



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

For Immediate Release: July 16, 2014

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Public Invited to Meetings/Webinar about Draft Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA—Join National Park Service staff for public meetings (July 23, 24, and 28) and a webinar (August 14) featuring the Wilderness Stewardship Plan / Draft Environmental Impact Statement (WSP/DEIS) for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The public meetings and webinar will provide opportunities to learn more about the WSP/DEIS, interact with park staff, and ask questions about the plan. The public meetings will begin with an open house at 6 p.m. with posters and information about the alternatives. A formal presentation will start at 7 p.m.

July 23, 2014

6-9 p.m.

Richard Trudeau Training Center
11500 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94605

July 24, 2014

6-9 p.m.

Eastern Sierra Tri-county Fairgrounds
Tallman Pavilion
Bishop, CA 93514

July 28, 2014

6-9 p.m.

Visalia Marriott Hotel
300 South Court Street
Visalia, CA 93291

The webinar will be held on Thursday, August 14, from 3-4 p.m. This webinar will highlight the preferred alternative, and there will be opportunities for the public to ask more questions about the plan. To register for the webinar, please visit yose.webex.com. The call-in number will be 1-866-919-3108, and the password will be 4700949. The webinar will be recorded and available for download from yose.webex.com and from the National Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>.

More information, including the WSP/DEIS are available electronically on the PEPC website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild> or by calling Nancy Hendricks, environmental protection specialist, at (559) 565-3102. CD versions of the document are also available.

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Interested parties are encouraged to make comments about the WSP/EIS by on the PEPC website. **All public comments must be received by August 25, 2014.** Electronic comments will only be accepted through this website. Comments will also be accepted in writing (either hand-delivery, by mail, or fax). To submit written comments by letter, you may send them by U.S. Postal Service or other mail delivery service, or hand-deliver your comments to Superintendent, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, *Attn: WSP/DEIS*, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271. In addition, faxed comments will be accepted at (559) 565-4202. Anonymous comments will not be considered.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment--including your personal identifying information--may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Anonymous comments will not be considered.

Background Information:

The parks’ total designated wilderness is now 808,078 acres — approximately 93.3% of the total park acreage of 865,964. In addition, because the southern end of the Hockett Plateau (approximately 29,500 acres) remains proposed wilderness, it is managed as wilderness, according to law (PL 111-11) and NPS policy. The parks also contain several designated potential wilderness additions (DPWA), including the area around the Pear Lake Ski Hut and Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp. Altogether, designated and proposed wilderness areas comprise nearly 97% of the total acreage of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

– NPS –

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 nearly 1.47 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. *Info: www.nps.gov/seki or 559-565-3341.*