L 41
9.24.07

[redacted]
09/15/2007 05:01 PM EDT

To: Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolomne R. Man. Plan, alternatives development process

September 15, 2007

Dear Yosemite Park Personnel:

The following are my comments pursuant to the alternatives development process for the Tuolomne River Management Plan:

Of the four concepts in the Tuolomne Planning Workbook, Concept 2 seems to me to best balance protecting the ecological values in the Tuolomne River/Meadows area while providing for a diversity of visitor usage and enjoyment. I agree with what is proposed in this concept that there be no increase in indoor visitor service facilities and that all facilities be located in areas of existing development or in upland areas. I do think that the visitor lodging and dining facilities that currently exist should be maintained to accomodate those who for whatever reason are not able or prefer not to camp out However, to the extent that significant negative environmental impacts result from proximity to the river, I'm in favor of closing the offending tent cabins, campsites or other visitor facilities and, if environmentally feasible, relocating them. I feel similarly about the High Sierra Camps and the pack stock operations-- although they allow older, less able bodied people to experience the wilderness, they should not do so at the expense of significant environmental degradation. If their impacts can't be mitigated, these operations should cease. My final comment is that if hardened trails ARE put in for visitor enjoyment, they should be restricted to pedestrian and wheelchair usage-- mixing bicycle riding and pedestrian usage, although perhaps appropriate for Yosemite Valley, seems inappropriate for the visitor experience in the more pristine surroundings of Tuolomne Meadows.

Thank you.

Mark Reedy
Sunnyvale, CA

****

See what's new at http://www.aol.com

L42
9-24-07

[redacted]
09/15/2007 05:46 PM EDT

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Comments on Tuolumne Meadows Planning

These comments are also attached as a WORD DOCUMENT but I am pasting them here in case you are unable to open them. Thank you. Sherri Maurin
++

September 15, 2007

Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389-9905

Yosemite--Tuolumne Meadows

I am pleased to be able to participate in the process for Tuolumne Meadows. I was just up there last weekend at the Yosemite Association Fall meeting and was moved, as I always am, by the beauty and grandeur there. Even with the limited snow and rainfall it is glorious country that must be preserved.

I will summarize my thoughts about each of the sections, as you have outlined. As a general statement, however, I want to indicate that I would like NO ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT in this beautiful area. I do support maintenance of the existing historic Lodge, the small village store, etc. but do not support further expansion in this fragile environment.

DESIRED NATURAL RESOURCE:

With the single exception of controlling fires to protect human life and property where such processes pose an unacceptable risk, I support The Remote Wilderness and Day-Use Wilderness prescriptions. This includes the Air Quality standards, Soundscapes and Lightscapes.

While I recognize that maintaining visitors in camping and Lodge locations will impact air, sound and light I would encourage those to be minimized, and, if necessary, to be controlled by sanctions to address noncompliant behavior. As one example, in order to maximize air quality, campfires should be limited to group circles at the two central locations at the Lodge, and at the Campground; no individual campfires should be allowed.

As another example, currently, some signage exists to minimize visitors walking in the actual meadow, off paths. However, it is not closely monitored or addressed when it occurs. These areas, which need to be preserved for wildlife, native plants and animals, should be blocked off, and unavailable to visitors except on designated, soft footpaths.

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DESIRED CULTURAL RESOURCE CONDITIONS:

In this area I strongly urge the inclusion of the native peoples in the decision regarding their traditional cultural properties and historic structures Where that is not feasible, I would support the Remote Wilderness and Day Use Wilderness prescriptions.

DESIRED VISITOR EXPERIENCES:

I support limiting visitors to recreational activities such as day hiking, back-packing walking, climbing, fishing, swimming and wading (in areas where there is not a negative impact on natural processes) or impact riparian zones. Buses that are larger than 8 passengers vans, large campers, mobile homes, and large trailers should be strictly prohibited.

Private and commercial stock-packing, as well as horseback riding should also be prohibited because of the frequent introduction of non-native species of animals that occur due to the refuse left by these animals While horse excrement is considered biodegradable, undigested seeds have attracted non-native species to Yosemite, such as the cow-bird. See further comments of the preservation of natural environments below.

