

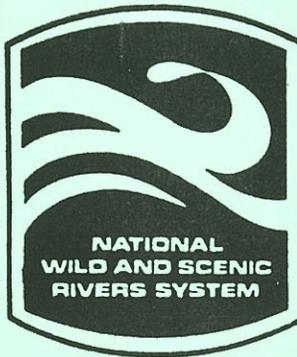


United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

FOREST SERVICE  
PACIFIC  
SOUTHWEST  
REGION




**MERCED  
RIVER**

**SOUTH FORK  
MERCED  
RIVER**



## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT  
OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF  
LAND MANAGEMENT

FOLSOM RESOURCE AREA  
BAKERSFIELD DISTRICT




**MERCED  
RIVER**



**FINAL PLAN NOV 1991**

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# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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# **The South Fork and Merced Wild and Scenic River Implementation Plan**

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**Mariposa and Madera Counties**

**United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service**

**Sierra National Forest, Mariposa Ranger District**

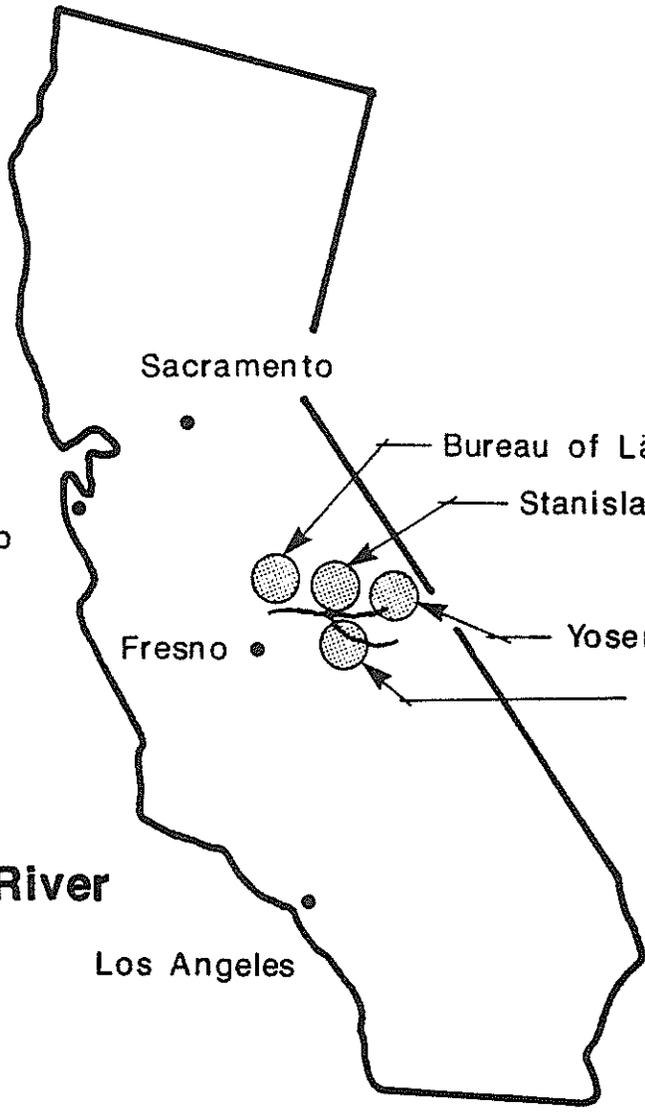
**Stanislaus National Forest, Groveland Ranger District**

**United States Department of Interior**

**Bureau of Land Management, Folsom District**

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# PROJECT AREA



San Francisco

Sacramento

Fresno

Los Angeles

Bureau of Land Management

Stanislaus National Forest

Yosemite National Park

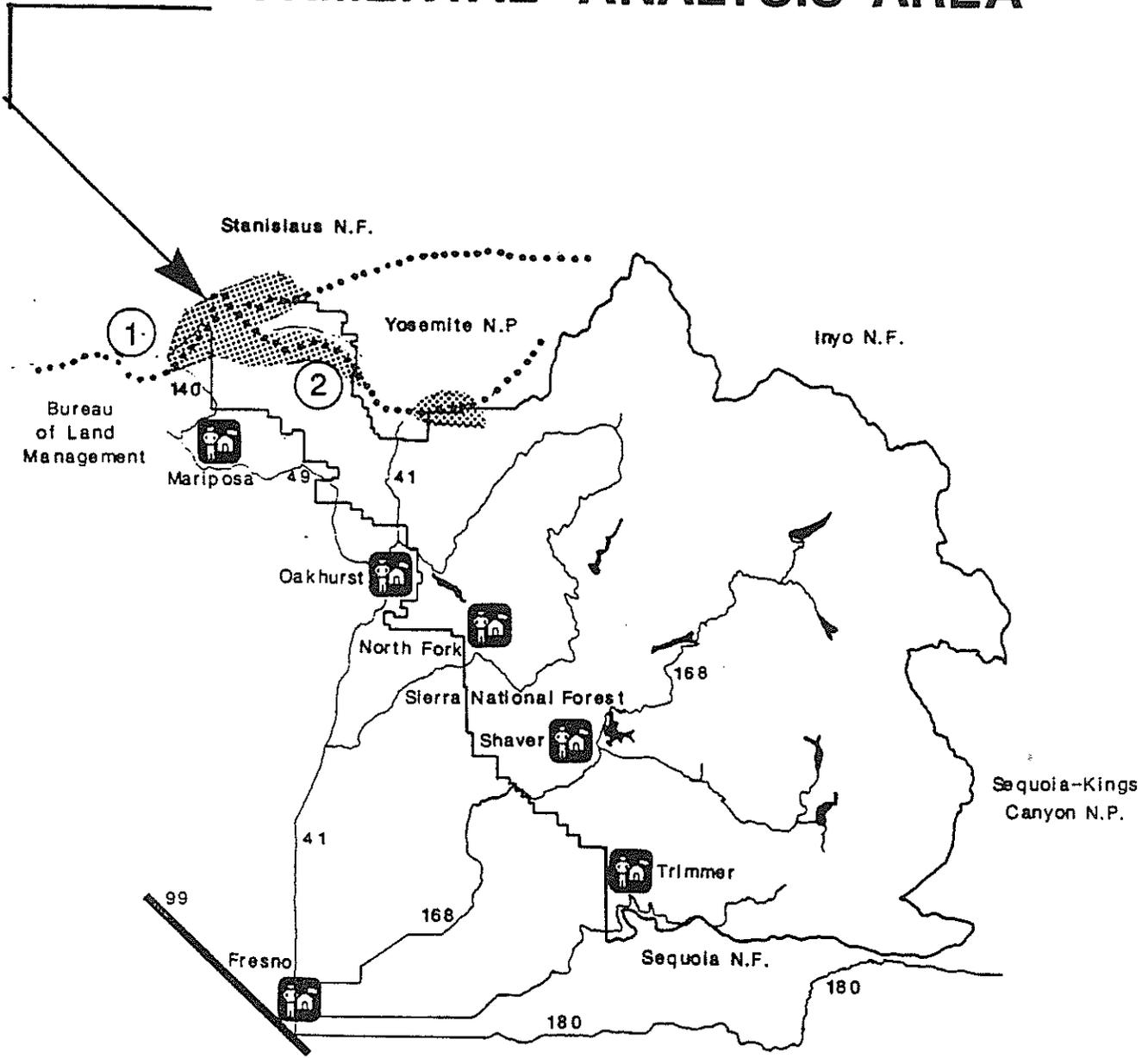
Sierra National Fores

## MERCED RIVER

• Merced River

• South Fork Merced River

# PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AREA



## Legend

- ① Merced River
- ② South Fork Merced River

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Background

Located in the Mariposa and Madera Counties are the Merced and South Fork Rivers. Portions of these rivers are designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. They were established by Public Law 100-149 in November 1987. The Act indicated that the rivers are to have completed Management Plans within three years of the signing of the Act. This Management Plan (Forest Service calls this an Implementation Plan) fulfills this requirement and is a companion document to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the already completed Boundary and Classification Environmental Assessment. This Implementation Plan (Plan) provides management guidelines for a total of 33 miles of wild and scenic river corridors. These are managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. An additional 3 miles are managed by the Forest Service and the National Park Service.

President Reagan signed Public Law 100-149 amending Section 3 (a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274 (a)). This Act established 114 miles of designated Wild and Scenic rivers in the Merced River System. The Act provides direction to the Secretary of Agriculture to publish a Management Plan. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have already established the classifications and boundaries for their administered portions of the river. This has been recorded in the Environmental Assessment completed in 1988. This EIS/Plan phase includes an analysis for the rivers's use, protection, management and development levels. It addresses operation and

maintenance standards within the established boundaries and classifications.

Management direction for rivers is also contained in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542), the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act amended by P.L. 99-590, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act amended by P.L. 100-534, the California Wilderness Act (P.L. 98-425), Wild and Scenic River Federal Register for the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior Vol 47 Fed. Reg. 39454 September 1982, the Final Wild and Scenic River Environmental Assessment for the Merced and South Fork Wild and Scenic River Boundary and Classification 1989 and the current agency management directions for Wild and Scenic Rivers, FSH 1909.12, FSM 1924, FSM 2354.

Accompanying this Implementation Plan is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which analyzes different approaches to the management of these Wild and Scenic Rivers. The revised preferred alternative C is the basis for this Implementation Plan.

## **1.2 Purpose of the Implementation Plan**

The purpose of this plan is to provide management guidance for the WSR. Throughout the development of this plan, PL 100-149, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and agency guidelines are used to guide the development of objectives, policies and the kind, type and method of management actions needed to maintain or enhance the WSR values. Besides the legislative direction, this plan incorporates, by reference, the current management direction for the Sierra and Stanislaus National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management's Merced River Management Plan.

Within the framework of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management Plans, this Implementation Plan is needed to 1) resolve specific resource questions and conflicts occurring in the designated wild and scenic rivers, 2) give the public and agency officials a consistent vision of the future of the wild and scenic rivers, 3) establish priorities for needed projects, and 4) serve as a basis for Forest Service and Bureau budgetary requests for management activities.

This Plan is based on a zone approach. The river areas are divided between four Management Zones and four Opportunity Classes. Management Zones are geographic delineations of areas that would be managed in a similar fashion. Opportunity Classes are descriptions of desired conditions used to decide actions to protect existing values of naturalness, solitude and unconfined recreation opportunities. They also enable Forest Service and Bureau managers to focus management decisions and actions in areas where there is a need to address past and/or present human influences.

This plan projects 10 years into the future with development of management objectives, policies and actions. It is designed to be a working document for on-the-ground management. The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) system provides direction for much of the monitoring and effectively focuses Forest Service and Bureau activities in areas where management attention is needed. Since planning cannot anticipate all future issues, portions of the standards and indicators are found in this document. They are intended to be reviewed annually and updated as needed to provide maximum protection for area values. Additional resource data and user information will be incorporated in the plan. The working document is available for public review at the Sierra National Forest Supervisors Office, the Stanislaus National Forest Supervisors Office, the Mariposa Ranger District Office, the Mariposa Station Office, the Groveland Ranger District Office, the Bureau of Land Management Folsom District Office, and local public libraries.

### **1.3 Implementation Plan Process**

The Plan incorporated two processes of recreation management. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is one process. The ROS provides a means for classifying areas in relation to the types of recreation opportunity experiences that are or can be provided and the settings in which they occur. This is a guideline process tool that both agencies use in recreation management.

The second process is the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process. This LAC process is used to develop strategies that help maintain desired ROS levels. The process is a guideline tool that both agencies use in recreation management. The process emphasizes public involvement at an early stage of the recreation planning. The LAC process does not focus attention on limiting use to an estimated capacity, but it can provide an estimate of the desired level of use. If resource conditions deteriorate, land managers may have several possible solutions. Actions may include: encouraging users to adjust habits, changing time periods of use, changing distribution of use or, limiting use. The LAC planning process is described in Appendix A. The process is flexible. A manager can respond to changes in river conditions without the need to having to amend the Plan. The process emphasizes objectives. It establishes a monitoring system that will trigger implementation of management options for the Wild and Scenic Rivers.

In addition to the above, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process was used to develop the accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Federal agencies are required to follow this process by law. Both NEPA and the LAC processes emphasize the importance of public involvement. Public involvement was a key factor in the development of management actions described in this Plan. Both processes use different planning step names but as in this case have been coordinated and completed as equal steps with positive results.

## **1.4 Implementation Plan Summary**

The remainder of this Implementation Plan specifies the direction for the management of the Wild and Scenic River zones. Chapter 2.0 discusses the public involvement process and the integration of public comments into the planning process. Chapter 3.0 describes the Opportunity Classes that describe the desired character of an area. Chapter 4.0 describes the Management Zones. These zones are geographical areas that will be managed as one unit. Chapter 5.0 identifies management items that are common to all the zones within the Wild and Scenic River plan. Since each zone represents a unique situation, Chapters 6.0 to 10.0 identify the objectives, assumptions, indicators, standards,

and management actions for a specific zone. Chapter 11.0 lists all the indicators and standards with a brief description of how the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will follow up and monitor the management of the area.

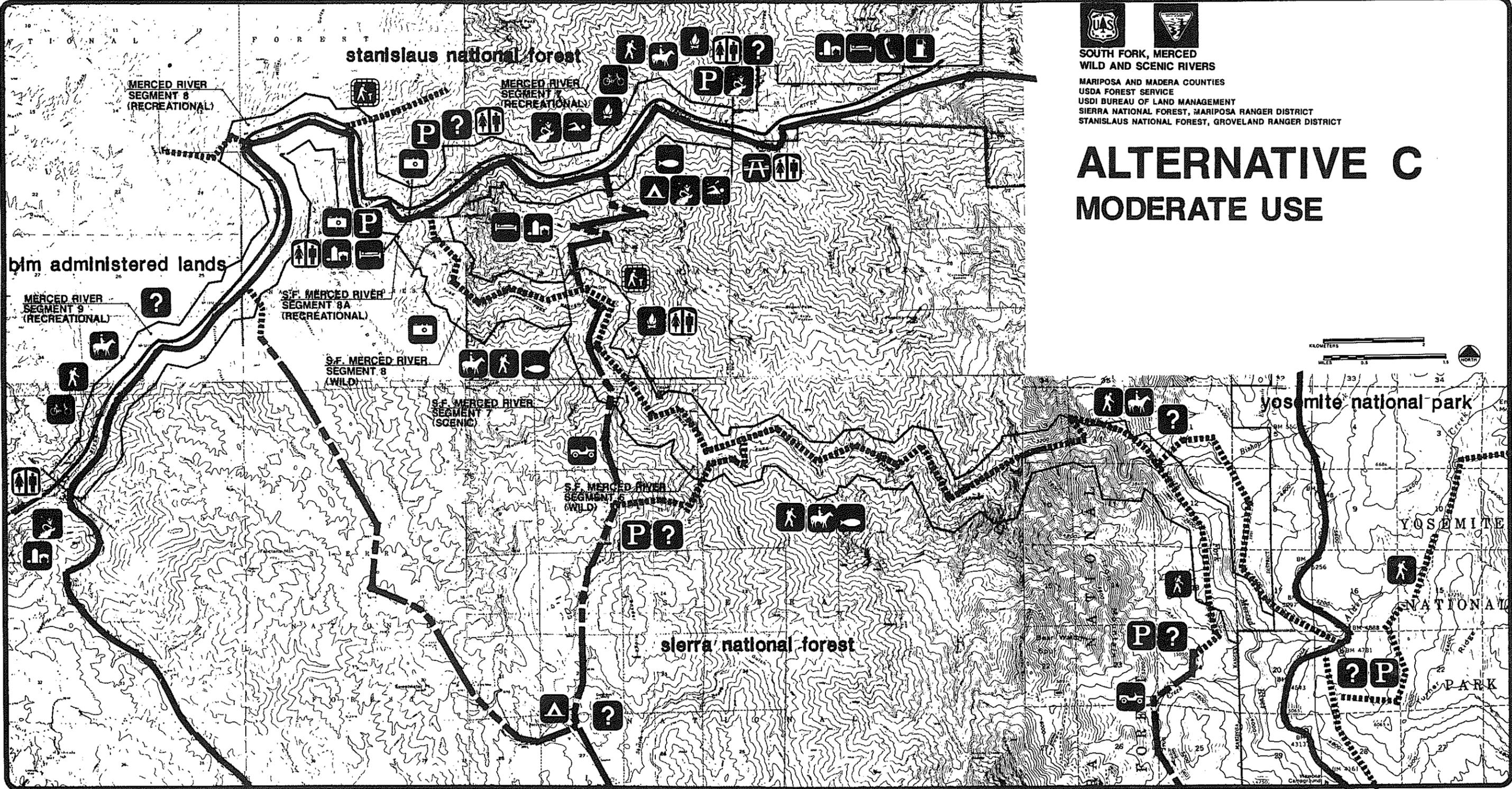
It is important to note that this Implementation Plan accompanies the Environmental Impact Statement and relates to the preferred Alternative C. Of special interest is the EIS section entitled **AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**. This section describes the environmental setting for the information provided in the Implementation Plan. To provide for a concise description of the management for the area, duplicated from the EIS Plan, is a minimum amount of information.

## **1.5 THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE C MAP**



**SOUTH FORK, MERCED  
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**  
 MARIPOSA AND MADERA COUNTIES  
 USDA FOREST SERVICE  
 USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST, MARIPOSA RANGER DISTRICT  
 STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST, GROVELAND RANGER DISTRICT

# ALTERNATIVE C MODERATE USE



- |                   |                      |                     |                    |                         |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| camping (vehicle) | bicycle trail        | viewing area        | lodging            | road (paved)            |
| picnicking        | hiking trail         | interpretation area | telephone          | road (unpaved)          |
| rafting           | horse trail          | rec vehicle trail   | restrooms          | railroad grade (unused) |
| camping (walk-in) | fishing              | information         | gas station        | trail (maintained)      |
| swimming          | parking (trail head) | grocery store       | handicapped access |                         |

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## 2.0 ISSUES

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Public involvement was a crucial part of the development of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and this Implementation Plan. The public Issues were the basis for the development of the Opportunity classes, the objectives and the management direction.

Written in 1988, a Public Participation Plan identified opportunities for public involvement. The first opportunity for public involvement was during the identification of issues at public meetings. The second opportunity was recording public opinions through written letters on the preliminary alternatives and consequences. The third opportunity was after the DEIS/Plan was released. The public again had a chance to provide written comments on the DEIS/Plan documents before this final EIS/Plan was published.

### 2.1 Identification of Issues

The public review and participation process took place from June, 1989 to November 1990 and consisted of the following steps:

- notification of all persons on the combined Sierra, Stanislaus and BLM existing mailing lists, inviting comments on issues and concerns;
- three public meetings held in the community of Mariposa, California;

- two news releases in June, 1989 and October 1990 were sent to local and selected metropolitan news media outlets, inviting comments on the issues;

- six "newsletter" notices were mailed to over 1,000 interested parties, identifying ongoing progress of the Environmental Analysis process;

- meetings with interested and affected Forest Service, Bureau, State and Federal Agency personnel;

- meetings with interested individuals and organizations;

- A Draft EIS/Plan was available for public comment from August to November 1990.

Drawn from these sources were the following issues. They have been grouped by subject and summarized:

#### **ISSUES:**

**RECREATION:** What types and amounts of recreation use are appropriate within the designated corridors? Will the concern of motorized or non-motorized use on specific trails/roads be resolved through this plan? What will be the strategy for off highway vehicle use in terms of amount, season and location around the Hite Cove area?

**LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE:** How will any recreation improvements planned by the agencies affect the private land owners within the river corridors? How will scenic easements affect the private land owners? Are the three federal agencies responsible for the river's corridor administration going to have coordinated regulations for camping, rafting and law enforcement?

**MINERALS:** Where and what kinds of mining activities are appropriate within the river corridors. Should new mineral activity withdrawals be accepted within the "scenic" and "recreation-

al" river segments? Should there be seasons for recreational mining?

**ISSUES:**

Besides the above list, the these issues could require action to resolve. These issues also helped guide the formation of alternatives in the FEIS and are used in this Implementation Plan to direct management actions.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES AND ARCHAEOLOGY:** What actions will be necessary to protect the cultural resources around the South Fork Merced River's Hite Cove area? How will the protection of archaeological resources be integrated with development and utilization of the river corridor along the Merced River?

**AIR QUALITY:** What will be the impacts of air quality in the area?

**ADMINISTRATION:** What level of staffing and skill will be needed to administer the river area?

**SOCIO-ECONOMICS:** What effect will the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) implementation process have on the existing commercial permittees who operate rafting or stock-packing operations for the public on federal lands? What are the current population trends, and how will they affect the recreation opportunities and the natural resources within the wild and scenic rivers?:

**FACILITIES:** What structures, facilities and other improvements are needed to administer the river area? Are the existing road and trail transportation systems adequate?

**FIRE/FUELS MANAGEMENT:** Do the two National Forests and the BLM have a coordinated fire plan or policy within the WSR corridor? What strategy of fire and fuels management will complement other management activities within the wild and scenic river area?

**FISHERIES:** What kinds and amounts of fish habitat will be provided and what are the effects of management on habitats?

**GEOLOGY AND SOILS:** Does implementing any recreation development or activity have any effect on erosion or the geologic integrity of the areas along the river corridors?

**GRAZING:** How should livestock grazing be managed within the designated river corridors? Should there be any changes in allotments? What will be the strategy for utilization of the range resource by domestic cattle?

**NOISE:** What types of activities will impact the noise levels within the area?

**PLANNING DIRECTION:** Will the Plan include management objectives, and will the plan include a monitoring program?

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND INTERPRETATION:** How will people be involved with the planning of the wild and scenic rivers? Will the Forest Service and BLM provide information about the area after the plan is completed?

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES:** How will the protection of Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (T&E) species be integrated with development and utilization of the river corridors? Have the agencies identified species to be protected within the potential recreation developments?

**TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM:** What standard of road and trail development will be needed to provide access for recreation and to private holdings with valid mining claims?

**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT:** How will vegetation be managed to benefit the natural environment? Are vegetation management plans necessary within the WSR corridors?

**VISUAL RESOURCES:** How can the naturally appearing landscape viewed from within the river corridor be maintained or improved? Will all the planned activities and improvements meet

the criteria of visually not evident or visually subordinate when completed?

**WATER QUALITY:** How will the water quality of the river watersheds be maintained? Will catchment basins that are recommended in emergency fire rehabilitation plans conflict with W&SR and water quality values?

