National Park Service

Yosemite National Park

Public Scoping Comment Summary Report

Yosemite National Park

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

May 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter Page

1. INTRODUCTION AND GUIDE 1-1

1.1 Public Scoping Process Summary 1-1
1.2 Nature of Comments Received 1-2
1.3 The Comment Analysis Process 1-3
1.4 Definition of Terms 1-4
1.5 Methodology 1-4
1.6 Guide to this Document 1-5

2. PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT SUMMARY 2-1

2.1 Summary of Public Scoping Comments by Comment Code 2-2
TQ1-69178 - What do you value about the way in which the National Park Service currently manages the Yosemite Wilderness? 2-3
TQ2-69178 - What are the most important issues facing the Yosemite Wilderness today and how should they be addressed? 2-4
AE22000 - Visitor use 2-6
MT1000 - General comments about the Yosemite Wilderness 2-7
OS1000 - Out of scope 2-8
TN100 - Threats to natural resources 2-8
TV100 - Threats to visitor use or experience 2-11
VN100 - Value the natural resources or setting (flora, fauna, views, natural quiet, undev. areas) 2-11
VV100 - Value the visitor opportunities (activities, programs, recreation) 2-12
WL1000 - Trail system management 2-13
WL1010 - Through hiking 2-16
WL1020 - Use of motorized equipment 2-17
WL1100 - Human waste management 2-18
WL1200 - Potential wilderness additions 2-19
WL1210 - Retention of High Sierra Camps 2-20
WL1220 - Removal of High Sierra Camps 2-22
WL1230 - Management of High Sierra Camps 2-24
WL1300 - Accessibility (ADA) 2-26
WL1400 - Climate change 2-27
WL1500 - Wildlife 2-28
WL1510 - Nonnative fish removal 2-30
WL1520 - Proper food storage 2-31
WL1600 - Wilderness character 2-32
WL1610 - Wilderness character: Untrammeled 2-34
WL1620 - Wilderness character: Natural 2-34
WL1630 - Wilderness character: Undeveloped 2-34
WL1640 - Wilderness character: Solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation 2-35
WL1650 - Wilderness character: Other features of value 2-37
WL1700 - Interpretation and outreach 2-37
WL1800 - Wildfire management 2-41

TABLE OF CONTENTS *(continued)*

Chapter Page

WL1900 - Camping 2-42
WL2000 - Stock use and users 2-44
WL2010 - Private stock use or users 2-53
WL2020 - Commercial stock use or users 2-54
WL2030 - Administrative stock use or users 2-56
WL2100 - Soundscapes 2-57
WL2200 - Installations/development 2-57
WL2400 - Wilderness Stewardship Plan planning/process 2-59
WL2500 - Vegetation 2-60
WL2600 - Research studies and data 2-61
WL2700 - Water Resources 2-62
WL3000 - Commercial services 2-62
WL4000 - Access 2-76
WL5000 - Visitor conflicts & safety 2-78
WL6000 - Recreation 2-79
WL7000 - Nonmotorized, nonmechanized recreation 2-80
WL8000 - NPS enforcement of rules 2-81
WL9000 - Permit system and/or quotas 2-82

APPENDICES

Appendix A Correspondence Index of Organizations
Appendix B Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

	Full Phrase
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AMGA	American Mountain Guides Association
CUA	commercial use authorization
EIS	environmental impact statement
IFMGA	International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations
JMT	John Muir Trail
LNT	Leave No Trace
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPS	National Park Service
PCT	Pacific Crest Trail
PEPC	Planning, Environment, and Public Comment
SUP	special use permit
WSP	wilderness stewardship plan
US	United States

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION AND GUIDE

The United States (US) Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) and wilderness stewardship plan (WSP) for Yosemite National Park. The WSP will provide a framework for measuring and monitoring wilderness character to ensure that future management actions will be taken as needed to adapt to changing conditions.

This report documents the results of the public scoping process for the WSP/EIS. Scoping is a collaborative public involvement process conducted at the beginning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis to identify and refine issues to be addressed in the EIS. Public involvement is a vital part of the NEPA process. In addition to scoping, public involvement for this project includes collaboration with federal, state, and local governments and public outreach efforts. The park is also coordinating the National Historic Preservation Act process with the NEPA process.

1.1 PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS SUMMARY

In November, 2015, the NPS released a Public Scoping fact sheet for the WSP/EIS to the public for review and comment. The newsletter provided a description of the purpose and need for the plan, public scoping information and questions to consider, potential management issues to be addressed, and information on how to get involved in the planning process. The bulletin was available for public review until January 29, 2016. The park accepted comments through the NPS's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) system, mail, and email (yose_planning@nps.gov).

The NPS hosted two in-person public scoping meetings: one in Berkeley, California at the Berkeley REI on December 8th 2015, and the other in Yosemite Valley on January 20th 2016. At these meetings, NPS staff presented information about the Wilderness Act, the Yosemite Wilderness and its history, wilderness character, the purpose of the project, potential management issues, and planning timeline. After this presentation, NPS staff was available to discuss commenters' issues and concerns. Commenters also had the opportunity to write their concerns on comment forms, which were added to the public comments. Notes were taken at each meeting, and substantive comments were added into the PEPC system for analysis. In

addition to the in-person meetings, NPS also conducted 3 web-based "webinars" which presented the same information as was used at the in-person meetings. After the presentation, attendees were given time to submit questions and comments regarding the plan. The questions and comments were then answered via the audio function in the webinar by NPS staff. A total of 110 individuals attended the public scoping meetings either in person or online, with 17 attendees at the Berkeley meeting, 30 attendees at the Yosemite Valley meeting, and 63 attendees total for all three webinars.

Photo from in-person public scoping meeting in Yosemite Valley.

1.2 NATURE OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

A total of 733 pieces of correspondence were received during the public scoping period. The majority of comments were related to commercial services, stock use, wilderness character, access, interpretation and outreach, the permitting system and quotas, use of motorized equipment, and High Sierra Camps. All correspondence was considered and captured in concern statements which follow in this report.

Some of the most prevalent comments received included these concerns:

- The NPS should continue or expand commercial hiking and climbing guiding in wilderness to provide access, encourage stewardship and increase user safety.
- Stock use in Yosemite's wilderness should continue. Stock use provides access for diverse user groups to experience wilderness and has historical significance.
- Alternatives considered should follow the rule of law along with the intent of the Wilderness Act.
- Wilderness needs to provide opportunities for diverse user groups to experience wilderness including stock users, people of color, those with limited economic

resources, older visitors, children, educational and documentary filmmakers, naturalists, hikers and campers.

- Trail quotas need to be adapted to address the influx of wilderness users originating both in Yosemite and adjacent public lands to balance use and protect resources.
- Motorized equipment and mechanized transport degrade wilderness character by creating noise pollution and negatively impact natural resources.
- Some comments received advocated for retaining or expanding High Sierra camps in support of safe, diverse, historical access. Comments also suggested reconsideration of the level of service provided at the camps or that the camps should be removed due to their impacts to wilderness character.

For specific concerns related to all identified topics see **Chapter 2**.

1.3 THE COMMENT ANALYSIS PROCESS

Comment analysis is a process used to compile and combine similar public comments into a format that can be used by decision makers and the WSP/EIS Team. Comment analysis assists the team in organizing, clarifying, and addressing technical information pursuant to NEPA regulations. It also aids in identifying the topics and issues to be evaluated and considered throughout the planning process.

The process includes five main components:

- Developing a coding structure
- Using a comment database for comment management
- Reading and coding of public comments
- Interpreting and analyzing the comments to identify issues and themes
- Preparing a comment summary

The park developed a coding structure to help sort comments into logical groups by topics and issues. The coding structure was derived from an analysis of the range of topics discussed during internal NPS scoping, past planning documents, and the comments themselves, and designed to capture all comment content rather than to restrict or exclude any ideas.

The NPS PEPC database was used for management of the comments. The database stores the full text of all correspondence and allows each comment to be coded by topic and issue. Some outputs from the database include tallies of the total number of correspondence and comments received, sorting and reporting of comments by a particular topic or issue, and demographic information regarding the sources of the comments.

Analysis of the public comments involved the assignment of codes to statements made by the public in their letters submitted and comments stated at the public meetings. All comments were read and analyzed, including those of a technical nature; those expressing opinions, feelings, and preferences of one element or one potential alternative over another; and comments of a personal or philosophical nature.

Although the analysis process attempts to capture the full range of public concerns, this public scoping report should be used with caution. Comments from people who chose to respond do not necessarily represent the sentiments of the public as a whole. The emphasis was on content of the comment rather than the number of times a comment was received. This report is intended to be a summary of the comments received rather than a statistical analysis.

1.4 Definition of Terms

Primary terms used in this document are defined below.

Correspondence: A correspondence is the entire document received from a commenter. It can be in the form of a letter or email, written comment form, or a comment submitted online using the NPS PEPC website. Each piece of correspondence is assigned a unique identification number in the PEPC system.

Comment: A comment is a portion of the text within a correspondence that addresses a single subject. It includes information such as an expression of support or opposition to the use of a potential management tool, additional data regarding an existing condition, or an opinion debating the adequacy of the analysis.

Code: A grouping centered on a common subject. The codes were developed during the scoping process and will be used to track major subjects throughout the EIS process.

Concern: A concern is a written summary of similar comments received under a particular code. Some codes were further separated into several concern statements to provide a better focus on the content of the comments.

1.5 Methodology

During the comment period, 733 pieces of correspondence were received into PEPC directly or were entered into PEPC for analysis. Each correspondence was read, and specific comments within each correspondence were identified. A total of 2,471 comments were derived from the correspondence received.

Each comment was given a code to identify the general content of a comment and to group similar comments together. Fifty codes were used to categorize all the comments received. An example of a code developed for this project is WL9000: Permit system and/or quotas. In some cases, the same comment may be categorized under more than one code, reflecting the fact that the comment may contain more than one issue or idea.

All comments were read and considered and will be used to help create the alternatives and ultimately the WSP/EIS; however, only those determined to be substantive were analyzed for creation of concern statements, as described below. A substantive comment is defined in the NPS Director's Order 12 Handbook: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making* as one that does one or more of the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information presented in the NEPA document

- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental analysis
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the NEPA document
- Cause changes or revisions in the proposal

As further stated in Director's Order 12, substantive comments "raise, debate, or question a point of fact or policy. Comments that merely support or oppose a proposal or that merely agree or disagree with NPS policy are not considered substantive."

Under each code, all substantive comments were grouped by similar themes, and those groups were summarized with a concern statement. For example, one concern statement under WL9000: Permit system and/or quotas is "The permit system effectively mitigates overcrowding through the use of quotas and group size limits. The permit system also protects wilderness resources, specifically along the John Muir Trail and on Half Dome." Following each concern statement are one or more "representative quotes," which are comments taken verbatim from the correspondence to illustrate the issue, concern, or idea expressed by the comments grouped under that concern statement.

1.6 GUIDE TO THIS DOCUMENT

This report is organized as follows:

Public Scoping Comment Summary: This summary includes information on the number of comments that were coded under each topic as well as general demographic information, such as the states where commenters live. In addition, this section summarizes the substantive comments received during the scoping process. These comments are organized by codes and further organized into concern statements. Below each concern statement are representative quotes, which have been taken directly from the text of the public's comments. Representative quotes are examples of comments received that further clarify the concern statements.

Correspondence Received: The full text of all correspondence received from all individuals, groups, and agencies is available on PEPC under the Document List at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yosewild. The correspondence was either received directly into PEPC or via a hardcopy letter that was then transcribed directly into PEPC.

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CHAPTER 2
PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT SUMMARY

Correspondence was received from commenters in 11 countries, 47 US states, and the District of Columbia. Most correspondence (701) were received via the PEPC web interface; other correspondence types included 18 hard copy letters, 9 emails, 3 comment forms, and comments from public meetings.

The following table shows the distribution of correspondence by how they were coded.

Code	Description	Correspondence
TQ1-69178	What do you value about the way in which the National Park Service currently manages the Yosemite Wilderness?	570
TQ2-69178	What are the most important issues facing the Yosemite Wilderness today and how should they be addressed?	540
WL3000	Commercial services	417
WL2000	Stock use and users	181
WL1600	Wilderness character	148
WL4000	Access	141
WL1700	Interpretation and outreach	132
WL9000	Permit system and/or quotas	119
WL1020	Use of motorized equipment	102
WL2200	Installations/Development	88
WL1210	Retention of High Sierra Camps	89
WL1200	Potential wilderness additions	79
AE22000	Visitor use	66
TN100	Threats to natural resources	62
WL1000	Trail system management	61
VN100	Value the natural resources or setting (flora, fauna, views, natural quiet, undev. areas)	49
VV100	Value the visitor opportunities (activities, programs, recreation)	45
OS1000	Out of scope	36

Code	Description	Correspondence
WL6000	Recreation	34
WL1230	Management of High Sierra Camps	33
WL2400	Wilderness Stewardship Plan planning/process	31
WL8000	NPS enforcement of rules	24
WL1900	Camping	22
TV100	Threats to visitor use or experience	21
WL1500	Wildlife	22
WL1640	Wilderness character: Solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation	21
WL5000	Visitor conflicts & safety	19
WL2010	Private stock use or users	18
WL1220	Removal of High Sierra Camps	17
WL1300	Accessibility (ADA)	16
WL1800	Wildfire management	15
WL2600	Research studies and data	15
WL1010	Through hiking	14
WL1100	Human waste management	13
WL1400	Climate change	13
WL2020	Commercial stock use or users	13
MT1000	General comments about the Yosemite Wilderness	10
WL2100	Soundscapes	8
WL1520	Proper food storage	7
WL1510	Nonnative fish removal	6
WL2030	Administrative stock use or users	6
WL1620	Wilderness character: Natural	6
WL2700	Water resources	5
WL2500	Vegetation	4
AE7000	Air Quality	4
WL1610	Wilderness character: Untrammeled	3
WL2300	Use of motorized equipment	3
WL1630	Wilderness character: Undeveloped	2
WL1650	Wilderness character: Other features of value	1
WL7000	Non-motorized, non-mechanized recreation	1

2.1 Summary of Public Scoping Comments by Comment Code

A summary of public scoping comments received is presented below. The summary is organized by comment code, with concern statements and representative quotes provided for each code.

TQ1-69178 - What do you value about the way in which the National Park Service currently manages the Yosemite Wilderness?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55868) The National Park Service does a good job educating visitors on topics such as Leave No Trace principles, food storage requirements, and using the trailhead quota system to limit the number of users in high use areas such as the John Muir Trail and Sunrise corridor.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 476833 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value the fact that the NPS attempts to limit overuse and preserve wilderness values through trailhead quotas and limiting group size for on and off-trail travel. I also value that the wilderness permit system gives the rangers opportunities to reinforce LNT principles and bear canister requirements.

Corr. ID: 127 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 480971 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: As a backpacker, I have spent many seasons over the years in various areas of the park. As he demands for use have increased, I have appreciated the use of trailhead quotas, even when i have been unable to hike some of my favorite places due to high demand. I also appreciate the efforts made to educate new hikers on the appropriate "leave no trace" practices. I am always glad when I can use an area which is heavily visited without there being significant trash and other left overs.

Corr. ID: 536 **Organization:** Sierra Mountain Center **Comment ID:** 484942 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: I do feel that YNP has done a good job at limiting the highest use areas, including the Happy Isles entrance to the JMT, and the high use Sunrise corridor.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55869) Yosemite Wilderness is accessible to the entire populace and provides a wide variety of experiences.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 142 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 481401 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I like the affordability of the park and that it is open to everyone.

Corr. ID: 148 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 481462 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: It is accessible and well-managed, even with the extremely large number of visitors. It is appropriately "commercialized" in that services are available for individuals whether they are seeking an extreme wilderness experience or seeing the beauty of the outdoors without great labor and work.

Corr. ID: 150 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 481510 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: We value the pristine experience available in the Yosemite Wilderness despite large numbers of visitors.

Corr. ID: 349 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483705 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Enjoy the multiple levels of access to the backcountry, from hiking to horses and the ability for those not equipped to stay in [backcountry] camps, enjoying all the valley and beyond has to offer. Exposure to the wildness beyond the valley is critical.

Corr. ID: 434 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484500 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value the opportunity to go rock climbing in Yosemity. It's one of the most amazing places in the entire world to experience climbing.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55870) Yosemite's wilderness character is valuable and unspoiled, providing solitude, a lack of structures, and only natural sounds in an untrammeled landscape.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 272 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483443 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Yosemite is a spectacular wilderness, and it is kept relatively unspoiled through limiting commercial use.

Corr. ID: 288 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483505 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I like the wild character of the wilderness. For me, true wilderness means the absence of man and mankind's impact. Therefore, other than a trail in the dirt, I do not like to see any structures, hear any sounds other than those created by nature over time.

Corr. ID: 464 **Organization:** University of Utah **Comment ID:** 484619 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: I appreciate that I can find solitude in Yosemite Wilderness. Yosemite National Park does an excellent job ensuring that this solitude remains. Although the Valley floor can be a madhouse, once I set foot off of the common trails I can still find untrammeled landscapes that inspire my soul.

TQ2-69178 - What are the most important issues facing the Yosemite Wilderness today and how should they be addressed?
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55936) Respondents described what they felt are the most important issues facing the Yosemite Wilderness today. The following representative quotes are a sampling of some of those issues. Particular issues are summarized under corresponding codes and include education, management of the High Sierra Camps, stock use, overuse and crowding, commercialization, and the need for additional rock climbing and mountaineering opportunities through Commercial Use Authorizations and Special Use Permits.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 5 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 476834 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: 1) The most important issue to me is overuse of certain trail corridors and abused use by some PCT permit holders (i.e., getting a permit for the entire PCT with no intention of hiking the entire PCT but allowing for JMT and Half Dome trail use).

2) I remain concerned with the quality of the wilderness experience due to overuse and inappropriate use (social impacts from those not following LNT).

3) Trail management (construction, maintenance, quotas) is an area needing further study with consideration given to non-maintenance and removal of "improvements" which diminish the wilderness character of the area, including historical use such as High Sierra Camps and other nonconforming uses (Half Dome cables, etc.).

4) I support a study of the use of stock in the wilderness to mitigate damage, though I am not opposed to limited stock use where appropriate.

5) Commercial services can be an effective means of providing wilderness experiences with LNT emphasis which can help to protect the wilderness and important values if the service is vetted appropriately.

Corr. ID: 184 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 482893 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: That these areas are preserved and enjoyed for decades to come. To accomplish this, people need to be educated in how to be stewards of these parks so that they can be enjoyed for generations.

Corr. ID: 195 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 482934 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Overuse concerns. The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should:

- respect the intent of the Wilderness Act to limit commercial services in Wilderness;

- stop routine use of helicopters and other motorized equipment in the Wilderness;

- remove nonconforming structures and uses in potential wilderness within the Park and designate those areas as Wilderness.

- ensure that all alternatives preserve and maintain wilderness character, and require the Park Service to better manage visitor use. Natural processes must be allowed to define the character of the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 454 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484566 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Preserving the High Sierra Camps. They provide an opportunity for older people to explore the wilderness without having to carry [heavy] camping gear. The vast majority of people we encounter in the High Sierra Camps are over age 50. Without the Camps, a large portion of the population would not be able to enjoy the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 469 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484629 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: How to keep the wilderness available to all while minimizing impact due to large numbers of visitors.

AE22000 - Visitor use

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55815) A new plan needs to be implemented for Half Dome that includes the modernization of the cable route providing for two lanes of traffic, guided hikes, and use of via ferrata type harness/security systems.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 467 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510043 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: A new plan needs to be implemented on Half Dome that includes the modernization of the cable route providing for two lanes of traffic (separate up and down lanes), as well as the recommendation for both guided hikes and use of via ferrata type harness/security systems to enable safe use of the cable route to visit the summit.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56652) The number of day use visitors, including hikers and climbers, must be monitored in order to make informed decisions about Wilderness management. This would require regular base funding for visitor use survey as well as supplemental project funds.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485817 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Get a handle on day use - hikers AND climbers. We can not expect to make informed decisions about Wilderness if we do not understand how many people are hiking, say, the first 5 miles in/out of a given trailhead. To do this, you will need to find regular base funding for VUSS or a social science contractor. Supplemental funding could come from project funds associated with trail reroutes or frog and toad habitat protection.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56668) Management must address increased visitation and its associated impacts on Wilderness values. This could be accomplished through the use of commercial use authorization permit holders as liaisons for visitors, prohibiting motorized developments and grazing, encouraging use of more remote areas of the park to reduce use near roads and parking lots, and weighing increased restrictions or facilities with dispersed use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 513929 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Consider that heavy use in a given region of wilderness may change its experiential character as well as overly impact some resources. Weigh the differences of accommodating the increased use via greater restrictions and/or facilities vs. spreading the same total wilderness use impacts to other wilderness areas of the Park.

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486476 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Consider the potential for increased impacts stemming from Media enhancement of outdoor recreation's image in the popular mind, and the unavoidable uptick in Wilderness use stemming from an ever growing human population.

Corr. ID: 273 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487545 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Manage visitor use to protect the wilderness as first priority.

Corr. ID: 327 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509539 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Absolutely no motorized developments, no public grazing; public use for foot, horseback only.

Corr. ID: 500 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484873 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The most important issue facing Yosemite today is over crowding in areas near roads and parking lots. Visitors should be encouraged to tour in groups and to come at times when the park is less crowded. Activities such as hiking, backpacking and the use of saddle and pack stock should be encouraged because they make use of the more remote areas of the park.

Corr. ID: 617 **Organization:** Sonoma State University **Comment ID:** 510980 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: The most important issues facing the Yosemite Wilderness is the sheer amount of people that access it and their level of competency.

Corr. ID: 684 **Organization:** Yosemite Family Adventures, LLC **Comment ID:** 485282 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: The most important issue facing Yosemite and the National Park Service today is how to balance an increasing number of visitors with Yosemite's fragile wilderness. The goal is to allow visitors to enjoy all of Yosemite's wild and scenic treasures without them destroying the local ecosystems and negatively impacting Yosemite's wilderness. We would like the National Park Service to see that CUA permit holders can be the liaisons between them and uninformed, unguided adventurers that don't understand the devastation that can come for just a few misplaced footprints.

MT1000 - General comments about the Yosemite Wilderness

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55997) Commenters wrote general comments about Yosemite Wilderness and their wilderness experience, appreciating its existence and the park's management actions.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 68 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 479869 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I appreciate the chance to experience world class wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56591) Loss of government funds and a lack of political interest is a concern for maintaining wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 42 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 479513 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would think government funds to maintain the wilderness would be one of the most important issues. I worry that the parks have been used as political purposes as the current administration has threatened to close parks and limit funds. I'm not sure how that should be addressed, but we should all be concerned and informed about the loss of interest politicians have for the parks.

OS1000 - Out of scope

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55996) Comments outside the scope of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan include suggestions for management of Yosemite Valley, overall public transit, wilderness permits for overnight climbers and hunting in Yosemite wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 319 **Organization:** Wilderness Watch **Comment ID:** 511619 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: I would also like to comment on my views regarding hunting, which I understand is permitted in wilderness areas. On this subject, I would like to comment by saying that I believe that hunting should be restricted to those species which can be personally consumed for food and that all mammalian carnivores such as bobcats, mountain lions, foxes, coyotes, martens, fishers, wolverines, etc. be off limits to hunting. This would also include gray wolves should they ever be reintroduced to the Yosemite Wilderness Area.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485821 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Require climbers overnighting to get a wilderness permit. There is absolutely no reason they should be exempt from touching base with a wilderness ranger.

Corr. ID: 636 **Organization:** SYMG, PCGI **Comment ID:** 485943 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: Do more to show people how to function without their cars. Public transit is not popular in most parts of the US, and moving towards a better relationship with mass transit is one of the best things we can do to reduce our carbon emissions. The national parks should be aggressive about getting people out of their cars! Why don't we have a parking structure in Mariposa yet? Why are so many people still driving cars around Yosemite Valley?

TN100 - Threats to natural resources

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55819) More protection is needed for natural resources such as wildlife, vegetation, water and air, and overall ecosystem function, from increasing visitor use and development. More base funding for such protection is necessary.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486448 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe it is more important to retain the quality of the resources (Plant, Animal, Mineral, Water and Air, and ecosystem function,), over the accommodation of users, who by their growing numbers alone, and despite responsible Wilderness use when gauged by individual actions, may in some cases, outpace the wilderness' ability to regenerate. (Think lakeside vegetation, and water quality)

Corr. ID: 188 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 482907 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There has been reasonable protection of this precious land and its wildlife from over-use, commercialization, and exploitation by entertainment, hunting, and other such interests. More protection is needed, however.

Corr. ID: 231 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483075 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe it is important to preserve wilderness even as it limits economic development.

Corr. ID: 284 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483498 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Unfortunately, Yosemite, along with many other public lands, is under assault from many directions, including our own congress on behalf of corporate interests, including ranchers wanting to graze their cattle, oil companies wanting to drill for oil and gas, mining companies, and others. We must continue to avoid and reject these different entities due to their destructive nature and the resulting decimation of our pristine national treasures.

Corr. ID: 364 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487065 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: As more visitors enter the high country earlier and later in the season, the impacts to the wilderness will occur sooner and for a longer duration perhaps having effects that do not repair themselves during the winter. When will restoration crews be employed by not only project specific grant money?

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485841 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: We have GOT to reallocate base funds towards the Division of Resources. It is utterly irresponsible for the park to expect YC and Hetch Hetchy to pay to repair human impacts, fight invasive species, and protect threatened and endangered species. Yosemite National Park is only fulfilling half of its mission and is therefore violating its promise to the American people to preserve and protect for future generations.

Corr. ID: 619 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485548 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The most important issues facing the wilderness right now are overuse and misuse. Commercial services and the number of permits issued for the wilderness need to be further limited, not increased.

Corr. ID: 619 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485551 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Please do not cave into the pressures exerted by guide services and vendors. The impact on the land-and on the experience for citizens who are not participating in or profiting from these ventures-is profound.

Corr. ID: 629 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485852 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Overuse of various high-profile areas in the park is denigrating the environment and the wilderness experience.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55820) Human activities need to be assessed and mitigated in sensitive habitat, critical habitat for the Sierra bighorn sheep, as well as in habitat for rare and endangered species such as the Sierra Nevada red fox, the American marten, the wolverine, the Yosemite toad and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 100 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509409 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Limitation in impact sensitive areas is key. The Park Service must balance use and preservation.

