



PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT SUMMARY REPORT

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

MAY 2016



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APPENDICES

Appendix A	Correspondence Index of Organizations
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Full Phrase

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AMGA	American Mountain Guides Association
CUA	commercial use authorization
EIS	environmental impact statement
IFMGA	International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations
JMT	John Muir Trail
LNT	Leave No Trace
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPS	National Park Service
PCT	Pacific Crest Trail
PEPC	Planning, Environment, and Public Comment
SUP	special use permit
WSP	wilderness stewardship plan
US	United States

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND GUIDE

The United States (US) Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) and wilderness stewardship plan (WSP) for Yosemite National Park. The WSP will provide a framework for measuring and monitoring wilderness character to ensure that future management actions will be taken as needed to adapt to changing conditions.

This report documents the results of the public scoping process for the WSP/EIS. Scoping is a collaborative public involvement process conducted at the beginning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis to identify and refine issues to be addressed in the EIS. Public involvement is a vital part of the NEPA process. In addition to scoping, public involvement for this project includes collaboration with federal, state, and local governments and public outreach efforts. The park is also coordinating the National Historic Preservation Act process with the NEPA process.

1.1 PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS SUMMARY

In November, 2015, the NPS released a Public Scoping fact sheet for the WSP/EIS to the public for review and comment. The newsletter provided a description of the purpose and need for the plan, public scoping information and questions to consider, potential management issues to be addressed, and information on how to get involved in the planning process. The bulletin was available for public review until January 29, 2016. The park accepted comments through the NPS's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) system, mail, and email (yose_planning@nps.gov).

The NPS hosted two in-person public scoping meetings: one in Berkeley, California at the Berkeley REI on December 8th 2015, and the other in Yosemite Valley on January 20th 2016. At these meetings, NPS staff presented information about the Wilderness Act, the Yosemite Wilderness and its history, wilderness character, the purpose of the project, potential management issues, and planning timeline. After this presentation, NPS staff was available to discuss commenters' issues and concerns. Commenters also had the opportunity to write their concerns on comment forms, which were added to the public comments. Notes were taken at each meeting, and substantive comments were added into the PEPC system for analysis. In

addition to the in-person meetings, NPS also conducted 3 web-based “webinars” which presented the same information as was used at the in-person meetings. After the presentation, attendees were given time to submit questions and comments regarding the plan. The questions and comments were then answered via the audio function in the webinar by NPS staff. A total of 110 individuals attended the public scoping meetings either in person or online, with 17 attendees at the Berkeley meeting, 30 attendees at the Yosemite Valley meeting, and 63 attendees total for all three webinars.



Photo from in-person public scoping meeting in Yosemite Valley.

1.2 NATURE OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

A total of 733 pieces of correspondence were received during the public scoping period. The majority of comments were related to commercial services, stock use, wilderness character, access, interpretation and outreach, the permitting system and quotas, use of motorized equipment, and High Sierra Camps. All correspondence was considered and captured in concern statements which follow in this report.

Some of the most prevalent comments received included these concerns:

- The NPS should continue or expand commercial hiking and climbing guiding in wilderness to provide access, encourage stewardship and increase user safety.
- Stock use in Yosemite’s wilderness should continue. Stock use provides access for diverse user groups to experience wilderness and has historical significance.
- Alternatives considered should follow the rule of law along with the intent of the Wilderness Act.
- Wilderness needs to provide opportunities for diverse user groups to experience wilderness including stock users, people of color, those with limited economic

resources, older visitors, children, educational and documentary filmmakers, naturalists, hikers and campers.

- Trail quotas need to be adapted to address the influx of wilderness users originating both in Yosemite and adjacent public lands to balance use and protect resources.
- Motorized equipment and mechanized transport degrade wilderness character by creating noise pollution and negatively impact natural resources.
- Some comments received advocated for retaining or expanding High Sierra camps in support of safe, diverse, historical access. Comments also suggested reconsideration of the level of service provided at the camps or that the camps should be removed due to their impacts to wilderness character.

For specific concerns related to all identified topics see **Chapter 2**.

1.3 THE COMMENT ANALYSIS PROCESS

Comment analysis is a process used to compile and combine similar public comments into a format that can be used by decision makers and the WSP/EIS Team. Comment analysis assists the team in organizing, clarifying, and addressing technical information pursuant to NEPA regulations. It also aids in identifying the topics and issues to be evaluated and considered throughout the planning process.

The process includes five main components:

- Developing a coding structure
- Using a comment database for comment management
- Reading and coding of public comments
- Interpreting and analyzing the comments to identify issues and themes
- Preparing a comment summary

The park developed a coding structure to help sort comments into logical groups by topics and issues. The coding structure was derived from an analysis of the range of topics discussed during internal NPS scoping, past planning documents, and the comments themselves, and designed to capture all comment content rather than to restrict or exclude any ideas.

The NPS PEPC database was used for management of the comments. The database stores the full text of all correspondence and allows each comment to be coded by topic and issue. Some outputs from the database include tallies of the total number of correspondence and comments received, sorting and reporting of comments by a particular topic or issue, and demographic information regarding the sources of the comments.

Analysis of the public comments involved the assignment of codes to statements made by the public in their letters submitted and comments stated at the public meetings. All comments were read and analyzed, including those of a technical nature; those expressing opinions, feelings, and preferences of one element or one potential alternative over another; and comments of a personal or philosophical nature.

Although the analysis process attempts to capture the full range of public concerns, this public scoping report should be used with caution. Comments from people who chose to respond do not necessarily represent the sentiments of the public as a whole. The emphasis was on content of the comment rather than the number of times a comment was received. This report is intended to be a summary of the comments received rather than a statistical analysis.

1.4 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Primary terms used in this document are defined below.

Correspondence: A correspondence is the entire document received from a commenter. It can be in the form of a letter or email, written comment form, or a comment submitted online using the NPS PEPC website. Each piece of correspondence is assigned a unique identification number in the PEPC system.

Comment: A comment is a portion of the text within a correspondence that addresses a single subject. It includes information such as an expression of support or opposition to the use of a potential management tool, additional data regarding an existing condition, or an opinion debating the adequacy of the analysis.

Code: A grouping centered on a common subject. The codes were developed during the scoping process and will be used to track major subjects throughout the EIS process.

Concern: A concern is a written summary of similar comments received under a particular code. Some codes were further separated into several concern statements to provide a better focus on the content of the comments.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

During the comment period, 733 pieces of correspondence were received into PEPC directly or were entered into PEPC for analysis. Each correspondence was read, and specific comments within each correspondence were identified. A total of 2,471 comments were derived from the correspondence received.

Each comment was given a code to identify the general content of a comment and to group similar comments together. Fifty codes were used to categorize all the comments received. An example of a code developed for this project is WL9000: Permit system and/or quotas. In some cases, the same comment may be categorized under more than one code, reflecting the fact that the comment may contain more than one issue or idea.

All comments were read and considered and will be used to help create the alternatives and ultimately the WSP/EIS; however, only those determined to be substantive were analyzed for creation of concern statements, as described below. A substantive comment is defined in the NPS Director's Order 12 Handbook: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making* as one that does one or more of the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information presented in the NEPA document

- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental analysis
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the NEPA document
- Cause changes or revisions in the proposal

As further stated in Director's Order 12, substantive comments "raise, debate, or question a point of fact or policy. Comments that merely support or oppose a proposal or that merely agree or disagree with NPS policy are not considered substantive."

Under each code, all substantive comments were grouped by similar themes, and those groups were summarized with a concern statement. For example, one concern statement under WL9000: Permit system and/or quotas is "The permit system effectively mitigates overcrowding through the use of quotas and group size limits. The permit system also protects wilderness resources, specifically along the John Muir Trail and on Half Dome." Following each concern statement are one or more "representative quotes," which are comments taken verbatim from the correspondence to illustrate the issue, concern, or idea expressed by the comments grouped under that concern statement.

1.6 GUIDE TO THIS DOCUMENT

This report is organized as follows:

Public Scoping Comment Summary: This summary includes information on the number of comments that were coded under each topic as well as general demographic information, such as the states where commenters live. In addition, this section summarizes the substantive comments received during the scoping process. These comments are organized by codes and further organized into concern statements. Below each concern statement are representative quotes, which have been taken directly from the text of the public's comments. Representative quotes are examples of comments received that further clarify the concern statements.

Correspondence Received: The full text of all correspondence received from all individuals, groups, and agencies is available on PEPC under the Document List at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yosewild>. The correspondence was either received directly into PEPC or via a hardcopy letter that was then transcribed directly into PEPC.

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CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT SUMMARY

Correspondence was received from commenters in 11 countries, 47 US states, and the District of Columbia. Most correspondence (701) were received via the PEPC web interface; other correspondence types included 18 hard copy letters, 9 emails, 3 comment forms, and comments from public meetings.

The following table shows the distribution of correspondence by how they were coded.

Code	Description	Correspondence
TQ1-69178	What do you value about the way in which the National Park Service currently manages the Yosemite Wilderness?	570
TQ2-69178	What are the most important issues facing the Yosemite Wilderness today and how should they be addressed?	540
WL3000	Commercial services	417
WL2000	Stock use and users	181
WL1600	Wilderness character	148
WL4000	Access	141
WL1700	Interpretation and outreach	132
WL9000	Permit system and/or quotas	119
WL1020	Use of motorized equipment	102
WL2200	Installations/Development	88
WL1210	Retention of High Sierra Camps	89
WL1200	Potential wilderness additions	79
AE22000	Visitor use	66
TN100	Threats to natural resources	62
WL1000	Trail system management	61
VN100	Value the natural resources or setting (flora, fauna, views, natural quiet, undeveloped areas)	49
VV100	Value the visitor opportunities (activities, programs, recreation)	45
OS1000	Out of scope	36

Code	Description	Correspondence
WL6000	Recreation	34
WL1230	Management of High Sierra Camps	33
WL2400	Wilderness Stewardship Plan planning/process	31
WL8000	NPS enforcement of rules	24
WL1900	Camping	22
TV100	Threats to visitor use or experience	21
WL1500	Wildlife	22
WL1640	Wilderness character: Solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation	21
WL5000	Visitor conflicts & safety	19
WL2010	Private stock use or users	18
WL1220	Removal of High Sierra Camps	17
WL1300	Accessibility (ADA)	16
WL1800	Wildfire management	15
WL2600	Research studies and data	15
WL1010	Through hiking	14
WL1100	Human waste management	13
WL1400	Climate change	13
WL2020	Commercial stock use or users	13
MT1000	General comments about the Yosemite Wilderness	10
WL2100	Soundscapes	8
WL1520	Proper food storage	7
WL1510	Nonnative fish removal	6
WL2030	Administrative stock use or users	6
WL1620	Wilderness character: Natural	6
WL2700	Water resources	5
WL2500	Vegetation	4
AE7000	Air Quality	4
WL1610	Wilderness character: Untrammeled	3
WL2300	Use of motorized equipment	3
WL1630	Wilderness character: Undeveloped	2
WL1650	Wilderness character: Other features of value	1
WL7000	Non-motorized, non-mechanized recreation	1

2.1 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS BY COMMENT CODE

A summary of public scoping comments received is presented below. The summary is organized by comment code, with concern statements and representative quotes provided for each code.

TQ1-69178 - What do you value about the way in which the National Park Service currently manages the Yosemite Wilderness?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55868) The National Park Service does a good job educating visitors on topics such as Leave No Trace principles, food storage requirements, and using the trailhead quota system to limit the number of users in high use areas such as the John Muir Trail and Sunrise corridor.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 476833 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the fact that the NPS attempts to limit overuse and preserve wilderness values through trailhead quotas and limiting group size for on and off-trail travel. I also value that the wilderness permit system gives the rangers opportunities to reinforce LNT principles and bear canister requirements.

Corr. ID: 127 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 480971 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As a backpacker, I have spent many seasons over the years in various areas of the park. As he demands for use have increased, I have appreciated the use of trailhead quotas, even when i have been unable to hike some of my favorite places due to high demand. I also appreciate the efforts made to educate new hikers on the appropriate "leave no trace" practices. I am always glad when I can use an area which is heavily visited without there being significant trash and other left overs.

Corr. ID: 536 Organization: Sierra Mountain Center Comment ID: 484942 Organization Type: Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: I do feel that YNP has done a good job at limiting the highest use areas, including the Happy Isles entrance to the JMT, and the high use Sunrise corridor.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55869) Yosemite Wilderness is accessible to the entire populace and provides a wide variety of experiences.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 142 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 481401 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I like the affordability of the park and that it is open to everyone.

Corr. ID: 148 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 481462 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is accessible and well-managed, even with the extremely large number of visitors. It is appropriately "commercialized" in that services are available for individuals whether they are seeking an extreme wilderness experience or seeing the beauty of the outdoors without great labor and work.

Corr. ID: 150 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 481510 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We value the pristine experience available in the Yosemite Wilderness despite large numbers of visitors.

Corr. ID: 349 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 483705 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Enjoy the multiple levels of access to the backcountry, from hiking to horses and the ability for those not equipped to stay in [backcountry] camps, enjoying all the valley and beyond has to offer. Exposure to the wildness beyond the valley is critical.

Corr. ID: 434 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484500 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the opportunity to go rock climbing in Yosemite. It's one of the most amazing places in the entire world to experience climbing.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55870) Yosemite's wilderness character is valuable and unspoiled, providing solitude, a lack of structures, and only natural sounds in an untrammelled landscape.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 272 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483443 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Yosemite is a spectacular wilderness, and it is kept relatively unspoiled through limiting commercial use.

Corr. ID: 288 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483505 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I like the wild character of the wilderness. For me, true wilderness means the absence of man and mankind's impact. Therefore, other than a trail in the dirt, I do not like to see any structures, hear any sounds other than those created by nature over time.

Corr. ID: 464 **Organization:** University of Utah **Comment ID:** 484619 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: I appreciate that I can find solitude in Yosemite Wilderness. Yosemite National Park does an excellent job ensuring that this solitude remains. Although the Valley floor can be a madhouse, once I set foot off of the common trails I can still find untrammelled landscapes that inspire my soul.

TQ2-69178 - What are the most important issues facing the Yosemite Wilderness today and how should they be addressed?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55936) Respondents described what they felt are the most important issues facing the Yosemite Wilderness today. The following representative quotes are a sampling of some of those issues. Particular issues are summarized under corresponding codes and include education, management of the High Sierra Camps, stock use, overuse and crowding, commercialization, and the need for additional rock climbing and mountaineering opportunities through Commercial Use Authorizations and Special Use Permits.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 476834 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: 1) The most important issue to me is overuse of certain trail corridors and abused use by some PCT permit holders (i.e., getting a permit for the entire PCT with no intention of hiking the entire PCT but allowing for JMT and Half Dome trail use).

2) I remain concerned with the quality of the wilderness experience due to overuse and inappropriate use (social impacts from those not following LNT).

3) Trail management (construction, maintenance, quotas) is an area needing further study with consideration given to non-maintenance and removal of "improvements" which diminish the wilderness character of the area, including historical use such as High Sierra Camps and other nonconforming uses (Half Dome cables, etc.).

4) I support a study of the use of stock in the wilderness to mitigate damage, though I am not opposed to limited stock use where appropriate.

5) Commercial services can be an effective means of providing wilderness experiences with LNT emphasis which can help to protect the wilderness and important values if the service is vetted appropriately.

Corr. ID: 184 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 482893 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: That these areas are preserved and enjoyed for decades to come. To accomplish this, people need to be educated in how to be stewards of these parks so that they can be enjoyed for generations.

Corr. ID: 195 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 482934 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Overuse concerns. The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should:

- respect the intent of the Wilderness Act to limit commercial services in Wilderness;
- stop routine use of helicopters and other motorized equipment in the Wilderness;
- remove nonconforming structures and uses in potential wilderness within the Park and designate those areas as Wilderness.
- ensure that all alternatives preserve and maintain wilderness character, and require the Park Service to better manage visitor use. Natural processes must be allowed to define the character of the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 454 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 484566 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Preserving the High Sierra Camps. They provide an opportunity for older people to explore the wilderness without having to carry [heavy] camping gear. The vast majority of people we encounter in the High Sierra Camps are over age 50. Without the Camps, a large portion of the population would not be able to enjoy the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 469 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 484629 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: How to keep the wilderness available to all while minimizing impact due to large numbers of visitors.

AE22000 - Visitor use

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55815) A new plan needs to be implemented for Half Dome that includes the modernization of the cable route providing for two lanes of traffic, guided hikes, and use of via ferrata type harness/security systems.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 467 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510043 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: A new plan needs to be implemented on Half Dome that includes the modernization of the cable route providing for two lanes of traffic (separate up and down lanes), as well as the recommendation for both guided hikes and use of via ferrata type harness/security systems to enable safe use of the cable route to visit the summit.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56652) The number of day use visitors, including hikers and climbers, must be monitored in order to make informed decisions about Wilderness management. This would require regular base funding for visitor use survey as well as supplemental project funds.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485817 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Get a handle on day use - hikers AND climbers. We can not expect to make informed decisions about Wilderness if we do not understand how many people are hiking, say, the first 5 miles in/out of a given trailhead. To do this, you will need to find regular base funding for VUSS or a social science contractor. Supplemental funding could come from project funds associated with trail reroutes or frog and toad habitat protection.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56668) Management must address increased visitation and its associated impacts on Wilderness values. This could be accomplished through the use of commercial use authorization permit holders as liaisons for visitors, prohibiting motorized developments and grazing, encouraging use of more remote areas of the park to reduce use near roads and parking lots, and weighing increased restrictions or facilities with dispersed use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 513929 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Consider that heavy use in a given region of wilderness may change its experiential character as well as overly impact some resources. Weigh the differences of accommodating the increased use via greater restrictions and/or facilities vs. spreading the same total wilderness use impacts to other wilderness areas of the Park.

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486476 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Consider the potential for increased impacts stemming from Media enhancement of outdoor recreation's image in the popular mind, and the unavoidable uptick in Wilderness use stemming from an ever growing human population.

Corr. ID: 273 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487545 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Manage visitor use to protect the wilderness as first priority.

Corr. ID: 327 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509539 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Absolutely no motorized developments, no public grazing; public use for foot, horseback only.

Corr. ID: 500 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484873 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The most important issue facing Yosemite today is over crowding in areas near roads and parking lots. Visitors should be encouraged to tour in groups and to come at times when the park is less crowded. Activities such as hiking, backpacking and the use of saddle and pack stock should be encouraged because they make use of the more remote areas of the park.

Corr. ID: 617 **Organization:** Sonoma State University **Comment ID:** 510980 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: The most important issues facing the Yosemite Wilderness is the sheer amount of people that access it and their level of competency.

Corr. ID: 684 **Organization:** Yosemite Family Adventures, LLC **Comment ID:** 485282
Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: The most important issue facing Yosemite and the National Park Service today is how to balance an increasing number of visitors with Yosemite's fragile wilderness. The goal is to allow visitors to enjoy all of Yosemite's wild and scenic treasures without them destroying the local ecosystems and negatively impacting Yosemite's wilderness. We would like the National Park Service to see that CUA permit holders can be the liaisons between them and uninformed, unguided adventurers that don't understand the devastation that can come for just a few misplaced footprints.

MT1000 - General comments about the Yosemite Wilderness

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55997) Commenters wrote general comments about Yosemite Wilderness and their wilderness experience, appreciating its existence and the park's management actions.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 68 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 479869 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I appreciate the chance to experience world class wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56591) Loss of government funds and a lack of political interest is a concern for maintaining wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 42 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 479513 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would think government funds to maintain the wilderness would be one of the most important issues. I worry that the parks have been used as political purposes as the current administration has threatened to close parks and limit funds. I'm not sure how that should be addressed, but we should all be concerned and informed about the loss of interest politicians have for the parks.

OS1000 - Out of scope

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55996) Comments outside the scope of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan include suggestions for management of Yosemite Valley, overall public transit, wilderness permits for overnight climbers and hunting in Yosemite wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 319 Organization: Wilderness Watch **Comment ID: 511619 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: I would also like to comment on my views regarding hunting, which I understand is permitted in wilderness areas. On this subject, I would like to comment by saying that I believe that hunting should be restricted to those species which can be personally consumed for food and that all mammalian carnivores such as bobcats, mountain lions, foxes, coyotes, martens, fishers, wolverines, etc. be off limits to hunting. This would also include gray wolves should they ever be reintroduced to the Yosemite Wilderness Area.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485821 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Require climbers overnighiting to get a wilderness permit. There is absolutely no reason they should be exempt from touching base with a wilderness ranger.

Corr. ID: 636 Organization: SYMG, PCGI **Comment ID: 485943 Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: Do more to show people how to function without their cars. Public transit is not popular in most parts of the US, and moving towards a better relationship with mass transit is one of the best things we can do to reduce our carbon emissions. The national parks should be aggressive about getting people out of their cars! Why don't we have a parking structure in Mariposa yet? Why are so many people still driving cars around Yosemite Valley?

TN100 - Threats to natural resources

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55819) More protection is needed for natural resources such as wildlife, vegetation, water and air, and overall ecosystem function, from increasing visitor use and development. More base funding for such protection is necessary.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486448 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe it is more important to retain the quality of the resources (Plant, Animal, Mineral, Water and Air, and ecosystem function,), over the accommodation of users, who by their growing numbers alone, and despite responsible Wilderness use when gauged by individual actions, may in some cases, outpace the wilderness' ability to regenerate. (Think lakeside vegetation, and water quality)

Corr. ID: 188 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 482907 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There has been reasonable protection of this precious land and its wildlife from over-use, commercialization, and exploitation by entertainment, hunting, and other such interests. More protection is needed, however.

Corr. ID: 231 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 483075 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe it is important to preserve wilderness even as it limits economic development.

Corr. ID: 284 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483498 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Unfortunately, Yosemite, along with many other public lands, is under assault from many directions, including our own congress on behalf of corporate interests, including ranchers wanting to graze their cattle, oil companies wanting to drill for oil and gas, mining companies, and others. We must continue to avoid and reject these different entities due to their destructive nature and the resulting decimation of our pristine national treasures.

Corr. ID: 364 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487065 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As more visitors enter the high country earlier and later in the season, the impacts to the wilderness will occur sooner and for a longer duration perhaps having effects that do not repair themselves during the winter. When will restoration crews be employed by not only project specific grant money?

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485841 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We have GOT to reallocate base funds towards the Division of Resources. It is utterly irresponsible for the park to expect YC and Hetch Hetchy to pay to repair human impacts, fight invasive species, and protect threatened and endangered species. Yosemite National Park is only fulfilling half of its mission and is therefore violating its promise to the American people to preserve and protect for future generations.

Corr. ID: 619 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485548 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The most important issues facing the wilderness right now are overuse and misuse. Commercial services and the number of permits issued for the wilderness need to be further limited, not increased.

Corr. ID: 619 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485551 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please do not cave into the pressures exerted by guide services and vendors. The impact on the land-and on the experience for citizens who are not participating in or profiting from these ventures-is profound.

Corr. ID: 629 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485852 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Overuse of various high-profile areas in the park is denigrating the environment and the wilderness experience.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55820) Human activities need to be assessed and mitigated in sensitive habitat, critical habitat for the Sierra bighorn sheep, as well as in habitat for rare and endangered species such as the Sierra Nevada red fox, the American marten, the wolverine, the Yosemite toad and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 100 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509409 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Limitation in impact sensitive areas is key. The Park Service must balance use and preservation.

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486492 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Include the description of Yosemite Wilderness' role in species preservation, and include consideration of degradation outside the Park Wilderness boundary as impacts to species as a whole.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 512014 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: It is legally mandated and morally essential that wild species that literally represent wilderness be provided with the greatest possible protection within wilderness. In the case of Yosemite and this Wilderness Plan, CSERC urges that a strong assessment be provided as to the status of the Sierra Nevada red fox, the American marten, the wolverine, the Yosemite toad, the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and any other at-risk species that have potential to be disturbed in their habitat by wilderness visitors.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485496 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: For decades, wilderness within Yosemite has been managed almost entirely with the goal of managing use to provide a positive wilderness experience for people. A small percentage of that focus has been to minimize (not eliminate) resource impacts in Wilderness that are caused by hikers, backpackers, horseback riders, pack stock, etc. But little focus has aimed to constrain or restrict human activities in areas of Yosemite Park wilderness that are highly critical habitat for rare or threatened wildlife species.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55821) Nonnative species need to be addressed in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 699 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485644 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Threats from distant origins: I see and hear evidence of issues affecting Yosemite's wilderness from climate change, ozone air pollution, non native species including trout and diseases. I actually love trout and love the food supply they provide for fishing backpackers. But I also would prefer to see the frogs return to certain areas where feasible.

TV100 - Threats to visitor use or experience

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55823) The Wilderness experience is threatened by motorized equipment and overcrowding.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 6 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 484298 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: [Overcrowding is] diminishing the wilderness experience in some locations.

Corr. ID: 209 Organization: Ms. Comment ID: 483008 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: "Wilderness" not being wilderness. That would mean when you are [backcountry] in Wilderness, you can still hear and see airplanes, helicopters and vehicles.

Corr. ID: 540 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 486595 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The most important issues are reduced funding from Washington and overwhelming numbers of visitors.

VN100 - Value the natural resources or setting (flora, fauna, views, natural quiet, undeveloped areas)

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55930) Geology, wildlife, vegetation, and scenic beauty are all valued natural resources in the Wilderness. The Wilderness setting is also valued from a cultural perspective.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 486475 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Consider the value of regions of wilderness that rarely see human use, to species affected by human presence, including breeding and rearing sites of animal species, habitat of rare plants, etc.

Corr. ID: 525 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 484915 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the magnificence of the Yosemite Wilderness and the opportunity for the general public to enjoy it in as ecologically intact and unaltered way as possible.

Corr. ID: 538 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 484947 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the efforts taken by the Park Service to protect the physical natural environment.

