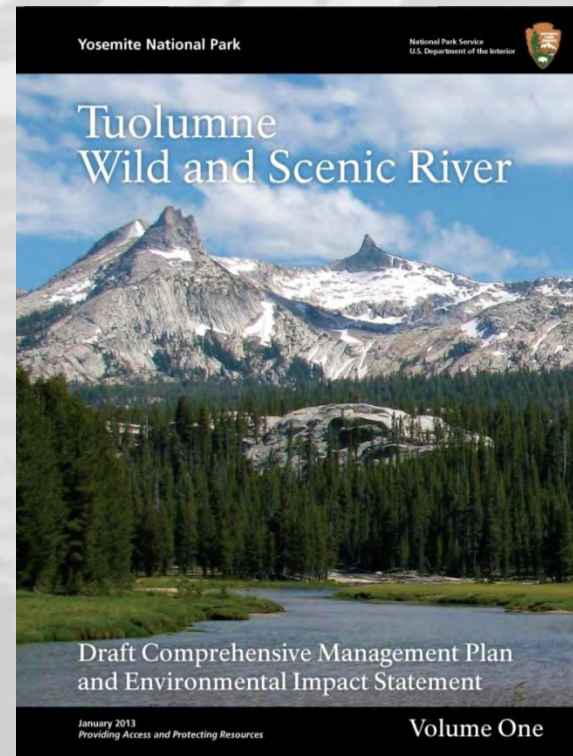
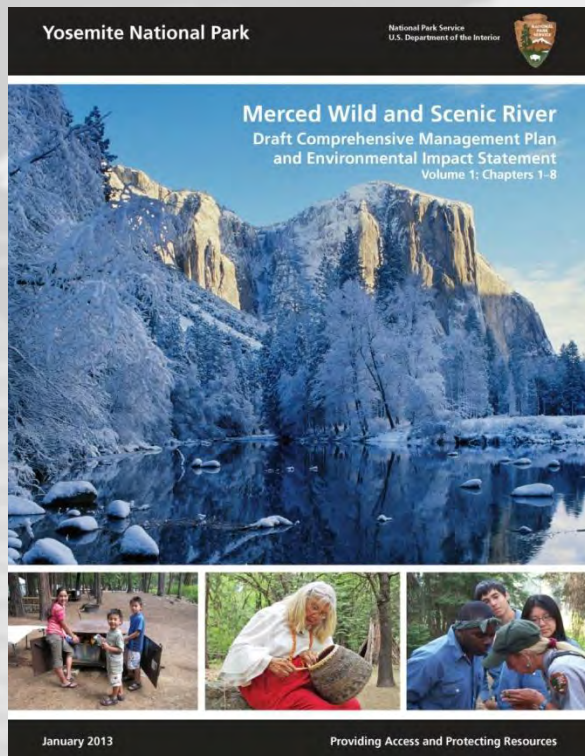




