APPENDIX M

CHANGES TO THE ORVS OVER TIME

APPENDIX M

COMPARISON OF MERCED RIVER OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES OVER TIME (1986-PRESENT)

SEGMENT 1: Main Stem Wilderness (Headwaters To Top Of Nevada Fall)

Geologic/Hydrologic Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Land and Resource Management Plan	Most spectacular glaciated valley in world, granite cliffs and Domes
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Glaciation, cirques, "Lost" and "Twin Bridges" hanging valley separated by cascades; world's largest concentrations of granite domes River gradient from 13,000 to 6,000 feet, glaciers, pristine water quality, log jams
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	U-shaped, glacially carved canyon, cascades and soda springs below Washburn Lake Free flowing, gradient drop, glacial remnants, logjam, numerous cascades
2008 Draft ORVs	Glacial processes River gradient drop, rapid snowmelt producing high-volume spring flows
2010 Draft ORVs	Large-scale, U-shaped glacially carved canyon, above Brunell Point shows relationship between geology and river course
2011 Spring Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Following the path of the ancient Merced River, glaciers gouged a textbook U-shaped canyon with sheer granite walls rising steeply above
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The upper Merced River canyon is a textbook example of a canyon that was carved by glaciers
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Condition Report	The upper Merced River canyon is a textbook example of a glacially-carved canyon
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Same as 2012

Rationale: The cascades, soda springs, and logjam were removed as they are not rare, unique, or exemplary. Free-flowing conditions are an established river value. Geology experts have noted that the canyon is not U-shaped, yet it remains a textbook example of a glacially-carved granite canyon. The geologic and hydrologic river values were merged in the 2010 *Draft ORV* report because these values overlap and are best described and managed as a single value.

SEGMENT 1: Main Stem Wilderness (Headwaters To Top Of Nevada Fall)

Biological ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Land And Resource Management Plan	Vegetation: state listed rare species
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Large specimens of western juniper above Washburn Lake, white fir above LYV, rare plant: Eriophyllum congdonii, rare wildlife: Mt. Lyell salamander, mountain yellow-legged frog, Yosemite toad
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Sierra riverine environments, high-quality riparian, meadow, aquatic habitats, special status-species such as mountain yellow-legged frog
2008 Draft ORVs*	Riparian and wetland habitats, rare and special-status plant and animal species: willow flycatcher, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, harlequin duck, black swift, and Tompkin's sedge
2010 Draft ORVs	Meadows, riparian habitats, annual flooding, 8 of 9 special status animal species
2011 Spring Draft Baseline Condition Report	Numerous, exquisite small meadows and relatively intact adjacent riparian habitats support several rare bird and mammal species
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The Merced River creates numerous, small meadows and relatively intact adjacent riparian habitats
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Condition Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	The Merced River contains numerous small meadows and riparian habitat with high biological integrity

Rationale: Special-status species were removed because they are not strictly river related or river dependent. The ORV was revised to include the meadow and riparian habitat in its entirety that, in addition, to existing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game protocol, would serve to protect special status species and other riparian and meadow species found along the Merced River corridor.

SEGMENT 1: Main Stem Wilderness (Headwaters To Top Of Nevada Fall)

Recreational ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Land and Resource Management Plan	No Recreational ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Travel and camping in LYV, Merced Lake, Washburn Lake
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Solitude, primitive & unconfined, day hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and packing, camping, enjoyment of natural river sounds, untrailed sections
2008 Draft ORVs	Hiking, backpacking, writing, contemplation, nature study, photography, artistic expression, fishing, camping, and picnicking--create memories, traditions, and bonding
2010 Draft ORVs	Hiking and backpacking, wilderness experiences, solitude, personal reflection, closeness to nature, independence, self-reliance, primitive travel, camping, exploration, and adventure.

Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The Merced River, spectacular High Sierra landscape, dramatic scenery, natural sounds, and abundant opportunities for solitude combine to produce a variety of exceptional wilderness-oriented recreational activities.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	Visitors to federally-designated Wilderness in the corridor engage in a variety of activities in an iconic High Sierra landscape, where opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, self-reliance, and solitude shape the experience
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Condition Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Same as 2012

Rationale: All specific activities were removed from the title of the ORV and an emphasis was placed on the river-related elements of wilderness character that are exemplary in this river segment.

SEGMENT 1: Main Stem Wilderness (Headwaters To Top Of Nevada Fall)

Scenic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	One of the most spectacular scenic canyons in the world, waterfalls
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Glaciated Merced Lake, Washburn Lake river Canyon; Bunnell Cascades and confluences of tributaries, Clark and Cathedral ranges
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Views of glaciated river canyon, Merced Lake, Washburn Lake Bunnell Cascades, confluence of tributaries, granite domes, Clark and Cathedral ranges
2008 Draft ORVs	Seasonal and daily changes, lighting on granite walls, domes, meadows, calm water, rushing cascades, scenic experience encourages interpretation and education
2010 Draft ORVs	Patternoster Lakes, Montane forest, U-shaped glacial valley, several scenic landmarks listed, natural setting, exceptional scenery
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as 2010
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	Visitors to this Wilderness segment experience scenic views of serene montane lakes, pristine meadows, slickrock cascades, and High Sierra peaks
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Condition Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Visitors to this Wilderness segment experience exemplary views of serene montane lakes, pristine meadows, slickrock cascades, and High Sierra peaks

Rationale: Views of Bunnell Cascades and paternoster lakes were removed as they are not rare, unique or exemplary. Views of the Clark and Cathedral Ranges were removed as they are not always visible from the river corridor. A more appropriate and accurate list of exemplary High Sierra scenic views was subsequently developed.