**WILDLIFE:** What kinds and amounts of wildlife habitat will be protected and what are the effects of management on habitats?

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## 3.0 OPPORTUNITY CLASSES

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The designated Wild and Scenic River corridors are within diverse pieces of public land. A premise in the development of this Implementation Plan is that the Wild and Scenic Rivers be given just consideration as they are analyzed in different sub-units. There are a variety of settings present that are based on physical layout. Visitor use and patterns of use, degree of past human influences represent these settings examples. Each recognized setting should then require a different management emphasis to preserve or enhance the particular values of that area within the guidance provided by the enabling legislation.

Within these Merced and South Fork Wild and Scenic River corridors there are four of these settings. They are called Opportunity Classes. These Opportunity Classes are descriptions of the range of resource, social and managerial conditions that the Forest Service and BLM intend to maintain or restore.

Each Opportunity Class has its own narrative description of the resource, social and managerial conditions that are considered appropriate and acceptable for management. These descriptions are the objectives that the Forest Service and BLM will seek to get, maintain or enhance.

For the Merced and South Fork Merced Rivers, there are four Opportunity Classes. Opportunity Class I (P or Primitive ROS) describes a pristine environmental setting with least human activities and least trail surface developments. Opportunity Class II (SPNM or Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized ROS) describes a natural environment with moderate human activities and minimal surface developments. Opportunity Class III (SPM or Semi-

Primitive Motorized ROS) describes a natural environment with moderate human activities and moderate surface and minimal structural developments. Opportunity Class IV (R or Rural and RN or Roded Natural ROS) describes a variety of river and land based recreation activities with maximum human activities and moderate surface and moderate structural developments available within the natural environment.

### **3.1 OPPORTUNITY CLASS I (WILD ZONE I)**

#### **Resource Setting:**

Opportunity Class I (Wild Zone 1), the most pristine of the three classes, is an unmodified natural environment. The soil, water, vegetation and wildlife components of the ecosystem within the class are stable and natural processes operate free of human-induced controls. These processes are not noticeably affected by the presence or actions of any users. Visitor effects are rare and typically consist of minor temporary disturbance of soils and vegetation in camp areas and along popular hiking routes. Disturbances are visually subtle and therefore unnoticeable, typically recovering annually. Effects from other resource users are rare to nonexistent, temporary and unnoticeable.

#### **Social Setting:**

This area provides visitors outstanding opportunities for solitude and isolation from other users. Encounters with other visitors or other resource users are rare. Visitors may travel and interact with the natural environment. Within this class there are many opportunities to use primitive outdoor skills and experience challenge, self-reliance and risk.

#### **Managerial Setting:**

Management emphasizes maintaining, and if necessary, enhancing the natural ecosystem and its processes. Primitive recreation and other programs are priorities. Ongoing programs in the area are managed to conform with the areas resource, and social objectives for this class. Management activities will maintain or

enhance natural environmental conditions while permitting recreation activities.

**Management Zone:**

The following management zone will be managed with the intention of providing the settings described for Opportunity Class I:

WILD ZONE 1 (See map end section 4.0) Approximately 4,480 acres, this equals 74% of the total South Fork WSR corridor

### **3.2 OPPORTUNITY CLASS II (WILD ZONE II)**

**Resource Setting:**

Opportunity Class II (Wild Zone 2), offers challenging recreation activities within a predominately unmodified, natural environment. It has predominantly an unmodified natural environment. The soil, water, vegetation and wildlife components of the ecosystem within the class are stable. Natural processes operate predominantly free of human-induced controls. Controls may be used to enhance vegetation, wildlife or fish populations. Natural processes are minimally affected by resource management activities. Visitors may impact soils and vegetation in areas along travel routes. These effects are minor temporary disturbances that recover annually. Disturbances are visually subtle and apparent to visitors. Effects from historic mining structures are apparent to most visitors who happen upon them.

**Social Setting:**

This area provides visitors with good opportunities for solitude and isolation from others during the primary use seasons. Travel may be done by foot. Encounters with other visitors or other resource users are seldom in the off-season and moderate during the primary season of use. Visitors may travel and interact with the natural environment. Opportunities to experience challenge, self-reliance and risks are moderate.

**Managerial Setting:**

Management primarily focuses on providing primitive recreation experience settings. The emphasis is on maintaining and enhancing the natural ecosystem and its processes. Other resource management programs are managed to conform with the legislative direction in PL 100-149, and the resource and social objectives for this class. Management strives to use methods that contribute to obtaining, maintaining, or enhancing the desired conditions for the area while fulfilling other program responsibilities.

**Management Zones:**

The following management zone will be managed with the intention of providing the settings described for Opportunity Class II:

WILD ZONE 2 (See map end section 4.0) Approximately 960 acres, this equals 16% of the total South Fork WSR corridor.

### **3.3 OPPORTUNITY CLASS III (SCENIC ZONE)**

**Resource Setting:**

Opportunity Class III (Scenic Zone), is a river based recreation area that is accessible with non-motorized trails and motorized routes. Besides a few existing mining developments, most of the area has natural environments. The soil, water, vegetation and wildlife components of the ecosystem within the class are stable and natural processes that drive them operate free of human-induced controls. These processes may be moderately affected by the actions of some uses within the area. Visitors impact soils and vegetation in dispersed camp areas, along the travel routes and along the river. These effects are temporary disturbances that recover annually. Minor disturbances can persist from year to year. The effects are apparent to most visitors. Effects from historic mining structures, while few, are permanent and apparent to visitors who happen upon them.

**Social Setting:**

The area provides visitors with moderate opportunities for solitude and isolation from others. There are opportunities for gregarious activities and day use recreation. Encounters with other visitors are moderate during the high season. Encounters usually occur along existing traveled routes, and are expected by most visitors. There is a moderate likelihood for visitors to travel unregulated and interact with the natural environment. Opportunities for river based recreation, viewing spectacular scenery and other outdoor experiences are available and accessible.

**Managerial Setting:**

Management focuses on providing river based recreation experience settings, and limited developed opportunities. Recreation activities are limited to the resource management activities within the area. Management strives to use methods that contribute to obtaining, maintaining, or enhancing the desired recreation conditions while maintaining resource integrity.

**Management Zones:**

The following management zone will be managed with the intention of providing the settings described for Opportunity Class III:

SCENIC ZONE (See map end section 4.0) Approximately 640 acres, this equals 10% of the total South Fork WSR corridor.

### **3.4 OPPORTUNITY CLASS IV (RECREATION ZONE)**

**Resource Setting:**

Opportunity Class IV (Recreation Zone), is the most developed recreation oriented class. It has a variety of river based and land based opportunities within a natural environment. The soil, water, vegetation and wildlife components of the ecosystem are dynamic processes operating within the influence of human activities. Areas are resilient to human activities. Visitors may impact soils and vegetation in dispersed and developed camping

areas along the river. Effects are minor and temporary. Heavily used areas are affected annually. Disturbances are apparent to most visitors, but may be viewed as acceptable. Developments and effects from other resource uses (eg. grazing, mining, powerlines, roads and administrative structures) are permanent and apparent to most visitors who happen upon them.

**Social Setting:**

This area provides visitors with opportunities for solitude as well as opportunities for group activities. During the off season, encounters with other visitors or other resource users are moderate. During the high season, encounters with other visitors is common both in developed camping areas and while traveling. Regulations may be apparent and visitors may see the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and other law enforcement officials. There are opportunities to use outdoor skills and river oriented skills in a highly accessible environment.

**Managerial Setting:**

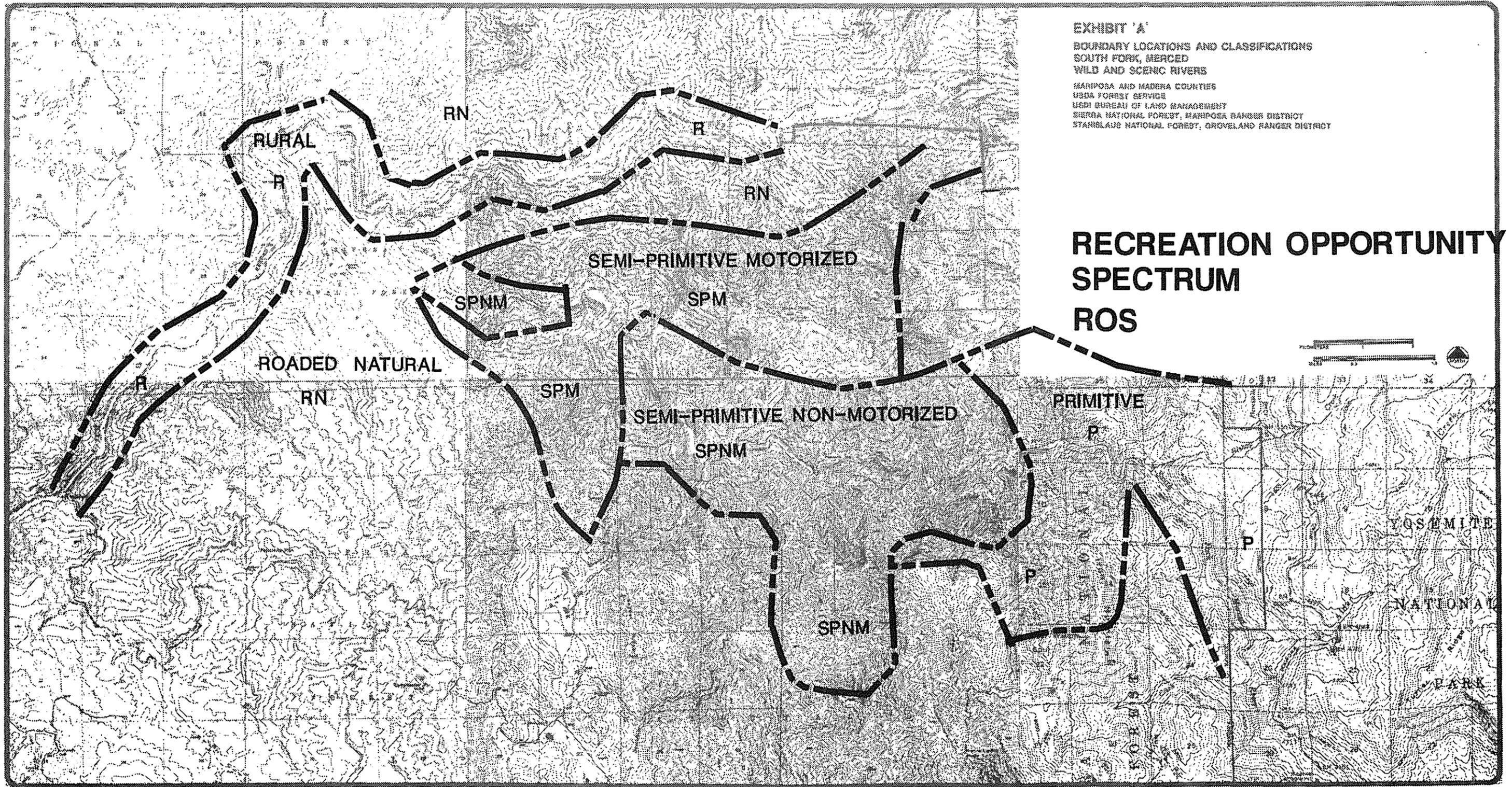
Management focus is on providing a wide range of recreation experience settings while maintaining and enhancing the natural ecosystem and its processes. Ongoing recreation and resource programs (e.g. grazing and mining) are managed to maintain the areas natural looking and recreational opportunities. Management uses methods which contribute to the outstanding remarkable values of the area. The goal is to provide a variety of river and land based recreation opportunities.

**Management Zones:**

The following management zone will be managed with the intention of providing the settings described for Opportunity Class IV:

**RECREATION ZONE** (See map end section 4.0) Approximately 4,800 acres, this equals 100% of the total Merced WSR corridor

**3.5 RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM ROS  
MAPS**



**EXHIBIT 'A'**  
BOUNDARY LOCATIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS  
SOUTH FORK, MERCED  
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS  
MARIPOSA AND MADERA COUNTIES  
USDA FOREST SERVICE  
USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST, MARIPOSA BANDER DISTRICT  
STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST, GROVELAND RANGER DISTRICT

# RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM ROS



RURAL

RN

R

RN

SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED

SPNM

SPM

ROADED NATURAL

SPM

SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED

PRIMITIVE

RN

SPNM

P

SPNM

P

P

Yosemite

NATIONAL

PARK



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## **4.0 SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT ZONES**

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This chapter discusses river Management Zones. Management Zones are portions of rivers corresponding to a geographical area, river segment or other feature that is managed as a unit. Additional descriptions of the area are provided in the Affected Environment Chapter of the FEIS. The Merced and South Fork Merced Wild and Scenic rivers are divided into four management zones as follows:

### **4.1 WILD ZONE 1**

This 12.5 mile long zone has limited trail access, and no roads, or camping areas. The Yosemite National Park is on the eastern boundary. Another 3.0 mile portion is jointly administered by both Yosemite and the Sierra National Forest. Both these segments have been classified as "wild." These segments are truly wild. The Hite Cove area defines the southern boundary. Features include: native fishery, primitive shorelines, rare and endangered plant species and wildlife.

### **4.2 WILD ZONE 2**

This 3.0 mile long zone is accessible via a Forest Service foot trail that starts from the confluence of the Merced river on

highway 140. This segment is classified as "wild." The North boundary ends just below the Hite Cove area. Features include: wildflowers, native fishery, gold-ore rocks, wildlife, and geological formations.

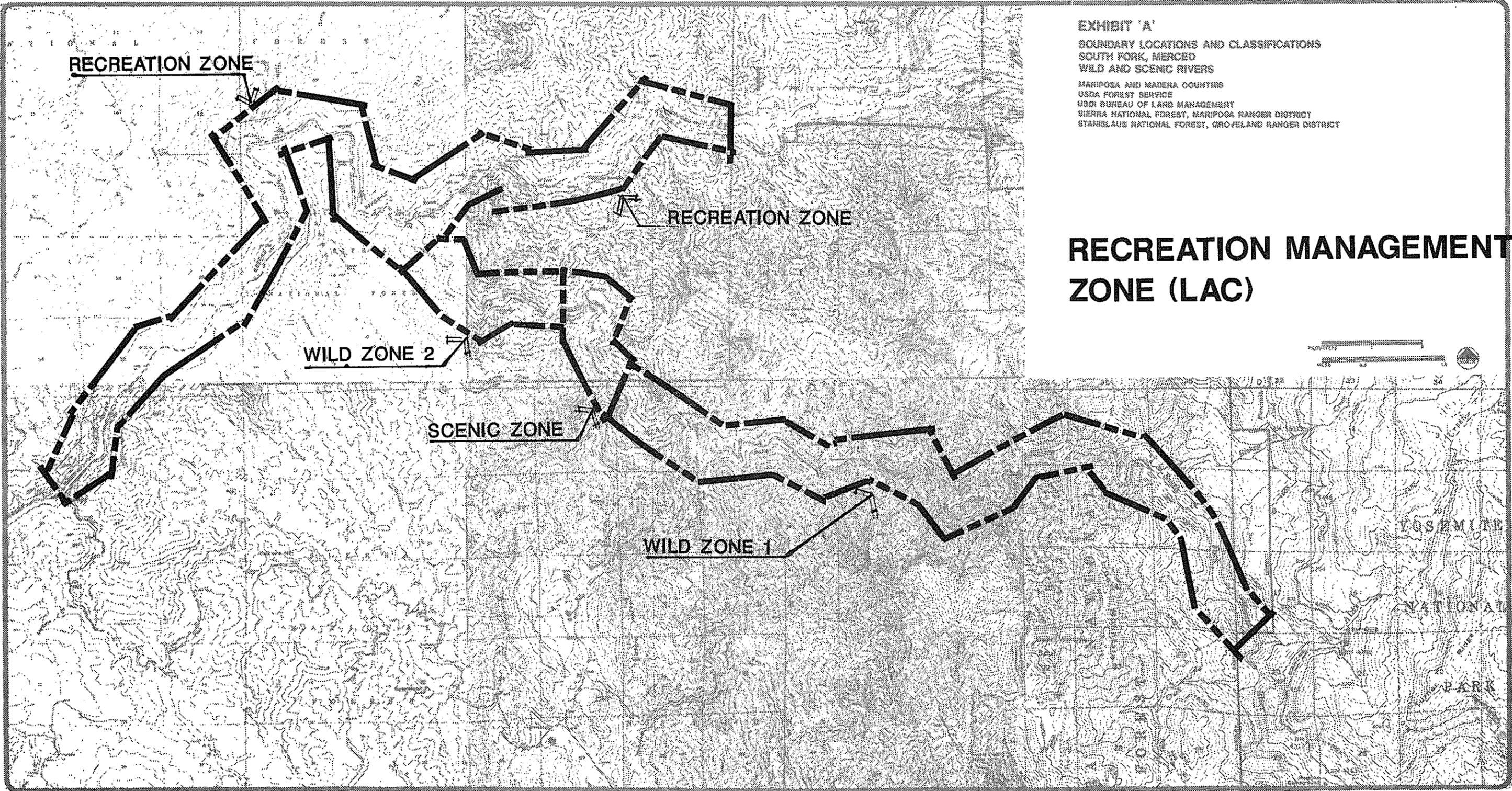
### **4.3 SCENIC ZONE**

This 2.0 mile long zone is the section of the South Fork of the Merced wild and scenic river managed as a "scenic" classification. It is accessed by an existing foot trail from the confluence of the Merced river and an existing OHV route from Jerseydale on the south side. The zone is next to the Wild Zone 2 and the boundary is noted in the river's Boundary and Classification Environmental Assessment. Features include: outstanding historic/cultural/archaeological sites, gold-ore rocks, wildflowers, unpolluted free-flowing river, white water, fishing, and nature study

### **4.4 RECREATION ZONE**

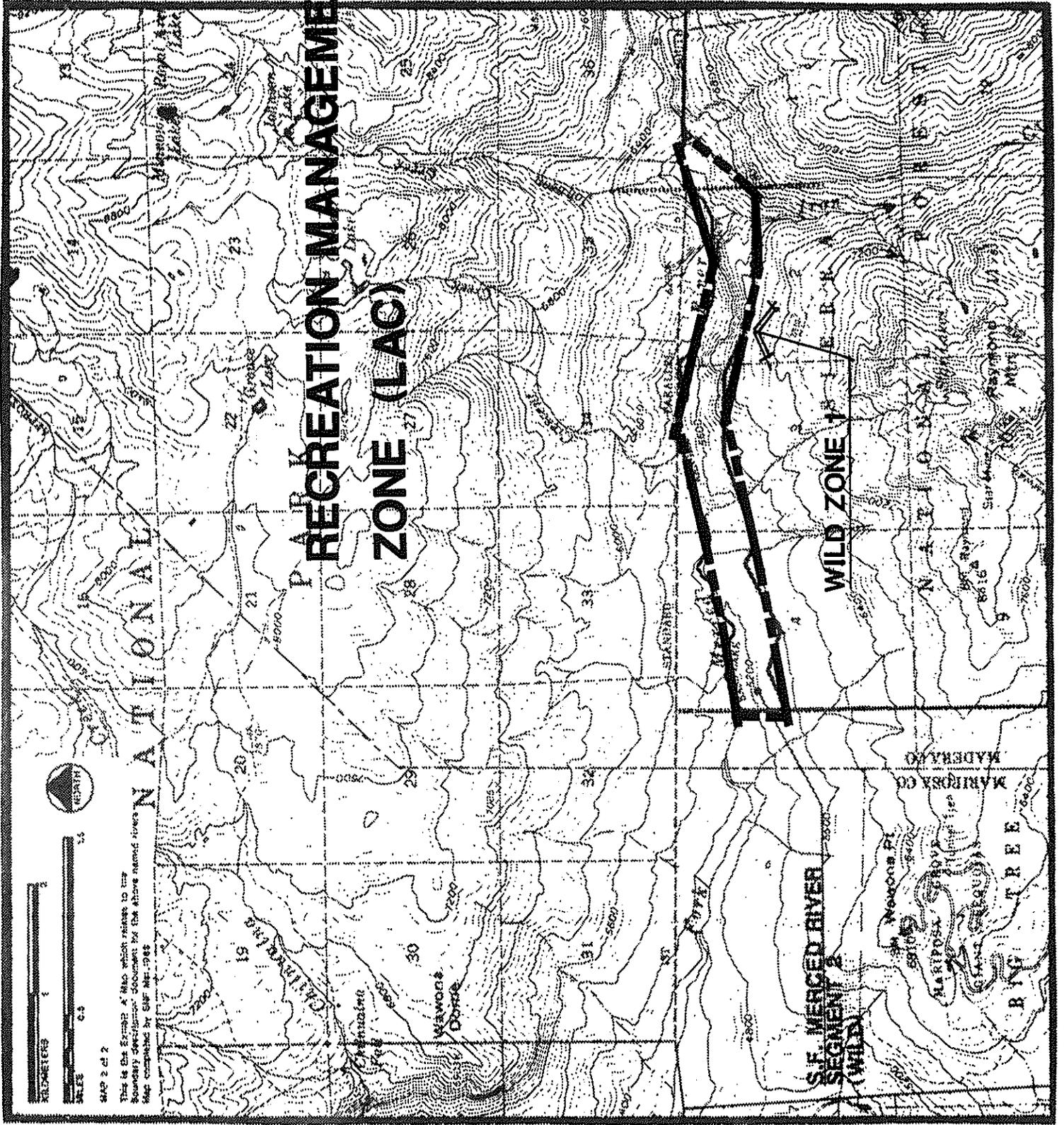
This 15.0 mile long zone is within three river segments administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. Access is provided by highway 140, one of the main roads to Yosemite Valley. Features include: geology, vegetation, wildlife, recreation and cultural/historical resources. State-listed rare and endangered plants are within the river corridor along with a threatened limestone salamander.

