



# Yosemite Wilderness Use

Responsible Use Information based off of Leave No Trace Ethics

**Viewing these slides does not count as participating in a  
REQUIRED education session**

ENTERING YOSEMITE WILDERNESS  
WILDERNESS PERMIT REQUIRED  
PETS AND FIREARMS PROHIBITED  
• NO WOOD FIRES ABOVE 9600 FT •  
PACK OUT ALL THAT YOU PACK IN  
BEAR HABITAT  
PROPER FOOD STORAGE REQUIRED

# Welcome!

- **TWO WEEKS** before your trip, you'll receive information on how to attend an **ONLINE EDUCATION SESSION WITH A RANGER**
- The session will last approximately **ONE HOUR**

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  - Presentation section and Q&A with a ranger
- You'll be given a **CODE** at the end of the meeting, that you'll need to access your permit
- Sessions are scheduled daily at 8am and 4pm Pacific Standard Time (subject to change)
- After November 1<sup>st</sup>, permits will switch to SELF REGISTRATION





# Yosemite

National Park  
California

## FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS AND PARK UPDATES, VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Plan Your Visit ▾

Learn About the Park

- How Will COVID-19 Affect My Trip?
- Basic Information ▶
- Directions & Transportation ▶
- Eating & Sleeping ▶
- Places To Go ▶
- Things To Do ▶**
- Calendar
- Safety ▶
- Accessibility ▶

Art & Photography

Auto Touring

**Backpacking ▶**

Biking

Trail Descriptions

**Wilderness Permits**

DISMISS ✕

### Yosemite is open with reservations required due to COVID-19

To increase access to the park in a phased approach, Yosemite National Park is open with limited services and facilities to reservations, reservations for in-park lodging or camping, and wilderness or Half Dome permits.

### Entrar y manejar dentro del Parque Nacional de Yosemite

Se requieren reservas de día, reservas de alojamiento en el parque, reservas de camping, reservas de permisos de senderismo (wilderness permit) o Half Dome.

# OTHER RESOURCES:

WILDERNESS PUBLIC INFORMATION LINE: **209-372-0826**

- This is staffed by wilderness rangers! Call for specific questions about your trip, or if you need to make changes to your permit

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY: [yosemite.org/yosemite-wilderness-permit-request-form/](https://yosemite.org/yosemite-wilderness-permit-request-form/)

- Use this to request a new permit, or to modify your existing permit

YOSEMITE WILDERNESS TRAILHEADS MAP: [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/upload/wildernesstrailheads.pdf](https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/upload/wildernesstrailheads.pdf)

- Great for trip planning, this map shows the 4-mile and 1-mile no camping zones

YOSEMITE WILDERNESS CONDITIONS: [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildcond.htm](https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildcond.htm)

WHEN TO APPLY FOR YOUR PERMIT: [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermitdates.htm](https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermitdates.htm)

LIST OF PERMITTED BEAR CANS: [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/containers.htm](https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/containers.htm)

SAVE A BEAR HOTLINE: **209-372-0322**

CLIMBING INFORMATION: [www.climbingyosemite.com](http://www.climbingyosemite.com)

# Weather, Fires and Air Quality:

- [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)
- [inciweb.nwcg.gov](https://www.inciweb.nwcg.gov)
- [airnow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov)
- [purpleair.com](https://www.purpleair.com)
- [wildlandfiresmoke.net](https://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net)
- [halfdome.net](https://www.halfdome.net)

# COVID-19 Related Information



**WILDERNESS CENTERS** will have limited hours and will **ONLY** be offering bear canister rentals (no other services)

(summer only – Check with the Yosemite Conservancy bookstore for rentals after October 15th)

- Valley: 9 am – 1 pm
- Big Oak Flat (120 Entrance): 9 am – 1 pm
- Wawona (Hill Studio): 9 am – 1 pm
- Tuolumne Meadows: 9 am – 1 pm
- Hetch Hetchy is not renting bear cans!

**Bear cans are \$5/week, and you need a credit card and ID to rent one**

# COVID-19 Related Information



**Be self-sufficient!**

**There are no services in Tuolumne Meadows**

➤ The general store, post office, campground and bookstore are CLOSED

➤ The visitor center has an outdoor information booth (summer only) but you can't purchase anything

**Yosemite Valley has limited services,  
check our website for  
more information!**

# COVID-19 Related Information



Many trails and overlooks are open for visitors to enjoy. If trails are crowded please consider using an alternative trail.



Please park only in designated areas.



Please take home everything you brought with you today.



Park rangers are on duty for visitor assistance and protection.

Please be aware --

**YOU CAN'T MODIFY A PERMIT  
ONCE IT IS EMAILED TO YOU!**

Please double check that all  
information is correct  
*before* entering the code from the  
education session

# COVID-19 Related Information



Many trails and overlooks are open for visitors to enjoy. If trails are crowded please consider using an alternative trail.



Please park only in designated areas.



Please take home everything you brought with you today.



Park rangers are on duty for visitor assistance and protection.

