A hiker is seen from behind, standing on a rocky trail in a vast, mountainous wilderness. The hiker is wearing a large, dark-colored backpack with a teal top section and red accents. A small white stuffed animal is visible on the front of the pack. The hiker is also wearing light-colored shorts and using trekking poles. The background features a wide expanse of dry, rocky terrain with sparse green shrubs, leading up to distant, hazy mountain ranges under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

*The true wilderness experience
is one, not of escaping,
but of finding one's self
by seeking the wilderness.*

Howard Zahniser

Yosemite National Park *Wilderness*

Hiking & backpacking in the Yosemite Wilderness

Visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm for more information.



Almost 95% of Yosemite National Park is designated Wilderness. Wilderness areas are designated by Congress to protect places that are wild and free for future generations. The Yosemite Wilderness has over 700 miles of trails. Some basic planning will help make your trip safe and enjoyable while protecting Yosemite's trails.

Plan ahead and prepare. Choose a reasonable route for your group's abilities. Think about what type of wilderness experience you would like to have, and be aware of trip length and elevation changes. Plan your route with the help of topographic maps, guidebooks, www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit, and wilderness centers in the park. For both day and overnight trips, don't leave the trailhead without the "10 Essentials." This includes a map & compass, sun protection, extra water, rain gear and clothing that insulates from cold, headlamp/flashlight, first aid kit, matches in a waterproof container, pocket knife, extra food, and an emergency shelter such as a tent or extra-large garbage bag. Be prepared for bad weather and emergencies, and inform someone of where you're going and when you plan to return.



PREVENT NEW TRAIL RUTS
BY STAYING ON THE TRAIL

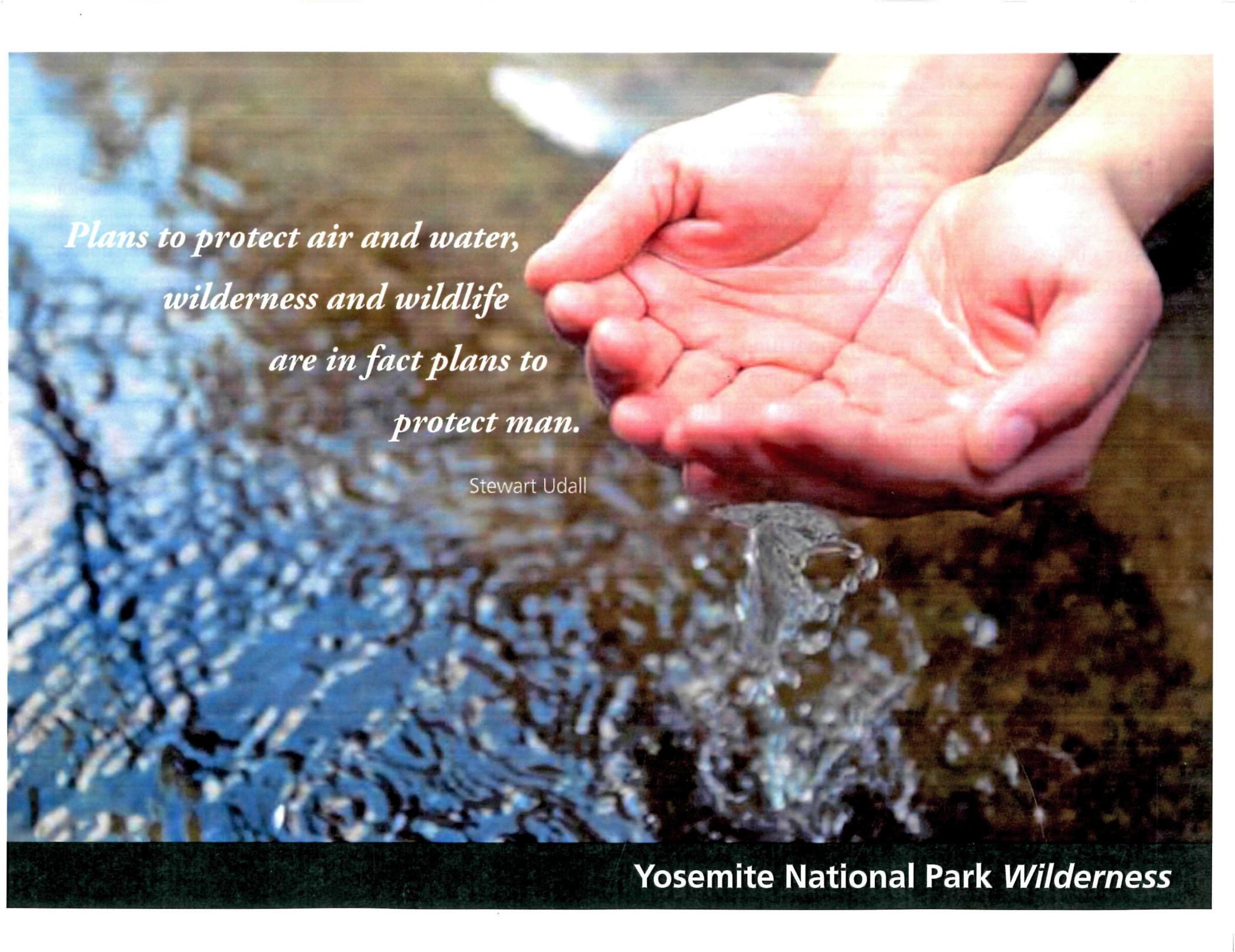
Stay on the trail. Don't shortcut switchbacks—it causes soil erosion, trail destruction, and hazardous conditions such as new, unintended trails which may confuse other hikers. Keep your group size to 15 people or less, and hike in single-file lines on trails. Walking next to one another widens trails and increases erosion.

