

L51-CJ-
9-11-08



[Redacted]

09/08/2008 03:33 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne River Plan Comments

Dear Yosemite Planning,

We are 70 year old lovers of the Sierra Nevada's natural environment who have backpacked, hiked and savored the Tuolumne Watershed's mountains, meadows and tributary streams for almost five decades. This email contains our comments based upon review of the Tuolumne Planning Workbook.

We believe that Alternative 4 should be preferred as striking the best balance between recreation, education and science-based restoration. Please retain Tuolumne Lodge tent cabins to provide a base for those who wish to enjoy day hikes in this beautiful country. The dining facilities at Tuolumne Lodge do not have to remain at the current site adjacent to the river. Consider relocating them to restore a river corridor perhaps some 100-foot wide with a trail system and interpretive exhibits. If some tent cabins are removed from a band near the river, they should be replaced in kind to avoid a net reduction of overnight lodging for visitors.

Thanks very much for considering our recommendations.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Richmond, CA 94801

Your Comments Are Important! 9-15-08

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

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

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

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

THIS CONCEPT IS A POOR CHOICE FOR TUOLUMNE, DISLIKE: VISITOR USE REDUCED, AMENITIES REDUCED, MORE PICNIC AREAS UNCONFINED BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT
 * LIKE: PARKING INCREASED AT TRAIL HEADS FOR BACKPACKERS

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

PREFABRICATED PLAN: LIKE INTERACTIVE / EDUCATIONAL VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES INCREASED, INCREASED PARKING, ADDED SHOWER FACILITY, REDELINEATING LOOP A
 * DISLIKE: INCREASED PICNIC AREAS

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

DISLIKE: REMOVING PARKING, IMPROVING STRUCTURES FOR RUSTIC APPEARANCE
 LIKE: NEWER STRUCTURES DESIGNED FOR CULTURAL LANDSCAPE VALUES, GREAT SIERRA WAGON TRAIL - INTERPRETING TRAIL

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

POOR CHOICE - DISLIKE: INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RELOCATING 'D' LOOP SITES AND CONSOLIDATION OF FACILITIES, REMOVING PARKING, ADDING PICNIC AREAS
 * LIKE: HIKE / BIKE TRAIL, SEPARATING SITES BY TYPE

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative? PLEASE CLARIFY "UNCONFINED" USE IN ALTERNATIVE ONE. I AM A BACKCOUNTRY ENTHUSIAST, BUT MY CONCERN IS TUOLUMNE AND SURROUNDING AREA IS TOO IMPACTED FOR BACKCOUNTRY STYLE MANAGEMENT. MOST OF YOSEMITE IS BACKCOUNTRY. WE SHOULD INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR PARKS FOR ALL ENVIRONMENTALLY CAREFUL USERS.

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

Additional comments.

LOCATION: We have visited a number of Nat'l Parks the last few years (Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde, Arches,) and have marveled at their well-planned and very well-maintained facilities and infrastructures. Sadly, we acknowledge that our beloved Tuolumne Meadows is shabby by comparison.

We applaud your efforts to improve this beautiful area while striking a balance between man and nature.

YOSEMITE PLANNING
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PO BOX 577
YOSEMITE, CA 95389-9905



YOSEMITE PLANNING
National Park Service
PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Please place postage here

09/12 '08 12:59

TIME

RX

LOCATION:

Step 1: Fold in half along the spine.

Your Comments Are Important!

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Once you have shared your comments, you can mail this form to the planning team. Carefully fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (thank you!) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email (preferably by answering the questions on this comment form) and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or you can fax your comments to 209/374-1294. 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 restrictions in general.

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

Especially like #12 + #14

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

In general, this is my favorite

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

Especially like #10, #11 + #13

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

FAX NO. . .

Sep. 12 2008 02:36PM P1/1

L-53-CF
945-08

L 54-CJ-
9-15-08



To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

09/12/2008 02:26 PM

Subject Comments on Tuolumne



Please keep Tuolumne Lodge as is See attached.



SKMBT_50008091211111.pdf

Your Comments Are Important!

Pages 28-35 of this workbook provide descriptions of the preliminary alternative concepts that are being considered for the *Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan*. Please provide feedback on the concepts by carefully separating this form from the workbook and writing your comments on it. After completing your comments, 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 by answering the questions below and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or faxing your responses to 209/379-1294. To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.

1. Have we presented a full range of preliminary concepts from which to build alternatives in the Draft Tuolumne River Plan? Is there another concept that we have not considered? If so, please describe and/or color the zoning scheme onto the map provided on the other side of this form.

2. What do you like or dislike about each concept? How could these concepts be improved?

Concept 1 _____

Concept 2 _____

Concept 3 _____

Concept 4 _____

3. What are the most important elements that you think should be part of a preferred alternative? Why?

PLEASE KEEP TUOLUMNE LODGE AS IS. IT
ONLY IMPACTS THE AREA FOR A FEW MONTHS.
GENERATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING THERE AND
IT AFFORDS ACCESS TO THE HIGH COUNTRY
BY MANY PEOPLE

4. Do you have any comments on the management prescriptions/zones?

WHO OTHERWISE COULD NOT GET
TO SEE ITS WONDERS

5. All Tuolumne Meadows Plan scoping comments received during summer 2006 are still being considered. If the information in this workbook has prompted new thoughts about how to plan for Tuolumne Meadows, please provide them here.

Step 1: fold in half along the spine.

Step 2: fold in half again, along this line.

Steps 3 and 4: seal the open end and sides with tape, apply postage, then deposit into your nearest mailbox.

YOSEMITE PLANNING
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PO BOX 577
YOSEMITE, CA 95389-9905

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



Please place
postage here



09/12/2008 01:24 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Alternative TM plan comments

LSS-cg-
9-15-08

#1

Alternative 1. Suggestions: Approve of #'s 1,2,3,7,8,9,14,18. Disagree with removal of Grill, Store and Mtneering Center. Combine stables. No bike or horse trails. Leave TM High Camp.

Alternative 2. Suggestions: Approve #'s 1,2,3,8,9, 10,11,12,14. Leave visitor center and provide parking for C. Lakes. Do not use Gaylor Pit area for anything. No bike trails.

Alternative 3. Suggestions: Approve #'s 2,3,5,7,8,9,11,15,18. Do not remove housing from grill/store area. Do not change of improve Gaylor Pit area.

Alternative 4. Suggestions: Approve #'s 2,3,7,8,11,16,18,19. No bike trails. Share stables.

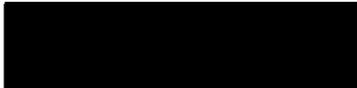
#2 Yes. do not develop the Gaylor Pit area. The sensitive areas surrounding the Dana Fork will be impacted. Consolidate the impact in the traditional area. Improve access and picnicing etc at Pothole and the Lambert Dome areas. Why is the removal of the waste water treatment plant so important? Develope areas in the forest with controlled access to the meadows. I have never seen bike trails that did not propagate into adjacent areas - do not allow trail riding of any kind. The NPS and "Bug Camp" areas are ugly but the location is logical - consolidate the ramshackle housing. The sharing of the stables would allow room for this. The store, grill and mtneering school allows for the visitor to adjust plans without driving out of the park - reducing traffic. Think about paving the stable road and improving parking there with trails that link the visitor center and store area. Glen Aulin should vanish and the lodge should be consolidated. Showers at the store area might work. Concentrate foot traffic to hard surfaces = Pothole and Lambert Dome areas. Consider increased use at Olmstead not in the Dana meadows area.

I appreciate being able to comment on the plans. I have lived in and visited Tuolumne for over 40 years.

Thank you for the opportunity,



LS6-cg-
9-15-08



09/11/2008 06:05 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov
cc
bcc

Subject comments on Tuolumne Planning alternatives

Dear NPS planners,
Here are my comments on the alternative site plan concepts for TM:

Question 1.

Site plan 1

Like: I think it is important to reduce wilderness impact as much as possible, especially the impact of cars and parking. I like eliminating the Lemberd dome parking area.

Dislike: Having stayed twice at both the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, the incredible meeting of people with nature that goes on at the camps is something that happens nowhere else! Moving tent cabins further from the river is a good idea, but please keep the High Sierra Camps.

Site plan 2: I dislike promoting increased visitor use.

Site plan 3:

Dislike: I do not see a need to restore bridges or building facades other than Parson's Lodge and McCauley Cabin. Instead of restoring facades to make them look like a rustic building from the past, why not look to the future and consider "green" buildings, such as the new LEED-certified visitors' center in Denali National Park. It is warm, bright and welcoming, has excellent displays, and blends completely into the landscape. It is beautifully designed, and fosters learning about the park. To me, reducing ecological impact is more important than historical preservation of buildings.

Site plan 4:

Like: I like this plan: it keeps the TM Lodge and Glen Aulin HSC, but still protects wilderness. I like the plans to move the tent cabins and modify the campground to protect the river, as well as consolidating services in one or two areas. I support getting rid of commercial trail rides. I like this plan overall.



Sacramento, CA



09/09/2008 10:54 AM

To <Yose_Planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Yosemite

L57-cj-
9-1508

Myself and a friend went on a backpacking trip in August of this year, starting from Tuolumne Meadows and did a loop over Mule and Burro pass, up to Snow Lake, and came back around over Benson Pass. During this trip we encountered 4-5 horse pack groups, one of them were NPS employees. Every group we saw expected us to pull over off the trail, heaven forbid they have to stop, and pull over. None of them acknowledged us, or voiced a THANK YOU!!! I feel the want to be cowboys and cowgirls on these horses should have some manners. The trails were very run down and sandy, large ruts from the horses. Also why are we (people) and dogs (if allowed on trail), expected to bury our waste and the horses waste is left on the trail to pollute water sources? As well as hikers having to maneuver around it? The impact on the trails and camp sites are large. As well as the litter they leave. All the high sierra camps should be closed and all areas restored. Thank you.

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for official use only and by the intended recipient and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original.

L58-Cg-
9-15-08



09/09/2008 11:43 AM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Glen Aulin / Tuolumne Camps

I understand you're considering closing Glen Aulin & Tuolumne Camps?!? Why? Please don't do this. These are great camps and they appeal to older, more polite & respectful hikers. We're also more likely to be in touch with our representatives, so besides being a bad idea, it could cause you a lot of grief. I don't wish you any grief, but please reconsider.

Thanks,



Pasadena, California





[REDACTED]
09/10/2008 09:12 AM

To YOSE_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject tuolumne meadows lodge and glen aulin high sierra camp

LS9-cg-
9-15-08

I have been hiking the high sierra camps since 1981. You cannot imagine my shock and dismay when I picked up a card at tuolumne lodge saying that closing glen aulin and tuolumne lodge was under consideration.

In the '70s I backpacked the sierras with my family. By the 80's it started to become more and more difficult to carry a 35-40 lb backpack. It was then that I heard about the high sierra camps. In 1981 I hiked the 54 mile loop around all the camps starting at tuolumne lodge. It was because of the high sierra camps that I have been able to continue enjoying the beautiful back country of Yosemite. Even now, at age 71, I and my friends can still go to the more accessible camps like glen aulin and enjoy the beautiful outdoors. I do not know anywhere else in the country that has anything like the high sierra camps in Yosemite. They are a treasure that should be preserved for posterity.

Glen Aulin stopped the showers several years ago because it was said the contaminated water was polluting the Tuolumne River. I would be more than happy to continue with no showers and minimal water use than to shut down that camp.

Tuolumne Lodge is the start off point for these camps. There is no place else to stay in Tuolumne Meadows. Where would we stay the nite before we go to Glen Aulin or May Lake, Lee Vining?

How can Yosemite Park make itself more attractive when it starts taking away the things that make the park attractive and accessible.

PLEASE DO NOT SHUT DOWN THESE POPULAR LODGES AT TUOLUMNE MEADOWS AND GLEN AULIN. RATHER THAN BE SHUT DOWN, THEY SHOULD BE NAMED NATIONAL HISTORICAL MONUMENTS !!!

[REDACTED]
sunland, ca 91040
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
09/10/2008 10:46 AM

To YOSE_Planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Possible closure of Tuolumne Lodge & Glen Aulin Camp

L 60-CF-
9-15-08

I have been hiking the high sierra camps since the 1980s. I am adamantly opposed to closing Glen Aulin and Tuolumne Lodge.

There is nowhere else in the U S that has anything like the high sierra camps in Yosemite. They should be preserved.

If there is environmental damage from human overuse, then take less drastic steps to preserve the environment while continuing to make the camp and the Lodge available to the thousands of people from all over the globe who wish to enjoy Yosemite in the high country. Consider further restricting water use, e.g.

Keep me informed on your plans. I plan to keep my Congressman informed also.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Pasadena, CA 91105

L661-cg 9-15-08

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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 do not like this one. It restricts the area to only those who can hike. Come on - a state highway goes through there.

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

It seems only one plan (#1) restricts horseback riding - DNC should not be allowed to offer "trail rides" - people can go to the Forest Service or wherever - not in the Park.

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

Get rid of horseback riding.

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?

Get rid of horseback riding

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

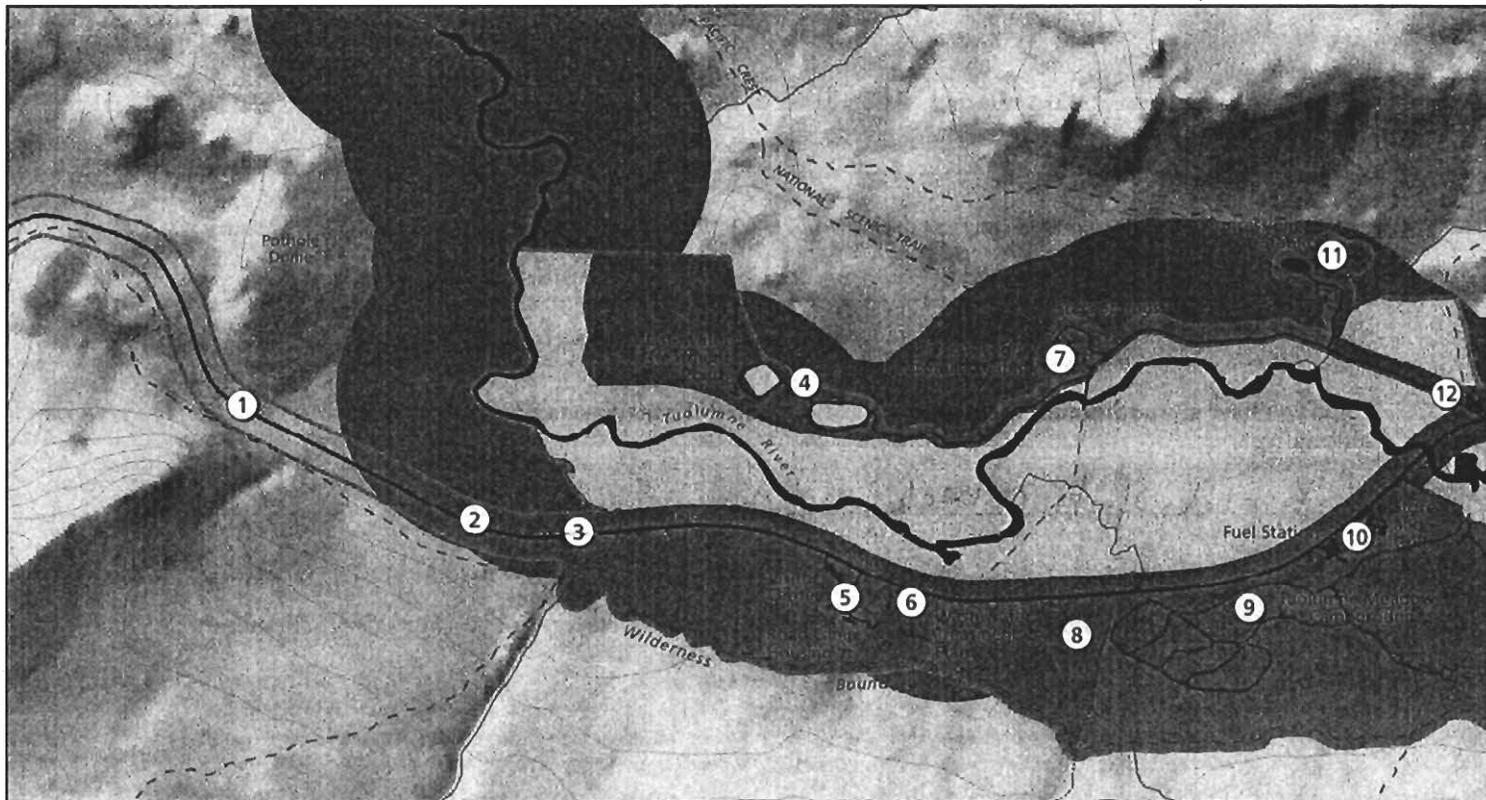
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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. Keep High Sierra camps (relocate Glen Aulin if needed)
2. Remove horseback riding
3. Add parking at Cathedral Lakes TH - add bathrooms
4. Make a bicycle path
5. Make Loop A an interloop trail
6. Remove horse camp off loop B - they can go to Twin Lakes - horses trash the meadows
7. Remodel stinky Lambert Dome bathrooms
8. Move wilderness Ctr. next to Visitors Center



L62-CJ-9-15-08

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

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

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

This is the ONLY option I like because it actually expands use while all other alternatives reduce use. This park is owned by the taxpayers, not the bears or just the "Greenies!"

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? _____

I hate plans 4 and 5 because they further exclude people "excluding use" "intensively manage visitor use"

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

I hate 5 as noted above. What is needed are some good juicy lawsuits to gain or maintain current access and fight all the "Greenie" exclusionary ideas

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

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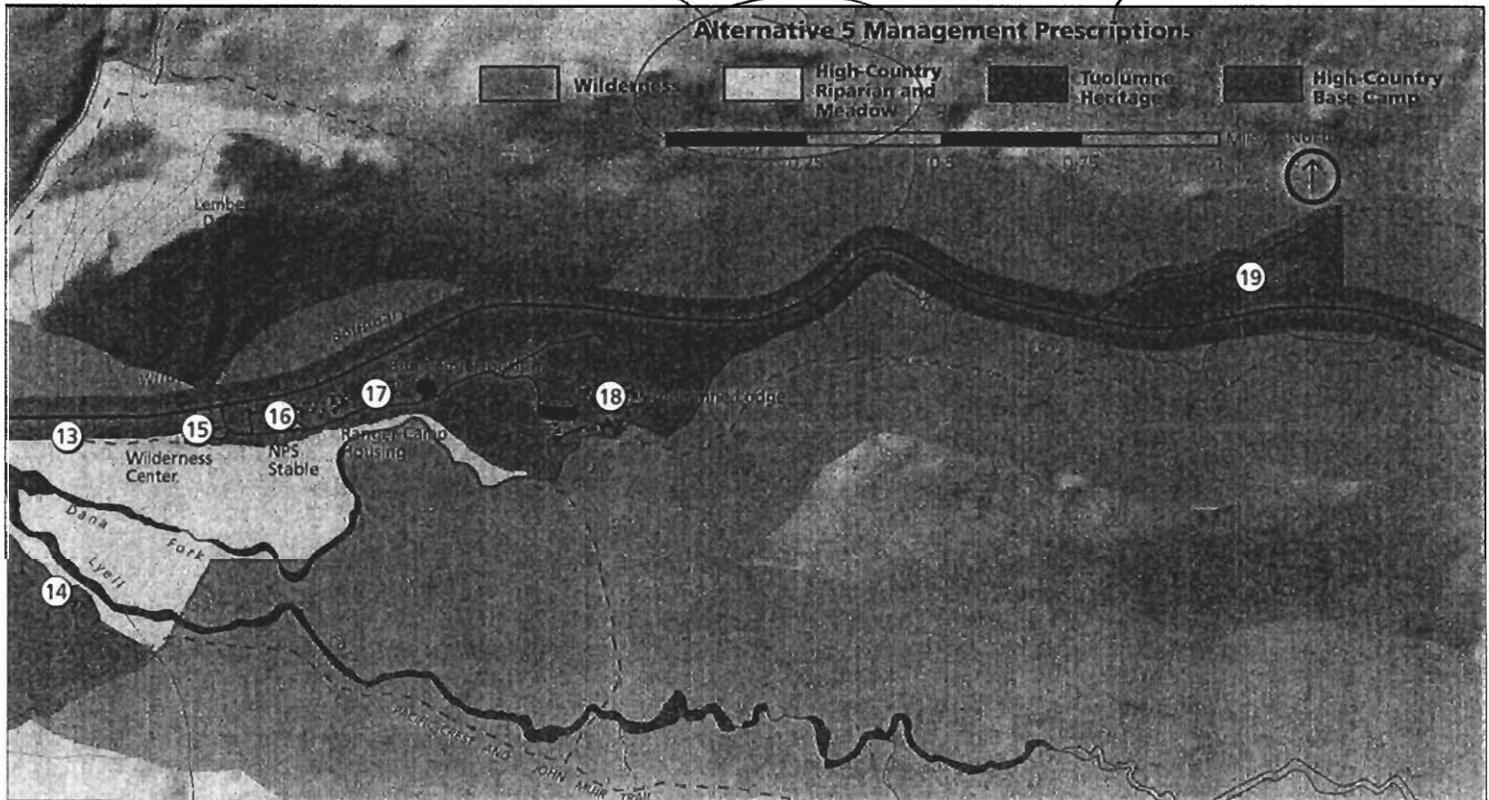
Comment Form

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

I hate this because it further excludes use.

Remember, the people (all of them not just the Greenies) own this park

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



L63-CJ-
9-15-08

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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 most parts but I would retain the STORES and add one or two bike trails.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I dislike the idea of too much housing facilities. I like the idea of a hike/bike trail.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I dislike the idea to retain the wastewater ponds (4) and access road and campsite loop (14).

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I like most parts but I would remove campsite loop (14).

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

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L64-cg
9-15-08

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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? This

plan is the least user-friendly! How can one experience "solitude and wilderness" when parking is limited and food unavailable? Tuolumne should offer more than a drive-through for the average vacationing family. DO NOT remove Tuolumne Lodge!

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

parking for Cathedral Lakes so far away is not user-friendly. It's such a popular trail. I think consolidating the VC & 4 other services in one spot will create way too much congestion and create a "mall" experience.

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

Improving the Lumber Dome area is a great idea.

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

I don't understand why the VC should be moved?

Go ahead and move the dining hall and employee housing away from the center. But retain TM Lodge; provide a bike path for the employees to and from their relocated housing.

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

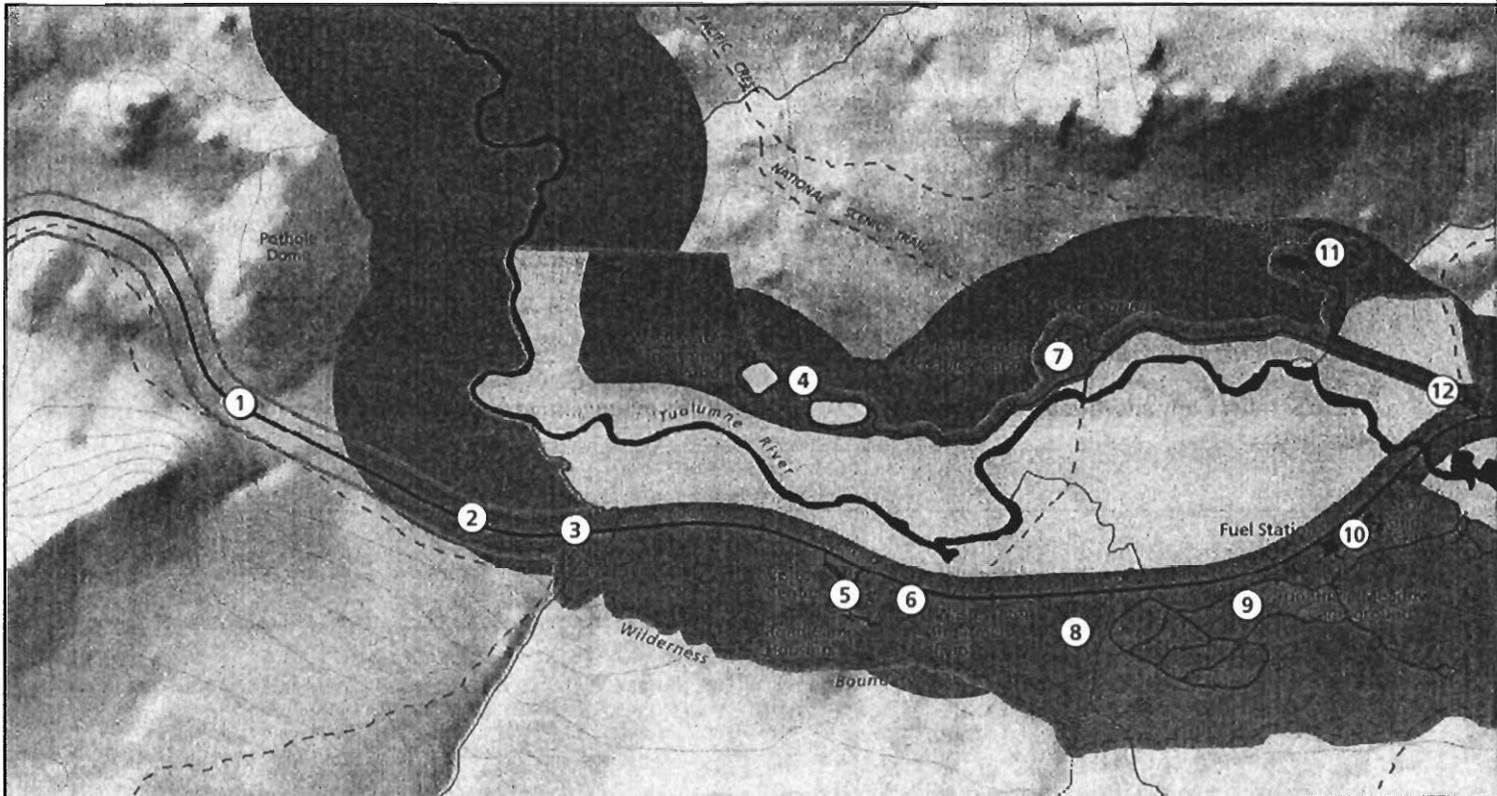
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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.

