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To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Tuolumne River Plan

Yosemite Planning Team,

I'd like to put forth my wholehearted support of alternative number one as outlined in the Tuolumne Planning Workbook. I'm excited by the possibility of returning the wild character of Tuolumne to this extraordinary place. While there will be an initially awkward and frustrating period of adjustment to the loss of existing commercial amenities, the adjustment will be made . Simply put, protecting sensitive meadow and riparian ecosystems trumps the need to get a cheeseburger and frosty cone. I applaud the efforts of the Park Service to place greater self-sufficiency, forethought, and responsibility in the hands of backcountry visitors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[redacted]

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September 15, 2008

Kristina Rylands, Project Manager
Division of Planning
Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Subject: Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan

Dear Ms. Rylands,

I was very happy to participate in the Tuolumne River Plan (Plan) workshop at Parsons Lodge this past August, which engendered the most positive attitude toward a planning effort that I have had in many years of environmental and regulatory process. Congratulations to the team!

This letter provides recommendations on what I think should be the specifics of Alternative (Alt.) 5, with some explanation where necessary. These recommendations are not just personal opinions; they are based on an objective determination of actions that are necessary to maintain, or in some cases restore, the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) of the wild and scenic river corridor (Plan Area) and to comply with the Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA) and NEPA.

I agree that none of Alts. 1-4, as they are presently specified, would constitute a satisfactory Preferred Alternative, although good ideas are found in each of them, which should be incorporated into Alt. 5. In developing the specifications of a suitable Alt. 5, it is essential to recognize several principles from the outset:

- Where impacts are obvious and substantial, and feasible/effective mitigation measures are not available or not likely to be implemented, environmental protection must take precedence over existing uses, even if those might be represented to be "traditional" uses. (Grazing of hundreds of thousands of sheep, unrestricted hunting, and high-frequency human-caused fires were all formerly "traditional" uses of the Plan Area; none would or should be permitted today.)
- On the other hand, where impacts are minimal, there is no need to restrict uses.
- Some developed services are unquestionably necessary (e.g., wastewater treatment), and some of the current commercial services (small grocery, gas station/store) are appropriate to the character of the Plan Area, but a few others should be reduced or eliminated. In any case, developed areas should generally be located all together to the extent that is feasible, and commercial uses should never take precedence over non-commercial, general-public use.

I spend at least 10 days per year (preferably more!) in Tuolumne Meadows and the adjoining high country, hiking, climbing, botanizing, birding, studying riparian process, and so on. So I'm directly familiar with most if not all of the ORVs of the Planning Area

that can be observed directly without need for a laboratory. I'm also very familiar with Yosemite Valley, and with the contrasts between the two areas. With 20 years of professional experience in riparian restoration and environmental impact assessment, I'm knowledgeable about the practical application of natural resource laws.

This comment includes general recommendations, first abbreviated, then with additional explanation of their rationale, followed by a list of recommendations for actions at the 19 sites that are numbered in the Workbook, plus two others that don't actually appear under any of Alts. 1-4 (20: Tuolumne Meadows themselves, and 21: Tuolumne River itself). I have discussed these recommendations with many other frequent visitors to the Plan Area, who all support all of the main points presented below. Whether they also send planning comments, they will certainly comment on the Draft Plan/EIS if these recommendations are not reflected in the draft Alt. 5.

OVERALL PLANNING COMMENTS

Management Zones

One aspect of the mapping of Management Zones in Alt. 5 raises a concern about long-term future planning actions: the large new "High-Country Base Camp" area including, and to the west and north of, the existing wastewater ponds (compare with Alt. 4). Ideally, these ponds should be restored to habitat, as in Alts. 1/4, but I'm not sure what the replacement option is. Nutrient-rich treated wastewater is pumped out of the Lake Tahoe basin, but I doubt if this is a feasible option for Tuolumne. Regardless, it is alarming to consider that future developments could be extended throughout this huge new area. We already have the concessioner stables developed way out in what should have stayed wilderness, plus developed or previously disturbed areas around the lodge, the Gaylor Pit, and so on. If the sole purpose of the Base Camp designation north of the Meadows is for some replacement of the ponds, this should be very clearly specified now, so as not to leave the door open for some future unadvisable development to be proposed, intruding far into presently almost undisturbed habitat. I am 100 percent confident that isn't the present intent, but if the door is left open, someone someday will want to build something there, and it will be pushed as being consistent with the Management Zone designation. (I *do* see this all the time in environmental permitting: "...but it's consistent with the General Plan; why can't we do it?") The specification of Alt. 5 MUST guard against this eventuality, if necessary by creating yet another Management Zone to allow for only the ponds or their replacement and no other possible services or developments without a new Comprehensive Plan. Also, the Zone should be reduced in size to just the most suitable area for this one use; this will help to preclude additional undesirable development proposals in the future.

From the Parsons Lodge workshop, I'm very positively impressed with the intent and judgment of the present planning team, but my long experience in planning and environmental impact assessment lead me to be very untrusting of future managers and planners; I wouldn't leave the door open to drive through developments that none of us want to see happen.

I am supportive of having a management prescription for High-County Riparian and Meadow, and very much in favor of potentially intensive resource management. Specifically, application of prescribed fire to maintain open conditions – one of the Meadows' ORVs – is an excellent idea; however, active riparian restoration is not (natural fluvial geomorphological and ecological process is more than adequate to maintain ORVs). There are very minor exceptions where trails or bridges result in immediately proximate erosion or habitat alteration; these microsites should be repaired.

On the other hand, other wording presented in the summary of this prescription in the Workbook is a little alarming ("management…of visitor use may be intensive"). I do not find any justification in observation of present conditions for intensive management of visitor use either to restore or protect the integrity of the existing ecosystem. The very minor exceptions that are specifically described elsewhere in this comment do not rise anywhere near to a necessity for "intensive" visitor use management (only "minor" use management).

Finally, I recommend closure or reduction and relocation of the concessioner stables to much closer proximity to other developments (or perhaps to the Gaylor Pit, one option). This would enable this intrusion into what should have been Wilderness to be restored to natural habitat conditions and re-zoned as Wilderness. I imagine there was a concept that the smells and flies should be put somewhere that fewer people interact with them, but it was a bad idea to do this way out in the wilderness, which this Plan should take the opportunity to undo.

GENERAL PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

My main recommendations are listed below, followed by additional specifics and explanation, referenced by the same letters A-E.

A. **Do not expand concessions; some should be reduced or eliminated.** Although I do not advocate the elimination of all visitor services (specifically the store or existing lodging), it is obvious that most of the ills that plague Yosemite Valley are direct or indirect consequences of the level of commercial services and concessions that exist there. At all costs, let's not let the same thing happen to Tuolumne!

B. Campground. The relatively primitive character of the campground is a huge plus. Some sites within A loop should be relocated for resource protection reasons, but the total number of sites should not be reduced. Increase the number of group sites and improve the management of their availability to the general public. Relocate RV sites out of the tent-only areas.

C. Eliminate commercial pack trains, and require all horses to be diapered. Trails can sustain limited horse use by individuals, but those trail segments that are used for commercial pack supply operations are greatly degraded (expanded in width, with dramatically more tripping hazards for more elderly hikers; covered with horse dung which is a very substantial and adverse aesthetic impact). The present level of pack train

use exceeds the capacity of the trails to withstand it; thus the WSRA requires it to be reduced or eliminated. Relocate the reduced concession, restore to natural conditions, and re-zone as Wilderness.

D. Preserve access to the Meadows. With the exception of certain social trail segments and crossings of abandoned meanders or other channels, there is no need for restoration or preservation actions within the Meadows that require restriction of visitor use. Application of prescribed fire is appropriate and desirable to maintain aesthetic and ecological ORVs.

E. Parking along Hwy 120 should be relocated. This informal parking area is essential to a huge amount of visitor use, but is also an aesthetic negative. If eliminated, it should be replaced by an equivalent amount of parking elsewhere along the south side of Hwy 120.

ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS

A. Concessions. The Meadows can serve a really large number of visitors with minimal impacts as long as those visitors are primarily self-reliant. However, limited re-supply opportunity should be preserved within the Park to avoid creating a lot of unnecessary traffic, burning of carbon-based fuel, etc., as visitors would otherwise need to drive to Lee Vining to get supplies. I have not examined the area around Tuolumne Lodge, however, if ongoing impacts are minimal it is reasonable to preserve the lodge operation as it presently functions (but not to expand it). Structures should be relocated if any only if specific adverse impacts on ORVs are identifiable (whether aesthetic or water-quality related).

On the other hand, the use of horse pack trains to supply High Sierra Camps has dramatically adverse environmental and use-limitation impacts, and must be eliminated to comply with the WSRA, NEPA, and perhaps also other federal laws (see below for additional discussion). Similarly, if climbing school and guiding concessions are to continue, they should be subject to stringent limitations in terms of total numbers and climbing sites used. Although I have never personally interacted with guided climbing groups in Tuolumne, I do know that the visitor use levels on easier or better-known climbs are extremely high, and that this poses a very definite risk to unguided groups both in terms of potential delays and exposure to life-threatening thunderstorms and in terms of falling rocks that are frequently knocked off by less-experienced climbers (as would be expected to comprise guided groups).

B. Campground. Although the campground is a large one (as an individually named campground), it's not even adequate to serve the existing user base during the very constrained season that it is open. (Too constrained: it should be open at least until October 15, subject to weather closure.) Therefore, no sites should be eliminated, although *some* of the A-loop sites have definite adverse impacts (aesthetic, sediment runoff) on the adjacent river corridor (specifically numbers 48-55[-57], 65-67 [impacts on tributary], and the sites between 71-88 that are on the river side). These sites should be restored to habitat. However, the sites should be replaced elsewhere, not just eliminated.

The number of highly improved sites (with large leveled areas) that are usable by RVs should be kept to a minimum, and all RV sites should be co-located. Thus, existing RV sites within the main part of the campground should be converted to tent-only sites. Potentially, some tent sites in the lower, flatter part of the campground could be converted to RV-available sites. It's cool in Tuolumne even through the summer, and RVs frequently (many of them, pretty much every morning for 30-60 minutes) just leave the engine running so they can have heat and/or to charge their batteries, subjecting all of the surrounding sites (say, 40-100 people or more) to engine noise and belching smoky exhaust, including some pretty nasty pollutants, which is not dissipated by wind at that time of day. This is also a problem at other times (evening), although it is worst in early morning. It's unrealistic to expect that, even if some rule were instituted against this practice, it would be effectively enforced. Best solution is just to separate the RVs and tents to the extent possible. If the RV sites are right there near the campground host's site, there's a much greater chance that problems will get taken care of.

While changes are being made to the campground, it would be appropriate to increase the number of group sites (say, double it) and to improve the management of those sites, as follows:

1) There should be a strict maximum of one third of the number of group sites that are occupied at any one time by volunteer or any other groups that obtain their site reservations by means outside the normal reservation process (so that would be two sites at most, at present, since there are only seven of them). These groups can work out among themselves how to apportion the available pre-reservation sites.

2) With practically no exceptions, there should be no use of the group sites by commercial enterprises (non-profit or otherwise). I would think this should already be illegal (should require a special-use permit, which I've been told by one trip manager they do not have). And if they apply, other than in the context of existing Park partner arrangements, no special use permits should be issued: there just isn't enough resource (that is, scarce group sites) available to the public for any of it to be diverted to commercial use. However, acceptable exceptions might be made for groups providing trips whose participants are incapable of visiting otherwise (e.g., individuals who are sufficiently physically or mentally disabled as to be unable to make the trip without professional assistance; or for non-profit groups providing wilderness opportunity for, say, children who otherwise could not possibly visit a place like Tuolumne). Even within these very stringent guidelines, special-use permits should be limited also (perhaps one only at any one time).

   In order for any of this to have a positive effect, prohibition of commercial use without special use permits has to be enforced rigorously, which it is not at present. To the contrary, at least one commercial enterprise even appears to have some unknown special deal to allow them to obtain reservations at least 6 months in advance of the time that they are available to the general public. Issuance of any special use permits to allow commercial or organizational (non-Partner) use of the campground should not be made under a categorical exemption from NEPA,

because it has a significant adverse impact on recreational opportunity for the general public. Instead, it should be preceded by a public notification and comment process. At a minimum, reservation records should be consulted, and everyone who has reserved a group site over the prior five years should be notified when an application is to be considered. (A shorter period would fail to result in adequate notification of the affected public, because it can be so difficult to obtain a group site reservation that aspiring groups – such as ourselves – go several years between succeeding in getting a group site reservation.)

Finally, many *but not all* of the innumerable social trails that access the Lyell Fork from the campground should be restored to habitat. Being able to access this part of the river without driving is one of the best things about the Tuolumne Meadows Campground, therefore access should be retained. As has been noted in the conservation/restoration literature, it is nearly impossible to have easy access to riparian areas without some level of habitat impact. However, in the case of the Lyell Fork, it can be kept to a minimum by selecting one suitable trail alignment that is parallel to the river and some number of low-impact access points (10?), and restoring the rest of the social trails in this area to habitat. This will be very easy to achieve, because there are perfectly good soils and an excellent soil moisture regime to rapidly regenerate vigorous riparian vegetation. The only critical requirement is obstacles (logs, slash piles, and such) to focus walkers to the few trail segments that are maintained.

C. Pack trains.

My observation (supported by a substantial collection of photographs, to be supplied separately) is that trail use by individual equestrians or small groups of private riders has relatively minimal adverse impacts, but that the trail segments that lead from the nearest road-served trailhead to the High Sierra Camps (specifically, the Glen Aulin trail and Cathedral Lakes trail) are drastically degraded. I believe that quantitative data that was gathered on trail condition in support of the Plan effort shows this as well, although I wasn't able to navigate to it on the Internet prior to today's date. The segments of trail that are used by the pack trains are several times wider (often five or six feet wide, versus one to two feet wide where only hikers and individual riders use the trails), are heavily sprinkled with horse dung (which is unquestionable an aesthetic negative, as well as probably a water quality issue now or in the future), and most importantly have now degraded to a point where large rocks and roots are exposed to a degree that presents substantial difficulties and tripping hazards to hikers. This general problem is widespread throughout the Sierra Nevada, albeit much more severe within the Yosemite High Country than anywhere else. In my personal experience, the problem of trail degradation by pack trains has been one of the most common topics of discussion among a very large number of backpackers and day hikers since I began hiking in 1968; not a fringe issue at all.

The conclusion is inescapable that this serious environmental degradation results directly from the use of pack trains to supply the High Sierra Camps. Further, the level of trail degradation has proceeded to a point that is not merely hazardous to normal

hikers, but effectively eliminates the possibility of use of these specific trails, which otherwise should be very easy walking, by older hikers. The pack trains and concession-based trail rides are sometimes represented as providing a user opportunity for visitors who are not able (or willing) to carry all of their supplies in a backpack; however, it is also eliminating a very important user opportunity for the general non-paying public, and specifically eliminating use of important parts of the trail system by older Park visitors. This is certainly morally wrong and is probably also illegal (to favor a commercial use over general public use, with the consequence that is essentially not distinguishable from age discrimination).

This discussion is not imaginary or contrived in order to make a point. I regularly hike with relatives who are in their 70s, and they can readily make the hike up to Elizabeth Lake, for example, but they simply could not safely hike up the Cathedral Lakes or Glen Aulin trails, which go through terrain that *should* be easily accessible to all ages and abilities. Someday, there will be off-pavement wheelchairs, which could and should certainly use normal, good condition trails in the Plan Area. However, the trail segments that are currently severely degraded by pack trains would not be usable by such visitors. I am adamantly opposed to civilizing everyplace to a point that is easily wheelchair accessible; but also adamantly opposed to allowing a commercial use to eliminate access to an enterprising older hiker or general-public wheelchair user.

The unacceptable level of trail and ORV (aesthetic) damage is probably largely due to the sheer numbers of horses, but it is also partly a consequence of moving the animals in a pack train, which causes them to place their feet much less cautiously and to cut corners, thereby continuously enlarging the trail footprint. I don't think there's a reasonable and feasible means of reducing existing damage and restoring the trails to an acceptable condition that is compatible with the movement of that much freight on horseback.

One of the elements that is required by the WSRA to be included in the Plan is a user capacity program. With respect to pack train use of the Glen Aulin and Cathedral Lakes trails, objective facts clearly demonstrate that this one particular use is currently exceeding the capacity of the trails and environment, and must be reduced to a level that will provide for restoration of those trails to a condition that is substantially similar to that of non-pack-train trails, and long-term maintenance of ORVs and the full range of visitor use. In short, both the WSRA and the Park Service's management responsibility require this issue to be addressed. If the Plan allows for continuation of use of supply pack trains, then it must also include a clear program and timeline to restore the present highly degraded condition of the trails that are used by them, to maintain them in a restored condition (narrow and even-surfaced, to a degree substantially equivalent to other trails), and provide monitoring specifications and contingent actions that will be implemented based on those results; all funded by the pack train concession. In my opinion, this remedy will almost certainly prove to be either infeasible (whether technologically or economically) or ineffective, therefore the only legally adequate option for the Plan is to eliminate pack train use on all trails within the Plan Area.

Many of the Appalachian Mountain Club huts have similar or greater visitor capacity to the High Sierra Camps, and were formerly stocked with supplies solely by hut crews carrying big backpacks. They currently rely partially on helicopter deliveries, which would not be allowable (or a good idea) for the High Sierra Camps. However, it is the responsibility of the Camps concessioner to address the trail damage and aesthetics issues in some fashion and to build that remedy into the cost of the services they provide. If the absolute necessity of livestock can be objectively demonstrated, at a minimum it must be restricted to llamas or maybe camels both of which are much lower impact than horses due to their lighter weight and different feet. If it is simply impossible to provide the level of present services at the Camps without unacceptable degradation of aesthetic ORVs and without effectively excluding part of the general public from these trails, then the level of services or number of guests would need to be reduced sufficiently so that whatever supply option is selected is within the carrying capacity of the trail environment. Reliance on human porters to move food in and waste/trash out is definitely a financially feasible option (at most would add only $5-10 per visitor night), especially when the alternative costs of maintaining and transporting horses and trail repair are considered.

In addition to the numerous piles of horse dung along the trails used by pack trains, non-pack-train trails are also affected, albeit to a lesser degree. My observations and photographs show that horse dung is frequently (oddly enough, MORE frequently found) found along trail segments that are immediately adjacent to water (within no more than five to ten feet of the water's edge). This has got to be a water quality issue sometime in the future, and is a really definite adverse aesthetic impact at present (check out my gorgeous photo of Elizabeth Lake with the beautiful piles of horse muffins in the foreground…). Therefore, all horses in the Plan Area should be diapered. They do this in every major city where I have seen horse-drawn carriages, there is absolutely no reason it can't be done here. If this doesn't eliminate the impact (or if horse users just end up emptying the contents right at the trailhead or other inappropriate site), there will be no reasonable alternative but to just close the affected trails to horses. In order to avoid the need for a major additional planning process, the Plan should include some simple monitoring provision (easiest way: reporting by the public with photographs and GPS coordinates), with a stated threshold and contingent action (closure to horses).

D. Meadows access. In addition to their huge aesthetic draw, the Meadows are perhaps the only large-scale high-elevation riparian meadow in the lower 48 states that is easily accessible and provides an example of high-elevation riparian vegetation and process in a system without significant water diversions or flood controls. There is zero indication of significant adverse impact on the vast area of the Meadows further than a few feet from the user trails. Therefore, there is no need for any limitation or management of use except for the immediate trail areas.

Most of the social trails look to me to be in long-term stable condition and are not actively degrading. They are very narrow, not very deep, and, with only very minor exceptions (see below), do not exhibit substantial erosion. I understand that there are unobvious impacts (soil moisture regime, possibly invertebrate fauna), but these are not

very considerable in the context of the whole ecosystem of the Meadows. Vegetation dominance within a few feet of the trails is generally (not universally) almost identical to that further away, indicating that, in most areas, impacts outside the trail footprint are very limited. In particular, I could not find the slightest evidence of any impact from the very low amount of dispersed visitor use (people wandering around the meadows but off the trails). Therefore, this very valuable aspect of visitor usage of the Meadows absolutely does not merit any restriction or management, unless and until substantially adverse impacts develop. There are some minor off-trail impacts along the river banks, from people climbing up and down them to access the water (possibly could be reduced by signage placed at the spot where the trail arrives at the bridge). Also, minor erosion can be seen at a small number of sites where social trails cross low areas in the meadows, and the runoff from the compacted trail surface erodes the low banks. These could be readily repaired, either with native flat rocks individually placed, and/or with chunks of native turf of appropriate species (whether salvaged from other improvement projects or nursery-grown from native Tuolumne seed or rhizomes). Since the drainage areas in question are very shallow and therefore not subject to high-velocity surface flows, these limited restoration actions can reasonably be expected to be durable.

One area where the trail impacts are proliferating to some degree is the trail from Hwy 120 around Pothole Dome to the river, where multiple trails have developed as a consequence of the original trail sometimes being water-filled or muddy. I believe these can be repaired by backfilling the deepest trail with native rock, up to a level that will remain reasonably dry during the normal season of use, and restoring parallel trails to habitat. If there's a superior trail option, people will use it, especially with a little bit of positive-tone signage at the point where they enter the trail. Other alternatives exist, but aren't as attractive.

The trail that follows the former Great Sierra Wagon Road is certainly wider than is necessary for the use which it provides, however, restoration is dubiously feasible, as it is one trail segment that experiences a sufficiently high level of use that two-directional pedestrian use will inevitably result in a wider trail surface than is the case for most of the other social trail segments.

E. Parking. I frequently park along Hwy 120 where it adjoins the Meadows, as do thousands of people throughout the season. Excluding the parking at the store, the Tioga Road parking provides by far the majority of the opportunity for most visitors to interact with the ORVs of the river corridor in any way beyond the car window. Therefore, this parking resource is an irreplaceable resource from a visitor use perspective. The shuttle doesn't help much: one has to park somewhere else anyway, and there's not much parking anywhere else either. Moreover, its hours of operation do not include the choice early morning hours for photography, hiking, birding, climbing, and so on; it stops running too early (7 PM) to allow for intentional or inadvertent long days (given the distances, you are really in trouble if you miss the last one); and it doesn't stop at anywhere near all of the places an ordinary visitor or climber might want to go.

Notwithstanding that the informal parking along Hwy 120 is essential to use of the Plan Area by virtually the entire range of different types of visitors, it's a real aesthetic negative next to the Meadows, and it's a bad arrangement from a traffic safety perspective. On the face of it, one presumes there is some level of habitat degradation, but actual inspection of the road shoulder area shows that, other than spots where the raised road bed was constructed within meadow habitat, effects are minimal to non-existent in most areas. Nevertheless, the informal roadside parking does degrade one of the ORVs, therefore, it seems appropriate to relocate (but not eliminate!) this parking. Although there are some drainage areas, wetlands, or just mesic-barely-not-wetlands vegetation along this road segment, there are also some extensive areas of very dense lodgepole forest on relatively gentle slopes, which seem to afford the opportunity to develop replacement parking areas on the south side of the road, largely screened visually from the Meadows. If there is not sufficient space in these development-suitable areas to afford the necessary parking spaces, then some could be retained along the road (mostly on the south shoulder rather than the north one adjoining the Meadows). I strongly favor relocation over outright elimination of this parking; it is particularly important to provide sufficient all-day and overnight parking, not because I favor a decrease in the <1 hr visitor component, but because it will inevitably reduce itself a small amount when there isn't as much obvious roadside parking.

Segregating short-term (<1 hr), one-day (say, from 4 AM to midnight), and overnight (wilderness permit hikers) parking areas makes sense, if there's a feasible way to provide the necessary separate parking lots, of sufficient size, on the south side of Hwy 120. Realistically, however, segregation of parking use needs to be more or less voluntary; rangers already have plenty to do and shouldn't need to become parking cops too.

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIONS

Relying on the very useful Preliminary Site Plan Concepts Summary Table that was circulated at the planning workshop, I provide the following recommendations for site-specific actions at the various sites numbered as in the table and Workbook:

1. Same as Alt. 1 (provide formal parking and connection to trail around Pothole Dome). This area is not used just by those who want to walk out on Pothole, but also provides the most efficient access to the exceptionally, stunningly beautiful river reach downstream of the Meadows. So it's a very important day-use wilderness access point. Remedy trail proliferation. Options include, in order of preference: backfill one trail, restore others, provide signage urging use of one trail; provide good quality trail entirely (just) outside wetlands but with view of meadows (or people won't use it), and signage from parking directing users to the good non-muddy trail; build a boardwalk using steel pile construction method (very low impact, and does not present the construction or maintenance costs and headaches that plague boardwalks built on concrete foundations poured in sonotubes). There's an excellent social trail right along the toe of Pothole already; I've walked it all the way to the river twice within the last couple of years.

2. My examination of the Park's map of existing social trails indicates that they exist in the main part of the Meadows are there primarily as transit paths, not just a way to walk out in the middle of the meadow. It's not practical or reasonable to remove social trails if there's still a need for foot transit because a significant number of people park in one place and want go somewhere that's across the meadow. Wherever the replacement parking is located there is a need for foot transit, therefore either a social trail will develop (actually, probably several of them), or visitors need to be directed to an effective alternative. Thus, only remove social trails once there's a practical alternative that has been shown to suffice for the use that visitors make of the area. After that, then restore the unused social trails to habitat.
3. As in Alt. 4 (make formal parking). This is a MAJOR trail access point, and with the inadequacy of the shuttle system (see above) and unavailability of sufficient parking and bear-proof food storage, I really think that a proper parking arrangement needs to be provided. For hikers or climbers who must, for reasons of weather safety, get a very early start to minimize the risk of lightning strike, the shuttle starting at 7 AM just is not adequate.
4. As in Alt. 4 (restore), but only once there's an effective substitute!
5. I don't see that there's adequate justification to expand employee housing. How about just reduce concession operations to fit the available housing opportunity? However, *improving* the housing seems very justifiable. Relocation of Visitor's Center would be great, so people can just walk to it from the campground. With the hundreds of days I've spent in Tuolumne, I've only been in it once, very briefly, simply because it's a separate driving stop. True, it's not that great of a walking distance (we're all lazy), but if it were right there it would be better used.
6. As in Alts 1/4.
7. I favor Alt 1, but only slightly over 2-4.
8. As in Alts 1, 3, 4.
9. Definitely retain campsite numbers. My study of the campground suggests that the greatest number of visitors per unit area are accommodated by group sites; normal (family) sites a close second; RV sites a distant third. Therefore, replacement of the few A loop sites that should be relocated should be with group sites or family sites.
10. Not certain what's the best specific plan, but generally, consolidation of developments is a good thing. Next best alternative is to consolidate ranger/wilderness permit/visitor center and, in another spot, store/gas station. However, it's very practical for people to be able to patronize the store without specifically driving to it, and the greatest concentration of visitors is in the campground, therefore there's a practical logic to having the store next to the campground. It's dubious whether employee housing can be relocated from behind the store (although I'd strongly favor that). The store closes at 8 PM, but the shuttle only runs until 7. So, if the employees are located, say, at the lodge (an otherwise highly logical spot), they have to drive or be driven to work at the store/gas station.

I'm not sure of the best plan, but how it's going to function has to take precedence over principle.

11. For the trail impact reasons described above, I think the horse concessions must be reduced or eliminated. I'm totally convinced that the supply pack trains are unnecessary and result in one of the most salient adverse environmental impacts in the Plan Area; I'm not even convinced there's a legitimate need for trail rides in this sensitive location. At a minimum, if trail rides are to continue to be offered, the concessioner must be required to fund trail restoration and repair to a standard similar to that of trails where commercial horse use does not occur. That's very costly, and if this cost were built into the trail ride fee, it might quickly be apparent that this is an activity that simply doesn't pay its way while mitigating its obviously significant adverse impacts. Thus, there may not be a need for the concession stables at all; or at least, they can be substantially reduced once the supply pack trains are not there anymore. That would make it very easy to consolidate with the NPS stable requirements.
12. Retain or expand picnic area. Picnic opportunities are extremely limited in the Plan Area compared with elsewhere in the Park and in other parks and recreation areas. They shouldn't be eliminated, instead, expanded and/or improved.
13. It may be a risky plan to make a bike/hike trail. I would retain as a historic trail, perhaps do minor restoration. There really isn't anywhere else to use a mountain bike in the Plan Area; having a designated bike access is almost certain to lead to off-trail bike use where it isn't wanted (as in, right through the meadows and in other environmentally sensitive places). I *love* to mountain bike, but Tuolumne is probably not the place for it. Also, to mix bikes and pedestrians requires a rather wide trail, and I don't think the need justifies the expanded impact area in the middle of the Meadows.
14. As in Alt. 2. Detailed explanation and itemization of sites that merit relocation is provided above.
15. Not sure.
16. With the elimination of High Sierra Camp supply pack trains, you can reduce concessioner stables and relocate NPS to that location.
17. No opinion.
18. Slight preference for Alts. 2/4. Definitely wouldn't favor elimination unless there's a significant adverse impact that can't be mitigated otherwise.
19. Preference for Alts. 1/4.
20. Tuolumne Meadows (whole Meadows): Repair some existing trail damage (see above: Pothole area, perhaps also along Great Sierra Wagon Road), but maintain existing, generally uncontrolled, access to the whole Meadows area. The Meadows themselves constitute one of the leading ORVs of the Plan Area, therefore, they should remain completely accessible. There is very little evidence of resource

damage from people on foot walking around in the Meadows, therefore no need for restriction of this use. I strongly support the use of fire to maintain the open character of the Meadows. However, other than at specific points where human alterations have triggered undesirable habitat changes (mostly in the form of minor erosion, for example at the bridge near Soda Springs, or at aforementioned spots where social trails cross low areas), I would not be in favor of attempting any riparian "restoration" along the main stem or side channels of the river. Under the circumstances of Tuolumne Meadows, the unmodified riparian processes are perfectly adequate to maintain the ORVs of the immediate river vicinity.

21. Tuolumne River: I personally oppose any expansion of the reach of brightly colored plastic into parts of the Plan Area where one can almost get away from it, but also understand the legitimacy of kayaking as a visitor use. However, it's probably not feasible to allow and provide the level of rescue or recovery operation that will certainly someday be demanded by someone. Having done a certain amount of whitewater boating up to Class 5/6 (Coal Mine Falls, Middle Eel – clean raft run at 10,000 cfs!), I am sure there will inevitably be loss of boats and/or gear, with dubious possibility that anyone will ever clean up this trash.

One last bit that doesn't have a home elsewhere is noise. Generally, other than natural noise sources such as wind, water, precipitation, thunder, the Plan Area is relatively devoid of high levels of human-caused noise, and this factor itself constitutes an ORV of the Plan Area. There aren't even very many small private planes that are such a noise plague in some other parts of the Sierra. The one exception in the Plan Area is large groups of excessively loud motorcycles. Having formerly commuted on a motorcycle and still holding an M class license, I have a hard time believing that all of these are in compliance with the applicable California Vehicle Code section pertaining to noise levels. It would seem perfectly reasonable to make a rigorous effort to enforce this Code for a period of time. The word will quickly spread around that Hwy 120 is not the place to go cycling if your pipes are out of compliance, and this alone will reduce the magnitude of the noise impact – even if only a small number of riders are turned back to the Valley.

I am extremely appreciative of the efforts of the planning team to gather important baseline data, to enlist the public's participation throughout the development of the Plan, and to end up with the best wild and scenic river plan anywhere. Please keep me on the contact list.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

09/15/2008 02:36 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Comment on Tuolumne River Plan

I am attaching my planning comments in the form of a Word file and a .pdf; whether you post these on the Internet, or just find it useful to have an electronic file for the NEPA process, one or the other should be useful. Just to cover all bases, I'm also mailing a signed original. But all three are exactly identical.

[redacted]

Juncosa 15Sept08.pdf Juncosa 15Sept08.doc

L103-cf-
9-24-08

[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

L104-C9
9-24-08

[redacted]

09/15/2008 10:10 AM

[redacted]

To YOSE_PLANNING@NPS.GOV
cc
bcc
Subject TUOLUMNE PLANNING WORKBOOK

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

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to provide comments on Yosemite's 2008 **Tuolumne Planning Workbook**. I am very concerned about the harmful impacts of commercial activities originating at Tuolumne Meadows and elsewhere in and near the Tuolumne River corridor. My specific comments are as follows:

I object to and am offended by Alternative 5, the so-called "Preferred Alternative," which is titled *"Honor the traditions of the Tuolumne while looking to the future*." What this really seems to mean is continuing and condoning the commercialism and polluting activities of the past, while looking the other way. This alternative inappropriately would continue the polluting commercial horse rides, High Sierra Camps, and other harmful activities by labeling them as part of our "heritage." The NPS can and must do better to protect the magnificent Tuolumne Meadows and River.

The Workbook does not present a range of reasonable alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Clearly, the ugly and polluting "High Sierra Camps" (HSCs) at Glen Aulin, Tuolumne Meadows, and Vogelsang should be closed, and the sites restored. But removal of the HSCs (and the commercial horse rides) is only considered under a single alternative that is accompanied by the removal of nearly all of the facilities at Tuolumne Meadows. It is plainly obvious that Alternative 1 (which includes removal of the store, grill, fuel station and mountaineering school) will not be seriously considered by the NPS. Lumping the fate of the HSCs and commercial horse rides with such a radical "fringe" alternative is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to make it appear as if the NPS has considered their removal. This is illustrated by the fact that removal of the polluting HSCs and damaging horse rides is not even included in Alternative 4, which purportedly aims to "Recover Healthy Ecological Conditions in Disturbed Meadow and Riparian Areas." This is unacceptable. The HSCs, which are outdated and polluting commercial eyesores, should be removed, and their removal must be included in more than a single radical alternative that will not be seriously considered.

Because domestic livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) are known to pollute water, spread weeds, and pulverize trails, your plan for Tuolumne Meadows/River should end, once and for all, the commercial horse rides, unless:

1. ...all stock animals are strictly required to wear diapers to prevent pollution from animal manure and urine. Such diapers are now widely accepted and available. See, for example: http://www.equisan.com.au/ Further, the operators of the commercial horse stables must 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. I strongly object

to the continued pollution of the Tuolumne River by stock manure and urine. The NPS must take action to stop it.

2. ...all stock animals are sufficiently quarantined before entering the park to prevent the spread of weeds, and the commercial operators are required to use only weed-free feed. See, for example: http://www.extendinc.com/weedfreefeed/ 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.

Please craft a range of reasonable alternatives that will truly protect Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

MORAGA, CALIFORNIA

[redacted]

L-105-C9
9-24-08

[redacted]
09/15/2008 10:13 AM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Tuolumne Planning Workbook Comments

COMMENTS RE: TUOLUMNE PLANNING WORKBOOK

USING THE FORMAT OF THE COMMENT FORM:

1. What are your suggestions or concerns about the primary 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: Removal of Glen Aulin High Camp, ending commercial trail rides
- DISLIKE: Removal of all services denies enjoyment of the high country to children, the elderly, and the handicapped. People will not support or fund the preservation of a resource from which they are excluded.

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

- LIKE: Retain existing opportunities for overnight use and backpacking
- DISLIKE: Stock-packing commercial trips, keep High Camp, kayaking. There are ample places to kayak that are less fragile than this area.

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

- LIKE: "Classic national park experience." Introduction to the High Sierra for children and flatlanders. Upgraded housing & utilities.
- DISLIKE: Commercial horseback riding & Glen Aulin High Camp remain

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

- LIKE: Discontinue commercial trail rides; consolidate stables. Confine facilities

to less-fragile areas.

- DISLIKE: Continuation of High Camp

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

The status quo is untenable. A compromise that tries to mollify every special interest will leave us where we are now --- loving this fragile area to death. Hard choices need to be made. The "Preferred Alternative" seems to be an attempt to be all things to all people. This will further accelerate deterioration and only defer the making of hard choices to sometime in the future.

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

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

1. Preserve this fragile resource for the long term. This requires hard choices.

2. Don't keep people out; they will only support the mission of the national parks if they are welcomed and educated. Not everyone is a backpacker.

3. Educate the public, many of whom are quite ignorant about wilderness values, where California's water comes from, etc.

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. Horses and mules are the number-one cause of trail degradation. Fresh feces and urine are found all over the back country, with accompanying flies and water-quality issues. We have seen horses led knee-deep into lakes to drink (and defecate). A 1200-pound animal wearing metal shoes pounds the trail to dust. Understandably, the animals don't want to walk in the mud, so they "widen" trails to many lanes. The equestrian lobby is strong, but sooner or later the NPS will have to address this. You don't allow mountain bikes, dogs, or motorcycles; why stock?