Corr. ID: 625 Organization: AMGA & IFMGA Mountain Guide Comment ID: 485801

Organization Type: University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: I think that foremost, the protection of the things that make Yosemite special - the streams, lakes, cliffs, trees, forests, mountains, meadows, etc. - must continue to be our absolute top priority. These are the very heart of why people come to Yosemite, and I think in as much as it's reasonable, there is no room for compromise in our stewardship of them.

Corr. ID: 684 Organization: Yosemite Family Adventures, LLC Comment ID: 485281

Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: We value the care and efficiency that the National Park Service currently puts into protecting all life in Yosemite, from the smallest flowers in our fragile meadows to the roots of the Giant Sequoias and the return of the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

Corr. ID: 693 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485297 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Yosemite attracts a huge number of visitors each year. These visitors get to see some truly unique landscape that includes incredible geological, anthropological, and natural histories.

Corr. ID: 712 **Organization:** SWS Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 486144 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: Wilderness has long been one of the most cherished and celebrated features of the American experience. For a large portion of Americans it has become imbedded in our culture and how we think of our country. No wilderness been more influential to that effect than those within in the boundaries of Yosemite National Park. For these reasons we should take any revision of the Wilderness Plan seriously and with all due diligence for the sake of the future of this natural resource.

VV100 - Value the visitor opportunities (activities, programs, recreation)

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55931) Commenters valued the diverse opportunities for the public to explore the Yosemite Wilderness, and requested that visitors continue to be allowed to experience the Wilderness in different ways, including climbing, hiking, boating, and fishing.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 93 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 480120 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the way the Yosemite Wilderness is currently available to a wide variety of users, but in a controlled fashion. The current management protocol allows for both the minimalist backpacker hiking in the back-country on their own, as well as ranger-guided groups hiking to Sierra High Camps. A variety of skills and abilities are equally welcome.

Corr. ID: 510 **Organization:** Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association **Comment ID:** 484890
Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I have had the privilege of riding my horse in Yosemite, as well as hiking in this wonderland. My cousin, visiting from South Africa, and I even managed to climb Half Dome while staying in Curry Village. The endless opportunities of exploring Yosemite, at whatever level of intensity suitable for that individual, is the marvel of this national park. Realizing that the park is a precious jewel and needs to be protected from over use and misuse, the Park Service has done an admirable job.

I hope the diversity of opportunities to explore Yosemite can be maintained.

Corr. ID: 530 **Organization:** The Ohio State University **Comment ID:** 484923 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: I value the opportunity it gives to people to give back service wise in the park, and the access to such grand and scenery. The park allows a freedom to explore and see things and take part of an amazing place.

Corr. ID: 537 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 484945 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the climbing opportunities that the Yosemite Wilderness affords. It is not only a natural resource that lends itself to recreation but has become a cultural icon of an American era that values wilderness, independence, the testing of the mind and body, and shared value of the beauty that is Yosemite. It is therefore a resource, both natural and cultural in nature, that deserves to be protected and cultivated for use.

Corr. ID: 627 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485825 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I always have reservations when these plans come out because there is a tendency that in the name of protection comes the decreased ability for visitors to experience the park in ways that they have done in the past.

Corr. ID: 646 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485208 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The single most important issue facing any Wilderness, including Yosemite, is education through experience. By facilitating education- -through the NPS and third parties- -we broaden the community of stewards and, by that fact, bolster support for long term protection of these lands. This includes allowing visitors to experience Wilderness in different ways, including climbing, hiking, boating, and other forms of non-permanent activities.

Corr. ID: 651 Organization: Trout Unlimited **Comment ID: 485457 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Sportsmen have a clear stake in the management direction, strategy, and priorities that may derive from the Wilderness Plan revision process. Many of our members and customers enjoy fishing in the Yosemite Wilderness and utilize these public lands and waters for personal recreation.

Corr. ID: 673 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 485260 Organization Type:** University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: I value the National Park Service's efforts to manage the Yosemite Wilderness as a resource for everyone to enjoy. Efforts such as the lottery camp reservation service, the existence of YOSAR, the handicap accessible trailheads, the bike friendly roads, and maintaining the privilege of climbing in the world's most astounding rock arena.

WL1000 - Trail system management

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55825) *Overuse of the trail system and trail maintenance should be addressed by public/private partnerships and increased patrols.*

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 613 Organization: NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID: 485514 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: The Park Service may soon find that it has insufficient resources to maintain trails in Yosemite Wilderness to standards that are necessary to maintain visitor safety and resource protection. Given that the WSP represents a long-range (10- to 15-year) plan, it would be prudent to consider in the WSP the option of enlisting additional qualified partners in routine trail maintenance. For example, establishing formal agreements with qualified non-profit organizations, such as Backcountry Horsemen of California and its partner, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, would serve

to augment the agency's beleaguered trail maintenance budget and could preclude the need to either close trails or reclassify some trails as either "unmaintained" or minimally maintained.

Corr. ID: 665 Organization: The Wildland Trekking Company **Comment ID:** 485467

Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: Although there is some evidence of over-use and abuse, such as illegal fire-rings and deteriorating trails, these can be addressed by public/private partnerships and increased patrols.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55826) Increase the number of backcountry users by improving and expanding the existing trail system. This can be done by increasing trail quotas, adding new trails, and adjusting to changing use patterns.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 129 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486311 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would hope that we can increase the number of people allowed in the wilderness by increasing trail quotas and the construction of new trails. Only people that can enjoy the wilderness are willing to protect it.

Corr. ID: 131 Organization: Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486317 **Organization Type:**

Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: NPS should continue to adjust the trail system to use patterns, adding new trails if necessary, eliminating unused trails, and providing proper maintenance.

Corr. ID: 520 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486474 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: MORE TRAILS! I understand the need to not let people frolic everywhere, but that is half the joy of nature! Being able to sit in a meadow or on a cliff where there is no other people is what makes the national park so spectacular. If you're going to make people, "stay on trail", then you better have a TON of trails to satisfy every curious person out there.

Corr. ID: 665 Organization: The Wildland Trekking Company **Comment ID:** 485470

Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: Additionally, I support expanding the number of backcountry visitors by revamping the quota system and expanding and improving the existing trail system.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55827) All trails shouldn't be built and maintained for stock use; instead stock use should be limited in sensitive areas, such as near the Tuolumne river.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 726 Organization: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) **Comment ID:** 511256 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: We recommend the WSP adopt different levels of trail maintenance depending on the type of use and resource sensitivity, rather than the existing practice of attempting to maintain all wilderness trails to be "stock-ready."

Corr. ID: 726 Organization: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) **Comment ID:** 511257 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: We also recommend limiting the number of trails that can be used by stock, especially in sensitive areas near the Tuolumne River.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55829) Trails in Yosemite are well-managed, maintained, and marked.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 141 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 481391 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I found that the trails and backcountry camp sites were clean and adequate. The trails were fairly well marked.

Corr. ID: 174 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486520 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am not sure if it is possible to do more than is currently being done in terms of routing and maintenance on the overused trails in places such as Lyell Canyon, Rafferty Creek to Vogelsang, and Cathedral Lakes. Maybe a trail expert would disagree, but from my perspective the changes already made over the last 30 years in those and other locations are probably the best one can do.

Corr. ID: 602 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485455 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I applaud Yosemite's consistent efforts to maintain their trails to a high standard. Their dual approach of crews removing down logs on (most) trails each season combined with lower frequency, higher intensity trail maintenance, means the trail crews succeed in keeping trails easily passable to visitors. Relative to National Forest Service lands and other NPS lands in the Sierra, Yosemite has abandoned very few trails - which I much appreciate, given that many sections of trail receive little use each year.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55830) Map trails with a higher level of accuracy to make better wilderness management decisions, showing where trails intersect wetlands and where trail maintenance has been completed.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485828 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Map all the trails with a GPS that has sub-meter accuracy. Updating the Trails layer in GIS will go a long way towards being able to speak intelligently about what is truly going on in the Wilderness, where trails intersect wetlands, which pieces of trail have been worked on and when, etc.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55831) Communicate trail use and management to visitors in high-use areas, such as Half Dome, Mt. Dana, Cathedral Lakes, and Rafferty boardwalk, with signage and maps in order to reduce impacts to resources.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510598 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In heavy traffic day use areas like Mt. Dana or Cathedral Lakes, install signage of what you want people to do. If you want them to take a social trail to Upper Cathedral Lake, give them a map. If you want them to follow rock cairns, tell them. If you want them to refrain

from walking on the side of the trail and creating ruts, tell them. If you don't want them to make a fire, tell them. People will not stop trampling if you don't give them the information.

Corr. ID: 591 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486252 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Could I suggest to make trail signs more visible? I remember that they were made of weathered metal and blended in nicely. I was hiking up to Half Dome. While I was admiring the trail signs for their design, I thought that they were almost impossible to see at dusk or darkness.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489308 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: People are unsure where the proper trails are, i.e. Rafferty boardwalk

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55832) National Park Service trail crews and stock users should be educated on best practices for camping and cooking to mitigate resource impacts. Utilizing smaller, more mobile crews in wilderness should be considered.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 512349 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Although I appreciate trail maintenance as a backpacker, large trail crew camps with their huge tents can be very visually disturbing. Can smaller, more mobile crews be used? This is a great opportunity for the Park Service to interpret to the public by its own actions the true nature of the Wilderness System: human restraint to allow untrammeled natural processes.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485833 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Are Trail Crew campsites documented? All cleared by archy? What about the informal ones (like the one near the Lyell 2013 & 2014 projects)?

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 512359 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: [Trail crews and stock] users have a big impact on the sites where they camp. When was the last time everyone sat down and had a conversation about best practices for trail camps? And enforce that these best practices are actually being followed?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55834) The amount of trails in wilderness should be limited or reduced.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 169 **Organization:** Mr. **Comment ID:** 486504 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Trails are not Wilderness, they are an expedient means of transporting people. Limit or reduce the amount of trails.

WL1010 - Through hiking

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55835) The recent influx of Pacific Crest Trail and John Muir Trail hikers needs to be addressed to mitigate resource impacts and overcrowding in wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 114 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486297 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The huge increase in PCT hikers is not only taxing the wilderness of Yosemite but all of the other wilderness area's as well.

Corr. ID: 450 Organization: Outward Bound California, Sierra Mountain Center **Comment ID:** 484548 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: The amount of JMT and PCT hikers that are trampling the JMT and the 200 yards on either side of the trail. These users should be more tightly controlled. They are generally unskilled and un-knowledgeable users who don't realize the damage they're doing and the impact the have on other users of the National Park and Forest.

Corr. ID: 499 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484871 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The recent upsurge in [backcountry] / wilderness hikers due to the book and movie WILD are having a big impact on the JMT and PCT trail census. I have noticed that the JMT near Yosemite is quite busy in July and August and managing trail census is important to prevent the camp sites are not overused.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID:** 485487 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The increasing popularity of through hiking trails like the John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail has further concentrated use in certain, limited areas of the Park.

WL1020 - Use of motorized equipment

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55837) Motorized equipment such as power tools, and mechanized transport such as airplanes and helicopters degrade wilderness character by creating noise pollution and negatively impacting natural resources.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 131 Organization: Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486322 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: Drones and similar electronic or mechanical devices should be banned

Corr. ID: 216 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483032 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Heavy mechanization creates noise pollution that disrupts the wild animals and the humans seeking refuge from noise and air pollution in wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 216 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487509 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We who love the wild love quiet in which to hear water run or owls hoot or bears roar- -not machinery or helicopters or loud motors of any kind.

Corr. ID: 273 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487546 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Implement a strong and effective process to monitor actions that degrade wilderness, especially use of motorized equipment.

Corr. ID: 273 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487548 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stop use of helicopters and other motorized equipment in the Wilderness

Corr. ID: 633 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511066 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Protecting wilderness from drones. They should not be allowed.

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485556 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There should not be a double standard under which NPS tells the public it can't do certain things in Wilderness while doing some of those things itself. I do not really know to what extent this has happened in Yosemite, but I know it has happened in many parts of the NWPS. No helicopters, no power tools, no structures unless there is no feasible alternative AND the purpose of such activity is the preservation of Wilderness itself

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55838) Allow the use of motorized equipment for trail maintenance.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 342 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 483669

Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: The existing rules for management of the Wilderness Areas are adequate. I do believe that some sort of "latitude" for clearing downed trees of the trails needs to be addressed. Being limited to cross cut saws for large trees is a bit over kill in my opinion in today's world.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55840) Do not allow mountain bikes in Yosemite Wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486528 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is especially important for a new Stewardship Plan to continue to adhere to the tenets of the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act states, "Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters, unless provided for in specific legislation." Do not permit mountain bikes anywhere in the Yosemite wilderness. No bikes should be permitted anywhere in Yosemite except on paved bike paths and roads.

WL1100 - Human waste management

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55841) In order to reduce the impacts of human waste on wilderness, the NPS should institute a variety of management methods such as education, cat-holing techniques, issuing pack-out waste kits, installing solar composting toilets, and increasing access to self-mulching latrines in the High Sierra Camps and outhouses along the Pacific Crest and John Muir trails.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 **Organization:** Humboldt State University **Comment ID:** 484154 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: We need outhouses along the PCT/JMT - simply too many users period, but also too many who don't care enough.

Corr. ID: 39 Organization: Mr. **Comment ID: 479502 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Overcrowding/Overuse. Issue permits for day and overnight use at a fee.
Issue packout waste kits through out the parks wilderness

Corr. ID: 87 Organization: Self; annual Member of the Grand Canyon Association **Comment ID:** 480028 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The lack of ranger presence and the resulting abuse by visitors to the backcountry. No doubt the challenges of wilderness education, human waste and over use by visitors are daunting. My personal take is it needs to be strengthened in some areas (WAG Bag usage and/or TP and cat-holing techniques) and then again, more opportunity to get access.

Corr. ID: 129 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486312 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would also propose the installation of solar composting toilets to minimize the impact of human waste.

Corr. ID: 729 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486484 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: 4. This may already be addressed in the new "Merced River Plan" but if not I suggest placing "self mulching" latrines (like the one at Little Yosemite Valley) at each of the High Sierra Camps. (If not already done so...)

WL1200 - Potential wilderness additions

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55843) The National Park Service should incorporate all potential wilderness additions as wilderness and remove all non-conforming structures and activities.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 131 Organization: Sierra Club **Comment ID: 486319 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: NPS should endeavor to incorporate all eligible potential wilderness into their management as wilderness.

Corr. ID: 201 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 487487 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please remove those structures and activities which don't conform in potential wilderness areas within the Park, and designate those areas as Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 607 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485445 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Other issues that should be evaluated include the proliferation of nonconforming structures and uses in Wilderness (for example, the use of helicopters and other motorized equipment) and resolution of the potential wilderness- -intended to be temporary- -by the removal of nonconforming structures and uses in the potential wilderness and the designation of those areas as Wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55844) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should clearly address potential wilderness additions. Areas should be evaluated and those that do not conform to the definition of wilderness should not be managed as wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 541 Organization: American Mountain Guides' Assoc./International Federation of Mountain Guides **Comment ID: 510449 Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: the Central Valley corridor should give up Wilderness designation in order to focus management resources on areas that fall under the criteria

Corr. ID: 572 Organization: Yosemite For Everyone **Comment ID: 510669 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I am strongly opposed to any future wilderness additions to Yosemite National Park, as 94% of the Park is already Wilderness. I understand that lack of use would be a justification for future additions. You have reduced user capacity in Glen Aulin and Merced Lake High Sierra Camps. If the Park Service creates the lack of use, I hope they will not use this to designate the High Sierra Camps as Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 695 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485624 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is necessary to adjust for how different zones are managed. Zones that are clearly not "wilderness" should be re-designated if the NPS wants to uphold the definition of wilderness set forth in the wilderness act in true wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 731 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 489417 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I have heard that this plan may include wilderness additions. I am interested in how these lands will be evaluated, because we have land inside that definition.

WL1210 - Retention of High Sierra Camps

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55845) The High Sierra Camps should remain as they are without reductions in size or bed numbers. These camps are historically and culturally important, are accessible to visitors with differing physical abilities, and encourage wilderness stewardship.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 4 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510396 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The High Sierra camps offer a wide range of people something no other U.S. national park offers. The environmental impact is small compared to the benefit the camps offer to folks willing to get out of their cars and make a true effort to see the [backcountry]!

Corr. ID: 7 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 484241 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe the High Sierra Camps and stock should stay, as they allow and facilitate this education to take place, and enable the wilderness experience for those who are educated but are of advanced age and could otherwise not enjoy spending some nights in the high sierra.

Corr. ID: 45 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 488382 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would like to support continuation of the High Sierra Camps in any plans for the Park future. They are such a historic part of the Park, and by their continued existence and usage remind us of the foresight and effort made to establish the parks long ago. Also, the Camps offer a chance to experience the Park to many who could not otherwise do so.

Corr. ID: 75 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 479963 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the way the NPS makes the Yosemite wilderness available to a wide variety of individuals with different capabilities and comfort levels. The NPS manages programs and spaces for hardcore backpackers to day car tourists effectively. One of the best tools the NPS has to introduce more park visitors to the wilderness experience without removing them completely from their comfort zone are the High Sierra Camps. These camps provide a totally unique experience that is not available to visitors anywhere else in the US. They are a critical stepping stone to show more visitors Yosemite's [backcountry] that would never otherwise be able to experience it.

Corr. ID: 102 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486280 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I strongly urge you to keep current capacity of the High Sierra Camps. I have tried for years to participate in the lottery but demand outstrips capacity every year. These are highly popular and extremely valuable venues for wilderness hiking, especially for hikers over 50 who enjoy the tent cabins and meals provided

Corr. ID: 166 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509596 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I want to advocate for the continuation of the High Sierra Camps. I believe they should continue to have their special status as "potential wilderness additions" (or whatever language works), which was given them because they pre-date the wilderness designation. Each camp is part of a long, honorable and unique tradition of wilderness access and education. The traditional presence of ranger-naturalists is a special gift to those few lucky people who get to travel to the Camps.

Corr. ID: 431 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484495 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Each generation of children need to learn to love the wilderness so that its future can be assured. One way that happens is if they can get into the mountains at an early age. I see many families at the High Camps with children too young (or parents too old) to backpack. By providing them the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the wilderness, the High Camps help create the future advocates for the park.

Corr. ID: 669 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485254 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the tradition of providing interpretive service in the high country through ranger-naturalist led hikes on the High Sierra Loop trail and of the public access to the High Sierra Camps, which allows people of average means and physical abilities to access these unique places of cultural association, education, recreation, reflection and inspiration.

Corr. ID: 669 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511203 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am most concerned that we preserve access to all the High Sierra Camps via the Loop Trail, as a tradition in support of the National Park Service mission and as a place of cultural association, education, recreation, reflection and inspiration.

Corr. ID: 728 Organization: Mariposa Mountain Riders **Comment ID: 486268 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: The High Sierra Camps are another concern. There is no justification for the NPS to reduce their size and capacity as is being done at Merced Lake and Glen Aulin. These camps are historical. They are enclaves and are not part of the Wilderness in Yosemite. They should be retained and embraced as part of our heritage, and are beyond the scope of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

WL1220 - Removal of High Sierra Camps

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55847) The High Sierra Camps should be removed and the locations given wilderness status because they damage natural resources and degrade wilderness characteristics, such as solitude. These camps provide services, such as showers, beds, and hot meals, which are inconsistent with the primitive nature of wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 157 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID: 486389 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I find the presence of the High Sierra Camps to have a significantly negative effect on my wilderness experience. The increased levels of stock use on trails, and the subsequent trail degradation, due to the restocking of these camps interferes with my user experience. There should not be small, isolated pockets of non-wilderness within the Yosemite Wilderness that support "non-conforming uses" such as the High Sierra Camps. Even if the camps were to remain non-wilderness, their impact goes beyond the actual footprint of the camp due to increased human and stock traffic. Wilderness is supposed to offer solitude and a primitive experience where users rely on their own skill set. High Sierra Camps allow users who may not be able to and who do not wish to have a primitive experience to travel through and spend time surrounded by Wilderness without having an actual Wilderness experience. The presence of users who are not also engaged in having a primitive experience significantly reduces the value of my Wilderness experience. Knowing that some of the comforts of non-wilderness are nearby violates my feeling of being deep in the Wilderness. Although the footprint of "nonconforming uses" may comprise a small percent of the acre footprint of Yosemite's Wilderness, it is their location as islands of nonconforming uses surrounded by Wilderness that is problematic. Much of a Wilderness experience is being self-reliant, and having the option to not be self-reliant in an area where I would otherwise HAVE to be self-reliant, greatly diminishes my Wilderness experience.

In referring to the High Sierra Camps, the 1989 Wilderness plan clearly states that "should increased adverse impacts on adjacent wilderness environments result from the operation of existing facilities, they will be removed." I find that increasing popularity and use of Yosemite's Wilderness, including the High Sierra Camps, has increased the adverse impact on adjacent wilderness, primarily through negative impacts of stock use associated with the camps. Additionally, the increasing use of the areas around and between camps by camp users is adversely affecting the solitude that is supposed to be characteristic of Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 199 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID: 509774 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The High Sierra Camps must be closed, the structures removed, and the "potential wilderness" donut holes restored to full Wilderness status! These camps are a complete anachronism from the time before modern lightweight equipment made backpacking accessible to nearly all. They concentrate heavy use, trample the land from both humans and pack animals, degrade water quality, and practically shout in your face "human domination and commercialization" deep in the wilderness. What a horrible disruption of wilderness character! These camps don't encourage people to appreciate wilderness on its own terms - instead, they encourage the attitude of human domination which is the antithesis of wilderness! It pains me to see fragile and beautiful high alpine areas such as Fletcher Lake trampled by the hordes of visitors to the Vogelsang HSC, or the tent cities that look like slums at Glen Aulin and Merced Lake HSC.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510557 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Get rid of all of them. This is a legacy use that has long surpassed its life expectancy. They are nothing more than cherry stems in Wilderness creating impacts and associated satellite impacts.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511591 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I also think its sacrilegious to have one at Vogelsang - this is a very sensitive subalpine environment, not to mention how beautiful and remote it could be if this camp were removed.

Corr. ID: 580 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486668 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Furthermore, the commonly held belief that the High Sierra Camps give people who wouldn't otherwise be able to hike the opportunity is patently false. High Sierra Camp users, by nature of the cost of admission, are the richest demographic of visitors in the park. Those folks can afford to find alternatives, such as hiring guided pack outfitters to take them horse packing or to take advantage of hut systems in other wild places. I believe Yosemite should remove all High Sierra Camps and associated campgrounds immediately.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID: 511305 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: When considering the historical value of the camps, Park management should also consider the full scope of the history of the High Sierra Camp system - particularly the opening, closing and relocation of camps throughout the 1900s, with the most recent addition of Sunrise HSC in 1961. There has been historical recognition of their impacts that has led to relocation or closure of camps.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55855) The High Sierra Camps and associated stock use are inconsistent with the Wilderness Act given their impacts on the natural and human environments. Use of the High Sierra Camps should be reserved for persons with disabilities.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 110 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486290 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I do not have first hand experience with the High Sierra Camps, but I do not think their use is compatible with the Wilderness Act. I feel that they should be reserved only for the use of disabled persons, to provide wilderness access to this population. Furthermore, the High

Sierra Camps have recently been a source of plague and hantavirus, which signify that this environment is more closely aligned with a densely populated human environment and not a wilderness environment. By allowing easy access to wilderness locations, the NPS will also have to contend with the rise in garbage and other human overuse that comes with this easy access. Again, this inherently diminishes the value of the wilderness and is not a compatible use.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC Comment ID: 511283 Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The presence of these islands of non-wilderness within the vast Yosemite Wilderness diminishes many Wilderness values that should be maintained according to the Wilderness Act.

Corr. ID: 702 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 510870 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe that the High Sierra Camps, together with their provisioning by mules and pack stock, are incompatible with the meaning of wildness in the Yosemite [backcountry].

WL1230 - Management of High Sierra Camps

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55850) Infrastructure such as flush toilets, leech fields, and water lines associated with the High Sierra Camps should be removed. Amenities such as hot showers should be limited and other water saving measures employed when there is water scarcity.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 511589 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: at least get rid of all those with flush toilets and leach fields. Leach fields should not be in or near Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC Comment ID: 485480 Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Should the High Sierra Camps be retained, the temporary water lines and infrastructure associated with Glen Aulin should be removed from the Wilderness. It is unacceptable to allow even a seasonal temporary violation of the Wilderness Act, whether the Park feels it can justify the significance of the impact of the violation or not. It is a known violation of the Wilderness Act. Instead of utilizing a temporary water line when water supplies become limited, amenities like hot showers should no longer be offered and other water saving measures should be implemented that would preclude the need to extend a temporary water line into Wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55852) Several aspects of the High Sierra Camps should be evaluated in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, including potential alternative locations, visitor and employee capacities, available amenities, amount of stock use (both number of stock supply trips and number of stock in each trip) and the resource damage they may be causing. The NPS should evaluate the use of human porters for stocking camps, requiring visitors to bring more of their own supplies, converting the camps into backpacker camps with composting toilets and a camp host, and reducing amenities to better align the High Sierra Camps with wilderness ethics.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 35 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 487635 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think the High Sierra Camps are a good idea and should be kept as not everyone has the ability or courage to backpack. However I think the comfort level should be decreased a bit to make it closer to backpacking, e.g. no showers and no flush toilets which would reduce their water use. I would also like to see a change in their reservation system which currently gives preference to last year's visitors making it almost impossible for first-time users to get in. Having trekked in the European Alps where many refuges get supplied by helicopter, I am wondering if that might not be a good alternative for the High Sierra Camps as well instead of mule treks. Yes, it's noisier, but it's also over much more quickly and doesn't leave any traces on the trail.

Corr. ID: 37 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487652 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am concerned about plans to reduce the number of beds in the High Sierra Camps. Reducing Merced Lake by 18 beds is probably OK as it is very large. But reducing Glen Aulin by 4 beds may adversely affect the High Sierra Loop trip which is a highly successful trip which I have enjoyed in the past.

