



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?

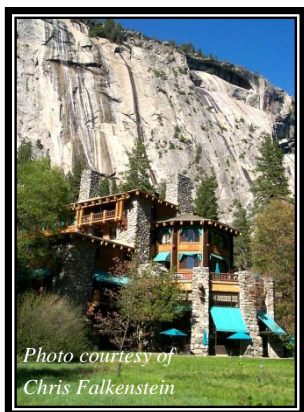
After more than 80 years in service, the hotel, and associated structures are in need of rehabilitation because:

- 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 is the purpose of this plan?

This comprehensive plan for phased, long-term rehabilitation of The Ahwahnee National Historic Landmark hotel, associated guest cottages, employee dormitory, and landscaped grounds will:

- 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- Improve hotel energy and water-use efficiency and operations by repairing or replacing outdated or inefficient building systems and components;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.



Current Status?

After completing various studies (e.g., seismic study, cultural resource reports) and conducting a comprehensive design process, the environmental impacts of four proposed alternatives were presented in an environmental assessment released July 2011. On January 3, 2012, the National Park Service signed a Finding of No Significant Impact identifying Alternative 3 as the Selected Action.

What does the selected action entail?

The Selected Action provides the most cost-efficient means of

- addressing fire, seismic, life-safety, health, and accessibility code and standard deficiencies at the hotel;
- improving obsolete building systems and operational efficiency; and
- improving visitor experience while minimizing impacts on historic fabric and features to the maximum extent practicable.

The Selected Action also provides historic rehabilitation of features throughout the hotel and cottages that are rated in *The Ahwahnee Historic Structures Report* as being in “poor” condition, and includes rehabilitation and preservation of historic fabric and features in “fair” condition in spaces that are considered historically “very significant” and “significant.”

For more details on specific actions included in the plan, refer to Alternative 3 presented in the July 2011 environmental assessment posted at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/ahwahnee_rehab.htm.

How will this plan be implemented?

Implementation of the plan will be through a long-term, phased approach as funding becomes available. Initial components of the plan will include improving the East Wing fire egress, reconfiguring The Ahwahnee bar, and accessibility improvements.

How can I learn more?

To download a copy of the decision document and environmental assessment, visit the project webpage at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/ahwahnee_rehab.htm.

Add your name to the park’s planning list to receive periodic planning-related electronic notices on this and other park projects by e-mailing your request to yose_planning@nps.gov.

Or send a written request to:
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