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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Tesla readies revamp of Model Y codenamed ‘Juniper’

SHANGHAI/SAN FRANCISCO, March 1 (Reuters) - Tesla (TSLA.O) is readying a production revamp of its top-selling Model Y, according to three people with knowledge of the plan.

The changes to the Model Y - code-named Project Juniper at Tesla - involve the exterior and interior of the crossover electric vehicle with a target of starting production in 2024, according to two of the people, who asked not to be identified because the planning remains private.

A revamp of the Model Y would mean Tesla is on track to offer new versions of its top-selling models over the next two years, addressing pressure in markets like China and the United States for a visible reboot of its best-selling vehicles in the face of increasing options for EV buyers.

The automaker has not commented on its product strategy or any planned model changes. Tesla did not immediately comment when asked by Reuters about the plans for the Model Y, which was its best seller in California, China and Europe last year.

Elon Musk hints at two future Teslas, higher production efficiency
Tesla plans 6,000 jobs in Mexico and eyes more investment, government says
Volkswagen's financial services undergoing reorganization
Chief Executive Elon Musk has said he will discuss the third part of the EV maker's "Master Plan" when the company holds an investor day event later on Wednesday.

Tesla has already been working to retool its Shanghai assembly plant to prepare for a revamped version of its Model 3 sedan, a project

codenamed Highland by Tesla, Reuters has reported.

The Highland version of the Model 3 is expected to go into production in Shanghai in September, according to a person with knowledge of the matter.

With Highland, Tesla is aiming to cut production costs and boost the appeal of an electric sedan that first went on sale in 2017, people involved in the project have said. There will also be changes to the exterior and powertrain performance with a focus on production efficiency, they said.

Tesla has separately asked suppliers for quotes for a revamped version of the Project Juniper version of the Model Y for exterior and interior components that would go into production next year, two of the people said.

The projected start of production is October 2024, according to one of the people.

FILE PHOTO: Visitors wearing face masks check a China-made Tesla Model Y sport utility vehicle (SUV) at the electric vehicle maker's showroom in Beijing

It was not immediately clear how sweeping the revamp would be or what specific changes or improvements Tesla was looking to deliver with the new Model Y.

At the investor day event scheduled to be held at its Gigafactory in Texas on Wednesday, Tesla has said it will share details about its next-generation vehicle platforms, which Musk has said would produce a vehicle about half the cost of Tesla's current vehicle underpinnings.



Tesla also said it will discuss long-term expansion plans, capi-

delivered to customers in 2020, would mean production and

features, improve performance or reduce production costs, analysts have said.

In one example, Tesla announced on Wednesday it had made changes in the suspension system on the Model Y made in China since January to make the ride smoother, an update Tesla fans applauded on social media.

Tesla's plant near Berlin hit a new production record equivalent to annual output of over 200,000 Model Ys earlier this week, the company said. That was three weeks ahead of an internal production target reviewed by Reuters.



tal allocation and other subjects.

The leading EV maker has faced increasing competitive pressure in China, its second largest market behind the United States, even after it cut prices.

Analysts have said that is in part because it has been seen as lagging competitors in introducing new models, improved navigation or luxe interior touches that car shoppers in the world's largest EV market are seeking.

A revamp of the Model Y, first

supply changes for a car now in production in all of Tesla's major hubs: the United States, China and Germany.

In contrast to legacy automakers, which have tended to make incremental model-year changes to cars before introducing an all-new version, Tesla has pressed the pace of change in its electric vehicles.

Tesla has made frequent changes to its electric vehicles through software updates and sometimes through hardware changes to add

作曲課招生：面向5-18歲琴童

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Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates: ChatGPT ‘will change our world’

Feb 10 (Reuters) - Florida lawmakers on Friday granted Governor Ron DeSantis effective control of the board that oversees development in and around Walt Disney Co's (DIS.N) central Florida theme parks, escalating the Republican's battle with the company.

State Republicans targeted Disney after it publicly clashed with DeSantis last year over a law that restricts classroom instruction of gender and sexual orientation, known by its opponents as the "Don't Say Gay" measure.

Legislators in Florida gave final approval on Friday to a bill authorizing the governor to appoint five supervisors to run what is now known as the Reedy Creek Improvement District, a quasi-government entity with oversight of the 25,000 acres surrounding the Walt Disney World resort.