Consistent with this, the time has come to eliminate the High Camps and their supply trains, as well as commercial pack trips and horseback riding out of Tuolumne. NPS patrols, supply to back-country ranger stations, and YOSAR use of horses would of course be retained. Private citizens could bring their own horses in their own trailers as a compromise, and the impact of this evaluated over time.

14. Don't reduce the total number of campsites. Relocating sites away from riparian areas makes sense.

18. Keep Tuolumne Lodge as at present; protect fragile areas.

A few final comments:

- Kayaking, while an environmental sport, will inevitably lead to further degradation of the river banks in this fragile area. There are other areas --- less vulnerable --- for this activity. If you allow kayaking, then why not inflatable kayaks, inflatable rubber boats, canoes? Does the NPS really want to police this, have water-rescue personnel on-site, etc.?

- All vehicles larger than the footprint of a Chevy Suburban should be banned from the Tioga Road. Van-conversion RV's would be allowed, but the huge RV's with their generators have a major negative impact on the environment and on traffic.

- Sometimes the "historic" argument is brought up to defend an idea that has outlived its usefulness. Commercial sheep-grazing in Tuolumne is "historic," as is the Curry Village firefall. We must manage the resource for the next hundred years, not the last hundred. The High Camps, for instance, are unattractive urban clusters in the back country, increasingly available only to the small number of people who can afford their high prices. Supplying them with pack trains has a huge environmental impact. Sooner or later they have to go.

We are in the present situation because of the very understandable desire to placate all user groups. However the status quo cannot be maintained. This area is too fragile. The time is now to make some tough decisions that will not be universally popular.

- In that vein, the ultimate obscenity of O'Shaughnessy Dam and the political hypocrisy of a "Wild and Scenic River" designation to "maintain the free-flowing condition of the river" while specifically exempting Hetch Hetchy Reservoir must be corrected. The dam must go, and the reclamation of Hetch Hetchy Valley will further disperse usage in the back country. The long term water needs of California can only be met using de-salination of ocean water. While beyond the scope of Tuolumne planning or the mission of the NPS, this too will require thinking "outside the box."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

[redacted]

Vista CA 92084

[redacted]

LT06-cg-
9-24-08

[redacted]

09/15/2008 03:02 PM

[redacted]

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

Hello,
I am writing with my comments about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows:

My overall suggestion is that the shuttle system be improved and expanded so that private car use can be discouraged, shuttle use easier and encouraged.

1)Suggestions or concerns about the preliminary alternative site plan concepts/Alternative 1, like or dislike?
I generally really like alternative 1 the best of all the alternatives with three alterations. I believe that in order to conserve fuel, employees working in the Tuolumne Meadows area should be housed there, not just "essential employees" but all of them. Therefore some housing should remain either at #17 or included in the expansion of housing at #5. I am in favor of removal of store, grill, etc., although I believe that there should be an ice machine available, perhaps at #15 with visitor center. Commercial trail rides must be removed; that is my one absolute and I agree completely and like this element the BEST of all aspects of Alt.1. I believe that a public shower option could be included with the visitor center at #15. Showers absolutely should not be in the campground restrooms but should be available somewhere in the Tuolumne Meadows area to prevent the river contamination inevitable if people are using shampoos and soaps in the river to wash up.
Otherwise I am in agreement with all aspects of Alt.1.

2) I am extremely opposed to commercial trail rides; no bridal paths, no commercial trail rides! The destruction is far greater than any possible pleasure it could afford a few people. If you cannot hike somewhere without a horse, don't go!! Proposed showers, #10, are a good idea.

3) I like #18, removing some housing from river area. Entirely, vehemently opposed to concessioner stable.

4) Again, showers would be a good addition to this plan, commercial trail rides should be eliminated.

5) Fully disagree with this, the preferred plan, as being far too commercial and totally not in keeping with wild, scenic and natural place that Tuolumne should be. Please do NOT encourage large groups, motor homes, horses, trail rides, biking, expanded recreational opportunities. This can only lead to heavier use, greater and more disastrous impacts on the environment and the destruction of the very thing we should be attempting to preserve.

My key points: Remove pack animals from Tuolumne Meadows and eliminate all commercial trail rides. Discourage motor homes and city park-type activities and groups. Retain housing in the area for employees/reduce fuel use and control air quality. Provide showers at central area to prevent destruction of the river water quality. Improve shuttle service and make it accessible, easy to use and eventually mandatory for certain areas.

Thank you,
[redacted]
Santa Barbara 93110

L107-CG-
9-24-08

[redacted]

09/15/2008 02:04 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject 2008 Tuolumne River Plan Comments

The attached pdf contains my comments on the Tuolumne River Plan.
Thanks for listening!

[redacted]

Tuolumne Comments - [redacted]

Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

September 15, 2008

While participating in the Tuolumne River Plan Workshop this past August, I was very favorably impressed with the amount of data that has been gathered, the thought that has gone into both the process and the planning, and most of all, the degree to which the NPS seems to be willing to really listen to and consider the input of the general public. Here, briefly, are my comments, based on the areas highlighted in the planning workbook:

1. Pothole Dome Provide formal parking with trail connections to Pothole Dome. No picnic area. While this seems like a logical place to put a picnic area, it is already a very heavily used area of the Meadow. Putting in picnic facilities would be asking for trouble. Since it is such a popular spot though, it is important to formalize the parking, choose a preferred route for people to use to access the Dome (and rehabilitating the other social trails), and provide multi-lingual and/or icon-based signage that directs people to the preferred trail.

2. Roadside Parking and Social Trails Eliminate road shoulder parking throughout the meadow area. Provide short-term parking areas and long-term ones. Additional short-term parking could be created near the visitor center, and it would seem logical to also put picnic facilities here. The short-term visitor often stops at the visitor center already, so why not provide for his needs right there?

As with above, choose some preferred social trails and provide signage directing people to them (and explaining why they should use them). Rehabilitate any trails that will no longer be used due to the parking having been removed.

3. Cathedral Lakes Trailhead Long-term and overnight parking, with bear boxes, must be provided as close to the Cathedral Lakes trailhead as is feasible. Many people use that trailhead to do long car-to-car climbing days, and it not possible for them to use the shuttle for trailhead access.

For example, one very popular (long) day climb is the traverse of the Matthes Crest. To accomplish this climb in one day it is necessary to start hiking in before dawn, and frequently, finish hiking out after dark. And in the summer thunderstorm season, many people wanting to finish climbing Cathedral Peak before the afternoon lightning rolls in also get a pre-shuttle-hours start.

The Cathedral Lakes trailhead is also immensely popular with day hikers. It's hard to imagine that there won't be a greater number of hikers getting benighted (or just exhausted) and dialing for a rescue if they have to add a few more miles each way to their hike to the lakes.

[redacted]

4. Wastewater Treatment Ponds No opinion.

5.Visitor Center Retain visitor center and add picnic area (see 2). Relocate maintenance operations.

6. Wastewater Treatment Area Move maintenance operations here.

7. Soda Springs Area Preserve Parsons Lodge and McCauley Cabin; eliminate vehicle access and utilities.

8. Area West of Campground No change.

9. Campground (general) The Tuolumne Meadows campground has a unique rustic character that should be protected. No "upgrading" or "modernizing" should be done, and no additional RV sites should be created.

Tuolumne has a unique appeal for groups. Every time I visit I see at least a couple large informal groups of friends and families who, unable to reserve a group site together, try to get individual sites in close proximity to one another. I have done the same myself. The problem is that any large group of people, no matter how hard they try, is going to make a lot more noise and disturbance for other campers. The number of group campsites should be increased, and commercial use of the sites should be absolutely prohibited.

It is outrageous that our national parks should be given over to commercial ventures such as Backroads.com, when ordinary citizens are unable to obtain sites. Apparently they have methods of obtaining sites that are not open to the general public, else how would they be able to offer trips for specific dates? See here: http://www.backroads.com/trips/MYOCF/california-yosemite-biking-hiking-tour. Backroads already has *eight(!)* 2009 Tuolumne trips for sale.

10. Store/Gas Station Area Retain existing facilities. Add a picnic area.

11. Concessioner Stables Eliminate the horse concession and restore the area to natural conditions (no picnic area here). Horses and mules, especially in packs do an inordinate amount of trail damage in the high country.

The trails that are routinely used by pack trains are degraded to the point that they are dangerous for an otherwise capable older person to use. Regular travel by groups of heavy animals pulverizes the soil and leads to serious erosion, leaving behind exposed tripping hazards like roots and rocks. (One only has to remember back to 2005, when the High Camps were closed due to the late melt-out, to know how much better the trails can be in only one season of reduced horse traffic.)

If individual riders want to bring their own animals to the Meadows they should be permitted, but horse travel should not be actively encouraged by providing a concession. In addition, all horses should be diapered, and their owners required to dispose of the manure.

[redacted]

The High Camps could be supplied by hikers carrying in loads in packs. This is the way the huts in the White Mountains of New Hampshire are supplied, and there is no reason that it cannot work here. A person carrying a laden backpack does far less damage to a trail than a horse.

12. Lembert Dome Area Redesign parking and expand picnic area; upgrade comfort station.

13. Tioga Road/Great Sierra Wagon Road As much as I like to ride bikes, I believe it would be a grave mistake to encourage bike use in the Meadows. Any place where mountain bikes can be ridden quickly develops myriad user trails. Do we really need to add policing of bike use to the NPS ranger's duties?

14. Campground (A Loop) Relocate only the campsites that are right in the 100-year flood plain or that constitute a negative visual impact. Maintain the current number of sites overall.

15. Ranger Station/Wilderness Center No opinion.

16. NPS Stable No opinion.

17. NPS Housing Area Expand Dog Lake/JMT parking if possible.

18. Tuolumne Lodge Retain as is. It is important to have some place – however rustic – that visitors who are not able to camp can stay.

19. Gaylor Pit Retain as is.

Thank you for your attention to my comments,

[redacted]

Truckee, CA

L108-cg-
9-24-08

[redacted]

09/15/2008 11:05 AM

To YOSE_Planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Regarding Tuolumne and Glen Aulin

Hello Ms. Rylands and Ms. Dahl,

I have comments and suggestions regarding Tuolumne and Glen Aulin High Sierra Camps. I have been going to all the HSC's for 35 years, having started as a kid with my parents. It is great to see many different types of people (old, obese, small kids) enjoying nature in a setting that they can be comfortable in.
I am a great believer in letting folks be in nature; if they can't, how can they appreciate it and value it?

That being said, I do understand the environmental issues and the need to ensure we don't permanently damage this treasure.

So I suggest these ideas be implemented at all the HSC's to conserve water and stop pressure on the leach fields:

1. Use biodegradable plates, cups, utensils. That leaves only the cooking utensils and pots to be washed.

2. Composting toilets should be installed.

3. Folks can bring their own sleep sacks/sleeping bags, towels, pillowcases.

4. Charge for showers, where showers are available. (WHY in the world did Tuolumne replace the metered showers with regular fixtures when water is such an issue?)

Some of the camps do some of these things already, but what a significant impact if you implemented them at *all* the camps!

Thanks for listening.

[redacted]

L109-cg
9-24-08

[redacted]
09/15/2008 10:44 AM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Tuolumne Meadows Plan Comments

Please see my attached comments on the Tuolumne Meadows Plan.

Thanks,
[redacted]
Lee Vining, CA 93541

[redacted]T.M. Plan.doc

Comments on a preferred site plan for Tuolumne Meadows

I do not find any of the alternatives, including the preferred alternative (#5), compatible with my philosophy on how Tuolumne Meadows (TM) should be managed so I am creating my own alternative which is not too different than the present day scenario.

1. Do not move any of the facilities (1-19) in the Meadows. Attempting to move facilities to a central or different location leaves a scar behind in the former location that will take decades to heal. This is evidenced by looking at the scar that resulted from bringing the electric/phone line into the Meadows from Lee Vining Canyon through Dana Meadows in 1972. Even though the individual that dug the trench and replaced the sod did so, in what was considered an environmentally sensitive manner at that time, the line is still easily visible from above (say from the top of Gaylor Ridge). It has also altered vegetation patterns along that scar line as well. The only exception to this request would be to downsize the concessioner stables (#11). See reason below.

2. Eliminate commercial horse riding in Tuolumne Meadows. The negative environmental impact on trails resulting from the current number of horses is extreme. Horse riding is an activity that can be done in a number of presently existing locations outside Yosemite. It is an amenity that is not essential to the visitor experience in TM. Retain the use of horses on trails for ranger/wilderness patrol, trail maintenance, and opening, closing, and supplying the high sierra camps only. As a result of fewer horses in TM the current concessioner stables could be downscaled or combined with the NPS tables.

3. Retain the current level of employee housing in TM but encourage employees to seek housing in the gateway community of Lee Vining or negotiate with the USFS to provide some Park housing on the USFS compound in Lee Vining Canyon. Consider offering employees the luxury of commuting to TM from Lee Vining (and vice versa) on work time as a way to encourage employees to take advantage of out-of-Park housing opportunities.

4. To address the public parking issue in TM consider a bus option that picks up visitors in Lee Vining and drops them off at one of several locations in TM. Offer free Park entrance (or greatly reduced fee) to those utilizing this option. This could be done from Yosemite Valley to TM as well. This type of program would take years to catch on though as visitors slowly become aware of such a plan. Use Tioga Pass entrance fee funds to finance this program.

5. Address soundscape issues. I was interviewed, several years ago, by a NPS volunteer gathering information for a study of noise issues in the Park. What happened to the results of that study? Currently, the single most negative aspect of my visits to TM is noise from vehicles—specifically noise from Harley Davidson motorcycles that appear to be in non-conformance with acceptable muffler/decibel standards. Standing near the middle of the TM area, there is nearly a constant roar from these motorcycles. Standing on top of Lembert Dome one can hear them as soon as they pass Pothole Dome

(eastbound) in the west. The noise can be followed all the way to just east of the TM Lodge/120 intersection. This is a distance of between 3-4 miles. Aren't national parks meant to be a sanctuary for visitors to escape the stress and noise of the city? Shouldn't there be places for people to go, like Yosemite and TM to be physically, emotionally, and spiritually recharged? Why are these noise levels acceptable to NPS? This issue needs to be addresses.

Thank you for considering my comments.

[redacted]
Lee Vining, CA 93541
[redacted]

L110-09
9-24-08

[redacted]

09/15/2008 03:09 PM

[redacted]

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Yosemite Planning/Alternative Devel. Process

Hello,
I am responding to the alternatives offered in the Tuolumne Planning Workbook.

1) I like most of Alternative 1 with the exception of retaining concessioner stable to serve High Sierra Camps - I am all for removing store, grill, fuel and mountaineering.

Do not care for Alt.#2, primarily making recreation more easily accessible. I do like providing public showers.

Do not like Alt.#3.

Do not like Alt.#4

2) I would like to see all pack animals removed from Tuolumne Meadows, as well as discouraging RVs. I am in favor of removing store, grill, gas station while retaining an ice machine.

Thank you,
[redacted]
Santa Barbara 93110

LMI-cg-
9-24-08

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]

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.

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.

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]

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]

#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]

L112-CG-
9-24-08

[redacted]
09/14/2008 04:28 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Public comment on 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook

Dear NPS Yosemite Planning:

Thanks so much for the opportunity to comment on the 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook. What a readable and well-put together document. Thanks for that.

Here are my responses to the questions in the workbook.

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? _____

Plan 1 is probably best for the river. I love the wildness of it and that it would reduce crowds to only the serious campers (if that's even possible). I'm willing to give up TMeadows Lodge and Glen Aulin even though I love them very much, but I dislike that historic NPS sites and Native American sites aren't included in this plan. I would like the Visitor Center to stay where it is as a visitor center (with a real ranger and minus the bookstore).** I say keep all the NPS-historic buildings and move them (except Parsons and Soda springs and other miners' cabins) away from the river to the central Visitor Center/Cathedral Lakes parking lot location. It could be a small city full of cool old NPS buildings. I love those old buildings (of course, I've never had to live any of them. That might be a different story.). I especially love the Visitor Center. I'd like to still go into the old Visitor Center. If you had to get rid of TMeadows and Glen Aulin lodges, you could put some t
ent ca
bins up in the campground or put some up in a Visitor Center/historic district for a history walk. The parking lot would have to be big enough, though, and that might make it a miserable scene with all those cars.

I'm torn between Plan 1 and aspects of Plans 3, 4, and 5. I definitely love the historic and interpretative aspects of the 3 and 5. But it would be great to lessen the impact people have. I've found that the more I visit TMeadows, the more interesting it gets, both in the natural and human stories of adaptation. I wouldn't want to deny other people the chance to learn and meet other people who can share their personal enthusiam for the place. But I also selfishly want to keep the crowds out of TMeadows.

I agree with the concept of consolidating services, reducing services where possible, making trails official and removing social trails and off-highway parking.

I think the backcountry base is important to those of us who are hikers if the amenities go away, I still think people would hike there. For that matter, you could move the stores to White Wolf and leave only a campsite, visitor center, and historic sites in TMeadows.

**Visitor Center/Bookstore: I think the bookstore needs to be moved to another building adjacent to Visitor Center so a ranger can man the desk in the visitor center and people can go elsewhere if they want to purchase Yosemite Association books. You could consolidate the new bookstore with a small, basic

backpacking/camping store---nothing excessive, but something that has enough room so the foot traffic flows well. Moving the bookstore out of the visitor center would clear out the traffic a bit. Right now people asking questions stand in the same line as people buying books and souvenirs. The line gets huge in a small space while the volunteers give visitors the lowdown on the whole park. I don't think a volunteer should answer questions about trails and I don't think a ranger should man the register---the volunteer does both now. Put the ranger in the visitor center, and a volunteer in a separate bookstore. Maybe even move the wilderness center to the visitor center.

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

I don't like the kayaking in this plan. It would cost too much to police and rescue kayakers. Aren't these wild, scenic, and dangerous rivers? In general, I don't like this plan. It allows for too much development.

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

I love the Tuolumne Heritage zone but still think the A loop could be removed from the river. Wastewater ponds should move. Isn't there some kind of technology now that could improve the waste treatment process. Mt. Rainier campgrounds had a Japanese portable toilet that used very little water and recycled decomposed the waste. (See "Ribbon-Cutting Planned for $70,000 Bio Toilet" www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2008/06/ribbon-cutting-planned-70-000-bio-toilet-mount-rainier-national-park) Hmmm, that is kinda expensive for a toilet. I've tried it though, and despite the surprisingly brown water, the toilet was great. It didn't' smell at all and fit in well with the environment.

I think it's good to have Native Americans able to use the park (after all, it was their home). Native American interpretive information and programs would be great for visitors, as long as it's respectful. At this point, Native American history and use is more important to me then keeping TMeadows lodge or "traditional" American park opportunities for leisure or adventure.

Number one, is restoring the environment (river, meadow), of course, and the Native Americans are part of that as the first humans. I don't know if you should maintain the meadow as a meadow for perpetuity. I love the meadow, but perhaps its better to let the natural processes work.

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

This is a good plan, too. I like that you at least take the TM lodge employee housing away from river at TMeadows. I do like the idea to consolidate the current visitor center, store, and campground. Like that you're relocating the NPS stables and restoring the land there. Removing the wastewater treatment ponds is good idea.

Synthesizing science-based info and American Indian knowledge of ecosystem to ID conditions for recovery is a great idea.

I hope this plan keep some of the old (historic?) NPS cabins/housing. I think it does, though it's not as centered on the maintaining historical buildings.

Of course, restoring the meadow would be wonderful.

---

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

Wow. You've all done a fabulous job on these plans. All the work that has gone into this shows how much people love this place. I just want to say if you need cooperation from those of us who visit Tuolumne Meadows frequently because we love it, too, you have it. After reading the plan, I guess I won't whine if I can't park where I want any more or can't camp right next to the river at the lodge or in the campsite. I feel comfortable with whatever you decide as long as it's not plan 2.

You've probably already thought of everything and hashed everything out. I can't add much. My only hope is that you consolidate services, keep the area as wild as possible while maintaining the historic architecture and sites, educate the visitors, and try reduce the crowds. I don't think you should go building a massive visitor center somewhere with a ton of amenities that will draw crowds. (Some of the new architecture in Yosemite Valley is overdone.) It's better to restore and recycle what's there already (in terms of buildings) and perhaps build a few new buildings that are environmentally friendly and unobtrusive. Of course, NPS buildings should be updated. We don't want the rangers and staff to suffer.

I wish we could all get rid of our cars. At least maybe we'll have electric cars someday (you could take the gas station out but leave in a electric car charger station).

Thanks again,

[redacted]
Oakland, CA 94602
[redacted]

L113-cg
9-24-08

[redacted]

09/13/2008 12:51 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject 2008 Tuol. Planning Workbook comments

Thanks for considering my comments,

I've numbered the comments according to the comment sheet.

Question 1:
- alternative 1: this is overly restrictive. Tuolumne already has very limited development compared to other major regions of most major National Parks, and there's no need to manage the small developed area as wilderness.

- alternative 2: some aspects of this plan are fine, but there are several major negatives. First, employee housing at a remote site is unacceptable in this day and age. All development should be contained in very compact areas to prevent unnecessary commuting and traffic. We all want energy independence, and we should act locally! The Gaylor pit site should not be developed. Second, the Cathedral Lakes parking area should be retained and expanded. The NPS removed the old parking lot decades ago, but in hindsight that was probably an error. Trying to move parking and then providing transportation is unreasonable. A new parking lot can be built on the south side of the road, and the tree-side parking on the east end of the current informal parking (near the shuttle stop) can be retained. Third, the A loop campsites should be retained. This is the nicest section of the campground, and it's mostly located on sandy/rocky soil with little impact to the riparian area. Even if it is removed, the foot traffic by bathers, fishing traffic, etc will continue impacts at nearly the same level as just keeping the loop.

- alternative 3: this plan is mostly status-quo, but there are some negatives (other than delineated for alternative 2). First, parking is needed in the Pothole Dome through Cathedral Lakes trailhead area. Whatever alternatives are chosen, the number of parking spots currently available should be at a minimum retained, and better yet, expanded. Also, Gaylor Pit as an alternative satellite parking area is a poor choice. Remote parking plus shuttles is not desirable from either a visitor experience aspect, or a transportation aspect with the additional traffic and gas use.

- alternative 4: this plan relocates the wastewater treatment ponds. What is not addressed is why this might be desirable, and more importantly, if the construction required to do this (including sewer line removal) will cause more disruption to the meadows than just keeping it as is. Without that sort of information, the public can't make an informed decision about moving the sewage treatment facilities.

Question 2: Additional comments.

- nearly every plan removes roadside parking between Pothole Dome and Cathedral Lakes trailhead. This isn't too smart. The large informal parking in the trees only 50yds from the paved Pothole Dome parking should be retained, as it doubles the parking capacity which is way too small at the paved lot. The alternative would be to pave a larger

lot into the meadow - much better to retain parking in the trees. If the smaller informal roadside pullouts are removed, tourists will simply stop in the road to take pictures. If all that parking is removed, new parking with equal capacity should replace the existing informal parking in the same location. Better to just leave it alone.

- a bus stop for the shuttle, YARTS, and other busses is needed at the store. The best location is in the trees opposite the store between the store and the campground entrance. Trees would have to be removed, but considering that the meadows have more trees now than ever before due to water diversion, and since the trees are quite a distance from the river, it should have little impact.

- removal of all high country camps, and removal of ALL concessionaire stable services, is strongly recommended. Pack trains ruin the John Manure Trail and all other trails where horses and mules travel. This would allow full elimination of the concessionaire stables.

- all recycling bins need to be bracketed by trash bins. Europeans and many Americans simply don't recognize the large bear-proof dumpsters as trash bins, and they are often not near the recycling bins.

- recycling bins with single recycling signs are confusing for most city dwellers who can recycle far more than Yosemite can (paper, cardboard, etc). What can be recycled should be printed in large print on all recycling signs. More effort should be made to find a recycling capability for all spent fuel canisters.

- more bathrooms are needed, especially Olmsted Point. Toilet paper can be found in the woods at every pull out throughout Tuolumne. If no bathrooms are added, then road signs which clearly label distance to next bathroom need to be placed 1/4 mile before every existing bathroom, starting with Porcupine Creek trailhead and going all the way to the Mono Pass trailhead. Americans are getting fatter, and older, and both groups use restrooms more often. The current bathroom facilities are insufficient, but if none are added, at least let everyone know where the next bathroom can be found.

- all bathrooms need to have soap dispensers (when there's running water) or water-free antibacterial lotion like at the Lembert toilets. The lack of soap in the campground, where sites cost $20 a night, is nearly as disgraceful as the state of the campground roads.

- all campground roads should be repaired with dirt and/or gravel (not asphalt), and professionally leveled so no puddles are found in rainy weather. Puddles lead to potholes and road deterioration.

- the DNC should be required to keep the bathrooms at the store & grill open 24/7, or at a minimum 6am to 10pm throughout the season.

Overall, the Tuolumne area is in pretty good shape right now. The various proposals all do a good job of not messing things up too much. Thanks for keeping the options in a reasonable range of possibilities!

Thank you,

[redacted]

Bishop, CA 93515

L114-cg
9-24-08

[redacted]

09/12/2008 11:02 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>

[redacted]

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Planning Workbook Comments

I have the following comments regarding the various alternative site plans for the Tuolumne River:

Alternative 1:

This alternative would break my heart. Closing the Tuloumne Meadows and Glen Aulin HIgh Sierra Camps would eliminate an important opportunity for familes with young children (who aren't quite ready for a full backpacking experience) to instill in their children a love of the wilderness.

My parents first took me and my siblings to Tuolumne Meadows in 1965, when I was five years old. I have been going ever since. My stays there allowed me to access the wilderness and develop a love for nature in a way that would not otherwise have been possible. I have been taking my children there for the last five years (they are now ages 9 and 12), and they already feel like they have an ownership interest in Yosemite. They look forward to our visit every year, they plan our hikes, and they notice the differences from year to year. This year they were old enough that we could backpack to Glen Aulin for the first time, which allowed us to visit parts of the Tuloumne River we had never before visited. My family loved it, and we are hoping to visit Vogelsang next summer.

Alternative 2:

This alternative is almost as bad as Alternative 1. If I understand Alternative 2 correctly, it would greatly increase the number of people who make use of the Tuolumne area. We enjoy the Yosemite upper valley because it is quiet and peaceful, and because we can hike all day and rarely see another person. Increasing the number of people who use the Tuloumne area will make the upper valley more like the lower valley in summertime, where car alarms blare on a regular basis, trash can be seen on the sidewalks, and there are traffic jams on the roads. We like that there is no bike path and that to experience Tuolumne you need to be willing to walk. It is important that people be able to access the Tuloumne wilderness, but if the access is increased to the point that those visiting the area don't receive a true wilderness experience, the value of Tuloumne will be greatly diminished.

Alternatives 3 and 4:

These alternative seem to me to strike a reasonable balance between providing continued access to the Tuolumne while not detracting from the wilderness experience. We like the emphais on traditional outdoor recreation activities, and on better protection of areas that are currently suffering damage.

Alternative 5:

It is difficult to comment on this alternative because its implications are not yet delineated in the same manner as has been done with the other alternatives. However, I generally like the objectives of preserving access and use of the area in the same manner as is currently allowed, while upgrading some infrastructure and protecting areas which have

suffered damage from overuse.

Our family loves Tuolumne Meadows and all of the surrounding high country. My parents passed that loved down from their generation to mine. We are now passing it down to the next generation. We hope that tradition will continue on for many generations to come.

L115-cg-
9-25-08

[redacted]

09/15/2008 08:35 AM

[redacted]

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Tuolomne Meadow Planning Comments

Good Day to all, September 15, 2008

My Comments on your five site plans are enclosed.

I have been going to Tuolomne Meadows campgrounds for 20 years. My concerns address the fact I am now, at 57, an aging camper. My use of the area is primarily for camping, extended day hikes of three to six hours, appreciation of nature, observation of wilderness life especially fauna, education by Ranger Naturalist, photography and reflection on life and the gift of my existence.

Comments on Alternative site plan 1: Worst Plan for my needs. Dislike removal of A-loop camping area 14, Dislike removal of Toulomne Lodge area 18, Dislike removal of store and mountaineering school area 10, Dislike removal of Tioga Road parking areas 2 and 3, Dislike clumping Cathedral Lakes parking with Visitor center parking, Like formal parking at Pothole Dome area 1, Dislike retention of concessioner stable area 11, Like retention of parking and picnic area 12.

Comments on Alternative Plan 2: Best Plan for my needs, Provides best access for elderly, Provides best education opportunities for younger children. Specifically, Like expanded opportunities for day use, Like formal parking area 1, Dislike loss of Tigoa road parking areas 2 and 3, Like relocation of Visitors Center and prefer clustering services together area 5, Like formal parking and trail to Parson Lodge area 8, Like retention of current campground area 9, Like Plan for area 11, Like plan for area 12, Dislike moving of A-loop campground area 14, Dislike changing area 15, Dislike removal of housing at Toulomne Lodge area 18,

Comments of Plan 3: Overall Dislike reduction of use levels and Dislike constrained levels of service and facility improvements. Specifically, Dislike removal of informal parking and social trials area 1, Dislike removal of Tioga road parking area 2 and 3, Dislike clumping Visitor center parking and Cathedral lakes parking together as there are not enough spaces, Like preservation of Parson Lodge and McCauley Cabin, Like retention of all campground loops areas 9 and 14, Like retention of store and mountaineering school, Dislike retention of Concession stable are 11, Like area 12, Like concept for interpretative trial area 13, Like retention of Tuolomne Lodge.

Comments of Alternative plan 4: Overall Dislike intensive management of of visitor Levels, and Dislike confining opportunities for day use. Specifically, Dislike removal of Parking area 1, Dislike removal of Tiioga Road Parking areas 2 and 3, Like Relocation of Visitors center recommend to area 10, Like preservation of Parson Lodge and McCauley Cabin, Like retention of campsite numbers, Dislike retention of Stable are 11, Strongly Dislike removal of Parking and Picnic are 12, , Like no change camp loop A, Dislike relocation of ranger station are 15, Dislike relocating dining hall and housing are 18.

Comments on Alternative Plan 5: First it is totally unfair it is given much less press and descriptive information as plans 1 through 4. Dislike managing visitor use to protect sensitive meadows and riparian resources especially since there is no designation as what this means. Conscious use of the Meadow is why I visit Toulomne Meadow. "Education to Preserve" is a much better concept than manage visitor use. We mostly are an intelligent species and with guidance will act to preserve what is important to us. We cannot help impacting ecological processes. The greater good is to allow opportunity for unfiltered natural experience so an integration of the wonder and joy of being in the Meadows will naturally lead to appreciation and integrity of use. The coming ecological stresses to the Meadow will not be from people's use but from environmentally damaging events far away from the park. Also, many of the people designing the preservation strategies for the meadow have had unfiltered use and abuse of the Meadow for in some cases generations. The Park belongs to the People of The United States to explore, to adore, to values and to worship. To that end "ACCESS" is the key to achieving deep appreciation of the wonder offered in the Meadow and to achieve an "UNFILTERED" appreciation of the inherent beauty of nature and the resonant harmony of Soul that accompanies it.

My thanks and appreciation on your consideration on my comments,

Blessings,

[redacted] Saratoga, California 95070

Lilie -cq- 9-25-08

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:

Yes → Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? By far my favorite option; priority should be to minimize organized attractions & maximize opportunities for low-impact, human-powered access; campground should be as simple, low key as possible, and with lowest possible fee.

NO → WORST OF ALL Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like the bike trails (would be worthwhile addition to option 1. If keeping store, grill, etc... consolidating them seems sensible (but eliminating them is better) Adding more commercial trail rides, interpretative trails, etc is horrible

No → Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Lodge should be removed; stores & services should be removed

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?

the "preferred alternative" seems more like code for business as usual to me.

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:

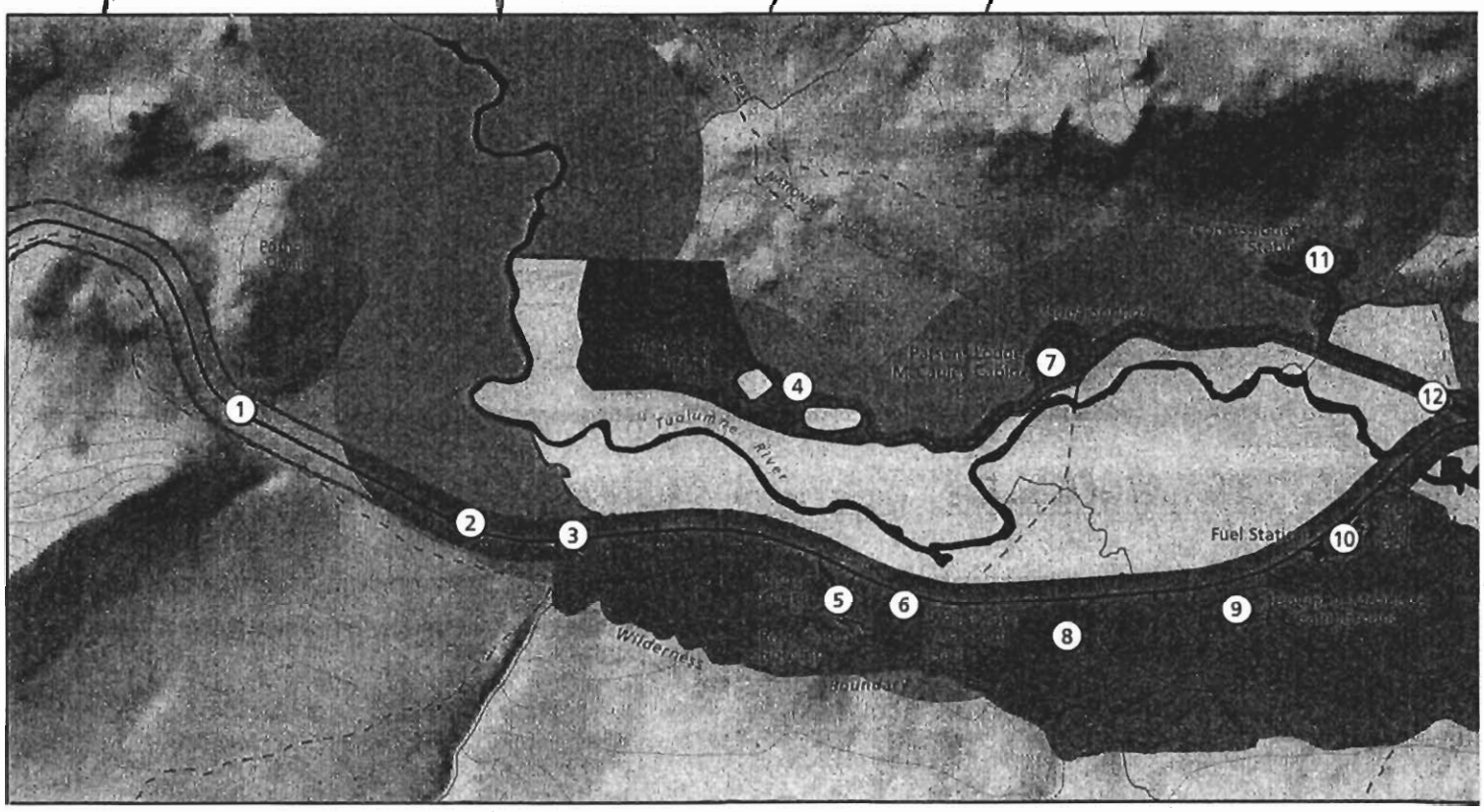
(9) – maintain/maximize minimal (ie no showers, no power, etc) camping at low fee ($20/day is already very high – equals $600/mo – too much for longer term users – you can get a cheap hotel room for $50!)

(10, 11) – eliminate anything that attracts visitors other than the natural beauty of the area, i.e: stores, commercial rides, boating, etc... The perfect example of what NOT TO DO is YOSEMITE Valley

(18) – eliminate fixed lodging such as lodge etc...

(16, 17) – Minimize the number of staff in the area (to eliminate lodging needs).

– provide some trails for both hiking & biking.

