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# YOSEMITE NP

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## Interpretive Prospectus

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## Harpers Ferry Center

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INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

DIVISION OF INTERPRETIVE PLANNING

HARPERS FERRY CENTER

MARCH 1983

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## FOREWORD

Yosemite is truly a park for all people throughout all seasons. It is a wilderness park. Yet, in many respects, it is an urban park with characteristic urban problems. In terms of resource significance and variety, and the range of options and opportunities available to visitors, Yosemite is perhaps unexcelled. Few areas in the National Park System attract as many people of such varied backgrounds to pursue such a diverse scope of interests.

## INTRODUCTION

There are critically important roles for interpretive media at Yosemite. The park's General Management Plan furnishes clear direction for meeting interpretive media needs:

"Visitor information and orientation are critical. These services are proposed to be decentralized and provided where they can best serve visitor needs--through the public media, at urban and regional information/reservation centers, and at park entrances and developed areas. Informing people prior to their visit will allow them more time to enjoy the park and free park space for other uses. Emphasis will be given to informing special populations, such as the physically disabled, foreign visitors, the young, and senior citizens, of the activities available to them."

"Interpretive programs will be provided to satisfy the mental, emotional, and physical needs of a variety of visitors who have different educational and socioeconomic backgrounds, physical skills, and social and recreational interests. Facilities and media that provide interpretation for people with different educational and socioeconomic backgrounds simultaneously (such as personal services and museums) will be emphasized to reach a wider spectrum of interest levels and to stimulate growth and understanding."

These objectives present unique challenges for media planners and designers, especially in this period of economic restraint and shrinking staffs. This prospectus attempts to address those challenges with vision and imaginative insight.

## PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

### The Rationale

This prospectus is an extensive package of proposals for facilities and media development. Yet, the magnitude and complexity of Yosemite--its geographic size, dramatic scenery, intricate ecosystems, seasonal changes and variations in conditions, a broad variety of services, land-use patterns that exemplify both the pressure of intensive urban development and the pristine character of wilderness, and a diverse mix of visitors personifying a wide range of interests, physical abilities, values, perceptions, responses, and behaviors--and the spectrum of uses and activities that stem from those perspectives--require an array of approaches to meet the needs and objectives identified by park management for interpretation and information services.

The proposals presented in this plan will be implemented incrementally in phases. The phasing sequence and projected time frames are based on a determination of high-priority needs; relative costs and practicability; the need for developmental or prototype testing of some components, notably the proposed videodisc systems, to assess their feasibility and cost effectiveness in trial stages before committing the full investment; and the necessity to mesh interpretive development packages with the timetable and strategy for implementation of the park's General Management Plan.

Some projects described in the plan are long-range objectives that one or more of these constraints will preclude from materializing within the next five years. A time frame of five to ten years for those developments, specified in the "Outline of Media and Cost Estimates", is a more realistic projection.

Short-range options that fall within the five-year criterion are listed in the outline with cost estimates whereas cost figures for the long-range projects would be premature and, to some degree, conjectural.

Although the total projected cost of the proposed facilities and media is apparently unprecedented for the National Park Service, the needs in Yosemite--an international showcase and model--warrant the investment. The bulk (more than half) of the cost is attributable to three packages: the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and two theme museums that will offer in-depth interpretation and help sharpen the focus of the park experience for countless visitors. Most important, these complexes will provide the insight and perspective needed to pursue that experience safely and with less impact on park resources. They will strengthen understanding of management policies and the ecological processes and interrelationships that furnish the rationales for management programs and decisions. They should help redirect visitor behavior and channel activities into appropriate avenues. In essence, they will help visitors better understand how and why parks are managed as they are and specifically why Yosemite is such a special place that requires personal care and stewardship.

Moreover, the anticipated phasing structure, i.e., systematic, sequential adoption of components in increments, will spread the investment over a ten year period. Provisions for staging some of the more novel or speculative elements, notably the videodisc systems, will permit trial testing and refinement, thereby assuring cost effectiveness and functional performance before expanding the level and scope of application. Evaluated in this context, the prospectus assumes a distinction of pragmatism and sensibility



as well as exciting prospects. In meeting the management needs and objectives cited previously, this investment should yield a net monetary savings to the National Park Service in the long run.

Finally, the plan is congruent with the Director's commitment to restore and revitalize NPS interpretation, assigning it the Service's highest funding priority for FY 1984. Implemented strategically, it offers the promise of enormous benefit--to NPS operations, visitor experiences, and most important, the sublime resources of Yosemite National Park.

### The Needs

Interpretive media must confront issues and satisfy needs that were less crucial or non-existent 15 years ago when the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center was built--increases in off-season visitation, visitor diversity and activity options, backcountry use, resource damage, and visitor accidents; a heightened public profile in law enforcement and resources management; shifts in visitor-use and distribution patterns; changes in visitor perceptions of park values and expectations for their park experience; and changes in physical developments and logistical options (e.g., implementation of alternate transportation systems in Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees, closure of some parking areas, conversion of Yosemite Village to a pedestrian mall, establishment of one-way traffic flow on Valley roads). Tradition remains a strong element--indeed, a fixture--in Yosemite, yet countless variances and spinoffs from tradition have emerged as this continually expanding mix of factors has evolved. Collectively they account for what has become some dramatic deficits in meeting the needs for effective and influential communication with visitors. Existing media--which must play a pivotal role in reaching visitors in light

of the shrinkage in personal-service programs--do not and cannot fill this void. Many are outdated, antiquated, poorly designed by contemporary standards, in poor repair, limited or narrow in scope, inflexible, or incapable of communicating the volume and variety of information now required to fulfill interpretation's role as a management instrument.

Interpretive media must meet the following criteria:

- high reliability
- high flexibility, capable of being used in a variety of on- and off-site settings
- capability in multilingual communication
- capacity to handle and process large volumes of information and provide it quickly on demand
- capable of interacting directly with visitors with no staff involvement
- reduce rather than increase the need for additional staff
- provide high quality presentations
- technologically reliable and cost effective
- capacity to change and update information

Computer-controlled videodisc systems, it appears, offer the only feasible option that can realistically meet the needs and criteria identified, and this prospectus recommends extensive application of videodisc technology for a variety of informational and interpretive presentations. While the total cost for full implementation of these systems seems high, the phasing sequence described previously will permit systematic testing of the systems and evaluation of their effectiveness at several interim levels. The

advantages of videodisc are noteworthy:

- availability of both interactive systems that allow user input and response and non-interactive systems that will present pre-programmed information or interpretive vignettes
- random access and instant retrieval of information, a particularly appealing feature in light of the barrage of questions typically processed by the Valley Visitor Center
- enormous information storage capacity
- multilingual capability in the non-interactive systems
- higher reliability than videotape (less frequent breakdowns or malfunctions but can be repaired within 72 hours when they do)
- less costly to maintain than videotape
- equipment less expensive than videotape hardware
- fewer units needed (one backup unit per 10 on-line units is sufficient compared to 1:3 ratio for videotape)
- capacity to serve as a tool for the experienced interpretive staff, providing quick access to a broad range of information not readily retrievable through existing systems, and as a ready source of information for new or untrained personnel
- no degradation in the visual quality of videodisc (videotape requires replacement after 1400 hours of use at \$60-\$90 per tape)
- software production costs equivalent to videotape
- printout capability
- potential to provide visitor data based on user responses and choices, permitting management to assess their expect-

tations and interests and to alter or revise presentations to reflect that input.

A "first" within the Service will be the integration of videodisc with museum exhibit elements, a melding concept applied effectively in the Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum. Although the NPS already has seven videodisc systems in operation in other parks, the scale and scope of treatment envisioned for Yosemite are unprecedented. Consequently, the Yosemite proposal is viewed as a pilot project, the systems are prototypes with exciting and far-reaching potential for Servicewide application.

Although yet to be demonstrated through experimental use, it appears that videodisc offers the prospect of performing efficiently the aforementioned critical operational functions that cannot adequately be met with existing resources or information systems. Should the trial period confirm this expectation, visitors will be better served and the National Park Service will increase significantly its effectiveness in carrying out its public-service mission.

#### The Visitors

During the past few years, annual visitation has ranged from 2½ to 2-3/4 million, including approximately 30,000 disabled visitors, 240,000 minority visitors, and 500,000 international visitors, 275,000 of whom are non-English speaking.

Approximately one-half of Yosemite's visitors remain in the park more than one day. Seasonal use variations are:

Summer	47%
Fall	25%
Winter	9.5%
Spring	18.5%

Visitation to Yosemite Valley is generally heavy from Easter until late October. School group visits are heaviest during spring and concentrate most of their impact in Yosemite Valley and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center at Wawona. The park's Annual Statement for Interpretation contains additional data on visitor use.

