

general management plan  
visitor use/park operations/development

september 1980

YOSEMITE



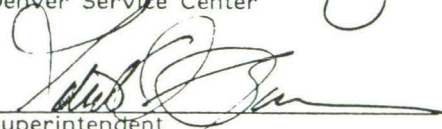
NATIONAL PARK / CALIFORNIA

RECOMMENDED:

Date

  
Assistant Manager, Western Team  
Denver Service Center

9/16/80

  
Superintendent  
Yosemite National Park

9/16/80

APPROVED:

  
Regional Director  
Western Region

9/17/80



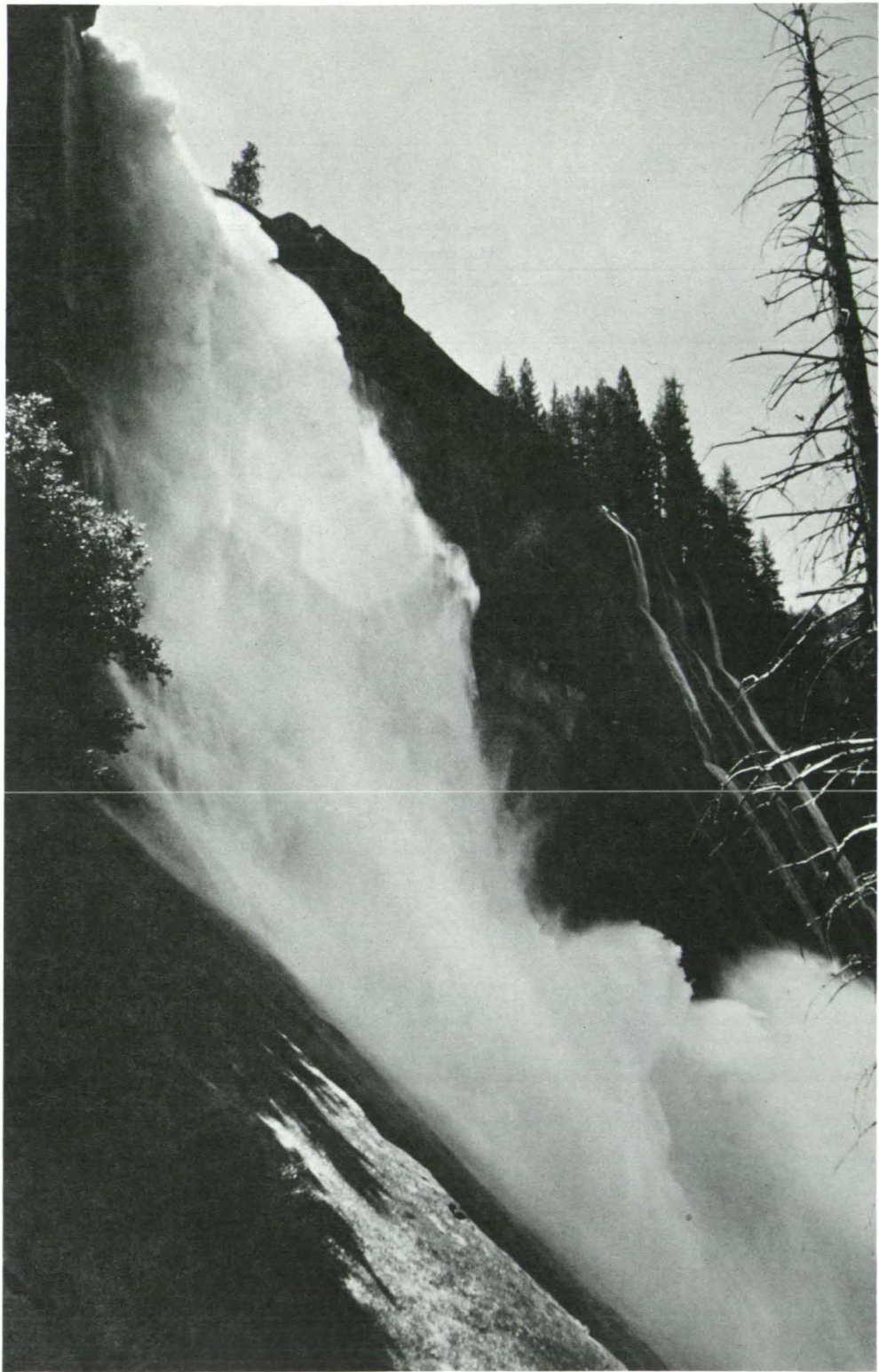
# YOSEMITE

---

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK / CALIFORNIA

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
VISITOR USE / PARK OPERATIONS / DEVELOPMENT

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service





*Water in its myriad forms has created and sustained Yosemite National Park. As ice it has sculptured the sheer walled valleys, polished the shining shoulders of the mountains, and gouged hundreds of lake basins. Freezing and thawing day by day through thousands of springs and autumns, it has etched sharp peaks and mantled mountain slopes with boulder fields and scree.*

*As winter snow it whitens the High Sierra then melts to form the streams which flow across mountain meadows, rage through canyons, then plunge from cliff rim to valley floor.*

*Water from rain and melting snows freshens mountain meadows, producing ephemeral changing fields of color. In the Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Merced Groves, these life-giving waters nourish ancient sequoias through the centuries.*

*The stunning beauty of the incomparable Yosemite Valley and the majesty of the big trees in Mariposa Grove demanded protection and preservation, resulting in America's first great park. Later, the surrounding peaks and forests were added to become Yosemite National Park.*

*Today the natural beauties of Yosemite inspire millions of people, just as they inspired the ways of the Native Americans who lived here for centuries, the thoughts of philosophers like John Muir, and the art of Ansel Adams – all of whom have provided a human dimension which adds immeasurably to our appreciation of this great place.*





## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION / 1
INFLUENCES ON PLANNING / 5
PURPOSE OF THE PARK / 5
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES / 5
LAND MANAGEMENT ZONING / 10
PARKWIDE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS / 15
VISITOR USE / 15
INDIAN CULTURAL PROGRAMS / 23
PARK OPERATIONS / 17
PARK OPERATIONS/VISITOR PROTECTION / 24
BOUNDARY CHANGES, LAND ACQUISITION, AND WILDERNESS ADDITIONS / 26
DEVELOPED AREA PLANS / 31
YOSEMITE VALLEY DISTRICT / 31
WAWONA DISTRICT / 51
MATHER DISTRICT / 60
APPENDIX A: COST SUMMARY / 79
APPENDIX B: PHASING PLAN / 80
PLANNING TEAM / 81

## ILLUSTRATIONS

The Yosemite Region /	viii
Yosemite Environments /	6
Yosemite Environments Cross-Section /	7
Management Zoning – Parkwide /	11
Management Zoning – Yosemite Valley /	13
Transportation Concept /	18
Wilderness Plan /	29
Existing Developed Areas /	30
Yosemite Valley Development Concept /	33
Yosemite Village Development Concept /	34
Yosemite Lodge Development Concept /	38
Curry Village Development Concept /	40
Housekeeping Camp Development Concept /	42
Ahwahnee Hotel Development Concept /	44
El Portal Development Concept /	49
Glacier Point Road Development Concept /	50
Glacier Point Development Concept /	54
Wawona Development Concept /	56
South Entrance/Mariposa Grove Development Concept /	61
Mather District Development Concept /	62
Tuolumne Meadows Development Concept /	64
White Wolf Development Concept /	68
Crane Flat Development Concept /	70
Hodgdon Meadow Development Concept /	72
Hetch Hetchy Development Concept /	74
Foresta/Big Meadow Development Concept /	76
Backcountry Travel Zones /	78



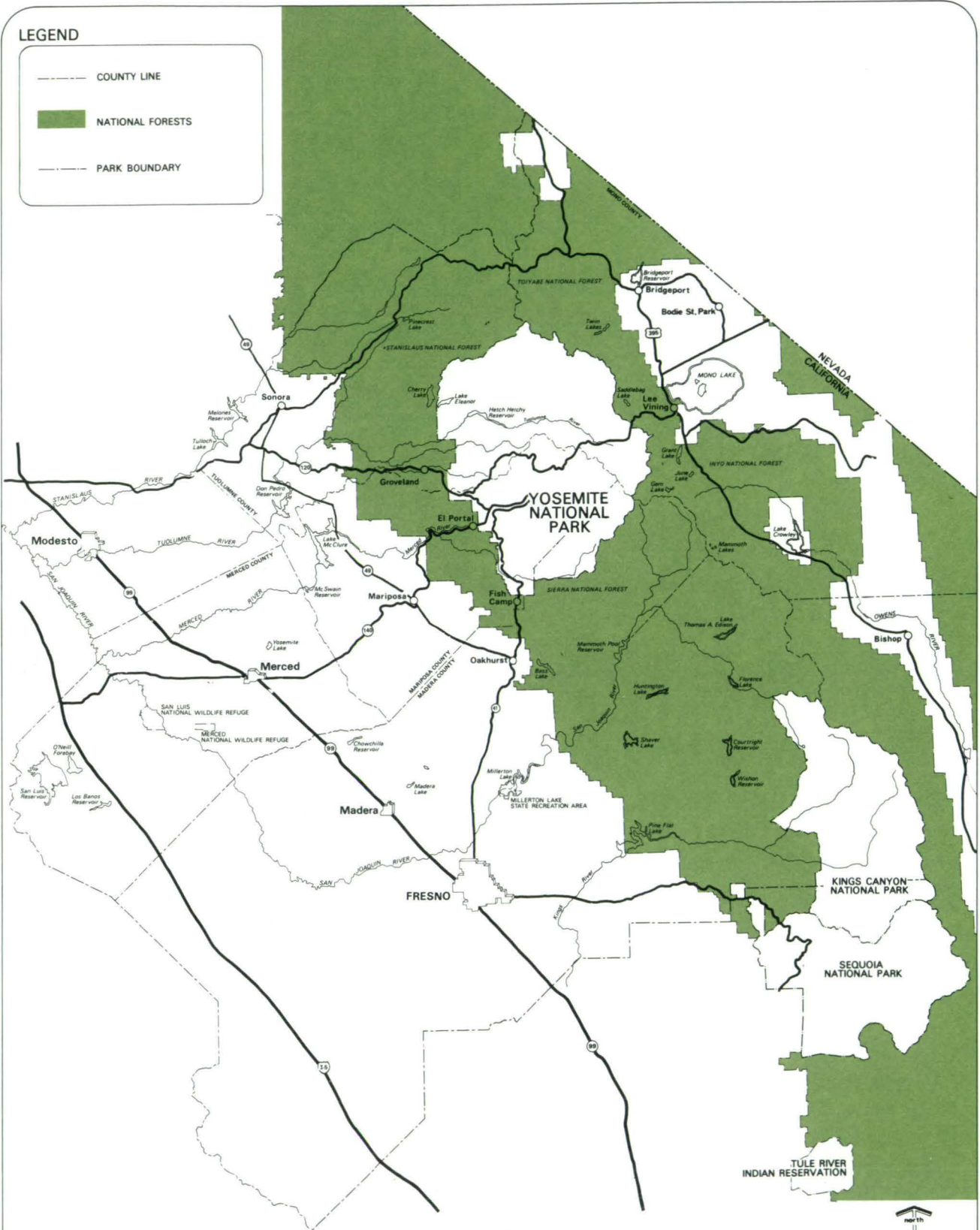
## P R E F A C E

This *Visitor Use, Park Operations, and Development Plan for Yosemite National Park* is part of the park's general management plan, which has grown out of a major extended planning study and public involvement program. Other components of the general management plan are the *Natural Resources Management Plan* and the *Cultural Resources Management Plan*, both of which have been published separately and are available from the park. Together, these plans represent a comprehensive set of decisions regarding the future of Yosemite National Park for the next 10 years.

The probable effects of these plans on the natural, cultural, and socioeconomic environments have been assessed and documented in draft and final environmental statements for the general management plan (three volumes published in August 1978, January 1980, and September 1980), and in an environmental assessment for natural resources management. All of the proposals of this plan are fully compatible with the objectives and strategies proposed in the park's resources management plans.

LEGEND

- COUNTY LINE
- NATIONAL FORESTS
- PARK BOUNDARY



# The Yosemite Region

104 2008.7A  
156C JUN 79



## INTRODUCTION

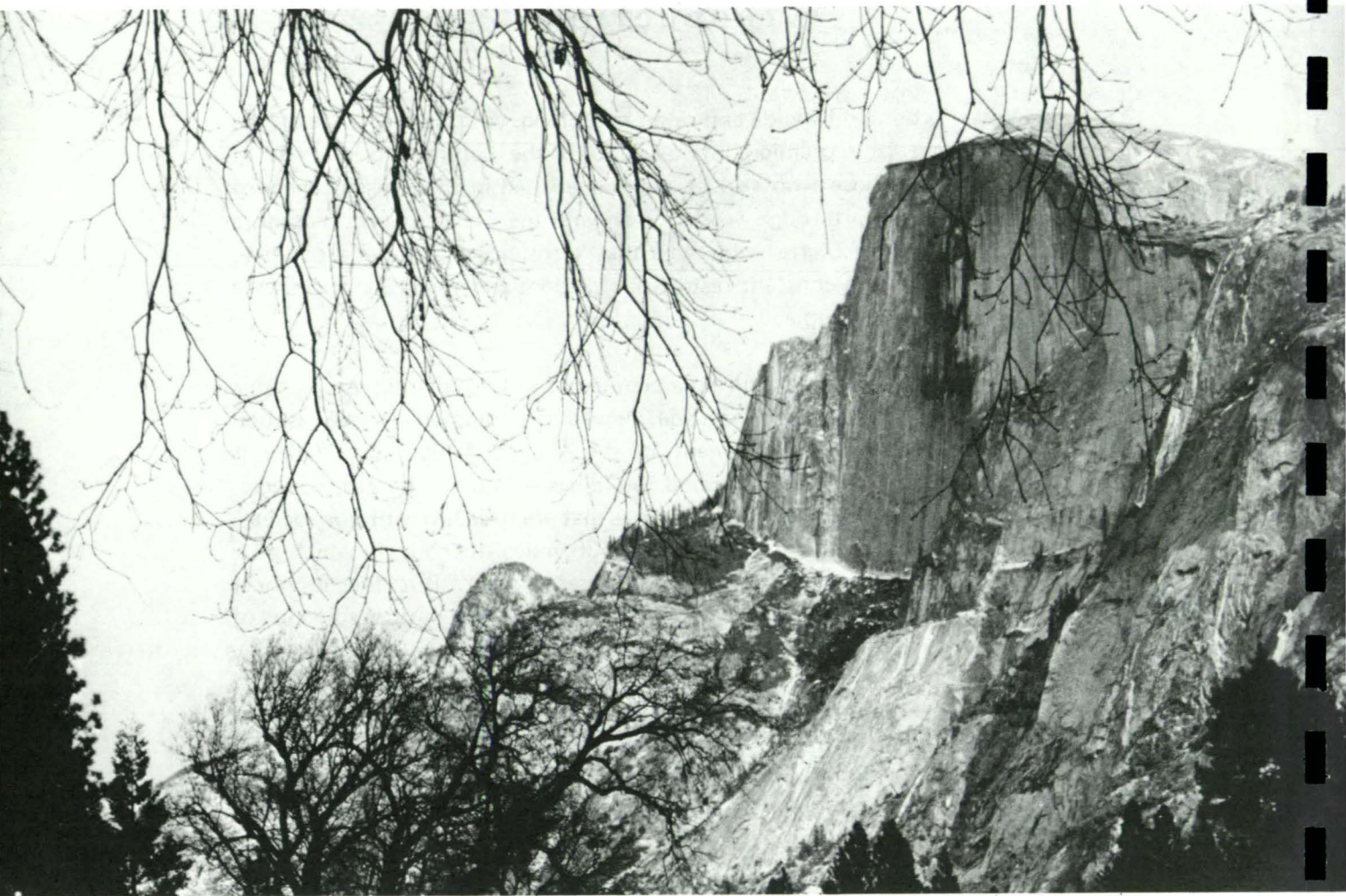
Yosemite Valley is but a mile wide and seven miles long, yet this tiny place on the face of our planet is a premiere masterwork of the natural world. It is of incalculable value to those who seek it and is cherished in the consciousness of those who know it only through works of art and the written word. Yosemite Valley and the sweep of Sierra wilderness that surrounds it possess superlative scenic grandeur and are a constant test of our wisdom and foresight to preserve them as a treasure for all people.

Yosemite is now at a crossroad. During a century of public custodianship of this great park, many decisions have been made, all well intended, which have resulted in a march of man-made development in the Valley. Today, the Valley is congested with more than a thousand buildings — stores, homes, garages, apartments, lodging facilities, and restaurants — that are reflections of our society; the Valley floor is bisected by approximately 30 miles of roadway which now accommodate a million cars, trucks, and buses a year. But the foremost responsibility of the National Park Service is to perpetuate the natural splendor of Yosemite and its exceedingly special Valley.

The intent of the National Park Service is to remove all automobiles from Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove and to redirect development to the periphery of the park and beyond. Similarly, the essence of wilderness, which so strongly complements the Valley, will be preserved. The result will be that visitors can step into Yosemite and find nature uncluttered by piecemeal stumbling blocks of commercialism, machines, and fragments of suburbia.

Implementation of this general management plan will be the first big step in carrying out this intent and a distinct turning point in the management of the park. The plan describes immediate actions that will achieve five broad goals:

**Reclaim Priceless Natural Beauty.** Yosemite is too valuable to use for administration, maintenance, parking, or any commercial services that do not contribute directly to a quality park experience. Outstanding natural areas that have been developed for uses such as staff housing, office space, warehousing, a golf course, and a beauty shop will be reclaimed. Facilities in the Valley that do not relate directly to enjoyment of the park, including the headquarters of the National Park Service and the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, will be relocated outside the park. Visitor facilities in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Mariposa Grove that are intrusive or cause environmental damage will be removed or relocated to more resilient environments. Once this





development is gone from the park's most magnificent settings, the scenery that inspired the philosophy of John Muir and the art of Ansel Adams will begin to be restored.

**Markedly Reduce Traffic Congestion.** Increasing automobile traffic is the single greatest threat to enjoyment of the natural and scenic qualities of Yosemite. In the near future, automobile congestion will be greatly reduced by restricting people's use of their cars and increasing public transportation. And the day will come when visitors will no longer drive their private automobiles into the most beautiful and fragile areas of the park. The ultimate goal of the National Park Service is to remove all private vehicles from Yosemite Valley. The Valley must be freed from the noise, the smell, the glare, and the environmental degradation caused by thousands of vehicles.

**Allow Natural Processes to Prevail.** The primary objective of natural resource management programs will be to restore and perpetuate the natural processes of the park's ecosystems. The Yosemite environment is not a static accumulation of geologic and biologic features but rather a dynamic system of interrelated and evolving forms. Therefore, if this environment is to be preserved, the natural processes that are occurring there must be understood and allowed to prevail. In developed areas like the Valley, facilities will be removed from floodplains and geologic hazard areas in deference to these natural phenomena, and the natural role of fire in vegetative communities will be simulated with controlled burns or mechanical removal of vegetation. In areas that have been disturbed by man's activity, natural processes will be allowed to restore the scene.

