



Correspondence ID: 1 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,22,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keep the wilderness as pristine as possible.

Topic Question 2: Remove bear boxes and use an equitable quota system for packers similar to the system used for backpackers.

Topic Question 3: I seek a truly wild experience - meaning for example that trails do not need bridges. I often have planned part of my trips to include crosscountry travel.

Topic Question 4: Obviously, hiking. I have no objection to stock parties such as horses or lamas but they should be limited in size and number.

Topic Question 5: I favor small party sizes and no campfires in the high country. With the advent of relatively light weight bear canisters, I think the bear boxes can be removed. This would also put SKC on the same basis as Yosemite NP.

Topic Question 6: All mountaineers should be required to use low impact climbing techniques. No hardware should be left behind and no chalk on rocks.

Topic Question 7: The current quota system works well but needs to applied to packers.

Topic Question 8: I believe only the main trails should be maintained in the future. This includes the Muir, High Sierra, and tributary trails. No new trails are needed. In some locations, trail rerouting is still needed to protect meadows or wet areas. Also, something needs to be done about Sawtooth Pass at Mineral King. Perhaps a formal route using Glacier Pass could be devised to avoid the erosion problems of multiple pathways on the "granite sand" at the top. No trail reconstruction should be undertaken only to lessen grades. Most trails have too many switchbacks as it is.

Correspondence ID: 2 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Apr,23,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: See comments below
Topic Question 2: See comments below
Topic Question 3: See comments below
Topic Question 4: See comments below
Topic Question 5: See comments below
Topic Question 6: See comments below
Topic Question 7: See comments below
Topic Question 8: See comments below

Over the last 35 years we have consistently observed the inexorable march by government nanny bureaucrats and sierra club nazis to make Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks as "user-vicious" as possible.

"We the people" pay for the parks and yet the things we can do to enjoy them have been steadily eroded by environmental do-gooders. And you have the audacity to charge more for giving us LESS...after our taxes have already PAID for it.

Giant Forest used to be a great place to stay at a hotel or a housekeeping cabin or pick up some groceries. Well the nannies got at it and said it all had to go but would be moved to a "safer place for the trees." Naturally it was all bulldozed and then never replaced. Massive user-vicious victory for the tree huggers #1.

Then they re-routed the parking for General Sherman so it's a hefty uphill hike to get to the tree and back. Yeah, granny's gonna do that. Ultra nasty user-vicious victory #2.

You can't get gas in the park any longer. User-vicious victory #3.

You currently delay traffic into the park for hours at a time. User-vicious victory #4.

The wonderful housekeeping rustic cabins and the hotel were replaced by Wuksachi, an exercise in sad mediocrity if ever there was one. User-vicious victory #5.

These are just the major disasters that come to mind. It's no wonder the park is virtually unknown to California residents. You've removed most of the joy that can be had there.

My request for park management? Systematically un-do all the user viciousness and make it once again a park for its owners...the people, ALL the people and not just the elitist tree-hugger crowd.

Correspondence ID: 3 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Fresno public scoping meeting

What is going to be going on 50 yrs from now? How can we keep people connected to wilderness?

It's got to be relevant - we need to connect people to get support/funds.

There's not a lot of opportunity for wilderness education such as "LNT" other than paying for this through a non-profit or other entity such as Big Game Hunters (BGH).

I don't think someone should be able to make money in our wilderness.

There shouldn't be a need to exclude commercial v. public use if they are managed properly.

Correspondence ID: 4 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Fresno public scoping meeting

Zoning - There may be places where you zone for non-commercial stock or one-horse-one-rider type of zoning.

A lot of stock on commercial trips are just delivery services; private stock stay for trips.

It's all about balance - be sensitive to those who can't access wilderness. Provide an outside experience - wilderness. You can't accommodate everyone on all facets.

Do you have any info on what impacts stock use is having on the meadows, i.e. species difference between what was in meadows v. what is there after stock use.

This info should drive how much (stock) use is allowed in what areas. It may vary by area.

Correspondence ID: 5 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Fresno public scoping meeting

It's very nice to have backcountry areas where you can get off the main trails and away from busy areas.

Linkage to frontcountry - no place in frontcountry campsites that's "smoke free", no campfires.

U.S. and SEKI setting the standard for world parks.

Correspondence ID: 6 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Oakland public scoping meeting Giant Sequoia Management
Fisher Habitat
Invasive Fish
Non-native Plants
Meadow Management - grazing, opening dates, vulnerability to climate change
Forest pesticides and increased mortality
Wilderness Stewardship Plan needs to foster and support research and education in order to address these issues.
It needs to be easier to get a permit.

Correspondence ID: 7 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Oakland public scoping meeting

capacity - need adequate monitoring data to assess visitor impacts and make decisions about use levels

stock use - not off trail, no new zoning, especially in alpine, impacts

"consistency" is not the same as good stewardship, e.g. 1993 increase in party size - inappropriate

Correspondence ID: 8 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Los Angeles public scoping meeting
Sequoia Groves - similarities / differences v. wilderness as a whole
Preserve existing ecosystems
No trail development near surface root zone of giant sequoias
Mostly just preserve the beauty and diversity of the existing parkland. There is plenty of developed land out there. The undeveloped remoteness of Sequoia/Kings Canyon is a large part of its value.
Thanks for all the good work!

Correspondence ID: 9 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Fresno public scoping meeting

Technology in Wilderness - Cellphones - permitted technology or prohibited? - Address new technologies - spot Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS), effect of feeling on wilderness - Ability to get away from technology - changes mindset to be forced to do without technology - Could lost place to leave technology behind

Equity - Problem when commercial services displace private users - How communications operators operate - more resources/stock, no "go light" ethic has a different impact, teach "light"

Correspondence ID: 10 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Fresno public scoping meeting
Spot dunnage more common Stock removed same day Overnight stock trips less common
Disconnect between group size limits 15 to 20 vs. 15 - much higher impact from stock party.
Do we have info regarding stock impacts on meadows?
Research not there to understand stock use impacts.
Bring new scientific info on meadow impacts into planning.

Correspondence ID: 11 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Fresno public scoping meeting
What research is allowed and how long?
What is the level of detail? Down to the level of specific trail? New trail building and trail decommissioning?
Are you going to change access at trailheads? How you get in...permit pick-up affects timing...limits trip options - can't start at night.
Permit pick-up platoons people.

Correspondence ID: 12 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Oakland public scoping meeting
Concerned about campfires - leftover fire rings, safety
Concerned about party size
Would like to see stock users support hikers - not everyone is riding
Group size - you must have reasonable logical reasons (science-based) to limit / decrease group size
Zoning is an appropriate thing to look at
Climbing management
Look at parks that have zoning to see if it works

Correspondence ID: 13 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Oakland public scoping meeting

Disease transmission from pack goats to sheep

Sign of stock use Kid Lakes area - concern about off trail use of pack stock in general

Pit toilets can be a good idea but many have not been maintained. Many built to close to trail. Educate users on use of pit toilets. Investigate new technologies.

Too many people at Guitar Lake.

Correspondence ID: 14 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,04,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Oakland public scoping meeting

We need to preserve the historic buildings in wilderness - determine which ones warrant protection.

Correspondence ID: 15 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,04,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Bishop public scoping meeting

Simplicity of rules and regulations

Overflights

Stock party size

Trail maintenance - vary

Correspondence ID: 16 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,04,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Visalia public scoping meeting

Will use trend and condition data be available on the PEPC site / park website?

How does this planning effort relate to other ongoing planning efforts such as the Mineral King Plan?

Public meeting should be an open discussion.

Are studies conducted with an open mind and without bias to truly capture the range of conditions?

Will water supply/watershed integrity be addressed in the plan?

Correspondence ID: 17 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,04,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: Flipchart comments from Visalia public scoping meeting

Can see that recreational use will inevitably be limited - don't want to see that happen.

Need to maintain recreational opportunities - open to livestock but not motor vehicles. Would also like to allow dogs in wilderness.

Keep it open for the horses.

Please re-open Big Stump for visitor use - move the entrance station so equestrians can park and use the trailhead / staging area.

Correspondence ID: 18 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,04,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Fax
Correspondence:

I began backpacking in the Sierra in 1967 when there were no permits and campfires were "traditional". Campfires were recognized as a detriment to the high alpine environment and were banned. When will "traditional" stock use be recognized as an equal or greater detriment to the environment and banned. Last summer I worked on a volunteer trail maintenance project. I was amazed at how little trail work was accomplished because of the labor intensive needs of building to a standard for stock. One of our two projects was relocating a trail because the mules packs hung up on rocks next to the adequate for foot traffic trail. There were many other necessary projects in the area, iceberging campsites too close to water, trails for mules ate so many labor hours other projects weren't accomplished. Stock manure and flies and dust and trail damage are a huge negative in my wilderness experience. I would rather see helicopters used for necessary resupply in the backcountry over stock. A further thought on trails in the wilderness, Why are trails put into wilderness? Let it be wilderness. I feel that permitting and party size should be limited by environmental impact. Looking at the huge negative impact of stock there party size and usage should be limited severely if continued. Human waste in the backcountry is an ongoing education problem. Would an annual mandatory class in "cat hole" construction and necessity be possible? Summary execution of backcountry violators of waste management practices would be fine with me.

Please manage the wilderness so that is preserved for my son and future generations to enjoy.

Correspondence ID: 19 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,05,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned of the loss of habitat for animals.

Topic Question 3: Enable visitors to have safe passage. But they need to be educated about how to do it responsibly.

Topic Question 4: Backpacking, camping and hiking. Littering is inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Make bear boxes available and education about taking care of environment should be easily accessible or available.

Topic Question 6: Good idea!

Correspondence ID: 20 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,11,2011 16:25:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that stock users will be restricted, or denied access to these National Parks.

Topic Question 2: Strengthen LNT & Gentle Use education to all visitors. Have volunteer groups, such as Backcountry Horsemen of California, set up informational tables to let visitors know their impact on the resource. Wilderness Riders of BCHC are trained to do this very thing.

Topic Question 3: I believe it should be available to us, but it is important that visitors be held accountable for their actions. If some visitors are not treating the resources according to LNT principles, there should be fines or restrictions for those visitors.

Topic Question 4: Anything natural, that does not destroy or compromise the natural surroundings. Motorized vehicles...not appropriate. Firecrackers...not appropriate. Use of common sense and good judgment...very rare but very important!

Topic Question 5: Group sizes should be limited...if you are visiting the wilderness, aren't you trying to get away from the crowds? Between 12-20...depending on the specific area. Campfires should be for food preparation when necessary, but if fuel is limited, then campfires should be restricted in those areas.

Topic Question 6: Guided trips are good...too many novice thrill-seekers end up lost or hurt if they are on their own. Again, they would just have to abide by the same guidelines as every other visitor.

Topic Question 8: Pristine areas should have higher restrictions on group size (group sizes should be smaller). Areas of heavy use may need to periodically be closed off and given a chance to recover.

As a frequent visitor to Wilderness areas in my region, I would be opposed to any restrictions limiting stock use in the wilderness area or within the National Parks. As a person trained in LNT & Gentle Use, I believe that education is the answer, not restrictions. Commercial and recreational stock users should be allowed access to the Wilderness Areas, the National Parks, and all Public Lands.

Correspondence ID: 21 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,13,2011 13:31:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To: National Park Service

Re: Wilderness Plan

I have been following, with considerable interest, the development of the Wilderness Plan. I am concerned about the seeming willingness to ban stock use from wilderness areas within the park system.

To give you some background, back in the early seventies, I was a student at UC Berkeley. I became deeply involved in the conservation of natural resource movement, so much so that I, along with six other students, created a new major at Berkeley, then called Interdisciplinary Studies. When I graduated in 1973, this became the College of Resource Studies, or CNR, as it is known today, now the third largest College at Berkeley. I was, of course, involved in backcountry use, frequently backpacking in Yosemite, as well as in Kings Canyon/Sequoia National Parks. We were very concerned about the concept of leaving no trace, although that concept had yet to attain a name.

Today, many years later, I am a member of the Back Country Horsemen of California, High Sierra Unit, and an associate member of the Sequoia Unit. I know you will hear from many of our members about what our members do to enhance the access to the back country, from clearing trails in the spring, to bringing supplies to work crews striving to eradicate invasive non-native species of plants that threaten to choke out native species which are crucial to maintaining the character of our national treasures. I'm sure they will point out to you that one of our guiding principals is the gentle treatment of the land, and it

as much in our interests as yours that this is a priority.

But I want to bring to your attention another issue that you probably hear very little about. We, the elderly, while we may have the desire to do what we did in our twenties to enjoy the wilderness, no longer have the ability, without assistance, to do so. We are pretty self sufficient people, and don't ask for a lot of help, or financial assistance from the federal government to do so. What a segment of my generation has done, however, is to rely on our own resources to get us the access we desire, and quite frankly, have earned. We have horses.

I can't carry a backpack into the back country anymore. Frankly, if I had someone carry all my supplies and just walked, I couldn't make it either. But if I can just take my horse, and perhaps a pack animal, the wilderness is once again open to me. I can bring all my stuff in, I can bring it all out, and if I do what I have been doing for the past 20 years or so, I can tote out the trash left behind by lots of backpackers. Not a bad deal for you, if you ask me.

I think you need to assess a couple of things in making this decision. The first obvious one is what is the historic root of the use of stock in the backcountry? And I'm afraid that's obvious. The parks would not be here without stock use. The less obvious is that by prohibiting stock use you will deny me and other disabled Americans like me any access to the backcountry. I think the Americans With Disabilities Act prohibits you from taking this stance.

Understand, I don't want to rent a horse from a concessionaire, although I have no real position on whether that is an appropriate use. I have my own horse. I'm sure stock renters have their own views, and arguments to back them up, and I'll bet you'll hear from them. I cannot see how allowing stock use in the backcountry would flood the wilderness with stock, either. It can be controlled, just as the number of hikers is controlled.

However, you must be mindful that restricting the number of "support animals" while requiring packing in of feed for the animals can easily create a de facto ban on all stock use. Please don't create an "end run", this is very transparent, and it will not work.

I hope you take my concerns in mind in making this decision.

Correspondence ID: 22 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: May,27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The wilderness areas of SEKI are managed with broad rules that do not use any scientific basis to evaluate their effectiveness. The trailhead quotas for humans versus pack animals are not set in any relation to the impacts the respective user communities make upon the wilderness.

The artificially low limits on human visitors vs the artificially high limits on high impact pack animal users are in contradiction to the legislative mandates to protect the wilderness for public use.

The scoping questions as phrased make no mention of scientific study and examination of the wilderness resources which is a grave omission since scientific study is the only method through which the Park can measure the impacts and determine the true values of the resources being managed.

Topic Question 2: Establish an impact based assessment method to establish, measure, and update trailhead quotas.

Establish a robust scientific program to foster research in the wilderness.

Topic Question 3: That the experience be one of solitude and without large scale visible impacts from other wilderness users.

In particular the pack animal using community is obnoxious in their use of the backcountry with leaving grossly visible scars upon the landscape from the pack animal hooves, animal feces upon the trail, large trailers in the parking lots, and an attitude to other trail users that is one of entitlement and dominance.

To establish and monitor backcountry usage patterns and impacts scientific methods should be used.

The scientific study of resources, caves, wildlife, geology, etc. in the wilderness should not be fettered. The scientific proposal process should be used to evaluate and approve scientific studies within the backcountry on a merit basis.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities include: Exploring all of the areas of the wilderness, there should be no areas that are banned for human use that are not for restoration purposes. Basejumping, paragliding, and hanggliding are low impact and appropriate uses of the wilderness since they do not involve any form of motor. Scientific study and inquiry into the resources

contained within the wilderness. Scientific study and inquiry into the impacts upon the wilderness by human activities.

Inappropriate activities include: Electronic and motorized equipment. Large scale use of animals not normally present in the backcountry. Playing of amplified music. Large obvious groups. Motorized flight.

Topic Question 5: Group sizes should be appropriately balanced to the impact they make upon the wilderness. Large organized hiking groups that travel together are inappropriate. Large pack animal groups should have trail quotas imposed based upon an objective evaluation of their impact upon the wilderness. E.g. trail erosion, introduction of foreign matter into the wilderness, etc. In particular horse hooves erode the trail much more than hiking boots and thus a horse should be equivalent to n (probably 4 or so) human equivalents on a trail head quota.

All food in the backcountry should be stored to preclude bear visitation. In popular areas the appropriate usage of fixed food storage boxes should be investigate. Hang lines for bear bags would be useful in certain areas. Mandating the use of bear canisters should be investigated.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services could be appropriate if they are managed appropriately and the commercial operations observe and are held to all the mandates that public users are.

Commercial services should not be given any form of preference for trail head permits, etc.

Commercial services should be forced to pay a significant permit fee for wilderness access to the park to aid in management of the wilderness.

Topic Question 7: Management activities should be evidence based and scientifically grounded. Management rules should be established using such scientific measurements and updated accordingly on a regular basis.

Topic Question 8: Research activities within the wilderness are not mentioned in the scoping materials. Scientific investigation of the wilderness and resources within the wilderness should be fostered.

In particular the caves contained within the wilderness are worthy of further investigation and study to allow the Parks and public to fully understand and evaluate the worth, value, and manage the beauty of the wilderness resources being managed.

At the NPS-SEKI public meeting held in Oakland, CA on April 26, 2011, there was no mention of the 1998 Omnibus Act in the verbal summary of pertinent legislation presented by the Wilderness Officer, nor was it cited in any of the handouts given to the public. This omission conspicuous by its absence, and is extremely troubling to the research community and to broad-minded park visitors and cooperators. The 1998 Omnibus Act specifically directs the NPS to foster research on lands it manages.

If all pertinent legislation is considered by SEKI Wilderness Management as a new policy is developed, then a more balanced management plan is more likely to emerge. To talk only about the Wilderness Act and exclude mention of more broadly worded yet still pertinent legislation is to mislead if not fully inform the public and is thus inappropriate.

All pertinent laws should hold sway throughout the parks, and the broader concept of management embraced for selected areas in the Parks or we are all going to be the poorer for it.

Correspondence ID: 23 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Pacific Crest Trail Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jun,02,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Pacific Crest Trail Association Trail Operations Office 20130 87th Avenue SW, Vashon, WA 98070-6210 (206) 463-9087 (Phone), trail@pcta.org (E-Mail)

May 11, 2011

To: Superintendent Karen F. Taylor-Goodrich Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks 47050 General Highway Three Rivers, CA 93271 Attn: Wilderness Stewardship Plan

Re: The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) appreciates the opportunity to provide scoping comments for the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (WSP/EIS). This significant planning process will evaluate existing wilderness plans and provide specific management direction for the future management of wilderness in the two parks. Our 9,000 member organization is the primary private partner with the US Forest Service, BLM, National Park Service and California State Parks in the management and protection of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) from Mexico to Canada. The mission of the PCTA is "to protect, preserve and promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic

Trail as an internationally significant resource for the enjoyment of hikers and equestrians, and for the value that wild and scenic lands provide to all people".

The Wilderness Stewardship Plan will provide detailed guidance on a variety of issues including day and overnight use, wilderness permitting, use of campfires, food storage, party size, camping and campsites, human waste management, stock use, and an in-depth look at the role of commercial services providing recreation in the wilderness, all of which have potential for impacts on the use of the PCT and the experience of those users.

This plan will encompass the Sequoia-Kings Canyon and John Krebs Wildernesses, which includes approximately 120 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail National Scenic Trail (PCNST).

The Environmental Impact Statement will analyze a range of alternatives for achieving wilderness stewardship objectives, focusing on appropriate types and levels of access for visitors and authorized uses, preserving wilderness character and protecting resources while adhering to existing mandated management and preservation requirements.

The PCTA is a membership organization formed as a nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated to the protection, preservation and promotion of the PCT. The PCTA strives to achieve this mission by promoting the PCT as a unique educational and recreation treasure, serving as a communication link between trail users and land management agencies, and assisting all agencies in the maintenance and restoration of the trail.

The PCTA has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all of the principle agencies responsible for maintaining the trail and managing the surrounding land and recreation. These agencies include the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and California State Parks.

Our primary scoping concerns for the WSP/EIS are; 1. Balancing commercial use and individual trail use permits, The PCTA issues permits for long distance hikers of the PCNST through our MOU with the PCT managing agencies, including the National Park Service. We are concerned that the number of commercial permits issued for wilderness activities may limit the number of permits issued by the PCTA or the Parks for individual hikers and equestrians. Through coordination with the PCTA and other organizations issuing wilderness and trail permits, we recommend the WSP/EIS insure a balance of permits issued, and special consideration for those users served by multi agency trailwide long distance permits in particular.

2. Maintenance of the Wilderness Character - The character of the PCNST should be maintained through thoughtful placement of camping facilities, food storage lockers and other structures. All man-made structures should be visually screened from the trail whenever possible.

3. Signage - The PCTA supports the concept of minimal signage, consistent with adjoining jurisdictions and implementation of PCT sign standards found in the PCT Comprehensive Plan.

4. Use and maintenance of the PCNST - The PCNST is a national recreation treasure. When considering the range of alternatives and activities, the WSP/EIS should insure the protection and maintenance of the PCNST, while providing a full range of viable alternatives.

5. Direct Trail Impacts - If, through the implementation of the WSP/EIS, the PCNST is directly impacted by projects such as moving trailheads/junctions, or re-routing sections of the trail, the PCTA requests participation and consultation in the project planning, as required by the interagency MOU.

6. Volunteer Coordination - Please consider including the PCTA in sections of the WSP/EIS where volunteer programs and coordination may be discussed. As part of it's mission and organization, the PCTA has a strong and viable Volunteer Program Element. Although we currently do not have an active volunteer program in SEKI, last year alone programs organized under PCTA's leadership and coordination provided 136,000 hours of volunteer labor to manage the Trail on the ground, and it is our hope to develop programs in partnership with the parks to serve the PCT within the time frame of the plan being developed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments for the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks WSP/EIS. From plan development to implementation, the PCTA looks forward to participating with the National Park Service in this important endeavor..

Sincerely,

Mike Dawson Director of Trail Operations

Correspondence ID: 24 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jun,14,2011 11:36:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have included my comments in the comments sections below.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for the upcoming wilderness plan in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. My comments are from the perspective of a person who has had the privilege of backpacking throughout the two national parks and as one who has worked on several volunteer trail crews to help maintain the Pacific Crest Trail. I have chosen several areas to comment on and have included my position statement and rationalization for each area. SUBJECT: TRAIL MAINTENANCE

POSITION: Allow the use of power/mechanized tools for a specific time period to maintain a trail if it means the difference between a trail being maintained or allowing it to deteriorate.

RATIONALIZATION - Trails that were constructed to give access to the Sierra 75+ years ago are deteriorating and/or disappearing at a rapid rate, some from lack of use, some because there is no funding to maintain them, and others because they are in wilderness areas where mechanized tools cannot be used. Funding, to be sure, will continue to be a problem. But I question if the "lack-of-funding" is an excuse or a reason. If trail maintenance was placed at a higher priority, perhaps more funding would be available. During one of the volunteer trail crews that I worked on, we had 10 days to clear thick brush and downed trees along a section of trail (not in Sequoia or Kings Canyon). During the first two days, using chainsaws and gas-powered brush cutters, we cleared and restored five miles of trail. Then we came to the wilderness boundary and had to put away the power tools. It took us eight days to clear two more miles. We left with much more work to be done, work that could have been done with the use of power tools. Likewise, when I was backpacking in the Sierra National Forest a few years ago, the trail was crisscrossed with dozens of downed trees and in dire need of maintenance. As a result, the route was very difficult to navigate. When I inquired as to why the trail was not maintained, a forest representative told me the trail is in a wilderness area and that it would be nearly impossible to clear the downed trees without power tools which are not allowed to be used in wilderness areas. It is my understanding that superintendents in the national parks and forests can authorize the use of power tools in wilderness areas for short periods of time, but that many are reluctant to use that authority for a variety of reasons. I believe that the wilderness plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon should have a specific policy regarding this issue, especially when it makes the difference if a trail will be maintained or left to vanish. I believe in the wilderness philosophy that bans mechanical devices, but I am also a realist who recognizes that in some cases power tools are needed to maintain trails and access to the wilderness. A massive storm or landslide that downs dozens of trees across a trail should not result in the trail being abandoned just because power tools cannot be used in wilderness areas and it would be impossible to clear those trees from the trail without them. Reduced or difficult access to the wilderness will result in fewer people caring for the protection of the wilderness.

SUBJECT: BACKCOUNTRY BEAR LOCKERS POSITION STATEMENT: Continue the use of bear lockers for long-distance hikers. RATIONALIZATION: I have heard rumors that bear lockers will be removed from the backcountry of Sequoia and Kings Canyon. This would be a huge mistake. Some have argued that lockers should not be in the backcountry because they are not natural to the wilderness. They further argue that bear lockers are not found in wilderness areas of other forests and national parks, so they question why they are needed in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. With the availability of portable bear canisters, they argue that the bear lockers are not needed. But Sequoia and Kings Canyon are unique in that they contain the largest roadless area in the U.S. outside of Alaska and do not allow easy access to resupply as some of the other parks and forests do. Hiking the John Muir Trail or Pacific Crest Trail through Sequoia and Kings Canyon, for example, requires that hikers carry much more food than they can store in a portable bear canister. While counter balancing food used to be effective, it no longer is. Thus, it seems like the logical way to protect food and to protect bears is to continue the use of bear lockers for long distance hikers and to require the use of portable bear canisters for hikers with permits of five days or less. SUBJECT: FEES FOR WILDERNESS PERMITS POSITION STATEMENT: Fees collected for wilderness permits should be used for trail maintenance projects. RATIONALIZATION: I do not mind paying a fee for a wilderness permit as long as the fee is reasonable and is used to maintain wilderness trails. Arguments against fees usually come from those who do not think the fees are being used for their benefit. Perhaps the total fees collected and how those fees are used should be specified in the annual budget (i.e. \$8000 income from wilderness fees; \$8000 expenses for food and supplies for trail maintenance crew on miles 52-60 of the High Sierra Trail.) Then make certain that such information is available for the trail users. SUBJECT: USE OF PACK HORSES POSITION STATEMENT: Maintain policies regarding the use of pack horses in the wilderness and continue to monitor the effect of those policies. RATIONALIZATION: Over the last half century, policies regarding the use of stock animals in the backcountry have been established to minimize the effects of the animals. These regulations (i.e. numbers of animals allowed in a group, grazing regulations in meadows, etc.) have had a significant and positive impact on the health of wilderness areas. Given the historical use of stock animals in the backcountry, it would be foolish to suggest, as some have done, that horse users be barred from the wilderness. Rather, continued use of effective policies, and additional ones if needed - to minimize impacts should be maintained. It is encouraging to observe horse users using no-trace camping methods and teaching those methods to other horse users. It is also encouraging to see the large number of horse packers who are volunteering to help maintain trails. SUBJECT: BIKES ON WILDERNESS TRAILS POSITION STATEMENT: Continue to prohibit use of mountain bikes on wilderness trails. RATIONALIZATION: I have had a close encounter with a speeding bicyclist coming around a blind corner on a wilderness trail. It could have had dire consequences for both hiker and rider requiring medical help and rescue. No question that there should be trails for mountain bikers, but not in the wilderness of Sequoia and Kings Canyon. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Given the enormity of the wilderness areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon, a good job has been done to protect its resources. This is not the result of a specific plan, but the result of ongoing observation, study and monitoring and change in regulations. Years ago, for example, no one thought twice about camping as close to water sources as possible. But when it became clear that camping in those areas had detrimental effects on both water and landscape, regulations were put in place to specify distances that campers must maintain from water sources. That type of observation and monitoring to affect regulations that affect the wilderness should be continued. Likewise, the new plan should have flexibility so that it can be amended as needed to continue wilderness protection measures, based on ongoing observations and studies.

Thanks for considering my comments are you prepare the wilderness plan.

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Correspondence:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide scoping comments to the wilderness planning effort. Societal and environmental changes coupled with the antiquity of the existing wilderness management documents make this effort especially important. I commend the current administration for finally moving forward with this initiative. I propose that the wilderness stewardship plan address the following issues:

1) Need for cooperation and collaboration - Emphasize what is common to all users. For over three decades, I have observed the futility of the ongoing dispute regarding the propriety of stock use versus backpacking. This polarizing issue has created distrust and harsh feelings, gobbled up the time of government employees, and brought previous wilderness planning efforts to an effective halt. As near as I can tell, only lawyers benefitted from this controversy. This is unfortunate because there is probably more in common with these user groups than there are differences. Most important, they all want to enjoy the park wilderness. This is a time when the wilderness planning requires exceptional leadership to bring these diverse groups together for the common good of the park. The park leadership needs to develop a spirit of compromise and collaboration for the common good among its interested publics. A unified collaborative effort among the majority of our publics could marginalize the few people with narrow agenda and stubborn tunnel-vision.

2) Facilitating use and appreciation of the resource - This issue builds on the previous issue. This is about building a broad base of wilderness appreciation among diverse users by mitigating barriers that might prevent people from having access to our wilderness - education, transportation to trailheads, appropriate trail maintenance, etc. This would have many components that vary from educating our youth to field programs that teach wilderness recreation to accommodating the broadest range of wilderness users that is compatible with wilderness values (hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, etc.). While I personally prefer a wilderness without stock, it is far better to see people enjoying the wilderness on a horse than not at all. Why is this important? There are a lot of people that see no value in wilderness. We should be concerned about the very existence of our wilderness during this time of shrinking budgets, troubled economies, and a society where youths are more familiar with video games and social networking than outdoor hobbies like backpacking or horsemanship. Congress makes and funds parks, and they can just as well eliminate parks if, someday, society wanted to see other uses for this land. 3) Wilderness zoning - The Wilderness Act does not prohibit creating zones that are managed to a higher standard than imposed by the act itself. A tour of the SEKI wilderness will demonstrate a range of experiences that vary from remote isolated landscapes that are essentially devoid of any sign of human presence to front country wilderness where people can stand in the wilderness and watch cars go down the highway. I propose that the new plan create zones reflecting different realities and opportunities, but all compatible with the existing wilderness legislation. I recommend a minimum of two zones (wilderness and pristine), but propose four. They might look something like:

A) High access wilderness - This would be the front country wilderness that is in close proximity to developments. It would be managed in full compliance with the wilderness act.

B) High use wilderness - This would be developed travel corridors that contain trails, bridges, signs, and other improvements that are considered the minimum tool for managing concentrated public use and might include grazed meadows.

C) Natural wilderness - This would be those portions of the wilderness that lack developed trails but may contain temporary structures that are justified as the minimum tool. Those minimum tools might include scientific instruments or tools needed to manage resources such as nets to remove introduced fish or emergency use of the helicopter for fires, SAR, or medivac. This zone might exclude grazing of meadows.

D) Pristine wilderness - These would be areas in which no developments (not even a tree tag) or emergency helicopter use would be allowed for any purpose except for the minimum tools necessary to remove introduced organisms. All travel would be on foot. This would be the highest wilderness standard managed to protect and maintain areas that show the least human influence. At least one pristine zone might be designated within each major life zone.

A fifth zone might include areas that are neither designated nor recommended wilderness, but which exhibit wilderness qualities (Undesignated Wilderness). An example would be the Ash Peaks area. Ash Peaks is one of the finest areas of wilderness in the park, and such areas should be given protection from development consistent with wilderness.

4) Grazing by recreational pack stock - This is an old and controversial issue. I want to congratulate the NPS for the monitoring that it has done on grazing and for the research studies that have begun to identify the effects of grazing on natural resources. However, grazing is more complex. It includes ecological, sociological, and philosophical components. Most of the data that I have seen suggests that known ecological impacts of properly managed grazing are minimal. However, I have seen grazed areas that looked mowed to the ground and trampled - a sight that is completely inappropriate for a national park. And even when it is managed well, there is a conundrum when a horse is permitted to eat something like twelve pounds of vegetation daily, but a park visitor could be cited for picking a few wildflowers. I don't want grazing to affect access to our wilderness, but the park needs to demonstrate that grazing (or some level of grazing) is essential to preserving use by that public. I understand that some parks do not allow grazing. Could SEKI go to carrying feed? If grazing continues, there needs to be a fiscal commitment by the park to ensure that grazing is managed and monitored adequately.

5) Climate change - The plan needs to address the limits of what is permissible for managing wilderness resources to mitigate climate change. Both NPS policy and the wilderness act provide sideboards, but the minimum tool exclusion could facilitate a broader range of tools for managing climate. Climate change is nothing new to the earth. Our ecological systems will deal with it. Yes, there will be some extinctions and communities will likely reorganize, but life will go on, and species will evolve in response to those changes. There have been significant and catastrophic climate changes in the earth's past, and life has always dealt with it. Interestingly, it was a changing climate in eastern Africa that prompted the evolution of the human species, and now that species is causing climate change. While I share ecological concerns about anthropogenic climate change, I am more concerned about the human response to climate change. I have heard much talk about doing big things to manage climate change - assisted migration, forest thinning, irrigation, genetic engineering, etc. These may be great tools for National Forests, BLM and private lands. However, application of these tools will create gardens created with human technology and engineering. Both the Wilderness Act and NPS policy support the need for our wilderness areas to evolve in whatever direction they go on their own. Proponents of intervention might argue that human intervention is necessary because the cause is anthropogenic. Human intervention could be called mitigation, but human intervention could also result in a more complex and compounded impact. I prefer to put my trust in natural processes; and without letting nature evolve untrammelled, we will have no knowledge of what might have been.

6) Research - Park resources face many threats (climate change, pollution, invasive species, altered fire regimes, fragmentation, and human use). Managing these threats needs to be based on knowledge and sound research. Research is identified as one of the eight purposes of wilderness within the Wilderness Act and it is an essential tool for acquiring the information needed to preserve a site's wilderness character, especially its natural quality. This plan needs to provide clear guidance to research, making essential research possible and encouraging all research that is wilderness compatible.

7) Monitoring - Monitoring is as essential as research for management of our wilderness. However, unlike research projects which tend to have a short life of one to five years, monitoring can go on forever theoretically. Like research, monitoring often requires installed instrumentation. This would be everything from site markers that guarantee repeatable measurements to sophisticated instruments that routinely take environmental measurements (e.g. temperature, soil moisture, water depth, photographs, etc.). As with research, the plan needs to develop reasonable guidelines that will inform and guide essential monitoring.

8) Wilderness facilities - Facilities can be categorized into two broad categories: a) Those that are there for the convenience of the public (bridges, signs, fire rings, hitch rails, trails), and b) Those that are there to protect the resource (food storage lockers, trails). Note that trails fall into both groups. The plan needs to address what types of facilities will be allowed, where, and under what circumstances. This issue represents a classic conflict between encouraging wilderness use versus pristine landscapes. Criteria for facilities might be different for each of the two categories.

9) Bear Management - Bear management could have a profound effect on wilderness resources. For instance, food lockers influence where people camp and tend to concentrate overnight use. Conversely, food canisters permit dispersed use. 10) Technology in the wilderness - The original authors of the Wilderness Act probably had no clue about the types of technology that would be available in the future, nor were they likely to envision hoards of that technology being carried into the wilderness. While the Wilderness Act does not really address the equipment that wilderness visitors carry with them, the emphasis on natural, undeveloped, untrammelled, and solitude would suggest that people come with primitive, basic tools that meet the fundamental needs of the backpacker (packs, clothing, food prep, cameras, etc) and opportunities to challenge one's skills (map reading, physical stamina, rock climbing, etc.). However, today wilderness users have the capacity to carry cell phones, MP3 players, digital books, GPS, SPOT devices, computers, satellite phones, solar cells, etc. I am not suggesting that this is bad or good, but the issue should be addressed. There might be different standards for visitors and administrative use, or not. Again, where-ever this goes, I would not want to see park policy discourage wilderness use that can be accommodated appropriately.

11) MRMTs - Currently, I believe that MRMTs only address 4C prohibited activities. The plan should consider a broader scope for MRMTs to include any activity that has potential to impact wilderness qualities significantly (e.g. stock vs helicopter to move supplies over a sensitive ecological landscape). Conversely, there is a danger of overusing the MRMT to the point of compromising efficiency.

11) Emergency responses - The Wilderness Act allows for emergency responses, but, the plan needs to develop tight guidelines for each type of emergency regarding what type of equipment, where (perhaps by wilderness zone), and when, especially for those circumstances that are not truly an emergency.

12) Human safety - The plan needs to identify acceptable parameters for staff and visitors. For staff, this should be straight forward. However, for visitors this is more complex. Pushing one's skills may be an appropriate part of a visitor's experience. However, saving or recovering people is a significant park expense. I am not sure that the park can or should attempt to manage visitor safety beyond education, but the park staff clearly has a stake in the success or failure of all visitors' activity.

13) Water quality - Here I see two fundamental park responsibilities: a) protecting water quality from anthropogenic influences, and b) educating our visitors about safe consumption of natural waters (use of filters, etc.). Protecting water quality is a big task that includes mitigating sources both within the park (e.g. campsite locations, wilderness sanitation, education, etc.) to doing research on sources and impacts of contamination to working with our neighbors to mitigate external sources of pollutions (agricultural and industrial contaminants, nutrient and acidic deposition, etc.).

14) Wilderness sanitation - This is a big issue, and I am impressed with some of the recent park successes such as wag bags.

"What, where, and when" needs to be addressed in the plan; and again, the plan should not discourage use. Personally, I find the thought of carrying my human waste with me to be a bit repulsive, but I understand the need. Some people may be less understanding.

15) Invasive species - This may be one of the biggest immediate and long-term threats to the wilderness. Examples of a few of the threats that could come in via wilderness users are New Zealand mud snails and velvet grass, or users might spread an aquatic disease. While there are plans for controlling invasive wildlife and flora, this document needs to address a visitor use management strategy for reducing the likelihood of wilderness users introducing invasive species. This would include policies for education, inspection of gear, etc.

16) Administrative camps and tools - This has been an issue for as long as I can remember. While I think that camps have become more compatible with wilderness values, there may be some areas that still need improvement.

17) Campfires - Wilderness campfire policies need to be simplified with one universal elevation for all areas of our parks, and the park should err on the side of the resource (e.g. only permit campfires below 9,000 ft). Personally, I would like to see campfires banned. There might be some situations where campfires mitigate resource impacts by eliminating the need to use stock to haul out garbage.

18) Historic and archeological materials - This may be addressed adequately in existing documents, but I am not familiar with them and suspect that the wilderness stewardship plan probably needs to address some aspects of managing these resources, particularly area closures or restrictions (e.g. Bullfrog Lake). The plan needs to determine circumstances under which closures or restrictions would be in effect. The plan might also address circumstances requiring (or preventing) survey or monitoring. It might set goals for archeological research to help us understand the historic use of the SEKI wilderness.

19) Over flights - Specify policies for termination or mitigation, particularly park use and future requests for aerial tours. Flying over the park is spectacular. I am somewhat surprised that the park has not been inundated with requests for such tour businesses. Perhaps we have been and I am simply not aware.

20) Angling - I have always considered angling an odd permitted activity where all of the other resources are protected from harvest or harassment. Never-the-less, angling is recognized as a legitimate park activity where not prohibited by law. Again, it is a recreational activity that brings people to enjoy our wilderness. The plan needs to have appropriate policies for permitting angling while protecting natural resources. Most of the fish in the park wilderness are introduced invasive species that cause known impacts to native species. Protection of angling should not conflict with the need to remove fish from some areas to restore natural aquatic ecosystems, but the plan might make special emphasis to accommodate fishing in areas that have a reputation for their exceptional angling quality. 21) Listed species - The plan needs to address the location of listed species, identify their habitat, and identify legal and policy requirements for conducting management (e.g. trail work, removal of alien plants or animals, changes in visitor management), monitoring, and research activities within those areas (e.g. Sec. 7 consultations).

22) Fire management - This may be adequately addressed in the existing fire management plan. Material that might need to be called out in this plan might address park policies regarding constructed fire lines, use of helicopter (when, where, under what circumstances), fire monitoring equipment (e.g. temporary installation of weather equipment or cameras), and fire camps.

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Correspondence: SCOPING COMMENTS RE PROPOSED WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PLAN SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

INTRODUCTION:

These comments reflect four decades of use of the areas that now comprise the Sequoia/Kings Canyon and John Krebs wildernesses. I began serious backpacking in the subject area in 1966 and have continued to use the area annually up the current time. As a result, I have had the opportunity to watch the evolution of the management of this region from "backcountry" to designated wilderness.

I have also been privileged to travel over 99% of the trail system within the two parks as well as to visit many off-trail areas. From my base at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, I have also hiked as far north as Ebbetts Pass and as far south as Monache Meadow. I believe that I know the Sierra Nevada and its wilderness issues well.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENT:

This is the most important question the new Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) will need to address. Nearly everything else should tier from it.

I recommend that the minimum requirement definitions applied currently to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) be sustained by the new WSP. This comment is based, however, more on watching what has gone on over the years than on any clear-cut definition that the National Park Service (NPS) has shared with the public on this subject.

For this reason, I am offering my interpretation of SEKI's Minimum Requirement position. What follows is therefore both an interpretation and a recommendation.

My reading of the Minimum Requirement at SEKI concludes that there are several key elements:

1. The designated wilderness areas within SEKI are heavily used by visitors seeking wilderness experiences, and sustaining wilderness-appropriate visitor experiences is key to management of the area. 2. Key to sustaining quality visitor experiences at SEKI is the presence of a broad-ranging and well-maintained trail system for use by visitors. 3. Another requirement is that visitors be managed through the presence of resident wilderness rangers. 4. A final requirement is that the lands within the Sequoia/Kings Canyon and John Krebs wildernesses be managed not only under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 but also under the provisions of the 1916 NPS Organic Act and its subsequent modifications. This requirement, which is clearly implied within the Wilderness Act, has the effect of requiring that the managing agency sustain the natural resources within these wildernesses to a higher degree of protection than is required by the Wilderness Act alone.

Building on these points, a fuller definition of SEKI's Minimum Requirement for wilderness management can be constructed.

Sustaining a trail system that provides reasonable access for foot and stock parties while at the same time protecting national park values leads to the requirement carry out an active and successful trail maintenance program. Such a program historically has existed within SEKI, and in recent times it has contrasted significantly with that in surrounding (National Forest) wilderness areas. Put simply, SEKI's trails are much better maintained. This maintenance has been based on the proper assumption that trail maintenance must be productive and cost effective. For this reason, SEKI has employed a definition of Minimum Tool that includes selective use of power tools such as chain saws and rock drills. Helicopters also are used selectively to provide supplies and building materials that cannot be placed in the wilderness via traditional ground transportation. All these uses are appropriate because they relate directly to SEKI's Minimum Requirement of sustaining a well-maintained trail system.

The alternative, to elaborate further on this important point, would be to define Minimum Tool as being only hand tools and utilize only ground transportation to access to the trails. As demonstrated on the Sierra, Sequoia, and Inyo national forests, this approach would have the inescapable effect of failing to maintain the SEKI trail system, a result that would weaken opportunities for appropriate wilderness experiences and allow accelerating resources damage in the form of erosion and so forth. This direction would not be acceptable.

The second key element of SEKI's Minimum Requirement is the managing of wilderness users on site via resident wilderness rangers. Over the decades the value of this approach has been demonstrated repeatedly. The wilderness is now much cleaner than it was years past, and resource damage has declined in nearly all areas. These results flow directly from the continued presence of wilderness rangers.

Sustaining resident wilderness rangers means accepting ranger stations, communication infrastructure like radio relays, and limited use of helicopters in situations where ground transportation cannot practically be employed. These uses are appropriate because they flow directly from SEKI's Minimum Requirement.

Finally, the requirement that the Sequoia/Kings Canyon and John Krebs wildernesses be sustained as national park lands leads to the presence within the wildernesses of programs that otherwise might not be appropriate, including scientific research necessary to understand and protect park resources and cultural resources preservation efforts. All these are not only appropriate but also properly should be considered as requirements.

In summary, I support the continuation of the above approach.

GROUP-SIZE LIMITS:

The current group-size limits for SEKI are 15 persons and 20 pack animals. These limits are appropriate for main trail corridors and popular "first-day-in" destinations like Emerald/Pear lakes and the Mineral King basins. I do not support larger groups, even in these areas.

I do support reducing human party-size limits in off-trail areas. It would be appropriate to define this as areas more than one mile away from maintained trail corridors. A reduced limit of eight persons in these areas is more in keeping with the opportunity provided for solitude.

Under no circumstances should stock party-size limits be raised. Twenty animals should remain the cap in even the most heavily used areas. Stock party size in designated off-trail use areas should be limited to no more than ten animals.

STOCK USE:

I support limited, well-regulated stock use in designated areas. The use is appropriate under the Wilderness Act and provides a valuable recreational experience.

This point clearly established, it must also be noted that more than 95% of wilderness use at SEKI takes place on foot. Stock use must therefore be managed in a way that does not impair this dominant use. This impairment, in my opinion, takes the form primarily of trail damage. Regular and/or heavy stock use loosens trail soils and often causes walking to be difficult. When grades are added, heavy erosion often occurs. As a result, trails with heavy stock use become both unpleasant (dusty) and more importantly, dangerous (loose trail tread and rocks). Over the past forty years I have stumbled many times while hiking on trails as a result of erosion to the trail surface caused by intense stock use. Stock use also damages creek crossings, making them unnecessarily wide and difficult to cross by hikers. The same effect damages the streams themselves.

With the above in mind, I recommend that the management of recreational stock use in SEKI's wilderness areas include the following:

The trail system at SEKI should be analyzed and zoned into at least three categories. These would include (1) appropriate for stock use, (2) appropriate for limited (small-party-only) stock use, (3) not appropriate for stock use. This zoning would be based on the character of the trail and its ability to sustain the passage of stock without incurring damage that makes the trails hard to walk safely upon. Engineered, well-graded trails with good grades and water-diversion bars would generally fall into category 1. Lightly built trails that nevertheless have easy grades and good drainage would fall into category 2. All other trails would fall into category 3. This last category would include all steep, poorly engineered trails as well as trails passing through meadows or other areas that cannot sustain the physical impact of stock. These marginal types of trails should be limited to foot use. Only in addition to the system proposed in the previous point, a small number of trails exist where hiking use is so intense that it is quite simply inappropriate to allow stock use. Examples include the trails east of Wolverton to Alta Meadow and Pear Lake and the trails to places like Monarch, White Chief, and Eagle canyons in Mineral King. These trails receive very intense use by foot parties and it is not appropriate to churn them into loose rock and dust to allow passage by a very small number of visitors. In reference to proposed trail category 2 (see above), it is appropriate for the NPS to implement policies that encourage wilderness use by small parties using stock selectively and traveling lightly. Such parties, with perhaps 1-3 animals for 2-6 persons, can travel in a way that results in relatively light damage to trails or natural resources. This form of travel, which is not currently much in vogue, should be encouraged as an alternative to traditional ("heavy") stock use. In selected areas where stock and foot use regularly come into conflict, it is appropriate to consider building parallel trails that allow for the separation of use. This approach has been used very successfully in Yosemite, for example, where separate trails for stock and hikers leave the Happy Isles area and ascend toward Vernal Falls. SEKI contains opportunities for pursuing this approach with existing trails. An example would be to direct pack trains headed to Bearpaw Meadow over the Wolverton Cutoff route instead of allowing the mules to move over the Lakes Trails with its very heavy pedestrian use. Such an approach would lengthen mule-train travel to Bearpaw by no more than 30 minutes each way but would enhance hiking experiences for thousands each summer. It is time to bring an end to stock grazing in the SEKI wilderness. Nearly every other wilderness area with the national park system requires that stock groups carry food for their animals. It is time to make this shift at SEKI. The current system of reducing grazing at particular meadows only after it has been proven that damage is occurring is clearly contrary to the NPS Organic Act and thus inappropriate. An end to free grazing would also allow the removal of the parks' drift fence system, which constitutes an obvious intrusion on wilderness character. Stock parties require campsites designed for stock use. It is appropriate, where stock use is permitted, to construct hitching rails and other very limited improvements. If you are going to allow stock use, then it must be supported appropriately. Stock parties also require trailhead facilities that meet their special needs. At selected trailheads it would be appropriate to provide facilities that allow camping, stock holding, watering, and loading.

CONCESSIONS AND PACK STATIONS:

The only resident pack station housed within SEKI is located at Cedar Grove. This facility provides a useful and appropriate service. It has access to trails that can sustain stock use, and it provides a useful service for those seeking to climb out of the huge trench that is Kings Canyon.

I do not support reopening pack stations at either Wolverton or Mineral King. In both cases, access to appropriate destinations for stock use was very limited and impact on hikers was very high. These areas are now functioning successfully without pack stations, which makes it clear that they are not required.

The many commercial outfitters that come into the parks from pack stations located outside SEKI's boundaries provide a useful service but need to be managed under the provisions proposed above including zoning of trails and an end to free grazing of natural forage.

FOOD STORAGE LOCKERS:

I do not believe that the current system of food storage lockers in the wilderness areas of SEKI can be justified. No other wilderness area in the Sierra Nevada sustains this intrusion on wilderness character, and visitors in these other areas have successfully adapted to the use of portable bear canisters. In addition, the presence of lockers at designated locations has led to very heavy use at those areas and resultant impairment to both natural resources and visitor experiences. The lockers should be removed and canister requirements extended as necessary.

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The designated wilderness areas of SEKI contain a rich assortment of cultural resources. These range from Native American village sites, to structures associated with pioneer use of the area, to yet other structures associated with more than a century of national park management.

Wilderness is meant to be land where humans ponder their relationship to the natural world, and the thin scattering of cultural resources within the SEKI wilderness supports that goal. Unfortunately, in recent years, I have heard NPS managers speak of these resources (many of which are either listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places) as "intrusions" that should be removed. This attitude conflicts with the NPS Organic Act and is a disservice to SEKI's wilderness users.

The network of existing cultural resources scattered across the remote wilderness areas of the two parks needs to be sustained and valued.

TRAIL SYSTEM:

This comment does not fit nicely within any of the categories that the WSP is intended to address, but I share it nonetheless. The NPS must develop a stronger approach for determining which trails are, and which trails are not, a part of the parks' trail system.

In the past several decades, for example, several useful trails have been abandoned without public notice or environmental compliance. Examples includes the trail from Alta Meadow to Moose Lake and the trail to Paradise Peak. The former saw regular use by the Wolverton Pack Station and even had hitching rails and a pit toilet at its terminus. The route formed a critical part of the loop route around Alta Peak that was used by hundreds of hikers each summer.

An example of the opposite direction occurred a few years ago in the Rock Creek area. A casual user-trail had developed, without planning or design, leading up toward Miter Basin. Several years ago, without public notice or compliance, NPS trail crews converted this into a formal trail by removing rocks, cutting logs, and otherwise improving the trail to facilitate stock use.

The trail system is the key recreational element of SEKI's wilderness areas. The system defines where most people go and what kinds of experiences they can have. Modifications to the trail system, either subtractions or additions, should not occur without formal decision-making, including public notification and environmental compliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer scoping comments in support of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

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Received: Jul,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: Everyone should have the chance to enjoy and experience our National Parks, however, the natural resources must be protected in the process. Conservation and sustantation of the uniqueness of the wilderness must be a priority. I am eminently in favor of guided commercial services in the wilderness. The commercial guides have been educated by the national park services expertise and long history of wilderness conservation. The commercial guides are therefore able to direct users or our national parks as to the rules regarding food storage, campfire management, wildlife oversight and human waste disposal. The permit process through the commercial guided trips also controls the group size. For example, some private parties with stick in the National Parks are not always well educated or informed as to grazing closures, group size, camp restoration after stock use, and the procedures in the dispersment of a private animal that may die on the trail. Authorized hiking, climbing, and stock guides are legally mandated to follow and educate their guests as to the preservation and conservation of deep seated and aesthetic resources in the wilderness and the national parks. In closing, my greatest concern regarding wilderness and recreational use at SEKI would be the reduction or elimination of guided commercial services and the resulting uneducated inappropriate use of our precious resources.

Thank you for taking time to read my comments.

Correspondence ID: 28 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: To me the goal would clearly be minimum impact.

I can't see any good reason to allow any grazing.

Stock animals really impact trails. I would be in favor of few or no stock animals. I think the current allowed size of pack trains is far too large. I'd like to see a 5 animal maximum. Llamas cause less damage so maybe allowing more of them would be reasonable.

Don't know current group size allowed for people maybe ten would be plenty.

To me hiking and backpacking, fishing, camping, rock-climbing, skiing, etc are the only activities that need to be allowed. Motorized activities.

Campfires should be allowed only below treeline, or about 10,000 or something, dead wood only. But clearly heavily used areas would need to be monitored and shut down to firewood use when necessary.

Correspondence ID: 29 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Wilderness Stewardship Plan & Environmental Impact Statement Comment Well maintained trails and accommodation for stock use/pack trips are the most important recreational uses. Restrictions on the use of stock should not result in pack stations not being able to provide customers with an excellent wilderness experience and to be able to profit financially. It is inappropriate for the NPS to use mechanized machines, such as helicopters, except in emergency situations. Too many large commercial services are inappropriate. Campfires should be allowed except in high altitude campsites where wood is not available. Bear boxes should be provided in as many campsites as possible. Group size should be limited to current limits. The areas around Mt. Whitney warrant special consideration because of the heavy use. Guitar Lake should have outhouses. Backcountry rangers provide good resources. Cultural resources such as historic cabins and mining sites should be preserved under the NPS mandate. Air pollution from controlled burns should be prevented. Controlled burns should not be undertaken in high altitude areas. In the John Krebs Wilderness the entire wilderness needs to be included in the Mineral King Management Plan, which is now being formulated. The dams on the lakes should be permanently preserved as historic sites along with the mining sites. Outhouses should be provided at the lakes that see high backpacking use. The old corral site in Mineral King should be preserved and a pack station operator found. Provision should be made for a corral for private individuals' stock use in the Tar Gap parking lot. Campsites should be available in the Mineral King Valley for backpackers' overnight before starting out. Coldspring and Atwell's Mill campsites should remain in their current size.
Please Keep me on your mailing list for park planning.

Correspondence ID: 30 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: We need the strongest protections you can offer!

Topic Question 5: Limited.

Topic Question 6: guided activities in small amounts

Correspondence ID: 31 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: competing uses demanding enhanced accessibility that could compromise the wilderness character of the parks.

Topic Question 2: Maintain a strong protection of roadless areas, bans of off-road vehicles, bans of construction or resource extraction.

Topic Question 3: that wilderness areas be wild and that wildlife be protected.

Correspondence ID: 32 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That less than the strongest protections will be adopted for these unique areas.

Topic Question 2: See Q 8.

Topic Question 4: Most low impact non-mechanized, non commercial uses (except as per Q 6).

Topic Question 5: If done responsibly and within reason it should not be a problem. Again, low impact is key.

Topic Question 6: Experienced commercial guides are an important low impact commercial activity that has many benefits, such as: reduce risk to park goers, increase education, insure responsible use and maximize the overall experience.

Topic Question 7: See below.

Topic Question 8: By definition wilderness areas require special consideration, the specifics of which should be left to qualified scientists, not politics.

Correspondence ID: 33 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I hope you will protect it.

Topic Question 2: Public donations, funding drives.

Topic Question 3: It belongs to everyone, and is God's creation.

Topic Question 4: Camping, hiking, anyway people can enjoy the parks safely and without hurting others or the inhabitants.

Topic Question 5: As long as it's safe and reasonable, and doesn't hurt anyone or anything in the parks.

Topic Question 6: I think they're great.

Topic Question 7: The parks should be managed by NPS and kept safe by the rangers.

Topic Question 8: All do. Thanks.

Please protect the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness with its impressive trees, high peaks, canyons, meadows, lakes, rivers and streams is bordered by the John Muir, Monarch, Golden Trout, and John Krebs Wildernesses. And the 39,740-acre John Krebs Wilderness, also included in the WSP, includes high country and dry foothills, plus the Redwood Mountain Grove, SEKI's largest giant sequoia grove.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 34 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses.

Topic Question 2: Please adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses.

Correspondence ID: 35 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: 1) significant adverse effects to wilderness character (e.g., mechanized intrusion, noise, loss of solitude) due to the use of helicopters within designated wilderness; 2) lack of evidence the project is necessary to meet minimum requirements to preserve the area as wilderness; 3) even if the project were necessary to preserve wilderness, the proposed actions are not the minimum tool for achieving the project's objectives, and therefore are inconsistent with the requirements of the Wilderness Act; 4) direct injury to critically endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn, including the death of at least some individuals; and 5) significant adverse sub-lethal and/or indirect effects to Sierra Nevada bighorn, such as decreased long-term survival of captured animals, behavioral changes such as avoidance of key winter range, etc.

Topic Question 2: certainly helicopters don't belong anywhere near a wilderness and i would prefer it if a joint EIS/EIR was prepared with the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. I think the best way to protect wilderness is to let the wilderness take care of itself. humans tend to muck things up when they try to "manage" what doesn't need management.

Topic Question 3: there is something sacred about wilderness - the quiet which is becoming increasingly harder to find. nature has a way of doing things right - making for a positive and life-affirming experience. backcountry hiking is about the only

recreating that I think should be allowed in wilderness areas.

Topic Question 4: certainly roads and vehicles (any type) are inappropriate. maximum concern should be given the animals and plants that live in our wilderness areas.

Topic Question 5: in a backcountry campsite i think the party size should be on the small side. food should be kept in those closed wooden boxes at the campsite and campfires should be allowed unless it is high fire season or if the air quality is compromised.

Topic Question 6: guided hiking or climbing doesn't bother me - i don't know what guided stock trips are though.

Topic Question 8: all of the wilderness areas warrant special consideration

Correspondence ID: 36 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: If we sacrifice these lands or allow them to be altered in such a way as to change their nature, we can never recover them again, and we will lose unique treasures having inestimable intrinsic value to the members of species whose home they are, as well as to domestic and global recreationists and tourists, who generate revenues which would be lost by the alteration or destruction of these lands.

Topic Question 2: Keep them inviolate and legislate their protection, irrevocably and in perpetuity.

Topic Question 3: The quiet enjoyment of our natural surroundings is essential for our mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. Over and above this is the fact that these lands are the home of members of many species with whom we share this land and without whom we would be irrevocably harmed.

Topic Question 4: Rejuvenation and recreation are the primary human uses of these lands, via hiking, boating, skiing, photography, nature watches, and more. Wildlife education and rehabilitation centers are also essentially important in and around these areas. We must not destroy or harm these lands; and although I personally do not advocate for hunting, fishing or trapping, I understand that some do pursue these activities.

Topic Question 5: Food storage must follow park guidelines to avoid possible lethal consequences to wildlife which invariably follow their natural and blameless instinctual attempts to sustain themselves in ever-shrinking habitat besieged by ever-growing numbers of often thoughtless and lawless human beings. Group sizes must be limited, therefore, and unruly parties made to leave immediately, as they would and should anywhere else.

Topic Question 6: Guided trips can increase the revenue value of these lands and thereby cause them to retain their priority among those whose only interests are remunerative. As long as the trips are conducted with all respect for the members of other species whose home these lands are, as well as for the land itself, there should be no problem; if, however, they become problematic, they should be barred from these lands.

Topic Question 7: Appropriate management activities must consist of maintenance of the lands in good condition; that is, maintenance of trees in good health and removal of those which are diseased or otherwise of negative impact to these lands. Guardianship of the other species, i.e., community relations experts' responding to human/wildlife conflicts and resolution thereof, must also be maintained. Road and fire road maintenance, waste management, and fire and other disaster response are other requirements. Maintenance of any campgrounds, visitor centers, or other public-use venues must be conducted as well.

Topic Question 8: As above.

Correspondence ID: 37 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I want the strongest possible wilderness protection.

Topic Question 3: They are not making any more wilderness. Wilderness is the most beautiful landscape. Wilderness is the best wildlife habitat.

Topic Question 4: Follow the Wilderness Act strictly.

Topic Question 6: They should not be allowed to diminish the wilderness experience for others.

Correspondence ID: 38 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: significant adverse effects to wilderness character (e.g., mechanized intrusion, noise, loss of solitude) due to the use of helicopters within designated wilderness, etc.) + doubts as to whether the collaring/tagging of sheep is absolutely necessary to the task of preservation

Topic Question 2: limited access - foot traffic only except in the case of physical impairment, for which quiet electronic transport could be allowed in specific areas. limited human intrusion would ensure that wildlife will have the chance to rehabilitate/repopulate without artificial/introduced stressors

Topic Question 3: that the wilderness remain wild -- entering a wilderness preserve should be a time for communing with nature on its own terms, to enjoy the peace and beauty without the burden of our dependencies on technology and petroleum enhanced "toys". otherwise, humans should remain in the urban areas.

Topic Question 4: appropriate: backpacking, bird-watching, photography/painting/sketching, writing, quiet musical explorations (flutes, violin, recorder, guitar- not electric!), observation and exploration with little to no impact on natural state. even allowing limited access for electronic transport for the physically-impaired

inappropriate: ATVs loud, blaring media

Topic Question 5: again, specific designated areas for campfires, RV, etc these intrusions kept to a minimum at the periphery. otherwise foot traffic and limited use of small electric vehicles when necessary.

Topic Question 6: allow only such guides as respect and love the wilderness, and would do little to damage it. such guides would consider it their duty to make sure their clients strictly observe the preserve's guidelines. ideally, the forest rangers who work to guard and preserve the wilderness would be the guides)if there were enough of them, after all the budget cuts...)

Topic Question 7: limited access - foot or small electric rovers forest ranger guides all the proceeds made from tourism should be reallocated into the parks and wildlife system for preservation/ maintainance and salaries/hiring of rangers

Topic Question 8: old growth forests, unique biomes and specific, limited, endangered populations

my concerns include the following: 1) significant adverse effects to wilderness character (e.g., mechanized intrusion, noise, loss of solitude) due to the use of helicopters within designated wilderness; 2) lack of evidence the tagging/collaring of sheep is necessary to meet minimum requirements to preserve the area as wilderness; 3) even if the project were necessary to preserve wilderness, the proposed actions do not seem to be the "minimum tool" for achieving the project's objectives, and therefore are inconsistent with the requirements of the Wilderness Act; 4) direct injury to critically endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn, including the death of at least some individuals will result from this action; and 5) significant adverse sub-lethal and/or indirect effects such as decreased long-term survival of captured animals, behavioral changes such as avoidance of key winter range, etc. will be inflicted on Sierra Nevada bighorn, and other native wildlife.

Please consider alternative approaches that would respect wilderness, while promoting better habitat conditions.

Correspondence ID: 39 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As our planet shudders and heaves with the effects of climate change, all species are struggling for survival. Without addressing climate change on a larger scale, we won't be able to preserve patches of wilderness -- but without efforts to preserve these vital remaining areas for wildlife to live relatively unimpeded, I'm afraid that the decimation will actually accelerate. We need to draw firm lines against incursions by corporate interests and cavalier human 'entertainment' purposes that would disrupt life (noisy motor vehicles, for example). Just the preservation of the trees and forests in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is crucial for our fight to hold on to some air quality and some habitats for wildlife.

Topic Question 3: Unfortunately, the less wilderness there is, the more restrictive we have to be about use. That in itself is a strong argument for protecting all current public lands from being taken over for mere economic considerations.

Topic Question 6: Guided services are excellent, as I would imagine they would help train people how to respect nature and protect both the humans and other species.

Correspondence ID: 40 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My concern is that the proposed lands are left as wild as possible - outlawing gas-motorized vehicles to avoid damaging road creations, noise and air pollution. Trails may be cleared the old fashioned way - by scythe and shovel (manual). This will maintain the land in its most pristine condition, making it a haven for wildlife as well as for visitors to pay tribute to these ancient trees without further damage to the land.

Topic Question 2: (see above)

Topic Question 3: Wilderness should be maintained as wilderness - undeveloped and without noise air or ground pollution of any kind. Such would provide the silence and majesty of these groves of ancient trees and a haven for wildlife of all kinds. Recreation should involve pleasure in surroundings, physical activity (non-motorized), and should be centered on preserving the wilderness state of the land, not in making noise on noisy, air-polluting machines which destroy the peace and quiet and harass the wildlife. Wilderness should provide what the name provides, not creature comforts. Recreation should center around those who appreciate the opportunity of viewing wilderness as it was, not make it into a theme park.

Topic Question 4: Wilderness use would include hiking, bird watching, canoeing/kyaking, photography. perhaps picnicking and camping, provided only that a) there are open areas currently, which would allow for limited picnicking and camping, and b) that a pack all in, pack all out (including waste materials - recycling bins could be located near park entrances) are strictly enforced with large fines. Trail biking might be allowed in a limited way, along natural trails (i.e., unimproved trails on non-motorized bikes) and with similar discouragements against littering of any kind).

Topic Question 5: (See above). Party sizes should be limited to under a dozen for any picnicking and under 8 for any campsite. Stone fireplaces should be made in the center of any camping site - and only if well removed from any underbrush, needles, foliage, grasses, etc. Any cooking site should have access to ground water in order to douse fires before leaving the campsite. All food must be in locked metal containers (packed in) and all garbage must be packed out and disposed of properly in receptacles at the entrance to the park.

Topic Question 6: Guided hikes, trail rides, birding or climbing trips must be limited in size and if as a commercial service, all guides must be certified or licensed by the park and should carry indemnity for those taking advantage of the service against injury or damage to park lands. Groups should be limited per the above guidelines as should be any camping, fires or food. The guide must be responsible for maintaining the land used and that the group uses approved food storage methods and leaves the park as it was, taking out all litter and garbage with them.

Topic Question 7: Park managers should be as familiar with the park's terrain and sights, camping areas, etc. as the rangers and should make regular but unscheduled field trips through random sections of the park to assure that regulations are being enforced and the land remains in its pristine condition. Any camper, hiker or trail rider should be given an orientation prior to being allowed on the trail as to the policies for food, camping, fires and wildlife (look, don't touch, don't feed or harass, etc.) and no smoking of any kind should be permitted to further cut down the potential for destructive fires. LARGE and publicized fines should be posted and enforced for disobeying any of the park regulations.

Topic Question 8: Ground water, rivers, lakes, streams, etc. should be maintained as pollution-free areas; all redwoods and sequoias must remain protected from any sort of damage.

I urge the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses areas and to maintain their use at the most conservative, non-motorized and for small groups (not parties or group retreats or recreations).

Correspondence ID: 41 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses

Correspondence ID: 42 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Wilderness Watch Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I do not believe that you are considering using the strongest possible protections for these two areas.

Topic Question 2: These parks should be restricted to foot and horse traffic once outside the main welcome zone. No offroad vehicles. No overflight except in emergencies. Every possible wilderness protection in place.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is a place where the intrusion of man is minimal and permits man to escape from the ravages of technology.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: backpack and horseback camping, hiking and climbing. Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Inappropriate: helicopter flight and landings, fixed wing aircraft overflight and landings, off-road vehicles.

Topic Question 5: Backpack party size: no more than 8 in a party. Food storage: secure; pack out all waste. Campfires: permitted, using only deadfall or wood packed in. Supervised at all times. Three members of the party to verify that the fire is out, scattered and buried before moving on. No fires permitted during hazard weather.

Horseback party size: no more than 10 humans and 12 horses, subject to same conditions.

Topic Question 6: Provided they meet the above requirements and no hunting allowed.

Topic Question 7: The NPS should make protection and preservation of the wilderness character of the Mojave Wilderness its top priority

Topic Question 8: Strict non-motorized vehicle policing outside the welcome area.

Correspondence ID: 43 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I fear that too many people will harm wildlife and cause destruction of the natural wilderness.

Topic Question 2: We need to limit the number of people who can access any of these resources and limit the things that they can do. Hiking, canoeing, camping, etc. are low-impact activities. Driving cars or four-wheelers are noisy, disruptive and destructive.

Topic Question 3: Most importantly, I feel that wilderness must be kept wild for the creatures who live there, not for the humans who want to visit.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and low-impact camping is appropriate. Four-wheelers and snowmobiles are destructive and loud.

Topic Question 5: Camp sites should be limited to a maximum number of people (for sleeping purposes); during the day, I think people should be able to mingle in other campsites. I think food storage is best in locked vehicles if possible, trees if not. Campfires should be allowed in designated areas using firewood bought and sold in designated areas (to prevent the transfer of insects). If that means that every camp should be equipped with a firepit of some sort, then I think it is appropriate to help stop the threat of wildfires.

Topic Question 6: I do not believe that state and federal lands should be used for commercial purposes. However, I see no reason why the state and federal lands cannot offer these services themselves. Fees should be high enough to support the service with money left over to support the general park.

Topic Question 7: Minimum requirements should be the minimum done. We interfere too much in forest "managemnt" to the detriment of the wildlife and the forest itself. Small fires become huge fires because we don't let the small ones burn as they would naturally. We need to support state and federal parks that are large enough to accomodate all of the species that naturally live in the area, including large predators.

Topic Question 8: I think all wilderness areas warrant special consideration. That also should take into consideration that humans are the only animals who recognize boundary lines -- animals who stray from designated areas should be returned to them -- not relocated or slaughtered.

Correspondence ID: 44 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Concerned about clear-cutting and vehicles near sequoia and redwoods, even if those giant trees are left standing. Often they are surrounded by a clear-cut area and exposed to excess heat and wind. Sequoias are quite shallow-rooted, despite their large size.

Topic Question 2: Build boardwalk trails to protect giant tree roots. do only select cutting when logging.

Topic Question 3: being away from noise and electronic devices (phones, cars, etc.). Not hemming in wildlife (such as Yellowstone, where there are park "boundaries" for buffalo, bears, antelope, etc.); allowing free migration patterns.

Topic Question 4: Quiet; don't want ATV or snowmobiles or airplane/helicopter tours. Don't like mountain bikes or pack animals on trails. A conflict for me: people with disabilities are shut out if "wilderness" is only high-mountain areas. i guess we've already clear-cut and built out the lower areas, though.

Topic Question 5: People have always lived in nature, so i think people can camp and backpack. Designated campfire pits or backpack spots seem good so that vegetation isn't trampled and for fire safety, but that is less wild feeling.

Topic Question 6: Rock climbing, mountain biking don't seem appropriate. Not sure about pack animals. Definitely no helicopter skiing or tours-- obnoxious noise.

Correspondence ID: 45 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please adopt the strongest possible wilderness protections for these two parks.

Correspondence ID: 46 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I urge you to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Correspondence ID: 47 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please adopt the strongest Wilderness Protections for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Correspondence ID: 48 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That the maximum amount remain in wilderness. I live in the state of Maine, but I have family in Fresno, CA and visit each year. During those visits I always manage a trip to Sequoia/Kings Canyon NPs. It's a great relief to see such abundant and needed wilderness available to those of us who so need it. Please keep it wild and undeveloped and remember to reread the mission of the National Park Service often -- don't forget ... this is America's Best Idea!

Topic Question 2: Do not 'develop' any more of the parks. No concession stands, no new roads, etc. It's very easy and inexpensive to have wilderness. Just (basically) leave it alone. It got along without our 'help' for millions of years. It can (and will) continue to do so.

Topic Question 3: To experience it. To use it to 'recharge' our batteries (so to speak). To reconnect to our planet. To see the wilderness as it was designed to be -- NOT 'improved' my mankind. And mostly to see it as it was, without "improvements". There is so little of our nation where one can do that -- it's a precious resource.

Topic Question 4: Just plain sitting and watching and listening -- to nature. To hike. To camp (when & where appropriate). To take pictures. To examine and explore. To identify with nature. For more: read Aldo Leopold's "Sand County Almanac" and Edward Abbey's "Desert Solitaire" -- they describe it best.

Topic Question 5: Limit group sizes. Don't allow "partying". Severe limits on dogs! Make sure the user community is adhering to the design and mission of the parks. Food storage is well researched (esp. in Yellowstone). It shouldn't be hard for the NPS to figure out how to deal with it in Sequoia and Kings Canyon with all the past experience. Campfires. Sure, with a permit, so as to be sure that the user knows what s/he is doing and doing it right. Limited, of course,

Topic Question 6: The less impact the better. The whole idea of "wilderness" is that it's wilderness. The more commercial intrusion, the less it's wilderness. We have so little of it overall, in the USA, and our National Parks were specifically designed to provide it. The trails in in the Grand Canyon NP that allow pack animals are simply horrible with invasive urine and poop and overly worn trails it's not the way to do it, for sure. And the South Rim with all it's commercialization is a blight in the park.

Keep it simple and keep it wild.

Topic Question 7: Keep it simple -- don't spend much time "helping" mother nature. She's quite capable without our help. Indeed, she's done well for the past few thousands of years. The NPS must consider wildfire and how to deal with it and wild species support ... those are the sorts of management issues the administration needs to deal with. Forget the commercialization and development 'stuff'.

Topic Question 8: Yes. Those that face overuse. Which is a real problem, as you know, in some parks. It's sad when visitation must be limited ... but limit it you must to save it. Such is the situation when this sort of resource is so limited and so many wish to "use" it.

These parks are "America's Best Idea". Keep that in the forefront of your mind as you consider how to proceed. And reread (indeed, memorize) the NPS Mission Statement. And keep that in mind too, especially the part about "...leave them unimpaired for future generations.". And remember, what you have is unique. Keep that uniqueness and try not to get sidetracked or fooled into letting any parts of it become 'what is available elsewhere'. For instance, the very fact that one can take back-country horse back trips elsewhere means that it's not mandatory in these Parks.

Recall John Muir and what he said and what he was thinking and why. Mankind desperately needs the solitude and connectedness to the wild and you can provide that. Indeed, you are mandated to. And no one else is likely to. Don't let it get away.

Where you can extend the boundaries of the parks, especially where it improves the quality of the parks, do your level best to see that they are expanded. It's not easy and it's not cheap, but the rewards are many and endlessly valuable to our future.

And thanks for asking.

We love Sequoia and Kings Canyon and it would be a great relief to learn that any long term plan will protect them largely as they are. They are serving an important and delightful purpose.

NPS Mission Statement -

"...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Correspondence ID: 49 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Dear Supervisor Karen F. Taylor-Goodrich, I am writing to encourage the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) and Environmental Impact Statement for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI). These areas must be protected. The 768,222-acre Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness with its impressive trees, high peaks, canyons, meadows, lakes, rivers and streams is bordered by the John Muir, Monarch, Golden Trout, and John Krebs Wildernesses. The 39,740-acre John Krebs Wilderness, also included in the WSP, includes high country and dry foothills, plus the Redwood Mountain Grove, SEKI's largest giant sequoia grove. Please protect and preserve these Wilderness areas for all generations of Americans to experience and enjoy.

Topic Question 2: These Wilderness areas could be protected and preserved as US National Parks - with support and encouragement for families to explore these areas as camping and recreation family areas - for hiking, camping, swimming and boating.

Topic Question 3: These activities encourage family protection and exploration of these wilderness sites as National Park areas - safe and educational for all American families. The more these areas are experienced by US families, the more supportive will be the provisions to permanently protect these Wilderness areas.

Topic Question 4: The activities that I have enjoyed in wilderness areas are - Hiking, family picnics, walking, exploration of the sites by all members of a family by fishing, canoeing, boating, camping and exploration of a wildlife sanctuary in these national parks.

Topic Question 5: Party or group size can vary from a small family for a picnic or fishing to a large group for a large institutional party - graduation. Each family that uses these areas should be required to take part in a food safety course-appropriate storage facilities (a refrigerator) and protection of the food from attraction from bears. The use of a campfire is only under the supervision of a park ranger and Never when the areas is in drought conditions - to avoid forest fires.

Topic Question 6: Guided tours in these wilderness areas are always welcome as they can serve to instruct new park visitors,

they will be better aware of urgent needs in these areas and supply any needed personnel (park rangers) to be available by telephone in the event of a true emergency.

Topic Question 7: All park visitors must undergo a wilderness introductory lecture that discusses Safety, available activities, safe use of fire for a campfire and most important - how to contact park officials when there is an immediate emergency.

Topic Question 8: Areas under drought, areas used as breeding or hibernation sites that are used by animals in the wilderness areas.

Correspondence ID: 50 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 22:20:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I encourage the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses. Our wild areas are being diminished by overuse/misuse. Wild should mean just that "wild"- little or no human activity.

Correspondence ID: 51 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My concerns are: 1) significant adverse effects to wilderness character (e.g., mechanized intrusion, noise, loss of solitude) due to the use of helicopters within designated wilderness; 2) lack of evidence the project is necessary to meet minimum requirements to preserve the area as wilderness; 3) even if the project were necessary to preserve wilderness, the proposed actions are not the "minimum tool" for achieving the project's objectives, and therefore are inconsistent with the requirements of the Wilderness Act; 4) direct injury to critically endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn, including the death of at least some individuals; and 5) significant adverse sub-lethal and/or indirect effects to Sierra Nevada bighorn, such as decreased long-term survival of captured animals, behavioral changes such as avoidance of key winter range, etc. I suggest that alternative approaches would better respect wilderness, while promoting better habitat conditions for bighorns.

Correspondence ID: 52 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are both beautiful, unusual, and well situated amongst other protected wilderness areas. It is important that they remain in a natural state, and are not sullied by roads, cutting, or ATV's.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, snowshoeing, photography, birdwatching, and other passive recreational activities. Things that destroy plants, viewsheds, and make loud raucous sounds (skimobiles, for example, and dirt bikes) are totally inappropriate. They disturb both animals and people who wish to appreciate nature, not slob's desecration of nature.

Topic Question 5: Groups should be family sized at most, 10 or 12. Food should be in containers sturdy enough to not emit smells, and kept in such a way that it not attract animals or allow them to get the food.

Topic Question 6: If the services are located outside the wilderness, and groups kept small, those things could work. Guides should be experienced, and clients capable.

Topic Question 7: Leave the wilderness wild!

Correspondence ID: 53 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 22:35:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: All wilderness areas should be just that wilderness. No development or any type of commercial recreation allowed. Only back packing and hiking (established trails) should be allowed.

Correspondence ID: 54 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These areas are pristine and should stay that way. I oppose any development or encroachment near or in these areas.

Topic Question 2: I want the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness should remain untouched by massive tourism and recreation. Camping is fine but there should be

limited use of vehicles and other recreation in these areas.

Topic Question 4: Camping and hiking are appropriate. Any commercial venture must be sensitive to keeping the wilderness pristine.

Correspondence ID: 55 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 06:56:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 2: Protecting does not mean human interference. Stay out and let wilderness be wilderness.

I don't know what "stewardship" means. If it means human intrusion to "improve" wilderness, this is not acceptable. The best way to steward wilderness is to leave it alone. Stay out. Other than guided trips into the area for people who do not feel comfortable entering on their own, there should be no commercial activity in wilderness. There should never be motorized intrusion, man made noise, or any evidence that man is even there. There should be no roads, no cut trails. You cannot "improve" nature. Nature is its own steward.

Correspondence ID: 56 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please adopt the strongest wilderness protections for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Also, regarding the "Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Environmental Assessment: Research and Recovery Actions"...I do not feel the use of helicopters and net-gun capturing, as well as relocating sheep is good for the following reasons:

1. Significant adverse effects to wilderness character (e.g., mechanized intrusion, noise, loss of solitude) due to the use of helicopters within designated wilderness
2. Lack of evidence the project is necessary to meet minimum requirements to preserve the area as wilderness
3. Even if the project were necessary to preserve wilderness, the proposed actions are not the "minimum tool" for achieving the project's objectives, and therefore are inconsistent with the requirements of the Wilderness Act
4. Direct injury to critically endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn, including the death of at least some individuals - THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN!
5. Significant adverse sub-lethal and/or indirect effects to Sierra Nevada bighorn, such as decreased long-term survival of captured animals, behavioral changes such as avoidance of key winter range, etc.

I believe alternative approaches that would respect wilderness, while promoting better habitat conditions for bighorns are necessary and should be taken!

Correspondence ID: 57 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: there should never be any type of offroad use by any vehicles or any new roads into forest habitat . govt. lack of funds to keep the park environment as natural as possible .

Topic Question 2: set limits on the amount of visitors. too many visitors leads to too much traffic and park destruction especially in times where the govt. needs to cut back expenses and parks are a victim .

Topic Question 3: being able to enjoy this area without overcrowding . if the park is overcrowded like it can be in yosemite , i may as well go visit a city .

Topic Question 4: trail hiking, fishing, quiet camps ..

too much traffic . too many people destroy the entire experience .

Topic Question 5: should be party size limits for sure. campfires only in campgrounds of course

Topic Question 6: not necessary . we need no commercial services in this area .

Correspondence ID: 58 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: the adjacent Muir Wilderness is pristine and needs to remain that way

Topic Question 2: Limit number of campers per day Disallow motor vehicles No road-building only primitive camping and no pets

Topic Question 3: the opportunity to experience our country the way the earliest people here saw it

Topic Question 4: camping, hiking, fishing, bird watching and bicycles are appropriate ATVs, roads, pets, are not appropriate

Topic Question 5: camping should be limited to a small number per day, first come, first served campfires are OK except in drought periods food storage must be bear-aware

Topic Question 6: they are OK but only if limited in size and only by proven firms

Topic Question 7: monitor campfires, group size, noise levels, activities

Topic Question 8: yes, habitat for the animals that live there.

Correspondence ID: 59 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That the parks continue to be kept as wilderness areas and that no threats to the parks are advocated. This means that no construction or removal of the giant sequoia trees are considered or done in the Redwood Mountain Grove, SEKI's largest giant sequoia grove, or any other part of the National parks.

Topic Question 2: The Wilderness Act does not permit unnecessary agency use of a helicopter. Direct injury to critically endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn, including the death of at least some individuals; and significant adverse sub-lethal and/or indirect effects to Sierra Nevada bighorn, such as decreased long-term survival of captured animals, behavioral changes such as avoidance of key winter range, can be avoided by considering other strategies. For this reason, a strategy to move and tag sheep using helicopters is not a necessary use of a helicopter.

Topic Question 3: Significant adverse effects to wilderness character (e.g., mechanized intrusion, noise, loss of solitude) due to the use of helicopters within designated wilderness should be prevented and the public should be able to enjoy the natural area, the quiet enjoyment of the areas without noise.

Topic Question 4: hiking in areas that are marked for hiking; photography; rafting or kayaking, etc.

Topic Question 5: If there is an area already set aside for camping then I have no problem with allowing it. However, if you want to encourage camping in areas where there is no place already set aside to camp, then it can be allowed if people follow the wilderness rule of not leaving anything behind that they bring in and dousing campfires completely to prevent forest fires.

Topic Question 6: It should not be done if it would spoil the wilderness areas.

Topic Question 7: Management activities should leave the smallest footprint in the wilderness area without the use of helicopters at all costs.

Topic Question 8: I think all areas of the wilderness warrant special consideration in the sense that they need to be protected from outside influences to change their environments to something other than what they are meant for: quiet enjoyment.

Correspondence ID: 60 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to ask that The National Park Service develop a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks that includes the strongest wilderness protections possible. Please protect the The 768,222-acre Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness and the John Muir, Monarch, Golden Trout, and John Krebs Wildernesses so that future generations can experience true wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 61 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please strongly consider adopting strict wilderness protections in your development of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Please do not violate these protections as you have done in Glacier National Park.

Topic Question 3: Keep it wild!!

Topic Question 4: I believe use of motor vehicles outside of controlled areas is inappropriate including helicopters.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services are okay as long as they limit the use of motor vehicles of all kinds including helicopters.

Correspondence ID: 62 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: To whom it may concern, I urge you to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness and the John Krebs Wilderness. I am a hiker who loves to walk through wild and pristine areas of our country.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is a place for Americans to recharge.

To whom it may concern, I urge you to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness and the John Krebs Wilderness. I am a hiker who loves to walk through wild and pristine areas of our country. Wilderness is a place for Americans to recharge. It is also crucial to protect rare and threatened species of plants and animals.

Correspondence ID: 63 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I want to retani as much of the existing wilderness character as is presently in the park and restore those area which have been degraded.

Topic Question 2: Eliminate roads, eliminate motorized vehicle traffic.

Topic Question 3: No evidence of modern civilization, no roads, no vehicular noise

Topic Question 4: Appropriate-recreational hunting and fishing, hiking, technical climbing Inappropriate-off road vehicles, mountain bikes

Topic Question 5: They should all be activities only allowed by permit in low enough numbers not to damage the wilderness character

Topic Question 6: They should be limited in number so as not to degrade the wilderness

Topic Question 7: Careful controls of acces by a permitting process

Wilderness is something that belongs to future generations and should not be destroyed for our perceived short term needs.

Correspondence ID: 64 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: keeping them natural, as low a human impact as possible

Topic Question 2: regulations-- rules for use that protect the environment

Topic Question 3: natural wilderness noises -- not ATVs or off road vehicles

Topic Question 4: hiking and camping (taking trash out with you)

Topic Question 5: no party/groups; campfires extinguished properly and food stored away from wildlife. complete removal of all trash

Topic Question 6: OK as long as the services are public services- not'for profit' private services.

Topic Question 7: checking in: pay fee for use; rules posted and agreement signed before entering; checking out: inspection of trash being taken out; report on area when person entered and when person left;

Topic Question 8: Some areas should be off limits due to fragility, endangered species, possible danger;

Correspondence ID: 65 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The National Park Service (NPS) is developing a Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) and Environmental Impact Statement for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) and is seeking public input.

I urge the NPS to adopt the strongest possible wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses.

Topic Question 2: Minimize incursions by road building, off road vehicles, snowmobiles, tourist development and the use of private cars in the parks.

Topic Question 3: Above all, the preservation of pristine wilderness with only the human impact necessary for visitors to enjoy these places without changing them.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking and tenting on trails

Inappropriate: any vehicles, including motor vehicles of any kind or bicycles

Topic Question 5: parties of ten or fewer, portable food only, and fires only in park facilities (metal burners)

Topic Question 6: acceptable for parties of ten or fewer

Topic Question 7: this question is vague. Park ranger services, obviously.

Topic Question 8: These would depend on circumstances, especially likely to include the sequoias

Correspondence ID: 66 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I want them protected

Topic Question 2: limit human abuse

Topic Question 3: keeping it wild is the world's right & legacy

Topic Question 4: inappropriate - motor vehicles

Topic Question 5: keep it small keep it enclosed keep them out

Topic Question 6: so long as its respectful of the land

Topic Question 7: do not harm the animals

Topic Question 8: all of it

Correspondence ID: 67 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am deeply concerned that the ecosystems and wildlife might be compromised by any reduction in protection of these areas. While there, I can remember being greatly impressed by commentaries of rangers on how even straying from the trails could cause serious breakdown in the surrounding ecosystems.

Topic Question 2: Strictly regulating the presence of humans and non-native or feral domestic animals is vital for these sites. Any thought of off-road vehicles or sports centers on these lands should be vigorously rejected.

Topic Question 3: As a long-time California resident, who hopes to return there one day, I am horrified by the thought that these magnificent wilderness areas might be compromised. One of the most memorable times in my life was during a 10 day horseback trip I took up into and through the Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks. Im sure that almost everyone who has been able to experience the glory and grandeur of these never forgets and retains a deep feeling for them. Please keep in mind the tremendous good keeping these areas open to a reverent public is and should continue to be.

Topic Question 4: Even though one might consider me a "tree-hugger", I believe that responsible hunting of lawfully designated animals should be permitted, as well as fishing, bird-watching, botanical excursions, hiking, and camping at designated sites.

