

NW L# 51 8/15/08

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

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

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

I most dislike item (14) - removing Aloop, but also strongly disagree with item (10) - removal of store, grill & maintain shop. If item (2) is done, then greater parking will be needed adjacent to pothole Dome.

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 item (14), and would recommend a larger parking area at pothole dome (item (2)) if roadside parking is removed. I agree with item (13) - a bike path is needed as the road is too narrow for the traffic and bikes.

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

This is the plan that I most agree with. However, removal of roadside parking will require a larger parking area near pothole dome, thus I would have to disagree with item (1).

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

disagree with # (12) If anything the parking at lembert Dome needs to be expanded as it is often impossible to park in the lot or along the side of the road. I also disagree with # (9) as it would be better to keep the visitors center away from the campground.

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

The shuttle bus hours need to be extended. I would use the shuttle if it ran till 10pm so that I could use it after a long day of hiking, fishing, or rockclimbing.

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)?

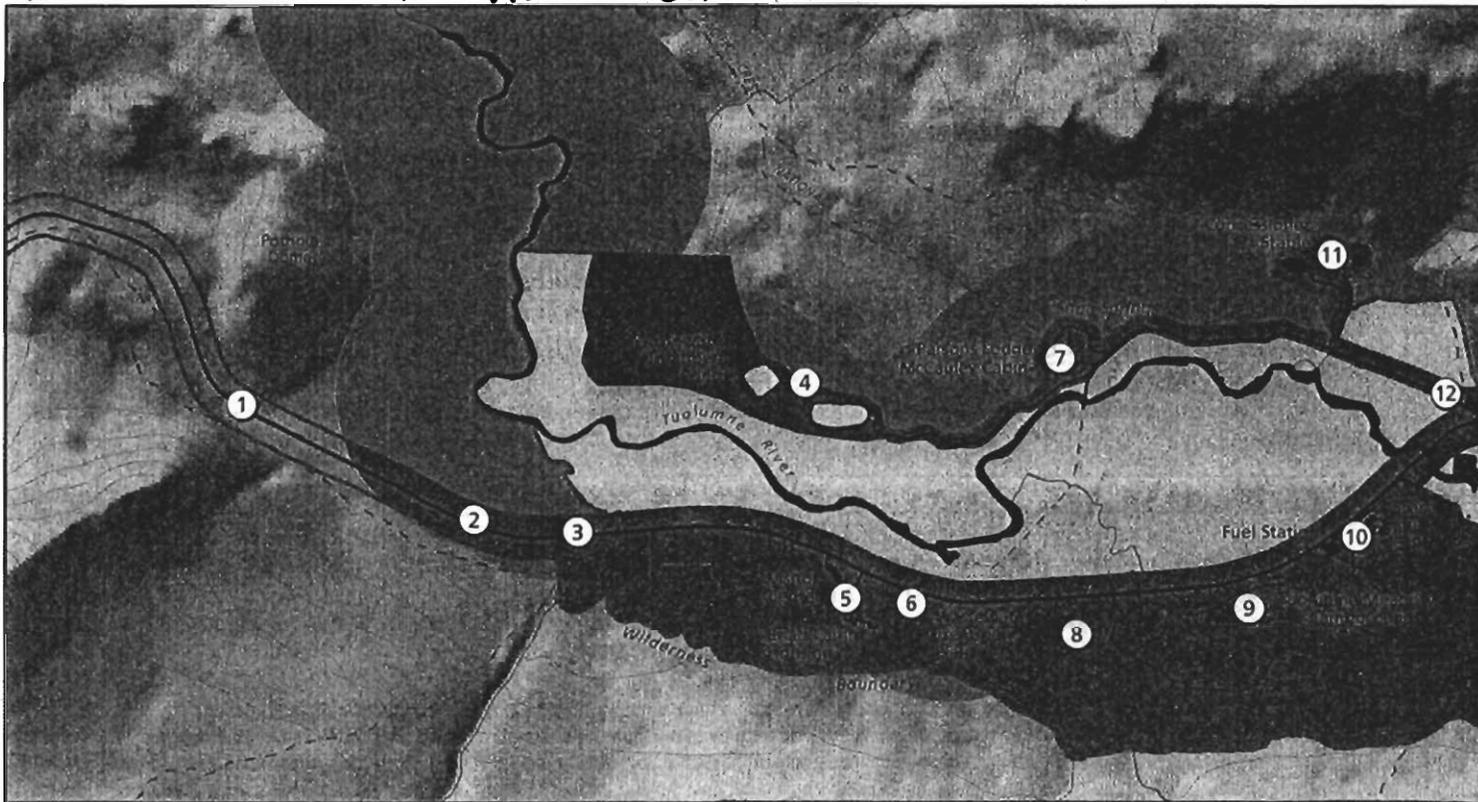
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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:

My preferred alternative would be alternative #3 with the following recommended changes. I agree that item #2 is needed as the roadway is too narrow to safely park along the road. I have often had doors open into traffic or people standing next to their cars in the roadway. If cars are coming in both directions the roadway is too narrow for emergency maneuvers. If the parking on the Soulders is removed then expanded parking will be needed near pothole dome, and the parking at the Cathedral lakes trailhead or near the visitors center would need to accommodate the



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):

amount of displaced parking. There used to be a small lot at the cathedral trailhead before it was washed out, but this lot would not be large enough if roadside parking is removed. The concessioner stable (item #11) could be removed and the parking area expanded to provide more parking for Young's lakes, Glenn Aulin and other trailheads although this area usually only fills up during peak use periods.

When I first started coming to Tuolumne there were about 600 campsites. I do not want any further reduction in campsites, but would recommend that all sites be changed from reservation to walk in registration. I have never been able to get a reservation, and when reservations begin the campsites fill up and a greater number of people end up in the park.

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

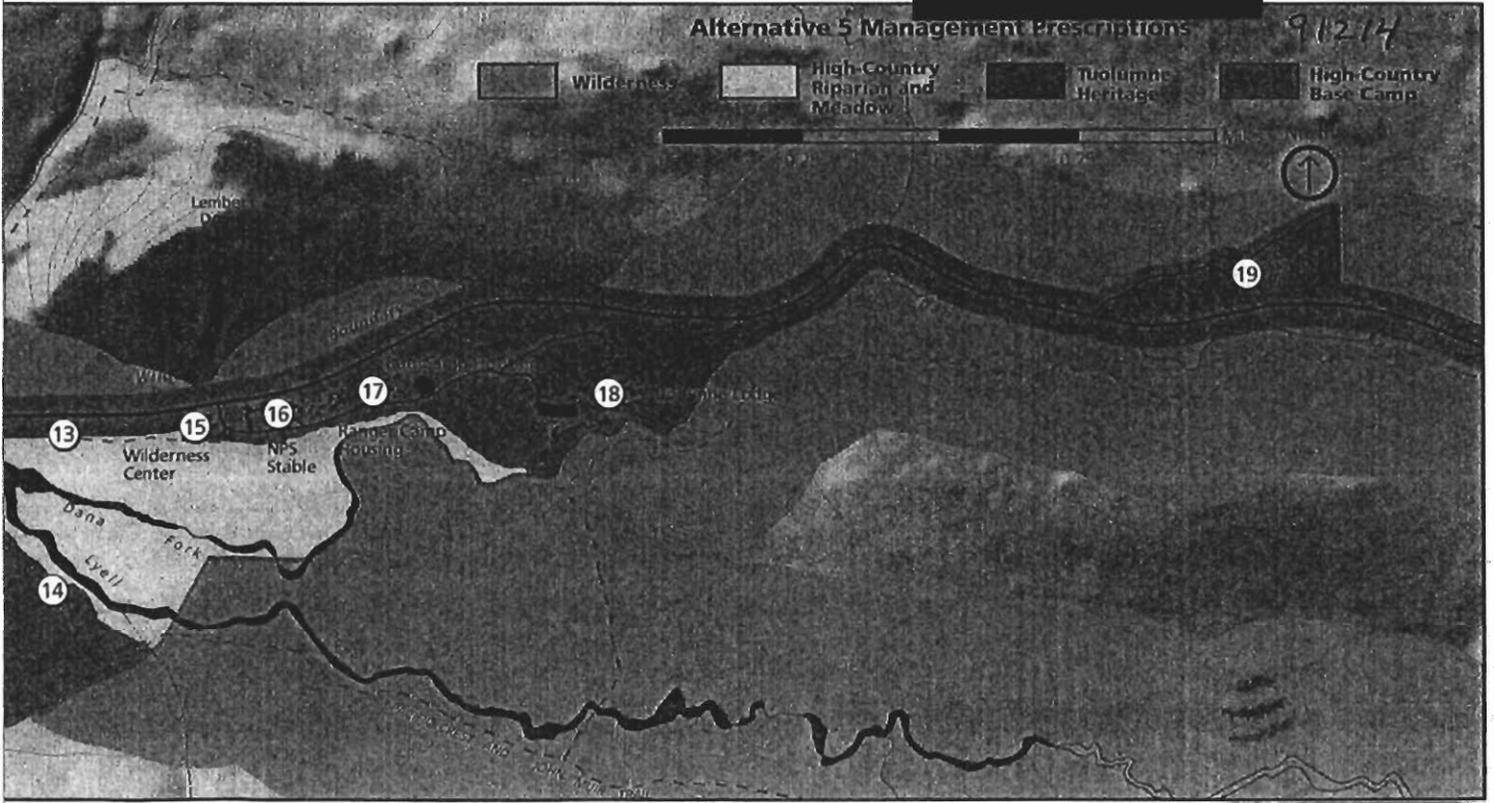
[Redacted Name and Address]

La Crescenta

91214

Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions

- Wilderness
- High-Country Riparian and Meadow
- Tuolumne Heritage
- High-Country Base Camp



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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? _____

Discontinue amenities at Tuolumne
Remove Glen Aulin Camp But, important to minimizing amenities + impact.

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

Provide more diverse opportunities - NOT more, rather less
No Kayaking

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

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

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

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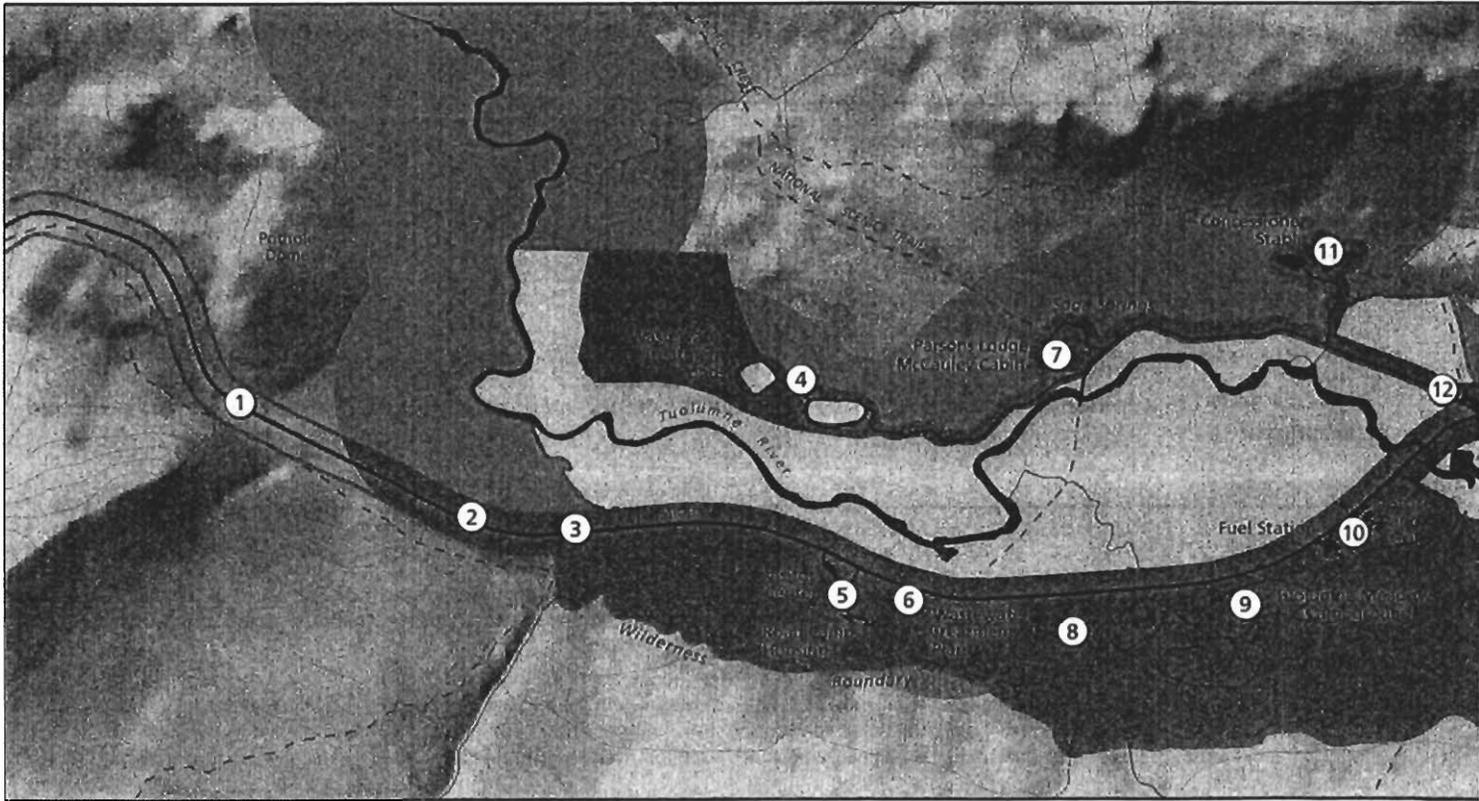
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

Investigate dry ^{self} composting toilets in use successfully in some areas



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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 believe that Yosemite - and specifically Tuolumne Meadows - is vast enough to allow human traffic + interaction along the river. I would hate to see the human presence limited to

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

"consolidating" the visitor center, store, school etc is okay if it doesn't increase congestion. taking out the stores + grill will increase traffic on the Tioga Road -- a DANGEROUS + un-

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

improving site delineation in the TM campground is good, removing some or all of the sites in a loop is acceptable

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

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

The preferred alternative seems like a healthy compromise to me

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Please keep TM Lodge + Glen Aulin in some form. able - backed backpackers.

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

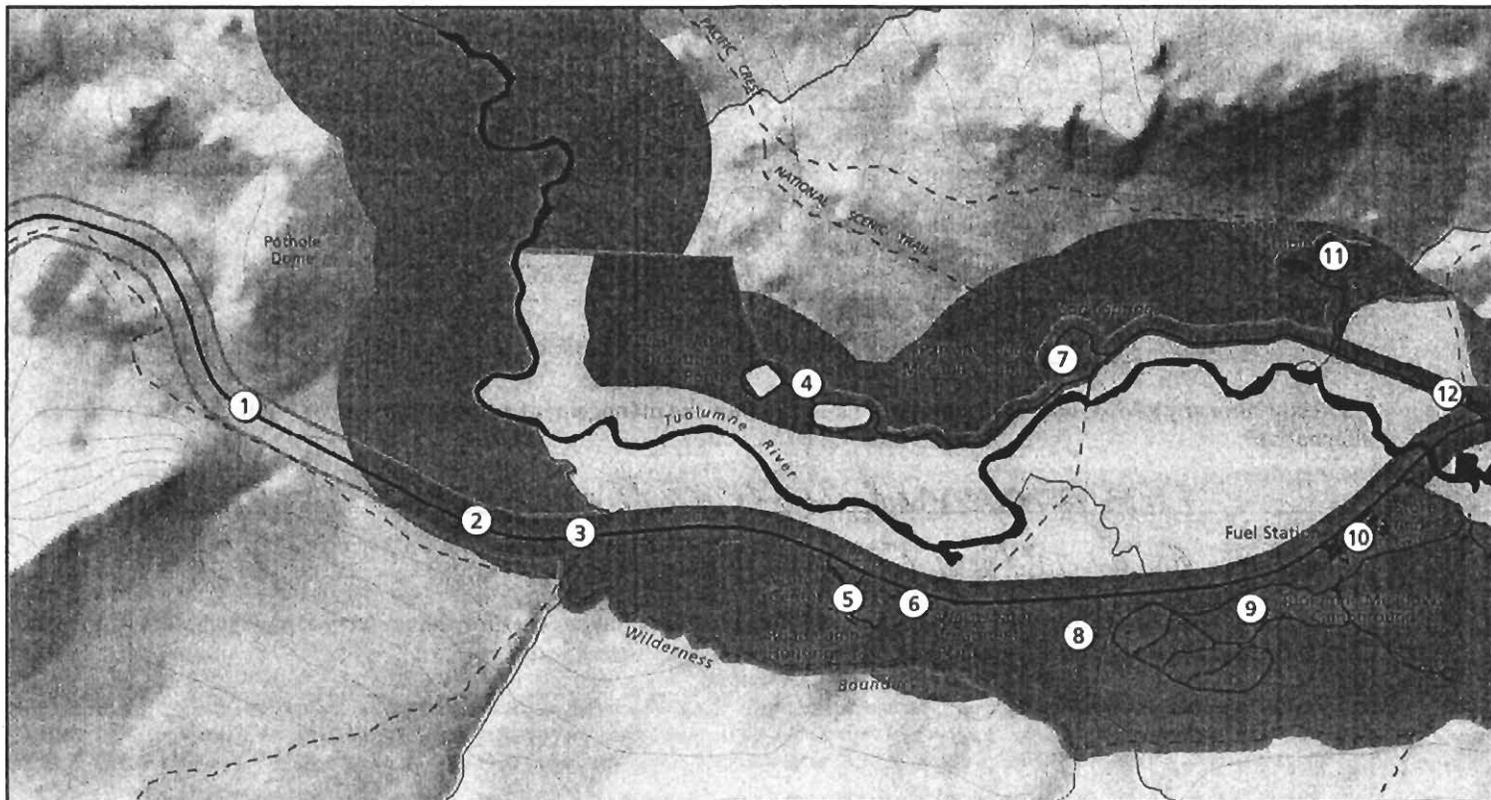
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I have been coming to Tuolumne Meadows for nearly 60 years, enjoying extended camping stays, day hikes, the High Sierra camps & the programs at Parsons Lodge in each of the past five years. No longer able to carry a backpack into the wilderness I hope that a sufficient area in TM can be preserved for me to share with my peers and our grandchildren, where we can still pick up a box of crackers or an ice cream at the end of the day.



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):

(continued)

Preserve wilderness, yes! but give humans a corridor so we can have some access to it.

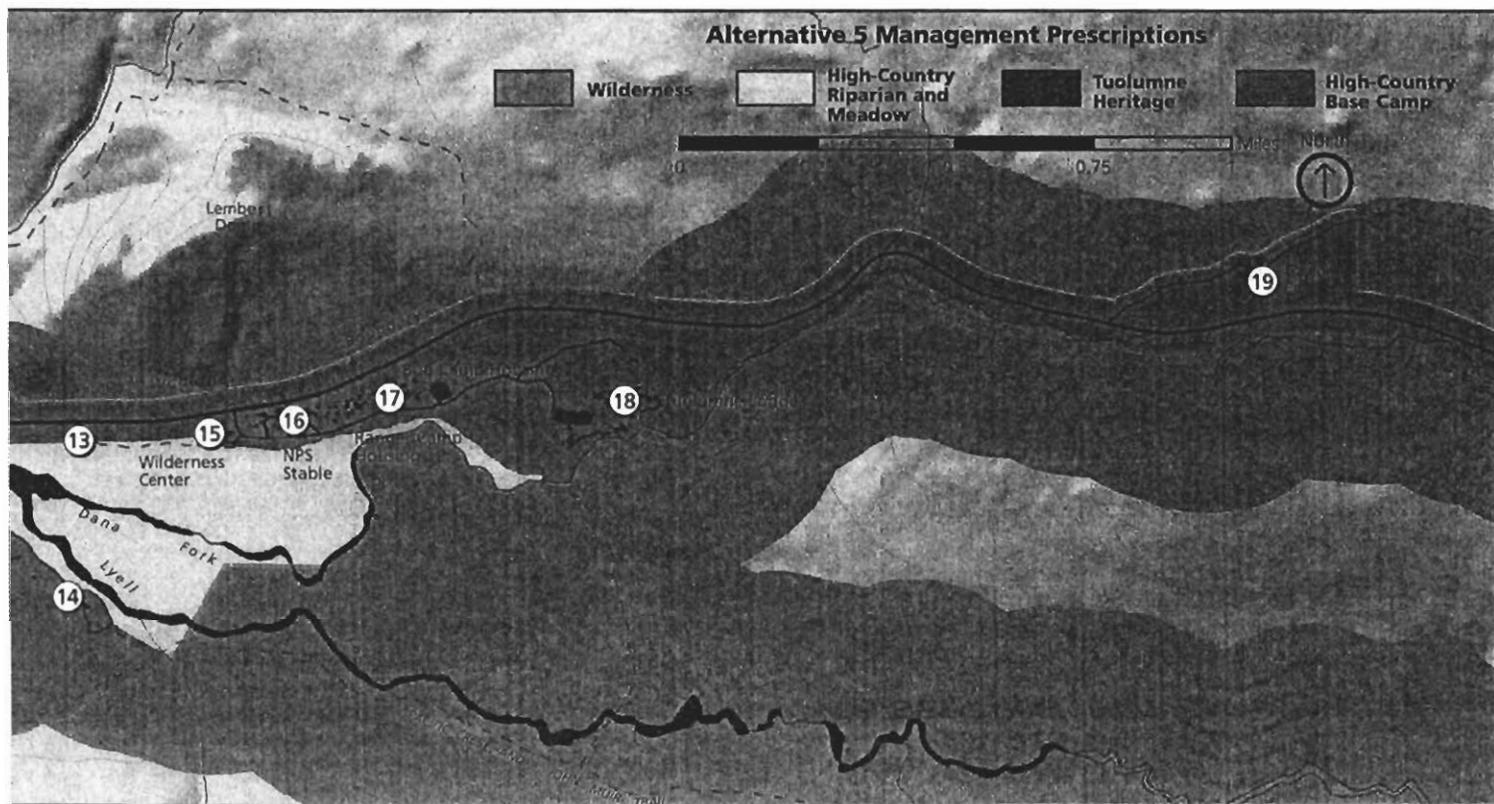
My plan: increase parking lots (Pothole Dome, Dog Lake, even Lambert Dome) to reduce roadside parking, improve formal trails (eg to Parsons Lodge) + campsites -- Even take out some or all of my favorites in A loop -- to reduce impact; preserve some lodging + romantic history for those who can't or won't camp. ^(T.M. Lodge)

I look forward to volunteering with NPS & for Yosemite Assn. in the future to enjoy + preserve this GLORIOUS place.

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

91001

This is being written with a lot of turbulence.



NW L 54

8/15/08

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Step 1: Fold in half along the spine.

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? _____

TO RESTRICTIVE - REMOVES
TO MUCH HISTORICAL SITES

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

SUBJECTS RIVER TO IMPACTS ON
WATER QUALITY DOWNSTREAM

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

ALLOWS TO MUCH INDIAN
COMERSE WITHIN PARK

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

TO MUCH COMMERCIA
GROWTH

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

NO - I LIKE ALTERNATE
5 HAS PRESENTED

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Most Like: # 10, 18, 15, 2

Most dislike: # 9

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

M-L - # 14, 2

M-dl - # 10, # 18

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

M-L - # 2, # 19

M-dl - # 10, 11, 18

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

M-L - # 2

M-dl - # 9, 13, 18

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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

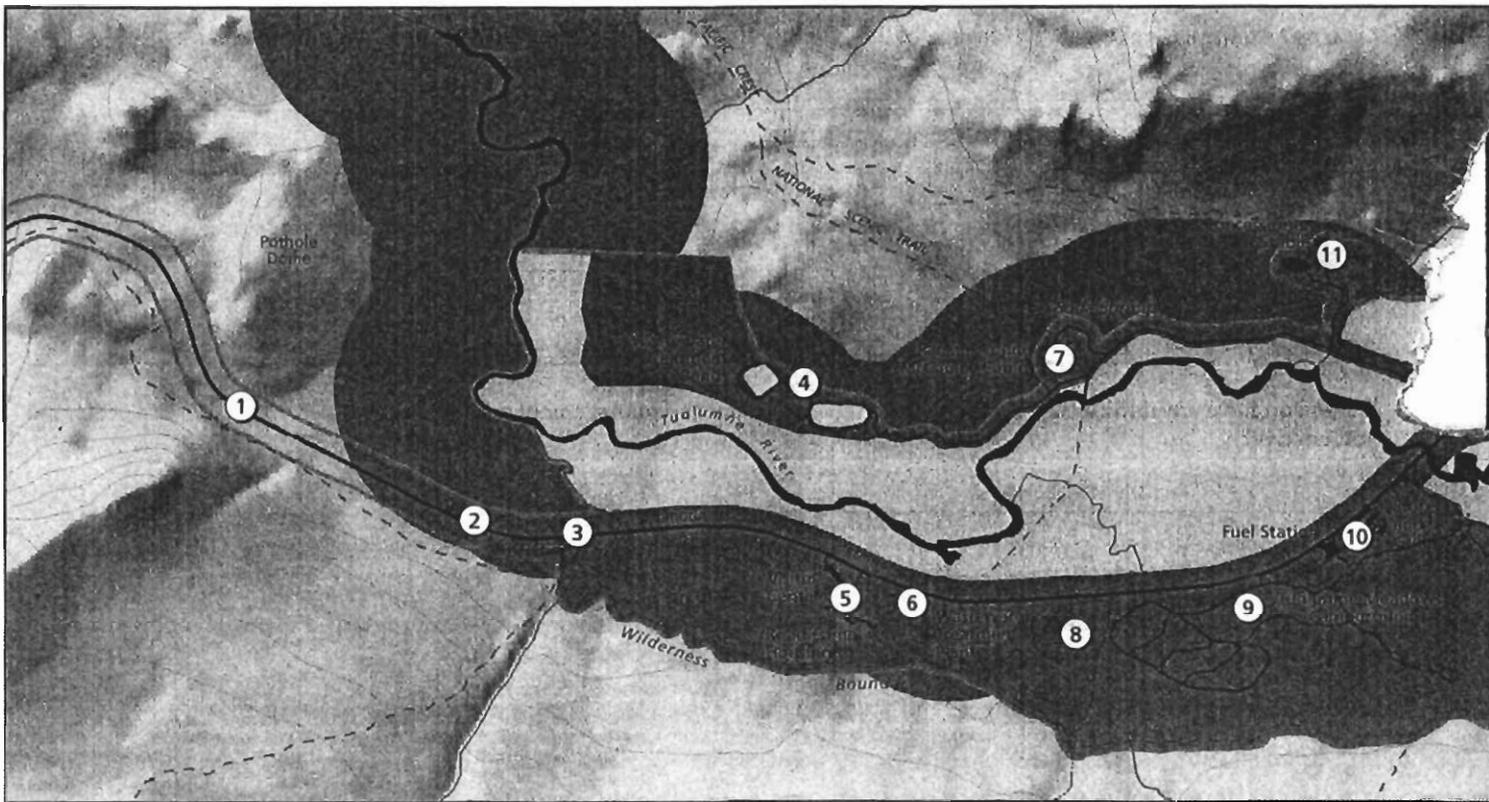
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In descending order,

- ^ The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____
1. Remove all Tioga Rd. shoulder parking; restore to natural conditions
 2. Eliminate commercial trail rides
 3. Remove Tuolumne Lodge
 4. Consolidate Ranger Station, Wilderness Center and Visitors' Center
 5. Remove the store and grill
 6. Reduce campground capacity.

These are the things I'd like to see happen →



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

How this gets done requires more energy and insight than I as a first time visitor want to give it.

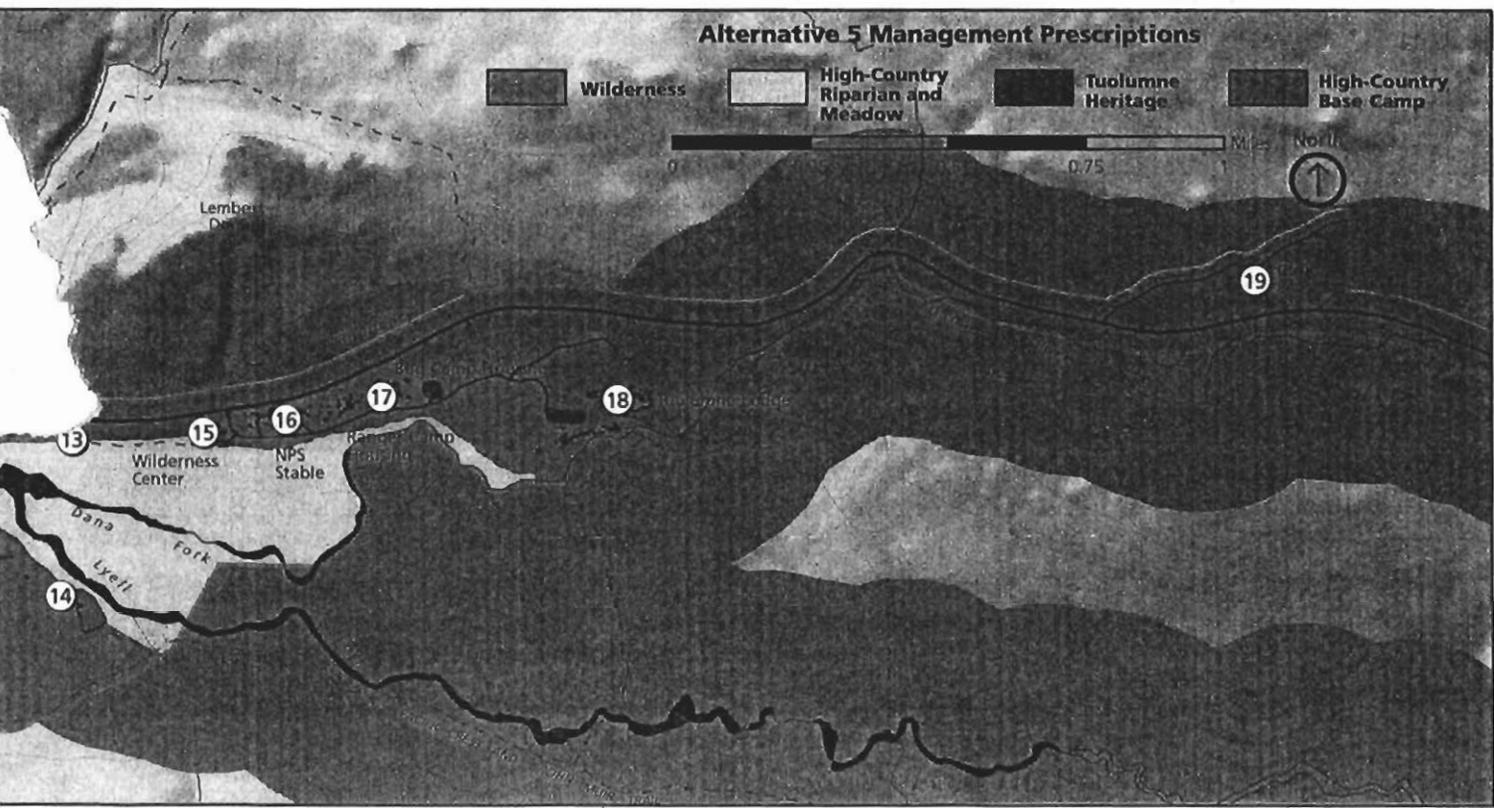
Actually I think no PDVs should transit 120. Shuttle transport and parking garages would be a tremendous improvement to taking Tuolumne back to a better time. Imagine the quiet. You could actually hear the wind in the pines!!