**Entering Yosemite: CHECK ROAD CONDITIONS  
BY CALLING (209)372-0200 (PRESS 1, THEN 1)**

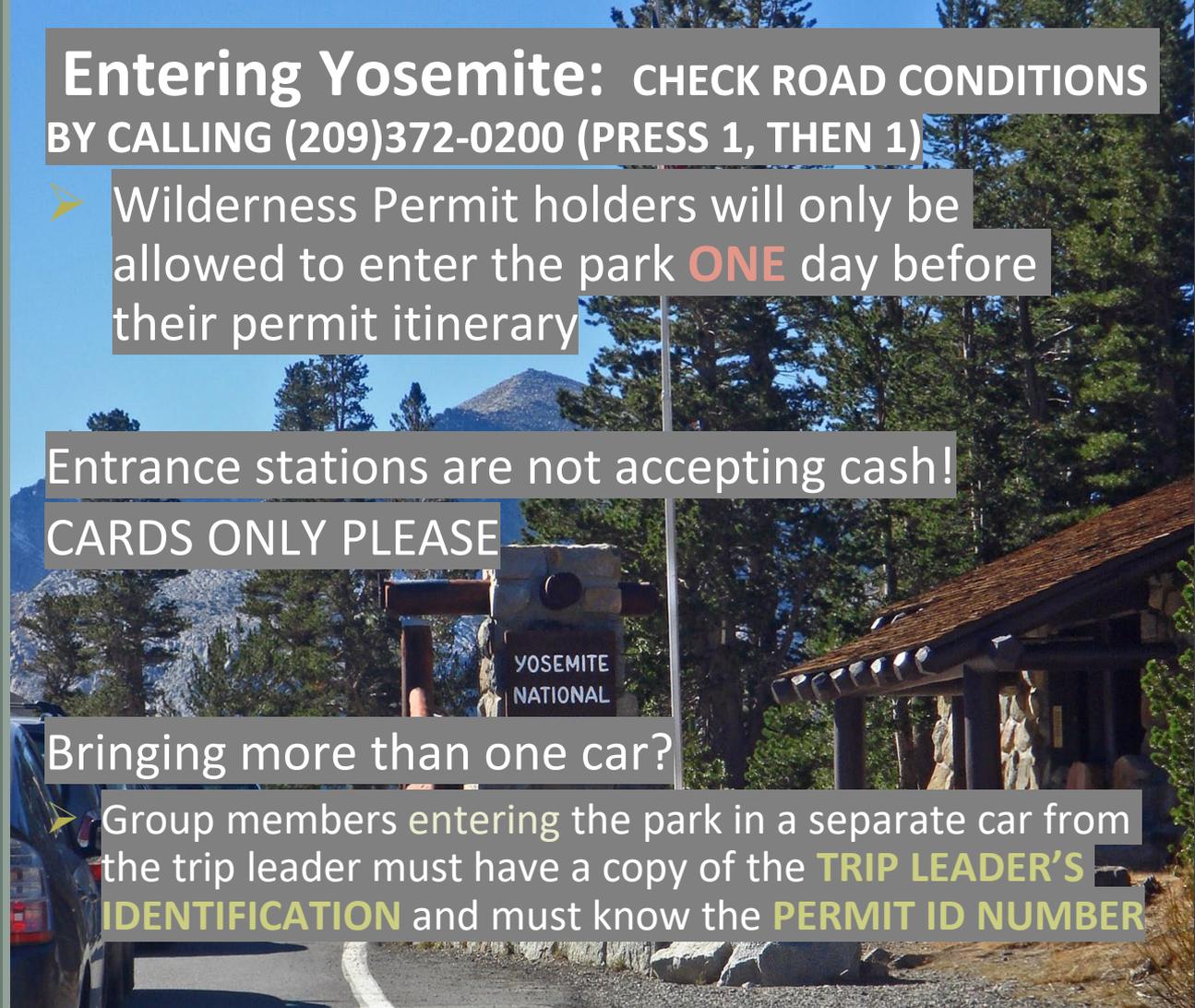
➤ Wilderness Permit holders will only be allowed to enter the park **ONE** day before their permit itinerary

Entrance stations are not accepting cash!

**CARDS ONLY PLEASE**

Bringing more than one car?

➤ Group members entering the park in a separate car from the trip leader must have a copy of the **TRIP LEADER'S IDENTIFICATION** and must know the **PERMIT ID NUMBER**



# COVID-19 Related Information



## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

Shuttles throughout the park will **NOT** be running!  
This includes all local shuttles as well as the Glacier  
Point bus

YARTS will have limited service

- Check availability at [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com)

Eastern Sierra Transit Authority has limited service

- Check availability at [etransit.com](http://etransit.com)

**Travel logistics are difficult to arrange right now! Don't count on hitchhiking or trail angels, we encourage you to plan ahead!**

# Continued COVID-19 Related Information

The **Mist Trail**, from the JMT junction near the Vernal Fall footbridge to the top of Vernal Falls, is **CLOSED** Monday – Friday, 7am-4pm, through 11/21/2020. On Weekends and evenings (safety permitting), it is uphill only.

- This section is always closed for downhill traffic. Hikers may use the Clark Point cutoff to the John Muir trail



Many trails and overlooks are open for visitors to enjoy. If trails are crowded please consider using an alternative trail.



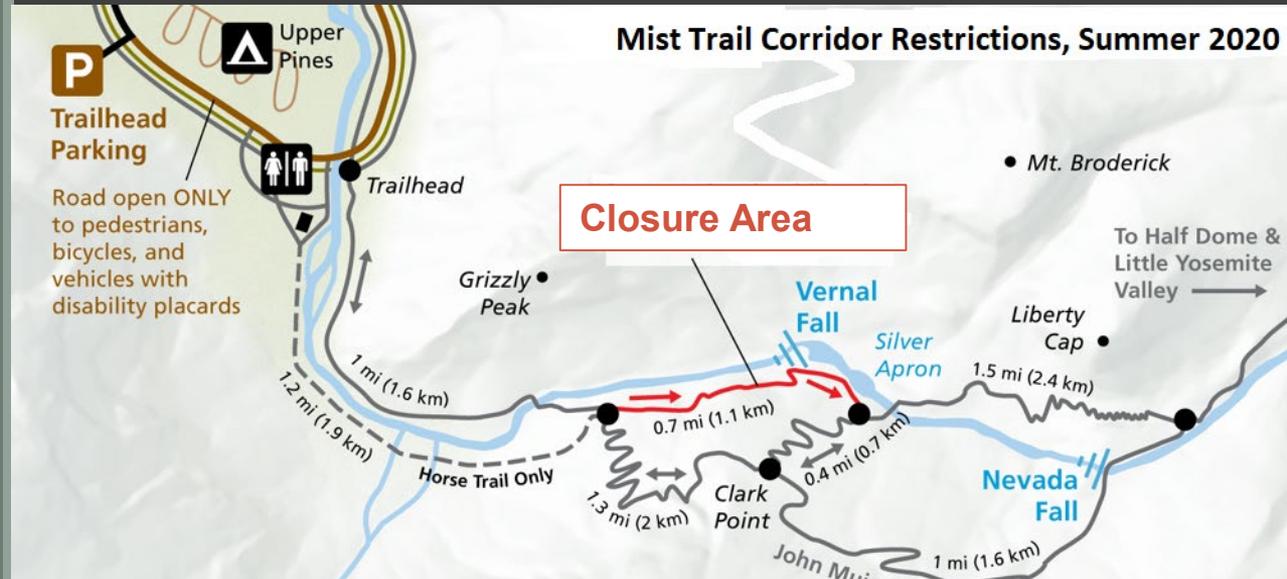
Please park only in designated areas.



Please take home everything you brought with you today.



Park rangers are on duty for visitor assistance and protection.