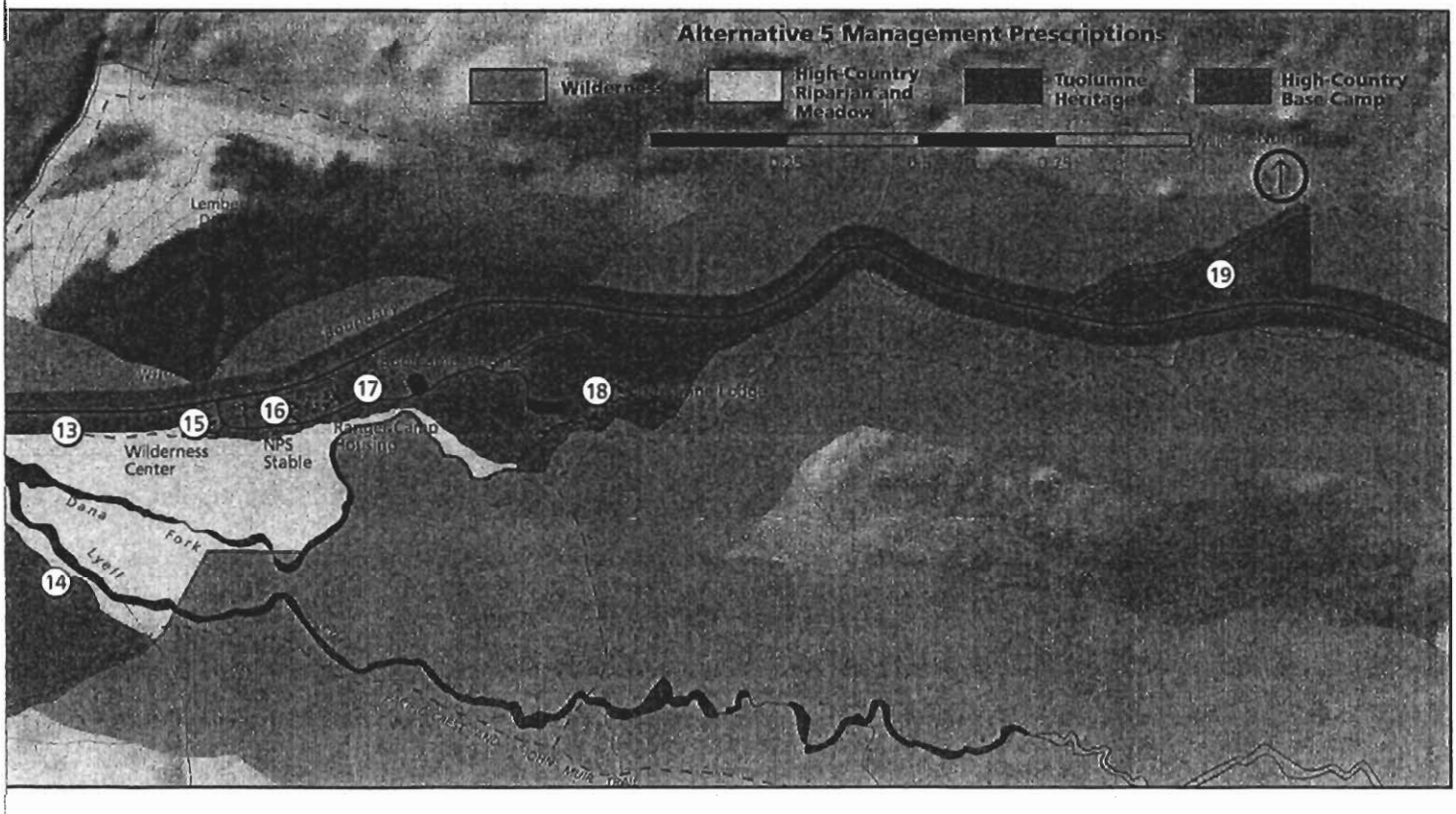


This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- provide some additional parking to avoid roadside parking along meadow

This park should be for people who really appreciate nature – NOT an attraction / theme park a la Yosemite

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted] 87544 (NM)



Create Your Own Site Plan

L-117-09 -

Your Comments Are Important! 9-25-08

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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? _____

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? _____

it has the Best Idea ~~for~~ with: Relocating the ranger station, NPS stable, as well removing informal parking, shoulders, and spot 10

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

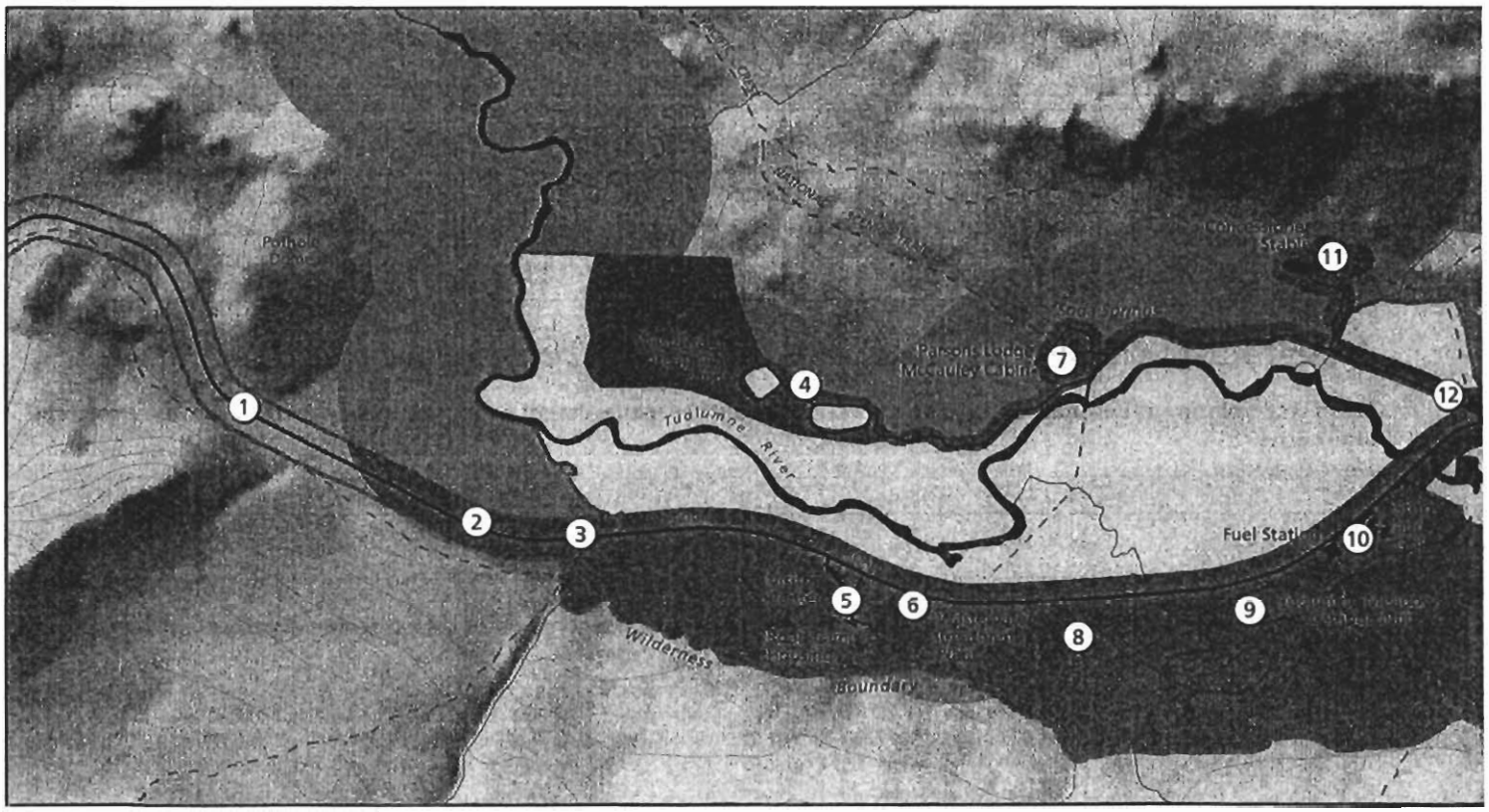
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

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:

+ Removing as many permanent structures as possible.
+ Limiting ~~the~~ population (over night and day use)
+ Wilderness up to the rivers edge
+ Take down Hetch Hetchy Dam ... No dams ~~on~~ in NPs!



L118-cg
9-25-08

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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? _____

Please don't take

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

out "A" loop of

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

Tuolumne Meadows campground!

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

Just enforce good camping habits instead to ensure water quality, since those sites are near the river.

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

L119-cg-
9-25-08

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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? NO

There is enough wilderness already. Just walk ½ mile from Any road, or for that matter 200', and you are in wilderness

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? NO

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? NO

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? NO

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

Keep it as it is. Fix everything! Limit the amount of people allowed in. Limit Busses!, Limit RVS. Fix Restrooms MORE Restrooms

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

L120-C9

Your Comments Are Important!

9-25-08

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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?

I think to maintain & restore riparian & wilderness aspects this works best. Especially good is removal of Tuolumne Lodge.

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

I do not like this one - it stresses people over environment. I do like providing showers in walking distance to campground

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

This sounds bad & seems to maintain the status quo of increasing erosion & human use

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

I particularly like the scientific input & disallowing of commercial trail rides. However redesigning sites in the campground should not make them all tiny.

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

The preferred doesn't go far enough. It also seems to maintain the status quo of environmental degradation.

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

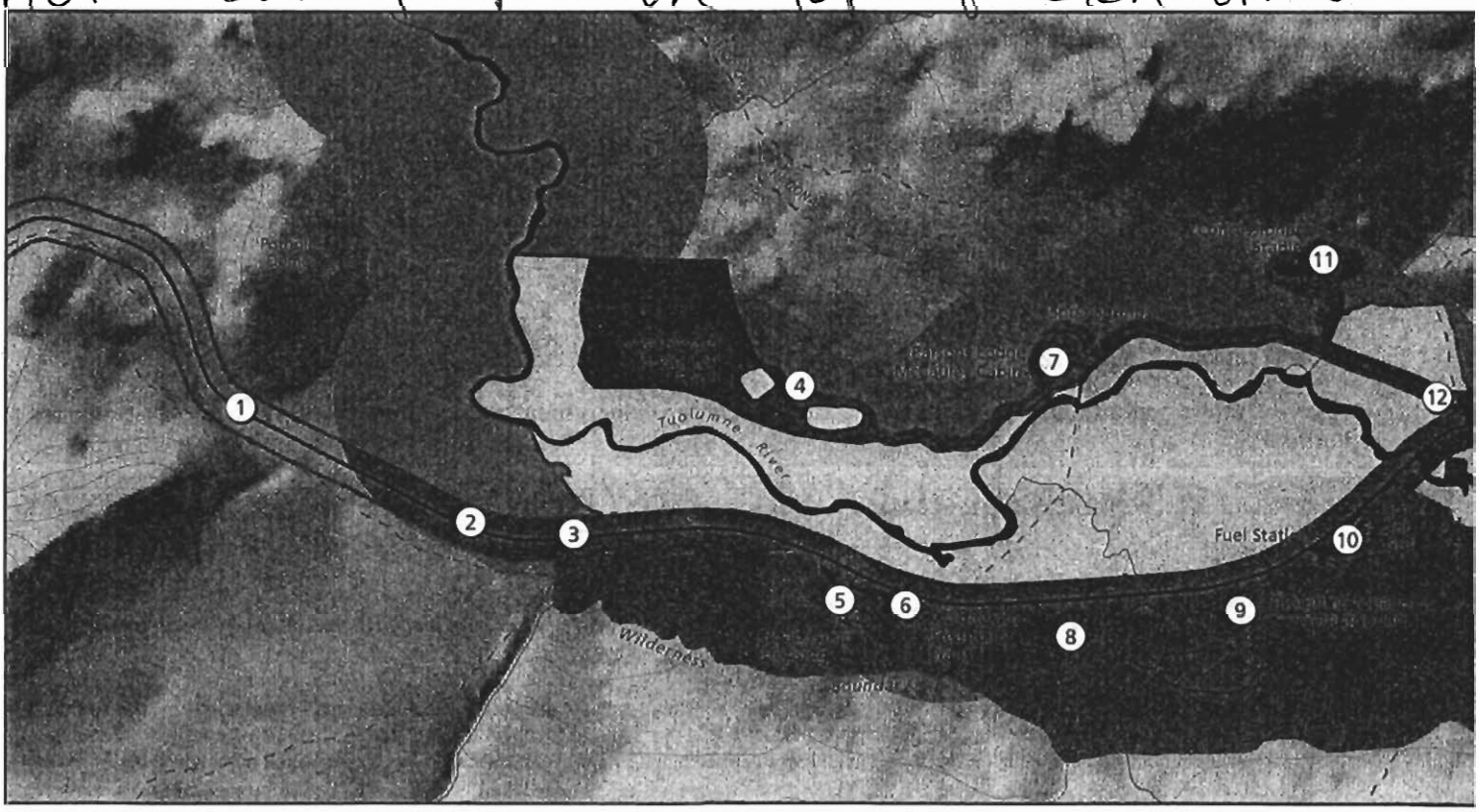
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

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:

1. Stop declining conditions of wilderness accesable trails (erosion from horse use) & restore riparian conditions.
2. Upgrade/move/fix structures to be compatible w/ a sustainable, healthy ecosystem. If this means removing or consolidating the grill, employee housing, etc, then it should be done. In campground redesigns sites need to of an acceptable size & not but people on top of each other.

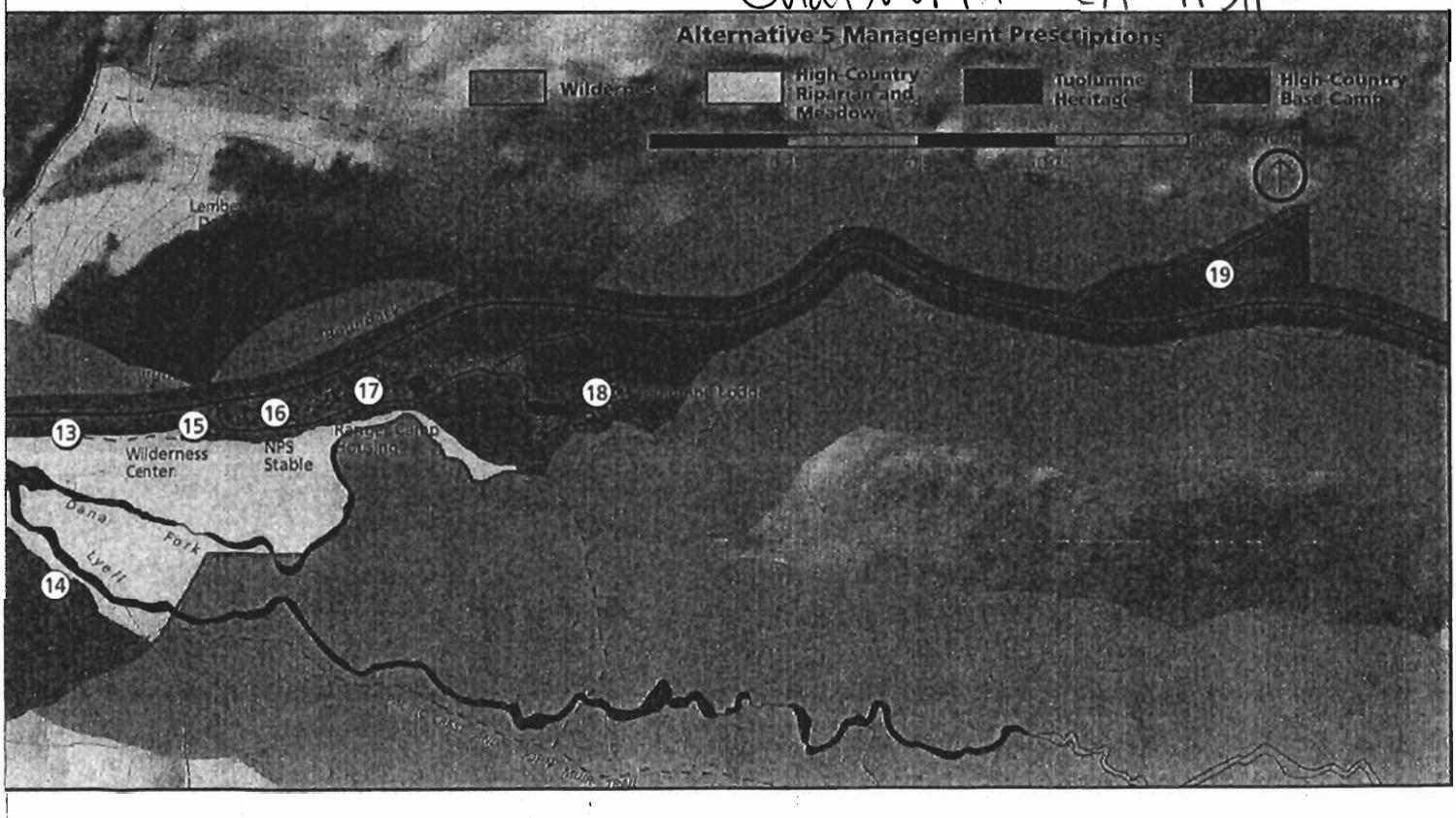


This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

Reduction of social trails & erosion along the Tioga Road due to marking needs to be a priority.

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

Chatsworth CA 91311



Create Your Own Site Plan

L121-09-
9-25-08

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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? I like the remove of the man made structures

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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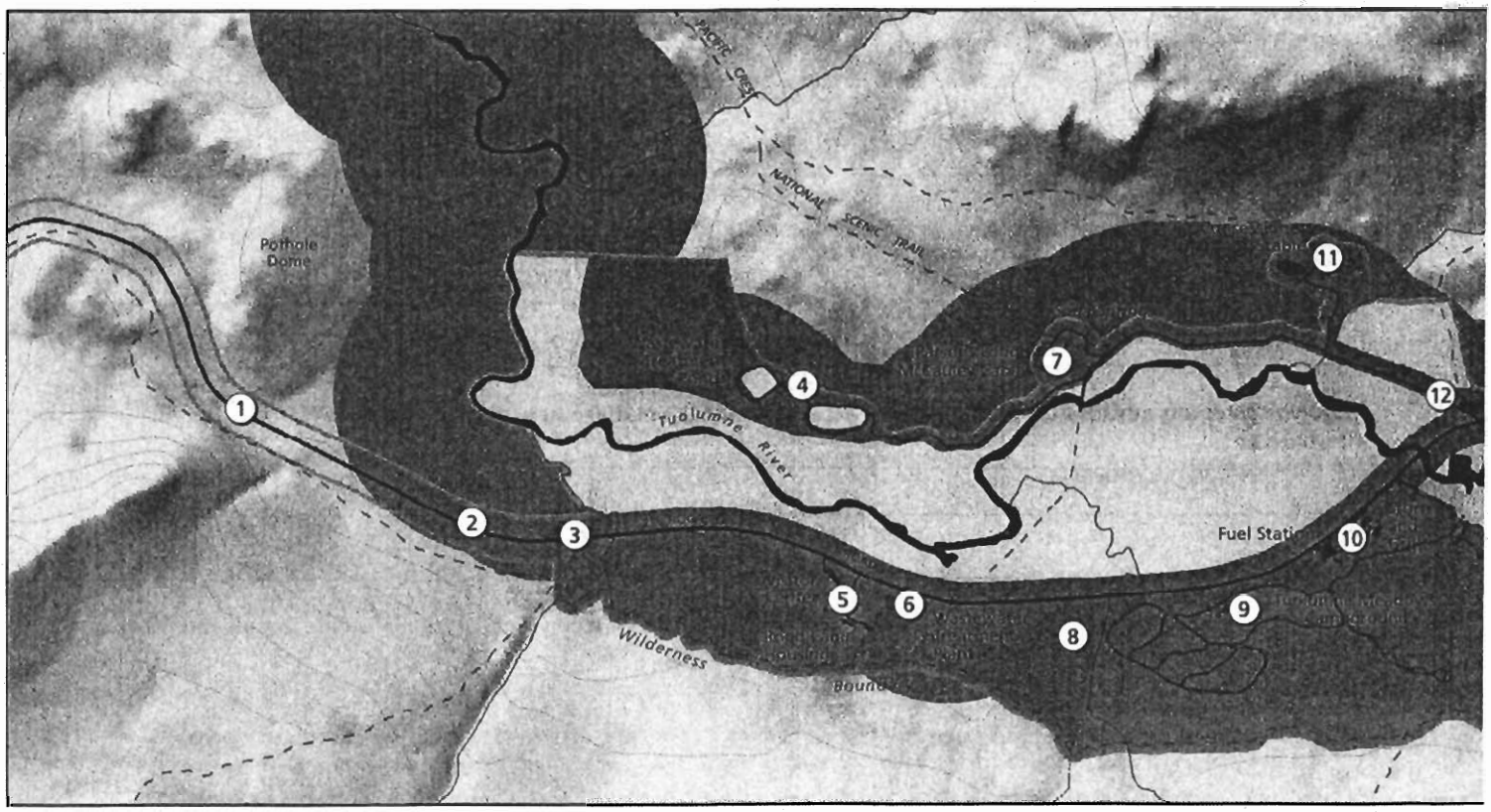
Comment Form

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.

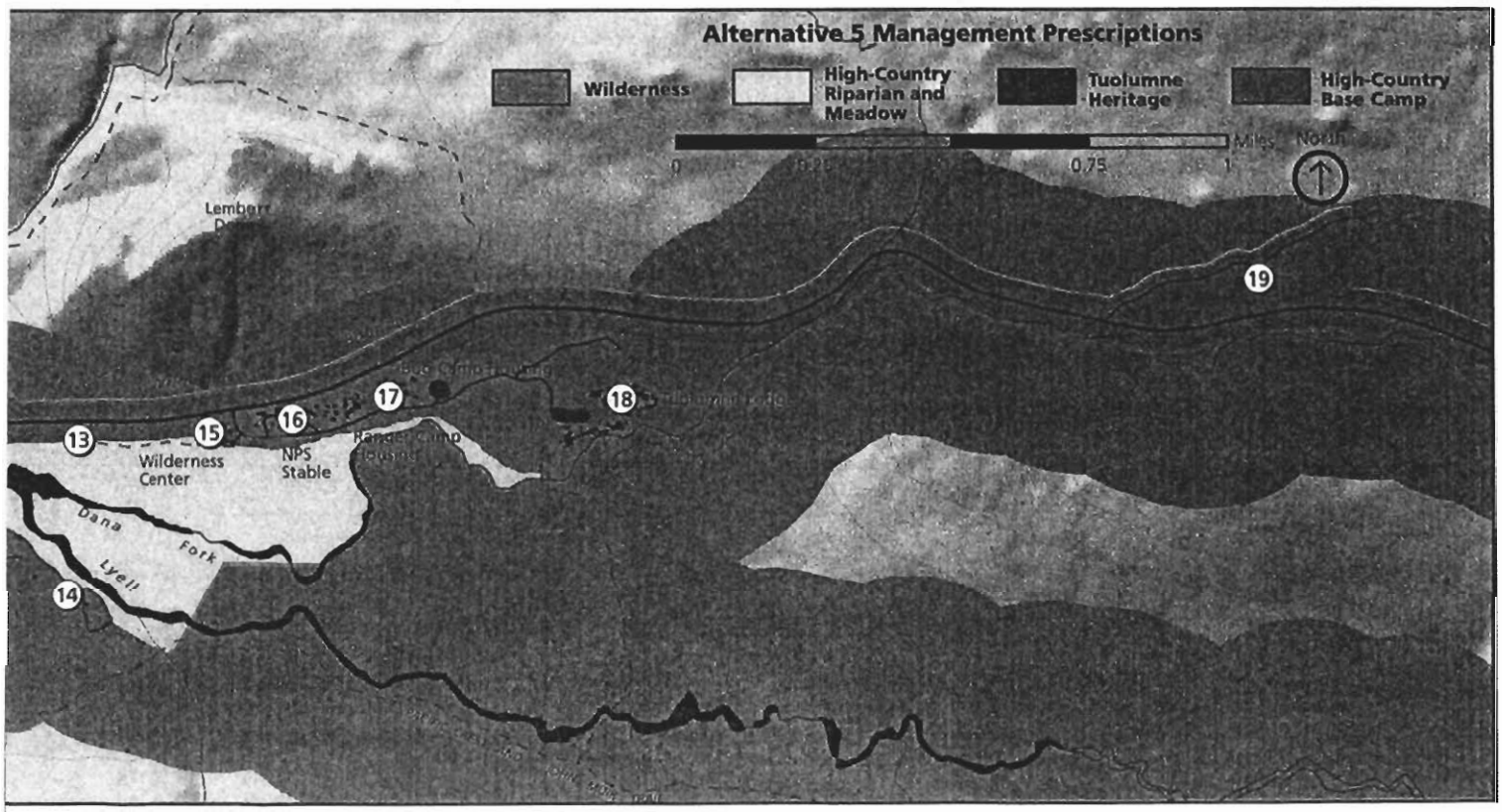
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: We need A waffle maker, and the ranger station should be removed because the grizzly bears we kick out and they were ~~[illegible]~~ deadly Animals and how the rangers are the new grizzly bear and humans are not safe. A monorail should be built to zip around so we can see the beauty of the park.



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):

maybe a new hotel should be built that way we can bring in more people who don't belong here will come and make this area a hazord. But money, money, and more money. Outlet Stores allow. more Companys to rape this land toll roads drug dogs If you make it in the park you should be requard to wear A Collar

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



Create Your Own Site Plan

L122-cy

Your Comments Are Important! 1-25-08

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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? Too many facilities are removed; existing facilities in surrounding areas will be overcrowded.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? * like this best; consolidates redundant amenities & ~~provides~~ ~~expanded~~ provides alternative for Yosemite Valley

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Doesnt change much, & doesnt address expansion issues.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? 2nd Favorite; education is important, but the volume of visitors dictates more expansion than this plan addresses.

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

* Consolidation of services + expansion of facilities are very important; & should be addressed.

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

L23-cg
9-25-08

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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? I like the idea of removing the "lodge" + wastewater treatment ponds.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like the idea of consolidating the facilities (grill, visitor center, etc) as well as allowing kayaking — maybe on a limited permit basis

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Did not like that it planned to get rid of roadside parking without building better parking.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Like consolidation and construction of formal parking

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

The campground here is full. If not returning Tuolumne lodge to original conditions then turn into a campground

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

L124-C9
9-25-08

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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? Yes

Remove the Wastwater Ponds. You see them from the Peaks around Tuolumne (Fairview Dome, Cathedral Peak). Preserve - do not develop!

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? No

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? No

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? No

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

Do not start to "correct" River flows like on Dana Fork.

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

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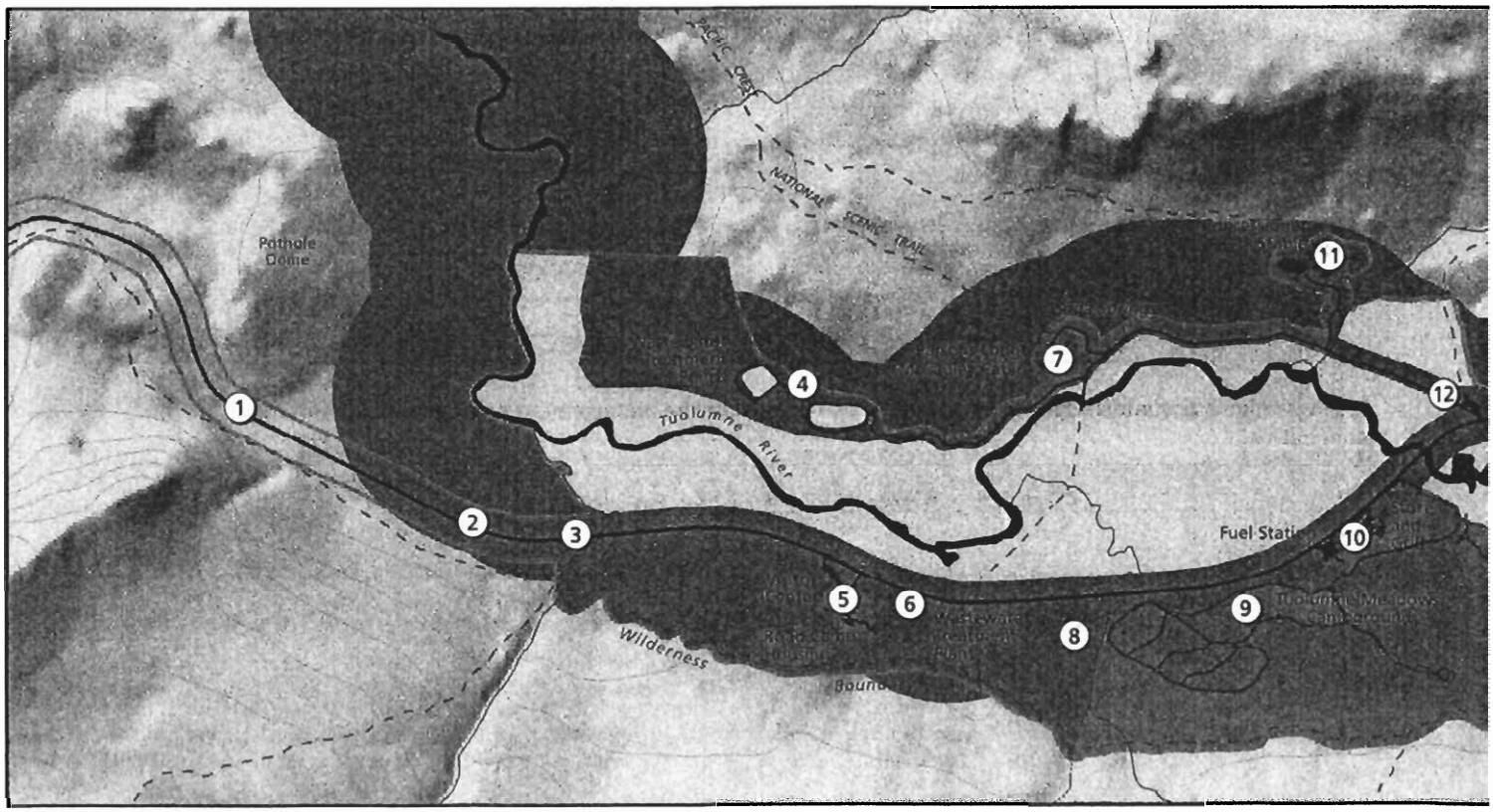
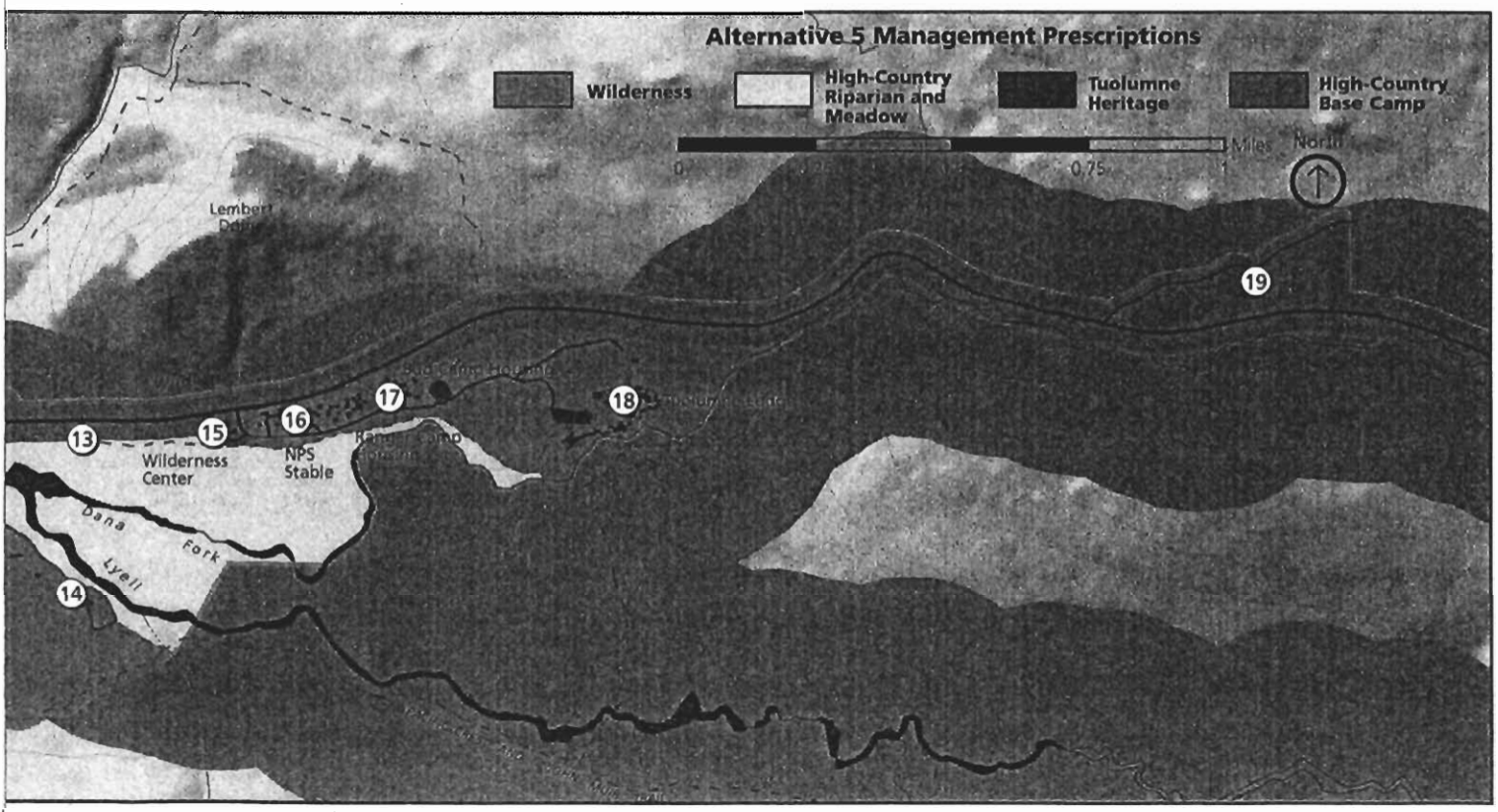
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

This is just more development ?



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: a tourist from well develop Switerland



Create Your Own Site Plan

L125-cg

Your Comments Are Important! 9-25-08

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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? _____

Like: it would most preserve the wilderness conditions of the T.R. Corridor.

Dislike (Heavily): Removes all cultural heritage; Overstates human impact! Bad Plan

This plan is extreme, unbalanced, and unnecessary.

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

This seems to be a decent compromise btwn, say, 1 and 3. Good.

Dislike: Still too restrictive culturally and doesn't seem to have any clearly defined goal.

Sort of slapdash hodge-podge put together from other alternatives? But, not unacceptable.

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

Like: Good conservative plan – won't upset anyone. Enhances existing culture/wilderness.

Dislike: Does not seem to advance protection of riparian zones, or make positive environmental changes. BUT – this could be OK with extra management from $$ saved!!

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

Like: EXCELLENT overall zoning; understanding of habitats/needs is clear here.

Dislike: Don't understand need to move the store/grill; seems there would be little benefit.

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

Plan 1 is out of the question and hopefully is here only as lip service to extremists.

The plans 2-5 are actually good; much improved since last time. Plans 4/5 best, Plan 5 most so. Nice!

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.