Corr. ID: 174 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486523 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial operations in all of Yosemite need to be reassessed. I'll confine my comments to the Yosemite Wilderness. Since the High Sierra Camps are now a historical tradition and receive heavy use, I doubt there is any chance to permanently close them and remove their structures, despite the desire of many of us backpackers. However, their specific locations, size, and use need to be evaluated. Can the number of overnight visitors be changed? Can the number of employees be changed? Can the number of supply stock trips be cut down? Can the number of stock in each trip be lessened? Can the camps be slightly relocated to mitigate damage to an area? With a new concessionaire, now is the time to study these issues and determine what is actually required versus what is currently being done due to tradition and/or convenience.

Corr. ID: 515 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486438 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I urge you to strike a balance between preservation and recreation. Make cuts that will lessen the environmental impact of the High Sierra camps but please do not eliminate them entirely. For example, while we appreciated the large, hearty breakfasts and three or four-course dinners, we felt minimal offerings would have been more appropriate.

Corr. ID: 619 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511029 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The high camps can be stocked much more conservatively by human porters.

Corr. ID: 626 Organization: Lasting Adventures, Inc. **Comment ID:** 485818 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: High Sierra Camps that are located in the wilderness seem to have different rules than those that we all follow when in wilderness. Some examples: they burn trash, have huge campfires, use flotation devices in water, etc. This always offers a chance for a unique discussion when we take our kids groups pass these camps- being that we had already gone over wilderness ethics, protocols, and Leave No Trace with our participants. Personally I feel these high sierra camps should try to abide by wilderness ethics and rules a bit more.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC Comment ID: 511306 Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Reducing the level of amenities available to visitors at the HSCs is also a management action that should be carefully considered in the Wilderness Plan. Reducing the level of amenities provided in a wilderness environment aligns with Wilderness character, and has the potential to significantly reduce the amount of stock use required to keep the camps open.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC Comment ID: 511307 Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: How much firewood or other supplies does it take to provide hot showers to guests? This is an unnecessary amenity that could be eliminated in order to lessen the need for amenities in some way. Are there generators, or solar panels and batteries that have to be brought in seasonally, or are left behind over the winter? A careful analysis of what can be done to reduce the need for supplies or for pack trains servicing the Camps should be done.

Corr. ID: 699 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 511382 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: they should be managed better to include more efficient supplies and healthier options including more organic produce, less waste WITHOUT reducing the numbers of visitors. Visitors could carry their own tea/coffee/water cups, utensils, lunch bags etc. But overall, the Yosemite wilderness is so vast that for people who choose to do so, its easy to hike for days with minimal impact from other people.

Corr. ID: 730 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 489309 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: None of the High Sierra Camps should have flush toilets or septic systems, but rather a sophisticated, solar powered composting system.

Corr. ID: 452 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 510009 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I will make no recommendation of my own with regard to the HSC, but would instead refer to The House Committee Report Recommendation attached to the 1984 California Wilderness Act which explicitly determines that "if and when it occurs that the confined operation of these facilities...result in an increased adverse impact on the adjacent wilderness environment...the operation of these facilities will be promptly terminated, the facilities removed, the sites naturalized, and...the areas promptly designated as wilderness.

WL1300 - Accessibility (ADA)

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55856) Stock use for visitors with disabilities is consistent with the American with Disabilities Act, the Architectural Barriers Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Accordingly, the NPS should improve horse facilities and trails for this use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 275 Organization: Disabled Equestrians Organization Comment ID: 487552

Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I want to remind you that some 30% to 40% of equestrians using these facilities qualify as disabled, and to deny them the right to access Yosemite is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Park Service should instead actively promote the expansion and improvement horse facilities and trails.

Corr. ID: 275 Organization: Disabled Equestrians Organization **Comment ID:** 487557

Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: To deny disabled equestrians the right to use their horses to access the public trails is a clearly a violation of Federal law and results in discrimination against disabled equestrians.

Corr. ID: 613 Organization: NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485505 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: For visitors that are either aged, mobility impaired, or otherwise unable to venture into park Wilderness on their own, the only opportunity to visit the park's Wilderness may be via horseback or mule.

Corr. ID: 674 Organization: Minarets Pack Station **Comment ID:** 485569 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: Do hope that you will consider the many people with handicaps that would not get to experience this treasure without the use of stock.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55857) Expand commercial climbing guiding opportunities to companies that serve clients with disabilities.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 677 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID:** 485579 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Yosemite National Park should extent permits to companies who specialize in guiding guests with disabilities. The current plan makes it difficult to find a guide who specializes in guiding persons with disabilities in technical terrain. I believe by expanding the permit system Yosemite could do a better job of creating reasonable accommodation as outlined in the ADA for climbers who have hearing, sight as well as other disabilities and find it difficult to find guide services to accommodate their activities.

WL1400 - Climate change

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55859) Evaluate the impacts of climate change, including extended seasonal use, drought, and an extended fire season on the Yosemite Wilderness ecosystem and incorporate appropriate measures to minimize these impacts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 137 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID:** 481365 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The most important issue for the NPS is recognising the impact of climate change on the overall ecosystem of Yosemite. Plus balancing the needs of the changing environment and the desire of people to experience the wilderness. People who visit the wilderness gain direct experience of the importance of protecting the environment and then like us they can be some of the most impassioned advocates of protecting the Yosemite wilderness.

Corr. ID: 172 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID:** 482333 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The number one issue, without a doubt: climate change. No idea what needs to be done in Yosemite Wilderness in particular, other than anticipate impacts to the extent possible.

A related issue is the growing number of people drawn to the park: possibly expanding advance permit/reservation system could be appropriate.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55864) Educate visitors on the impacts of climate change on wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 182 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 482886 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think the most important threat to Yosemite Wilderness today is climate change and the Western drought. Forest fires and drought-based disease may possibly change the Wilderness in significant ways. Using the watershed wisely is critical. Perhaps the biggest help the Park Service can do is to use the opportunity of having millions of visitors to educate them to the risks and consequences of global warming.

WL1500 - Wildlife

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55871) Human-bear interactions should be reduced through the use of bear-resistant lockers or by reducing the amount of visitors.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 97 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489635 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The bears are too smart. More bear-resistant lockers may be needed in the wilderness areas for the convenience of the backpackers.

Corr. ID: 405 **Organization:** Hiker **Comment ID:** 484126 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The most important issue is the impact of visitors. My understanding is that bears are destroyed after their first incident with humans. Bears are an integral part of the park experience and by reducing the amount of visitors maybe more bears can be spared.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55872) Nonnative fauna don't belong in wilderness. Further, native species such as the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Sierra bighorn sheep and Yosemite grizzly bear should potentially be reintroduced into wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484242 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe that killing mice and squirrels is not the way to fix our mistakes. Again, education is the key.

Corr. ID: 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484239 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: My main concern is the misuse of the wilderness by uneducated people, and the killing of animals by Park Service.

Corr. ID: 169 **Organization:** Mr. **Comment ID:** 486505 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If restoration of wildlife (ie; Bighorn Sheep) is part of the Yosemite Wilderness management process then the Yosemite Grizzly Bear deserves its place as well.

Corr. ID: 248 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 487523 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would like to see more animals introduced back into the wilderness

Corr. ID: 619 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485549 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Non-wild/non-native animals should not be in the national park at all.

Corr. ID: 636 Organization: SYMG, PCGI **Comment ID: 511080 Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: I've been delighted watching the hard work of the UC frog teams over the years, and seeing their real progress in the lake basins where their efforts have been concentrated.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55873) Analysis of climate change and visitor use impacts on special status species such as the Sierra Nevada red fox, wolverine, American marten, Sierra bighorn sheep, Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and California red-legged frog and their critical habitats needs to be addressed in the plan. Mitigation measures need to be addressed in the plan to protect critical habitat of at-risk species and NPS needs to identify large areas where exclusion of recreational use can best preserve refugia so that undisturbed habitat areas can serve as preserved ecosystems for at-risk species.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID: 511297 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: It is legally mandated and morally essential that wild species that literally represent wilderness be provided with the greatest possible protection within wilderness. In the case of Yosemite and this Wilderness Plan, CSERC urges that a strong assessment be provided as to the status of the Sierra Nevada red fox, the American marten, the wolverine, the Yosemite toad, the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and any other at-risk species that have potential to be disturbed in their habitat by wilderness visitors. CSERC also asks that there be mitigation measures developed to ensure that wilderness visitors are clearly excluded from, or at least minimized, in critical habitat areas that are important to the Sierra bighorn sheep as well as the at-risk species already listed above.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID: 511294 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The Sierra Nevada red fox and the wolverine are two furbearers that are so rare in most of their native habitat within Yosemite Park wilderness as to be undetectable through surveys, or in the case of the fox, has only been located in a minute fraction of its historic habitat. Human disturbance of the SNRF is clearly one of the negative impacts to the fox that the Park Service has the ability to actually manage. The Park has no ability to change climate change (which produces drought conditions that allow for coyotes and other competitors or predators to move high into territory most critical for the SNRF). Likewise, climate change and a great reduction of overall depths of snow during the summer season may be critical factors in the apparent decline or extirpation of the wolverine from most or all of Yosemite wilderness.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID: 511301 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Our Center re-states our strong recommendation that Yosemite Park put itself on the leading edge of wilderness and rare wildlife management by strategically identifying blocks of areas (perhaps blocks as large as 50,000 acres in size) where exclusion of recreational use can best preserve refugia so that these core undisturbed habitat areas can serve as islands of

preserved ecosystems that can help to replenish surrounding areas where at-risk species may periodically be diminished or eliminated due to human activities. We ask that Resource Protection Refugia areas be considered by Park biologists for locations that could best serve the goal of preserving the fullest suite of at-risk species.

Corr. ID: 731 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489402 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Is there going to be a more specific part of the plan that will analyze recreational use and its impact on special status or endangered species? (i.e. sierra Nevada red fox, red legged frog)

WL1510 - Nonnative fish removal

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55875) The NPS should maintain existing populations of nonnative fish in their current locations or relocate them to other bodies of water to preserve recreational fishing opportunities. Examine genetic lineages of fish before implementing proposed management.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484229 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: One thing park service is doing is removing species of non-native fish to bring back some native frogs. Park Service was once very proud of stocking these wilderness lakes with fish, but now they are slaughtering fish to correct their mistakes. I believe they should either leave the fish alone, or move them to other lakes without killing them.

Corr. ID: 109 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486285 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is my understanding that the National Park Service has initiated measures to remove trout from certain of the [backcountry] lakes due to their perceived negative impact on an endangered species of frog. This is especially troublesome for those who enjoy trout fishing as part of a backpacking wilderness experience. Is there an existing comprehensive plan identifying those areas where the subject frog is threatened and posing alternative measures for its protection, some of which may not include trout eradication, or is the intent to piecemeal trout eradication on an ad hoc basis as a "simple solution"? I would think it appropriate that the Wilderness Stewardship Plan update address species protection in the context of also preserving recreational trout fishing opportunities.

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509784 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stop fish stocking in the wilderness - it is totally unnatural. On the other hand, poisoning lakes to remove non-native fish is equally disruptive and we should just let existing populations continue where they are established.

Corr. ID: 694 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485300 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please don't poison the waters that have fish in them.

Corr. ID: 731 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489436 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: How much will the eradication of fish be considered in the WSP, as well as fish stocking. Are we favoring one strain of genetic lineages over others? I would like to request genetic testing of fish before being eradicated.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55876) NPS should not stock lakes and should remove fish from those lakes that did not historically have fish.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 724 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486382 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stop stocking backcountry lakes and actively remove fish from those that did not historically have fish

WL1520 - Proper food storage

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55878) Before installing bear boxes in wilderness, consider whether they are needed and if bear canisters are an effective alternative.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485560 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I have mixed feelings about the installation of bear boxes in Wilderness. It may be necessary in some locations, but perhaps not others.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489323 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Bear canisters are working. Do not go down the SEKI path and install food lockers all over the wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56024) Bear canister requirements and food storage education efforts have reduced negative encounters between bears and humans. The NPS should require the use of bear-resistant food storage devices for dispersed camping.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485380 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Pg. 19: "To protect bears,wilderness users are required to store their food properly by using bear cables, bear poles," This policy should change to require that food and consumptive domestic products be stored only within effective, approved bear resistant devices when the visitor/camper/wilderness user is not within a timely reach of his camp.

Corr. ID: 420 **Organization:** Outward Bound California **Comment ID:** 484352 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: I value its strict regulations on Leave No Trace Ethics, and the amount of land within the park that's designated as wilderness. I also appreciate mandatory Bear Cans.

Corr. ID: 629 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485848 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe NPS has done a great job in handling bear/human encounters. Mandatory use of bear cans along with education of back county and front country users has reduced the non-natural interactions with bears in Yosemite. Bear should be viewed in their natural context not rummaging through backpacks.

WL1600 - Wilderness character

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55939) Management should exercise restraint and let natural processes dictate wilderness character.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 192 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 482921 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: ensure that all alternatives preserve and maintain wilderness character, and require the Park Service to better manage visitor use. Natural processes must be allowed to define the character of the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 607 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485446 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: All alternatives should ensure that the wilderness character and wildness of the Wilderness is maintained and even improved. Improvement of wilderness character would rarely, if ever, be from active restoration activities.

Corr. ID: 662 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485565 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Wilderness is what is most valuable about Yosemite National Park, in my view. Wilderness is a place where we - people in general, individual users, and managers - are not in control. We should experience and accept nature on its own terms there. We should exercise restraint always in both use and management and honor Wilderness as it is and as natural processes dictate it will be in the future.

Corr. ID: 709 Organization: Wilderness Watch **Comment ID: 510901 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: Since wild is a fundamental characteristic of wilderness that is not attainable elsewhere, if there is a choice between emphasizing naturalness and wildness, stewards should err on the side of wildness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55941) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should comply with the intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 324 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 487659 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Alternatives that meet the intent of the Wilderness Act should be developed and will include the following: (1) reviewing policies about party size, numbers of stock, and backcountry allocations to ensure those policies meet the intent of the Wilderness Act; (2) allowing natural processes to define the character of the wildernesses; (3) having a strong wilderness character monitoring program; (4) banning the use of motorized equipment and permanent structures for wildlife, cultural resource, or scientific purposes; (5) requiring all public uses of wilderness listed in section 4(b) of the Wilderness Act be conducted in a manner consistent with wilderness preservation; (6) ensuring that in the rare instance where exceptions to generally prohibited uses are necessary for management¹, that those exceptions be for the singular purpose of preservation of wilderness and that they be the minimum necessary (see Wilderness Act section 4(c));

Corr. ID: 662 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485555 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: At the top of my list of issues is to ensure the NPS itself fully respects and follows the letter and spirit of the Wilderness Act.

Corr. ID: 662 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485564 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As you develop alternatives, each one should be consistent with the intent of the Wilderness Act, sustain the wilderness character of the area, and call for improvements in the park's management of all uses allowed under the Wilderness Act.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56786) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should incorporate practices outlined in Keeping It Wild to meet varying levels of wilderness and visitor use needs.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485538 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Keeping It Wild promotes the concept that desired wilderness character should be systematically defined first and then periodically monitored through visitor-use assessments and the implementation of indicators and standards methodology. Accordingly, this Wilderness Plan should develop measures "to determine at what level wilderness character is either enhanced or degraded" by visitor use activities and also define when management actions are necessary to maintain acceptable standards.

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485539 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: A qualitative description of the integrity and character for Yosemite's wilderness, including visitor experiences for activities such as climbing, will help clarify appropriate desired conditions for the many and diverse areas within Yosemite Wilderness. This dynamic management planning process should identify visitor use categories and the settings in which different types of visitor uses-including climbing-are appropriate. As recognized in Keeping It Wild, this process is an inherent aspect of management zoning.

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485540 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: We agree with the strategy in Keeping It Wild (which is not always utilized by NPS wilderness planners) that points to the use of management zones to identify desired conditions for different geographic areas in Yosemite. These zones can be used to manage social and environmental conditions as well as determine, if necessary, the appropriate time and scope for mitigation. Given the diversity of visitor use, wilderness character, and management needs at different locations in Yosemite, planners should consider developing multiple zones for this plan with each designed to preserve wilderness character and accommodate the needs of visitors.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 57071) Cairns and rock art are degrading wilderness character.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 513925 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Cairns and rock art is out of control.

WL1610 - Wilderness character: Untrammeled

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55935) Stock use can adversely impact visitors' opportunities to experience the untrammeled nature of wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 485485 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: In addition to affecting other Wilderness users, stock impacts can lead to degradation of many aspects of ones Wilderness experience, such as being untrammeled by man and maintaining a natural condition with ecosystem processes intact.

WL1620 - Wilderness character: Natural

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55974) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should incorporate updated visitor use management practices that prioritize the use of natural processes to define wilderness character.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 33 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 479098 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the park trying to keep a natural habitat.

Corr. ID: 201 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 487489 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is critical to ensure that all alternatives preserve and maintain wilderness character, which would require the Park Service to better manage visitor use. Natural processes must be allowed to define the character of the wilderness.

WL1630 - Wilderness character: Undeveloped

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55978) Development, commercial activity, and overuse of the trails, including the High Sierra Camps, adversely affects the wilderness and solitude through crowding, obstructed views, and the development of braided trails.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 580 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 486666 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The High Sierra Camps and associated campgrounds are easily the most important issue facing Yosemite Wilderness. With the popularity of Yosemite Wilderness, it can now be argued that commercial services are no longer necessary, in accordance with the letter of the law. Even if they were not a violation of this Wilderness Act provision, the High Sierra Camps are highly divisive. They diminish opportunities for solitude via invasive mule trains and increase numbers beyond the trail quotas, and concentrate use into heavily populated pockets. They diminish the natural quality of meadow systems by creating braided trails and adversely affecting the biodiversity of that fragile environment. They take away from the undeveloped character of wilderness by having permanent structures that dominate viewsheds far and near, that affect the local ecology, and that serve as magnets for the underprepared and underconfident looking for a safety net of infrastructure.

WL1640 - Wilderness character: Solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55981) NPS management maintains and protects solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation within the Yosemite Wilderness. The current quota system helps to protect this quality.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 540 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510444 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I greatly valued the quiet and solitude found in the "[backcountry]" away from the roads.

Corr. ID: 616 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485528 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think the quota system should stay in place to reduce traffic and protect the wilderness areas. I value the solitude that the quota system protects by reducing or limiting traffic.

Corr. ID: 699 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485641 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: At the other end, I have always enjoyed distant backpacks including occasional off trail adventures where I can go for days without seeing other people.

Corr. ID: 719 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511072 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the relatively primitive and unconfined recreational experience associated with current management of Yosemite Wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55982) Trailhead quotas and zone management need to be better managed to provide more opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 25 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509042 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: For a visitor to feel "wilderness", it's necessary to feel away from civilization; somewhere without crowds of people, somewhere quiet except for the sounds of the natural world, and somewhere that people might find just a little exhilaration in the fear of being "away". All of that is threatened by overuse. When you're reminded that you're still surrounded by people; whether that's from too much stock use on a trail, the loss of silence from the a "bustling" trail, or even signs of significant use in a campground, you're removed from that feeling of wilderness.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID:** 485486 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Given the high levels of visitor use in the park, trailhead quotas and zone management are insufficient for maintaining the solitude definition of Wilderness. Although Yosemite has so many miles of Wilderness to explore, most visitors tend to visit a select group of destinations, often made popular by social media and guidebooks.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55983) NPS needs to protect ecological values in Little Yosemite Valley, Sunrise, and Merced Lake areas while providing opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The High Sierra Camps can coexist with opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 19 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 477642 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value that the high camps are grandfathered into the Yosemite Wilderness. I believe it provides an awesome opportunity for the public who may lack the experience or confidence to backpack on their own to experience a part of Yosemite away from the incessant crowds of Yosemite Valley. I think there is enough acreage in the Yosemite Wilderness and the contiguous wilderness areas of the Sierra to support fifty miles of high camp connectivity while leaving plenty of other exceptional territory for more primitive recreation. I also appreciate the backpacker campgrounds in high volume areas. Again, this is an exception to wilderness principles in that one must give up solitude. However, the ecological damage would be extensive if folks were allowed to camp primitively in the really high traffic areas like Little Yosemite Valley, Sunrise, or Merced Lake. The West and California are growing rapidly and technological improvements are advancing, allowing more comforts in the backcountry, and social media and movies like Wild are glamorizing the backcountry. I think pragmatism in the highest use areas to protect the over resource is more important than choosing the wilderness ethic of solitude only to find that people are taking up their solitude right all over the place.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55986) NPS needs to balance stock uses with providing opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485507 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I value the relatively primitive and unconfined recreational experience associated with current management of Yosemite Wilderness. The unconfined nature of that experience currently affords pack stock users a modest amount of freedom, in the absence of onerous regulations, to travel, camp and graze my pack stock in park Wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55987) Rock climbing is a form of primitive recreation compatible with the solitude and unconfined recreation values of wilderness character.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485535 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: As acknowledged in Keeping It Wild in the National Park Service: A User Guide to Integrating Wilderness Character Into Park Planning, Management, and Monitoring (NPS 2014), the NPS recognizes that climbing is a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness, and that "climbing provides sought-after visitor experiences in wilderness and desired conditions for visitor use should be developed and defined in the context of wilderness character." Such desired conditions should be developed considering that, among other things, "climbing is a traditional form of primitive recreation that is appropriate in wilderness and solitude and unconfined recreation qualities of wilderness are sought after by climbers." Climbing also fits NPS's 2006 Management Policy 6.4.3 regarding Wilderness which requires that "recreational uses of wilderness will be of a type and nature that ensures that its use and enjoyment (1) will leave it unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, (2) provides for the protection of the area as wilderness, and (3) provides for the preservation of wilderness character."

WL1650 - Wilderness character: Other features of value

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55928) Naturalized populations of rare and endemic fish species, including the California golden trout and Lahontan cutthroat trout, should be deemed as a special characteristic under the "Other" quality category under the Wilderness Act.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 651 **Organization:** Trout Unlimited **Comment ID:** 485459 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Permanently protecting the outstanding recreational, scenic, and habitat values of the Yosemite Wilderness is vital to ensuring we will continue to enjoy these pursuits in the future. While fish are non-native in much of the wilderness area, stocking is documented to have occurred as early as 1877, 107 years prior to the establishment of Yosemite Wilderness in the 1984 California Wilderness Act. Many of these waters contain naturalized populations of rare and endemic fish species such as California Golden Trout and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and this should be deemed as a special characteristic under the "Other" quality category - one of the five inter-agency determined wilderness character quality categories deserving preservation in the Wilderness Management Plan (i.e., (1) untrammelled, (2) natural, (3) undeveloped, (4) solitude, and (5) other - as identified in the Public Scoping Meeting Powerpoint presented on January 6, 2016).

WL1700 - Interpretation and outreach

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55945) Yosemite should provide more opportunities for education regarding the values of wilderness and the importance of park management to preserve wilderness areas and promote stewardship. Education of park visitors can be improved through increased ranger and volunteer presence; expanded ranger-led interpretive hikes, including short introduction hikes for visitors with no previous wilderness experience; more interactive and visual educational displays, the use of social media, and education for both permit and non-permit wilderness visitors.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 484170 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Backcountry LE Rangers and trained volunteers need to be provided to educate and enforce the rules and regulations.

Corr. ID: 124 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 486308 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The ranger guided hikes are a unique opportunity to explore and learn. Please expand them.

Corr. ID: 131 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486320 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: NPS should prioritize positive wilderness education to Yosemite users, and publicize/promote some short family-friendly wilderness hikes to allow a broad range of wilderness experience.

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 486473 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Emphasize education at the public interface, to help current users understand their own impacts individually as well as cumulatively, as a significant part of the total public impact on resources, emphasizing responsibility to maintain the unspoiled character of

Wilderness for future generations. Use the photographic record and other tools to demonstrate the long term changes that a short term visitor may be unaware of, to stimulate a sense of stewardship.

Corr. ID: 167 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 486451 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It seems important to allow users to understand why they are sometimes asked to follow the rules within a wilderness setting, which at times may be restrictive (think camping in L.Y.V.).

Corr. ID: 354 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 509661 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: One of the most important aspects of protection and preservation is education. Be sure to include interpretation and education in any and all resolutions.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 510586 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Educate visitors about ecological function and the development of multiple trail ruts

with a combination of waterproof displays outside of the visitor center, pamphlets available inside the WC, and improved signage at trailheads where signage already exists. Make more of an effort to make informational materials universal - so that everything is visual and the English language isnt needed to understand.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 510582 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Spend more time with folks before you issue permits. I know rangers do the best they can with what little time they have and the masses that are waiting.

Corr. ID: 586 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 486695 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The Ranger led hikes not only educate backpackers, but help encourage conservancy.

Corr. ID: 590 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 485054 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As use continues to grow, it is important to enhance public stewardship for the land. The best way to do this is to reshape the culture of outdoor recreation through education.

Corr. ID: 615 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 510979 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Also, more wilderness and medically trained experts throughout the park adds to the resources the park has for extending valuable information to visitors, stewardship, helping in the event of emergencies (which the park has only limited resources for), and adding to the overall experience for more users.

Corr. ID: 616 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 485531 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: More education to permit/non permit holders on how to protect the wilderness while in the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 628 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 511052**

Organization Type: University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: Visitor impacts to wilderness areas such as the Cathedral Lakes, Little Yosemite Valley, and Half Dome areas strike me as the most urgent area of concern. While overnight visitors to wilderness areas are informed of their potential impacts (such as camping in inappropriate locations, going to the bathroom, staying on designated trails, etc.) and how to minimize these, day hikers often enter wilderness areas with a lack of knowledge of their potential impacts. I feel the best way to address this problem is by having an increased presence of informative and/or re-directing agents in wilderness areas, including both volunteers as well as permitted, professional guides who do are not necessarily employed by the National Park Service or a concessionaire, such as the DNC.