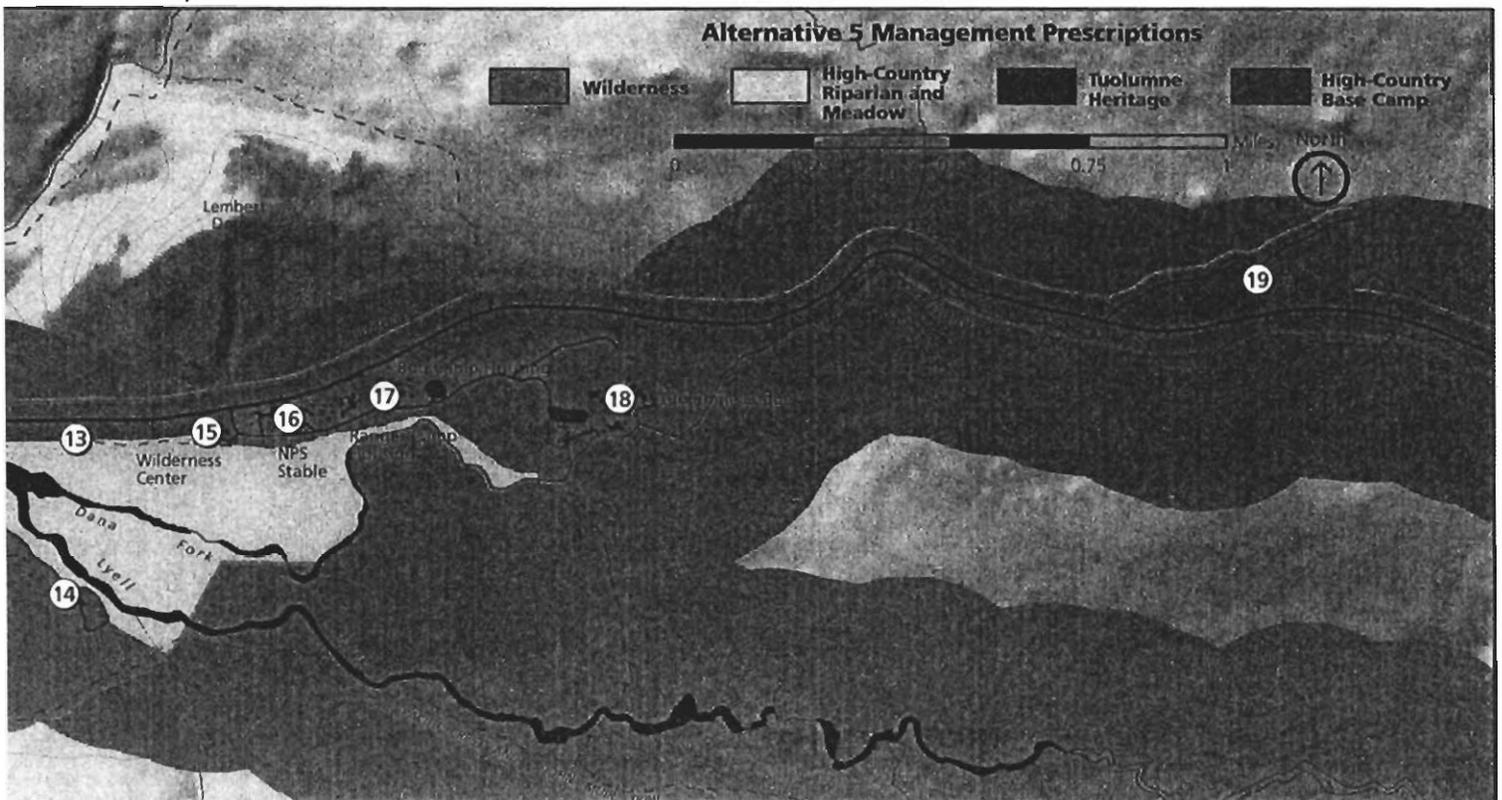
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

1. *to support opportunities for day and overnight use at Tuolumne Meadows & Glen Aulin. Not everyone is able to use the campgrounds. Therefore, non-campers should have access to overnight accommodations at TM and GA.*
 2. *upgrade parking at the Cathedral Lakes trailhead*
 3. *preserve the store, grill and mountaineering shop.*
 4. *retain concessioner stable. It offers an experience of Tuolumne that non-hikers can enjoy.*
- The area is hard to reach, open only a few months of the year, people should be welcome.*



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 formal parking with trail connection to Potlucks Dome. Over the last 4 decades of my experience, more & more cars are coming! They should be accommodated.
 - ② OK ③ provide formal parking & trail connections to Cathedral Rocks
 - ④ ? whatever is environmentally best. ⑤ no opinion ⑥ no opinion
 - ⑦ OK ⑧ providing parking is good ⑨ remove any loop impacting the river & improve site delineation & traffic flow
 - ⑩ retain store, & grill, fuel station & mountaineering school; provide picnic area; remove sawing. ⑪ consolidate NPS stable & concessioner stable ⑫ redesign parking area & expand picnic area; upgrade comfort station This is every open, popular area near the river and Lambert Dome. ⑬ a hike/hiker trail would be great, but is not a priority. ⑭ relocate Loop A away from riparian areas
 - ⑮ relocate Ranger Station to wilderness center; restore natural conditions.
 - ⑯ Consolidate stables. ⑰ Alternative 2. ⑱ RETAIN TUOLUMNE LODGE & FACILITIES.
- (Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [REDACTED] SAN FRANCISCO 94127
- ⑲ no opinion



Your Comments Are Important!

LLS-cj- 9-15-08

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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? Nil

attempt to remove or ameliorate the devastating effect of stock animals — YES High Sierra Camp Glen Austin should be removed almost regardless of vested interests or public comment.

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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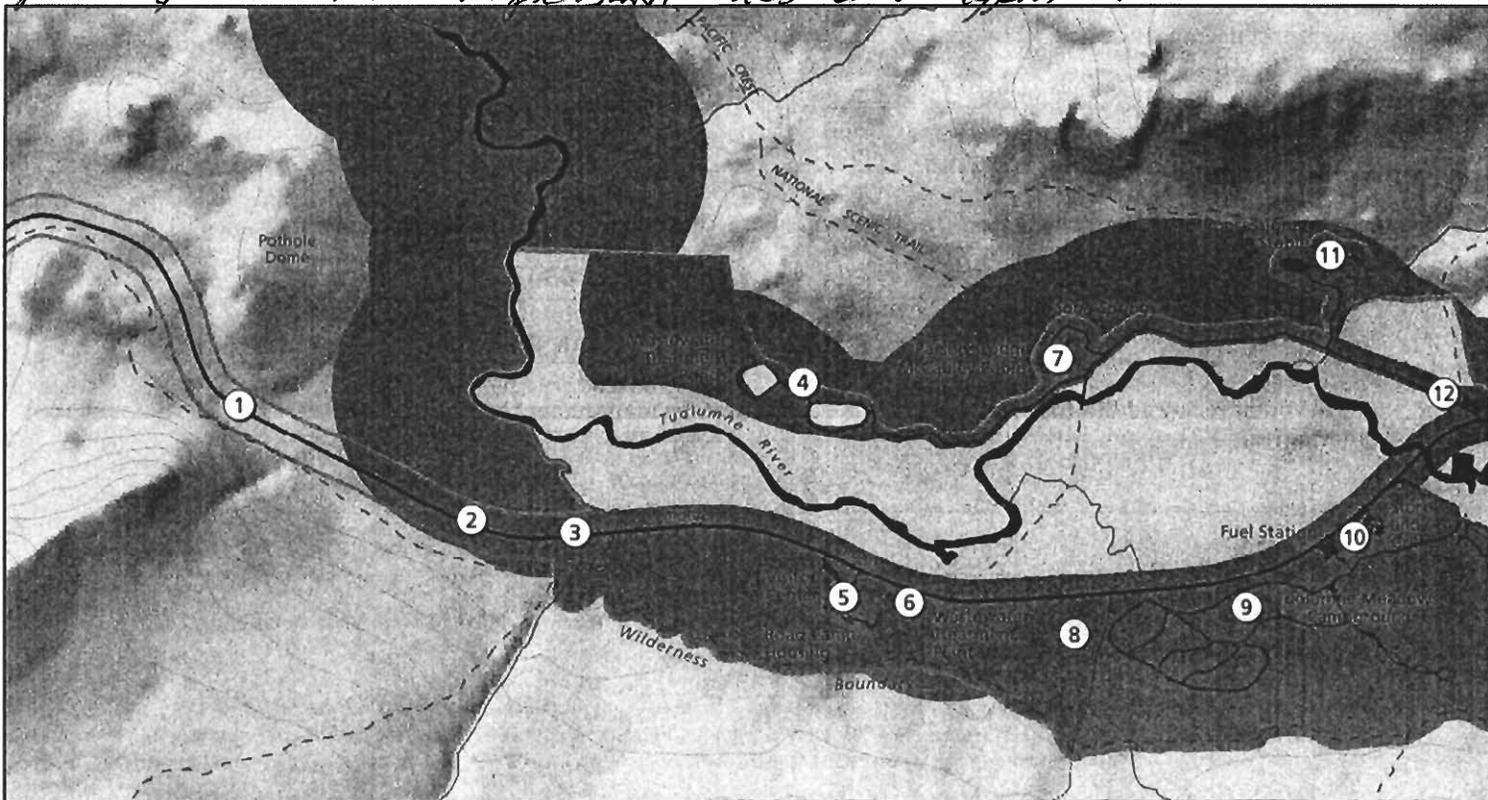
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Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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: Further
to the previous comment — we are ordered visitors
from Australia, recently completed the SRR (Ropis) from
Kings Canyon to Tuolumne.
We note the accelerating damage from stock evident since
our last visit 4 years previously & ponder how
much worse it will be 5 year hence.
At least the Glen Austin, Secretly Camp is in the
study area & can simply be removed. We think the
best general plan, however is a HEALTH HAZARD &
apart from the unpleasant aesthetic effects.



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):

In some quarters the iconic John Muir Trail is now called THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL, which speaks for itself because of the stock problem.

The PLAN should have as an objective either long or short term attempts to deal with this problem. ultimately all the High Sierra Camps should ~~be~~ be removed & certainly stables eliminated from the previous Tuolumne River area. All the plans reflect self-interest in regards to the stock problem.

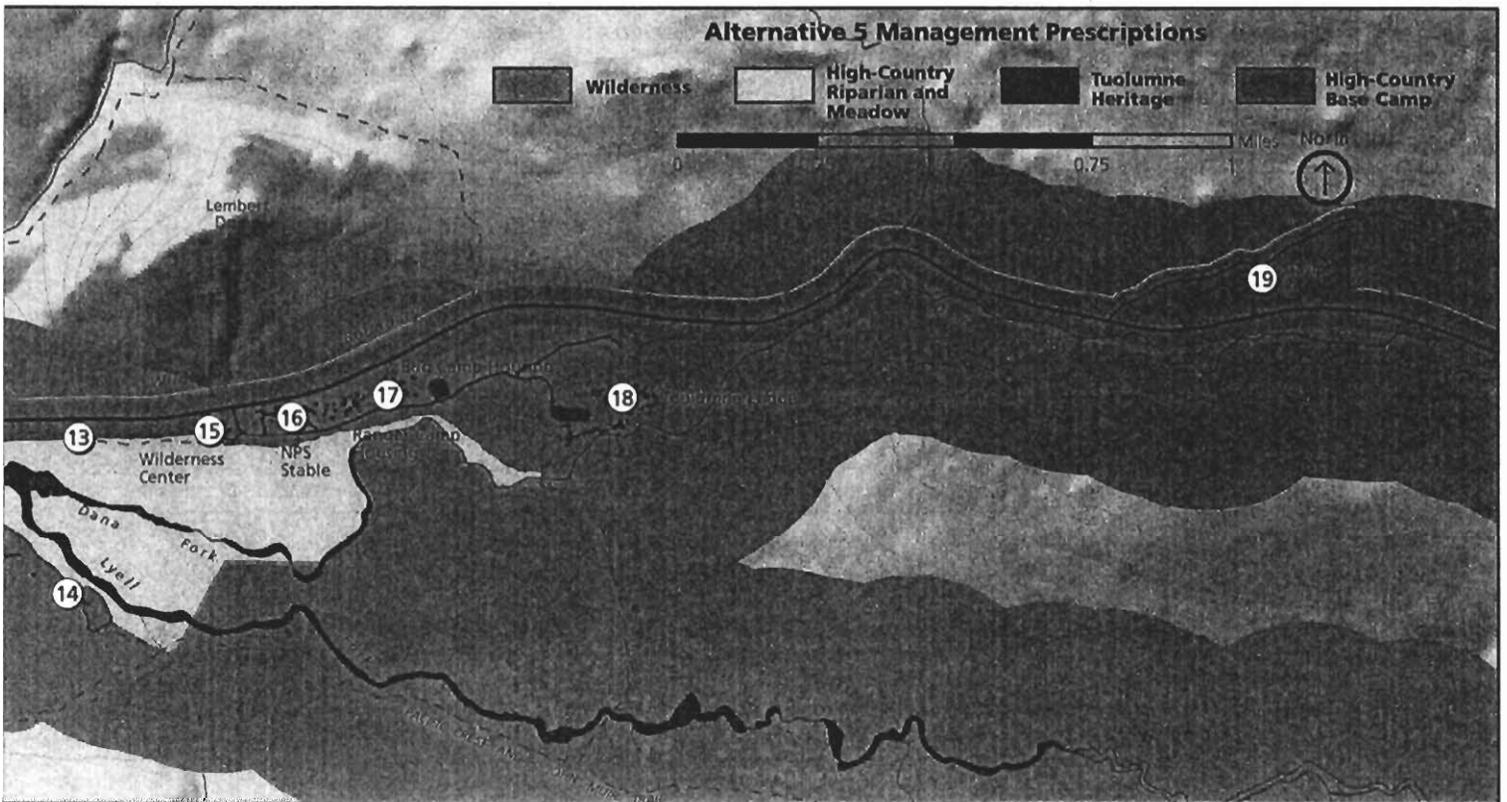


AUSTRIA



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

10/9/08



L66-cf
9-15-08

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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? _____
Closing T Meadows Dinner Lodge

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

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

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

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



Los Gatos, CA 95032

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L67-CJ- 9-15-08

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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? _____

I MOST DISLIKE REMOVAL OF THE GLEN AULIN HIGH SIERRA CAMP, I THINK FOOD/GAS AMENITIES SHOULD BE RETAINED IN TUOLUMNE MEADOWS. SOUVENIR SHOPS COULD BE REMOVED.

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

BIKING ALONG TOGA RD, WOULD BE FINE, BUT NOT OFF-ROAD. ~~DO NOT USE THE BIKE TRAILS IDENTIFIED.~~ MOVING HORSES OFF HIKING TRAILS WOULD BE GOOD.

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

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE STABLE, I THINK MOVING CATHEDRAL LAKES TRAILHEAD TO THE VISITORS CENTER WILL MAKE TOO MUCH CONGESTION THERE.

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

I CAN LIVE WITH #4.

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

YOU LEFT OUT THE PAGES DESCRIBING THE SPECIFICS OF PLAN "S" IN THE BOOKLET, SO IT'S HARD TO ASSESS PLAN 5.

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Comment Form

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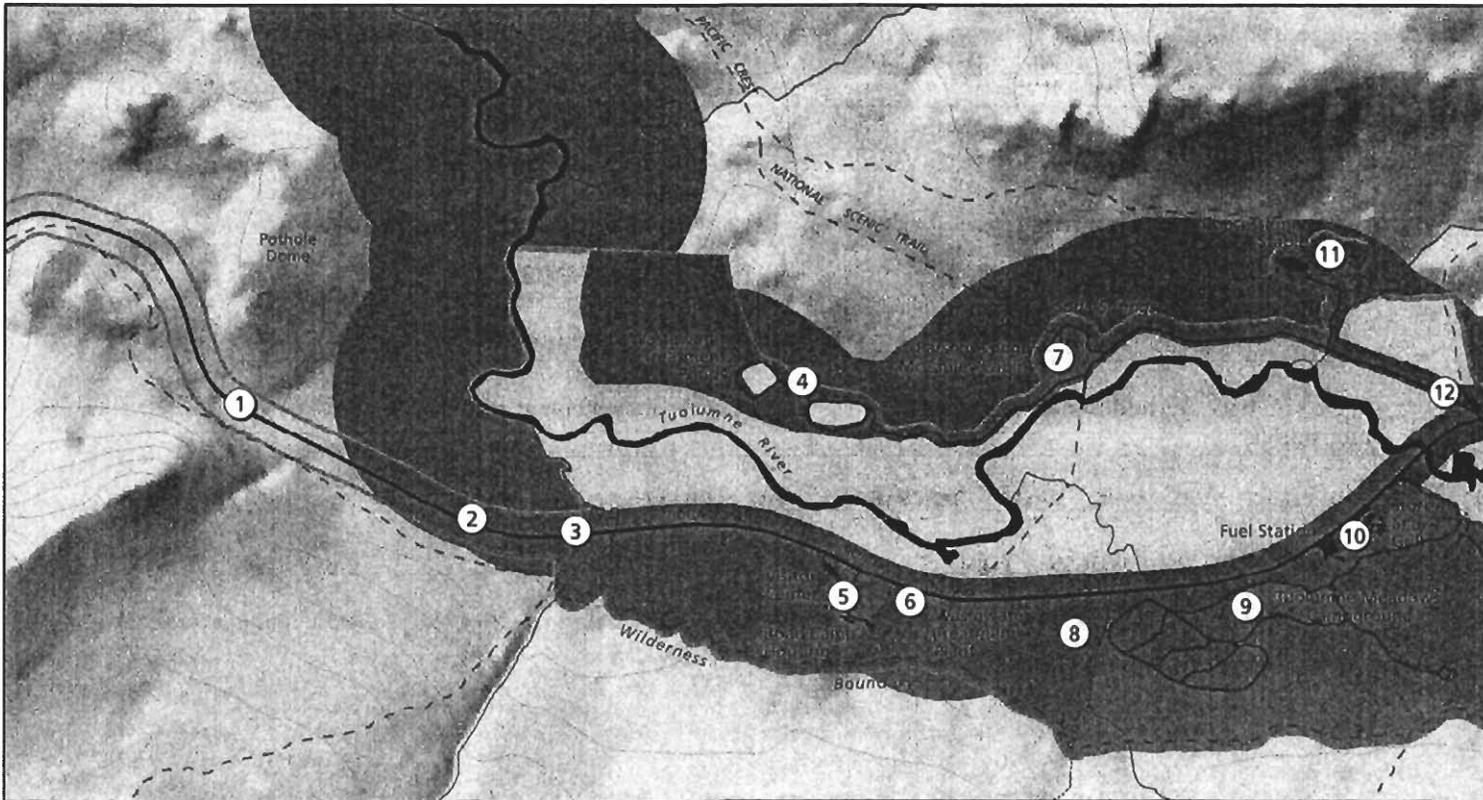
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

- 1) PRESERVE GLEN AVLIN HIGH SIERRA CAMP !!!
- 2) PRESERVE TUOLUMNE LODGE, BUT MOVING PORTIONS AWAY FROM THE RIVER IS A GOOD IDEA.
- 3) PRESERVE CAMPGROUND, BUT LOOP A COULD BE REMOVED, AND RELOCATED
- 4) RETAIN STORE FOR FOOD/CAMPING SUPPLIES AND GAS.
- 5) MOVE CONCESSIONER HOUSING TO GAYLOR PIT.
- 6) REMOVE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PONDS + REPLACE WITH NEW FACILITIES NEAR TREATMENT PLANT AND REMOVE CURRENT SEWER LINE.
- 7) PROVIDE FORMAL PARKING AREA AT CATHEDRAL LAKES TRAILHEAD ~ DO NOT MOVE
- 8) SEPARATE BRIDLE PATH FOR COMMERCIAL TRAIL RIDES
- 9) HIKE/BIKE TRAIL ALONG TIOGA RD.



LL68-CF-
9-15-08

General thoughts:

I love Tuolumne Meadows just the way it is! I hope that the plan you adopt will be the one with the fewest changes. A few comforts/conveniences are welcome and nice, like the small store and grill, Tuolumne Lodge and the camp ground. They are minimal and don't accommodate or encourage huge crowds of people. Tuolumne remains a fairly untouched jewel, with fabulous trails, views and places waiting to be discovered.

I think there is no reason to add public showers to the list of Tuolumne amenities. They will only add to water waste and the problem of "grey" water.

I love to kayak but don't think it should be allowed in the pristine high country. There are plenty of other places to enjoy that.

After reading these proposals I'm sure some changes will be made – but I hope whatever they are doesn't commercialize Tuolumne Meadows – it's beauty is enhanced by being relatively untouched by mankind, mostly left wild, with only a very few amenities.

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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 Tuolumne the way it is - I don't think the store, the Grill or Tuolumne Lodge need to be removed.

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 the idea of public showers - there is no need for this - it's an unnecessary use (waste) of water + would add excess "grey" water to the area.

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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L 109-Cof
9-16-08

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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? While I

like the idea of protection, this plan would make Glen Aulin (and I'm not sure about Vogelsang?)
out of my reach because I can no longer backpack. I also think the meadow area itself would be more
crowded. No overnight lodging at Tuolumne? Not fair to seniors, disabled - basically out of visitor reach!
Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

I think the consolidation of services and formalizing parking areas would be more efficient and
better for the environment. While I hope activity doesn't increase significantly, having interpretive
talks and walks encourages education and increased environmental awareness!
Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I agree that

preservation of historic, archaeological, & traditional uses and features is really important. It would be
critical to manage visitor use since there would be easily accessible day and overnight opportunities
Yes to extended Shuttle Service! Less driving around would be helpful.
Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Yes!

More interpretive + educational programs to help protect + preserve the fragile ecosystem. Yes to greater attention
to science and Native American wisdom. Probably less dispersed/more confined activities would have less impact
on the fragile ecosystem. Also eliminating trail rides would reduce impact. I LIKE ALT 4 THE BEST!

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

Please don't close Glen Aulin HSC as I doubt I'd ever get there any other way! I know there's been a
lot of impact there but I think the dispersed backpack areas all over there are as much of a
problem. I don't have a viable alternative unfortunately!

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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The most important thing to accomplish is striking a balance between restoring long term ecological integrity of the meadow and riparian areas and maintaining opportunities for a variety of day and overnight use for people of all ages and abilities. While maximizing the wilderness experience and encouraging visitor awareness and understanding of our role in its protection.

There were a number of suggestions found throughout the various alternatives that I believe could help toward meeting this challenge. First as mentioned in Alternative 4, combining science based information and American Indian knowledge of the ecosystem would help to identify the conditions necessary for ecological recovery and long term maintenance of habitat. Also critical is intensive management of visitor use, including possibly restricting people from using certain areas under restoration.

Alternative 2 also discussed the importance of interpretive programs. This could be another critical management piece. People are usually willing to support resource protection when they are given opportunities to understand the significance of their actions and choices, and guided toward awareness of their interconnectedness with the places they love. Visitors can also learn more about their own roles as stewards of the Tuolumne area - including its past, present and future - through interpretive services which emphasize American Indian cultural practices, prehistoric and historic uses of the park and the protection of archaeological resources. In addition, the perpetuation of Native American cultural practices would honor the significant role this group has played and must continue to play in the Tuolumne environment.

Several alternatives suggested the consolidation of services, formalizing parking areas, improvement of trail connections, connection and expansion of shuttle service. I think all of these would increase efficiency for visitors while reducing environmental impacts.

Alternative 4 suggests minimizing, restricting or eliminating commercial trail rides. At the least, separating the horse and mule trails from hiking trails would make a much more pleasant experience for those of us traveling by foot. In my experience it has been less than optimal having to move off the trail frequently for mule trains and having to walk behind the constant kicking up of dust and stepping around fly covered manure piles. I am aware that hikers and backpackers leave their own footprint, so I don't know if this is completely fair, although it seems the animals have a major impact on the streams and other watercourses.

I don't know if there is sound science showing that the Glen Aulin area can be kept open without major impact to the river and streams. Whatever we can do to help this incomparable area remain as pristine as possible, I would like to support. Yet if Glen Aulin were closed as a high sierra camp, I would probably never be able to again enjoy the experience I have treasured perhaps above all with my friends and family in the Tuolumne area, so I sincerely hope this does not become necessary.

I am very interested in learning more about what can be done to help this most beloved area of Yosemite so that we can continue to enjoy its magnificent beauty now and in the future. Thank you very much for including us in this important decision making process. Please continue to keep me informed.

Sincerely,



Cazadero, CA 95421

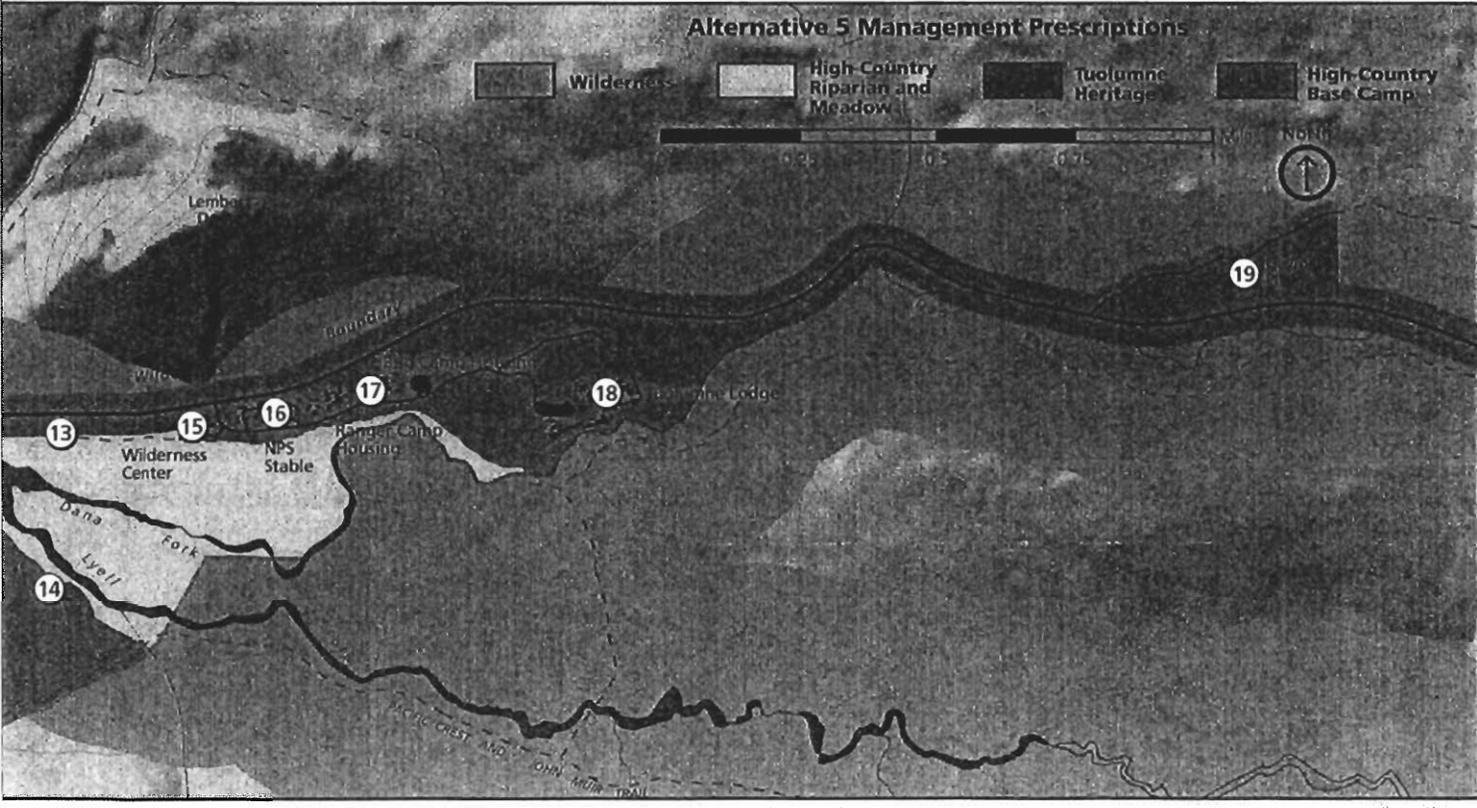
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

Please See Tapped insert - Thanks!



Cazadero, CA 95421

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



L70-Cg-
9-16-08

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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 would miss terribly the T.M. Lodge & Glen Austin. It would have greater impact on area around Tioga Road.

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

Maintain the lodge & Glen Austin. Consolidating services & parking. It will \uparrow day use impact.

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? #5 - my preference!!

This is the most inclusive comprehensive and makes the most sense. It encompasses all the others in a very reasonable way.