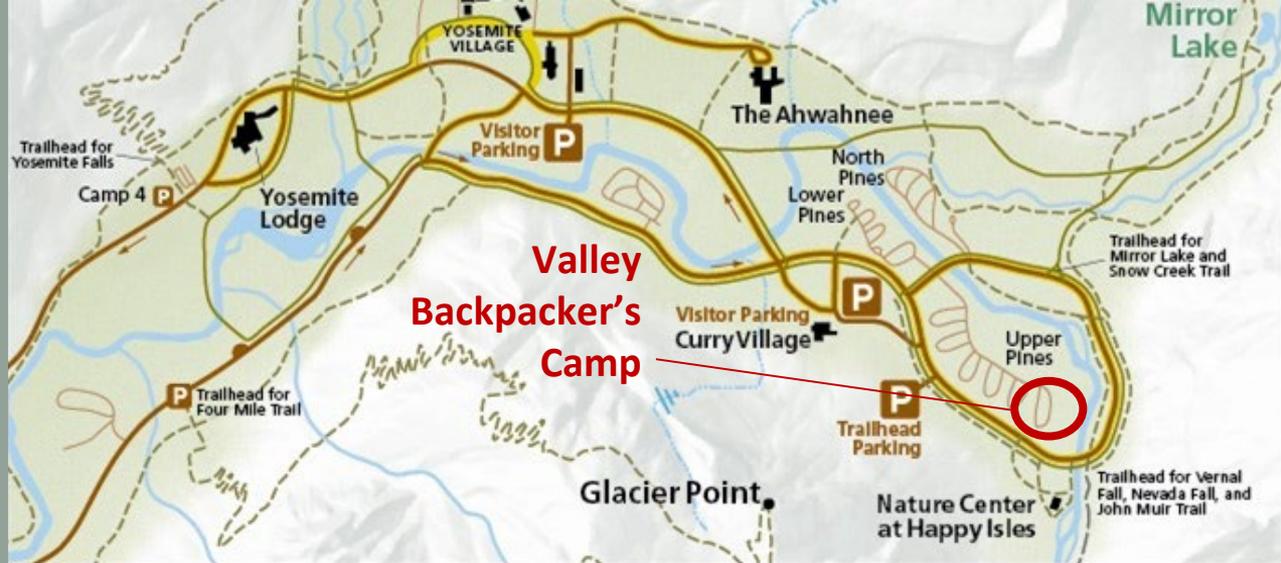
You can stay the **NIGHT BEFORE** you enter the backcountry and/or the **NIGHT YOU EXIT** the backcountry at a **FRONTCOUNTRY BACKPACKERS CAMP**

For your health and safety, **AVOID THE BACKPACKERS CAMPS UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY**

Backpacker's campsites are available at:

- Yosemite Valley: Upper Pines Campground (last loop)
- Hetch Hetchy Backpacker's Campground
- Tuolumne Backpackers Camp is closed
- White Wolf Backpackers Camp is closed**

**THESE ARE WALK IN SITES! YOU CAN'T SLEEP IN YOUR CAR**



- A valid wilderness permit is required!**
  - self registration
  - \$6 per person per night
  - CASH ONLY**

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” –The Wilderness Act of 1964

**Ask not what wilderness can do for you, but  
what you can do for wilderness**

**These rules and regulations are designed to protect these resources!  
Please be respectful and take care of these places**

After you attend an online education talk and enter your code, your permit will be emailed to you!

TRIP LEADER MUST HAVE **THIS PERMIT** AND ID IN THEIR POSSESSION AND AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TRIP LEADER THAT ALL TRIP PARTICIPANTS KNOW AND OBEY ALL REGULATIONS WHILE IN THE WILDERNESS

Check that your **name**, **dates**, and **trailheads** are correct  
Check a **food storage** option, and **sign** your permit



U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Yosemite National Park  
Wilderness Use Permit  
2020

Issued to: **Yose Wild**  
1234 Florence Hutchings Way  
Yosemite, CA 95389

Entry Date: **6/10/2020** Exit Date: 6/13/2020  
Entry Trailhead: **White Wolf->Pate Valley**  
Exit Trailhead: **Glenn Summit**  
Includes Half Dome: No Number: 0  
Number in party: **2** Number of stock: 0  
Food Storage (Check One):

Own Canister  Bear Lockers (HSC/LVJ Only)  Rented Canister  
Rented Canister Numbers:

Permit ID: 12898  
Date Issued: 6/10/2020 3:04:56 PM  
CUA: No  
Remarks:

Bears are active in Pate Valley. The Tuolumne River is a water source for San Francisco. Follow Leave No Trace camping techniques to preserve water quality. Along the Tuolumne Watershed, ensure all washing and waste is 300' from water. Please follow Leave No Trace outdoor ethics and help protect Yosemite Wilderness.

### Rules and Regulations

#### General Regulations

- A Wilderness Use Permit is required for all overnight wilderness use and must be in your possession and available and presented upon request to an authorized person while in the Wilderness.
- This permit is valid only for the trip leader, trailheads, dates and number of people specified on the permit.
- Group size is limited to 15 people or less, 8 people maximum for any cross country hiking more than 1/4 mile off any trail. Stock use is limited to 25 head.
- Pets, wheeled vehicles, and motorized equipment are prohibited in the wilderness. Weapons must comply with state regulations. Discharging firearms is prohibited.
- Short-cutting trails is prohibited. Stay on trails to reduce erosion and preserve vegetation. Do not build rock cairns or other trail markers.

#### Specific Area Camping Restrictions

- You must be four trail miles from Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point, Hetch Hetchy, Wawona, or one mile from any road.
- Camping is prohibited at Lukens Lake, the Lost Lake Basin, and the top of Half Dome as well as in the watersheds of the Dana Fork of the Tuolumne River, Parker Pass Creek, Gaylor Creek, and Budd Creek.
- No camping is permitted in the area between Happy Isles or Glacier Point and the junction of Sunrise Creek Trail, Half Dome Trail and Moraine Dome area with the exception of the Little Yosemite Valley Campground.
- Camping within a mile of the High Sierra Camps is restricted to the designated campgrounds.

#### Campsite Selection

- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.
- Camp at least 100 feet (30 meters/40 paces) from both any water source and trail.
- Camp on a durable surface, such as rock, sand, dirt, snow - never on vegetation or in meadows.
- Do not construct rock walls, new fire rings (or add rocks to an existing ring), bough beds, furniture, trenches, etc.