Corr. ID: 629 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485862 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Wilderness managers can help promote use of alternate trails by partnering with administrators of social media sites which focus on Yosemite trails and the JMT. To some extent, new rules have been announced via these sites informally, but there has been no apparent effort to involve these groups in the process. Why not try crowd-sourcing some of these use issues with user groups? The collective knowledge of blog readers can be tapped for new ideas and alternatives. The needs of the user group can be better addressed, and there is the opportunity to promote user buy-in. This is critical to development of wilderness policies that are effective.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55946) Yosemite should provide more education to visitors regarding Leave No Trace principles through expanded ranger-led programs; more interactive and visual educational displays; Leave No Trace certifications for guides; and increased partnerships with user groups and guides to promote education of these principles.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 107 Organization: UC Merced **Comment ID: 509441 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think that we need to somehow educate visitors more on leave no trace principles, and the importance of keeping the wild animals wild and not feeding them. Yosemite rangers are doing a great job at bear talks at camp grounds, and the signs in the valley about not feeding the animals are great, but I still see a lot of visitors breaking those rules. Maybe we need to get rangers into schools to teach children about the importance of preserving the parks

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510587 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: More campfire demos and interactive exhibits of Leave No Trace ethics.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510579 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Develop a wilderness behavior/LNT ethics video that is in a kiosk where people wait in line for their permit at the Wilderness Centers. REQUIRE PEOPLE TO WATCH THIS VIDEO somehow, either by quizzing them or building a room where you take their ticket and they have to go in there.

Corr. ID: 556 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510616 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Leave No Trace information should be shared with visitors so they are aware of how important it is. Also, how horse manure is nothing but recycled grass, unlike carnivorous animal output.

Corr. ID: 579 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486213

Organization Type: University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: Safety and Leave No Trace: All AMGA Guides have extensive training in client safety and rescue techniques. To become certified, AMGA Guides are required to obtain Wilderness First Responder, equivalent, or better certification and AMGA believes they should maintain this to operate in Yosemite. All AMGA Guides are introduced to Leave No Trace principals and integrate these principals into their profession. In addition, many AMGA Guides are formally certified in Leave No Trace and AMGA would be supportive if Yosemite chose to make this certification an expectation for guides.

Corr. ID: 613 Organization: NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485515 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Park personnel should work in partnership with Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) to develop a park-wide equine Leave No Trace® (LNT) program that is included in the WSP. BCHC is the sole authorized equine LNT Master Educator trainer for the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region (California). As such, park personnel and the WSP should consider entering into a formal partnership with BCHC for the development of a visitor education and LNT program for equine visitors to Yosemite National Park.

Corr. ID: 629 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485850 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I also believe the Service has made strides in educating users about impacts on the environment and trying to impress upon the need for leave no trace practices. While much work remains, awareness seems to be higher than in years past.

Corr. ID: 688 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485611 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: More education through ranger programs, commercial guiding outfitters and events in Yosemite such as Leave No Trace would benefit the problem sheer numbers of hikers that may not know how to lessen their impact on the wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55947) Providing more education, research and partnership agreements would help reduce conflicts between stock users and hikers/resource managers in the Yosemite Wilderness. Proactive visitor education such as interpretive materials at trailheads could mitigate conflict.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 296 Organization: North American Trail Ride Conference **Comment ID:** 483525

Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: My opinion is most important issue is the potential for conflict between hikers and occasional visitors to the area with the pack and saddle stock user of the wilderness. Resolution will involve deliberate and consistent education of the various users, both on an individual and collective basis.

Corr. ID: 605 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485429 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I feel education, research, and partnership agreements with volunteer groups is the key to finding and maintaining solutions to the user conflicts and resource management. The NPS needs to have open communication with the user groups so they can come up with alternative ideas to keep horses and pack stock using the Yosemite Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485509 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: In order to reduce the potential for visitor conflict, the WSP should include proactive methods of visitor education, including the use of interpretive materials available at Wilderness trailheads, to convey to hikers and backpackers to expect encounters with parties with pack stock. The WSP also should detail methods by which visitors traveling via foot and with pack stock could enhance communication and work toward minimizing "conflict" between user groups. Changing the expectations of individuals prior to their embarking from the trailhead appears to represent a first step in doing so.

WL1800 - Wildfire management

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55927) NPS should continue controlled burning or promote natural burns in order to mitigate the threat of wildfire.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 9 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484258 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Ironically, the lack of use in some areas of the wilderness promote the destruction of the very untamed forests we admire. When small fires checkerboarded the landscape large massively destructive fires were less common. The Air Resources Boards and EPA continue to work against themselves by restricting burns so much of the time. They have their mandates perhaps they should be modified. Promotion of natural burns in National Parks and other Lands can facilitate greater air quality in the long run by accelerating the return to smaller more frequent decompositions. Please work toward a greater range of allowed burn days. A wilder idea: Can the use of campfires and not so little trace methods in some areas of the wilderness provide valuable cleaning out of excess brush and woody debris. I picture the used but wild lands the earlier Native Americans presented to so many pioneers of Yosemite history. Would a horse be able to pass through the forest not pressed onto the same trail as all other horses? Some method of camp making between Leave-No-Trace and Native Ways could extend the fire management budgets.

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509764 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Fire management is very enlightened. Letting natural fires burn in the backcountry is great and upholds the wilderness principle.

Corr. ID: 461 **Organization:** American Mountain Guide Association **Comment ID:** 484611
Organization Type: University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: Fires the past few years have been threatening to the park and visitors, so I feel thinning the forest and the fire management plan is one of the most important issues facing Yosemite Wilderness. Fires were suppressed for so long that the amount of fuel on the valley floor could cause a catastrophic event. More controlled burning (like I witnessed October 2015) should continue to be a focus.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 510609 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Putting fires out in Wilderness is dumb. Especially with all of the relevant science indicating so for the last 30 years. If a fire is a lightning ignition, yes, consider whether you can handle it with regard to other fires going on in the park. But avoid, at all costs, putting impacts into the wilderness that are fire-fighter related. Smoke or traffic on Tioga or Wawona Road does NOT constitute putting out a natural fire. I like that the Fire Management Team is making concerted efforts to draw large boxes around these ignitions

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56027) Visitor experience and wilderness character are affected by increased fuel loads and smoke from fires. Mitigation should include more education on the role of fire in wilderness and increased funding for managing fuel loads.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 8 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 484321 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: So fire and fuel load management is a huge concern for wilderness areas and the users.

Corr. ID: 8 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 484315 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: My secondary concern, and this is a big one, is the impact of smoke from fires. It has gotten so bad that I may not be able to work summers at VVR any more. It's taken me months to get over a respiratory infection I got in August. So many hikers had to leave the trail, a trip of a lifetime, due to this impact.

I hiked the Lost Coast Trail in October. Then did a shorter trip in Redwood NP. I asked the ranger who issued our permit about any impact they may have seen due to the fires in the Sierra pushing hikers to the coast. It was substantial.

Corr. ID: 80 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 479997 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Wildfire is a major issue, and education and increased funding seem like two important avenues for working on this issue.

WL1900 - Camping

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55954) Review campsite policies to address overuse conditions (e.g., party size and fires). Encourage camping in lower-use areas. Designate campsites in high use areas including Sunrise Creek, Glen Aulin, Lyell Canyon, Grand Canyon of Tuolumne, and Sunrise Lakes, and enforce this designation initially by stationing rangers in these areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 174 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 486519 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Also, backcountry travelers should be encouraged to camp away from the overused campsite areas of the backcountry. I say "encouraged" both because that is all the NPS can do in this situation and also because backpackers will often discover a place a quarter or half mile away from an overused and populated camping area that is just as or more beautiful while enjoying solitude. I can testify to this because my family and I have been finding and appreciating such campsites for many years.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485808 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Designate campsites in high use areas including Sunrise Creek, Glen Aulin, Lyell Canyon (at least at the Ireland junction and towards Tuolumne), Grand Canyon of Tuolumne, Sunrise Lakes, etc. Enforce this designation at least initially by stationing rangers in these areas. In Lyell this designation would eliminate the I-thought-I-had-hiked-4-miles-in-whoops problem. It would also help with the sound problem I mention in the section below.

Corr. ID: 662 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485559 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Overuse in places. I generally do not believe that use by people is a big problem in Yosemite Wilderness. But clearly it is having undesirable impacts in specific locations. Some designated campgrounds are basically stripped of vegetation (e.g., Merced) and there are instances of multiple parallel trails in meadows as well as social trails at popular destinations. I would like to see a review of policies regarding designated campsites, use of fires, party size, and backcountry allocations so as to minimize such problems.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55956) The NPS should better clarify restrictions on campsite locations and eliminate uncertainties by providing clearer direction (e.g., use of maps to visually show restrictions) and considering overnight camping that doesn't increase camping levels. The NPS should also review designated campsites, use of campfires, party size, and backcountry allocations to minimize impacts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485824 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Clarify whether we mean you cant camp 4 AIR miles from Tuolumne or 4 TRAIL miles. Same goes for roads, which I think everyone understands to be 1 air mile. Stare these grey areas in the face, make distinctions, and put them spatially on a map that we can share with the public and Trails Illustrated. Protection can not enforce grey areas and I can not do effective spatial analysis without these camping, no camping, no fires, etc zones described.

Corr. ID: 618 Organization: The Access Fund **Comment ID: 511000 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: we also urge YNP to consider overnight camping/bivouacs that do not increase current camping levels

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55957) NPS should address the impacts of campfires by eliminating campfires entirely, eliminating campfires in certain areas such as the top of El Capitan, or by limiting areas open to campfires by raising the topographic elevation level open to fires.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 484335 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value an alpine and subalpine environment that does not contain the blackening of soils caused by charcoal remains of human fire pits, and broken limbs and trees and partially burned krumholtz. Lower the topographic height for excluding fires and firewood use to 9400 feet, and institute a regulation to prohibit fires in specific areas and around lakes that have limited deadwood production. Today's lightweight stoves can provide all the cooking needed in these areas.

Corr. ID: 131 Organization: Sierra Club **Comment ID: 486318 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: NPS should consider banning all campfires in wilderness They are not necessary for cooking, cause air pollution, increase wildfire risk, and damage the natural resource through fire rings.

Corr. ID: 176 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486534 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The 9,600 foot campfire limitation should be lowered significantly. There are way too many campfire rings in the wilderness and more are added every season. Campfires are just too damaging.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485815 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Eliminate fires on top of El Cap. There is no wood to burn up there until you get a ways off the top of that rock and back into the forest.

Corr. ID: 724 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511151 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Ban all fires. This is our preferred alternative.

WL2000 - Stock use and users

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 57477) Users valued the opportunity to explore the Yosemite Wilderness through the use of stock.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 7 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 484234 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Another issue at hand is the use of stock in the wilderness. Mules and horses are used by packers to take supplies to the High Sierra Camps, and to lead trips through the High Sierra, many times for people who otherwise could not be on the trails due to physical impairments or old age. The stock have an obvious impact on the trails, but you never see them off of the trails, nor have I personally ever seen them grazing in meadows or feeding on native plants. The cowboys and packers do an excellent job of keeping the stock fed at the stables and at the corrals. I do not think stock should be limited any more than they are now, they pose no real threat to the environment and add a lot of personality to the high sierra, as well as giving the High Sierra Camps the opportunity to operate, which in turn gives many visitors the opportunity of exploring and experiencing parts of the Yosemite wilderness that they would otherwise not see.

Corr. ID: 48 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 479548 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The park is managed like it should be...in a manner that it is owned by the people. We treasure our freedom to find the heart of our countries most beautiful wilderness and get to enjoy the best of the United States. Most importantly to myself and thousands of others is the opportunity to take our horses into the wilderness and camp as our ancestors have for hundreds of years. The preservation of that use is of the utmost [importance] to me and many others.

Corr. ID: 517 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486440 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I have always enjoyed sharing the trails with livestock and think it adds a wonderful dimension to the wilderness experience, especially because of the historic link it represents.

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485504 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I value the long-established tradition of use of pack and saddle stock in Yosemite National Park and throughout the West, and I wish to see this important historical use carried on into the future.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55961) Continue to allow managed access to Yosemite Wilderness via stock use. Stock use provides for accessibility for all trail users, including the elderly and disabled. If stock use is restricted, data should be provided to support this decision.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 325 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509528 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please take disability into account when considering rules regarding horse use in the Park.

Corr. ID: 335 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 509562
Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Accessibility for all type of trail users needs to be preserved, and a vocal minority of users should not have the right to demand that other type of recreational users give up their right to experience the National Parks in a way that may be their only option.

Corr. ID: 439 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509975 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Issue permits, check our gear. But please don't ban equines from the park.

Corr. ID: 500 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484872 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the long-established tradition of use of pack and saddle stock in Yosemite National Park and throughout the West, and I wish to see this important historical use carried on into the future. Seeing Yosemite on horseback is an experience that cannot be replicated by other means. For visitors that are either aged, mobility impaired, or otherwise unable to venture into park Wilderness on their own, the only opportunity to visit the park's Wilderness may be via horseback or mule.

Corr. ID: 517 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486441 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I hope all levels of stock use in Yosemite's wilderness will continue: private, commercial and administrative.

Corr. ID: 517 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486443 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would like to see more day use of stock, not less.

Corr. ID: 556 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485851 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would love to be able to trailer my horse to the Yosemite Wilderness area and park at a trailhead. Riding my horse in beautiful country is my idea of a vacation and a place to camp would be delightful!

Please allow horses and mules, donkeys and llamas, etc., to use this beautiful place. I am sure that all visitors can work together for the good of the Yosemite Wilderness. It is definitely worth it.

Corr. ID: 574 Organization: BCHC **Comment ID:** 485885 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I hope that Yosemite will figure out a way to continue to allow horses, mules and packers use the park. Not everyone was born to be a mountaineer. Mules are a great form of transportation and clearly the reason the high camps are so popular. I would hate to see the high camps close because livestock was no longer allowed in the wilderness area.

Corr. ID: 583 Organization: Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486228 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: to enable interested visitors access to the backcountry, especially more mature visitors like myself, mule packers offer a valuable and much appreciated service. I would like very much for this to continue.

Corr. ID: 616 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485529 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Continue to let stock trip into wilderness. This is especially more important as we all age. Stock trips let us old guys get into these areas without a backpack.

Corr. ID: 658 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 511162 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Thus, it appears to us that any WSP alternative that includes proposals to either significantly reduce available trail miles, impose broad camping restrictions, or otherwise restrict pack stock use would be unwarranted and unjustifiable. We therefore request that the WSP refrain from proposing alternatives that substantially limit or restrict the use of pack stock in the absence of verifiable data to demonstrate that park Wilderness is experiencing overuse or unacceptable impacts as a result of pack stock use.

Corr. ID: 681 Organization: NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485601 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I believe that it is important to maintain Western tradition and practice of using and packing horses and mules in a responsible manner, including using them on public lands. Being able to ride and pack into National Parks such as Yosemite, is indeed a pleasure, and argueably a right as an American citizen.

Corr. ID: 704 Organization: Mid Valley Unit, Backcountry Horsemen of California **Comment ID:** 510895 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: It is our opinion that the wording used in the 1989 Wilderness Stewardship Plan under the heading "Wilderness Stock Use" on pages 22 and 23 has been a successful and satisfactory guide for the Park administration on dealing with stock use in the Park. We feel these guidelines should remain as they currently exist and no additional restrictions are needed.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55962) Recreational stock use has cultural significance in American history and should be allowed to continue.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 283 Organization: BCH **Comment ID: 487559 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Stock use is historical in the wilderness and should be continued for generations to come.

Corr. ID: 605 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485428 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We like the way the NPS allows the use of stock in the wilderness for recreation and trail maintenance. Mules and horses have been used from day one and we feel that there can be a plan that accommodates all users, including horses and pack stock.

Corr. ID: 658 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID: 511147**

Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: The use of pack stock has played an important role in American culture. There is a long tradition of using pack and saddle stock not only in Yosemite National Park but throughout the West.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55964) Stock use is a primitive, nonmechanized mode of travel that is consistent with the Wilderness Act.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 658 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID: 511148**

Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Today's horsemen and women relish this cultural heritage and readily embrace the responsibility and obligation to care for our parks and public lands through application of traditional methods and a primitive mode of travel.

Corr. ID: 700 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485651 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We would also like to see the continuation of stock use within the wilderness areas. Using stock is an acceptable method of travel under the Wilderness Act and the use of stock has a long history in Yosemite. For us, encountering stock on a trail has never "decreased" the value of our wilderness experience, and many times has increased our experience by providing an look "into the past." Similar to our comments about the High Sierra Camps, we support administrative, commercial and recreational use of stock in the Yosemite Wilderness, with management directed at the specific impacts of stock.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55967) Stock use degrades the wilderness and non-stock users' wilderness experiences by damaging trails, meadows and sensitive plants; increasing dust; and by introducing waste manure that pollutes trails and streams. As a result, stock use should be highly regulated, reduced or eliminated.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 484165 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I support a study of the use of stock in the wilderness to mitigate damage, though I am not opposed to limited stock use where appropriate.

Corr. ID: 618 Organization: The Access Fund **Comment ID: 485542 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: The Wilderness Plan should include guidelines for stock use that will minimize and mitigate impacts from stock use to natural resources, and avoid impacts on or conflicts with other wilderness users. Such impacts include but are not limited to excessive dust, trail erosion and fecal matter along multiple-use trails.

Corr. ID: 18 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 487570 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The wilderness ethic of leave no trace should eliminate the use of anything that causes permanent damage, this includes horses and the High Sierra Camps. In my experience horses cause more damage than mountain bikes and I agree that mountain bikes have no place in wilderness.

Corr. ID: 49 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 509077 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I feel that pack travel with stock animals is an unnecessary stress on the wilderness environment. As a hiker, the impact is very apparent. Trails trampled to dust, trailside vegetation munched by the pack animals, large amounts of animal waste that pollutes trails, streams, rivers, and bodies of water.

Corr. ID: 400 Organization: Sierra Club **Comment ID: 486833 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: I am part of the Sierra Club Mule Pack Section. Our trips use mules that go in and out on the same day. I am concerned about the environmental impact of stock that stays in the wilderness for multiple days at a time.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID: 511292 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: For non-stock Wilderness users, impacts from stock use can be particularly disruptive. Trails become dusty and covered in piles of manure that attract clouds of flies (through which, hot, out of breath hikers must pass).. Having to yield to pack trains on the trail can also be an undesirable experience. Trail degradation that would not otherwise occur diminishes users experience, and even the restoration work done to repair such damage can impede upon ones Wilderness visit. Stock use serves a small segment of Wilderness users but stock use negatively affects the entire suite of Wilderness users.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID: 485500 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Stock Use and Capacity

Separate from the topic of commercial use, the question of how much stock use to allow is important in the fragile, sensitive conditions of Yosemite wilderness areas. In particular, the upper elevation stringer meadows, riparian areas, and even some larger meadows are vulnerable to the combination of recreational visitor use and stock use. CSERC strongly urges that the proposed preferred alternative limit stock use solely to areas that are evaluated to be healthy and not at risk from stock use. No matter where stock use is allowed, CSERC urges that very strict limits ensure that resources, especially water quality and sensitive plants, be fully protected.

Corr. ID: 724 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511215 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Except for #2 and #3 below, ban all pack and riding stock, including trips that start outside the park.

Corr. ID: 131 Organization: Sierra Club **Comment ID: 486316 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: The overall impact of stock use must be examined to determine how the its impacts on the natural resources can be reduced or eliminated. Stock use in certain fragile areas, such as high elevation meadows, should be prohibited. Stock users should be required to take measures to reduce manure on trails and at campsites.

Corr. ID: 724 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511209 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Except for those who have bona fide mobility needs (see below), there is no reason to continue to allow the use of pack stock in the backcountry.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55968) The following stock use guidelines to minimize the impacts of trail degradation, stock campsite degradation, and manure on trails should be incorporated into the Wilderness Stewardship Plan:

- Create well-built trails intended for stock use that will degrade less easily;
- Require stock to use manure bags;
- Reroute trails;
- Harden trail surfaces to prevent dust and degradation;
- Use portable electric fences;
- Use llamas instead of horses or mules;
- Designate parking and stock use campsites separate from non-stock users;
- Limit stock use to main trails and tributaries of the John Muir Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, Glacier Point and the southern boundary area, and Red Peak Pass trail;
- Restrict off-trail stock use;
- Institute meadow opening and closing dates;
- Develop partnerships for trail maintenance;
- Provide education on Leave No Trace and stock use guidelines to reduce visitor conflict with non-stock users;
- Create more front country accommodations for wilderness stock users; and
- Institute a reservation system.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 174 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486526 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stock travel should be limited to particular trails with as little as possible off-trail travel. Stock travel should be limited to the John Muir Trail and its main tributaries, the Pacific Crest Trail and its main tributaries, and, from Glacier Point and the southern boundary area, the Red Peak Pass Trail and its main tributaries.

Corr. ID: 283 Organization: BCH **Comment ID: 509092 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Therefore, I suggest enlisting the help of partners in routine trail maintenance. For instance a formal partnership with Back Country Horsemen and its partner the Pacific Crest Trail Association may be beneficial.

Corr. ID: 285 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of Utah **Comment ID: 509139 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Encouraging horse groups to assist with maintenance and letting people know they are doing this (signs on kiosks, etc.) creates a sense of personal 'ownership' and shared responsibility (and peer pressure!).

Corr. ID: 313 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID: 487629 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Building and maintaining trails to the highest user standard is the most efficient and cost less long term. If a trail is not maintained to stock standards, it can be degraded much faster and become difficult for all users. A good trail is easier to maintain and provides rapid access for emergency and fire crews. It also makes a better fire break. It is more enjoyable for users.

Corr. ID: 363 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico-Santa Fe **Comment ID: 487062 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Regarding accommodations for private horsemen, adequate trailer parking is a must. Suggest working with BCHC members to design these areas, which should include bathroom facilities and adequate space to highline or corral horses overnight, campfire rings or grates, and potable water for campers and stock.

Corr. ID: 419 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America (NW Chapter) **Comment ID: 486910 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Access to the Yosemite Wilderness at present by private horsemen is very difficult. The WSP should consider, and make efforts to accommodate, the logistical needs of pack stock users who do not enter park Wilderness via adjacent national forests or private land. For example, the WSP should address the need for adequate trailer parking at park trailheads and front country camping areas for person who haul their own horses and mules.

Corr. ID: 429 Organization: Sierra Club **Comment ID: 509940 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: I like to see the Tuolumne Meadow mule pack station continues doing the "spot trip" service for hikers, private or organized.

Corr. ID: 502 Organization: AERC **Comment ID: 486386 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Give equestrians separate camping and day site locations!

Corr. ID: 506 Organization: Panhandle Back Country Horsemen **Comment ID: 510404 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: In this regard we propose/support that stock use not be regulated out of existence but a cooperative effort of education, permits and enforcement be included in the Plan to allow continued use of the compatible areas in the Park.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510576 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Define stock camps and their boundaries. Yes, this will involve you setting up posts or stakes and trammeling a touch. Require reservation of these sites so as to better track who is using which one. I know things are unpredictable, so perhaps you could have a reservation system where you pick a day but you can end up there either the day before or the day after. Enforce these reservations.

Corr. ID: 564 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510637 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I've seen a lot of packer campsites, not just in Yosemite, but throughout the Sierra. Some are kept very clean; others are not. In some places (e.g. Davis Lakes, the worst I can remember at present!), I've seen manure all over as well as piled up. I don't want to just blame the packers, although in some instances some of them get careless. But there should be some way to clean up the sites- -require the packers using them to do it- -or else limit access to the most heavily visited areas to mitigate the accumulation of filth.

Corr. ID: 572 Organization: Yosemite For Everyone **Comment ID: 510672 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Yosemite belongs to all of us, and stock users are more than willing to share the trails with hikers. Reducing stock use will not solve this problem. Visitor education on proper trail etiquette and safety around stock, including the use of interpretive materials at Wilderness trailheads would be more useful to solve these conflicts.

Corr. ID: 658 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID: 511191 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: The WSP should consider, and make efforts to accommodate, the logistical needs of pack stock users who do not enter park Wilderness via adjacent national forests or private land. For example, the WSP should address the need for adequate trailer parking at park trailheads and front country camping areas for person who haul their own horses and mules. The WSP should also include a discussion of the current availability of, or the need or demand for, additional infrastructure to support camping with pack stock in the Parks front country areas. Such a need can be implied from recent recreational use projections documented by the U.S. Forest Service.

Corr. ID: 662 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485558 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Impact of stock. Horses and mules have impacts on trails and areas where they are kept. Please evaluate ways to reduce this impact. And not just direct impacts. For example, many recently rebuilt trails seemed to be designed with stock use in mind: steps often are high for humans on foot.

Corr. ID: 681 Organization: NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID: 485593 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: In areas of known or documented stock-related resource damage, the WSP should consider alternatives beyond simply limiting pack stock use. Such alternatives could include reroutes of trails, hardening of trail surfaces, separation of designated camping areas, and the use of portable electrical fencing or other means to contain pack stock in open meadows.

Proposed regulations should meet scientific rigor and necessity. The WSP must cite current peer-reviewed studies, and those studies must be made readily accessible for public review, if science is used to justify proposed limits upon trail use, overnight camping, or open meadow grazing.

Corr. ID: 688 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485617 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: For stock use I believe it is important to find ways to reduce the amount of hiker/rider conflicts that have surfaced such as mule/horse manure on the trails and limit camping away from stock camps. Maybe creating stock only campsites away from hiker campsites could help the problem.

Corr. ID: 726 Organization: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) **Comment ID:** 511259 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: We recommend the WSP adopt a rigorous management and monitoring framework for stock use that includes programmatic and sitespecific guidance related to the location, timing, and amount of stock use. The stock use management framework should include meadow opening and closing dates, and maximum numbers of stock at any one time and for the season.

Corr. ID: 730 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489310 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Use of Llamas over stock, mules.

