



Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone Structures Project

In response to recent rockfall events, the National Park Service has realigned the boundary of the rockfall hazard zone in Curry Village. To reduce health and safety hazards, all of the structures within the updated rockfall hazard zone were closed. This project addresses the future of the 72 closed structures.

Where is the project located?

Curry Village is located at the base of sheer granite walls below Glacier Point near the eastern end of Yosemite Valley. As a result, portions of Curry Village are within the newly defined rockfall hazard zone established by Yosemite National

Park. The Curry Village area is historically significant and is included in the Yosemite Valley Historic District. Built in the 1920s, 70 of the 72 structures are historic.

Why undertake this project?

The disposition of the structures within the rockfall hazard zone must be addressed because:

- The closed structures create a nuisance that attracts curious on-lookers.
- Some visitors have circumvented the temporary hazard fencing and entered the rockfall hazard zone and abandoned structures, causing the potential for vandalism and creating an illicit use of the abandoned structures.
- Wildlife use the buildings for nesting or foraging in and beneath the buildings, which could cause further structural damage.

- The historic structures will continue to deteriorate and could be further damaged if not stabilized and maintained, or removed.

Yosemite National Park has developed an environmental assessment to address the 72 structures remaining in the Curry Village rockfall hazard zone. Although the greater Curry Village area will be addressed as part of the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan currently under development, the hazards associated with the existing structures need to be addressed in the near term.



Many of the structures in the realigned rockfall hazard zone were built next to large boulders from previous rockfalls.

What does the environmental assessment cover?

The environmental assessment evaluates the No Action Alternative and four action alternatives.

The alternatives include:

- No Action Alternative – keeping the rockfall zone closed to use; no action to treat historic structures

- Alternative 1 – Remove All Structures,
- Alternative 2 – Retain the Majority of Historic Structures,
- Alternative 3 – Retain Most Historically Significant Structures and Representatives of Architectural Types, and
- Alternative 4 – Retain Structures with Structural and Historic Integrity.

What does the Preferred Alternative propose?

Yosemite National park has identified Alternative 1 – Remove All Structures as the Preferred Alternative. Under this alternative, we would document the historic structures, salvage the materials for reuse, remove all structures remaining in the rockfall zone, and allow the area to return to its natural state. The park would

install interpretive materials (e.g., signs) outside the rockfall hazard zone to inform visitors of the cultural and geologic setting of the area. This alternative would maximize safety for park visitors and employees by removing all attractants from the active rockfall hazard zone and eliminating the need for administrative access to the area.

Project Schedule

Public scoping occurred in March/April 2010. The public review and comment period for the environmental assessment will occur from August 8 to September 9, 2011. A decision document is

anticipated in Fall 2011 and the project would be implemented immediately.

Your Part in the Process

- **Comment online:** The environmental assessment is available online for review from August 8 through September 9, 2011, at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/CurryRockfall>. The public is encouraged to submit comments electronically through this website. Click on the “Open for Comment” link on the left side of the screen to review the plan and submit a comment.
- **Attend a Public Open House on August 31, 2011**, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m at the Visitor Center Auditorium in Yosemite Valley. The park entrance fee will be waived for people attending the open house.
- **Add your name to the park’s planning list** to receive periodic planning-related electronic notices on this and other park projects by e-mailing your request to yose_planning@nps.gov.
- **Submit a written comment postmarked by September 9, 2011, to:**
Superintendent
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