

2.4 SCENIC VALUES

2.4.1 Scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Throughout its length, the Merced River flows through a scenic landscape that has few parallels. Views from the river or its banks include El Capitan (Photo 2.4-1), Half Dome (Photo 2.4-2), Triple Divide Peak, and many other landmarks. The river provides a natural complement to Yosemite’s world-renowned scenery. Depending on the stretch of river, the Merced manifests itself as the foreground for a flat valley, a rushing and boulder-strewn river, towering waterfalls, or serene lakes.



Photo 2.4-1: El Capitan-2009 (Yochim 2009)



Photo 2.4-2: Half Dome-2010 (Yochim 2010)

River Segment 1: Merced River above Nevada Fall

Visitors to this wilderness segment experience scenic views of serene montane lakes, pristine meadows, slickrock cascades, and high Sierra peaks.

Starting at the headwaters, the Merced River passes through chains of “paternoster” lakes³¹, enters the upper montane forest, and becomes walled in by a classic U-shaped glacial valley. Scenic landmarks visible from the river or its banks include Washburn and Merced Lakes, Echo Valley, Bunnell Point, and Little Yosemite Valley. The long river segment of great visual variety and its uncompromised natural setting provide diverse, exceptional scenery—all with the river in the foreground.

³¹ Paternoster lakes are a series of glacial lakes connected by a single stream or braided stream system.

River Segment 2: Yosemite Valley

Visitors to Yosemite Valley experience scenic views of some of the world's most iconic scenery, with the river and meadows forming a placid foreground to towering cliffs and waterfalls.

The river enters Yosemite Valley at Nevada Fall, flowing through Emerald Pool and then over Vernal Fall. Once in the flat valley, the Merced provides the foreground to many of Yosemite's most famous landmarks. From the river or its banks, views consist of Yosemite Falls, Bridalveil Fall, El Capitan, Half Dome, and other named and unnamed parts of the cliffs and hanging valleys rimming the valley. Meandering through a sequence of compound oxbows, wetlands, and meadows, the river and its related features provide broadened panoramas. Throughout the valley, views from the river or its banks encompass the lower montane forest as it rises up to sheer rock faces of granite cliffs and talus slopes with a flat valley bottom serving as a contrasting foreground. The juxtaposition of granite domes and waterfalls is unique, as is the concentration of river-related views found in Yosemite Valley.

River Segment 3: Merced Gorge

The Merced River drops 2,000 feet over 14 miles—a continuous cascade under spectacular Sierra granite outcrops and domes.

Descending from Yosemite Valley, the river becomes a continuous cascade in a narrow gorge littered by massive boulders. Arch and Elephant Rocks and other landmarks rise above, all visible from the river or its banks. Dropping 2,000 feet in 14 miles, canyon walls rise steeply from the river and have many seasonal waterfalls cascading down to the river. Spring and fall bring special parades of colors, from redbuds and other plants warmly flowering in spring to bigleaf maples and other trees turning bright colors in fall.

Segments 5 and 8: South Fork Merced River, both above and below Wawona

The South Fork Merced River passes through a vast area of natural scenic beauty.

The South Fork Merced River in these stretches is largely inaccessible, with just a few trail crossings above Wawona and none below it. The scenery from the river or its banks is that of an undeveloped Sierra Nevada river valley, with views dominated by forest-cloaked hills, distant peaks, and an untamed river. These are some of the wildest views possible in the Sierra Nevada.

2.4.2 Scenic ORV Conditions

Scenic views from the Merced River and its banks are distinctive. This landscape includes distant, dramatic vistas of mountains and waterfalls; and close, beautiful views of the forests and gorges. The Merced River offers a cumulative visual experience with a varied pattern of topography and vegetation, which is unsurpassed in the United States. This sequence of features is a unique experience that rises above that of enjoying any one viewpoint: the juxtaposition of individual features with the foreground and background, the interface of different surfaces, and the interplay of light as it reflects off the various colors and textures of this dramatic and world-famous visual landscape.

The following common conditions can serve as indicators to assess changes in the Scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- 1) *Facilities and Other Human-made Structures*: National Park Service (NPS) and concessioner maintenance and warehouse facilities, roads and parking areas, campgrounds, and picnic areas can be considered visual intrusions where the placement of human-made structures block or otherwise affect the quality of scenic resources.
- 2) *Visitor Access and Use Levels/Perception of Crowding*: When visitor use levels exceed a facility's service capacity, cause undesirable traffic conditions, or result in a sense of crowding, the visitors' ability to view scenic resources and experience the scenery of the Merced River corridor may be impacted.
- 3) *Vegetation Management*: Another factor that can affect the experience of visual resources seen from the Merced River or its banks is the change in vegetation patterns caused by humans since early Euro-American settlers entered Yosemite Valley (NPS 2010a).
- 4) *Air Quality and Climate Change*: Fine particles of anthropogenic origin in the park have long approached levels recorded in urban areas due to the transport of these air pollutants from surrounding agricultural and urban areas (NPS 2000). These pollutants reduce visibility in Yosemite, particularly in the summer months. Visibility can also be reduced periodically by smoke from wildfires, prescribed fires, or campfires.

Warming temperatures due to climate change are already causing an earlier snowmelt, earlier stream peak flows, earlier drying of intermittent streams and seasonal meadows, and lower late-season groundwater levels (Panek et al. n.d.).

Continued climate change could alter vegetation, cause a decline of large-diameter trees (Lutz et al. 2009), change the frequency of wildfires, and alter river flows in ways that could affect the scenery.

2.4.3 River Segment 1: Merced River above Nevada Fall

As described above, scenic landmarks visible from the river and its banks in this segment include Washburn and Merced Lakes (Photo 2.4-3), Echo Valley, Bunnell Point, and Little Yosemite Valley (Figures 2.4-1a and 2.4-1b), and many other named and unnamed scenic landmarks.



Photo 2.4-3: Merced Lake-2010 (Yochim 2010)

