



## Overview of the Tuolumne River Plan's Alternative 4 (Preferred Alternative)



*The Tuolumne River Plan's Preferred Alternative responds to a range of public concerns by balancing desires to retain a traditional Tuolumne experience with desires to reduce development and make visitor use more sustainable. The Preferred Alternative identifies a set of actions that would work together to protect river values while accommodating current levels of day and overnight use and providing improved opportunities for day visitors at Tuolumne Meadows.*

### **Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road Corridor**

Under the Preferred Alternative, access to Tuolumne Meadows would be improved by directing vehicles to an increased number of spaces in formal parking areas, which would replace the informal roadside parking. A new visitor contact station on the south side of Tioga Road would be located closer to the Tuolumne store and the campground and would serve as the primary trailhead for Parson's Lodge. New, short, formalized, hiking trails would connect the visitor contact station, the campground, Parson's Lodge, and other facilities along the road. Informal trails that are damaging vegetation would be restored to natural conditions. The store, grill, and post office would remain in their current locations, while the public fuel station and mountaineering shop would be removed and replaced with parking. The Tuolumne Lodge and Tuolumne Meadows Campground would retain their present capacities, though campsites and lodging closest to the river would be relocated to protect sensitive riparian areas.

Some administrative uses would be consolidated to be more efficient, and employee housing would be improved and consolidated. The existing Visitor Center would be converted to administrative uses, with a new smaller visitor contact station built nearby. The Wilderness Center and Ranger Station would remain in their current locations. The NPS stables would be moved and combined with the existing concessioner stables to make room for additional NPS housing.

## Wilderness

Over 90% of the Tuolumne River flows through federally designated Wilderness. Under the Preferred Alternative, river-related systems would continue to be sustained through natural ecological processes, and recreational opportunities in Wilderness would be primitive and unconfined. Restoration actions to correct past effects from human and pack stock use would occur to ensure the river remains fully protected.

The overnight quota for backpacker camping in wild segments would remain at present levels of 400 persons per night. In order to protect opportunities for solitude, day use along popular wilderness trails would be monitored. A day-use reservation system would be implemented if the level of encounters exceeded the management standard of greater than ten parties per hour 80% of the time.

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## Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp

The Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp would continue to offer the opportunity for visitors to connect with the river in a remote setting and would retain its historic character; however, the capacity would be reduced from 32 to 20 guests per night. The reduction in overnight stays will bring the use into better alignment with the capacity of the existing septic system. Overnight saddle trips to Glen Aulin would continue, but concessioner day rides to the camp would no longer be offered.

Measures would be taken to decrease water use to 500 gallons per day. Composting toilets would replace flush toilets for guests to reduce demands for water use and waste disposal. “Meals-only” service for people who are not lodge guests would be discontinued to reduce demands for water use and waste disposal.

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## How to stay involved

Learn more about this plan, including open house dates and other information on the Tuolumne River Plan website at [www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/trp.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/trp.htm). You can also follow this and other park plans on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/YosemiteNPS](http://www.facebook.com/YosemiteNPS).

Comment on this draft comprehensive management plan and environmental impact statement by visiting the Tuolumne River Plan Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at [http://parkplanning.nps.gov/trp\\_deis](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/trp_deis). Electronic comment submittal through PEPC saves resources and allows for direct entry into the NPS comment analysis system. Alternatively, your comments can be emailed to [yose\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:yose_planning@nps.gov), faxed to 209/379-1294 or mailed to:

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