With the exception of supporting the retention of limited over-night facilities at Tuolumne Lodge and at the Campground, I support a Day-Use Wilderness prescription. Permit or reservations systems should be used to restrict overnight access. However, to the extent that significant negative environmental impacts result from proximity to the river, I'm in favor of closing the offending tent cabins, campsites or other visitor facilities and, if environmentally feasible, relocating them. I feel similarly about the High Sierra Camps; no visitor support facilities should be continued at the expense of significant environmental degradation If their impacts can't be mitigated, these operations should cease

APPROPRIATE TYPES AND LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT:

As stated above, there are many examples in Tuolumne(and throughout Yosemite) where exotic forms of life are altering, and in some cases, destroying the habitats of native plants and animals. There are examples of floral and fauna invaders— unnatural members of the environment, as well as animals(such as the cow-bird and similar birds example given in the section titled DESIRED VISITOR EXPERIENCES)

These intruders go by several aliases: alien, exotic, invasive, introduced, non-native, and noxious. No matter what they are called, they are a threat to native natural environments. Non-native plants can out-compete native plants, shrink available habitat for wildlife, and limit diversity by creating monocultures Many scientists believe that invasive organisms are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. The same thing is true for non-native animals such as horses and

L42

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birds.

If the parks are to be successful in restoring the integrity of the native environment, there must be adequate funding so that the issue of nonnative plants and animals can be addressed. Successful programs, including volunteer programs such as the "Weed Warriors," should be further developed and expanded.
The single exception I would make to the banning of horses which I proposed in an earlier section, would be in the very remote areas of the Park. It has been documented that drug cartels are utilizing remote areas of parks such as Yosemite for growing marijuana. They are clear cutting forest lands, introducing pesticides into the ground water, and abandoning the areas after harvesting, leaving environmental destruction in their wake. Park Service personnel (NPS) should be patrolling these remote to preclude this occurrence.

APPROPRIATE TYPE AND LEVELS OF ACCESS & FACILITIES

I support maintaining current levels of overnight lodging, camping and food services. Other than that, I am a strong proponent of only providing minimal facilities necessary to support protection and visitor enjoyment of natural and cultural resources such as those identified under the HIGH-COUNTRY EXPERIENCE on p. 27.
I do NOT support the addition of any additional paved roads with turnouts, parking areas, bus or bike paths, vehicle and footbridges. No additional boardwalks, picnic or camping areas, lodging or food service facilities.

I advocate for the elimination of the stable for reasons cited in earlier sections. This includes the elimination of stock packing except for rangers charged with the responsibility of managing the high country for drug trafficking and other crimes.

MANAGEMENT TOOLBOX

I support the Day-Use Wilderness prescription detailed on page 24, and strongly underscore more visitor use consolidation than currently exists, education of visitors on appropriate use behaviors, and more sanctions for noncompliant behaviors.

Environmental restoration and wilderness stewardship should be of paramount importance. This should include all areas; for example, review of foods and supplies sold in the concession areas should be done, and packaging that is deleterious to the environment should be abandoned.

In summary, I am advocating for more proactive maintenance and recovery of the environment and minimizing the visitor impact upon this fragile environment.

I look forward to continuing participation in this process.

Sincerely

Sherri Maurin

Sherri Maurin

L43

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9.24.07

[redacted]

09/15/2007 08:39 PM
MST

To: NPS Yosemite Planning <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Toulomne River Workbook

I am writing to comment on the Tuolumne Planning Workbook and the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS

My understanding is that all of the concepts and alternatives that the National Park Service is considering, allow for continued commercial horse and pack animal use.

I believe that the Park Service needs to eliminate commercial packing and remove the High Sierra Camps that are served by packers.

We hike in the Tuolumne Meadows area every year, and every year our experience is marred by the horse dung and flies on the trails. The trail up to May Lake was especially bad this year. The trail up to Sunrise is bad every year that we do it.

Many of us love horses and mules and appreciate the hard work of the young mean and women who pack. But commercial use is a use that the park service needs to retire.

Greg Zentner
[redacted]

L47
KD 9.24.07

[redacted]
09/16/2007 02:42 AM EDT

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne Planning workbook

Dear Yosemite Planners:

I am writing to comment on the Tuolumne Planning workbook. As someone who visits Tuolumne Meadows and the surrounding backcountry almost every summer, I am pleased to hear that this planning effort is underway. I have serious concerns about the deteriorating condition of trails in area, and hope that you use this opportunity to take significant steps toward halting ongoing degradation to the Yosemite backcountry.

