

# Yosemite National Park DRAFT Re-opening Plan

Yosemite Gateway Partners May 18, 2020

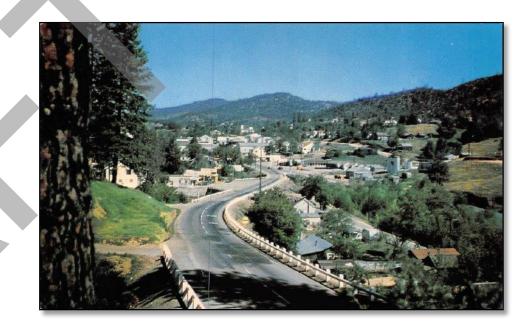
#### **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- Staying Aligned with Gateway Communities
- Proposed Approach to Re-opening
- On-the-Ground Management



Draft plan aligns the following:

- President's Opening Up America Again Guidelines
- DOI Secretary Guidance
- California Pandemic Roadmap
- Yosemite Gateway Area Coordination Team





STAYING ALIGNED WITH GATEWAY COMMUNITIES - DRAFT YOSEMITE RE-OPENING PLAN

### Approach to adaptively re-opening:

- Stay in frequent communication and coordination with state and local leaders to ensure alignment in re-opening.
- Test management approaches and adapt quickly.
- Build on successes to make progress toward full re-opening.
- Work with park partners, gateway communities, and adjoining federal land management agencies to offer alternatives and expand recreational and open space opportunities.



#### STAYING ALIGNED WITH GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

**Park Focus and Primary Considerations:** 

Protect the health and safety of employees, the local communities, and visitors

Protect and manage park resources and infrastructure

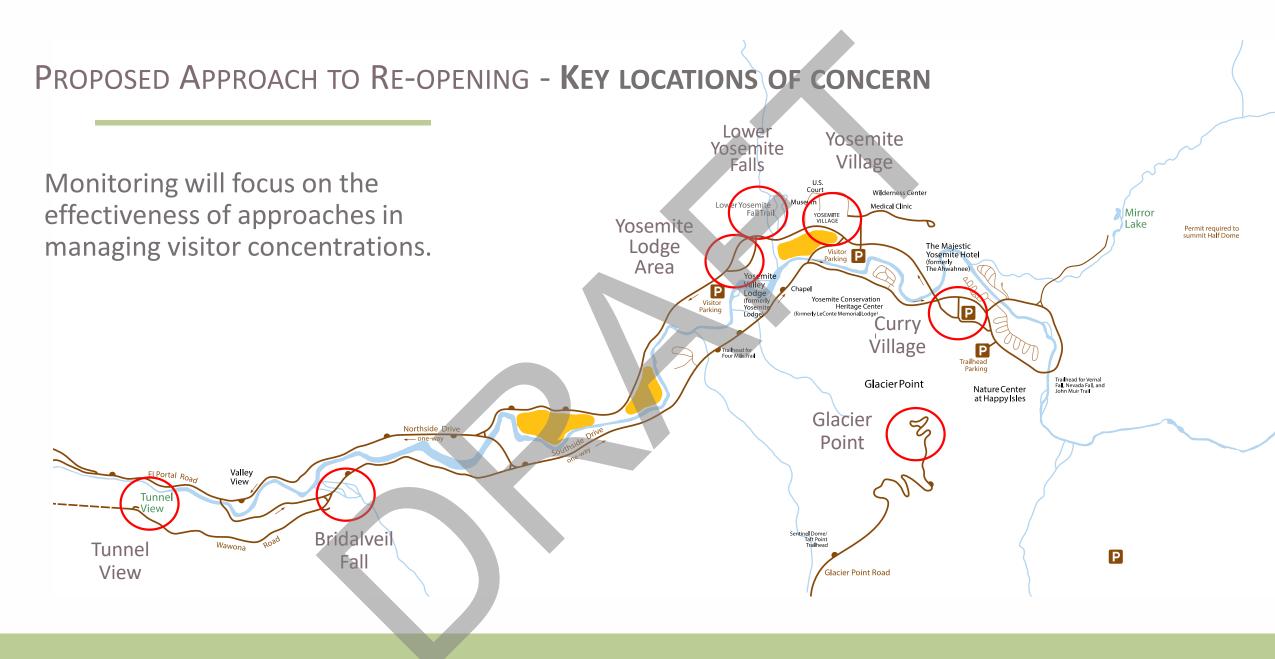
Provide for a safe visitor experience that adheres to public health recommendations

Alignment with and support of Gateway Communities

Quickly adapting and building on success







(Also: Entrance Stations, Mariposa Grove, Wawona)

#### PROPOSED APPROACH TO RE-OPENING

#### When California enters Stage 3, anticipated in June...

The Park will re-open at approximately 50% of capacity with mix of overnight and day-use.

