

II.1 Introduction

(See Section 1 of the current Nomination Form and Section 1, 2 and 3 of the original Nomination Forms)

1a) *State Party:*
USA

1b) *Name of World Heritage property:*
Yosemite National Park

1c) *Please provide geographical coordinates for the site to the nearest second. (In the case of large sites, please give three sets of geographical coordinates.)*

Geographical coordinate: N 38 degrees 11 minutes; W 119 degrees 53 minutes

Geographical coordinate: N 37 degrees 30 minutes; W 119 degrees 12 minutes

1d) *Give date of inscription on the World Heritage List.*

date (dd/mm/yyyy): 11/02/1984

1e) *Give date of subsequent extension(s), if any.*

1f) *List organization(s) responsible for the preparation of this site report.*

Organization #1

Organization Name: Yosemite National Park
Last Name: Tollefson
First Name: Michael
Title: Superintendent
Address: P.O. Box 577
City: Yosemite
State/Prov: California
Postal Code: 95389
Telephone: 209-372-0200
Fax: 209-372-0220
Email: yose_superintendent@nps.gov

II.2 Statement of Significance (see Section 2 of the current Nomination Form and Section 5 of the original Form)

2a) When a State Party nominates a property for inscription on the World Heritage List, it describes the heritage values of the property which it believes justifies the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. Please summarize the justification for inscription as it appears in the original nomination of the property.

5(b) Natural property

Yosemite National Park meets at least two of the four criteria requirements to qualify for the World Heritage List of universally significant natural areas.

(i) An outstanding example representing the major stages of the earth's evolutionary history.

The extent of the Sierra Nevada and its Yosemite National Park is quite young on the geologic time scale. The geology of the range provides an excellent example of the most recent stages in the earth's history – the Quaternary Period (namely the Pleistocene and recent epochs).

"The most striking even in the Pleistocene history of North America is certainly the development of thick continental glaciers which covered much of the northern part of the continent" [Oakeshott]. These glaciers advanced and retreated four times. Though not definitely correlated with the movement of the continental interior glaciers, the disjunct "alpine" or "mountain-valley" glaciers of California also advanced and retreated several times during the same epoch.

Starting two to three million years ago, during the Ice Age, the entire Sierra Nevada range was mantled with snow. At the maximum extent of glaciation, the Sierra was locked in ice along 430 kilometers (270 mi) of its crest [Oakeshott]. At least twice, ice flows extended down steamcut canyons some 80-96 kilometers (50-60 mi) to elevations as low as 610 meters (2,000 ft) and grew to depths as great as 1,830 meters (6,000 ft). Each new glacial epoch partially obscured the older erosion and deposition by later till over earlier till. Geologists are studying these layers in an attempt to understand glacial succession in California.

The latest Ice Age resulted in the final stripping of most of the metamorphic overlayers and the creation of outstanding glacial features carved or pressed into the giant granite block that is the Sierra Nevada. During this evolutionary stage, "there was no upbuilding, but a universal razing and dismantling, and of this every mountain and valley is the record and monument" [Muir].

Most of the current evidence of glaciation in Yosemite Valley is from the last glacier which occupied the Valley toward the close of the Ice Age. A number of moraines in the lower end of the Valley mark the recessional stages of this glacial invasion. At the close of the Ice Age, water from the melting glacier was impounded by a morainal dam and as a result the Valley basin was flooded and formed a huge glacial lake. The lake filled with 610 meters (2,000 ft) of sediment, providing the level valley floor that now supports meadow and forest vegetation. "With the exception of the forming of Lake Yosemite and its rapid disappearance, little change [on a

geological time scale] has taken place in the appearance of Yosemite Valley since the close of the Ice Age, nearly 20,000 years ago" [Adams].

At the higher elevations, one or two glacial advances occurred after those that molded the Yosemite and Hetch Hetchy valleys. When the glaciers melted, the High Sierra was left dotted with lakes, graced by domes, sprinkled with erratic boulders, burnished with glacial polish, and laced with young mountain streams. Some of the lakes have been filled in with sediment, and are now meadows (Tuolumne Meadows is an outstanding example) or forested flats.

Most of the dramatically sharp and beautiful scenery of the High Sierra is the result of glacial erosion. The landscape has been stripped of its older parent material and is newborn, baring the obvious scars of relentless change and evolution. Remnants of past geologic stages remain in a few localities, such as the tops of some of the high peaks and in the bodies of three small extant glaciers hiding in cold, dark recesses of mountains McClure and Lyell.

Naturalist-conservationist John Muir was one of the first to recognize the extent and significance of the role of glaciation in the formation of Yosemite's landscape: "here...lies the broad shining, heavily sculptured region of primeval granite, which best tells the story of the glacial period on the Pacific side of the continent. No other mountain chain on the globe...is so rich as the Sierra in bold striking, well-preserved glacial monuments, easily understood by anybody capable of patient observation. Every feature is more or less glacial, and this park portion of the range is the brightest and clearest of all."

(ii) Contains unique, rare or superlative natural phenomena, formations or features or areas of exceptional natural beauty:

Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias have the honorable distinction of being the first scenic natural areas to have been set aside by a national government for public benefit and enjoyment.

The region's beauty incited a profound human response that compelled John Muir and others to form the Sierra Club (one of the first private conservation organizations) and prepared the world for the idea of and desire for a "national park"; and subsequent acquisition of surrounding peaks and forests to create Yosemite National Park. Frederick Law Olmsted, considered to be America's premier landscape architect, aided the visionary quest for a "public park" through his preliminary report (1865) on the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove. The report was a commendable attempt to encapsulate the character and value of the Yosemite region: "The union of deepest sublimity with the deepest beauty of nature, not on one feature or another, not in one part of scene or another, not in any landscape that can be framed by itself, but all around and wherever the visitor goes, constitutes the Yosemite, the greatest glory of nature."

The concentration of many fantastically beautiful and incredibly inspiring cliffs, domes, and waterfalls in the Yosemite Valley explain its preeminent position in the world of natural beauty. "...[H]aving once entered the valley one is no longer left in doubt as to the reason for its fame. For no other valley is so remarkably fashioned, and no other valley holds within so small a compass so astounding a wealth of distinctive features" (Matthes). The Merced River, the meadows and forests that form its bottomlands, and the spectacular cliffs and waterfalls create one of the

grandest natural settings that exist anywhere in the world. As Muir would say, "No temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite."

The most awe-inspiring of all the great rocks in the Park is El Capitan – 2,308 meters (7,569 ft) in elevation; it is "the largest exposed monolith of granite in the world, Half Dome being second, and Mount Watkins third" [Adams]. The most photographed and famous of the valley rocks is Half Dome, standing in massive isolation 1,491 meters (4,892 ft) above the Valley floor. This unusual mountain form is a landmark feature recognized around the world.

"No where in the world are there waterfalls of such variety within a single area as those that leap into Yosemite Valley in the spring and early summer" [Schaffer]. Each has its own particular beauty that unites in a valley river. Yosemite's magnificent waterfalls are not limited to Yosemite Valley; further up the tributary canyons and in many places along the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne are large and splendid waterfalls – each having diverse "personalities" which evoke a different mood in the observer. Because of the small volume of water in the mountain streams that form them, "the waterfalls of the Yosemite region are relative slender, resembling shimmering veils of ribbons fluttering from the cliffs" [Matthes]. Fortunately, the watersheds that feed these falls are under the Park's exclusive protection.

