

RECEIVED

MFP-5815-26

MAY 15 2007

P. 147



"Douglas, Graham

[Redacted]

05/15/2007 08:35 PM  
CET

To: "yose\_planning@nps.gov" <yose\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc: "Newsletter, Eshoo [Eshoo.Newsletter@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV]" <Eshoo.Newsletter@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV>, "Senator Boxer (Senator Boxer)" <Senator@Boxer.Senate.Gov>, "Senator Feinstein (Senator Feinstein)" <Senator@Feinstein.Senate.Gov>  
Subject: COMMENTS: National Park Service - Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Superintendent of Yosemite National Park,

The National Park Service is drafting a new plan for the Merced River, the "Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan", covering Yosemite Valley and portions of the Yosemite Wilderness that drain into the Merced River. There are a couple issues that absolutely need to be addressed in this plan, especially considering the historic failure of the National Park Service to act on congressional legislation, specifically the California Wilderness Act of 1984, designed to assess the environmental impact of the High Sierra Camps and excessive stock use around the Merced River.

I can attest from personal experience that the excessive use of stock animals results in trampled meadows and eroded trails that are polluted by manure, urine, dust, and flies. Believe me, hiking through some of this stuff is not conducive to the wilderness experience and certainly can't be good for the Merced River. In addition, high concentrations of visitors at the High Sierra Camps without proper waste water disposal facilities must be polluting the Merced River as well.

I would like to urge the following actions ASAP:

- The Merced River Plan needs to address the currently excessive impacts due to pack and saddle stock uses throughout the Merced River watershed. Pack use needs to be reduced, monitored and enforced. Commercial packstock enterprises must be strictly limited to protect the Merced River corridor and the experience of park visitors who are adversely affected by the many impacts of these operations.
- The riding stables in Yosemite Valley should be closed, and the site naturalized, as called for in the Yosemite Valley Plan. These stables are resulting in contaminated water and eroded trails that are polluted by offensive manure, urine, odors, dust, and flies.
- The High Sierra Camps (HSCs) at Vogelsang, Merced Lake, Sunrise and May Lake are polluting the Merced River and adversely affecting the recreation experience. These HSCs should be closed, and the sites restored.

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floyd redmon

05/15/2007 03:49 PM  
MST

To: yose\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Merced River Plan

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MCP-5215-28

MAY 15 2007

p. 1 of 1

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Dear Sir,

Please address the problem of sewage from the High Sierra Camps. If they are to remain open, and they are a nice intro or limited strength way for people to experience the backcountry. They need to lessen their impact on the country they sit in, septic tanks and leach fields (?).

I fail to understand the Park Service continued dependence on stock. In a time when backpackers are being told they may have to pack out their waste. Stock animals are defecating directly into streams if they wish. This is above and beyond their destructive hooves on trails and wherever they are penned. These are not traditional animals, remember they are not native to the USA. Foot traffic is traditional. I would prefer helicopter resupply to stock traffic on the trails.

The stables in the Valley are supposed to be closed. Apparently someone forgot to comply. I would be in jail if I was this remiss. Lucky for the NPS they are above the Law.

Thank you, Floyd M Redmon

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Louisa Arndt



To: yose\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Too many horses

05/15/2007 04:29 PM  
MST

RECEIVED  
MRP-5815-27  
MAY 15 2007  
P. 10/1  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Attn. Superintendent

One need only step out on virtually any of the trails in Yosemite Valley to know that the use of saddle and pack animals has gotten completely out of hand and must be curtailed!

I love horseback riding. It's lots of fun, gets one out into the wilderness, and sitting in the saddle is a most enjoyable experience. BUT -- I also enjoy hiking, and the manure, urine, and churned up earth left behind on the trails by horses is not at all enjoyable!

What also must be considered is the erosion of the trails and the runoff from this equine cesspool, which contaminates countless streams and lakes, water resources that are used by the wildlife living nearby.

Then there are the flies, which are obnoxious and can spread disease.

The bottom line is that many park visitors as well as local wildlife are being adversely affected in the service of a relative few who ride and even fewer who profit from operating stables.

It is time for the Park Service to put serious limits on the presence of saddle and pack animals in Yosemite Park, and I believe it is your duty as Park Superintendent, in the service of ALL visitors to recommend such restrictions.

Respectfully,  
Louisa Arndt  
San Rafael

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"Richard Riopelle"

05/17/2007 01:35 AM  
MST

To: yose\_planning@nps.gov

cc:

Subject: Comments on Merced River Plan, especially the effects of pack and saddle animals

RECEIVED  
MKP-SEIS-29  
MAY 17 2007  
P. 173  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent  
Yosemite National Park  
Yosemite, CA 95389

Attn. Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: The need to address, in the new Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan, ways to eliminate the deleterious effects of pack and saddle animals and the High Sierra Camps on Yosemite National Park and on the experience of visitors and park personnel

Dear Superintendent,

As a long time visitor to Yosemite National Park, and as a member of the Yosemite Association and the Yosemite Institute, I would like to address the problem of pack and saddle animals and of the High Sierra Camps in Yosemite.