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Comment Form

LJL-cgr
9-16-08

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

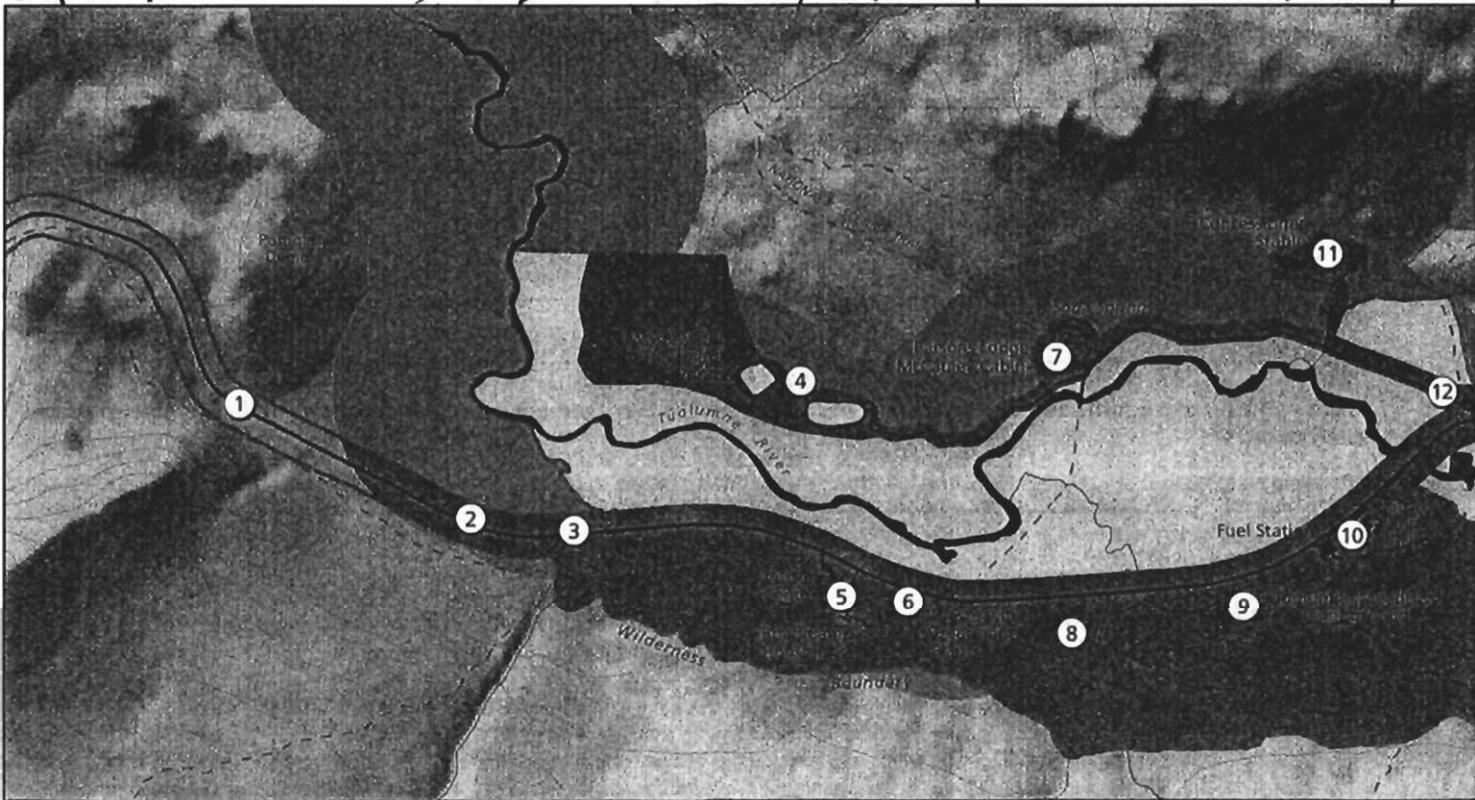
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

- (1) The falls past Pothole dome are wonderful - please don't make access more difficult. I hate to make it more popular, but the trail is ^{too} hard.
- (2)(3) we need access to the meadows with designated parking area
- (5) Cathedral Lakes trailhead needs a parking lot - it's dangerous to drive by
- (9) (14) Please don't limit the # of available campground spaces. It's hard enough to make a reservation.
- (14) For the 1st x in 25 yrs, I had a campsite in loop A. It was wonderful to be able to get to the river & watch the alpine glow at Leubert dome so easily. Perhaps more of back, so

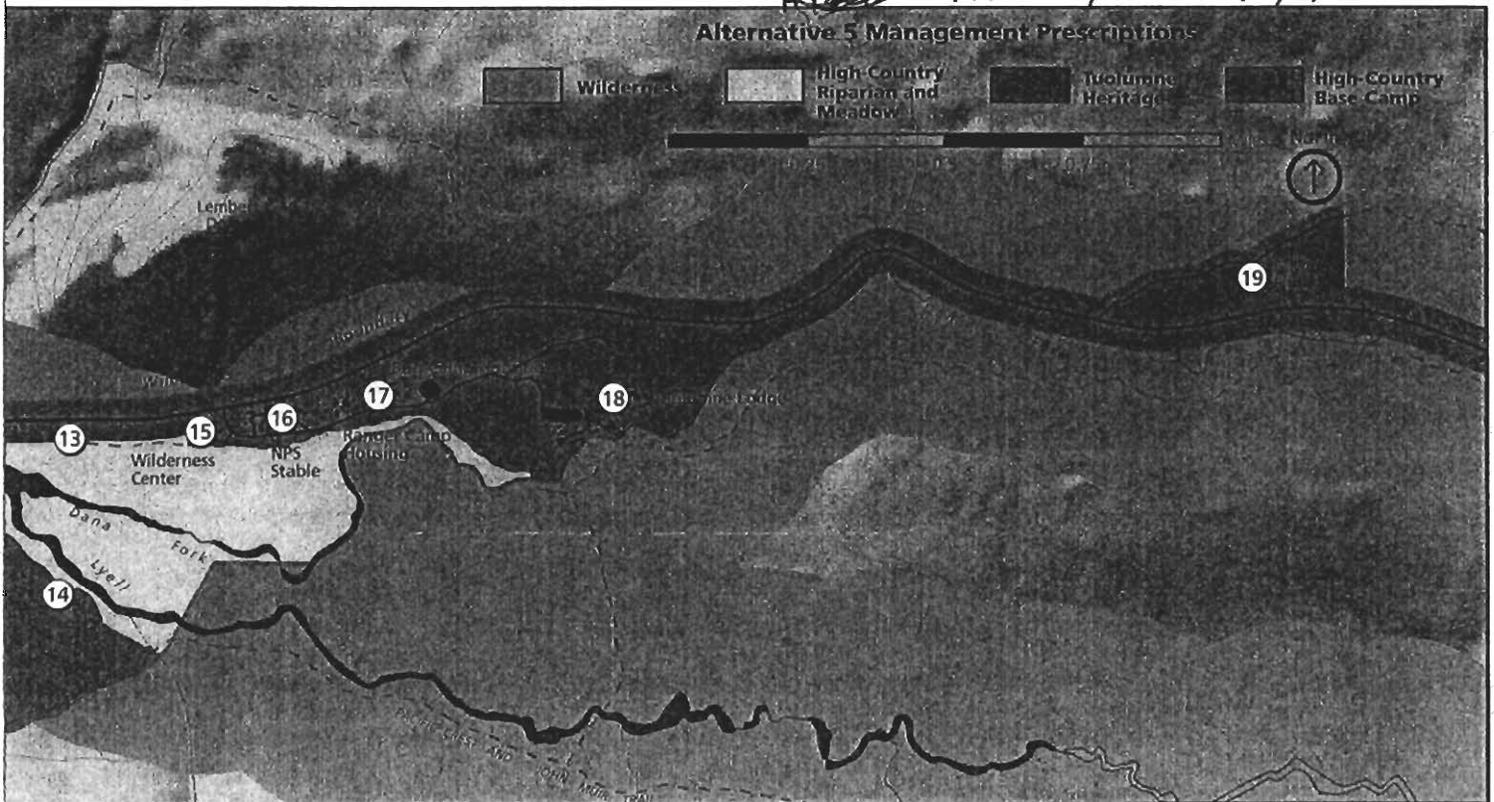


This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- (4) cont that the sites aren't right on the river.
- (10) Although I don't usually make much use of the stores, grill & gas, except for ice, I think it would be a mistake to eliminate them. Keep us out of our cars, so that essentials are easily available - it's all in walking distance.
- (12) This pull out / parking ~~area~~ area is essential, especially for campground overflow & trail head access
- (18) I haven't stayed at the lodge, but I see no problem with it.

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

~~Albany~~ Albany CA 94706



LTD G
9-16-08

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. *AD = Americans w/ disabilities

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

Combine good pts of all 4 plans. Remember College field trips Parking!
Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Ideas
are NOT "visitor friendly", but favor employee use. #1, 3, 4, 9, 14, 17
are good ideas! Flat Lake Dome Prkg should be on west side for 30 vehicles w/ REST ROOMS
*AD interpretive trail scenic pull outs will result in parking/walking on meadow.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? move (A) employee housing to Gaylor Pit/maintenance yard. No Kayaking (legal problems re: death/injury). All formal parking should have restrooms w/H₂O. *AD Trails to #1, 7, 12, and visitor center. Keep P.O./Bus stop @ current site

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? move (16) to (11), (4) move to (6), combine rest ideas w/ #2 and #4 plans. (13) Good idea. (9) remove "A" section - make interpretive AD trail. (1) Good idea - Add *AD Interpretive trail. (10) Keep P.O. AND Bus stop (YART) at current site.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Action (18) very BAD idea - move all employee housing to Gaylor Pit/maintenance; combine (A11) stables at site (11) improve (12) and add parking to #1/#3 with Restroom. (13) Excellent idea (10) Keep P.O./YART stop @ current site

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

#2 plan has most positive ideas. However, action #4, 6, 17 need revision - Americans with Disabilities Act needs addressing in Campgrounds, visitor center, 4 main interpretive trails, etc.

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

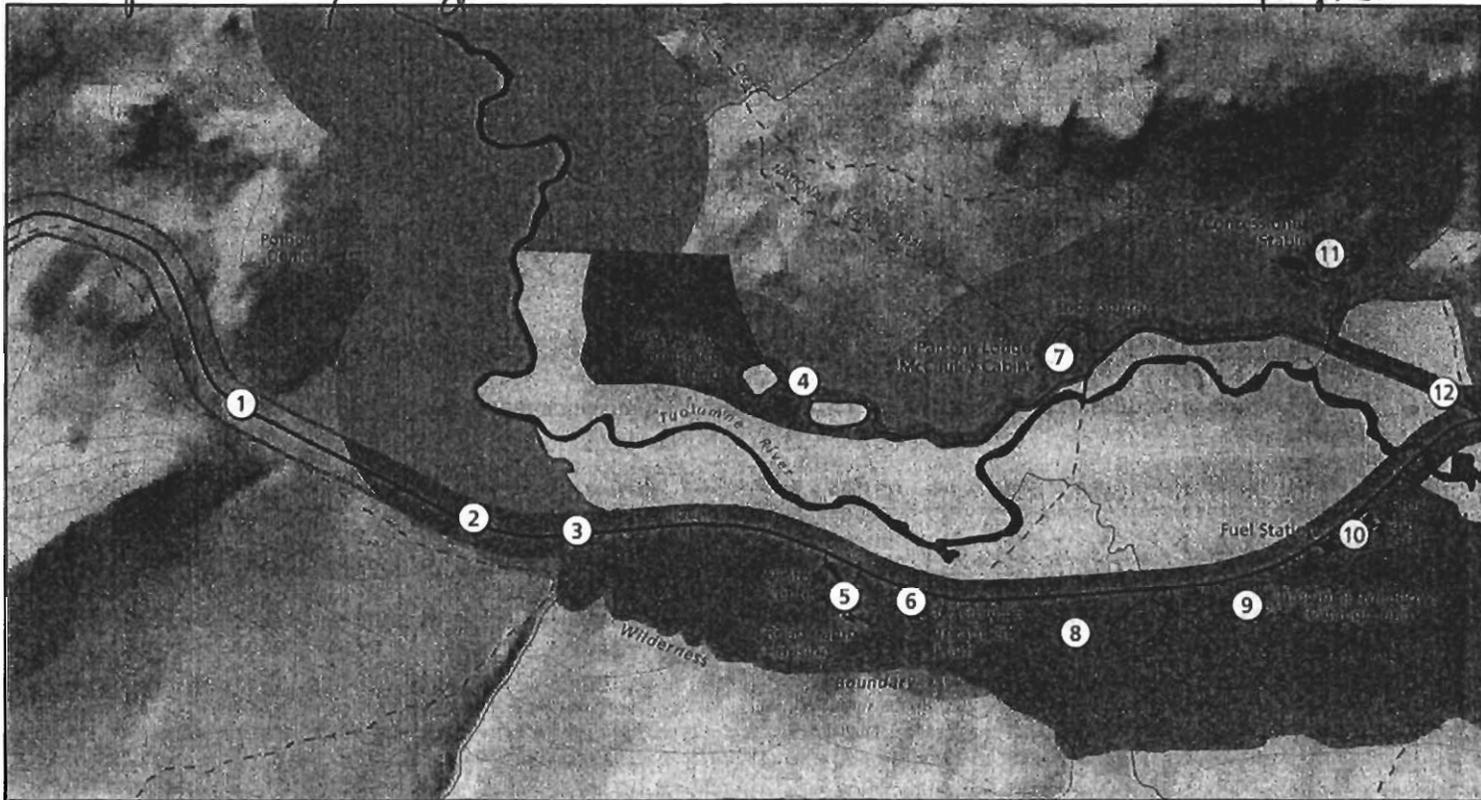
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

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

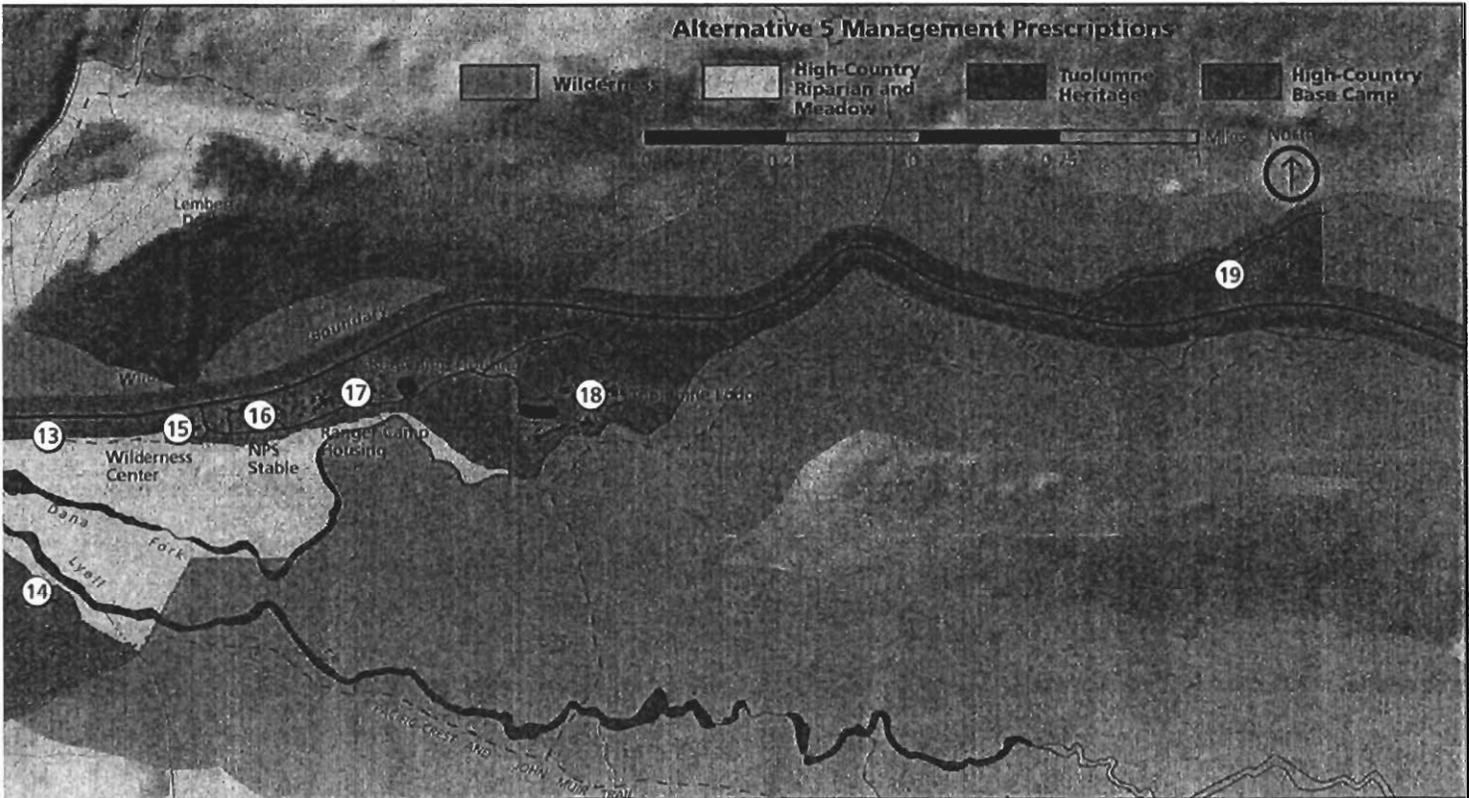
workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

- The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: ^{"Widen Road 18"}
1. on each side to accommodate Cyclists/R.V.-Bus Traffic.
 2. Clean-up Restrooms in Campground C-G sections/install NATURAL Stone-wood FACADEXTERIOR.
 3. PAVE entire Campground road wide enough for designated vehicles to MANEUVER/BACK into.
 4. Eliminate Site "A" impeding River flow/ecology - Put in Interpretive Hard-surface Trail.
 5. Install 15 Handicap Sites in Campground w/HARD trail to Restroom, H₂O spicket, and trail to store, Visitor Center, Pothole Dome, Lambert Dome, & Parson's Lodge (Came).
 6. Install formal Parking w/RESTROOMS (NOT Portipotties) at WEST Pothole Dome & South Tioga Road Cathedral Lakes Trail Head.
 7. Provide PARKING for 130 vehicles at Cathedral T.H./33 vehicles @ Pothole Dome.
 8. Put Restroom at Dog/K-SMT PARKING (Please!).
 9. Clean-up Restroom/PARKING/Picnic in Lambert Dome vicinity - for 30 people.



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 Install ^{formal} parking w/ restroom / trail west side
 - ② Eliminate ~~(all)~~ Tioga Road side parking
 - ③ Install formal parking for 130 w/ restroom
 - ④ move because of pipe under river
 - ⑤ make into ART CENTER w/ classes
 - ⑥ keep w/ modern technology
 - ⑦ Preserve w/ AD trail access / interpretive
 - ⑧ combine Visitor Center, Museum, Grill, store w/ AD / Bike / Hike Trail to Campground, Parsons Lodge - w/ parking restroom picnic for 130 vehicles.
 - ⑨ make improvements listed on opposite page
 - ⑩ Convert to wilderness permit / R.S. and enlarge TC reservation booth
 - ⑪ combine ~~(all)~~ stables / stock (keep AWAY from picnic due to flies)
 - ⑫ improve - relocate more north
 - ⑬ Do NOT restore in meadow / riparian / interpretive / info in museum w/ photos
 - ⑭ relocate "A" sites impacting river ecology / interpretive trail w/ AD surface
 - ⑮ ⑯ relocate to #10 / restore footprint
 - ⑰ relocate ~~(all)~~ housing for employees to Gaylor Pit as a "Community" / use historic bldgs for interpretive / YI / college ed classes
 - ⑱ remove hazardous bldgs
 - ⑲ move structures back 100' from river flood plain for ecological benefit.
 - ⑳ move ~~(all)~~ employee housing to this site w/ activities / hike / bike trail / shuttle for employees as a community - NOT for public use.
 - ㉑ Dog IK / JMT needs restroom (Please!)
- AD = AMERICANS with Disabilities
 (Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence / zip code: [REDACTED] LANCASTER 93536



L73-cj
9-16-08

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

Don't Like: This is the least acceptable alternative. It reduces visitor use to an unacceptable level.

Cathedral Lakes access parking should not be moved to Visitor Center.

Oppose eliminating store and grill as well as oppose removing Tuolumne Lodge and Glen Aulin HS Camp

Like: Maintaining present level in the campground

Expanding Dog Lake parking.

Removing fuel station OK. Fuel available at LeeVining and Crane Flat.

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

Don't Like: Cathedral Lakes parking needs to stay where it is. Should be formal off road parking.

Like: Consolidating stables OK

Consolidating Visitor Center, store and grill OK as long as adequate access and parking are available.

Consolidating ranger station and wilderness center at current stables site OK

Parking for Parsons Lodge and meadow good. Formalizing trails good.

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

Don't Like: Cathedral Lakes parking should be left at the access. Off road parking needs to be developed.

Like: Managing Lodge Pole Pine to maintain meadows good.

Plan generally good. Things are left where they are.

Adding picnic areas near visitor center and store and grill good.

Retain Tuolumne Lodge.

Shuttle Bus service is excellent and should be emphasized in all alternatives. This is a partial solution to parking along the road.

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

Don't Like: Keep historic dining room where it is.

Lembert Dome parking should be left.

Like: Formal parking and visitor station at trail connection at Cathedral Lakes good.

Consolidation plan for Sites 9 and 10 OK, Adequate access and parking must be provided.

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.

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):

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

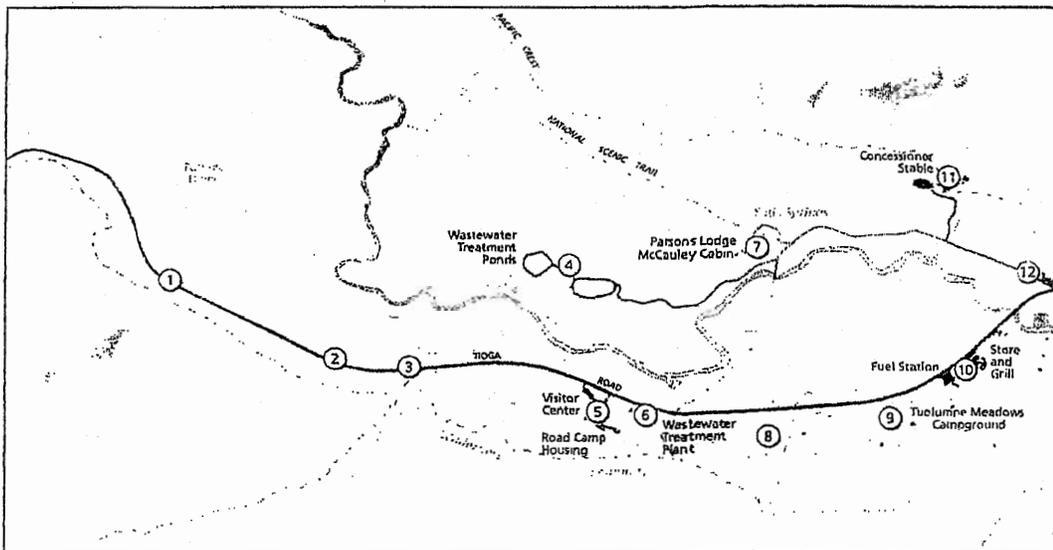
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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:

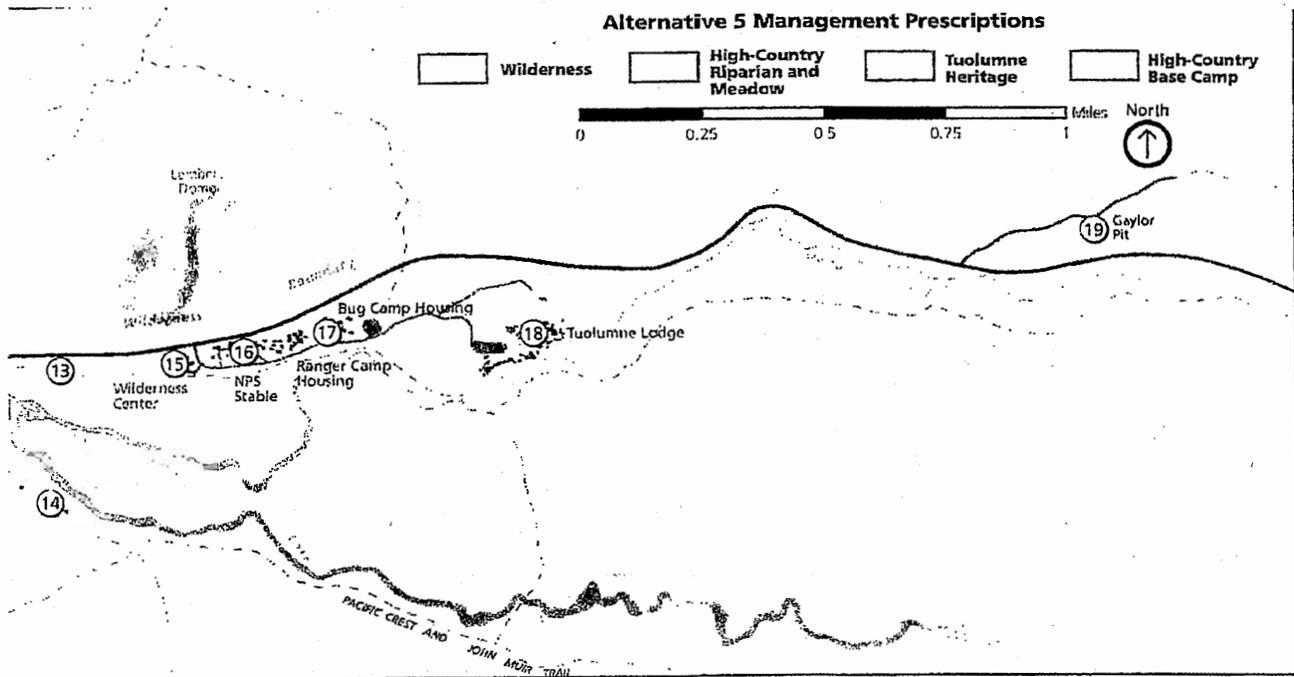
- a. Continue to provide adequate accommodations for visitors. Several of the alternatives are anti-people.
- b. Things can be rearranged and consolidated to obtain a better result. Facilities have grown over the past in a somewhat uncoordinated fashion.
- c. Campground needs to be better organized and expanded if possible. Add showers at campground.
- d. Eliminating/reducing parking along the road is desirable but this can only be accomplished by providing adequate organized, off road parking.
- e. Shuttle bus is very important in any alternative.
- f. Hardening trails in the meadow is very desirable. This has been a great success in the Valley.



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 formal parking, picnic area and trail connections (alt 2). This also will help reduce roadside parking.
2. Need to provide more formal, off road parking to eliminate or reduce roadside parking (alt. 2)
3. Provide formal parking with visitor contact station and trail connections to Cathedral Lakes (alt.4).
4. Relocate treatment ponds and restore site. Remove pipe through meadow (alt. 4)
5. Relocate visitor center and consolidate housing (alt.4). Must provide adequate access and parking at new visitor location.
6. Consolidate treatment facilities (alt. 4)
7. (alt.4)
8. (alt.4)
9. Relocate facilities at Campground D loop (alt. 4). Must provide adequate access and parking. Retain or increase campground numbers. Provide showers/restrooms (alt.2). Consider removing fuel station. Fuel available at LeeVining and Crane Flat
10. Consolidate ranger station, etc. (alt. 4). Add meadow interpretive trail (alt. 2)
11. Consolidate stables (alt. 4). Keep horse riding and pack trains, part of Tuolumne history. Maintain H.S. camps including Glen Aulin,
12. Redesign parking and expand picnic area; upgrade comfort station (alt. 2).
13. Restore Wagon Road as interpretive trail (alt. 3)
14. Relocate A loop campsites away from riparian area (alt. 3) Retain or expand numbers of campsites.
15. Relocate (alt. 4)
16. Relocate (alt.4)
17. Consolidate housing to Road Camp. Expand Dog Lake parking (alt 4).
18. Retain Tuolumne Lodge. Move housing but leave dining hall where it is (alt 3).

