



## Scenic Vista Management Plan

### What is the background?

More than three-million visitors come to Yosemite National Park each year to see its natural wonders and scenic grandeur. The breathtaking scenery is a key reason Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were the first areas designated by the federal government for public benefit in 1864. The Tunnel View Rehabilitation in 2008, pictured above, reestablished the expansive vista of Yosemite Valley that recalls what the first European Americans saw in 1851 at nearby Inspiration Point.

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### Why is a plan needed?

There is currently no consistent process to prioritize vistas for management, and the lack of a comprehensive effort has allowed many vistas to remain obscured. Past vista management has reestablished scenic vistas at a rate of about three vistas per decade. In addition, the *1980 Yosemite General Management Plan* called for the creation of a vista management plan.

Particularly in the Yosemite Valley, many vistas were once visible—due to open, extensive meadows—are now obscured by vegetation. The development of a framework for evaluating and prioritizing vista management actions will ensure that the natural and cultural resources and values of Yosemite National Park remain unimpaired.

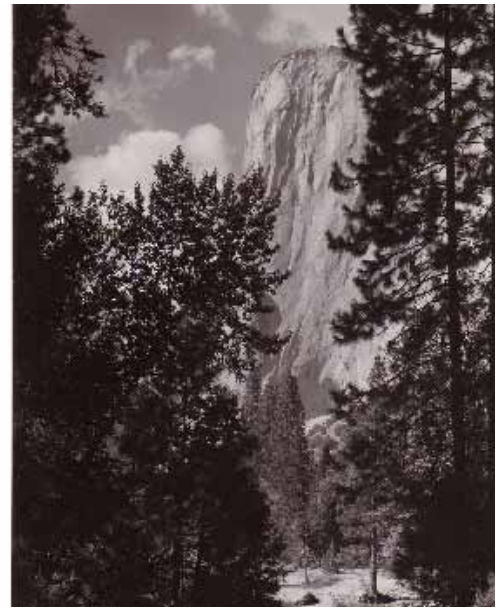
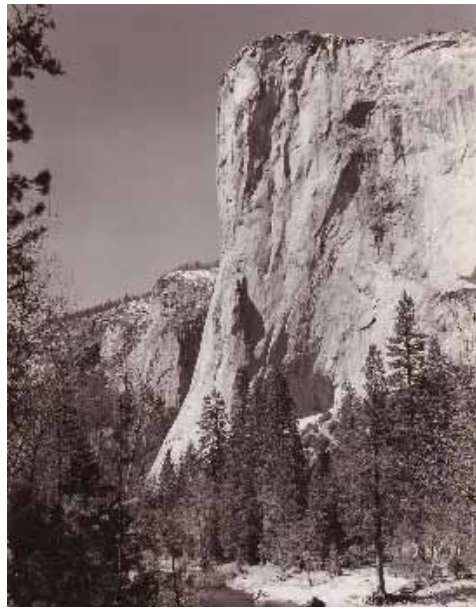
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### What will the plan do?

This plan provides a systematic program for documenting, protecting, and reestablishing Yosemite's important vistas, consistent with the natural processes and human influences that created them. This plan will:

- Reestablish and maintain important historic views
  - Develop an objective process for selecting and ranking vistas for treatment
  - Develop target conditions and identify appropriate vegetation management actions to reestablish scenic vistas
  - Reestablish scenic vistas, whenever practicable, by restoring natural species composition, structure, and function to systems, using traditional American Indian vegetation management practices, including hand pulling and fire
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## What is Scenic Vista Management?



The two photographs above were taken in 1940 from Southside Drive to illustrate the effectiveness of vista management. This once popular historic vista of El Capitan was first photographed by Carleton Watkins in 1868. The image was selected to represent Yosemite National Park in a 1934 National Park Service postage stamp series. Over time, this iconic vista became obscured by encroaching forest. Vista management would allow visitors greater access to the dramatic scenery that first brought attention to Yosemite National Park.

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### Current Status

The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed in July 2011, records the decision of the National Park Service to restore and protect scenic resources as described in the Selected Action. The Selected Action is derived from the Preferred Alternative presented in the *Scenic Vista Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA)*, which was available for public review from August 9 to September 17, 2010. The planning team reviewed and analyzed the public comments and considered them prior to publishing the decision document. The substantive comments and NPS responses are documented in the *Scenic Vista Management Plan Public Comment and Response Report*. Prior to implementation in 2011/2012, yearly work plans will be posted for public review to the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website.

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### How can I stay informed?

The EA, FONSI, and the Public Comment and Response Report are available electronically through the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment system at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yosesvmp>.

Scenic Vista Management Plan information and a link to PEPC can be accessed from the Yosemite National Park website at <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/vista.htm>.

Requests for hardcopies of the FONSI can be submitted by mail to:  
Superintendent

Yosemite National Park  
Attn: Scenic Vista Management Plan  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
Fax (209) 379-1294  
Email: [Yose\\_Planning@nps.gov](mailto:Yose_Planning@nps.gov).

Park staff is available to answer questions regarding the Scenic Vista Management Plan and other park planning efforts at the monthly public open house, held on the last Wednesday of each month from 1pm to 4 pm at the Visitor Center Auditorium in Yosemite Valley.