Among Yosemite's waterfalls are some of the highest and most spectacular of the free-leaping type which is relatively rare in nature. [As of the date of this original compilation, Yosemite was thought to have] five of the ten highest known waterfalls:

Angel Fall	3,212' [979m]	free falling	Venezuela
Yosemite Falls	2,425' [739m]	series of falls	Yosemite NP
Sentinel Falls	2,000' [610m]	series of falls	Yosemite NP
Snow Creek Falls	2,000' [610m]	series of falls	Yosemite NP
Kukenaam Fall	2,000' [610m]	free falling	Venezuela
Sutherland Falls	1,904' [580m]	series of falls	New Zealand
Tugela Falls	1,800' [549m] *	series of falls	Natal
Ribbon Fall	1,612' [491m]	free falling	Yosemite NP
King George Falls	1,600' [499m]	series of falls	British Guiana
Wapama Falls	1,500' [457m]	series of falls	Yosemite NP

* Tugela Falls is listed as being in South Africa and of having a height of 948 meters (3,110 ft) in the "National Geographic Atlas of the World"; Fourth Ed.; National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. 1975.

[Editor's Note: As of 2003, Yosemite has two of the ten tallest known waterfalls].

Rare and beautiful natural formations that are amply represented in Yosemite are the glacial pavements and numerous, varied domes and related forms. "These domes are now known to be the outstanding representatives of a whole class of forms, all distinguished by their smoothly rounded shapes and development in unjointed, massive rocks" (Matthes). Born of glaciers and their own massive internal composition, the domes and related forms offer striking contrast to the faceted types of sculpture developed in Yosemite's jointed rock formations. This contrast is most vividly portrayed amongst Yosemite Valley's granite pillars, where cliffs, peaks, and domes rise steeply 914 to 1,524 meters (3,000 to 5,000 ft) from the Valley floor.

The glacial pavements, testifying to the youth of the region, create a shiny austere landscape. The barren polished pavements are strewn with erratic boulders and/or dotted with lakes and domes, and the whole is laced by streams cascading down bedrock slopes. But the barrenness left in the wake of glaciers, softens where soils have developed in basins or shallow slopes, allowing luxuriant meadows and forests to develop.

The Park sustains three giant sequoia groves; the Mariposa Grove being world famous. The giant sequoia is probably the "largest living thing on earth". "The world's fifth largest three" [Jones] is the Grove's Grizzly Giant; the Grizzly Giant is the largest (209 ft tall and a basal diameter of 34.7 ft) and "probably the oldest (2,700 years) giant sequoia" [Schaffer] in the park. There are 500 mature giant sequoia in the Mariposa Grove; over 200 of these exceed three meters (10 ft) in diameter. The Park's two other sequoia groves offer the visitor a more pristine experience since these groves are less accessible and infrequently disturbed by human activities. The Park's giant sequoias are relics of some forty sequoia species that flourished in the northern hemisphere about 60 million years ago.

To apprehend and adequately represent the magnificence and beauty that is Yosemite is like trying to describe a rainbow to a person who has never experienced one. Some have attempted: such as photographer Ansel Adams and poet-naturalist John Muir. Perhaps the "father" of American landscape architecture, Frederick Law Olmsted, will enlighten those struggling to understand its significance and beauty:

"No photograph or series of photographs, no painting ever prepare a visitor so that he is not taken by surprise, for could the scenes be faithfully represented the visitor is affected not only by that upon which his eye is at any moment fixed, but by all that with which on every side it is associated, and of which it is seen only as an inherent part."

"The Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove: A Preliminary Report, 1865".

2b) At the time of initial inscription of a property on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee indicates the property's outstanding universal value(s) (or World Heritage value(s)) by agreeing on the criteria for which the property deserves to be included on the World Heritage List. Please consult the report of the World Heritage Committee meeting when the property was listed and indicate the criteria for which the Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List. (Choose one or more boxes.)

Cultural Criteria

- i
- ii
- iii
- iv
- v
- vi

Natural Criteria

- i
- ii
- iii

2c) At the time of initial inscription, did the World Heritage Committee agree upon a Statement of Significance for the WHS? (Consult the report or minutes of the World Heritage Committee meeting when the property was listed.

NO

2c1) If YES, please cite it here.

2c2) If NO please propose a Statement of Significance for the World Heritage Site based on the consideration given the property by the Committee when it inscribed the property on the World Heritage List. (Note: Following the completion of the Periodic Report exercise, the State Party, in consultation with appropriate authorities, will determine whether to proceed with seeking a Committee decision to approve any proposed Statement of Significance. The Committee must approve any proposed Statement of Significance through a separate, formal process. See 7g.)

Yosemite National Park is a vivid reflection of the glacial period on the Pacific slope of the North American continent and the concentration of resultant distinctive landscape features in the Yosemite valley contains 5 of the world's highest waterfalls, outstanding examples of granitic domes, deeply incised valleys, and diverse flora and fauna including groves of giant sequoias, possibly the largest living things on earth.

2d) Since the original inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, has the World Heritage Committee agreed with a proposal by the State Party that the property be recognized for additional World Heritage values and added additional criteria to the inscription as a result of a re-nomination and/or extension of the property?

NO

*2d1) If YES, please indicate which new criteria were added and the date.
(dd/mm/yyyy)*

II.3 Statement of Authenticity / Integrity (See Section 2 of the current Nomination Form and Section 4 of the original Form)

3a) In addition to meeting one or more of the criteria, which justify inscription on the World Heritage List, a natural or cultural property must meet the appropriate conditions of authenticity and/or integrity, as defined in clauses 24b and 44b of the Operational Guidelines for Implementing the World Heritage Convention. If at the time of inscribing the property on the World Heritage list, the State Party and the International Council on Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS and/or the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, IUCN, evaluated the authenticity and integrity of the property, please cite those evaluations here. (Please quote directly from the nomination, Committee minutes and the Advisory Body's evaluation.)

Yosemite has clear and physically explicit boundaries. The upper reaches follow the crest of the Sierra Nevada drainage divide and the park encompasses the upper watersheds of two major rivers. The west boundary cuts across the terrain on arbitrary but manageable section lines.

The entire park is surrounded by four national forests, adjacent portions of which are designated wilderness areas, thereby providing important buffer functions.

The guiding document is a general management plan which consists of three sub-plans: natural resources; cultural resources; and visitor use, operations and development. The third sub-plan identifies the major threats and outlines measures to address them. The threats include excessive vehicle traffic, overcrowding, uneven distribution of use, inappropriate development and commercial services. Resolution of these issues is based on the Park Service receiving adequate funding and then modifying certain policies and laws. An estimated \$85 million USD budgetary support is needed to implement the plan.

Although it is generally accepted that Yellowstone was the first national park ever established, Yosemite was the first concrete implementation of the national park concept when, 8 years prior to Yellowstone's establishment, Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were collectively the first area ever set aside by a government "for public use, resort, and recreation" in perpetuity. Yosemite's natural beauty was the impetus, then, for the first implementation of the national park concept as we know it today.

Adding to Yosemite's cultural importance are the archeological features found in the area. The 569 sites designated to date, including stratified 2000 year-old middens, provide a significant resource for the study of paleo-cultural ecology and environmental change in western North America.

At the time of inscription there were also two threats to Yosemite from proposed dam developments in the Tuolumne Valley within the park water supply for San Francisco) and for the Merced River outside the park that would affect park fisheries. World Heritage status would help to deflect or at least offer more mitigative measures for these proposals.

Yosemite National Park should be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The National Park Service authorities should be encouraged by the Committee in their efforts to implement a series of conservation measures which would enhance the integrity of the site.

3b) Have there been significant changes in the authenticity or integrity of the property since inscription?

YES

3b1) If YES, please describe the changes to the authenticity or integrity and name the main causes.

