



Scenic Vista Management Program Work Plan 2013

Yosemite National Park is an icon of scenic grandeur. When set aside in 1864, Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove were the first natural areas in the United States protected for public benefit and appreciation of the scenic landscape. Over three-million visitors come to Yosemite National Park each year to see its natural wonders.

The scenic vista program documents, protects, and reestablishes Yosemite’s important viewpoints and vistas, consistent with the natural processes and human influences that created them. The *Finding of No Significant Impact* for the *Scenic Vista Management Plan* environmental assessment was completed and signed in July of 2011. No more than 93 vista sites throughout the park will be initially managed, and an additional 21 sites monitored and maintained. Following the summary of work completed in 2012, is the work plan for 2013 with projected actions of eight sites for initial management outside of river corridors. This year’s work will take place with a generous donation from the Yosemite Conservancy.

Highlights of 2012

This was the initial year for vista management program implementation under the 2011 Environmental Assessment and FONSI. Actions for reestablishing nine sites occurred in September of 2012. All actions taken were within limits established in the 2012 work plan and the FONSI. The work plans note trees over 6” dbh to be removed, but trees under 6” dbh can be removed if necessary as maintenance as per the Scenic Vista Plan EA and park policies.

Summary of 2012 Actions

2012 Work Plan Site	ID	Name	Trees planned for removal over 6" dbh	Trees removed over 6" dbh	Trees removed under 6" dbh	Trees trimmed
1	83	Bridalveil View	2	2		
2	84	Half Dome View	2	2		
3	85	Big Meadow Overlook	7	7		5
4	70	Rostrum	6	3		3
5	76	El Portal View	7	6		4
6	138	Walker Party	15	15		
7	136	South Fork Bridge				20
8	130	Clark Range View	17	17	1	1
9	128	Turnout East of Lukens Lake				
10	114	Tenaya Lake west	16	16	8	6

Actions in removing trees went smoothly. Notification and coordination was achieved through consultation with associated Tribes and tribal groups, an announcement in the daily report, an eNewsletter notice was sent and temporary vista clearing road signs installed at each work site while work was occurring. No comments on the work plan or the work carried out were recorded.

2013 Work Plan

This work plan is provided to the public to inform and ensure the process is transparent. Comments about specific actions in the work plans are welcome. Park staff will review comments submitted to the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website and individual work plans can be adjusted, postponed, or canceled if pertinent information reveals any unforeseen adverse effects. Final work plans will be posted before any work begins if any changes are needed. Work is estimated to begin in September, 2013.

Management Actions Common to all Work Plans

The following proposed work plans are within all guidelines set out in the *Scenic Vista Management Plan* environmental assessment *Finding of No Significant Impact*. Areas for tree removals are kept to a minimum and are within all set limits. There are numerous mitigations and protections to ensure any adverse effects are minimized or eliminated.

