



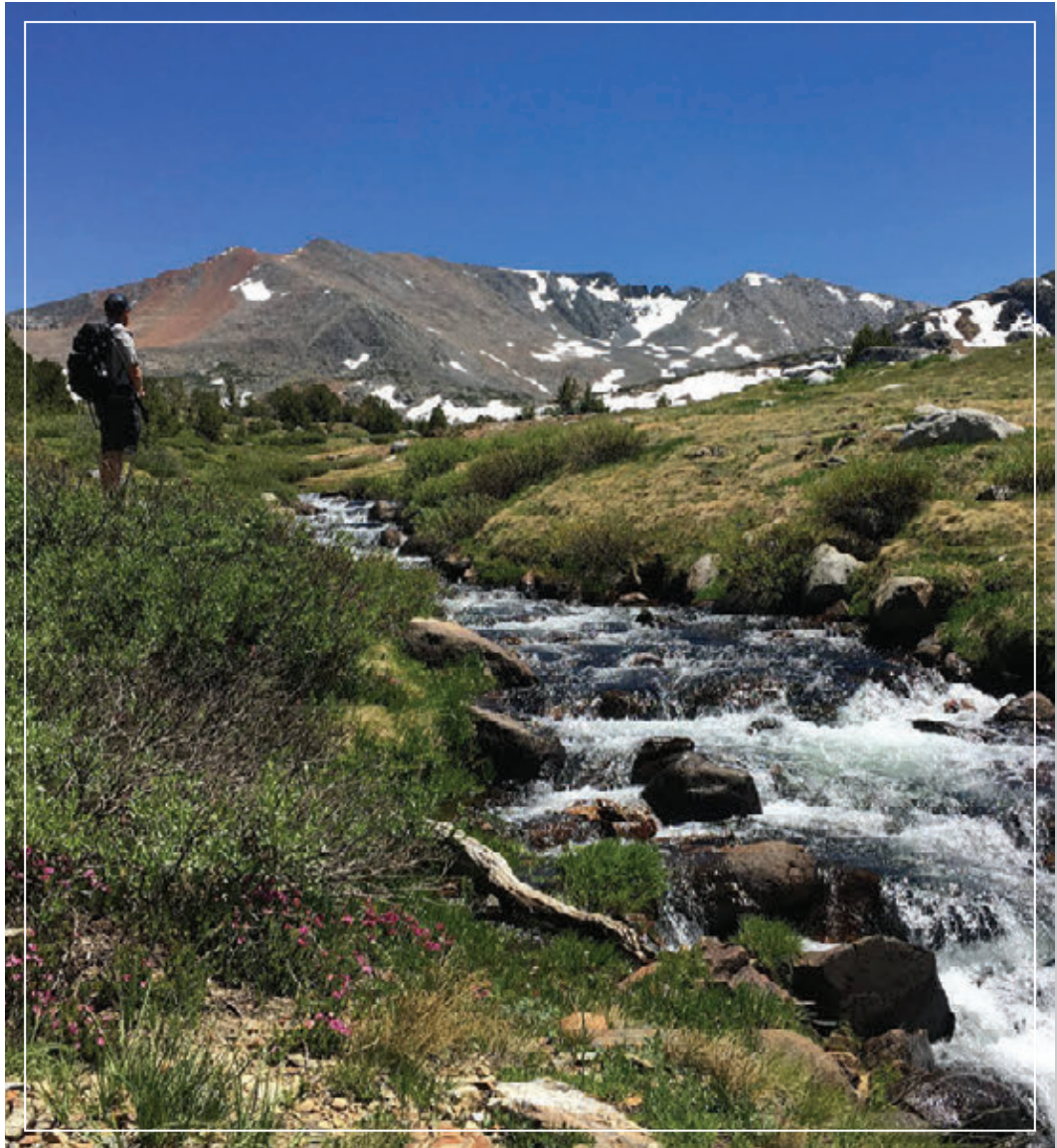
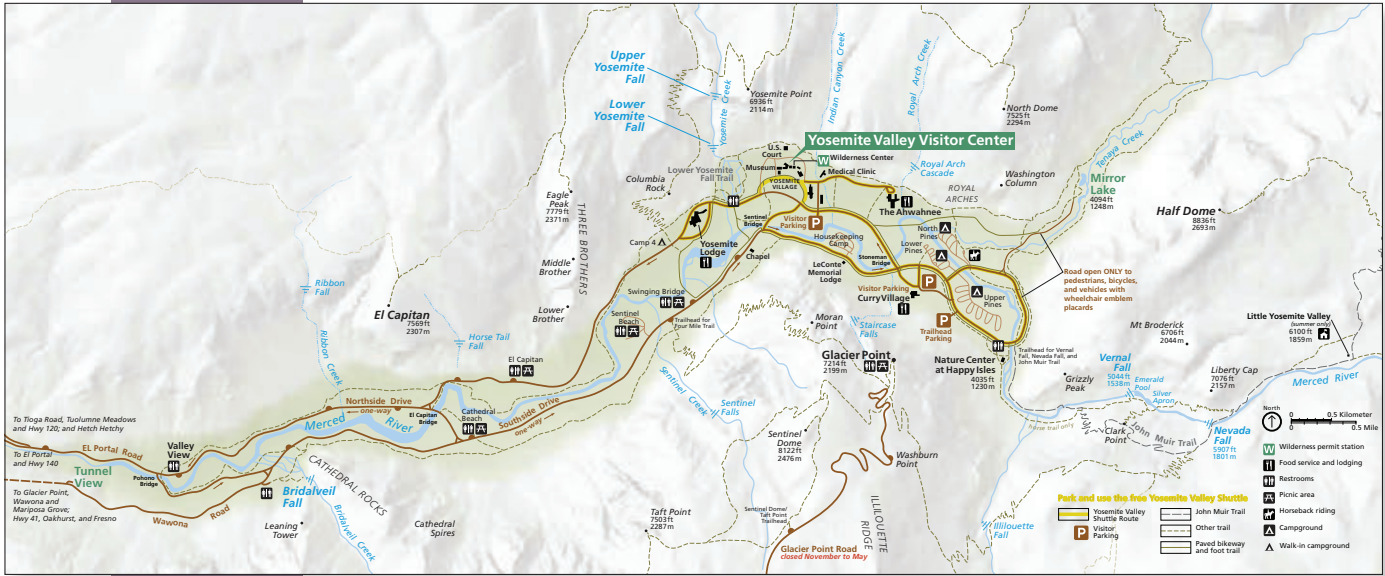
Foundation Document

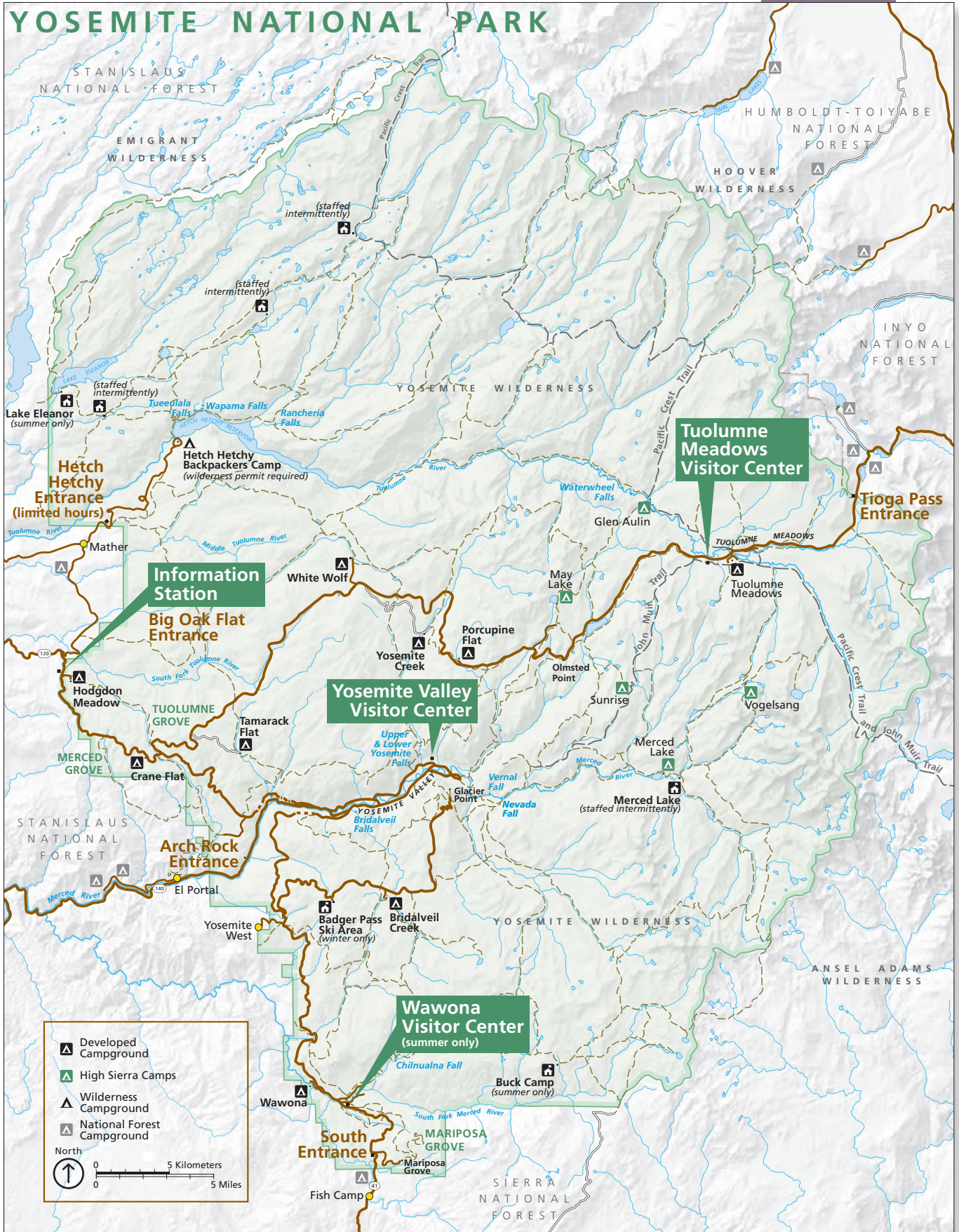
Yosemite National Park

California

December 2016



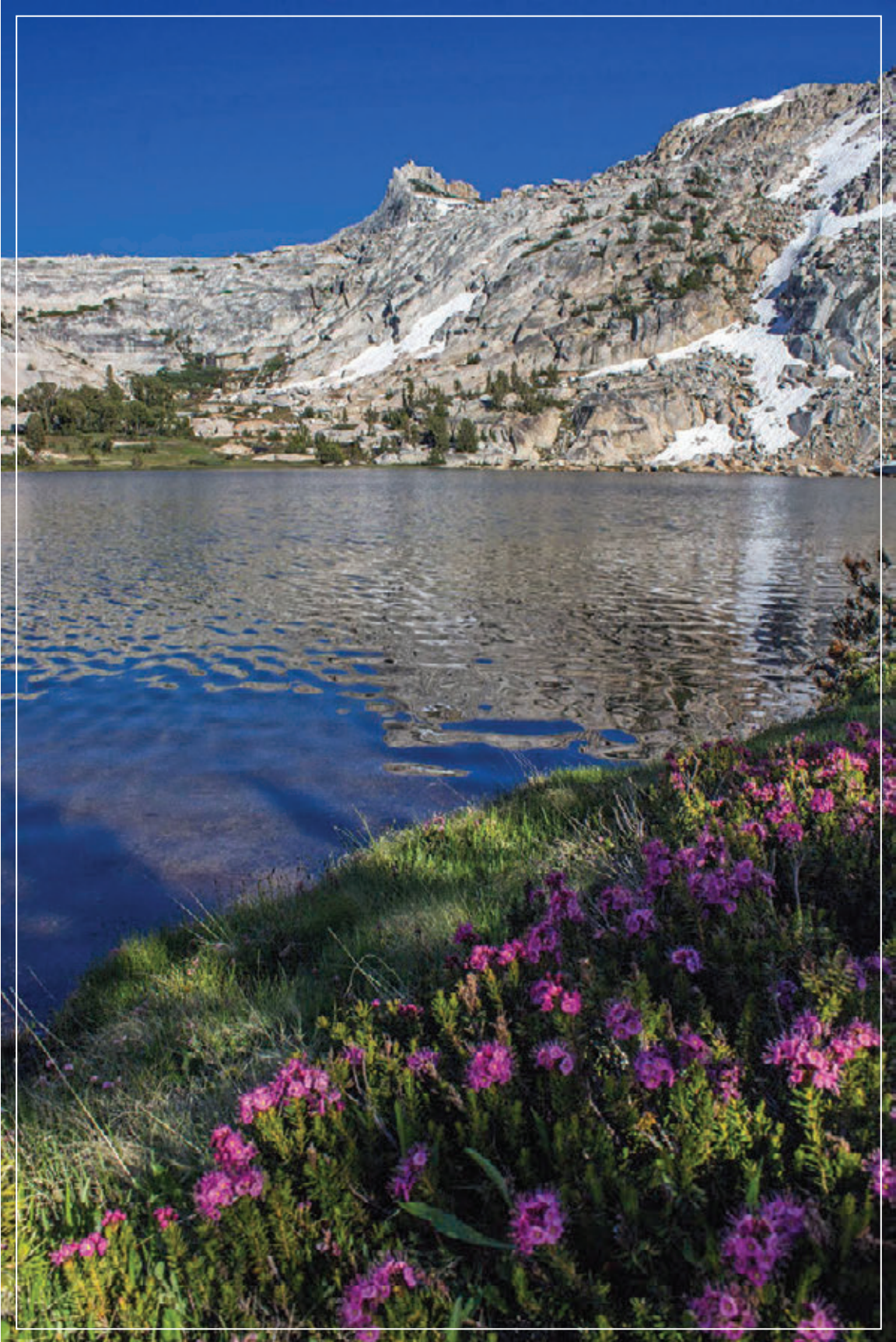






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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Yosemite National Park can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



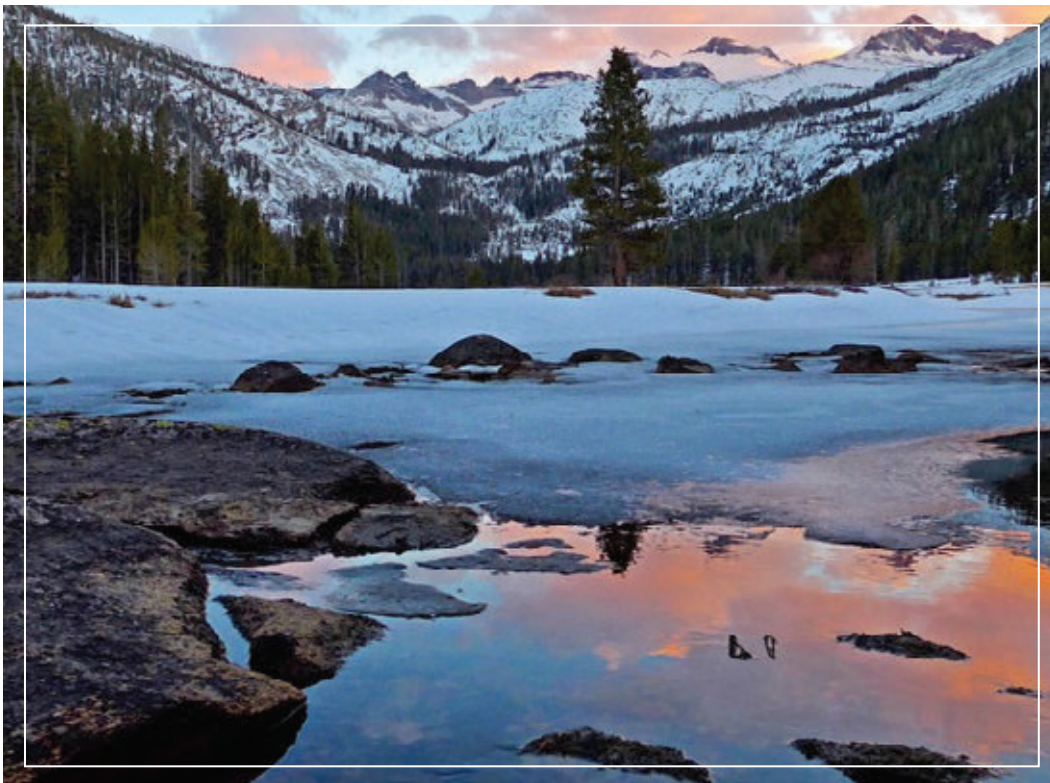
Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Park

Through a rich history of conservation, the spectacular natural and cultural features of Yosemite National Park have been protected over time. The conservation ethics and policies rooted at Yosemite National Park were central to the development of the national park idea. First, Galen Clark and others lobbied to protect Yosemite Valley from development, ultimately leading to President Abraham Lincoln's signing the Yosemite Grant in 1864. The Yosemite Grant granted the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove of Big Trees to the State of California stipulating that these lands "be held for public use, resort, and recreation. . . inalienable for all time." Later, John Muir led a successful movement to establish a larger national park encompassing not just Yosemite Valley, but surrounding mountains and forests as well—paving the way for the United States national park system. As a result of these efforts, Congress designated Yosemite National Park in 1890. This act, however, excluded Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, leaving them under state jurisdiction. The legislature of California receded Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees to the United States in 1905. Congress accepted the state grant in 1906 and added these lands to Yosemite National Park.

Yosemite National Park covers an area of 747,956 acres along the central western slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in east-central California. Designated a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site in 1984, Yosemite is internationally recognized for its spectacular granite cliffs, waterfalls, clear streams, giant sequoia groves, and biological diversity. More than 94% of the park is designated wilderness and 135 miles of the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers have been designated as part of the national wild and scenic rivers system.





Yosemite contains one of the largest and least fragmented habitat blocks in the Sierra Nevada, and the park supports a diversity of plants and animals. The park’s almost 11,000 feet of vertical gradient support five major vegetation zones: chaparral/oak woodland, lower montane forest, upper montane forest, subalpine zone, and alpine. Of California’s 7,000 plant species, more than 1,400 species exist within Yosemite. There is suitable habitat for more than 160 rare plants in the park, with rare local geologic formations and unique soils characterizing the restricted range of many of these plants.

The geology of the Yosemite area is characterized by granitic rocks and remnants of older rock. About 10 million years ago, the Sierra Nevada was uplifted and then tilted to form its relatively gentle western slopes and the more dramatic eastern slopes. The uplift increased the steepness of stream and river beds, resulting in formation of deep, narrow canyons. About 1 million years ago, snow and ice accumulated, forming glaciers at the high elevations that moved down the river valleys. Ice thickness in Yosemite Valley may have reached 4,000 feet during the early glacial episode. The downslope movement of the ice masses cut and sculpted the U-shaped valley that attracts so many visitors to its scenic vistas today.

Within Yosemite’s history, various populations thrived and left their mark. The Ahwahneechee lived here for generations, followed by the arrival of Europeans in the mid-1800s. The rugged terrain challenged many early European travelers, with just a few—only 650 from the mid-1850s to mid-1860s—making the journey to Yosemite Valley by horseback or stage. Many of these early white settlers hosted writers, artists, and photographers who spread the fame of “the Incomparable Valley” throughout the world. By 1907, construction of the Yosemite Valley Railroad from Merced to El Portal eased the journey, thereby increasing visitation.

Today, more than 4 million people enter the park’s gates each year to explore Yosemite: most spend the majority of their time in the seven square miles of Yosemite Valley. Popular visitor activities include hiking and backpacking, camping, fishing, biking, horseback riding, picnicking, rock climbing, auto touring, wildlife watching, and winter sports. In 2015, visitors to the park spent more than \$449.1 million in communities surrounding the park, which helps support more than 6,000 jobs in the local area.

Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Yosemite National Park was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development (see appendix A for enabling legislation and legislative acts). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

The purpose of YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK is to preserve the dynamic natural setting within the park's boundaries, including soaring granite domes, dramatic cliffs, towering waterfalls, ancient sequoia groves, expansive wilderness terrain, and free-flowing wild and scenic rivers; to celebrate the cultural and historic traditions of the Central Sierra Nevada, including thousands of years of human history; to perpetuate the American conservation ethic; and to provide opportunities for scientific exploration, recreation, education, and inspiration for generations to come.¹

1. This purpose statement is a contemporary version of the purpose statement as excerpted from the park's general management plan (1980), which remains the guiding purpose statement as used for decision-making documents. This contemporary version is directly aligned with the 1980 version, and does not supersede or amend the 1980 version.



