

The Workbook

YOSEMITE Master Plan

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The workbook, Yosemite master plan

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The planning options and alternatives contained in this workbook have neither been approved nor disapproved by the National Park Service. Their purpose is to provide planning information designed to cover the range of views expressed during the workshop stage. After further consideration and discussion, they may undergo considerable revision.

WITHDRAWN

YOUR RIGHTS TO PRIVACY are guaranteed by the Privacy Act of 1974. You are not obliged in any way to participate in this planning effort. Nor is your use of the national parks dependent in any way on your participation. However, the future of Yosemite National Park may be influenced by those people who do participate, even though the interests of non-participants will be reflected to the best of our ability by the staff of the National Park Service. If you decide to send back the answer sheet, we assure you that your responses will in no way be connected with your name.

Guidelines for the Design of Alternatives

October 1975

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IT'S YOUR TURN AGAIN. . . .

I hope that as you go through the planning-alternatives workbook and worksheets, you will become more familiar with the planning process, think about the potential consequences of combining your own ideas with the ideas of others, and come up with the kind of combination you think should characterize Yosemite. Many of the planning options you will be working with are the ideas gathered from your workshop participation and your letters. Some others are ideas that were generated by park managers or the planning team, often to fill in gaps and ensure that the alternatives presented here represent a full range of possible actions.

The workbook is being sent to everyone who has expressed an interest in the future of Yosemite by either attending a planning workshop or contacting us by phone or letter. At this time, we are asking each of you to put together an alternative plan with all the activities, services, and facilities you would like to see in Yosemite. The next step will be to assess the impacts of those alternatives that are identified as major-interest alternatives, and any additional alternatives that the Park Service feels are important.

Along with this workbook, you received four worksheets, including an answer sheet titled "My Plan." From reading this workbook, you will learn:

- What legislative limits we have to deal with
- Why the National Park Service thinks Yosemite is significant
- What the purpose of the park is
- What kind of experience should be ensured for all visitors
- What the general planning objectives are
- How to proceed in filling out the worksheets

Because the workbook contains information you will need to complete the worksheets, we urge you to read it before you go on to assembling your alternative plan.

If you have any questions about information in the workbook or on the worksheets, send us a postcard with your name, address, telephone number, and the time of day you can be reached at that number – and we will call you back and discuss your concerns with you.

I know that this task will require a lot of time and thought by you, but I encourage you to give us that time and thought. Your vision of the kind of place Yosemite should be is very important to me and the National Park Service. Thank you for helping us!

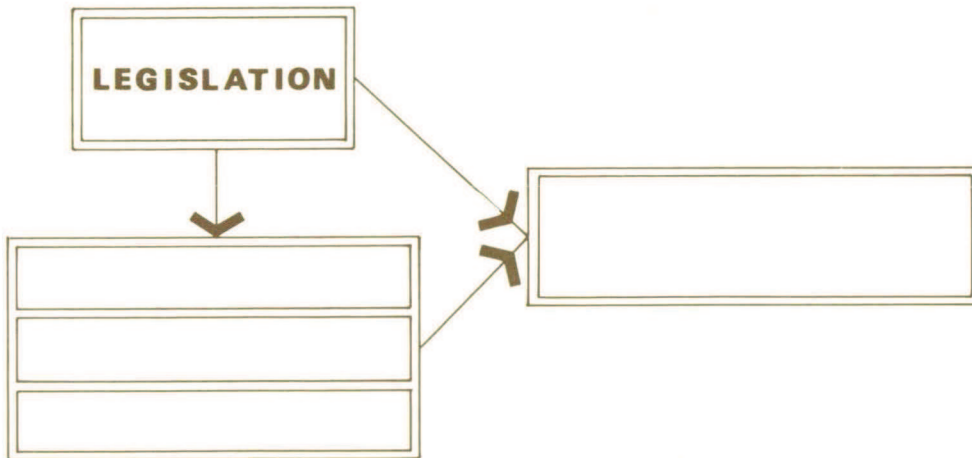


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This section, designed to give you the legislative background and limits within which we must plan, includes only those portions of legislation that directly apply to our planning effort in Yosemite. As a result, this should not be considered a complete summary of all the provisions contained in the acts of Congress and the Executive orders that follow – just those provisions that apply to Yosemite.