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486492 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Include the description of Yosemite Wilderness' role in species preservation, and include consideration of degradation outside the Park Wilderness boundary as impacts to species as a whole.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 512014 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: It is legally mandated and morally essential that wild species that literally represent wilderness be provided with the greatest possible protection within wilderness. In the case of Yosemite and this Wilderness Plan, CSERC urges that a strong assessment be provided as to the status of the Sierra Nevada red fox, the American marten, the wolverine, the Yosemite toad, the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and any other at-risk species that have potential to be disturbed in their habitat by wilderness visitors.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485496 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: For decades, wilderness within Yosemite has been managed almost entirely with the goal of managing use to provide a positive wilderness experience for people. A small percentage of that focus has been to minimize (not eliminate) resource impacts in Wilderness that are caused by hikers, backpackers, horseback riders, pack stock, etc. But little focus has aimed to constrain or restrict human activities in areas of Yosemite Park wilderness that are highly critical habitat for rare or threatened wildlife species.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55821) Nonnative species need to be addressed in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 699 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485644 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Threats from distant origins: I see and hear evidence of issues affecting Yosemite's wilderness from climate change, ozone air pollution, non native species including trout and diseases. I actually love trout and love the food supply they provide for fishing backpackers. But I also would prefer to see the frogs return to certain areas where feasible.

TV100 - Threats to visitor use or experience
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55823) The Wilderness experience is threatened by motorized equipment and overcrowding.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 6 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484298 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: [Overcrowding is] diminishing the wilderness experience in some locations.

Corr. ID: 209 **Organization:** Ms. **Comment ID:** 483008 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: "Wilderness" not being wilderness. That would mean when you are [backcountry] in Wilderness, you can still hear and see airplanes, helicopters and vehicles.

Corr. ID: 540 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486595 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The most important issues are reduced funding from Washington and overwhelming numbers of visitors.

VN100 - Value the natural resources or setting (flora, fauna, views, natural quiet, undev. areas)
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55930) Geology, wildlife, vegetation, and scenic beauty are all valued natural resources in the Wilderness. The Wilderness setting is also valued from a cultural perspective.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486475 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Consider the value of regions of wilderness that rarely see human use, to species affected by human presence, including breeding and rearing sites of animal species, habitat of rare plants, etc.

Corr. ID: 525 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484915 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value the magnificence of the Yosemite Wilderness and the opportunity for the general public to enjoy it in as ecologically intact and unaltered way as possible.

Corr. ID: 538 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484947 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value the efforts taken by the Park Service to protect the physical natural environment.

Corr. ID: 625 **Organization:** AMGA & IFMGA Mountain Guide **Comment ID:** 485801 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: I think that foremost, the protection of the things that make Yosemite special - the streams, lakes, cliffs, trees, forests, mountains, meadows, etc. - must continue to be our absolute top priority. These are the very heart of why people come to Yosemite, and I think in as much as it's reasonable, there is no room for compromise in our stewardship of them.

Corr. ID: 684 **Organization:** Yosemite Family Adventures, LLC **Comment ID:** 485281 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: We value the care and efficiency that the National Park Service currently puts into protecting all life in Yosemite, from the smallest flowers in our fragile meadows to the roots of the Giant Sequoias and the return of the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

Corr. ID: 693 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485297 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Yosemite attracts a huge number of visitors each year. These visitors get to see some truly unique landscape that includes incredible geological, anthropological, and natural histories.

Corr. ID: 712 **Organization:** SWS Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 486144 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: Wilderness has long been one of the most cherished and celebrated features of the American experience. For a large portion of Americans it has become imbedded in our culture and how we think of our country. No wilderness been more influential to that effect than those within in the boundaries of Yosemite National Park. For these reasons we should take any revision of the Wilderness Plan seriously and with all due diligence for the sake of the future of this natural resource.

VV100 - Value the visitor opportunities (activities, programs, recreation)
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55931) Commenters valued the diverse opportunities for the public to explore the Yosemite Wilderness, and requested that visitors continue to be allowed to experience the Wilderness in different ways, including climbing, hiking, boating, and fishing.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 93 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 480120 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value the way the Yosemite Wilderness is currently available to a wide variety of users, but in a controlled fashion. The current management protocol allows for both the minimalist backpacker hiking in the back-country on their own, as well as ranger-guided groups hiking to Sierra High Camps. A variety of skills and abilities are equally welcome.

Corr. ID: 510 **Organization:** Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association **Comment ID:** 484890 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I have had the privilege of riding my horse in Yosemite, as well as hiking in this wonderland. My cousin, visiting from South Africa, and I even managed to climb Half Dome while staying in Curry Village. The endless opportunities of exploring Yosemite, at whatever level of intensity suitable for that individual, is the marvel of this national park. Realizing that the park is a precious jewel and needs to be protected from over use and misuse, the Park Service has done an admirable job.

I hope the diversity of opportunities to explore Yosemite can be maintained.

Corr. ID: 530 **Organization:** The Ohio State University **Comment ID:** 484923 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: I value the opportunuity it gives to people to give back service wise in the park, and the access to such grand and scenery. The park allows a freedom to explore and see things and take part of an amazing place.

Corr. ID: 537 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484945 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value the climbing opportunities that the Yosemite Wilderness affords. It is not only a natural resource that lends itself to recreation but has become a cultural icon of an American era that values wilderness, independence, the testing of the mind and body, and shared value of the beauty that is Yosemite. It is therefore a resource, both natural and cultural in nature, that deserves to be protected and cultivated for use.

Corr. ID: 627 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485825 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I always have reservations when these plans come out because there is a tendency that in the name of protection comes the decreased ability for visitors to experience the park in ways that they have done in the past.

Corr. ID: 646 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485208 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The single most important issue facing any Wilderness, including Yosemite, is education through experience. By facilitating education- -through the NPS and third parties- -we broaden the community of stewards and, by that fact, bolster support for long term protection of these lands. This includes allowing visitors to experience Wilderness is different ways, including climbing, hiking, boating, and other forms of non-permanent activities.

Corr. ID: 651 **Organization:** Trout Unlimited **Comment ID:** 485457 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Sportsmen have a clear stake in the management direction, strategy, and priorities that may derive from the Wilderness Plan revision process. Many of our members and customers enjoy fishing in the Yosemite Wilderness and utilize these public lands and waters for personal recreation.

Corr. ID: 673 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 485260 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: I value the National Park Service's efforts to manage the Yosemite Wilderness as a resource for everyone to enjoy. Efforts such as the lottery camp reservation service, the existence of YOSAR, the handicap accessible trailheads, the bike friendly roads, and maintaining the privilege of climbing in the worlds most astounding rock arena.

WL1000 - Trail system management
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55825) Overuse of the trail system and trail maintenance should be addressed by public/private partnerships and increased patrols.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485514 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: The Park Service may soon find that it has insufficient resources to maintain trails in Yosemite Wilderness to standards that are necessary to maintain visitor safety and resource protection. Given that the WSP represents a long-range (10- to 15-year) plan, it would be prudent to consider in the WSP the option of enlisting additional qualified partners in routine trail maintenance. For example, establishing formal agreements with qualified non-profit organizations, such as Backcountry Horsemen of California and its partner, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, would serve

to augment the agency's beleaguered trail maintenance budget and could preclude the need to either close trails or reclassify some trails as either "unmaintained" or minimally maintained.

Corr. ID: 665 **Organization:** The Wildland Trekking Company **Comment ID:** 485467
Organization Type: Business
Representative Quote: Although there is some evidence of over-use and abuse, such as illegal fire-rings and deteriorating trails, these can be addressed by public/private partnerships and increased patrols.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55826) Increase the number of backcountry users by improving and expanding the existing trail system. This can be done by increasing trail quotas, adding new trails, and adjusting to changing use patterns.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 129 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486311 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would hope that we can increase the number of people allowed in the wilderness by increasing trail quotas and the construction of new trails. Only people that can enjoy the wilderness are willing to protect it.

Corr. ID: 131 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486317 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: NPS should continue to adjust the trail system to use patterns, adding new trails if necessary, eliminating unused trails, and providing proper maintenance.

Corr. ID: 520 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486474 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: MORE TRAILS! I understand the need to not let people frolic everywhere, but that is half the joy of nature! Being able to sit in a meadow or on a cliff where there is no other people is what makes the national park so spectacular. If you're going to make people, "stay on trail", then you better have a TON of trails to satisfy every curious person out there.

Corr. ID: 665 **Organization:** The Wildland Trekking Company **Comment ID:** 485470
Organization Type: Business
Representative Quote: Additionally, I support expanding the number of backcountry visitors by revamping the quota system and expanding and improving the existing trail system.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55827) All trails shouldn't be built and maintained for stock use; instead stock use should be limited in sensitive areas, such as near the Tuolumne river.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 726 **Organization:** San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) **Comment ID:** 511256 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: We recommend the WSP adopt different levels of trail maintenance depending on the type of use and resource sensitivity, rather than the existing practice of attempting to maintain all wilderness trails to be "stock-ready."

Corr. ID: 726 **Organization:** San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) **Comment ID:** 511257 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: We also recommend limiting the number of trails that can be used by stock, especially in sensitive areas near the Tuolumne River.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55829) Trails in Yosemite are well-managed, maintained, and marked.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 141 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 481391 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I found that the trails and backcountry camp sites were clean and adequate. The trails were fairly well marked.

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486520 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I am not sure if it is possible to do more than is currently being done in terms of routing and maintenance on the overused trails in places such as Lyell Canyon, Rafferty Creek to Vogelsang, and Cathedral Lakes. Maybe a trail expert would disagree, but from my perspective the changes already made over the last 30 years in those and other locations are probably the best one can do.

Corr. ID: 602 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485455 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I applaud Yosemite's consistent efforts to maintain their trails to a high standard. Their dual approach of crews removing downs logs on (most) trails each season combined with lower frequency, higher intensity trail maintenance, means the trail crews succeed in keeping trails easily passable to visitors. Relative to National Forest Service lands and other NPS lands in the Sierra, Yosemite has abandoned very few trails - which I much appreciate, given than many sections of trail receive little use each year.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55830) Map trails with a higher level of accuracy to make better wilderness management decisions, showing where trails intersect wetlands and where trail maintenance has been completed.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485828 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Map all the trails with a GPS that has sub-meter accuracy. Updating the Trails layer in GIS will go a long way towards being able to speak intelligently about what is truly going on in the Wilderness, where trails intersect wetlands, which pieces of trail have been worked on and when, etc.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55831) Communicate trail use and management to visitors in high-use areas, such as Half Dome, Mt. Dana, Cathedral Lakes, and Rafferty boardwalk, with signage and maps in order to reduce impacts to resources.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510598 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: In heavy traffic day use areas like Mt. Dana or Cathedral Lakes, install signage of what you want people to do. If you want them to take a social trail to Upper Cathedral Lake, give them a map. If you want them to follow rock cairns, tell them. If you want them to refrain

from walking on the side of the trail and creating ruts, tell them. If you dont want them to make a fire, tell them. People will not stop trammeling if you dont give them the information.

Corr. ID: 591 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486252 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Could I suggest to make trail signs more visible? I remember that they were made of weathered metal and blended in nicely. I was hiking up to Half Dome. While I was admiring the trail signs for their design, I thought that they were almost impossible to see at dusk or darkness.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489308 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: People are unsure where the proper trails are, i.e. Rafferty boardwalk

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55832) National Park Service trail crews and stock users should be educated on best practices for camping and cooking to mitigate resource impacts. Utilizing smaller, more mobile crews in wilderness should be considered.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 512349 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Although I appreciate trail maintenance as a backpacker, large trail crew camps with their huge tents can be very visually disturbing. Can smaller, more mobile crews be used? This is a great opportunity for the Park Service to interpret to the public by its own actions the true nature of the Wilderness System: human restraint to allow untrammeled natural processes.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485833 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Are Trail Crew campsites documented? All cleared by archy? What about the informal ones (like the one near the Lyell 2013 & 2014 projects)?

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 512359 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: [Trail crews and stock] users have a big impact on the sites where they camp. When was the last time everyone sat down and had a conversation about best practices for trail camps? And inforce that these best practices are actually being followed?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55834) The amount of trails in wilderness should be limited or reduced.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 169 **Organization:** Mr. **Comment ID:** 486504 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Trails are not Wilderness, they are an expedient means of transporting people. Limit or reduce the amount of trails.

WL1010 - Through hiking

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55835) The recent influx of Pacific Crest Trail and John Muir Trail hikers needs to be addressed to mitigate resource impacts and overcrowding in wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 114 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486297 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The huge increase in PCT hikers is not only taxing the wilderness of Yosemite but all of the other wilderness area's as well.

Corr. ID: 450 **Organization:** Outward Bound California, Sierra Mountain Center **Comment ID:** 484548 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: The amount of JMT and PCT hikers that are trampling the JMT and the 200 yards on either side of the trail. These users should be more tightly controlled. They are generally unskilled and un-knowledgeable users who don't realize the damage they're doing and the impact the have on other users of the National Park and Forest.

Corr. ID: 499 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484871 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The recent upsurge in [backcountry] / wilderness hikers due to the book and movie WILD are having a big impact on the JMT and PCT trail census. I have noticed that the JMT near Yosemite is quite busy in July and August and managing trail census is important to prevent the camp sites are not overused.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485487 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: The increasing popularity of through hiking trails like the John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail has further concentrated use in certain, limited areas of the Park.

WL1020 - Use of motorized equipment
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55837) Motorized equipment such as power tools, and mechanized transport such as airplanes and helicopters degrade wilderness character by creating noise pollution and negatively impacting natural resources.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 131 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486322 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: Drones and similar electronic or mechanical devices should be banned

Corr. ID: 216 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483032 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Heavy mechanization creates noise pollution that disrupts the wild animals and the humans seeking refuge from noise and air pollution in wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 216 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487509 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: We who love the wild love quiet in which to hear water run or owls hoot or bears roar- -not machinery or helicopters or loud motors of any kind.

Corr. ID: 273 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487546 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Implement a strong and effective process to monitor actions that degrade wilderness, especially use of motorized equipment.

Corr. ID: 273 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487548 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stop use of helicopters and other motorized equipment in the Wilderness

Corr. ID: 633 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511066 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Protecting wilderness from drones. They should not be allowed.

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485556 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: There should not be a double standard under which NPS tells the public it can't do certain things in Wilderness while doing some of those things itself. I do not really know to what extent this has happened in Yosemite, but I know it has happened in many parts of the NWPS. No helicopters, no power tools, no structures unless there is no feasible alternative AND the purpose of such activity is the preservation of Wilderness itself

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55838) Allow the use of motorized equipment for trail maintenance.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 342 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 483669 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: The existing rules for management of the Wilderness Areas are adequate. I do believe that some sort of "latitude" for clearing downed trees of the trails needs to be addressed. Being limited to cross cut saws for large trees is a bit over kill in my opinion in today's world.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55840) Do not allow mountain bikes in Yosemite Wilderness.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486528 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: It is especially important for a new Stewardship Plan to continue to adhere to the tenets of the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act states, "Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters, unless provided for in specific legislation." Do not permit mountain bikes anywhere in the Yosemite wilderness. No bikes should be permitted anywhere in Yosemite except on paved bike paths and roads.

WL1100 - Human waste management
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55841) In order to reduce the impacts of human waste on wilderness, the NPS should institute a variety of management methods such as education, cat-holing techniques, issuing pack-out waste kits, installing solar composting toilets, and increasing access to self-mulching latrines in the High Sierra Camps and outhouses along the Pacific Crest and John Muir trails.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 3 **Organization:** Humboldt State University **Comment ID:** 484154 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: We need outhouses along the PCT/JMT - simply too many users period, but also too many who don't care enough.

Corr. ID: 39 **Organization:** Mr. **Comment ID:** 479502 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Overcrowding/Overuse. Issue permits for day and overnight use at a fee. Issue packout waste kits through out the parks wilderness

Corr. ID: 87 **Organization:** Self; annual Member of the Grand Canyon Association **Comment ID:** 480028 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The lack of ranger presence and the resulting abuse by visitors to the backcountry. No doubt the challenges of wilderness education, human waste and over use by visitors are daunting. My personal take is it needs to strengthened in some areas (WAG Bag usage and/or TP and cat-holing techniques) and then again, more opportunity to get access.

Corr. ID: 129 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486312 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would also propose the installation of solar composting toilets to minimize the impact of human waste.

Corr. ID: 729 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486484 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: 4. This may already be addressed in the new "Merced River Plan" but if not I suggest placing "self mulching" latrines (like the one at Little Yosemite Valley) at each of the High Sierra Camps. (If not already done so...)

WL1200 - Potential wilderness additions
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55843) The National Park Service should incorporate all potential wilderness additions as wilderness and remove all non-conforming structures and activities.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 131 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486319 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: NPS should endeavor to incorporate all eligible potential wilderness into their management as wilderness.

Corr. ID: 201 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487487 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Please remove those structures and activities which don't conform in potential wilderness areas within the Park, and designate those areas as Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 607 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485445 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Other issues that should be evaluated include the proliferation of nonconforming structures and uses in Wilderness (for example, the use of helicopters and other motorized equipment) and resolution of the potential wilderness- -intended to be temporary- -by the removal of nonconforming structures and uses in the potential wilderness and the designation of those areas as Wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55844) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should clearly address potential wilderness additions. Areas should be evaluated and those that do not conform to the definition of wilderness should not be managed as wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 541 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides' Assoc./International Federation of Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 510449 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: the Central Valley corridor should give up Wilderness designation in order to focus management resources on areas that fall under the criteria

Corr. ID: 572 **Organization:** Yosemite For Everyone **Comment ID:** 510669 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I am strongly opposed to any future wilderness additions to Yosemite National Park, as 94% of the Park is already Wilderness. I understand that lack of use would be a justification for future additions. You have reduced user capacity in Glen Aulin and Merced Lake High Sierra Camps. If the Park Service creates the lack of use, I hope they will not use this to designate the High Sierra Camps as Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 695 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485624 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: It is necessary to adjust for how different zones are managed. Zones that are clearly not "wilderness" should be re-designated if the NPS wants to uphold the definition of wilderness set forth in the wilderness act in true wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 731 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489417 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I have heard that this plan may include wilderness additions. I am interested in how these lands will be evaluated, because we have land inside that definition.

WL1210 - Retention of High Sierra Camps

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55845) The High Sierra Camps should remain as they are without reductions in size or bed numbers. These camps are historically and culturally important, are accessible to visitors with differing physical abilities, and encourage wilderness stewardship.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 4 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510396 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The High Sierra camps offer a wide range of people something no other U.S. national park offers. The environmental impact is small compared to the benefit the camps offer to folks willing to get out of their cars and make a true effort to see the [backcountry]!

Corr. ID: 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484241 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I believe the High Sierra Camps and stock should stay, as they allow and facilitate this education to take place, and enable the wilderness experience for those who are educated but are of advanced age and could otherwise not enjoy spending some nights in the high sierra.

Corr. ID: 45 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 488382 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would like to support continuation of the High Sierra Camps in any plans for the Park future. They are such a historic part of the Park, and by their continued existence and usage remind us of the foresight and effort made to establish the parks long ago. Also, the Camps offer a chance to experience the Park to many who could not otherwise do so.

Corr. ID: 75 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 479963 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value the way the NPS makes the Yosemite wilderness available to a wide variety of individuals with different capabilities and comfort levels. The NPS manages programs and spaces for hardcore backpackers to day car tourists effectively. One of the best tools the NPS has to introduce more park visitors to the wilderness experience without removing them completely from their comfort zone are the High Sierra Camps. These camps provide a totally unique experience that is not available to visitors anywhere else in the US. They are a critical stepping stone to show more visitors Yosemite's [backcountry]that would never otherwise be able to experience it.

Corr. ID: 102 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486280 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I strongly urge you to keep current capacity of the High Sierra Camps. I have tried for years to particpate in the lottery but demand outstrips capacity every year. These are highly popular and extremely valuable venues for wilderness hiking, especially for hikers over 50 who enjoy the tent cabins and meals provided

Corr. ID: 166 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509596 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I want to advocate for the continuation of the High Sierra Camps. I believe they should continue to have their special status as "potential wilderness additions" (or whatever language works), which was given them because they pre-date the wilderness designation. Each camp is part of a long, honorable and unique tradition of wilderness access and education. The traditional presence of ranger-naturalists is a special gift to those few lucky people who get to travel to the Camps.

Corr. ID: 431 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484495 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Each generation of children need to learn to love the wilderness so that its future can be assured. One way that happens is if they can get into the mountains at an early age. I see many families at the High Camps with children too young (or parents too old) to backpack. By providing them the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the wilderness, the High Camps help create the future advocates for the park.

Corr. ID: 669 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485254 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value the tradition of providing interpretive service in the high country through ranger-naturalist led hikes on the High Sierra Loop trail and of the public access to the High Sierra Camps, which allows people of average means and physical abilities to access these unique places of cultural association, education, recreation, reflection and inspiration.

Corr. ID: 669 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511203 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am most concerned that we preserve access to all the High Sierra Camps via the Loop Trail, as a tradition in support of the National Park Service mission and as a place of cultural association, education, recreation, reflection and inspiration.

Corr. ID: 728 **Organization:** Mariposa Mountain Riders **Comment ID:** 486268 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: The High Sierra Camps are another concern. There is no justification for the NPS to reduce their size and capacity as is being done at Merced Lake and Glen Aulin. These camps are historical. They are enclaves and are not part of the Wilderness in Yosemite. They should be retained and embraced as part of our heritage, and are beyond the scope of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

WL1220 - Removal of High Sierra Camps
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55847) The High Sierra Camps should be removed and the locations given wilderness status because they damage natural resources and degrade wilderness characteristics, such as solitude. These camps provide services, such as showers, beds, and hot meals, which are inconsistent with the primitive nature of wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 157 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486389 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I find the presence of the High Sierra Camps to have a significantly negative effect on my wilderness experience. The increased levels of stock use on trails, and the subsequent trail degradation, due to the restocking of these camps interferes with my user experience. There should not be small, isolated pockets of non-wilderness within the Yosemite Wilderness that support "non-conforming uses" such as the High Sierra Camps. Even if the camps were to remain non-wilderness, their impact goes beyond the actual footprint of the camp due to increased human and stock traffic. Wilderness is supposed to offer solitude and a primitive experience where users rely on their own skill set. High Sierra Camps allow users who may not be able to and who do not wish to have a primitive experience to travel through and spend time surrounded by Wilderness without having an actual Wilderness experience. The presence of users who are not also engaged in having a primitive experience significantly reduces the value of my Wilderness experience. Knowing that some of the comforts of non-wilderness are nearby violates my feeling of being deep in the Wilderness. Although the footprint of "nonconforming uses" may comprise a small percent of the acre footprint of Yosemite's Wilderness, it is their location as islands of nonconforming uses surrounded by Wilderness that is problematic. Much of a Wilderness experience is being self-reliant, and having the option to not be self-reliant in an area where I would otherwise HAVE to be self-reliant, greatly diminishes my Wilderness experience.

In referring to the High Sierra Camps, the 1989 Wilderness plan clearly states that "should increased adverse impacts on adjacent wilderness environments result from the operation of existing facilities, they will be removed." I find that increasing popularity and use of Yosemite's Wilderness, including the High Sierra Camps, has increased the adverse impact on adjacent wilderness, primarily through negative impacts of stock use associated with the camps. Additionally, the increasing use of the areas around and between camps by camp users is adversely affecting the solitude that is supposed to be characteristic of Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509774 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The High Sierra Camps must be closed, the structures removed, and the "potential wilderness" donut holes restored to full Wilderness status! These camps are a complete anachronism from the time before modern lightweight equipment made backpacking accessible to nearly all. They concentrate heavy use, trample the land from both humans and pack animals, degrade water quality, and practically shout in your face "human domination and commercialization" deep in the wilderness. What a horrible disruption of wilderness character! These camps don't encourage people to appreciate wilderness on its own terms - instead, they encourage the attitude of human domination which is the antithesis of wilderness! It pains me to see fragile and beautiful high alpine areas such as Fletcher Lake trampled by the hordes of visitors to the Vogelsang HSC, or the tent cities that look like slums at Glen Aulin and Merced Lake HSC.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510557 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Get rid of all of them. This is a legacy use that has long surpassed its life expectancy. They are nothing more than cherry stems in Wilderness creating impacts and associated satellite impacts.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511591 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I also think its sacrilegious to have one at Vogelsang - this is a very sensitive subalpine environment, not to mention how beautiful and remote it could be if this camp were removed.

Corr. ID: 580 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486668 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Furthermore, the commonly held belief that the High Sierra Camps give people who wouldn't otherwise be able to hike the opportunity is patently false. High Sierra Camp users, by nature of the cost of admission, are the richest demographic of visitors in the park. Those folks can afford to find alternatives, such as hiring guided pack outfitters to take them horse packing or to take advantage of hut systems in other wild places. I believe Yosemite should remove all High Sierra Camps and associated campgrounds immediately.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511305 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: When considering the historical value of the camps, Park management should also consider the full scope of the history of the High Sierra Camp system - particularly the opening, closing and relocation of camps throughout the 1900s, with the most recent addition of Sunrise HSC in 1961. There has been historical recognition of their impacts that has led to relocation or closure of camps.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55855) The High Sierra Camps and associated stock use are inconsistent with the Wilderness Act given their impacts on the natural and human environments. Use of the High Sierra Camps should be reserved for persons with disabilities.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 110 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486290 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I do not have first hand experience with the High Sierra Camps, but I do not think their use is compatible with the Wilderness Act. I feel that they should be reserved only for the use of disabled persons, to provide wilderness access to this population. Furthermore, the High

Sierra Camps have recently been a source of plague and hantavirus, which signify that this environment is more closely aligned with a densely populated human environment and not a wilderness environment. By allowing easy access to wilderness locations, the NPS will also have to contend with the rise in garbage and other human overuse that comes with this easy access. Again, this inherently diminishes the value of the wilderness and is not a compatible use.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511283 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: The presence of these islands of non-wilderness within the vast Yosemite Wilderness diminishes many Wilderness values that should be maintained according to the Wilderness Act.

Corr. ID: 702 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510870 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I believe that the High Sierra Camps, together with their provisioning by mules and pack stock, are incompatible with the meaning of wildness in the Yosemite [backcountry].

WL1230 - Management of High Sierra Camps

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55850) Infrastructure such as flush toilets, leech fields, and water lines associated with the High Sierra Camps should be removed. Amenities such as hot showers should be limited and other water saving measures employed when there is water scarcity.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511589 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: at least get rid of all those with flush toilets and leach fields. Leach fields should not be in or near Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485480 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: Should the High Sierra Camps be retained, the temporary water lines and infrastructure associated with Glen Aulin should be removed from the Wilderness. It is unacceptable to allow even a seasonal temporary violation of the Wilderness Act, whether the Park feels it can justify the significance of the impact of the violation or not. It is a known violation of the Wilderness Act. Instead of utilizing a temporary water line when water supplies become limited, amenities like hot showers should no longer be offered and other water saving measures should be implemented that would preclude the need to extend a temporary water line into Wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55852) Several aspects of the High Sierra Camps should be evaluated in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, including potential alternative locations, visitor and employee capacities, available amenities, amount of stock use (both number of stock supply trips and number of stock in each trip) and the resource damage they may be causing. The NPS should evaluate the use of human porters for stocking camps, requiring visitors to bring more of their own supplies, converting the camps into backpacker camps with composting toilets and a camp host, and reducing amenities to better align the High Sierra Camps with wilderness ethics.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 35 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487635 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think the High Sierra Camps are a good idea and should be kept as not everyone has the ability or courage to backpack. However I think the comfort level should be decreased a bit to make it closer to backpacking, e.g. no showers and no flush toilets which would reduce their water use. I would also like to see a change in their reservation system which currently gives preference to last year's visitors making it almost impossible for first-time users to get in. Having trekked in the European Alps where many refuges get supplied by helicopter, I am wondering if that might not be a good alternative for the High Sierra Camps as well instead of mule treks. Yes, it's noisier, but it's also over much more quickly and doesn't leave any traces on the trail.

