



Tony Christianson

06/10/2007 12:11 AM
MST

To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Scoping Comments: Wawona

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MRP-SEIS-96
JUN 11 2007
D. J. J.
YOSEMITE NATIONAL

The South Fork of the Merced River flows through the residential community of Wawona. Wawona is primarily single family residences with a year round population of under 160 adults and children. Wawona has an elementary school, athletic field, post office, 2 grocery stores, county library, gas station, and community building. Wawona also has many amenities shared by visitors and residents alike, including a Victorian hotel complex with golf course and restaurant, hiking trails, and swimming in the river.

Yosemite visitors stay in Wawona at the hotel or at one of the many residential homes available for short-term rent. Visitors can also camp year round adjacent the river at the nearby Wawona campground.

Because Wawona is relatively small, somewhat isolated and less visited by park visitors, the community provides visitors and residents an increased sense of privacy, peace, and scenic beauty. There is little congestion, noise or pollution.

Wawona itself is an "Outstandingly Remarkable Value" in the river corridor. Any addition of campgrounds or employee housing to Wawona will be very detrimental to the character of the area, and will detrimentally impact the visitor experience there.

--
Tony Christianson, Ph.D.

Yosemite, California

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Tony Christianson

06/10/2007 12:13 AM
MST

To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Scoping Comments: Camping by car

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JUN 11 2007
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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Camping by car should be THE preferred way to stay and experience the grandeur of Yosemite. This is the traditional way. And it is a very good way.

Yes, some room accommodations for those who prefer not to camp.

But the scale should tilt in favor of the camper, not the other way around.

The majority of Americans, the taxpayers whose dollars support Yosemite, have families and children. Most don't have the money to pay for expensive hotel rooms, or to pay for bus transportation. They are quite content to experience Yosemite in the comfort of their car and sleep in a campground at night.

And as an additional benefit, fewer commercial rooms in Yosemite equates to fewer concessionaire employees needed to fix the beds. Campers fix their own beds.

Fewer concessionaire employees equates to no need for more employee housing.

Please rebuild the Yosemite Valley drive-in campgrounds.

--
Tony Christianson, Ph.D.
Yosemite, California

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Tony Christianson
 [Redacted]
 06/10/2007 12:15 AM
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To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
 cc:
 Subject: Scoping Comments: Camp Wawona Project

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 JUN 11 2007
 P-181
 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Single lane Forest Drive runs primarily through parkland alongside the South Fork of the Merced River and is the only paved road to Camp Wawona. Camp Wawona is located adjacent the South Fork of the Merced River within the residential community of Wawona. The owners of Camp Wawona have applied to Mariposa County for a permit to rebuild Camp Wawona in a significantly larger format.

Forest Drive is typical of mountain roads serving rural homes. For occasional visitor traffic and the needs of the homes along Forest Drive, the road is more than adequate. The residents are familiar with Forest Drive's blind spots and irregularities, and know how to drive the road safely. However, as the only access road for groups of hundreds of people driving from the city to Camp Wawona - most unfamiliar with the road and tending to drive fast (Forest Drive is posted 15 mph) - Forest Drive is unsafe at the speeds Camp Wawona goers typically drive (any speed above 15 mph).

The Camp Wawona Environmental Impact Report acknowledged the limitations of Forest Drive, but discounted the problem and increased the risk by recommending that Camp Wawona be resized to handle year-round operation at peak historic occupancy levels. This recommendation does not appropriately deal with the user capacity requirements of the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan.

--
 Tony Christianson, PhD
 [Redacted]
 Yosemite, California

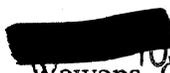
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MRP-5815-99

JUN 11 2007

P. 282



YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Wawona, CA 95389

9 June 2007

Re: Scoping comments for revised Merced River Plan

The following comments all apply to the Wawona area, especially section 35.

1. Zoning for section 35 needs to be carefully considered. We do not want it to be zoned 3A or 3C – at the risk of turning historic Wawona into another “Company Town”. In particular, it would be inappropriate to add entry-level housing or campgrounds to the historic Wawona community in section 35.