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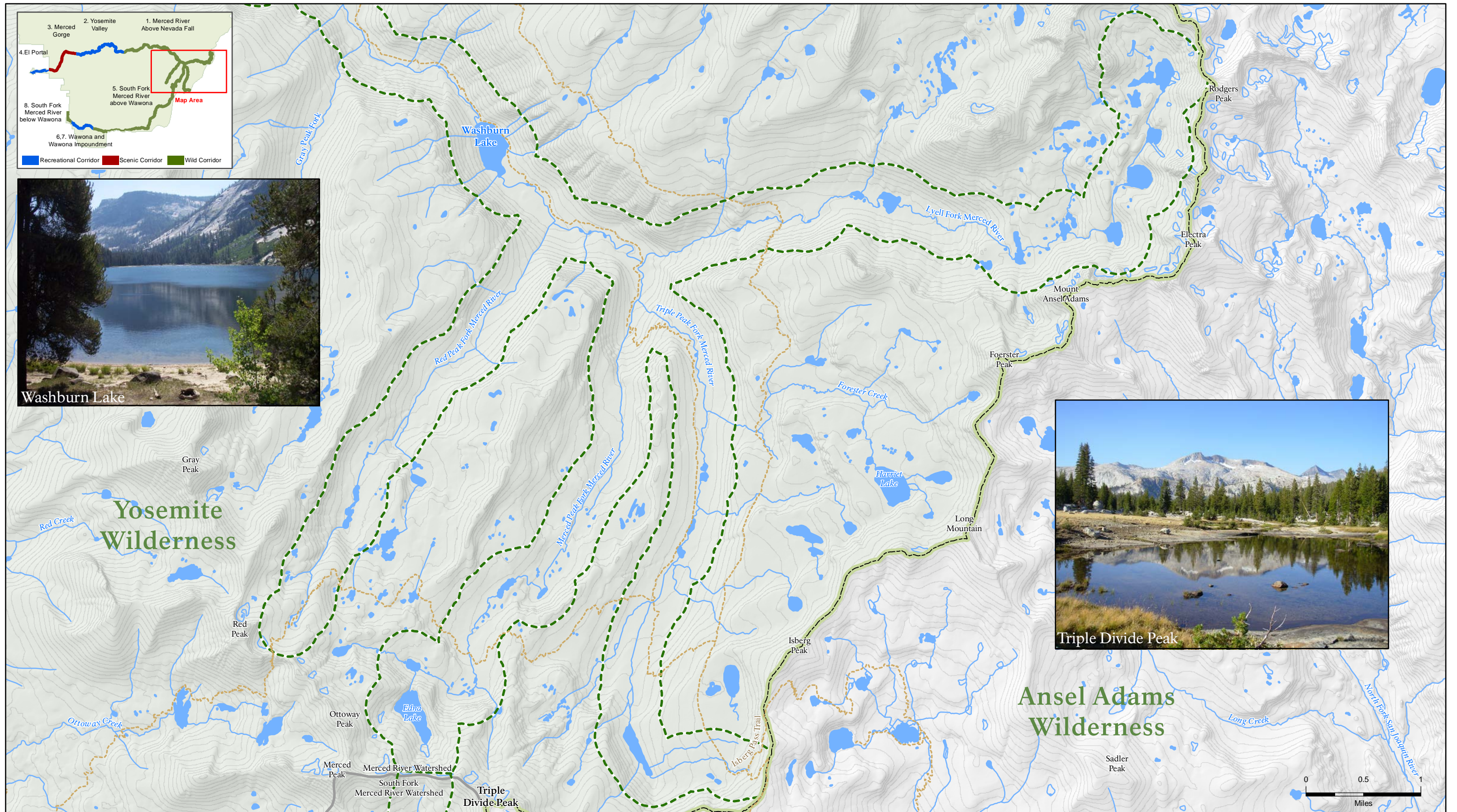


Figure 2.4-1a
Scenic ORV - River Segment 1. Merced River Above Nevada Fall
Wild WSR Corridor

- Wild WSR Corridor Classification
- Yosemite National Park Boundary
- Lake
- Watershed Boundary
- Trail
- Stream/River
- 100' Contour Line



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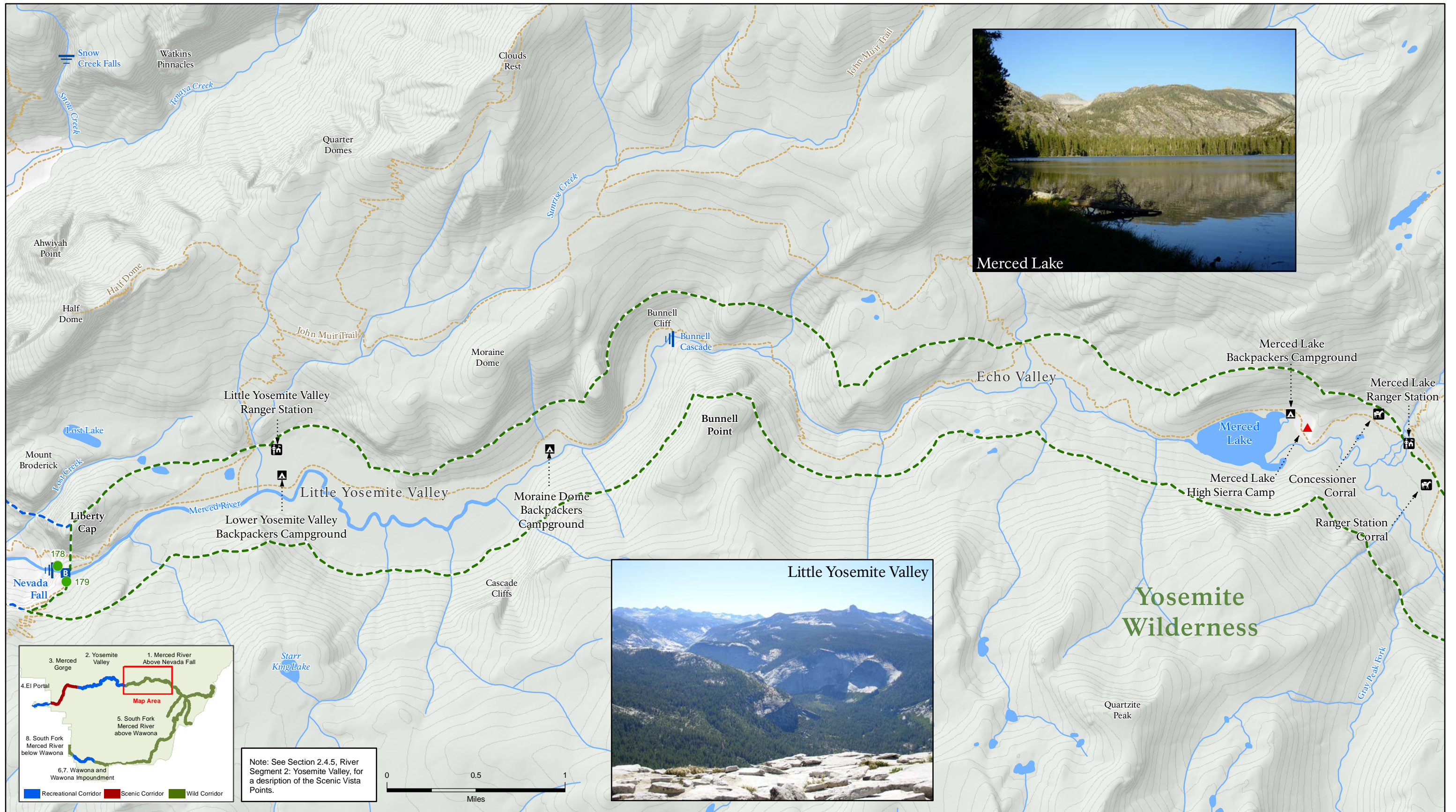


Figure 2.4-1b
**Scenic ORV - Segment 1. Merced River Above Nevada Fall-
 Little Yosemite Valley and Merced Lake High Sierra Camp**
Wild WSR Corridor

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Scenic Vista Points:
● Low Value | [Blue dashed line] Recreational WSR Corridor Classification
[Green dashed line] Wild WSR Corridor Classification
[Blue box] Lake
[Grey line] 100' Contour Line
[Orange dashed line] Trail | [Blue line with bars] Stream/River
[Blue line with vertical bars] Waterfall
[Red triangle] High Sierra Camp
[Blue box with B] Footbridge | [Icon] Ranger Station
[Icon] Corral
[Icon] Backpackers Campground |
|--|---|---|---|



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Condition at the Time of 1987 Designation

No formal visual resource studies have been performed for this segment of the Merced River since its designation as Wild and Scenic. At the time of designation, this river segment flowed through a natural setting with few human-made features. While wilderness campground use at the time of designation was high, the generally low visitor use in the segment enhanced its scenic quality (NPS 2000). During the 1987 operating season (May 13 to October 10), there were 11,214 overnight visitors, an average of 75 campers per night at the Little Yosemite Valley Backpackers' Campground and the Moraine Dome Campground. The average size of groups at these campgrounds was approximately 3.27 people (NPS 1987).