We begin with a legislative history of Yosemite National Park, then move to the major National Park Service, concessions, and cultural resources legislation, concluding with other acts and Executive orders that affect our planning for Yosemite.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK LEGISLATION

Act of Congress, June 30, 1864, grants to the State of California the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove, with the stipulations that the lands “be held for public use, resort, and recreation” and “be inalienable for all time.”

Act of Congress, October 1, 1890, sets 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 act specifically excludes Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove from Yosemite National Park, leaving them under the jurisdiction of the State of California as provided for in the act of 1864.

Act of the Legislature of California, March 3, 1905, regrants 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 accepts the 1905 act of the California Legislature and designates 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.

Act of Congress, December 19, 1913, grants certain lands and accesses within Yosemite 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. Provisions also ensure an adequate supply of water to the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts. The act prohibits bathing, washing clothes or cooking utensils, watering stock, or in any way polluting the waters within the limits of, or within one mile leading to, the Hetch Hetchy and Lake Eleanor reservoirs.

Act of Congress, July 23, 1914, authorizes 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, corporation, 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, cedes legislative jurisdiction over Yosemite National Park to the United States of America but retains the rights of California 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 guarantees persons living in the park the right to vote in all elections held in their respective counties.

Act of Congress, June 2, 1920, accepts from the State of California the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States over Yosemite National Park and leaves with the state those rights mentioned in the 1919 act of the California Legislature. This act also forbids hunting in the park and allows fishing seasons and methods to be determined by the Secretary of the Interior. This act reiterates the preservation statement from the 1890 act, adding animals to the list of park resources that the Secretary of the Interior is required to protect.

Over the years there have been various additions and deletions to Yosemite National Park. Some of the major ones pertinent to this planning effort are:

Act of February 7, 1905, excludes from Yosemite National Park certain lands, including the present Minarets Wilderness area, and included those lands in the Sierra Forest Reserve (now known as Sierra National Forest).

Act of February 14, 1931, and Presidential Proclamation No. 2005 dated August 13, 1932, adds the area known as Section 35 (near Wawona) to the park. The act makes provision for some funding for the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the private property within the added area.

Act of September 2, 1958, authorizes 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 did not add the El Portal area to the park, but instead, designated the area as a separate administrative site.

MAJOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LEGISLATION

Act of March 1, 1872, establishes Yellowstone National Park – the world's first national park – thus establishing a new policy for management and use of public lands.

Act of August 25, 1916, establishes the National Park Service and assigns it to administer all of the national parks and most of the national monuments previously established. In the 1916 act Congress also establishes a broad framework of policy for the administration of these areas, namely, that the Service shall "promote and regulate the use of . . . national parks [and] monuments . . . to conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Included in this act is the requirement that the Secretary of the Interior make and publish "such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary or proper for the use and management of the parks [and] monuments . . . under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service."

CONCESSIONS LEGISLATION

The **Act of March 1, 1872**, which establishes Yellowstone National Park, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant leases to private persons to develop accommodations and services in the park.

Included in the **Act of August 25, 1916**, which establishes the National Park Service, is the authority for the Secretary to “grant privileges, leases, and permits for the use of land for the accommodation of visitors in the various parks, and monuments . . . but for periods not exceeding twenty years.”

Act of August 21, 1935, authorizes the Secretary to manage historic and archeologic sites, etc., and to grant concessions.

Act of July 31, 1953, provides that proposed awards of concession contracts be sent to Congress 60 days before such awards are made. This was subsequently amended to provide that only such contracts and/or permits for terms exceeding 5 years or that have annual gross receipts of \$100,000 or more should be sent to the Congress 60 days in advance of award.

Act of August 8, 1953, relates to furnishing utilities to concessioners on a reimburseable basis.

The Act of 1958, Public Law 85-434, extends the period that “privilege, leases and permits” can be issued from the previous limit of 20 years to a new limit of 30 years.