Trail Etiquette. Leave dogs and bicycles at home—they are prohibited in wilderness. Be courteous and yield to others visitors, horses, and mules on the trail. Be aware that sound carries in Yosemite, and respect the quiet atmosphere of the wilderness so that other visitors can also enjoy the sounds of nature. If staying overnight, camp away from trails so that views are clear of tents. Leave rocks, plants, and other objects as you found them for others to discover.

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Postcard printing provided by Yosemite Association. Postcard photo courtesy Lincoln Else.

A photograph of a pair of hands cupped together, holding a small amount of water. The hands are positioned over a body of water, likely a stream or river, which is visible in the background. The water in the hands is clear and glistening. The background shows a rocky stream bed with water flowing over it, creating ripples and small splashes. The overall scene is natural and serene, emphasizing the connection between humans and nature.

*Plans to protect air and water,
wilderness and wildlife
are in fact plans to
protect man.*

Stewart Udall

Yosemite National Park *Wilderness*

Water in the Yosemite Wilderness

Visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm for more information.



Yosemite National Park includes the headwaters of two important watersheds—the Tuolumne and the Merced. The Merced River provides water to the San Joaquin Valley while the Tuolumne River travels to San Francisco to help provide the city's water supply. Protecting these watersheds is important to park visitors as well as to the communities that depend on this water.

Drinking water. Dehydration is a major risk in Yosemite. To stay hydrated drink plenty of water and be sure to bring extra water. To prevent waterborne illness, purify all drinking water from open sources (rivers, lakes, springs) by boiling, treating chemically, or water filtration.

Washing. Do all washing at least 100 feet (30 meters; 50 steps) from water—even biodegradable soap pollutes the water and can injure fish and other aquatic life. It is only biodegradable in the soil. Scatter strained wastewater at least 100 feet from any water sources.