#### Cooperation with Other Agencies

Yosemite is surrounded by land administered by the U.S. Forest Service, and it will be necessary to enlist the U.S.F.S.'s cooperation and perhaps collaboration in placing interpretive media in any of its facilities or on the various approach roads to the park.

In developing outreach information facilities in Fresno, Los Angeles, and the Bay Area, the park staff will need to work with various State offices as well as other Federal agencies.

Yosemite's interpretive staff has already established close ties with the Oakland Museum, especially in producing exhibits for Happy Isles Nature Center, Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center, and in other projects related to Sierran ecology. This relationship should be maintained, and Harpers Ferry Center media designers are encouraged to take advantage of this advisory resource.

## Summary of Existing Media Problems and Needs

### - Decentralized orientation/information services:

Most Yosemite visitors arrive without planned itineraries, and about half of them are short-term visitors who spend one day or less in the park. By the time these visitors locate a park orientation facility, obtain needed information, and formulate their plans, they have lost a significant portion of their time for experiencing the park. This situation imposes negative impacts on visitors, park resources, park management, and the park staff.

### - Minimum impact:

Resource degradation ranks high on management's list of concerns. Environmental damage cannot be attributed solely to overuse. An equally important factor is that a large portion of visitors cause unintentional damage through ignorance or insensitivity to their impact potential. This plan proposes media developments designed to help visitors acquire a responsible park ethic and provide them with ample opportunities to learn minimum-impact skills.

### - Natural history interpretation:

No single place offers visitors to Yosemite in-depth interpretation of its major natural history subjects. Existing interpretive centers--the Valley Visitor Center, Happy Isles Nature Center, and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center--are too small or specialized to provide in-depth interpretation of the park's several major natural history themes. The spacious, conveniently located Administration Building in Yosemite Valley is proposed for development as the park's

principal natural history theme museum.

- Cultural history interpretation:

The situation for cultural history interpretation is similar to that for natural history. Several existing facilities deal with various aspects of cultural history--the Indian Cultural Museum in the Valley District Building, the model Indian Village behind the Valley Visitor Center, and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center at Wawona--but none of them comprehensively presents the full spectrum of human activity in Yosemite from prehistory to the present. Moreover, the staff presently has only limited means to make the park's extensive museum collections available to visitors. This prospectus, in accordance with the General Management Plan, proposes to develop the Valley District Building into Yosemite's historical theme museum. This structure will also house the park's museum collections.

- Wayside exhibits:

Most of Yosemite's waysides date back to the early 1960's, and a parkwide Wayside Exhibit Plan has never been prepared. The early waysides are poorly designed by today's standards, and additional pressing wayside needs should now be addressed as well. This prospectus contains a comprehensive list of proposed waysides which should be sufficient well into the 1990's.

- Yosemite Valley Visitor Center:

The park's most important contact facility, the Valley Visitor Center, is poorly designed and equipped to function efficiently as its principal information/orientation center. Problems related to visitor sequencing, ineffective orientation media, exhibit content/design, congestion result-

ing from conflicting functions, auditorium acoustics, and other concerns are addressed in this document.

- Special populations:

The special needs of several categories of Yosemite visitors have been considered throughout the planning process. Specific groups include non-English speaking, senior citizens, disabled visitors, and youth.

- Wawona:

Wawona is the site of two important interpretive developments. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is heavily used by a wide spectrum of visitors and is a primary destination for organized school groups. Its most pressing media needs involve upgrading existing interpretive presentations.

Hill Studio and the adjacent Wawona Hotel complex (still in operation) constitute the other significant cultural resources in the area. This plan contains proposals for restoration and use of Hill Studio.

- El Portal

El Portal--the future site of a community that will comprise parkwide management and support functions, services, and NPS/concession employee housing--is the traditional "Gateway to Yosemite." Transportation is the primary interpretive theme.

- Mariposa Grove

Yosemite's three Giant Sequoia groves are among its most important natural resources. Mariposa Grove is developed to accommodate large numbers of visitors on a regular basis. Media proposals include



improvements of the Mariposa Grove Museum exhibits, new waysides, and development of an interpretive contact station, including an audiovisual facility, at nearby South Entrance.

- Glacier Point:

Glacier Point's easy accessibility and magnificent views of both the Valley and high country make it an extremely popular, heavily used area. A new access trail to the Point from the parking area, a new sewage system and restrooms, road improvements, and a new railing have recently been developed, and new concession facilities are scheduled for construction in FY 1983. Interpretive media needs include new wayside exhibits to replace some existing ones, interpretive signs along the new trail, and upgrading of the interpretive program site.

- Happy Isles Nature Center:

Happy Isles is a family-oriented nature center, and that emphasis will be retained. Interpretive media there will highlight the pleasures of family sharing in a natural setting and promote safe, appropriate family activities that enhance discovery of wilderness values.

- Interpretive media proposals have also been developed for entrance stations, campground amphitheaters, theme trails, the Tuolumne Meadows area, and other park facilities.

## INTERPRETIVE THEMES

The 1978 Yosemite "Interpretive Study" contains the following excellent statement of interpretive themes:

"Interpretation will explore Yosemite from the perspectives of its scenery, its natural history, its cultural history, and its wilderness and recreational values. Each of these themes will be developed in depth with the best possible interpretive facilities and programs. The number of facilities and programs planned for each theme is based on the relative importance of associated resources at Yosemite, with most being devoted to scenery, then natural history, then wilderness conservation, then human history. Although only a small number of facilities will be obviously devoted to the interpretation of recreation, this theme is integral to all park activities. Different themes will be emphasized in the various areas of the park, depending on the special attributes of each area. The scope of each of the park's interpretive themes is defined below.

### Scenery

The unique and spectacular visual attributes of Yosemite:

The classic views of domes, cliffs, meadows, forests, rivers and waterfalls in Yosemite Valley

The awesome views of the High Sierra, with its towering peaks, ridges, deep canyons, lakes and streams, meadows, forests, and Giant Sequoia groves

The nighttime sky

The geologic processes that created the landscape

Artistic and philosophical perceptions of Yosemite

#### Natural History

The natural processes that modify the land, the life forms that occupy it, and the interrelationships that govern it:

The geologic land base and its origins, evolution, composition, processes, and present forms; its characteristics (attributes, tolerances and capacities); and its geologic future

The climatic variations of the High Sierra (its winds, temperatures, sunshine, clouds, rain, and snowfall); the changing seasons; and their effect upon communities of living things, including man

Yosemite's plants and animals; their interdependence as inhabitants of intricately balanced communities; endangered species and the uncertainty of survival facing all species

#### Wilderness Conservation

The intangible and tangible values:

The concept of wilderness, what it is in terms of both the environment and the mind; the principles of conservation and their scientific basis

The human uses of wilderness; the human valuation of wilderness (social and personal, spiritual, and physical); the scientific value of wilderness; the myriad forms of exploitation and their consequences; choices and alternatives; the need for and impact of resources management activities

The history of the wilderness idea and the conservation movement; early wilderness advocates; the men instrumental in preserving Yosemite; the establishment and early administration of the park

#### People and Yosemite

Different times, different cultures, different values, different impacts:

The cultures of Native Americans in Yosemite before and after European contact, their lives and settlements, their material and social cultures, their values, their fate and their future

Western people in Yosemite, their attitudes and how these attitudes influenced their uses of Yosemite

#### Recreation

Yosemite as a special place for recreation:

The human need for physical and mental recreation

Balancing preservation of Yosemite's resources with appropriate uses of the land

Recreational programs that promote doing, thinking,  
dreaming, being."

## THE PLAN

### Pre-production Study

As indicated in the section, "Planning Considerations", videodisc technology is proposed for a variety of informational and interpretive presentations at Yosemite. The two basic modes of proposed videodisc applications are interactive and non-interactive. The interactive mode involves uniting two or more videodisc players with a computer. Users interact with the videodisc by making selections from different options, much in the same manner one uses a plant identification key. This arrangement allows virtually any volume of information (depending on the number of videodisc players linked into the system) to be integrated into the system and makes any part of the information immediately available to the user.

The second mode is non-interactive and involves only one videodisc player with no computer hookup. Visitors simply start the program and view a fixed presentation. The amount of program time available on one side of a videodisc, about 30 minutes, is an inherent limitation, but the system is useful for its intended purpose.

