



Yosemite National Park DRAFT Re-opening Plan

Yosemite Gateway Partners
May 18, 2020

DISCUSSION TOPICS

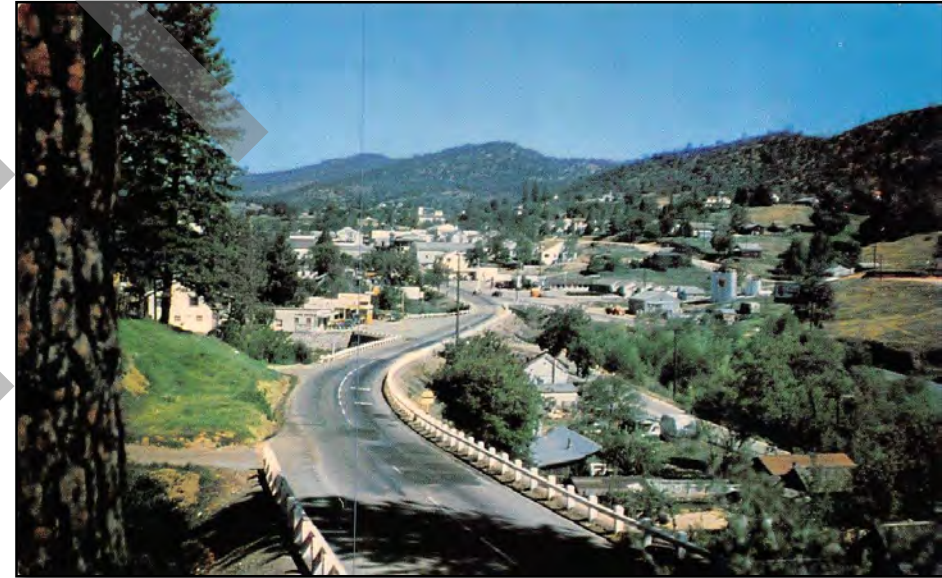
- Staying Aligned with Gateway Communities
- Proposed Approach to Re-opening
- On-the-Ground Management



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

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.



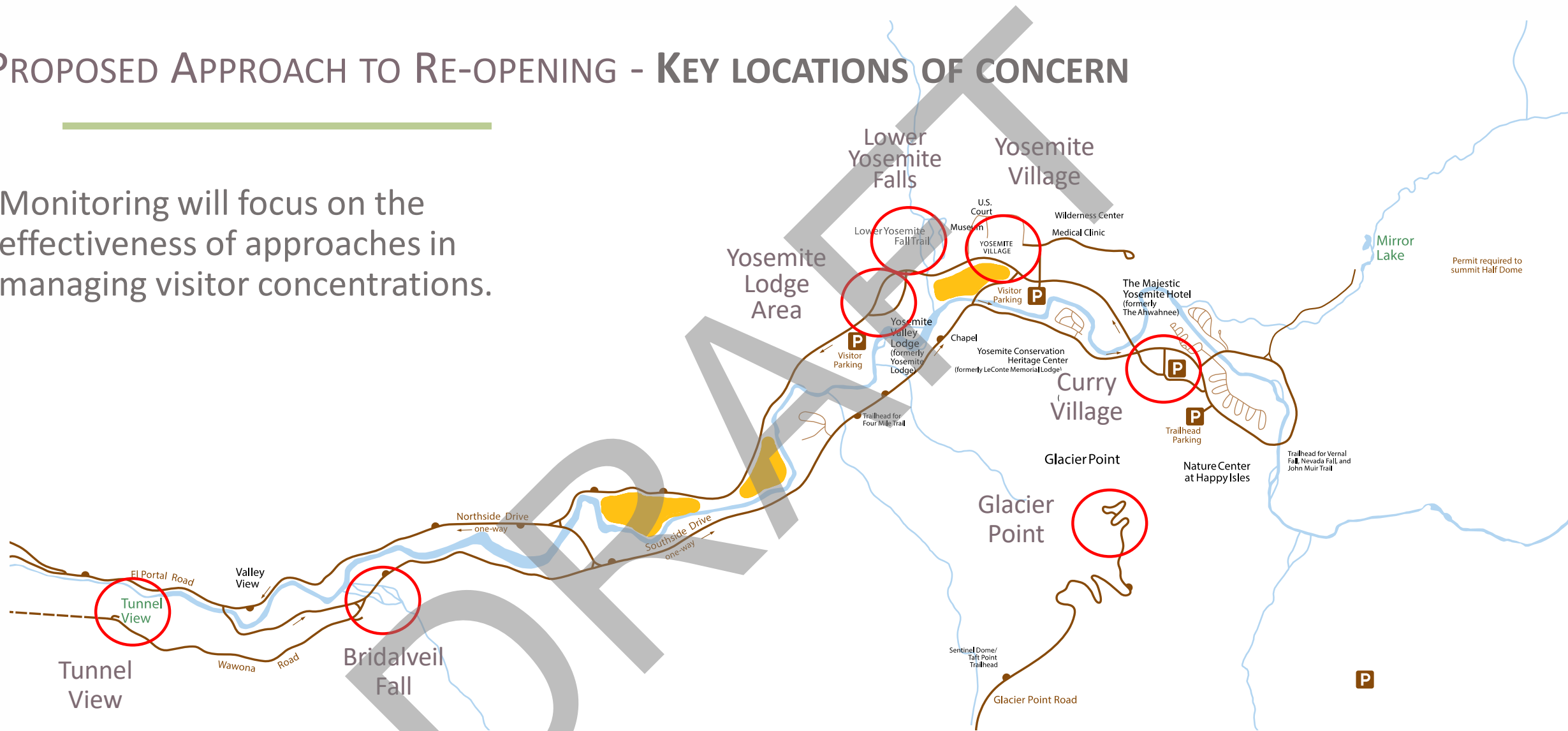
STAYING ALIGNED WITH GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