Two years ago, my then 7-yr-old son and I took a backpacking trip from Tuolumne Meadows up to upper Rafferty Creek near Vogelsang High Sierra Camp. We were completely appalled at the condition of the trails along the Lyell Fork Tuolumne and Rafferty Creek. Because of the heavy horse and mule traffic servicing the High Sierra Camp at Vogelsang, the trail was pulverized into a fine dust, and we stepped over hundreds and hundred of piles of horse feces and associated buzzing flies. In the afternoon when a brief thunderstorm passed overhead, the light rain brought not the fresh scent of the forest, but the sour reek of a barnyard.

Ironically, this was the same year that the Park Service instituted its new regulation requiring backpackers to pack out their used toilet paper. It seemed incredibly ironic that the Park Service would take what most people view as the very extreme step of requiring backpackers to pack out used toilet paper (rather than letting hikers burn it, as is common practice) in order to "preserve the wilderness," while at the same time allowing incredibly destructive numbers of livestock to venture into backcountry---allowing them to urinate and defecate unchecked on trails, polluting the streams and rivers, and attracting annoying flies, grazing on the native vegetation, and otherwise damaging the wilderness---for the sole purpose of providing catered backcountry vacations to a privileged and wealthy few. This irony was not even lost on my son who, without any prompting from me whatsoever, asked "Dad, how come we are required to pack out our toilet paper, when the horses are allowed to poop and pee all over everywhere?"

We were so bothered by these deplorable conditions that, at my son's request, I wrote the Park Superintendent. For reasons we'll never know, we did not received a reply. Sadly, the message he took away from this experience was that the Park Service doesn't really care as much about protecting the wilderness as he had previously thought.

I relate this story to you because the new planning effort for the Tuolumne River corridor offers a chance to remedy some of the gross inequities and inconsistencies in Park policy as it relates to the regulation of backpackers and the commercial interests that exploit these treasured park lands for private gain.
The disproportionate impacts that result from commercial packstock operations, including the servicing of the High Sierra Camps, must be seriously addressed in this planning effort. I strongly recommend the following:

1) The draft management prescriptions be modified to exclude all commercial

L49

packstock and horseback riding in Tuolumne Meadows, the river corridor, and surrounding environments. Understand that I do not necessarily object to private stock users traveling in small groups in the backcountry. But the vast majority of stock use, and thus the vas majority of impacts, are caused by commercial operations, including the servicing of the High Sierra Camps.

2) The plan must consider an alternative that would require removal of the Glen Aulin, Vogelsang, and Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camps. These camps are an extreme intrusion on the natural character of the Tuolumne Meadows area and backcountry. They facilities are polluting nearby waterways with grey water from showers, and grease and detergents from kitchens. There can be no reasonable rationalization for allowing the number of mules required to service these facilities, when hikers are routinely turned away because trailhead quotas have been exceeded. (On our recent trip, we had to spend a day camping in Tuolumne campground because the trailhead quota for Rafferty Creek was filled. Ironically, as we dayhiked up Lyell Canyon that day, we were passed by not one, but two commercial groups, each with between 15 and 20 pack animals. Try explaining to your son why two people on foot constitute an unacceptable impact to the wilderness when he is standing in the cloud of dust made by 20 horses as they trample by!).

Until the Park Service addresses the real and severe damage caused by these profit-making enterprises that damage trails and meadows, and degrade water quality in the wilderness, how can it reasonably expect the hiking community to take regulations that further impinge on their ability to access and enjoy the wilderness seriously?

Please do the right thing and reign in these damaging commercial activities. If in twenty years, when my son is taking his kids out for there first hiking trip in Yosemite, he can tell them about how much things have improved since the bad old days when he was a kid---when unbelievably, the Park Service allowed hundreds of horses into the wilderness each years to provide expensive, catered vacations for the wealthy few---then you will have accomplished something truly worthwhile through this effort.

Sincerely,

Brian Spence
[redacted]

See what's new at AOL.com and Make AOL Your Homepage.

L 45
KP 9-24-07

[redacted]
09/15/2007 10:19 PM
MST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne Meadows Plan

1.
Consider the elimination of all horse traffic in and around the river corridor. Both stables degrade the Toulumne River. Address this major problem.

2.
Concept 1
Comments: No store? Think of the traffic that would generate in and out of the Park. I think that interpretive and educational facilities are over rated and expensive. Do not "develope Tuolumne Meadows. Get rid of the commercial and Park Service horse facilities. Horse facilities are not adding to the average visitors "Wilderness Experience". The Glen Aulin facilities should be eliminated and returned to their natural state.