Corr. ID: 730 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489311 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Require leave no trace training for all backcountry users, especially to try to mitigate traces of stock in wilderness.

Corr. ID: 730 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489315 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Pack and stock animals should be required to wear poop bags to minimize waste on trail.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55970) Stock use is incompatible with the Wilderness Act and Leave No Trace principles.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 110 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486288 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I also do not feel that the quantity of stock manure on the trails is compatible with the Wilderness Act - it is unsightly, smelly and polluting. The copious amounts of manure on the trail likely cause many backcountry users to see a conflict between the Leave No Trace principles that human visitors are required to follow and the lack of regulation on stock manure covering the trails, some of which cross or parallel creeks, rivers and lakes.

Corr. ID: 157 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486392 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would like to see levels of commercial and pack stock uses decline, and definitely not increase. Encountering pack stock is always a negative experience that does not align with my vision of Wilderness. I do not view pack stock as a primitive use that is appropriate in Wilderness, so having to yield to long pack stock trains greatly diminishes my experience. Additionally, I disagree with the amount of trail damage they cause. It affects me negatively when I am hiking on a trail that has very loose soil due to pack stock use, and is dotted with piles of manure that attract flies and significantly interfere with my feeling of natural, untrammelled wilderness. While

I am encouraged to leave no trace and required to properly dispose of my waste, pack stock waste remains in a place many users are sure to encounter it. Those with allergies are particularly vulnerable to the dust from both the trail and old manure. There also seems to be a high amount of overlap between trails that get heavy stock use and heavy visitor use.

Corr. ID: 619 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485550 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The use of pack animals for commercial ventures and grazing stock in land that has been designated as wilderness is antithetical to true wilderness land-use values.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 57488) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should include different proposed management for private stock users and commercial pack stock outfitters.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 681 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485595 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Science applied in the WSP must discern between the effects of pack stock use by private users versus the effects of parties using commercial pack stock outfitters versus the park's own administrative use of pack stock. In the absence of such science, the WSP should not seek to disproportionately burden private stock users, who comprise a small percentage of overnight Wilderness visitation.

WL2010 - Private stock use or users

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55993) NPS should maintain or improve access for private stock users. To do this, the NPS should provide adequate trailer parking near trail heads, allow for front-country camping for wilderness users, allow stock use along the Pacific Crest Trail, and partner with experienced equestrian groups. Stock use is an historical and primitive type of recreation that should continue.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 297 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509213 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The elimination of independent riders in moderate numbers (10 heart beat rule in Rocky Mountain National Park) should be considered as an affront to the historical usage of our public lands.

Corr. ID: 572 **Organization:** Yosemite For Everyone **Comment ID:** 510666 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I also value the relatively primitive and unconfined recreational experience I can have with my horse with very little regulatory constraint and administrative intervention. I am happy that the Park Service is taking a serious look at stock use in the future of Yosemite, and hope that they will consider partnering with other organizations that have extensive knowledge on how to use our public lands without damaging them.

Corr. ID: 613 **Organization:** NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485513 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Access to the Yosemite Wilderness at present by private horsemen is very difficult. The WSP should consider, and make efforts to accommodate, the logistical needs of pack stock users who do not enter park Wilderness via adjacent national forests or private land. For

example, the WSP should address the need for adequate trailer parking at park trailheads and front country camping areas for person who haul their own horses and mules.

Corr. ID: 681 Organization: NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA Comment ID: 485598 Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Access to the Yosemite Wilderness at present by private horsemen is very difficult. The WSP should consider, and make efforts to accommodate, the logistical needs of pack stock users who do not enter park Wilderness via adjacent national forests or private land. For example, the WSP should address the need for adequate trailer parking at park trailheads and front country camping areas for person who haul their own horses and mules.

Corr. ID: 703 Organization: Co-Chairman, Public Lands Committee of the High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of Californi Comment ID: 510874 Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: It seems that Yosemite will do what it has to do in the forthcoming Wilderness Stewardship Plan to protect Yosemite's administrative use of stock. However, Yosemite should also focus on protecting the rights of private stock users to utilize the wilderness areas of Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 703 Organization: Co-Chairman, Public Lands Committee of the High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of Californi Comment ID: 510876 Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: We urge Yosemite to take the same step and establish horse facilities outside of Yosemite wilderness areas that will make access to Yosemite's wilderness areas possible for private stock users.

Corr. ID: 718 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 511064 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am writing to express my hopes that the Park Service will continue to allow private equestrian usage of Yosemite National Park.

Corr. ID: 727 Organization: Pacific Crest Trail Association Comment ID: 511291 Organization Type: Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: It is important that the opportunity for the private recreational stock user to experience Yosemite's backcountry via the PCT remain viable.

WL2020 - Commercial stock use or users

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55989) Commercial stock use is unnecessary in Yosemite since there are other commercial stock services in close proximity to the park.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC Comment ID: 485495 Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Given the abundance of commercial pack services available to access surrounding National Forest Wilderness in the Sierra Nevada, it is increasingly difficult to consider commercial pack trips in Yosemite's Wilderness as an essential service that is not available within a reasonable distance outside the park.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55992) Negative impacts from commercial pack trains need to be addressed. Areas experiencing these impacts include Virginia Canyon, lower Spiller Canyon, and the High Sierra Camps, including Glen Aulin.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 Organization: Humboldt State University **Comment ID: 484151 Organization Type:** University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: Also, commercial stock use in Virginia Canyon is highly destructive (and I see them in lower Spiller Canyon too, against their permit).

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID: 511284 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The reduction of stock use as a result of the TRP was only 20%, 3% less than the FEIS stated. Further steps need to be taken to reduce stock use associated with the HSCs, including Glen Aulin

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55994) Commercial stock use should continue but with limits that avoid degradation of wilderness character. Specific limits proposed include: designating opening dates, grazing levels, and trail use quotas as deemed necessary; allowing for high-lined camping and bringing feed into areas where grazing is restricted; allowing private outfitters to use the established corrals at High Sierra Camps and ranger stations; and designating stock camps in high-use areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 494 Organization: Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides **Comment ID: 486822**

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We at SYMG take great care on all of our trips to follow stated regulations for all aspects of wilderness protection. We are in favor of site-specific regulations to protect the wilderness resource and we trust in the research-based management strategies deemed necessary by the park managers. We are in favor of:

1. Designating opening dates, grazing levels, and trail use quotas as deemed necessary.
2. Allowing for high-lined camping and bringing feed into areas where grazing is restricted. This allows for managed use in areas while still allowing for long-distance travel within the park.
3. Allowing private outfitters to use the established corrals at High Camps and ranger stations. This will minimize meadow use and drive stock use to "non-wilderness" areas.
4. Designating stock camps in high-use areas. This will help alleviate the concerns of non-stock users who may want to camp away from stock. These stock camps can be listed on permit literature so other users know to avoid those camps. This could be particularly useful in Lyell Canyon. I would expect that designated stock camping/grazing areas would have similar scenic value as other non-grazing sites within the immediate area.

It is important to take a wide-view when planning stock-use regulations, focusing on the practicalities of actually executing a trip. For instance, items #2 & #3 not only allow for protection of the wilderness resource, but also allow for through-travel in sensitive areas that connect other portions of the park, which is necessary for long-distance travel through remote wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID: 485490 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Some level of commercial use is acceptable within Wilderness because it legitimately facilitates visitor experiences and access to public lands for public lands users. However, this use should be minimal and not conflict with other important aspects of Wilderness character.

WL2030 - Administrative stock use or users

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55977) The NPS should reduce or eliminate administrative stock use by scientific researchers and the mounted patrol and encourage travel by foot in order to protect natural resources.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 123 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486306 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: For many years I have been concerned about the degradation of the trail system caused by equine usage. While I support the need to utilize equine services for trail work, I do not believe the mounted patrol needs to continue. Rangers on foot have better opportunity to "connect" with park visitors. We must realize the environmental degradation caused by equine service and phase them out. The cost to an overused park is too severe.

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486527 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The NPS should limit its stock travel as much as feasibly possible while still maintaining its proper stewardship role. Instead of using stock to patrol, the NPS should hire more backcountry rangers. Scientific researchers should travel by foot as much as possible.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510571 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Scale down admin use of stock even more if possible. Other crews could help with cross-cut log out early season, thereby providing more work for more people and eliminating some stock use.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510566 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Pair down Trail Camp use of pack strings. One string to pack in supplies, one mid-project, and one at the end of the season. Have Trail Crew and cooks carry in their own food.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55980) Administrative stock use should be utilized in lieu of helicopters for trail maintenance, but should only be used under very limited circumstances in accordance with the "Keeping It Wild" management philosophy. Other acceptable stock use includes: providing wilderness access to disabled persons; providing resupply services to nonprofit educational organizations that have a mission to bring wilderness access to disadvantaged and under-served populations; and for transporting equipment for NPS trail maintenance/repairs that would not be practical to transport by human means.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 110 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486289 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I recommend scaling back stock use significantly for only very specific circumstances:

1) For providing wilderness access to disabled persons, 2) For providing resupply services to nonprofit educational organizations that have a mission to bring wilderness access to disadvantaged and underserved populations, and 3) for transporting equipment for NPS trail maintenance/repairs that would not be practical to transport by human means.

Corr. ID: 613 Organization: NM BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA **Comment ID:** 485506 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I place great value in the use of pack stock as a management tool that enables federal land management agencies to maintain and enhance wilderness character. For example, use of pack stock, a primitive mode of travel, in lieu of the use of helicopters for routine maintenance in Wilderness is one means by which the Park Service can maintain historic uses and achieve greater alignment with the agency's recently-adopted "Keeping it Wild" management philosophy.

WL2100 - Soundscapes

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55972) Noise from visitors in over-crowded areas, motorcycles, commercial and military aircraft, trash collection, lumber removal and "The Green Dragon" degrade wilderness character and need to be addressed.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 618 Organization: The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 485546 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: The Wilderness Plan should also propose actions to address noise impacts affecting wilderness character, including sources from motorcycles, aircraft, garbage collection, woodcutting, and "The Green Dragon" and other tourist vehicles.

Corr. ID: 699 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 514012 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Aircraft noise pollution. Its easy to escape most sounds and sights of humans in a matter of a short hike into the Yosemite wilderness with one exception. Aircraft are the one bit of human intervention which constantly reminds us that we are never truly free of human impact. Commercial air liners produce regular sounds and contrails albeit relatively minor compared with the military jets which produce appalling thundering roars which shatter the solitude of a clear summer day. Its become impossible to quietly sit for a matter of ten minutes in the wilderness without hearing the sound of aircraft. Why must airplanes fly over our wilderness where they greatly impact the experiences of visitors and the wildlife?

Corr. ID: 730 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489317 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Is there any way to get rid of the Air Force fighter jets, commercial, and contrails?

WL2200 - Installations/development

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55897) All nonconforming structures and uses (including those for research and administrative) should be removed from wilderness and potential wilderness areas. No new structures or uses should be allowed in wilderness or potential wilderness areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 662 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485562 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Nonconforming structures. Other than the HS Camps, any existing non-conforming structures should be removed and no new structures should be allowed, including for research and resource management.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55926) Continue operating Ostrander Ski Hut as a winter backcountry ski hut.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 733 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 493291 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I urge you to continue operating Ostrander Ski Hut as a winter, backcountry, ski hut beyond 2017, when the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that governs hut operation expires. I first skied to the Hut about 30 years ago, when I was in my late 20's. In January, I made my most recent trip and it was still a fantastic experience. Ostrander Hut adds to the diversity of your park by providing a unique opportunity for skiers and snowshoers, from young to old and from newbies to the experienced.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56795) In order to preserve the character, experience, and value of wilderness areas, the current moratorium on utility lines should be maintained and all new wireless transmission towers should be prohibited.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486496 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Consider Cell Towers as distracting from Wilderness Character, Experience, and Values. Maintain the moratorium on additional Utility lines found in the current Plan, and include a prohibition of new 'Wireless Transmission Towers' in the updated Plan.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56796) Trails and supporting infrastructure (e.g., bathrooms and drinking water) should be expanded to support visitation levels. Use trail construction techniques to address wet conditions, including boardwalks.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 1 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510395 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We should also expand existing trails to support higher visitor levels. This should include the addition of bathrooms and access to drinking water.

Corr. ID: 602 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485420 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I have noticed that in Australia (and New Zealand) it is a common trail-construction practice to install short stretches of synthetic (or wooden) boardwalk across particularly boggy trail sections. Perhaps such construction techniques are not allowable under the Wilderness Act, but they allow visitors to walk on otherwise dry trails without facing the "wet muddy shoes" versus "stepping off trail when I know I shouldn't" dilemma for just a few steps. I recommend that Yosemite consider such (or similar) construction techniques for high use areas where some bits of ground will always be wet early season.

WL2400 - Wilderness Stewardship Plan planning/process

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55891) The planning process should include equal opportunities for representation of interested parties (e.g., individuals, interest groups and commercial companies). Public participation could be increased by live streaming public meetings, providing more public workshops, advanced postings of meetings, and extending the comment period after the last public meeting.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 6 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484302 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Suggest U-Streaming your public meetings to get out your key messages. There are many who will not be able to attend who value the Yosemite Wilderness and could provide important comments.

Corr. ID: 335 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 487679
Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Please ensure that public hearings are posted well in advance so ALL interested parties may attend to state their case. Please do not make the Yosemite WSP a "behind-closed-doors" project.

Corr. ID: 354 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509659 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please ensure that there is equal representation for the individual as for the big companies and the big environmental groups.

Corr. ID: 355 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487051 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: More public workshops would have been helpful in alerting the public to this process. I suspect that many people are unaware that scoping is now underway.

Corr. ID: 731 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489398 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The close of comment period is too close to the time of the last public meeting, this does not give much time to attend a meeting and then to gather comments from the chapter of the sierra club and get people to comment.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55894) The scoping and planning processes can be made stronger and more comprehensive by reducing potentially leading questions that would lead to the elimination of recreational use, providing forms that ask which current wilderness management practices are viewed negatively, and ensuring equal representation of individuals, companies, and environmental groups is presented.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 15 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509040 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The public scoping is certainly not unbiased. I feel that the questions are leading the public to give answers that will eliminate recreational opportunities in Yosemite (and therefore in other parks).

Corr. ID: 21 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487585 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: This feedback form is biased. It doesn't ask the converse of what we value about current management; that is, what don't we like about the management of the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 674 **Organization:** Minarets Pack Station **Comment ID:** 485568 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: It seems a little backwards that comments are being asked but you haven't stated the problems that are current - other than in general. It would be helpful to list what the plans are so we know how to comment on the current issues and offer suggestions.

WL2500 - Vegetation

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55888) The NPS should consider existing research from Dr. Stith T. Gower, (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and others when addressing the impacts from invasive weeds related to horses and pack stock.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 658 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 513088
Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Noxious/Invasive Weeds Resulting from Pack Stock Use (or Lack Thereof)
As part of the WSP scoping process, we encourage park personnel to explore the implications of recent research conducted by Dr. Stith T. Gower of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Gower's studies indicate that horses and pack stock are unlikely, if at all, to spread invasive weeds along trails under the conditions he studied in the U.S. in both eastern ecosystems and nine western ecosystems, including the Sierra Nevada. For example, his 2013 study of western ecosystems concludes with the following statement:

The 0% germination and establishment rate of weeds from hay, manure and hoof debris plots on the horse trails at the nine study sites illustrates the difficult physical and environmental conditions that seedlings experience during the critical germination and establishment phase.

Consequently, although the science has found that horses and pack stock are capable of excreting seeds (both native and non-native) along backcountry trails, such seeds face harsh conditions and are highly unlikely to germinate. Based on recent studies by Dr. Gower, the WSP should start with the assumption that the use of horses and pack stock is not considered as a significant vector for the spread of invasive or noxious weeds. The WSP should consider the implications of scientific findings by Dr. Gower and others that shed light on appropriate measures to employ, if any, in the WSP to mitigate the potential negative effects and spread of noxious or invasive weeds.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55889) The NPS needs to map wetlands in backcountry meadows, and evaluate potential impacts on these wetlands.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 660 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 485412 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: My comment is about meadow wetlands and how they are portrayed in the plan. Would like to see acknowledgement that large portions of Yosemite's backcountry meadows are wetlands. Would like to see careful evaluation of wetland impacts, including wetland mapping, where there could be impacts to meadows.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55890) The NPS should consider the effect of drought on pine trees.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 668 Organization: Minarets Pack Station **Comment ID: 485477 Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: In our view, one of the most problematic issues that YNP, as well as all of the west's national forests, faces is the vast amount of dead pine trees that have died over the last 2 - 3 years of drought. Management of these trees will be paramount to maintain the good health of our Yosemite Wilderness.

WL2600 - Research studies and data

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55971) The NPS must use and cite peer-reviewed studies that are readily accessible to the public when developing the plan. The NPS should provide data for visitor use and capacity; drought, climate change and their impact on visitor use; and the characteristics of visitor groups and trips.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 302 Organization: Backcountry Horsemen and self **Comment ID: 509502 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Changes to policy use should only come after peer review of scientific study

Corr. ID: 419 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America (NW Chapter) **Comment ID: 486907 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Proposed regulations should meet scientific rigor and necessity. The WSP must cite current peer-reviewed studies, and those studies must be made readily accessible for public review, if science is used to justify proposed limits upon trail use, overnight camping, or open meadow grazing.

Corr. ID: 731 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 489420 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: What data do you have for visitor use and capacity? What data do you have based on the drought and climate change and its effect on change in visitor use? What data do you have on exactly who is out there and when?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 57473) Studies should be presented in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan that assess the impact of visitor use on wilderness, including but not limited to: use within popular areas such as the John Muir Trail, social trails, campsite creation and use, human waste impacts, impacts to cultural resources and impacts to water.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486462 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Include studies in the EIS that track the influence of human use within popular wilderness areas such as the JMT and its trail-tributaries, with regard to social trails, campsite creation and use, human waste and its impacts to water, impacts to cultural and listed resource sites.

Corr. ID: 313 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID: 509523 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Water crossings, lake shores and meadows can be degraded by heavy use. Remedial fixes should be based on scientific studies.

Corr. ID: 671 **Organization:** CSERC **Comment ID:** 511302 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: One aspect of Wilderness management and the effects of humans on resources includes the threat of the spread of the chytrid fungus that is so lethal to amphibians in high elevation habitat areas. CSERC urges that the Wilderness Plan carefully apply the best available science to assure that areas with known chytrid contamination are made off-limits to recreational use that may spread the fungus to uncontaminated lakes and ponds.

WL2700 - Water Resources

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55887) The plan needs to address the protection of streams and rivers and include a robust and sustainable monitoring program, especially for water quality indicators.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 573 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 485876 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Fishing is important to any wilderness adventure [I] take. Protecting streams and rivers are an important thing for me. As well as keeping mining operations out of as much of the parks as we can.

Corr. ID: 726 **Organization:** San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) **Comment ID:** 511267 **Organization Type:** Non-governmental

Representative Quote: We recommend ensuring the WSP has a robust and sustainable monitoring program, especially for water quality indicators, and that additional limitations on visitor use be considered in places where there is a known or likely water quality impact.

WL3000 - Commercial services

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55938) Commercial services should be limited to comply with the intent of the Wilderness Act. Current commercial service operations contribute to overcrowding and should not be expanded.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 509782 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I really question the need for ANY commercial guide services in the Yosemite Wilderness. This wilderness is so accessible by good trails and easy cross-country routes, and so well described in books and websites innumerable, that anyone with any initiative at all can plan and execute his own backcountry adventures. Guides are NOT "necessary". Sure, there are always those who have more money than time or energy and want to pay someone else to create their vacation experience, but there are other areas in the Sierra or elsewhere that can cater to them. The Yosemite Wilderness is under a lot of pressure from recreational use. We don't need guides to make it easier for more people - particularly uninformed people - to trample the wilderness!

Corr. ID: 201 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 487485 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I request that you respect the intent of the Wilderness Act and therefore limit commercial services in Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 217 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483046 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is very important to keep commercialization out of a wilderness area. This also includes the air space, which should not be entered for recreational/touristic reasons, since it is very disturbing to the wildlife, as well as the limited visitors on foot.

Corr. ID: 273 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487547 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Limit commercial service (guided hiking, climbing, and stock use) in Yosemite National Park.

Corr. ID: 319 Organization: Wilderness Watch **Comment ID:** 511617 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: , I believe that commercial enterprises and services should be kept to a minimum or even eliminated altogether in Yosemite and other wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 662 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485563 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial activities. As you note, you must assess the need for and appropriateness for commercial services within the Wilderness. Such uses, where allowed, should be consistent with the Wilderness Act.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID:** 485494 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Commercial services should not only be proven to be necessary but the full EXTENT, such as the number of trips a year, should also be proven to be necessary.

Corr. ID: 697 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511359 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am an AMGA certified Rock Guide. There is a large voice coming from the AMGA from an outsiders perspective who wants in. They wrote me telling me I should say climbing is not at capacity in Yosemite and for that more guides should be allowed. From my perspective as one of the 12 full time guides in the park the terrain we guide on is very crowded already.

Corr. ID: 707 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510898 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Issuance of these CUAs needs to be closely scrutinized and as many as possible need to be eliminated.

Corr. ID: 722 Organization: Yosemite Mountaineering School **Comment ID:** 511086
Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: There are very few good teaching areas, and as soon as more guide permits are allowed, plus restricted climb regulation goes into effect the current non-wilderness climbing areas will be directly impacted with much higher use.

Corr. ID: 724 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511221 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Discontinue all commercial overnight backcountry use.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55943) Commercial services do not degrade resources and can support wilderness stewardship and educational efforts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484166 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial services can be an effective means of providing wilderness experiences with LNT emphasis which can help to protect the wilderness and important values if the service is vetted appropriately.

Corr. ID: 474 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486707 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Modern, trained guides are invested, professional stewards of the land and the wilderness resource.

Corr. ID: 579 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486188

Organization Type: University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: We support professionally trained commercial services as a Necessary and Appropriate tool for the realization of public purposes of Wilderness, and believe that professional guides are assets to our public lands, providing interpretation, education, and conservation opportunities to their guests.

Corr. ID: 665 Organization: The Wildland Trekking Company **Comment ID:** 511198

Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: I believe that commercial use levels can be maintained at present levels or increased with no detrimental effects on the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 678 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485580 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I personally do not believe the current levels of commercial services or stock use are concerning. We are talking about a vast area and the stock and commercial use is confined to a very tiny portion of that area.

Corr. ID: 690 Organization: AMGA **Comment ID:** 511348 **Organization Type:**

University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: Modern professional mountain guiding helps realize the formal educational public purpose of wilderness. As rock climbing and mountaineering are not at capacity in Yosemite wilderness, the plan's analysis of commercial services should reflect that, and should provide for additional diverse opportunities for the guided public.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55948) Commercial guiding services provide an essential service for visitors and the National Park Service, and should continue or be expanded in wilderness. They provide access to wilderness for those who would not go alone, encourage wilderness stewardship, and increase safety for all visitors. Commercial service offerings in wilderness are beneficial to non-English speaking visitors and services for disabled visitors increase compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Guides teach backcountry users Leave No Trace principles, protect wilderness resources, and stimulate the local economy.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 133 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486327 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I'd like to comment on the proposed changes to guided backpacking tours in Yosemite.

I'll be travelling from Melbourne to Yosemite in June and to have a guided backpacking tour available in Yosemite is priceless. I don't need to be concerned with taking gear, or knowing the area which is incredibly valuable when travelling to the other side of the world.

I would hope you continue to allow backpacking tour operators to function in all areas of Yosemite as this allows people like myself to experience the Yosemite backcountry.

Corr. ID: 152 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486360 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I understand you are considering some sort of limiting and stopping of commercial operations. I would urge you very much not to do this. If anything, I would do the opposite (limit people going out on their own without professional guidance). I believe people would be far safer and the environment much more protected with the professional along.

Corr. ID: 154 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486372 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am a single mom who has been taking my kids on treks with guide companies. I have found their expertise and experience to be an integral part of my trips. Using guides allows me and my kids to see areas of parks at an in depth level in a safe and responsible manner. Every guide company I have used has emphasized the importance of protecting our wilderness. Continuing, this is an incredible experience for my kids, one that I am unable to accomplish with out the knowledge of a guide.

Corr. ID: 372 **Organization:** Y Explore **Comment ID:** 487077 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: I am adding this to my public comment because I believe that further limiting the already restrictive commercial use of the Yosemite Wilderness to hiking and backpacking groups would have negative consequences. I also believe hiking and backpacking have very low impacts on wilderness when proper ethics are practiced.

Corr. ID: 425 **Organization:** Sierra Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 486935 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: We believe that guides have a net positive impact on wilderness areas: the land, people, and the wilderness character - therefore more of it should be allowed.

Corr. ID: 452 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486640 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The NPS is responsible for restricting backcountry populations through the permitting system and law enforcement efforts, but add experiential educational to the long list of the agency's responsibilities and the NPS simply becomes overextended. I therefore suggest that it is the role of professional guiding operations to fill the void by offering those who would seek wilderness the proper tools, preparation, and profoundly transformative educational experience necessary to convert laymen into true environmental stewards, for this is the most noble purpose of our National Parks.

Corr. ID: 597 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486273 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In the review of park management policy, I urge to give lengthy consideration to the role played by guides and educators working in the park wilderness.

Corr. ID: 615 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510978 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: More professionally skilled and trained technical and backcountry guides/experts give more opportunities to empower more visitors to engage with their environment in safer and more responsible way.

Corr. ID: 615 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510977 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As education and competence of more challenging and/or backcountry terrain is beyond the level of experience for most visitors, extending commercial guiding in a responsible way is an imperative step.

Corr. ID: 634 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485906 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The positive economic impact of guiding should not be overlooked. Smaller gateway communities to YNP that struggle during the winter months may experience a resurgence if guided winter excursions left from their vicinity. Lee Vining, California would be a perfect example. The Eastern Sierra Crest is known worldwide for it's ski terrain and spring snow conditions and guided trips could open this world to new users.