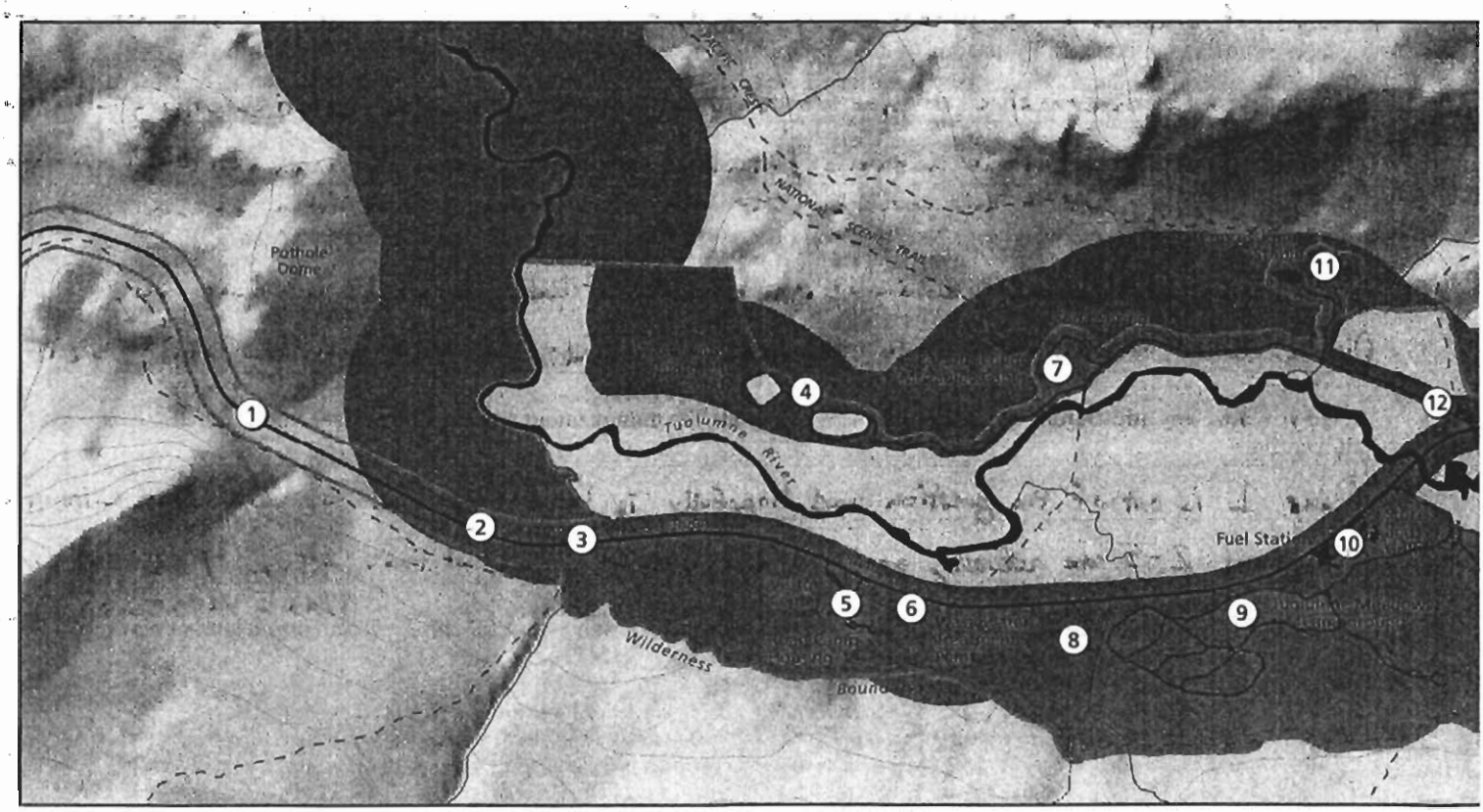
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

1) Preservation of the natural heritage of the habitat. First and foremost.

2) Preservation of the cultural heritage and human history in the area, providing human access to the natural areas with as little impact as possible.

3) Reducing the impact of human activities that already happen in the wilderness areas; do not fight what people are going to attempt to do anyway.

4) Improve interpretive areas and provide educational experiences so that visitors are well informed of human impact on the area and encouraged to be respectful and conscientious.



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) Provide picnic area / interpretive trail near Pothole dome. Formal parking inserted, Informal parking removed.

2) Remove scattered shoulder parking, provide one formal parking area accounting for area trailheads if they exist.

3) Parking made formal for Cathedral Lakes trailhead — shoulder parking is horrible here.

4) Preserve wastewater treatment ponds unless better alternatives exist.

5) Preserve visitor center, provide picnic areas.

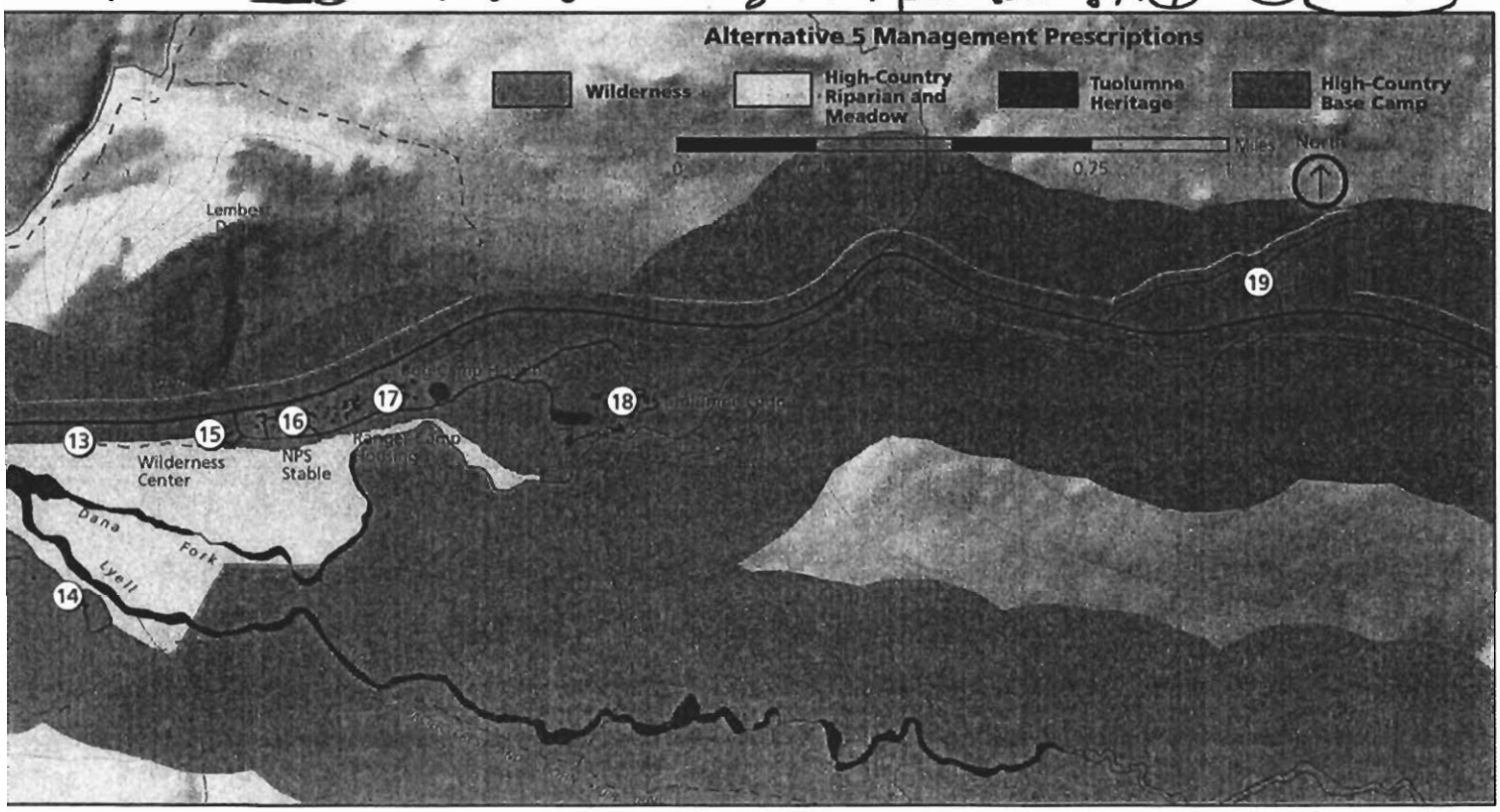
6) Consolidate wastewater treatment here @ #4? If possible

7) Preserve historic parsons' lodge; Restore Riparian meadows. Formalize one trail to lodge.

8) No change, 9) No Change; campground Improvements 10) No change. 11) Move stables; consolidate 2 stables @ (11) and (16) to one location? (12) No change, (13) Restore riparian meadow (14) No change, except to move some A-loop sites exceptionally close to the river as necessary. Road repair. (15) No change (17/18) No change. (19) No change.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted] Berkeley, CA 94704

Incorporate Plan (4) for most! Good Zoning!! This plan (zoning) + (4) = (OK)



Create Your Own Site Plan

Your Comments Are Important!

L126-C9-
9-25-08

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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? _____

_____

_____

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

L126-C4-
9-25-08

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

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

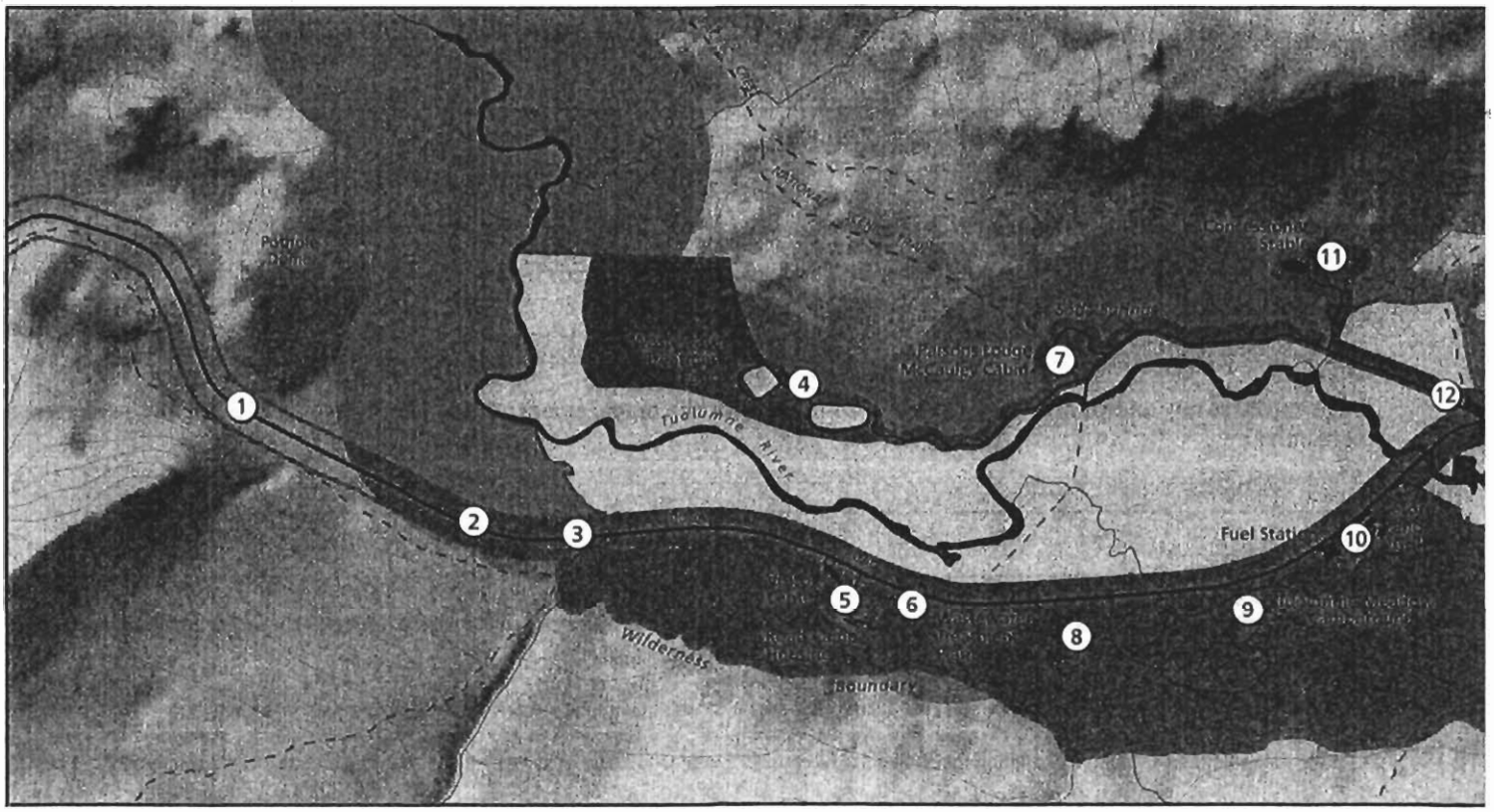
Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the workbook), please describe what you 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. RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE 1 (WILDERNESS)

REMOVE CONCESSIONAIRE AND NPS HORSE STABLES AND HORSES.

GET PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR CARS AND WALK.



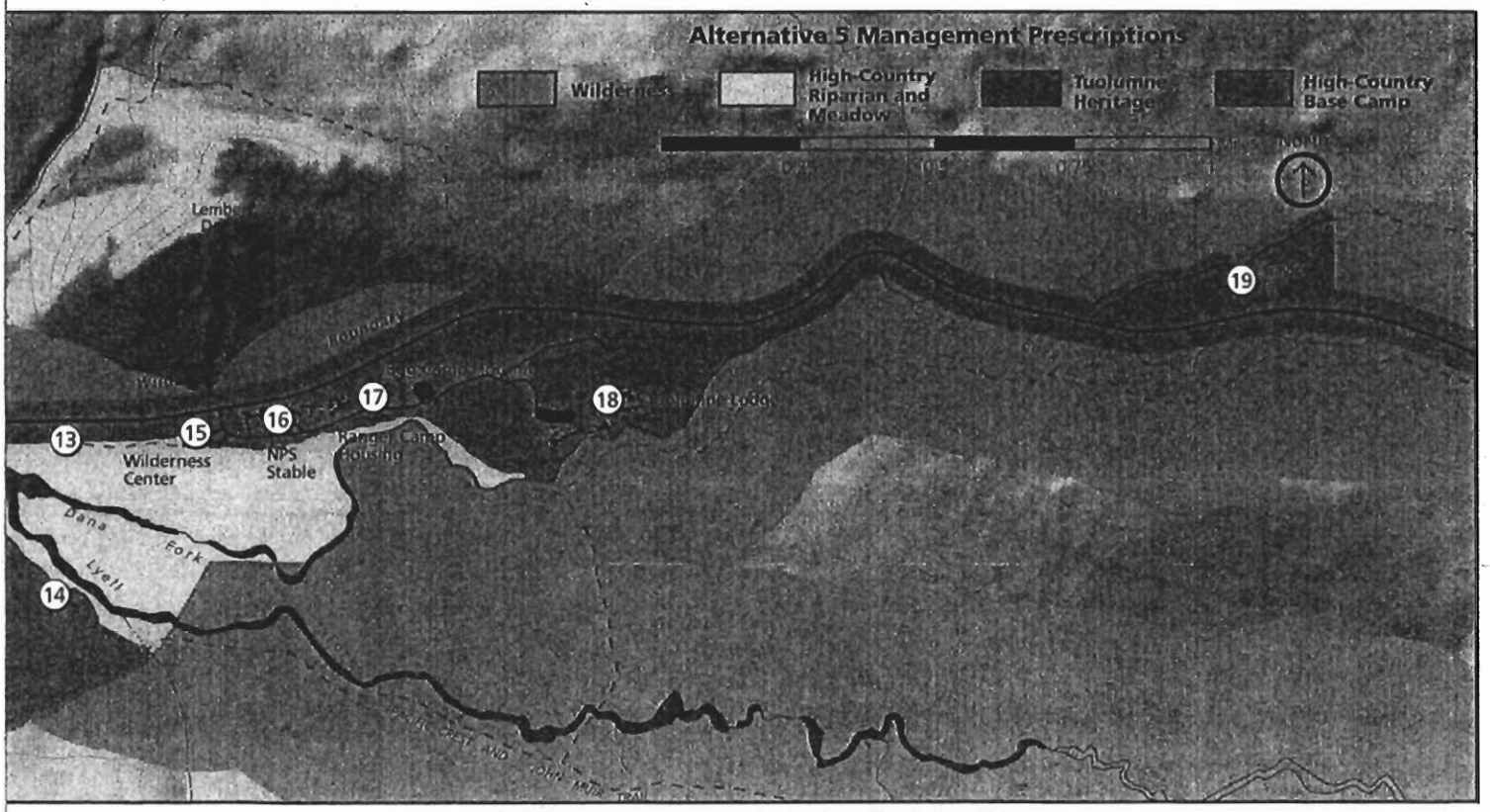
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

THANKS!

[redacted]

SEATTLE, WA 98109

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



Create Your Own Site Plan

L 127-09
9-25-08

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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? _____

Too drastic a plan for a high-use area loved by Joe-Public. Although, I like non-essential housing moved to Lee Vining. Don't close Glen Aulin HSC even tho it's a slum. Tuolumne is, + has been, a meeting place for people.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like the pothole Dome parking picnic area, replacing Lembert Dome toilets!, Cath. Lks parking, Parsons Lodge Parking. REALLY don't like idea of kayaking the rives in the meadows — goes against Sup's compendium of water craft on free-flowing water in the park. Go raft the Merced in the Valley.

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

Preserve all campground loops. I like the Lembert Dome parking + picnic area. Cath. Lks. parking needed. Satellite parking sucks. If I want to get around in a shuttle bus, I'll go to the Valley.

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

A Loop is too cool to do away with. Biking not Needed in Tuolumne. Cath. Lks. parking is Needed.

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

Great effort to revamp the place while trying to meet diverse needs + desires. Make sure there's plenty of "bridges" so water can run off into the meadows + keep it wet like it's supposed to be + minimize tree encroachment.

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

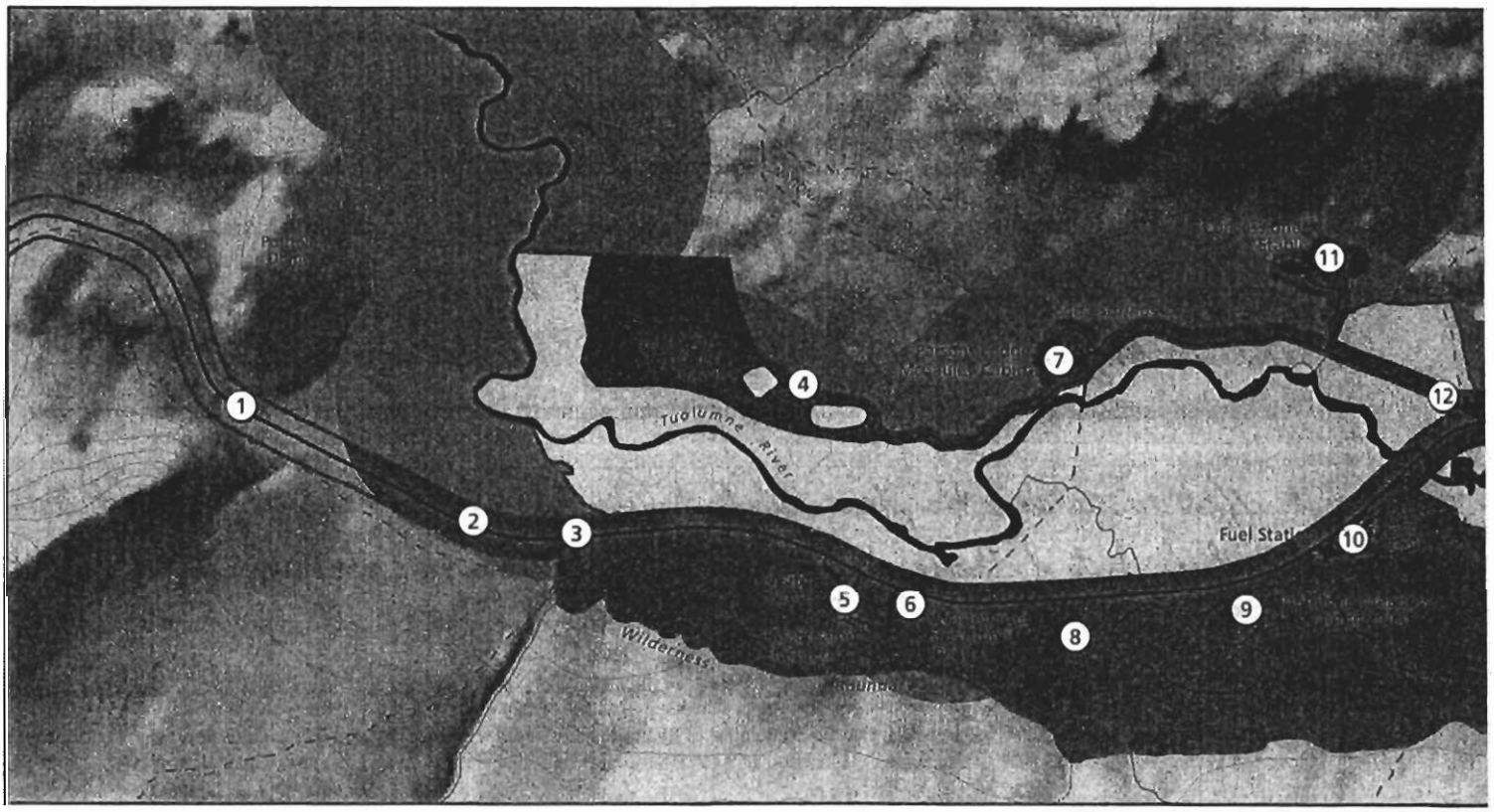
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

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:

1. Retain + restore the natural conditions closest to the Tuolumne River.
2. Have enough convenient parking so people can get out + be in the wonder.
3. Compartmentalize amenities to minimize ecological + visual impact.
4. Compartmentalize parking into a few nice parking areas:
   a) Lembert Dome, b) Cath. Lks. c) Parson's Lodge d) Pot Hole Dome,
   e) Store-Grill, Wilderness Center, Visitor Center Complex,
5. Have clearer signage so people can get to the trails, places, + features they're looking for.



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):

(12) Better signage for trails to Lembert Dome, PCT, Dog Lk + Soda Springs

I really like the Lembert Dome Picnic Area. That should stay.

(10) Good idea

(5) Expand housing? Necessary?

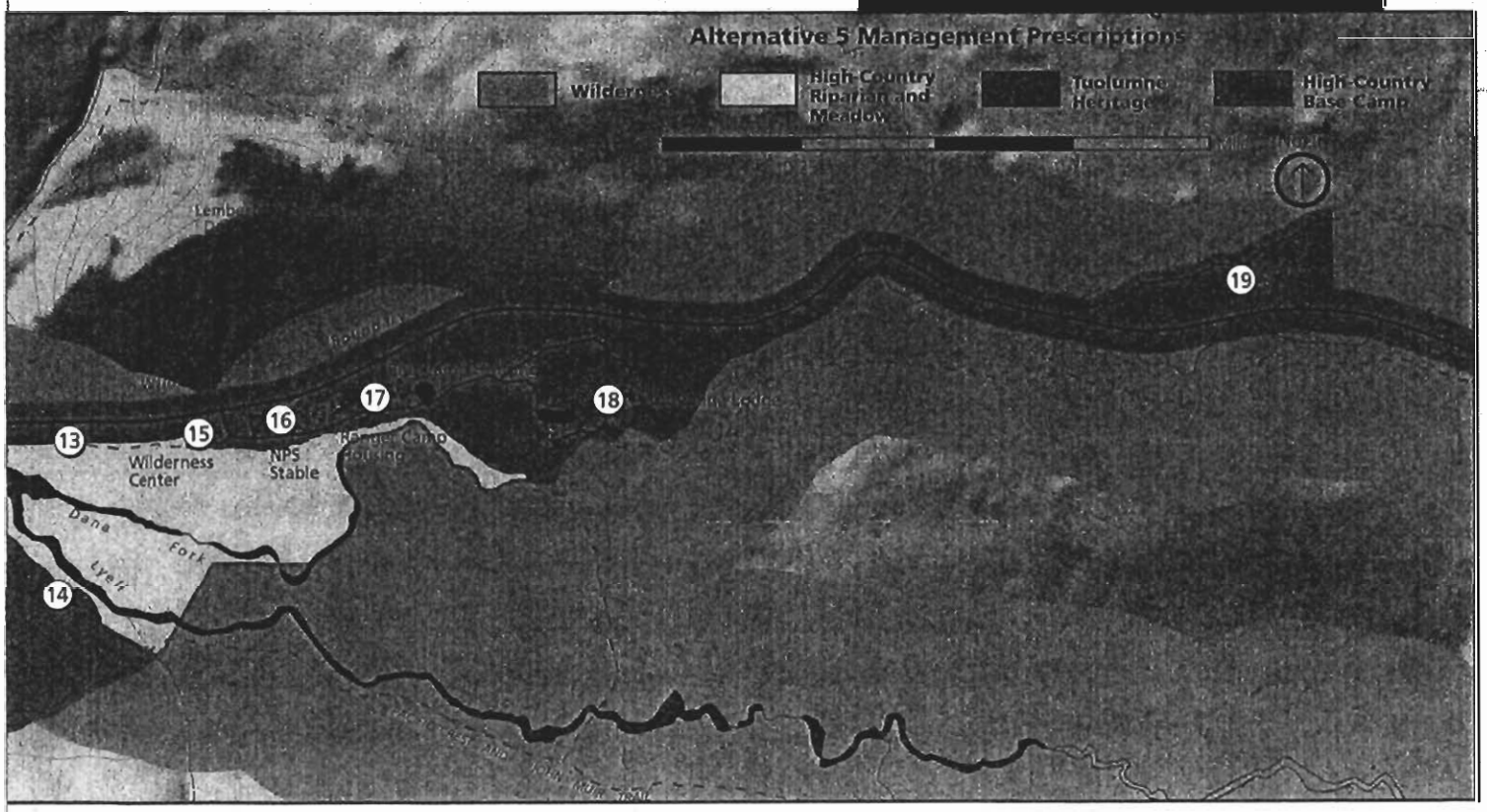
(2) Make sure there's enough parking.

(2) + (1) The nice thing about Pothole Dome Parking is that you can jump out of your car + climb the Dome – a great experience for kids. Keep parking near-by.

(11) Good idea – all stock in one place

* At all Trailheads put a sign telling people to bury their solid waste + pack out their TP. Sell TP + Baggies Kits in the store + Visitors Center for day users. Solid waste + TP "flowers" are a HUGE problem. Have the rangers at the Visitor Center instruct people. They need to plan ahead, even for day hikes. "Entering Wilderness" signs need more concrete useful info. like what to do w. solid waste.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted] Martinez 94553



Create Your Own Site Plan

L128-cg
9-25-08

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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? _____

CLOSE

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

DON'T CLOSE CAMPSITES, ADD SHOWERS, PAVE CAMP GROUND ROADS

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? _____

REDUCE CAMP FEE UNDER $20

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

DON'T CLOSE ANY CAMPSITES. PAVE THE T. MEADOWS CAMPGROUND ROADS.

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

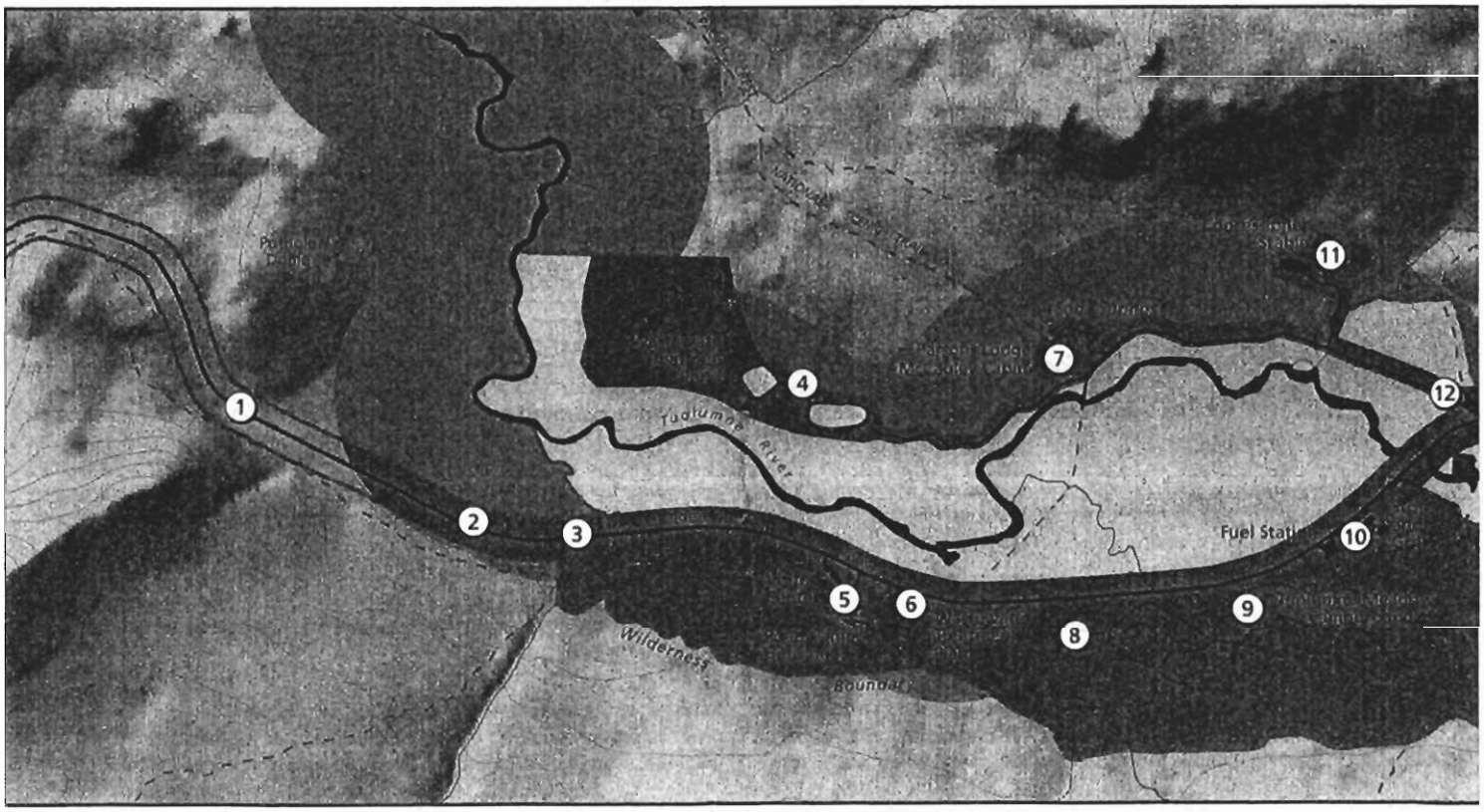
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

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:

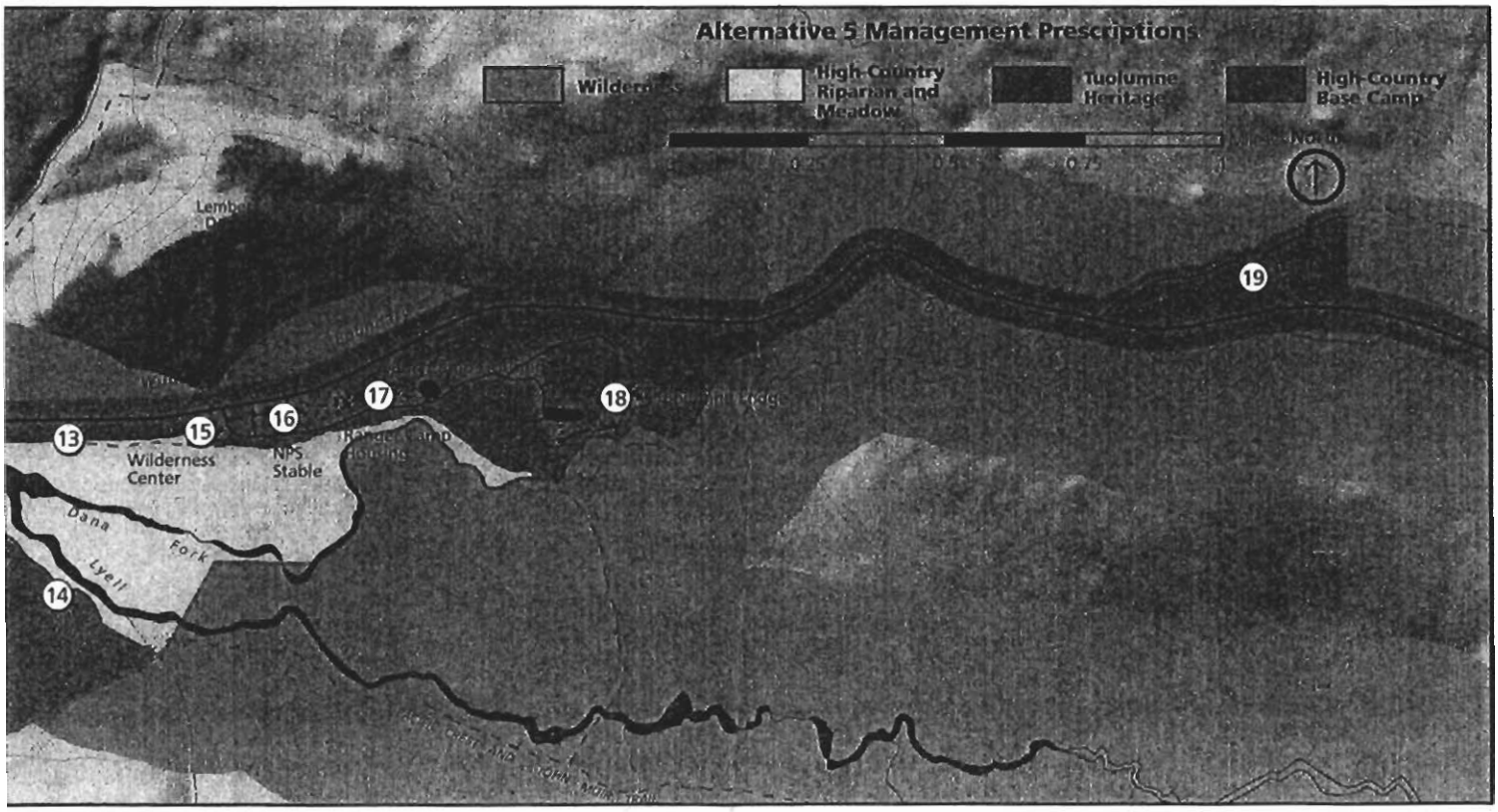
NOT CLOSE ANY CAMPSITES, KEEP THE FEE AT LESS THAN $20/NT., PAVE THE CAMPGROUND ROAD.



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):

PAVE / GRADE T MEADOWS
CAMPGROUND RUNS

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



Create Your Own Site Plan

Your Comments Are Important!