Elkton, OR 97436



L74-cg
9-16-08

Tuolumne Meadows/River Planning 2008



West Tuolumne Meadows, June 2008.

Having read over the 2007 and 2008 planning workbooks more than once, I find it difficult to comment on or come to any conclusions regarding some matters that I know very little about. There is not enough specific information given in the workbooks to understand some problems that may exist and the advantages and disadvantages of different alternatives for remedying such problems. For example, what exactly is meant by “aging” wastewater treatment facilities? What exactly is “meadow damage”? Is “damage” referring to the area directly beside the Tioga Road that is impacted by vehicle tires while parking? Or is there a greater “damage” to the meadow as a whole that is caused by the roadside parking? What’s wrong with current maintenance facilities? Is this information provided on the park website?

Alternative 1

Like most:

- “A self-reliant and adventurous visitor experience.”
- Remove Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, Tuolumne Lodge, store, grill, and fuel station. I know that this will never happen, but at least we can dream.
- Eliminate of commercial trail rides.
- Expand Dog Lake/JMT parking area.
- Provide formal parking area near campground entrance. The campground reservation area overflows with vehicles on busy mornings; sometimes vehicles are parked on the inside of the white line on the Tioga Road which makes an already too narrow road narrower – this is dangerous.

Dislike most:

- Remove parking along access road to concessioner stable. Lemberg parking overflows regularly on busy days; this area needs more parking spaces, not less.
- Remove “social trail” around east side of Pothole dome and SW edge of Tuolumne River towards Glen Aulin. This area needs some sort of a trail, whether it is a “social” trail or a formal trail. Tire ruts from vehicle traffic of the past are apparent along much of the west edge of the meadow, near Pothole Dome – it’s not like these ruts will disappear right away if the “social” trail is removed.
- Preserve NPS stable. This facility contributes dust and unpleasant odors into the Tioga Road, visitor center and nearby Puppy Dome.

Alternative 2

Like most:

- Expand picnic area at Lemberg Dome; replace vault toilets with updated restrooms and replace prehistoric picnic tables.
- Provide hike/bike trail connecting facilities along Tioga Road.
- Provide formal parking area and trail across meadow east of Pothole Dome.

Dislike most:

- Consolidate concessioner and NPS stables east of wastewater treatment plant; add bridal path. Yuck!
- Relocate housing to Gaylor Pit. Please no!
- Relocate wilderness center to current concessioner stable location. If the stables must stay, the current location is where they belong. The wilderness center should remain close to the Tioga Road, as it currently is, in a centralized location between major trailheads.
- Provide a public shower/restroom facility in consolidated visitor service area. This will only make the area more busy and overcrowded. Lodge guests have access to shower facilities; otherwise there are shower facilities in Lee Vining.

Alternative 3

Like most:

- Preserve visitor center at its current location; expand parking to accommodate trailhead for Cathedral Lakes.
- Retain Lemberg Dome picnic area and parking; redesign comfort station; better identify trail.

Dislike most:

- Preserve Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp as zoned by the Tuolumne Heritage management prescription. In this modern age of technical outdoor gear and clothing, there is no reason why the High Sierra Camps are needed to allow visitors to experience the Yosemite wilderness. If preserving “heritage” is the main focus of the Tuolumne management plan, then the only form of

transportation permitted in Tuolumne should be by horseback or by horse-drawn wagon. Horse and pack-animal traffic has turned hiking trails into foul smelling, fly infested troughs of silt. Erosion rates are also increased; additional silt and sand are washed into the river from these trails during spring runoff and summer thunderstorms, which decrease water quality. I personally try to stay away from pack trails as much as possible because it is simply an unpleasant and frustrating hiking experience.

- Provide satellite parking with waterless toilet at Gaylor Pit. Extend shuttle service to Gaylor Pit. No, no, no! Tuolumne infrastructure should not be expanded beyond its current geographic boundaries!
- Modify exterior of newer campground restrooms to enhance rustic character. I would much rather see NPS funds go towards something that actually needs attention, such as the many restroom facilities that are in need of an update, like the ones at Lembert Dome and the store/grill, etc.
- Upgrade façade of wilderness center to be compatible with historic landscape character. Again, there are plenty of things that are in need of attention; why spend limited park funds on the least important of things? The wilderness center looks fine.
- Move “nonhistoric” restroom building to a new location southeast of store. Why? Wouldn’t it be better to just update the existing building/facility at its current location?

Alternative 4

Like most:

- Synthesize science-based information and American Indian knowledge of the ecosystem to identify conditions necessary for the ecological recovery and long-term integrity of river-related habitats at Tuolumne Meadows.
- Provide formal parking area with trail connections to Cathedral Lakes on south side of Tioga Road, near current Cathedral Lakes roadside parking. What exactly is a visitor contact station? This new parking lot could have a separate entrance and exit and spaces for 40 to 50 vehicles; overflow parking could be accommodated in an expanded visitor center parking area.
- Provide hike/bike trail connecting facilities along Tioga Road and Great Sierra Wagon Road.
- Consolidate NPS and concessioner stables, including associated housing, at concessioner stable site. Wouldn’t this be more efficient? It would certainly have less impact on the environment and visitors.

Dislike most:

- Remove parking, picnic area, and comfort station/restroom at Lembert Dome. This area needs to be updated, not removed!
- Consolidate store, grill, and visitor center functions in a new facility in what is now campground D loop. Is this much change really necessary? I would hope not. Although consolidation may improve efficiency with respect to

traffic/parking, it would certainly create chaos on busy days with so many facilities jammed all together.

- Eliminate public fuel station.

Not sure:

- Remove wastewater treatment ponds and restore site to natural conditions. (Replace ponds with new facilities near wastewater treatment plant and remove sewer line that currently runs beneath meadow from plant to ponds.) See #4 below.

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

- Improve and expand parking facilities to accommodate visitor needs with as minimal impact to the environment as possible.
- Create safer roadside parking where roadside parking is to remain; the spots should be large enough for a vehicle to safely park off of the Tioga Road.
- Improve and update employee housing.
- Improve and update picnic/restroom facilities.
- Increase environmental research/studies in the Tuolumne Meadows area.
- Protect sensitive riparian and meadow areas and promote ecological recovery.

Alternative 5 (preferred)

1. Pothole Dome Parking and Trails – Retain existing paved parking at Pothole Dome. If roadside parking between the trees just east of Pothole parking is to be removed, then the paved parking at Pothole Dome should be expanded to accommodate parking for access to the Pothole Dome/west meadows/Glen Aulin areas.

2. Cathedral Roadside Parking – A definite problem. Remove roadside parking and relocate to new/expanded parking areas. What exactly are “scenic pullouts”? Will parking time be limited in “scenic pullouts”?

3. New Cathedral Lakes Parking Lot – Build new parking lot on south side of Tioga Road at existing roadside parking location and expand visitor center parking lot for overflow of new lot. Extend trailhead to visitor center for overflow parking.

4. Wastewater Treatment Ponds and Access Road – There is not enough information given in the Planning Workbook to know if there is a problem with the ponds or not. Is wastewater seeping into the Tuolumne River? Or are the ponds an eyesore to visitors? If the ponds need to be moved then they should be relocated next to the existing wastewater treatment plant. If the ponds are functioning properly then it seems that the environmental impact from relocating the ponds and removing the sewer line would outweigh the aesthetic drawbacks.

5. Visitor Center, Road Camp Housing, and Maintenance – Expand visitor center parking to accommodate overflow of new Cathedral Lakes parking area. Increase number of RV parking spaces in order to keep RVs out of the smaller parking lots. Add picnic area. Update maintenance facilities and employee housing as necessary.
6. Wastewater Treatment Plant – Relocate wastewater treatment ponds if necessary. Does NPS need a new maintenance yard and operations office?
7. Parsons Lodge and McCauley Cabin – Preserve. Is the access road necessary to the preservation of the lodge and cabin or should it be removed?
8. Potential Day Parking/Picnic Area and Trail to Parsons Lodge – No change.
9. Campground – Retain current capacity; improve site delineation and traffic flow. Increase parking space at campground reservation booth on Tioga Road by expanding paved parking to the south and west, towards the store. If necessary, provide formal parking on north side of Tioga Road.
10. Store/Grill – Redesign facility for better operational efficiency. Improve store management and supply of goods. Quite often, the supply of goods is exhausted in no time at all and it is several days before the supply is replenished. I have no complaints about removing all infrastructures including the store, although as mentioned above, this will never happen. If the Park Service/DNC is going to provide a store, then at least do it right. If this store existed outside of the park with competition next door, it would not survive long at all.

Repaint parking space lines at store/grill parking lot. The parking spaces are currently of differing widths – some are too wide; some are too narrow. Vehicles can fit better if the parking spaces are of appropriate and equal width.

RVs should not be allowed to park at the store/grill. The parking lot and spaces are not large enough, especially when tour and shuttle busses are present, and often an RV blocks traffic or takes up multiple spaces by parallel parking. There is specific RV parking at the visitor center – RVs should park at the visitor center where a shuttle bus can be taken to the store/grill/etc. (see bus stop idea below). This needs to be posted and enforced.

The 25mph speed limit between Lembert Dome and the west end of the campground also needs to be enforced. It is amazing how many vehicles speed through this area and it is very unsafe in such a congested and busy area.

11. DNC/Concessioner Stables – Eliminate commercial trail rides; eliminate concessioner stables. Of the total number of park visitors, what percentage enjoy trail rides and/or pack animals in Tuolumne Meadows? What percentage dislike what the stables/animals provide for Tuolumne Meadows? Without a doubt, I would say that there are far, far more visitors who dislike the existence of the animals and stables than those who support it. Why is wilderness compromised so much, simply for a small select few

that cannot or will not use their own two legs? If anything can be changed in Tuolumne, I would most strongly favor the removal of the stables and all horse-packing in the area!

12. Lumbert Parking and Picnic Area – Redesign parking area to accommodate a few more vehicles, replace rotting wood curbs with real curbs, paint lines for parking spaces, expand picnic area, and upgrade comfort station/restrooms. These restrooms are of prehistoric design and let very little light in; it is more pleasant to do as a bear does. If RV parking is to be allowed in this parking area, then two or three RV-only spaces need to be created.

13. Hike/Bike Trail Between Lumbert Dome and Wilderness Center – Provide paved hike/bike trail along Tioga Road. Will this pathway be alongside the Tioga Road, or lower down, closer to the meadow area? There is a fair amount of foot traffic along the stretch of road between Lumbert and the wilderness center although there is not enough room along the shoulder. This creates a hazard for both hikers and motorists. A proper hiking trail is definitely needed. Provide interpretive signs for the Great Sierra Wagon Road where appropriate.

14. Campground, A Loop – This area is zoned as Tuolumne Heritage but if campsites are too close to the river which creates negative impact, then the sites along the river should be relocated. If there is no significant impact to the river corridor from these campsites, then retain the sites.

15. Wilderness Center – Preserve. Is a minor expansion of this parking area possible? It always overflows during the busy season.

16. NPS Stable – Re-zone area as High-Country Base Camp and consolidate stables at current concessioner stable location. The dust and the smell are not needed so close to Puppy Dome, the wilderness center, and the Tioga Road.

17. NPS Housing and Dog Lake/JMT Parking – Expand Dog Lake/JMT parking. Although this area is zoned as Tuolumne Heritage in the preferred plan, the parking capacity should be expanded to accommodate the current overflow. This is a popular starting point for the JMT and is also a trailhead for many local backpackers and day-use hikers.

18. Tuolumne Lodge/Housing – Preserve historic structures. If necessary, remove some housing away from the river to restore natural river conditions.

19. Gaylor Pit – **No change**; retain emergency operations and helipad. Post “NO PARKING IN FRONT OF GATE” signs that are more obvious. Occasionally, visitors park improperly at this dirt pullout and may block access for emergency vehicles.

The following comments are not directly related to the questions in the planning workbook but are in response to what I have observed during my time in Yosemite. All photos included were taken summer 2008.

Geological Information Along Hiking Trails

As a geologist, I would like to see more natural history information available to the public along hiking trails. For example, there are several informative plaques along the utility road to Parsons Lodge yet many are relatively simple and pertain mostly to wildlife and cultural history. It would be nice to see more information plaques, placed in inconspicuous locations, that describe the different rock types and rock textures in the Tuolumne high-country area as well as the processes that formed them. The geology of this area is nothing short of spectacular (many examples are referred to in geology text books); visitors should be able to learn more about the local geology while seeing features first hand in the field.

Tioga Road/CA Highway 120

It should be obvious to anyone who has driven the Tioga Road between Crane Flat and the Tioga Pass entrance station that the lanes are narrower than what California regulations require. I doubt that there will be any changes in the near future, considering the enormous scale of widening the road, but want to express my concerns that the road is unsafe. The road is too narrow for RVs and tour busses, yet they are permitted. Bicycles are also permitted on this stretch of road when there is certainly no room for them. How are two tour busses or two RVs supposed to pass each other when there is a bicycle on the road? How about in a blind turn (of which there are many)? Or is such timing just a rare coincidence that can be overlooked? I recommend that bicyclists be strongly discouraged from riding on the Tioga Road, or better yet, not permitted at all. It only creates a dangerous situation for everyone involved. A hike/bike path should be built between the existing facilities in the Tuolumne Meadows area, as mentioned above, to allow for the safe travel of bicyclists.

Vehicles Stopped on Tioga Road

Quite often, a vehicle stops on the road, with its occupants gazing at the scenery or taking photos. Most people don't stop at random in the middle of a freeway or a state highway but for some reason, visitors seem to do the strangest things when in a National Park. Although stopping a vehicle on a highway is prohibited by California state law it appears necessary to post signs at park entrances and along sections of the Tioga Road – "NO STOPPING OR PARKING ON ROADWAY!" It is frustrating to see LE Rangers ignore vehicles that are stopped in the road or parked over the white line. I have seen visitors stand beside their vehicle taking photos while their vehicle was parked over the white line; motorists were forced into the opposite lane as they passed the improperly parked vehicle, including an LE Ranger who just drove by. Stopped vehicles are a hazard on this highway that is already too narrow! This needs to be enforced.

Loud Motorcycles/Harleys

I cannot stress this point enough. The California decibel limit needs to be enforced on all vehicles, specifically loud motorcycles. These noisemakers can be heard all over the Tuolumne wilderness, even miles from the Tioga Road. On busy weekends climbers are sometimes not able to hear each other at areas that are close to the road, such as Pywiak Dome, when large packs of Harleys roar by. I don't know of a single person who is not sick and tired and fed up with listening to so much noise pollution, from NPS employees who work at the gate, to hikers, to rock climbers. If we all took the muffler off of our car or truck, we would quickly be pulled over and cited for exceeding the decibel limit. Why are the loudest vehicles of all not pulled over and cited? Why are they permitted to ruin the peace and quiet of the wilderness for all other visitors? Can this lack of enforcement be labeled as anything other than pathetic? This is a national problem but the solution needs to start somewhere. Yosemite should set an example by enforcing existing decibel levels and not allow vehicles into the park, which exceed these levels. Implementation of equipment and enforcement of new/old regulations would demand additional park service resources but is absolutely necessary. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE GET RID OF THE LOUD HARLEYS!!!

Roadside Parking between Tuolumne Lodge and Tioga Pass Entrance Station

There are several dirt/gravel turnouts along the Tioga Road – some of them are wide enough to safely park a vehicle, others are not. Some are sloping too steeply away from the edge of the pavement, which causes vehicles to spin tires while exiting the parking spot; this just tears up the parking surface. Some of the parking spots are large enough, yet tree branches that prevent vehicles from parking far enough off of the road have not been trimmed while other branches have been trimmed. There is a trailhead to Gaylor Lakes just past Gaylor pit but there is no roadside parking for this trailhead. Why? I strongly feel that these turnouts need to be improved, such that there is ample space for a vehicle to park. Some spots need to be widened; some need to have branches trimmed. All turnouts should be located on the north side of the Tioga Road; turnouts on the south side of the road should be removed to prevent additional sediment from washing into the Dana Fork.

RV Parking

Limit RV parking to the designated RV parking area at the visitor center. They take up too much space and block traffic in the smaller parking lots, which creates a mess.

Mono Pass Trailhead



This is the parking area at Mono Pass trailhead on a busy day. The main problem seen here is the line of vehicles parked on the right. There is not enough room in this parking area for a full-size vehicle (not an RV) to enter or exit a parking space when vehicles are parallel parked opposite of the designated spaces. Vehicles in designated spaces may become blocked in, due to this overflow parking. Overflow parking also stretches up the road, in areas between the trees along the shoulder of the road. The number of vehicles parked along the shoulder has been increasing over the years, with the increase in visitor numbers; sometimes vehicles are not parked completely off of the road, which causes a hazard. The parking area at the Mono Pass trailhead should be expanded to accommodate more parking spaces and to lessen the need for informal shoulder parking. In the meantime, the section of curb on the right side of the above photo needs to be painted red, with the words "NO PARKING" written along its length.

The bear boxes at Mono Pass appear to be placed as an afterthought, as they are crammed between the older wooden fence and the curb of the parking spaces. This prevents vehicles from pulling forward to the curb and also makes accessibility to the boxes more difficult. I suggest that the bear boxes be moved to a location that is more appropriate; space could be made in the dirt, just to the right of the parallel-parked vehicles in the above photo (next to the newly-painted red curb...).

Bus Stop – Tour and Shuttle Buses



The above photo shows two tour busses parked in the store/grill parking lot and a YARTS bus stopped in the middle of the road because there wasn't enough room in the parking lot for three busses. There is also a passing car, obviously in the wrong lane because the YARTS bus had blocked the road. This photo exemplifies the need for a bus stop at this location to serve the campground, store, grill, and mountain shop/school. The bus stop would be reserved for tour busses and local shuttle busses only. I believe that a new bus stop would alleviate much of the traffic congestion in this parking lot as well as allow tour and shuttle busses a location that makes it easier to pick up and drop off passengers. The bus stop could be built across the street from the current location (just left of the YARTS bus in the above photo) with a crosswalk connecting it to the parking lot. Locating the stop to the north of the road would require removal of some trees, which seems unfortunate but reasonable considering the current problem. Tour busses also block parked vehicles as well as open parking spaces. There is simply not enough room.



Another view, the same morning. Note invisible person on far left.

Dumpsters



This dumpster is too full to be closed and “clipped” properly – a common occurrence. The main problem is the design of the dumpster itself. The opening on these dumpsters is covered by a “door” that hinges on an axle located at the bottom of the opening. The metal plate (door) extends below the hinge; when the “door” is opened all the way (to a horizontal position) the lower section of the dumpster opening is blocked by the lower half of the door. I presume this is to act as a counterweight to keep the door closed, as well as to prevent animals (primarily bears) from getting into the dumpster. The clip is just an additional safety. The problem with this design is that when the dumpster becomes full, garbage is sometimes trapped behind the lower half of the door which doesn’t allow the upper door to fully close, as shown in the photo above. A dumpster that is not fully closed allows small animals to get in, such as squirrels. A spring mechanism (without the counterweight plate) would keep the door closed, even when the dumpster is full, but the clip would be required to keep large animals out. Maybe it is possible for NPS to look into newer dumpster designs in order to update these inadequate receptacles.

It would be nice if dumpsters were positioned and kept in a proper location. For example, the dumpsters at the west end of the store/grill parking lot are quite often placed such that they block two-way traffic in and out of the parking lot. Although the dumpsters are necessary, their location is a bit of an inconvenience to motorists, bus drivers included.

Recycling Containers



This photo shows the recycling containers at the west end of the store/grill parking lot and what happens when recyclables are not collected often enough and when recycling containers are insufficient in capacity. What complicates the problem further is that the individual containers are labeled for specific materials, yet the containers are all dumped into the same recycling bin at the time of collection. The recycling containers at Lambert Dome parking are all labeled the same – generic recycling. Why have the containers at the store/grill not been updated like the ones at Lambert? If all recycling is combined when it is collected, then why not have large, dumpster-size recycling containers with a clear label on the front (possibly in several languages) that lists what materials can be recycled (i.e. aluminum, plastic, and glass). Is it possible to also include steel cans, fuel canisters, and paper/cardboard in the recycling program? Another possibility is to list other recycling locations on each container so that if a container becomes full, visitors know where else they can dispose of recyclables.

Smoke/Air Pollution from Grill/Employee Housing





The two photos above were taken at the store/grill parking lot on two different mornings. Some of the smoke in the above photos comes from the campground, but for the most part, the air pollution in the area of the store/grill parking lot comes from employee housing. I have seen the morning campfire billow smoke into the air. Are employee tent cabins heated by wood-burning stoves? Should heating equipment be updated to something of a more modern and cleaner design? Is propane heating possible? The air pollution problem at the store/grill parking lot needs to be corrected. Cooking exhaust from the grill is understandable; campfire smoke that smells of burning plastic is not acceptable.

Campground Bear Boxes

I have spent very little time in the campground, mainly due to the noise. I have been told that the bear boxes make a lot of noise when they are slammed shut, which at odd hours, is not very conducive to sleeping. How about putting rubber bumpers or rubberized weather stripping on the contact points of the bear box and its door? This would dampen the noise of closing the box as well as help to seal out insects, ants, and rain/snow.

Snow Stakes

The red, metal stakes that mark the edge of pavement (for the snowplows) in parking areas should be placed such that they do not block parking spaces. Stakes should be placed in front of the white lines that designate parking spaces, rather than directly in front of parking spaces. If stakes are placed in front of parking spaces, vehicles cannot pull all the way forward to the curb, which leaves less room for other vehicles to maneuver in the parking area.

Stables/Horses/Pack Trains

While hiking the JMT last summer, I noticed significant environmental impact from pack animals in a localized area at the east end of Lyell Canyon. It appeared as though the

area was used to tie-up pack animals for some period of time. Cobbles had been ripped out of the ground, the soil had been loosened dramatically, and vegetation was trampled – the place looked trashed. I was shocked and disgusted. It is truly unfortunate that such archaic, irresponsible, and destructive practices are allowed in this special place.

High Sierra Camp Impact

While hiking past the May Lake High Sierra Camp, I have noticed that employees have left sleeping cots, hammocks, high-lines, and a bright-colored inflatable pool “lounger” outside of the boundaries of the camp. It is bad enough that these monstrosities are permitted to exist in the first place; it is inexcusable to leave employee “junk” in the wilderness, which creates eyesores. I honestly hope that NPS will take a serious look at the impacts caused by the High Sierra Camps and pack-animal traffic in Yosemite wilderness.

Don't Limit Day-Use

Day-use visitor numbers shouldn't be limited in Yosemite National Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on how my favorite place on Earth should be “managed” and how the local facilities in Tuolumne Meadows can be improved.


Reno, Nevada
Yosemite Rock Climber since 1986
Geologist
Hiker



09/15/2008 03:00 AM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Planning Comments

L75-cg-
9-16-08

I am attaching my comments based on the July 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook .
A year ago I devoted substantial time to preparing comments on the 2007 workbook and submitted them by email . I have tried twice to scroll through the comments posted on your website (an agonizingly slow and challenging process) and did not find them . This is discouraging, although I could have missed them . It would be good if there were some way of acknowledging receipt .



Yosemite letter 08.doc

[REDACTED]
Springfield, VT 05156
September 14, 2008

Yosemite Planning
Yosemite National Park
Yosemite, California

Dear Yosemite Planning:

Please accept the following comments on the Tuolumne Planning Workbook of July 2008.

I believe you have identified a good range of alternative site plans for Tuolumne Meadows and are generally on the right track toward a preferred alternative. Rather than comment on each of the alternative site plans, I will list the elements that are most important to me to include or not include in the preferred alternative, along with some questions or concerns.

1. I believe that both Tuolumne Lodge and Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp should remain. Glen Aulin, like other High Sierra Camps, offers a unique opportunity for people to enjoy and appreciate the backcountry of Yosemite, and the Lodge is an important starting/ending facility for those visiting the Camps or otherwise exploring the Wilderness around Tuolumne. I do support changes intended to restore natural conditions and protect sensitive areas such as moving the Lodge dining hall and housing away from the river.
2. I am pleased to see that all alternatives call for eliminating shoulder parking along Tioga Road. If the Concessioner Stable remains, parking along the road to it also should be eliminated.
3. I believe that the informal parking and social trails near Pothole dome should be removed. No formal parking should be built in that location. I am assuming that the informal parking is the point of origin for people walking down to the Tuolumne River and creating the "day at the beach" atmosphere that develops there at a location that seems to be inside the Wilderness boundary.
4. While the idea of scenic pullouts along Tioga Road sounds good, how will you ensure that they do not become longer-term parking areas in much the way the shoulders do currently? To some degree, such pullouts cater to auto use, which I think you should discourage to the extent possible.
5. I support consolidation of services at fewer locations, as suggested in alternatives 2 and 4. It makes sense, though, that the store and visitor center be close to the campground so that it is not necessary for campers to drive to them.

The fuel station should be eliminated. I question whether the grill is necessary. The current one is inadequate at peak times, with long lines forming and people spreading out around it to eat; the food quality is poor. It also generates waste that

must be disposed of. If a new one is added, it would need to be bigger than the current one with adequate seating. I would eliminate it.

Different alternatives propose different locations for consolidating stables, and I don't have enough specific knowledge to say which location is best. But I lean toward some place other than the current Concessioner Stable because that would allow elimination of the road leading to it, which basically juts into what is otherwise Wilderness.

6. The wastewater treatment ponds and access road should be removed.
7. I support preserving historic structures such as Parsons Lodge and others if they are truly significant. However, I think Alternative 3 goes too far in this regard. This is not a National Historical Park. In particular, I do not believe the current store and grill should be preserved on this basis. While it might be desirable to maintain or interpret a piece of the Great Sierra Wagon Road, full restoration does not seem desirable. I do not know what the "bridge structure" is that would be restored under alternative 3, but I question the desirability.
8. With regard to the campground, I do not remember where loop D is and thus am unsure whether that is a good location for the store and visitor center. However, I especially value the campsites that are at the upper edge of the campground because they are more removed from heavy use and traffic and are more separated from one another. I would not like to see those lost. In fact, I would like to see more campsites that are more isolated from one another, quieter, and with less traffic passing by them. I would like to see walk-in campsites somewhere.
9. I like the idea of a bike/walk trail connecting key points along the Tioga road. The store s or some other concessioner should offer bike rentals as a way of reducing vehicle traffic.
10. The current visitor center clearly is inadequate at peak times. It is difficult to get in or move through. A new one is needed somewhere.
11. I have mixed feelings about commercial trail rides. I know that for many people horseback rides are both a fun activity and a way to explore areas away from roads that they might not otherwise have. On the other hand, I am concerned about the impact of horses on trails as well as on water quality and vegetation where they are kept overnight. It has seemed to me that the negative impacts of horses have been especially noticeable at Glen Aulin. I note that alternative 2 calls for a separate bridle path, but isn't specific about where. In general, I think horses should be kept out of the meadows themselves.
12. There are many things about alternative 4 that I like. Restoring and protecting the ecological communities will also preserve much of what is special about Tuolumne Meadows. I believe that this can be done while still allowing visitors to enjoy and connect with the area by carefully managing use (as you suggest for the Preferred Alternative) and educating people about the sensitivity of the meadows. I prefer the idea of preserving historic expansiveness and vistas over the emphasis on structures in alternative 3. A contact station for Cathedral Lakes seems like a good idea.
13. In my comments last year, I pointed out that I think you need to look at ways to discourage private vehicle use both in getting to and once at Tuolumne Meadows.