Concept 2
Comments: No diversity needed. No more educational facilities. Get rid of Glen Aulin and the horse stables and NPS housing.

Concept 3
Comments: The horse stables near Parson and at NPS housing degrades the river corridor. Glen Aulin must go.

Concept 4
Comments: Universal access is overrated. Keep restoration focused on HWY 120 which is degraded by poor NPS management.

3.
Less is more. Education and interpretive centers should not be the focus of the plans. Erosion and degradation through horse trails should be a center of concern. Do not pave anymore of the Meadows! The Park Service has shown little regard for the roadside conditions in Tuolumne Meadows. The glaring example is the Cathedral Parking Lot area where continued access along the roadside has degraded the Meadows and made the pedestrian traffic unsafe.

4.
Horse trails and horse packing is a significant issue and has not been addressed. Glen Aulin provides and encourages horse traffic as do all the High Sierra Camps. Eliminate the horse patrols, packing and traffic altogether.

5.
The National Park Service in Yosemite has shown it is incapable of monitoring an array of problems and plans. All one has to do is look at the trash and traffic problems in the Park. To take on another "Plan" will dilute the NPS's ability to manage the Park. **Focus on one problem at a Time!**

L46
KR 9.24.07

[redacted]
09/15/2007 11:51 PM MST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc: [redacted]
Subject: Planning Workbook comments

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the latest developments in the Tuolumne River Corridor Plan process.

Before addressing the specific concepts let me quote from page 5 of the workbook. "The Tuolomne River Plan will then become the guiding document for all activities that occur along the Tuolumne River." It seems that this horse (the River Plan) must indeed come before the cart (the Tuolumne Meadows Plan). Page 6 further acknowledges this by stating "the Tuolumne Meadows Plan will tier off the Tuolumne River Plan".

Thus it seems that comments focusing on the corridor in its totality may prove moot once the River Plan is in place. Despite that recognition, if that is how the process is to proceed, then here goes. . .

CONCEPT 1 accentuates the Tuolumne area's greatest asset - that of unique, awe-inspiring wilderness. It recognizes that with tightly restrained services even visitors along the main road will get a taste of that experience and the further they venture off that main automobile artery, the more that sampling "taste" becomes a snack, a meal, a feast, as they penetrate into that wilderness. "No lodging and food services" would force visitors to this part of Yosemite to change their paradigm- you aren't in Kansas (Yosemite Valley) anymore- you're on your own for shelter and food so bring it with you. Though you can still bring a high level of comfort with you, this at least encourage living a little closer to the pine needles. Day visitors from the Valley floor, not a problem- purchase your provisions in Yosemite Valley and bring them with you- no burgers and fries, coffees and cones available in the high country, unless you make your own of course.

As regards the sewage system, the current one is fairly innocuous. Most visitors are unaware where it is and both the collection pools (by the gas station) and the treatment ponds seem we placed. Not knowing where the "more resilient areas south of Tioga Road" are exactly makes it hard to weigh this alternative. Isn't south of the Tioga Rd. an area of high visitor use as opposed to the current pond locations which seem fairly off the beaten track? Loop A in the campground indeed hugs the river. Charming for those camped there, but unlikely to survive scrutiny of what is best for the river. The road there does seem more suited to foot traffic than auto and in fact could be restored with construction materials, more friendly to the health of the river.

I was perplexed about the continuation of the Glen Aulin high sierra camp as described in Concept 1. If there were no food or lodging services along the roadway surely there would not be any in the backcountry- ???

CONCEPT 2 sounds a lot like "maintain the status quo". The current character of the Tuolumne area does seem to offer a good diversity of experiences with services ranging from rustic (your own tent) to moderate (at the lodge). Most of the degredation of a quality outdoor experience is from concentrations of people at the services along the roadway and a few major staging areas where 'parking lots' evolve. Any planning that can decentralize these nodes of humanity, or at least remove them from the visual aesthetic of the Meadows would be welcome.

L46

Tuolumne has offered an experience that we have returned to share and re-experience for generations. A lot of what has been done there in the past has been good, but it is in projecting into the future that caution flags are raised. Increased numbers of visitors and pressures to bring more comforts to the high country may threaten effective management. The high country will have to be protected with increasingly insistent and uncompromising standards to protect its character from erosion.

CONCEPT 3 seems to have a focus on human history instead of the natural history which predates the former by eons. In other words "prehistory" should be the emphasis of the Tuolumne experience. Human history is more abundant in Yosemite Valley an at Wawona and best 'displayed' there.

