



## Merced Wild and Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Appendices



**Yosemite National Park**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# **Merced Wild and Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement**

**Appendices**

**January 2013**



**APPENDIX A**

**ACTIONS THAT AMEND THE  
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**



# APPENDIX A

## SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE 1980 YOSEMITE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN RESULTING FROM THE MERCED RIVER PLAN

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires river managing agencies to prepare comprehensive management plans for each Wild and Scenic river. The Act generally provides that river management plans “shall be coordinated with and may be incorporated into resource management planning for affected adjacent Federal lands” (16 USC 1274).

In the case of the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan (Merced River Plan), it will revise portions of the National Park Service’s 1980 *General Management Plan* for Yosemite National Park. The Merced River Plan provides direction for the management of the 81 miles of the Merced Wild and Scenic River under the jurisdiction of the NPS. No development or park use of lands in the river corridor shall be permitted that is inconsistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act designation of the Merced River, with this plan, or with the *General Management Plan*.

Alternative 5 is identified as the Preferred Alternative. If this alternative is ultimately selected for implementation, it would result in the following revisions and amendments to the General Management Plan.

- The Merced River Plan’s river corridor boundaries, segment classifications, ORVs and corresponding management objectives revise the *General Management Plan* by establishing more detailed land-use prescriptions that must be applied in future site-specific planning.
- The Merced River Plan’s Section 7 determination process (as called for in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act) is a tool that augments the goals of the *General Management Plan* by establishing specific guidelines for determining appropriate actions within the bed and banks of the Merced River that do not constitute a direct and adverse effect on the river’s free-flowing condition, water quality, or other values.
- The Merced River Plan’s specific programs, including user capacity, ecological restoration, and ongoing monitoring revise and augment the previous broad direction provided in the *General Management Plan*.
- The management actions and site planning presented in Alternative 5 for Yosemite Valley, El Portal, and Wawona would revise previous site planning actions proposed in the *General Management Plan*.

Please refer to Table A-2 for a complete list amendments to specific actions of the *General Management Plan* that would result from the Merced River Plan.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

The *General Management Plan* establishes five broad goals for managing Yosemite National Park (NPS 1980: 1-4):

- Reclaim priceless natural beauty
- Allow natural processes to prevail
- Promote visitor understanding and enjoyment
- Markedly reduce traffic congestion
- Reduce crowding

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires comprehensive planning of designated rivers to provide for the protection of the river's free-flowing character and the values that make it worthy of designation. It directs that the plan shall address "resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, and other management practices necessary or desirable to achieve the purposes of this Act."

While the focus of this river management plan is on the Merced River as a unit of the national wild and scenic rivers system, the plan also provides long-term, comprehensive guidance for protecting the values of the Merced River that support its inclusion in the national park system and the national wilderness preservation.

The Merced River Plan was developed to be in keeping with the five broad goals of the *General Management Plan*, however its overarching goals are to be in keeping with the mandates of the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*. Namely, these are to preserve designated rivers in their free-flowing condition and to protect and enhance the river's ORVs. The goals of the *General Management Plan* and those of the Merced River Plan are intertwined; no one goal can be emphasized to the complete exclusion of the others.

## PURPOSE OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

The *General Management Plan* sets forth the purposes of the park and the important resources and values that guide resource management, visitor use, and park operations (NPS 1980: 5-10). The Merced River Plan establishes what the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act calls, "outstandingly remarkable values" for the river. These are the unique, rare, and exemplary characteristics of the river that make it stand apart from all other rivers in the nation. These ORVs, along with water quality and the river's free-flowing condition, are central to the overarching purpose of wild and scenic river management: to protect and enhance these values while allowing public enjoyment, education, and recreation now and in the future.

The Merced River Plan augments the park's *General Management Plan* by further articulating these important river-related values for the Merced Wild and Scenic River.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The *General Management Plan* sets forth a number of Management Objectives that guide resource management, visitor use, and park operations (NPS 1980: 5-10). The Merced River Plan amends the *General Management Plan* by providing additional detailed guidance to park managers on how to achieve management objectives for the Merced River corridor.

The Merced River Plans' management elements include boundaries, classifications, ORVs, Section 7 determination process, a user capacity program, an ecological restoration program, an ongoing monitoring program, management actions needed to protect and enhance river values, and actions to address facilities and land use. Taken together, these elements further guide resource management, visitor use, and park operations within the Merced River corridor.

