The Flood of the Century

Sierra winter storms are likely to be remembered more by the bridges and houses they carry away than by their beauty or the thousands of blessings they bring to the fields and gardens of Nature.

—John Muir from his first book, The Mountains of California (1894)

While January’s flood brought record-setting water levels to Yosemite, flooding in Yosemite Valley and along the Merced River Canyon is as old as the river itself. The tendency of the Merced River to flood was almost immediately recognized when James Lamon, the first non-Indian to live permanently in Yosemite Valley, was driven from his home in 1862 by the rising river. But while floods can wreak havoc with human structures, they are extremely beneficial from an ecological standpoint, serving as a sort of natural house-cleaning which scours and alters stream and river channels, redistributes rock, soil, silt, and sand, while enriching wildlife habitat.

Continued on page 1

Yosemite Falls roar while the rising Merced River transforms meadows into lakes during January’s flood. NPS photo
In the Flood of '97, the river reached a depth of over 11 feet at the Happy Isles gaging station and swelled to over 23 feet by the time it reached Pohono Bridge at the Valley's far western end. NPS Photo

What happened?

Two and a half days of warm and heavy rain brought great change to Yosemite National Park during the first few days of 1997. In the early morning hours of New Year's Day, rain was falling at elevations as high as 9,500 feet. In the high country, rivulets in the snowpack indicate a snow line that eventually climbed to 12,000 feet. The deluge of this storm, along with a record-setting snowfall in December, pushed the river to overflow its banks and carve new channels. Initially, 900 visitors and 1,200 park employees were isolated in Yosemite Valley when all three highways into the Valley were closed. After the water subsided, downed trees were removed and initial repairs were made to Highway 41 sufficient to allow the evacuation of visitors and many employees from Yosemite Valley.

Evidence of the Aftermath

Despite the severity of this natural event, visitors to Yosemite may be surprised at how little of the flood's evidence remains. What you may see is that riverbanks look freshly scoured and widened, debris along high-water lines dangles in the trees and shrubs next to the river, and the shoulders of many park roads are eroded. These changes are part of the natural cycle of events that created and continue to shape areas within Yosemite.

What you won't see is the major "damage" experienced by the park's infrastructure. Many of the human-made systems required to support visitors sustained crippling blows. Electrical supply systems shut down. Water-soaked hillslides slid onto roads and power poles were toppled. Sewer lines broke, causing contamination of the water supply. Campgrounds, buildings, and roads close to the river's edge were flooded. Some sections of roads were completely washed away; in other cases, the surge of flood water undermined the roadbed, leaving asphalt hanging in mid-air. Sandbars and debris covered roads and paths throughout the Valley.

The Work Begins

Much of the park was closed to the public in January and February as a result of this storm. The NPS is working with the assistance of many other federal, state, and local agencies to assess damages to park roads, trails, buildings, grounds, and park utility systems. Emergency repairs, salvage operations and long-term planning for park restoration are underway. This represents the beginning of a recovery effort that will leave Yosemite better than before and better for park resources and better for visitors.

The Flood's Ecological Role

The Flood of '97 reflects the Merced River's dominant role in forming the character and ecology of Yosemite Valley. Consequently, accurate surveys and documentation of this event are underway. Aerial photographs, hydrological assessments and floodplain data are being collected. This information will aid park managers in their understanding of the dynamics of flooding, the beneficial role floods play in the ecosystem, and the effects of human intervention on the channeling of the Merced River in the Valley.

Strange to say, the greatest floods occur in winter, when one would suppose all the wild waters would be muffled and chained in frost and snow. But at rare intervals, warm rains and warm winds invade the mountains and push back the snow line from 2,000 feet to 8,000, or even higher, and then come the big floods.

—John Muir,
The Mountains of California

A 7.5 mile stretch of Highway 140 sustained severe damage. In several places, the road and underlying supporting ground layers are gone. NPS photo

A 300-foot section of 14-inch sewer line located beneath Highway 140 was destroyed, severing the Yosemite Valley sewer system from the El Portal waste water treatment plant. The sewer line must be reconstructed. NPS photo

Yosemite Guide

Published by the Yosemite Association, in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Yosemite concession services corporation.