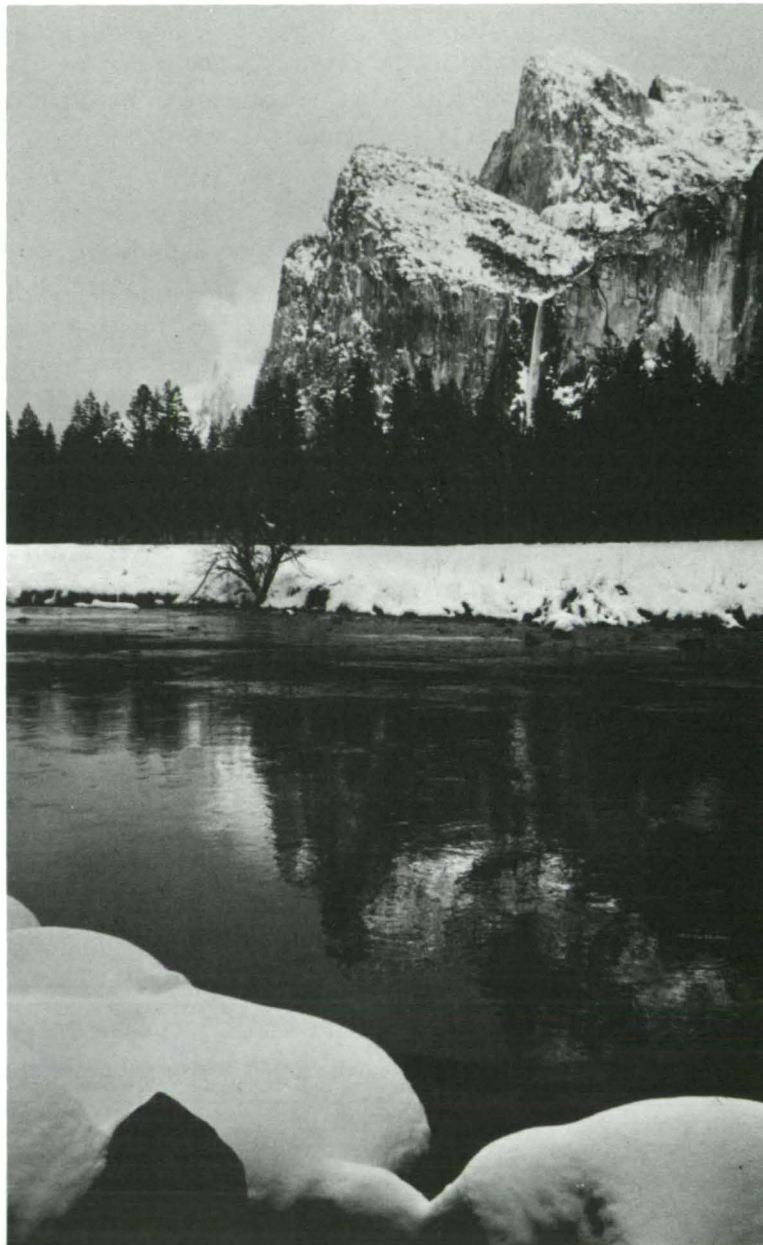
**Reduce Crowding.** Opportunities to enjoy the park will be reoriented to ensure that overcrowding does not interfere with visitor enjoyment or threaten park values. Appropriate visitor use levels have been established for areas throughout the park, and facilities such as day parking and overnight accommodations will be based on these levels. As visitors approach and enter the park, they will find information stations with reservation services to direct them to available facilities. Greater opportunities for year-round use will allow visitors to enjoy Yosemite at different times of the year.

**Promote Visitor Understanding and Enjoyment.** The amount and kinds of information and interpretive programs available to visitors will be greatly increased. Information about park programs and services will be broadcast through the news media and made available at regional centers in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas and at information stations along roads leading to the park. The park's excellent natural history and historical collections will be



on display. Creative audiovisual programs will help visitors to understand the processes and events that have shaped Yosemite's natural features and the relationship of our cultural values to preservation of the park. The intent of these expanded and improved visitor programs is to help ensure that a visit to Yosemite becomes a lifetime treasure.

Full and forceful commitment to these goals is needed, and this nation has the skill and the desire, expressed in public advocacy, to achieve them. The park will celebrate its centennial in 1990. By then, there should be tremendous improvement in the quality of the visitor experience in the park. The actions described in this plan will provide a springboard from which further actions can be taken in the future.



## INFLUENCES ON PLANNING

### PURPOSE OF THE PARK

There are two purposes for Yosemite National Park. The first is preservation of the resources that contribute to Yosemite's uniqueness and attractiveness — its exquisite scenic beauty; outstanding wilderness values; a nearly full diversity of Sierra Nevada environments, including the very special sequoia groves; the awesome domes, valleys, polished granites, and other evidences of the geologic processes that formed the Sierra Nevada; historic resources, especially those relating to the beginnings of a national conservation ethic; and evidences of the Indians that lived on the land. The second purpose is to make the varied resources of Yosemite available to people for their individual enjoyment, education, and recreation, now and in the future.

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The National Park Service's mandate to administer Yosemite comes from Congress. Inherent in this mandate are obligations regarding resource management, visitor use, and park operations. These obligations are further defined and established as the management objectives for the general management plan. This plan and all other park management activities are directed toward achieving these basic goals.

#### **Resource Management**

*Restore and maintain natural terrestrial, aquatic, and atmospheric ecosystems so they may operate essentially unimpaired*

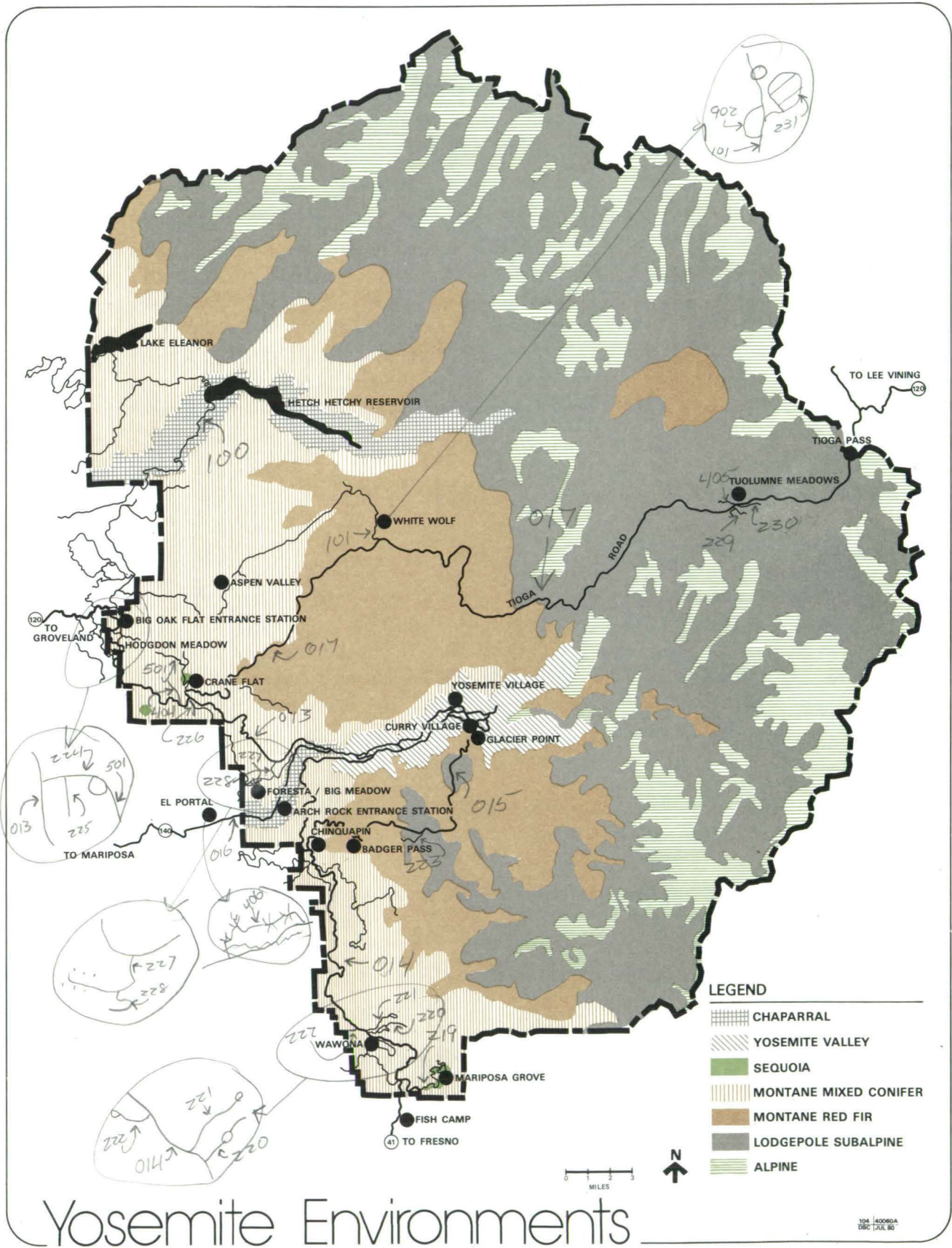
Conduct continuing research to gather and analyze information necessary for managing natural resources

Restore altered ecosystems as nearly as possible to conditions they would be in today had natural ecological processes not been disturbed

Protect threatened and endangered plant and animal species and reintroduce, where practical, those species eliminated from the natural ecosystems

Identify and perpetuate natural processes in park ecosystems





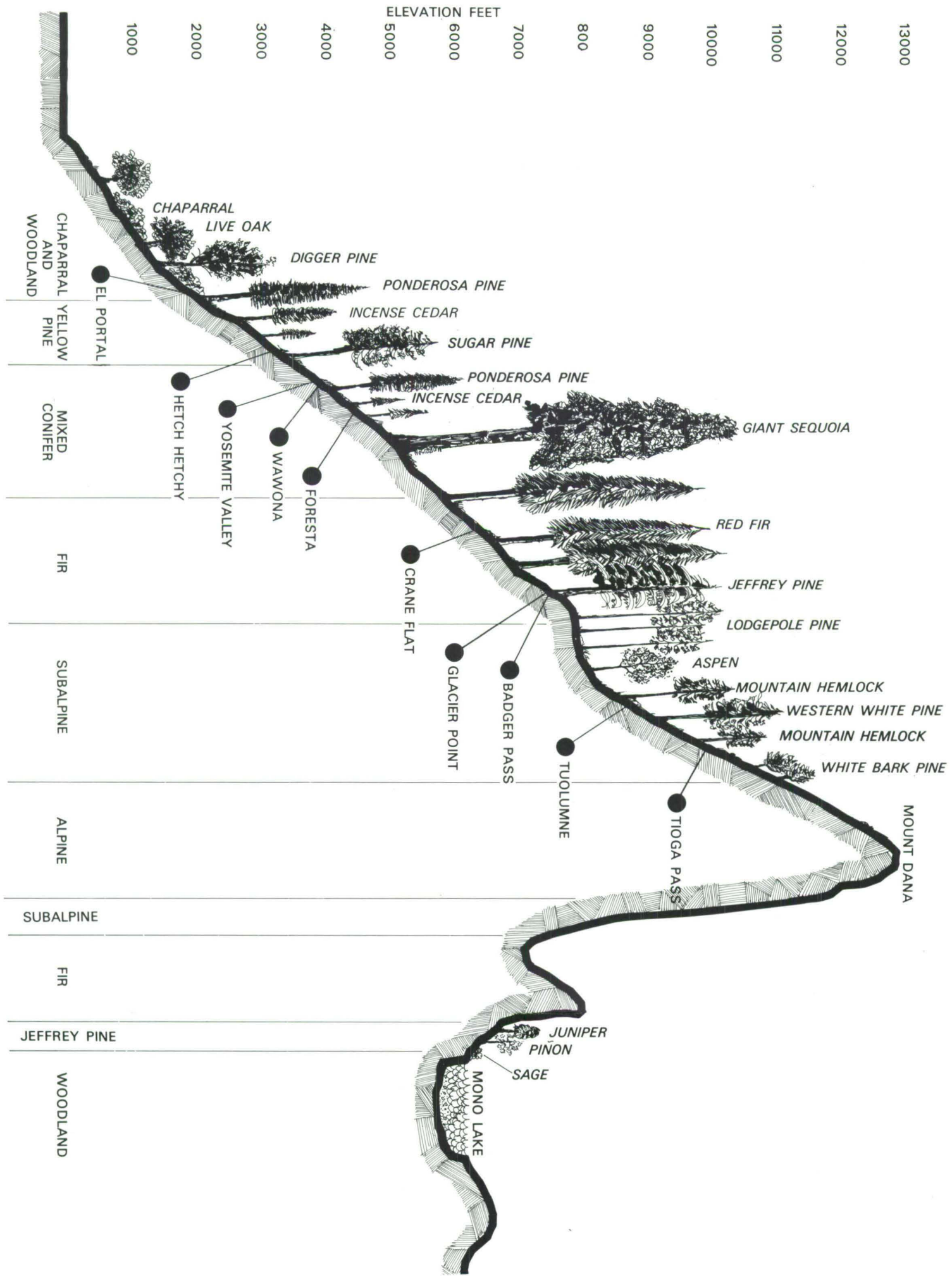
**LEGEND**

- CHAPARRAL
- YOSEMITE VALLEY
- SEQUOIA
- MONTANE MIXED CONIFER
- MONTANE RED FIR
- LODGEPOLE SUBALPINE
- ALPINE

# Yosemite Environments

104 140060A  
D&C JUL 86





# Environments Cross-section

Yosemite National Park

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

104 40704  
DSC MAY 78

Permit only those types and levels of use or development that do not significantly impair park natural resources, and direct development and use to environments least vulnerable to deterioration

Limit unnatural sources of air, noise, visual, and water pollution to the greatest degree possible

*Preserve, protect, and restore scenic resources*

Identify the major scenic resources and the places from which they are viewed

Provide for the preservation or protection of existing scenic resources and viewing stations

Provide for historic views through vista clearing

Permit only those levels and types of use that are compatible with the preservation or protection of the scenic resources and with the quality of the viewing experience

*Preserve, restore, or protect significant cultural resources (historic and prehistoric)*

Identify, evaluate, and determine the significance of cultural resources, encompassing buildings, structures, sites, and objects

Provide for the preservation, restoration, or protection of these significant cultural resources

Permit only those uses that are compatible with the preservation of significant cultural resources

**Visitor Use**

*Assist all people in understanding, enjoying, and contributing to the preservation of the natural, cultural, and scenic resources*

Orient visitors, provide personal assistance, and inform them about opportunities the park provides

Provide interpretive services that relate the natural and cultural significance of Yosemite to visitors with a broad diversity of interests

Provide only for those types and levels of programs and activities that enhance visitor understanding and enjoyment of park resources

Permit only those levels and types of accommodations and services necessary for visitor use and enjoyment of Yosemite

Provide the opportunity for a quality wilderness experience

Provide transportation services that facilitate visitor circulation and enhance preservation and enjoyment of park resources

### **Park Operations**

*Maintain a safe, functional, and orderly environment that provides compatible opportunities for resource preservation and enjoyment by visitors and employees*

Classify park lands, specifying their management and use, to ensure the achievement of all objectives

Provide facilities for administration, maintenance, and management at appropriate locations

Locate facilities to minimize exposure to natural hazards such as rockslides, flooding, avalanche, and hazard trees

Encourage an appropriate use of structures with historic, architectural, or engineering significance, consistent with the preservation of their historic fabric

Provide facilities and utility systems that conserve energy and comply with all applicable standards and codes

Protect the rights, safety, and security of all visitors and employees

Remove barriers that interfere with use of developed facilities by the handicapped and other special populations, and provide easy access for all visitors whenever feasible

Adjust park boundaries as required to preserve and provide for enjoyment of nationally significant resources, to complete ecological units insofar as possible, and/or to provide for more effective management



Provide, at appropriate locations, services and amenities conducive to a community environment for employees

*Support an integrated system of compatible regional land uses providing opportunities for recreation, community development, preservation, and economic utilization of resources*

Participate with government agencies and private interests in planning for compatible management and use of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources

Promote visitor services and accommodations at sites more appropriate to the preservation of park values and the public interest through coordinated regional planning and encouragement of private enterprise outside the park

## LAND MANAGEMENT ZONING

The park is divided into several zones based on management objectives, significance of the resources, and legislative constraints. The zoning plan describes the land use policies that management will work to achieve over the lifespan of this plan. These zones sometimes overlap, as in the case where outstanding natural features and highly significant archeological resources coincide in a designated area. As a result, management decisions must be based on equal recognition of both resources.

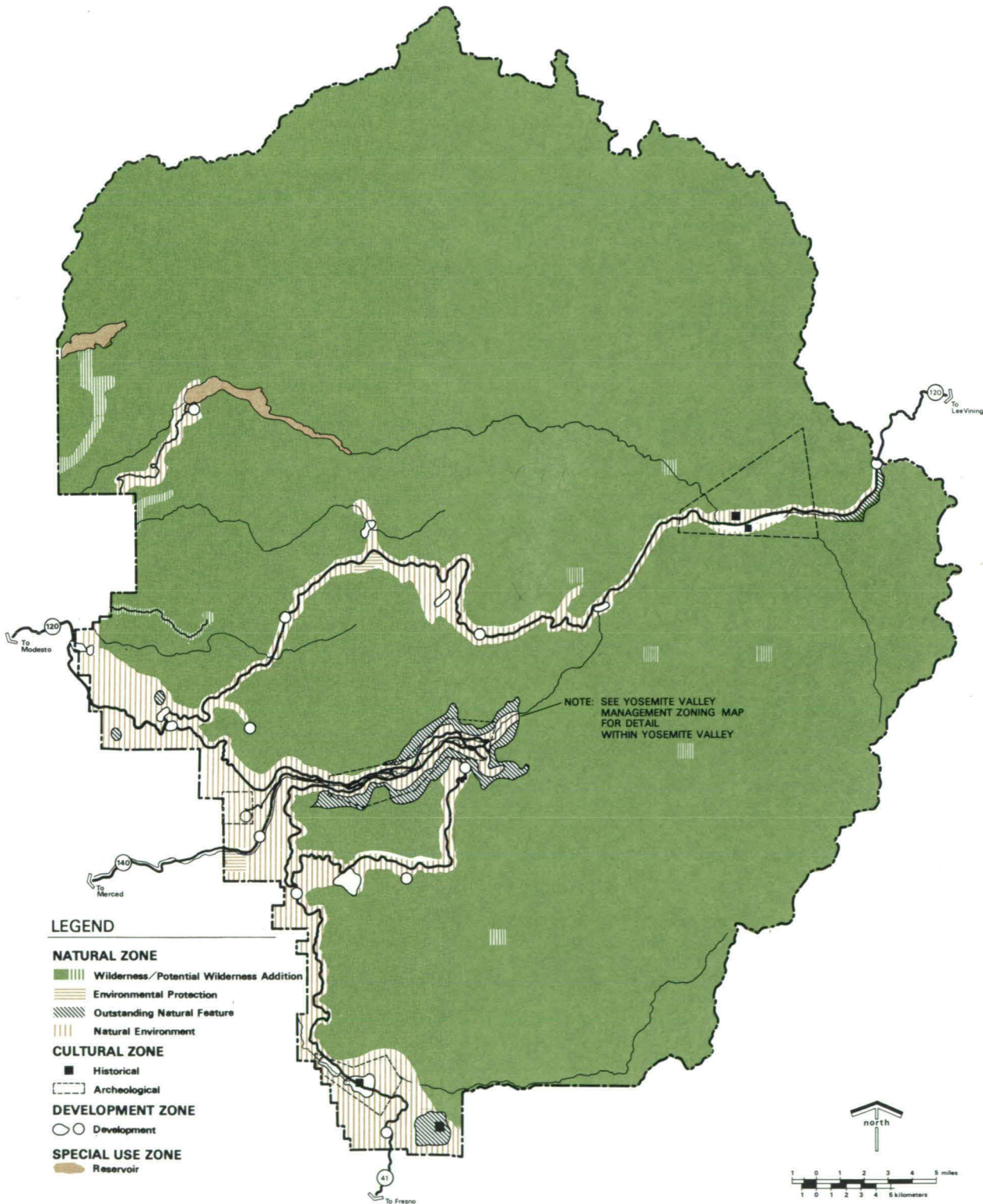
### **Natural Zone**

**Wilderness Subzone.** All lands included in the administration's wilderness recommendation and lands proposed to be added to this recommendation make up this subzone. Natural systems and processes will be permitted to follow their courses with minimum intrusion by man. The number of visitors will be limited to levels which do not significantly affect natural environments.