BURY HUMAN WASTE AND
PACK OUT TOILET PAPER
AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Restrooms. Bathroom facilities do not exist in the majority of the park. The illness giardiasis is spread from human waste that has entered the water, so bury all human waste in a hole that is 6-8 inches deep and at least 100 feet (30 meters; 50 steps) away from water, camp areas, and trails

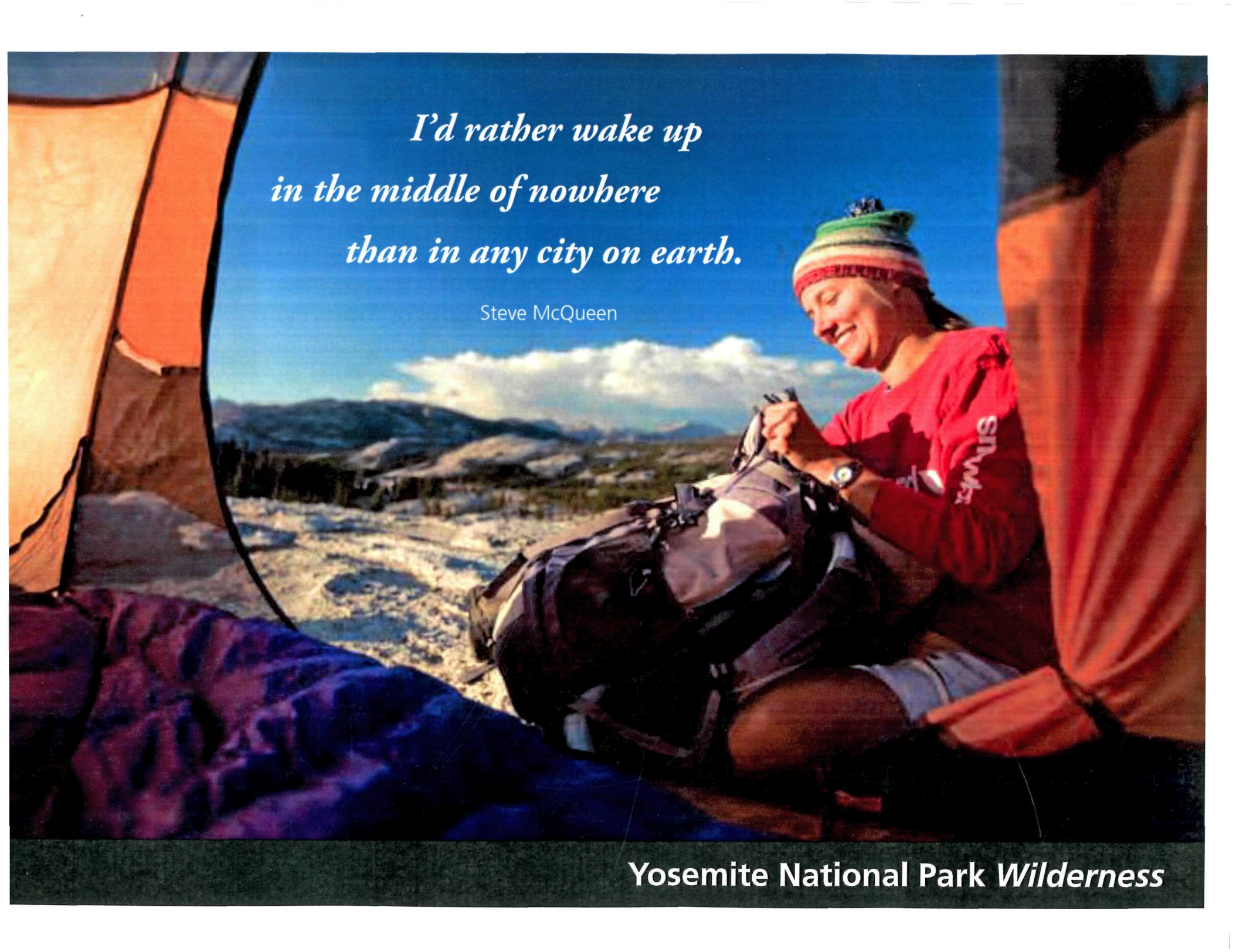
to preserve water quality and trail aesthetics. Pack all toilet paper and hygiene products out to avoid unsanitary and unsightly items for others to come across in the wilderness. Do not bury toilet paper—animals frequently dig it up—and do not burn it due to wildfire risk.

