U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Yosemite National Park

P.O. Box 577
9039 Village Drive
Yosemite, CA 95389
www.nps.gov/yose

Merced River Plan – Spring 2011 Workshop Series
May 25, 2011: Recreation

Presenter Bios.

Jim Bacon: Jim is an Outdoor Recreation Planner with the NPS Denver Service Center stationed at Yosemite National Park. His work focuses on visitor use and user capacity issues. For the last three years he has been working on Wild and Scenic River Plans for the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers in Yosemite. In particular, he has lead efforts to address user capacity. Much of this work has been in direct response to a multi-year lawsuit over how the Merced River Plan addressed user capacity and related visitor use issues. Other project work includes the Snake River Headwaters Comprehensive Management Plan for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the Brooks Camp Access Plan for Katmai National Park and Preserve. Jim previously served as a social scientist in Yosemite and helped to start and implement a visitor use and impact monitoring program. Prior to Yosemite he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala where he advanced community-based ecotourism and environmental education projects. Jim has a Master's of Science in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Vermont.

Bret Meldrum: Bret is the Branch Chief for the Visitor Use and Social Science Branch in the Resources Management and Science Division at Yosemite National Park. He holds a B.S. in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Resources from West Virginia University, M.S. in Conservation Social Sciences from the University of Idaho, and is currently a Ph.D. Student in Natural Resource Studies at the University of Arizona. Bret has previously worked as a research assistant for the NPS Social Science Division's Park Studies Unit and as the monitoring coordinator for Yosemite's Visitor Use and Impact Monitoring Program. He has also held positions abroad focusing on international tourism development and protected area management in Nepal. Currently, the Visitor Use and Social Sciences Branch is the only park-based social science program in the agency. As a result of this park success, he has been asked to serve on numerous steering committees and general management planning teams across the NPS.