NW L 104 8/24/08

[redacted]

09/14/2008 08:59 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Tuolumne Planning comments

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tuolumne plan. After reading through the booklet and carefully studying the proposed plans, I would like to give my opinion on which aspects I generally liked. I think one of the main goals should be to preserve the park in as ecologically stable environment for the future generations. To me, that means moving anything away from the river that impacts it, including parking lots, campsites, lodges, housing, etc. this would impact Glenn Aulin and the Tuolumne lodge. I also thinkg that minimizing car traffic is of high importance for many reasons including, carbon emmissions, health, economics, and aesthetics to name a few. Transpostation options need to be plentiful including shuttles, buses, bike trails, walking/hiking trails, electric carts, horse, ect.
Even though I am a kayaker, I don't think that it should be allowed on the Tuolumne.
Although I lean towards the idea of making all of the area wilderness, like in proposal #1, I think that in reality if you want people to appreciate and protect places like Tuolumne, you need to make it accessible so that they can learn to love it first. People will be more inclined to protect something they love.
I like many of ideas of consolidating services to be more efficient and less impactful on the land.
Thanks again for all of your hard work and I look forward to hearing the final outcome.
Sincerely,

--

[redacted]

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." -John Muir

NW L102 8/24/08

[redacted]

09/14/2008 08:40 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov, jvralston@pacbell.net

cc

bcc

Subject Comment on Alternative Plans for Tuolumne Meadows.

Dear Superintendent Tollefson,

I have been looking at the proposed alternatives for the management of the Tuolumne River corridor. Alternative 4 makes the most sense to me. If the current level of use of the Tuolumne Meadows area is gradually degrading it, then clearly steps should be taken to correct that. Advocates of "Honoring the Traditions" should keep in mind that traditionally far fewer people visited Tuolumne meadows.

In reading the Workbook the clearest distinctions between Alternatives 4 and 5 appear to be a) consolidation of visitor facilities in the meadows (in Alt. 4) and b) elimination of commercial trail rides in the meadows (also in Alt. 4). It doesn't seem likely that a) is controversial, so it may be b) that is the real difference. I think that b) would contribute to the recovery of the meadows and river corridor. The issue is not "user conflicts" -- I like horses -- but impact. Heavy stock use, particularly in early season when the meadows are wet, is devastating to trails, and it doesn't do much for water quality either!

In short I prefer Alternative 4 to Alternative 5. Alternative 5 proposes no substantial changes in current practice, and it would lead to continuing degradation of the meadows.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Los Angeles

NW L 103 8/24/08

[redacted]

09/14/2008 04:04 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Tuolumne Meadows comment submittal

COMMENTS ON TUOLUMNE MEADOWS ALTERNATIVES

I most like alternatives1 and 4, and most dislike alternatives 2, 3 and 5.

Reasons I like 1 and 4: focus is on reducing impacts and making the areas away from Tioga Pass Road less accessible. This is a high country area, so even though NPS is tasked with trying to make places as accessible as possible, the fact is that the altitude and the ruggedness of the area are just are not appropriate for all levels of visitors! So do not try to make it that way! I like the way these two alternatives offer day use opportunities but reduce high impact and overnight uses, plus limit overnight uses to visitors who can be self-sustained.

Reasons I dislike 2, 3 and 5: these alternatives basically maintain the status quo, which is not sustainable for the meadows. Since changes in levels of impact need to be made to restore and preserve the area, these alternatives do not seem appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

[redacted]
Valencia, CA 91355

[redacted]

[redacted]

NW L104 8/24/08

[redacted]

09/14/2008 04:11 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Planning Feedback

Alternative 5 (Preferred) comments:

I have strong feelings that this alternative should allow for the existing facilities to remain in place, while preventing further development from occurring. In other words, keep the campground and the lodge the way they are and don't build any more visitor facilities like modern motels, etc. Whatever modifications need to be made to the wastewater treatment plant so that it does its job, fine. I would also be in favor of reopening the parking lot that used to be at the Cathedral Lakes trailhead. It makes no sense to me to force people into using a shuttle or parking their cars alongside the road.

Thank you.

[redacted]

Tujunga, CA 91042

[redacted]

NW 105 8/24/08

[redacted]

09/14/2008 03:54 PM

To <YOSE_Planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Comments re Draft Management Prescirptions for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River

To whom it may concern:

I am in favor of either the High -Country Base Camp or Tuolumne Heritage prescriptions . I appreciate the need to manage the ecology but we are part of that ecology too . Relatively easy access to this territory is one of the best ways to help educate the public. Not everyone is a backpacker.

As a frequent visitor to the area (about once a year for the last twenty years or so), I would hate to lose the ability to be able to access this national treasure . NPS has done a good job over the years of not commercializing the experience and leaving a relatively low footprint .

Thanks for the good work

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

La Honda, CA 94020

[redacted]

NW 106 8/24/08

[redacted]

09/13/2008 04:36 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Tuolumne Meadows Site plan comments

Alternative #1: Re sites 1, 2 & 3, I like the "informal" parking along the road, it's so much more spontaneous and laid back than the case in the valley or along Glacier Pt. Rd.. It also helps to spread people out. Re sites 4 & 6 (wastewater treatment plant and ponds), I can't comment on the ponds themselves, but I would like to see the facility improved as the smell is quite noticeable when passing by on foot or bike. Whether it makes sense to relocate the ponds upwind of the campground depends on just how bad the smell is near them. Re site #10 (store etc.), I think they are needed somewhere in the Mdws, with the possible exception of the gas station. A picnic area should be provided near the store, as people who've just bought food at the store or grill aren't going to want to walk over to Lembert Dome carrying everything. Site #15, I'm against adding the visitor center to the wilderness center - they generally serve different clientele, and I like the fact that the current facilities tend to keep these groups apart. Site #16, I can see no reason why the NPS stable shouldn't be consolidated with the concessioner stables - at night when riding or hiking, there's never any doubt when you're approaching the turn-off to the Lodge etc., as the smell of manure warns you. Site 18 -- KEEP TUOLUMNE LODGE! While I'm a backpacker and usually never go near the place except for dinner or a shower, my first memory of T-Mdws was staying in a tent cabin there when I was 4 or 5. A friend recently talked me into spending a couple of nights there, and while I wouldn't necessarily choose it myself, the informal atmosphere, communal dining etc. would be a good thing for families, or those who've gotten past the age were sleeping on the ground is feasible.

Alternative #2: See comments above re sites 1, 2 & 3. Site #5, not sure I'd want to see the visitor center moved in near the store, Mtn. shop etc. while that might cut down on vehicle movement, it would cause a concentration of vehicles (and smog) and noise in a small area. Having showers near(er) the campground (than Tuolumne lodge might be a good idea, though. #6, Consolidating stables E of the WW treatment plant, while that might improve water quality (assuming any run-off is captured and treated, again, you're upwind of the campground, store etc., and even closer. I think this is a really bad idea. Site #10, See comments re #5 above. Site #11, I'd keep the concessioner stable where it is, and move the NPS stable there also. Site #12 (Lembert Dome), I like it as it is. Site #13, I like the idea of a hike/bike trail alongside the road, although it's not clear to me if this will be paved or graded dirt. It would be nice to separate bikes from auto traffic. Site #15, while I think consolidating the wilderness center and ranger station is a good idea (possibly along with the mountaineering school), I'm not sure that they should be moved to the old NPS stable site. I'd think it would be cheaper to move them both into the wilderness center site. Re site #16, consolidate with current Concessioner stable. Re #18 and 19, it seems counter-intuitive to move concessioner and NPS housing away from their worksites, if you want to cut down on unnecessary auto traffic.

Alternative #3: See previous comments re sites 1, 2 and 3. Site #5, I don't see the need for a picnic area here given the restricted view, but there might be I can see no reason to put a parking lot for Cathedral lakes _Trailhead_ here. _Trailhead_ parking belongs at the trail _head_, not 1/2 mile away. Keep the current set-up. #10, add a picnic area. #13, a good idea, either alone or along with making it a hike-bike trail. #15. Who cares about the exterior design of the wilderness center?!? #16. Consolidate NPS stable with concessioner stable at #11.

Alternative #4: #3, providing a formal parking area at Cathedral lakes might be a good idea, except that

it would almost guarantee a greater number of break-ins. At least the current along-road parking provides some minimal protection. Whether a "contact" station is needed at the parking lot I couldn't say, although if you could have wilderness permit pickup for that trail it might be a good idea. 5 & 6, see previous comments. 9 and 10, putting the visitor center near the store and grill, with the wilderness center, mtneering school and ranger station located together, does does make more sense, as it keeps user types separated. 11, (consolidation of stables at concessioner_, yes, definitely. #12 (No, keep Lembert dome parking/picniking as is!. #13 Yes, see above. #16, yes (see #11). #15, Not sure they should be relocated; maybe consolidating at current wilderness center location would be best. #18 I like the dining ahll being next to the river/creek, and would prefer to leave the place as is.

Alternative #5, the only pressing matter to me is to consolidate the NPS stable with the concessioner stable at site #11. Moving/mproving wastewater treatment to decrease/eliminate the smell would be next. Other than that, I'm pretty happy with Tuolumne the way it is -- indeed, it's my favorite basecamp for day hikes and introducing people to the high Sierra. The only other change I'd strongly recommend is to have a 7:00am shuttle bus going up to Tioga Pass, as the current earliest departure at 9:00am is too late for some of the longer hikes, especially those involving peaks like Mt. Dana. It may be that there isn't enough traffic to justify this, but at the moment this is a circular argument, and I think it should be tried (with proper publicity) for a season, to find out. extending theeasterly shuttle run to Saddlebag Lake would also be a good idea, but I realize that's outside the park so may have legal complications.

Thanks,

[redacted]
Hayward, Ca.

See how Windows connects the people, information, and fun that are part of your life. See Now

NW 107 8/24/08

[redacted]

09/13/2008 12:37 PM

To YOSE_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject From NPS.gov: Tuolumne Meadows Lodge/Camp

[redacted]

Dear NPS:
PLEASE, I implore you, PLEASE do not make any changes to our beloved Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Camp. I began bringing my family to TML in 1976 and did so each summer while my 3 children grew from 2 through high school. TML and our hikes through the High Sierra left an indelible, positive imprint on my whole family. We loved everything about this recurring summer adventure. The kids learned so much about living properly in the outdoors, self-reliance,not to mention appreciating the sheer beauty of being in that paradise. Two of my three adult children have masters degrees in Natural Resource Management and Landscape Architecture and I know in my heart that the fields that give them such pleasure today can be traced back to all those wonderful summers at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. We even renamed Fairview Dome and called it Mt. [redacted] after our family. Now I have a 1 1/2 year old granddaughter and I can't wait to show her our beloved "home in the Sierras". I'm getting so emotional just writing this because it saddens me to think that a decision could be made to do away with this wonderful part of God's creation. I'm adding TML to my prayer list. Again I ask PLEASE keep Tuolumne Meadows Lodge intact and preserve it for my granddaughter and her generation so they can learn about the back country. My daughter and her husband are leaving today to hike to Devil's Postpile and without her experiences at TML she would not be taking such an adventure. Please do the right thing and leave this wonderful mountain classroom for our kids' kids and their kids. Respectfully, [redacted]

NW L108 8/24/08

[redacted]

09/13/2008 11:34 AM

[redacted]

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne River Plan

I am writing to comment on the Tuolomne River Plan. I have been a resident of Yosemite West for twenty years, and have been a lover of Yosemite for many more.

I find Plan 1 completely unacceptable, since it eliminates all lodging in, making it very difficult to use and fall in love with the area; day trip use does not permit the complete immersion required for a member of the public not previously familiar with this natural setting to truly appreciate it. Clearly, this is an elitist view of how the park should be used. Plan 2 involves far to much construction and relocation, as does plan 4. Plan 3 is the most advantageous plan for public use, since it permits prudent use of this natural treasure while preserving its natural character and beauty.

It must not be forgotten that those persons who are able to spend and overnight in this area are most likely to become strong supporters of Yosemite in particular and the National Park System in general. The best plan, I think, is to leave the area as it is now. When the parks can be used by people, those people can protect the park in the future -if no one can use it, the park and the Park Service will be defenseless against the onslaught of future budget cutters and development proponents.

NW 109 8/24/08

[redacted]

09/12/2008 07:27 PM

To YOSE_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject From NPS.gov: Comments on Tuolumne River Plan

Email submitted from: /yose/parkmgmt/contact.htm

[redacted]

I am responding in this manner to leave comments on the alternative site plans.1. Concerns about preliminary site plans. Alternative plan 1. I am strongly against this plan because it would limit access to high country accommodation to those able to manage on their own. Tuolumne Meadows lodge provides an excellent alternative for those who are unable or unwilling to camp on their own. It discriminates against older individuals and those with disabilities who would be unable to camp independently. Alternative Plan 2 I like the plan to work on the facilities and consolidate them for more efficiency and lessened environmental impact. Alternative plan 3 is my preferred option. I am strongly in favor of enhancing the understanding of the cultural history of the Tuolumne Meadows area as it is as important in maintaining the physical heritage of the area. I also like retaining the stable concessions. I have limited lung capacity at high altitude and being able to go on a trail ride allows me to see areas of the park that I would otherwise not be able to see. Alternative plan 4. i am in favor of most of the conditions of this plan. I like the relocation of the wastewater treatment plant and consolidation of other facilities.

NWL110 8/24/08

Your Comments Are Important!

This workbook contains descriptions of four preliminary site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows: one for each of the four original management zoning alternatives. The range of the site plan concepts reflects the range of interests and concerns expressed by park managers and staff, associated Indian tribes, and the public during several years of internal and external scoping and review. Your feedback now on what you see as the advantages and disadvantages of each concept will be helpful in pulling together a site plan for the preferred alternative. We also encourage you to provide your own ideas about a site plan concept for the preferred alternative. A map and comment space for that exercise are inside this folded sheet.

Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. **To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.**

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

This is too drastic. Families would be discouraged from visiting - and so would I. Don't close Tuolumne Lodge

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Cautiously skeptical of increasing activities. Kayaking on the Tuolumne?!

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Very appealing, especially the educational aspect.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I don't like the plan of the store/grill area becoming a huge center for "efficiency"

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

I like the preferred alternative 5 best. I agree the Cathedral Lake trailhead should be moved to the Visitor Center.

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

NW L111 8/29/08

Tuolumne Planning Workbook
Suggestions and concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows
[redacted]
September 25, 2008

Alternative 1
Positives. Within this alternative, as written, I like the removal of the waste water treatment ponds and the sewer line across the meadow and river. Keeping any remaining facilities small in scale, as indicated, is appropriate to the type of use, the character of the place, and the protection of the view shed. There is no question that the Tuolumne Campground needs improved site delineation, parking delineation, and traffic flow. I think the retention of the Lembert Dome picnic area is appropriate because it is already hardened, is very accessible, has a desirable view shed, and has a resistant substrate that includes bedrock and granitic gravel at the edge of upland lodgepole pine and dome habitat. I think establishing parking for Cathedral Lake trailhead west of the visitor center parking lot within lodgepole pine habitat is appropriate. It adds only about half a mile to the trail, and there are already good-quality restrooms and water available there.

I like the reduction of visitor use levels if that is feasible. Visitation to Tuolumne Meadows has increased steadily over the last 20 years, and the meadow appears extensively trampled, particularly along Tioga Road, and informal parking along all roads has been created and widened. Expanding Dog Lake/John Muir parking is appropriate particularly in conjunction with the removal of self-created parking along the Tuolumne Lodge access road.

Negatives. I see no harm in continuing to allow overflow parking along the concession corral access road. If you are referring to some parking along the concession corral access road that has extended into lodgepole pine habitat, then I support removing that parking. I do not like the idea of adding parking to the Pothole Dome area if it involves formalizing the informal parking under lodgepole pine at the meadow edge because an informal use trail has formed there since the early to mid 1990s that crosses the meadow in wetland habitat to reach the east edge of the dome, appears to be causing head cutting (J. Roche, pers. comm.), and is becoming a deep trench with multiple treads. The established trail leaves the paved Pothole Dome parking and runs around the head of the meadow in the driest meadow habitat, providing access to the dome and, eventually, the river.

The NPS stables probably should not be retained in place. Historically, heavy storms caused excessive runoff of manure into the meadow south of the stables. The City addressed this problem some years ago, but it may or may not be entirely solved.

I don't object to the specific removal of Bug Camp and Ranger Camp housing, and the Road Camp area has space for additional housing; however, I am not sure moving housing to Lee Vining or another area outside of the park is the most sustainable approach to housing. If visitation is curtailed, then the additional staff added in 2008 may not be needed, and current housing would be sufficient without adding commuters to the

Tioga Road corridor. Utilities and housing footprint are already available in Ranger Camp and Bug Camp in non-sensitive habitat.

Alternative 2

Positives. A picnic area south of Tioga Road would be a good addition. Moving campground Loop A away from the river would have positive effects on the riparian vegetation and erosion issues along the bank.

Negatives. Given the natural tendency of people to seek out natural water features and the sensitive nature of streamside habitat, I don't think it is advisable to expand opportunities to connect with the Tuolumne River.

See comments above regarding additional parking area east of Pothole Dome.

The concessioner stable site has some disadvantages as a picnic area. Nearly all of the Tuolumne Meadows area has good views; the concession stable is an exception in that its view is largely occluded by lodgepoles. I appreciate that it is located in non-sensitive habitat and has plenty of parking, but it is far from the main road, not a very appealing site for picnicking, and may not be able to attract Tuolumne picnickers.

Rather than moving Tuolumne Lodge employee housing to Gaylor Pit where utilities would need to be developed, employee housing could be pulled back from the Dana Fork and its side channels by moving it upslope toward the road to the water tank. There is room between the lodge parking lot and the water tank access road, utilities are nearby, and this approach is more sustainable than adding commuters to Tioga Road; it seems like most employees would drive, not walk, the 5 miles round trip along Tioga Road and the lodge access road to commute between Gaylor Pit and the Lodge.

If contributing structures are to be retained at Ranger Camp and Bug Camp and used as employee housing, then relocating the remaining RC and BC housing to the Gaylor Pit area (I assume the area south of the Gaylor Pit access road and west of the helipad) effectively expands the development footprint at Tuolumne Meadows. This requires that utilities be added to the Gaylor Pit area, but does not serve to effectively restore habitat at Ranger Camp and Bug Camp. This is not the most sustainable solution for housing as it may require additional traffic for commuters; in-fill housing in developed areas would limit the development footprint, allow more employees to walk to work, and minimize the need for additional parking at work places for employee vehicles.

Consolidating NPS and concessioner stables in a location south of Tioga Road has merit because it could reduce trips across Tuolumne Meadows for accessing Vogelsang and Sunrise high Sierra camps, requiring trips across only for Glen Aulin. However, a good buffer distance would need to be established between a consolidated stables and Elizabeth Creek to protect water quality and avoid sedimentation (note that soil currently is added to the concessioner corral I believe because compaction and manure management practices reduce height of corral surface, and they need to maintain a relatively level surface). Also, a consolidated stables south of Tioga Road probably

would require the new bridal path for commercial trail rides as listed in this alternative, necessitating the development of a new trail whereas an existing trail (PCT in part) is used for trail rides now. The current concessioner stables are a less visible facility well away from the meadow and streams.

There appears to be insufficient space for a hike/bike trail between Gaylor Pit and existing facilities. The Dana Fork, with its associated vegetation and vulnerable banks and water quality, runs in close proximity to Tioga Road, and adding a trail or adding sufficient shoulder for a hike/bike trail would add sediment to Dana Fork. Little blue slide, between Gaylor Pit and existing development, is an unstable surface that is already adding excessive sediment to the Dana Fork; it is an unsuitable surface for a hike/bike trail in the vicinity of Tioga Road and Dana Fork. A bike trail along the Dana Fork would provide opportunities for illegal off-trail cycling and add use to Dana Fork stream banks.

Regarding upgrades to substandard housing, if this refers to NPS tent cabins then I will point out that tent cabin life adds to the employee experience of living temporarily and seasonally in Tuolumne Meadows (while hard sides on tent cabins prevent bear break ins) and minimize the housing footprint - some are currently on piers without permanent foundations. Upgraded housing is important to the staff with the longest seasons from road opening to road closing, not for summer-only staff (e.g., interpretation).

Neutral. There are potential advantages in consolidating visitor center, store, grill, fuel station, and mountaineering school in one location in lodgepole pine habitat south of Tioga Road, including better access to educational opportunities at the visitor center, reduced traffic due to one-stop access to multiple facilities, and reduced overall development footprint. However, there is the clear risk that such a development could be overbuilt and oversized for Tuolumne Meadows, impacting the view shed, the smaller footprint, the seasonality, and the sense of place. Any new development/redevelopment should incorporate considerations of sustainability.

Alternative 3

Positives. I support relocating Tuolumne Lodge housing away from the Dana Fork. Creating Cathedral Lake parking in the vicinity of the visitor center would eliminate the eyesore of the parking at the current trailhead, provide a high-quality restroom and water for hikers, and make visitor information from the visitor center more readily available for Cathedral Lakes hikers and backpackers.

I like the idea of picnic areas near the visitor center (with VC restroom access) and near the store and grill. There is merit in the restoration of the Great Sierra Wagon Road between Parsons Lodge, Lembert Dome, and Tuolumne Lodge, including the protection of the meadow, currently being dewatered, between the GSWR and the confluence of the Dana and Lyell forks. Eliminating the informal parking east of Pothole Dome would help eliminate the social trail emanating from that parking that crosses the meadow and is damaging the meadow.

Negatives. Retaining campground Loop A will allow for continued degradation of the river bank. NPS stables is not ideally located. Were City of S.F. efforts effective in diverting manure runoff from reaching meadow during downpours?

Moving NPS maintenance to the wastewater treatment plant vicinity could make it more visible, would probably increase its footprint, and would put it closer to the meadow unless it can be sited well south of the treatment plant. This would not be a good juxtaposition with an improved trailhead to Parsons Lodge/Soda Springs.

Satellite parking with waterless toilets is probably the best use of the non-wilderness area near Gaylor Pit. However, it extends the development footprint in Tuolumne Meadows, though minimally, with the goal of reducing traffic in the TM area. Since it is located on a through road (Tioga Road), it is not clear to me how it would reduce traffic in the Meadows area.

Alternative 4

Positives. I like the idea of consolidating the store, grill, and visitor center functions in new facilities in campground loop D. The location should be the northeast end of loop D away from Elizabeth Creek. The consolidation has the potential to move the store and grill functions farther from the meadow and farther into less sensitive lodgepole pine habitat. However, these facilities should be kept modest in footprint and height.

Retaining Tuolumne Lodge but moving the dining facility and housing away from the Dana Fork would serve to protect wetland vegetation, streambanks, and water quality.

Relocating sites in the A loop would serve to reduce impacts to river banks, sensitive vegetation, and water quality and aquatic habitat.

Consolidating NPS and concessioner stables at the current concessioner stable location has merit; it keeps the stables away from streams and meadows, it has established access and established footprint.

There is merit in consolidating NPS housing at Road Camp. There appears to be space for more housing at that location; the CCC building could serve as meeting/common space.

Negatives. I think Lembert Dome picnic area is appropriately sited and could be retained. It has easy access, it is in non-sensitive habitat, and it is naturally hardened, in part, on granitic bedrock. It seems less likely to feed people onto sensitive meadow habitat than a picnic area in loop D (which is not far from the middle of the main meadow).

Care should be taken in making Tuolumne Meadows a bicycling area as cycling could easily expand to wilderness trail and off-trail areas of the meadows.

Restoring only a portion of Bug Camp does not have the advantage of restoring acreage and fails to take advantage of an area that is already disturbed and that already has

utilities. It seems full restoration or retention as a housing area would make more sense. Concessioner housing at Ranger Camp should work well with minimal commutes to the lodge and to the store/grill.

Neutral. Relocating ranger station, wilderness center, and mountaineering school to the store, grill and fuel station location continues to have parking, foot traffic, etc. adjacent to the meadow. However, I like having the noncommercial facilities more visible and accessible as the "face" of Tuolumne Meadows, but I prefer to see all development pulled back from the meadow.

NW L112 9/29/08

Your Comments Are Important!

This workbook contains descriptions of four preliminary site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows: one for each of the four original management zoning alternatives. The range of the site plan concepts reflects the range of interests and concerns expressed by park managers and staff, associated Indian tribes, and the public during several years of internal and external scoping and review. Your feedback now on what you see as the advantages and disadvantages of each concept will be helpful in pulling together a site plan for the preferred alternative. We also encourage you to provide your own ideas about a site plan concept for the preferred alternative. A map and comment space for that exercise are inside this folded sheet.

Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I'm Extremely opposed to the idea of removing the Tuolumne Lodge, store, grill, fuel station + maintenance school

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I believe it's important to do what this plan advocates - engage the public to connect with the natural beauty of Tuolumne. Also like idea of providing showers to campers

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like the idea of preserving cultural heritage - How would one find more info. about cultural practices? It would be wise to educate public about significance of such practices

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Where would loop A + D campsites be relocated? I believe it's important to restore + preserve riverside areas, but not close them off to hikers, bathers.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Plan 5 seems well-thought out & inclusive of much that is good in other plans. Built environment small in scale and compatible w/ natural and cultural values works well

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

[redacted] RX TIME 09/12 '08 21:58

[redacted]

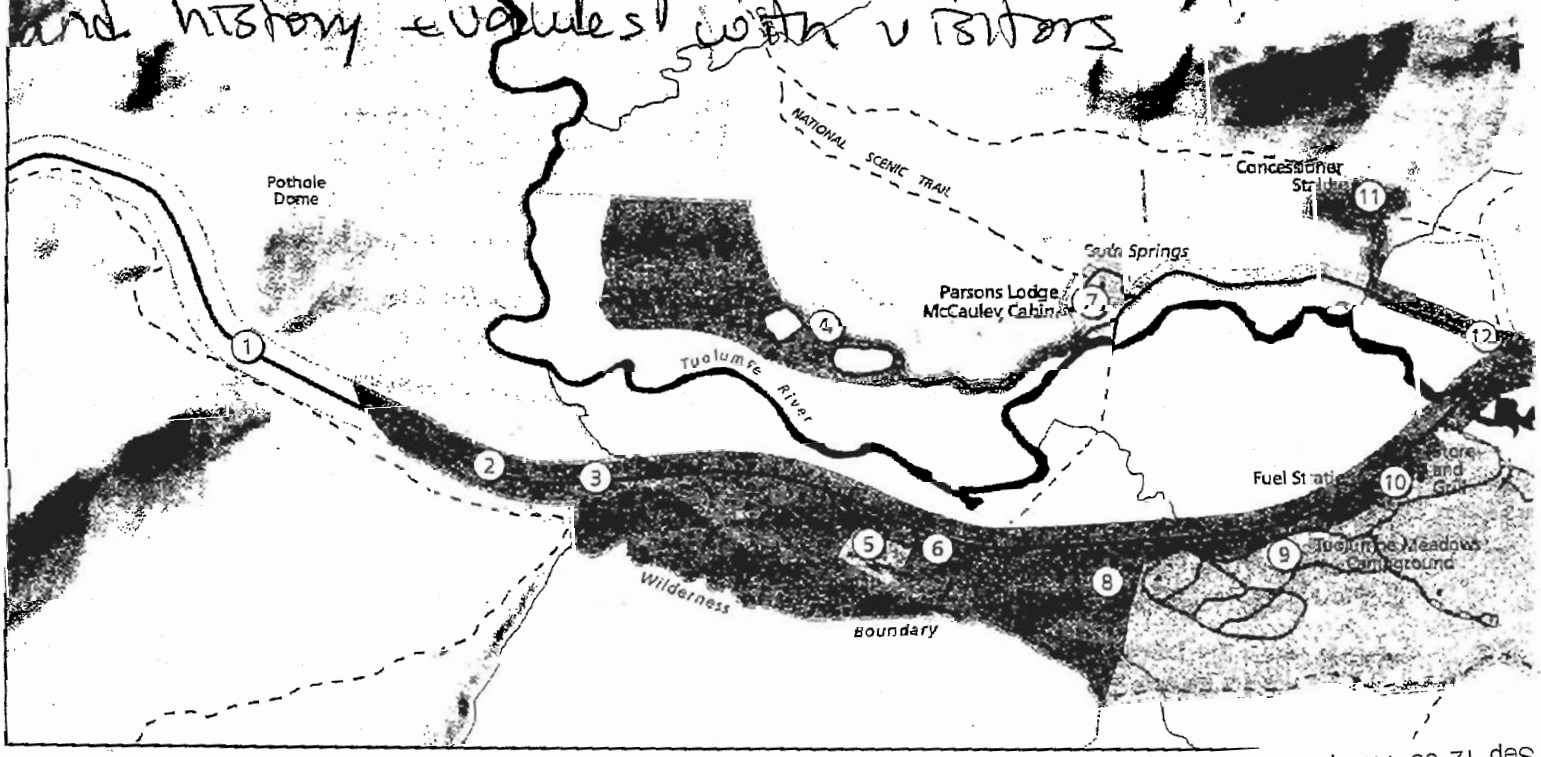
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

Maintaining the small scale built environment (eg. Store, grill, Tuolumne Lodge) so those who are less able to function in a primitive environment (elderly, small children) can still have access to a place of great beauty. Maintaining the riverside environment so it is not overwhelmed by camp usage, providing adequate camping sites, perhaps including public showers for campers. Continuing with the fine ranger-led programs. Encouraging more presentations from the Native American population to share their culture and history values with visitors



[redacted]

NW L113 9/29/08

LOCATION:415 752 4503 RX TIME 09/14 '08 08:57

Your Comments Are Important!

This workbook contains descriptions of four preliminary site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows: one for each of the four original management zoning alternatives. The range of the site plan concepts reflects the range of interests and concerns expressed by park managers and staff, associated Indian tribes, and the public during several years of internal and external scoping and review. Your feedback now on what you see as the advantages and disadvantages of each concept will be helpful in pulling together a site plan for the preferred alternative. We also encourage you to provide your own ideas about a site plan concept for the preferred alternative. A map and comment space for that exercise are inside this folded sheet.

Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. **To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.**

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

don't like: removal of T. Lodge, store, Glen Aulin camp site, Tioga Rd. roadside parking + trails

like: removal loop A, NPS housing, waste water ponds

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

don't like: same as #1

like: consolidation of services & park operations

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

don't like: concept: removing Tioga Rd. trails & parking (?) change Cathedral lakes trailhead

like: relocating concessioner housing & park consolidation

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

like: consolidations, improvements, retained facilities

don't like: eliminating Tioga Rd parking & trails; formal parking Cathedral Lake; remove Pothole parking

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

T. Meadows is also a Staging Area. #5 focuses too much on T. Meadows as a site/destination. OK to consolidate services & park operations. Informal roadside parking as it is does less damage than large paved parking lots. I don't see need to limit T. Meadows usage - I seldom see anyone on it, and ? on concession & employee housing - it's only 2-3 months/year + changes

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet. Some limits would be ok. Fix water treatment.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above. could cause more impacts.

Comment Form

Sep 14 08 10:11a Teresa M. Welborn 415 752 4503 p.1

NN L114 9/24/08

CHRIS MODIN
<cmodin@pacbell.net>
09/15/2008 09:31 AM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: sierra club yose comm comment tuolumne preliminary site plan concepts

----- Forwarded Message ----
From: CHRIS MODIN <cmodin@pacbell.net>
To: yose_planning@nps.org
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 9:24:45 AM
Subject: sierra club yose comm comment tuolumne preliminary site plan concepts

Superintendent Yosemite National Park: tuolumne meadows site plan concepts 14 sept 2008.doc

Public comment
Preliminary site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows: summer 08
Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95398

14 Sept 08

Dear Sir:

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Sierra Club's Yosemite Committee. We hope they will be of value in protecting and improving the natural qualities of the Tuolumne Meadows area.

Preferred Alternative 5 presented in your July 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook was the result of an outstanding public involvement effort. Developed in consultation with the public and associated tribes in a series of public workshop sessions and on site field trips, held in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, it represents a reasonably balanced preliminary concepts plan to resolve some longstanding problems impacting resources and the visitor experience in Tuolumne.

Specific actions implemented under this alternative could resolve many undesirable conditions that currently prevail at Tuolumne Meadows while limiting future administrations from further expanding the human presence in this extremely fragile high country setting.

Some of these actions should include:

1. Resolving haphazard day use parking in several Tuolumne Meadows areas. Most problematic is the unregulated parking along approximately 2.5 miles on both north and south sides of the Tioga road from Pothole Dome to the eastern end of the Tuolumne Meadows area. The unregulated parking along Tioga road greatly impacts the scenic quality of the entire area and contributes to soil erosion and siltation in the Tuolumne River. A limited number of scenic paved turnouts could be provided for view shed and wildlife observation and other short term activities but would not serve as long term day use parking. Alternative day use parking should not be consolidated in a single massive parking lot but broken into several smaller lots sequestered under tree cover wherever possible. Possible sites include replacing and possibly expanding the Cathedral Lakes parking lot destroyed in the'97 flood. Additional sites affording tree cover might be found near the visitor center and west of the campground. Eliminating the public gasoline pumps, a desired action in itself, at the store and grill would allow for a significant number of additional parking sites there. Any expanded day use parking should be sited where tree cover affords protection from the significant visual impacts vehicles have on the scenic quality of the region. Negotiations for satellite parking on USFS lands east of the Park in the Lee Vining area might be possible that would include regular shuttle service for both overflow day use parking and long term parking for backpackers.

2. Locate an upgraded wastewater treatment plant near the existing facility with design improvements that will allow some settleable solids to be separated from the liquid

stream and transported to El Portal for disposal. The two approximately four acre wastewater treatment/settling ponds, cinder block pump house and associated spray fields located north of the visitor center should be eliminated. Although out of sight from most visitors these industrial looking, black rubber lined tanks present an obnoxious scar debasing the grandeur of the Tuolumne Meadows area. Every reasonable effort must be made to eliminate these tanks in an upgraded wastewater treatment system. In this alternative, an area above the meadows of approximately ¼ square mile NW of the existing ponds and spray fields has been assigned the High Country Base Camp prescription. This prescription would allow construction of a subsurface leach field that might accommodate reduced effluents from an upgraded system. Replacing existing outdated plumbing at all restroom facilities with ultra low flow units would reduce the approximately 100,000 gallons per day effluent stream significantly (possibly by ½ or more) making the subsurface leach field solution achievable. If engineering and on site leach field data indicate this is not a viable solution, the approximately ¼ square mile area NW of the existing ponds should be reassigned to the Wilderness management prescription.

3. Visitor congestion centered around the store and grill and nearby gas station could be reduced by eliminating the public fuel pumps and lighting units and converting the site to a day use parking area. The existing "historic" fuel station structures could be converted to more appropriate interpretation or other resource related uses. Gasoline required for the many NPS vehicles serving Tuolumne Meadows and surrounding high country could be made available at the existing diesel fuel supply for official vehicles currently located near the NPS stables. Signage at Lee Vining and Crane Flat would inform visitors there is no fuel at Tuolumne Meadows.

4. Relocate campsites in the A loop of the Tuolumne Meadows campground sited near resource sensitive areas to other less sensitive areas of the campground. Replace Mission 66 restrooms with architecturally designed structures appropriate in a National Park and replace outdated plumbing with ultra low flow fixtures. Reducing volume is an essential component to resolving the wastewater problem in Tuolumne.

5. Relocate as much employee housing as possible to areas outside the Park and provide shuttle service for these employees to worksites in Tuolumne. Relocating all non essential employees outside the Park to appropriate areas in Lee Vining or Lee Vining canyon should be a primary goal in achieving the future desired conditions in Tuolumne. Replace existing dilapidated employee housing for essential employees with more appropriate architecturally designed units. Appurtenant infrastructure attached to and behind the store and grill including a cluster of approximately 20 employee housing units is at a minimum a category five eyesore. The area should be cleaned up and restored or perhaps used for additional day use parking. Consideration should be given to eliminating the grill and expanding the store into the area currently occupied by the food services section. This would eliminate a related air pollution source and provide visitors with a greater selection of necessities not available for many miles along the Tioga road. Food services are available at the Tioga Pass Lodge nine miles east just outside the NP boundary.

6. Retain Tuolumne Lodge as a seasonal overnight facility. Upgrading the Lodge units to more aesthetically appropriate permanent structures would invite multiple problems ranging from ADA requirements and fire protection services to users demanding year-round overnight access to Tuolumne Meadows. Relocate existing

dining hall and employee housing away from river and restore riparian conditions there.

7. Decommission or relocate and combine concessionaire stable operations to the existing NPS stable site south of the Tioga road. The congressionally designated wilderness boundary was gerrymandered around the current site to accommodate the existing concession stable and access road. The stable area and access road protruding into what logically would be officially designated wilderness should be restored to natural conditions and managed as wilderness under the Wilderness prescription in the management plan.

8. Reducing meal and linen service at Glen Aulin to a level more appropriate in a National Park backcountry setting would reduce impacts at both Glen Aulin and Tuolumne Meadows. Stock requirements at Tuolumne Meadows to supply these services could be significantly reduced by lowering the level of guest services at Glen Aulin.

The general direction of the planning process should emphasize increased resource protections, and eliminating activities where resource conflicts occur. Efforts should be made to remove all non essential employees to locations outside the Park and consolidate infrastructure wherever possible. Increased shuttle service for day use visitors from Yosemite Valley or satellite parking established east of the Park in Lee Vining or Lee Vining canyon should be a major element in reducing the number of vehicles in the Tuolumne Meadows area. There are presently far too many, they are everywhere, sullying the grandeur of entire region. It is an issue that has to be resolved if we are going to be successful in improving current conditions in Tuolumne Meadows. Limiting use to no more than currently exists and perhaps reducing day use visitation when and where necessary should be a primary option and action for achieving a substantially more natural condition than currently exists at Tuolumne.

We are looking forward to working with your excellent staff and planning team in developing the next more detailed stages of this planning process.

Thanks for listening.

Joe Fontaine, Chair, Sierra Club's Yosemite Committee

NW L115 9/29/08

Greg Adair
<gregadair1@inreach.com>
09/15/2008 11:34 PM

To Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject FOYV Comments on Tuolomne River CMP Workbook , 9/15/08

Comments Submitted by the Friends of Yosemite Valley
Re. Tuolomne Planning Workbook, 15 September 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on planning in Tuolomne. We have reviewed the workbook and offer the following comments.
We would like to again note that the planning process has not given the public the opportunity to comment on a plan providing a range of alternatives with actual quantities of use which will not harm ORV's . We made this comment previously concerning the Tuolomne in the workshops, and when scoping for the most recent Merced CMP was underway:

"We would like to re-iterate as a follow-up to last summer's comment that the Tuolumne CMP was scoped inappropriately. The representation that VERP would be the capacity mechanism available for discussion under all alternatives of the Tuolomne CMP replicates a glaring error of the 2005 Plan for the Merced, and improperly constrained scoping. We think the scoping should be re-openned, and the lessons of the failed Merced plan, including the direction of the court concerning VERP ,incorporated into the public process for a new beginning on the Tuolomne"
The Tuolomne CMP needs to start talking about actual levels of visitor use. There remains no way to observe or discuss actual levels of use in the planning going on here. There is no good way to get handle on what would be a level which would protect and enhance resource ORV's. The zoning proposed seems to gesture towards this, but does not quantify it.

We think that your management zoning concept, and the alternatives based on it, are moving too quickly to conclusions. The conclusions have the air of ratifying the status quo, especially the Preferred Alternative. We could say much about this , but it seems too obvious. The NPS has chosena sort of staus quo alternative, even as it gestures towrards one or more forward-lookng alternatives. We see a lack of WSRA-derived reasonning for this

What does "Honor the Traditions of Tuolomne While Looking to the Future" *mean* ? This sounds like a marketing theme. Please simplify this for the public, something like "We are making a plan to protect and enhance the river for future generations" You need to explicitly plan looking forward. You do not need to honor traditions per se, especially because this implies an undue focus on (we suspect recent) human culture over other systems of value. Please get rid of the slogan, it is confusing things. We think traditions tend to persist, it is the natural resource which is in danger of falling away.

As your first priority, we think the plan should fix its initial focus on ORVs, their definition,

study, mapping and further detailing for public understanding. We think that the ORV's so far remain far too generally defined. They need more detail. We feel that if (in the case of scientific, biological, and in some measure cultural) ORV's were more clearly defined, and supported by scientific documentation, then there would be clearer movement toward a more protective alternative than the one currently preferred. We think that there are some nice words about the ORV's being the driver; but the ORV's do not have definition, clarity , stature, then they are inoperative, and you are not going to be driven anywhere. You will fall into the valorization of the status quo (you will articulate the value of the status quo).

Page 10 notes a sort of "closer look" at available resource data. The trouble is there is surely data missing which needs to inform this process. Please identify the data rich and data-poor areas concerning the Tuolomne ORVs before going further.

Beside resource-based ORVs noted above, we suspect that study of unique and exemplary forms of recreation in Tuolomne is also not known scientifically or quantitatively (outside of how wilderness is impacted), and we think that ORV-connected forms of recreation need to be articulated, studied, and brought forward in detail.

When you look more closely at recreation, experience and culture in this context, please admit that the conflict between horses and everything else in Tuolomne (rare, unique, fragile, pedestrian-based) is really too radical to keep horses as a sacred cow here. It is time to put the equestrian culture on notice of a pending curtailment of their impactful activity in this area. We said a lot about this in our earlier scoping comments.
Close Glen Aulin and close he other ones too. We said this before. The HSC's are an elitist, impactful, and wasteful way to have recreation in this area. THIS PLAN should encompass treatment of and curtailment of equestrian use of the Tuolomne River Corridor for the sake of preserving all other ORV's, especially sensitive meadows, bird and native plant diversity, and water quality. We think it should go without saying that there is an inherent conflict between horses and all other recreationists. Get rid of the HSC's and the whole equestrian support these imples, and you will take Tuolomne forward a giant step.

It is terribly sad to us that the most protective alternative (|Number 1) is still beholden to the concession horse operations. In general, we think that the articulation of alternatives moving past the status quo towards greater protection are greatly needed.

Thanks Again

Greg Adair
For Friends of Yosemite Valley

NW L116 9/29/08

2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook

[redacted]
[redacted] Hollister, CA 95023
[redacted]

Park visitor since: ages 5 through 50's (current)
via multigenerational camping family- first came with my parents; then brought my children and will soon bring my grandchildren

Personal notes: As expressed above, I am a life-long visitor/appreciator of Yosemite National Park, and specifically of Tuolumne Meadows. For our multigenerational camping family, the A loop at Tuolumne Meadows campground is the ultimate camping experience! For me this journey began in childhood, although it is clear that for my parents it began many decades previously. I spent my childhood and teen years hiking the meadows and mountain trails, swimming in the river, enjoying the ranger-led hikes and evening campfire programs. Through them I learned much about this beautiful area, its geology and cultural history. Now this place is a part of my family's culture. I brought my husband, then my children and stepchildren. When next my grandchildren visit this area (my son-in-law is active military in North Carolina and has challenges in securing both adequate leave time and permission to travel this far from his assigned base) I plan to bring them to this awesome place, too.

While my families of origin and marriage are not Native American Indian we are native Americans and claim this magnificent sanctuary as part of our family heritage. We support it with our patronage, our pocketbooks, our time and participation in these many master-planning processes over the decades, and with our taxes.

I want to add a few words about an important issue- access. As time moves through our lives many of us are experiencing challenges with access to areas within Tuolumne Meadows. After the development of arthritis and then knee replacement surgery I can no longer keep up with the ranger-led day hikes. I had concerns this past month about even starting out on a trail in the meadow when there were no signs to indicate whether or not this was a loop trail, how long it was, or destinations along the route. I would greatly appreciate more attention to interpretive trails and facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. My sister, a current science and math middle school teacher and a former state park employee, suggested that she would be delighted to provide input into a program of "park experiences for the handicapped/disabled/challenged". Just because our bodies no longer function as a teen or healthy adult does not mean that we want to stop learning and enjoying this tremendously nurturing place! I'm also finding it more and more difficult to tent-camp, and appreciate that there is an alternative in RV camping sites (which allow my parents to still enjoy the park into their 80's) and in the Tuolumne Lodge- shame on those who would deny those of us in less than "wilderness condition" from having an opportunity to appreciate Tuolumne Meadows!

Below are my responses and comments from the Tuolumne Planning Workbook:

[redacted]

[redacted] Hollister, CA 95023

1. What are your suggestions and concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan for alternative 1. What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Like: 1. Providing formal parking at Pothole Dome.
15. Consolidating the visitor center with the ranger station and wilderness center.
19. Retaining emergency operations, including helipad.
2. Providing scenic pullouts along Tioga Road- but will become parking lots!

Dislike: 14. **Removing A loop road and campsites.**
10. Removing store/grill, fuel station and mountaineering school.
18. Removing Tuolumne Lodge.
2. & 3. Removing informal parking along Tioga Road and trailheads.

Site plan for alternative 2. What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Like: The concept of encouraging greater diversity of day use to encourage enjoyment and stewardship. **Hopefully this will include increased access for those with physical disabilities-** short, well-marked, smooth interpretive paths wide enough for walkers and wheelchairs with plenty of convenient benches or boulders on which to rest and enjoy the magnificence and the quiet.
1. Providing formal parking at Pothole Dome with picnic area and trail adequate for handicapped access.
10. Consolidating the visitor center with the store and grill, fuel station and mountaineering school; providing showers/restrooms adequate for handicapped access. Add meadow interpretive trail adequate for handicapped access.
8. Adding day parking and a formalized trail to Parsons Lodge adequate for handicapped access.
9. Retaining current capacity at campgrounds including more sites adequate for handicapped access.
18. Retaining Tuolumne Lodge visitor facilities.
12. Redesigning parking, expanding the picnic area and upgrading the comfort stations at the base of Lembert's Dome.
13. Providing hike/bike trail along Tioga Road and historic Great Sierra Wagon Road.
15. & 16. Consolidating the ranger station and wilderness center in an appropriate site.
19. Retaining emergency operations including helipad.

Dislike: 14. **Relocating A loop campsites. These are the most memorable to our family!!!**
2. & 3. Removing informal parking along Tioga Road and trailheads.

[redacted] Hollister, CA 95023

DRAFT Site plan for alternative 3. What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Like: **The concept that "Families and groups with strong traditional ties to the area could share their experiences with future generations."**
I also endorse the concept of offering "**a classic national park experience, with opportunities to enjoy ranger-guided walks, interpretive programs, ... camping,** and rustic lodging in an historic setting."
9. & 14 Retaining all campground loops; improve site delineation. The A loop is our family's multigenerational cultural heritage!
18. Retain Tuolumne Lodge.
13. Restoring the historic Great Sierra Wagon Road as an interpretive trail.
19. Retaining emergency operations, including helipad.
2. Providing scenic pullouts along Tioga Road- but will become parking lots!

Dislike: 1., 2. & 3. Removing informal parking at Pothole Dome, along Tioga Road and trailheads.
19. Satellite parking and shuttle service at Gaylor Pit.

This makes no sense! If planning to day-use rock-climb in the vicinity of Pothole dome, for example, one must first drive all the way through the valley to park at Gaylor Pit, then ride the shuttle with all equipment back to the mouth of the valley to enjoy the rock-climbing experience, then go back on the shuttle with full gear to the satellite parking lot at Gaylor Pit, then drive back through the valley to leave Tuolumne meadows. That's **four times the air pollution** when compared to safely parking on the shoulder of the road or in a pull-out or parking lot adjacent to the rock-climbing site!!!

Site plan for alternative 4. What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Like: 14. **Retaining A loop road and campsites.**
9. Consolidating the visitor center with the store and grill immediately adjacent to campgrounds.
10. Consolidating the ranger station and wilderness center with the mountaineering school immediately adjacent to campgrounds.
18. Retaining Tuolumne Lodge.
19. Retaining emergency operations, including helipad.
2. Providing scenic pullouts along Tioga Road- but will become parking lots!
3. Providing parking and visitor contact station at Cathedral Lakes trailhead area.
13. Providing hike/bike train along Tioga Road and Great Sierra Wagon Road.
4. & 6. Consolidating wastewater treatment facilities.

[redacted]
[redacted] Hollister, CA 95023
[redacted]

Dislike: 1. & 2. Removing informal parking at Pothole Dome and along Tioga Road and trailheads.
12. Removing parking and picnic areas at Lembert's Dome trailhead.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

I do not know the ranger/staff/concessioner housing situation well enough to provide specific recommendations. Nor am I familiar with the "Bug Camp" and "Gaylor Pit" areas. I've never had the means or opportunity to explore the experiences offered by the commercial stables, so am not able to offer any opinion other than as a hiker, I prefer separate trails!

I do support consolidating functions wherever possible, and all of the human services to be centrally located to the day use parking and the overnight camping areas. I've no opposition to equine services being consolidated downwind and away from the campsites! I've no opposition to consolidating wastewater treatment facilities in the most ecologically sensible location(s) IF it is necessary to make any changes at all (updating and/or modernizing facilities).

Spending money to change the outside façade of buildings and bridges has very little meaning to me. Frankly, there are better ways to direct our limited dollars!

The "preferred alternative" provides a very colorful map. I concur that the ideal plan is one that would incorporate elements of each of the alternatives suggested. However, it is a bit daunting in their present format to attempt to overlay the four maps into the fifth "preferred" map to ascertain what exactly the writers have in mind with this fifth alternative.

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Rather than following the numerical sequencing of the maps, I have grouped my comments into functional areas. I have retained the sequential map numbers for reference and have included the alternative numbers that best describe my personal management zoning alternative preferences.

Components: **My preferences:**

ROADS AND TRAILS

1. Pothole Dome area:

#2- Provide formal parking at Pothole Dome with picnic area and trail adequate for handicapped access.

2. Tioga Road shoulder parking:

#1 & 3 Provide scenic pullouts along Tioga Road- but will become parking lots!

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] Hollister, CA 95023
[redacted]

3. Cathedral Lakes trail informal parking:
#4 Provide parking and visitor contact station at Cathedral Lakes trailhead area.

7. Parsons Lodge and McCauley Cabin:
#1-2-3-4 Preserve.

8. Day parking, picnic area, trail to Parsons Lodge
#2 Add day parking and a formalized trail to Parsons Lodge adequate for handicapped access.

12. Lembert Dome area parking and picnic area:
#2 Redesign parking, expand the picnic area and upgrade the comfort stations at the base of Lembert's Dome.

13. Great Sierra Wagon Road/Tioga Road:
#2 & 4 Provide hike/bike trail along Tioga Road and historic Great Sierra Wagon Road
#3 Restoring the historic Great Sierra Wagon Road as an interpretive trail.

CAMPING/LODGING
9. Tuolumne Meadows campground capacity:
#2-3-4 **Retain all campsites**; may redesign to improve site delineation (tents, RVs, handicapped access, group camps [need their own bathroom!]) and improve traffic flow.

14. A loop campsites:
#3-4 Retain all campsites and road.
The A loop is our family's multigenerational cultural heritage!

18. Tuolumne Lodge:
#2-3-4 **Retain.**

VISITOR SERVICES
5. Visitor Center:
#4 Consolidating the visitor center with the store and grill immediately adjacent to campgrounds.
#4 Consolidating the ranger station and wilderness center with the mountaineering school immediately adjacent to campgrounds.
#2 Providing showers/restrooms adequate for handicapped access. Add meadow interpretive trail adequate for handicapped access.

10. Store and grill, fuel station, mountaineering school; concessioner housing:
#4 Consolidating the visitor center with the store and grill immediately adjacent to campgrounds.

[redacted]
Hollister, CA 95023

#4 Consolidating the ranger station and wilderness center with the mountaineering school immediately adjacent to campgrounds.

15. Ranger station and wilderness center:
#1-2 Consolidating the ranger station and wilderness center in an appropriate site.
#4 Consolidating the visitor center with the store and grill immediately adjacent to campgrounds.
#4 Consolidating the ranger station and wilderness center with the mountaineering school immediately adjacent to campgrounds.

11. Concessioner stable.
[no specific opinion]

16. NPS stable.
[no specific opinion]

17. NPS housing:
[no specific opinion]

EMERGENCY SERVICES & SATELLITE HOUSING/PARKING
19. Gaylor Pit area:
#1-2-3-4 **Retain emergency operations, including helipad.**

UTILITIES
4. Wastewater treatment ponds/access road
and 6. Wastewater treatment plant:
#1 & 4 Remove wastewater treatment ponds; locate new wastewater treatment facilities near existing treatment plant.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or seek further clarification. I look forward to continuing to be an active partner in this process.

Respectfully,

[redacted]

[redacted]

NW L117 9/29/08

"Joshua Stark"
<JStark@NPCA.ORG>
09/15/2008 07:32 PM

To <YOSE_planning@nps.gov>
cc <georgemcfly25@hotmail.com>
bcc
Subject Tuolumne Meadows 2008 Workbook comments

September 15, 2008

Michael Tollefson
Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Attn: Tuolumne Meadows 2008 workbook comments

Dear Mr. Tollefson:

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is America's only private, non-profit advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving and enhancing the National Park System. NPCA was founded in 1919 and has more than 300,000 members and supporters.

NPCA has taken a keen interest in, and greatly appreciates, the processes by which the Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River plans have taken place. The workshop series, in particular, have been a tremendous help in understanding the planning processes and decisions to be made in determining and implementing proper management of this beautiful, unique river system.

The workbooks have also been very helpful, summarizing the events and decisions in moving toward a decision for management prescriptions regarding the Tuolumne River.

Right now, NPCA believes it important to re-focus on some specific issues regarding the Tuolumne Meadows implementation plan. In no particular order, they are:

1. Parking congestion needs to be dealt with by designating parking zones for visitors that are off the road and largely out-of-sight, and by engineering the road and traffic to move more slowly through the river corridor, in general. The current parking situation, though it does slow traffic, is a danger for visitors, is a detriment to habitat restoration projects (as people park where they can and then trample the sensitive meadows), and is also an eyesore.

2. The sewer system, currently illegal in the State of California, needs to be fixed before a major environmental and health hazard occurs.

3. NPS should consider moving the concessionaire's stock to where they will cause less damage to the meadows habitat.

4. It is absolutely vital that all work to improve the park be a net carbon negative. This will go a long way towards enhancing Yosemite's status as a Climate Friendly Park, as well as help to mitigate climate change and provide examples of "best practices" for other agencies and entities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ongoing processes, and for your work to improve and better protect the Tuolumne River and its habitat and

visitor experiences.

Sincerely,

Joshua Stark
Stockton Program Manager

National Parks Conservation Association
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations
445 W. Weber Avenue, Ste. 138
Stockton, Ca. 95203-3147
fax> 209.932.1340

c> 209.403.3573
e> jstark@npca.org
w> www.npca.org

L118
NW 9/29/08

George Whitmore
<geowhit1954@comcast.net>

09/15/2008 07:18 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc George Whitmore <geowhit1954@comcast.net>
bcc
Subject Tuolumne Workbook comments

Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee
Sierra Club
c/o:
George Whitmore
P.O. Box 5572
Fresno, CA 93755
geowhit1954@comcast.net

15 September 2008

Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
ATTN: Tuolumne Planning Workbook
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

This is being emailed to yose_planning@nps.gov. Because of technical problems in the past, I am copying this to myself in an attempt to determine whether it appears to have transmitted properly.

If the e-mail attempt fails, this will be faxed to 209/379-1294.

Sir:

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Tehipite Chapter encompasses all of Yosemite National Park. Thank you for this opportunity to make suggestions which hopefully will be of use to you in your efforts to protect the visitor experience and the natural resources of Yosemite National Park.

These are comments on the Tuolumne Planning Workbook, dated July 2008.

ROADSIDE PARKING

The huge visual impact created by lines of cars parked along the shoulders of the roads is the most obvious problem. Of course prohibiting people from stopping is possible, but such a Draconian solution might be avoided if more reasonable steps were first taken. We believe the most obvious step would be to reserve parking along the shoulders and at turnouts for short-term use---such as pulling over to look at a view or take a short walk. If someone is going to be gone for several hours, or overnight, they should park in small parking lots which need to be

strategically located, such as near trail heads, and screened from view by trees to the extent feasible. Multiple small parking lots would have less impact than one huge one, and would avoid the necessity for busing everyone to and fro. Yes, some trees would have to be cut. The alternatives (continuing the road-shoulder parking, or having a huge remote parking lot with a mandatory bus system, or telling everyone to keep moving) seem much worse.

For many years there has been talk of a huge remote parking lot, with a mandatory bus system. We believe a preferable solution would be multiple, small, screened parking lots in carefully selected locations near where people want to be.

BICYCLING

Because of the generally flat terrain, the Tuolumne Meadows area could lend itself to bicycling as a mode of transportation. If people could move back and forth along the road corridor on bicycles, they might be less inclined to use their cars. They might see more, too.

As with practically any new activity, increased bicycle use would have impacts of its own. We suggest weighing the pros and cons of the different ways of making bicycle use more feasible.

This is NOT in support of recreational bicycle trails throughout the Tuolumne Meadows area, which is an idea which had been floated. What we are talking about is bicycling IN THE ROAD CORRIDOR as an alternative to automobile use.

CONCESSION STOCK USE

The excessive impacts of concession stock use continues to be a problem. In addressing user capacity, it is obvious that what people are doing is a factor in how many people can be accommodated. If every visitor wanted to go to Cathedral Lakes on a horse, the number of people would have to be far less than if they walked on their own two feet. Contrary to the assertion of some, it is clear that one person on a horse has more impact than one person on foot.

Similarly, every visitor who spends the night at a High Sierra Camp is creating a demand for more stock-supported services and supplies. Again, user capacity is affected by what people are doing.

We believe that concession stock use should be reduced below its present level.

HIGH SIERRA CAMPS

Because the present operation of the High Sierra Camps is based on a high level of stock use to maintain the present level of amenities, we suggest that the operation of these camps be re-appraised. It is possible that the impact of the camp operations could be reduced significantly. If visitors will not accept a more realistic level of amenities, then closure of the camps should be considered.

STABLES

Both the concession stables and the government stables constitute a visual, esthetic, and ecological blight. Neither operation is in an acceptable location. We urge that every effort be made to find a more suitable location. To the extent that the level of operations could be reduced, that should facilitate the search for a better location.

If the concession stable were removed from its present location, the site might be suitable for an expanded parking lot, as a step in the direction of relieving the problem of road-shoulder parking.

There are many other issues, but we believe the above ideas, if implemented, would go a long way toward alleviating some of the present problems in the Tuolumne Meadows area.

Please send all future Yosemite planning documents to the Chair of the Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee. George Whitmore's address is above.

Thank you for seeking public input on the Tuolumne Planning Workbook. We hope you find our comments to be useful.

George Whitmore, Chair
Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee
Sierra Club

NW L 119
9/29/08

Restore Hetch Hetchy
2008 CMP Workbook Comments
September 11, 2008
Mailed Sept 12, 2008

Restore Hetch Hetchy is pleased to provide comments on the 2008 workbook that concentrates on human activities in Tuolumne Meadows, most of which are located in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) zone. There are five related themes to our comments: harden some facilities in order to make access easy to the world class views and associated visitor impacts of this place; permit whitewater boating in keeping with the "enjoyment" and "unimpaired" clauses of the NPS 1916 Organic Act; decide on relocation of both stables and the lodge based on environmental (water quality), wild and scenic river, and management goals; include Tioga Pass as part of the TM Plan for interpretative goals; and raise your sight to a higher level of visitor experience by adding a desired condition of aspiring to a better water supply and invisible waste water disposal.

The title you chose for Alternate 5, p 30, is a good start. We have chosen a similar title that is slightly different: **Remembering the Past While Planning for a Socially and Environmentally Sustainable Future for Tuolumne Meadows that Focuses on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.**

To develop our own thinking, we base these alternative actions involving zoning and visitor capacity in Tuolumne Meadows and at Glen Aulin on a view that respects this river in the Scenic Classification area and at Glen Aulin including, meadow, riparian and upland portions of the river corridor plus the Gaylor Pit and Tioga Pass interpretive area, campground and all the non Wilderness area in Tuolumne Meadows. We again suggest that the non wilderness area all along Hwy 120 from Tuolumne Meadows to and including Tioga Pass be addressed in this plan since this whole area is closely associated with the Tuolumne CMP. We have attempted to color in the Management Prescriptions that fit these suggestions on the enclosed map sheets.