#### Multiple access opportunities:

- Overnight reservation at concession-operated lodging
- NPS Campground Reservation
- Wilderness or Half Dome permit
- Commercial Tour (smaller vans)
- YARTS
- Manage Entry of Day-use Private Vehicles
- Overnight short-term lodging in Wawona, Foresta, and Yosemite West

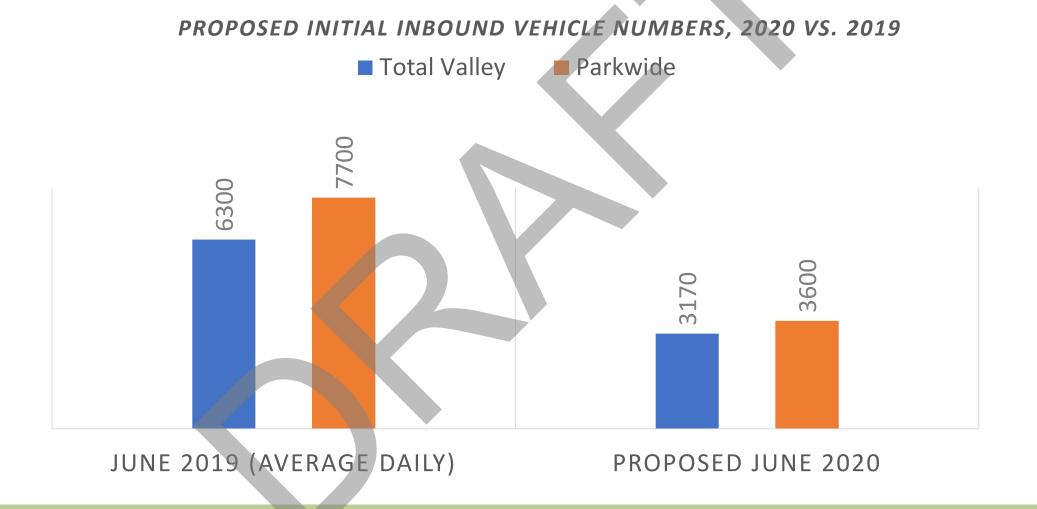




# PROPOSED APPROACH TO RE-OPENING – PROPOSED INITIAL VEHICLE NUMBERS

Valley Day-use Parking (MRP) to-date	1,961
Valley Roadway Vehicles	400
Total Valley Day-Use Vehicle Accommodation	2,361
50% of Total Valley Day-use	1,180
Inflate to account for 30% not visiting Valley	1,686
Parkwide Vehicle Day-use Vehicle Level (Initial Phase)	1,700 Vehicles/Day
Estimated Parkwide Overnight Vehicles	1,900 Vehicles/Day
Parkwide Total:	3,600 Vehicles/Day

PROPOSED APPROACH TO RE-OPENING - PROPOSED INITIAL VEHICLE NUMBERS



#### PROPOSED APPROACH TO RE-OPENING - DAY USE ENTRANCE STATION MANAGEMENT

- Visitors will be encouraged to pre-pay park fees online, but on-site fee collection will still be necessary.
- Studying modifications to kiosks to improve operations
- Ability to purchase a ticketed entry for day-use through recreation.gov
- Focus during initial re-opening is on simplicity, adapting quickly, and building on successes.



### PROPOSED APPROACH TO RE-OPENING - OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

#### Camping

- Opening Lower Pines (60 sites) and North Pines (81 sites) at first
- Opening backpackers campgrounds for Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows and Hetch Hetchy
- Will evaluate other areas such as Hodgdon Meadows, Crane Flat, and Bridalveil Campground later

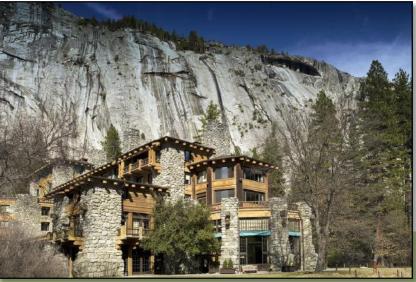
#### Lodging

- Opening the Ahwahnee Hotel, Yosemite Valley Lodge, and Half of Curry Village
- Modified food operations throughout the park

#### Other

 Retail Outlets, Grocery Stores, The Ansel Adams Gallery, Bikes, Rafts, and pay-at-pump gas stations open