Corr. ID: 657 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511120 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I strongly encourage Yosemite National Park to expand commercial guiding in the areas of technical rock and alpine environments. It is my belief that accomplished guides/guide services provide a well-rounded wilderness experience that both minimizes impacts from its guest as well as increases safety.

Corr. ID: 657 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511124 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There is a need for rock, alpine, and ski guide services that can serve multiple cultures and languages. Yosemite National Park is not a destination solely for English speaking Americans but is also an icon visited by guest from worldwide. I believe that there should be at least some commercial guiding operations who can safely and respectfully guide guests in other languages. Through these means foreign guests can have a positive safe experience while learning and protecting park resources.

Corr. ID: 688 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485612 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There is a strong need for commercial use of the wilderness in and out of Yosemite National Park. Commercial guiding outfitters allow for people with less experience in the outdoors to go past their limits and see, touch, smell the wilderness that makes Yosemite a special place. They also serve as an educational tool to help teach Leave No Trace principles and safety in the [backcountry].

Corr. ID: 722 Organization: Yosemite Mountaineering School **Comment ID: 511090**

Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: What is not being acknowledged either is that Yosemite Mountaineering School instructors and guides routinely help non guided visitors when they are out in the field. YMS guides communicate Leave No Trace not only to their guests, but also to non guided visitors. YMS constantly shares safety tips with non guided visitors when they are sharing a climbing route or climbing area.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55949) Commercial guide services should not be expanded in a way that degrades or discourages non-commercial use in wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 148 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 509527 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Requiring a guide would be as wrong as banning professional guides from the park. I should be the individuals choice as to whether one contracts with a guide service, reads books about the hikes or just goes on his/her own.

Corr. ID: 382 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 487107 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please keep private guiding OUT of the park. Guides will just increase the traffic in the park. Guides often assume that because they re getting paid, they have more of a right to the Yosemite hiking and climbing than the rest of the public. We don't need anymore of this type of business in the park. Please keep it as wild as possible so that future generations can enjoy the wild nature of the park that generations ago enjoyed.

Corr. ID: 416 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486896 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If there are any quota system commercial guides should only get 25% of the permits.

Corr. ID: 512 Organization: Ojai Rock Climbing, Earthworks Climbing **Comment ID: 486418**

Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: However, guiding operations are a commercial enterprise. It is my belief that commercial operations should always come second to non-commercial use. Extension or expansion of any commercial operations in the park should always consider and accomadate the interests of non-commercial use.

Corr. ID: 561 Organization: 1993 **Comment ID: 485001 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Balancing the different styles of visitors. I think I would rather be a second round of backcountry permit and campsite reservations than the park being open to more

commercial guiding. The people who aren't being guided are putting more effort into their stay than those being guided and should have opportunities to explore the park on their own. Guiding is a fantastic way to get new people into the wilderness and outdoor education, but those who are already educated should be welcomed at the same time.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55950) Restrict commercial filming and photography in wilderness and limit party sizes for these activities to 12 individuals.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486525 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial filming and photography should be rigorously policed with party size limits also limited to 12 individuals. It is not a true wilderness experience when one encounters 15 or 20 people engaged in shooting a film or taking a photography class.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55951) Commercial guided trips should be reassessed in terms of group size limits both on and off trail, and where they can take visitors. Different types of recreation should have different group size limits.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486524 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercially guided trips also need to be reassessed. Party size limits should reflect the route and destination. A guided trip on a trailed route should be limited to 12 individuals (including guides) and trips with off-trail travel limited to 6 individuals. Also, any commercial operator found to be violating the rules should receive a warning and a second violation result in loss of license. This should apply not only to the companies, but also their employees. If an employee of a commercial operator is found to be violating the rules, the company should also suffer the consequences unless that individual's employment is terminated.

Corr. ID: 305 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509521 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I strongly believe that guided tours should not be limited to where they can take groups and the size of the group, within reason, as long as the patrons are properly educated on how to respect the wilderness and backcountry.

Corr. ID: 408 **Organization:** Outward Bound California **Comment ID:** 509870 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: It is imperative that the Park strongly considers raising the group size limits to outfitters like Outward Bound that are providing positive change and social responsibility to our youth of tomorrow.

Corr. ID: 417 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509880 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: An off trail group size limit being raised from 8 to 12 for non-profit user groups would be a huge step in that direction.

Corr. ID: 538 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510442 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I also would encourage the park to require that guides operate in small groups. For technical mountaineering and rock climbing groups should be no larger than 3, including

the guide. For hiking, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing and rock climbing courses, group size should be limited to no more than 6 including the guide.

Corr. ID: 579 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486202

Organization Type: University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: Many National Parks utilize zoning in Wilderness, and it is unclear whether this process will be used in Yosemite Wilderness. If so, we recommend allocating commercial use per zone, i.e., those zones with less self-guided use could potentially accommodate an increased percentage of guided use without displacing the former. This would serve to disperse use and reduce impacts.

Corr. ID: 579 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 486198

Organization Type: University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: In the Half Dome Trail Determination of Extent Necessary, 10% of overall capacity was allocated to commercial users that provided for the formal educational public purpose of Wilderness. We believe a similar number could apply to rock climbing and mountaineering, as formal education occurs on almost every guided trip. Many organizations, including the AMGA, are also interested in operating formal climbing educational programs or courses in Yosemite. If, on a busy day, there were 2000 climbers in the park, a commercial allocation of 10% would be a negligible impact with guided parties dispersed throughout the 3000 climbing routes in Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 727 Organization: Pacific Crest Trail Association **Comment ID:** 511293 **Organization**

Type: Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: We also ask that the Park take under consideration the group size limits and commercial uses in the USFS Wilderness areas to the north and south of the Park's boundaries. We at PCTA strive for consistent management amongst agency partners along the PCT.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55952) Educational institutions should not be considered commercial use and should have greater access to wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 647 Organization: Colorado Mountain Club **Comment ID:** 485991 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I also feel that non-profit educational organizations should be able to obtain Use Authorizations that are not subject to high fees or the same stringent regulations and commercially guided groups. Groups like this are educating youth and people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to access the park. They are also operating with limited resources and need to be viewed differently from commercial guided services.

Corr. ID: 679 Organization: Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 485582 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: I request that NPS re-evaluate how it defines commercial services, and that the activities that Tawonga is engaged in not be considered commercial. Our use is analogous to that of educational institutions-which are not considered "commercial services" by NPS. Our goals, like the trips by educational institutions, are to provide environmental education and foster self-reliance and teamwork.

When we obtain permits to summit half-dome using the commercial.recreation.gov portal, our use is designated as educational, so there is a precedent for viewing our use in this way.

Corr. ID: 679 Organization: Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 485583 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: If Camp Tawonga's use is still deemed commercial, our use should still be allowed, as our trips meet the purposes of the Wilderness Act in that they assist campers in "realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the area," including specifically the recreational, scenic, and educational uses.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55958) The current amount of commercial guiding services offered should be maintained.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 651 Organization: Trout Unlimited **Comment ID: 511108 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: In 2015, four commercial use authorizations were issued to fishing guide companies and we urge this current level of authorizations to continue.

Corr. ID: 722 Organization: Yosemite Mountaineering School **Comment ID: 511085**

Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: The benefit of Yosemite National Park having only one guide service is more control over how the operation is run.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55960) Yosemite should expand professional climbing and mountaineering guide services by providing more, low-ratio commercial use authorizations to both large commercial and sole-proprietorship guides. All guides operating in the park should be American Mountain Guides Association and/or International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations certified. These certifications for guides will ensure wilderness stewardship and visitor safety. A fair balance of local and outside guides should be considered. A new "extent necessary" analysis should take place to determine the number of commercial use authorizations and evaluate visitor use capacities of popular climbing areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 365 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID: 509678 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Other National Parks offer low-ratio Commercial Use Authorizations to allow sole proprietors and smaller guide services the same access opportunities as the larger concessionaires. AMGA training is an excellent requirement to incorporate into the vetting process for said CUAs.

Corr. ID: 366 Organization: American Alpine Club **Comment ID: 509679 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I value that the NPS currently allows its concessionaire to accommodate professional guides and make their services available to new climbers, students, and those who are visiting the park for the first time, but I don't believe those services reflect the depth of skill and professionalism that is available in the United States.

Corr. ID: 366 Organization: American Alpine Club **Comment ID: 509680 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: In the United States, the AMGA has been training and credentialing guides at the highest international standards for over 30 years. So, I would also ask the park to consider that making additional Commercial Use Authorizations available to these guides would allow the highest caliber of professional to access and facilitate the highest caliber of American rock climbing.

Corr. ID: 387 Organization: Amigos Bravos **Comment ID: 509753 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The broadening of mountaineering, rock-climbing, back-country skiing, camping, and hiking experiences without degrading the parks eco-system can be best accomplished by requiring visitors to work with professional guides to direct their experiences.

Corr. ID: 452 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510034 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Being as the Plan includes an objective that reads "regulatory restrictions will be minimized to allow as much freedom as possible consistent with wilderness resource objective," I can see no reason why the services offered by such a company would ever be limited in the backcountry. If anything, they should be required.

Corr. ID: 496 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 484864 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The Yosemite Wilderness holds some of the best rock climbing in the United States, and the Park is doing a very good job at preserving the climbing there with its climbing rangers and bolting ethics. However, I would like to see a change in the permission of guided parties to access climbing. As it currently stands only one company is allowed to guide technical rock climbing in Yosemite, and this is wrong. A single permit holder policy prevents modern standards and professionalism from making their way into guiding practices in the Park, and guides wages are minimized due to the lack of an open market for employment. Guests have no options in selecting their guide, rather they are told they must climb with one of the guides from the monopoly company, and in climbing, partnerships cannot be made in a day. Guides in a monopoly permit holder operation are discouraged from seeking professional training and development because they will then demand a higher (liveable) wage and risk losing their jobs when they ask for a raise. In short, a monopoly on the guided climbing permit is bad for the guests of the national park, and bad for the guides who live off these visitors.

Corr. ID: 505 Organization: Southwest Ambulance **Comment ID: 510403 Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: A very Sensible objective would be to have Legitimately Established permit program where Guides could come and Pay for a Season Pass (\$25-\$45) that they pay for upfront when they submit their Certification in Guiding (which will then be double checked with the Legitimate certifying Organization). The Guide will gain rights to guide after the Check and if they do or don't check out the NPS keeps the payment which will continue to fund it's many projects.

Corr. ID: 535 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486566 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Any future process for distributing access to commercial guiding permits should, as much as possible, favor individual guides access to such permits, based on their training and credentials, rather than any affiliation they may or may not have with a larger or existing guide service. This will help to maximize the number of the best trained and qualified guides working in the Parks.

Corr. ID: 553 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485797 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Myself and my family will come to Yosemite much more frequently if we are able to work with our guide for climbing and hiking, who is not a local Yosemite guide. Despite his

qualifications, I understand that Yosemite is considering having only Yosemite local guides eligible to guide at Yosemite. We would not climb with new guides at Yosemite, despite their qualifications, as a matter of comfort and history with our historical guide.

Corr. ID: 565 Organization: Kaf Adventures **Comment ID: 510641 Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: Commercial guides should still have to apply and follow standards set out by the park (and pay separate fees) but should have equal access as any other person who climbs in the park.

Corr. ID: 579 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 486211 Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Guided Rock Climbing: The walls of Yosemite run the gamut from single-pitch terrain to multi-day Grade V and VI big-wall climbing. Our recommendation is that guides be certified by the AMGA as a Rock Guide, meaning that they have been trained and assessed on terrain up to Grade V 5.10 , or that they are certified as an IFMGA (International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations) Mountain Guide. Mountain Guides certified by the AMGA hold an internationally recognized certification in rock climbing, alpine climbing, and ski mountaineering guiding. Foreign IFMGA Mountain Guides are recognized as having equivalent training, and many nations offer full reciprocity to IFMGA Mountain Guides from other countries.

Corr. ID: 579 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 486191 Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: We acknowledge the very significant volume of self-guided use received by the park, of which climbing and mountaineering is but a small fraction. We do not believe that climbing and mountaineering are at capacity in most areas of Yosemite's Wilderness. Mechanisms should be put in place to allow a more diverse population of domestic and international visitors to access climbing in Yosemite. To this end the public purposes of Wilderness will be more fully realized when visitors are readily able to select a climbing guide to accompany them. Given the amount of inquiries the AMGA receives on this topic, we believe the demand to be significantly greater than what is currently being accommodated through the sole concessionaire program.

Corr. ID: 579 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 486212 Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: Guided Mountaineering / Alpine Climbing: Similar to the rock terrain, the mountain terrain within Yosemite Wilderness bridges the spectrum from hiking peaks to technical 4th and 5th class mountain routes with complicated approaches and descents. Our recommendation is that guides applying for a mountaineering CUA be certified by the AMGA as an Alpine Guide or be certified as an IFMGA Mountain Guide. Similarly to the Rock Guide, the Alpine Guide is trained in a variety of mountain terrain, and assessed on advanced technical terrain.

Corr. ID: 579 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 486201 Organization Type:** University/Professional Society
Representative Quote: CUAs would ideally be granted for significant periods of time (e.g. ten or more days) with flexibility in scheduling to avoid any pressure to climb in sub-optimal weather or other conditions. CUAs for educational courses should be available for longer periods of time.

Corr. ID: 589 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486247 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: One way to achieve access for guides could be made available in the form of limited, low-ratio Commercial Use Authorizations (CUAs) that are reasonable for sole proprietors and small businesses to obtain.

Corr. ID: 592 Organization: Timberline Mountain Guides **Comment ID: 510732 Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: I believe that increasing the guiding opportunities can and will help to create a better culture among climbers and visitors in the park. More often than not, guests that finish a guided outing leave with a deeper understanding and appreciation of being a steward of the land, practicing LNT and being part of a responsible and courteous climbing community.

Corr. ID: 599 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486277 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: By hiring a fully qualified guide I can safely and effectively climb a major route in the national park in a tight timeframe and take my family with me.

Maintaining a high standard of guiding qualifications is essential but allowing different operators in the national park- all under the stewardship of the national park governors, will create competition which in turn will drive standards, safety and ensure that an objective viewpoint is maintained with regard to conserving the valley.

Corr. ID: 610 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510808 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: A set number of user days should be created and allow people to apply for those opportunities, distinguishing between wilderness days and "roadside" days to preserve the wilderness yet still allow access for people who want to experience climbing in Yosemite with a guide.

Corr. ID: 612 Organization: The Wilderness Society **Comment ID: 485499 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: We recommend that park managers use this revision of the Wilderness Management Plan as an opportunity to consider expanding the availability of guided mountaineering services within the park. Our understanding is that, historically, the park's primary concessionaire had exclusive authority to provide guided mountaineering services. We think this model did not serve the public very well. We urge the park to give serious consideration to issuing new commercial use authorizations for guided mountaineering services. Further, if an Extent Necessary determination concludes that it is appropriate to do so, we suggest the park consider issuing Commercial Use Authorizations to multiple service providers in order to ensure the availability of a diverse suite of guided services to the public.

Recently, The Wilderness Society has been encouraging public land managers to recognize the critical role that guides and other outdoor leaders play in connecting people to public lands in an increasingly urbanized country. To make these connections possible, land managers should treat guided recreation as a facilitated use that furthers the agency's mission of connecting more people to America's public lands. Guided recreation should not be treated the same as an extractive use of public lands.

We believe modern professional mountain guiding helps further the educational purposes of Wilderness. In most instances, professional guides are committed stewards of the land and the Wilderness resource, and they provide a valuable service by sharing Wilderness values with the

recreating public. In this way, they grow the community of people who value America's public lands and are willing to work to protect it.

For these reasons, we urge you to consider providing additional guided mountaineering opportunities as you revise the Yosemite Wilderness Management Plan.

Corr. ID: 618 Organization: The Access Fund **Comment ID: 485544 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Yosemite planners should consider new guiding opportunities (for rock climbing and mountaineering) by permitting new commercial use authorizations that enable a range of independent guides, guides services, and organizations to access the world class climbing in Yosemite Wilderness. Accordingly, planners should consider a new "extent necessary" process for commercial climbing guide services for various areas with an established visitor capacity determination that can appropriately be allocated between the general public, commercial users, and those with special use permits.

Corr. ID: 624 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511048 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Consideration might be given to the term of the CUA. For example CUA's could be issued yearly, but are perhaps valid for 5 years. In other words an independent guide issued a CUA for 10 user days, would have 5 years to use the 10 days.

Corr. ID: 624 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511045 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: These barriers to entry should include:

- 1) minimum guide training and certification. Preferable would be that CUA's only be issued to AMGA or IFMGA certified guides. The specific credentials would be AMGA Certified Rock Guide, AMGA Certified Alpine Guide, or IFMGA licensed guide.
- 2) LNT Trainer Course
- 3) Current WFR Certification or equivalent medical training.

This would ensure that any guide issued a "new" CUA would have a level of certification equal to or higher than the highest trained members of the YMS staff.

Corr. ID: 624 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511046 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I'm not aware what Yosemite Mountaineering Schools' current use figures are, but I would suggest that additional user days via CUA's be authorized based on a percentage of YMS's current use. I don't know the best way to arrive at that percentage, but I suspect the number could be between 10-50%. So if YMS is currently operating at 2000 user days, then an additional 200-1000 user days should be authorized via CUA's.

I think a tiered system of CUA's would be appropriate. For example, if we go with the 25% number, then 500 additional use days would be authorized according to the following schedule or something similar:

4 x 50 user days CUA's
4 x 25 user days CUA's

20 x 10 user days CUA's.

The idea would be to authorize incidental use for both independent guides as well as large or small guide services.

Corr. ID: 655 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 511119 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The NPS should work with a panel of licensed guides to come up with a system that will be functional for the public and simple for the NPS to manage. Once a new plan is reached and implemented, it should have a mechanism to allow for revision of processes to adjust for underuse or overuse, and/or to revise the process for issuing access to visiting guides.

Corr. ID: 657 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 511126 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I encourage the park to avoid companies that employ guides as subcontractors or "1099 employees". History has shown that it is hard to manage liability and often these subcontractors do not have their own liability insurance or workers comp. In effect passing on the liability of accident or incident onto the NPS.

Corr. ID: 677 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 511316 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial guiding operations should be opened up to encourage a greater variety of terrain options to guests. Under the current system it is hard for visitors to the park to find a variety of the options of technical rock, ski, and alpine recreation or to experience other areas of the Yosemite National Park Wilderness then the most impacted area. These opportunities have not been explored or experienced due to the restrictive nature of current commercial permits in Yosemite National Park. i.e. only backpacking, backcountry skiing, and horse packing commercial permits have been available. No third, fourth or fifth class alpine terrain is commercially available.

Corr. ID: 696 Organization: Extreme Alpine Comment ID: 511354 Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: The Rocky Mountain and Rainier CUAs can benefit me as a visiting guide. I can plan a trip with my clients well in advance and sell them that experience. However these programs are of limited benefit to guides who live in that area. Qualified and motivated individuals and businesses who are located in Colorado and Washington can certainly take advantage of the CUAs that currently exist there, but it is expensive to apply for them for a limited number of days. What I respectfully recommend is a tiered structure where larger local businesses can hold a larger block of use under a CUA, local individual guides can hold a CUA for a medium range of days say 20-30 days and visiting guides can come for 5-7 days.

Corr. ID: 696 Organization: Extreme Alpine Comment ID: 511355 Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: After seeing the process and result in other parks and being enthusiastic about the opportunity I, and others were ultimately disappointed with the outcome. A recent positive experience I've had is working with a local non-profit land manager in my area. The Mohonk Preserve outside New Paltz, NY has a number of very valuable programs in place. First they require all guides to be trained for the terrain where they guide. The AMGA is one such training program that is allowed there. Second they have a tiered structure where small to medium sized businesses have access alongside individual guides. Both of these groups have unlimited access, but there are a limited number of slots available. The Preserve then offers 10 days to visiting guides who wish to bring their clients and work legally on the land. I feel having this tiered structure has

provided for the best balance between use and preservation of the resource. Though this is a private entity the model could be used by the park to enhance the experience of its visitors while maintaining the stewardship and conservation goals the park was founded on.

WL4000 - Access

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55929) All user groups should have access to the wilderness including but not limited to: minorities, those with limited economic resources, older visitors, children, educational and documentary filmmakers, naturalists, hikers and campers.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 143 Organization: Private Citizen **Comment ID: 486350 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would hope you do not allow yourselves to shut out the aging demographics by limiting the outfitters and their guided that make it possible for older Americans to continue their love affair with the National Parks.

Corr. ID: 484 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510295 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I hope that the plan will continue to allow access to hikers, backpackers and users of stock.

Corr. ID: 502 Organization: AERC **Comment ID: 486378 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Keeping the Sierra Range open for naturalists, hikers, campers, trail riders, and the public in general. Keep the range open to grazing stock.

Corr. ID: 580 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 510691 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Wilderness is still an overwhelmingly white and upper/middle-class playground. Yosemite must continue its efforts to reach out to people of color and people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, especially those who live close to the park. Yosemite has taken radical steps in this direction by pioneering two highly successful and widely respected programs: WildLink and the Yosemite Leadership Program at UC Merced.

Corr. ID: 633 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485896 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Avoiding creating barriers for those with few economic resources to enjoy the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 633 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511070 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Group size limits of 15 are reasonable. Further reductions in size may impose a financial barrier to the ability of some to visit the wilderness, especially those using commercial guides- -such groups have fixed costs that are divided among the participants. With a smaller group each participant's share increases.

Corr. ID: 679 Organization: Camp Tawonga **Comment ID: 511327 Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: Children are an important user group who have special needs. Children would not be able to access the backcountry safely without trained guides or other responsible

adults. Tawonga provides an important service by bringing children into the backcountry. Most of our campers have never gone backpacking with their families and Tawonga is the only time that they access the Yosemite wilderness.

Corr. ID: 723 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 511095 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If educational, natural history, or documentary filming is banned from wilderness areas it will strip power away from wilderness conservation.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56754) The need for additional infrastructure or systems for access should be reviewed. Specific suggestions include parking and bus systems and a large scale bike plan. Some visitors request that minimal additional restrictions be in place on Tioga road to allow continued freedom of access, while others suggest that additional restrictions are needed due to overcrowding.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 452 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 510004 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Traffic on Tioga Road not only causes noise pollution, air pollution, and ugly roadside parking lots, but provides easy access to backcountry areas which should merit a more earnest effort to reach. Some potential solutions include issuing parking permits, restricting parking to established lots, and increasing public transport from the Valley (though this operation is already very efficient, environmentally friendly and one of the things the NPS has done well).

Corr. ID: 540 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 486600 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In the end, however, I fear we will need to limit access to the park, all parks and perhaps require prior reservations.

Corr. ID: 545 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 487692 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe infrastructure should be created that will ensure that overcrowding with people and with motor vehicles will not continue. Examples of such infrastructure include a parking and bus system (See Zion Natl Park) with limited permits for private automobile use within the park for special uses and during off season times. A large scale plan for bicycle use within the park should also be created. Yosemite Valley is relatively compact, bicycles are an easy way to get around the floor of the valley efficiently.

Corr. ID: 731 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 489414 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The roads are outside of the scope of the WSP, but the way people approach wilderness can affect wilderness use and management. The Tioga road goes through TM, and allows heavy access. I am concerned that there will be restrictions put in place to prevent heavy day use. Please minimize restrictions concerning these things, for example please do not require wilderness permits for going in to TM.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56762) The trailhead quota system is an effective way to regulate access as it disperses backpacking use but allows maximum freedom of movement.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509763 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The trailhead quota system disperses backpacking use but also allows maximum freedom of movement - an essential part of a wilderness recreational experience. I feel very restricted and confined at parks like Grand Teton, where you have to use specific reserved designated camping sites, with no opportunity for spontaneous travel.

WL5000 - Visitor conflicts & safety

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55885) In order to reduce the potential for visitor conflict, the Wilderness Stewardship Plan should include proactive methods of visitor education, including the use of interpretive materials at Wilderness trailheads related to stock use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 658 **Organization:** Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 511190

Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: In order to reduce the potential for visitor conflict, the WSP should include proactive methods of visitor education, including the use of interpretive materials available at Wilderness trailheads, to convey to hikers and backpackers to expect encounters with parties with pack stock. The WSP also should detail methods by which visitors traveling via foot and with pack stock could enhance communication and work toward minimizing "conflict between user groups. Changing the expectations of individuals prior to their embarking from the trailhead appears to represent a first step in doing so.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55886) The responsibility for risk should be examined; some commenters state that personal responsibility for risk should be maintained as part of the wilderness experience while others state that proactive management is needed, such as posting rangers at trailheads to determine whether hikers are properly equipped.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486497 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Maintain Personal Responsibility for Risk as part of Wilderness, and do not accommodate Wireless Transmission Towers as a means of De-Wildernessing for the sake of the unprepared user.

Corr. ID: 392 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509787 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It's almost like a ranger needs to be posted at each trailhead to determine whether those beginning a hike have proper equipment, fluids, footwear, etc.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56811) Management related to rock climbing should be examined to address existing or potential safety risks; specifically, the use of a permit process to replace existing fixed anchors using motorized equipment, and the climbing routes permitted.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 21 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487586 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Being able to use a permit process to replace existing fixed anchors using motorized equipment, 1 for 1, is critically important. 20 plus year old time bomb quarter inch fixed anchors need to be updated before someone leans back and whips to the ground. Moto drills are a simple mechanism, like a chain saw, to make backcountry recreation less dangerous than it needs to be. Other National areas have permit processes for replacement using motorized equipment.

Corr. ID: 722 **Organization:** Yosemite Mountaineering School **Comment ID:** 511088

Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: I also fear my own safety as a climbing instructor/mountain guide if I am forced away from safer route locations if I am required by NPS to lead visitors up higher risk climbs.