The pre-production study is needed to:

- determine exactly how the two types of videodisc stations should be designed
- work closely with the park staff to identify and gather the substantial volume of information to be put into both interactive and non-interactive systems
- determine accurate cost estimates for the hardware and software components of both systems

The study will also determine how to integrate videodisc systems into exhibits effectively. It is essential that the two media be synchronized to serve the multiplicity of visitors' orientation and interpretive needs.

The end product of the pre-production study will be a written document which:

- furnishes all the technical design details of the two videodisc systems
- documents with conceptual design drawings, the exhibit elements
- includes accurate cost estimates for all audiovisual and museum exhibit components
- outlines all the information--written, verbal, and graphic--to be programmed into each videodisc system
- documents the results of a six-month test of hardware on the proposed interactive disc stations
- serves as a "marketing survey" that assesses visitor response to this approach

The scope of information derived from this study will have value far beyond Yosemite's borders. As stated in the section, "Planning Considerations", the results will be potentially applicable to any future projects in parks proposing to use videodisc technology.

#### Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

The Valley Visitor Center contains a lobby (approx. 960 sq. ft.), a large, irregular shaped exhibit space (approx. 3,600 sq. ft.), two auditoriums,

and the park dispatch/switchboard center. Its primary functions include information/orientation, interpretation, publications sales, and the issuance of wilderness permits.

The relatively small lobby contains an information desk, the park's largest association sales outlet, a small storage room for printed materials and supplies, and space for backcountry trip planning. The exhibit room contains a disjointed assortment of exhibits that superficially interpret a variety of natural and cultural history themes, principally Valley scenery and geology, and wall space for rotating fine-arts displays.

West Auditorium is used daily to show the park's orientation slide program and the locally produced sound-and-light show on a regularly scheduled basis. Catholic masses are held in West Auditorium on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings year-round. East Auditorium is used intermittently but frequently for special A/V presentations, programs, meetings, community functions, social events, and recreational activities.

The Valley Visitor Center presents media producers with a variety of design challenges:

- The fundamental problem is that the visitor center is not designed to function as an efficient, effective visitor-service facility. Without adequate nearby parking space, it is difficult for first-time visitors to find.
- The lobby is too small to accommodate all existing functions effectively. The wilderness permit function often causes serious congestion in and around the lobby space.



- Storage space for supplies is inadequate.
- Museum exhibitry lacks focus (too many themes and subjects), has no continuity of design, and appears cluttered and discordant.
- Both auditoriums suffer from poor acoustics and poor air circulation. The heating systems are temperamental and air conditioning is non-existent.
- Both auditoriums have a mix of standard and non-standard AV equipment and wiring, causing recurring maintenance problems and down time.
- The space occupied by the dispatch and switchboard operations can be more effectively used for visitor services, and those functions can be performed more efficiently elsewhere.

Audiovisuals:

Plan, design, and produce hardware and software for ten interactive videodisc stations. These stations will enable long-term (more than one day) visitors to plan their experiences by selecting from a wide range of choices the activities they would like to pursue. The videodisc will provide all the basic information needed to plan a safe, high-quality visit tailored to individual interests and desires. If economically and technologically feasible, these stations should provide at least some information in five languages--English, French, German, Spanish, and Japanese. A strong statement promoting minimum impact will be included in the program.

Plan and produce hardware and software for five non-interactive videodisc stations targeted for visitors who have only one day to spend in Yosemite. The program content will be fixed and will recommend one-day options that will yield maximum benefits. Five minutes long, it will be available in five languages (English, French, German, Spanish, and Japanese).

Upgrade the projection booths in East and West Auditoriums and standardize the equipment and wiring. This will be a programmed Audiovisual Depot upgrade. Procure and install two wireless microphone systems (one for each auditorium), including solid-state amplification. Analyze the acoustical characteristics in both East and West Auditoriums and take the actions needed to improve their acoustical quality.

A total of 15 (ten interactive and five non-interactive) videodisc stations are proposed for the Valley Visitor Center. Initially only six interactive units will be installed to permit testing and an evaluation of their effectiveness. Should this trial application prove the systems viable and functional, the number of stations may be expanded to as many as ten. A recent recommendation by a professional computer programs designer and consultant supports the planning team's premise that this level of videodisc development is needed to serve the high volume of use in Yosemite's primary information facility.

#### Museum Exhibits:

Plan and produce exhibit elements, to be integrated with the videodisc stations, that provide a first-level overview of the park's major features and interpretive themes--flora, fauna, geology, wilderness, Indian culture, and post-Indian history.

Redesign the lobby to perform the information/orientation and association sales functions more effectively. Important factors include removal of the wilderness permit operation from the visitor center and sequencing of visitors through the facility. Consideration will be given to relocating the YNHA sales outlet, perhaps to the area now occupied by the dispatch center, and information desk to improve sequencing. The redesign will include necessary furnishings and decor, fitting the existing modular information desk and sales display cabinets into the new layout.

#### Valley Wilderness Permit Station

Relocation of the wilderness permit function from the Valley Visitor Center is a crucial step in reducing congestion. About 1,000 square feet of space near the visitor center is needed. This need can be met by converting the nearby Art Activity Center into the Valley Wilderness Permit Station and relocating the AAC to another facility, yet to be determined, that can serve as a support base.

Interpretive media in the station will include audiovisual and museum exhibit elements. Exhibits on wilderness ethics, minimum impact, bear management, backcountry use policies, and appropriate equipment should have a flexible format to reflect seasonal variations in conditions and options.

One interactive videodisc station will provide information about backcountry use, trail options, bear encounters, minimum impact, and safety precautions. Employing a quiz approach, the program will correct misconceptions and misunderstanding of backcountry management policies, safety rules, and resource concerns.

The facility will also contain an association sales outlet which offers items specifically related to backcountry use, such as maps and trail guides.

### Historical Theme Museum

Yosemite's historical theme museum will be developed in the Valley District Building. This large, three-story structure contains approximately 4,000 square feet on the ground floor, 4,800 square feet on the second floor, and 1,300 square feet in the attic.

The museum, with a capacity of 250 people per hour, will house exhibits and audiovisual media which communicate the history of people in Yosemite and the evolution of the National Park idea as it was applied here.

The ground floor will be devoted largely to interpretation of the Native Americans who inhabited the Valley. In essence, the present Indian Cultural Museum will be expanded. Interpretive presentations that will display representative artifacts and objects in the park's museum collections will portray development of the material and social culture of the Ahwahneechees from their prehistoric Miwok and Paiute roots to contemporary times. The Indian Garden and Village located behind the building will be retained and upgraded, and the museum will be the primary entrance to the garden.

An association sales facility will be strategically located on the ground floor. Publications relevant to the park's cultural history and selected general park publications will be offered.

The lobby will be equipped to provide basic information about park activities and will serve as the starting point for a self-guiding trail with a cultural history theme.

Post-Indian history will be interpreted on the second floor, again making the fullest possible use of the park's outstanding museum collections. By examining the roles of the Mariposa Battalion, explorers and pathfinders, settlers, artists, photographers, vacationers, innkeepers, Army custodians, National Park rangers and managers, John Muir, Galen Clark, Frederick Law Olmsted and James Hutchings, exhibit and AV media will focus on topics such as the first entry into the Valley, early attempts at commercial use, grazing and agricultural uses, and the establishment and evolution of the park.

Some second floor space will be developed as a temporary or rotating exhibit area to be used by the park staff for in-depth interpretation of appropriate cultural history themes. This space, where exhibits will change periodically, will be especially important in making a wide range of items in Yosemite's museum collections available for visitors to see.

An appropriate space in the museum will be designated as a rotating gallery for historic works of graphic art, including photographs as well as paintings.

Except for natural history specimens, the museum collections will remain in this building. The principal storage room will be remodeled to incorporate visual display. Adequate office and work space for the curatorial staff will be included in the building's redesign.

The museum's third floor, now an attic, will be designed as a work area for research, study, and some storage. Suitably furnished and environmentally controlled, a portion of this floor will be available to serious researchers on a controlled-access basis. Part of the space will be sealed off for use as a fumigation area.

Audiovisual media will consist of three videodisc presentations:

- A 2-3-minute photomontage of activity-oriented material showing visitors from different periods using Yosemite's resources. This will be integrated into museum exhibit elements with the same themes.
- A presentation which features Indian living arts, including food preparation, basket-making, obsidian-flaking, and tool-making.
- An interactive archival videodisc which visually catalogs the museum collections as well as Yosemite-related items in other collections. This videodisc installation will be for internal use and appropriate research.

