



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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### **National Park Service Seeks Public Comments about Management Options for 12 Park-owned Buildings in Wilsonia at Kings Canyon National Park**

*SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA*-- The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public comments about alternatives for the management of 12 NPS-owned properties located within the Wilsonia area of Kings Canyon National Park as part of an environmental assessment (EA) process. The EA is available electronically on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/seki> or by calling Nancy Hendricks, environmental protection specialist, at (559) 565-3102. Interested parties are encouraged to make comments about the EA on the PEPC website. Comments about the EA will also be accepted in writing (either hand-delivery, by mail, or fax). Comments submitted by e-mail will not be accepted. All public comments must be received by April 30, 2013. 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: NPS-owned structures in Wilsonia EA, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271. In addition, faxed comments will be accepted at (559) 565-4202. Anonymous comments will not be accepted. **NOTE:** *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.*

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The objectives of the proposed project include:

- Identifying the buildings that could be maintained, in the future, in a sustainable and economically responsible fashion and identifying alternatives for the long-term preservation of those buildings
- Determining the level of maintenance and rehabilitation for each NPS-owned building retained
- Developing an implementation strategy for preserving the area's historic resources
- Maintaining the buildings in a manner consistent with the park's purpose/mandate of the protection of resources

The buildings are located within the "Wilsonia Historic District," which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1996 and was subsequently expanded in 2011. A total of 11 of the 12 NPS-owned structures are considered "contributing resources" within the Wilsonia Historic District. The EA examines in detail seven alternatives, including the no action alternative, considering a comprehensive disposition plan for the NPS-owned properties in Wilsonia.

### **Background Information:**

- Public comments were incorporated in the development of alternatives in the environmental assessment. A press release describing the project and announcing a 30-day public comment period was issued on November 21, 2011. Another news release, issued on December 16, 2011, extended the initial public comment period through January 21, 2012. A letter announcing the opportunity to comment was sent by mail or e-mailed to 779 individuals, agencies, interest groups, and businesses. This communication included letters to 170 Wilsonia residents. A total of 160 media representatives were notified by press release of the public scoping period, and 61 tribes, tribal representatives, or affiliated groups were notified by letter. During the 60-day public comment period, the parks received 43 separate letters and 3 form letters. One of the primary themes brought forward during public scoping is that Wilsonia is a big part of the local history, and the integrity of the Wilsonia Historic District needs to be preserved for generations to come.
- Wilsonia is primarily a seasonal (summer) community which consists of private in-holdings and NPS-owned properties. This community, southeast of the Grant Grove Village area, was established as a homestead on 160 acres, prior to the park's designation in 1890. In 1918, the homestead was subdivided and the area was named "Wilsonia" after President Woodrow Wilson. The subdivided property was then sold for summer cabin development. Most of the cabins in Wilsonia were built between 1919 and 1945.

For more information about Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, visit [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) or call 559-565-3341.

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