Edited by Kristina Rylands

Production by Skip Gaynard Design

Printed by McClatchy Printing Co.
**FLOOD FACTS**

**Did You Know...**

**POST-FLOOD PRECAUTIONS**

Reconstruction of roadways and structures continues throughout Yosemite. Do not drive or walk through any closed, barricaded, or roped-off areas. Motor vehicles must stay on established roads open to public travel. Obey all posted speed limit and direction of travel signs.

- Saturated soils and the high winds that accompanied the flood have weakened and undermined a large number of trees in developed areas. While extensive survey and hazard tree removal is currently underway, be aware that conditions under and around trees are unstable.

- The banks along the Merced River and other creekside areas sustained heavy erosion and undercutting due to flooding. Be careful when walking along any creek or river bank.

- Swift currents and wet, slippery footing can cause you to fall and be swept over a waterfall. Never swim or wade in streams above waterfalls due to flooding. Be careful when walking along any creek or river bank.

- Watch your step! Tripping and falling are common accidents on park walkways and trails, especially in icy or slippery conditions.

**Winter is Not Over**

The remaining weeks of winter weather hold the promise of additional rain and snow. The latest snow surveys indicate that the water content in the snowpack is at approximately 200% of normal. The potential for serious spring flooding still exists.

**Flood Video Now Available**

A seven-minute video featuring impressive footage of the Merced River at flood stage is now available from the Yosemite Association. Produced by the National Park Service, the film provides a glimpse of the flood's impact and the river's awesome power. This VHS cassette is priced at $6.00 and can be purchased at the Valley Visitor Center. It can also be ordered by phoning 209/379-2648 (California residents should add sales tax; shipping is $4.00), or by mail from the Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.

**Some Flood Specifics**

- At least 1.4 miles of riverbank and 550 acres of meadows (recently restored at a cost of $1 million) were eroded by the flooding Merced River in Yosemite Valley. Losses in these areas also include 3.5 miles of resource protection fencing and 170 restoration signs that must be replaced.

- Approximately half of Yosemite Valley's 900 campsites were flooded. Hundreds of picnic tables, bear-proof food storage lockers, waste cans, and fire grates were washed down river and destroyed. Paved campground roads and sites were destroyed or covered with over a foot of silt.

- Nine road bridges in the Valley suffered damage and will need repairs. 33 trail bridges throughout the park have been destroyed and much of the park's 800 miles of trails suffered erosion.

- Over 350 motel and cabin units at Yosemite Lodge were flooded with several feet of river water, and over 200 concession employee quarters were flooded, displacing 439 employees.

- At least ten archeological sites sustained heavy damage, resulting in total removal of some cultural features and artifacts, erosion of surface deposits and displacement of artifacts.

---

**Known Locations of Major Flood Damage**

Areas of known flood damage are marked with a dot.

The Tioga Pass Road is above 6,000 feet in elevation and currently covered with snow. Additional flood damage will likely be discovered after spring snowmelt allows for a more extensive survey of the park.

---

**Preliminary Damage Assessment Totals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>RECOVERY ESTIMATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>$36,304,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>$4,264,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$6,160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>$84,083,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounds (includes campgrounds)</td>
<td>$13,112,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>$4,277,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Resources</td>
<td>$709,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost/Damaged Property</td>
<td>$2,830,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Country Estimate*</td>
<td>$12,912,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Short-Term Incident Response</td>
<td>$13,402,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Preliminary Recovery Estimate** | $178,053,000 |

*Includes all roads, trails, buildings, utilities, cultural and natural resource preservation above 6,000 feet - to be finalized July 1997.

**The estimate includes concession-operated, park-owned lodging and housing which was flood damaged and should be relocated.

---

**Precautions**

**Post-Flood**

- The banks along the Merced River and other creekside areas sustained heavy erosion and undercutting due to flooding. Be careful when walking along any creek or river bank.

- Swift currents and wet, slippery footing can cause you to fall and be swept over a waterfall. Never swim or wade in streams above waterfalls due to flooding. Be careful when walking along any creek or river bank.

- Watch your step! Tripping and falling are common accidents on park walkways and trails, especially in icy or slippery conditions.

---

**Winter is Not Over**

The remaining weeks of winter weather hold the promise of additional rain and snow. The latest snow surveys indicate that the water content in the snowpack is at approximately 200% of normal. The potential for serious spring flooding still exists.