The **Concessions Policy Act of October 9, 1965**, states that: “the preservation of park values requires that such public accommodations, facilities, and services as have to be provided within those areas should be provided only under carefully controlled safeguards against unregulated and indiscriminate use, so that the heavy visitation will not unduly impair these values and so that development of such facilities can best be limited to

locations where the least damage to park values will be caused. . . . It is the policy of the Congress that such development shall be limited to those that are necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment of the national park area in which they are located and that are consistent to the highest practicable degree with the preservation and conservation of the areas.”

If it is determined that a concession facility or service should be established, section 2 of the act further provides that the Secretary “shall take such action as may be appropriate to encourage and enable private persons and corporations (. . . ‘concessioners’) to provide and operate facilities and services which he deems desirable for the accommodation of visitors in areas administered by the National Park Service.”

Section 3 provides for a number of things. First, the concessioner may be assured of adequate protection against loss of investment in properties (but not against loss of anticipated profit) resulting from acts of the Secretary that may require transfer to another party, abandonment, or removal of some or all of his structures or fixtures – terms and conditions for this assurance may obligate the United States to compensate the concessioner for such loss. Second, the concessioner should have reasonable opportunity to realize a profit on his operation commensurate with the capital he has invested and the obligations he has assumed. Third, all concessioner prices and rates are established “primarily by comparison with those current for facilities and services of comparable character under similar conditions, with due consideration for length of season, provision for peakloads, average percentage of occupancy, accessibility, availability and costs of labor and materials, type of patronage, and other factors deemed significant by the Secretary.” Fourth, a franchise fee is to be collected, determined on the probable value to the concessioner of the privilege granted by the particular contract involved. Reconsideration of franchise fees is to be made at least every 5 years unless the contract is for a lesser period of time.

Section 4 allows the Secretary to authorize one concessioner to operate all accommodations, facilities, and services for visitors within an area, or to authorize one concessioner to operate all services that are similar in character within an area. In addition, the Secretary may grant a preferential right to that concessioner to operate any new services of a like kind which are determined to be needed in the area.

Section 5 provides for the preferential right of existing satisfactory concessioners to renewals, extensions, or new contracts.

Section 6 provides that the concessioner shall have a "possessory interest" in any structure, fixture, or improvement he acquires or constructs upon land owned by the United States, and that the possessory interest shall not be taken from the concessioner without just compensation.

Sections 7 and 8 relate to exemptions from other statutes on building leases and services awarded under the Historic Sites, Buildings and Antiquities Act.

Section 9 provides that the concessioner shall keep such records as are prescribed by the Secretary to determine that the terms of the contract are met, that the Secretary shall have access to the records, and that the Comptroller General shall have access to such records for a period of 5 years after the close of a given business year.

Status of Concessions in Yosemite: *The Yosemite Park and Curry Company has served as Yosemite's principal concessioner since 1925. They, along with Lewis Memorial Hospital, Dr. Woessner (a dentist), and the Best's Studio, Inc., provide a variety of services and facilities for visitors within Yosemite. In late August 1973, MCA Recreation Company (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Music Corporation of America, Inc.) purchased, from U.S. Natural Resources, Inc., control of Yosemite Park and Curry Company and thus assumed the existing Curry Company contract with the National Park Service, which was signed in 1963 and has 18 years to run.*

CULTURAL RESOURCES LEGISLATION

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), cultural resources – resources of historical, archaeological, or architectural significance – must be discussed in environmental statements in terms of their existence as environmental resources and in terms of the expected impact upon them of proposed federal actions.

NEPA also requires that we demonstrate our compliance with the following acts and Executive order, which are directly related to the protection of cultural resources.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 provides, among other things, for the protection of historic or prehistoric remains “or any object of antiquity” on federal lands.

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 authorizes the programs that are known as the Historic American Buildings Survey, the Historic American Engineering Record, and the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. It also authorizes the establishment of national historic sites and national historic landmarks, and otherwise authorizes the preservation of properties of “national historical or archaeological significance.”