# MERCED AND TUOLUMNE RIVERS

## Draft Comprehensive River Management Plans and Environmental Impact Statements





## Section One

# FOUNDATIONAL PIECES







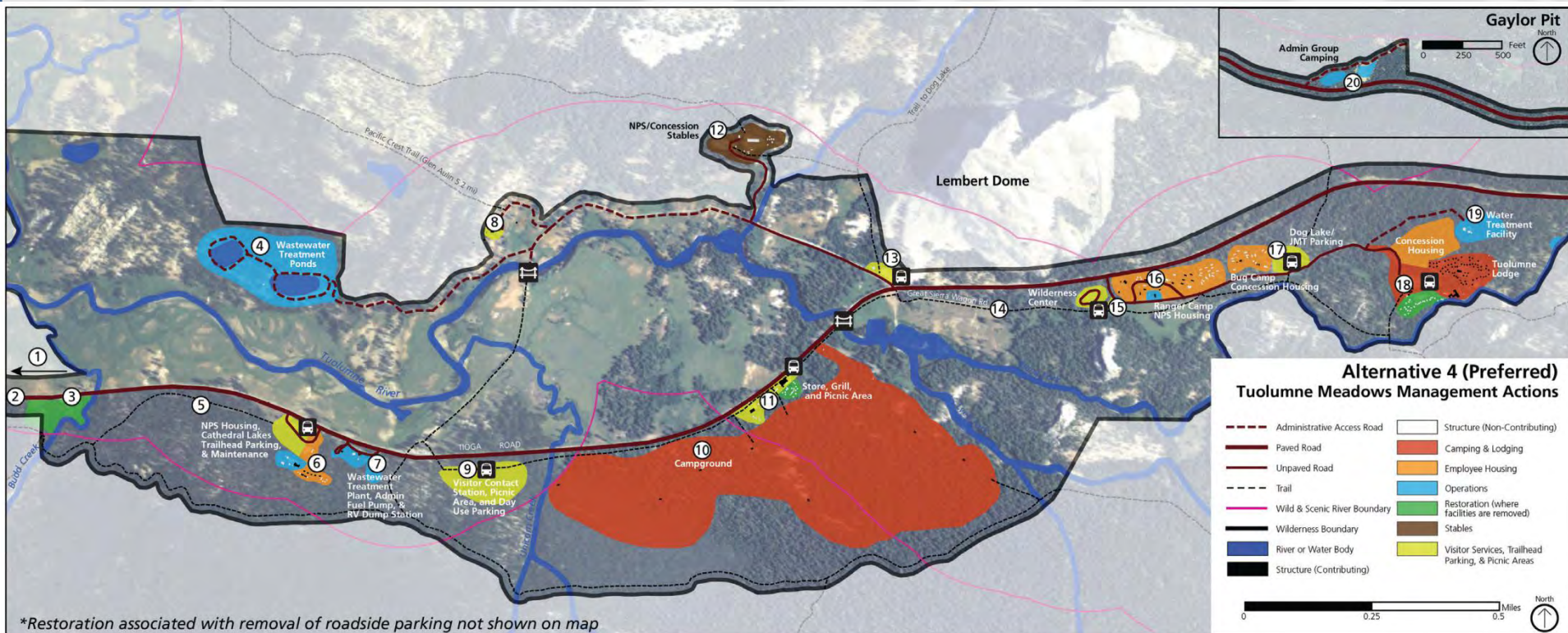
## Section Two

# DRAFT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN





# Map Overview





# Range of Alternatives

**Alternative 1:**  
**Emphasizing a Self-Reliant Experience**

**Alternative 2:**  
**Expanding Recreational Opportunities**

**Alternative 3:**  
**Celebrating the Tuolumne Cultural Heritage**

**Alternative 4: Improving the Traditional Tuolumne Experience**







# Preferred Alternative Themes

- Retain traditional Tuolumne experience
- Restore Tuolumne Meadows
- Consolidate development
- Make visitor use more sustainable
- Provide meaningful introduction to meadows for short-term visitors

