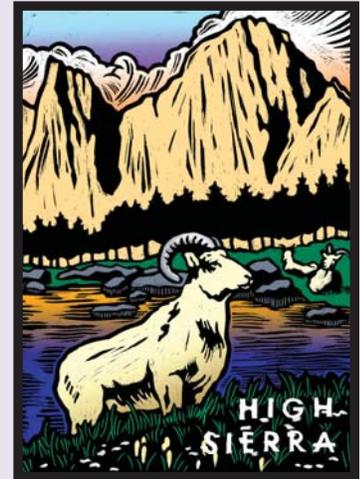
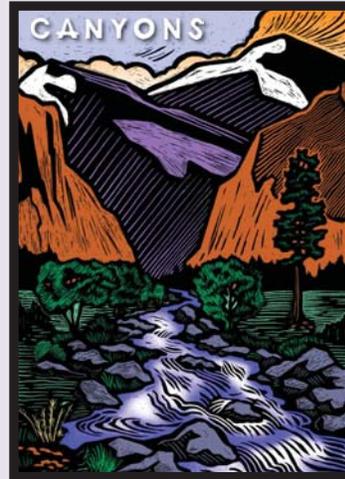


Summer 2014 - Visitor Guide

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



Celebrating 50 Years of Wilderness!

For fifty years now, Americans have overseen and cherished a national system of wilderness areas. Wilderness lands in 44 states protect the water, air, wildlife habitat, natural ecosystems, ancient sites, and scenic beauty that inspire us both first hand and from a distance. Here in Sequoia and Kings Canyon, over 96% of the landscape is both park and wilderness.

Exactly what makes *wilderness*? The word and the experience mean something different to everyone, but the 1964 Wilderness Act provides a definition. It is a place, the law says, where "man himself is a visitor who does not remain." It offers opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude, challenge and self-reliance. It's where the landscape is *self-willed* — no human purpose controls its natural processes — and where people can go to feel part of that and to learn from it.

This country protects wilderness for the present and future benefits it offers. Part of our heritage and our history, it is held in trust for us and for our de-

scendants. Like national parks, it is one of this nation's best ideas.

One treasure offered by such wild places is dark night skies. Celebrate the wild spaces overhead on July 25-27 in these parks. Events to inform and delight all ages will include meeting astronomers, using large telescopes for deep-sky viewing, making solar observations, and more. See www.sequoia-history.org for details, and enjoy!

During your visit, please remember: We are in the third year of a drought. Please conserve water whenever possible. Fire danger is high, so check the local restrictions in each area, and be even more careful than usual with anything hot: brakes and mufflers (cars do start wildfires), matches and cigarettes, barbecues and campfires. Thank you for everything you do to protect the parks, the wildlife, and each other!



Upper Basin in the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness.

Photo courtesy of Isaac Chellman

See details inside

Bears & food storage.....	11
Camping	4
Crystal Cave Tours.....	5
Exploring on your own:	
Sequoia & Shuttle.....	6
Kings Canyon & USFS	7
Facilities & hours	8-9
Lodging	5
Map	8
Nature & ecosystems	3
Phone numbers	2
Ranger programs	5
Road information, delays..	12
Safety	10
Shuttle in Giant Forest.....	6
Visitor centers	2
Wilderness permits	11