High-priority design concerns for the building and its contents include:

- a cohesive merger of the exhibit and audiovisual components,
- the concept of multiple-depth interpretation,
- provisions for meeting foreign-language needs,
- closed-captioning needs,
- accessibility for orthopedically disabled visitors,
- security and environmental controls for the entire building,
- integration of museum objects into the exhibits to the fullest possible extent where appropriate to themes and subjects, and
- adequate storage and curatorial work space with controlled access.

#### Natural History Theme Museum

The present administration building will be developed into the park's major natural history theme museum. This large, three-story building contains

approximately 6,000 square feet on the ground floor, 4,200 square feet on the second floor, and 1,500 square feet of attic space.

The museum, with a capacity of about 250 people per hour, will house exhibits and audiovisual media portraying the geological and biological features in the Valley and the processes they reflect. Media will stress the inter-relationships governing natural systems--how geological processes create features that are the base for biotic communities and how the multitude of biological processes regulating these communities contribute to alterations of the landscape. The park will be depicted as a component of the Sierra Nevada, influenced by regional forces. The roles of such basic processes as fire, glaciation, succession, weathering, erosion, weather, and population dynamics will be presented. As in the historical theme museum, the concept of multiple-depth interpretation should guide media designers and planners. In addition to exhibit space, the ground floor will contain:

- a lobby equipped to provide basic information about park activities and which will serve as the starting point for a self-guiding loop trail with a natural-history theme,
- and an association sales facility that offers publications relevant to the Valley's natural-history themes and selected general park publications.

A lounge area will also be developed on the second floor. Some space in this area will be reserved for temporary, changeable natural history exhibits to be developed by the park staff.

The park Research Library, Record Center, herbarium, and natural history collections will be housed in the museum. Space for a rotating gallery of natural-history-related works of art will be included in the museum's design. The same design concerns (ref. p. 26) listed for the historical theme museum apply equally to the natural history theme museum.

Audiovisual media will consist of two types of videodisc presentations:

- Non-interactive programs which feature interpretation of natural processes, such as glaciation, lake/meadow/forest/succession, and fire.
- An interactive videodisc presentation, with interpretive applications, designed in a video-game format. The concept is to provide a variety of learning opportunities that will foster a responsible wilderness ethic and an understanding of basic forces and processes, minimum-impact techniques, and resources management policies. Visitor responses will be monitored electronically to provide insights into visitor attitudes, values, and learning comprehension, thus offering a measure or index of media effectiveness.

#### Happy Isles Nature Center

The Happy Isles facility will be rehabilitated and interpretive media upgraded to complete its conversion to a family-oriented nature center. It should accommodate approximately 100 visitors per hour.

New exhibits and audiovisual presentations will be designed especially for children, emphasizing sensory awareness and hands-on involvement to build an understanding of ecological concepts represented by resources in the



Happy Isles area. Use of the small auditorium for a variety of films and slide shows will be continued.

Some specific media needs include:

- audiovisual booth upgrade
- a small, low-profile planetarium portraying the night sky as a component of the natural systems
- exhibits which deal with the natural world at night
- two videodisc presentations, one an interactive system designed as a teaching machine which stresses understanding of basic biological and geological concepts and a non-interactive program to promote family sharing and learning in a wilderness environment.

In general, the nature center will remain an interpretive media workshop, with the park staff assuming principal responsibility for exhibit and program development, and the focal point for the Junior/Senior Ranger Program. Harpers Ferry Center's primary role will be as a consultant in media planning and design.

The nearby stream-gauging station operated and maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey since 1915 will remain since it is an important ecological benchmark station that uses satellite communications to transmit stream-flow data. Signing and exhibits that interpret the station's significance will be retained and upgraded as needed by the U.S.G.S. in coordination with the park interpretive staff.

## Le Conte Memorial

The Sierra Club will continue operating Le Conte Memorial under a Special Use Permit with program and media guidance provided by the park interpretive staff. No National Park Service media developments are proposed for the structure.

## Entrance and Approach Route Stations

To meet the need for pre-arrival orientation services, increased emphasis will be placed on providing advance information to visitors en route to the park and at all park entrance stations. These services and media should enable visitors to plan their park itineraries, arrange for accommodations, and make alternate plans when park campgrounds and accommodations are full.

Specific components will include:

- an interactive videodisc trip planner
- direct hotline telephones to concessioner and campground reservation offices and a central information office
- general orientation
- site-specific area orientation where appropriate
- publications such as the park folder, schedules of personal services programs, safety brochures, etc.

In combination with these elements, additional media at some entrance stations will include:

- South Entrance: The Mariposa Grove tram boarding area will be moved from its present location to the South Entrance. Proposed developments there include a small structure containing a lobby with a videodisc trip planner, an auditorium with a capacity of 50 to 75 people, and

some storage space for interpretive equipment and materials. Wayside exhibits outside the building will provide overall park orientation, current information, an orientation to the Mariposa Grove's geography and natural history, and an overview of significant area history.

Outdoor hotline telephones to campground and concessioner reservation offices will be installed in the vicinity of the building. The auditorium will be used for regular showings of the existing film "Giant Sequoia" on a television monitor connected to a videodisc unit. This will involve transfer of the film onto a disc. The facility will not be regularly staffed but should be designed to permit this option.

- Arch Rock Entrance: Developments will be minimal and consist of a small shelter containing a videodisc trip planner, dispensers for free publications, exhibit panels featuring general park orientation and current information, and hotline telephones to park campgrounds and concession reservation offices. No site-specific orientation is needed.
- Big Oak Flat Entrance: An existing information station at Big Oak Flat Entrance is a converted mobile home which does not adequately meet the functional demands placed on it. The trailer should be replaced with a larger, permanent structure designed to accommodate general orientation exhibits, an association sales outlet, a wilderness permit operation, and possibly a campground reservation center. This will be a staffed contact station.

The entrance and approach-route facilities will be operational year-round, and the information offered must be flexible to allow for seasonal variations in available services and activities.

Approach-route stations are proposed for Lee Vining, Mariposa, Oakhurst, the junction of State Routes 120/108, and the Lone Pine Interagency Visitor Center. All of these will be interagency operations, principally with the U.S. Forest Service. Development of these facilities will require coordination with the appropriate U.S. Forest Service offices involved.

#### Outreach Stations

A major objective of Yosemite's GMP is to decentralize and expand information services, including "urban and regional information/reservation centers."

These outreach facilities should be located in Fresno, the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Media needs at these centers include a videodisc trip planner hooked to a central information storage unit, free orientation publications, and possibly a hotline telephone to park reservation and information offices. The concept is to provide visitors the capability to plan trips to the park and make advance arrangements for campground or concession accommodations before leaving home.

Additional outreach services will include a modular traveling exhibit for both on-site and off-site use.

## Wayside Exhibits

Wayside exhibits are proposed for the following locations throughout the park.

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1.	Valley: Upper River Campground	Valley Orientation
2.	Valley: Upper River Campground	Valley Information (Bulletin Board)
3.	Valley: Upper River Campground	Bears
4.	Valley: Lower River Campground	Valley Orientation
5.	Valley: Lower River Campground	Valley Information (Bulletin Board)
6.	Valley: Lower River Campground	Bears
7.	Valley: Upper Pines Campground	Valley Orientation
8.	Valley: Upper Pines Campground	Valley Information (Bulletin Board)
9.	Valley: Upper Pines Campground	Bears
10.	Valley: Lower Pines Campground	Valley Orientation
11.	Valley: Lower Pines Campground	Valley Information (Bulletin Board)
12.	Valley: Lower Pines Campground	Bears
13.	Valley: North Pines Campground	Valley Orientation
14.	Valley: North Pines Campground	Valley Information (Bulletin Board)
15.	Valley: North Pines Campground	Bears
16.	Valley: Sunnyside Campground	Valley Orientation
17.	Valley: Sunnyside Campground	Valley Information (Bulletin Board)
18.	Valley: Sunnyside Campground	Bears
19.	Valley: Mirror Lake	Lake succession
20.	Valley: Ahwahnee Meadow	Dome Formation
21.	Valley: Sentinel Bridge	Indians, Meadows, and Fire
22.	Valley: Old Village pullout	Active geology and Yosemite Falls
23.	Valley: Old Village pullout	Human impact on the Valley

