

***Yosemite National Park
Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone Structures EA
Public Scoping Concern Report***

Introduction

The National Park Service conducted public scoping for the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone Structures project in Yosemite National Park. This project is evaluating how to address the interim disposition of structures (hard sided cabins, restrooms, shower facilities, storage units, and utilities) located within the rockfall hazard zone in Curry Village in Yosemite Valley. The recent settlement agreement on the Merced River Plan calls for any decisions about relocation and/or reuse of facilities from the rockfall hazard zone in Yosemite Valley to be postponed until a new Merced River Plan has been developed. A decision to continue to maintain facilities under this analysis does not guarantee future relocation and reuse of the structures in Yosemite Valley.

The purpose of this project is to:

- Mitigate inherent safety risks associated with unauthorized visitor access to closed structures within the rockfall hazard zone
- Minimize the potential for further loss of historically significant structures and/or features that contribute to the Curry Village historic district
- Identify appropriate mitigation to resolve the potential adverse effect on the Camp Curry Historic District

The public scoping period for this project was from February 24 to April 7, 2010. Information on the project was provided at park open houses in Yosemite Valley on February 24, 2010, and March 31, 2010. Comments were accepted through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) system, by mail, by fax, and comment forms submitted at the open houses.

This report summarizes the comments received from the public during the public scoping period. Information regarding how comments were compiled is followed by a summary of the comments.

Public Scoping Analysis

During the public scoping period, 33 pieces of correspondence (or letters) were received. Those correspondences received outside the PEPC system were entered by park staff in to the PEPC database (i.e., hardcopy correspondences, handwritten comment forms, emails submitted through other park communication methods). Once all the correspondence was entered into PEPC, each was reviewed and specific comments within each correspondence were identified and assigned a code that related to a particular topic to categorize similar comments together. An example of a code developed for this project is AL1500 – Alternatives: Relocate Cabins (general).

Under each code, comments were grouped by similar themes and those groups were summarized through a concern statement. For example under the code AL1500 – Alternatives: Relocate Cabins (general), one concern statement identified was, “The park should relocate the cabins instead of demolishing them.”

More than half of the received comments related to alternatives to be considered. Comments on alternatives were related to a range of alternatives for removal, preservation, and relocation of the structures within the Curry Village rockfall hazard zone. Other main topics of interest were related to cultural resource issues and support for the purpose and need for the project. Of the 33 correspondences, 23 came from the state of California, while the remaining correspondences came from Arizona, Connecticut, Michigan, Oregon, or were unspecified. The large majority of correspondences (29) were from unaffiliated individuals. The remaining correspondences were from a business, tribal government, and two organizations.

This public scoping report is organized as follows:

Comments by Code: This table provides the number of comments assigned to each code.

Concerns and Comment Report: This report summarizes comments received during the scoping process by organizing the comments by codes and further into concern statements or summaries of the main ideas brought up by commenters under each code or topic. Representative quotes are then provided for each concern statement, as pulled verbatim from the correspondence text.

*Yosemite National Park
Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone Structures EA
Comments by Code*

Code	Description	# of Comments
AE1000	Affected Environment – Geologic Hazards	1
AE2000	Affected Environment – Cultural Resources	10
AE3000	Affected Environment – Visitor Experience	5
AL1000	Alternatives – Demolish/Remove Cabins in Rockfall Zone	10
AL1500	Alternatives – Relocate Cabins (general)	11
AL1700	Alternatives – Preserve Cabins as they are	1
AL2000	Alternatives – Relocate Cabins to Other Areas in Curry Village	5
AL2050	Alternatives – Do not relocate cabins into Curry Village	1
AL3000	Alternatives – Relocate Cabins to Other Areas in Yosemite Valley	7
AL3025	Alternatives – Relocate outside Yosemite Valley	2
AL3050	Alternatives – Do Not Relocate Cabins in Yosemite Valley	2
AL3075	Alternatives – Do Not Relocate Cabins in the Park	1
AL4000	Alternatives – Relocate Cabins to Wawona	5
AL5000	Alternatives – Dispose of Cabins to the Public and/or Other Organizations Outside the Park	5
AL6000	Alternatives – Salvage and Recycle Materials	3
AL6500	Alternatives – Increase Enforcement	7
AL6800	Alternatives – Stabilize Rock	1
AL7000	Alternatives - Other Out of Scope	19