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

Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions

Wilderness High-Country Riparian and Meadow Tuolumne Heritage High-Country Base Camp

0 0.75 Miles North



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

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

TOO RESTRICTIVE

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

MORE LIKE IT WAS 50-60 YEARS AGO

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

TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE HERITAGE FACTOR

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

BEST PLAN - LIKE EMPHASIS ON HIGH-COUNTRY RIPARIAN & MEADOW

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

~~THE OVER-CROWDING PROBLEM IS THE DIRECT RESULT OF IMPROVING THE TIDGA ROAD ALLOWING ALL THE CITY SLICKERS TO INVADRE & RUIN THE MEADOW AREA. A POOR MOVE ON THE NPS!~~

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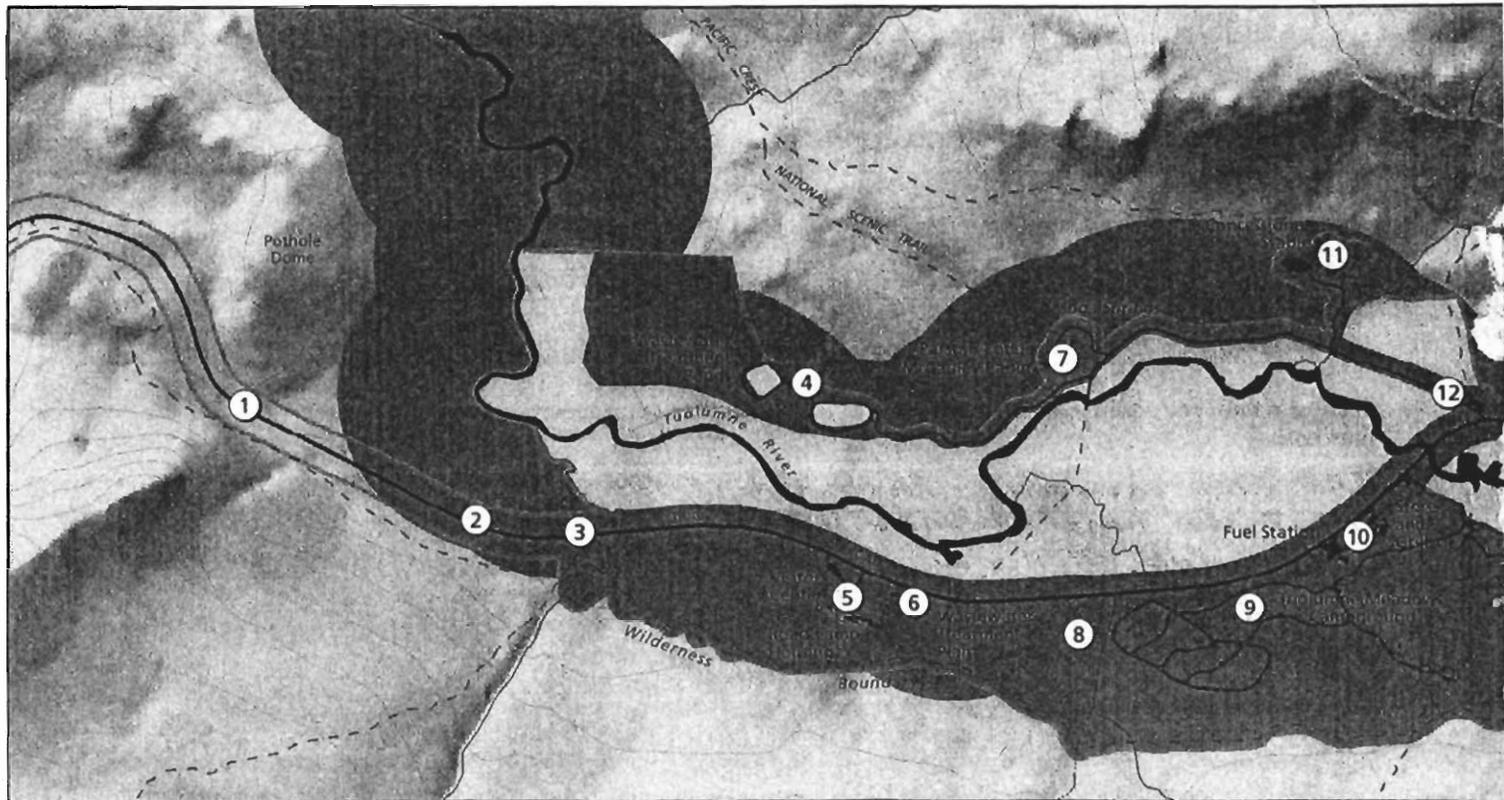
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

- 11 REMOVE CONCESSIONER'S STABLE & HORSES - FOREVER !!
- 10 THROW OUT THE "GRILL" - DOES TUOLUMNE REALLY NEED A HAMBURGER JOINT ?
- 4 GET RID OF THE PONDS
- 14 GET RID OF THIS LOOP & CAMPSITES
- 7 RESTORE SODA SPRING AREA TO FORMER SELF (1950s)
- 9 NO RESERVATIONS - 1ST COME GETS THE CAMP SITES
- 2 3 NO SHOULDER PARKING - NO TURN-OUTS
- 18 RAZE THE LODGE - WHO NEEDS IT ?



NIN L56 8/15/08

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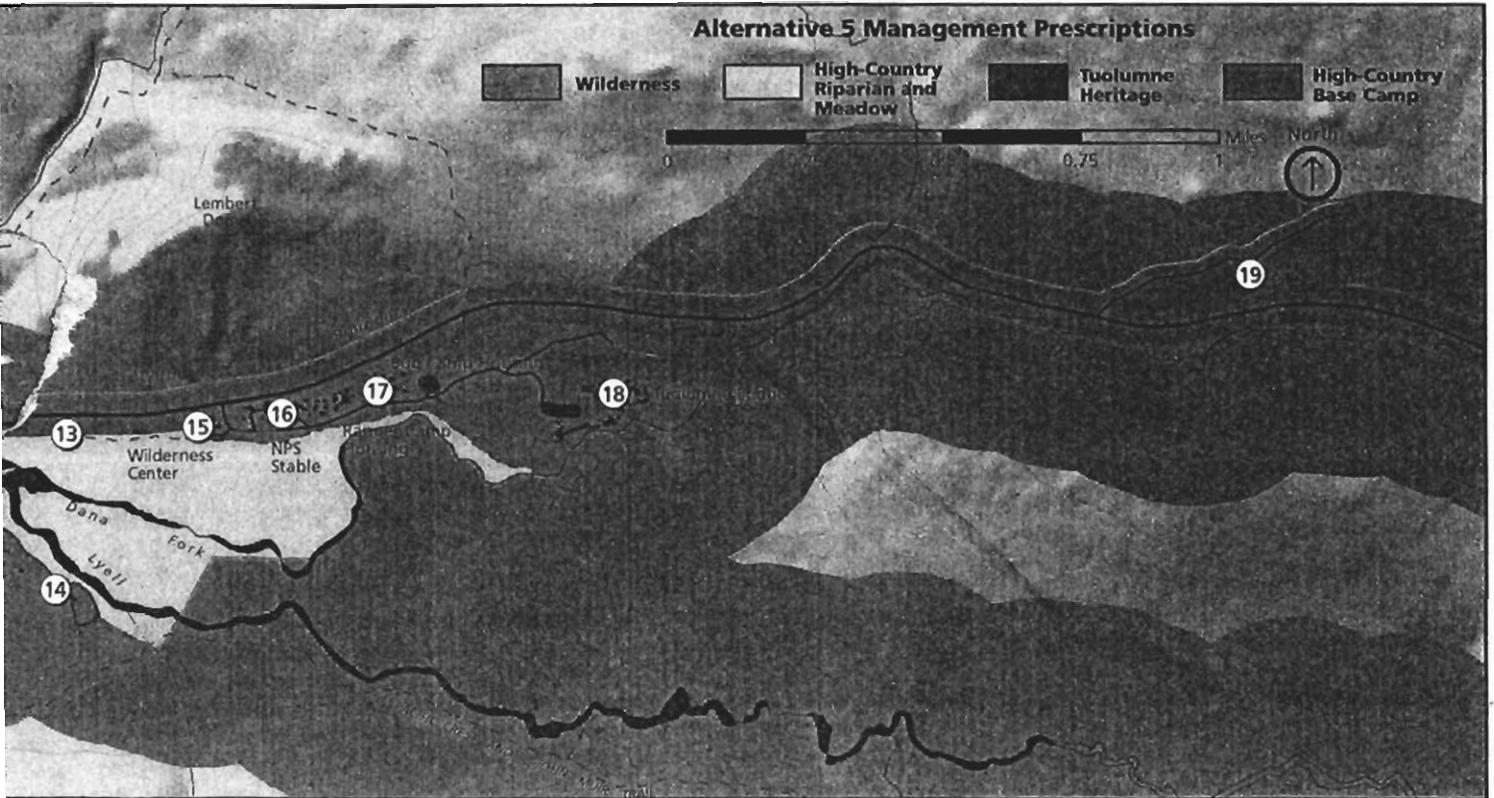
LIMITING ACCESS TO THE TUOLUMNE MEADOWS AREA BY SIMPLY RETURNING THE ENTIRE TIUGA ROAD (VALLEY TO LEEVING) TO ITS ORIGINAL 1940'S CONDITION - NARROW, DIRT/GRAVEL, TWISTY, AND DANGEROUS (TO SOME) WOULD KEEP OUT ALL OF THOSE CITY DUDES WHO HAVE NO REAL RESPECT OF TUOLUMNE'S BEAUTY. LET THESE DUDES HAVE THE VALLEY & LEAVE THE TUOLUMNE AREA TO THOSE FEW WHO EITHER BACK-PACK THERE OR WILLING TO DRIVE THE "OLD" TIUGA ROAD ?



(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: TOWNSEND, MT 59644

Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions

- Wilderness
- High-Country Riparian and Meadow
- Tuolumne Heritage
- High-Country Base Camp



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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? _____

Much too restrictive in visitor use. Absolutely opposed to elimination of Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. Also opposed to elimination of commercial trail rides.

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

Expansion of opportunities for day use. Keeps Tuolumne Meadows Lodge

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

Not enough protection/restoration of Tuolumne Meadows area.

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

More protection for natural areas. Oppose removal of Tuolumne Meadows dining hall unless relocated to area near Lodge so guests still have place to eat within walking distance.

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

Preferred alternative seems to combine best of several alternatives. Final plan must include retention of Tuolumne Meadows Lodge & dining facility so those who don't camp will still have a place to stay & spend time in this fabulous area.

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

Keep #3
I like the lodging at Tuolumne Meadows restaurant + stores to all stay! We have so few spaces to go anyway.

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

Removing Dining Hall + housing at Lodge
Renovating Store on Tioga Rd

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



Santa Monica CA

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NW 59 8/15/08

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? _____

Do not like

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

Do not like

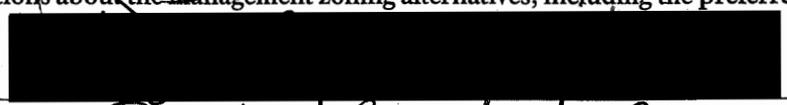
Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? _____

Yes - keeps things as they are. I like to walk near T. Lodge

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

Do not like. I am handicapped + like staying + eating @ T. Lodge + take easy walk thru

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



Santa Barbara CA 93105

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

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

Do not like Removal of Tuolumne Lodge facilities, the store, and closing of Glen Aulin. Like Cathedral Lakes improved parking and elimination of Tioga shoulder parking.

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

Like this plan Best. Love shower/restroom in visitor area. Like designated bridal path, Keep Tuolumne Lodge, like Tioga improved parking

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

Keeping Tuolumne Lodge, better parking for Cathedral and eliminating shoulder parking along Tioga.

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

Like Retaining Tuolumne Lodge. Do not like taking out A and D loops - not enough campsite currently

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

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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

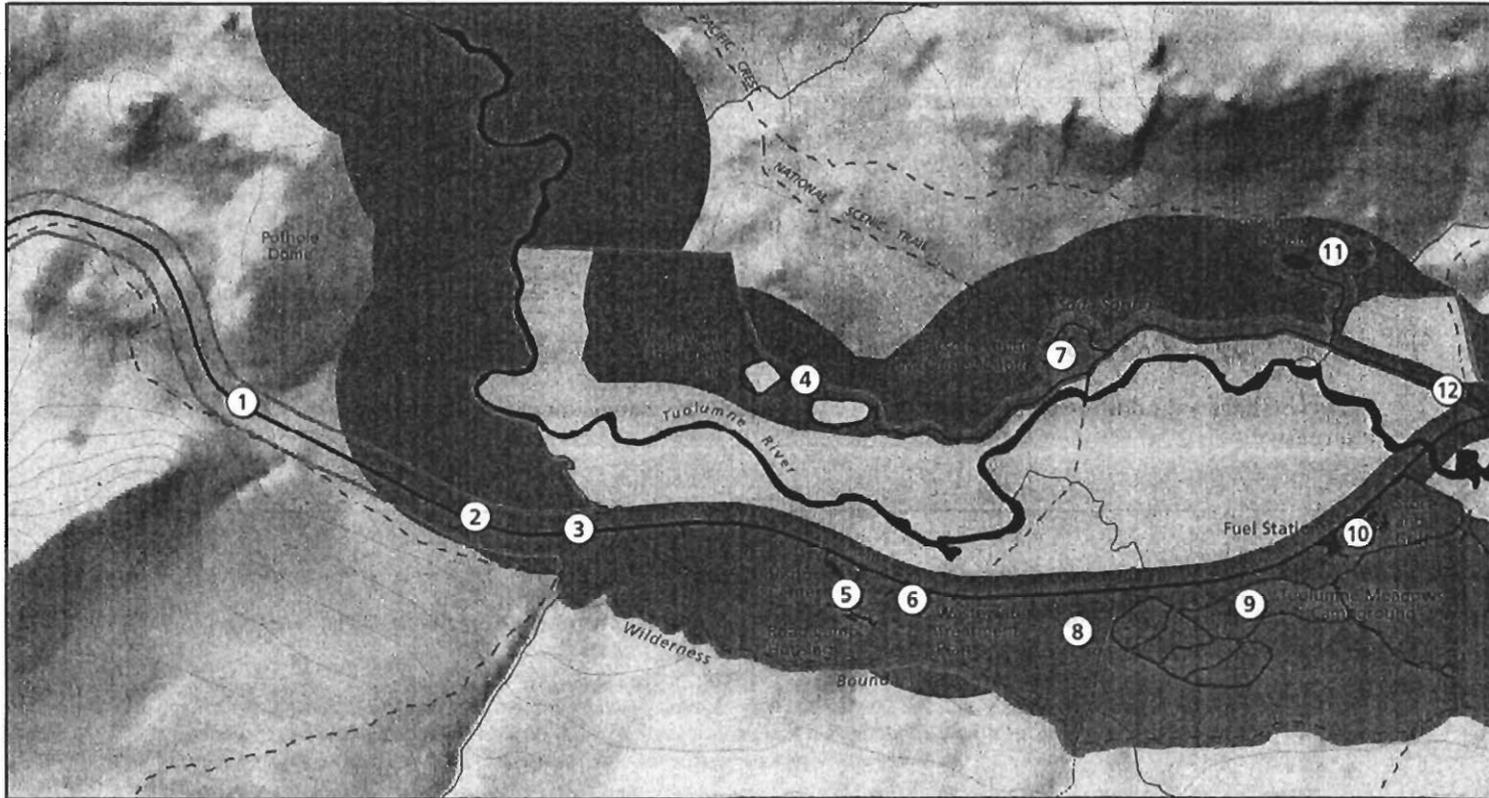
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

Replace any campsite taken from The A Loop. Yosemite rarely replaces campsites once they are gone. Spaces are needed and greatly enjoyed.

An efficient visitor's center with showers and restrooms are needed. currently people are told to go to Leavitts or the Valley for showers - causing too much



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):

Traffic on the roads.

Improving parking so Tioga is not full of cars would enable visitors to see the natural scenery.

The ^{Waste} Water Treatment Issues are something the experts should suggest where they should be located.

Tuolumne Lodge is a wonderful place to meet friends. Please keep it going along with the Glen Aulin experience.

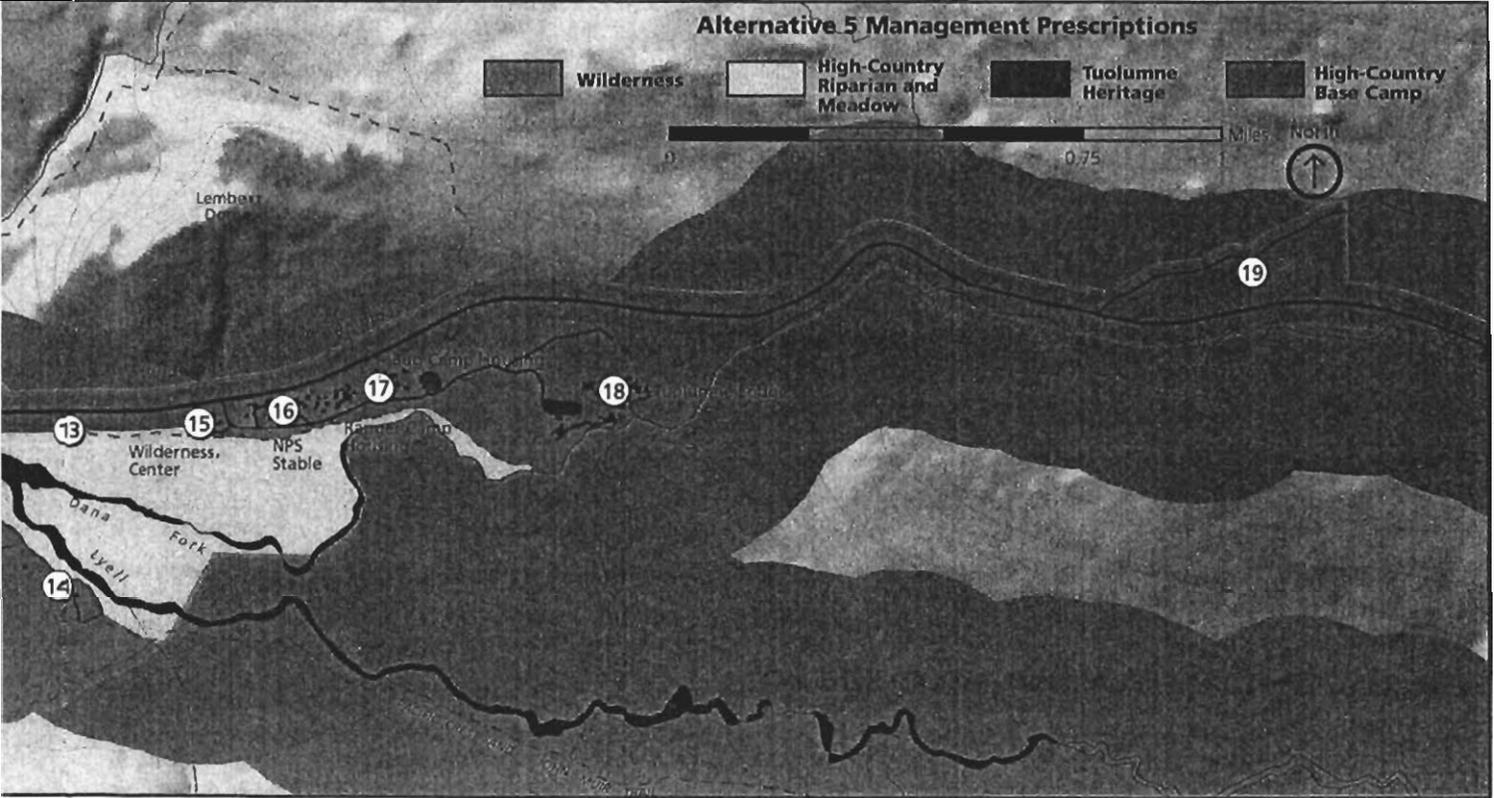
(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code:

Santa Clara, CA 95050

Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions

Legend: Wilderness (dark grey), High-Country Riparian and Meadow (light grey), Tuolumne Heritage (medium grey), High-Country Base Camp (dark grey).

Scale: 0 to 0.75 Miles. North arrow pointing up.



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

Site plan concept for alternative 1 (page 16 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? *I strongly dislike the removal of amenities at Tuolumne Meadows. Such actions would seriously limit the T M experience for families, seniors and the physically challenged.*

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? *I believe it is important to provide better parking for Cathedral Lake. I do not agree with moving the Visitor Center. Visits to this historical structure should be encouraged & minor changes would be OK.*

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? *I believe that visitors to T M should be educated on the American Indian culture and traditions as it relates to the area - Retain overnight use at Tuolumne Meadows and Ellen Auilin*

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? *I strongly support the protection and restoration of the meadow and riparian areas, controlling visitor use when necessary.*

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

that are close to the river
I believe that several cabins at Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp could be relocated. Also perhaps the Ellen Auilin Camp could be relocated.

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

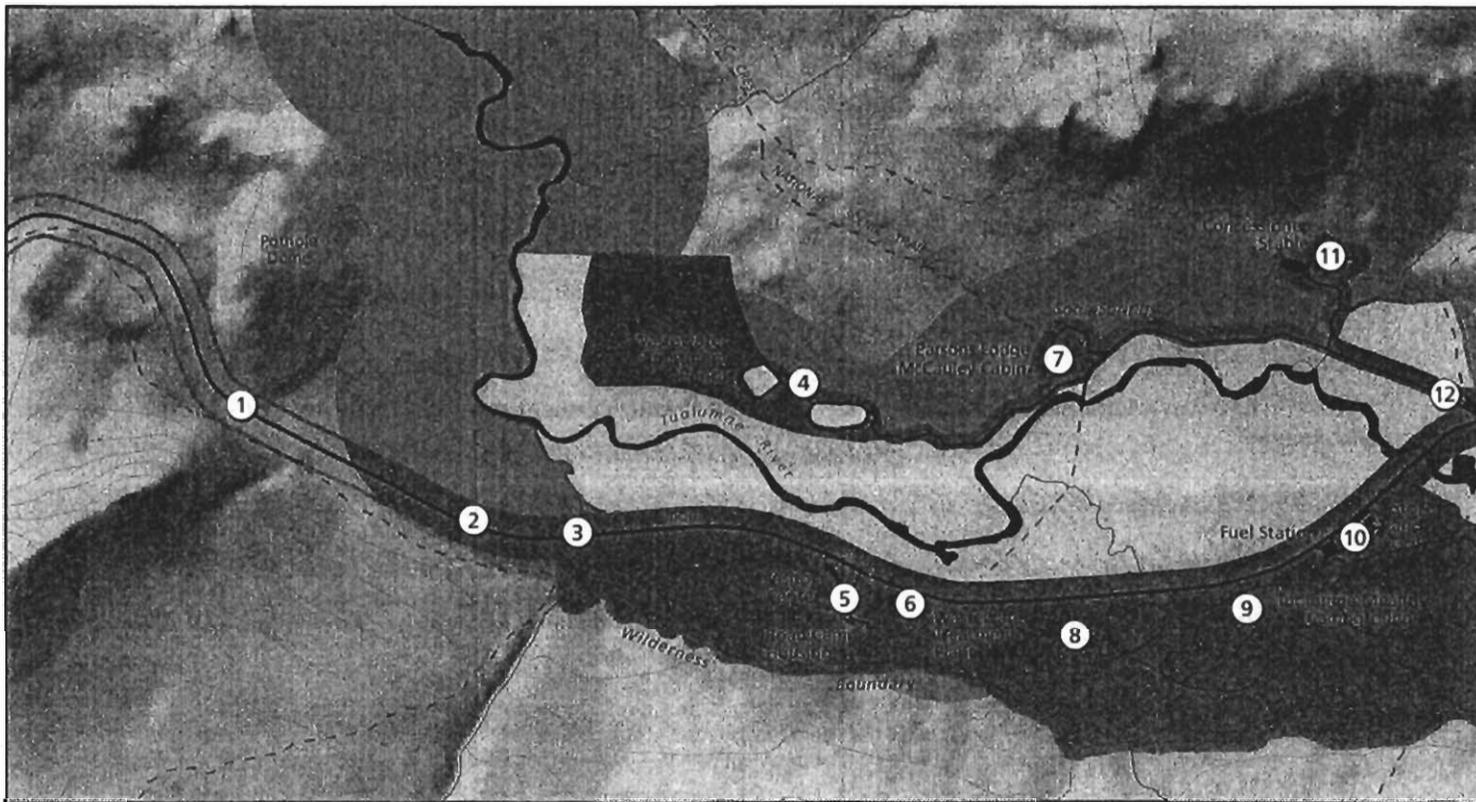
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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: *I am strongly in favor of the preferred alternative 5 that honors the traditions of the Tuolumne and preserves and sustains the wilderness character and the ecosystems.*

For 48 years I have been fortunate to experience the gifts of Tuolumne Meadows. Beginning in the early sixties when our family with 5 children tent camped in the campground. Here our days were filled with hiking, fishing and enjoying the campfire circles with the Rangers (especially Carl Sharnith) as the children grew older we began to backpack, where we discovered the wonders



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):

of the wilderness areas:

After the death of my husband, who was our camping hero, we booked our stay at the Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp, often venturing out to the other camps at Volquang, Sunrise and Helen Paulin.

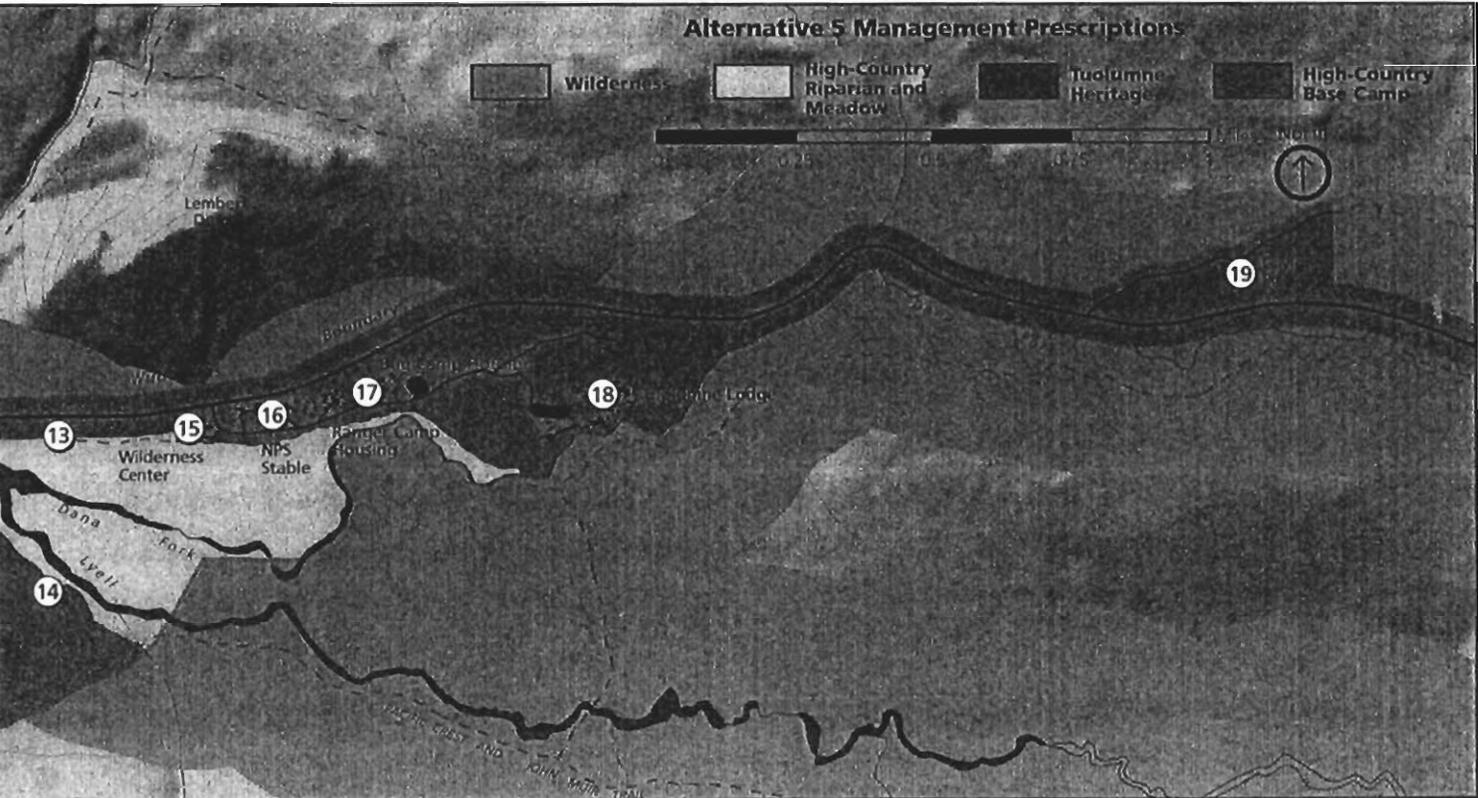
Now as I enter my eighties I still reunite with my children and grandchildren for a week ^{in Tuolumne} each summer. While they are off on long hikes, rock climbing and swimming at Tenaya Lake I find joy in peaceful pursuits, taking short treks and attending walks with the Rangers. Next year I will introduce my great-grandson to ^{Tuolumne} Tuolumne. It is my hope that future generations of families like mine will have access to Tuolumne Meadows and enjoy the lessons and blessings it offers.

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

Lincoln, CA 95648

Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions

Legend: Wilderness, High-Country Riparian and Meadow, Tuolumne Heritage, High-Country Base Camp



Create Your Own Site Plan

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

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

I like that it eliminates ^①Glen Aulin High Sierra Slum and ^②the commercial trail rides, and ^③relocates campground A loop ^{away from the River.} You should not have to get rid of the store, grill, gas or mountain school to accomplish the first three things! It looks like you

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

~~have created Alt 1 as a "fringe" alternative simply to pretend that you have considered eliminating the High Sierra Slum at Glen Aulin and the trail rides, but you have guaranteed that Alt 1 won't be seriously considered or~~

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

~~selected by including the elimination of store, gas, grill, mountain shop, etc. It's just more business-as-usual doublespeak from an agency that seems unable to detangle itself from the stranglehold of commercial~~

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

~~interests! Your alternatives are garbage, your plan is disingenuous. You should include elimination of the harmful High Sierra Camps and trail rides under ALL alternatives (especially the preferred alternative).~~

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

You need to consider elimination of the concession stores and ALL High Sierra Camps (not just Glen Aulin) due to water pollution and other harmful effects.

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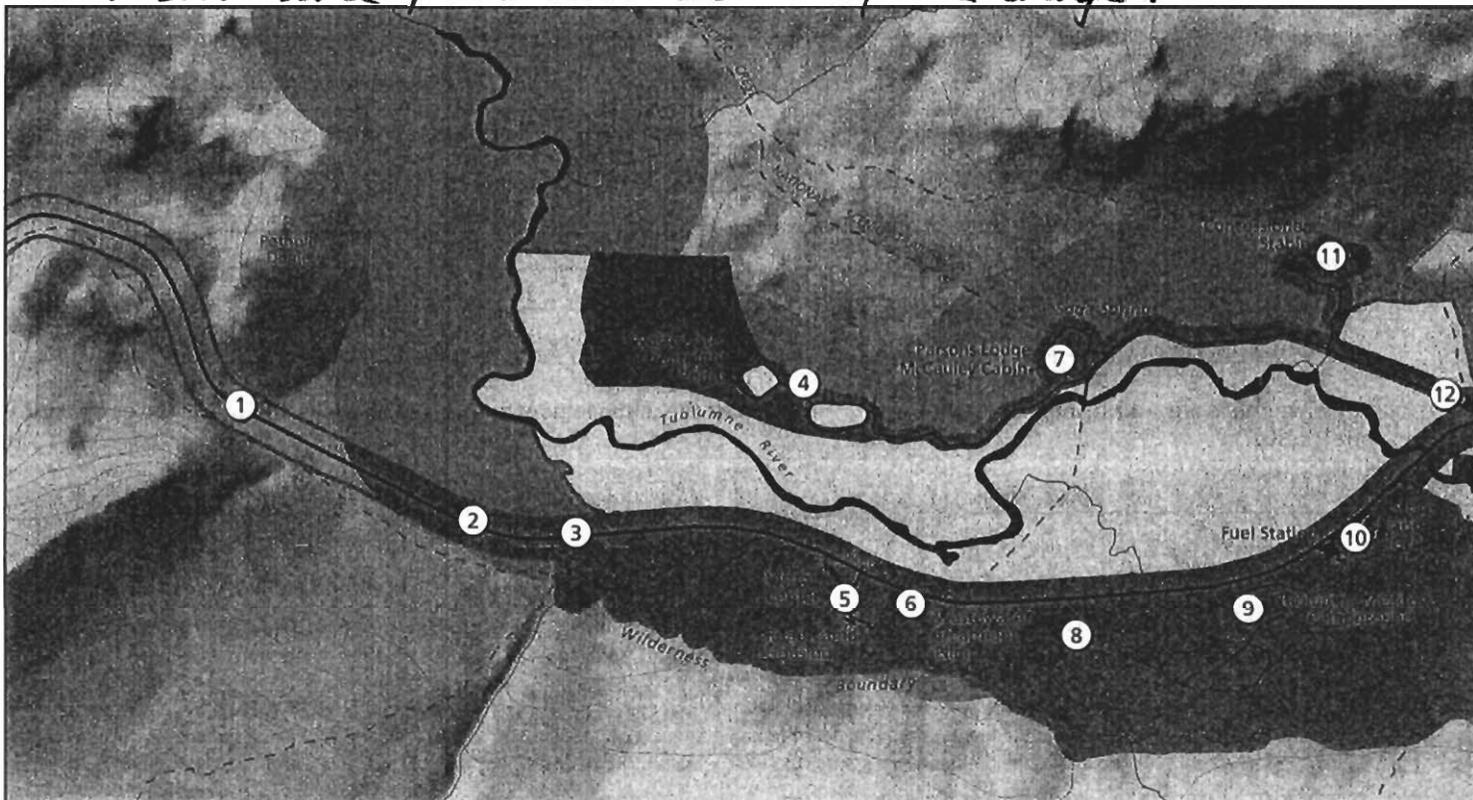
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Your workbook (at p 30) says that a key element of this Alt is to "Identify conditions necessary for the ecological recovery and long-term integrity of river-related habitats..."

In order to accomplish that, you need to eliminate the High Sierra Camps, the commercial trail rides, the campground A loop, and the concession stables.

The "Heritage" concept is DOUBLESPEAK and subterfuge intended to continue harmful practices. How do you sleep at night when you put out such garbage? Shame on you. How about some up-front candor and honesty for a change?



