

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Merced Wild and Scenic River

Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Yosemite National Park

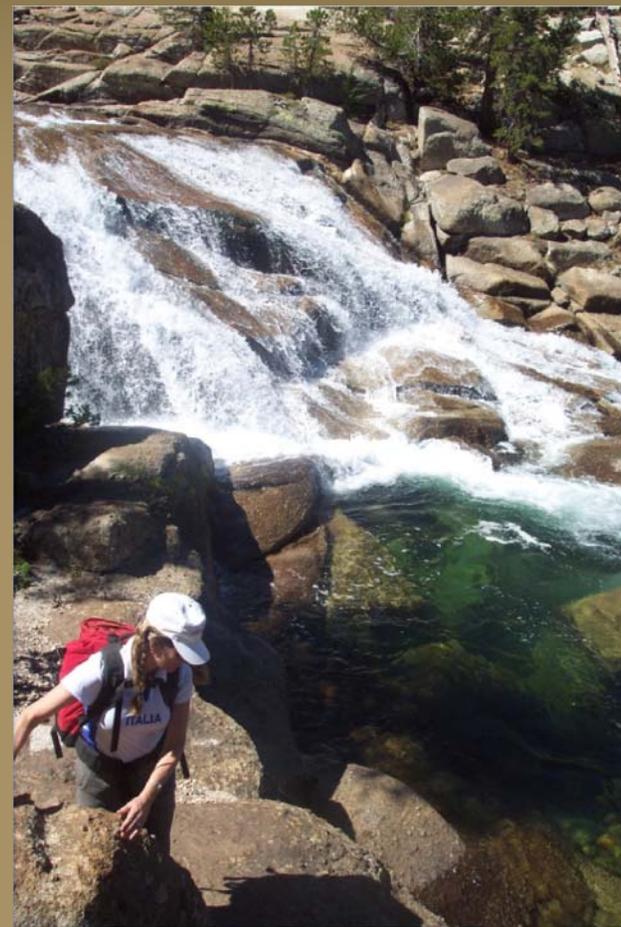
Organic Act

- The Purpose of the National Park Service is to

“...conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

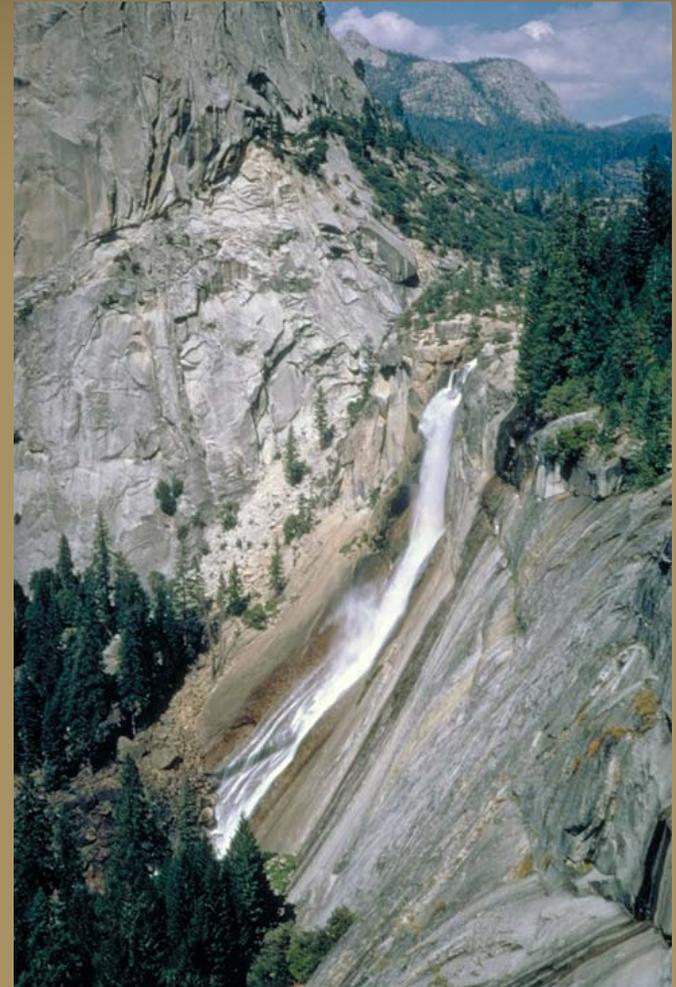
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

- Protects designated rivers in their free-flowing condition
- Protects and enhances the river's *Outstandingly Remarkable Values* – the qualities that make the river worthy of special protection
- Ensures visitor access and enjoyment
- Requires management plans to be completed to provide long-term guidance



Purpose of the Merced River Plan

- Fulfill requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for a comprehensive management plan
- Provide long-term management guidance for the protection and enhancement of the river's Outstandingly Remarkable Values and free-flowing condition



River Planning in Yosemite

- Look to laws and policies that guide the management of Yosemite National Park (enabling legislation, NPS Organic Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Wilderness Act, NEPA, etc.)
- Look to the body of comments received from public, staff, tribes, park partners, stakeholders, organizations
- Create a plan that communicates a long-term management vision to guide future park managers

A NEW APPROACH

Single comprehensive document will be produced “covering everything*”

- All the required elements of a Wild and Scenic River Plan
- Boundaries
- Classifications
- River Values
- User Capacity Program
- Monitoring Plan

*US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, No. 07-15124
D.C. No. CV-00-06191-AWI