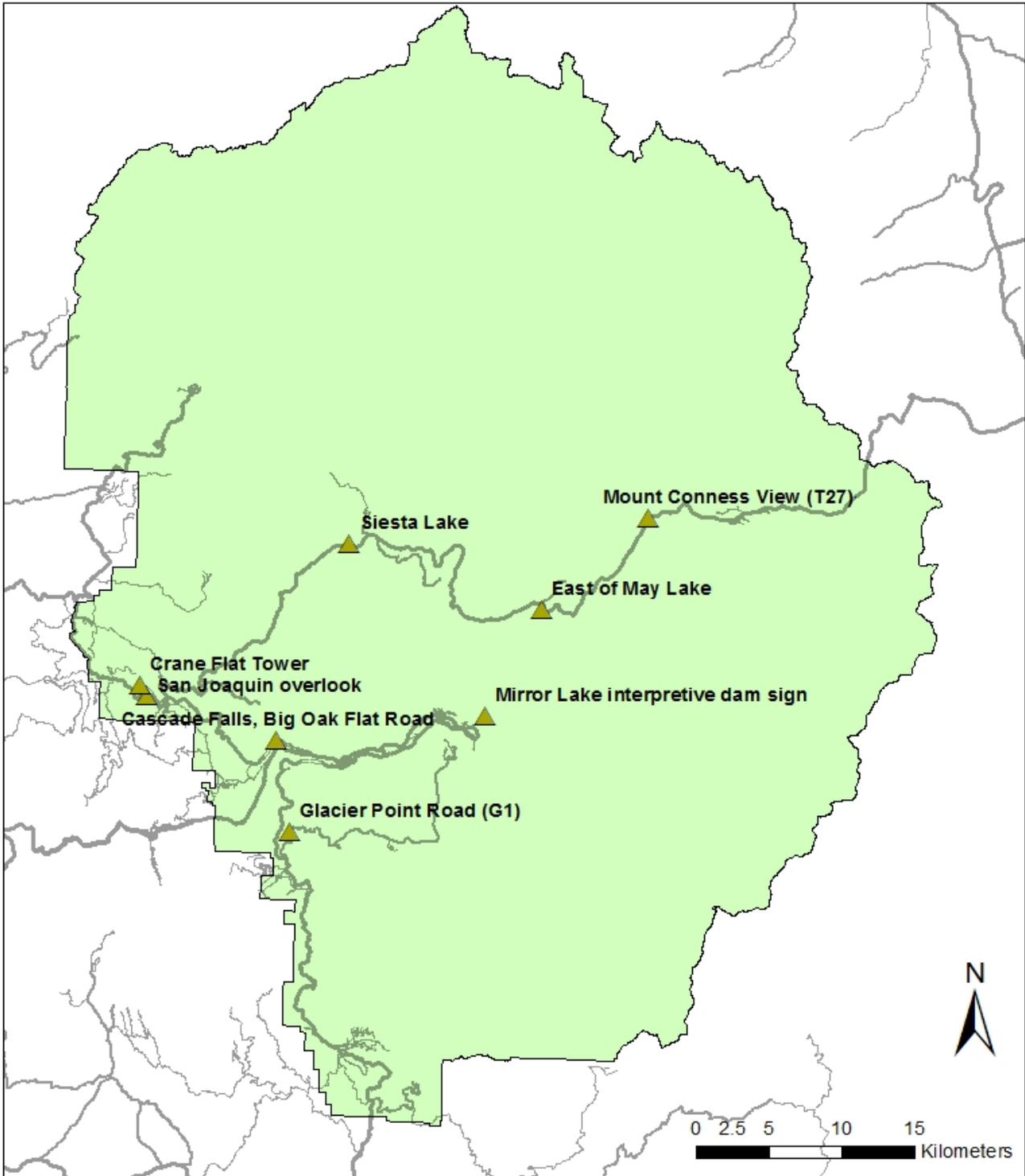
- Park subject matter specialists will review the annual work plan to ensure an absence of adverse effects on cultural and natural resources and apply appropriate mitigations.
- Work shall be scheduled to minimize potential adverse effects on bird and bat species. In general, September through October would be the best estimated time for vista clearing to take place, subject to site-specific conditions. No actions outside of these limits are proposed for 2013.
- Features with obvious high value to wildlife, such as snags (particularly those with evidence of wildlife use), very large diameter trees, oak trees, large diameter logs, and decaying wood will be preserved, where possible. No snags are proposed to be removed in 2013.
- Key habitat features for Pacific fisher will be retained where possible.
- Special-status plant species and wildlife habitat will be protected. No special status vegetation or wildlife species are believed to be effected for the 2013 proposed work.
- Equipment will be inspected before clearing activities commenced to ensure that machinery is clean and free of weed seed and propagules.
- Within riparian corridors white alder trees (*Alnus rhombifolia*) will not be removed unless critical to restoring a vista of high or medium value. No removal of species in the willow family (*Salix*), including black cottonwood trees (*Populus balsamifera*) will occur. None of these species are proposed to be removed in 2013.
- Trees located immediately adjacent to the water's edge and hang over the stream or river will not be removed. Several vista sites in the 2013 Work Plan are near water bodies, but over hanging vegetation will not be removed. No removal of in-stream, downed large wood will occur.
- Old growth trees and trees older than the establishment date of a vista will not be removed.
- Employee and visitor safety will be the highest priority during vista clearing operations. Tree felling operations will occur under the direction of the park forester, subject to strict supervisory control.
- Biomass may be utilized or disposed of in any way that will not require additional compliance. This could be cultural use, lop and scatter, onsite mulch, chip and haul, pile and burn, haul to woodlot, or contracted timber removal. At this time there is a particular need for straight incense cedar logs, ten inches or less in diameter, for use in preservation projects on park historic buildings, and any such trees cut should be limbed and set aside.
- Noise levels near residential or visitor use areas will be restricted.
- Work crews will avoid soil compaction when operating trucks or heavy equipment in wet or compactable soils by distributing machinery weight with military landing mats, snow, heavy plywood, or alternatives. Operators will move tracked equipment straight in and out of work sites and avoid turning while off pavement. Disturbed soils will be rehabilitated by restoring slope contour and using other best practices.
- Specific vegetation that is a critical component of a cultural landscape will not be removed.