Only five areas with structures or campsites were identified along this river segment at the time of designation—the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp and associated stock corral, the Little Yosemite Valley Backpackers Campground and associated composting toilet, the Little Yosemite Valley Ranger Station, the Moraine Dome Backpackers' Campground, and the Merced Lake Backpackers' Campground.³² Dispersed camping was allowed elsewhere.

Current Condition

Views from the river and its banks along this segment continue to have high aesthetic value. Both the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp (Photos 2.4-4 and 2.4-5) and Little Yosemite Valley campground remain. In the 2000s, the operators of the High Sierra Camps delineated camp footpaths and restored all areas between footpaths, substantially improving the appearance, although some social trails nearby are still present. Around 1992, the Little Yosemite Valley Campground and Little Yosemite Valley Ranger Station were moved farther from the river and to the east. The updated backpackers' campground and ranger camp are larger and include semi-permanent tents and a water system at the ranger camp. Scenic vistas can be obscured by regional air pollution, which results in occasional haze during the summer months (NPS and Colorado State University 2002).

Between 1987 and 2006, annual overnight wilderness use was typically below or comparable to the 1987 visitation (NPS 2011a). As previously shown in Figure 2.2-1 (in Section 2.2 Recreational Values), Yosemite wilderness overnight visitation has increased substantially since 2006, exceeding the 1987 level of overnight use (NPS 2011a).

2.4.3.3 Preliminary Management Considerations

The preliminary management considerations associated with the Scenic ORV in segment 1:

- There are few visual intrusions in this area, however human structures, both temporary and permanent, at Merced Lake Ranger Station and Little Yosemite Valley
- Crowding in and near the backcountry campgrounds, which operate near capacity all summer, may affect river-related scenic resources

³² The Merced Lake Ranger Station is not within ¼ mile of the Merced River; therefore, it is not included in this discussion.



Photo 2.4-4: Merced Lake High Sierra Camp-2010 (Yochim 2010)



Photo 2.4-5: Merced Lake High Sierra Camp-2010 (Yochim 2010)

2.4.3 River Segment 2: Yosemite Valley

The river enters Yosemite Valley at Nevada Fall, flowing through Emerald Pool and then over Vernal Fall. Once in the flat valley, the Merced provides the foreground to many of Yosemite's most famous landmarks. From the river or its banks, views consist of Yosemite Falls, Bridalveil Fall, El Capitan, Half Dome, and other named and unnamed parts of the cliffs and hanging valleys rimming the valley (Figures 2.4-2a through 2.4-2c) (Photos 2.4-6 through 2.4-8).

Condition at the Time of 1987 Designation

NPS conducted an analysis in the late 1970s during development of the *General Management Plan* to determine existing and historic viewing conditions within Yosemite Valley and to identify the landscape features most visitors look for and are able to distinguish (NPS 1980). Based on this study, the 11 most important features within Yosemite Valley were Half Dome, Yosemite Falls, El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall, Three Brothers, Cathedral Rocks and Spires, Sentinel Rock, Glacier Point, North Dome, Washington Column, and Royal Arches. The study also evaluated all points from which these features could be seen (assuming no vegetation or structures obstructed the view) to establish the scenic viewing potential of different locations on the Valley floor. Existing viewpoints were identified, and the quality of their views and their proximity to roads and trails were noted. All of the identified "most important features" included in the *General Management Plan* analysis are visible from various sections of the Merced River through Yosemite Valley.

The viewpoint analysis conducted for the *General Management Plan* identified areas within Yosemite Valley that were consistently selected by eminent early photographers and painters as the best areas to pursue their activities. The Merced River is featured prominently in many representations of the Valley as both a foreground subject within the corridor and scenic feature from outside the corridor. Once the existing and historical viewpoints were established for the *General Management Plan* viewpoint analysis, the Valley was classified according to the following criteria:

- A-Scenic:* Areas included in scenic views commonly chosen by eminent early photographers and painters or included in the most significant scenic views that exist today (included all meadows and the entire length of the Merced River in the Valley).
- B-Scenic:* Areas included in scenic views less commonly chosen by historic photographers and painters or that compose less-significant modern views based on park management observations.
- C-Scenic:* Areas of minor scenic quality and areas that can absorb visual intrusion without detracting from either primary or secondary views.

The viewpoint analysis resulted in the development of the Yosemite Valley Scenic Analysis map (Figures 2.4-2a through 2.4-2c, Figure 2.4-3). This map, which is a compilation of the Yosemite Valley historic and existing viewpoint analyses presented in the *General Management Plan*, provides a generally accurate depiction of conditions at the time of Merced Wild and Scenic River designation.

In addition to the viewpoints included in the *General Management Plan* analysis, other important scenic resources that could be seen from the river or its banks in Yosemite Valley included: Nevada,

Illilouette, Vernal, and Ribbon falls; the cliffs at Yosemite Point/Lost Arrow Spire; and the scenic interface of river, rock, meadow, and forest throughout the Valley.



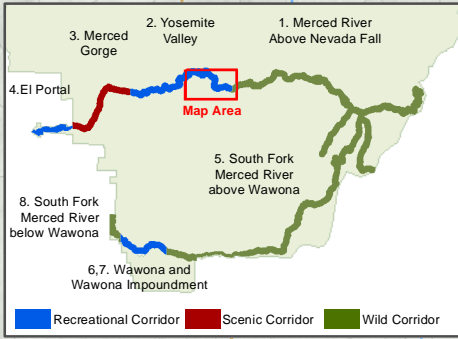
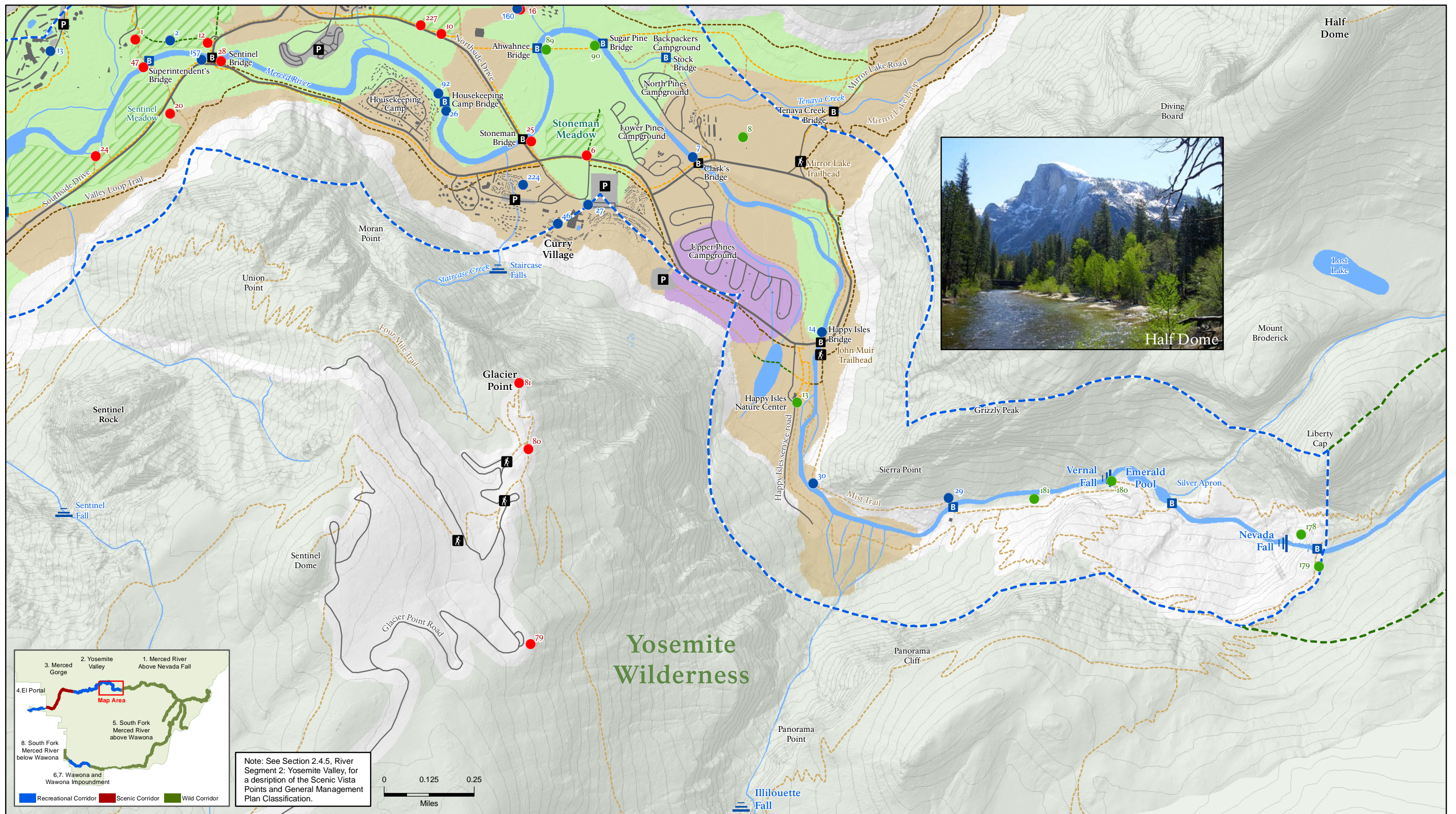
Photo 2.4-6: Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Valley View-2010 (Yochim 2010)