SEGMENT 1: Main Stem Wilderness (Headwaters To Top Of Nevada Fall)

Cultural ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Cultural ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Prehistoric, trans-Sierran route used for 3-4 thousand years, 24 archeological sites, 28 historic structures at Merced Lake
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Prehistoric, trans-Sierran route used for thousands of years, prehistoric sites, homestead sites, trails, river crossings, HSC, and structures
2005 MRP	Same as 2000
2008 Draft ORVs	Trails along Merced for trade and cultural exchange for thousands of years, archeological sites, American Indian spiritual associations
2010 Draft ORVs	No Cultural ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Cultural ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Condition Report	No Cultural ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Cultural ORV

Rationale: The prehistoric, trans-Sierran route used for thousands of years, prehistoric sites, homestead sites, trails, river crossings, and the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp and structures were excluded from the list of ORVs as they are not rare, unique, or exemplary in a regional or national context.

SEGMENT 2: Yosemite Valley, Top Of Nevada Fall To Former Cascades Diversion Dam

Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	Most spectacular glaciated valley in world, granite cliffs & Domes
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Largest glaciated valley in Sierra, hanging valleys, terminal moraine, exfoliation, exposed granite monoliths World-class waterfalls, flood regime, oxbows, Mirror Lake
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Glaciated U-shaped valley, mature meandering river, hanging valleys listed, glaciation (moraines) Meandering river, world-renowned waterfalls, flood regime, oxbows, wetlands, fluvial processes
2008 Draft ORVs	Glacial processes formed U-shaped valley, Giant Staircase, El Cap moraine, active rock falls Meandering river, hanging valleys, world-renowned waterfalls
2010 Draft ORVs	Giant Staircase, El Cap Moraine, Glacial action creating hanging valleys and world-renowned waterfalls, meandering and alluvial river (gentle gradient, flood regime, woody debris, riparian vegetation)
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions	The "Giant Staircase," which includes Vernal and Nevada Falls, is one of

Report	the finest examples of stair-step river morphology in the country. Yosemite Valley has exemplary glacial geology on display, from spectacular hanging valleys to textbook recessional moraines. From Happy Isles to the west end of the valley, the Merced River is a rare example of a mid-elevational alluvial river.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The "Giant Staircase," which includes Vernal and Nevada Falls, is one of the finest examples in the western United States of stair-step river morphology. The El Capitan Moraine is an extraordinary example of a recessional moraine. The Merced River from Happy Isles to the west end of Yosemite Valley provides an outstanding example of a rare, mid-elevation alluvial river.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Condition Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	The "Giant Staircase," which includes Vernal and Nevada Falls, is one of the finest examples in the western United States of stair-step river morphology. The Merced River from Happy Isles to the west end of Yosemite Valley provides an outstanding example of a rare, mid-elevation alluvial river.

Rationale: Oxbows, wetlands, and fluvial processes are included in the biological ORV or are included within the expression "meandering and alluvial river." Woody debris and riparian vegetation were added because they are examples of alluvial river functions. In the fall 2011 workbook, The El Capitan Moraine and Giant Staircase were identified as independent ORVs because the management of these values is different than the management of the alluvial river. In the November 2012 draft environmental impact statement, the El Capitan Moraine ORV was removed because moraines are widespread across the Sierra Nevada and it is not unique or exemplary, nor is it strictly river related.

SEGMENT 2: Yosemite Valley (Top Of Nevada Fall To Former Cascades Diversion Dam)

Biological ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	Vegetation: state-listed rare species Wildlife: peregrine falcon
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Half of all plant species in the park found in Valley, riparian and meadow areas, California black oak, wildlife habitat, listing several rare species, including indigenous rainbow trout
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Riparian and meadow areas, riparian wetland, riverine areas, habitat for river-related species, special-status species, neo-tropical songbirds, bat species
2008 Draft ORVs	Riparian and wetland habitats, rare and special-status plant and animal species: willow flycatcher, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, harlequin duck, black swift, and Tompkin's sedge, Happy Isles fen
2010 Draft ORVs	Meadows, riparian vegetation, high water table, eight rare wildlife species, bat species, sedge species- all due to year-round water availability

Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The large, moist meadows and associated riparian communities comprise one of the largest mid-elevation meadow complexes in the Sierra Nevada, supporting an exceptional diversity of plant and animal species.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The meadows and riparian communities of Yosemite Valley comprise one of the largest mid-elevation meadow complexes in the Sierra Nevada.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Same as 2012

Rationale: The Happy Isles fen and neotropical songbirds were removed because they are not river related or dependent. Special status species were also removed because they are not strictly river related or dependent. The ORV was subsequently revised to include the meadow and riparian habitat in its entirety, which, in addition to existing US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game protocol, will serve to protect special status species in addition to other riparian and meadow species found along the Merced River corridor.

SEGMENT 2: Yosemite Valley (Top Of Nevada Fall To Former Cascades Diversion Dam)

Recreational ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	Premier outdoor recreation area in world, picnicking, fishing, swimming, river rafting
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Hiking, picnicking, camping, climbing, skiing, fishing, photography, swimming, nature study, horseback riding, biking, sightseeing, and boating
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	River-related rec activities, nature study & sightseeing to hiking, one of the premier outdoor rec areas in the world
2008 Draft ORVs	Hiking, backpacking, writing, contemplation, nature study, photography, artistic expression, fishing, camping, and picnicking--create memories, traditions, and bonding, Mist Trail, swimming and floating
2010 Draft ORVs	World-renowned destination, World Heritage Site, outdoor river-related recreation, active pursuits listed, creative pursuits listed, opportunities for all ages and abilities
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The Valley's incredible setting – with its striking cliffs and waterfalls towering above a meandering river and extensive moist meadows – provides for a variety of active, creative, educational, social, and reflective experiences.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	Visitors to Yosemite Valley enjoy a wide variety of river-related recreational activities in the Valley's extraordinary setting along the Merced River
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Same as 2012

Rationale: All specific activities were removed from the title of the ORV and an emphasis was placed on the river-related elements of wilderness character that are exemplary in this river segment.

