

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this planning effort is to review the management direction in the 1989 Yosemite Wilderness Plan and update it as necessary to better align with contemporary use patterns and National Park Service policy.

In particular, there is a need to examine and refine the existing plan to incorporate new information and understanding about changes in visitor use patterns, methods of managing visitor use, techniques for trail design and construction, and concepts for managing stock in wilderness settings.

There is a need to incorporate new policy direction and definitions for wilderness character into the park's wilderness management framework and to review the status of potential wilderness additions.

There is a need to determine the extent to which commercial services will be performed in the Yosemite Wilderness. Once completed, the direction in the revised Wilderness Stewardship Plan will apply to visitor, commercial, and administrative use in wilderness. While some site-specific actions may be necessary, the primary focus of the plan will be to 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. The primary focus of the plan will be to provide a framework for measuring and monitoring wilderness character along with selected actions to address specific areas of concern.