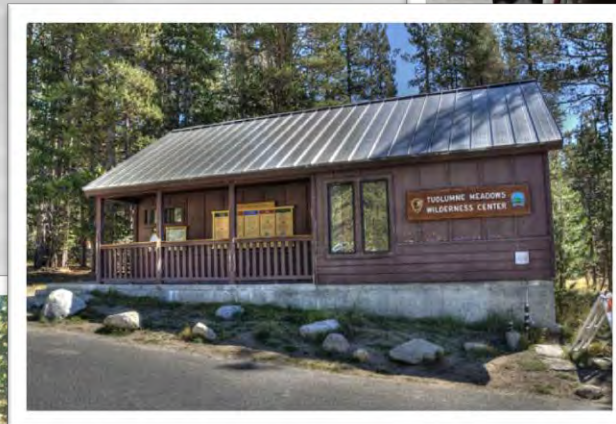






# Retain Traditional Tuolumne Experience

- Lodge, wilderness center, store & grill retained
- Campground overhauled



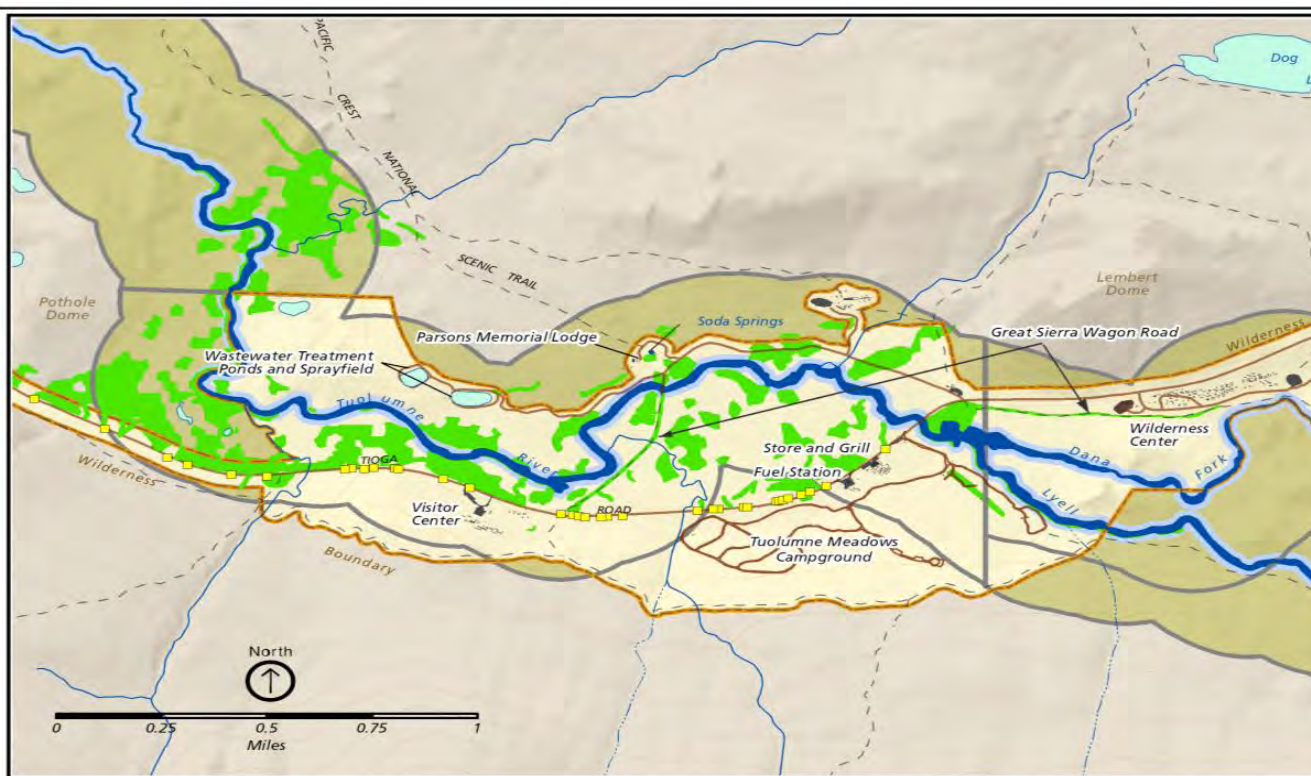







# Restore Tuolumne Meadows



Restoration Program:

- 1) Eliminate informal trails
- 2) Remove structures from riverbanks & wetlands
- 3) Restore riparian vegetation along riverbanks
- 4) Mitigate effects of Tioga Road culverts
- 5) Mitigate effects of Great Sierra Wagon Rd
- 6) Mitigate stock use effects
- 7) Conduct additional research



**Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River  
Comprehensive Management Plan  
Ecological Restoration Priority Locations**

 Priorities for Ecological Restoration  
 Culvert Repair/Replacement  
 Riverbank Restoration, Corridorwide as Needed

 Wild and Scenic River Corridor Boundary  
 Yosemite Wilderness  
 Non-Wilderness



# Other Actions to Protect Resources

- Eliminate roadside parking
- Downsize Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp
- Move cabins at lodge away from river
- Move concessioner housing away from river
- Relocate campground entrance road out of floodplain
- Limit water withdrawals at both Tuolumne and Glen Aulin
- Eliminate trail rides







# Consolidate Development

## Parking situation:

- Extensive road shoulder parking
- Affects Scenic ORV
- Side effect of meadow trampling

## Proposed solution:

- Expand parking lots at Lembert Dome, Pothole Dome, store, & Dog Lake Trailhead
- Construct new lot at new visitor contact station

## Consolidate other development :

- Wastewater treatment plant
- Employee housing
- Stables





# Make Visitor Use More Sustainable

- Upgrade wastewater treatment plant to modern codes
- Downsize Glen Aulin to be within wastewater treatment capacity
- Replace employee housing with code-compliant, efficient units
- Consolidate parking
- Connect visitor services with walking paths/trails
- Implement water conservation measures







# Provide Meaningful Introduction to Tuolumne Meadows

- Construct new visitor contact station
- Provide parking at that location
- Improve trail to Parson's Lodge
- Eliminate roadside parking
- Discontinue commercial stock day-rides