**Environmental Protection Subzone.** Lands within this subzone have been dedicated to scientific research, and no management actions will be allowed that might interfere with this use.

**Outstanding Natural Feature Subzone.** This subzone contains natural features of outstanding significance which are not within proposed wilderness areas. Management will provide maximum protection from man's activities.

**Natural Environment Subzone.** Roads, picnicking areas, and trailheads are permitted in this subzone, but development will be minimal.



**LEGEND**

**NATURAL ZONE**

- Wilderness/Potential Wilderness Addition
- Environmental Protection
- Outstanding Natural Feature
- Natural Environment

**CULTURAL ZONE**

- Historical
- Archeological

**DEVELOPMENT ZONE**

- Development

**SPECIAL USE ZONE**

- Reservoir



# Management Zoning Plan

104 2002B  
DSC JUL 80

**Cultural Zone**

**Historical Subzone.** This subzone is comprised of architecturally and historically significant cultural resources. Management emphasis will be on preservation of these resources unless such action causes unacceptable alteration of natural resources or processes.

**Archeological Subzone.** This subzone is comprised of archeological districts and overlies several other zones. Management emphasis will be on preservation of the archeological resources within this subzone.

**Development Zone**

This zone contains developments required for visitor use and park operations. It will occupy the least amount of space necessary to achieve park objectives.

**Special-Use Zone**

**Reservoir Subzone.** The reservoirs which comprise this subzone are managed by the San Francisco Water Department under terms of the Raker Act.



LEGEND

- ○ HISTORICAL
- ▭ ARCHEOLOGICAL
- ||||| OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE
- // DEVELOPMENT

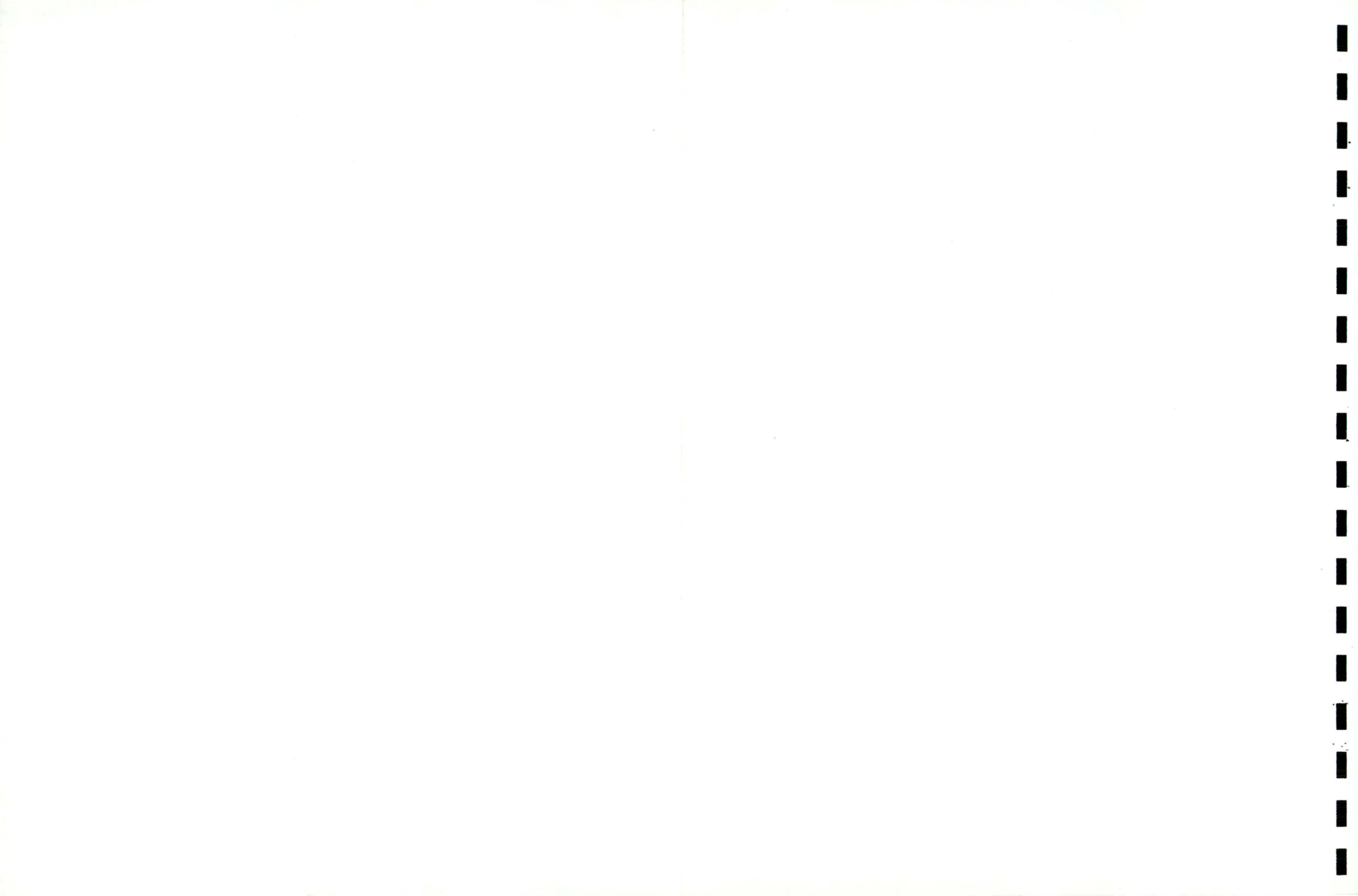


Yosemite Valley Management Zoning Plan

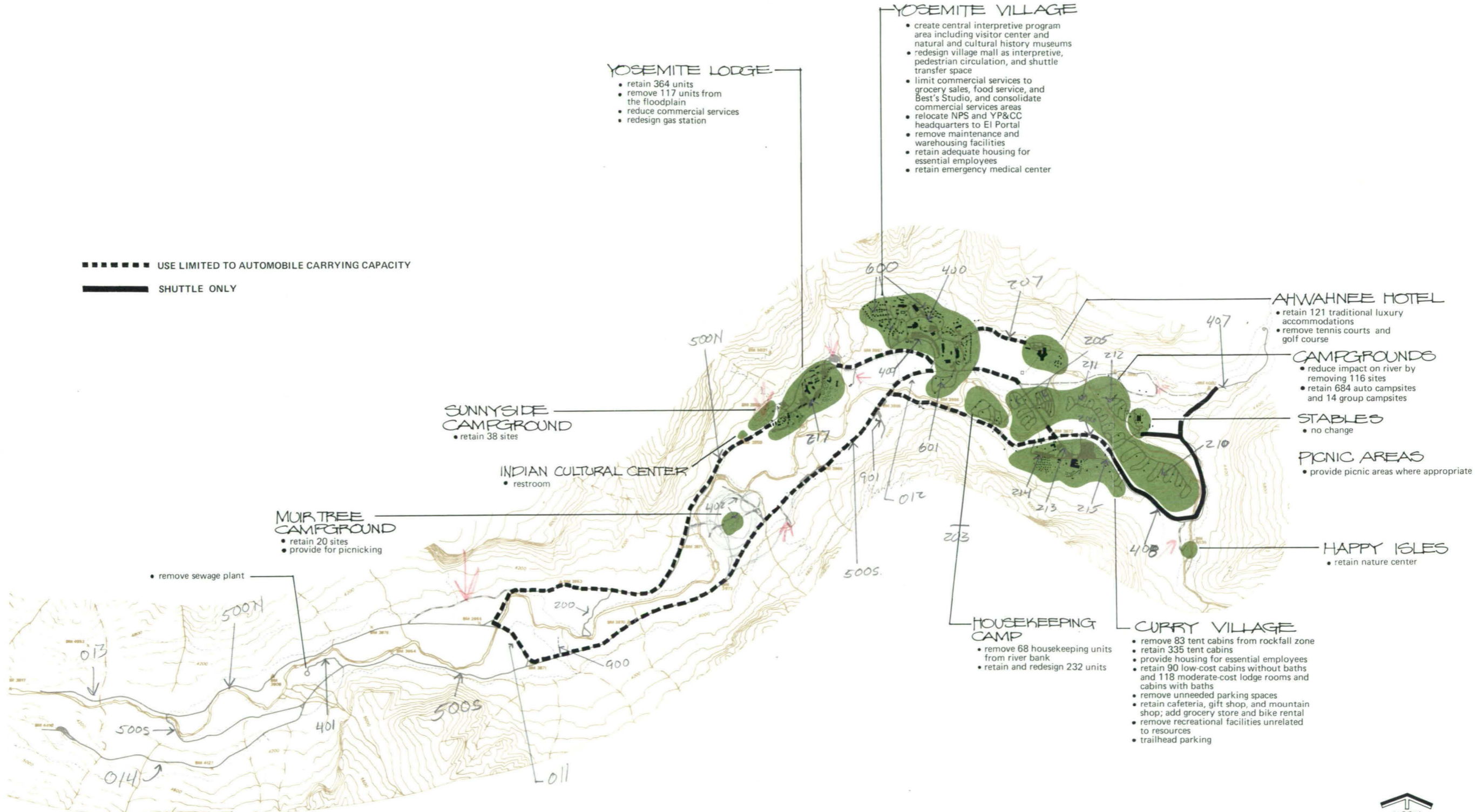
0 1000 2000 FEET



104 40078A  
DSC JUN 79







■■■■■■ USE LIMITED TO AUTOMOBILE CARRYING CAPACITY  
 ——— SHUTTLE ONLY

**YOSEMITE LODGE**

- retain 364 units
- remove 117 units from the floodplain
- reduce commercial services
- redesign gas station

**YOSEMITE VILLAGE**

- create central interpretive program area including visitor center and natural and cultural history museums
- redesign village mall as interpretive, pedestrian circulation, and shuttle transfer space
- limit commercial services to grocery sales, food service, and Best's Studio, and consolidate commercial services areas
- relocate NPS and YP&CC headquarters to El Portal
- remove maintenance and warehousing facilities
- retain adequate housing for essential employees
- retain emergency medical center

**AHWAHNEE HOTEL**

- retain 121 traditional luxury accommodations
- remove tennis courts and golf course

**CAMPGROUNDS**

- reduce impact on river by removing 116 sites
- retain 684 auto campsites and 14 group campsites

**STABLES**

- no change

**PICNIC AREAS**

- provide picnic areas where appropriate

**HAPPY ISLES**

- retain nature center

**SUNNYSIDE CAMPGROUND**

- retain 38 sites

**INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER**

- restroom

**MUIR TREE CAMPGROUND**

- retain 20 sites
- provide for picnicking

• remove sewage plant

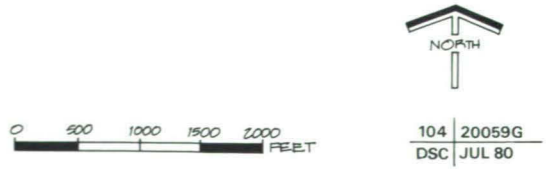
**HOUSEKEEPING CAMP**

- remove 68 housekeeping units from river bank
- retain and redesign 232 units

**CURRY VILLAGE**

- remove 83 tent cabins from rockfall zone
- retain 335 tent cabins
- provide housing for essential employees
- retain 90 low-cost cabins without baths and 118 moderate-cost lodge rooms and cabins with baths
- remove unneeded parking spaces
- retain cafeteria, gift shop, and mountain shop; add grocery store and bike rental
- remove recreational facilities unrelated to resources
- trailhead parking

# Yosemite Valley — Development Concept







**OPERATIONS AREA**  
 • redesign to accommodate NPS, YP&CC, and Pacific Telephone essential maintenance functions, emergency visitor protection facilities, detention facility, and magistrate's office

HOUSING AREA

HOUSING AREA

VISITOR CENTER  
 INDIAN GARDEN  
 OLD MUSEUM  
 POST OFFICE

• adaptively use pohono gift shop

• remove housing if not needed

• retain the hospital/dental building as an emergency medical facility

• convert school to residential use

CEMETERY

HEADQUARTERS

• remove majority of parking

• remove housing if not needed

RANGER CLUB (DORMITORY)

**VILLAGE CENTER**  
 • redesign village center area to remove parking spaces and include interpretive spaces, pedestrian circulation areas, shuttle bus stops, and public restrooms  
 • adaptively use the NPS headquarters building, the old museum, the post office, and bank building to accommodate a natural history museum, a museum of Man in Yosemite, valley district offices, and minimal banking and post office services

PEGMAN'S

• remove service station

GARAGE

**VILLAGE STORE**  
 • redesign Village Store for grocery sales, YP&CC offices, and food service (remove gift, clothing, and sports sales)  
 • remove barber and beauty functions, car rental, and garage

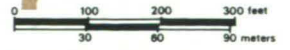
BANK

• remove concessioner headquarters

• remove Ahwahnee Row houses

- LEGEND**
- EXISTING FACILITIES TO BE RETAINED
  - EXISTING FACILITIES TO BE REMOVED
  - EXISTING FACILITIES - CONVERT TO DIFFERENT USE
  - ▨ AREAS TO BE REDESIGNED

• camp 6 to be eliminated



104 | 20047G  
 DSC | FEB 80

# Yosemite Village Development Concept



	Existing	Proposed	Change
Accommodations	1,528	1,260	-268
Day Parking Spaces	2,513	1,271	-1,242
Campsites	872	756	-116
Employees Housed (summer maximum)	1,510	480	-1,030

### Yosemite Village

The village center will be redesigned to separate interpretive services and commercial visitor services.

The Valley transportation system stop in the village will be designed so that as visitors debark they will be visually oriented to Yosemite Falls and the interpretive services. Degnans will be removed to provide a visual distinction between the two areas.

The following functions will be retained or provided in the western portion of the village: Valley administration, museum of Man in Yosemite, natural history museum, and Best's Studio. Commercial and retail space will be reduced by removing some structures, such as Degnans, the garage, and the service station, and by adapting other structures, such as the bank building and the Pohono Gift Shop, for visitor services and Valley administration. Commercial functions that will stay at present or reduced levels are grocery sales, food service, limited postal service, essential banking service, and some YP&CC offices. These will be accommodated within existing buildings in Yosemite Village. Most parking behind the Village Store will be removed. The residential areas immediately east and west of the village center will be removed.

### Yosemite Village

Goals	Actions
<b>Visitor Use</b> Interpret the natural and cultural environments  Provide minimal food, postal and banking services  Redesign visitor facilities to blend with the natural environment	<b>Visitor Use</b> — Redesign village mall area to remove parking spaces and include interpretive spaces, pedestrian circulation areas, shuttle bus stops, and public rest rooms  — Redesign the interior of the visitor center

Phase out other facilities and activities that are not directly related to resource enjoyment or that exceed visitor demand

- Immediately remove unneeded parking behind the Village Store. Retain a maximum of 50 spaces for service and employee needs
- Adaptively use the NPS headquarters building, the old museum, the post office, and bank building to accommodate a natural history museum, a museum of Man in Yosemite, Valley district offices, minimal banking, personal services, and post office services
- Remove Degnans, which includes a restaurant, fast-food service, delicatessen, and gift sales
- Adaptively use Pohono Gift Shop
- Remove service station
- Remove car rental and garage
- Redesign Village Store for grocery sales, YP&CC offices, and food service
- Retain Best's Studio

#### **Park Operations**

Remove nonessential functions and facilities from the Valley

Retain functions and facilities that are essential to the operation of the district: maintenance for Valley facilities, NPS stables, emergency medical care, and housing for essential employees

Consolidate essential functions of NPS and YP&CC

Remove nonessential housing

#### **Park Operations**

- Relocate NPS and YP&CC headquarters to El Portal
- Relocate administrative offices of the Yosemite Institute outside Valley
- Relocate Yosemite Natural History Association office outside the Valley
- Remove heavy maintenance and warehousing facilities; redesign NPS maintenance area to accommodate NPS, YP&CC and Pacific Telephone Company essential maintenance functions, emergency visitor protection facilities, detention facility, and magistrate's office



- Remove the concessioner headquarters building
- Retain the hospital/dental building as an emergency medical center
- Retain the NPS stables
- Relocate nonessential NPS and YP&CC personnel, plus employees of the school, Pacific Telephone Company, Wells Fargo Bank, Yosemite Institute, post office, and Yosemite Church outside the Valley
- Remove the Lower Tecoya residential area, the Ahwahnee Row houses, and Camp 6; also remove houses in the southern portion of the NPS housing area if not needed
- Retain the Upper Tecoya residential area (34 homes) and the northern half of the NPS residential area (44 homes) for essential permanent NPS and YP&CC employees
- Convert school building to residential use
- Provide for community recreation needs
- Remove facilities and restore the Church Bowl area to a natural condition

**Yosemite Lodge Area**

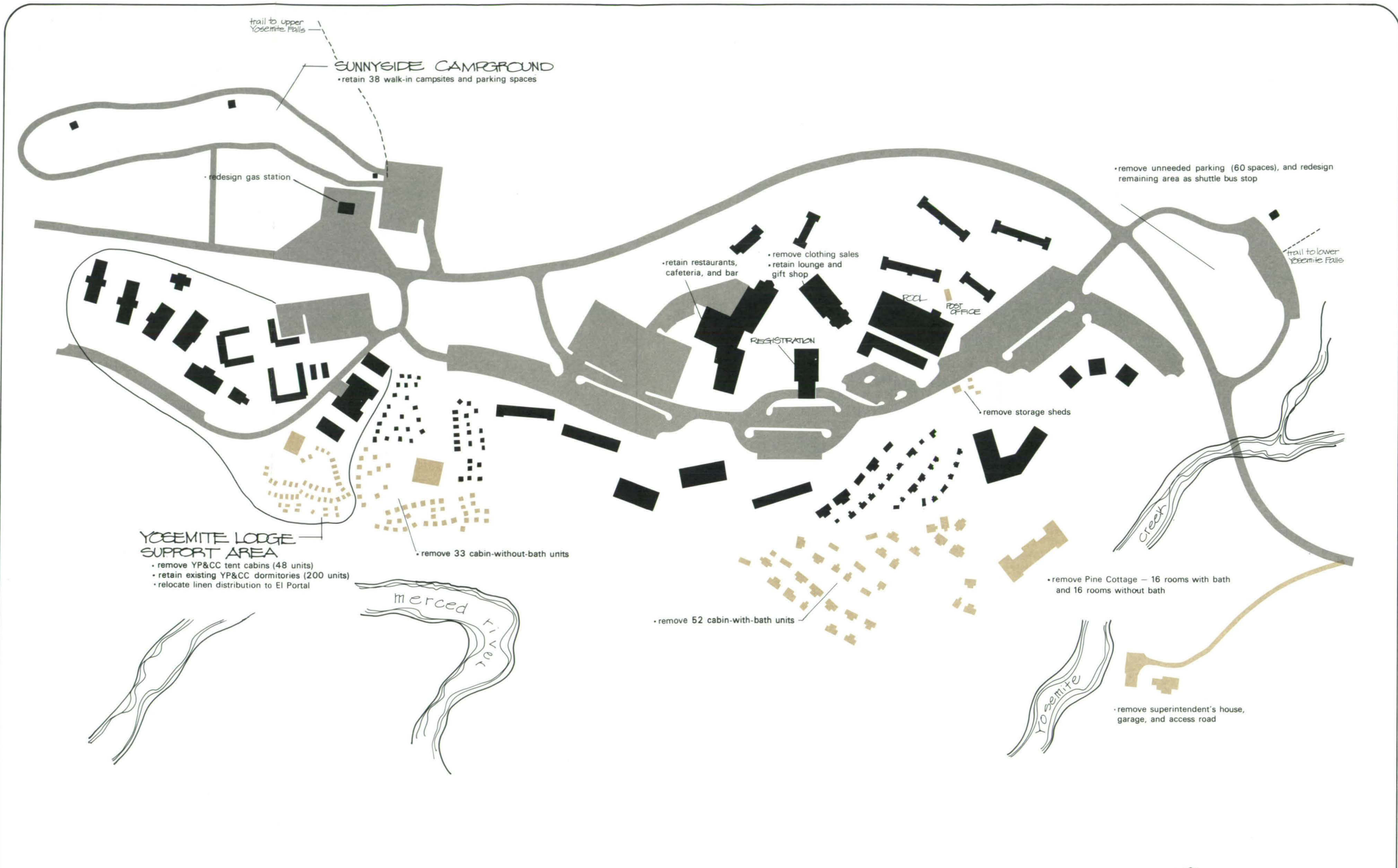
**Goals**

**Visitor Use**  
Provide year-round visitor accommodations and campground

**Actions**

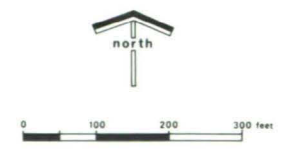
**Visitor Use**

- Remove 52 cabin-with-bath units and 33 cabin-without-bath units



**LEGEND**

- EXISTING FACILITIES TO BE RETAINED
- EXISTING FACILITIES TO BE REMOVED
- AREAS TO BE REDESIGNED



# Yosemite Lodge

Development Concept

Yosemite National Park, US Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Provide food, gas, and gift sales services