Please note that former Yosemite National Park Superintendent David Mihalic, in letter to the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors recognized the uniqueness of Wawona:

“Based on the congressionally mandated mission, the NPS cannot agree to any amendments to the town plan which change the small mountain community atmosphere of Wawona or which allow for more intensive development of the area.” - David Mihalic, 17 February 2000

2. The Wawona “Swinging Bridge” area has become very busy, with the Wawona Campground and the Wawona Hotel directing visitors there. The SDA Camp Wawona especially sends large groups (100’s) of guests there simultaneously. Toilet and trash facilities need to be constructed or else the size of the groups limited.
3. The section of the South Fork of the Merced River, from the containment dam to the Wawona Campground has many improvements in the flood plain. Therefore this section of the river cannot be considered wild and scenic.
4. To lessen the danger on substandard Forest Drive from an over-built Camp Wawona and to improve emergency egress for the children, YNP should consider implementing a road from Studhorse to the Camp.
5. The Wawona golf course should remain “as is”.

Respectfully,

Chuck Jones
Chuck Jones

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From: Dorian B. Dunlavey

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

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MRP-SEIS-100

JUN 11 2007

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

FAX To: (209) 379-1294

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

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p. 283

Dorian B. Dunlavey
[REDACTED]

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
08 June 2007

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

Dear Superintendent,

I am a home owner in Wawona. As I think about the Planning for the Merced Wild and Scenic River and the resulting Comprehensive Management Plan my concern is of the planning and zoning, particularly, of the National Park Service owned land in Section 35. The goal of such planning and zoning should be to **preserve the character of the Wawona Community.**

I am opposed to dormitories or housing units for Park Service employees or concessionaires as well as public campgrounds and high density employee housing in Section 35.

The South Fork of the Merced River should be protected. Overcrowding at the Swinging Bridge area has adverse impacts on the river. The proposed expansion of Camp Wawona is a real threat to the South Fork of the Merced River downstream. We need to protect the quality of the river's water. In my opinion there should have been an official scoping meeting in Wawona. We had only a speaker concerning the South Fork.

The Wawona Golf Course, established in 1918, should be classified as **recreational** in the River Plan.

The Park Service should provide rest rooms and trash containers at the Swinging Bridge and at the Vagim property (Flat Rock) to avoid contamination of the river in those areas.

A **Carrying Capacity** for the Valley needs to be established. Overcrowding means no place to park and degraded enjoyment of the Valley experience.

The abandoned government homes in the River Corridor need to be demolished. They are an attractive nuisance and a fire hazard.

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P-3033

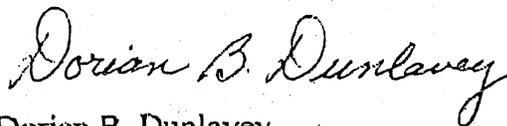
Superintendent - 08 June 2007

Page 2

I like the Valley. I like to be able to take the Shuttle Bus to the Valley to enjoy the unparalleled monoliths, waterfalls, nature and unique scenery. But, I love the area and the feel of Wawona and the South Fork. At all cost the preservation and protection of the rural mountain residential community of Wawona and its South Fork of the Merced River should and must be maintained.

I think of the South Fork as a recreational river where one can fish, swim or just enjoy the wonderful and beautiful sights and sounds of it.

Very truly yours,



Dorian B. Dunlavey

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Comment Form MERCED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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MRP-SEIS-101
JUN 12 2007

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Yosemite National Park

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written ideas, concerns, or suggestions during the public scoping period, which began on March 30, 2007 and will end on June 9, 2007—60 days after Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Merced River Plan) or may be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be emailed to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Merced River Plan). In addition, comments can be submitted online by going to parkplanning.nps.gov/yose. Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning/mrp.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Individuals' addresses will be withheld from publication of comments; however names will be made available.

Name: Greg Nesper Date of Comment: 6/8/2007
Address: [REDACTED]
Yosemite CA 95389

Comments

I would like to see fewer rafts on the Merced. They cause major erosion and are a eye sore when you see hundreds of people at a time. El Rio de Nuestra Señora de la Merced should be protected because of the wildlife that depends on it. To many rental rafts!

(continue comments on back of page)

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