Corr. ID: 37 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487652 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I am concerned about plans to reduce the number of beds in the High Sierra Camps. Reducing Merced Lake by 18 beds is probably OK as it is very large. But reducing Glen Aulin by 4 beds may adversely affect the High Sierra Loop trip which is a highly successful trip which I have enjoyed in the past.

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486523 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Commercial operations in all of Yosemite need to be reassessed. I'll confine my comments to the Yosemite Wilderness. Since the High Sierra Camps are now a historical tradition and receive heavy use, I doubt there is any chance to permanently close them and remove their structures, despite the desire of many of us backpackers. However, their specific locations, size, and use need to be evaluated. Can the number of overnight visitors be changed? Can the number of employees be changed? Can the number of supply stock trips be cut down? Can the number of stock in each trip be lessened? Can the camps be slightly relocated to mitigate damage to an area? With a new concessionaire, now is the time to study these issues and determine what is actually required versus what is currently being done due to tradition and/or convenience.

Corr. ID: 515 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486438 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I urge you to strike a balance between preservation and recreation. Make cuts that will lessen the environmental impact of the High Sierra camps but please do not eliminate them entirely. For example, while we appreciated the large, hearty breakfasts and three or four-course dinners, we felt minimal offerings would have been more appropriate.

Corr. ID: 619 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511029 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The high camps can be stocked much more conservatively by human porters.

Corr. ID: 626 **Organization:** Lasting Adventures, Inc. **Comment ID:** 485818 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: High Sierra Camps that are located in the wilderness seem to have different rules then those that we all follow when in wilderness. Some examples: they burn trash, have huge campfires, use flotation devices in water, etc. This always offers a chance for a unique discussion when we take our kids groups pass these camps- being that we had already gone over wilderness ethics, protocols, and Leave No Trace with our participants. Personally I feel these high sierra camps should try to abide by wilderness ethics and rules a bit more.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511306 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: Reducing the level of amenities available to visitors at the HSCs is also a management action that should be carefully considered in the Wilderness Plan. Reducing the level of amenities provided in a wilderness environment aligns with Wilderness character, and has the potential to significantly reduce the amount of stock use required to keep the camps open.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511307 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: How much firewood or other supplies does it take to provide hot showers to guests? This is an unnecessary amenity that could be eliminated in order to lessen the need for amenities in some way. Are there generators, or solar panels and batteries that have to be brought in seasonally, or are left behind over the winter? A careful analysis of what can be done to reduce the need for supplies or for pack trains servicing the Camps should be done.

Corr. ID: 699 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511382 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: they should be managed better to include more efficient supplies and healthier options including more organic produce, less waste WITHOUT reducing the numbers of visitors. Visitors could carry their own tea/coffee/water cups, utensils, lunch bags etc. But overall, the Yosemite wilderness is so vast that for people who choose to do so, its easy to hike for days with minimal impact from other people.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489309 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: None of the High Sierra Camps should have flush toilets or septic systems, but rather a sophisticated, solar powered composting system.

Corr. ID: 452 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510009 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I will make no recommendation of my own with regard to the HSC, but would instead refer to The House Committee Report Recommendation attached to the 1984 California Wilderness Act which explicitly determines that "if and when it occurs that the confined operation of these facilities...result in an increased adverse impact on the adjacent wilderness environment...the operation of these facilities will be promptly terminated, the facilities removed, the sites naturalized, and...the areas promptly designated as wilderness.

WL1300 - Accessibility (ADA)
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55856) Stock use for visitors with disabilities is consistent with the American with Disabilities Act, the Architectural Barriers Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Accordingly, the NPS should improve horse facilities and trails for this use.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 275 **Organization:** Disabled Equestrians Organization **Comment ID:** 487552 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I want to remind you that some 30% to 40% of equestrians using these facilities qualify as disabled, and to deny them the right to access Yosemite is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Park Service should instead actively promote the expansion and improvement horse facilities and trails.

Corr. ID: 275 **Organization:** Disabled Equestrians Organization **Comment ID:** 487557 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: To deny disabled equestrians the right to use their horses to access the public trails is a clearly a violation of Federal law and results in discrimination against disabled equestrians.

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485505 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: For visitors that are either aged, mobility impaired, or otherwise unable to venture into park Wilderness on their own, the only opportunity to visit the park's Wilderness may be via horseback or mule.

Corr. ID: 674 **Organization:** Minarets Pack Station **Comment ID:** 485569 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: Do hope that you will consider the many people with handicaps that would not get to experience this treasure without the use of stock.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55857) Expand commercial climbing guiding opportunities to companies that serve clients with disabilities.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 677 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485579 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Yosemite National Park should extent permits to companies who specialize in guiding guests with disabilities. The current plan makes it difficult to find a guide who specializes in guiding persons with disabilities in technical terrain. I believe by expanding the permit system Yosemite could do a better job of creating reasonable accommodation as outlined in the ADA for climbers who have hearing, sight as well as other disabilities and find it difficult to find guide services to accommodate their activities.

WL1400 - Climate change

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55859) Evaluate the impacts of climate change, including extended seasonal use, drought, and an extended fire season on the Yosemite Wilderness ecosystem and incorporate appropriate measures to minimize these impacts.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 137 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 481365 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The most important issue for the NPS is recognising the impact of climate change on the overall ecosystem of Yosemite. Plus balancing the needs of the changing environment and the desire of people to experience the wilderness. People who visit the wilderness gain direct experience of the importance of protecting the environment and then like us they can be some of the most impassioned advocates of protecting the Yosemite wilderness.

Corr. ID: 172 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 482333 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The number one issue, without a doubt: climate change. No idea what needs to be done in Yosemite Wilderness in particular, other than anticipate impacts to the extent possible.

A related issue is the growing number of people drawn to the park: possibly expanding advance permit/reservation system could be appropriate.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55864) Educate visitors on the impacts of climate change on wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 182 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 482886 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think the most important threat to Yosemite Wilderness today is climate change and the Western drought. Forest fires and drought-based disease may possibly change the Wilderness in significant ways. Using the watershed wisely is critical. Perhaps the biggest help the Park Service can do is to use the opportunity of having millions of visitors to educate them to the risks and consequences of global warming.

WL1500 - Wildlife

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55871) Human-bear interactions should be reduced through the use of bear-resistant lockers or by reducing the amount of visitors.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 97 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489635 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The bears are too smart. More bear-resistant lockers may be needed in the wilderness areas for the convenience of the backpackers.

Corr. ID: 405 **Organization:** Hiker **Comment ID:** 484126 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The most important issue is the impact of visitors. My understanding is that bears are destroyed after their first incident with humans. Bears are an integral part of the park experience and by reducing the amount of visitors maybe more bears can be spared.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55872) Nonnative fauna don't belong in wilderness. Further, native species such as the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Sierra bighorn sheep and Yosemite grizzly bear should potentially be reintroduced into wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484242 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe that killing mice and squirrels is not the way to fix our mistakes. Again, education is the key.

Corr. ID: 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484239 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: My main concern is the misuse of the wilderness by uneducated people, and the killing of animals by Park Service.

Corr. ID: 169 **Organization:** Mr. **Comment ID:** 486505 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If restoration of wildlife (ie; Bighorn Sheep) is part of the Yosemite Wilderness management process then the Yosemite Grizzly Bear deserves its place as well.

Corr. ID: 248 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487523 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would like to see more animals introduced back into the wilderness

Corr. ID: 619 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485549 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Non-wild/non-native animals should not be in the national park at all.

Corr. ID: 636 **Organization:** SYMG, PCGI **Comment ID:** 511080 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: I've been delighted watching the hard work of the UC frog teams over the years, and seeing their real progress in the lake basins where their efforts have been concentrated.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55873) Analysis of climate change and visitor use impacts on special status species such as the Sierra Nevada red fox, wolverine, American marten, Sierra bighorn sheep, Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and California red-legged frog and their critical habitats needs to be addressed in the plan. Mitigation measures need to be addressed in the plan to protect critical habitat of at-risk species and NPS needs to identify large areas where exclusion of recreational use can best preserve refugia so that undisturbed habitat areas can serve as preserved ecosystems for at-risk species.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511297 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: It is legally mandated and morally essential that wild species that literally represent wilderness be provided with the greatest possible protection within wilderness. In the case of Yosemite and this Wilderness Plan, CSERC urges that a strong assessment be provided as to the status of the Sierra Nevada red fox, the American marten, the wolverine, the Yosemite toad, the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and any other at-risk species that have potential to be disturbed in their habitat by wilderness visitors. CSERC also asks that there be mitigation measures developed to ensure that wilderness visitors are clearly excluded from, or at least minimized, in critical habitat areas that are important to the Sierra bighorn sheep as well as the at-risk species already listed above.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511294 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: The Sierra Nevada red fox and the wolverine are two furbearers that are so rare in most of their native habitat within Yosemite Park wilderness as to be undetectable through surveys, or in the case of the fox, has only been located in a minute fraction of its historic habitat. Human disturbance of the SNRF is clearly one of the negative impacts to the fox that the Park Service has the ability to actually manage. The Park has no ability to change climate change (which produces drought conditions that allow for coyotes and other competitors or predators to move high into territory most critical for the SNRF). Likewise, climate change and a great reduction of overall depths of snow during the summer season may be critical factors in the apparent decline or extirpation of the wolverine from most or all of Yosemites wilderness.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511301 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: Our Center re-states our strong recommendation that Yosemite Park put itself on the leading edge of wilderness and rare wildlife management by strategically identifying blocks of areas (perhaps blocks as large as 50,000 acres in size) where exclusion of recreational use can best preserve refugia so that these core undisturbed habitat areas can serve as islands of

preserved ecosystems that can help to replenish surrounding areas where at-risk species may periodically be diminished or eliminated due to human activities. We ask that Resource Protection Refugia areas be considered by Park biologists for locations that could best serve the goal of preserving the fullest suite of at-risk species.

Corr. ID: 731 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489402 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Is there going to be a more specific part of the plan that will analyze recreational use and its impact on special status or endangered species? (i.e. sierra Nevada red fox, red legged frog)

WL1510 - Nonnative fish removal
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55875) The NPS should maintain existing populations of nonnative fish in their current locations or relocate them to other bodies of water to preserve recreational fishing opportunities. Examine genetic lineages of fish before implementing proposed management.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484229 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: One thing park service is doing is removing species of non-native fish to bring back some native frogs. Park Service was once very proud of stocking these wilderness lakes with fish, but now they are slaughtering fish to correct their mistakes. I believe they should either leave the fish alone, or move them to other lakes without killing them.

Corr. ID: 109 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486285 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: It is my understanding that the National Park Service has initiated measures to remove trout from certain of the [backcountry] lakes due to their perceived negative impact on an endangered species of frog. This is especially troublesome for those who enjoy trout fishing as part of a backpacking wilderness experience. Is there an existing comprehensive plan identifying those areas where the subject frog is threatened and posing alternative measures for its protection, some of which may not include trout eradication, or is the intent to piecemeal trout eradication on an ad hoc basis as a "simple solution"? I would think it appropriate that the Wilderness Stewardship Plan update address species protection in the context of also preserving recreational trout fishing opportunities.

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509784 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Stop fish stocking in the wilderness - it is totally unnatural. On the other hand, poisoning lakes to remove non-native fish is equally disruptive and we should just let existing populations continue where they are established.

Corr. ID: 694 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485300 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Please don't poison the waters that have fish in them.

Corr. ID: 731 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489436 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: How much will the eradication of fish be considered in the WSP, as well as fish stocking. Are we favoring one strain of genetic lineages over others? I would like to request genetic testing of fish before being eradicated.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55876) NPS should not stock lakes and should remove fish from those lakes that did not historically have fish.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 724 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486382 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stop stocking backcountry lakes and actively remove fish from those that did not historically have fish

WL1520 - Proper food storage

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55878) Before installing bear boxes in wilderness, consider whether they are needed and if bear canisters are an effective alternative.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485560 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I have mixed feelings about the installation of bear boxes in Wilderness. It may be necessary in some locations, but perhaps not others.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489323 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Bear canisters are working. Do not go down the SEKI path and install food lockers all over the wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56024) Bear canister requirements and food storage education efforts have reduced negative encounters between bears and humans. The NPS should require the use of bear-resistant food storage devices for dispersed camping.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485380 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Pg. 19: "To protect bears, ...wilderness users are required to store their food properly by using bear cables, bear poles, ..." This policy should change to require that food and consumptive domestic products be stored only within effective, approved bear resistant devices when the visitor/camper/wilderness user is not within a timely reach of his camp.

Corr. ID: 420 **Organization:** Outward Bound California **Comment ID:** 484352 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: I value its strict regulations on Leave No Trace Ethics, and the amount of land within the park that's designated as wilderness. I also appreciate mandatory Bear Cans.

Corr. ID: 629 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485848 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe NPS has done a great job in handling bear/human encounters. Mandatory use of bear cans along with education of back county and front country users has reduced the non-natural interactions with bears in Yosemite. Bear should be viewed in their natural context not rummaging through backpacks.

WL1600 - Wilderness character

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55939) Management should exercise restraint and let natural processes dictate wilderness character.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 192 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 482921 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: ensure that all alternatives preserve and maintain wilderness character, and require the Park Service to better manage visitor use. Natural processes must be allowed to define the character of the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 607 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485446 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: All alternatives should ensure that the wilderness character and wildness of the Wilderness is maintained and even improved. Improvement of wilderness character would rarely, if ever, be from active restoration activities.

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485565 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Wilderness is what is most valuable about Yosemite National Park, in my view. Wilderness is a place where we - people in general, individual users, and managers - are not in control. We should experience and accept nature on its own terms there. We should exercise restraint always in both use and management and honor Wilderness as it is and as natural processes dictate it will be in the future.

Corr. ID: 709 **Organization:** Wilderness Watch **Comment ID:** 510901 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: Since wild is a fundamental characteristic of wilderness that is not attainable elsewhere, if there is a choice between emphasizing naturalness and wildness, stewards should err on the side of wildness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55941) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should comply with the intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 324 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487659 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Alternatives that meet the intent of the Wilderness Act should be developed and will include the following: (1) reviewing policies about party size, numbers of stock, and backcountry allocations to ensure those policies meet the intent of the Wilderness Act; (2) allowing natural processes to define the character of the wildernesses; (3) having a strong wilderness character monitoring program; (4) banning the use of motorized equipment and permanent structures for wildlife, cultural resource, or scientific purposes; (5) requiring all public uses of wilderness listed in section 4(b) of the Wilderness Act be conducted in a manner consistent with wilderness preservation; (6) ensuring that in the rare instance where exceptions to generally prohibited uses are necessary for management1, that those exceptions be for the singular purpose of preservation of wilderness and that they be the minimum necessary (see Wilderness Act section 4(c));

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485555 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: At the top of my list of issues is to ensure the NPS itself fully respects and follows the letter and spirit of the Wilderness Act.

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485564 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: As you develop alternatives, each one should be consistent with the intent of the Wilderness Act, sustain the wilderness character of the area, and call for improvements in the park's management of all uses allowed under the Wilderness Act.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56786) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should incorporate practices outlined in Keeping It Wild to meet varying levels of wilderness and visitor use needs.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485538 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Keeping It Wild promotes the concept that desired wilderness character should be systematically defined first and then periodically monitored through visitor-use assessments and the implementation of indicators and standards methodology. Accordingly, this Wilderness Plan should develop measures "to determine at what level wilderness character is either enhanced or degraded" by visitor use activities and also define when management actions are necessary to maintain acceptable standards.

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485539 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: A qualitative description of the integrity and character for Yosemite's wilderness, including visitor experiences for activities such as climbing, will help clarify appropriate desired conditions for the many and diverse areas within Yosemite Wilderness. This dynamic management planning process should identify visitor use categories and the settings in which different types of visitor uses-including climbing-are appropriate. As recognized in Keeping It Wild, this process is an inherent aspect of management zoning.

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485540 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: We agree with the strategy in Keeping It Wild (which is not always utilized by NPS wilderness planners) that points to the use of management zones to identify desired conditions for different geographic areas in Yosemite. These zones can be used to manage social and environmental conditions as well as determine, if necessary, the appropriate time and scope for mitigation. Given the diversity of visitor use, wilderness character, and management needs at different locations in Yosemite, planners should consider developing multiple zones for this plan with each designed to preserve wilderness character and accommodate the needs of visitors.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 57071) Cairns and rock art are degrading wilderness character.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 513925 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Cairns and rock art is out of control.

WL1610 - Wilderness character: Untrammeled

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55935) Stock use can adversely impact visitors' opportunities to experience the untrammeled nature of wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485485 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: In addition to affecting other Wilderness users, stock impacts can lead to degradation of many aspects of ones Wilderness experience, such as being untrammeled by man and maintaining a natural condition with ecosystem processes intact.

WL1620 - Wilderness character: Natural

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55974) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should incorporate updated visitor use management practices that prioritize the use of natural processes to define wilderness character.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 33 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 479098 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the park trying to keep a natural habitat.

Corr. ID: 201 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487489 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is critical to ensure that all alternatives preserve and maintain wilderness character, which would require the Park Service to better manage visitor use. Natural processes must be allowed to define the character of the wilderness.

WL1630 - Wilderness character: Undeveloped

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55978) Development, commercial activity, and overuse of the trails, including the High Sierra Camps, adversely affects the wilderness and solitude through crowding, obstructed views, and the development of braided trails.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 580 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486666 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The High Sierra Camps and associated campgrounds are easily the most important issue facing Yosemite Wilderness. With the popularity of Yosemite Wilderness, it can now be argued that commercial services are no longer necessary, in accordance with the letter of the law. Even if they were not a violation of this Wilderness Act provision, the High Sierra Camps are highly divisive. They diminish opportunities for solitude via invasive mule trains and increase numbers beyond the trail quotas, and concentrate use into heavily populated pockets. They diminish the natural quality of meadow systems by creating braided trails and adversely affecting the biodiversity of that fragile environment. They take away from the undeveloped character of wilderness by having permanent structures that dominate viewsheds far and near, that affect the local ecology, and that serve as magnets for the underprepared and underconfident looking for a safety net of infrastructure.

WL1640 - Wilderness character: Solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55981) NPS management maintains and protects solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation within the Yosemite Wilderness. The current quota system helps to protect this quality.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 540 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510444 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I greatly valued the quiet and solitude found in the "[backcountry]" away from the roads.

Corr. ID: 616 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485528 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I think the quota system should stay in place to reduce traffic and protect the wilderness areas. I value the solitude that the quota system protects by reducing
or limiting traffic.

Corr. ID: 699 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485641 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: At the other end, I have always enjoyed distant backpacks including occasional off trail adventures where I can go for days without seeing other people.

Corr. ID: 719 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511072 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value the relatively primitive and unconfined recreational experience associated with current
management of Yosemite Wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55982) Trailhead quotas and zone management need to be better managed to provide more opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 25 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509042 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: For a visitor to feel "wilderness", it's necessary to feel away from civilization; somewhere without crowds of people, somewhere quiet except for the sounds of the natural world, and somewhere that people might find just a little exhilaration in the fear of being "away". All of that is threatened by overuse. When you're reminded that you're still surrounded by people; whether that's from too much stock use on a trail, the loss of silence from the a "bustling" trail, or even signs of significant use in a campground, you're removed from that feeling of wilderness.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485486 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: Given the high levels of visitor use in the park, trailhead quotas and zone management are insufficient for maintaining the solitude definition of Wilderness. Although Yosemite has so many miles of Wilderness to explore, most visitors tend to visit a select group of destinations, often made popular by social media and guidebooks.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55983) NPS needs to protect ecological values in Little Yosemite Valley, Sunrise, and Merced Lake areas while providing opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The High Sierra Camps can coexist with opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 19 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 477642 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value that the high camps are grandfathered into the Yosemite Wilderness. I believe it provides an awesome opportunity for the public who may lack the experience or confidence to backpack on their own to experience a part of Yosemite away from the incessant crowds of Yosemite Valley. I think there is enough acreage in the Yosemite Wilderness and the contiguous wilderness areas of the Sierra to support fifty miles of high camp connectivity while leaving plenty of other exceptional territory for more primitive recreation. I also appreciate the backpacker campgrounds in high volume areas. Again, this is an exception to wilderness principles in that one must give up solitude. However, the ecological damage would be extensive if folks were allowed to camp primitively in the really high traffic areas like Little Yosemite Valley, Sunrise, or Merced Lake. The West and California are growing rapidly and technological improvements are advancing, allowing more comforts in the backcountry, and social media and movies like Wild are glamorizing the backcountry. I think pragmatism in the highest use areas to protect the over resource is more important than choosing the wilderness ethic of solitude only to find that people are taking up their solitude right all over the place.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55986) NPS needs to balance stock uses with providing opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485507 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I value the relatively primitive and unconfined recreational experience associated with current management of Yosemite Wilderness. The unconfined nature of that experience currently affords pack stock users a modest amount of freedom, in the absence of onerous regulations, to travel, camp and graze my pack stock in park Wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55987) Rock climbing is a form of primitive recreation compatible with the solitude and unconfined recreation values of wilderness character.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485535 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: As acknowledged in Keeping It Wild in the National park Service: A User Guide to Integrating Wilderness Character Into Park Planning, Management, and Monitoring (NPS 2014), the NPS recognizes that climbing is a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness, and that "climbing provides sought-after visitor experiences in wilderness and desired conditions for visitor use should be developed and defined in the context of wilderness character." Such desired conditions should be developed considering that, among other things, "climbing is a traditional form of primitive recreation that is appropriate in wilderness and solitude and unconfined recreation qualities of wilderness are sought after by climbers." Climbing also fits NPS's 2006 Management Policy 6.4.3 regarding Wilderness which requires that "recreational uses of wilderness will be of a type and nature that ensures that its use and enjoyment (1) will leave it unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, (2) provides for the protection of the area as wilderness, and (3) provides for the preservation of wilderness character."

WL1650 - Wilderness character: Other features of value

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55928) Naturalized populations of rare and endemic fish species, including the California golden trout and Lahontan cutthroat trout, should be deemed as a special characteristic under the "Other" quality category under the Wilderness Act.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 651 **Organization:** Trout Unlimited **Comment ID:** 485459 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Permanently protecting the outstanding recreational, scenic, and habitat values of the Yosemite Wilderness is vital to ensuring we will continue to enjoy these pursuits in the future. While fish are non-native in much of the wilderness area, stocking is documented to have occurred as early as 1877, 107 years prior to the establishment of Yosemite Wilderness in the 1984 California Wilderness Act. Many of these waters contain naturalized populations of rare and endemic fish species such as California Golden Trout and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and this should be deemed as a special characteristic under the "Other" quality category - one of the five inter-agency determined wilderness character quality categories deserving preservation in the Wilderness Management Plan (i.e., (1) untrammeled, (2) natural, (3) undeveloped, (4) solitude, and (5) other - as identified in the Public Scoping Meeting Powerpoint presented on January 6, 2016).

WL1700 - Interpretation and outreach

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55945) Yosemite should provide more opportunities for education regarding the values of wilderness and the importance of park management to preserve wilderness areas and promote stewardship. Education of park visitors can be improved through increased ranger and volunteer presence; expanded ranger-led interpretive hikes, including short introduction hikes for visitors with no previous wilderness experience; more interactive and visual educational displays, the use of social media, and education for both permit and non-permit wilderness visitors.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484170 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Backcountry LE Rangers and trained volunteers need to be provided to educate and enforce the rules and regulations.

Corr. ID: 124 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486308 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The ranger guided hikes are a unique opportunity to explore and learn. Please expand them.

Corr. ID: 131 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486320 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: NPS should prioritize positive wilderness education to Yosemite users, and publicize/promote some short family-friendly wilderness hikes to allow a broad range of wilderness experience.

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486473 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Emphasize education at the public interface, to help current users understand their own impacts individually as well as cumulatively, as a significant part of the total public impact on resources, emphasizing responsibility to maintain the unspoiled character of

Wilderness for future generations. Use the photographic record and other tools to demonstrate the long term changes that a short term visitor may be unaware of, to stimulate a sense of stewardship.

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486451 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: It seems important to allow users to understand why they are sometimes asked to follow the rules within a wilderness setting, which at times may be restrictive (think camping in L.Y.V.).

Corr. ID: 354 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509661 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: One of the most important aspects of protection and preservation is education. Be sure to include interpretation and education in any and all resolutions.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510586 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Educate visitors about ecological function and the development of multiple trail ruts
with a combination of waterproof displays outside of the visitor center, pamphlets available inside the WC, and improved signage at trailheads where signage already exists. Make more of an effort to make informational materials universal - so that everything is visual and the English language isnt needed to understand.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510582 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Spend more time with folks before you issue permits. I know rangers do the best they can with what little time they have and the masses that are waiting.

Corr. ID: 586 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486695 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The Ranger led hikes not only educate backpackers, but help encourage conservancy.

Corr. ID: 590 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485054 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: As use continues to grow, it is important to enhance public stewardship for the land. The best way to do this is to reshape the culture of outdoor recreation through education.

Corr. ID: 615 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510979 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Also, more wilderness and medically trained experts throughout the park adds to the resources the park has for extending valuable information to visitors, stewardship, helping in the event of emergencies (which the park has only limited resources for), and adding to the overall experience for more users.

Corr. ID: 616 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485531 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: More education to permit/non permit holders on how to protect the wilderness while in the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 628 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 511052 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Visitor impacts to wilderness areas such as the Cathedral Lakes, Little Yosemite Valley, and Half Dome areas strike me as the most urgent area of concern. While overnight visitors to wilderness areas are informed of their potential impacts (such as camping in inappropriate locations, going to the bathroom, staying on designated trails, etc.) and how to minimize these, day hikers often enter wilderness areas with a lack of knowledge of their potential impacts. I feel the best way to address this problem is by having an increased presence of informative and/or re-directing agents in wilderness areas, including both volunteers as well as permitted, professional guides who do are not necessarily employed by the National Park Service or a concessionaire, such as the DNC.