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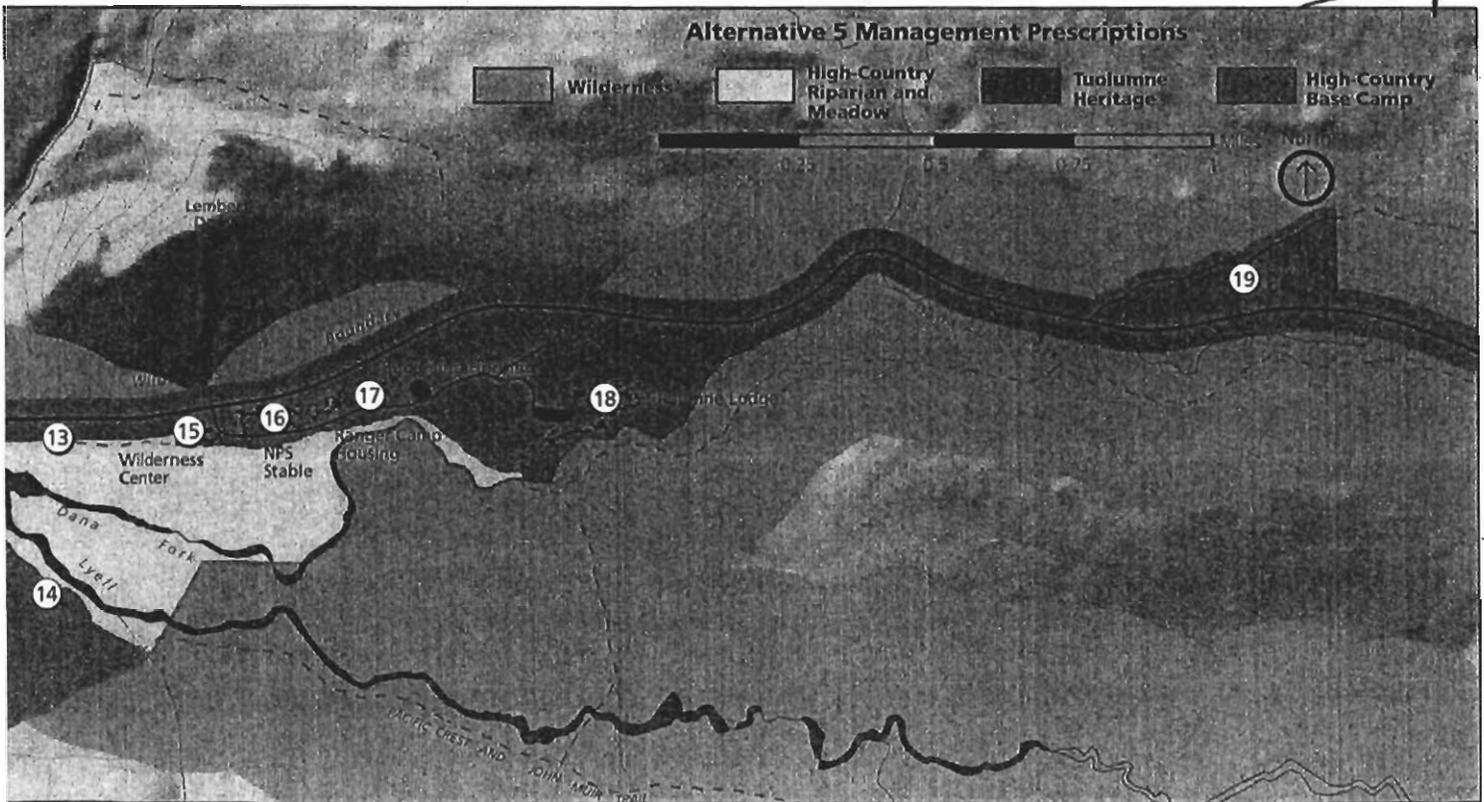
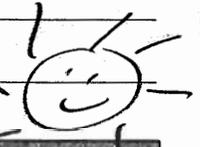
⑪ eliminate

⑭ relocate away from the river

④ base camp? Who wants to "base camp" next to a sewage pond? This should be included under your "Heritage" zone, since it clearly is to support the "Heritage" activities, more than anything else

⑱ relocate away from the river, or eliminate

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: Thank you! 95338



NW L63 8/15/08

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REALLY RESTRICTIVE. A LOT OF CHANGE IN ONE SHOT.

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

MAKES THIS PLACE LIKE DISNEYLAND. TO TOURISTY. PEOPLE THAT VISIT T.M. WANT MORE NATURE & LESS CROWD.

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

NOT REALLY DOING MUCH TO EXISTING CONDITIONS.

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

LOVED IT. EXCEPT, WE STILL NEED OUR GAS.

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

WOULD STILL LIKE TO HAVE RIVER OPEN TO SWIMMING.

WOULD REALLY LIKE/WANT TO SEE SHOWERS ^{LIKE @ CAMP} ~~AS THESE~~

COPY INT.M.

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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? _____

No bike access anywhere. How can you "retain current capacity @ campground" if you remove A loop? Like: Remove commercial (DNC) trail rides.

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

This is not addressed but horses should not be allowed to be ridden anywhere they want, not through delicate meadows, So'da Springs Tilden lake riparian zone, etc. While some might say horses/mules are

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

historical, but so is slavery... so we could change the way horses move through the meadows region & eliminate commercial trail rides.

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?

Mule & horses should be used to (re)supply trail crews & the High Sierra camps. Remove commercial trail rides. Use mules for carry-outs (sprained ankles, etc.)

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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

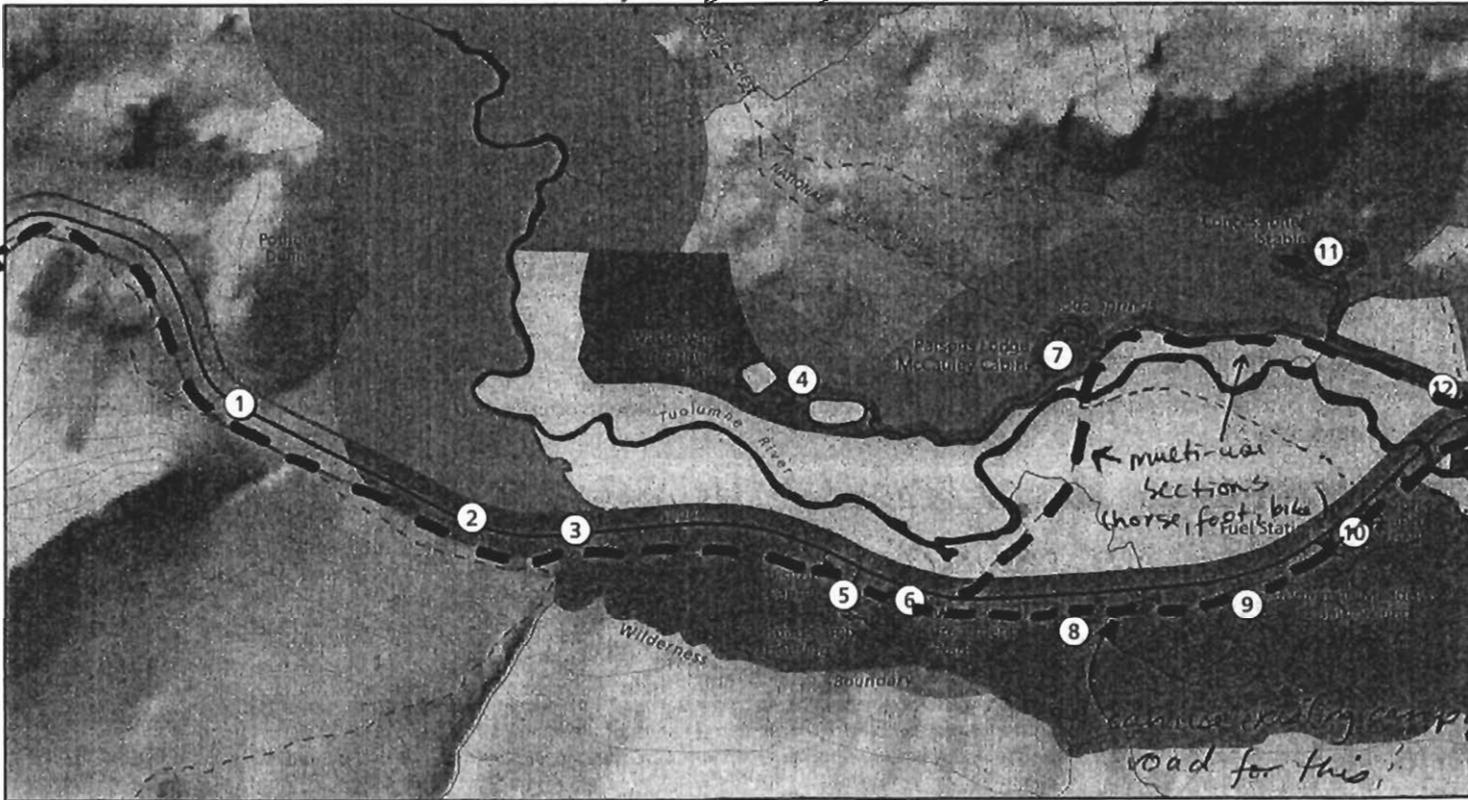
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Bike Path To Tenaya Lake / Olmstead / May Lake

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

- bike path for alternative transportation* (--- see below)
 - wilderness center / visitor center in one location
- 2nd most important
- remove A loop campsites - make into interpretive trail
 - move maintenance to (current) Wilderness ctr.
 - remove the parts of TM lodge that are too close to river
 - remove gas station - make into day use parking
 - have trail across meadow from store area (see --- below)
 - combine mountain shop / grill / store.



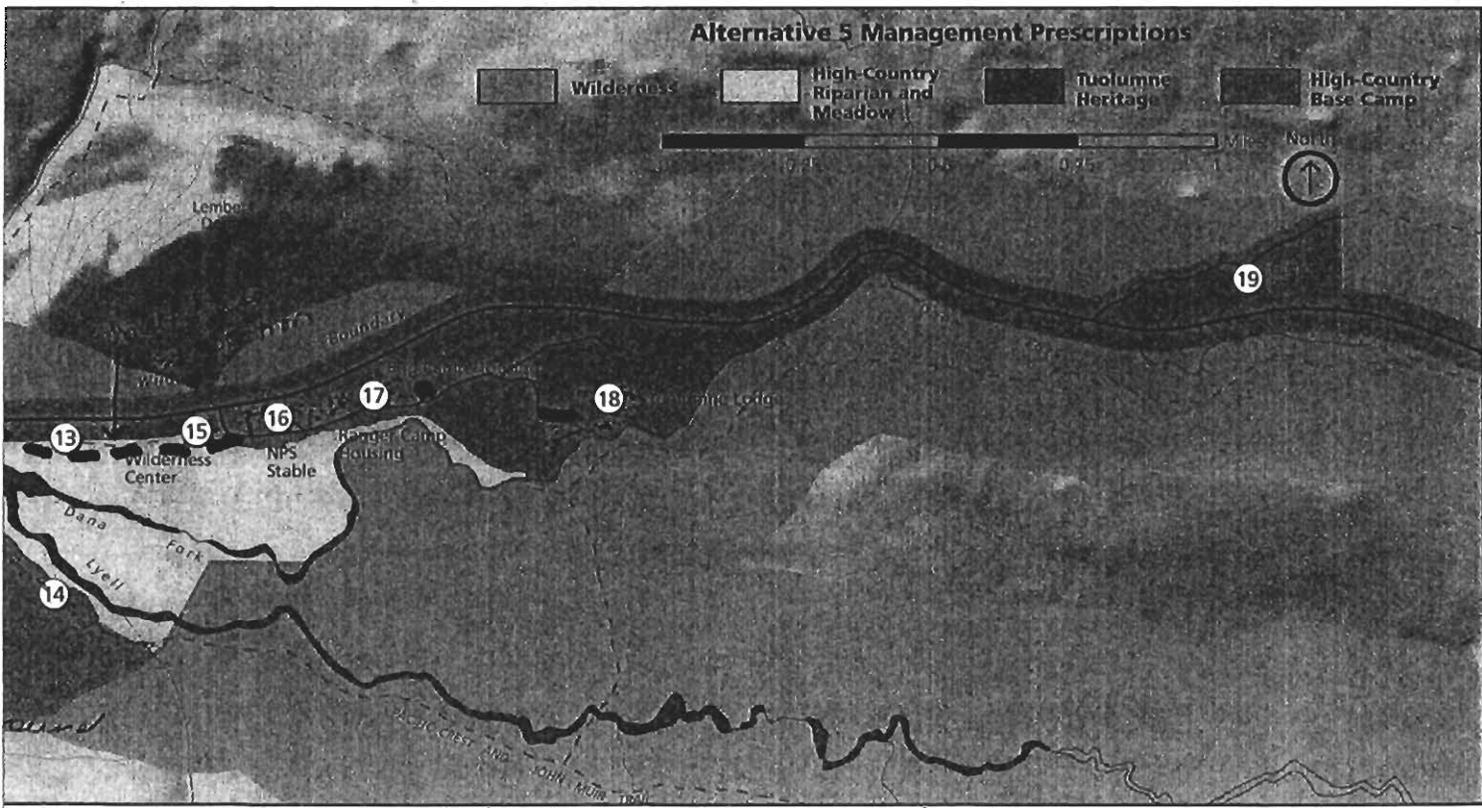
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

* a lot of folks are not super outdoorsy, but it would provide a positive outdoor experience for whole families to hike along & stop & walk - check out Acadia NP. It would also encourage employees & volunteers to ride to work.

Having the wilderness ctr. where current maintenance facilities are located would mean visitors could get permits right after/before req. info. They could still park at the (current) wilderness ctr. pleg. lot - after all, you don't park for over-nights at the Wilderness Ctr. in the valley! I like the idea of combining the NPS & Concession stables. Then there is even MORE room for maintenance &/or housing for employees.

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

[Redacted] Yosemite 95389



Adding A-loop "trail" & the trail from the store add 2 "loops" to hike, some

thing many visitors ask about

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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? STRONGLY

DISLIKE PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE TUOLUMNE LODGE TENT CABINS. WE USE TL AS A BASE FOR HIKING & ENJOYING THE TUOLUMNE RIVER AND ITS WATERSHED. ALSO, GROCERIES & FOOD SERVICE SHOULD BE SOLD SO THAT PARK USERS DON'T HAVE TO DRIVE BACK & FORTH TO LEE VILLAG.

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

LIKE RETENTION OF TUOLUMNE LODGE

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

LIKE RETENTION OF TUOLUMNE LODGE

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

LIKE RETENTION OF TUOLUMNE LODGE. AGREE DINING FACILITIES DON'T NEED TO BE ADJACENT TO RIVER. PERHAPS RESTORE A 100 FOOT WIDE RIVER CORRIDOR WITH A DEFINED TRAIL SYSTEM & INTERPRETATIVE EXHIBITS. ANY TENTS REMOVED SHOULD BE REPLACED IN KIND

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

ALTERNATIVE 4 STRIKES THE BEST BALANCE

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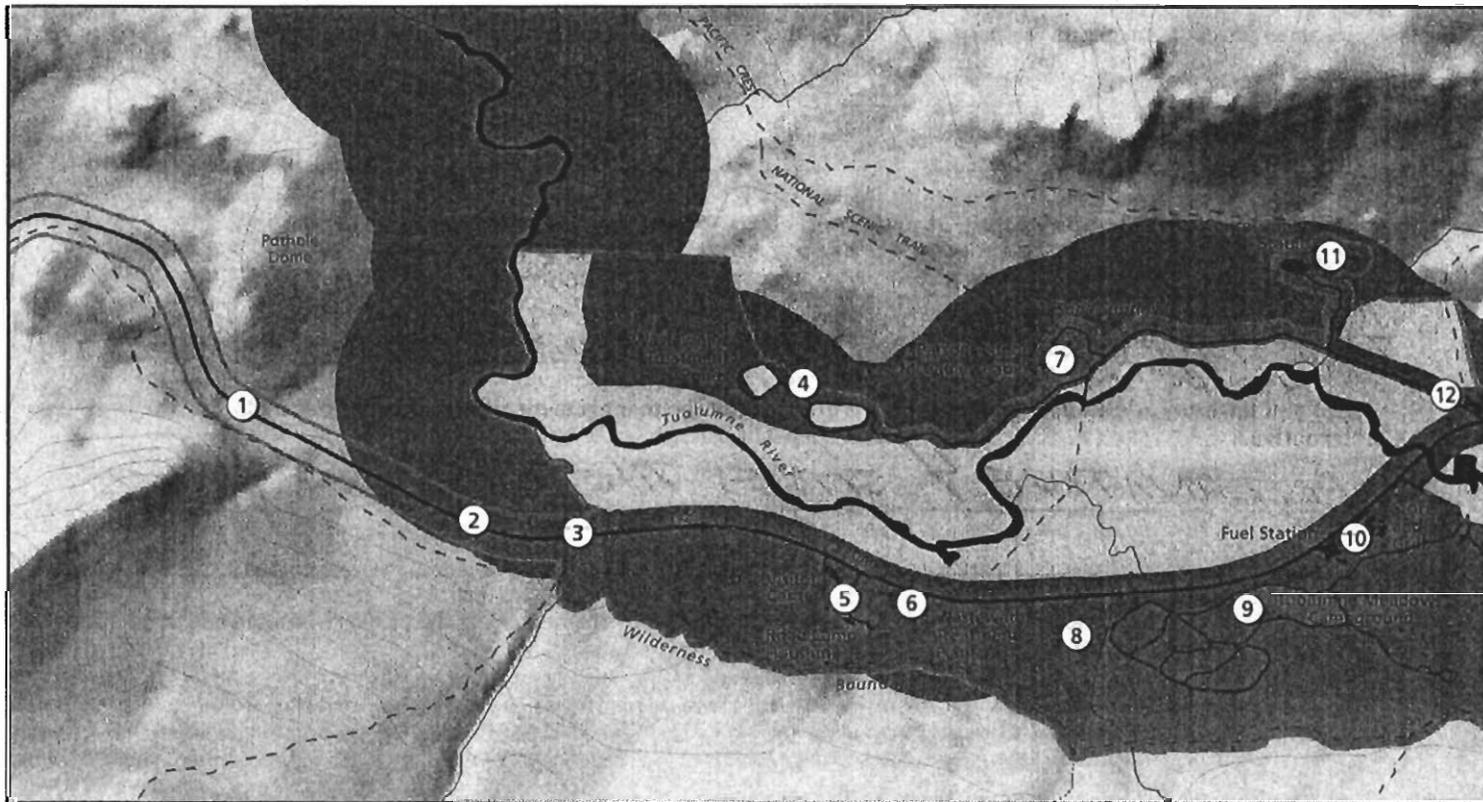
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

RETAIN TUOLUMNE LODGE BUT RELOCATE DINING FACILITIES TO RESTORE A RIVER CORRIDOR PERHAPS 100 FOOT WIDE WITH A TRAIL SYSTEM AND INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS. IF TENT CABINS ARE RELOCATED, THEY SHOULD BE REPLACED ELSEWHERE FURTHER FROM RIVER

ALTERNATIVE 4 STRIKES THE BEST BALANCE BETWEEN RECREATION, EDUCATION AND SCIENCE BASED RESTORATION



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? _____

This would make the high country inaccessible to most visitors. — Terrible.

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

I like that overnight access is maintained, but it could turn the meadow into a pure recreation 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? _____

I think this is a great plan that balances the ecological needs and the need to maintain access for the largest number of people.

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.

NW L61 8/15/08

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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? _____

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 favor the Alternative 5
Honor the Traditions

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

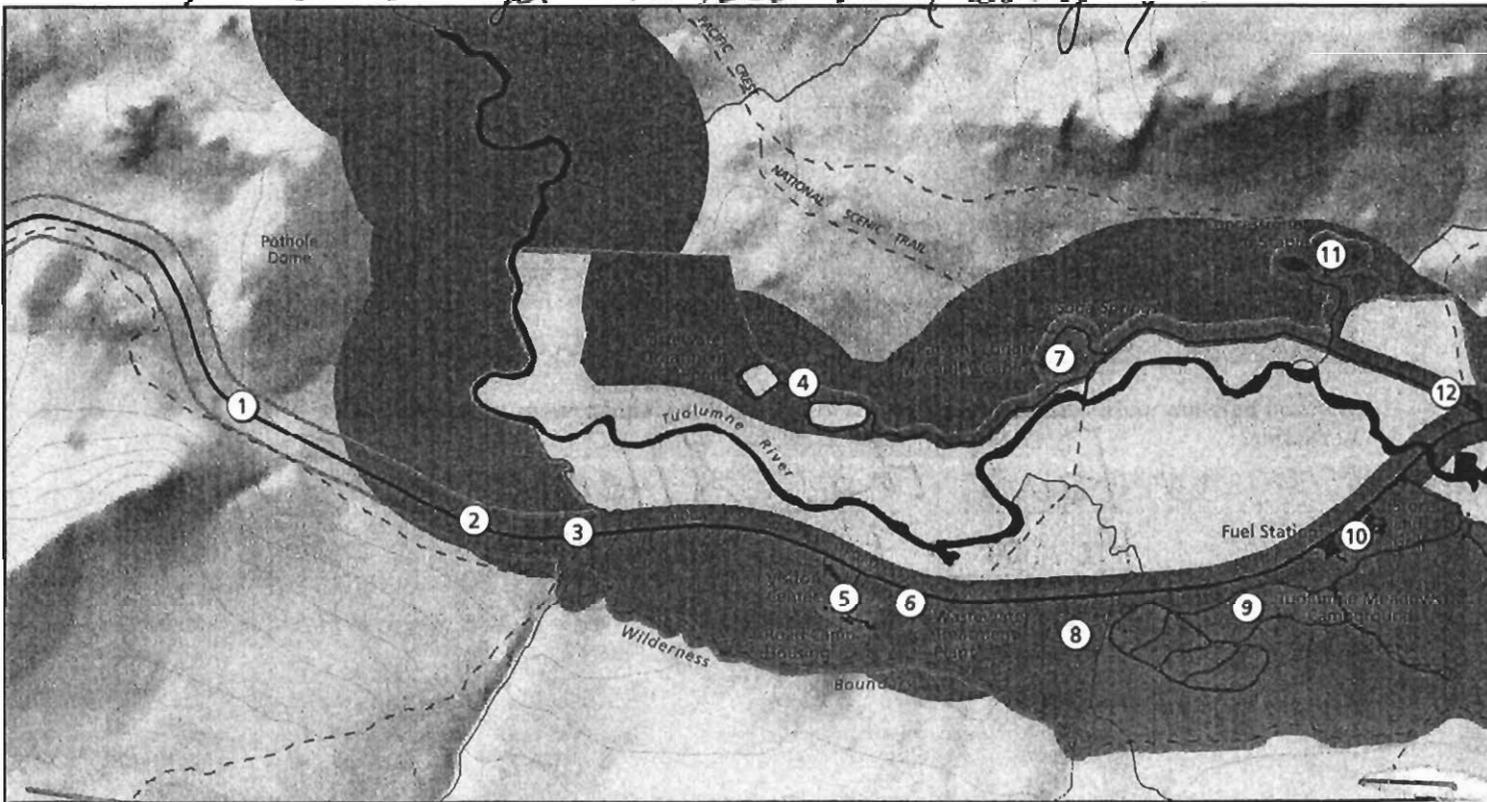
workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

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

Keep the trails for Stock & Hikers

Keep the Buildings that have been there forever - The Sierra Club House & Glen Aolin

I try to get up to Tuolumne Meadows every summer & I have friends who work in the park so I get to see them every year



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

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

too restrictive

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

~~#19~~ *#19 housing seems far away - this would encourage driving*

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

#19 - parking - why would I want to park so far away? #11 remove commercial trail sides

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

#11 I don't care if you consolidate the stables - just get rid of commercial trail sides

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

horses do not stay on trails - I saw this yesterday - it was disturbing - people galloping thru meadows trashing plants

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)?

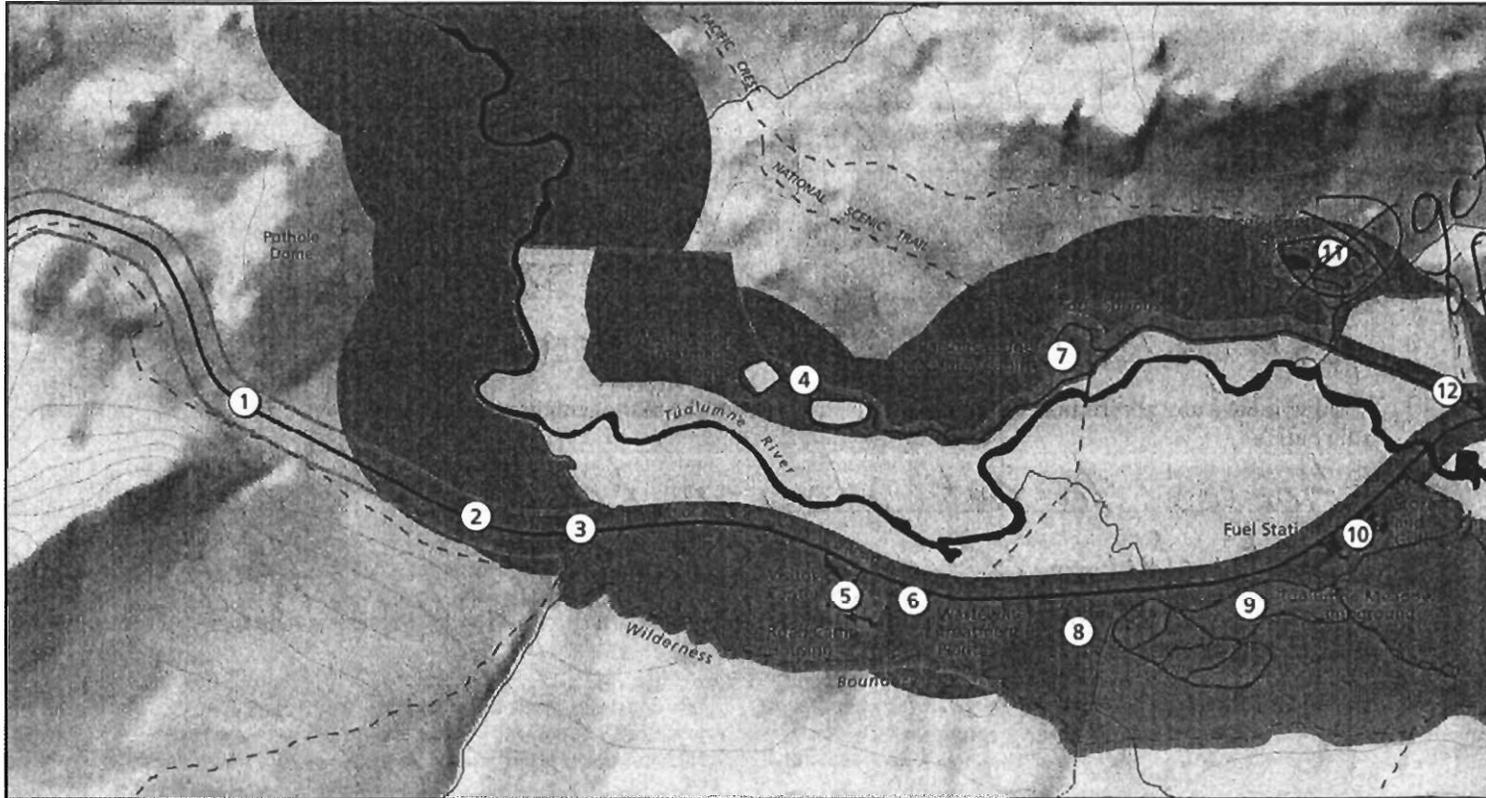
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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 would prefer to see mountain bikes over these horses.
- * I would like to see more trails connecting the store
- * Your rangers do "River Walks" why isn't there a river trail?
- * biking like Zion NP
- * Keep High Sierra Camps please.



NW L69 8/15/08

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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? _____

AS A MULTIPLE DECADE VISITOR TO TUOLUMNE LODGE, I STRONGLY DISLIKE THE REMOVAL OF IT.

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

TUOLUMNE LODGE OPEN; CONSOLIDATION OF VISITOR SERVICES; REMOVAL OF SHOULDER PARKING.

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

DISLIKE: SERVICES NOT CONSOLIDATED

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

LIKE: MINIMAL FOOTPRINT; RELOCATION OF THE DINING RM AWAY FROM RIVER DISLIKE: REMOVAL LEMBERT PICNIC AREA

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)?

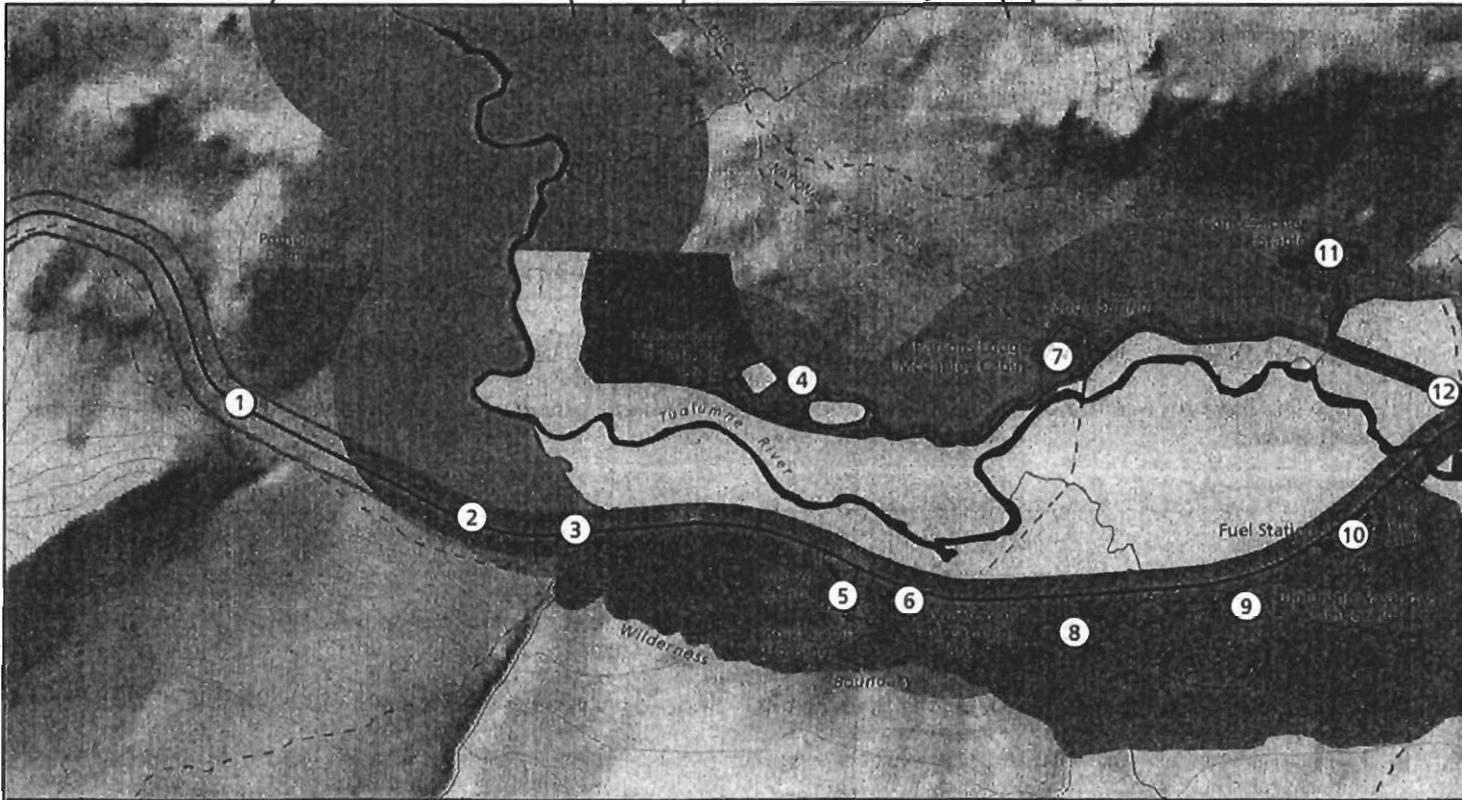
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workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

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

- (1) Consultate NPS & concessioner stable
- (2) Redesign parking, expand picnic area; upgrade sewer station
- (3) Restore Great Sierra Wagon Road
- (4) Campground A loop to river walk
- (5) Relocate ranger station, wilderness center; restore natural conditions
- (6) Relocate NPS stable; restore
- (7) Remove NPS housing, restore natural conditions, expand Trout parking, no shoulder parking
- (8) Return TL; relocate dining hall, remove housing & restore

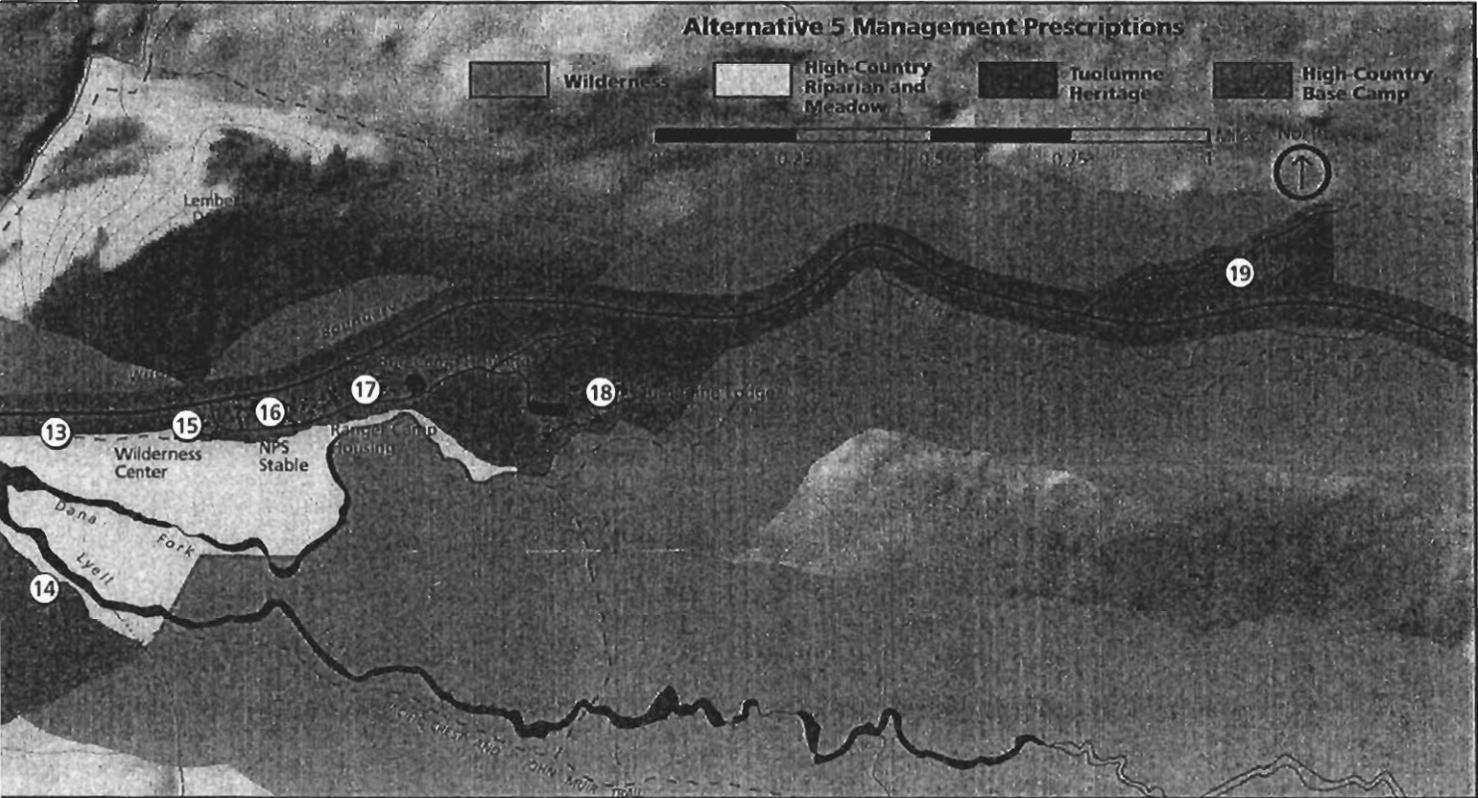


- (19) Provide housing; return emergency operations

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 w/ trail connection to Pot-hole Drive.
- ② Remove all shoulder parking; provide scenic pullouts
- ③ Remove informal parking
- ④ Remove treatment ponds & access roads
- ⑤ Relocate visitor center, retain/housing, provide C.L. parking ^{expand}
- ⑥ New wastewater treatment plant, NPS maintenance yard
- ⑦ Preserve Parkers, McCauley
- ⑧ no change
- ⑨ Campground A loop to river walk
- ⑨ (separate sites by type, improve circulation)
- ⑩ Consolidate visitor center, store, grill; add picnic area
- ⑩ consolidate ranger station, wilderness center, maintenance school

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: _____ 95015



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** most important*

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: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19.

