

The Disney plans
for
Mineral King



Walt Disney's hope for Mineral King

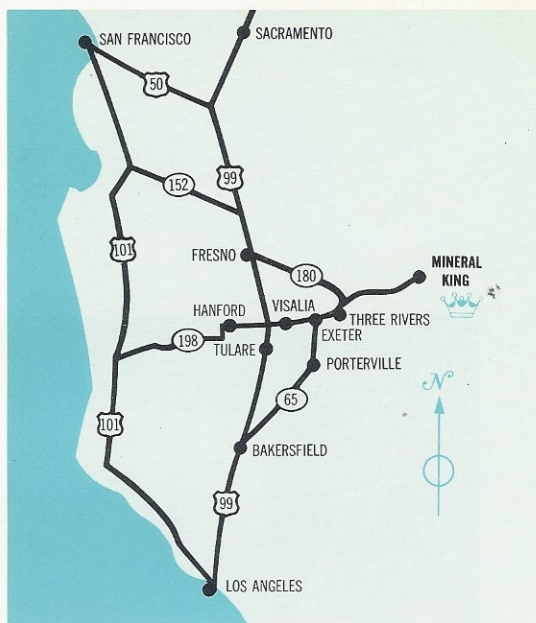
"We believe that Mineral King should be much more than the best place to spend a vacation or holiday. We want it to be an *experience* with the outdoors for those who love nature — or who want to learn to love it.

"It is our plan to make Mineral King a year-round outdoor recreational adventure for everyone ... a challenge to the accomplished skier and a good place to put skis on for the first time ... the ideal spot for an old-fashioned family outing ... home base for wild-life students, hikers, fishermen and campers ... the perfect retreat for those who just want to get away for a breath of fresh, invigorating mountain air.

"Stated simply, we are planning Mineral King with *you* in mind. Whatever your interests, athletic abilities or income level, we want Mineral King to be your choice for outdoor, year-round recreational activities.

"Our plan for the area is being guided by one other very important consideration: Mineral King's great natural beauty must be preserved at all costs.

"When I first saw Mineral King, I thought it was one of the most beautiful places in the world, and we will keep it that way. With its development, we will prove once again that man and nature can work together to the benefit of both."



High Sierra wonderland

Unsurpassed in natural splendor, Mineral King is perhaps more similar to the European Alps than any other area in the United States. Altitudes range from the 7,900-foot valley to surrounding mountains that reach the 12,400-foot level. The High Sierra wonderland, located in Sequoia National Forest, is generously endowed with lakes, streams, cascades, caverns and matchless mountain vistas.

Recognizing that Mineral King's alpine character will always be its greatest asset, Disney's staff is developing a master plan for *year-round* recreational facilities which will actually enhance the beauty of the area. Their plan is designed to preserve the natural beauty of Mineral King and to make it accessible to more than the limited number of people who now enjoy its unparalleled qualities.

Located within a four- to five-hour drive from the Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan centers, Mineral King will attract an estimated 1.7 million visitors annually when it is fully developed. Of this number about 600,000 will come from out of state.

Skier's paradise

Mineral King's high altitude gives the area one of the longest annual snow periods west of the Rockies. And many experienced skiers say its slopes rival any in the world.

Some of the longest ski runs in North America will be developed from the rims of nine surrounding bowls to Faculty Flat, gateway to Mineral King Valley. *Some will be more than four and one-half miles long.*

Preliminary estimates indicate that, when fully developed, its slopes will easily accommodate up to 20,000 skiers at one time.

Preserving its beauty

Walt Disney's Mineral King plan calls for all structures to be styled along the lines of the Swiss chalet in keeping with their alpine setting. The chalet design will be somewhat influenced by contemporary American architecture.

One of the most important considerations in the unique Disney concept is the exclusion of visitor automobiles from Mineral King Valley — another

Mineral King in the 1970's

Walt Disney Productions estimates that a capital investment exceeding \$35 million will be required to develop Mineral King in accordance with the Disney proposal. By 1978, projected as the first year of full operation, the initial phase of the project will include...