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 declares a national policy of historic preservation defined in the act as “the protection, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of districts, sites, buildings, structures, archaeology, or culture”. The act also extends federal concern for historic preservation to properties of state and local, as well as national, historic significance. It authorizes expansion of the National Register of Historic Places to encompass all such properties, and establishes the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Section 106 of the act directs federal agencies initiating an undertaking that might affect a National Register property to allow the Advisory Council an opportunity to comment upon the action.

Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment," May 13, 1971, furthers the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and previous preservation legislation, by directing federal agencies to survey and nominate to the Secretary of the Interior all properties under their control that might qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and to take various other measures toward the preservation of cultural resources. The order enlarges the role of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in federal planning and decisionmaking by requiring that it be allowed to comment on undertakings affecting properties eligible for nomination to the National Register as well as those already listed in the Register.

Compliance with Cultural Resources Legislation: *To comply with the above legislation, we are presently conducting two programs in the park. First, we are inventorying all historic buildings and sites and nominating appropriate sites, structures, and districts to the National Register of Historic Places. Second, we are conducting an archaeological survey which will inventory archaeological sites found within the park. Appropriate sites will be nominated to the National Register. Later, we will discuss in the environmental statement the historical, archaeological, and architectural resources of Yosemite and how they will be affected by proposals in the draft master plan. In the case of a property on or eligible for the National Register which is affected by any proposals in the master plan, we will file a statement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer for their comment.*

OTHER LEGISLATION AFFECTING PLANNING

Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964, declares it the policy of Congress to secure for present and future generations an enduring resource of wilderness. Among other things, the act establishes the National Wilderness Preservation System and requires the Secretary of the Interior to review, within 10 years, roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more in the National Park System and make recommendations as to whether such lands should be added by the Congress to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Status of Yosemite Wilderness Legislation: *At this time two wilderness proposals for Yosemite National Park are being considered by Congress. One is the official proposal made by the Department of the Interior; the other is a conservationist proposal. Amendments to the official Department proposal may be made as a result of this planning effort.*

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of September 3, 1964, establishes the Land and Water Conservation Fund, from which appropriations may be made by the Congress for allocation to the federal agencies, including the National Park Service, for use in acquiring private lands within park boundaries or lands needed for outdoor recreation.

Private lands (inholdings) within Yosemite: *There are some 447 tracts still in private ownership. The majority of these are in the Wawona area, with smaller numbers in Foresta/Big Meadows, Aspen Valley, and the Lake Eleanor and Hetch Hetchy areas.*

Public Law 92-347, approved July 1, 1972, amends the act of 1964 so that all entrance and special user fees, such as camping fees, are deposited in a special account of the U.S. Treasury. These revenues can then be available for appropriation back to the agency which collected them provided that the money is used only for two purposes: (1) any authorized outdoor recreation function of the agency, and (2) the enhancement, promotion, and enforcement of the fee collection system (up to 40 percent of the agency's revenue can be appropriated for this purpose).

Fees at Yosemite: *The Director of the National Park Service sets the entrance fee, based on the amount and kinds of features and activities in the park, and sets the user fees based on comparability with what is charged outside the park for similar facilities.*

Executive Order 11296, "Evaluation of Flood Hazard in Locating Federally Owned or Financed Buildings, Roads, and Other Facilities, and in Disposing of Federal Lands and Properties," August 10, 1966, obligates federal agencies to evaluate flood hazards when locating new facilities and, as far as practicable, to preclude "uneconomic, hazardous, or unnecessary use of flood plains in connection with such facilities." The order requires flood proofing measures to reduce flood damage potential for federal facilities located on flood plains and also requires that "all executive agencies responsible for programs which entail land use planning shall take flood hazards into account when evaluating plans and shall encourage land use appropriate to the degree of hazard involved."

Compliance with Flood Plain Legislation: *We must consult with appropriate federal, state and local agencies to secure information about flood plain locations, the history of flooding, and conditions influencing flooding, as well as guidance on flood proofing measures to be taken if development must be located in a hazardous area.*

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 2, 1968, states that those rivers “which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values” should be set aside for the enjoyment of the people, “to protect the water quality . . . and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.” The act establishes the national wild and scenic rivers system and outlines criteria for including free-flowing streams, or portions thereof, in the system. Definitions are provided for three possible stream classifications – wild, scenic, and recreational.

