

Public Scoping Meeting Comments

10/27/2009

4-8 p.m.

Mono Basin Visitor Center, Lee Vining, CA

Comments/Questions

- Get more people to come to these meetings
- One way circulation system needs to be maintained. Two way would cause traffic jams
- Upper/Lower river campgrounds are not working. Camping experience in the Valley is not pleasant, too crowded. Disperse camping to other/new sites around the Valley
- Provide convenient transportation to promote access from outside the park
- Don't build one huge parking lot, build many small ones
- People really love YARTS
- Treat hotels like hostels – bus stops at appointed hours
- Repair/maintain restrooms and trash cans everywhere; dysfunctional and overflowing
- Best lodging experience at cabins in Curry Village
- Showers provided for volunteers are terrible (especially at Curry Village). Adopt pay-for-service models, like at state parks
- Nothing has been well maintained in the park
- “On Vacation” syndrome – nobody picks up after themselves. Post reminders to clean up when done
- Utilize corporate volunteers from the Valley more often. VIPs [Volunteers In Parks] take a stewardship role in long term
- Rafting concession is well run
- Historic or long-established uses should be respected or maintained
- Provide transportation for employees if they are relocated out of the park
- Don't make facilities bigger, make them better
- YARTS type system should be enlarged or added to serve more of the park
- West side of park/Valley is difficult to visit from here, especially in early spring when Tioga Pass Rd is still closed (most compelling time to go)
- Provide more guided walks – YA or fee-for-service in lieu of declining Naturalist programs
- Upper and Lower river campgrounds - might be OK to have smaller campgrounds in their place
- Need to consider more campgrounds outside of the Valley
- Campgrounds outside of the park (USFS) are nearly always full
- Transit and out of park camping could alleviate congestion
- Yellow Pine campground was nice. Perhaps consider sites at western end of Valley
- Would like to see people park car at campground/lodging and be required to leave it and use the shuttle

- Would like to see shuttle busses operate later in the evening so that people eating late dinner would still be able to get back to campground/lodging
- Like that planning process is providing ample opportunity for people to give comments
- People want to see more transit, frequent transit, and ability to take kayak, bikes
- Love the great swimming holes
- Would like to see campgrounds a bit smaller and more dispersed. RVs get bigger every year; more generators, they don't fit. If you're camping in a tent you don't want to be next to a generator
- At June Lake, day use area became open to RVs as overflow
- Would like to see more separation of camping types...RV, tent only, etc. Want to see RV size restrictions/limits in Valley. Suggest natural screening for separation
- The park is a vast wonderland and I prefer to be in backcountry (with fewer people)
- Stock: Personally worked on restoration of trails but packers still use those trails. See the need for stock to supply the high camps. But how do you fix the stock that go off the trails? Animals at the back of the train are less experienced and cause more trails damage
- Riders at the back of the pack cause damage to trails, braiding, widening
- Hope people don't get too polarized in this process. Keep the process open. Nobody will get all they want.
- What we have now is about the capacity that the park can handle
- Go composting (toilets) – technologies are improving
- Dad brought family to Yosemite Valley every year to see the dogwood bloom

What do you Love about the Merced River in Yosemite National Park?

- Hiking without huge numbers of people. Backcountry = favorite; High Country Loop and Vogelsang
- Merced Lake = least favorite. Footprint is obvious where tents ought to be. Needs restoration. Tents too close together
- Visitors should not be denied the High Sierra experience
- Mt Whitney is an example of all that's gone wrong. Consider composting toilets and other new technologies to deal with visitor use
- Issue is: how many people can use the trails at the same time? Rely on Resources Management people
- Incredible places like Bernice Lake
- In-park transportation works well