L/29-C9-
9-25-08

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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 trail connection to Potholes
Scenic turnout opposite Parsons trail
Do not remove stores. Keep trail rides

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

(2) Scenic pullouts 5.6.7 OK 10. NO 12. Better restroom 14. OK 19. OK

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

Too drastic. Everyone should have access

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

3. OK 9. NO 11. OK

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

Large trails accross meadow are unsightly. Build 3 boardwalks. One accross from

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

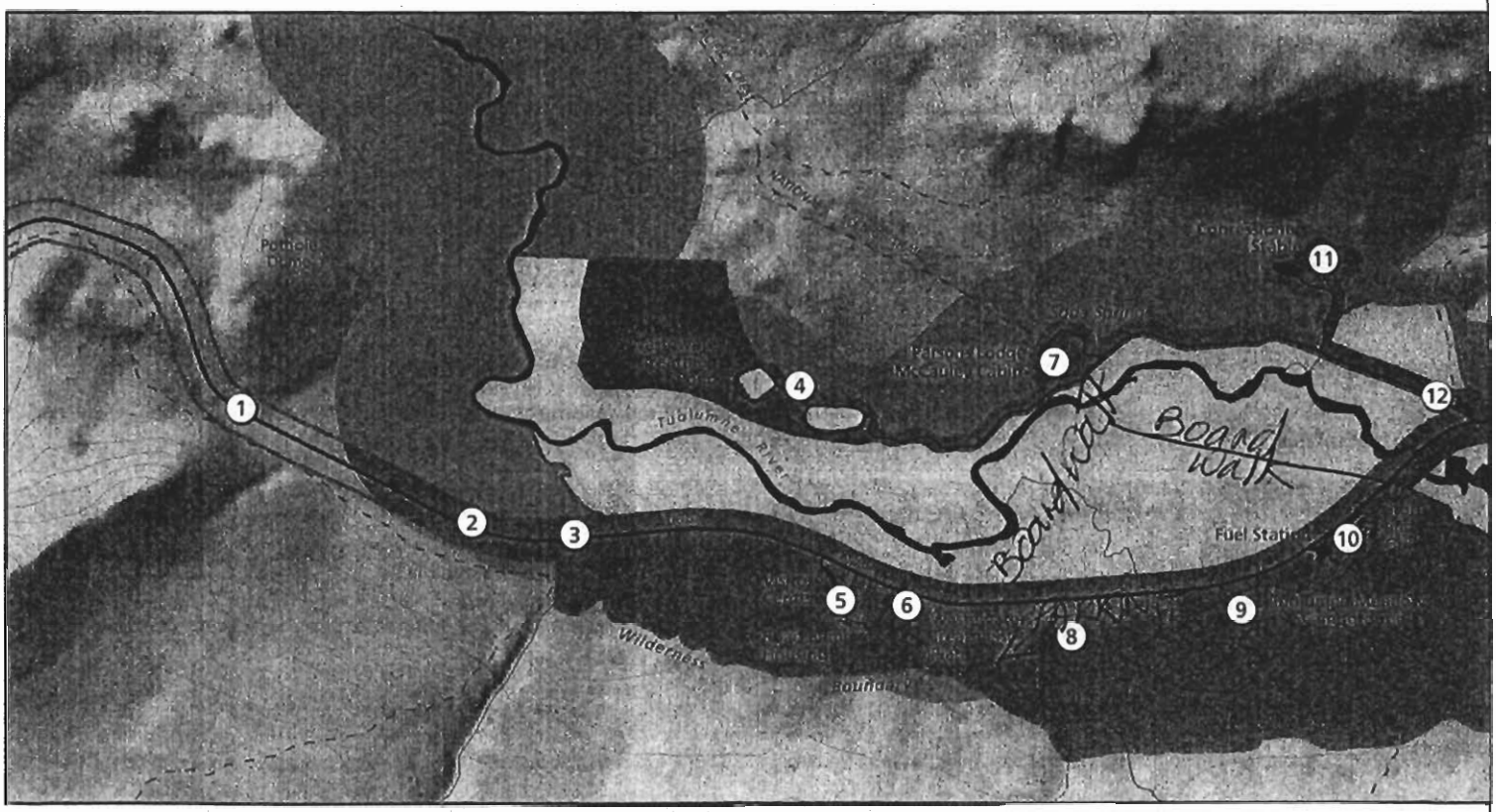
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

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:

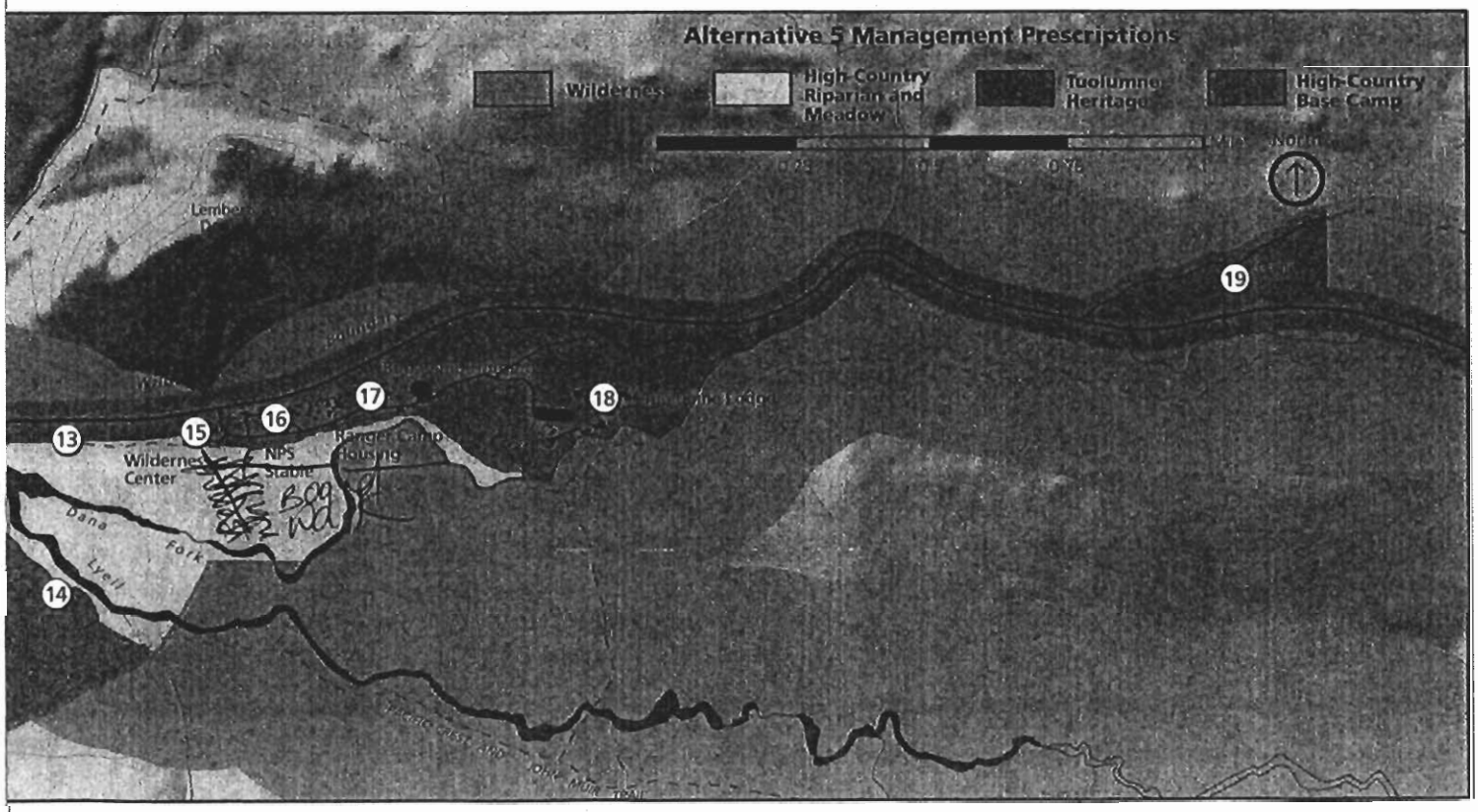
dumpstation to Parsons Lodge with parking area ajacent to dumpstation.
Second accross from store to join with Parsons Lodge Boardwalk.
Third from Wilderness Center to JMT near Lodge.
In the Valley Boardwalks have preserved meadows & cowed here.



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):

Continue to remove small lodgepoles from Meadow

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



Create Your Own Site Plan

L130-C9
9-25-08

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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?

7. Restrict use for Vehicle access 11. & 16. Combine NPS & Concession stables 15. Add Visitor Center to wilderness center. 17. & 19 Add employee housing to 19.

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

8. Make current Visitor Center small museum staffed by YA Volunteers. Add picnic area. Board Walk to Parsons Lodge. 15. Add Visitor Center to Wilderness center.

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

9. Remove A Loop. 11. & 16. Combine stables. 19. ~~Add~~ Relocate some employee housing

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

9. Do not remove D. loop. Remove some of A campsites near river 19. Relocate some employee housing

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

Visitor Center currently is too crowded. A beautiful building that at present cannot be appreciated. →

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

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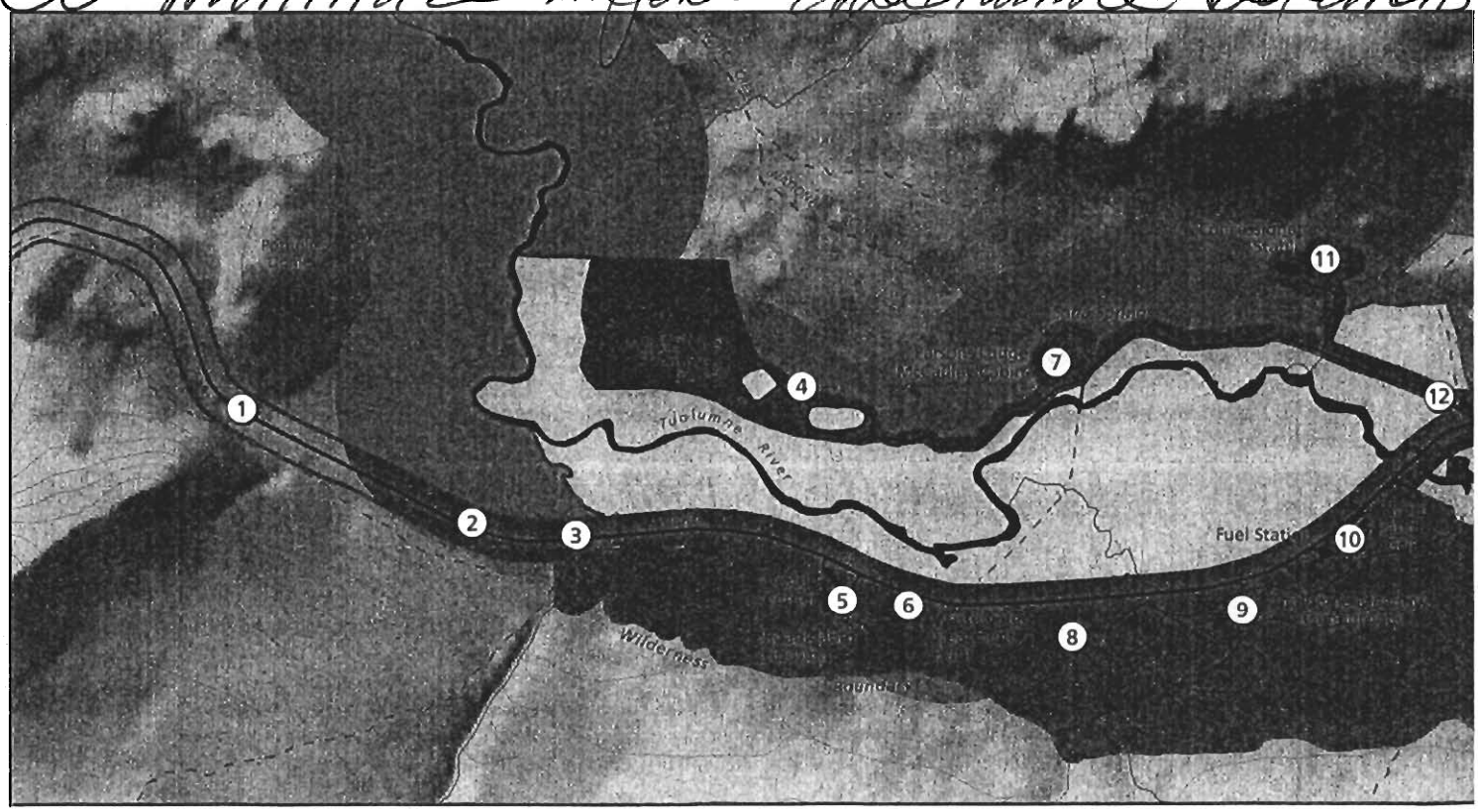
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

Keep the building as it is & use as a museum staffed by YA Volunteers. Use existing parking for access to Parsons Lodge by handicap friendly boardwalk. Create picnic area ajacent to this. Retain restrooms. Move Visitor center ~~to~~ adjacent to Wilderness center. Make it ~~had~~ handicap friendly. Move employee housing behind existing P.O. to Grayer fit & upgrade facilities

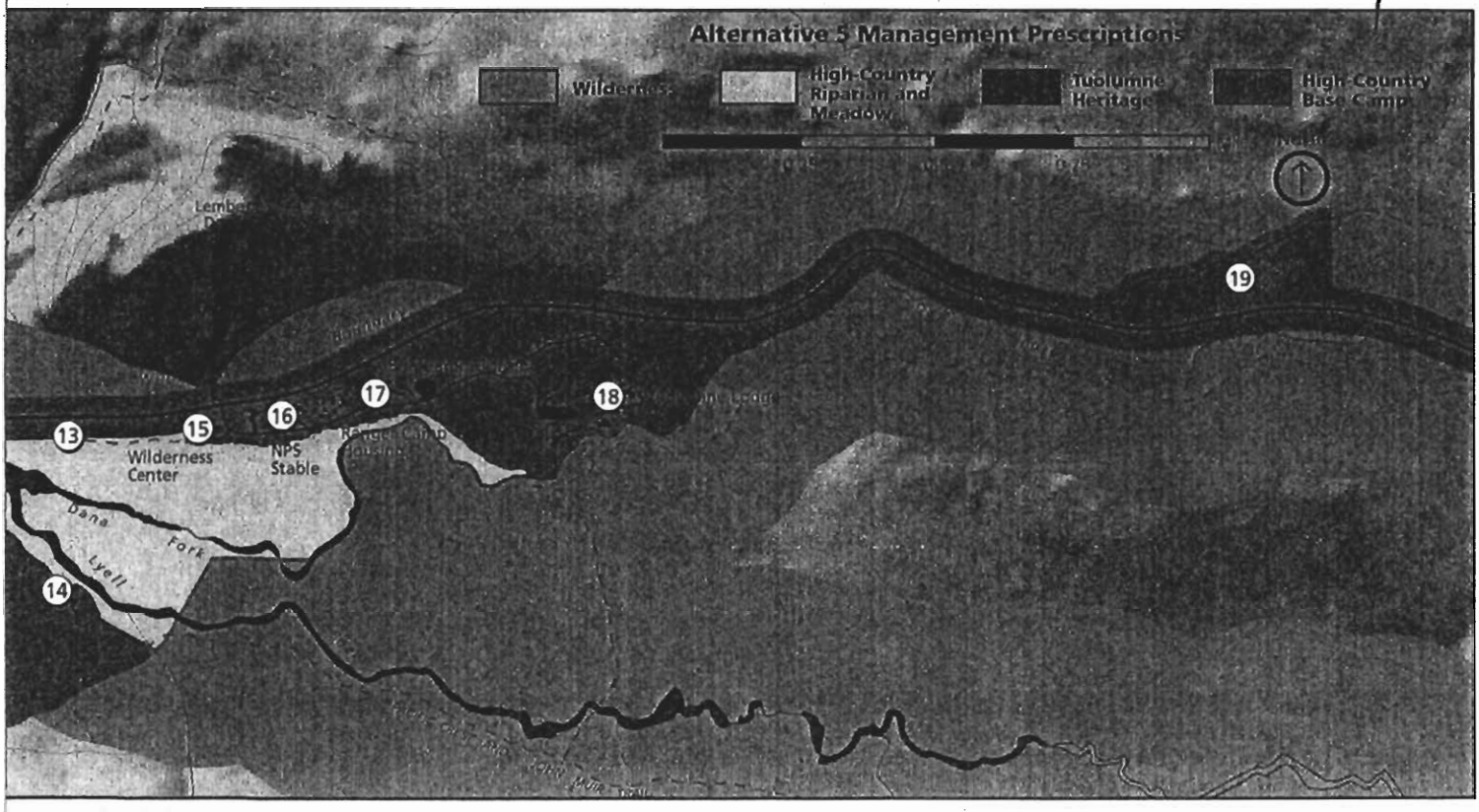
To minimize impact discontinue bed linens



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):

at Glen Aulin (and all High Sierra camps) Visitors can carry their own sleepy bags or sheet & sleepy bags with blankets provided by HSC. At each HSC a few sheet sleepy bags can be available for sale for those unprepared. This would decrease laundry & mule impact & therefore lower the "foot print".

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: SANTA ROSA 95405



Create Your Own Site Plan

V131-C9-

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

9-25-08

Public Comment Form
HIGH-ELEVATION AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public comment period for the Environmental Assessment, which began on **June 23, 2008** and will end on **July 25, 2008**. Written comments may be mailed to: **Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, PO Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: High-elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan)** or may be faxed to: **209/379-1294**. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: **High-elevation Aquatic Resources** Management Plan). Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at ***www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/aquatic.htm***

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, the National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments; however names will be made available.

Name: [redacted] Date of Comment: 7/25/08

Address: [redacted]

Arcata Ca. 95521

Comments

No showers at the campground I think will force more people into the river to "clean up" and will add sunscreen, lotions, deodorant, etc to the water.

(continue comments on back of page)

Your Comments Are Important!

L132-CY-
9-25-08

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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?

Good

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

Good

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?

—

Please

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

We need an internet cafe for packers, backpackers, campers - We are in the 21st Century!!

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

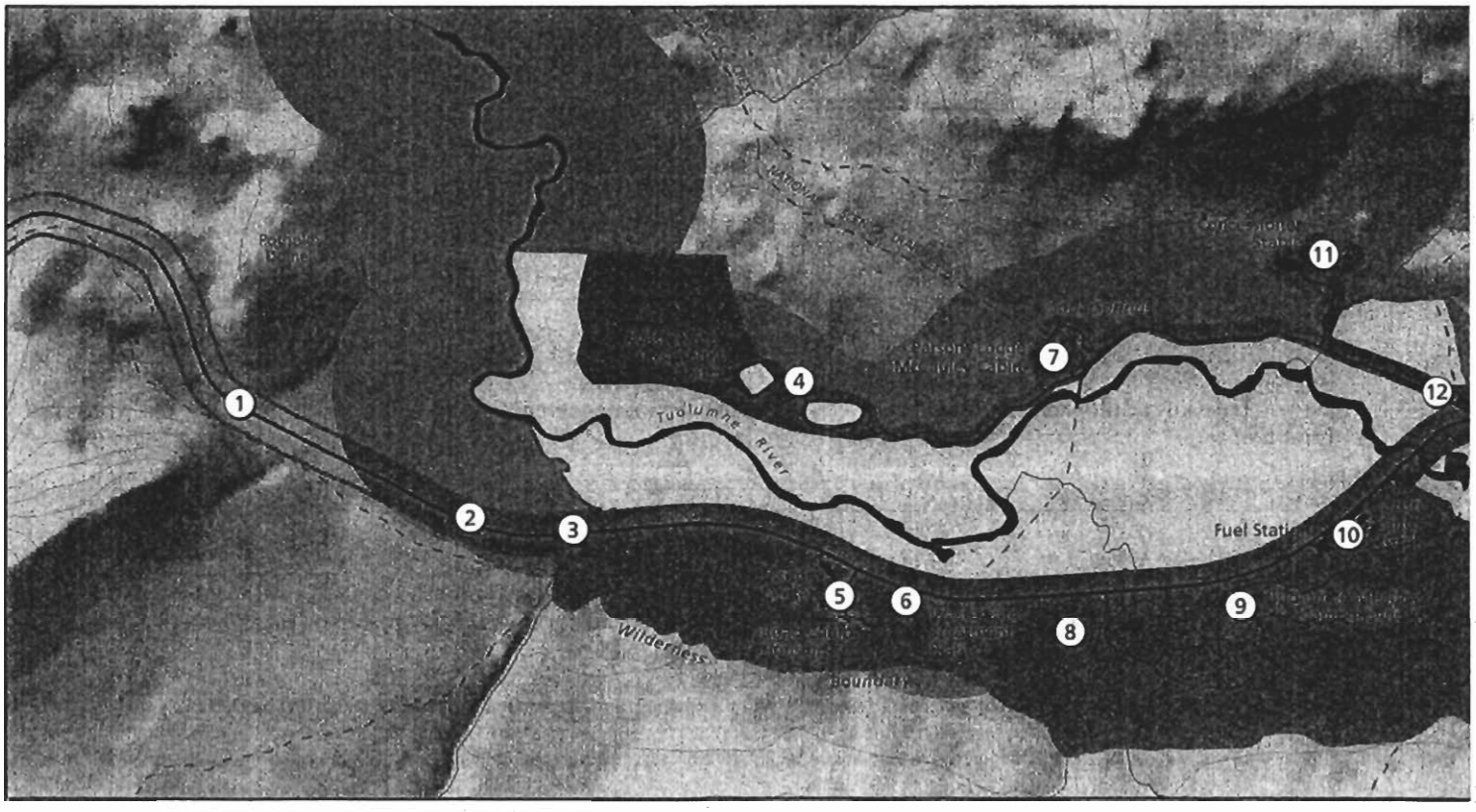
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

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:

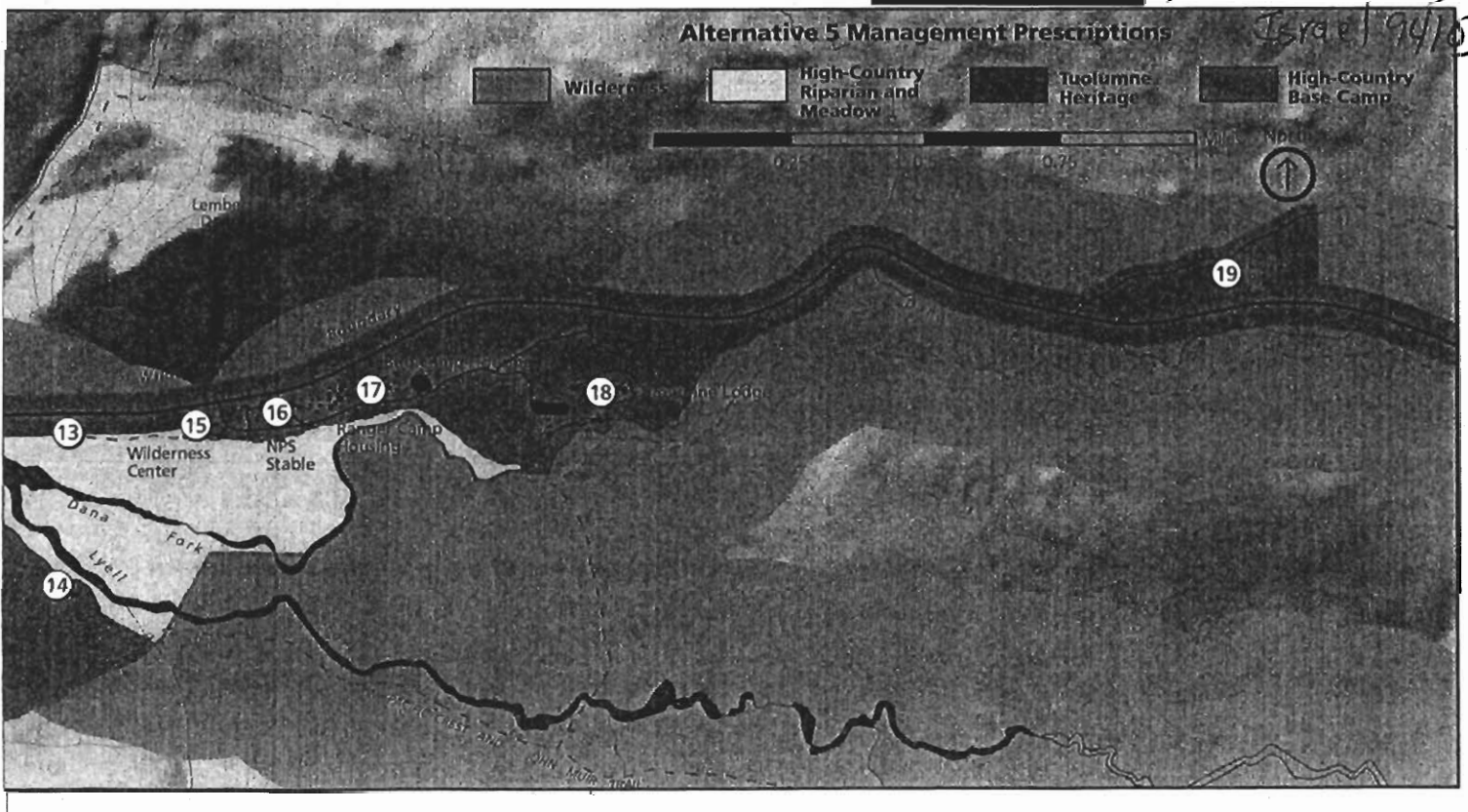
1. Save Meadows.
2. Suppress invasive tree growth.
3. Reduce Roads & consolidate parking.



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]

[redacted] Petach Tikvah, Israel 94103



Create Your Own Site Plan

2133-cg

Your Comments Are Important! 9-25-08

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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?

I generally like it, but would keep store and grill in place for campers, backpackers and visitors.

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

I like the addition of showers to the campground.

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

I like the Great Sierra Wagon Road idea, and enhancing rustic look of restrooms and other structures.

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

I like formalizing trail loops.

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

In all cases I would recommend closing the stables and the High Sierra Camps to improve visitor experience as currently the trails have far to much mule/horse poop.

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Comment Form

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Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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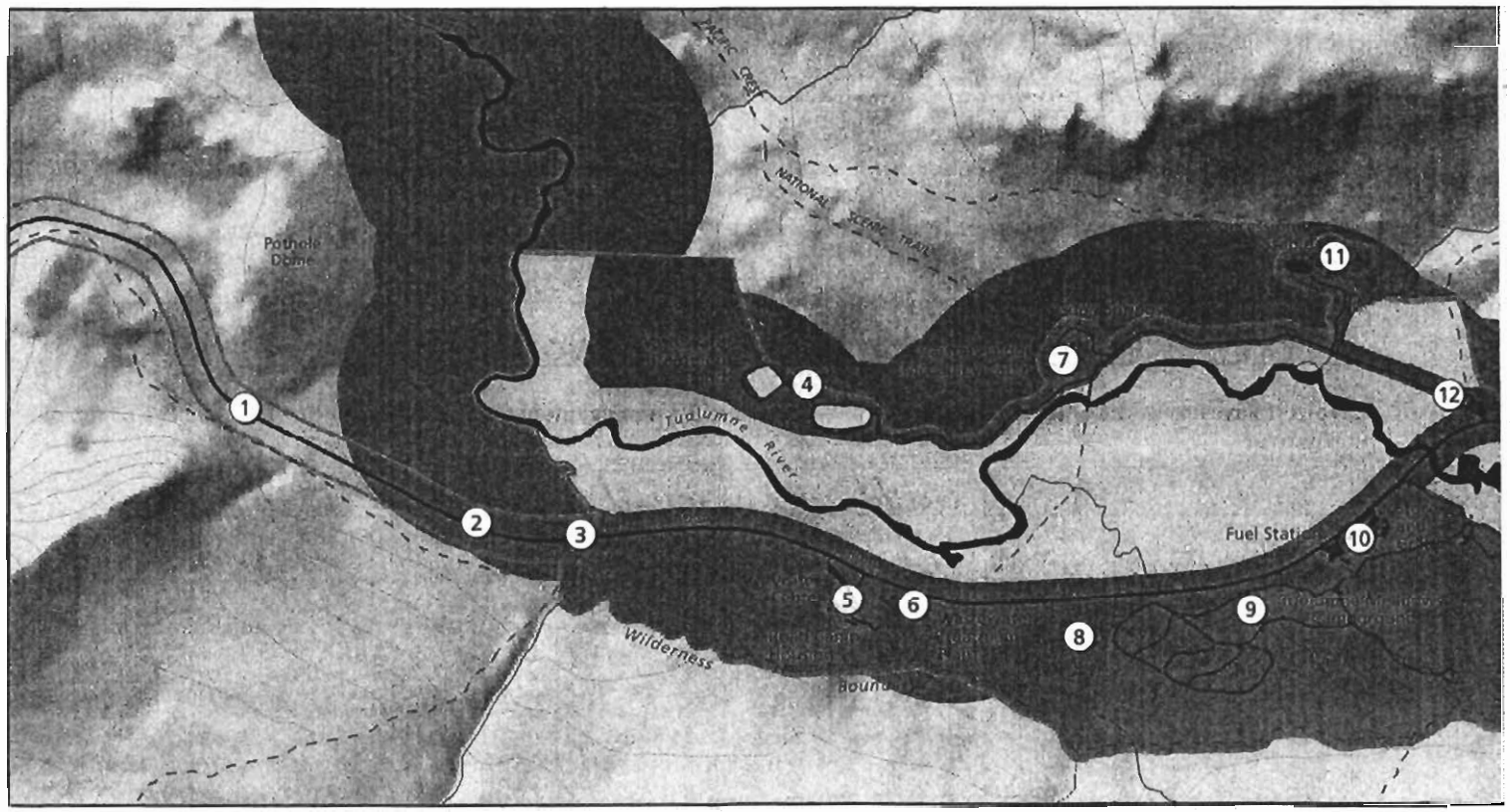
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

1, Visitor experience

2, Water quality

3, Improve management of river and meadow ecosystem.



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):

4+6, New wastewater treatment

11+16, Close stables and close High Sierra Camps.

This will result much cleaner, more attractive trails for day visitors, campers and backpackers.

It will also improve water quality for Tuolumne Meadows and the residents of the Bay Area.

9, Divide the campground into distinct areas for

RVs - bigger, more expensive sites

car camping - similar to current sites

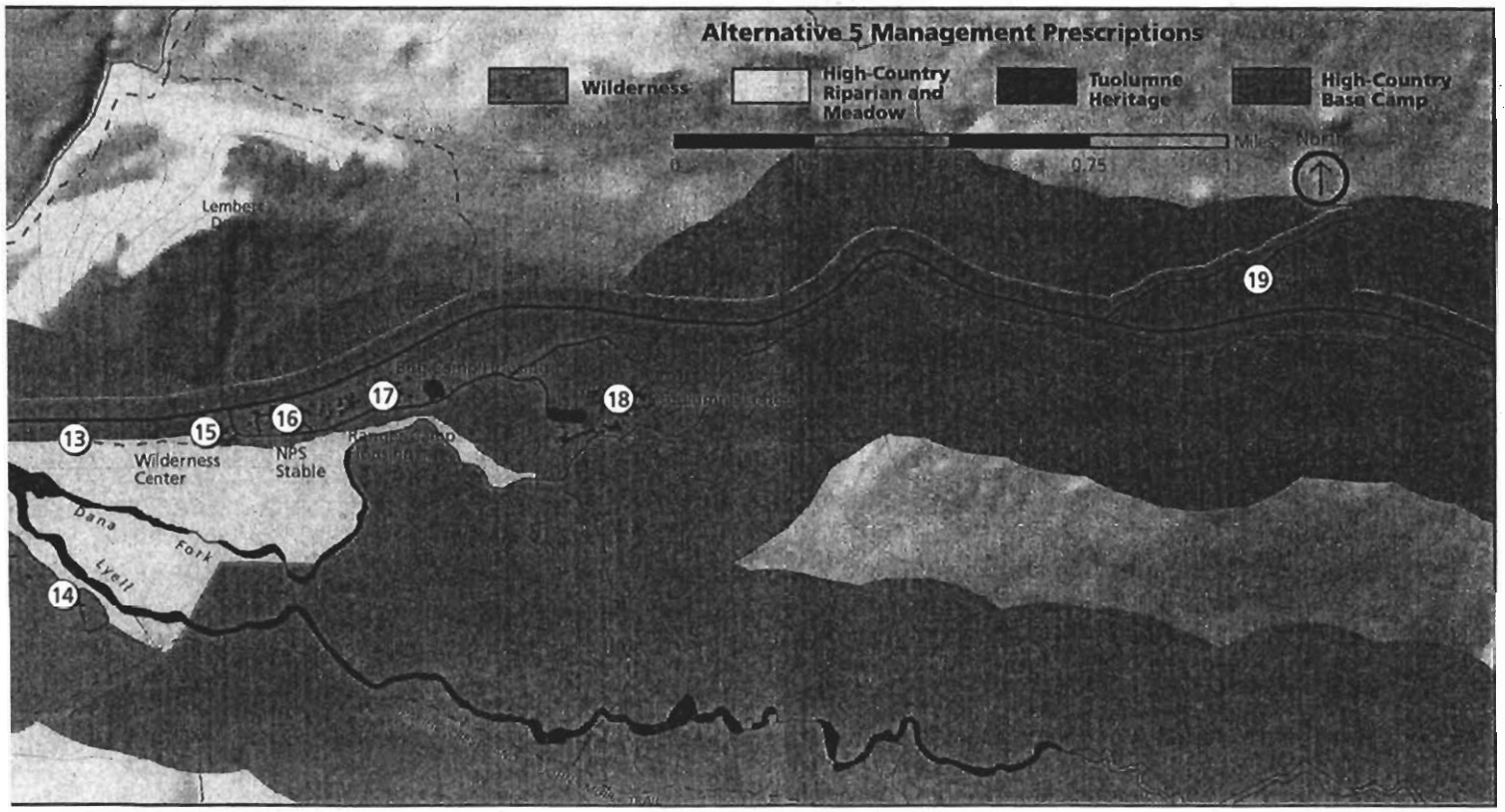
walk-in sites - with centralized parking

backpacker sites

group sites (with one dedicated youth group site.)

Overall, formalize trails to minimize impact in the Tuolumne area, allow off-trail in all wilderness.

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



Create Your Own Site Plan

L134-cf

Your Comments Are Important! 9-25-08

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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? _____

Too much elimination of historic use.

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

Do not consolidate visitor center, store, grill etc. Retain rustic historic store & grill. Provide shower/restrooms at visitor center.

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

Do not retain waste water treatment ponds & access rd. Move to waste water treatment plant.

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

Do not move store, grill and visitor's center into campground.

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

Please provide a pedestrian only path the length of Tioga Rd from Pothole Dome to Tuolumne Lodge - not just car pullouts!!!

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

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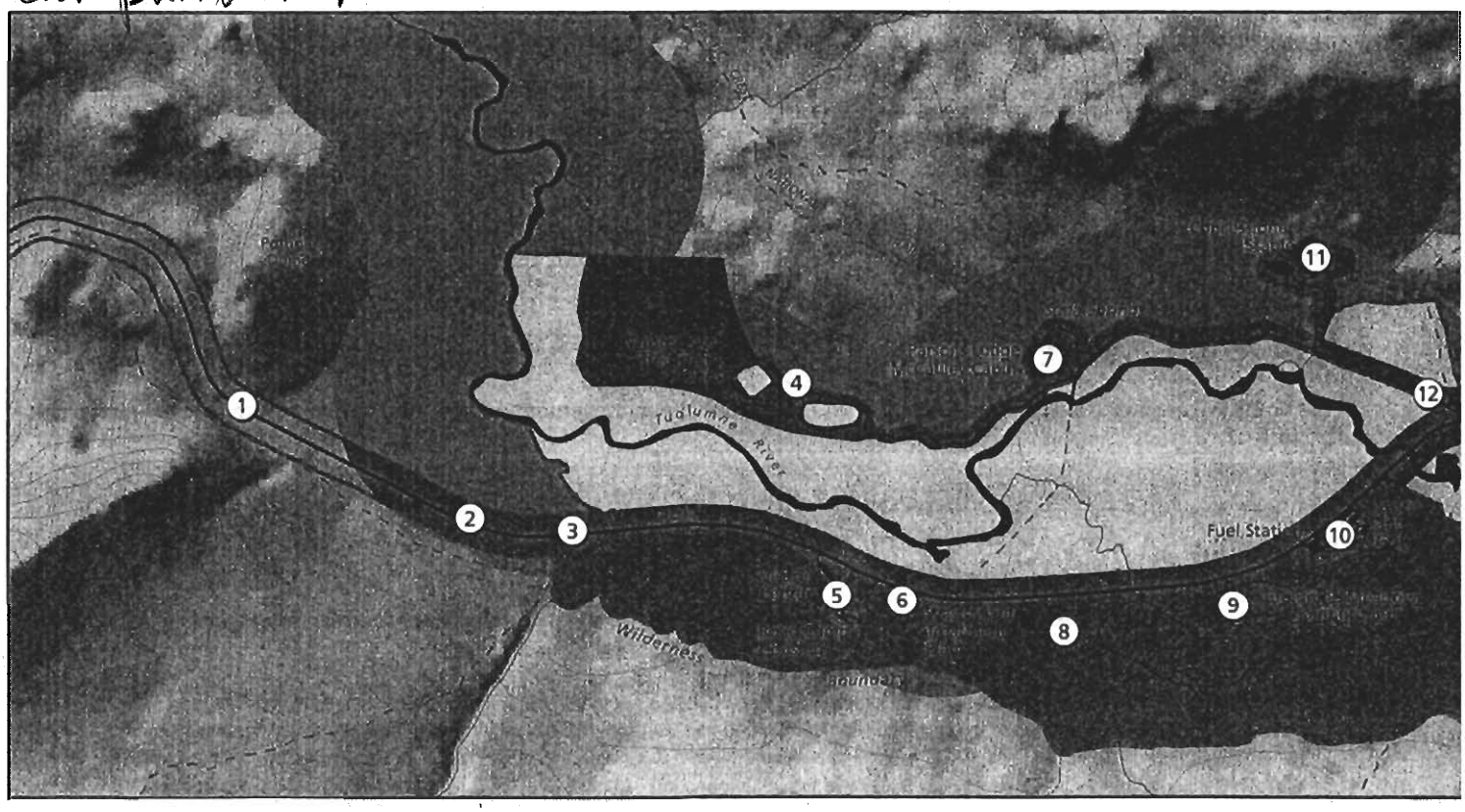
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

Protection of the river environment, water quality and health of ecosystem for all species to the level found optimal and necessary while providing human access & opportunities.

Overall, I support the objectives of Alternative 4 with specific changes listed on next page.

Please: remove roadside parking along Tioga and provide formal parking areas. Provide a pedestrian only trail from Pothole to Tuolumne Lodge - do not provide scenic car pull outs.



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 support the management actions of Alternative #4 except for the following:

(2) Do not provide scenic pullouts for cars.

