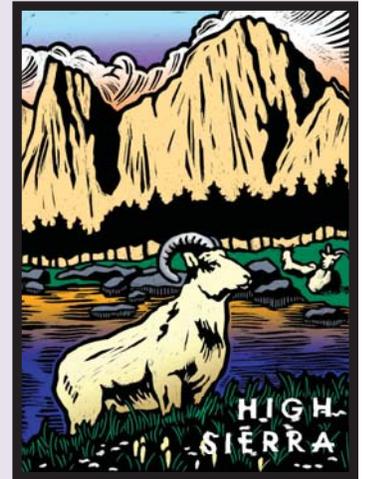
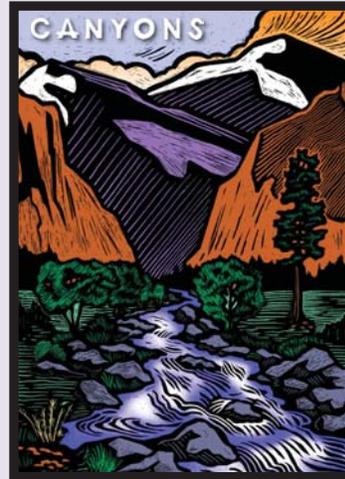




Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



Celebrate 50 Years of Wilderness!

For fifty years now, a national system of wilderness areas has belonged to us all. Since 1964, landscapes in 44 states have been designated wild by law. Here in Sequoia and Kings Canyon, over 96% of the parks is also protected as wilderness.

Exactly what makes a *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. A wild landscape is *untrammelled* or self-willed—no human purpose controls its natural processes.

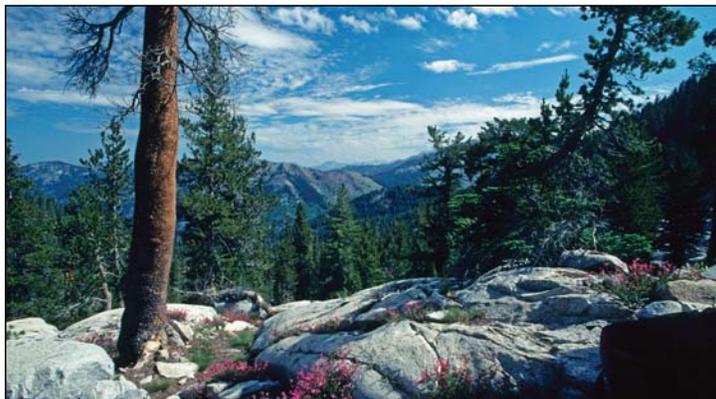
Wilderness areas protect multiple values: wildlife habitat, natural ecosystems, ancient and historic sites, waterways, and scenic beauty. It provides a laboratory to study not only these resources but our-

selves in relation to them—our place in the scheme of things.

In these parks, wilderness offers a wide variety of experiences, depending on elevation and season. From foothill oaks and chaparral, to evergreen forests, to the cold peaks of the Sierra Crest, these parks preserve wilderness for you to enjoy. You don't have to go far

to connect with wilderness; in fact, you don't have to go at all. Wild places can be visited in the mind and heart as well as in person.

Like national parks, wilderness is one of this nation's best ideas. Part of our heritage and our history, it is held in trust for us and for our descendants—truly something to celebrate!



High above the Mineral King Valley in Sequoia National Park. Photo courtesy of Rick Cain

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