



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon  
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## Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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### **Report Now Available with Feedback from the General Public, Organizations, and Agencies on Preliminary Draft Alternatives for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**

*SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA* – The National Park Service has issued the *Preliminary Draft Alternatives Public Comment Summary Report* for review. The report includes feedback from the general public, organizations, and agencies obtained during a public comment period from October 3, 2012, through November 19, 2012, when Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks solicited public input on preliminary draft alternatives for the parks' Wilderness Stewardship Plan. The report, as well as the full text of all correspondence received during the comment period and more information about the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, is available on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>. If someone does not have access to the Internet, a printed copy or CD copy of the report may be requested by calling the Environmental Compliance Office at 559-565-4266. A limited number of printed copies are available.

As part of the scoping process, five public meetings were held in California in Bishop, Los Angeles, Oakland, Visalia, and Three Rivers from October 25-30, 2012. A total of 93 people participated in the meetings and shared their perspectives on wilderness stewardship in the parks. Comments gathered at the public meetings have also been included in the report.

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks received a total of 201 pieces of correspondence during the scoping period. Most correspondents provided feedback on multiple aspects of wilderness stewardship. The majority of comments addressed the topics of pack stock use, commercial services, and zoning. All written and verbal correspondence has been read and is being considered in preparation of the draft environmental impact statement and draft wilderness stewardship plan.

The staff at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is currently in the process of preparing final draft alternatives and a draft environmental impact statement for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan. It is anticipated that the draft environmental impact statement and draft wilderness stewardship plan, including the final draft alternatives, will be completed late in calendar year 2013. Once completed, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks will release the documents to the public for comment and conduct additional public workshops.

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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 nearly 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. The majority of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, nearly 97% of the land or approximately 835,000 acres, is managed as wilderness, including the Sequoia-Kings Canyon and John Krebs wildernesses. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) or call 559-565-3341.