Specifically: The highway and present human uses should remain while some capacity and structure changes are desirable that benefit park administration, visitor experience and recreational opportunities while restoring and protecting adjacent river, meadow and upland environments. The desired river zone conditions and river ORV's need to be revised to include additional specific goals.

Following are our specific choices for each of the **numbered sites** and concept choices from the workbook, some with supplemental suggestions in parentheses (). Box brackets [ ] enclose our interpretation of the meaning of each of the 19 numbered sites. Our specific site comments are based on attending the July and August meetings, and three hours spent visiting most of the 19 workbook sites:

1. [Small paved parking area on Hwy close to Pothole Dome.] Concept 1 is best: Provide formal (paved) parking with trail connecting to Pothole Dome (along toe of highway fill. This parking area could be expanded).
2. [Unpaved shoulder parking area beside Hwy in grove east of site 1 and close to toe of Pothole Dome.] Concept 1 is best: Scenic (paved) pullouts (near trees along the highway near east toe

of Pothole Dome and perhaps other scenic places), remove all road shoulder parking (but not) social trails.* (We believe this circled item is incorrectly located on the map.)

3. [Hwy shoulder parking by more than 80 cars and shuttle bus stop at Cathedral Lakes and Sunrise Camp trailhead.] Concept 4 is best: Make a formal (paved) parking lot (in the trees off the highway if room is available while protecting sensitive plants); add visitor contact station and (connect to present Sunrise and JM) trail.
4. [Two primary treated waste water holding ponds having several acres area upland from the right bank and downstream from Parsons Lodge.] Concept 4 is best: Remove and restore to natural conditions (after a non-surface pond method of disposal is in place, i.e. a new desired condition, but retain) access road. Restore pond area when they are removed. (We presume the large area northwest of these ponds is being reserved in High Country Base Camp Management Prescription is the present spray disposal field and can be part of a future alternate disposal method area. If not, explain the purpose of this large area in the DEIR.)
5. [Visitor Center located in a CCC stone and timber structure.] Concept 4 is best: Relocate (the function, build a new) Visitor Center to area # 8 (or # 10), expand housing here, retain maintenance operation (in the present buildings). (The author observed that the present Visitor Center is too small even for Friday morning weekday visitor traffic, and is not handicapped friendly.)
   (NEW ALTERNATE PROPOSAL: Is there room for adding a new Visitor Center west of this present site?)
6. [Wastewater treatment plant near Hwy.] Concepts 1 and 2 combined are best: Locate new treatment plant near existing facility location (with capacity to implement treatment good enough for sub-surface method of disposal). (Also, if there is enough room) [a]dd stables (#11 & #16) to east of this facility, add bridle path.
7. [Parsons Lodge, McCauley Cabin and Soda Spring; formerly Sierra Club property and campground. John Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson decided to propose the idea for Yosemite National Park while camping here in 1889.] Concept 2 is best: Preserve Parsons Lodge, McCauley Cabin (Soda Springs and its enclosure while retaining water, phone and electrical utilities, waterless toilet, and service road).
8. [Open, level, wooded area adjacent to Hwy, east of wastewater treatment plant and west of Unicorn Creek and TM campground.] Concept 3 is best: (Paved) [d]ay parking, picnic area. Formalized trailhead to Parsons Lodge (Visitor Center here too if there is room). (Keep the elevated trail along the Great Sierra Wagon Road across meadow* and administer it as Tuolumne Heritage Management Prescription.)
9. [TM ca 315 site wooded campground near store, and grill.] Concept 2 is best: Retain current capacity while improving delineation & traffic flow. (Place this campground in Tuolumne Heritage Management Prescription.)
10. [Fuel station separated from store, grill and shuttle bus stop with a parking lot; all adjacent to Hwy.] Concept 3 is best: Retain all, but relocate employee housing. (Enlarge paved parking for store, grill, and bus stop, but is employee housing necessary here to discourage bear damage to the store?) (Rebuild filling station building for Mountain School, clothing store and a Kayak Center.) (Visitor Center seems to need more space than is available here given the rest room

and parking needed for that function.) (Adding rest rooms and a meadow interpretive trail would be good too if more parking is added.)

11. [Concessioner Stable and unpaved parking lot in woods upland from the meadow. A small drainage runs through stable area.] Concept 2 is best: Relocate to south of Tioga Road, create meadow overlook picnic area & (retain) parking. (The flaw in the "meadow overlook" is that the meadow can't be seen due to the trees, from personal observation. Also, the peaks beyond are largely blocked by trees. Employee housing could be placed here if shuttle service were provided. Are backpackers parking on the dusty roadside below this site? If so could parking for them be added here? (High Country Base Camp Management Prescription is best.)
12. [Graveled parking lot, picnic area and waterless toilet on Hwy between TR and Lembert dome at the junction of the unpaved Great Sierra Wagon Road and Hwy. This may once have been a wetland prior to the building of the Great Sierra Wagon Road.] Concept 2 is best: Redesign parking, expand picnic, upgrade toilet. (We are still for this even though the redesign will have to accommodate restoration of the wetland that we understand was here. High Country Base Camp Management Prescription is best because of the intensive use this site gets.)
13. [A portion of historic Great Sierra Wagon Road now a trail for walkers, trail riders and pack stock heading to Vogelsang High Sierra Camp.] Concept 3 and 4 together are best: Enhance as an interpretive trail. (Also, a paved) [b]ike/hike trail along Tioga Road and historic Great Sierra Wagon Road (in areas that are not in Wilderness in Tuolumne Meadows and all the way to Tioga Pass). (The trail here and elsewhere along the GSWR outside of wilderness should be Tuolumne Heritage Management Prescription. This prescription also applies to the elevated GSWR across the meadow leading to the wooden bridge over the TR at Soda Springs. Please see our colored map, enclosed.)
14. [That portion of A Loop in TM campground that is separated from the Lyell Fork only by the former John Muir Trail. In these campsites every blade of grass has been worn away by heavy use.] Concept 2 is best: Relocate A loop campsites away from riparian areas (and restore the vegetation that has been worn away).
15. [Wilderness permit center with paved, overnight parking lot. A little east is the small, historic TM Ranger Station on paved road that leads to lodge. This RS is located adjacent to park staff housing.] Concept 3 is best: Retain ranger station (but enlarge it to fit current needs as a desired condition). Redesign wilderness center exterior. (Enlarge if needed to also function for whitewater boating registration, if registration is necessary.)
16. [NPS stable located in a small drainage between Hwy, Wilderness Permit Center and NPS staff housing.] Concept 4 seems best: Relocate to area (# 6 and consolidated with the concessioner stable there, or both at site 11) and restore the area (or convert to a use compatible with nearby housing). (High Country Base Camp Management Prescription is best for the consolidated stable.)
17. [Bug Camp Housing might be removed or consolidate with other NPS staff housing here.] Concept 4 may be best, but we don't have enough information on the condition of Bug Camp housing: Consolidate concessioner housing (some from site #n 10) at Ranger Camp. Remove Bug Camp housing. Expand Dog Lake/JMT parking. (Be sure to consider the social

compatibility of the several groups of people being forced together—young party types compared to those older who want quiet evenings.)

18. [Tuolumne Lodge consisting of permanent kitchen, tent dining room, numerous concessioner and guest tent cabins, several permanent restrooms, and a big paved parking lot, all near the Dana Fork.] Concept 4 seems best: Retain Tuolumne Lodge, (relocate not remove) dining hall and (adjacent) housing (all to be about 50 feet) away from the Dana Fork. (Restore area for guest and public use while avoiding total vegetation destruction. A barrier along the river edge may be needed for child safety. At the same time, consider the present value of dining guest's view of the cascading Dana Fork. The lodge should be in Tuolumne Heritage Management Prescription while the setback should be in High Country Riparian and Meadow Area Management Prescription as shown in Alternate 4 and on the enclosed colored map. This relocation and bank restoration area may need to be listed as an additional desired condition.)
19. [Gaylor Pit is nearly a half mile off the Hwy and nearly two miles east of Lembert Dome. This place was probably a barrow pit. It has a spectacular view of peaks in the area as shown to us in photographs taken by Jim Bacon. It could be used for housing or other development, but probably has no power or water supply.] Concepts 2 and 3 seem best based on our having no knowledge of the site: Retain satellite parking and waterless toilet. Extend shuttle service. Retain emergency operations, including helipad. Add some housing (but for whom?).
20. ADDING A NEW ITEM from Alternate 2 is very important: Allowing, (even encouraging) kayaking and similar boating at selected locations {to be determined}. (Accept that whitewater boating is taking place on this river by boaters who have the skill to do so. Any permitting requirements could be handled at the Wilderness Center in Tuolumne Meadows or at Big Oak Flat Entrance Station in the same way that wilderness camping permits are, or by an email check-in check-out system for pre-qualified boaters. Add whitewater boating as a desired condition for this CMP. Concern for bank damage seems unfounded because whitewater boaters want to take out on solid surfaces or sand, not unstable vertical dirt banks.)
21. NEW ITEM from Alternate 4: Continue operation at Glen Aulin with upgraded infrastructure as needed to "support opportunities for day and overnight use focused on understanding and experiencing a largely undisturbed natural area" (, but shown in Workbook Alternate 3 page 23 and in Tuolumne Heritage Management Prescription.)
22. NEW ITEM for Desired Conditions: Relocate water supply from the low weir on Dana Fork to a non-surface source because technology to do so is now available as generally outlined in a park EA*** and because better ideas seem available today. This will be a benefit to the W&S Dana Fork and will open numerous, choice overnight camping sites near the Dana Fork and also lake campsites in Parker Meadow. Overnight camping there is now prohibited because of the downstream surface water supply diversion. Right bank of Dana Fork may best be placed in High Country Riparian and Meadow Management Prescription past lodge up to boundary with highway corridor if social use can be reduced to moderate levels.
23. AGAIN THIS YEAR, we suggest a paved path going west from the gate downhill from the concessioner stable, on what we think of as the Great Sierra Wagon Road below the stable, to a point where handicapped folks and all others can see the world class view of the Tuolumne River, Tuolumne Meadow, granite domes, and the stunning white granite peaks beyond—the

author has seen many calendar pictures taken from near that place. Every time I hear John Muir's phrase, "...sauntering on the broad velvet lawns by the river..."**, I think he surely was referring to this place. Add a desired condition to the CMP that says: motivate every visitor and every one who is just passing through to go to this place for a few minutes. This may relieve some pressure for social trails into the meadow for these views. Alternately, consider moving this gate further west for visitors to see this view. Make this place a stop along the shuttle bus route. Put up signs encouraging a side trip from the highway to this wonderful sight. A less good alternate would be to use Gaylor Pit as an overview of peaks and the Lyell canyon.

24. NEW ITEM Place the Great Sierra Wagon Road across the meadow southwest of Soda Springs in Tuolumne Heritage prescription so the Unicorn Creek culvert area can be enlarged to reduce downstream meadow scouring and this heavy use trail can be maintained.

25. Add whitewater boating to the list of recreational ORV/s.

Footnote s * Selectively reroute social trails and restore those portions when impact becomes unacceptable.
** Page 158, *The Yosemite by John Muir* Sierra Club Books ca 1997.

*** "Water and Wastewater System Improvements, Tuolumne Meadows" July 1997, 55 pages plus appendix.

Desired Conditions and ORV's. Here are additional Desired Conditions and an ORV's that we ask be added:

• **Water supply** other than surface diversion using a low weir and ponding should be your goal, which would allow overnight backcountry camping in Parker Meadow. Alternate 4 Riparian Meadow Management Prescription appears to favor this action. (Idea, explore placing a Ranney collector in or beside Dana Fork upstream from the present diversion weir, references: reynoldsinc.com/radial.html and collectorwells.com A nearby example is Turlock Irrigation District who installed such collectors under the Tuolumne River in Stanislaus County to supply their future water treatment plant.) Take note that your draft Wilderness Management Prescription states: "The river is free of unnatural impoundments" while the left half of Dana Diversion pond is in Yosemite Wilderness.

• **Wastewater disposal** that does not require surface ponds. Alternate 4 Riparian Meadow Management Prescription appears to favor this action. Including a photograph of one of the sewer ponds in the DEIR might generate comments on finding an alternate to them.

• **Add whitewater boating** to the list of "Outstanding Opportunities for a Diversity of Recreational Experiences" in the "Recreational Values" ORV, with appropriate limits to protect the natural environment and not intrude unnecessarily on other visitors. Adding whitewater boating is consistent with the other recreation ORVs for this river, listed on page 4 and 5 in the 2007 loose-leaf binder at the ORV tab, because boating is certainly a primitive and unconfined

river recreation in that it is human and gravity powered that uses a version of the American Indian kayak.
• **Provide a path**, possibly paved, connecting the Lodge, Lembert Dome parking, campground, store and grill, and Visitor Center that does not require visitors to walk on the paved highway.
• **Enhance the Wilderness Center and Lodge parking lots** by planting some native trees among the parking sites to break up the bleak view and provide a little shade. This is especially needed at the lodge.
• **Add Tioga Pass** to desired conditions to allow more roadside interpretation since this is one of the Tuolumne River "sources on …Mt Dana". Rivers often start in a pothole meadow; grow larger as tribs join and flow a long way to the ocean from whence water vapor came.
• **Ride and park** free bicycles with racks at appropriate places along paved roads and paths, some near shuttle stops and parking lots. This desired condition is dependent on paved paths being provided.

Comments on Management Prescriptions

These comments apply to the "Draft Management Prescriptions, SUBJECT TO CHANGE, June 2008"
• In the Ecological Processes section, may pine encroaching on the meadow be cut in High Country Base Camp and Tuolumne Heritage prescriptions?
•In Recreational Activities, whitewater boating should be added to all Prescriptions.
• In General Resource Management, maintenance of foot bridges should be added to all Prescriptions. Addition of foot bridges should be allowed in all but Wilderness Prescription.
• Manipulation of fire and suppression of wildfire should be allowed in all but Wilderness Prescription.
• In Management of Visitor Activities, "Restoring trails and eliminating social trails" in High Country and Riparian Prescription would be better changed to "Restoring permanent and social trails as needed" since social trails will occur in inviting meadows.
• In Interactions with Others, we have the feeling that High Country Riparian and Meadow Prescription does not presently use "designated walkways or overlooks", rather these are used only in High Country Base Camp Prescription. A clarification would be useful in text and prescription maps.
• You have wisely omitted High Country Experience from the 2008 Workbook since wilderness camping rules takes care of that prescription.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: • Increasing shuttle service from 30 min to 15 would might reduce use of cars for travel among sites and overlooks and might increase visitation to overlooks by the drive-through visitor.
• The technical correction to identify one of the "sources on Mt Dana" as the tributary with head waters at about 11,600 ft elevation on the ridge between Mt Dana and Mt Gibbs is wise, as shown on page 7 of the workbook. For W&S interpretative purposes, it would seem useful to retain the presently labeled tributary that arises at the Tioga Pass Entrance Station even if it is unmeasured in the inventory of miles designated.
• Administering the one mile of river below O'Shaughnessy Dam in Wilderness Prescription is wise while recognizing the continued use of Raker Act facilities and features that are now located there.
• Tuolumne Meadows site map is enclosed with three suggested prescription additions to Alternate 5.

Submitted by Restore Hetch Hetchy, Bob Hackamack is principal author

NW L120 10/7/08

Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center

Box 396 • Twain Harte, CA 95383 • (209) 586-7440 • FAX (209) 586-4986

September 7, 2008

Tuolumne River Plan
Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Planning Team:

The following comments are submitted by CSERC on behalf of our staff and members. Thank you for the care and effort that has gone into planning communications and documents made available to the public so far in the Tuolumne River planning process.

In addition to filling out a Comment Form and submitting some abbreviated comments, our staff is hopeful that a more thorough set of comments can also lead to a better understanding of our Center's concerns, suggestions, and questions.

Introduction

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling has led to an expansion by Planning staff of the scope of the Tuolumne River Plan and a higher level of detailed analysis concerning the kinds and amounts of permitted use that may affect Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

Based on the description of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values on page 6 of the Planning Workbook, CSERC asserts that most of the identified ORVs face little risk from any of the management alternatives or management uses that could be allowed. For example, there would be a low risk, if any risk at all, under the management alternatives to ORVs such as "magnificent scenery with a character unique to the Tuolumne River corridor" or the "exemplary diversity of hydrologic features" or the various "opportunities for outstanding recreation, education, and research" or the "well-preserved evidence of glacial processes." Under every management scenario, those kinds of ORVs are almost certain to be adequately protected and sustained. Thus, <u>under the full range of action alternatives, many ORVs will not face any risk at all of degradation or diminishment.</u>

<u>What COULD be at risk, however, when it comes to management direction, are the natural resources tied to ORVs</u>. **<u>Three key ORVs are directly tied to natural resources</u>: "Exemplary ecosystems providing habitat for a remarkable diversity of species"; "...extensive subalpine meadow and riparian complexes;" and "exceptional water quality."**

generated by an alternative that keeps the commercial stables in contrast to an alternative that doesn't propose keeping the commercial stables.

CSERC urges that in future Tuolumne River Plan documents made available to the public, that planners distinguish more clearly how desired conditions in different alternatives will lead to different actions or outcomes. Since page 6 of the planning workbook spells out that the desired conditions in a particular zone could favor some ORVs over others, a clear explanation of the differences between alternatives appears essential.

Under DETERMINATION OF USER CAPACITY on page 7, the document states that use levels for user capacity of the river corridor will be "derived from assessments of how much use can be accommodated without degrading the river's outstandingly remarkable values, consistent with the sideboards established by the management zoning."

CSERC strongly disagrees with this statement, and our hope is that the wording was simply not carefully selected.

To base "user capacity" or "use levels" on an assessment of how much use can be accommodated without degrading ORVs is a management strategy that would pose significant risk to ORVs. That approach would be like seeing how much straw can be piled on a camel's back, waiting until you see the camel's legs quiver or start to buckle, and set the threshold at that point.

CSERC strongly asserts that the Tuolumne River Plan is both legally and ethically required to set use levels or user capacity levels so that Outstandingly Remarkable Values for the River are "guaranteed" to be maintained or enhanced. The question should not be "how much use can be accommodated without degrading ORVs?" Instead, the Park should focus on what uses can be allowed and at what levels so that those uses absolutely do not diminish or harm the ORVs. CSERC suggests that the Park should take user capacity and use levels one step further, and set limits at levels where ORVs will be certain to be enhanced, not just maintained.

The selection of the current Preferred Alternative reveals that the National Park Service is presently leaning towards favoring high levels of visitor use rather than prioritizing resource protection.

On page 11 of the planning workbook, the claim is made that Planning Staff recognizes "that there would be no differences among the alternatives in the management of the more than 90% of the river corridor that is congressionally designated wilderness..." CSERC disagrees with that conclusion that appears to lie at the heart of the selection of a preferred alternative. If Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp is allowed to continue lodging and service operations within wilderness, at a distance some miles from Tuolumne

Park planning staff is headed with both assumptions and themes. Rather than limiting use to a level appropriate for making resource protection a priority, the preferred alternative already established a Park direction that commercial enterprises and high levels of visitor services will continue to provide the traditional national park experience" for decades to come.

CSERC is disappointed with the Park's apparent enthusiasm for retaining commercial horseback riding, and retaining or consolidating the commercial stable and NPS stable, retaining the Tuolumne Lodge, retaining the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, retaining the store, grill, and possibly the fuel station, and retaining campground numbers in Tuolumne Meadows. It would appear that those who are designing the preferred alternative are committed to ensuring that a very high level of visitor use will continue at this high-country riparian and meadow complex.

John Buckley - CSERC

NW L12U 10/1/08

Your Comments Are Important!

This workbook contains descriptions of four preliminary site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows: one for each of the four original management zoning alternatives. The range of the site plan concepts reflects the range of interests and concerns expressed by park managers and staff, associated Indian tribes, and the public during several years of internal and external scoping and review. Your feedback now on what you see as the advantages and disadvantages of each concept will be helpful in pulling together a site plan for the preferred alternative. We also encourage you to provide your own ideas about a site plan concept for the preferred alternative. A map and comment space for that exercise are inside this folded sheet.

Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. **To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.**

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? May have value as an extreme alternative, but by "eliminating most amenities" it is not consistent with CSERC's suggestion of a pro-wilderness alternative. It should be modified to retain some visitor services, and perhaps retain a scaled back Tuolumne Lodge pulled as far back as possible from the river.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Relocating the visitor center function and converting that area to Cathedral Lakes trailhead parking might be positive. Rather than relocate A loop campsites, close + naturalize A loop.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Dislike retaining the wastewater treatment ponds + service road. Disapprove of retaining concessionaire stable.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Support eliminating trail rides. Support new wastewater treatment facilities. Like removing Tuol. Lodge dining hall + housing away from the river. Like removing informal parking, social trails.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Alternative 5 should retain Tuolumne Lodge, as in Alt. 4, but phase out Glen Aulin so as to be consistent with true wilderness zoning in surrounding landscape.

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

Comment Form

What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

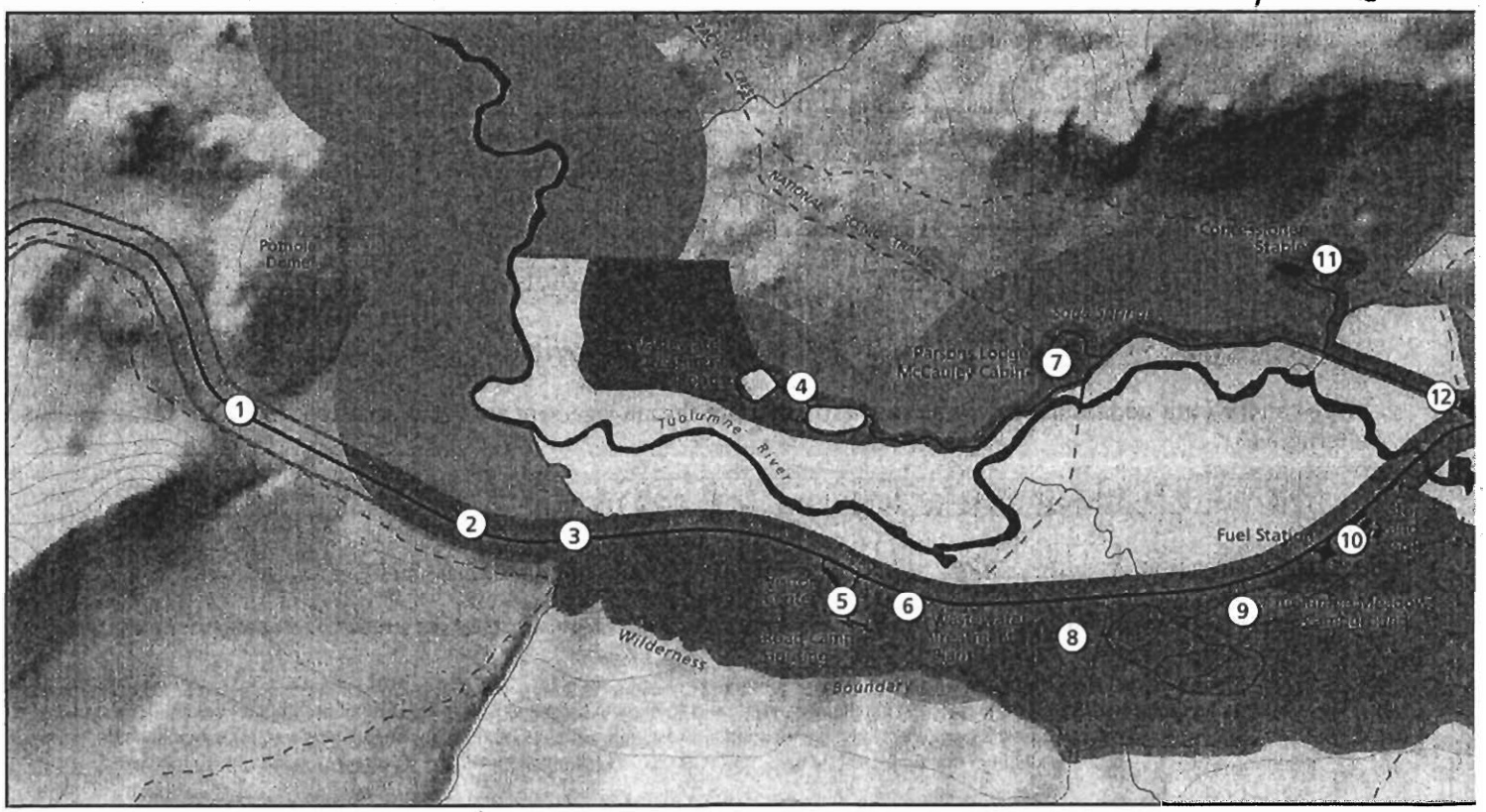
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

(1) Protection and enhancement of natural resources tied to ecosystem diversity and health.

(2) Protection of water quality - not just at acceptable levels - but pure.

(3) Restoration and protection for the meadows and riparian areas that are the heart of Tuolumne Meadows

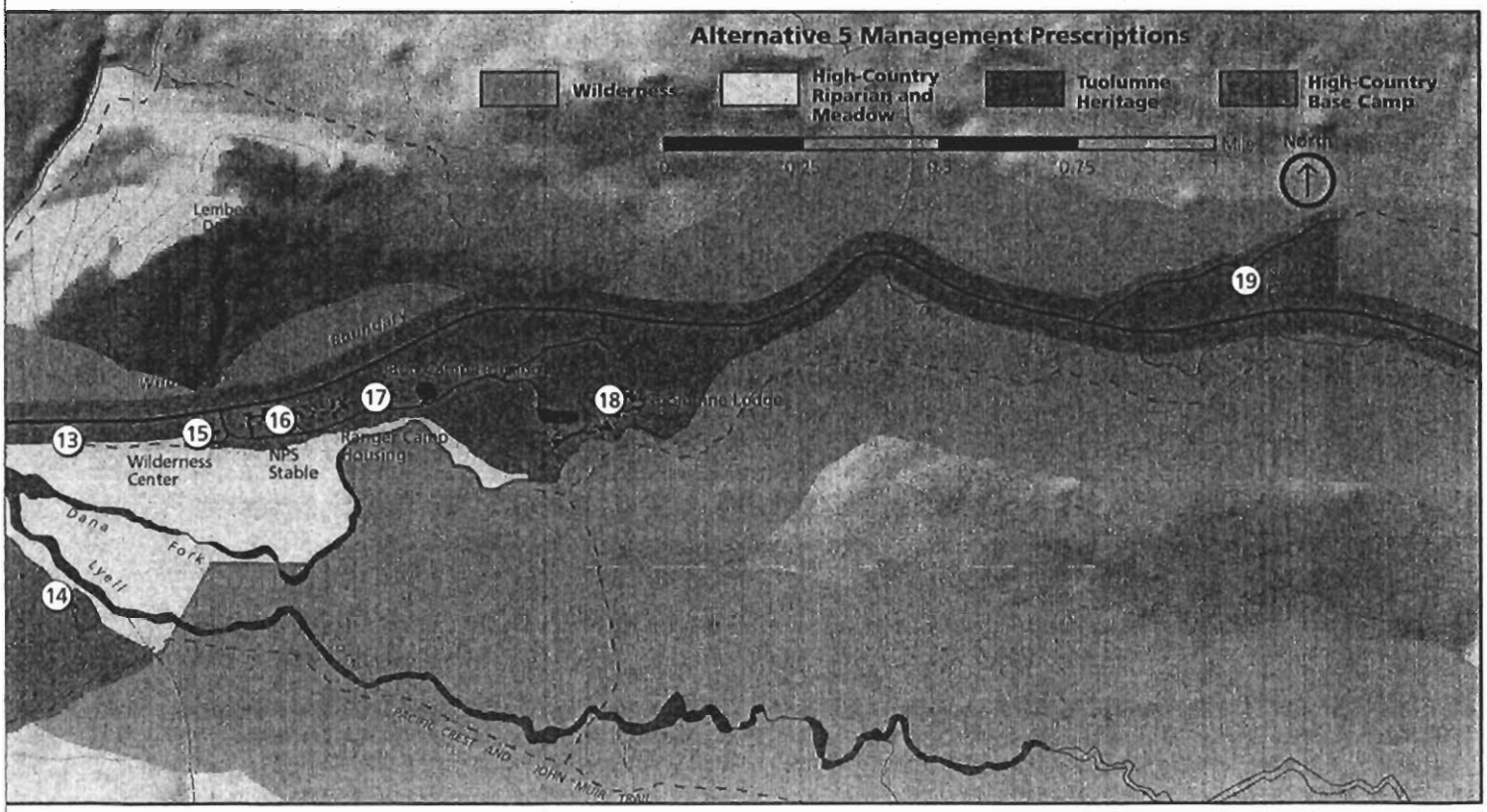
(4) Removal of non-essential commercial or amenity distractions that pollute, degrade, create scenic impacts, or diminish the unique natural experience. (Just because people hike in great numbers past commercial trail rides or the Tuolumne Lodge or past long rows of parked cars doesn't mean that is the desired experience.



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

(1) Remove informal parking - restore. (2) Remove shoulder parking - provide scenic pullouts (3) Provide formal parking + comfort stations at Cathedral Lake trailhead (4) remove wastewater ponds (5) Retain visitor center functions, add picnic area. (6) provide new wastewater treatment ponds/facilities near existing treatment plant. (7) Preserve Parsons + McCauley (8) Provide formal day parking + picnic area. (9) Retain campsite numbers through redesign - eliminate A loop, naturalize. (10) Re design/combine store and grill, along with fuel station. Make more complimentary to "national park experience - minimize grill or non-essential amenity service.
(11) Remove concessioner stable (12) Retain parking + picnic area - redesign comfort station. (13) Provide hike bike trail (14) Remove naturalize A loop (15) Consolidate ranger station, wilderness center, + mountaineering school in best location (16) Relocate NPS stable (17) Consolidate concessioner housing (18) Remove or reduce the impact of Tuol. Lodge (at minimum remove dining hall + housing away from river. (19) Retain

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: John Buckley - CSERC - 95383



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L121 10/7/08

Dave Mahler
<chez104@yahoo.com>
09/30/2008 11:23 AM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Tuolumne Planning workbook feedback

Folks,

Here are my comments:

I think the first 4 plans are useful as an exercise for getting one to think about different values.

But in the end, it's all about balancing those values.