WL6000 - Recreation

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55881) The flexibility of climbing management should continue, including the ability to place fixed anchors without a power drill. Wilderness climbing opportunities should continue without the need for registration or management provided that climbers minimize impacts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 389 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484047 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Preservation of a beautiful and fragile natural environment that can be enjoyed by many people in some places, by few in spots further from the trails. I am a climber and I appreciate access to [backcountry] climbing opportunities, provided climbers follow leave no trace practices whenever possible.

Corr. ID: 430 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484492 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value that

- - stewardship projects and community outreach is being prioritized
- -climbers can climb and sleep on big walls like el cap and leaning tower without registering or being managed in terms of maximum user days.

Corr. ID: 438 **Organization:** American Alpine Club **Comment ID:** 484508 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I value the integration of the climbing community. I'm grateful the climbing community has a voice

Corr. ID: 624 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485791 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I appreciate that the NPS allows the placement of fixed anchors without a power drill.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55882) Bicycles should not be permitted on trails.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 216 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487511 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I don't want a bicycle on my hiking trail. I want a trail that is peaceful and safe from traffic of any kind.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55883) Manage climbing in Yosemite, as pristine conditions have deteriorated markedly.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 169 **Organization:** Mr. **Comment ID:** 486502 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Control better the climbing on 'Yosemite' Walls. El Capitan as an example has deteriorated markedly from a more pristine condition of merely 50 years ago.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55884) Allow managed base jumping in Yosemite.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 661 **Organization:** AMGA **Comment ID:** 485414 **Organization Type:**

University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: Base jumping could be allowed on specific days or from specific points. The current outright ban on base jumping is not working

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56818) Remove the ban on nonmotorized watercraft use in wilderness streams/rivers.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 38 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 487653 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am writing to voice my request for Yosemite National Park to remove its ban of non-motorized watercraft use in wilderness streams/rivers. As a local whitewater kayaker, I can attest to the world class quality of whitewater creeks in Yosemite. Kayaking/rafting of backcountry streams provides a unique wilderness experience that is low environment impact and does not endanger other park visitors. Kayaking/rafting is allowed in wilderness areas of other national parks including Sequoia/Kings. Whitewater kayakers and rafters have shown a long history of being a responsible user group and would continue to do so in Yosemite.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56819) Consider precise zoning throughout the park that can identify appropriate desired conditions for each zone based on a recreation opportunity spectrum in Wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 618 **Organization:** The Access Fund **Comment ID:** 510998 **Organization Type:**

Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Yosemite planners should consider precise zoning throughout the park which can effectively identify appropriate desired conditions for each zone based on a recreation opportunity spectrum in Wilderness and acknowledges existing use patterns and visitor needs.

WL7000 - Nonmotorized, nonmechanized recreation

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55995) Access to the wilderness via canoe or rowboat should be considered.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 9 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484247 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Perhaps canoe or rowboat access for those best able to propel via arm strength is a rational compromise to allow a wilder experience.

WL8000 - NPS enforcement of rules

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55879) Yosemite must emphasize a greater backcountry presence by both park rangers and volunteers to ensure the wilderness is protected through both education and enforcement of rules and regulations. Heightened focus should be placed on, but not limited to, Leave No Trace principles, noise infractions, illegal campfires and camping, and dogs.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 Organization: Humboldt State University **Comment ID: 484157 Organization Type:** University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: We need more foot patrol rangers who are willing to cite for infractions such as illegal campfires and out of bounds camping. Right now, there is little fear of citations, so too many do as they please.

Corr. ID: 174 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 486515 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The most important aspect of any new Wilderness Stewardship Plan is how well the plan's rules and regulations will be enforced. Currently, the lack of sufficient backcountry rangers adversely effects the Yosemite wilderness. Too many hikers and backpackers ignore the existing rules. They build fires in prohibited areas, camp too close to lakes and creeks, cut switchbacks, make excessive noise (no one should be playing a portable music player except while wearing earphones) and fail to pack out their garbage because they know they can get away with not adhering to the rules. This is despite the lecture everyone receives when picking up their permit as well as the rules being printed on every permit. Since it is unlikely they will encounter a ranger they feel free to flout backcountry regulations. First and foremost, Yosemite National Park must commit the necessary money and personnel to maintain the Yosemite Wilderness so it exists with minimal human impact and ensures each visitor has an optimal wilderness experience.

Corr. ID: 261 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 509043 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I want more enforcement rangers in front and outback in Yosemite Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 546 Organization: Lasting Adventures **Comment ID: 510523 Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: If you even just rotated some volunteers that could go out and have a presence, it would be okay...but I only ever see my groups get checked, when there are disrespectful private parties out there breaking rules.

Corr. ID: 602 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485419 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Some of the greatest abuses to the Yosemite Wilderness I have seen in the past years has been by PCT hikers passing through. Increased ranger presence along the PCT corridor is required during the weeks of peak PCT-hiker flow to limit the damage done. I saw PCT hikers camped virtually on the trail, damaging trail margins to avoid slightly damp areas, and in particular, PCT hikers with dogs. The PCT hikers with dogs displayed no obvious disabilities and the loop-hole that allows dogs in wilderness for owners with disabilities needs to be tightened.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55880) The visitor experience for backcountry users should be analyzed so the registration process is less cumbersome.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 479 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510281 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The parks are uninviting to anyone who wants to recreate, it is set-up for the driving tourist and backcountry users are criminalized, registered and untrusted. The bureaucracy to access the wilderness completely destroys the experience.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56768) Clear and meaningful penalties should be established, effectively communicated, and enforced to reduce willful or negligent destruction of the wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486494 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Create clear and meaningful penalties for the willful, and/or negligent destruction of Park Wilderness resources.

WL9000 - Permit system and/or quotas

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55903) The NPS should charge more money for wilderness permits and park entry. The NPS should further limit the number of people who stay in or travel through the park.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 93 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489632 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would definitely be in favor of raising fees for access to the park, as well as further limiting the number of people who can stay in the park and even enter the park (just to drive through). With an increased budget (from higher fees) and the use of modern technology, the NPS should be able to more effectively manage (and balance) the use of Yosemite in a fashion that lets an optimal number of people use it without overusing it or abusing it.

Corr. ID: 354 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509673 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The park needs to finance wilderness rangers to maintain patrols and educate the public. The park needs to charge a larger amount for wilderness permits to fund those patrol rangers while reducing the number of permits.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55904) To allow for more diverse access, the NPS should not charge for wilderness permits.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 131 **Organization:** Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 486323 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: NPS should keep wilderness visits fee-free. (Advance reservation fees are an acceptable exception.) We realize wilderness, like anything else, does not come free, but wilderness is a common value, a common good, like public education, which is not paid for on the basis of user fees. A fee on a wilderness visit would be a trammeling action, and any attempt at justification would need to show that all other aspects of wilderness character are increased by the fee.

Corr. ID: 490 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 510297 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe that charging per day per person for a wilderness fee is contrary to everything that the NPS does and should exist for. Enjoying public lands should be a right for all citizens, not based upon someones ability to pay a fee or not.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55905) The influx of wilderness users causes undue degradation to wilderness resources and values. Backcountry permits should be limited. Trail quotas should be reduced and trailhead and destination quotas should be considered. Restrictions should be applied along high-volume locations such as at Half Dome and John Muir Trail, as well as in sensitive areas, such as along the Tuolumne River and its tributaries. Ranger patrols should be increased to effectively enforce these changes.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 405 Organization: Hiker Comment ID: 484125 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: My feeling is that too many people are allowed in the [backcountry]. The park should reduce permits by at least 20%.

Corr. ID: 540 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 486597 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would continue to limit back-country travel to keep camping sites from being overwhelmed. It is a distraction to backpackers, but the restricted encourage my friends and me to visit other areas of the park.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 510594 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: utilize destination quotas and/or lower the trailhead quotas that lead to them. Put more backcountry rangers into high use areas to patrol in the evenings and mornings (mid-day patrols dont catch campers camping).

Corr. ID: 561 Organization: 1993 Comment ID: 485000 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think that limiting the number of visitors to keep the area preserved is valuable, and worth denying potentially too many people for the overall well-being of the park.

Corr. ID: 629 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 485853 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Restrictions instituted for access to Half Dome was appropriate, but should probably be reduced further. The same can be said for the management of the John Muir Trail in Yosemite and other high-volume trails.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC Comment ID: 485486 Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Given the high levels of visitor use in the park, trailhead quotas and zone management are insufficient for maintaining the solitude definition of Wilderness. Although Yosemite has so many miles of Wilderness to explore, most visitors tend to visit a select group of destinations, often made popular by social media and guidebooks.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC **Comment ID:** 485489 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Solitude is a key component of Wilderness character and visitor use and capacity limits should focus on providing a quality Wilderness experience instead of focusing on the quantity of Wilderness experiences provided.

Corr. ID: 726 Organization: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) **Comment ID:** 511265 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: We recommend the WSP consider a trailhead and destination quota management to better control use in sensitive areas, especially in areas near the Tuolumne River and its tributaries (e.g., Lyell Canyon, the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River, and Rancheria near Hetch Hetchy Reservoir).

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55907) The NPS should require additional education for visitors concurrent with issuance of a wilderness permit and enforcement of current permit quotas. Information should cover wilderness safety and environmental stewardship. The NPS should give preference to those with more wilderness experience or qualifications.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 383 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484035 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe the wilderness visitor Quota system is necessary. I also believe that each person granted a permit should have to sit through a 10min presentation covering how to travel in the wilderness in a safe way that promotes improving the environment. This is done in some other countries in South America.

Corr. ID: 713 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510903 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is time to apply some meaningful requirements for entering the wilderness, with a goal of user freedom once users have entered the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 730 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489314 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Backpackers should have to prove they have some experience before applying for permits (if it goes to a lottery?). Not fair for inexperienced backpackers to get the permits and the avid, experienced backpackers miss out. Require people to have WFR training or equivalent first aid training.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55909) The permitting process is currently too burdensome on the visitor. Suggested changes are as follows: take reservations via the internet not fax, develop a self-registration system, develop a waiting list system, create an incentive so permit holders cancel their permit if they don't want to use it, allow for printable permits and not require day wilderness permits making it easier to access wilderness during short-hikes.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 627 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 511051 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: my biggest concern about enforcing solitude is the possibility of day use permits being required. Since this had been proposed in both the Tuolumne River and Merced River plans, the possibility that it is going to come up again in this Wilderness Plan is high. If you are required to have a day use permit as soon as you cross the Wilderness Boundary in many places,

especially in the Tuolumne Meadow area, this means that the boundary is only a few hundred feet away from the road or where you park your car. This would limit the ability of people to do short hikes or other activities spontaneously.

Corr. ID: 636 Organization: SYMG, PCGI Comment ID: 485940 Organization Type: Business
Representative Quote: There must be a better way to do wilderness permits than faxing permit application after permit application until one gets approved, and there must be a better way to reserve campsites than having a room full of people on the internet at 7am to secure campsites on the day they go on sale- -and then ending up with the wrong permit dates and campsites because you don't actually market the trips until after the date when you had to secure the permits and sites!!

Corr. ID: 698 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 485635 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Related to quotas is the administrative process for the visitor to obtain a permit. The present system is needlessly burdensome on the visitor, and the emphasis is on "needlessly."

Corr. ID: 698 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 485633 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Requiring permits for day-hiking everywhere, all the time. I am not advocating this, but others have done so. Other agencies have tried this, and run into problems. There was great public resistance. Do not repeat the mistakes of other agencies.

Corr. ID: 724 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 511172 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Allow for self-registration for trips from Yosemite Valley during the non-quota/winter season.

Corr. ID: 724 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 511166 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Those who have reservations should be able to print out their own permit and avoid the need to visit a permit station prior to their trip.

Corr. ID: 730 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 489322 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There is no incentive for permit holders to cancel.

Corr. ID: 730 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 489321 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Develop a waiting list system that would notify if a permit holder cancels. Something more convenient than checking every day to see if a permit becomes available.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55910) The permit system effectively mitigates overcrowding through the use of quotas and group size limits. The permit system also protects wilderness resources, specifically along the John Muir Trail and on Half Dome.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 5 Organization: *Not Specified* Comment ID: 484159 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I value the fact that the NPS attempts to limit overuse and preserve wilderness values through trailhead quotas and limiting group size for on and off-trail travel.

Corr. ID: 199 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509770 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I fully support your latest efforts to limit the numbers of Half Dome climbers and John Muir Trail through-hikers to reduce impacts and allow access for others to the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 585 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485043 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The NPS has reasonable means for permitting and being aware of the number and location of users in the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 626 **Organization:** Lasting Adventures, Inc. **Comment ID:** 485816 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: Increased trail use is always a concern but I feel current quota systems and ranger patrols are able to address most concerns within the existing quotas.

Corr. ID: 633 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485894 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: . I think the recent changes to impose a quota to exit over Donohue pass were a good effort to respond to greatly increasing usage on the JMT.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55911) Permits for commercial guides should be limited and considered in the quota system.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 675 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 485263 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Increased demand for camp sites and greater pressure to allow commercially guided groups. Implementing quotas in popular areas seems to be the only measure available to prevent the wilderness from becoming urban. Commercially guided permits should also be limited. The National Park Service is not mandated to make money for commercial guides and outfitters.

Corr. ID: 730 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 489320 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In developing a good quota system, need to be aware of commercial guides going in and reserving all the permits.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55912) The NPS should expand the permit system to provide more permits to local commercial guiding companies and guides with specialization in guiding visitors with disabilities. The NPS should have separate commercial guiding quotas and reservation deadlines to give visitors more opportunity to have a commercial guide.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 493 **Organization:** Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides (Commercial Outfitter)

Comment ID: 510330 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: This is an intelligent way to separate the use: one quota to go on your own, one quota to go with a guide. Give people a choice.

Corr. ID: 493 Organization: Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides (Commercial Outfitter)

Comment ID: 510347 Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: We feel that locally -based outfitters, with their proximity and commitment to the surrounding local communities, should receive priority over the outfitters who come from other states and areas of the Sierra and only use the Park as a side note offering to their other destinations.

Corr. ID: 494 Organization: Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides **Comment ID: 486823**

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We are in favor of separate commercial quotas for wilderness permits.

Commercial quotas are something that currently works very well in the National Forests adjacent to Yosemite. Commercial wilderness quotas would allow outfitters the flexibility needed to cater to the demands of the public who require commercial services in order to experience the Yosemite Wilderness. One issue for people who require guided services is that we are not able to effectively plan trips for them after the 6-month-in-advance dates that currently exist. Commercial quotas would open up additional possibilities for these types of wilderness users.

Corr. ID: 545 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 487694 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I also believe a small lottery of ten day temporary use permits should be created for guided climbing within the national park. This will allow for a diverse set of programs from around the country and the world to offer high quality climbing and natural experiences on the wilderness cliff areas of Yosemite Valley. A fine example of this type of CUA/temporary use program is in place in Red Rock National Conservation Area, NV.

Corr. ID: 657 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485395 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Yosemite National Park should extent permits to companies who specialize in guiding guests with disabilities. The current plan makes it difficult to find a guide who specializes in guiding persons with disabilities in technical terrain. I believe by expanding the permit system Yosemite could do a better job of creating reasonable accommodation as outlined in the ADA.

Corr. ID: 657 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485394 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe that Yosemite should expand the permit system to local companies who are familiar with Yosemite's history and ecosystem. Permittees should be companies that are already aware of the unique problems and challenges faced in the Yosemite Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 688 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485614 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: More commercial wilderness permit quotas to allow the more of the public to experience the [backcountry] that require guided services.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55913) Trailhead quotas, such as the Donahue exit quota, trailhead quota from Pohono Trail to Taft Point, and trailhead quotas for Sunrise Lakes and Lyell Canyon, are too restrictive for meeting demand and act as a barrier to wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 1 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484139 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Trail quotas should be increased to allow a broad spectrum of people to enjoy the park.

Corr. ID: 174 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486518 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The quotas for backcountry travel should be reassessed. Quotas should reflect not only the entrance trail, but also the planned exit trail and the first night's camping choice. For example, for the John Muir Trail out of Tuolumne Meadows, most hikers may camp the first night at the Ireland Junction or before the climb out of the canyon. However, those hiking the JMT or PCT probably go further. Taking that into consideration could lead to the quota being slightly readjusted to possibly include more backpackers per day than the current quota. This same re-evaluation could also be applied to the trails leaving Yosemite Valley. So for the JMT out of Tuolumne and Yosemite Valley, there could be a separate quota for the Ireland Junction/upper Lyell Canyon and another for points beyond, and a separate quota for Little Yosemite Valley and another for destinations beyond. An example of a current trailhead where this is already applied is Glen Aulin where there is a different quota for the Waterwheel/Cold Canyon pass through. The exact numbers for each trailhead need to be considered by studying recent permit data.

Corr. ID: 320 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 509525 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There should be no reduction in quotas. They should be increased. Break the wilderness in to areas and post the numbers of users in each area daily. Users will go to the less traveled areas if they want some solitude.

Corr. ID: 494 Organization: Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 486825
Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We feel that there should be no Donahue Exit quota for the JMT. We feel that there should be separate commercial permit quotas for guided JMT trips.

Corr. ID: 525 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486541 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In-line with general recreation management principles, any further regulations or changes to permit systems should be implemented in the most specific ways possible, so that they a) address only the issues present and b) limit the restrictions to specific locations or instances.

Corr. ID: 665 Organization: The Wildland Trekking Company **Comment ID:** 485468
Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: The under-use of the wilderness, not the over-use, as evidenced by the very small fraction of total park visitors that actually spend any time in the wilderness, is an issue that should be addressed. Overly restrictive quotas in the peak summer months keep many visitors from experiencing the backcountry. A revamped system could increase visitation without negatively affecting wilderness characteristics.

Corr. ID: 679 Organization: Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 485273 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: Increasing access to match increased demand while retaining the ecological integrity and wilderness character of the land. With the growing California population, the old trailhead quotas and limited number of campsites available are too restrictive and serve as a barrier to access.

Corr. ID: 679 Organization: Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 511328 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: In order for them [children] to be able to access the backcountry, it is vital to have a sufficient number of trails that are low or medium difficulty that can accommodate groups. The low trailhead quota from the Pohono Trail to Taft point precludes us from taking campers there even though it would be a suitable destination in terms of distance and terrain difficulty. Fifteen years ago, Tawonga regularly sent trips to Sunrise Lakes and Lyell Canyon, however due to the increased popularity of these trails and low trailhead quotas relative to demand, we are seldom ever able to bring our groups to these destinations even using the reservation system. I urge you to increase the trailhead quotas to better match the increased demand so that access is not so severely restricted.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55914) Educational institutions should receive special use permits and their unique needs, such as hiking with children, should be considered when assigning trail quotas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 653 Organization: Westfield State University **Comment ID:** 485386 **Organization Type:** University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: Also, the park service should provide special use permits for educational institutions such as universities and colleges so they can access the wilderness to provide valuable educational opportunities for their students.

Corr. ID: 679 Organization: Camp Tawonga **Comment ID:** 511331 **Organization Type:** Business
Representative Quote: Tawonga used to be able to access all of our desired destinations in Yosemite by acquiring First-Come, First-Served permits one day in advance of the trips. However in recent years we have seen so much increased demand that it has become necessary, as well as expensive, to secure permits in advance through the reservation system. In some cases, we have entered the lottery only to be denied our 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th choice destinations. The remaining options were inappropriately difficult for young backpackers. It is vital that the quota system keeps up with growing demand while also preserving the unique character of the wilderness so that access is not unnecessarily restricted.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55915) Increase group size to more than 8 for on- and off-trail use in wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 516 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID:** 484900 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Group size. As an outdoor instructor, it's not realistic to get programs to run in Yosemite with the group size limit of 8 for off trail travel.

Corr. ID: 575 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID:** 486646 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It would be beneficial to outdoor education organizations if larger groups (over a group size of 8) were able to travel in the wilderness of Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 666 **Organization:** Outward Bound California **Comment ID:** 511200 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Grant access to larger groups (at least 10) into the Wilderness

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55916) Reduce the group size of backpacker and stock users permitted in wilderness, as areas like Lyell Canyon and Glen Aulin no longer provide a wilderness experience due to high encounter rates. Backpacking and stock use group size should be limited to 12 individuals, and off-trail group size should be limited to 6 individuals. Permits should specify calendar dates for which they are valid.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 486516 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The best way to minimize adverse human impact on the Yosemite wilderness is to limit party size. The worst damage I have witnessed has always been done by large groups. The limit for party size for overnight backpacking on a trailed route should be a maximum of 12 individuals, not 15. This limit should apply to both stock groups and backpackers. For those who will be traveling off-trail, the limit should be 6 individuals in order to mitigate the impact on these especially fragile areas.

Corr. ID: 174 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 486517 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In terms of quotas, there should be no quota for day hikers. However, party size should be limited to 12 individuals for all non-ranger-led or professionally guided day hikes. Large groups of day hikers are both destructive to trails and disruptive to other hikers. Encountering a party of 20 day hikers in Lyell Canyon or on the PCT to Glen Aulin is not a true wilderness experience. Though there may be issues with education and enforcement that make this impractical, this is something to at least consider.

Corr. ID: 707 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 510899 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: One approach might be to issue only date specific permits for camping overnight inside the Wilderness, similar to what is currently in place for developed campgrounds.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55917) The NPS should create high use zones with destination quotas and designated camping areas. Alternative trailheads should be promoted to minimize crowding in other areas. The NPS should require users to report camping destination locations and specific trip itineraries.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 167 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 486463 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Consider the success or limitations of the current trail quota system in retaining the wilderness value of these popular areas. Consider creating 'Zones' that designate camping areas within those corridors.

Corr. ID: 555 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 485812 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If needed, in order to accomplish the previous, require reporting of camping destination locations. Find a more analysis friendly way of storing these data so wilderness rangers have better access to understanding how folks are moving and where they are spending each night. Far too many people end up at places like Emeric Lake, Ireland Lake, Cathedral Lakes, Royal Arch Lake etc because the trailhead quota system only flirts with addressing itineraries and specific lake basins.

Corr. ID: 555 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 485810 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In general, think about lumping current wilderness zones into the Canyonlands model - they have some places where you can camp freely and some where you have to stay in designated sites or areas. They issue less permits for these wilder destinations.

Corr. ID: 629 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 485860 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Regarding the John Muir Trail, while I support use restrictions I do not believe that limiting permits alone is a remedy. The Donohue exit quota may have slowed use for a year, but such restrictions are not the answer. Hikers denied entry from Happy Isles flip directions and start at Horseshoe Meadow south of Whitney. Others start in the middle of the JMT and hike in both directions. Quotas- -without viable options to address burgeoning demand- -will not work, and simply alienate user groups.

I suggest Wilderness managers work to develop alternative trail head starting points to disburse use and emphasize other routes. For instance, the Theodore Solomons Trail has largely disappeared from hikers' conscienceness. A promotion of that trail as an alternative for those unable to win the lottery for the JMT will help address demand.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: CSERC Comment ID: 485488 Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Trailhead quotas are essential to minimizing the number of encounters on trails and heavy use of certain trails. Zone capacities can be effective, but only if the zones are created with the most current usage information and take into consideration a balance of use levels within the zone. Creation of high use zones, with destination quotas for destinations within that zone could serve to better protect the Wilderness experience of those wanting to visit a popular destination.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55919) [Coordinate with adjacent National Forests to improve visitor dispersion and permitting efforts. Consider creating a regional permitting system for the entire southern Sierra.](#)

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 131 Organization: Sierra Club **Comment ID: 486314 Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: The Wilderness permit system should be fully coordinated with the other adjacent National Forests to create one system for the entire Southern Sierra. NPS should encourage the use of the less used trailheads. The system should balance the interests of through hikers and other users The system must be designed to limit the impact on the natural resources of the Park.

Corr. ID: 716 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 511060 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is unfortunate that those attempting to "hike through" may be limited in their access due to the location of the trailhead. Perhaps a variety of permits, for example, on heavily traveled trails a day permit, a single night permit or a multiple night permit could be issued.

Corr. ID: 724 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 511176 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Creating more specific "pass-through" trailhead quotas to provide finer-grained control

Corr. ID: 730 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 489306 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It would be ideal to have a uniform high sierra permit system that is standardized throughout all the FS districts and NPs.

Corr. ID: 731 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 489433 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Is there anything that captures, like a permitting process, people that are hiking in from the outside of the park to inside the park?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 55921) [There shouldn't be an additional permit required for Half Dome for wilderness users who already have a wilderness permit.](#)

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 493 Organization: Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides (Commercial Outfitter)

Comment ID: 510348 Organization Type: Business

Representative Quote: If people are able to backpack Half Dome and were able to acquire the wilderness permit for it (an already herculean effort for popular trailheads in high season), they should be able to be free to go where they desire and if Half Dome is what they desire we feel the daily quotas shouldn't apply to them.

Corr. ID: 494 Organization: Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides **Comment ID: 486828**

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We feel that summiting Half Dome via the "Cables Route" should be allowed when participating in any backcountry trip that requires wilderness permits.

Corr. ID: 628 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 485835**

Organization Type: University/Professional Society

Representative Quote: I do not favor any further requirement of day hiking permits, such as those imposed upon Half Dome hikers, as I feel this prevents too many people from "accidentally" discovering a love for wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 688 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 485615 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The Half Dome permit system is extremely difficult for the average user as I have heard many of my clients complain about it. Maybe allowance for climbing with any [backcountry] wilderness permit and leaving the day-use lottery in place.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 56624) The wilderness permitting system needs to address the influx of through-hikers, as Yosemite's quota system doesn't currently address these users.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 114 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 486296 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I have found the [backcountry] permit system to be fairly justifiable and straight forward. For the more sought after trails such as the JMT I found it rather hit and miss. I am wondering if maybe a lottery or other method would be more fair on how and to whom the permits are issued. No matter what system is incorporated for issuing wilderness permits the influx of PCT hikers must be addressed. The number of PCT hikers used be in the low hundreds and they were mostly done hiking through the southern sierra's by the beginning of July but that has changed. With the increasing number of hikers the PCT permit issuing agency now has set a limit of 50 per day that can start at the Mexican border. This spreads out the hikers on the trail which is a good thing for the PCT but not so good for the hikers doing short hikes (or the JMT) in the southern sierra's. Hundreds of PCT hikers are now entering the southern sierra's in July and August which also coincides with the peak of none PCT hikers. The National park's quota system for entering wilderness areas is being superseded by hundreds of PCT hikers a day for almost the complete hiker season. The PCT hikers must somehow be incorporated into the quota system in a fair and equitable way. What are the solutions? 1. Limit the number of PCT hikers. This has been done already with the 50 per day limit at the border but not at the sierra's. 2. Make PCT hikers get a separate sierra permit. 3. Limit the number of PCT hikers that enter the southern sierra's after a certain date. 4. Spread the PCT hikers out to different less used trails. 5. Limit the total number of PCT permits per year and reduce the 50 a day start quota to a lesser number.

