

Public Engagement

YOSEMITE'S MERCED RIVER DRAFT PLAN / EIS

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



PROVIDING ACCESS AND PROTECTING RESOURCES

The *Merced River Draft Plan / EIS* planning process invites you to play a role in shaping the future of the Merced Wild and Scenic River within Yosemite National Park. Find information provided about how to get involved and how to use a variety of tools to learn about the plan.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Yosemite's outreach efforts has helped Yosemite's park management understand and consider what is important to the public. Through more than 40 workshops, you have shared specific ways Yosemite should take action to protect the Merced River and ensure continued access. In February 2013, informational webinars were offered to brief the public on key elements prior to the start of the public meetings. View at <http://yose.webex.com>.



PUBLIC COMMENT

To make an official comment on the Merced River Draft Plan / EIS, visit the Merced River Plan Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mrp_deis. Your feedback needs to be received before the close of the 100-day comment period on **April 18, 2013**. Electronic comment submittal allows for direct entry into the NPS comment analysis system; however, your comments can be emailed to yose_planning@nps.gov, faxed to 209/379-1294, or mailed to: Superintendent Yosemite National Park, Attn: Merced River Plan, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389.

WHERE TO LEARN MORE

SUMMARY GUIDE

A 20-page *Summary Guide* serves as a condensed digest of the Merced River Draft Plan / EIS to describe the plan's framework and to give insight into managing a Wild and Scenic River within a national park. The guide directs readers to key areas of the document. Each *Summary Guide* comes with a CD of the full draft plan.



FACT SHEETS

To help inform the public about the plan, fact sheets have been developed that delve deeper into topics of interest. These topics include: restoration; camping; parking and traffic circulation; visitor use and user capacity; overview of alternatives; preferred alternative; National Environmental Policy Act; and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

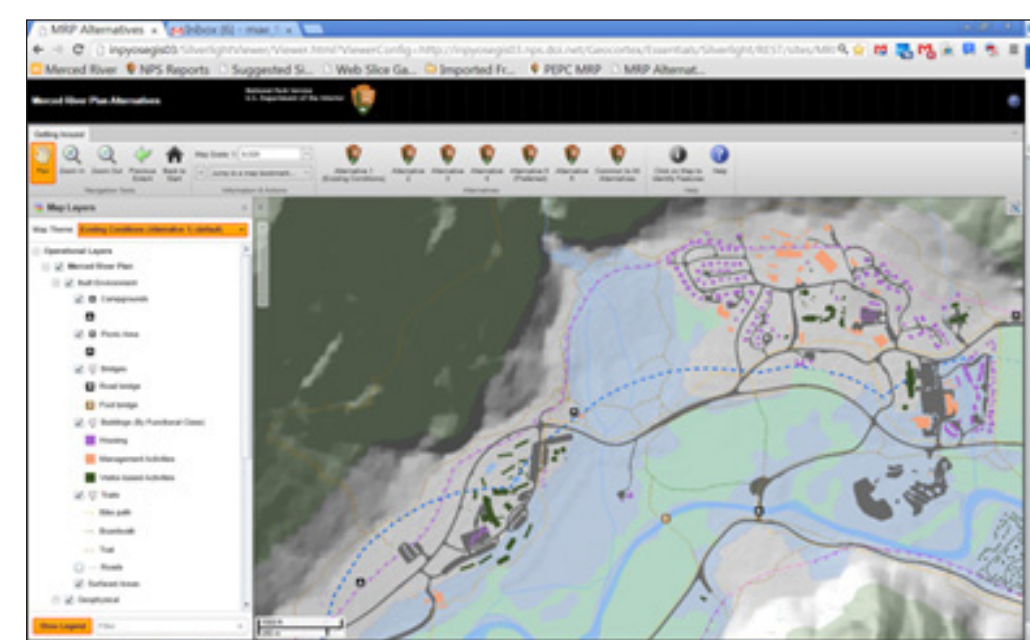


RIVER RESEARCH

Scientific studies in the *Merced River Draft Plan / EIS* draw from broad professional disciplines to ensure the park is painting a holistic picture of the Merced River's current condition and its ORVs. Disciplines include biology, hydrology, geology. View key research reports at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mrp_research.htm.