Photo 2.4-7: Yosemite Falls-2010 (Yochim 2010)



Photo 2.4-8: Half Dome from Sentinel Meadow-2010 (Yochim 2010)



Note: See Section 2.4.5, River Segment 2: Yosemite Valley, for a description of the Scenic Vista Points and General Management Plan Classification.

Figure 2.4-2a
Scenic ORV - River Segment 2. Yosemite Valley - Curry Village, Pines Campgrounds, and Housekeeping Camp Recreational WSR Corridor

<p>Scenic Vista Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High Value ● Medium Value ● Low Value 	<p>General Management Plan Classification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A- Scenic ■ B- Scenic ■ C- Scenic 	<p>Recreational WSR Corridor Classification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▬ Recreational WSR Corridor ▬ Wild WSR Corridor ▬ Monitored Meadow ■ Building ▬ Waterfall 	<p>Other Symbols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Road bridge ■ Footbridge ■ Parking Lot ■ Trailhead ▬ 100' Contour Line ▬ Road ▬ Stream/River ▬ Valley Loop Trail ▬ Bike Path ▬ Boardwalk ▬ Trail
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	<p>Produced by: Yosemite Planning Division</p>
	<p>Projection: North American Datum 1983, UTM Zone 10</p>
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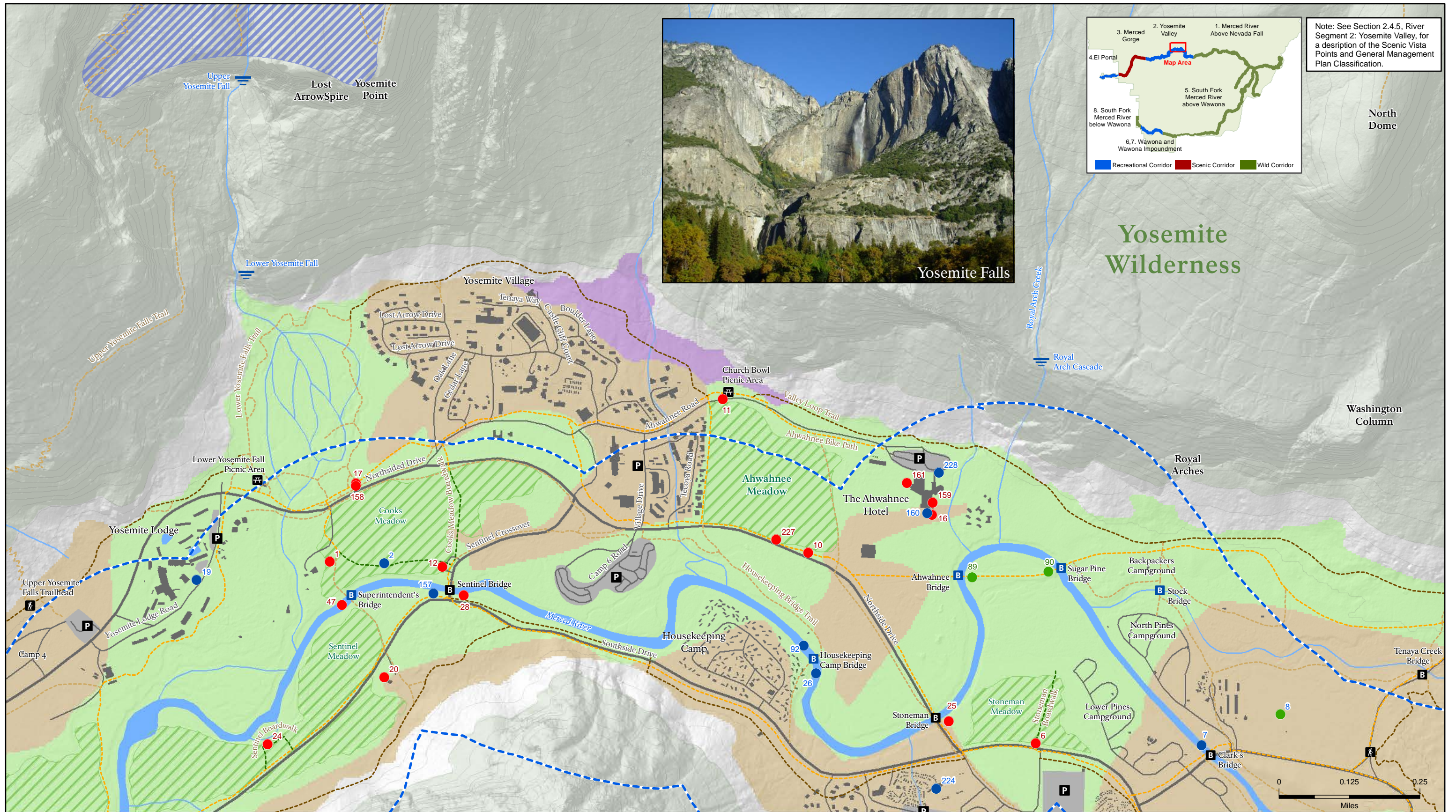


Figure 2.4-2b
Scenic ORV - River Segment 2. Yosemite Valley
Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite Village, and The Ahwahnee
Recreational WSR Corridor