SEGMENT 2: Yosemite Valley (Top Of Nevada Fall To Former Cascades Diversion Dam)

Scenic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	One of most spectacularly scenic canyons in the world, waterfalls
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Specific examples of Waterfalls, rock cliffs, & meadows, black oak woodlands, interface of river, rock, meadow, and forest, 18 identified historic vistas
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Specific examples of waterfalls, rock cliffs, & meadows; interface of river, rock, meadow, and forest
2008 Draft ORVs	Specific valley views listed, depictions of the valley in early tourism posters encourage the creation of the NPS, scenic experience encourages interp and education
2010 Draft ORVs	Famous landmarks listed, compound oxbows, wetlands, and meadows, Montane forest and sheer rock faces create intense contrast and scenic river-related views
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Crashing over Nevada and Vernal Falls and then meandering quietly under 2,000-foot cliffs, the Merced forms a placid foreground to some of the world's most iconic scenery.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	Visitors to Yosemite Valley experience scenic views of some of the world's most iconic scenery, with the river and meadows forming a placid foreground to towering cliffs and waterfalls.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Visitors to Yosemite Valley experience views of some of the world's most iconic scenery, with the river and meadows forming a placid foreground to towering cliffs and waterfalls.

Rationale: This ORV has remained generally consistent over time.

SEGMENT 2: Yosemite Valley (Top Of Nevada Fall To Former Cascades Diversion Dam)

Cultural ORVs

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	Indian sites along river, Miwok area
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	100 archeological sites, prehistoric people habitation, traditionally used plants, spiritual areas, prehistoric trail junctions, first land area and river designated for preservation in US, historical resources and landscapes
2000 and 2005 Merced River	Thousands of years of human occupation, archeological sites, continuing traditional use, designed landscapes & developed areas, historic buildings,

Plans	circulation systems providing access to natural features that are culturally valuable
2008 Draft ORVs	Trails along Merced for trade and cultural exchange for thousands of years, cultural landscapes reflecting human footprint, archeological sites, American Indian spiritual associations
2010 Draft ORVs	Traditional Cultural Property representing people in area before 1851 to present, traditionally used plants, village sites, and spiritual areas, archeological sites, river-dependent culture
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The Yosemite Valley Archeological District is a nearly continuous, river-related archeological landscape containing dense concentrations of resources that reflect thousands of years of settlement. The Yosemite Valley potential Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) represents a rare connection of places and people that began before 1851 and continues to the present, with the river at the heart of this cultural system.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The Yosemite Valley Archeological District is a nearly continuous, river-related archeological landscape containing dense concentrations of resources that reflect thousands of years of settlement. The Yosemite Valley potential Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) represents a rare connection of places and people that began before 1851 and continues to the present, with the river at the heart of this cultural system.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Condition Report	The Yosemite Valley Archeological District is a linked landscape that contains dense concentrations of resources that represent thousands of years of human settlement along this segment of the Merced River. Yosemite Valley American Indian ethnographic resources include a linked landscape of specifically mapped, traditional-use plant populations and other ongoing cultural practices.
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	The Yosemite Valley Archeological District is an unusually rich and linked landscape that contains dense concentrations of resources that represent thousands of years of human settlement along this segment of the Merced River. Yosemite Valley American Indian ethnographic resources include a linked landscape of specifically mapped, traditional-use plant populations, as well as the ongoing traditional cultural practices that reflect the intricate continuing relationship between indigenous peoples of the Yosemite region and the Merced River in Yosemite Valley. Yosemite Valley Historic Resources: Represent a linked landscape of river-related or river dependent, rare, unique or exemplary buildings and structures that bear witness to the historical significance of the river system.

Rationale: Prehistoric trail junctions and circulation systems were removed as they are not rare, unique, or exemplary.

Historic buildings were removed because they are not river related or dependent.

Circulation systems were removed because they are not rare, unique, or exemplary; most river-canyon circulation systems are structured similarly.

The Yosemite Valley Archeological District was identified as a separate ORV from the ethnographic resources because the management strategies for these values can be different. The Yosemite Valley

Archeological District encompasses a complete interrelated landscape of archeological resources that must be managed as a district.

The term American Indian is the preferred term.

The Yosemite Valley Historic Resources ORV was added to recognize the significance of this exemplary river related historic landscape and to better protect it in its entire context along the Merced River corridor.

SEGMENT 3: Merced Gorge (Former Cascades Diversion Dam To Western Park Boundary)

Geologic/Hydrologic

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Transition from U-shaped, glaciated valley to V-shaped gorge "Young river"
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Transition from U-shaped valley to V-shaped gorge with steep gradient Exceptionally steep gradients (2,000 foot elevation drop in 6 miles)
2008 Draft ORVs	Glacial Processes River gradient drop, rapid snowmelt producing high-volume spring flows, rock-fall driven morphology resulting in the deposition of enormous boulders
2010 Draft ORVs	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

Rationale: Transition from U-shaped valley to V-shaped gorge with steep gradient was removed as it is not rare, unique, or exemplary; most Sierra rivers have such a transition.