CONCEPT 4 has an emphasis on stewardship and moves visitor opportunities to a secondary status. That's perhaps as it should be since the pendulum has swung too far in the heavy use, we can't tell the public no, trend of late. Of course in implementation of a concept 4 there must be caution to not swing too far the other direction. Tuolomne is not a study area (though it must be studied) but a place of "worship". We don't want to close the doors to this high country sanctuary. We just need to make sure it is treated with reverence and appreciation.

The Tuolumne experience should not be overly focused on "a diversity of opportunities for a diversity of visitor types". This is a good goal for Yosemite National Park looked at in its entirety, but not for the Tuolumne Meadows area with its high country character. Leave the amenities to the Yosemite Valley experience, maintain the Tuolumne corridor as more rustic, closer to nature encounter.

In my opinion, specifics to that end include:

-consolidation of parking off the roadway, in fact screened from the roadway if possible, get rid of the corridors of cars near the Cathedral Lake trailhead- an eyesore and safety hazard, ditto on the dirt road from Lembert dome down to the Glen Aulin / Soad Springs trail

-not using blacktop in parking areas or on trails. It is a threat to water quality- there are alternatives available.

-reducing traffic and dust in the campground by opening a west entrance in addition to the existing one currently on the east side

-keeping concession buildings temporary and seasonal

-reducing concessions if they compromise nearby meadow habitat (across from the store an grill)

-considering the value of the high sierra camps and the impact that stock supplying them has (on trails, water quality, trail aesthetics)

-protecting the river's full corridor

-insuring a quality experience of Tuolumne by limiting visitor load

Thank you for your time and energy in tackling a task of such magnitude and importance. May love of Tuolumne guide your decisions.
Please keep me posted as the Tuolumne River and Tuolume Meadow Plans progress.

Roderick Webster

[redacted]

L 47
KW
9.28.07

Comments on Tuolumne Meadows Plans

I've been a regular visitor to TM for many years (more than 30); here's what I think is important:

1. Accessibility: A corridor that is accessible to people of all ages, abilities or disabilities.
2. Services: Keep many services the same or similar, namely tent camping, small grocery, meadow grill, visitor center/museum, but minimize the environmental impact by using environmentally friendly utilities and minimizing the areas impacted. Keep Tuolumne Meadow Lodge it is both historical, and provides access, but re-evaluate laundry/water use there.
3. Concentrate use areas and services as much as possible to make accessibility easier and to be able to provide services with least impact.
4. Engage visitors in environmental concerns, such as smoke from campfires in TM campground, resource cost to provide linens/towels.
5. Restore damaged areas in the Meadow and back country.
6. Improve existing trail system so hikers don't create multiple trails or shortcuts because the trails are difficult to follow. I think this will help concentrate use and limit damage.
7. Get suggestions for how to reduce expense and waste. For example at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge instead of providing linens and towels for all guests, have an extra charge, so most people will bring their own (and take them home to wash). The idea would be to reduce water use (laundry) and wastewater production at TML. Additionally it would help reinforce the concept of judicious use of resources by promoting consciousness about the environmental cost of washing everyone's linens in a public park.

Faxed
date 9/15/07

From:

Norma Solarz [redacted]

[redacted]

L48
KR
9.25.07

[redacted]
09/15/2007 04:31 PM
MST

To: 12093791294@faxaway.com
cc: yose_planning@nps.gov, [redacted]
Subject: Tuolumne Plan Input from 5 persons

Dear Tuolumne Plan,

I have traveled to Tuolumne Meadows many many times beginning in 1970 and as recently as September 2007.

1) You must not close the A loop of Tuolumne Meadows Campground. (given what the glaciers did 10,000 years ago and what global climate/atmospheric change is doing, the human impact is trivial)

1.5) Keep the reservations system exactly as it is.

2) The Tuolumne Meadows Campground should be enlarged for walk-ins and tents.

3) The campfire and interpretive program should be maintained as is.

4) Every camper should be issued a wide-mouthed bucket ($5 deposit) to do dishes in. The deposit is returned when bucket is returned.

5) Cutting down trees should be stopped. You are turning Tuolumne Meadows into Disneyland.

6) Get a grip, the trees are growing in all the meadows (both sides of the roads) because of increased CO2, nitrogen-fertilization and warmer winters.