I was very disappointed that you did not complete Alternative 5 to the same level of detail as 1-4. You suggest it is preferred, yet give no detail so it is not possible to know what you are really suggesting. Kinda sneaky actually is the way it comes across.

I am a hiker and climber so my comments come mostly from that perspective. I use the park and Tuolumne heavily-several weeks a year--including in deep winter by skiing in. I have been using it thus since 1978.

In most of your alternatives, you have as item 2-Remove all Tioga Road parking and social trails. If this means just the area west of Pothole Dome to Lembert Dome-then I agree with you. But if you mean all of Tioga road from Crane Flat to the Tioga Pass entrance station, then you have just outlined a path that would not allow any climbers to have a means to use the park resources and that would be a big problem. Please clarify.

Cathedral Lakes parking needs to be fixed and both replacing the lot at the pre-flood location or moving it to the Visitor Center area are acceptable. Leaving it as shoulder parking as it is now will result in someone getting killed sooner or later.

I think removing Tuolumne Lodge would be a loss and would rather see you relocate the lodge (in concept) to a reasonably nearby area outside the Wild River protection area.

I think you should retain the current capacity for the Tuolumne Campground-one way or another.

Overall, I think alternative 2 is the least desirable in concept. That is, further development of Tuolumne is moving in the wrong direction. Limit the commercial development and find ways to encourage people to get beyond the road an into the backcountry just a small amount to distribute the load and get people to appreciate what Yosemite is-a beautiful wild land. They can go to a mall anytime.

regards,

[redacted]

Sent email response
10/2/08 KR

NW LIZZ 10/7/08

Your Comments Are Important!

This workbook contains descriptions of four preliminary site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows: one for each of the four original management zoning alternatives. The range of the site plan concepts reflects the range of interests and concerns expressed by park managers and staff, associated Indian tribes, and the public during several years of internal and external scoping and review. Your feedback now on what you see as the advantages and disadvantages of each concept will be helpful in pulling together a site plan for the preferred alternative. We also encourage you to provide your own ideas about a site plan concept for the preferred alternative. A map and comment space for that exercise are inside this folded sheet.

Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. **To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.**

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? This is the best concept, yet I fear it is idealistic. I would like to see more wilderness and less structural development.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? This concept creates more development in Tuolumne. I don't want more asphalt, buildings, traffic, or toilets.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? This concept adds a little more development and preserves what is already here. I'm not crazy about this concept, but I think it's the most likely

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? This concept is OK, but too "managerial". I want Tuolumne to be wild, not controlled.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

The bottom line is: no more development. parking lots, buildings, showers... etc = development!

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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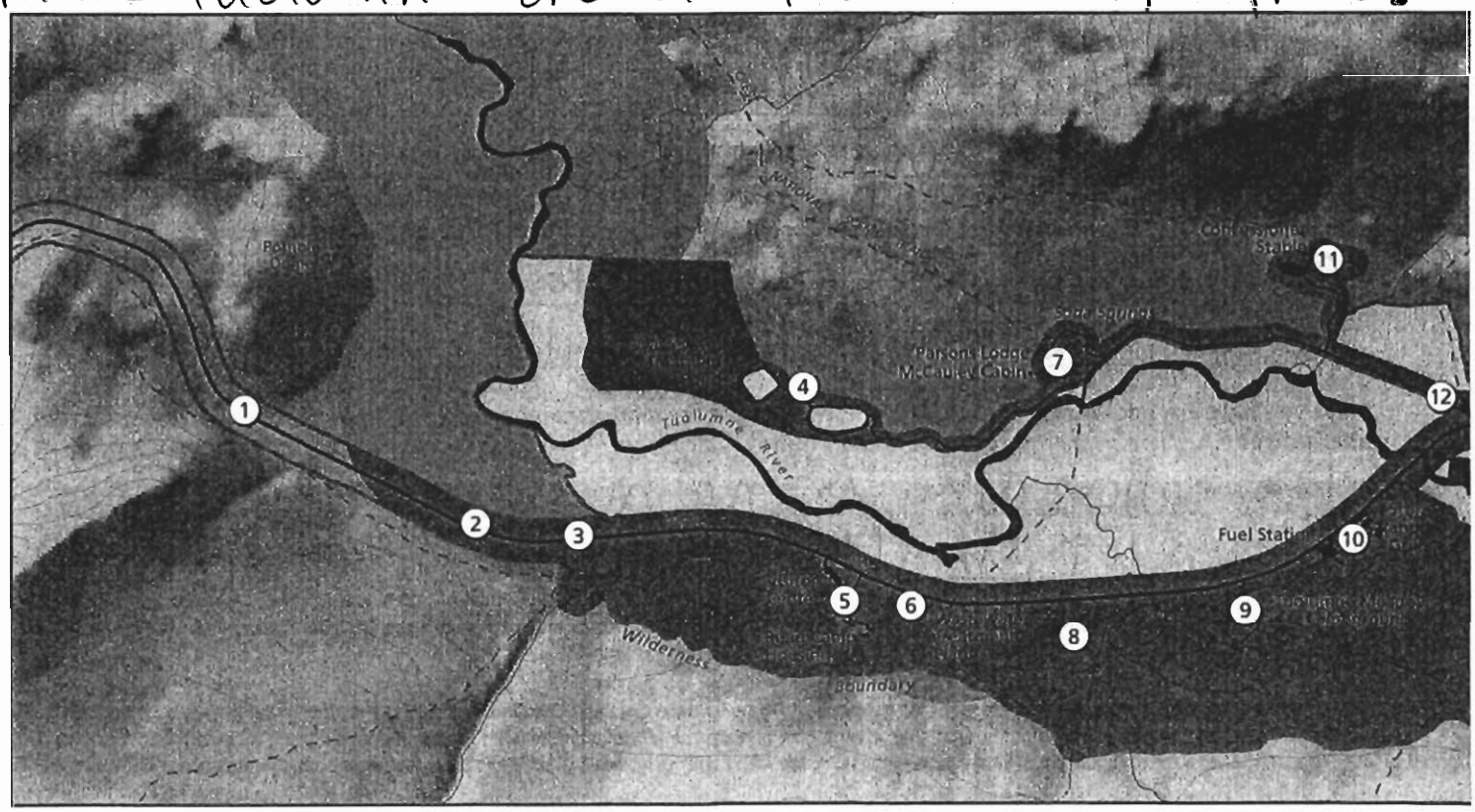
Comment Form

What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

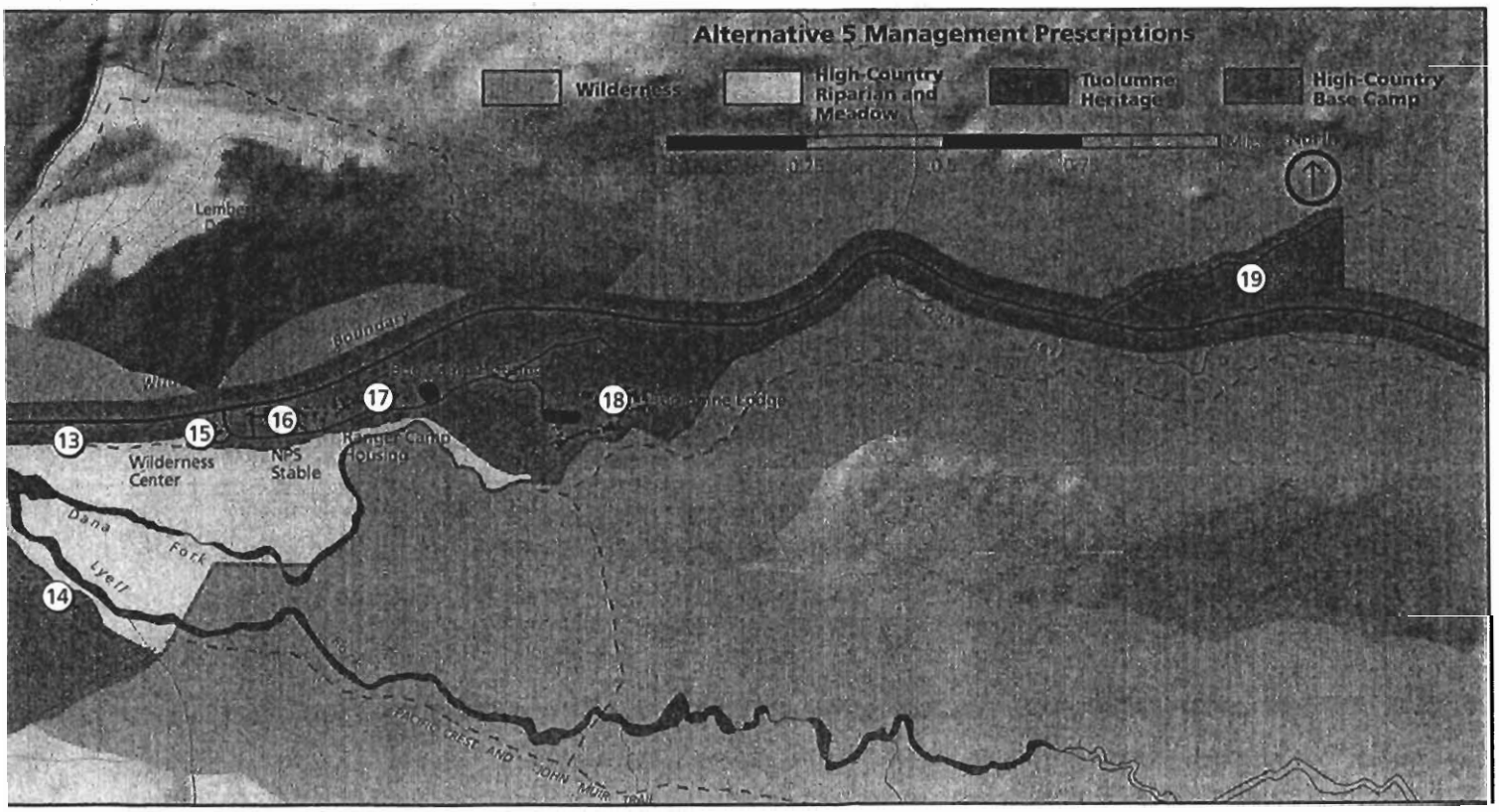
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: If more facilities are created and/or maintained more people, and hence impact, will result. Yosemite Valley is already a haven for traffic, heavy use recreation such as biking, rafting, fishing ... etc, and developed lodging. We need at least a few places in this country that are not ridden with cars, buildings, toilets, consumer products, etc... Make Tuolumne one of these undeveloped places!



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

How can the park service claim to be "conserving the scenery" while allowing areas to be paved over, built upon, and used for commercial gain? Concept 1 is the best. The prescription below will contribute to more use, and therefore more deterioration of this land we are supposed to "leave unimpaired." It's true that if you build it they will come, and this does not mean that we should prevent "enjoyment," but conservation and preservation must come first!

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: Yosemite, 95389



Create Your Own Site Plan

2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook
Preliminary Site Plan Concepts Summary Table

Site	Location & Current Use	Concept 1	Concept 2[1]	Concept 3	Concept 4
1	Tioga Road near Pothole Dome	Formal parking with trail connection to Pothole Dome	Same as Alt 1, add picnic area	Same as Alt 1	Remove informal parking & restore to natural conditions
2	Pullout west of Cathedral Trailhead	Scenic pullouts; remove all road shoulder parking and social trails	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
3	Cathedral Lakes Trailhead	Remove informal parking; restore to natural conditions	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1	Make a formal parking lot; add visitor contact station and trail
4	Wastewater ponds & service road	Remove ponds and service road & restore to natural conditions	Retain	Retain	Remove & restore to natural conditions
5	Visitor Center, Road Camp housing, maintenance area	Relocate VC function to wilderness center, expand housing for essential employees, retain maintenance facilities, move Cathedral Lakes trailhead and create parking	Relocate VC function to store/grill area, expand housing for essential employees, retain maintenance facilities, move Cathedral Lakes trailhead and create parking	Retain Visitor Center, add picnic area, move maintenance facility to #6, provide Cathedral Lakes Trailhead parking	Relocate Visitor Center to area #9, expand housing here, retain maintenance operation
6	Wastewater treatment plant	Locate new treatment plant near existing facility location	Retain. Add stables to east of this facility, add bridle path	Retain; add maintenance yard and office nearby	Locate new treatment plant near existing facility location
7	Parsons Lodge, McCauley Cabin & Soda Spring	Preserve, eliminate vehicle access and utilities	Preserve	Preserve	Preserve
8	Area west of creek and west of D-loop of Campground	No change	Day parking, picnic area, formalize trailhead to Parsons Lodge	No change	No change
9	Tuolumne Meadows Campground	Retain at reduced capacity (A-loop restored to natural conditions), improve delineation & traffic flow	Retain current capacity while improving delineation & traffic flow	Retain current capacity, improve delineation	Consolidate Visitor Center, Store, Grill at current D Loop of campground, retain campsites site numbers
10	Store, grill, fuel station, mountaineering school, and associated employee housing	Remove all, provide picnic area	Consolidate visitor center, store, grill, fuel, mountaineering school, add showers/restrooms, add a meadow interpretive trail	Retain all, but relocate employee housing from behind the store	Consolidate ranger station, wilderness center and mountaineering school

These are my preferences!

[1] Allowing kayaking and similar boating at selected locations (TBD) is mentioned only in Alternate 2 text

NW 10/17/08

L123

[redacted]
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
[redacted]

15 September, 2008

To: Yosemite National Park
Re: Tuolumne River Plan

My wife and I have hiked most of the trails in and around Yosemite and have taken the tour of the High Sierra Camps a few years ago. Our camping activities started with the Sierra Club facilities, now part of the NPS. Our thoughts on the Tuolumne River Plan are as follows, in no particular order:

1. Keep Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. This facility affords the experience of the high Sierra to people who do not have the means to camp (foreigners, for example) or hike and is the only place where strangers to the area might enjoy and become better acquainted with the high mountainous region.
2. Keep the Lodge dining hall—the only good place to eat here.
3. Retain the store and gas station. I know it's a zoo, sometimes, but consider the poor souls who run out of food while either hiking or camping.
4. Keep Glen Aulin facilities. We are concerned, however, about sewage and effluent from this area.
5. Ban kayaking. That would really be a distraction from the serenity of the high Sierra.
6. I'm concerned about all of the proposed "restoration". I remember seeing the wood chips spread around Tuolumne Meadows that had not decayed in 100 years or so. Will restoration really return sewage ponds and housing facilities back to their original naturalness?
7. Does not the helicopter rescue facility at Crane Flat adequately serve the high Sierra? If so, then get rid of the heliport at Tuolumne.
8. Expand camping facilities to accommodate more people.
9. I believe the usage of the high Sierra is down from years past and restricting back country activities will only continue this downward trend.

Therefore, it appears to me that we would like things to pretty much remain as they are. Anyway, that's what we think. [redacted]

NW L124 10/17/08

Your Comments Are Important!

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Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. **To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.**

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like it that it would aim to reduce the number of visitors and restore the natural conditions of many areas but I worry that the wilderness zoning might be impractical for such a high use area.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like that A loop campsites would be relocated but Kayaking seems very inconsistent with a healthy riparian ecosystem.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I don't like that most of the unsightly and disturbance-causing facilities would be retained.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like that there would be a strong emphasis on restoration and research to manage and monitor impacts.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

Comment Form

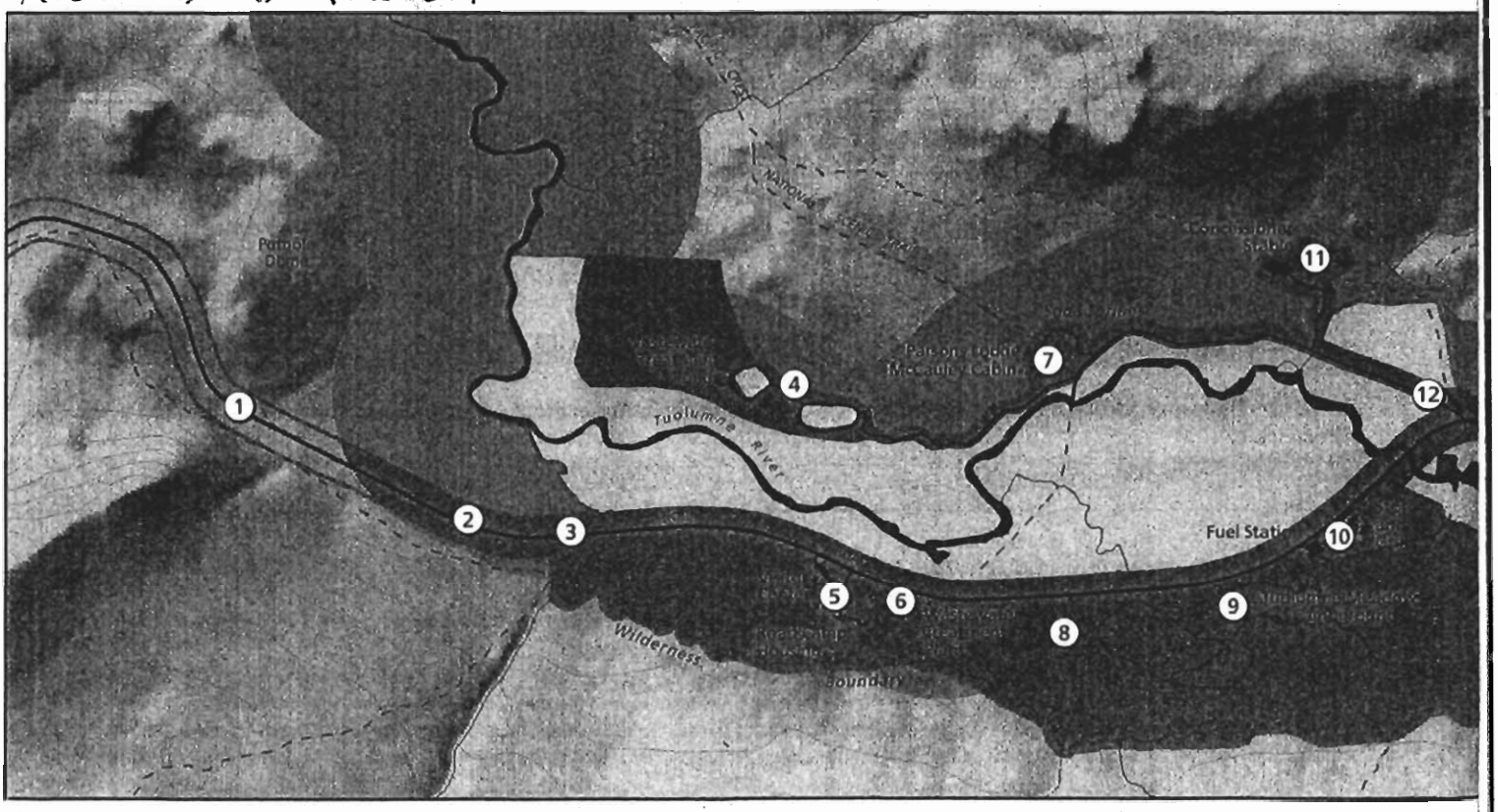
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

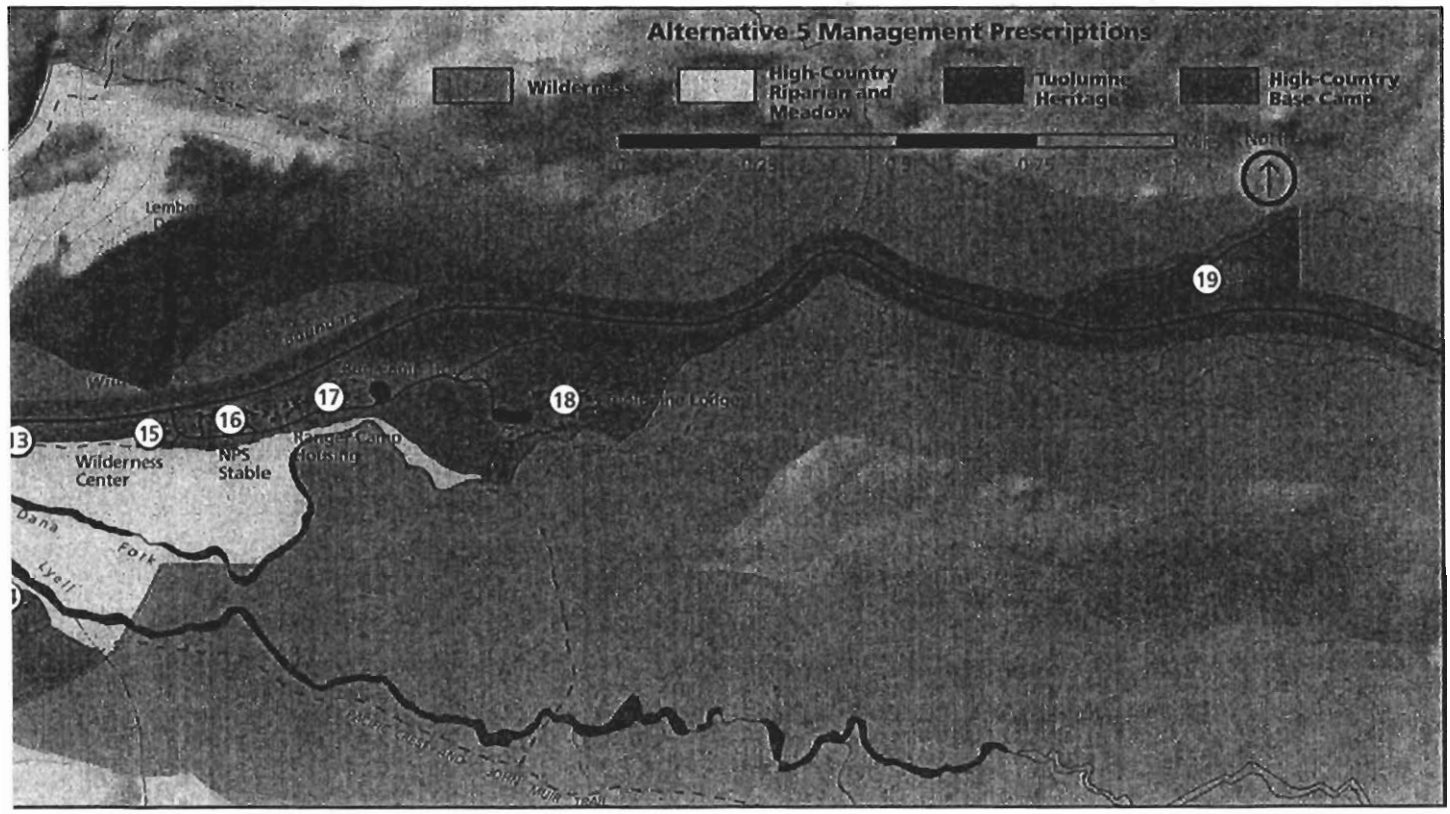
To restore meadow and riparian ecosystems to healthy functioning while allowing for a diversity of visitors to enjoy the area. I think it is important to consider meadow fragmentation due to informal trail networks and it would be wise to delineate and manage more trails to provide clear paths for visitors that lead away from sensitive areas and reduce the amount of scattered trails. I think that intensive management and monitoring is critical but should be done in such a way that retains the wild and natural qualities of the meadows as much as is practical.



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

I will list the site plan options that I agree with from the different alternatives, Alternative 1: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Alternative 2: 8, 14 Alternative 4: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
Aside from these selections I like the idea of adding a meadow interpretive trail at site 10 and eliminating commercial stock rides considering the extreme disturbance of meadow areas near the DNC stables from stock use.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: _____



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L125 10/17/08

Your Comments Are Important!

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Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. **To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.**

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

I think it would be a bad idea to remove Glen Aulen - it would ruin the high camp circuit.

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

This concept is not in keeping with preserving the historical high camps. The high camp circuit, including Tuolumne Lodge (and Glen Aulen) is too precious to destroy. This is in the park, not in a wilderness area (nor should it be in a wilderness area)

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

This alternative seems reasonable provided both Tuolumne Lodge and Glen Aulen Tent camps continue to provide overnight accommodations in their current locations on the high camp circuit.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

I prefer the level of visitor services in this plan. Glen Aulen is not mentioned, but I assume it would continue to provide overnight accommodations in its present location.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

I like the Cathedral Lakes trail connection + parking area idea. I don't like the idea of moving the dining hall at Tuolumne Lodge

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Alternative 5 needs to show the "What might it look like" picture, too. Without that it is vague + difficult to evaluate. It is unclear what would happen to Glen Aulen + Tuolumne Lodge tent camps. I cannot support any plan that would significantly change either of those tent camps. They are integral to the unique experience of the high camps in Yosemite. No other park in the U.S. has such a wonderful way to see the stunning natural beauty of the park

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

Comment Form

NW L126 10/17/08

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Dislike: closure of the High Sierra Camps! There are hundreds of square miles of wilderness in Yosemite. Do not do this!!

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Like: Gives the American Public (who the National Parks were created to serve and who's $$$ pay for those parks) the opportunity to experience and enjoy the Tuolumne River area.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Dislike: This is ridiculous! Enough with the Indian Heritage and taxpayer $$ going to that expense.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Dislike: This gives free reign to theorists who may not have a clue what they are doing and will cost the US taxpayers millions

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

History shows, if you can't see it or touch it or experience it, you won't care about it. The American Public pays for this, not the Sierra Club or the US Dept of Natural Resources or the Forestry Service - No one has addressed that!

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

(cont.) →

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Comment Form

What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

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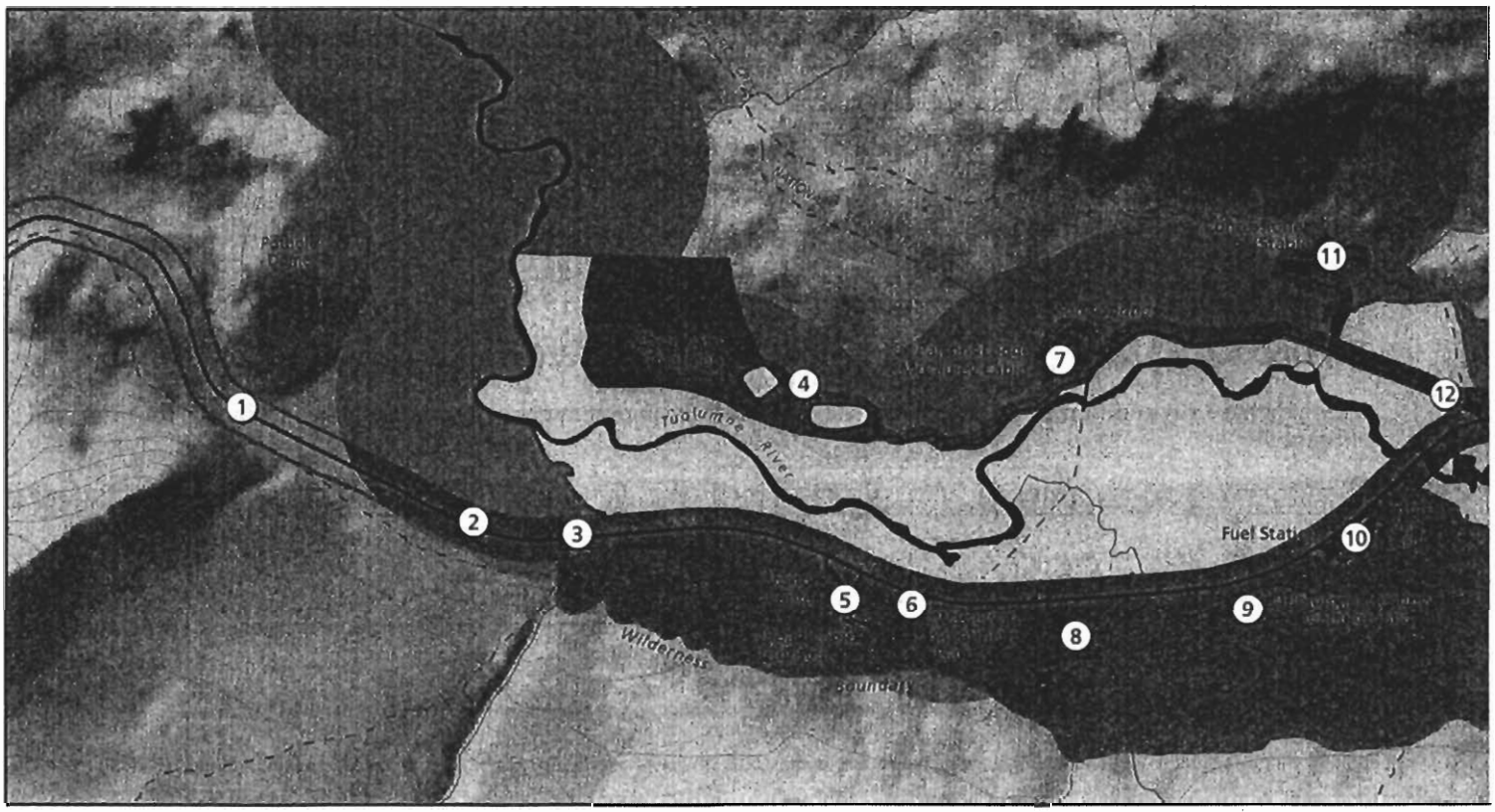
~~The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:~~

#2 - in this alternative, the plan allows the greatest number of "different need" individuals access. Handicapped and able-bodied visitors are served. However, horses in the Yosemite National Park has never worked well. Most of the damage to trails are done by horses, not mules. Horses should be banned, period. The idea that kayaking would be allowed is far fetched in the Tuolumne Meadows area but reasonable in Hetch Hetchy reservoir. How amazing that by taking out real parking areas at Trail Heads, more →

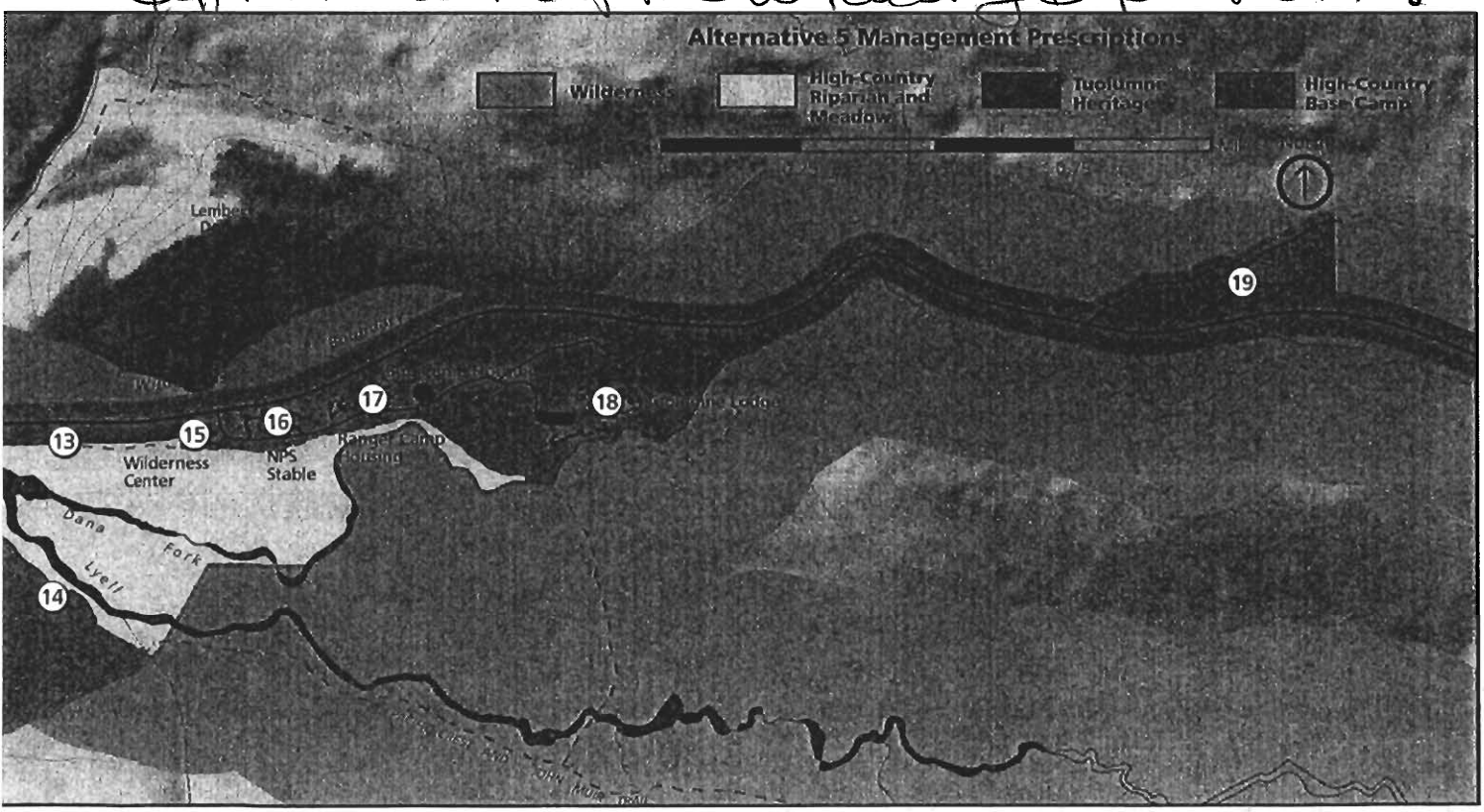


This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

damage is done to the wilderness in the form of off shoulder parking today than 20 yrs ago with proper parking lots. Who's the idiot who ripped up the parking lots and "Revegitated" them!?! The same goes with taking out large campsites over the same period. People have increased in numbers throughout the High Country but now they camp illegally and destroy more area because the larger, designated camp areas are gone!