---

**Flood Video Now Available**

A seven-minute video featuring impressive footage of the Merced River at flood stage is now available from the Yosemite Association. Produced by the National Park Service, the film provides a glimpse of the flood's impact and the river's awesome power. This VHS cassette is priced at $6.00 and can be purchased at the Valley Visitor Center. It can also be ordered by phoning 209/379-2648 (California residents should add sales tax; shipping is $4.00), or by mail from the Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.

---

**Some Flood Specifics**

- At least 1.4 miles of riverbank and 550 acres of meadows (recently restored at a cost of $1 million) were eroded by the flooding Merced River in Yosemite Valley. Losses in these areas also include 3.5 miles of resource protection fencing and 170 restoration signs that must be replaced.

- Approximately half of Yosemite Valley's 900 campsites were flooded. Hundreds of picnic tables, bear-proof food storage lockers, waste cans, and fire grates were washed down river and destroyed. Paved campground roads and sites were destroyed or covered with over a foot of silt.

- Nine road bridges in the Valley suffered damage and will need repairs. 33 trail bridges throughout the park have been destroyed and much of the park's 800 miles of trails suffered erosion.

- Over 350 motel and cabin units at Yosemite Lodge were flooded with several feet of river water, and over 200 concession employee quarters were flooded, displacing 439 employees.

- At least ten archeological sites sustained heavy damage, resulting in total removal of some cultural features and artifacts, erosion of surface deposits and displacement of artifacts.

---

**Extents of January 1997 Flood**

- Pohono Bridge to Happy Isles
- Yosemite Valley

---

**Precautions**

**Post-Flood**

- The banks along the Merced River and other creekside areas sustained heavy erosion and undercutting due to flooding. Be careful when walking along any creek or river bank.

- Swift currents and wet, slippery footing can cause you to fall and be swept over a waterfall. Never swim or wade in streams above waterfalls due to flooding. Be careful when walking along any creek or river bank.

- Watch your step! Tripping and falling are common accidents on park walkways and trails, especially in icy or slippery conditions.

---

**Winter is Not Over**

The remaining weeks of winter weather hold the promise of additional rain and snow. The latest snow surveys indicate that the water content in the snowpack is at approximately 200% of normal. The potential for serious spring flooding still exists.

---

**Flood Video Now Available**

A seven-minute video featuring impressive footage of the Merced River at flood stage is now available from the Yosemite Association. Produced by the National Park Service, the film provides a glimpse of the flood's impact and the river's awesome power. This VHS cassette is priced at $6.00 and can be purchased at the Valley Visitor Center. It can also be ordered by phoning 209/379-2648 (California residents should add sales tax; shipping is $4.00), or by mail from the Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.
Season's Preview

What Can You Expect This Season?

Campgrounds
This summer, approximately 1,400 campgrounds will be available throughout the park. Camping in Yosemite Valley will be available at Upper Pines, North Pines and Lower Pines campgrounds. Approximately half of the campgrounds in Yosemite Valley were damaged by the flood and will not be available for use this summer. Campgrounds lost in Lower River, Upper River, and Lower Pines campgrounds will be replaced and relocated out of the floodplain in accordance with the General Management Plan (see Parking Planning article, page 7). As a result, sensitive areas will be restored to natural habitat.

Camping outside of the Valley will be available in Wawona, Crane Flat, and Hodgdon Meadow. Damage assessments are incomplete at several campgrounds outside of Yosemite Valley. Check visitor centers for opening status of Bridalveil Creek, White Wolf, Yosemite Creek, Tamarack Flat, Porcupine Flat, and Tuolumne Meadows Campgrounds.

To make reservations for Wawona, Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, Crane Flat, and Hodgdon Meadows Campgrounds, call 800/436-PARK (800/436-7275).

Trails
The full extent of damage to Yosemite's 800 miles of trails has been hard to determine due to the extensive snow cover. It is known that some trails have been damaged and may be closed through the summer. Others will have difficult stream crossings due to bridge damage, particularly during the predicted heavy spring runoff. However, several trails in Yosemite and the Wawona area should be open this spring. Overnight backcountry users are encouraged to make advance wilderness permit reservations by calling 209/372-0740, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 209/372-0200 for updated trail and wilderness information.

