

Daily Report - Yosemite National Park Monday, June 29, 2009

Weather

Yosemite Valley

Today: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 99. North northeast wind 5 to 8 mph becoming southwest between 14 and 17 mph. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 60. West southwest wind between 11 and 14 mph becoming light.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11am. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 96. North wind between 3 and 11 mph.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. West southwest wind 6 to 9 mph becoming east.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11am. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 97. East southeast wind between 6 and 9 mph becoming calm.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

El Portal

Today: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 100. Northeast wind 5 to 13 mph becoming west.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 66. Calm wind becoming east northeast between 11 and 14 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 97. West southwest wind 5 to 13 mph becoming north.

Tuesday Night: Clear, with a low around 62. Southwest wind around 9 mph becoming east.

Wednesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 98. East wind between 3 and 11 mph.

Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 60.

Tuolumne Area

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11am. Partly cloudy, with a high near 72. North northwest wind 5 to 8 mph becoming south southwest between 15 and 18 mph. Winds could gust as high as 22 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. Southwest wind between 13 and 16 mph becoming calm. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11am. Partly cloudy, with a high near 69. North northwest wind at 11 mph becoming southwest.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. West southwest wind between 10 and 13 mph becoming light.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11am. Partly cloudy, with a high near 70. Southwest wind around 6 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42.

Park News

TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN SUMMER WORKSHOPS

As part of the continuing public involvement process for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan (Tuolumne River Plan), all interested members of the public are invited to attend two summer planning workshops. Each will take place at Parsons Lodge in Tuolumne Meadows from 11am-3pm. Come find out the latest about planning for Tuolumne Meadows and the entire 54-mile river corridor within Yosemite National Park. The Draft Tuolumne River Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be released for public comment in January 2010. Bring a lunch and be prepared for a 30-minute walk from the parking area to Parsons Lodge.

July 17 HOT TOPICS IN THE TRP

Learn about the latest issues currently being discussed by the planning team and park managers. Share your ideas!

August 21 SNEAK PEAK OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Come and learn about the Tuolumne River Plan's range of draft alternatives, including a sneak peak at the agency's preferred option.

HIGH COUNTRY OPEN HOUSES IN TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

Save the dates for July 18 and August 22 as the NPS hosts two open houses dedicated to planning efforts focused on the high country. Displays will be set up outside the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center and project managers will be on hand to answer questions. Each open house will also feature an opportunity for field visits to the various project areas. Additional details will be announced in a future e-newsletter. Projects will include:

Tuolumne River Plan

Tenaya Lake Area Plan

Tioga Road Trailheads Project

High Elevation Aquatic Ecosystem Recovery and Stewardship Plan

For more information about each of these projects, visit online at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/currentplans.htm. (K Rylands 6/29/09)

The Human Resources Office will be closed today from 3:00 - 4:30. Please plan accordingly (I Keheley 6/29/09)

Please be advised that the **Contracting Office** will be closed to visitors **every** Wednesday, starting July 1st, for administrative contracting operations. The closure is in effect through the end of FY09.

In the event of an emergency, please contact Pat Lendvay Humphrey at 379-1007 or Lorene Schafer at 379-1873. (L.Sheetz, 6/26/09)

Daily Report submission standards have changed! Bulleted headlines in the Happening Today in Yosemite section will be limited to events/reminders happening today, and will be limited to 140 characters. Submissions in the remaining sections will generally be limited to 150 words, with the exception of updates and news releases. Submitted items may be edited for length! Submissions will generally be run for two days only, with a reminder in the Happening Today section on the day of the item/event.

Routine updates will be published in full on the following schedule unless the information included within them needs to be immediately disseminated. Time-sensitive items and reminders will be extracted from these updates and included in the Happening Today in Yosemite section.

Monday: News Releases and Construction Updates and HR Updates

Tuesday: Bear Activity

Wednesday: Safety Tip

Friday: Community Events Happening this Weekend (reminder only) (M. Kline, 6/24/09)

Updates

Yosemite National Park Fire Update

The Grouse and Harden fires in Yosemite National Park have resumed growing after several inactive days due to rain and cloudy, cool conditions. Now that a high pressure system has returned with high temperatures and low humidity, activity has increased on the fires. Personnel are actively managing the fires to achieve specific protection and resource objectives.