Corr. ID: 5 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484161 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The most important issue to me is overuse of certain trail corridors and abused use by some PCT permit holders (i.e., getting a permit for the entire PCT with no intention of hiking the entire PCT but allowing for JMT and Half Dome trail use).

Corr. ID: 8 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 484311 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Over use has become an issue. The quota system put in place over Donahue pass due to record numbers of PCT and JMT permits being pulled was brilliant.

Corr. ID: 727 Organization: Pacific Crest Trail Association **Comment ID:** 511287 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: It is important that the viability of the long-distance PCT permit remain intact to allow for the long-distance traveler to experience the trail for extended periods of time.

Corr. ID: 602 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 510763 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am a supporter of your Donohue Pass exit quota as an interim solution to the overuse of the John Muir Trail (JMT) corridor. If all JMT permits were issued by Yosemite, this would be a simple, functional solution. However, greatly limiting the southward flow of JMT hikers over Donohue Pass has simply changed JMT use patterns. Increasing numbers of people are seeking permits from various Inyo National Forest trailheads with large quotas, I would suspect creating a limited decrease in total JMT visitor numbers, but resulting in a pinch on permits in for people doing non-JMT trips originating in Inyo NF.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 57060) There should be a quota to limit the number of people that may enter Yosemite on a given day.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 273 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 483446 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Too many visitors.

Set a cap on the number of visitors who can enter the park each day.

Appendix A. Correspondence Index of Organizations

Note: This list was generated from information entered by the commenter. Comments associated with the below list of organizations may not be the official representation.

Correspondence ID	Organization
588	Alpine Endeavors, llc
680	Alpine Skills International
366	American Alpine Club
485	American Alpine Institute
579	American Mountain Guides Association
658	Back Country Horsemen of America
363	Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico-Santa Fe
314	Backcountry Horsemen of Blue Ridge
679	Camp Tawonga
343	Campaign for Sanity in America
94	Carpe Diem Experience, LLC
532	Chicks Climbing and Skiing
486	Chockstone Climbing Guides
460	Climb Up, LLC
466	Climbing For Life
703	Co-Chairman, Public Lands Committee of the High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California
647	Colorado Mountain Club
671	CSERC
563	Desiderata Institute
275, 705	Disabled Equestrians Organization
687	Edgeworks Climbing
696	Extreme Alpine
621	IFMGA
565	Kaf Adventures
315	Lari Shea Equestrian
626	Lasting Adventures, Inc.
728	Mariposa Mountain Riders
704	Mid Valley Unit, Backcountry Horsemen of California
668, 674	Minarets Pack Station
475	Mountain Adventures
512	Ojai Rock Climbing, Earthworks Climbing
408	Outward Bound California
727	Pacific Crest Trail Association
334	Palouse Back Country Horsemen
506	Panhandle Back Country Horsemen

402	Peloton Coffee - Outdoor Education
459	Rock Climb Every Day
362	Rocky Top Guides
726	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)
323	Sawtooth Backcountry Horseman
131	Sierra Club
384	Sierra Mountain Center
425	Sierra Mountain Guides
534	Smart Mountain Guides
617	Sonoma State University
494	Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides
622	Swiss Mountain Guides Association
618	The Access Fund
601	The Hong Kong Climbing School
504	The Rock Climbing Guide LLC
612	The Wilderness Society
665	The Wildland Trekking Company
651	Trout Unlimited
464	University of Utah
435	Vetta Mountain Guides
653	Westfield State University
709	Wilderness Watch
306	Wildflower Enterprises LLC, Back Country Horsemen
406	WSU Outdoor Program
372	Y Explore
684	Yosemite Family Adventures, LLC
572, 638, 708	Yosemite For Everyone

Appendix B. Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

Note: N/A represents individuals who did not submit their first or last name. In many instances, the organization type was not defined by the commenter; therefore, organizations were listed as “Unaffiliated Individuals”.

Correspondence ID	Name
1	Schaenzler, Thomas
2	Andersen, Ray C.
3	Cunha, Stephen F.
4	Tinglum, Britt L.
5	Neumann, Dave
6	Hadley, Richard
7	Gentinetta, Francesco
8	Springer-White, Julia
9	Lund, Mike
10	Olwyler, Michael
11	Shoor, Brian
12	Helmkamp, Brent J.
13	Hook, Michael
14	Rinner, James
15	Ybarra, Kate m.
16	Klitsch, Rebecca
17	Terry, Chris
18	Badyrka, Nick
19	Wickham, Ben
20	Daughenbaugh, Laura J.
21	N/A
22	Kent, Pat M.
23	Salkas, James R.
24	Dong, Kevin
25	Cohen, Adam
26	Meier, Donna
27	Kircher, Roger
28	Speegle, Vickie
29	McNea, Randy
30	Clary, Lydia
31	Usry, Jim H.
32	Schindler, Richard A.
33	VanderBie, Jim
34	Pallas, Michelle
35	Reichel, Ina
36	Fabry, Robert S.

Correspondence ID	Name
37	N/A
38	Smith, Kevin
39	Hylton, Steve
40	Young, Marguerite
41	Smith, Robert S.
42	Williams, Cynthia c.
43	N/A
44	Ahlberg, Dave R.
45	Dunn, Larry
46	Crawford, Helen
47	Bamberger, William J.
48	Griffin-Soffel, Patricia E.
49	Holderfield, Luke E.
50	Bigge, Roy
51	N/A
52	Gilmore, Meg
53	Berk, Karen
54	Phillips, Thomas M.
55	Norton, Marc
56	Cominsky, Lynn
57	Milberg, Paul
58	Berrien, Curtis R.
59	Norton, Marc
60	N/A
61	Tebault, Diane G.
62	Vogelsang, Carl
63	Bartlett, Roderick
64	Goot, Edry
65	Publee, Jean
66	Hirtler, Adrianna L.
67	de Guzman, Edith
68	Hegwood, Lemuel
69	Petrack-Zunich, Lance
70	Sheppard, Linda
71	Theisen, Thomas
72	Shurtleff, Cindy G.

B. Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

Correspondence ID	Name
73	Lawrence, Rhonda J.
74	Ferron, Pamala
75	Nelson, Audrey
76	N/A
77	Perez, Rene
78	Petrik, Pavel V.
79	Cundy, Scott
80	Summit, Zack
81	Chew, Carl T.
82	N/A
83	Velchek, Ray
84	Morris, Lori
85	N/A
86	Kottler, Ann
87	Hartman, Richard W.
88	Quigg, Seth W.
89	N/A
90	Steed, Bob
91	Andersen, Ray C.
92	J C. S
93	Beswick, Paul
94	Deutsch, Rick
95	Kirtley, Alan D.
96	Marlin, Beth
97	Ryugo, Jim
98	Kahn, Alexandra
99	N/A
100	McDaniel, Tess
101	N/A
102	Victor, Elizabeth
103	Long, Leanne
104	Hall, Thomas D.
105	Maloney, Allie R.
106	Waters, Theresa M.
107	Conneely, Jordan
108	Carpentier, Jeanelle
109	Spindler, Eugene
110	N/A
111	Goodwin, Richard J.
112	Hawkins, Susan
113	Petrik, Nikolas M.

Correspondence ID	Name
114	Vesely, James
115	Rowe, Craig C.
116	Schaffner, Sue
117	Settergren Ramoundos, Nancy E.
118	Campbell, Doug
119	Urlick, Ann
120	N/A
121	Bishe, Ken R.
122	Switay, Ken M.
123	Felciano, Celeste
124	Schweppe, Bill
125	Dunn, Mark S.
126	Moore, Chris
127	Mitten, Holly
128	Harris, Charles
129	Schaenzler, Thomas
130	Schaenzler, Thomas
131	Carlton, Alan
132	McLaughlin, Calvin
133	N/A
134	N/A
135	Adams, Lawrence
136	Holshue, Michelle L.
137	Baldwin, Nick
138	Mullins, William R.
139	Fives, Tracy
140	Pease, Rodney W.
141	Zach
142	Olaguez, Francisco
143	Pearson, Arthur P.
144	Rowe, Greg L.
145	Dyck, Byron
146	Benedict, Hilde
147	Gandy, Todd
148	Lowham, James
149	Steinbaecher, Lisa A.
150	N/A
151	Macrae, Jo
152	Seidel, Larry
153	Duncan, Peter P.

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Correspondence ID	Name
154	Madsen, Jeanine
155	Ramos, Camille
156	Hance, Geoffrey M.
157	N/A
158	Ferrington, Dorothy J.
159	McGovern, Jeff
160	Hill, Sandra E.
161	Gray, Andy
162	Gardner, Jan
163	Dunn, Debbie
164	Dickinson, Roy
165	Mary
166	N/A
167	Abbott, Randall
168	Rabin, Karden
169	Petersen, Stan
170	Sanches, Debora
171	Nottoli, Eileen M.
172	N/A
173	Jenkins, Victoria J.
174	Brauer, Laurence
175	Timmis, Mark W.
176	Martyn, Rick
177	Young, Susan M.
178	Aitken, Molly P.
179	Andrew-Spear, Lorrie A.
180	Maurer, Pat A.
181	Scott, Catherine R.
182	Zavoli, Walter B.
183	McCloy, Colin P.
184	Paul, Barbara
185	N/A
186	Gibbs, Jerilyn K.
187	N/A
188	Catherina Coppotelli, Heide
189	Jackson, Jan J.
190	Petzak, Jamaka
191	Collins, Carol L.
192	N/A
193	Rutkowski, Robert E.

Correspondence ID	Name
194	Walters, Sandra F.
195	Bradley, Kathy
196	Graffagnino, Mary Ann and Frank
197	Shafransky, Paula
198	Feldman, Mark R.
199	Farrell, Phillip
200	Shippee, Robert
201	N/A
202	Sailer, Randy
203	Heffron, Joshua P.
204	N/A
205	Escobar, Victor
206	Dixon, Joyce H.
207	White, Jeffrey A.
208	Livingston, Elaine
209	Petrick, Candy
210	Pitman, Tom
211	O'Nan, Kathleen
212	N/A
213	Graver, Chuck E.
214	Carlson, Rob
215	N/A
216	Tanz Kubota, Ria
217	Stevens, Lisa
218	Gustafson, Duane E.
219	Knoll, Carolyn
220	N/A
221	Palla, Paul J.
222	N/A
223	Jakusz, Darlene
224	N/A
225	N/A
226	Elliott, Benton
227	Hill, Ginger
228	N/A
229	Danowski, K
230	N/A
231	McGregor, Todd J.
232	Watts, Elizabeth
233	N/A

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Correspondence ID	Name
234	Brumleve, Charles
235	Parker Stellato, Robert
236	Lanskey, Marcus
237	DeVries, Robert W.
238	Jeffries, T
239	Pasqua, John
240	Van Wicklen, Betty J.
241	Valentine, Jen
242	Koivisto, Ellen
243	Stewart, Sarah
244	Ball, Evelyn
245	Olson, Sherry L., Ph.D.
246	N/A
247	MacKenzie, Michelle
248	Murphy, Mary A.
249	Becker, Elaine
250	Fischer, Elaine
251	N/A
252	N/A
253	N/A
254	Carpenter, Steven
255	Collecchia, Geri
256	Neumann, Nancy L.
257	Cashman
258	Pszanka, James
259	Boyles, Carolyn L.
260	Dane, William R.
261	Potter, Dave
262	Blair, Elaine M.
263	N/A
264	Turk, Lawrence
265	Evenson, Marilyn
266	N/A
267	Gliva, Stephen
268	Benes, Michelle
269	N/A
270	Ryan, Eileen
271	Bailey, Thomas W.
272	Henderson, Diana
273	N/A
274	Mason, Debra

Correspondence ID	Name
275	Pugh, Don
276	Johnson, G. G.
277	Kjono, Pamela K.
278	Grande, Paula G.
279	Gambelin, Darrin
280	McKenna, Melanie L.
281	Wright, Sherri N.
282	Reeves, Patricia G.
283	Ferguson, Doris A.
284	Mixon, Eugenia P.
285	Furse, Cynthia
286	Lauzon, Donna
287	Luze Revaul, Jean
288	Luehrmann, Paul F.
289	Underhill, Theresa J.
290	Allen, James
291	Lightsey, Deirdre
292	Lee, Alan T.
293	Seibel, Becky
294	Blay, Florence E.
295	Meyer, Linda
296	Horne, Patrick J.
297	Kleist, Shari L.
298	Miller, Carrie N.
299	Meyer, Walter J.
300	Allen, Craig E.
301	Thomas, Jim E.
302	Miller, Charles
303	Ceraolo, Frances
304	Markus, Ronny K.
305	Munger, Kirsten
306	Gillette Jr., Jack E.
307	Schilling, Barbara
308	Sorensen, Gary and Elayne
309	MacRaith, Bonnie
310	Tristram, Michaele
311	N/A
312	Showalter, Robert
313	Forsman, Jim I.
314	Brock, Robin N.

B. Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

Correspondence ID	Name
315	Shea, Lari
316	Haynes, Rebecca
317	Petersen, Kenneth H.
318	Delles, Susan A.
319	Wingle, Dennis G.
320	Parks, Rod
321	a fellow fed, N/A
322	von Stutterheim, Klaus
323	Lintner, Lisa
324	Thompson, Lawrence H.
325	Dalzell, Juelanne
326	Packer, Patti
327	Smith, Kathleen
328	Publee, Jean
329	Burud, Janet M.
330	N/A
331	Wagner, Elissa
332	Miller, Steven J.
333	Walden, Deborah
334	Duncan, Sam G.
335	Koval, Janet
336	Sage, Judy M.
337	Church, Mary K.
338	Haber, Kat
339	Ewart, Dick
340	Chow, Walter
341	Harrison, Eric J.
342	Cornett, Roy M.
343	Zimmermann, Adele E
344	Bice, Sharon
345	Shallman, Elsy
346	McCabe, Nihla
347	Collins, Kristi
348	Clark, Ann Lau
349	Florance, Paul
350	Mertz, Maury
351	Ketchum, Carol
352	Cameron, Pamela
353	Senneker, Janet
354	Hadlock, Nancy A.
355	Kaiser, John

Correspondence ID	Name
356	Markley, Vicki
357	Carnahan, Jennifer
358	Lehman, Jack
359	Scharin, Lisa
360	Brady, Mackenzie
361	Bruch, Melissa
362	Johnson, Ryan
363	Hallman, Tamara A.
364	Vasquez, Irene A.
365	Tepfer, Max
366	Funderburke, Ron E.
367	Havlick, Ian
368	Hodges, Sue C.
369	Dec, Carl
370	Knight, Bill
371	Perumal, Viren
372	DeGrazio, John
373	Yi, Szu-ting
374	Rivard, Renee M.
375	Seman, David M.
376	Goodwin, Robert
377	Oakes, Nadav
378	Hartman, Matthew J.
379	Parker, Josh E.
380	Hicks, Kurt T.
381	Passey, Todd
382	Fusso, Logan
383	Bates, Philip A.
384	Parker, Robert J.
385	Cross, David
386	Smiley, Mark
387	Farmer, Jane M.
388	Silver, Michael
389	Roberts, Rad
390	Burnworth, Gabriel
391	Poindexter, Trevor J.
392	Rowe, Greg
393	Langdon, Katherine M.
394	Ryan
395	Sainburg, Frank
396	Kieffer, Ramsay C.

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Correspondence ID	Name
397	Dunn, Patricia E
398	Kelly, Timothy K.
399	Rickards, Tom R.
400	Hansen, Bob A.
401	N/A
402	Dewane, Terry
403	N/A
404	Blanton, Bonnie K.
405	Farr, Douglas
406	Turner, Daniel
407	McEleney, Ian W.
408	Forry, Shawn A.
409	Creech, Connie L.
410	Lara, Sandra S.
411	N/A
412	Cavender, Ryan
413	Knoren, Chelsea
414	Armstrong, Toni
415	Foreman, Bruce E.
416	Krause, Richard T.
417	Schmidt, Jason
418	Browning, Erin
419	Odom, Michele U.
420	Crowe, Sam
421	Hrastich, Phyllis
422	Goodby, Nat
423	Khan, Wasim
424	Fitts, Gary
425	Schwartz, Howie K.
426	Kaiser, Laura
427	Steele, Phd., Jeff W.
428	Remsberg, Dale R.
429	Tsai, Yvonne C.
430	N/A
431	N/A
432	Mills, Zak D.
433	Wilson, Leslie C.
434	O'Connor, Michael S.
435	Coppolillo, Robert V.
436	Cunningham, Tucker
437	S., Janelle

Correspondence ID	Name
438	Peck, Daniel G.
439	Philipson, Alice
440	Foster, Dorothy J.
441	N/A
442	Kelsey, Francis
443	Simpson-Riddle, Adriene
444	Smart, Erin
445	Connelly, Tim
446	Heberling, Mary A.
447	N/A
448	N/A
449	N/A
450	Haist, Jessica
451	N/A
452	Munnelly, Daniel P.
453	N/A
454	Ricca, John
455	Ciotti, Terrance J.
456	Martin, Jason D.
457	Esposito, Derek
458	Ahmed, Naz
459	Strickland, Olga
460	Gibson, Aaron W.
461	Henderson, Angela L.
462	Schonwald, Matthew
463	N/A
464	Furman, Nate
465	Keane, Pete E.
466	Willard, Tom R.
467	Witt, Jeff G.
468	Carmichael, Bob J.
469	Isle, Nicole Belle
470	Keeling, Anna L.
471	Goldman, Charles
472	Mullenix, Michael T.
473	Porter, Jediah M.
474	Doucette, Peter
475	Solmssen, Hans D.
476	Broadwell, Dennis
477	MacKinnon, John W.
478	Lewis, Mike A.

B. Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

Correspondence ID	Name
479	Chauvin, Marc
480	Vanyek, James A.
481	Shove, Matthew J.
482	Marston, Brad
483	Broadwell, Dennis
484	Pineda, Heather
485	Moynihan, Michael J.
486	Ablao, Jim A.
487	N/A
488	N/A
489	Wilner, Levi
490	Prittie, Willi
491	Reiman, Liz
492	Hunter, David M.
493	Elman, Ian
494	Brokvist, Colby
495	Crammond, Kane
496	Dobronyi, Jeffrey B.
497	Casciola, Chris
498	Horst, Michael
499	Cremer, John
500	Yereamce, Jackie
501	Crawford, Joe
502	Howell, Eron
503	Benegas, Willie G.
504	Olin, Dean D.
505	Kincaid, Maxwell H.
506	Kimball, Karen
507	Lemieux, Alex
508	Robinson, Shane
509	Murphy, Sherrie R.
510	Whitsett, Kirsten
511	Spitzer, Rita A.
512	Bury, Alex F.
513	Searer, Stephanie M.
514	Henning, Dora I.
515	Yoshikawa, Linda
516	N/A
517	Kinninger, Georgia
518	N/A
519	Rider, Alan

Correspondence ID	Name
520	Ask, Jerhet R.
521	Deckert, Carl G.
522	Cannon, Mike
523	Hatch, Janet
524	McClarty, Michael B.
525	Brown, Mathieu F.
526	N/A
527	Burnside, Sandra K.
528	Winslow, John M.
529	N/A
530	Doss, Hailey B.
531	Dowsley, Felix
532	Bockel, Karen
533	Grimes, Catherine
534	Smart, Miles R.
535	Cosley, Kathy J.
536	Huetter, Ryan A.
537	N/A
538	Houston, Mark E.
539	McCullough, Justin S.
540	Shanabarger, Mickey R.
541	Soucy, Michael
542	Vallone, Joseph P.
543	Williams, James
544	Cavil, Richard
545	Traxler, Ben N.
546	Heaps, William K.
547	N/A
548	Behar, Ted A.
549	Keele, Betty J.
550	Hardy, Patrick
551	N/A
552	Del Bianco, Sydney
553	Kimmel, David
554	Teegarden, Ted
555	N/A
556	Layne, Corale
557	Ilgner, Arno U.
558	Evans, Bethany Kindiger
559	Sharpe, Cheryl A.
560	Mediatore, James

B. Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

Correspondence ID	Name
561	Agricola, Lucas
562	Marshall, Christopher C.
563	Lodas, Jeff
564	N/A
565	Pearson, Mick R.
566	McMillion, Randy L.
567	Iglesias, Jose C.
568	Bradford, Cody
569	Brenner, Mark
570	N/A
571	Baker, Randal B.
572	Brown-Barry, Wendy L.
573	Cornell, Michael
574	Leland, Gayle B.
575	N/A
576	Hess, Rob
577	Green, Curtis
578	Satterfield, Neil
579	Kosseff, Alex
580	Wallace, Catherine
581	Starr, Dan
582	N/A
583	Stevenson, Sylvia J.
584	Purser, Lynn R.
585	Mynatt, Jordan
586	Binn, Shawn D.
587	Councell, Andrew
588	Molitoris, Marty M.
589	Niles, Julia K.
590	Stephen, Andy
591	Kelly, Olga
592	Novak, Zachary
593	Burk, Chris G.
594	Fowler, Ian
595	Koeppel, Wendy
596	Ormond, Patrick
597	McBrian, Forest
598	Love, Nicole J.
599	Robinson, Peter J.
600	Bishop, Myriam L.
601	Haugen, James K.

Correspondence ID	Name
602	Wenk, Elizabeth H.
603	N/A
604	Hawse, Angela
605	Mills, Rhonda
606	Carpenter, Sarah A.
607	Lish, Christopher
608	Smart, Douglas
609	Biner, Hermann
610	Schneider, Mike S.
611	Floyd, Adam
612	Sanford, Paul
613	Carrig, Bonnie M.
614	Ward, Jeff T.
615	Cassell, William
616	Rametta, Sam
617	Ray, Jesse
618	Keith, Jason
619	Eilenberg, Eva
620	Steigerwalt, Robert Davis
621	Dönz, Hanno
622	Woernhard, Wolfgang
623	N/A
624	Leidecker, Erik A.
625	Wright, Chris
626	Gehrman, Scott N.
627	Novak, Marsha
628	Logan, Tyler J.
629	Stroh, Herbert A.
630	Tait, Ann P.
631	N/A
632	Browning, Becky
633	N/A
634	Yocum, Holly
635	Bruce, Teddie C.
636	McCalley, Roderick H.
637	N/A
638	Brown-Berry, Wendy L.
639	Martin, Amy J.
640	Marshall, Cindy
641	Hurst, Adrian
642	Powers, Phil

B. Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

Correspondence ID	Name
643	Caterino, Phil
644	Hammond, Mark
645	Smart, Elizabeth
646	Ochs, Matthew J.
647	Barrass, Holly
648	Anderson, Anne
649	Miller, Stacie C.
650	Walde, Kurt
651	Strickland, Jessica
652	Hanselman, Marc
653	Tatsugawa, Kevin H.
654	Chapman, Monica R.
655	Uhlmann, Danny
656	Nelson, Ian
657	Cressman, David
658	Rasmussen, Randy
659	Monetti, Brian
660	Acree, Lisa
661	Berg, Brandon
662	Elton, Wallace M.
663	Kelly, Joe T.
664	Tyler, Richard
665	Scott, Peter
666	Biasioli, Kelly
667	Johnson, Steve G.
668	Burroughs, Ward N.
669	O'Connor, Linda K.
670	Schoen, Eddie
671	Buckley, John
672	Drapala, Jared
673	Montague, Robert
674	Burroughs, Rose Marie
675	N/A
676	Ransom, Melinda
677	Keating, Timothy S.
678	Zilles, Kimberly
679	Meyer, Rebecca L.
680	Dobbins, Timothy L.
681	Carrig, Richard M.
682	N/A
683	N/A

Correspondence ID	Name
684	Furry, David D. II
685	Palm, Curtis
686	Monday, Wendy
687	Bloxham, Tod
688	Robinson, Nicholas G.
689	Dolch, Michael C.
690	Jackson, Joshua W.
691	Ulrich, Dustin
692	Ohm, Barry L.
693	N/A
694	Mascio, Roger
695	N/A
696	Unger, Geoff
697	Grundon, Mark
698	Whitmore, George W.
699	N/A
700	N/A
701	Robinson, Doug L.
702	Carpenter, Alan
703	Cochran, Richard
704	Magee, Bob
705	Pugh, Donald E.
706	Weise, Jeffrey
707	Barnett, William T.
708	Brown-Berry, Wendy
709	Macfarlane, Gary
710	Carpenter, Alan
711	Rittenhouse, Claire
712	Brown, James
713	Weise, Jeffrey
714	Cannon, John
715	Magee, Bob
716	Clarke, Jo
717	Olson, Lani M.
718	Eiland, Vickie
719	Coffer, Cathy
720	Schurg, Marilyn
721	Whitney, Neila
722	Helling, Josh
723	Helling, Josh
724	Wallace, Aaron

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Correspondence ID	Name
725	Nash, Emily
726	Ritchie, Steven R.
727	Nelson, Ian
728	Smith, Jane
729	Murphy, Mike
730	N/A

Correspondence ID	Name
731	N/A
732	Alcala, Guy R.
733	McCarty, Kevin