Topic Question 5: I believe that anyone obtaining permits to enter these wilderness areas should prove that they are aware of and have mastered the techniques of outdoors camping -- properly storing food (so as not to tempt bears), eating and preparing cold foods (NO campfires!), and packing out any detritus, whether human waste or remains of what they have packed in. Group sizes should be kept fairly small -- no more than a dozen people at most.

Topic Question 8: Due to the heterogeneity of the area, they should all warrant careful attention -- but especially in regards to the inception of forest fires and degradation of terrain.

May I reiterate that these two wilderness areas are among the most glorious in the world and should be conserved and preserved as they are in perpetuity.

Correspondence ID: 68 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned that it may not be preserved well enough for wildlife species and maximum biodiversity to survive.

Topic Question 3: Experiencing the wilderness as it naturally exists. The more signs of people one encounters, the less it's a true wilderness. I feel it should primarily be a haven for wildlife. This can be beneficial also to naturalists, photographers, and researchers.

Topic Question 4: Wilderness needs to be respected and remain as pristine as possible. People need to pack out everything they pack in, and hunting should not be allowed. Hiking and climbing can be okay as long as it's limited, but no off-road vehicles.

Topic Question 5: Small groups, minimized impact through strict guidelines toward safe food storage practices to discourage wildlife would be fine. Campfires would need to be very small and limited. Certainly no bonfires!

Topic Question 6: As long as commercial services and guided activities are limited and follow strict guidelines to minimize impact, I would think they could be allowed and potentially beneficial to help people appreciate and enjoy wilderness.

I encourage the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two wildernesses in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

The 768,222-acre Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness with its impressive trees, high peaks, canyons, meadows, lakes, rivers and streams is bordered by the John Muir, Monarch, Golden Trout, and John Krebs Wildernesses. The 39,740-acre John Krebs Wilderness, also included in the WSP, includes high country and dry foothills, plus the Redwood Mountain Grove, SEKI's largest giant sequoia grove. All this wilderness is vital for the preservation of endangered wildlife.

I feel very strongly that we should preserve all we can for future generations. Wildlife and old-growth wilderness and forests are what make our country so amazing.

Correspondence ID: 69 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Jul,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Negative impact due to human intrusion.

Topic Question 2: Leave it as natural as possible.

Topic Question 3: Natural conservation.

Topic Question 4: It is appropriate to leave it alone. Any form of intrusion is inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Keep it minimal. The less the impact, the better.

Topic Question 6: Monitor intrusion impact, to keep it minimal.

Topic Question 7: Appropriate management would be to keep wilderness as pristine and untouched as possible.

Topic Question 8: Yes. All of them.

Human impact of wilderness is always negative. We must either eliminate human impact or at least keep it as minimal as possible.

Correspondence ID: 70 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,08,2011 17:12:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are two of the crown jewels of America's national parks. They should have the most stringent rules in effect to preserve their wilderness character for generations to come.

Topic Question 2: Passing and/or enforcing existing rules stringently that maintain the natural character of the park and minimize damage.

Topic Question 3: It is a place to temporarily escape the stresses of modern, especially urban/suburban life, to recharge by reconnecting with the natural world. It should provide an experience that remains as much unchanged whether visited 100 years ago, today, or 100 years into the future.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities preserve a park's natural character and minimize the human presence. Any activities that infringe on a visitor's enjoyment and appreciation of the natural ecology of a park would be inappropriate. Motorized vehicles passing through or over the park diminishes the natural experience, creating noise, pollution, and damage to the ground or trails and would be inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Authorities such as park rangers have a much more informed idea on these issues and what is needed to minimize any long-term damage.

Topic Question 6: I see nothing wrong with guide services provided the guides are qualified and that their numbers do not exceed that which would infringe on other visitors' wilderness experience (e.g., too many, or too large, guided groups would likely be inappropriate).

Correspondence ID: 71 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,09,2011 12:14:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The unqualified preservation of wilderness areas undiminished.

Topic Question 2: Leave untouched any existing wilderness and restore to wilderness any non-vital developed sites.

Topic Question 3: The experience of true and unmitigated wilderness.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and primitive camping.

Topic Question 5: Any consideration of these issues should have at it's core the goal of minimal environmental impact.

Topic Question 6: I am highly suspicious of commercial enterprise in wilderness areas.

Topic Question 7: Any and all necessary to preserve the integrity of wilderness.

Topic Question 8: Those deemed important to wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 72 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom it may concern, I am concerned by the seeming lack of concern for our few remaining wild spaces. These areas are part of our National Heritage and should be included in our collective sense of Patriotic Pride, not partitioned off to the lowest bidder who will come in and mine, drill or develop the area until it is a mess and then expect the government (READ TAXPAYERS HERE) to come clean it up or let it rot! So, protect these lands once and for all ensuring that future generations of Americans will be able to marvel at what made this country so attractive to those who came before them!

Correspondence ID: 73 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,10,2011 13:04:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about the well being of the natural inhabitants of the park. The parks beauty comes from the wildlife that lives there so we need to protect it.

Topic Question 2: There should be designated areas for people and designated areas for only wildlife. This will allow the public to enjoy what the parks have to offer while giving the animals a refuge from the stresses that can come from human interaction.

Topic Question 3: Its important because we all enjoy the power and the beauty that is nature. We need to preserve it so that we can continue to enjoy it.

Topic Question 4: Inappropriate activities are any that negatively effect the wilderness as snowmobiles, off road vehicles, and garbage/pollution that can be left behind by uncaring humans. Appropriate activities are any that have little effects on the wilderness such as hiking and camping as long as they are done responsibly.

Correspondence ID: 74 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,10,2011 16:53:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please adopt the strongest wilderness protections for the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. I am concerned about the health and safety of the wildlife in these Parks.

Topic Question 3: Respecting wildlife and their habitat!

Topic Question 4: Those that do not disrupt the wellbeing of the parks' non-human occupants. Hunting should be prohibited.

Correspondence ID: 75 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,10,2011 22:31:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am totally opposed to further commercial or extractive activities in the Sequoia forests, as well as all other wilderness areas. We have such limited places like these still left, and once they are gone, they will be gone forever. There are virtually unlimited recreational opportunities elsewhere for those who enjoy motorized sports, and other noisy activities. Please leave the wilderness alone for those of us who like to enjoy its natural beauty as is, and for the benefit of the critters who make their homes there.

Logging, and all other forms of forestry should be permanently banned, partly for the trees, and partly for the protection of the streams and banks that line them, and for the fish who live in them.

Greedy corporations, and ignorant people simply cannot be allowed to ruin these great natural resources that are absolutely irreplaceable.

Thank you for considering my opinions.

Correspondence ID: 76 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Jul,11,2011 12:49:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks: The National Park Service (NPS) is developing a Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) and Environmental Impact Statement for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) and is seeking public input. The 768,222-acre Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness with its impressive trees, high peaks, canyons, meadows, lakes, rivers and streams is bordered by the John Muir, Monarch, Golden Trout, and John Krebs Wildernesses. The 39,740-acre John Krebs Wilderness, also included in the WSP, includes high country and dry foothills, plus the Redwood Mountain Grove, SEKI's largest giant sequoia grove.

Please encourage the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses

Topic Question 2: I encourage the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses

Topic Question 3: the protection of rare areas for future. We have to protect these places as best we can and not let too much traffic in and keep them wilderness areas.

Topic Question 4: NO COMMERCIAL DRILLING LIKE NATURAL GAS OR OIL, Keep them for us!

Topic Question 5: Keep in line with wilderness area guidelines.

Topic Question 7: I encourage the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses

Topic Question 8: I encourage the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses

I encourage the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses

Correspondence ID: 77 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,11,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I ask that the NPS adopts the strongest possible protections for both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Correspondence ID: 78 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,11,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: July 11, 2011

Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

On June 29, I sent an email (copy below), and on June 30 a fax (copy attached), requesting that you extend the scoping period for your Wilderness Stewardship Plan by one month, to August 25, to provide greater opportunity for public comment. To date, I have not received an acknowledgement, or a substantive reply.

I am writing today to request that you confirm receipt of these requests, and to ask when I might expect a substantive response. I would very much appreciate a reply at your earliest convenience. Thank you for considering this request.

Yours sincerely, Peter Browning

On 6/29/2011 5:12 PM, HSHA president wrote: > via electronic mail >> June 29, 2011 >> Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Superintendent > Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks > 47050 Generals Highway > Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651 >> Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich, >> I am writing to request that scoping for your Wilderness Stewardship Plan and EIS be extended by one month, to August 25, to provide more opportunity for the interested public to provide comments. We have been fielding numerous questions about this plan and process from our members, and on behalf of thousands of hikers who use and enjoy the SEKI backcountry, we request this modest extension of the scoping deadline to allow for meaningful public involvement. >> Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please notify me by response to this e-mail, or via US Mail at the address below, if this would be agreeable. >> Yours sincerely, >> Peter Browning, President > High Sierra Hikers Association > P.O. Box 8920 > South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158

Correspondence ID: 79 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,13,2011 12:46:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That the needs and will of the wild will almost never be considered more important than even the most ridiculous human whim. Just because we can as humans - doesn't mean we should in almost all cases.

Topic Question 2: Keep human activity down to bare minimum impact. Rate all human activities on a scale of 1 - 10 with 10 being something that would cause serious, irreversible detrimental impact to even one aspect of the wild (ie: the ground, a plane, fish, insect, wilderness character) and keep anything out above a 1.

Topic Question 3: That I get the feeling the wild is being respected - not only by myself but all others who go to the wilderness areas. That it is going unharmed by myself and all others who use or visit the area.

Topic Question 4: Quiet. Non motorized. Non wheeled activities are appropriate. Traveling by foot, non motorized boat or animal within wilderness boundaries is appropriate. Cars, bikes, ATVs are inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Groups should be no more than 6. Food storage should be the safest possible. Campfires should have strict rules.

Topic Question 6: All good as long as we aren't taking so many people through that it's like Grand Central Station. You know? As long as no detrimental impacts are being caused to the area.

Topic Question 8: Water must be kept clean enough to drink no matter what. Areas where endangered species exist should be totally kept human free.

Correspondence ID: 80 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Jul,13,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My concern is that there will be too much bureacratic control limiting public access and use of the parks especially by horse people.

I am concerned with commercial use of the forest for logging and the damage inflicted- what I have seen almost equates to clear cutting of some of the areas around Buck Rock and the Big Meadow trail head area

I am also concerned with the rampant overuse and abuse of the forest by dirt bikers and thrill seekers who do not care for the beauty of the land at all- nor do they care about their noise pollution

Topic Question 2: we need a common sense even handed policy and administrator that promotes access to the parks and forests by horse people, hikers, and even well behaved atv/bike riders[those with working mufflers] Exclusion is not a possible strategy-

Hikers and riders should be prepared to pack in and out all trash and scatter all horse droppings. Trail head trash service should be available along with appropriate bathroom/water facilities- for example Redwood Canyon received a new outhouse facility at the trailhead- much needed for a heavily used trail

Topic Question 3: most important to me is access to well maintained wilderness trails both in the park and forest. I want to be permitted access to the park and forest for recreational riding and camping. Plus,even the best trail horse cannot navigate a trail made impassable by downed trees or large boulders. I would commend the park service this year for their trail work in removing downed trees on the most frequented trails. Your crews are hard working and appreciated.

Topic Question 4: Important activities are camping, horseback riding, horse camping. People should be allowed biking and skating but not on the trails. ATV and motorized bikes should not be allowed just anywhere in the park or forest. This is because many bike and atv riders I have seen are not animal or people friendly plus they don't stay on the trails and do tremendous damage to any reachable terrain because they use the land for high speed chasing and spinning instead of for access to wilderness spots for sightseeing, fishing, or camping which I consider a legitimate sustainable use.

Topic Question 5: we have bears - hence bear boxes should be required or provided. Those who go into the wilderness to camp should have bear proof containers or have a plan for food storage that will prevent bear access. If these items were available for rent/loan at the time of obtaining wilderness permits, it would facilitate compliance

I personally think that group size should be limited to groups not exceeding 12 riders with stock- campfires should be allowed except in extreme fire seasons- a check list for proper fire ring management should be available to the camper at the time he/she obtains his wilderness permit. Postings at organized camp grounds should be sufficient otherwise.

Topic Question 6: I think there is a need for such services but there should be a limit on the number of permits per location plus a limit on the party size- depending on the use- ie stock and riders would probably affect the trail/campsites more so than hikers

even with guides unless they start taking in luxury housing.

Topic Question 7: these would include trail maintenance and perhaps at least one ranger station in the wilderness areas for emergency contact. I prefer a low key management style that lets the public enjoy the forest and parks without the feeling of being policed with mindless useless rules and limitations

Topic Question 8: no

Correspondence ID: 81 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,14,2011 00:51:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that the management plan will so place so many barriers in the way of researchers that the park will not be in compliance with the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 which states, "The Secretary is authorized and directed to assure that management of units of the National Park System is enhanced by the availability and utilization of a broad program of the highest quality science and information." For example, a ban on permanent monitoring equipment in wilderness areas will severely limit the long-term monitoring of park resources, such as water levels and chemistry, which will negatively impact management decisions.

Topic Question 3: The roadless nature of wilderness enhances dark skies, provides natural scenic vistas, and provides a base-line environment for scientific study.

Topic Question 4: The 1964 wilderness act states that, "... wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use." The park should seek to maximize these uses in ways that are consistent with preserving the resources.

Topic Question 5: I am generally in favor of fairly large parties, provided their impact can be minimized. I don't see much difference between one party of thirty and three parties of ten using an area.

Because of the bear problem, permanent bear boxes in high use backcountry areas should be permitted.

Campfires should be limited to established fire places in places where there is plenty of available wood. These fire places should be common in suitable high-use areas.

Topic Question 6: These kinds of commercial services allow people to experience the wilderness who would not otherwise have been able to enjoy the experience. They are to be encouraged as furthering the 1064 wilderness act.

Topic Question 7: I think the US Forest Service is wasting the taxpayer's money by not using chain saws for trail maintenance. Using hand tools might be excused if chain saw noise significantly impacted some resource in limited areas.

The park should try to continue their support for wilderness research. This support should be for broad-based research, since almost any kind of research could find things that are important for the management of the area.

Correspondence ID: 82 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,14,2011 16:10:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I encourage the NPS to adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses. My husband and I have been fortunate enough to spend time there and it truly is one of the most magical places on earth. In order to preserve this wonder forever, please consider requiring the strictest levels of protection. Thank you for your consideration

Topic Question 2: I think we do not need more roads or motorized vehicles in our wilderness

Topic Question 3: The ability to experience nature unimpeded by noise and pollution from modern life such as engines, light pollution, etc.

Topic Question 4: I think motorized and recreational vehicles are inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: I think strict food storage rules need to be enforced to keep wildlife safe.

Topic Question 6: I think commercial services allow a larger number of people to experience the wilderness, but all companies must be held to strict standards of stewardship. Commercial services that don't hold to these standards need to lose the privilege of offering such services in our wilderness areas.

Correspondence ID: 83 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,15,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that there will be too many regulations. I hope that everyone keeps in mind that rules are much easier to put into place than to remove, and that a big part of being in the wilderness is the feeling of freedom. I understand the need for protection, but I hope policy makers use caution.

Topic Question 2: Meetings and opportunities for input like this are great!

Topic Question 3: Basically recreational use, it gets mountain lovers through life.

Topic Question 4: Anything that doesn't leave a mark is appropriate. However people enjoy the wilderness is great and up to them, so long as it doesn't harm nature or the experience of others. Please don't ever regulate cross-country travel. (except for stock users)

Topic Question 5: Party Size: current limits are ok, but CHARGE PERMIT FEES ON A PER PERSON BASIS, NOT PER GROUP. That would take away the intensive of being in large groups, and it is crazy that a permit for myself costs the same as a permit for a group of friends. Just crunch the numbers and figure out a per person rate that would break even with what the park gets now from backcountry permits. Food Storage: Get rid of bear lockers in the backcountry and enforce a bear-can rule everywhere. If there's one thing that doesn't belong in wilderness, it's a giant metal box. Campfires: I love to have them, but I understand local and elevational restrictions.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking: great. Guided climbing/mountaineering: Great. Stock use: Not so great. I purposely spend more time in areas where stock use is prohibited because they noticeably trash places and trails that they use. Maybe it's because I have never used stock, but I don't like it. Of course pack goats are fine.

Topic Question 7: Minimum is a good word. Not nothing, but minimum. i.e. signs and trails and that's it aside from rangers to enforce laws.

Topic Question 8: Need more backcountry burns.

Correspondence ID: 84 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,17,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about overuse and misuse of wilderness areas. At the same time, I recognize that a large cross-section of the public need access to public lands. I am also concerned about the effects of global climate change on high-altitude species. I have noticed poor air quality in the parks due to Central Valley smog and wildfires and I wonder what can be done about the smog, at least.

Topic Question 2: I believe we need to strictly protect the wilderness but also do a better job of bringing people to enjoy and understand it.

Topic Question 3: Wildlife habitat and the opportunity to see wildlife. Hiking and backpacking in unspoiled wild areas. Relative solitude.

Topic Question 4: I consider hiking, backpacking, wildlife watching, nonmotorized boats to be generally appropriate in most areas. Stock use is not appropriate in all areas. Motorized vehicles, hunting, trapping, and mountain bikes are inappropriate for wilderness.

Topic Question 5: I would definitely like to see bear canisters or the equivalent required and campfires prohibited over 10K feet and in areas of extreme fire hazard. I'm not sure how much people would resent having group size limited, but personally I would love to never encounter another huge, loud Boy Scout troop. I think six would be a reasonable group limit.

Topic Question 6: I'm not totally against these services as long as they are strictly controlled for quality, sustainable practices, safety, etc.. Stock should be restricted to below 10K feet and kept out of certain areas (i.e. delicate wet meadows) in my opinion.

Topic Question 7: I'm not totally clear on what this question is asking about, but I want current trails to be maintained and perhaps a few more built in some areas (not Sequoia/KC). I want use limited by a reasonable wilderness permit system. I don't want buildings (the ranger cabins are OK). I want wildlife to be protected and reintroduced where appropriate. I would prefer that wildfires are left to burn naturally except in cases of imminent danger to humans (controlled burns in wilderness probably aren't a logistical possibility). I want low aircraft flyovers prohibited except in case of SAR.

Topic Question 8: We should be concerned about water quality, pollution, pests attacking trees (especially with climate change), vulnerable species, invasive species. I don't know of a specific location in the park that needs particular attention.

I'd like to see the wilderness permit system control numbers a little more logically. I agree with the idea of limiting numbers overall, but I don't really get why I couldn't go up Taobose Pass last year because only 8 people were allowed into Upper Basin a day, whereas when we switched our plans to Rae Lakes/60 Lakes Basin via Kearsarge, there seemed to be no limits and there were hordes in this apparently overused area. (I know some of that is in Inyo NF but it's the same permit system).

In general, I'm happy with the way our wilderness is being protected. I know money is tight, but I wonder if more public education and "marketing" would help people value wilderness and wilderness-appropriate activities. There are some wackos out there trying to paint wilderness as a bad thing instead of one of our great American treasures. I'd like to see more active promotion (while not wanting to herd hordes of people into the backcountry).

Correspondence ID: 85 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Jul,18,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My biggest concern is that wilderness areas in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks get the strictest protections they can. In far too many incidents in the last 15 years, formerly accepted and sacrosanct protections have either been threatened or diminished by Congress, often at the behest or with the involvement of mining interests hoping to exploit and expand their holdings in wilderness areas. The pollution and all-around environmental damage would be disastrous if the wilderness areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, even forever damaging the Sequoia redwoods, which are the hallmarks of the parks and found nowhere else on Earth. I urge you to adopt the strictest protections that are at your disposal.

Correspondence ID: 86 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Jul,18,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 2: Having quota systems for commercial use.

Topic Question 3: public education on the value of keeping and accessing wilderness areas for future generations.

Topic Question 4: Low impact activities ie. fly fishing services

Topic Question 6: I would like to see a quota system for fly fishing guiding in the wilderness areas. At this time there is no access to streams or rivers that are in the wilderness. I have the first permit for guided fly fishing in the park, that I know of, and it would be good to allow some access to the back country. I believe in regulating some useage, and a quota system might be a good way to have access. I would suggest 25 user days to start and evaluate each year there after. The only places I would like access are Dorst Creek and the Kings River above roads end to Bubbs Creek.

Topic Question 7: Have a quota system for wilderness access for fly fishing guides.

Topic Question 8: Would like to have access to Dorst Creek and Kings River from road end to Bubbs Creek.

Correspondence ID: 87 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Jul,18,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: NPS over-controls access to some cave resources in SEKI based on the whims of the cave specialist. Access to bona-fide cavers who are not part of the SEKI 'inner circle' is granted only when the cave specialist allows it thereby violating the spirit and intent of the Wilderness Act. A permit system that allows access with trustees works very effectively at many cave resources in SEKI. By over-regulating, NPS does not meet the intent of its mission, nor the expectations of the tax-paying public. Consider reviewing the cave access environment in the Marble Mountains as an example of collaboration between cavers and regulators in a wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 88 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Jul,19,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Overgrazing is my primary concern. I am always horrified to visit Sequoia and see that the forested lands are grazed "below the dirt". This is unacceptable. It is detrimental to the overall forest, the understory, the creeks and waterways.

Topic Question 2: Pull back grazing and rest the forest for three to five years. Evaluate impacts after removing grazing. Develop a realistic program going forward.

Topic Question 3: These lands should be managed primarily for sustainable wildlife habitat, climate stability and healthy watershed purposes. People need to honor those priorities and accommodate to management strategies that will deliver the

above.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: well maintained trail use that helps educate and involve the public in reaching the above priorities.

Inappropriate: overgrazing, overuse by people in any form.

Topic Question 6: The above depends on how qualified these guides are and how effectively the activity is monitored and stopped if it doesn't enhance forested lands.

Topic Question 7: Short seasonal grazing, if allowed at all after resting the currently damaged lands.

Topic Question 8: Riparian areas should be given special consideration. Cattle grazing should not be allowed in these area. Exlosures should be maintained with watering troughs as needed.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Correspondence ID: 89 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,19,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: NPS should adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses

Correspondence ID: 90 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,22,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that the wilderness there be preserved as wilderness and not be disturbed by mechanical noises or other human intrusions.

Topic Question 2: Exclude mechanized human activities and implements/machines.

Topic Question 3: The peace and quiet, the direct contact with undisturbed nature.

Topic Question 4: appropriate: walking, hiking, birding, photographing inappropriate: snowmobiling, use of other mechanized vehicles, hunting

Topic Question 5: Party/group size should be small (ideally no larger than 5); food storage should be that best designed to keep the food's presence unknown to animals especially bears; campfires should be allowed only in well-designed pits and according to strict rules

Topic Question 6: There should not be any. The wilderness should not be commercialized. Those who cannot manage on their own should not be there.

Topic Question 7: Management activities and techniques should be limited to keeping human presence and activities within the established limits.

Topic Question 8: All areas of wilderness and their resources warrant special consideration: it takes very specific characteristics for an area to qualify as wilderness.

Our wilderness areas preserve some of the few remaining traces of the grandeur that once was all of North America and that contributed significantly to the formation of the American character. The one and only job of the current generation is to preserve these areas from degradation or decline for future generations. No human activities that in any way have a deleterious impact on wilderness areas should be allowed.

Correspondence ID: 91 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I hope it remains as wild as possible. The beauty of wilderness is worth protecting for its own sake, as well as for human visitors.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, photography, possibly camping if Leave No Trace principles are applied, are appropriate. Large groups, vehicles of any sort, loud noises, hunting, campfires, etc., are inappropriate.

Topic Question 6: People should be free to hire anyone they want to guide them, but these services should be strictly between the two parties. Any NPS involvement should be to limit and control numbers of people accessing the area, not to manage any concessions. No structures should be built to accommodate concessions. NPS should not be involved in listing, recommending, or advertising for any commercial guides.

Correspondence ID: 92 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The 768,222-acre Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness contains impressive trees, high peaks, canyons, meadows, lakes, rivers and streams.

The 39,740-acre John Krebs Wilderness includes high country and dry foothills, plus the Redwood Mountain Grove, SEKI's largest giant sequoia grove.

These exquisite and inspiring sites must be preserved for our citizens.

Please adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses.

Correspondence ID: 93 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: An increasing amount of visitors not adhering to leave no trace principles. For example, people need to ensure campfires are put out fully before leaving them unattended; marmots were seen being fed by humans; and group sizes at campgrounds tended to be larger than allowed, hence more noise.

Topic Question 2: "Ranger talks" every day, which educate campers on being environmentally conscious. ie) proper dishwashing at campsite, campfire safety, animal safety, etc.

Providing incentives for attending "ranger talks" or simply handing out flyers at camp check-in, outlining important ways to protect the environment during their stay.

Topic Question 3: That wilderness shows no signs of human use, so others can enjoy it as it's meant to be.

Topic Question 4: Activities such as hiking, backpacking, and swimming are important, however these activities may become inappropriate if users aren't environmentally conscious; therefore, having education stations throughout the parks can allow visitors to understand the importance of keeping our wilderness a wilderness, and can provide them with suggestions they can utilize right away (such as leave no trace principles).

Topic Question 5: There is insufficient enforcement on party/group sizes on campsites; Although a max quantity is set, campground visitors could benefit from more checks each night to ensure each party has not surpassed the limit, ensuring each party is behaving in a respectful manner relative to neighboring campsites. Additionally, there should be more checks to ensure that food storage containers and campfires are being used responsibly, as well as ensuring people are not washing dishes at the community faucets provided at the campgrounds.

Topic Question 6: These services would be appealing, as it allows for more safety, and can educate the public.

Correspondence ID: 94 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Bearpaw RESORT has no place in the national park exception at a location where people can drive to it. it is an eyesore and a disgrace to the park's natural back country beauty and uses too many resources to exist in the wilderness.

Topic Question 2: Move it out of the wild or just eliminate it altogether.

Topic Question 3: Once I take those initial steps on a trail heading into the back country, it's important for me to experience a serene wilderness experience with little evidence of artificial luxuries and human consumption. Keep it wild is my motto! Thank

you.

Topic Question 4: backpacking, hiking, horsepacking for the elderly and people with disabilities, climbing, bird watching, wildflower exploration, meditating, swimming, peak scrambling

Topic Question 5: parties no larger than 10. no campfires, ever. bear canisters required for ALL backcountry travelers, no matter what (with hefty fines for those who do not comply)

Topic Question 6: Groups must be small: no more than 10 MAX. Guided stock trips should require a handicap status, certified disability, and/or age requirement (65+ or something)....Groups must enroll in a 1 hour class on proper behavior in the wilderness and must be checked that they have appropriate provisions to abide (bear canisters, shovels for burying waste, etc.)

Topic Question 7: See above comments. Also, better/more permitting limits.

Topic Question 8: Close camping for restoration at heavily used areas, promote intense education at trailheads/permitting location regarding proper disposal of waste, careful travel near sensitive meadow/wetland areas, proper waste methods away from lakes and streams.

Please return Bearpaw to its natural state.

Correspondence ID: 95 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks: As NPS develops a Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) and Environmental Impact Statement for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI), please adopt the strongest wilderness protections for these two Wildernesses

The 768,222-acre Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness with its impressive trees, high peaks, canyons, meadows, lakes, rivers and streams is bordered by the John Muir, Monarch, Golden Trout, and John Krebs Wildernesses.

The 39,740-acre John Krebs Wilderness, also included in the WSP, includes high country and dry foothills, plus the Redwood Mountain Grove, SEKI's largest giant sequoia grove.

Correspondence ID: 96 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My concerns are access for all people old, young and disabled. Providing horse, donkey and mule access is historic, charming and allows all people access. Even those who can not hike. You might also consider allowing Llama's which are used in the South America. Other concerns include providing fishing and continuing all existing fisheries whether natural or planted in the past by men.

Topic Question 2: Limit the size of parties camping in the wilderness area to no more than 20 people. Set up campsites in key areas which provide access but minimize the impact on the environment.

Topic Question 3: Fishing, horseback riding, back packing, exploring caves, climbing peaks, winter access via cross country ski's and day hiking. Exploring old cabins, cabin sites, Southern Calif Edison dams and other historic sites.

Topic Question 4: Important and appropriate: Horse, mule and donkey use (both private and pack station concessions), fishing, camping, cross country skiing in the winter, hiking and back packing. Preserving cabins, cabin sites, mining sites, hot spring sites and any other historic structures or markers built in the past.

In appropriate: motorcycle or off road vehicle access, hunting

Topic Question 5: Group/party size should be limited to 20 people and the stock to support them if on horse/mules or 20 people even if back packing. NPS should provide bear proof food storage boxes in most campsites or directions on how to store food in tree's on lines out of the reach of bears. Campfires are OK in areas where there is ample dead wood. If little or no wood, people should bring camp stoves or burners.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking, stock trips and climbing tours are all fine as long as party size is not above 20 . Stock use should be encouraged and if need be subsidized by the NPS to help concessions be profitable enough to stay in business for multiple years. That way they learn the areas they are guiding through.

Topic Question 7: Minimal management, a few back country rangers in case folks have problems. No controlled burns. Let nature take care of things in its own way.

Topic Question 8: All are important and the suggestions I have made would apply to all areas.

The wilderness areas in Sequoia Natl Park area have traditionally been used for camping, hiking, back packing, stock trips, fishing and other activities. The NPS should not try to stop the various historical uses to try and fit some preconceived idea about what a wilderness area should be if man and woman had never been in the area.

Correspondence ID: 97 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers.

Topic Question 2: To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything.

Topic Question 4: SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters).

Topic Question 5: All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Correspondence ID: 98 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,09,2011 15:48:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 99 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: SEKI should require strict prevention measures of invasive weeds

Correspondence ID: 100 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 101 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the

inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 102 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please refer to my comments below.

Topic Question 2: Please refer to my comments below.

Topic Question 3: To enjoy pristine nature, solitude, & quiescence.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking, photography Inappropriate: Use of motorized vehicles, or other noisy equipment.

Topic Question 5: Ideal party size is two to four persons. Food should be stored in bear canisters. Campfires should not be allowed.

Topic Question 6: These activities should be minimized.\ See my comments below.

Topic Question 7: Regular biological inventory surveys. Removal of non-native species. Trail and campsite maintenance.

Topic Question 8: Not that I can think of.

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Correspondence ID: 103 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

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commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 104 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

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Correspondence ID: 105 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 16:13:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

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others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 106 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: We must protect these crown jewels of the High Sierra with their giant Sequoia groves, sublime alpine lake basins, and the highest peaks in John Muir's Range of Light.

Topic Question 3: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are the nearest parks to where I live; I am 62 and have enjoyed them all my life. If the quality of these parks is degraded, I have no other options for wilderness experience.

Topic Question 4: I definitely consider off-road vehicle use to be completely inappropriate. It damages wilderness areas.

Topic Question 5: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

Topic Question 6: Commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything.

All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit?should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Topic Question 7: SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters).

SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreak even deep in the backcountry while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 107 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The helicopters landing bringing supplies that could otherwise be brought in by menas that are not disturbing to the animals.

Topic Question 2: Minimize the use of stock animals and prevent them from bringing in species of plants that are detrimental to the wilderness.

Topic Question 3: The wilderness should be kept in a wild state, without much modern alterations.

Topic Question 4: Sight-seeing, animal and bird watching and hiking and climbing are appropriate wilderness activities, too many nuisance helicopters and ATVs are inappropriate, as is other loud machinery.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking/trips to the wilderness are important to the public for tourism and to promote environmentalism, but it should always be done responsibly and not in detriment to the wilderness or species living there.

Correspondence ID: 108 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: See comments below.

Topic Question 2: Stay true to the definition of wilderness and the purpose of wilderness.

Topic Question 3: Whatever one does in the wilderness has to be appropriate IN WILDERNESS. There is so little true wild left in the world, so few places one can go and be immersed in nature unobstructed or impacted by human activities. We need to do all we can to protect and value our wildlands.

Topic Question 4: Wilderness is a rare commodity. Perhaps the rarest. When one is in wilderness, it should not be like any other place--it is wild, and humans are the visitors. Anything that diminishes from the experience of being on nature's terms should be avoided. Where else can one experience parity with the natural world?

Topic Question 5: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

Topic Question 6: I think that to minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be *strictly limited* to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear.

Unfortunately, the NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), oddly enough SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything.

ALL visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits.

All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit?should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip.

I've personally experienced this type of commerce-over-common citizen use and I don't agree with it. It's hardly fair, and it's hardly wild. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to buy access when others are being turned away.

Topic Question 7: SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness--the wilderness!--during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. It seems commonsense, but I ask that the NPS end its reliance on mechanized transport.

When I used to help with trail work in wilderness areas, we went to great lengths to accomplish maintenance without the use of any motorized equipment, and we were scrupulous to travel and work lightly on the land. SEKI needs to follow the same rules.

Topic Question 8: Yes. Invasive species.

SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well

documented that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. In addition, SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the backcountry while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures.

I believe that the NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.).

The point is this: without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail. That's just no strategy.

Thank you for your attention to these comments!

Correspondence ID: 109 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09.2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Karen F. Taylor-Goodrich,

The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) are a national treasure, but are threatened by several current wilderness policies. Please consider the following changes to the Wilderness Stewardship Plan for SEKI:

SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Please protect these crown jewels of the High Sierra by enacting the policies outlined above. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

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Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
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Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 111 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. These are no longer necessary.

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Topic Question 2: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

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Topic Question 3: Maintenance of our last remaining wild lands for those whose habitat they are should be first priority. There are already far too many recreational areas and commercially exploited lands. We must keep what remains of our unspoiled lands inviolate.

Topic Question 4: Quiet enjoyment of the lands and appreciation of their inhabitants via photography, viewing, birdwatching, etc. is appropriate, as are hiking and camping as long as they are minimally invasive and kept to certain designated areas. Anything else is inappropriate and must be stopped immediately.

Topic Question 5: Again, mimimally invasive is key. Small groups in designated areas should be permissible, as long as they obey campground rules on safe food storage and place waste in appropriate receptacles. Noise should be kept to an absolute minimum i.e., no radios, televisions or other noise-emitting devices should be permitted except within vehicles and then only at low levels. Those who cannot or will not abide by these rules should be ejected immediately and permission to use the campgrounds revoked.

Topic Question 6: See above.

Topic Question 7: See above.

Topic Question 8: See above.

Correspondence ID: 112 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keeping the wilderness wild.

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Topic Question 3: Recreation should not be more important than keeping the wilderness wild.

Topic Question 4: sight seeing, hiking, camping are appropriate. Off road vehicles, noise from planes, mining, or other industry are not appropriate.

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SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 117 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: More thought is needed to protect these crown jewels of the High Sierra with their ?giant Sequoia groves, sublime alpine lake basins, and the highest peaks in John Muir?s ?Range of Light.??

Topic Question 2: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters).

To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness should be wild. It is not appropriate for large commercial enterprises to be allowed to haul in whoever and whatever they want at any time. I am sick and tired of being turned away only to see someone who paid money to a commercial enterprise being given the access that I was denied.

Wilderness should be peaceful. Helicopters roaring overhead is anything but.

Wilderness should not be exploited. It should be preserved.

Topic Question 4: Snowmobiles, ATVs, helicopters and commercial operations except those by horseback are not appropriate. Quiet hiking, climbing and exploration and camping in small groups with appropriate "leave only footprints, take only pictures" protocol are appropriate.

Topic Question 5: All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience.

SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

Topic Question 6: All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Topic Question 7: SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the backcountry while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust

and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Topic Question 8: Wildlife disturbance must be kept at a minimum. This means ceasing to have constant helicopter travel, huge commercial parties who bring with them any damn thing they want to, invasive weed eradication.

Correspondence ID: 118 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 119 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protecting these areas and their native inhabitants from intrusive and damaging human activities, particularly those entailing noise pollution and, more importantly, air and water pollution through toxic chemicals.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters).

To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything.

Correspondence ID: 120 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about the number of people and their impact on these 2 National Parks. I feel that the NPS has not done enough to keep the wilderness areas wild.

Topic Question 2: There should be strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is known that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure

and on their hooves and coats.

Topic Question 3: Enjoyment of the wilderness experience and safety are paramount to me.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, biking, canoeing, photography, camping, and wildlife watching are perfect wilderness activities.

Topic Question 5: I think you need to limit the number of people allowed in the wilderness areas and limit the number of commercial operators as well. Also, the allowable equipment should be limited to preserve the wilderness experience for all.

Topic Question 6: I approve of commercial services as that is the only way some people will have the opportunity to explore the wilderness area. I just think that they should strive to limit how much gear they carry as the more brought in, the more the area is damaged.

Topic Question 8: NPS needs to act quickly to stop people from entering areas where bears are known to be present. And, I think it is shameful how many bears are killed after encounters with humans. If the bear isn't safe where it lives then where is the bear safe? It is tragic when humans are killed or injured by wildlife but we are entering their territory.

Correspondence ID: 121 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness areas are vanishing, and must be preserved in their natural state before they are lost completely and forever.

Topic Question 2: ? SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks?even deep in the backcountry?while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Topic Question 3: Leave them alone! There's lots of other private areas and lands that can be used for recreational and commercial activities which would disrupt the natural setting.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, tent camping, birding, fishing are appropriate. All motorized activities and hunting in all forms should be prohibited.

Topic Question 5: Small groups (up to 20 people) in group camping areas only. Written info sheet re: safe food storage methods to be issued upon entrance. Campfires in approved fire pits only, in areas well cleared of vegetation. Allow scavenging for firewood, as this will help keep areas clear.

Topic Question 6: OK on limited basis, with approved license.

Topic Question 8: Essential habitat for endangered/threatened species.

Correspondence ID: 122 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am very concerned that the wilderness experience is being ruined by unnecessary, unfettered helicopter use, and commercial outfitters dropping supplies in by helicopter.

Topic Question 2: Stop the commercial exploitation of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. period. The wilderness experience should not include having to listen to helicopters or radios.

Topic Question 3: Peace, quiet, and NO pollution. No noise pollution from helicopters or radios, and no pollution from over-exploitation.

Topic Question 4: Family or solitary camping, maybe fishing if far enough into the back-country.

Topic Question 5:

Only allow small campfires for small family sized parties. No groups larger than 8 people.

Topic Question 6: HELL NO!

Topic Question 7: Protection of the integrity of the wild-ness of wilderness itself. The value increases the closer the parks are to being in their natural states. The parks should not be treated like Disneyland, or theme park.

Topic Question 8: The Redwood forests.

SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc.

To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything.

All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should NOT be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 123 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

NPS should end reliance on mechanized transportation (i.e. helicopters) and remove the permanent bear-proof food lockers already in place. Commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. Wilderness permits should be competed for on a level playing field and clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. Strict preventive measures are required to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds generated by the presence of "stock animals"

Correspondence ID: 124 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 125 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The total lack of Professionalism exhibited by the professional and technician workforce on on your unit and in the National Park Service, when it comes to implimentin wilderness stewardship and following the mandates of Congress conatined in the Wilderness Act of 1964....Instead of choosing a path of leadership, you are taking the easiest career enhancing route possible,by choosing the tools of comfort, convience and economics....Shame on you and your credentials....You have a chance to reverse that and be somebody....Good Luck

Topic Question 2: Get educated about the Wilderness Act and the proper tools of Wilderness Sewardship....and believe me its not what you are proposing...For Cripe sakes step out of the box and get professional and accountable

Topic Question 3: Surprise and discovery and the freedom to wander and camp where I want to and using minimum impact techniques

Topic Question 4: Read the Act and you would not even ask this question....Wilderness Stewardship is not a matter of voting or poll searching....You are in charge of that level of implimentation, not the public...There has been a ton of research done on this very question...no need to reinvent, its time to impliment.....Let the public learn that the wilderness resource does not mean only RECREATION

Topic Question 5: This is important...and not an easy thing to discuss without debate...but the bottom line is: The Wilderness Resource must be the winner, not the users

Topic Question 6: These can be important services to the public who lack the skills to enter wilderness on their own....However commercial services should be a teaching and a hands on experience level for the people who are willing to pay...NOT a red carpet treat...This business of providing everything to the customer that they have at home and BEYOND is what ruins the skill level traing and implimentation...Outfitters should be TEACHERS.....This is not an easy concept to implient with people who must attract customers that have no concept of wilderness....Most people think wilderness means recreation with lots of comfort and convience....They mirror the way the Park Service operates in designated wilderness.....No primitive skill leadership, lots of administative exceptions, because we are differnet...and the Act does does not give you that option

Topic Question 7: For Gosh sakes get a hold of the wilderness resource leaders in the USFS who have been demonstrating minimum impact and primitive skills since Sep 3 1964...Granted they are slipping noticably in the hard earned Kudos arena...but there are outstanding examples and programs....The USFS leadership in the Washington and Regional levels have lost their way(Carrers come first), but there are a lot of grass root level heroes at the Forest and District levels.....Impliment ..do not try to reinvent and you could be the the next Park Service Wilderness Hero

Topic Question 8: Yes, the entire wilderness resource ecosystem...its not all recreation...You need to get Holistic about your approach and stop putting a spin on the wilderness resource that spells Park Service...Have any of you attended the the interagency wilderness resource training Academy at Nine Mile, USFS, Montana?????? If you did you would not be asking most of these questions

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SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep

surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 127 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,09,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 2: SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the backcountry while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Topic Question 4: All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Topic Question 5: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

Topic Question 6: To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything.

Topic Question 7: SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters).

Correspondence ID: 128 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,09,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: They should be preserved in their natural state as closely as possible.

Topic Question 4: I believe that motor vehicles should not be permitted off road.

SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine, and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport such as helicopters. To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 129 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Folks -

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Correspondence ID: 130 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Herbicides used to "control" weeds might have adverse effect on wildlife (both animals and plants).

Topic Question 2: Require that all stock animals be provided weed-free feed for two weeks before and during park visit. Require that they be thoroughly cleaned and inspected by rangers before being allowed to enter the park.

Topic Question 3: I want to be able to see wildlife (both animals and plants).

Topic Question 4: Hiking in wilderness is appropriate. Depositing man-made chemicals anywhere in wilderness is inappropriate.

Topic Question 6: permits should not be "guaranteed" to those wealthy enough to pay for guided stock trips, thereby discriminating against the rest of us. I also don't want to smell or accidentally step on horse poop.

Correspondence ID: 131 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 7: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the backcountry while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

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Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
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Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Topic Question 7: SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters).

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Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Let us work to protect our natural environment from toxic waste from mining dumping.

Topic Question 2: Using cannister waste equipment

Topic Question 3: We need to protect the natural beauty and purity of our environment.

Topic Question 4: Camping, sightseeing, hiking and environmental research

Topic Question 5: Please require practices which insure the removal of all waste and prohibit any harmful campfires.

Topic Question 6: All should be responsible about their activities and noisy, polluting activities should be prohibited.

We are blessed with a beautiful nation and we ought to work to preserve it. Thank you for all that is done to protect our environment.

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Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

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Topic Question 6: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

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Topic Question 7: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

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Topic Question 8: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep

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i am sick and tired of our us govt having a policy and employing people who think nothing of destroying everything that god gave to america. sick to death of it. preserve, protect every single blade of grass and every animal from the rapacious people who would come and destroy every bit of it. for their own enrichment. let in peaceful people only who do not come to murder.

Correspondence ID: 138 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

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Correspondence ID: 139 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Excessive helicopter airlifts; unnecessary, excessive gear hauled into SEKI; clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits; SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds brought in by stock animals from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats.

Topic Question 2: Protection strategies should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and requiring stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done. (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.)

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is valuable for animal refuge, for preserving an area where one can still find clean air and water, for non-destructive recreation, for quieting the mind, and for renewing appreciation of Nature.

Topic Question 4: Hiking -- appropriate. Motorized travel -- inappropriate. Binoculars and cameras -- appropriate. Guns -- inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Size of groups and their needs must comply with preservation strategies.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services in wilderness should be strictly prohibited. Once corporations begin to take hold, they will always consider their bottom line before consideration of anything else.

Topic Question 7: Management activities should be geared toward not disturbing wildlife or ecosystems.

Topic Question 8: Special consideration must always be given to endangered species of either flora or fauna.

Correspondence ID: 140 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

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Correspondence ID: 141 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

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Topic Question 2: see above

Topic Question 3: EVERYTHING about wilderness and recreation is important to me.

It is the way people and especially children learn about their own country outside of the city or town.

It is the way to learn about the earth and wildlife and how to appreciate them.

It is crucial bonding for families, friends, etc.

its crucial to school kids who get to go on feild trips.

IT IS IMPERETIVE TO WILDLIFE AND DELICATE LANDS THEY DEPEND ON THAT THEY ARE PROTECTED!! WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE LITTLE LAND THAT IS LEFT TO US.

Topic Question 4: SEE Q 1

Topic Question 5: SEE Q 1

Topic Question 6: SEE Q 1

Topic Question 7: THAT THEY PROTECT ALL WILDLIFE AND THE LAND THEY DEPEND ON INCULDING PRESERVING THE WATER AND PLANTS, ETC.

SO ANY ACTIVITY THAT THREATENST THAT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED.

AND NEVER, NEVER ANY MINING OR SHALE FRACTURING ALLOWED! EVER!

Topic Question 8: YES, THOSE AREAS THAT ARE SO SENSITIVE THAT EVEN FOOT TRAFFIC CAN HARM THEM.

ANY AREA THAT IS SUSTAINING WILDLIFE AND ESPECIALLY THOSE CREATURES, LARGE AND SMALL, WHO ARE ENDANGERED OR IN LOW NUMBERS.

ALSO, ANY WILDLIFE CORRIDORS THAT EXIST BETWEEN PARKS NEEDS PROTECTION SINCE WILDLIFE DO NOT KNOW OUR BOUNDARIES, AND THESE AREAS ARE CRUCIAL TO THEIR SURVIVAL.

Correspondence ID: 142 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,10,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

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Correspondence ID: 143 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Too much commercial activity!

Topic Question 2: Visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Topic Question 3: It is wilderness!!

Topic Question 5: Airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into the wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available. SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

Topic Question 6: Commercial activity should be held to a minimum.

Correspondence ID: 144 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please protect the crown jewels of the High Sierra with their unique Sequoia forests, alpine lake basins, and their amazing high mountain ranges. This area should be protected for present and future generations to enjoy, and for the health of the global ecosystem.

Topic Question 2: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive

gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit?should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the backcountry while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Topic Question 3: It is vitally important for the beauty of the area, for hiking, camping and understanding nature.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping; no unnecessary vehicles should be permitted either on the ground or air.

Topic Question 5: Small group sizes (e.g., 12 or less); food storage should be allowed but minimal and campfires only with a permit and in restricted areas.

Topic Question 6: Guided tours for hiking should be permitted with groups of 12 or less.

Topic Question 7: Please see comments above.

Topic Question 8: Please see comments above.

Correspondence ID: 145 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I think we need to preserve these national Parks in as pristine condition as possible. This would include minimizing helicopter noise and disruption of wildlife.

Topic Question 3: Wildlife preservation

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking, camping, photography Inappropriate: hunting, trapping, 4 wheeling

Topic Question 5: Minimize the impact of commercial groups and packstock by only servicing those who absolutely require the services. Commercial packing groups should be prohibited from hauling excessive gear and unnecessary equipment.

Topic Question 6: Minimize the impact of commercial groups and packstock by only servicing those who absolutely require the services. Commercial packing groups should be prohibited from hauling excessive gear and unnecessary equipment.

Correspondence ID: 146 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I worry for insufficient protection of the crown jewels of the High Sierra with their "giant Sequoia groves, sublime alpine lake basins, and the highest peaks in John Muir's 'Range of Light.'" Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous.

Topic Question 2: The National Park Service (NPS) should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters).

Topic Question 3: Wilderness needs to remain a place that feels wild, that serves as a place for quiet enjoyment of nature, as well as a refuge for wildlife. Noisy people, motors, and activities can negatively impact this experience for other visitors. Similarly, people who do not respect their permanent impact can also be a problem. This is why all signs of human activity should be minimized. No "souvenirs" of the wilderness should be taken, campfires and other evidence should be minimal, and group sizes should be limited.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping and similar activities are appropriate as long as people "pack in, pack out" all trash and evidence of human activity. Motorized activities such as off-road vehicle use (4x4's, ATVs, boats, jetskis, snowmobiles, etc.) are inappropriate. Leaving natural materials in place including rocks is also important. No "souvenirs" of the wilderness should be taken.

Topic Question 5: Minimal party/group size (a dozen or fewer people) is important. Food storage needs to be practiced in a manner that dissuades wildlife (secure containers or hanging from tall tree branches). Campfires should be kept to a minimum, as much for forest fire prevention as environmental impact.

SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

Topic Question 6: Guided hikes and trips could be potentially better than unguided as long as the companies and individuals leading them adhere to strict rules on minimizing environmental impact and guidelines mentioned above in previous questions. However, large groups that bring in excessive and/or noisy items can ruin the wilderness experience for other visitors.

To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything.

All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Topic Question 7: I am for leaving nature to itself as much as possible. Where required, assistance and intervention is appropriate, such as preservation of threatened and endangered species. Things like trail maintenance is of course also important to prevent erosion problems, etc.

Topic Question 8: Invasive plant species need to be controlled to maintain a native wilderness as much as possible. Non-native species are wreaking havoc across the country, and all our wilderness areas including SEKI should be protected from this.

SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented <http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/upload/2011-Velvet-Grass.pdf> that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 147 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My main concerns are for the wilderness character of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park back country. Growing up in California, I had the opportunity to backpack numerous times in the parks and have continued to do so over the years even as I have lived out of state. These are magnificent examples of wilderness but I am concerned about several things, including: the need to remove the bear proof food storage lockers now that there are ample personal food storage canisters available. Second I am concerned about the many interruptions to the wilderness that are caused by helicopter use. Third, I

remain concerned about the impact caused by commercial packers, including the introduction of invasive weeds into the wilderness.

Topic Question 2: The NPS should remove the food lockers utilizing the least impact methodology possible. Limit the use of helicopters as much as possible, including, but not limited to, using helicopters for removing injured persons when it is not life threatening. Packers have been a presence in the wilderness for the 50 years I have used the SEKI back country, but their impact is far greater proportionally than other users. All users of the wilderness should compete for access on a level playing field (i.e., commercial users should not be able to buy access from an outfitter). Finally, steps need to be taken to reduce, if not eliminate, the spread of invasive weeds in the wilderness by restricting grazing, requiring weed-free feed to be used during the trip and two weeks prior, charging a fee or requiring a bond from stock users so that appropriate inspections and mitigation can occur at no cost to the NPS.

Topic Question 3: The most important element of a wilderness is that it remain a true wilderness, as free as possible, from the impacts of humans. Now, obviously this is a conundrum when humans are allowed to recreate in the wilderness, but, to the extent possible, removal of illegal and outfitter camps, fire rings, food lockers and other "improvements" should be conducted. Reduction in signage and maintenance of trail head quotas should continue. Any recreation that occurs in a wilderness area must be consistent with the values of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Topic Question 4: I consider appropriate activities to be minimally invasive such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain climbing, and skiing. Inappropriate activities include any mechanized activity including, but not limited to, bicycles, watercraft, vehicles, aircraft, etc. I am not opposed to horse travel and other livestock use so long as appropriate impact minimization occurs which may mean smaller numbers than other forms of travel.

Topic Question 5: Groups should be limited to 8 persons if no livestock is used and fewer if pack animals or horses are utilized. All food storage should be portable and carried by the individual user; all food lockers should be removed. Campfires should continue to be restricted by altitude and location, as deemed appropriate by the NPS.

Topic Question 6: My concern with guides is that their economic livelihood is tied to their quota of users which often creates an unfair advantage for private users. I would support commercial services provided strict guidelines that minimize negative impacts on the wilderness are upheld and that the access by all users is apportioned consistently.

Topic Question 7: We are the guest of the wilderness, so the wilderness values and impact reduction are the most important. Many of the regulations that are currently in force regarding party size, trail head quotas, fires, personal food storage containers, low-impact camping, etc. should be maintained and/or strengthened as necessary to protect the resource.

Topic Question 8: Some areas of the wilderness are overused in my opinion and the NPS should study use patterns and use the information to determine, not only trail head quotas, but travel within the wilderness. Current regulations on the western approach to Mt. Whitney are an example but even with the regulations, there are simply too many people for the resource to handle. In such areas, I would support the maintenance and use of specific camping areas that would be identified on the user's wilderness permit in a manner similar to how use is allocated at Mt. Rainier NP. In less traveled and impacted areas, the current methods are preferable.

I would encourage SEKI to manage the wilderness as wilderness. Restore what can be restored using the methods that create the least impact. Maintain, and possibly, increase the number of wilderness rangers. The education they can provide users of low-impact camping and travel are paramount in protecting the resource.

Correspondence ID: 148 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: commercial intrusion into solitude and wilderness.

Topic Question 2: phase out use of helicopters except for emergencies and focus on doing as little as possible

Topic Question 3: solitude - peace - quiet - privacy - nature

Topic Question 4: appropriate: hiking, bird-watching, canoeing/kayaking, primitive camping inappropriate: motorized vehicles, noise, helicopters

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited to six food storage should be the same bear-proof measures as used in Yellowstone Campfires only if you post a bond for damage

Topic Question 6: Unnecessary and intrusive

Topic Question 7: to do as little as possible

Topic Question 8: those without roads those with wildlife

Correspondence ID: 149 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My primary concerns are about any private for-profit business using any park resource for its own benefit. As a teacher a primary responsibility for we adults is to pass nature on to our kids in at least as good a shape as we got it from the previous generation. The idea of letting a business defined by selfish gain and profit use or abuse nature for a few dollars is a proper definition for a lack of honor and integrity and good character.

Topic Question 2: Prohibit all grazing and require stock animal users to bring their own feed as is normal in other parks, and require that those who are allowed to use stock animals can not possibly get into the back country any other way and to do so without luxuries.

Topic Question 3: That foremost and without exception it is protected and saved for the kids of our kids.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate includes people on foot including families, schools and education nonprofits whose individuals have been effectively educated on how to protect nature. Inappropriate is any business that seeks profit from using, e.g. abusing, nature for its own benefit, even if it pretends to repair the damage.

Topic Question 5: No stock animal parties. Foot traffic groups limited to 15 total with required permits. Food storage is bear cans. Campfires only in marked community circles.

Topic Question 6: No commercial services unless people are verified disabled or too old or young. Guides are primarily interested in self profit, so they by definition damage wilderness.

Topic Question 7: All laws and rules enforced with immediate fines which support the enforcement process.

Topic Question 8: Our kids deserve that all areas of wilderness have our respect and protection.

Commercial stock outfits and their customers should be required to pay more than enough to fund Park Service's costs for repairing trails, monitoring stock impacts, controlling weeds, and enforcing regulations. Visitors should equally compete for permits. Commercial users should be eliminated because of their ignorance of the rules protecting nature and their tradition of selfishly abusing nature. For the disabled/too young or old, stock animals have to stay on designated, maintained trails in groups of 10 animals or less which must wear manure catchers. There will be no bells or fences, and the stock animal companies will pay for all expenses to remove invasive weeds and stop further spread.

Correspondence ID: 150 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect these crown jewels of the High Sierra with their "giant Sequoia groves, sublime alpine lake basins, and the highest peaks in John Muir's 'Range of Light.'"

SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of

invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 151 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.11,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 152 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.11,2011 08:49:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The wilderness is not being protected.

Topic Question 3: Quiet, isolation. Limited development. Restricted access to keep it wild

Topic Question 4: Hiking, fishing, primitive camping

Topic Question 6: Small groups. No mechanized vehicles. No helicopters. Equal access for the public and guide companies.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please consider these comments regarding the Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. ? Remove large bear-proof food lockers in the the wilderness.

Stop using mechanized transport. Helicopters are used frequently for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys, supplying trail crews. The noise and energy use is not compatible with wilderness areas.

Limit commercial packstock services. The Wilderness Act's legal mandate is to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." Luxury items such as camp furniture, radios, ice chests are not required to use and enjoy the wilderness.

Require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. Stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds in their manure and on their hooves and coats. 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require all animals eat weed-free feed two weeks before entering the parks 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers.

Correspondence ID: 153 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.11,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned and am in favor of preserving the opportunity for the use of recreational saddle and pack stock on the back county.

Topic Question 2: Grazing of backcountry meadows is important to recreational saddle and pack stock and allows a minimum number of anomals that otherwise would be required to pack in feed.

Topic Question 3: I advocate the continued opportunity for recreational saddle and pack stock use in the park.

Topic Question 4: Monitored grazing of meadows is appropriate. Helicopter activity is not appropriate.

Topic Question 5: Present party size is adequate and the bear boxes should remain along with campfires as permitted

Topic Question 6: Commercial services can offer opportunities to visitors that would otherwise not be available

Topic Question 7: Trail clearing and trail maintenance to saddle and pack stock standards. Utilization of volunteers.

Topic Question 8: Trail clearing and maintenance.

Correspondence ID: 154 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.11,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it remain as a wilderness, as it was intended.

Topic Question 2: Keep out motorized and mechanized activities.

Topic Question 3: That these "few" remaining places remain for us to enjoy as God and nature intended.

Topic Question 4: Enjoyment as is, and peace.

Anything that disturbs the quiet and peace.

Topic Question 5: minimize disturbances

Topic Question 6: keep them simple no stock animals

Topic Question 7: keep it wild

Topic Question 8: listen to the experts

what part of 'wilderness' is not understood?

Correspondence ID: 155 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.12,2011 15:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the

inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail. Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 156 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.13,2011 15:17:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It should be protected & preserved. We only have one chance to protect our environment with its wildlife. The time is now.

Topic Question 2: SEKI should cease installing bear-proof food lockers into the wilderness. It should stop its extreme & unnecessary use of helicopters as the noise & confusion is disturbing to the wildlife. Chemical herbicides on weeds should be minimized. Prevention measures should be used with stock animals that are allowed to graze instead of weed-killers.

Topic Question 3: To enjoy nature without destroying it.

Topic Question 4: Camping & hiking are appropriate. Noisy snowmobiles, ATVs, & other vehicles that disturb the terrain & animals are not appropriate.

Topic Question 5: I believe the general public with minimal people should be allowed permits that equal commercial groups, no turning away the general public while commercial groups obtain permits.

Topic Question 6: I think large noisy groups are more disturbing to the animals.

Topic Question 7: All management rules & regulations should be for the good of the wilderness & its inhabitants.

Topic Question 8: Those areas that are threatened by gas/oil leasing & human development projects should be prioritized. Keep our wilderness pristine.

Correspondence ID: 157 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.13,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then-only after obtaining a permit-should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 158 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.13,2011 23:20:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protect it to the maximum. Keep it Wild, undisturbed. These are unique, precious, World Heritage wilderness

areas.

Topic Question 2: Respect nature/wildlife, They have priority, not paying high-impact commercial groups.

Topic Question 3: above

Topic Question 4: hiking on trails. No ORVs, noisy-destructive use. Stop extensive/routine/unnecessary use of helicopters for research/fire monitoring/big horn sheep surveys(incl.collars)/ supplying trail crews etc... END reliance on these very disruptive/expensive mechanized transport!

Topic Question 5: Limit #'s. Stop permanent bearproof food lockers & remove existing lockers by primitive methods- as portable canisters are now available. Previous, are very disruptive/expensive (airlifting & such).

Topic Question 6: Minimize size/impact of commercial groups/packstock services- to strictly limit it to those that require these services And Prohibit hauling of unnecessary or excessive gear. Per the Wilderness Act's legal mandate, (all) above (violate the act by) severely deteriorating the wilderness experience & the environment, And most importantly- wildlife & their habitat. Nix (or at least severely limit) wilderness permits for commercial uses/high-impact stock outfits & allowing them to 'buy' access when others are turned away is dispicable/unacceptable/unjust.

Topic Question 7: Require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction & spread of invasive weeds. Nix livestock/(toxic)chemical herbicides. Prohibit open grazing of parkland. Require: Stock users to use weed-free seed for 2 weeks prior to park entry, All stock animals hooves/coat to be thoroughly cleaned/inspected by rangers before park entry (& stock owners charged a fee for inspections). Prevention is much cheaper, ecofriendly & effective.

Topic Question 8: above

Do your job- Protect Our Public lands, waters, economy, wildlife & health! You work for citizens, not industry! Your attention to this most urgent matter would be much appreciated by all present & future generations of all species. Thank you Lydia Garvey Public Health Nurse

Correspondence ID: 159 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.14,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: overuse, noise, abandonment of the idea of "wilderness"

Topic Question 2: limiting group size, eliminating mechanized transport, giving equal access to private individuals and for-profit guides with groups, excluding domestic and farm animals and unnecessary equipment and supplies

Topic Question 3: quiet, solitude, natural flora and fauna, untrampled beauty

Topic Question 4: appropriate: hiking, primitive camping, photography, birdwatching, canoeing, rowing, limited fishing

inappropriate: motorized vehicle use, large groups of people, farm/ranch-animal grazing, hunting, trapping, logging, mining - any for-profit use

Correspondence ID: 160 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.15,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It should be preserved and protected as should all of our natural national treasures.

Topic Question 2: Limit activity to the least possible harm of the ecosystem.

Topic Question 3: Any activity should only be that which will not harm the ecosystem.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking, camping - with restrictions.

Inappropriate: no motorized vehicles, no tree cutting, no oil digging, no cycling, no aerial intrusion of any kind, no hunting and no other type of industry should be allowed in this or any wilderness.

Topic Question 5: No campfires. What hikers take in, they must take out.

Topic Question 6: These are all fine as long as they adhere to restrictions that will protect the ecosystem without hunting.

Topic Question 7: Let nature alone. No killing (culling), no hunting for zoos or other comparable facilities/organizations. Perpetual preservation and protection.

Topic Question 8: Anything that is endangered/threatened, unusual aspects of the ecosystem.

By preserving and protecting these ecosystems, the U.S. will actually profit from this as U.S. citizens will want to visit these areas as will foreigners, thus bringing in tourist revenues to the areas outside of these preserved national treasures of the U.S.

Correspondence ID: 161 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.15,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My concern is significant adverse effects to wilderness character (e.g., mechanized intrusion, noise, loss of solitude) due to the use of helicopters within designated wilderness.

Topic Question 2: SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the backcountry while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail

Topic Question 3: That the wilderness areas be preserved and used for recreation for all. To preserve the wilderness there should be limits placed on the number of permits issued but commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits

Topic Question 4: SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the backcountry?while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Topic Question 5: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods

Topic Question 6: To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience

Topic Question 7: All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then?only after obtaining a permit?should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Topic Question 8: All areas and resources of wilderness areas warrant special consideration due to the fact that wilderness areas are vanishing at an alarming rate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Correspondence ID: 162 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.15,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Pack animals are polluting the water and negatively effecting the wilderness experience.

Topic Question 2: Greatly limit the trails that pack trains can access and reduce their numbers.

Topic Question 3: I enjoy the high country and camping off trail in remote valleys where there are few or no other humans. The parks have gorgeous scenery, mostly perfect weather, and freedom to explore and climb at our own pace.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate would be hiking and camping.

Inappropriate would be pack trains trampling down areas and polluting streams, rivers, and the air.

Topic Question 5: I suppose that it may be good to limit group size to maybe 6 - 12. Larger groups may be more destructive. I think that one pack animal does as much destruction as about 30 people on the trail. Keeping food away from animals is extremely important. The bear boxes help greatly. I personally do not like camp fires as they pollute the air and cause destruction of the adjacent forest. I suppose that camp fires are a sentimental part of camping for some people. I agree with fire restrictions, especially above 10K feet.

Topic Question 6: I support limited commercial activities where the guides provide wilderness ethics instructions and provide minimum impact.

The current frequency of guided stock trips greatly exceeds my expectations for a wilderness

Topic Question 7: I would recommend using the current best recommended practices. Prescribed burns, for example, seem to be considered beneficial.

Backpackers seem mostly very well behaved and leave minimum impact.

Topic Question 8: There are the wonderful historic tree carvings done by shepherds in the Roaring River area that should be documented (if they are not) and protected if possible from incoming wild fires.

I have two requests for changes to the SEKI wilderness

1. Restrict the admittance of horse packs. 2. Do not apply trail head quotas to off trail travel.

Regarding horses, I believe that horses are useful to allow unambulatory people to experience the "wilderness", for trail and infrastructure maintenance, and for small groups of horses carrying people who keep their destruction to a minimum. The current situation of hundreds of pack animal trips per week is very detrimental to the wilderness and the wilderness experience.

Horse packs tear up trails, cut across switchbacks, pollute rivers and lakes, generate dust around them, and trample fragile alpine meadows. I would advocate greatly limiting the number of horse packs allowed into the wilderness and also greatly limiting their range. I would also recommend very strict enforcement to keep them away from lakes and meadows.

Three years ago, we were quite disgusted at all of the horse droppings all around the remote Granite Lake including at the water's edge. I have pictures of horses standing right above the Kern River hot tub well beyond the No Horses Beyond This Sign. I have seen a pack of mules driven right through a summit lake which provides the only drinking water for miles. I have also slept on a bolder in a pristine alpine meadow to wake up with a few horses around and the meadow turned to mud.

I would not consider this a wilderness experience.

Regarding trail quotas, I greatly enjoy getting away from people and horses. It is relatively easy in SEKI to camp in a valley where there is no one else. One of the problems though, is that although I will be hiking cross country with minimal impact and seeing very few people, I am subject to the strict trail quotas that are designed to minimize impact in popular areas. I would love to see trail quotas applied to only those on the trail and not to off trail travel. I find it very frustrating to compete for the 20 available trailhead spots and then run into many pack trains tearing up the trails.

Thanks for considering my comments

Correspondence ID: 163 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.16,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My concerns about the SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship plan is directly tied to the maintenance and preservation of the wilderness area in such a manner that future generations will be able to enjoy and explore it in as close to its pristine and undisturbed state as possible. This would require limits on grazing and stock use above 9700 ft, thereby protecting the meadows and limit water pollution by animal wastes.

Topic Question 2: As referenced above one strategy would be limiting grazing above 9700 feet. Establishment of trails designated for use by hikers - stock animals are very destructive and make trails impossible to enjoy by hikers. Limit and minimize the size of commercial groups. I have seen commercial groups in the sierra's that have hauled up items that are not only completely unnecessary but also leave a footprint that is destructive to the natural habitat.

Topic Question 3: We go to the wilderness for the experience of being in a 'natural' environment. We understand that we have to share the wilderness with others that have the same respect and love of the outdoors, we do not go there to compete with livestock that has destroyed trails, leaving their waste behind and camping with large groups of people that leave behind a campsite that has destroyed the land it was on. We want to see wildlife, hear - the peace and quiet - and drink the water and breathe the fresh air. It is an experience and resource that we wish to preserve for our children and their children.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities: small groups of hikers with camps that minimize the impact on the land; fishing (with permits, of course). The wilderness is someplace to enjoy and preserved, not exploited commercially. Inappropriate Activities: large groups of people that are brought in by pack animals; trail destruction, water pollution, etc.

Topic Question 5: The smaller the better. I was recently in the wilderness and found a campsite with no less than 30 people in it. They were yelling, playing loudly, they had foam mattresses all over the place and all I could hear was them. The group size is limited but it was exploited and made for an awful experience. As to food storage - the bear cans are an excellent idea as they safeguard the food from small creatures as well. Pack everything out - no burying or leaving behind scraps of food. Responsible campfires are very nice and present no problem. Personally, I don't build them and am often concerned that those that do will not properly manage them. I don't want the wilderness areas to burn.

Topic Question 6: Group sizes should be limited on commercial groups and if possible they should be limited to different areas. In other words, stock animals should have designated trails to stay on to minimize their destruction. The items large groups bring in should be limited and regulated. Clean up of the manure stock animals drop should be enforced. Due to the destruction caused by larger groups their fees should be sufficient to repay the forest service for the repair required in maintenance of the trails they use.

Topic Question 7: Minimal management would be to introduce regulations that limit group size, as it pertains to stock animals they need to be limited in number and the trails they are allowed to use needs to be restricted. This would allow park service personnel to inspect and enforce regulations more easily (as there will be something defined and measurable to enforce). Prohibit open grazing on park lands, require the use of weed-free feed by the stock users - inspections can be paid for by the stock users to defray the cost to the park service.

Topic Question 8: Obviously, I have focused my responses to commercial users as I believe that this is an area that is in need of immediate attention and the regulations need to be revamped. It isn't that I object to commercial groups using the wilderness, I object to their having access to every part of the wilderness area, I object to their destruction of the wilderness (how could it be otherwise with such large groups) and I object to their blatant disregard for the environment we all wish to preserve.

In summary, I am of the opinion that the primary objective of the Park Service should be to protect and preserve the wilderness. I do not believe that grazing should be permitted anywhere in the park as it is so destructive and impacts the availability of resources to the wildlife - such as the Sierra Nevada big horned sheep. They should not have to compete for these resources. I support the idea of foot travel only trails. Minimizing the size and impact of commercial groups will go a long way towards preserving our national parks. The second part of limiting the commercial groups impact on the environment is the actual enforcement of these regulations by the park service and this cost could be defrayed by charging the commercial groups for the inspections. This would be more easily accomplished if the stock animals were limited to certain trails.

We have long enjoyed backpacking and hiking throughout the country and have really enjoyed the Sierra Nevada's in recent years. It is an amazing place and in order to preserve it we need to evaluate its use and find a way to implement and manage regulations designed to protect the wildlife, the ecosystems and the people that want to enjoy them all. I do not hike for several hours a day to be surrounded by horses, llamas, donkeys and then have to compete for a decent campsite only to be forced to listen to someone else's idea of good music. I go to the wilderness to participate in the wilderness, that includes listening to the sounds of the birds, the insects, the wind in the trees and the occasional unseen mammal! Let's keep it that way.

Correspondence ID: 164 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.16,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That wilderness space remains so: quiet, free of aircraft and vehicles,

Topic Question 2: Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing bear proof lockers, and remove the existing lockers.

SEKI should stop the routine use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented (pdf file) that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the backcountry while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 165 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.18,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My main concerns are as follows: there are not enough people backpacking; hearing aircraft detracts; degradation of the viewshed is not what was promised in the legislation; wilderness permit prices should be free or no more than \$10; marijuana or illegal drug cultivation in the wilderness is frightening and destructive; garbage left by inconsiderate or uneducated wilderness users is bad. With such vast wilderness and budget cuts I am really concerned at the thought of wilderness rangers and Parks personnel not being out there to educate visitors, conduct searches, manage wilderness projects and conduct scientific research. Wilderness, as a human construct, cannot manage or study itself.

Topic Question 2: To my knowledge I think that internally, the Park staff does a really good job at making the most of the money, time and resources at their disposal to create and implement wilderness stewardship. The Parks seem transparent and enthusiastic about the care for Parks wilderness areas.

What is lacking is learning more about what keeps or encourages people to create wilderness experience in these Parks. The possibility of learning more about what the local and regional determinants for a wilderness experience could be very instructive. Possible young adult listening sessions (conducted by young adults/youth FOR young adults and youth) or some such surveys might help inform both the management strategies as well as creating a wilderness invitation and education program that meets the needs of the Parks as well as encourages use and stewardship by younger generations. It should be wilderness-specific.

Topic Question 3: It's important that people be able to use the wilderness in an appropriate fashion that is as fail-safe as possible to maintain the propagation of the native resources. We each have our own motivations and goals for wilderness travel and yet we expect that the wilderness background in which we conduct our activities will be inspiring and that the degradation of them will not detract from our personal motivations and experiences.

Topic Question 4: For me appropriate activities include night sky observation, being able to hear 'nature' happen, mountaineering and rock climbing, boating, hiking, backpacking, fishing (at native elevation, in unstocked areas), horseback riding (see comments below), limited high Sierra hut use (Bearpaw Meadow), backcountry skiing and snow shoeing, meeting a backcountry ranger--it actually changed the course of my life for the better,

Inappropriate: hunting, ATV or OHV, lamas or other non-traditional pack animals(not historic), dog-assisted trips, commercial aircraft of any sort, mountain biking or wheeled mobility.

Topic Question 5: As a guide, I like things to be consistent across the local agencies. It's aggravating to have to learn what I see as ultimately political intricacies of each agency in order to take a trip out. Though I understand the decisions are NOT political, from the outside it SEEMS that way. . . this is a distinction and one that can affect a constituent's support. To that end, my suggestion is to create more consistent cross-agency management strategies such as what was created by the black bear interagency task force. Though group sizes will always be a point of discussion because you can't please everyone, whatever is done, a consistent (interagency) message is one of the most helpful and beneficial things that could be done from the point of

view of the user.

Topic Question 6: I believe that there is a place and a necessity for commercial services such as these in the wilderness. The following thoughts are grounded in 20 years of backpacking, hiking and commercial guiding experiences, and not the science of resource protection. As a backpacker walking in sandy and excrement-infested pack animal trails the experience REALLY detracts from the wilderness. As a guide it has left me in the awkward position of having to diplomatically explain that use of pack animals is considered an historic activity and is also VERY useful, etc.. As a private citizen it's really unpleasant and sometimes unsafe to travel on pack trails; they become dangerously slippery or erode trails to the point of height exposure. All that said, I would also be at fault if I did not remark that I really appreciate that there is still a place for pack use and the almost frontier-like experience that has long disappeared in modern America. If we lose the ability to experience travel at 3 miles per hour or less, will part of the American story of land use and travel be lost? Pack use is a very important part of our national hiSTORY.

Topic Question 7: This is an interesting question because management activities and techniques can change so quickly with new knowledge and innovative techniques that we cannot always foresee. To really answer this question more specifically I would have to see a concrete definition of "management activities and techniques". Not readily seeing one in the documentation provided for this comment period, my comments are brief. Rather than teasing out every activity and technique I am left asking if there is some established matrix for "cost"/benefit analysis. By "cost" I refer to environmental, economic and political costs. When in doubt I err on the side of the most 'bang' for the least 'effort' or cost. Is the question about fire science, trail crew resupply, backcountry rangers support, restoration projects? Most likely. I would defer to NPS to decide for me, as a citizen, what is important to maintain the long term biological integrity and human experience of the system.

Topic Question 8: Any flora and fauna (including humans) that are affected by air quality, threats from non-native species, and climate change are worth special consideration. Historic structures and trails also deserve special consideration because they are the story that remains that will help inform the future as well as generate conversation in the present.

There is one area that that has not been addressed and I'm not sure how to do so. That area is wilderness access by those with mobility or other such issues. I've had a couple of folks who had even minor exposure to wilderness and were moved to tears, telling me that they had no idea that the wilderness was 'available' to them. Their life was really positively affected by a wilderness exposure.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Correspondence ID: 166 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,18,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: In many ways, the wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is currently in spectacular condition, and should be continued to be protected as such. These parks offer incredible recreational opportunities for humans, but I believe they should be protected even more importantly for their intrinsic value. The most major concern I have at this point is commercial stock use in the parks. While it obviously has a value for human recreational opportunities, I am concerned about whether the limits and regulations on stock use are appropriately competitive and ecologically sound.

Topic Question 2: Since my major concern is stock use, I believe: -Commercial packstock services should be limited to people who are handicapped or in some other way physically unable to carry a backpack or otherwise enjoy the wilderness. Without this regulation, there is a distinctly class-based trend, in which the wealthy have financial access to commercial stock services, which in turn make huge profits and do not seem to be significantly limited in their wilderness use by Leave No Trace considerations. -While continuing to allow stock use in the park, their environmental and social impact could be limited by: - Disallowing grazing in SEKI, or at the very least, above 9700' in SEKI, as recommended by SEKI's scientists. -Requiring stock to wear "manure catchers." Manure should then be packed out. Trails full of stock manure are a definite interruption to the wilderness experience, and contaminate water sources. If we can't have uncontaminated water at 11,000' in the Sierras, then where can we have it -Strict prevention measures should be taken to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive species. Prevention is much more ecologically and financially sound than stopping the spread through mechanical or chemical means. - Permits for commercial stock usage should be competed for on a level playing field with non-outfitted hikers when quotas are in effect. There's enough of an emphasis on upper middle-class, white people using the parks without the NPS condoning what is effectively a class-based system in which commercial stock clients can buy their way into the parks.

Topic Question 3: I feel that the inherent value of the wilderness, outside of human recreation, is often left out of the discussion. Preserving the wilderness for our children and our children's children is a nice idea, but an antiquated one left over from the Teddy Roosevelt era of people using the wilderness as a conquest and a way to prove our masculinity. I myself am an enthusiastic backpacker, and I value the solitude, personal challenge, stunning beauty, and sense of expansiveness that the wilderness offers. However, more than, that, I think the wilderness is valuable intrinsically, regardless of my (or any other person's) use of it.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Activities that work within the ecological realities and bounds of the natural environment. Inappropriate: Activities that seek to overcome the ecological realities and bounds of the natural environment.

Topic Question 5: Campfires should only be allowed in places where there is sufficient or excessive fuel. Wilderness users

should be educated on appropriate campfire size, fuel size, and procedures of putting out campfires.

Party/group size should be kept as is, and stock party size should be seriously evaluated. There should be limitations keeping stock users from carrying in excessive gear, and using excessive numbers of animals to do it. In order to keep stock impact low, the amount to be carried in by stock should be based on the amount that needs to be carried by a backpacker, and expanded only marginally, on a necessity-based need.

Food storage practices currently seem appropriately conservative. I don't really understand why there are so many bear lockers in the wilderness, if people are required to carry bear cans either way.

Topic Question 6: My opinions on guided stock trips have been thoroughly elucidated on in previous questions. Other guided services should also be on an even playing field for permits.

Correspondence ID: 167 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.20,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit?should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Topic Question 2: SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters).

Topic Question 5: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

Topic Question 6: To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The Wilderness Act includes a legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." Courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors).

SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks-even deep in the backcountry-while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures.

The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.)

Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Correspondence ID: 168 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.21,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters). SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

Topic Question 4: SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the back country while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1)

prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Topic Question 5: To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything.

Topic Question 6: All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Correspondence ID: 169 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.21,2011 08:14:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Now that portable bear-proof food canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing the permanent ones, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods. SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport such as helicopters. Commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. Courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then - only after obtaining a permit - should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. The NPS should prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed. All animals should be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks. All stock animal hooves and coast should be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and should be inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done. The stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.

Correspondence ID: 170 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.22,2011 10:53:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: Currently there are too many horse packers ruining the trails with dust and dung.

Topic Question 5: Groups smaller than 8 persons.

Topic Question 6: They need to be more limited in scope. I've seen twenty horse leave the trail near Duck Lake and tromp through the stream and meadow. Totally unnecessary. I have seen so many makeshift rock fireplaces in Humphreys Basin that it looked like a town had evacuated. I've hauled out horse packer rubbish - fire grates, buried plastic and foil refuse etc. on many occasions.

Topic Question 8: Water, meadows

I am writing to you today to comment on the SEKI wilderness stewardship plan. As you reevaluate how the wilderness should be used let me speak in favor of foot travel and not as much horse travel. I realize there is a place in the wilderness for horses but the pack trains that traverse the high sierra cause a great deal of damage. Minimizing their numbers will help tremendously, the trails in some places are wide and dusty because of these animals. Something also needs to be done about the huge amount of horse dung, it really is beyond ridiculous. As you write your new plan I hope you will take these suggestions earnestly. It's a beautiful place up there fewer packers will help keep it that way.

Correspondence ID: 171 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.22,2011 23:34:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is essential to complete the protection of Wilderness by bringing the rules for commercial and stock users into conformity with rules applied to the hiking public.

Topic Question 2: Eliminate commercial grazing in Wilderness (that's what BLM and NF lands are for), or at least in all lands above 9700 feet elevation if complete elimination is not possible. Existing grazing permits should be allowed to expire without renewal. Sharply reduce the number of heartbeats allowed in a party - maximum 10 including stock and pets would be consistent with hiker rules. Require stock users to either collect manure in diapers or dismount and clean it up on the spot. Manure must be disposed of at least 100 feet from trails and 6" under ground. It is ludicrous to tell hikers that they must carry out their used toilet paper, while stock users are allowed to abandon excrement in the middle of the trail! Some trails should be marked as closed to stock, and stock should be required to travel only on trails open to horses (and not cross-country).

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is primarily for the protection of the resource, and recreation should be allowed to the extent where it does not damage the resource. Commercial and stock users have an extremely high impact compared to individual walkers, so it is appropriate that they be regulated more strictly than individual users.

Topic Question 4: Self-powered travel, hiking, climbing, skiing, photography, nature study, etc. that do not excessively damage the resources are appropriate. Any mechanized or motorized use is clearly inappropriate. Geocachers should not be permitted to leave their trash in the Wilderness. The use of large parties of horses to bring in luxurious camping supplies for large groups is inappropriate. Leaving of manure on public trails is clearly inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Party size of ten is appropriate for all Wilderness users. This would include every animal, both stock and pets (for example, five horses, four hikers, and one dog is a party of ten). Hanging of food should continue to be allowed as an alternative to bear canisters. For camping in areas above treeline where bears do not travel, bear cans should NOT be required. Campfires are not an essential part of camping anymore, and I would be OK with the prohibition of campfires in sensitive areas as long as camping is not prohibited there. It is essential that public land managers realize that camping and campfires require separate regulation. The disgusting and unnecessary requirement to carry out used toilet paper with the trash (meaning in the bear can with the food!) should be eliminated; burying the toilet paper with the excrement should be adequate.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services should continue to be allowed, but they must pay their fair share of the costs of repairing trail and resource damage due to their use. All persons entering the Wilderness must be subject to the same competition for permits; stock users should not be allowed to circumvent any permit lottery process. Wilderness users must have a permit in hand before engaging any commercial guide services.

Topic Question 7: The goal of Wilderness management should be protection of the resources while allowing fair low-impact use for recreation. It is not required to seal off the Wilderness from all human use, but permanent improvements on the Wilderness such as stock fences must be removed. Permits for entry should be required only when necessary; less-used Wilderness areas should be accessible with a minimum of red tape.

Thank you for considering my opinions in your Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Correspondence ID: 172 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.23,2011 02:22:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely rare resource! And it is even more rare in such heavily developed state as California. Therefore it is extremely important to develop and approve advanced the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (WSP/EIS)in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks!!!

Topic Question 2: I would like to see that wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is protected according the international standards. And even better if the Wilderness Stewardship Plan/EIS and ongoing process to develop this plan will set up a model/standard for other wilderness areas even outside of US!

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important place/resource for humans because of biodiversity conservation, protection of ecosystem dynamic and obviously power to provide and stimulate inspiration and motivation of humans mind... this resource is more and more rare and is disappearing basically every single day!!!

Topic Question 4: Any extractive use in wilderness is inappropriate and against philosophical concept of wilderness conservation (IUCN category I). Appropriate activities are linked to the carefully managed / regulated outdoor activities mainly hiking, backpacking, etc..

Topic Question 5: party/group size - shouldn't disturbed wilderness and wilderness experience of other individuals or groups... food storage practices - have to be reliable and safe to avoid habituation of wildlife... campfires - in heavily used and ecologically fragile areas campfires obviously cause a lot of problems and are not the best solution because of impact and use of firewood. In more remote areas (without pressure of backpackers) I'd like to see opportunity to make small campfire (clear rules and regulations are needed)

Topic Question 6: Guiding can offer excellent experience (including educational aspect!!!) to the wilderness visitors. Nevertheless clear rules and regulations and enforcement of them are critical issues...

Topic Question 7: Management activities needs to be very clearly defined (what is acceptable and what is not acceptable..). The clear rules are needed... Management activities cannot cause any kind of damage of wilderness!!!

Topic Question 8: I just guess that in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks wetlands, meadows (particularly wet meadows) and alpine zone warrant special consideration...

Wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is not only rare resource for people living in California but it is even more important for people living around the globe. The size, uniqueness and compactness makes this wilderness perfect area/model/standard for internationally recognized wilderness area with the global importance! For example in Europe only recently wake-up and recognize that European Wilderness Heritage is pretty much gone! Wilderness areas in Europe are very rare, very small and very fragmented. On the top of that these areas are very often subject of creeping erosion/development and extractive use. Therefore for Europeans is extremely important to have a model/motivation and encouragement to create their own/European network of wilderness protected areas. Visit of Wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is the best way how to stimulate, learnt lessons and support this process in Europe! Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is therefore critically important (kind of model/motivation/encouragement) for ongoing process of wilderness conservation Europe. Therefore I strongly believe that is extremely important to well protect and carefully manage this unique piece of wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks!!!

Correspondence ID: 173 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,23,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keep it wild and as close to a true wilderness as possible while still allowing people to experience it.

Topic Question 2: SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the backcountry?while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Topic Question 3: All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Topic Question 4: Back packing, primitive camping, fishing and limited hunting. Controlled grazing in appropriate aeries and limited and selective logging NOT clear cutting and without road building!

Topic Question 5: SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

Topic Question 6: To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. You can help by describing how encounters with such groups have affected your wilderness experience.

Topic Question 7: SEKI should stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters).

Topic Question 8: Thegiant Sequoia groves and the alpine lake basins.

Correspondence ID: 174 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.23,2011 13:23:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that the increasing emphasis on wilderness will crowd out a more balanced approach to the other aspects of SEKI's mission. As a result, scientific and recreational access to many of SEKI's features will be limited.

Topic Question 2: Provide bear boxes in appropriate back country locations. Recognize that compliance with wilderness rules will require the buy in of the people using the park. By ensuring a balanced approach that facilitates visits to the wilderness, the public will support and assist the limited park service resources in preserving the wilderness. But overly prescriptive rules will result in a less supportive public.

Topic Question 3: It is important to know that bio-zones and habitats are protected and allowed to retain their bio-diversity, but it is equally important that the wilderness is reasonably accessible for both scientific and recreational use. The park service should ensure that their work facilitates recreational use rather than impede it for the general public.

Topic Question 4: Inappropriate activities are very large groups (more than 20), amplified music, and motor vehicles (except in emergency situations). Appropriate activities include hiking, camping, caving, camp fires (except in extraordinarily sensitive areas).

Topic Question 5: Party sizes should average around a half dozen. Large groups should be limited to 20 people. Larger groups could visit, but would need to split into groups of no more than 20 and be separated by at least a half mile. The park service should facilitate food storage by providing bear lockers in key high volume areas, or areas with habitual problems with bears. Campfires should continue to be prohibited in high sensitivity areas such as White Chief. High volume areas should have fire pits provided by the park service and wilderness permit holders should be restricted to these pits in these areas (but not in more remote less traveled areas). These fire pits could be located appropriate distances from lakes, etc. Multiple groups could be expected or encouraged to share these fire pits as part of the cost of the privilege of having a fire.

These suggestions make the choice for higher impact in fewer locations, recognizing that ANY visit will have some impact and that it is better to confine that impact geographically rather than to dilute and disperse the impact.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services are acceptable as long as they do not take away from permit quotas from people independently visiting the wilderness. The servicing firms must meet criteria to demonstrate their ability to ensure their clients behave safely and appropriately. Commercial services should contribute significantly to the maintenance of the wilderness through appropriate fees.

While hiking in the Grand Canyon this summer, we discussed the tradeoff of the impact of commercial mule packs on the trail with the funding for constructing and maintaining the trail. As hikers, we thought it was a fair trade off.