CC1000	Consultation and Coordination: General Comments	7
CR1000	Cultural Resources: Guiding Policies, Regulations and Laws	14
IM1000	Impacts of Alternatives - Cultural Resources	4
IM2000	Impacts of Alternatives - Visitor Experience	8
IM3000	Impacts of Alternatives - Socioeconomics	2
IM4000	Impacts of Alternatives - Natural Resources	2
IM5000	Impacts of Alternatives - Geologic Hazards	1
IM7000	Impacts of Alternatives - Park Operations, Employee Housing	1
PI1000	Public Involvement - Scoping Process	2
PL1000	Planning - Park Purpose & Mission	1
PL2000	Planning - Relationship to Merced River Plan	4
PL3000	Planning - Relationship to Settlement Agreement	1
PN1000	Purpose and Need - Remove Cabins due to Safety Risks	11
PN2000	Purpose and Need - Remove Cabins to Prevent Damage to Historic Resources	1
PN4000	Purpose and Need - Clarify Purpose and Need	2
PN5000	Purpose and Need - Other	2
Total		155

Yosemite National Park
Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone Structures EA
Public Scoping Concern Report

Report Date: 04/13/2010

AE1000 - Affected Environment- Geologic Hazards

Concern ID: 23522

CONCERN STATEMENT: The project should consider the geologic hazards present in the rockfall zone.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 28 **Organization:** Not Specified

Comment ID: 130199 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: In reference to the Curry Village area, a 2007 USGS Report states that the "rockfall hazard was underestimated when the USGS developed a map of rockfall potential in Yosemite Valley to support the NPS Yosemite Valley Plan." The report concludes that "unpredictable landslides might occur in many regions, especially within Curry Village in Yosemite Valley." "Examination of recent landslides and subsurface trenches in the western section of Curry Village has indicated that in some places landslide deposits extend further than the current talus slopes above Curry Village, thus facilities are more vulnerable to landslide hazards than originally assumed." (USGS Open-File Report 2007-1378: Staircase Falls Rockfall on December 26, 2003 and Geologic Hazards at Curry Village, Yosemite National Park, California) Previous planning documents (even before the October '08 rockfall) have stated that "redevelopment of facilities within the common area of Curry Village (which includes Curry Pavilion, the historic visitor registration, retail facilities, and employee facilities such as housekeeping, maintenance, and employee lounge facilities) would be within the rockfall zone."

AE2000 - Affected Environment- Cultural Resources

Concern ID: 23523

CONCERN STATEMENT: The project should consider that the significance of the area is related to its low cost lodging function and rustic architecture.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 28 **Organization:** Not Specified

Comment ID: 130185 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The significance of Camp Curry lies in its philosophy of providing low cost lodging for Yosemite visitors and in the rustic style of architecture used in building construction, which, characterized by unpeeled logs and bark strips, differed from the later Park Service interpretation of that style, but provided a prototype for later valley structures. [National Register form for Camp Curry Historic Site prepared by Leslie Starr Hart and Merrill Wilson in 1976.]

Concern ID: 23916

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should consider the cultural significance of the Yosemite Valley.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 31 **Organization:** Ahwahneechee Band of Paiutes

Comment ID: 130414 **Organization Type:** Tribal Government

Representative Quote: Yosemite Valley is the ancestral home for many Indian groups including the Paiute people. We the undersign are lineal descendants of Chief Ten-ie-ya and Captain Sam who were well-known Paiute men who

established their affiliation with the land (now known as Yosemite) long before it became a park in 1890. It is this native heritage that makes the park including the valley floor meaningful and significant to the lineal descendants; as such, cultural properties and any known (or unknown) remains that may lie within the walls of the valley should be protected

Concern ID: 23928

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should consider that most of the cabins are not "historic" in the sense that other Curry Village structures are.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley

Comment ID: 130405 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: With respect to the hard-sided structures, most or all of the small cabins affected appear to be those of the 1950's to 1960's era, which were (are) characterized by flat laminate construction (plywood) and little else worth saving. This may be slightly inaccurate, but they are not "historic" in the intrinsic sense that the log and peeled bark constructed buildings elsewhere at Curry are.