*A strongly want Tuolumne Lodge (#14) retained for future generations and myself!
I would also like to see the store, gas and mountain shop rebuilt.*

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

I like: 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10 (without trails), 11, 12, 17, 18, 19.

I dislike: formal trail at #1, 4, 6, 8, 14 (remove all together)

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

I like: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 17, 18 (retain as is) 19

I dislike: 14 and removal of part of Tuolumne Lodge #18

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

I like: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, 18 (retain as is)

I dislike: 1, 12, 14 (don't remove dining room!)

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

NO

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

see over

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

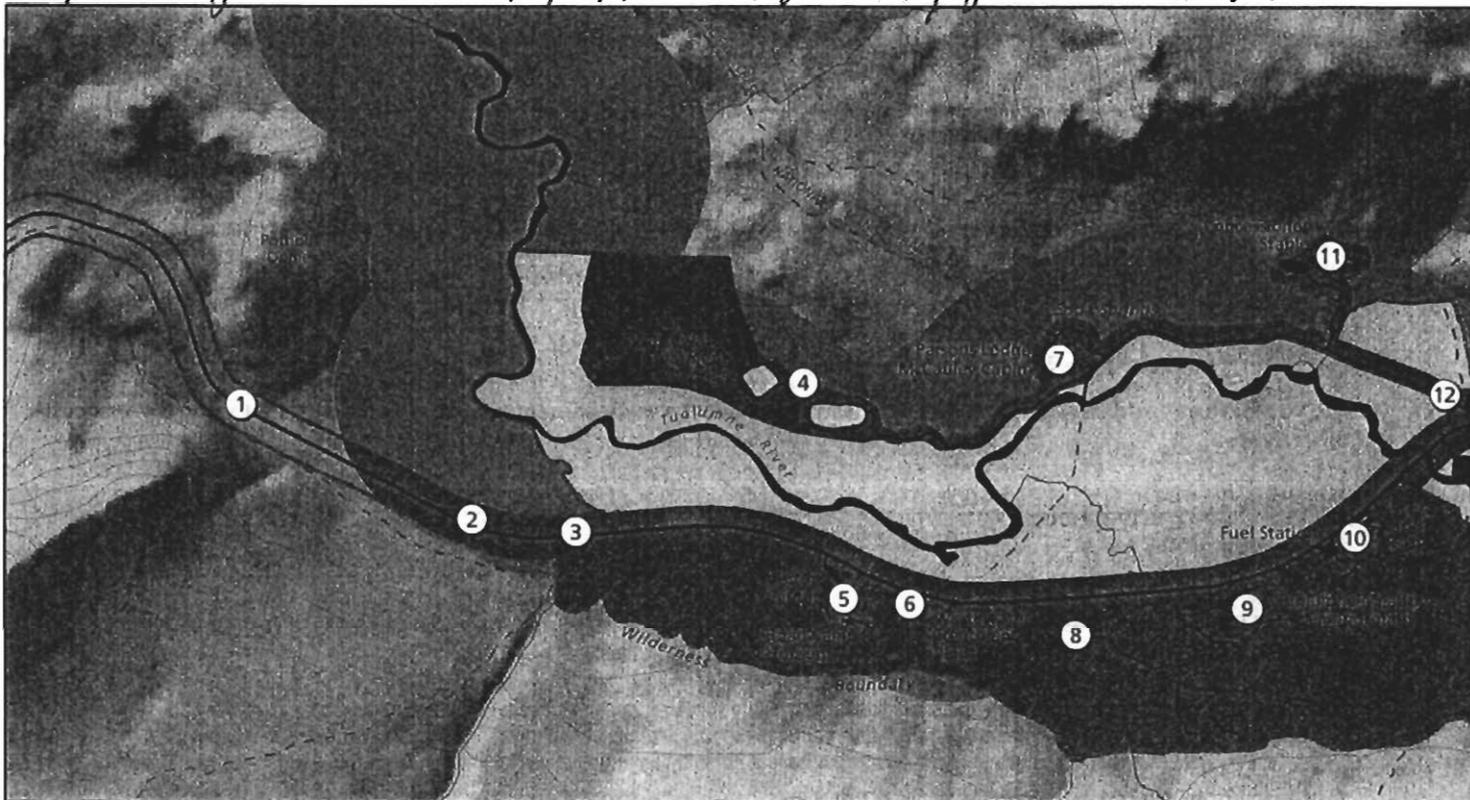
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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

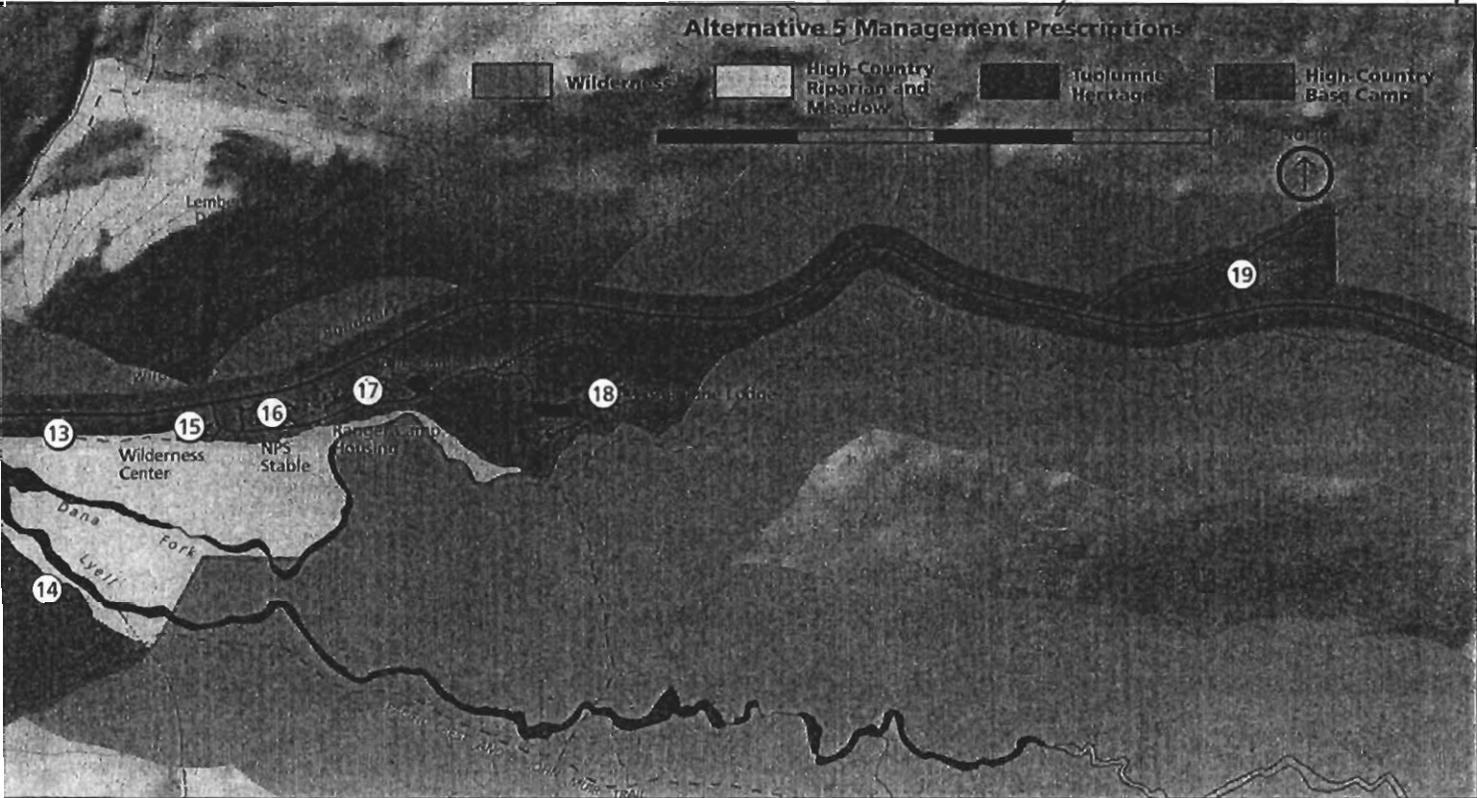
- ① Remove roadside parking and provide parking at Palihate Dome, Cathedral Trailhead and then some but not necessarily all of the following: Lambert Dome, store, Visitor Center, stables
- ② Consolidate Visitor and maintenance services and housing in cluster
- ③ Utilize site 19 - Hydrant Pit to the fullest - for maintenance and/or housing, as well as heliport.
- ④ Mountain camp ground # of sites but remove loop A. Mountain Tuolumne Lodge and Merced Glen (with necessary upgrades) for those of us whose advancing years (65+) and my grandson who has benefited so much from his 9 summers on the high Sierras at TML and finally gone to Merced Glen.



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 and restrooms to T. Meadows
- ② Remove shoulder parking; restore
- ③ Provide Cathedral Lakes parking
- ④ Remove pond + roads + restore
- ⑤ Remove visitor center. Maintain housing + maintenance here or at #19. Combine #4 and #6 at #6.
- ⑥ Leave Parsons McCauley.
- ⑦ Mountain.
- ⑧ Consolidate visitor center, store + (2 grills) at campground loop. Add picnic area + maintain campsites # with redesign.
- ⑩ Consolidate Ranger Station, wilderness center + mt. school.
- ⑪ Add picnic ground + parking. Remove stables.
- ⑫ Retain parking, redesign comfort station. Remove picnic ground to #11.
- ⑬ Restore Great Horned Owl on Rd, as interpretive trail.
- ⑭ Remove Loop A + restore
- ⑮ Remove Ranger station and wilderness center to #10 and restore.
- ⑯ Relocate NPS stable + concession stable to #19.
- ⑰ Consolidate housing concessions and NPS (if not at #5) Expand DL / TMT parking!
- ⑱ Retain TMT + Glen Auda
- ⑲ Use Gaylor Pit to maximum.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [REDACTED] Cupertino 95014
 Yosemite West 95389



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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? _____

There is nothing in this plan to like. Stephen Mather would "roll over in his grave" in disgust if he saw this plan.

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

This plan just moves everything around - how much relocation + rebuilding can we do + how much will it cost. Too unnecessary + expensive

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

The best of the plans - people friendly, retains historic flavor, no massive building projects + way less expensive

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

Again, too much relocation + rebuilding - How much damage do we do to the environment to move + rebuild everything. Leave well enough alone.

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)?

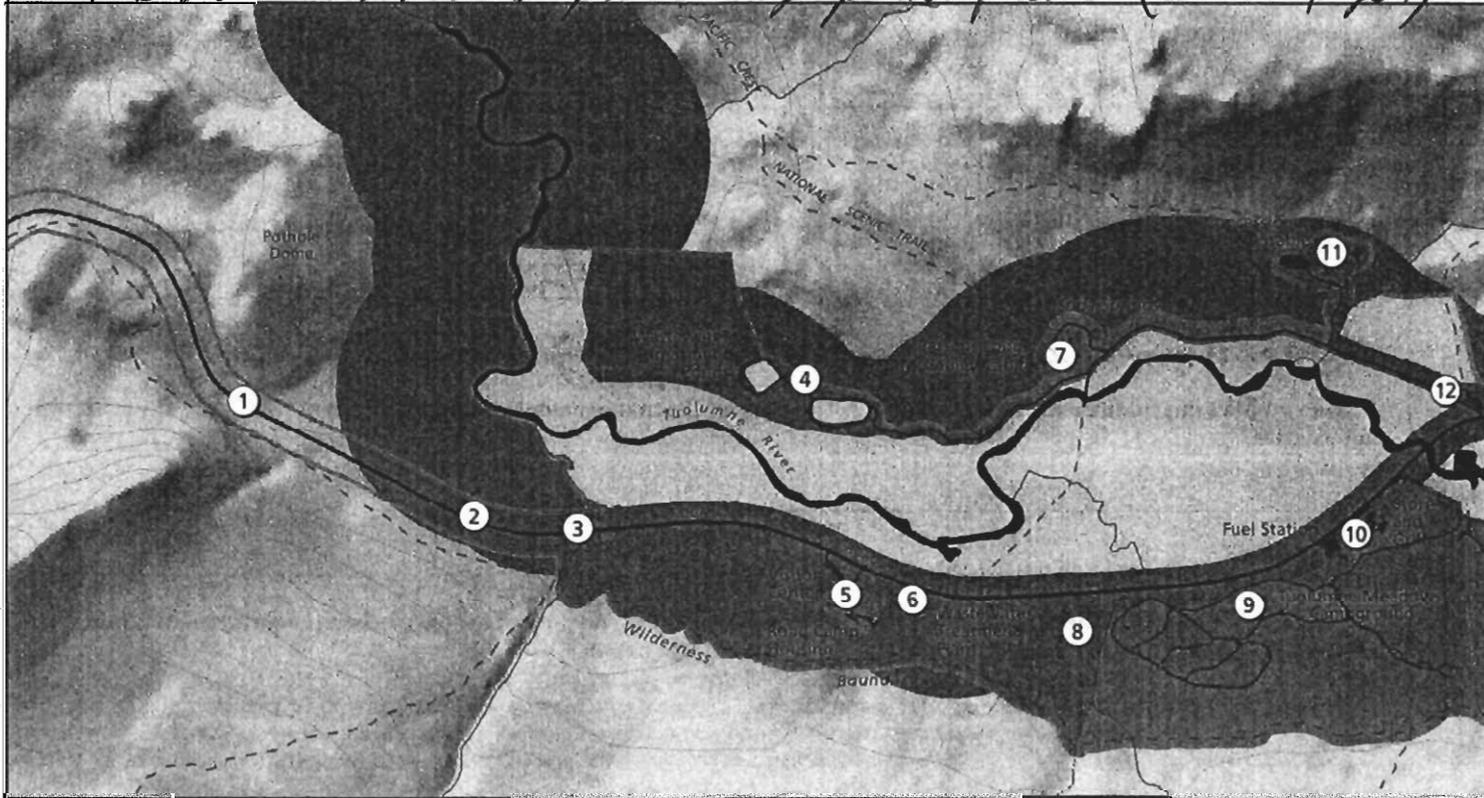
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

After spending the last 33 years as a Ranger in Yosemite, I've realized that the High Sierra Camps are one of the most important parts of Yosemite, (Tuolumne Lodge being one of the first camps built in 1916) The camps allow visitors a chance to truly connect with the resource, as Stephen Mather intended. Mather the first director of the NPS and really the creator of the NPS, realized that people need a place to stay overnight to really experience Yosemite. Thus he created Tuolumne Lodge (and Glen Aulin shortly after) They have existed for almost 100 years with very minimal impact. It is incomprehensible that a few vocal extremists would like to keep the average person from (cont. on page 4)



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 with trail connection to Pot-hole
- ② Remove shoulder parking + provide scenic pullout
- ③ Create formal parking area - where old parking area was.
- ④ Retain treatment ponds + access road, unless (see #6)
- ⑤ Retain visitor center, housing + maintenance
- ⑥ Retain treatment plant - unless old system needs major repair, then consolidate ^{new plant here.}
- ⑦ Preserve Parsons + McCawley
- ⑧ No change
- ⑨ Retain current capacity, improve site delineation + traffic flow
- ⑩ Retain store, grill, fuel + mountaineering school,
- ⑪ Retain concessioner stable
- ⑫ Redesign ~~road~~ parking + picnic area + upgrade comfort station
- ⑬ Provide a bike/bike trail along the old Tioga Rd.

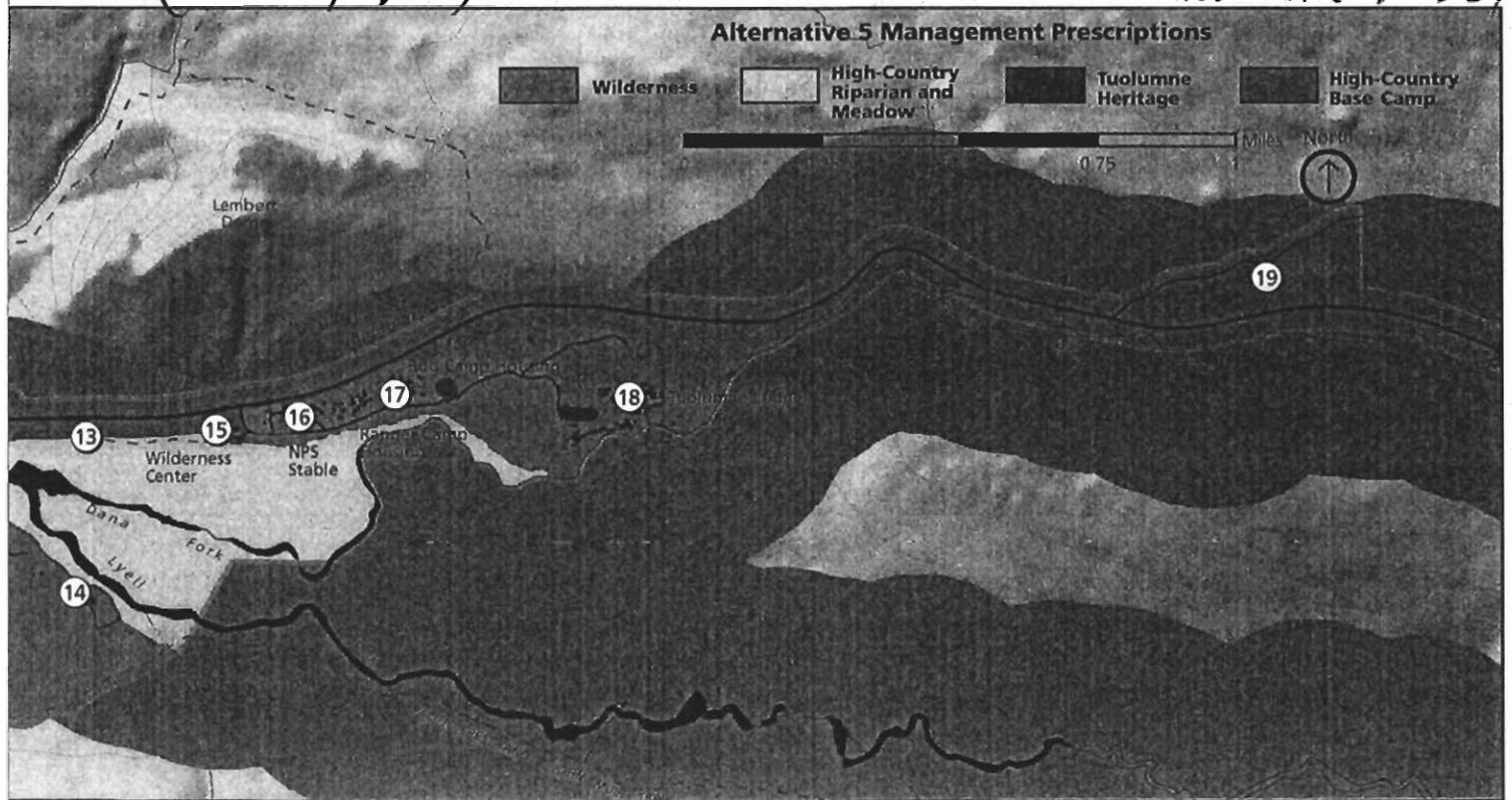
(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [REDACTED]

(cont on page 4)

Yosemite 95389

Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions

Wilderness
 High-Country Riparian and Meadow
 Tuolumne Heritage
 High-Country Base Camp



staying in Tuolumne or experiencing the wilderness at Glen Aulin.
When a person spends time here, they likely will fall in love
with the park, and ultimately become protectors of the wilderness.
Eliminating people eliminates future protectors.

The most important thing is to preserve Tuolumne and Glen Aulin
the way it is.

Let's not insult Stephen Mather by destroying what his
vision created.

- ⑭ No Change
- ⑮ Retain ranger station + wilderness center
- ⑯ Retain N.P.S. stables
- ⑰ Retain housing + Pog Lake Parking
- ⑱ Retain Tuolumne lodge + housing
- ⑲ Retain emergency operations + helipad

Step 1: Fold in half along the spine.

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

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

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

Please place
postage here

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



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

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

Too extreme. Disregards Tm cultural history.
Eliminates people's ability to stay overnight in Tm + Glen Aulin.

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

Too expensive.

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

The best of all listed alternatives; cost effective; retains historic flavour

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

Too expensive. Tearing down stuff and rebuilding stuff is not reasonable and causes further resource damage.

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.

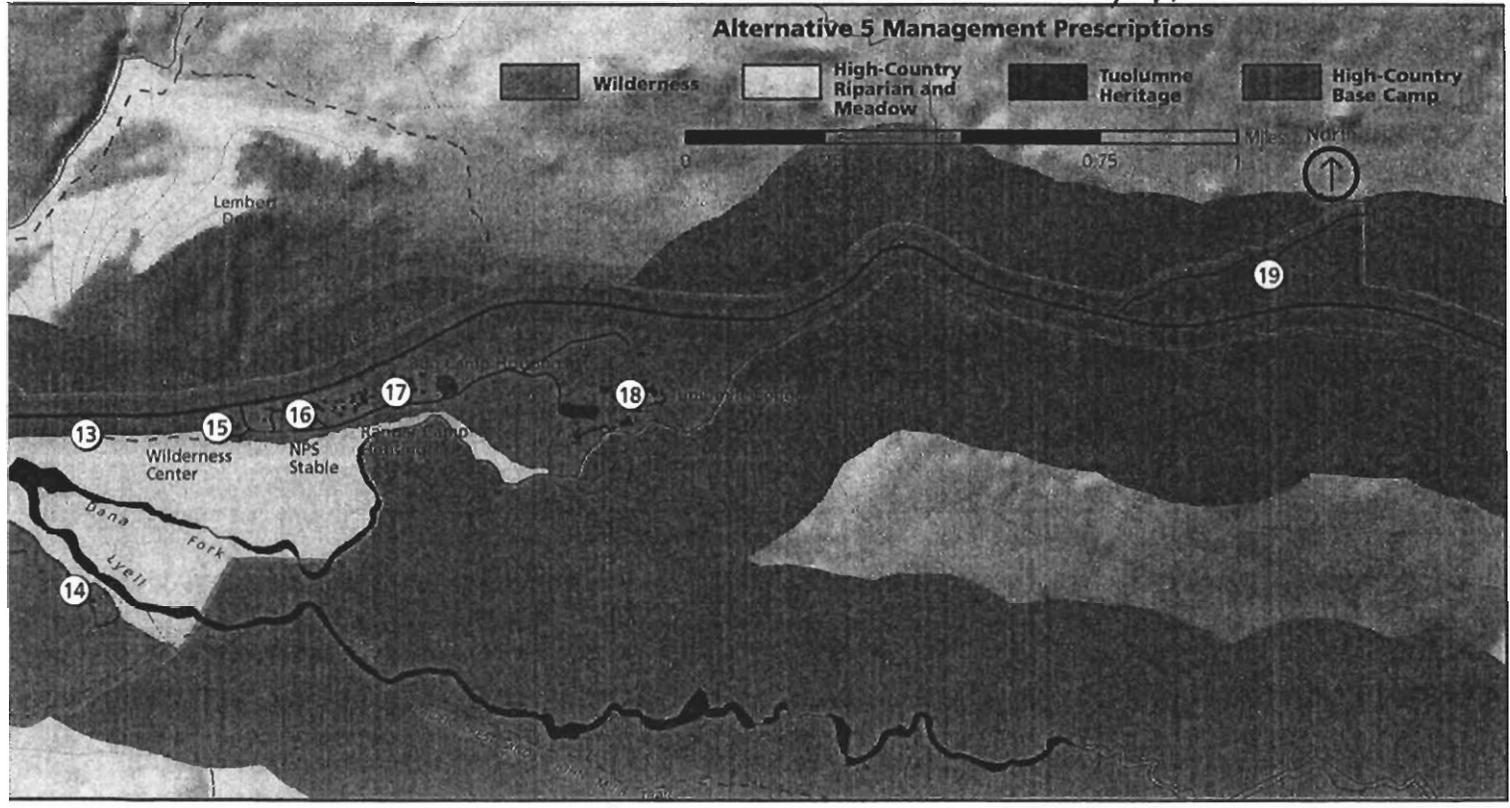
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This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

Absolutely do not remove Tuolumne Lodge + Glen Aulin Camp.
Let this plan "Leave No Trace", ie. TM is historic and adequate
for current visitation and needs.

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

Wawona, CA 95389



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.

** See enclosed sheets for answers to #1 + 2*

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

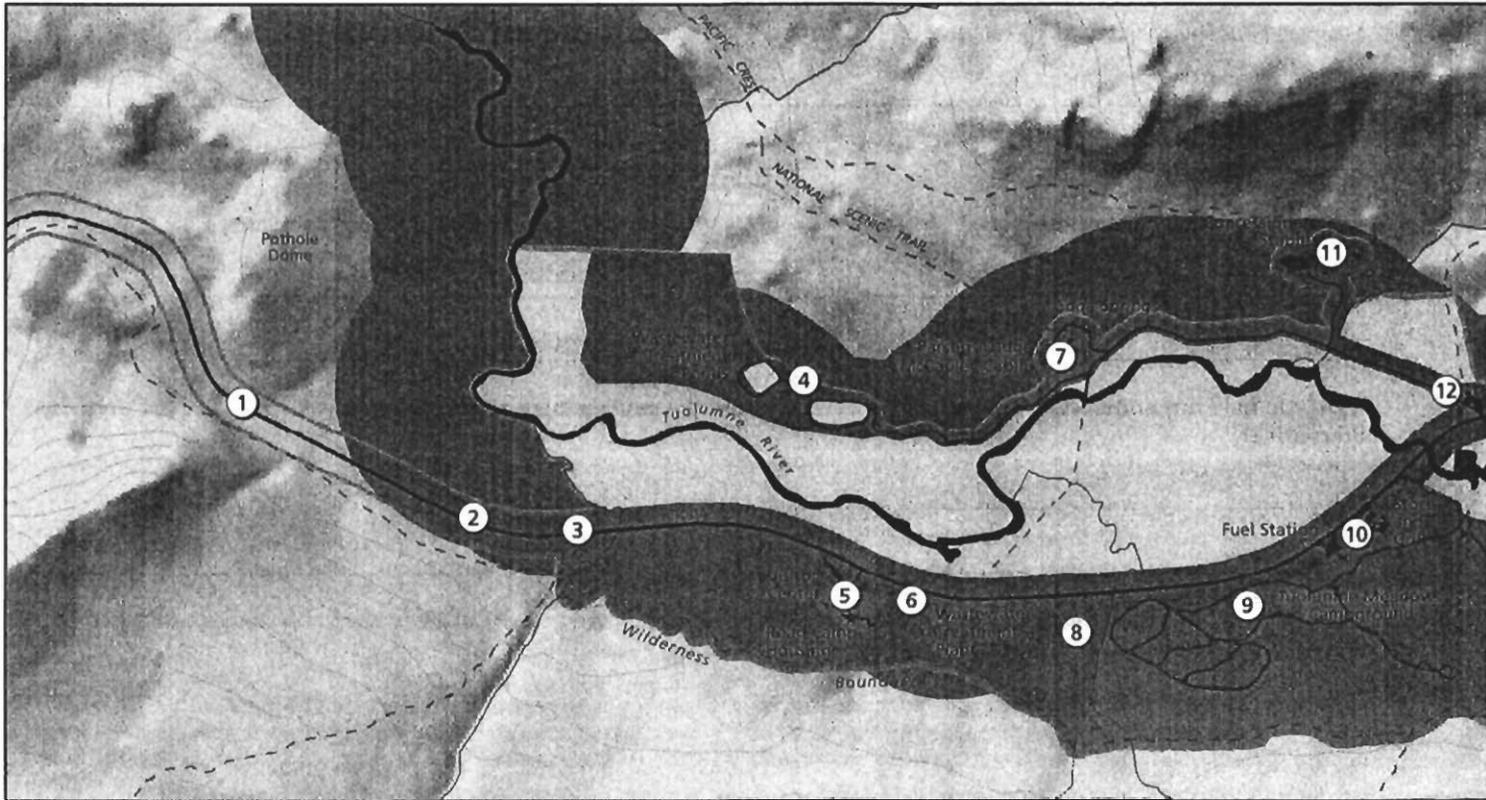
Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

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.