INTERACTIVE MAP

An interactive web map viewer allows for a rapid, visual comparison of the Merced River Draft Plan's six alternatives in a map-based format. Actions regarding restoration, land use, and facility management are shown. In each alternative, layers can be turned on and off for easy comparison of differences. Users can "zoom in" to explore proposed actions for specific planning areas, such as Yosemite Valley, El Portal, and Wawona. <http://imgis.nps.gov/yose>.



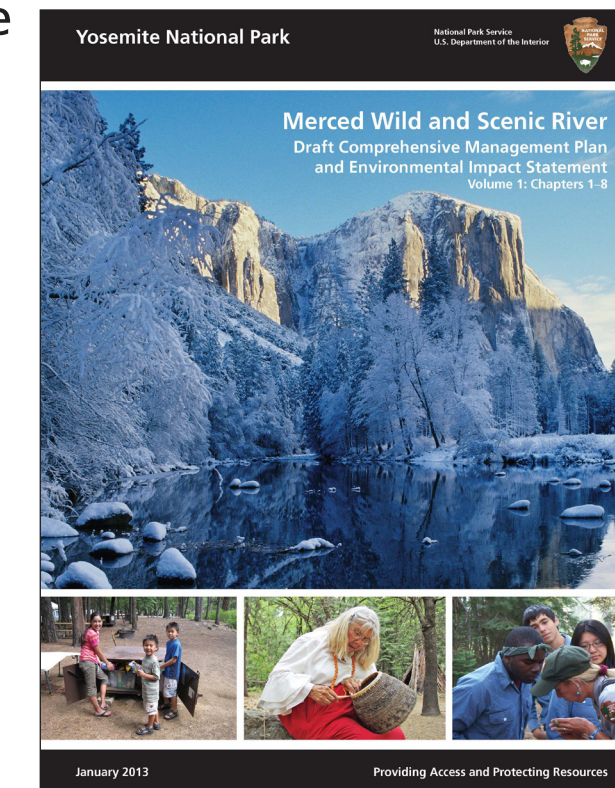
DOCUMENT OUTLINE

'Merced River Draft Plan/EIS' Document Organization

Volume 1
Abstract Executive Summary Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Purpose and Need for the Plan Chapter 3: River Boundaries and Segment Classifications Chapter 4: Section 7 Determination Process Chapter 5: River Values and their Management Chapter 6: Visitor Use and User Capacity Chapter 7: Facilities and Services Analysis Chapter 8: Alternatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction Detailed Description of Alternatives Actions Considered but Dismissed Cost Comparison Comparisons of User Capacities and Alternative Actions River Value Analysis
Volume 2
Chapter 9: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences Chapter 10: Consultation and Coordination Chapter 11: List of Preparers Chapter 12: Glossary and Acronyms Chapter 13: References Appendices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merced River Plan Elements (as required by WSRA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (as required by NEPA)

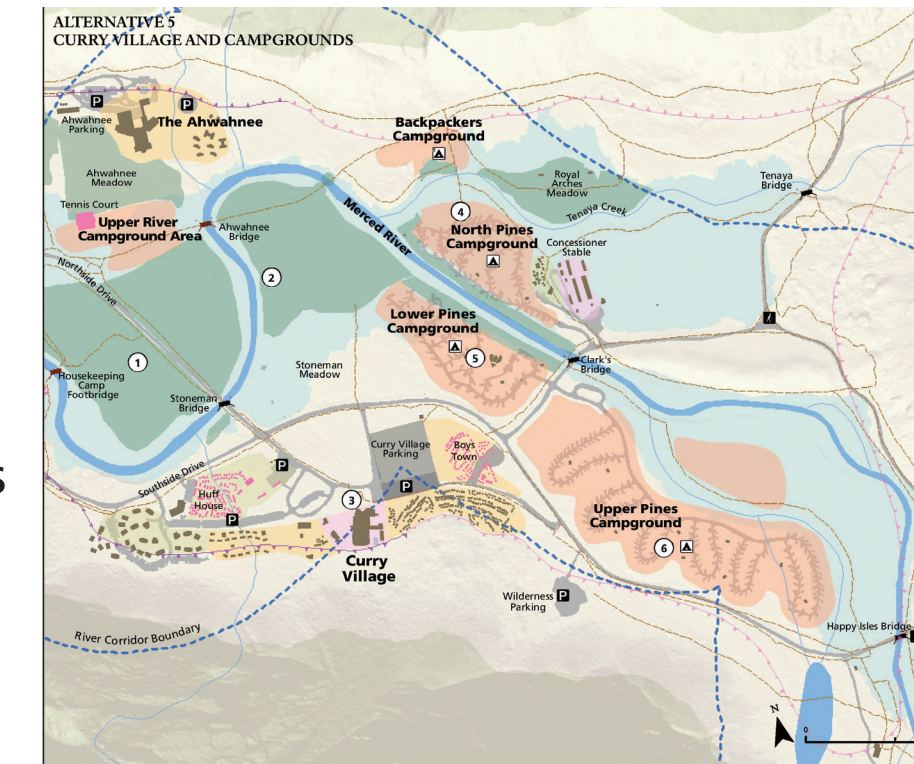
The *Merced Wild and Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, released in January 2013, is a complex document containing 13 chapters and 15 appendices.