Corr. ID: 629 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485862 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Wilderness managers can help promote use of alternate trails by partnering with administrators of social media sites which focus on Yosemite trails and the JMT. To some extent, new rules have been announced via these sites informally, but there has been no apparent effort to involve these groups in the process. Why not try crowd-sourcing some of these use issues with user groups? The collective knowledge of blog readers can be tapped for new ideas and alternatives. The needs of the user group can be better addressed, and their is the opportunity to promote user buy-in. This is critical to development of wilderness policies that are effective.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55946) Yosemite should provide more education to visitors regarding Leave No Trace principles through expanded ranger-led programs; more interactive and visual educational displays; Leave No Trace certifications for guides; and increased partnerships with user groups and guides to promote education of these principles.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 107 **Organization:** UC Merced **Comment ID:** 509441 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I think that we need to somehow educate visitors more on leave no trace principles, and the importance of keeping the wild animals wild and not feeding them. Yosemite rangers are doing a great job at bear talks at camp grounds, and the signs in the valley about not feeding the animals are great, but I still see a lot of visitors breaking those rules. Maybe we need to get rangers into schools to teach children about the importance of preserving the parks

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510587 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: More campfire demos and interactive exhibits of Leave No Trace ethics.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510579 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Develop a wilderness behavior/LNT ethics video that is in a kiosk where people wait in line for their permit at the Wilderness Centers. REQUIRE PEOPLE TO WATCH THIS VIDEO somehow, either by quizzing them or building a room where you take their ticket and they have to go in there.

Corr. ID: 556 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510616 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Leave No Trace information should be shared with visitors so they are aware of how important it is. Also, how horse manure is nothing but recycled grass, unlike carnivorous animal output.

Corr. ID: 579 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486213 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Safety and Leave No Trace: All AMGA Guides have extensive training in client safety and rescue techniques. To become certified, AMGA Guides are required to obtain Wilderness First Responder, equivalent, or better certification and AMGA believes they should maintain this to operate in Yosemite. All AMGA Guides are introduced to Leave No Trace principals and integrate these principals into their profession. In addition, many AMGA Guides are formally certified in Leave No Trace and AMGA would be supportive if Yosemite chose to make this certification an expectation for guides.

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485515 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Park personnel should work in partnership with Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) to develop a park-wide equine Leave No Trace® (LNT) program that is included in the WSP. BCHC is the sole authorized equine LNT Master Educator trainer for the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region (California). As such, park personnel and the WSP should consider entering into a formal partnership with BCHC for the development of a visitor education and LNT program for equine visitors to Yosemite National Park.

Corr. ID: 629 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485850 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I also believe the Service has made strides in educating users about impacts on the environment and trying to impress upon the need for leave no trace practices. While much work remains, awareness seems to be higher than in years past.

Corr. ID: 688 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485611 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: More education through ranger programs, commercial guiding outfitters and events in Yosemite such as Leave No Trace would benefit the problem sheer numbers of hikers that may not know how to lessen their impact on the wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55947) Providing more education, research and partnership agreements would help reduce conflicts between stock users and hikers/resource managers in the Yosemite Wilderness. Proactive visitor education such as interpretive materials at trailheads could mitigate conflict.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 296 **Organization:** North American Trail Ride Conference **Comment ID:** 483525 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: My opinion is most important issue is the potential for conflict between hikers and occasional visitors to the area with the pack and saddle stock user of the wilderness. Resolution will involve deliberate and consistent education of the various users, both on an individual and collective basis.

Corr. ID: 605 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485429 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I feel education, research, and partnership agreements with volunteer groups is the key to finding and maintaining solutions to the user conflicts and resource management. The NPS needs to have open communication with the user groups so they can come up with alternative ideas to keep horses and pack stock using the Yosemite Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485509 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: In order to reduce the potential for visitor conflict, the WSP should include proactive methods of visitor education, including the use of interpretive materials available at Wilderness trailheads, to convey to hikers and backpackers to expect encounters with parties with pack stock. The WSP also should detail methods by which visitors traveling via foot and with pack stock could enhance communication and work toward minimizing "conflict" between user groups. Changing the expectations of individuals prior to their embarking from the trailhead appears to represent a first step in doing so.

WL1800 - Wildfire management
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55927) NPS should continue controlled burning or promote natural burns in order to mitigate the threat of wildfire.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 9 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484258 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Ironically, the lack of use in some areas of the wilderness promote the destruction of the very untamed forests we admire. When small fires checkerboardeed the landscape large massively destructive fires were less common. The Air Resources Boards and EPA continue to work against themselves by restricting burns so much of the time. They have their mandates perhaps they should be modified. Promotion of natural burns in National Parks and other Lands can facilitate greater air quality in the long run by accelerating the return to smaller more frequent decompositions. Please work toward a greater range of allowed burn days. A wilder idea: Can the use of campfires and not so little trace methods in some areas of the wilderness provide valuable cleaning out of excess brush and woody debris. I picture the used but wild lands the earlier Native Americans presented to so many pioneers of Yosemite history. Would a horse be able to pass through the forest not pressed onto the same trail as all other horses? Some method of camp making between Leave-No-Trace and Native Ways could extend the fire management budgets.

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509764 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Fire management is very enlightened. Letting natural fires burn in the backcountry is great and upholds the wilderness principle.

Corr. ID: 461 **Organization:** American Mountain Guide Association **Comment ID:** 484611 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Fires the past few years have been threatening to the park and visitors, so I feel thinning the forest and the fire management plan is one of the most important issues facing Yosemite Wilderness. Fires were suppressed for so long that the amount of fuel on the valley floor could cause a catastrophic event. More controlled burning (like I whitnessed October 2015) should continue to be a focus.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510609 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Putting fires out in Wilderness is dumb. Especially with all of the relevant science indicating so for the last 30 years. If a fire is a lightning ignition, yes, consider whether you can handle it with regard to other fires going on in the park. But avoid, at all costs, putting impacts into the wilderness that are fire-fighter related. Smoke or traffic on Tioga or Wawona Road does NOT constitute putting out a natural fire. I like that the Fire Management Team is making concerted efforts to draw large boxes around these ignitions

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56027) Visitor experience and wilderness character are affected by increased fuel loads and smoke from fires. Mitigation should include more education on the role of fire in wilderness and increased funding for managing fuel loads.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 8 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484321 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: So fire and fuel load management is a huge concern for wilderness areas and the users.

Corr. ID: 8 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484315 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: My secondary concern, and this is a big one, is the impact of smoke from fires. It has gotten so bad that I may not be able to work summers at VVR any more. It's taken me months to get over a respiratory infection I got in August. So many hikers had to leave the trail, a trip of a lifetime, due to this impact.
I hiked the Lost Coast Trail in October. Then did a shorter trip in Redwood NP. I asked the ranger who issued our permit about any impact they may have seen due to the fires in the Sierra pushing hikers to the coast. It was substantial.

Corr. ID: 80 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 479997 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Wildfire is a major issue, and education and increased funding seem like two important avenues for working on this issue.

WL1900 - Camping

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55954) Review campsite policies to address overuse conditions (e.g., party size and fires). Encourage camping in lower-use areas. Designate campsites in high use areas including Sunrise Creek, Glen Aulin, Lyell Canyon, Grand Canyon of Tuolumne, and Sunrise Lakes, and enforce this designation initially by stationing rangers in these areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486519 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Also, backcountry travelers should be encouraged to camp away from the overused campsite areas of the backcountry. I say "encouraged" both because that is all the NPS can do in this situation and also because backpackers will often discover a place a quarter or half mile away from an overused and populated camping area that is just as or more beautiful while enjoying solitude. I can testify to this because my family and I have been finding and appreciating such campsites for many years.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485808 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Designate campsites in high use areas including Sunrise Creek, Glen Aulin, Lyell Canyon (at least at the Ireland junction and towards Tuolumne), Grand Canyon of Tuolumne, Sunrise Lakes, etc. Enforce this designation at least initially by stationing rangers in these areas. In Lyell this designation would eliminate the I-thought-I-had-hiked-4-miles-in-whoops problem. It would also help with the sound problem I mention in the section below.

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485559 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Overuse in places. I generally do not believe that use by people is a big problem in Yosemite Wilderness. But clearly it is having undesirable impacts in specific locations. Some designated campgrounds are basically stripped of vegetation (e.g., Merced) and there are instances of multiple parallel trails in meadows as well as social trails at popular destinations. I would like to see a review of policies regarding designated campsites, use of fires, party size, and backcountry allocations so as to minimize such problems.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55956) The NPS should better clarify restrictions on campsite locations and eliminate uncertainties by providing clearer direction (e.g., use of maps to visually show restrictions) and considering overnight camping that doesn't increase camping levels. The NPS should also review designated campsites, use of campfires, party size, and backcountry allocations to minimize impacts.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485824 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Clarify whether we mean you cant camp 4 AIR miles from Tuolumne or 4 TRAIL miles. Same goes for roads, which I think everyone understands to be 1 air mile. Stare these grey areas in the face, make distinctions, and put them spatially on a map that we can share with the public and Trails Illustrated. Protection can not enforce grey areas and I can not do effective spatial analysis without these camping, no camping, no fires, etc zones described.

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 511000 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: we also urge YNP to consider overnight camping/bivouacs that do not increase current camping levels

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55957) NPS should address the impacts of campfires by eliminating campfires entirely, eliminating campfires in certain areas such as the top of El Capitan, or by limiting areas open to campfires by raising the topographic elevation level open to fires.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 10 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484335 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value an alpine and subalpine environment that does not contain the blackening of soils caused by charcoal remains of human fire pits, and broken limbs and trees and partially burned krumholtz. Lower the topographic height for excluding fires and firewood use to 9400 feet, and institute a regulation to prohibit fires in specific areas and around lakes that have limited deadwood production. Today's lightweight stoves can provide all the cooking needed in these areas.

Corr. ID: 131 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486318 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: NPS should consider banning all campfires in wilderness They are not necessary for cooking, cause air pollution, increase wildfire risk, and damage the natural resource through fire rings.

Corr. ID: 176 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486534 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The 9,600 foot campfire limitation should be lowered significantly. There are way too many campfire rings in the wilderness and more are added every season. Campfires are just too damaging.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485815 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Eliminate fires on top of El Cap. There is no wood to burn up there until you get a ways off the top of that rock and back into the forest.

Corr. ID: 724 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511151 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Ban all fires. This is our preferred alternative.

WL2000 - Stock use and users
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 57477) Users valued the opportunity to explore the Yosemite Wilderness through the use of stock.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484234 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Another issue at hand is the use of stock in the wilderness. Mules and horses are used by packers to take supplies to the High Sierra Camps, and to lead trips through the High Sierra, many times for people who otherwise could not be on the trails due to physical impairments or old age. The stock have an obvious impact on the trails, but you never see them off of the trails, nor have I personally ever seen them grazing in meadows or feeding on native plants. The cowboys and packers do an excellent job of keeping the stock fed at the stables and at the corrals. I do not think stock should be limited any more than they are now, they pose no real threat to the environment and add a lot of personality to the high sierra, as well as giving the High Sierra Camps the opportunity to operate, which in turn gives many visitors the opportunity of exploring and experiencing parts of the Yosemite wilderness that they would otherwise not see.

Corr. ID: 48 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 479548 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The park is managed like it should be...in a manner that it is owned by the people. We treasure our freedom to find the heart of our countries most beautiful wilderness and get to enjoy the best of the United States. Most importantly to myself and thousands of others is the opportunity to take our horses into the wilderness and camp as our ancestors have for hundreds of years. The preservation of that use is of the utmost [importance] to me and many others.

Corr. ID: 517 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486440 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I have always enjoyed sharing the trails with livestock and think it adds a wonderful dimension to the wilderness experience, especially because of the historic link it represents.

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485504 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I value the long-established tradition of use of pack and saddle stock in Yosemite National Park and throughout the West, and I wish to see this important historical use carried on into the future.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55961) Continue to allow managed access to Yosemite Wilderness via stock use. Stock use provides for accessibility for all trail users, including the elderly and disabled. If stock use is restricted, data should be provided to support this decision.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 325 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509528 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Please take disability into account when considering rules regarding horse use in the Park.

Corr. ID: 335 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 509562 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Accessibility for all type of trail users needs to be preserved, and a vocal minority of users should not have the right to demand that other type of recreational users give up their right to experience the National Parks in a way that may be their only option.

Corr. ID: 439 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509975 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Issue permits, check our gear. But please don't ban equines from the park.

Corr. ID: 500 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484872 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value the long-established tradition of use of pack and saddle stock in Yosemite National Park and throughout the West, and I wish to see this important historical use carried on into the future. Seeing Yosemite on horseback is an experience that cannot be replicated by other means. For visitors that are either aged, mobility impaired, or otherwise unable to venture into park Wilderness on their own, the only opportunity to visit the park's Wilderness may be via horseback or mule.

Corr. ID: 517 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486441 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I hope all levels of stock use in Yosemite's wilderness will continue: private, commercial and administrative.

Corr. ID: 517 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486443 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would like to see more day use of stock, not less.

Corr. ID: 556 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485851 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would love to be able to trailer my horse to the Yosemite Wilderness area and park at a trailhead. Riding my horse in beautiful country is my idea of a vacation and a place to camp would be delightful!

Please allow horses and mules, donkeys and llamas, etc., to use this beautiful place. I am sure that all visitors can work together for the good of the Yosemite Wilderness. It is definitely worth it.

Corr. ID: 574 **Organization:** BCHC **Comment ID:** 485885 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I hope that Yosemite will figure out a way to continue to allow horses, mules and packers use the park. Not everyone was born to be a mountaineer. Mules are a great form of transportation and clearly the reason the high camps are so popular. I would hate to see the high camps close because livestock was no longer allowed in the wilderness area.

Corr. ID: 583 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486228 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: to enable interested visitors access to the backcountry, especially more mature visitors like myself, mule packers offer a valuable and much appreciated service. I would like very much for this to continue.

Corr. ID: 616 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485529 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Continue to let stock trip into wilderness. This is especially more important as we all age. Stock trips let us old guys get into these areas without a backpack.

Corr. ID: 658 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 511162 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Thus, it appears to us that any WSP alternative that includes proposals to either significantly reduce available trail miles, impose broad camping restrictions, or otherwise restrict pack stock use would be unwarranted and unjustifiable. We therefore request that the WSP refrain from proposing alternatives that substantially limit or restrict the use of pack stock in the absence of verifiable data to demonstrate that park Wilderness is experiencing overuse or unacceptable impacts as a result of pack stock use.

Corr. ID: 681 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485601 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I believe that it is important to maintain Western traidition and practice of using and packing horses and mules in a responsible manner,including using them on public lands. Being able to ride and pack into National Parks such as Yosemite, is indeed a pleasure, and argueably a right as an American citizen.

Corr. ID: 704 **Organization:** Mid Valley Unit, Backcountry Horsemen of California **Comment ID:** 510895 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: It is our opinion that the wording used in the 1989 Wilderness Stewardship Plan under the heading "Wilderness Stock Use" on pages 22 and 23 has been a successful and satisfactory guide for the Park administration on dealing with stock use in the Park. We feel these guidelines should remain as they currently exist and no additional restrictions are needed.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55962) Recreational stock use has cultural significance in American history and should be allowed to continue.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 283 **Organization:** BCH **Comment ID:** 487559 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Stock use is historical in the wilderness and should be continued for generations to come.

Corr. ID: 605 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485428 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: We like the way the NPS allows the use of stock in the wilderness for recreation and trail maintenance. Mules and horses have been used from day one and we feel that there can be a plan that accommodates all users, including horses and pack stock.

Corr. ID: 658 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 511147 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: The use of pack stock has played an important role in American culture. There is a long tradition of using pack and saddle stock not only in Yosemite National Park but throughout the West.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55964) Stock use is a primitive, nonmechanized mode of travel that is consistent with the Wilderness Act.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 658 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 511148 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Todays horsemen and women relish this cultural heritage and readily embrace the responsibility and obligation to care for our parks and public lands through application of traditional methods and a primitive mode of travel.

Corr. ID: 700 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485651 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: We would also like to see the continuation of stock use within the wilderness areas. Using stock is an acceptable method of travel under the Wilderness Act and the use of stock has a long history in Yosemite. For us, encountering stock on a trail has never "decreased" the value of our wilderness experience, and many times has increased our experience by providing an look "into the past." Similar to our comments about the High Sierra Camps, we support administrative, commercial and recreational use of stock in the Yosemite Wilderness, with management directed at the specific impacts of stock.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55967) Stock use degrades the wilderness and non-stock users' wilderness experiences by damaging trails, meadows and sensitive plants; increasing dust; and by introducing waste manure that pollutes trails and streams. As a result, stock use should be highly regulated, reduced or eliminated.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484165 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I support a study of the use of stock in the wilderness to mitigate damage, though I am not opposed to limited stock use where appropriate.

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485542 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: The Wilderness Plan should include guidelines for stock use that will minimize and mitigate impacts from stock use to natural resources, and avoid impacts on or conflicts with other wilderness users. Such impacts include but are not limited to excessive dust, trail erosion and fecal matter along multiple-use trails.

Corr. ID: 18 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487570 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The wilderness ethic of leave no trace should eliminate the use of anything that causes permanent damage, this includes horses and the High Sierra Camps. In my experience horses cause more damage than mountain bikes and I agree that mountain bikes have no place in wilderness.

Corr. ID: 49 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509077 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I feel that pack travel with stock animals is an unnecessary stress on the wilderness environment. As a hiker, the impact is very apparent. Trails trampled to dust, trailside vegetation munched by the pack animals, large amounts of animal waste that pollutes trails, streams, rivers, and bodies of water.

Corr. ID: 400 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486833 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: I am part of the Sierra Club Mule Pack Section. Our trips use mules that go in and out on the same day. I am concerned about the environmental impact of stock that stays in the wilderness for multiple days at a time.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511292 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: For non-stock Wilderness users, impacts from stock use can be particularly disruptive. Trails become dusty and covered in piles of manure that attract clouds of flies (through which, hot, out of breath hikers must pass).. Having to yield to pack trains on the trail can also be an undesirable experience. Trail degradation that would not otherwise occur diminishes users experience, and even the restoration work done to repair such damage can impede upon ones Wilderness visit. Stock use serves a small segment of Wilderness users but stock use negatively affects the entire suite of Wilderness users.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485500 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: Stock Use and Capacity

Separate from the topic of commercial use, the question of how much stock use to allow is important in the fragile, sensitive conditions of Yosemites wilderness areas. In particular, the upper elevation stringer meadows, riparian areas, and even some larger meadows are vulnerable to the combination of recreational visitor use and stock use. CSERC strongly urges that the proposed preferred alternative limit stock use solely to areas that are evaluated to be healthy and not at risk from stock use. No matter where stock use is allowed, CSERC urges that very strict limits ensure that resources, especially water quality and sensitive plants, be fully protected.

Corr. ID: 724 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511215 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Except for #2 and #3 below, ban all pack and riding stock, including trips that start outside the park.

Corr. ID: 131 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486316 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: The overall impact of stock use must be examined to determine how the its impacts on the natural resources can be reduced or eliminated. Stock use in certain fragile areas, such as high elevation meadows, should be prohibited. Stock users should be required to take measures to reduce manure on trails and at campsites.

Corr. ID: 724 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511209 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Except for those who have bona fide mobility needs (see below), there is no reason to continue to allow the use of pack stock in the backcountry.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55968) The following stock use guidelines to minimize the impacts of trail degradation, stock campsite degradation, and manure on trails should be incorporated into the Wilderness Stewardship Plan:

- Create well-built trails intended for stock use that will degrade less easily;
- Require stock to use manure bags;
- Reroute trails;
- Harden trail surfaces to prevent dust and degradation;
- Use portable electric fences;
- Use lamas instead of horses or mules;
- Designate parking and stock use campsites separate from non-stock users;
- Limit stock use to main trails and tributaries of the John Muir Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, Glacier Point and the southern boundary area, and Red Peak Pass trail;
- Restrict off-trail stock use;
- Institute meadow opening and closing dates;
- Develop partnerships for trail maintenance;
- Provide education on Leave No Trace and stock use guidelines to reduce visitor conflict with non-stock users;
- Create more front country accommodations for wilderness stock users; and
- Institute a reservation system.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486526 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Stock travel should be limited to particular trails with as little as possible off-trail travel. Stock travel should be limited to the John Muir Trail and its main tributaries, the Pacific Crest Trail and its main tributaries, and, from Glacier Point and the southern boundary area, the Red Peak Pass Trail and its main tributaries.

Corr. ID: 283 **Organization:** BCH **Comment ID:** 509092 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Therefore, I suggest enlisting the help of partners in routine trail maintenance. For instance a formal partnership with Back Country Horsemen and its partner the Pacific Crest Trail Association may be beneficial.

Corr. ID: 285 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of Utah **Comment ID:** 509139 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Encouraging horse groups to assist with maintenance and letting people know they are doing this (signs on kiosks, etc.) creates a sense of personal 'ownership' and shared responsibility (and peer pressure!).

Corr. ID: 313 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 487629 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Building and maintaining trails to the highest user standard is the most efficient and cost less long term. If a trail is not maintained to stock standards, it can be degraded much faster and become difficult for all users. A good trail is easier to maintain and provides rapid access for emergency and fire crews. It also makes a better fire break. It is more enjoyable for users.

Corr. ID: 363 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico-Santa Fe **Comment ID:** 487062 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Regarding accommodations for private horsemen, adequate trailer parking is a must. Suggest working with BCHC members to design these areas, which should include bathroom facilities and adequate space to highline or corral horses overnight, campfire rings or grates, and potable water for campers and stock.

Corr. ID: 419 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America (NW Chapter) **Comment ID:** 486910 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Access to the Yosemite Wilderness at present by private horsemen is very difficult. The WSP should consider, and make efforts to accommodate, the logistical needs of pack stock users who do not enter park Wilderness via adjacent national forests or private land. For example, the WSP should address the need for adequate trailer parking at park trailheads and front country camping areas for person who haul their own horses and mules.

Corr. ID: 429 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 509940 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: I like to see the Tuolumne Meadow mule pack station continues doing the "spot trip" service for hikers, private or organized.

Corr. ID: 502 **Organization:** AERC **Comment ID:** 486386 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Give equestrians separate camping and day site locations!

Corr. ID: 506 **Organization:** Panhandle Back Country Horsemen **Comment ID:** 510404 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: In this regard we propose/support that stock use not be regulated out of existence but a cooperative effort of education, permits and enforcement be included in the Plan to allow continued use of the compatible areas in the Park.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510576 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Define stock camps and their boundaries. Yes, this will involve you setting up posts or stakes and trammeling a touch. Require reservation of these sites so as to better track who is using which one. I know things are unpredictable, so perhaps you could have a reservation system where you pick a day but you can end up their either the day before or the day after. Enforce these reservations.

Corr. ID: 564 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510637 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I've seen a lot of packer campsites, not just in Yosemite, but throughout the Sierra. Some are kept very clean; others are not. In some places (e.g.Davis Lakes, the worst I can remember at present!), I've seen manure all over as well as piled up. I don't want to just blame the packers, although in some instances some of them get careless. But there should be some way to clean up the sites- -require the packers using them to do it- -or else limit access to the most heavily visited areas to mitigate the accumulation of filth.

Corr. ID: 572 **Organization:** Yosemite For Everyone **Comment ID:** 510672 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Yosemite belongs to all of us, and stock users are more than willing to share the trails with hikers. Reducing stock use will not solve this problem. Visitor education on proper trail etiquette and safety around stock, including the use of interpretive materials at Wilderness trailheads would be more useful to solve these conflicts.

Corr. ID: 658 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 511191 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: The WSP should consider, and make efforts to accommodate, the logistical needs of pack stock users who do not enter park Wilderness via adjacent national forests or private land. For example, the WSP should address the need for adequate trailer parking at park trailheads and front country camping areas for person who haul their own horses and mules. The WSP should also include a discussion of the current availability of, or the need or demand for, additional infrastructure to support camping with pack stock in the Parks front country areas. Such a need can be implied from recent recreational use projections documented by the U.S. Forest Service.

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485558 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Impact of stock. Horses and mules have impacts on trails and areas where they are kept. Please evaluate ways to reduce this impact. And not just direct impacts. For example, many recently rebuilt trails seemed to be designed with stock use in mind: steps often are high for humans on foot.

Corr. ID: 681 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485593 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: In areas of known or documented stock-related resource damage, the WSP should consider alternatives beyond simply limiting pack stock use. Such alternatives could include reroutes of trails, hardening of trail surfaces, separation of designated camping areas, and the use of portable electrical fencing or other means to contain pack stock in open meadows.
Proposed regulations should meet scientific rigor and necessity. The WSP must cite current peer-reviewed studies, and those studies must be made readily accessible for public review, if science is used to justify proposed limits upon trail use, overnight camping, or open meadow grazing.

Corr. ID: 688 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485617 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: For stock use I believe it is important to find ways to reduce the amount of hiker/rider conflicts that have surfaced such as mule/horse manure on the trails and limit camping away from stock camps. Maybe creating stock only campsites away from hiker campsites could help the problem.

Corr. ID: 726 **Organization:** San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) **Comment ID:** 511259 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: We recommend the WSP adopt a rigorous management and monitoring framework for stock use that includes programmatic and sitespecific guidance related to the location, timing, and amount of stock use. The stock use management framework should include meadow opening and closing dates, and maximum numbers of stock at any one time and for the season.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489310 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Use of Llamas over stock, mules.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489311 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Require leave no trace training for all backcountry users, especially to try to mitigate traces of stock in wilderness.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489315 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Pack and stock animals should be required to wear poop bags to minimize waste on trail.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55970) Stock use is incompatible with the Wilderness Act and Leave No Trace principles.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 110 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486288 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I also do not feel that the quantity of stock manure on the trails is compatible with the Wilderness Act - it is unsightly, smelly and polluting. The copious amounts of manure on the trail likely cause many backcountry users to see a conflict between the Leave No Trace principles that human visitors are required to follow and the lack of regulation on stock manure covering the trails, some of which cross or parallel creeks, rivers and lakes.

Corr. ID: 157 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486392 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would like to see levels of commercial and pack stock uses decline, and definitely not increase. Encountering pack stock is always a negative experience that does not align with my vision of Wilderness. I do not view pack stock as a primitive use that is appropriate in Wilderness, so having to yield to long pack stock trains greatly diminishes my experience. Additionally, I disagree with the amount of trail damage they cause. It affects me negatively when I am hiking on a trail that has very loose soil due to pack stock use, and is dotted with piles of manure that attract flies and significantly interfere with my feeling of natural, untrammeled wilderness. While

I am encouraged to leave no trace and required to properly dispose of my waste, pack stock waste remains in a place many users are sure to encounter it. Those with allergies are particularly vulnerable to the dust from both the trail and old manure. There also seems to be a high amount of overlap between trails that get heavy stock use and heavy visitor use.

Corr. ID: 619 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485550 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The use of pack animals for commercial ventures and grazing stock in land that has been designated as wilderness is antithetical to true wilderness land-use values.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 57488) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should include different proposed management for private stock users and commercial pack stock outfitters.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 681 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485595 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Science applied in the WSP must discern between the effects of pack stock use by private users versus the effects of parties using commercial pack stock outfitters versus the park's own administrative use of pack stock. In the absence of such science, the WSP should not seek to disproportionately burden private stock users, who comprise a small percentage of overnight Wilderness visitation.

