



# Work Week Schedule 2022

PROJECT	LOCATION & WORK	ARRIVE	DEPART
WW1	Mariposa Grove Trail Maintenance	MAY 22	MAY 28
WW-BC	Sunrise Creek Backcountry Trail Maintenance	JUNE 5	JUNE 11
WW2	Yosemite Valley Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Wildland Fire Mitigation	JUNE 12	JUNE 18
WW3	Ackerson Meadow Restoration and Pollinator Inventory	JUNE 19	JUNE 25
WW4	Ackerson Meadow Restoration and Pollinator Inventory	JUNE 26	JULY 2
WW5	Old Tioga Road and Yosemite Creek Trail Maintenance	JULY 10	JULY 16
WW6	Old Tioga Road and Yosemite Creek Trail Maintenance	JULY 17	JULY 23
WW7	Old Tioga Road and Yosemite Creek Trail Maintenance	JULY 24	JULY 30
WW9	Tuolumne Meadows Vegetation Restoration	AUG 14	AUG 20
WW10	Tuolumne Meadows Vegetation Restoration and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	AUG 21	AUG 27
WW11	Tuolumne Meadows Vegetation Restoration and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	AUG 28	SEPT 3
WW12	Ackerson Meadow Seed Collection and Wildland Fire Mitigation	SEPT 11	SEPT 17
WW13	Yosemite Valley Pollinator Habitat Creation and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	OCT 2	OCT 8
WW14	Yosemite Valley Wildland Fire Mitigation and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	OCT 9	OCT 5

Our work week participants overwhelmingly love their experience volunteering in Yosemite. Doing meaningful work in a special place, creating new bonds with people through working and camping together, getting an insider's look at National Park Service projects while working alongside staff, and having fantastic meals prepared each day are all part of the attraction of our work weeks.

Our crews work shoulder to shoulder with NPS and YC project leaders who demonstrate tool use, task performance, and safety measures. Participants will work Monday-Thursday. Friday is a free day to enjoy the park. Yosemite is a dynamic place with unpredictable conditions. While projects are planned to accomplish specific goals, they could be modified by the National Park Service at any time as needed. NPS appreciates the flexibility of our volunteers when project tasks shift as the field season progresses.

A day pack, water bottles to carry 2-3 liters of water, and a lunch container are required for daily use. Hiking boots with hard soles are recommended. Unless specified, participants should be in strong physical condition, but no special skills are required.. **Work levels noted in descriptions are relative- each project will involve physical work in the outdoor elements for up to 7 hours a day.**

## WW1 - Mariposa Grove Trail Maintenance, May 22-28

May is a wonderful time to be in the lower elevations of the park, including the Mariposa Grove. Mornings are cool and dewy, flowers are blooming, and the meadows under the sequoias are green with new growth. Volunteers this week will have a plethora of trail maintenance to attend to following two years of trail closures and countless windstorms. We expect work will consist of brushing back overgrowth and raking debris to clear paths, clearing and reshaping swale drains, moving or crosscutting logs, and whatever else the land calls for. Work sites will range throughout the lower and upper groves and the Washburn approach trail. Strenuous physical exertion will be required. Volunteers will be hiking throughout every day, working as we move. Mariposa Grove can be a steep environment to traverse, so come prepared with hiking boots. The project may also require lifting up to 30 lbs. For more information on the Yosemite Conservancy donor-funded project we will be stewarding, visit [Mariposa Grove Restoration](#).

**Base camp:** Wawona Campground

**Elevation:** 5,000 - 6,000 feet

**Parking:** Use of the campground's overflow parking (away from campsite) may be required

**Transportation:** Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. Carpooling allowances are dependent on COVID regulations at time of project.

**Hiking:** Average 4-6 miles per day

**Work level:** **Strenuous**

## WW-BC – Sunrise Creek Backcountry Trail Maintenance, June 5-11

Who thought Work Weekers needed to spend more time in the backcountry? Here's your chance! Join NPS Trails and Wilderness Restoration along with YC staff to clear a heavily overgrown section of trail on the Yosemite Grand Traverse. This week's crew will start by meeting their guides in Yosemite Valley on Sunday afternoon, followed by an orientation, group pack check and kickoff dinner. Monday morning, following breakfast, leaders will drop off tools and gear with NPS Packers before reconvening at the Happy Isles trailhead. Volunteers are required to provide their own camping gear. They will backpack in their personal items, layers, water, and snacks/lunch for the day. The mules will haul the rest. We will be hiking 10 miles of iconic Yosemite terrain on day one with 3500 feet of elevation gain to camp where we will setup as a team atop a bluff with sweeping granitic views of the Upper Merced River Canyon. The section of trail we are maintaining lies just southeast of Clouds Rest, in the 2014 Meadow Fire burn scar. Volunteers will use loppers and hand saws to clear miles of overgrown ceanothus, clear and reshape swale drains and move or crosscut dead and downed trees, hiking 3-8 miles on sunny, southern exposure hillsides each workday. We will be visited by a Wilderness Restoration team member to learn about and assist with improper campsite removal and restoration. For bear/food safety, one volunteer may be asked to hang back as "camp watch" each day, earning their rest and relaxation as they supervise from a camp stool. After 3 full days of trail maintenance, the group will pack up camp on Friday, naturalize our area, lop our last few bushes, and hike out via the John Muir Trail, reconvening for a recognition dinner and one final night of camping in Yosemite Valley.

