



Yosemite National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Preliminary Ideas and Concepts Comment Summary Report



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APPENDICES

Appendix A Correspondence Index of Organizations

Appendix B Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Full Phrase

AMGA	American Mountain Guides Association
CSERC	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
CUA	commercial use authorization
EIS	environmental impact statement
HSC	High Sierra Camp
IFMGA	International Federal 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 system
PWA	potential wilderness addition
SAR	search and rescue
SNRF	Sierra Nevada red fox
US	United States
WSP	Wilderness Stewardship Plan
YMS	Yosemite Mountaineering School

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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 participation process for the WSP/EIS Preliminary Ideas and Concepts developed by the NPS.

1.1 PRELIMINARY IDEAS AND CONCEPTS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS SUMMARY

On July 29, 2016, the NPS released three Preliminary Ideas and Concepts newsletters to the public for review and comment. The newsletters provided information including an overview of the plan and preliminary concepts and ideas related to visitor use and capacity and stock use. Three stock use concepts and four visitor use and capacity concepts were presented. The newsletters were available for review through September 30, 2016. The park accepted comments through the NPS's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) system and mail.

The NPS hosted four in-person public workshops to obtain feedback on the preliminary ideas and concepts:

- Groveland, California, Groveland Community Hall, Wednesday, August 10th, 2016
- Lee Vining, California, Lee Vining Community Center, Thursday, August 11th, 2016
- San Francisco, California, Fort Mason, Building C, Monday, August 15th, 2016
- Oakhurst, California, Oakhurst Branch Library, Thursday, August 18th, 2016

At these meetings, NPS staff presented information about the WSP/EIS, and presented information based off of the preliminary concepts and ideas newsletters. Participants then broke into small groups to discuss and provide feedback on the preliminary ideas and concepts, concerns about wilderness management, and particular high use areas within Yosemite's Wilderness that may need more focused management to reduce impacts. Commenters also had the opportunity to write their feedback 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 workshops, NPS also conducted 2 web-based webinars which presented the same information as was used at the in-person meetings. During the final webinar, NPS also provided a summary of feedback received during the in-person workshops. Webinars were presented on Tuesday, August 9th and Monday, August 22nd. After the presentation, attendees were given time to submit questions and comments regarding the preliminary ideas and concepts. The questions and comments were then answered via the audio function in the webinar by NPS staff. A total of 157 individuals attended the preliminary ideas and concepts meetings either in person or online, with the following attendance:

- Webinar 1: 50 participants
- Groveland, CA: 29 attendees
- Lee Vining, CA: 12 attendees
- San Francisco, CA: 13 attendees
- Oakhurst, CA: 33 attendees
- Webinar 2: 20 participants



Photo from in-person public meeting in San Francisco.

1.2 NATURE OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

A total of 864 pieces of correspondence were received during the public comment period. The topics that received the majority of the comments were related to extent necessary, administrative operations within wilderness, visitor use and capacity concepts, stock use concepts, High Sierra Camps and Potential Wilderness Additions, and day use. All correspondence was considered and captured in concern statements which follow in this report.

Some of the most prevalent comments received included the following:

- As part of the plan, the National Park Service should create a commercial use authorization (CUA) program in order to allow climbing guides to operate in Yosemite and help resolve social impact issues, promote safety, improve accountability, and create wilderness stewards.
- Routine use of motorized equipment such as helicopters and chainsaws is inconsistent with the Wilderness Act and should be ceased.
- The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should provide more details about zoning, permitting, carrying capacity, group size limits, and desired conditions.
- Limitations should be set on the John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail, specifically entry and exit points, the number of hikers, and stock usage.
- NPS should continue to allow wilderness stock use but should impose limits on stock use, group size, or camping. Limiting stock use could allow for increased non-stock wilderness use.

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

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 National Environmental Policy Act (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
- 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 park posed topic questions to the public that they were not required to answer. 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 and preliminary ideas and concepts processes 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.

Representative Quote: A comment taken verbatim from the correspondence to illustrate the issue, concern, or idea expressed by the comments grouped under a given concern statement.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

During the comment period, 864 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.

Each comment was given a code to identify the general content of the comment and to group similar comments together. Forty codes were used to categorize all the comments received. An example of a code developed for this project is VUC1010, Visitor Use and Capacity Preliminary

Concept 1. 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 Handbook, 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 SU1000: Stock Use Preliminary Concepts – General was "The National Park Service should distinguish between private, commercial, and administrative stock use and clearly show where types of stock are allowed or restricted in Yosemite Wilderness". Following each concern statement are one or more "representative quotes," which are a sample of 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:

Preliminary Ideas and Concepts 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 preliminary ideas and concepts public participation 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

PRELIMINARY IDEAS AND CONCEPTS COMMENT SUMMARY

Correspondence was received from commenters in 15 countries and 49 US states. Most correspondence (842) were received via the PEPC web interface; other correspondence types included 14 hard copy letters, 2 emails, 1 fax, and comments from public meetings.

The following table shows the distribution of correspondence by how they were coded. Refer to the table of contents or bookmarks as a guide to the concerns that follow; concerns are organized by alphanumeric code.

Code	Description	Correspondence
TQ1-74332	Have we identified a sufficient range of concepts to address visitor use and capacity?	481
EN1000	Extent Necessary	477
TQ2-74332	Have we omitted any key ideas related to visitor use and capacity?	463
TQ3-74332	What do you like about the visitor use and capacity concepts?	457
TQ5-74332	Have we identified a sufficient range of concepts to address stock use?	436
TQ4-74332	Are there specific elements of the visitor use and capacity concepts that should be changed? How would you change them?	429
TQ6-74332	Have we omitted any key ideas related to stock use?	411
ADM1000	Administrative Operations within Wilderness	411
VUC1000	Visitor Use and Capacity Preliminary Concepts - General	400
VUC2000	Visitor Use and Capacity - JMT and/or PCT	399
TQ9-74332	Did we omit any issues that you would like us to address in the future? How would you address that issue?	389

Code	Description	Correspondence
TQ8-74332	Are there specific elements of the stock use concepts that should be changed? How would you change them?	389
SU1400	Stock Use Preliminary Concepts - New/component of Preliminary Concepts/Ideas	351
HSC1000	High Sierra Camps and other PWAs	341
SU3200	Stock Use - Commercial Use	325
OS1010	Day Use	300
VUC1010	Visitor Use and Capacity - Preliminary Concept 1	294
TQ7-74332	What do you like about the stock use concepts?	125
SU1000	Stock Use Preliminary Concepts - General	123
WL1600	Wilderness Characteristics	73
VUC4000	Visitor Use and Capacity - Other	70
OS1000	Out of scope	63
SU1300	Stock Use Preliminary concepts - Grazing	60
PLA1000	Planning Process	57
VUC1050	Visitor Use and Capacity - New/component of Preliminary Concepts/Ideas	56
SU2000	Stock Use - Impacts	51
EDU1000	Education	46
NAT1000	Natural Resources - Alternatives	30
VUC1040	Visitor Use and Capacity - Preliminary Concept 4	29
SU3000	Stock Use - Private Use	29
VUC1030	Visitor Use and Capacity - Preliminary Concept 3	24
SU1200	Stock Use Preliminary Concepts - Trail Use	20
SU1100	Stock Use Preliminary Concepts - Camping	18
VUC1020	Visitor Use and Capacity - Preliminary Concept 2	18
TR1000	Trails	19
PER1000	Outside agency collaboration on permitting	15
SU3100	Stock Use - Administrative	7
WL6000	Recreation	2

2.1 SUMMARY OF PRELIMINARY IDEAS AND CONCEPTS COMMENTS BY COMMENT CODE

A summary of comments regarding the WSP/EIS preliminary ideas and concepts received is presented below. The summary is organized by comment code, with concern statements and representative quotes provided for each code.

ADM1000 - Administrative Operations within Wilderness

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58851) Routine use of motorized equipment such as helicopters and chainsaws is inconsistent with the Wilderness Act and should be ceased.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 Organization: US Citizen **Comment ID: 535317 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Eliminate the use of helicopters to supply or re-supply backcountry camps and rangers.

Corr. ID: 105 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535952 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The Park Service's routine use of motorized equipment (including helicopters and chainsaws) in the Yosemite Wilderness must stop.

Corr. ID: 463 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 536469 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Keep the motorized equipment out of the Yosemite Wilderness. Use it minimally when needed only to clear a trail or a rescue mission.

Corr. ID: 727 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538444 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: At maximum, allow a minimal presence by supported park service personal for safety and minimal trail maintenance.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58852) The National Park Service shouldn't approve non-emergency helicopter use. Emergency use should be limited.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 627 Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association **Comment ID: 537876 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Authority to approve use of the helicopter for nonemergency purposes must be taken away from local bureaucrats, and vested in a third party who can evaluate the need for aircraft use from afar, without being pressured by staff who favor easy, convenient transportation in lieu of protecting wilderness values.

Corr. ID: 857 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539252 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Your staff's Preliminary Ideas and Concepts fail to address another growing "elephant in the room": the proliferation of "SPOT" devices, and the NPS's non-sensical policy of responding in a full-blown search and rescue (SAR) capacity (i.e., flying helicopters) whenever somebody pushes the "panic button." This creates unnecessary helicopter intrusions in the wilderness, and puts your staff's very lives at risk. What's the answer? It's simple: Adopt a policy (and widely advertise your policy) that the NPS will not dispatch helicopters for SARs in wilderness unless you have voice or text communication that provides sufficient details for your staff to ascertain the nature of a potentially life threatening situation. Once people realize that the NPS no longer responds by dispatching helicopters at the simple push of a "panic button," they'll stop buying those devices and switch to the now readily available technologies that offer text and/or voice communication.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58853) Helicopters should be utilized to provide supplies for administrative uses.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 63 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535439 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I support the use of helicopter transportation of supplies to trail crews. No, it's not as quite, but the overall impact is less damaging on the environment. So, I know there would be push-back, but the overall environmental impact would, I believe, be to everyone's advantage.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58854) Mechanized and motorized equipment prohibitions as currently implemented should continue.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 **Organization:** US Citizen **Comment ID:** 535310 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Continue the existing prohibitions and limitations on the use of mechanized and motorized equipment by the public, regardless of whether they are muscle-powered or motorized.

EDU1000 - Education

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58858) The National Park Service should provide additional pre-wilderness education and information to everyone who enters wilderness in order to mitigate visitor impacts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 **Organization:** US Citizen **Comment ID:** 535296 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Continue to require the leaders of all parties to obtain in person the actual wilderness permit, at which time educational information about the values and proper behaviors of travel within the wilderness should be conveyed.

Corr. ID: 10 **Organization:** US Citizen **Comment ID:** 535295 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Provide adequate pre-wilderness permit information, reservation, and permit collection information and education to everyone who enters wilderness.

Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 535822 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Rangers are very knowledgeable and helpful - especially for people asking for ways to navigate the permit system and limitations; various trailheads, routes and quotas. I am very grateful for your amazing staff! However, I think it would be better if this expertise were available at the time someone's applying for a permit, rather than when someone is picking up a permit. This way, you don't end up with a bunch of hikers who are applying for the wrong permits because they don't really know what their options and availability will be. This is a customer service issue, and I understand that Rangers may not be available during Permit Application season. (Jan-Feb-Mar).

Corr. ID: 195 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 536068 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Visitor education, with an emphasis on appreciation for wild areas and things should be highlighted and prioritized. People who enter Parks- -especially wilderness areas- - must be given adequate information oriented towards respect and care for all areas of the Park. I've seen far too many people who want to see and photograph beautiful scenes, then toss processed-food wrappers behind them to ruin the same view for others. I've seen store-bought food in containers left in fire rings in wilderness areas. Visitors need to know how destructive this is.

Corr. ID: 631 **Organization:** Sierra Mountain Guides **Comment ID:** 537885 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: A 5-10 minute presentation at the ranger station on the day of acquiring a permit is woefully insufficient. As a result, we see impacts from extremely poor wilderness practices

for burying human waste and toilet paper and we see bears continue to use human wilderness campers as a reliable source of easily obtained food energy.

Corr. ID: 731 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538469 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Trail damage in meadows. I think it would be great to have rangers specifically talk to trail users about this when issuing permits.

Corr. ID: 834 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539092 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would suggest a new educational/procedure effort to bring better awareness of visitor's stewardship (as we surely have that shared responsibility) role in taking care of the landscape and overall wilderness resources and values. That being a new requirement that all wilderness visitors to be covered under a Wilderness Permit have successfully completed a modest online Wilderness Best Practices course (with short follow-up quiz) before the Wilderness Permit is physically issued. This would bring everyone in a backcountry party up to speed on wilderness regulations and best practices instead of simply the leader that picks up the permit as is now the case. Having the entire group informed of what's the right thing to do would spread the burden of compliance and advance the goal of having the wilderness treated in the best manner possible. Much more difficult when you've one leader with some knowledge from their in person permit issuing office visit but the rest of the group not necessarily aware of rules, regulations and recommendations; and relying on the leader as a regulations enforcement officer is problematic I'm sure.

Corr. ID: 838 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539125 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Education of visitor's practicing better management practices and posting of practices at key places in the wilderness; specifically the High Sierra Camps (HSCs). For example: have the HSC personnel remind visitors and themselves to not trample the meadows or pick the plants, etc.

Corr. ID: 858 Organization: N/A **Comment ID:** 539245 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Wilderness Rangers have a key role in maintaining Wilderness quality. They should consider education of Wilderness users on ways to minimize their impact as a high priority.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58861) Leave No Trace education should be provided to all wilderness users to reduce damage to wilderness areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 50 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 535944

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In my experience as a saddle stock user in several national parks and other public lands, it is obvious that common sense policies and education is important. Leave No Trace education can help eliminate damage by stock and non-stock users, especially in sensitive areas that little disturbance is easily justified, and in areas of heavy use.

Corr. ID: 64 Organization: Backcountry Horsemen of California **Comment ID:** 535444

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Have you considered investing much more education in Leave No Trace? Most of your issues seem to revolve around the lack of this education.

Corr. ID: 836 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539108 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: What improvements to educating visitors about Leave No Trace (LNT) principles (or other similar wilderness ethics that support the Wilderness Act) will be addressed by this plan? Within the last five years approximately \$2 million dollars have been spent on Wilderness

restoration projects that include elimination of invasive plants, removal of illegal campfires and removal of backcountry campgrounds. Controlling the number of people in a wilderness area as proposed by these alternatives has the potential to reduce some of these impacts but how can this plan leverage modern, digital education tools and methods to further mitigate these visitor impacts? What evidence shows that the one-on-one ranger talk at the wilderness permit center is an effective use of time and money? Pre-visit education and assessment of knowledge for wilderness permits has the potential to reduce wait time and increase the effectiveness of LNT messaging. Visitors can still have the benefit of seeing a ranger in person on site, but does each permit holder need to be individually given a briefing that could be delivered to multiple parties at once?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58864) Educate hikers and backpackers on stock use by providing information at the wilderness center and at wilderness trailheads to minimize potential conflicts between stock users and hikers.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 47 Organization: BCHA **Comment ID:** 535907 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It may be necessary to help educate hikers/backpackers about horses in the wilderness. This could be beneficial in regard to teaching people about the history of the horse working in national parks. People have less contact with horses today and don't know as much about them.

Corr. ID: 54 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 535341

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The WSP also should detail methods by which visitors traveling via foot and with pack stock could enhance communication and work to minimize "conflict" between user groups. Adjusting the mindset and expectations of individuals prior to leaving the trailhead appears to represent a first step in minimizing perceptions of conflict in Yosemite Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 677 Organization: Backcountry Horsemen of CA & Yosemite For Everyone **Comment ID:** 538036 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please consider including information at trail heads for hikers who may encounter stock on trails in an effort to educate them of proper trail etiquette, and what to expect.

EN1000 - Extent Necessary

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58873) As part of the plan, the National Park Service should create a commercial use authorization (CUA) program in order to allow climbing guides to operate in Yosemite and help resolve social impact issues, promote safety, improve accountability, and create wilderness stewards. Certified climbing and hiking guides educate visitors, increase visitor safety in popular climbing areas, and reduce impacts to wilderness resources.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 642 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID:** 537557 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would like to comment on the possibility of additional guided climbing access to the park. There has been a long-standing monopoly on offering guided climbing to the public and I believe it is time to open up other options. Low ratio guided climbing is a very reasonable use of the park and helps connect people to the special wilderness opportunities that they would not have without a guide. I believe the options right now for this type of experience are very limited due to the current permit system. I would like to see a CUA program put in place that allows additional access to certified guides. Many of these guides have long-time clients that would love to

visit the park but they have created a bond of trust with a certain guide and do not want to climb with someone they have not built a relationship with.

Corr. ID: 660 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537934 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

It's important to me that the NPS works with the American Mountain Guide Association (AMGA) to develop strategies to manage guided access. With guides collaborating on scheduling, overcrowding would be avoided. If closures to guided access are unavoidable, seasonal or weekend vs. weekday closures are better than blanket closures as blanket closures tend to restrict access to beginner level routes. Furthermore, I believe that low-ratio guiding is the best technique for guides to minimize impacts on other visitors and the landscape.

Corr. ID: 667 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537947 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In my experience as a guide in Yosemite National Park, the Valley itself (Tuolumne is different story) offers actually not that many routes for beginner to intermediate clients. For this reason I think it is imperative to consider creating a CUA system that directly involves the American Mountain Guides Association so that the CUA program could be managed and implemented in a way that is most logical for guides, and most unobtrusive and low-impact on the park.

Corr. ID: 683 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association / Certified Guides Coop
Comment ID: 538064 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Increasing the number of legitimate guides operating in the area will boost revenue for the NPS and improve accountability of all activity.

Corr. ID: 716 Organization: Sierra Mountain Center **Comment ID: 538371 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: There is illegal guiding occurring all the time in Yosemite and Tuolumne and this will continue to occur unless there are venues for qualified operators to offer their services to the guided public.

Corr. ID: 735 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538481 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Specific to guiding rock climbing in the Valley and Tuolumne, I believe that expanding guiding opportunities in the park using a streamlined permit application process that requires an operating plan, standardized level of rock guiding and wilderness medicine certification, low ratios (client to guide), and reasonable limitations on guidable areas based on season, weekend/weekday, and holidays, would serve the public in a variety of ways.

Corr. ID: 773 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538752 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Certified guides are also first responders, and capable of helping with rescue operations, often times very quickly. This precedent has been set in Rocky Mountain NP, Denali NP, Rainer NP, Teton NP.

Corr. ID: 831 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 539069 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: AMGA believes a CUA program is the best avenue for the park to pursue a sustainable increase in access for guided climbing. We believe that a program that permits access by exceptionally well qualified individual guides, regardless of their affiliation or non-affiliation with any guide service, will best serve the interests of visitors. These CUAs should be issued for a period of time adequate to make it economically feasible for guides and their clients to visit Yosemite. Such a time period would not be less than one-week in Yosemite Valley, with a longer time period being

more economically feasible for visiting guides. The opportunity for a similar amount of CUA time in Tuolumne would make this program more economically viable for guides.

Corr. ID: 831 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 539072**

Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The AMGA, in the interest of best preparing American guides to work in Yosemite and other rock climbing venues around the world, would greatly value access to Yosemite for our own guide education programs. This would enhance the AMGAs training programs, primarily those at an advanced level that emphasize longer climbing routes. Similar to the other rock climbing use that AMGA is advocating for, the AMGA advanced courses are conducted at a low ratio (one instructor to two participants). Access to 500 or more annual user days in Yosemite National Park would have a tremendous value for the AMGA in furthering American guide education, though as little as 300 days would still be viable.

Corr. ID: 831 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 539068**

Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Trained and certified professional guides are stewards and benefit the Wilderness resource. Utilizing Leave No Trace principals and teaching them to their guests minimizes environmental impacts. Proper planning and climbing route selection is done to minimize social impacts on the self-guided public while providing valuable experiences and education for guided visitors. For example, if Route A is known to be busy with self-guided climbers during the weekend, a guide would steer his or her guests to Route B to distribute use into other areas and minimize potential conflicts with other visitors. Guides provide mentorship to their guests on Wilderness topics ranging from why is there Wilderness? to enabling legislation, to ways their guests can support the invaluable Wilderness resource. Lastly, guides and their guests can support park staff with conservation initiatives, such as trail work and cleanup days.

Corr. ID: 831 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 539070**

Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The application process for any CUA should be based on standard criteria including appropriate training and certification. AMGA believes that climbing in Yosemite both an exceptional climbing resource unmatched in the National Park system and technically demanding to guide well. Because of the unique nature of this climbing resource, we believe that AMGA Rock Guide Certification is the appropriate standard for qualifying guides. This is the only U.S. certification program that examines guides up to a 5.10 A2 Grade V standard. This program also is the only American guide training program recognized by the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations (IFMGA). IFMGA certified guides, having been trained and examined in rock, alpine, and ski guiding would also meet the standard advocated by the AMGA.

Corr. ID: 850 Organization: Lasting Adventures **Comment ID: 539303 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The Wilderness Stewardship Plan notes the many needs it hopes to address within its proposal. Then almost as an afterthought it states, "Finally, there is a need to determine the extent to which commercial services are necessary in the Yosemite Wilderness." I fear that the park is not giving adequate time and thought into this topic.

Corr. ID: 504 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 536433 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If the WSP restricts, removes, or bans outdoor educators from the Wilderness what have they honestly achieved in the protection of the wilderness? The WSP then becomes less of a wilderness stewardship plan, and more of a wilderness stewardship ban.

Corr. ID: 716 Organization: Sierra Mountain Center **Comment ID: 538380 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Guides know the routes well and can help people out with route finding and advice. This can help avoid rescues from the outset. Guides can be more of an asset than a problem, e.g. Cathedral peak on a busy weekend where people are lost all the time or having safety issues.