The Merced River Plan amends the General Management Plan; both provide guidance to the Yosemite Valley Plan, which is an implementation plan. The 2000 Merced River Plan provides broad management direction for managing visitor use, land and facility development, and resource protection within the Merced River corridor. The Merced River Plan amends the 1980 General Management Plan and guides decision-making processes for actions within, and adjacent to, the Merced River Corridor. This corridor affects most actions in the Yosemite Valley Plan. The Yosemite Valley Plan is therefore an implementation plan of the General Management Plan as amended by the Merced River Plan. The plan proposes to: provide opportunities for high-quality, resource-based visitor experiences; restore, protect, and enhance the resources of Yosemite Valley; reduce traffic congestion; and provide effective park operations, including employee housing, to meet the mission of the NPS. The Yosemite Valley Plan was approved in December 2000 and provides a long-term, comprehensive visitor management and redevelopment strategy that fulfills the five main goals of the General Management Plan. After the 1997 flood in Yosemite, Congress appropriated monies for flood recovery efforts. Congress subsequently directed that these funds be expended to implement the General Management Plan and the Yosemite Valley Plan. To date, litigation challenging the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan has delayed implementation of many Yosemite Valley Plan actions.

II.4 Management

(See Section 4 of the current Nomination Form and Section 2 and 4 of the original Form)

Management Regime

4a) How can the ownership/management of the property best be described? (Select all that apply.)

- management under protective legislation
- management under contractual agreement(s) between State Party and a third party
- management under traditional protective measures
- other

Please describe.

4b) Please indicate under which level of authority the property is managed

National

Please describe

Yosemite Land Grant Act Of June 30, 1864 (13 Stat., 325)

A Congressional Act Authorizing a grant to the State of California of the "Yo-Semite Valley," and of the land embracing the "Mariposa Big Tree Grove."

Act of Congress, October 1, 1890 (26 Stat. 650)

Establishes Yosemite National Park as a "forest reservation," excluding Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove.

Act of Congress, February 7, 1905 (33 Stat. 702)

Excludes certain lands from Yosemite National Park and includes said lands in the Sierra Forest Reserve.

Act Of The Legislature Of The State Of California, March 3, 1905

An Act by the California legislature regrants to the United States the Mariposa Big Tree Grove and the Yosemite Valley.

Joint Resolution of Congress, June 11, 1906 (34 Stat. 831)

Accepts the 1905 recession by the State of California of the Yosemite Valley Grant and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove.

Act of Congress, December 19, 1913 (38 Stat 242)
Grants certain lands and rights-of-way within Hetch Hetchy Valley and Lake Eleanor Basin of Yosemite National Park to the City and County of San Francisco for municipal water supply and hydroelectric power development.

Act of Congress, July 23, 1914 (38 Stat. 554)
Authroizes the leasing of lands within Yosemite National Park for business transactions under terms and conditions determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

National Park Service Organic Act (1916)
Defines purpose of national parks ". . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Wilderness Act (1964)
Defines and designates wilderness areas (which are areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain). A 1984 amendment to this Act resulted in the designation of about 95% of Yosemite National Park as the Yosemite Wilderness.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)(1969)
NEPA requires all federal agencies to evaluate proposed projects for potential impacts to natural and cultural resources.

Redwood Expansion Act (1978)
Enhancing the NPS Organic Act, the Redwood Act of 1978 reaffirmed the primary purpose of the National Park Service as: "the protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high value and itegrity of the National Park System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress" (16 USC 1a-1;1978).

4c) Please describe the legal status of the property. For example, is it a national, provincial or territorial park? A national or provincial historic site?

National Park

4d) Please provide the full name, address and phone/fax/e-mail of the agency(ies) directly responsible for the management of the property.

Contact #1

Agency Name: Yosemite National Park
First Name: Michael
Last Name: Tollefson
Address: P.O. Box 577
City: Yosemite

State/Prov: CA
Postal Code: 95389
Telephone: 209-372-0200
Fax: 209-372-0220
Email: yose_superintendent@nps.gov

4e) Please provide a list of key laws and regulations, which govern the protection and management of the cultural and natural resources of the property.

Lacey Act (1900)

The Lacey Act is a single, comprehensive statute providing effective enforcement of state, federal, Indian tribal, and foreign conservation laws protecting fish, wildlife and rare plants.

National Park Service Organic Act (1916)

Defines purpose of national parks ". . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Also see the official interpretation of the organic act.

Wilderness Act (1964)

Defines and designates wilderness areas "which are areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." A 1984 amendment to this Act resulted in the designation of about 95% of Yosemite National Park as Wilderness.

American Indian Religious Freedom Act (1966)

This Act establishes that it is the policy of the United States to protect and preserve for Native Americans their inherent right of freedom to believe, express and exercise their traditional religions and rites to include access to traditional sites and the use and possession of sacred objects.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)(1966)

FOIA gives the public the right to inspect and copy the administrative records of federal agencies. Under FOIA most, but not all, federal records are made openly available to interested parties.

National Historic Preservation Act (1966)

NHPA mandates all federal agencies to review all projects that may impact a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or which may affect a property eligible for listing.

Architectural Barriers Act (1968)

This law requires that facilities and programs be made accessible to persons with disabilities.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968)

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that designated rivers "be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they, and their immediate environments, shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." Yosemite National Park Manages two Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Merced and the Tuolumne Rivers, and their watersheds

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)(1969)

NEPA requires all federal agencies to evaluate the proposed projects for potential impacts to natural and cultural resources and allow for public input into such projects.

Endangered Species Act (1973)

This Act provides for the conservation of threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife and plants through federal action and by encouraging state programs.

Floodplain Management Executive Order (1977)

This executive order requires agencies "to avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative."

Protection of Wetlands Executive Order (1977)

This order prevents, to the extent possible, the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands, and to avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative.

Redwood Expansion Act (1978)

Enhancing the NPS Organic Act, the Redwood Act of 1978 reaffirmed the primary purpose of the National Park Service as, "the protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high value and integrity of the National Park System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress" (16 USC 1a-1; 1978).

Archeological Resources Protection Act (1979)

The purpose of this Act is to secure, for the present and future benefit of the American people, the protection of archaeological resources and sites which are on public lands and Indian lands, and to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities, the professional archaeological community, and private individuals having collections of archaeological resources and data which were obtained before the date of the enactment of this Act.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990)

The intent of this law is to give more protection to Native American burial areas, and to return human remains, burial items, items of cultural patrimony, and sacred items that are currently in agency collections to culturally affiliated tribes.

Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

This is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, public transportation, telecommunications, and public accommodations.

4f) Please describe the administrative and management arrangements that are in place for the property concerned, making special mention of the institutions and organizations that have management authority over the property and the arrangements that are in place for any necessary coordination of their actions. Make special reference, if appropriate, to the role of First Nations in managing the property.

Yosemite National Park has entered into a number of agreements which commit the park to various actions. Many of these agreements influence park management. These special park uses are listed below.

Five concession contracts are in effect, including the primary concessioner, Delaware North Concessions Corporation. The others include the Yosemite Medical Clinic, the Ansel Adams Gallery, the El Portal Market, and a gasoline station located in El Portal.

Fourteen commercial-use licenses allowing certain commercial activities within the park have been issued. Commercial-use license permittees are forbidden to maintain, or otherwise operate, facilities within the park. Letters of authorization for commercial tours have also been issued to 540 operators.

Cooperative agreements are maintained to support educational training and volunteer activities. There are currently seven active agreements with groups such as the Yosemite Institute and Student Conservation Association.

Interagency agreements are maintained with the following: U.S. Forest Service, for law enforcement and fire management mutual aid, and housing; U.S. Postal Service; U.S. Geological Survey for resource studies; Soil Conservation Service for resource studies; U.S. Health and Human Services for employee medical assessments; and the General Services Administration for vehicle maintenance. There are currently 16 interagency agreements in place.

Fifteen memorandums of agreement have been established with a variety of organizations including: the state of California for snow surveys, air resources monitoring, and "California Conservation Corps" activities; and Mariposa county for fire management and emergency medical services (EMS), mutual aid, and sewage treatment processing. Described below are two examples of memorandums of agreement with the Yosemite Fund and the Yosemite Association.