I offered some ideas then. This requires looking beyond Tuolumne Meadows itself while planning. Creative ideas are called for. Could you require the Lodge concessioner to offer shuttle service from some other location outside the area? Could scenic pullouts be restricted to shuttles serving the T.M. area? Could you even require an extra fee for driving beyond some point on the Tioga Road? If the visitor center is to be relocated, could there be parking at the current site with frequent shuttles from there through the meadows?

I oppose allowing recreational kayaking on parts of the river because it will attract more vehicles.

The information presented about the Preferred Alternative seems as though it could encompass much of what I would like to see. My only real concern is that the emphasis on preserving historic buildings should not prevent the consolidation of services and removal of structures where that will help minimize human impact and restore ecological integrity. I like the focus on "traditional national park activities" within the guidelines I have presented above.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in determining the future of Tuolumne Meadows.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

L-76-CJ
9-16-08

September 15, 2008

Dear Yosemite folks,

I tried unsuccessfully to contact you at yose_planning@nps.gov, but apparently the website was never activated or monitored. Therefore I am faxing you my response.

I have been visiting Tuolumne Meadows since I was 10 (63 years ago), every year for the last 15 years or so, and it is still my favorite spot on earth. I would hate (HATE) to see it changed in any significant way, as for me it is about perfect. People do try to respect the pristine-ness of it while they enjoy what it has to offer. I have seen little trash on the trails and not as many shortcuts as many places suffer.

I prefer Alternative 5, therefore.

Improvements that I would like to see would be some additional restrooms in the campground. The main restroom at the end of loop B (where loop C begins), was made half as accommodating when it was modified for the handicapped. It went from a two-holer to a one-holer and is the only restroom for a very large population. If a new one can't be built at least put a few portables in the area. Fixing a few of the big potholes near the campground entrance would be nice, but their presence there is traditional, and people are used to dealing with them.

You could not improve on the rangers manning the kiosk at the campground entrance. They are so pleasant and accommodating. They should be commended.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond. See you next year.

[REDACTED]
Santa Rosa, CA., 95401
[REDACTED]

FAX to X 379
1294

L 77-Cg-
9-16-08

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 guidelines provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the manager's/actor's needs 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 this would mean in terms of specific facilities or specific locations.

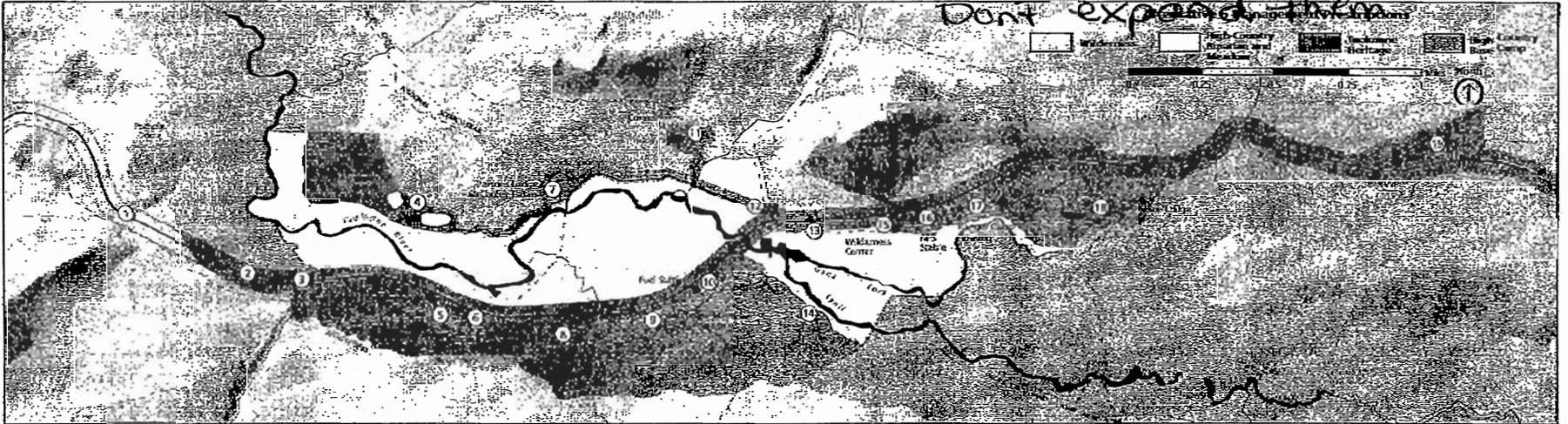
The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

- ① Upgrade sewer system & eliminate ponds from meadow.
- ② Upgrade sewer system should compliment surroundings and designed

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):

for highground water activity, spend good money on a good system.

- ③ move VC to Dog Lake parking install adequate RR rooms use existing VC for housing (NBS)
- ④ Leave Tim Lodge as is - but allow upgrades to amenities (showers, RR, pathways)
- ⑤ (Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: Leave concessions where they are. Don't expand them.



L-78-09
9-16-08

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

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

I dislike the concept of removal of existing facilities. These allow the old, infirm, young families - everyone including backpackers, the chance to experience Tuolumne.

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

Leave the building, including & especially the mess hall, ALONE! It makes a wonderful, rustic visitor center & reminder of the CCC era.

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? _____

Corridors & destinations? If you want people, go to the grill. If you don't, take a walk away from roads. Tuolumne has something for all ages & abilities.

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.

LOCATION:

RX TIME 09/15 '08 12:25

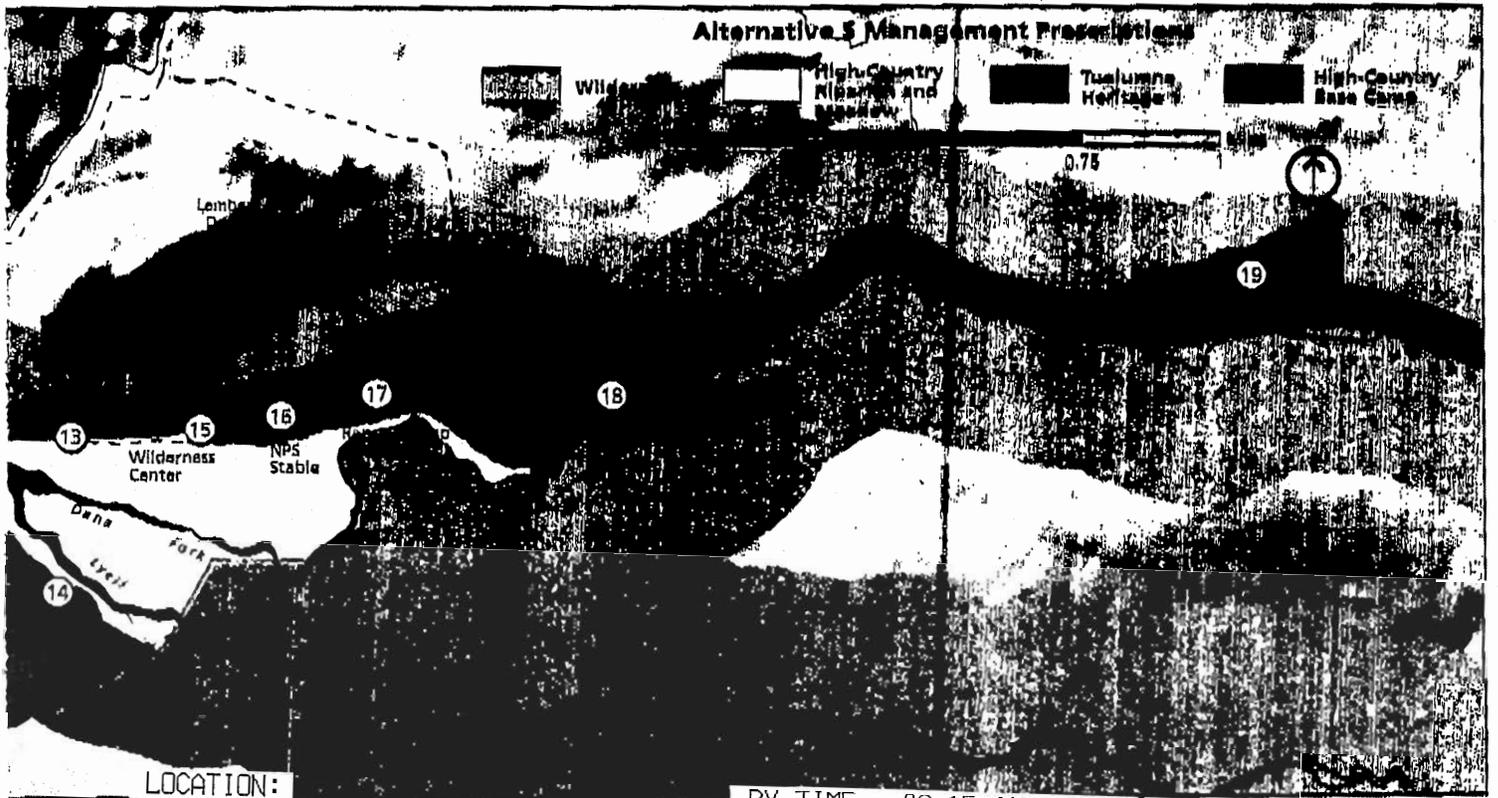
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

3. Consider allowing bicycle use of the road to Parsons Ledge. It already has vehicle traffic & bikes would make a good way to get out there. (and much easier on the knees!)

Multiple horizontal lines for additional comments.

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

[Redacted] Westminster, CA 92683



LOCATION:

RX TIME 09/15 '08 12:25

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

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

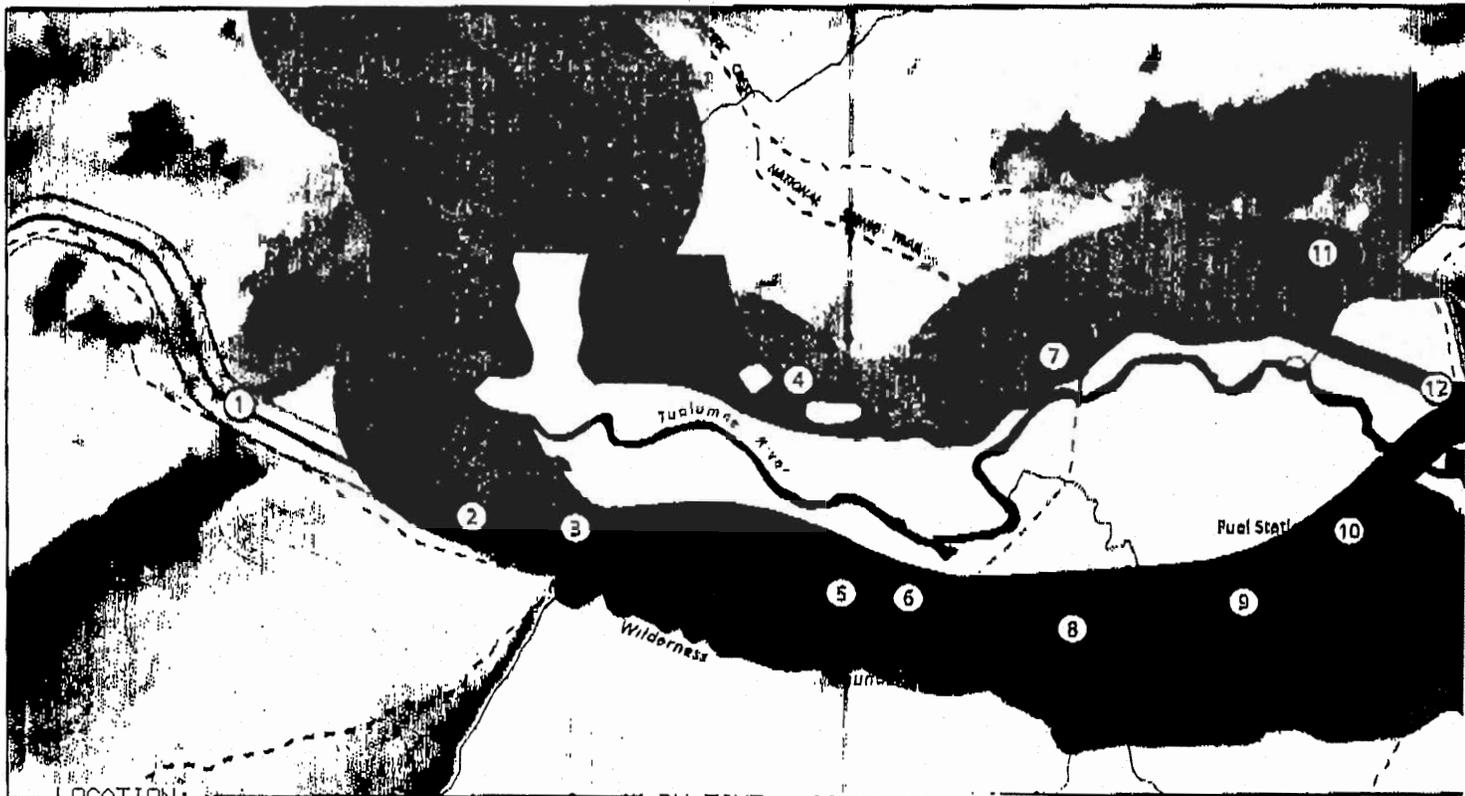
Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

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. Keep Tuolumne Meadows a place that welcomes people of all ages, abilities & inclinations. There is something here for everyone, and we must not lose that. Many may simply drive on the highway. Some will "car camp" while others will do some day hikes. A few will spend time in the backcountry. This is why the existing facilities work. Without them, some would never discover for themselves the magic of the place.

2. Unless there is some compelling technical reason, don't change the existing septic system. ^④ ^③ It's already in place - why spend money to change it if the action is unneeded.



LOCATION:

RX TIME 09/15 '08 12:25

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

DISLIKE THAT IT TAKES AWAY STOVE/GRILL & LODGE & PARKING.
MAKES IT HARDER TO CAMP HERE. WORST BACKPACKERS.

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

LIKE THAT IT KEEPS FACILITIES ACCESSIBLE. I AM DISABLED BUT
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CAMP HERE SINCE 1960.

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

LIKE THIS PLAN AS IT KEEPS MOST THINGS AS IS. THERE IS NO
NEED TO CHANGE THINGS THAT WORK FOR PUBLIC.

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

DO NOT LIKE MOVING THINGS TO CAMPGROUND LOOP D. THAT DOES NOT
ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.

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

PURPOSELY INTENSIVE MGMT & CONFINING VISITORS TO CORRIDORS TAKES
AWAY USE & CREATES A POLICE STATE IN THE PARK. THIS IS BAD!

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.

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:

Keeping opportunities for older & disabled visitors to enjoy the park is important. To come & camp & sit are important activities. To restrict visitors to being self sustained backpackers is elitist. Wilderness can be found 5 minutes from any road in the back country.

Parsons Lodge & McConley cabin are historic & cute — but so what? They can be moved down to the historic center near Warner.

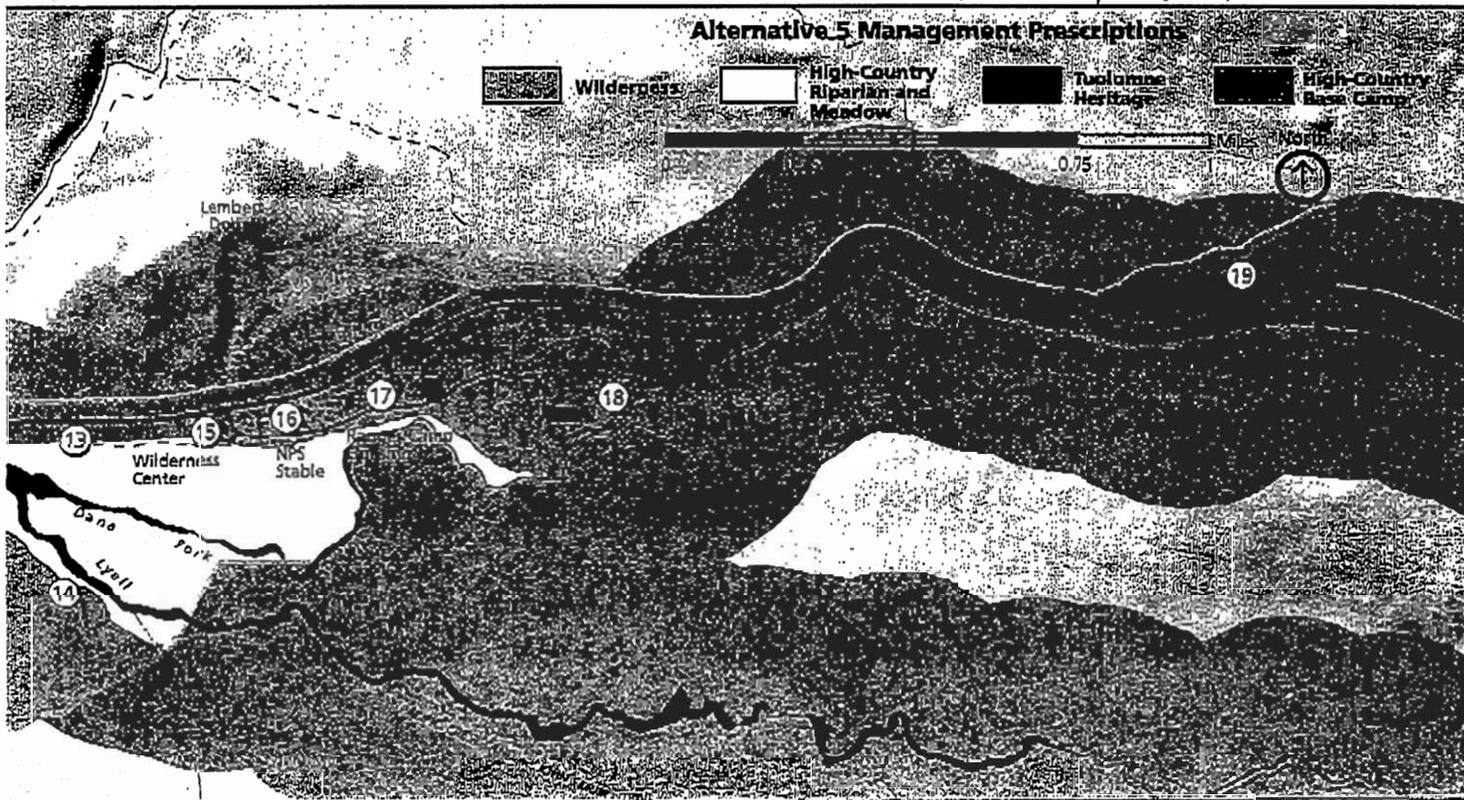


This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- ⑨ Keep campground as is & fix road.
- ⑩ Keep stove & grill. Extend hors grill is open.
- ①②③ Formalize parking along road.
- ⑬ No need to restore wagon road.
- ①②③ Provide more scenic pullouts.
- ① thru ⑩ ADD PICNIC SITES & TRASH CANS.

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

ORANGE, CA 92865



L80-09 9-16-08

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

dislike - removing A loop like - remove waste ponds

dislike - removing services like - remove shoulder parking

How do you retain concessioner stables while eliminating commercial rides?
Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

like - consolidating services + visitor center, retain campground capacity

dislike - retain wastewater ponds + road

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

like - retain most existing facilities - campground + services

dislike - removing pathole dome trail - people will hike there anyway
would you rather have 1 managed trail or 3 unmanaged trails?

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

like - rehabing meadow habitats - remove road to waste ponds

dislike - store + visitor center in campground - seems too congested

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

why doesn't alternative 5 have a detailed site plan? That is the preferred one!

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: _____

Maintain meadow habitats + vistas, while still allowing a reasonably large # of people to experience the area. Best done by hiding parking + facilities back in the trees. Eliminate social trails, but provide managed trails to access all popular areas. The population of California is expected to double in the next 35 years. Do we want to close the parks to all these people or do we want them to experience + love the natural environment? People generally don't care about what they don't know about.



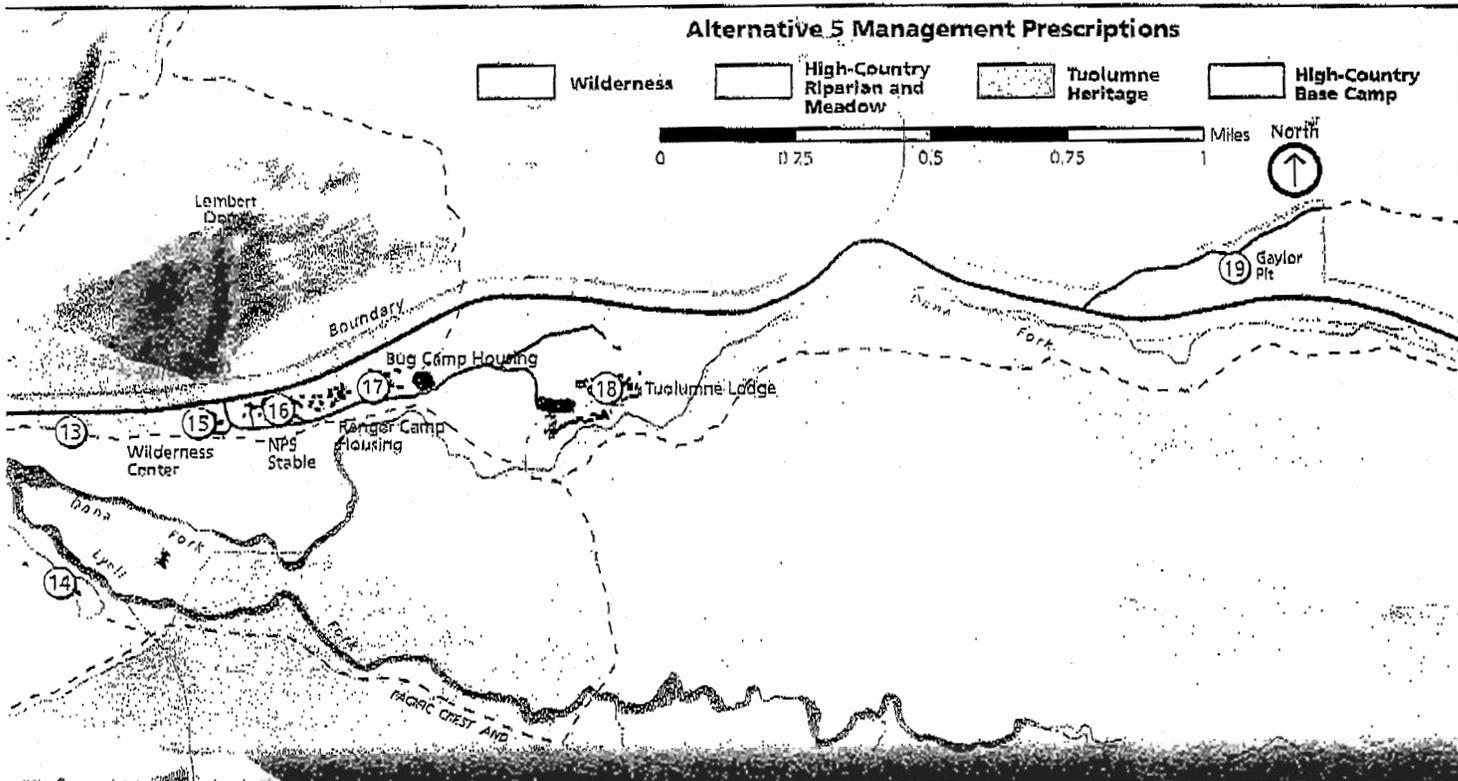
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- ① provide parking & trail to pothole dome
- ② remove shoulder parking
- ③ remove meadow side parking
- ④ remove waste water ponds, Cost?
- ⑤ Provide Cathedral parking, relocate visitor center
- ⑥ New water treat
- ⑦ Preserve Cabin & lodge
- ⑧ Provide picnic area
- ⑨ retain campground
- ⑩ consolidate vist center, store, school - 1 stop shopping
- ~~11~~ ⑪ are eyesore from lembert dome - but I don't know where to move it to,
- ⑫ more bike friendly area would be nice
- ⑬ Keep campground spaces. I'm not that familiar with 15-19. Maybe wilderness center & Ranger sta should be consolidated w/ visitor center? Consolidate stables? Consolidate housing?

Although probably not part of this plan - set more fires in lodgepole thickets in surrounding area - too many trees.

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

Pinecrest CA 95364



C81-cq 9-16-08

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

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

14 removal of A loop, #10 Removal of store, grill Mtn shop
#18 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? dislike

#14 Relocation of A-loop campsites & granite historical toilets
#10 love shower idea. Bike & hike trails between everything

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

#14 Keep A-loop on Lyle Fork. Keep old historic granite
bathrooms as flush toilets! #10 keep mtn guide housing
close to their kitchen.

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

Like keeping A-loop on the Lyle Fork. - Keep historic
granite bathroom flushing #10 Add showers.

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

Bike-hike trails from Tuolumne Lodge to Pothole dome
via camp ground, grill, V.C. gas, store. Keep A-Loop.

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 20-81 of the

workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

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

- #14 A-Loop campground alive along with the old historic granite bathroom toilets flushing, is a must safe.
- #13 A-bike-hike trail from Tuolumne Lodge, Campground, ^{#10} new showers @ Grill-Gas-store, all the way to Pothole Dome.
- #1 Parking off highway in new hidden parking lots.
- #2 #18 Retain Tuolumne Lodge. #17 Retain
- #7 Preserve Parsons Lodge. #8 Provide 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):

#13 Provide hike/bike trails on Tioga Road & Great Sierra Wagon Road #47 & #6 Keep it ~~smi~~ simple. #5 Provide off Road parking for Cathedral Lakes #6 Kiss keep it ~~smi~~ simple.

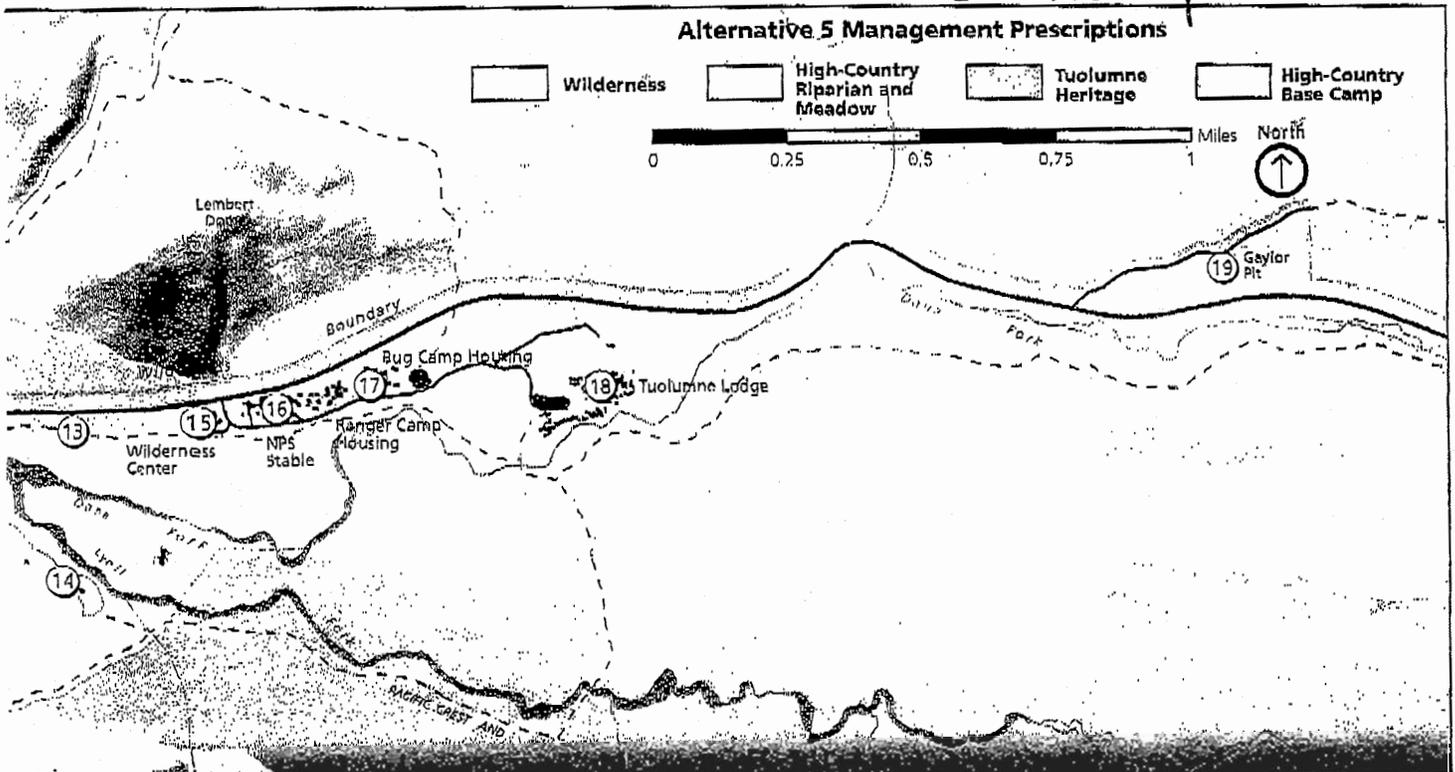
Please dont change A-loop, Lets keep existing ~~structures~~ ~~str~~ buildings there. Yes to hidden parking, bike, hike trails & Showers.