 Lodging Facilities not affected by the flood will be open this season. This includes the Ahwahnee, Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village. However, 350 Yosemite Lodge units were flooded and some of the Curry Village cabins will be used to house park employees left homeless due to the flood. This reduction of available facilities makes advanced trip planning important. Call 209/252-4848 for reservations.

ROADS
Weather and road conditions permitting, Highways 41 from Fresno and 120 from Manteca, and 140 from Merced will be open to visitor traffic. Highways 41 and 120 are open to private vehicles and buses, while Highway 140 is open to bus traffic only. It should reopen to private vehicles by Memorial Day.

Expect traffic delays and temporary closures throughout the park as extensive road and bridge repairs continue throughout the summer. Highway 140 sustained the worst flood damage, requiring major rebuilding. It is anticipated that this work will extend through the summer months. Due to the winter snowpack, damage to the Tioga Pass road remains unknown at this time.

Other Services
Park facilities and services not affected by the flood will reopen this spring. Services will resume gradually and increase to meet anticipated business demands. Some visitor services may be curtailed due to damaged facilities. For further information, call 209/372-1000.

Your Entrance Fees Help Yosemite

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTRANCE FEES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE PARK IS OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, YEAR-ROUND.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(fees subject to change)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Valid for 7 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle or horse. Valid for 7 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Pass</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Valid for 1 year in Yosemite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Eagle Pass</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Valid for 1 year in all national parks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Age Pass (lifetime)</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Access Pass (lifetime)</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>For blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yosemite National Park has been selected as one of 300 public land sites to benefit from a three year test fee demonstration program authorized by Congress in 1996. Through increased user/entrance fees, the Department of the Interior hopes to raise additional funds needed to improve the visitor experience directly at the sites where they are collected. 80% of the increased fees collected in Yosemite will remain on site. Formerly, the majority of the entrance fees were sent to the Treasury to be disbursed by Congress.

Yosemite's increased fee money will be used to improve public transportation systems within the park and to replace aging shuttle buses with alternative fuel vehicles as intended in the park's General Management Plan.

The last time park entrance fees were increased was in 1987, when they were raised from $3.00 per vehicle per week to $5.00 per vehicle per week. Other parks taking part in this demonstration program include Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Mesa Verde, and Rocky Mountain National Parks.

Coming Soon: Temporary Day Use Reservations

Yosemite's compromised infrastructure will be unable to handle the numbers of vehicles that visitors typically bring into the park during the busy season. With many of the visitor parking lots used as staging areas and temporary housing for the recovery effort, crowding in the park is expected to be worse than ever this summer. Consequently, a temporary Emergency Vehicle Day Use Reservation System is being designed. The details of this emergency plan, which is likely to be in effect from summer and into the fall, are forthcoming.

Did You Know...

Park Rules

There are several federal laws and regulations specific to national parks that protect the park area, its wildlife, historic and prehistoric sites and structures, and natural beauty. Protect your park by following these rules:

- Park animals are wild! Do not feed or approach Yosemite's wildlife. Enjoy animals from a safe distance and allow them to find their own natural sources of food.
- Store your food properly, keeping it away from bears and other Yosemite animals. Use food storage lockers when available.
- Pets frighten wildlife and disturb hikers. They must be leashed at all times and are not permitted on any park trails with the exception of paved trails on the floor of Yosemite Valley.
- Do not remove any natural objects from the park, including pine cones, rocks, leaves, obsidian, historic items, etc. If you find an object that may be prehistoric or historic, do not remove it. Note its location and inform a ranger. Collecting materials of any kind or defacing park features deprives other visitors. Leave everything as you found it for others to enjoy. If you must collect something, pick up litter!
- All bicycles, including mountain bikes, must remain on paved roads and designated paved bike paths. They are not allowed on hiking trails or in meadows.
- Motor vehicles must stay on established roads open to public travel. Vehicles are not permitted off-road.
- Firearms and hunting are prohibited in Yosemite National Park. Please report possible hunting violations by calling this anonymous toll-free hotline, 800/800-WARDEN, 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific time.
- Using metal detectors in the park is illegal. Please report possible violations to a park ranger.
- All public buildings are designated as non-smoking.

With the Sierra snowpack at 200% above average water content, expect Yosemite's waterfalls to be spectacular all summer long. NPS Photo
How will the flood effect your visit?