- California black oaks will be removed only if critical to reestablish a high-value vista in the lower montane forests.
- No operations will take place in wilderness.
- Vehicles will contain equipment for the prevention and cleanup of spills. Temporary fuel storage and staging areas would be flagged, signed, and monitored. Work crews will use safe and environmentally friendly fuels, lubricants, hydraulic fluid, and other fluids.
- Stumps would be ground down, or flush cut, and buried with debris to hide the obvious cut appearance. Larger stumps may have habitat value, and some may be retained as long as the stump does not appear to be cut and is in keeping with the surrounding area.
- All work that generates noise levels above 76 decibels near residential or visitor use areas will be performed between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Temporary road closures will generally not exceed one-half hour. Road closures will be scheduled in periods of low visitation when possible.

The eight sites proposed for initial actions this year are most of the remaining high value sites outside of the Merced River and the Tuolumne River corridors. Actions at these sites will reestablish scenic vistas and restore vegetation. Specific actions are described in more detail at each site's work plan. These sites are compiled into a gis database to track future management and maintenance needs. Work will also be coordinated with FMSS, and begin to document the need for future cyclic maintenance. All other high priority sites that had initial actions taken, and other high priority sites not obscured will be monitored and status and maintenance needs recorded for 2014.

Beginning in September of 2013, forestry crews will take initial management actions at the proposed sites. Final clean-up and vegetation restoration will take place with restoration crews. These crews will take actions such as decompacting soils, taking erosion control measures and scattering native seed previously collected.

Beginning in 2014, actions within the river corridors can begin providing the successful completion of Records of Decision.



2013 Vista Management
Work Plan
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

number	name	Inventory number	priority	VRA score
1	Mirror Lake Interpretive Sign	15	medium	9.25
location	Mirror Lake Dam Interpretive Sign is located on the Mirror Lake Trail at the final parking area across from the restroom.		X: 275245	Y: 4180794

Vegetation Ecology

Ponderosa Pine-Incense-cedar-(California Black Oak-Canyon Live Oak) association.

Vista Management Actions

Forestry Management

Tree Removal		
Tree Species	20'-30' DBH	Total
Ponderosa Pine		29

- Remove cut trees from site when prescribed woody material density is exceeded at the site.
- Flush cut stumps from newly cut trees when it has been determined that minimal impacts will occur to the surrounding vegetation from the use of stump grinding equipment.
- Chip woody debris and disperse as mulch on site at a rate of no more than 1 inch deep.
- Scatter all large woody debris left on site from the newly cut trees to reduce visual impacts.
- Do not cut trees overhanging water.



Figure 1. View from Mirror Lake interpretation sign. NPS 2009.

Restoration Actions

- Mitigate all impacts associated with the cutting and removal of targeted trees by scarifying compacted soils and mulching disturbed areas with native forest litter.
- Collect native grass and forb seed in late summer and early fall, as appropriate by species.
- Reseed any impacted areas upon completion of all forestry management actions.

Continued Maintenance

- Evaluate and maintain site vistas every 3 years.
- Maintenance may include felling trees <6" DBH.

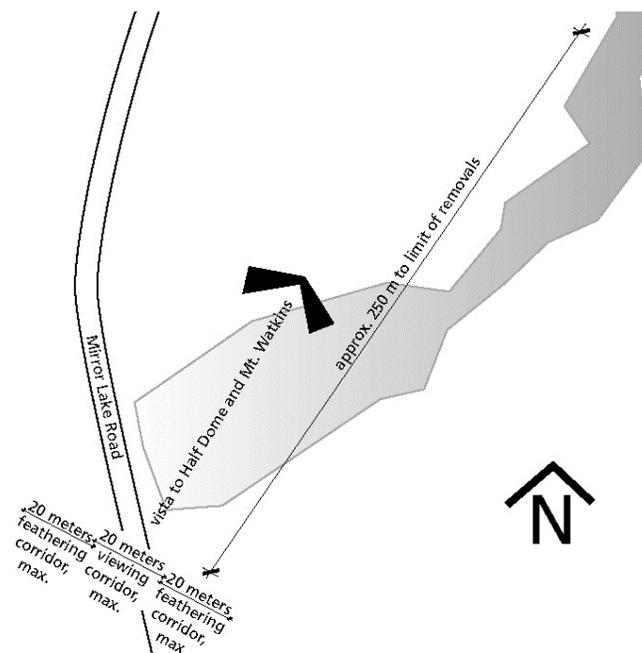


Figure 2. Mirror Lake site diagram. Not to Scale.