#### Water Quality and Sanitation

- All human waste must be buried in soil 4 to 6 inches deep and at least 100 feet from all water sources, trails and camp areas.
- Any used toilet paper or hygiene products must be packed out. You may not burn or bury any toilet paper.
- Do all washing at least 100 feet from water sources. Do not put any soap in water - even biodegradable soap pollutes. Scatter any strained dishwater.
- Pack it in, Pack it out: Pack out all trash

#### Campfires

- Due to Stage 2 Fire Restrictions
- The building, maintaining or attending of a wood fire, charcoal fire, or twig stove is prohibited within Yosemite National Park at all elevations.
- Portable stoves using pressurized gas, liquid fuel or propane are permitted as are alcohol stoves (with and without a shutoff valve) including alcohol tablet/cube stoves.
- Smoking is prohibited

#### Food Storage

- Proper food storage is mandatory. Allowed bear-resistant food canisters are required in all areas of Yosemite Wilderness.
- Place all food (regardless of packaging: sealed, freeze-dried, canned), trash, scented items and toiletries, including sunscreen, soap, toothpaste as well as medications, tobacco and alcohol in an allowed bear canister, pannier or bear box.
- Hanging, counter balancing or guarding food, trash or scented items is not permissible.

Print and bring a copy of this permit and a government issued photo identification card that matches the permit holder on your hike.

As trip leader, I agree to abide by all laws, rules and regulations which apply to this area. I will ensure that all trip participants do the same and I am responsible for the actions of my entire party.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Version: 20200804

Not Valid Until Signed: It is your responsibility to have this permit in possession during your stay in required permit areas. Entire party must start on the entry date and entry trail listed above

# Important Permit Information

- The permit only covers the person it was issued to and the group they are travelling with
- It is only valid for the itinerary as planned:

- Trip Leader
- Entry Date
- Entry Trailhead
- Maximum Group Size
- Half Dome (if applicable)

THIS INFORMATION IS  
SET IN STONE! IT CAN'T  
BE CHANGED!

**Issued to:** Yose Wild  
1234 Florence Hutchings Way  
Yosemite, CA 95389

**Entry Date:** 6/10/2020      **Exit Date:** 6/13/2020

**Entry Trailhead:** White Wolf->Pate Valley  
**Exit Trailhead:** Glen Aulin

**Includes Half Dome:** No      **Number:** 0

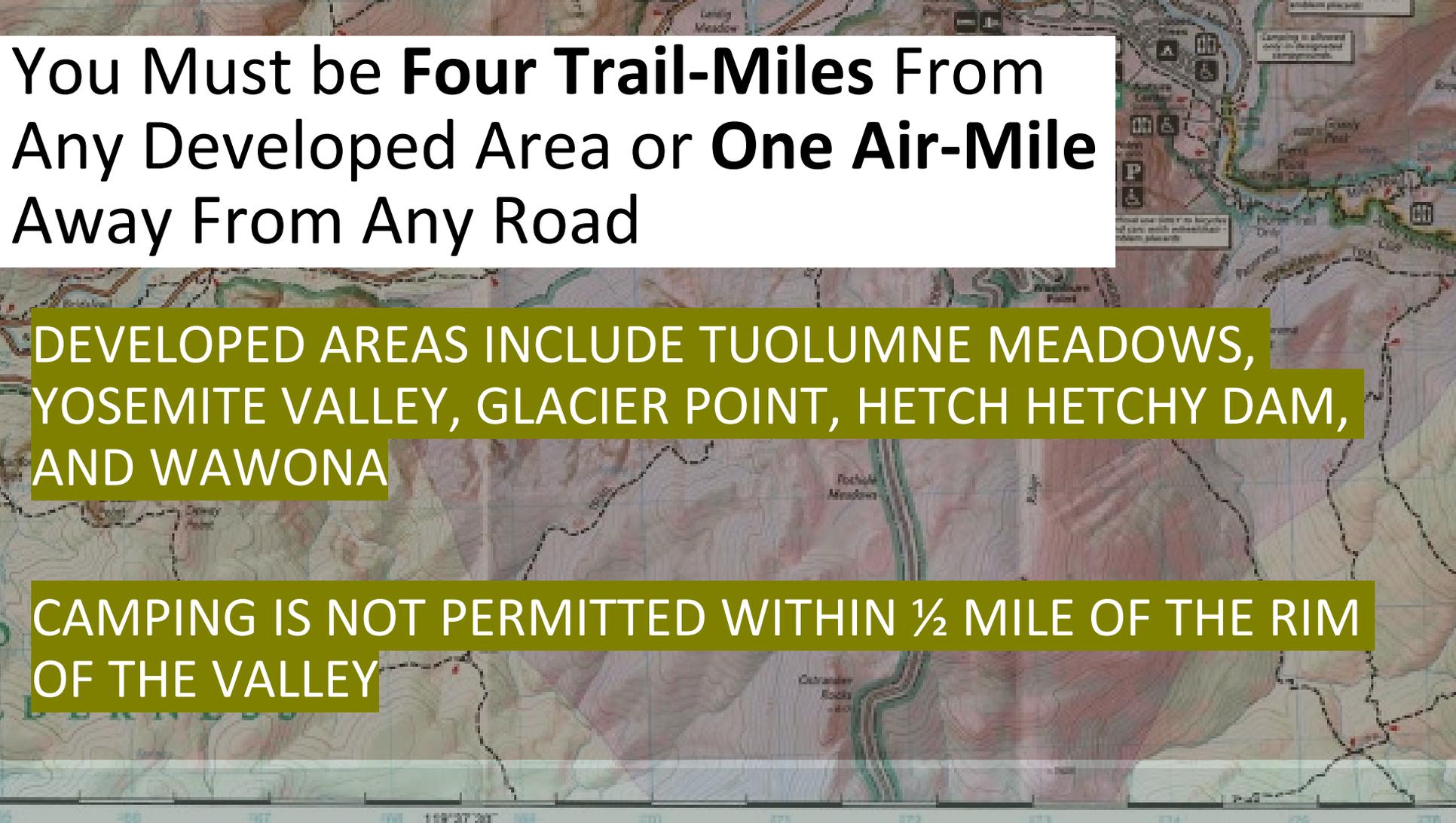
**Number in party:** 2      **Number of stock:** 0

**Food Storage (Check One):**

Own Canister       Bear Lockers (HSC/LYV Only)       Rented Canister

Rented Canister Numbers:

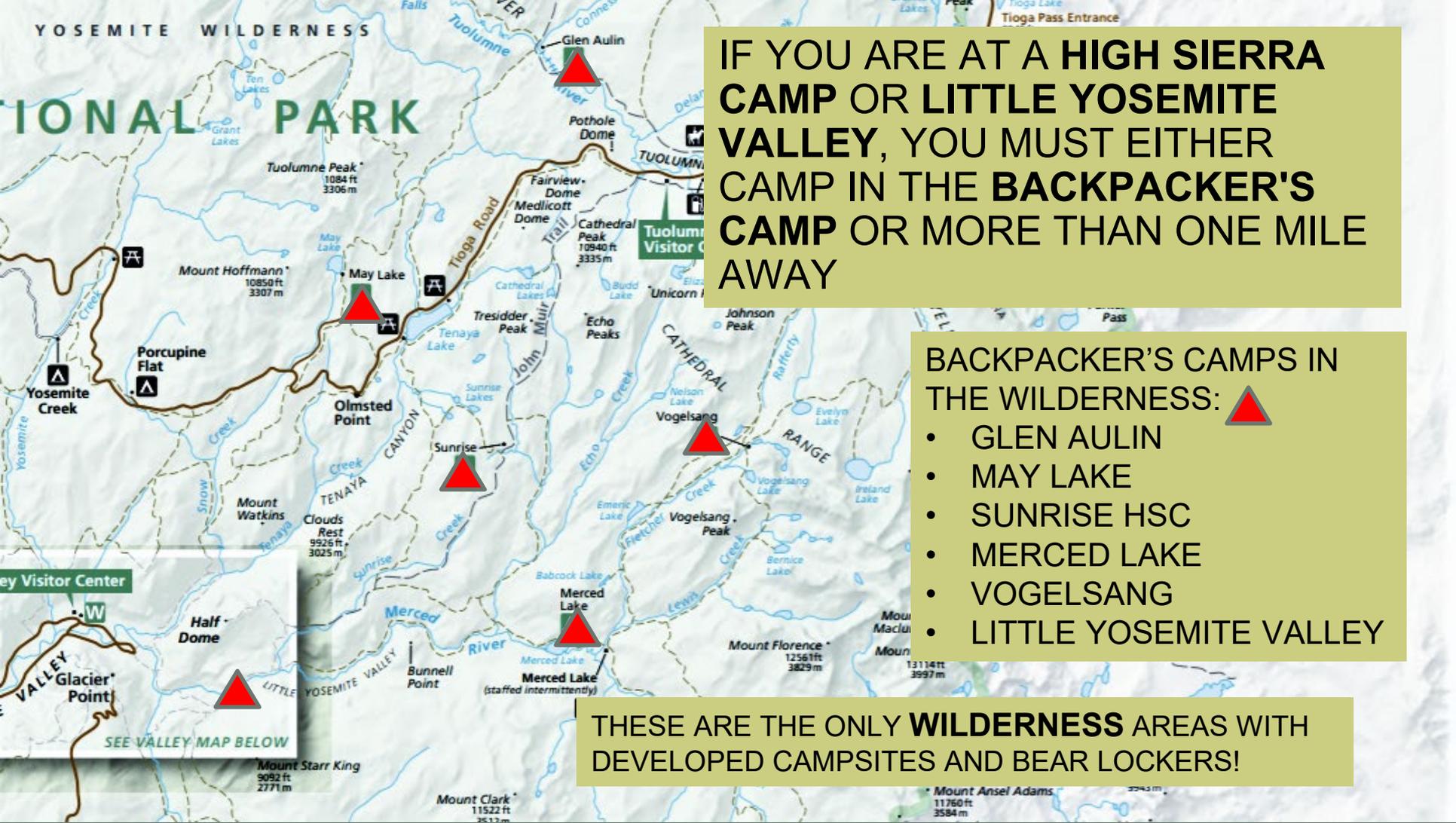
Why does it matter? This is how we manage our wilderness quotas!

A topographic map of Yosemite Valley, California, showing contour lines, trails, and various landmarks. The map is overlaid with three text boxes. The top box is white with black text. The middle and bottom boxes are olive green with white text. The map shows the valley floor, surrounding mountains, and the Tioga Pass road. Labels on the map include 'Lundy Meadow', 'Glacier Point', 'Hetch Hetchy Dam', and 'Wawona'.

You Must be **Four Trail-Miles** From  
Any Developed Area or **One Air-Mile**  
Away From Any Road

DEVELOPED AREAS INCLUDE TUOLUMNE MEADOWS,  
YOSEMITE VALLEY, GLACIER POINT, HETCH HETCHY DAM,  
AND WAWONA

CAMPING IS NOT PERMITTED WITHIN  $\frac{1}{2}$  MILE OF THE RIM  
OF THE VALLEY



IF YOU ARE AT A HIGH SIERRA CAMP OR LITTLE YOSEMITE VALLEY, YOU MUST EITHER CAMP IN THE BACKPACKER'S CAMP OR MORE THAN ONE MILE AWAY

- BACKPACKER'S CAMPS IN THE WILDERNESS: 
- GLEN AULIN
  - MAY LAKE
  - SUNRISE HSC
  - MERCED LAKE
  - VOGELSANG
  - LITTLE YOSEMITE VALLEY

THESE ARE THE ONLY WILDERNESS AREAS WITH DEVELOPED CAMPSITES AND BEAR LOCKERS!

# IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW WHERE YOU CAN AND CANNOT CAMP

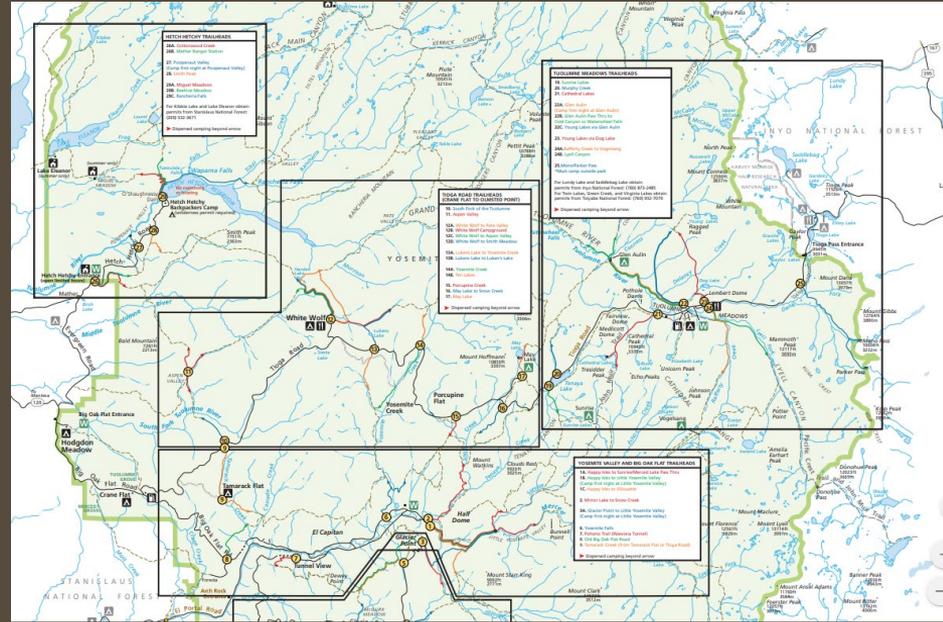
Bring a map with you in the wilderness and be sure you know how to use it!