Projects within the river corridor must protect and enhance ORVs and be consistent with the other elements of the Merced River Plan. There may be occasions when two or more river values may be in conflict with one another. For example, the protection and enhancement of free-flowing condition may not be compatible with the protection of historic structures identified as ORVs that are located in the bed and banks of the river. When conflicts such as these arise, the managing agency must determine appropriate trade-offs to best manage the river system as a whole. Projects adjacent to the river corridor must protect ORVs, and depending on location, may need to undergo a Section 7 review if they affect the bed or banks of the river.

As a result of the above, the following is to be inserted on page 5 of the 1980 *General Management Plan*, after the first paragraph under "Management Objectives:"

The management objectives for the Merced River corridor focus on protecting and enhancing river values. These objectives are presented first in Chapter 5 of the Merced River Plan and summarized in Table A-1 of this document to demonstrate how they correspond to management objectives set forth in the 1980 *General Management Plan*.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ZONING

The 1980 *General Management Plan* divided the park into several zones based on management objectives, significance of the resources, and legislative constraints. The zoning plan described the land use policies that management would work to achieve over the life span of the plan.

Much of the Merced River corridor exists within what are referred to as *natural zones* (including Wilderness Subzone, Environmental Protection Subzone, Outstanding Natural Feature subzone, Natural Environment Subzone, etc.). The Merced River Plan establishes boundaries and classifications for the river in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. While no additional zoning was established as a management tool in this plan, the management guidance provided in this Merced River Plan would remain consistent with the guidance established in these zones.



**TABLE A-1: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR FREE FLOW, WATER QUALITY, AND OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES**

River Value		General Management Plan Management Objectives	Merced River Plan Management Objectives
FREE-FLOWING CHARACTER (All Segments)		Restore altered ecosystems as nearly as possible to conditions they would be in today had natural ecological processes not been disturbed	Reduce the overall amount of human-constructed modifications within the bed and banks of the Merced River through restoration, redesign and other appropriate methods.
WATER QUALITY (All Segments)		Limit unnatural sources of air, noise, visual and water pollution to the greatest degree possible.	Maintain exceptional water quality on all segments of the Merced River within Yosemite National Park and El Portal Administrative Area.
BIOLOGICAL VALUES	ORV 1. Numerous small meadows and riparian habitat IN (Segments 1 and 5)	Restore and maintain natural terrestrial, aquatic, and atmospheric ecosystems so they may operate essentially unimpaired	Manage human use in meadows and riparian habitat within the Merced River corridor to maintain high ecological condition; minimize habitat fragmentation; and protect the integrity of streambanks to conserve ecosystem processes associated with meadow and riparian function.
	ORV2. Meadows and riparian communities of Yosemite Valley (Segment 2)	See above (ORV 1)	The NPS would manage public use of meadows and riparian zones within the Merced River corridor to minimize habitat fragmentation, maintain high ecological condition, and protect the integrity of streambanks to conserve ecosystem processes associated with meadow hydrologic and ecological function.
	ORV 3. Sierra sweet bay (Segments 7 and 8)	Protect threatened and endangered plant and animal species and reintroduce, where practical, those species eliminated from natural ecosystems	Manage the Sierra sweet bay population to protect the abundance of the population along the South Fork Merced River
GEOLOGIC/HYDROLOGIC VALUES	ORV 4. Upper Merced River canyon (Segment 1)	See above (ORV 1)	Manage to allow natural processes to shape the landscape and associated geologic values.
	ORV 5. The "Giant Staircase " (Segment 2)	See above (ORV 1)	Manage to allow natural processes to shape the landscape and associated geologic values.
	ORV 6. Mid-elevation alluvial river (Segment 2)	See above (ORV 1)	Protect and enhance natural geologic and hydrologic processes, such as overbank flooding and channel migration, which sustain river values such as meadow and riparian communities.
	ORV 7. El Portal Boulder Bar	See above (ORV 1)	Manage to allow natural processes to shape the landscape and associated geologic values.