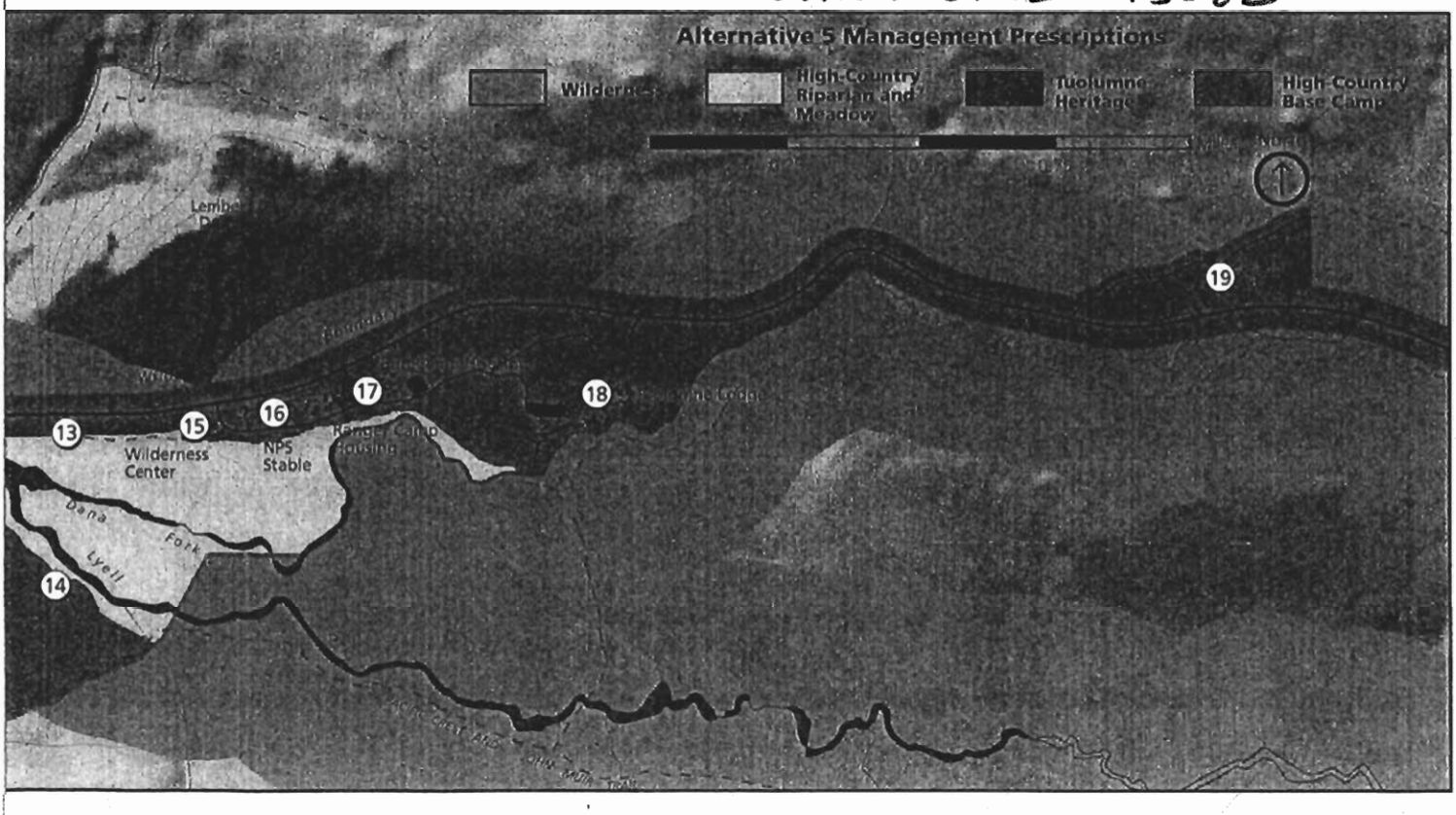
(9) Do not move visitor center, grill & store into Campground.

(10) Move ranger station, wilderness center & mountaineering school to Visitor Center area as logical access as people enter Tuolumne Meadows. Provide showers/restroom for a fee as water resources allow.

Please provide a continuous ped-only trail along Tioga Rd from Pothole to Tuolumne Lodge w/ parking lot access pts. I strongly support more interpretive and educational programs for visitors.

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

Santa Cruz 95062



Create Your Own Site Plan

Your Comments Are Important!

L135-Cg-
9-25-08

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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: 10, 14, 18

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

Dislike - 5 - 10

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

Like = 9 - 10 - 14 - 18 - 7

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

Dislike - 5 - 9 - 18

Like = 13

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

(see next page)

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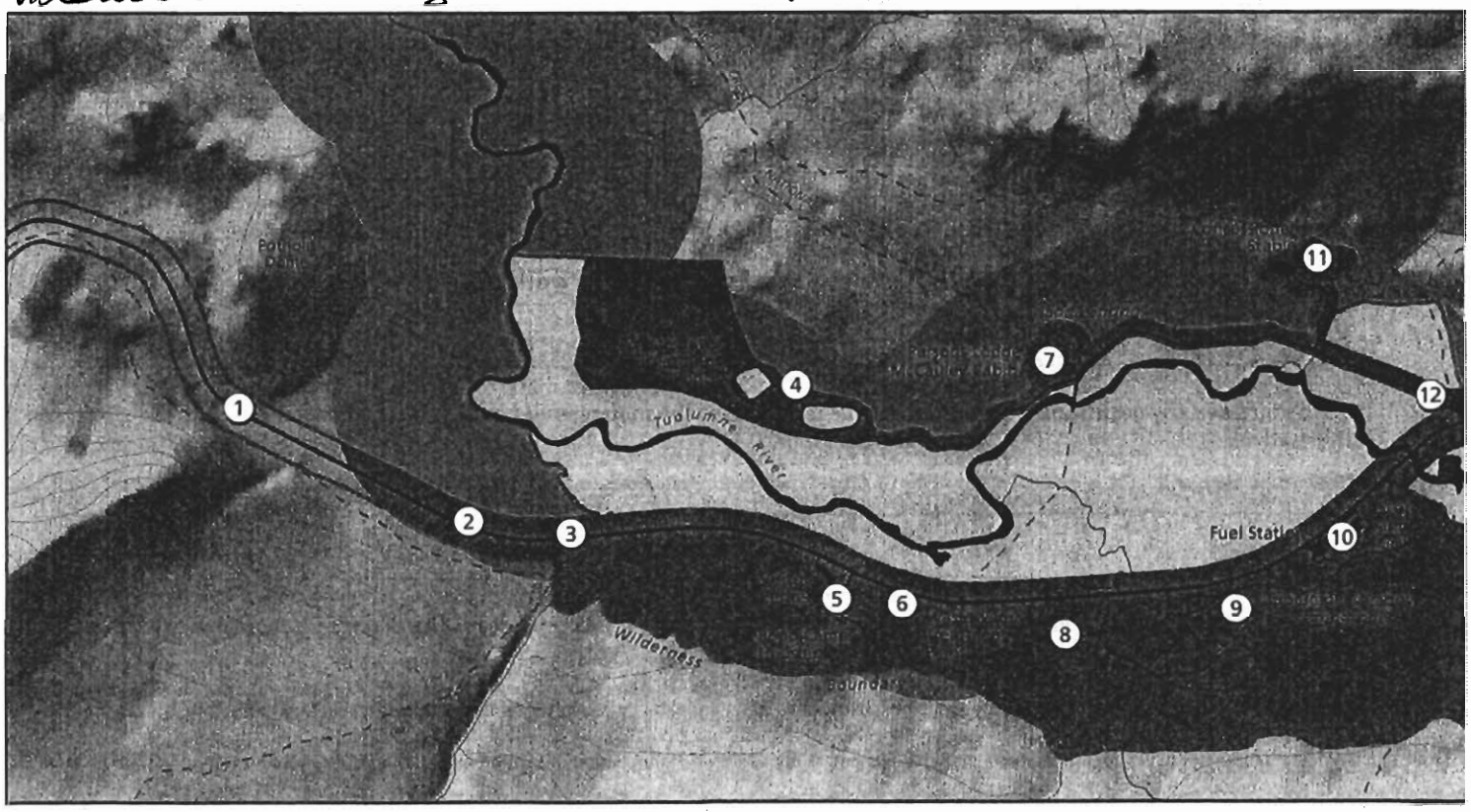
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

Plans 3, 4 and 5 (preferred alternative) sound good we the users and taxpayers need a simple plan telling us exactly what decisions would be taken from the Summary of Alternatives #5 p: 30

On p: 31 The management actions are still vague and worrysome ex: Achieving the desired Condition : management - "intensive" research - "Intensively" manage visitor use ... etc...

Conclusion : Personally I need no need to do any intensive" management - Campers in A loop which we



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):

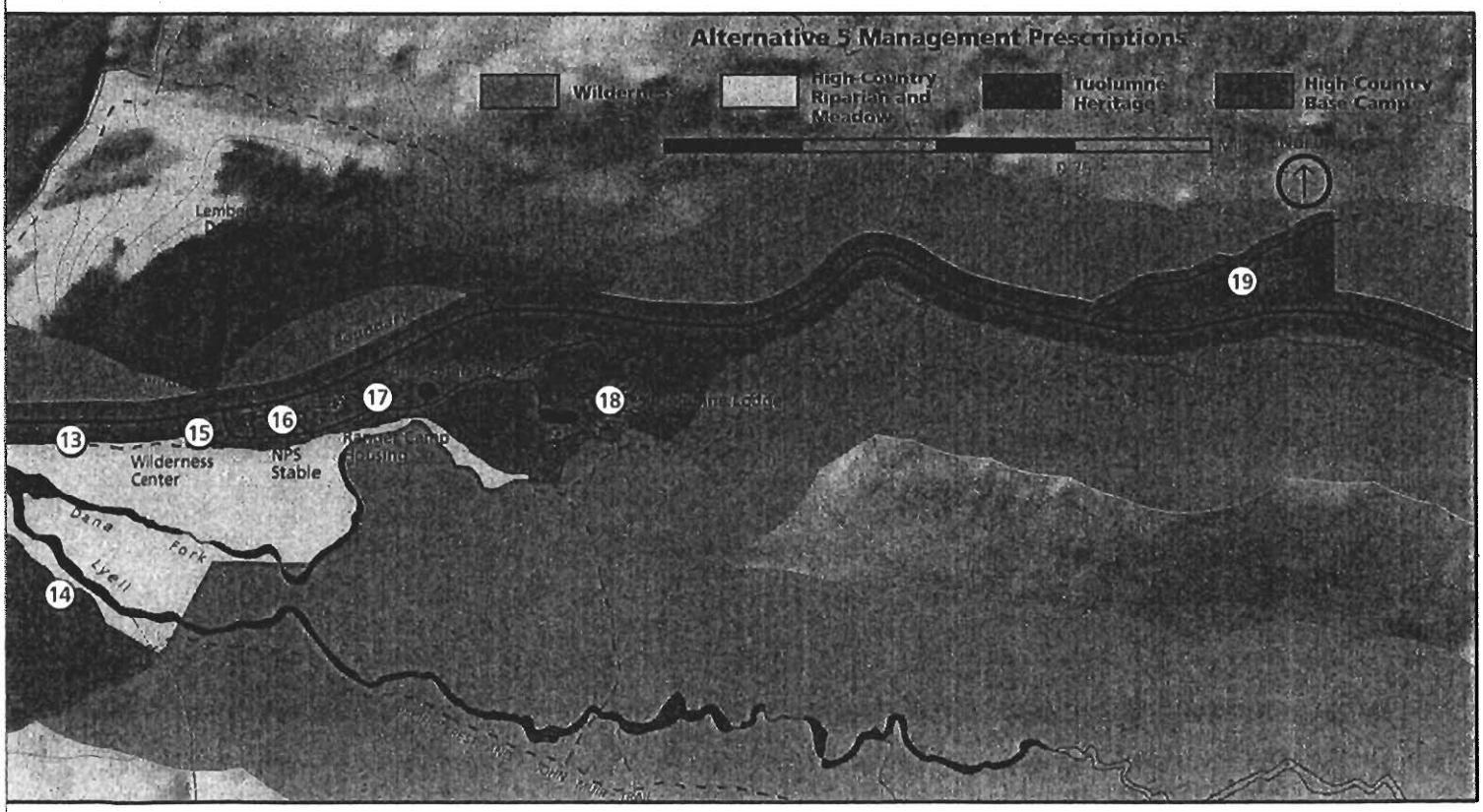
want to see preserved are respectful of regulations and to all of us A loop is Tuolumne Meadows. This is our tradition for many families and part of our Cultural Heritage.

We don't mind the potholes in the Campground roads. We love the rusticity of the buildings including store. Grill. Lodge.

Establishing parkings and picnics near shuttle stops would help the disabled - Clean up - repaint & some remodel for some bathrooms would be nice.

Just don't build big administrative Bldgs - Restaurants & Stores like in the Sequoias or an Ahwahnee Hotel. Preserve the National Parks for those of us who can hardly afford what we already pay. Thank you - Good luck

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



Create Your Own Site Plan

L136-cg-
9-25-08

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_____

_____

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? _____

_____

_____

IT'S OK THE WAY IT IS.

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

_____

_____

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Comment Form

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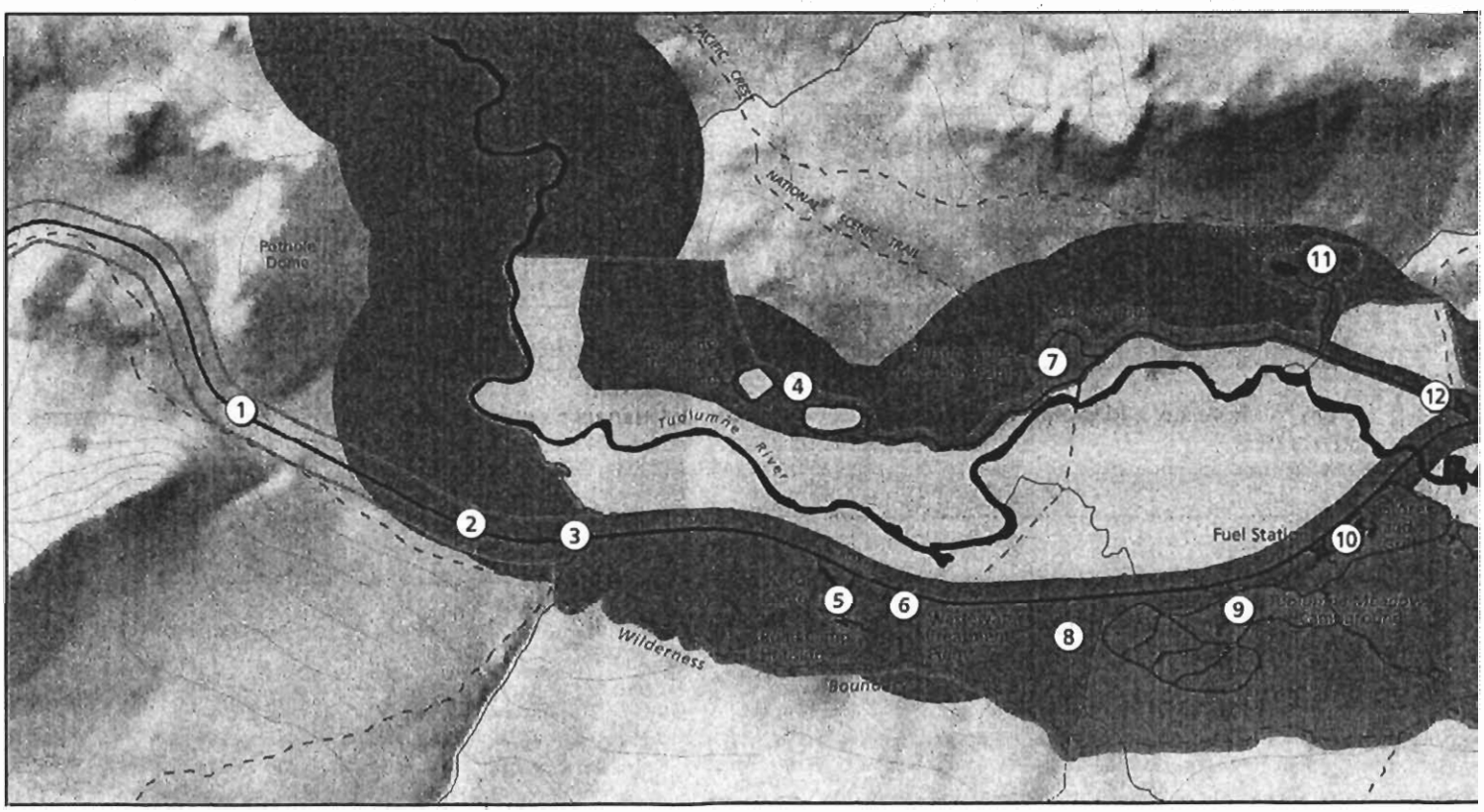
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

WHY MESS WITH PERFECTION?



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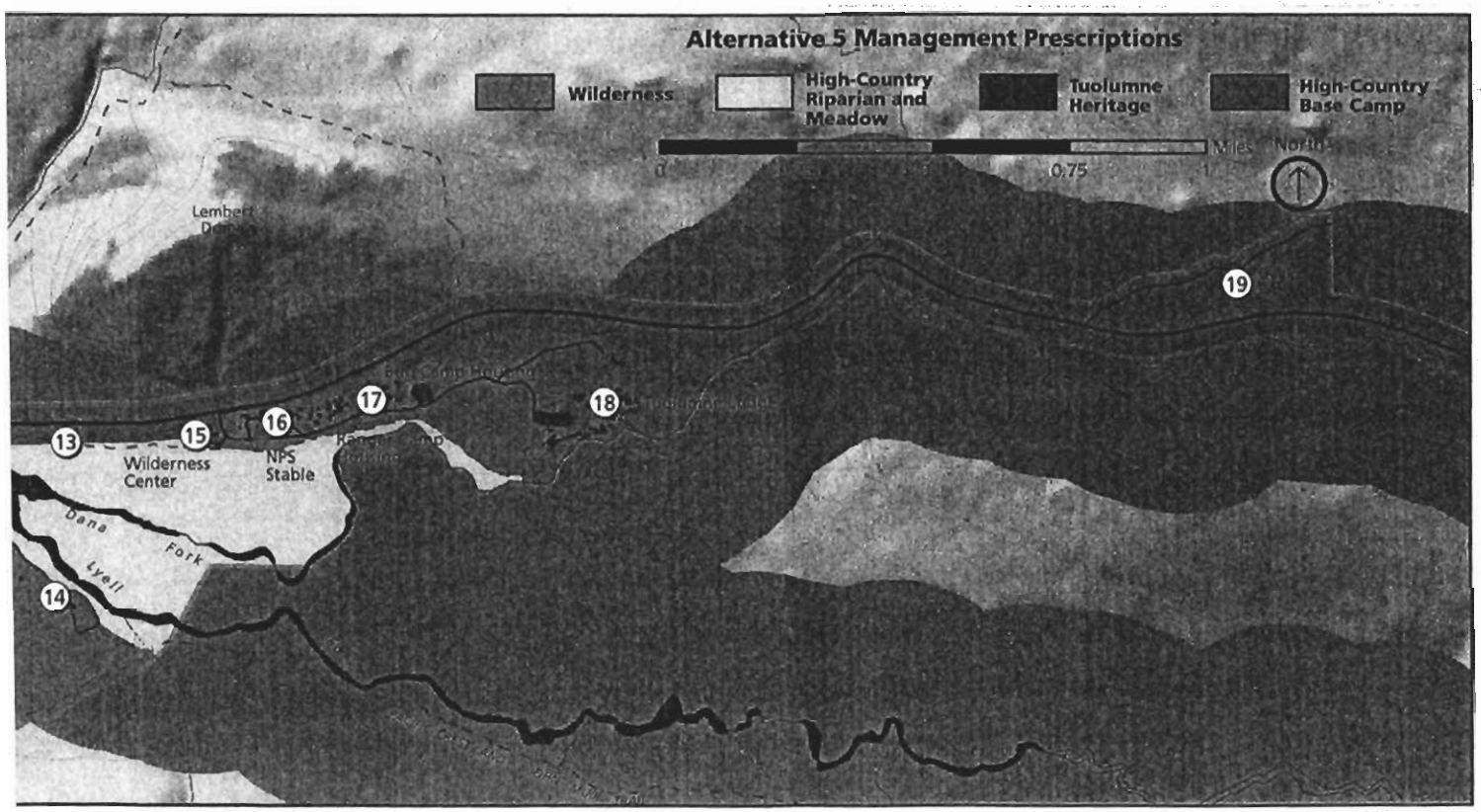
WHY CHANGE TRADITION ?

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



Create Your Own Site Plan

L137-cg
9-25-08

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_____

_____

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? _____

_____

_____

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_____

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NOTE: Please DO change X.

Comment Form

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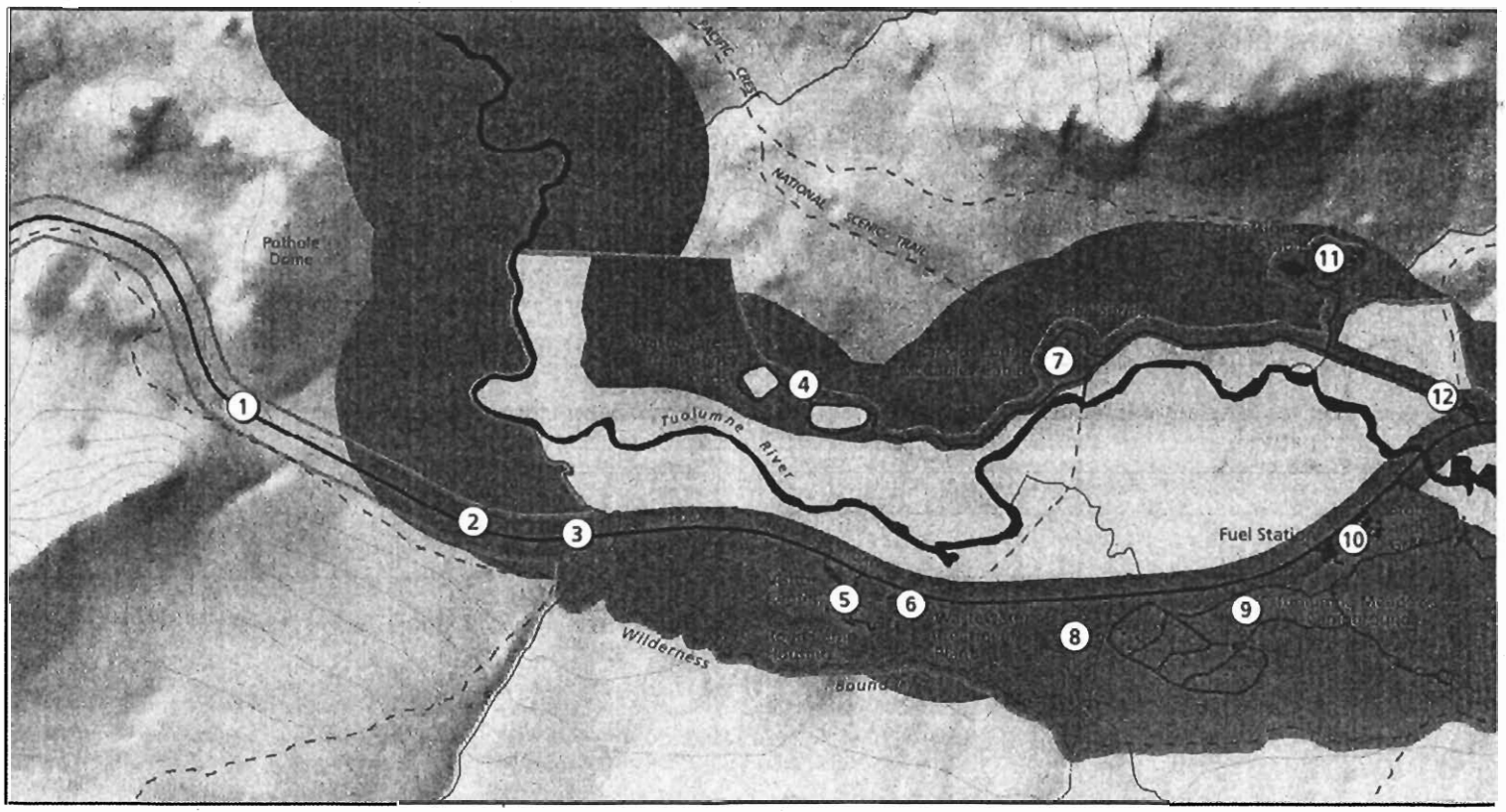
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

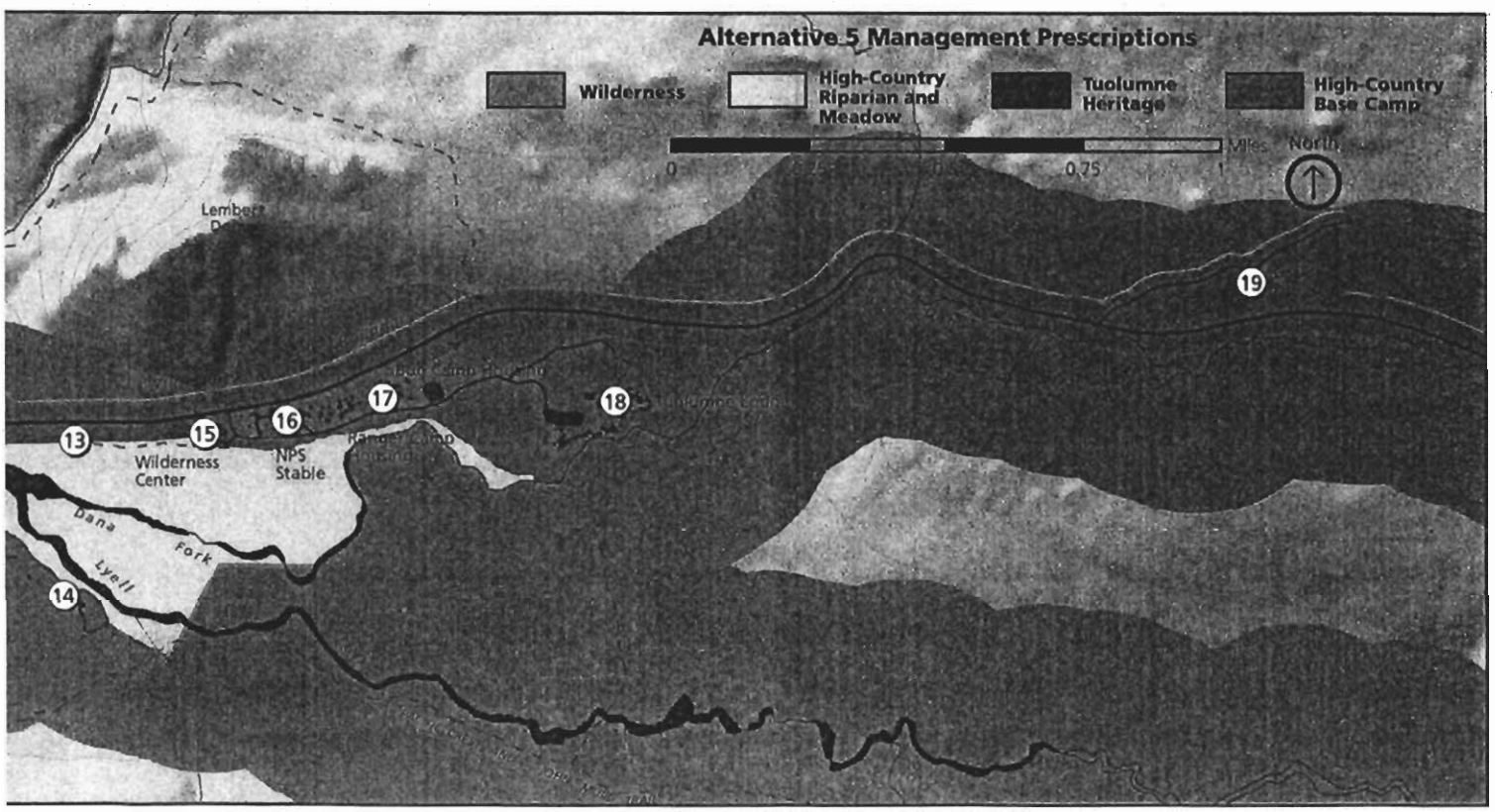
It is perfect as it is for man, animal & plants. Why change something so compatible with Nature.



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):

Tuolumne is a beautiful-
God given place -
Please DO NOT
Change it -

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



Create Your Own Site Plan

L138-C9
9-25-08

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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: 10, 14, 18, 2+3 if not adequate parking provided, 15 (keep beautiful Traditional visitors center)

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

Dislike: 5+10 Consolidation creates non "wilderness" big city setting. Current setup has quaint functional value w/ "historical" history of its own.
14

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

Like: 9, 10, 14, 18, 7

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

Dislike: 5+9, 18 dininghall has "historic" beauty

Like: 13

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

Keep camping and visitors opportunity "open" for average people. No big resort for wealthy only. Visiting/camping here since 1967

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Comment Form

L139-C9-
9-25-08

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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? _____

I like the expanded wilderness but dislike the removal of all amenities such as removal of the grill & store.
As a backpacker I really enjoy the grill & store :)

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?

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Comment Form

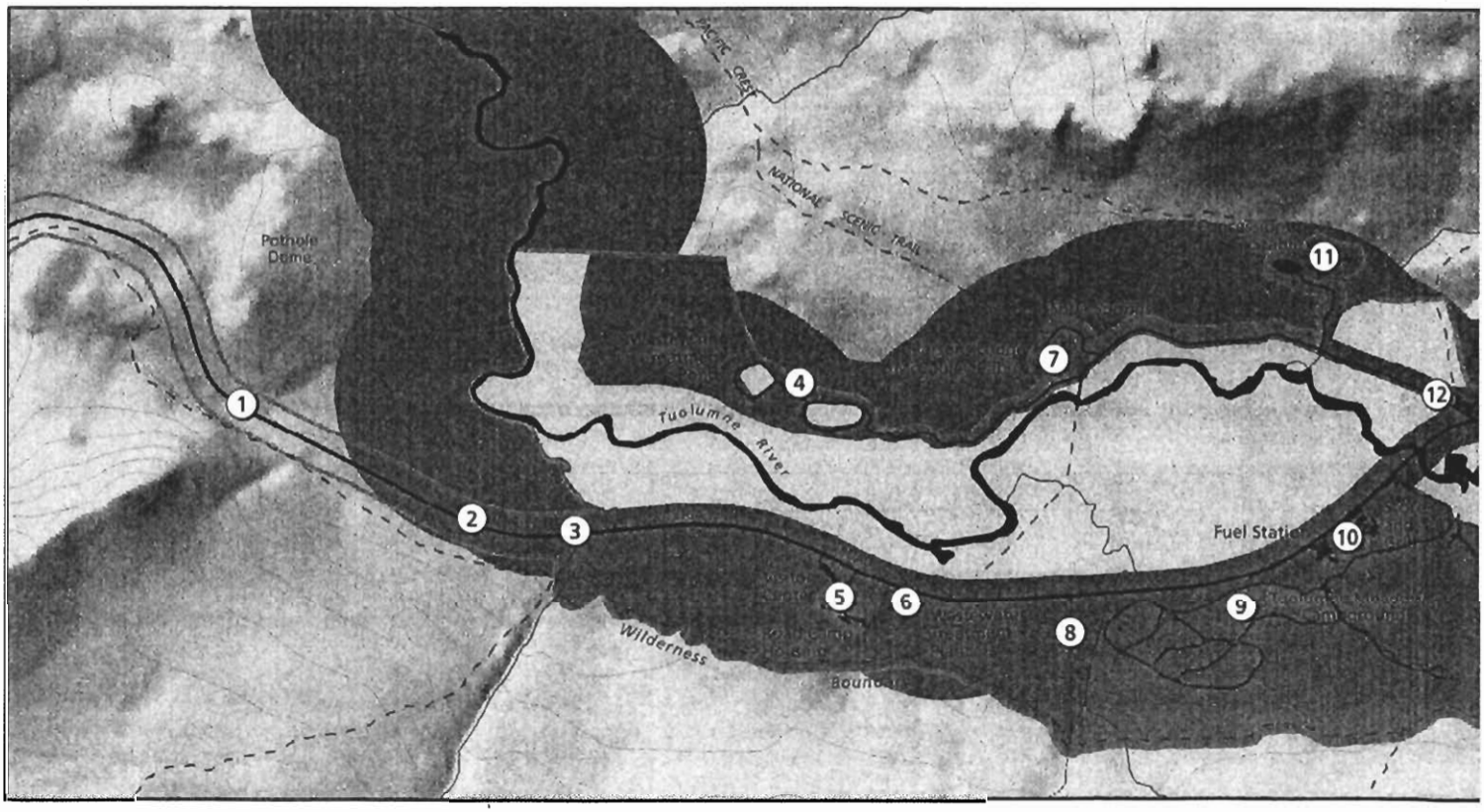
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

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:

Minimize impact to the Tuolumne Meadows area. Keep park staff housing. Keep store and grill, add hot shower option to camp ground. Increase public transportation awareness to minimize personnal auto use. Keep stock use availability. Do not allow snowmobile use in winter.



L140-cg - 9-25-08

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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? Establishing pull-outs + GOOD! Suggest establish "social" trail through meadow, as people will go no matter if allowed or not. Don't agree with removing store + grille - possibly expand picnic area? Agree with removing fuel station, A loop in campground. Agree with removing Tuolumne lodge!

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I love the hike/bike trail along Tioga Rd. idea! See above about #10 (visitor facilities) - I think they are necessary but need to be managed in terms of size + flow. Tuolumne lodge facilities could be eliminated - a large part of visitors behaving as if they are at a theme park (instead of appreciating wilderness) I believe is due to ease of access, where little personal responsibility for self or are is required

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

Too little change, it seems, in terms of growth management and solving current problems of overuse and destruction by casual day visitors (well, all visitors!). I like the guided hikes concept, but is currently an EXCELLENT part of campground services!

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

I like the consolidation of services (area 9), not sure about it being at D loop - * don't redesign the campground to crowd the sites! Parking at Lembert Dome will always be necessary - can limit facilities. Definitely more lodge dining hall + housing away from river, if retained at all.

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

Preferred alternative is a combination of Alt #1 and #3 - retain + consolidate services, relocate visitor ctr., relocate wastewater treatment, remove lodge facilities by river (at the least), eliminate commercial trail rides, remove A loop, delineate shoulder turnouts, parking,

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

Great ideas, can't wait to see how it goes!

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Comment Form

L141-CY-
9-25-08

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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? Hate it. I dislike the removal of Glen Aulin & reduction of Tuolomne services - the rest of the park is wilderness!

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Not great. Don't want more commercial activity (ie. boating, kayaking) on the river.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Nothing special. Not interested in increasing the American Indian focus more than as present.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? ☆ Love it! Great focus on ecology. Keep badges. Relocate facilities to improve flow & impact. No more horses!

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

I love #4, but think that #5 does nothing to correct mistakes of the past. Eliminating horses is important since they leave a tremendous scar on the land. Reconfiguring facilities is essential.