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Subject</u>
24.	Valley: Four Mile Trailhead	Human history
25.	Valley: <u>El Capitan View</u>	Big Wall geology
26.	Valley: Bridalveil Fall	Trailhead and waterfall cycle
27.	Valley: Base of Bridalveil Fall	Waterfall Safety
28.	Valley View pullout	Vista locator
29.	Valley: Moraine pullout	Effects of glaciation
30.	Valley: <u>El Capitan Meadow</u>	Rock Climbing
31.	Valley: <u>El Capitan Meadow pullout</u>	Peregrine falcons
32.	Valley: Lower Yosemite Fall	Waterfall Safety
33.	Valley: Lower Yosemite Fall	Waterfall cycle
34.	Valley Mall	Vista locator
35.	Valley: Vernal Fall Bridge	Waterfall Safety
36.	Valley: Top of Vernal Fall	Waterfall Safety
37.	Valley: Top of Nevada Fall	Waterfall Safety
38.	Valley: Top of Illilouette Fall	Waterfall Safety
39.	Valley: Top of Yosemite Fall	Waterfall Safety
40.	Valley: Happy Isles	Bears
41.	Valley: Top of Vernal Fall	Bears
42.	Valley: Top of Nevada Fall	Bears
43.	Valley: Happy Isles	Don't Feed Wildlife
44.	Valley: Yosemite Lodge	Don't Feed Wildlife
45.	Valley: Lower Yosemite Fall	Don't Feed Wildlife
46.	Valley: Ahwahnee Hotel	Don't Feed Wildlife

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Subject</u>
47.	Valley	Meadow impact
48.	Valley	Meadow impact
49.	Valley	Meadow impact
50.	Valley	Meadow impact
51.	Mariposa Grove/South Entrance	Orientation to Mariposa Grove
52.	South Entrance kiosk	History of the Mariposa Grove
53.	South Entrance kiosk	Parkwide Orientation
54.	South Entrance kiosk	Information (Bulletin Board)
55.	Big Oak Flat Road: Valley Portal	Vista locator
56.	Big Oak Flat Road: Big Meadow	Meadow succession
57.	Big Oak Flat Road: Merced Grove	Trailhead to sequoia grove
58.	Big Oak Flat Entrance kiosk	Parkwide Orientation
59.	Big Oak Flat Entrance kiosk	Information (Bulletin Board)
60.	Big Oak Flat Road: Tuolumne Grove	Ecology of a Giant Sequoia grove
61.	Big Oak Flat Road: Crane Flat	Winter recreation
62.	Tioga Road: Gin Flat	Intro to Tioga Road
63.	Tioga Road: South Fork	Red fir forest
64.	Tioga Road: Siesta Lake	Lake formation and succession
65.	Tioga Road: "Juniper" pullout	Sierra juniper
66.	Tioga Road: Geology Exh. Turnout	Yosemite Creek Canyon
67.	Tioga Road: Cone Bearing Trees	Cone Tree Trailhead
68.	Tioga Road: Cone Tree Trail	Jeffrey pine
69.	Tioga Road: Cone Tree Trail	western white pine

Exhibit	Location	Subject
70.	Tioga Road: Cone Tree Trail	Lodgepole pine
71.	Tioga Road: Cone Tree Trail	White fir
72.	Tioga Road: Cone Tree Trail	California red fir
73.	Tioga Road: ent. Old Road	History of Old Tioga Road
74.	Tioga Road: Olmsted Point	Domes
75.	Tioga Road: Olmsted Point	Vista locator
76.	Tioga Road: Olmsted Point	Don't Feed Wildlife
77.	Tioga Road: Ghost Forest pullout	Forest dynamics
78.	Tioga Road: Tuolumne Meadow	Meadow ecology
79.	Tioga Road: Tuolumne Meadow	Glacial Meadows
80.	Tioga Road: Tuolumne Meadow	Tuolumne Meadow Trail
81.	Tuolumne Meadow Visitor Center	Parkwide Orientation
82.	Tuolumne Meadow Visitor Center	Information (Bulletin Board)
83.	Tuolumne Meadow Ranger Station	Information (Bulletin Board)
84.	Tioga Road: Horned Peaks Vista	Vista locator
85.	Tioga Road: Dana Meadows	High meadows
86.	Route 41: Tunnel View	Vista locator
87.	Route 41: Tunnel View	Mariposa Battalion
88.	Route 41: Tunnel View	Don't Feed Wildlife
89.	Bridalveil Creek Campground	Orientation and Information
90.	Bridalveil Creek Campground	Bears
91.	Glacier Point Road: Summit Meadow	Meadow ecology (summer)



<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Subject</u>
92.	Glacier Point Road: Summit Meadow	Winter recreation
93.	Glacier Point Road	Trailhead
94.	Glacier Point Road: Washburn Point	Vista locator and waterfalls
95.	Glacier Point Road: Washburn Point	Don't Feed Wildlife
96.	Glacier Point Road: Washburn Point	Fire Management
97.	Park to determine	Fire Management
98.	Park to determine	Fire Management
99.	Park to determine	Fire Management
100.	Glacier Point parking area	Trailhead
101.	Glacier Point parking area	Don't Feed Wildlife
102.	Glacier Point view rail	Vista locator
103.	Glacier Point view rail	Vista locator
104.	Glacier Point view rail	Vista locator
105.	Glacier Point view rail	Vista locator
106.	Glacier Point Hut: rear wall	Sceneology
107.	Glacier Point Hut: rear wall	Sceneology Part II
108.	El Portal Road: Arch Rocks Ent.	Parkwide Orientation
109.	El Portal Road: Arch Rocks Ent.	Information (Bulletin Board)
110.	El Portal Road: Windy Point	Canyon cutting
111.	El Portal Museum (kiosk)	Parkwide orientation
112.	El Portal Museum (kiosk)	Information (Bulletin Board)
113.	Off-site approach road	Parkwide orientation
114.	Off-site approach road	Parkwide orientation

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Subject</u>
115.	Off-site approach road	Parkwide orientation
116.	Off-site approach road	Parkwide orientation
117.	Off-site approach road	Information (Bulletin Board)
118.	Off-site approach road	Information (Bulletin Board)
119.	Off-site approach road	Information (Bulletin Board)
120.	Off-site approach road	Information (Bulletin Board)
121.	Wawona Campground	Area orientation
122.	Wawona Campground	Information (Bulletin Board)
123.	Wawona Campground	Bears
124.	Wawona golf course area-	Don't Feed Wildlife
125.	Hodgdon Meadow Campground	Area orientation and information
126.	Hodgdon Meadow Campground	Bears
127.	Crane Flat Campground	Area orientation and information
128.	Crane Flat Campground	Bears
129.	Tamarack Flat Campground	Area orientation and information
130.	Tamarack Flat Campground	Bears
131.	White Wolf Campground	Area orientation and information
132.	White Wolf Campground	Bears
133.	Yosemite Creek Campground	Area orientation and information
134.	Yosemite Creek Campground	Bears
135.	Porcupine Flat Campground	Area orientation and information
136.	Porcupine Flat Campground	Bears
137.	Tenaya Lake Campground	Area orientation and information

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Subject</u>
138.	Tenaya Lake Campground	Bears
139.	Tuolumne Meadows Campground	Area orientation
140.	Tuolumne Meadows Campground	Information (Bulletin Board)
141.	Tuolumne Meadows Campground	Bears

## Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center

The existing structure will be retained, as will its exhibits' interpretive emphasis on High Sierra ecosystems and wilderness values and its association sales outlet. However, several improvements in the building and its contents are needed:

- The center is not now easily accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Although some modifications have been made to accommodate disabled visitors, additional improvements are required to resolve this problem fully.
- To facilitate visitor orientation, a videodisc trip planner will be placed in the lobby.
- A backcountry videodisc planner will be installed at the nearby wilderness permit kiosk.
- A multi-purpose space should be developed to house a small reference library and serve as an informal reading area and meeting room.
- Storage space for sales inventory, supplies, and equipment should be developed.
- Improved orientation exhibits in the form of maps and aerial photographs of the Tuolumne Meadows area will be provided near the entrance.

The visitor center's existing interpretive exhibits have been in place since 1980. Future replacement exhibits will retain the same themes and design

concept of hands-on, multi-sensory interpretation.

Since visitor center space is limited, Tuolumne Meadows' human history will be interpreted at Parsons Lodge, accessible via a self-guiding trail marked with interpretive signs.

#### Wawona

The Wawona complex contains two important cultural history developments-- the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and the Thomas Hill Studio.

The historic structures in the Pioneer History Center, most of them relocated to Wawona from their original park sites, form the stage for a seasonal living history program that interprets various people and events associated with Yosemite's formative years as a park and commemorates Yosemite's role in the evolution of the national park concept and system.

The structures will be preserved and partially furnished. Furnishings should be reproductions that can serve as props for the living history program, as tools for the Environmental Living Program offered at the center in the spring, or as static exhibits visible through the buildings' windows during times these programs are not in operation.