## **4.5 MANAGEMENT ZONES MAPS**



**EXHIBIT 'A'**  
BOUNDARY LOCATIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS  
SOUTH FORK, MERCED  
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS  
MARIPOSA AND MADERA COUNTIES  
USDA FOREST SERVICE  
USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST, MARIPOSA RANGER DISTRICT  
STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST, GROVELAND RANGER DISTRICT

# RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (LAC)

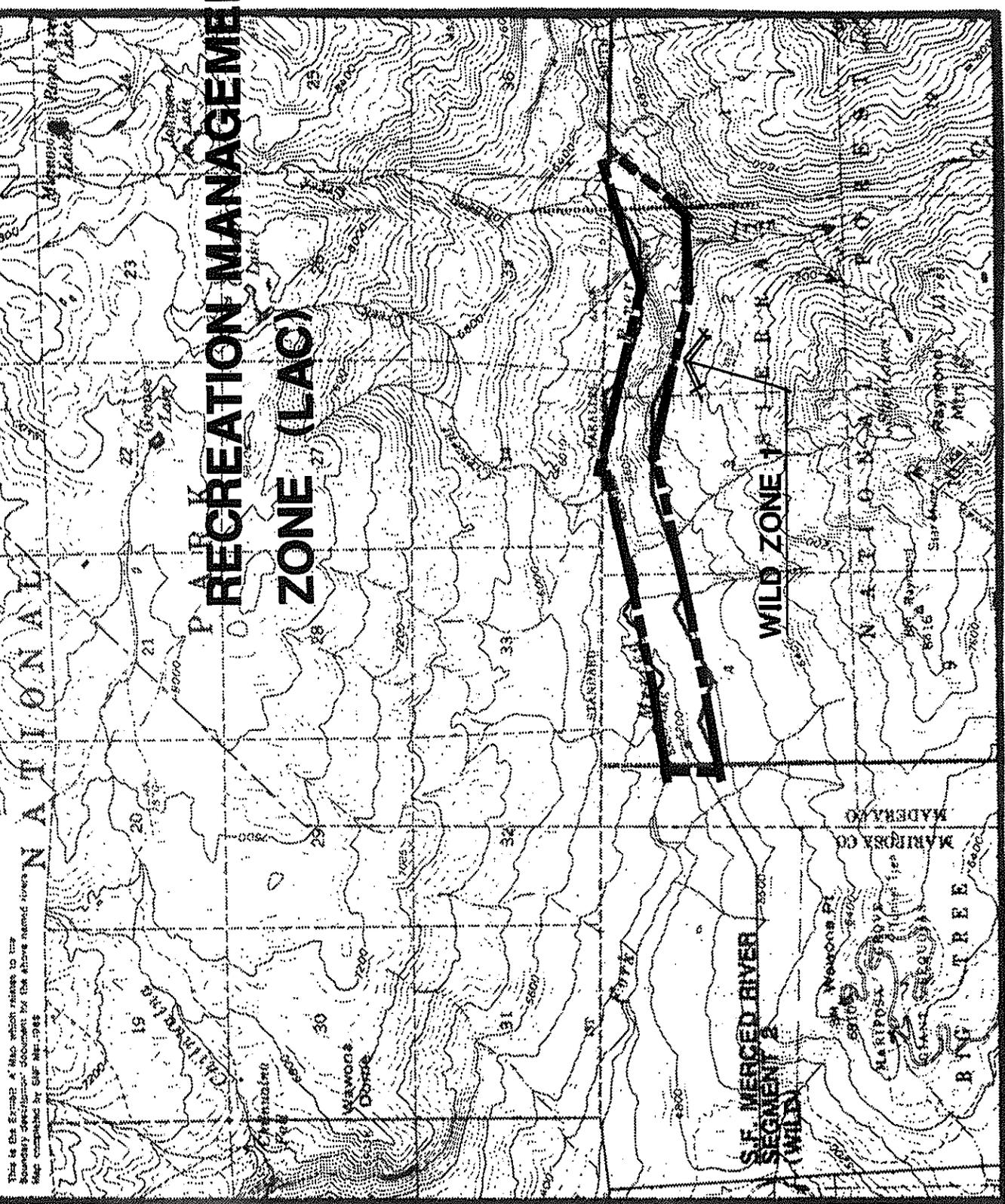
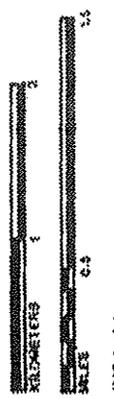


# RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (LAC)

WILD ZONE

S.F. MERCED RIVER SEGMENT 2 (WILD)

MAP 2 of 2  
This is the Segment 2 Map, which relates to the Boundary description document for the above named river. Map compiled by GMR Mar. 1988



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## 5.0 MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS

### COMMON TO ALL ZONES

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Certain objectives, assumptions, indicators and standards, and management actions apply equally to all management zones. These considerations are set by law, regulation, policy, or higher agency management plans. All are subordinate to the management goals established by PL 100-149 and the Wild and Scenic River Act.

Specific objectives, assumptions, indicators and standards, and management actions only apply to a particular zone. This may occur because of differences in the zones ecology, recreation uses, other resource use (e.g., grazing, mining) or the agency (Forest Service or BLM) that is responsible for the administration of a zone.

Each zone chapter discusses management direction common to all zones. They are organized into four sections. Each section builds on the previous section to provide a wide perspective on the management of a zone. These sections are: Objectives, Assumptions, Indicators and Standards; and Management Actions.

*OBJECTIVES, with the opportunity classes, set the guidance for a particular zone. These items are designed to set the scope of activities permitted in a zone and give direction to unanticipated circumstances.*

*ASSUMPTIONS* outline the general items that influence the development of management actions. These items are projections to changes in future conditions.

*INDICATORS AND STANDARDS* are the specific items that will be monitored and evaluated to give managers a description of the current trends within a zone. If a condition begins to approach a standard level, this signals the manager that the situation needs further evaluation and possibly a change in management practices.

*MANAGEMENT ACTIONS* describe the specific actions that will take place within a zone. Management direction is included in this section. This direction along with laws, regulations, and National and Regional agency policies provide the long-range direction for managing the National Forest and BLM lands. Specific Standards and Guidelines that apply to the Merced and South Fork Merced Wild and Scenic Rivers are included in this section for all the zones.

## 5.1 Objectives

Provide for the long term protection and preservation of the area's natural, archaeological, fish and wildlife and scenic resources.

Manage the area for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a way that will leave the areas unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as a natural setting.

Establish levels of hiking, camping, fishing, off road vehicle, grazing, and mining use that prevent undue degradation of the areas' character.

Provide different levels of accessible barrier free facilities and programs for all recreation users including urban residents, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, the elderly and the young. Design accessible facilities and programs to fit the recreation opportunity spectrum (e.g. Roaded Natural to Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized) of the zone.

Provide recreation opportunities within the capability of the resource. Protect the free flowing condition of the river and preserve and enhance the values for which the rivers were designated.

Strive to coordinate the management of lands within WSR by maintaining working relationships with the public, user groups, and other agencies.

Seek co-operative funding, partnerships, and cost-share agreements with volunteers, user groups and other agencies.

Provide a cost-efficient fire management program that maintains a high regard for public and fire fighter safety and that minimizes resource losses and long lasting adverse effects on WSR resources.

Create and maintain fuel load conditions consistent with the natural fire ecology within the project area.

Manage stream channels and riparian zones to provide quality habitat for self sustaining trout populations.

Implement practices designed to retain soil stability, productivity and air and water quality.

Provide efficient WSR management while responding to compatible economic and social needs of the public and local communities.

Maintain or enhance the habitat of threatened, endangered, rare and sensitive plants and animals within the area.

## **5.2 Assumptions**

Air quality will continue to be affected by the air quality of the San Joaquin Valley.

Existing facilities need continued maintenance. Changes in technology, social attitudes and agency direction may require updating or improving current facilities.

A greater effort is needed in increasing public understanding of resource management and protection.

Non-managed recreational use of the WSR will result in potential increased resource deterioration.

Demands for recreational opportunities within the WSR will continue to grow in the future.

Monitoring of resource and social indicators will improve current information. The agencies will complete periodic reviews and revisions of recreation objectives to acquire this information.

Implementation of the Plan will require a greater commitment of time and money than is currently committed.

Funding and personnel (including seasonal employees or volunteers) will be available to meet the desired objectives of this plan.

Hunting and fishing regulations as established by the California Department of Fish and Game will remain the same for the area.

Habitat for threatened, endangered, rare and sensitive plants and animals will continue to be a concern within the WSR. Programs to improve the status of T&E species will be ongoing.

LAC systems will be in place and monitored.

## 5.3 Indicators and Standards

### *ISSUE, CULTURAL RESOURCES*

*INDICATOR, Archaeological site surface disruption and maintaining the information recovery value of archaeological sites.*

*STANDARD, Sites are maintained in a condition that will permit an evaluation of significance and if appropriate, listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Significant sites are protected to permit future data recovery.*

### *ISSUE, FISHERIES*

*INDICATOR, Suitable habitat is maintained to provide viable fish populations.*

*STANDARD, Forest Service R-5 and BLM Minimum Management Requirements, FLMP Guideline, Riparian Standards and guidelines, Best Management Practices are being applied in a way that supports the objectives established in the WSR EIS and Plan; and project specific NEPA documents.*

### *ISSUE, PLANNING DIRECTION*

*INDICATOR, The management of the WSR reflects the circumstances described in the EIS and the management direction in the Implementation Plan.*

*STANDARD, Periodic reviews, to evaluate the effectiveness of management directions and monitoring plan, indicate that the documents reflect the current environmental social and administrative needs in the area.*

### *ISSUE, TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM*

*INDICATOR, The transportation system meets the direction in the Plan.*

*STANDARD, The transportation system's effectiveness meets the Opportunity Class and Zone objectives. Review current condition of transportation system and identify maintenance, construction and reconstruction needs to comply with Opportunity Class and Zone objectives. Project specific NEPA documents and the Forest and BLM trails plan reflect the objectives in the WSR EIS and Plan.*

### *ISSUE, WATER QUALITY*

*INDICATOR, Management practices maintain water quality.*

*STANDARD, Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) and project design does not permit a decrease in water quality.*

*ISSUE, WILDLIFE*

*INDICATOR, Forest and BLM system habitats and activities for threatened and endangered species are managed to achieve recovery objectives, so that special protection measures provided under the Endangered Species Act are no longer necessary.*

*STANDARD, Determine that project plans and prescriptions are carried out as designed, consistent with Biological Evaluations.*

## 5.4 Management Actions

### **Administration:**

Provide overall management of Zones through the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management responsible agency offices.

Provide specific management of zones through the district recreation Officer who works under the District Ranger of the Forest Service's Mariposa Ranger District or through the area recreation planner who works under the Area Manager for the BLM.

Approve annual budgeting and work planning processes through the District Ranger for the Forest Service and Area Manager for the Bureau of Land Management. The budgets will be implemented by the managing unit.

Acquire appropriate funding through the agency budget process for the planning, design and construction of recreation development within the river corridor.

Request appropriated dollars from other co-operative funding agencies, partnerships, cost-share agreements, and volunteers.

Provide assistance as requested by the sheriff in search and rescue operations. Emphasize coordination with local law enforcement agencies and intensive violation prevention programs.

### **Air and Water Quality:**

Minimize resource and air quality impacts from air pollutants generated by management activities through use of existing agency guidelines controls.

Follow dust abatement procedures per agency standards.

Conduct air quality analysis for all projects that have the potential to impair air quality to determine impacts, mitigation, and or controls.

Respond to local planning authorities when development outside forest jurisdiction may impact forest resources.

Conduct prescribed burning activities in accordance with Air Pollution Control District regulations and with proper prescriptions to assure good smoke management.

**Boundaries:**

Retain the boundaries as approved in the Boundary and Classification Environmental Assessment.

**Cultural Resources:**

Use oral history and ethnographic research to help figure out the location of historical and cultural remains.

Complete a detailed cultural resource inventory around the Hite Cove area before any permitted action, activity or program is implemented.

Identify all potentially eligible cultural properties that may be affected around the potential developed camping or hiking trail planned along the Merced Canyon.

Consult with State Historic Preservation Officer and nominate appropriate cultural, historical sites to the National Register.

Interpret cultural resources for the benefit of the public.

Provide interpretive signing on the value and protected status of both prehistoric and historic properties.

Develop and implement strategies, including closures, for the protection of significant cultural resource sites.

Exclude vehicles from identified cultural resources sites and areas by using barriers constructed from material designed to blend with the existing landscape.

Permit walk-in dispersed camping on sites not heavily affected.

Prohibit dispersed and developed camping if monitoring shows site deterioration.

Comply with 36 CFR 800 regulations by completing cultural resource inventories prior to any action which may effect cultural resources. Develop follow-up actions for evaluation, protection and or interpretation as a result of inventory findings.

Complete Archaeological Reconnaissance Reports and site records to allow evaluation of site significance.

Release those site locations declared "not significant" for other management activities.

Post and sign selected cultural resources sites where such signing will not endanger the sites.

Develop and provide interpretive brochures for selected sites.

Conduct on-ground interpretation at a number of sites where highly significant properties exist (e.g. Hite Cove)

Regularly consult with Native Americans as interested parties on proposed undertakings

Interview knowledgeable informants for project specific information on the history of the area.

**Facilities:**

Upgrade existing facilities to meet current visual and maintenance standards. This may include providing toilets in places as necessary to prevent deterioration of water quality.

Maintain a pack-it-in, pack-it-out policy within the WSR corridor.

Rehabilitate, replace or relocate existing building to support Forest management.

Maintain buildings at least to a minimum level that protects health and prevents building deterioration.

Provide sanitation facilities in the areas of or during periods of concentrated use, where either increased management presence or resource protection is necessary and or potential development exists for which a specific site plan is prepared.

#### **Fisheries:**

Manage stream channels and riparian zones to maintain quality habitat for self sustaining trout populations. Fish habitat and angling will be emphasized in the South Fork Merced River's wild and scenic zones. In the Merced recreation's zone, fish habitat quality will be protected through project mitigation where conflicts exist.

Coordinate closely with State of California to maintain or improve the quality of the Wild Trout fishery in the South Fork Merced River and the resident trout fishery in the tributaries.

Design management activities compatible with the State of California guidelines for this resource. Pursue cooperative habitat enhancement programs with local fishing organizations and the State Department of Fish and Game.

Reestablish native vegetation in impacted riparian areas.

Manage domesticated animals, game and other wildlife so that it is not at the expense of fish habitat.

Maintain habitat to insure all native fish, wildlife, and plant species will have adequate population levels and distribution to

provide for their continued existence throughout their current range.

Restore and enhance fisheries habitat through implementation of "Rise to the Future" which is an action plan for the National Forest fisheries program.

#### **Fire Management:**

Determine the suppression alternative for fires that escape initial attack through an "Escaped Fire Situation Analysis" (EFSA).

Use prescribed fire to enhance wild values (e.g. long-term plant diversity) in all wild and scenic locations and under conditions described in the current forest management plans.

Use a "confine" or "contain" suppression strategy for wildfires when public safety will not be compromised, adjacent resources can be protected, and other management constraints (air quality, watershed) can be met. Apply "control" strategy to all other wildfires.

#### **Fuels Management:**

Develop vegetation management plans to reintroduce fire to appropriate areas through prescribed burning of vegetation to increase the health and stability of the vegetative community, increase wildlife habitat values, increase recreational values, improve the long-term visual quality of the landscape, and reduce fire hazard and potential suppression costs.

Reintroduce fire to appropriate areas through prescribed burning, and where applicable, also use hand and mechanical fuel manipulation.

Manage fuels in such way to prevent erosion and subsequent river siltation.

Along the South Fork Merced, limit the use of unplanned natural ignition prescribed fire to meeting planned objectives

when fuel loading and natural barriers will limit final fire perimeter to planned boundaries under the most severe weather conditions.

**Grazing:**

Apply the standards and guidelines set forth in the most current version of the Range Environmental Analysis Handbook (R05 FSH 2209.21) for lands administered by the Forest Service. Meadows will be grazed to allowable use standards, as determined by the height/weight or grazed plot method.

See Wild, Scenic and Recreation Zone descriptions.

**Geology:**

Avoid activities on selected geologic sensitive areas.

**Land Ownership and Use:**

Pursue the acquisition of private lands or acquire scenic easements on private lands.

Work with Federal Energy regulation Commission (FERC) to confirm that all hydroelectric withdrawals within the designated wild and scenic river corridors have been completed.

**Minerals:**

Manage commercial minerals according to current direction, the provisions of PL 100-149, and any new provisions that may be established in the pending Merced River Act that is presently under consideration by Congress.

Close waters within the WSR South Fork Merced to recreational dredging.

Include provisions to minimize adverse environmental impacts to surface resources in mining operating plans (36 CFR 228). Provide provisions for the timely reclamation of disturbed areas.

**Noise:**

Prohibit motorized water craft use on the water.

Allow aircraft use of land for emergencies only within the W&SR corridor where the USFS or BLM has the ability and authority. Limit Helicopter overflights of WSR Wild 1 and 2 zone corridors to administrative and emergency use only.

Designate no shooting areas within the Recreation and Scenic Zones in accordance with State regulations.

Enforce state laws for noise control, the use of approved spark arresters, and green sticker registration as part of overall OHV administration activities.

**Planning Direction:**

Implement management direction as described in the Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Stanislaus National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, and the BLM Merced River Management Plan when these plans become approved.

Develop individual project plans and appropriate NEPA analysis documents for site specific management actions that may be necessary or as identified in this planning process.

Contact public land agencies to coordinate planned management activities within the W&SR corridors.

Contact with organizations, groups, or private land owners along the corridor where proposed actions could affect the management of private or forest service lands.

### **Public Information and Interpretation:**

Develop interpretation opportunities that show resource opportunities and activities to visitors.

Provide Visitor Information Services (VIS) materials at all designated developed recreation sites and all trail heads.

Provide uniformed Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management employees during specified use periods within the WSR corridors if funding becomes available.

Provide Identification, regulatory, warning, guide and informational signs within the WSR corridors as appropriate. Describe the safety and health tips relating to water and land use.

Maintain present facilities and programs at a high level emphasizing self-service. These include recreation site and trailhead bulletin boards, publications, media releases and self service information stations.

Provide other outdoor programs like resource management interpretive signs at designated high use sites. Utilize partners like the Three Forest Interpretive Association programs that sponsor exhibits, interpretive trails and outdoor programs.

### **Recreation:**

Identify new or existing trails that require re-construction or rehabilitation. Analyze, identify or confirm the types of uses permitted on the trail system.

Provide separate trails for equestrian use and mountain bicycles where possible. Permit hikers on both systems.

Allow changes and increases to the existing trail system in accordance with the preferred alternative. Replace, repair or eliminate trails causing resource and facility damage.

Maintain trails consistent with ROS system at levels determined by the designated river opportunity class or zone.

Develop or improve trailhead facilities.

Enhance present opportunities by emphasizing management actions which will link night or day use sites to existing trails (e.g. Merced Canyon trail).

Relocate system trails out of meadows where unacceptable damage is occurring.

Continue coordination with the NPS to help facilitate users and management activities for the benefit of Yosemite N.P., Sierra N.P. and Stanislaus N.P. and BLM resources (e.g. Merced Canyon trail).

Manage vegetation to maintain or improve recreation values.

Emphasize day-use opportunities (e.g., rafting, overlooks, hiking interpretive signing) to complement existing facilities.

Use the most recent accessible facility and program laws and guidelines when designing, rehabilitating, constructing or reconstructing facilities for people with disabilities. Determine the ROS classification (e.g. SPNM) then design the facility or program for all user groups including people with hearing, sight, or physical disabilities to meet these levels.

Emphasize Pack-in, Pack-out policy. Continue the Pack-in, Pack-out policy along the wild and scenic zones.

Identify and respond to potential problems created by target shooting with the objective of minimizing user conflicts.

Also see Zone Management directions for additional recreation directions.

**Social:**

Fit the needs and expectations of the user groups where consistent with the emphasis values. Impose additional regulations to the extent necessary to manage the emphasis values.

Meet human and community needs by providing employment and training opportunities for all user groups. Use volunteers and other Human Resource Programs organizations to help accomplish planned work.

Ensure that Forest Service and BLM facilities and programs are responsive to the design needs of the hearing, sight and physically challenged.

**Soils:**

Protect water quality and soil productivity through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Make sure these BMP are in accordance with the most current version of "Water Quality Management for National Forest System Lands in California." BMP's will be applied in daily management and during new project planning and implementation. They also will be applied to ensure the WSR objectives are achieved. BMPs should be followed in: Road and Building Site Construction (BMPs 1.1 to 2.28), Mining (BMPs 3.1 to 3.38), Recreation (BMPs 4.1 to 4.11), Vegetative Manipulation (BMPs 5.1 to 5.14), Fire Suppression and Fuels Management (BMPs 6.1 to 6.6), Watershed Management (BMPs 7.1 to 7.7), and Grazing (BMPs 8.1 to 8.4). (See Appendix 11.3)

Identify areas of watershed damage and abandoned roads. These areas will be added to the Watershed Improvement Needs (WIN) program for rehabilitation. Water quality improvement will receive first priority, followed by priorities established by the management prescriptions.

Use Cumulative Watershed Effects (CWE) methodology for application within the Forest to assess each project for potentials to incur cumulative effects.

Conduct management actions within or in proximity to floodplain, wetlands and riparian area to comply with E.O. 11990 and E.O. 11988 requirements processes and procedures.

Manage to maintain long-term soil productivity.

**Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E):**

Confirm the identification of the species, location and habitat requirements of T&E species within the WSR area.

Provide for the protection and habitat needs of T&E species, so that Forest Service and BLM visitor activities will not jeopardize the T&E species continued existence.

Monitor and evaluate T&E species status.

Activities involving T&E species will be done in close consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Complete Biological Evaluations before all projects, or undertaking which have the potential to affect any of the listed species.

Follow the most current recovery and management plans for the peregrine falcon and bald eagle.

Protect sensitive, proposed for listing, and California species of special concern with the long-term objective for removal from Federal listing or to prevent them from being listed.

**Transportation System:**

Develop no new roads, except as necessary to provide access to the rehabilitated dispersed (developed) camping sites along the Incline Road. Road standards will remain the same unless monitoring shows that water quality is deteriorating or that soil productivity is being lost. No culverts will be installed in areas known to have high potential for landslides or mass wasting. In those areas hardened rolling dips will be favored.

Add turnouts in areas that pose a safety hazard.

Improve identification, warning, regulatory, guide and interpretive signs along the existing transportation system roads.

**Vegetation:**

Prohibit timber harvest except to the minimum extent necessary to establish fuel breaks, control outbreaks of insects and diseases, or remove hazards.

Remove trees that endanger irreplaceable features within the area or could cause substantial damage to other significant resources.

Reestablish and maintain a healthy plant community that approximates "natural" conditions, given constraints of present and past human activity.

Complete vegetation management plans for dispersed and developed recreation sites within the river corridor.

Provide hardwoods management for key areas of those indicator species highly dependent on hardwoods.

