

Interior collections under review by OMB.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*I. Abstract.* The America the Beautiful—National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass Program covers recreation opportunities on public lands managed by four Department of the Interior agencies—the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Agriculture’s U.S. Forest Service. The passes provide visitors an affordable and convenient way to access Federal recreation lands. The pass program’s proceeds are used to improve and enhance visitor recreation services. Two of the available passes—Interagency Access Pass and Interagency Senior Pass—require documentation and are the bases for this information collection.

The Interagency Access Pass is a free, lifetime pass issued to citizens or residents who are domiciled in the United States, regardless of age, and who have a medical determination and documentation of permanent disability.

You can obtain an Access Pass in person, with proper documentation, from a participating Federal recreation site or office. Access Passes may also be obtained via mail order. Mail-order applicants for the Access Pass must submit a completed application, proof of residency, and documentation of permanent disability, and pay the document processing fee of \$10 to obtain a pass through the mail.

If a person arrives at a recreation site and claims eligibility for the Interagency Access Pass, but cannot produce any documentation, that person must read, sign, and date a Statement of Disability Form in the presence of the agency officer issuing the Interagency Access Pass. If the applicant cannot read and/or sign the form, someone else may read, date, and sign the statement on his/her behalf in the applicant’s presence and in the presence of the agency officer issuing the Interagency Access Pass.

The Interagency Senior Pass is a lifetime pass issued to U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are 62 years or older. There is a \$10 fee for the Senior

Pass. You can buy a Senior Pass in person from a participating Federal recreation site or office or by mail order. There is an additional document processing fee of \$10 to obtain a Senior Pass through the mail. Mail-order applicants must submit a completed application and proof of residency and age, and pay \$20 for the pass fee and processing fee.

Agency Web sites provide information on the passes and acceptable documentation. All documentation submitted in person or through the mail is returned to the applicant or destroyed.

**II. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 1024–0252.

*Title:* The Interagency Access Pass and Senior Pass Application Processes.

*Service Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Description of Respondents:* Individuals.

*Respondent’s Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion.

Activity	Number of respondents	Number of annual responses	Completion time per response (minutes)	Total annual burden hours
Interagency Access Pass (in person) .....	76,000	76,000	5	6,333
Interagency Access Pass (by mail) .....	4,000	4,000	10	667
Interagency Senior Pass (by mail) .....	29,750	29,750	10	4,958
Totals .....	109,750	109,750	.....	11,958

*Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* \$359,775 (\$337,500 for processing fees and \$22,275 for copying and postage costs).

**III. Comments**

On October 22, 2013, we published in the **Federal Register** (78 FR 62657) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew approval for this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on December 23, 2013. We did not receive any comments.

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: February 20, 2014.

**Doris Lowery,**

*Acting, Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service.*

[FR Doc. 2014–04058 Filed 2–25–14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310–EH–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

[NPS–WASO–VRP–WS–15009; PPWOVPADW0, PPMRLE1Y.LB0000]

**Information Collection Request Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; Backcountry Use Permit**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We (National Park Service) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. We summarize the ICR below and describe the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. This information collection is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2014. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. However, under OMB regulations, we may continue to conduct or sponsor this

information collection while it is pending at OMB.  
**DATES:** You must submit comments on or before March 28, 2014.  
**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments and suggestions on this information collection to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB—OIRA at (202) 395–5806 (fax) or *OIRA\_Submission@omb.eop.gov* (email). Please provide a copy of your comments to Madonna L. Baucum, Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW. (2601),

Washington, DC 20240 (mail); or *madonna\_baucum@nps.gov* (email). Please include “1024–0022” in the subject line of your comments.  
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Robert Danno at *Robert\_Danno@nps.gov* (email) or at 406–647–7010 (telephone). You may review the ICR online at <http://www.reginfo.gov>. Follow the instructions to review Department of the Interior collections under review by OMB.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**  
*OMB Control Number:* 1024–0022.  
*Title:* Backcountry Use Permit, 36 CFR 1.5, 1.6, and 2.10.  
*Service Form Number(s):* 10–404A.  
*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.  
*Description of Respondents:* Individuals.  
*Respondent’s Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain a benefit.  
*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion.