Example 1: The Yosemite Fund was established in 1986 as an independent, non-profit organization for the purpose of raising funds to be used exclusively within Yosemite National Park for critical projects lacking financial support within the operating budget. Funding is dedicated to the enhancement and protection of natural, historical and cultural resources. The Yosemite Fund receives 50 percent of its contributions from individuals; corporations and foundations provide the rest. Yosemite Fund managers and the board of directors constantly pursue new and creative means to raise financial and volunteer support.

Example 2: The Yosemite Association serves as a cooperating association with the National Park Service to provide interpretive and educational services to the visiting public. The Yosemite Association operates sales outlets which provide items such as publications, maps, audiovisual aids, handicrafts, and other objects which directly relate to the interpretive themes of the park. Interpretive programs, including outdoor field courses, theater programs, and art classes, are also offered. Yosemite Association provides a membership program which allows individuals to help support the park. Contributions are returned to the park to support high-priority park projects.

The park maintains memorandums of understanding with a number of non-federal public groups in order to provide mutual aid in fire fighting and emergency services, child care, training, and emergency hazards material response.

The park currently has approximately 125 special use permits which have been issued to various public and private entities for a time period of one year or more. Approximately 100 of these permits are for employees to maintain private residences on government land in El Portal. The other permits commit various park lands to purposes which include child care, county schools, worship services, day camps and use of park water systems for private residents.

4g) Please also note whether there have been any significant changes in the ownership, legal status, contractual or traditional protective measures, or management regime for the World Heritage Site since the time of inscription.

None

4h) Is there a management plan for the property?

YES

4h1) If YES, please summarize the plan, indicating if the plan is being implemented and since when, and the URL where the plan can be located, if available. (A copy of the plan should be submitted in December 2004. See Section 8)

Three major plans affect the management of Yosemite National Park:

The 1980 General Management Plan (GMP)
[<http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning/gmp/intro97.html>]

The 2000 Merced River Wild and Scenic Comprehensive Plan (MRP)
[<http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning/mrp/>]

The Yosemite Valley Plan (YVP)
[<http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning/yvp/>].

The Merced River Plan amends the General Management Plan; both provide guidance to the Yosemite Valley Plan--an implementation plan. The 2000 Merced River Plan provides broad management direction for managing visitor use, land and facility development, and resource protection within the Merced River corridor. The Merced River Plan amends the 1980 General Management Plan and guides decision-making processes for actions within and adjacent to the Merced River Corridor. This corridor, affects most actions in the Yosemite Valley Plan. The Yosemite Valley Plan, is therefore an implementation plan of the General Management Plan as amended by the Merced River Plan. The plan proposes to provide opportunities for high-quality, resource-based visitor experiences; restore, protect, and enhance the resources of Yosemite Valley; reduce traffic congestion; and provide effective park operations, including employee housing, to meet the mission of the NPS. The Yosemite Valley Plan was approved in December 2000 and provides a long-term, comprehensive visitor management and redevelopment strategy that fulfills the five main goals of the General Management Plan. After the 1997 flood in Yosemite, Congress appropriated monies for flood recovery efforts. Congress subsequently directed that these funds be expended to implement the General Management Plan and the Yosemite Valley Plan. Litigation challenging the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan delayed implementation of many Yosemite Valley Plan actions.

4h2) If NO, is a management plan under preparation or is preparation of such a plan foreseen for the future?

Financial Resources

4i) What is the annual operating budget for the property in the current fiscal year? (For sites consisting of more than one property provide the budgets of constituent parts.)

2003 Operation of National Park Service Base Budget: \$22,258,371 USD

2003 Annual Operating Program (all fund sources): \$54,949,224 USD

Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

4k) Please describe any sources of specialized expertise, training, and services that come from sources off-site (e.g., training centers, museum conservation facilities).

Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center

The Carhart National Wilderness Training Center is located on the University of Montana campus in Missoula Montana. The Center is a United States federal government inter-agency training center devoted to training federal and state land managers who have wilderness management responsibilities; however, we have also developed school curricula on wilderness for primary and secondary education levels. The staff of seven are representatives from the four federal wilderness land managing agencies: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

Capital Training Center

The Capital Training Center, formally the WASO-Employee Development Division and an excellent resource for training and development, was established during the mid-1990's. The Capital Training Center provides a wide range of competency-based, performance-driven learning solutions, including organization development and performance management services. The well-equipped facility includes a career resource center, two classrooms, and a computer lab. Learning experiences are provided through a variety of training mediums: classroom; computer-based; distance learning; and self-study. The Center's primary purpose is to design, deliver, and evaluate training. Additionally, the Center meets with external experts to design and instruct quality training programs for employees from various locations.

Conservation Study Institute

The Conservation Study Institute was established by the National Park Service to enhance leadership in the field of conservation. The Institute was created in partnership with Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park to share the park's mission of conservation stewardship with a national audience. In collaboration with academic and nonprofit partners, the Institute provides a forum for the conservation community and the public to discuss conservation history, contemporary issues and practice, and future directions for the field. The founding partners for the Institute include the University of Vermont, the Quebec Labrador Foundation's Atlantic Center for the Environment, and Shelburne Farms.

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center serves 70 Federal Partner Organizations, a designation which means the head of the agency has signed the Memorandum of Understanding setting forth an agreement between the FLETC and the agency. Non-partner organizations are encouraged to participate in training programs at FLETC, but on a space-available basis.

Horace M. Albright Training Center

The Albright Training Center is a National Park Service facility for employee development. The Center was established in 1963 and provides resources, context, and stimulus for personal and professional growth in support of the National Park Service mission and strategic goals.

The Albright Training Center prepares employees in all career fields to meet the challenges of a changing world with a renewed sense of purpose while remaining grounded in the traditions and foundations of the National Park Service. A training experience at Albright inspires individuals to seek challenges and make positive contributions unimpeded by self-imposed boundaries and limitations. Each student leaves instilled and reinforced with a greater desire for life-long learning to support the National Park Service and the larger conservation community.

Historic Preservation Training Center

The Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of the historic structures of the National Park Service and its partners by demonstrating outstanding leadership in preservation education and skills and crafts development.

HPTC is currently located in Frederick, Maryland. The headquarters/administrative office is located within Monocacy National Battlefield at the historic Gambrill House. The shop is currently located in the historic Jenkins Cannery building in downtown Frederick, Maryland. The HPTC staff and trainees currently total approximately 45 employees.

National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

NCPTT is an interdisciplinary group of experts who work with partners in the preservation and conservation community to advance the art, craft, and science of historic preservation in the fields of archeology, historic architecture, historic landscapes, objects and materials conservation, and interpretation. NCPTT is an office of the National Park Service.

National Conservation Training Center

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) trains and educates natural resource managers to accomplish our common goal of conserving fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. As the "home of the Fish and Wildlife Service," NCTC brings exceptional training and education opportunities to Service employees and others.

NCTC is a gathering place where conservation professionals from all sectors can learn together in an environment especially designed for them. Government, non-profit organizations, and corporations can come together in a non-threatening, collaborative setting to learn new skills, share perspectives, break down barriers, establish networks, find common ground, and move toward field-based solutions built on consensus and mutual interest.

Located approximately 75 miles (_____ km) from Washington, D.C., the NCTC campus provides full-service residential facilities, complemented by professional staff, cutting-edge programs and curricula, and the most advanced technology available.

