

Yosemite National Park

Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Actions Common to Alternatives 1–4

The Tuolumne River is the heart of the Yosemite High Country and a treasure to the American people. The National Park Service is committed to protecting the river for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The following actions are vital to the protection and enhancement of the Tuolumne River and would be implemented regardless of the alternative selected in the Plan. Research and monitoring will continue throughout the life of the Plan to ensure river values remain fully protected.

Meadow Restoration

The Tuolumne area is well-known for its beautiful subalpine meadows and riparian habitat. The *Baseline Conditions Report* prepared in support of the Tuolumne River Plan revealed that some existing infrastructure is impacting hydrology and, in turn, meadow and riparian health. The Report also identified localized impacts associated with visitor use in meadows and riparian areas (one example is shown in the photo above, where visitors are walking on an informal trail). These problems would be corrected in all action alternatives through the removal of informal trails, elimination of some facilities, and rerouting heavily used trails out of fragmented wetland areas to less-sensitive upland locations. Extensive restoration of the meadows and riparian areas would be conducted to restore natural hydrologic conditions to locally affected areas. River hydrology would also be improved through upgrades to the Tioga Road Bridge and the footbridge at Parson's Memorial Lodge. Finally, research and monitoring will continue throughout the life of the Plan to monitor meadow health; such research will further Yosemite's status as one of the most studied parks in the country.

Parking

The Tuolumne River Plan aims to provide access for visitors while protecting the river's natural resources. To reduce social trailing into meadows and enhance the scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Values, day parking would be consolidated to formalized parking areas. Curbing would be placed along Tioga Road within Tuolumne Meadows to eliminate informal roadside parking and help restore ecological integrity to the meadow complex. The Park would provide for short-term, scenic viewing along Tioga Road by adding four formalized viewing pullouts within the Tuolumne Meadows area.

Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp

Presently, denuded areas at the historic corral and along the Tuolumne River at Glen Aulin are causing localized adverse effects on water quality. Revegetation at the corral and along the riverbank would occur under all action alternatives to maintain the natural beauty of the landscape and protect river values. The backpacker designated camping area would retain its current capacity of 50 people per night. Overnight backpacker use in the wilderness would continue to be managed at present levels through the overnight trailhead quota system. To reduce risks to water quality and adequately handle waste loads, the composting toilet at the Glen Aulin backpacker designated camping area would be replaced.

Archeology and Historic Resources

The rich archeological landscape along the Tuolumne River reflects thousands of years of travel, settlement, and trade. Sites located close to hiking trails are susceptible to both intentional and unintentional human-caused effects. The Park would address this issue by diverting use away from sensitive areas and rerouting trails where necessary.

Parsons Memorial Lodge would continue to be maintained to protect its historic integrity.

Utilities

Leaking underground pipes that are part of the aging water delivery system in Tuolumne Meadows are suspected of losing a currently unknown amount of the water withdrawn from the river before it can be consumed. Upgrades to utility systems, installation of new water meters, and use of low-flow fixtures would improve water conservation and water quality along with promoting good sustainability practices.

The road cut east of Tuolumne Meadows along Tioga Road would be stabilized in order to reduce erosion into the Dana Fork.

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. You can also follow this and other park plans on Facebook at 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. Electronic comment submittal through PEPC saves resources and allows for the direct entry into the NPS comment analysis system. Alternatively, your comments can be emailed to yose_planning@nps.gov, faxed to 209/379-1294 or mailed to:

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