

UC MERCED
YOSEMITE FIELD STATION

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2019



University of California Natural Reserve System

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CONTACT INFORMATION – FIELD STATION AND OTHER SERVICES

EMERGENCY – 911 FROM ANY CABIN PHONE

FIELD STATION ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Office	<u>7799 Chilnualna Falls Rd</u>	209-375-9917 209-375-9918 (fax) 209-628-5758 (director cell) 209-626-6895 (steward cell)
Classroom (“Data Viz Center”)	<u>7799 Chilnualna Falls Rd</u>	
Bruce	<u>2615 W Bruce Rd</u>	209-375-6306
Dull	<u>2618 W Bruce Rd</u>	209-375-6345
Joyce	<u>2639 W Bruce Rd</u>	209-375-6307
Landsnaes	<u>2667 English Ln</u>	209-375-9937
Livingston	<u>2644 English Ln</u>	209-375-6520
River	<u>2587 River Rd</u>	209-375-6308
Station website: http://snrs.ucmerced.edu		

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK INFORMATION

- Website – <http://www.nps.gov/yose/>
- General Information – 209-372-0200, questions press 3, then 5
- [Yosemite Road and Trail Conditions](#) – 209-372-0200, press 1, then 1 again
- [CalTrans Highway Conditions](#) - 800-427-7623
- Wawona Ranger – 209-375-9520
- [Yosemite Events](https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/guide.htm) - <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/guide.htm>
- Yosemite Dispatch – 209-379-1992

MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- [Yosemite Valley Clinic](#) – limited hours – 209-372-9532 – [9000 Ahwahnee Dr, Yosemite Valley](#)
- [Oakhurst Urgent Care](#) – 8am-7pm, 7 days – 559-683-2992 – [48677 Victoria Ln, Oakhurst](#)
- [Mountain Crisis Services](#) - 24 hr abuse and assault crisis line, confidential, will provide emergency transportation – 888-966-2350
- [UC Merced Counseling & Psychiatric Services](#) – 24 hrs – 209-228-4266
- [UC Merced CARE assault victim support](#) – 209-386-2051

FIRE INFORMATION

- Mariposacounty.org – Local fire and emergency information
- [Yosemite General Information](#) 209-372-0200