Park Significance

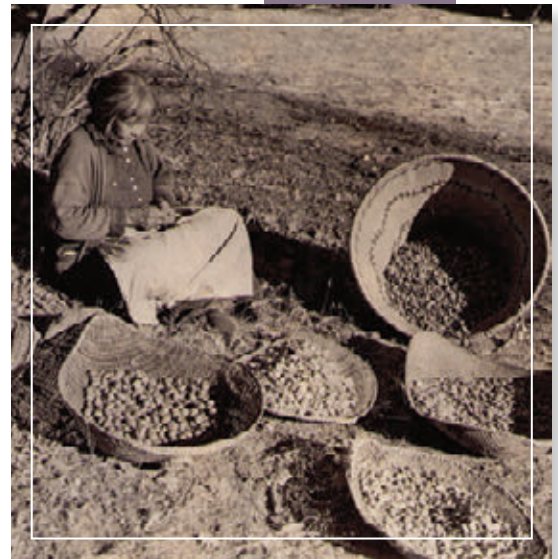
Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Yosemite National Park, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The resources of Yosemite National Park are significant for the following reasons:

1. The park is noted for its outstanding scenery—including peaks, canyons, cliffs, domes, rivers, lakes, immense waterfalls, lush green meadows, wildlife, and forests.
2. Yosemite National Park contains a unique assemblage of massive granite domes and glacial features, which resulted from a rich geologic history. Several of the largest exposed granite monoliths on earth are in Yosemite Valley.
3. In connection with its neighboring national parks and forests, Yosemite National Park is at the heart of the second largest contiguous area of designated wilderness in the lower 48 states, protecting nearly 2.5 million acres.
4. Within the park boundary, Yosemite possesses extensive blocks of intact old growth forests, including three groves of giant sequoia trees—the first to be protected by law—as well as some of the largest known specimens of several tree species.
5. Yosemite National Park contains extensive reaches of two designated wild and scenic rivers—the Tuolumne and the Merced—which are preserved within the park. In addition to their free-flowing condition and exceptionally high water quality, both rivers have a suite of outstandingly remarkable values that are of geological, cultural, scenic, and recreational importance.
6. Yosemite National Park includes the headwaters of two of California's major watersheds, which provide clean drinking water to millions of people in the San Francisco Bay Area, and a valuable source of water to the robust agricultural industry in California's Central Valley. The forests and meadows of these watersheds enhance ecological resilience to help offset the impacts of climate change.
7. Alpine and sub-alpine lakes and meadows abound in Yosemite National Park, including Tuolumne Meadows—one of the most accessible and largest intact subalpine meadow complexes in the Sierra Nevada.



8. Yosemite National Park is a vital living research laboratory, a sanctuary, and an example of a relatively pristine natural environment. This is of special significance in California, a state with a rapidly growing population of more than 35 million people.
9. The vast landscape of Yosemite National Park provides refuge for the survival and recovery of many rare, endemic, and threatened or endangered species. The park is home to an exceptional diversity of living things, fostered by a broad elevation range and the sequence of climatic zones contained within its boundaries.
10. Land preserved within Yosemite National Park is part of the ancestral homeland of several contemporary American Indian tribes and groups. Oral tradition and archeological evidence suggest humans have been living continuously in the Yosemite region for at least 8,000 years.
11. Yosemite National Park has the distinction of being the first scenic natural area to be set aside by the United States for public benefit and appreciation of landscape beauty. Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were the 1864 birthplace of the national park idea, which has spread throughout the world.
12. Yosemite National Park has international recognition for its past and present role as a leader in park preservation, management, and partnerships. Important elements include the role of the U.S. Army (including Buffalo Soldiers), the first female ranger (1917), the formal institution of interpretation (1920), participation in the evolution of 150 years of public-use management, the first wildlife management program in the National Park Service as inspired by George Wright (late 1920s), and the establishment of the first nonprofit stewardship partners in the National Park Service (1923).
13. Yosemite National Park was the home of the first NPS landscape design office providing design services for all parks in the West. As such, the park represents the birthplace of the National Park Service Rustic Style of architecture and numerous important historic structures. Within the park, 5 structures are national historic landmarks, and more than 600 are considered eligible for listing or are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including 7 historic and 12 prehistoric archeological districts.
14. The decision-making and stewardship actions taken at Yosemite National Park inspire an international audience and influence stakeholders, policy makers, and communities worldwide. The park has a distinction as a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site, which demonstrates its outstanding universal value.
15. Within Yosemite National Park both the Yosemite Valley and Camp 4 have played a significant role in the history of big wall climbing and the development of climbing techniques and equipment, which have since gained worldwide acceptance.



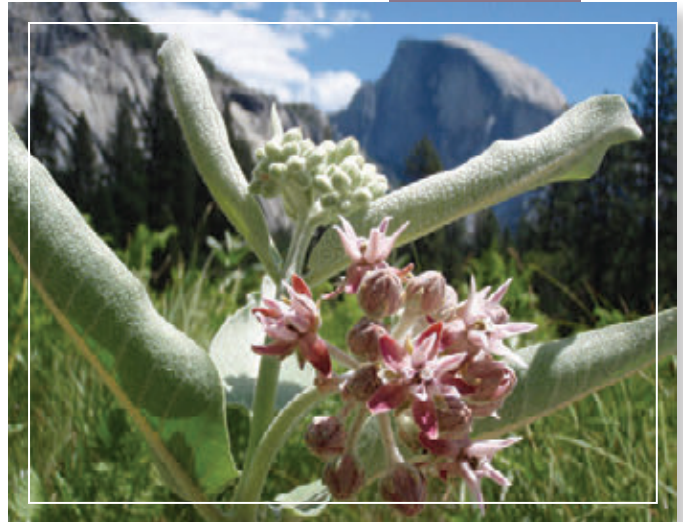
Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Yosemite National Park.

- **Unique Geologic Landscapes.** Yosemite is a glaciated landscape, and the scenery that resulted from the interaction of the glaciers and the underlying granitic rocks was the basis for its preservation as a national park. Iconic landmarks such as Yosemite Valley, Hetch Hetchy, Yosemite Falls, Vernal and Nevada Falls, Bridalveil Falls, Half Dome, El Capitan, the Clark Range, and the Cathedral Range are known throughout the world by the photographs and paintings of countless artists, both amateur and professional. Landforms resulting from glaciation include U-shaped valleys, jagged peaks, rounded domes, waterfalls, lakes, moraines, and granite spires. Glacially polished granite is further evidence of glaciation, and is common in Yosemite National Park.
- **Dramatic and Inspirational Scenery.** The spectacular scenic features of Yosemite, where the high concentration of spectacular natural wonders meet to create a stunning experience, inspired a spiritual connection to the land for American Indians, settlers, and newcomers, and continue to inspire modern visitors to the park. Panoramic views are available from a number of high-elevation vistas and meadows. As day turns to night, visitors are treated to the changing natural patterns and intensity of light, alpenglow, and dark skies filled with stars. The clean, clear air of the park contributes to the quality of the scenic vistas.
- **Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Designations.** More than 94% of Yosemite is designated as Yosemite Wilderness, contributing to one of the largest contiguous areas of protected wilderness in the lower 48 states. Additionally, 135 miles of the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers are designated as part of the national wild and scenic river system. This striking landscape strongly exemplifies the wilderness character and outstandingly remarkable values of these designations. Natural processes continue largely unimpeded and the primitive landscape provides a haven for flora and fauna. Visitors can experience quiet, solitude, and unique wilderness- or river-based recreation.
- **Abundance and Quality of Water Resources.** Water is a pervasive resource at Yosemite National Park. In addition to its designated wild and scenic rivers, the park also protects hundreds of other streams and rivers, lakes, ponds, wet meadows, and waterfalls. The abundance and quality of these water resources are vital for supporting the integrity of the natural resources at the park, telling the story of people's use of the land, providing many of the park's recreational opportunities, and supplying a critical source of water for the state of California.
- **Giant Sequoias.** Yosemite's giant sequoias were a fundamental inspiration and driving force behind the establishment of the park and the larger concept of setting aside land for public protection and conservation. These three small groves, which contain some of the largest living things on earth, are ancient relics of what was once a large expansive range of giant sequoia forests that dominated the landscape of the Sierra Nevada.



- **Ecological Diversity.** Yosemite's almost 11,000 feet of vertical gradient provide for a unique assemblage of plant and animal species. These resources include intact old growth forest, alpine and subalpine and montane meadows, as well as a vast array of vegetation, including almost 1,500 vascular plant species. The pristine condition of the habitat found across this ecological gradient helps support more than 400 species of vertebrates, including some of the rarest species in California. It is also a core piece in a much larger conservation landscape that protects the movement of species across the Sierra Nevada and encourages natural processes, including fire.
- **Enduring Human Connections.** For thousands of years, humans have changed, and have been changed by, this place we now call Yosemite. The archeological resources, ethnographic resources, hundreds of historic structures (including many listed in the national register or designated as a national historic landmark), cultural landscapes, and more than 4 million items in the park's museum collection help tell the story of Yosemite's past. The millions of people who have found a personal connection to Yosemite, including the seven present-day tribes that descended from the people who first called Yosemite home, continue to value Yosemite's past and steward its future.
- **Diverse Recreational Experiences.** Yosemite National Park is a four-season recreation destination in which visitors may immerse themselves in the spectacular natural setting of the Sierra Nevada. The physical features for which the park is known, such as Half Dome and El Capitan, provide experiences that are sought after by visitors around the world. The setting of Yosemite was purposefully protected as a source of recreation for visitors both near and far and provides a breadth of recreational opportunities that allow a wide diversity of visitor experiences including rejuvenation, opportunities for solitude, physical fitness, and emotional awe-inspiring connections.
- **Educational Opportunities.** The park provides a wide range of experiential learning opportunities that foster connections to the park and other protected places, growing the next generations of stewards. When set aside by Congress, Yosemite was envisioned as a living laboratory. Today hundreds of research permits are processed every year to provide opportunities for students, scientists, and citizen scientists to learn, discover, and explore.
- **Global Leadership in Conservation.** From its inception in 1864, Yosemite National Park has been a pioneer in conservation ethics. The park has long served as a public meeting place for scientific symposiums and as an internationally recognized laboratory for developing and testing sustainability and conservation practices. The park's formal sister park relationships with China, Chile, Germany, Mongolia, Nepal, and Tanzania further its global reach.

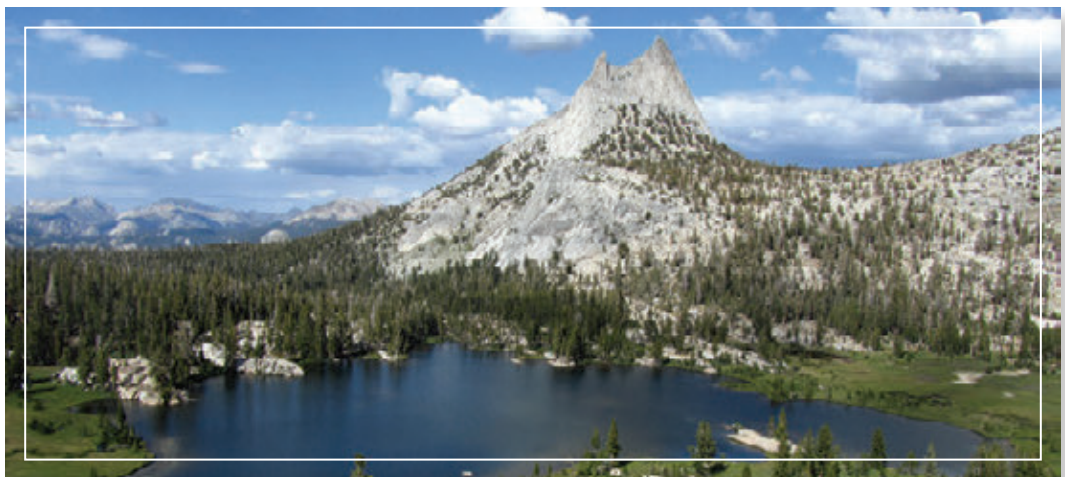
Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Yosemite National Park:

- Yosemite’s beauty draws people from all over the world and from all walks of life and can bring a sense of peace, serenity, and tranquility—a welcome respite from the pressure and stresses of everyday life.
- The complex and dynamic geologic processes in Yosemite create an unusually diverse and changing landscape, which yields world-class scenery and opportunities for significant scientific research.
- Giant sequoias offer opportunities for sharing Yosemite-related stories, including the inspiration to create the Yosemite Grant, the preservation of unique places, survival, and the wonder of living things so old and so large.
- The concept of wilderness originated in the United States with the conviction that some wildland resources are most valuable to Americans when natural process are allowed to prevail. Yosemite Wilderness is managed to retain its primitive character so that it can remain a special place for people to examine their relationships to the natural world.
- Just as national parks tell the stories of the nation, wild and scenic rivers include the country’s natural and cultural heritage along their banks and within their flowing waters.
- For at least 8,000 years, people have engaged directly with the Tuolumne River, its meadows, and surrounding granite domes. Layers of human history communicate stories of Tuolumne as a place of inspiration, debate, and spiritual renewal.





- Yosemite's pristine natural environments provide for an exceptional diversity of living things and serve as a vital living research laboratory.
- While living in or traveling through the region now called Yosemite National Park, numerous American Indian groups traded resources, exchanged knowledge, and sometimes intermarried—traditions that continue to this day.
- Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were the first globally recognized scenic natural areas to be set aside by any government for public benefit and appreciation of landscape beauty, making Yosemite the birthplace of the national park idea, which has spread throughout the world.
- The post-1850 cultural story in Yosemite provides abundant opportunities to reflect on the history of tourism, preservation, management, and the development of a National Park Service ethic.
- It was in Yosemite that the first NPS designers developed a unique architectural style for park structures. The Yosemite Museum, The Ahwahnee Hotel, and the Rangers' Club are all early examples of the Rustic Style of architecture that later became synonymous with NPS architecture. The rustic architecture style can be seen across the country due to the NPS oversight of the Civilian Conservation Corps and development of parks nationwide.
- Designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site globally recognizes Yosemite as a place of outstanding value to humanity and provides an opportunity for international collaboration and exchange.
- The connection between climbers and Yosemite is historical, physical, and spiritual. Rock climbing immerses people in this place, which can promote appropriate, sustainable, and direct connections to Yosemite.

Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates, Special Designations, and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Yosemite National Park.

Special Mandates and Special Designations

Name	Special Mandate or Special Designation	Date	Purpose
1913 Raker Act	Special mandate	1913	<p>The 1913 Raker Act granted the City and County of San Francisco all necessary rights-of-way, along such locations and such a width (250 feet) through public lands of the United States including; Tuolumne, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Alameda counties; and through the Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipes, pipelines, flumes, tunnels, and conduits conveying water for domestic purposes and uses to the City and County of San Francisco and such other municipalities • power and electrical plants, poles and lines for generation, sale and distribution of electric energy • telephone and telegraph lines • roads, trails, bridges, tramways, railroads and other means of locomotion, transportation, and communication, such as necessary for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the works constructed by the grantee

Name	Special Mandate or Special Designation	Date	Purpose
1958 El Portal Administrative Site Act	Special mandate	1958	<p>The authorization of the Secretary of the Interior to provide an administrative site for Yosemite National Park, California, on lands adjacent to the park was passed to allow for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquisition of certain adjacent private lands and national forest lands for use as an administrative site for Yosemite National Park • a 1,200-acre administrative site to be located outside the western entrance of the park at El Portal that will not be part of Yosemite National Park, nor would the usual regulations designed to protect park values apply to the site; however, the Secretary of the Interior may issue special rules and regulations for its control (such as the Superintendent's Compendium for El Portal) • funds that are available for the operating and capital programs for Yosemite National Park shall also be available for those programs at the El Portal Administrative Site • the governmental utilities, facilities, and services required in the operation and administration of the park would be placed in El Portal after adequate roads and utilities are provided <p>A subsequent bill in 1968 was passed to grant long-term leases; amending the amount of time granted to private lease holders in El Portal from 30 to 55 years. This lease period was extended to 99 years with subsequent legislation in 1986.</p>

Name	Special Mandate or Special Designation	Date	Purpose
Class I Area, Clean Air Act	Special mandate	1977	<p>Yosemite National Park is designated a Class I area under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 (42 USC 7401 et seq.), which provides special protection for air quality, sensitive ecosystems and clean, clear views. Under section 169A, "Congress declares as a national goal the prevention of any existing impairment of visibility in mandatory class I Federal areas which impairment results from manmade air pollution." State and federal permitting authorities must consult with the National Park Service regarding new sources of air pollution and impacts on park air quality related values must be considered in the permitting process. Further, the act requires NPS involvement in natural regulatory efforts aimed at eliminating human-caused visibility impairment in all Class I areas. This designation bestows an "affirmative responsibility" on federal land managers to integrate air resource management into NPS operations and planning for the protection of air quality and related values, including visibility, plants, animals, soils, water quality, cultural resources, and public health, from adverse air pollution impacts. Section 118 of the Clean Air Act requires that federal agencies comply with state regulations, and Yosemite National Park worked in close coordination with the State of California.</p>
California Wilderness Act	Special mandate	1984	<p>On September 28, 1984, the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (98 Stat. 1627) was enacted by Congress. This act designated 677,600 acres within the Yosemite Wilderness and another 3,550 acres of potential wilderness in the park, including wilderness designations for other units of the national park system.</p> <p>On January 31, 1985, the superintendent approved the wilderness maps (drawn on 1:62,500 scale quadrangle maps) and boundary description and sent them to the regional director for approval and transmission to the NPS Denver Service Center and, ultimately, to be on file with Congress. In 1990, the U.S. Geological Survey transcribed the Yosemite Wilderness boundary to the new 1:24,000 scale quadrangle maps. Finally, a GIS analysis of the boundary identified 704,624 acres of designated wilderness (94.2% of park lands) and 927 acres of potential wilderness (0.1% of park lands) in the congressionally designated Yosemite Wilderness.</p>

Name	Special Mandate or Special Designation	Date	Purpose
Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River	Special mandate	1984	The Tuolumne River was the 53rd river designated in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 USC 1271). The 1984 California Wilderness Act (98 Stat. 1627) officially designated segments of the Tuolumne River as components of the wild and scenic rivers system. The National Park Service manages the 54 miles of river flowing from its sources on Mount Dana and Mount Lyell through Yosemite National Park (excluding the 8-mile segment through Hetch Hetchy Reservoir). The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management manage the 29 miles of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River that flow outside the park boundary.
UNESCO World Heritage Site	Special designation	1984	Yosemite National Park was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984 due to its geological and ecological values.
Merced Wild and Scenic River	Special mandate	1987	The Merced River was the 62nd river designated in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 USC 1271). The U.S. Congress designated the Merced River as a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system in 1987 (Public Law 100-149). The National Park Service manages the 81 miles of river flowing from its source watersheds in the high country of the Yosemite Wilderness through Yosemite Valley, the El Portal Administrative Site, and the community of Wawona. Designated river segments include both the Merced River's main stem and the South Fork Merced River. The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management manage the 41 miles of the Merced Wild and Scenic River that flow outside the park boundary.

Administrative Commitments

Yosemite National Park has agreements with a variety of partners. These include agreements with other organizations, agencies, and groups related to search and rescue, law enforcement, emergency assistance, fundraising, permit issuance for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, research and restoration activities, education activities, operation of concessions, and special use permits, among others. There are a number of long-term rights-of-way permits in the park for electricity lines, phones, and telecommunication facilities. There are also a number of private land inholdings within the park.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental resources and values (see appendix B)
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes existing planning and data needs related to the FRV where information can be found about current conditions and potential threats and opportunities related to the FRV. The analysis table also includes planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value. Please see appendix B for the analysis of fundamental resources and values.



Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Yosemite National Park and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Visitor Crowding and Congestion.** Yosemite receives more than 4 million visitors per year, with 75% of those visitors coming during the peak season (May through October). Although Yosemite is a very large park, visitors congregate in a few small areas. Traffic congestion, full parking lots, and very high encounter rates on some trails are daily occurrences during the peak season. The vast majority of visitors go to Yosemite Valley as part of their visit, creating regular instances of crowding. The Tuolumne Meadows and Mariposa Grove areas are also popular destinations with visitor crowding and congestion concerns. In wilderness areas, heavy visitation at certain popular destinations creates concerns about impact on wilderness character.

The park has developed visitor use management guidance for the Yosemite Valley (as part of the Merced River plan) and Tuolumne Meadows area (as part of the Tuolumne River plan), and guidance is under development for the wilderness portions of the park (as part of the wilderness stewardship plan). Major visitor traffic improvements are planned. However, the park needs to better monitor visitation in order to implement this guidance. The park is also interested in exploring ways to encourage visitation outside of Yosemite Valley, as well as off-season visitation.

- *Associated High Priority Planning and Data Needs:* wilderness stewardship plan, visitor use management strategy, site and facility designs for implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans, visitor use studies.
- **Transportation.** High visitation at Yosemite puts pressure on transportation systems, and traffic congestion is very common in Yosemite Valley. However, there are funding, logistical, and geographic constraints in terms of what infrastructure can be provided (e.g., implementation of certain river plan actions are not planned until further in the future). A shuttle system exists, but often gets caught up in congestion and may not run frequently enough or cover a large enough area. There is also a need to facilitate a cultural shift to encourage visitors and employees to use alternative transportation, both in the valley and to get to the park. Ensuring that convenient and reliable opportunities for alternative transportation exist is the first step, the next is to market those opportunities and encourage their use. Outside of the valley, roadside parking in Tuolumne Meadows is another major concern; limited parking creates traffic congestion, resource damage, and negative impacts to visitor experience.
- *Associated High Priority Planning and Data Needs:* visitor use management strategy, site and facility designs for implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans, visitor use studies, tour bus management strategy.

- **Sustainability.** Yosemite National Park and its partners have taken many actions to promote and incorporate sustainability into the management, operation, and visitation of the park, including becoming one of the first Climate Friendly Parks, improvements to energy efficiency and alternative transportation, a recycling program that captures almost 60% of waste, and current participation in a pilot project to become a “zero waste park.” Opportunities also exist to better educate the visiting public on sustainability so that they not only practice sustainability during their visit to the park, but bring the awareness and changes in their lifestyle when they return to their homes everywhere in the world.
 - *Associated High Priority Planning and Data Needs:* site and facility designs for implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans, visitor use management strategy, climate change data, tour bus management strategy, comprehensive energy audit.
- **Deferred Maintenance.** The current Yosemite deferred maintenance backlog is more than \$500 million, and the park is under pressure to demonstrate progress in solving this backlog. Deferred maintenance in the park is being managed to focus available funding on high priority (optimizer band) park facilities. There have recently been increases in several funding sources related to the National Park Service Centennial and changes to policy on expenditure of park funds to address deferred maintenance, but it is unknown how many of these increases will continue past the Centennial year. There is also a need to ensure deferred maintenance data accuracy in order to improve facilities decision-making and priority-setting.
 - *Associated High Priority Planning and Data Needs:* site and facility designs for implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans.
- **Climate Change.** As climate change occurs, the National Park Service must manage and protect important natural and cultural resources under increasing uncertainty, as well as operate facilities that support the visitor experience under new conditions. The ongoing drought in California illustrates the potential magnitude of impact: large numbers of ponderosa pine (also incense cedar, sugar pine, and numerous oak species) have died at the lower elevations of the park, as well as the Sierra Nevada at large. Temperatures are predicted to increase with climate change while changes in precipitation are less predictable. Overall, this may result in increased flooding as more precipitation occurs in the form of rain. In addition, decreased snowpack and earlier spring runoff (resulting in longer, drier summers) may cause larger, more intense wildfires. The built environment may also be threatened by climate change: increased flood frequency may potentially impact roads and utilities; hotter temperature in summer may stress cooling systems; increased rainfall in winter may affect low elevation structures designed for snow-dominated instead of rain-dominated winters.

The National Park Service is striving to improve resiliency of important / legacy / keystone resources, so that they are better able to withstand stresses associated with climate change. These resources include rivers, streams, meadows, giant sequoias, forests, amphibians, and cultural/ethnographic resources. The National Park Service is currently restoring hydrologic processes to build resilience of riverbanks and meadows in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, and giant sequoias in the Mariposa Grove. Forest restoration is occurring through the park’s fire management program, in particular the use of prescribed fire and managed lightning fire. Restoration of all types will need to be considered for other areas, and perhaps accelerated, in order to protect resources throughout the park as climate change occurs.

- *Associated High Priority Planning and Data Needs:* climate change data, site and facility designs for implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans.

- **Housing.** Current government housing options are not adequate to meet housing needs for permanent and temporary NPS and partner employees. Temporary employees are sometimes required to share bedrooms. Private housing options in gateway communities are short in supply, have high costs, require long commute times, and are not widely available for temporary employees. Long commutes contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, congestion, safety issues, lower employee morale, lower employee productivity, and difficulty with recruitment and retention.
 - *Associated High Priority Planning and Data Needs:* housing management strategy.
- **Diversity, Relevancy, and Inclusion.** The increasingly diverse mosaic of California and the United States is not accurately represented among park visitors and employees. Maintaining relevance of national parks to diverse visitors is important for retaining public support for Yosemite in the 21st century. The park should continue to explore innovative ways to engage diverse populations and create unique pathways that lead to increased understanding, stewardship and employment opportunities.
 - *Associated High Priority Planning and Data Needs:* visitor use studies, housing management strategy.

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Criteria and Considerations for Prioritization. The following criteria were used to evaluate the priority of each planning or data need:

- Need for regional/WASO review or approval for completion or implementation
- Initiation of the effort is reasonably foreseeable
- Emergency or urgency of the issue
- Protect fundamental resources and values or prevent resource degradation
- Enhance visitor experience
- Address multiple interrelated issues



High Priority Planning Needs

Comprehensive visitor use management strategy.

Rationale — Yosemite National Park faces a number of visitor use management challenges including use conflicts, trail congestion, and severe traffic congestion in the high visitor use season. These issues are particularly prevalent in the Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows areas. Visitor capacities have been set by the Merced and Tuolumne River plans, but management strategies need to be developed and implemented to ensure that these capacities are not exceeded.

Scope — A comprehensive visitor use management strategy would evaluate current visitor use patterns and characteristics, identify visitor use management goals, objectives, strategies, and tools to sustain desired resources conditions and visitor experiences. A key component of the strategy would be developing ways to direct visitation away from Yosemite Valley and other congested areas to other recreational opportunities during peak visitation periods. The strategy would consider a comprehensive view of visitor use patterns throughout the park to encourage distribution of visitors in both time and space in a way that provides for experiences consistent with the park’s purpose while protecting fundamental resources and values. It would also explore methods to expand visitor destinations to recreational experiences outside of the park in nearby gateway communities and public lands. Visitor use data and research, broad-based and site-specific, would be necessary to understand and guide visitor behavior in high-use areas.

Housing management strategy.

Rationale — There is not currently enough housing to meet the needs of the NPS and park partner employees. Available privately owned housing is a long distance (on mountain roads) from duty stations, expensive, in short supply, and often not available for the short-term needs of temporary employees. Due to this shortage, employees have long commutes, lower employee morale, and lower productivity. There is anecdotal evidence that the housing shortage creates significant employee recruitment and retention challenges.

Scope — The housing management strategy would look at the most effective and appropriate ways to provide housing to meet park needs. As part of this effort, data could also be collected on how housing availability has affected employee recruitment and retention. The strategy would also consider greenhouse gas emissions of commuting employees. It would explore ways to potentially increase housing availability, such as converting houses currently in use as office space back into housing use, improving speed at which repairs are made to get vacated houses back in use quickly, and looking into the possibility of constructing in-fill housing in El Portal per the Merced River plan. The strategy would also evaluate current housing assignment procedures for potential improved efficiency.



Site and facility designs for implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans.

Rationale — Implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans is tied to laws and other legal mandates. Implementation is necessary to protect important resources (identified as outstandingly remarkable values in the plans) through restoration, visitor use management, and other actions agreed upon through the records of decision for these plans. In addition, implementation of the plans will improve visitor experience, particularly in the Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows areas.

Scope — Implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans is already underway and will be a major and ongoing effort for the next 10 years (2016–2026). Specific projects from the Merced River plan currently include

- NPS maintenance area site planning/Fort Yosemite area
- Camp 4 site planning
- Yosemite Lodge site planning
- Curry Village / Half Dome Village site planning
- Bridalveil Falls site planning
- Design for new campsites at former Upper and Lower River Campgrounds

Tuolumne River plan site planning priorities currently being developed are focused on removal of roadside parking and reconfiguring new parking areas.

Tour bus management strategy.

Rationale — As part of setting visitor capacity, the Merced River plan designated a limited number of tour bus parking spaces in the Yosemite Valley, effectively limiting the number of tour buses that can be in the park at any one time. To prepare for this, there is a need to develop and implement a strategy to ensure that tour buses are sufficiently distributed throughout the day, week, and season. Most years there are between 400 and 450 permitted tour bus companies that operate in the park.

Scope — The strategy would develop a program to permit tour buses to enter Yosemite Valley for particular dates, times, and lengths of stay. This would be particularly needed during peak capacity times, such as weekends and holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The strategy would also relate to the comprehensive visitor use management strategy, as tour bus limits are one way to manage and direct visitor use.

Wilderness stewardship plan (in process).

Rationale — The purpose of Yosemite’s wilderness stewardship planning effort is to review the management direction established in the 1989 Yosemite Wilderness plan and update it as necessary to better align with contemporary use patterns and NPS policy.

Scope — The wilderness stewardship plan would examine and refine the existing wilderness plan to incorporate new information and understanding about changes in visitor use patterns, methods of managing visitor use, techniques for trail design and construction, and concepts for managing stock in wilderness settings. It would also incorporate new policy direction and definitions for wilderness character into the park’s wilderness management framework and review the status of potential wilderness additions. Finally, the plan would determine the extent to which commercial services would be performed in the Yosemite Wilderness.

Once completed, the direction in the revised wilderness stewardship plan would apply to both visitor and administrative use (National Park Service and concessioner) in wilderness. While some site-specific actions may be necessary, the primary focus of the plan would be to provide a framework for measuring and monitoring wilderness character to ensure that future management actions would be taken as needed to adapt to changing conditions.

High Priority Data Needs

Climate change data.

Rationale and Scope — Data related to changes in climate and the resulting ecosystem responses are needed to inform management decisions throughout the park and to develop long-term adaptation strategies. Monitoring of water flow, temperature, weather, and forest monitoring plots will be continued, and selected Grinnell transects could be resurveyed. Additional needs include more holistic studies that examine connections between physical attributes of climate change and biological functioning, as well as establishing long-term trend studies for sensitive species and ecosystems (e.g., sequoia, pika, and amphibians). Information on the effectiveness of restoration actions, including resilience to climate change and hydrologic function, would also help to inform future actions. This information would be used to develop long-term climate change adaptation strategies and prioritize park management actions to protect sensitive species and ecosystems and priority scenic areas such as Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows.

Determinations of eligibility and national register nominations for trails, backcountry cabins, and Pate Valley.

Rationale and Scope — Determinations of eligibility establish whether historic properties are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The determinations help park managers make decisions about appropriate management and treatment of cultural resources and are needed to ensure compliance under sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. These determinations are needed for backcountry cabins, trails, and Pate Valley in order to inform the wilderness stewardship plan. Information on historic trails would help to guide consideration of trail classifications and type of treatment and maintenance needed, while information on cabins is needed to determine how they should be maintained. Pate Valley is a prehistoric site of traditional and sacred importance in wilderness with high archeological significance. These determinations of eligibility would be completed while the alternatives are being developed for the wilderness stewardship plan.

Updated national register nominations for Yosemite Valley archeological and historic districts.

Rationale and Scope — The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. National Register of Historic Places nominations document what qualifies a place to be included in this list, including conditions related to historic context, significance, integrity, and age. Yosemite Valley contains an archeological district, four historic districts (Camp Curry, Yosemite Valley Bridges, Yosemite Valley, and Yosemite Village), and multiple individual properties that are already listed in the national register, but the nomination forms are outdated and incomplete. An update of these forms would help to guide site planning and other projects for the Merced River plan, as well as to inform outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) monitoring that will be done as part of the ongoing implementation of the plan.

Visitor use studies.

Rationale and Scope — Greater understanding of visitor use patterns and needs is needed to inform visitor use management planning decisions, traffic management strategies, and interpretive and educational programs. These studies would also help to determine if/when the park has exceeded the user capacity established by the Merced and Tuolumne River plans, which would trigger further management actions. Studies could include accurate vehicle counts at entrances and within Yosemite Valley, study of visitor parking and shuttle bus use (day vs. overnight guests) in Yosemite Valley, shoulder season use survey, visitor use patterns in wilderness (based on permit information and sharing data with other agencies), and data on climbing use. In addition, there is a need to review, and perhaps update, the assumptions used in converting traffic counts to estimates of park visitation.

Planning Needs and Data Needs		
Planning or Data Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Facilities and Operations		
Plans		
Housing management strategy	H	
Site and facility designs for implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans	H	
Tour bus management strategy	H	
Crane Flat and Hodgdon Meadow water system plan	M	
Data Needs and Studies		
Comprehensive energy audit	M	
Tuolumne Meadows wastewater treatment plant study	M	
Resource Management		
Plans		
Wilderness stewardship plan (in process)	H	
Climate change adaptation plan	M	
Historic structure strategy(ies)	M	
Meadow restoration strategies	M	Restoration strategies would address climate change adaptation and resiliency, specifically in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows.
Meadow vegetation and cultural landscape management strategy	M	
Yosemite Valley vegetation and cultural landscape management strategy	M	Including scenic vista management.
Data Needs and Studies		
Climate change data	H	
Determinations of eligibility and national register nominations for trails, backcountry cabins, and Pate Valley	H	
Updated national register nominations for Yosemite Valley archeological and historic districts	H	
Additional studies to examine pollution dose-response relationships in sensitive park ecosystems	M	Including monitoring mercury and other toxic contaminants in park biota.
Identification of resources sensitive to air quality and assessment of future needs in air quality and effects research and monitoring	M	

Planning Needs and Data Needs		
Planning or Data Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Resource Management		
Data Needs and Studies (continued)		
Ozone monitoring at additional locations	M	Including studies of the effects of ozone on plants and trees in the park.
Night sky assessment report	M	
Acoustic monitoring report	M	Last report was in 2005–2006.
Administrative history	M	
Updated archeological district nominations for El Portal and Wawona	M	
Baseline studies for all heritage resources	M	Some baseline studies are outdated and need to be updated, per the state historic preservation officer. Some may need reevaluation of condition, recording to current standards, etc.
Determinations of eligibility and national register nomination for Wawona Road	M	
Documentation and national register eligibility for the Yosemite Valley Traditional Cultural Property	M	
Traditional cultural property study for Tuolumne	M	
Wilderness suitability study for park additions (Ackerson Meadow)	M	
Visitor Use and Experience		
Plans		
Comprehensive visitor use management strategy	H	
Outreach plan	M	Comprehensive plan/ communication strategy to reach outside park boundaries.
Data Needs and Studies		
Visitor use studies	H	
Analysis of curriculum based education needs	M	
Assessment of volunteer opportunities	M	Could be connected to visitor use strategy to assess how volunteers are incorporated in operations.

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Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Yosemite National Park

Summary of Legislative History for Yosemite National Park

- **Act of Congress, June 30, 1864 (13 Stat. 325).** Granted to the state of California the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove, and stipulated that the lands “be held for public use, resort, and recreation” and “be inalienable for all time.”
- **Act of Congress, October 1, 1890 (26 Stat. 650).** Set aside Yosemite National Park to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a “forest reservation” with the Secretary required to preserve from injury all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within the park area and to *retain them in their natural condition*. The Secretary was also directed to provide against the wanton destruction of the fish and game found within the park and against their capture or destruction for the purposes of merchandise or profit. The act specifically excluded Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove, leaving them under the jurisdiction of the state of California as provided for in the act of 1864.
- **Act of Congress, February 7, 1905 (33 Stat. 702).** Excluded certain lands from Yosemite National Park and includes said lands in the Sierra Forest Reserve, now administered by the U.S. Forest Service as the Ansel Adams Wilderness Area. (This reduced the park by 27.7% or 266,334.8 acres.)
- **Act of the Legislature of California, March 3, 1905.** Re-granted to the United States of America both Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove “to be held for all time by the United States of America for public use, resort and recreation.”
- **Joint Resolution of Congress, June 11, 1906 (34 Stat. 831).** Accepted the 1905 act of the California Legislature and designated Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove as part of Yosemite National Park, subject to the same provisions as those in the act of 1890. (This act also removed 6,853 acres along the South Fork of the Merced River from the park.)
- **Act of Congress, April 9, 1912 (37 Stat. 80).** Authorized the Secretary of Interior to secure title to patented lands inside Yosemite National Park for the purpose of eliminating private holdings. The Secretary was given authority to sell and exchange timber within the park boundary for this purpose.
- **Act of Congress, December 19, 1913 (38 Stat. 242).** This act is also called the Raker Act. Granted certain lands and access within Yosemite and the Stanislaus National Forest to the city and county of San Francisco for the purpose of creating a municipal water supply and power and electric plants in the Hetch Hetchy Valley and Lake Eleanor basin.
- **Act of Congress, July 23, 1914 (38 Stat. 554).** Authorized the Secretary of the Interior to “grant leases, for periods of not exceeding twenty years, at annual rentals, and under terms and conditions to be determined by him, to any persons, corporations, or company he may authorize to transact business in the Yosemite National Park ... as the comfort and convenience of visitors may require, for the construction and maintenance of substantial hotel buildings and buildings for the protection of motor cars, stages, stock and equipment and so forth.”

- **Act of the Legislature of California, April 15, 1919 (51 Stat. 74).** Ceded legislative jurisdiction over Yosemite National Park to the United States of America, although California retained the rights to serve civil or criminal process, to tax persons and corporations, and to fix and collect license fees for fishing within the park. The act also guaranteed persons living in the park the right to vote in all elections held in their respective counties.
- **Act of Congress, June 2, 1920 (41 Stat. 731).** Accepted from the state of California the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States over Yosemite National Park and left with the state those rights mentioned in the 1919 act of the California Legislature. This act also forbade hunting in the park and allowed fishing seasons and methods to be determined by the Secretary of Interior. This act reiterated the preservation statement from the 1890 act, adding animals to the list of park resources that the Secretary of the Interior was required to protect.
- **Act of Congress, May 28, 1928 (45 Stat. 787).** Authorized the acquisition of 1,350 acres of land along the western boundary of the park in exchange for 1,010 acres of land within Yosemite National Park for the purpose of protecting park deer along the western boundary. (This exchange never occurred except for acquisition of one small section.)
- **Act of Congress, March 2, 1929 (45 Stat. 1486).** Authorized the acquisition of 9,000 acres for preservation and consolidation of timber land to be added to Yosemite National Park from the Stanislaus National Forest. The purpose was to protect the forest on the western boundary in the South Fork of the Tuolumne watershed.
- **Presidential Proclamation No. 1904, April 14, 1930 (46 Stat. 3017).** Provided for the enlargement of the park for the protection of timber on the western boundary and implemented 45 Stat 1486. Funds donated by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (\$1,709,237.88) were used for acquisition of approximately 7,725 acres.
- **Act of Congress, May 9, 1930 (46 Stat. 265).** Provided for addition of lands (approximately 960 acres) on the western boundary directly east of the Mather Station of the Hetch Hetchy railroad, within the Stanislaus National Forest. These lands were expressly excluded from the act of June 10, 1920, known as the Federal Power and Water Act. (This land was never added to the park.)
- **Act of February 14, 1931 (46 Stat. 1154) and Presidential Proclamation No. 2005 dated August 13, 1932 (47 Stat 2527).** Added the area known as section 35 (near Wawona) as well as areas south of Wawona and west of the Mariposa Grove to the park. The act made provisions for some funding for the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the private property within the added area.
- **Proclamation No. 2005, August 13, 1932 (47 Stat. 2527).** Revised boundary to include in the park lands in the Wawona area.
- **Proclamation No. 2013, October 20, 1932 (47 Stat. 2537).** Revised the boundary to include additional lands, as described.
- **Act of Congress, July 9, 1937 (50 Stat. 485).** Provided for the acquisition of 8,523 acres of nonfederal land to be added to Yosemite National Park in many areas along the western boundary by purchase or condemnation.
- **Act of Congress, September 2, 1958 (72 Stat. 1772).** Authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by purchase or exchange, lands at El Portal “in order that utilities, facilities, and services required in the operation and administration of Yosemite National Park may be located on such site outside the park.” Congress specifically provided that the site “shall not become a part of Yosemite National Park, nor be subject to the laws and regulations governing said park.”

