Restoration of the Mariposa Grove Of Giant Sequoias
Yosemite National Park

Project Update
Open House
May 30, 2012
Project Need

The Mariposa Grove is a popular all-season destination for visitors to Yosemite. Comprehensive restoration actions are needed to ensure the long-term health of this special resource, and to improve the overall experience for visitors.
Project Purpose

- Restore degraded Grove habitat
- Enhance the visitor experience
- Sustain long-term health of the Giant Sequoias
General Management Plan
(NPS, 1980)

Mariposa Grove Goals:
- Provide only visitor facilities consistent with preservation of the unique ecosystem;
- Remove all other facilities not necessary for the enjoyment of the resources

South Entrance Goals
- Provide park orientation and information/reservation system
- Provide staging facilities for Mariposa Grove
- Provide adequate road to Mariposa Grove for buses
Project Milestones

2010

Begin Resource Data Collection to Inform Planning

2011

May 27  Internal Scoping Kick-off/Site Visit
August 15 Initiate Consultation w/ Agencies and Tribes
August 30 Public Scoping- Open House/Webinar
October 14 Public Site Visit
December 3 Federal Register Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS
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Developing Design Concepts
Design Workshops

- Helps generate ideas and solutions while engaging diverse points of view
- Interdisciplinary discussion
- Addresses design problems
- Typically breaks into sub-groups to address the range of issues
- Reporting out ensures all groups are aware of issues and discussions
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Developing Alternative Concepts
Common Themes Identified

- Improve visitor understanding of the Giant Sequoia ecosystem
- Improve/restore grove hydrology
- Improve orientation and wayfinding for visitors
- Interpret cultural resources and history of human stewardship of the grove
- Rehabilitate historic rockwork at Wawona Point
- Remove unnecessary utilities and operations from the Grove
- Consolidate trails, improve connectivity and accessibility
- Fix tight curve at the entrance/Three Sentinels
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Opportunities for Restoration
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Relocating Infrastructure
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Restoring Natural Processes
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Legend

- Primary Arrival Node
- Secondary Arrival Node

PROPOSED CIRCULATION
- Paved 2-way Road
- Unpaved Narrow Road
- Unpaved Pedestrian Trail

HYDROLOGY CONDITIONS
- Re-direction of flow
- Area of Watershed Run-off Loss
- Area of Redirected Run-off Loss
- Open Culvert
- Partially Blocked Culvert
- Blocked Culvert

EXISTING CONDITIONS
- Existing Road
- Trail
- Creek
- Delineated Wetland
- Wilderness
- Potential Wilderness

SEQUOIA TREE TYPE
- Mature
- Juvenile | Sapling | Seedling

Contour Interval - 20'

A NO ACTION | HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION
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Legend
- Primary Arrival Node
- Secondary Arrival Node

RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES
- Restoration
- Rehabilitation

PROPOSED CIRCULATION
- Paved 2-way Road
- Unpaved Narrow Road
- Unpaved Pedestrian Trail

EXISTING CONDITIONS
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SEQUOIA TREE TYPE
- Mature
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Contour Interval - 20′

# Y/N
1. Remove tram & rehabilitate along roadside? (Service access only)
2. Remove tram, road & create unpaved pedestrian trail? (No vehicular access)
3. Obliterate trail and restore?
4. Remove parking area & restore?
5. Remove tram from staging area & restore?
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Providing habitat for sensitive species
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIANT SEQUOIAS THAT COMPRIZE MARIPOSA GROVE</th>
<th>RUSTIC / VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE</th>
<th>NATURALISTIC LANDSCAPE DESIGN</th>
<th>LAYERS OF CIRCULATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Image of Giant Sequoias" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Image of Rustic Architecture" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Image of Naturalistic Landscape" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Image of Circulation" /></td>
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Cultural Resources: Opportunities
Improving Trails

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
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U.S. Department of the Interior

Legend
- Historic Paved Road (Mariposa Grove Rd)
- Archeological Linears
- Historic Bridle Path
- Historic Wagon Road
- Historic Trail
- Non-Historic Trail

Historic Notes
1. Lower Grove Wagon Rd. (1879,1892,1925)
2. Outer Loop Bridle Path (1933,34)
3. Billedo Meadow Trail (1933,34)
4. Wawona Bridle Path (1933,34)
5. Wagon Rd. (1879, converted to trail 1925)
6. Possible Mann Trail Remnant (1870)
7. Logging Chute
8. Old Rd. between Four Mile and Big Creek

SEQUOIA TREE TYPE
- Mature | Juvenile | Sapling | Seedling

ARCHEOLOGY SITES
- Historic
- Prehistoric
- Both

- Historic Isolates
- Pre-Historic Isolates
- Both

Contour Interval - 30'

TRAIL ALIGNMENT

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Should MG Rd become the primary pedestrian route through the grove? (consider tram, access, service vehicles)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Should non-historic, redundant trails be consolidated?</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Should old road alignment be converted into a trail to picnic area &amp; beyond?</td>
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Improving Site Accessibility
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Exploring Site Design Options: Road Access
Site Test-Fits: Parking for the Grizzly Giant
Site Test-Fits: Parking at South Entrance
Project Milestones

2012
June 5/6  Choosing by Advantages (CBA) Workshop
          (Identify Preferred Alternative)
June 27   Public Open House
July       U.S. Fish and Wildlife Consultation Site Visit (tentative)
July       Consultation with Tribes
Late Summer Public Review DEIS (60 days)
           (Public Open House, Site Visit)
December  Comment Analysis and EIS Revision

2013
Winter    Final EIS published (anticipated)
Spring    Record of Decision (anticipated)
Project Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Data Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Pre-Design</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Public Scoping</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>Centennial</td>
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U.S. Department of the Interior