Topic Question 7: Appropriate activities include ongoing surveys of park resources (biological, cultural, recreational, etc.). They also include trail maintenance with the objective of enhancing access and reducing impact beyond the trail. Bear boxes would fall into this area.

With ongoing surveys comes an increase in data and information. One important management activity would be creating and following a communication plan to share the knowledge gained with the park stakeholders.

Topic Question 8: Cave and karst resources require special consideration. My comments regarding these special considerations are in the "comments" field below.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness Stewardship plan. As a lover of California wilderness for the past three decades, I always enjoy encouraging people to visit SEKI instead of "that other" world class park in the sierras. My comments on the WSP concern two areas. First, the plan should ensure that research conducted in the wilderness areas should not be overly constrained by the WSP. Research conducted in the park will ultimately lead to enhanced understanding and informed management decisions for not only SEKI wilderness areas, but for other designated wilderness areas and wilderness type areas beyond SEKI. Second, the WSP should avoid an interpretation of the Wilderness Act that is so strict as to impede simple enjoyment of the land.

One aspect of National Park wilderness that is differentiated from National Forest Service wilderness is the influence of the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998. Title 2 of the Omnibus Act emphasizes the mandate for the NPS for "conduct of scientific study". Title 16 also requires the Secretary to "continually improve the interpretation of and research on the resources of the National Park System." SEKI has historically supported a high level of research compared to other national parks. Continuation of the Park's facilitation and support of these research activities should be accommodated in the WSP.

My particular area of interest is karst and cave studies and the associated hydrology. As you are well aware, SEKI is blessed with extensive karst and cave resources. These resources provide unique opportunities to study geology, hydrology, biology, and climatology in situations that could never be duplicated in a laboratory or in a simulation model. Indeed, the observations in

Lilburn Cave have impacted hydrological models.

Global climate change has dramatically increased the importance of research in karst lands. We are able to utilize caves to study the historical variations of climate over the centuries. Our study of current and historical hydrological data can impact policy decisions regarding water allocation in the time of climate change. Research can also associate paleo-climatic changes as recorded in caves with the fossils within caves, providing insight into the threat to wildlife due to climate change.

How can the WSP impact the research conducted at SEKI? The WSP can support research by ensuring access to study areas. One specific example is the road to the trailhead used to access Paradise Cave. Without the current road to the trailhead, access to Paradise Cave is significantly more difficult. This will reduce the opportunity for research atop Paradise Ridge. By retaining the existing road, researchers would continue to have access to these caves.

The WSP can also allow special equipment to be available to researchers studying caves in the park. While the Cave Research Foundation (CRF) has an excellent safety record, the consequences of an accident in a cave are much greater than an accident on the surface. Researchers should have access to the special equipment used to reduce the risk of an accident and to effect a rescue in the unlikely event of an accident. This equipment could be stored in existing infrastructure, such as the cabin near Lilburn Cave, or in discretely hidden caches in other karst areas of the park.

I will not deny my scientific interest in caves originated with my discovery of the joy that exploration of caves provides. My first encounter with cave exploration occurred during a backpacking trip into a wilderness area. Now that I am well into "middle age", I enjoy exposing my children to the joys of backpacking in the wilderness, allowing each of them to experience the thrill of discovery and discovery of their connection to nature and the universe. Preservation of the wilderness is essential for this and for each future generation. But we must balance this preservation with accommodation, facilitating access and enjoyment of the resource. I value the silence and solitude of the wilderness. Trailhead quotas contribute to this attribute. So do restrictions on amplified music. But access is also essential. Children may grow to adulthood without discovering an appreciation of wilderness and a wilderness ethic. Consequently, we must ensure trailheads are easily accessible to vehicles. We must allow campfires where ever possible (a big attraction to many children). We know we cannot observe a phenomena without affecting the phenomena. Consequently, we must accept certain impacts on wilderness when we allow human visitation. Trails, fire pits, bear boxes; these are all impacts on the wilderness, artifacts of human presence. But these artifacts facilitate access to the wilderness. The WSP must make allowances for access to both caves and to the wilderness at large to fulfill its objectives of enabling human appreciation of the wilderness for the current and future generations.

Correspondence ID: 175 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 07:39:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Concerned that responsible access be allowed so that wilderness, including remote areas that are off trail, can be enjoyed but also preserved for future generations.

Concerned that wilderness is sometimes encroached upon by outside activities such as fly overs (especially low flying military planes conducting exercises that could be done away from the wilderness).

Concerned about the impact of outside forces such as air pollution and climate change upon Sequoia and Kings Canyon wilderness.

Topic Question 2: In addition to regulations requiring visitors to practice Leave-No-Trace (LNT), require wilderness visitors to be trained in LNT.

Topic Question 3: That users minimize the impact of their visit, but that regulations are not so restrictive as to prevent the public from visiting and using the wilderness in a responsible manner. This includes remote areas only accessible by going off-trail.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, and skiing are appropriate in the wilderness, provided LNT is practiced.

Mechanical transportation, such as by bicycle, is an example of an inappropriate wilderness activity.

Topic Question 5: Group size limits of 15 are reasonable, including for off-trail. Further reductions in size may impose a financial barrier to the ability of some to visit the wilderness, especially those using commercial guides--such groups have fixed costs that are divided among the participants. With a smaller group each participant's share increases. It would be unfortunate for wilderness access to be difficult for those with fewer economic resources. Some individuals do not have the back-country skills to explore the wilderness without a guide, especially in more remote areas. Well run commercial services that practice and teach good practices such as LNT allow them to, but reductions in group size may make such services unaffordable for some.

A large group can be well managed by LNT-trained leaders to have relatively low impact. Furthermore, such a group can have less impact than less-closely supervised small groups visiting the same area.

Limits should consider the total number of users in a particular area, rather than just the maximum size of a very few larger

groups. To some, encountering a single group of 12 one time is less disruptive than running into 3 groups of 4 a total of three times

People and stock should be counted separately when establishing group size limits. The impact of stock animals is more significant than of individuals without stock, even when both types of visitors are practicing LNT. This is especially true for off-trail wilderness travel.

Bear cans for food storage and other mechanisms to protect food from animals are an important LNT practice and should be a requirement.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services (including non-profit groups such as the Sierra Club, with significant volunteer staffing) help individuals visit the wilderness in a responsible manner. Well run commercial services practice LNT and can help their participants follow such practices more effectively than such participants going into the wilderness on their own.

It should be easier for SEKI to require additional training, such as LNT, for commercial services than for individuals. Moreover, commercial services with ongoing operations can also be monitored more closely than individuals for compliance with regulations. Thus, commercial services provide an opportunity for SEKI to work with the commercial operators to help minimize the impact of wilderness visitors.

Commercial guides for hiking and climbing should be an option for those who want to take advantage of them. Quotas to visit areas should consider the number of visitors, regardless of whether or not they use a guide.

Topic Question 7: People and organizations frequently plan wilderness trips as much as a year in advance and are required to get permits far in advance. Any changes in regulations should be announced at least a year in advance so that they do not impact trips or pre-trip activities that are already underway.

Correspondence ID: 176 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 08:39:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Horses, pack groups large groups and back country camps

Topic Question 2: Restrict access to foot travel as much as possible

Topic Question 3: Spiritual retreat, solitude and reflection.

Topic Question 4: Foot travel and unspoiled areas. No man made artifacts. Hunting and too much biological research. The research groups "take over" sections for long periods of time.

Topic Question 5: No campfires. Small groups. Bear canisters. These work. No favoritism for the PCT through hikers.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking is OK (limit size). Even NOLS brings huge groups in (20 or more sometimes). Very limited stock trips (for handicapped people only?) or only to certain "hubs".

Topic Question 7: Less is more. Let the wilderness be wild. Ford a stream. Climb a downed tree. It is part of being in the wilderness.

Topic Question 8: Yes. The higher elevations and the fragile meadows.

Jim Whitaker fitted my first pair of hiking boots when I was five years old. I have been hiking and backpacking ever since. I am 57 today. All my five children have joined me in this avocation. I have been fortunate enough to visit many remote parks - including the Gates of the Arctic, and areas affected by the SEKI plans. I spent an afternoon on Piute Pass talking to Randy Morgenson about the stewardship of the High Sierra just two weeks before he went missing. Randy's story was later turned into a book called the Last Season. As we enjoyed the amazing fragrances and vista, Randy talked about the changes he had seen in his many years of service as a ranger. His primary conclusion was that attempts by men to use the area - not to just let it be - but to use the area for whatever purpose - resulted in bad outcomes, regardless of how well-intentioned those uses might be.

I also have some specific recommendations. The back country camps - like at Bearpaw or Vogelsang (I know that's Yosemite) - are an abomination. They are horrible. I have had to hike through these areas to get to somewhere else. Bearpaw, in particular is dusty, over-used, trashed. The area is spectacular. Nine Lakes basins and the Kaweah basin are some of the best areas to visit. To get there you have to walk by (and camp) at Bearpaw.

The thing about these camps is that they are lionized in the press and every year a reporter takes one of these deluxe trips to the camps and writes about it. This is the way the general public feels is a good way to experience the park - and we who spend

more time, many, many days in the park, pay the price (as do future generations).

As far as horses, it is a bit much and has gotten worse. The first day of most trips into the Sierra is spent climbing a long pass. Invariably this climb includes following two or three long trains of horses, stepping over their dung and trying to find a place to camp away from their activities. What I do as soon as possible is head off-trail to get away from the smell and ugliness. Not all hikers are as experienced as me - they endure the offal.

My final comment is a bit of an odd one - can the plan include provisions for restricting fly-overs by airplanes (including jets)? This has an effect on the experience of solitude. The jets and planes fly over many times a night and frequently during the day.

Correspondence ID: 177 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Pack animals and what they do to the environment. They do not belong in such a sensitive area and do great damage that takes a very long time to heal if at all. Their droppings stink and foul the environment and poison the water.

Topic Question 2: Limit use to absolute utilitarian only and limit where they can go and require the use of poop bags.

Topic Question 3: Solitude, pristine habitat, and un-fouled waters.

Topic Question 4: Those which respect the land and preserve it for those who follow.

Topic Question 5: Should be kept at a very low number as large groups do exponential damage to alpine areas. Protect the bears and people. Campfires where there is adequate fuel only.

Topic Question 6: I dont like any of them and think they should be severely limited and guided stock trips eliminated.

Topic Question 8: Alpine areas above 9000 ft.

Correspondence ID: 178 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Overuse by commercial stock degrading the wilderness experience

Topic Question 2: Limit use by commercial stock

Topic Question 3: Pristine environment, peace, non commercial experience

Topic Question 4: hiking, backpacking, individual re-creation experience = appropriate any commercial use, any high impact activity that degrades pristine environment = inappropriate

Topic Question 5: Limit parties to groups of 8, for hikers, riders, commercial stock.

Topic Question 6: inappropriate if for profit, I would like to see more nonprofit, volunteer based groups involved in introducing people to the wilderness, acting as guides, etc.

Topic Question 7: no impact

Topic Question 8: commercial for profit stock use is too destructive to wilderness environment to continue

Correspondence ID: 179 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 10:30:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Am concerned about water pollution in streams and lakes caused by stock animals. Animals should be kept tied away from all fresh water when not traveling. Am also concerned about animals leaving their manure on trails. The stock animals should be required to wear manure catchers to prevent cluttering of trails and all animal manure must be carried back to home base, outside the park. Animals must not be allowed to graze in sensitive areas of the wilderness. In my opinion, grazing should be prohibited in the SEKI wilderness. If that is not practical, grazing should be limited to low elevation areas below 8,000 feet and weed-free feed must be carried in for the animals when they go to higher elevations.

Topic Question 3: The wilderness experience is the important thing. The enjoyable part is being able to be close to Nature - no television, no cell phones or similar electronic devices, no noise (except natural noises), no automobiles, the tranquility of the wilderness, bonding with friends, etc.

Topic Question 4: Any activities that would enhance one's appreciation of wilderness values would be appropriate. That could be something as simple as just "sitting there on a rock and looking at it." I'm reminded of the glorious view across Kaweah River Canyon from Bearpaw Meadow. I could sit there and look at it all day! Inappropriate activities would be noisy parties caused by large group camps, the cutting down of firewood, personal washing in streams, etc.

Topic Question 5: For hiker parties, it's hard to put a practical limit on group size. My personal opinion would be that a party of between six and ten individuals would be acceptable as a maximum. Larger parties might tend to get noisy. For food storage, more bear-proof boxes are always needed, both in drive-in campgrounds and trail campgrounds. As for campfires, I prefer small ones. But how do you define "small?" I don't know the answer to that. Campfires must be prohibited at the higher elevations where downed wood is severely limited or non-existent. The importing of firewood by stock animal parties for use at higher elevations must be prohibited. Stock animal parties must follow the same rules as hiker parties where campfires are concerned.

Topic Question 6: ALL guided commercial services should be severely limited as to group size. I would say ten customers maximum. Larger groups tend to have damaging effects on the flora and would tend to be noisy and generally destructive in nature.

Topic Question 7: I believe the National Park Service needs to stop biasing their management policies in favor of commercial enterprises. The Park Service needs to recognize that our national parks are not there to be exploited for profit by commercial enterprises. It is wrong for commercial stock animal parties to be allowed special favors over the hikers regarding the issuance of trail permits. In those areas where trail quotas are in effect, ALL wilderness travelers should be issued a permit on a first come-first served basis and those who want to use a commercial service may do so AFTER obtaining their permit.

I am not speaking from personal experience here but I am given to understand that there have been instances where commercial stock animal parties have brought inappropriate items into the wilderness for the special benefit and comfort of their clients. That might include things like easy chairs, battery operated electronic devices, alcoholic beverages, "all the comforts of home," etc. The importing of such inappropriate items MUST be prohibited. Anyone who can't participate in the wilderness without the "comforts of home" should just stay at home.

Thanks for this opportunity to express my comments. May your conscience be your guide as you readjust your management policies and rules.

Correspondence ID: 180 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 14:25:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As a frequent visitor to these areas I am concerned about any activities that distract from the wilderness experiences I have enjoyed there.

Topic Question 2: Maintaining the natural beauty of these areas by limiting activities that degrade the environment such as stock packing businesses that impact the wilderness with pollution of streams and damage to meadows and trails.

Topic Question 3: The ability to experience nature in its purist state without leaving any distraction or damaging foot print.

Topic Question 4: I consider hiking and camping within the wilderness, while carefully making every effort to preserve the natural beauty, are appropriate activities. Use of bikes and motorcycles as well as most stock outfitting groups are inappropriate uses.

Topic Question 5: Pack animal group sizes should be reduced to control damage to the environment and wilderness experience. Proper food storage and removal is essential to preserving the wilderness. Minimum campfire size and use is also essential to keep the air pristine.

Topic Question 6: Qualified guides can add to the education and enjoyment of the wilderness by visitors, but should be limited to small groups. Stock animal trips should be carefully monitored and group size kept to a minimum. Handicapped persons should have access to the wilderness through groups with guides, but strict rules should apply to who qualifies as handicapped. There have been instances of persons taking advantage of accessing the wilderness by horse back while posing as being handicapped, but in fact, were not.

Topic Question 7: Try and acquire adequate funding from Congress to maintain one of our greatest treasures, the National Parks, and the Wilderness areas within their boundaries. With proper, well paid management, the parks can maintain their valuable place in the lives of all Americans. Proper monitoring and enforcement of rules work well with adequate staff. They break down when Park Rangers are over worked do to budget cut backs and are subject to the temptation to over look damage

by those who take advantage of the reduced manpower. Keeping a full complement of dedicated personnel focused on preserving the wilderness is essential.

Topic Question 8: All areas designated as wilderness in our National Parks deserve special consideration.

Please read my comments. They represent my thoughts on the wilderness experiences I have enjoyed over more than forty five years.

Correspondence ID: 181 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.22,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: E-mail

Correspondence: I have no hope of competing with 'High Sierra Hikers' and their mass mailing response from their so called hikers, but, I have been a member of the BCHC in an attempt to 'keep the back country open for horsemen and packers' for about 30 years.

Enter my request to 'allow riding animals and pack stock into the back country and permit grazing in the meadows'.

These trails would not be available for the 'High Sierra Hikers' use if it were not for the 'stock' they dislike so much. The packers and trail crews keep the trails open for all of us.

I have never seen one of the 'hikers' carrying a chain saw or rock bar or even a pair of loppers to 'open the trails', yet they are Very Vocal about not having stock on the trails. I have followed the "High Sierra Hikers" barrage of 'horse pucky' for more than 15 years, and have never seen one of them on a volunteer trail crew like the BCHC people.

I ride my horses on the NPS trails, and I carry tools to clear or repair trails I use. As a member of BCHC, I have spent quite a bit of time on volunteer crews rebuilding rockbars, cleaning drains and opening trails.

Add my vote for 'stock in the back country', past, present and future.

Correspondence ID: 182 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 16:15:22

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As the SEKI Wilderness Management Plan goes forward, please indicate specifically how the 1998 Omnibus Act directives will be coordinated with Wilderness Act. As both Acts are major contributors to the final document, it will be critical that both be considered on an equal and balanced basis.

This is a very important consideration as the Wilderness Management Plan will have a direct bearing on structuring of the Cave Management Plan in years following.

Thank you for your continued efforts to properly manage SEKI.

Correspondence ID: 183 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and

ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 184 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: limit motorized travel.

Topic Question 3: quiet, natural, undeveloped

Topic Question 4: anything you can do on two legs is appropriate.

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Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 186 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: No drilling, no fracking, no more road building. Clean air and water.

Topic Question 2: Keep as is.

Topic Question 3: wild and no corporate intrusions.

Topic Question 4: Enjoying clean air and water,hiking, swimming and other recreation.

Topic Question 5: Kepp to minimum.

Topic Question 6: Less of these types of guided activities.

Topic Question 7: Education.

Topic Question 8: All of the wilderness resources warrant special consideration.

Correspondence ID: 187 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: SOme of my fondest memories are of Kings Canyon/Sequoia National Park. It an amazing, wondrous place of nature and wildlands. It MUST be preserved and protected. Thank you.....

Topic Question 2: Restrict access to sensitive areas

Topic Question 3: They're irreplaceable. Visiting them creates an almost spiritual sense of well being.

Topic Question 4: Visiting, camping, fishing are great. ATVs and more roads and access to sensitive areas are absolutely NOT.

Topic Question 5: Existing rules ok, bear lockers and fires yes.

Topic Question 6: Commercial, duh, no way!

Topic Question 7: Minimum as they stand now

Topic Question 8: Delicate watershed areas need special protection as do the forest and its trees

Correspondence ID: 188 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 18:04:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 189 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:05:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 190 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Bow down, o traveler, on your knees God stands before you in these trees.

Correspondence ID: 191 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Private companies and interests coming in to exploit our natural resources.

Topic Question 2: Keep the private companies from coming in.

Topic Question 3: That is stay in its natural state, without man coming in to exploit the resources or cut down or sell the trees.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate- Hiking, Camping, fishing Inappropriate- anything motorized, logging, etc.

Topic Question 5: Keep group sizes to a couple of families or less, campfires are okay

Topic Question 6: Against it- there's plenty of places to do this elsewhere

Topic Question 7: Nature should take care of itself through the natural cycle (without man's involvement/management)

Correspondence ID: 192 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I believe wilderness should stay wild and undeveloped in perpetuity. These few remain jewels, such as Kings Canyon and Sequoia, should not be desecrated for any reason. Once lost, it will never be wild again.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary,

restore the wilderness character of the land.

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In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, no impact camping.

Topic Question 7: Protection against development, banning of hunting, environmental preservation, no vehicles, no poisons, appropriate punishments for users who do respect the environment.

Topic Question 8: All.

Correspondence ID:	193	Project:	33225	Document:	39967	Private:	Y
Outside Organization:	Unaffiliated Individual						
Received:	Aug.24,2011 00:00:00						
Correspondence Type:	Web Form						
Correspondence:	Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.						

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Correspondence ID: 194 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:08:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I go camping there. It's beautiful.

Topic Question 2: Just protect it at all costs. It's beautiful.

Topic Question 3: Everything.

Topic Question 4: Important: camping and hiking. Inappropriate: mining, cutting down trees, and anything else that damages its beauty for corporate gain.

Topic Question 5: Party/group size doesn't matter. Behavior is what counts. Food storage - that's bear country - play it safe. Campfires are a necessity for the camping experience. Practice, encourage, teach, and enforce fire safety.

Topic Question 6: Those are wonderful! Keep them.

Topic Question 7: I don't have enough education in this area to comment.

Topic Question 8: I don't know.

The privilege of camping in our National Parks is something I treasure.

Correspondence ID: 195 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I love visiting areas like this and would like to see them protected in perpetuity from logging, too many roads, and any type of construction other than perhaps bathrooms!

Topic Question 2: I defer to the Sierra Club and persons who have studied these issues.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: Walking and hiking. Perhaps some sort of motor driven access to a few areas for the disabled.

Topic Question 5: Camping on perimeter areas only. I do not think we need access to all areas of the wilderness.

Topic Question 6: There is so much wilderness to experience that perhaps some areas might have guided hiking. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of ?Leave-No-Trace?.

Topic Question 7: Management, study, supervision important.

Correspondence ID: 196 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please continue to make these parks accessible.

Topic Question 2: Hire more rangers to keep patrons in accessible areas.

Topic Question 3: To make others appreciate wilderness and nature.

Topic Question 4: Camping, hiking, trailblazing, photo shooting, and picnics.

Topic Question 5: I think with enough rangers families of any size should be able to party and learn how to store food properly. Campfires should be permitted in proper areas.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services are great if provided by park rangers hired by the government. No third party people should be allowed access to make money on campers.

Topic Question 7: People should take what they brought plus other trash.

Topic Question 8: Yes places for animals should be off limits.

Thank you!

Correspondence ID: 197 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These unique and majestic symbols of our national heritage provide not only a place of seclusion and enjoyment from our everyday lives but are critical to the ecosystem.

Topic Question 2: Public awareness, including government officials keeping the importance of our environment and parks as a priority.

Topic Question 3: Preservation of our heritage, our environment, our planet and all its inhabitants. Not allowing corporate greed or other monetary influences compromise how vital these trees and parks are.

Topic Question 4: Inappropriate: Snowmobiles, jet skis and other loud and polluting vehicles. There are plenty of outdoor activities which do not disturb the environment as well as places to partake in these motorized activities; it is simply inappropriate and irreparably harmful to allow it in the wilderness. The rights of a few joy seekers should not trump those of us who enjoy the wilderness for its own sake or the other creatures which rely on it for their survival.

Topic Question 5: Probably should be limited to what the parks and areas can reasonably accommodate with a minimum of adverse impact.

Topic Question 6: So long as impact on environment minimal to non-existent, I'm all for the educational value and use by true nature lovers. Plus intelligent well structured organized tours should provide additional revenues.

Topic Question 7: See above

Topic Question 8: All, esp where endangered species may be concentrated.

Please see my comments above. I am particularly concerned about any shortsighted development or activities which compromise the natural beauty of the wilderness. Extinct is forever, we can't put a price on our beautiful sequoias.

Correspondence ID: 198 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 18:11:07

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Our wilderness is being attacked on all sides by greedy special interests. We should do everything possible to save the little wilderness we have left.

Correspondence ID: 199 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they be preserved in their splendor and biodiversity

Topic Question 2: Forbidding incompatible activities in the vicinity

Topic Question 3: Continuity of life and health ensuring freedom from contaminants not naturally occurring in the biosystem.

Topic Question 4: Only those compatible with preservation of the beauty and biodiversity are appropriate.

Topic Question 5: Group size depends on method of travel (foot or bicycle vs. horse, mule or motor-powered)--can permit larger of the former, but more limited of the latter.

Topic Question 6: If only waffle prints left behind and persons have been fully vetted, then such could be permitted but never by exclusive rights.

Topic Question 8: Any that are eroding or where endangered or threatened species exist warrant special consideration.

Correspondence ID: 200 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they remain pristine.

Topic Question 2: Keep corporations out!

Topic Question 3: It is irreplaceable.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and camping. Nothing motorized.

Topic Question 5: I am not sure.

Topic Question 6: I am not sure.

Topic Question 7: Maintenance

Topic Question 8: I am not sure.

Correspondence ID: 201 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Correspondence ID: 202 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That these amazingly beautiful and powerful places must be preserved, protected and maintained as they are.

The wilderness and wildlife in it are precious so we humans should be allowed to appreciate the solitude and primitive experience it offers in a way that leaves no trace or effect upon the wilderness or its inhabitants.

Topic Question 2: See comments below

Topic Question 3: See above and below.

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Correspondence ID: 203 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Thoughtful and careful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 5: Party/group size should be determined by the previous use of the area.

Topic Question 6: These are fine provided that the commercial services all follow the "Leave-No-Trace" concept. And provide profit sharing for the upkeep of the parks.

Topic Question 8: Only areas needed for fire roads.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System

Correspondence ID: 204 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:15:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it needs to stay virgin wilderness, protected for all times, for all our future generations to enjoy!

Topic Question 2: Limit development as much as possible, and keep new development in existing developed areas.

Topic Question 3: The fact that it is a small piece of unspoiled land. We have very few such pieces of land in the world today, and with the human overpopulation problem, pressure will forever grow to use wilderness lands for some other purpose.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Hiking, camping, backpacking, cross country skiing, scientific study. Inappropriate: motorized vehicles, such as cars, motorcycles, snowmobiles.

Topic Question 5: Campfires only where it's safe and wood gathering is not damaging to the fragile alpine environment. Groups should be small, under 12. Bear lockers should be supplied at all campgrounds, and assigned wilderness campsites. Bear containers should be required for all backpackers and other back country camping.

Topic Question 6: Some minimal commercial services may be ok, if the groups are small, well controlled, and they observes strict rules.

Correspondence ID: 205 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 5: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 7: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 8: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Correspondence ID: 206 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:16:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 207 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 18:16:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 208 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 18:17:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 209 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 18:17:26

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: What effect the new Wilderness Stewardship Plan will have on these parks, how the Plan can be drawn up to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Topic Question 2: Metered access to prevent overcrowding, especially via motor vehicles. Prohibition of off road vehicles,

whether motorized or not.

Topic Question 3: Preserving the beauty, peace of the areas; preserving habitat for a diverse group of animals, birds, and plants.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, birdwatching, fishing (with limits), sketching, and camping are appropriate activities. Off road motor vehicles and trail bicycles are not appropriate, and neither is hunting.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited to 20 or fewer persons. The public has to be instructed on how to store food safely so it is inaccessible to wildlife. I suggest that rangers inspect food storage systems carried by parties going into the wilderness. Make requirements known at the time permits are issued. Fire permits have to be issued and citations should be given if fire safety is not observed: again, it's a matter of educating the users.

Topic Question 6: I have no objection to guided hiking and mountaineering trips as long as the groups are not too large. I would recommend a very small number of allowable stock because of the potential impact of pack animals on the region's resources.

Topic Question 7: Permits required, rangers meet with people going into the wilderness to make sure they can comply with safety rules, require itinerary registered at ranger station, heavy fines for breaking safety rules re: fires etc.

Topic Question 8: Streams should always be treated carefully, no detergent use allowed, biodegradable soap only. Areas where endangered species exist should have special protection.

Correspondence ID: 210 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned about the impact of human visitors, fire, drought, global warming, invasive plants and animals, and reduction in the budget to pay state park personnel to protect these forests.

Topic Question 2: Controlled fire, increased personnel and management, increased user park fees, more stringent visitor use protocols, decrease in vehicle traffic into parks.

Topic Question 3: Preservation of ecosystems, lessening of impact of humans.

Topic Question 4: Carefully limited and controlled access by humans, best practices of fire management and water management.

Topic Question 5: The needs of preserving wilderness areas and ecosystems, native animals and plants, trumps the need of humans to visit wilderness areas. Where great sensitivity to human presence threatens ecosystems, humans should be prevented from going.

Topic Question 6: Guides should be park service certified and should strive to have low to zero impact on areas visited.

Topic Question 7: Activities and techniques should be based on thorough research and scientific study.

Topic Question 8: Any areas with threatened ecosystems and species deserve special preservation efforts.

Correspondence ID: 211 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I want to help ensure that this plan preserves and protects these natural lands while providing opportunities for appreciation of the solitude and primitive experience it offers.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about

proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 5: Group size small 8 or less. All food should be packed in, not stored in the wilderness. All packaging material should be packed out of the wilderness. No campfires should be allowed in the wilderness.

Topic Question 6: OK subject to answers to question 5.

Correspondence ID: 212 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks encompass hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine High Sierra country, of which more than 90% is designated wilderness. Right now, the NPS is preparing a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are incredible wilderness treasures of high mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons and the world's largest trees. The National Park Service (NPS) must protect this wilderness-- so that future generations can enjoy this amazing place Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Topic Question 2: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 5: In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Current park policies should be continued and enforced. With no weakening because of budget cuts.

Topic Question 6: Corporations that profit from our parks must pay a fair share for the use of the parks. Discounted group rates should be examined in the face of potential budget cuts to make sure that groups are paying for their impact and to make sure they are not getting a "free lunch" or almost a "free Pass"!

Topic Question 7: Budget cuts must not interfere with park protection. in addition, total Park closure should be kept to a minimum, as this is not a "budget solution".

Topic Question 8: All wilderness is important!

Correspondence ID: 213 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:18:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be

allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 214 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Smog/pollution. Too many cars.

Topic Question 2: Fighting harder to improve air quality in the Central Valley. Create better public transit into park so that people don't have to drive.

Topic Question 3: That's it's left untouched (Yosemite Valley is, to me, the exact opposite of what I expect from a national park ... the many excesses of modern society have no place in a national park or wilderness area).

Topic Question 4: Appropriate uses are: hiking, backpacking, camping, canoeing, kayaking, and cross-country skiing are priorities. To a lesser degree: fishing (but only with the appropriate permits so as to ensure no species are endangered), swimming (provided protections are taken against pollution from sunscreen and other toxic products people put on their skin), rock climbing (if done with appropriate constraints), and horseback riding (but only if riders are required to clean up the feces from their horses, which ruins the experience for hikers)

Inappropriate uses are: off-roading (or anything that involves a motorized vehicle), hunting (though some exceptions can be made in certain cases with the appropriate controls and permits), and mountain biking (though some exceptions can be made in certain areas).

Topic Question 5: Group/party size is important (too many people are too noisy and messy, detracting from the wilderness experience of others) and should be restricted to 8. I think campfires should be permitted as much as possible, but clearly in the cases when people are taking too much fuel from the ecosystem (or if there is limited fuel to begin with), restrictions must be in place. I think campfires/fires are an important way of experiencing nature as our ancestors have long used them as a gathering point. But our ancestors also didn't have to deal with so many people on this planet using so many resources

Topic Question 6: I think these are okay if they are done in a way that limits group size, noise, and any other impacts to others. They can be a valuable way for many people to get out into the wilderness who couldn't otherwise do it on their own.

Topic Question 7: Basic trail maintenance, primitive signage, and ranger stations made and maintained without the use of motorized equipment should be the extent of any management in wilderness areas.

Topic Question 8: Not sure, but probably

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to humankind, as we evolved in it and our current society has mostly removed us from, something which I think has profound negative effects on our behavior. It is therefore important that we protect as much wilderness (that as left) as a place where people can reconnect with nature, solitude, and peace and quiet.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land. It is even more important than we remember this as our society grows more technologically complex (and, in many ways, more dysfunctional).

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important. I am particularly concerned about pollution in Yosemite and Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks (and the surround wilderness areas and national forests), where the smog has become so bad that visibility has been noticed reduced and particular matter increased in the past 20 years.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 215 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality, and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use, and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 5: Party or group size should be considered; perhaps a limit to the number of large parties or groups on any given day, as their use of facilities is usually heavier and might be more disruptive to other visitors. Safe food storage practices and information about campfires should be given to everyone when they enter the area.

Topic Question 6: I am in favor of limited commercial services in wilderness areas. This is a great way for people without sufficient experience to be escorted into the wilderness. It is also safer, as guided trips (especially climbing/mountaineering) follow proscribed routes so that visitors can be found in the event of an emergency. It is also a way to earn revenue for the upkeep of wilderness areas. Care should be taken to limit the number of such commercial services so that they do not infringe on the very nature of the wilderness to which they guide people.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System and should be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

Correspondence ID: 216 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 18:18:27

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am concerned about the protection our natural American resources to preserve the beauty and majesty of nature that has always been associated with America, and to preserve that beauty and majesty for future generations. It is our responsibility to pass these wonders on to our children.

Please do all that you can to protect our wilderness resources from exploitation so that they may always continue to be enjoyed by us, our grandchildren and their children.

Correspondence ID: 217 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use.

Topic Question 5: Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 6: Please see #5 above

Topic Question 7: Please see #5 above

Topic Question 8: Maintaining / repairing / improving air quality, water quality.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 218 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:18:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 219 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That greedy corporations are lobbying Congress (both parties) for their own personal gain, be it land, mining or monetary. Those politicians and their corporate lords do not give a damn about the ecology or beauty of the areas they wish to underfund.

Correspondence ID: 220 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:19:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That lack of protection will degrade their wilderness areas, and that air pollution will damage wildlife.

Topic Question 2: Minimize and mitigate destructive impacts by limiting use and making sure visitors are educated about the importance of treading lightly.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is vital to the well-being of our planet. It is our duty to protect and preserve as much as possible as the pressure grows to use and develop it. Being in wild areas makes us more human, and recreational uses should be limited to those which have the least impact.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate uses are hiking and limited camping. Mountain bikes, motorcycles, snow mobiles, and even RV's are all too destructive or demand too much infrastructure.

Keeping facilities basic, without WiFi or other electronic devices is important. Keeping restroom clean and well supplied is also important.

Topic Question 5: Smaller groups are more intimate and assure closer connection to the wilderness, and tend to be less impactful. Unless wood is provided, including kindling, as a part of the fee, then people will insist on gathering firewood which can be very destructive. Providing the wood can help limit the number and length of burning, and help reduce air pollution.

Topic Question 6: They are good in that they restrict where people go. They are bad because they tend to bring more litter and greater impacts from animals -- unless they are very well regulated and rules are enforced.

Topic Question 7: Maintaining trails to prevent erosion. Enforcing restrictions so that people will not go where they should not go. Education, education, education -- make sure people know that even an apple core changes the way animals and birds behave and concentrates animals inappropriately.

Topic Question 8: Old growth areas are especially important, and encouraging areas with younger trees toward old growth (by protecting them) is crucial.

Correspondence ID: 221 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System that must be carefully preserved for all, now and in the future.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land. The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 5: See answer to Question #4 above.

Topic Question 6: See answer to Question #4 above.

Topic Question 7: See answer to Question #2 above. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Correspondence ID: 222 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:21:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: There's always pressure to develop or privatize parks and wilderness.

Topic Question 2: I think there should be some very minimal development: there can be trails, or even paved trails, for some hiking. But very minimal. If possible, the park should be quiet and contemplative: available for people to visit, but not to be used for housing projects or industrialization.

Topic Question 3: Good for the body and the mind.

But setting the space aside is also a very good investment.

Topic Question 4: rest, relaxation, and scientific research are appropriate.

loud noisy activities are not.

Topic Question 5: i'm not sure: that should depend on the good judgment of the park officials.

if there is lodging, maybe cooking should be done indoors?

campfires carry the risk of forest fire. so maybe have some seasonal guidelines. Or maybe just prohibit burning ---- do we need it in the 21st century?

Topic Question 6: Those sorts of commercial services are reasonable if they are not noisy.

Something like a concert would not be too reasonable.

And mining or farming are very unreasonable.

Topic Question 7: Try to keep it a light burden on the land, i would say.

Some trimming near trails is reasonable, but where practical it should be as natural and wild as possible.

Topic Question 8: The public should have access, but the wilderness should be protected.

I think the most dangerous pressure on a park or wilderness area is when some valuable mineral or other deposits are discovered.

What has to be kept in mind is that when minerals are extracted, they leave a mess, and the money is soon gone.

I think there should be a long, long moratorium on exploitation of any mineral deposits after they are found --- perhaps 50 years.

The reason is that the minerals will not disappear. But with advancing technology, we may not even need them, and, if we do, we may be able to mine them less intrusively with future technology.

The parks are a valuable asset, and we should do what wise investors do: buy and hold.

Correspondence ID: 223 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:21:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please make any decisions on the uses allowed to really protect these lands - you know they are unique and special, and they will be degraded quickly if we don't help to keep them at least a little bit pristine. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 224 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 18:22:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That not enough time or money has been utilized to protect the Giant Sequoias. The National Forest Service has other agendas that jeopardize the health and future of this fragile ecosystem.

Topic Question 2: Transfer it to the NPS.

Topic Question 3: Monitoring and protecting it as much as possible. Motorized recreational vehicles not allowed.

Topic Question 4: Camping, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, snow showing cross country skiing. I think dirt bikes and snowmobiles should be banned.

Topic Question 5: Bear boxes or canisters should be required. Campfires only in designated fire rings. Groups no more than 10 people per group site.

Topic Question 6: I think they are a good source of revenue and a good way of monitoring what the group is doing. I am for it.

Topic Question 7: I feel that we need to do whatever it takes to protect our giant sequoias. I feel that people should not be able to walk too closely to them trampling their exposed roots. There should be an enclosure around the base of each tree that prevents this from happening.

Topic Question 8: Yes, any where that there are old growth giant sequoias. Rivers and streams need special protection from over fishing, chemicals being released into them, over grazing in the near vicinity and from campers toileting too near.

Correspondence ID: 225 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness in North America is vanishing and has been misued by lumber companies and exaggerated private property rights. No more clearcutting, which should have been outlawed in 1850.

Correspondence ID: 226 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Primarily that the existing wilderness area be preseved and expanded if possible, while allowing humans to have reasonable access without damaging effects.

Topic Question 2: Prevent development and human polution; protect the existing forests and land from harm; prohibit off road recreational vehicles.

Topic Question 3: That this wilderness area not be degraded in any way.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking trails and minimum roadways to permit reasonable hiking access. Inappropriate: off-road vehicles, tree cutting, blocking or degrading water flow,

Topic Question 5: All should be limited to a reasonable size, practices and activities so that the wilderness is not degraded.

Topic Question 6: As long as they do not degrade the area or detract from the aesthetic value, including sound. Stock trips that result in pollution from animal droppings in the wilderness should be tightly regulated if permitted.

Topic Question 7: I apologize, but I do not know how to respond to this question.

Topic Question 8: Overuse - it needs to be anticipated, proactively, and not left as something to remediate after the damage has taken place.

The National Park Service should treat trees as sacred. If a tree is older than the person assigned to cut it down, it should remain standing unless it clearly represents a significant safety hazard as determined by a qualified expert.

Correspondence ID: 227 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Greed in this country is appalling! I'm concerned that everything is for sale.

Topic Question 3: It's one of the things that makes life pleasurable

Topic Question 4: Drilling and mining are inappropriate.

Correspondence ID: 228 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: preservation of the area

Topic Question 2: they are not resources but actual living beings are humans resources for exploitation. i am concerned about their exploitation for business.

Topic Question 3: that the areas are protected from overuse and exploitation by business interests

Topic Question 4: appropriate activities would include camping (within limits), hiking (along trails), inappropriate would be commercial interests being given leases to harvest 'resources' trees... minerals... energy...

Correspondence ID: 229 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:24:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Will it remain as pristine for my children as it has for me?

Topic Question 2: Limit access especially by motor vehicles, monitor wildlife populations and their necessary ecosystems, maintain and active staff and volunteer organization.

Topic Question 3: Leaving nature as it has been for eons.

Topic Question 4: hiking, camping, forestry growth.

Topic Question 5: Need proper food storage, avoid large noisy groups except youth with adult supervision.

Topic Question 6: prefer volunteer organizations, do not like extreme sports that involve environmental alteration.

Topic Question 7: I preferred the old rustic setting.

Topic Question 8: as warranted after appropriate study. Planning should be science based with consideraion of the next 7 generations who will use the site. The Lord has entrusted us with one of his cathedrals, we must love, honr, and respect it.

I have been to Sequiuoa and King's Canyon many times, taught back injury prevention to park workers, hiked and visited numerous sites. It is a treasure that deserves to inspire all future human generations, we are the current custodians and must never forget our responsibility to maintain it for others to come after us.

Correspondence ID: 230 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:25:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: want it to be maintained, a healthy forest that is not overrun with human intrusions.. dont want a lot of people - especially people who are not responsible guardians of these parks

Topic Question 2: limiting access, strictly enforcing, monitoring visitors' behavior

Topic Question 3: preservation

access around and with in the park and water ways with well marked trails

Topic Question 4: appropriate: learning, observing, silence, respecting other creatures, camping, hiking, biking, backpacking, swimming ...

inappropriate: recreational hunting, partying, loud music, watching tv,

Topic Question 5: campfires should be allowed, within designated areas, at designated times

group size should be limited to a maximum of 10 people

food storage should be supported with campsites that are equipped with

Topic Question 6: as long as the group sizes are small (less than 15) and the group leaders are well experienced in the wilderness and are good teachers these programs should be encouraged and supported

Topic Question 8: education on the mysteries of the parks, conservation programs, etc. for children and visitors

Correspondence ID: 231 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: under supervised with the budget cuts

Topic Question 2: help the regular people (youth groups, etc.) to become volunteers

Topic Question 3: that they are available

Topic Question 4: important/appropriate:..camping..family outings inappropriate: aggressive bears and people...black flies, mosquitoes

Topic Question 5: We always need to be reminded and educated about these

Topic Question 6: Just as long as they don't keep the non-commercial folks at bay

Topic Question 7: I have a son who would love to work at the parks there...

Correspondence ID: 232 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1:

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages

Topic Question 2:

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Topic Question 8:

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Correspondence ID: 233 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 18:26:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 3: Getting away and surrounding yourself in nature to stay sane!

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking, camping, picnicing, fishing.

Inappropriate: "four-wheeling", target practice and fire-arms. Dis-respecting nature in any way.

Topic Question 5: Group size is important, it should be a manageable size. Bear boxes definately should be used to store food. Campfires.. only in fire rings; no fires during a drought.

Topic Question 6: I personally like guided hiking trips. It's very interesting and I appreciate learning more about our parks.

To me, our National Parks are the crown jewels of our country. The thought of not being able to care and manage them upsets me greatly.

Since money is required to take care of the parks, perhaps increasing entrance fees by \$10.00 more might help. Increasing the fee by too much will deter people from coming; especially in these tough economic times.

Correspondence ID: 234 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:27:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 235 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:27:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As a resident of the immediate area of these wonderful parks, I am concerned that they be protected to the utmost extent possible. I would like to see these areas kept as pristine as possible for future generations to enjoy.

Topic Question 2: I would like to see a quota system for the most remote wilderness areas, so that the experience is not degraded by overcrowding. I am in favor of great public accessibility to the groves of redwoods to increase appreciation of the wonder of these trees. I would also like to see the shuttle system expanded and cars restricted to protect the area from the dangers of air pollution and ozone.

Topic Question 3: As a child and youth I went camping many times in these areas. They heled to shape my appreciation of the wonders of life on this planet and respect for other living things. I feel it is vitally important that wilderness be preserved for future generations and that true wilderness be protected from overuse. I may never hike a wilderness area again in my lifetime, but I gather strength and comfort just from the knowledge that these areas are protected and there.

Topic Question 4: I consider hiking, camping and tourism appropriate in certain areas that are already developed. I would like to see backcountry use kept at low-impact levels. Aside from stocked lakes, I consider fishing and hunting and any exploitation of

timber and wildlife resources inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: In established campgrounds, I feel that groups are appropriate. Backpacking should be restricted to smaller groups. There should be clearly-designated campfire areas and all hikers and campers should be carefully instructed on food storage practices and fire dangers.

Topic Question 6: Subject to volume/number restrictions, I feel that guided wilderness experiences are an excellent use of national parks and wilderness areas. Guides are, in general, more knowledgeable and respectful of the resources from which they derive their livelihood. They allow people who might not be able or willing to backpack to have a wilderness experience which has been shown to lead to greater desire to protect and appreciate the forests and mountains.

Topic Question 7: Avoid crowding - not allow so many people into an area that the experience is degraded. Control/eradication of invasive/non-native species. Halt stocking of up-country lakes with trout in order to protect amphibians from diseases.

Topic Question 8: Obviously the giant redwoods/sequoias are tremendously important, especially with the stresses that will be placed upon them by climate change in the next decades. Protection of endangered species is also paramount, especially amphibians.

Correspondence ID: 236 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it's wilderness may be comprimised in any way.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness use is important for human culture in many different ways. It's value may not be quantifiable but nonetheless extremely valuable.

Topic Question 4: backpacking et. al.

Topic Question 5: leave no trace. Groups and fire rules that appropriately leave the wilderness wild.

Correspondence ID: 237 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keeping them safe from logging.

Topic Question 2: Declare the land a park or forest/

Topic Question 3: That it be kept in tact for future generations.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and camping and support of wild life/

Topic Question 5: Many.

Topic Question 6: ok

Correspondence ID: 238 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:29:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 239 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:31:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 240 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: I would like to see these wilderness areas protected for future generations of Americans. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there. I would like to see these wilderness areas available to me, to my children, nieces, nephews, and all the children of America across the country for generations to come.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Topic Question 5: Keep it small. Perhaps parties of no more than 10 to 12 maximum, with a maximum number of parties allowed per year/month.

Topic Question 6: I feel that guiding hiking, horseback riding, mountaineering should be allowed and encouraged as long as the "guiders" are bound to keep to areas that will not impact fragile ecosystems. Perhaps there should be some type of certification

for those leading these trips or for their companies.

Topic Question 8: Any areas of fragile ecosystems.

I would like to see walking trails through the wilderness that would allow anyone to hike at any time, while preserving off-trail hiking to those with permits. I do feel that these areas should be available to all Americans, but boundaries to protect ecosystems should be set.

Correspondence ID: 241 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protection of wildlife habitat balanced with public access.

Topic Question 2: Limiting public access so that some parts of the park remain free of human disturbance for the wildlife that lives there.

Topic Question 3: It is important to me that people have access to the park to appreciate its beauty. I think that access must come with education about how visitors must do their part to "take only pictures and leave only footprints," so that the park will remain pristine for future visitors and the animals & plants who live there.

Topic Question 4: Camping & hiking are appropriate, but bike trails must be limited and I don't think ATV's have any place in a public park because of the noise pollution & general destruction they cause. I think hunting and fishing have absolutely no place in a park, for both human safety reasons and also because parks should be a place where animals (including fish & fowl) are protected, not persecuted.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited to 75 or less, which would allow for large family reunions & even Boy & Girl Scout troops, and other tourist groups. I think the park should provide secure food protection bins for campers that campers are required to use. And I think campfires should be limited to provided fire pits, and even then only be allowed when weather conditions safely permit.

Topic Question 6: I think guided trips are good because they provide visitors with great, safe access and the tour guides can educate people about their responsibility to keep parks clean to be respectful of the fauna & animals who live there.

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Correspondence ID: 242 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Continuing access to the parks and protection to all native plant and animal species contained therein.

Topic Question 2: I am no expert, but I think we need to protect the jobs that serve the parks and wilderness areas. We need to come up with a plan to provide the funds needed for park rangers, volunteer programs. I was terribly disappointed that California voters did not vote for the \$18 addition to car registration to pay for California state parks. I think the bill wasn't

advertised wisely. People didn't realize that the extra fee would give California residents free entry for the year to state parks.

Topic Question 3: There is only so much wilderness and increasing population and development encroach on our wilderness. I need the wilderness for hiking, relaxation, birdwatching, getting away from my humdrum suburban surroundings. I actually have made my back yard a bird sanctuary, and it is very nice, but IF there is a god to believe in, one can could surely see it in the high country of California.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, backpacking, fishing, boating are all good if done responsibly. I do not like extra noisy activities or ones that encroach on the wildlife, probably I am speaking of ATVs and motorcycling on pristine lands. However, perhaps they can also be done responsibly and in areas that don't affect the tortoises, other wildlife and people who opt for quiet wilderness time.

Topic Question 5: I think party size should be somewhat limited but I think the more important issue is quiet and no loud, drunken partying which can be most unpleasant to 99% of the others present and very often dangerous. Campfires okay in non-fire season and again done responsibly. Food storage is one thing that makes me reluctant to backpack or camp where there are bears, but I simply don't know enough at this point.

Topic Question 6: I think it is a great way to visit the wilderness areas if not comfortable doing it on one's own. It is also a way to go that is ecologically sound as the guides know what they are doing and will not pollute, litter or start unsafe fires.

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Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
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Spending time in the wilderness is the antidote to so many modern ills. I have spent some of the most joyous times of my life in wilderness areas and parks (both state and national) I can't bear the idea that we will not continue to protect these treasures for future generations, not to mention the health of the planet!

Correspondence ID: 244 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 3: It is important that we all (especially the NPS) are the best stewards possible for these and all public lands. We hold them in trust for future generations.

Correspondence ID: 245 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My biggest concern is that some of the land now protected will be opened for logging, mining, or other development, or allowed as a "low-fly" zone. I am opposed to any of that. Because undeveloped, quiet, unpolluted wilderness provides an irreplaceable habitat for multiple species of wildlife. Also, it provides a tranquil and stimulating environment for people to hike, walk, play and camp.

Topic Question 2: Do not allow roads in a large percentage, and preferably in entire watersheds of wilderness areas. Allow hiking in those areas for experienced hikers. In other, preferably less sensitive areas, have small campgrounds with individual and small group sites; large group sites for school trips, church retreats, etc.; trails for activities like hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. In even more accessible areas have some scenic viewpoints and flat "hiking" trails for those who have less time or different physical ability.

Topic Question 3: Untrammelled wilderness where creatures who are not us live.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate are activities that have impacts that can be reversed relatively easily, and do not impinge on other people's enjoyment. Inappropriate are motorized vehicles off-road, fire in all areas, unlimited traffic in all areas.

Topic Question 5: Fires in areas that can easily be patrolled and that do not have dry, highly flammable surrounds. Group size whatever the

Topic Question 6: Guided yes, but with a minimum number of persons annually. There is (or was) a protocol that seems to work well on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. There is a lottery for people who want to go down in boats. There are guides with each boat trip. Also have some free trips each year---for example, part of the permitting for private guides could be that each give two free weekends a year, and that could be built into the price and included in the lottery. Low-income people and groups could sign up for those. The wilderness has become increasingly a place for the financially privileged.

Topic Question 7: Don't know.

Topic Question 8: Pristine wilderness should be left so.

Correspondence ID: 246 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Topic Question 1: I want to see these wilderness areas continue to be protected, especially those areas that have limited access and provide vital habitat for plants and animals. I am concerned that in this era of budget problems that these protections may not be enforced or may be sacrificed in the name of resource management, resource extraction or recreational use. Wilderness is a resource that must be protected as a system not merely a fractured landscape shaped by competing interests. The land and its life must always come first.

Topic Question 3: I think that recreational use that involves machines must be severely limited, not only because of the immediate destruction of habitat/land, but also because of the noise and air pollution which negatively impact wilderness and those who come to enjoy it.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities include: hiking, rafting, canoeing and swimming. In areas without roads, inappropriate use includes: motorcycling, snowmobiling and other invasive behaviors.

Topic Question 5: Outside of campsites reached by roads, group size should be small. Campfires should be limited to those areas where fire pits exist and are regularly inspected.

Topic Question 6: These services should be tightly regulated and scheduled to have the least negative impact on plants, watersheds and animals.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 247 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:39:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 248 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:39:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I do not want commercial endeavors in these areas.

Topic Question 2: making everyone aware of the benefits to the environment natural areas provide.

Topic Question 3: So my grandchildren and our family may see, visit, and learn about the natural world.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, and visiting are appropriate. Commercial activities, except those necessary for the uses mentioned are inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: These methods have been proven over the decades. Small groups are better, food must be protected for the campers safety, and campfires must be controlled by the CDF or other authority.

Topic Question 6: All may be allowed based on standard practice.

Topic Question 7: Supervision by some agency.

Topic Question 8: Any sensitive breeding or delicate environmental areas.

Correspondence ID: 249 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:40:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Impact of overuse and of incursion of motorized vehicles as there is more pressure to expand roads, camping and other facilities. While providing access for the maximum amount of people is important, so is preserving the wilderness.

Topic Question 2: Knowledge and information - all visitors should learn about "leave not trace", the value of wilderness, and the need to protect it - and why that might limit their participation or ability to access it.

Topic Question 3: Having spent 2 weeks hiking in Mineral King and Sequoia last summer, and a week in Muir Wilderness area,

freedom from noise, motorized vehicles, crowds of people, and the ability to see an untrammled nature - forests in their natural state, carpets of flowers, lakes reflecting rock, trees and sky.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: camping, walking, hiking, relaxing, swimming, fishing - anything that is engaged with the environment and reflects wilderness values.

Inappropriate are: racing, sports that take large facilities or don't interact with the environment, motorized activities other than driving to or from campground or trailhead, large group activities of any kind; most exploitation of mineral and habitat resources: dams, lumbering, mining, grazing and other similar economic activities that benefit few to the detriment of the many and of the environment

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited: at some point, more than 15 -20 people have little to do with the environment or habitat and everything to do with the social group, and puts enormous stress on the environment Proper food storage should be required and provided at parking and campsites. Campfires tend to lead to cutting local timber or using local downed wood; while enjoyable, their use needs to be limited to protect the environment and reduce or eliminate collecting downed wood and cutting local trees and shrubs

Topic Question 6: Guided trips are important in getting people out into the wilderness, whether due to limited capabilities or time. However, they need to be managed to reduce overuse and damage, or charged fees to compensate for and correct damage. For example, stock damage on the Mono Pass trail was extensive, due to the long wet period. Charging stock guides a fee to pay for trail restoration makes sense.

Stock needs to also be regulated to prevent overgrazing and destruction of grassland and meadows.

Beyond that, there is no place (as noted above) for other types of commercial services in a wilderness area.

Topic Question 7: Current policy seems to strike a fairly good balance between access and protection, with some exceptions of commercial use.

Topic Question 8: Wilderness resources need to be managed to be sustainable; any practice that produces permanent damage, such as mining, dams, roads, should be severely restricted and designed to only serve the best protection and management of the wilderness area.

As avid hikers, my wife and I have enjoyed many weeks of backpacking and day hikes in our National Parks and wilderness areas. We treasure the experience they provide, and the ability to "get out" and enjoy solitude and a natural environment free from noise, motorized vehicles, commercial operations, and the hustle and bustle of city life. It contributes enormously to our wellbeing, and provides experiences we can share with family and friends.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 250 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Development of roads, etc.

Topic Question 3: Preserving and protecting wild areas for the future.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, climbing, low impact camping are appropriate. Anything involving mechanization, motors, guns and the like are not appropriate.

Topic Question 5: Should be regulated to minimize impact on wilderness and wildlife.

Topic Question 6: Should be limited and regulated so that protecting the wilderness comes first, no commercial interests.

Topic Question 7: Science should be the standard.

Topic Question 8: Areas involving endangered and threatened species.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Correspondence ID: 251 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have concerns about heavily used camping sites, stock use, and abuse of lakes and streams.

Topic Question 2: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: I greatly appreciate the solitude that I can find in wilderness. Thus, I don't like to visit heavily used trails, campgrounds, lakes, and streams.

Topic Question 4: Activities that are appropriate in wilderness are: camping, hiking, horseback riding, climbing, mountaineering, swimming in lakes and streams, and other non-motorized forms of recreation.

Topic Question 5: Wilderness group size should be 15 at the maximum and certainly no more than one party this size should be allowed at one camping area. Bear proof cannisters should be required of all visitors. Campfires should not be allowed at high alpine altitudes.

Topic Question 6: Guided commercial activities are appropriate if the group size is kept to 15 at the maximum.

Topic Question 7: Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Topic Question 8: Sensitive wildlife habitat areas should be off-limit during special times of year, i.e. lambing periods for bighorn sheep.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 252 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 18:43:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Much of these national parks are wilderness areas and I want them kept that way. I don't want roads built, but if trails have too much use then we should work to prevent them from being a cause of erosion. The fact that the highest peaks in

California are difficult to access pleases me. Look at the front range of Colorado for a comparison. I am tired of seeing dust covering plants to the point that they can't sustain themselves. We need to keep the pollution out of these areas. They are something sacred to be enjoyed by generations to come.

Topic Question 2: Don't build roads. Don't allow logging.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness use and recreation have two different meanings to me. Recreation areas are filled with people while wilderness areas have only the most hardy persons who generally understand the unwritten law of the wilderness. Don't leave anything behind and don't leave any evidence that you have been there.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate is hiking and sometimes overnight camping without camp grounds. Shooting is only done with a camera.

Topic Question 5: No fires! There are rules in place for hiking up Mt Whitney and the same kind of rules should apply to all wilderness areas. If an area is popular then restrict the number of us who can obtain a permit. Otherwise, I don't like for anyone to know where I am and if I get in trouble, that is my problem.

Topic Question 6: Guides, rather paid or not are OK with me. I don't want stock trips in wilderness areas. I don't want any other kind of commercial services in the wilderness. We should not be considering how to make the wilderness handicap accessible.

Topic Question 7: We need to be able to measure the impact that we have on these areas and of course that means money to pay experts who can determine what damage is being caused by dirty air from our coastal and valley cities is reaching the wilderness. We need a starting point so we can see what damage is caused by climate change and even by hiking into the area by people like me. There is nothing worse than being 20 miles from the nearest road and finding somebody else has left empty water bottles in the middle of nowhere.

Topic Question 8: Our giant trees are the most critical concern to me. Erosion of the soil will bring them all down if we don't keep people on the path. Having someone standing at the general may be a boring job for a ranger, but I want someone there.

Wilderness areas are set aside for nature, not for man. We need to stop thinking about how we can use these areas and start thinking about how plants and animals can use them. We should be a rare visitor, no more visible on the landscape than a mountain lion or a deer.

The National Park Service should use social media to inform the public. Even old coots like me have a facebook page.

How many people have been killed in Yosemite this year? Wilderness is not for everybody. Thanks for reading.

Correspondence ID: 253 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Its our national treasure. Teddy Roosevelt started protecting it and we should continue. We need more wilderness not less.

Correspondence ID: 254 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It needs to be kept intact and logging-free. It is a spectacular park and deserves to be protected.

Topic Question 3: Peace, quiet, and feeling like I am really in the wilderness. I do not want to hear radios, ATVs, large groups trodding about, etc.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, birdwatching, stargazing, breathing are all important. Horseback riding is wonderful. Anything natural.

ABSOLUTELY NO ATVs, logging, large-scale music events,

Topic Question 5: Please no large-scale groups. CAREFUL food storage...a fed bear is a dead bear! Carefully controlled campfires oly, within safe, designated areas. We don't need wildfires casued by out of control groups.

Topic Question 6: Guided tours are okay, as long as the guided groups do not interfere with the individual hiker, etc. There is nothing more annoying than having a self-entitled tour company cutting off access. SOMETimes large guided groups forget to

leave no trace. Ranger-led hikes and talks are the best!!

Topic Question 7: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 8: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

I love Sequoia/Kings Canyon, and hope for its continued natural existence.

Correspondence ID: 255 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned that these lands will not be protected for future generations.

Topic Question 2: Assistance from the government and citizens of the U.S. and other countries.

Topic Question 3: It is important that the recreation, although a good source of revenue, not harm the preservation of the park's natural habitat, (greenery and wildlife).

Topic Question 4: Hiking, Camping, anything that, again, does not harm the preservation of the park's natural habitat.

Topic Question 5: Only you can determine the size of a party/group size that ruin the environment. When I've camped at Sequoia and Kings Canyon the rules for food storage practices and campfires was reasonable considering the environment.

Topic Question 6: I think having guided trips would be great. However, these trips should favor the preservation of the park more than the commercial aspect.

Topic Question 7: Unfortunately, I'm not skilled enough in park preservation to answer this question. However, I would hope that the answer to this question would be provided by parties that have the park's preservation in mind. Please do not let Corporate Leaders make the decisions. I think the decisions should be made by the Park Rangers. The Park Rangers that I have had the pleasure of meeting in my many years of visiting the various parks in the U.S.A. have been intelligent, informative and very pleasant.

Topic Question 8: The flora and fauna.

The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks encompass hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine High Sierra country, of which more than 90% is designated wilderness. It has come to my attention that the NPS is preparing a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Please make sure that this new plan will preserve and protect these natural lands while providing opportunities for appreciation of the solitude and primitive experience it offers.

Correspondence ID: 256 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:46:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated

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Correspondence ID: 257 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:47:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned about overuse and too much vehicle traffic in these areas.

Topic Question 2: Research into how to preserve and protect what is there now in the face of climate change and an increasing population.

Topic Question 3: Virgin territory...quiet...no traffic sounds....animals and plants that are native to the area, not invasive.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, meditating, yoga, family camping, ranger led hikes. Inappropriate are dune buggies, off road vehicles, motorcycles, noise, alcohol drinking, loud parties.

Topic Question 5: Campfires only in fire rings and designated spots...flames to be kept LOW. No groups over 20. Food storage in bearsafe lockers.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking is great. Most of the climbers I know do a good job of policing themselves with regard to environmental issues. Rangers should maintain a good watch though to correct the behavior of miscreants.

Topic Question 7: Eradication of exotic species of plants and animals. Careful monitoring of populations of animals.

Topic Question 8: Streamside protection....keeping dogs off trails.

Thank you for the good work that has been done in the past to maintain and preserve our wild heritage. Please stay observant so that we can pass these special places on to our grandchildren in good shape, not eroded and degraded.

Correspondence ID: 258 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:48:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that the size of the wilderness area will be reduced due to lack of funds.

Topic Question 2: Add a national tax to help funding

Topic Question 3: Everything! Nature is a finite resource on this planet. It's vital to preserve as much as possible for future generations. The amount of wilderness is only going to decrease as time goes on, so we need to preserve as much as possible as aggressively as possible to avoid exploitation and commercialization.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities include hiking, camping, sightseeing, and relatively unobtrusive activities. No ok is

anything that destroys natural beauty or hurts wildlife in unsustainable ways

Topic Question 5: Party size is not much of a concern in separate group campgrounds, but should be limited at other campgrounds to avoid noise pollution for others. Bear lockers are appropriate and campfires are vital to camping enjoyment and safe fire practices should be taught and available to all.

Topic Question 6: They are fine as long as there are not too many at once.

Topic Question 7: Controlled burning, trail maintenance and signage is important for campers. Absolutely no clear cutting of forest, blocking off animal routes and habitat.

Topic Question 8: The trees and animal habitat should be preserved.

Correspondence ID: 259 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 18:48:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 3: I do a lot of hiking, for a week or more at a time. It's important to me to be able to go into true wilderness (or as true as California gets.) Further despoilment of what we have would make life much less enjoyable.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities are all muscle-powered and wheelless, and leave no trace. Inappropriate activities include building fires, littering, building more roads, and logging. In addition, hunting for the largest and best-developed examples of a species is just plain stupid. Pardon the rant, but look at the stats on the prevalence of spike bucks back east. (If you're not familiar with this problem, it boils down to this: hunters exert selective pressure against bucks with many points. Spike bucks, which never develop many points, don't get shot, and are therefore allowed to reproduce. The east now has a greatly increased percentage of spike bucks.)

Topic Question 5: Bear cans should be required. Groups larger than 6 or 8 should be limited to designated campsites only. Campfires... how do you entice the public to come out and enjoy the wilderness, but without accidentally burning it all down? Perhaps in designated sites only.

Topic Question 6: Most of the guided groups I've seen have been reasonably well managed. Guides should bring larger groups only to areas that can support the traffic, and should be responsible for the cleanup of those areas.

Topic Question 7: Well-maintained trails encourage people to stay on trail, instead of chewing up wide swaths of land.

Topic Question 8: Alpine meadows are fragile and slow to recover from damage. Stock and large groups should stay away from those.

Correspondence ID: 260 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 18:49:29

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 261 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are incredible wilderness treasures of high mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons and the world's largest trees. Please protect this area for future generations with your Wilderness Protection Plan.

Topic Question 2: Pass an act that protects and preserves the land from any development.

Topic Question 3: We are losing so many lovely places that should be protected. Do this now so that our children will understand and love the wilderness.

Topic Question 4: Managed tours; overnights for scouts

Topic Question 5: Managed groups

Topic Question 6: All of the above under park management

Correspondence ID: 262 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:50:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The government seems intent on overstepping it's bounds, and allowing free reign to corporate interest on public lands

Topic Question 2: putting the environment issues, and the peoples best interest over corporate excell

Topic Question 3: These lands belong to the citizens, and we demand the government protect them. They have a pretty dismal track record on this score. Soon there will be no place for us to go to be amidst nature

Topic Question 4: any personal use that does not endanger the environment, or other people. Hiking, camping, fishing, etc. are appropriate.

any activities that infringe on nature, or other peoples rights are inappropriate, such as off roading, shooting guns, lighting fires in restricted areas, etc.

Topic Question 5: I think large gatherings should require special permits, and be policed to avoid bothering others.

Food storage needs to be animal proofed

campfires need to be restricted to designated areas, extinguished completely, this goes for cigarettes as well

Topic Question 6: If there is a demand for them fine. All guides need to be carefully trained

Topic Question 7: patrols of public use areas - campgrounds, nature trails, restrooms etc. Plus Forest Service patrols and outposts to protect wilderness areas

Topic Question 8: Animal abuse issues

hunting and fishing laws need to be enforced

Thank you for doing this!

Correspondence ID: 263 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:51:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 264 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: protection of wildlife

Topic Question 2: greater monitoring of resources

Topic Question 3: non-impactful enjoyment...leave no trace

Topic Question 4: hiking, camping, quiet, natural

no offroad vehicles, hunting...

Topic Question 5: no campfires since wildfires are devastating, small parties, groups, food storage as not to attract bears

Topic Question 6: guided hiking, mountaineering fine...no hunting

Topic Question 7: ? unsure of question

Topic Question 8: hunting/poaching...protection of wild species

Correspondence ID: 265 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Sequoia trees are among the oldest still in existence. They were here long before Europeans arrived in the Americas and should be here long after our great-grandchildren. Greedy and narrow-thinking politicians should not be interfering with public parks and environmental treasures.

Correspondence ID: 266 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:53:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The wilderness must be protected and not destroyed by over-mechanization.

Topic Question 2: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality, and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to many as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be

allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use, and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 267 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:53:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My greatest concern is that the areas remain as close as possible to their native state, without road access where there is none now and review of the access that currently exists. Endangered species must be promptly listed when they are threatened. Maintenance and supervision of public access and camping must be preserved.

Topic Question 2: A ban on new roads. A ban on off road activities in sensitive areas. Careful monitoring of wildlife habitat and populations. Active enforcement of laws and regulations. A ban on mineral extraction near the parks.

Topic Question 3: Maintaining environmental integrity so that activities like fishing, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling can continue long into the future. Maintaining pure water and clean air. Preventing noise pollution. Strict enforcement of bans on glass containers and anti littering rules. Education of park visitors about the environment and what they can do to protect it.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, fishing, horseback riding, bicycling, photography, camping, education, driving in designated areas that do not pose risks to the park. Off road activities should be strictly limited and banned where appropriate. No hunting. No open fires in areas that do not contain safe camp fire pits.

Topic Question 5: No glass. Bear proof lockers. No glass. No smoking. Proper trash recycling facilities. Retention of all plastic containers or disposal in designated recycling bins. Fires only in designated areas and only in times of noncritical fire danger and in compliance with safety.

Topic Question 6: As long as the guides are professional, that they observe regulations regarding go/no go areas, littering and trash pack out rules, allow no firearms, protect archeological sites and treat wildlife with respect, I have no objection to them.

Topic Question 7: Environmental controls and monitoring, limits on numbers of people allowed in the park consistent with safety and environmental integrity. No off road vehicles.

Topic Question 8: Current roadless areas. Areas where breeding of threatened or endangered species occurs. Wildlife corridors. Source point pollution inside and outside of the parks.

Parks should be expanded wherever and whenever possible. Nothing that damages the environmental integrity of the parks should be banned.

Correspondence ID: 268 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness

stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate is camping, hiking and visiting. I consider all motorized vehicles inappropriate in wilderness areas.

Correspondence ID: 269 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 18:54:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That any changes to them will compromise their wilderness status.

Topic Question 2: Close them from all development.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness use and recreation is almost and oxymoron. If it is used, its not a wilderness. Any intrusion into them should be strictly limited to the number of people the land can tolerate and no motorized vehicles or equipment, no horses, no pets. Anything that can't actually exist in a wilderness without outside assistance should be prohibited.

Topic Question 4: Camping and hiking only.

Topic Question 5: Any use by humans is done so at their own peril. Sizes must be limited based upon an established carrying capacity and permits issued for wilderness use. Their will be plenty of people applying even with strict usage regulations. Food storage is up to the users to insure their own safety. Wilderness is off-limits if fire conditions exist, otherwise, campfires are ok.

Topic Question 6: Guides can lead people. Nothing wrong with that. Camping and hiking are fine. No vehicles or pack animals. They are not part of the wilderness.

Topic Question 7: Administrative requirement is overseeing the above which is plenty. Issuing permits. Arresting violators. Enforcing rules.

Topic Question 8: Only where endangered species, fire danger, or potable water exist.

Correspondence ID: 270 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land. This means protecting them from hum ab activities as much as possible.

Topic Question 2: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. These protections should continue. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of ?Leave-No-Trace?. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, but by permit,so as to avoid overuse. Any kind of motorized vehicle should be prohibited. Noise in general should be minimized. No generators, to provide power for radios, etc.

Topic Question 5: Before people enter a wilderness area, they should be given information on handling food so as to avoid conflict with wild life, and about not feeding wildlife, no matter hoew cute.

Topic Question 6: Well run commercial services provide an opportunity to experience wilderness safely and with little impact on the environment. I would much rather see inexperienced hikers and backpackers on a commercial trip where someone with know-how manages sanitation, campfires, food storage, etc. There would have to be a mechanism for determining if the commercial service is "well run".

Correspondence ID: 271 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 18:57:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Stock useage on major trails increases airborne dust, makes for an unpleasant hike, and causes water sources to degrade. Stock can be used all over the National Forest, and I would like to see the National Parks left more for nature. I have a concern that droppings from stock that have grazed outside the park can continue to bring invasive, non-endemic species into the park. At the few locations where stock are used to get to back-country lodges, I wouldn't be opposed to allowing stock. Another concern I have is the continued air pollution caused from outside the park. Not sure this is the forum to discuss these issues, so I will leave my comment as is.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness attributes (lack of people, lack of signs of people, indications of natural health) are very important and inspire my love of the park. Anything to protect this aspects of wilderness should be implemented. Quotas have been a great strategy. Stock use should be significantly reduced.

Topic Question 4: Backpacking/hiking, backcountry skiing (cross country/alpine), rock climbing (without installing permanent gear), fishing, and to some extent, rafting, are all acceptable uses of wilderness. Tree climbing, tight ropes, permanent rock climbing gear installation, stock-use, bicycles, motorized vehicles, should all be prohibited.

Topic Question 5: I like the current food storage practices, and campfire policies seem adequate. I think that creating new campsites should be discouraged via marketing, however many locations require this. Party size policies are OK and from my experience are rarely excessive.

Topic Question 6: OK with all, except guided stock trips...leave this activity for areas like National Forests.

Correspondence ID: 272 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 19:00:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Our ownership of common areas is in jeopardy.

Topic Question 2: Do not allow any further activities, such as logging, mining, and off-road recreation which endanger our wilderness areas.

Topic Question 3: Peace and quiet. Spiritual re-creation.

Topic Question 4: Backpacking, horseback riding, hiking: all are appropriate. Logging, mining, off-road vehicles, new structures and roads, cattle ranching: all inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: There should be group campgrounds available, as well as single campsites. Food storage must be strictly regulated, including bear-proof storage and garbage containers. Fires must be limited to designated fire pits, barbeques, or other safe areas.

Topic Question 6: Fine, unless these services impinge on solitary occupations.

Topic Question 7: Underbrush clearance and/or controlled burns. Facilities near trail heads for garbage disposal and toilets.

Topic Question 8: Landmarks, e.g. the Grand Canyon. Wildlife areas, e.g. salmon spawning grounds. Habitat of endangered species.

As our society grows more urban and more oriented towards technology, we are losing our connection with nature. Nothing is more soul-soothing than solitary quiet time in nature.

Correspondence ID: 273 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 5: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Correspondence ID: 274 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Obviously should be protected.

Topic Question 2: Correct legislation

Topic Question 3: Should be available

Topic Question 4: What doesn't endanger wilderness

Topic Question 5: Leave that to experts

Topic Question 6: As long as it doesn't endanger wilderness

Topic Question 7: Don't know

Topic Question 8: That which is unique and can't be replaced

Correspondence ID: 275 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 19:03:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about over use and about the encroachment of commercial interests that will result in the destruction of these precious resources rather than the preservation of them for generations to come.

Topic Question 2: Wherever possible natural processes should be allowed and assisted if necessary in order to preserve, perpetuate and even restore the wilderness to its natural state free of manmade changes and pollutants

Topic Question 3: it is important to me as we are part of the entire ecology of this planet and we are creatures of the planet. Without wilderness humanity itself may not survive not only physically but emotionally as we need the peace and contact with nature for our own well being.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, enjoyment of the wilderness with as little artificial means as possible and as little impact on the sites as possible.

Mechanized vehicles and paved roads have no place in a true wilderness.

Topic Question 5: Groups should be limited in size and number. Food storage should be such as to discourage animals such as bears, wolves etc to encroach on camping areas. Campfires need to be controlled and managed.

Topic Question 6: They can be good if they are kept to small groups and frequencies and are given by ecologically educated and conscious outfits whose aim is to educate participants in the least destructive ways to enjoy our wilderness areas. Groups that

are only out to make money with no care for the wilderness they are exploiting should not be acceptable.

Topic Question 7: Education of visitors to wilderness areas through orientations and materials given to them prior to entering the area. Patrols by trained rangers who can educate and assist visitors in leaving as little lasting impact as possible on areas. Outreach sessions to schools and groups.

Wildlife management activities specifically designed to preserve and protect the wilderness areas and their inhabitants.

Topic Question 8: Protected habitats of endangered or threatened species of plants and animals should be especially addressed and protected.

Correspondence ID: 276 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 19:04:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 277 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace?". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 8: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Correspondence ID: 278 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 19:05:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: 1- I hate the horse traffic. Can't we restrict them to fewer areas? I hate walking through endless piles of horse crap.

2- Too many people are leaving serious messes out there, especially with toilet paper. It's hard to police the great outdoors, but we need to try harder.

Topic Question 2: i wish i knew...

Topic Question 3: i like getting away from civilization. i want a wilderness experience. I don't want to hear anyone else. Last time I camped at Granite Lake I was near a party of 4 that made noise most of the evening. It was horrible. stupid college kids...

Topic Question 4: i don't think we need fires anywhere. restrict them completely, not just above 10k feet.

Topic Question 5: the smaller the better. parties over 4 people - what are they thinking? 2 is ideal.

food lockers are pretty ugly. but i guess they are a necessary evil in places close to trailheads, where idiots roam freely.

campfires should be banned completely, there is no need for them, and they scar the beauty of the land.

Topic Question 6: i think all that commercial stuff should be banned. join the sierra club if you don't know how to backpack. and don't let horses anywhere near national parks -- then we can get rid of those annoying livestock gates on the trails, and those huge camping areas will not be so huge and ugly.

Topic Question 7: beats me. Shoot the violators?

Correspondence ID: 279 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 19:05:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 280 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: To retain the beauty and protect the natural wilderness from development.

Topic Question 2: Possible gating of roads leading to the wilderness areas. Forbid ATV and motorcycles from entering wilderness areas. No hunting or harvesting of wood from wilderness areas.

Topic Question 3: Protection of nature the animal and plant life there. Passive recreation only - hiking.

Topic Question 4: Hiking is appropriate. Any vehicle entering area unless for emergency is inappropriate

Topic Question 5: Only at perimeter and in only 1 area like Yosemite.

Topic Question 6: only hiking guides allowed.

Topic Question 7: Limited access.

Topic Question 8: Yes, the plants and animals.

Correspondence ID: 281 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My hope is that you will all that is possible to keep what is "wild", wild.

Topic Question 2: I believe that the question to ask yourself concerning any policy is whether this policy will ensure the parks remain safe for its natural inhabitants or whether it will degrade their environment. I think hiking is the least impactful activity. I would oppose motorized activity of any kind. I would oppose logging or mining of any kind.

Topic Question 3: Whether or not I get to experience wilderness personally or not, it is fulfilling to think there are and always will be places unburdened by human activity, places which can remind us of what life was like before humans interfered with the natural process.

Topic Question 4: I think I answered that in my response to question #2.

Topic Question 5: I think the answer to this would be whether the items can satisfy the requirement of "no trace left behind". If yes, then the requirement would be satisfactory.

Topic Question 6: Again I think there could be a place for commercial services in the wilderness if they can prove there presence there has a minimal or no effect on the environment.

Topic Question 7: I am not sure I understand this question. But I think thought should go into how many people can actually be in the wilderness at any given time. I would not be opposed to developing a lottery to limit impact, something like what goes on to be able to hike Mt. Whitney.

Topic Question 8: Probably, but this would be better answered by wildlife biologists than a lay person.

I believe that people who work in and for our national parks are dedicated individuals and want to see the parks avoid degradation. I just hope that they can follow their true beliefs and not be manipulated by politics.

Correspondence ID: 282 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: See below

Topic Question 2: See below

Topic Question 3: See below

Topic Question 4: See below

Topic Question 5: See below

Topic Question 6: See below

Topic Question 7: See below

Topic Question 8: See below

As a 4th-generation Californian, I thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 283 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 19:13:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: This is a unique and marvellous area. It deserves to remain for posterity just as it is.

Topic Question 2: Keep it road free! Enforce existing laws, and do not weaken requirements for permits.

Topic Question 3: I want wilderness to be there for my children, and posterity in a non-degraded condition. This is important for recreation as well as for scientific purposes.

Topic Question 4: Take photos, leave footprints. Hiking, camping, fishing are generally low-impact and appropriate. Anything that destroys the place is inappropriate. Destruction can occur through benign means, like introduction of non-native invasive species. Dogs in the wilderness can cause problems. Low flying airplanes are also problematic.

Topic Question 5: Campfires start wildfires. Educated backcountry users know how to dissuade bears from destroying their supplies, and travel in small groups. Once, long ago, I accompanied a church youth group of twenty teenagers and their pastor. Group size was too big.

Topic Question 6: Non-native animals can introduce problems such as disease or erosion, to mention only two. Otherwise, if all garbage is packed out and faeces are adequately dealt with, no big problem.

Topic Question 7: Exclude humans with machines. Backpackers maybe.

Topic Question 8: Water sources and areas supporting endangered or limited-range wildlife or plants.

Correspondence ID: 284 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are treasures to be protected for future generations of wildlife to inhabit and people to visit.

Topic Question 2: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water

quality and numerous other features found nowhere else. Wilderness is valuable to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 3: The wilderness as a resource is important to be protected for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed where feasible to the maximum extent to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness of the land and water.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness.

Topic Question 5: Food storage should prohibit access by wildlife. Everyone should receive information about proper wilderness use and ethics, including fire prevention and Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 8: Protection for the native species.

It would be good to increase National Park Service staffing at these parks. On a recent visit the entry and exit booths were not staffed full time and it appeared that there were fewer rangers. This is an incredible area and worth protecting and informing visitors.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments. Please continue to allow public comment as part of your wilderness stewardship planning.

Correspondence ID: 285 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: lack of political and corporate respect for nature

Topic Question 2: fund necessary protection programs

Topic Question 3: the wilderness belongs to ALL the people

Topic Question 4: non-motorized enjoyment.....take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints

Topic Question 5: campfires in specially constructed pits ONLY

Topic Question 6: they must be respectful of nature.....minimal or no motors.....guided hiking, etc is desirable

Topic Question 8: ALL

the wilderness areas, national parks and forests belong to ALL the people.

no part must be leased for business activity. all parts must be staffed and protected.

Correspondence ID: 286 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 19:15:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness

character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 287 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Needs maximum protection, including from nearby logging.

Topic Question 2: No logging nearby. No firearms, or fires when hazardous. Adequate rangers to keep out vandals.

Topic Question 3: The most natural state is best.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping (tent), wildlife observation./ Hunting, except spacific times when deer are damaging the flora because natural predators are eliminated by actions of man.

Topic Question 5: Size can be in proportion to the area. Small campfires generally ok.

Topic Question 6: Controlled.

Topic Question 8: Mountain climbers need to post bond to cover costs of rescues, etc.

Correspondence ID: 288 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: protection of redwoods and habitat

Topic Question 3: for it to be accessible,

Topic Question 4: inappropriate: use of gas powered vehicles or watercraft for recreation.

Topic Question 5: depends on impact on the environment

Topic Question 6: depends on impact on the environment

Topic Question 8: Redwood National Park, Humboldt County redwood region

Correspondence ID: 289 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be

allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: Not allowing drilling or harvesting of any plants in the park, not allowing ranching of any kind inside the park. The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: What is most important to me (since I am very unlikely to be able to actually get there) is that it BE there. It matters to me that I know somewhere there is wilderness and wildness. It enriches my world even if I can't see/feel/experience it directly. It makes my world whole.

Topic Question 4: Trails are important, and their maintenance. Building of campgrounds, to some degree, would be useful. Scientific studies need to be allowed.

Inappropriate would be development of most kinds, hunting, ranching, drilling, motorized vehicles, bikes (mountain/motor or otherwise), low flying planes/helicopters. Harvesting of timber.

Topic Question 5: Campfires should be in designated areas to keep the risk of human caused back country fires at a minimum. Party/group size should be small enough that the traces they leave are minimal, but I don't know what the number would be. There should also be a limit on the total number of people receiving wilderness permits for the same purpose. Food storage practices should be secure enough to prevent bears and other animals (racoons, squirrels, birds, etc) from having access to them.

Topic Question 6: I think guided trips are fine (and horseback riding is a great way to get out there, but has its own problems - manure, trail erosion, sometimes hiker/rider safety) but again it should be done in such a way to minimize the impact on the environment. The group number should be small (this also increases the ability of the group to interact with the guide)and 'leave no trace' practices required.

Topic Question 7: the Park Service needs to have enough rangers out in the wilderness areas to make sure that people are actually following the guidelines and to help educate back country users. This is the biggest complaint I have had with the Park Service for years (I have spent some time every year for the last 20+ years in Yosemite) is that there have been fewer and fewer interpretive rangers around. People are more likely to be respectful of the environment/park when they know what they are being respectful of and why. Interpretive rangers are invaluable for that.

Correspondence ID: 290 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That thy be protected and preserved.

Topic Question 2: No development.

Topic Question 3: Preserve for future generations.

Topic Question 4: Hiking. Off road vehicles.

Topic Question 5: Smaler is better.

Topic Question 6: Negative.

Topic Question 7: Minimum activity.

Topic Question 8: All.

Correspondence ID: 291 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 19:20:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I just have a simple comment. Please manage these treasures as though there are no other like them

Correspondence ID: 292 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 19:22:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned that tourist areas may be getting overcrowded and the impact of too many visitors on ancient groves.

Topic Question 2: Issue visitor permits like they do in Yosemite.

Topic Question 3: Access, but responsible use of wilderness and recreation so it minimizes impacts.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, canoing. Mountain biking is inappropriate as well as snowmobiles or any motorized activity.

Topic Question 5: Group sizes should be limited to 16 max with all food going into bear lockers. Campfires are okay as long as firepits are provided.

Topic Question 6: I'm okay with these as long as guides go through rigorous training and exercise responsibility and lead small groups. No Disney tours in wilderness areas.

Topic Question 7: I subscribe to the 'Leave No Trace' mantra.

Topic Question 8: Ancient groves.

Correspondence ID: 293 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These are trully wonderful places and must not fall to the greed of the lumber or paper companies.

Topic Question 2: Put people into office who truly love their country and not just the pursuit of money.

Topic Question 3: It is important to protect the wilderness areas from abuse by commertial interests as well as tourism.

Topic Question 4: Legislation and law enforcement.

Correspondence ID: 294 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: that the natural ecoysystem will be compromised in favor of human needs/recreation
Topic Question 3: the health and viability of the natural ecosystem takes precedence over any other human needs/wishes
Topic Question 4: human impact should be minimized as much as possible
It's simple-Earth First-always.

Correspondence ID: 295 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That constant human encroachment is damaging the parks.

Topic Question 2: Limit the timeframe for people to visit the parks. There must be rangers out there to watch the areas.

Topic Question 3: I would actually prefer that there be no recreation in the wilderness.

Topic Question 4: Having educational, guided hikes are the best. Educate people on what is affecting the environment and what they need to do to cut down on their own personal impact. I don't think any type of party should be hosted in the parks.

Topic Question 5: I recently went on a walk to Mendenhall Glacier. Before I even got off the bus that took us to the site, we

were told not to have any open food on the trails. Even saw a big sign on the visitor's center before heading to the trail that said the something. While we walked the trail, we saw 2 big families walk past us with open food. My thoughts, no parties allowed and no food. Since it seems people can't follow directions.

Topic Question 6: I like the ideas of anything guided. That means the people are being monitored. I would take guided hikes through the parks.

Topic Question 8: I think nesting sites should be off limits always.

Correspondence ID: 296 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 19:25:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I ASK YOU TO PROTECT THE WILDLIFE IN SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK.

Correspondence ID: 297 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The amount of air pollution drifting over from L.A. Logging.

Topic Question 3: Sequoia National Park is my favorite place on the entire planet! It must be protected for every reason imaginable, As should all national and state parks, forests and monuments.

Topic Question 4: Hiking. Camping.

Inappropriate: Off road Motorcycles, ATVs guns and hunting.

Topic Question 5: Park service is doing an admirable job. I'd like to see a strong anti-litter campaign.

Topic Question 6: Only if provided my the national park service and park rangers. Our national parks are not for profit amusement parks. If you allow commercial services, it won't belong before it becomes AT&T/Sequoia Park or Exxon Mobil/ Yellowstone Park .

It's sad that our national parks are fighting for their budget and resources, and that we have to protect these incomparable gems against the constant onslaught of commercial interests, such as logging, mining, and oil drilling. Nearby urbanization and industry is also a major concern. Our government, both the Democrats and Republicans, seems to have no problem spending billions each month on fighting wars around the globe while these national treasures are imperiled.

Correspondence ID: 298 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: the SMOG!

Topic Question 2: loose all the tourist!

Topic Question 3: less cars!

Topic Question 4: hiking, swimming!

Topic Question 5: less is best!

Topic Question 6: ok

Topic Question 7: do not know!

Topic Question 8: ALL :)

save mother nature from Walmart ;-0

Correspondence ID: 299 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I own a property on Hwy 180 and have fond memories of camping in the parks.

Topic Question 2: Please limit or prohibit all destructive activities.

Topic Question 3:

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there. I believe we lose our humanity if we lose this experience.

Topic Question 4: Enjoyment of nature without destroying it. (For instance, vehicles can be destructive. Bicycles, too, can be destructive so must be limited to restricted areas.

Topic Question 6: Less is more.

Topic Question 7: Rules must not be minimums -- there should be flexibility to enforce greater prohibitions as needed for sustainability.