The state Senate will confirm board members, and the board will have no role in day-to-day operations of the theme parks.

DeSantis' spokesperson Bryan Griffin said the prior system, under which the Florida legislature in 1967 gave Disney sole control over the district, lacked accountability.

"Florida is ... beginning a new era of accountability and transparency," he said.

Disney World is the largest employer in central Florida with close to 75,000 employees and drew 36.2 million visitors in 2021, according to the Themed Entertainment Association. The legislature voted last year to dissolve the special district, which for more than a half-century gave Disney the autonomy to govern itself, providing such government services as fire protection, water, sewer and waste removal services and infrastructure.

The action, seen as retaliation for Disney's then-Chief Executive Officer Bob Chapek speaking out against the state law limiting classroom discussion of LGBTQ issues, came with unintended consequences.

Tax experts and legislators warned that eliminating the district in



June 2023 would leave county taxpayers liable for nearly \$1.2 billion in bond debt.

The new bill preserves the Reedy Creek special district, though within two years it will be renamed Central Florida Tourism Oversight District. It will have the authority to collect revenue, pay off debt and provide a range of government services. The district is prohibited from operating its own airport or building nuclear power plants.

The legislation also expressly bars anyone with ties to the theme parks over the past three years from serving on the board.

Walt Disney World President Jeff Vahle praised the Reedy Creek district, saying it had helped the theme park grow and contribute to the

state's economy. "We are focused on the future and are ready to work within this new framework," he said in a statement.

The state Senate debated the bill for about an hour on Friday, with a handful of lawmakers voicing opposition.

"This all seems a retaliation by the governor for Disney voicing its support for the LGBTQ community," said Senator Linda Stewart, a Democrat who represents Orange County.

Editor's Choice



A general view shows the damage caused following the anti-democratic riots, at the Supreme Court building in Brasilia, Brazil, January 9. REUTERS/Amanda Perobelli



Security forces operate as supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro demonstrate against President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, in Planalto Palace, in Brasilia, Brazil, January 8. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino



People march from Parliament Hill during Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Ottawa, Ontario, REUTERS/Blair Gable



Supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro are pictured through broken glass as they hold a demonstration against President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, in Brasilia, Brazil, January 8. REUTERS/Adriano Machado



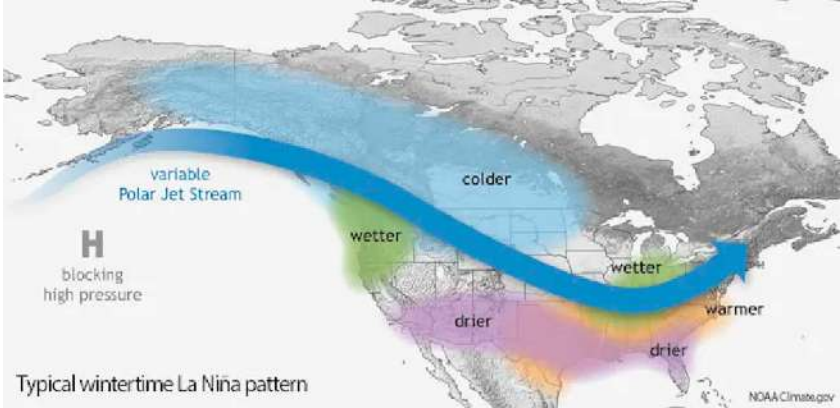
Security forces operate as supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro demonstrate against President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, outside Brazil's National Congress in Brasilia, Brazil, January 8. REUTERS/Adriano Machado



A man waves Brazil's flag as supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro demonstrate against President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, outside Brazil's National Congress in Brasilia, Brazil, January 8. REUTERS/Adriano Machado

BUSINESS

‘Triple Dip’ La Niña Is On The Way. Here’s What It Means For U.S. Weather



Graphic Courtesy NOAAClimate.gov

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

La Niña just won’t go away. Meteorologists say that for the third straight year, La Niña will persist throughout the winter in the Northern Hemisphere. This is the first “triple dip” La Niña of the century, according to an update from the United Nations’ World Meteorological Organization. This La Niña began in September 2020. The La Niña climate pattern is a natural cycle marked by cooler-than-average ocean water in the central Pacific Ocean. It is one of the main drivers of weather in the United States and around the world, especially during late fall, winter and early spring. It’s the opposite of the more well-known El Niño, which occurs when water in the Pacific Ocean is warmer than average. Though this would be the first “triple dip” La Niña this century, it’s not unprecedented for the pattern to last more than nine months to a year, which is typical for a La Niña, according to ABC News.