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River Value		General Management Plan Management Objectives	Merced River Plan Management Objectives
CULTURAL VALUES	ORV 8. Yosemite Valley ethnographic resources (Segment 2)	<p>Preserve, protect, or restore significant cultural resources (historic and prehistoric)</p> <p>Identify, evaluate and determine the significance of cultural resources encompassing buildings, structures, sites and objects</p> <p>Provide for the preservation, restoration, or protection of these significant cultural resources</p> <p>Permit only those uses that are compatible with the preservation of significant cultural resources.</p>	<p>Maintain ethnographic resources, and encourage future propagation to meet cultural restoration purposes to the extent ecologically feasible. Support access for traditional practitioners and other traditionally associated American Indians through the administrative elements of the user capacity and non-recreational tribal pass programs, and ongoing consultation with traditionally associated tribal groups to ensure the success of these programs.</p>
	ORV 9. Yosemite Valley Archeological District (Segment 2)	See above (ORV 8)	Ensure protection and enhancement of the Yosemite Valley Archeological District as a whole, and ensure that human impacts are not adversely affecting the district's essential character and integrity.
	ORV 10. Yosemite Valley Historic Resources	See above (ORV 8)	The Yosemite Valley Historic Resources ORV will be managed to ensure protection and enhancement of this historic development system and its setting. Protection and enhancement entails ensuring that human activities do not adversely affect (per WSRA) the collective ORV or the landscape characteristics of the Yosemite Valley Historic District, within the river corridor, described above. While individual elements of the collective ORV may be lost, the collective of elements will continue to represent the important historic patterns of development in Yosemite Valley, and reflect the important landscape characteristics of the Yosemite Valley Historic District.
	ORV 11. El Portal Archeological District (Segment 4)	See above (ORV 8)	Archeological sites within the El Portal Archeological District would be monitored to ensure protection and enhancement of the district as a whole, and to ensure that human impacts are not adversely affecting the district's essential character and integrity.
	ORV 12. Rock Ring Features (Segment 5)	See above (ORV 8)	Prehistoric archeological sites with rock rings along the South Fork of the Merced River above Wawona will be monitored to ensure that human impacts do not adversely affect the essential character and integrity of the sites.
	ORV 13. Wawona Archeological District (Segments 5-8)	See above (ORV 8)	Archeological sites within the Wawona Archeological District would be monitored to ensure protection and enhancement of the district as a whole, and to ensure that human impacts are not adversely affecting the district's essential character and integrity.
	ORV 14. Wawona Historic Resources	See above (ORV 8)	These structures will be managed to ensure the protection and enhancement of their historical integrity. Protection and enhancement will ensure that management actions, including managing for visitor uses, do not adversely impact the ORV.

**TABLE A-1: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR FREE FLOW, WATER QUALITY, AND OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES**

River Value		General Management Plan Management Objectives	Merced River Plan Management Objectives
SCENIC VALUES	Scenic Value ORV 15. Montaine lakes, pristine meadows, slickrock cascades, and High Sierra peaks (Segment 1)	Identify the major scenic resources and the places from which they are viewed Provide for the preservation or protection of existing scenic resources and viewing stations Provide for historic views through vista clearing Permit only those levels and types of use that are compatible with the preservation or protection of the scenic resources and with the quality of the viewing experience	The NPS will focus efforts primarily on development in the river corridor. While visitor density or encounter rates can affect one's ability to appreciate scenery, visitor use is more appropriately addressed by the Recreation ORV. Similarly, bare soils and river bank erosion can affect foreground views, but are better addressed by the Biological ORV. This high country segment is also susceptible to regional air quality impacts, so the NPS will participate in regional efforts to reduce air pollution. Human activity contributes only to highly localized air quality problems. The NPS would maintain the visitors' ability to experience and appreciate the Scenic ORV by providing a river corridor that is relatively free of development.
	ORV 16. Iconic scenery of Yosemite Valley (Segment 2)	See above (ORV 15)	Segment 2 is the most highly accessible portion of the Merced River, visited by the greatest numbers of park visitors. Here the NPS provides the highest levels of service and accommodations for visitor use, and here the NPS has the greatest obligation to manage visual resources and visitors, and to protect and enhance the conditions that provide for the best possible viewing experiences. The NPS will remove unnecessary facilities from the river corridor and ensure that all future development satisfies objectives that provide low contrast ratings under the VRM system analysis: form, line, color and texture. A Sense of Place: Design Guidelines for Yosemite Valley (NPS 2004) established architectural and site design guidelines that are intended to promote harmony between the built and natural environments.
	ORV 17. Continuous cascade under Sierra outcrops and domes (Segment 3)	See above (ORV 15)	Segment 3 is classified as a scenic reach of the river, fully accessible by El Portal Road, and will be managed to promote visitor enjoyment from the river, from roadside pullouts, and from the roadway itself. Any further development is precluded.
	ORV 18. Vast scenic beauty (segments 5 and 8)	See above (ORV 15)	The NPS will maintain primitive conditions in Wilderness areas adjacent to the river, within the river corridor and beyond. The NPS will continue to manage visitor use through the Wilderness permit system, and to manage vegetation through prescribed fire and controlled burning practices when necessary and appropriate.