Park Focus and Primary Considerations:



PROPOSED APPROACH TO RE-OPENING - KEY LOCATIONS OF CONCERN

Monitoring will focus on the effectiveness of approaches in managing visitor concentrations.



(Also: Entrance Stations, Mariposa Grove, Wawona)

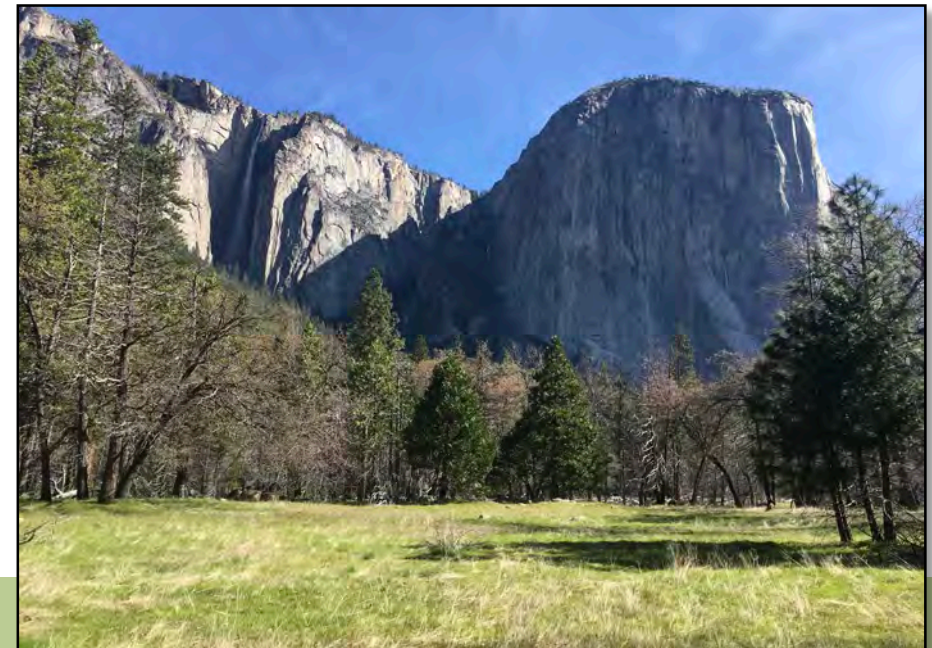
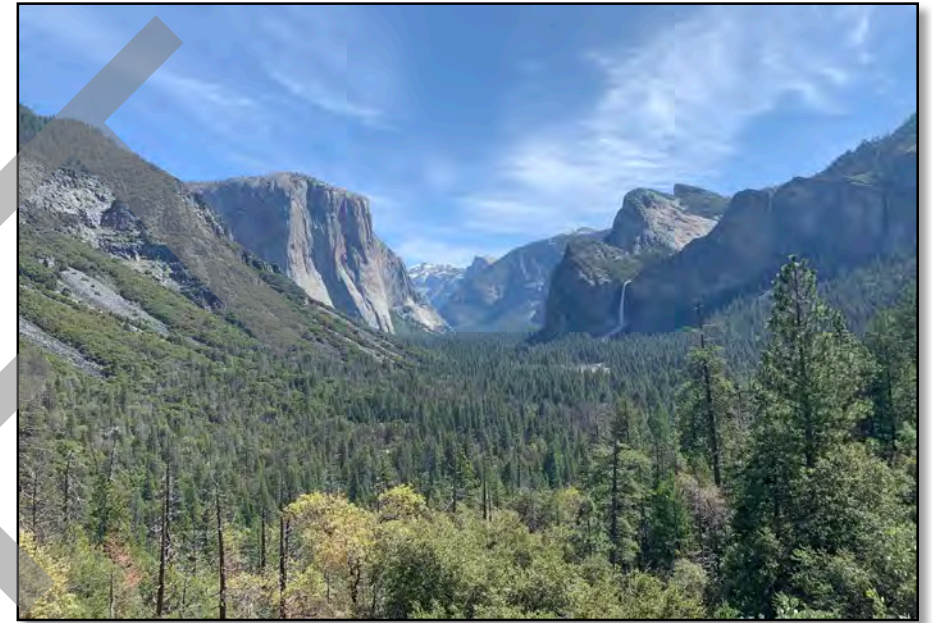
PROPOSED APPROACH TO RE-OPENING