- **Act of Congress, July 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 393).** Authorized the leasing of lands within the El Portal Administrative Site for 55 years to concessioners for the purposes stated in the Sept. 2, 1958, act and for constructing employee housing.
- **Act of Congress, California Wilderness Act, September 28, 1984 (98 Stat. 1627).** Designated 677,600 acres of Yosemite National Park as wilderness and 3,550 acres as potential wilderness additions. Added 187.5 acres known as McCauley Ranch (Title 1; Sec. 105; Para. A2) and 317.8 acres known as the Crocker Ridge addition (Para. 1) to Yosemite National Park. One hundred-sixty acres of NPS-owned land which encompasses Biledo Springs was transferred to the Sierra National Forest. Water rights and access to the spring were retained by the Secretary. This act also designated the Tuolumne River as part of the national wild and scenic rivers system. Specifically reconfirmed rights granted under the Raker Act (38 Stat. 242) December 19, 1913. A later GIS analysis of the boundary identified 704,624 acres of designated wilderness and 927 acres of potential wilderness in the congressionally designated Yosemite Wilderness.
- **Act of the Legislature of California, August 8, 1985.** The legislature, pursuant to a request by the United States, accepted the retrocession of partial jurisdiction and establishment of concurrent civil jurisdiction over private lands in section 35 at Wawona.
- **Act of Congress, October 27, 1986 (100 Stat. 3037).** Amended the July 21, 1968 act (82 Stat. 393) and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to grant long-term leases in the El Portal Administrative Site “not to exceed 99 years to any individual, including an employee of the United States Government, to any operator of concession facilities in the park, or the Administrative site, or its successor, or to any public or private corporation or organization (including a non-profit corporation) for purposes of providing employee housing, community facilities, administrative offices, maintenance facilities, and commercial services.” Required the National Park Service to develop regulations for administration of leases.
- **Act of Congress, November 2, 1987 (101 Stat. 879).** Designated the Merced River, and its various forks within Yosemite National Park, as a component of the wild and scenic rivers system.
- **Act of Congress, October 31, 1988 (102 Stat. 2827).** “No federal lands may be used for expansion of the capacity of any reservoir which is located within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park unless Congress enacts specific statutory authorization.”
- **Act of November 10, 1998 (112 Stat. 3298).** Authorized the Secretary of the Interior to convey to a private individual approximately eight acres within the El Portal Administrative Site, in exchange for eight acres of land adjacent to the El Portal Administrative Site. Upon completion of the exchange, the boundary of the El Portal Administrative Site is to be adjusted to reflect the exchange. The exchange will enable the service to establish an entrance station for Yosemite National Park on the land so acquired by the United States.

Copies of the most significant acts of enabling legislation mentioned above are contained in this appendix.

Act of Congress, June 30, 1864 (13 Stat. 325)

CHAP. CLXXXIV.—*An Act authorizing a Grant to the State of California of the “Yo-Semite Valley,” and of the Land embracing the “Mariposa Big Tree Grove.”* June 30, 1864.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be, and is hereby, granted to the State of California the “Cleft” or “Gorge” in the granite peak of the Sierra Nevada mountains, situated in the county of Mariposa, in the State aforesaid, and the headwaters of the Merced River, and known as the Yo-Semite valley, with its branches or spurs, in estimated length fifteen miles, and in average width one mile back from the main edge of the precipice, on each side of the valley, with the stipulation, nevertheless, that the said State shall accept this grant upon the express conditions that the premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation; shall be inalienable for all time; but leases not exceeding ten years may be granted for portions of said premises. All incomes derived from leases of privileges to be expended in the preservation and improvement of the property, or the roads leading thereto; the boundaries to be established at the cost of said State by the United States surveyor-general of California, whose official plat, when affirmed by the commissioner of the general land-office, shall constitute the evidence of the locus, extent, and limits of the said Cleft or Gorge; the premises to be managed by the governor of the State with eight other commissioners, to be appointed by the executive of California, and who shall receive no compensation for their services.

The “Yo-Semite Valley” granted to California.

Conditions of grant.

Leases and income therefrom.

Boundaries, how established.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall likewise be, and there is hereby, granted to the said State of California the tracts embracing what is known as the “Mariposa Big Tree Grove,” not to exceed the area of four sections, and to be taken in legal sub-divisions of one quarter section each, with the like stipulation as expressed in the first section of this act as to the State’s acceptance, with like conditions as in the first section of this act as to inalienability, yet with same lease privilege; the income to be expended in preservation, improvement, and protection of the property; the premises to be managed by commissioners as stipulated in the first section of this act, and to be taken in legal sub-divisions as aforesaid; and the official plat of the United States surveyor-general, when affirmed by the commissioner of the general land-office, to be the evidence of the locus of the said Mariposa Big Tree Grove.

“Mariposa Big Tree Grove” granted to California.

Conditions of grant.

APPROVED, June 30, 1864.

Act of Congress, October 1, 1890 (26 Stat. 650)

October 1, 1890.

CHAP. 1263.—An act to set apart certain tracts of land in the State of California as forest reservations.

Forest reservations,
California.
Boundaries.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the tracts of land in the State of California known as described as follows: Commencing at the northwest corner of township two north, range nineteen east Mount Diablo meridian, thence eastwardly on the line between townships two and three north, ranges twenty-four and twenty-five east; thence southwardly on the line between ranges twenty-four and twenty-five east to the Mount Diablo base line; thence eastwardly on said base line to the corner to township one south, ranges twenty-five and twenty-six east; thence southwardly on the line between ranges twenty-five and twenty-six east to the southeast corner of township two south, range twenty-five east; thence eastwardly on the line between townships two and three south,

range twenty-six east to the corner to townships two and three south, ranges twenty-six and twenty-seven east; thence southwardly on the line between ranges twenty-six and twenty-seven east to the first standard parallel south; thence westwardly on the first standard parallel south to the southwest corner of township four south, range nineteen east; thence northwardly on the line between ranges eighteen and nineteen east to the northwest corner of township two south, range nineteen east; thence westwardly on the line between townships one and two south to the southwest corner of township one south, range nineteen east; thence northwardly on the line between ranges eighteen and nineteen east to the northwest corner of township two north, range nineteen east, the place of beginning, are hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale under the laws of the United States, and set apart as reserved forest lands; and all persons who shall locate or settle upon, or occupy the same or any part thereof, except as hereinafter provided, shall be considered trespassers and removed therefrom: *Provided, however,* That nothing in this act shall be construed as in anywise affecting the grant of lands made to the State of California by virtue of the act entitled "An act authorizing a grant to the State of California of the Yosemite Valley, and of the land embracing the Mariposa Big-Tree Grove, approved June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four; or as affecting any bona-fide entry of land made within the limits above described under any law of the United States prior to the approval of this act

SEC. 2. That said reservation shall be under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, whose duty it shall be, as soon as practicable, to make and publish such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary or proper for the care and management of the same. Such regulations shall provide for the preservation from injury of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within said reservation, and their retention in their natural condition. The Secretary may, in his discretion, grant leases for building purposes for terms not exceeding ten years of small parcels of ground not exceeding five acres; at such places in said reservation as shall require the erection of buildings for the accommodation of visitors; all of the proceeds of said leases and other revenues that may be derived from any source connected with said reservation to be expended under his direction in the management of the same and the construction of roads and paths therein. He shall provide against the wanton destruction of the fish, and game found within said reservation, and against their capture or destruction, for the purposes of merchandise or profit. He shall also cause all persons trespassing upon the same after the passage of this act to be removed therefrom, and, generally, shall be authorized to take all such measures as shall be necessary or proper to fully carry out the objects and purposes of this act.

SEC. 3. There shall also be and is hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy or sale under the laws of the United States, and shall be set apart as reserved forest lands, as hereinbefore provided, and subject to all the limitations and provisions herein contained, the following additional lands, to wit; Township seventeen, south, range thirty east of the Mount Diablo meridian, excepting sections thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-three, and thirty-four of said township, included in a previous bill. And there is also reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy or sale under the laws of the United States, and set apart as forest lands, subject to like limitations, conditions and provisions, all of townships fifteen and sixteen, south, of ranges twenty-nine and thirty east of the Mount Diablo meridian. And there is also hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy or sale under the laws of the United

Withdrawn from settlement, etc.

Trespassers.

Proviso.

Grant of Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove, not affected. Vol. 13, p. 325.

Bona-fide prior entries not affected.

Secretary of Interior to have control.

Regulations.

Preservation of timber, etc.

Building leases, etc.

Distribution of proceeds.

Preservation of fish and game.

Removal of trespassers, etc.

Other lands reserved as forest lands.

Descriptions.

Anfe. p. 478.

Act of the Legislature of California, March 3, 1905

Act of Legislature of California, approved March 3, 1905, regrating to the United States of America the Yosemite Valley and the land embracing the "Mariposa Big Tree Grove" (Statutes of California, 1905, p. 54)

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The State of California does hereby recede and regrant unto the United States of America the "cleft" or "gorge" in the granite peak of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, situated in the county of Mariposa, State of California, and the headwaters of the Merced River, and known as the Yosemite Valley, with its branches and spurs, granted unto the State of California in trust for public use, resort, and recreation by the act of Congress entitled "An act authorizing a grant to the State of California of the Yosemite Valley and of the land embracing the Mariposa Big Tree Grove," approved June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four; and the State of California does hereby relinquish unto the United States of America and resign the trusts created and granted by the said act of Congress.

SEC. 2. The State of California does hereby recede and regrant unto the United States of America the tracts embracing what is known as the "Mariposa Big Tree Grove," granted unto the State of California in trust for public use, resort, and recreation by the act of Congress referred to in section one of this act, and the State of California does hereby relinquish unto the United States of America and resign the trusts created and granted by the said act of Congress.

SEC. 3. This act shall take effect from and after acceptance by the United States of America of the recessions and regrants herein made, thereby forever releasing the State of California from further cost of maintaining the said premises, the same to be held for all time by the United States of America for public use, resort, and recreation, and imposing on the United States of America the cost of maintaining the same as a national park: *Provided, however,* That the recession and regrant hereby made shall not affect vested rights and interests of third persons.

Joint Resolution of Congress, June 11, 1906 (34 Stat. 831)

[No. 27.] Joint Resolution Accepting the recession by the State of California of the Yosemite Valley grant and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove, and including the same, together with fractional sections five and six, township five south, range twenty-two east, Mount Diablo meridian, California, within the metes and bounds of the Yosemite National Park, and changing the boundaries thereof.

June 11, 1906.
[H. J. R. 118.]
[Pub. Res., No. 27.]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the recession and regranteeing unto the United States by the State of California of the cleft or gorge in the granite peak of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, situated in the county of Mariposa, State of California, and the headwaters of the Merced River, and known as the Yosemite Valley, with its branches or spurs, granted unto the State of California in trust for public use, resort, and recreation by the Act of Congress entitled "An Act authorizing a grant to the State of California of the Yosemite Valley and of the land embracing the Mariposa Big Tree Grove," approved June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four (Thirteenth Statutes, page three hundred and twenty-five), as well as the tracts embracing what is known as the "Mariposa Big Tree Grove," likewise granted unto the State of California by the aforesaid Act of Congress, is hereby ratified and accepted, and the tracts of land embracing the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove, as described in the Act of Congress approved June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, together with that part of fractional sections five and six, township five south, range twenty-two east, Mount Diablo meridian, California, lying south of the South Fork of Merced River and almost wholly between the Mariposa Big Tree Grove and the present south boundary of the Yosemite National Park, be, and the same are hereby, reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale under the laws of the United States and set apart as reserved forest lands, subject to all the limitations, conditions, and provisions of the Act of Congress approved October first, eighteen hundred and ninety, entitled "An Act to set apart certain tracts of land in the State of California as forest reservations," as well as the limitations, conditions, and provisions of the Act of Congress approved February seventh, nineteen hundred and five, entitled "An Act to exclude from the Yosemite National Park, California, certain lands therein described, and to attach and include the said lands in the Sierra Forest Reserve," and shall hereafter form a part of the Yosemite National Park.

Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove.
Recession of, by California to the United States ratified.
Reserved as forest lands, etc.

Vol. 13, p. 325.

Vol. 26, p. 651.

Vol. 33, p. 702

The south and west boundary lines of the Yosemite National Park are hereby changed as follows: Beginning at the point on the line between sections thirty-five and thirty-six, township four south, range twenty-one east, where same intersects the middle of the channel of the South Fork of the Merced River; thence north on section line to the southwest corner of section twenty-five; thence west on section lines to the southwest corner of section twenty-eight; thence north on section line to the northwest corner of section twenty-eight; thence west on section line to the quarter-section corner between sections twenty and twenty-nine; thence north through the middle of section twenty to the center thereof; thence east through the middle of section twenty to the quarter-section corner between sections twenty and twenty-one; thence north on section line to the quarter-section corner between sections sixteen and seventeen; thence west through middle of section seventeen to the center thereof; thence north through the middle of sections seventeen, eight, and five to the quarter-section corner of north boundary of section five on township boundary, all in township four south, range twenty-one east; thence north through the middle of section thirty-two, township three south, range twenty-one east, to the center thereof; thence west through the middle of section thirty-two, said township, and section thirty-six, township three south, range twenty east, to the quarter-section corner between sec-

Yosemite National Park.
Boundaries changed.
Description.



Lands excluded and made part of Sierra Forest Reserve.

Provisos. Payment for privileges. Vol. 31, p. 790.

Right of way to railroads. Restriction.

Patented lands, etc.

Revenues expended for improvements, etc. Vol. 26, p. 651. Vol. 33, p. 702.

tions thirty-five and thirty-six; thence north on section line to the quarter-section corner between sections twenty-five and twenty-six; thence east through the middle of section twenty-five to the center thereof; thence north through the middle of sections twenty-five and twenty-four to the center of section twenty-four; thence west through the middle of sections twenty-four, twenty-three, and twenty-two to the quarter-section corner between sections twenty-one and twenty-two, township three south, range twenty east, on the present western boundary of the Yosemite National Park. And all that portion of the Yosemite National Park lying between the boundary line last above mentioned and the present boundary line of said national park is excluded from said park; and the said lands so excluded, and all thereof, are added to and made a part of the Sierra Forest Reserve, and shall hereafter form a part of said Sierra Forest Reserve, and shall be subject to all of the Acts of Congress with relation thereto: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Interior may require the payment of such price as he may deem proper for privileges on the land herein segregated from the Yosemite National Park and made a part of the Sierra Forest Reserve accorded under the Act approved February fifteenth, nineteen hundred and one, relating to rights of way over certain parks, reservations, and other lands, and other Acts concerning rights of way over public lands: *And provided further*, That in the grant of any right of way for railway purposes across the lands placed under this measure within the Sierra Forest Reserve it shall be stipulated that no logs or timber shall be hauled over the same without the consent of the Secretary of the Interior, and under regulations to be promulgated by him.

SEC. 2. That none of the lands patented and in private ownership in the area hereby included in the Sierra Forest Reserve shall have the privileges of the lieu-land scrip provisions of the land laws, but otherwise to be in all respects under the laws and regulations affecting the forest reserves, and immediately upon the passage of this Act all laws, rules, and regulations affecting forest reservations, including the right to change the boundaries thereof by Executive proclamation, shall take effect and be in force within the limits of the territory excluded by this Act from the Yosemite National Park, except as herein otherwise provided.

SEC. 3. That all revenues derived from privileges in the park authorized under the Act of October first, eighteen hundred and ninety, the Act of February seventh, nineteen hundred and five, as well as under this measure, or from privileges accorded on the lands herein segregated from said park and included within the Sierra Forest Reserve, shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior in the management, protection, and improvement of the Yosemite National Park.

Approved, June 11, 1906.

Act of Congress, September 2, 1958 (72 Stat. 1772)

1772

PUBLIC LAW 85-922—SEPT. 2, 1958

[72 STAT.]

Public Law 85-922

AN ACT

September 2, 1958
[H. R. 12281]

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an administrative site for Yosemite National Park, California, on lands adjacent to the park, and for other purposes.

Yosemite National Park, Calif.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That to enable the Secretary of the Interior to preserve the extraordinary natural qualities of Yosemite National Park, notwithstanding its increasing use by the public, the Secretary is hereby authorized to provide in the manner hereinafter set forth an administrative site in the El Portal area adjacent to Yosemite National Park, in order that utilities, facilities, and services required in the operation and administration of Yosemite National Park may be located on such site outside the park.

Acquisition of land.

SEC. 2. For said site the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire by purchase or donation, or with donated funds, approximately twelve hundred acres, as shown on map numbered NP-YOS-7011, of non-Federal land, interests in land, and appurtenances thereto, and, to avoid severing parcels in private ownership which extend beyond the area so depicted, the Secretary of the Interior may acquire in their entirety such parcels of land or interests therein.

Jurisdiction of land.

SEC. 3. The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior are authorized to arrange and effect mutually satisfactory transfers of jurisdiction over land administered by each in the El Portal area. Land so transferred to the Secretary of the Interior shall thereupon be excluded from the national forest or forests involved and thereafter be administered by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to this Act as a part of said administrative site. Land transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to this Act shall thereupon become national forest land subject to all laws, rules, and regulations applicable to land acquired pursuant to the Weeks law.

36 Stat. 961.
16 USC 513-519,
521.

SEC. 4. Nothing herein contained shall affect any valid claim, location, or entry existing under the land laws of the United States, or the rights of any such claimant, locator, or entryman to the full use and enjoyment of his land.

Management and control of land.

SEC. 5. Until further action by the Congress, the lands acquired by or transferred to the Secretary of the Interior hereunder shall not become a part of Yosemite National Park, nor be subject to the laws and regulations governing said park, but the Secretary of the Interior shall have supervision, management, and control of the area and shall make and publish such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary and proper for its use and management: *Provided*, That he may grant nonexclusive privileges, leases, and permits for the use of land in the area and enter into contracts relating to the same, subject to the limitations and conditions applying to the similar authority provided in section 3 of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended (45 Stat. 235, 16 U. S. C., 1952 edition, sec. 3).

16 USC 3, 22, 43.

Availability of funds.

SEC. 6. Funds now or hereafter appropriated or otherwise available for operating and capital programs in the areas administered by the National Park Service, including funds for acquisition of land and interests in land, are hereby made available to acquire land, interests in land, and appurtenances thereto, within the administrative site, and to further the purpose of this Act.

Approved September 2, 1958.

Act of Congress, California Wilderness Act, September 28, 1984 (98 Stat. 1627)

An Act

Entitled the "California Wilderness Act of 1984".

Sept. 28, 1984
[H.R. 1437]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this title may be cited as the "California Wilderness Act of 1984".

California
Wilderness Act
of 1984.
National
Wilderness
Preservation
System.
National Forest
System.
National parks,
monuments, etc.
16 USC 1131
note.

