

Yosemite National Park

Visitor Access Management Plan

Mono County CPT – January 26th, 2023

A wide-angle photograph of a Yosemite National Park landscape. In the center, a large waterfall cascades down a massive, light-colored granite cliff face. The foreground is filled with a dense forest of trees, many of which have turned yellow and orange, indicating autumn. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

Welcome



Project Goals



1. Understand current visitor use patterns and develop long-term strategies to manage use and better connect visitors to the park experience.



2. Incorporate best practices for managing visitor use to protect resources and promote high-quality visitor experiences, while meeting legal requirements.



3. Continue to protect the unique resources in Yosemite National Park

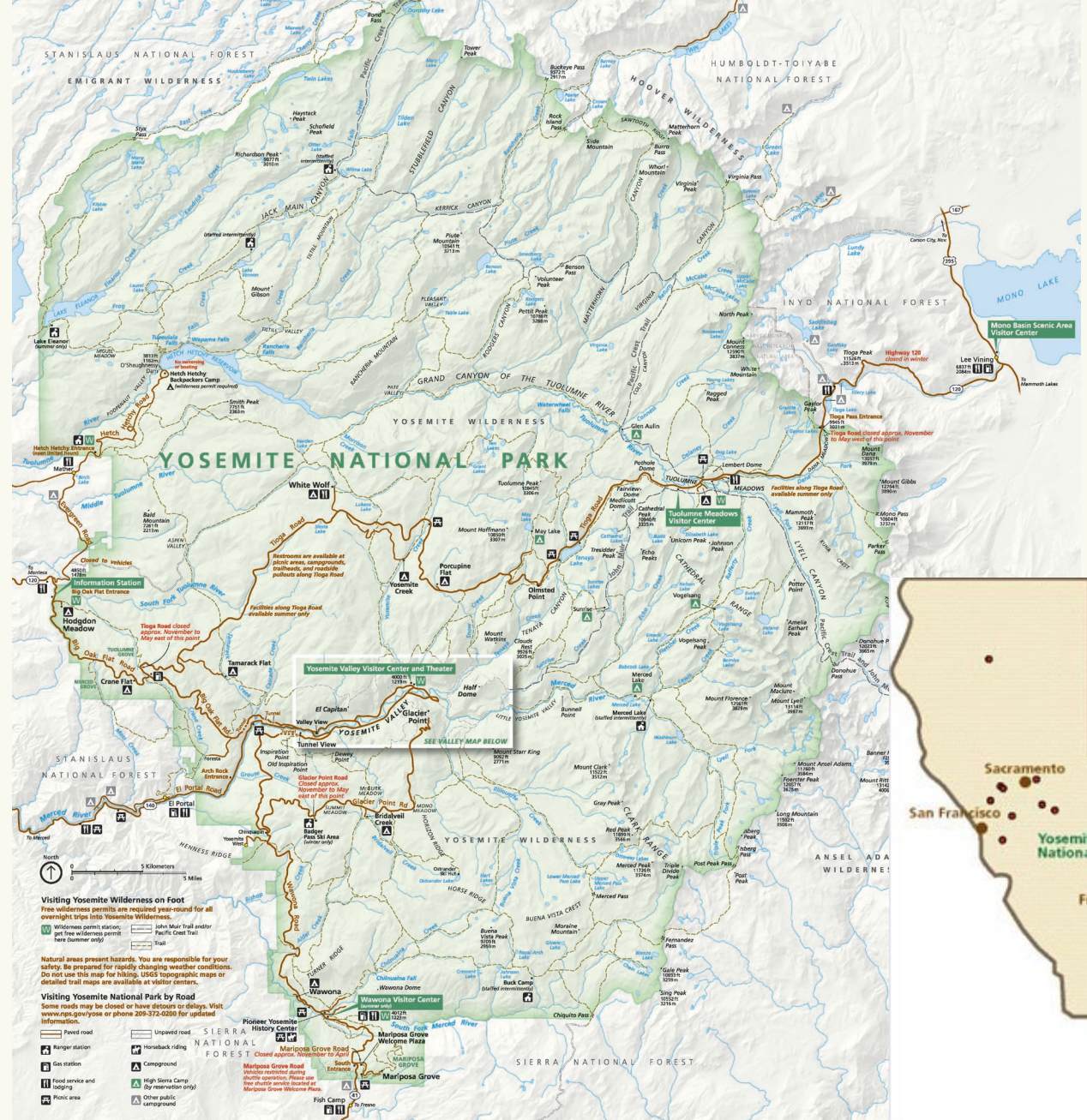
National Park Service Mission



Organic Act (1916)