Scenic Vista Points:
 ● High Value
 ● Medium Value
 ● Low Value

General Management Plan Classification:
 ■ A- Scenic
 ■ B- Scenic
 ■ C- Scenic

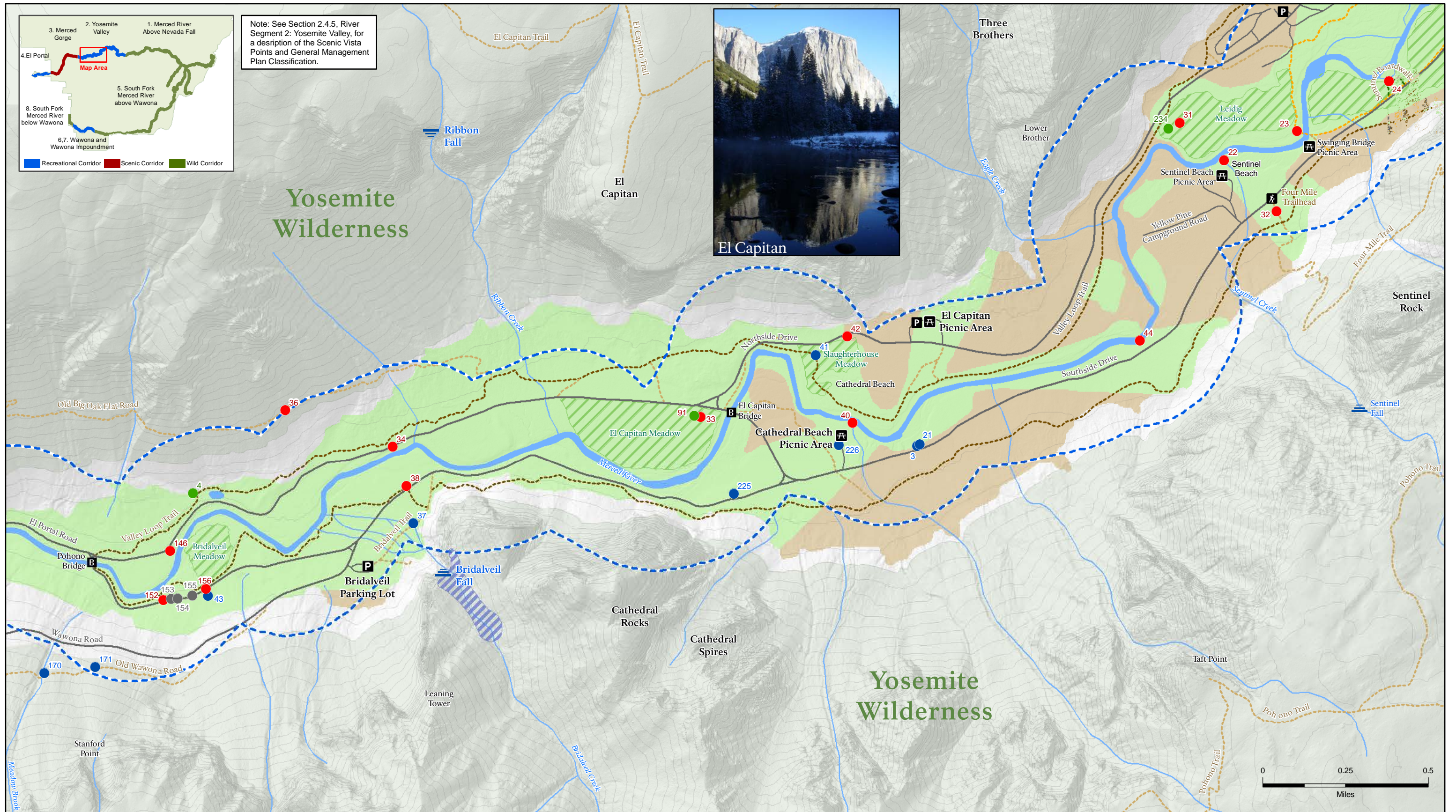
--- Recreational WSR Corridor Classification
 ■ Building
 ■ Monitored Meadow
 ■ Hanging Valley
 --- 100' Contour Line
 ~~~ Stream/River

■ Road bridge  
 ■ Footbridge  
 ■ Trailhead  
 ■ Parking Lot  
 ■ Picnic Area  
 ■ Waterfall

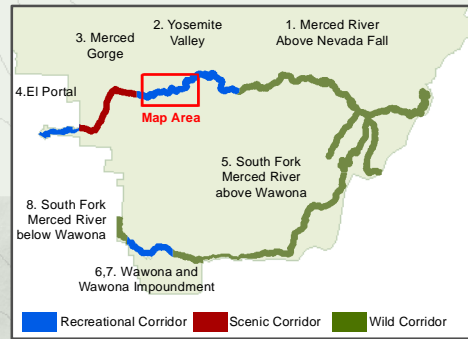


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Note: See Section 2.4.5, River Segment 2: Yosemite Valley, for a description of the Scenic Vista Points and General Management Plan Classification.



Recreational Corridor Scenic Corridor Wild Corridor

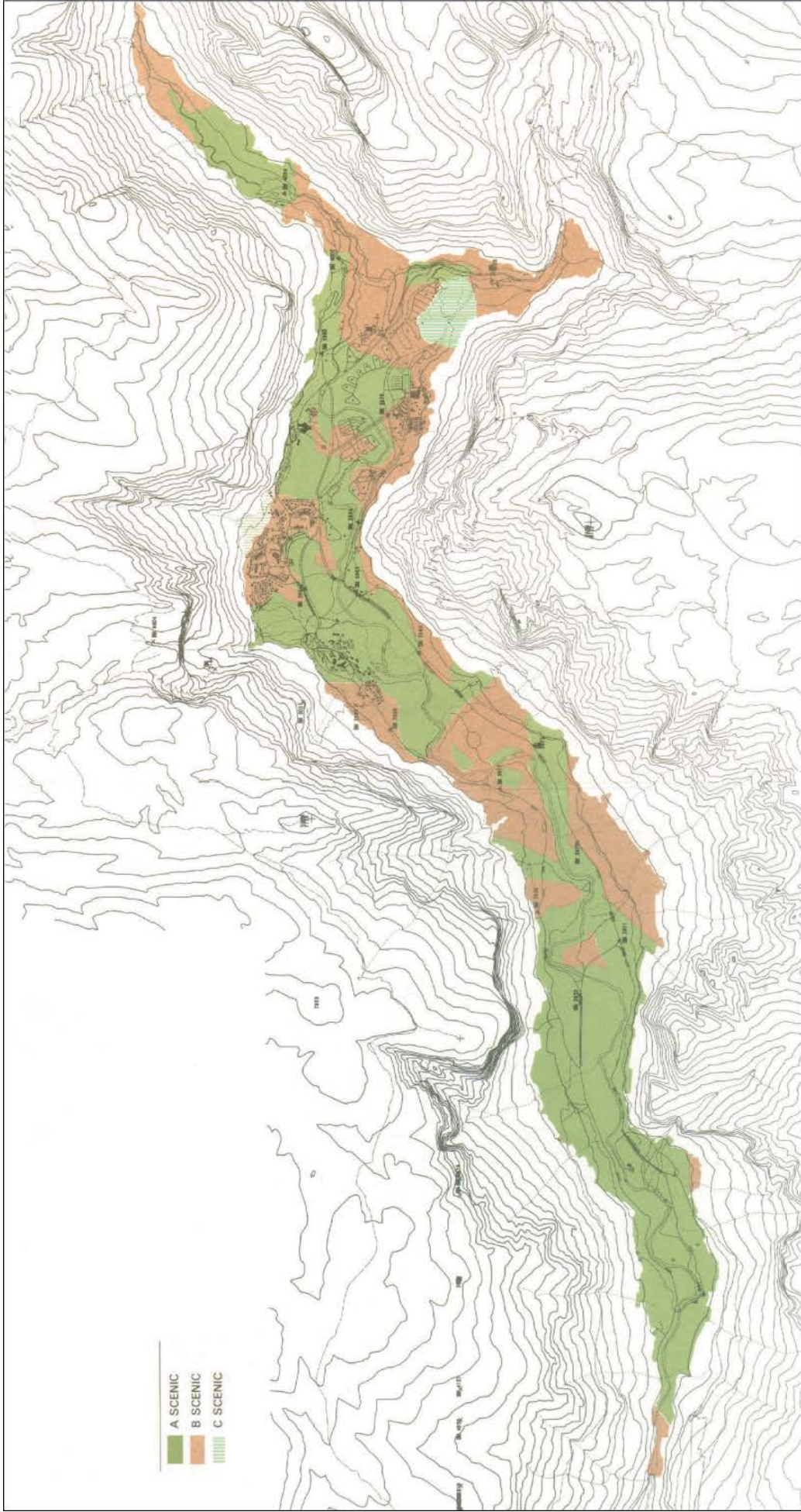
**Figure 2.4-2c**  
**Scenic ORV - River Segment 2. Yosemite Valley**  
**El Capitan Meadow, Cathedral Beach, and Sentinel Beach**  
**Recreational WSR Corridor**

|                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Scenic Vista Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● High Value</li> <li>● Medium Value</li> <li>● Low Value</li> <li>● Not Scored</li> </ul> | <p><b>General Management Plan Classification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A- Scenic</li> <li>■ B- Scenic</li> </ul> | <p><b>Recreational WSR Corridor Classification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▭ Monitored Meadow</li> <li>▭ Hanging Valley</li> <li>▭ Stream/River</li> <li>▭ Road</li> <li>▭ 100' Contour Line</li> </ul> | <p><b>Valley Loop Trail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▭ Bike Path</li> <li>▭ Boardwalk</li> <li>▭ Trail</li> <li>▭ Waterfall</li> </ul> | <p><b>Trailhead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▭ Road bridge</li> <li>▭ Picnic Area</li> <li>▭ Parking Lot</li> </ul> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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Data Source: National Park Service, 1978



Prepared for:  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior

Prepared by:  
MIG, Inc.  
Environmental Science Associates  
January 2000 □

**Figure 2.4-3**  
**Yosemite Valley Scenic Analysis**

Draft Merced Wild and Scenic River  
Comprehensive Management Plan/EIS

Also identified in the viewpoint analysis were visual intrusions in the Valley caused by human-made features and vegetation that blocked views. The study included 155 acres classified as A-Scenic, 222 acres classified as B-Scenic, and 28 acres classified as C-Scenic. The major visual intrusions were roads and traffic through Ahwahnee Meadow, Stoneman Meadow, and other meadows when viewing Half Dome from the Valley floor (including from lands within the Merced River corridor), NPS and concessioner maintenance and warehouse facilities, Camp 6, Housekeeping Camp, and Curry Village. Of the 155 acres of affected A-Scenic resources, 5 acres were within the Merced River corridor in the West Valley. This acreage included the Bridalveil Fall parking lot and the Cathedral Beach and El Capitan Picnic areas (NPS 1980).

### Current Condition

Views from the river and its banks in Yosemite Valley continue to retain high aesthetic value. However, the built and natural environments have changed somewhat since the river was designated as Wild and Scenic and the Yosemite Valley segment was classified as Recreational. These changes include those associated with damaged and removed structures, meadow and riparian conditions, park visitation patterns, and altered conditions at scenic viewpoints, as described below.

