



Sequoia & Kings Canyon

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS / General Management Plan Update / Newsletter 7 / Spring 2002

Dick Martin has been superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon for over a year.

"I'm excited about being back to the Sierra," Martin said, "and delving into the many challenges Sequoia and Kings Canyon have to offer, including sustaining the values of wilderness and natural resource management. I am enjoying working with the parks staff, concessioners and other organizations on park issues." "Martin is no stranger to the Sierra Nevada or Sequoia and Kings Canyon," said Regional Director, John Reynolds. "He will bring back his experiences as a ranger of these parks and the wisdom gained as a park superintendent, most recently in Death Valley National Park." Dick succeeded Mike Tollefson who transferred as superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee and North Carolina.

Martin has held positions in NPS areas around the nation, including Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Alaska where he was superintendent and in the office of Ranger Activities in Washington, D.C. He has held park ranger positions in Yosemite National Park, California and Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks in Washington. He worked in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in the 1970s for the backcountry office and as the Sierra Crest sub-district ranger. Martin is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in Natural Resources and Forestry.

Where is the GMP?

As you recall, the park also had other staff changes, including a new backcountry / wilderness plan manager. These positions were critical to the teamwork in a GMP and the superintendent and other new staff are now very familiar with the GMP planning issues and background.

Spring / Summer 2001. With fresh viewpoints, the team wanted to consolidate and reduce the number of management zones and present the alternatives matrix in an easier to follow and more consistent format. Some additional actions were included to provide consistent analysis of alternatives. The addition of the 1540-acre Dillonwood Grove of giant sequoias to the park also necessitated some revisions to the range of alternatives. Impacts of the four alternatives from newsletter 5 were initially analyzed. The analysis formed the decision-making basis for crafting a preferred alternative.

Fall 2001 - Preferred Alternative developed. A value analysis process, called "choosing by advantages" was used to develop a preferred alternative, which includes advantageous elements from every alternative. During the process the alternatives were compared; non-monetary advantages identified, numeric values assigned and tabulated; cost estimates compared and then a preferred alternative was thoughtfully developed. The preferred alternative increased benefits while reducing implementation costs.

What is happening now? We are completing analysis of the preferred alternative. Various sections of the document are being pulled together. Alternative maps are being developed using GIS (geographic information system), allowing more detailed mapping to become part of analysis. As often happens, both the GMP process and GIS mapping helped the park uncover additional issues that need to be addressed. Writing, editing and reviews for a large document take a great deal of time. However, a draft GMP/EIS is expected to be out for public review this fall.



Tell us what GMP/DEIS format you want. We'd like to send you a copy of the document on computer-readable compact disk (CD), which will allow you more freedom to explore maps at various scales and track topics that are of interest to you. Use of CDs also saves money. Printed copies will be available at the park, sent to local libraries and interest groups. A CD will be sent unless you request another format. Requests can be made via mail or e:mail to the address on this newsletter.

Mail to:

**National Park Service
Denver Service Center
Susan Spain – PSD
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver CO 80225-0287**

E:mail to:

susan_spain@nps.gov or david_graber@nps.gov

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Denver Service Center / Spain DSC-LA
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PO Box 25287
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