**TABLE A-1: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR FREE FLOW, WATER QUALITY, AND OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES**

River Value		General Management Plan Management Objectives	Merced River Plan Management Objectives
RECREATIONAL VALUES	ORV 19. Wilderness-oriented recreation (Segment 1)	<p>Assist all people in understanding, enjoying, and contributing to the preservation of the natural, cultural, and scenic resources</p> <p>Provide only for those types and levels of programs and activities that enhance visitor understanding and enjoyment of park resources</p>	<p>Provide for high quality river-related recreational opportunities oriented toward Wilderness values of unconfined, self-reliant and solitude experiences in a setting that is consistent with the Wilderness character of the area.</p>
	ORV 20. Yosemite Valley recreation (Segment 2)	<p>Assist all people in understanding, enjoying, and contributing to the preservation of the natural, cultural, and scenic resources</p> <p>Provide only for those types and levels of programs and activities that enhance visitor understanding and enjoyment of park resources</p> <p>Permit only those levels and types of accommodations and services necessary for visitor use and enjoyment of Yosemite</p> <p>Provide transportation services that facilitate visitor circulation and enhance preservation and enjoyment of park resources</p>	<p>Provide for a diversity of high quality river-related recreational opportunities that allow visitors to directly connect with the river and its environs amidst the spectacular scenery of Yosemite Valley.</p>

## POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

The 1980 *General Management Plan* established a visitor carrying capacity that was based on the capacity of facilities and infrastructure in the park at that time (NPS 1980: 15-19). The plan recommended changes to the kinds and levels of development to fulfill and support the plan's objectives.

Understanding of visitor uses and capacities has expanded and changed since the *General Management Plan* was published; similarly, the Wild and Scenic Rivers system has also expanded to include the Merced, South Fork Merced, and Tuolumne Rivers in Yosemite. Litigation on the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan resulted in additional directives regarding the establishment of "specific numerical limits" as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act mandate to address user capacity.

For these reasons, the visitor use limits and rationale proposed in the 1980 *General Management Plan* have been revised. Alternative 5 from the Merced River Plan proposes a user capacity program that establishes the kinds and amounts of visitor use that can be permitted while protecting and enhancing river values in the Merced River corridor, including a maximum number of people. This includes specific measurable limits on day and overnight use levels for each river segment. The Merced River Plan also establishes a program of indicators and standards to assess the condition of river values over time to ensure that these limits and management programs continue to be protective of all river values (see Chapter 6).

This new user capacity program will guide each new planning effort undertaken in the Merced River corridor and will therefore amend the *General Management Plan* for areas within the Merced corridor as regards user capacity. The following specific sections are added to page 15 of the 1980 *General Management Plan*:

- The first paragraph under "Park Policies and Programs" shall have this addition:

*Parkwide policies and programs with respect to visitor use, Indian cultural programs, park operations and visitor protection described in this section have been amended by the Merced River Plan for all areas within the Merced River corridor.*

- The first paragraph under "Visitor Use" shall have this addition:

*The sections below that address appropriate activities, visitor use levels, visitor facilities and services, overnight accommodations, concessions, regional cooperation, transportation, interpretation, and provisions for special populations will be guided by the management elements of the Merced River Plan. Visitor use levels and activities are further guided by, and must comply with, the management elements of the Merced River Plan. In the event of a conflict between Parkwide Policies and Programs in the General Management Plan and specific elements of the Merced River Plan, the Merced River Plan will control.*

- The first paragraph under "Visitor Use Levels" shall have this addition:

*The section below that addresses visitor use levels, visitor facilities and services, overnight accommodations, and transportation for the Merced River corridor in Yosemite Valley, El Portal, and Wawona is amended by the Merced River Plan. Specifically, General*

Management Plan *visitor use levels for Yosemite Valley, El Portal, and Wawona are no longer in effect. These visitor use levels are superseded by the user capacity management program in the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan.*

- The table on page 17 under “Visitor Use Levels” shall have these additions:

**TABLE A-2: USER CAPACITY AMENDMENTS TO THE GMP FOR SEGMENT 2**

	GMP	Current management or “No action”	Alternative 5: Enhanced experiences and essential riverbank restoration
<b>Visitor overnight capacity</b>			
Camping	~3,301	2,892	4,032
Lodging	~4,410	3,672	3,697
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,711</b>	<b>6,564</b>	<b>7,729</b>
<b>Visitor day-use capacity</b>			
Day parking	~3,685	7,260	7,549
Regional transit	~6,845	293	684
Tour buses		720	720
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,530</b>	<b>8,272</b>	<b>8,954</b>
<b>Administrative capacity</b>			
Employee housing	480	1,315	1,136
Employee day parking	Not Specified	332	332
<b>Total</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>1,468</b>
<b>TOTAL SEGMENT CAPACITY</b>	<b>~18,721</b>	<b>16,483</b>	<b>18,151</b>

