



Yosemite National Park
MERCED RIVER PLAN

Agenda

Purpose: Public Planning Workshop

Date: Friday, March 7, 2008

Time and Location: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Yosemite Valley Visitor Center



PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- Review upcoming, major planning and public participation milestones for the plan.
- Present and discuss the draft Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) for the Merced and South Fork Merced Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- Explore the range of different desired conditions (that is, resource and visitor experiences to be achieved in the future). Discuss why having different management goals for ORVs in different locations is a critical decision-making component of this plan, and how those decisions are made.

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

9:30 – 9:50	Welcome and Introductions (Elexis Mayer)
9:50 – 10:30	Upcoming Planning and Public Participation Milestones (Elexis Mayer)
10:30 – 10:45	BREAK
10:45 – 12:00	Presentation and Discussion of Draft ORVs (Pam Meierding)
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
1:00 – 1:30	Introduction to Establishing a Range of Desired Conditions (Linda Dahl)
1:30 – 3:00	Desired Conditions Group Exercise (Teri Tucker)
3:00 – 3:30	Closing Remarks & Group Feedback on Workshop

NEXT WORKSHOP:

**Public Planning Workshop on
Management Prescriptions and Management Zones
Saturday, April 5, 2008
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at location to be determined**

Merced and South Fork Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan/EIS

Timeline of Milestones (2008 & 2009)

January 2008

22nd Core Team Meeting Boundaries & Segment Classifications

February 2008

6, 7, & 8th **User Capacity Symposium** in Yosemite National Park *

14th Core Team Workshop on **Desired Conditions** *

14th **50% Draft Purpose & Need distributed for Core Team review**

20th Core Team Meeting

29th **Progress Report Submitted to District Court**

March 2008

5th Core Team **Desired Conditions Refinement & Introduction to Management Prescriptions Workshop** *

7th **Public Planning Workshop – Draft ORV Report and Desired Conditions** *

19th Core Team Meeting Desired Conditions and Management Prescriptions Refinement*

31st **80% Draft Purpose & Need ready for internal review**

TBD **50% Draft Affected Environment ready for Core Team review**

TBD **EIS Master Outline Complete**

April 2008

TBA **American Indian Consultation: Management Prescriptions & Preliminary Draft Alternatives** *

2nd Core Team **Management Zoning Workshop** *

TBD **Public Planning Workshop: Management Prescriptions & Management Zones** *

16th Core Team **Management Zoning Workshop # 2** *

TBD Prepare **Merced River Planning Workbook**

May 2008

7th Core Team Meeting **Merced River Planning Workbook**

10th **Public Planning Workshop: Management Zones & Preliminary Draft Alternatives** *

TBD **50% Draft Alternatives ready for Core Team review**

21st Core Team Meeting Merced River Planning Workbook (page turn/send to GPO)

28th **RELEASE MERCED RIVER PLANNING WORKBOOK**

TBD **80% Draft Affected Environment ready for internal review**

Merced and South Fork Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan/EIS

Timeline of Milestones (2008 & 2009)

June 2008

- TBD **Public Information Sessions** on MERCED RIVER PLANNING WORKBOOK
4th Core Team to conduct **Internal Planning Workbook Sessions (Wawona)**
18th Core Team to conduct **Internal Planning Workbook Sessions (Yosemite Valley)**

July 2008

- TBD **Public Information Sessions** on MERCED RIVER PLANNING WORKBOOK
2nd Core Team to conduct **Internal Planning Workbook Sessions**
16th Core Team to conduct **Internal Planning Workbook Sessions**
22nd **All Tribes Meeting conversation about Draft Alternatives ***
TBD **50% Draft Environmental Consequences Chapter and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Chapter**

August 2008

- 6th Core Team to **Analyze Internal and Public Comments**
13th **Core Team Workshop on Management Tools for Achieving Desired Conditions** (including but not limited to developing numeric capacities) *
16th **Public Planning Workshop – Draft Alternatives Refinement & Management Tools for Achieving Desired Conditions***
20th **Core Team All-Day Alternatives Workshop***
27th Core Team Meeting CBA Preparation
TBD **80% Draft Consultation Chapter and Appendices ready for internal review**