Dick was right: Fiore, told us years ago that once given the chance, The "powers that be" would do everything in their power to take out/remove the High Sierra camps. It is happening in his lifetime. Without the support of those who stay in the High Sierra Camps there would not be Yosemite Foundation or the $$$ in the coffers of the US Forestry Dept. Lean!

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code:



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L127 11/5/08

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

_____

_____

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

_____

_____

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

_____

_____

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

_____

_____

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

_____

_____

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

Comment Form

What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

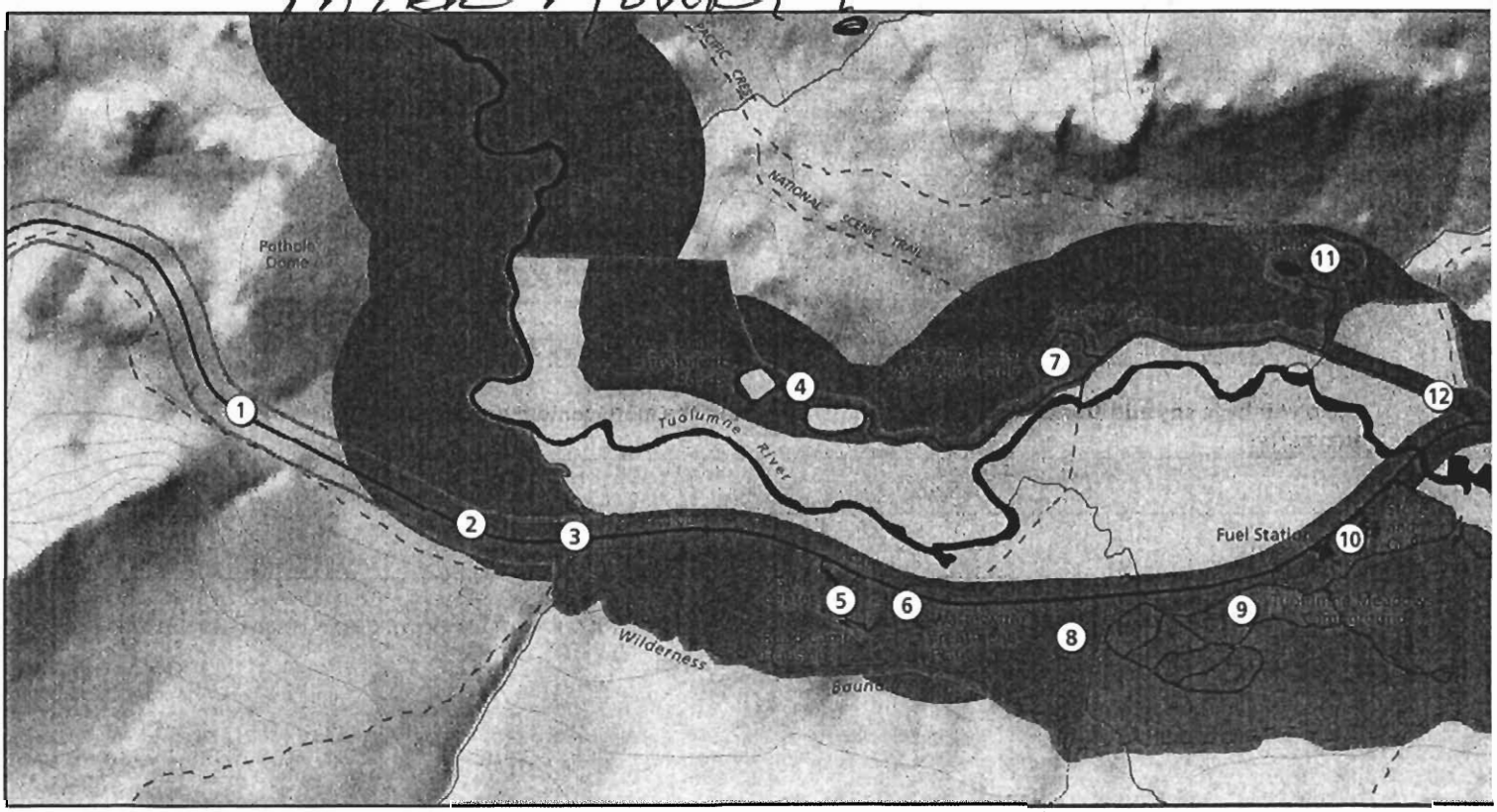
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

EVERYTHING SHOULD BE LEFT THE SAME EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING: PROVIDE ONE CENTRAL PARKING AREA FOR VALLEY VISITORS & NON CAMPERS WHERE THE SHUTTEL CAN TRANSPORT VISITORS TO WHERE THEY WISH TO VISIT. PROVIDE GOOD SHUTTEL STOPS. PROVIDE LIMITED DISCRETE PARKING AT VARIOUS SITES. ALL OTHERS "NO PARKING", "PARK AT VISITOR CENTER & TAKE SHUTTEL" → SAME SIGN ALONG ROAD! SPEND THE LEAST AMT. OF TAX PAYER MONEY!

(COULD BE VISITOR CTR)

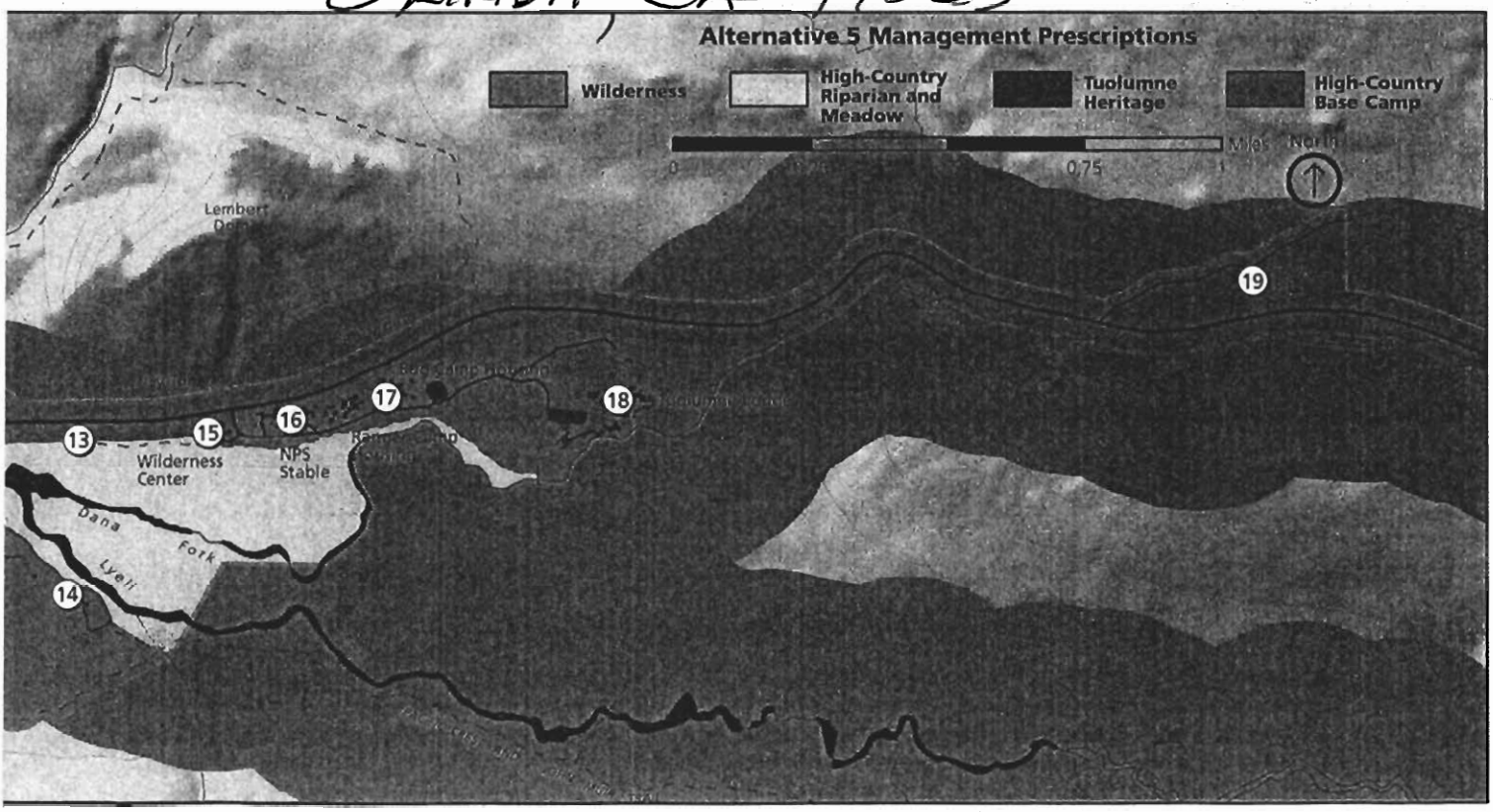


This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

Also Provide diapers for horses and pack ~~tr~~ animals so that their poop can be disposed of properly.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted]

OAKHURST CA 94563



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L128 11/3/08

Your Comments Are Important!

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Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. **To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.**

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Problem of employee housing at Lee Vining. Lightning caused rockslide east of park on 120 a few years ago, meant we had to go over Sonora Pass to get to our motel in Lee Vining.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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Comment Form

What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

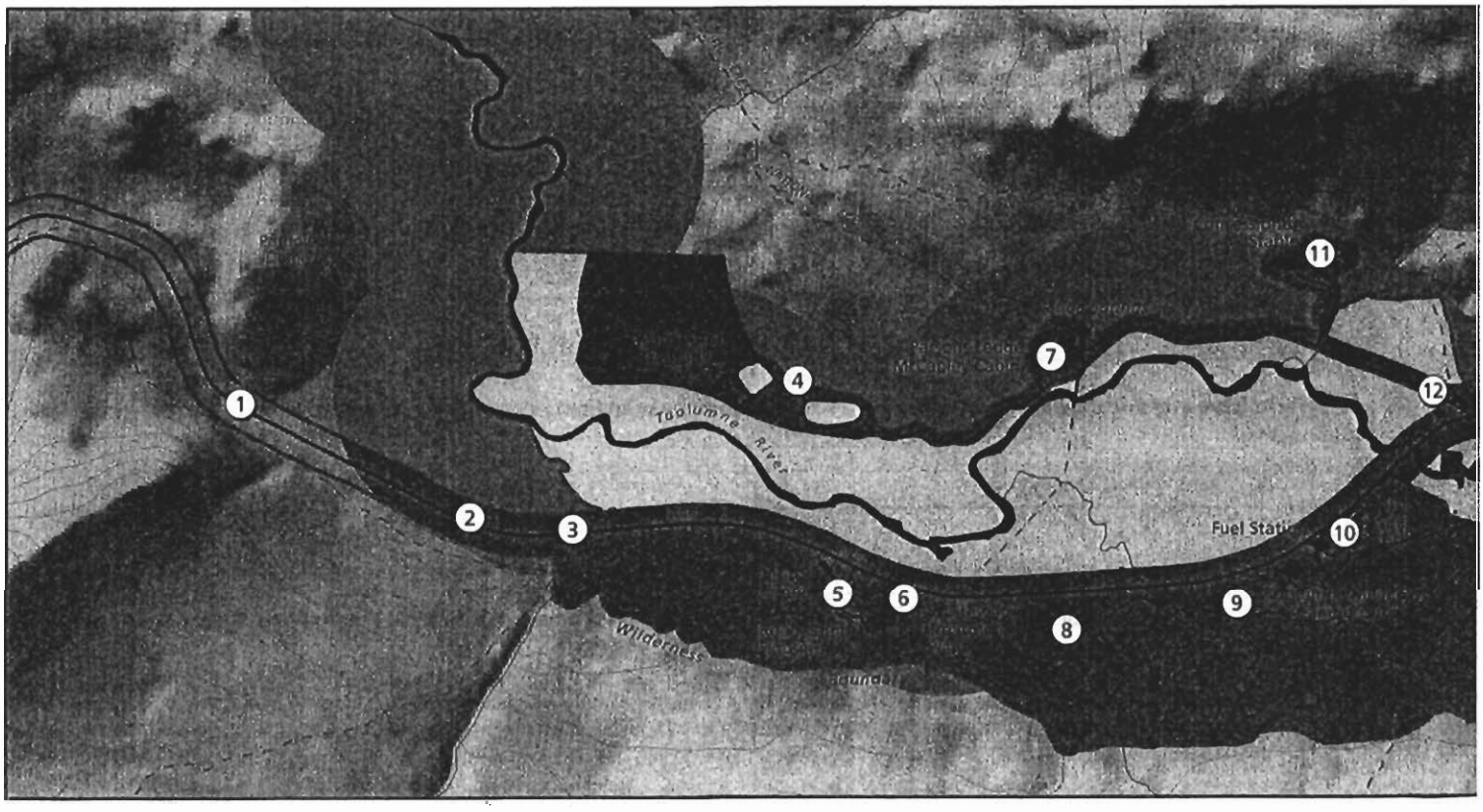
Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

overall thought from our use
We stay in Lee Vining and do trail walks
around Tuolumne Meadows.

Could hiking trails be made horse-free
by these possibilities

1 - Eliminate High Sierra Camps
or leave open 2. - Develop other means of supplying



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

the High Sierra Camp -
maybe a separate horse trail

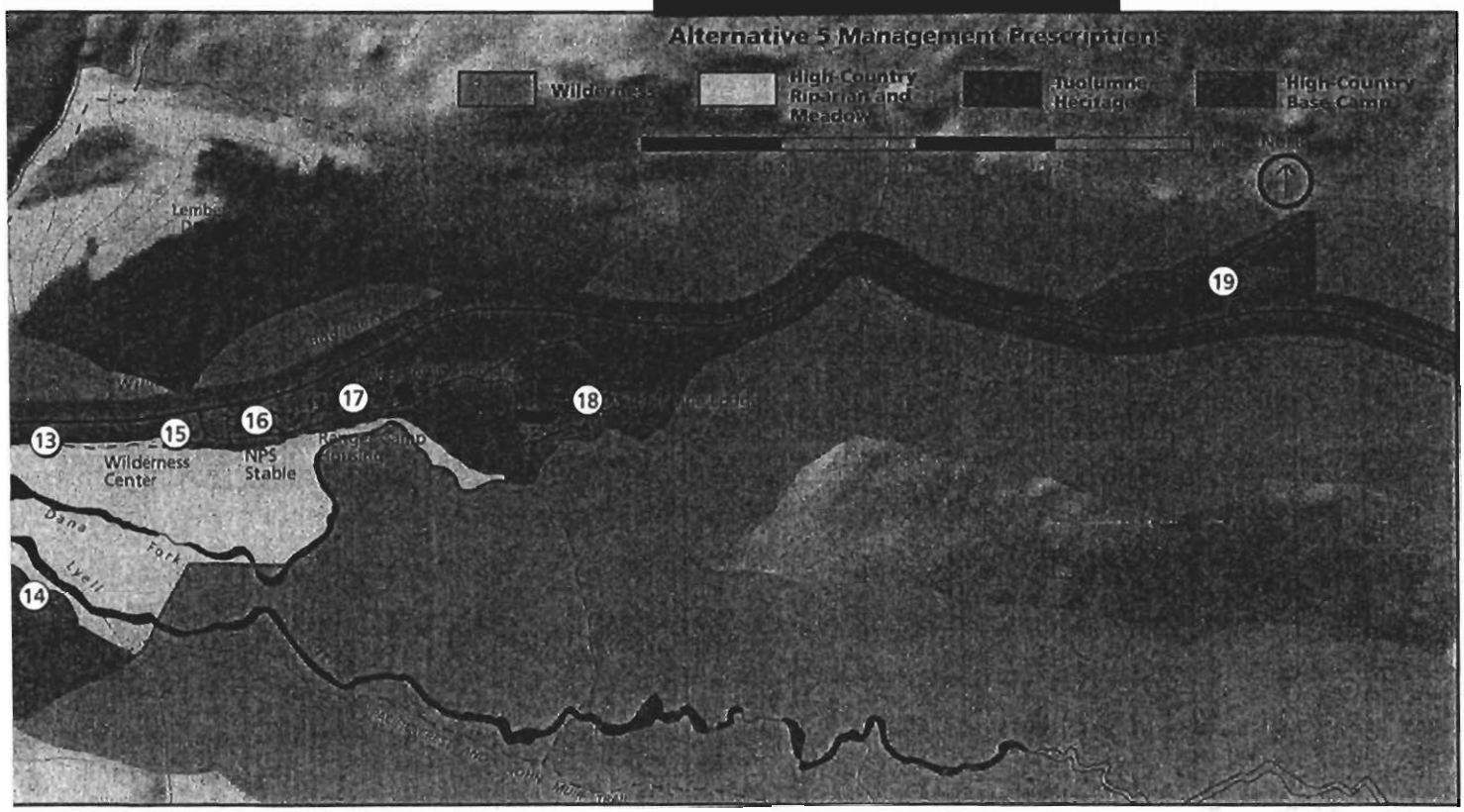
3. Eliminate mule / horse High Sierra trips

4 Eliminate trail rides from Tuolumne Meadows area.

[redacted]

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: SUNNYVALE, CA 94087

[redacted]



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L130 11/3/08

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

DIS LIKE; (CREATING MORE PARKING AREAS AND DAY USE AREAS) LIKE A LEAVE A LOOP AS IS. LEAVE STORE.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

~~DIS LIKE~~ LIKE; LEAVE LODGE AND SHOWS AS IS. NO MORE FORMAL PARKING AREAS. LEAVE RANGER STATION AS IS.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

LIKE; LEAVING CAMPGROUND LOOPS AS IS. MODIFY REST ROOM TO RESTIC LOOK. NO MORE PUBLIC PARKING ON DAY USE PICNIC AREA.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

DISLIKE; ~~DO NOT~~ MOVING FACILITIES. ADDING ~~BIKE~~ AREAS. PROVIDING BIKE TRAIL.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

LEAVE PARK BASICLY AS IS. NO MORE PUBLIC PARKING, DAY USE PICNIC AREAS, BIKE TRAILS, OR WATER RAFTING.

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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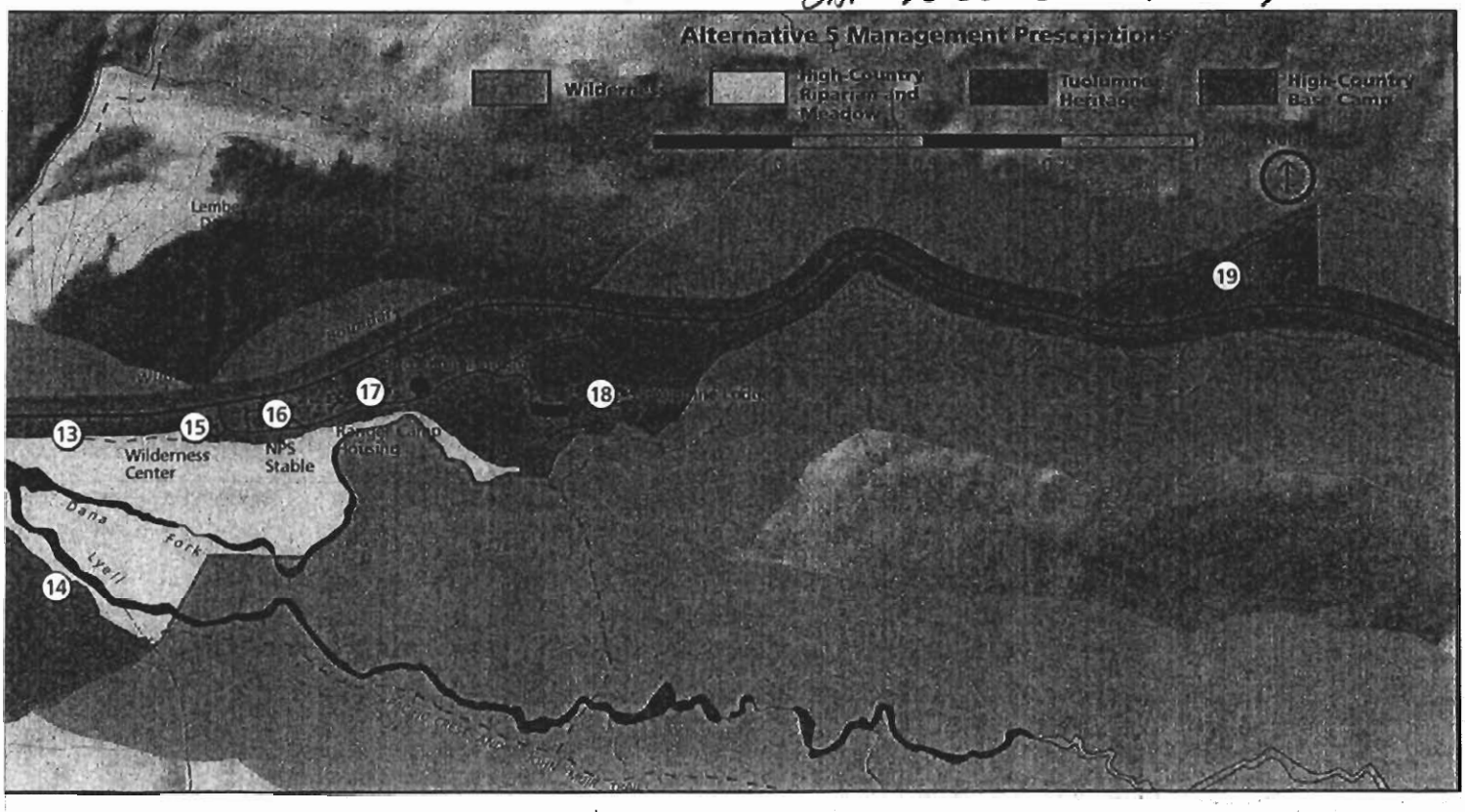
Comment Form

This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted]

San Diego CA 92129



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L131 11/3/08

Your Comments Are Important!

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Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. **To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.**

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

remove all Tioga Road shoulder parking – remove fuel station – eliminate commercial trail rides.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

do not remove Tuolumne Lodge housing – relocate A loop campsites away from riparian areas.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Provide Cathedral Lakes off-road parking.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

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Comment Form

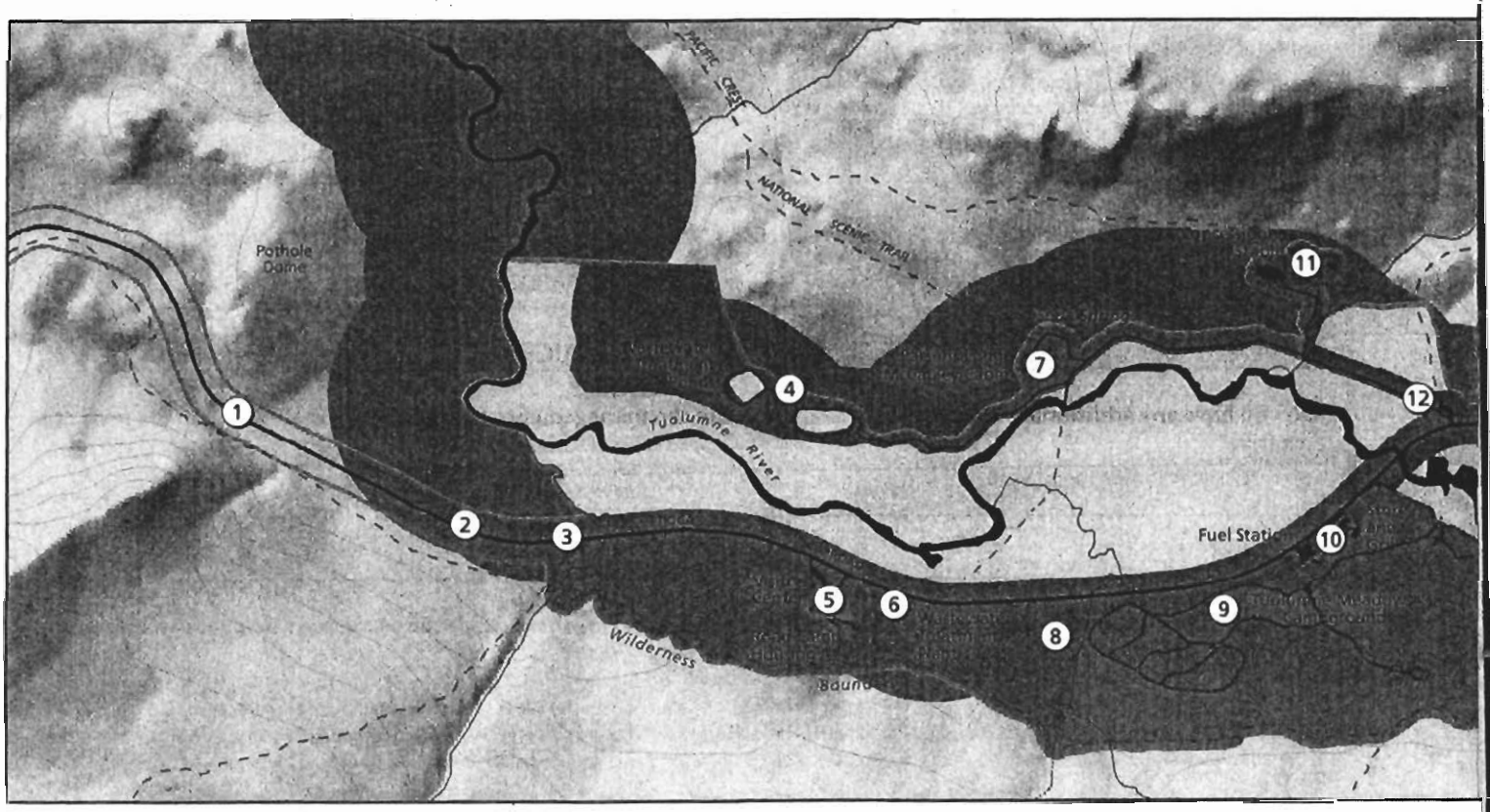
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

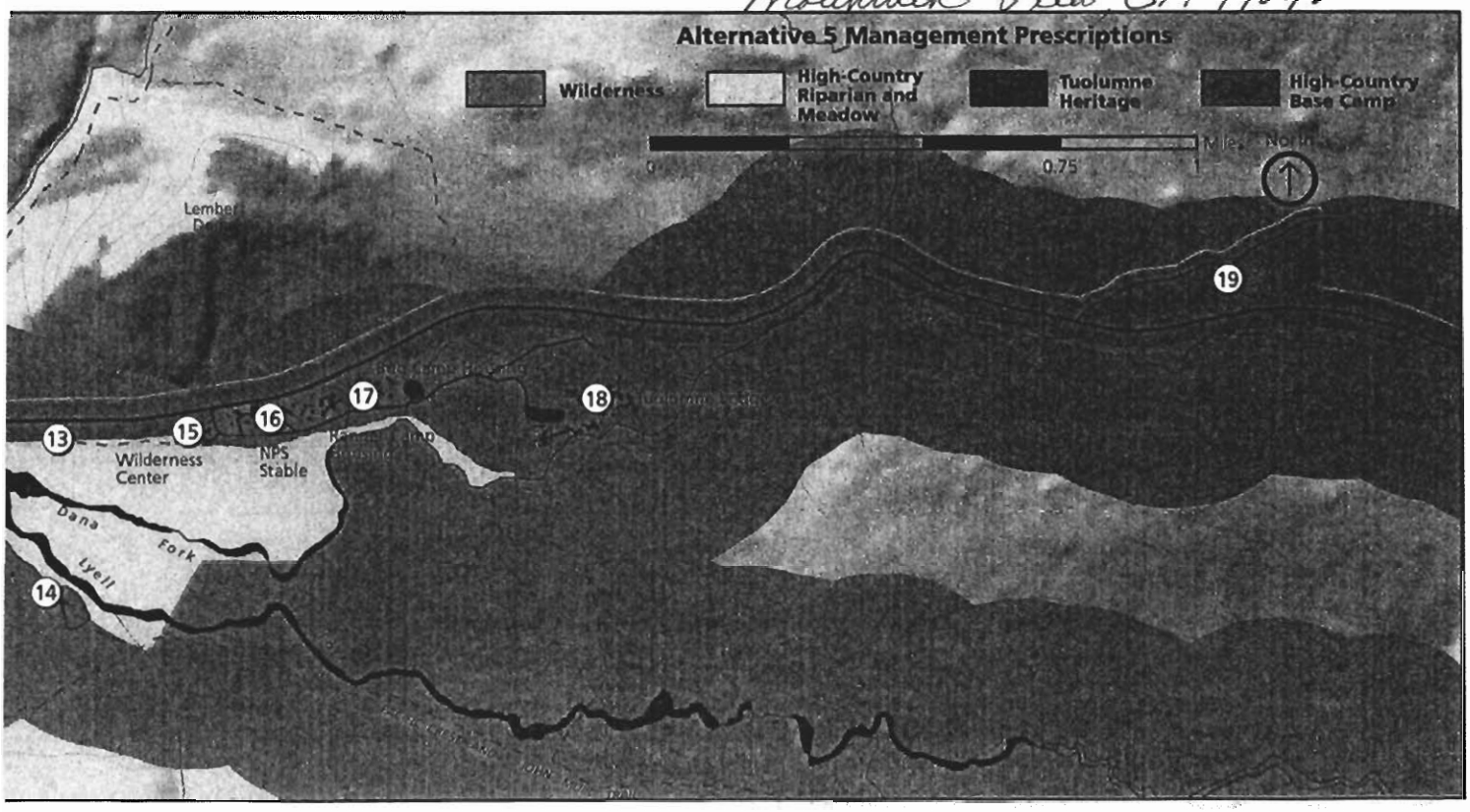
Retain Tuolumne Lodge moving dining hall and housing away from river - I think of this area as historical and appreciate the updating of sinks, showers, toilets and tent cabin stoves. ~~Cuesta~~



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip cod[redacted]

Mountain View CA 94040



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L132 11/3/08

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

NO MATTER WHICH PLAN IS ADOPTED, IT SHOULD PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF TUOLUMNE MEADOWS LODGE AND THE TENT CABINS.