Please confirm you have received this input.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert O. Green
Pastor Ann Mckeown
Stephanie McKeown-Green
Amy McKeown-Green
Jenny McKeown-Green

1) You must not close the A loop of Tuolumne Meadows Campground!!!

L49
KR
9.28.07

David Cehrs
[redacted]
09/10/2007 09:53 AM
MST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne River/Meadows Plan

Dear NPS,

With regard to the Tuolumne River Plan and the Tuolumne Meadows Plan here is our brief input. Don't change or do anything. It seems that when the NPS tries to "make things better" it has done little if anything in that regard. It has been 10 years since the 1997 flood in Yosemite Valley and the old River Campgrounds are still a mess with piles of junk, asphalt, and concrete laying around. What happened to the "restoration" that was planned for and monies appropriated for? Don't expand, renovate, or build new roads, parking lots, buildings, or other infrastructure. We know some of its pretty bad but we do not care for the alternatives, especially with the track record of the NPS for getting things done right. Preserving nature should be your number one priority, for without it you have nothing else to preserve and protect for the American populace.

Sincerely,
Anne & David Cehrs
[redacted]

L 50

[redacted]
13 September 2007

Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Comments on Tuolumne Comprehensive Management Plan

2. Alternative concepts - my thoughts:

concept 1 - NO! I'm a traditionalist, I LOVE to be able to camp and use the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge to be able to stay in this wonderful place. This one eliminates overnight use. ACK!

concept 2 - Good - some facilities might indeed need to be "rearranged", but not too much. Surely the campground needs help - and maybe even more sites, but don't move anything at the Lodge. I know the dining room is close to the river, but that's what makes it so lovely! Had dinner there last week, listening to what's left of the waterfall. There does not need to be any increase in facilities, but it sure would help to fix up some of the ones there, and improve the water system somehow so that in times of low water- now - everyone has enough.

Concept 3 - Good also, but not as flexible as 2. Some stuff needs to be moved/fixed.

Concept 4 - NO - it would decrease current visitor facilities. The place is crowded now - decreasing facilities won't decrease visitors, just jam things up even worse.

3. Preferred alternative - should allow current levels of visitor use, with more parking- maybe enlarge the parking lot at the store? at Dog Lake trailhead? At Cathedral Lakes trailhead? Definitely need to advertise the wonderful service of the Shuttle to get folks out of their cars - which might mean a "day use" parking lot?? where? Don't pave too many trails - maybe enough to get a wheel chair over to the Parsons Lodge, but maybe even not that. Bicycles - arg - they're really not compatible with hikers on the same trail. Maybe no - not up here. Bikes on the paved roads already there, but no new bike trails unless there's one right along the edge of the road from the Visitor Center to the Store. They can ride in the valley.

You didn't mention trying to keep the meadow a meadow - ie. continue to remove selected Lodgepole seedlings as necessary. I know that's not "natural", but.... sometimes we need to help things out a bit.

Definitely keep the TM Lodge and Glen Aulen at present, not increased or decreased, levels - they're just wonderful!! Allow TM Lodge to pave more of their trails to help stop erosion, and pave trails in the employee tent area, ditto. No new trails - just fix those there. More large bear boxes. What to do about more parking????

Again - decreasing facilities won't stop people from trying to come up there - so things need to be done to accommodate the folks who do come. Big weekends, like Labor Day and 4th

L 50

of July, need to be facilitated somehow. Something will have to be sacrificed somewhere - back in the woods??

I love Tuolumne! Have been coming up there since 1955ish, and regularly lately since I've retired. Got snowed on in June, peopled on Labor Day, etc. What a treasure!!

Please keep my on your mailing list for further developments! Thanks so much

Janet Westbrook
[redacted]

L54
KR
9.28.07

Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation

P.O. Box 603 • Georgetown, CA 95634 • 530-333-1113

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Filed by Email: YOSE_planning@nps.gov

Dear Superintendent:

We are writing to comment on the Tuolumne Planning Workbook, on behalf of the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation's 400 members, the vast majority of whom live in the Sierra and regularly visit Yosemite National Park to enjoy its incomparable landscapes, hiking, wildlife, wildflowers and other natural values.