AE3000 - Affected Environment- Visitor Experience

Concern ID: 23524

CONCERN STATEMENT: Commenters expressed preference to and memories of staying in the Curry Village cabins.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 2 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130306 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: My family and I have spent many a happy time visiting Yosemite. I think we have stayed in all the accommodations, but have been most comfortable in these cute cabins.

Corr. ID: 3 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130287 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Our favorite place to stay in the park is a Curry Village cabin.

Corr. ID: 23 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130308 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Our memories of the cabins are rich and lasting.

Concern ID: 23525

CONCERN STATEMENT: The project should consider that Curry Village provides affordable visitor lodging.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 5 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130269 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: These simple structures are affordable and have provided excellent accommodations for our students.

Corr. ID: 21 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130285 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Yosemite is in dire need of more affordable visitor lodging. Closing many Curry cabins, added to the 300 tent cabins lost in 1997, has made the need even more critical. The Ahwahnee is out of the question for most of us, and the Lodge is quite expensive and usually fully booked. We need more affordable housing for couples and families, comparable to the tent and wooden cabins at Curry.

AL1000 - Alternatives – Demolish/Remove Cabins in Rockfall Zone

Concern ID: 23526

**CONCERN
STATEMENT:**

The park should demolish/remove structures that are in the rockfall zone. Some commenters suggested restoring the areas where buildings are removed.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 4 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130271 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If it is thought that Curry Village will eventually be displaced by following rock we should be thinking of reducing usage area there with a long-term plan for vacating it.

Corr. ID: 6 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130267 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Any structures that don't really represent any historic value should be torn down and removed.

Corr. ID: 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130262 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I love Yosemite and would prefer to see more of it return to nature. We've got to keep it open for everyone but need to limit the number of people that visit it. Maybe eliminating some cabins is what Yosemite needs.

Corr. ID: 10 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130233 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The structures within the rockfall zone should be demolished unless they are of exceptional historic significance.

Corr. ID: 20 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130250 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The wooden and canvas tents that are at risk for rockfall should be demolished and the area restored to its natural state. Any building that isn't currently used for something, or is used for something that is unnecessary or inappropriate for a national park (e.g. a school), should be torn down. Even the historic stuff is an eyesore and mars the natural beauty of the valley.

Corr. ID: 24 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130227 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Since they present a continued hazard to the public I recommend that they be removed and natural restoration work be done in the area providing improved habitat and watershed conditions.

Corr. ID: 30 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130411 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would be very happy to see the entire area demolished and the cabins removed. We don't want to exclude Curry Village from our future visits but seeing the destruction is just too hard a reminder of what happened. I think that by clearing out the area and returning it to nature will eliminate any reminders of that awful day.

Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley

Comment ID: 130402 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: propose to remove (not relocate) non-historic structures

AL1500 - Alternatives - Relocate cabins (general)

Concern ID: 23527

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should relocate the cabins instead of demolishing them.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 2 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130277 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Please do not destroy them or let them rot.
Corr. ID: 2 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130276 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I respectfully suggest that these charming and well built cabins be moved to a safe place and continue to be used as guest cabins.
Corr. ID: 19 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130253 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: The cabins could be relocated within the park or removed to the buyer's own property elsewhere.
Corr. ID: 22 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130265 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: It costs less to move them than it does to tear them down, buy new lumber, roofing material, etc. And rebuild them. Not counting labor costs.... So I know they are a no-frill cabin, but it would be a stupid move to spend more money then necessary in this strapped economy.
Corr. ID: 31 **Organization:** Ahwahneechee Band of Paiutes
Comment ID: 130415 **Organization Type:** Tribal Government
Representative Quote: Consider removing existing structures within the newly updated rock-fall zone and relocating them, or rebuilding them outside of the rock-fall zone;

AL1700 - Alternatives - Preserve Cabins as they are

Concern ID: 23528

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should preserve a small portion of the cabins.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 23 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130283 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Please preserve at least a small portion of the old cabins such as I have drawn below. Our memories of the cabins are rich and lasting. A bus load of teens came in from New York. They had never seen a squirrel before. Our 2 children were about 10 and 7 and remember our vacation there. Staying in a cabin was a BIG DEAL to us from San Diego.

