



Welcome to Planning for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River and Tuolumne Meadows

For the next two years (summer 2006 through spring 2008) the National Park Service will be working with elected officials, partners in other agencies, park visitors and neighbors, gateway communities, culturally associated tribal groups, scientists and scholars, national and local advocacy groups, and private citizens to develop plans for the Tuolumne River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows. The purpose of these plans is twofold: (1) to provide long-term, comprehensive guidance for the protection of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River, and (2) to determine more specifically what programs and services will meet river protection goals in Tuolumne Meadows.

The superintendent and staff of Yosemite National Park are committed to providing timely, accurate information to everyone interested in this planning process. Broad public involvement—and a shared understanding of the decision making as it progresses—will be critical to the success of the plan and the long-term protection and enjoyment of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River. In the weeks and months ahead, the National Park Service team will create multiple opportunities for everyone to share their ideas and concerns about this exceptional place.



Tuolumne Planning Schedule

Opportunities for Public Involvement

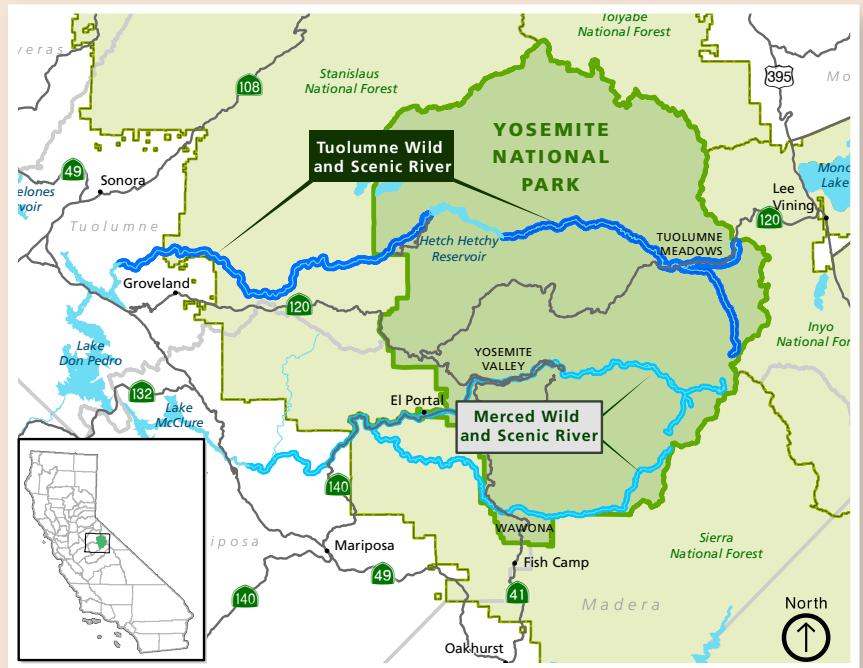
Summer 2006	Public scoping period takes place (gather information about interests and concerns, identify the major planning issues)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public concerns and comments requested• Official agency and tribal consultations• Written public comments accepted by mail, fax, or email• Comments accepted at regional public meetings (9 currently planned)
Fall 2006	Public comments used to identify a reasonable range of management alternatives for Tuolumne River Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional public workshops (4 currently planned)
Winter 2007	Public comments used to identify a reasonable range of management alternatives for Tuolumne Meadows Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Update newsletter to announce latest developments and planning timeline• Updates posted to park's website
Summer 2007	Public review of Draft EIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written comments requested from public; accepted by mail, fax, email, or at public meetings• Document (printed version or CD) mailed to those requesting a copy; also available at public libraries• Document posted on park website with request for online comments
Fall 2007	Public comments used to revise EIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Update newsletter to announce latest developments and planning timeline
Winter 2008	Release of Final EIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed version or CD available on request, or available online and in libraries
Spring 2008	Record of Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision anticipated, signed by NPS Regional Director for the Pacific West Region• Approved plan implemented when published in the Federal Register

Planning for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River

The National Park Service is preparing the *Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan (Tuolumne River Plan)* for the 54-mile section of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River within Yosemite National Park. This plan will establish the broad, long-term guidance for the protection of the free-flowing condition and the outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values of the Tuolumne River. Once approved, the plan will provide management direction consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. It will also update those portions of the 1980 *Yosemite National Park General Management Plan* that address lands and waters inside the designated corridor of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