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

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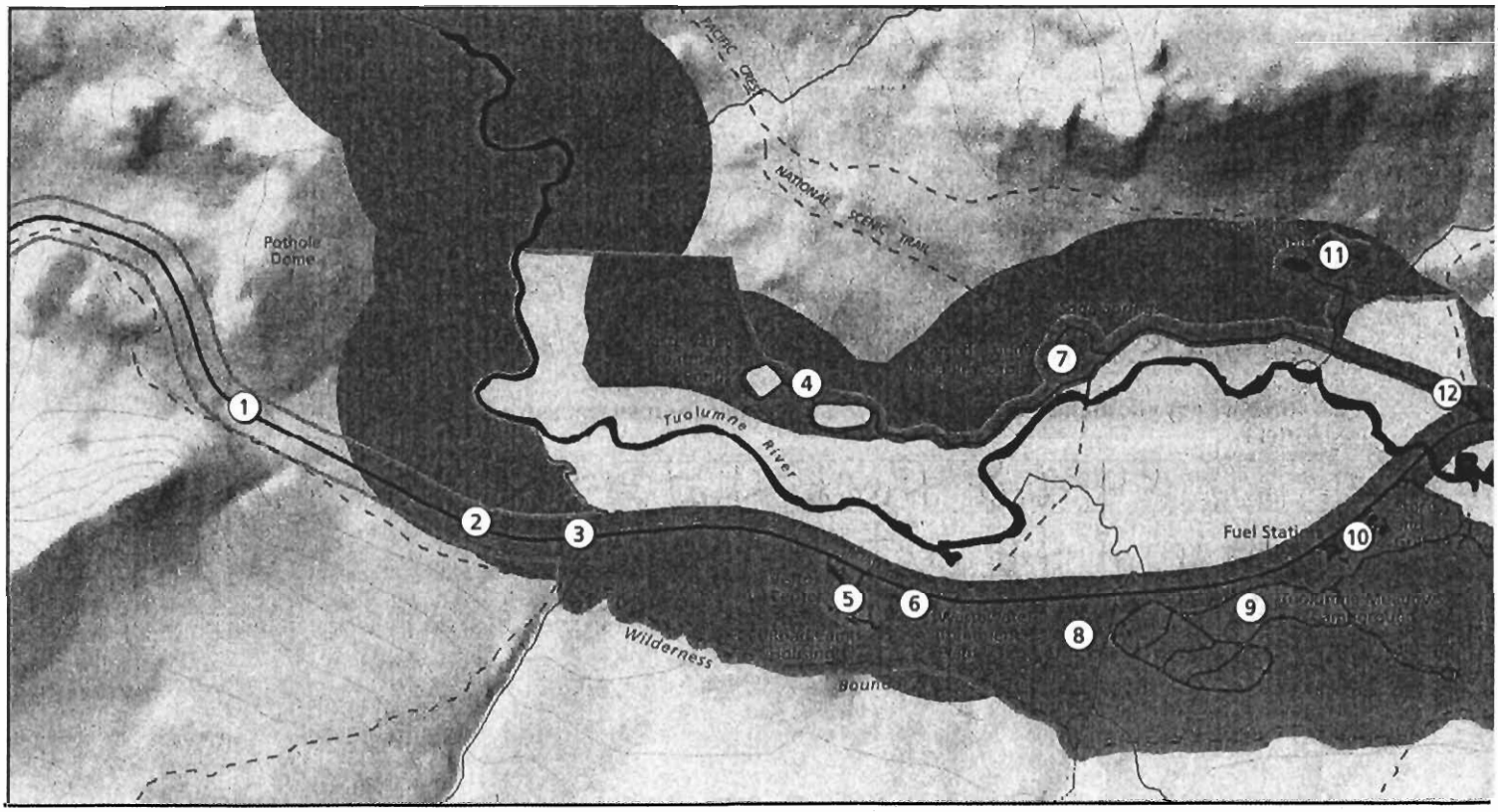
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

- Retain overnight camping as well as limited lodging
- Eliminate horses, especially commercial operators
- Reconfigure services & stores
- Focus on ecology
- Create convenient off road parking areas
- Improve shuttle bus service so it is more frequent & convenient
- More ranger led walks



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):

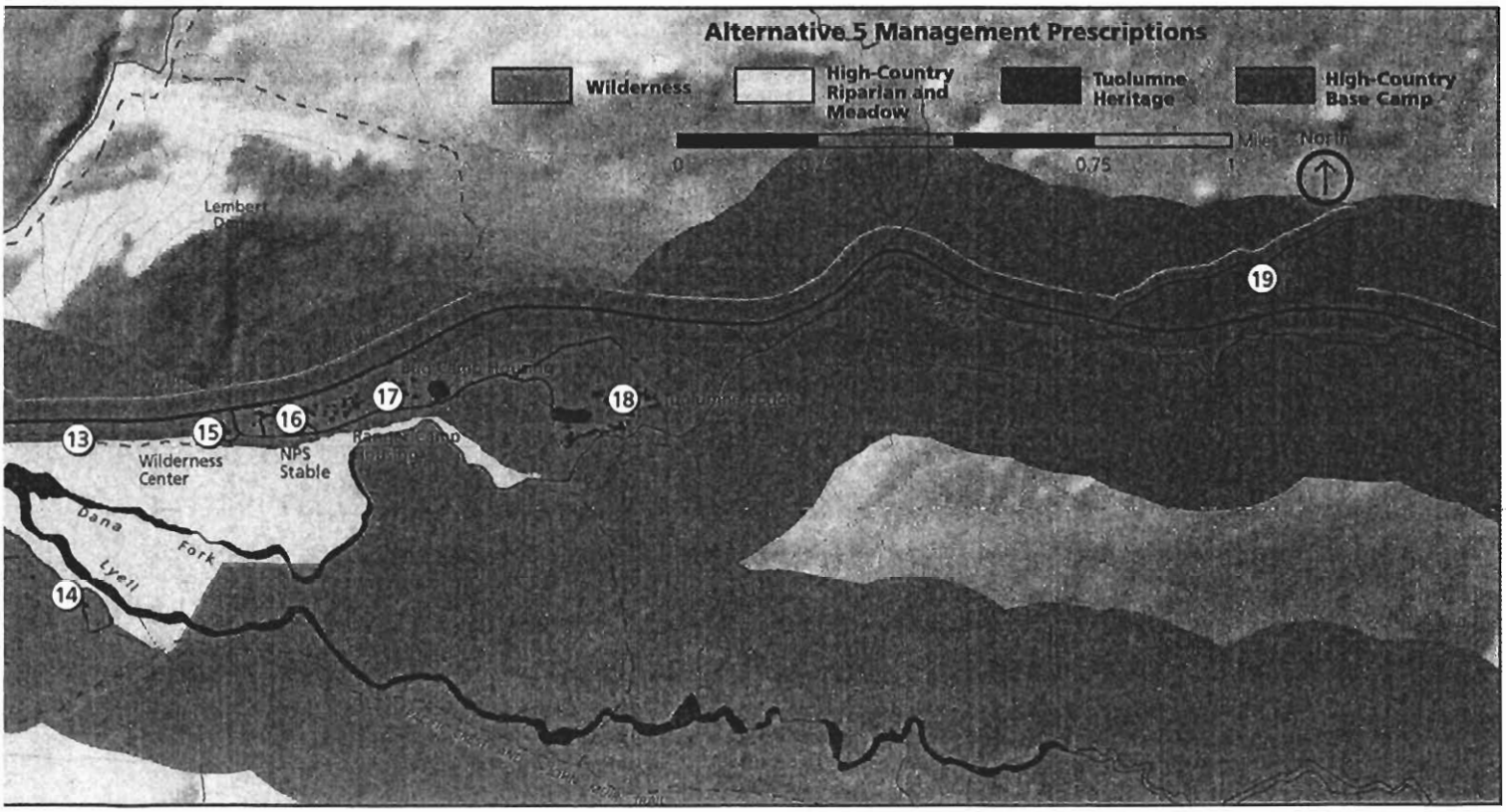
(11) - eliminate concessioner stable & require horse groups to clean up after themselves as everyone else already does

(10) reconfigure store, grill & gas station (could remove gas station - it's really not needed) to shield views from road

1, 2, etc don't eliminate shoulder parking, but create enough pull-outs & shielded parking lots to entice people to pull over safely

(6) modernize treatment plant

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code [redacted] 94404



Create Your Own Site Plan

[redacted]

L142-C9
9-25-08

There is much more that we can do to make this area "greener" and ~~all~~ most of the visitors would be willing to do this but keep the areas open for visitors. It makes the wilderness assessible to the elderly and people not in good enough shape to back pack completely

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L14B-cg 9-25-08

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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? Like:

Retain NPS Stable; Retain helipad, historic trail. Dislike: Remove Tuolumne Lodge, Store-Grill-Fuel-School

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 10 11 17 18 19

Dislike 17 compared to 17 for Alt 3

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 4 5 6 9 11 18 Dislike: 8

Prefer Alt 2 version of 10 to this one

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 9 11

Dislike 12 Prefer 18 in Alt 3.

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative? I think you miss the sociology of the Tuolume Lodge (compared to the valley. It mixes ages and ethnicities (and exponence levels) The Staff (there and at Mountaineering) are sources of local knowledge

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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Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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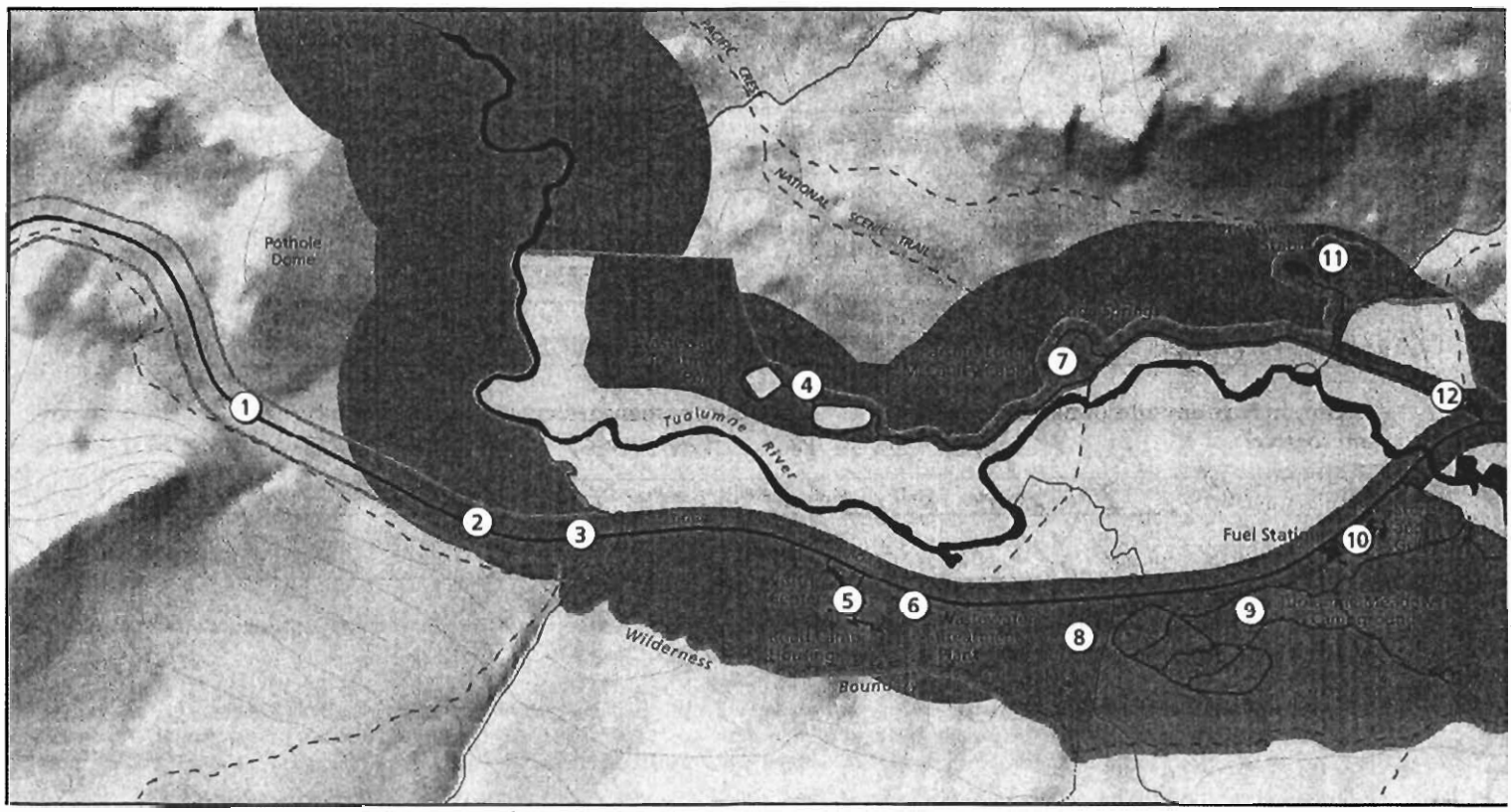
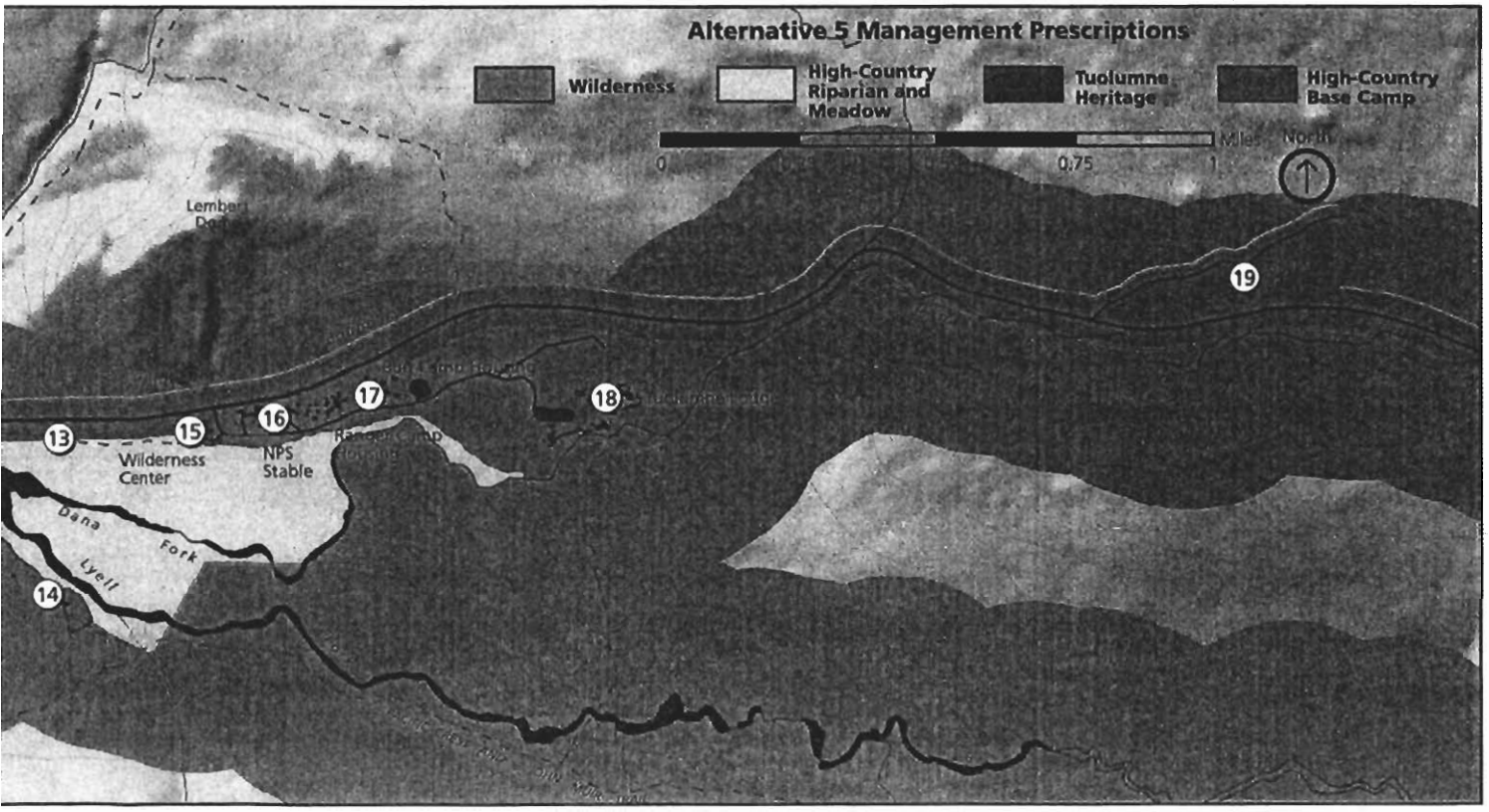
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

(1) Prevent the Disney-fication of the High Country experience. Camping + Tent Cabins are a good preventative



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: 94703



Create Your Own Site Plan

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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? like: 9) improve campground traffic flow. dislike: 2)+3) remove shoulder + informal parking

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? very much like: allowing kayaking on a portion of the river, but only if resulting damage would be minimal. also like: 13)+(4) - provide bike trail, relocate Awanee from Riparian.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Any way, though I know none, to teach the general public about Tuolomne Native Heritage, is vital to ~~both~~ increasing the value of primitive + unconfined recreation.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? like w/ caveat 9) consolidate visitor, store, grill @ camp D great to move it away from the river, but ~~goo~~ better road access will be important for traffic flow.

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

Yes. Please see inside

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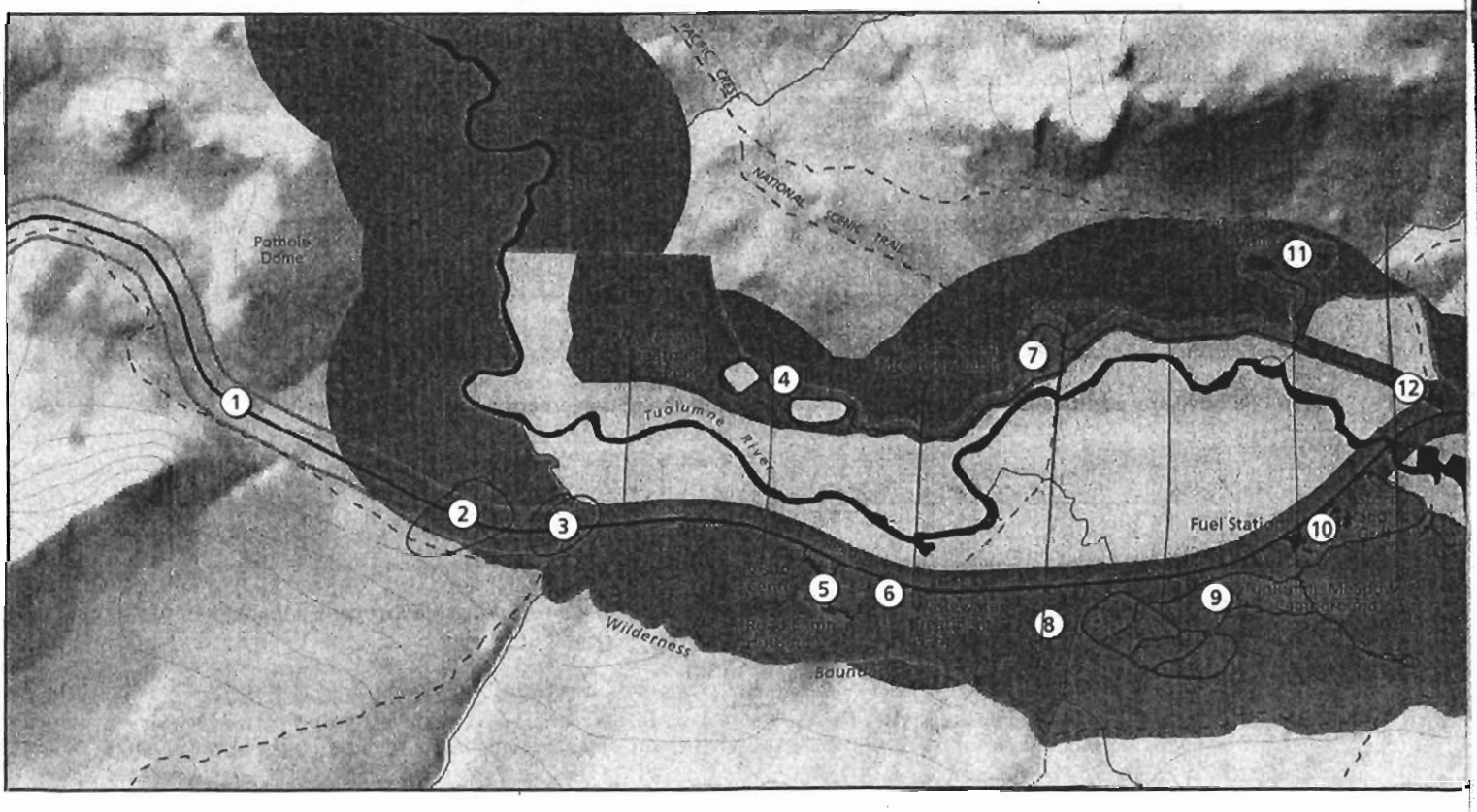
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

My understanding of the preferred alternative is that no walking in the meadow or along the river will be allowed outside of marked paths. This seems a shame, as my personal connection w/ the meadow was greatly enhanced by the opportunity to park alongside + wander to the river. During that short hike I discoverd not only an array of wildflowers, but also a fallen long



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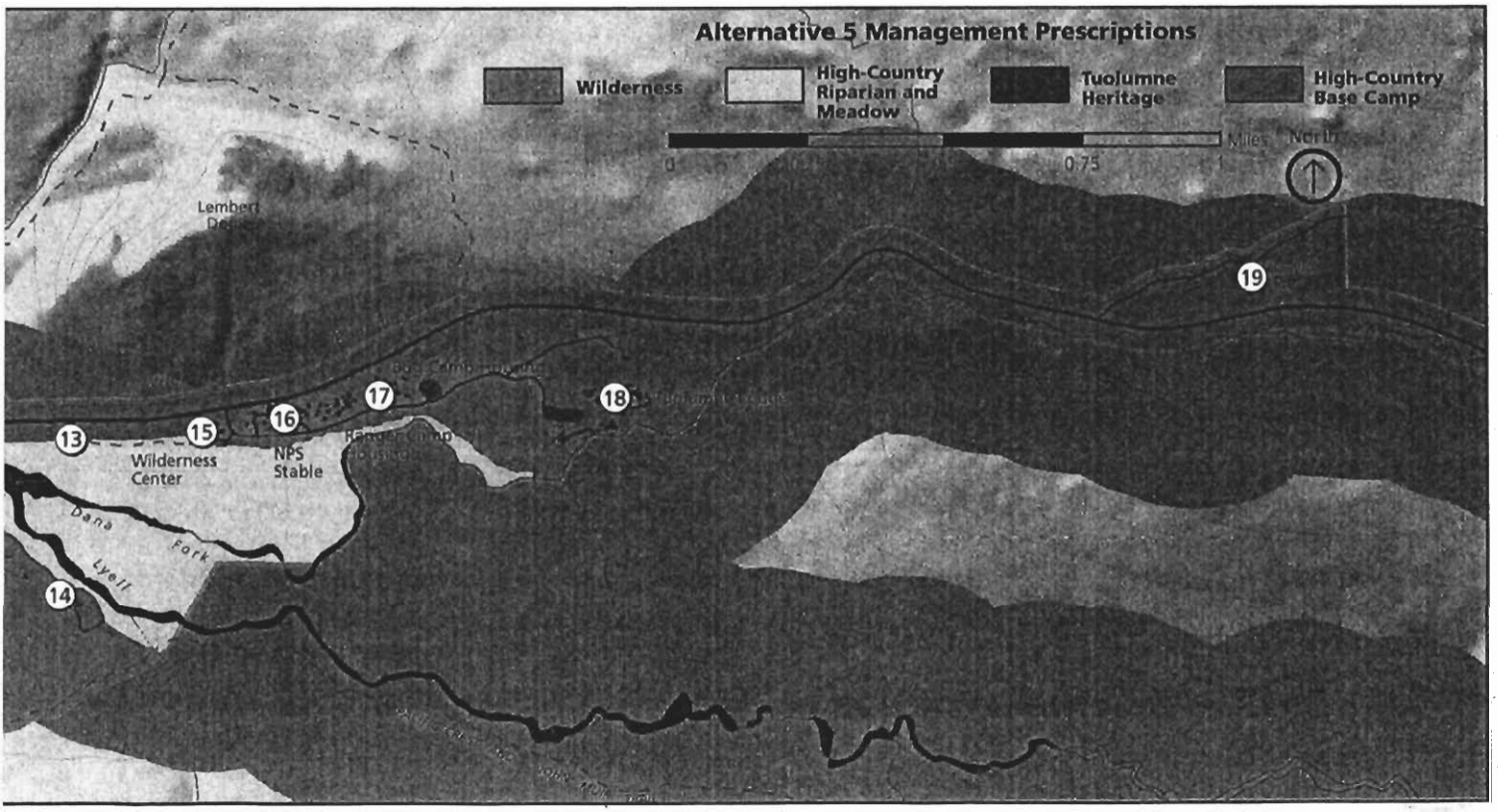
protruding over the meadow where I read, meditated, + slowly took in the view. The connection I have formed as a result is far more valuable to my peace of soul than that I found on the wooden platforms of Yosemite Valley.

If there is anyway to retain the freedom of discovery afforded by the current controls near points 2 + 3, while saving the meadow, I think visitors will continue to be drawn the meadow.

Perhaps a rotating section of the meadow can remain open + near parking?

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted] 94121
San Francisco, CA.



Create Your Own Site Plan

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9-25-08

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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? I strongly oppose the closing of Tuolumne Meadows Lodge & Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp. I am to disabled to camp anymore. Many people would be forced to waste gas on outside lodging or (heaven forbid!) gas-guzzling campers & RV's.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like the allowing of a section for limited Kayaking.

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?

I want Tuolumne Meadows Lodge & Glen Aulin high Sierra camps to stay open. I favor discontinuing commercial horseback riding (except maybe for the disabled) I favor increased learning opportunities about flora & fauna & native Indian peoples.

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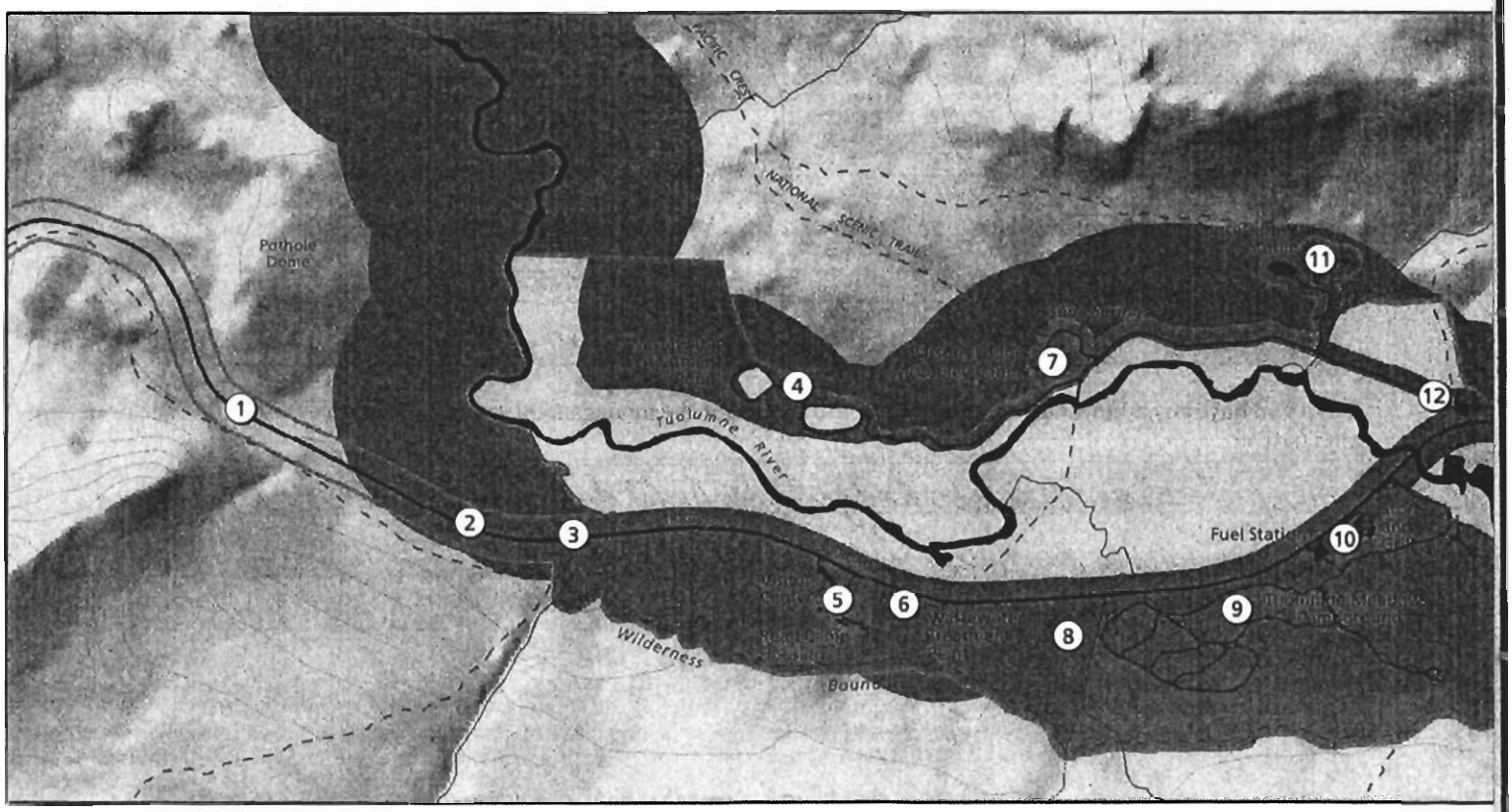
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

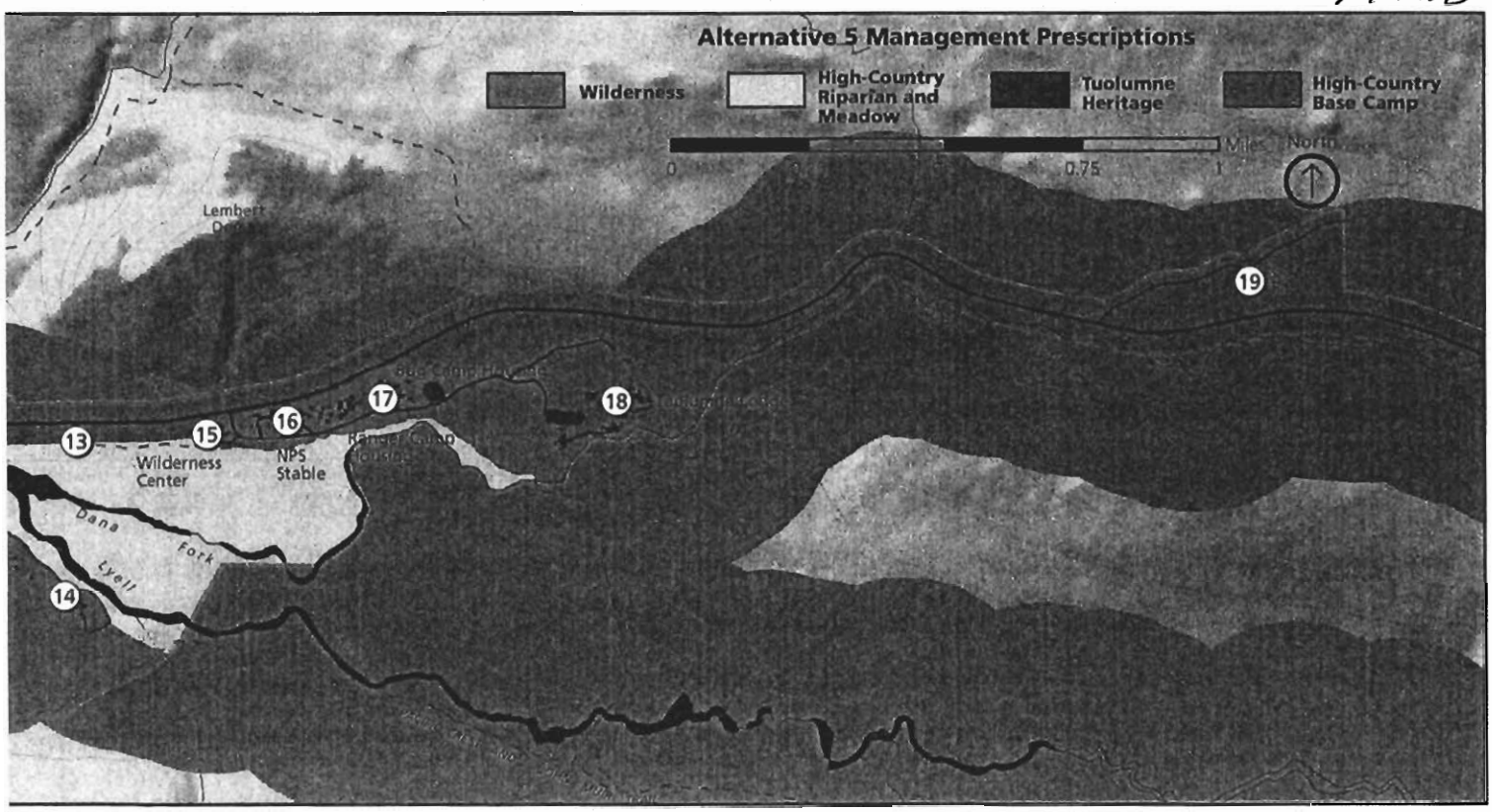
I strongly favor keeping open Tuolumne Meadows Lodge (allows people like me to drive my prius up wasting minimal gas - I'm too arthritic to camp anymore). Also keep open Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp. Adding a hiking/biking trail connecting various sites (esp biking) would help to cut down on short unnecessary driving). I favor adding kayaking (limited). I favor stopping commercial horseback riding (except maybe special trips for the disabled). I favor increased educational displays and



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):

opportunities regarding flora & fauna & native American history in the area

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted] San Carlos 94070



Create Your Own Site Plan

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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?

I like that Glen Aulin would be shutdown and the area restored to natural conditions. Dislike losing Tuolumne Meadows.

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

I like that Tuolumne Meadows stays open and many staff sites are moved to Gaylor Pit. Dislike the Glen Aulin remains and the stables remain.

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

Dislike that much remains the same. like the removal of shoulder parking

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

Not much change is my dislike. Like removing wastewater treatment ponds.

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

this plan is not documented well. It is hard to know the impact.