Corr. ID: 769 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538703 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Trips led by certified mountain guides would result in little to no damage to the land ... in many cases, I see guides improving the area due to their stewardship. Not only are the guides watching every footfall, they are educating visitors on low-impact hiking/climbing/camping tactics and creating lifelong stewards for the park.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58876) No additional commercial use authorizations (CUAs) should be permitted. The current climbing operation is well managed.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 670 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 537983 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I see guiding as a complex situation that is currently well managed by both NPS, and Yosemite Mountaineering School (YMS). YMS has a long standing good safety record. YMS has a world class curriculum that serves the public, visitors, and people of the world very well. YMS has a long term, dedicated staff of people who truly know, respect, and protect Yosemite's resources while instructing and guiding in Yosemite National Park. These are staff members with either legitimate company housing, or they are people already independently living in their own houses within the Yosemite, El Portal, and Eastern Sierra communities. Yosemite Mountaineering School staff members are also family members with spouses, and children that rely on a guides income to financially survive.

Corr. ID: 685 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538072 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would be in support of an indefinite freeze on allowing CUAs to be issued to new applicants (new companies).

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58877) Avoid closing routes to guided climbing. If other options for reducing social impacts are considered, seasonal or weekend climbing restrictions should be considered before closures.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 11 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535328 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Closing 15 - 20 trade routes to guiding effectively closes this park to guiding, as there are maybe only 35 guidable routes in the park. Guiding allows people who otherwise would not be able to experience the cliffs of Yosemite to have the opportunity to climb. As an AMGA certified Rock and Alpine guide who has guiding in Yosemite for the Yosemite Mountaineering School for three years, I want to register my profound concern at the proposal.

Allowing other guide services to have CUAs - great idea! Break the monopoly!

Corr. ID: 740 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538504 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In general I don't believe that beginning to intermediate climbers who want to hire a guide should be limited where they can climb. Closing any routes to guided use is not just closing the route to guides, it's also closing the route to those members of the public who choose to hire guides. These tax-paying citizens have as much right to use the park as a non-guided recreational climbers.

Corr. ID: 770 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538709 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: About commercial guided climbing access. I was at the meeting in Lee Vining and it sounds like the planners are moving away from the idea of route closures commercial guiding. I hope this is true. As full time guide in the park closing certain routes for guiding would increase the risk of my job exponentially. There are very few moderate routes in Yosemite Valley where the majority of the guiding takes place. If these routes were closed to guiding it would force me to climb more dangerous routes that are seldom climbed. Routes that are popular are usually that way because they are well protected. Pushing guides onto terrain with huge leader fall potential, and routes covered in lichen and loose rocks would be a bad thing.

Corr. ID: 831 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID: 539077 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: We ask that, before any specific climbing resource is closed to guiding, other strategies are considered. These strategies might include seasonal or weekend versus weekday restrictions and could be workable solutions for the park, guides and the public.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58880) The National Park Service should re-evaluate how "commercial service" is defined.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 670 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537991 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Currently I feel guiding is discriminated against by being classified as commercial use, competing for public enjoyment in wilderness areas. Please remember, the people who hire a guide are the public, they are the visitors, they are the same people the Wilderness Stewardship Plan is trying to protect. I feel professional guiding is being scrutinized as a negative impact on nonguided visitor experiences when in actuality professional guiding is a positive impact on visitor use and experience.

Corr. ID: 716 Organization: Sierra Mountain Center **Comment ID: 538357 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: I prefer to term user groups "guided public" and "nonguided public" rather than "commercial" and "non-commercial." In my experience Park management places themselves as wearing white hats and "commercial users" as black hats and an evil that needs to be controlled and limited where ever possible.

Corr. ID: 817 Organization: Tawonga Jewish Community Corporation dba Camp Tawonga **Comment ID: 538970 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Prior to 2014, Tawonga held a Special Use Permit to operate in the park rather than a Commercial Use Authorization. We 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.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58881) The plan needs to consider a reduction or elimination of commercial services in wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 49 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535928 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: You have omitted the idea of eliminating wilderness visitation via concession and commercial (money making) operations. These heavy operations by nature are

highly damaging (per person supported) to fragile areas. Indeed the damage per person probably exceeds tenfold over that of a backpacker.

Corr. ID: 96 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535783 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial services should be limited to what is truly necessary and proper, in keeping with the goals of the Wilderness Act.

Corr. ID: 100 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535816 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial services should be limited, and provisions made to prevent them from strong-arming the park after cancellation of contracts

Corr. ID: 303 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 536246 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial use needs to be greatly reduced. Also "spot drop" and supply trips by commercial companies should not be allowed at all. Hikers need to pack in their own supplies if they want to camp.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC) Comment ID: 538576 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: CSERC recognizes that there are a wide range of businesses and individuals who provide ecologically sensitive commercial services within Wilderness areas in Yosemite in an attempt to minimize their resource impacts while enhancing recreational and educational enjoyment for visitors to the Park. Nevertheless, having well-managed and green-focused business operations allowed in the Wilderness areas of Yosemite Park should only be allowed to the extent that balanced, fair, and accurate planning analysis can show that such commercial services are truly in compliance with specific wording and clear intent of The Wilderness Act.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center Comment ID: 538520 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As noted above, there is no description of an option to significant reduce overall commercial services in Wilderness - - including a significant reduction in commercial services utilizing stock.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58889) Yosemite should maintain the climbing guiding status quo as communication is easier with one guiding service, there are insufficient beginner to intermediate climbs for additional guiding, and there isn't infrastructure and housing to support additional guides.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 670 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 537981 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Another concern I have is office space for the proposed multiple guide services.

1- Where will they operate from?

2- Is NPS going to build, or allot more infrastructure in Yosemite to accommodate professional guide service office space and housing requirements?

3- If NPS does not allot useable office space for these new guide services where will these outside guide services operate from?

4- Where will these new guides live? Will NPS be encouraging outside guides to stay long term in Yosemite campgrounds which is currently not allowed? Is NPS indirectly encouraging a seasonal, nomadic guide, illegal guide lifestyle of guides sleeping in their vehicles, or out of bounds camping? This obviously would be a food storage violation and now puts bear and other wildlife at risk. Guides with homes have safe food storage at home. Guides that live out of their vehicles have very little food storage options, and bear safety would be jeopardized.

5- Where will the new guide services meet their clients each morning? It is important for the guide service and client to have phone communication prior to meeting in case of delays, or plan changes. Cell service in Yosemite is limited, so now guides trying to meet clients in the park without office space will be loitering in convenient cell service places like cafeterias, stores, parking lots, or public decks.

6- If NPS requires the new guide services to operate out of Yosemite National Park in an outside community will NPS require the clients to meet the guide each day outside Yosemite National Park prior to the guests' activities? This would increase road traffic, increase roadside parking needs if guides and guests decide to carpool once they are in Yosemite. Requiring visitors to meet at an outside guide service location also greatly inconveniences the visiting guest and takes away from the visitor experience.

7- If the guide service is allowed to meet the client inside Yosemite National Park this will essentially be NPS allowing mobile office spaces. The guests will need access to rental equipment like climbing shoes, helmets, harnesses, ropes, protective rock anchors, webbing, etc. All of this equipment adds up to a lot of special storage requirements. I can only envision a bunch of oversized vehicles and towed storage trailers loaded up with gear, then sprawled out in parking lots trying to accommodate the clients' equipment and shoe rental needs. This obviously is a negative impact to non-climbing visitor experiences when they are effected by guides competing for busy parking lot space. This will be an indirect impact on all visitor experience.

Corr. ID: 670 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 537980 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: What NPS staff may, or may not know is even though Yosemite National Park has thousands of challenging, technical rock climbs it actually has very few easy to moderate rock climbs. Due to steep, smooth granite walls Yosemite climbing has historically been cutting edge, world class, technical rock climbing terrain. Yosemite geology offers very little beginner to intermediate climber terrain features. 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. Guides will have nowhere else to go. At this point both guided visitors, and non-guided visitors will be severely impacted by both the Wilderness Stewardship restrictions as well as new guide permit additions.

Corr. ID: 670 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 537979 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The benefit of Yosemite National Park having only one guide service is more control over how the operation is run. Also, because YMS has a single office meeting place in Curry Village the entire staff of guides see each other on a daily basis and discuss with each other location climbs in which the guides intend to take their visiting guests. This is the first step into a purposeful attempt to reduce crowding of climbs, or climbing areas. If NPS opens up guiding to multiple guide services this daily guide location communication will be lost.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58890) If Yosemite decides to expand commercial climbing guiding operations, the park should establish an online system for commercial use authorization (CUA) holders.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 716 Organization: Sierra Mountain Center Comment ID: 538374 Organization Type: Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Mt Rainer Park has a system of three core concessionaire operators with long term concessions and then a larger number of CUAs issued for two years. This system is already in place and could serve as a model of Yosemite National Park.

Corr. ID: 740 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 538505 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If limits must be imposed then solutions and strategies should be implemented with the cooperative effort of CUA holders, climbing stakeholders, and land managers. One option would be to identify the most popular routes and establish an online system for CUA holders to sign up for different starting times on these routes.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58874) Professional photographers and educational, documentary, and natural history filmmakers should be permitted to operate in wilderness without being categorized as commercial use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 538000 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I will be the first one say commercial filming should not be permitted in the Wilderness. When I say commercial I mean commercial add campaigns, like corporations attempting to sell products, Hollywood movies exploiting a landscape, or television entertainment shows that have no value towards the environment which they are filmed in. What I do think needs to be distinguished is the true difference between "commercial filming" and educational, natural history, or documentary filming. There is a real difference between these various filming types not only in an intangible, intellectual, educational value, or commercial sense, but also in how these film styles often work with various crew sizes, and the types of film equipment that traditionally works best for each film type.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 537996 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If the Yosemite Wilderness Stewardship Plan bans photography, or filming in the backcountry setting it will be removing an important element with the ability to share future knowledge, and caring of the Wilderness environment.

Corr. ID: 671 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 538002 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If the Wilderness Stewardship Plan is attempting to categorize all film types as a single "Commercial filming" because there is a money exchange somewhere within filming I believe this is missing the point of Wilderness protection, Wilderness values, or the true impacts of filming in the wilderness.

HSC1000 - High Sierra Camps and other PWAs

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58970) The High Sierra Camps should remain because they are historically and culturally important, are accessible to visitors with differing physical abilities, and encourage wilderness stewardship.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 6 Organization: myself Comment ID: 535186 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe the high sierra camps are an integral role for sustainability education not to mention education on leaving no trace, wilderness education, and overall health of the earth and human beings.

Corr. ID: 20 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535558 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please retain the High Sierra Camps at their current capacity. These camps are of historical importance and provide opportunities for persons that because of age-related or

other disabilities that prohibit or greatly limit their ability to backpack to enjoy a night or extended visit in the wilderness. The impact of these camps on the environmental education and well-being of those who work at and visit the camps far outweighs the impact to the wilderness. A key to maximizing the positive impact of these camps is to ensure that they are at full capacity.

Corr. ID: 21 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535561 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would like to encourage continued full function of the high Sierra camps also. This is the only option for truly experiencing camping in the wilderness for adults over 50 or so who can no longer carry heavy packs for backpacking trips. The park environment needs to be protected but it is also intended for use and enjoyment by the public so please do not limit the function of these camps. The staff and campers at these camps, based on my personal experience, are very respectful of the environment.

Corr. ID: 759 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538636 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: They allow for much greater diversity of visitors in the backcountry, and these people often become wilderness supporters after their experience. The camps size and their impact is minimal, and the trails that the stock uses to supply them are made for stock use. The groups that oppose these camps and stock use have over 700,000 acres that they can explore and enjoy in Yosemite's backcountry. And those who prefer the camps can enjoy them. Yosemite was preserved for everyone.

Corr. ID: 789 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538833 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe it is important to keep the capacity at its maximum bed and meal allowance. The bed reductions incurred during the Merced River Plan and Tuolumne River Plan have limited the number of beds significantly at Glen Aulin and Merced Lake.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58971) 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 commercial services, which are prohibited under the Wilderness Act.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 73 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535550 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe that the High Sierra Camps should be entirely removed. These islands in the wilderness contradict the whole idea of wilderness. They also degrade the wilderness that surround the camps. There is no reason for their continued existence (aside from the revenue they generate, which should not even be a consideration). They cater to moneyed people who, for whatever reason, do not want a true wilderness experience with all its attendant discomforts - - yet those discomforts are an inherent aspect of wilderness. Please remove these non-conforming uses.

Corr. ID: 627 Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association **Comment ID:** 537863 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The current planning process needs to include an alternative to immediately close the High Sierra Camps, restore the sites, and recommend the enclaves for wilderness designation. If this is not done, for any reason, a "compromise" alternative could also be considered, to require the following: 1) an independent study to document baseline conditions at each of the High Sierra Camps, funded by the Park Service and conducted under contract by a reputable California university; 2) a provision for low-intensity annual monitoring by the Resources Management Division (of parameters to be recommended by the initial study), plus intensive, independent monitoring of conditions at each camp no less frequently than every five years (under

contract as in #1 above); and 3) a definitive triggering mechanism (without any loopholes) to require that if any adverse environmental impacts resulting from operation of any or all of the High Sierra Camps should ever increase beyond those documented in the baseline study, that the offending camp(s) will be promptly removed and the area(s) recommended to the Secretary of Interior and to Congress for wilderness designation.

Corr. ID: 627 Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association **Comment ID: 537861 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The camps require massive inputs of high-impact maintenance, such as mule trains and helicopter flights that adversely affect and impair Yosemite's wilderness far beyond the boundaries of the camps themselves.

Corr. ID: 688 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538086 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Any plan for Yosemite's wilderness must address the condition and fate of the High Sierra Camps (HSCs). The HSCs have experienced sewage leaks, bear/food incidents, water shortages, massive searches for lost clients, and other problems that degrade Yosemite's wilderness. Further, much of the stock use in Yosemite's wilderness is due to the continual packtrains that supply the camps with unnecessary luxuries, which leaves wilderness trails battered and polluted by dust, manure, and flies.

Corr. ID: 854 Organization: Wilderness Watch **Comment ID: 539288 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: As such, at least one alternative should immediately close the camps, rehabilitate the sites and have the potential wilderness designated as Wilderness. The agency can't abrogate its duty in this matter.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58972) The scope of services and amenities or capacities at the High Sierra Camps should be decreased to reduce the impacts of stock use supplying the camps.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 809 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538916 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Decrease the size of Merced Lake High Sierra Camp. Way to big an impact.

Corr. ID: 863 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539417 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Participants seemed united in the impression that HSC resupply was the primary source of conflict between backpackers and stock. Further, they felt that degraded conditions around HSCs are a significant problem. Many seemed personally offended by the sense that HSC visitors were 'above the law' and that they were being indulged by the concessioner with luxuries not appropriate to the wilderness. Most seemed to agree that reducing the scope of services offered at HSCs, to the extent that this would reduce resupply trains, would be a positive development. Otherwise, participants seemed supportive of the HSCs and their continued operation did not emerge as a controversial topic.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58973) Additional High Sierra Camps should be created, or capacity and services should be increased, to meet public demand and reduce impacts on other dispersed camping sites.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 17 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535551 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Add new High Sierra Camps at McCabe Lake (North side) and Budd Lake (South side)

Corr. ID: 738 Organization: American Mountain Guides Association **Comment ID:** 538490

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Increasing the number and capacity of the High Sierra camps could be a way forward for the management of overnight wilderness use. As a CUA backpacking guide, I see other users regularly impacting new sites because they are dead-set on camping in a specific site and either unable or unwilling to locate alternatives. Offering tent-cabins and strictly managed camp sites (with TOILETS!!) will greatly reduce the amount of land that is impacted. Additionally, having more HSC's with defined capacity could offer another avenue to establish an easily enforceable quote system for the most popular areas in the Yosemite wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58980) All structures should be removed from potential wilderness additions and designated Wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 200 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 536138 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Nonconforming structures and uses should be removed from potential wilderness and those areas designated as Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 854 Organization: Wilderness Watch **Comment ID:** 539289 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Other nonconforming structures should be removed. This would include the structures (cables) on Half Dome and any agency structures that are not the minimum necessary for the administration of the Wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59131) Amenities such as hot showers should be limited and other water saving measures employed such as composting toilets when there is water scarcity.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 12 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535339 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: All of the camps need to reduce water use with composting toilets.

Corr. ID: 764 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538662 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think there has been thought to both sides of the issues. There has been consideration for those who frequent the high sierra camps and attention should be made that these camps gives certain user groups access to the backcountry that might not otherwise be possible. I don't think hot showers are necessary and impacts to the area should be kept to a minimum.

NAT1000 – Natural Resources

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58934) The plan needs to address climate change when quantifying impacts to flora and fauna in wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 713 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538333 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I hope Yosemite National Park planners will be taking into account, with regard to numbers and densities, projections for flora and fauna problems and needs in Wilderness based on the climate change our earth is experiencing.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID:** 538564 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Without any exaggeration, due to climate change (and increased competition with coyotes at high elevation areas where snow depth previously favored the fox) along with increased disturbance due to recreational back-county visitors arriving earlier in the spring and staying later into the fall season, there is a clear possibility that the Sierra Nevada red fox has too small of a population to remain viable and to survive as an isolated population in the Ebbetts Pass to Tioga Pass region of the Sierra Nevada. The potential for extirpation of the fox is exacerbated by genetic contamination due by the intrusion of hybrid or low elevation red fox extending up into the Sonora Pass breeding population and weakening the genetic purity and vigor of that SNRF pocket of surviving foxes.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58935) The plan needs to take into consideration how stock use and recreational backcountry use may affect wildlife (e.g. Sierra Nevada red fox (SNRF), wolverine, American Martin, great grey owl and songbirds) or threatened plant species.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538559**
Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: At-risk wildlife suffers from degradation of natural conditions and disturbance caused by recreational visitors and stock use in wilderness.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538562**
Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The extremely high level of documented Wilderness recreation use as shared in the Plan process has resulted in certain wildlife species altering their behavior to avoid disturbance by or conflict with humans intruding into their essential habitat areas. The Sierra Nevada red fox is a priority species that may have less than 100 individuals in the entire Sierra Nevada range. In recent years, Yosemite Park biologists and CSERC biologists have finally successfully verified that SNRF is present in remote Wilderness areas within the Park and in remote wilderness or roadless wild areas within national forests north of Yosemite. A SNRF population in the Lassen region has become habituated over time to human presence and has been documented to at least some SNRF individuals to show tolerance for human activity. In sharp contrast, the SNRF population documented to date within the Stanislaus National Forest and with three limited detection locations within Yosemite Park have shown that the foxes are extremely furtive, are reluctant to even approach bait and attractant scents smeared at photo-detection stations, and do not consistently return even when bait may be taken at a site.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538567**
Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In addition to the Sierra Nevada red fox, the Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan must also legally consider visitor use and stock use significant negative effects upon (1) the wolverine, (2) the American marten, both generally at middle upper to upper elevations within Yosemite's Wilderness landscape, (3) the great gray owl, primarily at lower to middle elevation forest-meadow complexes in Yosemite Wilderness areas, and (4) the specific at-risk migratory songbird species that Park biologists agree are most at-risk and which may overlap with their breeding season in areas that may be popular with recreational use or in habitat areas where willows or other critical habitat may be degraded by stock presence.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538560**
Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In this case, the Park Service in its EIS must carefully consider ecological impacts caused by high levels of recreational use and stock use that cause environmental effects for at-risk wildlife species that may be in decline due in part to disturbance, avoidance by the species of critical habitat areas due to human presence and crowds, or diminishment of critical habitat value for

threatened or endangered species due to stock impacts caused by grazing, trampling, manure, water quality degradation, and other negative effects.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58937) The plan should include direction for introduction or re-introduction of native plants and animals, while prohibiting the introduction of non-indigenous, non-native species.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 Organization: US Citizen **Comment ID: 535326 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Develop and include administrative direction for the introduction or reintroduction of native, non-native and indigenous species of plants and animals. Develop guidance for the management of species threatened through the effects of global climate changes. Prohibit the introduction of non-indigenous, non-native species.

Corr. ID: 836 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID: 539109 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The impact of a visitor (or stock animal) importing non-native and invasive plant species into a wilderness ecosystem can significantly degrade wilderness character. How can this well documented threat to wilderness be addressed in this plan?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58940) Visitors have affected soils, vegetation, woody litter, and water quality. Areas with at-risk plant or wildlife species should be identified, managed and monitored to prevent impacts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 303 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID: 539273 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: More Rangers should patrol high use areas on foot so that they can correct poor behavior by tourists. The most distressing experience on my last trip was to see tourists harassing the animals and plant life without a Ranger in sight to appeal for help. They should respectfully but actively correct disruptive behavior.

Corr. ID: 405 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID: 536316 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: monitoring of wilderness for damage/ degradation is not well addressed

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538523 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Excessive trampling and hardening of areas by crowds of recreational visitors have compacted soil, denuded some areas, diminished woody litter, and certainly affected water quality under low flow conditions at some sites.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538566 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Just using the fox as one example of a key part of an unimpaired, natural Wilderness ecosystem in Yosemite Park, any management choice by the Park that further impairs the survival or the recovery for the fox or that allows continued human disturbance (whether intended or accidental) will be a management consequence that potentially will be significant and negative. Thus, not only for the Sierra Nevada red fox, but for other wildlife species or for at-risk plant species that may be vulnerable to stock grazing or to trampling, chiseling, pocking of meadows or riparian areas - an EIS analysis must appropriately list the numerous ways that recreational backcountry uses in Wilderness or stock use in Wilderness may affect at-risk wildlife species.

Corr. ID: 795 Organization: Central Sierra Audubon Society **Comment ID: 538860 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Meadows are also very important areas to maintain for water quality. Audubon supports improving water quality and increasing water flows to enhance the functioning of habitats especially in Important Bird Areas. The wilderness classification in the Yosemite area is an important tool to accomplish protections for these meadows.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58941) The plan needs to identify areas with Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive, Special Status, or other at-risk wildlife, and eliminate camping in these areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 23 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535604 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I'm not sure there is recognition that there may be particularly sensitive zones in the wilderness where potential disturbance of sensitive species (e.g. Sierra Nevada red fox or bighorn sheep) should suggest that overnight camping is not a good idea.