Topic Question 8: We've lost far too much already. All wilderness deserves special consideration.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 300 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 19:25:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: There is so little real wilderness left that we must conserve all we can. We are so fortunate to have these parks near residential areas but that also poses a dire threat with over use.

Topic Question 2: The Leave-no-trace project is wonderful and should be utilized more. Explanations/ signage on trails and very practical ways folks can participate. Encouraging carpooling to camping and hiking sites.

Topic Question 4: hunting should absolutely forbidden.

Topic Question 5: No groups over eight. At some point in the future campfires may have to be eliminated as the damage done by campers is already obvious in populated areas.

Topic Question 6: In small groups as long as they also include wilderness education and use Leave-No-Trace practices.

Correspondence ID: 301 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 19:26:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Thank you for helping to protect our state's forests, rivers and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 302 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That the natural beauty and resources will be moulded into something that they are and never were.

Topic Question 2: Part of the Parks should be kept au anatural, and/or restricted from public use in a rotating basis to preserve them and the animals habitat as much as possible.

Topic Question 3: The knowledge that my two children and I enjoyed and learned so much our time of camping in the summers in Sequoia.

Topic Question 5: My family camped adjacent to another 4 person family. That, 8 people toal seemed big enough to inclusive, but small enough not to intrusive. Foodd should stored in a secure strong box.

Topic Question 8: The redwoods. For all things precious, the redwoods seem to need our vigilance.

The trails need proper maintenace so that people can gain a closeness to the wonders of the parks, yet not tramp through every vulnerable place.

Correspondence ID: 303 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 304 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 19:30:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 305 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Drilling and development

Correspondence ID: 306 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned that these majestic forests won't be kept pristine for me and future generations. The biggest threat, besides near-by mining is the threat from encroachment from all sides of the park.

Topic Question 2: NO ROADS, NO ROADS, NO ROADS ----- is one of the most important factors in preserving the wilderness areas! Once you open, even a small area, to access roads, part of the adjoining wilderness is no longer that, wilderness. Political pressure from mining industries, etc. is another main concern and should be dealt with in a pro-active manner.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness use is important for human beings to get back to their natural roots! It isn't until you are in one of these wilderness areas that you appreciate the protection that has kept it that way.

Topic Question 4: Inappropriate use of our wilderness areas is categorized as any kind of motorized access! Wilderness should be set aside for access by horseback/mule riders and hikers.

Topic Question 5: A strict limit on group size should be followed in the wilderness----a half-dozen people at most. Food storage, in bear country should be followed strictly by using carry-in bear canisters only. No metal lockers should be allowed. Campfire PERMITS should only be given during the wet months or when conditions have been monitored closely by officials. And those building campfires in violation of the rules should be subject to fines.

Topic Question 6: This should be allowed but only under the strict number limits established. Again, six hikers, horsemen, etc. should be the limit at one time.

Topic Question 7: Management activities in the wilderness should be followed as closely as outside the wilderness areas in the park.

Topic Question 8: Special protection for "special" areas should be established if it is deemed that the area is being damaged or abused. But if established rules are published or circulated enough throughout the park then one should be able to assume the

Topic Question 2: Prohibit any resource removal or destruction not consistent with wilderness preservation.

Topic Question 3: It be off limits to commercial and corporate interests. Also, the federal government shouldn't remove any materials in the name of energy or resource conservation.

Topic Question 4: Ok: camping (no campsites), hiking, running, climbing, foraging, botanizing Not ok: non-scientific research use of ATVs or snowmobiles, harvesting operations, for-profit removal of materials

Topic Question 6: That's okay.

Topic Question 7: No impact around ecologically sensitive areas.

Topic Question 8: Yes, some should probably remain off limits to all motorized traffic, and some off limits to campfires

PRESERVE AMERICA. PRESERVE THE FORESTS. DON'T SELL OUT OUR NATIONAL BIRTHRIGHT. DON'T SELL OUT THE FUTURE?.

Correspondence ID: 309 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My father worked under Roosevelt's CCC program to restore and reforest millions of acres of similar forests that had been clear cut in the 1930s. These forests have regrown and are a major source of recreation for the present and future generations. Irresponsible logging had contributed to the mile high dust storms of the late 30s and decimated the land, eroding topsoil and making farming difficult and unproductive. Today we have an even greater need for primeval forests as the population rises and depletion of open land seems inevitable. We need a reserve, a quiet place in this bustling busy and sometimes irresponsible country.

Topic Question 2: An outright ban on all logging and a ban on privatization of the land and resources. This is our land, our place of quiet solitude, not a resource to be exploited for profit and left desolate as did the exploiters of a previous generation.

Topic Question 3: It's there for the people. That sounds overly simplistic but so many things I grew up with are not. We need to keep it cheap and simple and available to all, even those with little resources.

Topic Question 4: Maintenance only, anything else would spoil the natural feel and would grow to the point of absurdity.

Topic Question 5: Safe campfires. This can only be accomplished by professionally installed units. corrugated steel pipe half buried works great but the perimeter must be properly cleared of any inflammable material.

Topic Question 6: No none, not ever. Only maintenance crews to keep trails open and develop fire safe campsites. Commercial establishments can be located on the perimeter but not within the publicly owned park.

Topic Question 7: Guided tours by public employees, no privatizing. That would be the foot in the door for further expansion which would grow and contaminate. Those who desire more comfort can visit knotts berry farm or Disneyland.

Topic Question 8: everything,but always public, no privatization.

With the growing push to take away public resources and hand them over to special interests it's going to be very very difficult to maintain our resources for the future of the people. Our very genes are being patented and we no longer own our own genetic coding. Plants are being privatized so soon even the wildflowers will be owned by private corporations. Pacific Gas and Electric tried to patent the sunlight and water companies are in fact patenting the rainfall. soon nothing will be ours, we will need permission to gather wildflowers, to collect rainfall, to use solar panels to generate our own electricity. We need desperately to hold on to what we the people have and not fall for the privatization tidal wave. We are every day finding ourselves poorer in this respect. Let's start here and now. This we own and this we shall keep for ourselves and future generations.

Correspondence ID: 310 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they be protected.

Topic Question 2: That -- I leave to you. I trust that you are committed to protecting wilderness resources and are more in tune

with what is needed either legislatively or otherwise.

Topic Question 3: These areas, like so many others, are beautiful. They enhance our lives. They give us the sense of the hugeness of nature and of our part in this beautiful place called Earth. We need to protect these spaces for our enjoyment. The highest value is not money or exploitation. Instead, we need to strive to remember and protect beauty, liveliness, harmony -- all things shown by Nature.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate would be -- responsible enjoyment. Inappropriate would be allowing monied interests to exploit or compromise these beautiful places. Also inappropriate would be hunting or individuals misusing these spaces without proper regard for the animal and plant kingdoms.

Topic Question 5: My experience so far has been that you all have a sensible policy with respect to these issues. If you do not let yourselves be compromised by monied interests, I will continue to trust that you will make the right decisions.

Topic Question 6: As an abstract idea, guided trips seem fine. Too many commercial endeavors, however, would spoil what people are looking for and ultimately compromise these areas. Balance is important.

Topic Question 7: Stay alert, have decent principles that understand the importance of protecting these Nature areas, do not be compromised by commercial pressures.

Correspondence ID: 311 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 4: Hiking.

Topic Question 5: There should not be any parties, no food storage and certainly no campfires.

Topic Question 6: A good idea/

Topic Question 7: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 8: All of them.

Correspondence ID: 312 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: We have visited and hiked both of these beautiful areas. They need to be patrolled and maintained on a regular basis.

Topic Question 2: Continue charging a fee to enter these pristine areas; continue regular patrols.

Topic Question 3: The out of doors experience!

Topic Question 4: Hiking and enjoying the different smells.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited; food storage discouraged and NO campfires!

Topic Question 6: These are acceptable but limited in size and frequency.

Topic Question 7: Keep doing what you have been doing; seems to be working fine.

Keep doing what you have been doing; seems to be working fine. We hope to return this fall or next spring.

Correspondence ID: 313 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 19:40:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 314 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: They should not be developed, nor should they be subjected to mining or harvesting of wood. Roads should not be built.

Topic Question 2: They should be left alone.

Topic Question 3: They allow non-humans to exist without being destroyed. Habitat is preserved for all flora and fauna.

Topic Question 4: Back packing, fly-fishing but return to the water, I do not believe off road vehicles should be prevented for coming in, as well as bicycles.

Topic Question 5: People should bring everything out they take in.

Topic Question 6: Small guided trips could be allowed, but very limited in size, ie. 8 or less

Topic Question 8: no roads

I am no longer able to backpack, or go into the wilderness, but I do not think that I should be able to drive an RV into that area, nor take a vehicle, or a horse. I am thankful I was able to do so years ago, the memories will be with me until I die. Those areas do not exist to meet my entertainment needs.

Correspondence ID: 315 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protect those areas, please.

Topic Question 2: I wish I knew.

Topic Question 3: Keep things as natural as possible. Mechanized "off-road" vehicles have no place in a wilderness area.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Hiking, responsible (picking up after one's self) picnicking, photography.

Inappropriate: Activities which make unreasonable noises and/or compromise the animal and plant life in a wilderness area.

Topic Question 5: Preferably small, family-size groups.

Food should be kept in secure containers, with no wastes left in the wilderness area.

Campfires should be restricted to locations prepared by park authorities for such use.

Topic Question 6: Such services should ONLY be permitted under parks administration regulation and with careful monitoring to assure compliance. Violations should result in loss of such privileges for meaningful periods of time.

Topic Question 7: Regular surveillance of areas to detect and stop any inappropriate activities.

Topic Question 8: Any unique areas should be treated with extreme respect and cautionary measures.

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Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 316 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: why can't it be free of raking and destroying?

Topic Question 2: they should remain recreational and research sites, like endangered environments to be conserved and preserved!

Topic Question 3: it should remain unfettered and with no fear of raking for resources and free of any environmental destruction by big private companies. we have fewer and fewer areas of pure natural environment and this should remain recreational, and research area.

Topic Question 4: hiking and camping is fine. no atv use and no snowmobile use. no using up of the natural resources by any

companies whatsoever.

Topic Question 5: party/group size should remain moderate for the protection of the environment. food storage should be up to rangers to regulate when and where. and campfires should be allowed only in areas where it is safe to have them, again regulated by forest rangers.

Topic Question 6: these commercial services seem fine as long as they fall within guidelines set by forest rangers and the amount of flow the area can handle throughout the year AS LONG AS ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION IS FOLLOWED STRICTLY. THE NATURE AREAS SHOULD ULTIMATELY PROFIT FROM THE COMMERCIAL SERVICES, AS IN BEING RUN BY THE APPROPRIATE EMPLOYEES AND DEPARTMENTS.

Correspondence ID: 317 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These areas are to be treasured. I am worried that they will not be kept in pristine condition for all to enjoy for years to come.

Topic Question 2: Do not let outside interests into these wilderness areas. I am afraid the forests resources will not be protected if outside companies/individuals are given permits!

Topic Question 3: Keep our forests open to all for WILDERNESS USE AND RECREATIONAL PURSUITS ONLY.

Topic Question 4: CAMPING, HIKING, STAYING IN CABINS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO UPHOLD VALUES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND OF OUR FOREST RANGERS.

Topic Question 5: Campfires should only be used when permitted by forest rangers. They should be completely put out and the campfire area checked before any party using same departs the area.

Correspondence ID: 318 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My concerns are that human use in these areas not compromise the native wildlife and wild-ness.

Topic Question 2: Keep it simple! Permitted activities should be held hostage to the preservation of wildlife and wilderness resources.

Topic Question 3: Invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there on its terms not mine.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: zero to low impact access and use, such as hiking, backpacking... Inappropriate: motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use.

Topic Question 5: Responsible use would require that everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of ?Leave-No-Trace?. It is not necessarily the size of the group but the behaviors of the group, larger groups (more than 6) should be held to accountable standards. Backcountry use should sensibly require bear-proof food canisters. Campfires are an unnecessary danger and a visual blight for those who follow. Affordable stove technology has made "campfires" obsolete.

Topic Question 6: Only certifiable zero to LOW impact service providers be permitted, and only an amount of service providers that the NPS could responsibly monitor.

Topic Question 7: Leave no trace!

Topic Question 8: It should all be treated as a single, whole fabric of interrelated resources.

Please protect this wilderness-- so that future generations can enjoy this amazing place.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated

Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 319 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Kings Canyon should be 100% designated wilderness. It should be fully protected and preserved as pristine wild space in the most ecologically wise and sustainable manner possible.

Topic Question 2: Preservation.

Correspondence ID: 320 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These two parks have been maintained for many years in pristine condition. Without supervision from the existing park service, they would be vulnerable to indiscriminate campers who don't have the proper respect and care for them. Wildlife could also become endangered.

Topic Question 2: We need to continue to set aside funds for these parks. We can not afford to lose them!

Topic Question 3: The parks provide a life-enriching source of relaxation. They are also extremely important in protecting the fragile balance of nature in the area and in our state.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, swimming, boating, historical research, recharging of human batteries. Inappropriate uses would include any type of off the road vehicles which destroy habitat and hunting.

Topic Question 5: Common sense would dictate that you respect the woods and leave the area just as you found it.

Topic Question 6: These activities are fine as long as they do not disturb the environment.

Topic Question 7: ?

Topic Question 8: All of them - water, terrain, wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 321 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please protect this wilderness so that future generations can enjoy this amazing place.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary,

restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and camping with a Leave-No-Trace approach.

Topic Question 5: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 322 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned with the forest being protected and preserved as the natural wonder that it is. I have visited Sequoia/Kings Canyon many times and I find the increasing use of recreational vehicles, increasing pollution, threats of logging and other serious problems to be of great concern. The natural integrity of this park **MUST BE PRESERVED** for all future generations and the health of the Sequoia ecosystem.

Topic Question 2: The integrity of wilderness must be preserved and protected. Educational outreach and increasing public awareness about the amazing rarity of Sequoia/Kings Canyon would seem important steps.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is important for so many reasons. We need in-tact, fully functioning ecosystems for the health of the planet and species living in it. Sequoia/Kings Canyon is special in particular on account of the incredible forests. Recreation should be enjoyed in a way that leaves as little human trace/pollution as possible - walking, hiking, limited fishing, camping etc. I am concerned about the use of recreational vehicles as they are loud, spew carbon monoxide pollution and can easily trample over fragile areas and species.

Topic Question 4: Walking, hiking, camping, row-boating, limited skiing and fishing seem appropriate - skiing and fishing can be done in ways that are sustainable and overall non-invasive. I'm against hunting and I also think most recreational vehicles are a direct assault to the environments people most often use them in - they seem to only harm ecosystems.

Topic Question 5: I'm in favor of smaller groups for overnight camping, larger groups would seem alright for day activities. Food storage is an important issue but I'm no expert on that. It would seem food should be packed safely to prevent bear problems. Campfires seems alright on the one hand - so long as ashes and coal etc can be packed out - on the other hand, there is the concern for fire. Maybe people should have to be a certain age, get a specific permit and know certain rules if they're going to build a fire in a natural area. Also, fire pits should be close to visitor center in case a problem arises.

Topic Question 6: I think commercialization of natural parks/resources is a slippery slope. I don't think it's a bad idea if it's offered through the National Park Service itself, however once you start opening up our public parks to private enterprises, this can create all kinds of competition business issues and that can bring in a whole different culture/aesthetic into our public natural places. Companies tend to have logos, lots of equipment, advertising etc - all these things **GREATLY** compromise the natural character of a place. People want to go to the forest to see nature, not to ponder Company XYZ.

Topic Question 7: Again, not an expert on this. Seems there should be good oversight in parks, that expectations and goals should be clear and that there should be enough room so that people involved can bring concerns and suggestions for improvements to the table.

Topic Question 8: I absolutely feel Sequoia/Kings Canyon deserves special consideration on account of the magnificence and rarity of the trees there. When I heard there was talk of logging Sequoias, I almost fell over. We **MUST PROTECT THIS INVALUABLE FOREST.**

Thank you for giving us the time to express our views and thoughts on this important issue. Please do **ALL** you can to **FULLY**

PROTECT Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park.

Correspondence ID: 323 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Overcrowding and misuse

Topic Question 2: Limit protect from resource Mongrels

Topic Question 3: Leave it in pristine in original condition

Topic Question 4: Walking, bicycling and guided tours but not mopeds

Topic Question 5: As long there is areas set aside for campfires. Limit parties to 5 or 6 or families.

Topic Question 6: I'm for it.

Topic Question 7: Trash dispensors

Topic Question 8: Off limit areas and dangerous areas

Correspondence ID: 324 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness areas are rare. They cannot be replaced, so the present must be preserved.

Topic Question 2: Eliminate of reduce carbon footprints as an ongoing commitment.

Topic Question 3: Serenity, peace and communion with aNature.

Topic Question 4: Conservation & preservation; restricting access to sensitive areas; control of vehicles; suitably located hiking and camping areas

Topic Question 5: All that is packed in must be carried out; no garbage, no waste.

Topic Question 6: Rangers only for safety and maintenance. Ample posted Information boards throughout.

Topic Question 7: Regular patrols and accessible by phones

Topic Question 8: Sensitive areas, and areas of special features or attractions.

Correspondence ID: 325 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: It's a place where man can go to see the natural world, get away from "civilization" and respect that other creatures need a place to live and be left alone.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use.

Topic Question 5: Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 6: If it helps more people enjoy a wilderness experience and is not detrimental to the environment, I'm for it.

Topic Question 7: In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 326 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keep it wild

Topic Question 2: No mining or commercial endeavors. The National Parks are NOT FOR SALE

Topic Question 3: Keep it pristine - no commercialism

Topic Question 5: Please keep it pristine - remember that the The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness.

Topic Question 6: Keep it controlled - voucher system

Topic Question 7: Please keep it pristine - remember that the The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness.

Topic Question 8: Please keep it pristine - remember that the The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 327 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 19:56:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the

wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 328 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The air quality is getting worse every year! Use to be able to see a million stars at night there now very little because of all the development around the park! More & more trash can be seen and found in and around trails and campsites!!

Topic Question 2: More money to pay for staff/rangers and make polluters pay penalties for their disregard of the quality of air and water!!

Topic Question 3: The beauty and how it rejuvenates my soul! Use to be able to take some extended hikes and not see anyone or any trash! That is NOT true any longer!!!

Topic Question 4: Hiking and backpacking are GREAT!! Biking and motor vehicles of any kind ruin any peace and quiet available! Biking is fine but should be limited to certain areas or trails!

Topic Question 5: All of these need to be checked and limited to certain areas! Campfires are a part of camping but need to be done Only in Pits with No foraging for wood to burn allowed!! Make wood available at descent prices but keep it limited! No huge bon-fires to create a lot of smoke and pollution = small fires only!!!!

Topic Question 6: All of these are OK but keep them VERY LIMITED! No huge advertisements,billboards or anything of this nature! Keep them limited to pamphlets in the nature centers,stores or restaurants!! Keep the numbers of people limited as well,maybe groups of 5-10 only!!!

Topic Question 7: Controled burns suck and are scary = they can get out of control in no time! They are still better than clear cut logging which is just ugly and terrible!! All of the public nature areas need to be managed but not sold to the highest bidders to do what they want to make money,mining or logging!!!

Topic Question 8: All redwood tree areas especially the truely pristine,rare areas of redwood groves! All naural water sources,falls,streams,rivers,lakes etc need to be kept as clean possible at all costs and that includes air quality!!!!

I have said all that I want to say but did want to add how special the our parks,natural enviroments are to us and the coming generations! We only get them once and once they are destroyed they are gone forever!! Keep what GOD has made and their beauty for all to see and enjoy for as long as the world turns!!!!

Correspondence ID: 329 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: NO vehicles, NO off-road vehicles, NO motorbykes.

Topic Question 2: Preserve the wild nature of both places and limit as much as possible the effect of man and machine.

Topic Question 3: It is essential that areas of the USA are protected from pollution, development, over use and spoilage.

Topic Question 4: NO sky mobiles!!! Limited vehicles.

Topic Question 5: Limit size of groups, these parks are no a :party" place but rather a refuge from the noise and conflict of our every day lives. People should respect the quiet and peace.

Topic Question 6: You want to see something of these places ?? then walk, so that is just fine with me.

Topic Question 7: The focus must be on preservation and protection. The access for people must be controlled, NO guns, no satellite TV, no radio.

Topic Question 8: PROTECT AND PRESERVE.

Correspondence ID: 330 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protection of the trees.

Topic Question 2: Government action.

Topic Question 3: It needs to be saved for future generations.

Topic Question 5: I do not have any ideas.

Topic Question 6: I prefer that U.S. Rangers be the guides.

Correspondence ID: 331 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Human, pack animal and pet waste management and sterilization. Reintroduction of native species and reduction of invasive plant and animal species. Control and mandatory conservation over mining operations with annual permit renewals based upon mandatory reporting and inspection by competent and competing rotating agencies.

Topic Question 2: A separate non-citizen use tax for forigeners who choose to visit the Parks. The use tax data, showing the benefits of this tax, should be posted with a progressive breakdown for use of the monies past and future in an itemized fashion. Our Parks are ambassadors for us so a heart felt thank you should come from a high governmental office like the body of Congress, ect. Setting a model for the world as all scramble with limited revenues. The Park system must strive to be autonomuos othewr wise as we see the greedy are always lurking to exploit. See the Yellowstone river oil pipeline mis amnagement ongoing debackle and enviornmental crisis.

Topic Question 3: Every aspect, every boulder that I think I remember from last visit- that things stay the same due to the absence of exploitative business enterprises and visitors without a healthy education about the sensitivity of the natural resource.

Topic Question 4: All traditional activities. No need to change or get creative, maybe limits due to impact through a transparent permit process.

Topic Question 5: Do what is prudent and explain why you are doing so.

Topic Question 6: Limit through trans parent permitting process.

Topic Question 7: Continue controled burns. 40+ years of limbs and duff have left forests in a scary condition through the old style of forest fire "mismanagement".

Topic Question 8: Always and those most often using them should pay for their management.

I grew up in a family that visited the federal park system annually throughout my youth. Without the Park system my life would be much less enriched. Exposure to the out-of-doors makes people think about all things a little differently than those who have been deprived or chose not to investigate.

Correspondence ID: 332 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness.

Topic Question 5: No campfires

Correspondence ID: 333 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1:

As a native Californian, I have found both Sequoia and Kings National Parks to be particularly "enchanting". I hope that this generation can be as generous to generations to come, as those before us were to us

Correspondence ID: 334 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Maintenance, litter, fire hazards.

Topic Question 3: Clean and maintained properly.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, fishing, foraging for wild edibles are some appropriate activities, while wild parties and out of control teens or younger groups, unsupervised are inappropriate activities.

Topic Question 5: Safety of wildlife first, groups of more than ten are too big, campfires only during non-dry season

Topic Question 6: NO

Correspondence ID: 335 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Sequoia and all national parks should be kept wild and free from human encroachment and development. The trees and wildlife should be our first consideration and should be left in peace! Humans should be visitors only. They should only be allowed to camp in designated areas by reservation. The only other reason for humans to be in the park should be to maintain it, keep it clean and safe for the animals and the plant life.

Topic Question 2: We should allow absolutely no commercial or residential development in the parks ever.

Topic Question 3: Humans should realize that wilderness is just that - wild. We should not try to make the parks recreation centers like theme parks. The idea of a state park is to let the wild animals and plants have some place where humans are not around! If someone goes into a state park wilderness they should act like visitors to the home of the wild animals and plants and act appropriately. They should not leave their trash or anything else behind and should realize that wild animals that are living there that could be dangerous because it is their nature to eat other creatures. So, humans should enter state parks at their own risk.

Topic Question 4: Hiking on designated trails (at your own risk) can be good. Using any kind of off-road vehicle should be strictly prohibited. Hunting should absolutely be prohibited. Anything that disturbs the peace and quiet and the fragile environment of the forest should be prohibited.

Topic Question 5: Campgrounds should be limited to a very few designated areas and reservations should be required. No cars should be allowed into the park past a certain point. No campfires should be allowed since most people don't know how to

control them. We need more rangers to police the park and to see that the wildlife is not hunted or abused in any way.

Topic Question 6: I think all services for the park should be run by the state and the money for those services should go specifically for the benefit of the park.

Topic Question 7: Some cutting of dead trees and underbrush is necessary to the health of a forest. The state park rangers or specifically-trained employees of the state should be responsible for the skilled maintenance of the trees and plantlife.

Topic Question 8: We need to get all of the marijuana growers out of the state parks. These parks are owned by all American citizens. These illegal people are poisoning the forest with pesticides and commercial fertilizers, not to mention that they are murdering people who come close to their marijuana fields. Send in the army, FBI or whoever it takes to get them out of there permanently.

All American national parks are precious jewels that we Americans need to protect with whatever monies are necessary. Once the pristine nature of these parks is gone, it is gone forever. We can not let that happen. Let's vow to keep our parks wild, clean and safe for the other creatures with whom we share the Earth and for all Americans to come.

Correspondence ID: 336 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

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Correspondence ID: 337 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 3: no hunting

Topic Question 4: hiking, horseback riding

Topic Question 5: keep it clean, leave it better than you found it!

Topic Question 6: SAA

Topic Question 7: fire protection etc only

Topic Question 8: I will leave this to the experts!

I have been going to these areas since childhood in the 50's. Recently my grandkids made their first trip there. Which makes me realize how important it is that we protect these areas.

Correspondence ID: 338 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that this wilderness area remain accessible by trail only and that concessions be limited to horse packing. Logging, mineral extraction, aircraft or motor vehicles (except for emergency use) should be prohibited.

Topic Question 2: Engage outdoor organizations in leading trips in the area to give visitors a chance to enjoy the wilderness and learn how to be good stewards of this rare resource.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness areas are essential to me and to many people I know for "inner renewal" - they give me perspective on life and inspiration for new directions and service of my fellow citizens.

Topic Question 4: Low impact hiking and camping are appropriate. Wheelchair/handicapped access to selected areas might also be extremely helpful. Noisy or rowdy groups are inappropriate in wilderness areas, but these tend to avoid long hikes so should not be a problem with proper design and regulation.

Topic Question 5: With proper training large groups shouldn't be a problem - perhaps these should be lead by recognized organizations. Bear canisters are effective and aren't a burden in my limited experience. Quotas in certain high use areas are burdensome but I don't have a better suggestion, so I guess they're a necessary evil. Campfires in high use areas need regulation or prohibition, but this need decreases exponentially with distance from trails and established campsites. I would suggest small fires be allowed in truly isolated areas as the down wood can support this use. Also, as use decreases early and late in the season, I would hope that quotas and restrictions could be relaxed so that the wilderness traveler can have a wilderness experience without feeling that Smokey the Bear is constantly peering over his shoulder.

Topic Question 6: Guided trips are good, in my opinion, when they educate the clients in wilderness preservation and quiet enjoyment. If they simply make it easier for folks to bring noisy or boisterous habits gained at home into an environment where they don't belong, then they are not so good. Unfortunately commercial ventures tend to go first where the money is and pay attention to wilderness values only secondarily. There's little worse than hiking 20 miles into a beautiful basin only to have a large and boisterous group set up camp nearby. Careful screening of operators, incentives for wilderness values education of clients, and establishing an online rating system whereby other users of the area as well as clients can post feedback on wilderness behavior might help enormously. A requirement that commercial groups be easily identified by other wilderness users (placards? logos?) might help too.

Topic Question 7: Train a corps of volunteer rangers whose orientation is educational and serviceful. They might be motivated to sign up by having more access to areas they love. They would be fellow hikers as far as most folks would think - perhaps they'd just wear an identifying patch rather than a uniform - and folks would feel more secure knowing they were there in case of emergency. They can be issued radios to call in enforcement or emergency personnel if needed.

Topic Question 8: If areas of special concern (rare species, unsafe zones, etc.) need to be restricted, take care to include visitors in their preservation. Have volunteer personnel on hand to tell folks what's going on, take them on tours of border areas (or into restricted areas as possible)so that visitors are enlisted as allies in preservation rather than feeling they are part of the problem.

Thanks for asking.

Correspondence ID: 339 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would like to see that their beauty and habitat is preserved from any comercialization or development.

Topic Question 5: That it respects nature at all times people should be educated to help protect nature.

Topic Question 6: not sure

Topic Question 7: i think more needs to be done.

Topic Question 8: all of it

Correspondence ID: 340 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Any that threaten to remove protections from the area or, even worse, destroy wilderness within these national parks.

Topic Question 2: Easy. Leave what is already protected the way it is and do not allow greedy developers to have their way and destroy our beautiful habitat that remains.

Topic Question 3: Everything, it is vital to the air we breathe and to understanding life and our position here on this Planet. Wilderness use and recreation should be available to all, to enjoy the wonder of nature, and so that all the life that is there can

remain naturally as it is.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, rock climbing, scientific research (that is not associated with finding oil, places to mine, etc.), river rafting, hang gliding, animal viewing/photography (not disturbing the animals), etc. Inappropriate is ATV'ing, hunting of any kind and anything that destroys the environment and/or disrupts it such as loud gun shots and noisy ATV's.

Topic Question 5: I think the practices that I've seen used throughout National Parks and Forests in America right now are very adequate, nothing, or not much needs to be changed.

Topic Question 6: I don't mind them, as long as people are still allowed to do these things on their own for free at their own risk, because anyone should be able to if they should want...it's all of our world to share, not just the rich...plus sometimes you want to make your own path instead of going on the guided one. So I have no problem with them at all, as long as they are not disruptive to the natural environment and do not inhibit people's freedom to explore wherever they like on their own responsibly, like I mentioned above.

Topic Question 7: Don't manage too much, is all I say.

Topic Question 8: All of them that remain. Humans have developed enough, we can't afford to anymore, and neither can the life that lives on the undeveloped wilderness that remains...we have to be in balance with ourselves and all the life that lives here as well. It's their home too.

To keep this simple...

Bottom line is that we need to protect the wilderness that we have left. We can not just keep on populating at the rate that we are currently and consuming at the rate we are currently, and expect for this Planet to support human life for too much longer, it is completely unscientific. All national parks that already exist need to be protected and I am for protecting other areas of wilderness that are not currently under protection. It is sad to me that we even have to worry about protecting our environment from ourselves, it should be common sense. Unfortunately, many of us grow up in urban areas and are not exposed to the wonder and majesty of the wilderness and the great outdoors much as children and have a disconnection with animals, trees, rivers, rocks and all things of the Natural world because of it. If I were head of the EPA, I would do everything I could to stop greedy corporations and developers from destroying the pristine, untouched wilderness that remains. Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately for my own sake, I am not. It all boils down to education, or miseducation rather, of the American population. We are not taught about Nature and how things really work, what this planet really is scientifically, as children. Kids (and adults, of course) should be outside enjoying the beauty that this planet possesses, but instead their minds are locked into movies, tv shows and all sorts of other garbage. I, for one, do not like the way that things are going...the stupidest people on the planet, in some ways, have the most power and are coming up with all sorts of silly, nonsensical, unscientific ideas to try to squeeze every little drop of money that they can out of this Earth, out of other human beings, and into their wallets, which seem to be black holes. I appreciate the National Park Services and everything they do, and commend them to keep up the good fight. We certainly need it now more than ever. Let us protect the wonder that is the Natural world of this planet for all to enjoy, now and for many, many, many generations to come.

Correspondence ID: 341 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Excessive use by off road vehicles, and Logging

Topic Question 2: Leaving some areas as pristine as possible, with no public trails, while using other areas for heavier tourist traffic with managed hiking trails etc.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: Keeping wilderness as natural and pristine as possible. Making it safe and viable for native animals to survive.

Inappropriate would be clear cutting an area, allowing native animal population to get out of balance so some are missing from the area, while others are over whelming it.

Topic Question 5: Perimeter areas near highways and public access roads, can have picnic areas. I would think a rational between total park size and public recreational area could be arrived at: Picnic areas providing for 1 person per 2 acres of total park area? Food Storage: If there is a campground area, for overnight camping, perhaps bear proof heavy steel Locker type

cabinets could be provided in center of campground. Raised fire boxes should be provided to limit size and make it easier to control fires. No fires when Forest Fire Danger is medium high or above.

Topic Question 6: By reservation, with licensed guides, keeping smaller groups, and fees to cover overall cost of guides, emergencies, etc. Fees not prohibitive, but enough that one needs to be serious about it.

Topic Question 8: Where there are Giant Sequoias, where there are waterways with fish spawning, etc., where non-native plants or animals are eroding the pristine nature of the wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 342 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 4: See above comment - there should be absolutely no motorized vehicles in the wilderness.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services are fine so long as a) they do not involve motorized vehicles, b) they do not cause any permanent or semi-permanent structures or facilities to be built, and c) size of groups and group activities are monitored and restricted if any changes to the wilderness are seen due to those groups/activities (leave no trace)

Correspondence ID: 343 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That the govern Fed and state will compromise our nature. So many cut backs and dishonest politicians could jepordize the nature, already happening.

Topic Question 2: No amount of money can be placed on nature - priceless - and not attainable. Hands off!

Topic Question 3: That it is preserved forever for the wildlife to live and for humans to learn from it.

Topic Question 4: Love hiking. Motorcross bikes and three wheelers are damanging also snowmoblies.

Topic Question 5: That people have to be educated before camping, if they don't know they are not welcomed. They have to take a test before entering the park.

Topic Question 6: Ok, but must be monitored and mimized. Limited groups going in wilderness.

Topic Question 7: Ok, don't really know

Correspondence ID: 344 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have only visited Sequoia but I loved its seclusion and beautiful wilderness. I plan to go to Kings Canyon soon.

Correspondence ID: 345 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: my brother and i saw these parks in the winter in the mid-80's and at two earlier times. these parks are truly beautiful. erosion control and protection of these mammoth trees from bark beetles-scolytidae and cerambycidae etc.

Topic Question 2: protection of the trees by keeping visitors on the paths only.

Topic Question 3: wilderness is truly a refuge from the crazy busy lives we face. we would all go insane without these refuges! ditto for recreation too.

Topic Question 4: the activities you sponsor are the best way to go. inappropriate would be ones that damage and harm these beautiful trees.

Topic Question 5: party/group size should be determined by you because you are really the best stewards for these nps. you would know what is too many people. strict food storage practices should always be followed. campfires, if they are now allowed should be carefully and safely designated to preserve these wonderful trees that have been weakened by past droughts and boring insects.

Topic Question 6: i would give a go for these but would limit them to small groups of 7-8 and infrequently--careful monitoring would need to be in place to safeguard the park trees.

Topic Question 7: i feel you do a pretty good job but keep your guard up!

Topic Question 8: erosion control

i'm really not sure what to add here. i know these park needs are always evolving. i would say limit personal use if they are overwhelming these parks-perhaps encouraging shoulder seasons like fall and winter-these parks are beautiful then too. good work!

Correspondence ID: 346 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 20:28:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and

ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 347 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I visited there for the second time last fall. The staff was wonderfully helpful but there did not seem to be enough people to keep an eye on crucial areas. Smog is an issue to be concerned about. Creating a better buffer zone around the parks would improve the protection a lot.

Topic Question 2: Improving buffer zones around existing wilderness areas by adding more acreage whenever possible. Hiring more rangers or volunteers to supervise areas likely to suffer damage from tourists (for example, at the Redwoods last weekend and at Sequoia last November, I saw people trampling the tree roots to get closer for pictures that would have been no worse at a safe distance). Limiting vehicle access to supervised areas. Clarifying to public how smog from nearby cities affects parks.

Topic Question 3: Peace and quiet, adequate ranger supervision of parks to help protect wildlife and plants, minimal disturbance to environment when using for recreation.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities are hiking, camping, wildlife watching, etc. Inappropriate activities are jet skis, ATV's, snow mobiles, etc. Fishing (although I myself fish) is also inappropriate for protected areas. Even catch and release fishing does damage by stressing the fish and by leaving remains of snagged lines/hooks, etc. Bicycling may be appropriate if the trails are designed for bikes but is not appropriate on hiking trails.

Topic Question 5: The parks seem to have this well under control already.

Topic Question 6: Anytime commercial services move into protected areas, there is potential for damage. These sorts of activities would be better conducted by specialists working for the parks rather than by outsiders. The parks' best interests would then be better maintained and the parks could also be benefiting from the profits that currently go to outsiders. For example, in Hawaii, I've gone on several whale watching boats. The Pacific Whale Foundation, nonprofit, respects the space of the whales. A commercial snorkeling/whale watcher boat I went on was terrible, practically running right over the whales in an effort to chase them down. Profit is always going to compromise wilderness, unless the profit is being made by the organization protecting the wilderness.

Topic Question 7: At minimum, all popular areas of the parks should have a ranger on duty to encourage visitors to obey the park rules, to protect wildlife, to answer questions. Seems like it's a free-for-all out there lately, with so many people violating rules and/or thinking the rules don't apply to them. This situation could be improved a lot if a ranger were present to remind people starting out on a hike or walk about how best to protect the area. I used to see a lot more ranger activity than I do nowadays. It's great to have the parks open for public use, but educating them is a crucial part of the process.

Topic Question 8: Areas that protect endangered species are important. Areas surrounding the wilderness already protected are especially important. Mining and other seriously damaging profit activities should not be allowed in any areas that will impact the wilderness. All areas of the wilderness are important, and it is crucial to staff the less popular parks just as well as in Yellowstone or Yosemite.

The parks should make more effort to profit off of the resources when it comes to tourism. Currently much of the money that could be bringing income into the park system is being handed over to private enterprise on the outskirts of the park or often right in the park. For example, I love to read, and whenever I go to the parks, I hope to find new books relevant to the wilderness. But often I see the same old selection, a good one but a limited one. I prefer to buy these sorts of books at the parks in order to support them, but I often can't find any titles I don't have. Yet (as an author), when I try to get a park to add my own book (which focuses largely on thematic environmentalism in relation to adventure style narration of national park experiences) to their inventory, I invariably am told they aren't accepting new materials because of budget problems or space limitations. The real selection for tourists is often found outside the parks where the profit does not help the park. The parks should also consider hiring specialists for group hiking trips and so on, rather than letting these excursions fall under the control of outside profit. This would create jobs, contribute funds to help protect the parks, and directly protect the parks because the employees would be working to that end.

I would also like to see the parks spend more time encouraging students to learn about them. Why don't we have classes at the schools focusing on our national treasures? The parks could hire teachers to offer community and/or college credit courses, not just in nearby areas, but all over the country. This expenditure would surely benefit the parks in the long run (and it might also be possible to recruit volunteers).

Correspondence ID: 348 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please protect these wonderful parks. I have visited them many times and enjoyed them with my family. We need to protect our wilderness. I am shocked to think that as caretakers of these natural resources, you are considering

something other than protection. We need natural habitats for these plants, trees, animals, rivers and mountains. Thank you.

Topic Question 2: Just leave them alone. Leave them in peace.

Topic Question 3: Natural sanctuary for peace and relaxation. Totally non commercial.

Topic Question 4: Hiking.

Topic Question 5: Small groups. Non commercial groups. Keep things simple.

Topic Question 6: ok in a limited way.

Topic Question 7: Just leave nature alone and stop interfering with it. Why do men think that they know better than nature.

Correspondence ID: 349 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am most concerned that that wilderness continue to exist in its natural state, disturbed as little as possible by the minimal things that must be done (trails, possibly designated campsites) that make it possible for people to enjoy them.

Topic Question 2: Make it clear that the welfare of the land comes first.

Limit the number of people who can be there at any one time.

And the obvious -- no commercial activity (except guides), no buildings, etc.

Topic Question 3: I want to feel that I am in wilderness, that the land is the way it has been since time primeval, and that I have a chance to see it that way. I want a chance to see wildlife going about its business undisturbed. I want to enjoy the scenery and the flowers undisturbed by noise and human activity.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Leave the system alone to function naturally. Allow quiet recreation. Enforce strict rules about food and bears. Keep facilities to a minimum.

Inappropriate: Any sort of motorized transportation, especially snowmobiles. Remove excess roads, if any. No bicycles.

Topic Question 5: I think group size should be kept small, certainly less than 20. Limit the number of people total that are in a wilderness area at a given time. Food storage -- strict bear rules and fines for breaking them. Campfires only at designated sites at the entry points. If there are conditions that make them safe elsewhere, tell people to carry in their own wood.

Topic Question 6: I don't have a problem with commercial services as long as the focus is on enjoying the natural environment and doing it no harm. I understand some people can go into wilderness only with pack animals to help carry the weight (myself included), but over the years stock animals have impacted campsites. There's also the food problem. One more thing to carry in, because high meadows can't stand the impact of steady munching.

Topic Question 7: Always manage for the benefit of the environment and try to encourage people to do the right thing by offering carrots rather than sticks. However, sticks should exist for those who do not respond to carrots.

Correspondence ID: 350 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and

the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Topic Question 5: Keep group size limited to 20 individuals who know proper food storage and campfire practices.

Topic Question 6: These seem fine if kept to low numbers.

Topic Question 7: As I mentioned in my answer to question 2 above, in wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 8: Watersheds

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 351 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 352 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That funds being cut from the NPS budget will affect access to the back-country. Permitting people to carry guns in the Park is insane. Free access to pack stock...llamas to be specific.

Topic Question 2: Maintain quotas. Encourage people to clean up after themselves...pack out what they pack in.

Topic Question 3: Being able to get away from the crowd...clean campgrounds. I bring out more than I take in...and take an extra bag along to pick up trash on the trail..

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, swimming, fishing, camping, climbing, etc

Guns! Out of control dogs.

Topic Question 5: The party size limits are over run all the time...especially closer to the trail heads, but the theory is good. Just not enough personnel to enforce the limits. Boy scout groups are usually too big. Bear Lake for example. Haven't had any food storage issues...bear boxes are adequate and the bear cans work. Campfires are a mess, but people are used to the right to have them. Fires are horribly overused down at Lodgepole...could smell them all the way up at Pear Lake...and that was right after reading "The Big Burn".

Topic Question 6: I think they provide valuable and needed services...as long as they don't act like they own the park!

Topic Question 7: The control burns seem to be providing benefits at Giant Forest. I miss the old 'Dog Patch' cabins at Giant Forest...alot of great memories of back in the day...but I totally get it's necessity.

Topic Question 8: Cheaper lodging in the park would be nice. \$200+ is pretty steep for most folks. Too bad the cabins at Giant Forest had to go...much more the price range that most families can afford...made the park much more accessible to the common man.

I'm a big fan. I'm in Sequoia, Mineral King, Kings Canyon areas every year. I've been spending more time in the Hoover Wilderness, Emigrant Wilderness and North of Yosemite lately...taking llamas out on pack trips. I'm 63 and having low impact pack animals along to do the hauling is going to extend my backpacking career. Did a 6 day 60 miler last year, but I'm getting a little old for that kind of action. Thanks for the great job that NPS does. I look forward to interacting with the back country personnel and always try to lend a hand if I can.

Correspondence ID: 353 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 354 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is imperative that we preserve every last acre of pristine wilderness in our great country since it is all that we have left and there will never be any more "made" in the future! We as a nation have already sacrificed more than 3/4s of our lands to various aspects of extraction and exploitation and places like Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are reminders of what we have already lost.

Topic Question 2: The only viable option is to leave them as they are; we cannot improve upon them. We can only ruin them by not protecting them.

Topic Question 3: Solace, spiritual rejuvenation, hiking, photography, and being enveloped by the natural world in all its wild glory.

Topic Question 4: All activities that, at worst, take only photographs and leave only footprints.

Topic Question 5: Small groups, bear canisters, no campfires, especially in the sparsely wooded higher elevations where spruce

and bristlecone pine reside.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking, again, in small groups is O.K., but stock trips are anathema to the health of wilderness because of these animals heavy impact on the soil, water and foliage.

Topic Question 7: Minimum requirements except in cases of exploitative industries, like mining, hunting, stock animals, and the like....

Topic Question 8: Every last acre of the land, water, and air above should be held to the highest standards of safeguarding possible. No ands, ifs, or buts....

Correspondence ID: 355 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please protect these wonderful wilderness areas in sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. They are a valuable resource for our lives and environment.

Topic Question 2: Protection includes using the areas as wild places where the natural flora and fauna can thrive. protection from degradation usually accompanied with mining and manufacturing.

Topic Question 3: Open views, natural flora and fauna thriving.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate uses include hiking, camping, riding horses, riding bikes, swimming. In appropriate would include mining and manufacturing.

Topic Question 5: If the campsite accommodates a particular level of use, then that should be the level of use. Food storage should be appropriate for the type of animals that frequent the area. Campfires should be appropriately attended so as to not cause forest fires.

Topic Question 6: Very good as long as it isn't a corporate function that requires a high level of buildings and structures.

Topic Question 7: Management should be enough to protect the wilderness. Poaching and growing illegal substances should not be allowed.

Topic Question 8: Water, land use.

Please ensure the survival of our wilderness areas. Excessive motorized vehicle use should be limited as mining, oil exploration, manufacturing and timber removal should be limited in scope as to not diminish the quality of the area.

Correspondence ID: 356 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Pollution is already here and getting harder and harder to get rid of. If they start cutting and destroying out forest just like they are in the Rain Forest, Mother Earth might as well explode and get rid of everything including the people. There are good people I know, but the bad are getting stronger and stronger every day.

Correspondence ID: 357 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These are rare and precious natural areas that need protection so that future generations can enjoy and come to love these ancient trees as I did as a child.

Topic Question 2: To the extent possible, they should be kept in their present state, without the encroachment of development or damaging activity to them or to the ecosystem.

Topic Question 3: Recreation must not damage wilderness areas or deplete it of natural flora and fauna.

Topic Question 4: I consider appropriate activities to be hiking, photography, meditation/contemplation, camping in certain areas. Inappropriate would be the killing of animals, those belong to all of us equally, noisy or distracting activities, or anything

else that damages the area or degrades it for others.

Topic Question 5: Large groups should have designated areas away from sensitive water, tree's or animal areas. Small groups should have access to less crowded areas, but be near piped water so that they are not tempted to rely on streams for bathing, washing dishes etc.

Topic Question 6: Those are a good idea, they allow more people to enjoy natural areas safely, and without damaging them.

Topic Question 7: The management of invasive plants such as star thistle, removal of trash,

Topic Question 8: Areas containing ancient trees or the land near them, streams or rivers, meadows with sensitive soil and plants.

It is very important to current citizens of the state and future ones, that these natural treasures are treated with the utmost respect.

Correspondence ID: 358 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Topic Question 2: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 3: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 4: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 5: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages. One time the whole Planet was a wilderness. Right now there are a couple spot. We have to keep those!

Correspondence ID: 359 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It seems the Federal Government is bending to the will of corporate interests. We must protect the environment, national resources, and mitigate global warming. The EPA must be allowed to enforce the Clean Air Act, and oversight agencies must be wrested from the control of exploitative industries.

Stop the appointment of corporate skills to agencies that are supposed nto be protecting our health and welfare.

Correspondence ID: 360 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Biggest concern is motor vehicles, both boats, and MOST ESPECIALLY OFF-ROAD VEHICLES.

Also big concern is allowance of loaded firearms/guns. There is going to be much more killing of both wildlife and other humans. Although it may not be a large amount of deaths, it is still inevitable.

Topic Question 3: The peace, the quiet, the natural elements where wildlife can find unintrusive refuge, and thrive, and where humans can find peace and respite from "civilized" life. People need to see nature, leaf mold and fungi, not tree stumps, giant gouges where off road vehicles have torn up the land. People and nature need to hear the wind through branches, bird song,

bears and coyotes and such, not loud music and more combustion engines you try to escape to parks to avoid.

Topic Question 4: Inappropriate: Motorized vehicles, and most especially off-road vehicles. they pollute the air, as cities are polluted. They also intrude on and kill the wildlife. They make any attempt to seek out nature futile, and devastate the land, which doesn't usually get to repair itself before more devastation follows. The devastation may be from repeat vehicle destruction, or from tearing up the soil and vegetation, then eroded by rain and such.

Also inappropriate: Music through speakers, and weapons/guns.

Topic Question 5: There should be no music through speakers or amplifiers, no microphones, etc.

Food storage should be indestructible and outside vehicles.

Topic Question 6: Any group over six persons, or any commercial/paid services should be certified and regulated (not necessarily for any significant fees), limited in size and to environmentally sound activities. Also, for knowledge, so rescues and such, especially requiring public resources, are not needed.

Correspondence ID: 361 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it remains a designated wilderness.

Topic Question 3: The possibility of really getting away from the City life.

Topic Question 4: Just hiking and camping and canoeing.

Topic Question 5: Smaller groups, storage lockers at campsites, and campfires only at drive in campsites.

Topic Question 6: I,m OK with those.

Topic Question 7: Population quotas for use.

Topic Question 8: Yes, especially near water.

Correspondence ID: 362 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are our national Heritage I have camped and hiked there and love these parks. Thank you for preserving them and for continuing to preserve them, just as they are, with no further development of any kind. There are always those who want to change them for their own profit. Thank you for not letting this happen to my heritage and that of my children and grandchildren.

Correspondence ID: 363 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That these natural habitats be over and misused by people who are unaware of their debilitating effects on the native flora and fauna. Thus it is important that visitors to these park be properly informed and supervised to the extent necessary to maintain the parks in ecological health.

Topic Question 2: Education and supervision of visitors and prosecution of abusers.

Topic Question 3: The public, knowing and understanding the threat to our land's natural treasures, will vote their conscience to protect these lands.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Gentle and protective use of the environment, causing no harm and leaving no trash.

Inappropriate: Reckless use of the environment, causing damage to flora, threatening and frightening away fauna, causing soil erosion, fires, and poisoning of the environment by pollution.

Topic Question 5: Group size: Depending on the exposure to the environment of their visit, a group should be limited to the size that can be properly supervised by park staff or sanctioned group leaders.

Topic Question 6: The only purpose a contracted private service should provide within the boundaries of a park is food, board and entertainment of visitors contained to the facility where such service is provided. Where specialized transportation modes are allowed a private service can rent and maintain such vehicles for the use of park visitors. In no case should a private service supplant the educational, supervisory or enforcement responsibilities of park staff.

Topic Question 7: There is no common definition that makes sense of what a "minimum" requirement would be other than the minimum park staff needed to properly manage the visitor load at any one time. The "minimum" requirements for education, supervision and enforcement duties are highly variable from season to season, week to week, day to day, and time of day. Such requirements must be met by park staff under adroit management of the park.

Topic Question 8: Of course there are, particularly where misuse is prevalent and the environment is fragile and easily damaged.

How America protects and maintains her natural assets now and into the future marks us who we are as a people. There is more than enough work for everyone to do. We just need to improve the order of our house to stop denying people opportunity and pushing more people into poverty. We are supposed to be a first world country but the evidence is suggesting we are not richly deserving that attribution.

Correspondence ID: 364 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I wish to keep them absolutely pristine for myself and my family and generations after us. We are moving to a place near these two parks to retire.

Topic Question 3: Our vacations are always in wilderness.

Topic Question 5: Food storage has to be bear-proof. We have to have a motto of "leave no trace" (of mankind)

Correspondence ID: 365 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That the wilderness is preserved forever.

Topic Question 2: Keeping motorized vehicles out of wilderness areas.

Topic Question 3: Making sure the wilderness is not damaged by the recreational uses.

Topic Question 4: Hiking is ok. Motorized transportation is inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Food storage lockers can be provided. Campfires are too dangerous. Small stoves can be used.

Topic Question 6: I think these can work if not too many are allowed and access is restricted.

Topic Question 8: All of the wilderness areas warrant special consideration.

Correspondence ID: 366 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As a backpacker, I look to the wilderness as a place to see beauty, enjoy solitude, and leave behind the pressures of everyday life. I have adult children who have families and I want this wilderness to be available to them to enjoy.

Topic Question 2: I was under the impressions that a designation of wilderness and/or national park ensured that this area would

remain free of development whether it be mining claims, roads, etc.

Topic Question 3: See #1

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, pack trips if group camp areas are not overused and abused.

Topic Question 5: My experience is that where bear cannisters are required, the bears have not been a problem. I appreciate and use the bear boxes in established campgrounds.

Topic Question 6: I don't see a problem as well as these services are regulated so that they do not overuse trails and camp sites. Although I am comfortable going without a guide, I can appreciate the need for them on the part of some folks. In the same vein, as I get older and less able to carry a heavy pack, the idea of being packed in has more appeal.

With weather patterns changing and the earth warming, plants and animals are going to need the opportunity to transit to more favorable environments. Our wilderness areas provide this opportunity.

Correspondence ID: 367 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I want these areas to be available for my grandchildren and their grandchildren!

Correspondence ID: 368 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have hiked through and camped in the these wilderness areas over many years. My concerns are that they be kept in as wild and pristine wilderness condition as humanly possible. This means, no roads, no mechanized vehicles, no human structures (other than minimal for safety such as a few key bridges on major trails and perhaps a few rustic mountain huts at key trail junctions. NO resource extraction (mining logging, etc.) should take place anywhere. Reasonable but minimally intrusive use management is fine - i.e. wilderness permits process, but do not make this so strict or troublesome that is discourages people from going into the wilderness. Common sense restrictions on fire safety need to be in place with no fire areas where trees are few. Main concern- retain the wild as wild for future generations

Topic Question 2: Lots of education. Let young people enjoy the wilderness experience. Place protection of remaining wilderness in high priority among the Park Service and Forest Service staff awareness, performance management and professional ethos

Topic Question 3: Keep it wild and natural.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, fishing, some amount of hunting outside of national parks, camping, horse riding, photography, on and off trail exploring are all examples of appropriate. Minimal impact scientific research appropriate. Mountain climbing. Resource extraction, motor vehicles of any kind, very large horse parties, excessive regulation. road building, paved trails - inappropriate

Topic Question 5: Party size should be generally small - small enough to leave to visible wear and tear and not to interfere with enjoyment of others who may be seeking solitude and peace. Bear boxes for food storage at major trail junctions or very popular camping sites makes sense to me to protect both the bears and people. Campfires in places where there is plenty of wood are fine. Higher elevations and wood sparse places should not have campfires.

Topic Question 6: Guides with small parties only are fine with me. Guides can serve a very important purpose of educating people, introducing people to the wilderness who would not otherwise go (and thereby turning them into wilderness advocates) - also safety considerations. Also having some small businesses with an interest in wilderness, such as guides, is good for wilderness protection and can demonstrate some financial business value to those people who think only in terms of money benefits for land use. Obviously there are limits though. Guides should probably be certified based on wilderness ethical standards and protection of wilderness values. If they make a mess or interfere with enjoyment of others, they should have licenses suspended, etc.

Topic Question 7: Keep the landscapes wild and natural - however you best do that - while being sure that people understand the value and have access to appropriate wilderness experience uses.

Topic Question 8: All wilderness areas and resources warrant special consideration because there is so little left in the world.

Correspondence ID: 369 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 21:04:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 370 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

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The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: Take photos and leave only footprints -- Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and no, or low impact, camping are appropriate. Off road vehicles -- including snowmobiles and bicycles/ motorcycles are inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Limit group size to minimize damage to wilderness ecosystems and make sensitive ecosystems off limits. Use portable gas stoves for cooking not local wood.

Topic Question 6: Guided low impact hiking/ stock trips/ climbing/ mountaineering may be acceptable if the guides are certified low impact and group size is limited for minimal impact on the ecosystems.

Topic Question 7: Wilderness management based on scientific evaluations by ecosystem experts.

Topic Question 8: Manage the wilderness according to practices proved effective in Sequoia National Park to restore the wilderness ecosystems.

"In wilderness is the preservation of the world." Henry David Thoreau

Correspondence ID: 371 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Sequoia National Park was established in 1890, Why must we destroy what God gave us to enjoy, just so that someone (Big Business can make Money).

I have Camped in Sheeps Creek for many Years since the 1970's, I can not see how anyone (Business) would want to cut these marvels Trees down if not for the Money value.

Please, Please, think of your Children and mine and the Next Generations to come to be able to enjoy this Wonderful Area.

Correspondence ID: 372 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 21:07:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to you to express my hope that Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks stay the epic,world class parks they are. As far as the wilderness areas in the parks are concerned I hope you keep them as pristine as possible. Areas of concern would include the number of backpackers in a given area at a time. Also, the number of pack livestock. I hope you will do all you can to protect sensitive, threatened and endangered species in the parks boundaries. I especially hope you protect rare endemic plants and animals in the parks. As the population of the U.S. grows, there will be even more of a need for wide open living wilderness. I've hiked over Bishop and Paiute passes, and up the Kings river. I've backpacked in dozens of wilderness areas (many in national parks), and I can't say that any of them were more beautiful or awe inspiring than the heart of the high sierra. Keep up the good work and I will be up there sometime soon. Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 373 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: KEEPING THE WILDERNESS AND PARKS PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND FOR THE WELFARE OF THE WILDLIFE

Topic Question 2: KEEP THE PUBLIC OUT WITH FIRES, MOTORCYCLES, ROAD BIKES, ETC, ETC.

Topic Question 3: MOSTLY KEEPING IT PRESERVED FOR THE WILDLIFE AND FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO SEE

Topic Question 4: HIKING IS APPROPRIATE, TAKING PHOTOS, HAVING A PICNIC ALONG THE WAY. INAPPROPRIATE IS LEAVING TRASH, TRAPPING ANIMALS FOR ANY PURPOSE AND BUILDING FIRES FOR FEAR OF WILDFIRES STARTING

Topic Question 5: PARTY/GROUP SIZE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO 15-20 MAX. FOOD STORAGE IF ZIPPERED UP/CLAMPED AND NO LEAKAGE IS OK BUT CAMPFIRES SHOULD BE AN ABSOLUTE

Topic Question 6: GUIDED SERVICES IS A GOOD IDEA, KEEPS THE AREA MAINTAINED AND SAFE - NEEDS TO BE A FEE AND MAJORITY GOES TO MAINTAINING WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS.

Topic Question 7: THIS AREA IS NOT WITHIN MY EXPERTISE

Topic Question 8: YES, THOSE THAT HAVE NEEDS - SPECIAL NEEDS, WILDLIFE NEEDS

MY MAIN CONCERN IS KEEPING OUR PARKS AND LANDS CLEAN, AND AVAILABLE FOR THOSE THAT KNOW HOW TO FOLLOW RULES AND REGULATIONS AND UNDERSTAND THAT WILDLIFE IS JUST THAT LIFE FIRST - RESPECT THAT AND THEN UNDERSTAND IT IS WILD NEXT AND RESPECT THAT AS WELL AS TO NOT PUT THE WILDLIFE IN JEOPARDY AND ALSO KEEPING THOSE USING AREAS SAFE AS WELL

Correspondence ID: 374 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please protect this fabulous wilderness for my generation and my grandchildren's generation.

Correspondence ID: 375 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Maintain wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality

Topic Question 2: User quotas, fire restriction, and effective enforcement of regulations

Topic Question 3: Solitude, wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpackng, fishing. Inappropriate: large groups, firearms

Topic Question 5: 6 persons maximum, required bear canisters, no campfires, gas stoves only

Topic Question 6: severely restrict these

Topic Question 7: Law enforcement, resource protection

Topic Question 8: Riparian areas should be especially protected

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 376 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 377 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Do you think oxygen is valuable?

Correspondence ID: 378 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: I think appropriate activities are those that make as little impact as possible on the wilderness environment. I believe everyone should adhere to "Leave No Trace" while in the a designated wilderness area.

I think motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities are inappropriate in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited. Food storage should be enforced to protect wildlife and visitors.

Topic Question 6: I think wilderness areas should not be used for commercial purposes. Such activities may take place in other non-designated natural environments.

Topic Question 7: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 379 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 21:14:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and

invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Correspondence ID: 380 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: PLEASE protect this wilderness-- so that future generations can enjoy this amazing place.

Topic Question 3: Nature, beauty, serenity, mental health, connection with our environment.

Topic Question 4: Conservation. Very light impact!

Topic Question 5: Limit them.

Correspondence ID: 381 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would like those parks to keep a feeling of wilderness.

Topic Question 2: Please keep the roads in as they are- they help people slow down and relax on the way into the parks. Don't have a lot of motels or hotels.

Topic Question 3: I like to feel like I am in the wilderness- I am able to do that in Sequoia, which is not so crowded as, for example, Yosemite. I think people need to feel that they have gotten away from the city when they go for recreation in the wilderness.

Topic Question 4: I like to hike, bird watch, relax, gaze at stars, go on ranger led activities.

Topic Question 5: Food storage needs to be bear safe. Campfires should be in designated areas only. Parties should be less than 30.

Topic Question 6: Guided trips are fine. I have gone on guided star gazing trips in the Sequoias, bird watching, and wilderness walks. I have also gone with family. Guides can be especially helpful in maintaining trails and education about the wilderness.

Topic Question 7: Great parks need to be preserved for future generations, while still allowing the public to enjoy those parks. People also need to know that the wilderness is wild. Yellowstone seems to have managed these two aspects well. Olympic National Park is also managing this. Yosemite, while beautiful, feels like Disneyland, overcrowded and not safe, because people pour in quickly and easily, and some bring trouble with them.

Topic Question 8: Water and trees, natural formations, those things that make parks special and unique. In Sequoia, not only the sequoias, but all the other trees there, the dogwoods, ferns, wild roses attract. The canyons, and rivers of Sequoia and Kings Canyon, and the many trails to enjoy the scenery need consideration. I like that the trails are trails, not paved or boardwalks. The trail for all people is nice for people who have disabilities, but other trails, like the soldier's trail need to be kept for people wanting a more 'wilderness' experience. The climb on Rock Moro is a classic walk there. The trail to sunset rock or beetle rock have another kind of charm.

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Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness

character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 382 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am worried about fires, and damage from logging. Also I am worried about damage to these areas by vehicles.

Topic Question 2: I like the idea of having fire trails, fire breaks, and fire roads for protection. I prefer no logging in this area, but the Forest Service should cut down some trees when it is in the interest of safety, and to avoid forest fires. The national park service needs to protect these areas carefully.

Topic Question 3: Keep the wilderness safe and healthy. I feel that people should enjoy wilderness areas with reasonable limits. I prefer to keep motor vehicles, motor cycles and recreation vehicles out of these areas to keep them from being damaged. Naturally there needs to be parking for visitors.

Topic Question 4: Hiking is great. I prefer that motor cycles, and gasoline motorized vehicles be off limits.

Topic Question 5: Camp fires should be off limits except in designated areas that were carefully chosen by the park service.

Topic Question 6: Yes, yes, yes. Love it. I hope that this would not be limited to commercial services. It would be nice if the National Park Service put on some guided hikes too. Also, it would be great if the Sierra Club and similar clubs could put on guided hikes too.

Topic Question 7: I would love it if the National Park Service was there mainly as friends of the visitors, and less as policing the visitors. If someone breaks a rule, I hope that those working for the National Park Service consider that person's safety, health and enjoyment more than issuing some sort of fine. My ideal would be that the person breaking a rule be educated on the spot why the rule is necessary. Suppose the person builds a camp fire in the wrong place. Those working for the National Park Service would help the person put out the fire, and help the person go where then can build a camp fire, and help the person move his stuff to the new location. Also, the people working for the National Park Service would spend time with the person who broke the rule telling about the importance of the rule.

Topic Question 8: Naturally, people and animals need to be protected from each other as necessary. I like the signs at national parks that tell about the animals there and how to keep from making trouble for one's self and the animals.

As a suggestion, the National Park Service could have a stash of cell phones with GPS that people can check out when they go on long hikes in these areas. Hikers can report it when they are in trouble, or if they see a fire or anything dangerous. Also, the GPS could help them find their way back. As an example, if someone is bit by a rattlesnake, they could call for help and/or instructions about what to do at the moment.

Also, it would be neat if there were markers with names and numbers at these parks. If someone uses their cell phone to call the National Park Service, then that person could read the number from a marker which would tell the National Park Service where they are located.

Correspondence ID: 383 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 21:19:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and

quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Correspondence ID: 384 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These and surrounding areas should be protected from logging, drilling, and other industrial interests.

Topic Question 2: Dedicate more resources to the National Parks Service.

Topic Question 3: Use of these areas never threatens the health of their indigenous wildlife populations and/or a sustainable ecological balance

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: leave no trace Inappropriate: vehicles

Topic Question 5: Large groups in limited designated areas, fines for irresponsible behavior

Topic Question 6: Fees to subsidize appropriate Park Service regulation

Correspondence ID: 385 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 386 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they won't be there for my grandchildren and their grandchildren.

Topic Question 2: Not my field of expertise, but: no through roads, no timbering, limit camping and no off-roading or campfires.

Topic Question 3: Should be controlled to avoid spoiling our unique natural resources.

Topic Question 4: Docent led hikes, limited family camping, no campfires except in specially designated and protected areas. Obviously no smoking or alcohol.

Topic Question 5: Limit, limit, limit.

Topic Question 6: Guided (docent led) good; independent bad.

Topic Question 7: Obviously way beyond my expertise. There are people who have been doing this for years. Speak to those (probably most of them) who are the most experienced and dedicated.

Topic Question 8: Anything we (city, state or nation) have already gone to the expense and dedication to preserve should continue to be nurtured and saved. Those who came before us did this for us and for those who will follow us. I believe nothing should be subtracted from our legacy, but maybe, just maybe, we can add to it! Wouldn't that be nice!

I believe the questions above supplied a good summary. Thank you for listing them. I am grateful to the Sierra Club for contacting me.

Correspondence ID: 387 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it be left as wilderness.

Topic Question 2: Leave it alone and let those who wish to explore it with hiking boots and a backpack do so.

Topic Question 3: The preservation of our natural resources as well as our national heritage.

Topic Question 4: Foot travel, canoe, kayak, etc. Wildlife research and reintroductions.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be less than 20. Food storage must be in bear proof containers and use bear safe practices. Campfires can be given on a permit basis in safe areas. If found with fires outside these areas and/or without permit, heavy fines must be imposed as well as liability to any fires caused by an illegal fire.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking and if climbing is allowed, guided climbing.

Topic Question 7: Management techniques based on solid, peer viewed science, not for political reasons.

Topic Question 8: Yes, endangered species habitat and overall watershed.

Sequoia Kings Canyon is part of our natural heritage. The trees living there are the largest living things on earth. They were here long before any of our ancestors and should be standing long after we're gone.

Correspondence ID: 388 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Being able to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature without the interruptions from too many humans and

machines

Topic Question 4: I enjoy hiking. Canoeing, kayaking, camping in tents and other activities that are low impact on the environment are appropriate in wilderness. I don't think any motorized vehicles are appropriate in wilderness, except on special access roads. Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and other low environmental impact activities would be appropriate winter activities.

Topic Question 5: Group size must be small and manageable - probably no more than 10-12. Locked cabinets and chests that allow minimal aroma leakage are needed for food and even a way to hoist these off the ground, so as to keep wild animals away. Campfires must be supervised, small and local, preferably in designated areas.

Topic Question 6: I don't mind guided hiking or climbing services as long as guides are trained and experienced and the services don't include any of the noisy disruptive vehicles or other inappropriate activities mentioned above. In fact, it's probably better if visitors without much wilderness experience and larger groups have a knowledgeable guide with them.

Topic Question 7: Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of 'Leave-No-Trace.'

Topic Question 8: I'm sure there are tons of them - any places where the environment, ecosystems or species are fragile or extremely dangerous.

Correspondence ID: 389 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That the animals and birds who live in and around them will have no shelter and their beauty will not be here for future generations.

Topic Question 2: I am not sure where to begin.

Topic Question 3: That they are a home for birds and provide shelter for the animals.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and taking pictures, inappropriate would be hunting and smoking.

Topic Question 5: Stay together and don't go to the bathroom by yourself. Also bring toilet paper and a bag to store it in after it is used along with human waste. Each person should have their own bag and empty it at the nearest gas station in the bathroom. Food and drinks (no alcohol!) should be stored securely in containers and campfires should always be put out completely. It probably is a better idea to bring food that does not need to be cooked and dress warmly so that there is no need for a campfire.

Topic Question 6: Stock trips and the wilderness somehow do not belong together! Always make sure you are healthy enough for hiking and mountain climbing and be prepared for any emergency!

Topic Question 7: None come to mind at this moment.

Topic Question 8: Alaska.

Correspondence ID: 390 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness must be protected as it represents one of the rare places where wildlife and native flora can survive.

Topic Question 2: Only allow a certain amount of people in at a time and all must have permits.

Topic Question 3: I love to backpack and practice the ethics of leave no trace.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and backpacking, cross country skiing. No guns, or motorized machines of any kind.

Topic Question 5: No campfires, maximum party 12 people, must practice ethics of leave not trace, food must be stored in bear boxes.

Topic Question 6: Horses should not be allowed in the high country as the flora is just to fragile, stay below 8,000 ft. Guided

trips are OK, just keep the number in party to no more than 12 people.

Topic Question 7: Have enough backcountry Rangers and or volunteers to check on conditions of trails and fragile areas. This is important as some areas may need to be closed off for revegetation etc.

Topic Question 8: Wildlife, especially the Bears and Cougars and other species who need large areas. Some areas should be only for wildlife - no people.

Correspondence ID: 391 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Make sure it stays as a public park and as natural as possible building wise.

Topic Question 2: So much of the rural country is no more and these protected spaces need to be respected with great importance. If we start altering these great lands for anything else but nature then we will have nothing left for anyone to see and all the future generations will just have pictures in a book to look at as what was once here. How low does a country want to go as a whole with these supreme resources?

Topic Question 3: Keep as natural as possible and try and reinforce the life on it as best possible.

Topic Question 4: Don't want any gasoline powered pollution running all round noisy and really not a great experience to be around. Really hate that law on letting people bringing guns into a national park??? What a bad idea to say the least. Promote walking /hiking and bike trails if possible not going super deep into the park, maybe more outside where others see that as they show up. Only leave your foot prints no trash and damage etc..Really any non evasive activities are great if there is the room.

Topic Question 5: In some areas. Not sure on park required revenues as far as too many camp sites. The less the better depending on that. Buses would drop people off outside more and they can walk in etc.

Topic Question 6: Sounds great as long as it does not impact others that come to the parks. Too much of programs at the same time could be a lot of wear and too many people everywhere

Topic Question 7: People get fines if they are irresponsible and hopefully some supervision here and there to make sure all is well... like a coast guard in a harbor. Any education that can be passed on to people is always a great thing and do a few ever need it. My wife and me ran into two guys with guns and camofloge in a state park and felt bad my wife was really scared. Then when we came out all the guns were on us! The OK corral shoot out? was like its not us go down there and get them!

Topic Question 8: You know with guns allowed to my horror would say you have to probably watch more now not less if possible. Have learned that some people that own guns seem to want to have a reason to use them whenever they get a chance and that always scares me as I have none and 52 years old never needed one.

Whoever speaks has to convey really well the incredible need to not alter/destroy for needs like added parking/campgrounds etc... Every time land is used like that it never seems to ever get chance to go back to nature. Just look around.... Can't imagine only seeing certain animals in a book now or destroyed lands in a book. Just no real reason to let that happen at the high speed we are operating at now.

Correspondence ID: 392 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 21:31:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 393 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Sequoia is my favorite place on Earth. In California, we are so fortunate to have so many acres of beautiful wilderness. To me, the massive Sequoias in the park are the most spectacular of all. My family has vacationed there so many times over the years I can't begin to count. I also teach my third grade students about the Sequoias every year and have sent many families there, too. Please consider the future generations who will enjoy this unique place and all that it has to teach us.

Correspondence ID: 394 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: preserve wildernes

Topic Question 2: keep them pristine

Topic Question 3: preservation and environment to enjoy

Topic Question 4: hiking and walking

Topic Question 5: not an expert

Topic Question 6: must be kept to an absolute minimum (to be defined)

Correspondence ID: 395 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they will be exploited for drilling, fracking, deforestation and the water poluted.

Topic Question 2: Have Congress pass a law making the despoilation of resources a crime.

Topic Question 3: It restores perspective. We cannot control nature, but we can harm it. It makes one calm, excited, renewed and humbled.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, sitting, fishing, camping, picniking.

Topic Question 5: There should be bear-proof food lockers and garbage cans. Campfires should be allowed if the area is cleared of foliage. Group size should not matter as long as the site can comfortably accomodate them.

Topic Question 6: They are fine as long as there aren't advertising signs.

Topic Question 7: Management by professionals with degrees in conservation and forestry.

Topic Question 8: Rivers, lakes and streams should be protected from polution by livestock, logging and mineral extraction.

In Siskiyou County more and more trees are being cut down then left to rot rather than being sold. This is especially true near Butte Creek. Cattle are allowed down to the Creek and beful the water.

Correspondence ID: 396 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: 1) Degradation of air quality near and inside Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park stressing their flora and fauna, already subject to periodic drought, uncontrolled fires and visitor impact.

2) Water conservation near and inside these parks and impact of increasing CA population on their supply/run-off being siphoned for agriculture and growing populations in central valley.

Topic Question 2: Build young support for today and tomorrow: Do National Parks have continuing traveling educational programs visiting elementary through high school students and university students?especially those studying related topics? Could this be conducted largely by volunteer retired educators who know how to deliver information to their respective student populations?

Increase voluntary support and stewardship via organizations such as the Sierra Club and other environmental and related organizations?Try for a National Parks Volunteer Day where volunteers from US-wide communities, schools, environmental orgs, et al, sponsor fund-raising events or US citizens are encouraged to give whatever funds they can to pay for specific critical park needs on this day honoring these spectacular natural beauties?

Topic Question 3: Generations of my family have visited, camped in and hiked trails in many National Parks through the Southwest and the country. They form indelible memories and are among the greatest assets of our democracy. We tend to forget this or, as I do, become preoccupied with local, national or global political and social needs when our parks need everyone's help at least once every year.

How about a new "Smokey Bear" to teach upcoming generations how to respect and behave in parks and to promote annual giving? I'd like to see a new NP mascot in pre-film movie theater promos, on TV/radio spots or in the script of children-oriented productions, spurring new interest. National Parks will continue to attract increasing numbers of people, not only in this economic downturn but as these glorious green spaces become more rare.

Topic Question 4: APPROPRIATE: Hiking, camping, staying in Park accommodations, rock climbing with permits in specific areas, educational and arts and cultural individual cultural pursuits and programs approved by the Park. . INAPPROPRIATE: 1) NUMBER OF CARS must gradually decrease, paring down use of cars inside parks, designing carparks at perimeters. 2) NUMBERS OF VISITORS must gradually decrease, setting pro-active, absolute limits on people admitted in each park per season. 3) Off-road vehicles are inappropriate except in parks specifically designed for them. 4) Snow-mobile use should be restricted to personnel and not allowed to visitors unless for exceptional purposes. 5) Use of radio/TV or similar electronics should be confined to individual visitors using personal earphones.

Topic Question 5: Party/group size should be restricted to whatever number Park Rangers can readily handle. Food storage may have to be confined to bear-proof canisters (meaning hikers must be checked or fined if caught without proper storage) if visitors continue to carry food on their persons and loose in cars. However, at their current cost, this would be prohibitive.

Again, an updated Smokey Bear is desperately needed for the public to learn safe and effective fire-building and how to put them out so they cannot reignite. Or prohibit all but propane cookstoves?

Topic Question 6: If Park Rangers can cope with today's proliferation of commercial guiding services by setting pro-active limits on their numbers and requiring business licenses and that they fill out legal forms specifying agreements agreed to by the National Parks, I would not mind sharing park space. But the numbers of commercial outfits taking private citizens' space/facilities and the number of tours per season should be well thought out and restricted.

Topic Question 7: My overriding concern is ever in favor of the flora, fauna and physical welfare of the National Parks: Specifically, I think that their health and maintenance should be foremost where management activities and techniques come into play. Visitors are secondary. Therefore use of water and electricity for increasing numbers of visitors, paving new roads, providing new trails unless required for safety, building new accommodations or commercially-related structures should be at minimum in favor of maintaining what exists with the Parks' often over-crowded perimeters at present.

Topic Question 8: I would like to see at least specific areas within all National Parks and Wilderness areas preserved to serve as "controls" for observation of species, climate change and repositories of species, seed banks, etc.

Correspondence ID: 397 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Human intrusion that alters the habitat and cuts huge holes in trees.

Topic Question 2: We have to contact our representatives in Congress, both state and national, and vote Democratic! The Tea Party is a nature destroyer!

Topic Question 3: I'm a bit lame, so I love it from a distance at the age of 69.

Topic Question 4: Get the people out.

Topic Question 5: Get them out. They don't belong there. Just ask the Native Americans.

Topic Question 6: I tolerate it.

Topic Question 7: You're more of an expert on this than me.

Topic Question 8: There should be inner sanctums where only wilderness protection specialists are allowed. Nature is not a playground.

Natural wonders, parks, etc. should be respected; they are not playgrounds!

Correspondence ID: 398 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I hope that Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks can remain wild for future generations and free from as much human impact as possible. I think ha

Topic Question 2: I think that no motorized vehicles should be allowed in wilderness resources, that management of these areas should be as minimally invasive as possible. I do not think that road or logging should be allowed in these areas. I think that educating the public about the rules within wilderness areas is extremely important, including telling users why the rules and management plans are essential for the continued existence of our natural treasures. Ultimately, I think teaching people a respect and appreciation for nature is the best way to protect wilderness resources.

Topic Question 3: It is very important for me to be able to experience nature and wilderness areas without so many modern day distractions. I think it is also important that wilderness areas remain wild and that they are not overcrowded with people, but that people who wish to use the areas may do so with care.

Topic Question 4: I think that hiking and backpacking are very appropriate in wilderness areas. I think that playing loud music, wearing perfume, and using motorized vehicles are some inappropriate activities in wilderness.

Topic Question 5: I do not think campfires should be allowed in wilderness areas. I think that leave no trace principles should be encouraged, and that group/party size should be limited to around 10-12 people.

Topic Question 6: I personally think that horses and mules tear up trails and should only be allowed in limited areas. I think that guided hiking and climbing mountaineering trips are fine as long as they remain within group/party size limits, include people who are capable and ready to experience wilderness, and respect the wilderness experiences of others.

Topic Question 7: I think that management of wilderness areas should be based on what is best for nature, not what is most convenient or profitable for people. That said, I do think that people, in limited numbers, should be allowed to experience wilderness areas.

Topic Question 8: Any area with old growth forests and/or giant sequoias or other rare/endemic/endangered species should be given special considerations.

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Correspondence ID: 399 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would like to see them protected so that they may be used by the citizens of this wonderful country for years to come.

Topic Question 2: Restricting the use of cars and, especially, off-road vehicles.

Topic Question 3: It helps us connect with our historical past.

Topic Question 4: Camping, hiking, backpacking.

Topic Question 5: Parties of 8 or less. Recyclable containers which are packed in and packed out. Campfires should be completely extinguished when leaving.

Topic Question 6: Kept to a minimum.

Correspondence ID: 400 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: climat change

Correspondence ID: 401 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 7: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 402 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Correspondence ID: 403 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: to keep it truly wild

Topic Question 2: off limits to vehicles

Topic Question 3: preservation of the world

Topic Question 4: hiking, low-impact camping

Topic Question 5: no campfires, groups less than 6, bear-proof canisters

Topic Question 6: with total groups less than 6 OK, stock trips minimal impact (small number of animals)

Topic Question 7: resist allowing vehicles or large groups/commercial

Topic Question 8: not sure

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 404 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 22:04:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protection from exploitation. Preservation for future generations.

Topic Question 2: Limiting commercial exploitation. Allowing only non-mechanized access.

Topic Question 3: Ability to explore the wilderness and preferably to camp and enjoy the environment. This would not rule out some accommodations for the handicapped - e.g. some well-groomed trails suitable for wheelchair access.

Topic Question 4: Important - hiking, picnicking, and camping. Inappropriate - golf, down-hill skiing, off-road RV-ing.

Topic Question 5: Limited access for larger groups - e.g. Scout Troops. Common-sense food policies to prevent wildlife conflict incidents. Campfire-Free zones in ecologically sensitive areas.

Topic Question 6: This should be regulated, limited, and controlled, to prevent abuse.

Topic Question 7: Interference with natural controls - e.g. fighting brushfires, should be limited. The environment should be protected from destruction by the people, not vice-versa.

Topic Question 8: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for

emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 405 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks encompass hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine High Sierra country, of which more than 90% is designated wilderness. Right now, the NPS is preparing a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Your comments will help ensure that this plan preserves and protects these natural lands while providing opportunities for appreciation of the solitude and primitive experience it offers.

Topic Question 2: he Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3:

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. It is essential for us to preserve that which we didn't create since it provides fundamental benefits to us and to all life on earth. We are truly all one. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: Activities that complement our stewardship of this fragile earth that we inherited from our creator. Activities that show respect for all life forms, complement the ecosystem and maintain balance of the habitats of all life forms, including human beings. Activities that destroy ecosystems, put fragile systems at risk for such limited pleasure as off road biking or jalopy racing should be restricted in this environment. Better to build off road pleasure parks, than destroy that which we cannot create.

Topic Question 5: Again, all such activities need to respect this special and protected life eco system. Parties can always happen in environments that won't risk their destruction. For example we now have skate board parks, and motor cross events at universities, special recreation areas that are constructed for that purpose.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services have successfully partnered with the National Park and Forest Service for decades. That partnership needs to include oversight of the commerical partner.

Topic Question 8: Any particular area that is threatened with extinction of species or habitat due to over use or predatory use should be supervised by our National Park and Forest and Monument Service to maintain the highest compliance with our goal of stewardship of these priceless treasures that must be preserved for our enjoyment, education and ability to honor all life to pass on to our grandchildren and great grandchildren.

It will always be true that people with short term goals of gain will fail to perceive the inherent value of our National Parks, National Forests and National Monuments. Let us persevere to keep our stewardship of our national treasures ever present to guide us in all we do.

Thank you for all you do to preserve, and protect our wilderness areas.

Correspondence ID: 406 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 22:06:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have concerns about reducing the funding to the park for maintenanc. I believe that we need to keep up our CDf presence in the region and to protect our natural resources for future generations to come.

Topic Question 2: I believe that taxes on the cars of California should go to help pay for park up keep. I beileve that the super rich should pay for their fair share of taxes including oil companies, gas producers, and any other polluting agency that destroys our national parks with man-made substances.

Topic Question 3: Having nature unspoiled is every human being's right to experience. I went to Sequoia, Kings, and Yosemite National Parks every year when I was a boy and they still hold a sacred place in my heart for their ability to inspire awe, humility, and greatness in our landscape. We went hiking every trip for each and every day to experience nature at human speed

with our own eyes which is something every Californian deserves.

Topic Question 4: Single cars should not be allowed in to the parks. Using natural gas buses with open air tops would create less CO2 and allow those there to appreciate the landscape. I believe that cameras should be allowed for those to record their memories. Trash needs to be kept to a minimum inside parks and should be kept to a few areas as to reduce wildlife incursions on human hotels and cars. People should not smoke or leave cigarette butts everywhere.

Topic Question 5: Parties should be kept to 6 or less and each group should have to register with the park as they enter. There should be a community feel to each campground and or hotel to keep it clean and it is not cleaned then those people should not be allowed back to enjoy the park if they can't keep it clean. All food should be kept at hotels or in bear proof containers to minimize bear human interaction. Campfires should be enjoyed in small groups but need to be closed down by 10 PM each night.

Topic Question 6: I think that guided hikes are better for being able to monitor people in the park and could be used for outdoor education, college internships, and or Americorp volunteers for monitoring.

Correspondence ID: 407 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have hiked in these parks often. They should be held as untouchable natural treasures, with no more impact than hikers, horse packers, climbers, and other non-mechanized recreational, educational, and scientific uses.

Topic Question 2: Please see final comment.

Topic Question 4: See Q 1

Topic Question 6: These are okay, held to a minimum. Commercial food and lodging, however, should be banned.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Correspondence ID: 408 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 22:08:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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character of the land.

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Correspondence ID: 409 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I want to make sure that CA's treasured wild places remain a top priority. After the state government made the decision to close so many parks, I fear that Sequoia and Kings Canyon will also be considered for private ownership and Lord knows what else.

Correspondence ID: 410 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 22:10:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned that you protect the wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Topic Question 2: Enforcement of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Topic Question 3: It's important to me that wilderness be protected and preserved.

Topic Question 4: I consider off-road vehicle use and cattle grazing inappropriate activities in wilderness.

Topic Question 5: Human impacts should be kept to a minimum. Food storage should be secure against bears. Everyone entering wilderness areas should receive information about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Topic Question 6: I think commercial services in wilderness areas should be kept to a minimum.

Correspondence ID: 411 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Though Sequoia/Kings Canyon is, of course, much less crowded than Yosemite, there is way too much traffic. Given the relatively simple network of main roads, a shuttle service would be a great way to reduce traffic.

Topic Question 2: I don't think that it would be unreasonable to require permits for motor-vehicle use of the many dirt roads as a way of reducing crowding and limiting the impact on wildlife and vegetation. It would be much more pleasant to use the roads on bike, horse or on foot if one knew that motor traffic was better controlled. You would also save a lot on annual repair and maintenance.

Topic Question 3: We love to spend time in the wilderness, but it's most important to just know that it's there, whether it is used or not. Forests are often called the lungs of the planet and the magnificent trees of Sequoia exemplify that as do few other places. An emphasis on the mitigating effects of the forest on climate change could be more easily grasped in Sequoia than in most places.

Topic Question 4: Anything quiet and peaceful. Non-consumptive and non-destructive of the wilderness environment. I like cars and motorcycles and 4x4s and airplanes, but there are places where their use is appropriate; not in the wilderness.

Topic Question 5: I personally don't like large groups, but if they can enjoy the wilderness in a quiet, non-destructive way, then I don't want to limit their experience. I do feel that it's appropriate to limit group size on trails and in campgrounds.

Topic Question 6: If those activities can be conducted with respect for nature, then it's okay with me. I really feel that fees paid to you by commercial operators of all kinds should be substantial, much more than you currently make.

Topic Question 7: Limit vehicles. Limit numbers on trails. Maintain trails so that damage to nature is minimized, not to coddle hikers.

Topic Question 8: All of them. Wilderness is special and must be preserved above any commercial considerations.

My wife and I just spent a week in Sequoia and Kings Canyon, stayed in a cabin in Grant Grove, hiked, drove around too much. We have camped at Bear Paw and in the back country and have enjoyed a wild cave tour of Crystal Cave that was fantastic. I think that the cheesy touristy crap at Grant Grove and Cedar Grove, etc., is not befitting a place of such natural grandeur. Nobody's experience will be diminished if they aren't able to buy Chinese wampum and over-priced bad food.

Correspondence ID: 412 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The National Park Service is only accepting online comments through its own form. Click here to submit a comment. You can use the following sample comment:

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Topic Question 2: Using more of our tax money to support this vital resource.

Topic Question 3: That we live in harmony with our surroundings, that we only compliment nature and that our footprint is light.

Topic Question 5: 20 max

Correspondence ID: 413 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: All the trash humans leave behind.

Topic Question 2: Recycling bins and strict fines for littering.

Topic Question 3: Being out in the wilderness is part of every humans natural instinct, it's important to keep it clean though.

Topic Question 4: Camping, small camp fires, hiking, bird watching are all appropriate. Smoking, shooting, and littering are all inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: I think they are all fine as long as the are being responsible.

Topic Question 6: I think they are great!

Topic Question 7: I don't have much of an opinion for this question.

Topic Question 8: All the wilderness is special.