**TABLE A-3: USER CAPACITY AMENDMENTS TO THE GMP FOR SEGMENT 3**

	GMP	Current management or “No action”	Alternative 5: Enhanced experiences and essential riverbank restoration
<b>Visitor overnight capacity</b>			
People at one time at parking areas	Not Specified	470	470
People at one time on roadway	Not Specified	399	399
<b>Total</b>	<b>Not Specified</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>869</b>
<b>Administrative capacity</b>			
Employee housing	0	9	9
Administrative day parking	Not Specified	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>Not Specified</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>TOTAL SEGMENT CAPACITY</b>	<b>Not Specified</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>882</b>

**TABLE A-4: USER CAPACITY AMENDMENTS TO GMP FOR SEGMENT 4**

	GMP	Current management or "No action"	Alternative 5: Enhanced experiences and essential riverbank restoration
<b>Visitor day-use capacity</b>			
People at one time at parking areas	~392	740	740
<b>Administrative capacity</b>			
People in residential housing	680	192	288
Administrative staff PAOT	Not Specified	1,220	1,220
<b>TOTAL SEGMENT CAPACITY</b>	<b>~1,072</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>2,248</b>

**TABLE A-5: USER CAPACITY AMENDMENTS TO GMP FOR SEGMENTS 6 AND 7**

	GMP	Current management or "No action"	Alternative 5: Enhanced experiences and essential riverbank restoration
<b>Visitor overnight capacity</b>			
Wawona Hotel	~345	247	247
Wawona Campgrounds	~1,980	618	540
<b>Visitor day-use capacity</b>			
Day parking	Not Specified	911	911
Regional transit	Not Specified	0	311
Tour buses	Not Specified	384	384
<b>Administrative capacity</b>			
Employee housing	410	121	121
Administrative day use	Not Specified	60	60
<b>TOTAL SEGMENT CAPACITY</b>	<b>~2,735</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>2,574</b>

## DEVELOPED AREA PLANS

The *General Management Plan* contained Developed Area Plans for the Yosemite Valley, El Portal and Wawona within the Merced River corridor (NPS 1980: 62-65). Future plans for Yosemite Valley, El Portal and Wawona must comply with the management elements of the Merced River Plan (boundaries, classifications, Outstandingly Remarkable Values and their protection, Section 7 determination process, user capacity program, restoration program, monitoring program, and management actions). Therefore, the development concepts presented in the *General Management Plan* have been amended by Alternative 5 of the Merced River Plan.

The Merced River Plan will provide guidance for any future development or redevelopment activities within the Merced River corridor, including the development concepts as described in the 1980 *General Management Plan*. While some of the *General Management Plan*'s site planning goals are compatible with those established in the Merced River Plan, the range of site planning alternatives for the Merced River Plan has been developed with particular focus on the protection of river values. To the extent that any development concept presented in the *General Management Plan* would not comply with the elements of the Merced River Plan, that development concept is superseded by the Merced River Plan. Therefore the specific actions called for in the Yosemite Valley, El Portal, and Wawona sections of the *General Management Plan* are replaced by those management actions called for in the Merced River Plan, which has ensured that all actions protect and enhance river values. Actions adjacent to the river corridor but outside of the river boundary must also protect the Merced River's established Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

For this reason, the following paragraph is to be inserted into the *General Management Plan* on page 32:

*Future plans for the Yosemite Village, Yosemite Lodge, Curry Village, the Ahwahnee, Yosemite Valley Campgrounds, Other Valley Areas, Cascades, Arch Rock, El Portal, and Wawona must comply with the management elements of the Merced River Plan (river boundaries, river classifications, Outstandingly Remarkable Values, Section 7 determination process, user capacity management program, ecological restoration program, monitoring program, and management actions). To the extent that any development concepts presented in the General Management Plan do not comply with the elements of the Merced River Plan, that development concept would be superseded by the Merced River Plan. Actions adjacent to the river corridor but outside of the river boundary must also protect the Merced River's established Outstandingly Remarkable Values.*

A more detailed list of the specific actions that would be amended by the Merced River Plan is included in Table A-7.

## **Wilderness**

The *General Management Plan* was published four years before the Yosemite Wilderness was designated in 1984. Although the area encompassed by Segments 1 and 5 were not designated as wilderness at the time the *General Management Plan* was written, backcountry management objectives were established, along with zones, capacities, and visitor use management strategies.

The Merced River Plan would continue to steward the wild segments of the river in accordance with provisions of the Wilderness Act and overarching goals for backcountry management as articulated in the *General Management Plan*. Furthermore, 1,900 acres within Little Yosemite Valley would continue to be managed as wilderness as indicated in the *General Management Plan*. An upcoming Wilderness Stewardship Plan will provide further guidance on wilderness activities in the river corridor.