# The Numbers

- **Campground capacity kept at 304 sites**
- **Parking capacity: 914 (533 now)**
- **Overnight capacity: 2,730 (2,742 now)**
- **Day use limit: 1,839 (1,774 now)**
- **Employee housing: 163 beds (150 now)**
- **Water use: 67,000 (64,000 now)**







## Section Three

# DRAFT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE MERCED RIVER PLAN



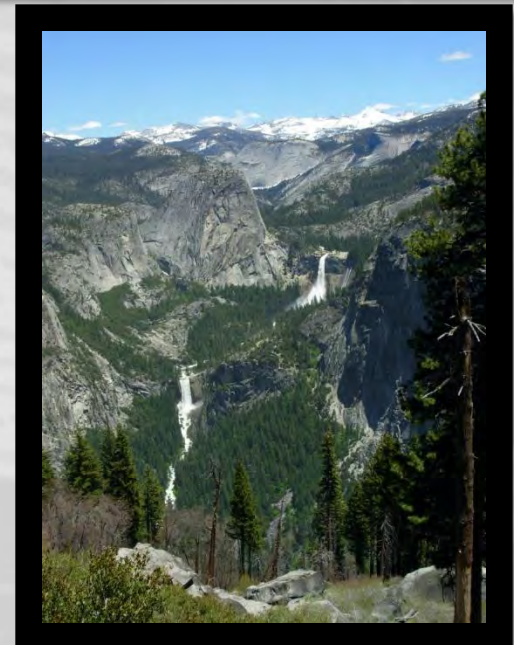
- Ensures that the experiences enjoyed by generations of families are sustained over time.
- Provides visitors the freedom to access Yosemite Valley by private vehicle.
- Reduces traffic congestion and crowding with organized and efficient day-use parking.
- Creates a sense of arrival by redesigning 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.







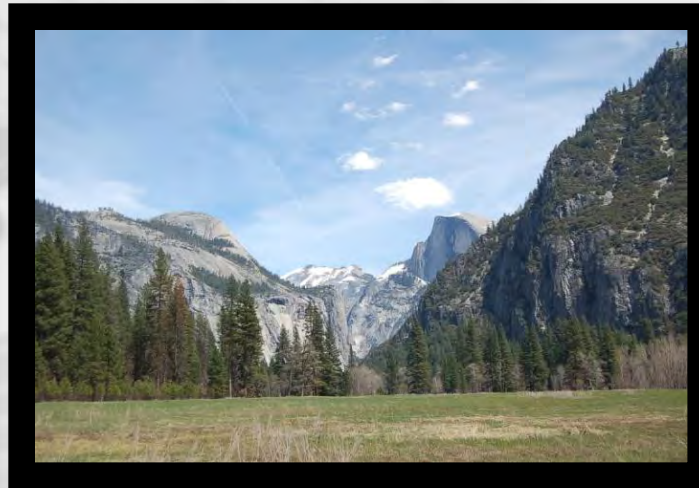
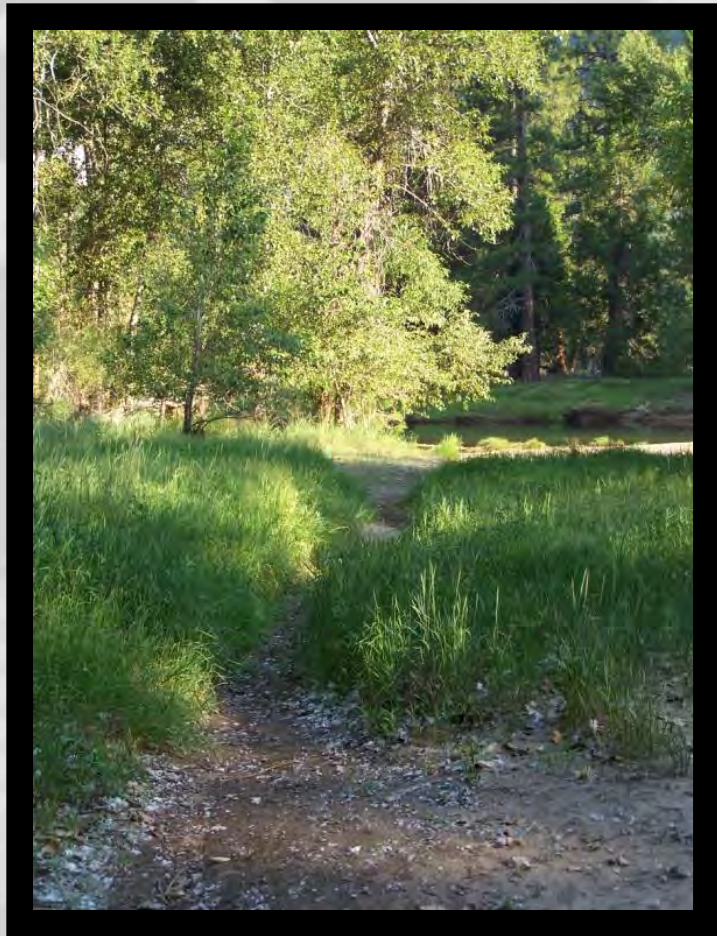
# Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values