WL2010 - Private stock use or users

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55993) NPS should maintain or improve access for private stock users. To do this, the NPS should provide adequate trailer parking near trail heads, allow for front-country camping for wilderness users, allow stock use along the Pacific Crest Trail, and partner with experienced equestrian groups. Stock use is an historical and primitive type of recreation that should continue.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 297 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509213 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The elimination of independent riders in moderate numbers (10 heart beat rule in Rocky Mountain National Park) should be considered as an affront to the historical usage of our public lands.

Corr. ID: 572 **Organization:** Yosemite For Everyone **Comment ID:** 510666 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I also value the relatively primitive and unconfined recreational experience I can have with my horse with very little regulatory constraint and administrative intervention. I am happy that the Park Service is taking a serious look at stock use in the future of Yosemite, and hope that they will consider partnering with other organizations that have extensive knowledge on how to use our public lands without damaging them.

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485513 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Access to the Yosemite Wilderness at present by private horsemen is very difficult. The WSP should consider, and make efforts to accommodate, the logistical needs of pack stock users who do not enter park Wilderness via adjacent national forests or private land. For

example, the WSP should address the need for adequate trailer parking at park trailheads and front country camping areas for person who haul their own horses and mules.

Corr. ID: 681 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485598 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Access to the Yosemite Wilderness at present by private horsemen is very difficult. The WSP should consider, and make efforts to accommodate, the logistical needs of pack stock users who do not enter park Wilderness via adjacent national forests or private land. For example, the WSP should address the need for adequate trailer parking at park trailheads and front country camping areas for person who haul their own horses and mules.

Corr. ID: 703 **Organization:** Co-Chairman, Public Lands Committee of the High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of Californi **Comment ID:** 510874 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: It seems that Yosemite will do what it has to do in the forthcoming Wilderness Stewardship Plan to protect Yosemite's administrative use of stock. However, Yosemite should also focus on protecting the rights of private stock users to utilize the wilderness areas of Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 703 **Organization:** Co-Chairman, Public Lands Committee of the High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of Californi **Comment ID:** 510876 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: We urge Yosemite to take the same step and establish horse facilities outside of Yosemite wilderness areas that will make access to Yosemite's wilderness areas possible for private stock users.

Corr. ID: 718 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511064 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I am writing to express my hopes that the Park Service will continue to allow private equestrian usage of Yosemite National Park.

Corr. ID: 727 **Organization:** Pacific Crest Trail Association **Comment ID:** 511291 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: It is important that the opportunity for the private recreational stock user to experience Yosemite's backcountry via the PCT remain viable.

WL2020 - Commercial stock use or users
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55989) Commercial stock use is unnecessary in Yosemite since there are other commercial stock services in close proximity to the park.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485495 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: Given the abundance of commercial pack services available to access surrounding National Forest Wilderness in the Sierra Nevada, it is increasingly difficult to consider commercial pack trips in Yosemites Wilderness as an essential service that is not available within a reasonable distance outside the park.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55992) Negative impacts from commercial pack trains need to be addressed. Areas experiencing these impacts include Virginia Canyon, lower Spiller Canyon, and the High Sierra Camps, including Glen Aulin.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 **Organization:** Humboldt State University **Comment ID:** 484151 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: Also, commercial stock use in Virginia Canyon is highly destructive (and I see them in lower Spiller Canyon too, against their permit).

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511284 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The reduction of stock use as a result of the TRP was only 20%, 3% less than the FEIS stated. Further steps need to be taken to reduce stock use associated with the HSCs, including Glen Aulin

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55994) Commercial stock use should continue but with limits that avoid degradation of wilderness character. Specific limits proposed include: designating opening dates, grazing levels, and trail use quotas as deemed necessary; allowing for high-lined camping and bringing feed into areas where grazing is restricted; allowing private outfitters to use the established corrals at High Sierra Camps and ranger stations; and designating stock camps in high-use areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 494 **Organization:** Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 486822 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We at SYMG take great care on all of our trips to follow stated regulations for all aspects of wilderness protection. We are in favor of site-specific regulations to protect the wilderness resource and we trust in the research-based management strategies deemed necessary by the park managers. We are in favor of:

1. Designating opening dates, grazing levels, and trail use quotas as deemed necessary.
2. Allowing for high-lined camping and bringing feed into areas where grazing is restricted. This allows for managed use in areas while still allowing for long-distance travel within the park.
3. Allowing private outfitters to use the established corrals at High Camps and ranger stations. This will minimize meadow use and drive stock use to "non-wilderness" areas.
4. Designating stock camps in high-use areas. This will help alleviate the concerns of non-stock users who may want to camp away from stock. These stock camps can be listed on permit literature so other users know to avoid those camps. This could be particularly useful in Lyell Canyon. I would expect that designated stock camping/grazing areas would have similar scenic value as other non-grazing sites within the immediate area.

It is important to take a wide-view when planning stock-use regulations, focusing on the practicalities of actually executing a trip. For instance, items #2 & #3 not only allow for protection of the wilderness resource, but also allow for through-travel in sensitive areas that connect other portions of the park, which is necessary for long-distance travel through remote wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485490 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Some level of commercial use is acceptable within Wilderness because it legitimately facilitates visitor experiences and access to public lands for public lands users. However, this use should be minimal and not conflict with other important aspects of Wilderness character.

WL2030 - Administrative stock use or users

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55977) The NPS should reduce or eliminate administrative stock use by scientific researchers and the mounted patrol and encourage travel by foot in order to protect natural resources.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 123 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486306 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: For many years I have been concerned about the degradation of the trail system caused by equine usage. While I support the need to utilize equine services for trail work, I do not believe the mounted patrol needs to continue. Rangers on foot have better opportunity to "connect" with park visitors. We must realize the environmental degradation caused by equine service and phase them out. The cost to an overused park is too severe.

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486527 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The NPS should limit its stock travel as much as feasibly possible while still maintaining its proper stewardship role. Instead of using stock to patrol, the NPS should hire more backcountry rangers. Scientific researchers should travel by foot as much as possible.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510571 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Scale down admin use of stock even more if possible. Other crews could help with cross-cut log out early season, thereby providing more work for more people and eliminating some stock use.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510566 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Pair down Trail Camp use of pack strings. One string to pack in supplies, one mid-project, and one at the end of the season. Have Trail Crew and cooks carry in their own food.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55980) Administrative stock use should be utilized in lieu of helicopters for trail maintenance, but should only be used under very limited circumstances in accordance with the "Keeping It Wild" management philosophy. Other acceptable stock use includes: providing wilderness access to disabled persons; providing resupply services to nonprofit educational organizations that have a mission to bring wilderness access to disadvantaged and under-served populations; and for transporting equipment for NPS trail maintenance/repairs that would not be practical to transport by human means.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 110 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486289 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I recommend scaling back stock use significantly for only very specific circumstances:

1) For providing wilderness access to disabled persons, 2) For providing resupply services to nonprofit educational organizations that have a mission to bring wilderness access to disadvantaged and underserved populations, and 3) for transporting equipment for NPS trail maintenance/repairs that would not be practical to transport by human means.

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485506 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I place great value in the use of pack stock as a management tool that enables federal land management agencies to maintain and enhance wilderness character. For example, use of pack stock, a primitive mode of travel, in lieu of the use of helicopters for routine maintenance in Wilderness is one means by which the Park Service can maintain historic uses and achieve greater alignment with the agency's recently-adopted "Keeping it Wild" management philosophy.

WL2100 - Soundscapes
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55972) Noise from visitors in over-crowded areas, motorcycles, commercial and military aircraft, trash collection, lumber removal and "The Green Dragon" degrade wilderness character and need to be addressed.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485546 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: The Wilderness Plan should also propose actions to address noise impacts affecting wilderness character, including sources from motorcycles, aircraft, garbage collection, woodcutting, and "The Green Dragon" and other tourist vehicles.

Corr. ID: 699 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 514012 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Aircraft noise pollution. Its easy to escape most sounds and sights of humans in a matter of a short hike into the Yosemite wilderness with one exception. Aircraft are the one bit of human intervention which constantly reminds us that we are never truly free of human impact. Commercial air liners produce regular sounds and contrails albeit relatively minor compared with the military jets which produce appalling thundering roars which shatter the solitude of a clear summer day. Its become impossible to quietly sit for a matter of ten minutes in the wilderness without hearing the sound of aircraft. Why must airplanes fly over our wilderness where they greatly impact the experiences of visitors and the wildlife?

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489317 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Is there any way to get rid of the Air Force fighter jets, commercial, and contrails?

WL2200 - Installations/development
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55897) All nonconforming structures and uses (including those for research and administrative) should be removed from wilderness and potential wilderness areas. No new structures or uses should be allowed in wilderness or potential wilderness areas.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485562 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Nonconforming structures. Other than the HS Camps, any existing non-conforming structures should be removed and no new structures should be allowed, including for research and resource management.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55926) Continue operating Ostrander Ski Hut as a winter backcountry ski hut.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 733 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 493291 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I urge you to continue operating Ostrander Ski Hut as a winter, backcountry, ski hut beyond 2017, when the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that governs hut operation expires. I first skied to the Hut about 30 years ago, when I was in my late 20's. In January, I made my most recent trip and it was still a fantastic experience. Ostrander Hut adds to the diversity of your park by providing a unique opportunity for skiers and snowshoers, from young to old and from newbies to the experienced.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56795) In order to preserve the character, experience, and value of wilderness areas, the current moratorium on utility lines should be maintained and all new wireless transmission towers should be prohibited.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486496 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Consider Cell Towers as distracting from Wilderness Character, Experience, and Values. Maintain the moratorium on additional Utility lines found in the current Plan, and include a prohibition of new 'Wireless Transmission Towers' in the updated Plan.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56796) Trails and supporting infrastructure (e.g., bathrooms and drinking water) should be expanded to support visitation levels. Use trail construction techniques to address wet conditions, including boardwalks.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 1 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510395 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We should also expand existing trails to support higher visitor levels. This should include the addition of bathrooms and access to drinking water.

Corr. ID: 602 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485420 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I have noticed that in Australia (and New Zealand) it is a common trail-construction practice to install short stretches of synthetic (or wooden) boardwalk across particularly boggy trail sections. Perhaps such construction techniques are not allowable under the Wilderness Act, but they allow visitors to walk on otherwise dry trails without facing the "wet muddy shoes" versus "stepping off trail when I know I shouldn't" dilemma for just a few steps. I recommend that Yosemite consider such (or similar) construction techniques for high use areas where some bits of ground will always be wet early season.

WL2400 - Wilderness Stewardship Plan planning/process

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55891) The planning process should include equal opportunities for representation of interested parties (e.g., individuals, interest groups and commercial companies). Public participation could be increased by live streaming public meetings, providing more public workshops, advanced postings of meetings, and extending the comment period after the last public meeting.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 6 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484302 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Suggest U-Streaming your public meetings to get out your key messages. There are many who will not be able to attend who value the Yosemite Wilderness and could provide important comments.

Corr. ID: 335 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 487679 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Please ensure that public hearings are posted well in advance so ALL interested parties may attend to state their case. Please do not make the Yosemite WSP a "behind-closed-doors" project.

Corr. ID: 354 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509659 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Please ensure that there is equal representation for the individual as for the big companies and the big environmental groups.

Corr. ID: 355 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487051 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: More public workshops would have been helpful in alerting the public to this process. I suspect that many people are unaware that scoping is now underway.

Corr. ID: 731 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489398 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The close of comment period is too close to the time of the last public meeting, this does not give much time to attend a meeting and then to gather comments from the chapter of the sierra club and get people to comment.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55894) The scoping and planning processes can be made stronger and more comprehensive by reducing potentially leading questions that would lead to the elimination of recreational use, providing forms that ask which current wilderness management practices are viewed negatively, and ensuring equal representation of individuals, companies, and environmental groups is presented.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 15 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509040 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The public scoping is certainly not unbiased. I feel that the questions are leading the public to give answers that will eliminate recreational opportunities in Yosemite (and therefore in other parks).

Corr. ID: 21 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487585 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: This feedback form is biased. It doesn't ask the converse of what we value about current management; that is, what don't we like about the management of the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 674 **Organization:** Minarets Pack Station **Comment ID:** 485568 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: It seems a little backwards that comments are being asked but you haven't stated the problems that are current - other than in general. It would be helpful to list what the plans are so we know how to comment on the current issues and offer suggestions.

WL2500 - Vegetation

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55888) The NPS should consider existing research from Dr. Stith T. Gower, (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and others when addressing the impacts from invasive weeds related to horses and pack stock.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 658 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 513088
Organization Type: Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Noxious/Invasive Weeds Resulting from Pack Stock Use (or Lack Thereof) As part of the WSP scoping process, we encourage park personnel to explore the implications of recent research conducted by Dr. Stith T. Gower of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Gower's studies indicate that horses and pack stock are unlikely, if at all, to spread invasive weeds along trails under the conditions he studied in the U.S. in both eastern ecosystems and nine western ecosystems, including the Sierra Nevada. For example, his 2013 study of western ecosystems concludes with the following statement:

The 0% germination and establishment rate of weeds from hay, manure and hoof debris plots on the horse trails at the nine study sites illustrates the difficult physical and environmental conditions that seedlings experience during the critical germination and establishment phase.

Consequently, although the science has found that horses and pack stock are capable of excreting seeds (both native and non-native) along backcountry trails, such seeds face harsh conditions and are highly unlikely to germinate. Based on recent studies by Dr. Gower, the WSP should start with the assumption that the use of horses and pack stock is not considered as a significant vector for the spread of invasive or noxious weeds. The WSP should consider the implications of scientific findings by Dr. Gower and others that shed light on appropriate measures to employ, if any, in the WSP to mitigate the potential negative effects and spread of noxious or invasive weeds.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55889) The NPS needs to map wetlands in backcountry meadows, and evaluate potential impacts on these wetlands.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 660 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485412 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: My comment is about meadow wetlands and how they are portrayed in the plan. Would like to see acknowledgement that large portions of Yosemite's backcountry meadows are wetlands. Would like to see careful evaluation of wetland impacts, including wetland mapping, where there could be impacts to meadows.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55890) The NPS should consider the effect of drought on pine trees.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 668 **Organization:** Minarets Pack Station **Comment ID:** 485477 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: In our view, one of the most problematic issues that YNP, as well as all of the west's national forests, faces is the vast amount of dead pine trees that have died over the last 2 - 3 years of drought. Management of these trees will be paramount to maintain the good health of our Yosemite Wilderness.

WL2600 - Research studies and data

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55971) The NPS must use and cite peer-reviewed studies that are readily accessible to the public when developing the plan. The NPS should provide data for visitor use and capacity; drought, climate change and their impact on visitor use; and the characteristics of visitor groups and trips.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 302 **Organization:** Backcountry Horsemen and self **Comment ID:** 509502 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Changes to policy use should only come after peer review of scientific study

Corr. ID: 419 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America (NW Chapter) **Comment ID:** 486907 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Proposed regulations should meet scientific rigor and necessity. The WSP must cite current peer-reviewed studies, and those studies must be made readily accessible for public review, if science is used to justify proposed limits upon trail use, overnight camping, or open meadow grazing.

Corr. ID: 731 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489420 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: What data do you have for visitor use and capacity? What data do you have based on the drought and climate change and its effect on change in visitor use? What data do you have on exactly who is out there and when?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 57473) Studies should be presented in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan that assess the impact of visitor use on wilderness, including but not limited to: use within popular areas such as the John Muir Trail, social trails, campsite creation and use, human waste impacts, impacts to cultural resources and impacts to water.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486462 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Include studies in the EIS that track the influence of human use within popular wilderness areas such as the JMT and its trail-tributaries, with regard to social trails, campsite creation and use, human waste and its impacts to water, impacts to cultural and listed resource sites.

Corr. ID: 313 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 509523 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Water crossings, lake shores and meadows can be degraded by heavy use. Remedial fixes should be based on scientific studies.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511302 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: One aspect of Wilderness management and the effects of humans on resources includes the threat of the spread of the chytrid fungus that is so lethal to amphibians in high elevation habitat areas. CSERC urges that the Wilderness Plan carefully apply the best available science to assure that areas with known chytrid contamination are made off-limits to recreational use that may spread the fungus to uncontaminated lakes and ponds.

WL2700 - Water Resources
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55887) The plan needs to address the protection of streams and rivers and include a robust and sustainable monitoring program, especially for water quality indicators.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 573 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485876 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Fishing is important to any wilderness adventure [I] take. Protecting streams and rivers are an important thing for me. As well as keeping mining operations out of as much of the parks as we can.

Corr. ID: 726 **Organization:** *San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)* **Comment ID:** 511267 **Organization Type:** Non-governmental
Representative Quote: We recommend ensuring the WSP has a robust and sustainable monitoring program, especially for water quality indicators, and that additional limitations on visitor use be considered in places where there is a known or likely water quality impact.

WL3000 - Commercial services
CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55938) Commercial services should be limited to comply with the intent of the Wilderness Act. Current commercial service operations contribute to overcrowding and should not be expanded.
Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509782 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I really question the need for ANY commercial guide services in the Yosemite Wilderness. This wilderness is so accessible by good trails and easy cross-country routes, and so well described in books and websites innumerable, that anyone with any initiative at all can plan and execute his own backcountry adventures. Guides are NOT "necessary". Sure, there are always those who have more money than time or energy and want to pay someone else to create their vacation experience, but there are other areas in the Sierra or elsewhere that can cater to them. The Yosemite Wilderness is under a lot of pressure from recreational use. We don't need guides to make it easier for more people - particularly uninformed people - to trample the wilderness!

Corr. ID: 201 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487485 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I request that you respect the intent of the Wilderness Act and therefore limit commercial services in Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 217 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483046 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: It is very important to keep commercialization out of a wilderness area. This also includes the air space, which should not be entered for recreational/touristic reasons, since it is very disturbing to the wildlife, as well as the limited visitors on foot.

Corr. ID: 273 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487547 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Limit commercial service (guided hiking, climbing, and stock use) in Yosemite National Park.

Corr. ID: 319 **Organization:** Wilderness Watch **Comment ID:** 511617 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: , I believe that commercial enterprises and services should be kept to a minimum or even eliminated altogether in Yosemite and other wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485563 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Commercial activities. As you note, you must assess the need for and appropriateness for commercial services within the Wilderness. Such uses, where allowed, should be consistent with the Wilderness Act.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485494 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: Commercial services should not only be proven to be necessary but the full EXTENT, such as the number of trips a year, should also be proven to be necessary.

Corr. ID: 697 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511359 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I am an AMGA certified Rock Guide. There is a large voice coming from the AMGA from an outsiders perspective who wants in. They wrote me telling me I should say climbing is not at capacity in Yosemite and for that more guides should be allowed. From my perspective as one of the 12 full time guides in the park the terrain we guide on is very crowded already.

Corr. ID: 707 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510898 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Issuance of these CUAs needs to be closely scrutinized and as many as possible need to be eliminated.

Corr. ID: 722 **Organization:** Yosemite Mountaineering School **Comment ID:** 511086 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: There are very few good teaching areas, and as soon as more guide permits are allowed, plus restricted climb regulation goes into effect the current non-wilderness climbing areas will be directly impacted with much higher use.

Corr. ID: 724 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511221 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Disontinue all commercial overnight backcountry use.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55943) Commercial services do not degrade resources and can support wilderness stewardship and educational efforts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484166 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Commercial services can be an effective means of providing wilderness experiences with LNT emphasis which can help to protect the wilderness and important values if the service is vetted appropriately.

Corr. ID: 474 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486707 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Modern, trained guides are invested, professional stewards of the land and the wilderness resource.

Corr. ID: 579 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486188 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: We support professionally trained commercial services as a Necessary and Appropriate tool for the realization of public purposes of Wilderness, and believe that professional guides are assets to our public lands, providing interpretation, education, and conservation opportunities to their guests.

Corr. ID: 665 **Organization:** The Wildland Trekking Company **Comment ID:** 511198 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: I believe that commercial use levels can be maintained at present levels or increased with no detrimental effects on the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 678 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485580 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I personally do not believe the current levels of commercial services or stock use are concerning. We are talking about a vast area and the stock and commercial use is confined to a very tiny portion of that area.

Corr. ID: 690 **Organization:** AMGA **Comment ID:** 511348 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Modern professional mountain guiding helps realize the formal educational public purpose of wilderness. As rock climbing and mountaineering are not at capacity in Yosemite wilderness, the plan's analysis of commercial services should reflect that, and should provide for additional diverse opportunities for the guided public.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55948) Commercial guiding services provide an essential service for visitors and the National Park Service, and should continue or be expanded in wilderness. They provide access to wilderness for those who would not go alone, encourage wilderness stewardship, and increase safety for all visitors. Commercial service offerings in wilderness are beneficial to non-English speaking visitors and services for disabled visitors increase compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Guides teach backcountry users Leave No Trace principles, protect wilderness resources, and stimulate the local economy.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 133 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486327 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I'd like to comment on the proposed changes to guided backpacking tours in Yosemite.

I'll be travelling from Melbourne to Yosemite in June and to have a guided backpacking tour available in Yosemite is priceless. I don't need to be concerned with taking gear, or knowing the area which is incredibly valuable when travelling to the other side of the world.

I would hope you continue to allow backpacking tour operators to function in all areas of Yosemite as this allows people like myself to experience the Yosemite backcountry.

Corr. ID: 152 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486360 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I understand you are considering some sort of limiting and stopping of commercial operations. I would urge you very much not to do this. If anything, I would do the opposite (limit people going out on their own without professional guidance). I believe people would be far safer and the environment much more protected with the professional along.

Corr. ID: 154 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486372 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I am a single mom who has been taking my kids on treks with guide companies. I have found their expertise and experience to be an integral part of my trips. Using guides allows me and my kids to see areas of parks at an in depth level in a safe and responsible manner. Every guide company I have used has emphasized the importance of of protecting our wilderness. Continuing, this is an incredible experience for my kids, one that I am unable to accomplish with out the knowledge of a guide.

Corr. ID: 372 **Organization:** Y Explore **Comment ID:** 487077 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: I am adding this to my public comment because I believe that further limiting the already restrictive commercial use of the Yosemite Wilderness to hiking and backpacking groups would have negative consequences. I also believe hiking and backpacking have very low impacts on wilderness when proper ethics are practiced.

Corr. ID: 425 **Organization:** Sierra Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 486935 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: We believe that guides have a net positive impact on wilderness areas: the land, people, and the wilderness character - therefore more of it should be allowed.

Corr. ID: 452 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486640 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The NPS is responsible for restricting backcountry populations through the permitting system and law enforcement efforts, but add experiential educational to the long list of the agency's responsibilities and the NPS simply becomes overextended. I therefore suggest that it is the role of professional guiding operations to fill the void by offering those who would seek wilderness the proper tools, preparation, and profoundly transformative educational experience necessary to convert laymen into true environmental stewards, for this is the most noble purpose of our National Parks.

Corr. ID: 597 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486273 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: In the review of park management policy, I urge to give lengthy consideration to the role played by guides and educators working in the park wilderness.

Corr. ID: 615 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510978 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: More professionally skilled and trained technical and backcountry guides/experts give more opportunities to empower more visitors to engage with their environment in safer and more responsible way.

Corr. ID: 615 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510977 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: As education and competence of more challenging and/or backcountry terrain is beyond the level of experience for most visitors, extending commercial guiding in a responsible way is an imperative step.

Corr. ID: 634 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485906 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The positive economic impact of guiding should not be overlooked. Smaller gateway communities to YNP that struggle during the winter months may experience a resurgence if guided winter excursions left from their vicinity. Lee Vining, California would be a perfect example. The Eastern Sierra Crest is known worldwide for it's ski terrain and spring snow conditions and guided trips could open this world to new users.

Corr. ID: 657 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511120 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I strongly encourage Yosemite National Park to expand commercial guiding in the areas of technical rock and alpine environments. It is my belief that accomplished guides/guide services provide a well-rounded wilderness experience that both minimizes impacts from its guest as well as increases safety.

Corr. ID: 657 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511124 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: There is a need for rock, alpine, and ski guide services that can serve multiple cultures and languages. Yosemite National Park is not a destination solely for English speaking Americans but is also an icon visited by guest from worldwide. I believe that there should be at least some commercial guiding operations who can safely and respectfully guide guests in other languages. Through these means foreign guests can have a positive safe experience while learning and protecting park resources.

Corr. ID: 688 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485612 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: There is a strong need for commercial use of the wilderness in and out of Yosemite National Park. Commercial guiding outfitters allow for people with less experience in the outdoors to go past their limits and see, touch, smell the wilderness that makes Yosemite a special place. They also serve as an educational tool to help teach Leave No Trace principles and safety in the [backcountry].

Corr. ID: 722 **Organization:** Yosemite Mountaineering School **Comment ID:** 511090 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: What is not being acknowledged either is that Yosemite Mountaineering School instructors and guides routinely help non guided visitors when they are out in the field. YMS guides communicate Leave No Trace not only to their guests, but also to non guided visitors. YMS constantly shares safety tips with non guided visitors when they are sharing a climbing route or climbing area.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55949) Commercial guide services should not be expanded in a way that degrades or discourages non-commercial use in wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 148 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509527 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Requiring a guide would be as wrong as banning professional guides from the park. I should be the individuals choice as to whether one contracts with a guide service, reads books about the hikes or just goes on his/her own.

Corr. ID: 382 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487107 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Please keep private guiding OUT of the park. Guides will just increase the traffic in the park. Guides often assume that because they re getting paid, they have more of a right to the Yosemite hiking and climbing than the rest of the public. We don't need anymore of this type of business in the park. Please keep it as wild as possible so that future generations can enjoy the wild nature of the park that generations ago enjoyed.

Corr. ID: 416 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486896 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: If there are any quota system commercial guides should only get 25% of the permits.

Corr. ID: 512 **Organization:** Ojai Rock Climbing, Earthworks Climbing **Comment ID:** 486418 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: However, guiding operations are a commercial enterprise. It is my belief that commercial operations should always come second to non-commercial use. Extension or expansion of any commercial operations in the park should always consider and accomadate the interests of non-commercial use.