What does La Niña mean for winter in the US?



A typical La Niña winter in the U.S. brings

cold and snow to the Northwest and unusually dry conditions to most of the nation’s southern tier, according to NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center. The Southeast and mid-Atlantic also tend to see warmer-than-average temperatures during a La Niña winter. Meanwhile, New England and the Upper Midwest into New York tend to see colder-than-average temperatures, the Weather Channel said.

Climate change also plays a role The World Meteorological Organization said all naturally occurring climate events now take place in the context of human-induced climate change, which is increasing global temperatures, exacerbating extreme weather and climate, and influencing seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns.

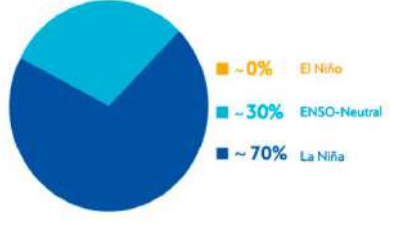
“It is exceptional to have three consecutive years with a La Niña event,” said the organization’s secretary-general, Petteri Taalas, in a news release. “Its cooling influence is temporarily slowing the rise in global temperatures – but it will not halt or reverse the long-term warming trend.”

Where did the term La Niña come from?

La Niña and El Niño are Spanish language terms: La Niña means “little girl,” and El Niño means “little boy,” or “Christ child.” South American fishermen first noticed periods of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean in the 1600s, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. The full name they used was “El

Niño de Navidad” because El Niño typically peaks around December. The entire natural climate cycle is officially known by climate scientists as El Niño – Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a seesaw dance of warmer and cooler seawater in the central Pacific Ocean.

During La Niña events, trade winds are even stronger than usual, pushing more warm water toward Asia, NOAA said. Off the west coast of the Americas, upwelling increases, which brings cold, nutrient-rich water to the surface.



Geneva, 31 August 2022 – It is likely that the protracted La Niña event will last until at least the end of the year, becoming this century’s first “triple-dip” La Niña, spanning three consecutive northern hemisphere winters (southern hemisphere summers), according to a new Update from the World Meteorological Organization.

The WMO El Niño/La Niña Update predicts the continuation of the current La Niña over the next six months, with a 70% chance in September-November 2022 but gradually decreasing to 55% in December-February 2022/2023. It started in September 2020.

La Niña conditions in the tropical Pacific have strengthened as trade winds intensified during mid-July to mid-August 2022, affecting temperature and precipitation patterns and exacerbating drought and flooding in different parts of the world. La Niña refers to the large-scale cooling of the ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, coupled with changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation, namely winds, pressure and rainfall. It usually has the opposite impacts on weather and climate as El Niño, which is the warm phase of the so-called El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).



However, all naturally occurring climate events now take place in the context of human-induced climate change, which is increasing global temperatures, exacerbating extreme weather and climate, and impacting seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns.

“It is exceptional to have three consecutive years with a la Niña event. Its cooling influence is temporarily slowing the rise in global temperatures – but it will not halt or reverse the long-term warming trend,” said WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas.

“The worsening drought in the Horn of Africa and southern South America bear the hallmarks of La Niña, as does the above average rainfall in South-East Asia and Australasia. The new La Niña Update unfortunately confirms regional climate projections that the devastating drought in the Horn of Africa will worsen and affect millions of people.”

“WMO will continue to provide tailored information to the humanitarian sector and to support sensitive sectors like agriculture, food security, health and disaster risk reduction. WMO is also striving towards the goal that everyone should have access to early warning systems in the next five years to protect them against hazards related to our weather, climate and water,” said Prof. Taalas.

