



Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River

In 1984, 83 miles of the Tuolumne River were added to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Congress with an amendment to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This included 54 miles of the river within Yosemite National Park. In accordance with the law, the NPS will prepare a comprehensive plan to establish the long-term guidance for protecting the portion of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River that flows through Yosemite National Park.



The Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River originates in the high country of Yosemite National Park near the eastern entrance at Tioga Pass. The two principal sources include the 8-mile long Dana Fork which forms near the base of Mt. Dana, and the 13-mile long Lyell Fork which forms at the base of the glacier on Mt. Lyell.

The two forks merge near the eastern edge of Tuolumne Meadows, the largest sub-alpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada. After flowing 3 miles through Tuolumne Meadows, the river cascades for nearly 24 miles through the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne.

The Wild and Scenic River designation in Yosemite National Park breaks at the point where the river enters the 8-mile long Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, created by the O'Shaughnessy Dam. Downriver from the dam, the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River resumes, flowing another 6 miles through the Poopenaut Valley to the park's western boundary near the small community of Mather. Outside of the Yosemite National Park boundary, the remaining segments of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The Tuolumne is rich in what the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act calls "outstandingly remarkable values." It is home to a vast range of ecologic and sociocultural values, including (but not limited to)

- Intact ecosystems providing habitat for a remarkable diversity of species
- Some of the most extensive subalpine meadow and riparian communities in the Sierra Nevada
- Exceptionally well-preserved evidence of glacial processes
- Exceptional water quality
- Regionally significant archeological evidence of prehistoric travel, trade, and settlement
- Prehistoric resources important for maintaining cultural traditions of American Indian people.
- Magnificent scenery
- Outstanding opportunities for a diversity of recreational experiences
- Invaluable opportunities to examine natural and cultural resources with high research value



What is the Tuolumne River Plan?

In keeping with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Park Service is preparing a comprehensive management plan for the segments of the Tuolumne River corridor within Yosemite National Park.

When completed, this document will guide the future management of the river to ensure the protection and enhancement of the river's Outstandingly Remarkable Values and its free-flowing condition. The plan will also determine more specifically the programs and activities needed to meet river protection goals in Tuolumne Meadows and throughout the river corridor.



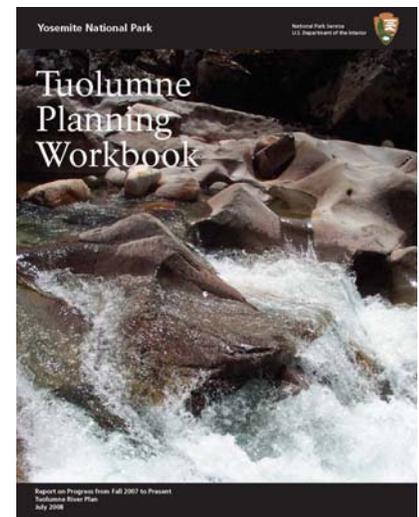
To achieve these objectives, the Tuolumne River Plan will

- Review, and if necessary revise, the existing boundaries and segment classifications of the Wild and Scenic River corridor
- Establish management zoning in the river corridor to provide for a spectrum of interrelated resource conditions and visitor experiences
- Establish clearly stated long-term goals (desired conditions) for resource protection and visitor experiences, and identify the indicators and standards for a monitoring program that will ensure these goals are met and maintained over time
- Address user capacity by identifying the appropriate kinds and levels of use that protect river values while achieving and maintaining the desired conditions
- Identify specific programs and facilities needed to implement the long-term goals for the Tuolumne Meadows area established by the Tuolumne River Plan.

Get Involved

Alternatives development and a series of public involvement activities, field trips, and workshops are currently underway. The draft plan and environmental impact statement will be available for public review in summer 2009.

In the meantime, the NPS will release the Tuolumne Planning Workbook to provide members of the public an opportunity to view early alternatives and river protection concepts. To receive a copy of the 2008 workbook (available for review July 4-Sept. 15), phone project manager, Kristina Rylands at 209/379-1175 or email kristina_rylands@nps.gov.



For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/trp.htm

06/08