AL2000 - Alternatives - Relocate Cabins to Other Areas in Curry Village

Concern ID: 23529

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should consider relocating the cabins to other areas in or near Curry Village.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 3 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130273 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I hope that the cabins in the hazard zone will be moved to a safer location near the Village.

Corr. ID: 4 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130272 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: This said one scenario would be to relocate viable cabins (or ones deemed worth restoring) to safe sites in Curry Village and the rest removed and destroyed and the habitat Restored. To compensate for lost units they can be converted to tents and moved to camping areas that have seasons comparable to the camp ground they are moved to or all year if viably serviceable.
Corr. ID: 6 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130266 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Any historic structures worth saving should be relocated to another area within Curry Village or Yosemite Valley.
Corr. ID: 14 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130260 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would like to submit to the park superintendant an idea that the historic curry cabins that are currently out of bounds due to the recent rock fall be moved and maintained to an as yet to be determined spot at curry village. This way, the Curry Cabin at least, can be used as a docent office or put on display and be a part of the everyday life around Curry Village as it has been all of the past decades and allow new vistors (sic) to the park to see some of the wonderful history of that beautiful valley.

AL2050 - Alternatives - Do not relocate cabins into Curry Village

Concern ID: 23530

CONCERN STATEMENT: [The park should not relocate the cabins to other areas in Curry Village.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 10 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130234 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: No moved or replaced buildings should increase the footprint of Curry Village. It's already too big. It would be optimal to have any historic structures moved outside the rockfall zone, but it would not be good if they were moved in such a place as to increase the Village footprint.

AL3000 - Alternatives - Relocate Cabins to Other Areas in Yosemite Valley

Concern ID: 23531

CONCERN STATEMENT: [The park should relocate the cabins within Yosemite Valley, such as Housekeeping Camp or to be used as a museum in the Valley.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 3 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130274 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: If such a location is not practical, then placing them near Yosemite Lodge or the Housekeeping Cabins would be my next preference.
Corr. ID: 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130263 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Either that or replace what we have in Housekeeping with the wood structures from Curry.
Corr. ID: 17 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130258 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Perhaps one cabin could be saved as a "museum" in the valley, somewhere away from the hazard of falling boulders.

AL3025 - Alternatives - Relocate outside Yosemite Valley

Concern ID: 23920

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should relocate any historic structures outside Yosemite Valley.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley
Comment ID: 130401 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: consider relocation out of Yosemite valley of any historic structures in the rockfall hazard zone;
Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley
Comment ID: 130408 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: We support the re-location and re-use, outside of Yosemite Valley, of those structures which have real historic quality. We hope the EA will identify and consider saving any such buildings (which have do sub floor and foundation problems, and may be difficult to move) and act to preserve them. Saving what is most historic in Yosemite's built environment -- when not in conflict with preservation of natural systems, or the ORV's of the Merced River, should continue as a goal in Yosemite.

AL3050 - Alternatives - Do Not Relocate Cabins in Yosemite Valley

Concern ID: 23532

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should not relocate the cabins in Yosemite Valley.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130205 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: NO to relocating or reassembling any of the closed lodging units anywhere in Yosemite Valley or in the Merced River corridor.

AL3075 - Do Not Relocate Cabins in the Park

Concern ID: 23935

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should not relocate cabins within the park.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130422 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would prefer to take all of the cabins down and not replace them elsewhere in the park.

AL4000 - Alternatives - Relocate Cabins to Wawona

Concern ID: 23533

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should consider relocation of some structures to Wawona.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 2 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130278 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Perhaps they could be moved to the Wawona Valley and continue their useful life.
Corr. ID: 17 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130257 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I believe the placement of the cabins near Wawona is the best idea for these historic cabins.

Corr. ID: 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130188 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: Meanwhile, the Curry residence built in 1917 as highlighted in the original Nomination Form (and currently used for employee housing) may retain special historic status and might be more appropriately considered for removal and relocation to the Pioneer History Museum in Wawona.