Compliance with the Act: *In July 1975, the National Park Service joined the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to begin a wild and scenic river study of the Tuolumne River. Any proposals resulting from this study must conform with the management policies of the National Park Service.*

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) has three distinct major parts. The first states a national policy of using all practical means to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony.

The second relates to policy implementation and requires that laws of the United States be interpreted so as to carry out that policy. NEPA requires that we: (1) use a systematic approach in planning and decisionmaking; (2) utilize ecological information in planning; (3) ensure that unquantified environmental amenities and values be given consideration along with economic and technological considerations during the decisionmaking process; (4) develop alternatives when there are unresolved conflicts concerning the use of resources; and (5) prepare environmental impact statements (EIS) on major actions having a significant impact on the human environment (prior to preparing a final EIS, we must consult with and obtain the comments of any federal agency with expertise or jurisdiction regarding the environmental impacts of a proposed action).

The third major part of NEPA sets up the Council on Environmental Quality and describes its role. The National Park Service will file the draft and final environmental statements with CEQ.

National Trails System Act of 1968 establishes a national system of scenic and recreational trails. This act designates the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails as the first components of the system and defines methods for designation of additional components. "National recreation" trails are reasonably accessible to urban areas and provide for a variety of recreational uses. "National scenic" trails are "extended trails" that "provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass." Among other things specified in the act are the permissible activities on scenic trails: they may contain campsites, shelters, and related public-use facilities, but the use of motorized vehicles by the general public is prohibited.

National Trails in Yosemite: *Seventy-one miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, a national scenic trail, lie in Yosemite National Park. The trail, which extends from Canada to the Mexican border, enters on the north of the park, continues through Glen Aulin and Tuolumne Meadows, and exits on the southeastern boundary.*

Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires all federal agencies to promote the conservation of endangered and threatened animal or plant species. "Endangered" species are those in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. "Threatened" species are likely to become endangered throughout all or a significant part of their range. No project or program may be undertaken in any National Park System area which adversely affects listed species or their critical habitats.

Endangered species in Yosemite: *There are three animals on the official endangered species list which may exist in Yosemite: the Paiute cutthroat trout, American Peregrine falcon, and Southern bald eagle. The list of endangered and threatened plant species have not yet been finalized.*

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 state a national policy of enhancing the quality of water resources and preventing, controlling, and abating water pollution. It defines the responsibility of federal agencies to cooperate with the FWPCA (now the Water Quality Office of the Environmental Protection Agency) and with the states agencies to prevent or control water pollution from federal properties.

Compliance with the Act: *We will be consulting with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies to ensure that actions potentially affecting water quality are in harmony with the policy objective of the act. We will evaluate the interrelationship between proposed actions and state plans for pollution control abatement.*

Executive Order 11752, "Prevention, Control, and Abatement of Environmental Pollution at Federal Facilities", December 17, 1973, obligates federal agencies to comply with "Federal, State, interstate, and local . . . standards and . . . limitations" regarding the quality of air, water, and land resources "to the same extent that any person is subject to such standards and limitations." It obligates federal agencies to cooperate with the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency as well as state, interstate, and local agencies to develop abatement plans and a schedule for meeting applicable standards. The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for reviewing federal agencies' compliance with environmental quality standards, mediating conflicts between federal agencies and the nonfederal agencies, and for coordinating federal and nonfederal compliance programs.

Our Obligations Under This Order: *We must document compliance with the following federal legislation: Clean Air Act, Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act, Noise Control Act, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended by the Federal Environmental Pest Control Act of 1972. In addition we will document compliance with the state, interstate, and local standards relating to air, water, solid waste, noise, and pesticide use and disposal. All compliance will be indicated in the draft environmental statement which accompanies the draft master plan.*