SEGMENT 3: Merced Gorge (Former Cascades Diversion Dam To Western Park Boundary)

Biological ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	Vegetation: state-listed rare species Wildlife: peregrine falcon
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Diverse riparian areas intact and almost entirely undisturbed, canyon live oak research, indigenous rainbow trout

2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Rich and diverse riparian habitat associated with intact special status species that are relatively undisturbed
2008 Draft ORVs	Riparian and wetland habitats, rare and special-status plant and animal species: willow flycatcher, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, harlequin duck, black swift, & Tompkin's sedge
2010 Draft ORVs	No Biological ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Biological ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Biological ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Biological ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Biological ORV

Rationale: Rich and diverse riparian habitat associated with intact special status species that are relatively undisturbed was removed as it is not rare, unique, or exemplary.

SEGMENT 3: Merced Gorge (Former Cascades Diversion Dam To Western Park Boundary)

Recreational ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Recreational ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Picnicking, climbing, fishing, photography, and sightseeing
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	River-related recreational opportunities: Picnicking, fishing, photography, and sightseeing
2008 Draft ORVs	Views of granite cliffs, roar and vibrations of river during spring runoff, picnicking--create memories, traditions, and bonding
2010 Draft ORVs	Scenic driving and access to several pools and beaches for swimming, fishing, and picnicking; natural setting and opportunities for solitude
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The rushing and cascading river, interspersed with scheduled holes, provides the setting for relaxing river-related activities.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Recreational ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Condition Report	No Recreational ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Recreational ORV

Rationale: The recreational ORV was removed from this segment because none of the river-related or dependent activities are rare, unique, or exemplary.

SEGMENT 3: Merced Gorge (Former Cascades Diversion Dam To Western Park Boundary)

Scenic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	One of most spectacularly scenic canyons in the world, waterfalls
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	View of Pulpit Rock and Rainbow, views of specific waterfalls and rocks listed, V-shaped gorge; the river and its cascades
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Views of the Cascades, spectacular rapids among giant boulders, views of specific waterfalls and rocks listed
2008 Draft ORVs	Seasonal and daily changes, lighting on granite walls, calm water, rushing cascades, scenic experience encourages interpretation and education
2010 Draft ORVs	Narrow gorge, massive boulders, canyon walls and cliffs, waterfalls, parades of color
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Descending 2,000 feet in 14 miles, the river is a continuous cascade under spectacular Sierra granite outcrops and domes.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The Merced River drops 2,000 feet over 14 miles; a continuous cascade under spectacular Sierra granite outcrops and domes.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Condition Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	The Merced River drops 2,000 feet over 14 miles, a continuous cascade under exemplary Sierra granite outcrops and domes.

Rationale: Present language is consistent with statements made in the past.

SEGMENT 3: Merced Gorge (Former Cascades Diversion Dam To Western Park Boundary)

Cultural ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	Indian sites along river, Miwok area
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Archeological sites in the Cascades area
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plan	Prehistoric sites and historic sites & structures such as those relating to historic engineering projects
2008 Draft ORVs	Trails along Merced for trade and cultural exchange for thousands of years, archeological sites, American Indian spiritual associations
2010 Draft ORVs	No Cultural ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Cultural ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Cultural ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Cultural ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Cultural ORV

Rationale: Prehistoric sites and historic sites & structures such as those relating to historic engineering projects were removed as they are not rare, unique, or exemplary.

SEGMENT 4: El Portal (Parkline To El Portal Administrative Site Boundary)

Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	Contact between metasedimentary & granitic rocks
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Transition from igneous to meta-sedimentary rocks--possibly oldest in Sierra Nevada Continuous rapids throughout segment
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Transition from igneous to metasedimentary rocks--among oldest in Sierra Nevada Continuous rapids
2008 Draft ORVs	Glacial Processes
2010 Draft ORVs	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Changing river gradients, glacial history, and powerful floods created a boulder bar whose huge boulders are much larger than typically found in such deposits.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The boulder bar in El Portal was created by changing river gradients, glacial history, and powerful floods. These elements have resulted in accumulation of extraordinary, large boulders, which are rare in such deposits.
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Same as 2012

Rationale: The language was revised to more clearly explain the origin of the boulder bar in El Portal.

Transition from igneous to meta-sedimentary rocks--among oldest in Sierra Nevada was removed as it is not rare, unique, or exemplary (occurring on most rivers flowing west from the Sierra crest).

SEGMENT 4: El Portal (Parkline To El Portal Administrative Site Boundary)

Biological ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	Vegetation: state-listed rare species
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Rare plant species listed, valley elderberry longhorn beetle and its habitat, spotted owl habitat, riparian zone for wildlife species

2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Riverine habitats: riparian woodlands associated with special-status species, Tompkin's sedge and Valley elderberry longhorn beetle and its habitat; riparian zone for wildlife species
2008 Draft ORVs	Riparian and wetland habitats, rare and special-status plant and animal species: willow flycatcher, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, harlequin duck, black swift, & Tompkin's sedge
2010 Draft ORVs	No Biological ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*), a regionally rare species, thrive in this area due to its high water table.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Biological ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*), a regionally rare species, occur in the El Portal area.
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Biological ORV

Rationale: Tompkin's sedge and valley elderberry longhorn beetle were removed because they are not river related or dependent. Riverine habitats: riparian woodlands associated with special-status species were removed as they are not rare, unique, or exemplary.

Valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) were initially added due to public correspondence. In the January 2013 draft environmental impact statement, the valley oaks ORV was removed as valley oaks are widespread across California and the Sierra Nevada foothills and, while commonly located along drainages and in low lying wet areas, are not strictly river related or dependent. The EL Portal stand of valley oaks were determined to not be rare or exemplary as larger specimens of valley oaks occur in the greater Yosemite Region, along the Merced River, downstream of the park and along river tributaries.

SEGMENT 4: El Portal (Parkline To El Portal Administrative Site Boundary)

Recreational ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	Whitewater boating
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Whitewater use (class III to V) and fishing
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Range of river-related rec opportunities, white-water rafting and kayaking (class III to V) and fishing
2008 Draft ORVs	Hiking, backpacking, writing, contemplation, nature study, photography, artistic expression, fishing, camping, and picnicking--create memories, traditions, and bonding
2010 Draft ORVs	No Recreational ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The largely natural setting of the rivers provides for memorable active, contemplative, and creative pursuits.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Recreational ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook	No Recreational ORV

and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Recreational ORV

Rationale: Recreational ORV in this segment has been removed because the representative activities were not rare, unique, or exemplary.

SEGMENT 4: El Portal (Parkline To El Portal Administrative Site Boundary)

Scenic ORV

Rationale: The Scenic ORV was included in the 2008 *Draft ORVs* but removed as the scenery in this segment was determined not to be unique, rare or exemplary.

SEGMENT 4: El Portal (Parkline To El Portal Administrative Site Boundary)

Cultural ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	El Portal, old mining town, rail-road exhibit
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Native American habitation; 17 archeological sites, including burials, historic structures; logging railroad incline
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Some of the oldest archeological sites in Yosemite, historic Indian villages and gathering places, historic structures related to early tourism and industrial development
2008 Draft ORVs	Trails along Merced for trade and cultural exchange for thousands of years, archeological sites, American Indian spiritual associations
2010 Draft ORVs	Important place of settlement, subsistence, and trade along the River; village sites; some of the oldest archeological deposits in the Sierra foothills (9,500 years), Johnny Wilson Ranch (American Indian Homestead)
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	With its temperate climate and abundant subsistence resources, El Portal was a crossroads of life and trade, with the river linking the lifeways of peoples from the historic and prehistoric past, both in California and beyond.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The El Portal Archeological District contains dense concentrations of resources that represent thousands of years of occupation and evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade. This segment includes some of the oldest deposits in the region and the Johnny Wilson Ranch, a regionally rare historic-era American Indian Homestead.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The El Portal Archeological District contains dense concentrations of resources that represent thousands of years of occupation and evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade.
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	The El Portal Archeological District contains dense concentrations of resources that represent thousands of years of occupation and evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade. This segment includes some of the oldest deposits in the region, including the archeological remains of the Johnny Wilson Ranch, a regionally rare historic-era American Indian Homestead.

Rationale: Historic structures related to early tourism and industrial development were removed as they are not rare, unique, or exemplary, occurring in many resort areas along rivers in the country. The Johnny Wilson Ranch was added because it is rare, unique, and exemplary. The El Portal Archeological District was identified as a Cultural ORV because it encompasses a complete interrelated landscape of archeological resources that must be managed as a district.

SEGMENT 5: South Fork Merced River Above Wawona (Headwaters To Top Of Pool At Wawona Impoundment)

Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	The South Fork was not included in the 1986 ORVs
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	V-Shaped canyons due to extremely hard rock, moraine meadows, hot sulphur springs above Gravely Ford, Paternoster lakes Free-flowing river and pristine water quality
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Glaciated valleys in high country and V-shaped canyons above Wawona; moraine meadows and soda springs above Gravelly Ford are river-related geologic features Free-flowing river and excellent water quality
2008 Draft ORVs	Glacial Processes River gradient drop, rapid snowmelt producing high-volume spring flows
2010 Draft ORVs	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

Rationale: The glaciated valleys in the high country, and V-shaped canyons above Wawona, and moraine meadows and soda springs above Gravelly Ford were removed as they are not rare, unique, or exemplary. Free-flowing conditions and water quality are established river values.

SEGMENT 5: South Fork Merced River Above Wawona (Headwaters To Top Of Pool At Wawona Impoundment)

Biological ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Biological ORV

1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Rare wildlife species, including Wawona riffle beetle & mountain yellow-legged frog
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Riverine environments typical of Sierra; examples of special-status species, including Wawona riffle beetle & mountain yellow-legged frog
2008 Draft ORVs	Riparian and wetland habitats, rare and special-status plant and animal species: willow flycatcher, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, harlequin duck, black swift, & Tompkin's sedge
2010 Draft ORVs	Meadows, riparian habitats, depend on annual flooding, 8 of the 9 special status animal species.
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Biological ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Biological ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The Merced River creates numerous, exquisite small meadows and relatively intact adjacent riparian habitats.
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	The Merced River sustains numerous small meadows and riparian habitat with high biological integrity.

Rationale: Wawona riffle beetle and mountain yellow-legged frog were removed because they are not river related or dependent.

SEGMENT 5: South Fork Merced River Above Wawona (Headwaters To Top Of Pool At Wawona Impoundment)

Recreational ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Recreational ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Pristine wilderness values; no trails along river
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plan	River-related solitude, enjoyment of natural river sounds, primitive & unconfined recreation; predominantly without trails, except 4 bridgeless trail crossings in the upper segment
2008 Draft ORVs	Hiking, backpacking, writing, contemplation, nature study, photography, artistic expression, fishing, camping, and picnicking--create memories, traditions, and bonding
2010 Draft ORVs	Dramatic scenery, natural sounds, hiking & backpacking, wilderness experiences, solitude, personal reflection, closeness to nature, independence, self-reliance, primitive travel, camping, exploration, & adventure.
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The Merced River, spectacular High Sierra landscape, dramatic scenery, natural sounds, and abundant opportunities for solitude combine to produce a variety of exceptional wilderness-oriented recreational activities.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Recreational ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Recreational ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Recreational ORV

Rationale: The recreational ORV in this segment has been removed because the representative activities were not rare, unique, or exemplary.