*Notes:* There will be no day off for this work week. Work will be performed in **sunny, exposed conditions at elevation**. Food will be simple, nutritious, and mostly dehydrated- gourmet backpacking style. One solar shower and soft buckets will be provided for light washing. Sunrise Creek provides running water during the workday; a tarn will be our water source near camp. Soap cannot be used near water sources. **Previous backpacking experience is required.**

**Base camp:** Wilderness

**Elevation:** 4,000 – 8,600 feet

**Parking:** Available at group campsite for day 1 and 7, and at Happy Isles overflow lot while in backcountry

**Transportation:** Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. Carpooling allowances are dependent on COVID regulations at time of project.

**Hiking:** Average 3-8 miles per day

**Work level:** **Strenuous**

## WW2 - Yosemite Valley Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Wildland Fire Mitigation, June 12-18

This combination work week will allow for volunteers to work with both Climbing and Fire branches of NPS, splitting the group in two each day. Climber access routes are the non-technical approaches and descents of climbing routes on Yosemite's cliffs and crags. In this portion of the project, volunteers will work with climbing rangers and trail crew to improve and restore climbing access routes in the Valley and Lower Merced River Canyon. This could include areas known as the Cathedrals, Fifi Buttress, Sentinel Creek, El Capitan or Pat n Jacks. Erosion issues will be mitigated through trail drains, tread work and stone steps where necessary, log checks may be added for stabilization, restoration will be performed on braided social trails, and preferred routes will be delineated.

Fire mitigation will involve work aimed at fuel reduction in forested areas of the park. Volunteers will help NPS to thin and collect vegetation and build burn piles. This work is critical in areas and times of year where use of heavy equipment is not possible. Workdays will be strenuous with hiking and heavy lifting in potentially steep, exposed environments. Participants could walk up to three miles and carry loads up to 40 lbs.

**Base camp:** Yellow Pine Campground

**Elevation:** 3,000 – 4,500 feet

**Parking:** Available at group campsite

**Transportation:** Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. Carpooling allowances are dependent on COVID regulations at time of project.

**Hiking:** Average 1-4 miles per day

**Work level:** **Strenuous**

## WW3 – Ackerson Meadow Restoration and Pollinator Inventory, June 19-25

## WW4 – Ackerson Meadow Restoration and Pollinator Inventory, June 26-July 2

Join Park Service biologists in Ackerson Meadow to implement a large-scale ecological restoration project. Ackerson is the park's newest acquisition on the northwest boarder of Yosemite, dotted with endemic wildflowers and rich in wildlife. For these two work weeks we will split into two groups each day. One group will focus on hand-pulling a high priority, annual invasive grass from the meadow. The other group will collect, identify, and inventory pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, with our Pollinator HotShot Crew. Repair work to existing Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA's) may also be needed.

Groups will camp at Hodgdon Meadow Group Site. Potable water is available, vault toilets are at the campsite and flush toilets are available in the main campground. Solar showers will be available in camp, or volunteers are welcome to head to the nearest creek for a dip. For more information on efforts in Ackerson meadow and the Conservancy's role in protecting it, visit [here](#) and [here](#).

*Notes on weather and cancellations:* If workdays are forecasted to reach into 95 degrees+, work will end early or be canceled completely.

**Base camp:** Hodgdon Meadow Campground

**Elevation:** 4,500 - 5,000 feet

**Parking:** Available at group site and campground entrance

**Transportation:** Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. Carpooling allowances are dependent on COVID regulations at time of project.

**Hiking:** Average 1-3 miles per day

**Work level:** Moderate

**WW5 – Old Tioga Road and Yosemite Creek Trail Maintenance, July 10-16**

**WW6 – Old Tioga Road and Yosemite Creek Trail Maintenance, July 17-2**

**WW7 – Old Tioga Road and Yosemite Creek Trail Maintenance, July 24-30**

These 3 weeks in the Tioga corridor will provide the unique opportunity to reopen a trail that once provided the only vehicular access through this region of Yosemite- the Old Tioga Road (OTR). Now marked as a trail, this section of OTR has steadily become overgrown with trees and brush since the creation of Highway 120. Once maintained, this trail will provide hiker access between popular campgrounds and trailheads in the area. Volunteers will be working with NPS Trail Crew to clear brush, dig swale drains, and remove logs, creating a 3ft wide path, as well as maintaining stretches of trail along Yosemite Creek. Crews will hike throughout entire workday, stopping to do maintenance as needed.

