



The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan

Where is The Ahwahnee?

Located at the eastern end of Yosemite Valley, The Ahwahnee area includes a National Historic Landmark hotel, guest cottages, an employee dormitory, and associated grounds and landscaping. The Ahwahnee hotel is considered a symbol of design excellence, 1920s architectural ideals, and Rustic style architecture on a grand scale.

Why undertake this planning effort?

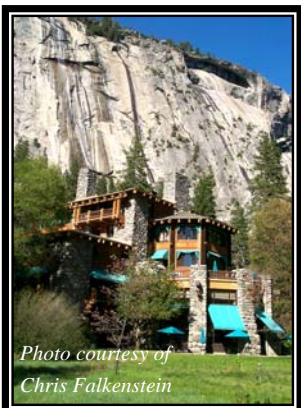
After more than 80 years in service, the hotel and associated structures are in need of rehabilitation because:

- Facilities at The Ahwahnee are not fully compliant with the most recent building and accessibility codes, including:
 - California Building Code and International Building Code
 - National Fire Protection Association Code
 - Interagency Committee on Seismic Safety in Construction Recommended Practice 6
 - Accessibility standards.
- Many of the electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems serving The Ahwahnee facilities are aging and energy inefficient and need to be repaired or replaced.
- Some historic hotel finishes and landscape components are time-worn or have been altered over the years, potentially affecting the historic integrity of this property.
- The current operational layout of some working areas reduces the efficiency of providing a high level of visitor services.

What does this plan propose?

The purpose of this project is to develop a comprehensive plan for phased, long-term rehabilitation of The Ahwahnee National Historic Landmark hotel and associated guest cottages, employee dormitory, and landscaped grounds in order to:

- Improve visitor and employee safety by bringing The Ahwahnee into compliance with current building, fire protection, and seismic safety standards;
- Preserve and protect the historic integrity and character-defining features of The Ahwahnee by rehabilitating aged or altered historic finishes;
- Improve hotel energy and water-use efficiency and operations by repairing or replacing outdated or inefficient building systems and components;
- Maintain the traditional level of visitor service and the visitor experience at The Ahwahnee through improved operational efficiency, increased accessibility, and rehabilitation of historic resources.



*Photo courtesy of
Chris Falkenstein*

What are the proposed alternatives?

To inform the design alternatives and decision-making process, the park completed various studies such as a seismic study, Historic Structures Report, and Cultural Landscape Report. Four alternatives and associated environmental impacts are analyzed and presented in the environmental assessment. Alternatives vary on how they meet the purpose and need of the plan and their impact to the historic and other resources.

What is the schedule for this plan?

The environmental assessment is available for public review and comment until August 23, 2011. The National Park Service anticipates releasing a decision document for the plan in Fall 2011. Implementation of the plan will be through a long-term, phased approach as funding becomes available.

How do I comment or stay informed?

- **Comment online:** The environmental assessment is available online for review at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/AhwahneeRehab>

The public is encouraged to submit comments electronically through this website. Click on the “Open for Comment” link on the left side of the screen to review the plan and submit a comment.

- **Attend the Public Open House on July 27, 2011:** Park staff will be available to discuss the plan and accept comments on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, at the park’s monthly Public Open House from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Visitor Center Auditorium in Yosemite Valley. Park entrance fees are waived for visitors who attend the Public Open House.
- **Submit your email address** to receive the park’s periodic electronic newsletter yose_planning@nps.gov
- **Submit a written comment postmarked by August 23, 2011 to:**
Mail: Superintendent
Attn: *The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan*
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Yosemite, CA 95389
Fax: 209-379-1294