We wish to make the following points:

- We are concerned about the water pollution, resource impacts, and harm to recreation that is caused by commercial packstock and horseback riding in the Tuolumne Meadows, the river corridor, and surrounding areas. While we accept that there is a place for equestrian use, we also know from our own experiences that at the commercial levels proposed in the plan, the stock use will continue to impact the enjoyment of Tuolumne Meadows for hikers and backpackers. Hikers don't enjoy trudging through 6 inches of dust, such as that produced by heavy stock use.
- Dodging piles of manure while wearing a pack is tiresome, as are the flies that accompany the piles. Leaving the trail to allow an occasional horse to pass is one thing; repeatedly interrupting one's pace to allow strings of pack horses to go by is another entirely.
- The Draft Management Prescriptions should be modified to eliminate all commercial stock packing and horseback riding in the Tuolumne Meadows, Tuolumne River corridor, and surrounding areas. Commercial stock packing and horseback riding in these fragile, high-elevation areas serves only a very small minority of visitors while substantially harming water quality, park resources, and the experience of other visitors.
- "High Sierra Camps" at Glen Aulin, Tuolumne Meadows, and Vogelsang: We urge you to address this ongoing degradation by evaluating the impacts of these camps within this planning effort, including considering an alternative to remove these camps. The NPS cannot properly put off evaluation and consideration of these impacts to some future wilderness planning process, as

L51

proposed. These obsolete and ugly facilities are polluting the surrounding areas with sewage, "grey water" from showers, and grease and detergent from kitchens. The large numbers of stock animals needed to supply the camps with food, water, laundry, and other supplies are also polluting water, eroding trails, and adversely affecting the recreation experience of park visitors. The NPS must address the harm caused by these facilities now, in this plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

s/s

Karen Schambach

President

L52

KR 9.28.07

September 10, 2007

Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389-9905

Re: Preliminary Concepts – Draft Tuolumne River Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

The comments below respond timely to the four proposed preliminary concepts from which to build alternatives for the Draft Tuolumne River Plan.

We support Concepts 2 and 3 which seem to "maximize opportunities for diversity of day and overnight experiences", yet preserve and sustain wilderness values. We strongly support maintenance of the existing food and lodging services and its accompanying infrastructure.

We strongly oppose Concept 1 which effectively eliminates meaningful use of Tuolumne Meadows and the surrounding high country for those who are elderly, handicapped, and otherwise less than very physically fit. Few amenities might restore the wilderness character of the area, but would make it inaccessible except for an elite few.

We urge the Park Service to approve a Plan that maximizes opportunities for a wide variety of people to enjoy both day and overnight experiences at Tuolumne Meadows, Glen Aulin, May Lake, Sunrise, Merced Lake, Vogelsang and other parts of the High-Country Base Camp zone, while continuing to protect wilderness.

For nearly 70 years, our family has enjoyed a variety of experiences at Tuolumne Meadows. Some have been able to enjoy true wilderness experiences while backpacking, but most have relied on the various food and lodging services to help provide an extended experience in the area. Because of the currently available services, we have been able to bring our young children who develop a true and life-long love for this area. Thanks to Tuolumne Lodge, our handicapped family members are not excluded from this wonderful experience. My parents, who are fit and able in their 70's, would not join us were it not for Tuolumne Lodge. We deeply appreciate the existence of amenities that allow them to continue to join us.

We are grateful that the current infrastructure, though deteriorating, still allows individuals of all ages and abilities in our family, including elderly, handicapped, and less physically adept, to come together each year at this wonderful place. We are concerned that the current policy of benign neglect of existing infrastructure predicts eventual abandonment of the area as we know it now.

We urge adoption of either concept 2 or 3.

Yours truly,

Cheryl Blaine

Greg and Cheryl Blaine
[redacted]

SAN FRANCISCO CA 941

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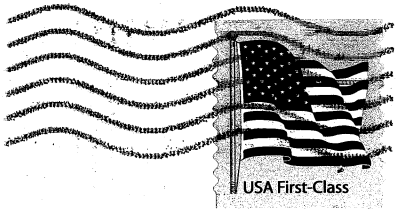

[redacted]

L53

KP 9-28-07

Anne Stafford

[redacted]

September 9, 2007

Yosemite/Tuolumne Planning
National Park Service
PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389-9905

Dear Yosemite/Tuolumne Planning Group,

Rather than use the comment sheet provided in the Tuolumne Planning Workbook, we will comment on the four concepts in this letter, as well as offer some additional comments.

- We favor some combination of Concepts 1 & 3. We would like to see the Tuolumne River and Meadow areas managed primarily as wilderness, while maintaining and preserving the existing historic landscape. We both attended the half-day workshop on August 11 and found it difficult to see Concept 3 as separate from the others; rather, it seems to overlay the other three Concepts to varying degrees.

