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SEP 29 2008



09/29/2008 02:51 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Subject Tenaya Lake Scoping Study letter from a friend...

Dear Yosemite Park Planners,

The following is a post from the YosemiteCampers.com website forum today. The writer of this said she would be fine if I wanted to send her comments to you, in hopes that they could be a part of the Tenaya Lake Scoping Study. It is my guess that from a historical perspective, she may have had more years of Yosemite experience than most of us, during her 78 year life, which brought her to Yosemite at least once a year during since the 1940s when she first started coming. She has been coming to Yosemite most of her life, and shares a strong connection for Yosemite that many of us know all too well. She said she would be happy if I could send you her comments, but asked that I leave her name out of it.

I do not know if you can accept this under those terms, but I told her that I would send it along anyway, and ensure that she would remain anonymous. To that, she then told me that if it was absolutely necessary for me to disclose her name, I could do that. Please let me know if this will be required. She goes by the name of "Dot" when posting on the website, which is short for Dorothy. As it relates to Tenaya Lake, here are Dot's personal views of what should take place at Tenaya Lake, as she stated today.

Begin quote:

I am not sure how far back in time people on this (web) site or even NPS go in terms of Yosemite visitation.

I know that you Mark, go back a ways and I go back as far as most. At my age---we are becoming an endangered species.

Part of the problem that we see in Yosemite is that there is no real continuity. It's all passed on from one to another and becomes a part of History. Just as our history books tell us stories of times past---it is simply a reflection of the way it was. Being there was another story.

In Yosemite we see in rapid succession a changing of the Guard every few years. That seems to be the way of the NPS. However---in that process much is lost. So---in fact---Yosemite's fate lies in the hands of those who in all actuality know little of Yosemite. I am sure they are informed and try and learn as much as possible about Yosemite. BUT---they don't really know Yosemite. They most likely don't have a "past" or a great love affair with Yosemite.

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Yes---I am sure there are those who have been around awhile--BUT are they in a position to make decisions? It is very annoying when things are put up for public scoping and it seems it is simply lip service as the plan is already a done deal.

Sadly few people show up for those meetings as they perhaps are complacent or have simply thrown up their hands. After all, the Yosemite Fund is like a giant steam roller and no one seems to get in the way. Money talks, and it saddens me to see that Mike Tollefson feels he can be of help to them. I would hope that in his time in Yosemite he did listen to those who told of their many years in the Valley and would perhaps steer a better course for the Yosemite Fund.

At this point--Lake Tenaya and Tuolumne Meadows is a FAR cry from that very pristine and amazing place I saw all those years ago. A simple one lane road that was so seemingly remote I was actually frightened the first time we drove it. If the car broke down--no one would be there to help. But, it was such a joy to see it without climbers and campers and people and picnic tables. That was real and to see it today is even sad. There were no turn offs and no giant "parking lot" at Olmstead. We didn't even know the names of the various peaks and vistas and it didn't matter. Do we really need all of the new signs that tell us what each mountain is named as few will note or even look much less remember what they say. More fences are a sad omen as it means we are being fenced "in".

Loving Yosemite is like a long term relationship. Each person has a personal stake in it and each interprets it in his or her own way. We don't always agree--but for me---Yosemite never has needed any fancy trappings or more asphalt or more fences or more of anything. It doesn't need fixing--the people who manage it might need "fixing".

End quote.

I do hope you can accept this letter in this format. As I said before, if you require her name, address and phone number, I do believe she will agree. Perhaps you can just put her down as "Dot" of Anaheim Hills, CA.

Thank you,


Truckee, CA