Though I like and enjoy horses and deluxe camps, I feel that they don't belong in Yosemite National Park, especially in the back country. Pack and saddle animals should be used only to the minimum degree for ranger patrols and rescue operations and eliminated from elsewhere in Yosemite, including Yosemite Valley, while the only non-intrusive High Sierra Camp is the one at Tuolumne Meadows.

Here are my reasons, for your consideration:

Whether stabled or carrying tourists and supplies on Yosemite Valley trails, on the trails from the Valley to the surrounding uplands (including to Little Yosemite Valley and Half Dome) or to the various High Sierra tourist camps and back country fishing and camping sites, pack and saddle animals contaminate rivers, meadows and streams, gouge deep ruts in meadows, wetlands, hillsides and trails, support irritating and biting horse flies, and create clouds of suffocating, polluted dust to breath and cover clothing, not to mention long lines of them intruding on many popular trails.

If you have ever been on one of the many Valley trails eroded by these animals into rocky, dusty fissures and irregular slabs of asphalt, and containing piles of fresh, smelly, manure and clouds of flies and dust while you try to munch a nice, crisp apple or eat a sandwich, you will know what I mean. Just try to take a quiet walk along one of the quieter side trails in the already overcrowded Valley, or around Mirror Lake, or up the trails to Vernal and Nevada Falls, Glacier Point, Little Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, or Merced Lake; or on trails out of Tuolumne Meadows; or out of Wawona; or into the wilderness areas of Yosemite from the eastern Sierra, then you will know what I mean.

There are trails to places we love to visit that just haven't been worth hiking for years because of the dust, erosion, defecation and flies of the pack and saddle animals, and the cesspools they create as they go. Being near them, and having to get off narrow trails in the high country to let 'trains' of pack and saddle animals and riders pass, is not a wilderness experience. It's more like a freeway with dust.

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And all the excrement from these unnecessary animals pollutes streams, creeks, rivers, meadows, and lakes, as well as the plants, animals and the country side that people walk and backpack miles to view, fish in, and drink, places the National Parks were created to help preserve, 'for eternity.'

Pack and saddle animals are not like the deer, foxes and other animals in Yosemite. Horses and mules are much bigger and heavier, even without carrying riders and packs, and are shod with trail-destroying steel hooves, and they move in long lines, polluting and trenching and gouging the trails as they go. Look at the Valley-edge trails between Yosemite Village and Mirror Lake, for example.

Pack and saddle animals are outlawed on the streets in most towns and cities, most of which are no where near as busy and crowded as the Valley and trails of Yosemite.

People have lots of other places to experience horseback riding and pack animal benefits: on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands as well as private ranches. They don't need to run down and abuse National Park lands.

What also must be considered is the erosion of the trails and the runoff from this equine cesspool, which contaminates countless streams and lakes, water resources that are used by the wildlife.

The outfitters and packers have had years of notice and consideration, past the deadlines set when the National Parks system was created. What the public sees now is just another . Now it is time to put a stop to such commercialization in Yosemite, as well as other national parks. They outfitters and packers have plenty of other places to pollute and erode, just as snowmobiles and motor bikes do.

The bottom line is that many park visitors as well as local wildlife are being adversely affected in the service of a relative few who profit from operating stables. Let's put a stop to it now. For ourselves, our children and our children's children's benefit.

In addition, the High Sierra Camps are polluting the Merced and Tuolumne River and adversely affecting the recreation experience of countless park visitors every year. All of the High Sierra Camps, except the one at Tuolumne Meadows, should be closed, and the sites restored to their natural state. They are an unnecessary commercialization, intrusion, pollution and eyesore in many of the best parts of Yosemite. We avoided having Disney in a far corner of the park, only to continue to put up with pack and saddle animals and luxury camps through-out much of the park. It's time we stopped.

It is time for the Park Service to remove the commercial saddle and pack animals and High Sierra Camps from Yosemite National Park, and I believe it should be your duty and honor as Park Superintendent, in the service of the park and of ALL, visitors to recommend and diligently work for passage and implementation of such restrictions on your watch. Only rangers in the line of duty should be allowed to have and use pack and saddle animals in Yosemite National Park. Most tourists can go to a stable in their home town.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Richard Riopelle  
21 Corte Encanto

MAR 29 10:38 AM  
p. 30/3

Greenbrae, CA 94904-2325

email: [REDACTED]