Number	name	Inventory number	priority	VRA score
2	Cascade View	82	high	10
Big Oak Flat Road , Cascade View is a vista on a turnout adjacent to the bridge that crosses Cascade Creek.			X: 260886	Y: 4179063

Vegetation Ecology

Lower montane rocky streambed sparsely vegetated.

Vista Management Actions

Forestry Management

Tree Removal				
Tree Species	> 20" DBH	20" -30" DBH	30" -40" DBH	Total
Interior Live Oak	3	2		5
Cedar	3	1	1	5

- Machinery shall remain on pavement.
- Flush cut stumps from newly cut trees.
- Chip woody debris and disperse as mulch on site at a rate of no more than 1 inch deep.
- Scatter all large woody debris left on site from the newly cut trees to reduce visual impacts.



Figure 3. Cascade View. NPS 2009.

Restoration Actions

- No revegetation will likely be necessary at this site.

Continued Maintenance

- Evaluate and maintain site vistas every 3 years
- Maintenance may include felling trees <6" DBH.

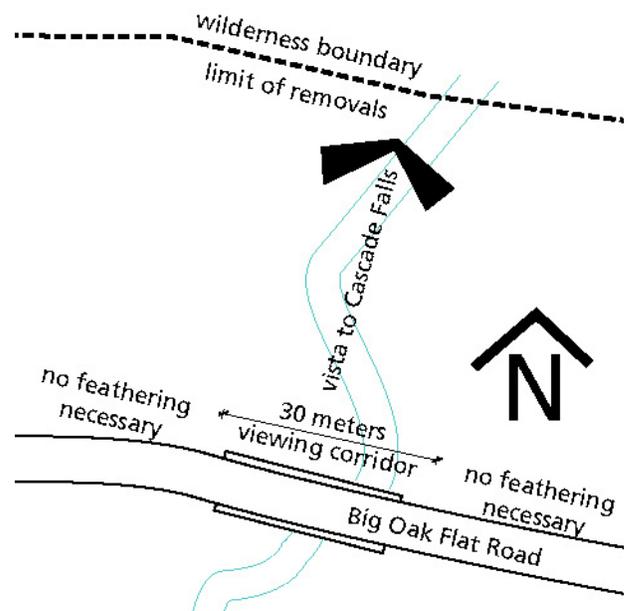


Figure 4. Cascade View site diagram. Not to Scale.

number	name	Inventory number	priority	VRA score
3	Crane Flat Tower	141	High	11.75
	Crane Flat Fire Tower is located at the Crane Flat helicopter base, approximately 1.25 miles northwest of the gate Big Oak Flat Road.			X: 251519 Y: 4182905

Vegetation Ecology

Developed area surrounded by lower montane, Greenleaf Manzanita & Bush Chinquapin & Huckleberry Oak Shrubland Superalliance

Vista Management Actions

Forestry Management

Tree Removal		
Tree Species	Size	Total
Sugar Pine	20-30" DBH	11
Sugar Pine	<20" DBH	12
Ponderosa Pine	<20" DBH	1
White Fir	<20" DBH	10



Figure 5. Crane Flat Tower. NPS 2009.

- Remove cut trees from site when prescribed woody material density is exceeded at the site.
- Flush cut stumps from newly cut trees when it has been determined that minimal impacts will occur to the surrounding vegetation from the use of stump grinding equipment.
- Chip woody debris and disperse as mulch on site at a rate of no more than 1 inch deep.
- Scatter all large woody debris left on site from the newly cut trees to reduce visual impacts.

Restoration Actions

- Salvage non-target plants that could be impacted by machinery before work begins, where practical, and replant afterward.
- Mitigate all impacts associated with the cutting and removal of targeted trees by scarifying compacted soils and mulching disturbed areas with native forest litter.
- Collect native grass and forb seed in late summer and early fall, as appropriate by species, and dispersed in late fall.