AL5000 - Alternatives - Dispose of Cabins to the Public and/or Other Organizations Outside the Park

Concern ID: 23534
CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should consider disposing of the cabins to individuals and entities outside of the park.
Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 9 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130243 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would like to propose as part of the overall plan for resolving the Curry Village cabin issue that some portion of the cabins be offered to public to claim and remove at their expense. Certain criteria may need to be met including intended use, etc.
Corr. ID: 11 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130279 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I would like to offer my 25 acre ranch in Monterey County Ca as a relocation home for one or maybe two cabins if you feel there is a need for a good home.
Corr. ID: 13 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130261 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I wonder if it would be possible to dismantle and remove, at my expense, some of the cabins and relocate them on my land?
Corr. ID: 16 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130231 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: What about considering sending them to Haiti or Chile(sic)?
Corr. ID: 29 **Organization:** Yosemite Gateway Railway Museum
Comment ID: 130230 **Organization Type:** Non-Governmental
Representative Quote: I am writing to request if there is a change to acquire two to three of the cabins that are being considered for movement or demolition.

AL6000 - Alternatives - Salvage and Recycle Materials

Concern ID: 23535
CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should salvage and reuse materials from the cabins.
Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130190 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: We would, however, support recycling any reusable building materials for use in any repair or remodel projects-be they inside or outside the Park.
Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley
Comment ID: 130406 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: These cabins should be removed, and any historic material retained in the park, and usable materials offered to a recycler.

AL6500 - Alternatives - Increase Enforcement

Concern ID: 23936

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should increase park ranger presence to enforce the closure of the rock fall zone.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 31 **Organization:** Ahwahneechee Band of Paiutes

Comment ID: 130417 **Organization Type:** Tribal Government

Representative Quote: Increase park ranger presence to ward off curious on-lookers, vandals, and other persons who foster the intent to use the buildings for illicit purposes;

AL6800 - Alternatives - Stabilize Rock

Concern ID: 24002

CONCERN STATEMENT: One commenter provided two suggestions for stabilizing the rock.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 33 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 137546 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I have a suggestion for securing the falling rock. We had a problem similar (sic) to what you are facing only on a smaller scale. We had a highway (Hwy 94) that had falling rock and the only way to keep the whole mountain falling onto the hwy was to stabilize the rock. The hwy dept (Cal-Trans) sprayed all of the rocks that was falling with a concrete slurrery (sic) mix. The slurrery (sic) mix dried, hardened (sic), and the rocks haven't moved since that was about 10 years ago. I don't know how many rocks or how much of a mountain you would have to treat, but that would work to stabilize the falling rock. If there is a extremely large area, the cost would probably be too much. Another suggestion would be to install chain link fencing in the most dangerous areas. Many highways have this installed to keep rocks from reaching the roadway. Put the fencing in 2 or 3 areas up the hill.

AL7000 - Alternatives - Other Out of Scope

Concern ID: 23937

CONCERN STATEMENT: Several comments were submitted suggesting alternatives that are beyond the scope of this planning effort, as they do not meet the project's stated purpose and need.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 7 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130264 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would much rather spend the money to redevelop the Native American Village in the meadow across from the chapel. Kids can learn a lot more of the American heritage from the village than seeing some old buildings that were build in the early 1900s

Corr. ID: 25 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130223 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: PLEASE DO NOT get rid of any more camp sites in the valley. It has been very tough to vacation since you closed down upper and lower river campgrounds after they flooded at the end of the 1990's.

Corr. ID: 26 **Organization:** Target Marketing

Comment ID: 130216 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: I'd like to see some campgrounds reestablished which is a true Yosemite outdoor experience. However, tent cabins and modem lodging are important to service the wide range of visitors) especially for the elderly and those with disabled challenges.

Corr. ID: 27 **Organization:** *Not Specified*
Comment ID: 130229 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual
Representative Quote: I think perhaps a new campground near the Ahwahnee or the Lodge by the river would be great since the "bath cabins" I once cleaned are now gone, affordable accommodations in the park were needed back then as well as now. If these "tent cabins" could be relocated and placed high enough off the ground, perhaps with little all weather decks, this would appeal to many people from around the world. There were also the "lower" and upper campground affected by the flood of '97. A relocation with them build up would be a great asset to the Park.

Corr. ID: 31 **Organization:** Ahwahneechee Band of Paiutes
Comment ID: 130418 **Organization Type:** Tribal Government
Representative Quote: Relocate shuttle bus stops and tram stops away from Curry Village rock-fall zone to decrease likelihood of passersby becoming attracted to the unoccupied buildings.