TITLE I

DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS

SEC. 101. (a) In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act, the following lands, as generally depicted on maps, appropriately referenced, dated July 1980 (except as otherwise dated) are hereby designated as wilderness, and therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System—

(1) certain lands in the Lassen National Forest, California, which comprise approximately one thousand eight hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Caribou Wilderness Additions—Proposed", and which are hereby incorporated in, and which shall be deemed to be a part of the Caribou Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577;

16 USC 1131
note.
16 USC 1132
note.

(2) certain lands in the Stanislaus and Toiyabe National Forests, California, which comprise approximately one hundred sixty thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Carson-Iceberg Wilderness—Proposed", dated July 1984, and which shall be known as the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness: *Provided, however,* That the designation of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness shall not preclude continued motorized access to those previously existing facilities which are directly related to permitted livestock grazing activities in the Wolf Creek Drainage on the Toiyabe National Forest in the same manner and degree in which such access was occurring as of the date of enactment of this title;

(3) certain lands in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, California, which comprise approximately seven thousand three hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Castle Crags Wilderness—Proposed", and which shall be known as the Castle Crags Wilderness;

16 USC 1132
note.

(4) certain lands in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, California, which comprise approximately eight thousand two hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Chanchelulla Wilderness—Proposed", and which shall be known as the Chanchelulla Wilderness;

16 USC 1132
note.

(5) certain lands in the Angeles National Forest, California, which comprise approximately four thousand four hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Cucamonga Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated July 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in, and which shall be deemed to be a

6 USC 80 note.

(1) certain lands in the Sequoia National Forest, California, which comprise approximately one thousand five hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Jennie Lakes Additions, Kings Canyon National Park—Proposed", dated March 1983, and which are hereby incorporated in, and which shall be deemed to be a part of Kings Canyon National Park; and

6 USC 46 note.

(2) certain lands which comprise approximately one hundred eighty-five acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "McCauley Ranch Addition, Yosemite National Park", dated December 1982 and numbered 80,021, and which are hereby incorporated in, and which shall be deemed to be a part of Yosemite National Park.

(b) Upon enactment of this title, the Secretary of Agriculture shall transfer the lands described in subsection (a) of this section, without consideration, to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior for administration as part of the National Park System. The boundaries of the national forests and national parks shall be adjusted accordingly. The areas added to the National Park System by this section shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

report.

(c) The Secretary of the Interior shall study the lands added to the National Park System by subsection (a) of this section for possible designation as national park wilderness, and shall report to the Congress his recommendations as to the suitability or unsuitability of the designation of such lands as wilderness by not later than three years after the effective date of this title.

6 USC 46 note.

(d) The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to transfer to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior for administration as a part of Yosemite National Park, two hundred and fifty-three acres of the Stanislaus National Forest at Crocker Ridge, identified as all that land lying easterly of a line beginning at the existing park boundary and running three hundred feet west of and parallel to the center line of the park road designated as State Highway 120, also known as the New Big Oak Flat Road, within section 34, township 1 south, range 19 east, and within sections 4, 9, and 10, township 2 south, range 19 east, Mount Diablo base and meridian. The boundary of Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest shall be adjusted accordingly.

(e) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to transfer to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture one hundred and sixty acres within the boundary of the Sierra National Forest identified as the northwest quarter of section 16, township 5 south, range 22 east, Mount Diablo base meridian, subject to the right of the Secretary of the Interior to the use of the water thereon for park purposes, including the right of access to facilities necessary for the transportation of water to the park.

NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS

SEC. 106. The following lands are hereby designated as wilderness in accordance with section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c)) and shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act.

(1) Yosemite National Park Wilderness, comprising approximately six hundred and seventy-seven thousand six hundred acres, and potential wilderness additions comprising approximately three thousand five hundred and fifty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Wilderness Plan, Yosemite National Park, California", numbered 104-20, 003-E dated July 1980, and shall be known as the Yosemite Wilderness;

16 USC 1132 note.

(2) Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness, comprising approximately seven hundred and thirty-six thousand nine hundred and eighty acres; and potential wilderness additions comprising approximately one hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Wilderness Plan—Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks—California", numbered 102-20, 003-E and dated July 1980, and shall be known as the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness.

16 USC 1132 note.

MAP AND DESCRIPTION

SEC. 107. A map and description of the boundaries of the areas designated in section 106 of this title shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and in the Office of the Superintendent of each area designated in section 106. As soon as practicable after this title takes effect, maps of the wilderness areas and descriptions of their boundaries shall be filed with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, and such maps and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title: *Provided*, That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such maps and descriptions may be made.

Public availability.

CESSATION OF CERTAIN USES

SEC. 108. Any lands (in section 106 of this title) which represent potential wilderness additions upon publication in the Federal Register of a notice by the Secretary of the Interior that all uses thereon prohibited by the Wilderness Act have ceased, shall thereby be designated wilderness. Lands designated as potential wilderness additions shall be managed by the Secretary insofar as practicable as wilderness until such time as said lands are designated as wilderness.

Federal Register, publication.

ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 109. The areas designated by section 106 of this title as wilderness shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that title as wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this title, and where appropriate, any reference to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior.

16 USC 1131 note.

SEC. 110. Notwithstanding any existing or future administrative designation or recommendation, mineral prospecting, exploration, development, or mining of cobalt and associated minerals undertaken under the United States mining laws within the North Fork

Act of Congress, November 2, 1987 (101 Stat. 879)

PUBLIC LAW 100-149—NOV. 2, 1987

101 STAT. 879

Public Law 100-149
100th Congress

An Act

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating a segment of the Merced River in California as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Nov. 2, 1987
[H.R. 317]*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF MERCED RIVER.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end:

“() MERCED, CALIFORNIA.—The main stem from its sources (including Red Peak Fork, Merced Peak Fork, Triple Peak Fork, and Lyell Fork) on the south side of Mount Lyell in Yosemite National Park to a point 300 feet upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek, consisting of approximately 71 miles, and the South Fork of the river from its source near Triple Divide Peak in Yosemite National Park to the confluence with the main stem, consisting of approximately 43 miles, both as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Merced River Wild and Scenic Rivers—Proposed’, dated June 1987, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior. With respect to the portions of the river designated by this paragraph which are within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park, and the El Portal Administrative Unit, the requirements of subsection (b) of this section shall be fulfilled by the Secretary of the Interior through appropriate revisions to the general management plan for the park, and the boundaries, classification, and development plans for such portions need not be published in the Federal Register. Such revisions to the general management plan for the park shall assure that no development or use of park lands shall be undertaken that is inconsistent with the designation of such river segments. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this paragraph, except that no more than \$235,000 may be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands.”

National parks,
monuments, etc.Appropriation
authorization.

SEC. 2. STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end thereof—

“(96) MERCED, CALIFORNIA.—The segment from a point 300 feet upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek downstream to the point of maximum flood control storage of Lake McClure (elevation 867 feet mean sea level).”

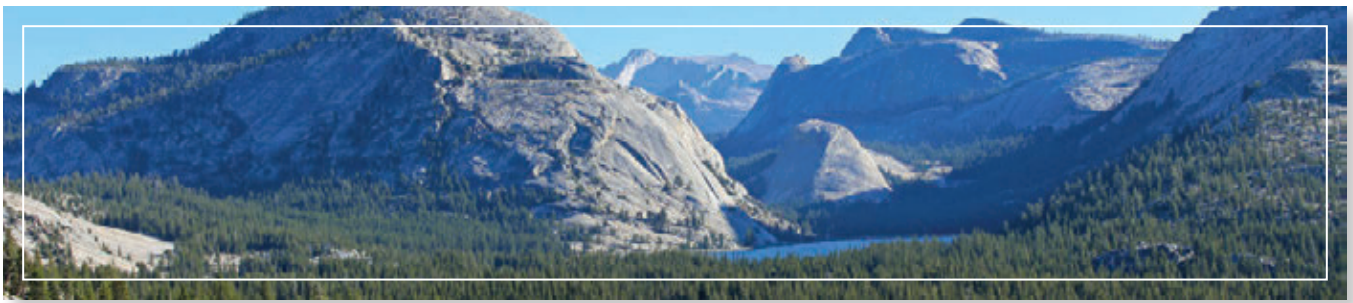
(b) RENUMBERING.—Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by redesignating the paragraphs relating to the Klickitat and White Salmon as paragraphs (94) and (95) respectively.

Approved November 2, 1987.

Appendix B: Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental Resource or Value	Unique Geologic Landscapes
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan, visitor use / park operations / development (1980). • UNESCO: Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage – Nomination to the World Heritage List (1983). • <i>Oblique Map Showing Maximum Extent of 20,000-year-old (Tioga) Glaciers, Yosemite National Park, Central Sierra Nevada, California</i> (1987). • Resources management plan (1994). • <i>Digital Geologic Map of Yosemite National Park and Vicinity California (NPS, GRD, GRE, YOSE)</i> (2006). • <i>Glacial and Postglacial Deposits in Yosemite Valley, California (NPS, GRD, GRE, YOSE)</i> (2006). • <i>Paleontological Resource Inventory and Monitoring-Sierra Nevada Network</i> (2007). • Scenic vista management plan / environmental assessment (2010). • Long-range interpretive plan (2012). • Curry Village rockfall hazard zone structures project / environmental assessment (2012). • <i>Yosemite National Park: Geologic resources inventory report</i> (2012). • Glacial research (ongoing).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change data.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation plan.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 • Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 USC 1251-1387, 33 USC 1151) • Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.1) “General Management Concepts” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.3.7) “World Heritage List” • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.8) “Geologic Resource Management” • <i>Directors Order 77: Natural Resource Management</i> • <i>NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i>





Fundamental Resource or Value	Dramatic and Inspirational Scenery
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan, visitor use / park operations / development (1980). • UNESCO: Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage - Nomination to the World Heritage List (1983). • Resources management plan (1994). • Scenic vista management plan / environmental assessment (2010). • "Sense of Place: Design Guidelines for Yosemite National Park" (2005). • "Yosemite National Park Lighting Guidelines" (2011). • <i>Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement</i> (2014). • <i>Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement</i> (2014). • In-park air quality and smoke monitoring data (ongoing).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of resources sensitive to air quality and assessment of future needs in air quality and effects research and monitoring. • Night sky assessment report.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yosemite Valley vegetation and cultural landscape management strategy. • Site and facility designs for implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans. • Wilderness stewardship plan (in process).
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness Act of 1964 • Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 • National Invasive Species Act of 1996 • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • Clean Air Act of 1977 (42 USC 7401 et seq.) • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" • National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.4) "Park Management" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.3.7) "World Heritage List" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.10) "Lightscape Management" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.7) "Air Resource Management" • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Designations
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan, visitor use / park operations / development (1980). • “Wilderness Management Plan: Yosemite National Park” (1989). • “Wilderness Historic Resources Survey 1989 Season Report” (1989). • Resources management plan (1994). • Fire management plan, environmental impact statement (2004). • <i>Half Dome Trail Stewardship Plan / Environmental Assessment (2012).</i> • <i>Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (2014).</i> • <i>Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (2014).</i> • List of Classified Structures database (ongoing). • Cultural resource database and GIS information (ongoing). • In-park air quality and smoke monitoring data (ongoing). • Stock use studies (in process).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use studies. • Wilderness suitability study for park additions (Ackerson Meadow). • Acoustic monitoring report.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive visitor use management strategy. • Wilderness stewardship plan (in process). • Site and facility designs for implementation of the Merced and Tuolumne River plans.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness Act of 1964 • Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 • Clean Air Act of 1977 (42 USC 7401 et seq.) • Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 USC 1251-1387, 33 USC 1151) • California Wilderness Act of 1984 • Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 • Executive Order 11514, “Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality” • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1) “General Management Concepts” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.3.4) “National Wild and Scenic Rivers System” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 6) “Wilderness Preservation and Management” • Director’s Order 41: <i>Wilderness Stewardship</i> • Director’s Order 46: <i>Wild and Scenic Rivers</i> • Director’s Order 47: <i>Preservation of the Acoustic Environment and Noise Management</i> • NPS Reference Manual 41: <i>Wilderness Stewardship</i> • <i>Keeping It Wild in the National Park Service: A User Guide to Integrating Wilderness Character into Park Planning, Management, and Monitoring (User Guide)</i> • <i>NPS-75 Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring Guideline</i> • <i>NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Abundance and Quality of Water Resources
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan, visitor use / park operations / development (1980). • Wawona water conservation plan (1987). • Resources management plan (1994). • Vegetation management plan (1997). • Fire management plan, environmental impact statement (2004). • Invasive plant management plan (2008). • Invasive plant management plan update / environmental assessment (2010). • <i>Tenaya Lake Area Plan / Environmental Assessment</i> (2010). • <i>Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement</i> (2014). • <i>Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement</i> (2014). • Water rights documentation. • Meadow / river restoration (ongoing). • U.S. Geological Survey stream gauge monitoring (ongoing). • NPS Inventory and Monitoring Network lake monitoring (ongoing). • Snow surveys (ongoing). • NPS Hydrographic and Impairment Statistics database (ongoing).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change data. • Tuolumne Meadows wastewater treatment plant study.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation plan. • Meadow restoration strategies. • Crane Flat and Hodgdon Meadow water system plan. • Wilderness stewardship plan (in process).
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 • Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 USC 1251-1387, 33 USC 1151) • Clean Air Act of 1977 (42 USC 7401 et seq.) • Executive Order 11514, "Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality" • Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management" • Executive Order 12088, "Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards" • National Flood Insurance Program • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Order 46: <i>Wild and Scenic Rivers</i> • Director's Order 77-2: <i>Floodplain Management</i> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1) "General Management Concepts" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.3.4) "National Wild and Scenic Rivers System" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.6.1) "Protection of Surface Waters and Groundwaters" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.6.2) "Water Rights" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.6.4) "Floodplains" • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77

Fundamental Resource or Value	Giant Sequoias
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan, visitor use / park operations / development (1980). • Resources management plan (1994). • Vegetation management plan (1997). • Fire management plan, environmental impact statement (2004). • “Projected Vegetation Changes Over the 21st Century in Yosemite National Park Under Three Climate Change and CO2 Emission Scenarios” (2008). • Invasive plant management plan (2008). • Invasive plant management plan update / environmental assessment (2010). • <i>Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias / Final Environmental Impact Statement</i> (2013), and associated hydrology study. • Current air quality and smoke monitoring data (ongoing). • “Save Our Sequoias: Protect Yosemite’s Giant Sequoia Groves” (in process).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change data.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation plan. • Wilderness stewardship plan (in process).
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness Act of 1964 • National Invasive Species Act of 1990 • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC 4321) • Lacey Act of 1900, as amended • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 USC 1251-1387, 33 USC 1151) • Clean Air Act of 1977 (42 USC 7401 et seq.) • Executive Order 13112, “Invasive Species” • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Director’s Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i> • NPS Director’s Order 77: <i>Natural Resource Management</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) “Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.1) “General Management Concepts” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.1.4) “Partnerships” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.4.1) “General Principles for Managing Biological Resources” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.4.2) “Management of Native Plants and Animals” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.4.4) “Management of Exotic Species” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.4.4.2) “Removal of Exotic Species Already Present” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.7.2) “Weather and Climate” • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • NPS <i>Reference Manual 18: Wildland Fire Management</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Ecological Diversity
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan, visitor use / park operations / development (1980). • <i>Population declines of Yosemite toads in the eastern Sierra Nevada of California</i> (1993). • Resources management plan (1994). • <i>Collapse of a regional frog fauna in the Yosemite area of the California Sierra Nevada, USA</i> (1996). • Vegetation management plan (1997). • <i>Non-native fish introductions and the decline of the mountain yellow-legged frog from within protected areas</i> (2000). • <i>Diagnostic histological findings in Yosemite toads (Bufo canorus) from a die-off in the 1970s</i> (2001). • <i>Pesticides and amphibian population declines in California, USA</i> (2001). • Fire management plan, environmental impact statement (2004). • <i>Reversing introduced species effects: experimental removal of introduced fish leads to rapid recovery of a declining frog</i> (2004). • <i>Ozone risk assessment for Sierra Nevada Network</i> (2004). • <i>Using epiphytic macrolichen communities for biomonitoring ammonia in forests of the greater Sierra Nevada, California</i> (2006). • <i>Multiple stressors and amphibian declines: dual impacts of pesticides and fish on yellow-legged frogs</i> (2007). • <i>Removal of nonnative fish results in population expansion of a declining amphibian (mountain yellow-legged frog, Rana muscosa)</i> (2007). • "Projected Vegetation Changes Over the 21st Century in Yosemite National Park Under Three Climate Change and CO2 Emission Scenarios" (2008). • Invasive plant management plan (2008). • <i>Impact of a century of climate change on small-mammal communities in Yosemite National Park</i> (2008). • <i>Influence of climate data uncertainty in modeling geographic responses of California mammals to 20th century climate change</i> (2008). • <i>Empirical and simulated critical loads for nitrogen deposition in California mixed conifer forests</i> (2008). • <i>Birds track their Grinnellian niche through a century of climate change</i> (2009). • <i>Detecting range shifts from historical species occurrences: new perspectives on old data</i> (2009). • Invasive plant management plan update / environmental assessment (2010). • <i>Tenaya Lake Area Plan / Environmental Assessment</i> (2010). • <i>Phenotypic evolution in high-elevation populations of western fence lizards (Sceloporus occidentalis) in the Sierra Nevada Mountains</i> (2010). • <i>The role of climate, habitat, and species co-occurrence as drivers of change in small mammal distributions over the past century</i> (2010).

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ecological Diversity
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<p>(Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Habitat suitability of patch types: A case study of the Yosemite toad</i> (2011). • <i>Contrasting responses of Peromyscus mice of Yosemite National Park to recent climate change</i> (2011). • <i>Evaluation of the sensitivity of inventory and monitoring national parks to nutrient enrichment effects from atmospheric nitrogen deposition: Sierra Nevada Network (SIEN)</i> (2011). • <i>Evaluation of the sensitivity of inventory and monitoring national parks to acidification effects from atmospheric sulfur and nitrogen deposition: Sierra Nevada Network (SIEN)</i> (2011). • <i>Terrestrial and Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Assemblages as a Function of Wetland Type across a Mountain Landscape</i> (2011). • <i>Advantages of long-term, multi-scale monitoring: Assessing the current status of the Yosemite toad (Anaxyrus [Bufo] canorus) in the Sierra Nevada, California, USA</i> (2012). • <i>Anthropogenic refugia ameliorate the severe climate-related decline of a montane mammal along its trailing edge</i> (2012). • <i>Size increase in high elevation ground squirrels over the last century</i> (2012). • <i>The push and pull of climate change causes heterogeneous shifts in avian elevational ranges</i> (2012). • <i>Climate-induced range contraction drives genetic erosion in an alpine mammal</i> (2012). • <i>Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias / Final Environmental Impact Statement</i> (2013). • <i>Cryptic loss of montane avian richness and high community turnover over 100 years</i> (2013). • <i>Mountain Yellow-legged frog conservation assessment for the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, USA</i> (2014). • <i>Spatially heterogeneous impact of climate change on small mammals of montane California</i> (2014). • <i>Yosemite toad conservation assessment</i> (2015). • <i>Synchronicity in elevation range shifts among small mammals and vegetation over the last century is stronger for omnivores</i> (2015). • Existing GIS information for the park’s natural resources. • NPS Inventory and Monitoring data, related to birds, pines, alpine lakes, and others (ongoing). • Long-term forest monitoring (ongoing). • In-park air quality and smoke monitoring data (ongoing). • Natural resource condition assessment (in process). • Wetlands map (in process).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change data. • Ozone monitoring at additional locations. • Additional studies to examine pollution dose-response relationships in sensitive park ecosystems.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation plan. • Yosemite Valley vegetation and cultural landscape management strategy. • Meadow vegetation and cultural landscape management strategy. • Meadow restoration strategies. • Wilderness stewardship plan (in process).