National Interagency Fire Center

The "Boise" Interagency Fire Center, established in 1965, evolved from separate efforts by the US Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service to improve fire and aviation support throughout much of the Great Basin and Intermountain West. The Weather Bureau soon added its fire weather forecasting capability to this unique venture. Efforts to pool fire and aviation resources proved so successful that three more natural resource agencies -- National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Fish and Wildlife Service -- joined the Center in the 1970s. By that time, participating agencies' missions had become national in scope. In early 1993 the Center's name was changed to "National" Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) to more accurately reflect its national mission.

Stephen T. Mather Training Center

The National Park Service established the Stephen T. Mather Training Center on April 17, 1964, on the former (1867-1955) Storer College Campus grounds in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Named for the first Director of the National Park Service (from 1916-1929), Mather Training Center trains and develops Service employees from sites throughout the United States.

Storer College was one of the first institutions of higher learning in the United States to offer enrollment to freed African-Americans following the Civil War. Many Storer graduates became teachers, taking their "freedom to learn" to others.

4j) Please provide information about the number of staff working at the World Heritage Site (enter figures).

Full Time: 330 (Value must be a number)
Part Time: 83 (Value must be a number)
Seasonal: 380 (Value must be a number)
Other: (Value must be a number)

Please list the job categories of these staff (e.g., Park Superintendent, Historian, Ecologist, Interpreter, General Works/Maintenance Manager) and describe the specialized skills and expertise of the World Heritage Site's staff members.

Accounting Technician
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Support Technician
Animal Packer
Archeological Technician
Archeologist
Architect
Assistant Revenue & Fee Business Manager
Audio Visual Production Specialist
Biological Science Technician
Biologist
Botanist
Budget Analyst
Budget Analyst
Budget Technician
Carpenter
Civil Engineer
Community Planner
Computer Assistant
Concessions Management Assistant
Concessions Management Specialist
Contract Specialist
Correspondence Clerk
Criminal Investigator
Cultural & Natural Resources Management Specialist

Deputy Park Superintendent
Ecologist
Electrical Worker
Electrician
Electrician (HV) Supervisor
Electronics Mechanic
Electronics Technician
Engineering Equipment Operator
Environmental Health Specialist
Exhibits Specialist
Exhibits Specialist (Restoration)
Facility Manager
Financial Analyst
Fire Program Assistant
Fire Protection Specialist
Forester
Forestry Technician
Gardener
Geographer
Heavy Mobile Equipment Operator
Historian
Housing Management Specialist
Housing Manager
Human Resources Assistant
Human Resources Officer
Human Resources Specialist
HV Electrician Lead
Indian Cultural Demonstrator
Information Technology Specialist
Instrument Mechanic
Laborer
Landscape Architect
Lead Administrative Support
Lead Firefighter
Lead Forestry Technician
Lead Park Ranger
Lead Visitor Use Assistant
Library Technician
Mail and File Clerk
Maintenance Mechanic
Maintenance Mechanic Lead
Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor
Maintenance Worker
Management Analyst
Materials Handler
Motor Vehicle Operator
Museum Curator
Museum Technician
Office Automation Assistant
Office Automation Clerk
Painter
Paralegal Specialist
Park Ranger (General)

Park Ranger (Interpretation)
Park Ranger (Law Enforcement)
Park Superintendent
Permits Program Manager
Physical Science Technician
Physical Scientist
Prescribed Fire Specialist
Procurement Technician
Program Manager
Property Management Specialist
Public Information Specialist
Public Safety Communications Specialist
Purchasing Agent
Resource Management Specialist
Restoration Work Leader
Restoration Worker
Safety and Occupational Health Manager
Safety Technician
Sanitarian
Secretary (Office Automation)
Sign Painter
Stagecoach Driver
Supervisory Archeologist
Supervisory Budget Analyst
Supervisory Budget Specialist
Supervisory Campground & Visitor Use Assistant
Supervisory Concessions Management Specialist
Supervisory Contract Specialist
Supervisory Criminal Investigator
Supervisory Forestry Technician
Supervisory General Supply Specialist
Supervisory Information Technology Specialist
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
Supervisory Park Ranger
Supervisory Physical Science Specialist
Supervisory Resources Management Specialist
Supervisory Telecommunications Specialist
Supervisory Visitor Use Assistant
Telecommunications Specialist
Tools and Parts Attendant
Traffic Control Lead
Trail Worker
Trail Worker Supervisor
Transportation Specialist
Tree Faller
Utility Systems Repair Operator
Visitor Use Assistant
Volunteer Program Manager
Volunteer Projects Manager
Welder
Wildlife Biologist
Wood Crafter
Workers' Compensation Program Manager

Writer-Editor

Visitation

4l) *Are there any visitor statistics for the site?*

YES

4l1) If YES, please provide the annual visitation for the most recent year it is available, indicating what year that is, a brief summary of the methodology for counting visitors, and briefly describe the trends in visitation. (In describing these trends, please use the year of inscription as a baseline.)

1984	2,738,467
1985	2,831,952
1986	2,876,717
1987	3,152,275
1988	3,216,681
1989	3,308,159
1990	3,124,939
1991	3,423,101
1992	3,819,518
1993	3,839,645
1994	3,962,117
1995	3,958,406
1996	4,046,207
1997	3,669,970
1998	3,657,132
1999	3,493,607
2000	3,400,903
2001	3,368,731
2002	3,361,867

Visitation is calculated through a complicated model that captures vehicles as they enter the park through entrance stations. This model is updated, when necessary.

Visitation has increased 23% percent since inscription (1984-2002). At the peak of visitation in 1996, visitation was up 48% since inscription, but has declined 25% since (1996-2002). This decline in visitation from the peak is attributed to several factors, including a disastrous flood in 1997, the down turn of the United States and World economy, and the 2001 terrorism event in New York City.

4m) Please briefly describe the visitor facilities at the property.

National Park Service facilities and services include:

- 1,948 campsites in 18 campgrounds
- 210 picnic sites in 24 picnic areas
- 3 visitor centers
- 6 museums and major exhibits
- 2 amphitheaters
- 8 Ranger stations

- 6 entrance stations

The following are not provided by the National Park Service, but are services offered in the park and provided by various partners, concessioners, and other entities:

- 1,789 lodging units, ranging from tent cabins to a luxury hotel
- 30 food and beverage outlets, from snack bars to formal dining
- 32 merchandise outlets, including groceries, gifts, sporting goods, clothing, and fine arts
- 6 automotive service locations, including gasoline stations, a garage, and towing service
- 1 medical and dental clinic
- 5 developed "High Sierra" camps, providing food, lodging, and limited merchandise
- Outdoor recreational opportunities (developed) include: Golf course, ski area, ice rink, raft rental, bicycle rental, swimming pools, tennis courts, horse stables, mountaineering school, laundry services, and shower facilities.
- The park owns a fleet of shuttle buses that operated by Delaware North Concessions, Corporation (the primary concessioner) and travel throughout the Yosemite Valley. Visitors can ride free of charge.

4n) *Is there tourism/visitor management plan for the property?*

NO

4n1) *If YES, please briefly summarize the plan, and provide a URL where the plan can be located.*

Scientific Studies

4o) *Please list key scientific studies and research programs that have been conducted concerning the site. (Please use the year of inscription as a baseline.)*

See appendix at end of this document.

4o1) *Please describe how the results of these studies and research programs have been used in managing the World Heritage Site.*

Research provides the foundation for resource management programs. In 1994, the park completed a draft comprehensive Natural and Cultural Resource Management Plan for Yosemite National Park. This plan establishes program direction and identifies additional research needs. Project statements in the RMP are updated as needed, and often on the basis of new research results.

Research also indicates the need for additional planning and program development. The recently completed Yosemite Valley Plan/Environmental Impact Statement was initiated because of research—called for in the 1980 Yosemite General Management Plan—that indicated the need to remedy influences of park facilities and infrastructure on meadows, riparian systems and Merced River dynamics, and to deal with other matters related to archeology, cultural landscapes, sociology, and transportation.