Correspondence ID: 414 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 22:15:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 415 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: Prohibit logging and other commercial activities anywhere near the parks esp wilderness areas

Topic Question 3: Wilderness use is good for the soul but its also important for the air we breathe and water we drink. Its also essential to preserve wilderness for future generations

Topic Question 4: No fly overs from small planes or helicopters. No snow snow mobiles under ant circumstance

Topic Question 5: Group sizes should be limited. Campfires do present a problem. They are nice but generally not essential

Topic Question 6: I think they're OK...it introduces more people to the joy of wilderness

Topic Question 7: If numbers need to be limited to preserve wilderness or areas need to be closed all together from time to time that's fines.

Topic Question 8: all wilderness areas warrant special consideration.

Correspondence ID: 416 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Preservation of the two parks.

Topic Question 2: Can't take any plants, animals outside of the park. Have buses to take people around the parks, less pollution by cars.

Topic Question 4: camping, hiking, horseback riding, and painting or photography.

Topic Question 5: good storage places because of bears and cleanup campfires.

Topic Question 6: They are very important.

Topic Question 7: They are important.

Correspondence ID: 417 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 22:26:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Population, logging, development

Topic Question 2: Make them National Parks. Draft legislation that prevents logging of old growth by logging industry.

Topic Question 3: They represent the natural beauty of California. It really doesn't need to have utility to be important. But with population growth, it is nice to have the wilderness to escape to when one lives in an urban environment.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and camping is appropriate. Ski-ing, Motorized vehicles (unless they are solar-powered) is not appropriate. Logging is not appropriate. Using wilderness to grow marijuana is not appropriate. Hunting is not appropriate. Motors running to keep RVs lighted is inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: The size of a party should be limited. Campfires and food storage is fine as long as it is low-impact and fines levied to those to leave the place trashed.

Topic Question 6: These groups should be limited in size and frequency.

Topic Question 7: Maintenance of campsite, monitoring of noise levels, number of vehicles, no running motors!!!

Topic Question 8: Any site that attracts large number of tourists/visitors needs special attention and management.

Salmon streams are especially important. Do not allow agriculture and their waste overflow affect these rivers and streams.

I have really nothing to add except to say that there are more and more people using the wilderness for recreation. Increase the entrance fees to these parks to keep the riff-raff away.

Correspondence ID: 418 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: that it will be spoiled by motorized vehicles and habitat destruction

Topic Question 2: foot and animal traffic only

Topic Question 3: quite and solitude

Topic Question 4: hiking, fishing, xcountry skiing are ok...noisy orv riding logging and destructive uses are not

Topic Question 5: all should be allowed within a reasonable scale. Fires prohibited during high fire danger times

Topic Question 6: allowable on a reasonable scale that doesn't exclude non commercial users

Topic Question 7: not sure what this question means

Topic Question 8: ALL

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Correspondence ID: 419 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These priceless and ancient treasures cannot never be replaced.

Topic Question 3: Conservative use with the ecosystem kept first and foremost as a priority.

Correspondence ID: 420 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is threatened by inappropriate uses like grazing. it is not protected well enough from all forms of improper use.

Topic Question 2: Keep out anybody would won't respect the current designation and use requirements.

Topic Question 3: It recharges my batteries. it gives me someplace to look forward to visiting. It has given me wonderful memories.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate non motorized travel. No bicycles.

Inappropriate grazing rights. Permanent structures.. snowmobilers

Topic Question 5: All of them should be proper regulated. Current regs are fine

Topic Question 6: I think it is appropriate if restricted to prevent damage and overuse.

Topic Question 7: Not my field.

Topic Question 8: Keep snowmobilers out.

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Correspondence ID: 421 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: This is a national treasure needs to be protected for all and future generations.

Topic Question 2: Minimize roads, any development and allow for people to experience the healing and creative power of nature.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness use and recreation is necessary for all people to enable us to replenish and be able to fully contribute to the country and world.

Topic Question 5: Groups should be kept to a reasonable size so that the impact on the environment can safely adjust to the level of contact. That way wild life have a chance to survive without being disrupted.

Correspondence ID: 422 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 22:32:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 423 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 22:36:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that wilderness in Sequoi and Kings Canyon National Parks will not be preserved and protected as it should be.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness must be preserved and kept pristine but should be open for responsible recreational pursuits that don't hinder its preservation.

Topic Question 4: Camping and hiking are appropriate in wilderness. Partying is usually inappropriate due to the inhibitions and non-attentiveness that is associated with it.

Topic Question 5: Party size should be small enough where noise pollution won't disturb the animals. Campfires are fine as long as it is not during a dry season and trees are not being felled to be burned.

Topic Question 6: I believe they are a great way for people to safely experience nature. There should be strict guidelines to ensure that the wilderness is preserved as it is though.

Topic Question 7: No logging or opening of wilderness to private interests.

Topic Question 8: Wilderness where endangered or threatened species reside should have stricter regulations protecting the species from human encroachment.

Correspondence ID: 424 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they be kept from too much development and pollution (mainly air).

Topic Question 2: Reducing air pollution and cutting back on logging.

Topic Question 3: Having natural places of beauty in the world to visit and see.

Correspondence ID: 425 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 22:39:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would like to see the wilderness areas in and around King's Canyon and Sequoia preserved in its natural state. Any additional intrusion of development or other exploitation of the wilderness only degrades this important cultural and natural heritage. As habitats are divided and diminished the sustainability of species becomes threatened.

Topic Question 2: No logging, no range animals, no mining, and serious efforts to undo the degradation that these uses have created.

Topic Question 3: Hiking, camping, backpacking in scenic areas, away from traffic and congestion, noise and the other emotional distractions of urban life.

Topic Question 4: Snow mobiling or other off road vehicles are definitely inappropriate--anything involving a motor.

Topic Question 5: Definitely bear safe food storage, and in wilderness as such, probably no campfires at all. There are portable stoves that are much less likely to cause forest fires.

Topic Question 6: I think that these are okay, and in fact, may be beneficial in that those with little wilderness experience not only have an opportunity, but are there under the supervision of a responsible party.

Topic Question 7: Controlled burns make a lot of sense, despite what I grew up with about all forest fires being bad. (I had a Smokey the Bear hat...)

Topic Question 8: Watershed and wetlands.

I would like to thank you for the work that you do protecting this priceless heritage. The vision of people like Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir make it possible for us today to find renewal in wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 426 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 22:41:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As you prepare a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan for these areas please make sure that they remain wild

and natural with access limited to preserve their nature and provide habitat for the creatures that live there now. Thank you.

Topic Question 2: I have no solutions. You have an important and large undertaking and I appreciate anything you can do to continue to preserve the little wilderness left in our land.

Topic Question 3: A place to go for solitude, peace, to sit in nature and allow it to heal the stress created in our daily lives. I am happy to share it quietly with other who love a natural setting.

Topic Question 4: To me, any ATV use, mountain bike race, this type use that tears up the terrain and destroys the quiet is inappropriate. Overuse of any activity is disruptive. Camping, rock climbing, all activities need to be limited to a level that allows the terrain to thrive.

Topic Question 5: Campfire use needs to be determined by what is healthy for the wilderness and those who are breathing in the air of the wilderness. If too many campers build too many fires to the point of choking off clean air, this needs to be prohibited. Perhaps decided on day to day conditions. Food storage requirements should be established to prohibit wild life from obtaining the food. These requirements should be sent with the camping reservations, posted at the check in and firmly enforced.

Topic Question 6: I dislike commercial services in the wilderness, however I do realize that this allows people to experience the wilderness who would otherwise not be able to do so. Surely hiking does not need to be guided. And I think it is when the commercial groups are trying to make a living on it that the climbing/mountaineering becomes over crowded. I sometimes find myself resenting the space these groups take up when I am in an area near them.

Correspondence ID: 427 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My primary concern is that the elected officials will attempt to sell off America acre by acre beginning with our National Treasures, our parks. Our parks define America. It is a real shame that the folks in power are so stupid and irresponsible.

Topic Question 2: Convince the folks on power that our parks bring in more revenue as parks and not as yet another highrise on the land, or worse yet, a highrise belonging to a foreign power.

Topic Question 3: With the pollution and congestion, our parks are the only sane peaceful places left. With the overcrowding, we have only succeeded in pushing more and more species to struggle until they are no more!

Topic Question 4: Nature hikes and tours of the wildlife and all the beauty the moment has to offer

Topic Question 5: As long as the parties, groups remain the guests and the wildlife are the owners, I see no problem with it. To insure proper food storage, the bins should be provided and their use mandatory. Campfires should only be permitted where the land has been cleared to insure that all campfires are friendly fires

Topic Question 6: 100% all for them....key word..."GUIDED"

Topic Question 7: One set of rules for everyone, no exceptions! Proper management and controls create jobs. If I wasn't so old I would consider it. Who wouldn't love a job in a park.

Topic Question 8: Natural migratory paths, corridors and wetlands. Again, people are the guests and I think under proper controls, the animals wouldn't care if we watched them do their thing!

I am very concerned for America in general. We are not in a good place and the decisions being made are not in the best interest of the country as a whole. The folks in power keep wanting to do the wrong thing. They fight change and change is what we need. I can't recall who said, "don't fix what ain't broke" and/or "if you suddenly find that nothing is working, simply go back to when it was!" Keep up the good fight, you are doing a great job!

Correspondence ID: 428 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My primary concern is that the elected officials will attempt to sell off America acre by acre beginning with our National Treasures, our parks. Our parks define America. It is a real shame that the folks in power are so stupid and irresponsible.

Topic Question 2: Convince the folks on power that our parks bring in more revenue as parks and not as yet another highrise on the land, or worse yet, a highrise belonging to a foreign power.

Topic Question 3: With the pollution and congestion, our parks are the only sane peaceful places left. With the overcrowding, we have only succeeded in pushing more and more species to struggle until they are no more!

Topic Question 4: Nature hikes and tours of the wildlife and all the beauty the moment has to offer

Topic Question 5: As long as the parties, groups remain the guests and the wildlife are the owners, I see no problem with it. To insure proper food storage, the bins should be provided and their use mandatory. Campfires should only be permitted where the land has been cleared to insure that all campfires are friendly fires

Topic Question 6: 100% all for them....key word..."GUIDED"

Topic Question 7: One set of rules for everyone, no exceptions! Proper management and controls create jobs. If I wasn't so old I would consider it. Who wouldn't love a job in a park.

Topic Question 8: Natural migratory paths, corridors and wetlands. Again, people are the guests and I think under proper controls, the animals wouldn't care if we watched them do their thing!

I am very concerned for America in general. We are not in a good place and the decisions being made are not in the best interest of the country as a whole. The folks in power keep wanting to do the wrong thing. They fight change and change is what we need. I can't recall who said, "don't fix what ain't broke" and/or "if you suddenly find that nothing is working, simply go back to when it was!" Keep up the good fight, you are doing a great job!

Correspondence ID: 429 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 22:44:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 430 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 22:47:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it remain protected and unspoiled for future generations.

Topic Question 2: Access limitation, limited permitting, limited traffic

Topic Question 3: That it remain whole within it's system whether it's visited or not. That no areas or ecosystems within it break

down.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, climbing, camping, backpacking Motorized vehicle use, hunting, harvesting.

Topic Question 5: Bear canisters, groups should be 12 or less, campfires allowed only in non wooded areas.

Topic Question 6: In limited fashion, they are OK. Llamas do less damage to the trail.

Topic Question 7: Safety and training classes, search and rescue classes and training is OK, with limited equipment and supply toting.

Topic Question 8: Areas near streams, ponds and lakes, prominent nesting or breeding areas, areas where tree growth is regaining ground after a fire, etc.

This area is near and dear to my heart from having visited since childhood.

Correspondence ID: 431 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As with many wilderness areas, I worry about the impact of too much humanity impacting the wildlife and natural landscape.
Topic Question 2: Making sure that lawmakers budget the financial resources to maintain these wilderness areas as intended.
Topic Question 3: The natural landscape. Trees, birds, animals, water, trails, PEACE and QUIET. I do not want Disneyland in our wilderness.
Topic Question 4: Ranger education about what the wilderness contains, is about. No disneyland activities, motorized playthings, noisy machines...etc. Wilderness is about embracing what is already there, not bringing in our own diversionary toys.
Topic Question 5: Small enough not to disturb the wilderness experience. No thoughts on the last two.
Topic Question 6: o.k. only if led by park service employees. Not private enterprise. The latter has no real stake in preserving & protecting what is there. The Park Service does.
Topic Question 7: ?
Topic Question 8: All wilderness and it's resources warrant special consideration to preserve them from exploitation from commercial enterprises and thoughtless people.

Correspondence ID: 432 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Topic Question 2: Strategies to protect the wilderness could include disallowing growth of businesses and industry into the areas needing our protection, plus Education of the public in respectful use of the land, and Forestry service to enforce the regulations needed to protect them.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: Selective camping and nature studies by individuals and small groups would be appropriate. Inappropriate activities would be hunting and off roading out of assigned areas for vehicles. The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use.

Topic Question 5: Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 6:

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 7:

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 8:

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Thank you for all you are doing to protect our natural wilderness areas!

Correspondence ID:	433	Project:	33225	Document:	39967	Private:	Y
Outside Organization:	Unaffiliated Individual						
Received:	Aug,24,2011 00:00:00						
Correspondence Type:	Web Form						
Correspondence:	Topic Question 3: Being in the peace and quiet of wilderness lands and hearing its sounds are very important and should be safeguarded. Having safe and maintained trails that are well marked are important.						

Topic Question 4: Camping, climbing and hiking and fishing seem appropriate. Having other areas designated for quiet activities like Frisbee throwing or volleyball or horseshoes is appropriate if space presents itself. No pets allowed. Anything that uses a motor or that would foul the air or water or rip up the landscape, like dirt bike racing, motorcycles or snowmobiles should be prohibited. And absolutely No timber logging.

Topic Question 5: Campfires only when and where deemed "safe". Groups no larger than 12, and no loud, raucous behavior and drinking, and no loud music to disturb the peace of others. There should be a curfew of 9:00pm on noise.

Topic Question 6: Not sure, but it seems like this could be permitted in small, regulated amounts, as long as they are "green and clean" with their activities and don't disturb others. The key point should be in providing the public safe and sustainable ways to learn about and enjoy the wilderness.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID:	434	Project:	33225	Document:	39967	Private:	Y
Outside Organization:	Unaffiliated Individual						
Received:	Aug,24,2011 00:00:00						
Correspondence Type:	Web Form						
Correspondence:	Topic Question 1: the total destruction of the ecosystem and the trees from logging and other human activities						

Topic Question 2: Conservation...no logging, or development in the region

Topic Question 3: It is where we came from...it is our defusing spot from the rat race of this society. It allows us to regain our humanity and keep our sanity for it is a natural place of release from societies established life. It enables us to reconnect with the source of our being. When we destroy this wilderness area then this space-ship earth will become uninhabitable.

Topic Question 4: its good for camping, hiking, canoeing and shouldn't be used by automobiles or mobiles of any kind. No development or large recreational institutions should be allowed. No hunting, trapping..educational conservation for the younger generation should be encouraged

Topic Question 5: No big organizational facilities or camping or lodges groups should be permitted because this leads to the inroads for bigger development/developers to move in

Topic Question 6: I am against large commercial services because it paves the way for even bigger endeavors and tampering with the wilderness. Raise fees and provide park services the manpower to provide these events. Once private companies enter the woods, bigger companies follow which leads to more human trampling of the wilderness. Wilderness means wilderness, natural, nature not commercial human activity

Topic Question 7: Fund the parks or conservation corps to maintain trails, camps sites, showers, litter and to enforce the protection laws. No logging, clear cutting or big commercial/industrial endeavor should enter the wilderness. Raise fees, taxes on cars, or other fees to enable the department to do its job but dont give it the power to lease land to private enterprises, The wilderness should be wilderness for the people by the people and not by corporations of big private entities

Topic Question 8: They all warrant special consideration for we are quickly depleting all wilderness areas with human contamination and commercial activity. Soon we will have none!!

Correspondence ID: 435 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Maintaining them as National Parks and keeping as much of them as possible as wilderness areas, and not allowing off-road vehicles (or snow mobiles) in the parks.

Topic Question 2: Park Service funding for rangers to enforce the rules

Topic Question 3: A natural heritage that we must guard for us and posterity

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities are hiking and camping (in restricted areas), and cross country skiing in the weather. Inappropriate activities are off-road vehicle activities and snow mobiles, and, of course, logging, grazing and mining (and hunting).

Topic Question 5: All in restricted, designated areas.

Topic Question 6: Ambivalent about this - may well lead to commercial exploitation of these natural treasures.

Topic Question 7: Park ranger enforcement of wilderness areas

Correspondence ID: 436 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 23:01:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The massive destruction that could happen if protection is weakened. Go to the east border of the Sequoia Nat. Forrest at the Golden Trout Wilderness where an old uranium mine is leaching uranium in to the water, poisoning the fish before going down stream in to the drinking water supply.

Topic Question 2: Expand the roadless rule. Prohibit anything in wilderness that was not on use there before year 1850

Topic Question 3: The undisturbed quiet. Cristal clear water, animals free to roam in their own home

Topic Question 4: Appropriate; hiking, fishing, backpacking Inappropriate; offroaders. 4 wheelers, commercial ranching+ logging

Topic Question 5: Small groups are ok, food in Garcia canisters or bear boxes, small camp fires in low wind ok

Topic Question 6: Small groups ok. large crowds create problems

Topic Question 7: Special protection from poachers

Topic Question 8: All wilderness must be given special protection from commercial destruction

Correspondence ID: 437 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 23:02:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: That it needs more protection from drug organizations operating in the back country,The forest rangers need more help, These are two of the most beautiful parks we have and we need to keep them that way.We need to protect the parks from all forms of mineral mining in, below and around the parks. Maintain clean air and water in the parks and protect the wildlife that exists there naturally, animal, plants, amphibian's, fish, insects that help the natural process of the forests.

Topic Question 2: Public awareness, support from us,

Topic Question 3: It is beautiful and gives us a peaceful place to go, away from the cars,masses of people, phones and is the best vacation.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities are hiking, camping, photography, limited fishing. Inappropriate is over use, off road vehicles.

Topic Question 5: There should be one youth group camp site for about 20 people with proper supervision, campsites should have only no more than two tents per site, parking spaces for two cars/truck max per site, 10% of sites should be for rv's. Food should be properly stored in a bear/wildlife proof containers, no food left out when nobody is there or everybody is sleeping and campfires are only allowed in camp provided safe pits. No open fires when backpacking.

Topic Question 6: A store should be provided for campers need while they are there, guided hikes, stock trips & climbing mountaineering should be allowed on a limited basis. Guided hikes can happen everyday, scheduled guided stock trips,climbing/mountaineering once or twice a week

Topic Question 7: not sure i can fit that all here.

Topic Question 8: All of it

Correspondence ID: 438 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: This area absolutely needs the finest protection we can give it. I have visited Kings Canyon on more than a few occasions and it truly is a natural wonder that people come from all over the world to see. This area of rare priceless beauty may be preserved to the best of our abilities. I leave it to the experts who hopefully have our and future generations best interest in mind. Please protect and preserve this treasure.

Correspondence ID: 439 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 23:08:11

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness Areas are as much a part of America as the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness Areas deserve just as much protection for the benefit of present and future generations. It would be a tragedy to see them disappear.

Correspondence ID: 440 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.24,2011 23:08:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: These parks are our national treasures, for all to respect, care for, and preserve for all the wildlife and plant life and for future generations of humans to do the same. I would like to see these parks preserved and nurtured.

Topic Question 2: Keep aerial inspections going to locate and dismantle drug growing operations out of the parks. Minimize roads, use bus shuttles, maintain trails.

Topic Question 3: Keep guns out of the parks, so it's safe for all people. Recreation should be limited to low-impact activities, that do not disturb wildlife and plant growth, health, and reproduction.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, walking, observing, photographing, limited biking on paved paths, ranger talks, camping, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, spelunking are appropriate. Use of gas motorized bikes, guns in camping areas, illegal growing operations, partying, creating excessive noise and trash.

Topic Question 5: Party/group size: 10 maximum Food storage: In bear-proof lockers Campfires: None in med-hi fire danger areas or seasons. Also, fires could be extinguished by 10pm, so smoke does not disturb campers, and embers will not be a threat overnight if wind comes up.

Topic Question 6: Guided activities are fine.

Topic Question 7: Cut down dangerous trees near trails and campgrounds. Clear dry grass near campgrounds to prevent fire spread. Keep rangers at campgrounds to control behaviors of roudy humans. Explain w/ signs and verbal warnings of park hazards.

Topic Question 8: The areas where the Giant Sequoias live warrant special care and consideration. These living things need protection. They make up the most holy places on earth.

Correspondence ID: 441 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it is maintained as wilderness--no development or commercial exploitation.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Low-impact hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing.

Inappropriate: motorized vehicles, mountain biking.

Topic Question 5: The serenity of the space should be protected. We could do without campfires.

Topic Question 6: OK if it's consistent with a low-impact standard.

Correspondence ID: 442 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Correspondence ID: 443 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Sounds like your going to build some roads there. Why on earth would you do that? Build as little as possible. I don't see any need to develop anything.

Topic Question 2: Don't build any new roads. Don't develop anything, especially that which can't be returned to the way it is now.

Topic Question 3: It feels so good to get out there. Half because it's beautiful, half because it shows me in the strongest way that cities aren't the way life has to be. I couldn't be here doing the work I do if the wilderness wasn't there anymore.

Topic Question 4: Protecting/preserving and enjoying the wilderness is most appropriate.

Topic Question 6: Fine but there's no need to build them any infrastructure.

Correspondence ID: 444 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: There is so little old growth left that we must do all we can to preserve it.

Topic Question 2: Protect it! From people and pollution.

Topic Question 3: That it is here for my kids.

Topic Question 4: No impact hiking and restricted camping.

Topic Question 5: Camping ONLY in designated sites for parties of no more than 4.

Topic Question 6: NO!

Topic Question 7: Leave it the hell alone!

Correspondence ID: 445 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they are preserved so that my children and grandchildren can enjoy them and be awed by them as much as I have been. With more than 80% of California's forests already removed, every acre that we have left is precious.

Topic Question 2: A combination of low impact usage and natural resource management. These lands should not be used for monetary profit, as the profit gained from viewing California in it's natural state is beyond measure. It would be like cutting down a 100 carat diamond to make 100 1 carat diamonds- a total waste of a priceless gem.

Topic Question 3: To be able to safely visit, hike in, camp in, and learn about the wilderness. Wildlife should be maintained in its natural state and the forests and habitats preserved as best as possible.

Topic Question 4: Motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use, should be minimized but well maintained. The impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness should be limited to specific, small areas with the balance available to hikers and foot traffic only. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of ?Leave-No-Trace?.

Topic Question 5: Campsites, campfires, and large groups have their place in a public wilderness. There should be geographically limited areas for them. As much land as possible should have foot traffic access with small group camping.

Topic Question 6: The only in-situ commercial services should be non-profit with any proceeds going toward maintenance and upkeep of the park. Large groups of commercial tourists should be limited in geography. Other small group tours are OK as long as commercial interests are placed second to the citizen's rights and access to the parks.

Topic Question 7: In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum

extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the park. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 8: The big trees must be preserved! Even if we have to limit access to the trees. America can't wait 2000 years to grow more of them.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park.

Correspondence ID: 446 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 23:27:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 447 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Topic Question 3: In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 4: Camping, hiking and communing with nature.

Topic Question 5: Safe conditions.

Correspondence ID: 448 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 23:28:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it might be used for mining, logging, or other such activities that would destroy its resources that people go there to enjoy as is.

Topic Question 2: just say no.

Topic Question 3: It's where you get rid of the city and its environment. It's where you get back in touch with what is real, the earth that supports us. It's where you see your connection to the bigger picture, of being connected to all living things, interdependence.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, birding, camping, catch-and-release fishing, riding, education are appropriate. Inappropriate would be removing resources above or below the earth's surface, off-road biking, hotels/restaurants, sophisticated RV campgrounds.

Topic Question 5: Party/group size should be less than 10-12. Food storage should be protective of wild animals so then are not enticed. Campfires should be in an enclosure, like a ring or grill, of limited size.

Topic Question 6: Could be permitted with strict guidelines, background check on company/guides. Limit the number per season.

Topic Question 7: Assuming you mean management by the government, much like rangers in national parks.

Topic Question 8: Anything on endangered lists or species of concern or their habitat.

Correspondence ID: 449 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: There are really no words to describe the beauty and value of a wilderness area. To walk in one of these parks is to feel something deep and magic above and beyond the experiences of most folks' lives.

If these Parks and Forests are whittled away piece by piece we will lose something very special and primal that not only belongs to us but to the earth itself (or herself)...also, the more we chip, the more she will rebel is my feeling.

Topic Question 2: raise public awareness and understanding through advertising carefully in say the New York Times and New Yorker magazing... perhaps ask for funding to fight the opposing forces or to support the Park Service - a very admirable institution as I've known it.

Topic Question 3: to refresh the human mind which gets bogged down so easily in mundane trivial and souless pursuits unless reminded of our roots in nature...

Topic Question 4: don't have time to complete but am definitely opposed to ski mobiles and other motor vehicles in the parks... they are destroyers..

Correspondence ID: 450 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The wilderness needs to be protected. There is precious little wilderness left in California, and we have been enjoying the wilderness in these parks for many years.

Topic Question 2: No motorized vehicles, restrictions on camping, hunting etc.

Topic Question 3: Solitude, quiet, nature as it used to be.

Topic Question 4: hiking, limited mountain biking, limited telemark or cross-country skiing, birding, limited walk-in camping

Topic Question 5: no campfires, safe food storage

Topic Question 6: guided hiking ok, all other very limited

Correspondence ID: 451 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These wilderness areas are one of the few areas in California where we can escape from our very busy, noisy world, and reconnect with nature. Wilderness is also critical as an irreplaceable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is preserved for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. All of these things take the Wild out of our wilderness! Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of ?Leave-No-Trace?.

Topic Question 5: I think campfires in established fire rings, provided fire risk is low and wood is purchased, are acceptable. There should be very limited access for large groups, again, there are more developed areas available for these groups. Food storage should be in designated bear proof containers, and visitors need information on the dangers of food in other locations.

Topic Question 6: I do not think these things belong in Wilderness areas. There are plenty of opportunities for these activities in more developed areas such as Recreation Areas, National Monuments, and State Parks.

Topic Question 7: Wilderness should be WILD. Management should be geared towards minimizing the impact of human use. This means keeping trails well maintained so that hikers use them, keeping campgrounds as natural as possible, avoiding large groups, and designating off limit areas.

Correspondence ID: 452 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protecting to the maximum possible these wilderness areas.

Topic Question 2: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 453 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 23:33:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Some concerns I have are global warming which is harming some trees. Also budget cuts are closing some areas.

Topic Question 2: We need to make wilderness areas a priority of our state and federal governments.

Topic Question 3: I like to backpack and enjoy the wilderness. I also enjoy the animals and trees.

Topic Question 4: I think only hikers and backpackers. Horses, bikes and motor vehicles don't belong in wilderness areas.

Topic Question 5: I think group size should be limited to maybe 5. Campfires should be illegal. Not sure what you mean by food storage.

Topic Question 6: I view wilderness as getting away and into nature. So I don't want commercial services there. Guided climbing/ mountaineering would be OK.

Topic Question 7: I think trails should be maintained. I also believe fire is healthy for forests and shouldn't be managed so much.

Correspondence ID: 454 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 23:34:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: clear cut logging, illegal marijuana cultivation, ohv use, allowing people too close to the sequoias root systems, putting in any new roads.

Topic Question 2: removal of undergrowth and excess trees by controlled burning and/or selective logging

Topic Question 3: hiking, fishing, camping, back packing, climbing

Topic Question 4: appropriate: clearing of overgrown areas for fire control, hiking, fishing, camping, back packing, sight seeing, public transport

inappropriate: ohv, clear cut logging, mining, new roads, horses, mules

Topic Question 5: small groups only, campfires in low fire danger areas, bring your own wood. Bear cans for food storage.

Topic Question 6: no stock except for handicapped. guided tours ok.

Topic Question 7: forest management over complete fire suppression.

Topic Question 8: in the case of over population hunting should be allowed on a very limited basis

Correspondence ID: 455 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please help preserve America's natural spaces and ecosystems for future generations!

Correspondence ID: 456 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1:

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the

wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 457 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 4: Hiking,backpacking, photography, Not hunting, atvs.

Topic Question 5: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 6: No

Correspondence ID: 458 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That these areas shall remain largely wilderness areas.

Topic Question 2: Limiting mass and easy access and regulating all access.

Topic Question 3: Human impacts should be minimally visible in the backcountry. Safe trails - for hikers and for the environment they cross- are an example of allowable visible impacts. Campsites should be permitted so as to "disappear" into the environment.

Topic Question 4: Low impact hiking / camping.

Topic Question 5: In the backcountry, large groups (>4?) simply cannot have minimal impact. Bear resistant containers carried by backpackers, if they have been effective, seem appropriate. Campfire sites are the most visible human impacts in the backcountry and the consumption of firewood must be prohibited where it is in short supply (the high country).

Topic Question 6: The presence of a guide should not be a reason to allow large groups (see above). Otherwise, guides should be regulated to enforce minimal human impacts. They should clearly "set the standards".

Topic Question 7: Control access, assure trail safety and campsite site appropriateness, maintain ecological "purity", regulate "guides", train users in correct wilderness behaviors.

Topic Question 8: The high backcountry,

The following, authored by the Sierra Club, captures my opinions very well (as can be seen by the alignment between it and my concise comments above):

"Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages."

Correspondence ID: 459 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As a child, our family always vacationed in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park -- for a week each year. Sometimes my grandparents would be with us, as they had a great love of California's unique beauty and had actually climbed Mt. Whitney on mules, along with my parents after my father returned from WW II.

I am now 63 and still have vivid memories of these wonderful times.

Topic Question 3: It revitalizes the soul.

Topic Question 4: Camping, hiking, fishing, camp fire singing -- the normal stuff.

Topic Question 5: Food storage must be bear-proof, for their safety and ours. Campfires allowed if campers demonstrate a knowledge of proper fire management and how to correctly put out a fire. Party/group size -- don't know.

Topic Question 6: If California is unable to pay Park Rangers to provide these services, I would support VERY restricted use of commercial entities to do so. I never want to see "Welcome to McDonald's Sequoia National Park"

Topic Question 7: Sorry, I'm not qualified to answer this one.

Topic Question 8: Water -- creeks, streams, rivers, lakes -- are all precious and must be protected fiercely.

Correspondence ID: 460 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 23:49:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 2: Keeping them wild. Limiting the types of activities that we engage in when in wilderness areas.

Topic Question 3: I am of the opinion that we need to preserve wilderness to ensure the ecological health and safety of the planet. Wilderness helps to leave some ecosystems intact.

As a therapist, I also value wilderness for my psychological health. Even when I cannot get there, I feel less stressed when I know it is "there". As a therapist I also know that my clients rate their times in the wild places as the times that help to sustain them. In our frenetic world, some of us value those places of quiet and contemplation.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, some camping (with stringent requirements), etc. Inappropriate uses of wilderness include off-road vehicles and trail bikes, horse back riding and similar activities which are hard on the flora and fauna of the wilderness. There are other areas where people can engage in that type of recreation. A wilderness is just that, a wilderness! It needs to remain wild.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited. Food storage practices must be stringent to protect the ecosystem i.e. as in the case of marbled murrelets, food scraps attract crows and jays which prey on murrelet eggs. Campfires may be okay in some designated areas, but, again, with stringent rules and safeguards.

Topic Question 6: Again, with guidelines this might be okay. Guided trips helps ensure that the wild can be protected as people are monitored. However, I am wondering if these services would not be better provided by Park Service Personnel. Why not pay

our govt. employees rather than a commercial enterprise which may not value the wild as much as they value their profits?

Commercial groups may be more likely to want to kill predator animals, ensure the safety of their clients by trying to make the wild look like a park, etc. When we enter the wild, we should know what we are doing and respect that it is wild!

Topic Question 7: That would depend on the area and it's special needs. Often, the wild should be left alone. However, there may be areas where controlled burns, similar to that employed by the indigenous people, could be beneficial.

Correspondence ID: 461 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Vandalism, fires, development

Topic Question 2: If the parks must be closed for monetary reasons, they should at least be protected for future generations

Topic Question 3: Wilderness protection is more important than recreation. But some contact with the wilderness is important for humans to understand their connections to the earth.

Topic Question 4: appropriate: Hiking, backpacking, some fishing, motorless boating, some swimming, photography, some camping or staying in lodges.

Inappropriate: Gasoline engine powered recreational vehicles, leaving anything you bring from civilization in the wilderness. Leaving trash or graffiti, making loud noises, harming or killing anything that lives there. Disturbing the soil or planting anything that could be invasive. Mining or cutting timber. If fires are allowed they must be contained and put out safely.

Topic Question 5: Large groups with a knowledgeable guide might be preferable to small groups that are not guided or educated in the wilderness.

Topic Question 6: I would prefer that they are under the direction of the State or Federal government, elected by the people that they serve. If they are private, they should be regulated by public policies.

Topic Question 7: I think rangers and Park Service employees can do a great job, if there are enough of them.

Topic Question 8: Yes. Some parts should be kept from any human interference.

Please protect what wilderness is left, for the health of the earth and everything on it.

Correspondence ID: 462 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is our duty to protect these treasures for generations to come.

preservation of our special fragile treasures is the right thing to do.

Correspondence ID: 463 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.24,2011 23:58:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be

needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 464 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:01:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please think of longterm strategy, not just quick fixes and exploitation of this magnificent, irreplaceable resource.

Correspondence ID: 465 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that Sequoia/Kings Canyon's wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations.

In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 466 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they not be opened for commercial logging. That they be protected as a wilderness park resource. That the sequoias especially be preserved as the treasure they really are. That the native habitat be preserved entire.

Topic Question 2: Legislation as needed in the judgement of objective professionals, entirely in the non-commercial interest of the American people.

Topic Question 3: Preservation of the natural habitat and environment, including the resident native species.

Topic Question 4: Only those compatible with preservation of the wilderness, very strictly interpreted.

Topic Question 5: Compatibility with the strict enforcement of preservation principles must be the only criterion. Otherwise it ceases to be truly wilderness.

Topic Question 6: Fine, if they are genuinely, conscientiously compatible with preservation principles, and achieve that outcome.

Topic Question 7: They should be closely administered by dedicated preservationists in the public interest. Accommodations and utilities, water and sanitary facilities, parking, vehicles, restaurants, stores should all be practically and aesthetically compatible with the wilderness preservation ethos.

Topic Question 8: Water components, flora and fauna must be maintained as native only. The sequoias especially must be preserved and maintained in pristine condition, free of commercial exploitation as lumber.

These are unique gifts to our country and humankind. Preserve them according only to the most high minded principles of wilderness preservation, as judged by objective professionals. Relaxation of this standard can only result in the loss of

irreplaceable wilderness. Clearly, the necessities of life must be provided, including appropriate utilities and amenities that genuinely contribute to a happy wilderness experience for visitors. For example, in Yosemite Valley, where four million visitors are accommodated each year, great effort is nevertheless focused on the goal of providing the best possible wilderness experience. Compromises have to be made under that burden of population, yet the on site professionals never lose sight of their devotion to preservation. That is a truly difficult assignment, but their dedication empowers them to persevere. I admire them for their focus. Just such professionals are on site in the areas we are discussing here. They must be supported by administrators at every level, and they must be given the police power to enforce the relevant laws.

Correspondence ID: 467 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please see comments below for my responses to these questions in letter form to you.

Topic Question 2: Please see comments below ...

Topic Question 3: Please see comments below ...

Topic Question 4: Please see comments below ...

Topic Question 5: Please see comments below ...

Topic Question 6: Please see comments below ...

Topic Question 7: Please see comments below ...

Topic Question 8: Please see comments below ...

First, I wanted to thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

As do many others, I believe wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to ME as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

All us people need the careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 that assures that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Certainly, the impacts of climate change will continue to affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate-change-induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

As you know, the Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. I think it is necessary that everyone receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, thank you for seeking maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 468 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that these incredibly beautiful, wild parks which I have explored and enjoyed are protected and preserved as they are and as granted in the Wilderness Act of 1964; they are needed for us and future generations, but also as habitats, as life space for countless wild species, they are needed as their forests retain the water and produce oxygen--they help us slow global warming. We must prevent these areas from getting polluted and remove invasive species, and not develop it commercially

Topic Question 2: Monitoring closely what is happening--follow the rules of the Wilderness Act; keep watching over the impact that people have in camp sites, fires--littering on trail. Insist on 'take out what you bring in' policy;

Topic Question 3: I need the untouched beauty, and peace and quiet to recover from the stress and racing in my "normal" (alas!) life. I need to heal my heart and soul, breathing fragrant fresh pure air, clear my lungs, enjoy a night sky not faded by artificial

(electric) light; swim in clean chlorine free water. Whatever facilitates and supports these goal will feel good.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, limited biking, mountaineering, climbing, camping, regulated fishing. Limited number (controlled) and small groups only.

Topic Question 5: food storage bins at major camp sites; small groups only; no campfires (pollution!), bring in your fuel and cook with it.

Topic Question 6: No commercial services inside, just at the edge of the park; no stock trips; guided climbing for a few; other wise it will be noisy and too much of nature will be destroyed (trampled, especially by horses and cows, or eaten by goats, llamas, etc. ; animals chased and eaten by dogs etc.

Topic Question 7: natural processes should be allowed to take place un-interfered; and the public should be involved in ALL decisions

Topic Question 8: water ways--I saw them destroyed by cattle that had trampled the slopes, wrecked the adjacent meadows (trampled, pooped on etc.)and trails --full of horse droppings, at times so trampled/destroyed that they were impossible to use by pedestrians; flies, and air full of dust as horses passed; also the terrain alongside the trail gets destroyed when horses pass hikers or the other way around

Correspondence ID: 469 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: none

none

Correspondence ID: 470 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:48:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: maintain it in pristine condition for hikers only

Topic Question 2: exclude motors, etc

Topic Question 3: we need it

Topic Question 4: hiking only

Topic Question 5: forget campfires. bear boxes are a good idea. groups limited to 8. no commercial guide services.

Topic Question 6: no.

Topic Question 7: no chainsaws.

Topic Question 8: yes. all of it.

Correspondence ID: 471 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I've been to these areas and camped in them. It's really quite beautiful and I would love to be able to take my son there to experience this unique wilderness.

I've been to these areas and camped in them. It's really quite beautiful and I would love to be able to take my son there to experience this unique wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 472 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: We need to protect the habitat of all the creatures who live there.

Topic Question 2: Limited access on foot only. No motorized access except for emergency use.

Topic Question 3: The wilderness is wild and should be enjoyed by all in ways that do not harm it.

Topic Question 4: Walking, hiking, camping that is not excessive, no campfires to prevent fires.

Topic Question 5: Visitor access should be controlled so it is not excessive. Food should be securely stored to avoid harm to animals who may look for campers food. Campfires should be prohibited.

Topic Question 6: Guided services are okay, number of visitors should be controlled so as not to overwhelm the natural resources.

Topic Question 7: Limit visitors and activities so that the wild areas and their residents are not harmed in any way.

Topic Question 8: All of it.

We need to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 473 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,25,2011 00:58:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 474 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keep Park Protected

Topic Question 2: Educate the Public--remind them of Muir's attitude of respect for the Park

Topic Question 3: This is God's land--this is where Peace and Beauty and Peace come together

Topic Question 4: No solely commercial ventures

Topic Question 5: reasonable

Topic Question 6: make sure they are non-profit ventures

Topic Question 7: I appreciate the delicacy of rangers==balancing safety with freedom

Topic Question 8: Keep wilderness Wild

Yosemite and Sequoia are our gift from the past to the future and John Muir is our only true saint.

Correspondence ID: 475 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 4: important and appropriate: communing with nature, being a human animal (not an animal of a human) in our natural habitat, peace, observation, non-motorized sports.

inappropriate: driving motorized vehicles, using radios, leaving garbage behind

Topic Question 5: Large groups create large noises. Food storage practices are fine. Campfires are nice, as long as they are under control.

Topic Question 6: good

Topic Question 7: good

Correspondence ID: 476 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I visited these wilderness areas as a child. I am opposed to logging, mining, and other industrial uses. I also oppose noise and destruction caused by motorized vehicles of any kind. I remember the deer and the redwoods, the chipmunks and the jays, and the wonderful lectures by rangers about the ecosystems of the parks.

Topic Question 3: Quiet and contact with flora and fauna.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and camping (without noise pollution by radios, tvs, etc.). No motorized vehicles outside of restricted areas for camping and parking. No industrial activities of any kind.

Topic Question 5: Groups should not be allowed to disturb the quiet of the wilderness.

Topic Question 6: OK within limits.

Correspondence ID: 477 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: i want futre generations to enjoy thei r beauty

Topic Question 2: have people sign pettions and testify to congress about protecting our wilderness resources

Topic Question 3: i want people to enjoy the beauty of the great outdoors for all eternity

Topic Question 4: hiking, boat rides nd birdwatching are proper activites for the wilderness drug dealing and starting fires are not

Topic Question 5: about 10 people is the for campfires and proper food storage

Topic Question 6: i think guided hiking,stock trips and mountain climbing are great ideas

Topic Question 8: no all the wilderness needs protecting

Correspondence ID: 478 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That logging companies, mining and other for profit companies will not be allowed to come in the log, mine,etc. These acres should be kept as Present Roosevelt wanted when he created the National Parks system.

Topic Question 2: No exploration for gas, oil or minerals of any kind will be permitted in the park. See statement below

Topic Question 3: That it be kept wild and for recreation. See statement below

Topic Question 4: No hunting of any kind or trapping, mining,or any such activities that that would tear up the land in any way, that fishing, camping with permits for camp fires when appropriate be issued, hiking, skiing in winter etc.

Topic Question 5: I don't think a group of people over 15 should be allow camping permits. Unless they want to purchase another camp site and permits for camp fires strictly enforced for all camp sites.

Topic Question 6: I think that commercial services that support such sports as hiking, guided stock trips etc would be ok if kept to a minimum. Other commercial services such as stores, gas, food stuffs should be kept off National Parks, unless limited to a specific area and if for profit a good percentage of the profits at the end of the businesses accounting period goes to the park service. Its only fair, our taxes pay for the parks and commercial services do not.

Topic Question 7: I think that the technologies of the modern world should be used as much as possible so that we don't have another Yellowstone fire, or miss use of these resources like selling timer rights to companies that don't care about the parks except to make money. If you need to sell rights like that don't make it a dollar, but make it 50% of what the companies expect to make off of the rights.

Topic Question 8: ALL OF THEM DO.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 479 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: these are fantastic parks we had the privilege to preserve almost a hundred years ago.

Topic Question 2: The US is not broke. Tax the wealthy!!!

Topic Question 3: These areas cannot be created again.

Topic Question 4: Camping Is a first priority.

Topic Question 6: keep food away from bears but let humans police themselves.

Topic Question 7: We NEED park rangers

Topic Question 8: All!!!

Correspondence ID: 480 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that future generations will be unable to enjoy the serenity and inherent beauty of these national parks if they are not protected correctly.

Topic Question 2: Wilderness management as well as a great deal of education will ensure protection. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land. Education will help with community understanding, because if we don't understand and appreciate something, how can we protect it?

Topic Question 3: It is important to me that wilderness use is controlled so that future generations can experience the beauty of our national parks as we know them today.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, photography, quiet activities where nature and wilderness can be enjoyed. Inappropriate activities are any activity where the wilderness is not respected.

Topic Question 5: All must strive to obey the leave no trace policy.

Topic Question 6: Limit these activities.

Topic Question 7: Ecological management and restoration is key, as well as education to guests about the reasons for doing restoration and management.

Correspondence ID: 481 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about possible expansion of private businesses within the parks, that may invite too many visitors for the facilities available

Topic Question 2: Maintaining strictly controlled use of fires, automobile entry and use therein. Mandatory attention to ranger guidance regarding usage and care for the park.

Topic Question 3: For the many years in which I camped at both parks, I have a wealth of memories that overcame the travails of the workaday burdens. I shared this with my family and friends to show the benefits derived from the wilderness experience.

Topic Question 4: Camping, hiking as individuals or with ranger guidance, kayaking along the river. I personally deplore the use of electronic devices such as TV, loud broadcasting of music, cellphones.

Topic Question 5: I think large groups can be advised about appropriate behavior as it affects other patrons of the park, again with ranger oversight. Park usage should be spelled out in brochures handed out at entry points.

Topic Question 6: I am opposed to commercial services such as you have described. National Parks are not businesses.

Topic Question 7: Ranger instructions should be available, if not mandatory, for guidance of newcomers to the parks. Those who do damage or threaten the welfare of other patrons should be dealt with a fine, just like a traffic infringement

Topic Question 8: Fires are the most dangerous events, to my knowledge.

Correspondence ID: 482 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that the Sequoia and Kngs Canyon area be protected and that those who visit there be educated as to what behaviors are necessary to preserve and protect the area in its natural state. Recently I am mmore concerned that our government is bending too much to the wishes of developers and other industries that are only concerns are one of bottom line profits.

Topic Question 2: A strategy that might be effective in helping to protect the wilderness is to restrict/prevent development of settlement, or industries the are in or in the surrounding areas. Another would be to educate the visitors that come into the area.

Topic Question 3: I enjoy visiting natural places and camping. It is important to me that I sleep when the sun goes down and that I awaken to the sun. It is also important that I have the opportunity to listen to the natural sounds of the environment and not to be disturbed by the sounds of man made devices.

Topic Question 4: Cross country skiing in some areas, camping, hiking, photography are appropriate activities in a wilderness area. Any activity to be considered must have a minimum of impact on the wilderness.

Topic Question 5: Food storage is truly an issue. I have camped in Sequoia and did have a bear experience that was a bit scary and that did not even concern food, only a bears curiosity about who was in the tent. As a young person camping with my parents in Yosemite I thought that the dump situation with the bears was a sad event. Changing the habits of the wildlife is a problem for the bears and the humans who might encounter a bear who is fearless of human activities and who are used to eating human food.

Topic Question 6: There must be a careful balance between the mentioed activities guided hiking and guided stock trips.(I think by stock trips that might mean that private industry would come in and run and guide these trips.) My concern here is that the money bottom line might interfere with wisdom of preservation, of the resources. If the ther was some way of controlling that human behavior and make it about education of humans about the wild areas, and the negative impact was kept to zero, it might be okay...is that even possible. We don't seem to know what we are doing until the damage shows up.

Topic Question 7: Natural balances must be maintained. Habitat for the wildlife, plant and animal must be protected. Any control must be minimal.

Topic Question 8: All of it.

Correspondence ID: 483 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: This area is one of the most beautiful on earth. It needs to be left alone. Any kind of industry including

recreation and hospitality will destroy it if given the chance.

Topic Question 2: No development.

Topic Question 3: That we're able to connect with nature.

Topic Question 4: Look but don't touch

Topic Question 5: Small groups. No boy scout conventions.

Topic Question 6: Small groups. At little impact as possible.

Topic Question 7: None.

Topic Question 8: Mineral King. Hands Off

This area needs special protection. NO Drilling, Mining or any other commercial activities. Sometimes you just need to put the planet before the economy..

Correspondence ID: 484 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Leave it wild as wild as possible.

Topic Question 2: Prevent development except as required for fire management.

Topic Question 3: Our wilderness is our national legacy for us and to future generations. It provides opportunities to enjoy recreation in nature.

Topic Question 4: appropriate: hiking, camping, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing, observation inappropriate: snowmobiling, downhill skiing, mining, logging, polluting, hotels, golf courses, vacation homes, road building, pipelines.

Topic Question 5: Provide managed areas for campfires.

Topic Question 6: Such services are okay provided they have minimal impact on wilderness.

Topic Question 7: Be as minimally managed as possible with exceptions for safety management.

Topic Question 8: Old growth forests, headwaters, areas with endangered species.

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Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 485 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 03:31:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I HAVE LIVED IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SINCE 1948 AND HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE REDWOODS OF THE SEQUOIA NATL PARK, KINGS CANYON NATL PARK, YOSEMITE, AND MANY OF THE OTHER NATURAL WONDERS WE HAVE IN CALIFORNIA ALL MY LIFE. I CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT ANY ACTIVITY ALLOWED THAT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE BEAUTY AND HEALTH OF THESE PARKS' ENVIRONMENT AND WOULD MOST PROBABLY IMPACT THE WILDLIFE AND PLANT LIFE I ENJOY WHILE THERE. I AM AN ARTIST AND TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS THAT LATER COME ALIVE ON MY CANVAS, BOTH OIL AND ACRYLIC. SO I REITERATE: PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW ANY ACTIVITY WITHIN THESE MAGNIFICENT AND PRECIOUS PARKS AND MONUMENTS THAT WOULD DESTROY ANY PART OF THEIR BEAUTY, WHETHER ANIMAL OR OTHERWISE. PLEASE HELP PRESERVE THEM FOR MYSELF AND MY GRANDCHILDREN WHERE WE HAVE PARTIES WITHIN THEIR GATES AND FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO COME.

Correspondence ID: 486 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Expanding the parks' shuttle services to reduce the carbon footprint of visitors.

Topic Question 2: Ensuring there's enough funding

Topic Question 3: Preserving beauty and keeping awe-inspiring landscapes pristine.

Topic Question 4: Activities that do minimal harm to the environment and the wildlife. Hunting should stay banned.

Topic Question 5: Current practices are fine.

Topic Question 6: I'm weary of private enterprises operating within the park.

Correspondence ID: 487 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 04:35:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there. I am very concerned that there continue to be places where nature, to the extent possible, is available without commercialization.

Topic Question 2: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Reducing the number of roads is also critical.

Topic Question 3: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Topic Question 4: I think anything making excessive noise, such as jet skis, is inappropriate.

Appropriate: camping, hiking, rock climbing, mountain climbing, pack trips.

Topic Question 5: Campfires: need to be monitored carefully due to fire danger. Strict rules and practices must be clear to campers and enforced.

Food storage practices: need to be protective of campers from wildlife.

Party/group size: decided by local rangers given the nature of specific wilderness. Might appropriately change with season, fire danger, etc.

Topic Question 6: As long as they are permitted and numbers limited, I think they are wonderful. However, ranger services are also important and I hope they will be funded adequately.

Topic Question 7: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Correspondence ID: 488 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 04:46:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 489 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that wilderness be preserved. I do appreciate all that the Park Service does to help the public enjoy the trails and campgrounds, etc. Many thanks!

Correspondence ID: 490 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 06:34:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Correspondence ID: 491 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is important to me that these and other wilderness areas be preserved in as close to a wild, natural state as possible while remaining accessible for low-impact, carefully regulated activities such as backpacking.

Topic Question 3: It is very important to me that wilderness remain places where people can obtain solitude and communion with nature in its most primitive and undisturbed state.

Topic Question 4: I think backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, and mountaineering are appropriate uses. I think most other activities, including mountain biking and hunting, should be banned.

Topic Question 5: I think it is good to set and enforce restrictions on group size, food storage and campfires. However, I think these restrictions should be based on an assessment of what an area can sustain without being degraded. For example, I think it would be appropriate for campfires to be permitted in low-use areas. I do not understand the requirement in some areas that all food be placed in bear-proof canisters where suitable trees are available for hanging food.

Topic Question 6: I would prefer that wilderness areas not be commercialized.

Topic Question 7: I think wilderness management should be based on the results of sound scientific research, including controlled experiments, whenever possible, and that the NPS should devote more funds to such research.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Correspondence ID: 492 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 07:05:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is most important to keep this a wilderness, pure from all forms of invasive intrusion....these are our nation's precious treasures....to protect and admire s they wee from the time we invaded this continent and starry Ed using it with no concern for what the earth gave us.

Topic Question 2: Keep government permits for big business out....save it for bikers....no off road vehicles...not construction....no campfires....pure and simple pleasure of place and space.

Topic Question 3: That there is no man made noise nor vehicles for rambling through the hills and dales.

Topic Question 4: Hi king alright, overnight.....no all terrain rumpus....

Topic Question 5: Groups of 4. No fires. Locked storage for bear protection so no one gets in conflict ith nature. No hunting...

Topic Question 6: Alright because this is monitored then and nature is protected.....

Topic Question 7: Just make certain there is no raping of the land.....people are safe....people can experience what it is like to

commune with nature.

Topic Question 8: Let people swim in the lakes if it is safe, kayak, no motors.....again not to ruffle the feathers so to speak of what is pure and simply nature at it's best.

If we do not ensure the preservation of the wilderness and we have left, the animals that reside in these terrains, we will be a lost civilization...as well as oxygen depends on this, too..we need nature to get back to our roots..our DNA is part of this element...this is what we must emphasize and enforce....protect our nation at its best.

Correspondence ID: 493 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 07:06:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 494 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 2: In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: Motorized activities of any sort are not compatible with Wilderness designation. Pack animals are not a part of Wilderness and should be prohibited. Hiking and backpacking are appropriate when conducted according to "Leave no Trace" principles.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited to 15. Food storage should be in approved bear cans only. Campfires should be prohibited in the alpine zone and near heavily used areas such as lakes and streams.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking and climbing are acceptable, as long as they conform to Leave no Trace. Stock do not belong in Wilderness.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 495 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 3: Preservation of last wild places.

Topic Question 4: No noise--in other words, no motor vehicles off-road.

Topic Question 5: the less the better.

Topic Question 6: as long as it's horse or foot traffic, fine.

Please preserve.

Correspondence ID: 496 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 07:39:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: It is VITAL to protect these areas. The future health of our planet and ourselves depend on it.

Correspondence ID: 497 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: In all instances I'd like to have more assurance that our public wilderness areas will be kept as wilderness and not mined, logged or otherwise exploited for the private gain. These regions need to be aggressively protected to prevent their incidental deterioration or complete loss before the advancement of "progress" and commercial development.

Topic Question 2: Wilderness resources need to be kept in public ownership and maintained and protected as a national asset. No rights or other permits for private use should be allowed to lessen this protection.

Topic Question 3: It's important to me that such areas of natural wilderness be preserved for the benefit of future generations and be open to non-destructive uses that allow people to experience and enjoy the natural environment.

Topic Question 4: Wilderness areas can sustain many intrusions by people without damage, and it is these uses which should be allowed. No activity that will damage the land in a permanent way can be tolerated. In general, this would mean that people could travel through such lands, hiking, camping, fishing, or hunting up to an extent that the area are able to recover from. No extractive uses could be sustained, and damaging uses (such as off-road vehicles) could be allowed on a very limited basis.

Topic Question 5: As outlined above, all uses must be carefully considered and limited to an extent that the area under consideration can recover from and sustain.

Topic Question 6: I am generally in favor of the maximum access and use that can be sustained over the long term without permanently damaging the qualities of the wilderness area that comprise its attraction.

Topic Question 7: A minimal amount of management should be guided by the principles of sustaining the wilderness areas in their natural state.

Topic Question 8: I think that all such areas warrant special consideration according to the individual aspects and pertinencies of each area considered.

Please do everything you can to preserve this world that we all must share.

Correspondence ID: 498 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that the wilderness will not be protected and think it very important that the wilderness be

maintained in its current state with as little additional development as possible.

Topic Question 2: We should raise taxes on the rich to make them pay more of their fair share of protecting this country. In addition, we should charge user fees to the hikers and campers that use the wilderness.

Topic Question 3: People need to enjoy and experience wilderness to understand how important it is to protect it. The protection of wilderness is essential, because the more wilderness we lose, the closer humans themselves come to extinction. There is a tipping point in the course of destroying wilderness and other life forms at which we put human existence in peril.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, Camping, Biking, Hunting -- if the wilderness is properly staffed with rangers and trails and hunting is properly controlled and monitored.

Topic Question 5: The wilderness area should be managed to control the total number of people allowed to be in a region at a particular time, and proper management of food, campfires, and waste should be a priority. Proper ranger staffing is essential.

Topic Question 6: Such activities are fine, so long as the services are properly licensed and taxed to ensure that the cost of managing their activities in the wilderness is paid for AND a portion of their profits is shared with the wilderness management authority. It is vital to appreciate that allowing commercial services in our parks and wilderness should be taxed in a manner that results in more than a "break-even" situation -- the parks/wilderness must profit and be enhanced by such activities or they should not be allowed.

Topic Question 7: Our park service and trained wilderness managers are more than up to the task. We should provide them with additional funding.

Topic Question 8: Yes, where there are endangered species whose existence would be imperiled further by human interaction, human access to their habitat should be restricted as much as possible.

Correspondence ID: 499 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I worry that the magnificent wilderness won't be available to me in my later years, never mind future generations.

Topic Question 2: To preserve the wilderness in Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks, I advocate restrictions on type of use--for example, no attempts to extract minerals of any kind, no diversion of water that flows into and through the wilderness, no waste sites in the wilderness or its watersheds (that is, areas from which water enters the wilderness). No logging. Minimal road construction.

Topic Question 3: What's important to me is that the plant and animals of the wilderness continue to exist in an environment altered as little as possible by human activities and the detritus that humans strew, such as garbage, exhaust fumes, machine noise, invasive plants and animals, and so on. I want for myself and for future generations to be able to visit and have a taste of that wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 500 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 08:00:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would like to ensure access to the back country for all wilderness enthusiasts, while preserving both the ecology of the parks and as much of their original unadulterated character as is possible.

Topic Question 2: Use quotas should be enforced for all wilderness users, but more significant limits should be placed on those users who have the largest impact on the parks.

Topic Question 3: The most important thing is that the environment remain as wild as possible. Generally speaking, roads and services should serve to limit the impact of more casual (and numerous) tourists, as opposed to facilitating the entry of more people deeper and deeper into largely unspoiled areas.

Topic Question 4: All powered travel (e.g., ATVs, snowmobiles, power boats, etc.) should be prohibited. I would favor more access to human-powered vehicles (e.g., mountain bikes) in limited areas currently designated as wilderness, but only where it would be possible to manage and control their larger impact. The primary mode of transportation should always be foot travel. Horses should be allowed, but again, only within a small portion of the overall wilderness.

Topic Question 5: No groups larger than 10-15 people should ever be allowed in the wilderness, but the maximum group size should also be limited by the carrying capacity of the specific region. Bear-proof storage lockers should be installed in more of the common campsites, and those who camp elsewhere below treeline should be required to use bear canisters. I think the existing campfire restrictions are about right in the wilderness areas, though there should be less burning allowed in concentrated canyons like Yosemite.

Topic Question 6: The (separate) quotas for non-commercial and guided parties should reflect the demand for each, but should always favor non-commercial access. Packers do have a long history in the wilderness and have built and maintained many of the trails currently open to their use. As mentioned above, they provide access to those who would otherwise not be able to enjoy the wilderness (e.g., disabled visitors). However, stock still have a much larger impact on the environment than do hikers (even when their impact is well-managed, which is not always the case). I would therefore favor limiting stock access each year to a smaller set of trails than is currently allowed, and then to rotate this set of trails throughout appropriate areas within the trail system (potentially even opening some areas currently closed to stock use). In this way, impacted areas would have time to recover from stock use without permanently closing them to stock users. Other wilderness users could also plan their trips for years when no stock would be present. Hiker quota reductions could also be made on such trails during stock access years.

Correspondence ID: 501 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it remain wilderness, with minimal intrusions.

Topic Question 2: No logging or other commercial usage.

Topic Question 3: That it stays that way, so that future generations can enjoy it just as it is.

Topic Question 4: Camping, fishing, hiking, etc. are all appropriate; logging,(except to cull dead trees,) off-road vehicles and commercialization are inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be determined by campground or other facility size; safe food storage practices should be emphasized and enforced, and the current campfire regulations should be adequate.

Topic Question 6: As long as they are kept small, and are unobtrusive; they DO help to keep visitors safe.

Topic Question 7: Manage for the health of the forest, and for the safety/enjoyment of visitors, and not for commercial interests.

Topic Question 8: Roadless/trackless areas should remain that way, or intrusions should be kept to a minimum.

Correspondence ID: 502 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 08:09:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 503 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I've been told that the NPS is preparing a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I hope that it continues to maintain what we still have of the wilderness around us, or maybe restore what is possible.

Topic Question 3: That it be available and clean. We have a few great opportunities to experience nature. These need to be maintained, lest we should lose them.

Topic Question 4: hiking, camping... many activities are appropriate, so long as they are thoughtfully done.

Topic Question 5: Each park is different. We need to be careful not to destroy the areas we visit.

Topic Question 6: These can be done thoughtfully, and can be mindful of the lands and of the other visitors.

Topic Question 7: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 8: Sequoia, Yosemite, and Kings Canyon National Parks are the ones that come to mind. I live in California.

Correspondence ID: 504 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Correspondence ID: 505 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: keep it wild.

Topic Question 2: prohibit non-appropriate activities.

Topic Question 3: its wildness and availability as a refuge

Topic Question 4: hiking is appropriate. motorized vehicles and cell phone towers are inappropriate

Topic Question 5: keep them small and light-impact

Topic Question 6: OK if the guides follow the rules.

Topic Question 7: no helicopters or motorized equipment; no new permanent structures

Topic Question 8: lakes, trails, vistas--all should be preserved and protected.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 506 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: About its preservation.

Topic Question 2: Outlaw any and all excavations by any corporation for profit. Leave it as we found it and plant more trees. Leave all wildlife alone.

Topic Question 3: Leaving nature to be free and prosperous and not destroying what the earth has created to ensure its survival.

Topic Question 4: Hiking. Appreciating the beauty of nature.

Topic Question 5: Campers should not be restricted to size but must be permitted and uphold the highest standards of respect and appreciation for the parks and land. Heavily fine and even arrest those that blatantly violate the laws.

Topic Question 6: I think it is a good idea ONLY if they are required to maintain the lands. Required to ensure its health and prosperity and again held to the highest standards of respect and appreciation for the land.

Topic Question 7: Like the BLM that abuses their power for greed? I am opposed to this. The land will take care of itself as long as humans do not destroy it. No agency should decide how to manage it only preserve it.

Topic Question 8: Every single area of wilderness should be treated the same.

Why is it so difficult to understand that preservation of the lands should be priority one. It is even more important than determining how we should enjoy it. Earth needs greater respect from people. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Support sustainability.

Correspondence ID: 507 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: i hope the damage from population growth and commercial pressure can be kept to the lower areas.

Topic Question 2: contain the damage to the lower elevations.

Topic Question 3: conservation for back packing .

Topic Question 4: hiking and camping.

i don't like bicycles, noise, or trash in higher country.

Topic Question 5: there are areas where parties would be appropriate. a user fee for oversight and clean up and limited duration.

Topic Question 6: i do not see a problem here as long as there is no damage to old trails. limited

licensing, like commercial fishing.

Topic Question 7: wardens and questionairs.

Topic Question 8: all of it is good. i hope any damge can be contained.

Correspondence ID: 508 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 08:30:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned about snowmobile usage.

Topic Question 2: Make sure wilderness permits are easily obtained, preferably at the trailhead.

Topic Question 3: wildlife, peace & quiet, pristine qualities maintained

Topic Question 4: Any activities that use gas powered equipment is inappropriate. Large groups of campers is inapproriate.

Topic Question 5: See #6. These people generally do not know how to shtt in the woods. I hate finding what they leave behind.

Topic Question 6: The guided horse trips are a nuisance. The guides tend to act like they own the place and that they have rights above us hikers/backpackers. Their clients tend to leave huge campfire rings and they use theose rings as a trash can, leaving behind garbage they could easily pack out - which attracts bears. Lots of horse crap on the trails is also not right.

Topic Question 7: All trails need to be hiked annually.

Topic Question 8: Campsites around lakes need to be kept clean.

Correspondence ID: 509 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 08:39:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and

ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 510 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 08:40:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Correspondence ID: 511 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The concern is the same I have all around the world. We are losing the wild at an exponential rate due to capitalistic practices.

Topic Question 2: Well, apparently laws aren't working they are completely in the hands of the government and we know what that is doing to the planet!

Topic Question 3: First and foremost wilderness doesn't need a reason to be saved other than that it exists and needs to exist not only in its own right but to sustain the live on and within it. Without a whole and healthy Earth we're doomed which frankly, is happening. Once you destroy or start the destructive ball rolling, the effects are devastating. Without a world filled with wild places we're totally doomed both physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate use of wilderness is the ethics of Leave No Trace. Obviously, therefore, no ATV activity of any kind or any other type of destructive activity should be practiced or allowed.

Topic Question 5: Small groups, proper food storage, whatever you take in take out (clean up after yourself!), and campfires that are burned down-don't leave lots of charcoal. Leave no Trace Ethics!

Topic Question 6: Minimally. Large groups as with all wilderness 'use' areas do create an impact on the land and animals. If we had more wilderness the over concern of this impact would not be as great but there are limited places and many people go to these areas, hence; impact. What the heck is a "guided stock trip?"

Topic Question 7: I'm not sure exactly what you mean.

Topic Question 8: Yes, all endangered areas such as the Redwoods or any other place that has diminished to such a capacity that its existence is rapidly diminishing.

My comments will do little to slow the destruction down. However, these words are the most important thing to listen to. Without a world filled with wild places what's the point???

Correspondence ID: 512 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protect the Earth at al costs.

Correspondence ID: 513 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 08:55:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That we keep it naturally in tact indefinitely!

Topic Question 2: We should have donation bottles (large water bottles) in just about every bus. establishment like restaurants, etc...-and have nature loving people like myself collect the money for you. Furthermore, if the U.S. Tax code is more geared towards taxing both the rich and Corporations, some of the revenue can be utilized to protect our wilderness.

Topic Question 3: That the natural wild life be sustained/preserved. And, that we can also enjoy the wilderness where it is designated to be safe in doing so.

Topic Question 4: Sight seeing is important. The feeding of the wildlife is inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: As long as they are required to clean up afterwards, I approve. As for the campfires, if it's high fire season then perhaps we ought to restrict them.

Topic Question 6: I really like this idea and perhaps it can help generate more revenue for you!

Topic Question 7: Landscaping maintenance is a must especially during high fire season! Cleaning trees that have fallen on the roads should be picked-up. And, the snow on the roads should be cleaned up as well. I think that the establishing of good customer relations with the public is a good idea-for example, if the local park rangers make it a point to establish some type of contact with the public is a good idea. Furthermore, how about you setting up donation bottles right by the cash registers of local bus. establishments for your cause?

Topic Question 8: Both the preservation of the natural habitat and preservation of all wildlife should be a priority!

Correspondence ID: 514 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 08:56:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 515 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that these parks may be open to corporate interests.

Topic Question 2: Declare them preserves, or refuges, anything that will protect them from corporate interests.

Topic Question 3: The wilderness is an important habitat for wildlife. It is the wildlife that must be protected.

Topic Question 4: No human activities actually, solely the protection of the habitat from human intervention.

Topic Question 5: The smaller the party the better.

Topic Question 6: The least amount of human activity, the better.

Topic Question 7: I think all activities that exist in the wilderness should be centered around protecting the environment and the wildlife that inhabit it.

Correspondence ID: 516 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 09:00:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 517 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 09:00:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I understand that the NPS is preparing a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I am concerned about wilderness preservation, to have a place to experience nature without development, preserving wildlife habitat, biological diversity, and high water quality.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land. The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages. Public education is most important. Ranger programs should be used to educate the public about protection of wilderness resources. The Park service should coordinate with schools to have ranger talks at schools to educate the children. Documentaries should be developed for broadcasting on PBS. Subjects do not have to be controversial. Important yet simple wilderness rules such as leave no trace can be taught and emphasized.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness use and recreation provides the only means to me to experience nature on its own terms, which helps me to keep perspective on life and serves as a reminder to re-evaluate my way of life as I live it. It refreshes and uplifts the spirit and so is more effective than anything to keep my mental and emotional health in balance. It provides peace and solitude found nowhere else. It is a window to observe living things in the wild and helps me to understand and appreciate ecosystems. Wilderness provides all these. There is no alternative. I have traveled to many places in the world. Wilderness is uncommon. We have a very precious resource. Wilderness use and recreation must not destroy the nature of the wilderness.

Topic Question 4: I completely agree with the Wilderness Act in generally prohibiting motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. It is also important to evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive

information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited. From personal experience and observations, large groups seem to generate a different dynamic and participants appear more likely to engage in behavior not conducive to the enjoyment of nature. Bear boxes at camp sites should be required. Campers should be educated about bear box use, and given forewarnings that food storage rule violations will be strictly enforced. There should be educational material on basic camp fire building and safety. There should be a rule against building fires with wet wood. There should also be education and a rule against burning camp garbage. Most garbage emit toxic fumes when burnt. People need to be educated about that.

Topic Question 6: These services are ok but should be limited in size and subject to the same permit process as individual users. Stock trips should be more limited as they have a heavier impact. I think stock trips should be allowed only to people who are physically in need of help for access to the wilderness. Able bodies should carry their own weight and perhaps arrange for food drops to minimize impact.

Topic Question 7: Rangers presence is key.

Topic Question 8: Roadless areas must be maintained as such.

Correspondence ID: 518 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 09:03:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 519 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 09:03:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keeping it wild, no development.

Topic Question 2: No permits for logging companies, no development

Topic Question 3: Keeping it wild

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, low impact recreation.

Topic Question 5: Quotas that are in place now are acceptable. No more though. Bear boxes should be required in established campgrounds. Campfires OK in established campgrounds if you bring your own wood, or forage for fallen wood I suppose.

Topic Question 6: Guided trips OK, although there should be quotas.

Topic Question 7: Rangers seem to manage parks well.

Topic Question 8: Keep it clean and undeveloped.

Campgrounds, the lodge are good for public access, but I wouldn't develop it any more.

Correspondence ID: 520 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The wilderness areas need to be maintained as such through all time, and even extended where possible. No development, no logging, no highways. Some part of this country needs to be kept wild.

Topic Question 2: Keep developers, loggers, and hunters out, support adequate fire control plans and resources, protect the wild waters that feed into wilderness areas.

Topic Question 3: Its existence, first, and the knowledge that I can go to a wilderness area and see nature as it looked before man despoiled so much of it in this country and the world.

Topic Question 4: Family and adult camping and hiking, reasonable fishing, occasional scientific studies. Drilling for oil, building structures and roads, creating disneyland-type areas are some of the totally inappropriate activities, as well as any kind of logging. It is important to support educating people about safe and sane camping practices too, so they don't go into a wilderness area completely unprepared.

Topic Question 5: small groups only, not more than ten persons, campfires only in designated safe spots, food storage via hanging bags from trees as any camper knows.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking and mountaineering are okay if not in the hundreds of expeditions a week. Small stock trips also okay. Keep it small, keep it appropriate to the setting, and keep major commercial interests out--this should be a small business type of provider only.

Topic Question 7: Manage for the protection of the area first, and stop trying to prevent any/all possible human injuries from accidents. Protecting idiots from themselves creates unwanted and unsightly structures, etc. in wilderness areas.

Topic Question 8: All of it, but especially areas where water sources exist.

Correspondence ID: 521 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of 'Leave-No-Trace'.

Topic Question 5: There should be strict, enforceable guidelines on these.

Topic Question 6: There should be strict, enforceable guidelines on these.

Topic Question 7: In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public

involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 8: The natural environment (trees, water, endangered species, animal habitat, etc.).

Correspondence ID: 522 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am most concerned that the natural wonder that amazes me when I go there will be compramisid. I am worried that my children will not have the awesome site of the trees and the nature that I have so enjoyed.

Topic Question 2: Leave things as they are. Please.

Topic Question 3: It is the envioronment and what it gives to us. The trees provide homes for the living creatures in these areas. The trees are decades old and cannot be easily replaced.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping,

Topic Question 5: Keep the food safe and locked up, do not pollute with trash, take it with you. Keep track of your camp fires, keep them contained, keep them small.

Topic Question 6: Th ese are important to keep us safe and show us how to respect nature

Correspondence ID: 523 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: If we don't protect the wilderness we lose more than "just trees", we lose the ecosystem that protects our water supply and we lose the critters that need dense, wild forests in which to live. We lose a part of our soul. Once we develop the wilderness areas they are lost forever and the negative impact spreads like a cancer.

Topic Question 2: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important. Education should play a huge part to insure that these areas are protected and that all of us are monitoring the proper use to prevent poaching and encroachment by those who would abuse and take for personal use what should be preserved for everyone.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Topic Question 5: Campfires have cause such massive destruction in recent years, I believe that they should not be allowed; you can't always assume that responsible campers will leave their camps clean and fires completely out. I think any group use should be registered and required to go through detailed training about how to use the wilderness without leaving a trace behind. Food storage practices should be in accordance with the bear-proof containers they use in Yosemite and anything carried in should also be carried out. Perhaps some education could be available about minimal resources within the area which could be used for food, such as berries, fish...but no hunting of big game and no excessive use of resources to threaten their extinction.

Topic Question 6: I think that well monitored commercial services could be a good thing for the wilderness areas. These people would be trained in the no trace left behind theory and could help protect the areas by being aware of poachers, drug growers, and others who should not be in the parks. The guides would have to be well trained and periodically re-certified.

Topic Question 7: It appears that natural management of resources does work...like letting fires burn naturally (with some kind of monitoring so they don't get completely out of control. No poisons or wolf hunts or kills should be allowed. Committees monitoring these activities should consist of all people who have a vested interest in the area including local ranchers and

environmentalists, park rangers and others who have a direct knowledge of what works and doesn't work in our national park system.

Topic Question 8: Water resources, protected by old growth trees which provide filtration and habitat for birds and other wild creatures, bugs and regeneration of trees. Clear cutting destroys more than just the trees and soil. A ripple effect is ever-present in all that we do.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System. As other nations are destroying the rain forest and other wilderness areas so that they can use the resources for development and profit, we must work even harder to preserve our vast wilderness resources to give the world a gift as well as to set an example of proper management instead of abuse and destruction of these beautiful and bountiful areas.

These areas form a wonderful first experience for many young people in the California education system. By teaching preservation and protection of natural resources at an early age, then these children grow up with respect for their heritage and come up with wonderful ideas for maintaining these areas so that their children can experience them as well.

Correspondence ID: 524 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Topic Question 2: In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: I believe that enforcement of rules are important. There should be no harassment of the wildlife who dwell there. The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use.

Topic Question 5: Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking and trips can ensure enforcement of rules about the preservation of the land, guarding against littering, monitoring careless behavior and making sure wildlife is not harassed in any way.

Topic Question 7: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 8: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, and harassment to wildlife will be increasingly important.

Visitors should be reminded that they are exactly that "Visitors". The wilderness is home to resident wildlife. Visitors need to respect the wilderness and the animals who live there.

Correspondence ID: 525 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protection of the wilderness from loss of native plants due to free range cattle, deforestation from logging, and damage from mining.

Topic Question 2: Complete protection; ban logging, mining, cattle production.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness should be just that: wild. You shouldn't have to watch your step to avoid cowpies while hiking in

the Sierras.

Topic Question 6: OK.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 526 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Correspondence ID: 527 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about the commercialization of everything for the profit of the few and the on-going destruction of the human environment on this tiny spaceship earth.

Topic Question 2: Honor the intent of the people to retain ancient forests from exploitation and destruction of natural environments.

Topic Question 3: The wilderness of California is like part of my soul. Since a child I have been exposed to these natural wonders. Destroy our parks by turning them over to for-profit entities, commercializing them all defeat maintaining a

sustainable future not only for us, but for other people on the planet.

Topic Question 4: Wildernesses are wildernesses because they are nature's product. Minimal road making is appropriate, using wildernesses for go-carts, motorized trampling is next to logging the worst thing to happen.

Topic Question 5: I think careful planning make such things possible as long as such are unobtrusive and overseen by forestry officials.

Topic Question 6: If on foot, no problem

Topic Question 7: Whatever human wilderness/forest science can bring to the wilderness to minimize fires and natural destructive forces, should be done, but very circumspectly.

Topic Question 8: Yes, all of the national parks, the Redwoods and Sequoia's.

I have said enough. I fear only the destruction of natural phenomenon is growing so rapidly that we will sooner rather than later make human beings extinct as well. 30? species a Year? disappear, or is it a month? Leonardo da Vinci once wrote: "There is nothing in the air, on or under the earth, or in the seas that THEY will not hunt down and destroy!"

Correspondence ID: 528 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 09:50:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This is a comment letter in response to the Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Having spent much time hiking in many of the treasured wild places of the Sierra Nevada mountains, I have found the Sequoia and Kings Canyon wilderness to be one of the 'crown jewels' of the Sierra Nevada wilderness experience. Unlike many public lands and National Parks, such as Yosemite, that have allowed roads to be built in some of their most spectacular natural areas, many of the most beautiful, pristine parts of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have been left to foot (and stock) traffic only. Although this limits accessibility to parts of the Parks for some of the general public, it also helps to preserve the stunningly, beautiful natural features of the Parks and allows people who are willing to make the effort to experience the Sierra Nevada as it once was -- without cars, cattle, logging, diversions, and other disruptive activities.

My concerns are that the existing 'Backcountry Management Plan' and 'Stock Use Plan' are out-of-date and not adequate for protecting the unique wilderness areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. My hope is that these concerns will be considered in the new 'Wilderness Stewardship Plan.'

As is common for many backpackers, I have encountered numerous pack trains while spending time in the depths of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon backcountry. I found this to not only negatively impact my own personal experience in the wilderness (as well as the experiences of my fellow backpackers), but also to be damaging to many of the sensitive riparian areas, streams, meadows, and backcountry trails.

From an experiential perspective, any time I have encountered a pack train on the trail, I have moved out of the way (as is common backcountry etiquette) regardless of the roughness of the terrain and have almost always been promptly greeted by flies and mouthfuls of dust from the pack animals. The trails used by pack animals also seemed to be more heavily impacted than those without; if dry, they were much dustier, and if wet, much more muddy and pocked up.

On these same trails, I also regularly encountered foul-smelling manure from the pack animals. Not only was it offensive to have to step over manure while in the middle of the wilderness, I also noticed that the pack animals were allowed to leave manure in or near streams. Any time animal (or human waste) is left near a stream, it has the potential to contaminate the water with fecal coliform and other bacteria. People are consistently reminded by the Park Service of the importance of going to the bathroom well away from streams and lakes to prevent this contamination from happening, so it seems ironic that pack animals are allowed to contaminate streams in this way.

While out in the backcountry, I have also been struck by the sheer amount of stuff that people pay pack trains to bring out into the wilderness. As is common under "Leave No Trace" ethics, people are constantly reminded to tread lightly in the backcountry. People who come in on pack trains often have much more equipment, including larger tents, stoves, trash, and other items than people walking in with backpacks. More equipment often means larger more impactful campsites than would otherwise be created by a small group of backpackers. The pack animals themselves also add to the impacts at these sites by trampling the ground (including wet, fragile areas) more extensively than a group of backpackers and unconsciously leaving manure nearby regardless of whether or not they are near a stream or lake.

The simplest solution to the damage caused by pack trains in the backcountry would be to not allow pack animals in the

wilderness. However, if pack trains are to continue to be allowed in the wilderness, there are several measures that could be taken under the new Wilderness Stewardship Plan to reduce the impacts caused by pack trains.

1. Establish 'foot travel only' trails so that people who desire to be in the backcountry free of the annoyances caused by pack animals, such as dust, flies, manure, and contaminated water, have the option to do so. There is not a reason why every single trail needs to allow pack animals.
2. All stock animals should be required to wear manure catchers to reduce water contamination. This would greatly reduce the risk of polluting clear, mountain streams with fecal coliform and other bacteria because the manure could be disposed far from water or packed out.
3. As is required in other National Parks, stock users should be required to keep their animals tied up when not in use, and to supply packed in 'feed'. This would prevent animals from wandering around, pocking up sensitive areas, such as meadows, and reduce the amount of animal waste left around campsites and in nearby water sources.
4. Commercial stock outfits should be required to pay sufficient fees to defray the Park Service's cost of repairing damaged trails and monitoring stock impacts. In general, pack animals have a much higher impact on trails and surrounding wilderness areas than foot traffic. With commercial pack stock outfits paying such low fees and making a profit at the expense of tax payers and park resources, it only seems right that the costs be defrayed to them (or to their clients).
5. The number of stock animals allowed to groups should be reduced from the current 20 animals/group to 10 or fewer animals/group. As mentioned above, pack trains are known to cause a lot more damage than foot travelers, so they should be required to minimize the number of animals they bring and to leave unnecessary luxury items at home. This is consistent with the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services in the wilderness 'to the extent necessary.' Smaller groups are also known to have less adverse impacts on the experiences of other wilderness visitors (such as backpackers).

Thank you for considering my comments. I hope the new 'Wilderness Stewardship Plan' will have improved management policies over the out-dated "Backcountry Management Plan" and "Stock Use Plan."

Correspondence ID: 529 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 09:50:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 3: Once we have impacted the environment making it inhospitable for certain species that thrive in areas of great space and pristine elements, it is hard to repair the damage and encourage them to return to the habitat. Noise, dirt flying around, oil spillage in lakes, are all things that impair the environment. Having areas that are variously accessible is a good idea so that people who enjoy nature but can't carry 40 pounds on their backs can still benefit. But it is just as important to have areas where wildness is more prevalent than civilization and this requires a lot of acreage. I am in favor of making sure that there is enough space preserved that animals can feel that it is their home, people can experience a place that stays the same without their presence,

Topic Question 4: Hiking, fishing, camping including backwoods camping where no motorized vehicles are allowed, observing but not harming nature.

Topic Question 5: In remote areas, I think groups should be limited to 6 and under, though it really depends on how the group treats the land. Campfires should be in pre-existing circles only, but camping stoves should be allowed. When feasible it would be very helpful to have portable bear boxes available for rent close to the park entry, or have permanent boxes installed near campsites. Easing temptation would probably make it easier on all concerned.

Topic Question 6: If run well and kept small, I'm not completely opposed.

Topic Question 7: Some fire management is important I think, but I am skeptical of harvesting practices particularly because they require roads. I think any procedure that requires building more roads needs to be a secondary option. Forest service surveillance via rangers is, from what I can see, effective and unobtrusive.

Topic Question 8: Areas that hold our water supply year round, areas that are known to be habitat for rare and endangered species, areas that have been unscathed by road building.

Correspondence ID: 530 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 09:55:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As more and more individuals are seeking recreation in our national parks the impact can be greatly seen. New camp-sites are popping up, and garbage can be seen more and more in the wilderness. The wilderness is a place for many of us to find solace and discover who we truly are. Wilderness areas need to be kept pristine not only for us, but for the the wildlife there and generations to come.

Topic Question 2: Leave-no-trace principles are great. LNT rules should be posted at commonly used trail-heads (an example is at the Stuart Fork trail head in Shasta-Trinity NF). Overnight permits should be required and those obtaining permits should be informed about LNT. Furthermore, obvious violations of LNT should be fined heavily, with the money going to clean-up and conservation efforts.

Topic Question 3: Use and recreation should be as low-impact as possible. Wilderness areas need to remain wild and free of litter.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and backpacking should be about the only activities allowed in wilderness areas.

While I do not believe that mountain biking is as high-impact as some parties would want us to believe (i.e. mountain bikes don't cause more damage to trails than horses), and although I am a mountain biker myself, I believe that mountain biking in wilderness areas should be given much thought. Bikes allow individuals to go far and fast. I feel there needs to be a price for entering remote areas of the wilderness and I believe that the time and effort required to hike in is just the right price. Potentially mountain bikers could be allowed into wilderness areas but much work needs to be done in educating the community in LNT principles.

Wilderness areas should remain off-limits to motorized vehicles which definitely cause damage to the terrain and enable nearly effortless access.

Shooting should not be allowed. Too many campsites are littered with spent shells and the bullets always end up somewhere. Hunting and fishing should not be allowed or at least very limited. While I understand that part of the experience for some might be living off the land, there's nothing wild about shooting a deer with a modern rifle. Wilderness lakes are not stocked. Hunting and fishing decreases the chances that others will be able to observe wild life. I think the idea of "leave only footprints, take only memories" applies to here too.

Topic Question 5: Groups should be kept small. Definitely less than 10, and smaller is even better. Unfortunately, larger groups tend to make more noise and cause more damage to the terrain. Dispersed campsites are usually just the right size for 1 or 2 shelters and larger groups will need to expand on that.

Bear canisters are of course necessary in areas where humans have been careless and taught bears that hikers equal food. Hanging and rodent proof sacks are important nearly everywhere else.

Campfires are by no means necessary and in fact in many places they damage the landscape. Campfires near alpine lakes destroy vegetation and using even downed vegetation prevents future growth. Most of California is ready to burn for most of the year. Fires are dangerous, scar the landscape, and use up resources. While many argue that humans have been lighting fires in the back country for thousands of years, never have so many humans been traveling in such limited back country areas. The public needs to be educated on how undesirable fires are.

Topic Question 6: Each guiding company should be required to follow LNT. In fact, I think guided trips are a great place to teach the public about responsible and safe use of the land. Guides should be required to be LNT instructor certified and to teach LNT on the outings. Group sizes should be kept small.

Topic Question 7: Wilderness needs to be maintained, and when necessary restored. Keep these areas here for the future.

Topic Question 8: Climate change will begin to impact wilderness areas and resources more and more. Wild life needs to be monitored in these areas to make sure that healthy populations exist.

Please, do everything in your power to preserve existing wilderness areas and to expand them. Back country is shrinking as humans become more and more disconnected from nature. I hope this trend can be reversed as everyone can benefit from getting out there.

Correspondence ID: 531 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: WE HAVE SO FEW DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS. I AM GOING TO SEQUOIA TODAY TO GET AWAY FROM THE CROWDED CITY. I TAKE MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN THERE TO LEARN FROM NATURE. THEY HAVE A GREAT PROGRAM THAT IS LIKE A SCAVENGER HUNT AND KIDS LOVE IT AND IT IS A GREAT WAY TO LEARN. KEEP IT PRISTINE SO THAT WE CAN ENJOY IT.

Topic Question 2: MAKE IT A NATIONAL PARK. KEEP FEES TO HELP SUPPORT THE MAINTENANCE OF IT. ALLOW PERSONAL CITIZENS TO DO THE WORK FOR FREE STAYS AT THE PARK. HAVE GROUPS DO BACK

AREA CLEARING. KEEP LOGGIN OUT.

Topic Question 3: THE QUIET IS IMPORTANT. KEEPING THE OLDEST, TALLEST TREES TO LEARN FROM THEM. I LOVE TO HIKE AND THERE ARE SOME GREAT HIKES THERE.

Topic Question 4: I LIKE TO HIKE, BACKPACK, AND MOUNTAIN BIKE. UNFORTUNATELY SOMETIMES THE MOUNTAIN BIKERS GET OFF TRACK AND START RUINING THE AREA. I THINK IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE AND CAN BE PROFITABLE BUT MUST BE OVERSEEN.

Topic Question 5: KEEP OUT ALCOHOL AND LOUD MUSIC. GROUP SIZE TO 15. FOOD STORAGE TO BE BEAR SAFE. SMALL CAMPFIRES,IF ANY. VERY VOLATILE AREA NOT SURE THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED, MAYBE WINTER ONLY.

Topic Question 6: I DONT SEE ANY PROBLEM IN THAT. THEY NEED TO BE EDUCATED IN HOW TO PRESERVE THE WILDERNESS. MANY TIMES THESE COMPANIES EDUCATE THEIR CLIENTS IN HOW TO PRESERVE THE AREAS. I LEANED VERY GOOD TIPS ABOUT PRESERVATION FROM OUR RAFTING TRIPS.

