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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Cedar Grove Bridge Environmental Assessment Completed in Kings Canyon National Park

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the replacement of the Cedar Grove Bridge in Kings Canyon National Park has been completed and finalized, with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) signed by Acting National Park Service (NPS) Regional Director Rory Westburg on January 11, 2010. The NPS, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will implement alternative B, the replacement of the existing bridge with a 280-foot bridge constructed in the same location. Alternative B consists of four elements: 1) preparing for demolition, construction, and restoration, 2) removing the existing bridge, 3) constructing the new bridge, and 4) protecting the bridge and restoring the river.

The FONSI, floodplain statement of findings, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 7 determination, along with the EA, constitute the record of the environmental impact analysis and conservation planning for this project. All of these documents are also available at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/seki>

The Cedar Grove Bridge was constructed in 1939. In its current condition, the bridge does not provide a safe, durable, sustainable passage for vehicles at Cedar Grove, is unsafe for pedestrians and bicycles, and restricts the free-flowing character of the South Fork of the Kings River, particularly during high water and flood events. The EA was prepared by the NPS in cooperation with the FHWA and was released for a 30-day public review on November 2, 2009.

Two comments were received during the public review period. Neither commenter provided any additional, new, or substantive information or new alternatives that would require revising the EA for additional public review or that would change the determination of effects.

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