A NEW APPROACH

Develop a User Capacity Program that will establish:

- **Define the “kinds and amounts*” of use within the planning area/defined river corridor**
- **Level of use that will not adversely impact ORVs**
- **Program for ongoing studies to determine proactive protection of Outstandingly Remarkable Values**
- **Management Action Plan and standards that trigger specific management actions**
- **Address both past and ongoing degradation**

*US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, No. 07-15124 D.C. No. CV-00-06191-AWI

A NEW APPROACH

Site planning for Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and El Portal and the upper Merced Lake area:

- Campgrounds
- Lodging
- Restoration
- Recreation opportunities
- Park operations

A NEW APPROACH

Park wide Transportation Plan

- Solutions to help address user capacity
- Current transit system
- Real time communications
- Park roadway system
- Public Transportation Forum

EIS ELEMENTS



Development of a range of alternatives that are:

Distinguishable and include a variety of actions and varying use limits – “varied enough to allow for a real informed choice*”

***US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, No. 07-15124 D.C. No. CV-00-06191-AWI**

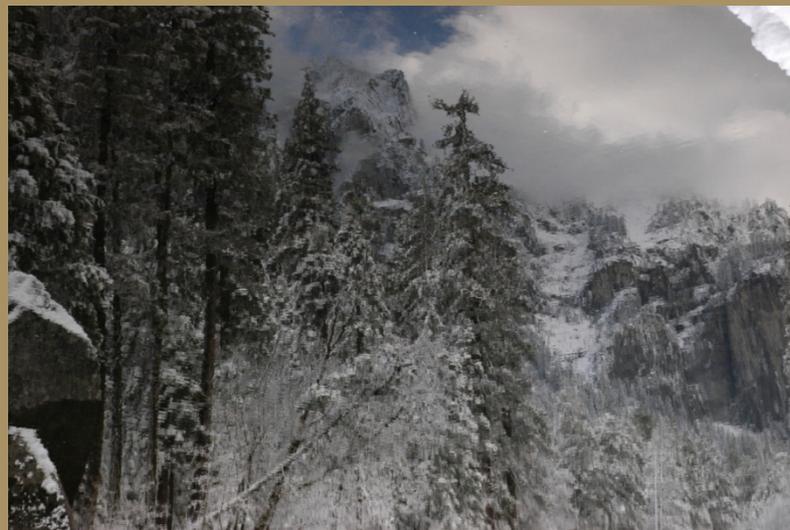
OUTREACH PROCESS

Public participation throughout the plan's development. Workshops will include:

- **Transportation**
- **Yosemite Valley site planning**
- **Wawona site planning**
- **El Portal site planning**
- **User capacity workshops**
- **Socioeconomic workshops**

OUTREACH PROCESS

- Ongoing consultation with the Tribes
- Federal, State, and Local Agencies
- Interested parties and organizations
- User groups
- Gateway communities



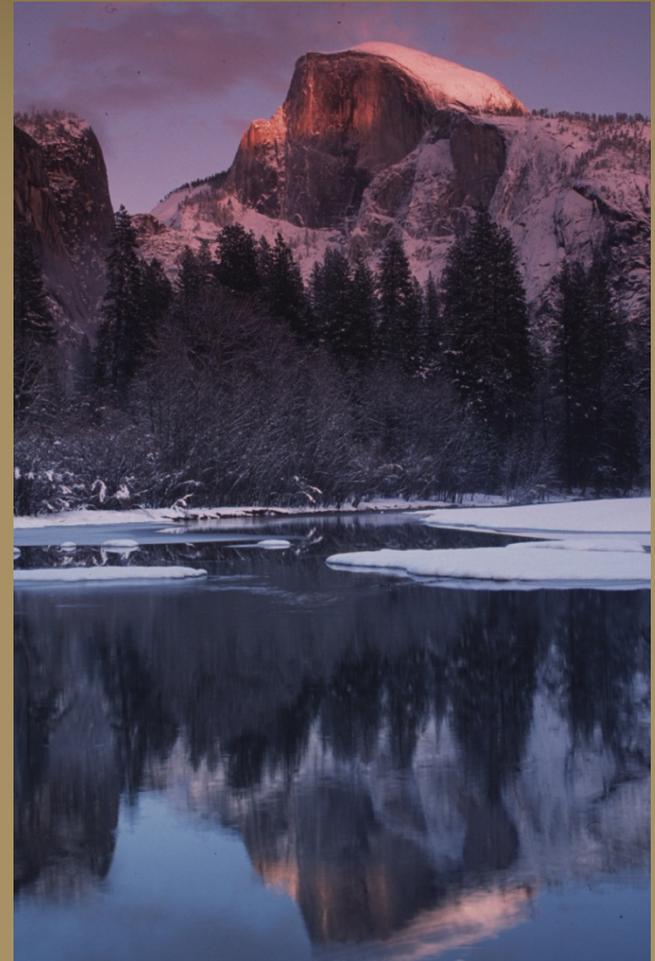
We Need You



- One of the most important elements of our process
- Institutional knowledge
- Love of the park
- Your ability to share with others and park staff why this is important
- Your scoping comments help build the foundation of the plan

Merced River Plan 3-year Timeline

- **December 4, 2009**
Public scoping period closes
- **January 2012**
Draft Plan and EIS released for public comment
- **December 2012**
Record of Decision anticipated



**Division of Planning
Yosemite National Park**

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U.S. Department of the Interior**

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA