How many people are too many for a wilderness trail?

At what point do manmade improvements cause an experience to cease being primitive recreation?

Half Dome, one of the most popular attractions in Yosemite National Park, lies in designated wilderness. In 2008, up to 1,200 people a day tackled the famous trek up the cables; the high level of use has led to both safety and environmental concerns.

The National Park Service (NPS) is developing a plan to provide longterm stewardship of the Half Dome route in a manner that is consistent with the Wilderness Act and the NPS Organic Act.