Identify riparian zones and evaluate for compliance with Riparian Standards and Guidelines as indicated in current forest management practice documents. Any new projects or developments within the WSR will meet these Riparian Standards and Guidelines. (See Appendix 11.3, Best Management Practices)

Continue to identify rare, endangered and sensitive plant species and plant communities within the W&SR. Assure that management activities will not impact identified communities.

Design management actions to maintain maximum biological diversity within the WSR.

Protect stream courses and adjacent vegetation within riparian areas. Maintain or improve overall wildlife and fish habitat, water quality and recreational opportunities.

Give preferential consideration to riparian area dependent resources over other non-dependent resources in case of conflicts.

Delineate and evaluate riparian areas prior to implementing any project activity.

Maintain or enhance all meadows. Consider meadows smaller than two acres as part of the riparian areas.

Manage sensitive plants to prevent the need for Federal listing as threatened and endangered.

See "Water Quality" and " Soils" for additional measures to protect riparian areas.

**Visual Resources:**

Upgrade facilities and services to meet retention and or partial retention visual quality objectives for the forests. Mitigate existing facilities to meet the forest's or projects color guidelines.

Make sure that all constructed or rehabilitated facilities within the area will be visually not evident or visually subordinate to the existing characteristic landscape when completed.

Maintain visual quality to the Visual Quality Objectives level specified. Strive for higher visual quality whenever practical and when compatible with other resource objectives.

Accept occasional short-term departure from adopted Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) that will lead to long-term desired visual character.

Initiate corrective action to meet adopted VQO when landscape rehabilitation is needed.

Consider visual concerns of individual landowners and county and other agencies within and adjacent to National Forest and BLM System lands when planning management activities.

Manage activities to reflect the form, line, color, and texture of natural occurrences when viewed from the foreground, mid-ground and background distances.

**Water Quality:**

Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality and maintain soil stability. BMPs are identified within this section with the corresponding management action.

Identify stream-side management zones and riparian management areas, as described in Riparian Management Standards and Guidelines. (See Appendix 11.3, BMP 7-3, 1-8, 1-19, 1-18)

Restrict vehicle access in stream-side management and riparian zones, except at designated put-ins and take-outs for water craft. (BMP 7-5, Control of Activities Under Special Use Permits., See Appendix 11.3 of Plan)

Locate new facilities and services, such as toilets and signs, outside the riparian zone. Relocate existing facilities as practical. (BMP 4-5: Control of Sanitation Facilities; BMP 4-6: Control of Refuse Disposal; BMP 4-10: Protection of Water Quality within Developed and Dispersed Recreation Areas; BMP 7-3: Protection of Wetlands. (See BMP in Appendix 11.3)

Provide temporary sanitation facilities at selected rafting put-in, take-outs and lunch stops that do not have permanent facilities. (BMP 4-5: Control of Sanitation Facilities; BMP 4-6: Control of Refuse Disposal; BMP 4-10: Protection of Water Quality within Developed and Dispersed Recreation Area; BMP 7-3 Protection of Wetlands) (See BMP in Appendix 11.3)

Protect water quality by using appropriate BMP's to manage dispersed camping sites adjacent to the Rivers. (BMP 4-10: Protection of Water Quality in Developed and Dispersed Recreation Areas)

Manage grazing allotments to protect water quality. (BMP 8-2 Controlling Livestock Numbers and Season of Use; BMP 8-3 Controlling Livestock Distribution within Allotments.)

Additional direction on the responsibilities of BMP Implementation is included in the Monitoring Plan.(See Appendix 11.3)

Restrict vehicle access in stream side areas and riparian zones. Allow vehicle access within these zones only at designated recreation improvement sites. Examples would be the put-ins and take-outs and developed campsites along the Merced and the dispersed areas along the South Fork Merced Rivers.

#### **Wildlife:**

Designate natural zones according to site-specific value for wildlife.

Designate selected wildlife areas as viewing wildlife and educational areas. No preference would be given to the management of game species to the degradation of non-game species.

Take measures to prevent wildlife behavior modification, due to access to human food. These could include lockers and canisters for food storage and enforcement of Pack-it-in and Pack-it-out policies.

Focus habitat improvements on habitat currently used by game and non-game wildlife species rather than creating new habitat. Avoid sensitive wildlife habitat within proposed trail routes.

Implement wildlife habitat improvement strategies including, installing guzzlers, and planting riparian vegetation in the stream side zone, where compatible with recreational use and visual quality objectives.

Consider habitat use by season when planning for developed recreation sites. Indicator species will be identified and habitat improved accordingly. Non-game species and their movement will be considered equally with game species. Hunting will not be

permitted within or around developed recreation sites. Restricted hunting areas will be coordinated with responsible State agencies. Restricted no shooting areas will be posted.

Implement the current forest management direction strategy that applies for the California Spotted Owl. Use either the Spotted Owl Habitat Area (SOHA) or the Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) system. Northern Spotted owls do not presently inhabit the Sierra or Stanislaus Forests. However, if it is necessary to use a system within the W&SR corridors, use the same as prescribed within the approved Final Forest Land and Resource Management Plans.

Encourage the re-introduction of endangered species into appropriate habitat.

Maintain habitat to insure all native fish, wildlife and plant species will have adequate population levels and distribution to provide for their continued existence throughout their current range.

Emphasize habitat management for wildlife species that use riparian, hardwood, snags and down log habitats.

Maintain the current program of direct habitat improvement by submitting requests for funds to appropriate county, state and federal agencies.

Use approved cooperative deer herd management plans as a guide to deer habitat management.

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## 6.0 WILD ZONE 1

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### 6.1 Objectives

Manage the zones to be consistent with Opportunity Class I, and the objectives identified in section 5.1.

Natural and ecological conditions and processes will operate as freely.

Provide for the long-term protection and preservation of the area's character under a principle of non-degradation.

Human and technological influence will not be apparent.

Management of valid claims will continue. Non-valid mining claims will be eliminated. Valid mining claims will have to demonstrate validity in accordance with an appropriate operating plan. Claims will be subject to mineral examination to determine validity and contested if necessary to mitigate un-authorized activities.

Give top priority to fish habitat over other riparian uses.

Provide for the planning of trails consistent with the mandates and intents of P.L. 100-149.

Manage the zone for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a way that will leave the areas unimpaired for future use and enjoyment.

Manage the zone using the minimum tool, equipment or structure necessary to successfully, safely and economically accomplish the objective.

Manage and retain the ROS class of Primitive (P)

## **6.2 Assumptions**

Recreational opportunities within this zone will remain limited due to the steepness of the terrain and limited access to the area.

Natural and ecological processes will dominate the area.

Habitat is adequate to support existing wildlife in this zone.

The rehabilitation of the existing trails will increase visitor access and recreational opportunities.

## 6.3 Indicators and Standards:

### ISSUE, RECREATION

*INDICATOR, The number of dispersed campsites and the campsite condition is consistent with the Opportunity Class I*

*STANDARD, Campsites are small and temporary. No facilities are provided. Impacts are not evident to the visitor. Campsites are a minimum of 100 feet apart and are fewer than 2 per 320 acres or every mile within the W&SR corridor.*

### ISSUE, VISUAL RESOURCES

*INDICATOR, The number and character of developments is subordinate to the naturalness of the area. Human and technological influences will be unapparent.*

*STANDARD, No large developments permitted, and small developments like trails and pedestrian bridges must be subordinate to the environmental setting.*

### ISSUE, SOCIAL

*INDICATOR, Visitors encounter few people while traveling*

*STANDARD, Low (25%) probability of meeting other parties during low use periods. Moderate (50%) probability of meeting other parties during high use periods (Feb to June).*

### PLANNING DIRECTION

*INDICATOR, Management emphasizes maintaining and enhancing the natural ecosystem and its processes.*

*STANDARD, Resource conditions, social conditions and management activities reflect the characteristics described for Opportunity Class I and the objectives for this zone.*

*Maintain a high degree of isolation and solitude.*

*Provide a high level of challenge for the able bodied and people with disabilities. Areas of this zone may be extremely challenging or inaccessible to visitors with or without disabilities.*

## 6.4 Management Actions

Implement a general fire suppression strategy of control at a maximum size of ten acres. Any fire occurring within the Wild and Scenic River corridor that has exceeded, or is anticipated to exceed, preplanned initial action capabilities or the fire management direction, will be considered an escaped fire. An escaped fire will be analyzed under the Escaped Fire Situation Analysis (EFSA).

Coordinate zone management actions with the future planned developments.

Rehabilitate the existing foot and equestrian trail from the Hite Cove area to the Yosemite Park Boundary. Construct one pedestrian/equestrian bridge at Devil's Gulch. Connect the trail and bridge to the existing trail system.

Design the rehabilitated trails for minimum visual impact. Avoid sensitive wildflower areas known to be populated by sensitive wildlife. Protect the cultural and geological resources by routing the trail well away from known sites.

Complete a project level NEPA analysis which includes an economic analysis before designing the pedestrian/equestrian bridge at Devils Gulch. Choose the best economical alignment that meets other criteria of resource protection. Make sure the design analysis includes the projected cost of future maintenance. Send the environmental documentation package to the EPA for review.

Coordinate all trail and bridge planning and construction with Yosemite National Park.

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## 7.0 WILD ZONE 2

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### 7.1 Objectives

The management of the zone will be consistent with Opportunity Class II, and the objectives identified in section 5.1.

Human and technological influence will not be apparent to the visitor.

Natural and ecological conditions and processes will operate freely. Activities to improve habitat, wildlife or fish production may be permitted.

Mining operations will be authorized on existing claims. They will demonstrate validity in accordance with an appropriate operating plan. The claims will be subject to mineral examination to determine validity. They may be contested to mitigate unauthorized activities. All non-valid mining claims will be eliminated.

Manage the zone using the minimum tool, equipment or structure necessary to successfully, safely and economically accomplish the objective.

The ROS Class for this zone will be Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM).

## **7.2 Assumptions**

Current levels of mining is not expected to significantly increase during the life of this plan.

Recreation activities within this zone will remain limited due to the steepness of the terrain and limited access to the area.

Natural and ecological processes will dominate the area.

The existing trail may increase visitor use and recreational opportunities because of the designation of the Wild and Scenic River.

## 7.3 Indicators and Standards

### ISSUE, RECREATION

*INDICATOR, Same as Wild Zone I*

*STANDARD, Same as Wild Zone I*

### ISSUE, VISUAL RESOURCESS

*INDICATOR, Same as Wild Zone I*

*STANDARD, Same as Wild Zone I*

### ISSUE, SOCIAL

*INDICATOR, Visitors encounter moderate amounts of people while traveling.*

*STANDARD, Low or 25% probability of meeting other parties or forest users during low use periods. High or 80% probability of an encounter during the high use (Feb to June) season.*

### ISSUE, PLANNING DIRECTION

*INDICATOR, Same as Wild Zone I*

*STANDARD, Same as Wild Zone I*

## 7.4 Management Actions

Conduct a cultural resources survey along the existing trail, and mitigate potential affect through education and the use of natural appearing barriers.

Use a fire management strategy of confinement in fuel-beds where fire can be contained at 200 acres or less by using a suppression tactic of direct or indirect or a combination of both to control the fire.

Analyze escaped fires under the Escaped Fire Situation Analysis (EPSA). A fire within the Wild and Scenic River corridor that has exceeded, or is anticipated to exceed, preplanned initial action capabilities or the fire management direction, will be considered an escaped fire.

Initiate BMP's 3.1 to 3.3, and other mitigation to prevent environmental degradation by commercial mining activities.

Permit access to existing valid mining claims. Mitigate effects.

Evaluate current trail use and location. Rehabilitate any area where effects have occurred. Establish the maintenance level to minimize future affects. Regulate the foot use only policy on the 3 mile trail to Hite Cove. Permit only non-motorized use to occur in this zone.

Design the rehabilitated trails for minimum visual impact. Avoid sensitive wildflower areas known to be popuabed by sensitive wildlife. Protect the cultural and geological resources by routing the trail away from know sites.

The ROS Class for this area is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM).

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## 8.0 SCENIC ZONE

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### 8.1 Objectives

Management of the zone will be consistent with Opportunity Class III, and the objectives identified in section 5.1.

Human and technological influence may be apparent to the visitor.

Natural and ecological conditions and processes will operate as freely as possible. Activities to improve habitat, wildlife or fish production may be permitted.

Mining operations will be authorized on existing claims. They will demonstrate validity in accordance with an appropriate operating plan. The claims will be subject to mineral examination to determine validity. All non-valid mining claims will be eliminated.

Any grazing program will be managed to protect riparian zones, springs, wetlands and other emphasized wildlife habitat.

The long term protection, interpretation and preservation of historical, cultural, archaeological areas in the Hite Cove area will be considered.

Existing and planned management activities will remain subordinate to the natural environment.

The emphasize will be on day-use activities. No over overnight-use opportunities will be available.

OHV use on the south Hite Cove Route will continue within the W&SR corridor. Adverse effects will be mitigated.

Pedestrian hiking use will continue on the existing north Hite Cove trail. Adverse effects will be mitigated.

Maintain the user's probability to interact with a predominately natural appearing environment.

The ROS Class for this zone will be Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) on the south side of the river and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) on the north side of the river.

## 8.2 Assumptions

Recreation activities within this zone may increase on the existing OHV south side access route and the north side hiking trail as a result of the river W&SR designation. hiking access to this area.

Natural and ecological processes will continue to dominate the area.

The archaeological historical Hite Cove area will continue to be a unique forest resource, and visitor attraction.

The demand for recreation activities for people with disabilities will increase.

OHV use permits the area to be more accessible to people with disabilities.

Current levels of grazing and mining is expected to continue. These uses are not expected to increase during the life of this plan.

## 8.3 Indicators and Standards

### ISSUE, RECREATION, DISPERSED CAMPSITES

*INDICATOR, The number of campsites and the campsite condition is consistent with the Opportunity Class III*

*STANDARD, Campsites are small and temporary. Facilities may be provided. Impacts from recreational activities may be evident to the visitor, Campsites are a minimum of 100 feet apart and are fewer than 5 per 320 acre or every 1 mile within the WSR corridor.*

### ISSUE, RECREATION, FACILITIES

*INDICATOR, The number and character of facility developments are subordinate to the naturalness of the area. Human and technological influence may be apparent.*

*STANDARD, No large facility developments permitted. Small facility developments like a toilet structure, trail or pedestrian bridge is permitted. No more than 2 dispersed sites in a 320 acre or every 1 mile within the river corridor will be permitted.*

### ISSUE, SOCIAL

*INDICATOR, Visitor encounter moderate amounts of people while traveling.*

*STANDARD, Low or 25% probability of meeting other parties or forest users during low use periods. High or 90% probability of an encounter during the high use (Feb to June) season.*

### ISSUE, HITE COVE CULTURAL AREA

*INDICATOR, The levels of OHV, hiking, grazing, vegetation management and mining are within the scope of PL 100-149.*

*STANDARD, Use of forest resources and recreational hiking and OHV use of designated routes is consistent with the long term protection of the area's natural, archaeological, and scenic resources.*

### ISSUE, PLANNING DIRECTION

*INDICATOR, Same as Wild I, except use settings described for Opportunity Class III as a guide.*

## 8.4 Management Actions

Conduct a cultural resources survey along the existing trail, and mitigate potential affects through education and the use of natural appearing barriers.

Preserve and enhance the Hite Cove area in accordance with management practices developed in this plan and within state archaeological standards.

Maintain the foot access trail from the confluence of the South Fork Merced River to the Hite Cove area. Provide the highest level of accessibility for people with disabilities, within level of experience limitations.

Develop interpretive and information opportunities to provide visitors with information on the Hite Cove area mining, cultural, wildlife, geology, grazing, vegetation and other ecosystem qualities.

Use a fire management strategy of confinement in fuel-beds where fire can be contained at 200 acres or less by using a suppression tactic of direct or indirect or a combination of both to control the fire.

Analyze escaped fires under the Escaped Fire Situation Analysis (EPSA). A fire within the Wild and Scenic River corridor that has exceeded, or is anticipated to exceed, preplanned initial action capabilities or the fire management direction, will be considered an escaped fire.

Complete, update and monitor grazing allotment plans if necessary following NEPA directions.

Provide water developments if necessary and salting for cattle outside riparian zones to facilitate dispersion, protect stream channels, provide for wildlife, and be consistent with cultural resource management actions.

Develop vegetation management plans to reintroduce fire to appropriate areas through prescribed burning of vegetation to increase the health and stability of the vegetative community,

increase wildlife habitat values, increase recreational values, improve the long-term visual quality of the landscape, and reduce fire hazard and potential suppression costs.

Limit vehicle travel to the designated routes. Make sure the existing south side route to Hite Cove that was available for off road vehicle use at the time of implementation of Public Law 100-149 is available for this designated use. Evaluate the route and determine if rerouting, redesign or seasonal closure of the route is necessary. Mitigate any user-caused damage. Follow BMP's as necessary if riparian values are challenged.

Continue to maintain the designated OHV route with a combination of Green Sticker Money, partnership agreements, cooperative funding and federally appropriated dollars. Consider revised alignments only after detailed site analysis is completed.

Maintain the vegetation along roads, trails and OHV routes and trails. Maintain to be consistent with visual quality objectives.

Evaluate any new permit, equestrian or photography ventures at a site specific analysis to determine the effects to the Wild and Scenic River corridor WSR values.

Develop identification, guide, informational and interpretive signs at all public recreation use areas like trailheads.

Evaluate current use of existing trails. Rehabilitate areas where negative effects have occurred. Establish the maintenance level to minimize future effects.

Construct a foot bridge at the Hite Cove area in accordance with all state EPA and NEPA criteria. Send all bridge environmental documentation to the EPA for review.

Initiate BMP's 3.12 to 3.3 and other mitigation to prevent environmental degradation by commercial mining activities.

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## 9.0 RECREATION RIVER ZONE

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### 9.1 Objectives

Management of the zone will be consistent with Opportunity Class IV and the objectives identified in section 5.1.

Natural and ecological conditions and processes will operate as freely as possible.

Human and technological influence will be apparant

Mining operations will be authorized only on existing claims that can demonstrate validity in accordance with an appropriate operating plan.

The grazing program will be managed to protect riparian zones, springs, wetlands and other emphasized wildlife habitat within the W&SR corridor. Range improvement projects that are compatible with the goal of establishing a healthy ecosystem will be encouraged.

Provide a variety of recreational activities to fit a diverse range of visitors.

Seek to maintain or improve the current resource, social and management conditions.

Maintain a diversity of river and land based recreation activity opportunities and emphasize the combined activities of driving for pleasure, camping, fishing and floating.

Allow recreational activities that are shown to have the least impact on the environment.

Prevent substantial increases in the amount of permanent human influence in the corridor.

Allow further improvement of recreation sites mainly for protection of natural resources.

Maintain and enhance for viewing the existing characteristic natural landscape within this management unit.

Manage access sites for floater use and reduce congestion at river access sites.

Manage recreation use in a way that minimizes effects on anglers.

Provide users access to management personnel by maintaining a periodic presence in the corridor.

Create and adopt Forest and BLM regulations necessary to protect natural resources and planned recreation opportunities.

Maintain the user's high probability to interact with a predominantly natural-appearing environment.

Follow the riparian prescriptions shown in the current forest or BLM management directions or the final forest Land Resource Management Plans. Initiate or improve project range allotment plans and delineate information like AUM allocations and seasons of use within the W&SR corridors. Follow the NEPA project process when completing these allotment implementation plans.

## 9.2 Assumptions

Demands for recreational opportunities within this zone will increase more than any other zone.

Recreational activities will need to be balanced with environmental concerns, to maintain the areas natural, archaeological, and scenic resources, and provide for appropriate fish and wildlife management.

A greater effort will be needed to use information services, natural barriers and unobtrusive devices to direct recreational use.

Administration of this zone will require more funding and personnel than the other zones.

Any significant increases in visitation to this zone may result in a need for visitor-use permits (e.g. private rafting), restriction and/or increased law enforcement.

This zone will require further cultural resource inventories.

Strong protective measures, involving a greater commitment of funding, may be required to protect, preserve, study or interpret archaeological sites.

The potential to adversely impact archaeological sites may increase if management actions do not manage existing and probable recreational use of the zone.

Maintaining or upgrading this zone will require a more intense level of management than the other zones.

Increased use of the river by private boaters may necessitate limiting numbers of boaters through a permit system, or it may include issuing permits to increase information dissemination.

The demands for commercial rafting services will moderately increase over the term of this plan. The demands for private rafting, kayaking and water oriented activities will increase over the term of this plan.

The demands to design, construct, operate and maintain the Incline Road (Merced River Canyon Trail) for hiking, horse and mountain biking will require coordination by all agencies to implement.

The demands to coordinate with private land owners necessary recreation easements to facilitate the Merced River Canyon Trail project will increase over the term of this plan.

## 9.3 Indicators and Standards

### ISSUE, RECREATION

*INDICATOR, The number of campsites and the campsite condition is consistent with the Opportunity Class IV.*

*STANDARD, Campsites are small (campgrounds under 50 campsites in one area) Facilities (tables, fire grills, parking) are provided. Impacts from recreational activities are evident to the visitor. Campsites are 100 feet apart or approximately 3 units per acre density. The developed campsites are to replace the dispersed campsites along Incline Road.*

### ISSUE, RECREATION

*INDICATOR, The number and character of facility developments are subordinate to the naturalness of the area. Human and technological influence are apparent.*

*STANDARD, No large facility developments (over 50 unit campgrounds) permitted. Small facility developments (e.g. Trail Heads, Rafting put-in or out areas, Information sites/signs) are subordinate to the environmental setting. Allow no more than 5 sites in 320 acres or every 1 mile within the river corridor.*

### ISSUE, SOCIAL

*INDICATOR, Visitor encounter moderate to heavy amounts of people while traveling. Recreation parties to travel unencumbered by other parties.*

*STANDARD, Moderate 80% probability of meeting other parties or users during low use periods. High or 100% probability of no more than 5 encounters with other parties during the high use (Feb to June) season.*

### ISSUE, SOCIAL

*INDICATOR, The amount of vandalism does not impact the visual setting of the area.*

*STANDARD, No more than 5 new occurrences of graffiti vandalism or defacing of natural features located anywhere within the Zone per year.*

**ISSUE, SOCIAL**

*INDICATOR, The number of visitor conflicts between recreation groups (e.g. angler and rafters) or with livestock should not cause undue conflict.*

*STANDARD No more than 7 reported between different types of users per year.*

**ISSUE, RECREATION**

*INDICATOR, Reported congestion at the rafting launch site.*

*STANDARD, Rafter groups do not wait longer than 60 minutes to launch.*

**ISSUE, SOCIAL**

*INDICATOR, Groups of people encountered on river per day.*

*STANDARD, Maximum of 17 parties per day (7 commercial) allowed on the river.*

**ISSUE, RECREATION**

*INDICATOR, The number of rafting related citations.*

*STANDARD, No more than 2 per year.*

**ISSUE, RECREATION, WILDLIFE**

*INDICATOR, There is sufficient dead and down material to support recreational activities and wildlife.*

*STANDARD, 10 tons/acre of dead and down material should be available for wildlife and recreational campfire building.*

**ISSUE, SOCIAL**

*INDICATOR, The public should be informed of potential risks and steps should be taken to provide an appropriate level of public safety.*

*STANDARD, No more than 4 accidents per year within the zone, with attention to rafting incidents. Accidents are incidents where there is either an incident report filed by a Forest or BLM officer, or if a visitor requires medical attention.*

**ISSUE, TRANSPORTATION**

*INDICATOR, Public parking space should be provided at a level that protects the resource and provides for public safety and comfort. Visitors should find adequate parking at trail heads, and raft put-in and take-outs sites.*

*STANDARD, 75% of recreation users who drove vehicles and that were interviewed could find a parking spot within 30 minutes.*

## **9.4 Management Actions**

Develop site plans for each of the areas where development or use is or has been conceptually located or suggested in this Plan. These are areas where recreation activities will be permitted and areas where the natural environments will be maintained. Examples include: Cultural/archaeological sites, riparian vegetation maintenance areas, dispersed camping sites which will be turned into developed/controlled camping sites along the Incline Road, existing developed campgrounds sites, existing picnic sites, existing rafting put-ins, and administrative site(s).

