

Public Scoping Meeting Comments

10/28/2009

1-4 p.m.

Yosemite Valley Auditorium, Yosemite, CA

*What do you want to see protected?*

- Glacier Point Road. Love being able to drive up there and see the view
- Like the boardwalks across the meadows, protecting them. Seeing the river
- Bothers me to see the concessioner rafts; OK for private floats
- Freedom for climber access to cliff faces
- Bring back the firefall; why was it discontinued? It is a historical attraction; bring it back as a traditional experience
- The freedom to take in views and get away from the crowds throughout the Valley
- Don't want to see a regimented "group think" atmosphere, large parking lots. Protect my freedom to explore and contemplate with my Yosemite "spiritual soulmate"
- Visitor safety by relocating raft rental function to other side of the river
- In the analysis, distinctions needed between day and overnight use
- Concerned about
  - 1) how we may limit use in the park (raise fees?)
  - 2) limiting facilities or opportunities for families' experiences – *Who are you going to leave out?*
- Corporate retreats: as an individual user, object to corporations or conferences taking up blocks of rooms
- There's a sense of us vs. them; wanting to shut people out
- YARTS: sense that it is for hotels in and out of park, not individual users (hotel tax collected)
- Others: feel it's of benefit to hotel operations, but maybe it's not as well known or publicized to other users
- Want freedom to visit park by car, but don't want to be forced to take bus. Want choice
- Current Valley shuttle stops at "profit centers" want to see stops at West Valley going all the way to Pohono Bridge, year round
- There is no way to get from Valley to Wawona without paying a big charge
- Scheduling of Wawona shuttle not good
- More shuttles to: Glacier Pt, Chinquapin, M Grove, Bridalveil
- In 1970s – spent many hours on comments that were submitted, but not considered [drive in, leave car, take shuttle or public transportation]
- Kudos for the new hybrid buses (less noise, pollution)
- Rivers Campgrounds: if it gets washed away, have money in an escrow account to address repairs. Bring back the campgrounds

- Classes of people are left out. There are people who want to come, but can't. Fear that there will be fewer facilities to serve working class. Worried that less people like me will be able to come here. It's too expensive as it is
- In the past, NPS said that because there was a shift in addressing day use, there is less of a demand for overnight
- Will balance of day vs. overnight use be addressed?
- Campsites in other national parks (Zion, YStone, Tetons) are much better. Yosemite campgrounds are "like a slum" Fix whole thing
- Online campground reservation system is impossible, hard to use "user hostile" . Is it a cost cutting measure?
- Want more showers at campground
- Shuttle service: if taking shuttle to go to shower facilities, you can sometimes have to wait for numerous buses until there is one that can take you to shower. Too much competition at Curry/Housekeeping for showers due to campers
- It was a zoo in the 50s (campgrounds)
- Campground campfire monitors are rude; make people put out campfires. Sell appropriate wood and monitor it
- Over the years seen changes through restoration. Like oak groves – don't have the freedom to wander everywhere but it is protecting groves and other natural spaces
- Bus service: free in Valley, but can't get to other park areas without paying \$\$\$\$. Want to see smaller buses used
- Mt Room Bar: Sports bar atmosphere has no place in national park. Want to have it more like it was with fireplace for families
- Need more turnouts; signs stating Turnout Ahead, Please Use Turnouts

*What do you Love about the Merced River, Yosemite Valley, Wawona, El Portal, and/or Merced Lake High Sierra Camp?*

- Views, beautiful scenery, ability to walk anywhere, get away from crowds
- Campgrounds, naturalist programs
- Spiritual renewal, ability to connect with surroundings and soulmate
- Freedom to do what I want without being told what to do (remote parking, ride buses, etc)
- Bear storage should be reconsidered – poles with hooks used in Tuolumne area
- Change evident thru park restoration efforts over the years
- "Range of Light" extends from sunrise thru the day
- Any changes intended to accommodate or enhance visitor use are opposed to keep us out, the people who love the park
- Visual effect of a "free-flowing" river, natural vegetation and boardwalks that protect resources
- Half Dome cables should remain

*What needs to be Fixed?*

- Distinguish between day use visitors and overnight visitors
- Expand public transportation options into park
- YARTS seems to be for hotel users and not backpackers and other users
- Myth exists that you can't get into the park
- Busses need to go to other locations (i.e. west end of Yosemite Valley) and Wawona (from Valley) – free shuttle service
- Tent cabin rates are too expensive
- Park campgrounds are virtual slums – too filthy
- Need group camping in Yosemite Valley
- Online camping reservation system is a user hostile system
- Clean up restrooms and showers
- Add showers to campgrounds
- Fix campgrounds over all
- Separate EV camping vs. walkin camping
- Too many vehicles in individual campsites
- Campfire monitoring too strong – sell good firewood and monitor for smoke and not time of day
- Restore/reinstate Ledge trail
- Stop hang gliding
- No place to get sit down meal that is moderately priced. Mt Room restaurant too expensive
- Additional “meaty” interpretive programs – more information, NPS rangers not concessioner
- Carry rafts from Curry to River is too heavy and dangerous to cross intersection and down slippery slope
- Bring back bear poles as a means of food storage in wilderness
- Use smaller buses
- Use Facebook to engage youth
- Mt Room Bar does not seem to correspond to park activities (i.e. sports on tv)
- More sheltered places for day users (esp public transit users)
- too much decorations (i.e. strings of lights) at Housekeeping
- Powerline by Yose Lodge/Falls crosswalk disrupts view of falls
- Enforce existing camping limits (i.e. length of stay)
- Build underground parking garage in west end of Yose Valley – with bike rental and shuttle stop

*What would you like to see kept the same?*

- The use of quieter/hybrid buses
- Northside and Southside Drive
- Keep current one-way road system in Yosemite Valley (many agree)
- Keep rock climbing routes accessible
- Keep Half Dome cables

- Diversity of Naturalist programs
- Enjoy the Tunnel View. Keep the trees cleared
- Continue to allow vehicle access especially for families