TABLE A-6: USER CAPACITY AMENDMENTS TO THE GMP FOR SEGMENTS 1 AND 5

	GMP	Current management or "No action"	Alternative 5: Enhanced experiences and essential riverbank restoration
<b>Visitor overnight capacity</b>			
Wilderness zone user capacities			
LYV Zone	Not Specified	150	150
Merced Lake Zone	Not Specified	50	50
Washburn Lake Zone	Not Specified	100	100
Mount Lyell Zone	Not Specified	10	10
Clark Range Zone	Not Specified	10	10
South Fork Zone	Not Specified	15	15
Johnson Creek	Not Specified	5	5
Chilnualna Creek	Not Specified	0	0
Merced Lake HSC	Not Specified	60	42
<b>Total</b>	Not Specified	<b>400</b>	<b>382</b>
<b>Visitor day-use capacity</b>			
Half Dome "pass through" use	Not Specified	300	300
Other day use	Not Specified	50	50
<b>Total</b>	Not Specified	<b>350</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>Administrative capacity</b>			
Employee housing	Not Specified	15	15
Administrative day patrols	Not Specified	10	10
<b>Total</b>	Not Specified	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>TOTAL SEGMENT CAPACITY</b>	Not Specified	<b>775</b>	<b>757</b>

The Merced River Plan would revise and augment management of commercial use throughout the river corridor consistent with the Extent Necessary Determination (Appendix L).

Facility/Service/Activity	GMP	CSP	Amendment to GMP/CSP
<b>ALL SEGMENTS: Visitor Use</b>			
Picnicking	Provide additional opportunities for picnicking in Yosemite Valley		<p><b>Lower River:</b> Add 8 picnic tables.</p> <p><b>Swinging Bridge:</b> Delineate picnic area by fencing and revegetating the river terrace along the riparian zone approximately 50 feet from the ordinary high water mark.</p> <p><b>Sentinel Beach:</b> Redesign the picnic area in its current location to accommodate picnicking.</p> <p><b>Cathedral Beach:</b> Direct use to more resilient areas. Remove parking in the riparian zone, decompact soils, plant appropriate vegetation and delineate river access. Remove infrastructure (toilets, parking and picnic tables) in the 10-year floodplain.</p>
<b>SEGMENT 1: Merced Lake High Sierra Camp</b>			
Lodging		56 tent cabins at 5 locations	Retain the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp, reducing the capacity to 11 units (42 beds). Replace the flush toilets with composting toilet.
<b>SEGMENT 2: Yosemite Valley Transportation</b>			
Valley Shuttle	New bus service at El Portal, Crane Flat and Wawona	Improve operation, expand service	Expand shuttle system to West Valley and Wawona Construct shuttle bus stops at Camp 4 and El Capitan Meadow
Regional Transit	Integration with regional transportation systems		Expanded regional public transit.: new service between Fresno and Yosemite Valley
Transportation System	Traffic controls at Pohono and El Capitan crossovers to restrict access when daily limits are reached		Transportation fees at entrance stations and East Yosemite Valley day-use parking permit system for peak season
Private Vehicles	Private vehicles ultimately excluded from Yosemite Valley		No ultimate exclusion of private vehicles
<b>SEGMENT 2: Employee Housing</b>			
Yosemite Valley Concessioner Employee Housing	450 Concessioner Employee Housing Beds		972 concessioner beds in Yosemite Valley; temporary housing with 439 beds removed; permanent housing with 318 beds replaced in Yosemite Valley.

Facility/Service/Activity	GMP	CSP	Amendment to GMP/CSP
<b>SEGMENT 2: Employee Housing (cont.)</b>			
Tecoya Dorms and Ahwahnee Row	Retain 34 homes at Upper Tecoya Remove 22 Ahwahnee Row residences		Housing and development between Village Store and Ahwahnee Meadow remain.
Yosemite Lodge	Remove 48 tent cabins Retain dormitory housing for 200 concessioner employees		Remove old and temporary housing at Highland Court and the Thousands Cabins. Construct two new concessioner housing areas housing 104 employees (26 in each structure/double occupancy). Construct 78 employee parking spaces.
Curry Village	Remove 75 tent cabins/ Retain 75 tent cabins to accommodate 150 employees		Temporary housing at Huff House and Boys Town is removed. Construct 16 buildings, housing 164 employees using the same dormitory prototype.
Concessioner Stables	Not Specified		Retain associated housing (25 beds).
<b>SEGMENT 2: East Yosemite Valley Campgrounds</b>			
Showers		Add concessioner-operated showers at major campgrounds	Not mentioned.
Yosemite Valley Campgrounds	Remove campsites and other development adjacent to the river		Remove all campsites within 100' buffer of the ordinary high-water mark. Restore 6.5 acres of riparian habitat. Designate river access point at North Pines campground.
Backpacker's Campground	Not mentioned		26 sites total (15 removed, 16 added)
Upper Pines	240 sites (18 removed)		238 campsites Remove 2 sites for cultural resource concerns. Add 36 RV sites Add 51 walk-in sites including 2 group sites.
Lower Pines	173 sites (22 removed)		71 sites (5 removed from 100' buffer)
North Pines	86 sites (25 removed)		72 sites (14 removed from 100' buffer)
Upper River Campground	109 sites (15 removed)		32 sites
Lower River Campground	102 sites (36 removed)		40 walk-in sites
Muir Tree and Sunnyside (Camp 4) Walk-In Campgrounds	58 sites		Muir Tree not mentioned. 70 walk-in sites (add 35 sites)
Group Campground (Yellow Pines?)	14 sites		4 group sites (up to 120 people).