SEGMENT 5: South Fork Merced River Above Wawona (Headwaters To Top Of Pool At Wawona Impoundment)

Scenic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Scenic ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Views of Triple Divide Peak and Sierra Crest
2000 & 2005 Merced River Plan	Views of unique river features: large pothole pools in slick rock cascades, old growth forest, and meadows
2008 Draft ORVs	Seasonal and daily changes, lighting on granite walls, domes, meadows, calm water, rushing cascades, scenic experience encourages interpretation and education
2010 Draft ORVs	Largely inaccessible; few trail crossings; unspoiled Sierra Nevada river valley views dominated by forest-cloaked hills, distant peaks, and an untamed river; some of the wildest views possible in the Sierra Nevada.
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Passing through an untrammeled forested wilderness, the South Fork Merced River forms the centerpiece of some of the Sierra's wildest scenery.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The South Fork Merced River passes through a vast area of natural scenic beauty.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	The South Fork Merced River passes through a vast area of exemplary and wild scenic beauty.

Rationale: This ORV has remained generally consistent over time.

SEGMENT 5: South Fork Merced River Above Wawona (Headwaters To Top Of Pool At Wawona Impoundment)

Cultural ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Cultural ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Archeological sites and historical properties; large expanse of wilderness

2000 and 2005 Merced River Plan	River-related prehistoric sites and resources; historic stock use and cavalry activities
2008 Draft ORVs	Trails along Merced for trade and cultural exchange for thousands of years, archeological sites, American Indian spiritual associations
2010 Draft ORVs	Finding seasonal trade, travel, and subsistence opportunities along the South Fork Merced, Native Americans left behind regionally rare rock ring features with wooden remains.
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Finding seasonal trade, travel, and subsistence opportunities along the South Fork Merced, American Indians left behind regionally rare, prehistoric rock-ring features with wooden remains.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The Wawona Archeological District encompasses numerous clusters of resources spanning thousands of years of occupation, including evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade. The South Fork of the Merced River includes regionally rare evidence of indigenous settlement including prehistoric rock ring features with wooden remains.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The Wawona Archeological District encompasses numerous clusters of resources spanning thousands of years of occupation, including evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade. This segment includes regionally rare evidence of indigenous settlement along the South Fork Merced River, including prehistoric rock ring features with wooden remains.
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	The Wawona Archeological District encompasses numerous clusters of resources spanning thousands of years of occupation, including evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade. This segment includes regionally rare archeological features representing indigenous settlement and use along the South Fork Merced River at archeological sites with rock ring features.

Rationale: Historic stock use and cavalry activities were removed because they are not river related or dependent, nor are they rare, unique, or exemplary.

The term American Indian is the preferred term.

It was specified that the rare rock ring features are prehistoric.

The Wawona Archeological District was added because it encompasses a complete interrelated landscape of archeological resources that must be managed as a district. This district spans Segments 5-8.

SEGMENT 6: Wawona Impoundment (Top Of Pool At Wawona Impoundment To 200 Feet Below Dam)

Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	The South Fork was not included in the 1986 ORVs
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Excellent water quality

2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Same as 1996
2008 Draft ORVs	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2010 Draft ORVs	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

Rationale: Water quality was removed as it is an established river value.

SEGMENT 6: Wawona Impoundment (Top Of Pool At Wawona Impoundment To 200 Feet Below Dam)

Recreational ORV

Rationale: Sightseeing, fishing, photography, and hiking were included as an ORV in 1996 *Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan* but removed from subsequent drafts as these recreational activities are not strictly river related or dependent.

SEGMENT 6: Wawona Impoundment, Top Of Pool At Wawona Impoundment To 200 Feet Below Dam

Scenic ORV

Rationale: Views of the river and Wawona Dome were included as an ORV in the 1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Plan but removed because they were determined not to be rare, unique or exemplary.

SEGMENT 6: Wawona Impoundment (Top Of Pool At Wawona Impoundment To 200 Feet Below Dam)

Cultural ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Cultural ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Archeological sites and historic properties

2000 & 2005 Merced River Plan	No Cultural ORV
2008 Draft ORVs	No Cultural ORV
2010 Draft ORVs	No Cultural ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Cultural ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The Wawona Archeological District encompasses numerous clusters of resources spanning thousands of years of occupation, including evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Same as 2012

Rationale: The Wawona Archeological District was added as an independent ORV because it encompasses a complete interrelated landscape of archeological resources that must be managed as a district. This district spans Segments 5-8.

SEGMENT 7: Wawona (200 Feet Below Dam Wawona Impoundment To Squirrel Creek)

Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	The South Fork was not included in the 1986 ORVs
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Moraines; geomorphology of Wawona Meadow; Wawona Dome Excellent water quality
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plan	Excellent water quality
2008 Draft ORVs	Glacial Processes Low gradient slows river, rapid snowmelt producing high-volume spring flows
2010 Draft ORVs	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

Rationale: ORV was removed as water quality is an established river value. Low-gradient and high-volume spring flows are not rare, unique, or exemplary.