Safety. Be aware that currents can be strong and rocks can be slippery. Avoid pools above waterfalls and don't attempt to cross rivers when the water is high.

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*I'd rather wake up
in the middle of nowhere
than in any city on earth.*

Steve McQueen

Yosemite National Park *Wilderness*

Backcountry camping in the Yosemite Wilderness

Visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm for more information.



Permits are required for all overnight wilderness use. Pick up your wilderness permit the day before you leave at one of the following locations:

Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center, Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, Big Oak Flat

Information Station, Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio, or Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Advance permit reservations may be made from 24 weeks (168 days) to two days in advance. Visit www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness/permits.htm or call 209/372-0740 for more information and reservations.

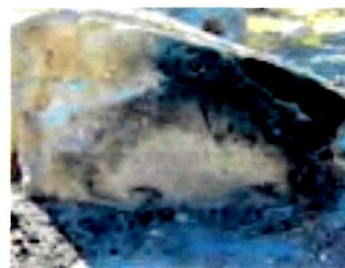
Campsite Selection. Plan your trip to allow plenty of time for campsite selection. Choose an existing campsite at least 100 feet



CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES SUCH AS SAND, GRAVEL, OR ROCK

(30 meters; 50 steps) away from water and trail in an area that is not visible from the trail. Avoid places where vegetation is just beginning to be lost or bare earth is beginning to show. Using an existing campsite or camping on durable ground (rock, gravel, or

snow) improves wilderness quality because additional plants aren't impacted and soil isn't eroded.



DON'T LEAVE PERMANENT BLACKENED SCARS BY CREATING CAMPFIRE AT THE BASE OF ROCKS

Campfires. Campfires are prohibited above 9,600 feet to protect fragile high-elevation ecosystems. Campfires are allowed below 9,600 feet in elevation in existing fire rings only. Wildfires are a real risk in Yosemite, so keep your fire small. Use only dead wood that is on the ground and smaller than your wrist. Never

leave fires unattended, and make sure fires are cold and fully out before you leave. Do not burn or leave garbage in your campfire ring. Gas stoves are encouraged for cooking. Never build or use a fire ring placed against granite because it causes permanent blackened scars and may kill new vegetation.

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All good things are

wild and free.

Henry David Thoreau

Yosemite National Park *Wilderness*

Protecting the natural world in the Yosemite Wilderness

Visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm for more information.



Yosemite is home to hundreds of wildlife species and thousands of plants. Leave plants and animals wild and free by allowing them to exist in their natural state. Keep wildlife wild. View animals from a distance and never feed or approach them.

Food Storage. When animals get human food, it alters their natural behavior, and they may become more aggressive in order to get human food in the future. In developed areas, do your part to protect wildlife from human food by placing



USE A BEAR CANISTER TO STORE ALL SCENTED ITEMS AND FOOD

food in a bear-proof food lockers and clipping the locks shut. Additionally, bear canisters (available for rent at wilderness centers in the park) are required for overnight trips. Bear canisters must be used to store all food, toiletries, trash and other scented items. Do not leave these items in your car as

animals can smell them and may damage your car to obtain food. Visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/bears.htm for more information.