Research provides the basis for monitoring activity. The park is initiating planning for a Vital Signs Monitoring Program. Research results will provide the basis for developing monitoring actions.

Research helps us identify larger research needs and gaps, and has contributed to the establishment of research and education partnerships. For example, a partnership has been established with University of California, Merced's Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI). A catalog of research needs has been prepared, and a SNRI research station is being established in Yosemite to provide logistical support for the state, national, and international research community.

4o2) What role, if any, has the property's designation as a World Heritage Site played in the design of these scientific studies and research programs? For example, has there been a specific effort in these programs to focus on the recognized World Heritage values of the property?

The park's World Heritage Site designation is but one of many for Yosemite, so its influence on the design of scientific studies (in support of the National Park Service's overall management responsibilities) is difficult to isolate. There is no specific effort in the park's research and resource management program to focus on the World Heritage designation, but there is a consistent effort to consider the park's various designations in the crafting of plans and integrated actions carrying out these management responsibilities. Research efforts are often completed in support of these plans and actions. The Yosemite Valley Plan, for example, includes the World Heritage Site designation in its discussion of the direction for the planning effort.

Education, Information and Awareness Building

4p) Is there a plaque at the property indicating that it is a designated World Heritage Site?

YES

4q) Is the World Heritage Convention logo used on all of the publications for the property?

NO

4r) Are there educational programs concerning the property's World Heritage values aimed at schools?

NO

4r1) If YES, please briefly describe these programs.

4s) Are there special events and exhibitions concerning the property's World Heritage values?

NO

4s1) If YES, please briefly describe them.

4t) Please briefly describe the facilities, visitor center, site museum, trails, guides and information material that are available to visitors to the World Heritage Site.

National Park Service provided facilities and services include:

- 1,948 campsites in 18 campgrounds
- 210 picnic sites in 24 picnic areas
- 4 visitor centers
- 6 museums and major exhibits
- 2 amphitheaters
- 8 Ranger stations
- 6 entrance stations

The following are not provided by the National Park Service, but are services offered in the park and provided by various partners, concessioners, and other entities:

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- 6 automotive services locations, including gasoline stations, a garage and towing services
- 1 medical and dental clinic
- 5 developed "High Sierra" camps, providing food, lodging, and limited merchandise
- Outdoor recreational opportunities (developed) include: Golf course, ski area, ice rink, raft rental, bicycle rental, swimming pools, tennis courts, horse stables, mountaineering school, laundry services and shower facilities.
- The park owns a fleet of shuttle buses that operated by Delaware North Concessions, Corporation (the primary concessioner) and travel throughout the Yosemite Valley. Visitors can ride free of charge.

Recreation:

* Bicycling is a common means for enjoying and exploring Yosemite, particularly the Yosemite Valley. More than 12 miles of paved bikeways wind through the eastern end of Yosemite Valley. Weather permitting, rental bikes, baby jogging strollers, and bicycle child trailers are available.

* Horse use includes private stock users and concessioner trail rides. Weather and trail conditions permitting, 2-hour, half-day, and full-day trail rides on mules are available. For private users, there are four dedicated horse camps.

* Yosemite offers over 800 miles of hiking trails parkwide, ranging from day-hikes to multi-day wilderness excursions for persons of all abilities. Permits are required for overnight users.

* Rock climbing is a popular activity that includes wilderness/adventure climbing, traditional climbing, big wall climbing, sport climbing, speed climbing, bouldering, big drop rappelling, and free solo climbing.

* Winter activities include, but are not limited to, downhill and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The park has a downhill ski area at Badger Pass. Ice-skating is available at a concessioner-operated rink at Curry Village.

* Rafting and kayaking on the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers has grown in popularity. The park's primary concessioner provides rental raft services for park visitors.

* Swimming is popular among summer visitors, particularly in Yosemite Valley in the Merced River. Three swimming pools, two that are available to the public for a fee, are located in Yosemite Valley.

* Fishing is a popular activity during the State of California fishing season, April through mid-November.

* An 9 hole golf public golf course is available in Wawona.

4u) What role, if any, has the property's designation as a World Heritage Site played with respect to the education, information and awareness building activities described above? For example, has the World Heritage designation been used as a marketing, promotional, or educational tool?

Although there are plaques in place at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, this is the extent of our promotion of the World Heritage designation.

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property (See Section 5 of the current Nomination Form)

5) Please briefly identify factors affecting the property under the following headings: Development Pressures, Environmental Pressures, Natural Disasters and Preparedness, Visitor and Tourism Pressures, Number of Inhabitants Within Property and Buffer Zone and Other - major factors likely to affect the World Heritage values of the property. First discuss those that were identified in the original nomination, in the same order in which they were presented there, then those that have been discussed in reports to the World Heritage Committee since inscription, and then other identified factors.

This section should provide information on all the factors which are likely to affect a property. It should also relate those threats to measures taken to deal with them, whether by application of the protection described in Section 4e or otherwise.

Not all of the factors suggested in this section are appropriate for all properties. The list provided is indicative and is intended to assist the State Party in identifying the factors that are relevant to each specific property.

(In describing these trends, please use the year of inscription as a baseline.)

*For EACH Factor, please specify the following:
key actions taken to address factor
any plans that have been prepared to deal with factor in the future
whether the impacts of factor appears to be increasing or decreasing, and
the timeframe for which the comparison is being made.*

Development Pressures

5a) Provide information about Development Pressures on the following: demolitions or rebuilding; the adaptation of existing buildings for new uses which would harm their authenticity or integrity; habitat modification or destruction following encroaching agriculture, forestry or grazing, or through poorly managed tourism or other uses; inappropriate or unsustainable natural resource exploitation; damage caused by mining; and the introduction of invasive nonnative species likely to disrupt natural ecological processes, creating new centers of population on or near properties so as to harm them or their settings.

** Insularity*

Habitat changes in areas outside the park resulting from activities such as logging, development, grazing, and tree plantations will increase the isolation of park wildlife populations. This will ultimately affect these populations; some potentially to the point where their long-term viability will be compromised. We must increase our involvement with adjacent land management agencies in emphasizing the importance of protecting park species, and must work with them to develop land management actions and policies to minimize adverse effects on park wildlife. We need to be more involved in interagency groups that are addressing regional wildlife issues; for example, development of recovery and conservation plans for special-status species, neotropical songbird conservation, and riparian habitat conservation.

* Population Growth

The State of California has a population of over 35 million people according to the 2000 U.S. Census. That population is projected to increase. Much population growth has occurred in the San Joaquin, or Central, Valley. The Central Valley is a major agricultural region for the world, along with having major manufacturing and service-industry infrastructure.

This population growth, coupled with associated industries, has led to concomitant development pressures. Central Valley and Sierra Foothill communities are growing at an outstanding rate. Along with this growth comes air pollution, as more people are driving long distances. The Central Valley has inversions that trap auto, agricultural, and other industry pollution for days, releasing these pollutants (when weather permits) to the Sierra foothills and high elevation environments of which Yosemite National Park occupies.

Environmental Pressures

5b) Environmental pressures can affect all types of property. Air pollution can have a serious effect on stone buildings and monuments as well as on fauna and flora. Desertification can lead to erosion by sand and wind. What is needed in this section is an indication of those pressures which are presenting a current threat to the property, or may do so in the future, rather than a historical account of such pressures in the past.

* Flooding

By January 1st, 1997, the Yosemite region was covered by a significant amount of snow. A series of warm storms dumped rain to elevations up to about 10,000 feet. The warm rain not only ran off into streams, but also melted snow (which also ran off into streams). As a result, Yosemite's streams quickly flooded. The 1997 flood was the largest recorded flood (though historic floods prior to 1915 may have been larger) in Yosemite's recent history. All of the largest floods have resulted from rain falling on top of snow. Other such floods occurred in 1937, 1955, 1960, and 1964; several of these were nearly as large as the 1997 flood.