MINERAL KING VILLAGE, a completely self-contained complex with its own chapel, ice-skating rink, convenience and specialty shops, conference center, theatre, general store, post office and lodging accommodations for those in all income brackets;



20 SKI LIFTS (serving campers, sight-seers, picnickers, and wild-life enthusiasts during warm months), placed for the greatest enjoyment, convenience and safety of beginner, intermediate, advanced and expert skiers;

approach to avoid distraction from its beauty. Visitor vehicles will be parked in a large area conveniently near the Valley entrance.

Since no visitor cars will be admitted to the Valley, widely experienced Disney engineers will design a public conveyance to speed guests from the parking area into and through Mineral King. They will create a system that will be aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the scenery.

Project status

On December 17, 1965, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman announced that Walt Disney Productions had been selected by the United States Forest Service to develop Mineral King.

The Forest Service then granted the Disney organization a permit expiring in January, 1969, to finalize plans for the development. Also by that deadline, the first contract must be let for construction of State Route 276 from Three Rivers to Mineral King. This new all-weather road, 20 miles in length, will make possible year-round access to Mineral King.

Since obtaining the planning permit, members of the Disney staff and their consultants have conducted a wide variety of on-site surveys of snow and weather conditions, soil and terrain, to provide information needed before detail planning and construction can begin.

Disney staff members and consultants are also studying recreational areas throughout the world to collect data for use in finalizing plans for Mineral King.

When the master plan is approved and the first contract awarded on the new road, the Forest Service will issue a 30-year term permit to Walt Disney Productions, and will have, at all times and in every way, full approval of the Mineral King development. These two organizations will work in concert to meet the public need.

Plans call for a village and initial ski facilities to open at Mineral King in the winter of 1973-1974, concurrent with the completion of the new access road.

In 1973, eight ski lifts will begin operation, taking skiers to four major bowls from the valley floor. These bowls will easily handle up to 7000 skiers at one time.

There will also be accommodations for as many as 1500 overnight guests by that year.



MAJOR HOTELS AND LODGES — offering luxury and medium-price category accommodations — oriented to views of mountain gaps, river gorges, ski slopes and sports activities;



TEN RESTAURANTS located throughout the areas for year-round use;



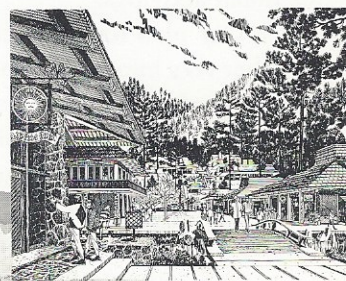
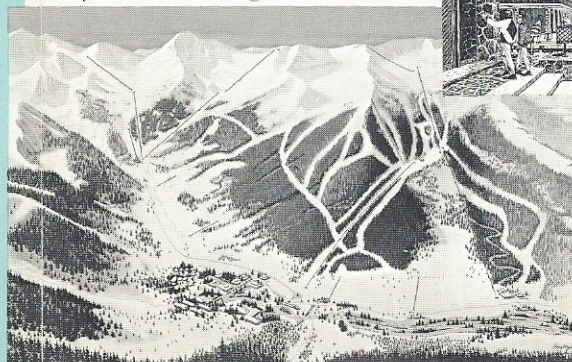
SNOW PLAY AREA, conveniently located near the Village and away from ski areas, where several hundred people may engage in their favorite snow activities — tobogganing, sled rides and fun with specially designed equipment;



AND, along with auxiliary services, a conveniently located ski school facility with ski and locker rentals, first-aid station, hospital and Forest Service office.

*Mineral King Village
will feature
chalet architecture*

*Walt Disney's Master Plan
for Mineral King Wonderland*





A promise from Walt Disney

"When we go into a new project, we believe in it all the way. That's the way we feel about Mineral King. We have every faith that our plans will provide recreational opportunities for everyone.

"All of us promise that our efforts now and in the future will be dedicated to making Mineral King grow to meet the ever-increasing public need. I guess you might say that it won't ever be finished."