Corr. ID: 653 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 537909 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Identifying zones that contain at-risk wildlife and eliminating overnight camping in these zones should be a priority. Rigorous justifications supported by data would be very desirable.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID:** 538561 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

The Park has a clear legal obligation to identify all Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive, Special Status, or other at risk wildlife species that have potential to be negatively affected at a level of possible significant impact by Wilderness management planning direction.

OS1000 - Out of Scope

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58943) Comments outside the scope of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan include suggestions for management of Yosemite Valley, overall public transit, gas, Hetch Hetchy, and entrance fees.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 21 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535562 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The Tioga road bus line is critical to high country campers for transit to and from their vehicles. Please do not eliminate or reduce the schedule of these buses. Again, access for enjoyment by the public is one of the 2 arms of the national park purpose along with preservation.

Corr. ID: 35 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535839 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I'd like to see limits in terms of park drive-ins (a certain number of cars per day) and shuttles from areas outside the park. The backcountry is not where the park feels most impacted. Limit the cars before you limit the hikers.

Corr. ID: 73 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535547 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I strongly believe that Yosemite Valley should largely be off-limits to motor vehicles. I know this is a persistent issue that's been discussed at length; nonetheless, I'll take this opportunity to lodge support for a car-free valley by use of off-park lots and electric shuttle buses. Once in the valley, bicycles could supplement shuttle buses.

Corr. ID: 448 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 536436 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please consider limiting the amount of use and also the use of buses or van to show off the parks.

Corr. ID: 453 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 536450 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Restore Hetch-Hetchy to its natural state. No community should be allowed to take away and destroy any part of any National Park.

Corr. ID: 532 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 537784 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Eliminate rock climbing in Yosemite

Corr. ID: 748 **Organization:** REI **Comment ID:** 538604 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In Lieu of entrance fees, offer a service option, tailored to the level of ability. Actively cleaning and serving park environments helps make a connection bro keeping it clean.

Corr. ID: 63 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535437 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: One issue I have noticed is the difficulty of campsite reservations. Last summer I noticed what looked like a group of teens who were "snatching" and setting up First-come-first-serve campsites for out-of-area people who would arrive much later in the day. I was left wondering if I could catch this going on in one weekend, what was the camp host missing or was he looking the other way. Maybe the camp hosts need more training?

Corr. ID: 788 **Organization:** Access Fund **Comment ID:** 538819 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: We have analyzed these quota concepts for managing visitor use as they relate to climbing use in Yosemite Wilderness, and our overall concern with all the concepts is that the quotas established for non-climbers could unintentionally impact climbing use in YNP. In other words, trail-users create and experience different social conditions than climbers, and rock climbers utilize trail and off-trail approach routes to specific climbing area destinations that are typically not shared with other user groups.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59127) Climbing is an appropriate use of wilderness as defined in Keeping It Wild, and climbing use should be developed and defined in this plan in the context of wilderness character.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 667 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 537940 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: You have omitted the study of capacity of rock climbing resources, almost all of which, fall inside of the wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 788 **Organization:** Access Fund **Comment ID:** 538816 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Keeping It Wild also 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.

Corr. ID: 788 **Organization:** Access Fund **Comment ID:** 538830 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: It is critical that this plan provide an appropriate framework for addressing a subsequent climbing plan, which will mostly involve wilderness management. As noted we believe that the establishment of a range of management zones that identify diverse desired conditions will protect and maintain wilderness character while designing appropriate management actions related

to visitor use at different zones throughout the parks wilderness. Developing multiple zones with identified capacity limits and desired conditions will assist park planners to plan for the appropriate categories of overnight camping/bivouacs, recreational access, trail management, commercial services, soundscapes, and stock use. These zones will also effectively allow NPS planners to subsequently develop an effective and appropriate climbing management plan after this planning process is completed. We also believe that a destination quotas approach may be appropriate for select special destination, high use hot spots.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59163) Parking at popular areas should be considered since there is a lack of public transportation to certain areas of the park.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 26 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535644 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If one looks at a map of Yosemite, it is easy to see that the main valley is the central hub. It is from there that most people either start or end their trip. With that in mind, every effort should be made to make the outer parts of the park more desirable and easier to access. Right now there is ONE hiker's bus from the valley to Tuolumne Meadows each day. Those, like me, arriving via public transit, would benefit from more options.

Corr. ID: 862 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539424 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Because public transportation is limited, parking may need to be a consideration when dealing with hot spots.

Corr. ID: 158 Organization: Sierra Club **Comment ID:** 536031 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Vehicle use in the entire park must be addressed. A large parking garage just outside the park, with electric, bio fuel, or natural gas shuttles to transport visitors within the park would go a long way toward reducing pollution and traffic within the park.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59166) The National Park Service should specifically prohibit installing fixed anchors for climbing and mountaineering.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 Organization: US Citizen **Comment ID:** 535325 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Prohibit the installation of any new fixed anchors for any activity such as rock climbing and mountaineering. Drilling of any kind (other than for administrative maintenance and construction of trails), whether by motorized or mechanical means should be prohibited.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59041) NPS should address the need for adequate trailer parking at trailheads and front-country campgrounds for those stock users accessing wilderness from these areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 54 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 535337
Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Access to the Yosemite Wilderness at present by private horsemen is often 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.

OS1010 - Day Use

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58868) Day use in wilderness impacts wilderness resources in high use areas and should be considered in the plan.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538513**

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The choice by Park planners NOT to analyze day use impacts on Wilderness or to combine consideration of day use when developing policy for overnight use may be a legal flaw that opens the plan to an challenge that would be likely to prevail.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538516**

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The choice to completely ignore the truly staggering level of day use out into Wilderness in the greater Tuolumne Meadows area, Tenaya Lake, and other high use areas means that the Wilderness Plan fails to consider a significant portion of human use, disturbance, pollution, trail impacts, etc. that cumulatively add up to the overall significant impact on Wilderness values, resources, and water quality.

Corr. ID: 859 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539459 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Several people felt that day use was too high on many trails and was causing unacceptable impacts. This concern was repeated several times.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58869) There should be established quotas and desired conditions established for day use of wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 200 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 536133 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Carrying capacity limits should be established for day use at each trailhead. Day use group size limits should approximate overnight group limits in order to lessen the impacts of overly large groups. Research shows larger groups can have disproportionately greater impacts.

Corr. ID: 573 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537826 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As a frequent visitor to the backcountry in Yosemite, I can say that the biggest issue is overuse of limited areas by day hikers. The park needs to take steps to limit the impact of day hikers just as it does for backcountry use.

Corr. ID: 788 Organization: Access Fund **Comment ID: 538818 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Once a comprehensive set of desired conditions is articulated, then Yosemite National Park planners should consider which of the proposed common management tools (quotas) would be most effective for managing visitor use. Park planners focus these tools primarily on overnight backcountry use which, according to Yosemite National Park, would address the 65,000 overnight backcountry stays per year in the park (out of 5 million total per year). The preliminary concepts and ideas provide little information on how day use in the backcountry will be managed under the new Wilderness Plan. Given that overnight backcountry users account for 1.3% of visitor use, additional design work and information should be provided on day use management and associated desired conditions should be clearly defined.

PER1000 - Outside Agency Collaboration on Permitting

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58918) It is important to engage with adjacent land management agencies to ensure consistent management of trails and permits, including consideration of quotas at park boundary trails and ensuring other land management agencies are not burdened with excessive permit management.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 Organization: US Citizen **Comment ID: 535293 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Institute quotas at the Park boundaries on trails that enter the Yosemite wilderness from contiguous Forest Service areas (e.g., Donahue Pass, Chiquito/Quartz Mountain TH, Buckeye Pass, Bond Pass, etc.). This will require closer coordination with the contiguous national forests and dependence on their continued support for wilderness permit issuance over a long period of time.

Corr. ID: 716 Organization: Sierra Mountain Center **Comment ID: 538393 Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Cross border co-operation. The Sierra does not change at the crest even if management units do. It does the Sierra Mountain Center no good to have a permit on the Inyo and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks to do the John Muir Trail (JMT) but not one for Yosemite National Park. All three are linked along with the Sierra National Forest. I understand that this is highly idealistic and improbable but with cooperation between the Inyo, Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks and Yosemite National Park all operators could be on the same time frame. When one permit/concession expired the others would also. We could have a permit on the Inyo to do a ski tour to Donahue Pass, but not to descend to Lyell Canyon. Taken to its extreme it is the current possibility with Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks where we can climb the East Face of Whitney under an Inyo permit but not be able to step onto the summit because of a lack of a Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks permit.

Corr. ID: 764 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538671 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: While I think the quota system is mostly effective, there must be a collaborative effort between the US Forest Service and NPS regarding users coming into Yosemite from the Mt. Whitney area. These extra folks impact trails, campgrounds, and increase the number of people in the area to a detrimental level.

Corr. ID: 836 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539111 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: How will changes to the administration of the Yosemite wilderness support or detract from the ability of land managers in adjacent wilderness areas to effectively manage visitors and the resource?

Corr. ID: 841 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539343 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The main thing that concerns me is when people enter Yosemite from outside-the-Park trail heads of the National Forests like Twin Lakes/Robinson Creek, Virginia Lakes, Chiquito Pass, Leavitt Meadows and Bond Pass. I don't see how there will possibly be the needed collaboration with those Ranger Districts. These trailheads are my favorite access points because they lead to some little used areas and won't really be impacted. I just don't want those Forest Service folks to be burdened by too much minutia when providing permits. The ones I come in contact with don't seem to keep up on issues and conditions within the Park

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58919) Yosemite needs to consider hikers who avoid permit quotas by entering Yosemite wilderness areas through lands outside of park jurisdiction.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 9 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535247 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There is no discussion of what might be done to limit the permits issued from other agencies for travel which would include Yosemite National Park. Since this is a means frequently used to circumvent the quotas, not considering this would simply remove the ability to respond from the park to the other agencies next door, e.g. National Forest. The end result will not be improvement.

Corr. ID: 399 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 536407 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Hybrid approaches could be possible between the four. I wonder how the park will address the big issue of those entering the backcountry from outside the park, often from just a few miles away specifically to avoid or skirt permit issues.

Corr. ID: 841 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539344 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

I also don't think PCT'ers should have to manage their trip with campsite planning. However, I meet a number of folks who are doing the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) in sections and working there starting points to avoid Yosemite wilderness permit quotas. So, not sure how to manage that other than getting the word out there that they will have to "Pass Through" some areas without camping like you do with Little Yosemite Valley and Merced Lake.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58920) The reservation system should be improved to offer streamlined access for experienced wilderness users as well as become an online option to better coordinate between multiple agencies.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 694 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 538191 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: For those areas that get a lot of traffic, you should restrict the number of camping permits in those areas without causing a person (like me) to be unable to pass through, in route to other areas. Unfortunately, we all have to start our hike from somewhere, so don't let the crowd be a cause of not being able to get away from the crowd. Set a number for specific camp sites or for specific regions and make it possible for us to get the permit on line before we ever leave home, at a one stop website that includes all jurisdictions. I mean the same site for all of the different management agencies that control the different sections of the Sierra Mountains.

Corr. ID: 837 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539114 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would love to see a concerted effort amongst agencies to improve the reservation system.

PLA1000 - Planning Process

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58945) In order for the public to make decisions and provide comment, concepts need to be further developed and presented.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 788 **Organization:** Access Fund **Comment ID:** 538812 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The Access Fund agrees with Yosemite National Park scoping documents that planners should address visitor use and capacity, stock use, trail management and commercial services in this Wilderness Plan. However, while planners identify these categories as key issues to be addressed, Yosemite National Park's August 2016 Preliminary Concepts and Ideas document provides little detailed discussion, except regarding stock use, of these topics. The visitor use and capacity document focuses primarily on the need for a plan but jumps right to an analysis of quota concepts. We believe Yosemite National Park planners should provide more detailed consideration of visitor use and capacity as well as trail maintenance and commercial services, which are all important components to this Wilderness Plan. It is our understanding that the next publicly available document and comment period will be the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and we find the lack of discussion regarding the above topics disappointing as park planners thus far have provided the public little new information to provide feedback regarding these important Wilderness management issues.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58946) The National Park Service should have additional public meetings in places like Los Angeles.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 724 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 538432 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It would be nice to see a public meeting in Los Angeles, considering its population and how many people travel from here to Yosemite.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58947) The planning process needs to present quantitative data to back-up the concepts presented and achieve desired conditions.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 **Organization:** individual public user **Comment ID:** 535156 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Use map specific models with specific numbers in the concepts prior to the final draft, to avoid misleading the public.

Corr. ID: 653 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 537715 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Limited information on the website about the current levels of usage and where and to what extent current usage should be considered excessive makes effective commenting difficult. Perhaps mapping "hot spots" where action is necessary is all that is possible. More photos would be useful.

Corr. ID: 713 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 538335 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think the number of "human users" needs to be studied and limited in accordance with scientific climate change models.

Corr. ID: 836 **Organization:** Not Specified **Comment ID:** 539104 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: What documented evidence exists to support the ability of these alternatives to achieve their desired outcomes?

SU1000 - Stock Use Preliminary Concepts - General

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59092) The National Park Service should distinguish between private, commercial, and administrative stock use and clearly show where types of stock are allowed or restricted in Yosemite Wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 Organization: individual public user **Comment ID: 535137 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: This section should include a breakdown of wilderness users into private, commercial, and administrative users, as is extant in the stock use discussion.

Corr. ID: 16 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535403 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The map in the document implied that stock are allowed throughout Yosemite. I think a more balanced map would have shown more clearly where stock are currently not allowed (maybe in red, not green) ; especially the trails and the large areas of the park that prohibit stock.

Corr. ID: 838 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539127 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: More should be understood about how the stock currently is used for administrative and concessioner use. Once that is understood, then the concepts need to be especially sensitive to their continued use and better management practices to be enforced and successful.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59093) NPS should fully disclose and analyze all impacts of stock use in the Yosemite Wilderness in the WSP/EIS. Distinguish between impacts from private, commercial, and administrative stock use and clearly define, and analyze separately, commercial and concessioner stock use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 627 Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association **Comment ID: 537864 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Your WSP/EIS should acknowledge, evaluate, and fully address the many significant adverse impacts of stock use in Yosemite's wilderness (including private, commercial, and administrative stock uses).

Corr. ID: 819 Organization: East Slope Back Country Horsemen **Comment ID: 539000 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: 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 comparison, the WSP should not seek to disproportionately burden private stock users, who comprise a small percentage of overnight wilderness visitation.

Corr. ID: 838 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539129 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The pie graph "Distribution of Stock Use Nights" states 42% for Concessioner Use and 41% for Other Commercial Use. Since these two categories are the highest percentages, thus probably has the most impact on the wilderness, then they should not be rolled into one category in concept 1, 2 and 3.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59094) NPS should continue to allow all forms of stock use in Yosemite Wilderness. Stock use is a historical tradition and can provide positive wilderness experiences for both stock and non-stock users, and is an acceptable element of multiple-use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 50 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID: 535945**

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I will add that 99.9% of my encounters (all saddle stock on my part) with pack-backers and hikers in national parks have been positive. Everyone is thankful to have the trails, and all there for the same experience. I grew up riding and my kinship with horses is as old as I am. I am appreciative of, and willing to assume responsibility, for this privilege.

Corr. ID: 59 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535410 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think you have done a very good job with the concepts. As both a back packer and a personal stock user I would like to see the wilderness preserved in the best way possible while still allowing use by all parties.

Corr. ID: 723 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538421 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I like the stock concept #1. As a hiker and one who has taken a pack trip, I like encountering the pack groups. It makes you feel like you are part of the old west when horse and pedestrian shared a common path through the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 819 Organization: East Slope Back Country Horsemen **Comment ID: 538992**

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We value the long-established tradition of use of pack and saddle stock in Yosemite National Park and throughout the West, and our hope is that this important historical of travel and transportation is carried into the future.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59097) NPS should not place further limitations on wilderness stock use. Current restrictions are sufficient or too restrictive.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 74 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535565 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We should have areas where we can tie up our stock and camp in just as scenic spots as hikers. I also believe no trail should be restricted just to hikers unless it is too dangerous for the horses. A couple of horses has no more or less imprint on a trail as a few hikers, even though they will debate that.

Corr. ID: 775 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538760 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I honestly don't think that stock usage now is a big problem. I hardly ever see stock assisted parties now. Thus it seems pointless to further curtail their activity.

Corr. ID: 775 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538762 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I suggest that further restrictions, lower quotas, and so on *not be* considered by the park service. In fact, I would encourage the park service to consider ways to increase access for greater numbers of users. In my opinion, access rules are already too restrictive. While some (not me) may feel that they want the whole park to themselves, making rules to implement that desire does not serve the greater public who are often visiting on a limited schedule. As I said above, experienced users that want to be on their own can always find areas to visit.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59098) NPS should ensure that any limitations imposed on stock use are enforceable.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 688 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538089 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

The provision in Preliminary Stock Use Concepts #1 and #2 that would allow camping with stock animals "at any existing fire ring" is plainly ridiculous. Under such a scheme, stock users could camp anywhere they want by simply constructing a fire ring and claiming that it was "existing." Such a provision would be unenforceable and would invite widespread non-compliance.

Corr. ID: 696 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538219 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Lack of enforcement of existing regulations is significant. Stock seem to graze wherever they want, even in sensitive/closed areas.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59099) Commenters expressed support or opposition to specific stock-related preliminary ideas and concepts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 52 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535289 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It's also important that, where possible, packers be able to enjoy unique opportunities for a backcountry horse packing trip Yosemite provides. The proposals under consideration all begin with this balance in mind. It is clear to me that concept one is the one that best achieves this goal.

Corr. ID: 54 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID: 535348 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

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. Regulations proposed in Concepts Two and Three related to either a grazing prohibition or establishing a maximum party size of 6 head not subject to grazing regulations would, in my view, run counter to the relatively unconfined recreational experience currently enjoyed by small parties with stock in Yosemite Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 73 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535544 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I strongly support Concept 3 because I would like to see the greatest realistic restrictions on stock usage. Stock cause outsized damage to the land (trails, meadows, etc.) and disrupt the wilderness experience of those on foot who are willing to carry their own weight. There is no compelling reason for the continued use of stock in the wilderness. Some people claim that it should be protected because it's been practiced for generations, but that does not make it right today.

Corr. ID: 79 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of Nevada **Comment ID: 539666 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Option 2 would be acceptable as well because I certainly understand areas sometimes need to be closed to use for a while to let meadows, riparian areas or areas of concern recover from heavy use. Hopefully if areas are closed they will have a reopening date posted and not be closed to stock for years at a time with no answer. Packing in pellets to feed instead of grazing is certainly a viable option as well to keep camps open that shouldn't be grazed.

SU1100 - Stock Use Preliminary Concepts - Camping

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59011) NPS should limit all stock camping (commercial and private stock use) to designated stock camp sites only. Designated stock camp sites should be located as to minimize impacts caused by stock.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 688 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538090 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

Regardless of which stock use option is ultimately selected by the NPS, all stock users should be required to camp at approved and designated stock camps that are located away from sensitive areas.

Corr. ID: 787 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538804 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: camping with stock ONLY at approved and designated sites (no exceptions)

Corr. ID: 791 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538846 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I prefer Concept 3 for stock use. The less stock use the better, and stock users should have their own campsites. It's really unpleasant to camp where stock have spent the night.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59012) NPS should limit all commercial stock camping to designated stock camp sites. Designated stock camp sites should be restricted to certain users and areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 802 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538882 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial use needs to be more limited. Packers should not be allowed to set up elaborate camps for large groups at popular locations, with hikers left to scrounge up whatever is left. It is not fun to find places with nothing but bare dirt, churned to dust and covered with turds. That goes for the trails as well.

Corr. ID: 821 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539018 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I like about the stock use concepts that commercial stock use camping is limited to specific pre-designated campsites.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59013) NPS stock concepts need to better address other methods of stock camping, for parties not using support stock.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 51 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of Utah **Comment ID: 535260 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The current stock use plans seem to be totally based on the concept of people always taking a pack horse in with them in order to camp overnight. Many people (me included) pack with only a single horse, carrying back-pack weight gear with us on our riding horse. This is actually the LEAST impact method for horse camping, as you bring no additional horses for gear packing, and can combine vehicles for fewer trailers at the trail head. When packing in this way, however, you must minimize what you are carrying. It is impossible to bring feed for the horses or an electric fence. For us, option #3 would eliminate our access, and option #2, in places requiring fencing, would also eliminate access.

SU1200 - Stock Use Preliminary Concepts - Trail Use

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58993) Yosemite should consider the amount of trail maintenance that is required for adequate stock usage and notify stock users that use of unmaintained trails will be at their own risk.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 30 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535754 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am concerned that the stock use plan does not appear to address the wear and tear on the trails caused by stock use. Stock can cause trails to become sandy or incredibly slick. This encourages users (both human and non-human) to stick to the periphery of trails, eventually widening the trail and damaging habitat.

Corr. ID: 373 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 536349 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Limit stock use to trails like carriage roads. Stock really can tear up backcountry foot trails. (We saw that too in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.)

Corr. ID: 859 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539474 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: NPS should notify stock users to use unmaintained trails at their own risk.

Corr. ID: 859 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539475 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Trail maintenance should be targeted - not all trails need to be adequate for stock and this could reduce stock use in targeted areas.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58994) Yosemite should require stock users to clean up or mitigate animal waste on trails as it detracts from the wilderness experience.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 8 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535238 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Perhaps the worst memory of that trip was repeatedly standing to the side of the trail in Long Meadow between Sunrise HSC and Cathedral Lakes, waiting for the several mule trains we encountered to pass, while being eaten by mosquitoes and watching the animals poop in the trail we were about to use. I cannot say that I appreciated any "wilderness character" on that trail. This is certainly not the only time I have had unpleasant encounters with mule trains in Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 818 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 538981 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think one thing that should be considered is requiring stock groups to clean up after themselves either by using "horse diapers" or having someone with a shovel follow the group and move the poop a certain distance from the trail. I don't think this is necessary in the remoter areas which don't have a lot of stock use, but I think this is necessary for the heavy-use areas in particular the supply routes for the HSCs.