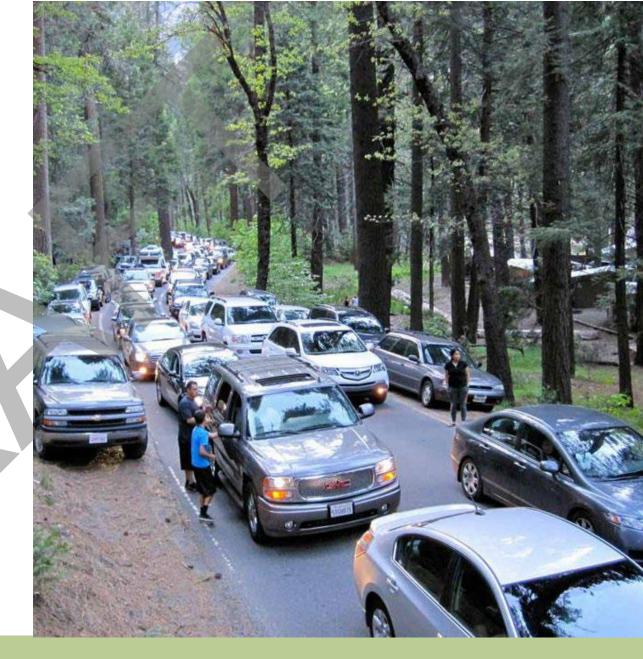




### PROPOSED APPROACH TO RE-OPENING

#### Why manage entries?

- Concerns that demand will overwhelm gateways and park, creating crowded and unsafe conditions
- Provides certainty for day use visitors and predictability of visitation levels for local communities
- Provides data to actively manage demand through re-opening phases.
- Reduces close contacts between gate staff and visitors through pre-payment of entrance fees

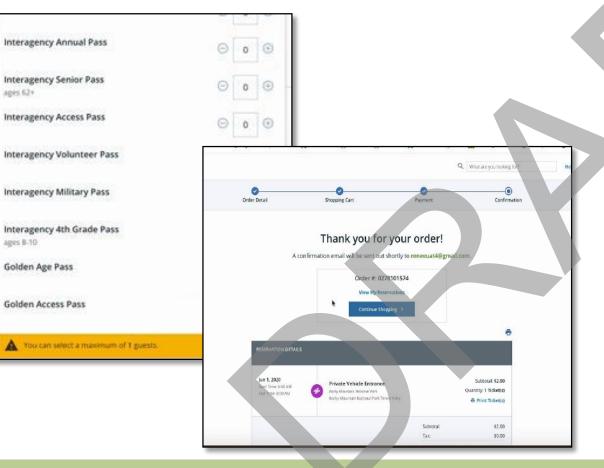


### ON-THE-GROUND MANAGEMENT: HOW THE SYSTEM WOULD WORK:

#### 2) Select date of arrival 1) Log into Recreation.gov RECREAT ON.gov Q What are you los **Private Vehicle Entrance** View All Tickets Historic Tour • 2h • Easy This permits one private vehicle or motorcycle into the park starting at the time window indicated on your ticket. **BRING HOME A STORY** You may re-enter the park after your time window on the same day as your ticket. Q. Yosemite National Park SEARCH Select date and guests to reserve tickets Recreation Areas, Facilities, Tours, Trails 05/15/2020 Guests Yosemite National Park National Park Service | Near Yosemite National Park, California Yosemite National Park Digital Pass National Park Service | Near Yosemite National Park, California May 2020 lune 2020 $\rightarrow$ 4 O Upper Pines Yosemite National Park | Near Yosemite National Park, California We Th Tu Sa North Pines Yosemite National Park | Near Yosemite National Park, California Lower Pines 12 13 10 5 6 7 8 11 Yosemite National Park | Near Yosemite National Park, California A Α A A A A A We're here to F Locations, City, State, Zip Code ual sites across 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 10 14 16 19 Yosemite National Park. California Tic 20 21 22 23 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 17 19 A A A A Help Topics, Frequently Asked Questions, Articles Α A A 25 26 27 28 29 30 A A A A A A 24 28 29 30 Campgrounds: Yosemite National Park Campground Reservation Da . A 31 Yosemite Camping Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) . A Phase Balcalculati....xlsx

#### ON-THE-GROUND MANAGEMENT: HOW THE SYSTEM WOULD WORK:

#### 3) Select Passes and Purchase Permit



#### 4) Permits/QR codes emailed and texted:



#### **ON-THE-GROUND MANAGEMENT**

Some potential adaptive approaches to managing visitor concentrations:

- Convert some trails to one-way
- Move some visitor services outdoors
- Limit number of entries into confined spaces
- Install social distancing signs
- Encourage use of face coverings whenever possible



For safety, use the trail in one direction.