Remove facilities from flood hazard areas to avoid personal injury and recurrent structural damage

- Remove Pine Cottage, containing 16 with-bath units and 16 without-bath units
- Retain 32 cabin-with-bath units, 58 cabin-without-bath units, and 274 motel units
- Remove post office
- Remove clothing sales, use space for interpretation/information
- Retain gift shop, restaurants, cafeteria, and bar in their present locations and capacities
- Retain Sunnyside walk-in campground, 38 sites
- Redesign gas station for existing service levels
- Redesign Yosemite Falls parking area into shuttle bus stop, immediately removing 60 spaces

**Park Operations**

Provide adequate housing for essential employees

**Park Operations**

- Remove 48 YP&CC employee tent cabins
- Retain dormitory housing for 200 YP&CC employees

**Curry Village**

**Goals**

**Visitor Use**

Provide several types of accommodations, primarily in the low-cost range

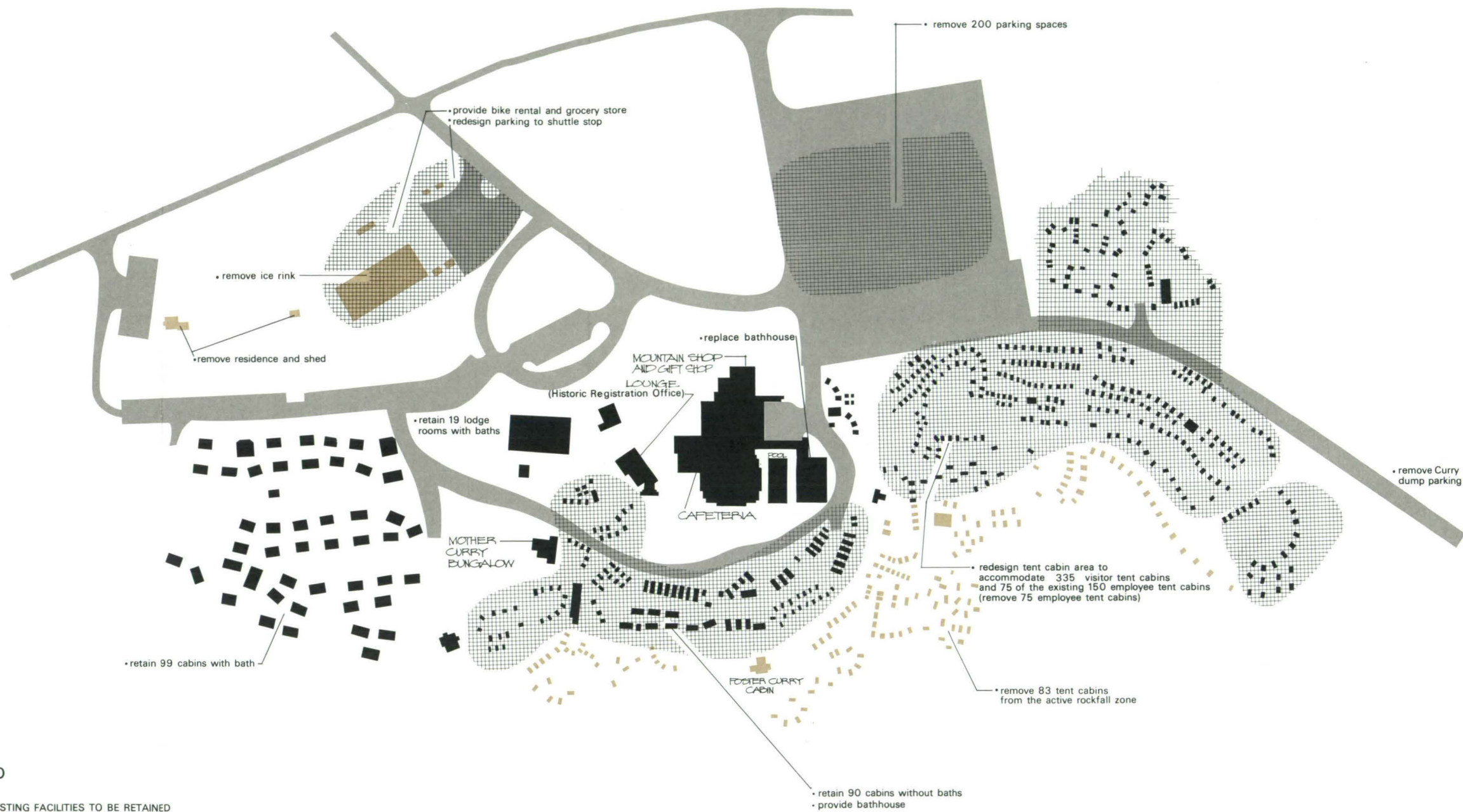
Reduce the density of tent cabins

**Actions**

**Visitor Use**

- Remove 83 visitor tent cabins from the rockfall zone
- Redesign visitor tent cabin area to provide up to 335 tent cabins





**LEGEND**

- EXISTING FACILITIES TO BE RETAINED
- EXISTING FACILITIES TO BE REMOVED
- ▨ AREAS TO BE REDESIGNED



NO SCALE

104 | 20055F  
DSC | JUL 80

# Curry Village

Development Concept

Yosemite National Park US Department of the Interior National Park Service

Provide facilities and services consistent with the historical setting of Curry Village and the natural and scenic resources of the Valley

Remove facilities from geologically hazardous areas to avoid personal injury and structural damage

Redesign housekeeping camp to reduce congestion and remove facilities away from riverbank

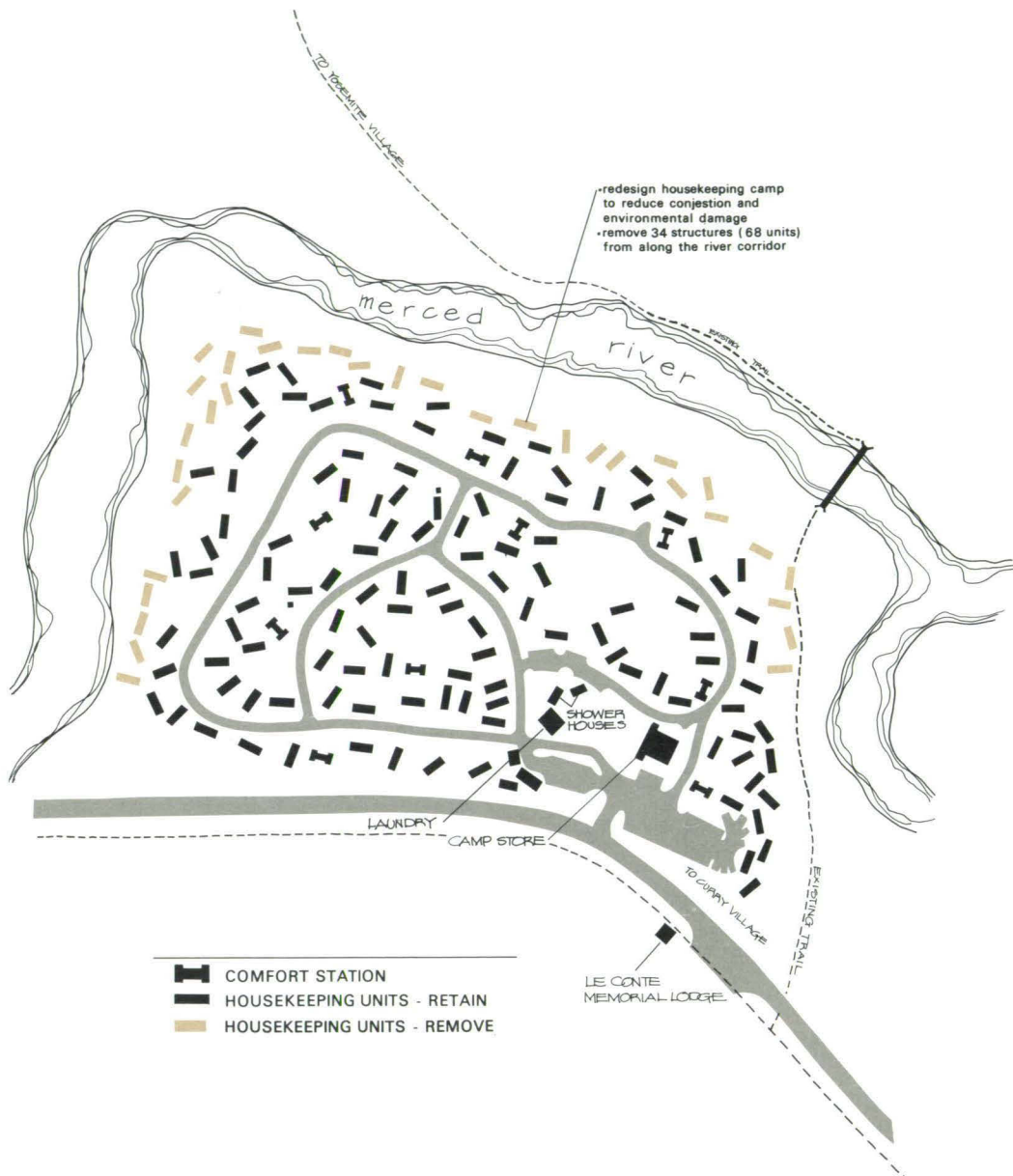
- Retain the 99 cabin-with-bath, 19 lodge-with-bath, and 90 cabin-without-bath units
- Retain historic registration office and Mother Curry's bungalow
- Remove Foster Curry cabin
- Retain cafeteria, gift shop, and mountain shop
- Replace bathhouse
- Remove permanent ice rink (provide portable ice rink in winter)
- Remove shed and residence west of ice rink
- Provide a grocery store and bike rental
- Remove parking at ice rink (25 spaces)
- Remove shoulder parking at east end of tent cabin area (10 spaces)
- Remove Curry dump parking and restore area (160 spaces)
- Immediately remove 200 additional day parking spaces from Curry Orchard
- Remove 68 housekeeping units (34 structures), retain 232 units, and redesign area to reduce congestion and environmental damage

#### **Park Operations**

Relocate employee housing out of geologically hazardous areas and remove nonessential housing

#### **Park Operations**

- Remove 75 employee tent cabins, including those in the rockfall zone, and retain 75 tent cabins to accommodate 150 essential employees



NO SCALE

104 2004AD  
 DSC 1 DEC 79

# Housekeeping Camp Development Concept

Yosemite National Park U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service



## Ahwahnee Hotel

### Goals

#### Visitor Use

Retain the traditional Ahwahnee character and level of service, but remove outdoor activities which are not directly related to the natural resource

### Actions

#### Visitor Use

- Retain the 99 Ahwahnee hotel rooms and 22 cabin rooms
- Retain the dining room, gift shop, bar, and other services
- Retain 132-car parking area
- Remove the tennis courts
- Remove the golf course

## Campgrounds

### Goals

#### Visitor Use

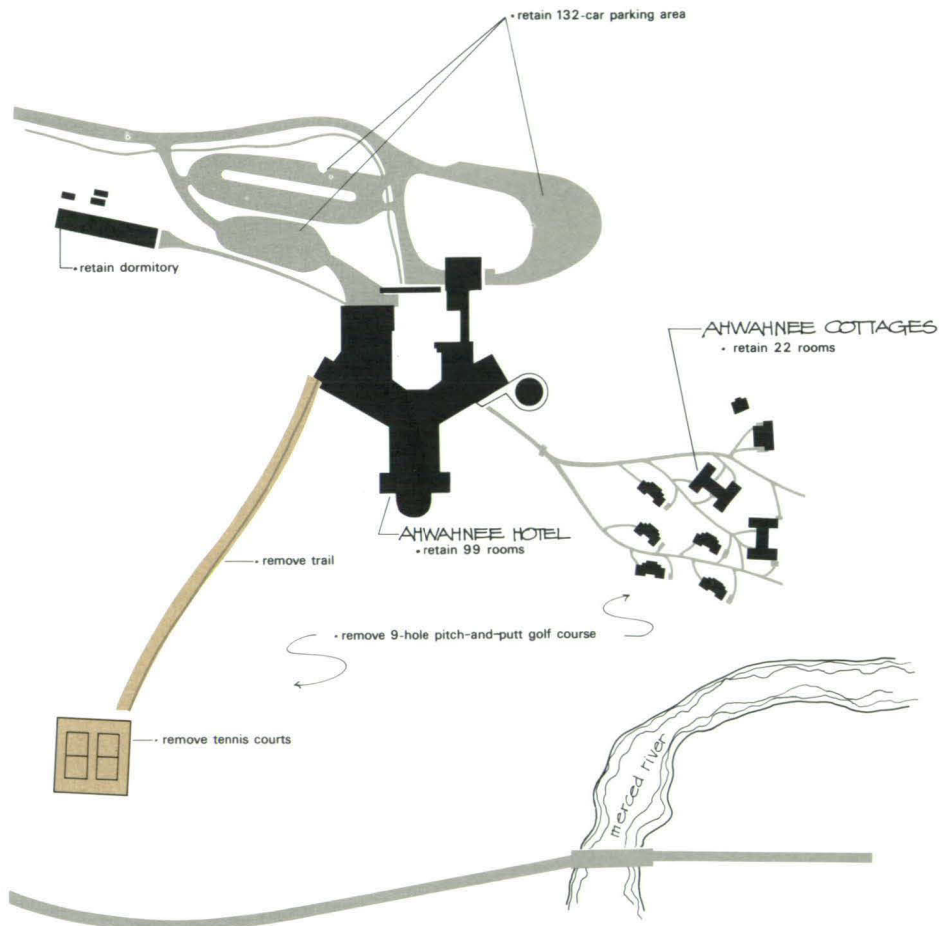
Provide a variety of camping opportunities

Remove facilities that are sources of impact on riparian areas

### Actions

#### Visitor Use

- Remove campground sites and other development adjacent to the Merced River:
  - Upper Pine Campground (18 units)
  - Lower Pine Campground (22 units)
  - North Pine Campground (25 units)
  - Upper River Campground (15 units)
  - Lower River Campground (36 units)
  - Total: 116 units
- Retain Muir Tree and Sunnyside walk-in campgrounds (58 sites) and group campground (14 sites)
- Retain and revegetate 684 drive-in campsites; restrict self-contained-vehicle camping and separate tent camping from vehicle camping
- Retain existing provisions for winter camping



# Ahwahnee Hotel Development Concept

Yosemite National Park U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

104 | 4008AA  
DSC | NOV 79

## Other Valley Areas

Goals	Actions
<b>Visitor Use</b>	<b>Visitor Use</b>
Reduce congestion and automobile activity in Yosemite Valley	— Enforce established use levels for Yosemite Valley; implement a visitor information and control system at gateway communities and entrance stations
Create opportunities for bicycling throughout the Valley	— Improve operation of Valley shuttle system
Retain resource-related visitor activities	— Provide a 16-mile bike trail along both sides of the river, using existing trails wherever possible
Remove facilities from significant scenic areas	— Improve existing paved trails to accommodate wheelchair use
Provide for Indian cultural activities	— Immediately remove 500 strip parking spaces; delineate remainder
Remove excessive day parking spaces	— Remove Degnan residence and Masonic Hall
	— Remove superintendent's house, garage, and access road
	— Provide additional opportunities for picnicking in Yosemite Valley
	— Retain YP&CC stables, Happy Isles nature center, Le Conte Memorial Lodge, and Yosemite Valley chapel
	— Construct Indian cultural center at the former Indian village site west of Sunnyside campground
<b>Park Operations</b>	<b>Park Operations</b>
Retain essential support facilities	— Provide adequate water treatment and storage for 1 million gallons; continue to use existing wells for emergency use; convert to low-flow fixtures
Relocate nonessential functions away from the Valley	



Upgrade water systems and eliminate unnecessary wastewater treatment facilities

- Remove sewage treatment plant and ponds near Bridalveil Meadow and restore area
- Upgrade wastewater collection systems where required
- Upgrade electrical systems

### **Cascades and Arch Rock**

Cascades and Arch Rock are small developed areas between Yosemite Valley and El Portal that provide facilities for minor visitor use and park operations functions.

#### **Cascades**

##### **Goals**

##### **Visitor Use**

Continue to provide opportunities for picnicking

Improve visitor safety

##### **Park Operations**

Remove nonessential housing

Continue power production

##### **Actions**

##### **Visitor Use**

- Retain existing facilities and provide picnic areas with comfort stations
- Replace existing three bridges with two bridges and remove sharp curves between bridges

##### **Park Operations**

- Remove five residences and provide housing at El Portal
- Improve efficiency of hydroelectric plant

#### **Arch Rock**

##### **Goals**

##### **Visitor Use**

Continue to provide opportunities for fishing and picnicking

Retain as park entrance

##### **Park Operations**

Remove nonessential housing

##### **Actions**

##### **Visitor Use**

- Retain existing parking lot, picnic area, and rest rooms
- Redesign entrance facility

##### **Park Operations**

- Remove two residences

## El Portal

The El Portal administrative site, authorized by Congress in 1958, will become park headquarters and the major park administrative site. This valley, straddling the Merced River downstream from Yosemite Valley, has limited land suitable for development and will require innovative design techniques to create a support operation and residential community.

Visitors coming from the west along California Highway 140 enter the park at El Portal, and it is the park's primary winter access route. Interpretation will focus on providing information about resources and visitor opportunities in the park and surrounding areas.