A visit to Yosemite in the near future may be different than expected. Despite the completion of the greatest delay of floodwater since 1936, parts of the park have remained closed. Continued repair work will result in subsequent reopening of additional areas of the park throughout the coming months. When Yosemite Valley re-opened the natural fiscal-famine well require a longer time to restore a full complement of visitor activities and services. As a result, you can expect construction activity in Yosemite for the coming months. For your visit, we recommend you support the recovery efforts.
A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends of Yosemite,

By now you know that Yosemite has experienced significant damage from flooding. In the days following the storm, it became evident that Yosemite’s “natural” environment remained little changed. However, the “human” environment—buildings, roads, campgrounds, power, and sewer systems—sustained major damage. The challenges that lie ahead of us in the recovery and reopening phases are extensive and far-reaching. In the months to come, we will be producing newsletters, holding public briefings, and releasing documents for public review which will be used to refine alternatives and select a final course of action. We will need the assistance and participation of many before the process is complete. In turn, I encourage you to share your hopes, ideas, and comments with us by writing to me, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389. The National Park Service has no intention of deviating from existing plans as it deals with recovery efforts. Instead, NPS recognizes it has an important opportunity to act on and follow through with the General Management Plan (GMP). Fortunately, a great deal of time has already been spent over the last three years working through alternative solutions. Park officials are now hard at work incorporating new information from the flood into the planning process.

B. J. Griffin, Park Superintendent

WHAT THE FLOOD MEANS TO PARK PLANNING

“The key to rebuilding intelligently is learning from the mistakes of the past,” states Yosemite Superintendent, B. J. Griffin. The Flood of 1997 provided validation for the extensive planning efforts that have been ongoing since 1980. Park officials knew where problems existed, and the flood underscored the fact that facilities need to be moved out of the floodplain.

In 1980, the National Park Service (NPS), with extensive public involvement, produced a long-range plan to guide the future of the park. Yosemite’s General Management Plan (GMP) is the primary goals of the GMP are to reclaim priceless beauty, reduce cars and congestion, and allow natural processes to prevail. These goals remain valid today. The National Park Service has no intention of deviating from existing plans as it deals with recovery efforts. Instead, NPS recognizes it has an important opportunity to act on and follow through with the GMP.

Fortunately, a great deal of time has already been spent over the last three years working through alternative solutions. Park officials are now hard at work incorporating new information from the flood into the planning process.

The vision of park managers is to have a Yosemite Valley with more extensive meadows and fewer roads and buildings. NPS Photo

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Flooding in Yosemite Valley is a common occurrence. Some of the most severe flooding of this century occurred in 1937, 1950, and 1955. As the Merced River seasonally overflows its banks, roads, campgrounds, and other visitor facilities located next to the river are affected. Damage photographs from previous flood documents similar flood zones and closely resemble photos taken this past January. By moving facilities and structures out of the Merced River’s floodplain, park managers will reduce the likelihood of comparable damage in the future.

In 1950, flood waters along Yosemite Creek left cabins of Yosemite Lodge askew. NPS Photo

Campgrounds will be reconstructed out of the floodplain according to GMP recommendations. Where campites are removed, the area will be restored to natural conditions. Where campgrounds remain, missing trash cans, tables, grates, and bear-proof storage lockers will be replaced. NPS photo

In 1950, flood waters along Yosemite Creek left cabins of Yosemite Lodge askew. NPS Photo

The scene is repeated in 1997 as facilities at Housekeeping Camp are destroyed. NPS Photo

YOSEMITE’S FUTURE

The vision of park managers is to have a Yosemite Valley with more extensive meadows and fewer roads and buildings. NPS Photo

In 1950, flood waters along Yosemite Creek left cabins of Yosemite Lodge askew. NPS Photo

The scene is repeated in 1997 as facilities at Housekeeping Camp are destroyed. NPS Photo

In 1950, flood waters along Yosemite Creek left cabins of Yosemite Lodge askew. NPS Photo

The scene is repeated in 1997 as facilities at Housekeeping Camp are destroyed. NPS Photo

In 1950, flood waters along Yosemite Creek left cabins of Yosemite Lodge askew. NPS Photo

The scene is repeated in 1997 as facilities at Housekeeping Camp are destroyed. NPS Photo
JOIN THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

The Yosemite Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of Yosemite National Park through a program of visitor services, publications, and membership activities. For nearly 70 years, the Association has provided important financial support to the National Park Service and has made possible the funding of many projects and purchases otherwise not affordable through normal government appropriations.