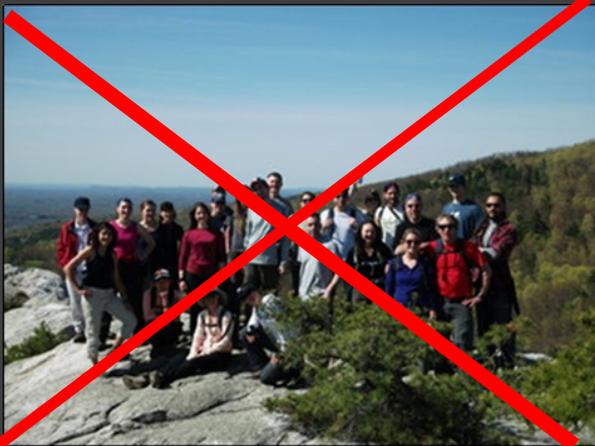
The "Yosemite Trailheads Map" is a great resource and shows you exactly how far along a trail you need to be before you are in the acceptable area for camping

The National Geographic Map indicates the no camping zones with a purple color

USGS and Trails Illustrated are useful maps too!

Rely on GPS and Mobile Mapping Apps as a backup resource





## Group Size is Limited to 15 People or Fewer

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- Groups are limited to 8 people if you will be more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile off-trail
- Even if you have two permits, if your total group size is more than 15 (or 8 off-trail), you can't camp or hike together!
- Why? To reduce the impact on the **wilderness character** of the backcountry, as well as limit the impact on other groups travelling from the same trailhead

# Where Should I Set Up My Camp?

You should be camping **AT LEAST 100FT** away from any water or trails

Durable surfaces that make great campsites:

- Sand
- Granite slabs
- Hard-packed dirt
- Pine needle duff
- Snow

Please avoid any vegetation, even if it looks dry or dead.

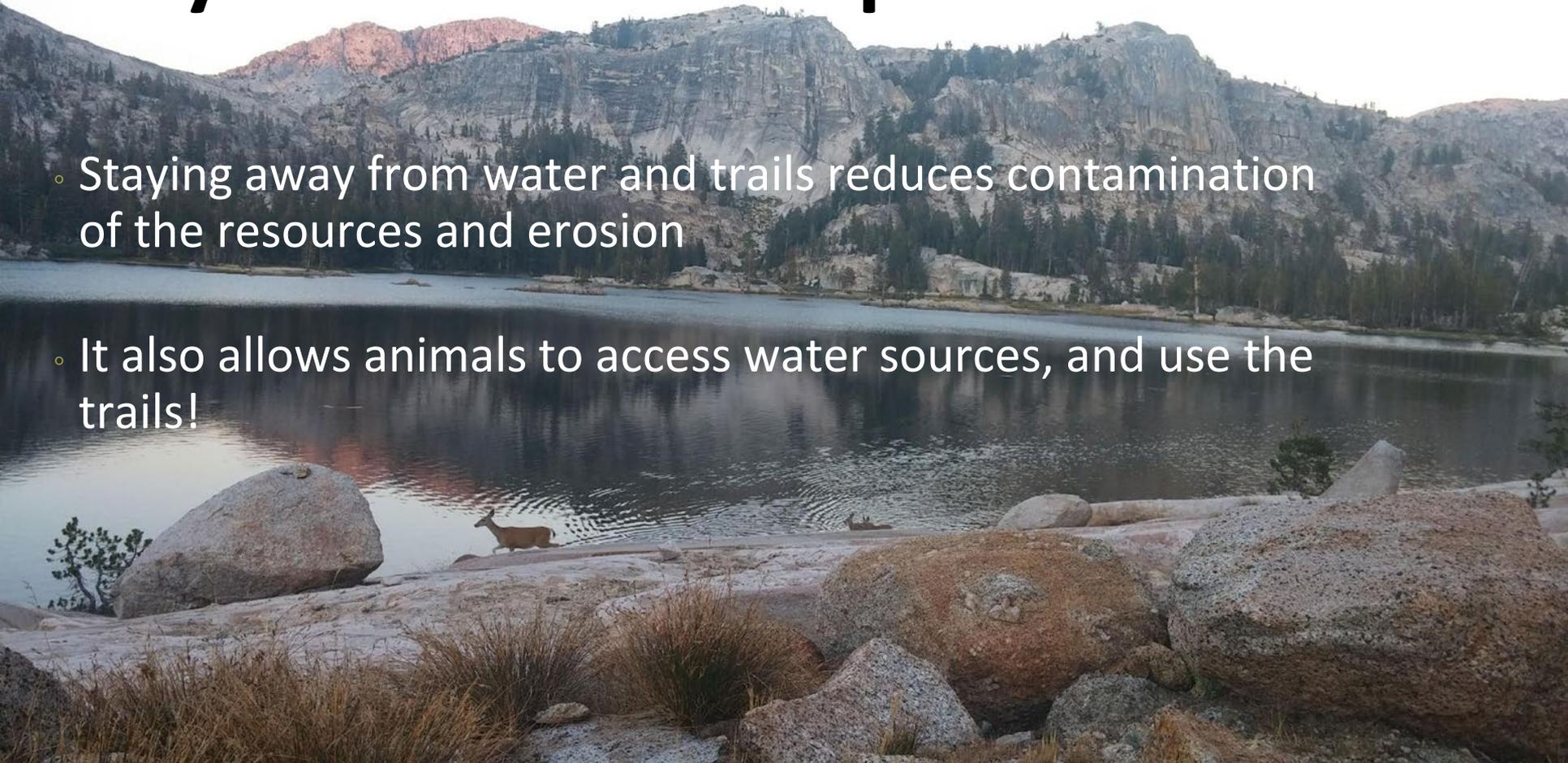
Hammocks? Protect the trees by placing sticks between your rope and the tree's bark