## El Portal

Goals	Actions
<b>Visitor Use</b> Provide orientation and information/reservation system for overnight accommodations and campgrounds	<b>Visitor Use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Provide an information/reservation station and develop a community museum at the Bagby station</li></ul>
Provide a variety of commercial services for visitors and residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Provide a commercial facilities area for services, including automobile service, restaurants, grocery store, clothing and gift sales, bank, beauty and barber shop</li></ul>
Provide experimental remote staging area for Valley day visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Provide up to a 150-car day parking area and bus service into the Valley</li><li>– Reserve space for possible expansion of staging area</li></ul>
<b>Park Operations</b> Create a model community for parkwide management functions, services, and housing in terms of livability, efficient land use, minimal impacts on the landscape, residential amenities, efficient use of energy, esthetics, recycling, water conservation, and significant cultural resources	<b>Park Operations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Implement a comprehensive plan for El Portal with provision for the following facilities and services:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NPS administrative building</li><li>YP&amp;CC administrative building</li><li>Employee parking</li><li>NPS and YP&amp;CC maintenance, warehousing, laundry, and bus service area</li></ul></li></ul>
Engage in cooperative planning with Parkline businesses and Mariposa County	

Avoid floodplain and geologic hazards

NPS and YP&CC open air storage

NPS permanent housing for a maximum of 70 employees

NPS seasonal housing for a maximum of 80 employees

YP&CC permanent housing for a maximum of 390 employees

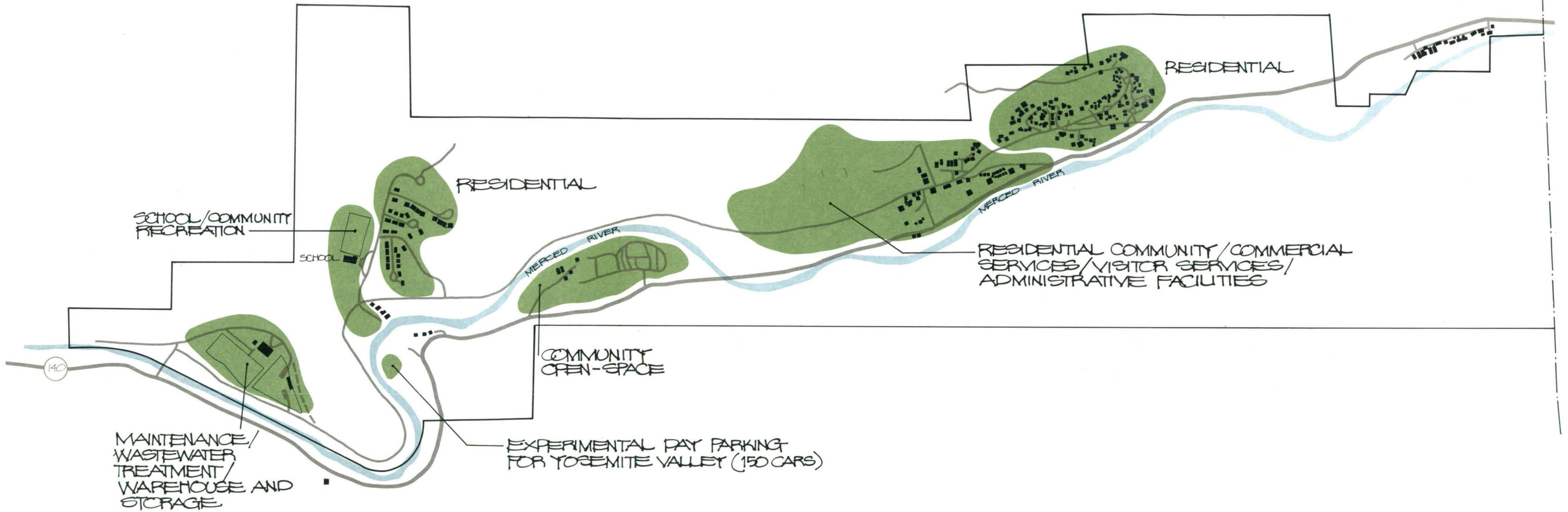
YP&CC seasonal housing for a maximum of 60 employees

Permanent and seasonal housing for other employees associated with the management and operation of El Portal (about 80 employees)

Residential amenities, including community recreation and services, open space and landscaping, utilities, meeting hall, fire station, post office, and law enforcement facilities

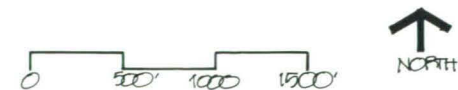
- Expand elementary school as needed
- Convert domestic water system supply to an underground source
- Provide adequate water storage
- Complete final phase of wastewater treatment system
- Provide long-term leases for El Portal homeowners





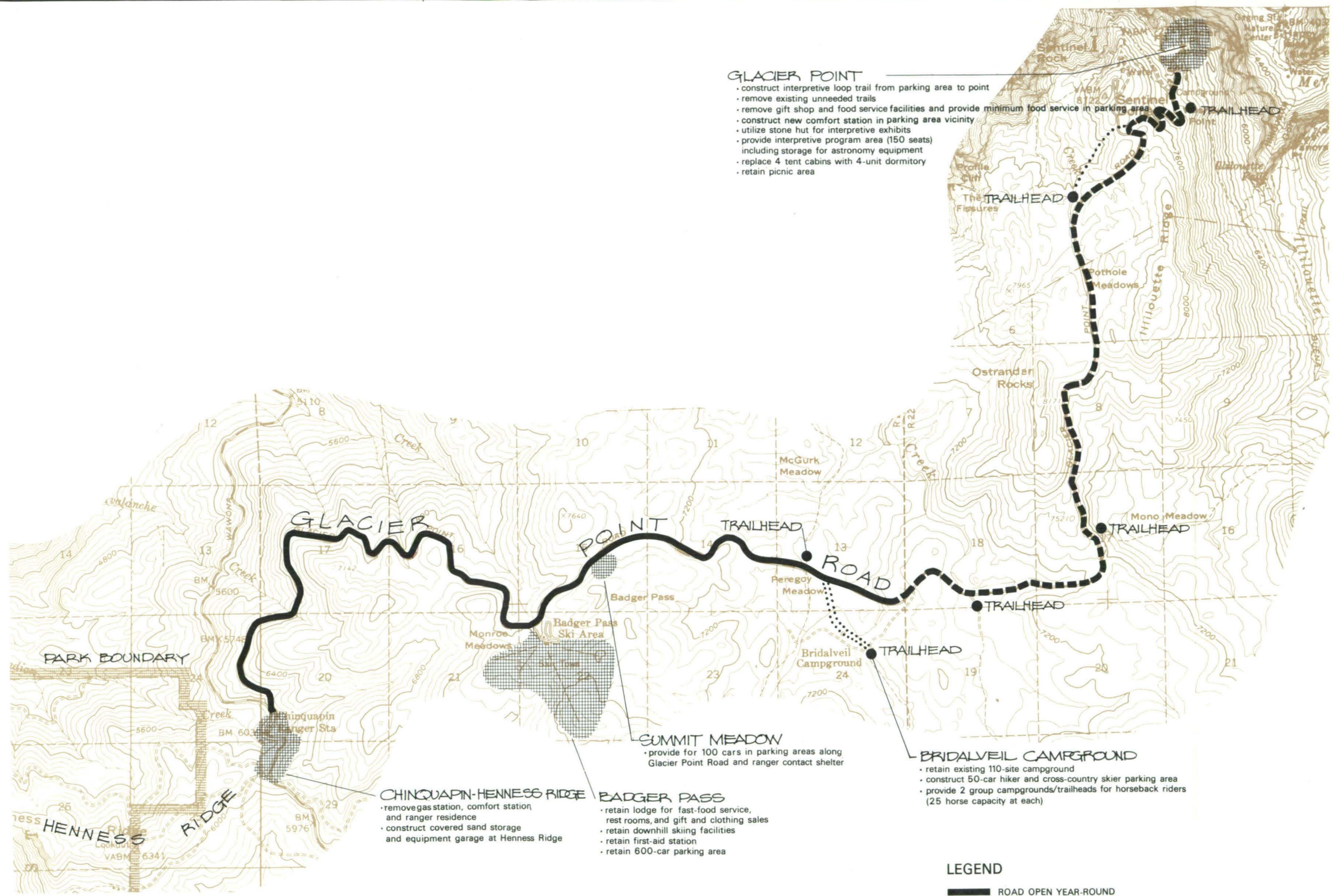
# El Portal Development Concept

Yosemite National Park — U.S. Department of the Interior — National Park Service



104 | 40074A  
DSC | JUN 79





**GLACIER POINT**

- construct interpretive loop trail from parking area to point
- remove existing unneeded trails
- remove gift shop and food service facilities and provide minimum food service in parking area
- construct new comfort station in parking area vicinity
- utilize stone hut for interpretive exhibits
- provide interpretive program area (150 seats) including storage for astronomy equipment
- replace 4 tent cabins with 4-unit dormitory
- retain picnic area

- CHINQUAPIN-HENNESS RIDGE**
- remove gas station, comfort station and ranger residence
  - construct covered sand storage and equipment garage at Hennes Ridge

- BADGER PASS**
- retain lodge for fast-food service, rest rooms, and gift and clothing sales
  - retain downhill skiing facilities
  - retain first-aid station
  - retain 600-car parking area

- SUMMIT MEADOW**
- provide for 100 cars in parking areas along Glacier Point Road and ranger contact shelter

- BRIDALVEIL CAMPGROUND**
- retain existing 110-site campground
  - construct 50-car hiker and cross-country skier parking area
  - provide 2 group campgrounds/trailheads for horseback riders (25 horse capacity at each)

**LEGEND**

- ROAD OPEN YEAR-ROUND
- - - ROAD CLOSED IN WINTER



104 | 200560  
DSC | NOV 79

# Glacier Point Road Development Concept

## WAWONA DISTRICT

### Glacier Point Road Corridor

The road from Chinquapin to Glacier Point parallels the Yosemite Valley rim, providing access to spectacular views of the Valley and the Sierra Crest. Visitors to this part of the park enjoy unique opportunities for scenic viewing and downhill skiing. This road also provides access to most of the backcountry in the southern half of the park, making it a popular entry point for hikers, backpackers, campers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers.

The primary interpretive themes at Glacier Point will be scenery and biotic systems and geology – relating to the formation of Yosemite Valley and the High Sierra. Secondary themes will be history and astronomy. Interpretation at Badger Pass will be minimal, providing parkwide information, orientation, and conservation messages. Interpretation along the rest of the corridor will relate to viewpoints, trailheads, and other points of interest.

### Chinquapin

#### Goals

##### Visitor Use

Remove intensive development

##### Park Operations

Improve efficiency of road maintenance during winter months

Remove nonessential housing

#### Actions

##### Visitor Use

- Remove gas station and comfort station
- Redesign intersection and restore site

##### Park Operations

- Construct a covered sand storage structure at Henness Ridge
- Remove residence

### Badger Pass

#### Goals

##### Visitor Use

Provide opportunities for family-oriented downhill skiing and other forms of winter recreation with existing facilities and capacities

#### Actions

##### Visitor Use

- Retain existing facilities and enforce a safe slope capacity
- Provide ski equipment rental and sales





Promote increased summer use of the area

Alleviate congestion and overflow parking during winter

Interpret activities and resources along Glacier Point Road

- Retain first-aid station
- Provide storage and repair facilities for snowshoes
- Retain 600-car parking area
- Continue winter bus service from the Valley and Wawona
- Retain lodge for fast-food service, rest rooms, and gift and clothing sales
- Provide seasonally changing interpretive exhibits in the lodge

#### Bridalveil Campground/Summit Meadow

##### Goals

###### Visitor Use

Provide for year-round backcountry access

Enhance cross-country skiing opportunities

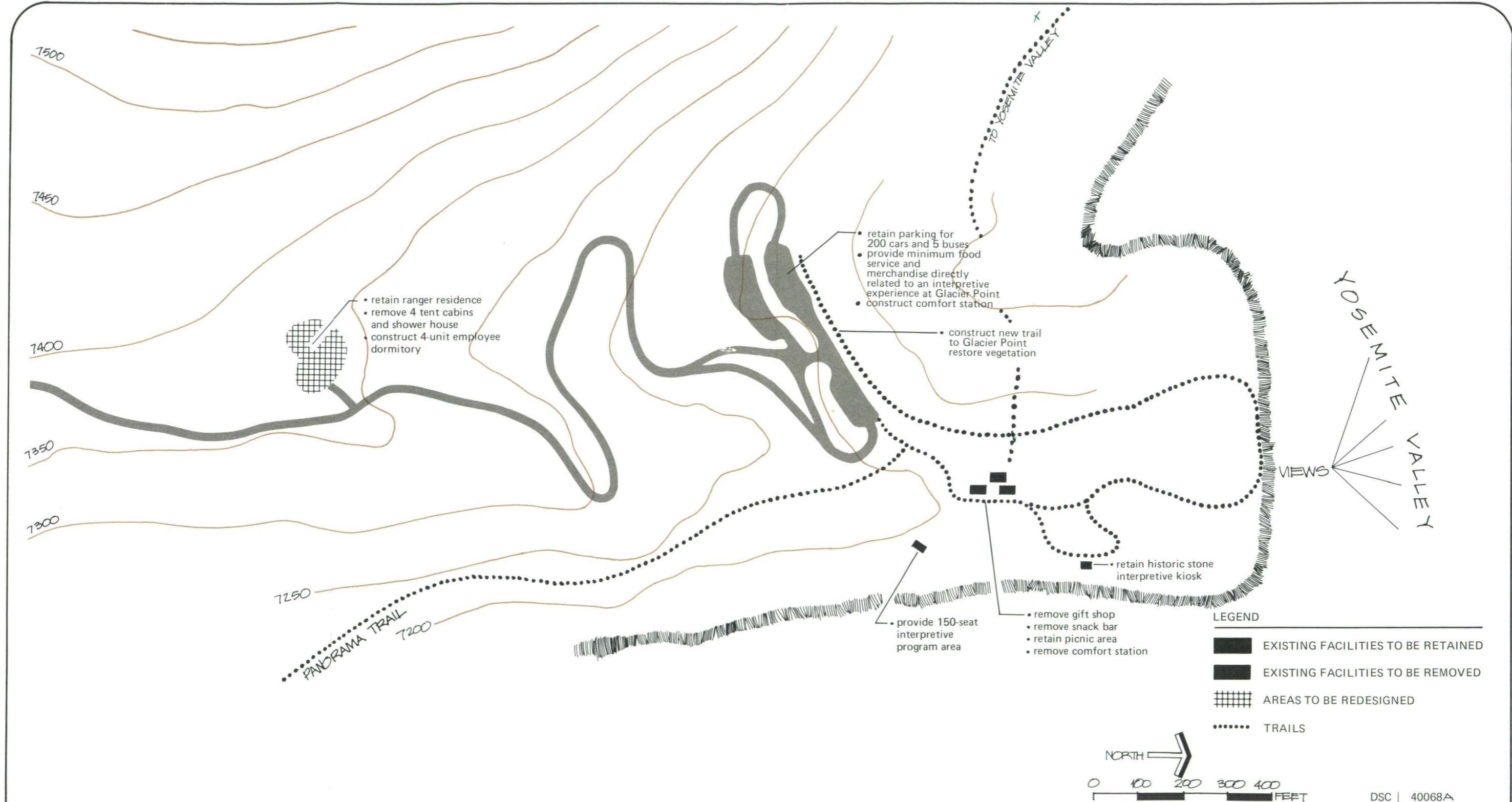
Enhance horseback riding opportunities

##### Actions

###### Visitor Use

- Retain existing campground (110 sites) and provide winter camping access
- Construct a 50-car paved parking area for hikers and cross-country skiers at Bridalveil trailhead
- Retain Ostrander ski hut
- Continue year-round road access
- Provide two group campgrounds/trailheads for horseback riders (25-horse capacity at each)
- Provide parking areas for 100 cars along Glacier Point Road near Summit Meadow
- Construct a ranger contact shelter at Summit Meadow
- Provide trailhead parking for summer use





# Glacier Point Development Concept

Yosemite National Park U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

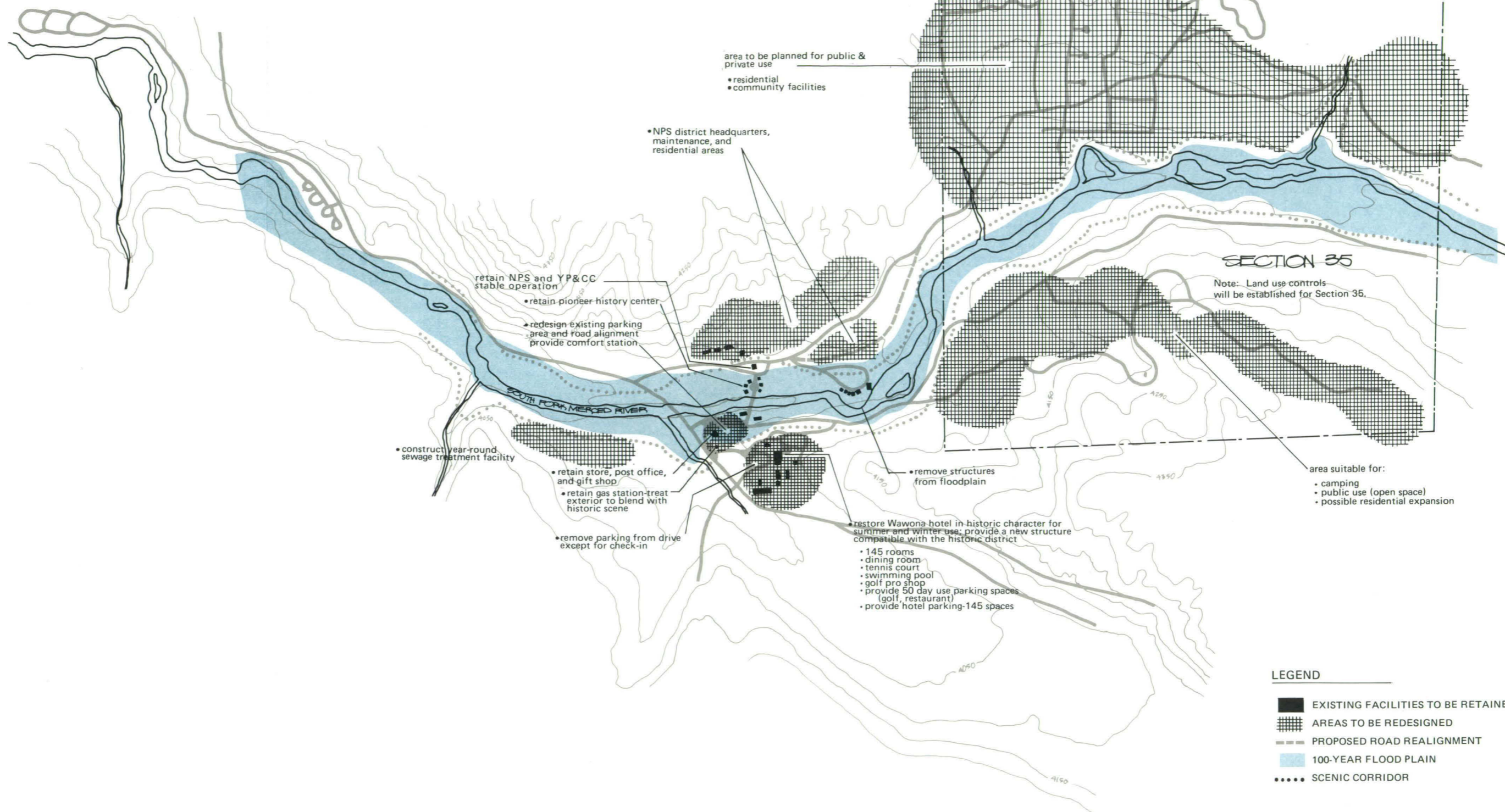


## Glacier Point

Goals	Actions
<b>Visitor Use</b> Maximize the drama of the visual experience at Glacier Point	<b>Visitor Use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Construct a gentle, winding loop trail from the parking area through the trees to the Glacier Point Overlook</li></ul>
Provide interpretive programs	
Remove intrusive facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Remove unused paved roads and trails</li><li>— Provide 150-seat interpretive program area suitable for daytime and nighttime interpretive programs, including storage for astronomy equipment</li><li>— Continue bus service from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point</li><li>— Relocate comfort station to parking area</li><li>— Remove unnecessary and unused paved trails</li><li>— Remove existing gift sales and fast-food service facilities and provide minimum food service and merchandise directly related to an interpretive experience at Glacier Point</li></ul>
<b>Park Operations</b> Provide adequate housing for essential employees	<b>Park Operations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Retain ranger residences</li></ul>
Provide underground powerline from Union Point to Glacier Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Replace 4 tent cabins and shower house with 4-unit dormitory</li><li>— Construct underground powerline from Union Point to Glacier Point along road shoulder</li><li>— Improve water and sewer system</li></ul>

### Wawona

Wawona has a historic mountain resort character. The atmosphere is serene, the people are friendly, and the service is gracious. The historic hotel complex provides an experience available nowhere else in the Sierra.