The protection of human life and property is the top priority for Yosemite's fire management staff, as well as the preservation of natural and cultural resources, and the preservation and restoration of fire-dependent ecosystems. Each fire is managed individually to achieve one or more objectives in the safest, most efficient and cost-effective way possible. Strategies employed to meet these objectives may include full suppression, containment line building, use of natural barriers, monitoring, and other management techniques.

Park staff continues to monitor smoke and work closely with Mariposa and Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control Districts to address air quality concerns. Managers have identified actions that will be taken to meet incident objectives and minimize impacts to the park and surrounding communities. Smoky conditions may exist from time to time within the park. Residents and visitors are advised to take precautions to minimize smoke impacts to health. To see photos showing air quality, please visit: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm>

Wilderness Fire Zone:

Grouse (37 41.445 x 119 41.017; 6500', Mariposa Co.) The fire began May 30, and has grown to approximately 75 acres. Personnel are working ahead of the fire implementing management actions along Steamboat Ridge to prevent northward fire spread. On Sunday, personnel will take measures to hold the fire in Grouse Creek drainage. The fire is visible along the Wawona Road (Hwy. 41) and the Glacier Point Road. **Temporary road closures may be enacted for visitor safety.**

Harden (37 53.624 x 119 42.221; 7800', Tuolumne Co); Lightning-caused, probably on June 8. It is north of White Wolf, west of Harden Lake and within the 1996 Ackerson fire perimeter. It is 20 acres and burning mostly in brush and Red Fir. **Fire officials are assessing the need for closures around Harden Lake, Smith Peak and the old Aspen Valley Rd.**

Indian Creek (.1 ac, 37 46.449 x 119 35.150; 7400', Mariposa Co) Started May 30. It is about one mile north of the rim of the Valley, in needle litter and down trees and inactive at this time. It has low to moderate growth potential. Occasional smoke is visible.

Mono (37 40 24.24 x 119 45 19.45, Mariposa Co), started May 18 and is currently inactive. It has low to moderate potential for growth. Smoke is occasionally visible from the Glacier Point Road.

The Smith, Lehamite, Whitethorn, Pit and Dark Hole fires are out.

Suppression Zone:

Cottonwood (37 5413.68 119 4741.64, Tuolumne Co), started May 18. As of May 27, 2009 the Cottonwood Fire was controlled at 96 acres. This fire has not shown any activity in several days.

Fire Information: Please call 209/375-9574

For Additional Information: The park website, www.nps.gov/yose/fire; or email at: yose_fire_information@nps.gov (P Moore 6/29/09)

Media Contacts:
Scott Gediman 209-372-0248
Kari Cobb 209-372-0529

Rescued Park Visitors Return to Yosemite to Present Plaque to Park Ranger

Park visitors James Bachman and Dorothy Hovland, from Huntington Beach, CA, returned to Yosemite today to present a plaque to Park Ranger Dan Abbe to show their appreciation for his heroic efforts. Abbe rescued the pair after their truck and trailer slid off of Highway 41 and down a steep hillside. The plaque was presented during a ceremony in Yosemite Valley.

While exiting Yosemite Valley and heading to home to southern California on May 26, Bachman's truck slid over the side of Highway 41 when he pulled into a dirt pullout. After tumbling approximately 40 feet down the hillside, Bachman's truck came to a rest on its side. Other visitors witnessing the accident flagged Ranger Abbe to the scene. When Abbe arrived at the vehicle, the engine compartment was on fire. Bachman and Hovland were unable to open the door to their vehicle to escape. Abbe climbed on the truck and was able to pry the door open allowing Bachman and Hovland to escape the vehicle. They climbed up to the roadside as the truck and trailer were completely engulfed in flames. All three suffered smoke inhalation, but no serious injuries.

"If it wasn't for Dan, we wouldn't have been able to get out of the vehicle. The engine started on fire while we were still inside. Once Dan got us out, the fire got bigger. He is a very special person and we are alive because of him," said Bachman upon presenting the plaque to Abbe.