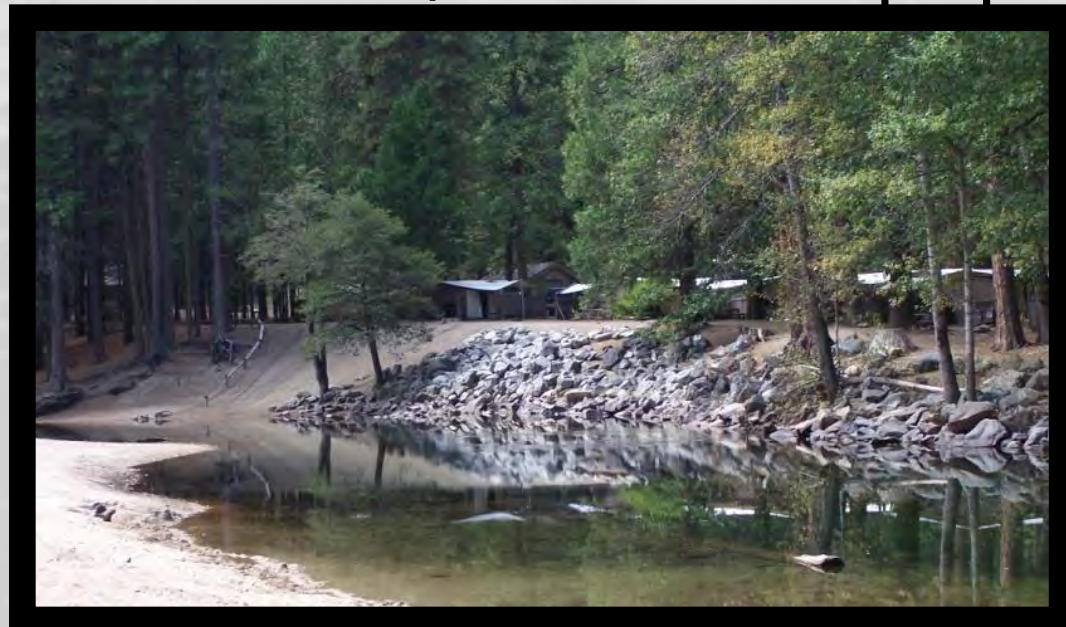




## Restore 203 acres of Yosemite Valley meadows



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







## LeConte Memorial Lodge historic preservation

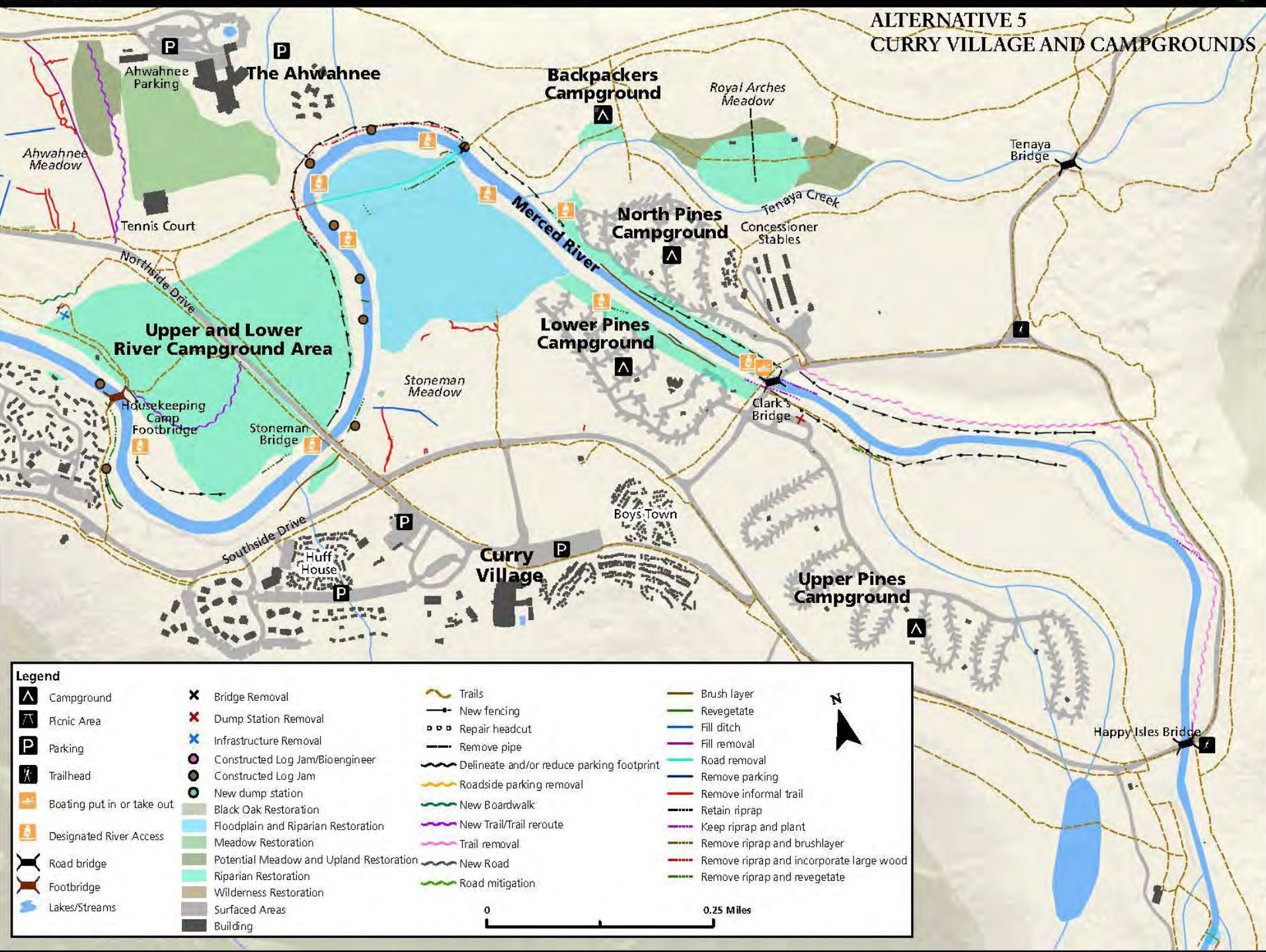


## Remove Sugar Pine Bridge





# ALTERNATIVE 5 CURRY VILLAGE AND CAMPGROUNDS







# Providing Access











## Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area

## Current Condition







## Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area



Parking Pulled Back from River





## Draft Preferred Alternative



# Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4



**Draft Preferred Alternative**





# Improving Visitor Experience

- Reduce Congestion and Crowding
- Expand low-cost camping by 37% in Yosemite Valley
- Replace Curry Village tent cabins with hard-sided units
- Provide a "Sense of Arrival" to Yosemite Village area





# Visitor Overnight Capacity: Camping

Locations	Alt 1 (No Action)	Alternative 5	Details
Backpackers	25	10 + 16	16 walk-in sites outside 100-year floodplain
Camp 4	35	35 + 35	No change to 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 Administrative	4	4	Group administrative sites
Wawona Campground	99	86	Within 100 feet of river or culturally sensitive
Former Upper River	0	32	30 walk-in and 2 group sites
Eagle Creek	0	42	40 auto sites and 2 group campsites
Total Camping in Corridor	565	726	





# Visitor Overnight Capacity: Lodging

Wilderness	Alt 1 (No Action)	Alternative 5	Details
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp	22 units (60 beds)	11 units (42 beds)	Remove 18 beds
Ahwahnee Hotel	123 rooms	123 rooms	No change to National Historic Landmark
Housekeeping Camp	266 units	232 units	Remove 34 units from bed and banks
Curry Village	400 units	453 units	290 tents and 163 hard-sided units
Yosemite Lodge	245 rooms	245 rooms	No changes
Wawona Hotel	104 rooms	104 rooms	No change to National Historic Landmark
<b>Total Lodging in Corridor</b>	<b>1,160 units</b>	<b>1,168 units</b>	

\* El Portal: Private accommodations exist but are not on NPS land; therefore, they are not listed here.