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

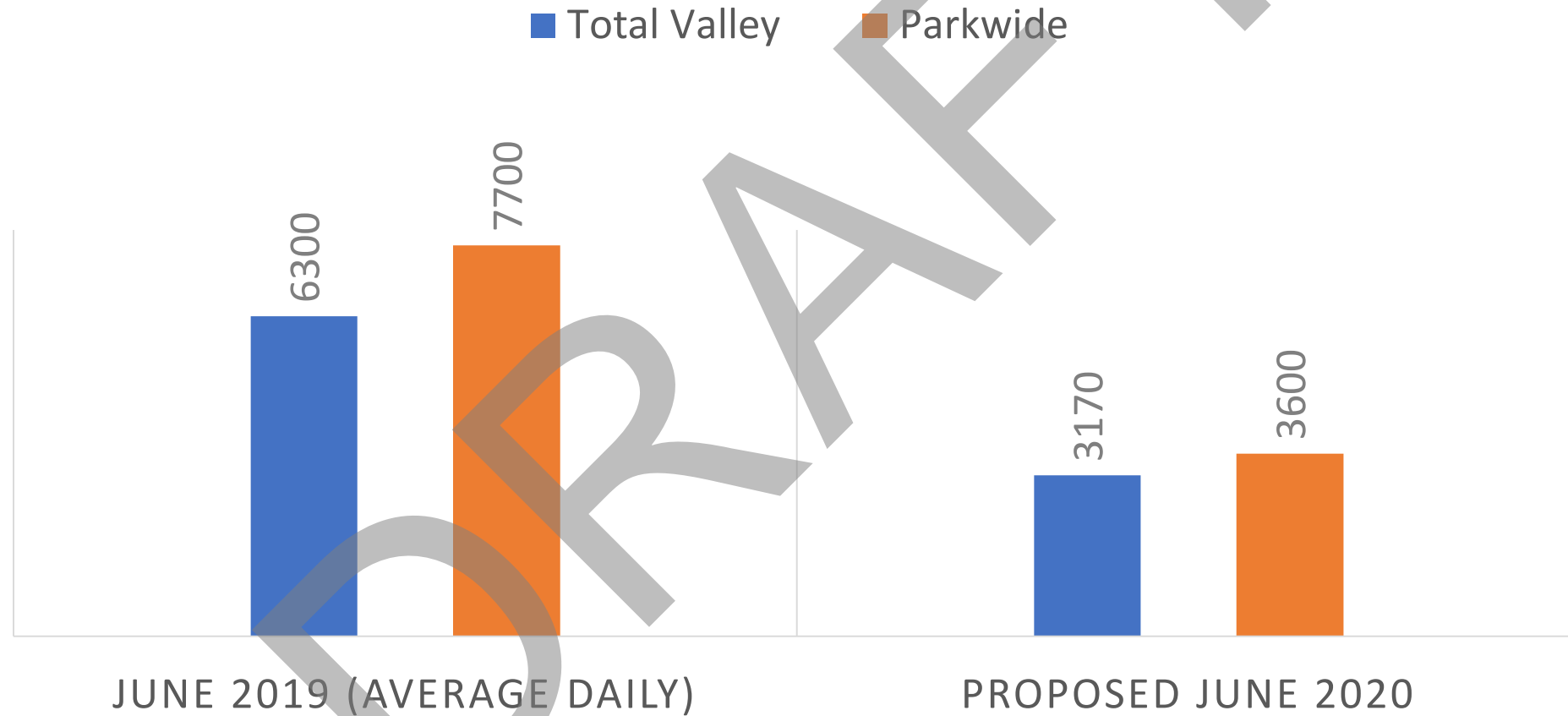


PROPOSED APPROACH TO RE-OPENING – PROPOSED INITIAL VEHICLE NUMBERS

Private Vehicle Entry Calculations	