CARRY ALL GARBAGE OUT WITH YOU AND DO NOT BURN OR BURY TRASH

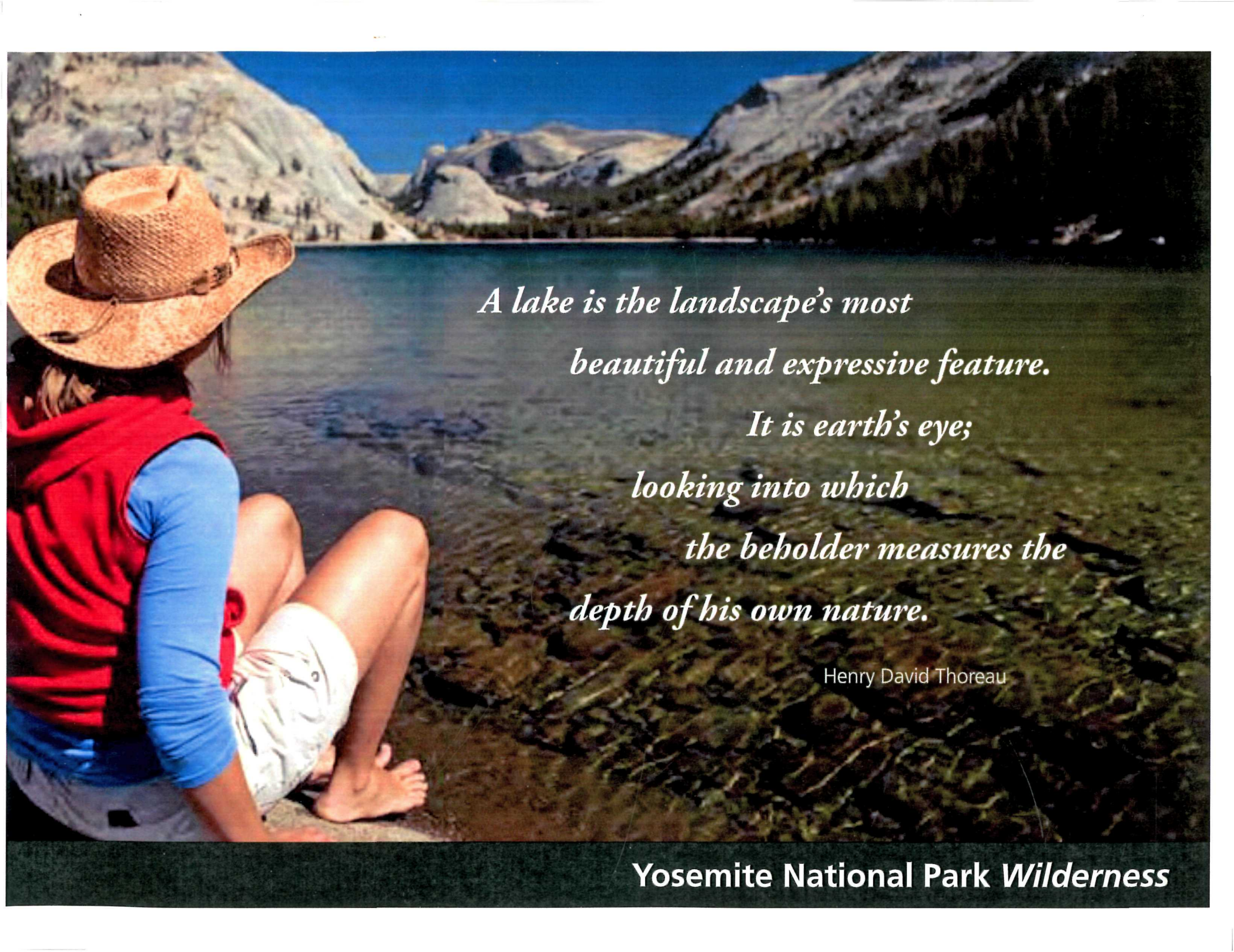
Garbage. Pack out everything you pack in, and do not burn or bury trash. Don't leave trash or toilet paper for someone else to see, clean up, or for animals to eat.

Leave what you find. Leave rocks, plants and natural objects as you find them. This helps prevent the spread of non-native species and also leaves the natural world for others to enjoy. Additionally, help to preserve Yosemite's past by leaving archeological objects as you find them. Archeologists learn from artifacts and sites when they are left in place. It is illegal to damage or remove archeological objects from federal lands.

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*A lake is the landscape's most
beautiful and expressive feature.*

*It is earth's eye;
looking into which
the beholder measures the
depth of his own nature.*

Henry David Thoreau

Yosemite National Park Wilderness

Pre-trip planning for overnight use in the Yosemite Wilderness

Visit www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness/permits.htm for more information.



Wilderness Permits. Permits are required year-round for overnight use in Wilderness.