Topic Question 7: EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC IN HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THE FOREST TO KEEP IT THERE

Topic Question 8: LOGGING AND COMMERCIAL USE NEED TO BE OVERSEEN

I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU ARE REACHING OUT TO THE PUBLIC. IT SHOWS THAT YOU WANT ALL PEOPLE INVOLVED. THANKS

Correspondence ID: 532 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 5: In keeping with the aforementioned goal, party/group size should be limited to what the area can handle. Current food storage and campfire practices should be reviewed in that same light.

Topic Question 6: There is no issue on that as long as the group/party size and frequency are set to ensure the wilderness is minimally impacted

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Correspondence ID: 533 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness.

Topic Question 2: Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other

threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: That the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking, bicycling, camping, canoeing. Inappropriate: off road motorcycling, logging, mining, any industry, any activity that threatens wildlife and other natural resources.

Topic Question 5: Education is an extremely important part of protecting wilderness for future generations. The educational messages of Yosemite and Monterey Bay Aquarium are good examples on how to remind our fellow humans that we are responsible together for this planet and its resources.

Topic Question 6: As long as these services respect the wilderness and do their part educating their groups on being good stewards of the environment, I would welcome them.

Topic Question 7: Prohibit motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use.

Topic Question 8: Education, education, education. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

I LOVE the National Parks! Kings Canyon and Sequoia are among my favorites. Keep up the good work.

Correspondence ID: 534 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 09:59:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 535 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness

character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". <--This especially! Our visits to California's gorgeous parks frequently include us filling the bag we've brought to take our own refuse out in with that of other, less respectful park visitors, and it is always so sad to see such beautiful places treated like garbage dumps. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 536 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 10:00:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 537 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: funding and adequate staffing to ensure protection.

Topic Question 2: Lottery admittance to reduce the numbers. Some areas that remain off limits to humans.

Topic Question 3: For me there is a satisfaction in protecting land for other animals not just protecting it for recreation.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping leave not trace classes.

Topic Question 5: Education on how to leave no trace provides people with the knowledge to minimize their impact which most visitors want to do.

Topic Question 6: If the profits go to the park rather than private enterprise that sounds great.

Topic Question 7: Rangers do a great job, hire enough of them and possible some law enforcement officers so that the rangers can do their job of protecting the environment and sharing their love and knowledge with visitors rather than policing the parks.

Topic Question 8: Wildlife, birds and reptiles as well as mammals should be given high priority along with the flora.

A resource like this will always be under threat of those who see dollar signs more clearly than trees. Sound, airtight legal protection and lawyers who are constantly ready to defend the parks are vital and sadly always will be.

Correspondence ID: 538 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 10:07:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have visited the Sequoia Parks as a child, and they are filled with memories for me, in addition to the wonderful natural beauty and wildlife that can not be seen anywhere else. Please do all that you can to help protect these parks for others to experience and enjoy!

Correspondence ID: 539 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As a country we need to preserve designated areas and not be driven by the greed of companies that want to destroy wildlife and trees for immediate gains. We need to save these areas for for posterity.
Topic Question 2: Some areas under stress need to be closed off.
Topic Question 3: Just having a pristine place is important whether or not I go there.
Topic Question 4: Hiking trails, pack it in pack it out. Mining, tree clearing and hunting are not appropriate.
Topic Question 5: Use of approved food containers, no fires.
Topic Question 6: Guided hiking may be a good idea as many novices try things they know nothing about.
Topic Question 7: Permits, fire look outs, trained volunteers for visitor services.

Correspondence ID: 540 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: OFF ROAD VEHICLES AND AIR-POLLUTION FROM THE VALLEY

Topic Question 2: GET US OFF OUR ADDICTION TO FOSSIL FUELS AND OUTLAW OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

Topic Question 3: PEACE, TRANQUILITY AND FRESH AIR

Topic Question 4: HIKING, NATURE STUDIES, MEDITATION GO WELL IN THE WILDERNESS. INVASION OF TOURISTS AND THEIR MACHINES WITH THEIR TRASH AND NOISE ARE NOT AT ALL APPRECIATED.

Topic Question 5: WILDERNESS IS A PRIVATE PLACE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL GROUPS WHO CAN CONCEAL THEIR FOOD THAT MIGHT ATTRACT PROBLEMS AND STRICT CONTROL OF FIRE USE.

Topic Question 6: ENOUGH OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY. WILDERNESS IS NOT ANOTHER MARKET TO EXPLOIT.

Topic Question 7: I DON'T LIKE TO SEE COPS IN THE WILDERNESS ESPECIALLY WITH GUNS AND VEHICLES. EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS AND MEDIA WOULD HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHAT IS APPROPRIATE IN THE WILDERNESS. PERHAPS THE PRESENCE OF PEOPLE ACTING AS LAND-STEWARDS LIVING IN THE AREA(SEASONALLY OR PERMANENTLY) FOR CONSULTATION AND ADVICE & EDUCATION WOULD BE HELPFUL AND APPROPRIATE.

Topic Question 8: SOME PLACES ARE SO SENSITIVE THAT THE PRESENCE OF PEOPLE ARE JUST NOT APPROPRIATE, ESPECIALLY IN DESERTS AND PLACES THAT ARE SCARED EASILY OR THE WILDLIFE ECOSYSTEMS ARE FRAGILE.

WE ALL SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPERIENCE THE WILDERNESS BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THAT WILDERNESS. I WOULD HATE TO SEE TROPHY-HOMES IN OUR MOST BEAUTIFUL LANDS BUT THE PRESENCE OF A FEW PEOPLE LIVING AS DEDICATED LAND-STEWARDS IN OR NEAR WILDERNESS AREAS TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS ACT AS EDUCATORS COULD BE USEFUL TO THE LAND AND THOSE WHO WOULD VISIT.

Correspondence ID: 541 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 10:13:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and

quiet found there.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 3: There is both inherent value in wilderness protection from the perspective of global level concerns such as green spaces and their contribution to reducing greenhouse gases and the space to protect biodiversity and wild space. For direct human benefit there are few things more revitalizing than immersing oneself in nature. Our wild places provide Americans and visitors with a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with the world in which they live and gain a sense of perspective.

My family and I are headed to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Wilderness area next week. We look forward to learning opportunities presented by the Department of Interior's NPS staff, exploring the wilderness with hiking, and enjoying the peace and quiet.

I thank you for your consideration of the need for these spaces to remain accessible for human enjoyment with the minimum possible interference in the local ecosystem.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, on path/road cycling, picnicking, perhaps camping. Commercial activity should be largely prohibited and use of motorized vehicles should be minimized.

Topic Question 5: group camps are effective ways of drawing larger numbers of visitors and those with less exposure to the wild, including children. However, information should be provided to such visitors informing them that they are in a pristine environment and they should use it and leave it that way. Food storage and consumption must be managed to prevent wherever possible the habituation of animals to where reliance is developed on consumption of human food. Campfires are also a manageable benefit to the wildland experience. Designated places for fires should be developed and enforcement of restrictions should be firm.

Topic Question 6: Low impact commercial services such as guided hiking and perhaps horseback trips are to be encouraged as a

Correspondence ID: 542 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These parks have long been a source of recreational pleasure for my family. Everything should be done to preserve the parks for future campers.

Topic Question 4: No guns!There is no need to carry weapons into the parks. Parks are for camping, hiking, and enjoyment of the natural beauty of the parks.

Correspondence ID: 543 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 10:20:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: THE CONCERNS I HAVE INCLUDE PROTECTING AND PRESERVING OUR EVER-DWINDLING WILDERNESS AREAS.

Topic Question 2: STRATEGIES WOULD INCLUDE KEEPING THE PUBLIC AND CONCERNED MEMBERS INFORMED OF ACTIONS GOVERNMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES ARE UNDERTAKING TO PROTECT OR DESTROY THESE WILDERNESS AREAS.

Topic Question 3: IMPORTANT ARE THE PRESERVATION OF WILDERNESS ANIMAL HABITATS, ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION, AND THE OUTLAWING OF DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

(SUCH AS THE USE OF NOISE-PRODUCING VEHICLES THAT INCLUDE ATVS AND OTHER SUCH VEHICLES.

Topic Question 4: ACTIVITIES SHOULD INCLUDE CAMPING, HIKING, MOUNTAINEERING, AND THE PUREST FORMS OF THOSE ACTIVITIES. INAPPROPRIATE WOULD BE "PARTIES" AND DESTRUCTION OF ANY TYPE OF THE PRISTINE WILDERNESS.

Topic Question 5: PARTIES OF ANY TYPE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN OUR WILDERNESS AREAS - THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER VENUES THAT WOULD ACCOMMODATE "PARTIES." FOOD STORAGE PRACTICES AND CAMPFIRES SHOULD ABSOLUTELY BE HELD TO THE MOST STRICT STANDARDS THAT WOULD "FIT IN" IN THE WILDERNESS - NOT ALTERING THE WILDERNESS TO ACCOMMODATE OUR FOOD STORAGE OR CAMPFIRES.

Topic Question 6: ALL OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SERVICES CAN BE DONE IF THEY HAVE MINIMAL IMPACT ON HABITATS AND WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTS.

Topic Question 7: I NEED MORE INFORMATION/EDUCATION ON THOUGHTFUL, EFFECTIVE WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES. HOWEVER, I DO STRONGLY FEEL THAT THE PEOPLE HIRED - THE PERSONNEL - WHO HEAD THESE ADMINISTRATIONS SHOULD BE OF THE UTMOST QUALITY AND WHO POSSESS THE MOST PROGRESSIVE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT PRESERVATION PRACTICES. IT IS PEOPLE WHO ARE KEY!

Topic Question 8: ALL CURRENT WILDERNESS AREAS ARE RESOURCES THAT WARRANT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

Correspondence ID: 544 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 4: APPROPRIATE: Hiking, camping, backpacking, fishing, and hunting.

INAPPROPRIATE Commercial extraction of raw resources such as logging, mining, fuel extraction, quarries, etc. is inappropriate in protected wilderness areas.

Topic Question 5: depends on the area, but in general wilderness areas should control impacts of large numbers of people.

Topic Question 6: It's not necessarily a slippery slope to the ruin of wilderness, but it should vary by place and require solid regulation and sustainable fees that deal with the true cost of the activity. This might limit certain guided trips to the wealthy, but so be it, especially if it can subsidize quality access for a broad cross-section of society and mitigate impacts.

Topic Question 7: Vary from place to place--

Topic Question 8: watersheds redwoods, coast & sierras yosemite lake tahoe rest of parks

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for

emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 545 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As a child my family and I spent some of my most precious memories at Sequoia. The trees inspired and kept me in awe. We only have so many of these magnificent trees and to cut even one down is a travesty. The citizens of the 4 US own these so as a stakeholder I disapprove of any "take" of these trees. They need to be protected forever.

Topic Question 2: We need to have a hands off approach and let this stay natural. Man usually screws things up.

Topic Question 3: Where will future generations go? What will you say to them when they find out what you have done?

Correspondence ID: 546 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 10:27:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The wilderness should be a place for peace and quiet for hikers, campers, fishermen, and families to experience the wilderness. Not a noisy place due to motorized vehicles that pollute the air and disturb the quiet.

Topic Question 5: Party/groups should be monitored and controlled. This would be a perfect place for boy/girl scout troupes to learn about the wilderness and animals. There should be strict restrictions on food storage and campfires and only in designated

areas.

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Correspondence ID: 548 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: There were a few of the trails closed this summer and it was tremendously disappointing for my family. It was obvious to us that Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks are so well planned and so accessible for all ages and abilities. It was a shame to miss out on some of the trails.

Topic Question 2: For what the park offers I believe that a fee increase of one dollar will be tolerated and readily accepted. I feel that this would help increase revenue for the parks budget.

Topic Question 3: It is important to keep some places wild because when you can be in a wild place you can feel the implicit value. Instilling a sense of environmental stewardship in all who are able to experience the awe inspiring beauty of these places..

Topic Question 5: I experienced camping in the park this summer and felt that all the practices were exactly as they should be.

Topic Question 6: I feel that as long as these commercial outfits aren't disrupting the natural beauty and do not construct new buildings within the parks they would be a welcome revenue source. As long as the type and number are reviewed and limited. Perhaps the permits could initially be given on a lottery.basis to make it not necessarily dependent on the highest bidder.?

Topic Question 7: ?

Topic Question 8: There should always be special consideration when allowing business in and there should be extremely strict guidelines where waste and trash are concerned.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National parks are national treasures we should make it a priority to preserve these places for future generations. The parks however do not need to remain exactly as they are and a balance can be found in exploring new revenue sources within the parks.

Correspondence ID: 549 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Increased road access leading to over use. Rangers doing more crowd control than interpretive work.

Topic Question 2: Close off certain areas at intervals to allow recovery.

Topic Question 3: Solitude. Freedom from modern distractions.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: camping/hiking/fishing

Inappropriate: grazing, pack trains, large organized groups

Topic Question 5: party size of no more than 10

increased use of bear-boxes in areas that can support camping.

campfires only in low use areas at lower elevations

Topic Question 6: Opposed. They cause too much impact to the area they travel through.

Topic Question 7: Basic trail maintenance. Control access.

Topic Question 8: Stop grazing in Golden Trout Wilderness and others.

Correspondence ID: 550 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That people will destroy them.

Topic Question 2: I don't really know.

Topic Question 3: That we not lose it and that people understand how crucial it is to protect wilderness and the animals who live there. Some people feel that they are entitled to destroy anything they want. Wilderness is larger than people, it was here before us and will be here after. It is our responsibility to protect it.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, photography, bird watching, observing nature from a safe and respectful distance. It is inappropriate for people to use the wilderness to drink and be loud.

Topic Question 5: Safety is priority. I know you can't keep people from drinking while camping, but responsible behavior should be urged and ideally a Park Official presence should be in place.

Topic Question 6: As long as they are done in a sustainable way and do not harm the wilderness they are alright, but limit the number.

Topic Question 7: I think it would be a good job for trouble young people to help care for national parks.

Topic Question 8: They all do.

Correspondence ID: 551 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 10:37:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I think air quality in the Great Valley needs to improve, and having a large healthy forest will help. Climate change is certainly an issue, particularly at higher and drier areas in the forest, where damage is more likely and recovery more difficult. I think limiting access (recreational, commercial) is key to maintaining this area.

Topic Question 2: Good fire management, which would include a variety of strategies. Also important is control of post-burn revegetation to prevent extensive invasion by exotics and subsequent loss of habitat.

Erosion control, including road maintenance and road building limits. This protects watersheds from the top down, and all the species that depend on streams for food and spawning, as well as maintaining good water quality.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness areas provide a very different experience to standard parks and recreation sites. The focus should be on the natural environment; plants, animals in their wild state. Recreation should not disturb the natural environment for the convenience or entertainment of people.

Topic Question 4: I think wilderness areas need to be available to the public, but specifically for activities that cannot be done elsewhere. I think low-impact uses are appropriate for wilderness. Examples are hiking, car/ tent camping (no RV, limited mountain bike, no OHV). Many recreational areas are already available for off road use in this region and elsewhere in California.

Topic Question 5: In the true wilderness areas there should be small groups only, and very limited fire use (stoves, no campfires in most areas, especially those without water available). Wilderness users should follow standard backpack protocols, with bear-proof canisters required for camping or backpacking permits to be issued. Strict storage rules should be posted and enforced in campgrounds (as in Yosemite) to reduce animal/human problems. Camp fires are an important part of the car camping experience, and should be allowed in open, controlled areas where water is available, although at certain seasons I think even these fires should be restricted for safety and air quality.

Topic Question 6: I am in support of limited commercial use for low-impact recreational activities, as long as the vendors pay an appropriate fee and are monitored to ensure they follow good practices in wilderness areas. I think permits should be revocable if terms are violated.

Topic Question 7: Control of damaging illicit activities such as marijuana camps and uncontrolled off road vehicle use should be

a high priority for both human safety and habitat protection.

Control of invasive species and fuel management as noted earlier, done in the lowest impact way, with a long-term strategy, not just post-burn panic style.

Topic Question 8: Watershed protection, rare species populations, and areas critical for breeding/nesting/ foraging use.

Correspondence ID: 552 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would not like to see the meaning of the word "wilderness" diluted by the addition of roads, campsites or defined trails. We should retain some percentage in each state of real "wilderness" in which each person who enters can have the feeling that they may be the first.

Topic Question 2: Strict adherence to "Leave no trace". Periodic changes in the entry portals. Require evidence of competence before entry, with "flight plans".

Topic Question 3: The idea that we really have preserved a wild place - not a Disneyland imitation.

Topic Question 4: Allowable: Individual and "small group" hiking (and snowshoeing), commercial assistance in planning and equipping for hiking trips but not "guides", canoeing and rafting (non-commercial), horse/mule packing (non-commercial), no-trace camping, photography, sketching, painting, subsistence fishing. Not Allowable: Hunting (gun or bow), trapping, motorized vehicles (including helicopter drop-off and pick up), commercial pack trips, commercial canoe and raft ventures, commercial ventures of any sort within the wilderness area.

Topic Question 5: Four to six maximum, pack in pack out, no drops, erase campfire sites.

Topic Question 6: Opposed.

Topic Question 7: Require appropriate evidence of competence before permitting entry. "Flight plans" and schedules to be filed prior to entry. Signal flag panels to be carried by each group. Periodic overflight surveillance (perhaps by satellite)

Topic Question 8: Designation as a "wilderness" should be special enough.

Correspondence ID: 553 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The designated Wilderness in these parks are some of the most beautiful and unique places in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and I want to see that the redwoods, sequoia's and wilderness areas are preserved for ourselves and future generations! It is one of the most important aspects of these parks, far more so than guided hiking, motor sports, drilling, highly used camping areas etc. These areas allow us to really experience nature in a way highly traveled areas cannot and therefore they should be preserved so that the future California is just as beautiful as it is now.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land. Research and continual monitoring will also be increasingly important as climate change increases and its effects are felt more throughout our parks.Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will also be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there. It is an invaluable place for future generations to experience nature and develop our traditionally Californian environmental ideals, please keep these ideas in mind when creating your new plan.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use, and I tend to agree with their ideas. The wilderness is meant to be just that, wilderness, and modern activities and construction that would detract from that (in appearance, effect, pollution, noise etc) should be prohibited with a penalty of at least an extraordinary fine.

Topic Question 5: The impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness need to be meticulously monitored. Everyone should definitely receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. I don't have a particular problem with group

size (especially concerning school groups as i think this resource is especially important to our future generations), but food storage practices should be limited if not prohibited in these areas entirely. Campfires, I think, are a necessity of any camp situation but the risk to the wilderness is paramount, so perhaps consider only permitting them in previously prepared/safe locations (unless the user possesses a permit, which they should have to have demonstrated some knowledge and skill regarding fire to obtain).

Topic Question 6: These are great programs as long as their impact on the environment is minimal, for example, I would endorse guided mountaineering trips if they brought and removed their own equipment with no damage to the rock/trees, however, I would NOT endorse the same if it meant permanent belay hooks needed to be installed for legal reasons, or if it meant people could carve into rocks or damage trees to install their anchors.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages, I think it would help to educate the public and develop practices that are beneficial to the public and nature, rather than other commercial entities. We want to protect NATURE for FUTURE GENERATIONS NOT oil companies and the like. Please keep that in mind.

Correspondence ID: 554 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please protect this area leave the park wild for future generations to enjoy.

Topic Question 2: How simple can it be. Just leave the park wild in a natural state - hands off! Leave it as a wilderness.

Topic Question 3: Man needs wilderness areas to retreat to. More importantly the animals need a home too. Future generations need to visit these wilderness places to see what the country was like before man came and destroyed it.

Topic Question 4: Backpacking and hiking - self propelled nothing else. No cars no trucks no off highway vehicles.

Topic Question 5: No campfires - portable stoves are OK.

Topic Question 6: If commercial wilderness services use the park then they need to pay for the up keep of the trails they use. Since they use the trails all the time they should keep the trails they use up. Why should volunteers break their backs keeping the trails up when commercial services use them at no cost. Charge the commercial services extra to use the park since they use it more.

Topic Question 7: Leave the area in a wilderness state. Let nature takes its course.

Topic Question 8: Keep the entire park in wilderness. Don't carve it up or ruin an of the park. Keep the entire park wildness.

Keep the National Parks wilderness that is what they are suppose to be for. Future generations need to experience these places. Animals need a place to live free away from human intervention.

Correspondence ID: 555 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 2: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 6: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 8: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Correspondence ID: 556 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Preserving and protecting for future generations.

Topic Question 2: Controlling access via permits for foot traffic only. Eliminating access by pack animals. Improved maintenance of limited trail systems. Elimination of invasive species.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness experience with limited contact with others. No hunting, fishing, collecting or disturbing. Leave no trace.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, climbing, skiing, backpacking are appropriate. No animal or motorized transportation.

Topic Question 5: Containerized food protection requirement (bear canisters). No campfires, fuel stoves only. Eight max group size, less if area does not have camp sites that can support groups of that number.

Topic Question 6: Guided trips ok, if transportation modes and group size is as in previous answers.

Topic Question 7: Leave no trace. If you pack it in you pack it out, including toilet paper.

Topic Question 8: All wilderness areas and resources warrant special attention. In fact more use restrictions should be placed on other public lands (forests, grasslands, seashores, etc) so that we can preserve and protect our environment and the planet. If we do not conserve and protect our natural resources, control population and minimize fossil fuel use the planet will not support human life as we know. The atmospheric level of CO2 may have already reached the tipping point so that climate change is not reversible and will impact human life and the stability of human societies.

I have made at least two week-long backpack trips in the Sierras each year for many years, several into Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and adjacent areas. These wilderness areas must be preserved and protected environments for future generations.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 557 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These parks and particularly their wilderness areas need to be protected from development and uses which would compromise the health and integrity of their natural ecosystems.

Topic Question 2: The protection and restoration of wilderness areas should be the priority in all planning. Educating the public and the agencies managing wilderness areas about the web of life in these areas and how to "leave no trace behind" is essential.

Topic Question 3: Clean, pristine wilderness areas, where the health and integrity of the ecosystem is protected, are needed for physical and psychological human health and the health of the web of life that ultimately affects us all no matter where we live.

Topic Question 4: Any activity that degrades the health and integrity of the wilderness environment should be prohibited. People must be taught to understand, appreciate and protect wilderness areas, leaving no trace of their visit when they leave.

Topic Question 5: Protecting the health and integrity of the wilderness should be the guide for what we are allowed to do in any given area. Motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities can erode and damage wild areas, so these should be prohibited. The size of groups should be determined according to the most cautious careful estimate of whether any group size will harm the wilderness environment or not. Larger groups could visit parks in less wild and endangered places.

Topic Question 6: Can any of these be done according to "Leave no trace behind"? That should be the guide.

Topic Question 7: Minimally, management activities and techniques should be determined according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and those activities and techniques should be guided by the prioritizing of wilderness restoration.

Topic Question 8: Any wilderness area at risk for losing the integrity of its healthy, properly functioning ecosystem should be off limits or restricted in ways that ensures the integrity of all life in that area.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 558 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they not be opened to more human activity than can be sustained and especially not open to commercial exploitation.

Topic Question 2: Greater educational outreach so that more people, whether living or working within or near wilderness areas will become aware of the need to preserve these.

Topic Question 3: To create and maintain a balance between the two so that human activity will not tip the balance away from natural wilderness preservation.

Topic Question 4: Nature walks, educational outreach, guided tours by docents who are knowledgeable about the local flora and fauna and ebb-and-flow of the area, low-impact activity such as basic camping and backpacking, bird-watching, etc. are all appropriate.

Inappropriate would be anything involving motorized vehicles, roads, off-road adventures, logging, mining, commercial exploitation of flora, fauna, resources.

Topic Question 5: Daily limits should be placed on number of people who can enter the area, with designated areas for all human activities, and off-limit areas. Food and waste to be brought in and taken out by all visitors. No on-site storage permitted. Campfires not permitted, except if in specially-built containers and only handled by licensed rangers/guides.

Topic Question 6: Guided activities only to the extent that guides be knowledgeable about the area and can educate the people being guided. With strict limitations as to the number of people to be guided on hikes, climbing or other such activities, and no stock to be taken out of the park under any circumstances.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 559 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protecting the truly unique natural character of the wilderness. Keeping it wild and undeveloped.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and no impact camping is appropriate. All off-road vehicles and encroachment is entirely inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Minimal group size. no more than eight to a party. Food should be inaccessible to wildlife. Campfires in designated areas only

Topic Question 6: Should be kept to an absolute minimum. Stock trips should not enable lavish and high impact activities. Pack it in...pack it out,

Topic Question 7: Wilderness permits are always a good idea. Minimal invasiveness.

Topic Question 8: This is a truly unique biome. Protect and preserve all aspects of the wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 560 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keep it protected from any possible logging, or development

Topic Question 2: Simply KEEPING that region protected from any logging/development.....under the Wilderness Act.

Topic Question 3: Keeping the use and recreation limited, so that overuse doesn't lead to abuse of the land, any rivers/streams, and/or the wildlife.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Hiking, camping, mountain climbing.

In-appropriate: Biking, and probably other activities I can't think of at the moment.

Topic Question 5: Limits to the number of people in a group.....strong, wooden storage boxes, that can be locked and are raised above the ground -- to keep bears (and other wildlife) out of the food. Campfires should be always kept monitored, and of a reasonable size, so as to not become dangerous to the surrounding forest/vegetation. And should be allowed only in areas away from the forest/vegetation - to help prevent any sparks, or the fire itself, from starting fires.

Topic Question 6: I'm okay with guided trips, but limited.....to prevent possible commercialization

Topic Question 7: I will leave the answer to this question to the environmental experts, who know better how to answer this question than I do.

Topic Question 8: Lots of them, but the specific areas and names of those areas escape me at the moment.

THANK YOU for working to protect the wilderness/wildlife in the Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park. My family and I have camped there numerous times while I & my cousins were growing up - Sequoia is a beloved "second home" to me, loving the redwoods (& nature) since I was a toddler. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important to me as valuable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality & numerous other values found nowhere else on earth. Wilderness is also important to me just knowing it's there, even if I never go into the Wilderness segments of the parks - it gives me a mental peace just knowing nature's peace beauty is there for the wildlife, and people who DO want to experience those wilderness areas.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research & continuing monitoring are needed to detect climate change impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife/wilderness, such as pollution/invasive species, is increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures & facilities in designated wilderness, except for emergencies. PLEASE evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites/campfires/stock use/other visitor impacts to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone SHOULD receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use/ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development & adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, PLEASE seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 561 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My primary concern is the limitation on travel in wilderness areas. I believe there is a place for motorized use in wilderness areas. 1. Emergency vehicles should be allowed to enter, especially when helicopter use is curtailed due to weather, terrain, etc. 2. Fire trucks and crews should be allowed to move in to preserve the wilderness, and more importantly, the 'hot shots' who are on the ground. 3. Some motorized use to 'relandscape' damaged areas, remove invasive species, etc. 4. Some recreational motorized use on designated trails. This is the most efficient way to monitor plant and animal life, check for erosion, illegal substance agriculture, poaching, etc. Some recreational use in wilderness is appropriate since almost anything these days can qualify as wilderness.

Topic Question 2: Start by NOT making more wilderness. This need to keep designating new land with too many restrictions is creating disrespect for the law and the value of wilderness. If we want reverence for wilderness, then we must not over-designate. The backlash at some point will be to cut off all funding.

Topic Question 3: It is important to me that others have that kind of place where quiet, seclusion, nature are paramount. And I wish that translated into people being happy with those areas, with the reaction to be that they would not seek to change the use designations in other areas, and thereby leave areas for resource harvesting, motorized recreation, hunting, etc.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, hunting, nature watching, enjoyment of the outdoors.

What is MOST inappropriate is the elimination of areas needed for other users; oil companies, racing clubs, towns, mining claims.

Topic Question 5: Yes, I like parties, food, and campfires.

Topic Question 6: People need that. They need folks who can show them the ropes. It would be nice if they appreciated other outdoor users like motorcyclists(one of America's great and most discriminated against subgroups)gun owners, and fishers.

Topic Question 7: When we attempt to do too much, then we cannot manage it all. If you cannot manage it, then you aren't really doing anything for the taxpayer; just staying lined up at the federal money trough.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Correspondence ID: 562 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 11:16:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace."

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 563 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 11:19:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned they will be lost forever.

Topic Question 4: Backcountry camping, hiking.

Inappropriate: any loud mechanical activities

Topic Question 5: Campfires OK in designated areas. Group limited to 25. Food storage boxes provided.

Topic Question 6: NO

Correspondence ID: 564 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As a wheelchair user, it is important to me that persons with disabilities be afforded the opportunity to fully enjoy our State and National Parks. Having said that, it is also important to me that intrusion upon - and the subsequent destruction of - natural environs not be allowed by unreasonable ADA regulations.

Topic Question 2: Park officials and disability rights organizations should collaborate and appeal to State and Federal legislators to prevent destruction of natural habitat for the sake accessibility. Such action contradicts the very essence of the term "natural".

Topic Question 3:that the "use and recreation" not diminish in any way the "wilderness". Yosemite has become a commercial playground. Muir would ... what? Commit suicide for the stupidity of his species.

Topic Question 4: Viewing from a distance on foot. No helicopters, no light planes, no air traffic. No concessions in within the park boundaries, including lodging. No camping of any kind, under any circumstances. Flora and fauna completely undisturbed - that means no industry within a 50-mile radius; no commerce or residence within 25 miles.

Topic Question 5: It is no longer possible for places like Yellowstone or Yosemite to return to their natural state. Nevertheless, such places' protection can be partially guaranteed by decreasing per day and per week occupancy. Failure to do so will have (already does have) severe negative consequences. The visit's value is compromised. One sees much more human activity than natural.

Topic Question 6: (above)

Topic Question 7: (above)

Topic Question 8: No. There are no "areas of the wilderness ... that warrant special consideration." It all does.

In most people's minds, the earth is to be used, to spend. That thinking is ostensibly incorrect. It brings pollution, destruction and ultimately death.

I visited Yosemite as a boy in 1956. Through multiple camping and fishing trips, my father had taught all of us to enjoy the wild without leaving our "mark." I vividly recall practicing hatchet throwing with my brother. We were using a knot in the bark of a living tree as our target. Dad caught us. We came close to getting a whipping. At first, we didn't understand his anger. It was just a tree, for cryin' out loud. He made no explanation, but we somehow felt what he meant ... and it stuck.

Correspondence ID: 565 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: that a compromise may be reached to include more off-road vehicles or the use of the illegal types on the paved roads (as being promoted in Inyo co.). All vehicle use should be kept to a minimum.

Topic Question 2: Specific designated routes monitored well. Could use a shuttle system and limit numbers of individuals and groups.

Topic Question 3: that tranquility, wildlife corridors and habitats are protected. Well-marked trailheads showing designated routes/trails is important so users aren't confused.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, fishing, limited hunting (depending on resources and management),cross-country skiing (designated routes), birding,etc. No noisy/intrusive activity such as vehicle use, large groups of people/ special events with concert type equipment

Topic Question 5: Limited group size is important except at specific campgrounds that are at the entrance or adjacent to wilderness. Campfires at those sites ok, but inside wilderness no

Topic Question 6: I think those services are a necessary evil. The businesses will have temper tantrums if they are not allowed and cause wilderness designation problems. If they have the same group limits and have to pay for maintenance on a cost recovery scale, maybe ok

Topic Question 7: Each wilderness should have a designated ranger that can patrol daily. Other staff or partners (BLM, NF,NPS--)-would also share patrolling. If possible, a citizen stewardship group would be formed

Topic Question 8: Any southern california proposed wilderness needs special consideration due to the rapidly decreasing connectivity of open space and population pressures.

wilderness protection must be presented primarily as useful to people (at least in So. Cal). Denial of access to public lands is a primary complaint from those that want to drive/ride over every inch of open space. So promoting wilderness as a way for the local population to access their public land treasures in perpetuity should be accentuated. Of course, access would be by limited

designated routes--maybe even by a scheduled docent in some cases. Handicap access must be mentioned--that's another "ploy", as you probably know. Another "use" of wilderness could be for economic gain of the surrounding communities. In our case, we have promoted the Beauty Mtn./Agua Tibia wilderness for its economic value to the aesthetics of Temecula Valley wine country. You know all these things, but getting the "use" and public access things covered are helpful. In our neck of the woods, locals say that wilderness is a government land grab and it is part of the Agenda 21 United Nations conspiracy. So it is always good to cover those topics

Correspondence ID: 566 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protect wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks from any development or pollution.

Topic Question 2: Protect from human/ corporate/ mining/ pollution impact.

Topic Question 3: That it remain open to hikers and dogs.

Topic Question 4: Backpacking only.

Topic Question 5: Party/ group size can have reasonable quotas, food storage should be cleaned, campfires are OK.

Topic Question 6: guided hiking is OK guided stock trips should be avoided guided climbing and mountaineering is OK is small numbers

Topic Question 7: trail maintenance help, signage for trails are nice invasive species removal helps

Topic Question 8: waterways need extra protection

Thanks for listening.

Correspondence ID: 567 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 11:30:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 568 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Any further development or access to its natural resources for profit would be devastating and would be counter productive.

Topic Question 2: Leave it be. Do not let business affect management of resources.

Topic Question 3: Access and the ability to enjoy it without the presence of human tampering.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, climbing. Low impact activities.

Topic Question 5: Groups should be contained to certain areas where they can be managed and have the resources available to them to reduce their impact (Rubbish containers, recycling, lockable food containers). Campfires should be allowed only with a permit.

Topic Question 6: I believe these activities should be restricted. Allowing commercialization of our wilderness is letting business control activities. This also would increase impact.

Topic Question 8: All areas are valuable to us and our children and she be protected for future enjoyment.

Correspondence ID: 569 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I believe that the park should be kept as natural as possible. Encourage people to walk or ride bicycles. The restaurants should serve healthy and non-gmo foods in order to embed a philosophy of organic beauty. Have quality and aesthetic looking buildings/lodging.

The trees should be the most important priority above all else and should be protected.

Correspondence ID: 570 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 2: Wilderness is the best long term protection of an area for the American people and for the many species for which Sequoia is home. Wilderness should be used whenever possible for the protection of this beautiful area.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, picnicing are all appropriate. Development and OHV use would be destructive.

Correspondence ID: 571 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I want to ensure that this land is protected.

Topic Question 3: Experiencing the wilderness with my family.

Topic Question 4: Hiking is appropriate. Fishing may be appropriate as well, if the land is not over-fished and balance is maintained. Hunting and recreational vehicle use is not appropriate. Low impact activities that respect the integrity of the wilderness are appropriate.

Topic Question 5: There should be a cap on party/group size.

Topic Question 6: Although a potential source of revenue, guided tours pose a threat to the common visitor. These areas are here to be protected. But they are also protected for the "public". If large groups are coming into the wilderness, there is a strong possibility that the experience of the smaller group/ individual will be greatly lessened. It is more difficult to maneuver around large groups on the trail, and they "take over" the trail system, resting spots, and camp sites. I recently encountered a foreign guided hiking tour of 30-40 at Whitney (August 13,2011), which to my understanding is not allowed. I was with another adult and two children (ages 7 and 9) and we were literally (physically) "pushed out" of a creek crossing as the ladders came up behind us and pushed their way past us. My feeling is that, unfortunately, when people are paying guides heavy prices, some in the group approach the experience with a sense of ownership that one would not encounter with a "non-guided" group. These individuals show less respect to others on the trail. I can imagine that this lack of respect could easily extend to a lack of respect for the environment. Small guided tours could be a compromise, although there would be a potential for a large group breaking up into "small" groups in order to satisfy any guidelines. Strict management practices would need to be in place. I myself could benefit from guided tours, and so I can see the benefit to the public as well. In short, I would support small guided tours as long as the experience of "the few" is not compromised. I would also note that, as publicly-funded lands, American-run tours should be given precedent over foreign tours.

Correspondence ID: 572 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 11:49:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 573 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: To keep the Land as is for our future.

Topic Question 2: A strong commitment by all , "We are the People"

Topic Question 3: There is nothing more gratifying then to be in a place that gives us the vision of Gods plan.

Topic Question 4: Anything and all has to be in accordance with the Earth. Old wisdom from our Native American people of long ago.

Topic Question 5: Everything should be in balance in order to make sure safety and original land is kept as such.

Topic Question 6: There should be a uniform law that applies to the wilderness and how we can keep it protected and respect the land.

Topic Question 7: To keep things the way there supposed to be. That is, caring about our environment.

Topic Question 8: Yes, the wilderness that is especially vulnerable.

Correspondence ID: 574 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that protection of ecosystem values provided by public lands must be a top priority for the National Park Service. These lands are intended is essential to maintaining

Topic Question 2: Stop off-road vehicles from ignoring the existing trails and going cross-country.

Stop hunters in nearby forests from allowing dogs to enter wilderness where they can harrass and carry disease to native wildlife.

Topic Question 3: Wildlife habitat must be protected and adaptive management strategies developed to ensure survival of native

species.

Create public education materials about opportunities for passive non-motorized recreation. Create and encourage programs to bring schoolchildren into nature so they can develop a respect for wild things.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, birding, swimming, low-impact camping are appropriate.

Motorized vehicles and/or equipment are inappropriate. Radios and other low noises should not be allowed since they are unnatural for wildlife and disturb wilderness solitude for human beings.

Topic Question 5: Limit groups to 4. Pack out what you pack in. No open campfires, but high quality pack back stoves could be ok.

Topic Question 6: Concessionaires who are respectful of natural systems can be an important way to bring city folk into nature. Too many city dwellers do not feel safe or confident to go on their own, but go they must if they are to have an understanding of nature's intrinsic value.

Topic Question 8: Removal of cow birds! Service trips to allow high school kids to work in the field.

Correspondence ID: 575 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 11:56:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 576 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 3: recreation should not disturb natural habitat and its inhabitants.

Topic Question 4: guided, teaching activities are important. Noise producing activities with automobiles are not appropriate

Topic Question 5: large groups can be rather noisy and inhibit others pleasant experience. Obviously there is a risk with campfires and smart food storage must be enforced.

Topic Question 6: these services should be a part of the national parks foundations. Not commercial enterprise.

Topic Question 8: Any pollution creating enterprises should be forbidden. Such as drilling, logging etc. for commercial, monetary gain. Our federal parks should be protected 100% from corporations.

Correspondence ID: 577 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 578 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned my grand children and their children wont be able to enjoy the parks as I have over the past 60 years (I first went to the park when I was seven).

Topic Question 2: Tread lightly. Nature can rebuild but rebuilding takes generations.

Topic Question 3: Its our heritage... don't mess it up.

Topic Question 4: Inappropriate uses include grazing, mining and logging. These activities should take place on private lands. You want to log trees? But some property in Kansas and grow and harvest trees... its not complicated.

Topic Question 5: Restrict campfires to fire rings in campgrounds. Food storage is and will continue to be a problem. "Best Practices" should be observed but bears don't understand that food is private property.

Topic Question 6: Yes, commercial services and vending are fine. This is where we get our future campers and staff. You cant

love the parks unless your exposed to them and while family camping is a wonderful experience its not always possible so let the commercial ventures in.

Topic Question 7: Increase the park service staff and services. Keep the roads open, campground clean and the pot growers out.

Topic Question 8: Rivers... always rivers.

Correspondence ID: 579 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: I am the retired editor of the magazine EarthLight: Magazine of Ecology and Spirituality. I am also an interpreter of the work of John Muir. And I am an avid hiker and backpacker, having enjoyed Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks many times. They are precious, informative, inspiring places that should be preserved for the American people intact and without any development or intrusion.

Topic Question 2: Keep them as they are. Look at the Adirondack State Park for ideas.

Topic Question 3: Go to the website of www.earthlight.org and you will see. Thanks

Topic Question 4: Visiting, hiking, backpacking, being educated in visitor centers, attending campground programs and ranger walks.

Topic Question 5: Keep things as they are.

Topic Question 6: I think they should be kept to a minimum or eliminated. The public input before any such offerings is crucial.

Do not develop or intrude on the beauty and inspirational dimensions of Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs. Read John Muir!!

Correspondence ID: 580 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: I am always worried that powerful interestes with money will find ways to exploit the wilderness and encroach on it, selfishly profiting at the expense of future generations. I also worry that the "off-road" ATV community will gain access to wilderness areas and spoil the peace and quiet that is its greatest attribute. We have much to learn by spending time in Nature. It can be a place of great healing. It must be kept natural and unblemished by commercial interests and sports that ruin the experience for others.

Topic Question 2: I believe wilderness belongs to everyone in the USA and should be protected and maintained by healthy Federal funding. "Multiple Use" must be kept to a minimum to promote real, natural wilderness and protect rare species. Conservancies can play a role as long as their charter never allows commercialization of wilderness. Some limited commercialization is OK if it is extremely low impact, such as guided hikes, guided rock climbing, etc. Low impact gold panning on an individual basis using non-motorized equipment of small scale in specially designated areas may be acceptable.

The wilderness must be protected from pollution, including noise pollution and even light pollution.

Topic Question 3: Things of importance to me: 1. Peace and quiet. 2. Vastness, low density of people. 3. Pristine, unspoiled nature, clean air. Absense of technology such as cell phones, motorized vehicles. 4. Connection with nature. Seeing animal life; learning about nature. 5. Exercise, extreme challenges. 6. Fair access. I'm suspicious that computer hackers (especially in other countries) snap up reservations online and become scalpers. 7. Low equitable price of admission. Some services such as showers had ridiculous prices and limited access to campers. I think it has improved a little in Yosemite. 8. Bathrooms with tons of hooks and shelves so people can actually use them without making a complete mess and wasting time. Privacy panels between urinals so men don't over-use toilets and make a mess.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: 1. Hiking. 2. Camping. 3. Rock Climbing. 4. Limited bike riding. High trails should be off-limits to bikes. 5. Limited horse riding. Only pack animals allowed on high trails. 6. Non-motorized boating, such as kayaking, canoeing.

Inappropriate: 1. Entertainment noise in campgrounds after 9 PM and before 7 AM. 2. Motorized vehicles on trails. 3. Loud radios, music in wilderness areas.

Topic Question 5: Party size: the smaller the better, because large groups tend to dominate an area become more careless of

other people. However, if a group is quiet and responsible, I don't care what size. Well, probably keep it under 30 BoyScouts.

Food Storage: In Yosemite it is a hardship, but I approve of it. Some means to have garbage cans near or in bathrooms would help a lot.

Campfires: The smoke in Yosemite valley is distressing -- I hesitate to go there any more because of that. I wish there was a way to reduce it. I understand campfires are fun. We come to the wilderness for clean air, and it is more unhealthy than home.

Topic Question 6: I'm OK with guided services as long as they don't dominate the resources. The problem is that they look official and intimidating and they have ways of getting to the resources first and reserving them. So I would limit the commercial services if there are any complaints by individual visitors. No motorized vehicles must be allowed. The services should be low-impact -- I don't want to come across a buzz of 200 hang-gliders about to launch from my favorite picnic spot. I don't want to see huge webs of zip-line running through the forests.

Topic Question 7: I mostly leave this to the experts in ecology. I know there is some controversial tree cutting being considered for Yosemite Valley. However, because Yosemite Valley is hardly wilderness anymore and instead has become a poster-boy for spreading wilderness awareness, I approve of limited cutting to make beautiful views in keeping with past vegetation. I don't mind pruning those planted trees in Curry Village that now obscure Half Dome and other peaks. It should be done expertly.

Topic Question 8: I feel Alaska is the last great wilderness and should be maximally protected at all costs. I would prefer to see Alaska statehood revoked (the citizens seem to care little about protecting the wilderness, only lining their pockets), and Alaska declared a huge National Protected Wilderness territory.

It makes me mad when foreign companies are allowed to profit from our natural resources. Who sold them the rights????

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Correspondence ID: 581 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keeping wilderness areas for public access, preverstation, and conversation.

Topic Question 2: Parks provide fees. Parks provide enjoyment for current and future generations.

Topic Question 3: Everything. Open space and natural lands are precious.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, fishing, rock climbing are appropriate when done in a conscientious perspective of preservation and conservation. Logging, mining or activities that destroy the land or wild life habitats.

Topic Question 5: Camping is a wonderful activity, but making sure people cleanup after themselves is necessary, and to properly store food so as not to attract animals is also important. Areas where campfires are built need to be supervised by park rangers or not done at all is my perspective.

Topic Question 6: Welcome, if guides pursue non-destructive activities and teach good conversation habits to their groups.

Topic Question 7: Rangers, rangers, rangers: all of our parks need great rangers that know the area well and can guide or help people visiting the parks. They always add to the enjoyment of my trips.

Keep fires to a minimum. Although natural forests do have fires, I would hope that they are not stated by attendees.

Topic Question 8: Water should be clean, grounds should be liter free, and wild life should be respected so we can all enjoy the wilderness as stated above for us now and generations to come.

Correspondence ID: 582 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My biggest concern is that some greedy corporation will see some way to use OUR national treasures to make a buck by charging for rides, restaurants, concession stands, huge parking lots, etc- much like they did at Natural Bridge in Virginia. Being from California and therefore used to paying a legitimate entrance fee to pay for maintenance and protection of OUR national treasures, I was thoroughly disgusted when my family arrived to see this national treasure in Virginia. We thought we were arriving at a carnival- we were so disappointed we left without viewing it.

Topic Question 2: If we can't afford to man (protect)OUR national treasures, just close them down until we can find the money to KEEP THEM THE WAY THEY ARE NOW!

Topic Question 3: Keeping them as pristine as possible!

Topic Question 4: Hiking and camping only.

No off-road vehicles, very limited or no horse activities. No concessionaires.

Topic Question 5: Large camping groups are okay. Prudent food storage to protect all wildlife. Campfires are okay as long as it is safe, not during high fire danger season.

Topic Question 6: I have no problems with guided hikes, etc. as long as they are sensitive to the fragile environment and limited in number and scope.

Topic Question 7: The ultimate goals in all national parks must be to give the highest priority to protecting wildlife, plants and natural formations. Everything else is secondary.

Correspondence ID: 583 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 12:25:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Objectives ?

Providing appropriate types and levels of access for visitors and authorized users. I think entrance fees could go up for all National Parks. I know the parks are for everybody, however anywhere else in the world the entrance fees would be substantially higher. Foreign visitors know what a great deal our park system is for vacations. That is why they come to view our nation's parks by the thousands in buses and rental RV's.

I think an increase of the entrance fee should be considered. I am not sure what is appropriate as it should be relevant to other parks. I would certainly think a \$10-20 increase per car for 1-7 days very affordable.

Preserving wilderness character The road improvements have been great. The retaining walls are rough, rock walls and keeping the roads along convicts flat as steep winding, narrow roads keep the rustic nature of the original trail.

The campsites, visitor centers and amphitheaters are all in keeping with the rugged outdoors. I think removing the hotel from the big tree area was a fantastic decision back in the 1990's and helped restore the wild nature of the area.

I would NOT like Wi-Fi connection. This would ruin the park's get away from it all feel. It would also bring in towers and technology that does not support the wilderness character of the park.

Protecting cultural and natural resources

I recently discovered Buck Rock (Sequoia National Forest) and the fire look out station. What a fantastic historic monument and spectacular example of the park's keeping things rustic, yet useful, and very fun for visitors. I also always enjoy discovering things like Knapp's cabin and Zumwalt meadow where the Park's department has placed placards that tell some of the history behind the place such as Muir Rock, and the meadow where all the sequoias were cut down in Boole Tree area, (SNF) which explains why it feels like a sequoia graveyard. Ranger talks are a great way to bring this history, our history to life. And they do a fantastic job. Re-enactments by history buffs and talks by experts could really add another dimension.

Recently I was at a Ranger's talk where they spoke of Violet Kanawyer's (sp?) old trading station. She was in business just off the Mist Falls trail for 20+ years in the late 1800's. In any, event this type of history and her story is important and adds a human element to the park. Please do more to bring these stories and personal histories alive to visitors. That is part of protecting our cultural heritage and what brings visitors to the park. Both visitors, young, and old, foreign or local come for that glimpse of "The wild west" and let their imaginations roam the hills.

As for natural resources, I think it is very important that the natural resources are kept in pristine condition. That means very little development for visitors. To me that means little expansion of campground facilities, no more road development and no more concession facilities.

That also means no grazing, damming, mining, fishing, recreation limited to or by permit only. I am a bit of a purist and find I want the park to be enjoyed but never at the expense of nature. I am in agreement with the no more than 15 in a party in the backcountry.

Trails do need to be maintained for backpackers ease and enjoyment of traversing this backcountry wilderness. This maintenance should be effective and non-invasive. No building of bridges, etc. Backpackers should have to get permits and no campfires allowed. I like the quota system implemented in the 1980's and should be continued. Has there been any study to determine if it curbed the issues that it was meant to curtail since the 1986 NEPA was completed. I will address the public involvement issue later. But both public outreach process and the 1986 BMP need to be revisited.

I have much less issue with back packers as a general rule because they tend to be more aware and less invasive than the car camping crowd. Leave no trace is a great tool and should be taught and enforced. This and all the rest of our National Parks are our national treasures. I want this park and all of its' wild life to live with the very least of human encroachment.

Adhering to legally mandated management and preservation requirements.

I am not sure where this point should be made but this looked as good a spot as any. So here it is. I am disappointed in the enforcement of basic rules in the park. Such as not enforcing the limit on the number of people in a campsite or jumping from bridges or tossing trash from automobiles, or camp etiquette. I know this is a tough and fine line rangers face. But, in my opinion more law enforcement presence could be helpful. I also know that budgets and payroll is tight. My concern is that in light of these tough times more folks will be making that "inexpensive" vacation and the park as we know it could and can be, and is in danger of being abused and overrun.

My last visit was in mid August 2011. The weekend crowd at Cedar Grove was raucous and full of what I call "condo" 8+ tents. Many of the sites had 2 or 3 of these monster tents and entire communities camping in one site. Full on settlements were established outside RV's. Bright lights, smoky fires, and loud music were not uncommon. There was even a large pick up full of teens screeching around the camp ground in their monster truck. There was very little enforcement presence to curb such activities or to report such activities to. The National Park is not a KOA campground and I expect more respect for the natural environment for all of our benefit.

As far as protecting forever the Sierran ecosystem, home of the foothills chaparral, gigantic trees, and magnificent mountain landscapes I think this is basically being accomplished with the exception of the situations as described above. I do not have any information regarding stock over grazing and large group impact.

However, I think more could be done regarding making your public more aware of your presence. I think more public outreach through schools, churches, youth organizations will be necessary to keep the National Parks relevant to the youth and public of tomorrow. If the NP system is to survive and get funding then it must prove it's relevance to a population that is less and less prone to get out into nature. This is the NP's next big challenge as I see it. The NP's may face the challenge sooner than expected with the economic challenges this country is facing. As we all know no funding means death to the NP system.

Kids in the Los Angeles area are your hope and future. King's Canyon and Sequoia National Parks may need to join forces to entice the city kids into the woods. But this is probably your next mandate. This area must be accessible to the inner city youth or they will see no need to send their hard earned money to keep it safe from corporate America and sell off for development.

The public needs the National Parks System to stand up for the public's best interests. I know this flies in the face of convention but it is not the first time the public needed some help defining what was best for the nation. The National Parks need a visionary and spokesperson to lead the way in this century like what John Muir did in the 1800's and Horace Albright did in the last century. If this is not accomplished there will be nothing to manage and preserve.

I think there is a lack of cohesiveness within the King's Canyon NP and maybe throughout the National Park system regarding

this public outreach issue.

Once again I will point to my visit in mid August this year. I attended a ranger led, dusk amphitheatre talk. After a very informative discussion on the local eco system I asked the ranger to discuss the on line "public comment forum" so visitors could make their thoughts and wishes for the park known. The ranger was unaware of this forum and did not have any information on the web site (Submit comments on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>). This would have been a fantastic opportunity for reaching out to the public. Nowhere in the park or in any of the literature was this forum mentioned that I have ever seen visibly posted. How is your public to know this opportunity is available to them to make their desires known. I just happen to be a member of the Sierra Club who reached out to me and gave me the opportunity to participate. However, when I went to the public meeting in Los Angeles at the Los Angeles River Center there was only a handful of people there to find out how to become involved in this process. There has got to be MORE public outreach and involvement. One meeting in the entire Los Angeles area does not mean successful public outreach to me.

As an implementation level plan, the WSP/EIS will provide detailed guidance on a variety of issues including

Not limited to: day and overnight use Continue both.

Wilderness permitting I am in favor of the wilderness permitting process. I have used this in the past. It was too long ago to comment on how easy or hard the process was or is at this point. However, in theory I like the underlying idea of controlling the number of folks in the back county at any one time. I also think the revenue, and fees are justified and appropriate.

I LOVE the fact that the campsites in this NP are on a first come, first serve basis. This allows for the spontaneous visitor a chance to make the escape from the concrete city on a moments notice. Did I say I LOVE this already!

Use of campfires Smoke is choking thick by nightfall and folks start campfires up once again in the morning. Fires are comforting and lend to the ambiance of camping but people are making them too large and to the detriment of the area's health.

Fire rings are very helpful in managing the number of fires and where they are appropriately built. However, people are dumping lots of plastic items in here. Once again causing an unhealthy situation.

Campfire permitting in designated campsites may be a way to inform, educate and control campfire usage. Of course that does mean enforcement of the regulations-which in my mind is problematic especially in these economic times.

Wildlife I saw 8 bears/ bear cubs this last spring in one of the meadows. They were obviously very hungry after a harsh winter. It was magical to see the bears for me as well as for the other visitors. However, I was struck by how non-challante both the visitors and the bears were considering their close proximity to one another. Having been on safari in Africa many times I am always struck by the little respect these big animals get. The feeding of bears and coo-ing over how sweet they are makes me sick. I know that the Park Service is walking a fine line here, but more has to be done to make the public respect the bear and what they can do and need. The public is basically clueless and will only become more so as more people live in the city and become all the more isolated from wildlife. I do not want people necessarily frightened, I just think more can be done in terms of educating the public so the give the bears and the rest of the critters more respect. This is one of the rules of the road when on safari in Africa and as a visitor you come away from a safari with a full appreciation of what each animal is capable of as well as how to be quiet and keep your distance. Do not have food, feed the animals, get out of your vehicle, etc.. when on a game drive. These are rudimentary and lessons that should be taught here in our parks too.

Education I think Park Rangers do a great service in educating the public in their fireside chats on the different wildlife, the wildlife's habitat and the environment. During my visit to the park in August 2011 I was disappointed to see that those talks have been cut back due tough economics. In my opinion this is "The Opportunity" the park has to make that lasting memory that may make the difference in the life of a youngster and future voter. While I understand the tough financial decisions that must be made I think this is the marketing opportunity that this park and other National Parks cannot miss out on even during these tough times. This is the chance to reach out and influence future generations on the benefits of having National Parks and wild spaces. Yes it may cost the park in ranger's pay, however the benefits in public awareness, education and public relations I think are well worth the expense.

Proper food storage Bear boxes are a must. I think the park has done a great job installing bear boxes. I am not sure if all campsites have them but they really should.

Campers must use these boxes. This must be enforced.

Party size I have been camping in the park for about fifteen years. I have noticed that the party size is not being enforced. Campsites will have 8+ people in one camp site plus three huge tents and a trailer. I do not think the party size needs to change. However, I do think enforcement of the party size needs stricter enforcement.

Camping and campsites I like the campsites very much. I would however, like more open space between sites. The noise,

abundant fire pit smoke and lantern light take away from the wilderness experience.

I think the campsite fees could go up by \$3 -5.00/night to help with enforcement costs.

Human waste management I like the flush toilets but am concerned too many people are wasting water or if more facilities are built people will come to expect this as "the norm". On the other hand, I do not want people "going" in the woods if flush toilets not provided. The pit toilets are generally very good. High traffic areas need to be pumped out or flush toilets installed. (Boyden Cave was nasty in SNF)

I do not think additional shower facilities should be added. I think those that exist are great and could be refurbished as needed. Once again I am concerned for all the previously discussed reasons. This is supposed to be a wilderness experience not the Marriott. I do not want to make it so convenient that people treat it like they are staying at a hotel and expect that kind of experience. My only concern for not providing these facilities is that then people start sudsing up in the river.

Stock use; meadow management This is a National Park and as such is one of the nation's crown jewels ?not to be used for stock.

Meadows and their fragile eco-system should be protected from foot traffic / damage. Research activities Limited, non-invasive research ok, if it is for furthering and protecting the park's future

Wildlife management in wilderness Spend \$ on ranger education/ enforcement. Stationing rangers at meadow's where bears feed in the early spring to control crowds, bilingual "safari" type education is needed. People were 10' away from mothers and cubs. People with kids were drinking sodas and chips, talking loudly in excitement and running as they approached the meadow. It was nuts and no rangers in sight! This just is not protecting wildlife, or doing the public adequate service. I have seen better service in third world countries in establishing respect for nature and wildlife! Posting signs is just not adequate; a more hands approach is needed here.

Cultural resources in wilderness Any American Indian culture here? I am sure there was, but it is never discussed. This could bring a multi-dimension to the park.

Maintenance of trails, bridges, or other necessary infrastructure; and the "minimum requirement" for administration of the areas as wilderness. This addressed earlier.

Also to be analyzed and determined is the extent to which commercial services are necessary to fulfill the recreational and other purposes of SEKI's Congressionally designated wilderness areas. This "extent necessary" determination for commercial services will be performed to ensure compliance with '4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act. This should be very non-invasive as I mentioned earlier. Hiking, packhorse activities, camping, fishing, are great activities for this park. I would consider rock climbing acceptable if permitted in specific areas. No motor cross, 4-wheel drive or snow mobile sport activities should be allowed in my opinion.

Thank you for the opportunity to make my thoughts on the park's future known. I may be reached for clarification or more details as necessary.

Correspondence ID: 584 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please keep these wild and not subject to development.

Topic Question 3: I want the glorious wilderness that I have enjoyed available for my progeny.

Correspondence ID: 585 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I worry about the logging that takes place there. I worry that they will be developed. I worry that they will cease to be the pristine swaths of wilderness that they are now.

Topic Question 2: I'm not sure I'm educated enough on this issue to answer this.

Topic Question 3: Just to be able to find spots like this that remain untouched... but still "user-friendly". To have clean air and water... to see trees that have been there for ages...

Topic Question 4: Hiking. camping. swimming. I consider ATVs inappropriate. Nor am I a fan of jet skis. But ATVs are the

worst.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited. campfires regulated (ie not allowed).

Topic Question 6: I like them.

Topic Question 7: Not sure.

Topic Question 8: Yes -- areas where endangered species exist. These should be given special consideration.

Correspondence ID: 586 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I hope that it can be protected for everyone who uses it--including hikers, birds, and sorts of critters. Any actions that degrade the quality of the land should not be allowed.

Topic Question 3: It makes the health of the entire country stronger if we have flourishing flora and fauna in large quantities.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of 'Leave-No-Trace'.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 587 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My greatest concern is the length of time it takes for these majestic trees to grow. In a way they are not replaceable. Creeping human encroachment has deleterious effects on any wilderness, even if only from conservation careful visitors. Once you add other recreational uses, such as bike trails or other polluting vehicles my experience is that the wilderness becomes rapidly degraded with impact on wildlife besides the impacts on trees and vegetation.

Topic Question 2: Part of the answer to this question is derived from the answer above. No motorized vehicles or bikes. Access to camping grounds and parking for visitors should be well marked. Handicapped and elderly enabled visitors trails should not be used for other purposes other than for necessary park services such as trash removal and maintenance.

Topic Question 3: Low level of noise other than the natural rustling of the wind and the calls of the birds and the sounds of the water flowing in the creeks and rivers. Clean, foul odors free, natural scents. Well marked easy to walk trails.

Topic Question 4: Walking, jogging, observing, photographing, bird and wildlife watching are some of the appropriate. Gasoline or diesel powered vehicles, portable radios and boomboxes, wildlife harassment, carving, trees and vegetation defacing, shouting (except in emergencies), lighting of fires (except at Campgrounds and other designated safe locations), fishing or hunting are some of the inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Trails should be off-limits for groups of 12 or more people. Picnic areas should be limited to groups with less than 24 people. Busloads of people should be split at the bus parking lot in smaller groups. Camping areas should have bear and racoon safe food storage lockers and trash containers. Day visitors must be made aware of the dangers of leaving food in their cars. Campfires should be light only at the designated locations. They must be put out by the individual or group leader who started them.

Topic Question 6: A few concessions with exclusive rights are reasonable. Unrestricted access by commercial services will debase the wilderness even if temporarily results in more resources for the wilderness or park service.

Topic Question 7: Sooner or later all facilities tend to get overcrowded. Once the parking lot is full access needs to be one vehicle leaves one vehicle comes in. Foot access may have to be controlled by charging a minimum fee per person. Maintenance even if minimal needs to be a priority. Bathrooms that are neat and work, wash basins with working faucets, trash and recycling materials collection and disposal, drinking water for sale at the shop. All the above are minimum requirements.

Topic Question 8: Answers can be deducted from above.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 588 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 12:43:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 589 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The balance of nature will be OUT OF BALANCE no matter what is said about it.

Topic Question 2: STOP all the HUMAN negative interference.

Topic Question 3: The less recreation the better.

Topic Question 4: Dont know enough about how certain activities effect the wilderness and dont believe that most people have that information.

Topic Question 5: Same as above

Topic Question 6: Not good

Topic Question 8: How about the entire place ????

You are asking questions of people that are NOT qualified to answer these questions.

Correspondence ID: 590 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keep it wild, not a Niagara Falls!

Topic Question 3: Minimal impact on the wilderness.

Topic Question 4: Camping, hiking, exploring-with minimal impact on the environment

Topic Question 5: Fires only in established fire rings. Size would be limited to minimize impact on the area. Carry in carry out!

Topic Question 6: No guiding.

Correspondence ID: 591 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: You will allow roads and logging in the National Parks.

Topic Question 2: Keep corporations and right-wing anti-environmentalists out of the decision-making process.

Topic Question 3: Leaving part of the planet in its natural state to counter all the effects of humans.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: backpacking and hiking.

Inappropriate: logging, mining, cattle, horses, roads, motorized vehicles, pollution, noise.

Topic Question 5: No large groups (limit to 6 people). Bear canisters for food storage. Only small personal campfires or none at all.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking and climbing only with small groups (6 or less). No stock trips. No commercial structure or stores.

Topic Question 7: Preserve all aspects of the wilderness. Keep corporate interests out of the Parks.

Topic Question 8: Any endangered species should be protected at all costs. Keep logging interests out of the Parks; no logging of any kind, even removing downed trees.

Keep wilderness wild. Keep corporate and business interests out of the Parks.

Correspondence ID: 592 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 12:52:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness

character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 593 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are unique and irreplaceable. We must protect these areas are carefully as we can. While Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks attract American and foreign visitors, the park system should never allow their popularity to compromise the continued existence of these magnificent forests.

Topic Question 2: 1. limit visitors 2. Provide clear instructions to visitors on what permissible and not permissible in the parks. 3. An entry fee should be charged to assure proper oversight of visitors and the health of these trees 4. Any educational facilities should be placed outside the boundaries of the park. Especially concessions. 5. Cars, buses, motor cycles, trucks should be prohibited from coming in the parks. Instead, electric or gas powered vehicles should be used to minimize acid rain in the region. 6. Amenities for visitors should be minimal- porta toilets or waterless urinals, - placed at the entrance or exit of these parks.

Topic Question 3: Honoring the majesty of these trees which means creating an atmosphere of a Cathedral to Nature, its magnificence, its endurance, its adaptability, its complexity, its ongoing evolution and creation. Recreation does not have to translate into noise, extra entertainment, or trying to provide for everyone's definition of "recreation". The sustainability of these forests should define what are the permissible activities within the parks.

Topic Question 4: Anything beyond a quiet, reflective atmosphere I consider inappropriate and possibly injurious to the trees and its full compliment of flora and fauna.

Topic Question 5: See answers to Question 2, 4.

Topic Question 6: These activities should be limited. An advisory board of conservationists composed of scientists who expertise in forest ecology should determine the extent of these activities. The commercial outfits employed need to be supervised and provided with permits as long as they and their clients comply with park rules.

Topic Question 7: We have park service professionals who can answer this question - people who have been trained in park management in Bhutan, New Zealand, Switzerland for example. American Park Managers are too easily swayed by special interest groups to allow all sorts in inappropriate activities within parks. Therefore, I would suggest complying with the strictest standards set by other countries.

Topic Question 8: Of course there are! But I don't have the space to list them all. We have a definition of "Wilderness". Scientists are studying how they survive and flourish all the time. With Climate Change, it will be increasingly difficult to assure the survival of our beautiful natural resources. But limiting public access is one sure way of preventing fires, erosion, pollution, and other destructive human caused disasters.

The flora and fauna in these National Parks should determine how they are "used". We must all consider ourselves caretakers/stewards of our natural treasures and these parks should not be considered "Recreational Resources" but fragile and important legacies that we must make every effort to protect and ensure survival.

Correspondence ID: 594 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that the government will not do enough to protect this natural and wonderful area from overuse by human activity. Including private commercial interests such as timber or mining, but also non-commercial recreational use...

Topic Question 2: limiting automobile traffic as well as promoting what the truly amazing natural features this area has so that people will realize why it is important to preserve them. For instance, there is no other place in the world where the giant sequoia occurs naturally. The King's river canyon is pretty amazing as well. Promoting the natural state of the area and allowing

all species (except humans) to flourish and/or perish according to the laws of nature is the best course of action.

Topic Question 3: there is "recreation" which implies fun and activities, possibly destructive and there is wilderness use, which implies camping/hiking and respect for the wilderness. I think it's important to define these terms and educate people about the differences as well as set guidelines for human interaction with nature. Overuse could be problematic if allowed. Ultimately it is important that certain wilderness areas simply exist, regardless of whether humans can "use" them. In other words, if the argument is presented that if a person cannot use the area, why protect it, the answer is just knowing that they are there is important in itself. Certainly there would be other benefits as well, such as preserving natural ecosystems from human intervention as well as preserving biological diversity. In ref. to the giant sequoias it was a pleasure just to walk on the trail around the grove for 20-30 minutes, and I would understand that could be a limit in the future if the area grows in popularity.

Topic Question 4: Educational services, including the history, and prior uses, possibly guided tours, hiking and camping, (tent mainly). fishing and organized sports are inappropriate. large group use also should be controlled, as well motor home access.

Topic Question 5: campfires should be monitored. food storage should be bear proof. each area can have its own group use size permits. all users should require permits. not so much for dollar income, but just to register who is in the area and what are they going to be doing. As well as educate individuals on what practices are safe. carry in carry out of everything. no trash allowed.

Topic Question 6: the more guides the better. especially wilderness guides that actually live in the wilderness as the natives would have lived. see my final comment in re: to commercial services.

Topic Question 7: see answer to #2

Topic Question 8: -endangered species require special protection. that would include old growth forests. -economic uses and exploitation by outside corporations should not be allowed.

Privatization is a subject that is often brought up. I feel this process should be eliminated in most cases and not even considered at all except for national parks that are not 'wilderness' areas or that currently have a long history of private care. The funding by the US government should be sufficient and if we eventually cut back on the unneeded military spending there will be plenty of money for these programs. The inherent problem with privatization is the profit motive. If the bottom line becomes more important than preserving the park a number of problems can occur. Perhaps non-profits with charters that specify the goals of the organization being the benefit of the park could reasonably be expected to operate in the interest of the park without conflict. As a general rule, corporations do not have a conscience, so we should be leery of including them in any activities or organizational aspects of national parks. Advertising, management or even commercial tours should not be allowed in the King's and Sequoia parks especially and including other great natural parks.

Correspondence ID: 595 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: We are particularly concerned about the impacts of climate change, pollution, and the building of additional roads, which can divide an area of relatively continuous habitat into smaller, disconnected parcels which leads to habitat fragmentation and alters the behavior of wildlife.

Topic Question 2: Limiting private vehicle access, perhaps by providing a shuttle bus system like that employed in Denali National Park, to reduce vehicle congestion and emissions in areas subjected to heavy traffic.

Topic Question 3: As a biologist, an avid hiker, and a mother, I love the outdoors as a place of solitude in which to revitalize my soul; as such, I am gratified that my 15 and 12-year-old children also draw energy from hiking in and exploring the natural world. Both are particularly engaged by places where there is minimal human development. For them, as well as for myself, I yearn to be assured that there will always be places where I can indulge my children's sense of adventure and discovery by accompanying them into undisturbed terrain. In order to preserve our natural heritage for future generations, America must always provide our youth with opportunities to indulge in and be swept away by the beauty and benefits of wilderness.

Topic Question 4: As frequent National Parks and wilderness visitors, my family enjoys quiet, undisturbed areas which offer pristine water, fresh air, and wonderful backcountry recreation, including hiking, wildlife and bird watching, camping, rafting, and fishing. Noninvasive activities such as these are conducive to wilderness areas, which provide an opportunity to connect with nature and a welcome relief from the sights and sounds of motorized civilization ... offering both safe harbor for vanishing and imperiled fish and wildlife species and a source of tranquility for the human spirit.

My family believes it is extremely important to protect our irreplaceable wild lands from development. As such, we oppose any activities which would open unspoiled lands to logging, oil and gas development, mining, and other industrial development. The destructive nature of these activities make them wholly unsuitable for wilderness lands. We are also opposed to off-road vehicle use in wilderness areas, as these vehicles kick-up clouds of dust, fill entire drainages with noise, damage wildlife habitat, and degrade water quality. Jet-skis are likewise inappropriate on wilderness lakes and waterways for the excessive noise pollution and water contamination which is an inherent aspect of their use.

Topic Question 5: Bear-safe food storage containers should be supplied and their use must be mandated in areas with bears for the protection of that species populations.

Topic Question 6: We enjoy hikes guided by Park Service Rangers as these are always informative and respectful of the environment. We would like to see separate trails for hikers and horseback riders in areas where the latter are permitted.

Topic Question 7: Safeguarding the water, recreation, fish, wildlife and jobs that depend on our national forests and wildlands requires that government not only consider but also apply the best available science to its planning and management of these natural treasures.

As President Theodore Roosevelt asserted in 1910, "A nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value."

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to my family as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 596 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it be protected, and that the public may continue to enjoy the magnificent setting.

Topic Question 2: Continued stewardship of these beautiful parks, which includes keeping the lands undeveloped.

Topic Question 3: That the wilderness remains as unimpacted as possible given the constraints of enabling visitors to enjoy what it has to offer.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, climbing/mountaineering, and camping I feel are the best and most appropriate ways for people to be able to enjoy these wilderness areas. I think it would be inappropriate to add things like ski resorts to these parks.

Topic Question 5: Large groups should be permitted, but carefully regulated. Campfires should only be allowed if conditions allow for them to be safe and not harmful to the environment. Food should be stored in bear proof containers, and care should be taken that all human food stays with humans.

Topic Question 6: They are a great way to introduce people to these beautiful places, but their use should be limited and carefully regulated.

Topic Question 7: Trails should be maintained and clearly marked, but in general, the human impact should be minimized.

Topic Question 8: Fish and game.

After graduating from high school, I did a backpacking trip through these two parks with two friends. That trip was one of the

most intimate experiences of nature I've ever had. My memories of that trip remain as some of the best times I've had in the out doors, and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to access such beautiful and well maintained high country wilderness.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 597 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 13:52:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 598 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Enlarge it.

Topic Question 2: More backcountry rangers.

Topic Question 3: Solitude and no people.

Topic Question 4: Backpacking Camping Hiking

Topic Question 5: Party number 8 Food storage in trees No campfires

Topic Question 6: OK if limited in size.

Topic Question 7: Trail maintenance. Build stream crossings for foot traffic. Move boulders so enable low impact stream crossing. Remove trails that go through meadows and have them skirt the meadow.

Topic Question 8: I would like to see the Manter Meadow trail from Big Meadow re engineered.

Correspondence ID: 599 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 14:25:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 600 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 14:25:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would hate to see the wildlife and vegetation all gone.

Topic Question 2: Prevent logging and avoid any new roads.

Topic Question 3: It takes up to a 1000 years for some of these older trees to grow. We must save them now along with all the animals that call them home.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping. Bird watching, We don't need off road vehicles or any additional roads. Hunting should be carefully controlled.

Topic Question 5: Camp fires can be conducted safely, unfortunately, not everyone has that simple knowledge. Food storage can be done properly, however there are going to be those that will be clueless and wonder why they have bears and other animals wandering through their camp site. Make the solution would be a training certificate conducted and provided by park officials be required to engage in those activities.

Topic Question 6: I guess I would not care to see this but if they are required to follow strict rules and held accountable it would limit the damage done.

Topic Question 7: There must be ample supervision by park rangers. Rules must be available and it will protect the area and people to have a method of signing in and out.

Topic Question 8: Yes.

Correspondence ID: 601 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Enough income to keep people working to preserve the parks and keep them free of trash.

Topic Question 2: Enough income from various sources.

Topic Question 3: Preserving the WILDERNESS as much as possible and still allow adequate opportunities for visitors.

Topic Question 4: The views, photographic and video opportunities and keeping the parks open the year around.

Topic Question 5: It depends on the development of hazards. I think that the Rangers can best determine what is developing.

Topic Question 6: Could be good or bad depending upon who runs them.

Topic Question 7: Plenty of trash containers that are emptied correctly at sufficient intervals. Maintenance of good roads and trails.

Topic Question 8: Adequate trash control.

Correspondence ID: 602 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That logging & development will be allowed

Topic Question 2: Pass a hands-off law that last into perpetuity

Topic Question 3: the beauty, bio-diversity, helps reduce green house gases

Topic Question 4: hiking, camping, study areas for school kids to university kids, tours (well regulated)

Topic Question 5: All depends on 'is this activity destructive to environment?'

Topic Question 6: Guided ok, but heavily restricted & regulated

Topic Question 7: treatment of diseased trees, plants, animals in 'green-non toxic' fashion. Camp sites limited in size and amount. backpackers must have permits

Land must be protected from erosion by too many hiking feet, or god forbid hunting of any kind. Fishing-regulated.

Topic Question 8: Endangered species- flora & fauna

No other comments

Correspondence ID: 603 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 3: Although I've gotten to the stage in life when travel is very difficult, I have many grandchildren and great grandchildren who love the wilderness and spend time in the areas all over California and other Western states. That's what is important to me: to keep the wild places wild for the young and old alike. Protecting the wild places so that the wildlife that one finds there are able to continue to thrive because many members of the wild population in our wilderness areas are threatened with extinction. We need to protect the wildlife because as part of our animal kingdom their survival is important to our survival as a species!

Topic Question 8: Protection of the wild animals and their environment is the most critical need in all wilderness areas all over the world.

Correspondence ID: 604 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keeping it pristine and intact for future generations.

Topic Question 2: Responsible land management practices that do not involve the harmful side effects like mining, etc. With oversight or input from agricultural schools.

Topic Question 3: That it is accessible but in as close to a natural state as possible.

Topic Question 4: Off road vehicle use is inappropriate. Hiking, bicycling, cross country skiing, camping, hunting and fishing should be acceptable.

Topic Question 5: People need to be smart and respectful. As long as the rules are being followed, groups less than 100 should be fine

Topic Question 6: Think it is fine as long as they abide by the rules. They would have a vested interest in protecting it

Topic Question 8: The irreplaceable. Big trees should be like a sanctuary. Shouldn't be able to do anything but gawk in amazement or set up an easel to paint a picture.

Correspondence ID: 605 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Wilderness is an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality, and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also a place to experience the natural order of things, and thus re-connect oneself to it.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of Global Warming will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect and repel climate change. Reducing pollution, sports, and invasive species is increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use, and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

Correspondence ID: 606 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: At this point in the growth of population, any park lands now set aside should be protected and maintained with vigor in the face of business encroachments

Topic Question 2: Sad to say our dysfunctional Congress spends money on wars rather than on maintaining public lands.

Topic Question 3: It's important simply because we lose it when we use it for commerecial/destructive purposes

Topic Question 4: Nature trail appropriate. Strip maining, power sledding, etc. inappropriate

Topic Question 5: Surely over time appropriate rules have been established.

Topic Question 6: If approved by the Park Service (without political presssure), then OK

Correspondence ID: 607 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These unique preserves for the giant trees need to be protected for the edification of future generations.

Topic Question 2: ban all activities that could damage the ecosystem or harm the wilderness habitat.

Topic Question 3: replenishment of the spirit, edification of the body-mind.

Topic Question 4: gentle exploring and reverent appreciation=appropriateanything that would damage or alter the wilderness habitat=inappropriate

Topic Question 5: I'd prefer things quieter and on a smaller scale.

Topic Question 6: It would be nice to keep the wilderness wild and free of commerce.

Topic Question 7: Protect the wild land from fire and damaging and intrusive human activity.C

Topic Question 8: Certainly the home of the giant trees deserves special consideration.

Correspondence ID: 608 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Ensuring that SEKI remains a protected and cared for national park.

Topic Question 2: The wilderness backpackers I have met with here take care to leave no trace. I cant say the same for car campers. I'd like to see more stringent guidelines in this area.

Topic Question 3: Being able to be out enjoying the wilderness in relative solitude.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate - hiking, backpacking, fishing, climbing; inappropriate - large parties, RVs/campers.

Topic Question 5: No campfires above 10,000 is a good guideline. Prefer small group sizes (I never go with more than one other person); cant stand large groups that take up too much space and make too much noise.

Topic Question 6: Absolutely NO to guided stock trips. If we humans have to be careful where we leave waste, why shouldnt stock. Instead, I have had to share disgusting trails with horse manure and pee -- even close to water sources. This is disgusting. If you cant travel with your own two feet, you shouldnt be in this park. I am OK with smaller guided groups, but they should have enough group leaders to deal with amateurs.

Topic Question 7: Not sure.

Topic Question 8: The Sequoias of course; all water routes; glacial lakes.

Correspondence ID: 609 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it is protected.

Topic Question 2: Limit kinds of activities that people can participate in (e.g., ban snowmobiles).

Topic Question 3: Preservation of diversity. Preservation of historical legacy of wilderness that's (largely) been left to its own/Nature's strategies and mechanisms for evolving.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking, fishing, rock-climbing, snow-shoeing, photography, swimming, canoeing (with inflatables), river running, camping

Inappropriate: Snowmobiles, hunting, tree cutting, trapping, commercial exploitation

Limited/restricted: Horseback riding, horse-packing (incl. mules, alpacas, etc.)

Topic Question 5: For true wilderness areas, parties should be no more than twelve persons (with rare exceptions--e.g., outdoor educational enterprises). Food storage should be by bear-proof container OR rope-hung. Fires should be allowed except when conditions make them dangerous.

Topic Question 6: Generally okay, but I think awarding concessions/permits to commercial outfits should be a competitive process where the criteria include the company's practices to reduce their footprint. The number of such companies should be

strictly limited. The number and scope of outings a company can do should be strictly regulated.

Topic Question 7: Fire suppression only when human life/structures threatened. Back country rangers patrolling, not just for safety and enforcement but moreso for education/help.

Topic Question 8: Endangered species/habitats should be protected.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Correspondence ID: 610 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have concerns that the parks are starting to receive too much vehicle traffic and that the bears are having too much contact with humans.

Topic Question 2: I think that motorized vehicles should be limited, including helicopters. There could be shuttles through the park, with group parking outside the park boudnaries. Also bicycles and hiking should be encouraged.

Topic Question 3: It is important to be able to go to these wild places to experience extreme quiet and a clean environment.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, responsible fishing, bicycling are appropriate. Riding motorized vehicles and using large RVs, and getting too close to bears and feeding other wildlife is not appropriate.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited to about 5 people for most areas, with a few specific areas designated for larger groups. Proper food storage should be strictly enforced .so that bears and other animals are not introduced to foreign foods or become dependent on campsites for sustenance.

Topic Question 6: Guided groups are a very good idea, to allow for better education about wildlife responsibility and reinforcement of good practices.

Topic Question 7: Park entrance and camping fees should be kept to a minimum so that people of all walks of life can enjoy it. I think fees should be charged for improper food storage or dumping, irresponsible campfires, improper interaction with wildlife, and littering. Also, the use of radios should be very limited, and generators banned altogether.

These places are very beautiful. I would suggest that anyone who has a hand in the decisoin-making for these places spend a good amout of time there. More than a day trip with a big, loud group. At least two days and two nights of relatively solitariness would go a long way to provide a better understanding of the power of the quiet beauty.

Correspondence ID: 611 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Logging of timber Pollution of water ways by pack animals, human. Overuse by the public of trails Effects of climate change on the animal population and vegetation. Any types of minng or drilling for oil, gas, gold, coal, copper etc.

Topic Question 2: Strict enforcement of existing laws Awareness of threats by any of the above Prevent above from happening BEFORE they are attempted by corporate take overs. Re-establish vounteer groups like the CCC for trail building and maintainence.

Topic Question 3: I have backpacked and winter camped in much of the Sierra and In Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. That it can be threatened and degraded without preserving it for unborn generations is unthinkable. These treasures should be available and protected for the future, not be exploited in any way. Being in wilderness restores a bond between man and nature that cannot occur any other way. It is a priceless treasure that must be preserved Wilderness fosters an appreciation for nature and the totality of our wilderness ecosystem. Every part contributes and is important.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, camping.

Mountain bikes, off trail vehicles, firing weapons. Ignorance about wilderness: leaving trash, polluting water ways, defacing trees or the land.

Topic Question 5: Smaller groups make less impact on the land. Overuse leads to rutted trails, larger, obvious "packer" campsites. Food storage, especially in "bear country" should utilize the lock boxes often provided. If not, group needs to know how to safely hang/store foods to not attract bears, chipmunks etc. Campfires should be limited to small ones mainly for warmth on cold nights, not for cooking. Campfires in areas where there is little downed wood should be prohibited, especially above timberline. When leaving a campsite, campfire area should be doused with water and dirt shoveled on top to prevent any possible re-ignighting of coals. Cooking should be done via small backpack stoves and done in small groups not over wood fires. Try to leave a campsite as though no one was there. Just footprints!

Topic Question 6: I am not in favor of commercial services in wilderness. I have worked as a cook for a pack outfit and I realize that for some people that may be the only way they can get back into the wilderness. But wilderness requires knowledge, fitness and a willingness to forgo comfort for the beauty of pristine areas. Most of the guardia introduced into ALL of the Sierra lakes and streams was not put there by deer or other native animals, it got there from pack train animan poop. When snows melt, all that stuff runs down hill into first the lakes and then the streams.

Using the wilderness as a way to make a living AT ITS EXPENSE is not honoring it. I believe human have a responsibility to first learn the skills and then go out to utilize them. Paying money to be taken into wilderness and climbing/mountaineering is just another abuse of sacrificing nature for personal gain and profit.

Topic Question 7: I think the permit process is good and so far has worked well. But when the population increases where more people want to use the back counry and you find people everywhere you go and try to camp, that is wrong. There is no solitude or peacefulness in that situation. Perhaps we need to have people take a test or answer questions before their permit is granted that shows they have the knowledge of how to read a map, how to respect the land and wildlife, principles of being a clean camper and "trail etiquette". It seems logical that most people would think of these things before they go off on a wilderness trip. But a generation who is now growing up addicted to iPhones, iPads, Twitter and Facebook may not want to go off in the wilderness. Too bad. Those of us who grew up in the depression years relished these experiences. Perhaps it weill mean fewer rather than more people in the wilderness. The wildlife would surely like this better!

Topic Question 8: National Parks and National Forests all should be protected from commercial enterprises like mining and drilling. Once disturbed and overused, they will lose their appeal along with their "wild-er-ness". Why someone wants to ride a dirt bike through the wilderness when all you can hear is the motor running constantly, is beyond me. I believe that all of these areas should be monitored so they do not become erroded and trashed with gouged out trails and can no longer hold any beauty for the beholder

My husband and I have been backpacking and snowcamping in the Sierra since 1958. We brought our two children up since ages of 5 and 6 on summer backpack trips and enjoyed their company until they graduated from college. We continued until 1996 on trips together until problems involvng replaced hips and knees finally told us that we could no longer hike our favorite trails anymore. We have incredible memories of our adventures together and many slides and photos to reminisce over. We once considered taking a horse packing trip as I had done earlier in my life, but even the llama packing we once did was just not the same. So I am still not in favor of commercial packing or guided rock climbing in our California wilderness.

The native Americans considered the land to be sacred. When you have spent as much time as we have in the Sierra, we agree with their assessment. The land IS sacred to those of us who have been priviledged to enjoy it serenity and wonders for weeks at a time. As we live through our 80's, we look back on the wonder filled times we have had and only hope that enough people in power care about the incredible gift we have been given in the beauty and wonder in the wilderness areas of California.

Correspondence ID: 612 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The more populated the surrounding areas become and the more debt that the state incures. The more likely the parks will be susceptible to environmenatal degradation and deforestation. Due to lack of funding from the government,

private entities or non-profit organizations will have to find ways to protect these giant beauties; as well as, the biodiversity of these parks

Topic Question 2: Stricter (more clear-cut) laws to combat the problem. Not cutting any more park services but increasing the number of employees to ensure that these parks remain intact and protected forever.

Topic Question 3: Everything about this place is important not only for recreation in itself but the intrinsic beauty and magnificent splendor of these giants. They are the tallest living trees on the earth, not to mention most breath-taking.

Topic Question 4: Anything involving the environment is important including, camping, hiking, or simply observing these irreplaceable trees are important not just for me but all of man-kind. What is deemed inappropriate to me is anything that goes against the protection and preservation of the park. I.e. Development of any sort, Littering, Overuse, Offroad activities within park grounds.

Topic Question 5: We need to have a carrying capacity set and enforced throughout the year. As well as, educational programs on the do's and don'ts of camping and recreating in a given environment.

Topic Question 6: Again a carrying capacity established for all activities throughout the year.

Topic Question 7: On-going management by a planning committee, that is composed of, wildlife biologist, botanist, forester, park ranger, and any other affiliated parties of interest to sustain the park for eternity.

Topic Question 8: None that I'm aware of presently but I would have to visit the sight to be sure.

The way we do things now greatly affects our children and life as we know it. So, I speak not only from my own voice but for the everyone on earth. We need to set a precedence on how to preserve the Earth not only to admire but for survival of the mother earth. We need to stop being a selfish me, me, me, society and think on a common ground a single purpose.

Correspondence ID: 613 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 15:49:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 614 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: With global warming, wildlife and nature kingdoms have a greater risk of being destroyed by tragic and uncontrollable fires. Please say no to fires in the wilderness. It is too dangerous!

Topic Question 2: Stop allowing campfires. Stop allowing more roads in the area.

Topic Question 3: It's important that it stays natural and protected from pollutants, trash, loud noise, and any harm or unnatural

changes. Stop allowing more roads to be built.

Topic Question 4: Camping and hiking are appropriate. Hunting and loud bikes/cars/trucks are NOT appropriate. Fires are not appropriate, as they are a great risk, and people are not trustworthy.

Topic Question 5: Loud and large groups are not appropriate. Campfires should be illegal if not already.

Topic Question 6: So long as animals and nature are not harmed or polluted.

Topic Question 7: There should be no killing no trapping of animals. There should be no killing /cutting down of trees, no burning of "fuel", no fires, no chemicals used, no trash left.