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 INITIAL INBOUND VEHICLE NUMBERS, 2020 VS. 2019



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

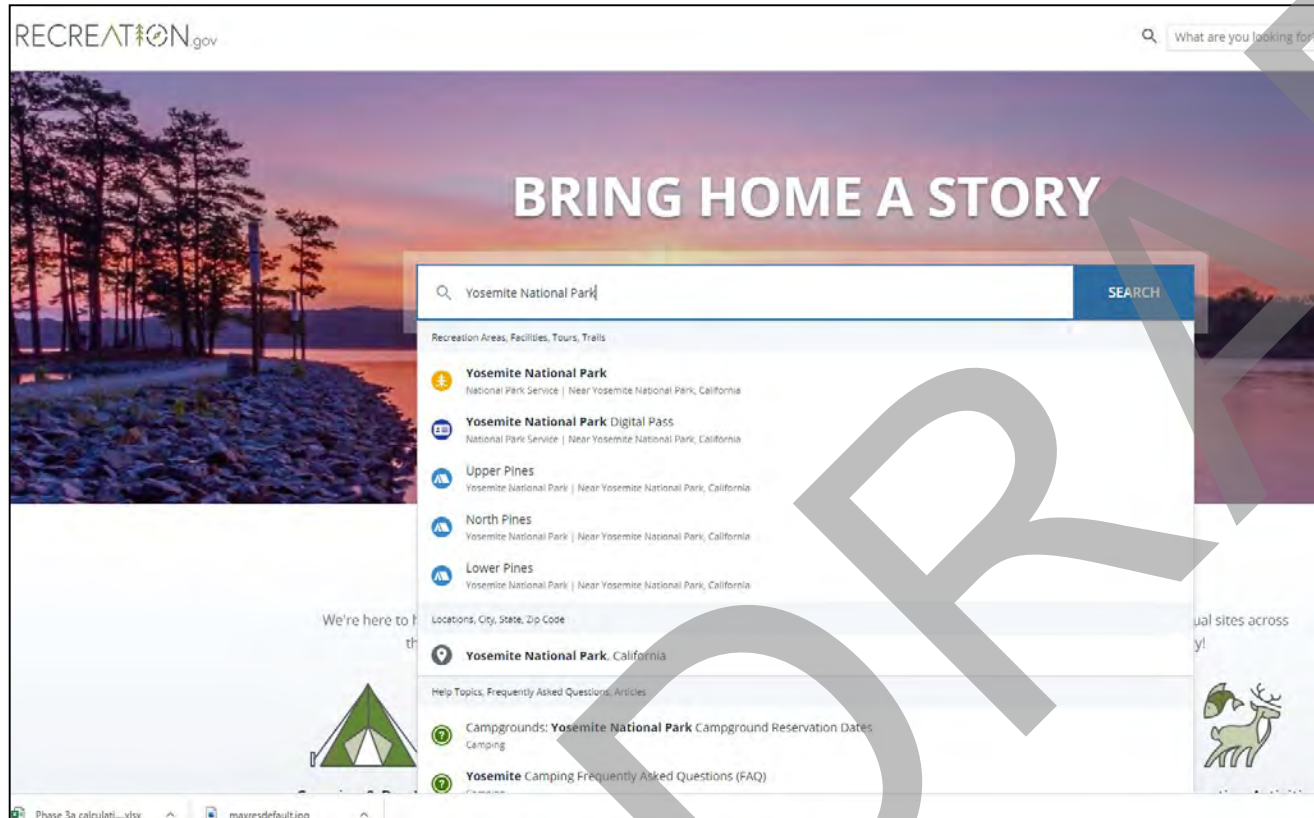
Why manage entries?