Corr. ID: 561 **Organization:** 1993 **Comment ID:** 485001 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Balancing the different styles of visitors. I think I would rather be a second round of backcountry permit and campsite reservations than the park being open to more

commercial guiding. The people who aren't being guided are putting more effort into their stay than those being guided and should have opportunities to explore the park on their own. Guiding is a fantastic way to get new people into the wilderness and outdoor education, but those who are already educated should be welcomed at the same time.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55950) Restrict commercial filming and photography in wilderness and limit party sizes for these activities to 12 individuals.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486525 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial filming and photography should be rigorously policed with party size limits also limited to 12 individuals. It is not a true wilderness experience when one encounters 15 or 20 people engaged in shooting a film or taking a photography class.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55951) Commercial guided trips should be reassessed in terms of group size limits both on and off trail, and where they can take visitors. Different types of recreation should have different group size limits.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486524 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercially guided trips also need to be reassessed. Party size limits should reflect the route and destination. A guided trip on a trailed route should be limited to 12 individuals (including guides) and trips with off-trail travel limited to 6 individuals. Also, any commercial operator found to be violating the rules should receive a warning and a second violation result in loss of license. This should apply not only to the companies, but also their employees. If an employee of a commercial operator is found to be violating the rules, the company should also suffer the consequences unless that individual's employment is terminated.

Corr. ID: 305 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509521 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I strongly believe that guided tours should not be limited to where they can take groups and the size of the group, within reason, as long as the patrons are properly educated on how to respect the wilderness and backcountry.

Corr. ID: 408 **Organization:** Outward Bound California **Comment ID:** 509870 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: It is imperative that the Park strongly considers raising the group size limits to outfitters like Outward Bound that are providing positive change and social responsibility to our youth of tomorrow.

Corr. ID: 417 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509880 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: An off trail group size limit being raised from 8 to 12 for non-profit user groups would be a huge step in that direction.

Corr. ID: 538 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510442 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I also would encourage the park to require that guides operate in small groups. For technical mountaineering and rock climbing groups should be no larger that 3, including

the guide. For hiking, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing and rock climbing courses, group size should be limited to no more than 6 including the guide.

Corr. ID: 579 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486202
Organization Type: University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Many National Parks utilize zoning in Wilderness, and it is unclear whether this process will be used in Yosemite Wilderness. If so, we recommend allocating commercial use per zone, i.e., those zones with less self-guided use could potentially accommodate an increased percentage of guided use without displacing the former. This would serve to disperse use and reduce impacts.

Corr. ID: 579 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486198
Organization Type: University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: In the Half Dome Trail Determination of Extent Necessary, 10% of overall capacity was allocated to commercial users that provided for the formal educational public purpose of Wilderness. We believe a similar number could apply to rock climbing and mountaineering, as formal education occurs on almost every guided trip. Many organizations, including the AMGA, are also interested in operating formal climbing educational programs or courses in Yosemite. If, on a busy day, there were 2000 climbers in the park, a commercial allocation of 10% would be a negligible impact with guided parties dispersed throughout the 3000 climbing routes in Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 727 **Organization:** Pacific Crest Trail Association **Comment ID:** 511293 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: We also ask that the Park take under consideration the group size limits and commercial uses in the USFS Wilderness areas to the north and south of the Park's boundaries. We at PCTA strive for consistent management amongst agency partners along the PCT.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55952) Educational institutions should not be considered commercial use and should have greater access to wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 647 **Organization:** Colorado Mountain Club **Comment ID:** 485991 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I also feel that non-profit educational organizations should be able to obtain Use Authorizations that are not subject to high fees or the same stringent regulations and commercially guided groups. Groups like this are educating youth and people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to access the park. They are also operating with limited resources and need to be viewed differently from commercial guided services.

Corr. ID: 679 **Organization:** Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 485582 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: I request that NPS re-evaluate how it defines commercial services, and that the activities that Tawonga is engaged in not be considered commercial. Our use is analogous to that of educational institutions-which are not considered "commercial services" by NPS. Our goals, like the trips by educational institutions, are to provide environmental education and foster self-reliance and teamwork.

When we obtain permits to summit half-dome using the commercial.recreation.gov portal, our use is designated as educational, so there is a precedent for viewing our use in this way.

Corr. ID: 679 **Organization:** Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 485583 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: If Camp Tawonga's use is still deemed commercial, our use should still be allowed, as our trips meet the purposes of the Wilderness Act in that they assist campers in "realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the area," including specifically the recreational, scenic, and educational uses.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55958) The current amount of commercial guiding services offered should be maintained.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 651 **Organization:** Trout Unlimited **Comment ID:** 511108 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: In 2015, four commercial use authorizations were issued to fishing guide companies and we urge this current level of authorizations to continue.

Corr. ID: 722 **Organization:** Yosemite Mountaineering School **Comment ID:** 511085 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: The benefit of Yosemite National Park having only one guide service is more control over how the operation is run.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55960) Yosemite should expand professional climbing and mountaineering guide services by providing more, low-ratio commercial use authorizations to both large commercial and sole-proprietorship guides. All guides operating in the park should be American Mountain Guides Association and/or International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations certified. These certifications for guides will ensure wilderness stewardship and visitor safety. A fair balance of local and outside guides should be considered. A new "extent necessary" analysis should take place to determine the number of commercial use authorizations and evaluate visitor use capacities of popular climbing areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 365 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509678 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Other National Parks offer low-ratio Commercial Use Authorizations to allow sole proprietors and smaller guide services the same access opportunities as the larger concessionaires. AMGA training is an excellent requirement to incorporate into the vetting process for said CUAs.

Corr. ID: 366 **Organization:** American Alpine Club **Comment ID:** 509679 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I value that the NPS currently allows its concessionaire to accommodate professional guides and make their services available to new climbers, students, and those who are visiting the park for the first time, but I don't believe those services reflect the depth of skill and professionalism that is available in the United States.

Corr. ID: 366 **Organization:** American Alpine Club **Comment ID:** 509680 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: In the United States, the AMGA has been training and credentialing guides at the highest international standards for over 30 years. So, I would also ask the park to consider that making additional Commercial Use Authorizations available to these guides would allow the highest caliber of professional to access and facilitate the highest caliber of American rock climbing.

Corr. ID: 387 **Organization:** Amigos Bravos **Comment ID:** 509753 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The broadening of mountaineering, rock-climbing, back-country skiing, camping, and hiking experiences without degrading the parks eco-system can be best accomplished by requiring visitors to work with professional guides to direct their experiences.

Corr. ID: 452 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510034 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Being as the Plan includes an objective that reads "regulatory restrictions will be minimized to allow as much freedom as possible consistent with wilderness resource objective," I can see no reason why the services offered by such a company would ever be limited in the backcountry. If anything, they should be required.

Corr. ID: 496 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484864 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The Yosemite Wilderness holds some of the best rock climbing in the United States, and the Park is doing a very good job at preserving the climbing there with its climbing rangers and bolting ethics. However, I would like to see a change in the permission of guided parties to access climbing. As it currently stands only one company is allowed to guide technical rock climbing in Yosemite, and this is wrong. A single permit holder policy prevents modern standards and professionalism from making their way into guiding practices in the Park, and guides wages are minimized due to the lack of an open market for employment. Guests have no options in selecting their guide, rather they are told they must climb with one of the guides from the monopoly company, and in climbing, partnerships cannot be made in a day. Guides in a monopoly permit holder operation are discouraged from seeking professional training and development because they will then demand a higher (liveable) wage and risk losing their jobs when they as for a raise. In short, a monopoly on the guided climbing permit is bad for the guests of the national park, and bad for the guides who live off these visitors.

Corr. ID: 505 **Organization:** Southwest Ambulance **Comment ID:** 510403 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: A very Sensible objective would be to have Legitimately Established permit program where Guides could come and Pay for a Season Pass ($25-$45) that they pay for upfront when they submit their Certification in Guiding (which will then be double checked with the Legitimate certifying Organization). The Guide will gain rights to guide after the Check and if they do or don't check out the NPS keeps the payment which will continue to fund it's many projects.

Corr. ID: 535 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486566 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Any future process for distributing access to commercial guiding permits should, as much as possible, favor individual guides access to such permits, based on their training and credentials, rather than any affiliation they may or may not have with a larger or existing guide service. This will help to maximize the number of the best trained and qualified guides working in the Parks.

Corr. ID: 553 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485797 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Myself and my family will come to Yosemite much more frequently if we are able to work with our guide for climbing and hiking, who is not a local Yosemite guide. Despite his

qualifications, I understand that Yosemite is considering having only Yosemite local guides eligible to guide at Yosemite. We would not climb with new guides at Yosemite, despite their qualifications, as a matter of comfort and history with our historical guide.

Corr. ID: 565 **Organization:** Kaf Adventures **Comment ID:** 510641 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: Commercial guides should still have to apply and follow standards set out by the park (and pay separate fees) but should have equal access as any other person who climbs in the park.

Corr. ID: 579 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486211
Organization Type: University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Guided Rock Climbing: The walls of Yosemite run the gamut from single-pitch terrain to multi-day Grade V and VI big-wall climbing. Our recommendation is that guides be certified by the AMGA as a Rock Guide, meaning that they have been trained and assessed on terrain up to Grade V 5.10 , or that they are certified as an IFMGA (International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations) Mountain Guide. Mountain Guides certified by the AMGA hold an internationally recognized certification in rock climbing, alpine climbing, and ski mountaineering guiding. Foreign IFMGA Mountain Guides are recognized as having equivalent training, and many nations offer full reciprocity to IFMGA Mountain Guides from other countries.

Corr. ID: 579 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486191
Organization Type: University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: We acknowledge the very significant volume of self-guided use received by the park, of which climbing and mountaineering is but a small fraction. We do not believe that climbing and mountaineering are at capacity in most areas of Yosemites Wilderness. Mechanisms should be put in place to allow a more diverse population of domestic and international visitors to access climbing in Yosemite. To this end the public purposes of Wilderness will be more fully realized when visitors are readily able to select a climbing guide to accompany them. Given the amount of inquiries the AMGA receives on this topic, we believe the demand to be significantly greater than what is currently being accommodated through the sole concessionaire program.

Corr. ID: 579 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486212
Organization Type: University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Guided Mountaineering / Alpine Climbing: Similar to the rock terrain, the mountain terrain within Yosemite Wilderness bridges the spectrum from hiking peaks to technical 4th and 5th class mountain routes with complicated approaches and descents. Our recommendation is that guides applying for a mountaineering CUA be certified by the AMGA as an Alpine Guide or be certified as an IFMGA Mountain Guide. Similarly to the Rock Guide, the Alpine Guide is trained in a variety of mountain terrain, and assessed on advanced technical terrain.

Corr. ID: 579 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486201
Organization Type: University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: CUAs would ideally be granted for significant periods of time (e.g. ten or more days) with flexibility in scheduling to avoid any pressure to climb in sub-optimal weather or other conditions. CUAs for educational courses should be available for longer periods of time.

Corr. ID: 589 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486247 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: One way to achieve access for guides could be made available in the form of limited, low-ratio Commercial Use Authorizations (CUAs) that are reasonable for sole proprietors and small businesses to obtain.

Corr. ID: 592 **Organization:** Timberline Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 510732 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: I believe that increasing the guiding opportunities can and will help to create a better culture among climbers and visitors in the park. More often than not, guests that finish a guided outing leave with a deeper understanding and appreciation of being a steward of the land, practicing LNT and being part of a responsible and courteous climbing community.

Corr. ID: 599 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486277 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: By hiring a fully qualified guide I can safely and effectively climb a major route in the national park in a tight timeframe and take my family with me.
Maintaining a high standard of guiding qualifications is essential but allowing different operators in the national park- all under the stewardship of the national park governors, will create competition which in turn will drive standards, safety and ensure that an objective viewpoint is maintained with regard to conserving the valley.

Corr. ID: 610 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510808 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: A set number of user days should be created and allow people to apply for those opportunities, distinguishing between wilderness days and "roadside" days to preserve the wilderness yet still allow access for people who want to experience climbing in Yosemite with a guide.

Corr. ID: 612 **Organization:** The Wilderness Society **Comment ID:** 485499 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: We recommend that park managers use this revision of the Wilderness Management Plan as an opportunity to consider expanding the availability of guided mountaineering services within the park. Our understanding is that, historically, the park's primary concessionaire had exclusive authority to provide guided mountaineering services. We think this model did not serve the public very well. We urge the park to give serious consideration to issuing new commercial use authorizations for guided mountaineering services. Further, if an Extent Necessary determination concludes that it is appropriate to do so, we suggest the park consider issuing Commercial Use Authorizations to multiple service providers in order to ensure the availability of a diverse suite of guided services to the public.

Recently, The Wilderness Society has been encouraging public land managers to recognize the critical role that guides and other outdoor leaders play in connecting people to public lands in an increasingly urbanized country. To make these connections possible, land managers should treat guided recreation as a facilitated use that furthers the agency's mission of connecting more people to America's public lands. Guided recreation should not be treated the same as an extractive use of public lands.

We believe modern professional mountain guiding helps further the educational purposes of Wilderness. In most instances, professional guides are committed stewards of the land and the Wilderness resource, and they provide a valuable service by sharing Wilderness values with the

recreating public. In this way, they grow the community of people who value America's public lands and are willing to work to protect it.

For these reasons, we urge you to consider providing additional guided mountaineering opportunities as you revise the Yosemite Wilderness Management Plan.

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485544 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Yosemite planners should consider new guiding opportunities (for rock climbing and mountaineering) by permitting new commercial use authorizations that enable a range of independent guides, guides services, and organizations to access the world class climbing in Yosemite Wilderness. Accordingly, planners should consider a new "extent necessary" process for commercial climbing guide services for various areas with an established visitor capacity determination that can appropriately be allocated between the general public, commercial users, and those with special use permits.

Corr. ID: 624 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511048 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Consideration might be given to the term of the CUA. For example CUA's could be issued yearly, but are perhaps valid for 5 years. In other words an independent guide issued a CUA for 10 user days, would have 5 years to use the 10 days.

Corr. ID: 624 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511045 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: These barriers to entry should include:

1) minimum guide training and certification. Preferable would be that CUA's only be issued to AMGA or IFMGA certified guides. The specific credentials would be AMGA Certified Rock Guide, AMGA Certified Alpine Guide, or IFMGA licensed guide.
2) LNT Trainer Course
3) Current WFR Certification or equivalent medical training.

This would ensure that any guide issued a "new" CUA would have a level of certification equal to or higher than the highest trained members of the YMS staff.

Corr. ID: 624 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511046 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I'm not aware what Yosemite Mountaineering Schools' current use figures are, but I would suggest that additional user days via CUA's be authorized based on a percentage of YMS's current use. I don't know the best way to arrive at that percentage, but I suspect the number could be between 10-50%. So if YMS is currently operating at 2000 user days, then an additional 200-1000 user days should be authorized via CUA's.

I think a tiered system of CUA's would be appropriate. For example, if we go with the 25% number, then 500 additional use days would be authorized according to the following schedule or something similar:

4 x 50 user days CUA's
4 x 25 user days CUA's

20 x 10 user days CUA's.

The idea would be to authorize incidental use for both independent guides as well as large or small guide services.

Corr. ID: 655 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511119 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The NPS should work with a panel of licensed guides to come up with a system that will be functional for the public and simple for the NPS to manage. Once a new plan is reached and implemented, it should have a mechanism to allow for revision of processes to adjust for underuse or overuse, and/or to revise the process for issuing access to visiting guides.

Corr. ID: 657 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511126 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I encourage the park to avoid companies that employee guides as subcontractors or "1099 employees". History has shown that it is hard to manage liability and often these subcontractors do not have their own liability insurance or workers comp. In effect passing on the liability of accident or incident onto the NPS.

Corr. ID: 677 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511316 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Commercial guiding operations should be opened up to encourage a greater variety of terrain options to guests. Under the current system it hard for visitors to the park to find a variety of the options of technical rock, ski, and alpine recreation or to experience other areas of the Yosemite National Park Wilderness then the most impacted area. These opportunities have not be explored or experienced due to the restrictive nature of current commercial permits in Yosemite National Park. i.e. only backpacking, backcountry skiing, and horse packing commercial permits have been available. No third, fourth or fifth class alpine terrain is commercially available.

Corr. ID: 696 **Organization:** Extreme Alpine **Comment ID:** 511354 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: The Rocky Mountain and Rainier CUAs can benefit me as a visiting guide. I can plan a trip with my clients well in advance and sell them that experience. However these programs are of limited benefit to guides who live in that area. Qualified and motivated individuals and businesses who are located in Colorado and Washington can certainly take advantage of the CUAs that currently exist there, but it is expensive to apply for them for a limited number of days. What I respectfully recommend is a tiered structure where larger local businesses can hold a larger block of use under a CUA, local individual guides can hold a CUA for a medium range of days say 20-30 days and visiting guides can come for 5-7 days.

Corr. ID: 696 **Organization:** Extreme Alpine **Comment ID:** 511355 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: After seeing the process and result in other parks and being enthusiastic about the opportunity I, and others were ultimately disappointed with the outcome. A recent positive experience I've had is working with a local non-profit land manager in my area. The Mohonk Preserve outside New Paltz, NY has a number of very valuable programs in place. First they require all guides to be trained for the terrain where they guide. The AMGA is one such training program that is allowed there. Second they have a tiered structure where small to medium sized businesses have access alongside individual guides. Both of these groups have unlimited access, but there are a limited number of slots available. The Preserve then offers 10 days to visiting guides who wish to bring their clients and work legally on the land. I feel having this tiered structure has

provided for the best balance between use and preservation of the resource. Though this is a private entity the model could be used by the park to enhance the experience of its visitors while maintaining the stewardship and conservation goals the park was founded on.

WL4000 - Access

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55929) All user groups should have access to the wilderness including but not limited to: minorities, those with limited economic resources, older visitors, children, educational and documentary filmmakers, naturalists, hikers and campers.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 143 **Organization:** Private Citizen **Comment ID:** 486350 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would hope you do not allow yourselves to shut out the aging demographics by limiting the outfitters and their guided that make it possible for older Americans to continue their love affair with the National Parks.

Corr. ID: 484 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510295 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I hope that the plan will continue to allow access to hikers, backpackers and users of stock.

Corr. ID: 502 **Organization:** AERC **Comment ID:** 486378 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Keeping the Sierra Range open for naturalists, hikers, campers, trail riders, and the public in general. Keep the range open to grazing stock.

Corr. ID: 580 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510691 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Wilderness is still an overwhelmingly white and upper/middle-class playground. Yosemite must continue its efforts to reach out to people of color and people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, especially those who live close to the park. Yosemite has taken radical steps in this direction by pioneering two highly successful and widely respected programs: WildLink and the Yosemite Leadership Program at UC Merced.

Corr. ID: 633 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485896 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Avoiding creating barriers for those with few economic resources to enjoy the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 633 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511070 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Group size limits of 15 are reasonable. Further reductions in size may impose a financial barrier to the ability of some to visit the wilderness, especially those using commercial guides- -such groups have fixed costs that are divided among the participants. With a smaller group each participant's share increases.

Corr. ID: 679 **Organization:** Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 511327 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: Children are an important user group who have special needs. Children would not be able to access the backcountry safely without trained guides or other responsible

adults. Tawonga provides an important service by bringing children into the backcountry. Most of our campers have never gone backpacking with their families and Tawonga is the only time that they access the Yosemite wilderness.

Corr. ID: 723 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511095 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: If educational, natural history, or documentary filming is banned from wilderness areas it will strip power away from wilderness conservation.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56754) The need for additional infrastructure or systems for access should be reviewed. Specific suggestions include parking and bus systems and a large scale bike plan. Some visitors request that minimal additional restrictions be in place on Tioga road to allow continued freedom of access, while others suggest that additional restrictions are needed due to overcrowding.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 452 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510004 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Traffic on Toga Road not only causes noise pollution, air pollution, and ugly roadside parking lots, but provides easy access to backcountry areas which should merit a more earnest effort to reach. Some potential solutions include issuing parking permits, restricting parking to established lots, and increasing public transport from the Valley (though this operation is already very efficient, environmentally friendly and one of the things the NPS has done well).

Corr. ID: 540 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486600 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: In the end, however, I fear we will need to limit access to the park, all parks and perhaps require prior reservations.

Corr. ID: 545 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487692 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I believe infrastructure should be created that will ensure that overcrowding with people and with motor vehicles will not continue. Examples of such infrastructure include a parking and bus system (See Zion Natl Park) with limited permits for private automobile use within the park for special uses and during off season times. A large scale plan for bicycle use within the park should also be created. Yosemite Valley is relatively compact, bicycles are an easy way to get around the floor of the valley efficiently.

Corr. ID: 731 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489414 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The roads are outside of the scope of the WSP, but the way people approach wilderness can affect wilderness use and management. The Tioga road goes through TM, and allows heavy access. I am concerned that there will be restrictions put in place to prevent heavy day use. Please minimize restrictions concerning these things, for example please do not require wilderness permits for going in to TM.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56762) The trailhead quota system is an effective way to regulate access as it disperses backpacking use but allows maximum freedom of movement.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509763 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The trailhead quota system disperses backpacking use but also allows maximum freedom of movement - an essential part of a wilderness recreational experience. I feel very restricted and confined at parks like Grand Teton, where you have to use specific reserved designated camping sites, with no opportunity for spontaneous travel.

WL5000 - Visitor conflicts & safety

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55885) In order to reduce the potential for visitor conflict, the Wilderness Stewardship Plan should include proactive methods of visitor education, including the use of interpretive materials at Wilderness trailheads related to stock use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 658 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 511190 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: In order to reduce the potential for visitor conflict, the WSP should include proactive methods of visitor education, including the use of interpretive materials available at Wilderness trailheads, to convey to hikers and backpackers to expect encounters with parties with pack stock. The WSP also should detail methods by which visitors traveling via foot and with pack stock could enhance communication and work toward minimizing "conflict between user groups. Changing the expectations of individuals prior to their embarking from the trailhead appears to represent a first step in doing so.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55886) The responsibility for risk should be examined; some commenters state that personal responsibility for risk should be maintained as part of the wilderness experience while others state that proactive management is needed, such as posting rangers at trailheads to determine whether hikers are properly equipped.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486497 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Maintain Personal Responsibility for Risk as part of Wilderness, and do not accommodate Wireless Transmission Towers as a means of De-Wildernessing for the sake of the unprepared user.

Corr. ID: 392 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509787 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It's almost like a ranger needs to be posted at each trailhead to determine whether those beginning a hike have proper equipment, fluids, footwear, etc.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56811) Management related to rock climbing should be examined to address existing or potential safety risks; specifically, the use of a permit process to replace existing fixed anchors using motorized equipment, and the climbing routes permitted.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 21 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487586 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Being able to use a permit process to replace existing fixed anchors using motorized equipment, 1 for 1, is critically important. 20 plus year old time bomb quarter inch fixed anchors need to be updated before someone leans back and whips to the ground. Moto drills are a simple mechanism, like a chain saw, to make backcountry recreation less dangerous than it needs to be. Other National areas have permit processes for replacement using motorized equipment.

Corr. ID: 722 **Organization:** Yosemite Mountaineering School **Comment ID:** 511088
Organization Type: Business
Representative Quote: I also fear my own safety as a climbing instructor/mountain guide if I am forced away from safer route locations if I am required by NPS to lead visitors up higher risk climbs.

WL6000 - Recreation

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55881) The flexibility of climbing management should continue, including the ability to place fixed anchors without a power drill. Wilderness climbing opportunities should continue without the need for registration or management provided that climbers minimize impacts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 389 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484047 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Preservation of a beautiful and fragile natural environment that can be enjoyed by many people in some places, by few in spots further from the trails. I am a climber and I appreciate access to [backcountry] climbing opportunities, provided climbers follow leave no trace practices whenever possible.

Corr. ID: 430 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484492 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I value that
- - stewardship projects and community outreach is being prioritized
- -climbers can climb and sleep on big walls like el cap and leaning tower without registering or being managed in terms of maximum user days.

Corr. ID: 438 **Organization:** American Alpine Club **Comment ID:** 484508 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: I value the integration of the climbing community. I'm grateful the climbing community has a voice

Corr. ID: 624 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485791 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I appreciate that the NPS allows the placement of fixed anchors without a power drill.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55882) Bicycles should not be permitted on trails.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 216 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487511 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I don't want a bicycle on my hiking trail. I want a trail that is peaceful and safe from traffic of any kind.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55883) Manage climbing in Yosemite, as pristine conditions have deteriorated markedly.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 169 **Organization:** Mr. **Comment ID:** 486502 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Control better the climbing on 'Yosemite' Walls. El Capitan as an example has deteriorated markedly from a more pristine condition of merely 50 years ago.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55884) Allow managed base jumping in Yosemite.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 661 **Organization:** AMGA **Comment ID:** 485414 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Base jumping could be allowed on specific days or from specific points. The current outright ban on base jumping is not working

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56818) Remove the ban on nonmotorized watercraft use in wilderness streams/rivers.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 38 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487653 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I am writing to voice my request for Yosemite National Park to remove its ban of non-motorized watercraft use in wilderness streams/rivers. As a local whitewater kayaker, I can attest to the world class quality of whitewater creeks in Yosemite. Kayaking/rafting of backcountry streams provides a unique wilderness experience that is low environment impact and does not endanger other park visitors. Kayaking/rafting is allowed in wilderness areas of other national parks including Sequoia/Kings. Whitewater kayakers and rafters have shown a long history of being a responsible user group and would continue to do so in Yosemite.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56819) Consider precise zoning throughout the park that can identify appropriate desired conditions for each zone based on a recreation opportunity spectrum in Wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 510998 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Yosemite planners should consider precise zoning throughout the park which can effectively identify appropriate desired conditions for each zone based on a recreation opportunity spectrum in Wilderness and acknowledges existing use patterns and visitor needs.

WL7000 - Nonmotorized, nonmechanized recreation

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55995) Access to the wilderness via canoe or rowboat should be considered.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 9 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484247 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Perhaps canoe or rowboat access for those best able to propel via arm strength is a rational compromise to allow a wilder experience.

WL8000 - NPS enforcement of rules

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55879) Yosemite must emphasize a greater backcountry presence by both park rangers and volunteers to ensure the wilderness is protected through both education and enforcement of rules and regulations. Heightened focus should be placed on, but not limited to, Leave No Trace principles, noise infractions, illegal campfires and camping, and dogs.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 **Organization:** Humboldt State University **Comment ID:** 484157 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: We need more foot patrol rangers who are willing to cite for infractions such as illegal campfires and out of bounds camping. Right now, there is little fear of citations, so too many do as they please.

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486515 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The most important aspect of any new Wilderness Stewardship Plan is how well the plan's rules and regulations will be enforced. Currently, the lack of sufficient backcountry rangers adversely effects the Yosemite wilderness. Too many hikers and backpackers ignore the existing rules. They build fires in prohibited areas, camp too close to lakes and creeks, cut switchbacks, make excessive noise (no one should be playing a portable music player except while wearing earphones) and fail to pack out their garbage because they know they can get away with not adhering to the rules. This is despite the lecture everyone receives when picking up their permit as well as the rules being printed on every permit. Since it is unlikely they will encounter a ranger they feel free to flout backcounty regulations. First and foremost, Yosemite National Park must commit the necessary money and personnel to maintain the Yosemite Wilderness so it exists with minimal human impact and ensures each visitor has an optimal wilderness experience.