Corr. ID: 846 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539314 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Require manure-catchers on all animals.

Corr. ID: 863 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539413 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The presence of manure on trails was unquestionably the most polarizing issue discussed at the workshops. Stock users see this is an unfortunate but unavoidable condition, while this condition is a major impact to the wilderness experience for many backpackers. NPS may have not effectively communicated the extent to which the elimination of commercial day rides has

begun to reduce manure concentration on trails and it has become clear that this needs to be better conveyed in future outreach.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58995) The National Park Service should reduce the number of stock permitted on trails or reduce or eliminate stock usage on trails.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 2 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535127 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would like stock use to be limited to only a few trails in the park, or removed from the park entirely.

Corr. ID: 859 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539473 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: NPS should consider temporary trail closures for stock.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58996) The National Park Service should not limit stock use on trails without evidence that stock-use damages wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 717 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539381 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: That the proposals do not limit miles of trail is good, especially since there is no documented evidence that the small number of stock-use visitors do damage to the wilderness.

SU1300 - Stock Use Preliminary Concepts - Grazing

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59014) Yosemite should consider a meadow grazing rotation schedule to help protect meadows from overgrazing.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 51 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of Utah **Comment ID:** 535265 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It also seems sensible to have permits based on the capacity of each area. If this system is in place, park management can adjust the number of permits given for certain areas if it becomes overused, if weather and grazing conditions change, etc. For example, on very wet years, camping and grazing can be discouraged in swampier meadows, and on very dry years, it can be discouraged in dusty sections prone to overgrazing. The dynamic nature of the landscape could be accounted for with a permit process based on real-time conditions.

Corr. ID: 60 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535417 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would suggest that a meadow be closed at the time it becomes a problem from trampling, otherwise it should grow back. Stock users could then move onto another meadow. A meadow rotation could be in effect if absolutely needed.

Corr. ID: 859 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539467 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Traditional rotational grazing could help to preserve resource conditions in meadows. A meadow would be grazed every other year or even every third year so that it would have a full growing season with no grazing pressure. This strategy could be effective, for example, where several stock-accessible meadows are near one another.

Corr. ID: 863 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539414 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Most stock participants were comfortable with reasonable grazing restrictions and best management practice rules, but the total prohibition on grazing was seen as unacceptably harsh. Private users seem to feel that it is fair to impose greater restrictions on commercial operators while commercial operators expressed disappointment that stock restrictions seem unfairly aimed towards them alone. The idea of rotational grazing was raised by a participant in Groveland and many other participants since have voiced approval of this concept for letting impacted meadows recuperate.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59015) The National Park Service should prohibit grazing.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 23 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535601 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would prefer that there would be no grazing of wilderness meadows.

Corr. ID: 696 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538218 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Grazing is ignored - why is this even allowed? Many grazing locations are sensitive meadows that you wouldn't even want people walking through, let alone animals crazing and cropping the grass

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59018) The National Park Service shouldn't limit grazing party size as it wouldn't allow for adequate party size to carry in feed. The park should consider allowing stock users to cache food along trails.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 47 Organization: BCHA **Comment ID:** 535905 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I don't think you should stop horses from grazing in meadows, although it would be reasonable to limit areas of use via the use of electric fences. Stopping grazing would require bringing in feed bring requires more horses or reducing the number of people that could come. Horses are similar to grazing wildlife and their grazing is more natural than hauling feed.

Corr. ID: 54 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID:** 535346

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The proposal in Concept Three to prohibit grazing by pack stock, regardless of party size, and the requirement to haul all feed into the Wilderness would require parties to bring more stock animals to pack in the necessary feed for the duration of their visit. That could equate to 2 or more additional stock per party and effectively reduce the number of persons in small parties (6 head or less not being subject to grazing restrictions) to as few as 2 or 3 people. Doing so would eliminate the current option for relatively small families to enjoy Yosemite Wilderness in the same party.

Corr. ID: 77 Organization: Back Country Horsemen **Comment ID:** 535591 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If we are forced to carry our own feed, because of grazing restrictions, we will not be able to horsepack any longer. The only other option would be to take an extra horse, which would require a 3 horse trailer. Then we have to pony a 3rd horse with us, which affects the trails and meadows more.

Corr. ID: 860 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539498 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If stock users were permitted to cache stock feed, it could reduce the number of animals on the trails. There may be infrastructure implications with this, though.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59019) Bringing in feed as an alternative to grazing would allow for transport of non-native plant species into wilderness areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 Organization: individual public user **Comment ID: 535166 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I want to like the idea of bringing in feed as an alternative to grazing, and yet what would be the impact of that policy in terms of introducing non-native plant seeds? Perhaps control of feed source is a partial answer, along with successful grazing restrictions.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59020) Electric fences should be utilized to protect meadows from livestock grazing.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 54 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID: 535335**

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Other site-specific methods to reduce the footprint of open meadow grazing should be considered in tandem with group size and head-of-stock limitations. Examples include use of portable electric fencing, as mentioned by the Park Service during recent public meetings.

Corr. ID: 59 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535411 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I believe packing in feed may add to the impact because of the additional stock needed to carry the feed. The use of high lines, electric fences and the rotation of grazing areas would be the best plan.

Corr. ID: 856 Organization: N/A **Comment ID: 539261 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: One way to help protect meadows might be to have people use portable electric fences for grazing. I use a portable electric fence when traveling in the backcountry. At night my animals are high-lined to prevent them from wandering where they should not go. As for sensitive meadow areas I have mules and they don't like going in boggy, wet areas and will avoid those places on their own.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59021) Yosemite should dedicate certain areas for grazing and stock use to confine impacts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 40 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535865 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Having dedicated grazing areas. If an area is going to be thrashed by stock, hey, at least it's confined.

Corr. ID: 62 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID: 539592**

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As long as there is designated areas within the high use areas also for stock use keeping in mind that stock use can use pelleted food and be kept on harden surfaces rather impact sensitive meadows and allowed grazing where grazing has been done with the past without previous impact.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59022) Commercial stock animals should be banned from grazing, but private and administrative stock animals should be allowed to continue grazing since they only account for a small percentage of grazing in Yosemite.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 35 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535833 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am a stock user, but I don't think people should be allowed to graze their stock out there, except for trail crew and research resupply. Everyone else should have to pack in feed and highline or corral their animals.

Corr. ID: 54 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America **Comment ID: 535344**

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I do, however, believe that the proposed 6 head of stock threshold for unrestricted meadow grazing by private parties is overly restrictive, given there are other methods yet to be explored to isolate the footprint of stock grazing. With private stock use representing only 6% overnight stock use in park Wilderness, I believe a small party size not subject to grazing restrictions of 10 head or less is more appropriate.

Corr. ID: 703 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538260 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: You should have an option that prohibits grazing by all commercial and concessionaire users, but allows limited grazing for essential administrative uses and perhaps small private stock parties on "pass-thru" trips such as JMT or PCT.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59024) Yosemite shouldn't restrict grazing areas because impacts are less severe when spread throughout a large area.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 51 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of Utah **Comment ID: 535262 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Electric fences do, indeed, limit horses to small areas, but then they more deeply graze these small areas. It would seem that less overall impact would occur by having horses graze in a more spread out fashion, as opposed to potentially overgrazing a small area. This is my observation from packing with groups who have both hobbled horses and horses kept in electric fences. You can definitely see where the fenced horses were, both from the deeper grazing, and from the more concentrated manure piles. It is harder to leave no trace with electric fencing.

SU1400 - Stock Use Preliminary Concepts - New/component of Preliminary Concepts/Ideas

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59035) NPS should include an alternative that eliminates all non-administrative stock use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 73 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535540 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: But eventually I would like to see serious consideration of complete elimination of stock in the wilderness (aside from limited administrative use).

Corr. ID: 703 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539664 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: You should have a no stock alternative to serve as the environmental baseline against which the others are measured, and a no stock except for essential administrative uses alternative that allows stock use only for essential agency actions. You are failing to

acknowledge the many adverse high impacts of stock use (weeds, water pollution, trampling of wetlands, etc.).

Corr. ID: 713 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538338 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As far as allowing stock in Wilderness areas, I am so totally against this commercial activity that I won't choose any proposed Concept. So I suggest that you add another Concept regarding stock use, which would be the elimination of it with the exception of high country maintenance by NPS personnel.

Corr. ID: 767 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538695 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There is apparently no conversation as to completely eliminate non-emergency stock use. This isn't the 1800's, wilderness is about walking.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59036) NPS should continue to allow wilderness stock use but should impose limits on stock use, group size, or camping. Limiting stock use could allow for increased non-stock wilderness use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 Organization: US Citizen **Comment ID: 535298 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Limit the number of stock groups and strings per year to the maximum number that used the Yosemite Wilderness in 2013. Include private, commercial and administrative use in this count.

Corr. ID: 195 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 536073 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Numbers of animals should be more tightly limited. I believe 9 large animals in any one group are too many. Likewise, private stock numbers should be looked at for reductions as well.

Corr. ID: 200 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 536129 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stock should be limited to nine head of stock per group.

Corr. ID: 303 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539268 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: For commercial guide trips only one stock per person should be allowed. 25 stock for 10 people is much too high!

Corr. ID: 657 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537924 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Private and Administrative users; Concept One and Two are acceptable as proposed with no feed needing packed in and unrestricted grazing allowed. Limit these concepts to three nights per camp site.

Corr. ID: 657 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537923 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Private, Administrative and Commercial Users, length of stay should be listed in all three concepts.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538521 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Moving beyond Concept 3 to combine a significant reduction overall in commercial services, including services dependent upon or tied to stock use, would create the most effective stock use management strategy that would also become most compliant with requirements of The Wilderness Act.

Corr. ID: 821 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539014 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Capacity can be increased in numbers by reducing particularly heavy, damaging use. Stock use causes 20 to 50 times the same environmental impact as a hiker. By reducing, say, 100 stock each day, 2,000 to 5,000 hiker users could be substituted with the same environmental impact, dramatically improving capacity.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59038) Different types of stock (horses, llamas, mules, goats) and their impacts on wilderness resources needs to be analyzed and compared to other uses like hiking.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 75 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535572 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Does the stock use include llamas or just horses and mules. Llamas are much less destructive and less apt to overgraze any area because of their eating habits. I've never understood why llamas cannot be used in National Park areas on trails, considering that horses and mules are. Please consider allowing private and commercial llama use.

Corr. ID: 196 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 536087 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There are pack animals that have a much less impact on the wilderness but seem to be discriminated against in favor of horses and mules. Llamas and goats have much less impact on the wilderness and should be accepted without additional restrictions like not being able to use the routes to the high Sierra camps.

Corr. ID: 461 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 536465 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stock impact in form of waste, destruction of soil covers, pollution of streams should be addressed! There is a different impact from llamas, mules and horses, which all have to be taken into account as part of stock use.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59039) NPS should develop stock use quotas or zones similar to those concepts for hikers.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 657 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 537921 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I do not see any quota for stock anywhere other than the number of stock limited to six head for some situations in reference to camping and grazing. What about high use areas, any quotas?

Corr. ID: 862 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539432 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Zones for stock use like zones for visitor use and capacity should be utilized (e.g., zone rotation).

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59040) NPS should consider changes to stock use to provision High Sierra Camps.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 785 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539659 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I favor your continued reduction of weight and size of things packed into High Sierra Camps by stock. Ostrander Hut probably get all its winter supplies in the fall, so why not

bring non-perishable goods and fuel to Glen Aulin, Vogelsang, etc. in the fall when foot traffic is lower than in summer, i.e. fewer travelers would have to put up with fresh droppings.

Corr. ID: 860 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539501 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Humans, rather than stock, should be used to pack supplies to the HSCs. This would create jobs.

SU2000 - Stock Use - Impacts

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58924) Yosemite needs to better manage stock use and control impacts caused by stock.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 49 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535932 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Any confining of the damage done by stock is an improvement.

Corr. ID: 504 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 536435 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: NPS seemed to be a little soft on the resource damage that stock can have on the environment.

Corr. ID: 627 **Organization:** High Sierra Hikers Association **Comment ID:** 537869 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: If stock use is to be allowed in Yosemite's wilderness, these impacts of stock use must be better controlled.

Corr. ID: 854 **Organization:** Wilderness Watch **Comment ID:** 539280 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: According to both the NPS materials and research, stock use has an inordinate damaging impact on the Yosemite Wilderness. Commercial outfitters and concessionaires form the vast majority of stock use. Stock use is also the reason for retention of the camps that Congress intended be phased out and added to the Yosemite Wilderness. To date, the NPS has not effectively managed stock use.

Corr. ID: 8 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535236 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The heavy use of mule trains by the High Sierra Camps impacts the wilderness character of Yosemite greatly.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58925) Stock use has aesthetic impacts that reduce wilderness character and visitor experience.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 627 **Organization:** High Sierra Hikers Association **Comment ID:** 537865 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote:

We are very concerned about the myriad aesthetic impacts that result from stock use, such as the noise of annoying bells; the pollution of trails and campsites by dust, manure, urine, and flies; the proliferation of unsightly hoofprints and drift fences; the spread of invasive weeds; and impairment of the scenery due to the unnatural appearance of meadows grazed by domestic stock. (See, for example, Absher and Absher 1979, Cole 1990, Lee 1975, Stankey 1973, Watson et al. 1993).

Corr. ID: 741 **Organization:** Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID:** 538555 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stock causes huge impacts on Wilderness values and on trails, water quality, and meadow resources. As discussed above, pack stock cumulatively degrades riparian habitat, water quality, and wildlife habitat in meadows and along streams, and also creates odors, flies, and other negative effects that are often detrimental to Wilderness hikers or to a sense of pristine vs human-dominated Wilderness experiences.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58926) Stock use damages trails by degrading trail tread, causing dust and/or mud, and depositing manure. This creates hazards for hikers and is costly to the NPS.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 48 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535912 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Horses ruin trails because they're so heavy their hooves dig deep. This causes hikers to risk injury on the churned up ground as well as the potential risk of injury from loose stones now beneath a thin layer of dirt. To avoid this risk and often deep mud created by horses hikers walk off trail causing the park service to spend millions relocating trails such as you're currently doing in Lyell canyon and have already don't around upper cathedral lake.

Corr. ID: 73 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535541 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stock users should be required to pick up the feces from their stock. It's a terrible double standard that people on foot need to observe a strict set of rules about defecating in the wilderness while stock are allowed to defecate freely on the trail! Aside from the issue of fairness, stock feces clutters trails, attracts flies, and downright smells disgusting.

Corr. ID: 627 Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association **Comment ID: 537312 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Dale and Weaver (1974) observed that trails used by horses were deeper than trails used by hikers only. Trotter and Scotter (1975) documented deterioration of trails used by large horse parties. Weaver and Dale (1978) found that horses caused significantly greater trail damage than hikers. Whittaker (1978) concluded that horses significantly increased the potential for severe erosion by churning soil into dust or mud. Weaver et al. (1979) found that horses caused more trail wear than both hikers and motorcycles. After reviewing the available literature, Kuss et al. (1986) concluded that: "Pack stock and horse travel is considerably more damaging to trails than hiking." Recent research (Wilson and Seney 1994) has confirmed these earlier studies, concluding that "horses produced significantly larger quantities of sediment compared to hikers, off-road bicycles, and motorcycles."

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58927) Stock use on multi-use trails can result in trail user conflicts.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 8 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535239 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Coming down the switchbacks from Clark Point, my group was in a clump of about a dozen hikers stuck behind a slow mule train that did not let us pass, despite the opportunities that trail offers. (There are several staircases built of stone that cut the switchbacks.) Going down stone switchbacks can be hard on any hiker's knees, even those in their twenties like me, but having to descend at the speed of these mules made it worse. All of us were incredibly relieved when we got to the junction at the bridge with the view of Vernal Falls, where there is a separate stock trail. These are just a few of the many instances when encounters with stock have diminished my experiences backpacking in the wilderness of Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 40 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535864 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stock use is very intense on the land, trails and camps. I would suggest that not all trails be publicly accessible to stock, especially situations where multiple trails lead to the same backcountry area, then in such a case just choose one of the trails to be a stock trail, and this way hikers can enjoy a stock free trail.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58928) Stock use impacts vegetation, particularly in meadows and other riparian areas. Grazing in meadows compacts soil, damages riparian vegetation through herbivory or trampling, and can impact rare plants. Stock can introduce and spread nonnative invasive plants and/or noxious weeds.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538545 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: For 25 years, CSERC staff has actively monitored livestock grazing effects on medium and high elevation meadows in the Stanislaus National Forest, the Emigrant Wilderness, the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, the Mokelumne Wilderness, and at times at Ackerson Meadow and other private meadows close to Yosemite. CSERC has compiled huge files of photo evidence showing that concentrated grazing by horses and/or cows results in trampled stream banks, sloughing and chiseling along streams in wet areas, overgrazing of the tastiest, most desirable mesic vegetation at meadows, and selective removal of wildflowers and other plants that are most vulnerable to cows, horses, or pack stock (which can include mules).

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 539590 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Some meadows and riparian areas are damaged at varying levels of degradation from years of over-grazing, pocking and chiseling by hooves, and by overall pack stock disturbance. Backpackers and hikers don't graze meadows, consume or remove rare plants, or create pocking, chiseling, and associated damage in boggy wet areas. Backpackers and hikers rarely crumble stream-banks, rarely remove riparian vegetation, and generally bury or pack out their waste. In contrast, pack animals heavily disturb meadows and riparian areas, devour sensitive plants, and cause extensive soil and watershed impacts.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538550 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There are certainly other negative natural resource impacts from pack stock, not only due to soil and watershed disturbance caused by concentrated pack stock travel along trails, but also due to the introduction of non-native seeds/weeds in pack stock manure.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58929) Stock use impacts water quality by contributing to elevated levels of bacteria and other pollutants while in riparian areas removes riparian vegetation, increases water temperatures, and causes streambank erosion. Such impacts to water quality can pose risks to human health and other at-risk species.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 127 Organization: Dancing at the Crossroads Counseling **Comment ID: 536141 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Many reports correlate water borne diseases and contamination as well as erosions risks with allowing stock use of our public lands.
Reduce livestock use of these lands.

Corr. ID: 627 Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association **Comment ID: 537871 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Stock urine and manure contribute to eutrophication of streams and lakes (see, for example, Stanley et al. 1979, Hayden et al. 2010). Such impacts are a significant concern in the sensitive aquatic environments of Yosemite's wilderness. Livestock manure also pollutes water with pathogenic organisms such as Giardia, Campylobacter, and other disease-causing pathogens (see, for example, Derlet and Carlson 2002, Derlet et al. 2008).

Corr. ID: 627 Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association **Comment ID: 537867 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Trampling and grazing by livestock are known to increase soil compaction and to contribute to streambank erosion, sedimentation, widening and shallowing of channels, elevated stream temperatures, and physical destruction of vegetation (Behnke and Ralieggh 1978, Bohn and Buckhouse 1985, Kauffman and Krueger 1984, Kauffman et al. 1983, Siekert et al. 1985).

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538546 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Of special note, CSERC emphasizes that stock presence along streams can often result in contamination of water by fecal pollutants and result in elevated levels of pathogenic bacteria. We note that on June 7, 2011, Bacteria Contamination of Surface Waters Due to Livestock Grazing in the Stanislaus National Forest, California (Myers and Kane) was published in the Journal of Water Quality, Exposure, and Health. As noted in the paper, surface waters were tested for pathogenic bacteria indicators (i.e. E. coli, total coliform bacteria, and fecal coliform bacteria) within grazing allotments in the Stanislaus National Forest. Fecal coliform concentrations were compared to regulatory water quality standards adopted by the State of California. Results showed that individual and average concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria in surface waters were below regulatory thresholds at the ungrazed sites tested and at the grazed sites before livestock arrived. Shortly after livestock were released to graze, fecal coliform concentrations were found to be much higher, and in places exceeded state standards not only for direct consumption of water, but more important, just for recreational contact. Significant violations of state water quality standards persisted throughout the summer grazing period, with more than 40 documented violations of state water quality during the grazing season.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538547 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

In August, 2012, the Journal of Environmental Protection published another peer-reviewed paper (Myers and Whited), The impact of Cattle Grazing in High Elevation Sierra Nevada Mountain Meadows Over Widely Variable Annual Climatic Conditions. The study investigated three separate years of study results by Myers, assessing the impact of summer grazing on water quality during three very different climatic years in the Sierra Nevada. This study showed that grazing in middle and high elevations in the Sierra Nevada at sample sites resulted in a significant increase in indicator bacteria. This impact on the watershed occurred despite widely variable annual climatic conditions.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58930) Stock use can impact sensitive cultural and archaeological resources, but the nature and type and intensity of impacts needs to be better defined and not over-stated.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 16 Organization: Not Specified **Comment ID: 535399 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: With regard to the way the impact of stock use was framed in the document I would have liked some specific examples of stock impact on archaeological sites; the inclusion of damage to archaeological sites seemed a little Inflammatory, and, frankly, not very believable.

Corr. ID: 52 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535287 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is important that stock packers use the park facilities in a responsible manner, and that care is taken to protect the parks unique ecosystem and archaeological heritage. That's an imperative.

Corr. ID: 860 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539503 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: One tribal participant felt that the concepts did not adequately acknowledge impacts to sensitive cultural resources attributable to stock use.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58931) Stock impacts should be minimized by adopting use standards. Monitoring should track impact extent and minimization effectiveness. Monitoring data should be disclosed.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 627 Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association Comment ID: 537875 Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote:

The WMP desperately needs a program of monitoring for stock-related impacts, including but not limited to: (1) impacts to wildlife, soil, water and vegetation due to grazing and trampling, (2) impacts to water quality and aquatic ecosystems due to stock manure and urine, (3) impacts of stock use (e.g., presence of large groups, presence of grazing animals, construction and maintenance of improvements such as fences and high-standard trails) on wildlife and the wilderness experience of human visitors.