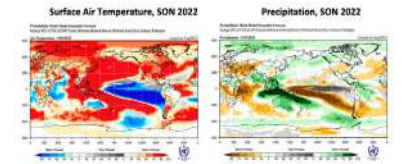
Global Seasonal Climate Outlook El Niño and La Niña are major – but not the only - drivers of the Earth’s climate system. In addition to the long-established ENSO Update, WMO now also issues regular Global Seasonal Climate Updates (GSCU), which incorporate influences of all other major climate drivers such as the North Atlantic Oscillation, the Arctic Oscillation and the Indian Ocean Dipole.

The ENSO and Global Seasonal Climate Updates are based on forecasts from WMO Global Producing Centres of Long-Range Forecasts and are available to support governments, the United Nations, decision-makers and stakeholders in climate sensitive sectors to mobilize preparations and protect lives and livelihoods.

Despite the stubborn La Niña in the equatorial central and eastern Pacific, widespread warmer than-average sea-surface temperatures elsewhere are predicted to dominate the forecast of air temperatures for September to November. This will contribute to above nor-

mal temperatures over land areas, including much of the Northern Hemisphere. Precipitation predictions are similar to typical rainfall effects of La Niña.

Probabilistic forecasts of surface air temperature and precipitation for the season



September-October 2022. The baseline period is 1993–2009.

The World Meteorological Organization is the United Nations System’s authoritative voice on Weather, Climate and Water Related

Yosemite In Peril: How Climate Change’s Grip Is Altering America’s National Parks



YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK – Towering above the other trees in the Mariposa Grove, the Grizzly Giant stands like an adult among toddlers. Twenty-five feet across and almost 20 stories high, the estimated 3,000-year-old sequoia seems invincible.

But the iconic evergreens – and the beloved park around them – are facing a fierce and unrelenting adversary: climate change.

The Grizzly Giant is a giant sequoia tree in Yosemite National Forest’s Mariposa Grove. The tree is 96 feet around, 25 feet across, 209 feet tall and estimated to be about 3,000 years old by the National Park Service.

National Park Service forest ecologist Garrett Dickman bears witness to the struggle. A 22-year drought. Ferocious fires. Vanishing glaciers. Invasive species. Hotter summers and shorter winters.

Walking through the sequoia grove, one of three located in the popular national park visited by 3.3 million people last year, Dickman points out tree after tree, killed by insects, thirst, or both.

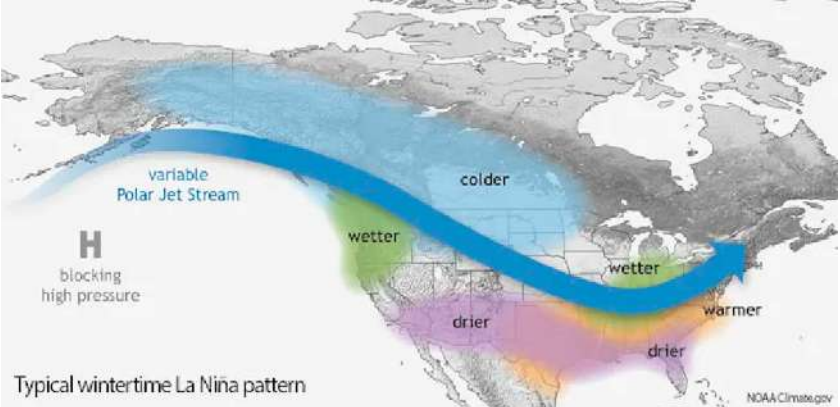
“Sugar pine, ponderosa pine, white fir, giant sequoia. All dead,” he said. “Millions of trees have died within the park’s boundaries.”

The nation’s national parks are places so awe-inspiring they were meant to be forever preserved, “unimpaired” for future generations.

(Article Continues Below)

(Article continues from above)

‘Triple Dip’ La Niña Is On The Way. Here’s What It Means For U.S. Weather



Graphic Courtesy NOAAClimate.gov

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Yosemite In Peril: How Climate Change’s Grip Is Altering America’s National Parks



Yosemite National Park

That’s no longer possible. Last year the park service published a landmark document laying out the harsh realities of global warming. In most of the nation’s parks, much will change, not everything can be saved and some things will be lost forever. The report outlines how park officials must plan in earnest for “unprecedented” future conditions.