Activity	Number of respondents	Number of annual responses	Completion time per response (minutes)	Total annual burden hours
Form 10–404A .....	285,000	285,000	5	23,750
Totals .....	285,000	285,000	5	23,750

*Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* None.

*Abstract:* In 1976, we initiated a backcountry registration system in accordance with the regulations found at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 1.5, 1.6, and 2.10. The backcountry use permit system provides users access to backcountry areas of national parks with continuing opportunities for solitude, while enhancing resource protection and providing a means of disseminating public safety messages regarding backcountry travel.

The Backcountry Use Permit is an extension of our statutory authority and responsibility to protect the park areas we administer and to manage the public use thereof (Title 16 United States Code, Sections 1 and 3 (16 U.S.C. 1 and 3)). NPS regulations codified in 36 CFR 1–7, 12, and 13, are designated to implement statutory mandates that provide for resource protection and public enjoyment.

The Backcountry Use Permit (NPS Form 10–404A) is the primary form used to implement a backcountry reservation system and provide access into backcountry and designated wilderness areas where registration is required or limits are imposed in accordance with regulations. Such permitting enhances the ability of the National Park Service (we, NPS) to issue hazard warnings, conduct search and rescue efforts, and provide mission based resource protection.

The objectives of the permit system are to ensure: (1) requests by backcountry users are evaluated by park managers in accordance with applicable statutes and NPS regulations; (2) use of

consistent standards and permitting criteria throughout the agency; and (3) to the extent possible, use of a single and efficient permitting document.

Forms will be provided by the parks and will be available at backcountry reservation offices in the parks. Respondents complete the form as they reach the trailhead or backcountry reservation office and before beginning their backcountry hike. A copy is retained by the respondent, and a copy is retained by the park. Backcountry users only need to fill the form out when they enter the backcountry for overnight stays. Day users will not be required to complete the form.

Not all parks will use the form and some parks may collect the information using a nonform format (through discussions in person or over the phone, by sign-in sheet or self-registration system, by email, or by post card). In some instances, respondents will be able to provide information verbally. Because of the span of activities and the different management needs and resources at each park, respondents may not be required to answer all questions. Depending on the requested activity, park staff will have the discretion to ask for less information than appears on the proposed form. However, park staff may not ask for more or different information.

*Comments:* On April 2, 2013, we published in the **Federal Register** (78 FR 19732) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew approval for this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending June 3, 2013.

We received one comment. The comment was confined to issues at

Grand Canyon National Park, specifically the aircraft overflight issue. The commenter suggested that NPS require backcountry permits be issued to individuals who participate in private scenic air tours over park lands. These excursions are short-term (1 hour or less) flights that originate outside the park. Although the flights often take place over park lands, the NPS does not have authority over airspace, which is under the authority of the Federal Aviation Administration. We did not make any changes to our information collection requirements.

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: February 21, 2014.

**Doris Lowry,**

*Acting Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS-PWR-PWRO-14407;  
PX.P0131800B.00.1]

#### Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan, Yosemite National Park, Madera and Mariposa Counties, California

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the National Park Service (NPS) has prepared the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the proposed Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan (Merced River Plan). The Merced River Plan fulfills the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Pub. L. 100-149, as amended) and will provide long-term protection of river values and establish a user capacity management program for 81 miles of the Merced River that flow through Yosemite National Park and the El Portal Administrative Site.

**DATES:** The NPS will execute a Record of Decision not sooner than 30 days after the date the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes its notice of filing of the Final EIS for the Merced River Plan in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kathleen S. Morse, Planning Chief, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389, (209) 379-1110. Printed documents (quantities limited) or CDs may be requested through email ([yose\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:yose_planning@nps.gov)) or by telephone (209) 379-1110. In addition, the Final EIS will be available for public inspection at libraries in local communities. Electronic versions will be available at [http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose\\_mrp](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose_mrp), as well as through the Yosemite National Park Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mrp.htm>.