..to conserve park resources and to provide for their use and enjoyment “in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” (16 U.S.C. §1)

Yosemite National Park





Park Purpose

The purpose of Yosemite National Park is to preserve the dynamic setting within the park's boundaries, including soaring granite domes, dramatic cliffs, towering waterfalls, ancient sequoia groves, expansive wilderness terrain, and free-flowing wild and scenic rivers; to celebrate the cultural and historic traditions of the Central Sierra Nevada, including thousands of years of human history; to perpetuate the American conservation ethic; and to provide opportunities for scientific exploration, recreation, education, and inspiration for generations to come.





Park Significance

Significance statements express why Yosemite National Park resources and values are important enough to **merit national park unit designation**.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to **merit primary consideration during planning and management processes** because they are **essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance**.

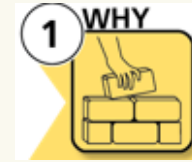


Planning and Data to Inform the Planning



- General Management Plan (1980)
- Half Dome Trail Stewardship Plan (December 2012)
- Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (December 2013)
- Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan (March 2014)
- Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Management Plan (June 2014)
- Yosemite Foundation Document (December 2016)
- Reservation Systems in Response to COVID, etc.
- Traffic Improvement Pilot (2021-2022)
- Horsetail Fall Event Management