The Tuolumne River Plan will:

- Review, and if necessary revise, the existing boundaries and segment classifications of the Wild and Scenic River corridor and describe the outstandingly remarkable values for each segment
- Provide a clear process for protection of the river's free-flowing condition in keeping with Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- Establish management zoning in the river corridor that is based on the protection of the river's outstandingly remarkable values
- Establish clearly stated long-term goals (desired conditions) for resource protection and visitor experiences, and identify the specific and measurable indicators and standards for a monitoring program that will ensure that the desired conditions are achieved and maintained over time
- Establish a user capacity program that addresses the types and levels of use and facilities that are protective of the river's outstandingly remarkable values and are appropriate to achieving and maintaining desired conditions
- Coordinate with other park planning.



Planning for Tuolumne Meadows

Concurrently with the Tuolumne River Plan, the National Park Service is conducting more detailed planning for the Tuolumne Meadows area. The **Tuolumne Meadows Plan** will identify opportunities for restoration and reduced facilities, as well as the specific programs and facilities needed to implement the long-term goals for the Tuolumne Meadows area as established by the Tuolumne River Plan. The effectiveness of these programs and facilities will be periodically assessed, and they may be revised as needed to achieve and maintain the long-term goals.

The Tuolumne River Plan and the Tuolumne Meadows Plan will be closely coordinated. Once alternatives for the Tuolumne River Plan have been identified, they will provide direction to the more detailed alternatives for restoration, specific programs, and facilities considered in the Tuolumne Meadows Plan. Because these plans are so closely related, they will be analyzed together in the same environmental impact statement.

For additional information, contact:

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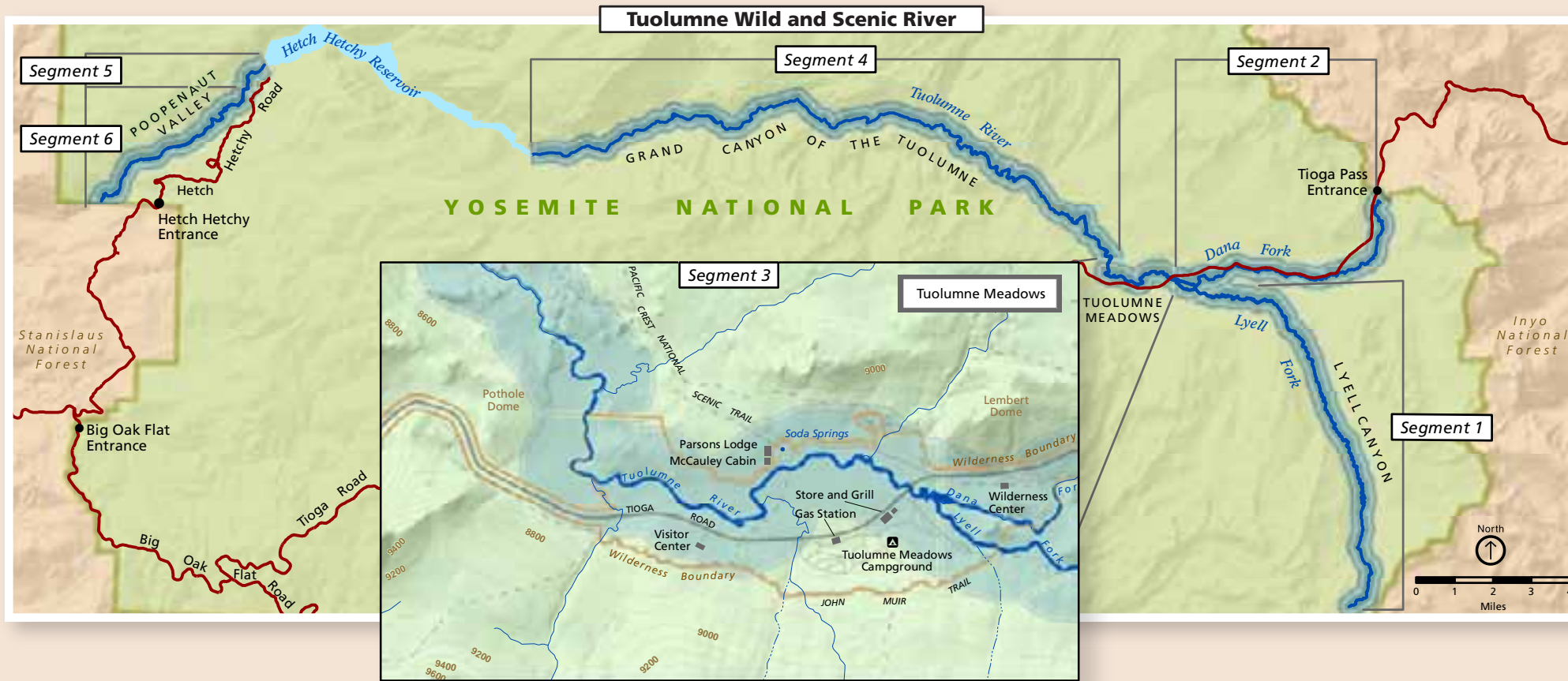
website: www.nps.gov/yose/planning



