



VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT CASE STUDY

Yosemite National Park

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Transportation planning
- Improved Visitor Accessibility
- Protection of habitat near roads

FACTS

More than 1 million vehicles enter the Yosemite Valley each year

Automated counters are currently used within the park for statistical research

MORE INFORMATION

[Yosemite Visitor Access Plan](#)

SUMMARY

Yosemite National Park has started the NEPA analysis process for the establishment of a Visitor Use Management Plan to address road use and park access. The overall goal of this plan is to improve park accessibility while also mitigating ecological damage because of vehicle use. Rollout of the plan involves three phases that each consist of specific objectives and timelines.

- **Phase 1 (Oct 2022- Jul 2023):** Identifying needs through the assessment of current conditions; Public and stakeholder engagement to discuss desired conditions.
- **Phase 2 (Summer 2023 – May 2024):** Establish preliminary draft strategies through further engagement with stakeholders; develop a preliminary impact assessment.
- **Phase 3 (May 2024 – Dec 2024):** Full development of a draft plan; Initiation of compliance measures; Alternative analyses; Formal consultation/compliance, final plan, and decision documentation completed.

MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES

One of the proposed management strategies is the implementation of a timed reservation system for vehicles entering the park. Increased vehicle traffic throughout the park has a significant impact on various factors within the park. This proposal would reduce traffic as well as improve the visitor experience by improving accessibility. Another potential management solution includes improved trip planning tools and resources visitors to the park. This would assist the visitors in having a better understanding of peak times and identify lower traffic times to attend regions of the park. Another proposed idea consists of updates to entrance stations to minimize traffic backups at park entrances. Other potential options include improving bike access and shuttle options to reduce the number of cars that are entering the park. The final decision will likely consist of a combination of these management solutions to best fit the needs and objectives of the project.