- 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

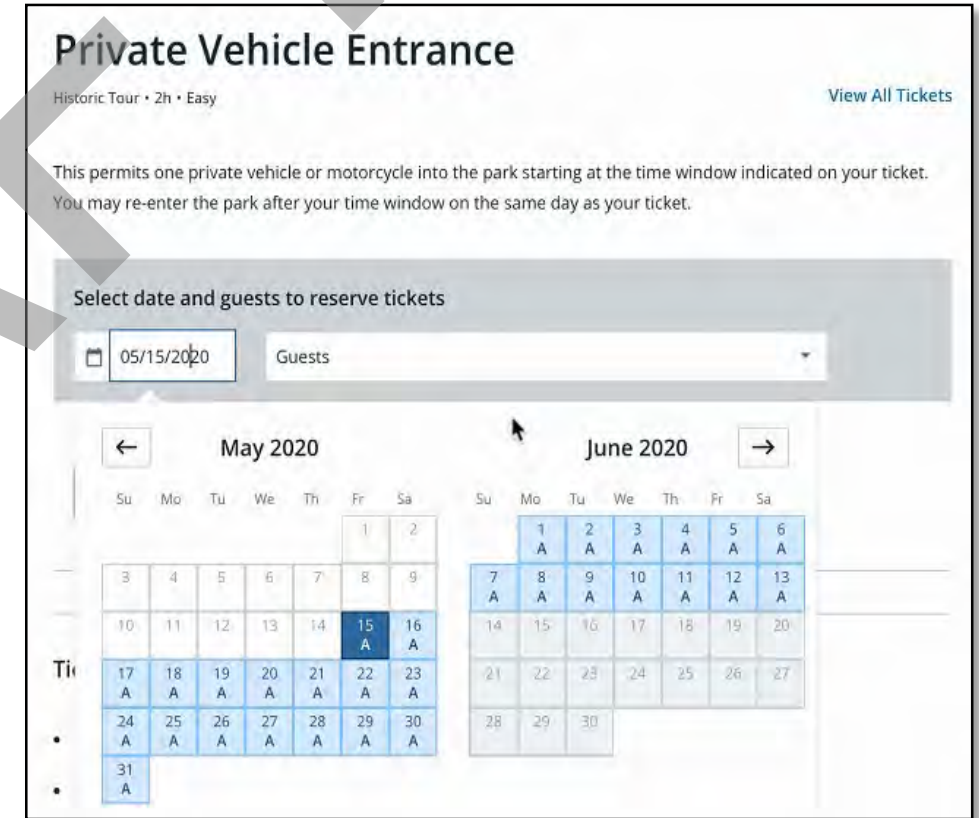


ON-THE-GROUND MANAGEMENT: HOW THE SYSTEM WOULD WORK:

1) Log into Recreation.gov

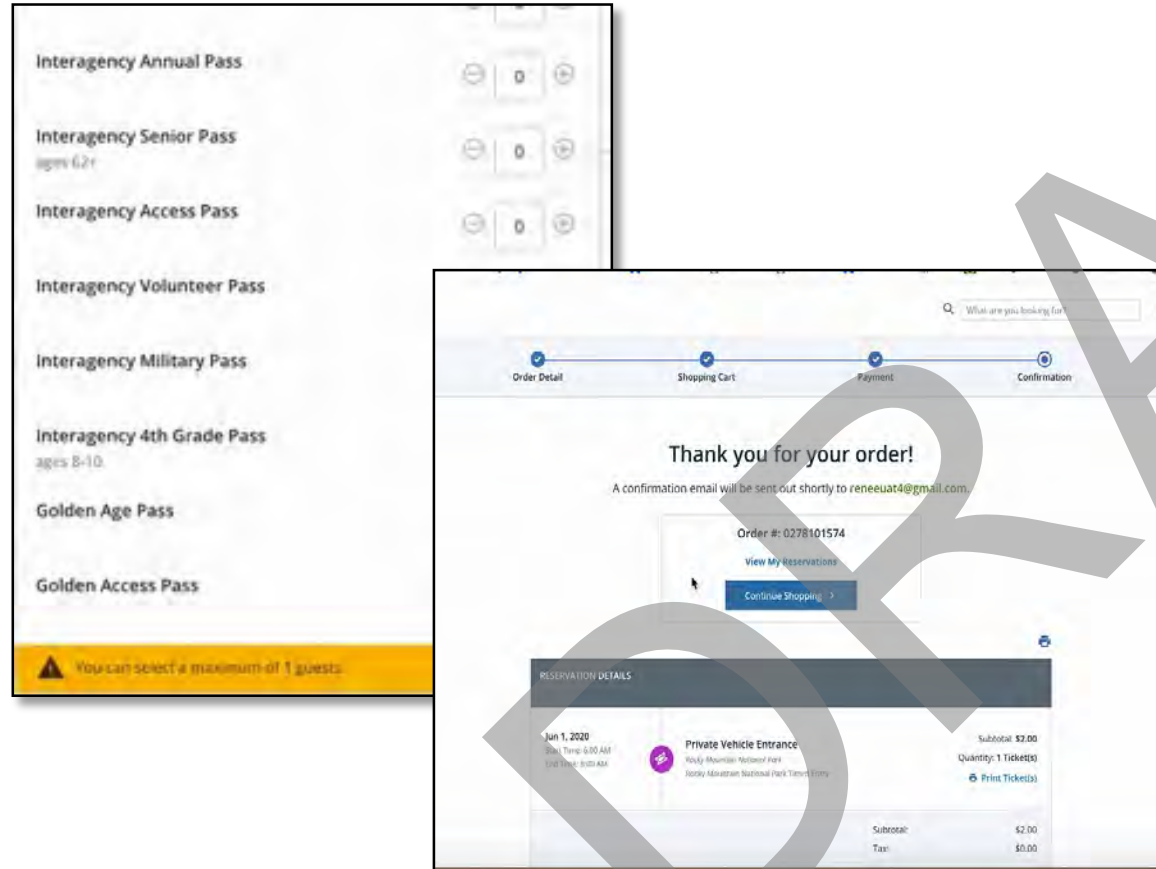


2) Select date of arrival

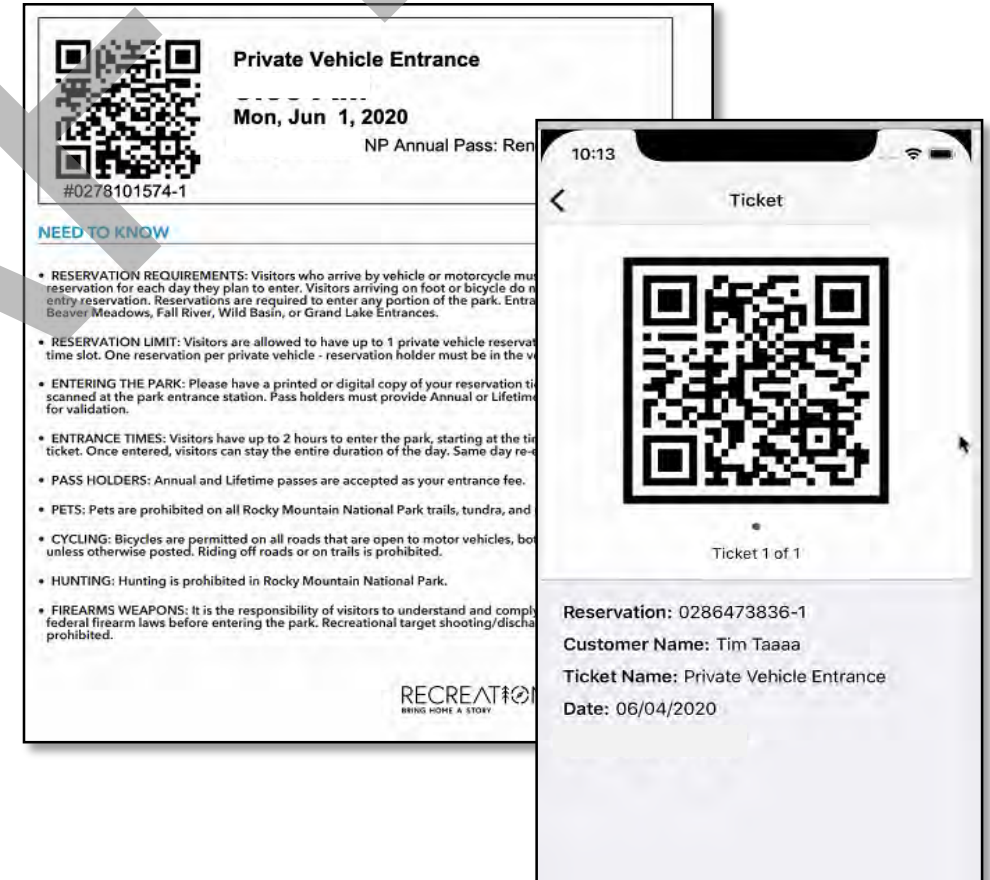


ON-THE-GROUND MANAGEMENT: HOW THE SYSTEM WOULD WORK:

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





RE-OPENING AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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