Corr. ID: 261 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509043 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I want more enforcement rangers in front and outback in Yosemite Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 546 **Organization:** Lasting Adventures **Comment ID:** 510523 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: If you even just rotated some volunteers that could go out and have a presence, it would be okay...but I only ever see my groups get checked, when there are disrespectful private parties out there breaking rules.

Corr. ID: 602 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485419 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Some of the greatest abuses to the Yosemite Wilderness I have seen in the past years has been by PCT hikers passing through. Increased ranger presence along the PCT corridor is required during the weeks of peak PCT-hiker flow to limit the damage done. I saw PCT hikers camped virtually on the trail, damaging trail margins to avoid slightly damp areas, and in particular, PCT hikers with dogs. The PCT hikers with dogs displayed no obvious disabilities and the loop-hole that allows dogs in wilderness for owners with disabilities needs to be tightened.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55880) The visitor experience for backcountry users should be analyzed so the registration process is less cumbersome.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 479 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510281 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The parks are uninviting to anyone who wants to recreate, it is set-up for the driving tourist and backcountry users are criminalized, registered and untrusted. The bureaucracy to access the wilderness completely destroys the experience.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56768) Clear and meaningful penalties should be established, effectively communicated, and enforced to reduce willful or negligent destruction of the wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486494 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Create clear and meaningful penalties for the willful, and/or negligent destruction of Park Wilderness resources.

WL9000 - Permit system and/or quotas

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55903) The NPS should charge more money for wilderness permits and park entry. The NPS should further limit the number of people who stay in or travel through the park.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 93 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489632 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would definitely be in favor of raising fees for access to the park, as well as further limiting the number of people who can stay in the park and even enter the park (just to drive through). With an increased budget (from higher fees) and the use of modern technology, the NPS should be able to more effectively manage (and balance) the use of Yosemite in a fashion that lets an optimal number of people use it without overusing it or abusing it.

Corr. ID: 354 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509673 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The park needs to finance wilderness rangers to maintain patrols and educate the public. The park needs to charge a larger amount for wilderness permits to fund those patrol rangers while reducing the number of permits.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55904) To allow for more diverse access, the NPS should not charge for wilderness permits.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 131 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486323 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: NPS should keep wilderness visits fee-free. (Advance reservation fees are an acceptable exception.) We realize wilderness, like anything else, does not come free, but wilderness is a common value, a common good, like public education, which is not paid for on the basis of user fees. A fee on a wilderness visit would be a trammeling action, and any attempt at justification would need to show that all other aspects of wilderness character are increased by the fee.

Corr. ID: 490 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510297 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I believe that charging per day per person for a wilderness fee is contrary to everything that the NPS does and should exist for. Enjoying public lands should be a right for all citizens, not based upon someones ability to pay a fee or not.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55905) The influx of wilderness users causes undue degradation to wilderness resources and values. Backcountry permits should be limited. Trail quotas should be reduced and trailhead and destination quotas should be considered. Restrictions should be applied along high-volume locations such as at Half Dome and John Muir Trail, as well as in sensitive areas, such as along the Tuolumne River and its tributaries. Ranger patrols should be increased to effectively enforce these changes.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 405 **Organization:** Hiker **Comment ID:** 484125 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: My feeling is that too many people are allowed in the [backcountry]. The park should reduce permits by at least 20%.

Corr. ID: 540 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486597 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would continue to limit back-country travel to keep camping sites from being overwhelmed. It is a distraction to backpackers, but the restricted encourage my friends and me to visit other areas of the park.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510594 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: utilize destination quotas and/or lower the trailhead quotas that lead to them. Put more backcountry rangers into high use areas to patrol in the evenings and mornings (mid-day patrols dont catch campers camping).

Corr. ID: 561 **Organization:** 1993 **Comment ID:** 485000 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I think that limiting the number of visitors to keep the area preserved is valuable, and worth denying potentially too many people for the overall well-being of the park.

Corr. ID: 629 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485853 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Restrictions instituted for access to Half Dome was appropriate, but should probably be reduced further. The same can be said for the management of the John Muir Trail in Yosemite and other high-volume trails.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485486 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: Given the high levels of visitor use in the park, trailhead quotas and zone management are insufficient for maintaining the solitude definition of Wilderness. Although Yosemite has so many miles of Wilderness to explore, most visitors tend to visit a select group of destinations, often made popular by social media and guidebooks.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485489 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: Solitude is a key component of Wilderness character and visitor use and capacity limits should focus on providing a quality Wilderness experience instead of focusing on the quantity of Wilderness experiences provided.

Corr. ID: 726 **Organization:** San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) **Comment ID:** 511265 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: We recommend the WSP consider a trailhead and destination quota management to better control use in sensitive areas, especially in areas near the Tuolumne River and its tributaries (e.g., Lyell Canyon, the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River, and Rancheria near Hetch Hetchy Reservoir).

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55907) The NPS should require additional education for visitors concurrent with issuance of a wilderness permit and enforcement of current permit quotas. Information should cover wilderness safety and environmental stewardship. The NPS should give preference to those with more wilderness experience or qualifications.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 383 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484035 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I believe the wilderness visitor Quota system is necessary. I also believe that each person granted a permit should have to sit through a 10min presentation covering how to travel in the wilderness in a safe way that promotes improving the environment. This is done in some other countries in South America.

Corr. ID: 713 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510903 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: It is time to apply some meaningful requirements for entering the wilderness, with a goal of user freedom once users have entered the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489314 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Backpackers should have to prove they have some experience before applying for permits (if it goes to a lottery?). Not fair for inexperienced backpackers to get the permits and the avid, experienced backpackers miss out. Require people to have WFR training or equivalent first aid training.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55909) The permitting process is currently too burdensome on the visitor. Suggested changes are as follows: take reservations via the internet not fax, develop a self-registration system, develop a waiting list system, create an incentive so permit holders cancel their permit if they don't want to use it, allow for printable permits and not require day wilderness permits making it easier to access wilderness during short-hikes.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 627 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511051 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: my biggest concern about enforcing solitude is the possibility of day use permits being required. Since this had been proposed in both the Tuolumne River and Merced River plans, the possibility that it is going to come up again in this Wilderness Plan is high. If you are required to have a day use permit as soon as you cross the Wilderness Boundary in many places,

especially in the Tuolumne Meadow area, this means that the boundary is only a few hundred feet away from the road or where you park your car. This would limit the ability of people to do short hikes or other activities spontaneously.

Corr. ID: 636 **Organization:** SYMG, PCGI **Comment ID:** 485940 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: There must be a better way to do wilderness permits than faxing permit application after permit application until one gets approved, and there must be a better way to reserve campsites than having a room full of people on the internet at 7am to secure campsites on the day they go on sale- -and then ending up with the wrong permit dates and campsites because you don't actually market the trips until after the date when you had to secure the permits and sites!!

Corr. ID: 698 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485635 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Related to quotas is the administrative process for the visitor to obtain a permit. The present system is needlessly burdensome on the visitor, and the emphasis is on "needlessly."

Corr. ID: 698 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485633 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Requiring permits for day-hiking everywhere, all the time. I am not advocating this, but others have done so. Other agencies have tried this, and run into problems. There was great public resistance. Do not repeat the mistakes of other agencies.

Corr. ID: 724 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511172 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Allow for self-registration for trips from Yosemite Valley during the non-quota/winter season.

Corr. ID: 724 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511166 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Those who have reservations should be able to print out their own permit and avoid the need to visit a permit station prior to their trip.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489322 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: There is no incentive for permit holders to cancel.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489321 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Develop a waiting list system that would notify if a permit holder cancels. Something more convenient than checking every day to see if a permit becomes available.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55910) The permit system effectively mitigates overcrowding through the use of quotas and group size limits. The permit system also protects wilderness resources, specifically along the John Muir Trail and on Half Dome.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484159 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the fact that the NPS attempts to limit overuse and preserve wilderness values through trailhead quotas and limiting group size for on and off-trail travel.

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509770 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I fully support your latest efforts to limit the numbers of Half Dome climbers and John Muir Trail through-hikers to reduce impacts and allow access for others to the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 585 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485043 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The NPS has reasonable means for permitting and being aware of the number and location of users in the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 626 **Organization:** Lasting Adventures, Inc. **Comment ID:** 485816 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: Increased trail use is always a concern but I feel current quota systems and ranger patrols are able to address most concerns within the existing quotas.

Corr. ID: 633 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485894 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: . I think the recent changes to impose a quota to exit over Donohue pass were a good effort to respond to greatly increasing usage on the JMT.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55911) Permits for commercial guides should be limited and considered in the quota system.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 675 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485263 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Increased demand for camp sites and greater pressure to allow commercially guided groups. Implementing quotas in popular areas seems to be the only measure available to prevent the wilderness from becoming urban. Commercially guided permits should also be limited. The National Park Service is not mandated to make money for commercial guides and outfitters.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489320 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: In developing a good quota system, need to be aware of commercial guides going in and reserving all the permits.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55912) The NPS should expand the permit system to provide more permits to local commercial guiding companies and guides with specialization in guiding visitors with disabilities. The NPS should have separate commercial guiding quotas and reservation deadlines to give visitors more opportunity to have a commercial guide.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 493 **Organization:** Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides (Commercial Outfitter)
Comment ID: 510330 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: This is an intelligent way to separate the use: one quota to go on your own, one quota to go with a guide. Give people a choice.

Corr. ID: 493 **Organization:** Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides (Commercial Outfitter)
Comment ID: 510347 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: We feel that locally -based outfitters, with their proximity and commitment to the surrounding local communities, should receive priority over the outfitters who come from other states and areas of the Sierra and only use the Park as a side note offering to their other destinations.

Corr. ID: 494 **Organization:** Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 486823
Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: We are in favor of separate commercial quotas for wilderness permits.

Commercial quotas are something that currently works very well in the National Forests adjacent to Yosemite. Commercial wilderness quotas would allow outfitters the flexibility needed to cater to the demands of the public who require commercial services in order to experience the Yosemite Wilderness. One issue for people who require guided services is that we are not able to effectively plan trips for them after the 6-month-in-advance dates that currently exist. Commercial quotas would open up additional possibilities for these types of wilderness users.

Corr. ID: 545 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487694 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I also believe a small lottery of ten day temporary use permits should be created for guided climbing within the national park. This will allow for a diverse set of programs from around the country and the world to offer high quality climbing and natural experiences on the wilderness cliff areas of Yosemite Valley. A fine example of this type of CUA/temporary use program is in place in Red Rock National Conservation Area, NV.

Corr. ID: 657 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485395 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Yosemite National Park should extent permits to companies who specialize in guiding guests with disabilities. The current plan makes it difficult to find a guide who specializes in guiding persons with disabilities in technical terrain. I believe by expanding the permit system Yosemite could do a better job of creating reasonable accommodation as outlined in the ADA.

Corr. ID: 657 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485394 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I believe that Yosemite should expand the permit system to local companies who are familiar with Yosemite's history and ecosystem. Permittees should be companies that are already aware of the unique problems and challenges faced in the Yosemite Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 688 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485614 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: More commercial wilderness permit quotas to allow the more of the public to experience the [backcountry] that require guided services.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55913) Trailhead quotas, such as the Donahue exit quota, trailhead quota from Pohono Trail to Taft Point, and trailhead quotas for Sunrise Lakes and Lyell Canyon, are too restrictive for meeting demand and act as a barrier to wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 1 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484139 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Trail quotas should be increased to allow a broad spectrum of people to enjoy the park.

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486518 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The quotas for backcountry travel should be reassessed. Quotas should reflect not only the entrance trail, but also the planned exit trail and the first night's camping choice. For example, for the John Muir Trail out of Tuolumne Meadows, most hikers may camp the first night at the Ireland Junction or before the climb out of the canyon. However, those hiking the JMT or PCT probably go further. Taking that into consideration could lead to the quota being slightly readjusted to possibly include more backpackers per day than the current quota. This same re-evaluation could also be applied to the trails leaving Yosemite Valley. So for the JMT out of Tuolumne and Yosemite Valley, there could be a separate quota for the Ireland Junction/upper Lyell Canyon and another for points beyond, and a separate quota for Little Yosemite Valley and another for destinations beyond. An example of a current trailhead where this is already applied is Glen Aulin where there is a different quota for the Waterwheel/Cold Canyon pass through. The exact numbers for each trailhead need to be considered by studying recent permit data.

Corr. ID: 320 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509525 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: There should be no reduction in quotas. They should be increased. Break the wilderness in to areas and post the numbers of users in each area daily. Users will go to the less traveled areas if they want some solitude.

Corr. ID: 494 **Organization:** Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 486825 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: We feel that there should be no Donahue Exit quota for the JMT. We feel that there should be separate commercial permit quotas for guided JMT trips.

Corr. ID: 525 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486541 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: In-line with general recreation management principles, any further regulations or changes to permit systems should be implemented in the most specific ways possible, so that they a) address only the issues present and b) limit the restrictions to specific locations or instances.

Corr. ID: 665 **Organization:** The Wildland Trekking Company **Comment ID:** 485468 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: The under-use of the wilderness, not the over-use, as evidenced by the very small fraction of total park visitors that actually spend any time in the wilderness,is an issue that should be addressed. Overly restrictive quotas in the peak summer months keep many visitors from experiencing the backcountry. A revamped system could increase visitation without negatively affecting wilderness characteristics.

Corr. ID: 679 **Organization:** Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 485273 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: Increasing access to match increased demand while retaining the ecological integrity and wilderness character of the land. With the growing California population, the old trailhead quotas and limited number of campsites available are too restrictive and serve as a barrier to access.

Corr. ID: 679 **Organization:** Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 511328 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: In order for them [children] to be able to access the backcountry, it is vital to have a sufficient number of trails that are low or medium difficulty that can accommodate groups. The low trailhead quota from the Pohono Trail to Taft point precludes us from taking campers there even though it would be a suitable destination in terms of distance and terrain difficulty. Fifteen years ago, Tawonga regularly sent trips to Sunrise Lakes and Lyell Canyon, however due to the increased popularity of these trails and low trailhead quotas relative to demand, we are seldom ever able to bring our groups to these destinations even using the reservation system. I urge you to increase the trailhead quotas to better match the increased demand so that access is not so severely restricted.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55914) Educational institutions should receive special use permits and their unique needs, such as hiking with children, should be considered when assigning trail quotas.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 653 **Organization:** Westfield State University **Comment ID:** 485386 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Also, the park service should provide special use permits for educational institutions such as universities and colleges so they can access the wilderness to provide valuable educational opportunities for their students.

Corr. ID: 679 **Organization:** Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 511331 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: Tawonga used to be able to access all of our desired destinations in Yosemite by acquiring First-Come, First-Served permits one day in advance of the trips. However in recent years we have seen so much increased demand that it has become necessary, as well as expensive, to secure permits in advance through the reservation system. In some cases, we have entered the lottery only to be denied our 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th choice destinations. The remaining options were inappropriately difficult for young backpackers. It is vital that the quota system keeps up with growing demand while also preserving the unique character of the wilderness so that access is not unnecessarily restricted.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55915) Increase group size to more than 8 for on- and off-trail use in wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 516 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484900 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Group size. As an outdoor instructor, it's not realistic to get programs to run in Yosemite with the group size limit of 8 for off trail travel.

Corr. ID: 575 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486646 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It would be beneficial to outdoor education organizations if larger groups (over a group size f 8) were able to travel in the wilderness of Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 666 **Organization:** Outward Bound California **Comment ID:** 511200 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups
Representative Quote: Grant access to larger groups (at least 10) into the Wilderness

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55916) Reduce the group size of backpacker and stock users permitted in wilderness, as areas like Lyell Canyon and Glen Aulin no longer provide a wilderness experience due to high encounter rates. Backpacking and stock use group size should be limited to 12 individuals, and off-trail group size should be limited to 6 individuals. Permits should specify calendar dates for which they are valid.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486516 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The best way to minimize adverse human impact on the Yosemite wilderness is to limit party size. The worst damage I have witnessed has always been done by large groups. The limit for party size for overnight backpacking on a trailed route should be a maximum of 12 individuals, not 15. This limit should apply to both stock groups and backpackers. For those who will be traveling off-trail, the limit should be 6 individuals in order to mitigate the impact on these especially fragile areas.

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486517 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: In terms of quotas, there should be no quota for day hikers. However, party size should be limited to 12 individuals for all non-ranger-led or professionally guided day hikes. Large groups of day hikers are both destructive to trails and disruptive to other hikers. Encountering a party of 20 day hikers in Lyell Canyon or on the PCT to Glen Aulin is not a true wilderness experience. Though there may be issues with education and enforcement that make this impractical, this is something to at least consider.

Corr. ID: 707 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510899 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: One approach might be to issue only date specific permits for camping overnight inside the Wilderness, similar to what is currently in place for developed campgrounds.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55917) The NPS should create high use zones with destination quotas and designated camping areas. Alternative trailheads should be promoted to minimize crowding in other areas. The NPS should require users to report camping destination locations and specific trip itineraries.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486463 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Consider the success or limitations of the current trail quota system in retaining the wilderness value of these popular areas. Consider creating 'Zones' that designate camping areas within those corridors.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485812 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If needed, in order to accomplish the previous, require reporting of camping destination locations. Find a more analysis friendly way of storing these data so wilderness rangers have better access to understanding how folks are moving and where they are spending each night. Far too many people end up at places like Emeric Lake, Ireland Lake, Cathedral Lakes, Royal Arch Lake etc because the trailhead quota system only flirts with addressing itineraries and specific lake basins.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485810 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: In general, think about lumping current wilderness zones into the Canyonlands model - they have some places where you can camp freely and some where you have to stay in designated sites or areas. They issue less permits for these wilder destinations.

Corr. ID: 629 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485860 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Regarding the John Muir Trail, while I support use restrictions I do not believe that limiting permits alone is a remedy. The Donohue exit quota may have slowed use for a year, but such restrictions are not the answer. Hikers denied entry from Happy Isles flip directions and start at Horseshoe Meadow south of Whitney. Others start in the middle of the JMT and hike in both directions. Quotas- -without viable options to address burgeoning demand- -will not work, and simply alienate user groups.

I suggest Wilderness managers work to develop alternative trail head starting points to disburse use and emphasize other routes. For instance, the Theodore Solomons Trail has largely disappeared from hikers' conscienceness. A promotion of that trail as an alternative for those unable to win the lottery for the JMT will help address demand.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485488 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: Trailhead quotas are essential to minimizing the number of encounters on trails and heavy use of certain trails. Zone capacities can be effective, but only if the zones are created with the most current usage information and take into consideration a balance of use levels within the zone. Creation of high use zones, with destination quotas for destinations within that zone could serve to better protect the Wilderness experience of those wanting to visit a popular destination.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55919) Coordinate with adjacent National Forests to improve visitor dispersion and permitting efforts. Consider creating a regional permitting system for the entire southern Sierra.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 131 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486314 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: The Wilderness permit system should be fully coordinated with the other adjacent National Forests to create one system for the entire Southern Sierra. NPS should encourage the use of the less used trailheads. The system should balance the interests of through hikers and other users The system must be designed to limit the impact on the natural resources of the Park.

Corr. ID: 716 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511060 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is unfortunate that those attempting to "hike through" may be limited in their access due to the location of the trailhead. Perhaps a variety of permits, for example, on heavily traveled trails a day permit, a single night permit or a multiple night permit could be issued.

Corr. ID: 724 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511176 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Creating more specific "pass-through" trailhead quotas to provide finer-grained control

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489306 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: It would be ideal to have a uniform high sierra permit system that is standardized throughout all the FS districts and NPs.

Corr. ID: 731 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489433 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Is there anything that captures, like a permitting process, people that are hiking in from the outside of the park to inside the park?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55921) There shouldn't be an additional permit required for Half Dome for wilderness users who already have a wilderness permit.

Representative Quote(s):
Corr. ID: 493 **Organization:** Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides (Commercial Outfitter) **Comment ID:** 510348 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: If people are able to backpack Half Dome and were able to acquire the wilderness permit for it (an already herculean effort for popular trailheads in high season), they should be able to be free to go where they desire and if Half Dome is what they desire we feel the daily quotas shouldn't apply to them.

Corr. ID: 494 **Organization:** Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 486828 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: We feel that summiting Half Dome via the "Cables Route" should be allowed when participating in any backcountry trip that requires wilderness permits.

Corr. ID: 628 **Organization:** American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 485835 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: I do not favor any further requirement of day hiking permits, such as those imposed upon Half Dome hikers, as I feel this prevents too many people from "accidentally" discovering a love for wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 688 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485615 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The Half Dome permit system is extremely difficult for the average user as I have heard many of my clients complain about it. Maybe allowance for climbing with any [backcountry] wilderness permit and leaving the day-use lottery in place.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56624) The wilderness permitting system needs to address the influx of through-hikers, as Yosemite's quota system doesn't currently address these users.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 114 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486296 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I have found the [backcountry]permit system to be fairly justifiable and straight forward. For the more sought after trails such as the JMT I found it rather hit and miss. I am wondering if maybe a lottery or other method would be more fair on how and to whom the permits are issued. No matter what system is incorporated for issuing wilderness permits the influx of PCT hikers must be addressed. The number of PCT hikers used be in the low hundreds and they were mostly done hiking through the southern sierra's by the beginning of July but that has changed. With the increasing number of hikers the PCT permit issuing agency now has set a limit of 50 per day that can start at the Mexican border. This spreads out the hikers on the trail which is a good thing for the PCT but not so good for the hikers doing short hikes (or the JMT) in the southern sierra's. Hundreds of PCT hikers are now entering the southern sierra's in July and August which also coincides with the peak of none PCT hikers. The National park's quota system for entering wilderness areas is being superseded by hundreds of PCT hikers a day for almost the complete hiker season. The PCT hikers must somehow be incorporated into the quota system in a fair and equatable way. What are the solutions? 1. Limit the number of PCT hikers. This has been done already with the 50 per day limit at the border but not at the sierra's. 2. Make PCT hikers get a separate sierra permit. 3. Limit the number of PCT hikers that enter the southern sierra's after a certain date. 4. Spread the PCT hikers out to different less used trails. 5. Limit the total number of PCT permits per year and reduce the 50 a day start quota to a lesser number.

Corr. ID: 5 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484161 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The most important issue to me is overuse of certain trail corridors and abused use by some PCT permit holders (i.e., getting a permit for the entire PCT with no intention of hiking the entire PCT but allowing for JMT and Half Dome trail use).

Corr. ID: 8 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484311 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Over use has become an issue. The quota system put in place over Donahue pass due to record numbers of PCT and JMT permits being pulled was brilliant.

Corr. ID: 727 **Organization:** Pacific Crest Trail Association **Comment ID:** 511287 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: It is important that the viability of the long-distance PCT permit remain intact to allow for the long-distance traveler to experience the trail for extended periods of time.

Corr. ID: 602 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510763 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I am a supporter of your Donohue Pass exit quota as an interim solution to the overuse of the John Muir Trail (JMT) corridor. If all JMT permits were issued by Yosemite, this would be a simple, functional solution. However, greatly limiting the southward flow of JMT hikers over Donohue Pass has simply changed JMT use patterns. Increasing numbers of people are seeking permits from various Inyo National Forest trailheads with large quotas, I would suspect creating a limited decrease in total JMT visitor numbers, but resulting in a pinch on permits in for people doing non-JMT trips originating in Inyo NF.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 57060) There should be a quota to limit the number of people that may enter Yosemite on a given day.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 273 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483446 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Too many visitors.

Set a cap on the number of visitors who can enter the park each day.

Appendix A

Correspondence Index of Organizations

Appendix A. Correspondence Index of Organizations, Official Representatives

Note: In many instances, the organization type was not defined by the commenter; therefore, organizations were listed as "Unaffiliated Individuals".

Correspondence ID	Name	Organization
Business		
588	Molitoris, Marty M.	Alpine Endeavors, LLC
679	Meyer, Rebecca L.	Camp Tawonga
94	Deutsch, Rick	Carpe Diem Experience, LLC
486	Ablao, Jim A.	Chockstone Climbing Guides
460	Gibson, Aaron W.	Climb Up, LLC
687	Bloxham, Tod	Edgeworks Climbing
696	Unger, Geoff	Extreme Alpine
565	Pearson, Mick R.	Kaf Adventures
626	Gehrman, Scott N.	Lasting Adventures, Inc.
668, 674	Burroughs, Ward N., Burroughs, Rose Marie	Minarets Pack Station
475	Solmssen, Hans D.	Mountain Adventures
362	Johnson, Ryan	Rocky Top Guides
425	Schwartz, Howie K.	Sierra Mountain Guides
534	Smart, Miles R.	Smart Mountain Guides
601	Haugen, James K.	The Hong Kong Climbing School
504	Olin, Dean D.	The Rock Climbing Guide LLC
665	Scott, Peter	The Wildland Trekking Company
435	Coppolillo, Robert V.	Vetta Mountain Guides
569	Brenner, Mark	Vision quest guiding
306	Gillette Jr., Jack E.	Wildflower Enterprises LLC, Back Country Horsemen
372	DeGrazio, John	Y Explore
684	Furry, David D. II	Yosemite Family Adventures, LLC
Conservation/Preservation		
408	Forry, Shawn A.	Outward Bound California
727	Nelson, Ian	Pacific Crest Trail Association
131	Carlton, Alan	Sierra Club
384	Parker, Robert J.	Sierra Mountain Center
612	Sanford, Paul	The Wilderness Society
709	Macfarlane, Gary	Wilderness Watch
638	Brown-Berry, Wendy L.	Yosemite For Everyone

Correspondence ID	Name	Organization
Non-Governmental		
671	Buckley, John	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC)
726	Ritchie, Steven R.	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)
Recreational		
366	Funderburke, Ron E.	American Alpine Club
658	Rasmussen, Randy	Back Country Horsemen of America
363	Hallman, Tamara A.	Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico-Santa Fe
314	Brock, Robin N.	Backcountry Horsemen of Blue Ridge
532	Bockel, Karen	Chicks Climbing and Skiing
703	Cochran, Richard	Public Lands Committee of the High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California
647	Barrass, Holly	Colorado Mountain Club
275, 705	Pugh, Donald	Disabled Equestrians Organization
315	Shea, Lari	Lari Shea Equestrian
728	Smith, Jane	Mariposa Mountain Riders
704	Magee, Bob	Mid Valley Unit, Backcountry Horsemen of California
512	Bury, Alex	Ojai Rock Climbing, Earthworks Climbing
334	Duncan, Sam G.	Palouse Back Country Horsemen
506	Kimball, Karen	Panhandle Back Country Horsemen
323	Lintner, Lisa	Sawtooth Backcountry Horseman
618	Keith, Jason	The Access Fund
651	Strickland, Jessica	Trout Unlimited
572, 708	Whitsett, Kirsten	Yosemite For Everyone
Unaffiliated Individual		
466	Willard, Tom R.	Climbing For Life
621	Dönz, Hanno	International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations (IFMGA)

Correspondence ID	Name	Organization
459	Strickland, Olga	Rock Climb Every Day
494	Brokvist, Colby	Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides
16	Klitsch, Rebecca	White Trash Brigade
University/Professional Society		
680	Dobbins, Timothy L.	Alpine Skills International
485	Moynihan, Michael J.	American Alpine Institute
579	Dewane, Terry	American Mountain Guides Association
563	Brokvist, Colby	Desiderata Institute
622	Conneely, Jordan	Swiss Mountain Guides Association
406	Kosseff, Alex	WSU Outdoor Program

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Appendix B

Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

Appendix B. Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

Note: N/A represents individuals who did not submit their first or last name. In many instances, the organization type was not defined by the commenter; therefore, organizations were listed as "Unaffiliated Individuals".