Corr. ID: 725 Organization: Back Country Horsemen - Mid Valley Unit Comment ID: 538439

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Backcountry Horsemen look forward to providing park staff with input on specific methods, including equine Leave No Trace techniques, highlines, hobbling, and use of portable electric fencing, that limit the adverse effects of open meadow grazing.

Corr. ID: 854 Organization: Wilderness Watch Comment ID: 539284 Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote:

Monitoring is particularly important for stock use. The NPS had had decades to monitor the grazing and other impacts of stock use on the Yosemite Wilderness. The draft plan should include the results of this monitoring (as well as other types of monitoring) for both the public and the agency decision makers.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58933) Existing stock use levels and trends need to be reported and disclosed.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 39 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535856 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The presentation did not provide input for the numbers of pack trips and count of animals (unless I missed it), I would expect that the greater of either or both will have a larger impact. The additional data would be useful to understand to scope. Is it 10 trips a year into Benson Lake or 100 trips per month?

Corr. ID: 53 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of California Comment ID: 535308

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Statements have been made in regards to the damage that stock use can create; however, I failed to find actual statistics for stock use today and how it has evolved over the

100 year history of the Park Service. Is it heavier, less, or status quo? Trails being relocated out of fragile meadow areas should have been identified and action taken well before now within the Parks.

SU3000 - Stock Use - Private Use

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58999) Private stock use should be subject to the same restrictions as commercial stock use. Campsites that private stock users could reserve in advance could be developed.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 Organization: individual public user **Comment ID: 535165 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Private stock should be held to the same standard as commercial, etc.

Corr. ID: 827 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539036 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Given the current trends of increasing numbers of people everywhere, it is possible to envision a future when there is much greater private-party stock use. Allowing private stock users to camp "anywhere there is a fire ring" within one quarter mile of the trail means they can in essence camp anywhere, opening up large damaged areas throughout the park. I think private parties of any more than one or two animals should face similar restrictions to commercial ones, as in Concept 3. Perhaps you could identify a set of additional, reservable camping spots for private parties. But they should not be able to camp anywhere. (They can always build a ring and claim it was there.)

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59000) Imposing a six head of stock limit on unrestricted meadow grazing for private parties is too restrictive; this limit should be increased.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 59 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535408 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Limiting the size of stock to 6 head may be difficult. If you have a family pack trip (Parents, 2 children = 4) That would be at least 6 stock. Perhaps for personal stock use the number could be increased.

Corr. ID: 64 Organization: Backcountry Horsemen of California **Comment ID: 535447 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am happy to see that none of the draft concepts contain proposals to limit the location or number of trail miles currently available to private stock users in park Wilderness. This is consistent with minor amount of private stock use in park Wilderness (6% overall overnight stock use) and the lack of documented adverse impacts to trails resulting from stock use. I agree and am pleased to see that the draft concepts do not propose to arbitrarily limit the number of trail miles available to private stock users.

Concept One allows for good management practices and reduces impacts by large stock parties; it represents an improvement over current practices. I do, however, believe that the proposed 6 head of stock threshold for unrestricted meadow grazing by private parties is overly restrictive, given there are other yet to be explored methods to isolate the footprint of stock grazing. With private stock use representing only 6% overnight stock use in park wilderness, I believe a small party size not subject to grazing restrictions of 10 head or less is more appropriate.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59001) Imposing a six head of stock limit on unrestricted meadow grazing for private parties is too lenient.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 827 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539033 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I like Concept #3, the most restrictive. I do not think that private parties with up to 6 stock should be treated so leniently as they have been. Wow!! Six head of stock is a lot of damaging animal!!

SU3100 - Stock Use - Administrative

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58891) Administrative stock users should be able to operate in wilderness and graze in non-sensitive areas because this use benefits other wilderness users.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 303 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539266 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Administrative users should be unrestricted as long as they follow stewardship and are not abusing the privilege.

Corr. ID: 653 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 537733 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: NPS stock use certainly should be the highest priority stock use.

Corr. ID: 860 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539507 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Administrative use is different from other uses, as it benefits all users.

SU3200 - Stock Use - Commercial Use

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59003) Commercial stock operators should be required to incorporate measures to reduce impacts. Potential measures include removing manure generated by their operation from trails, reducing the number and size of provision mule trains, Leave No Trace ethics, camping and campfire restrictions, or packing in feed.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 4 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535177 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I do like the idea of commercial stock users bringing in their own feed and having a reservation of where they will be staying.

Corr. ID: 8 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535242 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would add concepts that involve requiring manure catchers, at least for commercial stock, and concepts that reduce the number and size of mule trains used to provision the high sierra camps, which need a huge number of trains at the beginning of the season.

Corr. ID: 10 Organization: US Citizen Comment ID: 535304 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: For commercial operators, require and provide, or contract with an educational institution to provide, training specific to the use of stock in the Yosemite National Park Wilderness, Leave No Trace principles for stock users, how to be a good guide, etc., as a condition of issuance of any commercial permit to operate within the wilderness. The audience for this training should be the owner(s) of the commercial business, lead packers and assistant packers (though possibly not seasonal/temporary packers). Provide this training (not mandatory) for the general

public if they request it. The training may need to be provided twice during the winter/spring period, and once in the fall, depending on how the special use permit issuing process works within the park. Yosemite National Park packers who pack within the wilderness area should be provided this training as well.

Corr. ID: 14 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535364 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Propose that with every commercial stock trip where there is more than one horse or mule used that there should be a designated person assigned to the rear of the stock train who's responsibility be to remove the stock animal manure/feces deposited on the trail by at least knocking it well off the trail to either side. If a commercial outfitter/guide service chooses to assign just one person per stock trip, then that should be their responsibility regardless of how cumbersome the job would be.

Corr. ID: 858 Organization: N/A Comment ID: 539242 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial service must be limited to reduce the impact on other users and the environment. A string of commercial stock used by large groups can be intrusive to other users. The impact on vulnerable ecosystems by large groups using stock can be severe, especially at high elevations above the tree line. I urge you to consider requiring stock to remain on the trail in those high alpine and vulnerable areas and prohibiting campsites by large parties, at those high elevations. Areas for stock strings to camp at lower elevations must be carefully designated because large groups with stock can seriously degrade campsites.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59004) Commercial stock use has greater potential to impact wilderness characteristics due to the nature of the commercial operations, including larger group sizes.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 Organization: individual public user Comment ID: 535142 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial groups are often large in size, and disproportionately affect the Wilderness as a source for solitude.

Corr. ID: 196 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 536086 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I have witnessed commercial makers who set up "permanent camps throughout the summer, simply moving the tents around every few weeks. I think this is unacceptable.

Corr. ID: 862 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539428 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial versus private stock use have different impacts on wilderness. Commercial users utilize more resources and their numbers should be regulated.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59005) Commercial stock day trips to provision High Sierra Camps need to be addressed in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 840 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539152 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: When I attended a webinar in August, followed by a planning meeting in Lee Vining, I was quite surprised and very disappointed to learn that the stock use plan did not even address the use of stock for day trips. Stock use by the park concessionaire to run day trips to supply the High Camps is not covered at all by the wilderness plan. So, at this rate, we will continue to see a heavy amount of stock traffic on very popular mixed-use trails. And the sole purpose of this day-trip

traffic is to supply provisions to old-fashioned and outdated High Camps, which the Delaware North Company or Aramark or the next self-serving concessionaire profits from by providing luxury/gourmet meals in a backcountry setting to a small, elitist group of people. Stock use needs to be restricted or eliminated. We needn't be quibbling over grazing areas. Just do away with these modern-day hooved locusts entirely. They truly aren't needed. Human porters can haul more reasonable non-luxury loads for the handicapped or elderly park visitors who can't carry their own rations, and most if not all "administrative" needs could be handled by humans or helicopters. Similarly, private stock trips and commercial guided trips that use animals to haul goods can and should be limited to non-national park wilderness, and certainly they, too, can be restricted from the most popular and heavily trafficked areas of Yosemite. The romantic and nostalgic idea of pack travel needs to come to an end, especially in our national parks.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59006) Commercial stock operations allow those with disabilities to access the backcountry. Using a commercial stock provider may be the only option for long-distance visitors wishing to experience the wilderness on stock.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 15 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535367 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please remember that commercial stock use is an important avenue making the backcountry of Yosemite available for people with disabilities. I had enjoyed hiking to the High Sierra Camps for several years when I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. This disease reduced my ability to hike to 3 miles, round trip with no weight. Day rides on mules, either to scenic areas like Cathedral Lakes, or to the High Sierra Camps, are the only way I can access the backcountry.

Corr. ID: 16 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535500 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would allow increased commercial use of stock in the park and perhaps limit a little more private use of stock. For visitors to Yosemite from far away the only way to use stock is to engage a commercial provider. It seems that the ability of commercial providers to take stock into the wilderness has steadily eroded since 1989 and is currently much more restrictive. Commercial stock use allows for visitors with disabilities and the elderly to experience the wilderness. I think commercial providers of stock trips are very responsible, know the park well, and have a good relationship with the NPS; they are an asset to Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 16 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535380 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think the concepts slant toward the perceived problems of stock use and do not emphasize enough the benefits of private and commercial stock use to a large group of visitors, e.g. the disabled and elderly. I would have liked a concept choice that actually allowed for increased stock use, especially commercial stock use.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59007) NPS needs to differentiate between concessionaire stock use and non-concessionaire, commercial stock use. Further, NPS needs to anticipate and address hybrid commercial-private stock use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 827 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539035 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Add in flexibility to deal with unforeseen future changes and to allow the NPS to clamp down on excessive and degrading use. What if there is the "uberization" of stock camping, with "private" stock parties like we now have Uber and Short Term Rentals... "under the

radar" commercial use organized over the internet. The plan needs to anticipate that this might occur.

Corr. ID: 838 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539136 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: All the concepts need to divide commercial use into 'other commercial use' meaning private agencies not linked to Yosemite National Park and 'concessioner' meaning Xanterra Parks and Resorts Central Reservations which appears to be linked to the Yosemite National Park. Reason: HSC and Saddlepack trips are Yosemite's unique and special ways to experience the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 838 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539128 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Clarity is needed to subdivide "Commercial Use": Concessioner (Xanterra) that administrates the High Sierra Camps (HSCs) and saddlepack trips is such an important opportunity for the public to visit the wilderness area of Yosemite. I feel it should not be in the category of commercial use.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59008) Commercial stock use is not necessary in the wilderness and should be discontinued. Commercial stock use is not in compliance with the Wilderness Act.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 49 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535930 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: An option should be offered which provides the better solution regarding stock use, that is to eliminate concession and commercial reasons for stock use in the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538543 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There is very clear direction in The Wilderness Act under Prohibition of Certain Uses that and there shall be no commercial enterprise and except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for administration of the area for the purpose of this Act... Yet the commercial services tied to the Park concessionaire and other commercial guiding and pack stock supply businesses currently make up 83% of stock use in the Park. Park Service staff adds 11% to supply trail crews, to do ranger patrols, etc. Only 6% of stock use is private.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538574 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In this Wilderness Stewardship Plan process, the Park cannot divorce the issue of Commercial Services in Wilderness with the issue of Stock Use. Based upon webinars and Park planning handouts, 83% of stock use in the Park is directly connected to Concessioner Use or Other Commercial Use. Thus, the level of Commercial Services that are judged to be necessary (or that are allowed to continue in hopes of avoiding a legal challenge) is a factor that directly affects how the Park should adjust management of stock use to come into compliance with The Wilderness Act and other environmental or regulatory requirements.

Corr. ID: 854 Organization: Wilderness Watch **Comment ID: 539285 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote:

The fact that 83% of the stock use in the Yosemite Wilderness is commercial is stunning. The popularity of the Yosemite Wilderness suggests that commercial services may not be necessary. Further, the impact of stock use suggests that commercial services are not proper in the Wilderness. At least one alternative should end commercial services in the Yosemite Wilderness.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59009) Commercial stock use in the wilderness should be continued but severely restricted by only allowing stock on designated trails or reducing the number of head of stock allowed. Other public users should be given priority over commercial stock use where public users easily fill quotas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 809 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538924 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Decrease commercial stock use to one quarter of the trails they are allowed on. Decrease the head of stock per group to one animal for every 2 group members, that's 75 lbs of stuff per person. 25 head of stock in a group in the backcountry is ridiculous and a crazy impact when humans are limited to 15.

Corr. ID: 859 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539470 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

Participants expressed concern about whether commercial users are subject to the quota restrictions. They felt that other users should have first choice and commercial users should be excluded where public users easily fill the quota.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59010) Commercial stock use should be subject to the same restrictions as private stock use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 753 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538620 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think commercial stock groups (with paid guides, basically) should have the same rules as the public, given the size of the group. If it's a small group, six or less animals it should have the same rules as the public. That said commercial groups should be able to reserve camping locations, as they are bringing in paid tourists who have traveled counting on a place to camp. Private groups should also be able to reserve camp sites if they choose and one is available.

TR1000 - Trails

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59027) Trails should be rerouted and rebuilt to avoid sensitive areas and reduce impacts from overuse.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 8 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535231 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: One of the impacts that I find most inconsistent with wilderness character in Yosemite is the widening of trails from overuse. A way to mitigate this impact without restricting use is by changing the strategy of trail work. When trails are made of stone and rerouted to stay away from sensitive habitat like meadows, as is being done in Lyell Canyon, they tend not to widen, leaving the wilderness character intact. Rerouting and rebuilding trails near the road would mitigate the impacts from all users.

Corr. ID: 644 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 537569 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Another example cited (with a photograph) as a problem is the proliferation of parallel trails. I suspect this occurs during wet periods where water (and mud) collect in the existing trail (because it has worn to a lower elevation than the surrounding meadow, for example) and hikers choose to walk in the higher and drier grass instead, which in turn is adopted by subsequent hikers, and the cycle repeats itself. Perhaps a mud-mitigation strategy is solution is to

maintain the main trail in a way that reduces the desire to leave the main trail, such as lining the trail with rocks or a raised walkway.

Corr. ID: 859 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539457 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Reroute trails that pass directly through a meadow or otherwise reroute trails away from sensitive areas (stock users prefer travel on dry trails).

Corr. ID: 862 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539429 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: NPS should address the lack of maintenance on the Alder Creek trail.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59028) NPS should create more trails in the wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 40 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535870 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Make more trails. The wilderness is huge. You already have many "social" trails that exist because the regular trail system does not service popular areas.

Corr. ID: 821 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539011 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: More trails should be built. More foot-travel-only trails should be constructed. They are lower cost to build, lower impact on the environment since the clearance distances are smaller, and can travel routes not suitable for stock.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59029) NPS should not build more trails.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 728 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538450 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It is important to have other areas that are not served by trails. Then people who want to visit low impact, "non-spectacular" locations have that option. Please don't build more trails.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 59031) NPS should use volunteers to help maintain trails in the wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 788 **Organization:** Access Fund **Comment ID:** 538827 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: In developing a management framework to address the maintenance of existing trails and when to construct and how to manage new and existing trails, planners should acknowledge the importance of volunteers and encourage their participation to assist NPS in fulfilling its mission. This Wilderness Plans trail maintenance framework should include a process for ongoing collaboration with volunteers that ensures their ability to meaningfully contribute and effectively leverages their support to appropriately manage visitor experiences in wilderness.

VUC1000 - Visitor Use and Capacity Preliminary Concepts - General

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58952) Visitor use and capacity management should retain the freedom that visitors have to explore the Yosemite wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 26 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535637 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I understand the need to limit the number of people in the wilderness during heavy visitor activity. However, I don't like the idea of forcing people to be in a specific place (or zone) at any given time. This limits freedom of movement and that freedom, accompanied with peace and solitude, is the reason people like me visit Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 625 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 537271 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In order to actually enjoy a "wilderness experience" one needs to be (in my opinion) as far from other people as possible! Therefore, the basic plan would need to be reduction of large numbers of people from any one area.

Corr. ID: 805 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 538900 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: My comment is specifically related to the question of how to manage wilderness permits and associated impacts. I believe that the park should maintain the current system of allowing free movement within the wilderness once a permit has been obtained. This freedom of movement allows for spontaneity, permits changes of plans in the event of unexpected conditions or injury, and reduces the amount of enforcement staff required to ensure that the system is being respected by the public.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58953) The Wilderness Stewardship Plan should provide more details about zoning, permitting, carrying capacity, group size limits, and desired conditions.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 644 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 537572 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am concerned by the notion of "zone reservations" in concepts three and four because there are no real details or example zones identified.

Corr. ID: 788 Organization: Access Fund Comment ID: 538813 Organization Type: Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: During the August 2016 public meeting held in Oakhurst, Yosemite National Park staff discussed the plans aim to incorporate adaptive decision making framework into the overall plan. The preliminary concepts and ideas document includes an analysis of continuing management under a trailhead quota system, or alternatively creating destination based quotas, zone quotas or using a designated campsite function. However, none of the preliminary concepts and ideas discuss specific desired conditions for these areas-that the common management tools would achieve-beyond general mention of protecting visitors Wilderness experience and protection of natural resources.

Corr. ID: 836 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539105 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Page 5 states, "In recent years, use has exceeded established capacities in several zones due to increased use and changing travel patterns." What documented evidence can you provide to support this statement?

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58954) Restrictions on visitor use and capacity are required to preserve wilderness and overnight group size limits should be specified. Enforcement will be critical to the success of any new regulations.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 Organization: individual public user **Comment ID: 535151 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: While aiming to optimize the number of campers within these high use zones, much of the impacts will stem from 'day use', from adjacent backpacker bases. Management of these high use zones may require various front-country like approaches to resource management, such as fencing restoration sites, signage and site specific educational materials, and enforcement.

Corr. ID: 34 Organization: San Joaquin Hikers **Comment ID: 535827 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There needs to be restrictions in place to keep Yosemite areas from being overrun/trampled to "death" - or at least to major degradation. It's just common sense once too many people/animals are visiting these pristine areas that permits and restriction must be put into place.

Corr. ID: 200 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 536131 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Overnight group size limits on trails should be lowered to no more than 10 people, plus nine head of stock. Group size limits off-trail should be limited to no more than four to six people.

Corr. ID: 805 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538902 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Requiring night-by-night site specific reservations will forever change the character of the wilderness and make trips less spontaneous and adventurous. Furthermore, actually enforcing these regulations would require more rangers than are currently patrolling the backcountry (I rarely encounter Rangers). It is important for whatever system is put in place to be respected and this requires enforcement.

VUC1010 - Visitor Use and Capacity Preliminary Concept 1

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58899) The current management described by Preliminary Concept 1 is working well and provides freedom for wilderness users.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 73 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535538 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I appreciate the Park's desire to limit usage in a way that enhances all users' wilderness experience. I strongly support Concept 1 because it maximizes freedom of users once they are in the wilderness. An essential part of the wilderness experience is NOT being constrained to a fixed itinerary. Not only does this enhance the sense of freedom and spontaneity (which are key) but it also allows for on-the-fly itinerary changes based on weather and health conditions. Being restricted to a set agenda is not as fun and not as safe.

Corr. ID: 200 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 536122 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The idea that those on foot are not required to use specific campsites is a positive effort, if administered correctly.

Corr. ID: 637 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537537 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: However, with the exception of the JMT and PCT, I believe that the current permit system for the Yosemite wilderness works reasonably well and would like to see it remain in place. So my preference is for Concept One: Revised Trailhead Quota Approach.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58900) The management described by Preliminary Concept 1 would not work well, as it would be harder for users to obtain permits. The concept could be improved by incorporating an online permitting system and specifying how much the trailhead quotas would be reduced.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 27 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535674 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I like concepts 1 and 2 but am against another fee for getting a "camping permit" for high use areas...this should be automatic if I wish to camp there. I feel you should be free to travel where you wish once in the wilderness. Trailhead entries and exits should be open. Concept 1 says trail quotas would be drastically reduced but you don't give any samples of how much. So not much info there....why no examples? Concept 2 is by far the best concept out of the 4. I have been coming to Yosemite every year for the last 20 years. Yes the number of people can be a nuisance but most people go in the valley and those trails and destinations. I envy John Muir, no one was telling him you have to camp here or there and can only go to this place or that place. It seems like Yosemite reveres John Muir but seems to lose his spirit with all of these "Controlling" ideas. Concept 2 is the best in my opinion. Thanks for the chance to share my thoughts on this.

Corr. ID: 36 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535841 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Regarding visitor use, I think that Concept 1 isn't going to alleviate problems because it would just frustrate all the people that now can't get permits (and obtaining a permit for some areas is already quite the ordeal). I think you'd see an increase in hikers out in the backcountry illegally without a permit and it'd be a real pain.

Corr. ID: 828 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 539039 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Managing Visitor Use - I support Concept One if you provide an online system that incentivizes individuals to cancel permits they do not plan to use. I don't like the designation of camping destinations in the backcountry. That takes away the freedom to go with the pace of the group, yourself or to change your evening goal due to thunderstorms. The zone approach does not work for people who tend to do big mileage days - such as 15.

VUC1020 - Visitor Use and Capacity Preliminary Concept 2

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58904) The management described by Preliminary Concept 2 would work well by protecting wilderness character and continuing to allow freedom for wilderness users.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 36 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535844 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think Concept 2 has the most promise. It still uses the regulated entry/exit trailhead system, but now if you want to stay somewhere super popular, you get a permit that says you can stay there. If you don't wish to stay there, you can go elsewhere. It's not first-come, first-serve which is usually a problem for the day hikers that put in considerably more miles than some. Of the four options, it offers the most flexibility in routes because you're not confined to a specific area from the get-go (unless you choose a high-use area).

Corr. ID: 699 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538225 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I support concept two: destination quota approach because this retains the concept of wilderness better than zone approaches but protects high-use areas. The idea that people traveling on foot are free to otherwise select their camping locations also supports the character of wilderness, however, due to the greater impact caused by stock use I support limiting camping locations to specific areas that can handle animal grazing and other associated impacts for these visitors.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58907) The management described by Preliminary Concept 2 could be improved or refined by ensuring that destination areas are restricted only where needed to control impacts and by adjusting trailhead quotas before implementing a destination quota system. More information is needed to describe how destination permits would be obtained.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 706 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538325 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: This would be preferable to Concept 1, but I would implement it only where absolutely necessary. For example, Little Yosemite Valley, and Cathedral Lakes. This could be administered using the existing system already set up for wilderness permits.