# User Capacity/Visitation

## East Yosemite Valley Peak-Day:

Current User Capacity (People-at-one-time):	14,836 PAOT
<b>2011 East Yosemite Valley peak-day visitation:</b>	<b>20,900 people</b>

Alternative 5 User Capacity):	16,683 PAOT
<b>Alternative 5 managed peak-day visitation:</b>	<b>19,900 people</b>

<b>Range of Alternatives – Peak-Day Visitation</b>	<b>13,200 – 21,800 people</b>
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# Replace Substandard Housing



**Replace  
temporary,  
substandard  
housing with  
code compliant  
residences**

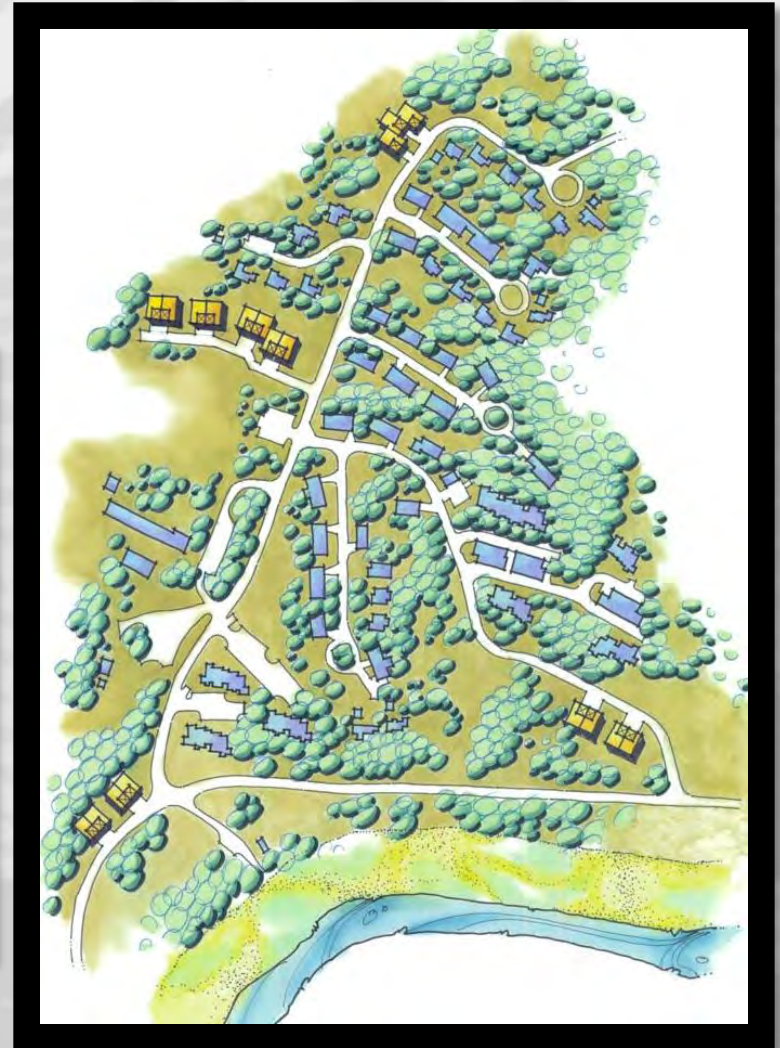




# Relocate Housing to El Portal

Old El Portal and Rancheria

LEED Gold or higher performance standard for all new construction







# 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



# 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





## Section Four

# PROJECT TIMELINE



# What's Next

- **Comment Analysis - March and April 2013**
- **Final Plans - Summer 2013**
- **Decision – Summer/Fall 2013**







# Public Review & Comment Periods

## Tuolumne River Plan:

- 70-day review period
- Comment period closes March 18

## Merced River Plan:

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

## Comment on-line on PEPC:

[http://parkplanning.nps.gov/trp\\_deis](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/trp_deis)

[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