YOSEMITE FIELD STATION MAP

SIERRA NEVADA RESEARCH STATION- YOSEMITE, UC MERCED

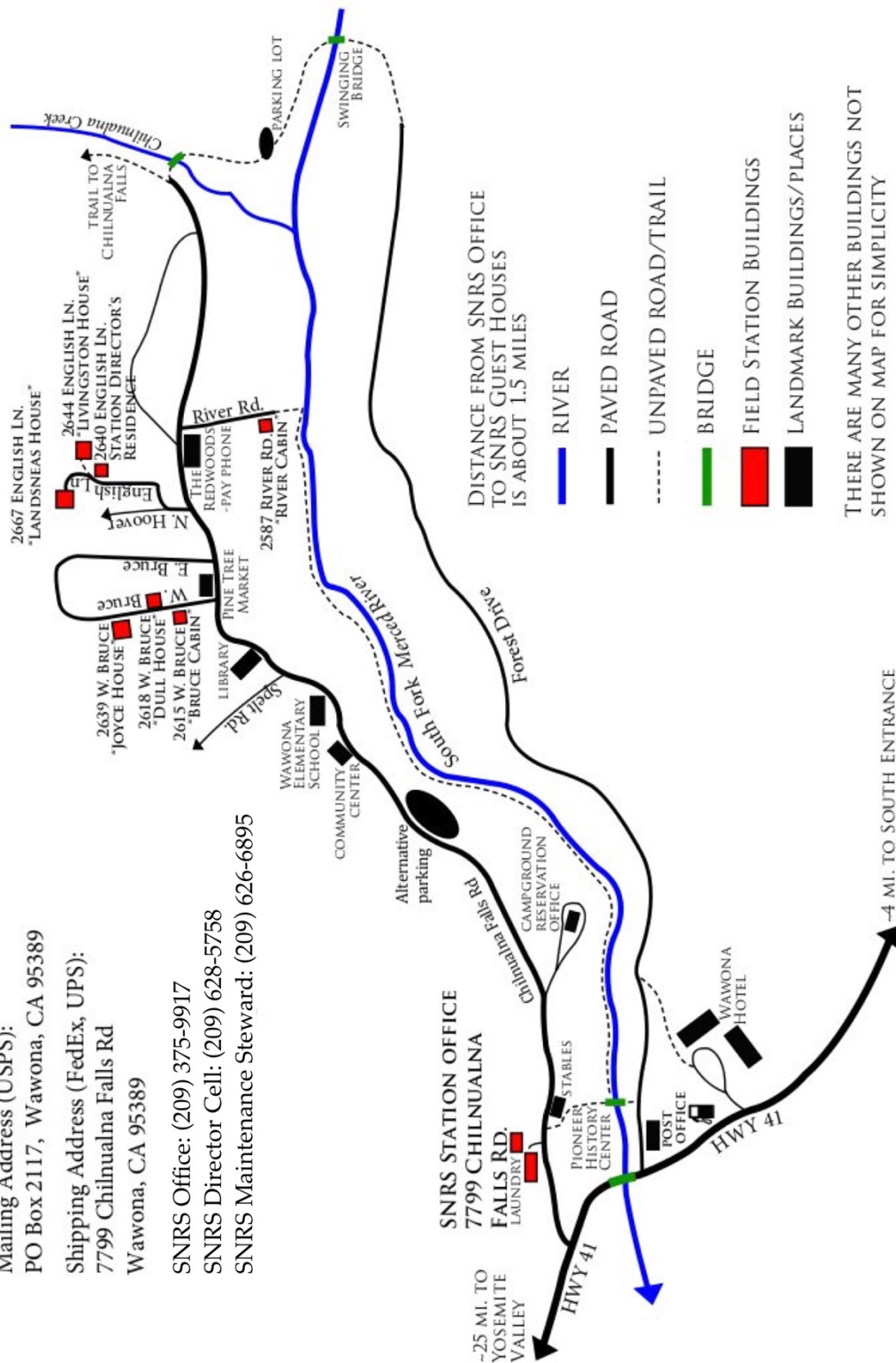
Mailing Address (USPS):
PO Box 2117, Wawona, CA 95389

Shipping Address (FedEx, UPS):
7799 Chilnualna Falls Rd
Wawona, CA 95389

SNRS Office: (209) 375-9917

SNRS Director Cell: (209) 628-5758

SNRS Maintenance Steward: (209) 626-6895



DIRECTIONS AND ROAD INFORMATION

Wawona is most directly accessed from California Highway 41, entering from Oakhurst. From Oakhurst, follow CA-41 north about 15 miles to the entrance of Yosemite National Park. Just beyond the entrance, turn left on Wawona Road. Follow Wawona Road about 5 miles. After crossing the bridge over the South Fork of the Merced River, make a right onto Chilnualna Falls Road. The station office is the second white building on the left of the road. The cabins are another 1-1.5 miles further along Chilnualna Falls Road (see map). Road conditions may be hazardous at any time of year. Check with both [Yosemite](#) and [CalTrans](#) before travel.

Yosemite Road Conditions – 209-372-0200, press 1, then 1 again
CalTrans Highway Conditions - 800-427-7623

WINTER DRIVING

Chains can be required within the park at any time between September and May. In winter, cars are required to carry chains at all times and follow all chain restrictions. Check road conditions and chain requirements before you leave home with both [CalTrans](#) and [Yosemite National Park](#). Chains may be purchased or rented in Oakhurst or other nearby communities.

LOCAL SERVICES

UC Merced's Yosemite Field Station is scattered through the community of Wawona, within the borders of Yosemite National Park. Services in Wawona are extremely limited, consisting of a gas station, two small markets, and a post office. In summer, the Big Trees Lodge (formerly the Wawona Hotel) is the only restaurant option, and the lodge is closed in winter. The town of Oakhurst is a 25-mile drive south of Wawona, and provides the usual grocery and hardware stores, medical services, auto mechanics, and restaurants. Limited grocery, dining, and medical services are also available in Yosemite Valley, but gasoline is not.