Thank you,

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

[Redacted] 95223

Beaver Valley



LSO eg
9/16-05

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

FEWER PEOPLE WOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE AREA

(AREA WITHIN A DAY HIKE OF T.M.) LOSS OF T.M. LODGE WOULD IMPACT NEARBY CAMPGROUNDS + CREATE MORE "DAY COMMUTERS".

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

TOO MANY PATHS + PICNIC AREAS WOULD BE PROVIDED

FOR TOO MANY PEOPLE IN TOO SMALL AN AREA. (THERE IS A LOT MORE TO ENJOY IN "THE GREATER T.M. AREA" THAN JUST THE "HIGH COUNTRY EXPERIENCE ZONE" IN BLUE).

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

PRESERVES AN EXPERIENCE THAT MANY OF US

HAVE COME TO LOVE OVER MANY YEARS.

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

PRESERVING/RESTORING MEADOWS/WETLANDS IS GOOD. MOVING EXISTING FACILITIES, E.G. T.M. LODGE DINING HALL/HOUSING, IS TOO MUCH DESTRUCTION WITH TOO LITTLE GAIN.

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

I FAVOR ALTERNATIVE 5 (PREFERRED). IT STRIKES A GOOD

BALANCE BETWEEN PRESERVATION + ACCESS.

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.

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

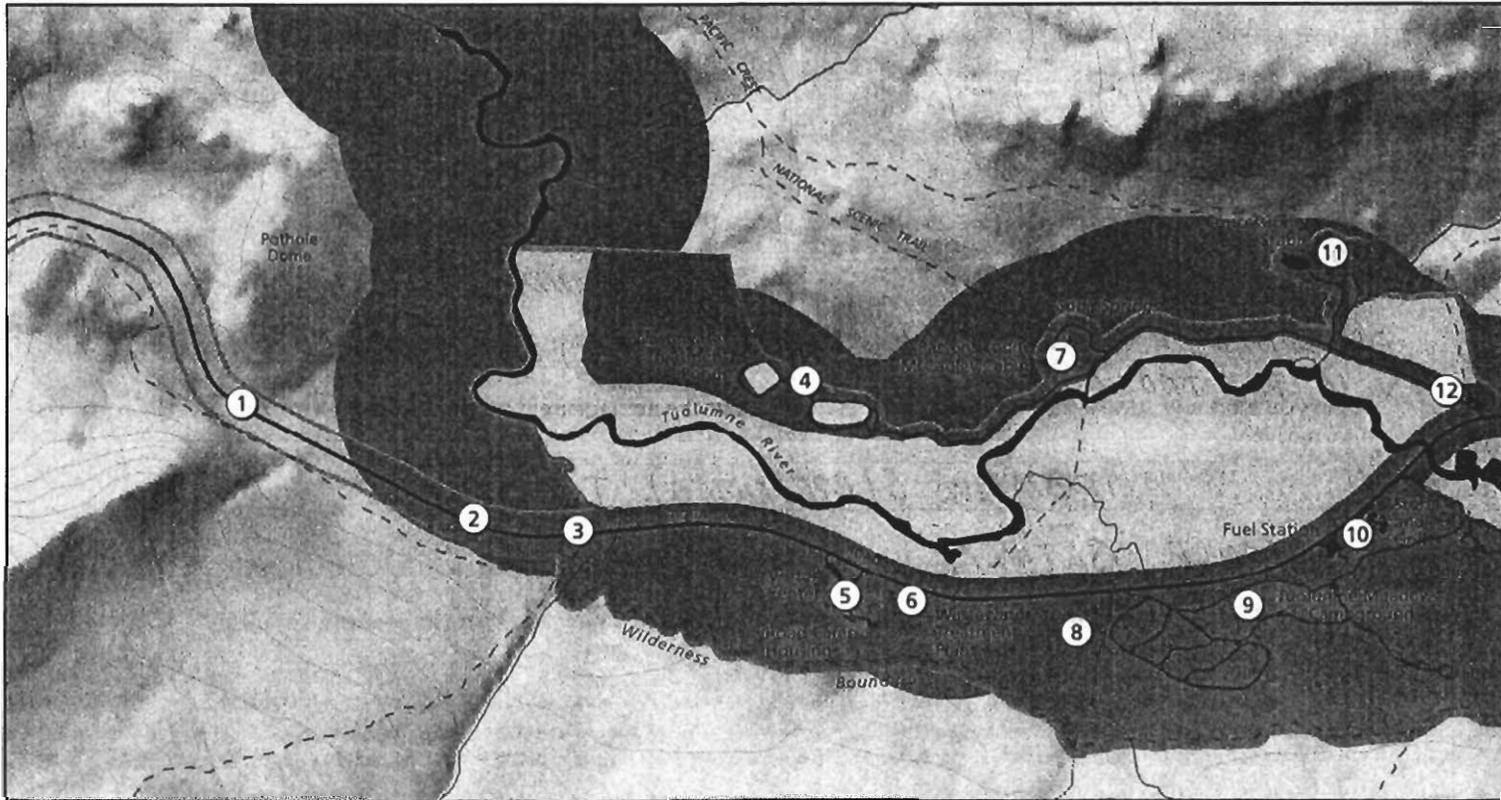
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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: _____

- Ⓐ PRE SERVE/MAINTAIN THE HISTORIC BUILT ENVIRONMENT. MAKE CHANGES ONLY FOR THE MOST EGREGIOUS PROBLEMS.
- Ⓑ REDUCE IMPACTS OF HUMAN USE ON MEADOW/RIPARIAN AREAS.
- Ⓒ RESTORE SEVERELY DAMAGED ECOLOGICAL AREAS.
- Ⓓ ROADSIDE PARKING IN AREAS ②+③ IS A DISGRACE. CREATE REAL/GRAVEL PARKING LOT(S), POSSIBLY IN FOREST SOUTH OF ROAD IN AREA ②+③.
- Ⓔ UPGRADE WASTEWATER TREATMENT AS NEEDED.
- Ⓕ REFRAIN FROM ~~RE~~ MOVING/SHUFFLING BUILT FACILITIES, NPS + CONCESSIONAIRE, IN THE NAME OF "IMPROVED EFFICIENCY". THE ACTS OF "PRESERVING" + "IMPROVING" ARE CONTRADICTORY.

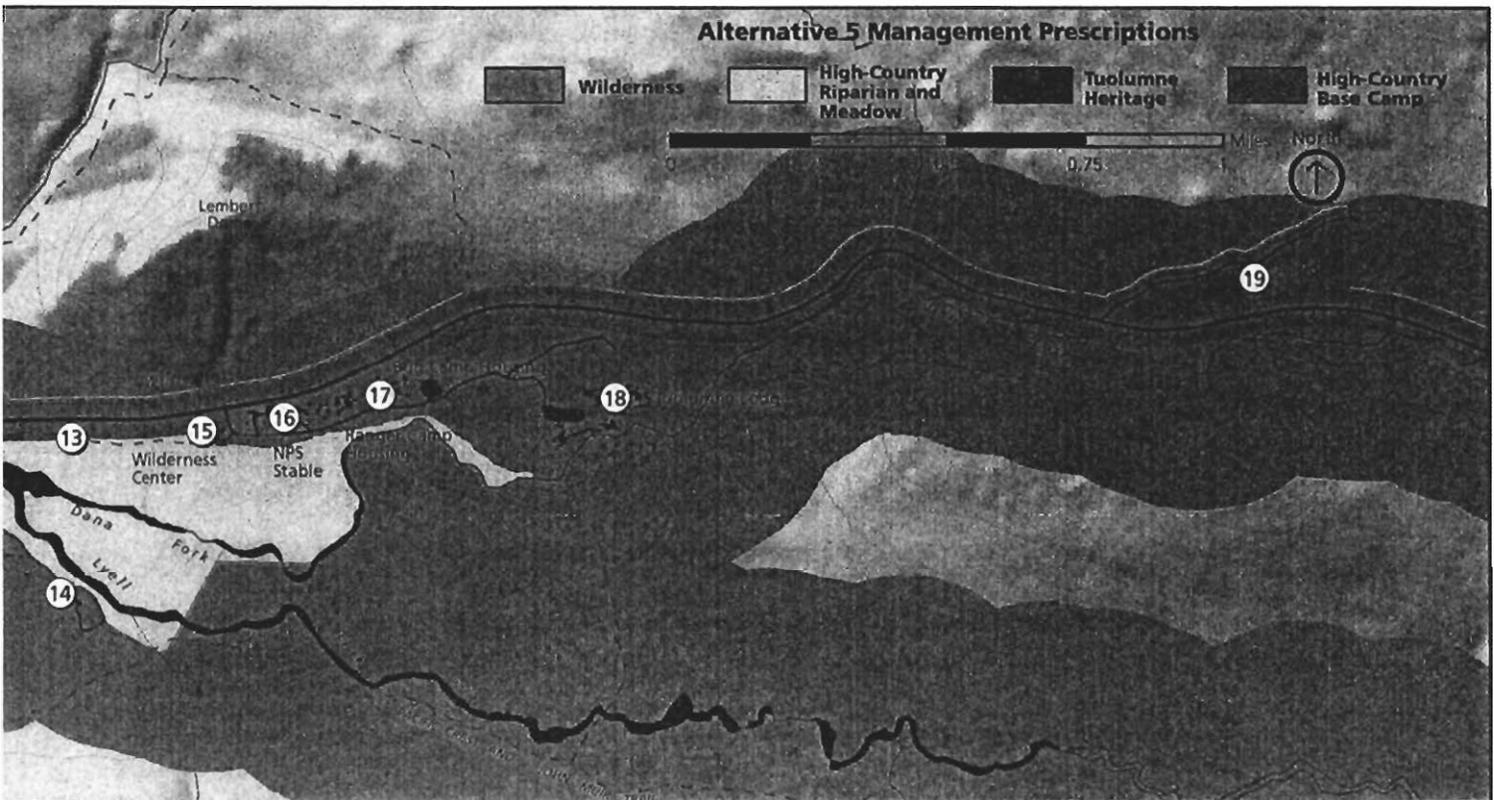


This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- ① PROVIDE PARKING + ACCESS TRAIL FOR POT HOLE DOME.
- ②^③ REMOVE SHOULDER PARKING + PROVIDE A "REAL" PARKING AREA FOR CATHEDRAL LAKES.
- ④⑥ DO WHAT IT TAKES TO MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY; TERTIARY TREATMENT IF NEEDED.
- ⑤⑦⑨⑩ PRESERVE/MAINTAIN.
- ⑪ ELIMINATE TRAIL RIDES; THEY CAUSE TOO MUCH IMPACT + BENEFIT TOO FEW PEOPLE.
- ⑰ PRESERVE/MAINTAIN.
- ⑱ PRESERVE/MAINTAIN.

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

BEAR VALLEY, CA 95223



L83-CF
9-23-08

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

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

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?

Plan 5 is a good solution

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.

Your Comments Are Important!

L84-C9-
9-23-08

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

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? We think the Tuolumne Lodge should be removed. (Camping only.) Also, it's good to eliminate commercial trail rides!

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? In order to cut down on car use, a small store + SHOWERS should be located within walking distance of the campground. We dislike the fact that the ugly crowded lodge is not removed in the 2nd alternative.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Development + numbers of visitors in accommodations w/ high impact needs to be reduced.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Same as #3 above.

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

Our preferred alternative is #1 (wilderness). We also support the alternative #2. We think there should be a small store and SHOWERS for campground visitors.

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.

L85-CJ
9-23-08

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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: Removal of stove, grill, fuel station, Tuolumne Lodge facilities

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

LIKE: The idea of greater diversity for day use such as connecting facilities along Tioga Road and Great Sierra Wagon Road, minimize user conflicts along trails.

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

LIKE: Preserving what is there. I like this plan the most. ~~the~~ Some of the current housing should be moved out to Gaylor Pit

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

DISLIKE: Removal of parking, picnic area, and comfort station at Lambert Dome. Visitors need these facilities to enjoy park. DO NOT move grill, etc to CPGR D Loop.

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.

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

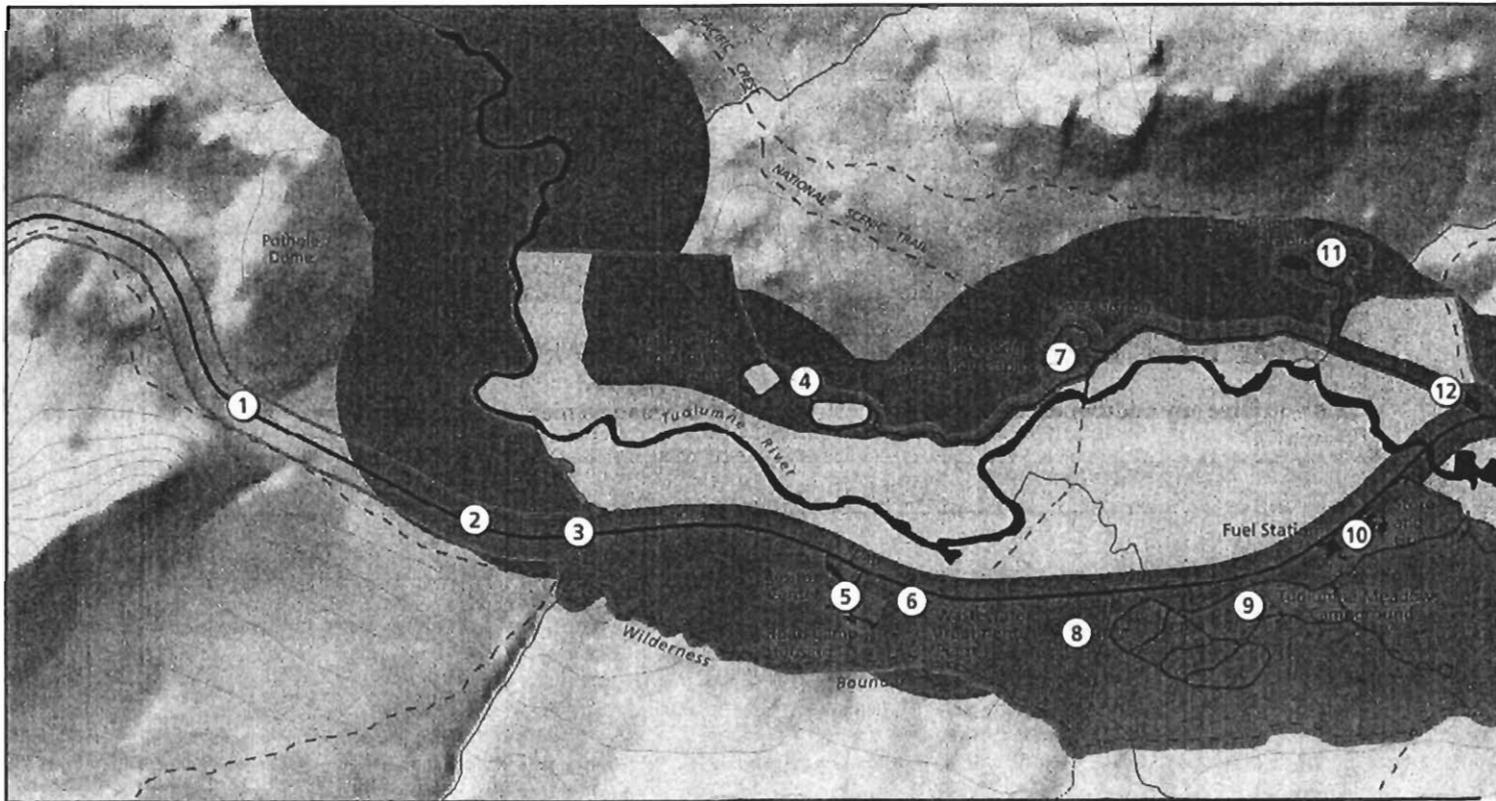
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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: _____

I believe the current visitor amenities are part of the enjoyment of visiting the area. All historical structures should be preserved. The campgrounds should remain as they are. I see no problem with Loop A as it is. The grill & store should be maintained. Even pass thru backpackers stop at the grill for a change of meat. People come to Tuolumne to experience the wilderness but they still need some of the creature comforts (such as grill, store, adequate parking) to make the experience more enjoyable.



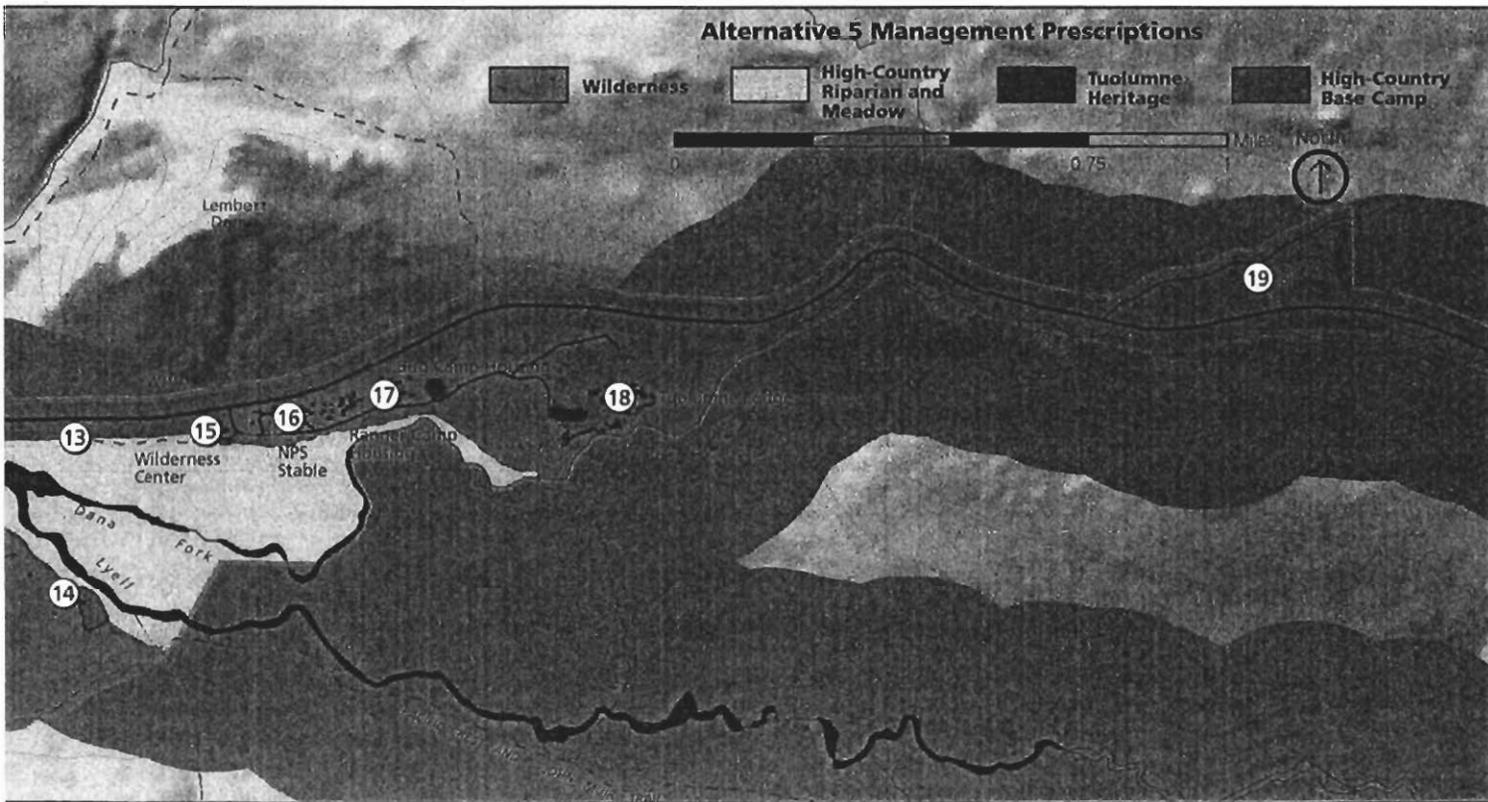
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

Rather than be real specific, I would say Alternative 5 plan sounds good to me with focus on Alternative 3.

At ① - I don't see anything bad about informal parking. It gives visitors an opportunity to check out and enjoy some areas they wouldn't normally have access to. Also true of ② and ③

I am not in favor of permitting kayaking along the river. As I sit along the river bank or on a rock, having a bunch of paddlers go by would detract from my serene enjoyment.

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



L 86-Cg- 9-23-08

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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 lumber some parking - if all parking consolid. - would be too big.
(Dislike) → we want to keep Glen Aulin & Tuolumne Lodges at current capacity.

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

(like) → consolidation of visitor facilities & general fix up.
(dislike) → biking & kayaking in meadow

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

(like) → interpretive trail (only) & honor historical heritage.
(dislike) being forced to take guided hikes, tours, etc.

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

(dislike) hikes along historic trail
(like) → relocate tuolumne lodge if necessary away from river
→ consolidation - fix up

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

We support the intent expressed in Alt. 5 with the following comments (Next page)

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.

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

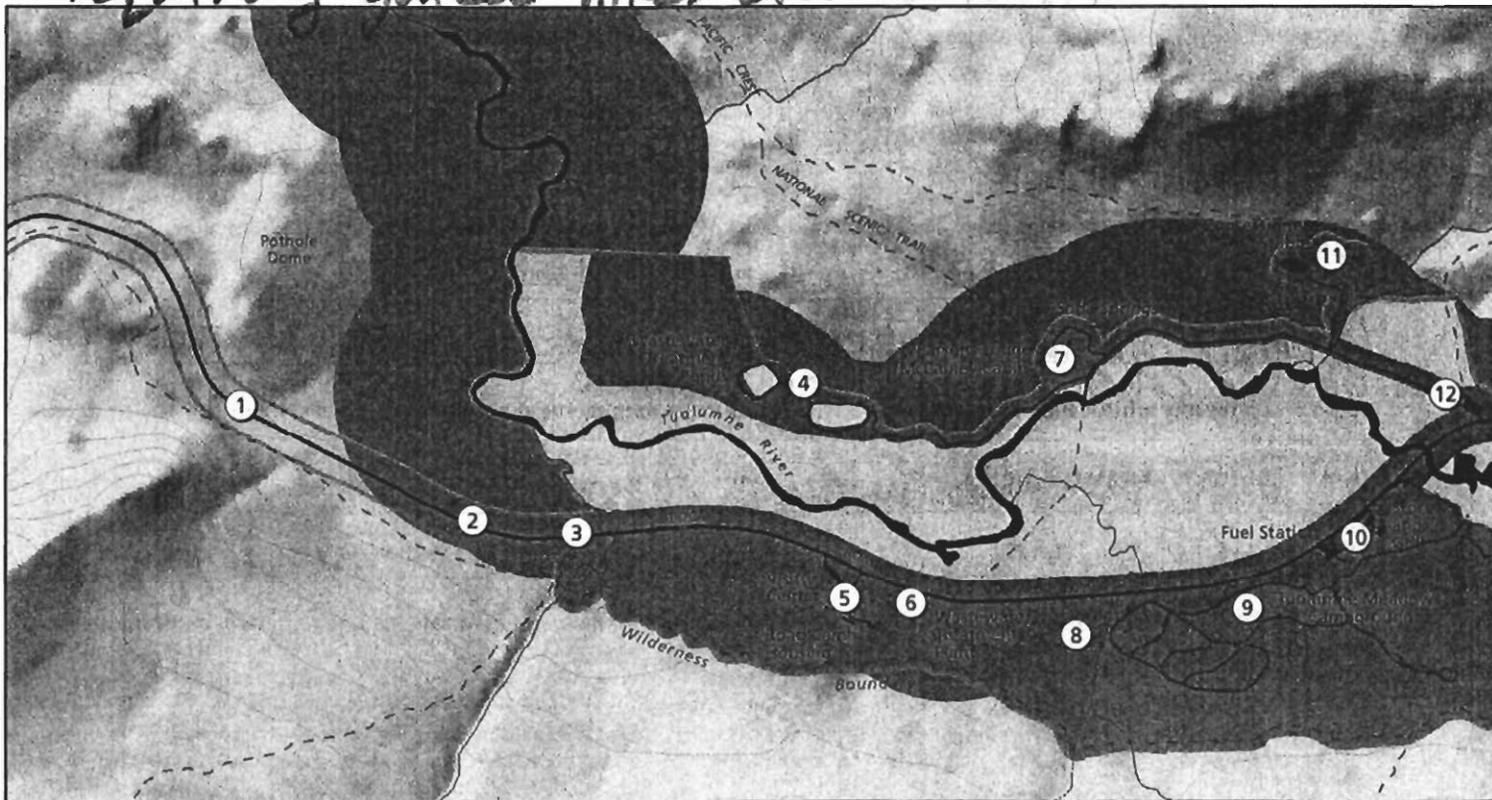
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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: → & Tuolumne Lodge

- ① keep high sierra camps even if need to relocate for environmental reasons.
- ② support some consolidation - with extra care not to create massive parking & over built environment. - better → smaller scale parking & historic themed structures shielded from highway -
- ③ keep visitor capacity at approx. present level
- ④ do not restrict freedom to experience wilderness as individuals (assuming rules are respected) by requiring guided hikes etc. We suggest



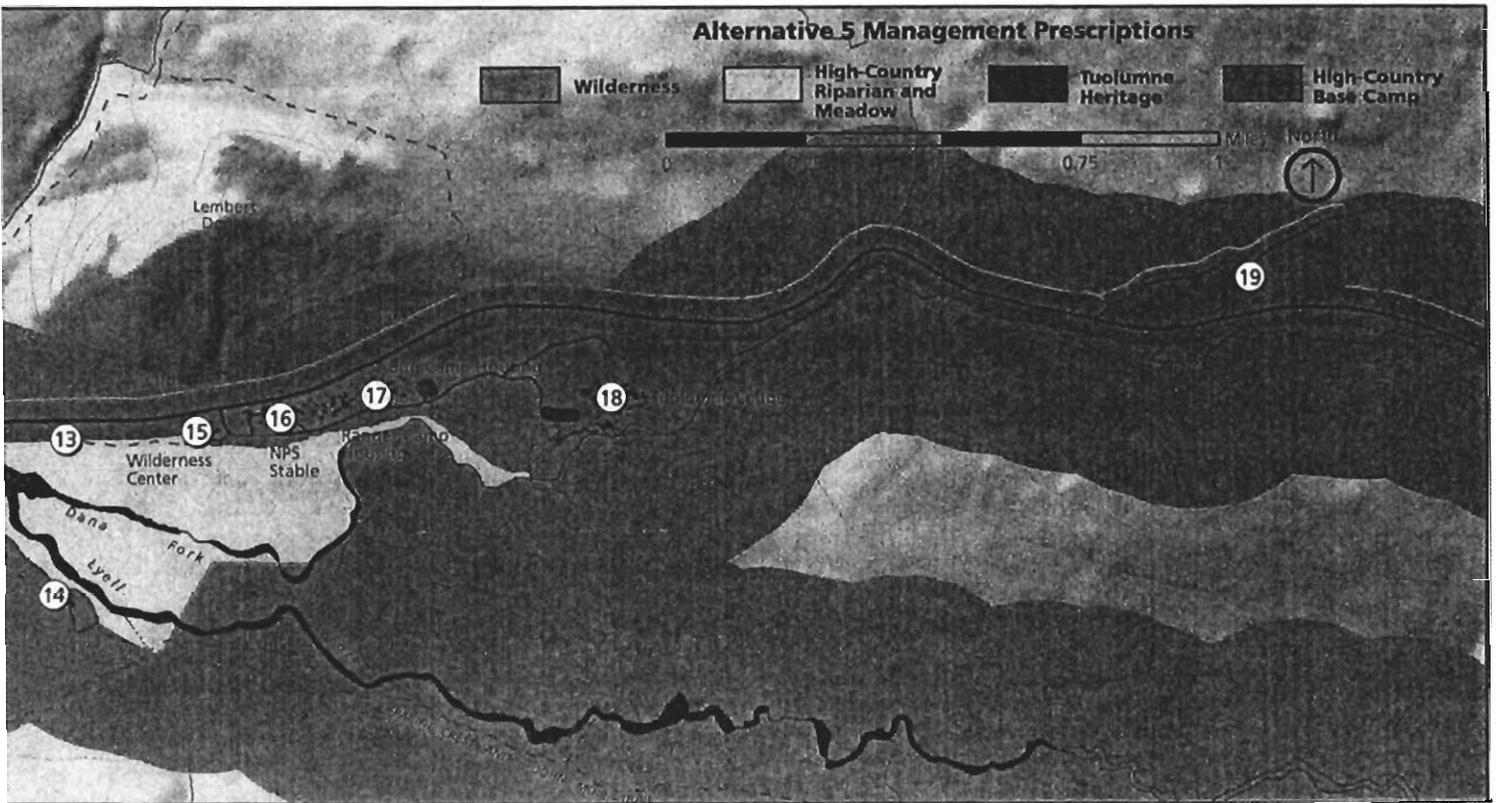
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

⑤ we don't believe bikes, kayaks, canoes can be accommodated without overpowering the natural solitude & wilderness experience unique to Tuolumne.