Topic Question 8: Protection! No harm! Respect and cherish our earth's beautiful nature kingdom and animal kingdom.

"Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages." --Thomas A. Edison

"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals." --Immanuel Kant "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." - Mahatma Gandhi "To my mind the life of a lamb is no less precious than that of a human being. I should be unwilling to take the life of a lamb for the sake of the human body. I hold that, the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man." --Mahatma Gandhi "The assumption that animals are without rights, and the illusion that our treatment of them has no moral significance, is a positively outrageous example of Western crudity and barbarity. Universal compassion is the only guarantee of morality." --Arthur Schopenhauer

"Aside from being beautiful, trees have always been the central critical element of our life-support system on earth. Trees literally make life possible; by producing oxygen, capturing water, preventing floods, building and feeding soil, providing habitat for bugs, birds, fish and billions of other species, and converting the sun's energy to food...the list goes on.

As humans have done throughout the ages, we have forgotten these facts and think of trees only as decorations. As documented in Jared Diamond's book "Collapse", every civilization that forgot its trees began a cascade of life support failures, and ultimately disappeared. Those who remembered and cherished their trees and reversed the trend, saved themselves."

taken from Seeding News, by TreePeople

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In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek public awareness at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 615 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would like to see the wilderness remain protected from motorized access, roads, and other types of development as much as possible.

Topic Question 2: Continue to manage the wilderness in accordance with the provisions of the wilderness Act of 1964; allow natural ecological processes to occur without human intervention as much as possible. Monitor and protect the wilderness as much as possible from the effects of climate change.

Topic Question 3: There should be wild places that are left as intact as possible; humans should not feel that every place they go should offer modern amenities and the opportunity to drive through.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate - camping and hiking, provided that campers remove all traces of their presence when they leave. Cross country skiing as long as mountains are not torn up to create a full service ski resort.

Inappropriate - offroad vehicles, snowmobiles -- anything that disturbs the peace, quiet and natural beauty.

Topic Question 5: I don't have a specific thought about the size of groups -- just that all visitors should follow the "leave no trace" ethic.

Topic Question 6: Again, as long as activities are managed in a way that minimizes disruption of the natural balance (and peace and quiet), I don't object.

Topic Question 8: All efforts should be made to protect areas that are relatively unscathed now, and to keep them as pristine and primitive as possible. We have already lost so much that is wild -- let's keep what we've got.

Thank you for accepting public comments on this issue -- I hope that every stage during the development of your wilderness stewardship plan will be transparent and allow maximum public involvement.

Correspondence ID: 616 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm worried about building too many roads and structures. I'm worried about the effects of climate change and of pollution, particularly for the Sequoia trees.

Topic Question 2: We need to restrict building to that necessary for low-impact human enjoyment only. We need buffer zones around the parks. Remind people to keep their impacts as minimal as possible ("leave no trace"). Restrict numbers when necessary, as has been done with Half Dome.

Topic Question 3: Peace and quiet, getting away from it all. Healthy and biodiverse ecosystems.

Topic Question 4: Hiking is appropriate. Mountain biking is not appropriate. Motorized recreational vehicles (snowmobiles, jetskis) are not appropriate.

Topic Question 5: I'd say 10 is an absolute maximum for group size. Food storage practice need to be scrupulous so as to protect the bears, and we need to constantly remind people of this.

Topic Question 6: If they are low impact, if there aren't too many of them, and if the groups aren't too big, then it's OK. We can't simply let these go unregulated and hope for the best, though.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon are amazing treasures. We should always err on the side of protecting them whenever possible. Better to have rules that are too strict rather than rules that are not strict enough.

Correspondence ID: 617 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That is will lose its wilderness status,

Topic Question 2: Keep access as it is, and do not allow logging or other natural resources to be harvested from inside its boundaries.

Topic Question 3: hiking and climbing in the sierra nevada is my favorite pastime. There is nothing i like to do more than climb a summit in the range of light. I am going to University peak tomorrow, can not wait!

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, fishing, climbing, camping, and skiing are all excellent. NO HUNTING PLEASE!!!!

Topic Question 5: No parties over 10, bear lockers are fine, campfires where there is no source of firewood is not a good idea, limit it above timberline and at high use areas.

Topic Question 6: Guided is fine, but I believe stock no longer has a place in the wilderness, too many trails have been ruined by excessive stock use. Manure dust is hell on the human body! and the trails look like freeways!

Topic Question 7: less is best

Topic Question 8: bighorn sheep area, high use areas, limit impact by limiting access maybe.

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Correspondence ID: 618 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Trail erosion due to excessive stock use.

Topic Question 2: Control stock use and total use.

Topic Question 3: Solitude and natural beauty.

Topic Question 4: Photography, hiking, climbing, fishing, nature study.

Topic Question 5: Size is not important, only total number of people and stock. Campfire pits should be restricted to one per group. The pit should be left for the next party, as reusing the same pit will destroy some of the charcoal.

Topic Question 6: Some people need help, but private backpackers have less impact.

Topic Question 7: Rescue is important, but it can be overdone. Trails need to be kept up to backpackers needs; trails for stock should be limited. Past practice has been to abandon trails not up to stock packers needs.

Topic Question 8: Riparian areas are a concern; have all the muddy trails been rerouted?

Thank you for preserving the Sierra Nevada wilderness! I have been privileged to experience many things in it, to wit, raising my ice axe in defense of a fawn fleeing an attacking eagle, seeing a brilliant meteor, which lit up the whole area, and from which we heard a scary rumble minutes later, seeing a fisher and a Sierra Nevada Least Weasel, finding a weasel skull, planaria in a spring, meeting a bear on a use trail, seeing no one for four days when hiking alone, seeing no one else for seven days climbing peaks with one other climber at the Great Western Divide and staying above 11,000 ft., Climbing more than 200 Sierra Nevada Peaks, and hiking nearly 1000 miles. Great!

Correspondence ID: 619 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 16:39:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 620 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That wilderness designation remains

Topic Question 3: I visited the area years ago as a member of a USGS survey team and want to see the area remain as it was for future generations

Topic Question 5: Reasonable party size that would not violate the `leave no trace` ruld.

Topic Question 6: All OK as long as nothing mechanized or wheeled.

Correspondence ID: 621 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Topic Question 3: Ecology -- protection of the wildlife and environment in which they live.

Topic Question 4: Consideration of the wildlife inhabitants and their homes: the trees, rivers, bushes, rocks, etc. that shelter and feed the wildlife. Appropriate activities: photography, hiking (leaving no trace behind), bird and wildlife watching, kayaking, canoeing. Inappropriate activities: motor boats, all terrain vehicles, campfires, leaving human waste (including human feces).

Topic Question 5: Responsible groups of 6 people or fewer, secure food storage (don't tempt the wildlife), no campfires -- people can use camp stoves.

Topic Question 6: Guided trips for small groups are OK, as long as the guide enforces "no trace left behind", no campfires, and secure food storage.

Topic Question 8: In light of the environmental and ecological importance of the wilderness and wilderness resources, all warrant special consideration. So many of our wilderness areas and resources have been destroyed and polluted that all remaining jewels of wilderness needs to be vigilantly protected.

Correspondence ID: 622 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I believe it is important to protect and retain the wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park because that wilderness is vital to the overall health of the park and region. Both parks are spectacular and fortunately remote, and the sequoias are incomparable.

Topic Question 2: This wilderness area should be enjoyed as well protected but with the fragile nature of the area in mind. The strategy should be access in limited numbers and for limited uses in order to preserve the area for the long term.

Topic Question 3: It is important to foster bio-diversity and the natural development of land and species that occurs in a wilderness region. Wilderness areas can also be a great learning experience/teaching tool for visits that are controlled and limited.

The solitude of the NPS areas that are more remote and managed with low density in mind are a joy to visit. I think Lassen National Park is a great example of NPS strategy in that direction, with it's one main road through the park (but other dirt access roads at park corners), its emphasis on only a few strategic signs, etc.

Correspondence ID: 623 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 16:52:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 624 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Too many wild animals.

Topic Question 2: Park rangers, public awareness.

Topic Question 3: That the beauty of the park be preserved.

Topic Question 4: Fishing. Camping at sites provided. .

No excessive partying.

Topic Question 5: Party group size should be limited. (15 or so)

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking, guided stock trips, and guided climbing/mountaineering are ok with me.

Topic Question 7: Should have guided tour guides with every group of mountaineering people.

Topic Question 8: Have guides for Mountain climbing.

Correspondence ID: 625 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 3: solitude and a primitive experience are important

Topic Question 4: ORV's are inappropriate

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Correspondence ID: 626 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I guess my main concern is that some of the wilderness area will be opened up to activities that are not in accordance with the Wilderness Act. I feel we have lost too much wild to motorized ORV and other commercial activities.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is important because it's the last place where we can still find our true humanity. It's also a haven for biodiversity. Even if I never visit a wilderness area, it is important for me to know they exist for others and for wildlife protection.

Topic Question 4: Backpacking, hiking, camping seem to me to be appropriate activities. Off road vehicles, or any motorized

transportation, mtn. biking and horseback riding, seem to inappropriate. Wilderness should be quiet, and well, wild.

Topic Question 5: Groups needs to be limited in size (5 or less), otherwise it's a party and that is not what wilderness is about. Also hiking groups should be spread out, again to retain wilderness feel. Food should be packed in, stored appropriately(bear cans) and waste packed out. There are so many portable cooking stoves, fires should be prohibited unless the area is truly fire safe.

Topic Question 6: Not in wilderness areas. There are plenty of other sites in the parks for such activities.

Topic Question 7: I think we have the science to protect wilderness and we should use the latest data to inform management activities.

Topic Question 8: In California I think the highest priority should go to protecting our Redwoods, Sequoias, Joshua Trees and Bristle Cone Pines. In addition, our coastline should be another priority.

Correspondence ID: 627 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'd like to make sure that the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks stay as wild and natural as possible, and that wild animals are provided with safe and adequate refuge with those areas.

Topic Question 2: Educating the public as to why their wilderness matters and why they should want to keep their wild areas clean, safe, and unaltered for generations to come.

Topic Question 3: Having large swaths of land that are natural and untouched by human development is crucial for maintaining the amazing biodiversity in our land. We human beings are not the only living creatures that deserve the right to exist and procreate. For me, the most important aspect of wilderness use is viewing those animals and plants that occur here naturally and appreciating them in their natural habitats.

Topic Question 4: The most appropriate activities in the wilderness are those that encourage us to connect with nature- camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, etc. The most inappropriate activities are those that really have nothing to do with nature or that actually damage the wilderness- ATVing, paintballing, skeet shooting, and other activities designed to create noise and waste should occur on private land and nowhere near federally protected wild areas.

Topic Question 5: Party sizes should be limited to what campgrounds can comfortably accommodate. This should vary depending on the site. Food should be stored in safely locked boxes away from tents where wild animals cannot get to it. Campfires should be allowed in designated areas where fire danger is relatively low and where proper care can be administered by park officials.

Topic Question 6: I think it's a great idea and that the park should get a big cut of the profits earned by those private companies. Having a knowledgeable, excited person leading the way into the typically unknown wilderness is a great way to get people interested in nature and all that it has to offer. Education is the key to making a person appreciate something and it is the only way to get people excited about their own wild areas.

Topic Question 7: Pristine, untouched wild land is key, meaning water ways must be kept clean (no dumping of any kind may be allowed), fires must be made safely and totally contained, and all human traffic must leave a minimal footprint- patrons must stay on marked trails, waste must be collected at designated sites, and camping can only occur in specified areas.

Topic Question 8: Endangered plant and animal species must be identified and protected with special care. Programs to breed these creatures should be created and displayed to the public for educational purposes (with the option to donate or volunteer). Natural habitats for these organisms should be carefully identified and sectioned off from the rest of the park so that no patrons are allowed access to those areas.

Correspondence ID: 628 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Over-use of resources in these popular, beautiful Parks

Topic Question 2: Limit numbers of cars/visitors at any time; enforce rules re appropriate quiet, respectful, behavior of all guests in the parks

Topic Question 3: The quiet joy of being surrounded, and of walking within,unusually beautiful natural vistas.

Topic Question 4: Quiet, peaceful, respectful-of-others type of activities, such as obeying posted signs when walking, or respecting the privacy of others when in camping areas. Staying only on marked trails

Topic Question 5: All these should be determined and enforced by posted Park rules; those guests who violate the posted rules may be politely requested to note and obey the rules by other guests; otherwise persons violating rules should be reported to Park officials.

Topic Question 6: These are all valuable services to enable the public to learn to enjoy the Wilderness experience and all should be offered where appropriate.

Topic Question 7: By definition, Wilderness areas are unique,varied,and remote. Thus visitor management must be designed to educate visitors as to appropriate behavior for being in remote areas that can be vulnerable to mis-use of fire, pollution, or trampling of rare and remote plants and animals.

Topic Question 8: Some should undoubtedly be closed to the public at specific times and for specific reasons. Such times could be: need to allow healing time in a particular area:ie to fix rockslides; during reproductive seasons for flora and fauna; or for trail rehabilitation

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concern for, and my love of our wonderful Parks and Wild Areas.

Correspondence ID: 629 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 17:56:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 630 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Being a Californian and very fond of both of the parks, I know they are badly in need of protection because the trees and wildlife they house which are not found in abundance anywhere else.

Correspondence ID: 631 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These are great areas. The biggest Sierra Sequoia are found there in these areas

Topic Question 2: Do not allow any hunting, lumbering, grazing, and homebuilding.

Topic Question 3: The United States has always protected our wilderness areas. Its important for americans to be able to go to these areas to clear away stress.

Topic Question 4: Camping, backpacking, river running, day hikes, fishing, Swimming in the rivers, etc.

Topic Question 5: All food storage should be in Bear proof bins. Group sizes determined by available camp sites. Small campfires only in secure areas. There should be a limit on visitors to protect the areas.

Topic Question 6: These services should be allowed as they introduce visitors to areas they might be able to go to on their own. It also shows the visitors the values of these areas.

Topic Question 7: Rangers and more Rangers to serve as law enforcement, educate the public on how to treat our wilderness areas.

Topic Question 8: The big Sequoias, protecting the rivers, protection the wildlife, preventing fires.

We have been to these areas many times and each time it refreshes our souls. We must preserve and protest them.

Correspondence ID: 632 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Being over run with activities not appropriate with wilderness areas.

Topic Question 3: Place to reconnect.

Topic Question 4: Camping, hiking, fishing appropriate,maybe hunting in certain areas. Not appropriate: motorized vehicles or any wheeled vehicle. Mining,logging,grazing,energy development.

Topic Question 5: Small groups only, bear proofing food supplies, campfires only in none critical areas.

Topic Question 6: Only by small numbers, and guides have to be vetted and permitted.

Topic Question 7: Wilderness areas must be managed in such a way to minimize human impact. Which means keeping human technology usage to a minimum in wilderness areas.

Correspondence ID: 633 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Will wilderness be kept wilderness? Wilderness needs to be protected!!!

Topic Question 2: Don't cave to special interests who want to use it for their benefit.

Topic Question 3: It's not so much about use by humans, as protecting it for the animals.

Topic Question 4: About the only human activity appropriate for wilderness is hiking. Anything motorized is really inappropriate! Any development is really inappropriate!

Topic Question 5: Campfires: bad idea. Big groups: bad idea. Limit party size to 4 people per group.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services: bad idea.

Topic Question 7: Flyovers are needed to spot illegal farming in the wilderness. Illegal farmers probably do more harm to wilderness in California than almost any other group at this time. The law has to really come down on them.

Topic Question 8: Any water source needs special monitoring because of illegal farming. Every endangered plant and animal

needs special consideration.

Wilderness needs to be kept wilderness!!!

Correspondence ID: 634 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they be preserved and protected.

Topic Question 4: Any that cause a threat to the air, water, land, forestation or wildlife.

Topic Question 5: That they should be managed in such a way to minimize negative impact on the environment - limits on group sizes or regularity of use, wastes managed appropriately - fires be controlled by park rules, and patrol.

Topic Question 6: That it is beneficial provided the negative impact be offset by controls on size of groups, conduct, and regularity.

Topic Question 8: ALL --

Correspondence ID: 635 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 19:07:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 19:13:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 637 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
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Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 638 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 19:55:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 639 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Sequoia and Kings Canyon need to be kept as natural as possible for as long as man walks this earth.

Topic Question 2: People need to be informed of any changes in governmental regulations.

Topic Question 3: I used to work in Sequoia National Park. My work there gave me an appreciation for what National Parks mean and how important it is to keep what is left of our natural heritage.

Topic Question 4: When going to a National Park, I expect quiet and natural settings. Some roads or methods to get in and out of the park are necessary and a minimum of concessions are needed. There should be as little interference with the natural beauty as possible.

Topic Question 5: Small parties are all right. People should be able to use the park, but must be careful and courteous.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services are great. But they must support conservation and help the park to stay natural. Bringing people into the parks is important to get people to support our parks.

Correspondence ID: 640 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: 1) Air quality - Encroaching smog from the valley. 2)loss of forest (due to logging, development) 3)proper balance between "hands off" and "over-management" policies. 4)Funding for proper park maintenance,care and staffing. 5) Over development

Topic Question 2: 1) Consult the best & most current science 2) Remember that habitats, beauty and diversity of life in the parks is paramount and manage parks from that perspective. Not logging, not private or government pressures. 3) Consult the public about issues...ask for their help! These are our parks and I bet there are many private citizens who are willing to give assistance and support.

Topic Question 3: Everything. Wilderness is where I go to recharge my spiritual battery! The solitude, the beauty, the possibility of danger, the act of working your muscles hard to get to some gorgeous lake or peak or stream or meadow. I can feel the stress and worries of city life fall away, like layers of an onion, with each step farther along a trail!!

Topic Question 4: Important & appropriate: Hiking, camping, swimming, running, jumping, climbing, laughing, crying, taking pictures, maybe a little fishing.

Inappropriate: anything with a motor. Mountain biking should only be allowed in certain areas closer to population centers (like camp grounds) Stock should be limited. No pitons driven into rock formations!

Topic Question 5: Party/group size: no more than 10-15(max) Food storage practices: bear-proof boxes in campgrounds and wherever else they can be placed (like at popular lakes, etc), within budgetary constraints. If more are needed and no money available, start something online, like a raffle or auction, to raise the \$. Hey, why not? Otherwise, bear proof/resistant food canisters should be required - bears are too smart for hanging food anymore - especially in higher elevations where it's hard to find a tree more than 10 feet tall, if you can find one at all. Campfires: hmmm, they are definitely nice, but probably better saved for more northern regions where forest cover is thicker & wood not as scarce as it is in the southern mountains.

Topic Question 6: guided hiking: should be allowable, but frequency and sizes of groups should be monitored for potential overuse and crowding issues. guided stock trips: I guess they should be allowed, but really kept to a minimum. Stock damage trails, contribute to erosion and trample wildlife and plant habitat and may contribute to contaminating water sources.

Topic Question 7: Well, I don't really have any training or education in bmp's for a wilderness area. But I would think that, as stated above, the best, UNBIASED, science should be consulted - especially with a warming climate. There are many plant/tree species that may be (are) vulnerable to a changing climate. That sometimes includes insect attacks that could threaten whole stands of trees. I think it will be very challenging in the years to come and the NPS will need to stay on top and be able to be proactive. I especially would like to state that the policy practiced by certain OTHER government agencies to let a whole population of forest get killed by a some insect invasion because they are lacking the money and manpower to save ALL of the trees is WORSE than reprehensible. What the heck is wrong with saving SOME of the trees so there is some hope of re-population? Why do they ALL have to die? That is just stupid and reflects a lack of heart and commitment and just plain gumption.

Topic Question 8: Yes. Everywhere where there is undeveloped land should be examined for wilderness potential. Or at least for protection from development with an eye to the future. We humans are in no danger of becoming extinct. So, there's no reason that we should feel we have the right to live or work or build or shave off hills anywhere we please. Diversity of life is threatened and we have no idea where the "point of effort" is (if you've ever sailed) where life (including ours) will thrive on one side, and begin to fail, in a total way, on the other. We just don't know. So preserve as much as possible and learn to live in

ways that use less and love that life because it means there will be plenty for all.

Per the Sierra Club statement: "Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land."

Correspondence ID: 641 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I visited Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks for the first time last year after living in California more than 40 years. Though familiar with other wilderness areas throughout the West, I was awestruck by the size and grandeur of these parks. It is incumbent upon our current generations to protect these resources for future generations. The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks encompass hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine High Sierra country, of which more than 90% is designated wilderness. I am concerned, of course, that these areas could be lost over time by benign neglect or overdevelopment.

Topic Question 2: A strong program of education for hikers and other users of wilderness is paramount to protect the resource. Some ranger patrols are necessary. I am concerned that the NPS is re-asking these strategy questions when the Wilderness Act has been in place for almost fifty years. I reject commercial outfitters of any kind using wilderness. Wilderness may be an enjoyable respite for humans, but it is an important habitat for wildlife living free of human impacts for the most part.

Topic Question 3: Designated wilderness is human powered except for those on horseback. Leave it alone and please don't add any bells and whistles. We don't need machinery in wilderness - that's the point of it.

Topic Question 4: Passive recreation, not loud, not mechanical. Hiking, horseback riding, the current allowed uses.

Topic Question 5: Small parties, not large enough to make an impact on the wildlife. Campfires should also not be large enough to make an impact and if, downed wood is scarce, only campstoves should be used. Again, education of wilderness users is paramount and teaching respect for the environment and resource.

Topic Question 6: No, commercialization of the wilderness is the last thing we should be considering.

Topic Question 7: Wilderness is essentially hands off and no need to "manage" - untrammled!!!

Topic Question 8: Continue with untrammeling!

Correspondence ID: 642 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they are protected from commercial resource exploitation, and tourist abuse.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, photographing, educational walks are appropriate. ORV activity is not appropriate.

Topic Question 5: Keep groups small, food storage practices robust, and limit the number and season for campfires.

Topic Question 6: Guiding trips, as long as there are not too many, are okay.

Topic Question 7: Keep commercial resource exploitation out of the wilderness. No domestic grazing.

Topic Question 8: Keep riparian areas especially protected from human activities.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 643 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The wilderness charcter needs to be protected for the sake of the aspecies lving there and for the enjoyment of future generations.

Topic Question 2: No extractive activities allowed-no mining, no logging, no hunting. No motorized vehicles except for service vehicles.

Topic Question 3: The sites reamin quiet and undisturbed by hiuman activity.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, catch and release fishing, backpacking, limited access to horse and mule trips.

Topic Question 5: Group sizes shoul dbe limited to less than 10. Bear proff conainers should be required. No campfires allowed.

Topic Question 6: They shoudl be limited in number based on the carrying capacity of the trail and the use by non-animal users.

Topic Question 7: Users in back country areas need to register their trip and get a permit.

Correspondence ID: 644 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would want to be sure that no mining or logging occurs in these areas in order to prevent ecosystem degradation, habitat loss, and encroachment upon native species.

Topic Question 4: Activities that are important and should be promoted include: hiking, camping, etc. I think activities that are inappropriate including logging, mining, or any other industrial activities.

Topic Question 5: I think group sizes should be determined based upon the facilities available (restrooms, campsites, etc.) I think food should be stored in lockers or vehicles to prevent attracting wild animals and that campfires should be built only in safely designated areas.

Topic Question 8: Yes: endangered species habitat, old growth forest, and water ways such as rivers, streams, creeks, and water falls.

Correspondence ID: 645 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: keep the air clean

Topic Question 3: wilderness reaffirms my faith

Correspondence ID: 646 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there as a contrast to our normal urban lives.

Topic Question 2: wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the

wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, fishing, non-motorized activities are appropriate. Motorized/mechanized activities are not.

Topic Question 5: Group size may depend on the specific area. Some areas cannot accommodate larger groups. I think campfires should be limited to areas with plenty of wood and existing fire-rings.

Topic Question 6: I think guided groups are fine if they are not too large and/or noisy.

Correspondence ID: 647 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please designate the maximum amount of wilderness

Topic Question 3: Very important, I have hiked in this area many times.

Correspondence ID: 648 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 23:05:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: More than ever, people need to learn about how to behave in the wilderness. I suggest that backpackers have to watch a film about proper usage of the park before they are issued a pass. Casual hikers could also be gently encouraged to view the film before they set foot on a trail. It would grand if there could be more rangers spreading wisdom to the visitors.

Correspondence ID: 649 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about pollution, invasive species, wildlife protection, adequate funds for national parks, and effects of frequent visits by people.

Topic Question 2: It may be helpful to inform more people about what not to do in the parks or what they can do to help and maintain and enforce rules. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land. The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: I consider it appropriate to respect nature and observe it while not harming it. I think it is inappropriate to disturb or harm any wildlife and plants which includes walking off the trails and littering.

Topic Question 5: I think there should be proper limitations in order to not scare or disturb animals living in the park.

Topic Question 6: Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 7: In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 8: Pollution, invasive species, wildlife and wildlife habitat protection are important.

Correspondence ID: 650 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 23:06:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep this wilderness area free of commercial use. My 15 year old grand daughter just returned from a 30 day wilderness experience of cross country hiking with a group of 10. She learned life long skills and developed increased confidence in herself during this outing. Please protect these areas for our children and grand children.

Correspondence ID: 651 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would like them to be pristine wilderness for thousands of years or more.

Topic Question 2: Regulate visitors with signs and rangers, or keep some areas off limits?

Correspondence ID: 652 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else.

Topic Question 2: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: Going into the wilderness allows me to connect intimately with the natural world. I am able to step back and realize the beauty and complexity of the intertwining ecological systems. It is my firm belief that the wilderness resource is maintained for future generations.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. In my opinion such uses go against the intent of wilderness designation, so I support these prohibitions.

Topic Question 5: Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. I am especially concerned that every visitor should have information about food storage. The cost to wildlife for seeking human food is too great. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 6: I do believe that these are valuable services for individuals who are not able, or are no longer able to carry their own load into the wilderness. I visited the Ruby Mountains this month, and was pleased and impressed that it is required that pack animal feed is required to be seed free. I would hope that this would be a requirement, if it is necessary to bring in feed.

Topic Question 7: In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Correspondence ID: 653 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 23:46:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness

character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 654 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1:

That they will be destroyed for greed

Topic Question 2: Tax the wealthy

Correspondence ID: 655 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:46:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 656 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I hope that the wilderness will still be wild in another 200 years, so that people will be able to see and experience it for themselves, instead of having only reproductions of it to guide their imagination. Preserving some wild places in that status allows our collective spirits a release valve from present day life.

Topic Question 2: I favor not allowing any resources to be sold--and especially not at "bargain basement" prices to firms that will make big profits off them. I really don't want to see exploration & development of wilderness resources from energy or mineral firms. They never do the right things to protect/restore the site, its watersheds etc, the way they say they will when they're trying to get a contract.

Topic Question 3: I hope that the wilderness will still be wild in another 200 years, so that people will be able to see and experience it for themselves, instead of having only reproductions of it to guide their imagination. Preserving some wild places in that status allows our collective spirits a release valve from present day life. As with people who don't seem to realize that the meat they buy in plastic packaging comes from real animals--or who don't wish to be reminded by seeing bones or animal shapes--there are people who think that urban, or possibly the dreaded out-in-the-country living, is the only way to live, or to

have lived. Some others want to be reminded of the wilds and wildness as often as they can manage to get there.

I don't want the wild to disappear, or to be available only to those with the wealth to own some.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, swimming, licensed and limited fishing and game-hunting (to EAT) limited boating--with classes and workshops appropriate to the individual site: all good things. Learning centers for each site would be great, even if it's just some displays by a parking lot.

Where possible, safe enough, and practical, limited-mobility areas should be available. It's not always going to be possible.

Speed boats, jet skis, and similar high-speed, high-petrol use (and therefore polluting) vehicles should be out.

Topic Question 8: If there are delicately balanced areas that can easily be damaged by too much enthusiasm, those need extra protection, from fencing, guided-only access...that sort of thing.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

When I was a child, we never went to the National Parks or the National Wildernesses, like so many of my classmates did. Part of it was no money for such vacations, non-wilderness parents, and a host of smaller reasons. Now we don't have the money to do so, unless we're passing by one on the way to somewhere else--and we will try to do that.

Just because I haven't been able to, doesn't mean I want those areas to disappear or to be so damaged by human activity that my son's children (when he marries and has some) won't be able to show these areas to their children.

The wild of this country is part of its history, and it mustn't be allowed to die or disappear, if we can do anything to prevent that. If the wild were to die, a part of our soul, our spirit, our national identity, would be silenced and lost as well.

Correspondence ID: 657 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: My concerns are continued encroachment by the human population into the life of the wild. We must allow some areas, especially those critical to habitat, to remain safe and protected. Contrary to popular belief, humans are not the most important species, only the most destructive. There are many who appreciate the wilderness and take it on its own terms and leave without a trace. But most just transfer their homes to the wilderness and call it 'camping'. This brings with it all the intrusions of city life which do not add to the pristine element of wilderness.

Topic Question 2: Limit public access. Just because it is there, doesn't mean we have the right to it.

Topic Question 3: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 4: Very few and certainly no motorized vehicles.

Topic Question 5: Limited permits for access.

Topic Question 6: Limited permits for access. While these activities are more in keeping with the nature of wilderness and I would want to support those who love the wilderness, the fact remains that many of the groups have elaborate setups for people who want to "experience" the wild but can't leave their city trappings behind. All that type of traffic just adds to the encroachment onto the life of the wild.

Topic Question 7: It must be managed by those not willing to sell out to commercial interests.

Topic Question 8: All of them. Just like the Marine Reserves that are showing signs of huge success in species restoration, we should limit access so that life can rebound in areas where humans have had negative impact.

Correspondence ID: 658 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: Protecting the wilderness and keeping it as natural as possible

Topic Question 4: Hiking and Backpacking are the most important and appropriate. Packing with stock may be OK but must be carefully controlled to prevent damage to trails, campsites, and from manure. Packers should be required to pack out all manure.

Topic Question 5: No campfires should be allowed; they are dangerous and contribute to climate change. The restriction to party size of 15 seems appropriate but a party's animals should count as a part of their party size.

Topic Question 6: I have no problem with guided trips but stock use should be better regulated as described above.

Correspondence ID: 659 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keeping mining, logging, drilling development etc out.

Topic Question 2: Remove all motor driven off road vehicles

Topic Question 3: Wilderness needs to be wilderness, not filled with people, improvements and any form of entertainment

Topic Question 4: Hiking, sensible camping, picture taking.

Topic Question 5: Keep groups/parties to less than eight. No food storage facilities, safe small campfires.

Topic Question 6: No commercial enterprises. See above. Keep wilderness a wilderness.

Topic Question 7: Rangers on horseback

Correspondence ID: 660 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keep these areas wilderness! They are so important to my family's physical and spiritual well being. They are also equally as important to keep areas with minimum human presence for wild animals to have habitat in which to live.

Topic Question 3: Keep these areas wilderness! They are so important to my family's physical and spiritual well being. They are also equally as important to keep areas with minimum human presence for wild animals to have habitat in which to live.

Correspondence ID: 661 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Preserving what's left of it.

Topic Question 2: Don't allow hunting, motorized vehicles, roads, timber harvest and limit the number of people going in.

Topic Question 3: It's our biosphere and we're losing it.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, birding

Topic Question 5: Small enough to prevent impact. No campfires during fire season. Food in bear proof containers.

Topic Question 6: Few and small

Topic Question 7: Thin out trees to prevent bark beetle, without trucks

Topic Question 8: all

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 662 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 663 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: my first concern is about the use of packstock, to make sure that is still allowed ,and not made so difficult that its not worth the effort i.e meadow grazing. My 2nd concern is about trail maint. I was told that the trail crews were going to be required to use hand saws ? If this is true I think this is a huge mistake, Because with the ever so smaller bugets the trails will suffer. I have seen first hand this choice in the golden trout wilderness,it has led to all trails with logs across them. and walk arounds ,so most areas theres erosion from this .when there's a very well built trail that can't be used because of trees .If you look at the hockett area this year there was probably 600 trees cut some 48" in dia. it took two crews 3 weeks to clear this with chain saws .What would happen here ? no budget for tree clearing as it would take an army of men to clear this in a 3 week time . Or the massive use of park pack stock to supply the army . which in turn defeets the wilderness idea.Lets be clear I'm not pro chain saw I'm just a realist in the fact the quicker in the quicker out .THE CHAIN SAW SOUND IS THE LEAST PROBLEM.When mon thru fri. all you here is f 15 jets from 8 in the morning till 5 at night .Thats is the real distruction on the willderness expirience! This is the most distructive use of wilderness!'

Topic Question 2: things seem fine except the lack of trail maint. in the golden trout area .

Topic Question 3: To be able to use my stock , hunt and fish

Topic Question 4: Horse camping , hunting and fishing . Inappropriate would have to be air traffic.

Topic Question 5: I think the current regulations are fine.

Topic Question 6: I think group size is inportant for commercial use, to keep sizes with in reason.

Correspondence ID: 664 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I appreciate and revere the ancient, irreplaceable redwood trees.

Topic Question 3: Life would not be worth living without the natural world and it's inhabitants.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, photography, riding (horses), walking, climbing, camping.

Topic Question 6: Probably educational and a good thing if done in a respectful way.

Topic Question 8: Many! Redwoods are particularly sacred to us.

Correspondence ID: 665 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The preservation and protection of these vital wilderness areas are of utmost importance, even if it means restricting and or limiting access to them. I would like to see a limit or even end to livestock and pack animal grazing in these areas.

Topic Question 2: Limiting vehicle traffic, possibly removing pavement in some of the remote sections, for example the last part of Mineral King road after the ranger station

Topic Question 3: The possibility of being able to experience a truly natural wilderness area, for camping and hiking.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, climbing, primitive camping, with limited vehicle camping in existing designated campgrounds.

Topic Question 5: I believe the existing rules are good as to campfires and food storage, I am not familiar with the regulations on group size, but it should be addressed

Topic Question 6: I am very ambivalent about these practices.

Topic Question 7: Limit human interference and exploitation.

Topic Question 8: The old growth forest areas.

The national parks and especially Kings Canyon, Mineral King and Sequoia are very special places that I hope my grandsons grandson will be able to enjoy as I did as a child and continue to do today.

Correspondence ID: 666 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I spent my early childhood in Three Rivers, at the foothills of SEKI. The Parks are part of my identity and have helped to shape my path in life. I "fell in love" with wilderness and nature in these parks, and I am now an environmental studies major at San Francisco State University. My concern for these parks is that they will become less and less wild over time if they are not properly protected from human activity. NPS should make every possible effort to preserve, and even increase the amount of protected wilderness in these parks.

Topic Question 2: I think it is important to produce a sense of stewardship in Park visitors. Since the parks are probably underfunded and understaffed, there are not enough rangers to make sure that all visitors are abiding by park rules. The best solution is to impart a sense of stewardship onto the visitors so that they may be more self-regulating. I firmly believe that we need strong rules in the parks and rangers to enforce these rules, but the rangers cannot be everywhere all the time. Hopefully, park visitors will respect the majesty of the parks and behave accordingly.

Topic Question 3: Having time away from a human built environment is very important to me. I come to wilderness areas to get away from people and to reconnect with the earth. I find it very relaxing to be away from the city. I also love day hiking and swimming in the river. I prefer park areas that are uncrowded and free from RVs and other vehicles. I also love seeing wildlife and knowing that there is still high quality habitat available for the many amazing species that call the Sierras their home. I am continually in awe of the natural world, and as a student of ecology I find wilderness areas to be endlessly interesting and exciting.

Topic Question 4: I consider hiking and photography to be appropriate. Observing wildlife is also appropriate from a respectful distance. I think permitted scientific research that has conservation applications is appropriate. I do not think hunting is appropriate, nor do I think people should be allowed to play loud music on stereos. I am not a fan of RVs or other loud, or large motor vehicles in the parks. I would prefer it if people were not allowed to smoke within the parks. I absolutely do not think

dogs are appropriate - unless they are seeing eye dogs. I think it is best for people to remain on the trail when hiking, but I understand that some backpackers may deviate. I do not think fish seeding is appropriate in National Parks. I hope no one would litter, feed wildlife, harass wildlife, pick flowers, etc... I think it is best for people to try and have as little impact as possible.

Topic Question 5: I am not sure how I feel about the exact size that a group should be, but I think smaller is better. Food should be stored as to not attract wildlife. Campfires should be safely contained.

Topic Question 6: As long as these commercial services maintain the utmost respect for the wilderness areas and do not take large groups (10+ people), then I do not see a problem. I always worry about the litter or physical impact that these types of groups may leave/create.

Topic Question 7: Rangers should enforce rules strictly. Educational outreach outside the park is essential. School programs that help to encourage ecological awareness are key. Education should continue within the parks as well.

Topic Question 8: Mineral King should be protected from further development. Any sensitive areas should be off-limits to humans, even backpackers. An exception might be made for scientists conducting research with applied conservation implications.

Correspondence ID: 667 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 4: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 5: There should be some areas set aside for large groups. Campers should be given info on how to store their food, and storage cupboards should be available at sites. Campfires should be allowed in designated rings only

Topic Question 6: I would like that, especially if it raises revenue for the parks.

Topic Question 7: not sure

Topic Question 8: minimal to no logging.

Correspondence ID: 668 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 11:41:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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character of the land.

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Correspondence ID: 669 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 11:49:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 670 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My concerns are in regards to the trees. This is the only place where redwoods grow. This area is getting smaller and smaller, because of commercial and money-making interests. I do not understand why it would benefit anyone to cut these trees. Once they are gone, they are gone. We will never see them again.

Topic Question 2: There are always people who will try to encroach, using methods to trick our congress to see their point of view. I think there should be an absolute policy that cannot be changes or challenged. The Endangered Species Act has been attacked and is being whittled away by those who just want to make money. Money should be out of the equation. The trees are all that matters. They are precious and should not be harmed. Logging will decimate the area. The forest cares for itself.

Topic Question 3: I think this should be limited and monitored. These days people are being destructive. Rules should be strict. I hate to say these things, but I do not trust others not to have a money making intention to exploit the area for monetary gain.

Topic Question 4: Limited hiking and camping. Highly monitored. Campers should sign an agreement to care for the place they camp. If they leave trash or abuse their campsite they should be fined. I would not, at this time, let anyone into the back country except forest service and other scientists to monitor the forest. I think that the redwood country should be off limits to show how much the trees matter. It's the trees that matter here.

Topic Question 5: I think that size matters and restrictions should be put in place. Everyone should leave their campsite clean. Food should be stored so no animal can get to it. If this should happen, they should be fined heavily. Maybe even barred from camping for a certain time period. Sloppy campers should be fined and barred from usage, until they show they can care.

Topic Question 6: I think these should be limited to companies that show a marked concern for the area they are making money off of. They should share their profits with the forest service to care and maintain what they are using to make a profit. There should be strict monitoring of these companies and should be limited in the area to a select few, to protect the trees. The trees

are all that matters here.

Topic Question 7: High monitoring and concern for the trees. The trees are all that matters. They have created the environment, they are what draws us, they are the ones who have grown for so long. I will not live to see a 1000 year old tree grow from seedling to high in the sky. If the trees become the focus, the rest will fall into place. Strict care, like a museum should be how we care for this area. Money making ventures should be off the table.

Topic Question 8: All areas that contain old growth or second growth redwoods should be protected from wineries, logging or oil, or anything that would allow exploitation for money making ventures. Just care, and watching and limited hiking and camping. It is the trees, it is the trees, it is the trees. Why can we not see that they are what matters. They grow only here are will not come again, in our lifetime. Logging interests don't care. They just want to cut. They do not grow like yellow pine or any tree that grows to 25 feet in 15 to 20 years. I choose to protect them.

I choose to absolutely protect the area of the redwoods absolutely. No logging, no high usage for recreation, extreme limited allowing to experience the trees, until people learn to appreciate the fact they are here at all. Companies should share their profits with the forest service to care for the trees. Campers should sign agreements to care for their campsites and fined if they fail to follow the rules. Yosemite should be heavily restricted too. The canyon is suffering. Our society does not really care for our wilderness. The republicans have seen to that. They are attacking every law that cares for the land and sea and air. They do not care except for money and power. Our people have adopted their ideology. The trees should be absolutely protected. The trees are what matters, not the spotted owl. Its the trees, Its the trees, Its the trees.

Correspondence ID: 671 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it stays as wilderness for future generations. There is so little true wilderness left in the US that we need to vigorously preserve what is left

Topic Question 2: Follow the guidelines of the Wilderness Act which generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Also evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 3: We are not the only ones on this planet. However most of the planet has been modified by humans. We need to retain wilderness for the benefit of our co-inhabitants of the planet as well as ourselves. Personally, a trip to the wilderness is a renewing experience and does more to bring peace and serenity into my life than all the Prozac in the world could!

Topic Question 4: appropriate: hiking, backpacking,cross country skiing, horse-travel

inappropriate: logging, development (structures and roads), motorized vehicles

unsure: regulated fishing & hunting

Topic Question 5: I think the current regulations regarding these things are appropriate

Topic Question 6: They are a good thing. It gives more people exposure to wilderness which almost certainly will inspire them to be supportive of maintaining wilderness.

Topic Question 7: I am not familiar with management, so I cannot offer an opinion here. In general, I support management practices that conform with my responses to the previous questions

Topic Question 8: They're all special. Our wildernesses cover a multitude of ecosystems, each with its own unique situation. What is good for one might not be the best for another. There should be flexibility in strengthening or relaxing regulations as appropriate for the specific wilderness

Correspondence ID: 672 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am worried that the wilderness in sequoia and kings canyon might disappear. I am also worried that the wilderness of sequoia and kings canyon might get over used and that all of the trees and plants will get cut down for space for development and business. I am also worried that the animals who thrive in sequoia and kings canyon might become extinct due to hunting and slaughter.

Topic Question 2: Some possible strategies for the protection of wilderness resources might be to form large groups of people

who very much care about protecting nature and the natural environment that surrounds sequoia and kings canyon national parks.

Topic Question 3: It is important to me that people have the freedom and space to use the wilderness for wilderness use and recreation but also use it in a sustainable and environmentally conscious way. It is also very important that people do not participate in recreation that harms the wilderness and the natural habitat that many animals and plants use for living.

Topic Question 4: I consider participating in recreation in a sustainable manner important and appropriate. I also consider going on hiking adventures and learning about the natural environment important and appropriate.

Topic Question 5: I think that camp fires are fine to participate in as long as they do not grow in to over sized man made dizastors that destroy big chunks of habitat. I think that parties and group sizes should be monitored and kept to a mininum. I also think that group sizes should be monitored and kept to a mininum. I think that people should keep their foods in bear proof cotainers that are very tightly sealed and that the bears and the other animals can never get in to.

Topic Question 6: I think that these activities are very appropriate and that they should continue to happen and thrive. I think that they are a great way of introducing people to the natural habitat and the natural environment. I also think that they are a great way of educating people about the different plants and the different animals that thrive in sequoia and kings canyon.

Topic Question 7: I think that it is appropriate for park rangers and other park employees to educate and prepare people for some of the dangers and risks involved with hiking in the back country and the natural environment. I also think that it is appropriate for the park staff to alert people of weather conditions and other factors that might deter the people from taking a hike.

Topic Question 8: I think that making camp fires and cutting down the trees for the use of fire wood warrant special consideration. I also think that group sizes and party sizes warrant special consideration.

I think that the park service and the national park service is doing a great job of protecting and educating people about the rules of nature and the natural environment. I think that also we will continue to come a very long way in protecting nature and its inhabitants.

Correspondence ID: 673 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protect it thoroughly.

Topic Question 5: I have backpacked along the river in Kings Canyon, and appreciated the bear boxes. On the whole, even though they are human-made, they protect heavily used area from worse impacts.

Many campsites, however, are located too close to the river.

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Correspondence ID: 674 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I believe the wilderness should stay in its natural condition without roads or structures. This benefits plants and animals which require uninterrupted territory to thrive. Humans also benefit by spending time in natural landscapes.

Topic Question 2: Fire should not be suppressed as it is part of the natural process. Suppression should only be considered when structures or lives are in danger.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness also cleans and protects our water supply. The most valuable asset in California.

Topic Question 4: hiking camping fishing cross country skiing appropriate

hunting shooting snowmobiles down hill skiing inappropriate

Topic Question 5: Maximum group 50 people lots of bear boxes in the backcountry since I have seen what happens when wild animals get human food and sorry to say most people do not store food properly campfires allowed except during high fire season

Topic Question 6: OK as long as their base is outside the wilderness area

Topic Question 7: minimum fire suppression, no livestock grazing, no road construction horse and foot patrols to assure policies are followed and illegal activities are not happening

Topic Question 8: caves may need to be fenced off since one person can erase what nature has taken years to create

Correspondence ID: 675 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1:

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Topic Question 2: no mining, no deforestation, roads, off road vehicles.

Topic Question 3: that it remain natural and provide us and other species with the serenity that only nature provides.

Topic Question 4: hiking, camping, nature watches are appropriate but raucus radios, off road vehicles, hunting, trapping, mining or logging are inappropriate because they destroy the area and are dangers to animals and humans.

Topic Question 5: they need to advise campers, hikers of proper uses and storage of food and during heat waves that no campfires are permitted (unless the area has provided direction for how to have a safe fire.

Topic Question 6: they destroy our wilderness and pollute other areas through toxins and runoff in streams, water tables, etc. They are not acceptable.. No one should pilage our public lands.

Topic Question 7: maintain the safety of nature and other species.1

Correspondence ID: 676 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please keep it wild, no oil exploration, mining, logging, etc...

Topic Question 2: A strong park ranger force.

Topic Question 3: We need places to get away from noise and commotion, also places not manicured by man... places where animals can live in a natural setting, where watersheds are not polluted by industry or vehicles, etc...

Topic Question 4: hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing, canoing, are appropriate. ATVs, motor boats, helicopters, snowmobiles, etc... are not appropriate.

Topic Question 5: party size probably 10-15 max, pack food in, pack garbage out. campfires depends on conditions and do people want to pack firewood.

Topic Question 6: seems like a good idea if they are thoroughly screened and heavily regulated.

Topic Question 7: many park rangers keeping an eye on things.

Topic Question 8: probably marijuana cultivation at least in California?

Please keep as much wilderness wild as possible. Sadly enough people seem to have a tendency to destroy nature as fast as possible. We need people dedicated to the preservation of wild places, hopefully not swayed by corporate greed or corruption, to protect what little wilderness is left after years of development. Thanks for your hard work.

Correspondence ID: 677 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 14:09:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 4: I would like to see native land management techniques implemented and native groups access to gathering protected.

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Correspondence ID: 678 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: There is no other place on earth like it.

Topic Question 2: Please keep the old growth forests intact.

Topic Question 3: Knowing it is there and just seeing the pristine wilderness.

Topic Question 4: Backpacking, camping, birdwatching.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services should be limited and centered around a small area with minimal impact on the environment.

Topic Question 7: No logging allowed. No new roads.

Topic Question 8: All of the old growth!

Correspondence ID: 679 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is important that we protect the wilderness we have left in our crowded state. Wild animals should be left alone and not managed to fit in with people. People should fit in with wildlife in a wilderness. You step into wilderness, you take your chances.

Topic Question 3: People need a place to go to get away from it all. There needs to be a wild place where wildlife can be observed and quiet can be appreciated, a place where signs of other people is minimal.

Topic Question 4: It is important that there be a place to hike, ride, camp, and fish in peace without crowds. Mechanized vehicles would be an intrusion. Large, loud groups would be out of place.

Topic Question 5: Groups should be kept small enough that they do not intrude on others trying to enjoy the quiet and seclusion.

Topic Question 6: I wouldn't mind guided groups as long as they were respectful of others need for quiet and privacy.

Correspondence ID: 680 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 14:29:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 681 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it may be lost forever due to corporate greed and lack of preservation for future generations...biodiversity is the key to all life.

Topic Question 3: That it remains for all future generations in its entirety

Topic Question 4: Tread-lightly and packing-in and out all that's brought with you. Inappropriate use is littering, disturbing nature, unchecked OHV use, hunting/trapping.

Topic Question 5: Within reason and always responsible use, especially campfires.

Topic Question 6: It's a good way to bring those to nature that may not otherwise be able to experience it, and hopefully it will create a fostering of protection for said areas.

Topic Question 7: That no 1 governmental agency should be in charge of determining management.

Topic Question 8: All of them, considering the economic and budget restraints we are currently facing. That means more threats to our designated wildernesses due to a lack of Forest Rangers and those who are employed to protect it.

I commute over Hwy 74 everyday through the Cleveland National Forest, and am perplexed by the amount of trash and litter that accumulates on the roadsides as the week's go on. Why is it that there are no "\$1000 Fine For Littering" signs along this corridor???

Correspondence ID: 682 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Wilderness is the thing we are running out of. Where are the animals and plants supposed to live? We have squeezed them out of almost everywhere, to the point that so much of their habitat has been taken, they are in danger of survival. We need wilderness for the native plants and animals to survive.

Correspondence ID: 683 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 15:23:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 684 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My only concern would be if there were any plan to not keep it as a protected National Park. I believe more and more people have come to realize that these special resources must be saved for current and future generations.

Topic Question 2: Continue to partner with educational institutions to encourage the widest possible knowledge about the resources and the part they play in our overall mental and physical health.

Topic Question 3: That it gives us the opportunity to be out of doors and to appreciate what this land looked like in the past. The natural beauty and connection to the "real" world.

Topic Question 4: Hiking and possibly biking (if trails won't be damaged). Cross-country skiing in the winter time. Inappropriate uses are motorized vehicles in wilderness areas or snowmobiles in the winter. I think areas should be set aside for multiuse groups and the disabled and those areas should be easily accessible to all. Wilderness areas should also be set aside and may not need to be so accessible.

Topic Question 5: I think that's dependent on the park and the people who work there. They know their unique problems and difficulties and a plan should be crafted with their input.

Topic Question 6: I think all commercial services should be "vetted" by the park service to be sure that they are practicing good environmental and educational practices on their trips. Other than that I believe it provides a service to the novice hiker.

Topic Question 7: I don't really have a background on that. The experts do I'm sure.

Topic Question 8: Definitely sites that are irreplaceable. People are not always known to be respectful of sites that have petroglyphs or "potholes". Again, I think the sites should be open to the public but with an educational component.

Correspondence ID: 685 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: deregulation and commercialization for profit

Topic Question 2: regulation

Topic Question 3: that it's kept as free as possible from damage. that it's kept relatively low cost for all citizens to enjoy

Topic Question 4: appropriate: education, hiking, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, mindfulness (leave it better than you found it) backpacking.

inappropriate: motor sports, downhill skiing, sale of alcohol, large groups, camping that involves fire

Topic Question 5: see question 4. hadn't thought of food storage; certainly need bear boxes

Topic Question 6: they need to be regulated and they need to be small groups. I went on a river trip on the Colorado in 1995 with AZRA. Our guides were respectful on all levels. They were the best possible role models for leaving the environment as we found it if not better. I think participants on these trips need to know their responsibilities and they will be legally and monetarily liable for their behavior and actions. Participants need to understand the dangers involved that could result in grave harm and possible death to themselves and/or others. And they need to sign waivers.

Topic Question 7: Need more rangers and in these post Cary Stayner times, can we arm them? I don't know if rangers are or aren't.

Topic Question 8: any area where there is oil, gas or resources that could prove profitable need careful management so as not to damage the environment. Alaska comes to mind.

Correspondence ID: 686 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keep Sequoia and Kings Canyon open to citizens but off limits to lumber companies and other corporations that might steal its resources or property. Refuse to enter into any agreements with commercial groups that might tend to destroy or degrade the natural environment.

Topic Question 2: 1. Prevent anyone from cutting down trees and removing anything from the national parks. 2. Supervise persons in the national parks so that they cannot harm the environment 3. Perform maintenance necessary for the environment to continue to grow.

Topic Question 3: Hiking, educating and experiencing the wonder of the national parks should be encouraged. All persons should be allowed to visit and enjoy the national parks.

However, persons should not be allowed to degrade the environment by using recreational snow vehicles, motorcycles or "outdoor vehicles" in the national parks. Plants and animals should be allowed to live and grow naturally.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, visiting points of interest and other healthful activities should be allowed. Snow vehicles, motorcycles and other outdoor 'vehicles' should not be allowed.

Topic Question 5: People need to be educated on the use of these things. The regulations already in practice are good.

Topic Question 6: We should avoid over use of these things. The Parks Service should not allow any commercial entities to have control over Park property.

Topic Question 8: Yes.

Please prevent commercial groups from infringing on public National Parks.

Correspondence ID: 687 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Preserving the wildlife ad water and land

Topic Question 2: support wilderness act

Topic Question 3: no motorized access

Topic Question 4: hiking

Topic Question 5: environmentally safe

Topic Question 6: Yes with guidelines

Topic Question 7: environmentally sound

Correspondence ID: 688 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 3: Access to peace and quiet. Access to natural beauty. Access to the native plants and animals and birds for observation and enjoyment of their lives.

Topic Question 4: INappropriate - any type of wheeled access or motorized access.

Topic Question 6: Should be carefully monitored for minimum damage and impact. Should be minimized in terms of areas accessed and number of times accessed so that no area is over used and all areas are kept wild. No area should be constantly full of large groups - only one at a time in any given area.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and

quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 689 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These lands were set aside for future generations and are so important to the health and well-being of culture and society, of life on earth.

Correspondence ID: 690 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: the health and habitat protection for the animals that reside there.

Topic Question 2: Staff and volunteers (including zoologists, other professionals and lay people) gathering and working together for healthy preservation of animals and the parks. Consideration to possibly close parks months out of the year so that revitalization can occur and animals can be distressed from interaction by the public (visitors, tourists). This is very important. We all need a rest.

Topic Question 3: I do not recreate in parks or in wilderness. If I do it is very rare and for a very short amount of time. I think people should be limited to use wilderness areas--hence, this is why we call these areas wilderness.

Topic Question 4: Swimming, sleeping. Classes need to be offered (free if possible) by volunteers and staff on how to camp, animal awareness and much more on camping etiquette. Since there are very few wilderness areas left, we really need to value these places, its inhabitants.

Topic Question 5: Alcohol and firearms should not be allowed in campground areas. Food storage should be practiced for everyone's safety, and campfires should be allowed only in the evening/night. Rangers and volunteer staff need to monitor this very closely because of possible forest fires. Juvenile need to be supervised by adults (over 21) and families need to consist of adults (over 21) and children, juveniles, teenagers)

Topic Question 6: This is good, providing staff and volunteers are well-trained and well-balanced, physically, mentally and spiritually and emotionally.

Topic Question 7: I have to think more about thisj.

Topic Question 8: Hunting should not be allowed.

Correspondence ID: 691 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Sustaining the wilderness preserves

Topic Question 2: Funding, education of the public, and government stewardship programs

Topic Question 3: maintaining a healthy ecosystem

Topic Question 4: Human activities? Well then, any that do not cause damage to wildlife

Topic Question 5: decent as they are in most places

Topic Question 6: pretty great

Topic Question 7: there is not enough help and research in this area

Topic Question 8: conservation!

Correspondence ID: 692 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they will be cut or ruined and will not be around for the next 7 generations.

Topic Question 2: Make sure that the people in charge are not being bought out by the timber companies or in the back pockets of people that would like to make a quick buck or only see dollar signs.

Topic Question 3: It is vital that we keep these areas wild and scenic.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, Snow Shoeing, Bird Watching, Climbing, Rafting, Swimming,

Topic Question 5: Keep it small, keep it wild, protect the animals that live there from too much human interaction, make permits a must for groups over a certain number, no campfires.

Topic Question 6: NO hunting, guided hiking ok as long as people dont litter or take samples or shit everywhere, stock trips--I have no clue what that is. Mountaineering, sure.

Topic Question 7: Keep it WILD AND SCENIC! Get volunteers to walk the trails, give talks and educate people before they use the wilderness areas for "entertainment" so that they know they should leave no trace. Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Topic Question 8: Yes, old growth areas, areas with mammals, esp large mammals, areas that dont yet have dams or busses or hotels, keep those places wild and scenic.

Thanks~

Correspondence ID: 693 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that the area will not be taken care of trash will build up, trails grow over, fire problems increase without some type of maintenance and patrol.. This is my way of destressing from life as a ICU nurse..

Topic Question 2: Advocate for protection from the government.. Keep this in the forefront of the news..

Topic Question 3: Peace beauty and the chance our children will enjoy it in a pristine manner

Topic Question 4: Inappropriate.. Anything NOISY!!!

Topic Question 5: The bear lockers work if people use them.. I have seen alot of people get in trouble because they dont..

Topic Question 6: AWESOME!!!!

Correspondence ID: 694 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The Sequoias and Kings National Park are National and International Treasures. They, and all Redwood forests, must be protected and preserved for all time, for all generations. Not to do so is to renounce our stewardship of our planet. Government and private organizations, as well as volunteers, are all necessary and play vital roles in their protection and preservation.

Correspondence ID: 695 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These areas encompass some of the finest wilderness areas anywhere in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and for that matter, the world! We must strive to preseve these areas in the wild state to which we promise our future generations.

Topic Question 2: In designating these lands as Wilderness as defined by the 1964 Wilderness Act, they are to be potected as areas untrammled by man and machine. Humans are only allowed as visitors, not as tenants and no motorized vehicles or equipment is allowed. In keeping with the letter and spirit of the Act, it is everyone's responsibility to do whatever is necessary to protect them as wild, be it through volunteerism or as an organization such as the National Park Service.

Topic Question 3: These are exceptional areas, where man can leave the urban landscape and return to a natural world, one in its primitive state through the efforts of his own muscles. This is done via hiking and backpacking, not through mechanized means (such as mountain bikes, vehicles, or horses). We must strive to "leave no trace" of our visit on the landscape of wilderness, and minimize our impacts on it. This is critical in maintaining the nature of the wilderness.

Topic Question 4: Stewardship of the land dictates that we tread lightly-backpacking using the principles of "leave no trace". This is the most appropriate way of interfacing with the land. Inappropriate uses include any use of mechanized devices or machinery (mountain bikes, motorcycles, snowmobiles, horses, ATV's, or any of the "toys" that our society uses).

Topic Question 5: Smaller groups have less impact than larger ones (size of perhaps 6 persons or less), and food storage needs to be in bear-proof containers only in order to protect the wildlife, particularly bears, from becoming dependent and ill. Although I admit to having campfires in the past, the increasing scarcity of wood and the need to reduce our carbon footprint makes them inappropriate in the wilds nowadays and in the future.

Topic Question 6: These types of services need to become aware of and adhere to the principles of "leave no trace" and promote stewardship of the wilds. They can be good vehicles for the introduction of people to the wonders of the outdoors, if they use common sense and educate their clients to environmentalism and the proper use of the wilds. Don't like the guided stock trips as much, although they do have an historical presence and can be good stewards as well.

Topic Question 7: Monitoring of the resources in wilderness, environmental quality, degradation of the resources, impact on these resources is critical in maintaining the ecosystems therein contained. Public education to reduce human impacts and reinforcement of the "leave no trace" principles.

Topic Question 8: All of these areas are so special, that we cannot disregard any of them. They must be treated with the utmost respect and regard that we, as humans in control of their quality, can give them.

Thanks very much for allowing me to provide my input and I hope that it is useful.

Correspondence ID: 696 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: --that it will not be there for us and future generations. That would be a tragedy!

Topic Question 2: Mostly leave nature alone! Of course there are some impacts from normal use, but there should be provisions made to make any such impacts kept at a minimum

Topic Question 3: We want to be able to experience the spiritual feeling that natire's wilderness--and wildlife-- can give us. Feeling a kindship with such natural beauty and nature is important for our souls.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Hiking. small-scale camping by families and small organizations, wildlife viewing.

Inappropriate: logging , mining, grazing, oil and gas extraction--and any other commercial enterprise. Limited, appropriate thinning is acceptable.

Topic Question 5: All of these are important, but there should be a limit (such as a group of 20) for group camping, hiking, etc. Bear-proof storage should be required and campfires allowed only where there is minimal fire damage--and only in safe arrangements

Topic Question 6: There shuld be no commercial services unless they are kept to a maximum of 20 per group--and reservations

required so that frequencies give minimum impacts

Topic Question 7: Management activities should be kept to a minimum--just enough to insure safety to the public users.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

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Correspondence ID: 697 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm would like to keep these Parks pristine, as pure as possible, protected, and maintained, with no road building other than what might be approved by Members or a ballot box.

Topic Question 2: A fair distribution of wealth in this country, to provide the necessary funding for the care and maintenance of our Parks. No private interests need apply for plundering of resources. More funding for the Park Service to provide rangers and expertise as to how to protect these sections of wilderness, and still educate and allow the public to access them.

Topic Question 3: Fresh air. Beautiful scenery. Provide safe haven for wild animals. Hand-line fishing privileges. A place to enjoy the peace and quiet of the out of doors. Lots of big sky to appreciate.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, fishing, swimming, careful camping, archery practice (but no harm to animals), rock and/or mountain climbing, non-motor boating (or outboards only) on lakes, bird-watching, wildlife observation.

Inappropriate: large, loud parties, off-road vehicles, motor bikes of any kind, snow mobiles and just about anything that would harm or shatter the natural peace of the area. No hunting. No alcoholic beverages, especially for large parties. No loud radios and/or televisions.

Topic Question 5: Education to the users of the area on all of the above. Limit group size to 5 at the most, if possible. Campfires only in designated areas.

Topic Question 6: Limit them, please. And use only time and experience honored commercial providers of these services. Guided trips are very acceptable, but not to the detriment of a dense wildlife areas.

Topic Question 7: Experienced rangers, plenty of them, emergency and protected lavatory facilities, where applicable. On call medical personnel, and possible emergency medivac areas. I think the Parks have been well managed in the past. They need MORE FUNDING !!!!

Topic Question 8: No private mining rights, or resource guzzling. The rivers and streams need protecting from any logging activities. The possibility of management training where forest fires is important. Let it burn ??? Try to control it?? We should do more research about that. Emergency maneuvers and escape routes should be in place for possible flooding, fires, and heavy weather.

Correspondence ID: 698 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness by its very definition needs to be wild, limited impact by man is crucial in preserving the experience.

Topic Question 4: Low impact activities - "leave no trace" is a great starting point. Limit use of vehicles and other high impact activities.

Topic Question 6: With proper limits and controls I think this is a good way to assist people in appreciating wilderness areas.

Correspondence ID: 699 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 20:06:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 700 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Loss of habitat and species diversity. Degradation of stream water quality and wildness.

Topic Question 2: Keep and adding additional wilderness designation. NO MORE ROADS!!! NO MORE mining, logging, or livestock grazing. Limit off-road vehicle use to park personal and gov authorities only.

Topic Question 3: Clean air, water, and pristine wild habitat. quietness and solitude.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking, backpacking, single-track biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding.

Inappropriate: logging, mining, livestock grazing, hunting, motor vehicle use, oil or gas drilling,

Topic Question 5: group size limit: 20 No campfires

Topic Question 6: ok, if kept small.

Topic Question 8: Ancient Forest should get special and added protection.

Correspondence ID: 701 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: We must keep it wild, while enabling able-bodied individuals to explore the wilderness.

Topic Question 4: Responsible "leave-no-trace" backpacking is appropriate.

Topic Question 5: Groups should be limited to about 6 people. Recreational campfires should only be allowed in designated spots. To keep bears wild, I support placement of "bear boxes" in areas with medium to high bear density.

Topic Question 6: I support guided hiking, climbing, and mountaineering. The professional guides should be a substantial fee for the privilege of using the wilderness. They should also be trained and licensed. Unannounced inspection should be used to ensure compliance with leave-no-trace principles.

Guiding stock trips should be more limited, since this activity inevitably scars the wilderness.

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Correspondence ID: 702 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.26,2011 22:16:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Correspondence ID: 703 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.26,2011 22:41:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Our concerns are that prime wilderness areas will be developed for financial reasons. Also, security is vital to protect the lands from drug dealers who grow marijuana, harm the natural resources and cause wildfires.

Topic Question 2: Strategies require visitation limits based on where and how each sensitive area may be used.

Topic Question 3: It should be important to EVERYONE that wilderness remain wild for future generations to witness and preserve.

Topic Question 4: Different areas lend themselves to different activities such as hiking, photography, and camping where appropriate.

Topic Question 5: Groups size should depend on the sensitivity of the particular back country area. Food storage in bear-proof containers is vital. Campfires should be limited to certain less sensitive and less fire-prone areas.

Topic Question 6: Small groups of guided hikers or climbing groups led by trained (and insured) personnel seem reasonable. Stock trips do much damage to the land, as well as making hiking trails difficult and unpleasant.

Topic Question 7: You must keep the wilderness as natural as possible and safe from those who would damage it, such as the drug dealers who use the land to grow marijuana. Increased security and vigilance are vital.

Topic Question 8: We are vehemently against the use of glyphosate on non-native species. Here is a quote from Dr. Joseph Mercola:

" The truth is that Roundup is anything BUT environmentally friendly. Monsanto's own tests showed that only two percent of the herbicide broke down after 28 days, which means it readily persists in the environment!

* It is also acutely toxic to fish and birds and can kill beneficial insects and soil organisms that maintain ecological balance.

* The surfactant ingredient in Roundup is more acutely toxic than glyphosate itself, and the combination of the two is even more toxic.

We have great concerns about the number and extent of "prescribed burns" conducted every year within our National Parks. We have done research and spoken to fire personnel and understand the philosophy of burning the underfuels to prevent uncontrolled wildfires. However, we feel that this method has been overused and abused where other preventative measures could have worked as well or better. In fact, control burns seem to create more control burns by leaving dead trees, shrubs and branches that become fuel for the next fire season!

The disastrous twenty million dollar Yosemite Big Meadow Fire, along with similar occurrences at Point Imperial in Grand Canyon, and last year in Williams, AZ, are all examples of "control burns." It is devastating to see our National Parks so tarnished for future generations.

While we understand that Wildfire Management is a national policy, we also know that individual Park Superintendents have

broad discriminatory power when it comes to the burn policy within their parks. We hope to see vegetation treatment in the future which concentrates more on mechanical and hand-thinning, mastication, and if necessary, pile-burning.

Please also consider the effects these burns have on our health. According to the Fresno Bee: "Mounting research shows the microscopic soot from wood burning is among the biggest air-pollution threats to the public. The specks, known as PM-2.5, can evade body defenses, lodge in the lungs, trigger many illnesses and result in premature death."

We hope Sequoia, Kings Canyon and the National Park Service will consider alternative measures to sustain our national treasures.

Correspondence ID: 704 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,26,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My concerns are the same here as in any wilderness area and that is that they remain as close to natural as possible and that they be there for the enjoyment of future generations as a place of refuge and retreat from the increasing urbanization of our earth. All water ways be protected and kept natural and clean. Roads be limited.

Topic Question 2: Keep out all deforestation, make it safe for wildlife to remain there. Limit use in endangered areas. Limit roads and keep trails for hiking.

Topic Question 3: It is important to me that I have a wilderness experience when I am in a wilderness area. That I enjoy the sounds of nature and not of the urban area. That I can hike among the trees and beauty of the wilderness with no disruption. Going to the wilderness is where I experience God. Keep it quite and natural. Keep the logging out and the logging roads. Keep hunting out and off road vehicles out.

Topic Question 4: Limited camping, limited roads, no logging or off roads vehicles, no hunting. No zip lines. Mining is very inappropriate. Hiking trails are appropriate, camping is appropriate.

Topic Question 5: I think large group sites should be limited to only a small number and be kept to specific areas. Tent sites should be limited to two families and 2 cars. There should be secure food storage areas and I think that a campfire is part of the wilderness experience but should be confined to tent sites and in appropriate constructed enclosures.

Topic Question 6: A very limited number could be allowed but they must not in any way impede or interfere with the use of the wilderness by individuals who are seeking wilderness experiences on their own.

Topic Question 7: No grazing, no logging, no hunting. There should be rangers with power to enforce rules in the wilderness areas. No loud music.

Topic Question 8: Areas that are in danger of over use, any place where too much use could harm the natural environment of the area.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 705 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: To keep and maintain what has been there before we were there, so that all future generations are able to enjoy this natural beauty. It is important to our existence and our future.

Correspondence ID: 706 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Companies such as Halliburton desire to or already engaged in fractal 'mining' of natural gas resources in naturalistic environments. This kind of thoughtless extraction of resources pollutes aquifers and water supplies.

Topic Question 2: Prohibition of mining of natural resources in wilderness and further development of solar, water, wind.

Topic Question 3: Protection of wilderness provides educational opportunities for all grade levels in naturalistic environments.

Topic Question 4: Camping, rafting, hiking with all due respect given to the environment.

Topic Question 5: Smaller groups of 6-10 who have taken workshops in food storage practices and campfires.

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking, stock trips, and guided climbing/mountaineering should be the norm to ensure safety and protection of the environment.

Topic Question 7: Guided activities and accompanying workshops to educate those wishing to engage in those activities.

Topic Question 8: All areas are a concern.

Correspondence ID: 707 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: We wish it to continue to be protected wilderness. We need to protect the scenery, the wildlife and the habitat.

Topic Question 3: Seeing wildlife, enjoying the scenery and the quiet. Knowing there is a place where wild creatures can live as they were intended to live.

Topic Question 4: No offroad vehicles, snowmobiles or any other destructive and/or noisy activities.

Topic Question 5: Established camps should have bear proof storage for protection of both bears and people. Too many people are too noisy,leave a large footprint, and alter the behaviour of wildlife.

Topic Question 6: They should be ok as long as the area doesn't become grand central station, and groups are not so large they cannot be quiet and under control.

Topic Question 7: Should be managed so our great, great, great grandchildren can also have a wilderness experience. Manage for the future!

Correspondence ID: 708 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concern about environmental degradation and also about air quality issues in these parks as well as the impact of climate change.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary,

restore the wilderness character of the land. This includes minimal use of roads where possible.

Topic Question 3: I have been visiting U.S. national parks since I was a child. More recently I took a backpacking trip into the Eastern Sierras near Sequoia and Kings Canyon and was struck again by the beauty and tranquility of these wilderness areas. I want to preserve this wilderness in its natural state for my children and grandchildren.

Topic Question 4: It's important to keep wilderness accessible in some areas for families and those with limited mobility and to educate as many as possible about the value of wilderness. However, it's equally important to keep most of these wilderness in their natural setting which means limiting access and following a "leave no trace" method of management.

Topic Question 5: On our recent backpacking trip, we obtained a permit. We were not allowed campfires which was fine since we had stoves and we followed the practice of "pack it in, pack it out." These practices seem very reasonable and it was so wonderful to see other backpackers following them. There was not one piece of litter nor any sign that campers were using anything but the designated areas for camping.

Topic Question 6: I think that limited guided hiking is fine as long as the companies running these hikes adhere to the same practices as individual hikers.

Correspondence ID: 709 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: I hope that you'll be a good steward of the land: provide adequate staffing; limit actions that degrade the ecosystem; keep commercial interests out if their operations will have a negative impact on the wilderness; be honest and maintain your dignity when protecting these areas from threats large and small.

Topic Question 2: That's your job; work with organizations that can help you and have an interest in the preservation of these areas while providing access to the public

Topic Question 3: It's nice to visit, but the public can be abusive too. Set realistic goals and if need be, limit access.

Topic Question 4: See Question 2

Topic Question 5: See question 2

Topic Question 6: See question 2

Topic Question 7: That's your area; I don't have the time to research this; truth be told I'm not going to take the requisite time to investigate appropriate management activities.

Correspondence ID: 710 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: These are wonderful treasures which should be protected. Please do so.

Topic Question 2: Use existing laws and make new policies as needed to protect these wilderness areas.

Topic Question 3: Restful; no noisy machines. native plants and animals flourishing, people enjoying the areas without damaging them.

Topic Question 4: Camping, hiking, picnicking, rafting, are good. Off road vehicles are destructive, as are unnecessary roads or mining or drilling for oil. Snowmobiles are not desirable in wilderness areas as they are noisy and disturb animals.

Topic Question 5: Limit the size of groups according to capacity of the area involved. Food should be stored in bear proof containers. Campfires should be strictly regulated.

Topic Question 6: I have no objection as long as the area doesn't become overcrowded.

Topic Question 7: Perhaps some small fires should be allowed to burn out but carefully watched so if they become too large, they can be put out. Ideally dead wood should be thinned but with such large areas to protect, this isn't possible.

Topic Question 8: Anywhere near campsites brush should be thinned.

Correspondence ID: 711 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 3: Wilderness is a great place to restore the soul.

Topic Question 4: hiking, backpacking

Correspondence ID: 712 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: It is being impacted by us humans. I visited Zion before and after the NO car policy. What a difference it made in our experience! We saw more wildlife, the experience was much more relaxed and it was delightful w/o the automobile. The doomsday scenerio of the locals NEVER materialized - they had to admit it all worked out well.

Topic Question 2: The Park Service needs to be more active in the management of usage. The visitor does not have to access ever area within the Parks. Various areas should be set aside for temporary rehab and regrowth. Just as we take vacations to recreate and rejuvenate ourselves; portions of our Parks need the same.

Topic Question 3: The it remain wild as much as possible. But it must remain available for our usage. Usage does not mean destruction. Therein lies the dilemma and why we have the Park Service to manage such things.

Correspondence ID: 713 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have enjoyed time in both parks for so much of my child and adult hood. As have my children. I so want to continue to enjoy these with my grandchildren and their grandchild. These are such special, rare places. Nothing that can be replicated. This are treasures - let treat and act this way

Topic Question 3: these are creations that are unique and special and increasing rare gift. It is the gift to our generations ahead, give to us from those many generations before us

Correspondence ID: 714 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That recreation will become a priority. Wilderness areas should remain as wilderness. We are allowing humans to disrupt the natural order of things in too many places.

Topic Question 3: That human impact be as minimal as possible.

Topic Question 4: Hiking/walking are appropriate. Anything that is motorized is inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: No campfires. We lose too much wilderness to human caused/influenced fires.

Topic Question 6: That would be OK on a limited basis and as long as predators are not culled because they are dangerous to humans.

Topic Question 7: To research how wilderness areas are changing with minimally invasive techniques. To monitor the health of these wilderness areas and leave them alone unless there is human impact such as upstream dumping and the like.

I believe these wilderness areas should be for the benefit of the initial ecosystem--i.e. plants and animals that were already there. I do not believe that we should allow human impact into these areas as this generally tends to cause many disappearances of various plants and animals within the area. We have found through the years that taking away human impact and the reintroduction of original predators, etc. into the area restored plants thought to be eradicated from an area--i.e. the reintroduction of the wolf into Yellowstone.

Correspondence ID: 715 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water

quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 4: I prefer non-motorized activity including hiking, backcountry camping, backcountry skiing, climbing. Appropriate and limited use of mountain biking and stock animals, on certain trails, would seem appropriate as well.

Topic Question 5: I prefer not to have backcountry campfires, to prevent overuse and collection of wood in sensitive environments, as well as to prevent forest fire.

Topic Question 6: Acceptable, but stock use in backcountry areas needs to be limited to certain trails so that hikers/backpackers can avoid if possible.

Topic Question 8: Climbing areas often need to be managed specially. Contact and input from local climber groups as well as national organizations like the Access Fund is necessary.

Correspondence ID: 716 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 14:56:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 717 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 14:56:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and

quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 718 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please save our Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 719 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about the impacts of recreational fishing, especially the stocking of non-native trout, on sensitive native wildlife, especially amphibians. I understand that trout removal plans are being carried out in certain lakes, and I commend and support these operations.

Topic Question 2: In regards to recreational fishing, there should be a well managed balance between stocked lakes and fish-free lakes to encourage the recovery of Mountain Yellow-legged Frog populations. Education of visitors (and especially of anglers) on the impacts of non-native fish on the Sierra Nevada ecosystem may reduce friction between anglers and conservationists, and the possibility of individuals introducing fish into their own 'secret' fishing holes. Another strategy for protecting resources might be the involvement of visitors as "citizen scientists", where they are encouraged to share photographs or sightings of plants and animals (e.g. rare or invasive species), perhaps on a website or with park officials. This data could help the park in monitoring biodiversity, as the thousands of visitors per year could cover more ground than a team of biologists. It also may inspire greater stewardship among visitors, if they feel they are actively helping to document the distribution, density, and abundance of wildlife.

Topic Question 3: I enjoy being able to observe wildlife in as natural a state as possible.

Topic Question 4: I believe the playing of personal radios and video games to be inappropriate in Wilderness. As iPods and other personal entertainment devices become ever more ubiquitous in society, efforts to discourage their use in the wilderness will help preserve the character of the wild.

Topic Question 5: I respect the bans of collecting wood above stated elevations to reduce the impact to sparse alpine vegetation.

Topic Question 6: I think that any organized group activities should be kept to an audible and visual minimum. Loud parties in brightly colored matching shirts, for instance, would be disagreeable.

Correspondence ID: 720 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 18:11:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness

character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 721 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 19:00:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to comment on the SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I have backpacked in Sequoia/Kings Canyon area several times. It is a beautiful, fragile area that needs special protection.

From my experiences, I believe no grazing should be allowed within the SEKI especially in the high elevation areas. Several areas I've visited have been negatively impacted by stock users and need more restrictions. I suggest foot only travel trails so that hikers do not have to breathe dust mixed with animal poop ? very, very unpleasant! In addition, pack stock size needs to be reduced to avoid damage to sensitive meadows, streams, and trails, and limits on what can be packed in need to be addressed. Because commercial pack outfits cause more damage and require more Park Service time and money for maintenance, they should be required to pay higher fees. I don't believe private companies should get the profits while tax payers foot the bill for the damage. Limits need to be placed on stock size per trip as well.

It can be very difficult to obtain a permit. I believe commercial outfits should not be given first access to wilderness permits; they should compete on the same playing field everyone else does.

I've noticed an increase in invasive weeds (I am a Butte County Master Gardener) in this sensitive area. Invasive seeds can be easily transported via hooves or pooped out from stock animals. If pack animals are allowed in this area, they need to be feed food that will not cause harm by the spread of invasive species.

The high Sierra Bearpaw Camp needs to be closed ? this is a wilderness area! Weekly stock runs are needed to supply the camp that results in damage to the environment. In 1984 Congress directed the Park Service to monitor and report on the camp's impact; the NPS is breaking the law because they have never complied with Congress's order. Nobody is above the law.

The Mineral King pack station that is no longer used needs to be removed and not replaced. Mineral King is a high altitude fragile area that cannot support the activity that a commercial pack station generates.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SEKI.

Correspondence ID: 722 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.27,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I moved to Fresno 55 years ago largely because we love the mountains, particularly Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. My wife and I visited each many times, almost always camping and backpacking. The back country is marvelous, and almost all of it is of wilderness quality. We have enjoyed both wilderness and non-wilderness, but feel strongly that we must preserve all possible wilderness for future generations. This will become more and more important as our population continues to expand, and as people travel more and more.

Topic Question 2: We just need to do it, prohibiting all uses which are inconsistent with wilderness and enforcing these rules.

Topic Question 3: They don't make any more open space, and we need it for our emotional and spiritual health.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpack-type camping, just about any non-mechanized activity. Use of horses and burros for packing in and out ok, but need to be controlled. Any mechanism beyond a bicycle is inappropriate. No dams or mining, obviously. Small bridges, where relly helpful for the trail system are ok, but must be carefully controlled.

Topic Question 6: Ok if confined to small groups, and if stock travel in and out, without remaining.

Topic Question 7: Wilderness rangers are a necessity. An occasional supply helicopter or construction helicopter might be needed, but need to be very carefully restricted. Some kind of latrine is probably necessary in any area that is used heavily.

Correspondence ID: 723 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.28,2011 00:51:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I want them to remain true wilderness areas, restricted to logging, real estate, oil drilling and mineral mining and other commercial, profit-motivated operations.

Topic Question 2: Do not accept money from or make back-room deals with corporate interests dedicated to the despoliation of wilderness resources for profit.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness areas are the heart of America, what America is really about, as opposed to the consumer-driven, profit-motivated urban culture that is, unfortunately, home to over 90% of the US population today (as compared to 10% at the beginning of the preceding century).

Topic Question 4: Pedestrian, unmotorized, noninvasive and nondestructive recreational activities--hiking, camping, mountain climbing, swimming, canoeing, bird watching, nature photography--are appropriate. Hunting and fishing put people and wildlife at risk and should be prohibited by law. Snow mobiles and off-road vehicles pollute the wilderness and should be prohibited by law. Corporate despoliation (logging, oil drilling) destroy the wilderness and should be prohibited by law.

Topic Question 5: Party/group size should be limited to five or fewer if the parties or groups are sponsored by corporate providers.

Food storage and clean up (pack out what you pack in) should be the responsibility of the individual hikers and campers.

Fires should be prohibited in California National and State Parks. The fire danger year round is too great and individual judgment too flawed to permit open fires.

There are plenty of ways to eat in the wilderness without the use of fire.

If you want hot, cooked meals, stay in LA or San Francisco.

Topic Question 6: All commercial services should be prohibited by law. They are profit-driven and not committed to preserving the wilderness experience.

Topic Question 7: If by "appropriate management activities" you are referring to clear-cutting of timber, culling of wildlife and damming or otherwise diverting natural waterways, I believe such activities should be prohibited by law. The wilderness should be wild. It is not like Disneyland nor should it aspire to be.

Topic Question 8: All wilderness resources--plants, animals, water, air, rocks, earth--are invaluable.

All warrant special consideration.

The National Park Service has a blemished record, at best, of protecting the wilderness the way someone like John Muir wanted to see it protected. The NPS has too often enabled corporate despoliation of wilderness resources.

Large multi-national corporations, despite advertising rhetoric to the contrary, are never good "stewards of the environment." They are plunderers of the environment who would cut down the last standing Giant Sequoia on earth if they thought they could make a profit selling it to an Asian lumber mill.

Corporations, and corporate money, should be kept out of America's National Parks.

Even corporate "donations" are simply keys to open the door to even more "development" (despoliation) of wilderness resources.

If corporations want to do something useful for America's National Parks, let them start by undoing some of the extensive damage they have already done, for no profit whatsoever and solely for the altruistic objective of long-overdue public penance.

Correspondence ID: 724 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.28,2011 03:40:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated

Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 725 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 05:19:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: These environments and creatures are a gift. It is our responsibility to maintain them with the highest level of intelligence and sensitivity available to us.

Correspondence ID: 726 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: They won't be there for the next generations

Topic Question 2: LEGISLATE !

Topic Question 3: It be used wisely and prudently without disturbing eco-systems

Topic Question 4: Learning & viewing but NOT TREADING UPON it

Topic Question 5: Too many to list here

Topic Question 6: Yes to Park Rangers & Licensed Tour Guides

Topic Question 7: Well-Schooled / Educated - Master's Preferably

Topic Question 8: ALL !

Send More Detail in Future

Correspondence ID: 727 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness in general is extremely important to me. It is a valuable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, and high water quality. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are prime examples of this and they offer habitat that can be found nowhere else. From a spiritual point of view, wilderness is important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary,

restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: As stated in my response to question #2, wilderness areas need to be used in such a way that human impact is minimized and the ethic of "leave-no-trace" is in the forefront of all human use.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: camping, general recreation. Inappropriate: ALL MINING, especially for fossil fuels; motorized recreational vehicles (snow machines, quad-runners, etc.); harvesting of wood resources.

Topic Question 5: More important that the size of groups is the impact of the groups. It is possible to have a large group of people use a wilderness area and have a minimal impact.

Topic Question 6: If the "Leave-No-Trace" ethic is the underlying foundation of such guided activities, then I think they can be appropriate.

Topic Question 7: All management activities should minimize the human impact of the wilderness areas.

Correspondence ID: 728 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have visited Sequoia & Kings Canyon many times, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience each and every time. My whole family has camped there at least half a dozen times. Some of the most beautiful and inspiring wilderness in California that is easily accessible to the urban areas of Southern California is in these parks. Please do everything possible to preserve this priceless heritage. We must be good stewards of this great legacy. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 729 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm afraid that too much indiscriminate cutting, tourism and traffic will create conditions that will damage these ancient trees.

Topic Question 2: Educating visitors is a place to begin - a good contagion strategy. Also, limiting use and the emissions that go with use, will help immensely. I remember visiting the parks some years ago and was dismayed at the number of autos (including mine) that were on the roads. It was hard to find a place to hike, or drive in for a ways, hike, and return. The single road idea has advantages and disadvantages.

Topic Question 3: Personally, I need to have quiet, green places in which to be silent.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking, picnics, swimming, fishing (in properly stocked streams), backpacking, camping.

Inappropriate: motored vehicles of all kinds, including oversized rvs, motorboats, jetskis, etc.

Topic Question 5: Party size - depends on the party - must be considerate and respectful. Food - I don't know too much about the critters in the parks, but I like the two tiered approach of designated campgrounds/rustic campsites. Educating the visitor about the proper storage of food is essential.

Topic Question 6: I think guided trips usually educate visitors and would probably bring in needed funds.

Topic Question 7: No expertise in this matter.

Topic Question 8: All special ecosystems need protection; areas of frequent use, as well.

Correspondence ID: 730 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they may be neglected and inaccessible.

Topic Question 2: Assured financial resources

Topic Question 3: Spiritual renewal and great exercise.

Topic Question 6: It is a good idea for inexperienced visitors, children and older folks just so long as it is provided simply and with respect.

Correspondence ID: 731 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Need to be managed with more benefits to wildlife and plants, to ensure survival in global warming. We need migration and breeding corridors thru the country.

Topic Question 2: We need migration and breeding corridors thru the country. More resources.

Topic Question 4: Leave no trace hiking backpacking photography etc. - Logging and mining and motorized vehicle wide roads should be limited or banned.

Topic Question 5: Permits, appropriate sites for several sizes of groups, education and materials for food storage available.

Topic Question 6: As long as the guides can stick to the plan and control their clients.

Topic Question 7: Leave no trace. But I think indigenous foraging and hunting (people AND techniques) should be allowed. We need fire management not fire suppression either.

Topic Question 8: All of it...

I am also with the Sierra Club and other wildlife organizations.

Correspondence ID: 732 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These areas should be kept strictly as natural wilderness

Topic Question 2: No commercial development, no resource extraction

Topic Question 3: It is a scarce commodity. It is vital to the existence of the natural, unpolluted life forms. It should be kept in its natural forms.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: backpacking and hiking, and nature studies, under controlled conditions.

Inappropriate: commercial development or resource extraction.

Topic Question 5: Party/group size: Small enough to limit impact. Food storage practices: Strict, to prevent changes in wildlife behaviors. Campfires: Limited or none...since most humans are stupid/ignorant when it comes to dangers concerning fire.

Topic Question 6: These activities would be appropriate only in small groups, safe practices, limited in number and frequency and strict controls and certification.

Topic Question 7: Depending on the fragility of the environment, activities involving people have to be severely limited. Unrestricted access always leads to ruination of the natural environment.

Topic Question 8: The more fragile the area, the more restricted the access needs to be, but any natural area is irredeemable changed by frequent and careless use.

Uncontrolled human invasions always destroy what was there before. The best we can do is EDUCATION and REGULATION. Those who really appreciate will wait their turn. Those who don't learn or wait will not ever appreciate or preserve.

Correspondence ID: 733 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 15:23:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keep commercial activities to a minimum. Protect the wilderness from over use by domestic stock animals. maintain the existing trail system but do not expand it with new trails.