Permits are available for individuals and groups of up to 15 if traveling on trail, or eight if traveling cross-country. For trips occurring from May to October, permits are available one of two ways:

1. Reserve up to 24 weeks (168 days) ahead of time.

To reserve, submit the application found at www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness/permits.htm via fax to 209/372-0739, call 209/372-0740, or write to Wilderness Permits, PO Box 545 Yosemite, CA, 95389.

2. First-come, first-served. Forty percent of available permits are held for walk-up visitors. These first-come, first-served permits are available one day before you plan to leave for your trip and can be obtained from May to October at the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center, Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, Big Oak Flat Wilderness Kiosk, Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station and the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio. For winter camping regulations, visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildwinter.htm

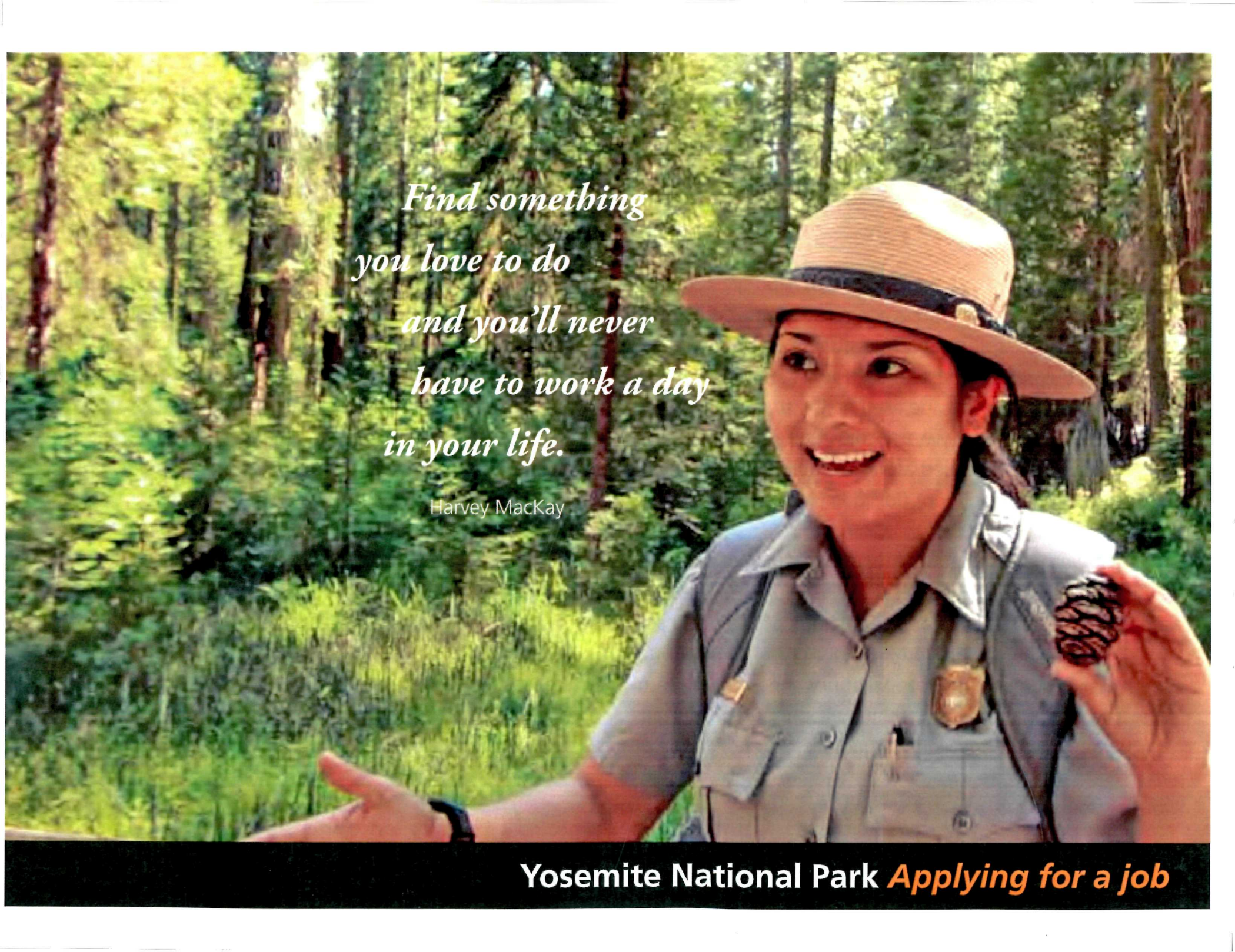
Pre-Trip Planning.