Corr. ID: 755 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538622 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Concept 2 seems optimal to retain that free roaming aspect that is so sooooo special to many of us hiking the Sierra, as long as those destination quotas are reserved for severely impacted areas, and those restricted destination areas are not so expansive as to extend way beyond the problem area. A 2 mile destination circle is not needed where a 1/4 mile destination border around a lake will be almost as effective at protecting the whole watershed while still freeing the area for that small, low impact user percentage who don't insist on water side campsites.

Corr. ID: 763 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538657 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Managing Visitor Use. I strongly support Concept 2 - Utilizing the existing trailhead quota system with the addition of permits for high-use destinations. Trailhead quotas should first be adjusted up or down to alleviate the problem of overuse before destination permits are implemented. The system has worked for 40 years and can continue to work with minor adjustments and some site specific restrictions. This system provided the visitor with the maximum freedom possible consistent with protection of the wilderness resource and experience.

Corr. ID: 774 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538758 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Having backpacked in Yosemite my whole life, I understand that certain destinations can become overly crowded. Therefore, I would be open to exploring the Concept 2 Destination Quota system of requiring an additional camping permit for certain specific high use areas, such as a popular lake with limited campsites. In further discussing this idea, I would like to have more information/options regarding how the additional camping permits would be obtained. For example, would you reserve a specific campsite, or would the campsites be first come first serve (only among those who have the additional camping permits)?

VUC1030 - Visitor Use and Capacity Preliminary Concept 3

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58916) Concept 3 would constrain user freedom in the wilderness and would negatively affect the visitor experience. Management under Concept 3 could be ineffective, as users may have difficulty in sticking to a strict zone-based itinerary and new high use zones may develop.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 Organization: individual public user **Comment ID: 535145 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: With regard to the various approaches to limit numbers within a given high use zone - an idea I strongly support - the obvious outcome seems to be new high use zones that will arise at the boundaries of the restricted areas, considering that the high use areas are the desired destinations, based on destination rather than trail head.

Corr. ID: 32 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535819 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Travel flexibility: when I cannot stick to my itinerary, and must divert - I do not want to be "in violation" of my permit. I don't want to be forced to make a certain mileage to get to an acceptable zone. I don't want to have to schedule every single night on the trail.

Corr. ID: 36 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535842 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: To me, Concept 3 doesn't allow a lot of flexibility in one's trip. If you got to an area and wanted to spend more time there and cut time you were going to spend elsewhere- -you wouldn't be able to. It also wouldn't alleviate any congestion at the beginning of trails because you could have 100 people start in the same place in the same general time frame.

Corr. ID: 616 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537253 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

A zone system is not the best way administer the backcountry. Wilderness travel contains a major element of improvisation due to weather as well as individual and group circumstances. The zone system ignores this inherent truth.

Corr. ID: 706 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538326 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: This would result in frustrating experiences for almost everyone. Zone quotas result in contrived, inconvenient, illogical and unaesthetic backpacking itineraries, jumping around from whatever zone is available one night to whatever zone is available the next night. I experienced zone quotas on a visit to Denali National Park. "O.K. the first night, we'll camp here. Then on the second night we'll cross the road and go up there. Then we're kind of stuck there for the third night, since we can't make it to another available zone; it's too far..."

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58917) Concept 3 would allow visitors to maintain their freedom in the wilderness while preserving wilderness characteristics. The size of zones should reflect their level of use, with smaller zones for high use areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 7 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535212 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I prefer concept 3: Zone quota approach. This addresses my main issue with simple trailhead quotas. By designating a zone (3-5 miles) it seems much easier to maintain appropriate wilderness densities without restricting campsite choice. This way "strong" hikers who plan to hike 10 mi/day can qualify for the "zone" 9-12 miles from the trailhead while "weaker" hikers can apply for the "zone" 4-8 miles from the trailhead. In this scenario these "groups" should not

intersect and should also provide maximum use of the wilderness for all users, while keeping enjoyable wilderness densities.

Corr. ID: 29 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535740 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I also support the zone permit option as a reasonable method to manage and distribute backcountry hikers. I believe it could be an improvement over the current trailhead system. If it is adopted, the zones would have to be designed with care to insure that they serve the intended purpose and don't unreasonably limit or unintentionally allow overcrowding in any specific zone. It would likely be important to create small zones in high use areas so that stays in nearby but less visited areas is not unduly limited. The park should plan for a further round of comments on zone boundaries, so that backcountry hikers can provide input, and plan to adjust them based on experience as well.

Corr. ID: 399 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 536411 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I like the emphasis on managing the wilderness both to reduce environmental impact and to reduce the other effects of crowding (degradation of the backpacking experience itself). Specifically, option 3 seems like a smart approach that doesn't go as far as to institute the "sacrifice zones" of designated campsites beyond those already established at backpacker camps near the high sierra camps, Little Yosemite Valley, etc. It is essential to begin to get a handle on the overwhelming number of JMT hikers, especially since so many of these hikers are unprepared and unaware of LNT practices and thus create major environmental damage (compounded by their tendency to form large groups).

VUC1040 - Visitor Use and Capacity Preliminary Concept 4

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58921) The management described by Preliminary Concept 4 would protect wilderness characteristics. The concept could be improved by reducing zone quotas in areas more than 8 miles from trailheads, eliminating camping in areas with sensitive wildlife, reducing stock use, and reducing the total number of overnight visitors to the wilderness.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 62 Organization: Back Country Horsemen of America Comment ID: 539591

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We lean toward concept four to be more effective in protecting both the feeling of solitude that is appreciated by hikers and pack stock users alike.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center Comment ID: 538514

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: While Concept 4 provides a positive improvement over the current situation, it should be combined with a significant reduction in overall numbers of permitted overnight visitors within the Park's Wilderness areas. Simply moving people around cannot possibly provide sufficient protection for resources that are stressed, degraded, or at-risk from too many Wilderness users. More important, too many people crowding into Wilderness directly conflicts with Wilderness Act direction to provide opportunities for solitude and to protect natural conditions.

Corr. ID: 811 Organization: Tuolumne Group Sierra Club Comment ID: 538935 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Choose concept 4 and strengthen it as follows: Reduce overall wilderness quotas. More specifically reduce quotas in zones more than 8 miles from trailheads to limit crowding in remote areas. In areas with fragile wildlife populations (Sierra Nevada red fox, bighorn sheep) eliminate overnight camping to protect these critters. Finally drastically reduce stock use

everywhere. I often don't backpack in areas where stock have turned trails to a talcum powder like dust and meadows chewed to the nubbins.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58922) The management described by Preliminary Concept 4 would be impractical, hard to enforce, and would increase impacts in designated campsite areas. This would result in a reduction of wilderness characteristics.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 706 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538327 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

This is the norm in some countries, and it's horrible. Dispersed camping is always preferable. In Chile, on the Torres del Paine Circuit, the Designated Campsites are disaster areas. You know you're in one when you're standing either in a dust bowl, or in a muddy quagmire. And tufts of pink toilet paper cover the area like a field of poppies. The chances of contracting a pathogen via the fecal-oral route are significant. And that quarter acre has absolutely no firewood. Please do not adopt any of the more draconian options. The wilderness is not going to be exactly like it was in 1964, which is O.K. You need to strike a compromise between preservation and access. Please do not unreasonably limit access.

Corr. ID: 814 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538956 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am strongly opposed to fixed, designated campsites. I have experienced these in Glacier National Park and Rocky Mountain NP and they almost take the fun out of backpacking. I also would caution you about plans that rely on people's honesty for enforcement or on a higher degree of in-the-field enforcement by rangers. I believe people will try to get around such methods.

Corr. ID: 818 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538982 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I am not in favor of assigned campsites in the backcountry. That would be really difficult to manage with many backpackers starting their trip outside Yosemite. Also, sometimes plans don't work out and either due to plans being too ambitious, accidents, weather or other reasons one might not reach the planned campsite. If camping is only allowed in assigned spaces, that can get really tricky.

Corr. ID: 862 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539426 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Telling people where to camp (Concept Four) eliminates the element of discovery and is detrimental to the wilderness experience.

VUC1050 - Visitor Use and Capacity - New/component of Preliminary Concepts/Ideas

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58965) Yosemite should consider a combination of the preliminary ideas and concepts for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 696 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538217 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Concepts are presented as either/or - why not combine? Have free-roaming permits and area-limited permits. Different prices and level of availability.

The real honeypot zones are actually very small (e.g. Lyell forks bridge, Little Yosemite Valley, Glen Aulin etc.) - if concept 2 blocked off 1 mile of trail it could become dangerous (hikers who only do 5 miles/day could find nowhere to camp).

Corr. ID: 703 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538253 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: First, you need a combination/hybrid between concepts #1 and #2 that would continue to maximize freedom once in the wilderness (reason: we often change our plans based on weather, fishing, crowding, or other reasons and don't want to be restricted by zone once we enter the wilderness. In other words, once we enter the wilderness, we shouldn't be restricted further unless camping at a high-use destination), but also allow you to address problems where you perceive them - - such as designating campsites at high-use destinations AND reducing trailhead quotas as needed to provide some relief to over-used zones on high-use weekends, etc. You CAN and SHOULD design a new hybrid option that maximizes freedom once in the wilderness (for most visitors - - those not camping at high-use destinations) while giving you the tools to manage use at high-use destinations and zones that experience the greatest crowding.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538571 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: For Visitor Use and Capacity, carry forward Concept 4s zone quota approach along with its first-come, first-serve proposal or a reservation requirement for popular high-use Wilderness areas; "Combine those aspects of Concept 4 with a highly significant overall reduction in quota numbers allowed within Yosemite Parks Wilderness areas to better comply with The Wilderness Act, leave natural conditions unimpaired, and reduce conflicts with at risk species. "Identify at least 15% of the 53 zones in the Parks Wilderness and eliminate overnight camping in those zones in order to make those areas primarily refugia for at-risk wildlife and plant species and to provide a comparison study area with areas that continue to have moderate levels of recreational use.

Corr. ID: 834 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539095 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: On the topic of those preliminary concepts I would support a blending of Concept One and Two: trailhead quota adjustments as deemed necessary for the majority of the wilderness entry trailheads of the park overall combined with a slight amount of the destination quota approach for the JMT (and perhaps PCT) corridor entry trailheads set as from the supporting documentation it appears the gravest challenge at the moment is the JMT/PCT corridor. Additionally on the Facebook page Yosemite raised the issue of some additional infrastructure: composting toilets and steel bear food storage lockers, which looks to me as a follow-on to the infrastructure in place at Little Yosemite Valley.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58966) The National Park Service should incorporate additional management and considerations related to visitor use and capacity. Additional considerations include zone-specific desired conditions, safety concerns, anticipated increases in population and use levels, and closures to commercial use.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3 Organization: individual public user **Comment ID: 535143 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Projected numbers of users and general population increases are not taken into account, and therefore the future management of the wilderness, and the suggested resolutions are based on finite numbers, suggesting similar future pressures from public use.

Corr. ID: 724 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538431 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would go one step further than concept 3 and completely eliminate commercial and concessionaire use.

Corr. ID: 788 Organization: Access Fund **Comment ID: 538823 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: We also support zone quotas, would be a new concept for Yosemite Wilderness management. We agree that zones can be used to manage social and environmental conditions as well as determine, if necessary, the appropriate time and scope for mitigation. However, 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 primarily preserve wilderness character but also accommodate the needs and use patterns of appropriate visitor use. As with all the quota concepts, prior to applying a zone quota park planners should clearly articulate the desired condition for each zone based on well-substantiated social science.

Corr. ID: 859 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539460 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Safety and wellness of visitors should be a criteria applied to the concepts. Any management scheme which requires visitors to be in a particular location or zone on a particular night means that some people will continue to hike after dark, after they are exhausted, possibly putting them at risk.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58968) The National Park Service should modify the quota system by changing quotas in certain areas, developing new exit and cross country quotas, using an annual overnight visitor quota, and specifying group size limits.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 303 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539251 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Group size limits should be a part of the plan. Tour companies and large groups should not be allowed to soak up the permit quotas.

Corr. ID: 573 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537824 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Group size should be limited to 8 individuals on trail and to 4 individuals off trail.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538536 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Reduce the overall allowable quota numbers in Yosemite Park Wilderness to a maximum total number of 100,000 overnight visits per year. This would still allow a truly staggering number of backcountry visitors - much of those visits taking place in moderately high to high elevation rocky terrain with shallow soils, short growing seasons, sensitive wildlife, and an often concentrated recreational season due to snow limiting access.

Corr. ID: 741 Organization: Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID: 538537 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Significantly reduce zone quota numbers at zones located more than 8 miles from a trailhead in order to truly reduce crowding on backcountry trails and at remote destinations. By significantly reducing zone quotas in more remote zone areas, the Park Service can better comply with the mandated requirement in The Wilderness Act to provide for opportunities for solitude and experiencing a pristine environment.

Corr. ID: 755 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538624 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Not listed - Exit quotas as used currently at Donahue Pass seems like a reasonable additional tool in conjunction w/ Concept 2. (Perhaps this not fiscally or logistically feasible since this wasn't included as an option?).

Corr. ID: 817 Organization: Tawonga Jewish Community Corporation dba Camp Tawonga

Comment ID: 538974 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In order for them 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 of up to fifteen. 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 able to bring our groups to these destinations even using the reservation system. We urge you to increase the trailhead quotas to better match the increased demand so that access is not so severely restricted.

Corr. ID: 820 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539004 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would add the concept of a cross-country zone-based quota

Corr. ID: 821 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539016 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Regarding managing visitor use, the system of trailhead quotas should be continued for private users. Quotas for private users should NOT be "substantially reduced." Rather, commercial and concession use should be substantially reduced. Pass and Exit quotas are problematic in executing. Zone quotas should be avoided, but if implemented, then used only for limiting specific high-use areas. That is, quotas established for the highest use areas, no more than 10% of the administered areas. This would be in combination with trailhead quotas. Designated campsites should be used for commercial groups.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58990) The National Park Service should close certain heavily used areas to camping or restrict camping depending on the location or type of user.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 854 Organization: Wilderness Watch **Comment ID: 539279 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Alternatives should be considered to deal with heavily used camping sites. For example, rather than assigned or designated campsites at popular areas, perhaps those areas should be closed to camping, at least until those places recover. The zoning concepts offered by the NPS might be workable options. Party size limits should also be applied to day use. The current number, 35 is well beyond anything reasonable.

Corr. ID: 859 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539464 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

NPS could mandate camping a certain distance from other campers.

Corr. ID: 860 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539486 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

Group suggested designating a large campsite to commercial groups and small campsites for private users.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58991) The current permitting system is antiquated and flawed and should be updated to improve ease of use and spontaneity.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 32 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535821 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Shortcomings of the current permit system: dedicated hikers planning a trip far in advance can circumvent the permit "scarcity" by being persistent. This is a good thing. (and I completely agree with the exit-quota system). More immediate and modernized feedback (as opposed to the current "fax-n-pray" method) would be VERY helpful.

Corr. ID: 72 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535529 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The reservation system is actually a major hurdle for the process; going with a zone approach combined with the many names things can have make it very difficult to find and book a trip for newcomers. If you were to go to a modern reservation system with the trail maps built in, you could actually make it easier to reserve.

Corr. ID: 73 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535536 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As long as an ample percentage of permits (at least 1/3, preferably 1/2) would still be available on a first-come first-served basis. Not every wilderness trip should have to be planned several months in advance - - spontaneity is a virtue in wilderness terms.

Corr. ID: 694 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 538169 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: You need on line scheduling to allow planning. I see too many disappointed people who leave having wasted time trying to get something that they couldn't.

Corr. ID: 696 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 538212 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Pricing - wilderness is an expensive resource, why shouldn't it be better funded by users? Permit prices should be 10-50x what they are now to provide proper funding for wilderness preservation. This would also reduce usage. JMT hikers spend more on the burger at the end than they spend on their permit!

Corr. ID: 771 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 538726 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I also think the permit reservation system should be discontinued. Permits should only be issued on a first-come first-served basis. Many reservations are never claimed.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58992) The National Park Service should disperse use away from high use destinations. Social media could be incorporated to help draw visitors to less popular areas.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 8 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535246 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Looking at the map illustrating high use destinations in the Yosemite Wilderness, it seem the park would do well to draw visitors away from Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows, and toward portions of the park Southeast of Glacier Point Road, and Northeast of Hetch Hetchy. A way to get backpackers from the Bay Area to move to those trailheads off Glacier Point Road would be to set up a backpackers' campground and permit office at the Badger Pass area during the summer. During this season, Badger Pass is just as easy to get to as the Valley, though camping there currently requires a trip to the Valley or Wawona first to get a permit and stay the night, leaving the backpackers with an awkwardly long drive in the morning. This is a hassle, and discourages use in this area by backpackers. A more ambitious proposal to draw visitation

to Northern Yosemite would be to get rid of the dam and free Hetch Hetchy. As amazing as this would be for the ecosystem of the Tuolumne watershed, it would also make for some trailheads that offer a first few miles just as easy as Lyell Canyon, yet half an hour closer to San Francisco.

Corr. ID: 8 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 535232 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: A second concept that I would add to those already presented would be use of social media. I spend a lot of time in Yosemite, but much more on Twitter. One of the joys I find on this platform is recognizing places I know in Yosemite from pictures people post. It seems potential visitors get excited about certain popular locations in this way. Less busy parts of the park could be promoted through social media in such a way that visitors come to the park wanting to see Mount Clark, Buena Vista Lake, or Mono Pass as much as Half Dome or Cathedral Lake. Links to suggested trip plans from strategic locations in the park could make it easier for backpackers to go to less-used areas than heavily-used areas. This could be part of a broader marketing effort that seeks to brand Yosemite as more than just Half Dome. ("Hidden Treasures" campaign)

VUC2000 - Visitor Use and Capacity - JMT and/or PCT

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58956) Permits for the John Muir Trail should be more convenient to obtain, such as providing them online or allowing them to be transferable. There should be a fine for cancellations.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 633 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 537520 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I tried for months to get a southbound permit for the JMT, to no luck. During my northbound hike, it was frustrating to see so few people coming south. It seemed as though I should have been able to get a permit for a southbound trip. The current permit process could be amended to have an online wait-list for a certain trip date, and there should be fines charged when people cancel a reservation within a month of the trip, or do not pick up their permit. The system should be amended so that permits are transferable.

Corr. ID: 637 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 537549 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: A few other changes to consider for the JMT permit. Modernize the process by getting rid of the fax application and using an online system similar to what has been done for the Half Dome and Mount Whitney lotteries.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58958) Forcing thru-hikers to conform to strict guidelines will diminish the value of the wilderness experience and hikers should not be discouraged from hiking the popular long trails in the park. Access should be maintained for thru-hikers entering through adjacent lands managed by other land agencies.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 696 Organization: Not Specified Comment ID: 538210 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

Yosemite/ Sequoia/Kings Canyon /Inyo are still some of the most amazing places on earth so please keep up the good work protecting them, but if people aren't able to visit and experience these places, they will lose their value and protecting them will be much harder. You have a unique set of challenges due to the JMT and PCT, but forcing wilderness users to conform to a tight set of rules about where and when to hike devalues the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 799 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538867 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: First, I think it is deeply misguided if the park service intends to try to make the John Muir Trail, within Yosemite, as unpopulated as most trails in the park. Even with the numbers we have now, it is possible to camp alone almost every night. And while it is not possible to hike the trail all day without seeing someone (at least between June and September), I think the NPS is choosing to view those hikers the wrong way: they are not interlopers spoiling the experience, they are novice backpackers on their one great wilderness adventure. To me, it is a small sacrifice we JMT hikers make to seed the rest of the population with citizens - and voters - who know why we need to spend money and write rules to protect the wilderness.

Corr. ID: 800 Organization: Pacific Crest Trail Association **Comment ID: 538870 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Pass and exit quotas are addressed briefly on page 6 of the newsletter. However, they are not given any additional explanation in the rest of the document. As I stated in Pacific Crest Trail Association's scoping comment letter submitted in January 2016, it is important that the viability of the inter-agency PCT long-distance permit remain viable to allow for long-distance travelers (hikers and stock users) to pass through the Park via Dorothy Lake Pass in the North and Donohue Pass in the south.

Corr. ID: 800 Organization: Pacific Crest Trail Association **Comment ID: 538876 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: To reiterate, maintaining the viability of the inter-agency PCT long-distance permit is vital for long-distance PCT hikers and stock users. In addition, as the planning process moves forward it will be important to engage the US Forest Service partners to the north and south of the Park to ensure consistent and effective management of the PCT. Specific to the PCT, National Forests to the north include the Humboldt-Toiyabe and Stanislaus with the Inyo to the south.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58959) Traffic from thru-hikers should be considered during the planning process and accounted for in carrying capacity allocations.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 96 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535780 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The Park Service needs to set a system in place for ensuring that hikers passing through Yosemite while traveling on regional or long-distance trails (such as the Pacific Crest Trail) are counted in carrying capacity allocations.

Corr. ID: 637 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537536 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The increased popularity of the John Muir Trail (JMT) and the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is causing overcrowding and environmental impact along the JMT/PCT corridor through Yosemite. It is time to separate the JMT/PCT permits and look at how we can manage them to minimize impact.

Corr. ID: 755 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538621 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Since JMT/PCT hikers appear to be the largest portion of the dramatically increased impact problem, it seems that care should be taken to adopt solutions that can address that/those corridor(s) specifically, without negatively affecting user experience in all those areas where problems don't exist, as opposed to more universal blanket strategies such as concept 3 or 4. Not using a machete where a scalpel will work.