Those conditions are already on view at Yosemite. Rhapsodized by naturalist John Muir more than 150 years ago as “God’s first temples,” the park he helped create has long been a place that deeply touches those who visit. But the grandchildren of this year’s visitors will see a different park than the one that beckons today.

Dan Porter, The Nature Conservancy’s California Forest Program Director, first worked at Yosemite in 1996 as part of a children’s program.

“Back then, the thought that it could be irreparably changed didn’t even cross our minds,” he said. “Seeing what is happening there tells us there is no place on Earth that is safe anymore from the impacts of our unsustainable way of living.”

‘A species shift’

On a blazing August day, Dickman stood at Yosemite’s Wawona Point, nearly 3,000 feet above the valley floor, surveying the forest far below. In the last five years, the area has been devoured by

flames: the Railroad fire in 2017, the Ferguson fire in 2018 and the Washburn fire in 2022. All were high-intensity fires that charred large patches of forest.



Fires, a critical part of this ecosystem, now burn so hot that instead of being beneficial, clearing dead brush and sparking new tree growth, they leave only scorched earth. What regrows may no longer be a woodland. In the last 80 years, the climate has become warmer, drier and suited for an entirely different landscape.

“We’re seeing a species shift,” he said, pointing toward the chaparral and brushland emerging from the seared ground. “In a few areas, what’s coming back isn’t forest at all, it’s cheatgrass.”

As the composition of the forest changes, no one knows what that will mean for the animals, birds and insects that have evolved to inhabit it.

“Even five years ago, we thought whitebark pine was doing great and now we’re seeing it die in large patches,” Dickman said, shaking his head. “Just this year, for the first time, I’m seeing Douglas fir being killed by insects and woodpeckers at large scale.”

The southern edge of the Douglas fir’s range, he says, is “moving north before our eyes.”

For those who return to Yosemite again and again, the changes hit hard. After decades of hiking the park’s trails, there are some places Carl Casey, 67, can no longer bear to return to, however much he once loved them.

“There’s just so much change and so many dead trees,” he said. “It’s devastating.”



‘Billions of seeds’

Giant sequoia evolved to drop their seeds after fires when leaf litter on the ground has been burned away and competing vegetation creates gaps in the tree canopy to bring them sunlight. But last summer, some of the largest giant sequoias in Mariposa Grove released their seeds, not during a fire, but during a heat wave.

“We’ve never seen this before,” said Anthony Ambrose, executive director of the Ancient Forest Society, a nonprofit forest research and outreach organization that works with the park service. He’s spent years working in the grove and was deeply disturbed by what he saw.

The seeds, which should have fallen on mineral-rich soil cleared by fire, instead fell in leaf litter on the forest floor. When summer came, the mulch couldn’t hold enough moisture to support them.

“When we went back this spring, there were literally billions of seeds on the ground that had dried up and died because the conditions weren’t appropriate for them to germinate,” Ambrose said. Scientists aren’t sure why the seeds fell without the trigger of a fire. It happened during a drought and an intense heat wave, as smoke from fires miles away filled the grove. Perhaps some combination of all three confused the trees.



A burned-over area near Wawona Point in Yosemite National Park.

“Things are changing in the ecosystem. We’re still trying to understand,” said Ambrose.

Deanna Lynn Wulff, who’s been hiking the park for more than 30 years, has stopped taking one of her favorite trails. The San Francisco resident says it’s transformed.

“There are trees I’ve been walking by for decades and now they’re dead,” she said. “I am seeing big changes and it is tough to witness climate change happen before your eyes.”

‘Kiln-dried lumber’

Yosemite also is in the throes of a 22-year megadrought, worse than any since the year 800 AD. While droughts have always come and gone in the West, it’s also getting hotter. Temperatures are on average 1.6 degrees warmer than they were in 1895. The average minimum nighttime temperature is now 7.6 degrees warmer than it was in 1915. Less snow and rain has turned trees into tinder. Dickman has tested branches with fuel moisture levels of 8%.

“As a comparison, the kiln-dried lumber you buy at the lumber store has a moisture content of 8% to 14%,” he said.

Studies show that 1,200 years ago, Yosemite went through an intense drought and some giant sequoi-

as died during high-severity fires.

“The record of losing giant sequoias (to environmental causes) doesn’t start up again until the 1980s,” Dickman said.