See enclosed sheet for Tuolumne Vision + Ideas

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

- 1.) Remove informal roadside parking + social trails; provide formal parking area + trail connection to Pothole Dome
- 2.) Remove all Tioga Rd. shoulder parking + social trails, restore to natural conditions
- 3.) Remove roadside parking - use big rocks!
- 4.) Remove wastewater treatment ponds + access road, restore natural conditions
- 5.) Retain - maybe expand parking (section for longer periods + overnight, + a section for 30 minute VC use)



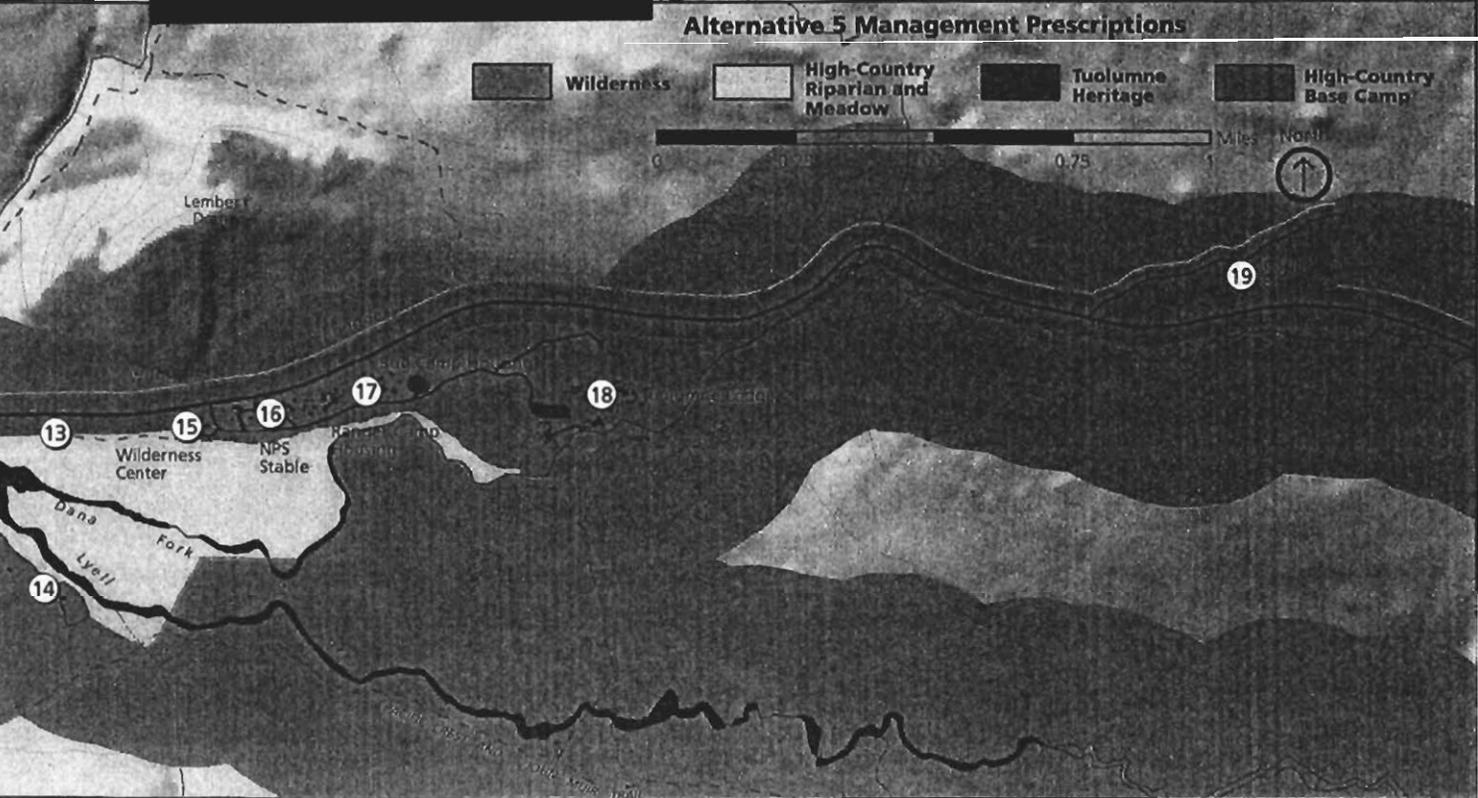
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

- 6.) Locate new wastewater treatment facilities near existing plant - incorporate graywater system/water recycling. Update facilities + camouflage from general view
- 7.) Preserve McC. cabin + Parsons, remove social trails + seal road from icky asbestos dust
- 8.) I'm not really sure what this one is? No change, don't reopen western entrance to campground.
- 9.) Improve site delineation + traffic flow. Group campsites by type (separate big RVs + tents)
- 10.) Scale back concessionaire facilities. No grill, retain P.O., get rid of cheesy souvenirs, make gas station gov. vehicles + employees only
- 11.) Eliminate concessioner stables + trail rides + HSC's! Restore to natural conditions

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

Yosemite, CA 95389

Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions



Preferred Alternative Site Plan continued...

- 12.) Retain parking + picnic area. Install composting toilets. Better signage for Lambert Dome + Soda Springs trails. Remove social trails.
- 13.) Do something about deep sand trail! Horrible to walk on - people walk on/in meadow. Keep as foot path only (if you make this a bike trail, people will undoubtedly bike into meadow).
- 14.) Remove/relocate A-loop to protect river ecosystem. Create interpretive trail about river in former A-loop.
- 15.) Retain WC + RO - maintain + preserve historic structures (I bet centennial \$ could be used for this. Improve + delineate WC parking ~~the~~ lot).
- 16.) Retain NPS stables in current location. Improve corral to mitigate dust/urine/seces.
- 17.) Retain + preserve tent cabin community in Ranger Camp. We provide multiple recreation opportunities in the park, should provide multiple housing opportunities in the park. If someone doesn't like tent cabins, there are apartments/houses in other parts of the park. To me, tent cabins are very much a part of the cultural community in Tuolumne ^{or other parks.} If other divisions don't like the tent cabins, replace their tent cabins w/ hard sided but DO NOT do this for all of Ranger Camp! Tuolumne is a seasonal area, why invest in hard-sided cabins only used maybe 1/2 the year. Tent cabins are sterilized in the winter - nothing living in walls like hard sided cabins. Periodic maintenance + preservation will improve quality of tent cabins. Also → RVs + pop-ups should be prohibited. If that was a viable solution to the housing crunch, then every division could hire as many people as they wanted.

If someone wants to live in an RV or pop-up, give them a spot in the campground. It makes Ranger Camp look like a shanty town.

18.) Remove sites near river + restore to natural conditions. Natural processes/resource values should prevail here.

19.) Provide satellite parking, extend + expand shuttle service (more frequent, more reliable). Install composting toilets. Retain emergency operations

Alternative 1: Manage more of the Tuolumne River as Wilderness

What I like: discontinued trail rides, removal of Glen Aulin, removal of informal roadside parking, ^{social trails,} natural processes allowed to prevail, removal of A-loop to protect river, wastewater proposals (move ponds, consolidate water treatment stuff)

What I dislike: isn't really feasible, b/c people have been coming here for years, may limit some people's exposure to high country, changing character of experience very difficult (I'd like to know how you go about doing this); how can you retain interpretive facilities + programs but move employees to Lee Vining (what happens if Blue Slide blows? Look @ Hwy. 140 example - no way to even make a 2-hr commute/detour - also gas prices, cost to environment, lines @ gate, limited shuttle/bus services); the fact that concessionaire stables retained - get rid of them + HSC's; no proposals for parking areas or improved shuttle system.

On the fence

- removal of store/grill/gas station. I think these should be scaled way back - no cheesy souvenirs, no grill, maybe have fuel for gov. vehicles + employees (like Valley). Need to have small store facilities for employees to save gas + get necessities.

- lodge poles in meadows - do we know if we've caused this or not? Needs careful examination of our impacts + whether cultural values or resource values win out.

Concerns

How to reduce (or in that matter - how to control at all) visitor use capacity. Can reduce accommodations + facilities + control overnight capacity, but doesn't really address day-use.

Alternative 2: Expand Opportunities for People to Discover & connect with the Tuolumne River

What I like: removal of ^{informal} roadside parking

What I dislike: pretty much everything... Kayaking on river, more signs + waysides, consolidation of buildings (like Yose. Village - we don't need a Tuolumne Village), moving Ranger Camp to Gaylor Pit (RC⁺ is a cultural resource, ^{+ tent cabins}), retention of all lodge facilities, activity + social levels being relatively high (can get this experience in a city - we don't need attractions in a NP, parks should ~~be~~ offer an escape from modern facilities, life, etc.), retention of sewage ponds, adding another trail through meadow, scenic pullouts (people walk out from scenic pullouts), bike trail.

My opinion: scrap this alternative - not consistent with the Tuolumne that everyone loves

Alternative 3: Celebrate the cultural heritage of the Tuolumne River

What I like: adherence to traditional values (mainly simplicity + rustic qualities, especially as pertains to Visitor Center functions + interp. programs), Tuolumne as a place of legacy + escape from modern society, satellite parking @ Graybor Pit w/ improved shuttle system, removal of informal roadside parking, retention of housing (but needs to be accompanied w/ maintenance to preserve integrity of building + tent cabins).

What I dislike: retention of Giken Aulin (you say you wouldn't endorse past patterns ~~of~~ that are unsustainable, but still protecting G.A., which is not a sustainable feature), retention of stables + trail rides.

Concern

Cultural values seem to trump resource values overall, when I think that each facility or site needs to be given careful deliberation about which is more important (cult. vs. res.) or if any balance can be found.

Alternative 4: Facilitate Recovery of Healthy Ecological Conditions in Disturbed Meadow & Riparian Areas

What I like: discontinued trail rides, collaboration between Scientists + Am. Indian groups, relocation of select facilities to protect ecosystem values, interpretive loop about river through former A-loop, separation of campsites by type (keep big RVs + tents separate).

What I dislike: retention of G.A. (does this serve as a healthy, sustainable, riparian ecosystem - I don't think so), consolidation of facilities, visitor contact station @ Cath. Lks trailhead, moving of NPS housing + moving concessionaire housing to Ranger Camp, bike trail

Concern
Does relocation work? Moving + changing locations may not be possible/feasible → utilities, wilderness. Seems like you're just shuffling things around.

Considerations

If doing intensive restoration, find ways to effectively close off areas to public - example - meadow by path - people step over rope barriers + ignore signs. Also, incorporate opportunities for public to learn about recovery/restoration/research directly from scientists.

Tuolumne Vision + Ideas

To me, Tuolumne Meadows + the Yosemite high country are incredibly special + in need of our protection. The first time I ever came to Tuolumne, I felt like I had just been let in on this amazing secret. There is something primeval + mysterious + spiritual + healing about Tuolumne + that HAS TO BE PROTECTED. This is a place where people have easy access to our incredible wilderness + all the amazing qualities that go along with wilderness. This is a place where people can escape the stresses + worries + hurried paces of modern life. People can enjoy a stroll with a ranger, as they have for decades. There are no microphones or computers or slides at our camping programs - people can harken back to simpler times. Visitors + employees alike can relax + feel all their problems slip away as they sit next to the river, listening to the rushing water, the wind through the pines + the gentle notes of song birds. The Visitor Center is simple + hands on, is not an attraction, but rather a jumping off point or a place to find answers + learn more. People come to Tuolumne to experience the High Sierra, not watch a movie, go shopping, or push a button for audio on a Visitor Center display. These are all things to keep in mind when hashing out site plans or EIS.

Remember what is important.

Vision + Ideas Continued... Plus Considerations

(These are considerations to keep in mind for an overall Tuolumne Plan.)

Soundscapes - I am so happy when the wind or rushing waters of the Dana Fork drown out the sounds of our roads. Motorcycles, air tours (where did these come from?!? I find this most disturbing), + generators take away from what you would expect to hear while enjoying Tuolumne.

Going green - Yosemite should be a shining example of sustainable operations. I mean, I've see recycled water in toilets at rest stops in Virginia - why don't we do that here. Solar panels, hybrid buses + government vehicles, + more emphasis on conservation + recycling need to be standard throughout the park.

Climate change - The effects of climate change need to seriously be considered + incorporated into the plan. Less snowfall, longer season, effects on visitation + facilities (for example ~~July 17th~~ more intense storms like what we had on July 14th will become the norm. How to we protect the meadow, river + buildings + roads).

What's appropriate in a national park - This is not a city park, where you sky kite, play frisbee or baseball in the meadows. It's not a yard where you can walk or tramp where you please. Concerted efforts need to be made (more than we do now) to educate folks on the beauty + uniqueness of this area.

Wild life - Definitely the animals need our help. I'm seeing lots of dogs in the meadows. We need to think about the implications of our actions on the wildlife here. Another major problem is speeding on park road. I can't tell you how many times I have been passed on a double yellow line on a blind curve. Undoubtedly this daredevil behavior results in death for an unacceptable number of animals.

Visitor Use + Capacity - Well good luck with this, folks. I've wracked my brain to try & figure out how to determine + implement this. Most of the plans seem to assume we are at or below capacity. I don't know how to control day use numbers, except to implement mandatory shuttles, + how do you do that on a trans-Sierra high way. It's the old question of visitor enjoyment + resource protection + so often visitor enjoyment wins out at the expense of our resource. The line has to be drawn somewhere + I hope that when that time comes, it is fairly drawn.

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

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*Like eliminating roadside parking
dislike removing Tuolumne Lodge*

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

*Like showers at VC and having parking
for Cathedral Lakes*

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

too much the same as now

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

like just about all of it.

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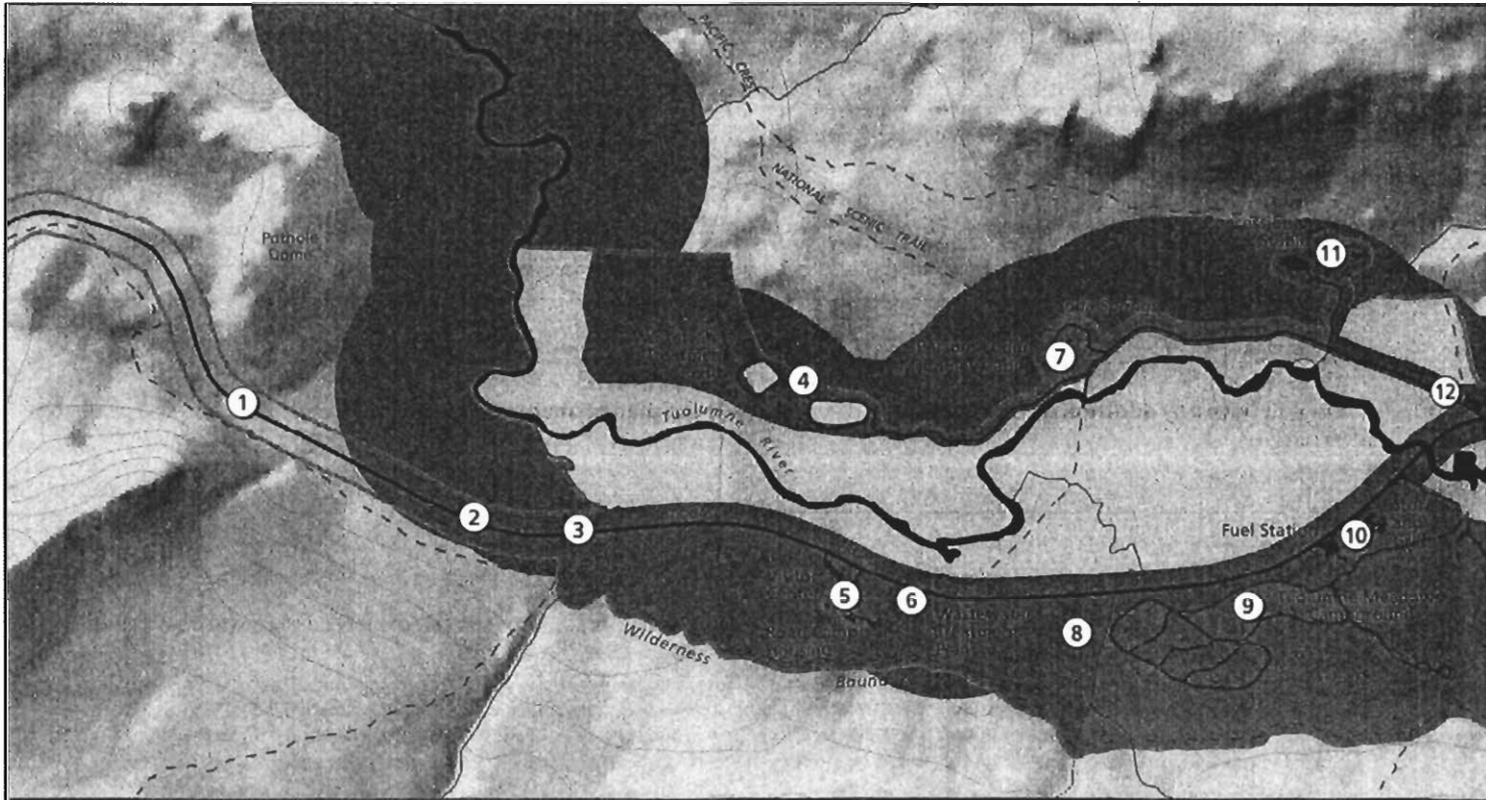
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

Somehow make it a more enjoyable experience for the casual visitor, but also preserve land/or restore natural features such as the meadow and River. Keep what is now wilderness "wild".



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 reroute trail around meadow, not through it from parking area
- ② Remove shoulder parking
- ③ provide Cathedral Lakes off road parking area.
- ④ put wilderness center w/ VC + update + expand VC - showers would be great. Take over "D" loop for this? Also picnic ^{add.} area
- ⑦ Keep as is.
- ⑩ put stove + grill near VC. Remove gas station.
- ⑫ keep picnic area, improve bathrooms.
- ⑬ Keep ranger housing
- ⑭ Keep lodge, tent move some bldgs away from river.
- ⑮ Move other employees housing to Gaylor Pit including those now behind VC

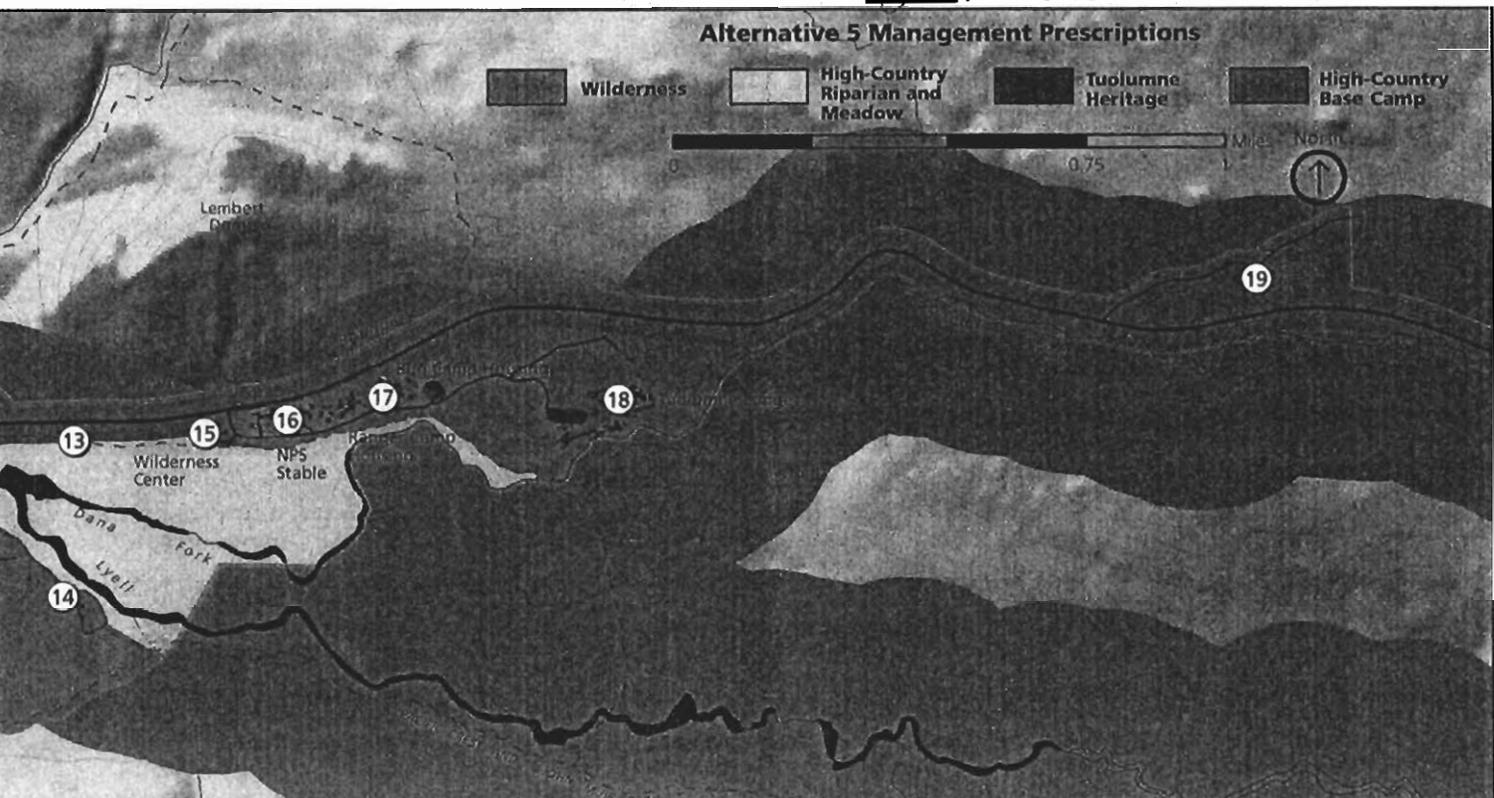
(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code

Redondo Beach CA 90277

Alternative 5 Management Prescriptions

- Wilderness
- High-Country Riparian and Meadow
- Tuolumne Heritage
- High-Country Base Camp

0 0.75 1 Mile North



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like 7.8.9.10. ~~11~~ 11.12.13.14.16.15A, 19

Dislike 1.2.3.4.5.6. 15b, ^{Don't} ADD - 16.17.18
_{visitecenter}

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

like 4.6.7.8.9.10. (if they have to stay) 11.12.13.14.16.17.19

Dislike 1.2.3.5.15.18

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

like 4.5.6.7.8.9. ~~10~~ 11.12.16.17.18.19

Dislike 1.2.3.10.15

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

like 3.7.8.11.13.14.18.19

Dislike 1.2.4.5.6.9.10.12.15.16.17

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like 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 16. 15a. 19
 dislike 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 15 b (add ^{direct} visitor center) 16. 17. 18

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

like 4. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10 (if they have to stay) 11. 12. 13. 14. 16. 17. 19
 dislike 1. 2. 3. 5. 15. 18

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

like 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 11 (summe commercial) 12. 16. 17. 18. 19
 dislike 1. 2. 3. 10. 15.

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

like 3. 7. 8. 11. 13. 14. 18. 19
 dislike 1. 2. 4. 5. 6. 9. 10. 12. 15. 16. 17

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

retain social trails but manage, restrict. ^{gas stn} remove grill. stores OK. Eliminate commercial horse use. Horses only for NPS & high Sierra hikers.

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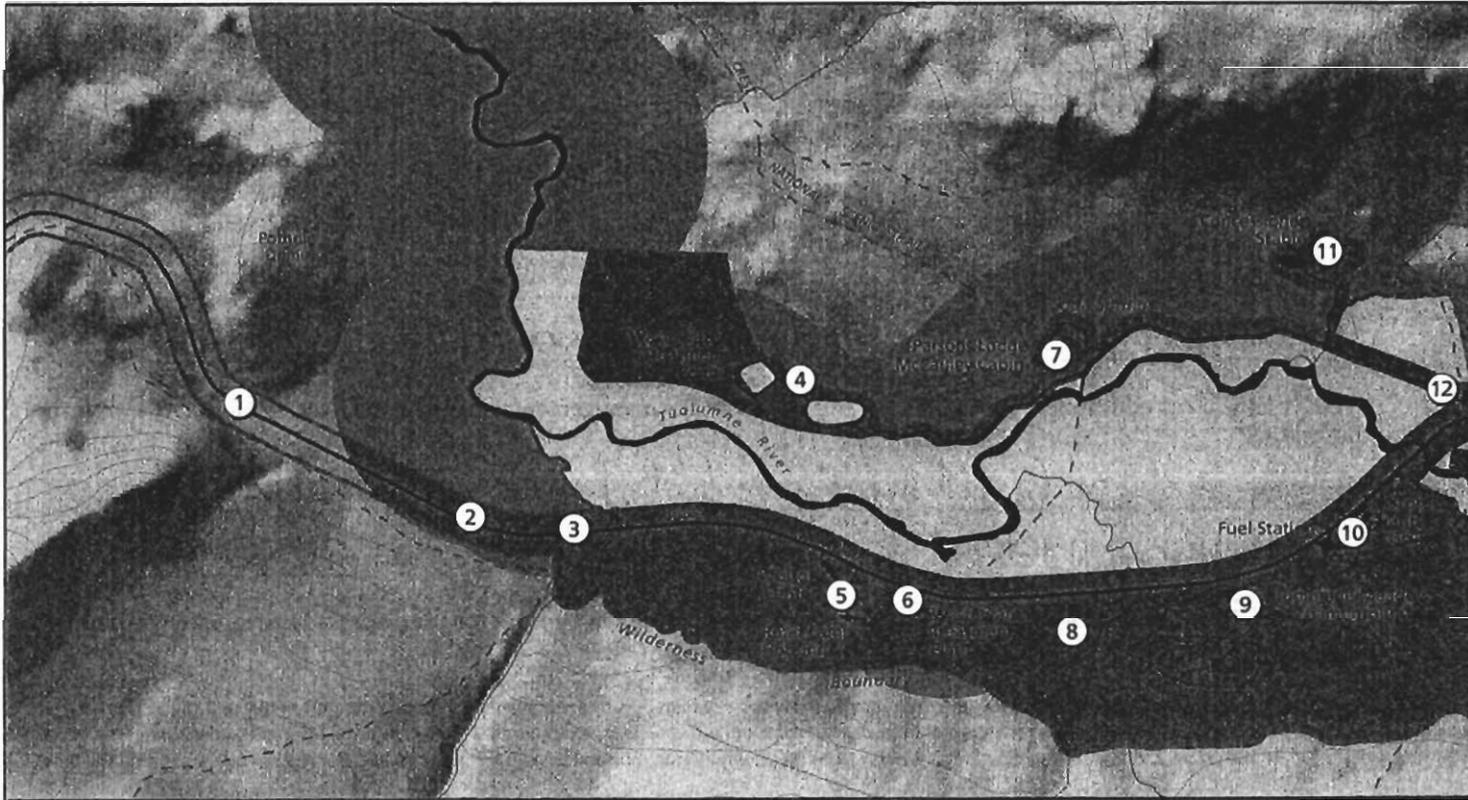
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are:

Hand out CD at entrance stations that provide info on how not to do damage at Tuolumne meadow i.e. stay on trails, don't litter, food storage requirements, trail etiquette, basically do no harm, leave no trace, preserve this natural place history. CD could also contain scenic, historical info.



NW L77 8/22/08



[Redacted]

09/19/2008 02:34 PM

To YOSE Planning@NPS
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Toulumne plan

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

09/18/2008 06:54 PM

To [Redacted]
cc
Subject Fw: Toulumne plan

This makes for interesting reading. I had quite a discussion with [Redacted] my brother, over the Toulumne River Plan at the campground in July.

Jim

----- Original Message -----

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2008 5:32 PM
Subject: Toulumne plan

[Redacted]

Attached is some ideas I have.

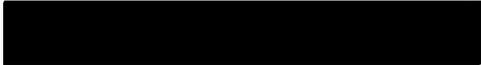
Was there all last week.

[Redacted]

Burlingame Ca. 94010

[Redacted]

TO: Yosemite Planning
National Park Service

FROM: 

This note is to express my concerns with regard to the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows planning efforts and the current "alternatives" that are discussed in The "Tuolumne Planning Workbook".

I first camped at Tuolumne Meadows in 1959 and have been there every year since except one. This makes almost 50 years. Certainly I am not only concerned about what will happen in the proposed plans but I also have long term observations about how the river and meadows have changed over time.

Current Status:

The river is clear and clean. It teems with life of all kinds and the quality of the water, the river's banks and adjacent areas are in excellent condition. Tuolumne Meadows is also in excellent condition. In the spring it is carpeted with wild flowers and wildlife is abundant in all seasons. I thank the Park Service for their efforts all these years to preserve and protect the river and meadows. The Park Service has been successful. The river, from its sources to the Hetch Hetchy is, in a state of preservation just as it was in 1959 when I first arrived. The meadows are also in the same state of preservation. I applaud the efforts of the Park Service people and staff who have accomplished their mission of preservation and protection while also providing access to us the public.

Changes:

The meadow is shrinking. There is loss of meadow over the past 50 years and this is due to forest expansion. In some areas, the trees have colonized the meadow and grown up. This natural process is the only loss of meadow that can be seen or evidenced. There is erosion in the meadows but this is also due to natural causes as the dynamics of the river meander process continually takes place. There is no evidence for destruction of river banks or loss of meadows due to human factors. There is no evidence for loss of wildlife or loss of habitat due to human factors. There is a coyote pack in the meadow now that didn't exist there before. It seems that wildlife is expanding. However, there appears to be a large and noticeable loss of ground squirrel population as a result of resident coyotes. I wonder if a reduction of squirrel boroughs has any effect on the meadows.

Clearly, the changes in the river and meadows are from the natural processes of life and geology. The meadows and river are preserved.

Concerns:

My primary concerns are that the Alternative Plans contain very large assumptions with absolutely zero basis in fact. And these faulty assumptions are attached to actions. I am very worried that in our zeal to do something, we will overact. Let's discuss some of the "assumptions".

Social Trails:

It is assumed that social trails are bad, and because they are there, they must be removed and the only way to do this is to "remove all Tioga Road shoulder parking" to prevent access by human beings. I would like to know exactly how the social trails are bad. The meadow is flat so there is no erosion caused by the trails. As I noted above, the cause of erosion in the meadow is due to natural dynamics of meanders. The meadows are full of wild flowers. Not a single flower or animal is endangered nor even inconvenienced by social trails. The social trails have NO effect on the habitat or environment. In fact, the social trails tend to keep people on the trail and not stepping all over the meadow.

Disturbed Ecological Integrity and riparian areas: (alternative 4)

There is no definition for just exactly what in the environment or the ecology or the river (riparian) of the area has lost its "integrity". The river runs clear and clean as well as the wildlife of all phyla which are UNDISTURBED. The "web" of life and the dynamic "balance" of the environment are operating quite well and are UNDISTURBED. When looking at the large picture of northern Yosemite, the human impact and trace are minimal.

Enhance habitat connectivity; manage visitor use to protect sensitive meadow and riparian resources: (alternative 4)

The sensitive meadow and riparian resources are already preserved and protected. The human impact is minimal. People are not destroying the river banks. People are not destroying the meadows. Please provide exact evidence (not philosophies and vapor) of just which part of the biota is suffering from a loss of "habitat connectivity".

As one looks at and studies the plans and details of action, it is difficult to attach some of them to any evidence or facts. Many of them "assume" that the river and meadows are in a state of degeneration and that is simply not the case. No evidence of any kind is presented that shows human damage which degrades the environment. We can see human USE, but there is no damage.

However, this does not mean that there can't be some improvements. For sure there can be. My concerns and suggestions follow.

1. The big elephants in the living room are staring us in the eyes. Along the river are obviously, Glen Aulin and Tuolumne Lodge. These go hand in hand with the stables. Remove these two "hotels on the river" and there will also be no need for the stables and the herd of horses whose hooves by many magnitudes, are far far harder on the land and meadows than any human foot could ever be.
2. Remove the bridge at Soda Springs. The current structure was made for horses. Those same horses that destroyed the original bridge. Removing the bridge will accomplish several benefits:
 - a. Because people will not be able to cross the meadow from the store/grill to Soda Springs, there will be greatly reduced pressure on the social trails at the store and grill.
 - b. The worst ruts in the meadows (horse trail) will go away and the meadows will restore itself.
3. Remove the stables. Move the store and grill to a place near the existing stables. Establish a picnic ground and parking lot at that location. Create both improved picnic tables and primitive sites. Find some site with a view.
 - a. Pressure will be reduced on the social trails.
 - b. Human activity will move to the new store and grill location thereby reducing human use effects on the meadow
 - c. Adjust the bus stops accordingly
4. Do not completely remove the store and grill. Move them as above. If they are completely removed it will encourage self contained RV usage.
5. Do not move the store and grill to section D of the campground.
 - a. This will maintain pressure to cross the meadows from that location. The social trail will simply re-locate.
6. If a "Tioga Wagon Trail" preservation effort needs to be made, use the section between Soda Springs and Lambert Dome.
 - a. The same location as the new store and grill.
7. Remove Volglesang HS Camp.
 - a. This will stop the supply horse trains that have damaged the trail between Tuolumne Meadows and Volglesang. We all know this.
8. Do not remove the gas station but do remove the climbing school.
 - a. The climbing school belongs in Yosemite Valley. Removing the Tuolumne climbing school will reduce the pressure on the meadows.
 - b. Keep the gas station otherwise increased traffic on Tioga Road for "gas runs" between Crane Flat and LeVining will ensue. There is no station at Tioga Pass Resort as in the past. Removing the gas station will only increase congestion on the road, use gas and increase pollution.
9. Do not reduce the number of campsites in Tuolumne Camp Ground. There is no need to do this.

10. Do not over-improve the Tuolumne campsites. Leave most of them primitive. This is not Saddlebag lake.
11. Move some of the campsites in A Loop away from the river. This may require to build some additional primitive campsites in the back to make up for the removed A Loop sites.
12. Move employee residences to LeVining Canyon outside the park and provide a shuttle for them.
13. Enhance the ranger station facilities.
14. Make a large parking lot and picnic area at the Cathedral Lakes Trail Head.
15. Make a picnic area at the old store/grill location.
 - a. Alternate is to restore the area and make some additional camp sites for the campground.
16. Restore the areas:
 - a. Glen Aulin
 - i. Complete restoration
 - b. Tuolumne Lodge
 - i. Keep the parking lot for the trail head
 - ii. Make a picnic area.
 - iii. Restore the rest of the area
 - c. Volgelsang
 - i. Complete restoration
 - d. Old store and grill location
 - e. The horse trail in the meadows
 - i. The meadow will heal itself
 - f. Remove the bridge foundations at Soda Springs
 - i. Complete restoration
 - g. Move the waste treatment object at Elisabeth Creek to an un-seeable location
 - h. If the settling ponds are not causing pollution, leave them alone
 - i. Restore the Old Tioga Road between Soda Springs and Lambert Dome
 - j. Restore the river side by A Loop



T Planning concerns03.doc

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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? _____

Until there is no usage of the facilities, they should be kept open.

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

maintaining the Glen Aulin and Tuolumne Meadows facilities

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

maintaining the Glen Aulin and Tuolumne Meadows facilities

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

Maintaining the Glen Aulin and Tuolumne Meadow facilities

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

Because there is more demand for the facilities than can currently be provided, thought should include expansion of the facilities.

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)?