Chapter 8: The description of the six alternatives (no action plus five action alternatives) can be found here. Differences among the alternatives vary primarily based on visitor use and user capacity. Many actions needed to protect and enhance river values are common to all the action alternatives. An analysis at the end of each alternative demonstrates how each is protective of river values.



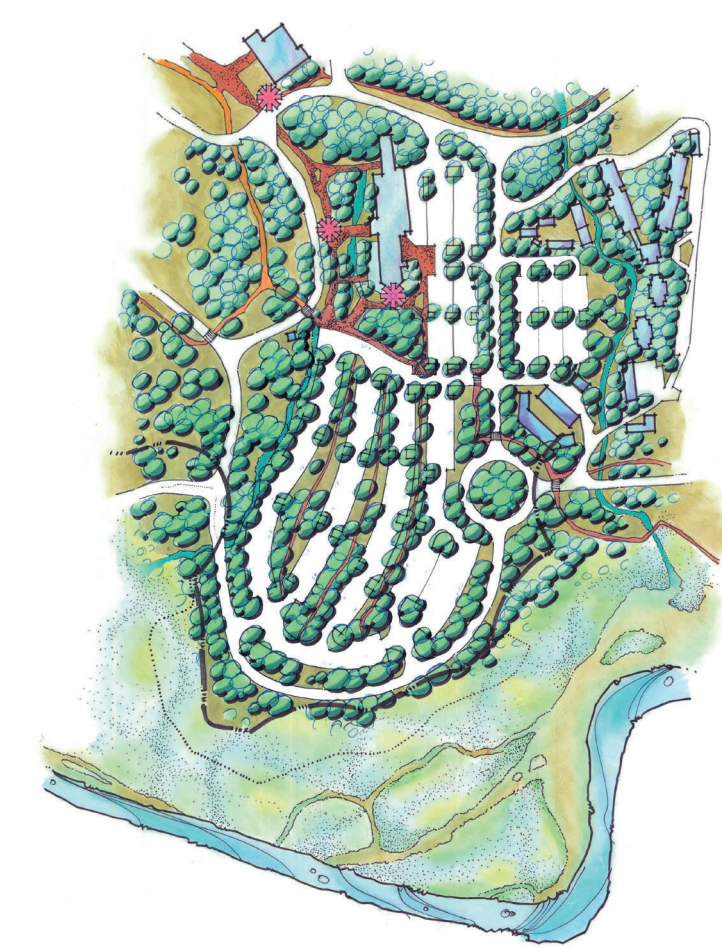
ALTERNATIVE MAPS

Maps of Merced River corridor locations in the *Merced River Draft Plan / EIS* are provided to orient readers to the planning areas and the context in which the actions and facilities are situated. These key planning areas include Curry Village and Campgrounds; Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp; Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4; West Yosemite Valley; El Portal; Wawona; and Merced Lake High Sierra Camp.