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ecological Diversity
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness Act of 1964 • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • National Invasive Species Act of 1990 • Lacey Act of 1900, as amended • Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 • Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC 4321) • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • Clean Water Act (33 USC 1251-1387, 33 USC 1151) • Clean Air Act of 1977 (42 USC 7401 et seq.) • Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance" • Executive Order 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management" • Secretarial Order 3206, "American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal-Tribal Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Director's Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i> • NPS Director's Order 77: <i>Natural Resource Management</i> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1) "General Management Concepts" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.4.1) "General Principles for Managing Biological Resources" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7) "Air Resource Management" • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77 • NPS Reference Manual 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i>





Fundamental Resource or Value	Enduring Human Connections
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Register of Historic Places inventory, including many determinations of eligibility and nomination forms. • General management plan, visitor use / park operations / development (1980). • “An Ethnographic Evaluation of Yosemite Valley: The Native American Cultural Landscape” (1994). • Resources management plan (1994). • “Yosemite Valley Cultural Landscape Report: Yosemite National Park, California” (1994). • “Archeological Inventory of the Hetch Hetchy Road” (1998). • “Archeological Inventory of the Mariposa Grove Road and Selected Grove Locations” (2002). • “Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Mariposa Grove” (2004). • “Cultural Landscapes Inventory: South Entrance Station” (2004). • Museum management plan (2006). • “Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Soda Springs Complex” (2007). • “Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Tuolumne Meadows” (2007). • “Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Tuolumne Meadows Historic District” (2007). • “Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Tuolumne Meadows Soda Springs Historic District” (2007). • “Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Glacier Point Road” (2007). • “Traditional Use Study: Traditional Plant Use” (2007). • “Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Badger Pass Ski Area” (2008). • “Camp Curry Historic District Cultural Landscape Report” (2010). • “The Silver Thread – Upper Tuolumne River American Indian Land Use in Yosemite National Park: Ethnographic Context For The Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement” (2010). • “Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Pioneer Yosemite History Center” (2011). • “The Ahwahnee Cultural Landscape Report” (2011). • “The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan / Environmental Assessment” (2011). • Long-range interpretive plan (2012). • “White Wolf Lodge Rehabilitation / Environmental Assessment / Assessment of Effect” (2012). • “Wawona Hotel Complex Cultural Landscape Report” (2013). • “The Ansel Adams Gallery Cultural Landscape Report” (2013). • “Historic Structures Report: The Ansel Adams Gallery” (2013). • Other various historic structure reports, cultural landscape reports, and treatment documents for historic resources. • List of Classified Structures database (ongoing). • Cultural resource database and GIS information (ongoing).

Fundamental Resource or Value	Enduring Human Connections
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change data. • Determinations of eligibility and national register nominations for trails, backcountry cabins, and Pate Valley. • Updated national register nominations for Yosemite Valley Archeological and Historic District. • Administrative history. • Updated archeological district nominations for El Portal and Wawona. • Baseline studies for all heritage resources. • Determinations of eligibility and national register nomination for Wawona Road. • Documentation and national register eligibility for the Yosemite Valley Traditional Cultural Property. • Traditional cultural property study for Tuolumne.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation plan. • Wilderness stewardship plan (in process). • Historic structure strategy(ies). • Meadow vegetation and cultural landscape management strategy.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.) • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended (54 USC 102501 through 102504) • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites" • Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" • "Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archeological Collections" (36 CFR 79) • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • <i>Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes</i> • <i>NPS Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III



Fundamental Resource or Value	Diverse Recreational Experiences
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan, visitor use / park operations / development (1980). • <i>Wilderness Management Plan: Yosemite National Park</i> (1989). • Concession services plan / environmental impact statement with supplement and record of decision (1992). • <i>Yosemite National Park. Curry Village and East Yosemite Valley Campground Improvements Project Environmental Assessment</i> (2003). • Visitor study summer 2005 (2006). • Visitor study winter 2008 (2008). • Visitor study summer 2009 (2010). • “Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation / Environmental Assessment” (2010). • “Tenaya Lake Area Plan / Environmental Assessment” (2010). • “Half Dome Trail Stewardship Plan / Environmental Assessment” (2012). • Long-range interpretive plan (2012). • <i>Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias / Final Environmental Impact Statement</i> (2013). • <i>Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement</i> (2014). • <i>Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement</i> (2014). • Trail maintenance plan (ongoing, updated every five years). • Wilderness permit data (ongoing). • In-park air quality and smoke monitoring data (ongoing). • Accessibility transition plan (in process).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use studies. • Analysis of curriculum based education needs. • Assessment of volunteer opportunities.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive visitor use management strategy. • Outreach plan. • Wilderness stewardship plan (in process). • Tour bus management strategy.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Diverse Recreational Experiences
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • “Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines” (36 CFR 1191) • “Accessibility Guidelines” (36 CFR 1191.1) • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 • NPS Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 • “Concession Contracts” (36 CFR Part 51) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director’s Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director’s Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in NPS Programs, Facilities, and Services</i> • Director’s Order 48A: <i>Concession Management</i> • Director’s Order 48B: <i>Commercial Use Authorizations</i> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 7) “Interpretation and Education” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 8) “Use of the Parks” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 9) “Park Facilities” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 10) “Commercial Visitor Services” • NPS Transportation Planning Guidebook



Fundamental Resource or Value	Educational Opportunities
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan, visitor use / park operations / development (1980). • Museum management plan (2006). • Yosemite Environmental Education Center / Environmental Impact Statement (2010). • Long-range interpretive plan (2012). • Research prospectus (in process). • Social media strategy (in process).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of curriculum based education needs. • Assessment of volunteer opportunities.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach plan.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness Act of 1964 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.4) “Park Management” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§3.1) “General” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§2.3.1.4) “Science and Scholarship” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1.4) “Partnerships” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§5.1) “Research” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§8.10) “Natural and Cultural Studies, Research, and Collection Activities” • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77



Fundamental Resource or Value	Global Leadership in Conservation
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management plan, visitor use / park operations / development (1980). • UNESCO: Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage - Nomination to the World Heritage List (1983). • Sister park arrangement with each of Yosemite’s sister parks (ongoing).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6) “Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.10) “Partnerships” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§2.3.1.4) “Science and Scholarship” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.3.7) “World Heritage List” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§5.1) “Research”



Appendix C: Basics for Wilderness Stewardship for Yosemite National Park

Wilderness Background Information

Park Legislation

The area now known as Yosemite National Park was home to the Ahwahneechee people for generations before European settlers arrived in the mid-1800s. During this European settlement era, native populations were displaced, and Congress disposed of much of the western landscape for privatized, utilitarian use—railroads, mining, lumber, and the like. In 1864, a radical new approach to “public” land took hold through the Yosemite Grant Act (S. 203; Public Act No.159). This act, signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on June 30, 1864, granted the Yosemite Valley to the state of California, “upon the express conditions that the premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation; [and] shall be inalienable for all time.” Additionally, California was granted the Mariposa Big Tree Grove under the same stipulations. Both the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove encompassed striking natural features—such as sheer granite walls, plunging waterfalls, and giant sequoias—that many onlookers described as cathedral-like. Early on, this unique Sierra Nevada landscape attracted wealthy recreationists from San Francisco and the surrounding rural communities.

On October 1, 1890, President Benjamin Harrison established a forest reserve (HR 12187) to be “under the exclusive control” of the Secretary of the Interior that expanded on the lands of the Yosemite Grant Act—thereby creating Yosemite National Park: “Such regulations shall provide for the preservation from injury of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within said reservation, and their retention in their natural condition . . . he [the Department of the Interior Secretary] shall provide against the wanton destruction of the fish, and game within said reservation, and against their capture or destruction, for the purposes of merchandise or profit.”

Over the next several decades, successive bills addressing state and federal ownership and boundary specifics for the park were passed. Established as the third national park, Yosemite was and remains a seminal figure for the nexus between public land, public access, and conservation.



Yosemite Wilderness Legislation

The Yosemite Wilderness began its long journey to designation in 1969 with a preliminary proposal developed by the park to include five units totaling 614,990 acres (approximately 82% of park lands). Initial boundaries within the proposed areas followed public survey lines, straight lines up to one mile from roadways, and the rim of Yosemite Valley. Large exclusions in the initial proposal were made to account for anticipated and existing developments, including a proposed tramway to Glacier Point, a proposed motor nature trail along Old Tioga Road, five existing and three proposed High Sierra Camps, Wildcat Creek and Tamarack Creek watersheds proposed for water source development, existing/future activities in the Hetch Hetchy area, and Little Yosemite Valley.

Upon receiving public input during the September 1971 hearings held in Mammoth Lakes, Yosemite, and San Francisco, California, the wilderness proposal was updated to reflect suggested boundary changes, resulting in additional lands totaling 624,000 acres (83% of park lands). Countering this update, conservation organizations proposed higher protection for more park land, totaling 692,447 acres—including Little Yosemite Valley, Old Tioga Road Corridor, nine 30-acre enclaves for the five existing High Sierra Camps, as well as the three proposed camps, the Ostrander ski hut, Hetch Hetchy Roadless Area, and Lake Eleanor.

In September 1972, following the proposal submitted by the conservation organizations and public comments on the draft environmental statement for the proposed wilderness area, proposed acreage was again increased to also include an area near the park's west boundary, a one-eighth-mile management zone adjoining U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands, and an underground telephone utility corridor in Indian Canyon—resulting in a total of 646,700 acres of wilderness and 121 acres of potential wilderness.

On January 4, 1973, Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) sponsored a bill (S. 112) proposing 692,500 acres for wilderness designation. This recommendation—submitted four months prior to the final environmental statement for the proposed wilderness areas—reflected the counter proposal submitted by the conservation organizations. A year later, in 1974, the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs was presented with two Yosemite Wilderness proposals—the administration's proposal of 646,700 acres (introduced by Representative Sebelius [HR 13562]) and the conservation organizations' proposal of 692,500 (introduced by Representative Seiberling [H.R. 13563]). On March 26, 1974, hearings were held on both proposals, but no action was taken. Over the course of the next few years, identical subsequent proposals were submitted to the House and Senate (1975 and 1977), again resulting in no action, pending the completion of a general management plan for the park.

In August 1978, the Yosemite draft general management plan was released, proposing 666,915 acres of designated wilderness and 4,211 acres of potential wilderness. Designated wilderness lands within the proposal included Illilouette Ridge, where the terminus for the proposed tram was to be located, two watersheds near Foresta, the eastern portion of the proposed Old Tioga Road motor nature trail, the Hetch Hetchy Roadless Area, and the three proposed High Sierra Camps. Potential wilderness lands included areas of the wilderness that contained nonconforming uses, such as the existing High Sierra Camps, private inholdings, the road to North Mountain, and the western portion of Old Tioga Road. The fate of this proposal was dependent on the completion of the second roadless area review and evaluation conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, as the decision was made that any and all proposed wilderness areas under NPS and USFS jurisdiction in California would only be considered in a single omnibus bill.

In January 1980, Yosemite released the second draft general management plan, which moved the Baseline Camp area from designated to potential wilderness, resulting in 666,125 acres of designated wilderness and 5,181 acres of potential wilderness. In July of that same year, the park's wilderness proposal was updated to include Little Yosemite Valley and roadside corridors of one-quarter mile on either side. The proposal now included 676,600 acres of designated wilderness and 3,550 acres of potential wilderness.

The near-final proposed map (map 104-20,003D, July 1980) was included in the general management plan and final environmental statement, which was signed by the regional director on September 17, 1980. It is important to note that a 1,000-acre addition was made in August 1980 of an area between the old and new Glacier Point Roads west of Badger Pass. Though the date of the map was not changed, the letter “E” was appended to the map number (map 104-20,003E, July 1980). This map became the basis for subsequent legislation introduced by Rep. Burton.

While the park continued to refine its proposal, bills were introduced in each of the 96th, 97th, and 98th Congresses, proposing wilderness areas throughout the state, however due to disagreement with the conservation organizations’ proposal and local Representative opposition, no bills were passed during this time. While hearings continued, Yosemite’s proposal was updated once again to move Little Yosemite Valley and the North Mountain Road from potential wilderness to designated wilderness—resulting in 680,500 acres of designated wilderness and 2,100 acres of potential wilderness (map 104-20,003E, July 1983).

On September 28, 1984, the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (98 Stat. 1627) was enacted by Congress. This act designated 677,600 acres within the Yosemite Wilderness and another 300,550 acres of potential wilderness in the park, including wilderness designations for other units of the national park system.

Per the act, maps and boundary descriptions of each wilderness area were to be on file and available as soon as practicable. Yosemite’s Research Office, with the support of staff associated with the wilderness areas, took on this responsibility. The House Report accompanying the act specified two widths for road corridors—a compromise of 200 feet was chosen. The overall wilderness boundary was drawn to the 4,200-foot contour in Yosemite Valley and 100 feet from all existing development (and development specifically identified/proposed in the general management plan). Wilderness area exclusions were made for heliports needed by fire managers, utility systems required by maintenance personnel, and paved trails necessitated by heavy visitor use. Additionally, potential wilderness additions were delineated for 16 nonconforming uses, including the High Sierra Camps and Ostrander ski hut, overhead utilities, and access roads to interim facilities.

On January 31, 1985, the superintendent approved the wilderness maps (drawn on 1:62,500 scale quadrangle maps) and boundary description and sent them to the regional director for approval and transmission to the Denver Service Center and, ultimately, to be on file with Congress. In 1990, the U.S. Geological Survey transcribed the Yosemite Wilderness boundary to the new 1:24,000 scale quadrangle maps. Finally, a GIS analysis of the boundary identified 704,624 acres of designated wilderness (94.2% of park lands) and 927 acres of potential wilderness (0.1% of park lands) in the congressionally designated Yosemite Wilderness.



Wilderness Character Narrative

A wilderness character narrative is a positive and affirming description of what is unique and special about wilderness. This narrative achieves this purpose while identifying threats to the Yosemite Wilderness and weighing tradeoffs to preserve the qualities of its wilderness character.

Overview

[There] rose the mighty Sierra, miles in height, and so gloriously colored and so radiant, it seemed not clothed with light but wholly composed of it, like the wall of some celestial city. . . Then it seemed to me that the Sierra should be called, not the Nevada or Snowy Range, but the Range of Light. And after ten years of wandering and wondering in the heart of it, rejoicing in its glorious floods of light, the white beams of the morning streaming through the passes, the noonday radiance on the crystal rocks, the flush of the alpenglow, and the irised spray of countless waterfalls, it still seems above all others the Range of Light.

—John Muir, *The Yosemite* (1912), chapter 1

Renowned for its rugged, picturesque scenery and its dramatic light, Yosemite Wilderness has long been a destination sought for exploration, inspiration, discovery and wonder. Yosemite’s legal designations reflect and complement its many superlatives. It is a national park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It contains two wild and scenic rivers, a national scenic trail, and numerous cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It was the birthplace of the American conservation movement and it is the origin of the Rustic Style of architecture. It has inspired some of America’s greatest artists, photographers and writers, leaving its iconic scenery deeply imprinted on the public imagination. Its outstanding wilderness character was recognized by Congress in 1984 when over 94% of Yosemite National Park was legally designated as the Yosemite Wilderness.

From its cathedrals of high granite peaks to the idyllic sylvan valleys, Yosemite’s rich biodiversity results from its variable topography and wide range in elevation. The brushy lowlands, old growth forests, subalpine meadows, fens, and high rocky cirques provide habitat for a stunning array of species, many of which are endemic to the region and some of which are federally threatened or endangered. Much of the wildlife community that existed prior to westward expansion is still intact, and that which was greatly altered post-expansion is at some stage of stewardship or restoration.

Yosemite’s wilderness character should not be considered in isolation, but rather as an integral part of the vast Sierra Nevada wilderness stretching from Lake Tahoe to the Kern Plateau, persisting in a land still shaped by free flowing water and natural fires. This connectivity to the larger Sierra Nevada wilderness and adjacent roadless areas reduces the effects of fragmentation common to smaller protected areas. The southern portion of Yosemite Wilderness is part of the second largest wilderness complex in the contiguous United States, protecting, in total, nearly 2.5 million acres and securing a vastness of uninterrupted primordial beauty.



Yosemite has been home to human communities for hundreds of generations. Indeed, it has been treasured and considered sacred by different peoples who have fought for the right to its abundant natural resources and the security afforded by its geography. These American Indian peoples lived in the lower elevations year round, traveling to higher elevations during the snow-free season, and many of the trails they blazed remain in use today. The gold rush brought new people, new activities, and a focus upon material wealth to the area. Cattle and sheep grazing became common starting in the 1860s, and tourism grew as word of Yosemite's beauty spread. Part of what became today's wilderness was included in the Yosemite Grant of 1864, but the majority was later given protected status when Yosemite National Park was established in 1890.

Yosemite's dynamic landscape, characterized by the soar of its peaks, sheer granite walls, monolithic trees, and cascading water makes it a place to which people are continually drawn. The Yosemite Wilderness invites many into their first wilderness experiences and provides opportunities to develop self-reliance and to seek sacredness and awe. From hiking on maintained trails to travelling freely cross-country, Yosemite Wilderness offers a bounty of opportunities to experience the natural world. Hikers and packers regularly pass through an area of the park on the renowned Pacific Crest and John Muir Trails. The long human history of the place, the physical legacy of that history, and ongoing use by contemporary associated American Indian tribes and park visitors is an intrinsic component of Yosemite Wilderness. This combined richness of natural and cultural resources offers limitless potential for discovery and enlightenment, allowing visitors to strengthen and share the wilderness traditions of treading lightly.

This narrative describes five qualities of wilderness character – natural, untrammeled, undeveloped, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and other features of value – in the context of the Yosemite Wilderness.

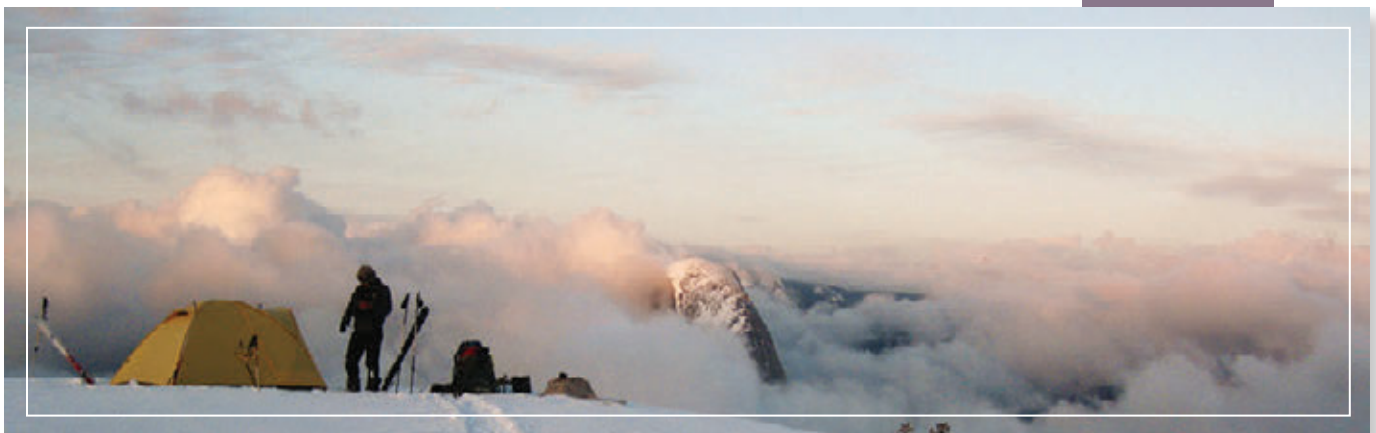
Natural

Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. This quality is preserved or improved, for example, by controlling or removing nonindigenous species or restoring ecological processes. This quality is degraded by the loss of indigenous species, occurrence of nonindigenous species, alteration of ecological processes such as water flow or fire regimes, effects of climate change, and many other factors. (*Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook*, January 2014)

The diverse landscapes of Yosemite Wilderness include rolling forested uplands in the western half, stretching from Kibbie Lake on the northwest boundary to the Upper South Fork Merced on the southern boundary. It extends from the high glaciated peaks of the Clark and Cathedral ranges surrounding the deep canyons of the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers to the rocky and mostly trail-less lake country of the northwest and the remote canyons of the northeast. The effects of modern society on the natural quality of its landscapes have been limited by Yosemite's early protection. Natural conditions and processes continue largely unaffected by resource extraction or development.

The geology of Yosemite has attracted and inspired generations of visitors, scientists, and conservationists. Defined by the drama of its domes, cliffs, waterfalls, and quintessentially glacial landscape, it is the epitome of what Ansel Adams called the "great earth gesture of the Sierra." More than just a near perfect arrangement of scenically stunning features, these are the enduring granite bones of a living and ever-changing wilderness. Breathtaking vistas provide visitors a chance to contemplate this landscape of enormous carved and polished granitic monoliths, steep valley cuts and domes populated by erratics, all formed by the action of glaciers that have long since receded. Water nevertheless continues to shape the land today.