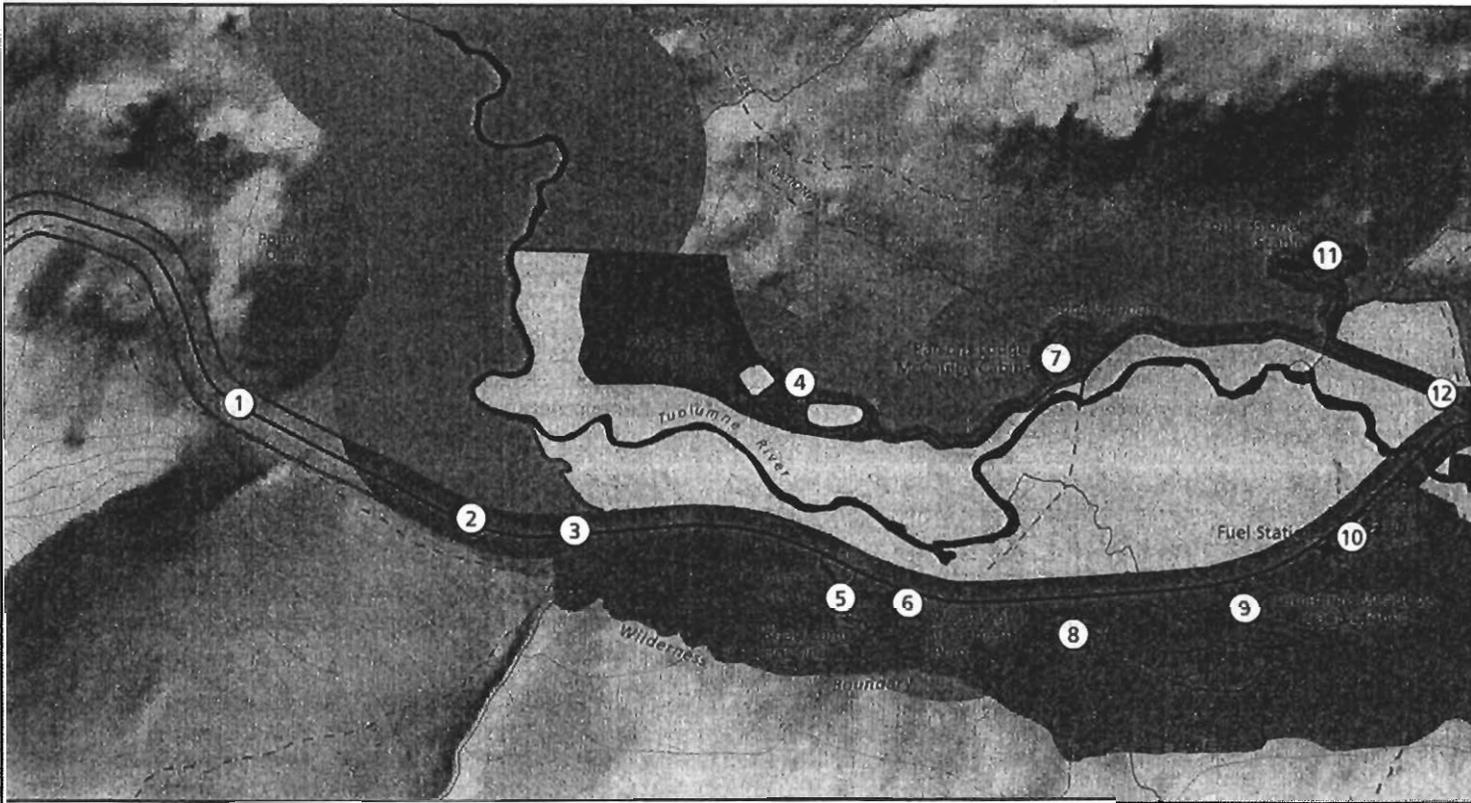
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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: _____

The current High Sierra camps give visitors the opportunity to visit diverse high Sierra ~~cond~~ experiences: lakes, rivers, cascades, meadows, and mountain peaks. It is important to maintain that diversity.



NW L 19 8/25/08

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

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

Excellent

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

Excellent

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

Excellent

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

Regarding site (13), allowing bikes on trails (ie: Great Sierra Wagon Road etc.) could not aid the ecological (con't)

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

Some site descriptions can and should cross Management Zones.

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

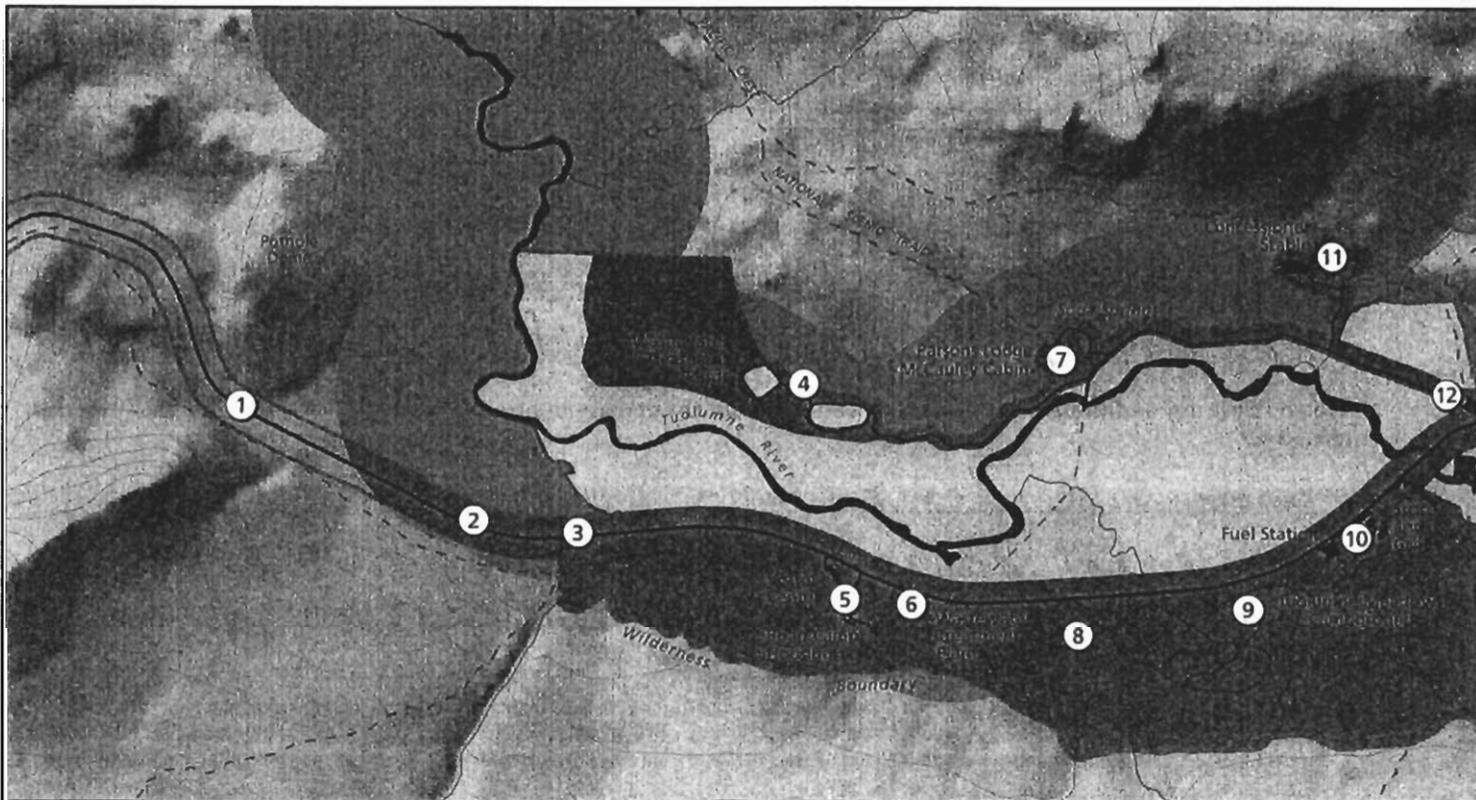
Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

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: To

maintain and preserve the Wilderness
character of Tuolumne Meadows.

A day-use 'carrying capacity' should be established,
independent of Wilderness trailhead parking, to
protect the Tuolumne Meadows resource.



Comments (con't)

1. (Alternative #4)

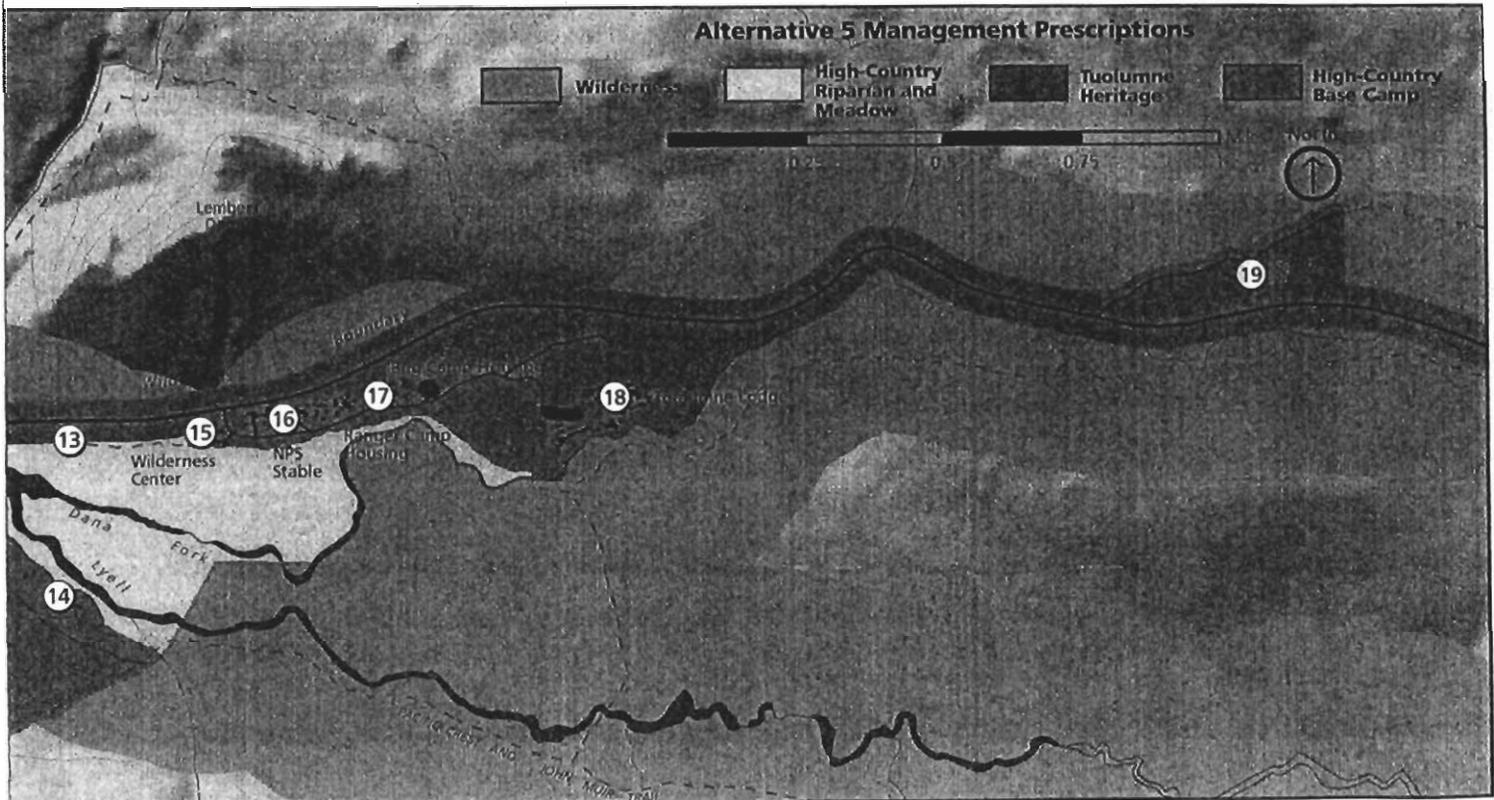
health of the meadows or reduce 'user conflict'.

Also, Alternative #4 site (14) should resemble Alternative #2 site (14) to maintain the riparian integrity of the River. Perhaps this requires a refinement of the Management Zone(s).

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):

This is best accomplished by Alternative #4 as described above.

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



NW L80 8/23/08

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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? _____

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?

GO for Plan 5 —

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.

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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? Favorite concept. Would allow visitors to have a true wilderness experience by eliminating commercial outfits but retaining primitive camping. Really wished this was your preferred site plan!

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Adding services such as public showers, elongating trails and picnic areas would increase the number of visitors and impact adversely visitors' wilderness experience.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Restraint the Wagon Road trail as an interpretive trail would impact adversely the "meadows experience" guided hikes would certainly not contribute to the wilderness feel one would expect to find at Tuolumne.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Consolidating parking sounds like a good concept but why changing campground loop A? Does this mean you would eliminate the RV only sites at the campground? Conflicts between hikers and

2. Do you have any additional comments or questions about the management zoning alternatives, including the preferred alternative? (1 - continued)

hikers are likely to arise if bikes are allowed along the Tioga Road & the Great Sierra Wagon Road. I am not in favor of a formal parking on ③ - Natural conditions should be restored here and parking should be provided somewhere else.

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)?

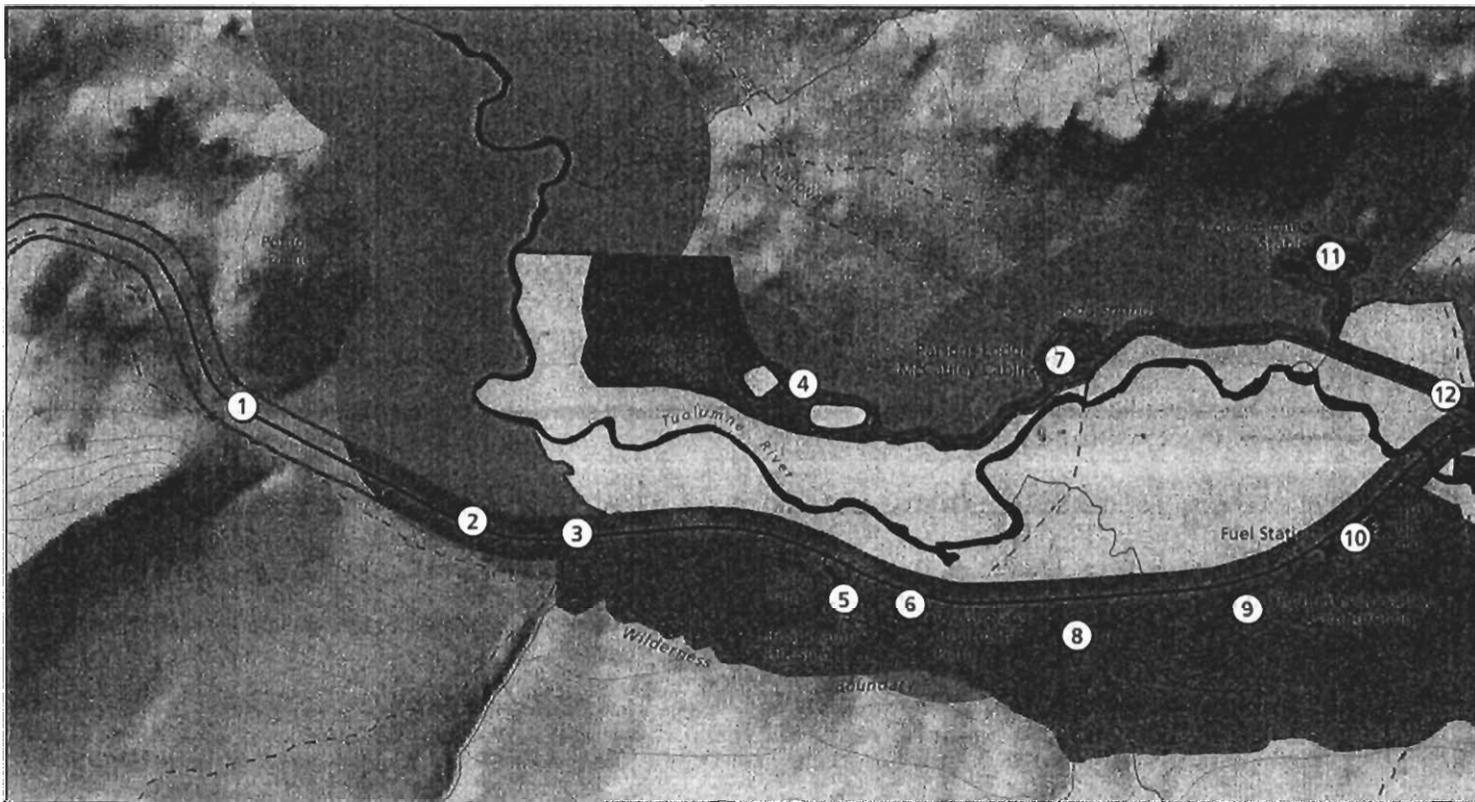
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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: _____

Enhance the wilderness experience that most people are seeking while visiting Tuolumne Meadows.



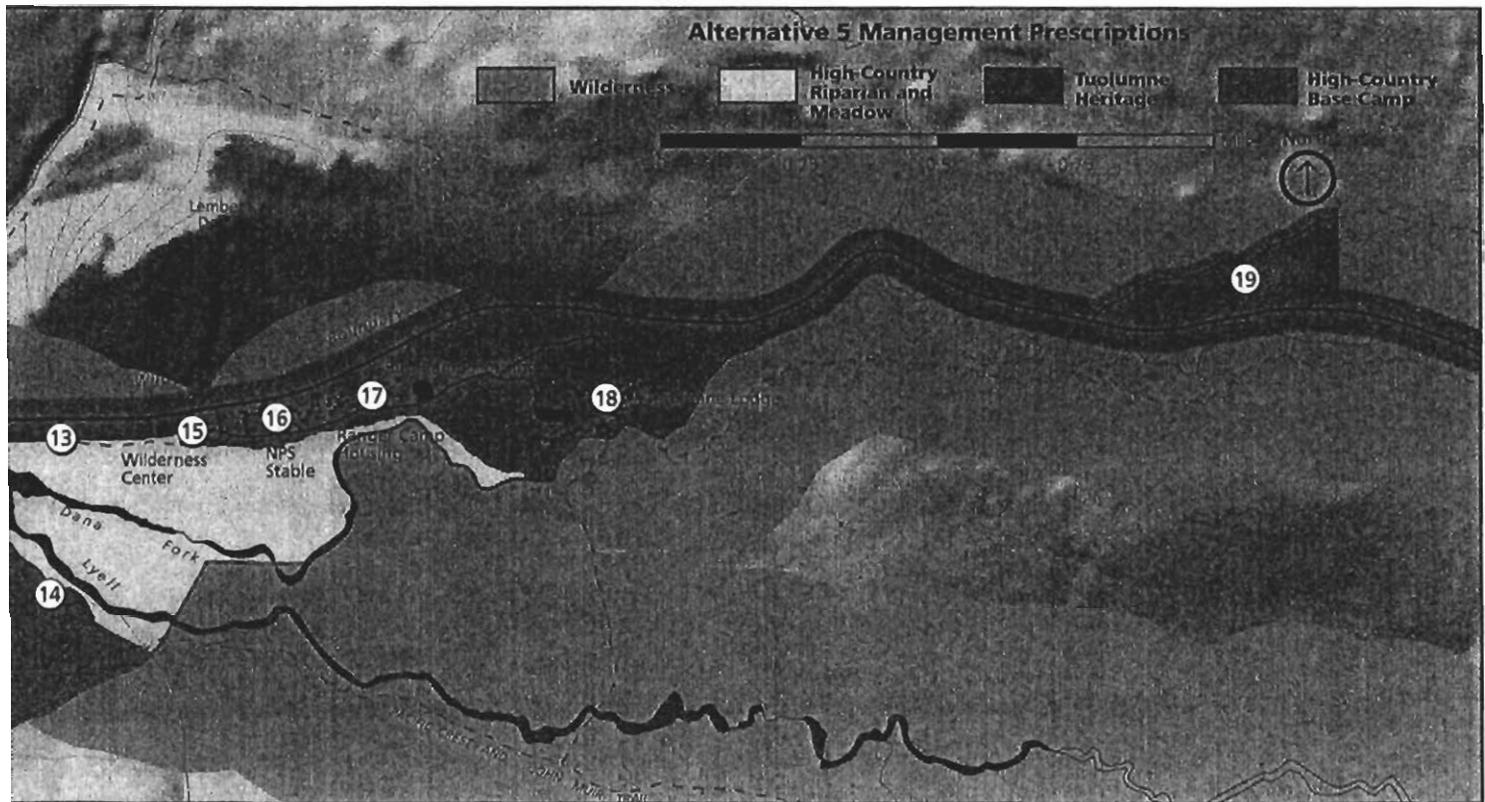
This could best be accomplished by the following changes at the locations specified on the Tuolumne Meadows site plan map (please be sure to number your comments so they match the site numbers shown on the map below):

⑨ Retain current capacity at campground, including the small number of RV compatible sites. Retain a number of sites for 1st come - 1st serve. Retain primitive camping facilities (do not build extra facilities such as shower block or laundromat)

⑪ Eliminate commercial rides.

① and ③ Remove informal parking and restore natural conditions.

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



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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 GLEN AULIN HSC AND TUOLUMNE LODGE.

LIKE FORMALIZING PARKING AND TRAILS.

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

LIKE CONSOLIDATING VISITOR CENTER, STORE, GRILL, GAS STATION.

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

LIKE SATELLITE PARKING AND EXTENSION OF SHUTTLE SERVICE.

VISITORS SEEM TO USE THE VALLEY SHUTTLE IN LIEU OF DRIVING SELF.

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

LIKE FORMALIZING PARKING AND TRAILS. WONDER ABOUT GAS STATION.

ASSUME CRANE FLAT WOULD STILL HAVE GAS STATION. HOW HAS ABSENCE OF GAS STATION IN VALLEY WORKED OUT?

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

WOULD LIKE TO RETAIN GLEN AULIN HSC AND TUOLUMNE LODGE.

AS HISTORIC BUILT ENVIRONMENT, SOME RESTORATION WOULD BE A PLUS.

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

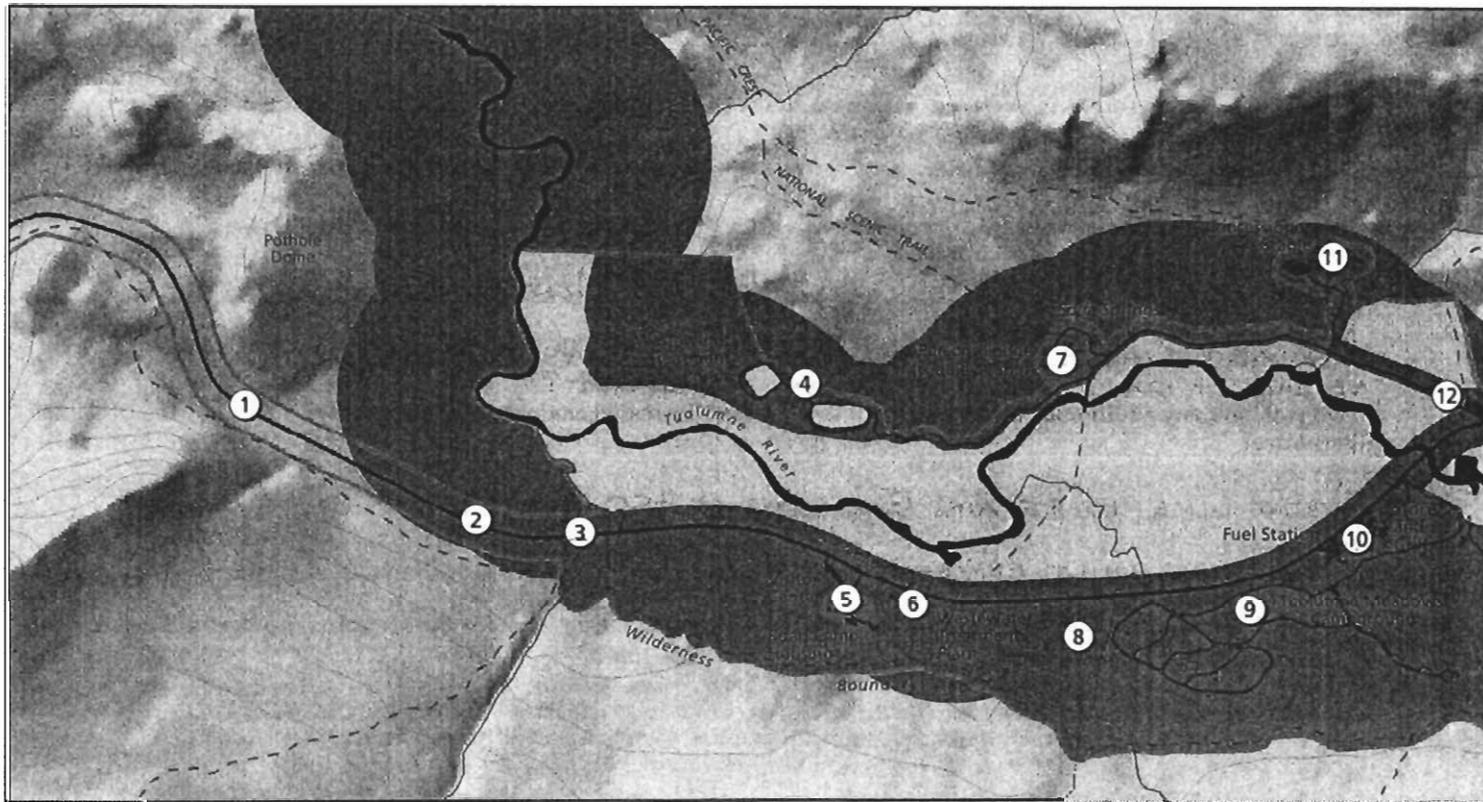
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

I RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTY OF MANAGING PUBLIC USE AND PRESERVATION. DROVE ACROSS ON THE OLD ROAD IN 1954. THE NEW ROAD ENCOURAGES VISITORS, BUT IT'S STILL A LONG RIDE FROM THE VALLEY.

MAYBE MORE PUBLIC MASS TRANSIT FROM THE VALLEY / CRANE FLAT WOULD ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO SEPARATE THEMSELVES FROM THEIR VEHICLES.



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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 exclusive + elitist. Not every visitor is ready to be "self-reliant + adventurous."

There are too many descriptive changes. - I agree that shoulder parking should be eliminated, especially the ugly mass of cars at Cathedral lakes trailhead.

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

out for them who talk about "emphasizing personal freedom." Do NOT allow

key-logging + boating on the river; it would be disturbing to animal (esp. Dipper) habitats.

Don't get started with hike-bike trails. They invite anger + controversy. These people love cars.

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? Watch the parking they want!

There's not much disruption here, + that's good. The V.C. parking would have to be

GIGANTIC to accommodate Cathedral lakes road parking. The Gaylor Pit may be the solution to the parking problem. A big lot there would be invisible.

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

Please NO hike-bike trail; just walk, hike, + shuttle. I think there's too much consolidation in this plan.

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

The philosophy of the preferred alternative seems sound, but some changes are needed. This plan is too staid. My primary concerns are on the next page.

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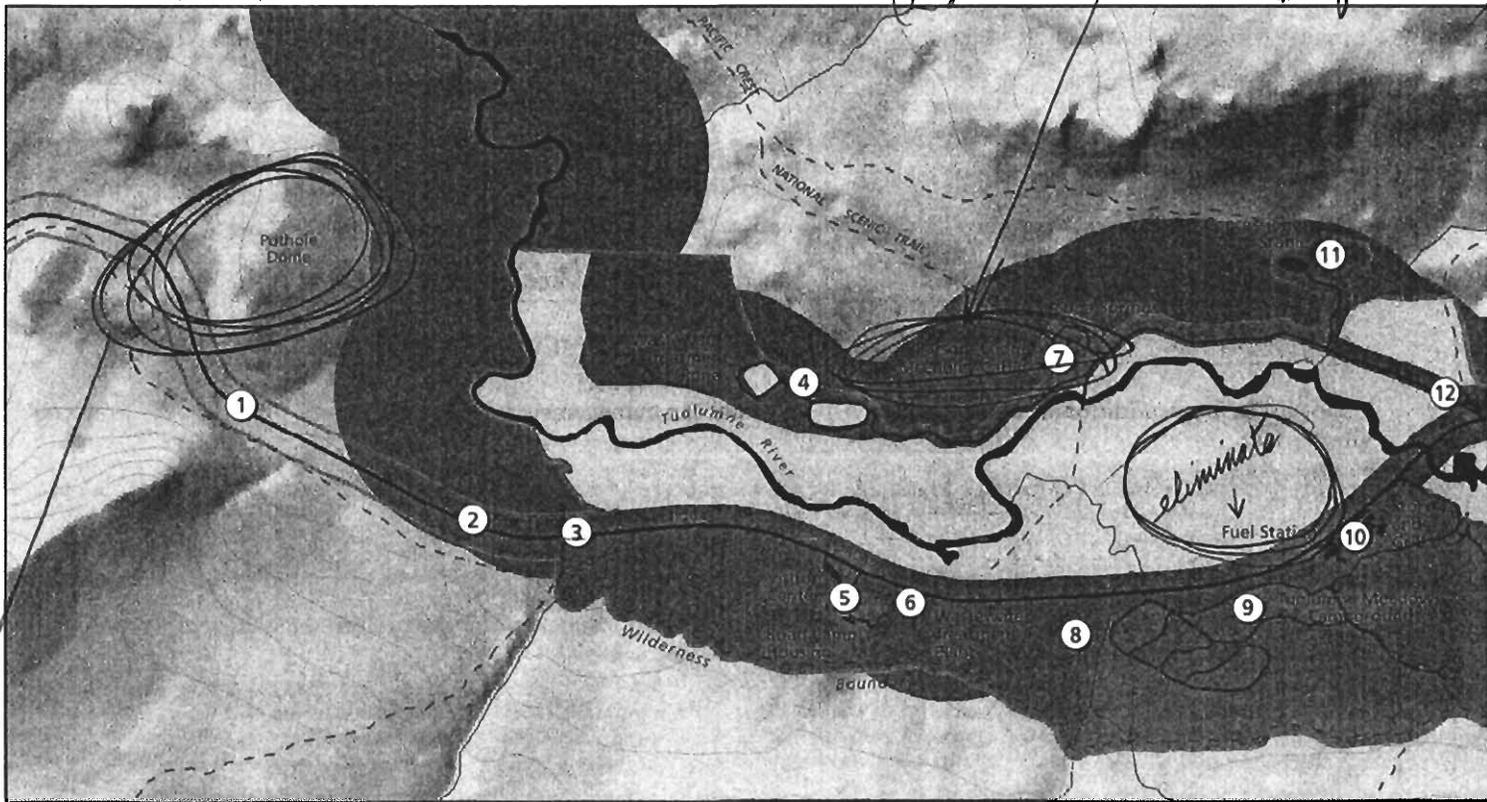
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workbook), please describe what you believe are the most important things to accomplish in the site plan for Tuolumne Meadows, and what that would mean in terms of specific facilities at specific locations.