Corr. ID: 854 Organization: Wilderness Watch **Comment ID: 539278 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: The NPS materials recognize any analysis of visitor use and capacity needs to consider visitors who originate outside of Yosemite National Park. This would require a better way to deal with through hikers whose numbers have skyrocketed.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58960) Limitations should be set on the John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail, specifically entry and exit points, the number of hikers, and stock usage.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 1 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535117 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Backpacking is becoming more popular with the younger age group and for many the JMT is their first backpacking trip. Maybe have some sort of required training/test that everyone must take? Seems like some hikers that practice LNT religiously would not cause nearly as much impact as some group vacation hikers. Could smaller/ solo groups with lots of experience get be accommodated more?

Corr. ID: 417 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 536355 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I didn't see anything about limiting PCT hikers specifically, their numbers have grown huge amounts and they often aren't the most respectful of rules. Possibly because so many are doing the PCT to do it, and not because they were ever into hiking or backpacking before. Not to be a snob, but I often see them camping right by the trail, often right by a lake, taking dumps right on the trail and "charging" through in order to meet their daily mileage goals even if it damages the parks.

Corr. ID: 637 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 537551 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Eliminate the Parker/Mono Pass TH as a JMT entry by limiting exits for these permits to Agnew Meadows, Reds Meadow or back into Yosemite NP.

Corr. ID: 637 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 537539 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Pacific Crest Trail Association permits for the full trail going south to north have a quota of 50 hikers per day. Consider lowering this number.

Corr. ID: 637 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 537550 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Simplify the JMT permit to a choice of just two trail heads: Happy Isles or Tuolumne Meadows. This would leave Glacier Point and Sunrise trail heads for hikes within the park, restoring more traditional use of the trail head quotas.

Corr. ID: 637 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 537548 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Yosemite National Park permits for the JMT. A temporary cap on these permits was introduced a couple of years ago with a Donohue Pass exit quota of 45 per day. Keep this in place but to avoid confusion rename it "the JMT permit", making it clear that this is the only process for obtaining a permit to hike the JMT.

Corr. ID: 684 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538070 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I very much like the concept to ban private and commercial stock use on the JMT and PCT. There are plenty of other trails that the horses and mules can use.

Corr. ID: 842 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539332 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: PCT thru-hiking is a looming problem. I like the identification that PCT hiking is, for most, an essentially social activity. Thus the identification of higher-impact, larger,

hardened campsites, especially at the trail intervals those users often favor. It is good to recognize that a significant subset of Pacific Crest Trail Association-issued permits actually go to people with no intention of hiking the greater PCT, but who rather want a less-encumbered permit to hike, say, just the JMT. Perhaps they can be managed as a "clot" or group phenomenon that rolls through in a limited time period. Perhaps their predictable appearance, like say mosquitoes, can be managed by warning other hikers away from their high-density periods.

VUC4000 - Visitor Use and Capacity - Other

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58975) Yosemite should take the different ranges of hiker abilities into consideration during permitting and offer route suggestions based on ability.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 7 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535190 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I do not recall any argument or consideration for the "strength" of hiker using the wilderness. For example: I just returned from a 3 day trip through the grand canyon of the Tuolumne, leaving from white wolf campground I noticed an extremely high density of hikers about 6-7 miles from the trailhead. I however, am a strong hiker and plan to cover a minimum of 10 miles per day, once past 7 miles in the pate valley the camping density decreased dramatically. It seems worth considering these things as one could imagine a scenario where all of the trailhead permits are taken by "weak" hikers (5-7 miles per day) resulting in overcrowding while the deeper areas of the wilderness accessed by "strong" hikers (10-15 mi/day) may be completely empty. This is important because now the wilderness is over capacity in some areas and vastly under capacity in others, potentially restricting use to very strong hikers while providing no benefit in terms of wilderness management.

Corr. ID: 32 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535823 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It might be good to establish a "hiker-rating" system, where a hiker can answer a series of questions on a questionnaire, to assess their readiness for certain hikes. This can be used as a guideline (not necessarily a certification), for routes or destinations that may be beyond certain hikers' abilities. Part of this should also address altitude acclimatization, some hikers will not be able to successfully hike Cloud's Rest after only one night at 4000'. This is a permit that could be more usefully given to another hiker - and perhaps the altitude-challenged hiker can be granted an extra night's stay at the backpacker campground - if they have a history of acclimating more slowly. This will probably also prevent a few SAR incidents, as well.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58977) Campfires should be further regulated or banned to prevent wildfires.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 374 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535983 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As climate change picks up it may be necessary to have campfires only in specified areas to prevent wildfire.

Corr. ID: 840 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539150 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Given the state of continuing drought and fire danger, fires should be eliminated in all of the most heavily trafficked zones in the park.

Corr. ID: 858 Organization: N/A **Comment ID:** 539243 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Campfires should be prohibited in areas where wood is scarce, especially at higher elevations. Stock parties should follow the same rules about where campfires are permitted because if they carry in firewood nearby campers would be tempted to have fires of their own.

Corr. ID: 859 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 539450 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Participants felt camp fire is not necessary and should be banned.

Corr. ID: 799 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538867 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The park service tends to conflate more hikers in the wilderness with more fire rings and depletion of firewood. Those problems could be eliminated completely with a blanket ban on fires - a prohibition that would have almost no impact on the vast majority of hikers. Certainly limiting fires is a better alternative than limiting people.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58982) The National Park Service should better enforce backcountry and camping regulations and policies by having more rangers, requiring more training for backcountry rangers, and installing signage with maps and camping information.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 22 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 535583 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Quaint signage does not stop people from abusing Parker Pass Creek/Dana Fork area. Dog leash/prohibited signage is unclear, hidden, and overall very poor, especially when considering that there is so little enforcement activity here. quaint signs that look nice aren't getting it across that there is NO overnight camping in the Parker Pass Creek/Dana Fork drainage. It's clear to me that many of these 'campers are likely aware that camping there is a bad idea, so they hide in the treed areas. why can't a mounted Ranger make regular passes through Spillway to get this stopped?

Corr. ID: 716 **Organization:** Sierra Mountain Center **Comment ID:** 538390 **Organization Type:** Recreational Groups

Representative Quote: Everyone working in the Park backcountry should have a WFR without exception.

Corr. ID: 742 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538581 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Sadly, people will be people and there will always be those that do not care about others that come after them. Please leave the bear boxes in high use backcountry areas like Little Yosemite Valley, because the trash we saw in some of them and carries out, would have been flying around all over the place. Having more rangers patrol the backcountry might help, that is financially probably not possible.

Corr. ID: 771 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538716 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would like to see more enforcement of camping regulations. I often see people camping immediately NEXT to lakes and trails.

Corr. ID: 791 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538851 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The identified concepts are good "in concept." I think all 4 might work, but I don't think concepts 2 and 4 are valid without some way to enforce them. In concept 4, you are limited to your zone, but the campsites are first come, first served. What's to prevent other backpackers from squatting in your zone and occupying a campsite? Nothing, unless a ranger is checking

Corr. ID: 818 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538983 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I think one idea I have seen in Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs could help at some heavy-use areas: A few hundred feet before reaching the area (often a lake), there is a wooden board on a 4x4 (some have a little old slat as a roof). To the board a letter-sized piece of paper in a plastic sleeve is stapled. On the paper is a hand-drawn sketch of the area showing the camp sites (and in at least one case also the number of people each site can accommodate). It also shows fire rings, bear lockers and ranger stations, if applicable. That really helps steer people towards the legal camp sites and avoids unnecessary scouting trips off trail to look for a campsite that might or might not be there.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58984) The National Park Service should work to restrict wilderness visitation and usage by encouraging dispersed use, reducing maximum group size, limiting the number of users, ceasing advertising campaigns, and furthering restrictions on commercial trips.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 Organization: US Citizen **Comment ID: 535292 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The limit on group/party size should be reduced permanently to not exceed 12 persons, unless the group is serviced by a legal commercial operator or guide (one authorized/permitted to operate within the Park AND meets surrounding resource management agency requirements), in which case the maximum group size may not exceed 15 persons at one time.

Corr. ID: 260 Organization: Ms. **Comment ID: 536203 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would limit use to the park during peak periods. It's not enjoyable for visitors and not beneficial for the park inhabitants and environment.

Corr. ID: 395 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 536394 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Only allowing a definitive number of people per day (hopefully on the smaller side) will allow the park rebound time; not to mention, privacy for the parks wild inhabitants.

Corr. ID: 840 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539148 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial guided trips need to be further restricted. Just because some people are lazy and have enough disposable income to spend on commercial trips doesn't mean they should be able to get permits more readily than others.

Corr. ID: 854 Organization: Wilderness Watch **Comment ID: 539275 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Carrying capacity has apparently been exceeded. The NPS information clearly shows increasing use of the Yosemite Wilderness. Ironically, the NPS has been actively advertising for more visitors without taking into account, if that advertising is indeed effective, the impacts of that action. This year has seen a lot of agency and corporate sponsorship of national park visitation campaigns, all done under an assumption that outdoor recreation is in decline. While this may serve a corporate agenda, it may not serve the best interests of the Yosemite Wilderness or the public.

Corr. ID: 860 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539489 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: NPS should try to disperse use rather than establish destinations. NPS could fund a movie about the Continental Divide Trail to divert attention/use away from more popular trails.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58985) Yosemite should encourage more use of wilderness areas through utilizing backcountry camps, increasing group size, allowing for new campsites, and adding additional facilities, such as toilets.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 29 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535721 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I support the goal of the Wilderness Act to maintain wild spaces. In the context of a heavily visited park like Yosemite, I think that goal is served by encouraging hikers to visit the parts of the park that are currently less used. Therefore, I think the park should consider measures to facilitate access to those areas, including hiker huts where possible. Not having to bring a tent would likely get many people to consider those more remote locations instead of congregating in the more accessible areas that are heavily used now.

Corr. ID: 40 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535871 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Allow for more campsites. The wilderness is huge! Encourage camping without using a fire ring to minimize impact, while still enjoying the great outdoors.

Corr. ID: 626 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 537275 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please consider allowing use of Ursack (bear resistant container made of bullet proof fabric) in wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 706 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 538324 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would seek to limit the impact that each visitor has, rather than just limiting the number of visitors. For example, the maximum elevation for campfires might be lowered by 1000 feet. And stock permits could be cut by a factor of two. A mule does significantly more damage to the trail than a human. Another pit toilet could be installed in Little Yosemite Valley.

Corr. ID: 817 Organization: Tawonga Jewish Community Corporation dba Camp Tawonga
Comment ID: 538976 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The same can be said for Polydome Lakes. We avoid camping at Polydome because there is a very small section of cross-country travel required from the Murphy Creek trail to reach the campsite at Polydome. We would like to be able to take our groups here, however due to the restriction of 8 people max for off-trail travel we do not have access to these lakes which would be a suitable destination for young hikers.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58986) Yosemite should consider how this plan impacts other recreational user groups that utilize wilderness, such as climbers and paddlers.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 757 Organization: American Whitewater **Comment ID: 538631 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As you may be aware, aside from the Wild and Scenic Merced, South Fork Merced and a segment of the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River, paddling is currently closed on all rivers and creeks within Yosemite National Park. As we commented during the scoping phase of the Wilderness Planning process earlier this year, American Whitewater requests that these restrictions be lifted and that Park Planning staff approach paddling on equal footing to any of the other recreational experiences that other Park visitors seek. Please see our January 27, 2016 comments for additional information about why Yosemite offers the potential for a unique opportunity for whitewater paddlers, and how the activity complies with the Wilderness Act and National Park Service management policies.

Corr. ID: 757 Organization: American Whitewater **Comment ID: 538632 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Whether the Park ultimately selects a visitor use and user capacity management model that involves trailhead quotas or zones, we believe that the Wild and Scenic Merced River Management Plan offers an excellent model for how to approach managing paddling within the Yosemite Wilderness Area. On the Merced, paddlers are managed as hikers, with the only difference being that rivers are trails, and boats are backpacks. Our members have given high praise to their experiences within Yosemite National Park on the Wild and Scenic Merced, South Fork Merced and Tuolumne Rivers since the Park began to allow boating in 2015. Many paddlers have accessed the Upper Merced, South Fork Merced and Tuolumne Rivers since that time, and these river sections all reside within the Yosemite Wilderness Area. Paddlers accessed these runs by obtaining a Wilderness permit and being included within the same trailhead quota system as all other backcountry users. Using this approach, Yosemite has successfully balanced resource protection and appropriate visitation levels for these rivers.

Corr. ID: 757 Organization: American Whitewater **Comment ID: 538633 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote:

As with the Merced and Tuolumne Plans, it is unlikely that additional management will be necessary for the rest of the Park's rivers covered under the Wilderness Plan. Boaters will have to hike to the put-in for all of the rivers and creeks within the Wilderness Area. Rather than designate a separate river capacity, we encourage the Park to simply include boaters in the trail or zone capacity number. A number of factors naturally limit a paddler's ability to enjoy whitewater rivers and creeks, including water levels, weather, time of day, technical difficulty, physical challenge and access. The rivers within the Wilderness Area will only be boatable during a very narrow window during snowmelt, and there is significant physical challenge getting to the put-in. These natural conditions will likely attract a small number of paddlers, providing a built-in management system.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58987) The National Park Service should address some specific problem areas such as Half Dome, Mt. Hoffman, and Lake Ostrander.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 817 Organization: Tawonga Jewish Community Corporation dba Camp Tawonga

Comment ID: 538975 Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: We also urge you to consider the trail to the top of Mt. Hoffman as an established trail rather than off-trail. Because the group size for off-trail travel is limited to 8 people maximum, we do not take our groups up Mt. Hoffman. However this trail is so well established that this designation is no longer appropriate. We would like to be able to take our groups on this trail.

Corr. ID: 857 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539250 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Half Dome on a typical summer day. Can you call this wilderness with a straight face? First, you should address the ongoing impairment of wilderness character due to dayhikers at Half Dome. Remove the cables and limit the number of Half Dome dayhikers to that which existed at the time of wilderness designation.

Corr. ID: 862 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539420 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Chain Lakes should not be a hot spot and Ostrander Lake should be.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58988) Yosemite should re-evaluate utilizing exit quotas like the Donahue Pass exit quota.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 828 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539038 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Consider allowing long distance hikers to exit over Donahue if they only spend one night (from the Valley) or zero nights (from Tuolumne) in Yosemite.

Corr. ID: 834 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 539096 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Perhaps for holders of Donohue Exit quota permits (and Whitney Portal, Horseshoe Meadows etc. entry trailhead) some specific modifications/adjustments might prove helpful. That is a copying of the Little Yosemite Valley destination requirement for a specific set of Happy Isles and Glacier Point trailheads: so perhaps Donohue Exit/Entry holders would be required to only stay at certain specified locales equipped with the additional infrastructure to handle the traffic: Little Yosemite Valley, Sunrise Lakes, Tuolumne Meadows Backpackers and (a new one) Lyell Basecamp: all equipped with composting toilets and steel storage lockers. While allowing non Donohue Exit wilderness permit holders to disperse camp as currently since their traffic by its very nature would be spread over the vast area of the park's wilderness (absent some that may opt for specifying Little Yosemite Valley as their first night destination as now). This latter provision would retain, for the majority of Yosemite National Park's wilderness visitors, those not just "passing through" to somewhere else, the freedom inherent in a wilderness experience so valued by so many, myself included.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58989) Yosemite should minimize changes to existing travel zones in order to compare usage patterns over time.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 10 Organization: US Citizen **Comment ID: 535291 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Maintain existing travel zones with as few changes in boundaries as possible in order to be able to compare use patterns over time. Ensure that computer simulation models developed to track use over time can be replicated to the greatest degree of accuracy possible in the future.

WL1600 - Wilderness Characteristics

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58949) All proposed alternatives should ensure that the wilderness character of the Yosemite Wilderness is prioritized and subsequently monitored.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 114 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 535981 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: All alternatives should ensure that the wilderness character of the Yosemite Wilderness is preserved. The Park Service must allow natural processes, not human actions, to define the character of the Wilderness.

Corr. ID: 167 Organization: *Not Specified* **Comment ID: 536035 Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The wild character of the wilderness should be top priority.

Corr. ID: 788 Organization: Access Fund **Comment ID: 538815 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

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.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58951) Soundscape impacts to wilderness such as aircraft and vehicle noise degrade wilderness character for users and should be addressed.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 706 **Organization:** *Not Specified* **Comment ID:** 538318 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Commercial airline flights, and now Navy jet fly-overs, significantly degrade the wilderness experience in Yosemite. There has been a lot of jet noise in Yosemite, and now it's worse than ever. The Federal Aviation Administration should increase the minimum altitude for all aircraft traveling at greater than 250 knots to be 10,000 feet above ground level (not sea level), in selected wilderness areas.

Corr. ID: 788 **Organization:** Access Fund **Comment ID:** 538829 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: Climbers are uniquely impacted by harmful soundscape impacts in Yosemite's wilderness. As noted in our previous comments, this Plan should 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. The Merced River Plan identified aircraft and vehicle noise as the top two noise sources and the top two priorities for management action, yet soundscape impacts remain unaddressed in Yosemite management plans. This noise not only exceeds NPS soundscape management standards and the requirements of the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it also violates NPS regulations and the California Vehicle Code. This plan is the opportunity to address this long-overdue management action that is critical to preserving the parks wilderness character.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58962) Wilderness should be managed with the priority of meeting Wilderness Act requirements before servicing recreational demand.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 741 **Organization:** Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID:** 538524 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Our staff believes that many popular or highly utilized areas within Yosemite's wilderness are not meeting the clearly defined mandates of the Wilderness Act. Many areas over recent decades (especially at highly popular destination areas or along the John Muir Trail) have had so much use that wilderness areas are not being protected and preserved. Areas are not being consistently managed to preserve natural conditions, nor are areas in many parts of the wilderness being managed so that there are opportunities for solitude.

Corr. ID: 741 **Organization:** Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center **Comment ID:** 538525 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Wilderness within Yosemite is currently being managed with a priority on servicing the recreational demand for use within the parks wilderness rather than managing first for the priority objective of meeting wilderness act requirements.

CONCERN STATEMENT: (Concern ID: 58963) This plan should consider alternatives that propose a range of actions in wilderness which create management zones that emphasize each of the five qualities of wilderness character.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 788 Organization: Access Fund **Comment ID: 538824 Organization Type:** Non-Governmental

Representative Quote: This plan should consider different management alternatives that propose a range of actions, with different zoning combinations over the parks wilderness landscape with each management zone emphasizing the five qualities of wilderness character. For example, a special recreation zone may be developed to protect and optimize primitive and unconfined recreation, acknowledging that expectations for solitude opportunities may be different as compared to a more primitive backcountry zone-yet both zones carefully maintained for wilderness character. In this way Yosemite National Park's Wilderness Plan can develop an appropriate range of planning alternatives that address the realities of visitor use in Yosemite National Park Wilderness. Through such a zoning process, Yosemite planners can consider and develop planning alternatives for, among other issues, overnight camping/bivouacs, recreation access, stock use, trail management, and commercial services; this kind of zoning process may also create an appropriate framework for an upcoming climbing management plan which will to a large degree involve Yosemite wilderness.

Appendix A

Correspondence Index of Organizations

Appendix A. Correspondence Index of Organizations, Official Representatives

Note: In many instances, the organization type was not defined by the commenter; therefore, organizations were listed as “Unaffiliated Individuals”.

Correspondence ID	Organization
Non-Governmental	
624	Back Country Horsemen of California
852	Back Country Horsemen of California, Redwood Unit
627	High Sierra Hikers Association
788	Access Fund
831	American Mountain Guides Association
854	Wilderness Watch
Recreational	
716	Sierra Mountain Center
Unaffiliated Individual	
679	Jediah Porter Mountain Consulting
725	Back Country Horsemen - Mid Valley Unit
741	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
757	American Whitewater
795	Central Sierra Audubon Society
800	Pacific Crest Trail Association
813	Back Country Horsemen of America
817	Tawonga Jewish Community Corporation dba Camp Tawonga
819	East Slope Back Country Horsemen
848	Lasting Adventures

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Appendix B

Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

Appendix B. Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters

Note: N/A represents individuals who did not submit their first or last name.

Correspondence ID	Name
1	Laffey, Seamus
2	Harrison, Josh
3	Abbott, Randy M.
4	Casey, Cindy
5	Brown, Susan
6	Sanford, Johnathan O.
7	N/A
8	Macfarlane, Noble T.
9	Mitten, Holly
10	Olwyler, Michael
11	Koubek, Paul
12	Kowaleski, John
13	Cooper, John F.
14	Smith, Eric
15	Scates, Sarah C.
16	Holdrich, Martin K.
17	Mock, Frank
18	Davidson, Jeff
19	Davidson, Jeff
20	Schwarcz, Sandra
21	Funk, Arleen
22	Finch, Robert
23	Rice, Kevin
24	Saylor, Torrey I.
25	Nasser, Haitham
26	Mourgos, Joseph A.
27	Carty, Robert
28	Silverman, Jodi
29	Kraus, Grant
30	Chapin, Laura
31	Kenville, Dee
32	Prestemon, Neil D.
33	Morse, Andrea
34	Galiste, Sally
35	Lynch, Christina
36	Lehman, Bethany N.
37	Lucas, Tanya
38	Salica, Nicole E.