- LEGEND**
- EXISTING FACILITIES TO BE RETAINED
  - ▣ AREAS TO BE REDESIGNED
  - - - PROPOSED ROAD REALIGNMENT
  - 100-YEAR FLOOD PLAIN
  - ..... SCENIC CORRIDOR

# Wawona Development Concept



Wawona is convenient to Glacier Point, Badger Pass, and Mariposa Grove, and it is a major access point to the southern portion of Yosemite’s backcountry.

The interpretive theme at Wawona will be history – the exploration, discovery, and use of the Yosemite region in the 19th century. In this pleasant historic setting, 19th-century structures and objects from throughout the park have been preserved and restored and are being interpreted at the Pioneer History Center and the Thomas Hill Studio.

Wawona will be the location of the Mather district headquarters.

### Wawona

Goals	Actions
<p><b>Visitor Use</b> Interpret early non-Indian history of Yosemite</p> <p>Provide a year-round traditional overnight experience at the Wawona Hotel</p> <p>Create a historically consistent visual quality within the historic zone</p> <p>Provide year-round camping opportunities</p> <p>Provide picnicking opportunities</p> <p>Use as a staging area for winter skiing trips</p>	<p><b>Visitor Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Retain the Pioneer History Center</li> <li>– Redesign the parking area for the Pioneer History Center so that users are not required to cross traffic</li> <li>– Provide 145 overnight accommodation units by utilizing historic structures and a new structure compatible with the historic district</li> <li>– Retain Thomas Hill Studio</li> <li>– Retain golf course, YP&amp;CC stables, tennis court, and swimming pool</li> <li>– Remove parking from in front of the hotel complex and construct a 145-car area north of the complex</li> <li>– Redesign the store, service station, post office, and gift shop and design a new comfort station so that all facilities are compatible with the historic scene</li> <li>– Rehabilitate the existing 100-site campground and 30-person group camp for year-round use</li> </ul>



- Relocate campground amphitheater
- Construct 200-site campground in Section 35
- Provide additional picnicking and parking areas as needed
- Provide winter bus service to Badger Pass and year-round bus service to Yosemite Valley
- Provide 50 day use parking spaces adjacent to Wawona Hotel complex
- Retain 25-horse campground
- Provide trailhead parking (50 spaces) at Chilnualna Falls trailhead

**Park Operations**

Provide for district headquarters and maintenance operation

Provide housing for NPS and concession employees when housing is not available outside the park boundary

Upgrade utilities to meet NPS and concession needs and state and federal standards

Improve the water quality of the Merced River by eliminating sources of water pollution

**Park Operations**

- Construct office buildings for NPS district law enforcement, resource management and interpretive functions
- Construct a new district maintenance facility, including space for storage of snow removal equipment and sand
- Provide facilities for employee housing and recreational amenities to accommodate a maximum of 60 permanent and 110 seasonal NPS employees, a maximum of 40 permanent and 170 seasonal YP&CC employees, and 20 permanent and 30 seasonal other employees, only if housing is unavailable outside the park boundary
- Construct a new water treatment, storage, and distribution system
- Construct a new wastewater treatment plant with provisions for year-round disposal

- Connect new and existing visitor and employee facilities and Section 35 structures to the new wastewater treatment plant
- Retain elementary school

### South Entrance

Most visitors from southern California enter the park through the south entrance at the junction of the road to Mariposa Grove.

### South Entrance

#### Goals

##### Visitor Use

Provide park orientation and information/reservation system for overnight accommodations and campgrounds

Provide staging facilities for Mariposa Grove

Provide adequate road to Mariposa Grove for bus access

##### Park Operations

Provide housing for essential employees

Provide adequate wastewater treatment and disposal

##### Mariposa Grove

Mariposa Grove, one of the finest remaining spectacular stands of giant sequoias, was one of the two original areas set aside in Yosemite's early history. The awesome beauty and quiet of the grove are being protected by only allowing visitors to walk through the grove or ride a tram system with an interpreter. All interpretation will focus on the sequoias and their environment.

#### Actions

##### Visitor Use

- Redesign entrance station
- Construct an information/reservation kiosk and 50-car parking area at south entrance
- Construct a parking area to accommodate 200 autos, 5 buses, tram terminal, and comfort station
- Repair and make minor realignment of road from south entrance to Mariposa Grove
- Provide bus service to Mariposa Grove

##### Park Operations

- Retain existing ranger residence
- Develop new wastewater treatment facility

## Mariposa Grove

### Goals

#### Visitor Use

Retain as the primary location within the park for visitor enjoyment and interpretation of the giant sequoia

Provide only visitor facilities consistent with preservation of the unique ecosystem; remove all other facilities not necessary for visitor enjoyment of the resource

#### Park Operations

Upgrade physical facilities to eliminate impacts and meet standards

Provide adequate wastewater treatment and disposal outside Mariposa Grove

### Actions

#### Visitor Use

- Extend the tram system from South Entrance through Mariposa Grove; prohibit commercial tour buses; accommodate the physically disabled

- Convert Wawona Point Road to a trail

- Repair and reconstruct trails through tree grove

- Remove 150-car parking area

- Convert existing bus parking area to off-season parking (50 cars)

- Retain and rehabilitate museum and comfort station

- Retain information kiosk

- Remove the gift shop

#### Park Operations

- Replace the existing toilet facilities at the parking area and provide for wastewater treatment and disposal

- Remove Big Trees Lodge

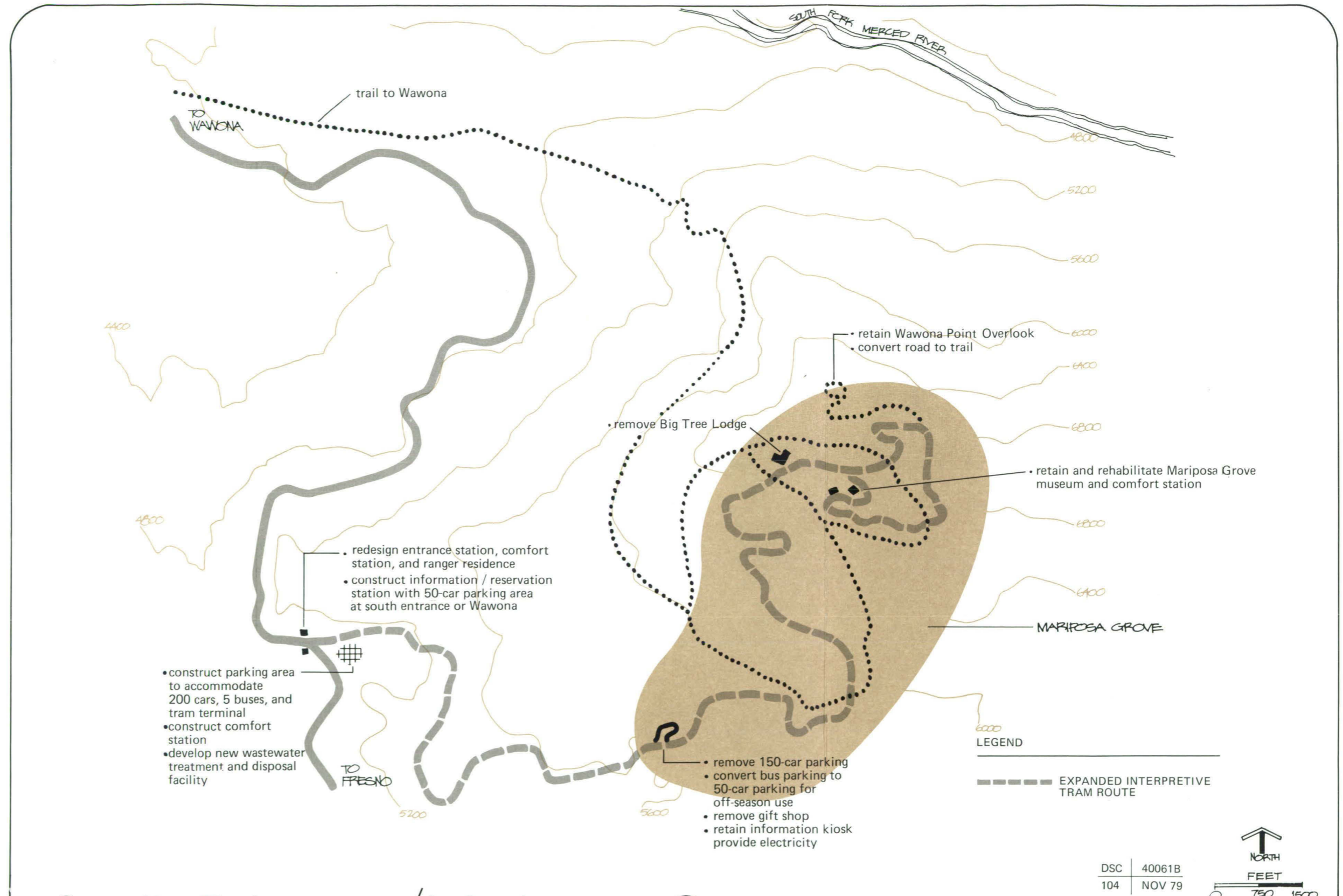
- Upgrade and extend electrical and water storage/distribution systems

## MATHER DISTRICT

### The Tioga Road Corridor

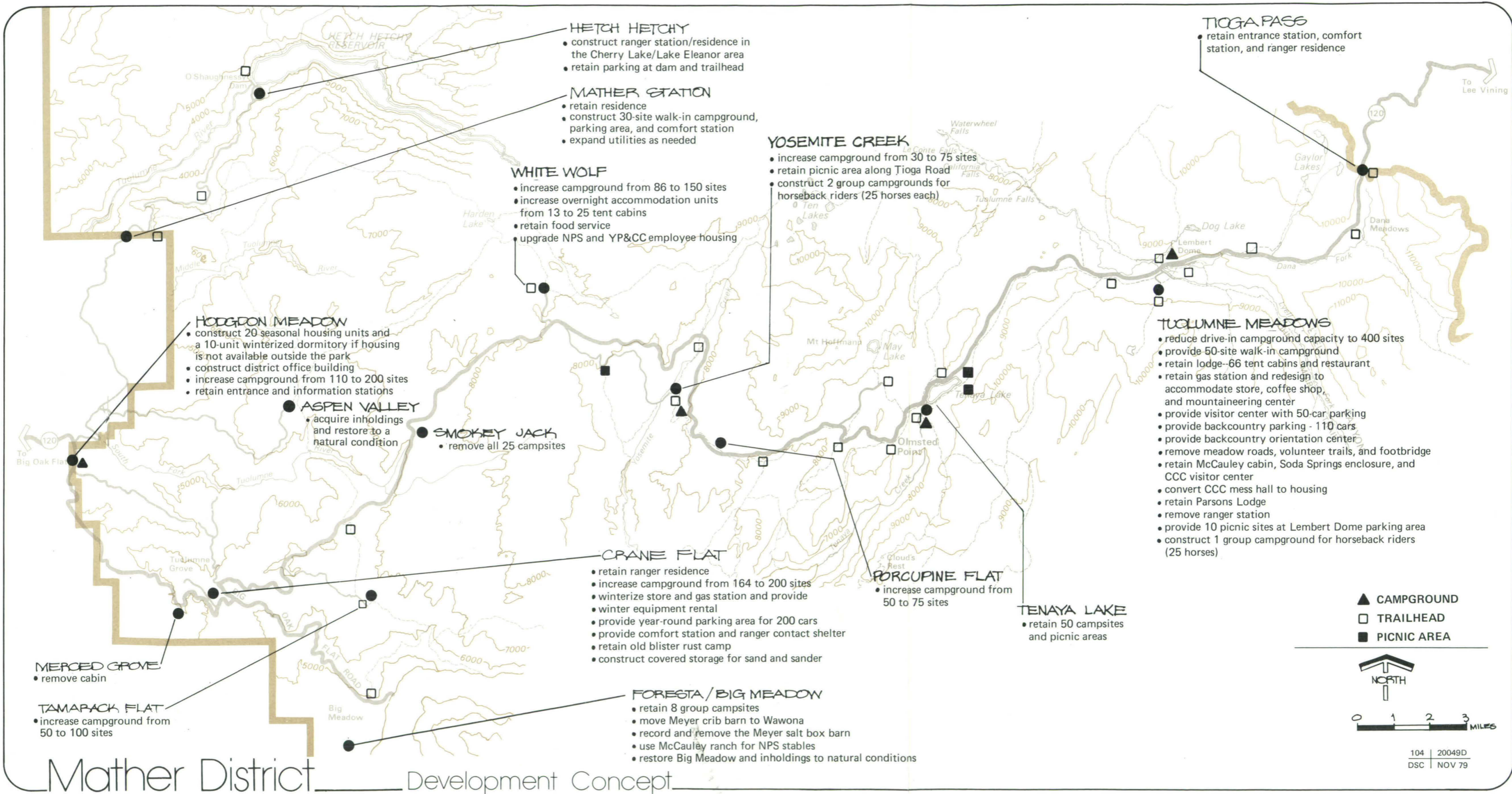
The Tioga Road is a cross-mountain scenic road that passes through most of the environments in Yosemite. The corridor serves as a summertime trans-Sierra route and provides access points to the surrounding backcountry. A wide variety of opportunities are available along the corridor, which range from scenic driving to wilderness threshold experiences. In the winter, opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are available.





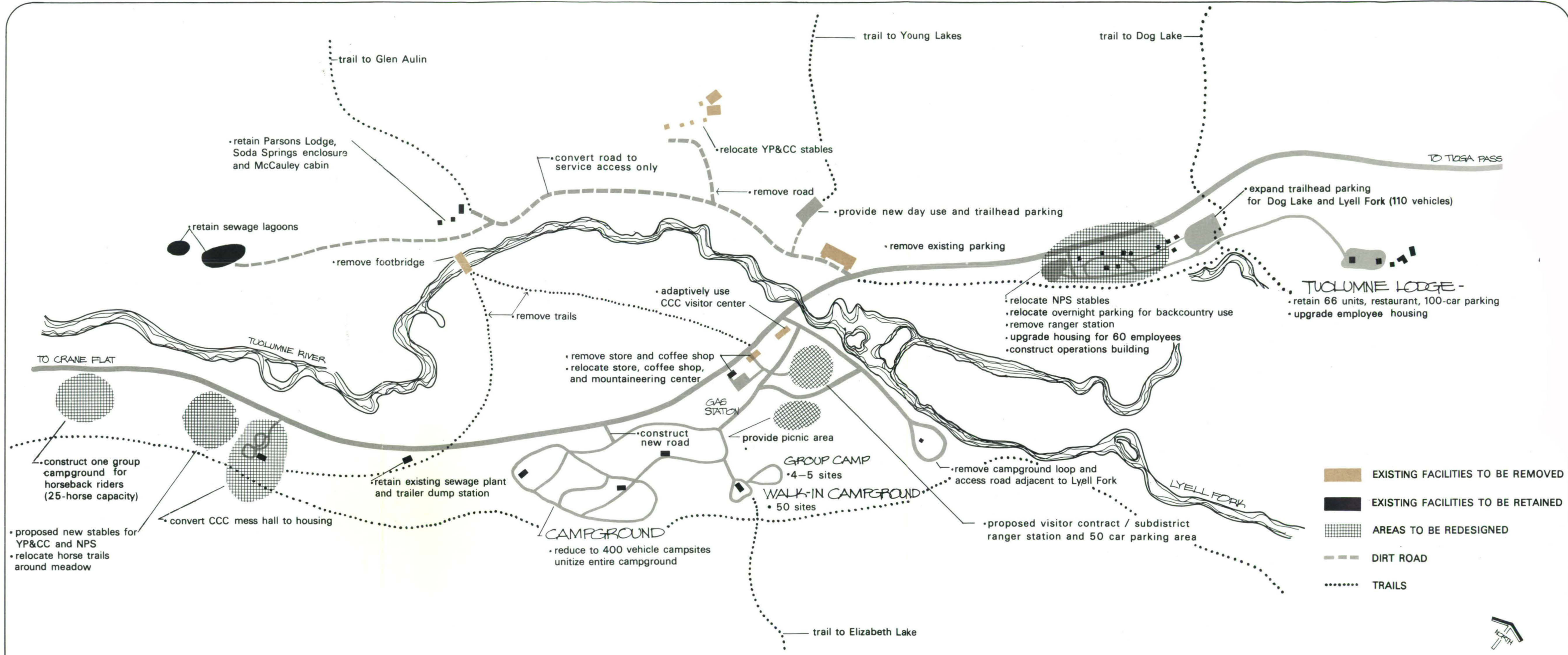
South Entrance/Mariposa Grove Development Concept  
 Yosemite National Park U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service





# Mather District Development Concept





• retain Parsons Lodge, Soda Springs enclosure and McCauley cabin

• retain sewage lagoons

• remove footbridge

• convert road to service access only

• relocate YP&CC stables

• remove road

• provide new day use and trailhead parking

• remove existing parking

• expand trailhead parking for Dog Lake and Lyell Fork (110 vehicles)

**TUOLUMNE LODGE**  
 • retain 66 units, restaurant, 100-car parking  
 • upgrade employee housing

• relocate NPS stables  
 • relocate overnight parking for backcountry use  
 • remove ranger station  
 • upgrade housing for 60 employees  
 • construct operations building

• adaptively use CCC visitor center

• remove trails

• remove store and coffee shop  
 • relocate store, coffee shop, and mountaineering center

GAS STATION

• construct new road

provide picnic area

GROUP CAMP  
 • 4-5 sites

WALK-IN CAMPGROUND  
 • 50 sites

• remove campground loop and access road adjacent to Lyell Fork

• proposed visitor contract / subdistrict ranger station and 50 car parking area

EXISTING FACILITIES TO BE REMOVED

EXISTING FACILITIES TO BE RETAINED

AREAS TO BE REDESIGNED

DIRT ROAD

TRAILS

TO CRANE FLAT

TUOLUMNE RIVER

LYELL FORK

trail to Elizabeth Lake

trail to Glen Aulin

trail to Young Lakes

trail to Dog Lake

TO TIOGA PASS

# Tuolumne Meadows Development Concept

Yosemite National Park U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service



104 20054C  
 DSC NOV 79





### Tioga Pass Entrance

Entrance to the park at Tioga Pass is highlighted by expansive views of the alpine ecosystem and crossing the crest of the High Sierra Nevada.

#### Tioga Pass Entrance

##### Goals

###### Visitor Use/Park Operations

Continue to provide information, fee collection, and housing for employees

##### Actions

###### Visitor Use/Park Operations

- Retain existing entrance station, comfort station, and ranger residence

### Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows is one of the finest subalpine meadows in the High Sierra and will be the focal point for promoting visitors' understanding and appreciation of the subalpine ecosystem. Facilities located adjacent to the meadow will continue to provide staging areas for backcountry and high mountain experiences, but development will be redesigned to eliminate intrusions on the fragile subalpine ecosystem. A horse and mule use plan is being prepared to establish carrying capacities and to determine exact locations and sizes for facilities.

The primary interpretive themes at Tuolumne Meadows will be biotic systems and geology (High Sierra meadows, mountains, and life communities) and wilderness/conservation. Secondary themes will be history and activities.