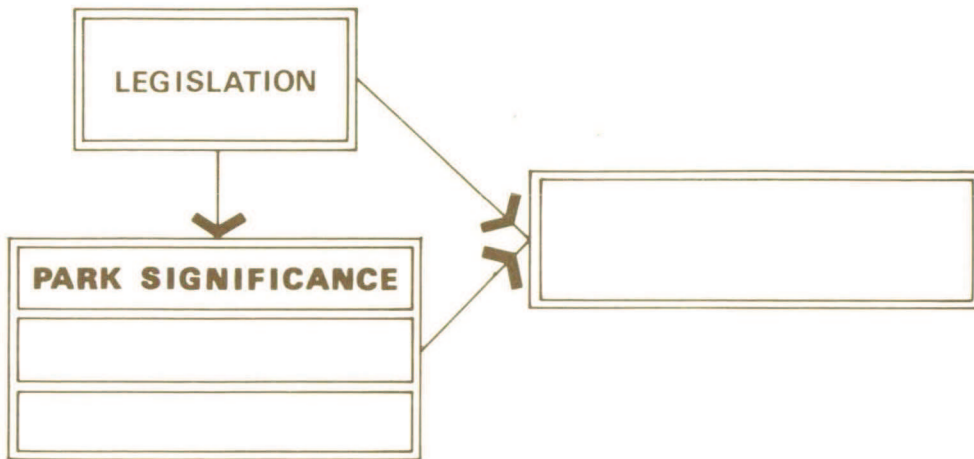
Office of Management and Budget, Circular A-95 (Issued to implement portions of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968)

There are state and areawide clearinghouses in every state. This circular describes their functions as (1) to ensure that projects using federal funds are compatible with state and regional zoning and developing plans; (2) to coordinate federal and federally assisted plans with the plans of state, regional, and local agencies; and (3) to give state, regional, and local agencies an opportunity to comment on federal plans and their associated environmental statements.

Federal agencies are required to consult with appropriate state governors, state and areawide clearinghouses, and local elected officials at the earliest practicable stage in planning in order to determine the relationship between the federal plan and the plans of state, regional, and local agencies. Federal plans must be compatible with these nonfederal plans. Exceptions are made only in cases where clear justification can be provided.

Coordination with State Government: *We have contacted the California Governor and the state clearinghouse, and established a regional planning group composed of federal, state, and local agencies and governmental units who are affected by or interested in the planning for Yosemite.*





Water in its myriad forms created and sustains Yosemite National Park. As ice it 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 etched sharp peaks and mantled mountain slopes with boulder fields and scree.

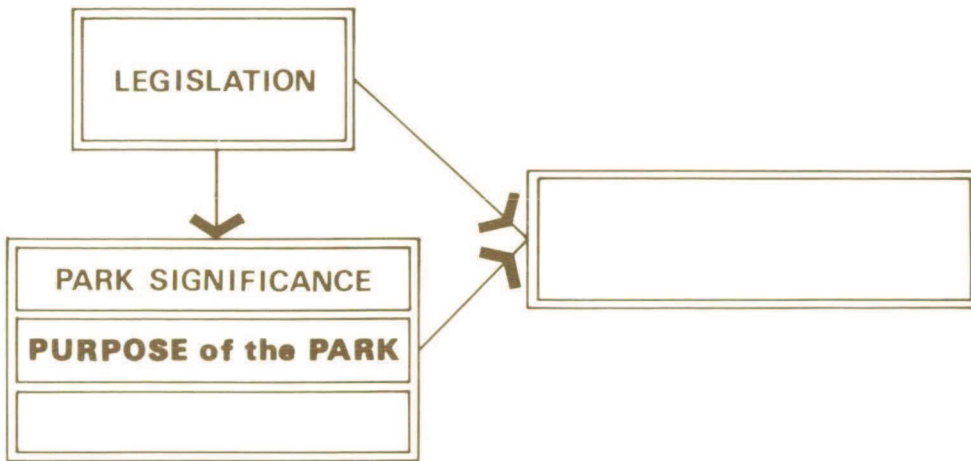
As winter snow it whitens the High Sierras then melts to form the streams which drift across mountain meadows, rage through canyons, then plunge from cliff rim to valley floor.

Rain and melt water freshen mountain meadows producing ephemeral changing fields of color. In the Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Merced Groves these life giving waters nourish ancient sequoias through decades of centuries.