Poopenaut Valley, below Hetch Hetchy Reservoir (Segment 6)



Footbridge near Parsons Lodge (Segment 3)



Mount Dana (Segment 2)



Mount Lyell (Segment 1)

What is a Wild and Scenic River?

In 1968 Congress took action to balance the established policy of dredging and damming rivers for water supply, power generation, and other public benefits with a new policy—that of protecting the natural and cultural values of selected free-flowing rivers for their associated public benefits and enjoyment. Since then nearly 170 rivers, creeks, or sections of rivers administered by a variety of federal, state, and local agencies have been protected by inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides broad guidance for these rivers:

- They must meet eligibility requirements, including having one or more outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values
- They must be administered to protect and enhance the values that caused them to be included in the system
- Federal agencies that administer rivers potentially eligible for the system are required to consider their eligibility, and if the river is designated, to prepare a comprehensive management plan that provides for the protection of river values.



Muir Gorge (Segment 4)

What is included in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River?

In 1984 Congress designated 83 miles of the Tuolumne River (54 of which are within Yosemite National Park) as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The 1984 designation established a boundary extending ¼ mile on either side of the river, the maximum allowed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This boundary, which is shown on the map above, will be reviewed as part of the Tuolumne River Plan and may be revised consistent with the criteria specified by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The river corridor is currently divided into six river segments, each of which is classified “wild,” “scenic,” or “recreational” according to the level of development along the river’s banks, as directed by the Act.

Why isn't Hetch Hetchy Reservoir included in the corridor?

In 1979, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service conducted a joint study to determine how much of the Tuolumne River was eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The study team found that the 8-mile portion of the river impounded by O’Shaughnessy Dam at the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir was ineligible for inclusion in the system because it was not free flowing, which is a requirement of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This study was reviewed and accepted by the U.S. Congress, who then designated all eligible portions of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River in 1984. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir lies between the eligible segments of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River within Yosemite National Park, but it is not, itself, included in the designated river corridor. Therefore, the management of the reservoir and O’Shaughnessy Dam will not be addressed in the Tuolumne River Plan.

Major Milestones in Tuolumne River Management and Planning									
1890	1913	1979	1980	1984	1986	1989	1995	2005	2008
Yosemite National Park is established to protect the High Sierra country surrounding Yosemite Valley, including the Tuolumne River watershed.	The Raker Act grants the City of San Francisco the right to dam the Hetch Hetchy Valley section of the Tuolumne River and transfers reservoir ownership to the city.	The National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service study the eligibility of the Tuolumne River for Wild and Scenic status in the <i>Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Study Final Environmental Impact Statement and Study Report</i> .	The National Park Service completes the <i>Yosemite National Park General Management Plan</i> . It addresses facilities and uses in the Tuolumne Meadows area.	The California Wilderness Act establishes the Yosemite Wilderness, which includes most lands and waters along the Tuolumne, and amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.	The National Park Service reclassifies 5 of the 6 miles between O’Shaughnessy Dam and the park boundary that fall within designated wilderness as wild. The 1-mile segment directly below the dam continues to be classified as scenic.	The National Park Service completes the <i>Yosemite Wilderness Management Plan</i> , which includes guidelines for the management of the Tuolumne River.	The National Park Service prepares the <i>Tuolumne Meadows Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment</i> (but the plan is never released or approved).	The National Park Service begins internal scoping for the <i>Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Plan Environmental Impact Statement</i> .	The Tuolumne River Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Plan are scheduled for completion.