Why are public comments important?

Welcoming Your Ideas
Public agencies are required by law to seek public comment on proposed plans or projects. However, in Yosemite, our goal is to go above and beyond statutory requirements and engage the public in the decision-making process. We’re always looking for ways to improve our communication process. If you have any ideas, feel free to contact us (see box at right).

Public Comments and Park Planning
The planning team and resource managers often have very specialized knowledge about an area, but it is impossible for them to know all of the issues that are important to Yosemite’s visitors. Public comments are one way to provide additional information that will help planners and managers make appropriate, timely, and well-informed decisions.

The Journey of a Public Comment
NPS reads and analyzes all public scoping comments. The planning team and park management review and consider comments on the draft plan when finalizing alternatives and environmental analyses. A preferred alternative is selected.

Each letter, email, or other type of comment is broken down into individual ideas. Similar ideas are grouped together into statements.

Your comments count! All comments are read and analyzed. One comment can make a difference!

NPS reads and analyzes all comments on the draft plan. A draft plan is released for public review.

Did You Know?
Public comments and the NPS response to comments are included as an appendix in the draft and final plans.

A final plan is released for public review.

The planning team and park management review and consider comments on the final plan when finalizing alternatives and environmental analyses. A final plan is released for public review.

Yosemite National Park Planning

After receiving and reviewing public feedback on the final plan, park planners and managers prepare a Record of Decision for the selected alternative.

If approved, the Record of Decision is signed by the NPS Director for the Pacific West Region. It is then submitted for publication in the Federal Register.

How to Submit a Comment
You can submit comments in a number of ways:

- In person at Open Houses and public meetings
- By email: Yose_Planning@nps.gov
- Online: parkplanning.nps.gov/yose
- By fax: (209) 379-1294
- By mail: Superintendent Yosemite National Park PO Box 577 Yosemite, CA 95389

For more information, please see: www.nps.gov/yose/planning

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
-Margaret Mead