#### Tuolumne Meadows

##### Goals

###### Visitor Use

Permit only those types and levels of use or development that do not significantly impair subalpine ecosystems

Orient development and use to the lodgepole pine ecosystem

Eliminate cross-meadow traffic by pedestrians, stock, and vehicles

##### Actions

###### Visitor Use

- Retain Parsons Lodge, the McCauley cabin, Soda Springs enclosure, and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) visitor center
- Remove footbridge
- Relocate the YP&CC and NPS stables and stock trails to the lodgepole pine ecosystem

Provide overnight parking consistent with capacities proposed in the current *Backcountry Management Plan*

Provide parkwide information and reservation services for visitors entering via Tioga Pass

Institute interpretive programs directed toward low-impact use of fragile resource areas and appreciation and understanding of meadow and subalpine ecosystems

Provide for a variety of camping opportunities

Provide overnight accommodations

Provide opportunities for picnicking

#### **Park Operations**

Improve the quality of employee housing

Provide facilities for a subdistrict office operation

Bring drinking water quality up to standard

- Restore meadows by removing nonessential roads and trails
- Remove the campground loop and access road adjacent to the Lyell Fork
- Relocate Lembert Dome parking area to old telephone building site to accommodate Glen Aulin trailhead and day users; provide comfort station
- Adaptively use the CCC visitor center
- Construct a visitor contact/subdistrict ranger station, where backcountry permits will be issued, and a 50-car parking area
- Relocate grocery store, mountaineering center, and coffee shop to gas station building
- Relocate 110 trailhead parking spaces for Dog Lake and Lyell Fork
- Relocate Cathedral Lakes parking area
- Construct one 25-horse campground near the new stables
- Retain the lodge (66 units) and its parking area
- Unitize the campground to provide not more than 400 vehicle campsites, 50 walk-in sites, and 5 group sites
- Construct a 10- to 20-site picnic area near the visitor contact station

#### **Park Operations**

- Upgrade existing housing for about 120 employees in existing NPS housing area
- Winterize some seasonal housing for snow survey crews, cross-country skiers, and winter keepers
- Convert CCC messhall to housing

- Record and remove ranger station and relocate subdistrict offices to new subdistrict ranger station
- Remove present housing at Bug Camp/NPS stables area and from behind grocery store
- Construct operations building for resource management and maintenance
- Upgrade water supply, sewage disposal, and electrical systems
- Remove horse camp and restore Gaylor disposal site

### Tioga Road Campgrounds and Picnic Areas

These areas offer a variety of secluded, low-key outdoor activities in several environments that range from high, barren granite mountains to dense forests.

### Tioga Road Campgrounds and Picnic Areas

#### Goals

##### Visitor Use

Consolidate campgrounds to improve visitor experience, increase maintenance efficiency, and eliminate water pollution

Continue to provide opportunities for picnicking

Control parking along the Tioga Road

#### Actions

##### Visitor Use

- Increase in size, or remove, primitive campgrounds as follows:

	Action	Existing	Proposed	Change
Tamarack				
Flat	Increase	50	100	+50
Smokey				
Jack	Remove	25	0	-25
Yosemite				
Creek	Increase	30	75	+45
Porcupine				
Flat	Increase	50	75	+25
Tenaya	Status			
Lake	quo	50	50	0
Totals		205	300	+95

- Retain picnic areas at their present location and capacity



- In addition to primitive campgrounds, construct two horse camps (25 horses at each camp) at Yosemite Creek campground
- Limit parking to established use levels at backcountry trailheads; pave and delineate parking areas; eliminate volunteer parking; restore damaged areas at parking sites and roadsides

**Park Operations**

Improve wastewater treatment along the Tioga Road to bring developments and campgrounds up to state and federal standards

**Park Operations**

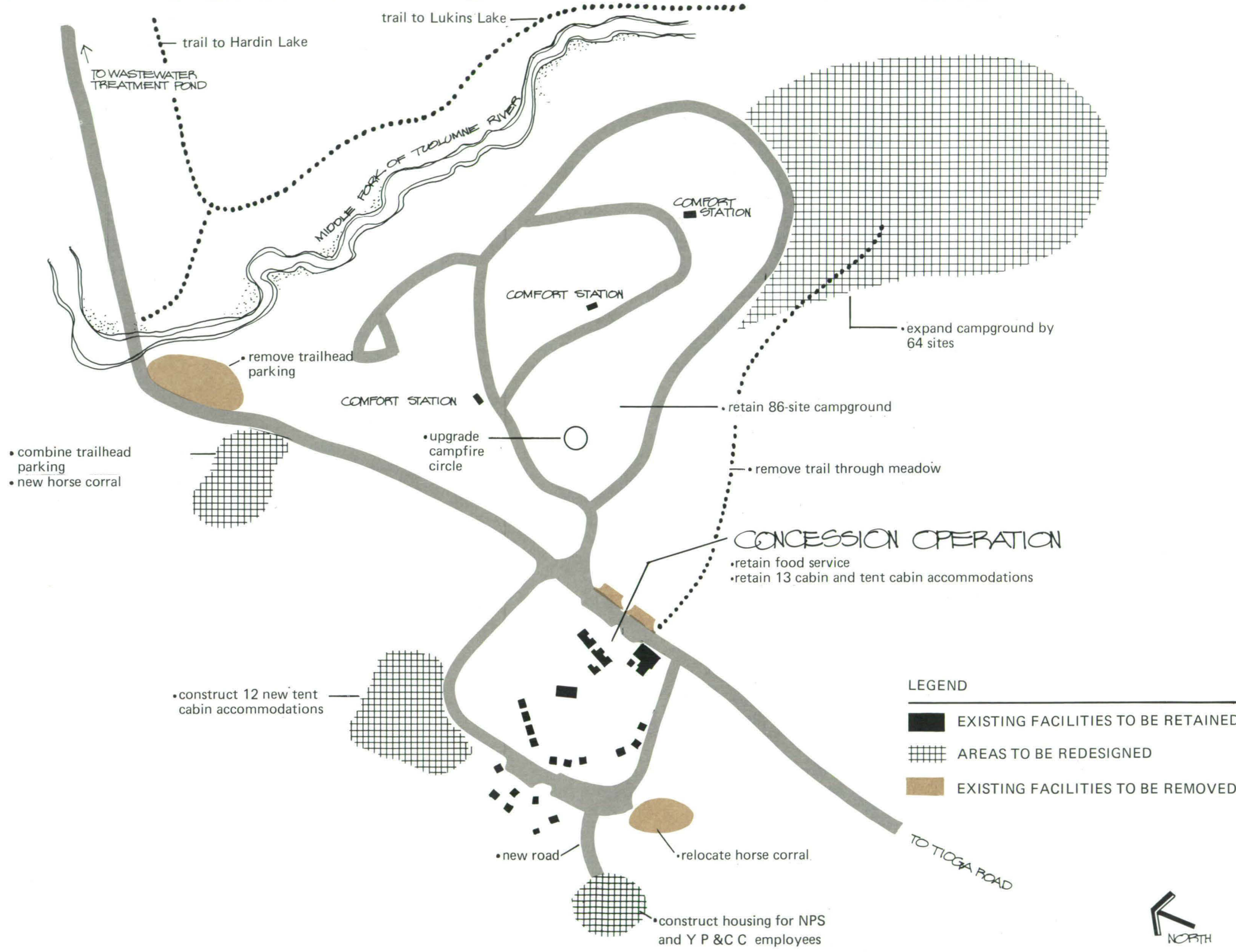
- Provide chemical toilets at some primitive campgrounds along the Tioga Road

**White Wolf**

White Wolf is a quiet, secluded area with a mountain lodge and campgrounds available for overnight use. Because of the popularity of this area, facilities will be improved and expanded slightly, but the primitive, nature-oriented character will be retained.

**White Wolf**

Goals	Actions
<p><b>Visitor Use</b> Increase camping opportunities and overnight accommodations</p>	<p><b>Visitor Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Increase campground size from 86 to not more than 150 sites</li> <li>— Upgrade campfire circle</li> <li>— Increase YP&amp;CC overnight accommodations from 13 to 25 (add 12 tent cabins)</li> <li>— Consolidate trailhead parking</li> <li>— Relocate horse corral</li> <li>— Relocate Lukins Lake trail away from the meadow</li> <li>— Retain food service</li> </ul>



# White Wolf Development Concept

Yosemite National Park U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

**Park Operations**

Improve the domestic water system

Provide electricity

Provide adequate housing for essential employees

**Park Operations**

- Develop two additional wells to add to existing underground system
- Provide commercial power from Crane Flat
- Replace NPS and YP&CC employee tent cabins with dormitory

**Crane Flat**

Crane Flat is a minor service area that provides opportunities for quiet, pleasant camping in the summer and nordic skiing and other snow play activities in the winter.

**Crane Flat**

**Goals**

**Visitor Use**

Increase opportunities for camping

Provide adequate support facilities to accommodate existing levels of winter use

Provide experimental day parking area for Valley visitors

**Park Operations**

Improve utilities to bring them up to state and federal standards

Retain essential employee housing

**Actions**

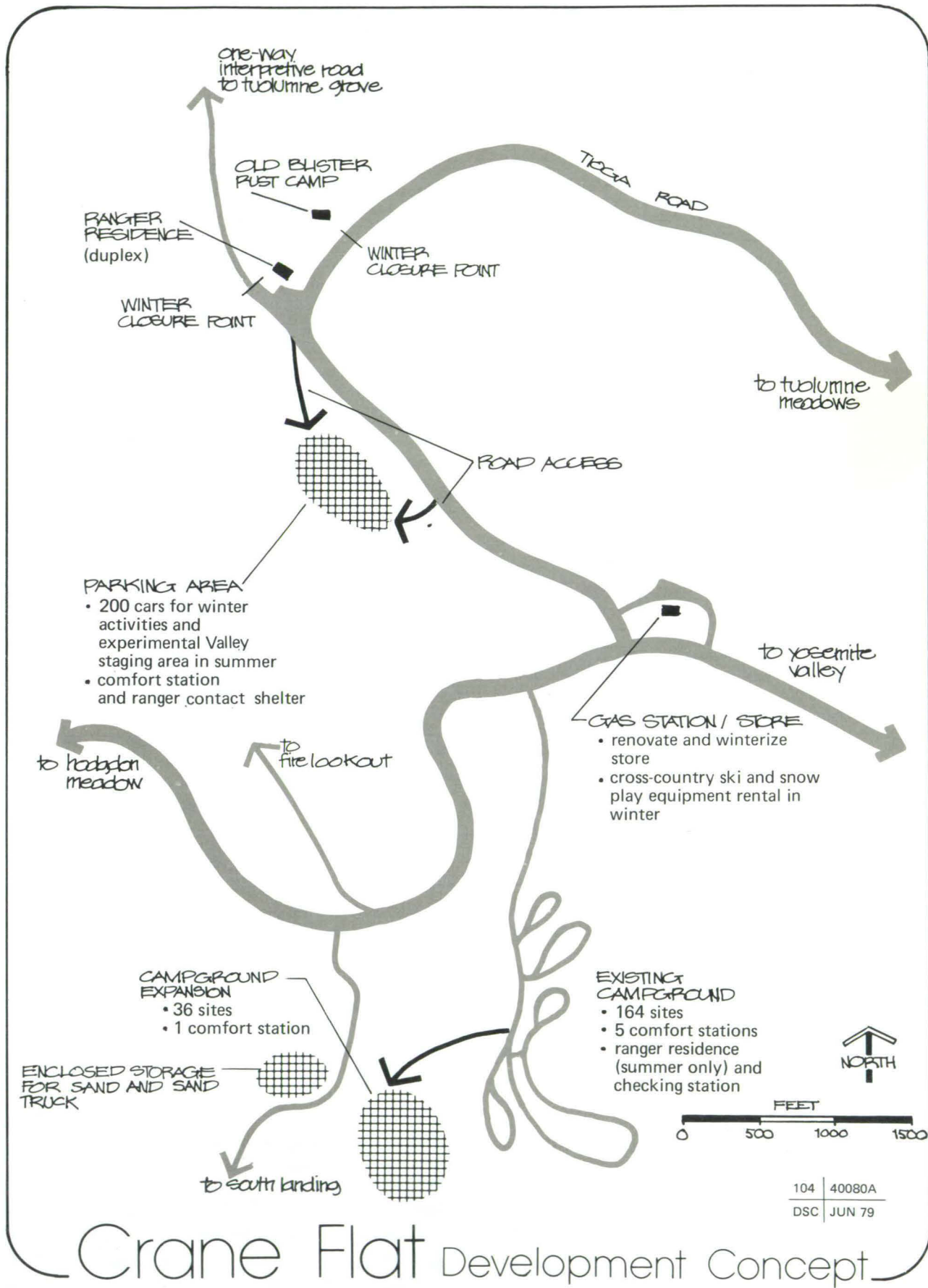
**Visitor Use**

- Increase size of campground from 164 to not more than 200 sites
- Renovate and winterize the store and provide cross-country ski rental and snow play equipment rental
- Keep gas station open all year
- Provide parking for 200 cars for winter activities; use in summer as experimental staging area for Valley day visitors
- Provide comfort station and ranger contact shelter at parking area

**Park Operations**

- Drill well(s) to provide a reliable, year-round domestic water source
- Construct sewage treatment facility
- Provide commercial electrical power through a commercial hookup from Hodgdon via South Landing Road
- Provide enclosed storage for sand and sand truck at South Landing for winter snow operations





one-way interpretive road to tublumne grove

OLD BLISTER RUST CAMP

RANGER RESIDENCE (duplex)

WINTER CLOSURE POINT

WINTER CLOSURE POINT

TUGA ROAD

to tublumne meadows

ROAD ACCESS

PARKING AREA

- 200 cars for winter activities and experimental Valley staging area in summer
- comfort station and ranger contact shelter

to yosemite valley

GAS STATION / STORE

- renovate and winterize store
- cross-country ski and snow play equipment rental in winter

to haddon meadow

to fire lookout

CAMPGROUND EXPANSION

- 36 sites
- 1 comfort station

ENCLOSED STORAGE FOR SAND AND SAND TRUCK

EXISTING CAMPGROUND

- 164 sites
- 5 comfort stations
- ranger residence (summer only) and checking station



to south landing

104 | 40080A  
DSC | JUN 79

# Crane Flat Development Concept

- Retain existing ranger residence
- Retain old blister rust camp

**Tuolumne Grove**

Visitors will continue to enjoy the serenity of a majestic sequoia grove by driving the one-way interpretive road through Tuolumne Grove.

**Merced Grove**

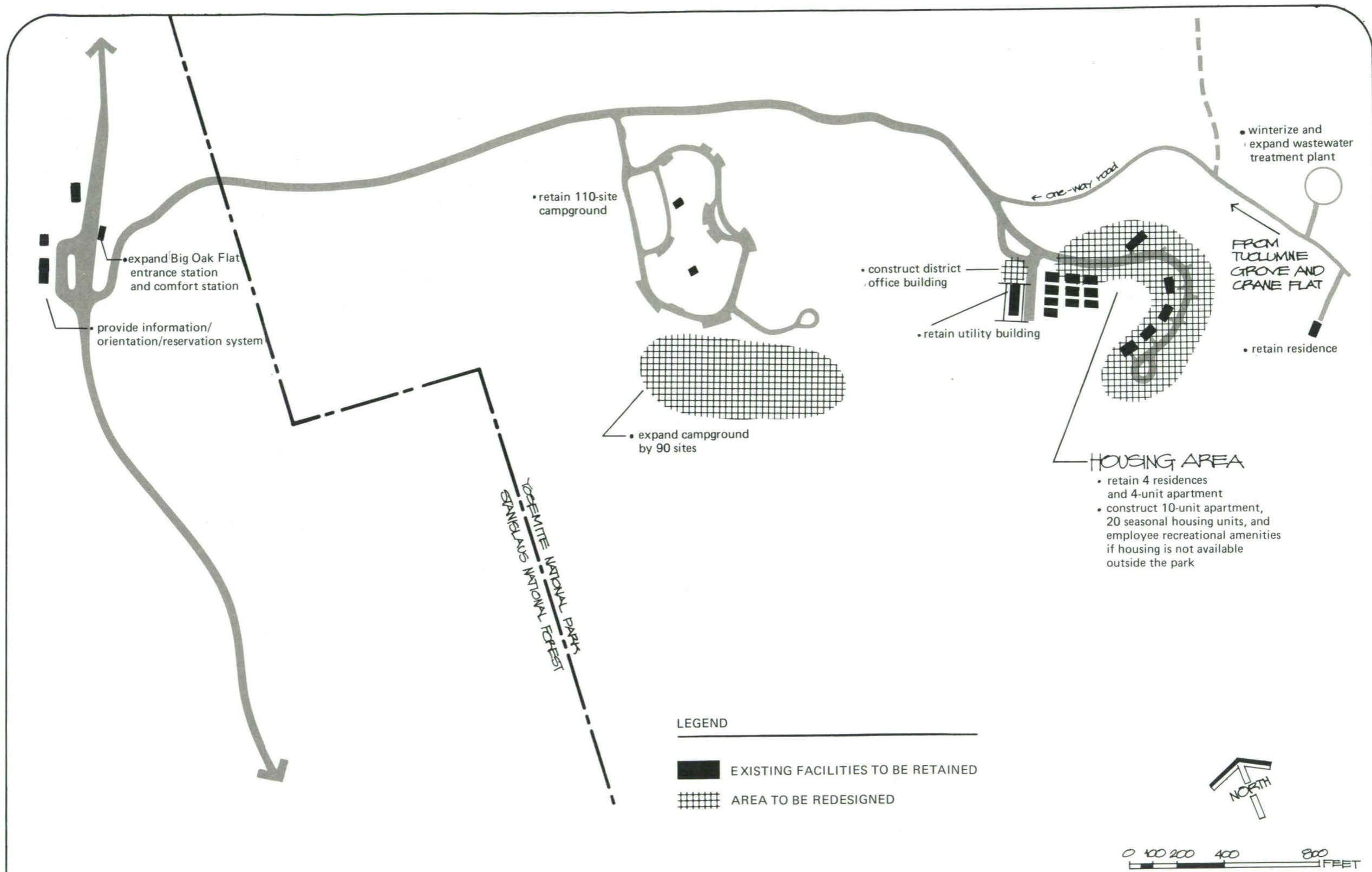
The Merced Grove is the only grove of sequoias in the park that is not accessible by car, and it is a prime resource study area. The old ranger cabin will be removed from the grove to enhance its primitive quality.

**Hodgdon Meadow**

Hodgdon Meadow is the site of the Big Oak Flat entrance station and Mather district headquarters. This northwest entrance to the park is primarily an administrative site, but camping opportunities in a low-elevation environment are also available.