- **Have more than one trip in mind.** When selecting a route of travel, you should have at least one other option.
- **Consult a topographical map.** In addition to considering total trip miles, factor elevation changes into your trip planning. Many trips are quite strenuous due to steep gradients, and high altitude can have a major effect on physical abilities.
- **Check weather and be prepared for anything.** At higher elevations, significant amounts of snow can remain well into July. Temperatures vary significantly at different elevations, and thunderstorms are common at high elevations.
- **Check road conditions and road closures** by calling 209/372-0200 (press 1).
- **Arrive ready to go.** You can purchase food, cooking fuel, and some backpacking gear in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows (summer only); however, selection is limited and some items may be unavailable.

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A woman in a park ranger uniform, including a tan hat and a light blue shirt with a badge, is smiling and holding a pinecone in her right hand. She is standing in a lush green forest with tall trees and sunlight filtering through the leaves. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the woman in the foreground.

*Find something
you love to do
and you'll never
have to work a day
in your life.*

Harvey MacKay

Yosemite National Park **Applying for a job**

Applying for a job in Yosemite National Park

Visit www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/jobs.htm for more information.



How do I apply? Visit www.usajobs.gov and type "Yosemite" into the keyword search to find out what jobs are available at Yosemite. Next, read the entire vacancy announcement fully before applying.

All vacancy announcements have an "Area of Consideration" that will describe who is eligible to apply for that position. Positions that are designated "all sources," "all qualified," "open to everyone," and "public" means that all U.S. citizens are eligible to apply. "Federal status candidates," "government-wide," "service-wide," "status candidates," "merit promotion," or "bureau-wide" indicates that you must be a current permanent federal employee or be eligible for reinstatement based on prior federal employment to apply.

The "pay plan" and "salary range" are dependent on the "grade," which is determined based on the knowledge, skills, abilities (KSAs) and experience of the candidate. Some jobs will be permanent, others will be filled for "terms" of one to four years, while others will be filled seasonally.

To apply, you must submit an application or resume for a specific job announcement. Include detailed and specific information about your previous work history; several-page-long resumes are common. Applications must be postmarked or completed online by the "closing date." Be aware that the hiring process within the federal government may take anywhere from one month to one year.

More information on applying for a job in Yosemite is available at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/jobs.htm. To apply for an internship, visit www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/intern.htm. If you have any questions regarding the application process, or have questions regarding specific vacancy announcements and their status, call Yosemite Human Resources at 209/379-1805 between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

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*I have been one acquainted
with the night.*

*I have outwalked
the furthest city lights.*

Robert Frost

Yosemite National Park *Wilderness*



Currently, two-thirds of Americans cannot see the Milky Way from their backyards due to light pollution. Many people seek wilderness areas to experience this vanishing resource. Almost 95 percent of Yosemite National Park was designated Wilderness by Congress in 1984. *Designated Wilderness is a place that is wild and free, where natural processes happen with little human influence.*

Postcard photo by Lincoln Else.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



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He llegado a un paso de todo.

*Y aquí me quedo,
lejos de todo,
un paso.*

Antonio Porchia

Área silvestre de Yosemite



En 1984, casi el 95 por ciento del Parque Nacional Yosemite fue designado por el Congreso EE.UU, ha Vida Silvestre (704,623 acres, 1,100 millas cuadradas). Vida Silvestre es un lugar salvaje y libre, adónde la naturaleza se deja sola con poca influencia humana. 4.75 porcentaje de los Estados Unidos ha sido designado ha la Vida Silvestre.

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