SEGMENT 7: Wawona (200 Feet Below Dam Wawona Impoundment To Squirrel Creek)

Biological ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Biological ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Rare wildlife species and rare plant species listed (including *Myrica hartwegii*); Wawona Meadow rare—threatened plant community in California, contains high species diversity, wetlands, & specialized habitats
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Diversity of river-related species, wetlands, and riparian habitats; Special status species, including Wawona riffle beetle
2008 Draft ORVs	Riparian and wetland habitats, rare and special-status plant and animal species: willow flycatcher, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, harlequin duck, black swift, & Tompkin's sedge
2010 Draft ORVs	Sierra sweet bay (*Myrica hartwegii*), a rare plant found exclusively on river banks in the central Sierra, occurs along the South Fork in this segment
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as 2010
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The Sierra sweet bay (*Myrica hartwegii*) is a rare plant found along the South Fork Merced River.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Same as 2012

Rationale: Diversity of river-related species, wetlands, and riparian habitats were removed as they are not rare, unique, or exemplary, with the exception of *Myrica hartwegii*. Special-status species, including Wawona riffle beetle, were removed because they are not river related or dependent.

SEGMENT 7: Wawona (200 Feet Below Dam Wawona Impoundment To Squirrel Creek)

Recreational ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Recreational ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Hiking, picnicking, camping, skiing, fishing, photography, swimming, nature study, horseback riding, biking, sightseeing, and boating
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Opportunities to experience a spectrum of river-related recreational activities, from nature study and photography to hiking
2008 Draft ORVs	Hiking, backpacking, writing, contemplation, nature study, photography, artistic expression, fishing, camping, and picnicking--create memories, traditions, and bonding
2010 Draft ORVs	Largely natural setting allowing visitors to easily connect with river; several pools and beaches; swimming, relaxing, and fishing; camping allows visitors to be close to river overnight

Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The largely natural setting of the rivers provides for memorable active, contemplative, and creative pursuits.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Recreational ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Recreational ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Recreational ORV

Rationale: The recreational ORV in this segment has been removed because the representative activities were not rare, unique, or exemplary.

SEGMENT 7: Wawona (200 Feet Below Dam Wawona Impoundment To Squirrel Creek)

Scenic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Scenic ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Views of Wawona Dome; the free-flowing river; historic vistas; view of confluence and cascades of Chilnualna Creek; confluence of Big Creek
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Views of Wawona Dome
2008 Draft ORVs	Seasonal and daily changes, lighting on granite walls, domes, meadows, calm water, rushing cascades, scenic experience encourages interpretation and education
2010 Draft ORVs	No Scenic ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Scenic ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Scenic ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Scenic ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Scenic ORV

Rationale: Views of Wawona Dome were removed as they are not rare, unique, or exemplary.

SEGMENT 7: Wawona (200 Feet Below Dam Wawona Impoundment To Squirrel Creek)

Cultural ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Cultural ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Over 60 prehistoric and historic archeology sites, traditional plant gathering; historic structures: Wawona hotel, pioneer historic center, Galen Clark homestead, Stella Lake; historic sites in Wawona Meadow

2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Thousands of years of human occupation, including numerous prehistoric and historic Indian villages; historic sites, structures, and landscape features related to tourism, early Army and NPS admin, and homesteading
2008 Draft ORVs	Trails along Merced for trade and cultural exchange for thousands of years, archeological sites, American Indian spiritual associations; covered bridge built by Galen Clark in 1868 as an open truss span (covered in 1875)
2010 Draft ORVs	Flowing through a broad basin, the South Fork Merced provided the water and location necessary for prehistoric settlements, for the African-American buffalo soldiers, and for more recent settlers, who left behind evidence of far-reaching traffic and trade, significant archeological sites, and one of very few covered bridges in the region.
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	With its year-round water and level terrain for settlement, the Wawona Archeological District is composed of dense clusters of historic and prehistoric river-related sites that provide evidence of far-reaching traffic and trade. Physical remnants of U.S. Army Cavalry Camp A. E. Wood document the unique Yosemite legacy of the African-American Buffalo Soldiers, who founded their camps near the river's strategic water source and related ecological habitat. Built to connect human developments on both sides of the South Fork Merced River, the Wawona Covered Bridge is one of only a few covered bridges in the region.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The Wawona Archeological District encompasses numerous clusters of resources spanning thousands of years of occupation, including evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade. In this segment, remains of the U.S. Army Cavalry Camp A. E. Wood document the unique Yosemite legacy of the African-American Buffalo Soldiers and the strategic placement of their camp near the Merced River. The Wawona Covered Bridge is one of the few covered bridges in the region.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	The Wawona Archeological District encompasses numerous clusters of resources spanning thousands of years of occupation, including unusually rich evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade. In this segment, remains of the U.S. Army Cavalry Camp A.E. Wood document the unique Yosemite legacy of the African-American Buffalo Solider and the strategic placement of their camp near the Merced River. The Wawona Historic Resources ORV includes one of the few covered bridges in the region and the National Historic Landmark Wawona Hotel complex. The Wawona Hotel complex is the largest existing Victorian hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with this high level of integrity.

Rationale: The Wawona Archeological District was added as an independent ORV because it encompasses a complete interrelated landscape of archeological resources that must be managed as a district. This district spans Segments 5-8. Camp A.E. Wood was added as an independent ORV because it represents a specific archeological resource that merits protection under this plan.