"We are so appreciative of the effort James and Dorothy have taken to recognize one of our Park Rangers. This level of gratitude is rarely expressed by visitors and we are so thankful to have a Ranger like Dan Abbe on our staff," said Acting Deputy Superintendent Jim Hammet, during the event (KCobb 6/25/09)

Construction Project Status Report – 06/25/09 **Projects Managed by the Project Management Division,** **Construction Management Branch.**

Rehabilitate Curry Village Lounge and Registration Buildings

The project is now substantially complete.

Big Trees Tram Replacement

GSA solicitation for offers closes June 26, 2009.

Procurement of 2 Hybrid Shuttle Busses

Purchase Request was submitted to YOSE Contracting on June 18, 2009.

Integrated Utilities Phase 2a

(Multiple utilities from the Ice Rink to Boys Town to the north end of Lower Pines CG)

Installation of thrust collars at Curry Village.

Work continues at Lower Pines lift station

Integrated Utilities Phase 3a

(Water line from Lower Pines CG to the Ahwahnee)

This work is expected to begin mid July and continue into the fall 2009.

Integrated Utilities Phase 3b

(Utility corridor from The Ahwahnee to east Yosemite Village)

Design documents were scheduled to go to contracting for bidding on June 5, 2009.

Lower Tecoya Housing Utilities

(Water, sewer and power lines throughout the Lower Tecoya Housing area)

The project is being broken down into phases to occur during the summer/fall of 2009.

West Village Utility Corridor

(Lost Arrow Housing and Ranger Club areas)

Currently no activity.

Yosemite Lodge sewer line repairs

Work is underway in front of the Highland Court.

Hodgdon Meadow Generator

Start-up and training completed this week.

Relace Gas Chlorination Systems at 5 Utility Plants

Work has resumed at all sites.

Valley Loop Road

Northside Drive, Southside Drive, and El Capitan Crossover are now open for traffic.

However, throughout the month of June there will be intermittent one-lane closures at various locations as crews complete punch-list items, with up to 15-minute delays. (The afternoon showers have been delaying the final striping)

Wawona Tunnel Ventilation Repair

Continued installation of conduit and wire.

Continued installation of the MCC, transformer and, switchgear.

Wawona Road Rehabilitation

Design-resource investigations are ongoing.

Design review meetings comment are July 17th with compliance need by early August.

Arch Rock Entrance Station Rehab

Preconstruction conference was held on June 17.

On-site work will not begin until after Labor Day.

Glacier Point Road Rehabilitation

Please be prepared for up to 30 minute delays.

Yosemite Creek Campground Bridge

Bridge replacement work to occur late this fall.

Half Dome View Rehabilitation

On site work and scheduled closure of Half Dome View to begin June 25th.

Replace Primary Electric to Wawona Tunnel

This project is currently in the early design phase.

Crane Flat Water – Phase 1

This project is currently in the construction contracting phase.

Actual on-site construction slated for early fall 2009. (S Williams 6/29/09)

Employee/Volunteer Corner

YARTS Passes for Volunteers

Volunteers (including Interns and SCAs) are not federal employees, so they can't participate in the DOI transportation subsidy program and get a YARTS voucher. But they can still get a pass! Volunteers may be reimbursed for local travel expenses, either at \$.14/mile or the cost of bus fare. The park encourages volunteers who regularly travel from home to their duty station to use YARTS instead of personal vehicles. YARTS sells monthly and 20-trip commuter passes which qualify; go to www.YARTS.com to learn more. Simply submit a claim for reimbursement for volunteer expenses to the volunteer office with the original receipt. Call the volunteers office at 379-1850 with questions. (H Boothe 6/29/09)

Community News

The Ansel Adams Gallery - Join us for Wednesday Art Night. This week we will be presenting the work of pastel artist Roy Gould. Roy will be on hand to demonstrate his techniques. As always, refreshments will be provided. Wednesday Art Night is co-sponsored by The Ansel Adams Gallery and the Yosemite Association's Art Center. For more information, call 372-4413. (6/29/09)