**100ft = 30 meters = 40 PACES**

# Why shouldn't I camp here?

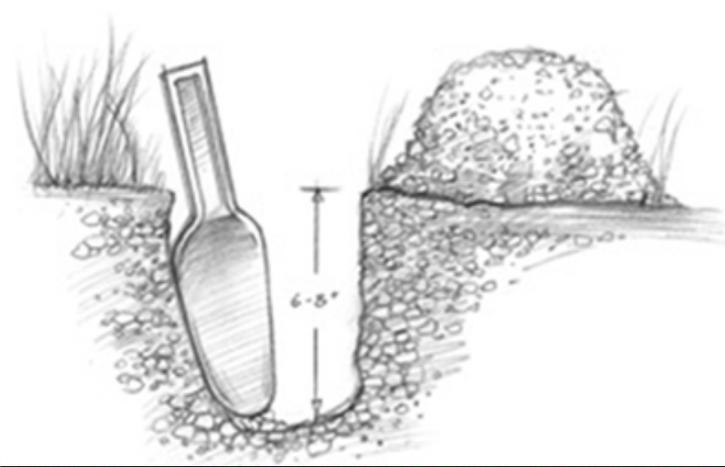
- Staying away from water and trails reduces contamination of the resources and erosion
- It also allows animals to access water sources, and use the trails!



# Human Waste Must be Buried At Least 100 ft From Water, Camp Areas, and Trails

- o Please bury your waste at least 6 – 8 inches deep, in dark organic soil
- o Use a stick or rock to dig if you didn't bring a trowel
- o Don't wait until it's an emergency, plan ahead!
- o Bring extra trash or ziploc bags! Make sure everyone in your group has their own TP bag
- o To help prevent contamination, you must pack out all your used toilet paper and hygiene products! **DON'T BURY OR BURN ANYTHING**

100 ft **==** 40 paces **==** 30 m



**SOME COOL RANGERS MADE A VIDEO TO SHOW YOU HOW TO DO IT RIGHT: [HOW TO POOP IN THE WOODS IN YOSEMITE](#)**

# Trash Must Be Packed Out!

No burning or burying trash or toilet paper

- Buried trash often gets dug up by animals and does not decompose (especially TP)
- Even things that are “organic”, are not natural to this environment (orange peels, apple cores, sunflower seeds, pistachio shells, etc)and do not decompose!

Do a camp sweep after every meal and before you leave - look for microtrash

Bring an extra bag along for your trash, and some extra ziplocks for your TP

Trash needs to be stored in your bear can!



# DON'T USE ANY PRODUCTS DIRECTLY IN THE WATER!

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- ALL washing needs to be done 100ft (40 paces) away from the water!
- Gray water should be cast out over soil and away from water sources
- Biodegradable soap doesn't biodegrade in water! It needs soil to break down
- Please rinse off before swimming
  - Bug spray, sunscreen, and other cosmetics contaminate our water sources too!



# NO WOOD FIRES!

## CA & Yosemite are in Stage 2 Fire Restrictions (CHECK PARK UPDATES AS THINGS CAN CHANGE QUICKLY)

- No wood fires or wood burning stoves are allowed
- No stick or twig stoves
- No smoking
- NO EXCEPTIONS! Even for cooking or staying warm

Stoves with an on/off valve, and stoves using gas, liquid, alcohol, or gel-based fuels **ARE** allowed

### WHY?

- Snowpack in the Sierras was only 78% this past winter, which makes this a very dry year
- Emergency systems cannot handle extra fire stress during COVID-19 pandemic response



# GOOD CAMPSITES ARE ALWAYS FOUND, NEVER BUILT

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- No construction projects please!
- Please refrain from:
  - Making duff beds, digging trenches, or leveling the ground
  - Building camp furniture (i.e. benches, tables, wind breaks)
  - Stacking cairns/ducks
  - Making new fire rings



Help prevent trails from widening and rutting



Concentrate impact on one are of the ground by staying on trail



This might mean your feet get wet!

**Where a trail exists, stay on it!**  
Don't cut switchbacks or create parallel paths  
If going off-trail, spread out and don't create an impact

# No Pets in Yosemite Wilderness

- They could potentially harm native animal populations
- They could potentially BE harmed by native animal populations
- They could get hurt and need to be rescued - don't put that extra stress on SAR!
- They create disturbances to other hikers
- Their waste can pollute the natural resources and carry diseases
- **THEY SMELL LIKE NATURAL PREDATORS (coyotes, bobcats), AND JUST THEIR SCENT CAN DISRUPT BREEDING HABITS OF NATIVE ANIMALS!**



# PROPERLY STORE YOUR FOOD!

Use of hard sided bear cans or lockers is **REQUIRED** at all times

Hanging food, "bear proof" bags, and guarding food is illegal

If you're bringing your own bear can, make sure it is one that is approved: **ALLOWED FOOD STORAGE CONTAINERS**

When you are not actively using your bear canister, it must be completely latched/locked



# Don't Leave Your Food Unattended!

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- Keep your food within arm's reach when not in your locked bear can
- Treat your bear can or bear locker like your refrigerator: keep it closed when not in use!
- Bear spray or mace is not allowed! YELL to scare a bear away.
- Store your bear can where you can see it and hear it! 10 - 20 steps away, on flat ground where it won't roll. Don't wedge it!
- If you have an encounter with a bear, please call our Yosemite Bear Hotline – 209 372 0322



# What Goes in a Bear Can?



- Good rule of thumb: Anything that goes in or on your body, should go in the bear canister
- Not just food, sweets, or particularly strong-smelling items
- Even canned food, medicine, things in your first aid kit, sunscreen, bug spray, contact solution, and hand sanitizer!
- Always err on the side of caution, if you aren't sure if it should go in the bear canister, just put it in



