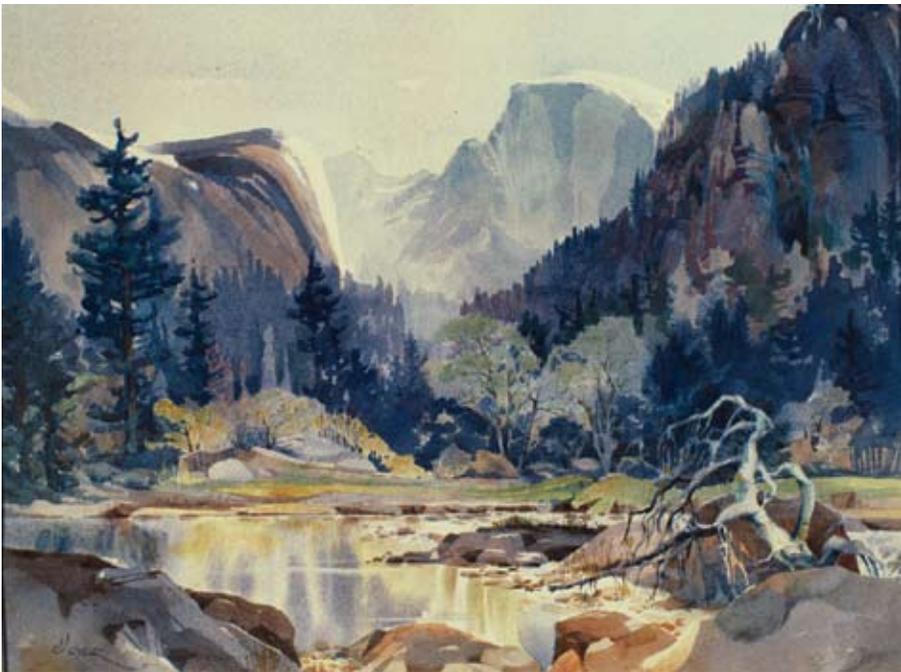


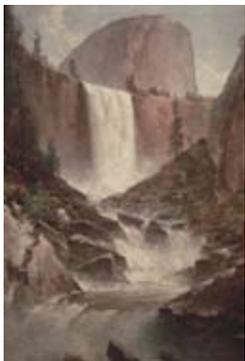
# Scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Value

The majestic scenery of the Yosemite Valley draws visitors from around the world. The scale, grandeur, and extraordinary concentration of scenic features in the Merced River watershed inspire emotional connections to the river and surrounding Yosemite National Park.



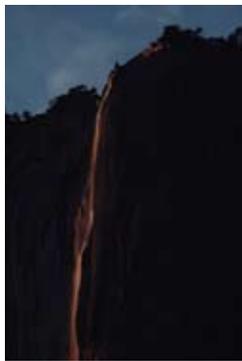
Jane Gyer | *Yosemite East* | watercolor

Yosemite National Park archive



Yosemite National Park archive

Thomas Hill  
*Vernal Falls, Yosemite*  
oil on canvas



John Poiriroo, Yosemite National Park archive

This photo of Horsetail Fall illustrates the inspiring scenic contrasts created by changes in lighting on dramatic granite walls



Yosemite National Park research library

Railroad poster promoting tourism

## Supporting evidence and examples of the Scenic ORV include, but are not limited to:

- The imposing size of the granite walls and waterfalls of the Yosemite Valley produces iconic scenes that are visible from the Merced River.
- Distant views of El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Three Brothers, Royal Arches, Yosemite Falls, Bridalveil Fall, and Horsetail Fall create layered vistas with nearby trees, meadows, wildlife, and the meandering Merced River.
- Seasonal and daily changes in lighting on the massive granite walls, domes, meadows, calm water, and rushing cascades create dynamic, awe-inspiring contrasts.
- Views from the river of iconic features such as Half Dome, El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall, and Yosemite Falls are among the principal scenes for which Yosemite National Park was established.
- For more than a century, people have been inspired to paint or photograph the historic views that are recognized as an important component of our national legacy. Some of these historic views include Valley View, Sentinel View, and views of Vernal and Nevada Falls from along the Mist and John Muir Trails.
- Depictions of the Merced River and Yosemite Valley in early tourism posters encouraged the creation of the national park system.
- The scenic experience of the Merced River corridor has historically been a primary focus of interpretation within the park. The location of the Merced River within Yosemite National Park encourages millions of visitors to learn about the history, geology, and ecology of the river.