Develop river access for the people with hearing, sight and physically challenged disabilities. Facilities and programs will be accessible at different levels for folks without aid from another person. These facilities and programs will be in full compliance with the adopted codes and standards.

Provide for the stabilization and interpretation of any remaining sections of the old railroad bridges or other significant historic or mining sites along the Merced Canyon River.

Provide portable sanitation facilities during peak rafting season if water quality falls below the standard. Sanitation facilities should be placed outside of the riparian zone.

Examine and or manage cattle allotment plans to minimize conflicts between forest users and livestock in this zone.

Consider the installation of a radio repeater (or repeaters) to provide full administrative coverage of the Merced River Zone.

Implement a general fire suppression strategy of control at a maximum size of ten acres. Any fire occurring within the Wild and Scenic River corridor that has exceeded, or is anticipated to exceed, preplanned initial action capabilities or the fire management direction, will be considered an escaped fire. An escaped fire will be analyzed under the Escaped Fire Situation Analysis (EFSA).

Provide for interpretation of significant archaeological, geological, historical (railroad), mining sites.

Provide information kiosks at trail heads and or designated use sites. Information will highlight the special features of the area, minimum impact camping, protection of vegetation and wildlife, and the Tread Lightly program.

Provide trailhead parking at the designated trail heads.

Allow private white water rafting to remain unregulated. Increased use may necessitate limiting the numbers of boaters through a permit system, or it may include issuing permits to increase information dissemination.

Allow white water rafting companies to operate on the Merced River as specified in the existing permits usually from April 30 to June 30. Each company will be allowed a base camp located on BLM administered lands. Each company will be permitted to run trips with a maximum of 30 occupants including staff. Each company will be allowed one start per day. Rafters will be permitted to put in at current Forest Service or BLM locations, however, any identified environmental effects will require mitigation.

Develop an overflow campground to fit large groups or large numbers of individual campers at the BLM's State Trap area. The goal will be to alleviate crowding in the river corridor during high-use rafting weekends.

Design and develop the BLM's Cranberry Boat Launch Site.

Eliminate the private rafting take-out activities at the suspension bridge site. Encourage rafters to run to the Briceburg take-out site.

Evaluate potential launch or take-out sites. Develop the areas if feasible.

Mining roads will remain open to administrative use only.

Encourage pack-in, pack-out policy and no trace camping techniques.

Develop the Merced River Canyon Trail in accordance with other agency plans.

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## 10.0 MERCED AND SOUTH FORK

### MERCED RIVER MONITORING PLAN

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This chapter discusses the means the Forest Service and BLM will employ to ensure that future management is consistent with the direction contained in the Implementation Plan.

Monitoring and evaluation activities provide information to help figure out whether or not the direction contained in the Plan is being followed and if the stated objectives for the Wild and Scenic River values are being met. It is through this process that corrections and adjustments are made if necessary.

The monitoring plan for the WSR serves four functions:

- 1. To make sure that management actions are implemented as designed and that they comply with the Implementation Plan objectives and standards.*
- 2. To measure the effectiveness of management actions in accomplishing the objectives and standards.*
- 3. To identify trends (adverse or otherwise) in environmental conditions.*
- 4. To complete the inventory process for the WSR.*

## **10.1 MEANING OF LETTERS A-F FOUND IN THE FOLLOWING MONITORING PLAN**

- A = INDICATOR**
- B = STANDARD**
- C = MONITORING PROCEDURES**
- D = MONITORING PERSONNEL**
- E = FREQUENCY**
- F = VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION**

## **10.2 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION COMMON TO ALL ZONES**

### **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**A. INDICATOR**, archaeological site surface disruption and maintaining the information recovery value of archaeological sites.

**B. STANDARD**, Sites are maintained in a condition that will permit an evaluation of significance and if appropriate, listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Significant sites are protected to permit future data recovery.

**C. MONITORING PROCEDURES**, A cultural resources survey will be conducted for the areas that have a high priority. An ASR will be completed and sites documented. Sites Eligible for listing in National Register of Historic pieces will be protected. Impacts will be mitigated. Sites where impacts are or may occur will be photographed. Evaluations will occur once a year to determine if additional mitigation is needed.

**D. MONITORING PERSONNEL**, The District Archaeologist will review reports and monitor the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

**E. FREQUENCY**, Once per year at identified sites.

**F. VARIABILITY SIGNALING FURTHER ACTION**, Any impacts that decrease the value of site data will require mitigation.

## **FISHERIES**

**A. INDICATOR, Suitable habitat is maintained to provide viable fish populations**

**B. STANDARD, R-5 minimum Management Requirements, FLMP Guidelines, Riparian Standards and Guidelines, Best Management Practices are being applied in a way that supports the objectives established in the WSR EIS and Plan; and project specific NEPA documents.**

**C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Project specific NEPA documents site plans and designs will be reviewed. Project implementation will be evaluated against the direction identified in the aforementioned documents.**

**D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, District or Forest Fisheries Biologist.**

**E. FREQUENCY, During project planning and design, during project implementation and after project completion.**

**F. VARIABILITY SIGNALING FURTHER ACTION, Management action is needed if there is a failure to properly implement directions.**

## **PLANNING DIRECTION**

**A. INDICATOR, The management of the WSR reflects the circumstances described in the EIS and the management direction in the implementation Plan.**

**B. STANDARD, Periodic reviews to evaluate the effectiveness of management direction and monitoring plan, indicate that the document reflect the current environmental social and administrative needs in the area.**

**C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Management and staff review of Plan and evaluation; n of items as described in the Monitoring Plan.**

**D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, The WSR manager will coordinate the review with Rangers and Staff.**

**E. FREQUENCY, Review should occur once per year by the WSR Manager. If there are areas of concern, the WSR Manager will recommend review by Rangers and Staff of both Forests or BLM**

**F. VARIABILITY SIGNALING FURTHER ACTION, Mitigate impacts when a significant amount of items in the Plan do not adequately provide direction for management of the area. Monitor the public response to management activities that indi-**

cate activities are not meeting environmental needs or social desires.

### **TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

A. INDICATOR, The transportation system meets the direction in the Plan.

B. STANDARD, The transportation system's effectiveness meets the Opportunity Class and Zone objectives. Project specific NEPA documents and the Forests or BLM trail plan reflect the objectives in the WSR EIS and Plan.

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Review current condition of transportation system and identify maintenance, construction and reconstruction needs to comply with Opportunity Class and Zone objectives.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, WSR Manager, Forest Engineer or Forest Recreation Officer should field check selected roads and trails, review plans and designs.

E. FREQUENCY, Project planning and implementation should be evaluated during and after project completion.

F. VARIABILITY SIGNALING FURTHER ACTION, Management of transportation system does not meet the objectives. Maintenance levels are below designated level.

### **WATER QUALITY**

A. INDICATOR, Management practices maintain water quality.

B. STANDARD, Implementation of BMP's and project design do not permit a decrease in water quality.

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Water samples should be taken in the Merced River and the South Fork Merced River. Project design should be reviewed to assure incorporation of BMP's.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, The WSR manager should coordinate with the Forest Hydrologist or Fisheries Biologist and the Department of Fish and Game.

E. FREQUENCY, Annually during high use season. Once per year below Hite Cove on South Fork Merced River

F. VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION, Take action if water quality shows a decrease, or if BMP's are not implemented as described in project level NEPA document.

## **WILDLIFES**

A. **INDICATOR**, All National Forest System or BLM Habitats and activities for threatened and endangered species are managed to achieve recovery objectives, so that special protection measures provided under the Endangered Species "Act are not longer necessary.

B. **STANDARD**, Project plans and prescriptions are implemented as designed, consistent with the Biological Evaluations.

C. **MONITORING PROCEDURES**, Review of project implementation and field verification of habitats. Project implementation should be reviewed to meet Biological Evaluation.

D. **MONITORING PERSONNEL**, District or Forest Wildlife Biologist.

E. **FREQUENCY**, Annually for projects that occurred that year.

F. **VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION**, When T and E habitat and or population indicate changes significant enough to affect species recovery, coordinate with USF&WS Division of Endangered Species and CDF&G for Recovery Plan recommendation.

## **10.3 WILD ZONE 1**

### **RECREATION**

A. **INDICATOR**, The number of dispersed campsites and the campsite condition is consistent with the Opportunity Class 1.

B. **STANDARD**, Campsites are small and temporary. No facilities are provided. Impacts are not evident to the visitor. Campsites are 200 feet apart and are fewer than 2 per 320 acres or every 1 mile within the river corridor.

C. **MONITORING PROCEDURES**, Field inventory and evaluation of current campsites are completed. Sites are mapped and described using a survey form or a narrative. Areas are revisited, and checked for new sites or new resource impacts.

D. **MONITORING PERSONNEL**, WSR Manager or Recreation Officer. Survey may be done by Trail or Wilderness Rangers during patrol.

E. **FREQUENCY**, Annual reviews are common. Reviews to be more frequent if there is an increase in visitor use or if there is an increase in impacts over the previous survey.

F. **VARIABILITY SIGNALING FURTHER ACTION**, If campsite conditions become dominate for an area, mitigate through site modification or increased user information.

### **RECREATION FACILITIES**

A. **INDICATOR**, The number and character of facilities or development is subordinate to the naturalness of the area. Human and technological influence will be unapparent.

B. **STANDARD**, No large developments permitted. Small developments are temporary or subordinate to the environmental setting. Allow no more than 1 site in 320 acres.

C. **MONITORING PROCEDURES**, Project NEPA documents or proposals for the zone are reviewed. Field count number of facility developments along the river corridor.

D. **MONITORING PERSONNEL**, District Recreation Officer and WSA Manager. Bring items concerning specific plans to the attention of the project leader.

E. **FREQUENCY**, Complete on a project basis during the planning phase.

F. **VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION**, Proposed facility developments to meet the objectives and descriptions of the opportunity class.

### **SOCIAL**

A. **INDICATOR**, Visitors encounter few people while traveling.

B. **STANDARD**, Low or 10% probability of meeting other parties or Forest users during low use periods. Medium or 50% probability of an encounter during the high use season.

C. **MONITORING PROCEDURES**, Exit interviews and discussions with visitors. Monitoring personnel to field check visits during use seasons.

D. **MONITORING PERSONNEL**, WSR Manager or Recreation Officer.

E. **FREQUENCY**, Periodic review, once a season minimum. Field visits to be more frequent if there is an increase in visitor use or if there is an increase in impacts over the previous survey.

F. VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION, If there is an obvious increase (over 10%) in use over the previous three sampling, evaluate to determine the cause. Then evaluate the impacts to determine if mitigating is necessary.

#### **PLANNING DIRECTION**

A. INDICATOR, Management emphasizes maintaining and enhancing the natural ecosystem and its processes.

B. STANDARD, All resource conditions, social conditions and management activities reflect the characteristics described for Opportunity Class I and the objectives for this zone.

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Review all current and planned activities against the WSR EIS/Plan. Give attention to Forest project specific NEPA documents for this area.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, WSR Manager or District Recreation Officer

E. FREQUENCY, Review specific projects during the planning phases.

F. VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION, Actions that do not meet with the standard should have project design altered or mitigate conflicts in favor of WSR Implementation Plan Direction.

## **10.4 WILD Zone 2**

#### **RECREATION**

Same as Wild Zone I

#### **VISUAL RESOURCES**

Same as Wild Zone 1

#### **SOCIAL**

A. INDICATOR, Visitors encounter moderate amounts of people while traveling.

B. STANDARD, Low or 25% probability of meeting other parties or Forest users during low use periods. High or 80% probability of an encounter during the high use (Feb to June) season

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Exit interviews and discussions with visitors, Monitoring personnel to field check visits during use seasons

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, WSR Manager or Recreation Officer.

E. FREQUENCY, Periodic review, once a season minimum. Field visits to be more frequent if there is an increase in visitor use or if there is an increase in impacts over the previous survey.

F. VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION, if there is an obvious increase (over 15%) in use over the previous three sampling, evaluate to determine the cause. then evaluate the impacts to determine if mitigation is necessary. Wild Zone 1

#### **PLANNING DIRECTION**

Same as Wild Zone 1, except use settings described for Opportunity Class II

## **10.5 SCENIC ZONE**

#### **RECREATION**

A. INDICATOR, The number of campsites and the campsite condition is consistent with the Opportunity Class II.

B. STANDARD, Campsites are small and temporary. Facilities may be provided. Impacts from recreational activities may be evident to the visitor. Campsites are 100 feet apart and are fewer than 5 per 320 acres or every 1 mile within the WSR corridor.

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Field inventory and evaluation of current campsites are completed. Sites are mapped and described using s survey form or a narrative. Areas are revisited and checked for new additional sites.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, WSR Manager or Recreation Officer.

E. FREQUENCY, Annual seasonal reviews are standard. Reviews to be more frequent if there ia an increase in visitor use or if there is an increase in impacts over the previous survey.

F. VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION, If campsite conditions become dominate for an area, mitigate through site modification or increased user information.

## **RECREATION FACILITIES**

A. INDICATOR, The number and character of facility developments are subordinate to the naturalness of the area. Human and technological influence may be apparent.

B. STANDARD, No large facility developments permitted, and small developments are subordinate to the environmental setting. Allow no more than 2 sites in 320 acres or every 1 mile within the river corridor

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Project NEPA documents or proposals for the zone are reviewed. Field count number of facilities developments along the river corridor.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, District Recreation Officer and WSR Manager. Bring specific plans items to the attention of the of the project leader.

E. FREQUENCY, On a project basis during the planning phase.

F. VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION, If developments are proposed in this zone they must meet with the objectives and descriptions of the opportunity class.

## **SOCIAL**

A. INDICATOR, Visitor encounter moderate amounts of people while traveling

B. STANDARD, Low or 25% probability of meeting other parties or Forest users during low use periods. High or 90% probability of an encounter during the high use (Feb to June ) season.

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Exit interviews and discussions with visitors to be completed. Monitoring personnel to check visits during use seasons.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, WSR Manager or Recreation Officer.

E. FREQUENCY, Annual reviews standard. Reviews to be more frequent if there is an increase in visitor use or if there is an increase in impacts over the previous surveys.

F. VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION, If there is an obvious increase (over 20%) in use over the previous three samplings, evaluate to determine the cause. Then evaluate the impacts to determine if mitigation is necessary.

### **HITE COVE CULTURAL AREA**

A. **INDICATOR**, The levels of OHV, hiking, grazing, vegetation management and mining are within the scope of PL 100-149.

B. **STANDARD**, Use of forest resources and recreational hiking and OHV use of designated routes is consistent with the long term protection of the area's natural, archaeological, and scenic resources.

C. **MONITORING PROCEDURES**, Review current condition of areas and identify impacted areas and improvement needs. Field check selected sites for previous impacts, and review plans for potential impacts.

D. **MONITORING PERSONNEL**, WSR Manager or Staff Specialist

F. **FREQUENCY**, Annual reviews are critical. Field visits to be more frequent if there is an increase in visitor use or if there is an increase in impacts over the previous survey.

G. **VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION**, Any impacts that decrease the value of archaeological sites, and scenic resources, fish and wildlife habitat, will be mitigated. Consider moving activities, project limitations and closures only after other mitigation does not meet desired conditions. Impacted areas to have project proposals for project funding.

### **PLANNING DIRECTION**

A. Same as Wild I, except use settings described for Opportunity Class III as a guide.

## **10.6 RECREATION ZONE**

### **DEVELOPED (DISPERSED) CAMPSITES**

A. **INDICATOR**, The number of campsites and the campsite condition is consistent with the Opportunity Class IV.

B. Campsites are small (Campgrounds under 50 campsites in one area) and permanent. Facilities (tables, firegrills, parking) are provided. Impacts from recreational activities are evident to the visitor. Campsites are 100 feet apart or about 3 units per acre

density. The developed campsites to replace the dispersed campsites along Incline Road.

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Complete inventory, surveys and evaluations of existing dispersed campsites.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, WSR Manager, Recreation Officer, landscape architect, facilities engineer.

E. FREQUENCY, Seasonal reviews until all existing dispersed sites are converted to developed sites.

F VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION, If dispersed campsite conditions become dominate for an area, mitigate through site developed modification or closures.

### **FACILITY DEVELOPMENTS**

A. INDICATOR, The number and character of facility developments are subordinate to the naturalness of the area. Human and technological influence are apparent.

B. STANDARD, No large facility developments (over 50 unit campgrounds) permitted. Small facility developments (e.g. Trail Heads, Rafting put-in or out areas, Information sites/signs) are subordinate to the environmental setting. Allow no more than 5 sites in 320 acres or every 1 mile within the river corridor.

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Project NEPA documents or proposals for the zone are reviewed. Field count number of facilities developments along the river corridor.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, WSR manager, Recreation Officer, Facilities engineer, Landscape Architect.

E. FREQUENCY, On a project basis during the planning phase.

F. VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION, If developments are proposed in this zone they must meet with the objectives and descriptions of the opportunity class.

### **VISITOR ENCOUNTERS**

A. INDICATOR, Visitor encounter moderate to heavy amounts of people while traveling. Recreation parties to travel unencumbered by other parties.

B. STANDARD, Moderate 80% probability of meeting other parties or Forest users during low use periods. High or 100% probability of no more than 5 encounters with other parties during the high use (Feb to June) season.

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Exit interviews and visual counts of visitors to be completed.

**D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, WSR Manager or Recreation Officer.**

**E. FREQUENCY, Annual reviews standard during use seasons.**

**F. VARIABILITY SIGNALLING FURTHER ACTION, Evaluate any impacts to determine if mitigation is necessary.**

### **VANDALISM**

**A. INDICATOR, The amount of vandalism does not impact the visual setting of the area.**

**B. STANDARD, No more than 5 new occurrences of graffiti vandalism or defacing of natural features located anywhere within the Zone per year.**

**C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Visual count. Information should be kept as to the type and location of incidents, and if there were suspected violators.**

**D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, Law Enforcement Officer, or Recreation Officer to report incidence to the WSR Manager.**

**E. FREQUENCY, Once per year minimum. Give special attention to the high use periods.**

**F. VARIABILITY REQUIRING MANAGEMENT RESPONSE, IF there are 2 occurrences of defacements within close proximity of each other, officers should evaluate the incidents. If there is a pattern, actions to prevent additional vandalism should be implemented. Remove or repair any vandalism or graffiti.**

### **VISITOR CONFLICTS**

**A. INDICATOR, The number of conflicts between recreation groups (e.g. angler and rafters) or with livestock, should not cause undue conflict.**

**B. STANDARD, No more than 7 reported between different types of users.**

**C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Written citations and reported complaints to be accepted. People expressing a verbal complaint should be encouraged to write and document the incident.**

**D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, WSR Manager or district Law Enforcement Officer.**

E. FREQUENCY, Ongoing

F. VARIABILITY REQUIRING MANAGEMENT RESPONSE, Three written complaints per year from unrelated incidents. This should trigger an evaluation of seasonal use and review of potential changes to alleviate problem areas.

#### **LAUNCHING**

A. INDICATOR, Congestion at launch site.

B. STANDARD, Rafters groups do not wait longer than 60 minutes to launch.

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Visual count and exit interviews.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, District Recreation or Law Enforcement Officer.

E. FREQUENCY, Ongoing during rafting season.

F. VARIABILITY REQUIRING MANAGEMENT RESPONSE, Greater than 10% increase from previous years results.

#### **GROUPS ON RIVER**

A. INDICATOR, Groups encountered on river per day

B. STANDARD, Maximum of 17 parties per day (7 commercial)

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Exit interviews and interviews with commercial rafting companies.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, District Recreation or Law Enforcement Officer.

E. FREQUENCY, Ongoing during rafting season.

F. VARIABILITY REQUIRING MANAGEMENT RESPONSE, Greater than 10% increase from previous years results.

#### **RAFTING CITATIONS**

A. INDICATOR, NUMBER OF RAFTING RELATED CITATIONS

B. STANDARD, No more than 2 per year.

C. MONITORING PROCEDURES, Count of citations.

D. MONITORING PERSONNEL, District Recreation or Law Enforcement Officer.

E. FREQUENCY, Ongoing during rafting season.

**F. VARIABILITY REQUIRING MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**, Greater than 10% increase from previous years results.

#### **VEGETATION**

**A. INDICATOR**, There is sufficient dead and down material to support recreational activities and wildlife.

**B. STANDARD**, Ten tons/ acres of dead and down material should be available for wildlife and recreational campfire building.

**C. MONITORING PROCEDURES**, Visual observation, concentrating in areas of dispersed use. Determine if the ground being picked clean?

**D. MONITORING PERSONNEL**, Fuels Officer or Biologist should notify WSR manager if action is needed.

**E. FREQUENCY**, Once per year in the Spring.

**F. VARIABILITY REQUIRING MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**, 10% reduction in standard, or if there is evidence that recreation use is not leaving adequate material for wildlife.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

**A. INDICATOR**, The public should be informed of potential risks and steps should be taken to provide an appropriate level of public safety.