Correspondence ID	Name
39	Manley, Charles
40	N/A
41	Johnson-Sullivan, Kaylene
42	Robb, Thomas
43	Wilson, Greg R.
44	Wilson, Greg R.
45	Duncan, Andrew
46	Woodley, Jerome
47	Barsanti, Jeanne
48	N/A
49	Atkins, Kyle
50	Church, Mary K.
51	Furse, Cindy
52	Cramer, Michael A.
53	Lawson, Ronald L.
54	DeVall, Martin
55	Grymko, Charles V.
56	Bone, Donald
57	Odell, Mary
58	Biddle, Harry
59	Rahilly, Sandy
60	Express, Cara B.
61	Ottey, Linda
62	Hope, Rebecca
63	Schooley, Jennifer L.
64	Deas, Lisa
65	Morelli, Nancy
66	Lowe, Marilee
67	Paquette, Dyan
68	N/A
69	Motter, John
70	Ide, John
71	Borstelmann, John
72	Comstock, Andrew
73	N/A
74	Schmid, Jeff
75	Burgess, Paulette
76	Robinson, Tamara
77	Lawlor, Debra
78	Serra, Dawn
79	McPherson, Loretta E

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80	Jennings, Sid
81	Riblett, Mary
82	N/A
83	Rhodes, Robert W.
84	N/A
85	Di Benedetto, Rainbow
86	Schmidt, Kevin
87	N/A
88	N/A
89	Dixon, Joyce
90	Lozano, Luis M.
91	Edwards, William D.
92	Ingram, Carole
93	Rangel, Louise
94	Lafond, David J.
95	Kipling, Caroline
96	Garcia, Cheryl
97	Diss, Michelle
98	N/A
99	Bensetler, Shirley N.
100	N/A
101	Stoltenberg, John and Martha
102	Whitaker, Howard J
103	Alvarado, Gloria
104	Killam, Lynn
105	Frank, Mitzi
106	N/A
107	Johnson, Richard
108	Chapman, Sam
109	Coppotelli, Heide Catherina
110	Nance, Terry
111	Helmer, Kathleen
112	Stanley, Edh
113	Callister, Paul
114	N/A
115	Metter, Adrienne
116	LaBouy, Anne
117	N/A
118	Schmierer, Kyle
119	N/A
120	Collins, Carol

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121	Hillerby, Carrie
122	Guard, Mary
123	Collins, Carol
124	Kuticka, Sheri
125	Schmidt, Daniel
126	Livingston, James L
127	Nuckols, Barbara
128	Manders, Jen
129	N/A
130	Friedman, Donna
131	N/A
132	Groshardt, Joanne
133	Brenner, Jared
134	Laughon, Char
135	Ackerman, Judith A.
136	Lasarow, Marilyn D .
137	L., Richard
138	Zerzan, Paula A.
139	Wenzer, Ken Dr.
140	Worzel, Howard
141	Fullerton, James R
142	Gurdin, Barry B
143	King, Nancy
144	Herbst, Tori K.
145	Barth, Ellen W.
146	Hubacek, Richard
147	Kucinski, Sandy M.
148	Becker, Elaine
149	Field, Kimberly
150	Brun, Leland
151	Lippiello, John
152	Long, Carol
153	Ramirez, Carina G.
154	Lyman, Teresa B.
155	Otoole, Lynn K.
156	Dupree, Louis J.
157	N/A
158	Mckenzie, Mary G.
159	N/A
160	Acerro, Theresa
161	Valentine, Judith

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162	Knaz, Julia
163	N/A
164	Zimmerman, Leda
165	Fues, Lisa J.
166	N/A
167	Flather, Dylan
168	Gingras, Brian R.
169	Vallero, Daniel R.
170	Harvey, Mark and Judy
171	Hammer, Randy
172	Selig, Joyce A.
173	Tapley, Dennis
174	N/A
175	Hegeman, Elizabeth
176	Crutchfield, Carmen L.
177	Wild, Kathryn, PhD
178	Johnson, Bret
179	Ball, Evelyn
180	Hickey, Mary T.
181	Walicki, Joe
182	James, Gordon G.
183	Standridge, La Vaughn
184	Koch, Joann M.
185	Shapiro, Eve
186	Borden, Barbara K.
187	Moore, Chris
188	Bryan, Pat
189	James, Donna M.
190	N/A
191	Delgadillo, Arthur
192	Cross, Steven
193	Rapp, Lanette
194	Rosenkrantz, Stewart
195	N/A
196	Britton, Bill
197	Madison, Chelsea
198	Marotta, Tracy
199	Montapert, Anthony
200	Sikand, Vikram
201	Bradley, Kathy
202	De Cecco, Jorge A.

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203	Haglund, Judith
204	Krell, Elinore
205	Magnusson, Arisia
206	Carpenter, Steven
207	Graver, Chuck E.
208	Silver, Ron
209	Berkheimer, Nicole
210	N/A
211	Culbert, Laurette
212	Pollum, Emily
213	Durbin, Janice L.
214	Sivesind, Torunn
215	O'Nan, Kathleen
216	Trueblood, Donna
217	Liebman, Caren
218	Lombardi, Robert
219	Drapac, Joseph G.
220	N/A
221	Bornholtz, Gavin M.
222	Lynch, Cindy
223	Parker, Deborah A.
224	O'Bryant, Ronda R.
225	Mueller, Hans
226	S. Khalsa, Mha Atma
227	Thea, Kaz
228	Palmer, Kirstie
229	Sherwood, Dan
230	Gallichio, Monica M.
231	Meiers, Susan T.
232	Fosburgh, Eric
233	Hirth, Carol
234	Rings, Sally
235	Pompain, Angela
236	N/A
237	Carter, Virginia S.
238	Harper, Randy
239	Hager, Jon
240	Vallone, Brion R.
241	McDonough, Brenda G.
242	Leitner, Joel, H.
243	Koivisto, Ellen

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244	Crozier, Don
245	N/A
246	Tsui, Kevin
247	McCool, Melissa
248	N/A
249	Womack, Kristen
250	N/A
251	N/A
252	Gazzola, Linda
253	Phillips, George
254	Lean, DA J.
255	Cuviello, Pat
256	Robey, Steve
257	Quammen, Parker
258	Walker, David
259	Siegrist, Toni M.
260	Jacobson, Lisa
261	LaSchiava, Dona S.
262	Elshoff, Alice
263	N/A
264	Krause, Fayette F.
265	Barden, Lindley
266	Panitch, Karyn
267	Boydston, Charlene D.
268	N/A
269	Sewald, Michelle
270	Ranz, Lauren
271	Boone, Jim
272	Weisz, Russell
273	Shankel, Georgia
274	Logston, Dana
275	Handelsman, Robert
276	Vander Kuy, Kay
277	Mennel-Bell, Mari
278	Kirkpatrick, Gabriel
279	Olonia, Joseph
280	Long-Fainter, Lynda J.
281	Roney, Scott
282	Downey, Ann
283	Ronlov, Julia
284	Anthony, Elizabeth

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285	Angell, Donald
286	N/A
287	Nicolini, Cristina
288	Gladfelter, Barbara
289	Nedeau, Elden J.
290	Esposito, Thomas and June
291	Gabriel, Robert
292	Yeargain-Williams, Peggy
293	Mendieta, Vince
294	Charvat, Jan
295	Silverman, Barbara
296	LeBlanc, Edward
297	Sullivan, Michael
298	Voorhies, Eric
299	Ritter, Elisabeth
300	Aguilera, Marco
301	Harriman, Frances
302	Obr, Brooks
303	Mendieta, Maria
304	Revilla, Oscar
305	Harrison, Norma J.
306	Qyat, Connie
307	Ecker, Christopher J.
308	Sellbin, Susan
309	N/A
310	Wecker, Stanley
311	Zehner, Kristen
312	Wiggers, Stewart E.
313	Cantos, Irwin
314	Naples, Jean
315	Silvestre, Brigitte
316	Starseed, Lozz
317	Weil, J.
318	N/A
319	Willey, Hermine
320	Prinz, Jovita
321	Voiles, Steve I.
322	Hessler, Charles B.
323	Nylen, Eric
324	Benton, Vivienne
325	Rutkowski, Robert E.

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326	Hobin, Frank
327	Beswick, Kate
328	Thoms, Gary
329	N/A
330	Knowlton, Elizabeth
331	Korona OFS, Joseph E.
332	Foster, Jessica T.
333	Robinson, Janet
334	Picchetti, Gloria
335	Mauri, Sara
336	Shippee, Bob
337	Escobar, Victor
338	Pressman, Catherina
339	Szumal, R.A.
340	Sipe, Bob
341	Gilbert, Don L.
342	Mathers, Christine
343	Mackay, Donald S.
344	N/A
345	Bowden, Joan K.
346	Genaze, Matthew
347	Mooney, Marina
348	N/A
349	Devine, Lauren
350	Levin, Jon
351	McCann, Jonathan
352	Gonzales, Felicia
353	Gonzales, Felicia
354	Mason, Stella
355	N/A
356	Middleton, Andrew L.
357	Costa, Sandra C.
358	Boehling, Robert B.
359	Strauss, Mark B.
360	Albanese, Dawn M.
361	Lizotte, Geoff
362	Fletcher, Carol
363	Eisenberg, Jon
364	Harrison, Harry
365	Wynn, Patricia
366	Tyler, Francine

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367	Myers, Scott
368	Leahy, Sue
369	Lynch, John E.
370	Koehl, Lisa
371	McCaughey, Linda
372	Publiee, Jean
373	Westmoreland, Henry H.
374	Baxter, Lou
375	Cudworth, Deborah
376	Walters, Sandra
377	Busch, Cara
378	N/A
379	Schlesinger, Sybil E.
380	Shilling, Pam
381	Dufficy, Judy N.
382	N/A
383	Hasapidis ,George
384	Smith, Joan
385	Anderson, Lori
386	Brisco, Austin
387	N/A
388	Costa, Lynn D.
389	Parker, Doug and Joan
390	Greene, David
391	N/A
392	Burg, Donald L.
393	Whalen, Shirley
394	Church, Cassandra
395	Erwin, Kelle J.
396	Newman, S.J.
397	Galli, Deborah
398	Buchan, Martha S.
399	Hunt, Kristin
400	N/A
401	Rapp, Kelly
402	N/A
403	Schneider, Lynn
404	Oshana, Katherine
405	Jackson, Richard
406	Kite, Richard
407	Stef, Rose Marie

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408	Foster, Emilie
409	David, Philip
410	Connolly, C.
411	Boyer, David J.
412	Nunez, Amado
413	McDonough, Rebecca
414	Parker, Patti
415	Gaiser, Jörg
416	Carroll, Linda
417	Leigh, Simon
418	Schacht, Timothy
419	N/A
420	Worrell, Jennifer
421	N/A
422	Driessen, Lynn
423	Shafransky, Paula
424	Knoll, Carolyn
425	Crow, Gena
426	Lutz, Anita
427	N/A
428	Maloney, Philip
429	Woll, Ann W.
430	Torelli, Thea
431	Weld, Robert
432	Elliott, Benton
433	Adamson, Kristen
434	Padilla, Melania
435	Neumann, Nancy
436	Proescholdt, Kevin
437	Foster, Lorraine R.
438	Grande, Paula G.
439	Provance, D.
440	Rego, James
441	Ilan, Judy
442	Higgins, Bruce
443	Bishop, Cori
444	Gliva, Stephen
445	Wood, Barbara
446	Schutt, Paul L.
447	Giese, Mark
448	Ford, Carol A.

Correspondence ID	Name
449	Christiansen, Solveig L.
450	Ware, Christopher
451	Schneider, Judith S.
452	Janiszewski, Cheryl L.
453	N/A
454	Eaton, Kathlnne
455	Gindele, Abigail
456	Cameron, Sydney A.
457	Watters, Cheryl
458	Franchi, Irena
459	Krueger, Jon F.
460	Burtr, Al
461	Thompson, Veronica V.
462	Skrivanek, Smita
463	Finlon, Maureen A.
464	Ergh, Denelle
465	Pintagro, Thomas
466	Schue, Shirley G.
467	Scholz, Manfred G.
468	McClurg,Daviann
469	Cenc, John A.
470	Watson, Fran
471	N/A
472	Boshears, Michae
473	Cohen, Harriet
474	Moore, Tasha
475	Futrell, Sherrill
476	Ru, De
477	Bass, Henry L.
478	Rowe, Kenneth
479	Cobb, Robert
480	Pirch, Charlotte
481	Nagel, Clinton
482	N/A
483	Howard, Gloria J.
484	Firestone, Douglas H.
485	Braithwaite, Georgia
486	Sanders, Clarence
487	N/A
488	Oba, Peggy S.
489	Smith, Deborah

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490	Bousquet, Bob
491	Kruger, Suzanne
492	Alderson, George and Frances
493	Lake, Jennifer
494	N/A
495	Donnelly, Steven
496	Blalack, Russell
497	Jakusz, Darlene
498	Matthew, Antonia
499	Calender, Steven N.
500	Mosca-Clark, Vivianne
501	Dehart, Jody Heriot
502	Wine, Jordann
503	Turner, Dawn E.
504	Helling, Joshua
505	Cooper, Ruth H.
506	Lanskey, Marcus
507	Gress, Archie
508	Beedle, Tina M.
509	Potter, Doris
510	Thompson, Lawrence H.
511	Welling, Jeannette
512	Mattes, Dale
513	Anacker, Celeste M.
514	Seltzer, Rob
515	Hauck, Molly P.
516	Phelps, Margaret A.
517	Edwards, Eric
518	Lange, Marlena
519	Jarvis, Paul
520	Garvey, Lydia
521	Raper, Connie K.
522	Rodney, Ray
523	Elliot, Lynn M.
524	Davenport, Susan M.
525	Chase, Linda
526	N/A
527	McGrath, Joanne C.
528	Dennis, Marian K.
529	Rhodes, Janet
530	Blair-Stahn, Chai

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531	M. Kaitlyn
532	Williams, Patrick K.
533	Matthews, Jonathan
534	Andaloro, Anthony R.
535	N/A
536	Cresseveur, Jessica
537	N/A
538	N/A
539	N/A
540	Tholl, J.D.
541	N/A
542	Pfeiffer, Peter
543	Doucet, Lisha
544	Seltzer, Elizabeth
545	Sherrill, Valerie
546	Waterworth, Laura
547	Abel, Jerian
548	Nelson, Pamela
549	Brett, Richard A.
550	Earnshaw, Shinann
551	Bratvold, Gretchen
552	Thorn, Debbie
553	Watters, Whitney
554	Smith, Judith
555	Schwery, Kathleen
556	Wemer, Kim
557	Corwin, Ruth
558	Altshuler, John
559	Wick, Jodi
560	Bramblett
561	Brinsky, Kristine
562	Shields, Roberta
563	N/A
564	Christian, Karen A.
565	Linarez, KJ
566	Schermer, Linda S.
567	N/A
568	De Arteaga, Jose
569	Katherine
570	Van Wicklen, Betty
571	Nelson, Thomas W.

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572	Richardson, Matt
573	Netzel, Forrest
574	Guarino, Dolores R.
575	N/A
576	Graffagnino, Mary Ann and Frank
577	Crane, Donna
578	McRae, Stacey
579	N/A
580	Giles, Al
581	Walker, Molly
582	Provenzano, James J.
583	Hallett, Mark A.
584	Anderson, Judith A.
585	Wood, Rose
586	Granskog, Bonnie
587	Watts, Elizabeth
588	Conn, Patrick
589	Ruby, Kenneth
590	Gilmore, Thomas
591	Manley, Lynn
592	Refes, N.
593	N/A
594	Lazarus, Marianne
595	Bennett, Judith
596	N/A
597	Heinzig, Dennis
598	Couch, Sandra
599	Stober, Paula
600	Thompson, Thurston
601	Querner, Kathleen
602	N/A
603	Kordes, Maria
604	Darling, Carrie
605	Danowski, K.
606	Havrilla, Robert
607	Havrilla, Robert
608	Van Uden, Mark J.
609	Cote, Don
610	Stewart, Sarah B.
611	Weber, Diana
612	Pauls, Terry M.

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613	Menzel, Sandra
614	Ballot, Michael H.
615	Mattson, Virginia
616	Brauer, Laurence
617	Cornelia, Jared
618	Bore, Edith
619	Kerivan, Andrea
620	Olson, David
621	Hodie, Jake
622	Friedrich, Alan
623	Schade, Corey
624	Waller, Richard
625	Bodiford, Loretta J.
626	Cohen, Thomas A.
627	Kane, Jeff
628	Linstrom, Kris
629	Phillips, Robert R.
630	Erb, Cheryl A.
631	Schwartz, Howie
632	Palla, Paul J.
633	Bakken, Luke R.
634	Lindermuth, John
635	Manders, Donna
636	Stewart, Jenny
637	Hosfo, Kristin
638	Cowin, Caryn L.
639	Polasek, Carole
640	Genasci, Jean and James
641	Song, Georgie
642	Ward, Jeff
643	Berry, Bart
644	Palan, John
645	Allen, Mark
646	Moore, Simon
647	Orlet, James
648	Patterson, Carol J.
649	Olin, Dean D.
650	N/A
651	Molitoris, Marty
652	Heuman, Christopher
653	Moore, John K.

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654	Ancel-Wisner, Annette
655	Robinson, Shane
656	Silitch, Michael P.
657	Parks, Rod
658	Leas, Rebecca R.
659	Bubala, Louis
660	Rachele, Paul
661	Ginsburg, Joe
662	Rossiter, Timothy K.
663	Fiedler, David M.
664	Emmott, Tom S.
665	Arnold, Andrew
666	Morell, Jonathan
667	Uhlmann, Danny F.
668	Frost, Graham
669	Marsh, Evan J.
670	Helling, Joshua
671	Helling, Joshua
672	Sherman, Kim
673	Jane
674	Coyle, Gregory
675	Lowery, Joanne
676	Carr, Donna M., M.D.
677	Brown-Barry, Wendy L.
678	Stanley, Robert
679	Porter, Jediah
680	Ouellette, Tracy
681	Hawse, Angela J.
682	Graves, Kevin
683	Roth, Donald E.
684	Horton, William
685	Morgan, Devon
686	Unger, Geoffrey
687	Hartegan, Ryan
688	Whitaker, Howard J.
689	Wachs, Michael
690	Huebner, Bruce
691	Kundell, Linda R.
692	Willard, Tom
693	Stevens, Mark
694	Wigton, Raymond P.

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695	Patrick, Janice J.
696	David
697	Putrich, Steve T.
698	Johnston, William
699	Neumann, David A.
700	Banks, Jeff M.
701	Padilla, Sergio
702	Aubuchon, Sevien
703	N/A
704	Beard, Lara
705	Leland, Lora
706	Lambertson, Roy
707	Baker-Smith, Gerritt and Elizabeth
708	Kelly, Margaret
709	Mazur, Gabriel
710	Cencula, David
711	Bartlett, Kerry
712	Herrick, Bob
713	Marks, Diane D.
714	Felsman, Gary
715	Clarkson, Debbie K.
716	Parker, SP
717	N/A
718	Rosenkotter, Barbara
719	Swail, Paul
720	Combs, Kristen
721	N/A
722	McGlone, Colleen
723	Brogan, Kim R.
724	N/A
725	Serpa, Dennis
726	Bridenbaker, Christine
727	Rankin, Daniel
728	Hunt, Larry M.
729	Barwegen, Sophia
730	Hunt, Virginia
731	Coleman, Patrick
732	Perry, Cyrle H.
733	Anthes, David
734	Smith, Jane
735	Moynihan, Michael J.

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736	Toto, Michael W.
737	Forrest, Keith
738	Crawford, Joseph A.
739	Bradleu, Marya A.
740	Leidecker, Erik
741	Buckley, John
742	McNitt, Keiko
743	Horn, Dan
744	Serra, Dawn
745	Dufka, Tim M.
746	Clayton
747	Denny, Cynthia A.
748	Brewer, Antonia E.
749	N/A
750	Woods, James
751	Valentine, Sarah
752	Bennett, LeeAnn
753	N/A
754	N/A
755	Lemons, Bruce
756	Jorgensen, Martin G.
757	Steindorf, Dave
758	Kuciej, Walter
759	Ewart, Dick
760	Dykman, Bob J.
761	N/A
762	Jamieson, Dianna D.
763	Van Wagtendonk, Jan W.
764	Williams, Liz I.
765	Murphy, Tim
766	Weimberg, Gary
767	Roedel, Spencer
768	Huetter, Ryan
769	N/A
770	Grundon, Mark
771	Ashmore, Bob
772	Mikkelson, J.M.
773	Jesik, Buster
774	Bruno, Matthew
775	Cochran, Steven R.
776	Whiting, Amos

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777	N/A
778	Koubek, Paul
779	Lish, Christopher
780	N/A
781	Schooley, Jennifer
782	Ormond, Patrick
783	Richard W. Mithoff
784	Wamsley, James L.
785	Hackamack, Bob W.
786	Kowalchick, Kathy
787	N/A
788	Keith, Jason M.
789	N/A
790	Meyer, Timothy L.
791	White, Jewel M.
792	Hayes, Sara
793	Yam, Kathy
794	Dianne
795	Kruse, Walter L.
796	Laura
797	Columbia, James
798	Hanselman, Marc G.
799	Rippel, Raymond E.
800	Nelson, Ian
801	Portzline, Dustin
802	White, Standley
803	Selk, Ali
804	Koval, Janet
805	Nagarajan, Ravi
806	Finlayson, Lesley M.
807	Raina
808	Smith, Jeff
809	Butterscotch
810	Levy, Jenna
811	Sturtevant, Jon M.
812	Perry, Brian L.
813	Rasmussen, Randy
814	Suits, Harlan E.
815	James, Robert
816	N/A
817	Meyer, Rebecca L.

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818	Reichel, Ina
819	Fitzpatrick, R.Fred
820	Wallace, Aaron
821	Diederich, Karl
822	Field, Frances
823	Pickup, Ronald E.
824	Fitzgerald, Ezekiel N.
825	Walker, Jermone M.
826	Lopez, Josie
827	Hopkins, Heidi
828	Christine
829	Satterfield, Neil
830	Crowe, Crystal L.
831	Kosseff, Alex
832	Wiley, Kimberly
833	Linder, Jan
834	Cooper, John F.
835	N/A
836	Kelly, Ryan C.
837	Sanches, Debora
838	Aicega, Dorothy M.
839	N/A
840	Eilenberg, Eva
841	Jacobson, Debbie A.
842	Robinson, Doug
843	Lawnicki, Tim
844	McBride, Kent R.
845	Ross, Otto
846	Morrison, David
847	Kruger, Peter
848	Gehrman, Scott
849	Field, James
850	Roland, Amelia
851	Panik, Kevin
852	Polasek, Carole
853	Machado, Tony
854	MacFarlane, Gary
855	Zukowski, Robin
856	Polasek, Darrel
857	Suk, Thomas
858	Fontaine, Joe

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Correspondence ID	Name
859	N/A
860	N/A
861	N/A
862	N/A
863	N/A
864	Haner, Doug