# **CAN YOU SMELL AS WELL AS A BEAR??**

A BLACK BEAR'S SENSE OF SMELL IS 100 TIMES GREATER THAN OURS! IT'S 7 TIMES GREATER THAN A BLOODHOUND'S! BEAR CANS ARE NOT SMELL-PROOF, BUT BEARS CAN'T ACCESS WHAT'S INSIDE THEM WHEN USED PROPERLY. WE ONLY HAVE BLACK BEARS IN YOSEMITE (NO GRIZZLIES IN CALIFORNIA), AND THEY ARE NATURALLY AFRAID OF HUMANS. THEY ONLY BECOME AGGRESSIVE ONCE THEY ARE FOOD CONDITIONED.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR BELONGINGS, AND (MOST IMPORTANTLY) YOSEMITE'S WILDLIFE, IS TO STORE YOUR FOOD PROPERLY.**

# Don't Leave Food in Your Car!

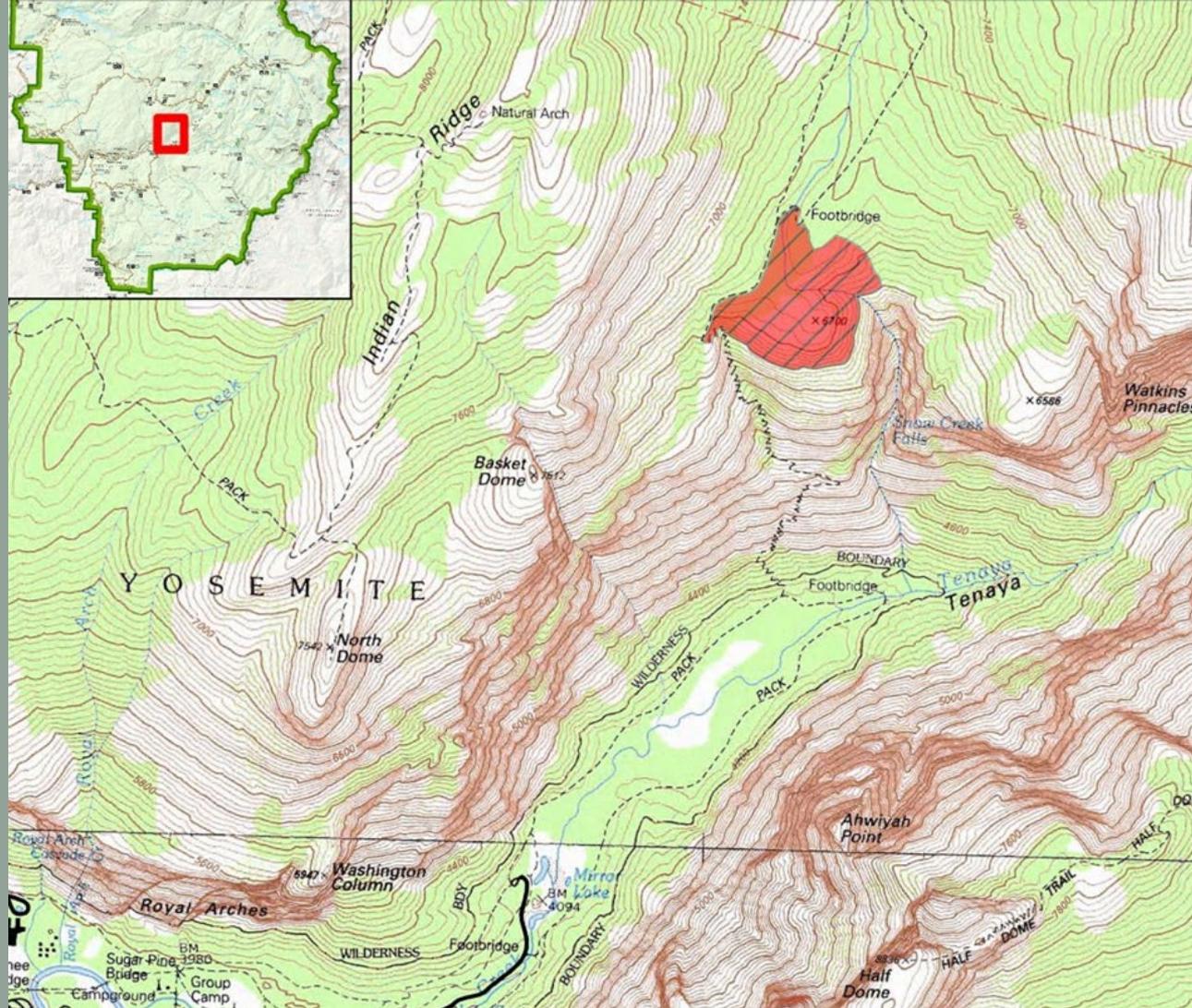
The same things that go in your bear can in the wilderness, also need to be taken out of your vehicle and stored in the bear lockers at the trailhead



# Additional Restrictions

Snow Creek Closure: You may not camp within the closure indicated on the map at right!

- Ensure that you are uphill from and north of the footbridge over Snow Creek
- Why? Bears in this area are extra clever and will steal your bear can! Protect yourself, protect your food, and most importantly, protect the bears by not camping here.



# Additional Restrictions

You may NOT leave packs unattended in the Half Dome corridor – even if they have no scented items in them!

Don't want to bring all your gear up the cables? Leave camp set up, and leave scented items stored separately in your bear can



# Additional Restrictions

## Tuolumne River Water Quality:

- In the Tuolumne River watershed, all washing and waste disposal should take place at least 300 ft (120 paces) from water





# JMT Resources

[John Muir Trail - Minimum Impact Wilderness Regulations](#)

[PCT Association JMT Regulations Page](#)

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW  
AND FOLLOW ALL REGULATIONS AND  
RESTRICTIONS IN THE AREAS YOU ARE  
PASSING THROUGH!**

You must pack out all human waste between Guitar Lake and Whitney Portal – **BRING YOUR OWN W.A.G. BAG!** They are not supplied this year!

No camping within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the outlets of Thousand Island or Garnet Lakes

Camping prohibited within 300 feet of Shadow Lake and between Shadow Creek and the JMT

## Getting Your Permit: You will receive a **4-DIGIT CODE** after attending an online education session

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- Submit the code to the Microsoft Form Link you were emailed
- *Allow for at least 48 hours* to receive an email from us containing:
  - Permit
  - Parking Pass
  - Regulations for areas outside of Yosemite (if applicable)
- Please read your permit carefully – there is even more info there!
- Bring your printed permit and parking pass with you when you enter the park and pay entrance fee (credit cards only)
- Permits are not to be altered by you or shared with any other groups, but if you need to make changes, call our wilderness public information line **BEFORE** you enter your code.
- JMT hikers – additional information is listed on your permit, please read thoroughly
- It is your responsibility to check our website for trail closures and park updates