As originally conceived by John Muir, Yosemite Wilderness protects both the Merced and Tuolumne River drainages at the watershed scale. As a consequence, its hydrology—an essential component of its biophysical integrity—remains nearly unimpacted by man. The only exception to this is the dam at Hetch Hetchy. The geographic position and high elevation of Yosemite National Park combine to catch winter storms approaching from the west and occasional monsoonal moisture that approaches from the southeast during summer. Its deep snowpack supports an extensive network of unimpeded rivers and streams that traverse a 10,000-foot range of elevation and support a wide variety of plant communities. This free-flowing hydrology is especially important to sensitive communities such as wetlands, wet meadows, and riparian edges. At certain public use hotspots, some streams may be impacted by concentrated camp use while certain others may be impacted by repeated stock use.



Until the 1970s, historic fire management policies favored fire exclusion throughout Yosemite National Park and this exclusion has fundamentally altered fire dynamics to the detriment of the natural quality of the wilderness. Since then, however, progressive fire management has permitted approximately 35% of natural ignitions to burn, thus helping to restore the integrity of the wilderness's fire-dependent forests. Continued suppression of natural fires nevertheless remains a significant impact to biophysical processes. Climatic changes resulting in increased temperatures, reduced snowpack, and ultimately less available water can act in concert with this and other stressors to increase impacts on the state of the wilderness.

Plant communities and native plant species diversity in Yosemite Wilderness exhibit a high level of integrity; however, certain impacts persist or continue to increase today. Historic livestock grazing, for example, introduced several non-native forage grasses that have altered meadow ecosystems. Further, several species of invasive plants have established localized populations from which they potentially could spread throughout the wilderness. These impacts are compounded by extreme wildfire events and climate change, which together have the potential to permanently alter land cover type and alter plant community composition. The park's giant sequoia groves, for example, are highly imperiled by prolonged drought consequent of climate change, and in the park's lower elevations a massive pine die-off has resulted from increased presence of beetles after milder winters and severe droughts.

The trampling of vegetation, erosion of soils, and loss and fragmentation of habitat from human use and development also impacts Yosemite's plant communities. Well-maintained trails play a vital role in directing use and protecting the value derived from these ecosystems. Impacts of visitor use have been further minimized through educational efforts using all types of media and interaction, from websites to trailhead signs to the face to face contact at wilderness centers and with park staff in the field. Yosemite National Park has maintained a dedicated wilderness restoration program since the 1980s that uses practiced methods to restore heavily impacted campsites, remove fire rings, and repair trail ruts. All work is completed following leave-no-trace principles with the underlying concept that upon completion, evidence of all restoration work should go unnoticed. The wilderness restoration program continues to successfully facilitate site restoration with particular focus on the control of invasive plants, restoration of inappropriate camp sites, and the restoration of meadow hydrology through targeted revegetation of unauthorized trails.

Though most of the region's wildlife roams the landscape as it has since the ice retreated, the introduction of nonnative species and human food into wilderness during the past century may have altered the ranges and ecologies of certain species. The introduction of multiple trout species into historically fishless lakes above 6000 feet elevation has profoundly altered these aquatic systems and facilitated the decline of endemic amphibians. The habituation of bears to human food is another unnatural impact stemming from concentrated human use of the wilderness. Through intensive visitor education efforts and bear-resistant food storage requirements, however, bear habituation has decreased throughout most of the wilderness since the time of designation.

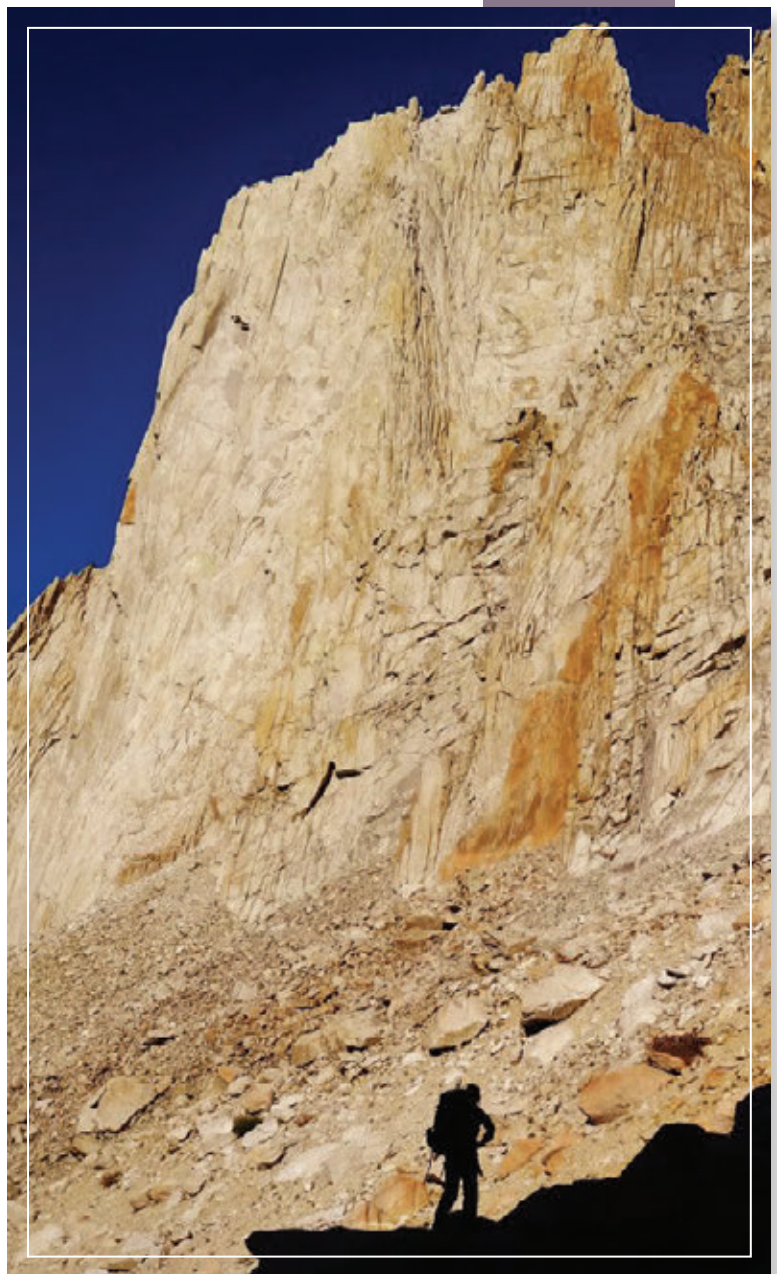
A few native species are absent from the ecosystem, further affecting the natural quality of Yosemite Wilderness. Notably, the brown bear was extirpated in the late 19th century and the wolverine has not been observed for decades. Recent actions and proposed efforts with the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Yosemite toad, California red-legged frog, peregrine falcon, Pacific fisher, and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep have sought to reintroduce and/or to protect these threatened and endangered species. When necessary, visitor use exclusion zones are employed to help restore natural communities at impacted areas. Such efforts include temporarily closing climbing routes to protect peregrine falcon habitat as well as connecting fragmented habitats with wildlife crossings along the scenic Wawona Road.

Untrammeled

Wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from the intentional actions of modern human control or manipulation. This quality is influenced by any activity or action that intentionally controls or manipulates the components or processes of ecological systems inside wilderness. It is supported or preserved when such management actions are not taken. It is degraded when such management actions are taken, even when these actions are intended to protect resources, such as spraying herbicides to eradicate or control nonindigenous species, or reducing fuels accumulated from decades of fire exclusion. (*Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook*, January 2014)

The majesty of Yosemite National Park demands deference. Passing by boulders the size of a house, one's vantage is drawn upward to a near infinite vastness of granite and tries to comprehend the motion and weight of these pieces of mountains as they fell. From the massive boulders, escarpments, and erratics that define and dominate the landscape to the flooding that scours, reshapes, and brings nutrients and life to meadows and valleys, these things, like the weather, remain largely uncontrolled and define much of the character of Yosemite Wilderness. Safety and preservation of life and property, however, carry an importance that warrants a degree of control and manipulation. Historically authorized management actions in wilderness include fire suppression, grazing, and game fish introductions by the state of California. Others are small in scale or localized and intended to protect the natural qualities. Such actions include the restoration of campsites, wildlife management activities, hazard tree removal at designated campsites, and removal of both invasive plant and animal species.

At times, natural conditions have been compromised to the point where management actions have been required. Such events have included large scale pesticide application in an attempt to control needle miner moths, efforts to eradicate blister rust, nonnative fish removal via electrofishing, river flow manipulation downstream of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, and both fire suppression and prescribed fire. Fire management takes place at a broad scale, including full or partial suppression of naturally ignited fires, or prescribed burning at a time of the year when fires would seldom ignite in the absence of humans. As climate change continues to impact natural systems, future manipulations could include management efforts focused on resilience and adaptive capacity.



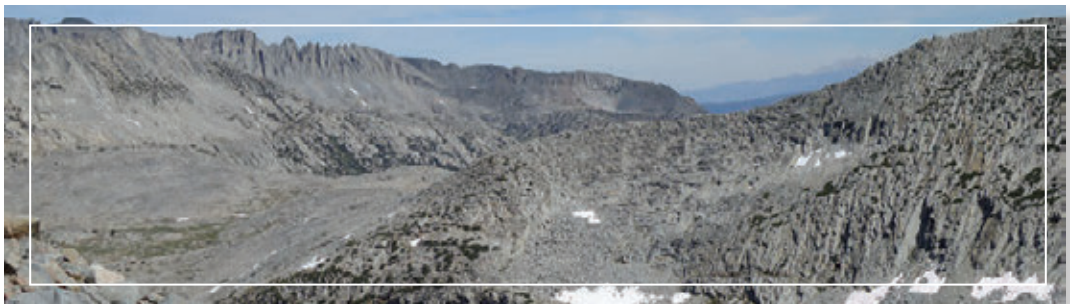
Undeveloped

Wilderness retains its primeval character and influence, and is essentially without permanent improvement or modern human occupation. This quality is influenced by what are commonly called the “section 4(c) prohibited uses” or “nonconforming” uses, which are the presence of modern structures, installations, habitations, and the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanical transport. This quality is preserved by the absence of structures and installations, and refraining from these prohibited uses. It is degraded by the presence of structures and by prohibited uses, whether by the agency for administrative purposes, by others authorized by the agency, or unauthorized uses. (*Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook*, January 2014)

Beginning with the Yosemite Grant of 1864, multiple legislative acts have enabled the protection of Yosemite National Park, safeguarding the park and its wilderness from development. Prior to wilderness designation, however, an array of structures were built across the park’s landscapes for various purposes and nearly all of those that now fall within the designated wilderness have been converted for recreational uses or serve essential administrative functions. Many of these also are historic structures and are contributing features to Yosemite’s cultural landscapes.

The 1989 wilderness management plan, written a few years after the park’s wilderness designation, prohibited any new development within the wilderness. Managers continue to minimize further installations, conducting minimum requirement analyses by which all developments in wilderness are the minimum required for responsible administration. Management also adheres to the Wilderness Act’s “prohibition of certain uses” to reduce the number of helicopter overflights and landings and minimize chainsaw use throughout wilderness. Field staff also strives to reduce the overall number of campfire rings and signs, campground infrastructure, and other installations from the wilderness.

Developments do, however, exist in the Yosemite Wilderness. Current and future developments that degrade the undeveloped quality come primarily from administrative use and scientific installations. Others were installed to broaden visitor access and experience. Seven cabins, numerous abandoned roads and railroad grades, seven designated campgrounds, and utility systems lie within the wilderness boundary. Located in pockets of potential wilderness additions are five High Sierra Camps, which impact the undeveloped quality of surrounding areas. The lifeline of backcountry access—its extensive trail system—includes approximately 750 miles of maintained trails, many of which are historically significant contributing features. This network includes associated trail signs, bridges, and minimally, motorized equipment used for hazard tree removal. Established climbing routes are marked by countless permanently installed climbing bolts and hangers in rock faces. Each of these developments, from camps to trails, serves recreational and administrative uses and balance visitor use and safety against their respective impacts to wilderness character.



Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. This quality is primarily about the opportunity for people to experience wilderness, and is influenced by settings that affect these opportunities. This quality is preserved or improved by management actions that reduce visitor encounters, signs of modern civilization inside wilderness, agency-provided recreation facilities, and management restrictions on visitor behavior. In contrast, this quality is degraded by management actions that increase these. (*Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook*, January 2014)

Although the park is within modest driving range of multiple large urban areas, visitors to its vast wilderness can find solitude in any season. One can feel removed from the bustle of modern life and immersed in nature just a few hundred feet above the Yosemite Valley floor or miles away from the trailhead. In the summer, the high country brings people from around the world to experience Yosemite's magnificent subalpine and alpine areas. In the winter, the high country empties of the summer crowds and becomes a haven for a relatively small number of ski-touring solitude seekers. At Yosemite, the less-trafficked areas are plentiful and offer many options for users of all abilities.

While Yosemite Wilderness hosts more than 100,000 use nights per year, day use makes up the majority of total visitation. The wilderness provides opportunities for visitors to hike, backpack, rock climb, horseback ride, ski, snowshoe, paddle, fish, as well as view and photograph its iconic scenery and diverse flora and fauna. For many visitors, Yosemite Wilderness is a uniquely hospitable place for first-time backpacking experiences or family hikes. Others travel to Yosemite seeking world-class climbing, travel along two wild and scenic rivers, or a superior high-country experience.

Though opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are plentiful, increasing visitation and changing use patterns do impact this quality. Although concentrated in certain areas, day use has increased dramatically in recent years resulting in a reduction of both opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation. Because of crowding and the subsequent safety concerns, the Half Dome permit system, for instance, was implemented in 2012. The increasing attraction of the Pacific Crest and John Muir Trails due to unprecedented exposure through an array of media channels also has led to issues related to overuse. Some areas continually combat trail braiding, bare ground, and erosion. This issue, as with Half Dome, may compel wilderness managers to consider revising the permitting system to protect and preserve wilderness character and stem the long-term impacts resulting from overuse.

Although permitting benefits the natural quality of the wilderness, it can simultaneously impose confinements on recreational options even as it provides improved opportunities for solitude. Group size restrictions are imposed in order to minimize impacts to solitude and natural qualities. Larger groups are asked to stay on maintained trails, while smaller groups may choose to traverse the wilderness cross-country. Permits are not required for climbing or most day use and regulations have been kept simple to the extent possible. Staff uses education as their primary tool to develop a sense of stewardship within visitors and achieve compliance with regulations, while enforcement staff use the minimum action required to ensure compliance with these policies.

Relatively pristine and largely free of modern developments, visitors still have the chance to immerse themselves in a landscape closely resembling how American Indians and early pioneers may have experienced it. Because managers do not require visitors to follow a specific itinerary throughout most of the wilderness, visitors have a greater opportunity for spontaneity and freedom of movement, just as a mountain lion does with its unfettered roaming.

Other Features of Value

Wilderness preserves other tangible features that are of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. This quality is based on the last clause of section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act which states that a wilderness “may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.” This quality captures important elements of the wilderness that may not be covered in the other four qualities, such as cultural or paleontological resources. This quality is preserved or improved when these resources are preserved and their loss or impacts to such features degrade this quality of wilderness character. (Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook, January 2014)

Historical Values. People have been traveling through and living in what we now call Yosemite Wilderness for countless generations, leaving a story of human lives in the soil, trees, rocks, and structures. Beginning thousands of years ago, American Indian peoples made this place their home. Bedrock mortars, stone tools, rock art, hunting blinds, and house foundations trace the patterns of their habitation and the stories of their civilizations. These artifacts contain information important to the park’s cultural narrative across centuries and they are the heritage of contemporary American Indian tribes. Today, some of these peoples continue to practice their cultural traditions in the wilderness. This well-preserved cultural landscape illustrates a deep connection between people and place and it can profoundly enhance the wilderness experience of those who discover its significance for themselves.

Explorers and settlers, shepherds and ranchers, miners and loggers, conservationists, and recreational enthusiasts each have followed the pathways first forged by American Indians. The U.S. Army, and later the National Park Service, modified their trails and added new routes. The trail network is a complex tale of the layers of human history, reflecting each peoples’ knowledge, economy, and values. Throughout the Yosemite Wilderness, tree carvings, camps, and cabins help tell the tales of land use, and thereby provide important opportunities for education and discovery. One such snapshot of time is framed by the mine shafts, tailings, and cabins of the Golden Crown Mine. Collectively, they are a touchstone to a time when mining was the perceived opportunity. Logging railroad grades and associated camps and equipment bear witness to yet another form of resource extraction.

In the early 20th century, the tale of the Yosemite Wilderness shifted from natural resource extraction to recreation. Historically significant camps and cabins, such as the High Sierra Camps and Ostrander Ski Hut, offer visitors a rustic experience in remote and scenic settings. To this day, these sites continue to provide a special experience for both hikers and skiers. During the latter half of the century, beginning in the 1950s, the cliffs and peaks of Yosemite had grown to be internationally renowned signature features of North American climbing.

Wilderness designation provides protection for all of these fragile cultural sites. The simple fact that the landscape is protected from development preserves cultural features from the changes typically characteristic of other areas of the park. Most contributing cultural features throughout the wilderness are maintained by historic preservation crews; however, visitor use does impact the integrity of these features. Such impacts can include looting, vandalism, trampling, unauthorized excavation, and creation of fire rings and other structures. Maintenance actions such as trail work, ecological restoration, and fire suppression also might sometimes impact these resources. Environmental forces further complicate the protection of sensitive cultural sites. Erosion, flooding, fire, wildlife activity, and natural deterioration will always be at play in a place where wilderness reigns.

Scientific Values. Designated wilderness provides an invaluable baseline for the study of ecological and biophysical systems and processes. In order to understand how humans impact landscapes from the local to the global scale, scientists must have access to places where these impacts have been prevented. As one of the largest and least-disturbed of such areas, Yosemite's wilderness hosts a wide range of scientists from numerous academic institutions. Both long-term monitoring and short-term research projects are permitted within the wilderness and the results often return to inform and guide future management decisions.

Yosemite's unique geology and rich plant diversity were two of the original draws that brought John Muir to this region. Since then, the role of science within the wilderness continues to grow. This role profoundly advances scientific knowledge and education across many disciplines. As such it is a other features of value for Yosemite Wilderness. Its scientific legacy is an enduring feature, where researchers can return to places that were studied 10, 50, even 100 years ago. Now and in the future, they will continue to grow our knowledge base, applying what is learned to deepen the scientific rigor with which we assess the park's ecosystem components and processes.

In the Yosemite Wilderness, natural processes still prevail and this makes it an irreplaceable outdoor living laboratory. It is one of the few large areas in California, and in the western United States, with a diversity of habitats that are largely intact and undisturbed. Very few areas in California are comparable to the Illilouette Creek basin in the Merced River watershed or the Frog Creek basin in the Tuolumne River watershed. These are rare places where fire regimes, for example, remain within a relatively natural cycle in the mixed conifer forest. As such, they are invaluable reference sites with a long history in fire science that continues to yield results.

Yosemite's protected status and diverse ecosystems continue to yield valuable data on anthropogenic threats to threatened and endangered species as well. These data enable managers to enact recovery actions such as those for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and the Sierra Nevada big horn sheep. Yosemite's unique geology, its role as the headwaters for two major wild and scenic rivers, and the accessibility it offers for researchers, especially to high elevation ecosystems, is increasingly important for our collective understanding of vulnerable natural systems in this era of changing climate and increasing human population.

Closing

This narrative described five qualities of wilderness character of the Yosemite Wilderness—natural, untrammeled, undeveloped, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and other features of value—and it is by these five qualities we aim to distill the essence of wilderness. Yet, it must be noted that the wilderness of Yosemite National Park cannot be measured strictly by quantifiable means. Stories about the place we call wilderness can be highly personal and profound and can transcend time and culture. Indeed they were once synonymous with the people of the Grizzly Bear Tribe and stated by Chief Tenaya as “spirits among the rocks, the waterfalls, in the rivers and in the winds. . .” They can be told by the path of a historic blaze and its layers of use, or by the memory of camping at sunset at an alpine lake whose name has been forgotten, or by the sight of a family of black bears disappearing through snow-laden understory. These are the types of intangible elements which give meaning to this place.