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

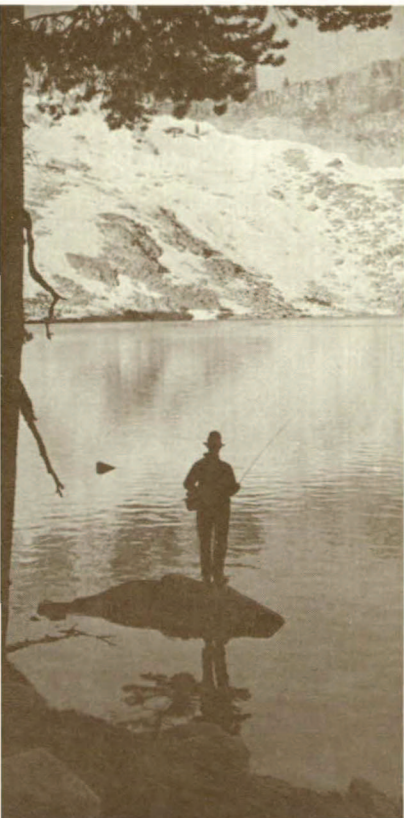
Today the natural beauties of Yosemite nourish millions, and the ways of the native peoples who lived here for centuries, the thoughts of philosophers such as John Muir, the art of Ansel Adams provide a human dimension, a richness which adds immeasurably to our appreciation of this great place.

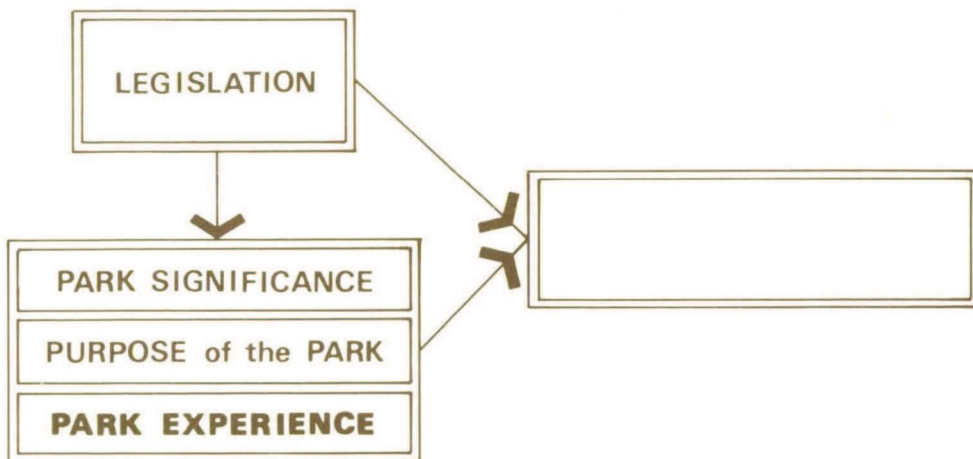




There are two purposes for Yosemite National Park. The first is preservation of the resources that contribute to Yosemite's uniqueness and attractiveness – its exquisite scenic beauty; outstanding wilderness values; a nearly full diversity of Sierra Nevada life zones including the very special Sequoia groves; the awesome domes, valleys, polished granites, and other evidences of the glacial and 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 this 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.