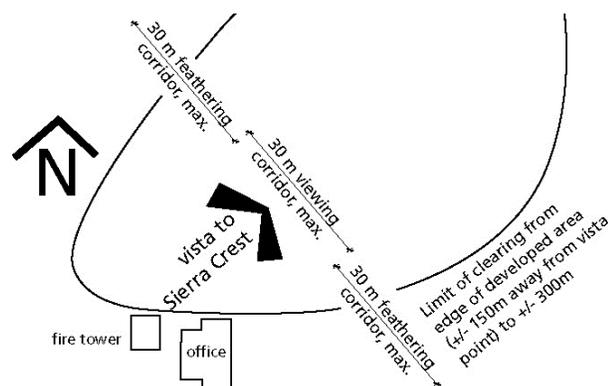


Figure 6. Crane Flat Tower site plan. Not to scale.

- This site must have a greater definition to the footprint of developed area. Coordination between park divisions must occur before restoration begins.
- Use placement of signage, fencing, large logs, rocks and dense or thorny shrub plantings such as Manzanita or whitethorn, transplanted from the surrounding area at densities appropriate for area, to encourage visitors to stay in designated viewing area and not cause further erosion. These could help define parking, facility and training and picnic areas.

Continued Maintenance

- Evaluate and maintain site annually.
- Maintenance may include felling trees < 6" DBH.

Number	name	Inventory number	priority	VRA score
4	San Joaquin Overlook	86	medium	9.25
	Big Oak Flat Road 1 km w of S Landing, dramatic views of San Joaquin Valley.			X: 251967 Y: 4182190

Vegetation Ecology

Lower montane, White Fir-Sugar Pine-(Incense-cedar-Jeffrey Pine) Forest.

Vista Management Actions

Forestry Actions

Trees Removal		
Tree Species	< 12" DBH	Total
Cedar	8	8
Ponderosa Pine	25	25
White Fir	6	6

- Remove cut trees from site when prescribed woody material density is exceeded at the site.
- Flush cut stumps from newly cut trees when it has been determined that minimal impacts will occur to the surrounding vegetation from the use of stump grinding equipment.
- Chip woody debris and disperse as mulch on site at a rate of no more than 1 inch deep.
- Scatter all large woody debris left on site from the newly cut trees to reduce visual impacts.

Restoration Actions

- Salvage non-target plants that could be impacted by machinery before work begins, where practical, and replant afterward.
- Mitigate all impacts associated with the cutting and removal of targeted trees by scarifying compacted soils and mulching disturbed areas with native forest litter.
- Collect native grass and forb seed in late summer and early fall, as appropriate by species, and dispersed in late fall
- Reseed any impacted areas upon completion of all forestry management actions.
- Transplant hardy shrubs from surrounding area or other actions to encourage visitors to remain on the pavement. Transplanted shrubs would be mulched and watered in late summer for two years to increase likelihood of survival.

Continued Maintenance

- Evaluate and maintain site vistas every three years.
- Maintenance may include felling trees < 6" DBH.



Figure 7. San Joaquin Overlook. NPS 2009.

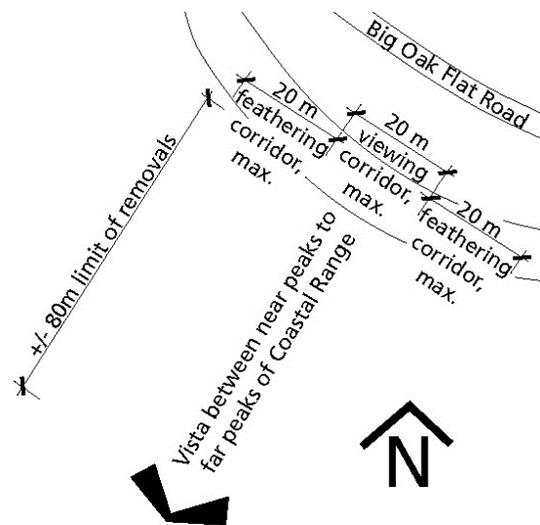


Figure 8. San Joaquin Overlook site diagram. Not to Scale.

number	name	Inventory number	priority	VRA score
5	G1 Road Guide Marker	77	Medium	8.75
	Glacier Point Road , 3 miles east of Wawona Road. Vista looks to El Portal, and Merced Canyon, and, on clear days, the Coast Range and San Joaquin Valley.			X: 261836 Y: 4172810

Vegetation Ecology

Between upper montane White Fir-Sugar Pine-(Incense-cedar-Jeffrey Pine) Forest and lower montane Ponderosa Pine-Incense-cedar-(California Black Oak-Canyon Live Oak)

Vista Management Actions

Forestry Actions

Tree removal			
Tree Species	< 20" DBH	20"-30" DBH	Total
White Fir	16		16
Red Fir	1		1
Ponderosa Pine	1		1
Jeffery Pine	6	2	8
Cedar	1		1
Pruning			
1 – 48" dbh sugar pine to +/- 50' above grade.			