⑥ Keep it "green" - it is a perfect opportunity for all visitors to experience & practice, simple, environmentally correct practices (such as composting toilets, tent structures, solar energy, simple food, & minimal commercialization). This includes to lodge & camps. All

[REDACTED]
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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



L 87-CF
9-23-08

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158

September 8, 2008

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

Dear Superintendent,

I have visited Yosemite National Park countless times over my lifetime and consider it a precious national treasure. Therefore, I am writing in order to comment on Yosemite's 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook. I'm very concerned about the destructive impacts of commercial activities coming from Tuolumne Meadows and elsewhere near the Tuolumne River corridor.

Let me make it very clear that I object to (and am offended by) Alternative 5, which you call the "Preferred Alternative." You call it "Honor the traditions of the Tuolumne while looking to the future." HA! What this really means is you want to continue business as usual by condoning the commercialism and polluting activities of the past, while ignoring your duty to protect.

This alternative would continue the polluting and environmentally destructive horse rides, High Sierra Camps, and other harmful activities, and justify them simply by stating they are part of our "heritage." That is a flimsy argument. Our National Parks must do better to protect the beauty and ecosystems of 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 ramshackle 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 includes the removal of nearly all of the facilities at Tuolumne Meadows, like gas stations and food service. That is ridiculous and radical.

It is plainly obvious that Alternative 1 will not be seriously considered by the NPS. Lumping the fate of the HSCs and commercial horse rides with such a radical alternative is just a thinly veiled attempt to make it look as if the NPS has done their job and "considered" their removal. Their removal should be included in Alternative 4, which purportedly aims to "Recover Healthy Ecological Conditions in Disturbed Meadow and Riparian Areas." This is not acceptable. The HSCs ought to be removed. and their removal must be included in more than one 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.



South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158

L88-CJ
9-23-08

9-7-2008

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.

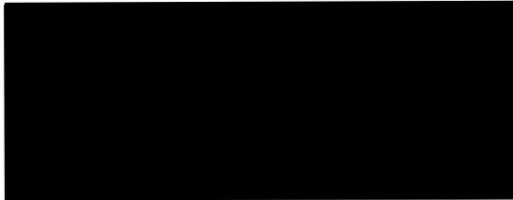
The Workbook does not present a range of reasonable alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Clearly, the ugly and polluting "High Sierra Camps" (HSCs) at Glen Aulin, Tuolumne Meadows, and Vogelsang should be closed, and the sites restored. But removal of the HSCs (and 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.



Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

LJA-cj
9-23-08

Comments on the Management Plan for Tuolumne Meadows

Comments relevant to alternative 1.

This alternative is far too restrictive. It will exclude a large number of very dedicated people from participating in the high country experience. Perhaps for the young and active this would serve as a short term base camp. However with up to 90 % of the park in true wilderness it would be short sighted to set more areas into wilderness. Glen Aulin should never be closed. If there are specific problems with waste disposal or water withdrawal then these problems should be remedied on site. If all support services store, gas station, sport shop were to be removed, then it would require many people to continually drive outside to obtain supplies, putting increased traffic on the road. This would be particularly foolish at this time. A resounding NO! to alternative 1..

Comments relevant to alternative 2.

Although there are a few good ideas here this is certainly not a viable alternative. First, we need to establish a rule that

No floating devices be allowed on the river!!

Some increase in interpretive signing needs to be installed to explain better about the fragile meadow habitat. This alternative lacks the meadow restoration features. This is an unacceptable alternative.

Comments relevant to alternative 3.

This lacks the meadow restoration features, and seems to be the status quo. I think some things need to be changed so this is an unacceptable alternative.

Comments relevant to alternative 4.

This is a great alternative but many of these features are included in the preferred alternative so my preference is alternative five (Preferred)

Comments relevant to Preferred alternative 5.

I think the blend of management prescriptions outlined in this alternative best represents a meaningful and improved management plan that will provide for restoration opportunities as well as preserving appropriate use opportunities for the public. I like the restoration and scientific goals of Alternative 4 and presume these are incorporated in the preferred alternative. Specific comments regarding facilities:

Don't fix it if it isn't broken! I noticed in alternative 4 there was a lot of repositioning of facilities. Unless the situation at present is causing some environmental degradation, most repositioning should probably not take place. The following comments pertain to

several of the suggested reconfigurations.

a) McCaully cabin and Parsons lodge- By all means leave these intact just as they are today.

b) Moving the settling ponds adjacent to the treatment plant - This may be desirable in the future to avoid piping primary treated water across the meadow to the ponds. However, until much improved treatment technology exists this is probably not advisable at present. Because we are not water treatment engineers, this question is best left to professionals. Current technology may make a very unsightly installation at the treatment plant, very little space is available there as it lies in a creek drainage.

c) Consolidating the NPS and concessionaire stables - yes it seems like a reasonable thing to do - go for it!.

d) Consolidating the visitors center, wilderness center and ranger station- doesn't seem to be a high priority but may make more concentrated information source for visitors. Having worked as volunteer at the visitors center, I don't perceive a great problem with the current location of these facilities. Those wanting to obtain permits from the wilderness center seem to find the place easily enough. More parking needs to be provided at the wilderness center.

e) Moving the store, grill, and sport shop. Probably not unless there is a problem with environmental damage at the present location. Some more parking at the store is needed. Loop D in the campground is adjacent to Elizabeth creek and installation of the store here would impact the creek, this is not a good location for the store.

f) Eliminating the gas station - unless there are specific environmental problems with the current public station it should be retained. If only NPS gas supply is available there would be a lot more traffic on Tioga road by employees and visitors to obtain gas at either Leevining or Crane flat. This seems to be counterproductive to reducing traffic, and waste scarce petroleum. If NPS gas needs to be brought into TM then why not also transport public gas?

g) Employee housing - again if there are no problems with the current housing facilities don't fix something that isn't broken. Moving the employee housing at the TM Lodge is desirable to take them out of the riparian wetland area. If there are environmental problems with the current location of the TM Lodge dining room, it should be moved away from the river. However, if there are no known environmental

problems it should be left at its current site. If it is desirable to consolidate housing do so at the current ranger housing area, not at the gravel pit.

The following suggestions are my list of definitely needed improvements and should be pursued before any others.

h) Campgrounds - retain the current number of spaces, reconfigure or relocate some of the sites in A- loop to remove them from the riparian area of the river. Leave the roads primitive. The first task should be to upgrade the restrooms in the campground to provide best technology toilets. The old toilets often require at least 2 and sometime 4 flushes to clear the bowl. This is a tremendous waste of scarce water and puts burden on the water treatment facilities.

i) Cathedral lakes trailhead- Provide appropriate parking area off roadway, a visitor contact station, and small picnic area. Parking lot should not be bulldozed off by removing trees etc. Put parking dispersed among the natural features and use permeable pavers.

j) Remove informal parking along Tioga road and restore natural conditions.

k) Expand parking in the Pothole dome area and remove informal parking there. Restore meadow by eliminating cross meadow paths. Steer hikers to approved trail that goes around base of road and dome. Provide better interpretation to assure folks do not cross meadow.

l) Provide parking near the trail across meadow from visitor center to Parsons lodge (the old Tioga Roadbed). Parking could be placed on the south side of the road to avoid intruding into the meadow. Many short term visitors use this trail as their one Tuolumne Meadows experience. If an ADA access is required (I'm neutral on the need for one), use permeable pavers on this cross meadow trail (old tioga roadbed) out to the bridge below Parsons lodge.

m) Improve parking and picnic area at Lembert Dome. Parking here seems to be full all the time, and many drive through visitors are looking for a picnic area other than the store parking lot. Expand parking at Dog Lake Parking lot.

L 90-CG-9-24-08

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Least favorite alt. Reduces visitor access and services by an unnecessary level. Effectively destroys the backcountry "High Sierra Loop" experience.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I do not care for many of the relocations, including the stables. Some of the new services and "opportunities" do not seem needed.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Favorite alt. Goal of preserving the historic aspects of the area is good. It is also good that the visitor services do not seem to be greatly altered.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Goal of preserving and restoring the meadowlands is good. However, care should be taken to not place too many restrictions on visitors. Some of the relocations also do not seem needed.

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

I enjoy the existing "Tuolumne experience," and the conceptual preferred alt does not seem too bad. See my comments for alt 4.

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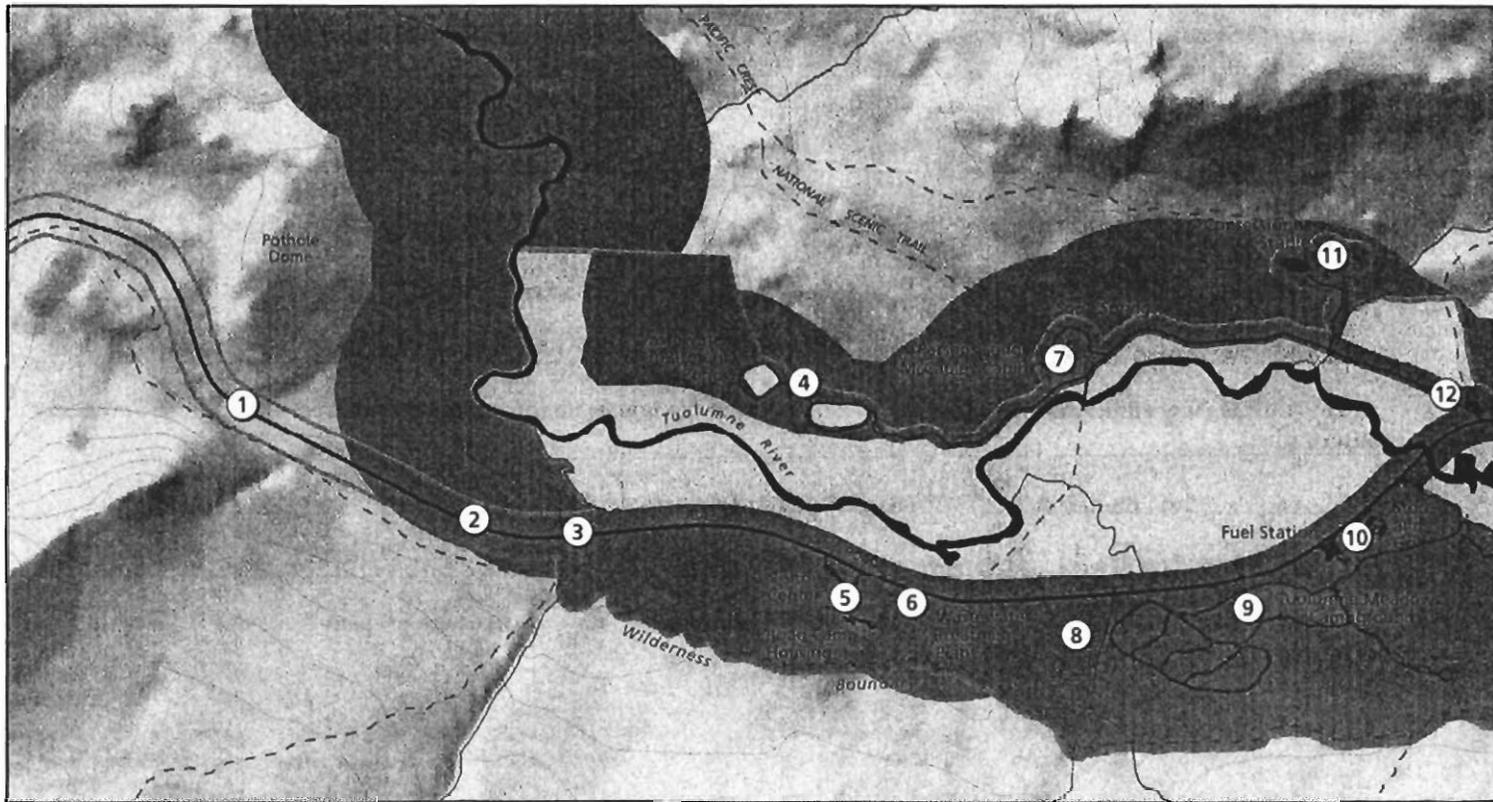
What might Tuolumne Meadows look like under alternative 5 (preferred)?

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: A preferred alt. for Tuolumne Meadows would "preserve the traditional" experience. The visitor services as they are seem to serve the area and the travelers well. I would not recommend relocating and combining the services together; this might create a busy and crowded center that seems out of place in the more peaceful settings. The concept of preserving the historic and cultural aspects of the area (alt. 3) is a good one, and should be pursued. Preserving the meadowlands (alt. 4) is also a good goal, though it would be preferable to not place too many restrictions on visitors that prevent them from enjoying the more peaceful and quiet parts of the area. Fencing off the whole area would hurt the setting.



L91-09 - 9-24-08

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

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

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

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

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

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

I've looked over all plans & like the alternatives

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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L97-cg-a-24-08

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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? _____

positive: restore natural ecosystem

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

negative: impact negatively natural ecosystem

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

positive: within context of natural ecosystem, reinforce cultural heritage. Note: cultural practices need to be examined to determine if detrimental to environment

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

positive restore natural ecosystem

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

Primary focus should be to restore ecosystem (e.g. remove fish + restore frog population). Then, focus can be on cultural significance

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

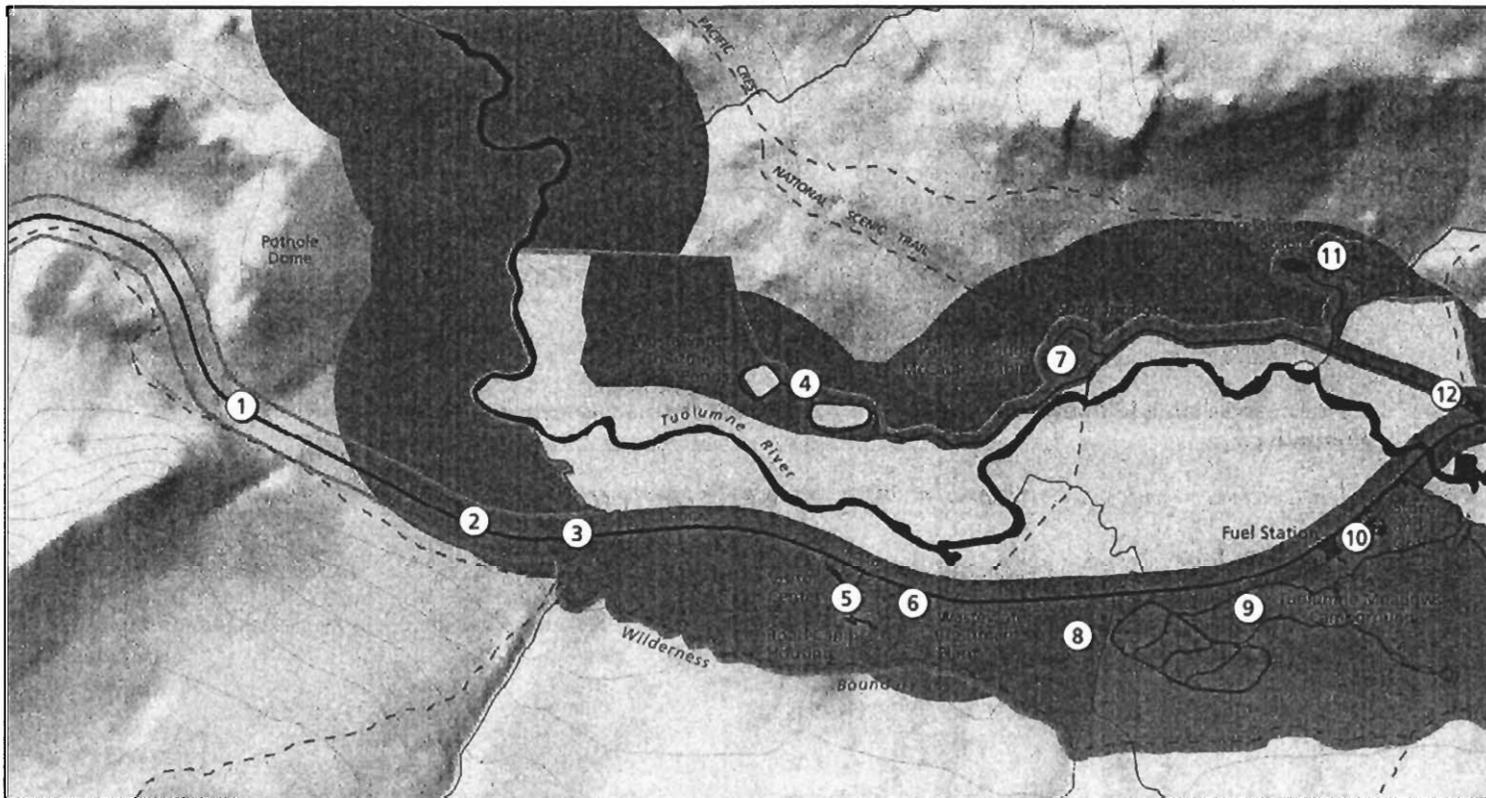
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Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see 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: _____

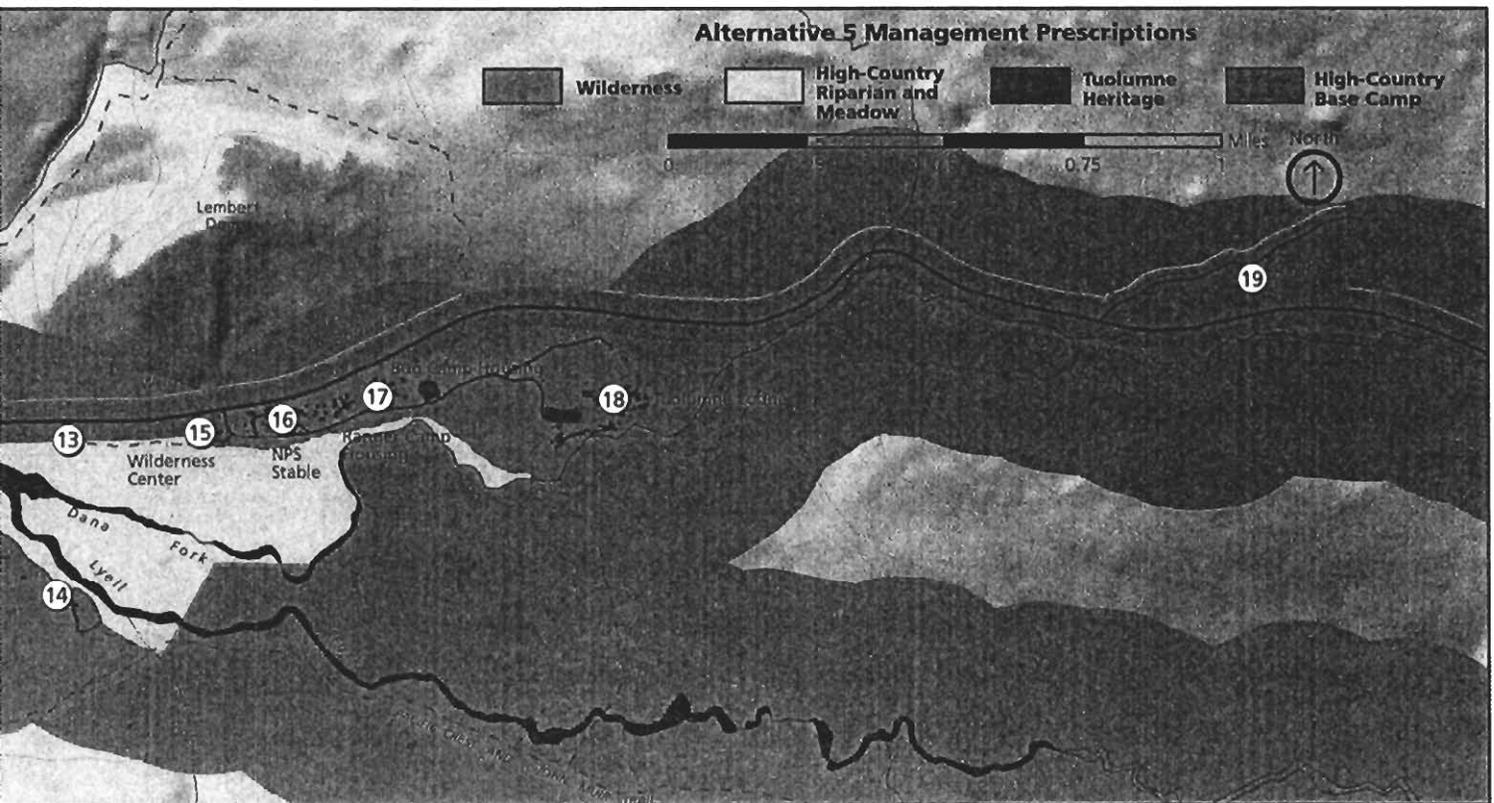
- ① Restore natural ecosystem. This needs to be the primary focus initially. E.g. Restore frog population to then restore proper food chain cycle = frogs → pine martens etc. This is a long term endeavour
- ② Restore cultural heritage in context of ① above
- ③ Consider commercialisation of river in context of ① above



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

1. Remove camping too close to river according to established guidelines
2. No changes to river to increase commercialization
3. Remove trout in river
4. Continue w/ research on sustainability of ecosystem.

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



L93-cq -
9-24-08

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

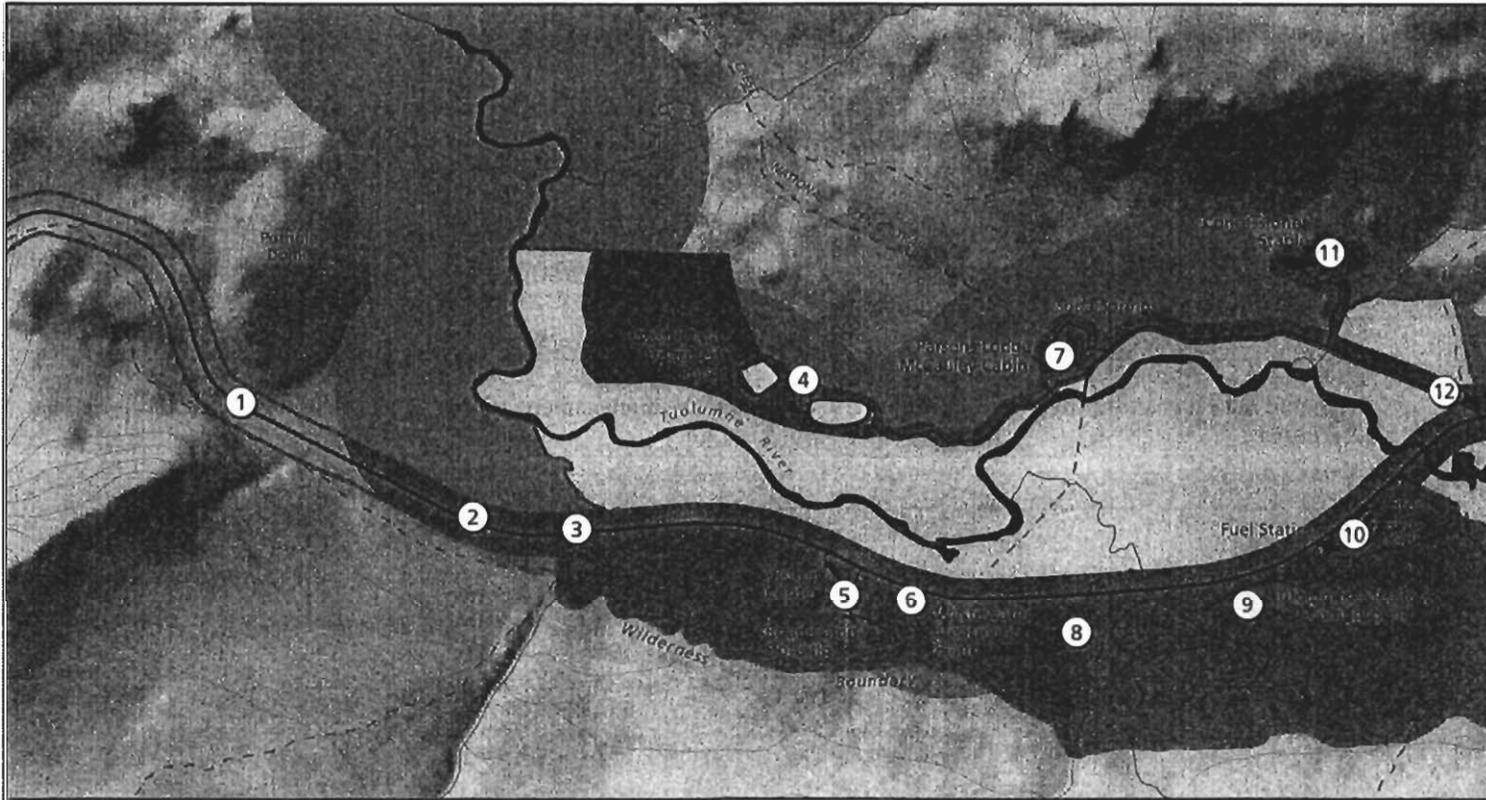
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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. ~~PRE~~ PRESERVE THE IMPORTANT NATURAL FEATURES
2. ALLOW VISITORS TO LEARN ABOUT NATURE
3. KEEP COSTS REASONABLE



Your Comments Are Important!