Corr. ID: 31 **Organization:** Ahwahneechee Band of Paiutes
Comment ID: 130416 **Organization Type:** Tribal Government
Representative Quote: Consider removing Curry Village, in its entirety, including all portions within the and outside the updated and expanded rock-fall zone and relocating it, or rebuilding it outside of the rock-fall zone to decrease risk of bodily harm or death from falling rocks;

CC1000 - Consultation and Coordination: General Comments

Concern ID: 23960
CONCERN STATEMENT: Commenters requested to be a part of the consultation process to aid in the development of the environmental assessment.
Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 31 **Organization:** Ahwahneechee Band of Paiutes
Comment ID: 130420 **Organization Type:** Tribal Government
Representative Quote: we request to be a part of the consultation process, so that we might aid the NPS as outlined in this letter.

CR1000 - Cultural Resources: Guiding Policies, Regulations and Laws

Concern ID: 23938
CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should consult with appropriate tribal entities on this project.
Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 31 **Organization:** Ahwahneechee Band of Paiutes
Comment ID: 130412 **Organization Type:** Tribal Government
Representative Quote: ALL NECESSARY TRIBAL CONSULTATION PROCEDURES MUST BE ADHERED TO DURING THIS PROCESS, INCLUDING CONSULTATION WITH LINEAL DESCENDENTS PURSUANT TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, AND THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT.

Concern ID: 23939
CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should conduct an environmental assessment because of the area's historical significance.
Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 31 **Organization:** Ahwahneechee Band of Paiutes
Comment ID: 130413 **Organization Type:** Tribal Government
Representative Quote: Additionally, we agree in conducting this environmental assessment as a result of the boundary realignment of the rockfall hazard zone because Curry Village is a historically significant area. Proper consultation with interested Native parties as outlined in the previous section is required to ensure all

cultural significant issues are identified and addressed in a respectful manner, so that all cultural properties (above and below the ground) are protected and preserved.

IM1000 - Impacts of Alts - Cultural Resources

Concern ID: 23536

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should consider the effect that removal of these cabins will have on cultural and historic resources.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130186 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: So from an historic perspective, if the "significance of Camp Curry lies in its philosophy of providing low cost lodging" and individual structures (1918 to present) have "only minimal significance individually," it would appear that complete removal of 125 of the 126 closed hard-sided units will have no impact on the Camp Curry Historic Site. Furthermore, none of these cabins are examples of the historic "rustic style of architecture used in building construction...characterized by unpeeled logs and bark strips."

Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley

Comment ID: 130400 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: clearly separate those structures which have historic value from those which do not;

Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley

Comment ID: 130407 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: As with the tents, is important that the Park make clear how many of these are being removed, and what the immediate significance is to the landscape.

IM2000 - Impacts of Alts - Visitor Experience

Concern ID: 23537

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should consider how the alternatives will affect the availability of low-cost lodging for visitors.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 10 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130238 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: There is a dangerous shift toward high-clientele (read: high price tag) accommodations in Yosemite Valley which works against the park being for ALL the people. The ratio of tent cabins to hard-sided cabins should remain relatively the same to ensure that the historic character of Curry Village is retained, as well as to provide accommodations for middle-income families.

Corr. ID: 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130187 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Following removal, Curry will still have numerous tent cabins and hard-sided units available to visitors while continuing to offer the least expensive lodging option in the Park though "least expensive" is relative when one considers Park-wide lodging rates can go as high as \$1,100 per night

Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley

Comment ID: 130409 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: We think that the NPS should make clear what these accommodations - both tents and cabins -- cost during recent use. For us, as for those historians of the Curry landscape who have worked on the historic forms, there is agreement that the low-cost, popular, familial, and egalitarian

accommodation that these humble structures enabled is integral to what makes the Curry landscape what it is. Direct reference to low-cost units should serve as a useful referent to planners in the immediate future who will shape the patterns of affordability and the type of accommodations available in Yosemite Valley.

Corr. ID: 32

Organization: Friends of Yosemite Valley

Comment ID: 130403

Organization Type: Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: discuss the relation of these structures to the affordability, and the family-friendly quality which is central to what Curry has always been.