Facility/Service/Activity	GMP	CSP	Amendment to GMP/CSP
<b>SEGMENT 2: Ahwahnee Hotel Area</b>			
Lodging		123	Same
Restaurant, Bar, Sweet Shop, Gift Shop		Dining room with 360 seats inside, 65 seats outside Retain bar, sweet shop, and gift shop	Same
Golf Course and Tennis Courts		Golf course and tennis courts removed	Same
Hotel Services		Typical deluxe hotel services: doorman, bell service, room service, concierge, etc.	Remove pool.
Parking	132 spaces		231 spaces (formalize and add 50 spaces)
<b>SEGMENT 2: Yosemite Village Area</b>			
Village Store		Grocery, deli, photo service (close 4-hour developing), recycling redemption center, transportation kiosk, gift shop and Village Grill (20 inside seats); remove beauty shop, uniform center, enlarge restrooms	Village Store and Grill retained Village Sport Shop repurposed as visitor contact center
Concessioner Garage		Remove Valley Garage from Yosemite Valley	Remove Concessioner Garage building, relocate limited functions to Government Utility Building
Bank		Remove sales office; move ATM/check cashing to another location; adapt use for art activity center	Repurpose the Village Sport Shop to public use and remove the Arts and Activities Center (Bank Building).
Concessioner General Offices	Retain Concessioner Headquarters Building	Remove building, relocate functions	Building is removed from river corridor. Essential functions infilled into the mezzanine of the existing Concessioner Maintenance and Warehouse Building behind Valley Visitor Center
NPS Headquarters	Relocate NPS headquarters to El Portal		Not mentioned
Concessioner Fire Station		Remove existing building, construct new fire station	Not mentioned

Facility/Service/Activity	GMP	CSP	Amendment to GMP/CSP
<b>SEGMENT 2: Yosemite Village Area (cont.)</b>			
Housekeeping	Remove 68 units (34 buildings) and retain 232 units	Retain small camp store Retain shower and coin-operated laundry	Remove 34 lodging units and redesign out of the ordinary high water mark. Retain a total of 232 lodging units. Remove the grocery store.
<b>SEGMENT 2: Yosemite Lodge</b>			
Lodging		Retain 440 units (Subject to minor design-related adjustments.)	Retain 245 units
Restaurant, Bar, Store, Gift Shop		Retain with approximately 640 seats inside, 40 outside; remodel within existing service area Design smaller bar elsewhere in restaurant complex Retain gift shop; remove clothing sales, use space for information, interpretation	Not mentioned
Bike Stand		Move to site near bike trail	Remove bike rental
Swimming Pool and Snack Stand			Remove swimming pool and snack stand
Service station		Redesign 27 mini-service pumps	Not mentioned
Post Office	Remove post office		Same
Residence 1	Remove Residence 1, Garage, and access road		Relocate Residence 1 (the Superintendent's House) to the NPS housing area and rehabilitate the building per the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (NPS 1995) and the Historic Structure Report (2012).
<b>SEGMENT 2: Curry Village</b>			
Total Lodging Units		420 (subject to minor design-related adjustments )	453
Stoneman House		18	18
Cabin Rooms		252	145
Cabins without baths		0	0
Tent Cabins		150	290