Since 1987, the biggest change in views within the Yosemite Valley segment was caused by the 1997 flood, which damaged or destroyed approximately half of the lodging units at Yosemite Lodge (which were subsequently removed) as well as many campgrounds within the Merced River floodplain. Other changes to the human-made environment since 1987 include installation of curbing along Northside and Southside Drives (which reduced the number of cars that could be parked in the foreground of scenic resource views), completion of the Yosemite Falls project (which removed idling buses from distant views of the falls), replacement of Sentinel Bridge, and removal of employee housing (tent cabins) at Yosemite Lodge.

Since the Merced River was designated as Wild and Scenic, NPS has restored meadows through such activities as constructing meadow boardwalks, planting native vegetation, removing non-native vegetation, and implementing monitoring programs (Section 2.1, Biological Values). While meadow conditions continue to experience damage associated with ongoing informal trail use, and soil disturbance, etc., overall meadow conditions have improved; as a result, direct views of meadows, as well as the contribution of foreground meadow views to iconic scenic vistas, has also improved. Constrictions to the free-flowing condition of the Merced River cause acceleration of water velocity at bridges with openings too small to accommodate spring floods, resulting in bank erosion. In addition, vegetation trampling associated



**Photo 2.4-9:** Social Trails along Merced River Bank-2010 (ESA 2010)



with visitor access to river points also contributes to bank erosion. Both actions affect direct views of the river and long-range iconic views where the river is visible in the foreground (Photo 2.4-9).

#### 2.4.4.3 Preliminary Management Considerations

- The preliminary management considerations associated with the Scenic ORV in segment 2: When visible from the river or its banks, visual intrusions associated with human made structures include roads and traffic through meadows and some visitor and administrative facilities.
- The presence of social trails and riparian vegetation loss affects the visual landscape.
- Bank erosion continues to affect direct views from the river and its banks.

#### 2.4.4 River Segment 3: Merced Gorge

Descending from Yosemite Valley, the river becomes a continuous cascade in a narrow gorge littered by massive boulders. Arch Rock, Elephant Rock, and other landmarks rise above, all visible from the river and its banks.

##### Condition at the Time of 1987 Designation

In 1987, the Cascade Diversion Dam and associated features, including the powerhouse building, were visible from the river and its bank. The dam spanned the entire river, with an intake structure on the right bank of the river, and the associated powerhouse was a short distance downstream. The dam was no longer in use, and dilapidated. The powerhouse building was still present, but no longer used to generate power, instead being used as a high voltage substation. Portions of the El Portal Road were visible from the river and its banks, particularly in the Cascades and Arch Rock areas, where the river gradient is less steep and the road is close to the river.

##### Current Condition

The current condition of scenery from the river and its banks in the gorge segment is largely similar to 1987. However, the scenic quality in the area of the river at the Big Oak Flat Road/El Portal Road junction has significantly improved since NPS removed the Cascades Diversion Dam and associated