Concern ID:

23565

**CONCERN
STATEMENT:**

The park should not further reduce visitor lodging.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 21

Organization: Not Specified

Comment ID: 130286

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Preserving one or more historic cabins is worthwhile, but don't lose sight of the urgent need to replace lost visitor lodging.

Corr. ID: 25

Organization: Not Specified

Comment ID: 130224

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please strike a balance between restoration and public use. There is obviously a smaller (but very loud) group who wants to severely restrict national park use to only "their" idea of use; conditions are improving under the current restrictions, so PLEASE DON'T get crazy and restrict our vacation options even more.

Concern ID:

23567

**CONCERN
STATEMENT:**

The park should realize that leaving cabins decaying in the hazard zone does not contribute to the visitor experience.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 6

Organization: Not Specified

Comment ID: 130268

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I love Curry Village, but I wouldn't enjoy witnessing the decay of unusable cabins or tents within the rock slide zone.

Concern ID:

23587

**CONCERN
STATEMENT:**

The park should consider the value of the Curry Village experience to visitors.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 3

Organization: Not Specified

Comment ID: 130275

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I do hope the cabins will be preserved for future use by families like my own.

IM3000 - Impacts of Alts - Socioeconomics

Concern ID:

23538

**CONCERN
STATEMENT:**

The park should consider the benefits to the local economy of allowing others to use these structures outside the park.

Representative Quote(s):

Corr. ID: 9

Organization: Not Specified

Comment ID: 130244

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Stimulates the local economy and encourages local private enterprise.

Corr. ID: 9

Organization: Not Specified

Comment ID: 130245

Organization Type: Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Save public funds that would be spent on labor

demolishing the cabins

IM4000 - Impacts of Alts - Natural Resources

Concern ID: 23539

CONCERN STATEMENT: The park should consider how removal of the structures will enhance natural processes and natural resources.

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 24 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130225 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The recent rock fall at Curry Village is a good opportunity to take advantage of the natural processes that occur within the park and re-naturalize the area. Yosemite is a highly developed National Park and any opportunity to restore natural conditions should be taken advantage of.

Corr. ID: 24 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130228 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Please think of how the removal of the Curry Village structures will benefit both the public and natural environment.

IM7000 - Impacts of Alts - Park Operations, Employee Housing

Concern ID: 23541

CONCERN STATEMENT: [The park should consider how the alternatives affect the availability of employee housing in the Valley.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 1 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130282 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: But please do not take away yet more DNC housing without replacing it. There are simple solutions to this with logical locations in the valley for replacement housing. We have lost a lot of housing since the flood. Let's not make this worse, let's make it safer + better at the same time.

PI1000 - Public Involvement - Scoping Process

Concern ID: 23542

CONCERN STATEMENT: [Commenters provided suggestions regarding the public scoping process.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 8 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130280 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: I would like to suggest that the park enable internet technology for the public open house on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Valley Visitor Center Auditorium in Yosemite Valley.

The majority of park visitors and those interested in the subject live in the greater San Francisco Bay Los Angeles areas. Travel to the park to participate is unrealistic. I suggest that WebEx, GoToMeting or similar conference products be set up to permit them to gather real time inputs and provide comments in a dynamic manner.

Corr. ID: 10 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130240 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: It would have been helpful, by the way, for the NPS to have included in the Fact Sheet an illustration, map or list of affected buildings. It's difficult to comment on the desire to demolish buildings unless we know what buildings we're talking about.

PL1000 - Planning - Park Purpose & Mission

Concern ID: 23543

CONCERN STATEMENT: [The park should consider what is consistent with its mission.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 24 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130226 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The structures found in Curry Village are non-essential to the National Park Mission or management

PL2000 - Planning - Relationship to Merced River Plan

Concern ID: 23544

CONCERN STATEMENT: [The park should not make any decisions that predetermine the outcome of the Merced River Plan.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130206 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: NO to predetermining potential relocation of any of the closed lodging units as a means of informing (poisoning) the planning process for the new Merced River Plan.