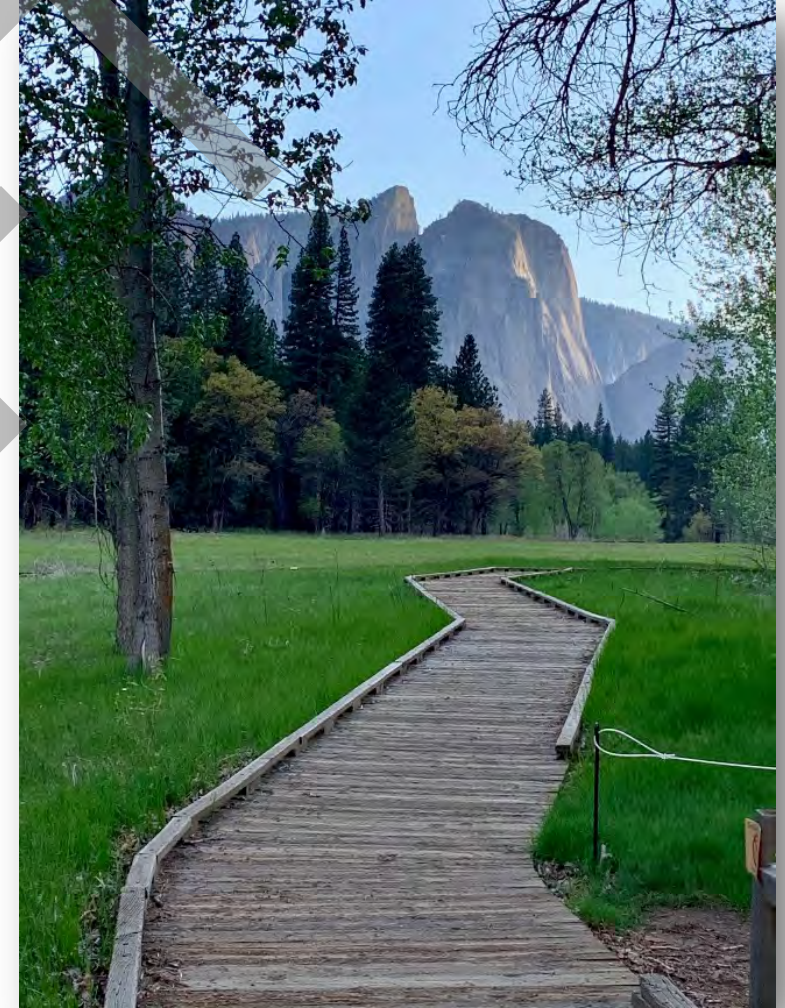
- Bear management, to reduce human-bear conflicts
- Peregrine nest monitoring, to maximize the routes open for climbing
- Habitat restoration and caring for the park's resources



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?