The existing Permaloy interpretive signs for the structures in the complex will be retained; the audio stations should be removed. A reception center, preferably of log or sideboard construction, should be developed at the entrance to the complex. Pending a DCP for Wawona, the reception center may be incorporated, together with a publications sales outlet, into the proposed historic vehicle exhibition area. This area should provide environmentally stable and secure exhibit space for the vehicles. The two existing slide

shows now used in the Jorgenson Cabin to introduce visitors to the Center and the living history approach to interpretation will be upgraded and transferred to videodisc for regular showing on a television monitor located in the reception center.

The mining equipment, now poorly displayed behind the wagon barn, should be removed.

The Meyer cribwork barn at Big Meadow and some of the motorized vehicles now displayed at El Portal will be relocated to the Pioneer History Center, the specific site to be determined. The reconstructed barn will house some of the historic horse-drawn vehicles and farm implements exhibited at the Center. The History Center structures are closed during winter, but visitors may tour the complex on a self-guiding basis.

The Thomas Hill Studio will be restored and refurnished to its historic period (1886-1908) and adaptively used, perhaps for an Artist-in-Residence program. The restoration will include necessary environmental and security controls.

Some space in the studio will be reserved for revolving exhibits of original works of art depicting various historic and contemporary artists' perceptions of Yosemite. A wide range of fine-arts media, such as paintings and photography, should be included in this program.

Existing reproduction stagecoaches will be used to provide a living history transportation experience during the peak season. The coaches will operate on established routes and schedules in the History Center/Wawona Hotel complex to link the several historical developments in the area.

## Mariposa Grove

The principal theme of interpretation in the Mariposa Grove is the Giant Sequoia--its beauty, natural history, distribution, ecological relationships, and the processes governing its existence.

For most visitors the primary method of interpretation will continue to be narrated tours on the free tram system that is in operation from mid-spring until mid-fall. Tram drivers have the option of presenting live narration or playing a pre-recorded tape cartridge on the tours. Until tram cars that are accessible to disabled visitors are put into service, the existing policy that allows orthopedically impaired visitors to tour the Grove via private vehicles with DP emblems will be retained. Cassette players with pre-recorded tapes keyed to numbered posts will be furnished to them on loan to interpret the route.

The tram boarding area will eventually be relocated to the South Entrance (ref. p. 30) where a new visitor-contact facility will be developed. Media within the Grove will be limited to interpretive signs and self-guiding trails. The recently restored Mariposa Grove Museum will be retained. Its exhibits will be selectively revised and updated to provide an overview of the Grove's natural processes, with emphasis on fire ecology, and its historical background, including the important role of Galen Clark. The museum will be staffed, funds permitting, during the season the tram tours are operating.

Foreign tour groups and individual foreign visitors frequently visit the Grove. Tapes in Spanish, Japanese, French, and German are now available and will be used selectively on the trams for these visiting groups.

During winter, when trams are not operating, the lower Grove road is open to private vehicles, snow conditions permitting, as far as the Grizzly Giant. Assuming this policy remains in force, some type of modular or removable structure should be provided in that area to support the Grove's winter interpretive operations.

### El Portal

The primary interpretive theme highlights El Portal as the traditional "Gateway to Yosemite". This theme includes the routes of early roads and the Yosemite Valley Railroad, the evolution of transportation, how El Portal has historically met the needs of visitors passing through the area and will meet them in the future (i.e., GMP proposals for services in El Portal), and the people of El Portal (innkeepers, stage and bus drivers, railroaders, and more recently, park and concession employees).

The Bagby Station, relocated to a site near the El Portal Post Office on Foresta Road, will be rehabilitated and used adaptively as an information/reservation station and museum with a capacity of about 200 visitors per hour. The station's exterior grounds will display and interpret the historic rail vehicles, turntable, and water tanks. Some of the motorized vehicles on display will be relocated to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center at Wawona, and others will be surveyed. Since space in Bagby Station is limited, exhibit designers should plan to combine indoor and outdoor space to create a cohesive exhibit package. Consideration should be given to acquiring, if available, an existing locally owned working scale model of the Yosemite Valley Railroad to exhibit in the museum. An audiovisual presentation, probably on videodisc, should also be developed, weaving motion-picture footage from archival re-



positories and private collections into a ten-to-twelve-minute presentation depicting transportation development in and around Yosemite.

The information/reservation area of the building will contain park orientation media such as maps and free publications, as well as two videodisc presentations--"If You Have One Day in Yosemite" and a trip-planner station. A small sales facility will offer general park publications.

If feasible, the museum should be managed and operated by a local organization, such as the Friends of the Yosemite Valley Railroad, or the El Portal community itself under a Special Use Permit and cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the operating organization.

#### Amphitheaters

Harpers Ferry Center will provide the following improvements in amphitheaters:

- Supply wireless microphones and solid-state amplification for Yosemite Lodge amphitheater, Curry Village amphitheater, Lower Pines Campground amphitheater, Lower River Campground amphitheater, and Wawona Campground amphitheater.
- Upgrade the Lower River Campground amphitheater. Major improvements needed are a new sound system, front-throw projection, and better lighting. The present, rear-screen projection room will be converted into a workshop for exhibit production and rehabilitation and equipment repair.

The park staff should take the following steps to improve amphitheaters and campfire circles:

- Relocate and upgrade the Wawona Campground amphitheater
- Develop small campfire circles in campgrounds which have no program facilities
- Renovate the campfire circles at White Wolf, Tuolumne Meadows, and Bridalveil Creek campgrounds
- If feasible, relocate the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge campfire circle to a site closer to the heart of the complex or, secondarily, upgrade lighting at the existing site and improve directional signing.

### Glacier Point

Implementation of the park's GMP proposals for Glacier Point materialized in 1982 with the construction of a new trail from the parking area to the Point to upgrade access and safety, a new cliff railing, installation of a new septic system and restrooms, removal of unnecessary pavement and structures, road resurfacing, and landscape restoration. Relocation of the concession snack stand and gift shop and redevelopment of the existing interpretive program site are anticipated.

An improved program site is needed to support the personal services programs presented throughout the summer and intermittently in spring and fall. Programs normally include live daytime talks, sunset talks, and astronomy programs presented by uniformed interpreters and special astronomy programs and seminars offered by YNHA and outside groups. Redevelopment of the site should include:

- a small, vandal-resistant, weatherproof structure, perhaps modular and removable, to house the telescopes used in astronomy programs

- simple seating for about 150 visitors
- commercial power outlets
- a lighted access pathway from the main trail.

Interpretive media needs at Glacier Point include:

- new wayside exhibits (ref. Wayside Exhibits, p. 33)
- small interpretive signs along the trail from the parking lot to Glacier Point.

### Self-guiding Trails

Yosemite has more than 750 miles of hiking trails, developed primarily for wilderness access. Several new, relatively short interpretive trails remain to be developed, and several existing self-guiding trails will be improved. These trails, listed below, will offer interpretive media designed and developed by the park staff.

- Historic Theme Trail (wheelchair passable)  
This will be a loop trail originating at the historic theme museum. Emphasis will be on cultural history.
- Natural-History Theme Trail (wheelchair passable)  
This will be a loop trail originating at the natural history theme museum. Emphasis will be on ecological processes and relationships in the meadows and oak woodlands nearby.
- Happy Isles Nature Trail (wheelchair passable)  
This will be a loop trail beginning at Happy Isles Nature Center. Emphasis will be on ecological

relationships and concepts exemplified in the Happy Isles vicinity. A secondary loop trail, also wheelchair passable, will be developed to and around the first island (nearest the Nature Center).

- Tuolumne Meadows

Two self-guiding trails will originate at the visitor center and encircle the meadow. Visitors will have the option of long and short loops, both of which will be marked with interpretive signs. The longer loop, a 2-to-2½-mile trail to Soda Springs, will interpret several biotic systems--riparian, lodgepole pine forest, and open meadow--historic sites, and geologic features along the route. Interpretive signs will interpret the historical significance of the Parsons Lodge, McCauley cabin, and Soda Springs enclosure. The shorter loop will give a more general overview of biologic communities and nearby features.

The existing Young People's Nature Trail will be redeveloped with interpretive signs to replace the present leaflet keyed to numbered posts.

- Olmsted Point

A new self-guiding loop trail will replace an existing spur trail at Olmsted Point (between Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows) on the Tioga Road. The theme will be geology. Interpretive signs will be used.

- White Wolf

A short self-guiding nature trail with interpretive signs will be developed near the White Wolf Lodge and campground. Its theme will be the ecological character of the red fir/lodgepole pine ecosystems.

