National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Hwy.
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: August 22, 2013
Contact: Matt Fagan
Phone Number: (559) 565-3131

National Park Service Seeks Public Input about Proposed Fee Increases for Four Campgrounds in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA – The National Park Service is seeking public input from August 22-September 21, 2013, about proposed increases to campsite fees for Potwisha, Buckeye Flat, Lodgepole, and Dorst Creek campgrounds at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to cover use of a reservation system and additional projects to benefit park users. Under the proposal, starting in May 2014, campsite rental fees in Potwisha and Buckeye campgrounds could increase from $18 to $22. Campsite rental fees at Lodgepole and Dorst Creek campgrounds could increase from $20 to $22. This is the first proposed fee increase for campgrounds since 2003. **All public comments must be received by September 21, 2013.**

Interested parties are encouraged to make comments electronically via the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/seki. Click on: Proposal to Increase Camping Fees at Four Campgrounds within Sequoia National Park. Comments about this proposed fee increase will be accepted in writing (either hand-delivery, by mail, or fax). Comments submitted by e-mail *will not* be accepted. 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: Proposal to Increase Camping Fees 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.*

- continued on page 2 -

- continued from page 1 -

With the fee increase, the public would see the following improvements to customer service:

- Four reservable campgrounds in the park would allay concerns about not finding campsites after arrival.
- The cost of the reservation system would be paid by campground users.
- Once the reservation system has been set up, campground reservations may be made by calling Recreation.gov at 1-877-444-6777 from 10 a.m.-12 midnight EST or at www.recreation.gov (available 24 hours a day). Expanded trip-planning information will available on the website, too.
- Use of the reservation system is expected to reduce congestion and user conflicts in Potwisha and Buckeye Flat campgrounds, thus providing less impact on people who are camping by people searching for available campsites.

Two other campgrounds with an 18-year track record on the reservation system—Lodgepole and Dorst Creek—serve as successful models for how the reservation system is expected to work in the new locations. Over 42,000 people benefit from reservations at Lodgepole and Dorst Creek campgrounds each summer *(This statistic is based upon a three-year average of reserved campsites from 2010 through2012 for Lodgepole Campground from late May through late September and for Dorst Creek Campground from the end of June through early September.)*

– NPS –