To make access to our work site efficient, the group will camp at the off-the-beaten-path Yosemite Creek Campground. These sites are no frills, with no running water or flush toilets, but their beauty is in their serene remoteness. We will provide filtered water for drinking and solar showers to bathe, though creek dips are always an encouraged option. Vault toilets are available throughout the campground.

**Base camp:** Yosemite Creek Campground

**Elevation:** 7,000 - 8,500 feet

**Parking:** Available at campsites and by the turnoff of Highway 120

**Transportation:** Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. Carpooling allowances are dependent on COVID regulations at time of project.

**Hiking:** Average 3-8 miles per day

**Work level:** **Strenuous**

**WW9 – Tuolumne Meadows Vegetation Restoration, August 14-20**

There is so much to do in Tuolumne, and so little time to do it! In 2022, we plan to amp up our seed collection in preparation for the finishing of Tioga Road and campground improvement projects. We will be surveying for and removing invasive plants in old restoration projects and renewing the effort to remove small conifers from the Tuolumne Meadows and surrounding areas in support of meadow vistas. There may be opportunities to contribute to ongoing informal trail removal and pollinator inventory, as well.

Due to the reconstruction of Tuolumne Meadows campground, volunteers will be based further west on Tioga Road and commuting to the work site by car. Solar showers and a creek will be available for washing and potable water for drinking. Dependent on COVID regulations at the time, showers may or may not be available in Tuolumne. For more information on the changes happening in the region, visit [Tuolumne Repairs](#).

*Notes on weather and cancellations:* Wildfire risk is high in August so be prepared for camping and working in poor air quality. If air quality index is unhealthy (151 or greater), or if your campground is under fire threat, work weeks are subject to cancellation.

**Base camp:** White Wolf Campground

**Elevation:** 8,000 - 9,000 feet

**Parking:** Available at group site and campground entrance

**Transportation:** Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. Carpooling allowances are dependent on COVID regulations at time of project.

**Hiking:** Average 1-3 miles per day

**Work level:** Moderate

## **WW10 – Tuolumne Meadows Vegetation Restoration and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation, August 21-27**

## **WW11 – Tuolumne Meadows Vegetation Restoration and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation, August 28-September 3**

Volunteers for the following two work weeks will have a chance to be included all the same vital work with the Vegetation and Ecological Restoration branch of NPS as well as access route improvements with Climbing and Trails. Volunteers will split in two groups each day, most doing seed collection, invasive plant surveys and removal, small conifer removal encroaching in the meadows, and pollinator inventory. The remainder of the group will head out to climbing areas such as Fairview Dome, Medlicott Dome and Cathedral Peak, to address maintenance needs on nontechnical approaches and descents. We will mitigate erosion issues by constructing drains, water bars, log checks and stone steps, as well as restoring social trails and delineating correct paths.

Due to the reconstruction of Tuolumne Meadows campground, volunteers will be based further west on Tioga Road and commuting to the work site by car. Solar showers and a creek will be available for washing and potable water for drinking. Dependent on COVID regulations at the time, showers may or may not be available in Tuolumne. For more information on the changes happening in the region, visit [Tuolumne Repairs](#).

*Notes on weather and cancellations:* Wildfire risk is high in August so be prepared for camping and working in poor air quality. If air quality index is unhealthy (151 or greater), or if your campground is under fire threat, work weeks are subject to cancellation.

**Base camp:** White Wolf Campground

**Elevation:** 8,000 - 9,500 feet

**Parking:** Available at group site and campground entrance

**Transportation:** Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. Carpooling allowances are dependent on COVID regulations at time of project.

**Hiking:** Average 1-4 miles per day

**Work level:** Moderate – **Strenuous**

## **WW12 Ackerson Meadow Seed Collection and Wildland Fire Mitigation, September 11-17**

This program will have the group splitting in two each day. Half will join Park Service biologists in Ackerson Meadow to implement a large-scale ecological restoration project. Ackerson is the park's newest acquisition on the northwest boarder of Yosemite, dotted with endemic wildflowers and rich in wildlife. This portion of the work week is dedicated to collecting native seeds for the restoration; we need a total of 500 lbs of seed, and the only way to gather that amount is with your help! Collection will occur in open, potentially sunny, meadow terrain, covering up to 7 miles a day. Each day will have the other half of the group teaming up with wildland fire technicians. Fire mitigation will involve work aimed at fuel reduction in forested areas of the park. Volunteers will help NPS to thin and collect vegetation and build burn piles, critical in areas and times of year where use of heavy equipment is not possible. Lifting and carrying up to 30 lbs will be necessary.