L94-cg-
9-24-08

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

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

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? The vast majority of the park provides solitude & wilderness. Removing lodging & food service makes it difficult or impossible for many people to experience T.M. Also if staff move to LeeVining commuting increases

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 kayaking, as long as no roads are added for access. I favor keeping Glen Aulin open. I would prefer less stock use - smell & pollution & trail damage. Visitor services for a large cross-section of

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook): What do you like or dislike most about this concept? The population
Improved parking is good, including satellite parking. As well as extending shuttle service, making it more frequent would likely increase usage. Have dedicated backpack parking at more trail heads.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Consolidating services at a few locations seems good. Improve & redesign the campground. Don't reduce # of campsites. More water spigots.

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

Install boardwalks or improved paths to protect meadows & discourage social trails. Provide interpretive material to explain protected areas.

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)?

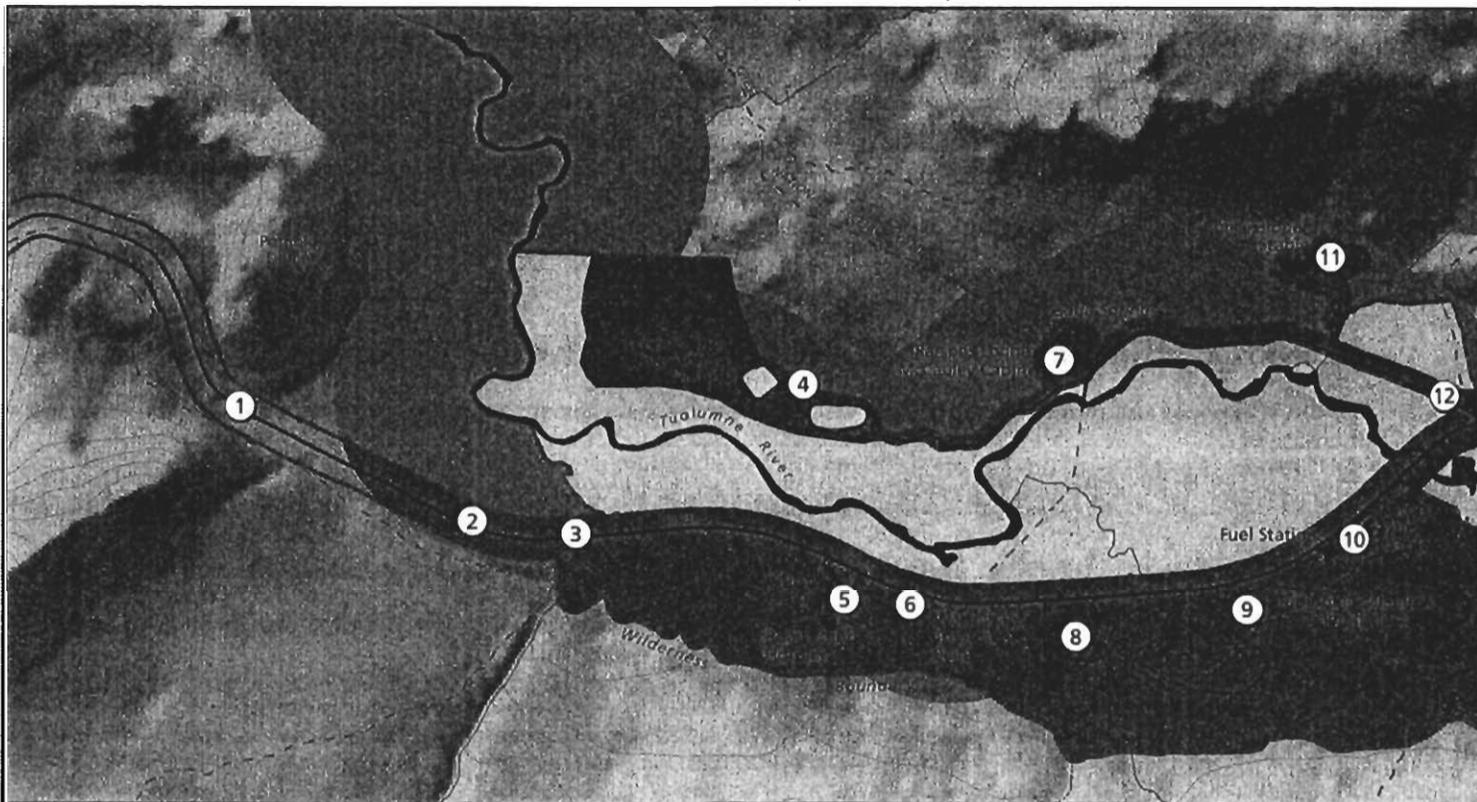
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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: _____

Balance the environmental needs of the area with the needs and abilities of a broad cross-section of users. The strong healthy outdoors folk are already served by the large part of the park that is accessible only by foot. Older or disabled people, families with small children, and "tenderfeet" also need access to the area so that they can fully appreciate it. Thus - easy, convenient shuttles, groceries & food service, overnight lodging, a web of trails in meadows, to domes, along the river.
* use solar panels for electricity where possible



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):

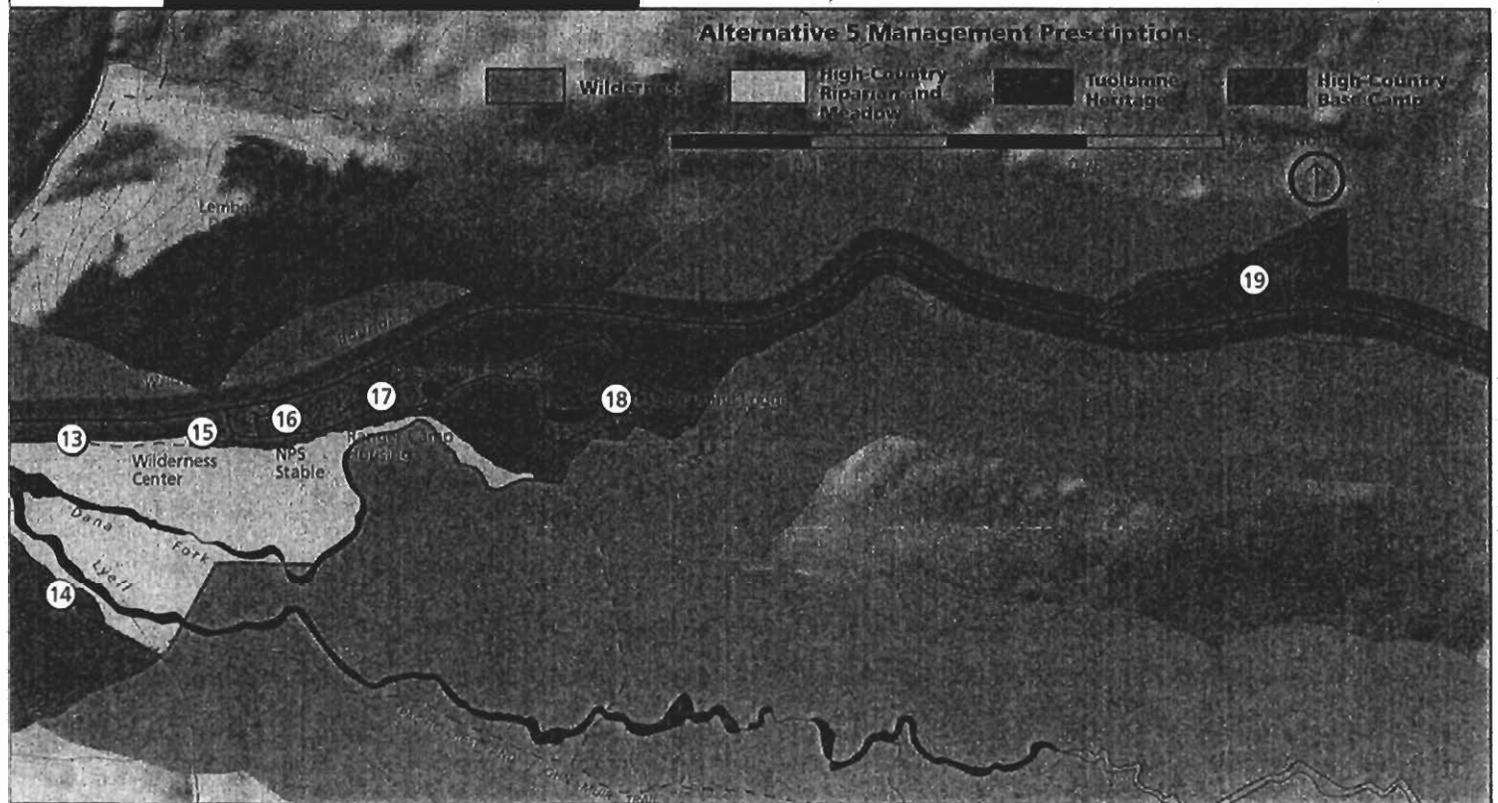
We recently camped at Zion N.P. We really appreciated the availability of power sites. While this may not seem very wilderness-like, there are several advantages:

- much less air + sound pollution due to generators + engines running.
- tends to segregate RVs, which both RV + tenters generally prefer
- additional camping fee can pay for + perhaps even yield profit
- need not be in the "prime" area - could even be some distance away

Zion does a superb job with their shuttles! More frequent shuttles are key if we want people to use them rather than driving everywhere. We will drive to the MonoPass trail head because ~~PNV/BIA~~ 3 hr. interval is very limiting. How can we time our ~~hike~~ hike on an unfamiliar trail to coincide?

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

93614



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

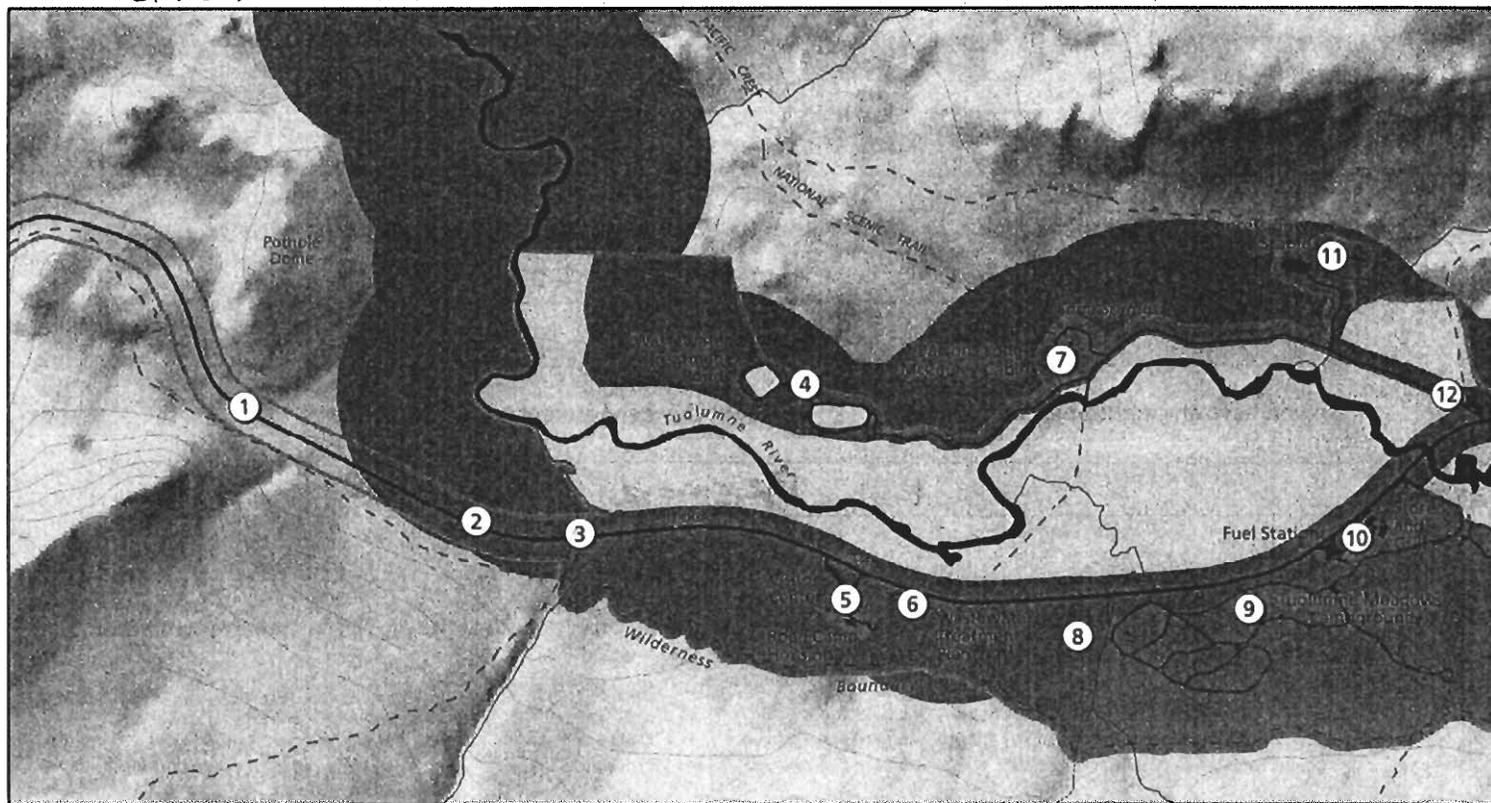
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workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

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

BALANCE. MAX WILDERNESS IN-TOUCH EXPERIENCE FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER OF VISITORS, EACH DRAWN AS ~~DEEP~~ DEEPLY INTO EXPERIENCE OF THIS VERY SPECIAL PLACE AS HIS/HER ABILITIES, AWARENESS AND LIMITATIONS ALLOW. THE ROADSIDE MEADOW INVITES EVERYONE, OFFERS MAX REWARD ^{AND} MINIMAL OBSTRUCTION TO ALL CORNERS, YET IT REMAINS ROBUST AND IN SURPRISINGLY GOOD SHAPE. I WOULD PERSONALLY PREFER REBUILDING THE CATHEDRAL LKS THINKING AREA, THE WILDERNESS IS DOING FINE AS IS.



L95-cg-

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):

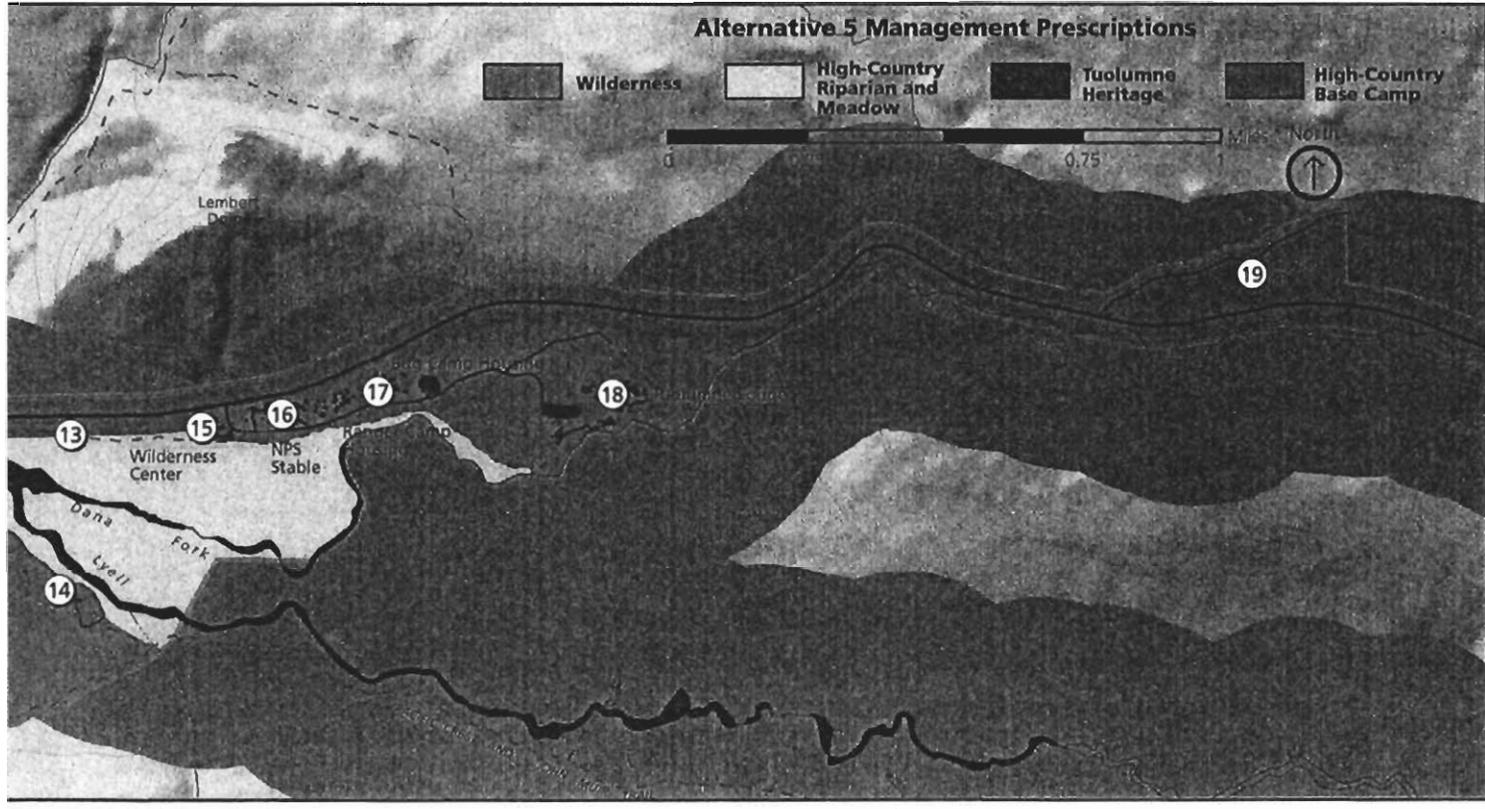
9-24-01

REALLY, I LIKE MOST OF THE WAYS TUOLUMNE IS
 MANAGED NOW. DIVERSE POTENTIAL EXPERIENCE AT
 ALL LEVELS, WITHOUT WRECKING THE PLACE MUCH.
 IF THE DECISION MUST SLANT ONE DIRECTION
 THEN MY STRONG PREFERENCE IS FOR THE
 GREATEST EASE OF ACCESS FOR THE MOST
 CASUAL - MOTIVATED VISITOR, THAT WAY THIS STUNNING
 PLACE CAN TURN MORE HEADS OF MORE UNCOMMITTED
 PEOPLE TOWARD SAYING OUR SPECIES AND THE PLACE
 WE LIVE ON.



AT LOCATION 3

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



L96-CJ-

9-24-08

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

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

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

Like numbers: (1), (2), (4) ↔ (6), (5) ↔ (15), (7)

Would modify (10) - see comments following pages

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

Like: (14), (16), (17). Would modify (8), (10), (13) - see comments

Leave Glen Aulin open but make any changes necessary to protect riparian area surrounding it.

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

Only like (19)

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

Like: (3) - Make formal parking at all trail heads. Eliminate all Tioga Rd. shoulder pkg;

Like: (11), (12), (18). Would modify (9) + (10) - see comments

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

Tuolumne Lodge (18) is the only place where non-campers can stay in this "wild + scenic" area and should be kept. Moving it farther from the river = OK.

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.

Page 2

The most important things to accomplish are: To protect and restore the wild and scenic nature of the river and meadows while keeping in mind that they are being preserved for the enjoyment of visitors to the area.

Several types of changes will allow this to happen:

- 1-- Improve trails and trailhead parking.
- 2-- Cluster facilities and parking in an out-of-the-way "village" near the existing Wilderness Center.
- 3-- Expand shuttle service, both frequency and hours of operation, in order to get cars off the road and help employees easily travel from relocated housing.

Page 3

While I found changes I liked in the various alternative plans and indicated them on Page 1, here are some modifications which I would make, along with my reasons:

- a. Make the Parson's Lodge trail (#8) a boardwalk similar to that through Stoneman Meadow in the Valley. People are better at staying on boardwalks than on paths.
- b. Eliminate the grill and gas station (#10)--I love the hamburgers, but they are hard to justify under "wild and scenic"! But keep the store and mountain shop, relocating them to the Wilderness Center mainly to serve backpackers and climbers. Provide showers at the west end of the campground (near the wastewater treatment plant!) and make them available to campers and hikers but charge \$\$\$ to cover wastewater treatment.
- c. A hike/bike trail along Tioga Road is needed (#13), but the GSWR trail through the meadow should be hike only--no bikes. Parts of this trail which are non-equestrian could be boardwalk as in (a) above.

[REDACTED]
Escondido, CA 92025

(I've been coming to Yosemite since I was 2 years old. I'll be 71 in November, you do the math!)



09/15/2008 10:10 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject comments on Tuolumne Planning Workbook

L97-g-
9-24-08

September 15, 2009

Michael Tollefson
Superintendent
Yosemite National Park

Dear Mr. Tollefson and Tuolumne planners,

I am writing this letter in lieu of sending the comment form to offer a few general observations about alternatives being developed for the Tuolumne River Plan.

I've recently completed my third trip to the park, but my first to some of the high camps, and I read, with great interest, the planning workbook. I cannot comment in detail about each alternative, as I am not familiar with many of the locations and activities discussed.

But I am glad to see that most of the alternatives, including the preferred alternative, would preserve the Tuolumne and Glen Aulin camps, while making modifications and improvements to protect the river. I feel that eliminating these camps would make access to and connections between the camps more difficult, and Tuolumne also provides an opportunity for flatlanders to acclimate to higher elevations.

Were I a younger, stronger backpacker, I might be more inclined to advocate the alternative number one wilderness approach. But my group of four ranged in age from 55 to 67, and I'm not sure we could have hiked from Tuolumne to Yosemite Valley without the benefit of having food, shelter and bedding provided for us at each high camp we visited along the way, rather than carrying our own provisions for a week. We also spent our first two nights at White Wolf and Tuolumne camps respectively, so that we could do some shorter day hikes while getting used to the higher altitude. We then made our way up to Sunrise, over to Merced Lake, and finally to the valley below.

We are planning to enter the lottery in hopes of hiking next year from Tuolumne to May Lake to Glen Aulin and back. So I weigh in on the side of maintaining easier access on foot to the glories of the high Sierra wilderness. But I would not object to some further restrictions.

Mule packs to service the camps are essential, but discontinuing commercial trail rides would certainly lessen the impact on the river area and improve the hiking experience. I have mixed

feelings about the introduction of kayaking. While it would be a special way to experience the river, as a hiker, I place a higher value on maintaining the solace and serenity of the river.

In alternative two I like the idea of adding a meadow walk interpretive trail, the proposal to consolidate visitor services to improve efficiency and the plan to eliminate shoulder parking.

I love the shuttle busses (and their knowledgeable drivers), making it possible (and preferable) to leave one's car parked for a week (or a day) and still be able to get to visitor centers, trailheads, lodges and the like.

I feel extremely privileged to have been able to explore Yosemite's high Sierra wilderness and I am grateful that the Park Service is working so diligently to develop a new Tuolumne River plan. I appreciate that the team is taking into consideration environmental principals, Native American tradition, park history, and a variety of public users in determining the best management plan for this precious resource.

Thanks for listening, and good luck completing your difficult task.

Sincerely,



Riverwoods, Il 60015





09/15/2008 10:03 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Tuolumne planning comments

L98-cg-
9-24-08

Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
PO Box 577
Yosemite, Ca 95989

9/15/08

Dear Planners,

I have just returned home from a visit to Tuolumne Meadows where I obtained a copy of the Planning Workbook.

During my stay in the Tuolumne area I was greatly dismayed by the Theme Park atmosphere created by the hoards of people, traffic and masses of cars parked along the roads. The frenzy of activity around the store and other facilities severely detracts from the extraordinary beauty of Tuolumne.

Unfortunately, your alternative 5 (preferred) will perpetuate this unacceptable condition by continuing most if not all commercial operations including Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp.

Alternative 1 is closest to my vision for Tuolumne, however certain aspects seem rather impractical and unlikely to be implemented. Therefore I suggest a rethinking of the proposed alternatives to accomplish the following:

Scale back all commercial operations and facilities. Where ever possible relocate operations outside the area or out of the park entirely.

Discontinue High Sierra Camps. The camps are environmentally unacceptable and are unsustainable given the massive support operations necessary to supply and operate them for the convenience of a very few

Remove pack stock facilities. I suspect large amounts of sediments and pollutants are generated by these operations. The operation of commercial stock activities have intolerable negative effects on the fragile alpine environment and impose high costs in the form of severe trail erosion and pollution as well as aesthetic detriments including dust generation, flies, waste and trampled landscape.

I strongly urge those responsible for this planning effort to place the highest value on restoring and preserving the unique and precious wilderness values of the Tuolumne River and Meadows.

Sincerely,





[REDACTED]
09/15/2008 09:51 PM

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

499-cg -
9-24-08

Dear Yosemite Planning Group,

Please find my comments in regard to the alternative and preferred plans for Tuolumne Meadows. I was able this summer to camp, backpack, and hike parts of the park including Tuolumne Meadows.

What I like about all the plans is the objective: "Preserve and sustain wilderness character, including ecosystem function and opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation,"

I further prefer the Alternative 1 second objective: "Extend wilderness-like management beyond designated...." In this day of increasing population pressures and resource consumption it behooves us to protect such a precious watershed. To that end the second objective in Alternative 4: "Synthesizer science-based information and American Indian knowledge of the ecosystem to....Ecological recovery of river-related habitats..." is also critical. With continuing Climate Change having intact, functioning, contiguous ecosystems are vital. Yosemite has a significant role to play in this regard. As snows lesson and rain events are more intense in the Sierra, meadows will be essential for our groundwater, lessening of flood impacts and so many other functions.

While Alternative 5 covers two of the three choices I prefer, it should address the concessions and some of the amenities that can, and do, harm ecosystem requirements. I do agree that visitors discovering and connecting with the Tuolumne River is a great goal, however, this is such a vital watershed that the Park Service must do all in its power to ensure its health and sustainability over any other needs. To this end removing A Loop in the Tuolumne Meadow campground is a wise choice.

Restaurants and fuel stations (I do know there is only one of each) are not necessary for this portion of Yosemite. Any way we can lesson our footprint on this fragile and wonderful piece of the Sierra and Yosemite National Park, the better. I believe we are planning for these very real issues of the 21st Century and cannot continue in a mode that fits how we did business 30, 40, 50 years ago. I remember submitting comments in the 1970's about the valley and there was even a potential to ban all autos at that time. Wow, we had the opportunity. Just think, what might have been.....

I am appreciative of the opportunity to comment.



Grass Valley, CA 95945





09/15/2008 07:14 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject comments on Tuolumne River Plan, Due Sept. 15

L100-cg-
9-24-08

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a 43 year old day hiker and backpacker. I am strongly against the use of horses on Yosemite trails to provide supplies for the back country cabins due to the deplorable trail conditions that are a result of hooves pulling up large rocks, causing erratic and unsafe trail conditions in addition the nearly sewer-like conditions from horse manure and urine. I have personally severely twisted an ankle on such a trail.

It seems discriminatory that some people can afford to go these high country camps, have their food horse backed in, while others slog through the dust and debris, feeling at times intimidated by the large animals that must be yielded to.

Please take my comments into consideration with the Tuolumne River plan.

Thank you,

Truckee, CA 96161