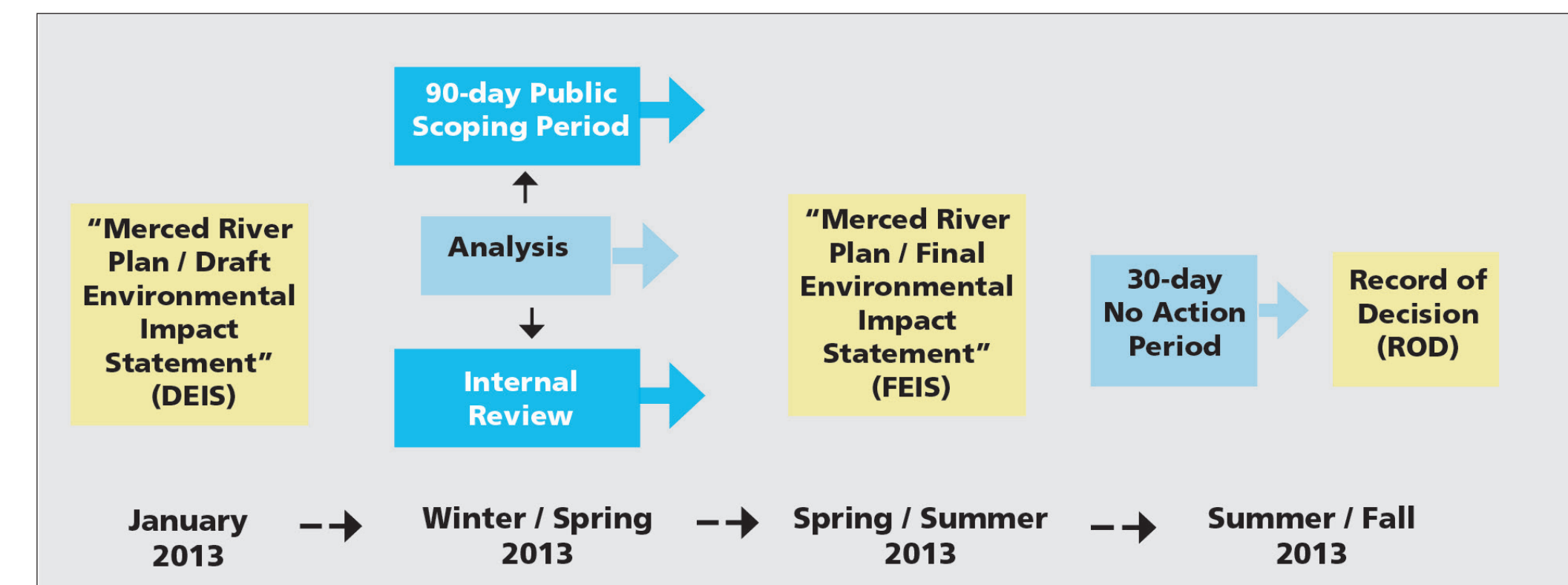


CONCEPTUAL SITE DRAWINGS

Site plan drawings are included in the *Merced River Draft Plan / EIS* for a few key locations. These locations include Curry Village; Yosemite Village Day-use Parking Area; Valley Maintenance Yard; and Yosemite Lodge Day-use Parking Area. These drawings are provided to demonstrate where facilities would be removed, relocated or constructed according to actions more fully described by project alternatives. These drawings do not represent a final proposal. More detailed design and construction documents would be developed consistent with the general concept presented here.



PLAN TIMELINE



As part of the Merced River Plan timeline, Yosemite's 2013 outreach efforts include four webinars and 10 public meetings. Written comment on the *Merced River Draft Plan / EIS* is due by April 18, 2013. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, comment analysis this spring will occur prior to finalizing the preferred alternative (Alternative 5). The anticipated release of the final environmental impact statement and a record of decision is in summer 2013.

"The 'Merced River Draft Plan / EIS' represents a rich collaboration amongst the public, research scientists, park partners, and park staff to explore opportunities for the future of Yosemite Valley and the Merced Wild and Scenic River. The alternatives in the draft plan bring forward the best in science, stewardship, and your ideas to set management direction for the river corridor for the next 20 to 30 years."

-- Don Neubacher, superintendent of Yosemite National Park