**Photo 2.4-12:** Merced River Gorge-2010 (Yochim 2010)

features in 2004 and restored the area affected by the dilapidated dam and its pool. The powerhouse remains in place, and continues to be used as a high voltage substation. Photos 2.4-13 through 2.4-15 show the Merced River area prior to dam construction, prior to dam removal, and after dam removal. The scenic quality in the vicinity of the dam returned to a natural condition within six years.

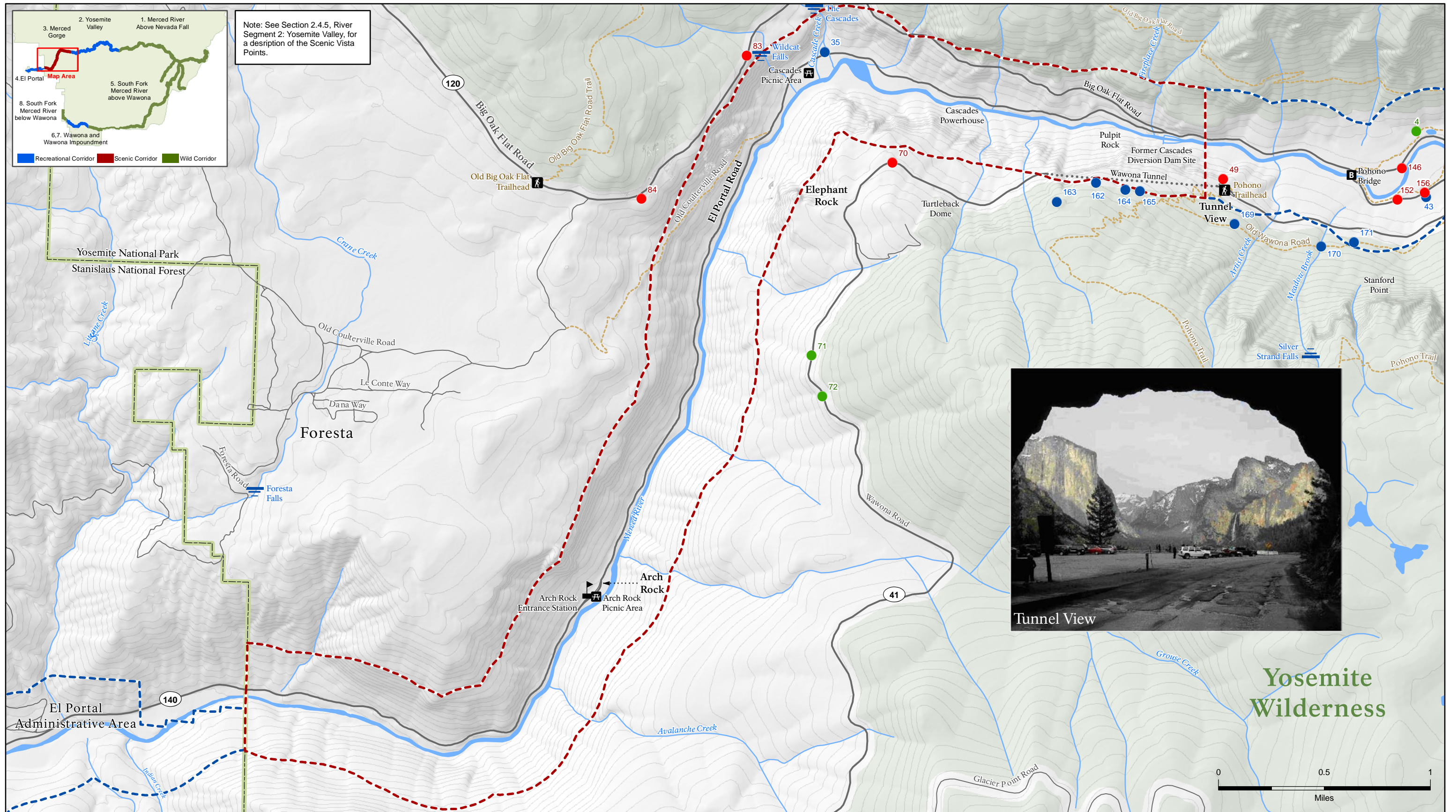


**Photo 2.4-13:** Before Cascades Diversion Dam Construction (from South Bank)-Undated (taken circa 1916 or 1917, immediately prior to dam construction) (NPS undated)



**Photo 2.4-14:** Before Dam Removal (from North Bank)-2001 (NPS 2001)





**Figure 2.4-4**  
**Scenic ORV - River Segment 3.**  
**Merced Gorge**  
**Scenic WSR Corridor**

- |                             |                                          |                   |             |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| <b>Scenic Vista Points:</b> | Scenic WSR Corridor Classification       | Trail             | Picnic Area |
| High Value                  | Recreational WSR Corridor Classification | Stream/River      | Trailhead   |
| Medium Value                | Yosemite National Park Boundary          | Highway           | Road bridge |
| Low Value                   |                                          | Road              | Waterfall   |
|                             |                                          | 100' Contour Line |             |



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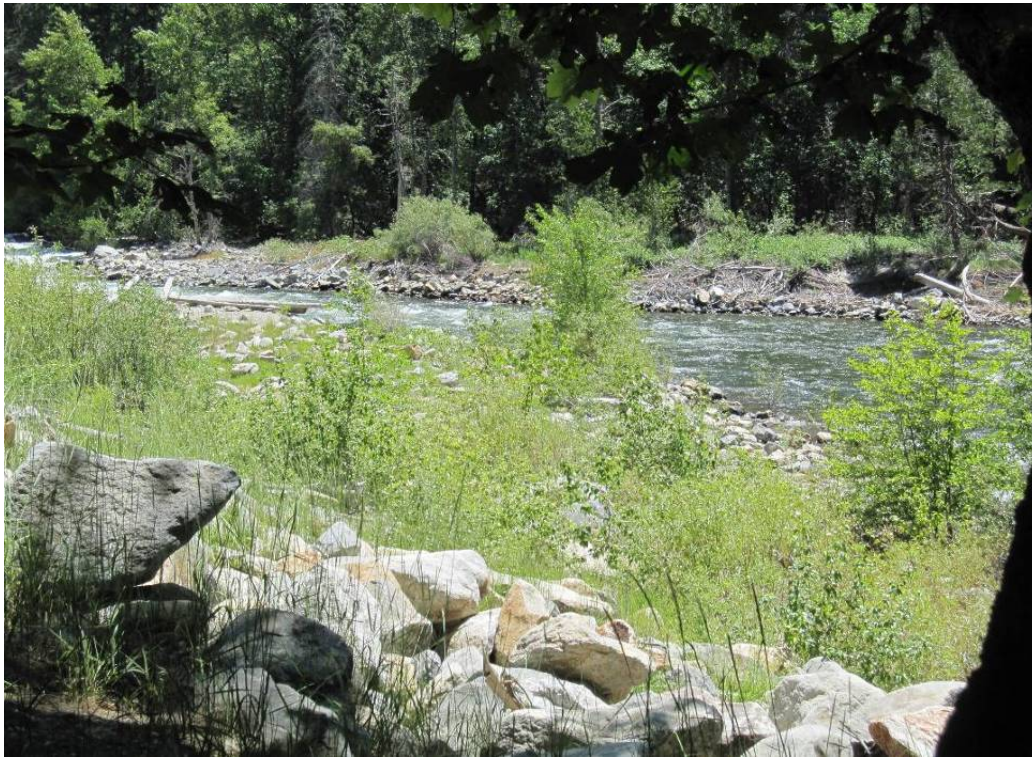


Photo 2.4-15: After Dam Removal (from North Bank)-2010 (ESA 2010)

#### 2.4.5.3 Preliminary Management Considerations

The preliminary management considerations associated with the Scenic ORV in segment 3:

- There are few visual intrusions in this area; several historic viewpoints have been identified for future treatment.

#### 2.4.5 River Segments 5 and 8: South Fork Merced River above and below Wawona

As described above in Section 2.4-1, the South Fork Merced River in these stretches is largely inaccessible, having just a few trail crossings above Wawona and none below it (Figure 2.4-5) (Photos 2.4-16 and Photo 2.4-17).

#### Condition at the Time of 1987 Designation

Although no formal visual resource studies had been conducted for this portion of the Merced River, the wilderness segments of the South Fork Merced were largely natural and undisturbed at the time of designation and included few roads and trails.



**Photo 2.4-16:** South Fork Merced River above Wawona Crossing-2010 (Yochim 2010)



**Photo 2.4-17:** South Fork Merced River-2010 (Yochim 2010)

Scenery that could be directly viewed from within the Merced River or its banks above Wawona was limited primarily to views of the South Fork itself at trail crossings, as well as longer-range views from the trails to Breeze Lake, Chain Lakes, Buck Camp, and Wawona Point areas (Photo 2.4-18). Views from the river corridor included distant views of forests and granite features such as Wawona Dome, which is a component of the Scenic ORVs in this segment. The Merced River corridor below Wawona was limited to brief views by motorists on Wawona Road.



