



Heather McKenny  
 02/22/2008 10:21 AM  
 PST

To: Christine Geis/YOSE/NPS@NPS  
 cc:  
 Subject: Fw: Vogelsang scoping comments

**RECEIVED**  
 VBCU-65-5  
 FEB 07 2008  
 P. 1071  
**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

Heather McKenny  
 Environmental Compliance Specialist  
 Yosemite National Park  
 (209) 379-1218  
 (209) 379-1294 (fax)

----- Forwarded by Heather McKenny/YOSE/NPS on 02/22/2008 10:21 AM -----



Michael Tollefson  
 02/22/2008 10:13 AM  
 PST

To: John Chisum/YOSE/NPS@NPS, Heather McKenny/YOSE/NPS@NPS  
 cc:  
 Subject: Fw: Vogelsang hut

----- Forwarded by Michael Tollefson/YOSE/NPS on 02/22/2008 10:12 AM -----



[Redacted]  
 02/07/2008 07:05 PM CST

To michael\_tollefson@nps.gov  
 cc [Redacted]  
 Subject Vogelsang hut

Dear Mr Tollefson,

I am writing in support of repairs to the Vogelsang Hut water and sewer systems, as part of the Tuolumne Plan. My wife and I hiked the full hut-to-hut High Sierra Loop several years ago and enjoyed it immensely. Although we are not rugged super-experienced back-packers, we were able to complete the whole loop in seven days, under the guidance of an excellent park ranger, Dick Ewart. We have been coming to Yosemite since 1963 and the High Sierra Loop trip was probably the best experience we have had in the park. It is a treasure, and one proof of its excellence is that so many people want to do the trip that admission is only by lottery. Vogelsang is a key part of the loop and it is imperative that it be kept open: without it, the "loop" ceases to exist.

I am aware that some people want to close the huts, the gas stations, the concessions, and all other human elements that have been introduced into Yosemite. Those people are few in number, but loud in voice. I speak as a representative of the wider public, those who do not have the experience, strength, and stamina to hike the untamed wilderness on our own. For us, the huts are a wonderful blend of rusticity and comfort: they allow us to venture deep into the woods, into places that we could never reach if we were required to carry tents, cooking gear, and sleeping bags on our backs.

Please repair Vogelsang as well as the other huts and keep them open! Softies can always stay in a motel in a city somewhere, and grizzled adventurers have millions of acres of true wilderness to explore. However all of us in the middle love the huts and hope that at least some of our tax dollars can find their way into the maintenance of the Yosemite High Sierra Huts.



I	I	E	E	H				
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS



02/06/2008 12:39 PM  
PST

To: <YOSE\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Re proposed construction, expansion, repair Vogelsang High Sierra  
Camp

RECEIVED

VBCU-66-5  
FEB 07 2008

P. 183

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

**I am a 74 yr. old backpacker with 30 yrs. of hiking experience in the Sierras, Wind River Range and Rocky Mountain National Park.**

**This past summer I was surprised to learn that there were spaces available at all the High Sierra Camps (HSC) except Vogelsang. Apparently the season had been extended in mid summer by Delaware North. (not subject to the lottery as had been the rule). Our trip started in the second week of Sept. at Tuolumne Meadows then to Glen Aulin, May Lake and ended at Sunrise. I had no prior experience staying at these camps.**

**My wife and I and 42 yr old daughter & her husband and my 50 yr. old son were shocked at the conditions of the camps and quite upset that we were not forewarned of the limitations (unavailability) of most of the amenities that were of importance to us. We were charged full price and there was no offer of any refunds or adjustments. There was no concern for our health either. It was only after several complaints that an insufficient adjustment of the charges was made.**

**Tuolumne Meadows was as advertised, though now their water source is certainly suspect as per our experience at other camps. Glen Aulin was bad with no showers, questionable potable water quality (clots**

1	1	2	2	#					
RT	#S	LT	DT	UT	IA	IR	OR	TS	

of brown material floating in the water coming from the faucet into our water bottles) and a terrible sewage odor in the air in the evenings. The composting toilet was borderline sufficient for the number of guests.

May Lake had one shower and one toilet for 25-30 guests.

Sunrise had no showers, and a composting toilet (only) that was in such terrible shape that one feared for their health during use of the stalls due to very, very strong ammonia odor that made the eyes water. They had all drinking water in bottles packed in.

Again none of these deficiencies were described at the time of the reservations, so all of us had expectations of facilities as advertised in mailed pamphlets and on the web site.

This can mean that there was total disregard for guests and environment of Delaware North and the oversight organizations...with profit the prime interest.

Now we learn that instead of closure of all these camps as prescribed by law almost 30 yrs ago, it is planned to repair and expand the facilities. These wild areas were never meant to handle the number of people that you apparently think that they should. Evidence of coliform contamination of the water shed has not seemed to be of importance to any one. Any repair would be only a short lived stop gap measure. It

VBCU-666-3  
P. 303

**is clearly a violation of the GMP and the CWA.**

**The construction supply transport to the camps would further damage the trails and environment. Stock animals habitually defecate and urinate in streams as they are crossed. this damage is often multiplied by continued contamination when the animals stay in the area overnight. I have seen the animals escape their confinement areas at night and gallop through campgrounds and on one occasion into waters of Lake Ediza, John Muir's Jewell of the Sierra.**

**While an Environment Impact Statement should be required immediately, I do not think that the expense and time is required for the EIS if the camps are closed and the camp areas restored as is the intent of all prior recommendations and laws. However, assurances should be made that the camp areas are restored as best as possible to their natural state for time to heal the years of contamination and damage that has already occurred.**

**Please protect Yosemite and the High Sierra for future generations.**