PLEASE JOIN US!
Sign up for a membership today and receive the dramatic Flood of 1997 video described on page 2 as an additional free gift.

As a member of the Yosemite Association, you will:
- enjoy a 15% discount on all books, maps, and publications
- qualify for a 10% discount on most field seminars
- receive the quarterly journal, Yosemite
- have a chance to attend special members' events and volunteer programs in the park
- have access to a members only information line
- know that your membership supports significant educational, research, and environmental projects in Yosemite National Park
- qualify for a 15% discount on all books, maps, and publications

Membership is a critical element in the success of the Association. Individuals and families throughout the country have long supported the Yosemite Association through their membership dues and personal commitment.

Membership Application:

Name __________________________
Address ________________________
City ____________________________
State ______ Zip ______
Charge to my Visa/Mastercard ______
Expiration date _______________

The Yosemite Association
P.O. Box 230
El Portal, CA 95318
209/379-2646
http://yosemite.org

FACILITIES & SERVICES

Visit the Ansel Adams Gallery located in Yosemite Village.

Emergency 911

Fire - Police - Medical Emergency: Dial 911, 24 hours a day (From Hotel Room 9-911)

Medical

Yosemite Medical Clinic:
Emergency care 24 hours daily
Drop-in and Urgent Care: Daily 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to Noon, 209/372-4637

Dental Services
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adjacent to Medical Clinic, 209/372-4200

Lost and Found

National Park Service Lost and Found Office
Call 209/379-1001 Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to Noon, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or write
NPS Warehouse, 5083 Foresta Rd., B-759, El Portal, CA 95318

Yosemite boasts 800 miles of trails, but the disastrous January floods took out over 20 footbridges, leaving this network in a sadly fragmented state. The flooding also caused numerous trail washouts and greatly increased erosion problems throughout the park. Since 1985, The Yosemite Fund has been providing funds for trail repair and other special projects in Yosemite. In the aftermath of the worst flood damage on record, the Fund has set up a special appeal to help the park recover, with trail repair being just one part of this emergency flood relief effort.

Using donations from individuals, corporations and foundations, the Fund has enabled many trail repair projects that would not otherwise have been possible due to lack of federal funds. The Fund has also stretched donor dollars by co-sponsoring trail repair crews from the California Conservation Corps (CCC), a state-run program to give young Californians the opportunity to gain job skills and an outdoor education. Revenue from the Yosemite license plate program, as well as gifts from people who love Yosemite, are helping to keep park trails in good repair— and ultimately to safeguard all the park's natural treasures, now and for generations to enjoy.

This year, Fund-sponsored trail repair projects will go forward on the Mist Trail and trails through Red Peak Pass, Isberg Pass and Kerrick Canyon. Many flood-damage projects will soon be added to the list.

You, too, can become a Friend of Yosemite and help the Fund's Emergency Flood Relief Effort. Please send your donation today. Donors of $25 or more are listed at the Honor Wall in Yosemite valley and receive the Fund's publication Approach, showing exactly how gifts are used to provide for Yosemite's future.

Name __________________________
Address ________________________
City ____________________________
State ______ Zip ______
Charge to my Visa/Mastercard ______
Expiration date _______________

The Yosemite Fund
P.O. Box 637
Yosemite National Park
CA 95389
415/434-1782
http://www.connect.net/yosemite/
Yosemite Valley Shuttle Bus Information

Shuttle buses are free and operate daily.
Bus times and stops may vary in the coming months.

TENTATIVE STOPS

1. Day Use Parking/Curry Village
2. Upper and Lower River Campgrounds (destroyed by flood)
3. Yosemite Village/Visitor Center
4. The Ahwahnee
5. Yosemite Village
6. Visitor Center
7. Yosemite Falls
8. Yosemite Lodge/Sunnyside Walk-in Campground
9. Visitor Center
10. Yosemite Village
11. Sentinel Bridge/Parking for Yosemite Chapel
12. Housekeeping Camp/LeConte Memorial
13. Day Use Parking/Curry Village
14. Upper Pines Campground
15. Happy Isles
16. Mirror Lake/Meadow
17. Stables (closed)
18. Lower Pines Campground