Facility/Service/Activity	GMP	CSP	Amendment to GMP/CSP
<b>SEGMENT 2: Curry Village (cont.)</b>			
Food Service, Bar, Merchandise		Redesign food service and fast-food units; approximately 370seats inside; Relocate bar away from picnic setting; Redesign Meadow Deck building for combined mountaineering center and sports shop, enlarge grocery store, add deli, separate gift shop	Retain Curry grocery store, pizza deck and bar, pavilion and cafeteria, and swimming pool.
Ice Rink, Bike, Ski, and Raft Rental		Retain and redesign ice rink Provide bike rental at ice rink Redesign Meadow Deck building with space allocated for cross country ski rental Retain raft rental near ice rink	Remove the Happy Isles snack stand and Curry Village ice rink.
Happy Isles Snack Stand		Retain seasonal operation	Remove Happy Isles Snack Stand
Ice Rink Parking	Remove 25 spaces		
Curry Dump Parking	Remove 160 spaces		
Shoulder parking at east end of tent cabin area	Remove 10 spaces		
Curry Orchard	Remove 200 spaces		430 spaces
<b>SEGMENT 2: Concessioner Stables</b>			
Concessioner Stables		Move stables from river bottom to old Curry dump sites	Retain Concessioner Stables in Yosemite Valley in its current configuration. Kennel service remains. Eliminate commercial day horseback rides from Yosemite Valley. Retain associated housing (25 beds).
Commercial Horseback Rides		Retain services including various rides in Yosemite Valley, to valley rim areas and overnight, limit valley routes, require interpretation, discontinue pony rides	Eliminate commercial day horseback rides from Yosemite Valley.
Kennel		Retain at stables	Same

Facility/Service/Activity	GMP	CSP	Amendment to GMP/CSP
<b>SEGMENT 2: West Valley</b>			
Former Bridalveil Sewage Treatment Plant	Remove sewage treatment plant and ponds near Bridalveil Meadow and restore area		Same
<b>SEGMENTS 3-4: Gorge and El Portal</b>			
Arch Rock Residences	Remove 2 residences		Not mentioned
Visitor Services	Provide information/reservation station and develop a community museum at the Bagby station		Not mentioned
Commercial Facilities	Provide automobile service, restaurants, grocery store, clothing and gift sales, bank, beauty and barber shop		Not mentioned
Remote Parking	150 spaces (Greenmeyer Sandpit)		200 spaces (Abbeville/El Portal Trailer Village)
Other Facilities and Services	NPS Administration Building		Not mentioned
	Concessioner Administrative Building		Not mentioned
	NPS and concessioner maintenance, warehousing, laundry and bus service		Not mentioned
	NPS and concessioner open storage		Not mentioned
	Residential amenities including community recreation and services, open space and landscaping, utilities, meeting hall, fire station, post office, and law enforcement facilities		Not mentioned
<b>SEGMENTS 3-4: Employee Housing</b>			
NPS Employees	70 permanent and 80 seasonal		Not mentioned
Concessioner Employees	390 permanent, 60 seasonal		84 beds in Rancheria Flat 12 beds constructed in Old El Portal

Facility/Service/Activity	GMP	CSP	Amendment to GMP/CSP
<b>SEGMENTS 3-4: Employee Housing (cont.)</b>			
Other Employees	Permanent and seasonal housing for other employees (about 80)		Not mentioned
<b>SEGMENT 5-8: Wawona</b>			
Wawona Hotel Lodging		104	Same
Wawona Hotel Commercial Services	Retain golf course, stables, tennis court and swimming pool	Redesign store and gift shop to historic scene Retain dining room bar service Retain hotel dining room, golf shop snack bar, add small restaurant outside hotel complex: approximately 170 seats inside, 50 outside	Retain golf course, tennis court, restaurant, and swimming pool. The stables operation and day rides are retained.
Wawona Hotel Parking	Remove parking from in front of the hotel complex and construct a 145-car area north of complex. Provide 50 day use parking spaces adjacent to Wawona Hotel complex		Not mentioned
Chilnualna Trailhead Parking	Provide trailhead parking (50 spaces) at Chilnualna Falls trailhead		Not mentioned
Pioneer History Center Parking	Redesign parking area so users are not required to cross traffic		Not mentioned
Wawona Campground	100 sites 30-person group camp; Relocate campground amphitheater		83 sites Remove 13 sites that are either within 100 feet of the river or in culturally sensitive areas.
Wawona Stock Campground	Retain 25-horse campground		2 sites relocated to area near the Wawona Maintenance Yard.
Section 35 Camping	Construct 200-site campground in Section 35		Not mentioned
Picnicking	Provide additional picnicking and parking areas as needed		Increase the number of picnic benches to accommodate more picnicking near the store.



Facility/Service/Activity	GMP	CSP	Amendment to GMP/CSP
<b>SEGMENT 5-8: Wawona (cont.)</b>			
Transportation	Provide winter bus service to Badger Pass and year-round bus service to Yosemite Valley		Expand shuttle system to West Valley and Wawona
<b>SEGMENTS 5-8: Employee Housing</b>			
Wawona Employee Housing	410		121