**Photo 2.4-18:** South Fork Merced River above Wawona from a Ridge between Chain Lakes and Breeze Lake (Yochim 2010)



### **Current Condition**

Views from the river, banks, and trails along the South Fork Merced River,, both above and below Wawona, continue to have high aesthetic value, as they did at the time of designation.

One scenic viewpoint within the South Fork below Wawona segment and one viewpoint that provides views of the South Fork above Wawona segment 5 were evaluated as part of the Scenic Vista Management Plan, as described in Table 2.4-1.

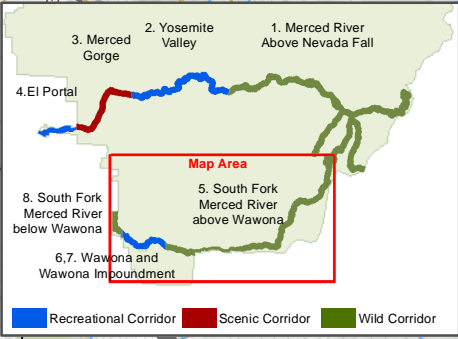
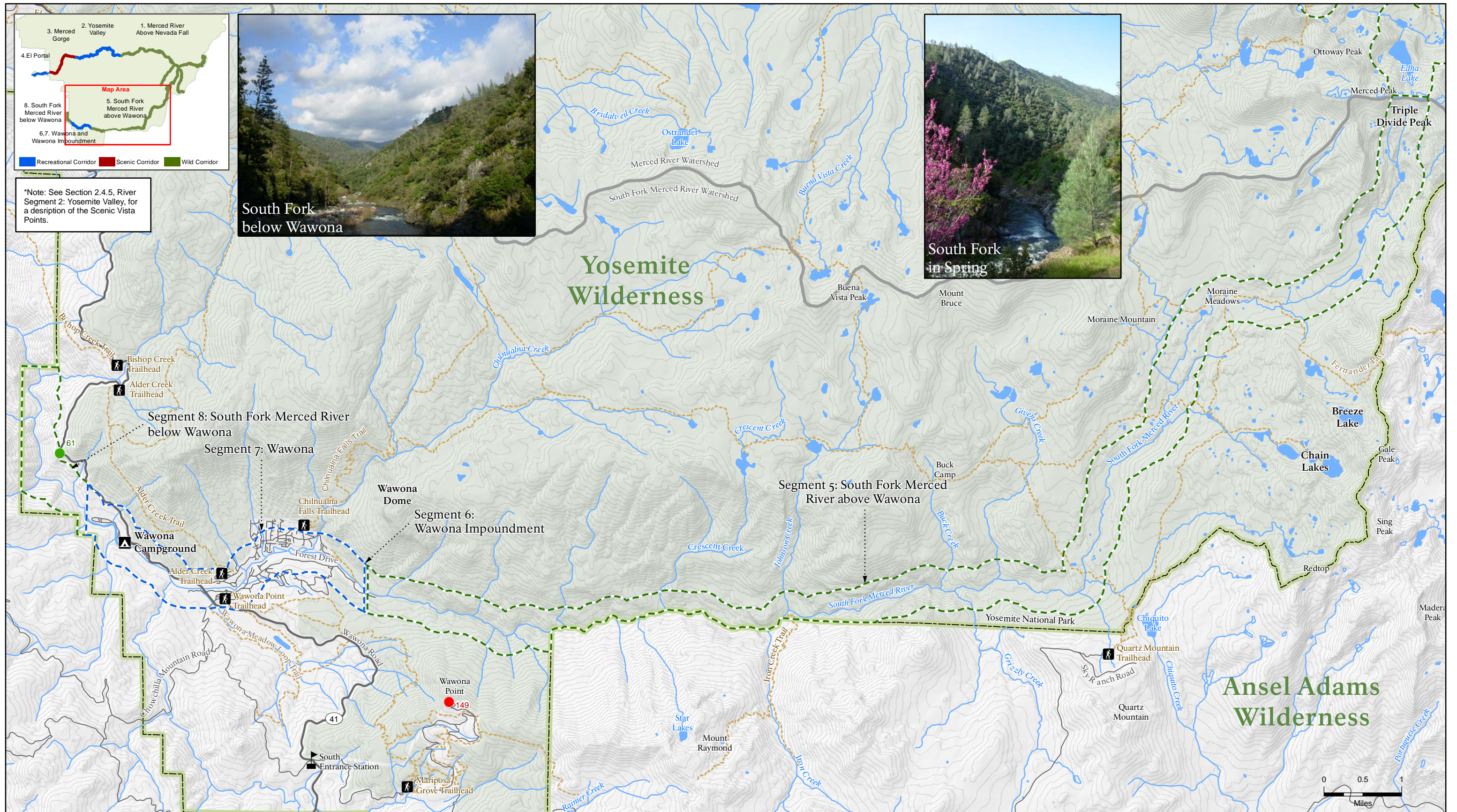
### **2.4.6.3 Preliminary Management Considerations**

The preliminary management considerations associated with the Scenic ORV in segments 5 and 8:

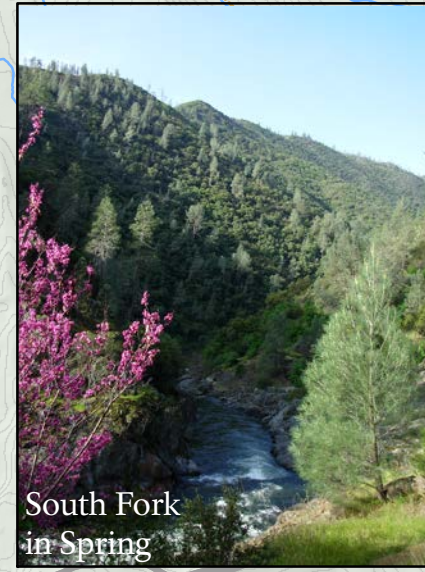
- There are few visual intrusions in this area

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\*Note: See Section 2.4.5, River Segment 2: Yosemite Valley, for a description of the Scenic Vista Points.



**Figure 2.4-5**  
**Scenic ORV - River Segments 5 and 8**  
**South Fork Merced River Above and Below Wawona**  
**Wild WSR Corridor**

|                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Scenic Vista Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">●</span> High Value</li> <li><span style="color: green;">●</span> Low Value</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px dashed green; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Wild WSR Corridor Classification</li> <li><span style="border: 1px dashed blue; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Recreational WSR Corridor Classification</li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid green; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Yosemite National Park Boundary</li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid gray; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Watershed Boundary</li> <li><span style="background-color: lightblue; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Lakes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border-bottom: 1px dashed orange; display: inline-block; width: 20px;"></span> Trail</li> <li><span style="border-bottom: 1px solid blue; display: inline-block; width: 20px;"></span> Stream/River</li> <li><span style="border-bottom: 2px solid gray; display: inline-block; width: 20px;"></span> Highway 41</li> <li><span style="border-bottom: 1px solid gray; display: inline-block; width: 20px;"></span> Road</li> <li><span style="border-bottom: 1px dashed gray; display: inline-block; width: 20px;"></span> 100' Contour Line</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: black; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Trailhead</li> </ul> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|          |                                                                                                                           |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><br> | <p><i>National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior</i></p> <p><b>Produced by: Yosemite Planning Division</b></p> |
|          | <p>Projection: North American Datum 1983, UTM Zone 10</p>                                                                 |
|          | <p>Date: 6/2/11</p>                                                                                                       |
|          | <p>File: Figure 2.4-5</p>                                                                                                 |



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