

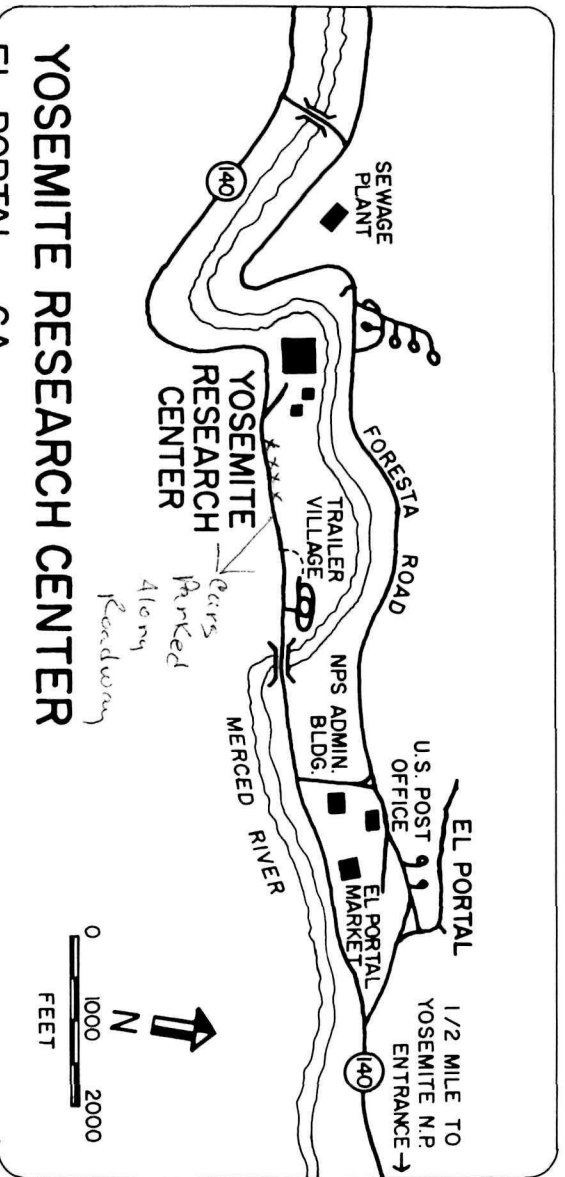


Yosemite
Research Center
for
Cultural and Natural
Sciences

El Portal
California

Yosemite Research Center
National Park Service
Yosemite National Park
California 95389

To





Located on a knoll overlooking the Merced River in El Portal, California, the Yosemite Research Center serves as a base for research in Yosemite National Park. Established in November, 1983, by the National Park Service, the center offers support for visiting scientists engaged in research of Yosemite's natural and cultural resources. These projects greatly benefit the park's resources management programs by furnishing new information at little or no expense to the Government. In return, the National Park Service provides dormitory, laboratory, library and computer facilities to researchers.

The Research Center is housed in a charming residential structure built in 1929 for the Superintendent of the National Lead Company's El Portal Barium Mine. The National Park Service acquired the house and adjacent buildings in 1958 as part of its El Portal Administrative Site. The former assay office is now an analytical laboratory for both natural and cultural sciences. One of the interesting features of the comfortable frame house is its distinctive fireplace. Made of river rock with a large barite crystal in the center, it dominates what is now the conference room.

Not only a facility for visiting researchers, the Center is also the focus for the operations of the Park Archeologist and Research Scientist. The archeology program, directed by Park Archeologist Scott Carpenter, exists to investigate, manage and preserve cultural resources in Yosemite. Archeological remains in the Sierra Nevada span at least 3,500 years. Yosemite National Park, due to its relatively pristine condition, offers many exciting opportunities to study prehistoric and historic occupation of the Sierra Nevada. Both small- and large-scale research can help determine the nature and extent of the park's cultural resources to aid in making management decisions, planning development projects and interpreting Native American culture, as well as ensuring their preservation.

The natural science research program, managed by Dr. Jan van Wagtenonk, gathers and analyzes data that help the Park Service protect and manage the park's natural resources. The program encompasses not only studies of the park's plant and animal communities, but also coordinates research on fire ecology, bedrock and glacial geology, impact of National Park Service and visitor activities on resources, and a multitude of other subjects relevant to effective resource management and protection.

Facilities at the Yosemite Research Center

- dormitory and kitchen
- research library and study area
- conference room
- analytical laboratory
- computer facilities
- consultation regarding Yosemite National Park resource materials

Programs at the Yosemite Research Center

The Yosemite Research Center sponsors an ongoing schedule of seminars highlighting current research within Yosemite National Park.

If you wish for more information regarding the programs, contact:

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