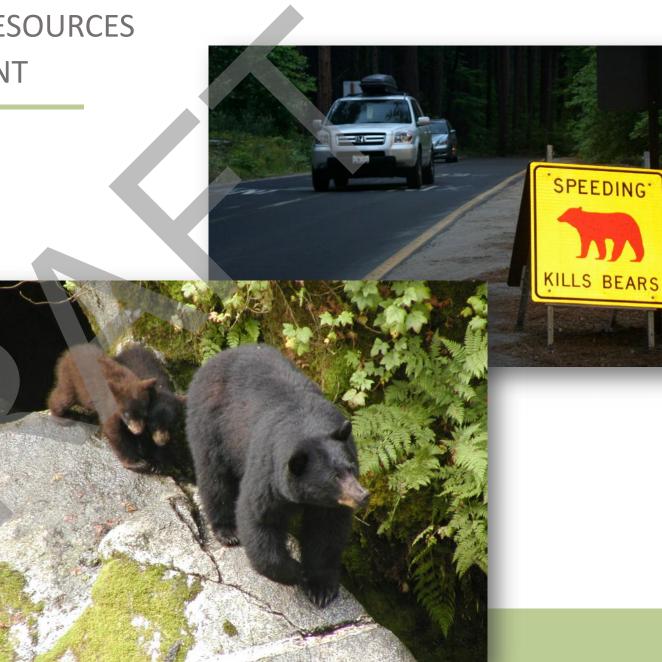




# RE-OPENING AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The park has a continued focus on managing wildlife and other natural and cultural resources, including:

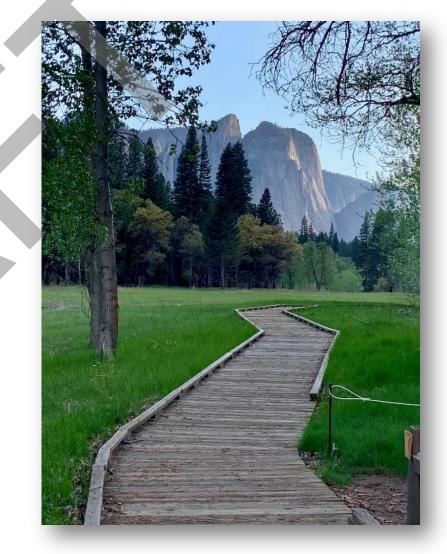
- Bear management, to reduce human-bear conflicts
- Peregrine nest monitoring, to maximize the routes open for climbing
- Habitat restoration and caring for the park's resources

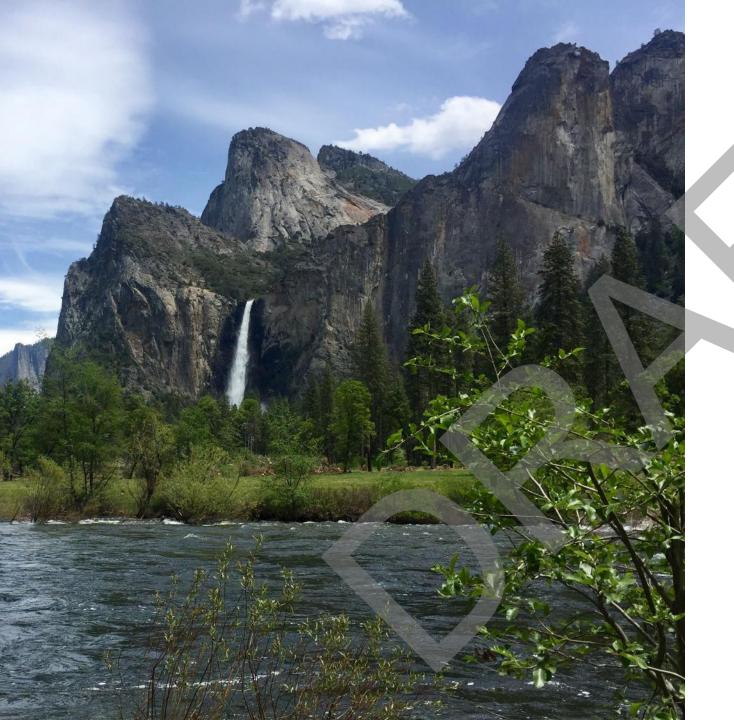


#### STAYING ALIGNED WITH GATEWAY COMMUNITIES – DRAFT YOSEMITE RE-OPENING PLAN

#### Successful re-opening will require:

- Protection of public safety
- Sustained access to park's primary attractions
- Re-invigorate gateway economies





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## **QUESTIONS?**