When damage assessments from this flood were complete, over \$178 million USD in damage to critical park infrastructure was identified. Damage from the 1997 flood included major damage to the El Portal Road (Hwy 140 inside the park) and other minor road damage; guest services and lodging facilities; water and wastewater treatment infrastructure were off line; several valley campgrounds washed away; and housing for concessions and park employees were later deemed uninhabitable.

As a result, the U.S. Congress appropriated funding to repair the damage, with repairs ongoing at the time of writing this report (10/2003). It can be reasonably expected that similar disastrous floods could occur on a repeated basis.

* Climate Change

Climatological records for the park indicate that contemporary climate change has been occurring since the 1970s. Climate change is predicted to result in changes in precipitation and temperature regimes, which will in turn result changes in physical processes, which will result in changes to the plant and animal communities of the park. The effects of global climate change will present the park with management challenges: changed fire regimes, changed habitats, invasion by new species (both native and non-native), loss of species, decreased water supply, increased demand for water, etc. Important contributions of the park to the climate change issue include the presence of relatively pristine ecological conditions against which climate change and its impacts can be measured, as well as providing information to the public.

Work to date to address this factor has been limited to research and monitoring to understand the factor, and agency collaboration with counties and the state of California to reduce air quality impacts and plan ways of improving other air quality-related conditions. Efforts focused on managing climate change have been limited.

* Fire

The park's long history of fire suppression has resulted in changes in plant and animal communities, and exposed these communities to the threat of unnaturally large, intense fires. The new Fire Management Plan, if fully implemented, will make great strides in correcting these problems. Implementation of the plan, however, also must include consideration of effects on wildlife and revegetation as part of the process of adaptive management that will further shape fire use in the park.

If implemented according to the proposed schedule, the fire management program would assist in restoring the natural fire regime and range of variability in park ecosystems in a 15 to 20 year timeframe, and would complete wildland/urban interface protection work within 6 to 8 years.

* Invasive Non-Native Species

The continued presence and spread of non-native plant and animal species in Yosemite is causing irreversible ecological damage and scenic change. The problem is compounded over time with new plant and animal pest species invading the park and crowding out native species. As the percentage and cover of non-native plant species increase, wildlife habitat and natural resource values continue to be lost.

Non-native wildlife species have profoundly affected some park habitats and the increase or arrival of other species may cause further adverse impacts. The best example is the effect of non-native fish on aquatic habitats. Recently collected data indicate that these fish have caused dramatic changes in aquatic invertebrate and vertebrate populations. There is clear evidence that predation by fish has been the primary factor resulting in the disappearance of mountain yellow-legged frogs from vast areas of the park. Turkeys, in recent years, have increased in the park and bullfrogs have hastened the extirpation of California red-legged frogs from the park. We must develop a prioritized strategic plan for eradication of non-native species based on ecological effects and feasibility of eradication. In the case of non-native fish, complete eradication is infeasible, both from a practical and a political perspective, but we should eradicate fish from target areas that would provide the

most benefit to affected native species. We should also develop a system for detecting the arrival of new non-native species, including pathogens. Planning and implementation efforts to restore yellow-legged frogs will begin in 2003.

* Non-native Plant Management

Non-native plant species have been managed in the park since the 1930s. Approximately 180 non-native plant species are known to occur within the park; 18 of these are identified as a high priority for management and control by the USDA, CDFA, and/or the California Exotic Pest Plant Council. In the past five years staff have been aggressively managing the most highly invasive non-native plant species with consistent inventory, monitoring, and control treatments. GPS technology is used to map populations of invasive, non-native plant species, and infested areas are treated with manual, mechanical, biological, and/or chemical control techniques. Treated areas are re-visited each year to assess results and provide follow-up treatment as needed. Work is accomplished through multiple funding and labor sources, including park project support, federal and state funded grants, county hand crews, and non-profit and corporate volunteers. A non-native plant species management plan is under development at this time. The distributions for some invasive plant species are not yet well known. Progress has been made in controlling some high priority invasive species, but continuous efforts are required.

* Human/Wildlife Conflicts

Interaction between humans and wildlife--particularly human property--in Yosemite are frequent, resulting in widespread conflicts. Although considerable progress has been made in reducing these conflicts, especially with black bears, this program still involves over 80% of Wildlife Management personnel's time. Such emphasis is necessary to keep from losing hard-won progress, but this has resulted in the neglect of other aspects of wildlife management--many of them with important ecological implications. A Bear/Human Conflict Management Plan has been prepared. It is being implemented as part of an effort to adopt a more proactive, integrated approach to reducing human/wildlife conflicts.

* Air Pollution

The Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 give federal land managers the responsibility to protect "Air Quality Related Values" such as visibility, water quality, clean air and biological resources. Yosemite National Park was designated a Class I area under the Clean Air Act. The NPS is concerned about degradation resulting from human-caused atmospheric chemical alterations generated within the park and also transported to the park from surrounding urban areas, such as the San Joaquin Valley and San Francisco Bay communities. Ozone, visibility, particulate matter, acid precipitation, and global climate change all affect the park, its natural and cultural resources and processes, and the use and enjoyment of the park by visitors. The park is working with neighboring counties and state agencies to accomplish air quality improvement objectives, under provisions of state and county implementation plans and the Clean Air Act.

Natural Disasters and Preparedness

5c) This section should indicate those disasters which present a foreseeable threat to the property and what steps have been taken to draw up contingency plans for dealing with them, whether by physical protection measures or staff training. (In considering physical measures for the protection of monuments and buildings it is important to respect the integrity of the construction.)

Yosemite is prone to flooding and catastrophic fires. Accordingly, the park has a thoroughly developed flood response plan - most recently revised beginning in February of 1997 following the epic flood of January of that year. The revision was completed (after several years) by a panel of incident management experts from around the service. Yosemite is currently finishing an environmental impact statement, preparatory to a ten-year fire plan (completion in October 2003). The plan, when complete will address corrective measures of prescribed fire, managed wildfire and a carefully limited amount of mechanical activity to reduce forest fuels while steering toward a pre-settlement natural forest structure. A natural distribution of species, size classes, and stems per acre will ultimately decrease the potential for catastrophic wildfire (according to prehistoric forest burn research).

Yosemite has numerous small earthquakes each year and is situated west of the Mammoth Mountain volcanic region. It is possible that a major earthquake or an explosive steam or pyroclastic eruption will occur at some point. Depending on the severity, human safety within the park could be affected. Because these are natural and uncontrollable events, their geomorphic results would simply become part of the park's natural environment. From a life-safety perspective, visitors and staff would be managed for shelter or evacuation similarly to the flood evacuation provisions.

Visitor and Tourism Pressures

5d) In completing this section what is required is an indication of whether the property can absorb the current or likely number of visitors without adverse effects (i.e., its carrying capacity). An indication should also be given of the steps taken to manage visitors and tourists. Possible impacts from visitation that could be considered include the following:

- i. damage by wear on stone, timber, grass or other ground surfaces ;*
- ii. damage by increases in heat or humidity levels;*
- iii. damage by disturbance to the habitat of living or growing things; and*
- iv. damage by the disruption of traditional cultures or ways of life.*

At this time, we cannot answer this question. Because we are also very interested in resolving this question, we have begun undertaking a program to discover the answer.

The Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) program is designed by the National Park Service to provide a statistically valid way to determine carrying capacities based on key resource and visitor satisfaction indicators. Yosemite, as mandated in the Yosemite Valley Plan, is in the process of developing these indicators which will be used to determine when visitation is impacting either resources or visitor experience.

The VERP process at Yosemite should be completed sometime in 2006.