WHAT TO BRING

BEDDING AND PERSONAL ITEMS

All cabins have bare mattresses, mostly XL twin bunks. Guests must bring bedding (pillows and sleeping bags or sheets and blankets). Guests must also bring towels and other personal items. Headlamps or flashlights are recommended. **Keep a “go bag” with you at all times, containing medication, cell phone, important documents, and/or other items in case you cannot return to the field station due to road closure or fire evacuation.**

FOOD AND KITCHEN SUPPLIES

Each cabin has a fully equipped kitchen with a sink, stove, refrigerator, coffee maker, toaster, dishes, utensils, and pots and pans. Some cabins have propane grills, and guests may refill propane tanks available at the Wawona markets. The station provides limited consumable goods like dish soap, sponges, paper towels, and trash bags. Guests are expected to bring any additional disposable supplies. Long-term guests are expected to replenish soap, sponges, and paper towels.

SIGNED WAIVERS

Each guest must bring a signed waiver for the duration of their stay. Minors must have their parent/guardian's signature. UC employees visiting on work travel and UC students visiting as part of a faculty-supervised catalog course are exempt. Waivers are good for 5 years.

PARK FEE WAIVERS AND CABIN ACCESS CODES

Prior to your arrival, contact the station director to obtain park fee waivers and cabin access codes. Have a printed fee waiver for each vehicle entering the park. Cabins are accessible by keys in a lockbox; bring the lockbox key codes with you.

LEAVE AT HOME

DRUGS AND WEAPONS

Marijuana and other controlled substances are prohibited on federal land, which includes Yosemite National Park and the Yosemite Field Station in Wawona. All forms of smoking and vaporizers are prohibited on all field station property. Firearms are prohibited on all field station property.

UNAUTHORIZED VISITORS AND PETS

Only authorized guests are allowed in field station facilities with the prior approval of the field station director. Pets are prohibited, but service animals are permitted with prior notification to the station director. Unauthorized visitors or pets may result in immediate revocation of station use privileges.

CODE OF CONDUCT

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR

- All participants, visitors, staff, students, faculty, and vendors are to be treated with respect and consideration, valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Be considerate, respectful, and collaborative.
- We are living in a small community, where respect for each other and the place is required.
- Alert station or campus personnel if you notice a dangerous situation or someone in distress.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- Harassment, intimidation or discrimination in any form.
- Physical or verbal abuse of any participants, visitors, staff, students, faculty, vendors, neighbors, or other field station guests.
- Verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, national origin.
- Unwelcome physical contact.
- Inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images in field station spaces.
- Threatening or stalking any participants, visitors, staff, students, faculty, vendors, neighbors, or other field station guests.

RESOURCES

In case of emergency, dial 911 from any cabin phone or cell phone.

- [Mountain Crisis Services](#) - 24 hr abuse and assault crisis line, confidential, will provide emergency transportation – 888-966-2350
- [UC Merced Counseling & Psychiatric Services](#) – 24 hrs – 209-228-4266
- [UC Merced CARE assault victim support](#) – 209-386-2051

DURING YOUR STAY AT THE YOSEMITE FIELD STATION

WAWONA COMMUNITY AND SHARED SPACES

The field station is integrated into the village of Wawona, which is a community with long-term residents, seasonal workers, and recreational visitors. Please be a considerate community member. The cabins, offices, and labs may be shared with other guests at any time: keep common areas clean and minimize disturbance to other guests.

QUIET (AND DARK) HOURS

Limit outdoor noise after 9:00 pm to preserve the natural soundscape and respect your neighbors. To protect Yosemite's dark skies, turn off outdoor lighting at night and when not in use (but leave the switches to "ON" for motion-sensor lights for safety).

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Keep facilities clean during your stay and upon departure. Immediately report any maintenance issues to the station steward. Cleaning supplies are available in each cabin; contact the steward if any additional supplies are needed. The station does not have cleaning staff, so the field station relies on you to keep the station in good condition. Try to leave the facilities in better shape than you found them, as a courtesy to your fellow guests.