SEGMENT 8: South Fork Merced River Below Wawona (Squirrel Creek To Western Park Boundary)

Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	The South Fork was not included in the 1986 ORVs
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Transition from glaciated to un-glaciated canyon Continual whitewater cascades and excellent water quality
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Transition from Paleozoic Era igneous to Cretaceous Period meta-sedimentary rock (among oldest in Sierra) Free-flowing river with continual white-water cascades
2008 Draft ORVs	Glacial processes White water cascades in a deep, narrow canyon through a wild environment; rock fall-driven morphology resulting in deposition of enormous boulders, rapid snowmelt producing high-volume spring flows
2010 Draft ORVs	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Geologic/Hydrologic ORV

Rationale: Transition from Paleozoic Era igneous to Cretaceous Period metasedimentary rock (among oldest in Sierra) was removed as it is not rare, unique, or exemplary. Free-flowing condition is an established river value. Additionally, white water cascades are not rare, unique or exemplary.

SEGMENT 8: South Fork Merced River Below Wawona (Squirrel Creek To Western Park Boundary)

Biological ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Biological ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Rare plant species listed (but not Myrica hartwegii); rare wildlife species, including Wawona riffle beetle and rainbow trout
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Diverse riparian areas that are intact and undisturbed by humans; special-status species, including Wawona riffle beetle
2008 Draft ORVs	Riparian and wetland habitats, rare and special-status plant and animal species: willow flycatcher, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, harlequin duck, black swift, and Tompkin's sedge
2010 Draft ORVs	Sierra sweet bay (*Myrica hartwegii*), a rare plant found exclusively on river

	banks in the central Sierra, occurs along the South Fork in these segments.
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as 2010
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The Sierra sweet bay (*Myrica hartwegii*), is a rare plant found along the South Fork Merced River.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Same as 2012

Rationale: *Myrica hartwegii* was added because it is rare and river-dependent, found on the S. Fork river banks and those of a few other streams in the Sierra. Wawona riffle beetle was removed because it is not river related or dependent.

SEGMENT 8: South Fork Merced River Below Wawona (Squirrel Creek To Western Park Boundary)

Recreational ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Recreational ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Fishing and wilderness inaccessibility and solitude
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Outstanding opportunities for river-related solitude, enjoyment of natural river sounds, primitive & unconfined recreation in an untrailed, undisturbed environment; river related recreation includes hiking, fishing, & white-water kayaking.
2008 Draft ORVs	Hiking, backpacking, writing, contemplation, nature study, photography, artistic expression, fishing, camping, and picnicking--create memories, traditions, and bonding.
2010 Draft ORVs	Hiking and backpacking, wilderness experiences, solitude, personal reflection, closeness to nature, independence, self-reliance, primitive travel, camping, exploration, & adventure; off-trail hiking and class V kayaking.
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	The Merced River, spectacular High Sierra landscape, dramatic scenery, natural sounds, and abundant opportunities for solitude combine to produce a variety of exceptional wilderness-oriented recreational activities.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	No Recreational ORV
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Recreational ORV
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	No Recreational ORV

Rationale: The Recreation ORV was removed from this segment because the representative activities were not rare, unique, or exemplary.

SEGMENT 8: South Fork Merced River Below Wawona (Squirrel Creek To Western Park Boundary)

Scenic ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Scenic ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Views of continual whitewater cascades in a deep and narrow canyon
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Views of continual white-water cascades in the deep and narrow river canyon in untrailed, undisturbed environment
2008 Draft ORVs	Seasonal and daily changes, calm water, rushing cascades, scenic experience encourages interpretation and education
2010 Draft ORVs	Largely inaccessible; no trail crossings; unspoiled Sierra Nevada river valley views dominated by forest-cloaked hills, distant peaks, and an untamed river; some of the wildest views possible in the Sierra Nevada.
Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Passing through an untrammeled forested wilderness, the South Fork Merced River forms the centerpiece of some of the Sierra's wildest scenery.
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The South Fork Merced River passes through a vast area of exemplary and wild scenic beauty.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Same as 2012

Rationale: Views of continual white-water cascades in the deep and narrow river canyon in untrailed, undisturbed environment were removed because they are not rare, unique, or exemplary. The ORV was revised to include the overall scenic beauty of this segment of the river.

SEGMENT 8: South Fork Merced River Below Wawona (Squirrel Creek To Western Park Boundary)

Cultural ORV

1986 Sierra National Forest Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	No Cultural ORV
1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan	Archeological sites and historic properties
2000 and 2005 Merced River Plans	Archeological sites and historic resources such as trail segments representing early cavalry activity
2008 Draft ORVs	Trails along Merced for trade and cultural exchange for thousands of years, archeological sites, American Indian spiritual associations
2010 Draft ORVs	No Cultural ORV

Spring 2011 Draft Baseline Conditions Report	No Cultural ORV
2011 Fall Planning Workbook	The Wawona Archeological District encompasses numerous clusters of resources spanning thousands of years of occupation, including evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade.
2012 Preliminary Concepts Workbook and Draft Baseline Conditions Report	Same as fall 2011
2013 Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS	Same as 2012

Rationale: This ORV was revised to include the entire Wawona Archeological District.

SEGMENTS 1-8

Air Quality and Scientific Resource ORVs

Rationale: Air Quality was included as an ORV in the *1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan* and was removed as it was determined to be inconsistent with Interagency Council criteria and not strictly river related or river dependent. The Scientific Resource ORV, also included in the 1996 housing plan and the 2000, and 2005 draft Merced River plans, was removed. It was determined that this ORV was vague and non-specific. Science is inherent to other specific values.

* The 2008 *Draft ORVs* were formulated under a "corridorwide" scale. Examples were cited but not intended to be all inclusive