To balance the experience gained through use with preservation, such things as new and historic trails are hugely important in preserving the natural character of Yosemite Wilderness. Conversely, the intrinsic values of an untrammeled world and the unhampered ability to explore and discover this world are immeasurable. These values that rise from the qualities noted above, in concert with the balance struck between each, is the confluence where the “range of light” gathers and maintains its beauty, as described by John Muir, an original Yosemite Wilderness champion.



Appendix D: River Values for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River

(Excerpted from the *Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* [2014])

The River Values of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River

This section describes the river values of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River. The first two values are the river's free-flowing condition and water quality, and the remainder are the river's 10 outstandingly remarkable values. The Wild and Scenic River Act stipulates that all these values must be protected.

Free-Flowing Condition

A river must be in a free-flowing state to be eligible for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system. Preserving the free-flowing condition of rivers is central to the purpose of WSRA. When a river is designated, the managing agency is required to preserve it in its free-flowing condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Water Quality

Another purpose of WSRA is to protect the water quality of designated rivers. Water quality in the Tuolumne River is exceptionally high, and far superior to federal and state standards.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Outstandingly remarkable values were first considered for the Tuolumne River as part of the development of the 1979 Tuolumne Final Study, which established the eligibility of the Tuolumne River for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system. Since the completion of that study, the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council (Interagency Council, or IWSRCC) has issued specific guidance and criteria for identifying outstandingly remarkable values (IWSRCC 1999), which can be summarized as follows:

- The value must be river-related or river-dependent. To be considered river-related or river-dependent, a value must be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (generally within 0.25 mile on either side of the river); contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or owe its location or existence to the presence of the river.
- The value must be rare, unique, or exemplary in a regional or national context. To be considered rare, unique, or exemplary, a value should be a conspicuous example from among a number of similar values that are themselves uncommon or extraordinary.

The Interagency Council provides additional criteria for assessing each category of outstandingly remarkable values listed in WSRA, noting that these criteria may be modified to make them more meaningful to a particular river. The Interagency Council also notes that while no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for the "other similar values" mentioned in WSRA, agencies may assess additional river-related values, including but not limited to hydrology, paleontology, and botany resources, consistent with the guidance provided (IWSRCC 1999).

With input from other agencies, tribes, and members of the public, the Yosemite park staff used the best available science along with their best professional judgment to articulate river-related values, with the Sierra Nevada forming the primary region of comparison. Using these criteria, 10 outstandingly remarkable values have been identified for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River, as presented here in brief.

- **Biological Values.** In Tuolumne Meadows, Dana Meadows, and along the Lyell Fork, the Tuolumne River sustains one of the most extensive Sierra complexes of subalpine meadows and riparian habitats with relatively high biological integrity.
 - *Explanation:* The unusual extent and influence of glaciations in the Tuolumne River corridor created extensive areas of low relief that alternate with steep river reaches flowing over bedrock. The long, low-gradient reaches along the Lyell Fork, the lower Dana Fork, and below their confluence through Tuolumne Meadows were conducive to the accumulation of sand, silts, and organic debris. The resulting meadow/riparian complex is the largest in Yosemite National Park and one of the most extensive in the Sierra Nevada.

Poopenaut Valley contains a type of low-elevation riparian and wetland habitat that is rarely found in the Sierra.

- *Explanation:* Poopenaut Valley, located about 3 miles below the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and O'Shaughnessy Dam, is one of the few undeveloped and largely undisturbed low-elevation riparian/meadow/wetland complexes in the region. Aquatic/riparian systems are the most altered and impaired habitats of the Sierra Nevada (UC Davis 1996), and loss of these habitats may be the most important cause of population decline among land bird species in western North America (DeSante and George 1994). The wet meadow habitats at Poopenaut Valley are some of the most productive in the park.
- **Geologic Value.** Between Tuolumne Meadows and Pate Valley, the Tuolumne River demonstrates classic stairstep river morphology, repeatedly transitioning from calm stretches to spectacular cascades.
 - *Explanation:* The Tuolumne River corridor between Tuolumne Meadows and Pate Valley represents one of the finest examples of stairstep river morphology in the Sierra Nevada. This glacially carved morphology extends over an unusually long gradient. A series of broad basins interspersed with steep dropoffs help define the river's overall character. The spectacular cascades and waterfalls within this segment include Tuolumne Fall; White Cascade; and California, LeConte, and Waterwheel Falls.





- **Cultural Values.** The rich prehistoric archeological landscape along the Tuolumne River reflects thousands of years of travel, settlement, and trade.
 - *Explanation:* The nearly continuous prehistoric archeological landscape along the Tuolumne River contains dense concentrations of resources reflecting thousands of years of travel, settlement, and trade. The record of cultural continuity at specific locations is longest along the Dana Fork, where it extends back at least 6,000 years (NPS 2007d and 2007s). Some of these sites individually hold exceptional data potential, and Dana and Tuolumne Meadows have the potential to provide data about how and why prehistoric people occupied these riparian/meadow areas and the relationships between ecological and cultural change over millennia. In addition to this regionally significant scientific and interpretive value, the sites have value to American Indian tribes and groups as a connection to their history and their ancestors.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, a national historic landmark sited near the Tuolumne River, uniquely commemorates the significance of this free-flowing segment of the river in inspiring conservation activism and protection of the natural world on a national scale.

- *Explanation:* Beginning at the end of the 19th century, the Sierra Club played a major role in instilling appreciation of and support for the preservation of wild rivers and natural areas for the benefit of all Americans. The Soda Springs area was a historic center of activity for these efforts. Parsons Memorial Lodge continues to fulfill its historic role as a meeting place where people learn, share ideas, and champion a greater understanding and appreciation of rivers and other wild places (NPS 1975a, NPS 1985g, NPS 1987b, NPS 2007u).

- **Scenic Values.** Lyell Canyon offers remarkable and varied views of lush meadows, a meandering river, a U-shaped glacially carved canyon, and surrounding peaks.
 - *Explanation:* The scenery throughout Lyell Canyon includes spectacular views of a U-shaped river valley, mountain peaks, ridgelines, and the largest glacier on the western flank of the Sierra Nevada. Specific views from the bed and banks of the Lyell Fork include Mount Lyell, Lyell Glacier, Lyell Canyon, Kuna Crest, the cascades at Kuna Creek, and the meandering Lyell Fork through extensive alpine and subalpine meadows.

Dana and Tuolumne Meadows offer dramatic views of a meandering river, adjacent meadows, glacially carved domes, and the Sierra Crest.

- *Explanation:* Tuolumne Meadows offers scenic views of the large, low-lying river valley, adjacent meadows, glacially carved domes, rugged mountain peaks, and expansive skies. Specific views from the bed and banks of the river include Lembert, Pothole, and Fairview Domes; the Kuna Crest; Mounts Dana and Gibbs; Cathedral and Unicorn Peaks; Juniper Ridge; and the river meandering through subalpine meadows. Dramatic views from the Dana Fork include glacially carved mountains and ridgelines, and alpine and subalpine meadows. Specific views from the bed and banks of the Dana Fork include the Kuna Crest, Mount Dana, Mount Gibbs, and the meandering Dana Fork through Dana Meadows.

The Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne offers views of a deep, rugged canyon with vast escarpments of granite, hanging valleys, and long cascades of falling water.

- *Explanation:* Spectacular views from the trail leading from Tuolumne Meadows to Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp and through the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne include steep canyon walls, the untrailed Muir Gorge, hanging valleys, and cascades of falling water.
- **Recreational Values.** Rare and easy access to high-elevation sections of the Tuolumne River through Tuolumne and Dana Meadows is provided by the Tioga Road across the Sierra.
 - *Explanation:* The Tioga Road is the highest continuous paved road in California and one of just a few trans-Sierra highways. As such, it provides ready access to Tuolumne Meadows, enabling visitors to easily connect with the Tuolumne River and engage in a variety of outdoor recreational activities. Such ready access is rare in California and the primary feature of this outstandingly remarkable recreational value of the Tuolumne River.

Wilderness travelers along the Tuolumne River engage in a variety of activities in an iconic High Sierra landscape, where opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, self-reliance, and solitude shape the experience.

- *Explanation:* The Tuolumne River provides outstanding opportunities for visitors to engage in a variety of river related recreational activities in a wilderness setting characterized by dramatic natural scenery. Remote areas in the Lyell Fork and Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne enable solitude; an intimacy with the river and natural sights and sounds shape the visitor experience.

Appendix E: River Values for the Merced Wild and Scenic River

(Excerpted from the *Merced Wild and Scenic River Final Comprehensive Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* [2014])

The River Values of the Merced Wild and Scenic River

This section describes the river values of the Merced Wild and Scenic River. There are 20 outstandingly remarkable values in addition to the river's free-flowing condition and water quality, which the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act stipulates must be protected for all Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Free-Flowing Condition

A river must be in a free-flowing state to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Once a river is designated, the managing agency is required to preserve it in its free-flowing condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Water Quality

Another goal of the WSRA is to protect the water quality of designated rivers. Water quality in the Merced River is exceptionally high, and far superior to federal and state standards.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Section 1(b) of WSRA describes other values to be protected with wild and scenic river designation:

“It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council (Interagency Council or IWSRCC) was formed in 1995 to assist those federal and state agencies charged with administering designated wild and scenic rivers. The council's mission is to make recommendations that will foster consistency in the interpretation and implementation of WSRA. The council has issued specific guidance and criteria for identifying ORVs (IWSRCC 1999):

- To be considered an ORV, a value must be river-related or river-dependent, [which means that] a value must be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (generally within 0.25 mile on either side of the river); contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or owe its location or existence to the presence of the river.
- To be considered an ORV, a value must be rare, unique, or exemplary in a regional or national context, [which means that] a value should be a conspicuous example from among a number of similar values that are themselves uncommon or extraordinary.

The council described additional criteria for assessing each category of ORVs listed in the WSRA, noting that these criteria may be modified to make them more meaningful to a particular river. The council also notes that while no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for the “other similar values” mentioned in WSRA, agencies may assess additional river-related values, including but not limited to hydrology, paleontology, and botany resources, consistent with the guidance provided (IWSRCC 1999).

The NPS described and refined ORVs for the Merced River several times during the planning history for the river. As noted above, ORVs for the Merced were discussed in the river's eligibility study (1986), the 1996 *Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan*, and previous river plans (2000 and 2005) that were ultimately invalidated by legal decisions. The major changes in the ORVs through time were:

- Air quality was listed as an ORV in the 1996 *Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan*. Air quality was not listed as an ORV in the 2000 *Merced River Plan/EIS* and subsequent plans because it was inconsistent with IWSRCC criteria, and because it is not river-related or river-dependent.
- “Scientific resources” were removed as an ORV because the topic was considered vague, and the resource was inherent in all ORVs.
- Two ORVs, geology and hydrology, were merged in 2010. In the view of subject-matter experts, these interdependent ORVs are difficult to address separately in the context of the *Final Merced River Plan/EIS*.

In 2010, the NPS conducted six workshops to consult with members of the public, academia, tribes, and other governmental agencies regarding ORVs for the *Final Merced River Plan/EIS*. At the public workshops, the NPS described the ORVs to date and asked three questions:

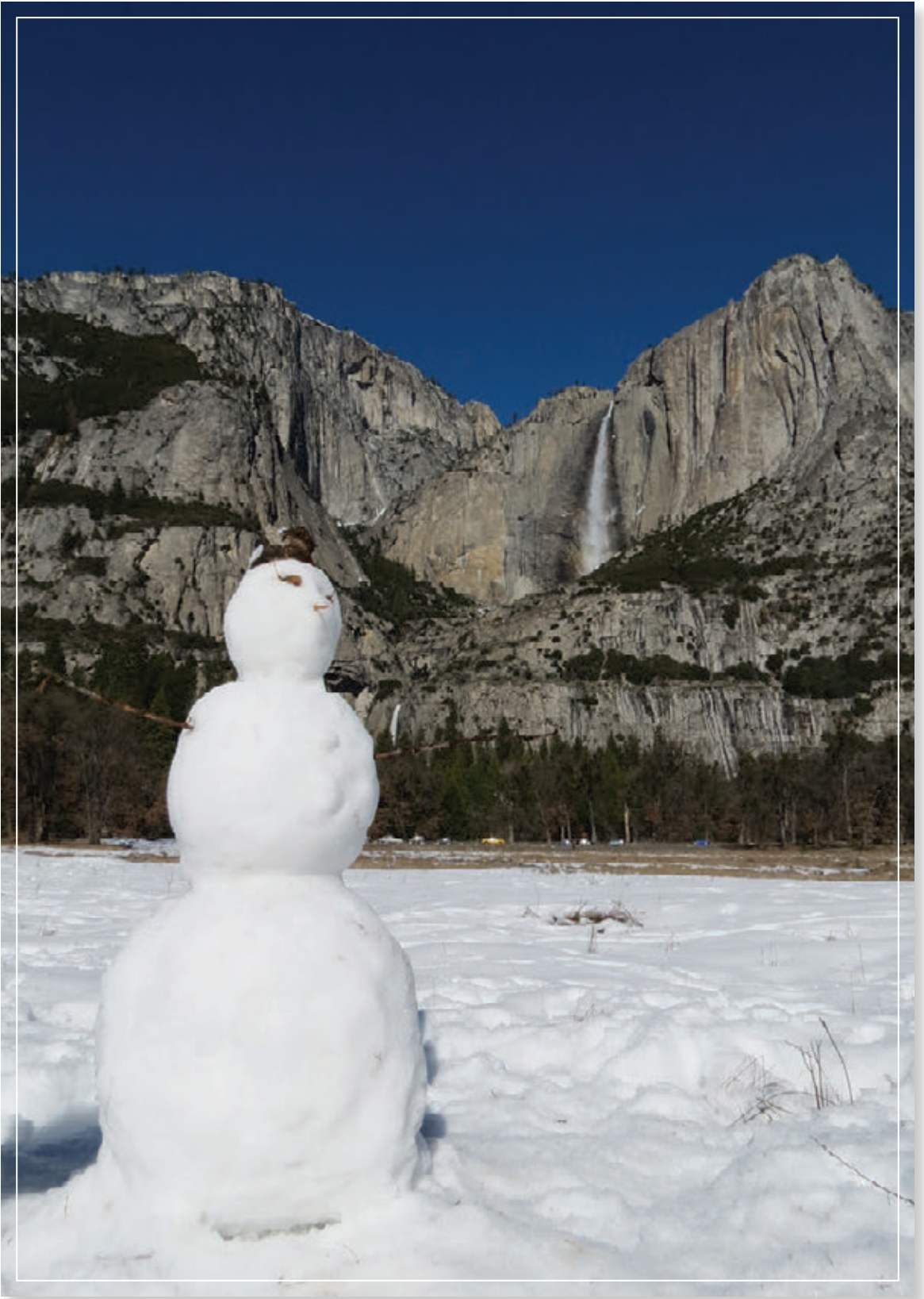
1. Do you have any specific knowledge of locations with river-related or river-dependent features or resources not addressed by the NPS ORV report?
2. Do you have any knowledge or observations regarding the conditions of river features and values that should be addressed?
3. How should the NPS protect and enhance river resources and values?

The NPS also accepted written input on ORVs, and more than 30 people or organizations submitted letters. With input from other agencies, tribes, and members of the public, Yosemite park staff used the best available science and their professional judgment to refine and finalize the list of river-related values for the *Final Merced River Plan/EIS* (Table 5-1). The Sierra Nevada region was the primary region of comparison for determining rare, unique or exemplary status. More detail about each of the Merced River ORVs is provided in this chapter.



Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Merced Wild and Scenic River in Yosemite National Park and the El Portal Administrative Site	
Biological ORVs	
Segments 1 and 5 – Merced River Above Nevada Fall and South Fork Merced River Above Wawona	
1. The Merced River sustains numerous small meadows and riparian habitat with high biological integrity.	
Segments 2A and 2B – Yosemite Valley	
2. The meadows and riparian communities of Yosemite Valley comprise one of the largest mid-elevation meadow-riparian complexes in the Sierra Nevada.	
Segments 7 and 8 – Wawona and South Fork Merced River below Wawona	
3. Sierra sweet bay (<i>Myrica hartwegii</i>) is a rare plant found on river banks of the South Fork Merced River.	
Geological/Hydrological ORVs	
Segment 1 – Merced River Above Nevada Fall	
4. The upper Merced River canyon is a textbook example of a glacially carved canyon.	
Segments 2A and 2B – Yosemite Valley	
5. The “Giant Staircase,” which includes Vernal and Nevada Falls, is one of the finest examples in the western United States of stair-step river morphology.	
6. The Merced River from Happy Isles to the west end of Yosemite Valley provides an outstanding example of a rare, mid-elevation alluvial river.	
Segment 4 – El Portal	
7. The boulder bar in El Portal was created by changing river gradients, glacial history, and powerful floods. These elements have resulted in accumulation of extraordinarily large boulders, which are rare in such deposits.	
Cultural ORVs	
Segments 2A and 2B – Yosemite Valley	
8. Yosemite Valley American Indian ethnographic resources include a linked landscape of specifically mapped traditional-use plant populations as well as the ongoing traditional cultural practices that reflect the intricate continuing relationship between indigenous peoples of the Yosemite region and the Merced River in Yosemite Valley.	
9. The Yosemite Valley Archeological District is an unusually rich and linked landscape that contains dense concentrations of resources that represent thousands of years of human settlement.	
10. The Yosemite Valley Historic District represents a linked landscape of river-related or river-dependent, rare, unique or exemplary contributing resources that bear witness to the historical significance of the river system.	
Segment 4 – El Portal	
11. The El Portal Archeological District contains dense concentrations of resources that represent thousands of years of occupation and evidence of continuous, far-reaching traffic and trade. This segment includes some of the oldest deposits in the region and the archeological remains of the Johnny Wilson Ranch, a regionally rare historic-era American Indian Homestead.	

Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Merced Wild and Scenic River in Yosemite National Park and the El Portal Administrative Site
Segment 5 – South Fork Merced River Above Wawona
12. This segment includes regionally rare archeological features representing indigenous settlement and use along the South Fork Merced River at archeological sites with rock ring features.
Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 – South Fork Merced River Above Wawona, Wawona Impoundment, Wawona, South Fork Merced River Below Wawona
13. The Wawona Archeological District encompasses numerous clusters of resources spanning thousands of years of occupation, including evidence of continuous far-reaching traffic and trade. Segment 7 includes the remains of the US Army Cavalry Camp A.E. Wood documenting the unique Yosemite legacy of the African American Buffalo Soldiers and the strategic placement of their camp near the Merced River.
14. The Wawona Historic Resources ORV includes one of the few covered bridges in the region and the National Historic Landmark Wawona Hotel complex, which is one of the largest existing Victorian hotel complex in a national park and one of the few remaining in the United States with this high level of integrity.
Scenic ORVs
Segment 1 – Merced River Above Nevada Fall
15. Visitors to this Wilderness segment experience exemplary views of serene montane lakes, pristine meadows, slickrock cascades, and High Sierra peaks.
Segments 2A and 2B – Yosemite Valley
16. Visitors to Yosemite Valley experience views of some of the world's most iconic scenery, with the river and meadows forming a placid foreground to towering cliffs and waterfalls.
Segment 3 – The Merced Gorge
17. The Merced River drops 2,000 feet over 14 miles, a continuous cascade under exemplary Sierra granite outcrops and domes.
Segments 5 and 8 – South Fork Merced River Above and Below Wawona
18. The South Fork Merced River passes through a vast area of exemplary and wild scenic beauty.
Recreational ORVs
Segment 1 – Merced River Above Nevada Fall
19. Visitors to federally designated Wilderness in the corridor engage in a variety of river-related activities in an iconic High Sierra landscape, where opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, self-reliance, or solitude shape the experience.
Segments 2A and 2B – Yosemite Valley
20. Visitors to Yosemite Valley enjoy a wide variety of river-related recreational activities in the Valley's extraordinary setting along the Merced River.



**Pacific West Region Foundation Document Recommendation
Yosemite National Park**

November 2016

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Pacific West Regional Director.

Woody Smeck

11.22.16

RECOMMENDED

Woody Smeck, Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Date

Laura E. Joss

12/20/2016

APPROVED

Laura E. Joss, Regional Director, Pacific West Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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