The Adam Burns Band will be playing this Friday, July 3rd, in Mariposa at the Art Park on Main Street, from 7-9pm. This will be the kick off of the Mariposa Evenings live music series. On Sunday, July 5th, the Adam Burns Band will open up for bluegrass favorites Hot Buttered Rum in Groveland, at Mountain Sage Nursery and Cafe. Sunday's music starts at 5pm (K Ramsey 6/29/09)

The Marcis Family will bring some of our home-grown, spirit food from our Lushmeadows BELIEVE Garden this week, Thursday, to the El Portal Community Hall during Sal's Taco Night. We will have for purchase: Braided Garlic, Potatoes, Carrots, Red and Golden Beets, Red Romaine Lettuce, Parsley, as well as Tomato and Pepper transplants ready to go in your garden! See you there. (6/29/09)

Groveland this week and a little beyond

7/3 Ice Cream Social at the Groveland Community Hall. This annual ice cream social is a fundraiser sponsored by the Groveland Kiwanis. The menu features sundaes, shakes, banana splits, pies and lots more. Funds go towards programs helping children in our community. Games & Prizes.

7/3 Annual 4th of July BBQ Pine Mountain Lake Stables. The Country Mountain Riders and the Pine Mountain Lake Association host the annual BBQ, open to the public with raffles, dinner & band from 5pm to 10pm

7/4 & 7/5 Groveland Art and Wine Show by the Sierra Professional Artists at the Yosemite Courtyard at the Groveland Hotel, **FREE** A great little show featuring works by our local artisans. The program always includes a raffle for original pieces and fundraising for art in the schools programs. Visitors enjoy art, wine and music throughout the weekend

7/5 Live at the Sage: Hot Buttered Rum & the Adam Burns Band at the Mountain Sage Amphitheater www.mtnsage.com Robb 209.962.4686 A fantastic Sierra venue, don't miss the experience of the Mountain Sage outdoor stage. All shows start at 5pm, food and beverages available...great fun!

7/8 Honorary Mayor Stump-off at Mountain Sage Free Jackie 209.962.0429. Our first of several stumping events, with beer, wine and food available for purchase. Goose will be stumping right along with the rest of them! www.HotelCharlotte.com/goose.html

7/10 Yosemite Courtyard Theatre: *BluesBox Bayou Band* The Groveland Hotel at Yosemite National Park guestservices@groveland.com Peggy 209.962.4000. You can't go wrong with this one, great price, wonderful setting—it all makes for a wonderful night of dinner theater. Just across the street from the Charlotte, dine with us and then off to the show!

7/11 Weekly Movies in the Park at Lower Mary Laveroni Community Park at dusk a pittance www.YosemiteChamberofCommerce.com

Additional events and contact details available from www.HotelCharlotte.com/events.html (6/29/09)

Yosemite Winter Club is seeking winter sports enthusiasts who would like to be more involved with Yosemite Winters! Our board is looking for new members to meet monthly, volunteer at and organize social events and enjoy themselves in the snowy outdoors. Please view our website YosemiteWinterClub.com to learn more about our non-profit organization. If you want to be involved as a board member email Barb Armon, President at yosemitecousin@sbcglobal.net. (B. Armon, Yosemite Winter Club president, (6/29/09)

Acting Designations

On Monday, June 29, Sarah Stock will be Acting Branch Chief of Wildlife Management. On Tuesday, June 30, Heather McKenny will fill the same role. (S Thompson 6/29/09)

While I am away from the office on vacation from June 27, 2009, until July 13, 2009, Irma Keheley will be acting chief, office of human resources. Please contact Irma at 209.379.1814 with any questions, concerns, etc., that you would normally direct to me. Thank you. (H. Whitman, 6/26/09)

Entries must be in by 7:00am the day of publication. There are no weekend or holiday editions. Submissions: email yose_daily_report@nps.gov

Yosemite's *Daily Report* is an internal memorandum of long standing intended to provide timely administrative information needed for daily park operations. The primary purpose of the report is to serve as a communication tool for park management to pass specific operational information to field employees of Yosemite National Park, park partners, concessioners, and related government agencies in a fast and efficient manner and offer a format for interdivisional, interagency, and general intra-park notifications. Although the *Daily Report* is intended exclusively as an internal memorandum, it is posted here in an effort to extend timely operational information to the communities surrounding the park.