Figure 9. G1 Road Guide Marker. NPS 2009.

- Remove cut trees from site when prescribed woody material density is exceeded at the site.
- Flush cut stumps from newly cut trees when it has been determined that minimal impacts will occur to the surrounding vegetation from the use of stump grinding equipment.
- Chip woody debris and disperse as mulch on site at a rate of no more than 1 inch deep.
- Scatter all large woody debris left on site from the newly cut trees to reduce visual impacts.

Restoration Actions

- Salvage non-target plants that could be impacted by machinery before work begins, where practical, and replant afterward.
- Mitigate all impacts associated with the cutting and removal of targeted trees by scarifying compacted soils and mulching disturbed areas with native forest litter.
- Collect native grass and forb seed in late summer and early fall, as appropriate by species, and dispersed in late fall.
- Reseed any impacted areas upon completion of all forestry management actions.

Continued Maintenance

- Evaluate and maintain site vistas every 3 years.
- Maintenance may include felling trees less than 6" DBH.

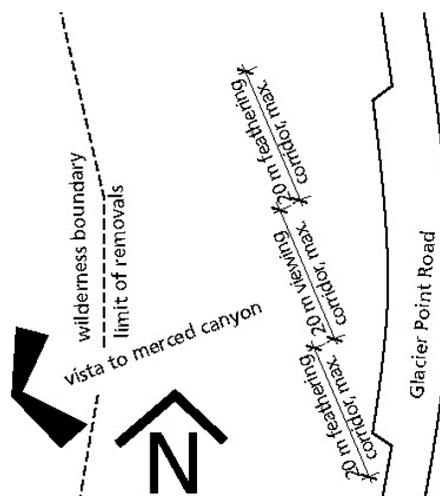


Figure 10. G1 Road Guide Marker site diagram. Not to Scale.

number	name	Inventory number	priority	VRA score
6	Siesta Lake	134	high	10.5
	Tioga Road, 0.9 miles west of White Wolf. This is an an iconic view of Siesta Lake; a flooded glacial cirque containing aquatic vegetation.			X: 265946 Y: 4192665

Vegetation Ecology

Upper montane California Red Fir-(Sierra Lodgepole Pine) Forest Superassociation.

Vista Management Actions

Forestry Actions

Tree Removal		
Tree Species	< 12" DBH	Total
Lodgepole Pine	30	30
Red Fir	6	6

- Do not remove trees overhanging lake.
- Remove cut trees from site when prescribed woody material density is exceeded at the site.
- Flush cut stumps from newly cut trees when it has been determined that minimal impacts will occur to the surrounding vegetation from the use of stump grinding equipment.
- Chip woody debris and disperse as mulch on site at a rate of no more than 1 inch deep.
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Restoration Actions

- Salvage non-target plants that could be impacted by machinery before work begins, where practical, and replant afterward.
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- Transplant hardy shrubs from surrounding area or other actions to encourage visitors to remain on the pavement. Transplanted shrubs would be mulched and watered in late summer for two years to increase likelihood of survival.

Continued Maintenance

- Evaluate and maintain site vistas annually.
- Maintenance may include felling trees <6" DBH.



Figure 11. Siesta Lake. NPS 2009.