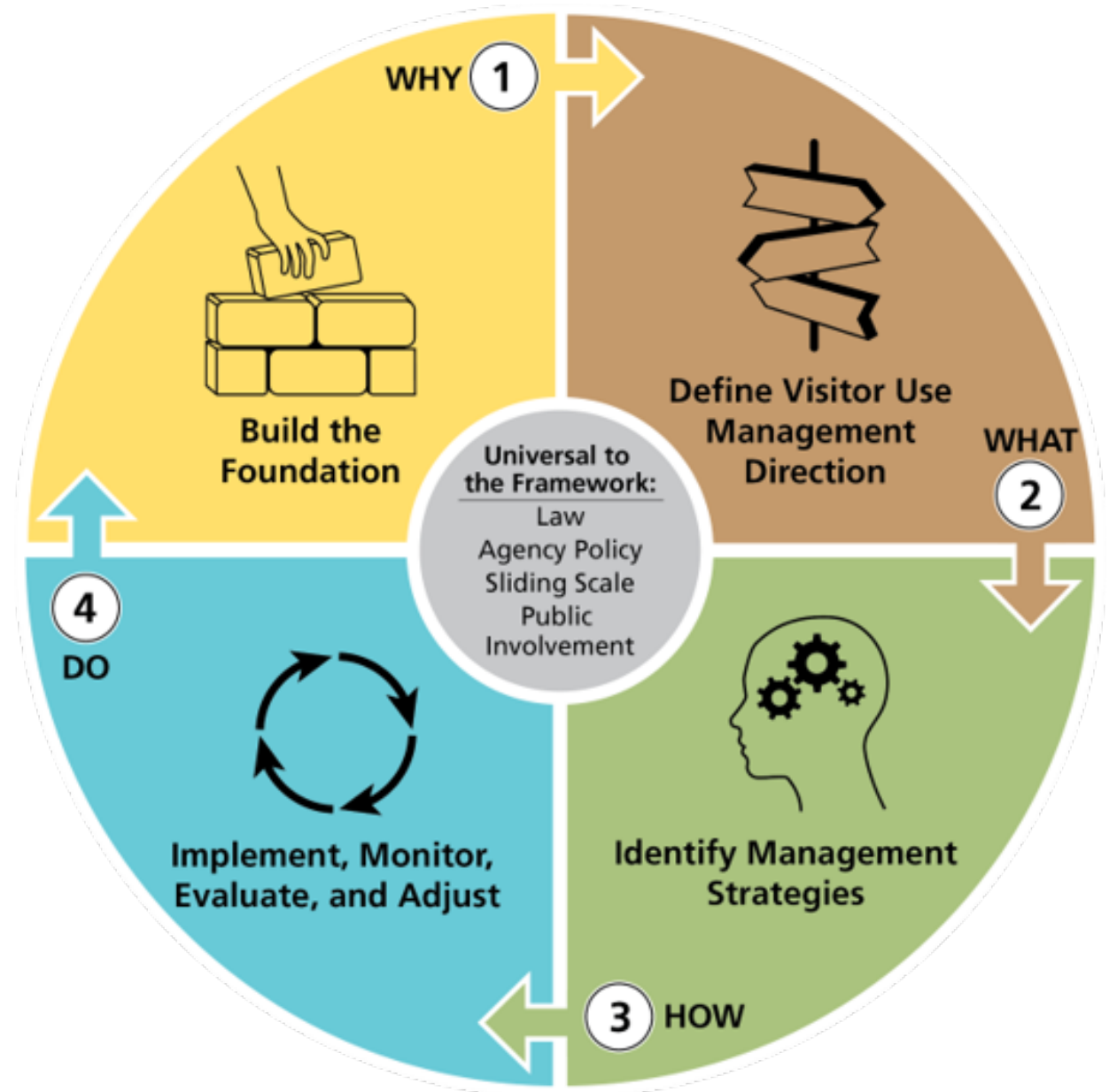


Primary Issues This Plan Will Address

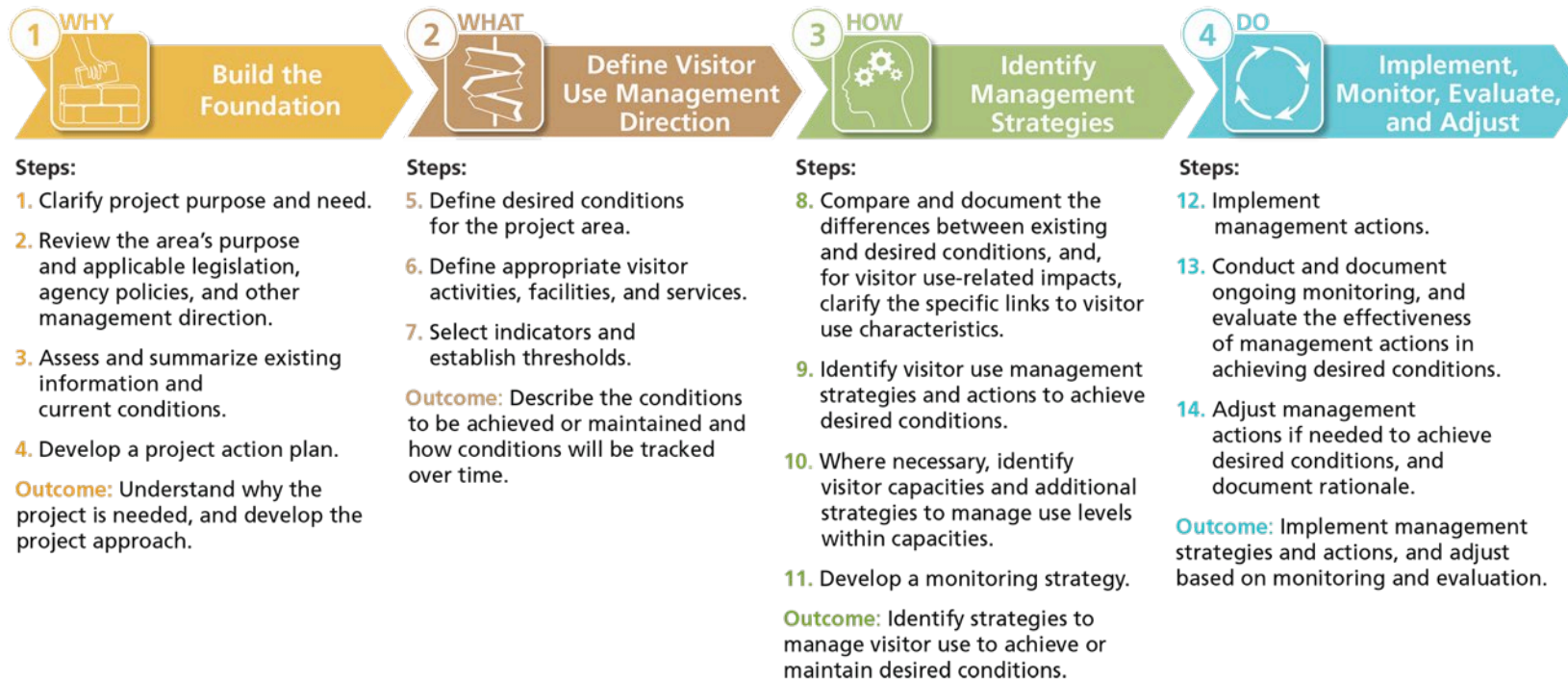
- Vehicular crowding and road congestion
- Parking lot congestion
- Quality of visitor experience
- Impacts on park resources
- Protection of meadows, wildlife, and other natural resources
- Protection of culturally significant assets