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

Comment Form

What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

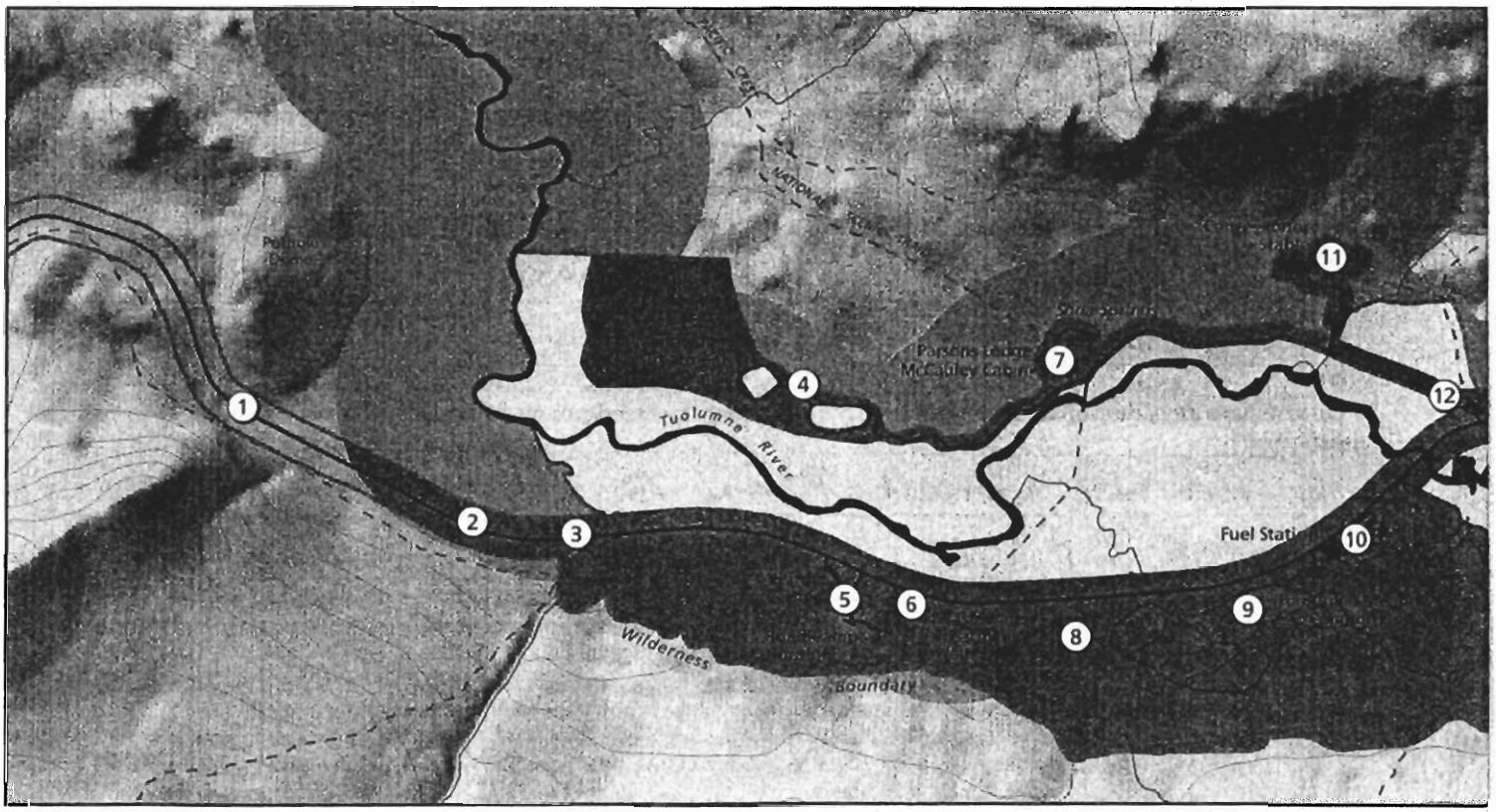
Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

RETAIN TUOLUMNE MEADOWS LODGE, EVEN IF IT HAS TO BE MOVED AWAY FROM THE RIVER.

RETAIN TENT CABINS.

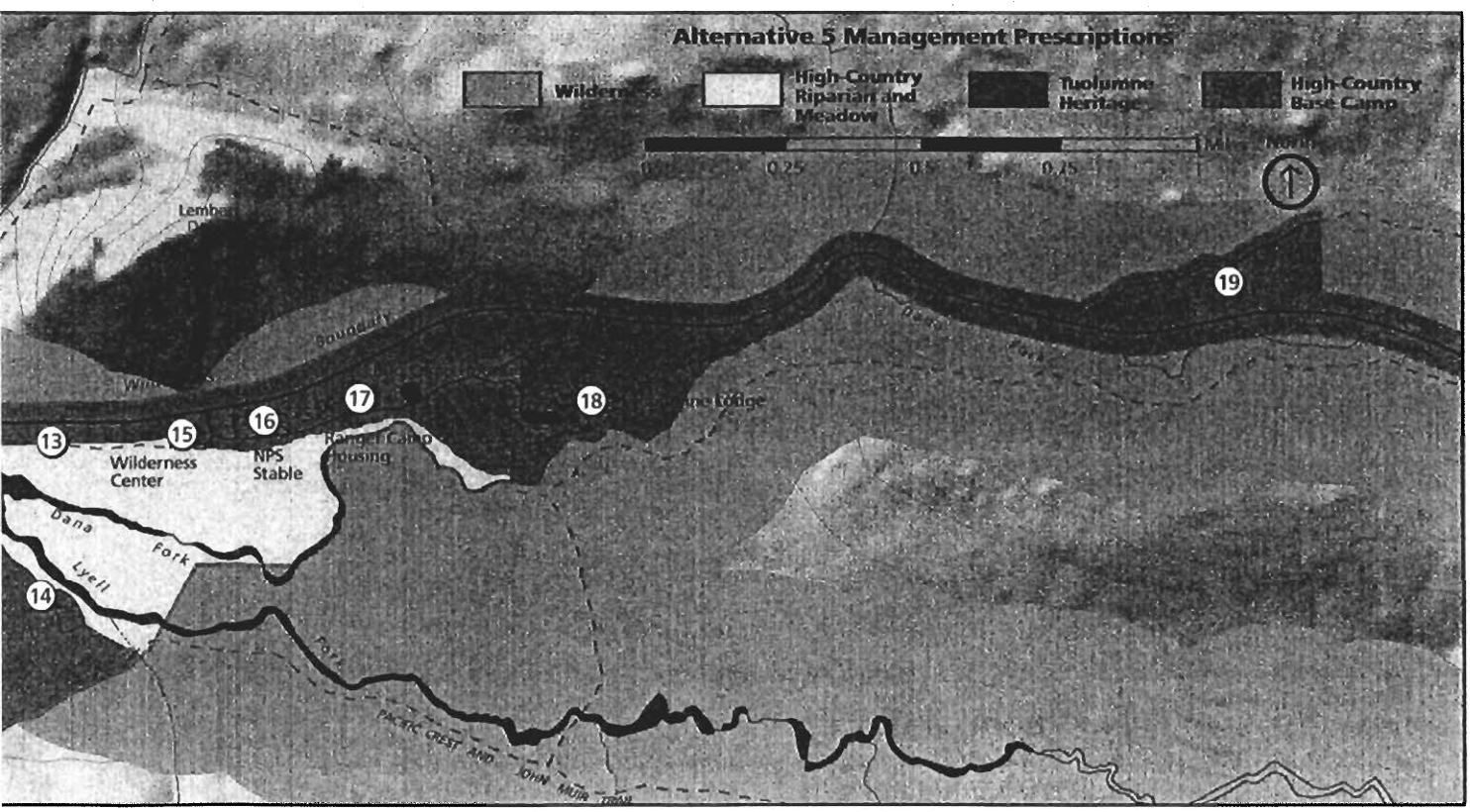
THIS IS ONE OF OUR VERY FAVORITE PLACES IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code [redacted]

ENCINO, CA 91316



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW LISS 11/3/08

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Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team: Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (*thank you!*) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/379-1294. **To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.**

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

LIKE: (5) Add parking (9) Improve Campsite

DISLIKE: (11) Retain stable (14) Remove loop A (3) Remove parking

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

LIKE: (1) (5) parking

DISLIKE: (2), (3) Remove parking (6) Retain stables (14) Loop A relocation

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

LIKE: (5) Picnic area, parking

DISLIKE: (1), (2) (3) Remove parking (11) Retain stable

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

LIKE: (3) Improve parking

DISLIKE: (1), (2) Reduce parking (11) Retain stable

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Please inform us what the problems being addressed are?!

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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Comment Form

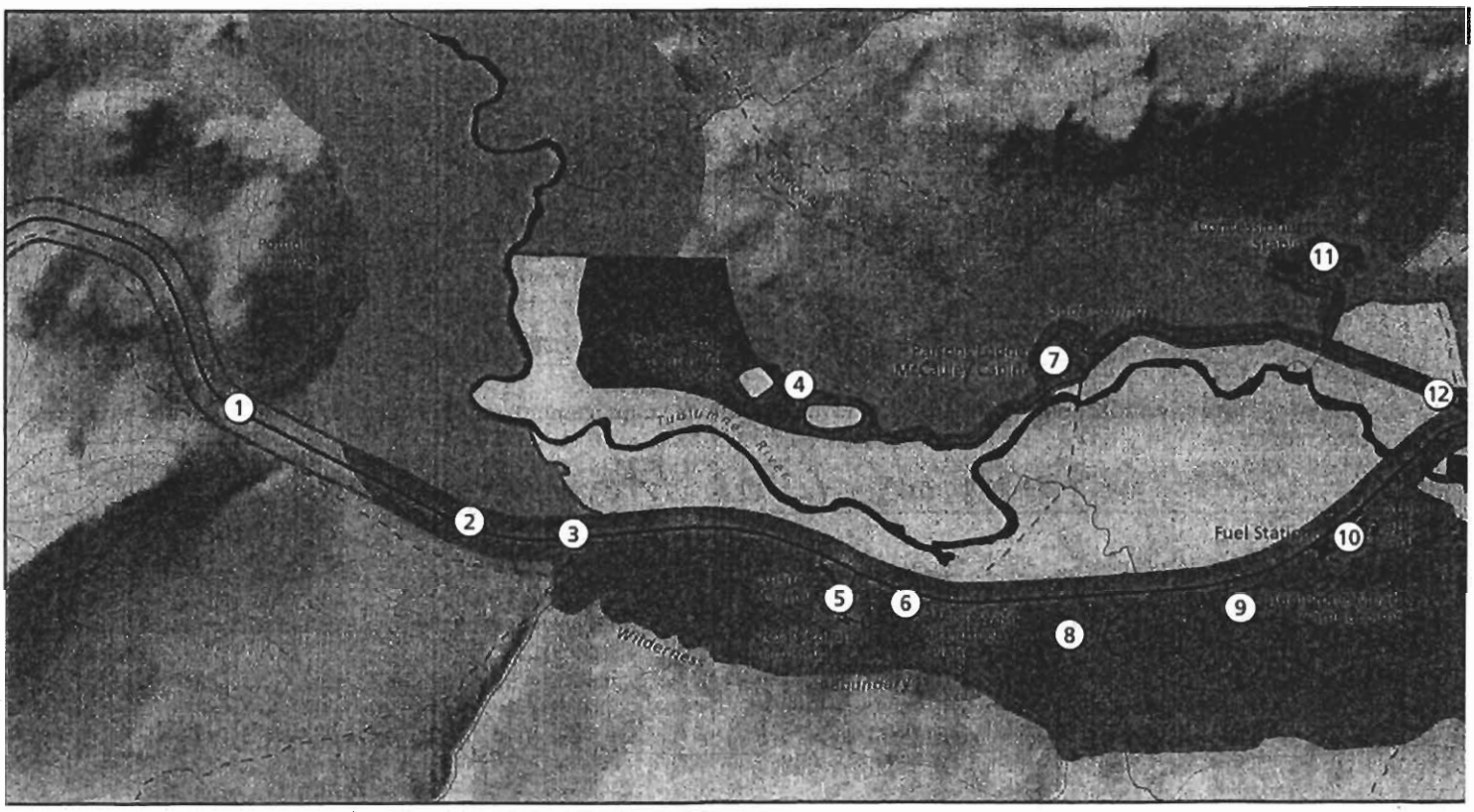
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations:

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

Preserve access – reduce dust + manure and noise.



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

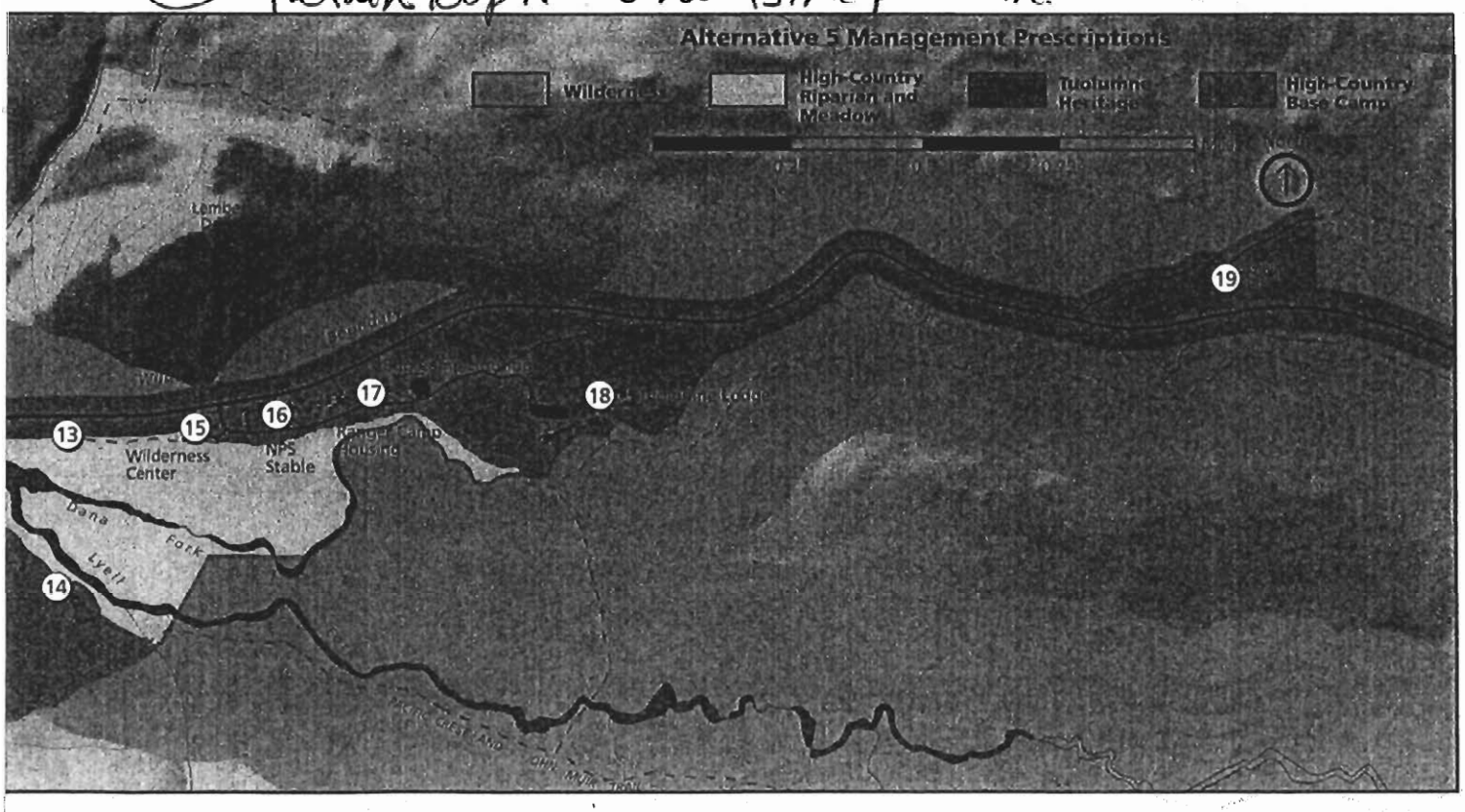
(1), (2), (3) Improve the parking. Add portable toilets as necessary.

(9) Move campground entrance to MIDDLE of campground away from river. Put day use parking where current entrance is.
Ban generators.

(11) Ban horses — The trail smells like horse manure all the way to Glen Aulen! OR require horse diapers!

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code:

(14) Retain loop A — what is the problem?



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L134 11/3/08

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Removal of existing services/Camp - limits type of people who can learn about the area

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Good compromise - consolidation/modification of services still will allow broad base of public support.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Restoring wagon road - increases interest/accessibility of history.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Too many picnic sites - don't want to encourage.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

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Comment Form

NW 435 11/3/08

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? If this plan is to return Tuolumne Meadows to a self-reliant outdoor adventure place visitor - Remove all the high Sierra camps and concessioner stables. The horses supplying the high Sierra camps are damaging the trails - use consistency.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Remove all horse trails rides - Remove all horses.
Do not remove or eliminate Tioga road shoulder parking

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like newer restrooms. Remove concessioner stable & horses.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Dislike moving everything around - cost lots of money - taxpayers money.
Dislike removing public fuel station.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Alternative 3 is somewhat tolerable although not satisfactory

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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Comment Form

NW L136 11/3/08

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Dislike most of Alt 1 – goal seems to be to eliminate all visitors who can't come fully equipped to camp. Would increase Tioga Rd traffic since many visitors could only come in 1 day or stay outside the park & drive to & from.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Like this alt best. Goal should be to increase options for users of greater diversity. Although I can camp locally. Living in the East it was more practical to stay at Tuolumne Lodge. Don't like #2. People will stop to see deer – in the road if no shoulder

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Social trails surely exist because people use them – don't encourage walking on highway No on #2; fine to move employee housing at T Lodge north & river.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Like #3; if do #4 need adequate parking. Current info not clear that one might park at Eling Lake Trail head; don't see the value in moving TL dining hall.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

Note: Because the grill closes at 5, there is no real alternative to dine locally other than at TL where the food quality does not match the prices. Hence, we drove to Tioga Lodge & whoa Nellie's – bad for gas use & air quality.

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Note: there seemed to be no handicapped bathroom for diners at TL.

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Comment Form

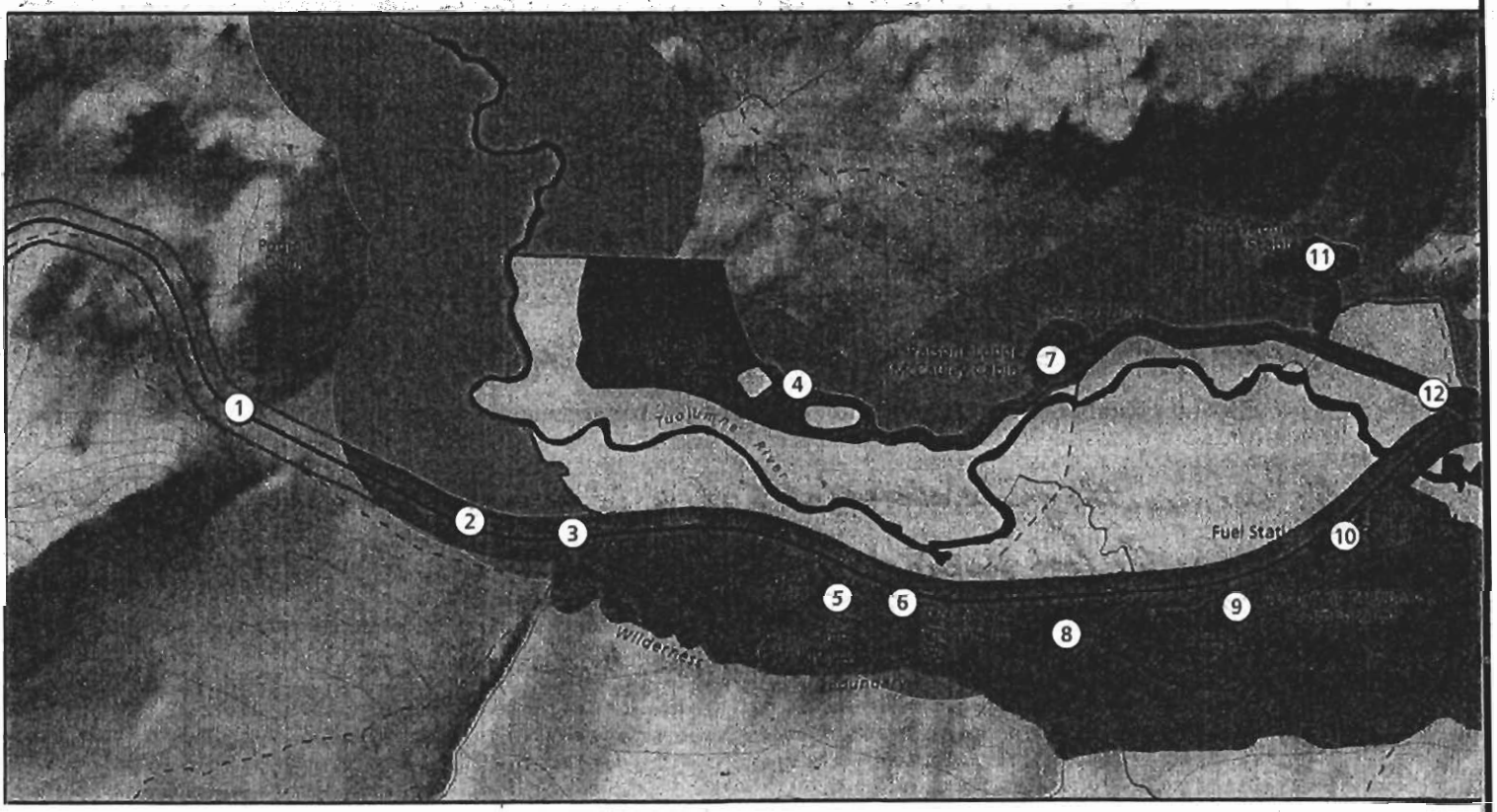
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

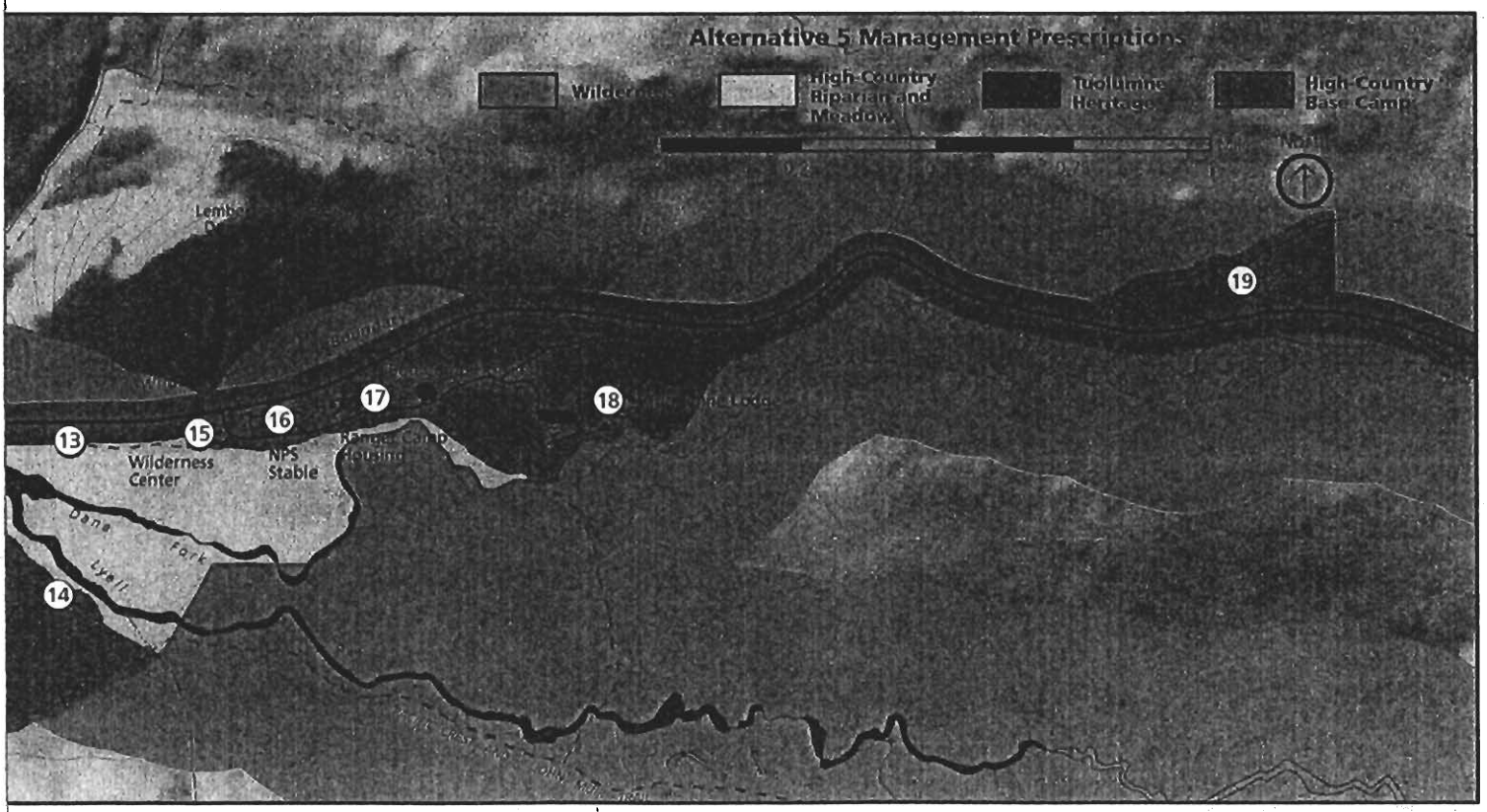
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

Design a plan that will offer enjoyment options to groups of all ages within the developed footprint.
Adding signage + interpretation would be positive.
If some uses can be consolidated and moved off highway frontage that would be good. Having parking space designated for Cathedral Lakes trailhead makes sense.
Creating opportunities to diverse groups to value the Tuolumne Experience and hopefully support greater protection of National Parks and designated Wilderness areas.



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted]



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L137 11/5 108

Your Comments Are Important!