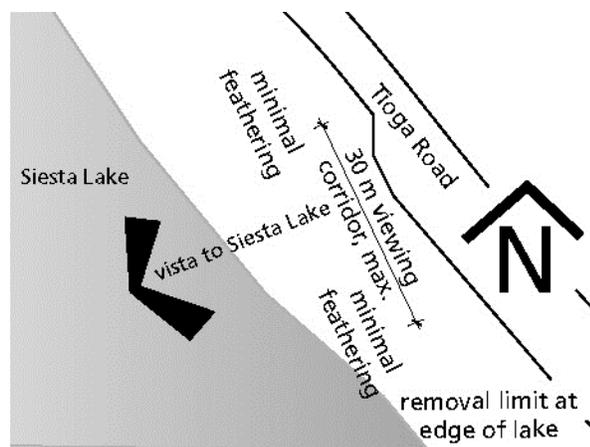


Figure 12. Siesta Lake site diagram. Not to scale

number	name	Inventory number	priority	VRA score
7	Large Turnout east of May Lake	117	medium	8.25
	Tioga Road, 0.27 miles east of the Lukens Lake trailhead. The vista is to Mt. Hoffman to the northwest.			X: 270268 Y: 4192219

Vegetation Ecology

Upper montane Western White Pine-
(California Red Fir-Sierra Lodgepole Pine)
Forest Superalliance.

Vista Management Actions

Forestry Actions

Tree Removal			
Tree Species	<12" DBH	<20" DBH	Total
Lodgepole Pine		4	4
Red Fir	12	16	28

- Clearing will occur east of large tree with scraggly top.
- Remove cut trees from site when prescribed woody material density is exceeded at the site.
- Flush cut stumps from newly cut trees when it has been determined that minimal impacts will occur to the surrounding vegetation from the use of stump grinding equipment.
- Chip woody debris and disperse as mulch on site at a rate of no more than 1 inch deep.
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Continued Maintenance

- Evaluate and maintain site vistas every three years.
- Maintenance may include felling trees < 6" DBH.



Figure 13. Turnout East of May Lake. NPS 2009.

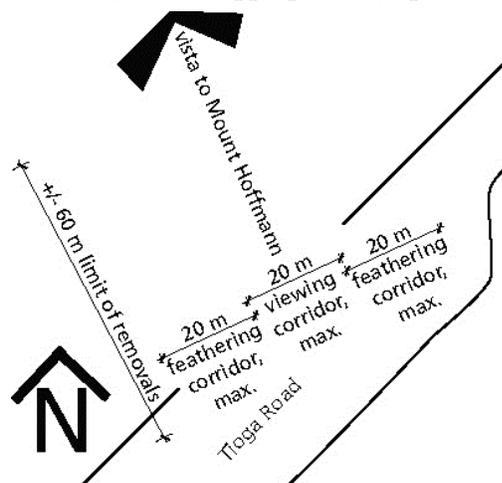


Figure 14. Turnout East of May Lake site diagram. Not to scale.

number	name	Inventory number	priority	VRA score
8	Mount Conness View (T27)	174	medium	8.25
	Tioga Road. Turnout approximately 1.5 miles west of Pothole Dome.			X: 286512 Y: 4194411

Vegetation Ecology

Subalpine, Sierra Lodgepole Pine Mesic Forest Superassociation and Mountain Hemlock- (Western White Pine-Sierra Lodgepole Pine) Forest.

Vista Management Actions

Forestry Actions

Tree Removal		
Tree Species	20"-30" DBH	Total
Lodgepole Pine	24	24

- Remove cut trees from site when prescribed woody material density is exceeded at the site.
- Flush cut stumps from newly cut trees when it has been determined that minimal impacts will occur to the surrounding vegetation from the use of stump grinding equipment.
- Chip woody debris and disperse as mulch on site at a rate of no more than 1 inch deep.
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Continued Maintenance

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- Maintenance may include felling < 6" DBH.



Figure 15. Mount Conness view. NPS 2009.

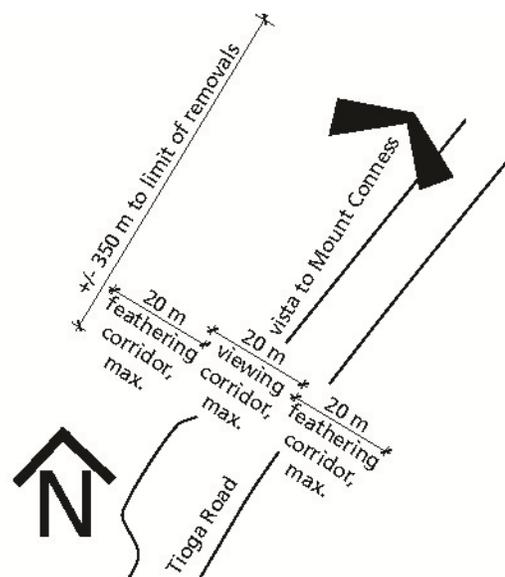


Figure 16. Mount Conness view site diagram. Not to scale