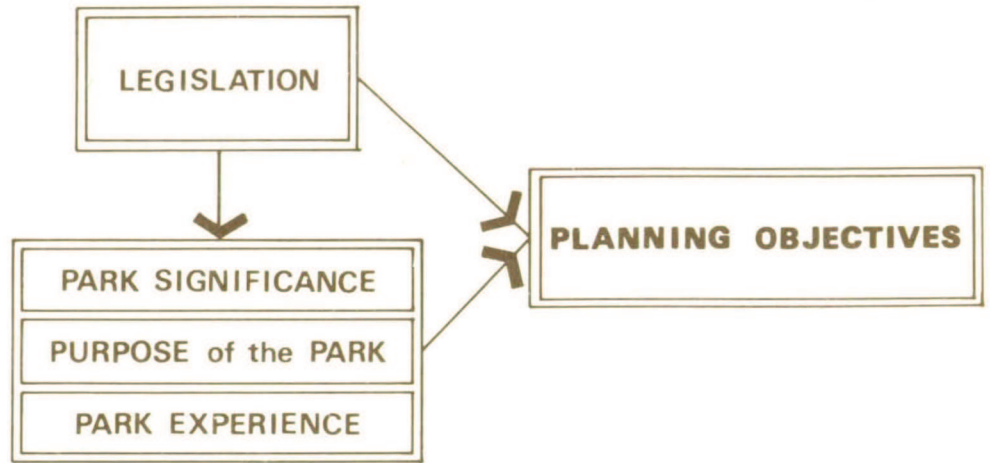




The visitor experience at Yosemite National Park will be characterized by personal enrichment.

All visitors will be able to structure their own personal experiences by choosing from a variety of high quality and complementary activities directly related to those environmental, spiritual, and esthetic distinctions that were responsible for the establishment of the park.

Guided by personal choice, visitors will be able to realize a greater understanding of Yosemite's natural systems and natural history, and its socio-cultural past and present. They may, if they choose, enhance their individual senses of physical or spiritual well-being by becoming vigorously or passively involved with the park's special attributes.



Planning objectives are preliminary management objectives, which are broad statements guiding the actions of the park superintendent in his work to achieve desired states or conditions. As planning objectives they are very general statements which do not foreclose consideration of any alternatives. As the planning process continues, as alternatives are assessed, and as decisions are made, the planning objectives will become more specific and will be called management objectives.

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 eliminated from the natural ecosystems.
- Identify and perpetuate natural processes in park ecosystems.
- 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, 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.

you may choose specific activities and services you think should be provided in those developed areas.

The last column describes the conditions that exist today in Yosemite. With the exception of transportation items, these conditions are reflected somewhere within alternatives A through D and can be chosen as you go through those alternatives. Because of the greater complexity of the issue of transportation, five option sets, including existing conditions, are listed for that topic, and the existing conditions can be chosen by checking the boxes in the last column. (You can tell where your choices are because there is a box with a number in it for each choice.)

The third way that the options are grouped is by specific topic. In each column, key words are highlighted (CAPITALIZED) the first time they are discussed, to help you compare what is being said about each topic under each of the four alternatives.

So much for organization.

We urge you to read each alternative vertically to get a picture of the park it describes, and to try to envision yourself in that park having the kind of experience it would offer. We also urge you to compare alternatives horizontally. You may want to choose options from more than one column as you design your own plan. Feel free to do so.

As you read through each alternative, put a mark (x) in the boxes beside the options you like. Or if you strongly disagree with an option, write down why you disagree with it, because your ideas about the disadvantages of certain options might be something we wouldn't think of when we assess their impacts. (Please identify which option you are talking about!)

If you have ideas about what kinds or degrees of impacts an option would cause, and would like to tell us those ideas, please feel free to do so. If you do, please identify which option you are talking about by numbering it with the same number as that option.

After you have finished reading all of the alternatives, go back and mentally combine all of the options you liked into your own personal alternative — and ask yourself two questions:

Is your alternative consistent? For example, if you liked the idea of removing all private cars from the Valley (and making everyone enter and circulate through the Valley on shuttle buses), did you also like the idea of only allowing tent camping, and not vehicle camping — because if you aren't allowed to drive your car to the campground, that's the only kind of camping you can enjoy. If you find inconsistencies in your park, please decide which options you think are most important and carry those ideas through. Remember, you are planning a total park — and it has to be workable to be valid.

Is your alternative a good representative of the kind of park you would like Yosemite to be? If the printed options did not reflect certain ideas that you have, write down those missing ideas. And if you are not comfortable with a certain aspect of an option, feel free to rewrite it so that you know and agree with what it says, to the letter.

After you have finished marking the worksheets, transfer your answers and any written comments you have to the answer sheet. The answer sheet is also divided into locations, and all you need to do is be sure that the locations are matched up and that the number you checked on the worksheet is the same number you indicate on the answer sheet. Notice that for each location, options that are repeated in two or more alternatives are only assigned one number and only have one block on the answer sheet.

OK! Now you are ready to tackle the worksheets! Please return your answer sheet, your plan, to us no later than January 16, 1976.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service