- Crane Flat

A motor nature trail through the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias will be developed on the section of the old Big Oak Flat Road that connects Crane Flat with Hodgdon Meadow. Interpretation will be by a leaflet keyed to road markers. Its theme will be the biotic characteristics of the area, including the botanical story of the grove and history of its preservation.

Interpretive signs will be produced to replace the leaflet/numbered-post system now used on the existing Tuolumne Grove Nature Trail.

Self-guiding ski-touring trails will also originate at Crane Flat, employing a loop pattern wherever possible to take visitors through the Grove and to other nearby features. Interpretive signs for winter users will be developed.

- Glacier Point

A new viewing trail to the Point has been developed. A wayside exhibit at the trailhead will highlight Glacier Point's history, and interpretive signs along the route will focus on the area's characteristic plants. Vista

locators will be installed at the Point itself, and new wayside exhibits will be produced for the existing exhibit hut on the return route to explain the geologic origins of visible features and describe the processes responsible for their character. Benches should be located at good viewing areas along the trail.

At Summit Meadow, at the end of the plowed section of the Glacier Point Road during the winter, a self-guiding ski/snowshoe trail marked with interpretive signs will be developed.

- Mariposa Grove

Two self-guiding loop trails, one starting at the Grove Museum and the other near the present tram boarding area, will be retained. Both are natural-history theme trails interpreting in detail the character of the trees and the processes that govern their existence. The trails bring visitors into a close relationship with the trees. Interpretive signs will carry the interpretation, as do similar signs recently installed at the Grizzly Giant and Fallen Tunnel Tree.

- Wawona

The existing interpretive signs in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center will remain the primary medium for self-guiding interpretation of this complex of historic structures.

## SPECIAL POPULATIONS

However one describes the specific composition of special populations, it is evident they are visiting parks in greater numbers than ever before. By coming in large numbers, they are altering our perceptions of them.

Until recently we commonly perceived special populations as people with special needs. This point of view focuses on needs, the problems arising from these needs, and how to resolve these problems.

We are now beginning to perceive special populations as people with the same needs as other visitors. This viewpoint focuses on people and how to assure them equal opportunity to experience parks in the manner they select.

Like other visitors, special populations deserve:

- access to at least some park resources,
- access to the full range of orientation/information services,
- access to buildings and facilities open for public use,
- access to the same kinds of programs and services designed for other park visitors,
- and access to interpretation, including both interpretive media and personal-services programs and activities.

The park staff has already accomplished much. Some orientation and interpretive publications are available in foreign languages; others are being developed and will soon be printed. The tram tour tape is available in four foreign languages for groups, and a printed translation in each of the languages is provided to individual foreign visitors on request. Because the Mariposa Grove trams are not capable of accommodating visitors in wheelchairs,

an alternative means of visiting the Grove is available to them. Some trails have been improved to permit wheelchair accessibility. An information packet for disabled visitors is available along with placards displaying the DP emblem for use in their vehicles. Many park facilities have been or are being retrofitted for access. The interpretive staff includes a seasonal sign-language interpreter and two interpreters with visual impairments. An orthopedically disabled PLTFT employee functions as the park's Access Coordinator. Both the NPS and the Yosemite Park and Curry Company have telephones to permit hearing-impaired callers to obtain park information and make reservations for accommodations. There are programs designed for youth and senior citizens, including the seasonal Junior Ranger Program, the oldest children's program in the National Park System. A number of interpretive activities, specifically designated in the "Yosemite Guide", are suitable for visitors in wheelchairs.

In terms of new media developments this plan makes the following recommendations:

Proposed Action  
Provide multilingual information/orientation services.

Media Recommendations  
interactive videodisc trip planner in five languages (if economically and technologically feasible)  
non-interactive videodisc trip planner - "If You Have One Day in Yosemite" in five languages (this has already been determined to be economically/technologically feasible)



Critical safety and resources management messages in the same four foreign languages incorporated into interpretive signs and exhibits (e.g., at the tops of waterfalls)

Orientation slide program and preceding sound-and-light show in five languages with earphones or headsets provided to permit simultaneous audio in Spanish, Japanese, German, and French

Improve access to information/ orientation services for the disabled.

design of some or all videodisc trip planners to enable use by wheelchair visitors and possibly hearing-impaired visitors

Improve access to interpretation for children.

interactive videodisc presentations in a video-game format in the natural history theme museum and Happy Isles Nature Center

Improve access to A/V presentations for the hearing impaired.

as part of pre-production study, determine which A/V presentations should be closed-captioned.

Improve and expand interpretation for visually-impaired visitors.

develop tactile exhibits for Valley Visitor Center, theme museums, and Happy Isles Nature Center and make pre-recorded tapes and players available on loan to sight-

impaired visitors for use at designated sites and on selected self-guiding trails.

In addition to the media proposals, the park staff should continue their strong emphasis on making Yosemite fully accessible to special populations. Specific items identified during the planning process include:

- Within the limits imposed by topography, design new interpretive trails for wheelchair accessibility. Proposed new trails which fall into this category are the historic and natural history theme trails (connected with the two Valley museums), and the Happy Isles Nature Center trail.
- Improve wheelchair access to Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center (now underway).
- Continue to expand the availability of publications in foreign languages.
- Expand the availability of information and interpretive services for hearing-impaired visitors as funding permits.

## PARK COLLECTIONS

A Collection Preservation Guide for Yosemite National Park was prepared in 1980. This document also contains a Scope of Collections Statement. Please refer to the Guide for detailed information on the contents of Yosemite's collections, procedures for adding to the collections, curatorial staffing needs, and all criteria and guidelines governing proper management of the collections.

## PUBLICATIONS

The most pressing publications need at Yosemite is for a parkwide Publications Plan. Important issues the plan should address include:

- an analysis of the kinds of publications which should be offered at each of the park's sales outlets
- a determination of specific publications needs for:
  - \* non-English speaking visitors
  - \* children
  - \* disabled visitors
  - \* senior citizens
  - \* organized groups
- an evaluation of existing publications in terms of:
  - \* scope of subjects covered - to determine needs for additional subject-matter coverage, if any, and through what means those publications can be most feasibly developed
  - \* currency - to spotlight publications which need updating in content or design

## INTERPRETIVE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The projects listed below represent the highest-priority interpretive media needs for Yosemite. All other projects proposed in this plan are slightly lower in priority. The scheduling of many media projects will be determined by the development priorities resulting from implementation of Yosemite's General Management Plan.

Rehabilitation of Valley Visitor Center (entire building package)

Wayside exhibits (entire parkwide plan)

Projects related to decentralization of orientation/information services

- Development of entrance station facilities
- Development of approach route contact stations

Valley Wilderness Permit Station

Natural history theme museum (entire building package)

Historical theme museum (entire building package)

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

- stabilization/restoration projects
- interpretive media projects

El Portal (Bagby Station and exterior grounds)

Amphitheater upgrading (wireless microphones/sound systems)

## OUTLINE OF MEDIA AND GROSS COST ESTIMATES

Some of the development packages described in this prospectus are targeted for accomplishment within the next five years based on the criteria cited in the section, "PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS". Other projects that can be deferred are long-range objectives that should be implemented in five to ten years. Projected costs for the short-range proposals have been determined and are listed in the following outline, but estimates for the long-range projects have not been assigned.

The cost estimates for videodisc media should be considered tentative. The videodisc Pre-Production Study, now underway, will generate information on which to base firm estimates. If necessary, the videodisc estimates will be amended upon completion of the pre-production study.

Planning for all wayside exhibits is in progress, with planning funds provided by the Yosemite Natural History Association. Production costs for Yosemite's entire wayside package are estimated at \$300,000. The park staff intends to fund production with a combination of Association donations and appropriated funds, both to be programmed in increments over several years.