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

don't like moving Tuolumne Lodge, store and grill fuel station and mountaineering school - not visitor friendly

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

like removing housing at Tuolumne Lodge but keeping the Lodge. like providing showers at campground.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

This is a good plan, preserve what we have but enhance the natural experience some.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Don't like removing dining hall from Tuolumne Lodge.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. Please refer to pages 30 and 31 of the workbook to see the preferred alternative zoning map and summaries of what that zoning would mean for management and use at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

Comment Form

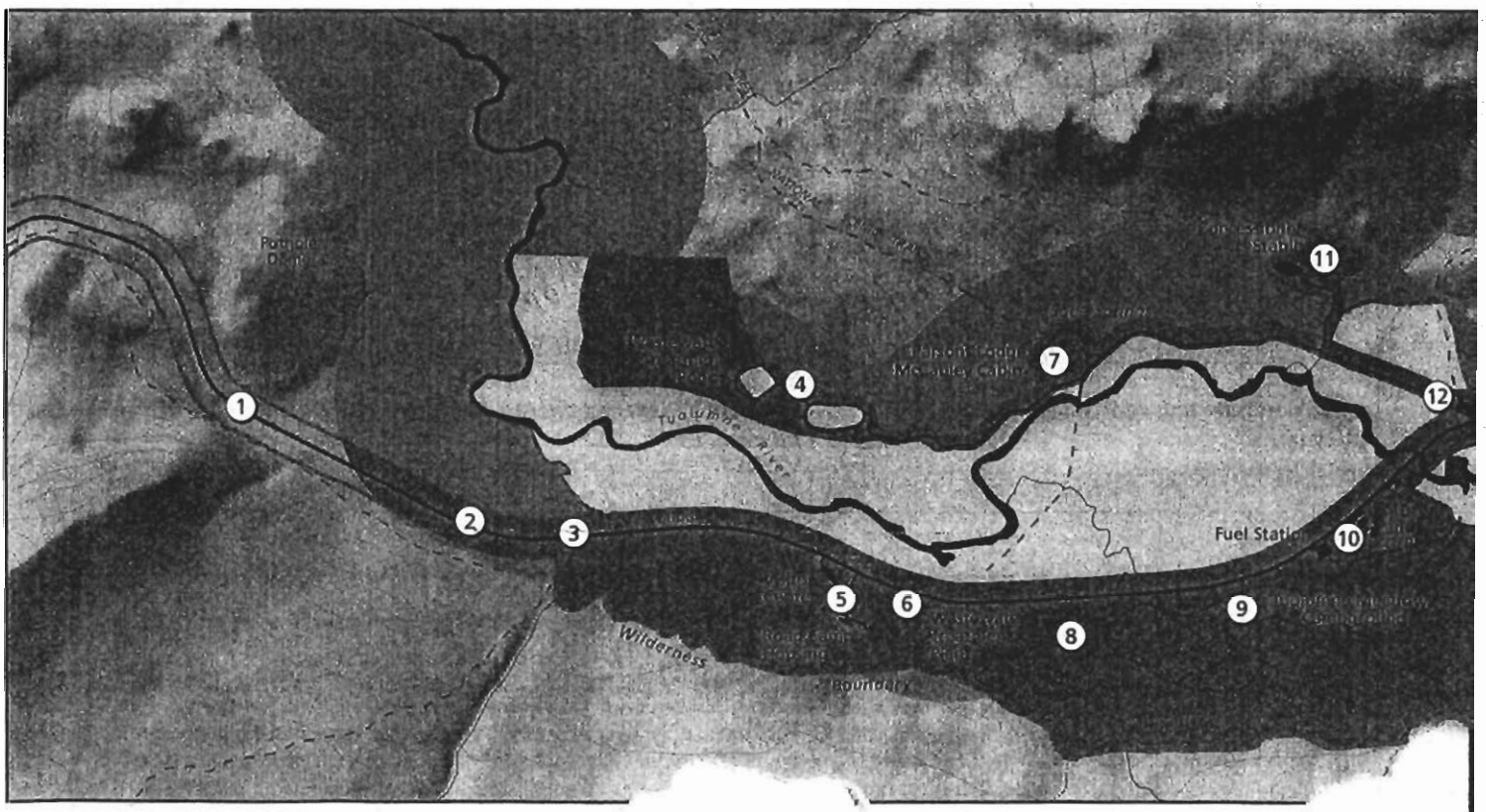
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

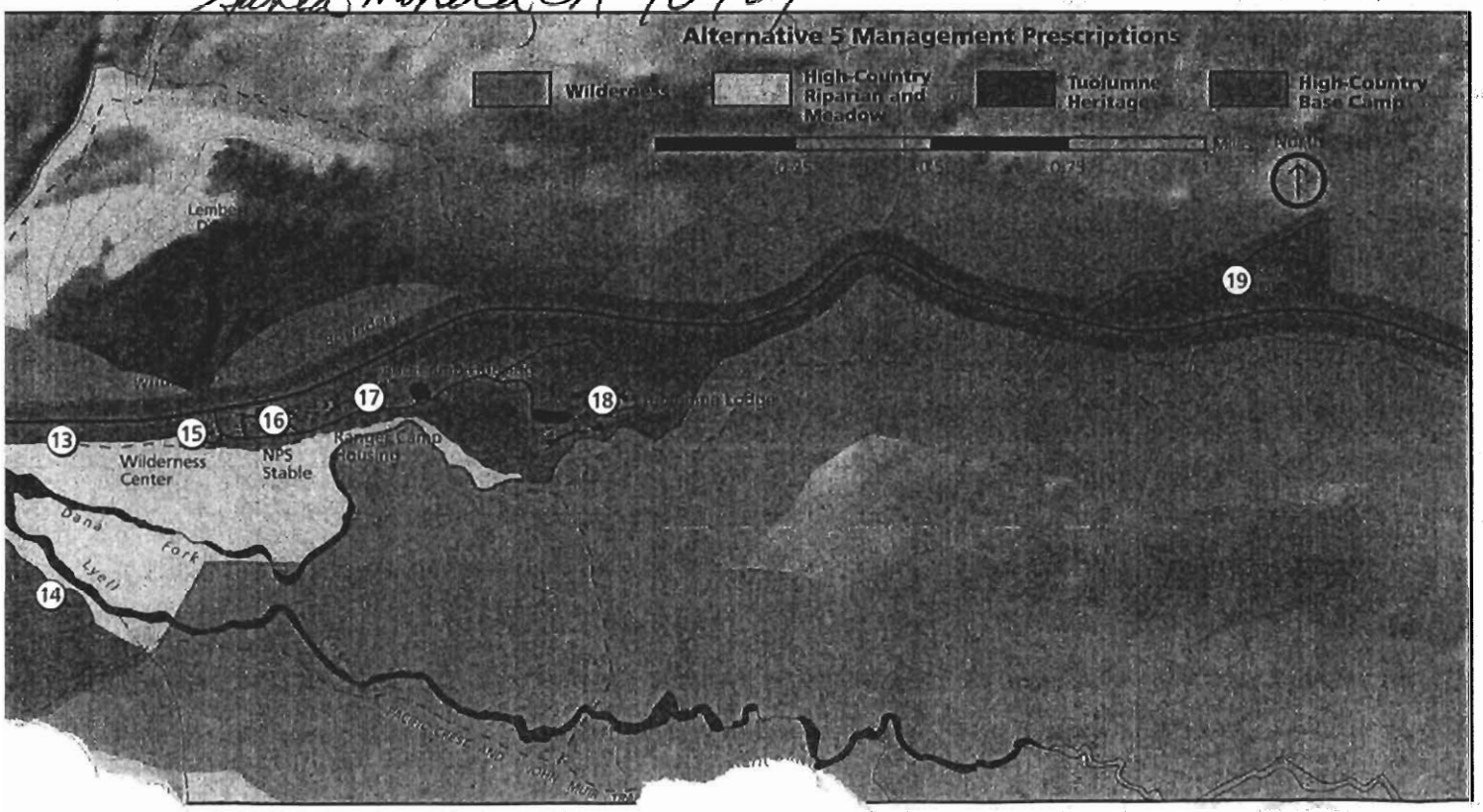
preserve the existing facilities but don't expand upon them. Cut down on the horse and mule presence and especially on the pedestrian hiking trails where horse pollution is a problem. Restore Hetchy Hetchy valley and remove the dam.



This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

(11) cut down on the mule and horse presence especially on pedestrian hiking trails
(9) (10) (18) (5) preserve existing facilities but don't expand upon them

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted]
Santa Monica, CA 90404



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L 138

Your Comments Are Important! 11/3/08

This workbook contains descriptions of four preliminary site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows: one for each of the four original management zoning alternatives. The range of the site plan concepts reflects the range of interests and concerns expressed by park managers and staff, associated Indian tribes, and the public during several years of internal and external scoping and review. Your feedback now on what you see as the advantages and disadvantages of each concept will be helpful in pulling together a site plan for the preferred alternative. We also encourage you to provide your own ideas about a site plan concept for the preferred alternative. A map and comment space for that exercise are inside this folded sheet.

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? DO LIKE (APPROVE #1 & #2 DO NOT APPROVE #17, 18
#1 - FORMAL PARKING WITH TRAIL CONN. TO POTHOLE DOME AND #2 TO REMOVE SHOULDER PARKG & SOC. TRAILS. RESTORE TO NATURAL CONDITIONS & SCENIC PULLOUTS. #4 & 6 TO RELOCATE WASTEWATER FACIL. NEAR EXIST TREATMENT PLANT. APPROVE #3 REMOVE INFORMAL PKG. & RESTORE TO NAT. COND. APPROVE #7 PARSONS LODGE PLAN. APPROVE #9 CAMPGROUND. DO NOT APPROVE OF #10. APPROV. #12, #13, #14, #15, 16, 19
APPROVE #2
APPROVE #4 & 6

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?
LIKE: #2 (REMOVE TIO. RD. SHOULDER PKG.) DO NOT LIKE #5, 10, 17, [redacted], 4,
LIKE: #18, #1, [redacted], 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?
LIKE: #1, 2, 3, [redacted], 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19
DO NOT LIKE #4, 17

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?
LIKE: #1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
DO NOT LIKE: #5, 9, 10, 12, 13,

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative?

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Comment Form

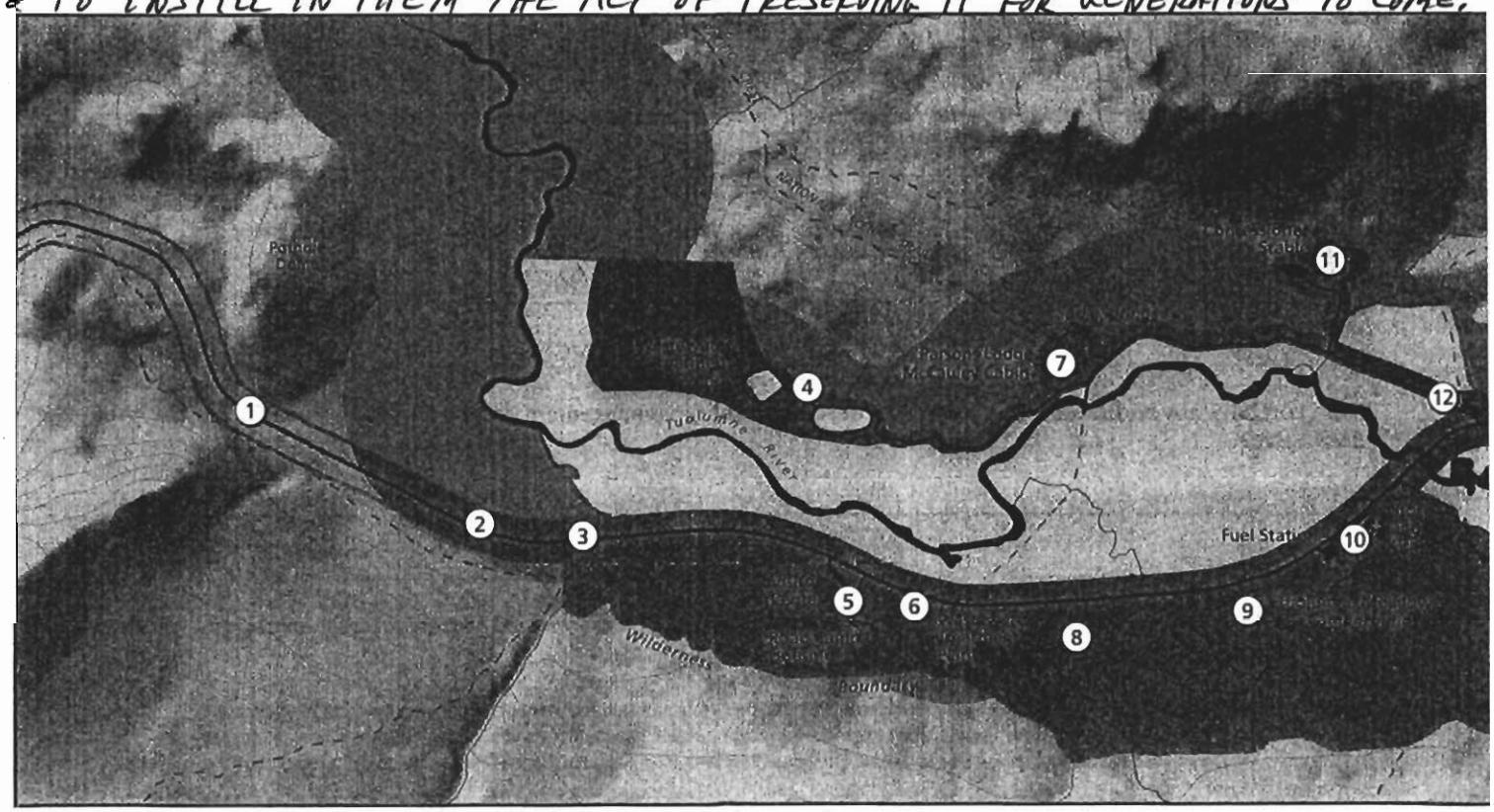
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

TO PRESERVE OUR CULTURAL HERITAGES AND TO PRESERVE FOR FUTURE VISITORS THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF YOSEMITE NAT'L PARK WHICH WE HAVE BEEN SO PRIVILEGED TO EXPERIENCE. TO KEEP THE TRAILS & BEAUTY AS MUCH AS WAS FIRST SEEN BY THE FIRST VISITORS TO THE AREA (SUCH AS JOHN MUIR) EVEN BEFORE IT BECAME A NAT'L PARK. WE SHOULD TRY TO KEEP AS MUCH OF THE GREEN (WILDERNESS) & CHARTREUSE (HIGH-COUNTRY, RIPARIAN, & MEADOW) AREAS AND THE TUOLUMNE HERITAGE AS POSSIBLE WHILE STILL RETAINING SOME MODERN CONVENIENCES FOR NEW VISITORS TO THE PARK & TO INSTILL IN THEM THE ACT OF PRESERVING IT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.



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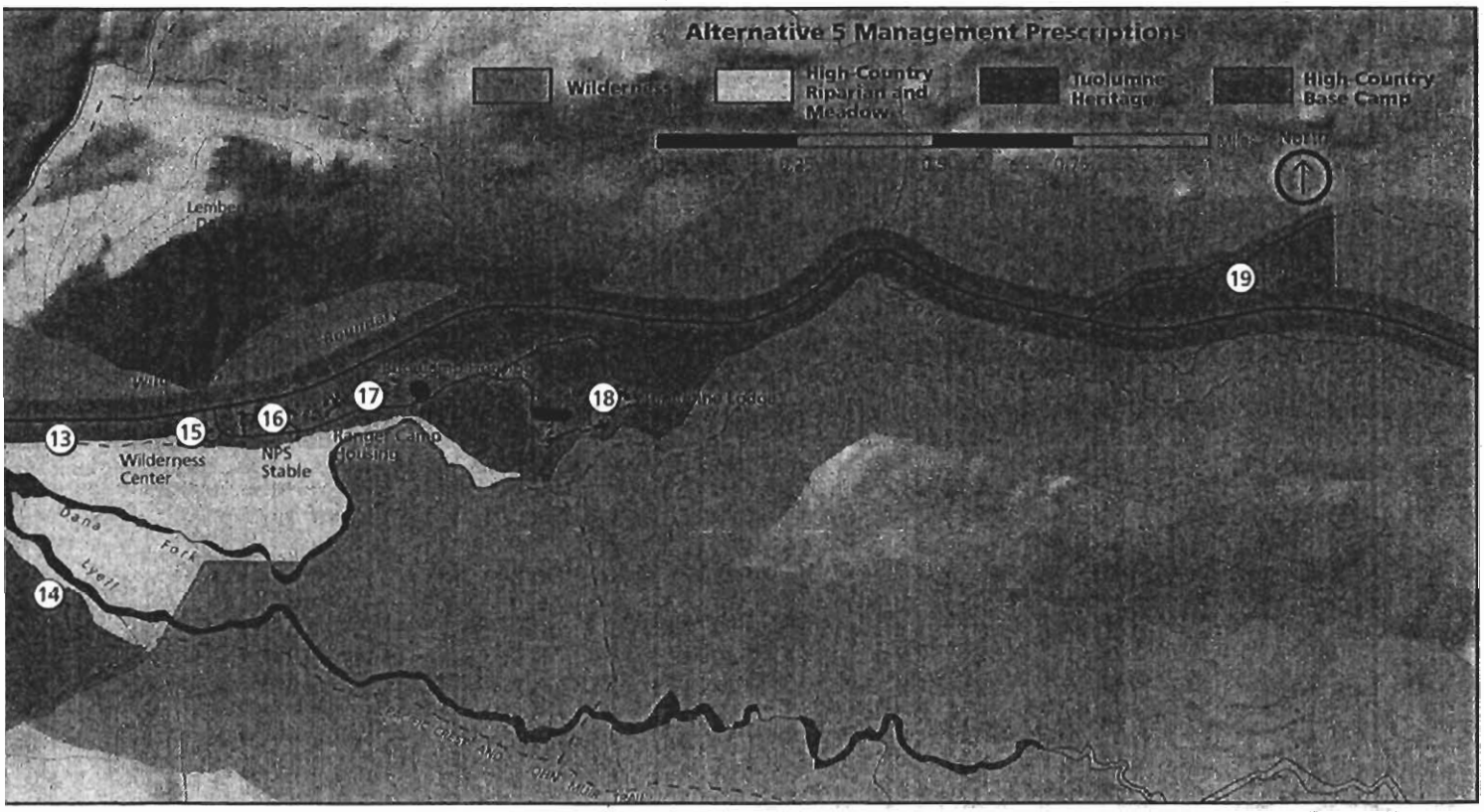
(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code [redacted] LINCOLN, CA 95648



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW ~~L118~~ ~~9/29/08~~
L139 11/17/08

Californians for Western Wilderness
<info@caluwild.org>
09/15/2008 06:26 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Comments re: Tuolumne River Workbook 2008

September 15, 2008

Yosemite Planning Team

Via email: yose_planning@nps.gov

Comments re: Tuolumne Planning Workbook 2008

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 750 members and supporters of Californians for Western Wilderness (CalUWild), an unincorporated citizens organization dedicated to encouraging and facilitating citizen participation in legislative and administrative actions affecting wilderness and other public lands in the West.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment on the Planning Workbook.

Alternative 5 looks quite good, combining some of the best features of the four original concepts. We would like to see the following incorporated into it, in order to improve it.

1) We have no objection to the store and lodge remaining. The gas station, however, should be removed. Most importantly, the tanks always have the potential to leak, and the pumps are mechanical features that do not fit into the landscape. Appropriate signage informing drivers of the lack of gas should be placed at both Crane Flat and at the base of Tioga Pass.

2) We do not see any need for the High Country Base Camp zone to extend west of Parsons Lodge; it should be "Wilderness." The access road to the lodge should remain dirt and be limited to service vehicles -- either Park Service or people setting up for events at the lodge.

3) The wastewater treatment ponds and access road should be removed as under Alternatives 1 & 4.

4) We support retaining Loop A in the campground. It should be made "Tents only." Any problems with the road being to close to the river should be fixed by rerouting it and/or campsites where necessary.

5) You should not at this time preclude the possibility of the eventual complete removal of Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp and its incorporation into designated wilderness. It is confusing as to

why you would have stated previously that a decision about its future would be made under a later general Wilderness Planning process, then include its removal as part of Alternative 1, and then say it would be retained under the Preferred Alternative.

CalUWild does not believe that Glen Aulin should be included in any listing of Outstanding Remarkable Values, because to do so would might preclude its removal later, i.e., Catch-22. We request that you simply state that Glen Aulin will be managed as it is now, until its future can be determined along with the rest of the High Sierra Camp System at the time of the next Wilderness Plan update. This should not preclude, however, any repairs or maintenance to the camp area that might be interfering with proper management of the surrounding area.

6) The Preferred Alternative says nothing about the concessionaire's stable. We strongly urge the elimination of commercial riding operations in the Tuolumne River planning area. This is due to concerns over trail maintenance, water pollution, and meadow degradation.

If commercial riding is not eliminated, we urge you to consolidate the concessionaire's stable and the NPS at the site of the present PS stable. The concessionaire's stable should then be restored to its natural condition. Do not build a picnic site and overlook there. There should be no new development in the planning area.

7) Do not make any new paved trails. If necessary, use elevated boardwalks for meadow protection.

Thank you for considering the above comments. Please keep us on your mailing list and informed of further opportunities to participate in planning for Tuolumne Meadows and the River.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Painter
Coordinator
Californians for Western Wilderness
P.O. box 210474
San Francisco, CA 94121-0474
415-752-3911
mike@caluwild.org
www.caluwild.org

NW ~~L132~~ ~~L135~~ L140 11/3/08

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1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Why remove Glen Aulen? beautiful Camp and enables hikers to overnight Before water wheel FALLS
Don't remove store & grill - BOTH Modest amenities

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

NO wild river Kayaking - USE under-used LAKE Tenaya for boating - Other wise Best plan

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? why enhance exterior of "Newer" restrooms - work on interiors!
Good - remove Employee housing from Near RIVER.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?

Why Mess w/ sewer Line Again & disrupt Meadow & road AGAIN?

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative? Few people, day use or Campers are along The River & Meadow and swimming "Holes!!" Campers stay in Camp sites by "Large - day use people drive through - only get out to eat at Grill - get gas & go on Claiming They have seen Tuolumne Meadows!
How Can you get people out looking at The "Beauty"?

3. Please don't overlook the opportunity to develop your own site plan concept for the preferred management zoning alternative inside this folded sheet.

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Comment Form

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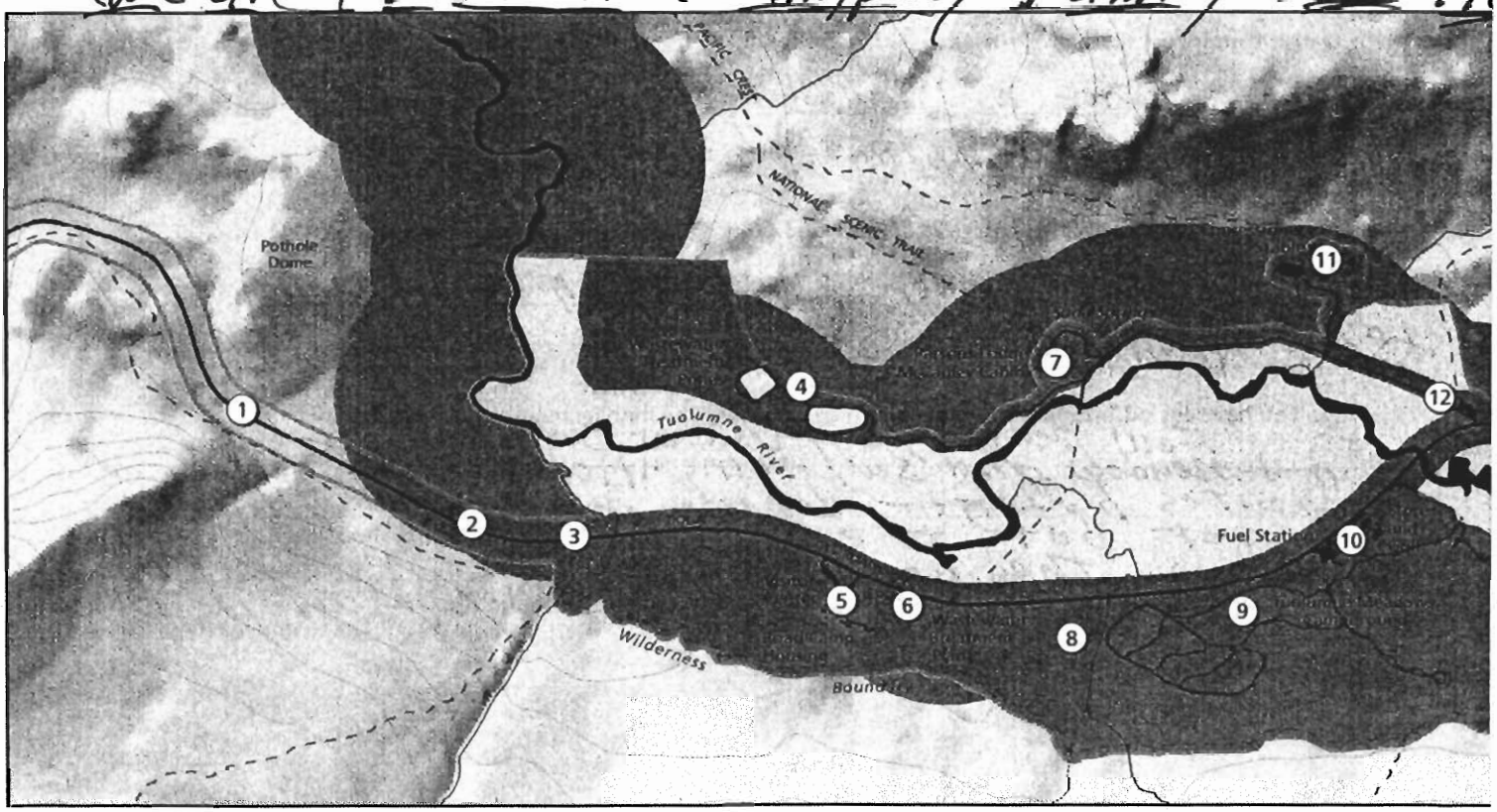
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

Good ; NO parking Along Road.
2 & 3 Combine stables 11 & 16 Move to area 4
10 to 19 Move Employee Housing to Gaylor Pit – Remove From store-Grill Area. – shuttle to Gaylor pit area

Please ; Improve Roads & Campsites in Loops –
8-9 not defined – Holes – Ruts – ~~Cas~~ Caused by water erosion
Work on Trails – dust ~~Pe~~ Pits Now – Elizabeth &
Cathedral Lake Trails – ;
We are a 3 Generation Camping Family ~~Since~~ since 19

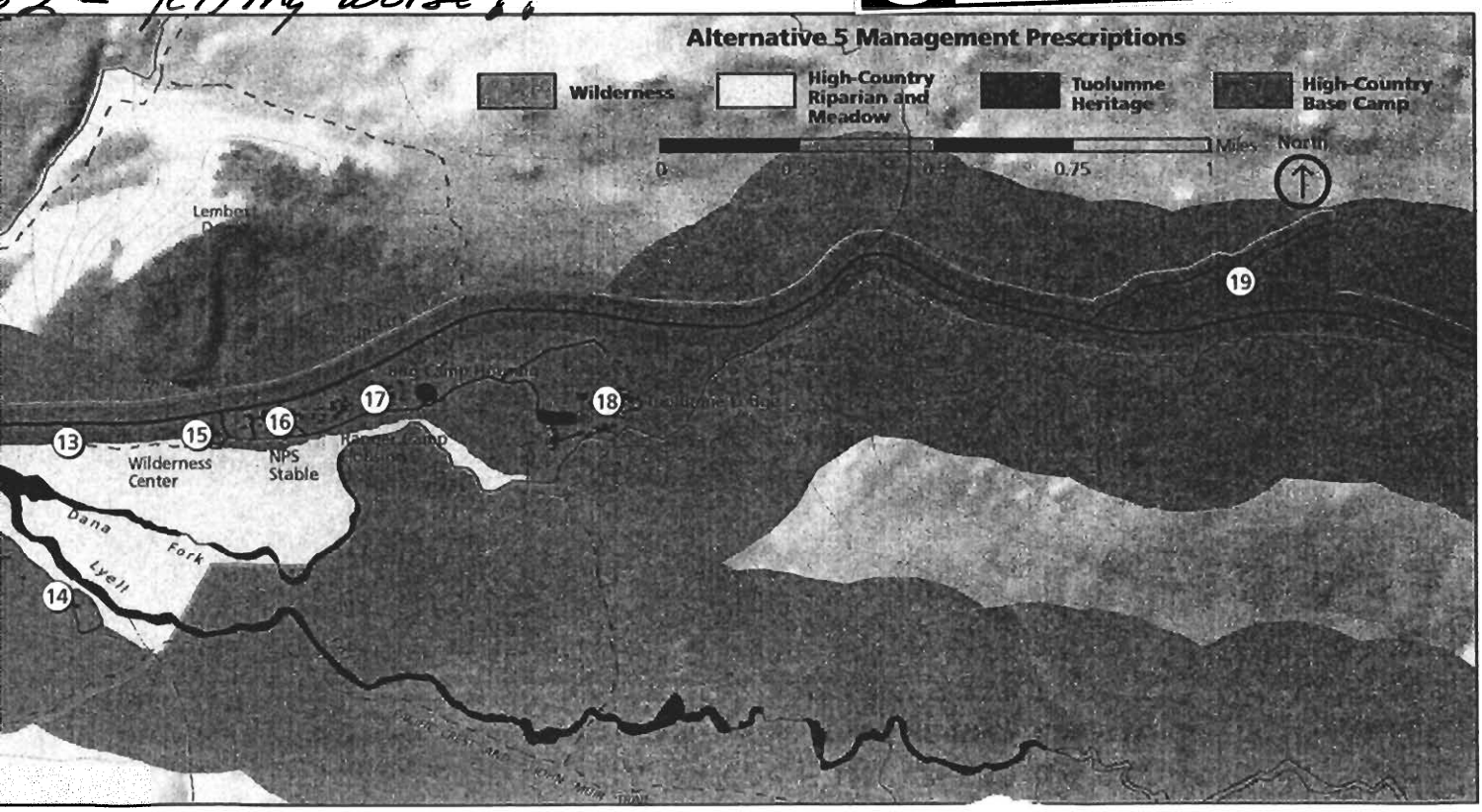


This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

5 Move Trail Head Cathedral Lakes (Mess) — TO Vistor Center

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip co [redacted] Duarte, CA 91010-1512

62 = getting worse!!



Create Your Own Site Plan

[redacted]

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158

~~copy~~ L141-NW

See NW

September 8, 2008

Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Superintendent:

Please accept and consider my comments on Yosemite NP's 2008 *Tuolumne Planning Workbook*. I have visited Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River many times, and am concerned about the Park Service's horrible track record of dealing with these areas. I have read and considered the entire *Workbook*, and am concerned specifically that the *Workbook* seems like a blueprint for business-as-usual.