- We are strongly opposed to Concept 2, which would clearly result in more development, which would in turn lead to increased day use. We do not want to see any increase in recreational opportunities – there is already more than enough for visitors to do.

- While we do see the value in Concept 4, the notion of trying to restore the area to some "original" state seems impractical (to which original state?); human beings have already altered the area.

About our remaining ideas and concerns we will try to be brief.

1. Do not open the Tioga Road in the winter, and do not encourage increased winter recreational activities. Let the area recuperate from its summer visitors.

2. Do not encourage increased recreational use in the summer either. Tuolumne is a place to be observed and appreciated on foot, not a place to ride bicycles, river raft, etc.

3. Please do something to limit day use – far too many people visit for just a few hours (or less), yet exact a greater toll on the area per hour than

visitors who stay for a number of days. We don't know what the best solution is but would like the Park Service to seriously consider ways to limit the number of people coming for such short visits. The Meadow simply cannot handle the use (abuse?) generated by the busloads of tourists who tramp across it for a quick view before returning to their bus and heading out of the park for their next destination.

4. We do not want to see the visitor services consolidated in a central location. Doing so would likely be the beginning of a slippery slope of increased commercialization and greater traffic congestion than there already is.

5. Also regarding the visitor services, we have heard some talk about turning the store, and perhaps the grill, into permanent, hard-sided structures. Please don't change them. Their temporary nature, just like so much of Tuolumne, is part of what makes them unique and special. We do, however, have a suggestion for improving the store – get rid of most of most of the tourist junk and instead focus on food and genuine supplies for campers and backpackers.

6. Just as we don't want to see the store become a permanent structure, we want the ranger tent cabins to remain; they are part of the history of the area, and nearly every ranger we have spoken to wants to keep them. This housing is seasonal, just as the human visitors to the area are. Please keep it that way.

7. Just as traffic overall seems to have increased in recent years, it appears that the number of large RV's in the campground and the number of people in many of the campsites has increased. This observation is based only our yearly stay in the Tuolumne campground, but this year we noticed more obscenely large RV's than ever before, and saw more than one campsite with 8 – 10 people. Again, we aren't sure what the best solution is, but couldn't there be a limit to the size of RV's?

Thank you for all your hard work in this important planning process. And our many thanks to all those who have contributed to the wonderful programs at Parsons Memorial Lodge in recent years.

Sincerely,

Anne Stafford

Anne Stafford & Kay Lombardini

M.K. Lombardini

L 54

"Dana Marble"
[redacted]
09/24/2007 05:06 PM
MST

To: Kristina_Rylands@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: RE: Tuolumne Planning Fax

Dear Kristina,
Here are my thoughts at this time. I will sort of do this as layed out on your COMMENTS sheet.

question 2.
Concept 1: This eliminates too many visitors. So, I say "no".

Concept 2: Similar to now. Over use of the area. "no'.

Concept 3: Similar to now. Over use of the area. "no".

Concept 4: This is the one I like the best. This is close to perfect.

question 3.
I believe there should be availability to visitor's who are not back packers or tent campers. I would like to see mostly day use only and a staging area for back packers and High Sierra Camps. Do NOT allow any motorized vehicles in camp ground; tents only. Some rustice facilities like existing tent cabins, but less of them. Some food service. A store for back packers and campers to purchase necessities. Limited meal service to mostly accommodate those staying over night in some "lodge". No gas station. No dump station. A small visitor's center combined with wilderness permit office.

question 4 & 5.
I have no comment on these questions.

DO NOT change or eliminate the High Sierra Camps.

Thanks for listening. Keep me posted.

Regards,

Dana Marble
[redacted]

---- Original Message ----
From: Kristina_Rylands@nps.gov
To: [redacted]
Subject: Tuolumne Planning Fax
Date: Thu, 20 Sep 2007 14:17:14 -0700

>
>Hello Dane and Sue Marble,
>
>We received you fax regarding the Tuolumne Planning Workbook, however
>the
>print is too light to read. Could you re-fax it or possibly email
>your
>responses?
>
>Thanks so much for taking the time to send us your thoughts in this
>early

T. Thomas O. Albert
[redacted]
93546.
T9.C. 24760@aol.com
760 924-7862 HM
914 2211 cell

I have a complaint:
Hores: should not be able to run with a bell on at any time! The people who own the Hores should pick up the Horse dropping

I do not like falling down trying to not step in horse pup in the river!
Watching horses pup in the river!