**B. STANDARD**, No more than 4 accidents per year within the zone, with attention to rafting incidents. Accidents are incidents where there is either an incident report filed by a Forest or BLM officer, or if a visitor requires medical attention.

**C. MONITORING PROCEDURES**, Exit interview and interviews with commercial rafting companies.

**D. MONITORING PERSONNEL**, Recreation or Law Enforcement Officers should provide the WSR Manager with copies of reports or other documentation of incident.

**E. FREQUENCY**, Ongoing during rafting season, Item should be discussed with permittee during field reviews and evaluations.

**F. VARIABILITY REQUIRING MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**, Greater than 10% increase from previous three year average. Incidents should be evaluated for reoccurring factors, and public information should be changed to reflect the safety concerns. All health and safety concerns must be corrected.

## **PARKING**

A. **INDICATOR**, Public parking space should be provided at a level that protects the resource and provides for public safety and comfort. Visitors should find adequate parking at trailheads, and raft put-in and take-outs sites.

B. **STANDARD**, 75% of rafting persons who drove vehicles and that were interviewed could find a parking spot within 30 minutes.

C. **MONITORING PROCEDURES**, Exit interviews and interviews with commercial rafting companies. Patrol personnel should ask visitors about parking vehicles at designated locations, and estimate % of parking capacity used.

D. **MONITORING PERSONNEL**, District Recreation or Law Enforcement Officer. Report finding to WSR Manager.

E. **FREQUENCY**, 3 times during rafting season. The sample of parking should occur on weekends and high use periods.

F. **VARIABILITY REQUIRING MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**, Greater than 10% increase from previous years results. If feasible, consider increasing parking in high use areas, surfacing parking areas, or other mitigation where resource impacts are evident.

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## 11.0 APPENDIX

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### 11.1 SUMMARY OF THE LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE (LAC) PROCESS

The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process is a way of setting and meeting specific objectives for managing recreation areas. The process was primarily developed for wilderness areas, but it is applicable to any area where recreation activities occur. It is based on the premise that recreational use of an area can diminish the quality of both the natural environment and the recreation experience.

Concern about overuse causing negative impacts has led managers to try to establish visitor carrying capacities. This approach focused attention on the amount of use and searched for the specific number of people that can be allowed to use an area without causing unacceptable changes to the natural environment or the recreation experience. Much of the adverse impact of recreational use is not the result of too much use, but rather the kind of use, the behavior of visitors, and the timing and distribution of use. A little use in a new area may cause many impacts, while a lot more use may cause only a little more impact. Recreation researchers are showing that it makes more sense to manage for acceptable results, rather than for numbers and locations of visitors.

In applying the LAC process, managers assume that change to the ecological and social conditions of the area they are managing

is going to occur, due to both natural and human factors. The goal of management then is to keep the character and rate of change due to human factors within levels acceptable to the ecosystem and within the limits of laws and regulations.

According to the LAC system, managers first develop management objectives for the area they are managing and describe the recreation opportunities to be provided. Then they identify the ecological and social factors likely to change and select indicators that can be easily observed and used as a gauge to figure out the amount of change occurring. For each indicator, managers then set a standard, which is a threshold value that defines the amount of change that is acceptable and unacceptable. The purpose of selecting indicators and standards is to provide managers with reference points so they can judge whether the recreation opportunity they are trying to manage is actually being provided over time. The standards serve as trigger devices rather than management policy. If conditions deteriorate and a standard is approached or exceeded, mitigating actions can be taken to avoid unacceptable change. Managers retain the flexibility to implement any of a variety of mitigating actions. In the past, limits on the amount of use were often instituted when adverse effects occurred, but the LAC idea allows the flexibility to implement many other kinds of management actions to control specific problems.

A LAC standard is a maximum permissible level of impact or a critical threshold limit. It is not an objective that one is attempting to reach. Managers should try to provide the best conditions possible rather than allowing conditions to deteriorate until the standard is reached. On the other hand, managers should not focus solely on the selected indicators, but should consider the whole management situation. As management experience is gained and other issues develop in the future, need may arise to select additional indicators or delete some indicators.

#### **LAC PLANNING METHOD AS USED IN THE WSR PLAN (SUMMARY)**

These were the nine steps used in the LAC planning process for this WSR project:

### **STEP 1**

**LIST ISSUES INVOLVING THE AREA.** This was done during public scoping phase of the planning process and is summarized in Chapter 2.0 Issues and Concerns. Issues and concerns are also discussed in the Environmental Impact Statement. In the past, this step of accepting public input, was done after draft environmental documents were completed. With the LAC process, public input is requested at the beginning stages of the planning process before draft documents are published.

### **STEP 2**

**DEFINE AND DESCRIBE POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY CLASSES FOR THE WSR CORRIDOR.** This step involved dividing the Wild and Scenic River Corridor into homogeneous areas for management purposes. The use patterns of the WSR fell logically into four classes. These classes are shown on accompanying maps and the environmental analysis documents. These maps were overlaid with additional maps showing the existing resource conditions. The combined pattern of the maps were considered with the legislative direction and the management objectives for this plan. These factors were weighed and considered in aggregate. The result was the definition and mapping of zones and "opportunity classes."

### **STEP 3**

**SELECT INDICATORS OF RESOURCE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.** This step involved defining specific recreation and resource opportunity objectives for which the area will be managed over time. Indicators were developed in response to the resource questions and problems identified in the scoping phase, and reflecting the management objectives.

#### **STEP 4**

**INVENTORY EXISTING RESOURCE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.** Existing resource materials found in the forest land management plans, existing resource data found in the Boundary and Classification Environmental Assessment phase, and new resource data were used in the base inventory. Professional experience and judgement also were used as the source of current-situation data. As implementation and monitoring occur, adjustments should occur in this data.

#### **STEP 5**

**DEFINE STANDARDS FOR RESOURCE AND SOCIAL INDICATORS.** A standard was established for each indicator to describe the amount of change that will be acceptable. The standard is the upper limit of each indicator rather than a desired goal. Management actions should seek to keep the indicator well within the standard if possible.

#### **STEP 6**

**IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITY CLASS ALLOCATIONS.** This step was developed in the EIS. Four alternatives were considered: Current management direction or an existing condition alternative. Emphasize protection of natural resources or a limited developed alternative. Emphasize protection and recreation opportunity or a moderate development alternative and emphasize maximize recreation opportunity or a maximum use alternative.

#### **STEP 7**

**DESCRIBE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT EACH ALTERNATIVE.** These actions were developed by the interdisciplinary team. The Environmental Impact Statement lists the actions to be taken under each alternative for each of the resources. These actions differ with the theme of each alternative.

## **STEP 8**

**EVALUATE AND SELECT AN ALTERNATIVE.** For a variety of reasons and to benefit a variety of resources, the moderate development alternative was identified by the interdisciplinary team and line officers, (Area Manager, District Rangers and Forest Supervisors) as the alternative which best answers the resource questions/conflicts while meeting Forest Service and BLM Direction. The management actions for this alternative are described in more detail in this Implementation Plan. After public comment on the draft EIS and Plan was received and reviewed, the Regional Forester completed this Step 8 by documenting the selection and rationale for the chosen alternative in the written Record of Decision (ROD).

## **STEP 9**

**IMPLEMENT THE ACTIONS AND MONITOR THE RESOURCE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.** This step starts upon approval of the Implementation Plan. The monitoring is summarized in Chapter 10.0 Monitoring Plan. The monitoring will not only track the conditions of the physical and social factors (vegetation, cultural resources etc.), but will also allow evaluation of the effectiveness of the LAC standards. If more factors, indicators or standards are needed in the future, additional ones can be selected. Or if some are found to be unnecessary they may be deleted. This feedback mechanism will allow future flexibility in the process as managers acquire experience and better information as new issues of concern arise, as other issues fade, or as new tools and technologies become available. As these changes occur, indicators can be modified to assure the desired quality of the resource and its uses.

## 11.2 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

These management guidelines are consistent with the river classifications. They are meant to be implemented on Forest Service or BLM administered lands. However they could be used by the private owners who have lands within the wild and scenic river corridor. Private lands must meet the land use classifications criteria administered by the Mariposa and Madera County regulations. These zone requirements are included in this report's appendix for reference.

The Forest Service, BLM and citizen groups responsible for implementing this river corridor plan should look at these guidelines and apply them to the different river segments as appropriate.

### **Development guidelines applicable to the "scenic" and "recreation" river zones:**

1. Restrain from developing on slopes more than 25%.
2. Set back all structures so as not to infringe upon the skyline as viewed from the rivers edge.
3. Locate above ground utility installations where they do not impact the skyline as viewed from the river. Locate new utility installations below the ground line.
4. Locate necessary cut and fill operations required for site preparation of trail head parking or structures away from the river's skyline and edge.
5. Maintain the existing vegetation species diversity at current levels within the river corridor. Harvest no timber except the removal of dead or dying trees. Remove slash and cut stumps at ground height if trees must be removed within the view zones.
6. Limit overhead crossing of any type across the river corridor.
7. Allow no satellite dishes or signs within the skyline of the river's edge.

8. Require a site plan for any potential developments that will be planned within the wild and scenic river corridors. Organize a joint agency review board that could make recommendations to the respective agency managers on all proposed site plan and structural proposals within the designated river zones.

9. Require all structures or improvements that will be in view of the river to meet the motif or color guidelines of the agency involved. For the Forest Service all structure colors shall be earth tone and blend into the landscape with natural colors of the area. No reflective type roofing or siding materials will be allowed. No structures, viewing decks, and launch ramps will be allowed on the rivers edge.

10. Encourage a minimum of a 100 feet setback for all newly constructed improvements and structures from the river's edge.

11. Require visual screening of improvement and structure features. Use native vegetation materials to make the facilities subordinate with the existing landscape. Use the Forest Service and BLM "visual quality objectives" as guidelines for all improvements. Try to make existing and new facilities or structures visually subordinate or visually not evident to the characteristic landscape.

12. Require that a sign communication plan be completed for the each zone. This plan will include the message, location, color standards and sign or information kiosk locations. The signs will meet the appropriate State, Forest Service, BLM, County or Wild and Scenic Rivers standards for the identification, regulatory, warning, guide, informational sign standards.

**Development guidelines limited to "wild" zones.**

1. Limit all land use activities, operations, structures and other facilities to those necessary for agriculture, grazing, forestry, mining and recreational use.

2. Require all new or existing structures or facilities to be earth tone colors. Require no reflective type roof material to be allowed even for portable toilet structures.

3. Maintain the existing vegetation species diversity at current levels within the river corridor. Harvest no timber except the removal of dead or dying tree.

4. Require that a sign communication plan be completed for these wild zones. This plan will include the message, location, color standards and sign or information kiosk locations. The signs will meet all appropriate agency standards.

**11.4 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
(Stanislaus and Sierra National Forests)**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST - STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

The agreement, made and entered into this 8 day of Dec., 1989, by and between the Forest Supervisor, Sierra National Forest, hereinafter referred to as Sierra, and the Forest Supervisor, Stanislaus National Forest, hereinafter referred to as Stanislaus, WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Sierra, because of proximity, access, and travel time is in a better position than the Stanislaus to administer, manage, and protect Stanislaus lands and resources adjacent to and accessible from the Merced River; and,

WHEREAS, administration of said lands by Stanislaus duplicates administrative efforts by the Sierra south of the Merced River; and,

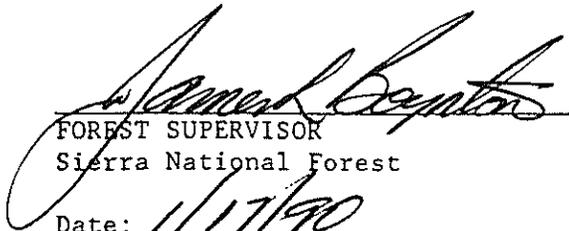
WHEREAS, a consistent level of public service is better achieved by a single administrative unit responsible for all National Forest System lands adjacent to the Merced River, and,

WHEREAS, the Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, mutually agreed upon by the Sierra and the Stanislaus, will set resource management direction within the Merced W&S River Corridor.

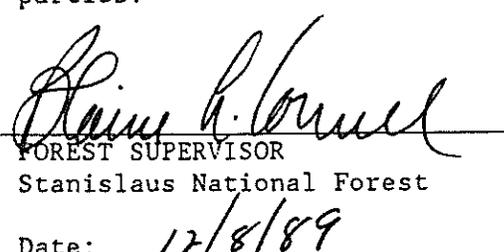
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED,

1. Sierra will administer, manage, and provide protection to all Stanislaus lands and resources, north of the Merced River within the area designated on the attached map, consistent with the administration, management and protection of other Sierra lands. (Which is the Wild and Scenic Area).
2. Aviation and Fire Management will be conducted by the Sierra in accordance with a Local Operating Plan agreed to by the Sierra and Stanislaus.
3. Range and Fuels Management responsibilities on Stanislaus lands are retained by the Stanislaus.
4. District Rangers of both the Mariposa and Groveland Ranger Districts will communicate as necessary to plan and coordinate activities of mutual concern.
5. This agreement supersedes all previous agreements and amendments.

This understanding shall remain in effect until amended or terminated in writing, and with mutual consent of both parties.

  
FOREST SUPERVISOR  
Sierra National Forest

Date: 11/17/90

  
FOREST SUPERVISOR  
Stanislaus National Forest

Date: 12/8/89

Enclosure: Administrative Boundary Map

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

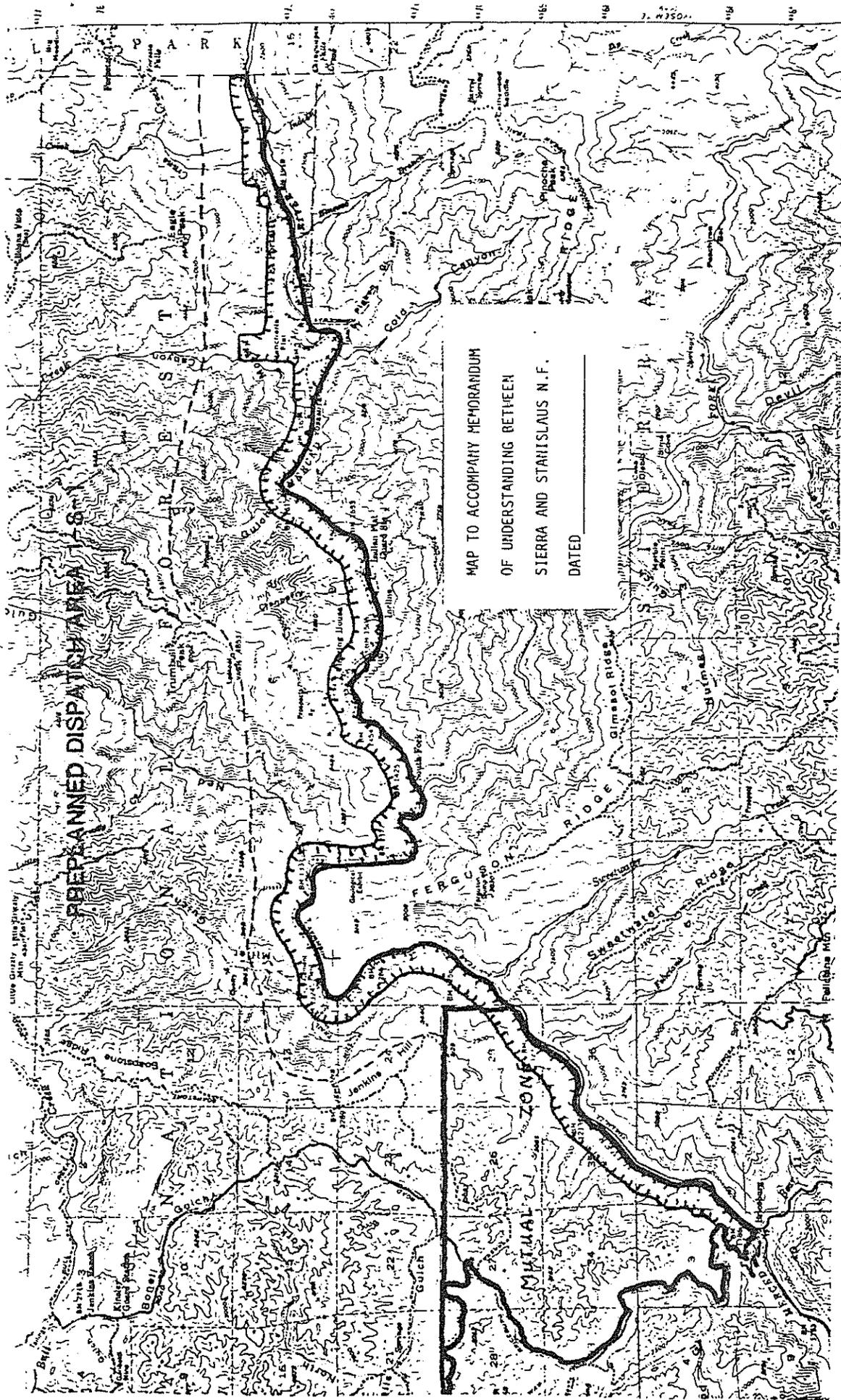
FIRE MANAGEMENT

OPERATING PLAN

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST - STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

NOW THEREFORE, it is mutually understood and agreed:

1. The area depicted on the attached map (Merced River - Wild & Scenic Zone), will be utilized as the pre-planned initial Dispatch Zone for Sierra protected lands North of the Merced River.
2. The Sierra will maintain all fire program activities within the Zone described with the exception of large-scale fuels management projects. Responsibilities include Fire Prevention, Suppression, Pre-Suppression, and Restriction and Closure Plan administration.
3. District Fire Management Officers of both the Mariposa and Groveland Ranger Districts will jointly develop Initial Action Pre-planned Area Dispatch Response Levels in the Spring of each year for the Zone described.
4. All fires that escape the pre-planned Area Dispatch on the North side of the River, and require an Escaped Fire Situation Analysis, will be managed by the Stanislaus National Forest. All Resource ordering at this time will be through the Stanislaus Emergency Command Center with orders placed to North Zone.
5. A high level of coordination is implied within this agreement between the two Dispatch Centers (Sierra N.F. and Stanislaus National Forest) to ensure fire problems are known immediately by the appropriate personnel of both Forests.
6. The Pre-planned Area Dispatch Commitment by Fire Danger Level is a part of this Operating Plan.



LANDS TO BE ADMINISTERED, MANAGED, AND PROTECTED BY THE SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. 

ALL LANDS ADJACENT AND ACCESSIBLE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE MERCED RIVER FROM THE YOSEMITE N.P. BOUNDARY TO BRICEBURG. ONE-QUARTER MILE SLOPE DISTANCE NORTHERLY FROM THE RIVER.

**11.5 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (Forest Service and BLM)**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE BAKERSFIELD DISTRICT  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
AND  
THE SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST  
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Bakersfield District under the laws of Congress and regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau is responsible for the conservation of the public land and the resources thereon, and,

WHEREAS, the Sierra National Forest under the laws of Congress and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agricultura, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service is responsible for the conservation of the public lands and the resources within the Sierra National Forest, and,

WHEREAS, there is approximately a 16 mile stretch of the Merced River that flows through public lands being utilized for commercial rafting purposes which requires a special recreation use permit issued by the Bureau, and,

WHEREAS, there is a contiguous 10 mile stretch of the Merced River within the Sierra National Forest being utilized for commercial recreational rafting purposes which requires a special use permit issued by the Forest Service, and,

WHEREAS, it is the mutual desire of the Bureau and the Forest Service to work in harmony for the common purposes of maintaining, improving, and managing the Merced River and the resources adjacent thereto for the best interest of the public and the Federal Government.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed as follows:

1. That commercial rafting use on the Merced River between El Portal and Bagby by individuals, partnerships, or corporations will be governed by a single special recreation permit issued by the Bureau.
2. To meet jointly at least annually to discuss matters relating to commercial rafting use on or affecting the public lands under jurisdiction of both agencies and provide for other meetings at various administrative levels as necessary.
3. It is expressly stipulated and agreed by both parties that each and every provision in this memorandum of understanding is subject to the laws of the State of California, the laws of the United States, and to the delegated authority assigned in each instance.
4. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating either party in the expenditure of funds, or for the future payment of money, in excess of appropriations authorized by law.
5. To accomplish the cooperative work under the provisions of this memorandum or supplemental memorandums of understanding or cooperative agreements without discrimination against any employee, or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

6. This memorandum shall become effective when signed by the designated representatives of the parties hereto and shall remain in force until terminated by mutual agreement, or by either party upon thirty days notice in writing to the other of its intention to terminate upon a date indicated. Amendments to this memorandum may be proposed by either party and shall become effective upon approval by both parties.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

By \_\_\_\_\_  
District Manager

Date \_\_\_\_\_

USDA FOREST SERVICE  
SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

By Richard L. Stouder  
Forest Supervisor

Date 1/23/81

## **11.6 COUNTY LAND USE GUIDELINES**

**APPENDIX 2**

**EXISTING LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS WITHIN ROUTE**

CHAPTER 17.20  
MOUNTAIN HOME ZONE (MHZ)

SECTIONS:  
17.20.010

17.20.010. The MHZ as designated on the Mariposa County Land Use Map, is applied to land best suited for moderate residential densities based upon suitability of terrain, location adjacent to population centers and service areas. This land use classification is provided to accommodate the major portion of the rural homesite growth of the county.

A. Development Standards for MHZ. Development standards for the MHZ shall be as follows:

1. Uses:

a. Permitted Uses: Residential and those applicable uses listed under Chapter 17.108.

b. Conditional Uses: Churches, subject to parking standards as required in Section 17.108.120 (F) of this Title; mineral or construction material processing, quarrying or aggregate processing shall be allowed by Use Permit issued for one (1) year. The permit shall be renewed if conditions are met and the site is maintained in accordance with the Surface Mining Act, Mariposa County Code and Water Quality Control Board standards and renewal of the Use Permit does not significantly interfere with residential uses. Processed, stockpiled material can be removed after Permit to Process has expired provided that terms of the reclamation plan are met.

c. Prohibited Uses: All other uses not listed above are prohibited.

2. Minimum Parcel or Lot Size: No parcel of real property shall be divided or split into two (2) or more parcels by voluntary transfer, court action or other conveyance, where any one (1) of the parcels so created will be less than five (5) acres in gross area.

3. Density: One (1) single family residence per five (5) acres.

CHAPTER 17.24  
MOUNTAIN TRANSITION ZONE (MTZ)

SECTIONS:  
17.24.010

17.24.010. The MTZ as designated on the Mariposa County Land Use Map, is applied to lands with limited development potential.