Daily, guests must clean all dishes, kitchen surfaces, and kitchen appliances. Food and dishes must be stored away. Common areas must be kept clean, tidy, and free of equipment. Before departure, guests must complete the cleaning checklist and return their signed checklist to the mailbox at the back door of the station office. Cleaning fees will be charged to guests who leave cabins dirty. Repair costs will be charged to guests who cause unreasonable damage. Abuse of facilities will result in loss of station use privileges.

TRASH AND RECYCLING

Trash and co-mingled recycling should be dropped off at the bins near the Campground Reservations Office on Wawona District Circle Road (see map). Detailed instructions are posted in the cabins.

WILDLIFE

Feeding wildlife in Yosemite is prohibited, whether on purpose or by accident. Bears and raccoons are active in Wawona; keep food inside the cabins and do not leave food, coolers, trash, or scented items in cars or outside cabins. Rodents in Yosemite carry the potentially deadly Hantavirus, and squirrels may carry the plague. Keep crumbs and food items cleaned up and put away inside and outside of cabins to minimize rodent activity. Report any rodent sign to the station steward. Wildlife is regularly killed by cars; watch for bears other wildlife on roads, and drive slowly.

PARKING

Park only in designated parking areas. Do not block driveways, and do not park in driveways belonging to private homes. Overflow parking is available next to the Wawona Stables (see map).

CONSERVATION OF WATER AND ENERGY

Water is scarce in Wawona, and the taps run dry in some summers. Limit showers to three minutes, and flush toilets only when necessary. Turn off heat and A/C when away from the cabins and office, even if just for a few hours. (In winter, turn heat to 55F instead of off to prevent pipes from freezing.)

COMMUNICATIONS – CELLULAR PHONES, INTERNET, AND TELEPHONES

Mobile phone service is extremely limited in Wawona; only the Verizon network gets 1X service and AT&T has no coverage. All buildings in the field station have wifi access; contact the director for the password. Every cabin has a land line telephone. The telephones can call 911, local, and toll-free numbers, but you must bring a calling card to make long-distance calls.

MAIL AND SHIPPING

The US Postal Service ONLY delivers to the Wawona Post Office via PO box. There is no postal delivery to individual buildings. Shippers like FedEx and UPS can deliver to any building in Wawona. Guest mail is available for pickup at the field station office.

US Postal Service:

Your name
c/o UC Merced Yosemite Field Station
PO Box 2117
Wawona, CA 95389

Shipping (FedEx, UPS):

Your name
c/o UC Merced Yosemite Field Station
7799 Chilnualna Falls Rd
Wawona, CA 95389

LAUNDRY

A washer/dryer is available in Livingston Cabin and at the Station Office. Clotheslines are available at most cabins, please use the clotheslines as an alternative to the dryer when possible. Bring your own laundry soap and keep the laundry facilities clean. Laundromats are also available in Oakhurst.

COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, AND SCANNERS

Guests are expected to bring their own computers, none are available for guest use. Printers and scanners are generally not available, but occasional use may be arranged with the station director.

LAB SPACE, EQUIPMENT, AND STORAGE

Limited dry lab space, lab equipment, and field equipment is available and must be reserved with prior approval from the station director. Long-term storage of equipment or samples must also be arranged with prior approval from the station director.

RECREATION AROUND WAWONA

A few hikes are accessible on foot from the field station. The Swinging Bridge is a flat, ~1 mile hike up the South Fork of the Merced River. Lower Chilnualna Falls is a steep but rewarding half mile hike, and continues as a strenuous hike that reaches many miles into the Yosemite backcountry. Both are accessible from the east end of Chilnualna Falls Road (see map). Pleasant swimming holes are found along the river in summer; easiest access is at the end of River Road. Contact the Wawona Visitor Center next to the Big Trees (Wawona) Hotel for more information on local recreation.