Corr. ID: 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130189 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Moreover, since the Park is in the throws (sic) of developing a new Merced River Plan, of which a foundational element will be the establishment of a numerical user capacity, none of these hard-sided units should be relocated (or destined for relocation) anywhere else in Yosemite Valley or within the Merced River Corridor. Any decision otherwise would foster the perception of a predetermined "agenda," thereby poisoning the new Plan and the planning process

Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley

Comment ID: 130404 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: acknowledge that a valid CMP for the Merced River should first provide a context for any consideration of lodging and visitor use in the Curry area, and that this should preclude "shifting" rockfall-zone lodging to other areas at this time.

Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley

Comment ID: 130410 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: The NPS should not shift or replace the Rockfall Zone units elsewhere in Yosemite Valley, as it might alter or predetermine the outcome of user capacity studies which will form the basis of the Merced plan.

PL3000 - Planning - Relationship to Settlement Agreement

Concern ID: 23545

CONCERN STATEMENT: [The park should comply with the settlement agreement on the Merced River Plan.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130184 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: The Agreement already authorizes the "planned removal of 108 tents used for visitor accommodations" (i.e., removal not relocation). So those units should no longer be considered part of this project.

PN1000 - Purpose and Need - Remove Cabins due to Safety Risks

Concern ID: 23546

CONCERN STATEMENT: [The park should remove structures in the rockfall zone to reduce safety risks.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 1 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130281 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: If the housing in Curry Village is in a danger zone, remove it; historical or not.

Corr. ID: 26 **Organization:** Target Marketing

Comment ID: 130214 **Organization Type:** Business

Representative Quote: As much as I would hate to see such drastic changes as removing and relocating the historic buildings, I believe this is what needs to happen. There were several times when living in 90A that I felt my life in danger, whether it would be rock slides or snow slides. I even remember sleeping in the living room because I was afraid to be in the back bedroom (as if that would make any difference).

Corr. ID: 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130191 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As to concerns about "inherent safety risks associated with unauthorized visitor access to the closed rockfall hazard zone," more signs and more fencing are not the answer. Removal of the closed facilities and the fence as soon as possible (during the off-season to be least disruptive) and allowing the area to return to natural conditions will not only remove an eyesore but will reduce the magnetic draw of the "disaster" for curiosity seekers.

Corr. ID: 31 **Organization:** Ahwahneechee Band of Paiutes

Comment ID: 130419 **Organization Type:** Tribal Government

Representative Quote: It is our wish that the NPS is successful in protecting the health and safety of Yosemite visitors, and we give our support as such.

Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley

Comment ID: 130398 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation

Representative Quote: We are concerned that planners would:
o remove units now abandoned from the rockfall hazard zone, which now are attractive to children and others, and are not safe.

PN2000 - Purpose and Need - Remove Cabins to Prevent Damage to Historic Resources

Concern ID: 23948

CONCERN STATEMENT: [The park should remove Curry Village to mitigate risks to historic structures.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130421 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: As long as Curry Village is located at the base, all structures historic or otherwise will be at risk? There is no mitigation for that short of complete removal of the entire complex.

PN4000 - Purpose and Need - Clarify Purpose and Need

Concern ID: 23547

CONCERN STATEMENT: [The park should clarify the purpose and need for the project.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130193 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: Another issue that's been raised is how to "minimize the potential for further loss of historically significant structures and/or features that contribute to the Curry Village Historic District." The intent of this concern is unclear.

- Is it about how to fortify buildings or slopes so that future rockfalls will not take out more structures? OR
- Is it about the seeming erosion of structures/features that comprise the Curry Village Historic District due to flood, fire, or rockfall that might potentially impact the overall historic integrity of the site?

Corr. ID: 32 **Organization:** Friends of Yosemite Valley

Comment ID: 130399 **Organization Type:** Conservation/Preservation
Representative Quote: very clearly define the number and type of structures in question;

PN5000 - Purpose and Need - Other

Concern ID: 23548

CONCERN STATEMENT: [The park should preserve the historic role of Curry Village in providing low-cost lodging.](#)

Representative Quote(s): **Corr. ID:** 28 **Organization:** *Not Specified*

Comment ID: 130208 **Organization Type:** Unaffiliated Individual

Representative Quote: YES to adhering to the National Register Nomination Forms that seek to preserve the historic low-cost camp ideal of Curry Village while continuing to acknowledge that individual structures have minimal significance.