Planning Framework Overview



Visitor Use Management Framework Steps

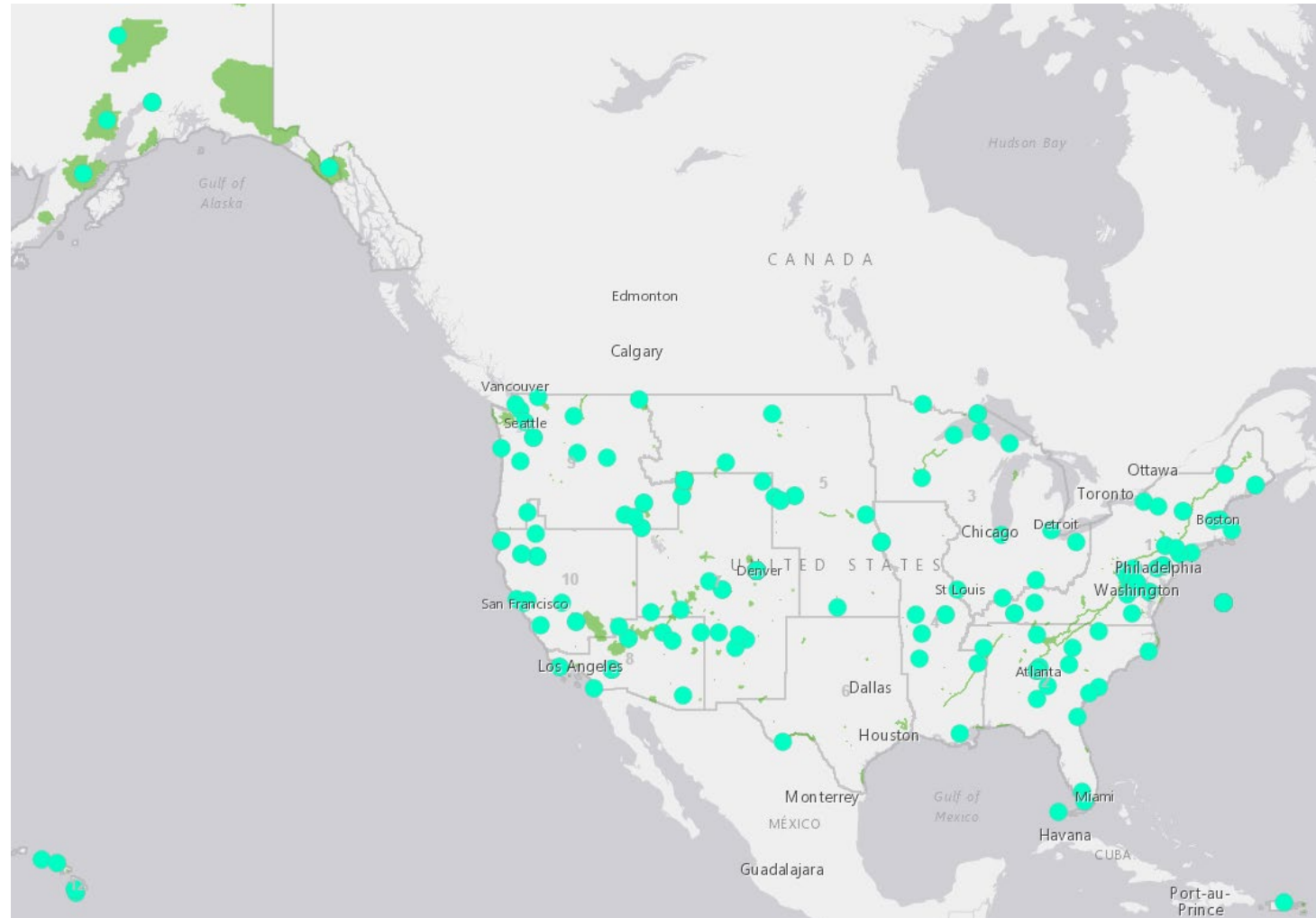


The VUM Framework in the NPS



Context Matters:

- Seasonality and timing
- User groups
- Environment
- Impacts to resources and experiences
- Accessibility and sustainability