PC Magazine's 2007 editors' choice for best Web mail-award-winning Windows Live Hotmail.  
[http://imagine-windowslive.com/hotmail/?locale=en-us&ocid=TXT\\_TAGHM\\_migration\\_HM\\_mini\\_pcmag\\_0507](http://imagine-windowslive.com/hotmail/?locale=en-us&ocid=TXT_TAGHM_migration_HM_mini_pcmag_0507)

June 2, 2007

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MRP-SEIS-30

JUN 06 2007

P. 1 of 1

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent Tollefsen  
Attention: Merced River Plan  
PO Box 577  
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

**Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Plan**

Quoting the original (Year 2000) Merced River Plan, "For the area zoned jointly 3A/3C on the south side of the South Fork of the Merced River in Section 35, should the National Park Service determine that new, high density housing is not required to be located in this zone, it is the intent of the National Park Service that any development for administration or operations in this zone be compatible in character, density, and scale to existing residential and commercial development in Section 35. The potential use of this zone (as described under management zone 3A) will not change." So far as we can determine, there is no intent by NPS to modify this statement in the Revised Merced River Plan. In other words NPS continues to reserve the option of developing the south side of Wawona into camp grounds and administrative centers.

We Wawona residents and property owners are currently engaged in hot debate over a proposed redevelopment of Camp Wawona, the Seventh Day Adventist facility located at the extreme end of Forest Drive on the south side of the Merced River in Section 35. Many of the issues raised in the current Camp Wawona debate will apply directly to any future NPS development on the south side. These include traffic on the single-lane Forest Drive, fire safety, water supply, and overloading the existing waste water treatment plant. However, the primary argument against the current Camp Wawona redevelopment plan is that it will set an unfavorable precedent for high density development by NPS under the language quoted above i.e., "compatible in character, density, and scale to existing residential and commercial development in Section 35."

So we propose that park planners modify the Revised Merced River Plan language to remove the threat of high-density NPS development on Wawona's south side. So long as the language remains intact, many thoughtful Wawonans will be motivated to resist all NPS development in Yosemite. They will partner with MERG, FOYV, and the Sierra Club to delay everything in the Yosemite Valley Plan. They will lobby congress to cut the NPS budget in so far as it affects Yosemite development. As we see it, modifying the threatening language will enable us to engage in a sensible dialog where NPS and Wawonans identify common ground regarding Wawona's future.

There have been many contentious issues in Wawona over the years. However, resisting high-density development is one issue where Wawonans are nearly unanimous. This includes Section 35 property owners, concessionaire employees, and NPS personnel that reside here. We invite park planners to join us through our representative organizations (WAPOA and WTPAC) to develop mutually acceptable revisions to the original Merced River Plan language.

Sincerely,

*Corinne Cortes*

Corinne Cortes

Wawona, CA 95389

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Cortes

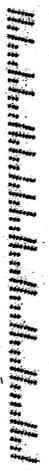
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Marion CA 95389

STOCKTON/STKN  
CA 95213  
04 JUN 2007



Superintendent Tolleson  
Attention: Merced River Plan  
PO Box 577  
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

95389+0000



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June 3, 2007

Superintendent  
Yosemite National Park  
P.O, Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389

RECEIVED  
MRP-SE/S-31  
JUN 06 2007  
P. 1031  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Re: MERCED RIVER PLAN

Dear Sir,

My comments for future plans for the Merced River are:

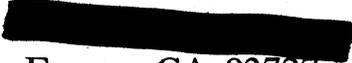
Save all the bridges in Yosemite Valley. They are not only National Monuments they are scenic and useful.

Please provide water fountains along trails so hikers and tourists can refill water bottles or just get a drink rather than drink straight from the river.

Save the old Superintendent's House in Yosemite Valley. The building could be used as an educational center for all types of programs especially the Yosemite Institute. The restroom facilities should be reopened now since the area around the house is presently being used for art classes for the Art Center as well as the Yosemite Institute. There are also picnic tables on the grounds around the house which serve well for outdoor classroom settings. Please, save the historic house along the Merced River and let it serve a useful purpose.

Thanks for any consideration in this matter - especially the possibility of saving the old Superintendent's House next to the Merced River which could serve as an educational center.

Mrs. Pam Pederson

  
Fresno, CA 93727

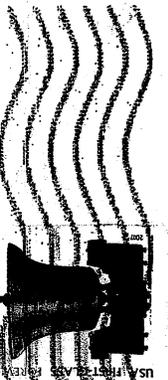
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Ms. Pamela D. Pederson  
Fresno, CA 93727-4125

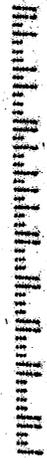
FRESNO CA 937

04 JUN 2007 PM 3 T



Superintendent  
Yosemite Nat'l Park

P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389



Attn: Meredith  
River Plains

DAVID W. HAMILTON

RECEIVED  
MRP-SEIS-32  
JUN 06 2007  
P.1031  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