A. Development Standards for MTZ. Development standards for the MTZ shall be as follows:

1. Uses:

a. Permitted Uses: Residential, and those applicable uses listed under Chapter 17.108.

b. Conditional Uses: Churches, subject to parking standards as required in Section 17.108.120 (F) of this Title.

c. Prohibited Uses: All other uses not listed above are prohibited.

2. Minimum Parcel or Lot Size: No parcel of real property in the MTZ shall be divided or split into two (2) or more parcels by voluntary transfer, court action, or other conveyance where any one (1) of the parcels so created will be less than twenty (20) acres or one-half of one legal quarter-quarter section in gross area.

3. Density: One (1) single family residence per twenty (20) acres or one-half of a legal quarter-quarter section.

CHAPTER 17.28  
MOUNTAIN GENERAL ZONE (MGZ)

SECTIONS:  
17.28.010

17.28.010. The MGZ as designated on the Mariposa County Land Use Map, is applied to lands characterized by terrain that is less suitable for moderate or high residential densities or intense use, or is remote from established service centers. Due to the requirement for larger parcel sizes, diverse uses with minimum potential for use conflicts are possible within this classification.

A. Development Standards for MGZ. Development standards for the MGZ shall be as follows:

1. Uses:

a. Permitted Uses: Residential, non-commercial recreation, mining and rock processing in conformance with Surface Mining Act, County Code and those applicable uses listed under Chapter 17.108.

b. Conditional Uses: Churches, subject to parking standards as required in Section 17.108.120 (F) of this Title; membership or public parks and camps which require no permanent facilities; guest ranches, hunting clubs, public stables, and riding trails.

c. Prohibited Uses: All other uses not listed above are prohibited.

2. Minimum Parcel or Lot Size: No parcel of real property in the MGZ shall be divided or split into two (2) or more parcels by voluntary transfer, court action or other conveyance where any one (1) of the parcels so created will be less than forty (40) acres or a legal quarter-quarter section in gross area.

3. Density: Two (2) single family residences per forty (40) acres or a legal quarter-quarter section.

5 to 111 - (0.12 zoning)

CHAPTER 17.32  
GENERAL FOREST ZONE (GFZ)

SECTIONS:  
17.32.010

17.32.010. The GFZ as designated on the Mariposa County Land Use Map, is applied to lands under private ownership located primarily within the boundaries of National Forest Lands that are best suited for low density residential, timber management, agriculture and mining.

A. Development Standards for GFZ.

1. Uses:

a. Permitted Uses: Residential, sustained yield timber management; mining, rock and mineral processing in compliance with the Surface Mining Act and County Code, non-commercial recreation, and those applicable uses listed under Chapter 17.108.

b. Conditional Uses: Employee housing; churches, subject to parking standards as required in Section 17.108.120 (F) of this Title; membership or public parks and camps which require no permanent facilities; guest ranches, hunting clubs, public stables, and riding trails.

c. Prohibited Uses: All other uses not listed above are prohibited.

2. Minimum Parcel or Lot Size: No parcel of real property in the GFZ shall be divided or split into two (2) or more parcels by voluntary transfer, court action or other conveyance where any one (1) of the parcels so created will be less than forty (40) acres or a legal quarter-quarter section in gross area.

3. Density: Two (2) single family residences per forty (40) acres or a legal quarter-quarter section.

CHAPTER 17.40  
AGRICULTURE EXCLUSIVE ZONE (AEZ)

SECTIONS:  
17.40.010

17.40.010. The AEZ as designated on the Mariposa County Land Use Map, is applied to land considered to be most desirable for agriculture use. The purpose is to preserve the agricultural industry of Mariposa County as a viable economic activity.

A. Development Standards for the AEZ. Development standards for the AEZ shall be as follows:

1. Uses:

a. Permitted Uses: Unlimited agriculture, low density residential, employee housing, accessory buildings and accessory uses, barns, stables, farm equipment shelters, and other out buildings; home enterprises, rural home industry, public schools, public parks and other public facilities, such as volunteer fire departments, utility transmission and distribution lines, towers, poles and substations; mining, rock and mineral processing when in compliance with the Surface Mining Act; and those applicable uses listed under Chapter 17.108.

b. Conditional Uses: Slaughter houses, commercial hunting clubs, dude or guest ranches, riding clubs, stables or animal boarding facilities and similar activities. In addition to other conditions placed on them by the Planning Commission, slaughter houses shall have a minimum setback of fifteen hundred (1500) feet from state highways and adjacent higher density land use classifications or property lines.

c. Prohibited Uses: All other uses not listed above are prohibited.

2. Minimum Parcel or Lot Size: No parcel of real property in the AEZ shall be divided or split into two (2) or more parcels by voluntary transfer, court action or other conveyance where any one (1) of the parcels so created will be less than one hundred sixty (160) acres or a legal quarter section in gross area.

3. Density: Two (2) single family residences per one hundred sixty (160) acres or a legal quarter section.

B. Agricultural Advisory Committee. An Agricultural Advisory Committee comprised of representatives of the agricultural community in a manner to be established by Board Resolution, shall be appointed by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors.

The Mariposa County Farm Advisor shall be an ex-officio advisory member of the Committee.

1. The recommendation of the Agricultural Advisory Committee shall be obtained prior to the inclusion of any land into an AEZ, or the removing of any land from an AEZ, as shown on the Mariposa County Land Use Map.

2. The Committee shall review each action described above and may, if necessary, inspect the property in question to determine if the property is bona fide agricultural land appropriate for the AEZ.

CHAPTER 17.52  
PUBLIC DOMAIN ZONE (PDZ)

SECTIONS:  
17.52.010

17.52.010. The PDZ as designated on the Mariposa County Zoning Map, is applied to lands under public ownership, primarily by the U. S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management outside the boundaries of the federal preserve known as Yosemite National Park.

A. Development Standards for the PDZ. Due to the Federal Regulations governing public lands and to the limited land use authority over such lands by the County of Mariposa, instead of using permitted, conditional and prohibited uses as in other zones, development standards for the PDZ shall be set forth as follows:

1. Uses:

a. Primary Uses: The primary uses of lands designated as PDZs shall be: sustained yield timber management, harvesting, and associated activities; grazing and other agricultural uses; mining and mineral processing; non-commercial recreation; hydro-electric generation, and other similar uses. Wilderness and similar uses proposed for these lands shall be reviewed in accordance with the above primary uses and Federal Policy, or contemplated policy, and evaluated accordingly. In all instances motorcycle raceways, cross country courses, or similar vehicular uses are to be restricted within PDZs where such activities create a nuisance to adjacent or abutting private landholdings, or interfere with the above listed primary uses.

b. Ownership Transfers: When, in the event that a Federal or other public agency transfers land to a private individual or non-public entity, the above described use policies shall govern until such time as the site or land thus transferred is reclassified to another land use category in accordance with state law and county procedures. Until such reclassification is approved by the county, development proposals, subdivision applications, or use proposals not described above shall be considered inconsistent with this land use category and cannot be approved.

CHAPTER 17.56  
PUBLIC SITES ZONE (PSZ)

SECTIONS:  
17.56.010

17.56.010. The PSZ as designated on the Mariposa County Zoning Map, is applied to lands under Federal, State, or other government agency ownership, but not under the control and administration of the U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management or part of the Yosemite National Park Federal Preserve, used primarily for a public purpose.

A. Development Standards for the PSZ. Land designated as PSZ is under public ownership and is used for public purpose facilities. Instead of using: permitted, conditional, and prohibited uses as in other zones, development standards for the PSZ shall be set forth as follows:

1. Uses:

a. Primary Uses: The primary uses of lands designated as PSZs are for public facilities such as: public schools, parks, buildings, equipment yards, volunteer fire department facilities, solid waste collection and disposal sites, areas utilized for public sewer treatment sites.

CHAPTER 17.96  
RESORT COMMERCIAL ZONE, (CR)

SECTIONS:

- 17.96.010 Purpose and Intent
- 17.96.020 Development Standards for CR
- 17.96.030 Minimum Setback Standards
- 17.96.040 Design Criteria
- 17.96.050 Special Use Standards

17.96.010 Purpose and Intent. The Resort Commercial Zone, hereafter referred to as CR Zone, is intended to provide locations for highway-related and tourist services. Standards will require that traffic will not unnecessarily be impeded by such locations and a broad range of services will be available.

17.96.020 Development Standards for CR. Development standards for the CR Zone shall be as follows:

A. Location: This Zone shall be located on, or easily accessible to State Highways and designated Primary County Roads, i.e. collector and arterial roads as specified on the current official County Road Map, as amended from time to time.

B. Uses:

1. Permitted Uses: The following uses shall be permitted within any CR Zone:

- a. Motels, hotels and lodges;
- b. Restaurants and cocktail lounges;
- c. Guest ranches, health resorts, hunting and fishing clubs;
- d. Facilities for special group activities such as archery, pistol and rifle ranges, skeet clubs, tennis clubs, golf courses, and riding stables;
- e. Campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks subject to the special use standards specified in Section 17.96.050;
- f. One (1) single family residence per business if the residence is an integral part of the structure which houses the business, and if the residence is occupied by the owner or operator of the business. However, no more than one (1) residence per subparcel is allowed.

2. Accessory Uses: Accessory uses such as service stations, swimming pools, small general store services, and other uses normally appurtenant to a permitted use, i.e. clubhouses.

3. Conditional Uses: None.

4. Prohibited Uses All other uses not listed above are prohibited.

C. Minimum Parcel or Lot Size: Parcels shall have a minimum size of two and one-half (2-1/2) acres (exclusive of easement) if the domestic water system and the sewage disposal system is to be developed on parcel.

1. If a domestic water system or a community sewage disposal system is to be developed, then one (1) acre parcels (exclusive of easements) may be approved providing the average slope does not exceed fifteen (15%) percent. The burden is upon the applicant to show that such system meets the laws and standards of the state and county.

2. If both a domestic water supply system and a community sewage disposal system is to be developed then parcels of nine thousand (9,000) square feet (exclusive of easements) may be approved providing the average slope does not exceed fifteen (15) percent. The burden is upon the applicant to show that such system meets the laws and standards of the state and county.

17.96.030 Minimum Setback Standards. The minimum setback standards for the CR Zone shall be the same as those listed in Section 17.88.030, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, there shall be no parking, campsites or recreational vehicle sites utilized within the setback area.

17.96.040 Design Criteria. The design criteria for the CR Zone shall be as specified for the CG-1 Zone listed in Section 17.88.040 of this Title.

17.96.050 Special Use Standards.

A. Campgrounds:

1. No more than ten (10) campsites, not including operator or employee quarters, may be established per acre or 43,560 square feet of gross land area.

2. For purposes of this section, campsite shall mean a site utilized for camping and shall not mean the parking and occupancy of mobile homes, or motor homes, or travel trailers.

3. A campground may be operated in conjunction with any permitted use provided that the site or area upon which the use is located, and parking area for the use, shall be deducted from the gross site area for purposes of calculating campsite density.

4. Restrooms, showers, laundries, clubhouses and similar service facilities reserved exclusively for the use of campsite patrons shall not be subject to site area restrictions for purpose of calculating campsite density.

5. At a minimum, restroom facilities shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of the Health and Safety Code, and the Housing and Community Development Codes.

6. The minimum site area for a campground shall be five (5) acres in Town Planning Areas without adopted specific plans and ten (10) acres in a rural area.

B. Recreational Vehicle Parks:

1. No more than seven (7) recreational vehicle sites, not including management, operator or employee quarters, may be established per acre or 43,560 square feet of gross land area. Individual recreational vehicle spaces shall be a minimum of twenty (20) feet wide and seven hundred fifty (750) square feet in area.

2. For purposes of this section, recreational vehicle parking site shall mean an area utilized for temporary occupancy by RVs of not more than thirty (30) days in any sixty (60) consecutive day period by an individual or group of individuals. A parking site shall not be utilized for the storage of recreational vehicles, motor homes or travel trailers. The park owner shall insure compliance with these occupancy requirements.

3. A recreational vehicle park may be operated in conjunction with any permitted use provided that the site or area upon which the

use is located, and parking area for the use, shall be deducted from the net site area for purposes of calculating park site density.

4. At a minimum, restroom facilities shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of the Health and Safety Code, and the Housing and Community Development Codes.

5. The width and improvement of roads and driveways within an RV park is to be as follows:

a. One way: Eighteen (18) feet wide if road serves sixty (60) spaces or more; fifteen (15) feet if road serves less than sixty (60) spaces; twelve (12) feet for one-way internal road between campsite clusters without individual space access.

b. Two-way divided: Fifteen (15) feet wide on each side of divider.

c. Two-way: Twenty-four (24) feet wide.

d. Parking: There shall be a minimum of two (2) parking spaces per campsite and two (2) parking spaces per recreational vehicle site plus the parking necessary for the recreational vehicle. Parking along internal roadways is allowed only when a paved parking lane, eight (8) feet wide is provided in addition to the roadway.

e. Road improvement standard: Two (2) inches of A.C. plant mix over two (2) inches of Class II Aggregate Base or equivalent structural section based on a Traffic Index of 4. An oil or other dust cap may be substituted for the two (2) inches of A.C. subject to approval by the County Engineer.

6. The minimum site area for a recreational vehicle park shall be five (5) acres in Town Planning Areas without adopted specific plans and ten (10) acres in a rural area.

CHAPTER 17.65  
SCENIC HIGHWAY OVERLAY (SHO)

SECTIONS:  
17.65.010

17.65.010. The Scenic Highway Overlay Zone (SHO) is an overlay district which is intended to be combined with any other district to protect the scenic qualities of public highways or roadways designated a scenic highway by the State of California and/or the Board of Supervisors. The purpose of this district is to maintain the recreational, social and economic values of the County by protecting and enhancing the designated highway, for the benefit of residents and visitors. This zone will function to promote the overall economic vitality of a district, enhance tourism, and stabilize and increase property values.

A. SHO Plan - Required Review

Except as provided for in this section, no Commercial, Industrial, Multi-family Residential, or Single Family Residential Use (including Home Enterprises) shall be established, no development or grading shall occur, no sign shall be installed, and no building or grading permit shall be issued for any use which is located wholly or partially within the SHO District until an application for Scenic Highway Review Plan has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Director in accordance with the procedures and standards established in this Chapter. In reviewing and approving an application for Scenic Highway Review, the Planning Director shall find that the development is harmonious with the scenic quality of the designated highway, complies with all applicable standards pursuant to this Chapter, and is consistent with the goals, policies, and standards of the General Plan. Where the applicant can demonstrate to the Planning Director that the proposed development is not visible from the Scenic Highway, the project shall be exempt from the requirements of this Chapter. In addition, building permits which will not result in any exterior modifications are exempt, as are Single Family Residential developments which do not require a grading permit.

B. SHO Plan - Application Contents

An application for Scenic Highway Review Plan for Commercial, Industrial or Multi-family Residential use (including Home Enterprises not entirely operated within a residential structure) or any use requiring a conditional use permit shall include the following:

1. A completed Commercial, Industrial and Multi-family Dwelling Building Permit Application.

2. A plot plan drawn to the scale specified by the Planning Director and other such maps, plans, photographs, drawings and sketches necessary to illustrate the information specified in section 17.08.150 of this Title and the following information:

a. Site vegetation, including trees and shrubs - their approximate location, species, proposed treatment (to be removed or retained), and size (tree measurement to be given as diameter at four feet above ground level, and shrub measurement to be given as overall height);

b. Rock outcroppings and boulders larger than twenty-four (24) square feet - approximate location, proposed treatment (to be removed or retained) and size (measurement to be calculated by multiplying approximate width by length);

c. Existing topography of scenic highway if scenic highway is immediately adjacent to site;

d. Signs - materials, colors, and lighting;

e. Location of all utilities (including existing and proposed electric and communication lines and facilities, and propane tanks), mechanical equipment, dumpsters, and exterior work areas.

3. Elevations of all sides of the proposed building or structures visible from the scenic highway showing:

a. Dimensions;

b. Proposed architectural treatment, building and roofing materials and colors;

c. Signs;

d. Lighting;

e. Mechanical equipment and utilities.

4. Preliminary grading plan indicating grading necessary for all proposed site development.

5. The applicant may submit a narrative description of the proposed development to assist in the Scenic Highway Review process. This narrative may describe how the development was designed to be harmonious with the scenic quality of the corridor, and to comply with the design guidelines.

An application for Scenic Highway Review Plan for Single Family Residential development (including Home Enterprises entirely operated within a residential structure) shall include the following:

1. A completed Single Family Dwelling Building Permit Application.

2. A plot plan drawn to the scale specified by the Planning Director which illustrates the information specified in section 17.08.140 of this Title, and the location of existing and proposed electric and communication lines and facilities.

3. Preliminary grading plan indicating grading necessary for all proposed site development.

C. SHO Plan Application - Processing Procedures

Upon receipt of a Scenic Highway Review Plan application, the Planning Department shall, within five (5) working days, determine whether the application is complete. Upon acceptance of the application as complete, the Planning Director shall consider the scenic highway review plan and act to approve, conditionally approve, or deny the scenic highway review plan within thirty (30) days. The Planning Director's action shall be based upon the findings and standards listed in section 17.65.010 A. of this chapter. The Planning Commission's action on uses subject to a conditional use permit shall also be based upon the findings listed in section 17.65.010 A. of this chapter. The Planning Director shall provide specific findings if a scenic highway review plan is denied. Determinations made regarding a scenic highway review plan application may be appealed in accordance with Chapter 17.136 of this Title.

D. Development Standards for the SHO

1. Uses and General Development Standards: Permitted, conditional and prohibited uses shall be as set forth in the Principal Zone, with the following exceptions:

a. The following uses shall be permitted within the Scenic Highway Overlay:

(1). Commercial Timber Harvesting, when in compliance with the standards for special treatment areas established by Title 14, California Administrative Code, Section 953.4 and other appurtenant sections; and upon approval by the Planning Director of a Timber Harvest Plan as described in Public Resources Code 4582.

b. The following uses shall be conditional within the Scenic Highway Overlay:

- (1). Mining, Mineral and Construction Material Processing
- (2). Outdoor Storage
- (3). Portable Sawmills
- (4). Communications and Transmission Towers
- (5). Rural Home Industries

c. The following uses shall be prohibited within the Scenic Highway Overlay:

- (1). Off-site Signs

2. Minimum Parcel or Lot Size: As established by the Principal Zone.

3. Density: As established by the Principal Zone.

4. Setbacks, Building Height, Parking and other Applicable Development Standards: As established by the

Principal Zone and/or the additional standards contained within this Chapter.

5. In the instance that a permitted use and/or development standard of the Principal Zone conflicts with a standard of the Scenic Highway Overlay Zone, the more restrictive standard shall apply.

E. Special Development Standards for Multi-family Residential, Commercial and Industrial Uses within the SHO

All Multi-family Residential, Commercial and Industrial development (including Home Enterprises not entirely operated within a residential structure) in the SHO District shall comply with the following standards:

1. Site Development Standards

a. Minimize grading by utilization of multiple parking areas and multiple or stepped buildings which conform to the natural topography; and by design of access and interior roads or routes which conform to the natural topography.

b. All earthmoving activities which expose soil surfaces shall be followed by application of soil stabilization and revegetation measures to prevent erosion and revegetate exposed surfaces. Revegetation and soil stabilization methods as recommended by the Soil Conservation Service or the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District shall be required.

c. Preserve significant natural features which contribute to the corridor's scenic quality including vegetation, boulders and rock outcroppings, natural waterways and drainages, and existing topography or topographic features. Incorporation of these natural features into the proposed site grading and development is encouraged.

d. The minimum open space required per parcel shall be determined by parcel size and topography as follows:

Parcel Size	Open Space Required if average slopes on project parcel are less than 30%	Open Space Required if average slopes on project parcel are 30% or more
0 - .99 acres	20%	40%
1.0 - 1.99 acres	30%	50%
2.0 acres or more	40%	60%

e. Location and grouping of buildings, structures, and site development shall have an appropriate scale which is harmonious with the scenic quality of the corridor and the area immediately surrounding the parcel.

f. Location of structures shall not unnecessarily obstruct scenic views from the designated highway, including all views of rivers and streams.

### 3. Landscaping

a. Landscaping shall include existing and planned vegetation, berms, and irrigation systems.

b. Landscaping shall screen views of site development from the scenic highway and shall be used to revegetate soils exposed by grading activities. Vegetation utilized for screening shall be equally effective at all times of the year.

c. Utilization of indigenous and/or water conserving plants shall be strongly encouraged. Utilization of plants which are susceptible to insects and disease shall be prohibited.

d. Landscaping shall be required for all new parking lots where the aggregate size of all new parking lots on the parcel is greater than 2,000 square feet, or expansion of existing parking lots which exceed fifty percent (50%) of the original parking lot size.

e. A differentiation between requirements for parking lot perimeter landscaping and interior landscaping is made in these standards. The purpose of perimeter landscaping is to screen parking areas and vehicles utilizing parking areas from the designated highway. The purpose of interior landscaping is to break up the expanse of paved or gravelled surfaces. Where the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed parking area and vehicles utilizing the proposed parking area are not visible from the designated highway, no perimeter or interior landscaping shall be required.

f. Planting areas for perimeter landscaping shall be designed so as to maximize the effectiveness of the landscaping as a screen. Plant species and spacing shall be chosen such that full screening from the road is achieved within five (5) years of project completion. Planting areas for perimeter landscaping shall be a minimum of three (3) feet wide.

g. Planting areas for interior landscaping shall be designed to break up the surface of parking areas. The minimum area for interior landscaping shall be ten percent (10%) of the total parking area, including drive aisles, curbs and gutters.

h. Shrub materials shall be a minimum of five (5) gallons in size at the time of planting. Trees shall be selected from the Planning Department's approved tree list, and shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) gallons in size at the time of planting. Landscaping plans shall consider the full growth of vegetation.

i. Landscaping shall be designed so that it will not obstruct sightlines necessary for safe vehicular and pedestrian circulation, and will not interfere with public utilities.

j. Planting areas subject to damage from pedestrian or vehicular traffic shall be protected by curbing, fencing or walls.

k. Provisions for irrigation shall be provided within all landscaped areas where necessary. Drip irrigation systems shall be encouraged as a water conservation measure.

g. A transition area shall be required from the designated highway to buildings and structures to minimize the views of the buildings or structures from the scenic highway. Use of existing topography, existing vegetation, and landscaping are appropriate within this area to achieve this standard.

h. All utilities, with the exception of propane storage, shall be located underground within the project parcel.

i. Refuse storage areas, dumpsters, service yards, exterior work areas, mechanical equipment and propane tanks shall be screened from view from the designated highway by landscaping or other methods which meet the standards established for this District.

j. Exterior lighting shall be designed to minimize all off-site impacts. Methods to minimize impacts may include, but not be limited to, such details as directing light fixtures downward, and locating fixtures so that the sphere of lighting is entirely on-site.

k. All proposed construction of, and proposed modifications to, electric and communication distribution facilities which are within 1000 feet from each edge of the right-of-way of the designated highway shall be located underground if those facilities would be visible from the designated highway if erected above ground. An exception to this requirement may be granted upon a finding by the Planning Director that such undergrounding is infeasible and inconsistent with sound environmental planning. Standards which may be required as conditions of the exception include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1). Avoid prominent ridge lines and barren sides of mountains or hills;

(2). Keep alignment along the bottom or lower slopes and valleys between hills;

(3). Avoid crossing hill contours at right angles; avoid steep grades which expose the right-of-way to view from the designated highway.

