoying the natural river
- Leave Tenaya Creek blackberries in place
- Existing road width and configuration

What should stay the same?

- Leave things the way they are
- Respect declarations of lineal descendants
- The courtesy, respectful attitude of park employees
- Don't mess with tradition
- Leave wild blackberries

What needs to be fixed?

- Reinstate riverfront units at Housekeeping Camp because they would restore traditional/family use
- Restore Upper and Lower River Campgrounds, especially because they have the best climate
- NPS should look at the number of CUAs [Commercial Use Authorizations] and who gets them, especially for guided climbing
- NPS should examine environmental impacts of changes MRP would cause
- Build review opportunities into plan (every 5-10 years depending on resource)
- Prohibit parking in and on Wawona cemetery
- Parking – especially day use for river floating
- More entry and exit river launching
- River cleanup regularly
- Interpretive material for floaters
- More enforcement of existing rules (i.e. 6 people/camp, rafters outside of rafting zone)
- Improve real-time communications to/with gateways
- More restrooms in Wawona (with signs) especially because busses overload existing restrooms

- More parking everywhere
- Take out “temporary” employee housing at Yose Lodge and behind Valley Post Office
- Don’t always rely on modern (electronic) technology for outreach. Be redundant in outreach
- More campgrounds in the Yose Valley and everywhere else
- Better signs indicating bike vs. pedestrian paths
- Need a transportation museum
- Need public day-use shelter, covered picnic tables, enough for big groups
- More and better turnouts for viewing
- Vintage tour busses
- More parking
- Do not dig up and destroy...meant to protect, not build
- How many campsites are taken by park partners instead of public use?
- Better disabled access – parking restrooms, proximity to facilities, etc.
- Complete analysis of operational roads so as to determine what areas can be used (or not used)
- Decentralize admin functions and move out to gateways
- Provide friendly, fast, free transportation for employees outside of park – and coordinate work schedules with transportation schedules
- Maintain existing park roads – take care of what you have
- Do not widen roads
- Make sure Rangers are polite
- Once meetings were finished, do not forget to keep the public involved
- Make Mirror Lake back to a lake

What do you want to see protected?

- Leave Wawona alone
- The issue of visitor capacity to maintain fair, reasonable and quality park experience for visitors
- Mirror Lake should be an ORV. It used to be dredged and provided free grit for winter roads. Can this be revived?
- Private auto travel
- All the archeological sites – parkwide. Don’t like to see digging (construction projects, etc.). Use federally recognized tribes as consultants
- Paiute culture
- What is the visitor experience and how do you define it?
- Some uses may be inappropriate and we need to define what is appropriate i.e. rafting on the river, bringing bicycles into the park
- Tradition includes things like golf course at Wawona – don’t change them
- Preserve and protect, don’t disturb and destroy
- Blackberries on Tenaya Creek – don’t remove them