I must object in the strongest possible terms to your staff's Alternative 5, the so-called "Preferred Alternative," which is titled *"Honor the traditions of the Tuolumne while looking to the future."* My first impression is that your staff needs to read (or re-read) Orwell's "*1984*." The *Workbook* is full of classic doublespeak, and I find it highly offensive and insulting. It seems obvious that we should not be honoring damaging practices simply because they are deemed "traditional," but that is what your staff is proposing. Instead, the NPS should be ending the commercial horse rides, closing the High Sierra Camps at Glen Aulin, Tuolumne and Vogelsang (and using this opportunity to restore those sites), and moving the Tuolumne campground "A Loop" away from the river. The current "preferred" alternative is devoid of vision and honesty, and will only further enshrine the reputation of the once-proud Park Service as a lap dog of commercial interests.

Why is the removal of the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp considered under only one radical alternative (Alt 1), and the removal of the Vogelsang High Sierra Camp (which affects the river due to the incessant stock use needed to supply that camp) not considered at all? Why do you propose only to study the harmful impacts of the horse rides and High Sierra Camps (via some vague "research") rather than taking some real action today? Why are you wasting your (and our) time with a plan that is little more than business-as-usual? Why are you trying to grandfather the High Sierra Camps when you must know in your heart that these ugly, polluting, outdated commercial shanties should be removed and the sites restored?

If you are going to allow the commercial horse rides, and/or the Tuolumne stables, and/or overnight stock use to continue, you should address the significant problems that they cause, not simply look the other way and call them "traditional." What a cop out *!!!* (The firefall in Yosemite Valley and feeding bears in garbage dumps were also "traditional," but we stopped them long ago because they are harmful.)

Domestic livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) are known to pollute water, spread weeds, and erode trails. At minimum, all stock animals should be strictly required to wear diapers to prevent pollution from animal manure and urine. Such diapers are now widely

accepted and easily available. See, for example: http://www.equisan.com.au/ Further, the operators of the commercial horse stables should be required to properly dispose of the stock manure and urine from the diapers to prevent pollution of water, trails, and camping areas. Such measures are necessary because stock animals have been shown to contaminate water in the Sierra Nevada, including the Tuolumne River. (See Derlet et al. 2008, copy enclosed). I object to the continued pollution of the Tuolumne River by stock manure and urine. The NPS should use this opportunity to stop it.

Because livestock are known to spread invasive weeds by importing weed seeds on their coats and in their manure, all stock animals should be strictly required to be properly washed and quarantined before they are allowed to enter Yosemite's high country, and only weed-free feed should be allowed. See, for example, http://www.extendinc.com/weedfreefeed/

Please direct your staff to return to the drawing board and to draft a plan for Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River that truly ends the harmful practices of the past (whether they are deemed "traditional" or otherwise). Thank you for considering my views.

Enclosure: Risk Factors for Coliform Bacteria in Backcountry Lakes and Streams in the Sierra Nevada Mountains: A 5-Year Study. 2008. By RW Derlet, KA Ger, JR Richards, and JR Carlson. *Wilderness and Environmental Medicine* 19:82-90.

Wilderness and Environmental Medicine, **19**, 82–90 (2008)

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Risk Factors for Coliform Bacteria in Backcountry Lakes and Streams in the Sierra Nevada Mountains: A 5-Year Study

Robert W. Derlet, MD; K. Ali Ger; John R. Richards, MD; James R. Carlson, PhD

From the Department of Emergency Medicine, University of California, Davis, School of Medicine, Sacramento, CA (Drs Derlet and Richards); The John Muir Institute of the Environment, University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA (Dr Derlet); the Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA (Mr Ger); and the Department of Public Health, Microbiology Section, San Mateo County, San Mateo, CA (Dr Carlson).

Category 1 Continuing Medical Education credit for WMS member physicians is available for this article. Go to http://wms.org/cme/cme.asp?whatarticle=1922 to access the test questions.

Objective.—To provide a 5-year longitudinal assessment of risk of acquiring disease from Sierra Nevada Wilderness area lakes and streams. This study examines the relative risk factors for harmful water microorganisms, using coliforms as an indicator.

Methods.—Streams and lakes in the backcountry of Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks and neighboring wilderness areas were selected and water was analyzed each year over a 5-year period. A total of 364 samples from lakes or streams were chosen to statistically differentiate the risk categories based on land usage, as follows: 1) areas rarely visited by humans (Wild), 2) human day-use-only areas (Day Hike), 3) areas used by backpackers with overnight camping allowed (Backpack), 4) areas primarily impacted by horses or pack animals (Pack Animal), and 5) cattle and sheep grazing tracts (Cattle). Water was collected in sterile test tubes and Millipore coliform samplers. Water was analyzed at the university microbiology lab, where bacteria were harvested and then subjected to analysis using standardized techniques. Statistical analysis to compare site categories was performed utilizing Fisher exact test and analysis of variance.

Results.—A total of 364 sampling sites were analyzed. Coliforms were found in 9% (4/47) of Wild site samples, 12% (5/42) of Day Hike site samples, and 18% (20/111) of Backpacker site samples. In contrast, 63% (70/111) of Pack Animal site samples yielded coliforms, and 96% (51/53) of samples from the Cattle areas grew coliforms. Differences between Backpacker vs Cattle or Pack Animal areas were significant at $P \leq .05$. All samples grew normal aquatic bacteria.

Conclusion.—Surface water from watersheds below cattle areas and those used by pack animals is at high risk for containing coliform organisms. Water from Wild, Day Hike, or Backpack sites poses far less risk for contamination by coliforms.

Key words: water, Yosemite National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, Sierra Nevada Mountains, cattle, Coliforms

Introduction

The Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in California serves as an internationally recognized recreational area and an important natural resource, in that it provides 50% of the state's drinking water.[1,2] The Sierra extends from Tehachapi Pass in the south 400 miles northward to Soldier Meadows, near Lassen National Park.[3] Much of the land still retains wilderness character, with roughly 4 000 000 acres of land designated as official wilderness by the National Park Service or the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, and is protected from development, logging roads, and motor vehicles.[4] Most

Corresponding author: Robert W. Derlet, MD, Emergency Medicine, 4150 V St, Suite 2100, Sacramento, CA 95817 (e-mail: rwderlet@ucdavis.edu).

of these protected areas range from 1800 to 4200 m in elevation. Surface-water quality at high-elevation headwaters is important to hikers, backpackers, and fishermen, as well as downstream urban water districts.[2,5] Non–point source pollution may result in contamination of surface waters with harmful substances, including both microbial organisms and toxic substances.[2] Therefore, the issue of potential microbial pollution from day hikers, backpackers, horses and pack animals, and commercial cattle and sheep grazing is important. Microorganisms include coliforms, pathogenic bacteria, and protozoa such as *Giardia* or *Cryptosporidium*.[6] Although concerns have been raised regarding *Giardia* in the Sierra, many authors have suggested that other fecal pathogens, such as enterotoxic *Escherichia coli*, may play a greater role in mountain-acquired illness.[6–10]

The unique geographic features of the Sierra have resulted in challenges to water ecology and quality. Much of the watershed consists of granite or metamorphic bedrock, with little topsoil.[11] As a result, soil buffering capacity is extremely low, providing little or no biogeochemical retention or transformation of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus.[5] Relatively small amounts of nutrient addition or habitat disturbance can lead to significant impacts on nutrient flux and subsequent impacts on water quality and aquatic ecosystems.[12] Pollution from soap, sunscreens, food particles, and human and animal waste may enter the waterways. These substances include nutriments known to increase rates of surface-water eutrophication, in turn prompting conditions that lead to increased survival or growth of microorganisms such as bacteria and algae.[13–15]

Monitoring for each type of microorganism is expensive and difficult; this difficulty is compounded by the high alpine geography that requires multiple hiking days to access remote sites. As an alternative to testing for all microorganisms, testing for coliforms can provide an index of risk for pathogenic waterborne disease.[16,17] Coliform bacteria have been established as indicators of fecal pollution or contamination, including *Giardia*, of waterways in the United States.[17] In wilderness areas, coliforms may originate from one or a combination of sources including 1) wild animals endemic to the area; 2) humans visiting during daylight; 3) backpackers who camp overnight; 4) stock or pack animals, such as horses and mules; and 5) cattle or sheep grazing. Coliform pollution of wilderness areas by humans may occur through inadequate burial and disposal of fecal material. In addition, bathing or swimming in lakes may also result in microbial pollution.[18] Pack animals may pollute by deposition of manure either directly into lakes and streams or indirectly by deposition of manure onto trails or meadows, and these animals have been documented to

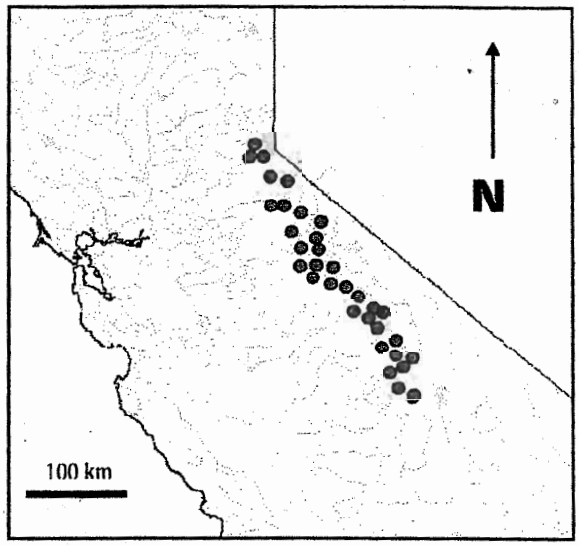


Figure. Study area and sample collection sites. Sites were located throughout the majority of the Sierra Nevada range. In some cases each dot represents more than one sampling site because some sites were too close to display individually.

import *Giardia* into the Sierra wilderness.[19,20] This manure may be washed into waterways by either summer storms or annual snowmelt.[21,22] The USDA Forest Service leases tracts in wilderness areas for cattle grazing.[23] Both cattle and pack animal manure are known to potentially contain microbes that are pathogenic to humans, including viruses; protozoa such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*; and bacteria such as *E coli* and *Salmonella*.[24–27] Finally, some coliform and other bacteria potentially may originate from natural wild animal and bird zoonotic reservoirs.[28]

We have surveyed the surface water of Sierra Nevada wilderness areas during selected summers in past years, but debate still continues regarding the impact of backpackers, cattle grazing, or livestock on the watersheds in wilderness areas.[23] In this report, we use results from previously published surveys (years 2003 through 2006) and combine them with new results reported here to create a continuous 5-year data set.[29–31] The goal of this paper is to determine the relationship between land use patterns and the prevalence of coliforms in the Sierra Nevada surface water.

Methods

FIELD SITE SELECTION

Sites were selected that include all common types of land use in wilderness areas of Kings Canyon, Sequoia, and Yosemite National Parks, as well as the following

USDA Forest Service wilderness areas: Carson-Iceberg, Emigrant, Hoover, and John Muir (the Figure). The Hall Natural Research Area, adjacent to the eastern boundary of Yosemite and the southern boundary of the Hoover wilderness, was also included. No overnight camping or motor vehicles are allowed in the Hall area. Sites were selected randomly from areas representative of different use patterns. Relative differences in the number of sites in each category reflect the prevalence of land use patterns along the various trails. Risk classifications included 1) natural areas not visited by humans or domesticated animals (Wild); 2) day hike areas used only by humans and in which overnight camping was not allowed (Day Hike); 3) areas used by backpackers with overnight camping allowed (Backpacker); 4) areas traversed by animals such as horses and mules (Pack Animal); and 5) cattle and sheep grazing tracts (Cattle). Site characteristics were stratified with the assistance of the National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service based on use described by the risk classifications of this study. Cattle grazing is not permitted in National Parks, so all samples in cattle grazing tracts were taken from within Forest Service wilderness areas.

FIELD WATER COLLECTION

Water samples were collected from June through September for the 5-year period ranging from 2002 to 2006. For sites subject to repeated analysis, samples were taken during the same week each year. Water was not collected within 3 days of thundershowers to prevent skewing of results from trail runoff. Samples were not taken in the real-time visible presence of pack animals or cattle. Water was collected in 1) sterile test tubes, 2) Millipore total coliform count samplers (Millipore Corporation, Bedford, MA), and 3) Millipore heterotrophic bacteria count samples. All samples were collected in duplicate. Although the manufacturer suggests immediate incubation, this was not possible as a result of the remote wilderness conditions of the study. Our control studies have shown that colony survival is not affected for up to 1 week at temperatures below 30°C, a condition to which we adhered in the field by monitoring the temperature of the sample container and returning to the laboratory within 7 days of all sampling (R. W. Derlet, MD, unpublished data, May 2002). To prevent deterioration from higher temperatures during transport from trailhead to laboratory (a trip taking, on average, 8 hours), samples were kept in a cooler at 5°C. Each sample device measured bacteria for 1 mL of sample. This was multiplied ×100, as per standardized procedure of reporting colony-forming units (CFU)/100 mL in the water literature.[17,30] The mean value of duplicate samples is reported. Water temperature was measured at each site using a stream thermometer (Cortland Line Company Inc, Cortland, NY). Location and elevation were determined using US Geographical Society topographical maps, guide books, and backcountry rangers.

ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLES

Details of analysis for bacteria have been described in detail elsewhere.[28,29,32] The analysis for coliform counts and total bacterial counts required incubating Millipore counting plate paddles at 35°C for 48 hours. Bacterial colonies were counted, then harvested and subplated for further analysis, following standardized procedures.[32] Colonies were plated onto Sheep Blood, MacConkey, and Sorbitol agars (Reel Inc, Lenexa, KS). Lactose fermenting colonies from MacConkey plates were presumed to be coliform bacteria and were subject to further testing. Further screening and initial identification was done by subplating onto Eosin Methylene Blue (EMB Levine), Cefsulodin Irgasan Novobiocin, and Hektoen agars. The color and morphology of the colonies were recorded. Controls and samples, including coliform-inoculated and coliform-free water, were subjected to simulated field conditions and tested to provide quality assurance of methods.

DATA ANALYSIS

The entire data set was analyzed to compare the results of water analysis to the different land use patterns. A subset of sites that had been subject to an annual analysis for at least 4 of the 5 years was analyzed separately to determine if these specific sites produced consistent results each year. Coliform-positive samples were correlated with water temperature and elevation. For this purpose, very low temperature was arbitrarily categorized as 0°C to 10.9°C, low as 11°C to 15.9°C, mild as 16°C to 20.9°C, and warm as 21°C and higher. Elevation was compared in 500-m intervals from 2000 m to 3500 m. Statistical significance between groups was calculated with Fisher exact test and analysis of variance (ANOVA) utilizing STATA Software (College Station, TX). Data are reported with 95% confidence intervals, unless otherwise stated.

Results

Sample sites are illustrated in the Figure, and results are summarized in Tables 1 through 6. A total of 364 samples were collected from 105 different streams or lake sites. Coliforms were found in 4 of 47 Wild sites (8.5%, CI 1.8–15.2), 5 of 42 Day Hike sites (11.9%, CI 3.1–

Table 1. Percentage of coliform-positive sites by land use and raw data (positive sites/total sites)

Land use	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Totals*
Wild sites	25 (1/4)	0 (0/4)	7 (1/15)	18 (2/11)	0 (0/13)	9 (4/47)
Day hiker	0 (0/5)	25 (2/8)	17 (1/6)	18 (2/11)	0 (0/12)	12 (5/42)
Backpack	18 (6/34)	22 (7/23)	7 (1/15)	14 (3/21)	17 (3/18)	18 (20/111)
Pack animals	66 (12/18)	55 (18/33)	80 (12/15)	56 (14/25)	70 (14/20)	63 (70/111)
Cattle	100 (7/7)	88 (7/8)	100 (15/15)	92 (13/14)	100 (9/9)	96 (51/53)
Totals	38 (26/68)	45 (34/76)	45 (30/66)	39 (32/82)	36 (26/72)	41 (150/364)

18.9), and 20 of 111 backpacker sites (18.0%, CI 12.0–24.0). In contrast, 70 of 111 Pack Animal sites (63.1%, CI 55.5–70.5) yielded coliforms, and 51 of 53 Cattle sites (96.2%, CI 91.5–100) grew coliforms. The differences between Wild, Day Hike, or Backpacker and either Pack Animal sites or Cattle sites were statistically significant ($P \geq .05$, Fisher exact test).

With regard to temperature, 9 of 23 samples at very low temperature were positive (39.1%, CI 12.2–66.8), and 59 of 158 samples at low temperatures were positive (37.3%, CI 17.9–38.2). For mild temperatures, 65 of 160 samples were positive (40.6%, CI 29.9–51.3), and 2 of 5 samples from warm temperatures were positive (40.0%, CI 4–76). There was no significant difference between coliform growth and temperature range ($P = .56$, ANOVA). For elevations between 2000 and 2499 m, 24 of 51 samples were positive (47.0%, CI 27.0–67.0), and for elevations between 2500 and 2999 m, 60 of 162 samples were positive (37.0%, CI 24.3–49.7). For elevations above 3000 m, 66 of 151 samples were positive (43.7%, CI 30.4–57.0). No significant difference in coliform growth and elevation range was detected ($P = .57$, ANOVA). Coliform counts in positive samples ranged from 100 to 500 CFU·mL^{-1}.

Subanalyses performed on sites that were sampled at least 4 of the 5 years are listed in Tables 2 through 6. These sites were sampled at similar times during 4 of 5 summers. A total of 58 of these sites provided 246 samples for analysis. Coliforms were found in a similar frequency when compared to the total analysis. In this subanalysis, coliforms were found in 2 of 38 Wild samples (5.0%, CI 0–11), 3 of 42 Day Hike samples (7.1%, CI 0.6–13.6), 11 of 62 Backpacker samples (17.7%, CI 9.2–24.9), 40 of 65 Pack Animal samples (61.5%, CI 51.5–70.9), and 35 of 37 Cattle samples (94.5%, CI 87.6–100).

Heterotrophic bacteria were also identified from the samples. Concentrations ranged from 400 to 12 200 CFU/100 mL. Although not statistically significant, total bacterial counts for positive samples tended to be lower at the Wild and Day Hike sites, with a combined mean of 2333 CFU/100 mL (CI 1562–3105), compared with 5248 CFU/100 mL (CI 2838–7650) for Backpacker sites, 5819 CFU/100 mL (CI 3010–8628) for Pack An-

Table 2. Wild sites: Number of coliforms at each site by year (colony-forming units [CFU]/100 mL)

Wilderness area	*Place*	*Elevation, m*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Yosemite	Johnston Pass Creek	2780	100	None	*	None	None
Yosemite	Raymond Pass Creek	2943	None	100	*	None	None
Yosemite	Upper Yosemite Creek—Side Creek	2501	None	None	None	None	None
Yosemite	Hoffmann Creek	2560	None	None	*	None	None
Yosemite	Upper Middle Dana-Gibbs Creek	3016	None	None	None	None	None
Kings Canyon	Bago Springs Creek	2840	*	None	None	None	None
Kings Canyon	Spring, north of Glen Pass JMT†	3353	*	None	None	None	None
Kings Canyon	Creek above Rae Lake Ranger Station	3231	*	None	None	None	None
Kings Canyon	Creek draining Lake 10 315	2768	*	None	None	None	None

*No data.
†John Muir Trail.

Table 5. Pack animal sites: Number of coliforms at each site by year (colony-forming units [CFU]/100 mL)

Wilderness area	*Place*	*Elevation, m*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Yosemite	Tuolumne River (Lyell Canyon)	2804	200	100	200	None	200
Yosemite	Rafferty Creek	2673	100	None	*	100	100
Yosemite	Fletcher Lake	3095	700	None	None	None	None
Yosemite	Fletcher Creek	3060	500	100	100	100	None
Yosemite	Dog Lake	2804	100	200	*	100	100
Kings Canyon	Bubbs Creek at confluence of Kings River	1560	100	None	*	None	None
Kings Canyon	Bubbs Creek at Junction Meadow	2469	200	None	*	None	200
Kings Canyon	Bubbs Creek at Vidette Meadow	2896	100	None	*	200	None
Kings Canyon	Arrow Lake	3154	*	100	350	None	None
Kings Canyon	Arrow-Dollar Creek Trail Crossing	3145	*	100	200	None	100
Kings Canyon	Dollar Lake	3115	*	100	None	100	300
Kings Canyon	Rae Lake (middle)	3211	*	None	None	None	200
Kings Canyon	South Fork Kings at Lower Paradise	2011	0	100	500	100	300
Kings Canyon	Copper Creek	1555	100	100	300	None	None
Kings Canyon	Lewis Creek	1219	200	100	*	200	None

*No data.

CATTLE AREAS

We have found that areas frequented by cattle had the greatest degree of coliform contamination into the wilderness watershed, ranging from a prevalence of 88% to 100% for each year sampled over the 5-year period. We are not surprised at the finding of coliforms below cattle grazing areas. On traditional US rangelands, coliforms can be expected to be found in the watershed.[34] A recent study of South Carolina watersheds found non-point pollution with *E coli* to be high in cattle grazing areas.[35] In some respects, finding coliforms below grazing areas serves as a positive control for the study. However, until recently, data on the impact of cattle on Sierra water have been limited.[30] Cattle harbor and excrete many microorganisms capable of causing disease in humans, including protozoa, bacteria, and viruses.[25–27] Miller and colleages[36] found up to 14 000 *Giardia* cysts per liter of water in storm surface water below coastal California dairies. Cattle are also noted to carry *E coli* strain O157: H7 at a rate of 1% to 30%, placing persons who drink untreated water below established cow pastures at risk for very serious disease.[26] Studies on this strain have also shown it to survive in cold water.[37] In addition, cattle manure contains large amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and other growth factors for algae.[14] These substances also create an aquatic environment that supports pathogenic microorganisms.[12–15] Each wilderness "cow use day" is equivalent to 100 to 120 human use days in terms of environmental impact with respect to waste pollution.[38,39] Despite these concerns, the US Forest Ser-

Table 6. Cattle risk watershed sites: Number of coliforms at each site by year (colony-forming units [CFU]/100 mL)

Wilderness area	*Place*	*Elevation, m*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Carson	Upper Clark Fork River	2072	*	100	250	None	400
Carson	Lower Clark Fork River	2316	*	100	300	100	600
Carson	Disaster Creek	2366	*	200	350	300	550
Carson	Arnot Creek	2000	*	100	100	200	100
Carson	Woods Creek	1976	*	100	100	250	100
Emigrant	Kennedy Creek	2244	*	None	*	300	200
Hoover	Buckeye Creek	2377	200	200	500	300	450
Hoover	Molydunite Creek	2773	100	300	400	300	200
Hoover	South Fork Walker River (Burt Canyon)	2719	None	200	250	200	200

*No data.

Table 3. Day hike only sites: Number of coliforms at each site by year (colony-forming units [CFU]/100 mL)

Wilderness area	*Place*	*Elevation, m*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Yosemite	Budd Creek	2622	None	*	None	200	None
Yosemite	Gaylor Lake	3150	None	*	None	None	None
Yosemite	Upper Gaylor Creek	3155	None	*	None	None	None
Yosemite	Lower Gaylor Creek	2835	None	*	None	None	None
Yosemite	Granite Lake	3176	None	*	None	None	None
Yosemite	North Fork Tuolumne River, headwaters	2438	*	None	None	None	None
Yosemite	Dana Fork of Tuolumne River	2941	100	None	None	200	None
Kings Canyon	Bull Frog Lake	3231	*	None	None	None	None
Emigrant	Blue Lake Creek	3048	*	None	None	None	None
Hall Area	Green Treble Lake—lower	3010	None	None	None	None	None

*No data.

imal sites, and 5732 CFU/100 mL (CI 2947–8517) for Cattle sites.

Field collection observations confirmed the characterization of land use categories. Wild areas had no trails or visible evidence of human or domesticated animal use upstream of the sampling site; Day Hike areas were posted as such or were posted with "No camping" signs. Backpacker areas had no evidence of recent or remote pack animal manure on trails, but they did show evidence of campsites. Pack Animal areas had animal manure on the trails, and in Cattle areas cow pies were observed in meadows and woodland. No manure was observed directly in lakes or streams at the time of sampling.

Discussion

In our 5-year analysis, overall consistency was found each year with respect to the prevalence of coliforms overall and also in each designated land use area. This consistency and reproducibility of results is an important finding of this 5-year analysis and has implications for validating single-year data. Total coliform prevalence ranged from 36% to 45% each year. Total annual precipitation was similar each of the years sampled, with no drought years.[33] Only a few other studies have examined backcountry water in the Sierra, providing few data with which to compare our findings.[7–9] We believe that analyzing the data by land use areas provides a useful prospect of impact on water quality.

Table 4. Backpacking sites: Number of coliforms at each site by year (colony-forming units [CFU]/100 mL)

Wilderness area	*Place*	*Elevation, m*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Yosemite	Yosemite Creek	2278	None	100	None	None	None
Yosemite	Booth Lake	3001	*	100	None	None	None
Yosemite	Townsley Lake	3154	*	None	None	None	None
Yosemite	Vogelsang Lake	3147	*	None	None	None	100
Yosemite	Ten Lakes #2	2813	None	None	*	None	None
Yosemite	Ten Lakes #3	2750	None	None	*	None	None
Yosemite	Ten Lakes #4	2727	100	None	*	300	400
Yosemite	East Ten Lakes	2865	None	None	*	None	None
Kings Canyon	East Creek at confluence of Bubbs Creek	2494	*	100	None	None	None
Kings Canyon	Charlotte Creek	2219	None	100	200	100	None
Kings Canyon	Charlotte Lake near ranger station	3165	*	None	None	None	None
Kings Canyon	Upper Rae Lake	3213	*	None	None	None	None
Kings Canyon	60 Lakes Drainage Creek	2926	*	100	None	None	None
Kings Canyon	South Fork Kings River at Upper Paradise	2134	*	None	None	None	None
Kings Canyon	North Fork Woods Creek	2621	*	None	None	None	None

*No data.

vice has recently increased proposed cattle grazing tracts in the Sierra Wilderness.[23]

PACK ANIMAL–IMPACTED AREAS

The finding of a high prevalence of coliforms in wilderness areas frequented by pack animals is important. Very few other studies have attempted to analyze land use patterns and risk for finding pathogenic microorganisms in the high-elevation areas of the Sierra Nevada.[8,9] A report on the Rae Lakes region of Kings Canyon National Park found that water from lakes and streams with higher human activity tended to have a higher prevalence of coliforms.[8] However, these areas were also subject to pack animal traffic. In that study, lakes and streams found free of coliforms were inaccessible to horses and mules. Pack animals produce high volumes of manure, which is deposited directly onto the surface of trails, soil, or meadows.[24,38,40] In contrast to human waste, pack animal manure is not buried in the soil. Manure deposited on the ground can be swept into streams during summer rains or spring snow runoff.[21,22] The National Park Service is concerned about manure contamination of surface waters because of its effect on water.[40,41] Fecal contamination, as indicated by the finding of coliforms, would place the watershed at risk for harboring microbes capable of causing human disease. As is the case with cattle, these threats include certain pathogenic strains of *E coli*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Aeromonas*, and protozoa such as *Giardia*. Pack animals entering the High Sierra have been subject to analysis, and *Giardia* has been found in their manure.[20] The organism *Hafnia alvei* was found in one study conducted along the John Muir Trail in the Sierra Nevada, even in old manure.[24] *H alvei* can cause diarrhea in humans.[42] The pack animal areas studied were also traversed by humans. Therefore, it is possible that some of the coliforms found at these sites originated from humans. An examination of results from the Backpack sites helps to clarify this issue. In comparison to Pack Animal sites, only a small percentage of Backpacker sites had coliforms. This finding would support the conclusion that most of the microbial contamination in pack animals areas is a result of pack animal manure. Furthermore, in Day Hike areas in which pack animals are not allowed to travel, only low levels of coliforms were found.

BACKPACK-ONLY SITES

Coliform was found in an average of 18% of these sites. Wilderness regulations require that human waste must be buried at least 100 feet from waterways.[40,41] Discussions with wilderness backcountry rangers indicate that there is generally good compliance with these regulations. When disposed of properly in humus topsoil, which contains a multitude of bacteria and fungi, these environmental microbes degrade many of the pathogens. Some Wilderness areas now also ask backpackers to carry out their toilet paper.

WILD SITES

In contrast to the other site types, coliforms were found in only 9% of Wild sites. The source of coliforms found in the wild is speculative. Coliforms may be present as a result of waste contamination from the many species of birds and native mammals. Environmental coliforms have been reported in the environmental literature.[43]

Heterotrophic, aquatic bacteria are part of a normal ecosystem of lakes and streams.[44] Indeed, if bacteria were absent, the normal food chain from frogs to fish, as well as the ecological balance, would be in jeopardy. A prior study identified many species, including *Achromabacter* species, *Pasteurella haemolytica*, *Rahnella* species, *Serratia* species, *Yersinia intermedia*, *Yersinia* species, and *Pseudomonas* species in wilderness surface water.[29] We found total bacterial counts to be lower at Wild and Day Hike sites, compared to other categories in this 5-year analysis. This may result from the effects of camping, which include the deposition of bacteria from skin contact into surface water and also the stirring up of bacteria-rich bottom sediment in lakes and streams.[39]

LIMITATIONS

Multiple confounding factors may affect wilderness field findings. Annual precipitation varied during the years of the study. Wind, water flows, and cloud cover may affect results. Although samples were taken during summertime traffic by humans and domesticated animals, these represent single–point-in-time samples; additional samples at different times may have increased the accuracy and significance of findings. Data in this report are applicable only to Sierra Nevada Wilderness Areas and not to areas with human habitation. Finally, overall use patterns were not quantified (backpacker use in terms of persons/night; animal use in terms of heads of livestock/acre, etc).

RECOMMENDATIONS

In wilderness areas where cattle or pack animals have been present, we recommend that drinking water be treated. In Sierra Nevada wilderness areas, water from alpine sidestreams that are free from upstream domes-

ticated animal use have a very low risk of harboring coliforms and we believe have a minimal risk of illness if drunk untreated.

Conclusion

In this 5-year analysis, coliform prevalence in Sierra Nevada Alpine wilderness water varied by land-usage patterns of humans and domesticated animals. Water in areas of cattle grazing or in areas used by pack animals has a high probability of containing coliform organisms. Water from lakes and streams of Wild, Day Hike, or Backpack watersheds bears significantly less risk of harboring coliforms.

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