



Merced River Plan Public Scoping

In 1987 the U.S. Congress designated the Merced a Wild and Scenic River to preserve its free-flowing condition and to protect and enhance the unique values that made it worthy of special protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

In accordance with the law, the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Merced River Plan/EIS) for the 81 miles of the river within Yosemite National Park. When completed, the plan will guide future management of activities in the river corridor, including site-specific actions needed to protect the river in Yosemite Valley, El Portal, and Wawona, along with a parkwide transportation plan.

The cornerstone of the 3-year Merced River Plan effort will be an open and transparent public involvement process where members of the public can voice ideas and weigh in on various aspects of the plan at critical milestones throughout its development.

These opportunities will be ongoing, beginning in fall 2009 during the early scoping phase of

the project. At these sessions park planners will ask, “What do you think the NPS should be considering as the team develops this plan?”

Watch the park’s website for additional workshops in 2010 on the following topics:

- Parkwide transportation strategies and solutions
- User capacity in the Merced River corridor
- Yosemite Valley, El Portal, and Wawona site planning, including considering opportunities for restoration as well as locations of campgrounds, visitor services, employee housing, administrative functions, and other recreational activities
- The relationship between Yosemite National Park and the vitality of local communities

Please share your passion for Yosemite by helping to shape its future.

Meeting Schedule

All meeting times are 4 to 8 p.m., except for the Yosemite Valley Open Houses which are from 1 to 4 p.m.

Date	Location	Address
Monday, October 26	Oakhurst	Masonic Lodge, Highway 49
Tuesday, October 27	Lee Vining	Mono Basin Visitor Center, Highway 395
Wednesday, October 28	Yosemite Valley	Auditorium—Open House
Monday, November 2	Mariposa	Mariposa Government Center 5100 Bullion Street, 2 nd Floor
Tuesday, November 3	Fresno	REI, 7810 N. Blackstone Avenue
Wednesday, November 4	Groveland	Groveland Community Hall
Monday, November 9	Sacramento	Sacramento Southside Clubhouse 2051 6 th Street
Tuesday, November 10	Berkeley	Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center Berkeley-Marina 200 Marina Boulevard
Monday, November 16	Los Angeles	LA River Center, 570 West Avenue 26
Wednesday, December 2	Yosemite Valley	Auditorium—Open House

Participating in the Process

Any individual, organization, or agency representative is encouraged to attend the scoping meetings. The agenda will include an open house, presentation, public comment forum, and a question and answer session. Throughout the meeting, park planning staff will be on hand to listen and record ideas and comments.

You may provide written comments at any of the meetings, or at the postal or Internet addresses to the right; all responses must be postmarked or transmitted no later than February 4, 2010. Comments submitted to date need not be resubmitted.

Written comments may be addressed to:
Superintendent
Attn: Merced River Plan
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Comments may also be faxed to (209) 379-1294, emailed to yose_planning@nps.gov or submitted via the Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkID=347&projectId=18982>.

For more information please visit www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/newmrp.htm

Litigation Settlement

On September 29, 2009, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California approved a settlement agreement between the National Park Service (Yosemite) and Friends of Yosemite Valley. This settlement ended nine years of litigation over previous plans for the Merced Wild and Scenic River, as well as a separate legal challenge to the 2000 Yosemite Valley Plan. The settlement agreement provides for the following:

- The NPS will complete a new Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and associated Record of Decision by December 2012;
- The agency will employ an “extensive, frequent, and robust public involvement process” that enables all interested parties access to the

planning process;

- The NPS will conduct site-specific planning for Yosemite Valley, Wawona, El Portal, and Merced Lake;
- The agency will develop a user capacity program, using subject matter experts;
- The Yosemite Valley Plan from 2000, Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment Plan, and Curry Village/East Valley Campgrounds Environmental Assessment are all rescinded, with the exception of several ongoing projects and routine maintenance.

The settlement agreement may be viewed or downloaded at <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/litigation.htm>.

Guiding Questions

Some questions that might be helpful in formulating comments are:

- 1) What do you love about the Merced River, Yosemite Valley, Wawona, El Portal, and/or Merced Lake High Sierra Camp?
- 2) What do you want to see protected?
- 3) What needs to be fixed?
- 4) What would you like to see kept the same?

Following the close of the scoping period, all comments will be analyzed and summarized in a public scoping report. This document will be made available to the public upon request and will be posted to the park’s website in the spring.