



Mariposa Grove Restoration

The national park idea is rooted in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, located in the southern end of Yosemite National Park. In 1864, under the Yosemite Grant, President Lincoln signed legislation protecting the Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley for “public use, resort, and recreation.” This landmark legislation holds an important place in our country’s history and was enacted at a time when the nation was embroiled in the Civil War. For the first time in our nation’s history, scenic natural areas were set aside and protected for the benefit of future generations. Almost 150 years later, the Mariposa Grove is still a popular destination for visitors to Yosemite.

The National Park Service is embarking on a plan to restore giant sequoia habitat in the Mariposa Grove. We are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to develop and analyze site design alternatives and are looking for your input.



Giant Sequoias



Giant sequoias are only found on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada in California and are known for their immense size (up to 275ft./84m tall with diameters of up to 35ft./11m). The Mariposa Grove is comprised of approximately 500 mature giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) and is the largest of three sequoia groves found within Yosemite National Park.

The large Sierra snowpack provides much needed moisture to the trees as it slowly melts during the spring. Fire also plays an important role in the life of a sequoia. It provides sunny gaps in the forest, burns heavy forest litter, and provides nutrients to soils, all of which, encourage germination for the tiny seeds. Sequoias have a relatively shallow but extensive root system, reaching to over a hundred feet in all directions from their base. These roots capture the groundwater which allows the trees to survive the long, hot summers of Yosemite; a healthy root structure is essential to ensure their longevity.

Mariposa Grove Restoration Goals



The primary goal of this project is to restore giant sequoia habitat. We will be developing alternatives which may include action such as:

Habitat Restoration

- Restoring the natural hydrology within the Mariposa Grove;
- Removing unnecessary infrastructure from within the Grove;
- Realigning roads and trails that are currently located in sensitive sequoia habitat; and/or
- Relocating the existing visitor parking area from within the historic grove of trees to a nearby location.

Mariposa Grove Restoration Goals (continued)

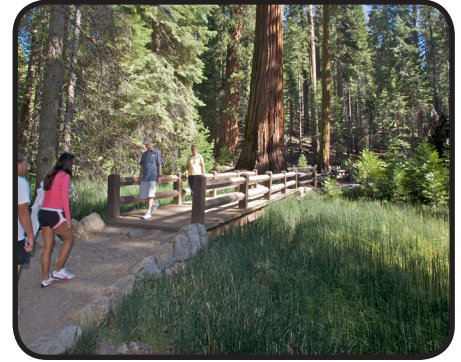
Another goal of this project is to improve the visitor experience and associated infrastructure within the Mariposa Grove. This could be accomplished through a range of actions that address:

Visitor Experience

- The desire to provide a wide range of opportunities for visitors to experience the Grove;
- Conflicts between vehicular and pedestrian access within the Grove;
- The need for better orientation, and improvements to accessibility;
- The goal to provide visitor experiences within the Grove during all seasons and improving opportunities for enjoying the natural sounds of the Grove; and/or
- The desire to provide adequate orientation, parking, and shuttles outside of the Mariposa grove (i.e. South Entrance).

Transportation

This project aims to enhance the overall transportation experience for accessing the Mariposa Grove. This would include coordinating information about the availability and location of parking, shuttles, and other transit opportunities for accessing the Grove.



Get Involved!

We want to hear from you! This your chance to be a part of the Mariposa Grove legacy.

For thought:

- What would you like to see improved? How can we protect these remarkable trees?
- What does it mean to “restore” the Mariposa Grove and what would a restored grove look like?
- What should the Mariposa Grove be like 150 years from now?

This restoration project is supported through generous grants from Yosemite Conservancy.

Public scoping for this project begins **August 31, 2011**. The formal scoping period will close 30 days following the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register. This date will be announced in the near future.

You can submit your comments:

- **Online through the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website:**
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mariposagrove>
- **Monthly Open Houses in Yosemite Valley:** Valley Visitor Center Auditorium [1-4pm]
- August 31, 2011, September 28, 2011, and October 26, 2011
- **Comment Boxes located at the:** Wawona Visitor Center, Wawona Hotel, and the Mariposa Grove Gift Shop
- **By Mail:** Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
Attn: *Mariposa Grove Restoration EIS*
Yosemite, CA 95389

For more information: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mgrove.htm>

Project Schedule (estimated)	
Date	Phase
August 31, 2011 - Fall 2011	Public Scoping
Fall 2012	Public Review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
December 2012	Final EIS for Public Review

