

## Public Scoping Meeting Comments

11/2/2009

4-8 p.m.

Mariposa Government Center, Mariposa, CA

### *Comments/Questions*

- On postcards, perhaps include more of the agenda, time of presentations, etc. Check box for those who wish email vs regular mail (opt out)
- Add to presentation slides (#5 river planning in Yose) NHPA
- What about the a864 law that set aside Yose, CA [1890 Retrocession Act] Grant back to federal govt? El Portal Admin site legislation: how will that factor in this new plan?
- How will real time management of visitor use be articulated in the plan?
- Public transportation forum: comprehensive and not exclusive
- Look to other W&SR plans and learn from them; look to connect people who participated in those planning efforts
- Outreach: Include park visitors in process. Also bi-lateral relationships with China (sister parks) may be another opportunity
- Equestrian groups are forgotten in planning process. Experience in the saddle is different than on 2 feet. It's an historic activity [signed: Mariposa Mountain Riders]
- Outreach to editorial boards to help in form of news media of issues, educate them (i.e. understanding of user capacity)
- Reach out to folks who have been here from outside CA
- In plan, articulate how potential future changes will be addressed/made; what will be involved in the process?
- Scoping period closing Dec 4 – would like additional time (90 days from now)
- Would like to know more about the data/info/research that is available. There is a great deal of historic info about past management actions that could inform this new plan
- How is 1980 General Management Plan factoring into this new plan? Is it “speaking from the grave” or is it still alive?
- Scoping comments submitted prior to settlement agreement should be considered but marked “prior” and “post” settlement agreement
- Continue the process as planned. The settlement agreement had no bearing on scoping. The judge said to do a new plan and explained what needed to be done 2 years ago. The settlement agreement only affirmed that. There was nothing new.
- YVP was rescinded?
- If the NPS rescinded the YVP and didn't know about it, how does the public know?
- Build a plan that pragmatically stands a chance of being funded

- The more alternate ways you have to move through the park, the more intimate the experience you can have. Too much concentrating in Valley vs being dispersed to other beautiful trails, making sure those areas are publicized and people know about them

*What do you Love about the Merced River in Yosemite? (Yose Valley, Wawona, El Portal, high country)*

- Swimming in the rapids
- Skipping stones
- Finding cool rocks
- Splashing around in the water
- Relaxing and having a good time
- How can we get back out of the box to explain user capacity, explain the complexities
- Find positive ways to explain it to the public. Great potential for good outcomes. Make conversation open, positive and inclusive of public

*What should stay the same?*

- Current access – no further reduction in access or use
- Keep the mountains
- Keep it simple
- No reduction in access
- Review the number of parking places removed. Keep pullouts. Look at bringing back more parking
- Keep the courtesy and professional of the NPS employee
- Add positive conflict resolution process
- El Cap pullout was a great idea
- Need more pullouts
- East end of Valley picnic area need new one. Could ride shuttle there
- Give people a chance to stop and look at things.
- Merced River: dirt trail maintained; need alternate routes and park entrances for walking/biking so people can park on go on trail (and not have to go to the Valley) Keep them off busy roads
- More alternate trails walking and biking breaks things up and helps convergence in Yose Valley; use more of the park
- Developing smaller areas for camping dispersing high density crowds throughout park
- Trails, trailheads disbursed so people can spread out
- May create opportunities for park and riding instead of driving all over the place
- Keep creature comforts for segment of population that needs them to access the river
- Picnicking by the river

*What do you want to see fixed? changed? improved?*

- Address traffic congestion not only in YV but Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows. Optimize use of existing infrastructure and/or intermediate steps , e.g. don't do; avoid: satellite parking and bus system with large fleet. Look into agreements with Yose View Lodge, Cedar Lodge and Tenaya Lodge (and others) to keep POVs off roads. Reduced fee incentive to get people to use the system
- Complement with a day use reservation system
- Traffic management – optimize existing lanes according to demand. Trickle in-flow on south side all a.m. but peak period for exiting parking is 3:30-5:30 pm. Make Southside Dr. Northside Dr. stays one-way from Stoneman Bridge. 50% of all cars are up here on a daily basis
- Utilize Badger Pass parking lot for staging in summer time
- prohibit large delivery trucks during daytime hours
- Parking impacts on river must be avoided or minimized at El Portal (plans in past to expand parking here)
- Prevent further development at park boundary to keep parking requests low/down
- Park at El Portal allows entry only for people with reservations at hotels or campsites [this concept was less favorable to the latter suggestion per same speaker/individual]. Assumes payment of rights of access/privilege of hotel use. Could be offset. Picnicker and hiker deserve access to remote sites
- Aggressive enforcement of speed limit!

*What do you want to see protected?*

- ORVs
- Merced High Sierra Camp – some want it retained, others want it removed to protect wilderness values
- Consider environmental impacts of supply and travel horse groups to Merced Lk. See High Sierra Hikers comments on 1992 Concession Services Plan. Does such use conflict with protection of ORVs? (esp water quality, amphibian protection, hiker experience, and scenic experience)
- Protect: river sounds (esp consider impacts of traffic on natural/quiet sounds). Esp buses and motorcycles
- Protect night sky and experience – control lighting
- See if CA code requires motorcycle mufflers and how that is enforced. NPS should consider this or even a stricter noise limit
- Protect fishing access
- Bring back Mirror Lake!
- Consider limiting or eliminating rafting on Merced

- Consider relocating Swinging Bridge picnic area. Replace this at Lower River Campground
- Provide formalized bus parking.
- Restrict size of buses
- Consider a bus carrying capacity for the Valley and a reservation system
- Protect ability for people to visit the Valley in same numbers as now
- Parking spaces serve an important function in reducing pollution, keeping people from driving around and around
- Appreciate the nice NPS employees
- Use existing infrastructure rather than jumping to extraordinary transportation systems (e.g. satellite/out of valley parking)
- In some areas there are very few pedestrian walks/trails
- Enforce existing vehicle noise laws – aggressively
- Outreach to motorcycle retailers and renters re: noise