Garrett Dickman, a forest ecologist with Yosemite National Park, showing the age of a sugar pine that died due to drought and bark beetle infestation.

Last year, the nation’s giant sequoia managers added up all the remaining trees. To their horror, the number of the threatened redwoods, harvested almost to extinction in the 1800s, had decreased significantly.

“We tallied it all up and we’d lost 20% of them in just two years,” Dickman said.

‘Others just die’

The megadrought is part of a one-two punch that’s hurting the park’s woodlands in ways even casual visitors can see.

Water-stressed trees are easy to spot because they look like they’ve had a bad haircut. Dickman can stand in one place, turn in a circle and point out dozens. Under drought conditions, the trees drop needles, through which they lose water, to protect themselves.

Sometimes there’s so little water the trees simply can’t pump it all the way to their crowns. “Then their top dies off,” Dickman explained.

Some trees send out a new top, or a lower branch will crook upward and become the tree’s new trunk. “Others,” he said, “just die.”



Trees in Yosemite National Park dying from the top down, primarily due to drought and bark beetle infestation.

The drought also is making trees more susceptible to bark beetles. While native to the region, an almost three-month increase in frost-free days means the beetles can reproduce more.

Under normal circumstances, they only attack diseased or damaged trees, digging through the bark to eat the nutrient-rich wood underneath and lay their eggs.

Healthy, well-watered, trees fight off the beetles by trapping them in sticky pitch and pushing them out through the bark – a process known as “pitching the bugs out,” said Dickman.

“The trees can fight back,” he said. “Giant sequoia pitch especially is really gnarly, it’s bitter and awful.”

But water-stressed trees can’t create enough pitch to expel the beetles. When that happens, the beetles multiply, sometimes killing a tree within six months. Between 2010 to 2019, the Forest Service estimates more than 163 million trees in California’s forests were killed, mostly by bark beetles. The beetles can’t get through the thick bark at a tree’s base. Instead, they attack at the tree’s top,

where the bark is thin and there is less pitch.

Dickman pointed to tree after tree, topped with brown, dead needles. “They die from the top down,” he said.



been visiting for 20 years.

Throughout the park, signs of the drought are inescapable.

Paul Wagner, 70, of Napa, California, has been coming to the park for 52 years.

“It used to be people wanted to know how bad the mosquitos are. Now they ask if there’s going to be any water in the creeks,” he said.

The meadows are drier. When he first began coming, wildflowers bloomed all summer. “Now by August a lot of them are drying up and there are no flowers.”

‘Protect this place’

Larry Orman, 73, is a conservation advocate who started his career as a white water rafting guide on the Tuolumne river in the 1970s. He founded the Greenbelt Alliance, a California conservation nonprofit and spent 19 years as director of the GreenInfo Network, which creates maps to aid conservation groups.

He takes the long view.

“Remember, there’s a lot about Yosemite that nobody’s going to change except for a meteor,” he said.



Yosemite National Park’s Tunnel View scenic overlook provides a first, stunning look at the valley floor and the soaring granite look that created El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall and Half Dome.

The park’s geology and its awe-inspiring formations will endure. There’s a reason the Tunnel View Overlook, with its first, breathtaking view of the valley and its soaring granite guardians, El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall and Half Dome, draws as many as 7,000 visitors a day.

The park and its ecosystem will be different as climate change shifts its ecology, and it won’t be Orman’s park anymore, but it’s going to be someone’s, he said.

And whatever that is will still be worth fighting to save.

That’s what keeps Dickman motivated, no matter how many dead trees he has to tag for removal.

“It’s fully worth doing everything we can to protect this place,” he said. “How could you not?” (Courtesy <https://www.yahoo.com/now/yosemite-peril-climate-change-grip-090032946.html>)

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宏武协会会员表演太极和武术



出席年会的前会长罗茜莉(右二)与校友们在年会上合影



出席大会的校友周宏(左二)等人与表演者Yvonne 陈(右一)在餐会上

本报记者 秦鸿钧摄影



校友们表演合唱



校友们在年会上先享用午餐及交谊



图为二百多位校友出席年会的盛况



图为(左起)禹道庆,与罗茜莉、罗茜莉的媳妇与孙子在大会上