The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: *It'd say change as little as possible, but fix the worst problems. What are those problems? The single ugliest feature in the present experience is the janky-looking roadside parking at Cathedral Lakes. It'd say get rid of the gas station + whatever is attached to it. If you can plant a line of trees by the road, use the ^{gas station} space for parking. Caylor Pit could accommodate parking, with shuttle. Glen Aulin has severe water problems. Re-locate the camp back from the river. If that's not possible, consider closing it. Tuolumne Lodge is too big. Cut it to half, get rid of the cabins by the river, + use half the parking lot for day hikers. The lodge is a taking-off place for the High Sierra camps. It should only secondarily be a hotel for people who want to (programs at #7 are an example of excellence*



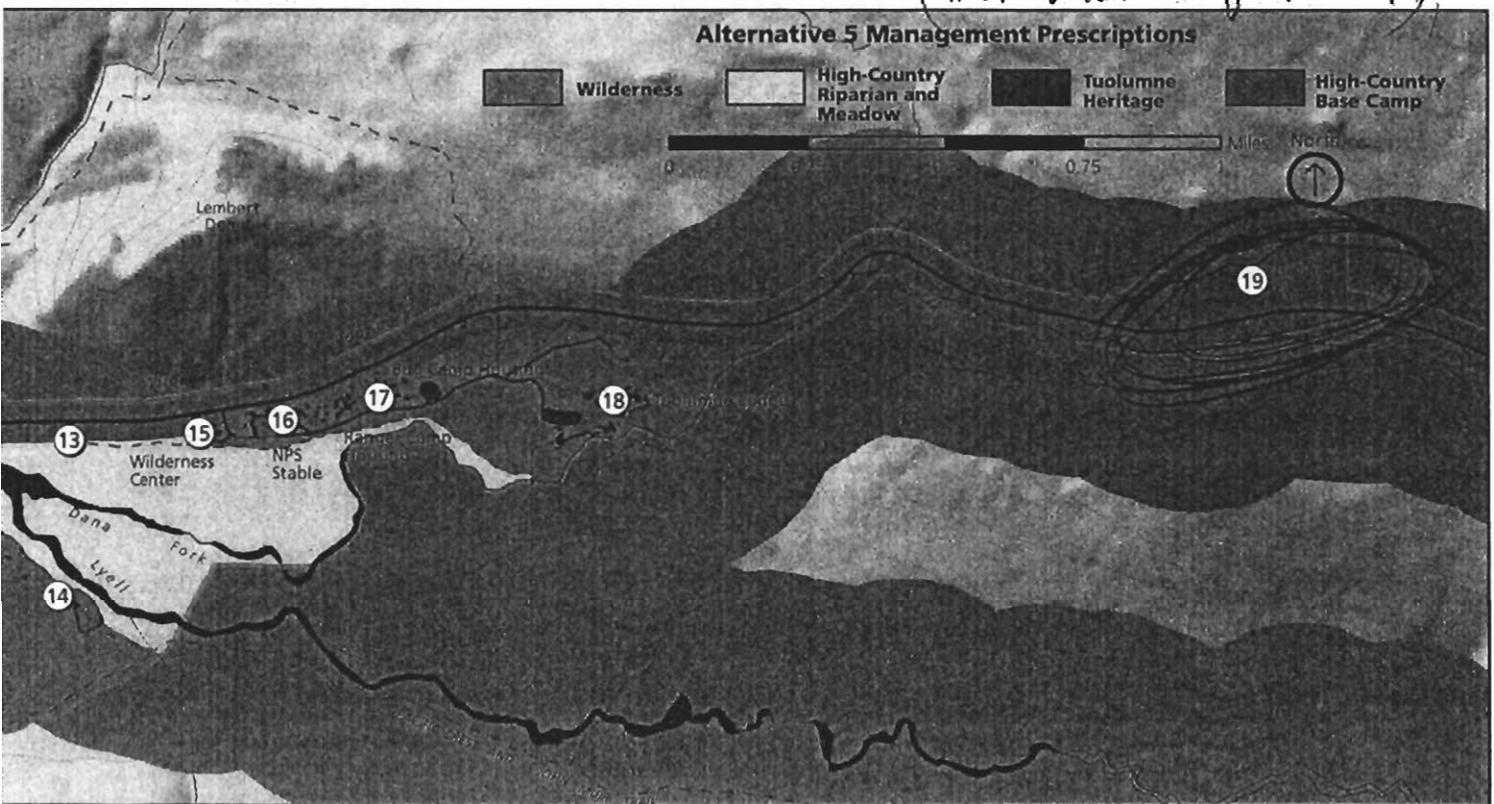
Please don't make a lot of fancy parking. It works pretty well now. Could the rock chinks

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):

stay in the Park. And while you're dealing with the lodge, MAKE them create a decent dining room. There is no excuse for bad food year after year. Maybe you could say, "Unless you provide good, inexpensive meals, we're closing you down!" Get tough; it's a disgrace to the Park. — I don't have the expertise for directing you on the water treatment ponds, but the system needs modernization, I'd gather from other comments. — In summary, I favor a resolution of the roadside parking, even if it means limiting visitor use + even if that affects me. — Use the Gaylor Pit for parking + perhaps some housing. It's flat + out-of-sight. — Avoid un-necessary consolidation + too much disruption. — Keep boats out of the river. — Keep housing + campsites away from the river. — Beware of special interest groups that can damage resources.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [REDACTED] Santa Barbara 93103

(make better use of site #19)



who park on the road use the old garbage dump area? It's hardly "wilderness."

NW L84 8/24/08



09/15/2008 04:25 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on Yosemite's 2008 Tuolumne Planning Workbook

September 15, 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.



Marina del Rey, CA 90292

NW L 85 8/24/08



09/17/2008 06:44 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne River Plan comments

Planning Team,
Sorry my comments are a couple days late, but it's been busy at work lately and I haven't had time to think about it all summer up until now. Hope I'm not too late for them to still be considered.

Alternative #1

Likes:

#2 Remove shoulder parking from Tioga Rd. The pullouts are unsightly and create a traffic hazard for pedestrians and drivers who are too busy looking at the scenery. People speed through this area no matter what the speed limit is, and these pullouts are unsafe. Plus they encourage people to drive on vegetation when parking is full on holiday weekends, and there've been many times I seen SUV driving out into the meadow.

#10 Remove store, grill, fuel station, mountaineering shop. It would be a good change for visitors to come prepared for a trip, and if these amenities were removed, visitors would change their habits. As an employee who lives in here, I'm torn about whether or not to remove the store. But if it were not here we would be self-reliant and I believe that it would be a better change for the wilderness experience of all visitors and employees if these facilities were not here, and they are not necessary. Also, the landscape in the meadows would be improved without these facilities. Right now, the store area dominates landscape when driving through the meadows and attraction unwanted attention. This area could at least use some remodeling to have it blend in with the landscape better if it does remain.

#14 Remove A loop campsites and restore. This one of the best suggestions made to protect the water quality and the scenic values of the Tuolumne River, and it is also one of the most realistic to implement. The Tuolumne campground is already enormous and it would be fine to cut back on capacity or to relocate these sites away from the river. Many of the campsites are too close to the water following the Leave No Trace standards that we teach to overnight wilderness users. Why should a campground provided by the Park Service be cutting the rules so close when we should be protecting the resource instead? We tell hikers to be a minimum of 100 feet from water before camping, defecating, or washing. Absolutely no closer than 100 feet but further away is fine. So why is it legitimate to have a loop of the campground in such close proximity to the Tuolumne River? Especially when we know that people don't always go to the restroom facilities to go to the bathroom, they sometimes walk just outside their campsite, and if they're in the A loop they might be walking towards the river. They might also be washing too close to water or washing straight in the water sources when given the opportunity to camp so close to the river.

I don't believe that education is going to help solve this problem because it's hard enough to get the overnight wilderness users (who tend to want to protect the quality of the wilderness because of their strong connection to it) to abide by these rules, and the people who use the campground come from another user group, which is even further separated from wilderness because they are not connected to it as deeply as overnight users are. The single most important change that could come from this plan would be to remove or relocate the A loop of the campsite, restore the area, and create trails for visitors to go and enjoy the area. This would help to protect the water quality, and provide a wilderness experience for the users who want to enjoy this section of the river without seeing RVs in the background.

#18 Remove Tuolumne Lodge. Providing a campground is sufficient lodging for the Tuolumne Meadows area. Removing the Lodge would encourage users to connect more to the environment. Especially because many of these users are going on through the High Sierra Camp loop, they should spend some time in the front country camping first before going out into the wilderness (even though tent cabins are still provided out there.) Car camping may be the closest thing many people get to a wilderness experience. The Lodge is excessive and deters from the wilderness experience in TM. If people truly need beds and electricity then they can get a hotel in Lee Vining and drive up to enjoy the meadows.

Dislikes:

#5 Relocating the Visitor Center and #15 Add VC to Wilderness Center. This seems to be the only area with enough parking and building space that would be able to accommodate the Visitor Center and its traffic flow. As an employee at the Wilderness Center, I know that there is not enough space in this area to expand the building or the parking lot to provide for the Visitor Center's needs. The current building works great for issuing wilderness permits and storing and cleaning bear canisters plus all of our hiking gear. There is no room for interpretative displays as it is and barely enough room to sell our minimal merchandise of maps, trowels, and a few books. I have no idea how this building could be expanded to include the visitor center displays, merchandise, and all the parking and traffic flow that come along with it. Our parking lot is packed full all summer long with backpackers going out on overnight trips, sometimes extended parking (up to one month for JMT hikers.) It might be a good idea to provide satellite parking for extended backpacking trip at Gaylor Pit and improve the shuttle service. Furthermore, this parking lot would not be able to accommodate buses or RVs that pass through because there is no room for them to turn around. Lastly, having worked in the Valley Wilderness Center for 3 years prior to coming to Tuolumne, I know that visitors tend to get very confused when the VC and WC are located too close to each other. In the Valley we were always directing visitors to the other place because the WC didn't know about campground availability and the VC didn't know specific questions about trails. It's been a pleasure working in Tuolumne WC where the VC is so far removed that there is rarely any confusion. We still answer general questions when people wander in and the TMVC still directs hikers to our station occasionally, but nowhere near as frequently as in the Valley where the two stations are a minute walk apart from each other.

Alternative #2

Likes: Extending shuttle bus service to Gaylor Pit for a satellite parking for visitors, creating a bike/hike trail from GP to meadows. This would eliminate all of the meadows parking problems and would almost mandate shuttle bus use. With this option, it would be easy to

remove and restore other trailhead parking areas and visitors would be less confused about getting around the meadows like they currently are. The shuttle bus service could be expanded and it would force visitors to do more walking and connect with the place while they are here, rather than just pulling over to take a photo here and there. One concern is that with a lot of activity at Gaylor Pit it might not still be able to function as a helibase. My other concern is that any bike trail that would run from Gaylor Pit to the meadows would have to be paved and both ends of it should be clearly marked that bikes can only go on paved pathways. Otherwise, visitors will get confused and there will be an increase in the amount of visitors trying to bike unpaved trails in the wilderness.

-Upgrade substandard housing. The employees don't need much, but it's a shame that we have to deal with some of the problems that we do up here. If all of the cabins had stoves that functioned properly and had annual maintenance done, that would be a huge improvement. As it is right now, it's hit and miss to see who gets the ones that work well and will heat up to 300 degrees. Everybody else gets to be cold. Also, even if you do get lucky and get a good stove, the heat goes straight up and out the plastic tarp that is the roof. It doesn't really do much for those cold nights unless you're sitting right next to it. I know it's not very practical to build hard walled cabins with real roofs for everyone, but for the employees who are here earliest and latest, there could be a couple more structures. My only other complaints are the mice and their diseases and not having hot water flowing in the cabins. But I really love living up here even as it is, even though the housing is clearly substandard.

#5 Provide Cathedral Lakes parking in the visitor center area, perhaps even expanding the lot to include enough space for visitor center traffic and overnight trailhead parking.

#14 Relocate A loop campsites

#17 Retain Dog Lake parking

Dislikes: Allowing kayaking along a portion of the river. There are already plenty of locations nearby (Mono Lake, Lower Merced, Lower Tuolumne) that are great for rafting and kayaking and there is already enough commercial development in Tuolumne. Allowing kayaking only along a certain portion of the river would be very hard to enforce, and visitors would abuse this privilege.

-Moving NPS and concessioner housing to Gaylor Pit. This is a terrible idea because it removes the employees from the resource. Most people who work here aren't necessarily around for their job, running a cash register at the store or answering the same mundane questions all day long; they're here because they're passionate about the place. Removing the employees from the meadows and creating a commute to work would discourage employees emotionally. It's a bad idea to remove housing from the meadows if you want us to keep up our morale all through August and Sept, answering the same questions all day long...

#16 Consolidate RS and WC at former stable site. I don't care if the NPS stables is relocated, or if it is combined with the concessionaire stables, but combining the RS and WC and relocating them both seems absurd. These two offices have very different functions and are best kept in separate buildings. The RS is generally locked and if a visitor knocks to ask a question, sometimes an administrative person

is there to help out, but generally they do not deal with visitor contacts except for on the trails or on the road patrols. The office is for completing paperwork. The WC deals almost exclusively with visitor contacts and it does not make sense to combine these two operations unless they had a large building with a big dividing wall that kept the two separate. Also, the amount of money and energy that would go into tearing down the two existing structures and relocating and restoring the areas that have been paved makes this an illogical option. These two places will continue to exist in the meadows, and they are each already well equipped to deal with their operations, so to me it makes sense to let them stay as they are.

Alternative #3

Likes:

- #2 Eliminate all shoulder parking from Tioga Road, restore area.
- #3 Remove all informal parking, restore areas.
- #5 Retain visitor center, add picnic area, retain housing, provide Cathedral Lakes parking!
- #10 Retain store, grill, fuel station, mountaineering school. If Alternative #1 does not go through and these facilities are not removed, I think the next best option is to leave everything as it is, improve the parking situation and traffic flow, and remodel the buildings so that they blend in with the environment better.
- #15 Retain Ranger station and Wilderness Center as is. I'm not sure why the exterior of the WC needs to be remodeled, but I suppose it could use some work.
- #17 RETAIN HOUSING! Retain and possibly expand the Dog Lake parking area.
- #18 Remove some housing away from the river. If Alternative #1 does not go through and the Lodge is not removed entirely, moving housing away from the river would be the next best option. Just like the A loop is too close to the water in the campground, some of the housing and lodging at the Lodge is inappropriately close to the watershed that we are trying so hard to protect.
- #19 Provide satellite parking and toilet at Gaylor Pit, extend shuttle service. If it is possible to do this and retain its function as an emergency helipad, that would be a great solution to a lot of the meadow's problems.

Dislikes:

- #9 Retain all campground loops. Loop A should be removed or relocated and restored.
- #10 Remove housing, employees need to feel an emotional connection to this place in order to continue feeling passionate and convey that feeling to visitors they interact with.

Alternative #4

Likes:

- #1 Remove informal parking
- #2 Remove all Tioga shoulder parking, restore and provide scenic pullouts
- #11 Consolidate NPS and concessionaire stables. Having the NPS stables right next to the employee housing area is a nuisance. It creates a lot of dust, noise and traffic through the area that does not need to be there right next to where people live. The packers and NPS get along well enough and I don't foresee any problems with combining the two operations.
- #12 Remove parking area if the satellite parking at Gaylor Pit and the expanded shuttle bus service is provided.
- #13 Provide hike/bike trail along road, as long as it is paved and visitors understand that bikes can only go on pavement.
- #16 Relocate NPS stables
- #18 Retain Tuolumne Lodge if Alternative #1 is not adopted, and move

dinning hall and housing away from the river.

Dislikes:

#3 Provide formal parking at Cathedral Lakes trailhead. The pullouts along the side of the road are inadequate and unsafe as they are, plus they encourage people to drive/park on vegetation on busy weekends when parking areas are full, but creating a large formal parking lot in this area is not the solution! A satellite lot at Gaylor Pit or an expanded lot at the VC is a much better option than a new parking lot in the middle of the meadows.

#5 Relocate VC. Where would it go? I can't think of a better place for it to be than where it already is, and it should not be combined with any other functions for one big "stop and shop" mall-like option.

#5 & #17 Expanding housing at the visitor center and removing Bug Camp housing are not a great options. I guess this area could accommodate more employees, but employees should be able to live in close proximity to where they work to encourage walking and biking and discourage driving. If the shuttle bus service were more frequent this could change.

#10 Consolidate RS, WC and Mountaineering School. Although this sounds like a good idea in theory, all of these places have very distinct functions. Each location is already well equipped for its own functioning and it would be a massive rebuilding, rearranging and restoration project to achieve this goal. It seems silly to try to take it on.

#12 Remove picnic area. People love this area and so many of the alternatives suggest adding new picnic areas, it just doesn't make sense to me to get rid of a good one that already exists.

#15 Relocate RS and WC.

My preferred alternative would include:

#1 Remove all roadside pullouts and parking areas.

#2 Provide alternative parking areas for Cathedral Lakes trailhead and any other trailhead parking areas that could be removed as long as satellite parking and an extended shuttle service is provided to and from Gaylor Pit.

#3 Leave most structures as they are or remove the non-essential ones entirely (store, gas station, mountaineering shop, and lodge) to minimize massive relocation, rebuilding and restoration projects. Also this will eliminate one big hub of activity that would draw attention away from the rest of the meadows and would be an eyesore when looking down on the meadows from above.

#4 Maintain or rearrange all employee housing to keep them passionate about the area they are trying to protect visitors from loving to death. Provide some upgrade for substandard employee housing.

#5 Remove or relocate facilities that are inappropriately close to the Tuolumne River like the A loop of the campground and housing and dining at the Lodge.

#6 Do not provide any new options for recreation such as kayaking and remove commercial stock rides due to conflicts between hikers and stock users.

#7 If most facilities stay intact like the Lodge and the Store, showers should be provided at some location in the meadows. I know this is contrary to many of my opinions about eliminating development in the meadows, but because showers have been provided at the Lodge in previous years and people have come to expect it, I think it is the best thing we can do to protect the watershed is to provide showers. This is the first year that showers have not been provided at the Lodge due to outdated plumbing and perhaps a lack of water late in the season. In my opinion hikers who come out from a backpacking trip and visitors staying in the campground are not going to drive to the next

closest showers in Lee Vining (30 minutes away) to clean up, they are going to jump in the river with their soap. This is not responsible of the Park Service to remove that service knowing that people are going to bath straight in the river and pollute the water quality.



Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

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

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

Don't need formal parking at Pothole Dam

Keep V.I. where it is - remove merchandise except Maps, expand exhibits

Remove Stables & High Sierra Camps - No subsidies for rich people at expense of wilderness?

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

No bike trail - would cut into meadow & encourage wheeled recreation

Public Showers not necessary - retain primitive campground - lower price to campers.

Repair Campground bathrooms.

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

Dislike it all - less development not status quo or more development

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

I like idea of consolidating development but most likely costly & wasteful of current infrastructure.

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)?

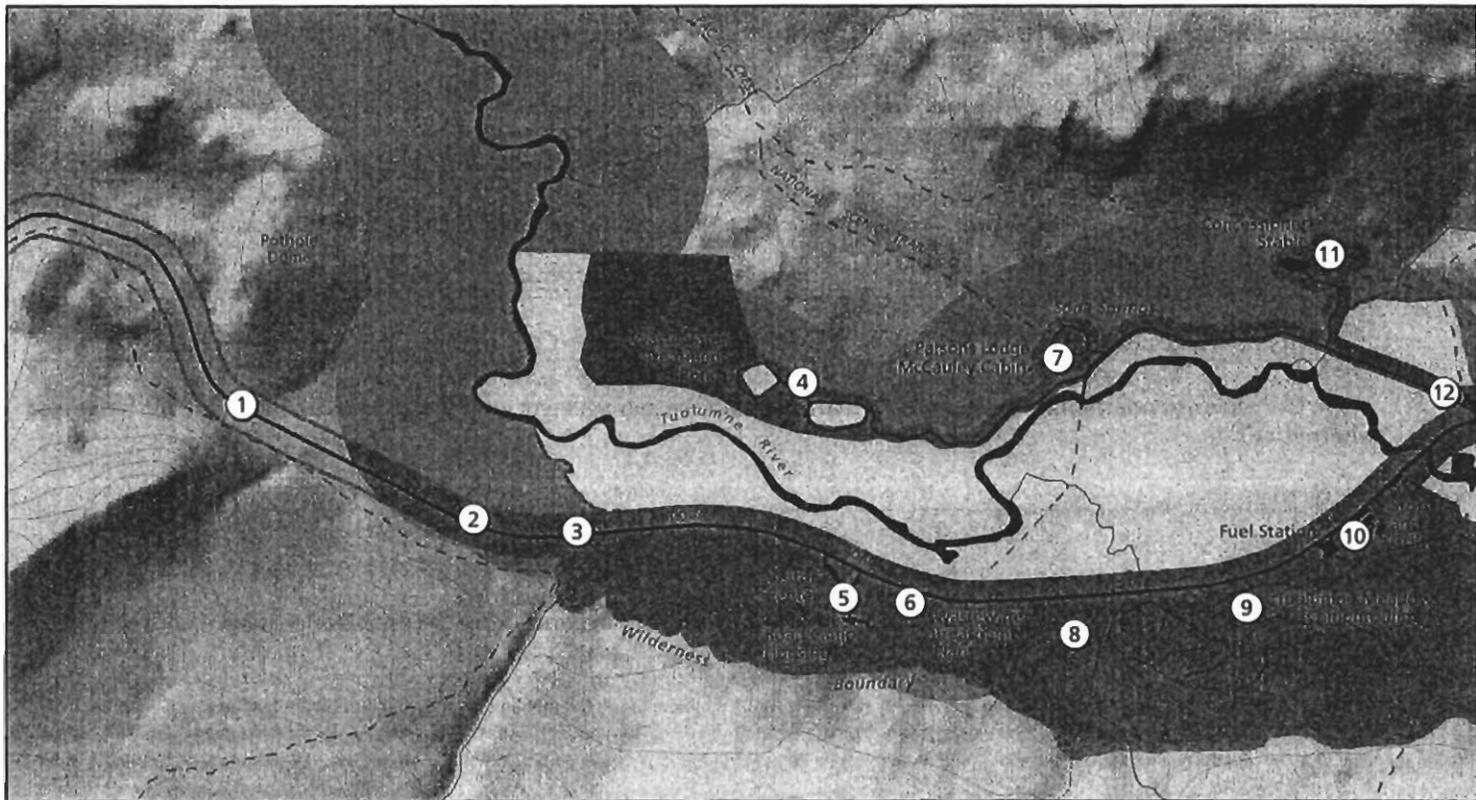
Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

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: _____

- Remove Horses from trails
- Close down A-loop to protect River
- Close T.M. lodge restaurant to protect River - or relocate restaurant
- Remove fuel station, mountain store & grill. Keep store
- In wilderness area people should be more self-sufficient
- Restore Meadows
- Close Glen Aulin
- Keep rangers living in park - They need to understand resource to protect it.



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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 the proposed elimination of utilities from Parsons. I do not like the proposed elimination of NPS housing from its current location. I do like the concept of combining the various NPS facilities (Vis. Center, Wilderness Center and ranger station)

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept? I do like the concepts of moving Visitor Center (combine w/ other NPS facilities) and using the parking lot for Cathedral Lakes and general day use (picnic 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? I do like the proposal to remove treatment ponds & consolidate facilities. I do like the proposal to consolidate stables (why are two separate stables needed?)

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

In general, I believe consolidation of services and facilities to be a good idea.
-consolidate: NPS & concessioner stables / consolidate maintenance yard with wastewater treatment
-consolidate: housing (road camp, bngcamp, NPS)

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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*they should be within walking distance from housing

Comment Form

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

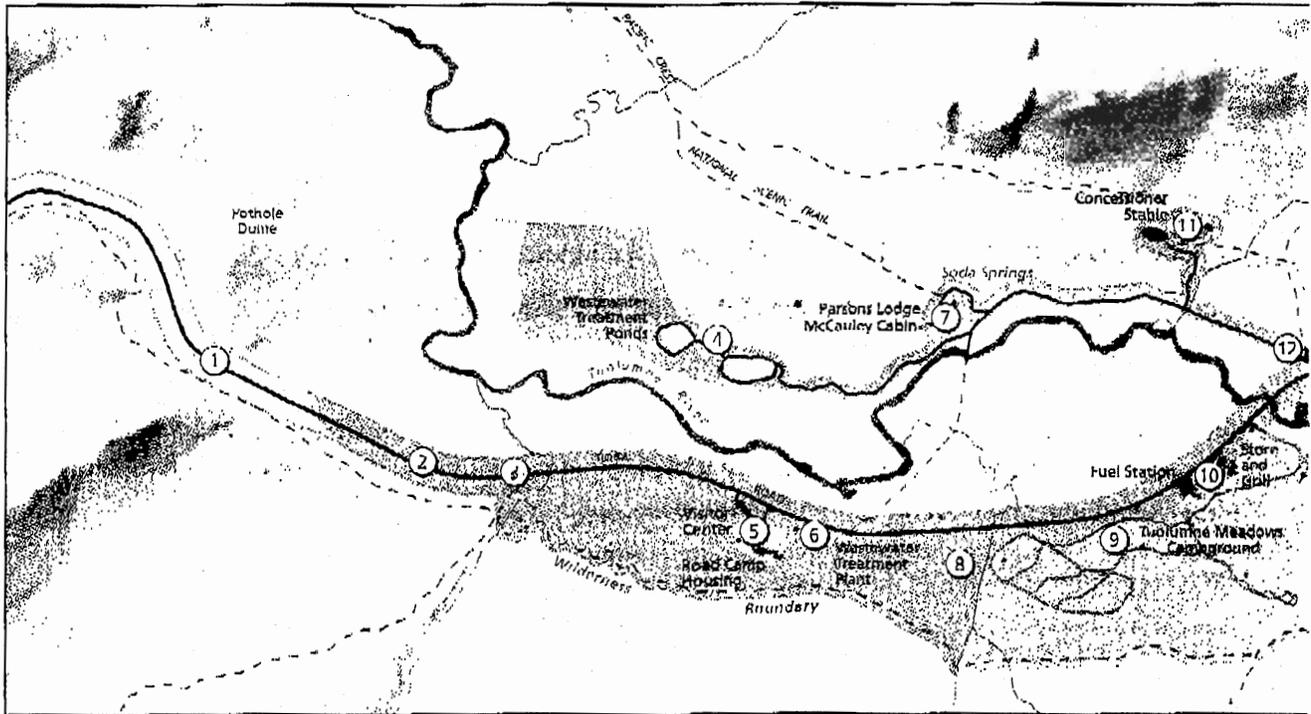
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The most important things to accomplish in the preferred alternative site plan for Tuolumne Meadows are: _____

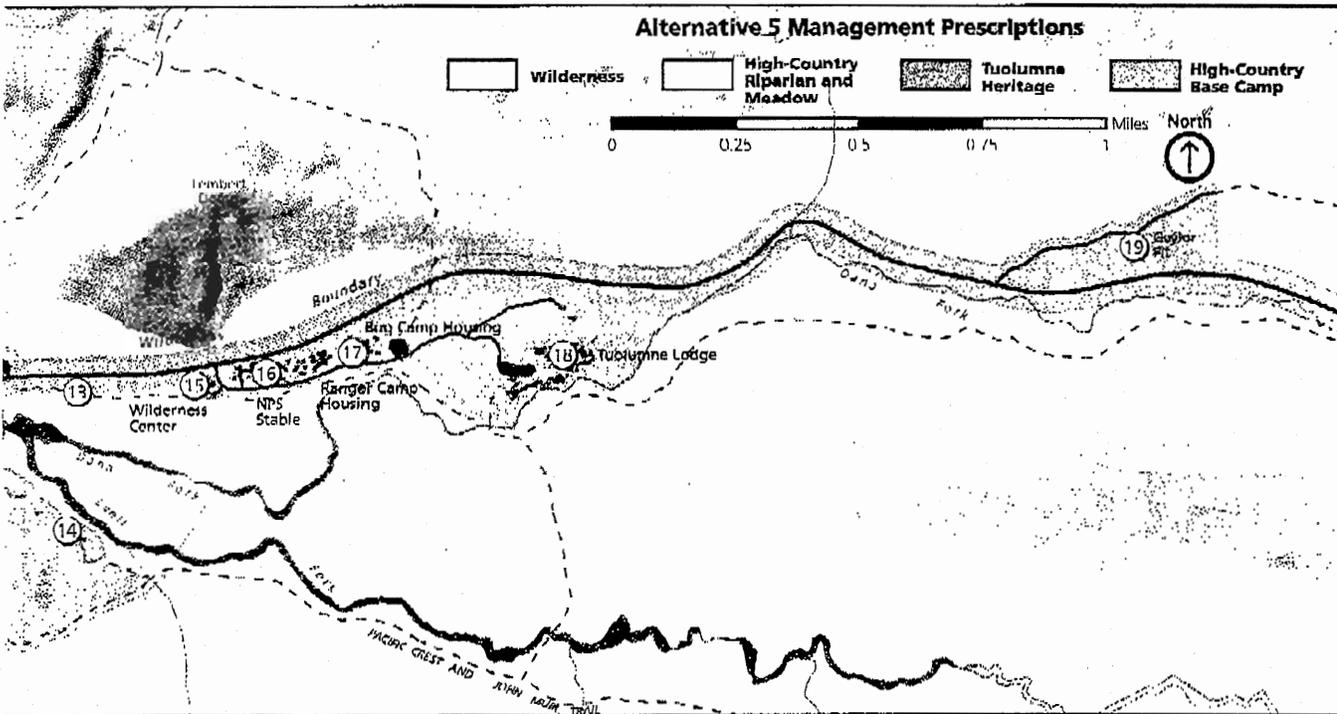
- 1) Consolidate both concessioner and government facilities _____
- 2) Improve campground - fewer, better delineated sites, improve bathrooms _____
- 3) Expand & Improve Tram _____



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 A thorough re-design of the campground is desperately needed. I worked there 30 years ago and have camped there dozens of times since. It was a mess then and nothing has changed. Fewer sites, better site layout & roads are needed. Bathrooms are terrible.
- ⑰ Retain range/interpreter housing and consolidate the three main NPS facilities either at ⑮ or ⑩ so they are within walking distance to reduce car traffic.
- ①② & ③ remove parking and trails. Allow for tram connection from ⑤
- ⑤ relocate Vis Center and consolidate with Wilderness Center & RO as stated earlier. Keep parking for Cathedral Lakes and day use.
- ④ relocate ponds
- ⑪ relocate NPS stables here. Concessioner stables used only to resupply High Sierra Camp

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: Newport Beach, CA 92660



Create Your Own Site Plan

NW L88 8/24/08

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? _____

REMOVE CAMPGROUND "A" LOOP ROAD & CAMPSITES

ELIMINATE TIOGA RD. SHOULDER PARKING

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

KAYAKING ON ANY PORTION OF THE RIVER

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

LIKE: PRESERVE STORE, GRILL & FUEL STATION - MAINTAIN HISTORIC CHARACTER; MOVING NON-HISTORIC BLDGS.

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

DISCONTINUE COMMERCIAL TRAIL RIDES, PROTECT HABITAT BY PULLING FACILITIES AWAY FROM RIVER @ LODGE & CAMPGROUND "A".

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

ELIMINATE INFORMAL PARKING, RESTORING NATURAL CONDITIONS

CONSOLIDATE FUEL STORE, GRILL, ETC, BUT NOT IN CAMPGROUNDS.

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LOCATION: [REDACTED]

RX TIME 09/15 '08 22:34

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

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

MAINTAIN PUBLIC FUEL STATION, STORE, GRILL & CONSOLIDATE

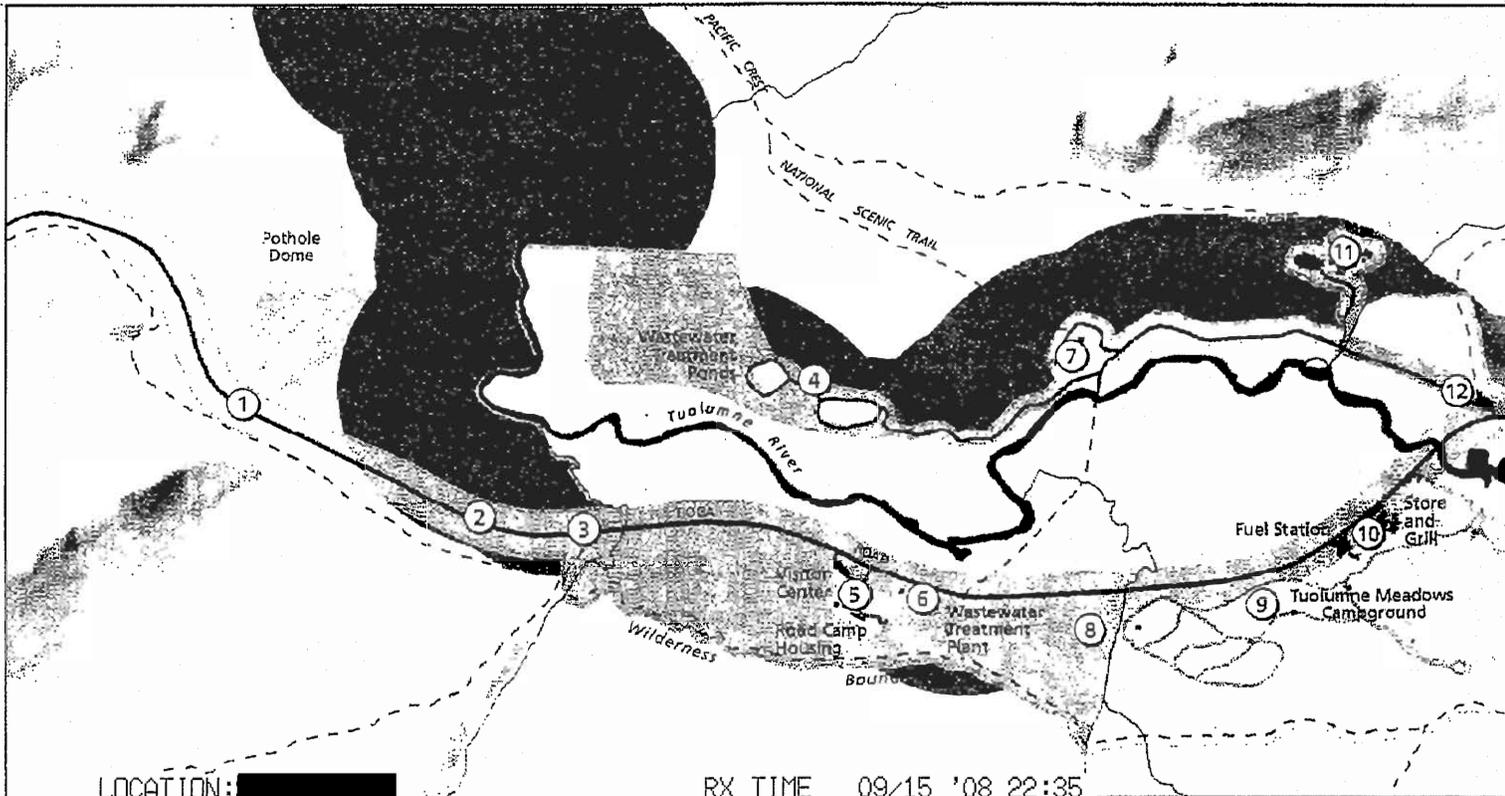
ELIMINATE ROAD PARKING, RESTORE NATURAL CONDITIONS

ELIMINATE CAMPGROUND "A"

IMPROVE CAMPGROUND SITE DELINEATION & CIRCULATION

PRESERVE HISTORIC STRUCTURES

CONSOLIDATE PARKING



NW L 89

8/24/08



09/15/2008 11:06 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne River Plan Comments

Unfortunately, this deadline snuck up on me and I have not had too much time to think about my comments. These are the most important things that have come to my mind in regards to the Tuolumne River Plan.....