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
1		Schaenzler, Thomas
2		Andersen, Ray C.
3	Humboldt State University	Cunha, Stephen F.
4		Tinglum, Britt L.
5		Neumann, Dave
6		Hadley, Richard
7		Gentinetta, Francesco
8		Springer-White, Julia
9		Lund, Mike
10		Olwyler, Michael
11		Shoor, Brian
12		Helmkamp, Brent J.
13		Hook, Michael
14		Rinner, James
15		Ybarra, Kate m.
16	White Trash Brigade	Klitsch, Rebecca
17		Terry, Chris
18		Badyrka, Nick
19		Wickham,Ben
20		Daughenbaugh, Laura J.
21		N/A
22		Kent, Pat M.
23		Salkas, James R.
24		Dong, Kevin
25		Cohen, Adam
26		Meier, Donna
27		Kircher, Roger
28	Desperte Horsewives Group	Speegle, Vickie
29		McNea, Randy
30		Clary, Lydia
31		Usry, Jim H.
32		Schindler, Richard A.
33		VanderBie,Jim
34		Pallas,Michelle
35		Reichel, Ina
36		Fabry, Robert S.

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
37		N/A
38		Smith,Kevin
39		Hylton,Steve
40		Young, Marguerite
41		Smith, Robert S.
42		Williams, Cynthia c.
43		N/A
44		Ahlberg, Dave R.
45		Dunn, Larry
46		Crawford, Helen
47		Bamberger, William J.
48		Griffin-Soffel, Patricia E.
49		Holderfield, Luke E.
50		Bigge, Roy
51		N/A
52		Gilmore, Meg
53		Berk, Karen
54		Phillips, Thomas M.
55		Norton, Marc
56		Cominsky, Lynn
57		Milberg, Paul
58		Berrien, Curtis R.
59		Norton, Marc
60		N/A
61		Tebault, Diane G.
62		Vogelsang, Carl
63		Bartlett, Roderick
64		Goot, Edry
65		Publee, Jean
66		Hirtler, Adrianna L.
67		de Guzman, Edith
68		Hegwood, Lemuel
69		Petrack-Zunich, Lance
70		Sheppard, Linda
71		Theisen, Thomas
72		Shurtleff, Cindy G.
73		Lawrence, Rhonda J.
74		Ferron, Pamala
75		Nelson, Audrey
76		N/A
77		Perez, Rene

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
78		Petrik, Pavel V.
79	The Wildland Trekking Company	Cundy, Scott
80		Summit, Zack
81		Chew, Carl T.
82		N/A
83		Velchek, Ray
84		Morris, Lori
85		N/A
86		Kottler, Ann
87		Hartman, Richard W.
88		Quigg, Seth W.
89		Hiker Joe Public Watchdog
90		Steed, Bob
91		Andersen, Ray C.
92		J C. S
93		Beswick, Paul
94	Carpe Diem Experience, LLC	Deutsch, Rick
95		Kirtley, Alan D.
96		Marlin, Beth
97		Ryugo, Jim
98		Kahn, Alexandra
99		N/A
100		McDaniel, Tess
101		N/A
102		Victor, Elizabeth
103		Long, Leanne
104		Hall, Thomas D.
105		Maloney, Allie R.
106		Waters, Theresa M.
107	UC Merced	Conneely, Jordan
108		Carpentier, Jeanelle
109		Spindler, Eugene
110		N/A
111		Goodwin, Richard J.
112		Hawkins, Susan
113		Petrik, Nikolas M.
114		Vesely, James
115	Wildland Trekking	Rowe, Craig C.
116		Schaffner, Sue
117		Settergren Ramoundos, Nancy E.
118		Campbell, Doug

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
119	American Hiking, PCTA	Urick, Ann
120		N/A
121		Bishe, Ken R.
122		Switay, Ken M.
123		Felciano, Celeste
124		Schweppe, Bill
125		Dunn, Mark S.
126		Moore, Chris
127		Mitten, Holly
128		Harris, Charles
129		Schaenzler, Thomas
130		Schaenzler, Thomas
131	Sierra Club	Carlton, Alan
132		McLaughlin, Calvin
133		N/A
134		N/A
135		Adams, Lawrence
136		Holshue, Michelle L.
137		Baldwin, Nick
138		Mullins, William R.
139		Fives, Tracy
140		Pease, Rodney W.
141		Zach
142		Olaguez, Francisco
143		Pearson, Arthur P.
144		Rowe, Greg L.
145		Dyck, Byron
146		Benedict, Hilde
147		Gandy, Todd
148		Lowham, James
149		Steinbaecher, Lisa A.
150		N/A
151		Macrae, Jo
152		Seidel, Larry
153		Duncan, Peter P.
154		Madsen, Jeanine
155		Ramos, Camille
156		Hance, Geoffrey M.
157		N/A
158		Ferrington, Dorothy J.
159		McGovern, Jeff

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
160		Hill, Sandra E.
161		Gray, Andy
162	CA State Parks	Gardner, Jan
163		Dunn, Debbie
164		Dickinson, Roy
165		Mary
166		N/A
167		Abbott, Randall
168		Rabin, Karden
169		Petersen, Stan
170		Sanches, Debora
171		Nottoli, Eileen M.
172		N/A
173		Jenkins, Victoria J.
174		Brauer, Laurence
175		Timmis, Mark W.
176		Martyn, Rick
177		Young, Susan M.
178		Aitken, Molly P.
179		Andrew-Spear, Lorrie A.
180		Maurer, Pat A.
181		Scott, Catherine R.
182		Zavoli, Walter B.
183		McCloy, Colin P.
184		Paul, Barbara
185		N/A
186		Gibbs, Jerilyn K.
187		N/A
188		Catherina Coppotelli, Heide
189		Jackson, Jan J.
190		Petzak, Jamaka
191		Collins, Carol L.
192		N/A
193		Rutkowski, Robert E.
194		Walters, Sandra F.
195		Bradley, Kathy
196		Graffagnino, Mary Ann and Frank
197		Shafransky, Paula
198		Feldman, Mark R.
199		Farrell, Phillip
200		Shippee, Robert

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
201		N/A
202		Sailer, Randy
203	Wilderness Watch	Heffron, Joshua P.
204		N/A
205		Escobar, Victor
206		Dixon, Joyce H.
207		White, Jeffrey A.
208		Livingston, Elaine
209		Petrick, Candy
210		Pitman, Tom
211		O'Nan, Kathleen
212		N/A
213		Graver, Chuck E.
214		Carlson, Rob
215		N/A
216		Tanz Kubota, Ria
217		Stevens, Lisa
218		Gustafson, Duane E.
219		Knoll, Carolyn
220		N/A
221		Palla, Paul J.
222		N/A
223		Jakusz, Darlene
224		N/A
225		N/A
226		Elliott, Benton
227		Hill,Ginger
228		N/A
229		Danowski, K
230		N/A
231		McGregor, Todd J.
232		Watts, Elizabeth
233		N/A
234		Brumleve, Charles
235		Parker Stellato, Robert
236		Lanskey, Marcus
237		DeVries, Robert W.
238		Jeffries, T
239		Pasqua, John
240		Van Wicklen, Betty J.
241		Valentine, Jen

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
242		Koivisto, Ellen
243		Stewart, Sarah
244		Ball, Evelyn
245		Olson, Sherry L., Ph.D.
246		N/A
247		MacKenzie, Michelle
248		Murphy, Mary A.
249		Becker, Elaine
250		Fischer, Elaine
251		N/A
252		N/A
253		N/A
254		Carpenter, Steven
255		Collecchia, Geri
256	Wilderness Watch	Neumann, Nancy L.
257		Cashman
258		Pszanka, James
259		Boyles, Carolyn L.
260		Dane, William R.
261		Potter, Dave
262		Blair, Elaine M.
263		N/A
264		Turk, Lawrence
265		Evenson, Marilyn
266		N/A
267		Gliva, Stephen
268		Benes, Michelle
269		N/A
270		Ryan, Eileen
271		Bailey, Thomas W.
272		Henderson, Diana
273		N/A
274	Back country horsemen of California	Mason, Debra
275	Disabled Equestrians Organization	Pugh, Don
276		Johnson, G. G.
277		Kjono, Pamela K.
278		Grande, Paula G.
279		Gambelin, Darrin
280	Backcountry Horsemen of America	McKenna, Melanie L.
281		Wright, Sherri N.
282	Back Country Horsemen	Reeves, Patricia G.

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
283	Back Country Horsemen	Ferguson, Doris A.
284		Mixon, Eugenia P.
285	Back Country Horsemen of Utah	Furse, Cynthia
286		Lauzon, Donna
287	Heartland Backcountry Horsemen	Luze Revaul, Jean
288		Luehrmann, Paul F.
289	Backcountry Horsemen of America	Underhill, Theresa J.
290		Allen, James
291	Back Country Horsemen of NC	Lightsey, Deirdre
292	Back Country Horsemen of America	Lee, Alan T.
293		Seibel, Becky
294	BCHPC	Blay, Florence E.
295		Meyer, Linda
296	North American Trail Ride Conference	Horne, Patrick J.
297		Kleist, Shari L.
298	Rocky Mountain Backcountry Horsemen	Miller, Carrie N.
299	Back Country Horsemen of Montana	Meyer, Walter J.
300	BCHA	Allen, Craig E.
301		Thomas, Jim E.
302	Backcountry Horsemen and self	Miller, Charles
303		Ceraolo, Frances
304	BCHA	Markus, Ronny K.
305		Munger, Kirsten
306	Wildflower Enterprises LLC, Back Country Horsemen	Gillette Jr., Jack E.
307		Schilling, Barbara
308	Back Country Horseman	Sorensen, Gary and Elayne
309		MacRaith, Bonnie
310		Tristram, Michaele
311	Back Country Horsemen	N/A
312		Showalter, Robert
313	Back Country Horsemen of America	Forsman, Jim I.
314	Backcountry Horsemen of Blue Ridge	Brock, Robin N.
315	Lari Shea Equestrian	Shea, Lari
316	BCHA	Haynes, Rebecca
317		Petersen, Kenneth H.
318		Delles, Susan A.
319	Wilderness Watch	Wingle, Dennis G.
320		Parks, Rod
321		a fellow fed, N/A
322		von Stutterheim, Klaus

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
323	Sawtooth Backcountry Horseman	Lintner, Lisa
324		Thompson, Lawrence H.
325		Dalzell, Juelanne
326		Packer, Patti
327		Smith, Kathleen
328		Publee, Jean
329	Nevada Allstate Trail Riders	Burud, Janet M.
330		N/A
331		Wagner, Elissa
332		Miller, Steven J.
333		Walden, Deborah
334	Palouse Back Country Horsemen	Duncan, Sam G.
335	Back Country Horsemen of America	Koval, Janet
336	BCHW	Sage, Judy M.
337	Back Country Horsemen of America	Church, Mary K.
338		Haber, Kat
339		Ewart, Dick
340		Chow, Walter
341		Harrison, Eric J.
342	Back Country Horsemen of America	Cornett, Roy M.
343	Campaign for Sanity in America	Zimmermann, Adele E
344		Bice, Sharon
345		Shallman, Elsy
346	Mesa Verde Back Country horsemen	McCabe, Nihla
347		Collins, Kristi
348		Clark, Ann Lau
349		Florance, Paul
350		Mertz, Maury
351	Backcountry Horsemen	Ketchum, Carol
352	bchw-pc	Cameron, Pamela
353		Senneker, Janet
354		Hadlock, Nancy A.
355		Kaiser, John
356		Markley, Vicki
357		Carnahan, Jennifer
358	BCHM	Lehman, Jack
359		Scharin, Lisa
360	AMGA	Brady, Mackenzie
361		Bruch, Melissa
362	Rocky Top Guides	Johnson, Ryan
363	Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico-Santa Fe	Hallman, Tamara A.

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
364		Vasquez, Irene A.
365		Tepfer, Max
366	American Alpine Club	Funderburke, Ron E.
367	American Mountain Guide Association	Havlick, Ian
368		Hodges, Sue C.
369		Dec, Carl
370	Back country horsemen of the USA	Knight, Bill
371	Sierra Mountain Guides	Perumal, Viren
372	Y Explore	DeGrazio, John
373		Yi, Szu-ting
374		Rivard, Renee M.
375		Seman, David M.
376	AMGA	Goodwin, Robert
377		Oakes, Nadav
378	AMGA, Northwest Mountain School, NOLS	Hartman, Matthew J.
379		Parker, Josh E.
380	American Mountain Guides Association	Hicks, Kurt T.
381		Passey, Todd
382		Fusso, Logan
383		Bates, Philip A.
384	SIERRA MOUNTAIN CENTER	Parker, Robert J.
385	Sierra Club	Cross, David
386		Smiley, Mark
387	Amigos Bravos	Farmer, Jane M.
388		Silver, Michael
389		Roberts, Rad
390		Burnworth, Gabriel
391	CalPoly University Student, BSA	Poindexter, Trevor J.
392		Rowe, Greg
393		Langdon, Katherine M.
394		Ryan
395	Self	Sainburg, Frank
396	Wilderness Watch	Kieffer, Ramsay C.
397		Dunn, Patricia E
398	Legacy Outdoor Adventures	Kelly, Timothy K.
399	American Mountain Guide Association	Rickards, Tom R.
400	Sierra Club	Hansen, Bob A.
401		N/A
402	Peloton Coffee - Outdoor Education	Dewane, Terry
403		N/A
404		Blanton, Bonnie K.

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
405		Farr, Douglas
406	WSU Outdoor Program	Turner, Daniel
407		McEleney, Ian W.
408	Outward Bound California	Forry, Shawn A.
409	Nevada All-State Trail Riders, Inc.	Creech, Connie L.
410		Lara, Sandra S.
411		N/A
412	AMGA	Cavender, Ryan
413		Knoren, Chelsea
414	Outward Bound & Stanford University	Armstrong, Toni
415	Backcountry Horsemen of Washington	Foreman, Bruce E.
416		Krause, Richard T.
417		Schmidt, Jason
418	Outward Bound California	Browning, Erin
419	Back Country Horsemen of America (NW Chapter)	Odom, Michele U.
420	Outward Bound California	Crowe, Sam
421	Back Country Horsemen	Hrastich, Phyllis
422	Outward Bound California	Goodby, Nat
423		Khan, Wasim
424	Tilden-Wildcat Horsemen's Association	Fitts, Gary
425	Sierra Mountain Guides	Schwartz, Howie K.
426		Kaiser, Laura
427		Steele, Phd., Jeff W.
428	AMGA	Remsberg, Dale R.
429	Sierra Club	Tsai, Yvonne C.
430		N/A
431		N/A
432		Mills, Zak D.
433	Sierra Club Angeles Chapter	Wilson, Leslie C.
434		O'Connor, Michael S.
435	Vetta Mountain Guides	Coppolillo, Robert V.
436		Cunningham, Tucker
437		S., Janelle
438	American Alpine Club	Peck, Daniel G.
439		Philipson, Alice
440	Backcountry Horsemen of California	Foster, Dorothy J.
441		N/A
442		Kelsey, Francis
443	Back country Horsemen	Simpson-Riddle, Adriene
444		Smart, Erin
445		Connelly, Tim

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
446	AERC	Heberling, Mary A.
447		N/A
448		N/A
449		N/A
450	Outward Bound California, Sierra Mountain Center	Haist, Jessica
451		N/A
452		Munnelly, Daniel P.
453		N/A
454		Ricca, John
455	Alpine Endeavors/AMGA	Ciotti, Terrance J.
456		Martin, Jason D.
457		Esposito, Derek
458		Ahmed, Naz
459	Rock Climb Every Day	Strickland, Olga
460	Climb Up, LLC	Gibson, Aaron W.
461	American Mountain Guide Association	Henderson, Angela L.
462		Schonwald, Matthew
463	Glorieta Camps	N/A
464	University of Utah	Furman, Nate
465	American Mountain Guides Association	Keane, Pete E.
466	Climbing For Life	Willard, Tom R.
467		Witt, Jeff G.
468	Carmichael Productions, Inc.	Carmichael, Bob J.
469		Isle, Nicole Belle
470	AMGA	Keeling, Anna L.
471	AMGA	Goldman, Charles
472		Mullenix, Michael T.
473		Porter, Jediah M.
474		Doucette, Peter
475	Mountain Adventures	Solmssen, Hans D.
476	Mountain Gurus	Broadwell, Dennis
477	AMGA	MacKinnon, John W.
478		Lewis, Mike A.
479		Chauvin, Marc
480		Vanyek, James A.
481		Shove, Matthew J.
482		Marston, Brad
483	Mountain Gurus	Broadwell, Dennis
484		Pineda, Heather
485	American Alpine Institute	Moynihan, Michael J.
486	Chockstone Climbing Guides	Ablao, Jim A.

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
487		N/A
488		N/A
489	AMGA	Wilner, Levi
490		Prittie, Willi
491	private citizen - AAI Member and CCC Member	Reiman, Liz
492		Hunter, David M.
493	Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides (Commercial Outfitter)	Elman, Ian
494	Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides	Brokvist, Colby
495		Crammond, Kane
496		Dobronyi, Jeffrey B.
497		Casciola, Chris
498		Horst, Michael
499		Cremer, John
500		Yereamce, Jackie
501	American Mountain Guide Association	Crawford, Joe
502	AERC	Howell, Eron
503	Benegas Brothers Expeditions	Benegas, Willie G.
504	The Rock Climbing Guide LLC	Olin, Dean D.
505	Southwest Ambulance	Kincaid, Maxwell H.
506	Panhandle Back Country Horsemen	Kimball, Karen
507	AMGA	Lemieux, Alex
508		Robinson, Shane
509	Wenas Valley Chapter BCH, Yakima Valley BCH, BCH of Central Washington	Murphy, Sherrie R.
510	Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association	Whitsett, Kirsten
511		Spitzer, Rita A.
512	Ojai Rock Climbing, Earthworks Climbing	Bury, Alex F.
513		Searer, Stephanie M.
514		Henning, Dora I.
515		Yoshikawa, Linda
516		N/A
517		Kinninger, Georgia
518		N/A
519		Rider, Alan
520		Ask, Jerhet R.
521	AMGA	Deckert, Carl G.
522		Cannon, Mike
523		Hatch, Janet
524	AMGA	McClarty, Michael B.

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
525		Brown, Mathieu F.
526		N/A
527		Burnside, Sandra K.
528		Winslow, John M.
529		N/A
530	The Ohio State University	Doss, Hailey B.
531		Dowsley, Felix
532	Chicks Climbing and Skiing	Bockel, Karen
533	Back Country Horsemen	Grimes, Catherine
534	Smart Mountain Guides	Smart, Miles R.
535		Cosley, Kathy J.
536	Sierra Mountain Center	Huetter, Ryan A.
537		N/A
538		Houston, Mark E.
539		McCullough, Justin S.
540		Shanabarger, Mickey R.
541	American Mountain Guides' Assoc./International Federation of Mountain Guides	Soucy, Michael
542	AMGA	Vallone, Joseph P.
543		Williams, James
544		Cavil, Richard
545		Traxler, Ben N.
546	Lasting Adventures	Heaps, William K.
547		N/A
548		Behar, Ted A.
549	Back Country Horsemen of Oregon	Keele, Betty J.
550		Hardy, Patrick
551		N/A
552	Back Country Horsemen	Del Bianco, Sydney
553		Kimmel, David
554		Teegarden, Ted
555		N/A
556		Layne, Corale
557		Ilgner, Arno U.
558		Evans, Bethany Kindiger
559		Sharpe, Cheryl A.
560		Mediatore, James
561		Agricola, Lucas
562		Marshall, Christopher C.
563	Desiderata Institute	Lodas, Jeff
564		N/A

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
565	Kaf Adventures	Pearson, Mick R.
566		McMillion, Randy L.
567	AMGA- IFMGA mountain guide	Iglesias, Jose C.
568	Fox Mountain Guides	Bradford, Cody
569	Visionquestguiding	Brenner, Mark
570		N/A
571	Back Country Horseman	Baker, Randal B.
572	Yosemite For Everyone	Brown-Barry, Wendy L.
573		Cornell, Michael
574	BCHC	Leland, Gayle B.
575		N/A
576		Hess, Rob
577	AMGA Professional Rock Guide	Green, Curtis
578		Satterfield, Neil
579	American Mountain Guides Association	Kosseff, Alex
580		Wallace, Catherine
581		Starr, Dan
582		N/A
583	Sierra Club	Stevenson, Sylvia J.
584	Self	Purser, Lynn R.
585		Mynatt, Jordan
586		Binn, Shawn D.
587	American Mountain Guide Association	Councell, Andrew
588	Alpine Endeavors, llc	Molitoris, Marty M.
589		Niles, Julia K.
590		Stephen, Andy
591		Kelly, Olga
592	Timberline Mountain Guides	Novak, Zachary
593		Burk, Chris G.
594		Fowler, Ian
595		Koeppel, Wendy
596	American Mountain Guides Asscociation	Ormond, Patrick
597		McBrian, Forest
598		Love, Nicole J.
599		Robinson, Peter J.
600		Bishop, Myriam L.
601	The Hong Kong Climbing School	Haugen, James K.
602		Wenk, Elizabeth H.
603		N/A
604	IFMGA Guide	Hawse, Angela
605		Mills, Rhonda

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
606		Carpenter, Sarah A.
607		Lish, Christopher
608		Smart, Douglas
609	Mountain Guide in Zermatt	Biner, Hermann
610		Schneiter, Mike S.
611		Floyd, Adam
612	The Wilderness Society	Sanford, Paul
613	NM Back Country Horseman of America	Carrig, Bonnie M.
614		Ward, Jeff T.
615		Cassell, William
616		Rametta, Sam
617	Sonoma State University	Ray, Jesse
618	The Access Fund	Keith, Jason
619		Eilenberg, Eva
620		Steigerwalt, Robert Davis
621	IFMGA	Dönz, Hanno
622	Swiss Mountain Guides Association	Woernhard, Wolfgang
623	Sierra Club Mule Pack Section	N/A
624		Leidecker, Erik A.
625	AMGA & IFMGA Mountain Guide	Wright, Chris
626	Lasting Adventures, Inc.	Gehrman, Scott N.
627		Novak, Marsha
628	American Mountain Guides Association	Logan, Tyler J.
629		Stroh, Herbert A.
630		Tait, Ann P.
631		N/A
632		Browning, Becky
633		N/A
634		Yocum, Holly
635	Back Country Horsemen of America	Bruce, Teddie C.
636	SYMG, PCGI	McCalley, Roderick H.
637		N/A
638	Yosemite For Everyone	Brown-Berry, Wendy L.
639		Martin, Amy J.
640		Marshall, Cindy
641		Hurst, Adrian
642	American Alpine Club	Powers, Phil
643		Caterino, Phil
644		Hammond, Mark
645		Smart, Elizabeth
646		Ochs, Matthew J.

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
647	Colorado Mountain Club	Barrass, Holly
648		Anderson, Anne
649		Miller, Stacie C.
650	IFMGA - Member of the Board, Vicepresident Technical Commission	Walde, Kurt
651	Trout Unlimited	Strickland, Jessica
652	AMGA	Hanselman, Marc
653	Westfield State University	Tatsugawa, Kevin H.
654	American Endurance Ride Conference	Chapman, Monica R.
655		Uhlmann, Danny
656	Pacific Crest Trail Association	Nelson, Ian
657		Cressman, David
658	Back Country Horsemen of America	Rasmussen, Randy
659		Monetti, Brian
660		Acree, Lisa
661	AMGA	Berg, Brandon
662		Elton, Wallace M.
663	LLC	Kelly, Joe T.
664		Tyler, Richard
665	The Wildland Trekking Company	Scott, Peter
666	Outward Bound California	Biasiolli, Kelly
667	AMGA	Johnson, Steve G.
668	Minarets Pack Station	Burroughs, Ward N.
669		O'Connor, Linda K.
670	AMGA	Schoen, Eddie
671	CSERC	Buckley, John
672		Drapala, Jared
673	American Mountain Guides Association	Montague, Robert
674	Minarets Pack Station	Burroughs, Rose Marie
675		N/A
676		Ransom, Melinda
677		Keating, Timothy S.
678		Zilles, Kimberly
679	Camp Tawonga	Meyer, Rebecca L.
680	Alpine Skills International	Dobbins, Timothy L.
681	NM Back Country Horseman of America	Carrig, Richard M.
682		N/A
683		N/A
684	Yosemite Family Adventures, LLC	Furry, David D. II
685		Palm, Curtis
686		Monday, Wendy

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
687	Edgeworks Climbing	Bloxham, Tod
688		Robinson, Nicholas G.
689		Dolch, Michael C.
690	AMGA	Jackson, Joshua W.
691		Ulrich, Dustin
692		Ohm, Barry L.
693		N/A
694		Mascio, Roger
695		N/A
696	Extreme Alpine	Unger, Geoff
697		Grundon, Mark
698		Whitmore, George W.
699		N/A
700		N/A
701		Robinson, Doug L.
702		Carpenter, Alan
703	Co-Chairman, Public Lands Committee of the High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of Californi	Cochran, Richard
704	Mid Valley Unit, Backcountry Horsemen of California	Magee, Bob
705	Disabled Equestrians Organization (DEO)	Pugh, Donald E.
706		Weise, Jeffrey
707		Barnett, William T.
708	Yosemite for Everyone	Brown-Berry, Wendy
709	Wilderness Watch	Macfarlane, Gary
710		Carpenter, Alan
711		Rittenhouse, Claire
712	SWS Mountain Guides	Brown, James
713		Weise, Jeffrey
714		Cannon, John
715	Mid Valley Unit, Backcountry Horsemen of California	Magee, Bob
716		Clarke, Jo
717		Olson, Lani M.
718		Eiland, Vickie
719		Coffer, Cathy
720		Schurg, Marilyn
721		Whitney, Neila
722	Yosemite Mountaineering School	Helling, Josh
723		Helling, Josh
724		Wallace, Aaron

Correspondence ID	Organization	Name
725		Nash, Emily
726	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)	Ritchie, Steven R.
727	Pacific Crest Trail Association	Nelson, Ian
728	Mariposa Mountain Riders	Smith, Jane
729		Murphy, Mike
730		N/A
731		N/A
732		Alcala, Guy R.
733		McCarty, Kevin

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