June 3, 2007

Superintendent  
Yosemite National Park  
Attn: Merced River Plan  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389

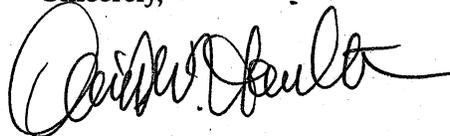
Dear Sir or Madam:

I write to comment on the new "Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Plan. As a hiker and backpacker I am very concerned about the adverse impacts caused by excessive pack and saddle stock use in the Merced River watershed. This is especially problematic in the backcountry, where hikers expect a wilderness experience in a natural environment uncontaminated by stock animal manure, urine, odors, dust, and flies. But this is also noticeable and extremely offensive in Yosemite Valley because of the riding stables, which result in contaminated water and eroded trails.

Commercial pack stock enterprises do not have an inalienable right to conduct their profit-seeking operations in national parks belonging to us all. They must be strictly limited to protect the Merced River watershed and the experience of park visitors who are negatively affected by their excessive and polluting operations.

In addition the High Sierra Camps at Vogelsang, Merced Lake, Sunrise, and May Lake pollute the Merced River and adversely affect the wilderness experience for all park visitors. These camps provide luxury vacations for relatively few people but result in far greater disruption to the wilderness and damage to the natural environment than do hikers or even stock users. They should be closed permanently.

Sincerely,



David W. Hamilton

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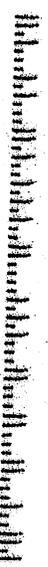
David W. Hamilton  
[Redacted]  
Oakland, CA 94610 USA

Superintendent  
Yosemite National Park  
Attn: Merced River Plan  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389

OAKLAND CA 946  
04 JUN 2007 PM 5 L



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6/4/ RECEIVED  
MRP-SEIS-33  
JUN 06 2007  
P. 1071  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Sir,

Thanks for your hard work  
on the Merced Wild + Scenic River  
Revised Comprehensive Management  
Plan.

Of the alternatives  
presented I prefer and support  
Alternative 4.

I'm particularly supportive  
of the lower ~~annual~~ annual  
visitor numbers.

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Stan Peterson  
57110... LA

SF  
Mojave, Ca 95388

STOCKTON/STKN  
CA 952 1 L  
04 JUN 2007 PM

Superintendent

Attn: Merced Wild to Semi River Plan

Box 577

Yosemite NP, Ca  
95389



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RECEIVED  
MRP-SEIS-34  
JUN 07 2007

P. 1061  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

June 4, 2007

**Superintendent**  
**Yosemite National Park**  
**Attn. Merced River Plan**  
**PO Box 577**  
**Yosemite, CA 95389**

*As a frequent visitor to Wawona, I wish to voice my concern with the up and coming Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan.*

*I am very concerned that the designated land use placed in Wawona would permit public campgrounds, and high density employee housing in Section 35 in South Wawona. This high density would be severely detrimental to the small mountain residential vacation home community, where I visit often. If this plan were implemented in Wawona, it would cause long-term major adverse impacts on the Wawona population and add lots of traffic and congestion. Additionally, the crime element would increase with high density.*

*Please take into consideration of a frequent visitor to Wawona, by preserving the character of the Wawona Community by not allowing this designated land use.*

*Sincerely,*

*Janie Severns*

*[Redacted]*  
*Coarsegold, CA 93614*  
*[Redacted]*

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*D. Stevens*  
████████████████████  
*Greenfield, CA 93614*

STOCKTON/STKN  
CA 952 2 T  
04 JUN 2007 PM



*Superintendent  
Greenfield National Bank  
900 Bay 577  
Greenfield, CA 95389*

~~95389+0000~~



June 2, 2007

RECEIVED  
MRP-SEIS-35  
JUN 07 2007  
P. 1031  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent  
Yosemite National Park

Dear Superintendent Toffelson,

When drafting the Merced River plan please instruct your planners to address the impacts of stock animals on the Merced River drainage area. In particular, the plan should call for;

- Removal to the stables in Yosemite Valley as called for in the Yosemite Valley Plan adopted in 2000. All of the trails from the valley receive way too much human traffic. Stock animals contribute far more damage to trails than human plus the manure and flies they bring make for a barnyard rather than a wilderness experience on the trails.
- Reasonable limits on commercial stock animals on back country trails need to be established and enforced to prevent further trampling and damage to meadows, and to protect water quality.
- The High Sierra Camps need to be closed down if they can't be maintained without the trails leading to them being turned into the disaster areas they are now. Because so many stock trains are required to support these camps, the trails they use have been turned into miserable dusty, manure ridden and fly infested lateral barnyards.

Thank you for considering this points when drafting this new plan,

Sincerely,

*Mark Stevens*

Mark Stevens

[REDACTED]  
Danville, CA 94526  
[REDACTED]

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