#### Background

As defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA), the purposes of the Merced River Plan/Final EIS are to

protect the Merced River's free-flowing conditions, and to: (1) Review, and if necessary revise, the river corridor boundaries and segment classifications, and provide a process for protection of the river's free-flowing condition in keeping with § 7(a) of the WSRA; (2) Refine descriptions of the river's outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs), which are the unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, and the river-related/river-dependent characteristics that make the river eligible for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system; (3) Identify management objectives for the river and specific management measures that will be implemented to achieve protection and enhancement of river values; (4) Establish a user capacity program that addresses the kinds and amounts of public use that the river corridor can sustain while protecting and enhancing the river's ORVs; (5) Commit to a program of ongoing studies and monitoring to ensure that the ORVs are protected and enhanced over the life of the plan.

The Merced River Plan/Final EIS has been developed through consultation with traditionally-associated American Indian tribes and groups, the State Historic Preservation Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other federal and state agencies. Gateway communities, organizations, and interested members of the public have provided more than 30,000 public correspondences (including letters, faxes, emails, comment forms, and public meeting flip-chart notes). The NPS has conducted more than 50 public meetings, presentations, workshops, field visits, and open houses in support of the EIS process. Two preliminary alternatives concepts workbooks were distributed for public review and comment prior to completion of the draft Merced River Plan.

Based on a thorough examination of the river's baseline conditions at the time of designation (1986), a multi-faceted approach to river management and stewardship has been proposed. To address the WSRA mandate to protect and enhance river values, many of the plan's actions would be common to all the action alternatives, including: (1) All WSRA management elements (boundaries, classifications, § 7 determination process); (2) actions to protect and enhance river values (e.g., ecological restoration components); (3) removal and or relocation of numerous facilities and services; (4) actions to improve traffic circulation and reduce congestion; (5) implementation of a monitoring program that sets thresholds for when management actions must be

taken to protect river values; and (6) a user capacity management program.

#### Proposal and Alternatives

In keeping with the expressed purpose and need for federal action, the Merced River Plan/Final EIS evaluates the foreseeable environmental consequences of five action alternatives and a No-Action alternative in accordance with the NEPA, and assesses the potential to cause adverse effects to historic properties in accordance with § 106 of the NHPA. Actions called for in the 1980 Yosemite General Management Plan addressing management within the river corridor would be amended and are outlined in the Merced River Plan/Final EIS. The action alternatives vary primarily in the degree of restoration and the amount of visitor use that could be accommodated by the commensurate level of facilities and services necessary to protect river values.

Alternative 1 (No-Action) would continue current management and trends, including ongoing localized effects associated with impacts to free-flowing condition of the river and connectivity of meadows, development near the river's edge and floodplain, and pedestrian-vehicle conflicts at major intersections. In 2011, the peak daily visitation recorded for East Yosemite Valley was 20,900 people per day.

Alternative 2: Self-Reliant Visitor Experiences and Extensive Floodplain Restoration provides for restoration within the 100-year floodplain, significant reduction in facilities and services, and significantly lower visitor use than current conditions. Given the conditions in this Alternative, visitation to East Yosemite Valley would be approximately 13,900 people per day.

Alternative 3: Dispersed Visitor Experiences and Extensive Riverbank Restoration provides for restoration within 150 feet of the river, marked reduction in visitor facilities and services, and significantly lower visitor use than current conditions. Given the conditions in this Alternative, East Yosemite Valley visitation would be approximately 13,200 people per day.

Alternative 4: Resource-based Visitor Experiences and Targeted Riverbank Restoration provides for targeted restoration within 150 feet of the river, reduced commercial services with a significant increase over current camping opportunities, and slightly lower visitor use levels. Given conditions in this Alternative, East Yosemite Valley visitation would be approximately 17,000 people per day.

Alternative 5 (agency-preferred and environmentally preferred): Enhanced Visitor Experiences and Essential