LONG TERM GUESTS

Long term guests must follow all field station policies, including those for visitors and pets. Long term guests are expected to replenish station-provided supplies, such as hand soap, cleaning sponges, and paper goods. Cabins must be kept clean and all maintenance issues reported immediately to the station steward. Station staff may enter the cabin without advanced notice to perform maintenance. Facilities may be shared with other guests at any time. Long term or regularly returning guests may request an NPS vehicle sticker from the station director to allow faster entry through the park entrances. Long term guests requiring desk space may reserve desk and lab space through RAMS for their own computers, office equipment, and lab equipment.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

FIELD SAFETY

When traveling away from Wawona, file a plan with a responsible party, and check out and check in when you return. Be appropriately prepared! Weather conditions can change rapidly in the mountains. Bring first aid supplies and plenty of water. If traveling in winter, ensure your vehicle is equipped for snow and ice. Bring and know how to use snow safety gear. Contact the station director and/or your home institution's health and safety for more information.

STATION SAFETY

First aid kits are available in every station building, but bring your own supplies if you might need specialized medication or equipment. The possibility of evacuation due to fire or other emergency conditions exists year-round. Always take a "Go Bag" with you when away from the cabin: road closures or fire may not allow you to return to Wawona. Review the evacuation plan in this binder. Discuss questions or concerns with the Wawona ranger or the station director.

WILDLIFE AND ANIMAL-BORNE DISEASES

Bears, raccoons, mice, deer, coyotes, and other animals are attracted by human food and trash. Do not store fragrant items in your cars, and keep food and trash stored away from potential contact with animals. Be aware that rattlesnakes, scorpions, wasps, and yellowjackets are fairly common around the cabins.

Feeding wildlife is a serious offense in the park. Deer and other animals may approach you to beg for food. Squirrels in the park carry the bubonic plague, and deer have attacked Wawona residents – give wildlife a wide berth and do not encourage begging.

Rodents may carry hantavirus, a deadly respiratory disease. Report any sign of rodent droppings around the cabins immediately. Do not clean any rodent mess yourself; dust from the droppings can carry the virus.

RESEARCH AND ACTIVITY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As part of your stay at the Yosemite Field Station, it is important that we receive a report on your activity during your stay. Your reports are essential for the operation of the station: we wish to highlight your good work, as well as demonstrate the importance of the field station to the broader academic community, the University of California, and the National Park Service so that we can continue to provide these facilities.

Please provide us with an annual summary of your activity by the 30th of June each year. The summary should include:

1. A brief summary of your accomplishments, the title of your project, and a list of all participants on the project with their affiliations.
2. Any publications that include support or resources provided through the field station.
3. Electronic or printed copies of related publications, including conference proceedings, abstracts, and technical reports. Please provide one bound copy of theses and dissertations.
4. Sources of funding for your project, dates of funding, and the funding amounts.
5. Any photos of your work or field sites, and links to any media coverage of your work.

We also ask that you acknowledge the field station in any publications related to your work, as “University of California Natural Reserve System, UC Merced Yosemite Field Station”.

FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

Have a **“GO BAG”** ready and with you at all times. Take it with you to the field in case you cannot return to your cabin due to evacuation or road closure. Recommended items to include:

- Identification, passports, travel tickets
- Medications, emergency contact information
- Cash, credits cards
- Phone and charger
- Spare clothes and toiletries

If you are away from the station for the day, ensure that someone else knows your itinerary and expects your return. If you evacuate, communicate with the station director so rescue crews know you are safe.

Evacuation procedure

If your cabin or immediate vicinity is on fire, leave and call 911 at your earliest safe chance. If you receive notice of an **evacuation alert**, vacate the premises immediately. Take this information packet for reference.

Evacuation Location 1: If the SNRS Office at 7799 Chilnualna Falls Rd is safe and accessible, all guests should meet there and await further instruction. Sign in at the station to be accounted for.

Evacuation Location 2: If the SNRS Office is not safe or accessible, proceed to the Oak Creek Intermediate School (south on Hwy 41 in Oakhurst) unless directed otherwise by the Park Service. 40094 Indian Springs Road, Oakhurst, CA 93644. Phone the station director (209-628-5758) and leave a message to inform them of your whereabouts. Wait until further instruction, or proceed to UC Merced campus.

Evacuation Location 3: If the Oakhurst Middle School is not safe or accessible, proceed to the UC Merced campus Student Center. Follow Park Service instructions for the safest route to Merced. Phone the station director (209-628-5758) and leave a message to inform them of your whereabouts.