It seems to me that moving too much out of Tuolumne Meadows would not necessarily be a good thing. Moving the staff housing and visitor parking outside of the Meadows would cause more people to have to commute into the Meadows which would generate more driving and an unpleasant visitor experience. Parking should be moved off of the roadside into camouflaged small lots near trailheads. Spread out rather than one large centralized parking area, and rather than long lines of cars parked along the roadside. People should be able to easily access trailheads. The store eliminates many people from driving their cars to Lee Vining for small necessities and, therefore, seems worthwhile. The Gas station could potentially be eliminated without too much impact on visitors and staff, I believe.

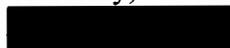
A bike path to access amenities in Tuolumne Meadows paralleling the road would be a good idea. It would greatly enhance the visitor experience and decrease the traffic in the area as people would not have to drive once they set up camp in the campground.

Eliminating the trail rides that are currently available in Tuolumne Meadows would be a good idea. The impact of the rides is very large and the actual experience is not really that great. It would also cut down on the staff that would need to be housed in the meadows in addition to the impact of the mules on the trails and the river corridor. This would be a very worthwhile change, I believe. Even though this is a traditional activity, I do not think it is necessary and believe that eliminating it would go a long way towards preserving the wild and scenic character of the area.

Although some necessary improvements may need to be made to the staff housing, it should remain as simple and rustic as possible and fit into the landscape as well as it does currently .

Kayaking should definitely NOT be added to the list of recreational activities allowed in the river corridor. This would have a huge impact and is completely unnecessary. The area may be enjoyed in much simpler and better ways.

Thank you for considering my opinion and for all of your efforts,
Sincerely,



NW L90 8/24/08



09/15/2008 08:49 PM

To <Yose_Planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Planning Workbook comments

We have been hiking in the Sierra since moving to California in 1963, and have been dismayed by the terrible damage done by pack stock in the last forty-five years. In the 60's we could drink water from the streams without treatment or filtration. The trails were not torn up by pack stock and contaminated with manure as they are in many places now. We therefore strongly object to your Alternative 5, which would continue pack-train pollution. Alternative 4 is also objectionable because it continues the pack trains to the High Sierra Camps and horse rides.

Your duty should be to protect the Park for future generations rather than to accommodate commercial interests. - [REDACTED] 2025 Avila Court, La Jolla, CA 92037

NW L91 8/24/08



09/15/2008 07:54 PM

To <yose_planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on Tuolumne River Plan Alternatives

Dear Tuolumne Planners,

Attached are my comments on the Tuolumne River Plan. Thanks you for the opportunity to give input on this important process.

Sincerely,



Lee Vining, CA 93541



Comments on a preferred site plan for Tuolumne Meadows

I have read through the alternative site plans for Tuolumne Meadows and none of them correspond to my vision. First of all, Tuolumne Meadows is such a special place to so many people (including myself). It is a place that many people have been coming to all of their lives. In our fast moving world, where change is constant and sometimes overwhelming, both the natural features and the infrastructure of TM offers the visitor a reassurance that some things will stay mostly the same. I love when my husband tells me stories of when his family used to get ice cream sandwiches at the Tuolumne store after a long hike when he was little and how they would look forward to their camping site "on the sandy hill" in the campground. We can still get ice cream sandwiches at the store and camp on the sandy hill nearly 40 years later. Not much has been that stable in our lives. If our family has these very special memories, I can only imagine how many other families find visiting and re-visiting TM a reassuring, secure touchstone in their lives. This is all to say, let's change as little as necessary to keep the essence of the Tuolumne experience that visitors have revered for the last 100 years.

That said, here are some ideas and comments on improvements for TM:

1. Better toilets at the Lumbert Dome parking lot. The preferred plan says "comfort stations." Not sure what that entails but "sweet-smelling toilets" would be a start. It would be great to try to have as little impact as possible on the site and to have the toilets be as green as possible.
2. Try a middle ground for parking. Eliminate dangerous, narrow pullouts on Hwy 120 but keep the ones that really have enough room for cars to pull over where other drivers can see them. Put more parking on the west end for Cathedral Lakes parking but, again, try for the least visual and environmental impact. Keep the rest of the parking the same. Having only a certain amount of parking puts a reasonable limit on the number of visitors and the impact on day use areas. It keeps the TM experience one that gives even the drive-through visitor a sense that they are "away from the maddening crowds." I don't know of anyone who wants the TM's experience to even remotely resemble a Yosemite Valley visit.

Also, creating more parking in Lee Vining at the Mono Basin Visitor Center and having YARTS take visitors to TM would be a possible solution especially if it was inexpensive and convenient for visitors. Offering some sort of incentive like a \$5.00 day pass, or \$10.00 daily family pass might help if \$5.00/gal gas doesn't do it.

3. Keep the most of the present facilities and buildings where they are for historical and environmental reasons. It takes a long time for areas to recover when buildings are removed. Keep electricity for Parson's Lodge. The Parson's Summer Series participants often need it. And, keep vehicle access for the Summer Series (to bring equipment for musical acts, etc) and so disabled people can attend. Employee housing could maybe be extended to the Lee Vining Ranger station. Could an agreement be negotiated with the Forest Service so that more housing could be built at the LV Ranger Station since some

NPS employees already work at the Visitor Center in LV, as well as in TM? Maybe even where the BLM fire station is in Lundy Canyon. There is room there.

4. Eliminate the commercial stable operation except to support the High Sierra Camps. Move the stables to the ranger site and use the stable site for more parking or other uses like a picnic area. Limit the number of horses in the backcountry. Their impact is great and people can ride horses in a number of places outside the park but fairly close by like June Lake, Virginia Lakes, etc.

5. Soundscape. We are seeking a tranquil, quiet experience in TM as, I think, most others are. In the last 5 or 6 years, this is more often marred by the sound of loud motorcycles riding through the park which we can hear on Lumbert Dome and in some of the backcountry. While I have nothing against motorcycles, especially since they use less gas, I do object to the noise certain models make. I believe that the noise levels are above the legal decibel limit but this issue is rarely addressed either inside or outside the park. I think it would really improve the visitor experience in TM if noise level limitations were posted and enforced. Maybe do a year of education and warnings so that motorcyclists can become informed and then enforce the law after that.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer input on the future of Tuolumne Meadows

Sincerely,



Lee Vining, CA 93541



NW L92 8/29/08



09/15/2008 05:33 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Planning Workbook comments

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

Alternative 1:

Too restrictive. As a backpacker, I fully support increasing the amount of land designated as wilderness, but Tuolumne Meadows is not a good candidate. Removing amenities such as the grill and the store would make camping much harder for families with children. Removing Glen Aulin would limit the opportunities for less fit or older people to experience the backcountry. While preserving the meadows and the river are very important, maintaining accessibility is also important.

Alternative 2:

Eliminating Tioga Road shoulder parking is attractive as is concentrating parking in areas out of sight. Removing A loop sites seems like a good idea.

Alternative 3:

Too little to preserve meadow or river.

Alternative 4:

Tuolumne Lodge changes seem sensible. Not keen on moving consolidated facilities away from road into campground.

2) Additional comments.

I looked at the waste treatment ponds in the meadow. That seems like a disaster waiting to happen. The ponds are high above the meadow, and if their soft earthen walls should ever be ruptured (earthquakes anyone?) both the meadow and the river would be flooded.

NW L93

8/24/08



09/15/2008 05:16 PM

To <Yose_Planning@nps.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Planning Workbook - Comments

Dear Superintendent,

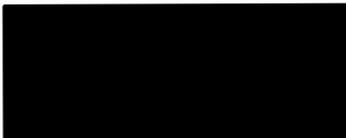
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Workbook. I and my family are huge fans of the Tuolumne part of Yosemite. When we visit Yosemite, which is 4-6 times per year, 90% of our visits are to that beautiful high area of the park. We are anxious that that precious area be protected from becoming another Yosemite Valley, overcrowded with tour buses, trucks, cars, and way too many commercial enterprises. In fact, we believe that, if anything, you need to scale back some of the worst features of how the Tuolumne area is presently being (over-) used. These involve horses and the high sierra camps.

Given our above concerns, we were surprised to see that the Workbook's "preferred alternative" (Alternative 5) seems to envision not only doing nothing of substance to scale back the problems related to the two commercial operations mentioned above, but to enshrine those operations as apparently unchangeable "traditions" there. In our view, "traditions" are fine to honor, but when they begin to be counter to the values they seek to preserve, they have outlived their natural life, and must give way to new "traditions" that serve those values. Here, those values include honoring and, as much as possible, preserving, the pristine, wilderness character of the park.

Your Alternative 1 would go a long way toward doing that by tearing down the store, gas station, and grill, but it apparently has received little serious consideration for the "Preferred" choice. Your Alternative 4 implies that it would focus on restoring overused or otherwise distressed meadows and streams. Again, a laudable objective of any planning for Tuolumne, but also, unfortunately, one that has not been given "preference" so far. And even that Alternative says nothing about reducing the serious blights and pollution caused by the eyesores High Sierra Camps at Vogelsang and Glen Aulin— both of which have long outlived their origins— maybe somewhere around the time where some "enterprising" park superintendent ok'd tours to watch the bears in the garbage dumps in the Valley, and shoving burning logs over the valley rim for the "firefalls".

At a minimum, if horse rides are going to continue, lower the number of stock and riders as the first step in a gradual phase-out. In the meantime, require the wranglers/guides to pick up after their stock or to use those bags under the horses that you see in some other national parks. Also provide a phase-out period for the high sierra camps, say two or three years. In the interim, lower the limits on the number of people per night and also on the number of the trail-chewing, water-polluting stock that supply those camps.

Tuolumne and its great river are in our opinion the crown jewels of the Park. Please be preservationist first in your priorities. Future generations will bless you for putting the future over the dollar, in your position as trustee of these treasured jewels for those coming generations. Thank you.



Lafayette, CA 94549

PS Please put me on your mailing list for updates on the Workbook project and other planning projects that relate to the Tuolumne area.

NW L94 8/24/08



[Redacted]

09/15/2008 05:02 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on site planning for Tuolumne Meadows 2008

September 15, 2008

This is for consideration in the the alternatives development process.

I read through the 2008 Workbook for the Tuolumne River Meadows and looked at the pages for the different alternatives and what their site plans for each alternative may look like.

I think that Alternative 4 is the best of the ones listed. We need enforceable "user capacity" limits to protect the fragile ecological values. This ecosystem needs protection - not to be trampled - a high level of visitor use is not a realistic or logical goal. After all, we want this to be here for a while. High visitor use including paving over areas and heavy motorized and foot traffic will have undesirable impacts.

Personally, I prefer a more primitive and pristine experience in such a place. Maybe a primitive camping experience - or overnight lodging outside the area and day use. A limit of the number of people and vehicles is what is needed.

The mission of the Dept. of Interior is Ecological Integrity - and that is what we must put as the most important goal - and limit visitor use accordingly. Current science evaluation of the ecology and what visitor use it can handle - and what protection and even restoration is needed to maintain the pristine condition of this area. Future visitors will appreciate this. In addition, this is part of a National Park that is part of an ecosystem, the Sierra Nevada, that is considered a Biodiversity Hotspot by International Conservation Scientists (Conservation International) and this is a very important issue to consider in planning for this area. Ecologically, this area is globally significant and protecting the land and the wildlife here is therefore of highest importance - for all of us - for a healthy environment.

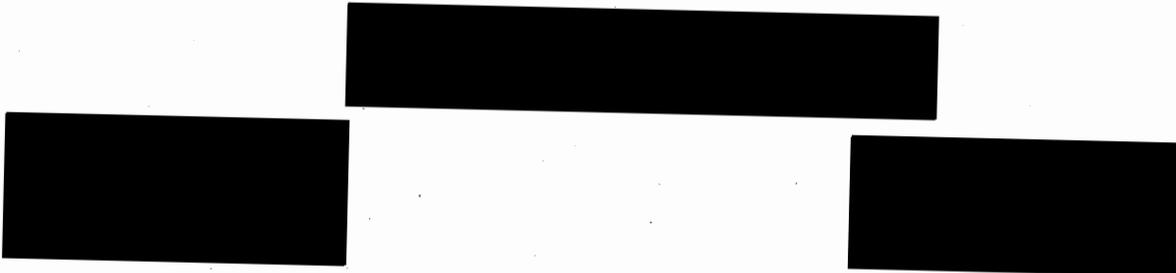
Sincerely,

--
[Redacted]

Pearblossom, CA 93553

[Redacted]

NW L95 8/24/08



FAX COVER PAGE

Date: 9/15/08

To: Yosemite Planning
Tuolumne

FAX: 209.379.1294

Number of pages including this one: 2

The following pages are confidential and intended only for the person(s) noted above.

IF THIS FAX WAS RECEIVED IN ERROR PLEASE NOTIFY ME AT THE ABOVE TELEPHONE OR FAX NUMBER

Please confirm receipt of this FAX via return fax or the telephone number shown above

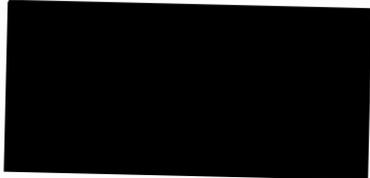
Please reply by return fax

No reply needed

Memo:

I tried to e-mail my comments
but it was returned as undeliverable
because this e-mail address did not
exist. I hope this fax^s makes it.

Thank you



* copy of original email

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, September 01, 2008 1:31 PM
To: <yose-planning@nps.gov>
Subject: Tuolumne Planning comments

I am [REDACTED] and live in Santa Monica, CA 90405. We visit Tuolumne annually and spend about 1 week camping at the campground there. I have read the Tuolumne Planning Workbook and had a friend attend the planning meeting at Parsons Lodge a few weeks ago. I would like to support Alternative 5 and add the following comments:

1. Include changes to sewage treatment that is flexible to meet varying needs for treatment AND which both protects San Francisco's drinking water as well as the environmental and aesthetic integrity of Tuolumne.
2. Preserve without substantially increasing horse access.
3. Continue to allow roadside parking
4. Formalize the social trail that cuts through the meadow by Pothole dome.

Thank you.

FROM :

FAX NO. :

NW L96 8/24/08

Your Comments Are Important!

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

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

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

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

Alt. 1 provides only natural habitat protection and does NOT allow enough visitor use. Too restrictive

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

I like upgrading comfort station - providing scenic pullouts I like allowing kayaking on parts of this rd T. river I like facilitating new visitors with opportunities to experience T. mds. - interpreting some sites

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

I like that visitors will be invited to learn about Amer. Indians cultural practices & traditions

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

I haven't seen a problem w/ commercial trail rides - actually most tracks not used enough.

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

I am not sure what to do about wastewater treatment ponds - but might be a good idea to move them to #6 near road out of meadows

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 of Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall goal are not allowed. **RX TIME 09/15 '08 11:09** by commenting on the other alternatives, above.

LOCATION:

Comment Form

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

Create your own site plan concept for the preferred zoning alternative

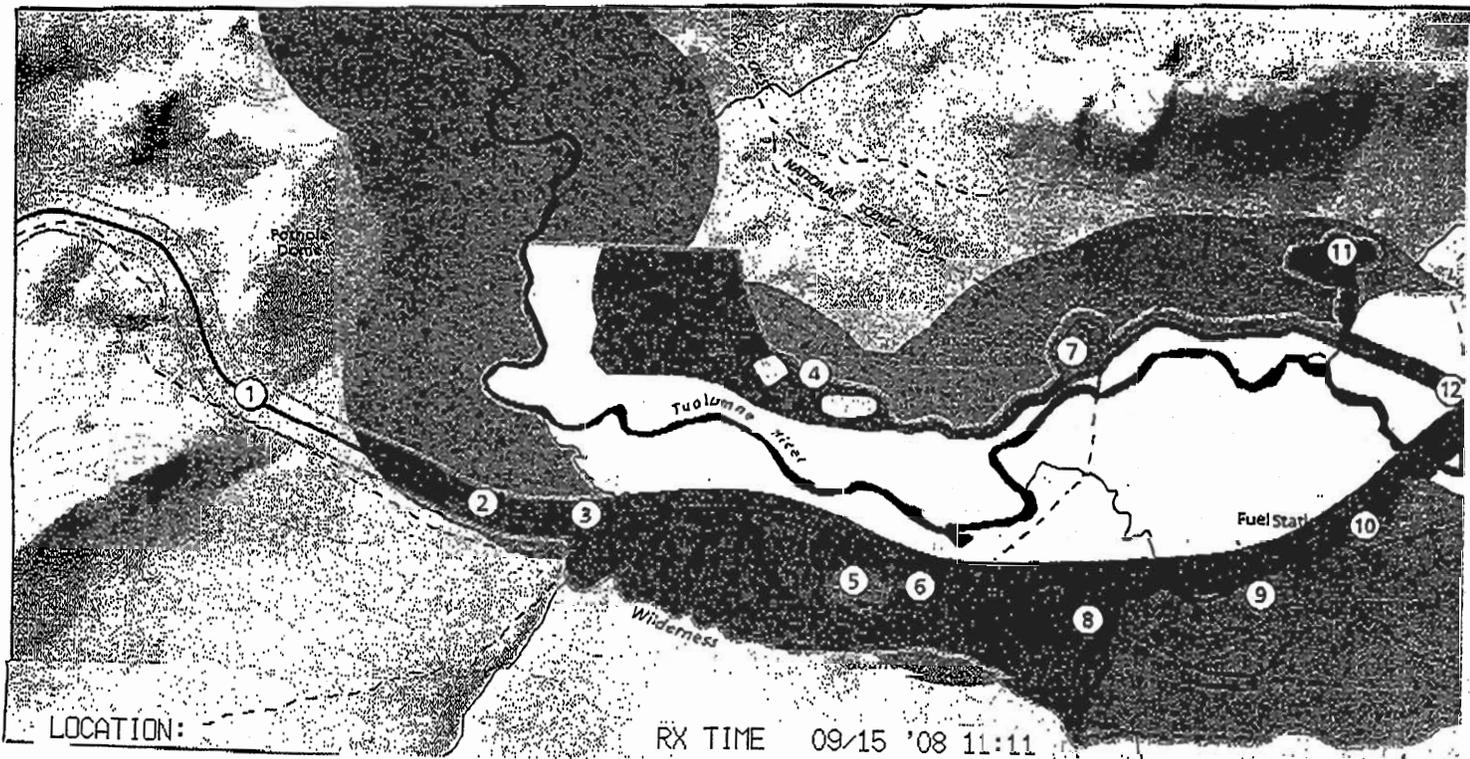
Before we propose a site plan concept for the preferred alternative, we want to hear your views. Using the guidance provided by the desired conditions for the preferred alternative, and the management actions needed to achieve those conditions (see pages 30-31 of the

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:

Finding ways for visitors to interact with the environment while still maintaining the natural and scenic nature that makes T. meadows such a spiritual and lovely place.

Perhaps an information cart and/or center that has computers for new visitors to input their needs or fitness level and then the computer lists 3-4 options in the area with maps and suggestions



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) We need increased camping opportunity and I agree Loop A should be moved out of meadow/wetlands.

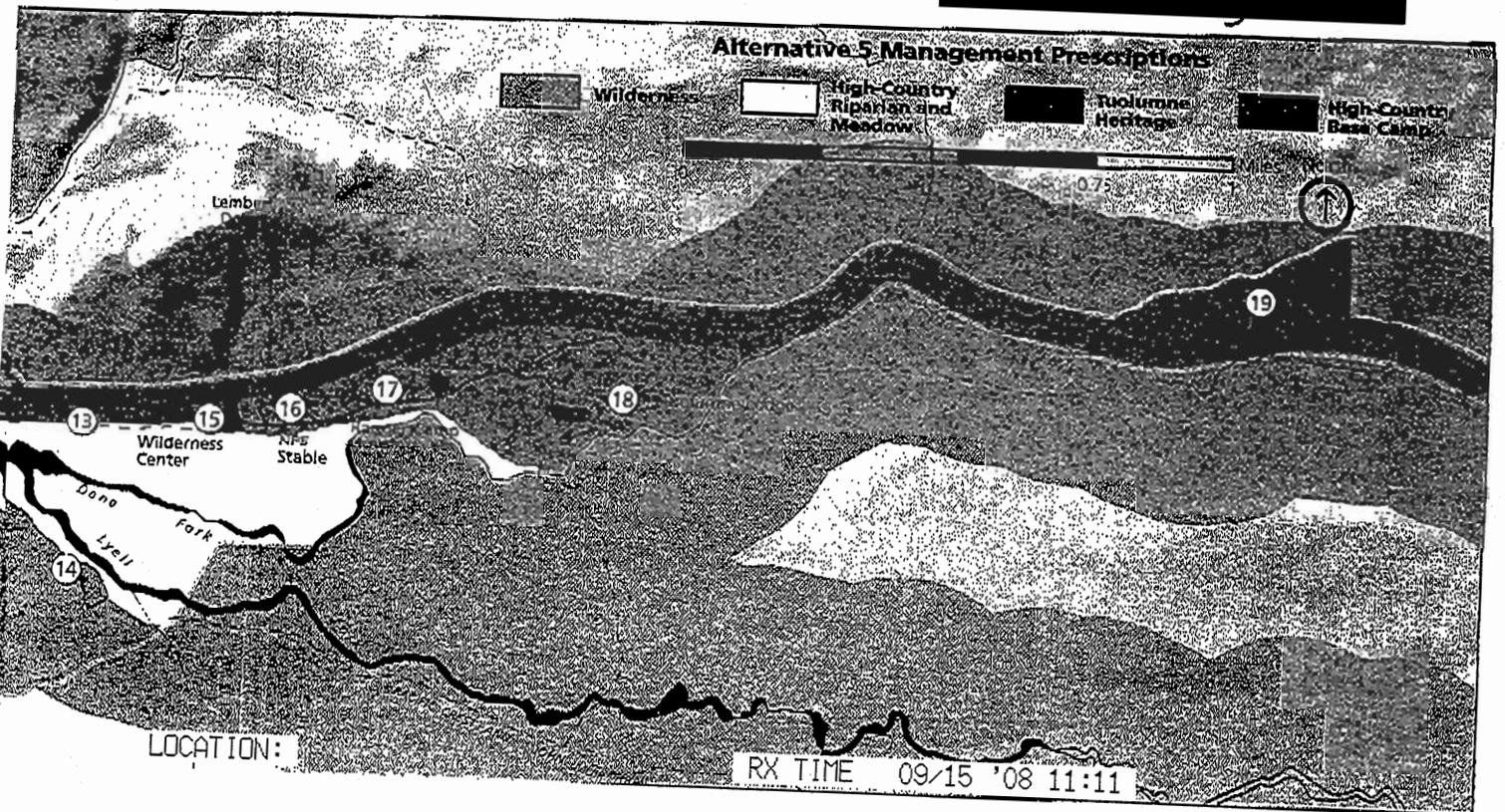
(4) Move Ponds near 6 or to less scenic area

(18) Keep lodge! "Park ^{Use the} for People"

We need more signs & more maps of where to go. We want to interact with this beautiful location.

I would like be involved w/ the merced's River Plan especially the South Fork of merced.

(Optional) Please provide your name and city of residence/zip code: [redacted] - Tucson 85743



NW L97 8/24/08



09/15/2008 12:32 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Meadows plan comments

Greetings,

I wanted to submit the following comments regarding the proposed Tuolumne Meadow River Plan. I attended the workshop held on 9 August.

First, I would like to suggest that in the future, the planners take advantage of the "teachable moment" to include in the planning workbooks provided to the public a summary of the constraints analysis, copy of the constraints maps (without the archeological/cultural resources specified) and some rationale for the proposed variations on the plan. It would also have helped to provide an image showing each alternative on one page, so that the proposed differences in zoning (wilderness, high country, etc.) was more easily digested. We ended up pulling a book apart to see that! The summary site plan concepts table handed out at the planning meeting would have been a great addition to the workbook itself!

For instance, many of the alternatives recommend closing road shoulder parking. It would really help to understand why that is important. If it is due to safety, erosion control, protecting viewsheds, etc., it would help to share that background information so that public is making a more informed response to your inquiries. As the material was presented, it was difficult for anyone who did not have the time or inclination to get on the computer (which is not available in the area) and look at the 2007 information to see how these alternatives evolved. It would have really helped to set the stage with a bit more of that information. The summary and overview provided in the workbook did not address the facts, but was more focused on the process.

Another key concern was visitor capacity, and the details that would help make an informed decision about that were missing. For instance, it was hard to determine if the reasons for capping the campground numbers was due to the limitations of the existing sewage treatment system, or for other reasons.

By attending the meeting and asking questions, I was able to see the tremendous effort that has gone into developing a comprehensive picture of the issues facing management of the Tuolumne resources. Unfortunately, those details were not included as part of the slide presentation, but rather as a bit of an afterthought to a small group who expressed specific concerns. This was a bit disturbing, because it means that the majority of the responses the planners are receiving about the alternatives proposed are really based only on limited information and mostly on emotional ties to the place.

While these emotional ties are really important, they can skew the planning process significantly. The folks who attended the meeting on 9 Aug were all long time regular visitors who have strong emotional bonds to the meadows. It felt like a real opportunity lost to not inform them of why particular planning and management actions were proposed. It also felt like a very superficial way to seek meaningful input.

After thinking about the proposed alternatives and reviewing the information on line, I would like to offer the following thoughts:

1. Given that the majority of visitors to the meadows are driving through in about an hour, having the opportunity to randomly stop for views along the road shoulder seems like a pretty important amenity. Perhaps thought could be given to directing that in a more coordinated way, leaving some pullouts and closing others.

2. The sewer system needs to be coordinated with the proposed visitor capacity and use existing technology to improve the system without piping it under the meadow to the holding ponds.

3. Some of the social trails are not causing significant damage, and others are. More extensive signage directing people to the less damaging alternative would be helpful.

4. Consolidating the parking for the visitor center and Cathedral Lakes hiking/climbing trails will only work if there is enough space, but seems like a good idea.

5. Providing formal parking for Pothole Dome and focusing traffic on the trail around the Dome rather than the one that cuts across the meadow seems like a great idea.

6. The store/grill provide a valuable service to the visitors who are traveling through the park, as well as to those staying in the campground. Ditto the gas station! If these are an environmental problem, then consolidating them in another less sensitive area would make sense.

7. The current "rustic, funky" condition of the campground is a significant part of its appeal. While it makes sense to remove the sites located adjacent to the river in A section, leaving the road unpaved and the bathrooms as is works. Paving the road would have a huge impact on the tree roots, cause significant and unnecessary impervious surface run-off that would carry pollutants into the meadow. Because of its more rustic nature, the campground attracts more self reliant campers. The Valley provides more upscale accommodations for those who seek them. No need to mimic that in the meadows.

In conclusion, our group of hikers, climbers, fisherman and tent campers really have no complaint about the current conditions in the meadow. In fact, we love being there so much that each year we return for between 7-14 days. We really appreciate the efforts of the Ranger and Maintenance staff to keep the campground safe and clean. It is really a special place and we treasure the opportunity to spend time there each year. Higher use would only cause the love-it-to-death problems, and the more restricted back-country, no services provided alternative would keep away so many families that can't manage bringing enough water and ice on top of their other camping equipment! The present conditions serve a wide range of visitors without seeming to cause too many significant impacts.

Each of the alternatives proposed has elements that combined should help you develop your preferred alternative for the plan. I hope that the above comments help in that process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some input into the planning

process. I look forward to seeing how the alternatives evolve.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

NW L98 8/24/08



09/15/2008 12:57 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Plan comments

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Tuolumne Planning Workbook.

I am most in favor of Plan Alternative 5. The other plans all seem too drastic, with much unnecessary relocating, removing, and consolidating of facilities.

I prefer the park "preserve the traditional Tuolumne experience." Don't add showers or other visitor "luxuries."

There are several issues that currently detract from my experience of the unique natural wonder of Tuolumne, and a few things that could be improved. I am listing proposed actions in priority order. (The numbers in parentheses are the site numbers from the site plan map).

A. Require motorcycles to be in compliance with California motor vehicle code noise ordinances. The racket from out of compliance motorcycles is the single biggest interference with my enjoyment of Tuolumne.

B. Fix the Cathedral Lakes trailhead parking problem - (3). The large numbers of vehicles parked on the shoulder and pedestrians stepping out from between parked cars is a huge safety hazard as well as a visual blight on the meadows landscape.

I have two suggestions: either create a formal parking area at the trailhead, or even better, provide parking near the visitor center (5). In the latter option, provide a small 20 minute loading/unloading zone off the highway at the trailhead so backpackers can unload their gear from their vehicles. Then one person drives the vehicle to long-term parking at the visitor center, and walks back (or takes the shuttle bus). This strategy works very well at other trailheads such as Big Pine Creek on the east side.

C. More water faucets. Water is an essential need and currently the only water faucet easily accesible by day visitors and suitable for filling water jugs is at the campground entrance where parking is extremely limited. The drinking fountain next to the grill is not plumbed in a manner to allow filling water jugs, and is frequently broken. Two candidates for additional faucets would be at the RV dump station and at the visitor center.

D. Improve picnic opportunities. Lemberst Dome picnic area (12) is awesome. Where else in the world can one have lunch at the base of a granite dome? Unfortunately the toilets here are very unpleasant. They should be replaced with modern toilets like at Tenaya Lake (east end). Additional picnic areas at Pothole Dome (1) and Meadows Overlook (11) would be great, where visitors can take time to appreciate views of the meadows.

- E. Eliminate commercial trail rides.
- F. Eliminate Glen Aulin HSC.

- G. Fix Campground problems

I have visited Tuolumne almost annually for over 20 years, and I almost never stay in the meadows campground because it is noisy, crowded, un-navigable, smoky, and unsanitary.

I have several suggestions:

Create separate tent and RV camping areas.

Increase the number of walk-in campsites.

Reroute the roads to reduce bottlenecks and keep RV's away from tent camping areas.

Enforce restroom etiquette - no dish washing, etc.

Prohibit campfires. Smoke from campfires is a big concern for people with respiratory problems who often seek out the high country to find clean air.

Sincerely,



San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

NW L99 8/24/08



09/15/2008 01:37 PM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Meadows Comments

Hello Yosemite Planning;

I just discovered this planning process when we were up at the Meadows last week; where have I been?

Please find attached a scan of the first page of the comment form. I did not design my own plan due to the short time period left, but the preferred alternative is very close to what I'd suggest (but see attached comments).

Many thanks!

--



Hayward, CA 94542 Tuolumne Meadows Comments.pdf

Your Comments Are Important

This workbook contains descriptions of four preliminary site plan concepts for Tuolumne Meadows: one for each of the original management zoning alternatives. The range of the site plan concepts reflects the range of interests and concern pressed by park managers and staff, associated Indian tribes, and the public during several years of internal and external review. Your feedback now on what you see as the advantages and disadvantages of each concept will be helpful in together a site plan for the preferred alternative. We also encourage you to provide your own ideas about a site plan 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 (reply 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?
 lack of "Heritage" the most; Heck Hetchy is ignored ^{+ so is precedent} - Tuolumne could be ignored due to extensive "Heritage" usage.

Site plan concept for alternative 2 (page 20 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?
 like the expanded "High-Country Experience", but doesn't balance w/ meadow - too human-centric

Site plan concept for alternative 3 (page 24 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?
 like inclusion of "Heritage", but doesn't balance w/ needs of meadow - again too human-centric.

Site plan concept for alternative 4 (page 28 of this workbook). What do you like or dislike most about this concept?
 can wastewater pond (#4) be built @ #6? Ponds tend to stink, & need to be rebuilt @ #4?

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

Preferred alternative is my preferred alt., although is it possible to "carry" more "wilderness" from "High-Country Riparian/Meadow" of Lyell Fork + South of Tioga Road?

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

optional:

194542

Important reminder: The site plan for the preferred alternative must be consistent with the management zoning included in that alternative. 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 at Tuolumne Meadows. Ideas about site design that would not be consistent with that overall guidance would best be captured by commenting on alternatives, above.

NW L100 8/24/08



09/15/2008 12:56 AM

To yose_planning@nps.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Tuolumne Meadows Planning

To whom it may concern,

I am an interested citizen writing to express my opinions on the planning of future of the Tuolumne Meadows area. I have only visited the area once, when I stayed at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge for two nights, spent the days in day hikes, and was impressed by its beauty. I am a resident of the San Francisco Bay area, a field biologist by profession, and a recent transplant to California from Oregon and Texas.

Of the proposed management alternatives, I prefer option four. I feel that it provides significant measures to reduce ecological impacts on the area, but preserves opportunities for recreation and appreciation of the area. There is a part of me that is in philosophical accordance with the first option, however, I oppose it for reasons that visitation to areas like Yosemite are vital to the building of public will to conservation goals and that this option would make this area exclusive to young, fit, able-bodied people with significant amounts of leisure time. While, apart from having fairly limited vacation time, I am one of these people and typically visit wilderness areas by hiking in several miles and setting up camp, I do not feel that access to the spiritual and emotional benefits of wilderness areas should exclude too many people. Option Two is the only one of these options that I have a feeling of strong opposition to. It would increase the environmental impacts of recreation in an area where they are already rather apparent. I do not personally feel a connection to cultural traditions of the area; it is perhaps for this reason that I feel rather indifferent to option three. Other suggestions would include further improvements in the public transit structure. Yosemite is quite good with this in comparison to most other wilderness areas, but improvements in public transit would both increase accessibility and reduce environmental impacts. I would also suggest structuring some of the lodges and camps in such a manner as to demonstrate to visitors low environmental impact building methods and lifestyles. I am also a fan of interpretive signs and would be happy to see more information displayed at trailheads.

Thank you for reading these comments,