Groups will camp at Hodgdon Meadow Group Site. Potable water is available, vault toilets are at the campsite and flush toilets are available in the main campground. Solar showers will be available in camp, or volunteers are welcome to head to the nearest creek for a dip. For more information on efforts in Ackerson Meadow and the Conservancy's role in protecting it, visit [here](#) and [here](#).

*Notes on weather and cancellations:* If workdays are forecasted to reach 95+ degrees, work will end early or be cancelled completely. Wildfire risk is present in September, so be prepared for camping and working in poor air quality. If air quality index is unhealthy (151 or greater), or if your campground is under fire threat, work weeks are subject to cancellation.

**Base camp:** Hodgdon Meadow Campground

**Elevation:** 4,500 - 5,000 feet

**Parking:** Available at group site and campground entrance

**Transportation:** Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. Carpooling allowances are dependent on COVID regulations at time of project.

**Hiking:** Average 2-7 miles per day

**Work level:** Moderate - **Strenuous**

## WW13 Yosemite Valley Pollinator Habitat Creation and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation, October 2-8

We will start off our autumnal return to Yosemite Valley working with the Vegetation & Ecological Restoration and Climbing branches of NPS. We are continuing our commitment to pollinator habitat creation and protection, making connections for critically threatened pollinators in the west, including monarchs and bees. Your time and energy can truly make an impact during this time of year for our staff and our resources. As the group divides each day, many volunteers will be planting, collecting seed, duff and mulch, watering and (always) removing invasive plants. This work will involve lifting plants, moving heavy wheelbarrows, using shovels, and moving on hands and knees. The portion of the group that heads out with the Climbing Rangers and Trail Crew will work to repair the non-technical approaches and descents to the climbing routes of Yosemite's cliffs and crags. Areas may include the Cathedrals, Fifi Buttress, Sentinel Creek, El Capitan or Pat n Jacks. Erosion issues will be mitigated through trail drains, tread work and stone steps where necessary, log checks may be added for stabilization, and restoration will be performed on braided social trails and help delineate preferred routes.

*Notes on weather and cancellations:* Be prepared for October weather in the Valley. Daytime temps are often pleasant for working, with highs in the 60-80 degree range. Temperatures at night dip down to 30-40 degrees and sunlight is limited in the canyon. Yosemite often receives the first big rainfall of the year in late October, so bring plenty of layers, rain gear, extra socks, and good sleeping bags and tents. Extra blankets are always a bonus when nightfall arrives! Workdays will be canceled if an atmospheric river event is predicted. This is also the time of year park service plans for burn piles and prescribed fire events and air quality can subsequently fluctuate between good to hazardous when this happens.

**Base camp:** Yellow Pine Campground

**Elevation:** 3,000 – 4,500 feet

**Parking:** Available at group campsite

**Transportation:** Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. Carpooling allowances are dependent on COVID regulations at time of project.

**Hiking:** Average 2-4 miles per day

**Work level:** Moderate - **Strenuous**

## WW14 Yosemite Valley Wildland Fire Mitigation and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation, October 9-15

To conclude our work week season, we'll split the group between maintenance work on climber access routes and fuel reduction efforts with fire crews. Volunteers assisting with fire mitigation will assist with work aimed at fuel reduction in forested areas of the park. Volunteers will help NPS to thin and collect vegetation and build burn piles. This work is critical in areas and times of year where use of heavy equipment is not possible, and October is frequently prime time for prescribed fires in the Valley, so we'll need all the help we can get!

Those working with Climbing will tend to the non-technical approaches and descents of climbing routes on Yosemite's cliffs and crags. Volunteers may work in areas such as the Cathedrals, Fifi Buttress, Sentinel Creek, El Capitan or Pat n Jacks. Erosion issues will be mitigated through trail drains, tread work and stone steps where necessary, log checks may be added for stabilization, restoration will be performed on braided social trails and preferred routes will be delineated. Workdays will be strenuous with hiking and heavy lifting in potentially steep, exposed environments. Participants could walk up to three miles and carry loads up to 40 lbs.

**Base camp:** Yellow Pine Campground

**Elevation:** 3,000 – 4,500 feet

**Parking:** Available at group campsite

**Transportation:** Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. Carpooling allowances are dependent on COVID regulations at time of project.

**Hiking:** Average 2-4 miles per day

**Work level:** **Strenuous**