Substations, padmount transformer facilities, and similar padmount equipment operating within the distribution facility voltages may be located above ground, but shall not be visible from the scenic highway.

## 2. Building and Structure Design

a. Buildings and structures include all buildings, fences, walls, retaining walls, signs, and other structural elements on site.

b. Buildings, structures, and appurtenant mechanical and electrical equipment shall be designed so as to minimize their visual impact on the scenic highway. Materials and colors selected for the exterior of all buildings, structures and equipment shall blend with the natural colors of the surrounding environment. Use of natural materials such as wood and stone shall be encouraged. Reflective materials shall be prohibited.

1. The property owner shall be responsible for the maintenance of all landscaping in good condition so as to present a healthy, neat and orderly appearance for the life of the development. Dead or diseased plants shall be immediately replaced with plants which meet size requirements.

m. Grades for berms used in perimeter landscaping areas shall not exceed thirty-three percent (33%).

#### 4. Sign Standards

a. Low lying monument signs are encouraged. Signs attached to buildings shall not extend more than sixteen (16) inches from the face of the building and shall not extend above the roofline of the building.

b. If all signs on a parcel are constructed of natural materials such as wood or stone, the maximum aggregate area for all signs shall be one hundred and twenty-eight (128) square feet per parcel. If one or more signs on a parcel are not constructed of natural materials, the maximum aggregate area for all signs shall be sixty-four (64) square feet per parcel. Smaller signs may be required depending upon scale and type of development.

c. Signs for Home Enterprises shall have a maximum area of twenty-four (24) square feet. One sign for Home Enterprises shall be permitted per parcel.

d. Temporary signs shall not be regulated by these standards.

e. Temporary political, election, or campaign signs shall have a maximum area of sixteen (16) square feet and shall be removed within two weeks following the election.

f. Maximum aggregate area of signs advertising the sale, lease or rental of use of parcel or of parcel itself shall be twenty-four (24) square feet. These signs shall not be required to comply with the remainder of these standards unless displayed for longer than six (6) months.

g. Signs shall not contain any flashing or intermittent lights, or any parts which are moving or appear to be moving. No sign shall be directly or indirectly illuminated by artificial light which is not maintained stationary and constant in color and intensity at all times when in use.

h. One free standing sign shall be permitted per parcel providing the sign meets all other standards of this section. The height of free standing signs shall be limited to twenty-five (25) feet.

i. Signs used as directional and informational aids which are approved (if necessary) by the U.S. Forest Service, Caltrans or the County for concessionaires, private commercial recreation facilities and public recreation facilities shall be considered appurtenant on-site signs if located within a reasonable distance of the access road to these facilities.

j. Federal, State and County signs shall not require review pursuant to this Title.

F. Special Development Standards for Single Family Residential Uses within the SHO

All Single Family Residential development in the SHO District (including Home Enterprises entirely operated within a residential structure) shall comply with the following standards:

1. Site Development Standards

a. Site development standards 1.a., 1.b., 1.c., and 1.k. as listed in Subsection E. of Section 17.65.010 of this Chapter shall apply to all Single Family Residential development within the SHO District.

2. Sign Standards

a. Signs for Home Enterprises shall have a maximum area of twenty-four (24) square feet. One sign for Home Enterprises shall be permitted per parcel.

b. All other standards as listed in Subsection B. of Section 17.65.010 of this Chapter shall apply to signs for Home Enterprises.

G. SHO - Nonconforming Uses and Structures

Nonconforming uses and structures within the SHO District shall comply with the provisions of Section 17.08.020 of this Title, except as modified below:

1. A nonconforming use or structure may be expanded through approval of a site plan application processed in conformance with Sections 17.08.140, 17.08.150, and 17.08.160 of this Title, and through approval of a Scenic Highway Review Plan processed in conformance with this Chapter. All exterior modification of a nonconforming use or structure must comply with the provisions of the Scenic Highway Overlay.

2. If the use of a building or premises does not conform to the land use regulations of this District, and that use is discontinued for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months, any subsequent use of the building or premises for that nonconforming use shall conform to the regulations of this District, and the Principal Zone in which it is located.

3. When a building or other structure which does not conform to the provisions of this Title is damaged or destroyed, it may be reconstructed, repaired or rebuilt to accommodate its original use, including nonconforming uses. Such reconstruction, restoration, or rebuilding shall conform to the provisions of this Title, and all other existing applicable policies, and regulations, and shall require the submission and approval of a scenic highway review plan.

## 11.3 Best Management Practices

A small case of mitigation is the result of a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and the state Of California Water Resources Control board. In this agreement the forest servie developed a set of recommended" Best Management Practices" (BMPs) designed to insure high standards of water quality on National Forest Lands in California.

The forest service handbook entitled "Water Quality Management for National Forest Systems land in California" describes approximately 100 BMPs dealing with activities ranging from the timber sale planing process to control of livestock within grazing allotments. The specific BMPs to be applied, with the exception of those directly related to planning, need to be determined during project design. The application of BMPs is mandatory, even when significant environmental effects cannot be demonstrated in there absence.

The following list (special emphasis BMP's) shows how applicable BMP's will be used within the wild and scenic rivers for site-specific conditions where non-point pollution potential exist and how the BMP's are effective in Mitigating water quality impacts. The BMP's are from the Forest Service publication, "Water Quality Management for National Forest Systems Land in California" March 1988. All applicable water quality BMP's shall be implemented wether they are listed here or not. These practices are implemented at various levels for all action alternatives.

### **BMP 1-8: Streamside Management Zone Designation**

All streams displayed on the Zone Map have will SMZs established in accordance with the Riparian area Management Direction for the wild and scenic rivers. These zones will be prohibited from equipment entry. This zone provides a filter which removes sediment from any overland flow of water and in so doing maintains water quality. This practice has been successful on previous forest service management operations.

### **BMP 1-18: Meadow Protection**

This BMP is designed to avoid damage to the ground cover, soil, and water in meadows. Unauthorized operation of vehicular or equipment on meadows is prohibited. Equipment shall not be used on meadows except where roads are approved. This practice has been successfully used in other forest service management operations.

**BMP 1-19 Streamcourse Protection**

This BMP is used to maintain streamcourse water quality . All streams shown on zone maps will be protected through the application of the Riparian Area Management Direction for the wild and scenic rivers. Existing streamside vegetation will be maintained to sustain the existing stream surface shade which in turn will ensure that the existing stream temperature regime will remain constant. This activity is enforceable by the Recreation Officer, and/or the WSR Project Manager, District Wildlife Biologist, District Fisheries Biologist, and District Ranger.

**BMP 2-7: Control of Road Drainage**

This BMP minimizes the erosive effects of water that is concentrated by road drainage features. Again the process starts when the project location, design criteria, and mitigative measures are determined during the environmental assessment process using an interdisciplinary approach. This activity is enforceable by the Recreation Officer, and/or the WSR Project Manager, district Wildlife Biologist, District Fisheries Biologist, and District Ranger. This practice is employed on all other forest service management operations.

**BMP 2-17: Bridge and Culvert Installation**

This BMP minimizes sedimentation and turbidity resulting from spoil material produced in excavating for in-channel structures. It will apply to bridge construction at the Hite Cove Area and the Devils Gulch Area on the South Fork Merced River. This BMP is to be enforced by the Construction Inspector, Engineering Representative, or Forest Service Representative. It keeps excavated material out of live streams and floodplains adjacent to the streams.

**BMP 2-21: Water Source Development Consistent With Water Quality Protection**

This BMP maintains existing water quality where water is supplies for roads and fire protection. Various areas within the wild and scenic rivers are used as water sources. Water use will be primarily for dust abatement and fire protection. At no time will water be allowed to reduce water supplies to the level that further use may be detrimental to aquatic resources or other established use. This is a standard practice on all timber sales.

**BMP 2-23: Road Surface Treatment To Prevent Loss Of Materials**

This BMP minimizes wind and water erosion of road surface materials and consequently reduces the likelihood of sediment production. All road within the WSR, with the exception of a section of the Merced State Highway and Incline Roads road are native soil and will be dust abated through the use of water. All native surface roads will be managed as need to ensure proper drainage to minimize soil erosion. This activity is enforceable by the Recreation Officer, and/or the WSR Manager, Engineer and District Ranger. This practice has been proven effective by previous activities within the forest.

**BMP 2-24: Traffic Control During Wet Periods**

This BMP reduces road surface disturbance and subsequent sediment washing. The Forest Service authority to use road closures and traffic control measures to prevent rutting of roads during wet periods. This practice is especially used on the Jerseydale Road that connects to the boundary of the WSR. OHV activity can be controlled by the Forest Recreation Officer, Resource Officer and the District Ranger. During wet periods when OHV use will rut roads and disrupt proper road drainage use will be prohibited. This is a common practice on all district roads and most recently proved effective on the other forest management operations.

**BMP 4-5: Control Of Sanitation Facilities**

This BMP is to protect surface and subsurface water from bacteria, and chemical pollutants resulting from the collection, transmission, treatment, and disposal of sewage at Forest Service

Facilities. Toilet facilities may be provided at Hite Cove along the South Fork Merced and at the put-in take-out rafting sites along the Merced River. The type and number depends on the capacity of a given site. Any additional sanitation facilities will be planned, located, designed, constructed, operated, inspected and maintained to minimize the possibility of water contamination. This activity is enforceable by the Recreation Officer, and/or the WSR Manager and District Ranger. This activity has been proven to be effective at Forest Service recreation sites.

**BMP 4-6: Control Of Refuse Disposal**

This BMP is to protect water from nutrients, bacteria, and chemicals associated with solid waste disposal. Visitors to the WSR are encouraged to use the Pack-it-in/Pack-it-out ethic. A public education effort will be included in WSR visitor information, printed material, and personal contact. Public cooperation is vital. This activity is enforceable by the Recreation Officer, and/or the WSR Project Manager and District Ranger. Pack-it-in/Pack-it-out is a common Forest Service sanitation policy and it has been successful at other forest Service dispersed recreation areas. Since the removal of garbage bins, and the initiation of the pack-it-out policy, many visitors and Forest Officers have stated that the recreation areas are much cleaner than before the policy.

**BMP 4-10: Protection of Water Quality Within Developed and Dispersed Recreation Areas**

This BMP is to protect water quality by regulating the discharge and disposal of potential pollutants. This practice prohibits placing in, or near a stream lake or other body of water, substances which may degrade water quality. This includes, but is not limited to, human and animal waste, petroleum products, and other hazardous substances. Areas may be closed in order to restrict use in problem areas. The public will encouraged through the use of signs, pamphlets, and public contacts to conduct their activities in a manner that will not degrade water quality. Officers may issue citations to violators. This activity is enforceable by the Recreation Officer, and/or the WSR Project Manager and District Ranger. This activity has proven to be effective at other forest recreation sites.

### **BMP 6-2: Consideration of Water Quality in Formulating Fire Prescriptions**

This BMP provides for water quality protection while achieving management objectives through the use of prescribed fire. Fuel treatment options will be evaluated during the environmental process. Factors like slope, fuel types, and amount of vegetative management needed will be considered and influenced fuel treatment proposals. Future Fuel Treatment Plan(s) will provide direction for all prescribed treatments within the WSR (see BMP 6-03). This practice is enforceable by the District Fuels Officer and/or the Fire Management Officer. This practice has proven effective on the other forest management areas within the forest.

### **BMP 6-3: Protection of Water Quality From Prescribed Burning Effects**

This BMP maintains soil productivity, minimizes erosion, and prevents ash, sediment, nutrients, and debris from entering bodies of water. The amount of remaining ground cover can significantly affect erosion rates. Measures that maintain slash, down logs, browse species, and oaks will also help limit erosion. The Riparian Area Plan Direction for the forest land management plans maintain the integrity of streamside zones and help keep by-products of burning out of the water supply. Fire used in treating fuels will be confined to the burning of machine piles. This helps to ensure that effective ground cover left during site preparation will be retained to provide a filter for any sediments that might be in suspension in any overland water flow. This practice is enforceable by the District Fuel Officer and/or the Fire Management Officer. This approach proved effective on other forest management areas within the forest.

### **BMP 7-1: Watershed Restoration**

Watershed Improvement Needs Inventory projects will be identified within the WSR area. Activities will serve to improve watershed and solid stability through reduced surface runoff and infiltration. Actions will also serve to restore riparian areas making them more functional for riparian dependent species through increased diversity and the development of shade and cover. This activity is enforceable by the Recreation Officer, and/or the WSR Project Manager, District Wildlife Biologist, District Fisheries Biologist and District Ranger.

**BMP 7-3: Protection of Wetlands**

This practice is to avoid adverse water quality impacts associated with destruction, disturbance or modification of wetlands. The Forest Service does not permit the implementation of activities and new construction in wetlands whenever there is a practical alternative. The WSR Final EIS and Implementation does not propose any further development in wetlands. This activity is enforceable by the Recreation Officer, and/or WSR Project Manager, District Wildlife Biologist, District Fisheries Biologist, and District Ranger.

**BMP 7-5: Control of Activities Under Special Use Permit**

This practice is to protect surface and subsurface water quality from physical, chemical, and biological pollutants resulting from activities that are under special use permit. This practice is currently used and practiced on the Merced River. The rafting companies base camps and quantity of raft trips are under permit. The permits are written, and inspected by the BLM Officer. The BLM has an agreement with the Forest Service to administer these Whitewater permits on the Merced along the BLM and Forest Service river zones. Previous activities by the rafting permittee have proven this activity to be effective.

**BMP 7-8: Cumulative Off-Site Watershed Effects**

This BMP requires the evaluation of cumulative effects including additive effects of multiple land management activities. Construction or reconstruction of trails or other roads or developments within the WSR will be evaluated using the equivalent roaded area (ERA) method developed by the Region (FSH 2209.22 ch.20) and adapted to fit local conditions. This methodology is currently undergoing review but is the best estimation of cumulative effects available at this time. This practice will be completed during the evaluation of the any trail reconstruction within the WSR. The project leader of the trail will be responsible for the analysis. This activity has been proven to be effective on many other forest management activities.

### **BMP 8-2: Controlling Livestock Numbers and Season of Use**

This practice is to safeguard water quality by precluding over use of available forage/ground cover, and/or precluding use of the range when soil is vulnerable to impacts. In addition to proper soaking rate and season of use specified in the grazing permit, adequate field checks are made by the Ranger Conservation Officer and/or District Wildlife Biologist. The Ranger Officer, working in conjunction with the permittee, enforces this practice. This practice has been effective on the other forest Range Allotments.

### **BMP 8-3: Controlling Livestock Distribution Within Allotments**

This practice precludes concentration of stock in areas that are sensitive to concentrated use and/or preclude prolonged use of an area which will result in lost vegetation cover and soil compaction. Several techniques used to achieve proper distribution, or lessen the impact on areas which are sensitive or which would naturally be overused include: construction of fences, water developments, riding and herding to shift livestock locations, placing salt or supplements away from water, and range improvement activities including prescribed burning or seeding. This activity is enforceable through the Range Allotment Permits. The Range Officer, working in conjunction with the permittee, enforces this practice. This practice has been effective on other forest range allotments.

Additional information on these and other BMPs is included in the Soil and Water Conservation Handbook, Chapter 10- Water Quality Management For National Forest System Lands in California-Best Management Practices.

## **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP'S) COMPLETE LISTING**

### **TIMBER**

- 1-1 Timber Sale Planning Process
- 1-2 Timber Harvest Unit Design
- 1-3 Use of Erosion Hazard Rating for Timber Harvest Unit Design
- 1-4 Use of Sale Area Maps For Designating Water Quality Protection Needs
- 1-5 Limiting Operating Period of Timber Sale Activities
- 1-6 Protection of Extremely Unstable Lands
- 1-7 Prescribing the Size and Shape of Clearcuts
- 1-8 Streamside Management Zone Designation
- 1-9 Determining Tractor Loggable Ground
- 1-10 Tractor Skidding Design
- 1-11 Suspended Log Yarding in Timber Harvesting
- 1-12 Log Landing Location
- 1-13 Erosion Prevention and Control Measures During Timber Sale Operations
- 1-14 Special Erosion Prevention Measures on Disturbed Land
- 1-15 Revegetation Of Areas Disturbed by Harvest Activities
- 1-16 Log Landing Erosion Prevention and Control
- 1-17 Erosion Control on Skid Trails
- 1-18 Meadow Protection During Timber Harvesting
- 1-19 Streamcourse Protection
- 1-20 Erosion Control Structure Maintenance
- 1-21 Acceptance of Timber Sale Erosion Control Measures Before Sale Closure
- 1-22 Slash Treatment in Sensitive Areas
- 1-23 Five-Year Reforestation Requirement
- 1-24 Non-recurring "C" Provision That Can Be Used For Water Quality Protection
- 1-25 Modification of the Timber Sale Contract

## **Road And Building Site Construction**

2-1 General Guidelines for the location and the Design of Roads

2-2 Erosion Control Plan

2-3 Timing of Construction Activities

2-4 Road Slope and Spoil Disposal Area Stabilization (Preventative Practice)

2-5 Road Slope Stabilization (Administrative Practice)

2-6 Dispersion of Subsurface Drainage from Cut and Fill Slopes

2-7 Control of Road Drainage

2-8 Constraints Related to Pioneer Road Construction

2-9 Timber Erosion Control Measures on Incomplete Road and Streamcrossing Projects

2-10 Construction of Stable Embankments

2-11 Control of Sidecast Material

2-12 Servicing and Refueling Equipment

2-13 Control of Construction in Streamside Management Zones

2-14 Controlling In-channel Excavation

2-15 Diversion of Flows Around Construction Sites

2-16 Streamcrossings on Temporary Roads

2-17 Bridge and Culvert Installation

2-18 Regulation of Streamside Gravel Borrow Areas

2-19 Disposal of Right-of-Way and Roadside Debris

2-20 Specifying Riprap Composition

2-21 Water Source Development Consistent with Water Quality Protection

2-22 Maintenance of Roads

2-23 Road Surface Treatment to Prevent Loss of Materials

2-24 Traffic Control During Wet Periods

2-25 Snow Removal Controls to Avoid Resource Damage

2-26 Obliteration of Temporary Roads

2-27 Restoration of Borrow Pits and Quarries

2-28 Surface Erosion Control at Facility Sites

## **Mining**

3-1 Water Resources Protection on Locatable Minerals Operations

3-2 Administering Terms of BLM Issued Permits or Leases for Mineral Exploration and Extraction on National Forest System Lands

3-3 Administering Common Variety Mineral Removal Permits

### **Recreation**

4-1 Sampling and Surveillance of Designated Swimming Sites

4-2 On-site Multidisciplinary Sanitary Surveys Will Be Conducted to Augment the Sampling of Swimming Waters

4-3 Provide Safe Drinking Water Supplies

4-4 Documentation of Water Quality Data

4-5 Control of Sanitation Facilities

4-6 Control of Refuse Disposal

4-7 Assuring that Organizational Camps Have Proper Sanitation and Water Supply Facilities

4-8 Water Quality Monitoring Off-Road Vehicle Use According to a Developed Plan

4-9 Sanitation at Hydrants and Faucets Within Developed Recreation Sites

4-10 Protection of Water Quality Within Developed and Dispersed Recreation Areas

4-11 Location of Pack and Riding Stock Facilities in Wilderness, Primitive, and Wilderness Study Areas

### **Vegetative Manipulation**

5-1 Seed Drilling on the Contour

5-2 Slope Limitation for Tractor Operation

5-3 Tractor Operation Excluded from Wetlands and Meadows

5-4 Revegetation of Surface Disturbed Areas

5-5 Tractor Windrowing on the Contour

5-6 Soil Moisture Limitation for Tractor Operation

5-7 Contour Disking

5-8 Pesticide Use Planing Process

5-9 Pesticide Application According to Label Directions and Applicable Legal Requirements

5-10 Pesticide Application Monitoring and Evaluation

5-11 Pesticide Spill Contingency Plan

5-12 Cleaning and Disposal of Pesticide Containers and Equipment

- 5-13 Untreated Buffer Strips for Riparian Area and Streamside Management Zone (SMC) During Pesticide Spraying
- 5-14 Controlling Pesticide Drift During Spray Application

### **Fire Suppression And Fuels Management**

- 6-1 Fire and Fuel Management Activities
- 6-2 Consideration of Water Quality in Formulating Fire Prescriptions
- 6-3 Protection of Water Quality from Prescribed Burning Effects
- 6-4 Minimizing Watershed Damage from Fire Suppression Efforts
- 6-5 Repair or Stabilization of Fire Suppression Related Watershed Damage
- 6-6 Emergency Rehabilitation of Watersheds Following Wildfires

### **Watershed Management**

- 7-1 Watershed Restoration
- 7-2 Conduct Floodplain Hazard Analysis and Evaluation
- 7-3 Protection of Wetlands
- 7-4 Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill Contingency Plan and Spill Prevention Control and Counter-measure (SPCC) Plan
- 7-5 Control of Activities Under Special Use permit
- 7-6 Water Quality Monitoring
- 7-7 Management by Closure to use (Seasonal, Temporary, and Permanent)
- 7-8 Cumulative Off-site Watershed Effects (Practice needs Improvement)

### **Grazing**

- 8-1 Range Analysis, Allotment Management Plan, Grazing Permit System, and Permittee Operating Plan
- 8-2 Controlling Livestock Numbers and Season of use
- 8-3 Controlling Livestock Distribution Within Allotments
- 8-4 Rangeland Improvements