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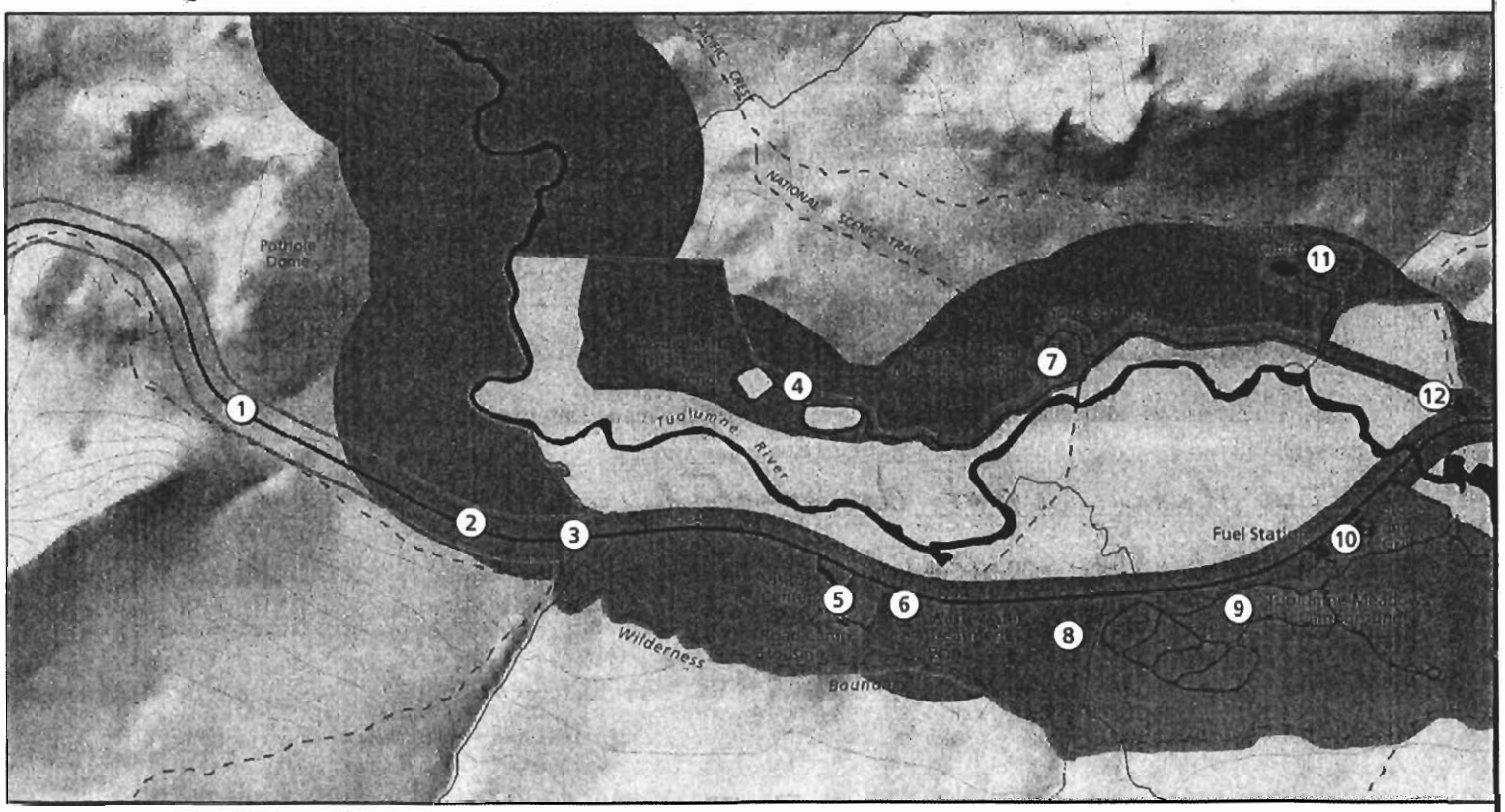
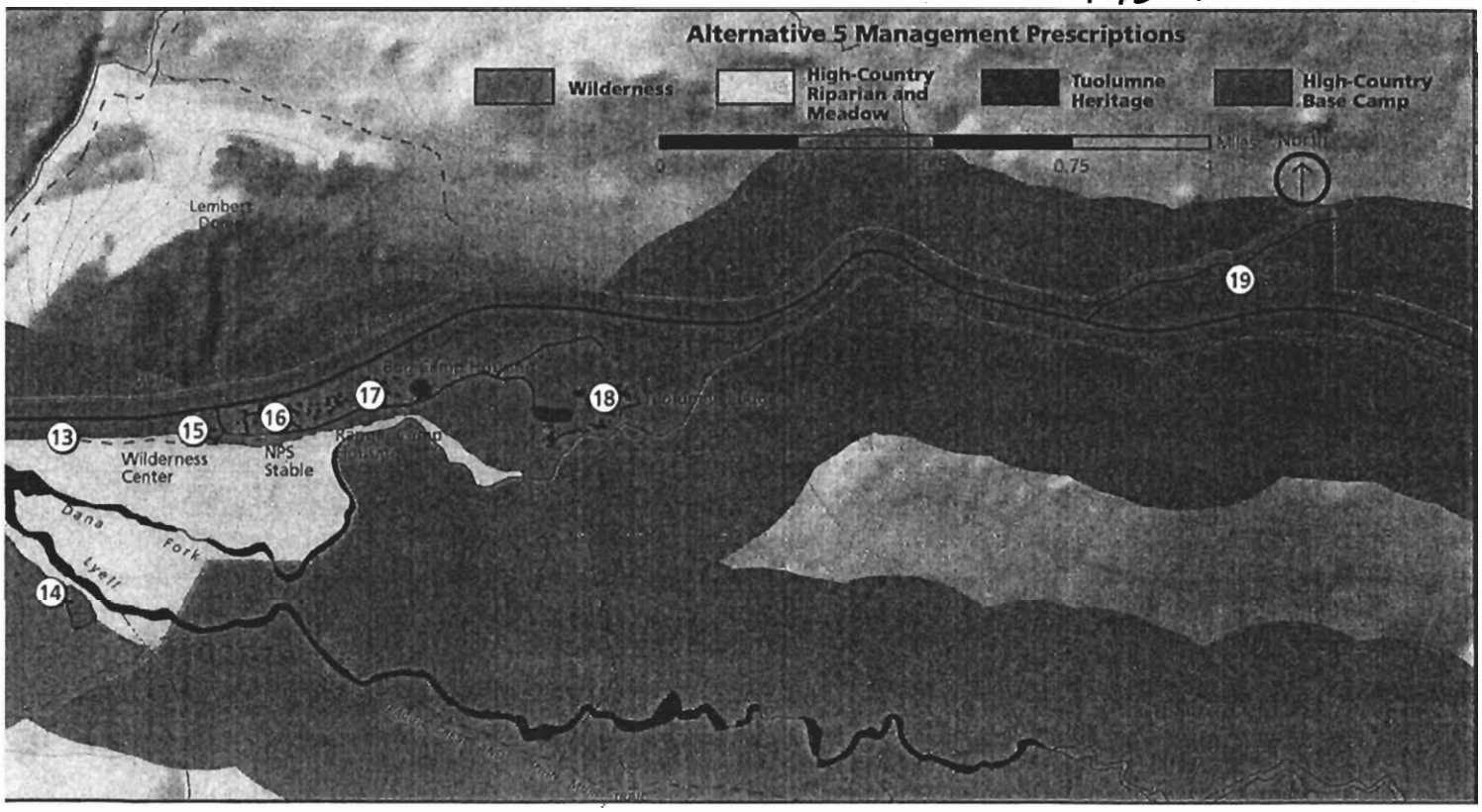
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

Remove Glen Aulin and any other housing near the river. Relocate the campground A loop away from the river. Consolidate the visitor center (5) and wilderness permit station at the visitor center area. ~~Remove~~ Relocate the waste water treatment ponds closer to the treatment plant. (4) ~~Rem~~ Remove the stables (11) Move staff housing (Tuolumne Meadows staff) to Gaylor Pt.



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] Palo Alto CA 94301



Create Your Own Site Plan

L147-cg- 9-29-08

Comments on the Tuolumne River Plan
From [redacted] Twisp, WA 98856

The following are my suggestions and concerns regarding the preliminary alternative site plan concepts at Tuolumne Meadows. I've addressed my comments with regard to the numbers on the concept maps.

1) Yes , provide formal parking with trail parking to Pothole Dome. Parking area located at the old Curry dump site west of Pothole would be out of the meadows viewshed and not destroy the great view upon entering the meadows from the west.
2) Maintain informal parking at this location.
3) Consolidate the Cathedral Lake TH parking at the VC. Provide trail link and eliminate roadside parking at Cathedral. Maintain shuttle stop.
4) Although I'd like to see the wastewater treatment ponds moved from its current location and the access road removed and restored, I am troubled by creating a new impact in providing for such a facility. Creating new ponds above the existing treatment plant seems foolish. Although the access road is a blight on the parsons/Soda Springs area, the treatment ponds seem secure and it is a little used area. Leave as is.
5) Maintain Visitor Center as is. The building is historical and aesthetic and serves the function of providing information to the public about the area quite well. The main attraction should not be a fancy VC with modern displays, but visitors should be given the info and encouraged to go out and explore and connect to the place.
6) Maintain as is.
7) No change.
8) No change.
9) Retain current Campground but improve sites by providing a level tent pad site. Improve traffic flow and conditions of raods.
10) Remove Store, Grill, Gas Station and Mountaineering school. Restoring this area with a picnic area would be an appropriate use of this location. Currently the store complex dominates the visitor experience along the road corridor. Visitors come prepared with food to be self sufficient and don't need these services to be offered here to enjoy this place. This is a great opportunity to scale down while enhancing the experience.
11) Retain DNC stables but eliminate trail rides. The trail rides have an unbalanced impact on the trails.
12) Retain parking and picnic area. Improve toilet.
13) Retain historic trail. Trail is deeply eroded and in poor condition. Consideration should be made of paving this trail and creating a safe biking, hiking connection to the TM Lodge , Ranger Station and Wilderness Center from the campground.
14) Remove and restore A loop. Provide a day use area in the location.
15) Retain Ranger station and Wilderness Center.
16) Retain NPS stable. Improve corral and storm run off drainage.

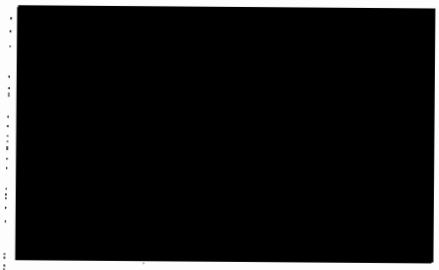
17)Maintain NPS housing at Ranger Camp and Bug Camp!!!
I can think of no worse decision to the future of Tuolumne Meadows than to eliminate the employees from the area that we serve, interpret and protect.
In order to have employees that have a passion for this special place they must feel connected to this place.
By relegating employees to Gaylor Pit or worse, outside the park, you'd be severing the historical link of Park Rangers actually living and breathing in the same locations that we are serving and protecting. This would be a tragedy.
Upgrading the existing tent cabins so that individuals had a bit more privacy while maintaining the overall size and footprint. Add tent cabins to meet the staffing needs.
Building and having two tent cabins for seasonal employees who have families would keep the tradition of children growing up in Tuolumne alive. Tent cabins should retain their rustic appearance. Visitors come to Yosemite to camp and I don't think they are put off by seeing employees housed in tent cabins.

18)Maintain Tuolumne Lodge. Move DNC housing away from the Dana Fork to area north of lodge parking lot, between the Tioga Road and the parking Lot.

19) Retain Gaylor Pit as emergency helipad.

Additional comments:

- Remove the Glen Aulin HSC. Replace with Ranger Station staffed with rangers providing the function similar to LYV… Protection, Interpretation, bear management, EMS, etc.
- Don't allow rafting or boating on the Tuolumne. The impacts from such activity would be too great.



Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Tuolumnne River Plan.

L148-cg
9-29-08

REVISED

BY EMAIL
yose_planning@nps.gov

September 22, 2008

Superintendent Michael Tollefson
Yosemite National Park
Attn: Tuolumne Planning
PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Attention: Kristina Rylands, Project Manager

Re: Access Fund Revised Comments on July 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook

Dear Yosemite Planning Team:

On September 15, 2008 we submitted comments on the alternatives in the 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook. We were not able to make a detailed site reconnaissance of the various locations discussed in the Workbook before submitting these comments. We have now done so and are re-submitting our comments in revised form below. **Please discard our September 15, 2008 comment letter to eliminate any confusion**.

The Access Fund is pleased to continue its participation in the planning process for the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows with these comments on the July 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook.[1] As explained in our attached scoping letter, the Access Fund represents the interests of the nation's climbers, for whom Tuolumne Meadows is a resource of national and

[1] The Access Fund submitted scoping comments on September 6, 2006 regarding the Tuolumne River Plan. A copy of that letter is attached for reference. We also participated in the public workshop on the 2007 Tuolumne Planning Workbook at Parsons Lodge (see Paul Minault in photo on page 8 of the Workbook).

international significance. Climbers likely represent a significant portion of the visitors who spend more than three days a season in the Meadows.

Summary of Comments

The Access Fund's comments below on the Workbook alternatives focus primarily on the needs and interests of climbers regarding Tuolumne Meadows, which we briefly summarize here:

- **Maintain the current simple, low-intensity, traditional and rustic level of services and facilities.** This alternative got it right. Tuolumne Meadows works pretty well just as it is. It could use some minor improvements here and there, but it doesn't need a major modernization or significant new facilities.

  The charm of Tuolumne Meadows lies in its feeling like a traditional summer camp. Facilities and services are informal, dispersed, and pleasantly antiquated. Arriving visitors instantly realize the emphasis here is on self-initiated engagement with the stunning natural surroundings. The opportunities for sedentary or passive engagement, including shopping, cultural events and interpretive presentations are limited and many are directed at moving visitors away from developed facilities. The construction of new, larger, more efficient and commodious facilities would inevitably decrease this traditional emphasis on self-initiated engagement with nature and encourage a passive trinket-shopping mentality that fortunately now has little place in Tuolumne Meadows.

  The Workbook alternatives contain considerable discussion of the consolidation and relocation of uses, which necessarily entails the development of new facilities. New development, in turn, involves the application of entirely new architectural, engineering, building, traffic, handicapped, lighting, ergonomic, energy, marketing, safety, liability protection, and other standards that inevitably result in new developments being far more expansive and intrusive than the facilities they replace. We urge caution and restraint here. This plan has a limited time horizon, and it will not be the last plan for Tuolumne Meadows in this century. All problems don't have to be solved now; some can wait. And "improvements" don't always make things better, especially in a place like Tuolumne Meadows. We like the title of the Preferred Alternative: "Honor the Traditions of the

Tuolumne while looking to the future." Striking a balance between past and present is the trick here, and we think this can best be done by minimizing the relocation of uses and the necessity to develop new facilities. We have assembled a combination of alternative components that would preclude having to develop any significant new visitor-serving buildings in Tuolumne Meadows.

- **Retain and increase campsites.** Many climbers prefer the Tuolumne Meadows campground for its central location and convenient access to visitor-serving facilities. It is often full, however, especially on weekends. The park has identified a need for more campsites along the Highway 120 corridor, and the plan presents an opportunity to explore the possibility of developing more sites at the Tuolumne Meadows campground. At the very least, the plan should ensure no net loss of campsites in the campground.

- **Improve the camping experience.** The campground is crowded, noisy, dusty, heavily impacted, haphazardly laid out, and poorly maintained. RVs and tents are crammed together, and RV generator use is largely uncontrolled. Bathrooms are dingy and showers are nonexistent. Much can be done to improve the camping experience, and we have made a number of recommendations below.

- **Preserve and enhance appropriate parking areas** in the Tuolumne Meadows area along Highway 120 that provide access to recreational opportunities such as climbing, hiking, and fishing. Climbers use the parking areas at Pothole Dome, Cathedral Peak trailhead, Lembert Dome and the Wilderness Center for access to climbing opportunities throughout the Meadows, and we wish to see these retained--and improved as appropriate to reduce user impacts and improve safety.

- **Provide improved opportunities for climbers, hikers, and others to socialize** in the developed areas. The store parking lot and adjacent tables and benches are favorite places for climbers, hikers and others to relax and socialize. The seating areas are crowded and heavily impacted, however, and confined by the bathroom building, causing some people to sit and eat in their cars and others to sit on the boulders across the road. The toilets occupy an area needed for seating. Reconfiguring the area around the store and grill to make it more inviting and more suited to the informal socializing that occurs there

while reducing impacts on soils and plants should be a goal of the plan.

- **Maintain and improve picnicking opportunities.** Picnicking is enjoyed by day visitors and by climbers and others camping outside the park who want to enjoy their day in the park for as long as possible. Picnicking opportunities along the river and highway corridors are limited and heavily impacted and need to be improved and additional facilities developed.

- **Reduce impacts and restore degraded areas.** The entire developed area of Tuolumne Meadows is heavily impacted by vehicle and foot traffic. The result is widespread soil compaction, erosion, airborne dust, and loss of vegetation, particularly screening and shading vegetation around high use areas such as campsites and picnic areas. The plan should propose the use of boulder and vegetated soil berms and curbs and low fences of natural materials to channel and separate uses, including vehicle and foot traffic. It should also propose the restoration and replanting of compacted soils to restore screening, shading and channeling vegetation in heavily impacted areas.

- **Reduce noise from motorcycles and RV generators.** Motorcycle and RV noise significantly degrades the park experience for all park visitors, including climbers and campers. Climbers are particularly impacted because they often stay for repeated days in the main campground and they climb on crags above the highway, where sound is amplified by rock walls and carries long distances in the thin mountain air. There is absolutely no reason for the Park Service to allow these nuisances to continue, particularly in a wilderness area such as Tuolumne Meadows. The Plan presents an excellent opportunity to make public a noise-reduction initiative, including an education campaign, to protect wilderness and the visitor experience from excessive noise, both in the campground and along the highway.

Comments on Workbook Alternatives

Our comments on the alternatives for the 19 sites in Tuolumne Meadows listed in the Workbook and shown on the Preliminary Site Plan Alternatives Summary Table on the park's planning website are as follows. (Note that we have kept the site numbering system in the Workbook but have

listed the first five sites (sites 9, 14, 10, 5 and 8) in order of their importance to us.)

9. Tuolumne Meadows Campground. We strongly support the proposal in three of the alternatives to retain the campground at the current number of campsites, and we would like to see the number increased by greater use of walk-in sites. We also strongly support the proposal in two of the alternatives to improve traffic flow and campsite delineation, which we understand to mean better separation between sites. This could greatly improve the camping experience.

We strongly support a separate area designated for RVs, since RV generator use creates unacceptable noise impacts on tent campers. (If RVs were allowed to camp outside this area, they should not be allowed to use their generators, only propane and batteries.) We also support the development of linked individual sites and smaller group sites (up to 15 people). These sites would allow smaller and mid-sized groups to be together in differentiated sites where their greater level of activity, noise, music and socializing would not disturb campers in individual sites, as is now often the case. Such sites could be developed in the more level areas in the C Loop.

We strongly support the development of walk-in sites, which are small and more space-efficient and would allow the replacement of sites eliminated by the redelineation into a relatively small area. Walk-in sites reduce the influence of the auto on the camping experience. They also allow some self-segregation of campers by types because walk-ins are likely to be more attractive to active and experience campers, and less desirable for families and less experienced campers. This gives experienced campers some relief from the noise of children and the inconsiderate behaviors of inexperienced campers.

We believe the entrance kiosk should be redesigned to allow two entering lanes of traffic; one for those who have obtained their sites already and who can drive directly in, and one for those who need to talk with kiosk staff. We also support the proposal in Alternatives 1 and 2 to reopen the western exit to the campground, which would reduce the number of vehicles having to traverse the entire campground to exit. To avoid having to install a manned kiosk, the park could consider the sort of one-way traffic guards used in commercial developments, such as an electronic gate or raised one-way tire guards.

A general maintenance upgrade of the campground would be a worthy use of the funds made available for the plan, particularly funds saved by not having to develop new buildings. Repaving the roads would do much to reduce dust and erosion, while sprucing up the dingy restrooms to even half the standard maintained by State Parks, providing showers, replacing broken and deteriorated tables, improving drainage, filling potholes, leveling tent sites, blocking off unnecessary parking and vehicle access ways all would do much to improve the camping experience.

14. Campground Loop A. We do not believe there is any need to eliminate any more campsites in Loop A. The sites on the river side of the road have already been removed. There is some soil compaction and soil denudification along the river bank, but this could be controlled and reduced with the use of boulder barriers, vegetated boulder islands and boulder-lined soil berms or split rail fencing to channel foot traffic. Campsites should be relocated only if these and other mitigation measures are demonstrably inadequate to prevent unacceptable impacts to the river bank. We do not believe that the wholesale relocation of Loop A is warranted, especially if only "on principle" or that the replacement of the lost sites is feasible, and we think it would be viewed by the park's camping population as one more reflection of a general hostility to camping rather than a legitimate exercise in environmental protection. Recreation is one of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the river, and camping is a form of recreation. Certainly, camping in the A loop allows campers to have an intimate experience of the river, and this experience should be preserved.

10. Store, grill, fuel station, mountaineering school and associated employee housing. Alternative 1 proposes to remove all of these; Alternative 2 propose to consolidate all these facilities and add showers, a rest room and a meadow interpretive trail; Alternative 3 proposes to retain them all but move the employee housing from behind the store; and Alternative 4 proposes to consolidate the mountaineering school with the wilderness center and ranger station.

We support Alternative 3, which retains the main facilities while relocating the employee housing tents behind the store, since this would require no new development in this area. We are not clear where the employee housing could be moved to, however. If it were feasible to move this housing, then the eastern area behind the store and grill could be used for the support facilities for the store and grill. The western area behind the store and grill could then be used for a relocated restroom and a new shower

facility. The present location of the restroom could then be used for a much needed picnic/eating/sitting area, as discussed in our general comments above.

Additional parking is also needed in the area of the store and grill. Perhaps this could be located on the west side of the mountain shop and gas station.

And a meadow interpretive trail is a fine idea.

Regarding Alternative 2, which would consolidate these facilities, we understand that the urge to "consolidate," "expand," "modernize" and "improve" facilities to make them "more efficient" in a planning document is almost irresistible. After all, that's what plans are for, right? Fortunately, Tuolumne Meadows exists as a place where people come to escape the built environment where their movements are carefully choreographed. These places are called cities, and we are pleased to leave them behind when we come to Tuolumne Meadows.

Finally, we see no logic in moving the mountaineering school and mountain shop, which are commercial enterprises now located in the commercial area, to a location near the wilderness center and ranger station, which are government facilities, and serve different visitor needs.

5. Visitor Center, Road Camp housing, maintenance area. Three of the four alternatives recommend relocating the Visitor Center. Alternative 1 would move it to a site near the wilderness center, Alternative 2 to a site near the store and grill, and Alternative 4 to the D loop of the Campground. Only Alternative 3 would keep it where it is.

We support Alternative 3, keeping it where it is. We have not heard any compelling reason for moving the visitor center. We have observed that the visitor center is largely patronized by first time (or nearly first time) visitors who need elementary orientation and information. They appear to have little in common with those going to the wilderness center to get permits and backpacking information or those going to the ranger station for law-enforcement related assistance. While consolidating the visitor center with other visitor-serving uses is obviously more "rational" and "efficient", we question whether these values justify the cost and the dislocation to the existing arrangement of facilities.

We have discussed the operation of the Visitor Center with NPS staff who work there, who also saw no need to relocate the facility. They explained that the facility is adequate and could be improved by moving the Yosemite Association storage and the maintenance office out of the western portion of the building and making this space available for book displays and sales. More use could also be made of exhibits and interpretation outside the building. Not all information needs to be inside.

Visitor Center staff also explained that the parking is inadequate during the peak season. This could be solved, in part, by relocating the maintenance facility now located west of the Visitor Center to an underused location immediately west of the waste water treatment facility. The present maintenance area would then be available for Yosemite Association storage and additional visitor parking. The existing parking lot could also be expanded.

Having the Visitor Center in the present historic building brings park visitors in contact with the history of Tuolumne Meadows. If the Visitor Center were moved, it is unclear what use this historic and attractive building could be put to which would allow the public to appreciate it to the extent they can now.

Having the Visitor Center in its present location also serves an important function, which is to disperse uses in Tuolumne Meadows. The more that major visitor-serving uses in Tuolumne Meadows are consolidated, the more intense the visitor use of these areas will become and the more Tuolumne Meadows will come to look and feel like Yosemite Valley. By keeping visitor-serving uses separated by stretches of undeveloped forest and meadows, the park helps maintain the traditional low-intensity feel of Tuolumne Meadows. This is a value worth preserving.

We oppose Alternative 4, consolidating the Visitor Center, Store, and Grill at the current D loop of the Campground for two reasons. The first is the one just mentioned above: it intensifies the patterns of visitor use and begins the "urbanization" of Tuolumne Meadows. We are concerned that park planners and architects will succumb to the temptation to "expand, improve and modernize" the current store, grill and visitor center uses into new buildings that would radically alter the traditional and historic face and character of Tuolumne Meadows, bringing gleaming modernity and expansive new hardscape where many feel these are neither needed nor desired. Second, we are concerned that the encroachment of the buildings, parking,

outbuildings and utilitarian spaces into the campground would be significant, and that consideration of how and where to relocate the displaced Loop D campsites would be given short shrift as the "poor stepchild" of this new development.

We support the proposal in three of the four alternatives to expand employee housing and retain maintenance facilities in the area of the visitor center, although we would move the maintenance facilities to a site close to the waste water treatment plant, as explained above.

8. Area west of creek and west of D-Loop of Campground. We support the proposal in three of the alternatives for No Change for this area. We believe this area should be reserved for future expansion of the campground, for two reasons. First, the proposed redelineation of campsites is likely to require additional space for the sites that are removed. One way to replace the removed sites would be to build a walk-in camping area in this location and well away from the noise of the road. Second, California's population is projected to expand significantly in the coming decades, and the park needs to consider how to accommodate increased levels of use, including camping. If this area is dedicated now to some use other than camping, it will never be available for campground expansion in the future.

At this point, we return to the site order in the Workbook.

1. Tioga Road near Pothole Dome. There are presently two parking areas near Pothole Dome, one paved area immediately opposite the dome and one informal dirt area further east in a stand of trees. These provide climber access to Pothole Dome, Marmot Dome, and the domes along the river to the northwest. We think both parking areas should be retained (and slightly expanded for safety from the road).

It is not clear where the picnic area proposed in Alternative 2 "east of Pothole Dome" would be. There is room in the parking area under the trees, but the area is very close to the road, and the road noise makes this location unappealing for a picnic area. Sites with similar views of the meadows but more distance from the road can be found further to the east, one at the proposed Soda Springs trailhead and another almost directly across the road from the Conness Circle. A picnic area should also be provided across the road from the store and grill. To reduce impacts, we believe that picnic parking should be provided near the road, preferably separated from the road

by a raised area of screening vegetation inhospitable to short-cutters, and that the picnic areas would then be available by a relatively short walk in.

2. Pullout west of Cathedral Trailhead. We support the removal of shoulder parking and social trails and the development of a scenic pullout at this location, as proposed in all alternatives.

3. Cathedral Lakes Trailhead. We support removal of shoulder parking and creation of a formal trailhead parking lot at this location. The parking could be built in the grassy areas immediately west of the braided creeks at the existing location, where there appears to have been trailhead parking in the distant past. Overflow parking could then be provided at the Visitor Center. Some thought should be given to allowing limited 20-minute parking at the trailhead so that backpackers who have to park at the Visitor Center could finish packing up and leave their packs before parking their cars in the long-term lot near the visitor center. (Since only one person would drop off the car, others in the group would watch the packs.) This would hopefully reduce grumbling and improve parking compliance for users of this trailhead, who otherwise would have to lug their packs along the road from the Visitor Center.

4. Wastewater ponds and service road. Alternatives 1 and 4 would remove these and restore the area to natural conditions. The Workbook does not explain how existing facilities could be retained if these were removed, however. We support the retention of the campground and other developed facilities, so we assume these ponds would have to remain also.

5. Visitor Center, Road Camp housing, maintenance area. See comments above.

6. Wastewater treatment plant. We support proposals in three of the alternatives to retain the existing facilities or site new treatment facilities at this location, in conjunction with relocated maintenance facilities immediately to the west.

Alternative 2 speaks of consolidating the concessionaire and NPS stables and associated housing to a location "east of the treatment plant." We think this site description is misleading. Immediately east of the treatment plant the terrain rises directly from the road, so no facilities could be sited there without significant earth movement. Further east the terrain is more level. But this is the area better described as "west of the creek and D-Loop"

(Site 8 in the workbook) which we propose as a reserve for campground expansion. We do not support moving the stables to this location, particularly since we see no benefit in doing so. As discussed below, we would prefer to see the concessioner stable phased out of use altogether and the High Sierra Camps supported by porters.

7. Parsons Lodge, McCauley Cabin & Soda Spring. We support the proposal in all of the alternatives to retain these. We see no need to eliminate vehicle access or utilities, as proposed in Alternative 1.

8. Area west of creek and west of D-Loop of Campground. See comments above re preserving this area for campground expansion.

We believe the parking, picnic and trailhead area proposed for the Parsons Lodge/Soda spring trailhead south of the highway should be built on the north side of the highway. There is presently an area of upland terrain right where the trail begins next to the road with large trees that would be suitable for parking and provide enough shade and distance from the road for some picnicking. We see no logic in siting these facilities across the road.

9. Tuolumne Meadows Campground. See comments above.

10. Store, grill, fuel station, mountaineering school and associated employee housing. See comments above.

11. Concessionaire stable. The main use for this stable is supplying the High Sierra camps. We believe this use should be phased out and that supplies should be brought in largely by porters, with perhaps some residual use of stock for items too large or heavy for people to carry. This would have a number of benefits: it would greatly reduce the tremendous damage the stock use causes to the trails and the heavy maintenance burden it imposes on the park. It would eliminate the manure, dust and urine on the trails now caused by stock use. And it would bring more young people into the park to work and start a life-long relationship with Yosemite. We have no doubt that the concessionaire would have no trouble finding people eager to do this work. And with the stables eliminated or much reduced, there would be room at the former stable area to house the new population of porters.

We also support eliminating the trail rides, as proposed in Alternatives 1 and 4. We consider the rides to be an artificial attraction and a form of passive amusement inconsistent with the park's purpose, which is to

encourage people to develop a direct relationship with park resources. This is best done on one's own feet, not on a horse's back. The stock use also makes trails unappealing to hikers and expensive to maintain.

We do not support creating a new picnic area at this location, as proposed in Alternative 2. The proposed picnic area would be too far from the main road for most people to bother going to, and it would not have very good views overlooking the meadows. We have proposed what we believe are better locations along the Highway 120 corridor that would have easy access by car and yet be far enough away from the noise of the road (or at locations where traffic moves more slowly, as at the store and grill) to be workable.

12. Lembert Dome parking, picnic, and toilet facilities. We support proposals in three of the alternatives to retain these facilities. The Lembert Dome picnic area is favored by climbers and others, especially those camping outside the Meadows, who enjoy cooking there in the evening and climbing the lower slabs of the dome to enjoy watching the sun set over the meadows. The present picnic area is heavily impacted and haphazardly laid out, however. It should be redesigned to channel foot traffic, allow screening and shading vegetation to recover around the margin of the sites, and move the picnic tables away from vehicles.

13. Old Tioga Road/Great Sierra Wagon Road trail. We support proposals in two alternatives to make this accessible to bikes and in Alternative 3 to add interpretive signage.

14. Campground Loop A. See comments above.

15. Wilderness Center & Ranger Station. Here we encounter more of the workbook's dizzying "shell game" of moving facilities around: should we keep them where they are and add the visitor center? Or move them to the concessionaire stable location? How about next to the store and grill? Consistent with our view that the best alternative is one that requires no new major buildings in Tuolumne Meadows, we support keeping these facilities where they are.

The Workbook provides no rationale for moving these facilities, and we cannot think of any. The wilderness permit office is new and appears perfectly sited, in a central location and with its own parking lot. The ranger station is centrally located but seems to get little visitor use.

16. NPS stable. The NPS stable is a visually pleasing element in the Tuolumne Meadows tableau. The buildings are old and picturesque, the animals are pleasing and sometimes comical to look at and listen to, and the whole atmosphere is redolent of a bygone age. At the same time, the location has a lot of traffic noise and is not a place where visitors would choose to spend a lot of time if some other use were brought to this site. Leave well enough alone.

17. NPS housing at Ranger Camp & Bug Camp; Dog lake/John Muir Trail parking. Two of the alternatives propose to expand the trailhead parking, which we support. We have no opinion on the housing proposals.

18. Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. Alternative 1 would remove the entire lodge, while the three other alternatives would move employee housing and/or the dining hall away from the river. As with the campground Loop A, we support moving existing facilities away from the river only if other measures are not adequate to prevent unacceptable impacts to the river bank. We do not support relocating existing facilities near a river simply "on principle."

19. Gaylor Pit and emergency helipad. All four alternatives propose to retain the helipad. Alternative 2 proposes to add "some [employee] housing" near the helipad, and Alternative 3 proposes to make Gaylor pit a trailhead and shuttle bus stop for a walk eastward along the Great Sierra Wagon Road to the entrance station at Tioga Pass. The latter seems like a fine idea.

The housing proposal for Gaylor Pit sounds dubious due to the obvious noise impacts of the helipad. We note that the park's 2002 Parkwide Campground Planning Study considered Gaylor pit for camping and tentatively located 20 walk-in sites there but then dismissed the location for camping for several reasons: because of the noise impacts from helipad operations, because park emergency vehicles would have to share the access road with campers, and because the park had identified no other possible helipad locations in the area. It is unclear why these same concerns would not apply to locating housing at Gaylor pit. Gaylor pit is one of the few sites along the Highway 120 corridor where any additional campsites could be developed. If the helipad were ever to be relocated, or if helicopter operations were found to be compatible with other uses, we believe this site should be considered for camping, not housing.

20. Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp. This facility is discussed in the Workbook but not shown on the Summary Table. We note that Alternative 1 would remove it, and Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 would retain it. Not all wilderness enthusiasts believe that the High Sierra Camps are appropriate in wilderness. Since recent court interpretations require the park to essentially reauthorize this camp as if it were a new use, we believe the plan presents an opportunity for the Park Service to set forth for public scrutiny the case for maintaining all six High Sierra Camps. The environmental analysis should cover the levels of overnight visitation at Glen Aulin (and by implication, therefore, at the other High Sierra Camps, since many people apparently visit them all as part of a loop hike), the logistical effort needed to maintain the camp, the utility infrastructure required, and the impacts on wilderness resources that result from the concentrated use at this location and supporting logistics, including trail maintenance and repair specific to the heavy stock use.

We strongly encourage you to give serious consideration to our recommended choices among the various alternative plan components, which we believe offer the following significant benefits:

1) Most significantly, no major new visitor-serving buildings would be required in Tuolumne Meadows!

2) The Tuolumne Meadows campground would be preserved and improved , the existing number of sites would remain, the camping experience would be much improved, and space for its future expansion would be protected from development;

3) Roadside recreational access would be retained and improved;

4) Social opportunities in the commercial area would be improved;

5) Roadside visitor-serving facilities would remain dispersed, retaining the low-intensity feeling of Tuolumne Meadows;

6) Picnicking opportunities would be improved and expanded;

7) Vehicle and foot traffic impacts in and near developed facilities would be controlled and redirected and impacted areas restored;

8) Noise from motorcycles and RV generators would be brought under control.

The Access Fund appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the planning effort for Tuolumne Meadows. If you have any questions or comment please contact me at 415-397-6152, pminault@earthlink.net or Jason Keith, Policy Director, at 435-21519-0693, Jason@accessfund.org.

Best Regards,

Paul Minault
Northern California Coordinator

Cc: Brady Robinson, Access Fund Executive Director
Jason Keith, Access Fund Policy Director
Armando Menocal, Access Fund Yosemite Task Force
Brian Poulsen, The Access Fund
Phil Powers, American Alpine Club Executive Director
Linda McMillan, American Alpine Club
Mark Fincher, Yosemite National Park Climbing Program Manager
Jesse McGahey, Yosemite National Park Climbing Ranger
Chris McNamara, Supertopo

L149-cg-
9-29-08

[redacted]

09/27/2008 10:12 AM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Tuolumne River Management Alternatives

Hello Planning Dept,

I just returned from a soul-fulfilling visit to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. As a long time visitor to the Lodge I was very upset to learn that there are changes in the works for this wonderful old resort I haven't been up to the Lodge for 6-7 years, but I have stayed at least a8-9 times in the past 20 years. I always love coming there because it is a place where I can truly experience Yosemite and not have the crowds I like that I can hike and get sweaty and dusty and then come back to a hot shower and a meal prepared for me I love the camaraderie of the common table; always meeting someone new, often from a foreign country, who I would never meet in any other type of setting I often buy books about Yosemite at the little front store and lie in my comfy bed reading them by flashlight and feeling a kindred spirit with John Muir, Joseph LeConte and the like. I cherish that I was one of a handful who attended Carl Sharsmith's last talks just weeks before he died. I LIKE that the place is old and worn and hangs on to the past; too much of that is lost these days. I like that someone from the 1940's could come and still recognize the place. It has roots, it holds history, it is not Disneyland I don't want it to be all new and shiny; I want it to feel like an old camp, I want to step back to a simpler time. I think the other visitors feel the same way. I notice that many of us are older, we love the outdoors but would have difficulty dealing with setting up tents or preparing meals after a day of hiking. Day use facilities would only mean Tuolumne Meadows would be a stop on a tour bus route. Please do not take this special place away from all of us who cherish it, people who come back year after year to get close to nature and in touch with other lovers of the high meadows of Yosemite It is a part of our soul, a part of our heritage, let's not discard it

Most sincerely,

[redacted]

L150-cg-
9-29-08

Yosemite Superintendent Office
(209) 372-0286
YOSE_superintendent@nps.gov

YOSE Web Manager
Sent by: Jeffrey Trust
09/22/2008 08:38 PM

To
YOSE Superintendent@NPS
cc

Subject
Fw: From NPS.gov: Tuolumne River Management alternatives

This was received via the park's website.

Jeffrey

-----Forwarded by Jeffrey Trust/YOSE/NPS on 09/22/2008 08:37PM -----

To: yose_web_manager@nps.gov
[redacted]
Date: 09/21/2008 11:51AM
Subject: From NPS.gov: Tuolumne River Management alternatives

Email submitted from: /yose/contacts.htm

[redacted]
Berkeley, CA 94708-1549
USA

I have read the Tuolumne Planning Workbook. Alternative 5, your "preferred" alternative, is very vague. It does not address the points specifically mentioned in the other alternatives. It talks generally of goals but does not proposed anything specific. It is also the most alarming. It sounds like you are trying to grant special status to the commercial operations at Glen Aulin and Tuolumne Lodge. I don't think the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp or the Tuolumne Lodge should be designed as "Tuolumne heritage" areas. I am in favor of removing the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp. If it is to be kept at all they should be moved away from the river definitely. Glen Aulin does not need to be right up next to the waterfall. Commercial exploitation of our National Parks does not need to be accorded special status. The very idea is offensive. I am also in favor of re-locating all the camp sites at Loop A of the Tuolumne Meadows campground to a location away from the river. As it is now those sites are much too near the river. There is no reason for them to be. I go to the river and I see soap suds in the water. Campers can still enjoy the river without camping right next to it.

The distribution of the workbook at the Tuolumne store and the Grill systemically encourages biased feedback as those two areas are more likely to be frequented by the type of users other than the self sufficient type of users.
Thank you for your attention.