



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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New Public Comment Summary for Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Available

Do you love to visit Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks? Did you know that nearly 97% of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is designated or managed as wilderness? Are you interested in how wilderness is managed at the parks? If so, you may be interested in reading a summary of over 900 comments received about the parks' wilderness from over 41 states and 4 countries (Australia, Germany, Slovakia, and the United States) from a public scoping comment period in spring/summer 2011. This report, and related comments, will assist park managers in developing alternatives for the draft Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (WSP/EIS) for management of wilderness in these parks. Topics that received the majority of comments included stock use, commercial services, and the use of campfires. For the report and more information, visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>. To obtain a hard-copy or CD of the report, please call 559-565-3102. Anyone who would like to be included on the mailing list for updates about this project should supply his/her name and either an e-mail or physical mailing address to: SEKI_Planning@nps.gov. Please include the following on the subject line: *WSP Mailing List*.

Through the WSP/EIS process, the National Park Service will identify and analyze a range of alternatives for the care of wilderness to include providing appropriate types and levels of access for visitors and authorized users, preserving wilderness character, protecting cultural (historic/archeological) and natural resources, and adhering to legally-mandated management and preservation requirements. Alternatives workshops will be conducted for the public in October 2012. The tentative date for completion of the final WSP/EIS is expected in early 2015.

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As an implementation-level plan, the WSP/EIS will provide detailed guidance on a variety of issues including, but not limited to: day and overnight use; wilderness permitting; use of campfires; wildlife and proper food storage; party size; camping and campsites; human waste management; stock use; meadow management; research activities; wildlife management in wilderness; cultural resources in wilderness; maintenance of trails, bridges or other necessary infrastructure; and the "minimum requirement" for administration of the areas as wilderness. In addition, the draft plan will include an analysis of the extent to which commercial services are necessary to fulfill the recreational and other purposes of wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

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SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.