Note: (A) = audiovisuals, (E) = museum exhibits, (F) = furnishings, (W) = wayside exhibits

I. SHORT-RANGE PROJECTS (0-5 years):

<u>Location</u>	<u>Media</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Produce</u>	<u>Equipment</u>
Parkwide	(A/E) Pre-production study. This project is funded (\$45,000) and underway.	-	-	-
	(W) Plan/produce in phased sequence approximately 150 wayside exhibits and three orientation kiosks. Planning portion is underway; production funding (\$300,000) is planned partially through YNHA.	-	-	-
Valley Visitor Center	(A) Six (6) interactive videodisc trip-planning stations (minimum number required for valid testing) and one backup unit.	(61) 60,000	(62) 90,000	(63) 80,000
	(A) Five (5) non-interactive videodisc stations, "If You Have One Day in Yosemite."	(61) 15,000	(62) 38,000	(63) 15,000
	(E) Redesign space. Plan/design exhibit elements, furnishings, & decor.	(51) 60,000	-	-
	(A) Upgrade East & West Auditorium projection booths and AV systems. Standardize equipment & wiring. Install solid-state amplification for both auditoriums and simultaneous translation equipment for the primary orientation slide program.	-	-	(63) 45,000

<u>Location</u>	<u>Media</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Produce</u>	<u>Equipment</u>
Valley Wilderness Permit Station	(A) Three (3) interactive videodisc, backcountry trip-planning stations and one backup unit.	(61) 38,000	(62) 75,000	(63) 40,000
	(E) Plan/produce exhibits, furnishings & decor.	(51) 24,000	(52) 96,000	-
Historical theme museum	(A) Begin development of interactive videodisc (archival).	(61) 75,000	(62) 45,000	(63) 15,000
Happy Isles Nature Center	(A) Upgrade auditorium projection booth, including solid-state amplification.	-	-	(63) 12,000
	(E) Provide planning assistance on consultant basis.	-	-	-
South Entrance	(A) One interactive videodisc trip planning station.	N/A	N/A	(63) 15,000
	(A) One non-interactive videodisc (existing Sequoia film).	(61) 2,000	(62) 15,000	(63) 7,000
	(E) Design space. Plan/produce exhibits, furnishings, and decor.	(51) 9,000	(52) 45,000	-
Arch Rock Entrance	(W) Plan/produce orientation kiosk, including general park orientation panels.	Costs are included in wayside package (ref. p. 58).		
Big Oak Flat Entrance	(E) Design space. Plan/design general park orientation exhibits, furnishings, and decor.	(51) 24,000	-	-
	(W) Plan/produce orientation kiosk, including general park orientation panels.	Costs are included in wayside package (ref. p. 58).		



<u>Location</u>	<u>Media</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Produce</u>	<u>Equipment</u>
Oakhurst (U.S.F.S.)	(A) One interactive videodisc trip planning station.	N/A	N/A	(63) 15,000
	(E) Plan/produce in phased sequence general orientation exhibits in collaboration with U.S.F.S.	(51) 21,000	(52) 113,000	-
Lone Pine Interagency V.C.	(A) One interactive videodisc trip planning station.	N/A	N/A	(63) 15,000
San Francisco Bay Area Information Center (out- reach)	(A) One interactive videodisc trip planning station.	N/A	N/A	(63) 15,000
Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center	(E) Redesign space. Plan/design orientation and interpretive exhibits, furnishings, and decor.	(51) 18,000	-	-
Pioneer Yosemite History Center	(A) Upgrade two slide shows and transfer to videodisc format. Provide one non-interactive videodisc station for both programs.	(61) 5,000	(62) 15,000	(63) 5,000
	(F) Plan and provide reproduction furnishings to support living history program.	(56) 18,000	-	(57) 35,000
	(E) Plan/produce orientation and interpretive exhibits for proposed reception center. Design space to meet functional needs, including furnishings and decor.	(51) 18,000	(52) 96,000	-

<u>Location</u>	<u>Media</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Produce</u>	<u>Equipment</u>
Mariposa Grove Museum	(E) Selectively revise and update exhibits to interpret the Grove's natural processes and historical background.	(51) 9,000	(52) 48,000	-
El Portal Travel Museum (Bagby Station)	(A) One interactive videodisc, "If You Have One Day in Yosemite".	N/A	N/A	(63) 5,000
	(A) One interactive videodisc trip planning station.	N/A	N/A	(63) 15,000
	(E) Plan/design orientation and interpretive exhibits for Bagby Station and outdoor exhibit area.	(51) 37,000	-	-
Amphitheaters	(A) Procure/install wireless microphones and solid-state amplification for five amphitheaters, including rewiring costs.	-	-	(63) 20,000
	(A) Procure/install front-throw screen for Lower River Campground amphitheater when the facility is rehabilitated.		Planning is underway for this project. Rehabilitation need documented on 10-238 Package Number 327.	
Other	(E) Plan/produce one modular travelling exhibit to support park's outreach program. Cost includes high quality storage/shipping crates.	(51) 4,000	(52) 18,000	-
	(A) Provide three (3) backup videodisc players.	-	-	(63) 10,000

Location                      Media                                      Plan                      Produce                      Equipment

Gross cost totals for short-range projects, all interpretive media:

Planning	(51, 56, 61)	437,000		
Production	(52, 62)	694,000		
Equipment	(57, 63)	<u>364,000</u>		

GRAND TOTAL                                      \$1,495,000

II. LONG-RANGE PROJECTS (5-10 years):

<u>Location</u>	<u>Media</u>
Valley Visitor Center	(A) Four additional interactive videodisc trip-planning stations (if prototype programs prove viable).  (E) Produce exhibit elements, furnishings, and decor.
Historical theme museum (contingent on GMP implementation)	(A) Two non-interactive videodisc programs (Indian culture); one interactive videodisc (archival).  (E) Design space. Plan/produce exhibits, furnishings, and decor.
Natural history theme museum (contingent on GMP implementation)	(A) One non-interactive videodisc program (natural processes) and one interactive videodisc (glossary format).  (E) Design space. Plan/produce exhibits, furnishings, and decor.
Happy Isles Nature Center	(A) One non-interactive videodisc program (wilderness discovery and sharing) and one interactive videodisc (ecological concepts).
Arch Rock Entrance	(A) One interactive videodisc trip-planning station.

Location

Media

Big Oak Flat Entrance

(A) One interactive videodisc trip-planning station.

(E) Produce general and site-specific orientation exhibits, furnishings, and decor.

Lee Vining Information Station  
(interagency)

(A) One interactive videodisc trip-planning station.

(E) Plan/produce park orientation exhibits in collaboration with cooperating agencies.

Mariposa Information Station  
(interagency)

(A) One interactive videodisc trip-planning station.

(E) Plan/produce park orientation exhibits in collaboration with cooperating agencies.

Sonora Junction Information  
Station (interagency)

(A) One interactive videodisc trip-planning station.

(E) Plan/produce park orientation exhibits in collaboration with cooperating agencies.

Lone Pine Interagency Visitor  
Center

(E) Plan/produce park orientation exhibits in collaboration with cooperating agencies.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Media</u>
Fresno Information Center (outreach)	(A) One interactive videodisc trip-planning station.
Los Angeles Metro Information Center (outreach)	(A) One interactive videodisc trip-planning station.
Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center	(A) One interactive videodisc trip-planning station and one interactive videodisc backcountry trip planner (at wilderness permit kiosk).  (E) Produce exhibits interpreting Tuolumne Meadows area and backcountry, furnishings, and decor.
Thomas Hill Studio	(F) Plan/provide historic furnishings and decor.
El Portal Travel Museum (Bagby Station)	(A) One non-interactive videodisc program (transportation history).  (E) Produce orientation and interpretive exhibits for station and outdoor exhibit area.
Other	(A) Provide seven (7) additional backup videodisc players.

## LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

All actions proposed in this plan must comply with the provisions of Section 106 of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 11593 as codified in the Regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 800). Prior to a decision to implement any provisions of this plan, these regulations require that all cultural resources in or near the project areas must be identified and evaluated in terms of the National Register Criteria of Eligibility. The evaluation must be done by appropriate professionals for the Regional Director in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Additionally, the Criteria of Effect and the Criteria of Adverse Effect (36 CFR Part 800.3a and b) must be applied by appropriate professionals for the Regional Director in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council Procedures completed as appropriate.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Collection Preservation Guide, Yosemite NP, Division of Museum Services, HFC, March 1980

Final Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan, Yosemite National Park, October 1980

Interpretive Study, Yosemite National Park, August 1978

McKenzie, Leonard W., Annual Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services, Yosemite National Park, 1980



## STUDY TEAM

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United States Department of the Interior FEB 25 1983

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WESTERN REGION  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

K1817(WR-OI)

February 17, 1983

Memorandum

To: Manager, Harpers Ferry Center  
From: ~~ACTING~~ Regional Director, Western Region  
Subject: Interpretive Prospectus - Yosemite

Enclosed is an edited copy of the final draft of the Yosemite Interpretive Prospectus as submitted directly by the Superintendent.

We have reviewed this edited draft and have no further revisions than those submitted by the park. We feel they have done a thorough and realistic scaling-down in scope and implementation of this plan. While the dollar amount is still significant, it now presents a more reasonable approach concerning use of the projected videodisc systems.

We approve of the draft plan as revised and submitted by the Yosemite staff.

*W. Powell White*

Enclosure

cc: -  
Superintendent, Yosemite  
Chief of Interpretation, Yosemite