**Hodgdon Meadow**

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<p><b>Visitor Use</b> Provide an information/reservation system for visitors entering the park along the Big Oak Flat Road</p> <p>Increase camping opportunities in the Big Oak Flat entrance portion of the park</p> <p><b>Park Operations</b> Provide a central administrative and maintenance area for the Mather District</p> <p>Provide employee housing only when housing is not available outside the park</p> <p>Provide adequate wastewater treatment for the entire developed area</p>	<p><b>Visitor Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand existing information station</li> <li>- Retain entrance station</li> <li>- Increase the Hodgdon Meadow campground from 110 to not more than 200 sites</li> </ul> <p><b>Park Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construct a maximum of 10 apartment units and 20 seasonal housing units</li> <li>- Provide recreational opportunities for employees in housing area</li> <li>- Construct district office building to accommodate district law enforcement, resource management, and interpretive functions</li> </ul>



• expand Big Oak Flat entrance station and comfort station

• provide information/orientation/reservation system

• retain 110-site campground

• expand campground by 90 sites

• construct district office building

• retain utility building

• winterize and expand wastewater treatment plant

FROM TUOLUMNE GROVE AND CRANE FLAT

• retain residence

**HOUSING AREA**

- retain 4 residences and 4-unit apartment
- construct 10-unit apartment, 20 seasonal housing units, and employee recreational amenities if housing is not available outside the park

Yosemite National Park  
Stanislaus National Forest

**LEGEND**

- EXISTING FACILITIES TO BE RETAINED
- ▣ AREA TO BE REDESIGNED



104 | 40063B  
DSC | NOV 79

# Hodgdon Meadow Development Concept

Yosemite National Park U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service



Provide adequate domestic water supply

- Connect all facilities at entrance station to the existing wastewater treatment plant; expand plant and provide for year-round use
- Retain utility building
- Convert existing surface water system to an underground source
- Retain existing residences

### **Hetch Hetchy and Lake Eleanor**

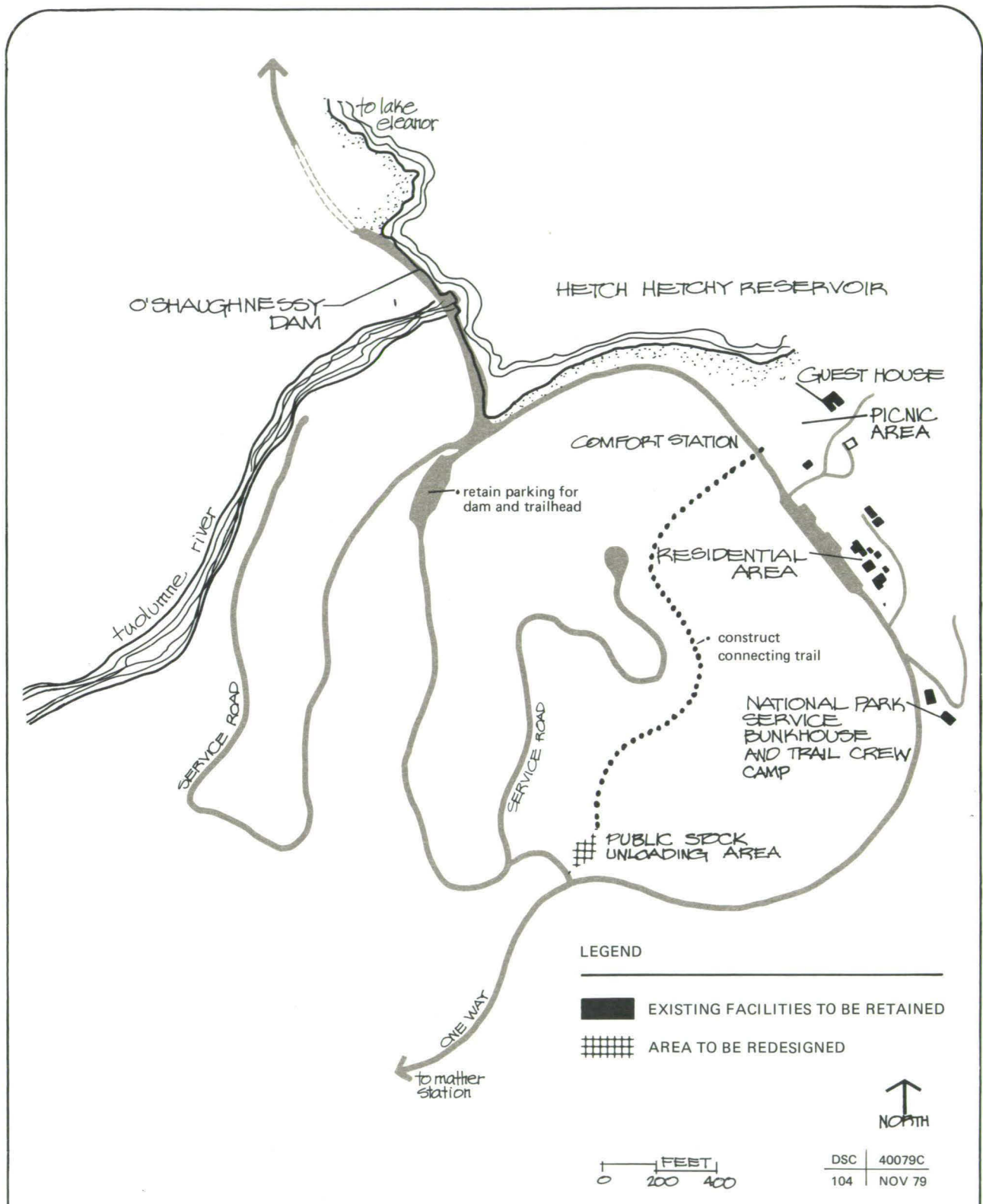
Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Lake Eleanor are located in the northwest corner of the park away from the main traffic route, and they receive little use in comparison with Yosemite Valley. Both reservoirs are part of the San Francisco water and power-production system.

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir at O’Shaughnessy Dam is a popular destination for visitors, who spend a short time viewing the dam and the Yosemite Valley-like walls and falls above the reservoir and taking brief walks along the shore. Backcountry hikers frequently use this area as an entry or exit point. The Hetch Hetchy shore has little suitable land for development because it is steep. Since the lake is a domestic water supply, the city of San Francisco restricts its use for water recreation and also restricts use of adjoining lands.

The gently sloping land along Lake Eleanor’s northwest and southeast shore is particularly suitable for backcountry use. It is approximately 4 miles from the road terminus and provides easy access to the backcountry for families and novice hikers. The lake only provides water for power production, so restrictions on public use are much less stringent than those at Hetch Hetchy. Visitors to Lake Eleanor also use Cherry Lake, which is located on nearby U.S. Forest Service land.

### **Hetch Hetchy**

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>Visitor Use</b> Continue use as a destination for visitors who wish to view the dam, the reservoir, and the valley	<b>Visitor Use</b> – Retain parking for dam and trailhead
Continue to provide backcountry access from Hetch Hetchy	– Retain picnic area – Provide connecting trail from stock unloading area



# Hetch Hetchy Development Concept

Yosemite National Park US Department of the Interior National Park Service

**Park Operations**

Provide an adequate supply of treated water for domestic use

Provide waste treatment which meets state and federal standards

**Park Operations**

- Develop additional surface water source for domestic water

**Mather Station**

**Goals**

**Visitor Use/Park Operations**

Continue to provide minimal information services and employee quarters

Provide camping opportunities

**Actions**

**Visitor Use/Park Operations**

- Retain existing facilities
- Construct a 30-site walk-in campground, parking area, and comfort station; expand utilities as needed

**Aspen Valley**

**Goals**

**Visitor Use**

Remove facilities not directly related to visitors' enjoyment of the natural environment

**Actions**

**Visitor Use**

- Acquire private properties as opportunity permits and restore to a natural condition

**Foresta/Big Meadow**

Foresta/Big Meadow is a quiet area away from the road where ranching was a traditional use.

**Foresta/Big Meadow**

**Goals**

**Visitor Use**

Provide for group camping

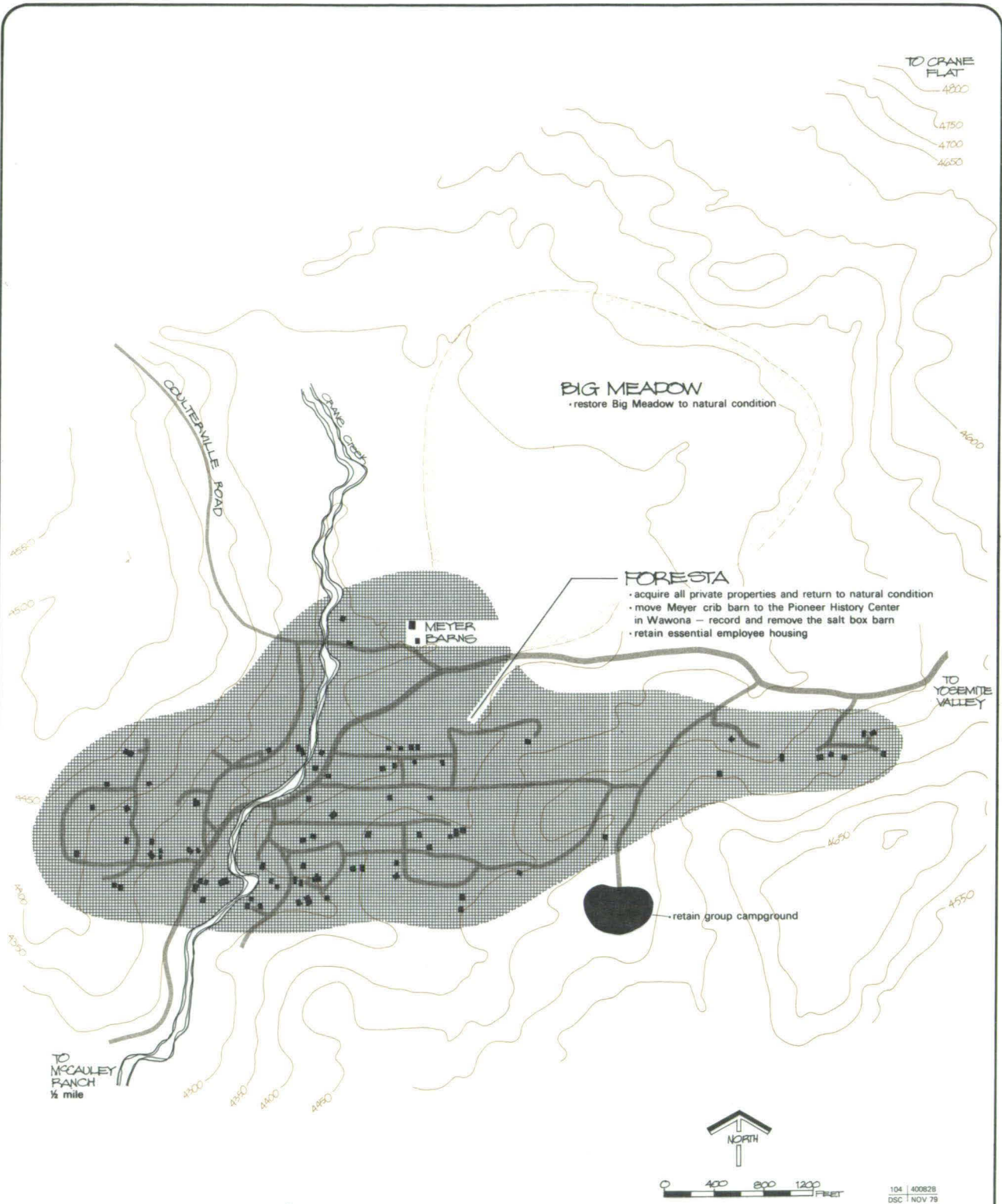
Remove facilities not directly related to visitors' enjoyment of the natural environment

**Actions**

**Visitor Use**

- Retain existing site for group camping
- Acquire privately owned land on a willing seller/willing buyer basis and condemn property only to protect park resources
- Relocate the Meyer crib barn to Pioneer History Center at Wawona





# Foresta / Big Meadow Development Concept

Yosemite National Park U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

- Record and remove the Meyer saltbox barn
- Restore Big Meadow to a natural condition

#### **Park Operations**

Provide essential employee housing

Retain NPS stables

#### **Park Operations**

- Based on the determination of a housing study, retain housing for a limited number of employees
- Continue to use McCauley Ranch for NPS stables

### **The Backcountry**

The Yosemite backcountry is a rugged landscape of glaciated granite, monolithic domes, jagged snowcapped peaks, lush green meadows, clear-running streams, pristine lakes, and forested plateaus and ridges. Most of the backcountry is below timberline – a sharp contrast to the vast alpine backcountry of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. As the largest unit of the park, the backcountry covers approximately 725,000 acres, which is 95 percent of the park's land.

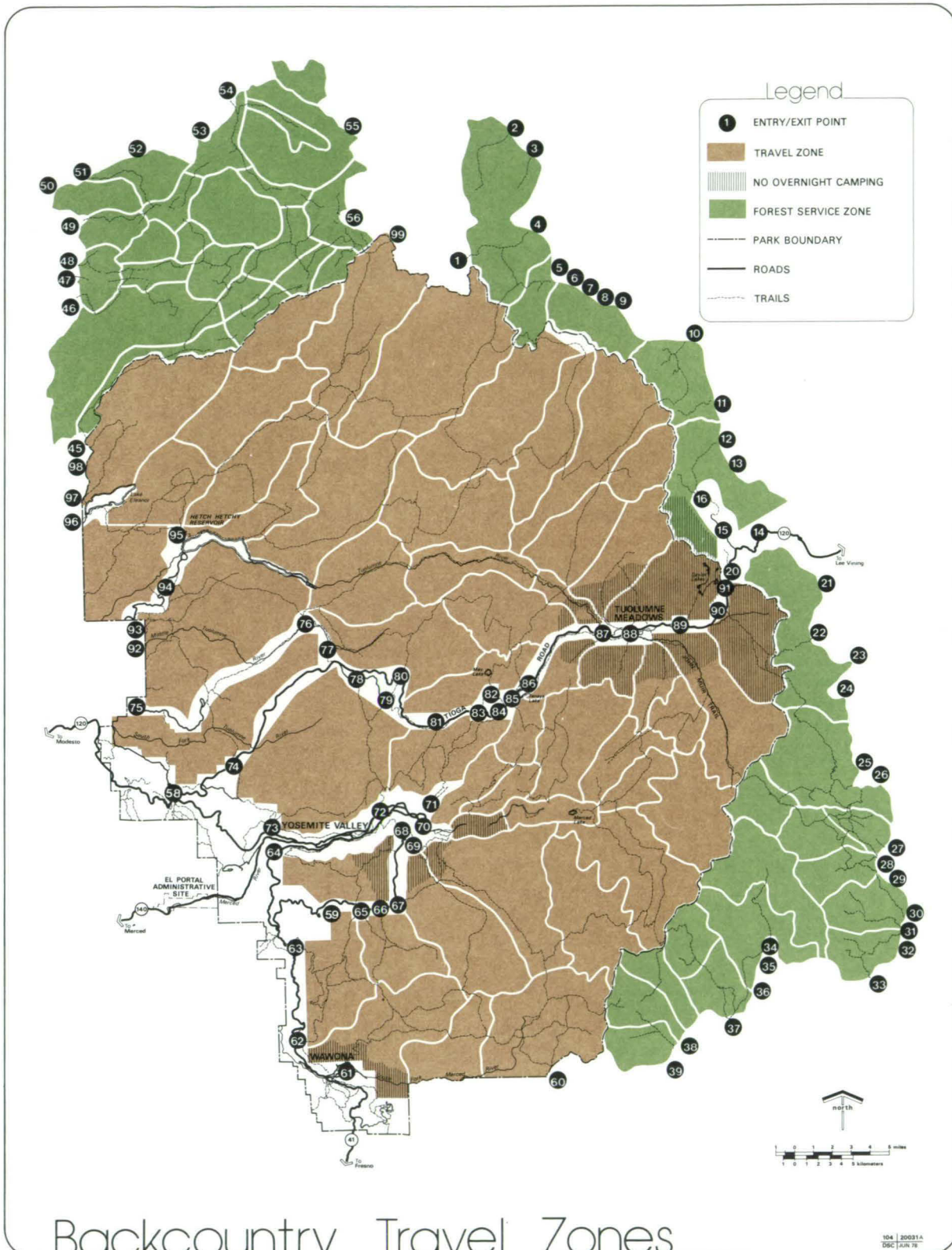
The backcountry accommodates the hiker seeking solitude, organized groups, families, and novices. It is only accessible by hiking and horseback in the summer and fall and by skiing in the spring and winter. Trails are maintained at standards that depend on the amount and kind of use received and the distance of the trails from the access road. Bridges are provided over streams at trail crossings where visitor safety is a concern. Trailside camping is dispersed to prevent damage to the resources.

The backcountry is managed to regulate the number of visitors so that the stability of the ecosystems can be maintained. Management is based on a *Backcountry Management Plan*, and it is closely coordinated with management of surrounding national forests. The plan identifies 53 backcountry travel zones for the backcountry.

A carrying capacity for each zone, based on physical, ecological, and psychological factors, is established to limit use and preserve the resource integrity. A permit system helps control use and the effects of visitation on the resource by setting limits on the number of people entering each trailhead daily.

The concession-operated High Sierra camps offer opportunities for people who desire a different kind of backcountry experience. These camps will continue to be used. If, however, the camps are eliminated in the future, the areas will be managed as wilderness.





# Backcountry Travel Zones

104 | 20031A  
 DBC | JUN 78



## APPENDIX A: COST SUMMARY

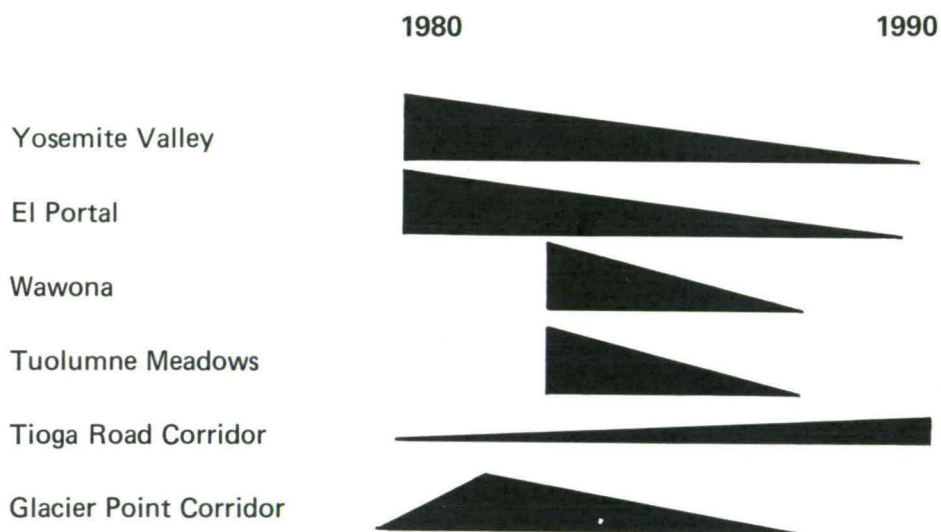
The park's physical facilities, roads, trails, buildings, and utility systems have been developing since man first entered the area that is now the park. Both government and concessioners have built, torn down, relocated, and rebuilt facilities as demand, efficiency, and environmental and economic conditions changed during this period. This plan proposes a shift in the location of some of the present facilities and recognizes that other facilities will be rehabilitated or rebuilt as they become worn out or obsolete. Many of the new facilities that will be provided in new locations will replace existing facilities that have used up most, if not all, of their economic lives. New facilities never before provided are also proposed. Whenever possible, new facilities will be built when most or all of the economic usefulness of the replaced facility has been realized.

Cost estimates are:

Concessioner facilities that are new or that are relocated. (The specific costs to be assumed by the government and by private concessioners with an appropriate assignment of possessory interest will be the subject of contract negotiations.)	\$25,000,000
Government facilities that are new or that are relocated.	\$86,000,000
Government facilities that remain and are rehabilitated.	\$44,000,000

## APPENDIX B: PHASING PLAN

Implementation of the actions called for in this plan will occur over approximately 10 years. The following graph shows the relative intensity of effort which will be spent on the various areas of the park in relation to this time frame. All new facility development will require several phases, beginning with detailed design plans and ending with actual construction.



## PLANNING TEAM

### DENVER SERVICE CENTER

John J. Reynolds, Team Captain

Thomas E. Fake, Landscape Architect

Leslie Starr Hart, Cultural Resource Management Specialist

Elizabeth A. Janes, Sociologist

William D. Koning, Economist

John H. Ochsner, Landscape Architect

Nan V. Rickey, Interpretive Planner

Robert J. Schiller, Ph.D., Ecologist

### WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Ann M. Bowman, Public Involvement Coordinator

Marilyn S. Treabess, Planning Assistant

### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Robert O. Binnewies, Superintendent, 1979-

Leslie P. Arnberger, Superintendent, 1974-1979

John F. Byrne, Assistant Superintendent

Donald M. Fox, Park Landscape Architect

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

Publication services were provided by the graphics and editorial staffs of the Denver Service Center. NPS 1316B

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1980-677-120/44







US NPS - Denver



DSC033927