September 2008

- 3rd **Core Team Work Session - Prepare Alternatives Chapter (EIS)**
8th, 9th, & 10th **Choosing By Advantages Workshop** (including Management Team)
TBD **Solicitor and Regional NEPA Coordinator Review Session in Oakland**
17th Core Team Meeting Issues Resolution
TBD **80% Draft Alternatives ready for internal review**
TBD **80% Environmental Consequences Chapter (EIS) and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Chapter (EIS)**
27th **Public Planning Workshop: Draft Alternatives (including Preferred Alternative) & Environmental Consequences ***

October 2008

- 11th **Public Planning Workshop on Indicators of Quality for the ORVs***
15th Core Team Meeting **Indicators & Standards of Quality for the ORVs ***
TBD **Assemble and Produce Administrative Draft EIS***
TBD **Army Corps of Engineers & Regional Water Quality Control Board (field trip)**

Merced and South Fork Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan/EIS Timeline of Milestones (2008 & 2009)

TBD Eastern Sierra Paiute Tribal Meeting

November 2008	Circulate Administrative Draft EIS for Internal Review
December 2008	Public Review Draft EIS prepared and sent to GPO Printer for distribution
January 2009	60-day Public Review and Comment Period
February 2009	Progress Report to District Court Public Comment Analysis
March 2009	Preparing Final EIS
April 2009	Alternatives Refinement and Environmental Consequences revisions
May/June 2009	Assemble and Produce Administrative Final EIS and circulate for internal review
July 2009	Public Review Final EIS prepared, printed, and distributed
August 2009	30 day No Action Period on Final EIS Prepare Record of Decision prepared and signed by Regional Director
September 2009	Record of Decision released

Brian H. Ouzounian
Yosemite Valley Campers Coalition
www.yosemitevalleycampers.org
2821 Dumfries Road, Los Angeles, CA 90064-4412
Email: brian.oci@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 310-838-3571 Facsimile: 310-838-8594

March 7, 2008

Michael Tollefson
Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Hand Delivered
March 7, 2008
@ ORV Workshop

Re: Yosemite camping book for ORV Public Record

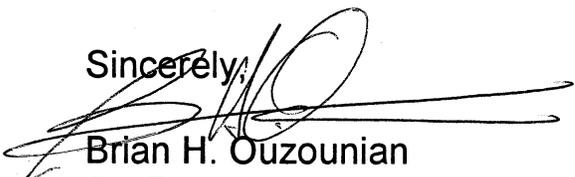
Dear Mr. Tollefson:

This letter is a cover for the attached book, Yosemite, by Vilija and Robert Deutschman. It is hereby handed to either you or your planning staff at the New Merced River Plan ORV Workshop today, March 7, 2008. I request that it be submitted into the Public Record to illustrate the outstanding remarkable value of family-friendly auto-based camping in Yosemite Valley.

This book has been purchased specifically for this purpose and is offered at no cost to the YNPS.

Although the subject has been discussed with you and your staff for the past 28 years, it has become obvious that the message has not sunk into your plans. This book is a love story about several families brought together by one kind act of my grandfather in 1955 with two families from Livermore, CA (see page 17). It is hopeful that this publication will assist you in recognizing the true value of family-friendly auto-based camping in Yosemite Valley as it is to millions of Americans.

Sincerely,



Brian H. Ouzounian
Co-Founder
Yosemite Valley Campers Coalition

CC: US Senator Dianne Feinstein: Shelly Abajian
US Senator Barbara Boxer: Ameen Khan
US Representative George Radanovich: Sarah Dietrich/Darren Rose
Angela Caldera, Co-Founder YVCC
Eric Bailey: Los Angeles Times
Mike Gardner: San Diego Union Tribune
Mark Grossi: Fresno Bee
Chuck Squatriglia: San Francisco Chronicle
PBS-California Connected: Judy Muller / Rick Wilkerson

Encl.

Yosemite

Vilija and Robert Deutschman