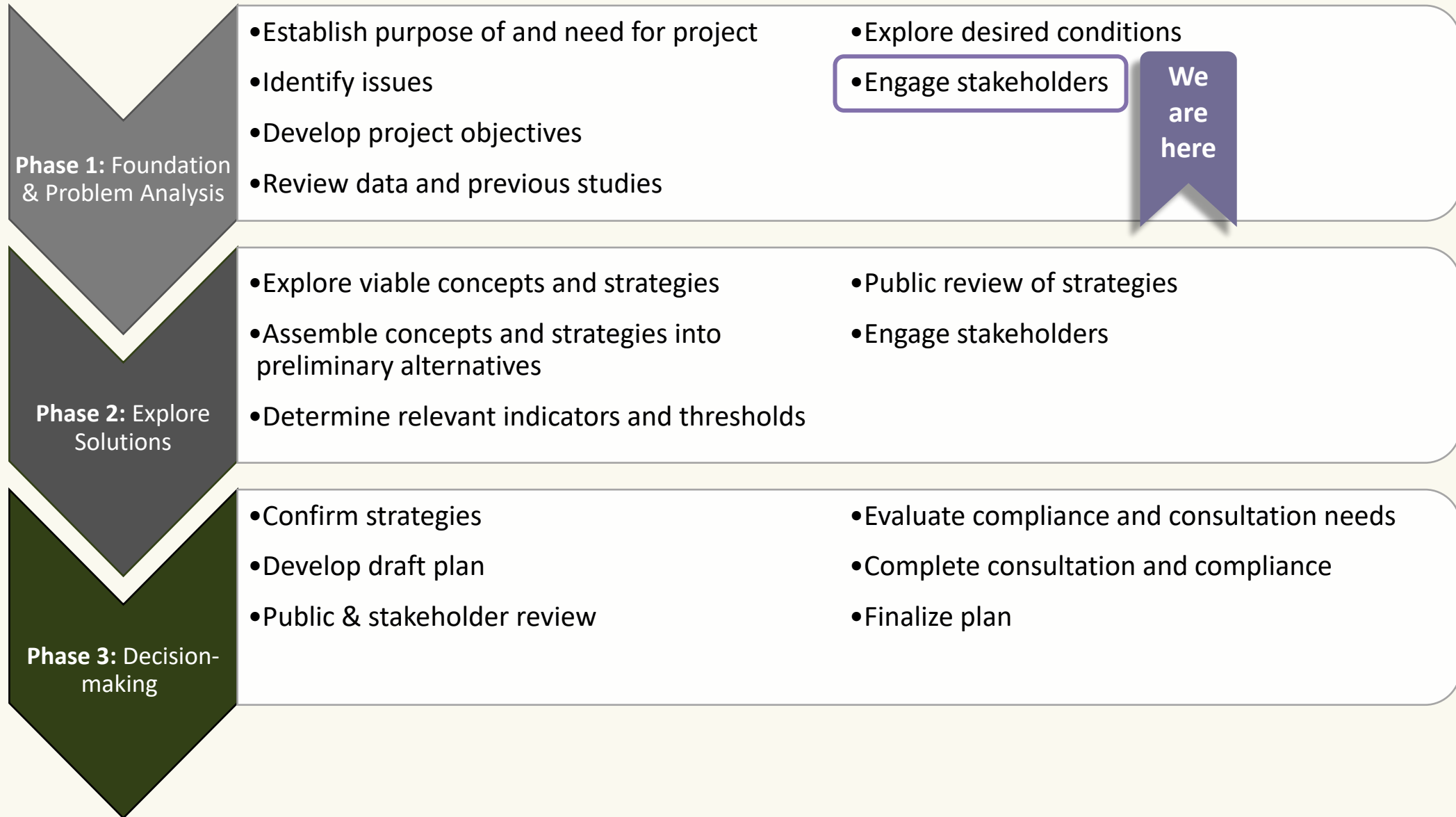
Other Applications of Council Guidance



Ministério do
Meio Ambiente



Project Phases



We want to hear from you!

1

What experiences in Yosemite National Park are most important to you?

2

What have been the best parts of your experiences in Yosemite? What have been the worst parts?

3

What management practices or strategies has the park used to effectively address crowding and congestion?

4

What barriers get in the way of enjoying or visiting Yosemite National Park?

5

Other thoughts you'd like to share with the project team?



Provide your thoughts

at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/YosemiteVisitorAccess>

We want to hear from you!

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

- Through **February 3, 2023**, you are invited to participate in the planning process at this critical stage.
- The information gathered through this planning process will inform decision-making and priority-setting for public investments over the next decade.
- See details at:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/YosemiteVisitorAccess>

Questions?



NPS Photo/Ann Schonlau