Number of Inhabitants Within Property and Buffer Zone

5e) Include the best available statistics or estimate of the number of inhabitants, if any, within the property and any buffer zone and describe any activities they undertake which affect the property.

Approximately 2,500 people live in the Yosemite National Park on a year-round basis, including 1,600 in the Yosemite Valley, 400 in Wawona and Yosemite West, and the remainder throughout various private inholdings spread across the park.

5f) List Other Factors

II.6 Monitoring (See Section 6 of the current Nomination Form)

Administrative Arrangements for Monitoring Property

6a) Is there a formal monitoring program established for the site? In this case, "monitoring" means the repeated and systematic observation and collection of data on one or more defined factors or variables over a period of time.

YES

6a1) If YES, please describe the monitoring program, indicating what factors or variables are being monitored and which partners, if any, are or will be involved in the program.

Visitation: The number of visitors and vehicles entering and exiting the park.

Campgrounds: The number of campsites that are occupied.

Criminal statistics: Various statistics including violent and non-violent crimes.

Search and Rescue: Various major and minor SAR events.

Invasive species: Both plant and wildlife invasive species are monitored, including their number, range, and controlled areas.

Key Indicators for Measuring State of Conservation

6b) At the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage list, or while in the process of reviewing the status of the property at subsequent meetings, have the World Heritage Committee and the State Party identified and agreed upon key indicators for monitoring the state of conservation of the property's World Heritage values?

NO

6b1) If YES, please list and describe these key indicators, provide up-to-date data with respect to each of them, and also indicate actions taken by the State Party in response to each indicator.

6b2) If NO key indicators were identified by the World Heritage Committee and used so far, please indicate whether the World Heritage Site management authority is developing or plans to develop key indicators for monitoring the state of conservation of the property's World Heritage Values.

Yosemite National Park, in a cooperative effort with other Sierra Nevada parks (Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP and Devils Postpile National Monument), is currently planning a long-term "vital signs" monitoring program, funded through the NPS Inventory & Monitoring program. Preliminary scoping workshops have identified potential indicators of ecosystem change for monitoring in Yosemite and other Sierra

Nevada parks. Initial indicators (draft) identified for Yosemite were: montane and subalpine meadow communities, landscape vegetation mosaics using aerial photography, neotropical migrant bird populations, abundance and distribution of high priority exotic plant species and exotic plant pathogens, hydrology and surface water chemistry, meteorology, and distribution and abundance of native aquatic vertebrates.

Through the vital signs monitoring program, Yosemite and other Sierra Nevada park staff have a particular interest in detecting ecosystem change that is outside the range of natural variability and that may be related to major stressors that affect the Sierra Nevada ecosystem. The Sierra Nevada's most problematic anthropogenic stressors are the following: (1) altered fire regime, (2) air pollution, (3) non-native invasive species, (4) habitat fragmentation, and (5) global climate change. The vital signs monitoring program will assist park managers in defining and detecting significant changes in critical resources and will use these data to inform management efforts to mitigate some impacts from these stressors on park systems.

Results of Previous Reporting Exercises

6c) Please describe briefly the current status of actions the State Party has taken in response to recommendations from the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription or afterwards, through the process known as "reactive reporting." (Note: The answer to this question will be "not applicable" for many sites.)

Not applicable

II.7 Conclusions

World Heritage Values

7a) Please summarize the main conclusions regarding the state of the World Heritage values of the property (see items II.2. and II.3. above).

The state of Yosemite National Park compared to when it was inscribed as a World Heritage site have remained relatively constant. Natural resource systems are largely allowed to function without impediment. Although visitation has declined, visitor and population pressures remain a concern. Although the 1997 Flood event resulted in the destruction of \$178 million USD of park infrastructure, several planning efforts regarding rebuilding of the Yosemite Valley have resulted--and will result--in visitor and employee infrastructure that will better protect park resources, the visitor experience, and values for which Yosemite was inscribed for as a World Heritage site.

Management and Factors Affecting Site

7b) Please summarize the main conclusions regarding the management of and factors affecting the property (see items II.4. and II.5. above).

Population pressures in the State of California continue to provide for management concern, particularly regarding air quality and community development outside of park boundaries. Exotic plant and animal species also provide management concern regarding natural resources and we continue to aggressively manage this problem with staff resources and by working with our partners. The 1997 Flood event allowed the park to reexamine the management and infrastructure of the Yosemite Valley; the resultant Yosemite Valley and Merced River Plans allowing management to correct some of the past inappropriate park development and visitor use patterns. Although the 1997 Flood event was disasterous, it has been a great opportunity for management and, through careful planning efforts, will result in a Yosemite National Park whose World Heritage values are enhanced.

Proposed Future Action(s)

7c) Please describe briefly future actions that the State Party has approved to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage values of the property.

These sample headings can be used as a checklist.

- Modification of legal or administrative structure*
- Changes to financial arrangements*
- Increases to staffing level*
- Provision of training*
- Modification of visitor facilities*
- Preparation of a visitor management plan*
- Studies of public knowledge of the World Heritage Site*
- Emergency preparedness*
- Establishment or improvement of a monitoring program.*

Modification of visitor facilities
Emergency preparedness
Establishment or improvement of monitoring programs

Responsible Implementing Agency(ies)

7d) Please identify the agency(ies) responsible for implementation of these actions described in 7c, if different from those listed in Section II.4.

Responsible Implementing Agency #1

Entity National Park Service
First Name: Michael
Last Name: Tollefson
Address: P.O. Box 577
City: Yosemite
State/Prov: California
Postal Code: 95389
Telephone: 209/372-0200
Fax: 209/372-0220

Timeframe for Implementation

7e) If known, or predictable, please provide a timeline for the implementation of the actions described in 7c.

2000-2006

Needs for International Assistance

7f) Is it anticipated that International Assistance, through the World Heritage Fund, will be requested for any of the planned actions described above?

NO

7f1) If YES, please state the nature of the request and when it will be requested, if known.

Potential Decisions for the World Heritage Committee

7g) Please indicate if the World Heritage Site management authority has preliminarily identified, as a result of this reporting exercise, an apparent need to seek a World Heritage Committee decision to change any of the following:

(Note: Following completion of the Periodic Report exercise, the State Party, in consultation with appropriate authorities, will determine whether to proceed with seeking a Committee decision on these changes. To request such changes, the State Party will need to follow a separate, formal process, subsequent to submitting the report.)

- change to criteria for inscription
- change to Statement of Significance
- proposed new Statement of Significance, where previously missing
- change boundaries or buffer zone

II.8 Documentation

(See Section 7 of the current Nomination Form and Section 3 of the original Nomination Form)

8a) Please review the original nomination for the property to determine whether it is necessary or advisable to supply, update or amend any of the following documentation for the World Heritage Site. Indicate what documentation will be supplied to supplement the information found in this report. (This documentation should be supplied at the time the Periodic Report is submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in December 2004.)

- a) Photographs, slides and, where available, film. This material should be accompanied by a duly signed authorization granting, free of charge to UNESCO, the non-exclusive right for the legal term of copyright to reproduce and use it in accordance with the terms of the authorization attached.
- b) Topographic or other map or site plan which locates the WHS and its boundaries, showing scale, orientation, projection, datum, site name, date and graticule.
- c) A copy of the property management plan.
- d) A Bibliography consisting of references to all the main published sources on the World Heritage Site, compiled to international standards.

URL: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning/yvp/>

Description: Yosemite Valley Plan (c; above)

8b) Do you have a digital map of the WHS, showing its location and boundaries?

YES

8bi) If yes, in what format(s) is the map?

ARC/Info Export Format

8bii) Is it published on a publicly-accessible website?

YES

8biii) If yes, please provide the URL of the site where the map can be found. Must be a valid URL.

<http://www.nps.gov/gis>

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