Topic Question 2: Limiting the number of users and types of uses in order to preserve the wilderness for future generations.

Topic Question 3: I camped in Sequoia and Kings Canyon with my family when I was young and later hiked and skied throughout the Park wilderness. I have been visiting the wilderness for over 50 years and feel future generations should have access to the same experiences. This will require a management plan that protects and preserves all of the wilderness in both parks.

Topic Question 4: Hiking is probably the most natural way the lowest impact way to visit wilderness areas. Motorized access is not appropriate. Limited commercial use that does not impact the environmental balance of wilderness areas may be appropriate. Grazing of stock animals is not appropriate.

Topic Question 5: In order to protect and preserve our wilderness group size needs to be limited to what the environment can sustain without harm. The impact on the environment should be the controlling factor. Safe food storage practices are needed to protect the animal habitat and the environment. Campfires need to be controlled. They need to be safe and limited to areas where there is no noticeable impact on others. I never build fires when I am in the back country and there are too many wilderness users to allow campfires to be unregulated.

Topic Question 6: I am in favor of allowing guided trips but not if it negatively impacts the non commercial use of wilderness areas. I feel guided stock trips can damage the environment and need to be carefully regulated. I am fine with guided climbing/mountaineering as long as they are not allowed to dominate an particular area which would then limit non commercial use.

Topic Question 7: As much as I wish access to the wilderness were free and unlimited it would not be possible to preserve the wilderness without management of the activities that go on within it. I favor Low impact management activities that can be realistically overseen by the wilderness ranger program. as much as possible access to wilderness should be free to the general population.

Topic Question 8: The highest impacted wilderness areas are those closest to trail heads and parking lots. The next highest impacted areas are those on the very popular trails such as the Mount Whitney and John Muir trails. These areas need the most management oversight to protect the wilderness environment.

I believe there is a way to manage the Sequoia/Kings Canyon wilderness area that will preserve and protect it for future generations and the key to that plan is common sense. Whenever large organizations take on very complex problems such as these common sense sometimes goes by the wayside. Without common sense great intentions can go awry. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wilderness stewardship plan.

Correspondence ID: 734 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 15:57:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My deepest concern is a lack of funding for resource protection and management. Scientific research and monitoring are critically important for detecting and responding appropriately to impacts on park resources. Similarly, wilderness ranger stations need to be staffed in order to enforce regulations. This summer, while I was in the Sequoia wilderness south of Rock Creek, I ran across two women hiking with their two dogs. We talked, and when I remarked that dogs were not permitted in the park, they laughed and said that they knew the Forest Service hadn't been able to fund any ranger positions, and that NPS wilderness rangers were stretched thin. "Of course we know dogs aren't allowed. But since we're so close to the boundary," they said, "we didn't think anybody would know."

Unfortunately, it has been my experience that this is a common attitude among park visitors. People seem to think that not getting caught makes illegal behavior okay. A strong ranger presence in the wilderness is the best line of defense.

Topic Question 3: I value having a sense of being in a wild, natural place, away from other people and society. To that end, natural quiet, dark night skies, an untrammelled landscape, and the necessity of self-reliance are among the most important

elements of the wilderness experience.

Natural quiet is perhaps the hardest of these to come by in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon wilderness areas; frequent military overflights are deeply disruptive. I have also been surprised at the frequency of park helicopter and chainsaw use in the wilderness. Other parks do not permit such extensive use of motors in the backcountry, and I think that Sequoia and Kings Canyon should seriously consider limiting helicopter flights and chainsaw use. Lower-impact alternatives exist; hikers with comparatively minor injuries could be evacuated on horseback, for example. Mobilization of wilderness rangers could be performed using pack stock instead of helicopter drops. And crosscut saws, in the hands of experienced trail crews, can do much the same work as chainsaws but in a much less disruptive manner.

The untrammelled quality is harder to address. Continuing to allow off-trail exploration and open camping (as opposed to designated campsites) aid in allowing wilderness visitors to experience an intangible sense of wildness and freedom. Heavy use of certain areas of the parks present a quandary, however. I think the present quota system works fairly well, but I suspect it is past time to re-evaluate the landscape for use impacts and perhaps--depending on the results of adequate study--adjust the quotas.

One of the most striking impacts I noticed during my time in the Sequoia wilderness included the tattered remains of numerous balloons, an unwelcome intrusion of the outside world that I know the park cannot control. But another startling example of what seemed to me an egregious impact--and one that the park *can* address--was the trails torn up by stock use, with horse excrement stinking everywhere. I support stock use in the wilderness, but it seems as though it isn't sufficiently regulated. Perhaps more strict quotas on stock should be implemented. Stock users should be required to pack in their own certified weed-free feed, too, rather than relying on grazing. People pack in their own food, and so should stock users.

Encouraging self-reliance, too, is a harder issue, but I think the parks are moving too much towards coddling visitors. Medical evacuations and ranger assists are not something that wilderness users should expect, yet--especially with the proliferation of cell phones and SPOT devices--people increasingly seem to expect that rescue is just a phone call (or button push) away. This is appalling and depressing, and I think the parks should fight this trend by emphasizing resource protection over visitor protection. I don't mean to be ruthless; true emergencies can happen, and if the park can respond in such a way as to help, of course it should. But too many people are taking advantage of the system for things that are not life-threatening emergencies.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Hiking and backpacking, first and foremost. Nature observation and appreciation. Scientific research.

Inappropriate: Anything motorized. Anything that intrudes significantly on the quality of others' wilderness experiences, especially any action that scars the landscape (e.g., campfires outside long-established fire rings).

Topic Question 5: There seem to be a lot of very large groups that make noise, set up camps that are far from minimalist, and generally have little regard for the quality of others' wilderness experience.

Fire regulations seemed a little confusing, with different elevation cutoffs in different areas. In addition, it seems like a lot of people willfully disregard campfire restrictions. Simplify the rules and improve enforcement by getting more rangers out on the trails.

Food storage requirements seem to be adequate in most cases.

Topic Question 6: I do not oppose the existence of limited commercial services in the park, but it appalls me that the park seems to pander to and even actively support commercial enterprises--e.g., by permitting grazing of stock when a viable option (packing in feed) exists. The parks do not exist for the benefit of commercial operators, but "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people," and for the conservation of park resources. I recognize that not everyone has the experience or knowledge to safely enter and enjoy the wilderness independently, but I do think that an overemphasis on guided trips does a disservice to the notion of wilderness as a truly wild place in which one needs to exhibit self-reliance.

Correspondence ID: 735 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it will be over developed and not preserved for the future.

Topic Question 2: the Wilderness Act of 1964 was written protect wilderness areas from overuse or misuse by the government or the people.

Topic Question 3: It is a legacy we leave to our children and grandchildren.

Topic Question 4: Camping in designated areas, hiking and other non-destructive activities are welcome but off-roading, or motorized vehicles that tear up the soil must be banned. Also leasing for mining or drilling, cattle or sheep grazing should not be

allowed on public land.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 736 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The need to save the natural environment.

Topic Question 2: Laws that are reinforced.

Topic Question 3: Balance.

Topic Question 4: Safe, Sane, Educational, and Family Fun.

Topic Question 5: Need to know more. Limit group size to twenty, lock food in containers, teacher camp fire safety.`

Topic Question 6: Limit and rotate to give other providers a chance to do business.

Topic Question 7: Close to natural as possible 9FORRECT RANGERS, STATE EMPLOYEES, FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO CONFIRM PROPER US checks and balance.

Topic Question 8: WATER AREAS, SNOW AREAS, POLAR BEAR ENVIRONMENTS

Help save the environment for our future and our children's future.

Correspondence ID: 737 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about the preservation of wilderness qualities: wildness, no human noises intruding, no wheeled vehicles, including mountain bikes. Horses or llamas used by wilderness trek groups okay. No road-building.

Topic Question 2: You should protect the wilderness from intrusions by any kind of vehicles, and prevent pot farming. You could patrol on foot or by horse and by plane. You would need to have handouts on the rules of using the wilderness that visitors must read and abide by.

Topic Question 3: I think that wilderness needs to have minimal signs of human intrusion. I do recognize that a trail system is

needed to some extent, but it should be minimal.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities should be backpacking via foot or using llamas to carry loads, and use of horses or mules to carry people or camping gear. Fishing is okay, but hunting should be inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be kept small, say a dozen or fewer. Visitors need to using food storage techniques that avoid bear problems. There should be no campfires, but instead visitors should use camp stoves only.

Topic Question 6: I think that these three types of activities are acceptable, but the groups should be small, a dozen or fewer, including guide or guides. Also, such activities should be no longer than a week. The number of such groups per week should be limited to only a few to minimize disturbance and maximize the wilderness experience. Groups should not be using the exact same areas if possible, but attempts should be made to keep them separate from each other. Guides should have be licensed by the NPS and meet stringent requirements: knowing all the rules, knowing field first aide, etc.

Topic Question 7: I think that what I have said above will cover it. Minimize human intrusion and disturbance.

Topic Question 8: Please give special consideration to any threatened or endangered species in the wilderness areas and try to minimize disturbance of these species.

Correspondence ID: 738 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keeping the spirt of wilderness protected - especially when it comes to two factors often present together: Horses in the Sierra Nevada and commercial operations.

Topic Question 2: Limit access from horses and their commercial groups as well as grazing operations. They are simply out of character for the high-altitude Sierra Nevada and do a disproportionate amount of damage to the land.

Topic Question 3: An escape from ever-encroaching cities and pavement, for health, to be in nature, to protect what we have left of unspoiled lands, and areas part of the American West.

Topic Question 4: Primitive and historically native activities are a good guideline. Foot travel and access is an example, bicycle and motorized transport is not. Horses are not native to the area and permit large numbers of people with their accomponying trash, music and alcohol to spoil areas deep in the wilderness. Horse travel also does lasting damage to trails and water sources.

Topic Question 5: Foot travel groups could be limited to 20, and if permitted at all, pack operations should have an upper limit of 10. Existing food storage practices are adequate. Campfires should be permitted, hopefully in existing rings and perhaps with a small diamter to encourage smaller fires and less fuel usage.

Topic Question 6: Guided stock trips simply ruin the trails and areas they frequent with noise, excrement and trampled vegetation and water sources. For wilderness areas any commercial opeartions threaten the nature of the area, but there is the reality of certain areas. As such, perhaps foot-access only programs with a limit should be considered.

Topic Question 7: Wilderness should be left alone to its native operation - I love hiking in areas where there are no roads or mechanized tools allowed for trail-building. Again, horses and pack operations should not be allowed.

Thanks for giving us this forum and protecting part of what makes the American West so special!

Correspondence ID: 739 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 20:12:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness

character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 740 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Historic natural environments are living participants necessary for our sustainable future. Breathing their oxygen, seeing their majestic beauty, changes every life. God stopped making them - we must preserve what we have left.

Topic Question 3: being in touch with nature puts life in perspective

Correspondence ID: 741 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 22:11:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Too many people un-educated in Leave No Trace ethics. Some areas are over-used. Some areas are very sensitive. Wildlife--keeping food away from wildlife, keeping wildlife wild and the ability to see wildlife in an unspoiled land are important. Yet, keeping people safe from bears is important--wildlife management.

Topic Question 2: 1. deal with problem bears, implement camping in designated sites only. All sites should have bear poles-- seems like many people do not want to carry bear canisters, so do what you have control over and put up bear poles. Registration necessary for camping. More LNT education. The idea of carrying out used toilet paper, for instance, should be emphasized.

Topic Question 3: Freedom to travel where I wish, self-reliance, pristine areas, quiet, landscape that is not dotted with other tents and old fire rings, trails that are easily available for those who prefer to use them. Self-responsibility is important. No cell phone coverage! It is not necessary to really be alone, but the feeling of aloneness, of discovery, is important. Lack of light pollution is important, too.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing. NON MOTORIZED travel. No snowmobiles. No orv's, no mountain bikes. (mountain bikes trash the land, add to erosion issues, too loud, too fast) (I have a mountain bike but do not consider it an appropriate activity for the wilderness). Horse, lama packing are also appropriate wilderness activities.

Topic Question 5: If a group is larger than 10-14, it should be divided into smaller groups for hiking. I think it is important for NOLS and other outdoor schools to run programs, but seeing 14 people hiking along a trail is a bit much if you are truly in a wilderness setting. On the other hand, I've enjoyed talking to groups of that size, if they are quiet and respectful of others, so maybe it is a question of attitude. I do not like seeing long lines of horse (14).

Topic Question 6: Guided programs should be allowed and encouraged, but outfitters must go thru a rigorous training in LNT and should be held to very high standards. Guided hiking, stock trips, etc are fine, but should not be overdone. Maybe a limit on numbers of permits. or perhaps restricted to popular areas for climbing.

Topic Question 7: Wildlife management: manage the people and be strict with regulations. Possibly some areas with larger numbers of people allowed, other areas with less permits given for those who prefer more off the beaten path places. On the ground management is important, being a presence and educating hikers.

Topic Question 8: Water. High altitude alpine areas.

Correspondence ID: 742 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am extremely concerned about the potential degradation of these irreplaceable wilderness areas due to climate change and pollution, as well as the impact of roads and structures built for purposes other than emergency use, damage from off-road and other vehicles and other visitor impacts.

Topic Question 2: I believe that wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will insure that these precious resources will survive for future generations. Natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate to the maximum extent possible, continual monitoring should be done to detect the effects of climate change, pollution and other impacts. Visitors to these areas should be provided with information about proper use before entering these areas, including the concept of "Leave no Trace".

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is important not only for the preservation of biological diversity, wildlife habitat, and clean water and air, but also as a place to experience the restorative benefits of the peace and quiet that can only be found in nature, in wilderness.

Topic Question 4: I want to see these places preserved for those who travel on their feet, or on horseback. Hiking, back-packing, packing in on horseback, camping, fishing, mountaineering, climbing, are all appropriate activities.

Topic Question 6: Guided trips are an excellent way for people who have little experience in the wilderness to visit these places with relative safety, and those kinds of services should be provided, so long as the organizations that provide them have respect for the wilderness and minimize their own impacts. They should be subject to Park Service oversight and rules, to insure that their activities and any facilities they have in the parks are in keeping with the nature of a wilderness area.

I had my first wilderness experience at the age of 8, in Sequoia National Park, when my parents and I packed (on horseback) into what we then called "The Big Arroyo", past Lake Hamilton and over Kaweah Gap. that was more than 60 years ago, and the memories of that trip are as vivid today as ever. I have also been to Kings Canyon, through Mineral King, and I will never forget my first sight of the mountains at the pack station in Mineral King. Those experiences have stayed with me all my life and they are very much a part of who I am. I would like to think that other young people in the future will have the opportunity to experience some of that majesty and beauty that I carry with me.

Thank you for making it possible for me to make these comments, and especially, thank you for continuing to protect our State's magnificent forests, mountains, rivers and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 743 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,28,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As a resident of California, I want to preserve our most unique and unspoiled wild lands. Sequoia and Kings Canyon NP, which I've personally visited a couple of times each, along with many other parks in this state, are amazing places that deserve to be preserved in their natural state. Wilderness designation is the best available protection.

Topic Question 2: Not sure about what this is asking about. Is this about resources needed to police the area, e.g. against illegal hunting or logging? In that case, certainly desirable to do this.

Topic Question 3: A wilderness area offers unmatched enjoyment of nature and wildlife, without the disruptive and often destructive effects of construction, motorized vehicles, etc.

Topic Question 4: Important is preservation of the area, i.e. anything that causes permanent harm or changes should be disallowed. This includes construction (roads, buildings, etc.), logging, mining, oil drilling, etc. as well as off-road activity. All of those scare and kill wildlife and destroy their habitat, as well as spoil the enjoyment of the area by other visitors.

Topic Question 6: Very acceptable as long as they don't cause permanent damage to wildlife or habitats. Allowing people to visit unspoiled nature (as long as no damage is done) is always a great way to enjoy themselves as well as learn the value of those places.

Topic Question 7: Enforcement of off-loading and construction prohibition is crucial, since we are already seeing widespread disregard for such laws--some people feel they have the right to their destructive activities because those are "their" lands. But they are not ONLY their lands.

We need to protect what we still have of our natural lands and wildlife. It will serve to maintain the ecological balance, protect wildlife and offer areas of non-destructive recreation and education for the humans.

Correspondence ID: 744 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: As I go to places like this to experience the natural sounds of the world, like wind through the trees and bird song, I consider off road vehicles totally inappropriate, except for official park vehicles. If I want to listen to roaring traffic, I'll stay at home.

Topic Question 6: They are fine with me (provided they are ethical services,) especially as they may help less experienced hikers and climbers enjoy the wilderness safely, and keep the wilderness safe from the inexperienced.

Topic Question 7: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 8: It is my belief that conservation and protection of the few wilderness places should be especially important now, as more and more fresh water sources and more habitats for wildlife are threatened. I would love to see more places designated as wilderness preserves, where no logging is allowed, no hunting and even areas where no people are allowed, except for researchers to monitor how species are doing in these areas.

It is my hope that humans will begin to realize they must think of other things than their needs and become true stewards of the Earth and give it the respect and care it deserves. If we do poison ourselves out of existence, the Earth may survive and heal itself, but we will be taking so many species with us it is shameful.

I truly appreciate the efforts of the Park Service to keep these wonderful places safe and beautiful for us and future generations.

Correspondence ID: 745 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: The wilderness use is important to me to experience nature firsthand and to learn more about what it is that we as citizens are trying to protect by supporting our National Parks. I want to experience nature in person and to be able to leave no trace of my visit, so that others can continue to experience the peace and awe of nature.

Topic Question 4: I consider the presence of National Parks Rangers an absolute must! I learned much from the park rangers I encountered as a child. I learned from visiting and interacting with rangers at the ranger stations, campfire programs, ranger-led talks, hikes, walks, and from random encounters as they patrolled the parks. I also found comfort in their presence, knowing that should an emergency occur they were nearby. I also found it comforting to be able to find a ranger nearby if a fellow visitor were participating in any harmful and/or illegal activities. More and more I find that the only presence in the parks are campground hosts, not actual rangers. Why it is nice that these hosts are their, they do not have the background (usually) or the authority of rangers.

I absolutely think that the use of off-road motorized vehicles should be banned in the parks, unless they are used by park

personnel in the case of an emergency.

Topic Question 5: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 6: I do not have a problem with some commercial services being allowed in the parks as long as they are all held accountable and to the same high standards. Are companies should be thoroughly vetted prior to approval. I also believe that they need to be subject to periodic reevaluations.

Any commercial services offered in the parks should be their to enhance the visitors' experience. Whether it be to help them learn more about the parks and the visitors' roles in keeping them available for future generations or to help them understand why certain activities are not allowed.

Topic Question 8: The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

In was in these two parks that I first learned of the beauty of wilderness and wildlife. My family camped here quite often when I was a very young child up until I was an adult. I have continued as an adult to camp in many of our national parks and to share this joy with my niece/nephews.

Not only did I learn the joy of being in the wilderness, but the consequences of mans' interaction with wildlife and wilderness. I learned about the duties we have to maintain these places for future generations.

I strongly believe that visitor education is an absolute MUST. Visitors need to be educated on the rules/laws of the parks and more importantly why those rules/laws exist. They need to know that their actions have consequences. They need to know how to protect themselves and the wildlife from danger (i.e., storing food properly in the bear storage bins, not washing clothes/dishes/themselves in the streams, packing out what they pack in, etc.)

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 746 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. I am becoming concerned over the increasing use of our parks to satisfy the needs of commercial interests rather than protecting the wilderness, its wildlife and our water shed. Corporate pollution is on the rise and we must insure that our parks are protected.

Topic Question 2: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. This policy must remain. We need to evaluate on the possible over use of campsites and the harmful impact this has on the wilderness Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 3: I enjoy the peace of our parks. The ability to walk and be part of a beautiful wilderness area. It is so relaxing not being any where near a road, cars or people.

Topic Question 4: Our parks need to be available to the public but for activities that do the harm the land, water or wildlife; such as, hiking and fishing. Bikes and any motorized vehicle should not be allowed.

Topic Question 5: Group size needs to be limited to protect the land and animal habitate. Campfires are appropriate only if it is safe, i.e. not a hot and dry period and with instrutions on a safe campfire.

Topic Question 6: No commercial services should be allowed in our parks. They are there to make money not to protect the wilderness. Promises mean little once and area has been over used.

Correspondence ID: 747 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Protecting wilderness areas in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks - two gems in the NPS.

Topic Question 3: Protecting wilderness from overuse, motorized vehicles, roads, and over construction of facilities - in essence - keeping wilderness wild is of utmost importance to me. Preserving land, water, and ecosystems is crucial, especially in the face of global warming.

Topic Question 4: Low impact recreational activities such as backpacking are appropriate - high impact such as using motorized equipment (off road motorcycles or motorized boats for example) are inappropriate. Work on the part of NPS scientists, to understand and preserve ecosystems and watersheds are appropriate.

Topic Question 5: The small group size policies, as well as food storage practices, currently supported by NPS are appropriate and I follow them when I am in a national park.

Topic Question 6: Don't like it so much - keeping it small and to a minimum is what I would recommend.

Topic Question 8: Watersheds must be cared for, studied, and protected.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 748 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 10:53:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have enough funding to protect the park, wildlife from destructive parties-such as the Mexican Drug Cartell that is growing Marijuana in the park and poachers. I also want to see educational programs for visitors so they learn more about the unique attributes of each park and how they can help protect nature. I would like to see adequate personnel to interact with the public and keep the park facilities in good shape.

Topic Question 2: Increase Federal funding to stop illegal activities in the park. Public education on what to do and not do in a wilderness area. Have educational programs with history, wild life facts and share the beauty of the parks. Have special programs that attract future nature lovers...Mammal week-birds etc.

Topic Question 3: A place to regroup from the stress of modern living. A place for wildlife to live and be safe. A place to wonder at nature and all its unique survival strategies.

Topic Question 4: Walking, hiking, backpacking, some horse back riding and camping. I do not want to see endless pets, OHV or noise in the parks.

Topic Question 5: In a group area 20 people or less. Bear proof containers and instruction on their proper use. Limited campfires at night -not all day. Cessation of campfires if there is a lot of smoke and air pollution.

Topic Question 6: It can be a good thing if offered on a limited basis and not too expensive for the average family. I went on a horse trip in Sequoia and it was a very good experience but I am not doing it again. I am not interested in climbing but some

people are and it can be OK-as long as they are not taking over the park.

Topic Question 7: Education on garbage, human waste management and bear interaction with food. How to keep the water clean-there was soap scum on a lake on a recent backpack trip.

Topic Question 8: How to stop the MEXican drug cartel from growing marijuana in Sequoia-or anywhere else in the USA-we have enough domestic growers in CALifornia.

I feel we need alot more parks and wildlife protection areas. Fish and Game wanted to raise the bear kill rate form 1700 to 2000 a year which, in my opinion, is way too much. They also wanted to open Wildlife Protected areas to hanging. This is not protection. There is alot more money to be made by family tourism and wildlife veiwing areas. The future generation needs to experience nature as an important asset to their lives and something to protect for the future.

Correspondence ID: 749 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: THAT IT SHOULD REMAIM WILD AND INTACT AND UNAVAILABLE TO THE MASSES

Topic Question 2: HIRING PERSONNEL TO SPECIFICALLY MONITOR THE TRAILS AND CAMP AREAS AND ENFORCE STRICT FINES WHEN RULES ARE BROKEN AND THE LAND IS DISRESPECTED

Topic Question 3: THAT WE STILL HAVE ANY WILD PLACES IS VERY IMPORTANT AND RECREATION SHOULD BE SEVERELY LIMITED AND REGULARLY MONITORED IN THESE AREAS

Topic Question 4: CAMPING, HIKING ARE IMPORTANT AND APPROPRIATE.

ANY COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IS INAPPROPRIATE AS WELL AS ANY TYPE OF HUNTING AT ANY TIME

Topic Question 5: GROUPS SIZE SHOULD BE LIMITED, FOOD STORAGE SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN BACK COUNTRY ESTABLISHED FIRE SAFE AREAS AND CAMP FIRES SHOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED AFTER CAREFUL INSTRUCTION AND AFTER A PERMIT IS ISSUED

Topic Question 6: THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS IN WILDERNESS, FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY

Topic Question 8: THE WILDERNESS AREAS SHOULD BE PROTECTED AS WILD

Correspondence ID: 750 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 12:06:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 751 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Nature, our wildlife and wild lands are our cultural treasures. Natural resources should not have a price tag. To quote Theodore Roosevelt, "There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of the giant sequoias and redwoods, the Canyon of the Colorado, the Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Three Tetons; and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred. We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible; this is not so".

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. I am in total agreement with the Sierra Club and the following statements. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace".

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 752 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 12:32:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

I have just returned from a week in Lassen NP; it is absolutely breathtaking.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 753 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: As for all wilderness areas in California and the United States, I am concerned about greedy developers, and unscrupulous, rapacious energy companies getting their ways and encroaching on wilderness lands in order to reap their harvests of dwindling natural resources and in their wakes leaving pollution and desolation.

Topic Question 2: Educate the public. Get Americans to look around them and acquire a love, respect, and appreciation for our natural resources, especially wilderness areas.

Topic Question 3: That they be sensibly used with conservation in mind. That this be taught to the public beginning with school children.

Topic Question 4: Exploration and learning activities might be considered appropriate. Ban the use of all "off-road" vehicles except their use by park rangers and emergency personnel, limit the building of roads into pristine wilderness areas.

Topic Question 5: People that feel compelled to do those should consider extraterrestrial travel to a distant galaxy for their destructive fun. Take cooking courses, eat at home, "more butter, more wine", just not in our outdoors recreational areas.

Topic Question 6: Guides teaching people about the wildnreness, wildlife, habitats, educating them about the earth's atmosphere being a viable ecosystem are all beneficial, but when the big money boys see ways of making cash off of guided tours, stock trips whatever, unleash herds of she-bears on them.

Topic Question 7: Follow sensible, conservation-minded guidelines for their implementation.

Topic Question 8: Yes, definitely strive to undo the horrendous damage created by damming rivers, reversing the flows of rivers, and using rivers to dump toxic chemicals. Stop logging of old growth redwood forests. Outlaw strip mining and mountain-top removal. When will Americans get it? The energy companies are destroying this beautiful country.

Correspondence ID: 754 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: so that future generations can enjoy this amazing place: preserves and protects these natural lands while providing opportunities for appreciation of the solitude and primitive experience it offers.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 4: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 5: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 6: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 7: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 8: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated

wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 755 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 13:59:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Overcrowding, trail conditions, dangerous stream crossings, inattention of rangers to campsite populations and distributions. It appears that only entrances are monitored and limited; subsequent locations and activities are not regulated, leading to serious overcrowding at some locations in the back country.

Topic Question 2: Not only limiting party sizes would be helpful, but actually monitoring the campsites in the field to be sure that permits are being followed and that back country rules are being complied with. We often found many rules being violated, such as washing with shampoo in the lake and staying beyond the established number of days allowed (Hamilton Lake).

Topic Question 3: That wilderness be just that--wilderness.

Topic Question 4: I do not appreciate large groups of a loud and boisterous nature to be appropriate in the back country. Last year this was the case with one large group taking over the bear box for their cook kitchen and party center, complete with liquor bottles they had packed in. They were loud and raucous late into the night. Ranger spot check would have been helpful.

Topic Question 5: My feeling about group size is that they should be much smaller than the usual 15. I would suggest no more than 5 or 6. On a hike this year, 2011, we had 22 at Mehrten Creek camp, 24 one night at Hamilton Lake and 17 another night at Hamilton. These sizes are way over the limited size of the sites. The food storage boxes are a great convenience. It seems that when they are broken, no effort is made to repair them. It would be beneficial to keep them up and place more. I do not like the unfair rule that gives storage box priority to Muir Trail thru hikers. Often times Park hikers with many days out could have more need (such as Circle of Solitude) or other long routes to remote areas of the Park. I believe the campfire rules are reasonable for summer. In colder weather, the rules may need to be more lenient.

Topic Question 6: I believe there is a place for these, as long as the group sizes are kept quite small. Stock use should be extremely limited.

Topic Question 7: See above comments. While I understand the limitations of funding and resources, keeping the trails in reasonable condition is important. I was quite pleased with the overall condition of trails in my 2010 and 2011 hikes in SEKI (involving Twin Lakes, Seville, Sugarloaf, Deadman canyon, Cloud canyon, Eliz pass, Hamilton Lake, Kaweah gap, High Sierra/Crescent. The South slope of Elizabeth Pass was not good and at least needs to be better marked with cairns (ducks). The crossing of Lone Pine Creek near the over the hill cutoff (between Tamarack trail and the High Sierra Trail) was mismarked to lead the hiker to the most dangerous crossing. Please check.

Topic Question 8: See above comments. More up to date information about trail conditions should be considered to be posted to the Park website. I know that info is posted but it seems to always be weeks out of date.

Please try to do a better job of regulating group sizes and their activities, not only at the entrances, but also throughout the sites in the field.

Correspondence ID: 756 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That they will be turned over to developers, and spoiled forever to future generations.

Topic Question 2: A tax: one penny per US stock trade transaction.

Topic Question 3: We are creatures of nature, whether we realize it or not. It has innate restorative properties to us when we can get exposure to it, and many of us do not realize that our deep unhappiness as a nation comes from lack of contact with what is real in the world: nature.

Topic Question 4: Quiet and clean activities: leave the noise and pollution back home. Respect the natural state of wilderness.

No motorized vehicles (except for rangers, etc.), no guns or any weapons, no sport killing, no loud music.

Topic Question 5: As long as everyone is quiet and respectful of the environment and fellow nature lovers, I don't know that that matters. Food storage should be done so as not to invite animal intruders.

Topic Question 6: Great!

Topic Question 7: I don't know enough to give details, but controlled burns, restricted regrowth areas, etc. at a very minimum seem to make sense.

Topic Question 8: Fragile ecosystems and places with endangered species must be given extra protections.

Correspondence ID: 757 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 2: Designate all suitable areas as wilderness. Employ biologists to make recommendations.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness must be saved for future generations. Recreational uses must respect/protect wilderness values.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, fishing, limited stock use, nature study, camping are appropriate uses of wilderness. All extractive/destructive uses are inappropriate uses of wilderness.

Topic Question 5: Current group size, food storage practices, campfire use are appropriate.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services need to follow all wilderness use/regulations. Stock should be limited to 10 animals.

Topic Question 7: Management should preserve all wilderness/biological values/resources.

Topic Question 8: Endangered/critical species need protection, such as amphibians.

Correspondence ID: 758 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please protect Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. It's our responsibility to protect the wild areas for years to come.

Correspondence ID: 759 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I appreciate the work you are putting into reviewing these parks. While the area available for logging and other uses in national forests is large that within designated wilderness is not.

The wilderness is a part of the heritage and legacy of Americans and all visitors to America. It has always been a valuable part of the country and should be preserved. These parks are highly unusual. They need to be as well preserved as is possible.

Topic Question 2: Fund drives visa organizations such as the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy could raise a lot of needed cash.

Topic Question 3: It is part of our heritage and something we should pass on to future generations to enjoy. Once it's gone it's gone forever.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, sight-seeing. Fishing, horseback riding.

Topic Question 5: Groups should be limited to 6 persons or so. Where bears exist bear-proof containers should be required for overnigheters. Campfires are too risky.

Topic Question 6: Fine as long as groups are limited in size.

Topic Question 7: The rangers do a great job. If we can maintain that level we've done well.

Topic Question 8: Very old growth forests and special habitat need and deserve great care for preservation.

Correspondence ID: 760 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The main concern my family and I have about the wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is providing access to public to enjoy nature to it's fullest in a balanced, maintained approach that ensure the stability and well-being of the natural resources while providing life experiences to those visiting and enjoying the settings.

Topic Question 2: A possible strategy for the protection of the wilderness resources could be rotating the access to various areas. Close areas heavily traveled to allow the return of natural growth and wildlife. Once viable and thriving, reopen to the public. Establishing a rotation cycle for areas under great impact could utlimate preserve the area as a whole.

Topic Question 3: What is important to my family and I is that nature is available to enjoy for our generation and the generations to come. We understand that limiting access and facilities to preserve what we have is a necessary part.

Topic Question 4: Activities we feel are important and appropriate in wilderness would be hiking, tent camping, climbing, non-motorized watercraft. Inappropriate would be large volumes of off-roading vehicles, large urbanized campgrounds for large RVs and motorhomes, motorized watercraft.

Topic Question 5: Party/group size should not be restricted as long as their impacts are nullified, ie take out what was taken in. Food storage should be provided by the NPS for areas of high bear concentrations so to provide protection of the bears and the people. Campfires should be allowed in areas provided fire risks are limited.

Topic Question 6: Commerical services as indicated should be allowed, albeit regulated by the NPS to ensure as minimal impact as possible.

Topic Question 7: Oversight to maintain appropriate behaviors and protect the resources found within NPS boundaries. Budgets seem to be the most limiting factor to this issue.

Topic Question 8: Archelological and historic sites.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and

quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages

Correspondence ID: 761 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Best to keep the wilderness as natural as possible, with hiking and simple camping allowed.

Topic Question 2: No dogs, stock, or smoking.

Topic Question 3: Clean and wild.

Topic Question 4: As above. No guns. No drug (marijuana) farms. Present practices seem ok to my knowledge.

Topic Question 5: Present practices are ik as far as I can tell.

Topic Question 6: ok/ ok for kids/elderly/disabled./Post money need for rescues.

Topic Question 7: Let rangers handle it.

Topic Question 8: Of course; high elevations and watersheds are more fragile.

thanks for protecting these magnificent lands.

Correspondence ID: 762 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I believe that if left alone, these lands and places will become legacies for future generations.

Topic Question 2: They may include: making them off limits to logging and other anti-environmental interests and educating the public as to their importance in terms of the benefits to the environment and people.

Topic Question 3: Most important is that I get to commune with nature and all that it provides: emotional, mental and physical well-being.

Topic Question 4: All types that do not involve motorized vehicles are appropriate.

Topic Question 5: I think that the present rules are fine.

Topic Question 6: I do not want commercial interests there. They can be accessed in towns and cities.

Topic Question 7: I have none; am not schooled enough.

Topic Question 8: Areas that are home to varied types of wildlife are important to consider.

Correspondence ID: 763 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I'm writing to ask you to please continue to protect Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. These parks are incredible wilderness treasures of high mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons and the world's largest trees. So much of California's natural resources have been ruined by development, logging, and corporate greed. As a native Californian, I've seen too much of our state's wildlife habitat, wetlands, and open space disappear since my 1950s childhood.

Please protect this wilderness for the wildlife that need it even worse than we do. And for the natural processes that clean the air and water, benefiting us, too.

I appreciate NPS' past efforts to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the "Leave-No-Trace" directive to take only pictures and leave only footprint. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages, and don't give in to corporate greed or those who would turn these majestic natural areas into loud, polluted racetracks for idiots on ATVs, for "farms" for lumber. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 764 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that the amount of undisturbed wilderness in California is getting ever smaller. Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience the outdoors without human interference and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is protected and respected for future generations. No new roads, no more human footprints in designated wilderness. And no changing of that designation.

Topic Question 3: Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

Topic Question 4: Quiet is a part of the wilderness experience and so activities that produce no noise, (hiking, yoga, sketching and watercolor painting, photography, bird and wildlife watching) are appropriate.

It is inappropriate to use any noise-producing technology, musical instruments, mountain bikes -- anything that is disturbing to wildlife and people who wish to enjoy the peace.

Topic Question 5: Large groups tend to be noisy so they should be confined to other recreational areas. Food must be kept in bear-proof containers (animals should never be fed). Very small campfires can be intimate and part of an outdoor experience; bonfires (large campfires) can cause wildfires and emit such light that may disturb wildlife and are inappropriate.

Topic Question 6: They are OK, especially if the price is reasonable. A knowledgeable guide can provide information about the ecosystems and plant and animal species living in the park as well as geological knowledge.

Topic Question 7: MINIMUM management: Natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum

extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 8: We need as much wilderness as we can get. It ALL warrants special consideration.

Correspondence ID: 765 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 20:01:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 766 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: We have enjoyed Sequoia & Kings Canyon for many years, yet there always seems to be a threat to use these public Trusts to the detriment of the ordinary people who enjoy a piece of our natural history. Please consider that there are always economic entities whose interest is to make money. It is impossible that those users and ourselves have the same appreciation of these irreplaceable resources.

Correspondence ID: 767 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: (I've pasted my comments in the final box.)

Topic Question 2: -

Topic Question 3: -

Topic Question 4: -

Topic Question 5: -

Topic Question 6: -

Topic Question 7: -

Topic Question 8: -

I would like to see the drift fences removed from SEKI. Last year, I took a trip to Lakes Basin. There was a trail crew and some stock along the Muro Blanco. In that vicinity, there was a drift fence to contain the stock. I was quite surprised to see this fence on a trail that I read was no longer maintained. I thought I was in a quiet, forgotten corner of SEKI untrammled by man and then I see this man made fence. The fence was an unwelcome reminder of civilization. Drift fences are dangerous contraptions of barbed wire under tension. As I unhooked the barbed wire to pass through, I was concerned that the barbed wire would snap

off the post and gouge my skin. That's the last thing I need in the backcountry.

I would like the commercial Bearpaw High Sierra camp removed from SEKI. I have passed by Bearpaw during my trips in SEKI. It is jarring to see this bastion of luxury 10 miles into the backcountry. I don't mind people wanting this kind of service in SEKI, but it belongs in developed areas of the park. The countless stock trips to resupply the camp cause untold wear to the trails and the stock themselves detract from the wilderness experience.

In 2008, I hiked over Shepherd Pass into SEKI. After descending the pass, I encountered a helicopter on the ground in the upper Kern Canyon. There was a trail crew nearby, so I assume the helicopter was there in conjunction with them. As a trail user, I acknowledge that trail maintenance is a necessity and I appreciate the trail workers' efforts. However, SEKI should ensure that it complies with the minimum tool concept in the Wilderness Act, especially when it comes to helicopters. The most unusual thing I expect to encounter in the upper Kern Canyon are the rare foxtail pines, not a big blue and yellow helicopter parked right off the trail. Aside from the visual distraction, the noise from the touchdown and liftoff of the helicopter intrudes on the wilderness experience.

In addition to helicopter flights, SEKI is plagued by military overflights. One day in Nine Lakes Basin I experienced about five overflights by low flying military jets. My nerves were really rattled by the noise and sight of the jets. I felt like I was in a war zone. I understand the military is a separate entity, but it might help if the wilderness stewardship plan included mention of this problem.

On my many trips to SEKI and surrounding wilderness areas, I've encountered grazed meadows and manure. On one particular hike, I passed through meadow after meadow full of manure. The scent is revolting and accidentally stepping in a fresh pile is not an experience that I'd wish on anyone. Meadows drain into streams, so the manure in the meadows enters the water supply. This poses a danger to humans who drink from the streams and may damage the ecosystem. I worry that the manure could contain seeds of invasive plants. The wilderness plan should address the olfactory and visual effects of manure as well as the issues of water pollution and weed seeds caused by manure. Preferably, there should be no grazing anywhere in SEKI. Stock should carry in their own feed. I've heard that manure catchers are available for stock and those should be mandatory.

Correspondence ID: 768 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.29,2011 23:47:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I recommend that the cave resources in the parks continue to be preserved and protected and that they continue to be open to recreational cavers where possible.

I also recommend that the wilderness plan allow the existence and use of the research cabin at Lilburn cave. Lilburn is the longest known cave in California and had been the source of much good research over the past 40 years, including hints at California climate change. The cabin is an integral part of this important research.

Correspondence ID: 769 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

Topic Question 3: The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace."

Topic Question 4: I consider activities that bring people closer to nature and from which people learn more about nature and the natural world. I consider camping, hiking, and any activity that allows people to be in the natural world important as long as they leave no trace of being in the natural environment. Of course, scientific theory indicates that just being in the environment and observing the environment influences it. So I suppose that positive intentions, whatever that means, is important, too.

Topic Question 5: I think that party/groups should be kept small (4-8 people per group). Food should be stored in places (like

trees) where animals are less likely to be tempted to eat it, and campfires should be kept small, though big enough to cook and to keep warm.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services in wilderness, such as guided hiking and guided climbing/mountaineering should be closely monitored in regards to size and safety. I don't know about guided stock trips.

Topic Question 7: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

Topic Question 8: AT this time, I really do not have enough information regarding areas of the wilderness or wilderness resources that warrant special consideration.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Correspondence ID: 770 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: 1. Stock usage does far more damage than foot travel. Stock users should also be required to compete on equal basis for permits. 2. I have seen meadows above 10,000 feet trampled by stock grazing. Stock should be required to carry their own food and restricted in where they can be tied. 3. Stock size should be severely limited to 10 animals . 4. A few persons on animals degrade hikers experience. When animals are present I am hiking in dust and manure.

Topic Question 2: 1. Commercial users should pay fees to repair their damage to trails. 2. The trails that stock can use should be severely limited. 3. Supplies carried by stock should be limited to basic food and tent. I have seen stock carrying cases of liquor and many luxury reclining chairs and even beds.

Topic Question 3: Wilderness should be just that. Not a luxury party that someone might have in a big city

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited to 10 animals. Those able to walk should be walking and only disabled on horse. Hiker and stock user size should also be limited to 10 persons to hold large parties.. The wilderness is not designated as a plac

Topic Question 6: Guided stock trips should not be in the wilderness

Correspondence ID: 771 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 05:36:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: The overuse/abuse by commercial pack station. We are avid backpackers and have criss-crossed the High Sierra since 1975. Having a true experience of the wilderness has been very important to us. To find it we have often had to get off the trails.

Topic Question 2: If pack animals are allowed, only service to those who otherwise could not experience the beauty of these two parks (handicapped) should be allowed. Animals should at all times be limited in number and be tied down at designated spots along the allowed trails.

Topic Question 3: These parks and the rest of the High Sierra have meant keeping our sanity in a crazily busy life. They have allowed us to teach our children and their friends the importance of nature.

Topic Question 4: The word wilderness says it all! The wilderness is a haven for people willing to make an effort to be in a serene environment. Keep it wild! All "modern" intrusions such as pack horses loaded with grills, chairs etc take away from the wilderness experience.

Topic Question 5: There is already a strict limit on number of hikers starting at any trail head. There are NO limits to the party of pack horses. It simply makes no sense. Food storage should only be made available where bears are a problem. Campfires are nice but ONLY if below a reasonable altitude where there is plenty of firewood.

Topic Question 6: My initial reaction is to only allow these COMMERCIAL services for people who need extra help. There are many other organizations such as the Sierra Club who offer these services and at the same time are very protective of the wilderness. If strict rules can be ENFORCED, I would have less problems with commercial services.

Topic Question 7: VERY IMPORTANT. Any commercial use of the wilderness, be it pack animals or grazing, must be allowed ONLY if the first concern is the protection of these wildernesses.

Topic Question 8: REDUCTION OR REMOVAL OF PACK ANIMALS.

REDUCTION OR REMOVAL OF GRAZING IN FRAGILE AREAS.

This is an opportunity for the Forest Service to address abuses by commercial entities. These two parks are treasures to be maintained/restored for generations to come. Personally they have served to restore our spirits during difficult times.

We are currently overseas and will be until October 8th. If you need to contact us, please do so by email, NOT US mail as we would not be able to get back to you.

Correspondence ID: 772 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I worry that the wilderness areas will be encroached upon and used in ways that will damage their environment. Pot growing, off-road vehicle use, bicycling on trails meant for hikers . . . also that our funding issues will reduce the staffing and thus make patrolling/protecting more difficult.

Topic Question 2: Increase penalties for improper use. Ensure funding is maintained at least in proportion to the overall national budget -- that is, if our national budget falls 10%, then let the park budget fall 10%. No more axing of programs out of proportion, say, to our defense budget.

Topic Question 3: I value the opportunity to see the Earth as it has developed itself. I value the solitude of nature, the freedom (relatively) from the noises of everyday life.

Topic Question 4: Photography, hiking, camping, bird-watching are all appropriate. Wheeled vehicle use (motorized or not), smoking (fire-danger), noisy activities of any kind, firewood gathering, hunting/fishing -- these are all inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Campfires should be prohibited; gas stoves only. Campfires encourage scavenging for wood and that wood is useful to the forest for its inhabitants' environment. Large groups are noisy and tend to move in packs, damaging trails and bothering others as they yell up and down the line when hiking or camping. I believe groups should be limited to 10 or less. However, I do not have strong feelings about this. If there are popular/established camp areas, bear-resistant lockers may be provided; in any case, bear-resistant portable containers should be recommended (and available for rent, as now in many places).

Topic Question 6: I believe commercial services should be prohibited as, by their nature, they encourage over-use of the wilderness for profit. It's wilderness and should be kept wild.

Topic Question 7: I believe hiking trails should be kept maintained to encourage people to stay on certain paths.

Thank you for asking for input. Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan,

please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

[Click here to submit your comment.](#) The NPS is accepting comments until August 31st.

Correspondence ID: 773 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Keeping them safe from guns.

Topic Question 2: Hold them inviolate.

Topic Question 3: The Natural. Quiet. A refuge from cities. Safety for people and the wildlife.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate and important: Hiking, camping, clean air, birds. Inappropriate: off-road vehicles, noise.

Topic Question 5: Experienced forest rangers can decide what's best.

Topic Question 6: Sierra Club has good guidelines.

Topic Question 7: Keep our wilderness free of marijuana growers and their gang-related dangers.

Topic Question 8: Yes: all of them.

Why do we always have to fight to protect our National Parks and Wilderness? They should be protected from any encroachments whatsoever.

Correspondence ID: 774 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,30,2011 10:07:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My main concern is that some of the protective measures will be lost. For example, I'm concerned more access roads and off-road vehicles will be allowed. I'm also concerned about funding; less funding may mean less oversight and thus a small fire could turn into a large one if there are fewer park rangers to oversee the parks.

Topic Question 2: To limit the amount of access by autos; to make sure there are ample waste containers for people to use; to make sure trails are maintained so hikers are not tramping off-trail too often.

Topic Question 3: First and foremost, it's availability. If we don't protect our wilderness it will slowly yet surely be lost to development, tree cutting and fire.

Topic Question 4: Well maintained hiking trails, day spots and camp sites are most important for me. I believe any type of "off road" vehicle usage is inappropriate and I believe large RVs should not be allowed too far into a wilderness area. Large RVs take up a lot of road space, they pollute the air and they create too much noise (even when not running due to generators, etc).

Topic Question 5: I prefer smaller group sizes (i.e. 6 and under); too many people and the chances rise that things will get out of hand (too loud, too much alcohol, too many cars parking along the road, too much trampling on the vegetation, too much trash). I think sealed containers (i.e. coolers) should be mandatory and those caught without should receive a warning ticket. I like campfires but I don't think every campground should have to have them, only areas where the risk of fire is lessened due to clearing brush in a wide area around the designated campfire spots. Other, more dense areas should be without and anyone who gets a camping permit should be informed that an illegal campfire or a campfire that is not properly extinguished will result in a very large fine or possible jail time if set illegally.

Topic Question 6: I am in favor of commercial services. I understand that some people prefer the pristine, do-it-yourself approach but there are many who are afraid of the wilderness or unsure or won't go at all if there is not some structure, such as an experienced guide. The more people who experience the wilderness will become protectors of it and good stewards of the land. Also, many kids will only experience natural parks through an organized, guided experience.

Topic Question 7: I'm not sure that these question means.

Topic Question 8: If any area is suffering from over-usage, it should be closed to human use so that it may restore and recover.

Thank you for protecting the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National parks!

Correspondence ID: 775 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Over-use, spoilage of the wilderness and habitat

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964

Topic Question 3: That it remain in its natural state for many future generations

Topic Question 4: Appropriate - 'Leave no trace' (hiking, biking, responsible camping/backpacking)

Topic Question 6: These are great ways to get the less inclined into the wilderness and promote the wonders. Guides MUST be trained and responsible. Group sizes must remain small to prevent over-use.

Topic Question 8: Areas where protected or endangered species could be must be limited access or off-limits.

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

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Correspondence ID: 776 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 11:02:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That it is made accessible to as many people as possible. This will require horse or pack animal options

Topic Question 2: Limiting the number of people/day. Some areas could hold more, such as a base camp

Topic Question 3: That all people are encouraged to use and enjoy.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Hiking, fishing, birding, backcountry classes, camping, horsebackriding, caving, foot and running races. Inappropriate:

Topic Question 5: Party size would depend on the area, from groups of 4-50. Keep food in metal containers brought in by campers or hung in trees. Campfires should be allowed near lakes and streams, with them being extinguished by water prior to leaving the site. Have fire rings in popular locations.

Topic Question 6: They should be allowed, but limited in number of companies.

Topic Question 7: Main trails and rivers should be cleared at the beginning of the season. Use of volunteer organizations should be utilized where and when possible. Online check in and permits available.

Topic Question 8: Keep rivers running smoothly, keep lakes stocked with native fish.

Provide basic corrals, with water, and parking for horse and pack animals. 1-2 miles of smooth trails for wheelchair and stroller access as far as possible. Solar composting toilets at all base camps..

Correspondence ID: 777 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 13:09:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 778 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That is being over used and overrun.

Topic Question 2: That we limit use and no off road vehicles should be restricted.

Topic Question 3: That we protect the land and the wildlife that live in it before the humans have use of it. That the use of the parks are done with care and protection foremost.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, fishing and camping. No motorized vehicles.

Topic Question 5: That storage should be secure and not be a threat to the wildlife. Campfires need to be controlled and contained.

Topic Question 6: I think that it is ok as long as the parties are small.

Topic Question 7: The rangers should be well educated on the parks and the creatures of the land. Perhaps mentoring programs with young people to help and educate others.

Topic Question 8: Any places that are in danger of being harmed by too much human use and the wildlife put at risk.

Correspondence ID: 779 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My concern is that the adjoining forests will not obtain the same protections as the national parks have.

Topic Question 2: Protection of wilderness resources should minimize development around national parks.

Topic Question 3: I enjoy hiking very much in wilderness areas.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate activities: Hiking, swimming, cross-country skiing, nature enjoyment, etc. Inappropriate activities: Off road vehicles, snow mobiles, generally anything motorized.

Topic Question 5: Keep party/group size, food storage practices, campfires, etc., activity for large numbers, in such places as Yosemite Valley. Limit such activity in more pristine areas.

Topic Question 6: The commercial services in wilderness, and national parks, should be minimal.

Topic Question 7: No comment on this topic.

Topic Question 8: Again, the area adjoining Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, should be managed as closely to the national parks as possible.

Correspondence ID: 780 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 15:08:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: That all wilderness be protected from unnatural degradation to the maximum extent possible.

Topic Question 2: Limit all uses that lead to unnatural damage. Use enough wilderness rangers to ensure that wilderness rules are enforced.

Topic Question 3: That limited access (e.g., trailhead quotas) be fair for all users. Commercial and organizational uses must not be favored over individual citizens. That all recreation types that are destructive of wilderness values be either prohibited or strictly limited.

Topic Question 4: Important activities: hiking, climbing, contemplating, non-destructive research, minimalist camping, skiing, snowshoeing, catch-and-release fishing, and observing and learning from the natural environment.

Inappropriate: all that are disruptive or destructive to the natural environment.

Topic Question 5: Group size: about 15 maximum; no exceptions.

Stock numbers: about 10 max per group. No exceptions.

Campfires: present policy is good: prohibit fires where natural generation of dead wood is less than campfires would consume. Absolutely no importation of wood for fires in otherwise no-fire areas.

Limit pack stock to a few designated trails only; no off-trail travel by pack stock.

Topic Question 6: All commercial services should be closely regulated and should compete for permits on the same basis as the rest of us. NO special treatment for commercial services and organizations. See Comments below.

Topic Question 7: I favor one week of helicopter resupply in October of back-country ranger stations, trail crew sites, and the like rather than use of pack stock for these tasks throughout the season of use.

Topic Question 8: Decades of my own observations and results of SEKI's own research show that pack stock are far more destructive of both the wilderness environment and wilderness values than is foot travel. Stock numbers must be limited, they must not graze, and they should be limited to a minimum number of arterial trails. There should be an extensive network of paths on which stock are prohibited.

I have also seen the destruction caused by axes and saws brought into wilderness areas by pack stock.

I have been an annual visitor to and user of wilderness areas of both SEKI and elsewhere in the High Sierra for more than 65 years, as a hiker, backpacker, and client of commercial pack outfits. My use of these areas has been for either recreation, college teaching, or as a Research Geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey. My first visit to SEKI was in 1947, and I have returned most years since then, most recently in 2010.

I have witnessed the gradual change from dominantly pack-animal-supported use of the wilderness in the '40s and '50s to dominantly backpacker use today. Even though I now depend on some pack-stock to help me enjoy the wilderness, I protest any

policies that give commercial outfits priority over citizens who do not use commercial or other organizational services. Such favoritism would be both unfair and inconsistent with the ideals of the equal rights of citizens in our democracy, especially with regard to use of public lands.

I support the necessity of limiting permits (trailhead quotas) and access to protect wilderness values, but such limits should never favor certain groups over others. Commercial outfits, guides, and nonprofit organizations should not have ANY priority over citizens who do not use their services. All citizens and such groups should compete equally for limited permits or access to favored places through a common-pool arrangement. Yosemite has an excellent system: individuals must compete for limited permits, and then select a pack outfit, if needed.

Commercial operations on public lands, especially in wilderness areas, should be limited to helping citizens who NEED, NOT DESIRE, those services in order to use the public lands. Commercial operations must be regulated in a way that is fair to all citizens.

Correspondence ID: 781 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 16:17:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for the proposed wilderness plan for the Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks. This is one of my favorite parks, which I have visited many times, most recently during late spring of this year.

One of the aspects of managing wilderness and national parks that particularly interests me is scientific research. I completed a Master's thesis on structural analysis of one of the most important caves in Kings Canyon National Park.

It is notable that research is only minimally mentioned as an appropriate use of wilderness. Several laws that govern national parks specifically state that encouraging research within parks is a component of managing wilderness.

Reference to the 1998 Omnibus Act is lacking in handouts and the verbal summary of legislation presented at the public meeting held on 26 April 2011 in Oakland, California. The absence of the 1998 Omnibus Act from a list of legislation pertinent to wilderness management is misleading, leading to a conclusion that research will not be given equal consideration as an appropriate use of wilderness. Leaving out selected legislation when considering a new wilderness plan shows a bias against certain uses such as scientific research.

Another law that seems to have been omitted from consideration is the Cave Resources Protection Act. One of the criteria found in this Act for declaring a cave significant is recreation. Encouraging cooperation between a nongovernmental agency, like the caving community, and government agencies is also part of this law. Coordination with the caving community and recreation should be an important part of the proposed wilderness plan.

Please consider all the possible uses of wilderness lands, as stated in every pertinent legislative act, when developing the wilderness plan. Research and recreation are just as valid uses as resource protection and a sense of wildness are in wilderness management.

Correspondence ID: 782 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 17:19:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 783 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: To many commercial packing trips with too many people causes a lot of damage to the the trails and to the environment.

Topic Question 2: Keep use limited to relatively low impact applications. This is necessary to maintain the wilderness mature of the areas.

Topic Question 3: Some solitude and maintaining the integrity of the wilderness.

Topic Question 4: Activities that do not harm the wilderness areas. Over grazing, too much manure, jeopardizing the trails, groups that are too large are all inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: Size should should be limited to no more than a dozen, food should be kept out of the bears' reach, and campfires should not be allowed.

Topic Question 6: Guided trips should be very limited so that it does not impinge on individual and small group use.

Topic Question 7: Management should be directed to maintaining the wilderness nature so that small groups and individuals and future generations can enjoy it

Topic Question 8: Limited grazinz and stock on the trails and in the streams. They often make a complet mess.

Correspondence ID: 784 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 19:25:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that not all backcountry ranger stations are staffed. I am concerned by the level of training and experience of some of the backcountry staff. I feel this is an incredibly important position for the safety of the public, the education of the public, and the protection of the wilderness. I think bearboxes should not be taken out of the backcountry.

Topic Question 3: Safety and education about proper wilderness etiquette. There is too much improper management of human waste.

Correspondence ID: 785 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 19:59:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned that the wilderness areas in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are already being impacted by climate change, air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, invasive species and human overuse (exceeding the carrying capacity of the area). We also need to keep any overhead powerlines, telephone lines and cell towers out of these areas.

Topic Question 2: There needs to be a "buffer" to the wilderness areas to prevent invasive species from infiltrating the area. There needs to be a limited use of all recreation within the wilderness area so that the carrying capacity of specific areas are not exceeded. There should be no commercial or private aircraft allowed to fly over wilderness areas if the noise can be heard in the area. The fear of fire in these areas should also be considered when there is camping in adjacent areas which allow campfires. No powerlines!

Topic Question 3: Wilderness areas represent perhaps the last "natural" areas of flora and fauna and must be preserved at all costs. If over-recreating by hikers, bikers and horses impact these areas then the wilderness land value is greatly diminished. This is our last chance to get it right and we must protect the wilderness. Recreation needs to be limited!!! Many hike into wilderness areas to experience peace and quiet. This should not be impacted by motorized (snowmobiles or OHVs) or even packs of bicyclists or equestrians (and their horse dung). Keep wilderness wild!

Topic Question 4: I believe hiking is important and appropriate in most wilderness areas but the widths and soil and vegetation disturbance to create new trails needs to be minimized. Equestrian use and biking (non-motorized) may be appropriate and important in certain areas but must be strictly limited to established trails and in the amount of users.

Topic Question 5: Again, each campground or day use area should have a designated "carrying capacity" which should

determine the number of campsites, number of people per site, food storage requirements (to protect the wildlife from becoming a threat or problem and having to be removed or killed), and the use of campfires, etc. Campfires should be prohibited in certain situations (low moisture level, high winds, etc.) and within certain distances to wilderness areas or near corridors of highly flammable brush, trees, etc.

Topic Question 6: I believe some people are only comfortable with guided hiking, climbing and mountaineering so I believe one concessionaire should be allowed through a bidding process (for specified contract time like 5 years or ?) to provide these services with strict regulations and specified fees which go directly to the Parks. If regulations are broken, the concessionaire's contract should be voided, and they should be excluded from future commercial use of the area. The numbers of commercial users should also be limited in number (let's say 10% of the carrying capacity).

Topic Question 7: Rangers should be available on a regular basis to oversee the area, provide insight into the flora and fauna and provide a law enforcement presence to discourage transgressions. Trails should be maintained (minimize erosion) and expansion limited. Of course, new roads should be prohibited at all costs! Non-motorized re-vegetation and trail repair should be employed, when necessary, to mitigate impacts.

Topic Question 8: Cultural and historic sites should be protected. Nesting areas should be off-limits during breeding season. Endangered species (both flora and fauna) should be protected and their habitat be kept off-limits.

Our wilderness areas are our last chance to preserve our natural habitat, species, cultural and historic sites so that future generations can experience the beauty of nature. We need to save these areas so that all people have the opportunity to experience the solitude and visual splendor of our environment. We need to keep ranching, mining, roads, powerlines and other negative impacts away from our wilderness areas.

Correspondence ID: 786 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I hear that SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan is being reviewed and you are taking comments, so that's what this pertains to.

I'm sure you have seen the High Sierra Hiker Association main points on this issue. I read them and agree with them 100% They give this some thought. I just go out and hike.

I do have to plan my trips to avoid trails that are so beat up by stock animals that they are dangerous to walk on. I do avoid lakes where horse are allowed to graze, because they turn that nice green color of a well fertilized city lake. Likewise, meadows that are turned to to extraordinary mush.

These issues and many more (see HSHA letter) make hiking near stock animal feel more like going to a working farm than a wilderness, and that just isn't right.

What would John Muir have thought?

Thanks for reading this

Correspondence ID: 787 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 21:10:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Trashing of trails and high meadows by commercial packers. Manure, flies, dust, and erosion caused by commercial pack trains. Costs of repairing trail erosion due to commercial packer traffic.

Topic Question 2: Protect the backcountry by requiring packers to stay on maintained trails or rock surfaces, and not graze their stock in high meadows. Charge trail maintenance costs directly to commercial packers. Stricter limitations on pack train numbers of animals, and permits issued to pack stock users.

Topic Question 3: That recreational use of the wilderness doesn't diminish its wildness.

Topic Question 4: APPROPRIATE: patrolling by rangers to enforce NPS backcountry rules that protect wilderness, esp. meadows and water quality

INAPPROPRIATE: Bicycles, dogs, and noisy backcountry commercial packer-enabled drinking parties. Commercial packers doing resupply runs into the backcountry

Topic Question 5: Group / party sizes should be limited, both hikers and pack trains. Keep mandating use of bear canisters, it's

working! Backcountry campfires should be restricted.

Topic Question 6: No on all counts, because what that will do is only concentrate the traffic, not disperse it. Commercial services will all want backcountry camping permits for the same places: lakes and meadows.

Topic Question 7: Active patrolling during prime season.

Topic Question 8: Backcountry meadows.

Also feel that the backcountry overnight permit system favors commercial packers. I have to reserve weeks ahead, and they don't. All users should compete equally for quota space thru a single system. Allowing commercial backcountry use really is a deal with the devil in all ways.

Correspondence ID: 788 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 21:26:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for beginning the process of drafting a wilderness plan. It is high time for the Park Service to publicly and comprehensively evaluate and prescribe direction for managing (and not managing) the wilderness of SEKI. This planning process is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Park staff and the public to craft a vision for protecting Wilderness as wilderness, and not as a playground for thrill-seekers, nor as a commercial opportunity to cater to those simply seeking a convenient and comfortable vacation.

Most aspects of "management" are antithetical to wilderness. The wilderness itself is not what should be managed. Rather it is human use and encroachment on wilderness that must be managed.

Topic Question 2: There is only one lawful and effective strategy for protecting wilderness resources: always protect wilderness character. By this I mean no human activity should be permitted that encroaches on and alters natural functions and processes within the wilderness, nor that thwarts opportunities for solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. Wilderness designation is a profound expression of humility that acknowledges that we should allow certain areas of the planet to exist free of human interference and manipulation. Congress could not have been more prescient in the preamble to the Wilderness Act when it acknowledged the threat of encroaching civilization. Since the Act was enacted in 1964, the threats of civilization and a growing human population to the natural world have only grown. The Park Service should use this planning opportunity to be just as farsighted, innovative, reverential, and humble in its vision of the Wilderness of SEKI.

Topic Question 3: Getting away from the trappings of civilization. Relying on my own knowledge and skill to travel and be safe within the wilderness. Knowing that if we plan and act carefully future generations will have the same opportunity to escape civilization and experience the natural world in the way our ancestors did. Visiting wilderness should challenge us physically, spiritually, and intellectually.

Topic Question 4: Activities that require self-reliance, humility, respect for nature, strength, planning, and perseverance are appropriate.

Activities that provide for the convenience and comfort of visitors are inappropriate. Activities that infringe on opportunities for solitude or that impact wilderness character are inappropriate. Activities that infringe on the experience of other visitors, including those to come in the future. Activities that are based on outdated and refuted notions of wilderness and how to recreate in the wild (e.g., expecting to have campfires no matter what, especially at inappropriately high elevations; expecting to fish in waters where fish were never present naturally and their presence impacts native fauna) are inappropriate. Administrative activities that do not rely on the minimum tool are inappropriate (e.g., using helicopters to transport people or gear when it could be done by backpacking or with stock; using chainsaws or drills to maintain and construct trails when non-mechanical methods would suffice). Administrative activities that provide for the economy and convenience of agency staff, but that are unnecessary to protect wilderness character, are inappropriate.

Crossing the boundary from the frontcountry to wilderness should not be taken for granted, and visitors should not expect to behave and act the same as they do outside wilderness.

Topic Question 5: I never travel in wilderness in a group larger than four people. Over years of experience, I have found that any group larger than four people, even when they are my friends and family, disrupts the solitude of the SEKI backcountry, too greatly impacts campsites and trails, and makes it unlikely to see wildlife. If I want to have an outdoor experience with larger groups, I do it outside of wilderness.

Ever since the adjoining national forests began requiring backpackers to carry food canisters, I have happily done so and I have never had an issue with bears getting to my food, although they have visited my campsites. The Park should require all visitors to carry proper food storage equipment, and should vigorously enforce policies to protect bears from humans.

I am disappointed that the Park Service has installed large, metal food lockers throughout the SEKI wildernesses. Not only are

these an eyesore that detract from solitude and wilderness character whenever they are encountered, they concentrate use and camping around them, and detract from the need for self-reliance and planning by visitors. No doubt they also require the use of helicopters to transport them into wilderness, which is not permitted under the Wilderness Act. Certainly, these lockers are not the minimum tool, nor necessary, to preserve wilderness character and protect bear populations from human encroachment. The Park Service should disclose and analyze the impacts from using food storage lockers in the Park wilderness.

I never have campfires in the wilderness areas of the high Sierra because I know how short the growing season is for trees, and I know that having a campfire is not necessary and even detracts from enjoying an evening in the backcountry. I have observed countless stumps in SEKI where unscrupulous visitors have cut down live or dead portions of trees for fires. I have counted the number of rings on many, and been amazed that a four-inch diameter stump is often on the order of 50 years old. Campfires tend to detract from the wilderness experience because they draw one's attention to the fire, not to the surrounding wilderness. They obstruct one's ability to hear and see the surrounding wilderness. They are no longer necessary or desirable for cooking food with the advent of lightweight cooking gear. They also detract from solitude because I can observe and smell other visitors when they have fires nearby, when otherwise I would not be able to detect their presence.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services should only be permitted to the extent that they are legally permissible under the Wilderness Act. The Act restricts commercial use within Wilderness, unlike everywhere else in the country, only to the extent necessary. This means that commercial use should never be permitted simply for the comfort and convenience of visitors, nor simply because some visitors have the resources to pay others to make their trips easier. Any such use is antithetical to the spirit and letter of the Wilderness Act.

Permitting commercial use for the comfort and convenience of visitors simply detracts from the experience of those that employ such use. Commercially-outfitted visitors do not learn about and experience wilderness on their own, they have whatever experience their outfitter prescribes for them. They do not learn to respect and revere the wilderness in the same way that a visitor who figures out how to do so on their own does.

I have encountered many commercially-supported stock parties in the SEKI backcountry. They are consistently much larger than the backpacking parties I encounter. I have never seen a disabled or elderly person in a stock-supported party that could not otherwise visit the SEKI wildernesses. Every person I have ever met in the backcountry is able-bodied, if out of shape, and could experience and enjoy the Wilderness without stock support. As such, I question whether any of the existing commercial stock use is necessary, and I hope that the Park Service will carefully and honestly evaluate the extent to which commercial stock use is necessary in the SEKI Wilderness.

Just about every observable impact to the SEKI wilderness can be attributed to commercial stock use. The trails in SEKI where commercial stock do not go are generally in great shape with no signs of erosion or even maintenance, whereas every trail where stock is allowed have huge structures to construct the tread and are often 3-foot deep troughs with exposed tree roots and erosion into nearby water. I know from the published research of Dr. Derlet and others that commercial stock and associated grazing is responsible for polluting wilderness waters and making it unsafe to drink, whereas I can, and have for decades, freely drink from Wilderness streams and lakes where no stock ever visit. I have observed that locations where commercial stock parties camp are almost always sacrifice zones within the Wilderness of SEKI. The ground is bare of vegetation, tree roots are exposed from erosion, visitors flatten the ground for tent sites dig trenches around them, visitors cut stumps and drag logs and rocks from all over to make convenient seats, campfire rings are enormous and full of trash. I have observed that meadows and stream banks get trashed wherever stock are permitted to graze. I have yet to see a backpacker eat grass or hoof-punch a meadow and stream bank incessantly. I hope that the Park Service will honestly disclose and evaluate the impacts from pack stock use and grazing in the SEKI Wildernesses, including impacts to trails, campsites, streams and lakes, and wilderness character.

Topic Question 7: The Park should only and always use the minimum required and least intrusive management technique possible. Administrative convenience and cost should never be a factor in deciding to take administrative actions that impact wilderness character.

For example, helicopters should rarely, if ever, be used, perhaps only for emergency situations involving human health and safety when no alternative is available. No permanent structures should not be built or maintained in wilderness. No fencing should be left in wilderness to facilitate stock use. No gear or supplies should ever be cached in wilderness.

I am also specifically concerned that Park biologists and the California Department of Fish and Game are using frontcountry approaches and methods to study and manipulate wildlife populations in the SEKI Wilderness. More wilderness-appropriate methods could and should be used. The Park Service should not be using helicopters and GPS collars to monitor bighorn sheep, nor poisoning lakes to eradicate fish planted by predecessor biologists. In wilderness, wildlife conservation and management requires a different calculus than in the frontcountry. Preserving single species is not paramount; preserving wilderness character is.

Topic Question 8: The Park Service should consider closing the Bearpaw High Sierra Camp, and restoring the site to natural conditions. The Camp is an eyesore and is not necessary for visitors to experience and recreate in wilderness. It caters to those that can afford to pay to be catered to, and provides an experience that is available outside wilderness (i.e., one that is not wilderness-dependent).

The Park Service should consider further restricting the number of people permitted into the Mt. Whitney zone. During each of

the three times I have climbed it, I have encountered 40 to 50 people on top of Mt. Whitney. This is not solitude, and not compatible with wilderness.

I have been visiting the wilderness of the Sierra, including SEKI, since I was a child. This included being fortunate enough to climb Mt. Whitney at the age of 10. I backpack in the high Sierra to seek refuge from modern civilization, to challenge myself physically and mentally, and for spiritual renewal. Whenever I visit SEKI, I avoid places where I know it is crowded (e.g., the Kearsarge Lakes area, the Mt. Whitney area). In other words, my first criterion for where to go is figuring out where I am most likely to experience solitude. This seems bizarre given that designated Wilderness is supposed to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. But sometimes it seems like the agencies manage wilderness for maximum use, rather than for optimal use, and that they do not manage Wilderness as Congress intended it to be managed.

My uncle was a wilderness ranger on the Inyo National Forest, and I was fortunate enough to accompany him on several tours and to help him with patrols, visitor contacts, and resource work. It was always amazing to me how much of his time and effort was spent cleaning and rehabbing campfire rings. Most of the time, the campfires were at elevations where burning wood is not a sustainable practice. He and I were always frustrated because that phenomenon was well-documented by Park Service and Forest Service scientists and rangers on the ground, yet the managers refused to do the right thing and close these areas to campfires. I hope that SEKI staff will take this opportunity to listen to its own scientists and rangers and do the right, and lawful, things to protect and preserve wilderness character by adopting appropriate elevational campfire closures before the wood is depleted by overuse.

In my many experiences hiking throughout SEKI, I have observed that the vast majority of resource and social impacts to the SEKI Wilderness are due to commercial stock use. These groups tend to be larger than private, non-stock supported parties. The stock cause far more trail damage and require trails to be built to a much higher "standard," requiring far larger structures and effort than constructing trails for foot-travelers. Stock parties tend to have large, eroded campsites that are eyesores to all that pass by. Stock graze meadows, erode stream banks, and indiscriminately defecate in and near water.

In my experience encountering many commercial stock parties and talking to the people that use commercial stock, these visitors do not need to be stock supported. Rather, they are able-bodied individuals that have chosen to hire stock to either (1) obtain a permit, (2) to bring luxury items and supplies that they could not carry on their backs, and (3) because it is easier than planning a trip on their own. None of these reasons impress me as lawful reasons to permit commercial use under the Wilderness Act.

I hope that the SEKI staff take this planning opportunity to (1) honestly disclose and evaluate the impacts from permitting commercial stock use within the SEKI wilderness and (2) to evaluate in good faith the extent to which permitting commercial packstock is necessary to meet the Purpose of the Wilderness Act (i.e., to preserve wilderness character "to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition").

I also hope that SEKI staff will evaluate the compatibility and necessity of installing metal food storage lockers throughout the wilderness. The adjacent National Forest wildernesses do not install these mechanical trappings of civilization, but instead require visitors to carry their own food storage containers. I see no justification food storage lockers in wilderness when alternatives that do not impact wilderness character are efficacious and proven.

In several of my trips to the SEKI wilderness, I have been surprised at how much noise from aircraft there is. Both high level overflights by either jetliners or military aircraft, and low level flights by helicopters. Any such aircraft noise breaks the spell of wilderness; civilization intrudes my mind when it should not. I hope that Park staff will disclose and analyze how often helicopters are used within the wilderness and for what purposes, and adopt management direction that minimizes their use except when necessary for human safety in emergency situations. I also hope that Park staff will consider negotiating with the military, FAA, etc. to curtail or move flights so that they do not intrude on the Park Wilderness and its solitude.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the forthcoming Wilderness Plan.

Correspondence ID: 789 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Lack of funding that allows for adequate protection and maintenance.

Topic Question 2: Increase funding for park services (NPS, USFS, BLM, etc.) by increasing taxes on large cooperations (particularly those who extract natural resources from the state.)

Topic Question 3: I am not trying to save the forest, I am the forest, and i am trying to save myself!

Correspondence ID: 790 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 22:09:47

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Group size and what is appropriate in the wilderness Food storage. Stock use.

Topic Question 2: Lower the current group size to less than 8 people per group. Larger groups are more likely to not store there food properly, make poor planning decisions, do more resource damage and spoil the "wilderness" feel for other visitors to the wilderness.

Require all wilderness users to carry and use an approved canister. However food storage lockers within 25 miles of a trailhead should be left in place for hikers to use as overflow in their first night.

Topic Question 3: Solitude. A place free from the sound of other humans. A place that is free of trash.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, climbing, limited amounts of stock use, research, maintenance of trails and ranger stations.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be 8 or fewer people - see question 1

Wilderness users should be required to carry a food storage canister.

Campfires should continue to be allowed but the limitations on where they may occur should be increased. Admin. use of fires for wilderness rangers and trail crews should be allowed but closely analyzed.

Topic Question 6: Limited commercial services should be allowed. Group size should be smaller. Any commercial trip should be required to store all of there food in canisters or panniers regardless of what the regulations are for non-commercial users. Fines for operating without a permit or not following regulations should be increased and strictly enforced.

Topic Question 7: Trails and ranger stations should be maintained. Research, monitoring and invasive weed treatment should be allowed. Projects to promote the survival of sensitive or imperiled species should be allowed.

Correspondence ID: 791 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Maintaining viable and sustainable resources from human/Pack animal impact for eternity.

Topic Question 2: 1. Severly limit pack animal use trails to a few main arteries and much smaller numbers 2. Cut commercial guiding in the High Sierra to 1 guide and 2 clients per day per area. 3. Increase scientific inquiry through funding, education,and scholarship 4. Cease stock grazing in Parks and wilderness!! 5. Limit pack animal use per person. 3 person per 2 pack animals maximum 6. Manure catchers mandatory

Topic Question 3: Solitude

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: walking, climbing

Inappropriate: 1.commercial use beyond the most minimal amount. 2, Fixed Ropes - Highlining, bungee etc

Topic Question 5: The Ursack should be legal.

Topic Question 6: 1. Limit commercial trail guiding to less than 5% of trail quota. 2. Stock trips must be severly limited and restricted to only a few main trails and by elevation. Climbing should be limited to 1 guided trip per day per area. Even when several routes are available.

Topic Question 8: Stock animals devastate the soil and water beyond their benefit. They should be severly limited in numbers and scope.

Commercial grazing should not be allowed!!!

Correspondence ID: 792 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Preservation of forests, wildlife, rivers and land so insure clean air, water and resources so vital to good health of the planet.

Topic Question 2: Very limited roads within designated wilderness, mostly park rangers and fire fighting. Hiking trails, fishing allowed. Motorized vehicles, snow mobiles for maintenance; possible one scenic road for physically limited people.

Topic Question 3: Hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing

Topic Question 4: Snow Mobiles only for maintenance in winter.

Topic Question 5: Limited numbers for camping, RV or tents, by reservation and depending on size of wilderness area.

Topic Question 6: No hotels. Limited tent and RV camping by reservation with water and restroom facilities. No grocery stores.

Topic Question 8: All of it. Managed maintenance and underbrush clearing.

Left in as much pristine condition as possible.

Correspondence ID: 793 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: the quite relaxing getaway and nature

Topic Question 4: hunting, fishing, mt biking,camping, hiking, backpacking,

Topic Question 5: no restrictions

Topic Question 6: no need

Topic Question 7: make sure people obey the laws

Topic Question 8: yes

Thank you for working to protect the wilderness and wildlife in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the

wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land.

The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Correspondence ID: 794 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Continued commerical stock use the bckcountry.

Topic Question 3: The two to continue.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: hiking, climbing, riding, sight seeing. Inappropriate: Geocaching

Topic Question 5: Yes on Bear cans, but would it be possible to have large cans available for public use near the ranger stations? Party and group sizes should not be reduced further, as it eliminates a segment of the population that wish to enjoy the back country. Yes on campfires where sufficient fuel wood is available.

Topic Question 6: Any type of Commercial services are a necessity for some people, in order that they may safely enjoy the backcountry. Commercial stock provide a valuable and necessary service to various user types; including other government entities.

Topic Question 7: Question not clear. Does this mean minimum standards such as backcountry conditions? There should be no "desired conditions"

Topic Question 8: Keep trails open.

Correspondence ID: 795 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 01:34:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: 1)overuse/harm to the resource by pack animals 2)poorly prepared and uneducated users that harm the resource 3)back-country fees being charged to hikers/backpackers (on top of park entry fees)

Topic Question 2: 1)use the Wilderness Act and other congressional directives and acts to protect SEKI 2)follow the advice of scientists, not of business people 3)hard to believe that a citizen has to say this to a govt. agency, but, stop breaking the law, stop having to be sued to do the right thing, meet court and congress directed deadlines. 4)make SEKI decisions a democratic process, no single DOI person should have ultimate say over decisions (Barry and Ken, that includes you).

Topic Question 3: 1)that the wilderness is kept in its natural state, unharmed 2)access for low impact users like hikers/backpackers should be free

Topic Question 4: No impact = appropriate, such as Leave No Trace hiking, backpacking. Impact = not appropriate. Impacts include introduction of non-native species, noise pollution, crowding, visual pollution, even olfactory pollution such as horse dung smell, flies.

Topic Question 5: 1)given the devastation fire causes, protection of the resource dictates no campfires except in established facilities in campgrounds. limit/halt fires in campgrounds in summer to avoid air pollution (as in Yosemite Valley.) 2)large groups cause visual and noise disturbance. group size limit should be 10. 3)pack animal groups should be limited to 5 animals to prevent disturbing other users on the trail. 4)consider allowing Ursack bear bags to be used so even weight conscious users will have their food protected and allow for the possibility of bear box removal from the backcountry.

Topic Question 6: There should be no guided activities in National Parks. People can learn the skills needed to participate in rigorous activities in national forest and other lands. When ready, they should meet nature in National Parks on its and their own terms. There is too much temptation to turn National Parks into money generators and abuse the parks when concessions are

involved. Even front country concessions should be limited to avoid the Ahwahnee-Disney-ification of National Parks.

Topic Question 7: 1)Plan ahead and make regulations that avoid harm to the resource. 2)Monitor and document changes to the condition of the resource. 3)The NPS should set the example of following the law.

Topic Question 8: 1) all trails 2) all riparian and water areas 3) meadows 4) higher elevation trees are scarce 5) all species at risk, esp. bighorn, fishers, pine martins

I have been backpacking, hiking and cross country skiing in the Sierras for 30 years. I have seen the changes and frankly I go there less often now due to back-country fees and the degradation of the resource.

I oppose those fees because my impact is undetectable. Aside from the above principals (questions section) several specific things should be done to reduce degradation of SEKI. 1)No campfires anywhere in the backcountry at any elevation. 2)Maximum stock in a group should be 5 animals. The past practice of raising stock party size to make it "consistent" throughout SEKI should be avoided as the resource and science neglecting idea that it is. 3)Stock animals should not be allowed to graze anywhere, they should be fed only certified weed free feed they pack in. 4)No bells on stock animals (=noise pollution) and all ragne fences should be removed in SEKI. 5)If commercial pack stock are allowed in SEKI, they should pay for all effects of their use. This includes building trails to pack animal standards(hardened), NPS monitoring of their effects and payment to repair any damage caused. 6)If commercial pack are allowed, users should have to go thru the same permit system as hikers, and after obtaining a permit they can arrange for the commercial pack trip. To do otherwise is clearly favoritism to for-profit business ventures and is especially egregious since they cause the most damage to the resource. 7)The Bear Paw high sierra camp should be removed. It impacts the area visually and with the mules that have to bring in extraordinary amounts of supplies. 8)Just as with the stables in Yosemite Valley, the Mineral King stables should be permanently closed and brought back to a natural condition. They, like ski areas, do not belong in National Parks. They can be placed on private or non-wilderness National Forest land.

I have seen pack animal effects, erosion dust and dung on every trail in SEKI. I have seen their hoof prints 6 inches deep in a meadow in Milestone Basin. I have been woken up at 5AM by a string of horses with bells in French Canyon and have seen large concessionaire's tents there with coolers, benches and stoves. It's time for that to stop.

Correspondence ID: 796 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: My concerns about the wilderness in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks are that due to the present management of them, the land withing them is taking a beating and the sources of damage need stopped and restoration started. In particular, I am concerned with the numbers and management of pack animals. I am referring to pack animals from commercial outfitters as well as private users. I am also concerned about trail head quotas and to make the new Plan fair to the public. The new SEKI Wilderness Stewardship Plan primary goal should be to protect wilderness. The primary goal should be about conservation and restoration at the forefront.

Topic Question 2: 1) Please keep all stock from grazing in the wilderness! Do not allow stock to wander and feed and trample land. In particular, meadows which are extremely fragile.

2) Commercial stock should be greatly reduced. They should not be available for hire to bring gobs of junk in to the wilderness. They should be available only for people with disabilities. There needs to be strict guidelines on this. My last backpack trip in, there was a 4 mule train delivering for a couple guys and their 3 children 350 pounds of 'stuff'. 350 pounds. Is this what my wilderness experience is? We had 45 pounds between 2 of us for 6 days. I felt sorry for anyone camping near them to witness gobs of junk at their camping spot. Is there a limit on what can be brought in? Could I hire a mule to bring in an outhouse?

3) Allowable numbers of animals of stock for private (commercial should be nearly eliminated - see #2) users should be much smaller per group. Limit it to 5 animals tops per group. If I can carry 25 pounds on my back for 6 days - then 1 animal can support a few people for a week if people HAD to think about what they carried in.

4) Make any stock wear a manure-diaper. Please ask your current hydrologist if this needs explaining. It would also be pleasant for all users not to have to deal with the flies and smell on the trails.

5) Any stock MUST stay on designated trails and not wander cross country

6) Trailhead quotas. The Parks are payed for by everyone; they are not and should not support commercial enterprises over the public. There should be a SINGLE PERMIT SYSTEM where a person who chooses to be guided, still must go through the same permit system as the rest of us poorer folks. This person would obtain say 2 permits (one for them and one for their guide) and THEN after securing the permits, they would be guided in.

Topic Question 3: Having the wilderness be wilderness: Get stock out of there as much as possible. Restoration to native natural

conditions. Extremely limit commercial enterprises. SINGLE PERMIT SYSTEM!!

Topic Question 4: Activities appropriate in wilderness: non-motorized, non-commercial, hiking, free climbing.

Inappropriate: motors, commercial activities, fixed ropes such as for high lining, slack lining, bungee type swinging. Too many stock animals with one group.

Topic Question 5: The URSACK should be legal

Topic Question 6: I think I explained above.... Guided stock trips should be for the disabled that can not hike themselves. This is because the number of stock animals in the wilderness should be as low as possible.

Guided trips MUST compete for the permits as everyone else with a Single Permit System as explained above.

Topic Question 7: explained above

Topic Question 8: explained above

Correspondence ID: 797 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 09:57:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I'm concerned that overuse (primarily high impact commercial pack stock operation use) is degrading SEKI Wilderness.

Topic Question 2: 1) Prohibit stock animals from any & all off-trail travel! 2) Prohibit grazing anywhere in the park (require a certified weed-free feed & b) manure catchers for all stock animals entering SEKI Wilderness.) 3) Remove any & all structures (gates, fencing, etc.) designed for stock animal use. 4) Decommission / remove commercial packstock buildings at Mineral King; remove the Bearpaw High Sierra "Camp". 5) Limit pack train size to 5 animals (excepting NPS maintenance pack trains / SAR / emergency stock use). 6) Enforce trailhead quotas across the board- no exceptions for commercial pack outfits! 7) Limit all commercial pack-supported outings to elderly / handicapped clientele (able-bodied folks can walk like everyone else.) 8) Require commercial pack outfits to give funding or in-kind support of invasive species removal & impact mitigations mentioned above AS A CONDITION of their special use permit. 9) Restrict non-NPS stock animals to a specific trail network (leave the remaining trails to foot travel only.) 10) Retire unnecessary trails to trackless Wilderness.

Topic Question 3: I enjoy hiking, but conservation of species habitat comes first. Recreation should NEVER interfere with habitat / ecosystem health.

Topic Question 4: Low impact science / research is appropriate when its goal is to better conserve habitat and species. Low impact recreation is appropriate when it introduces people to Wilderness in a way that invokes their care and protection. recreation of any kind is inappropriate when it adversely impacts habitat and / or species.

Topic Question 5: Group size should be restricted to 10 humans and 5 stock animals in areas where such animals do not wreak havoc on the terrain (ie, animals should not be permitted to cross or camp in / near meadows or waterways.) Bear-proof canisters are and should be required throughout SEKI wilderness. Campfires should not be permitted above the montane forest belt (~8,000-9,000' elevation.)

Topic Question 6: 501c3 non-profits / educators / conservation scientists and anyone else forwarding the health of wildlife habitat and the importance of conservation deserve to use Wilderness. Search and rescue and trail maintenance personnel are other appropriate commercial users. All other commercial services have no business there.

Topic Question 7: I support Wilderness management as laid out in the Wilderness Act- use of minimum tools only, "man is a visitor who does not remain", etc. Managers should take pride in removing any sign of humans / domestic livestock and restoring Wilderness to its primeval state.

Topic Question 8: The entire SEKI Wilderness is heavily used and so it all deserves special consideration.

The US National Park Service has been "charged with the trust of preserving the natural resources of America." I sincerely hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to further that mission by holding commercial stock operations accountable for their actions and putting an end to the free ride they've had in years past. Sierra Club expeditions used to involve 50+ individuals who buried their trash in the backcountry- we have evolved; so must stock operations! Thanks very much for this chance to comment; thanks also for your hard work and sincere consideration.

Correspondence ID: 798 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The designated Wilderness in these parks are jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there. I am concerned that corporate forces such as logging, mining, and even recreation companies, may degrade the land, forest, and water, and harm the animal population.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. In wilderness management, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate freely to the maximum extent feasible to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land. The impacts of climate change will affect many natural resources in the wilderness. Research and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats to wildlife and wilderness, such as pollution and invasive species, will be increasingly important.

The Wilderness Act generally prohibits motorized access, roads, structures, and facilities in designated wilderness, unless for emergency use. Please evaluate the impact of heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use and other visitor impact to the natural resources of the wilderness. Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace.

In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 3: That the ecosystems be protected; that animal and plant life be maintained and preserved. That water and air be protected.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate: Hiking. Swimming. Camping only in small designated areas. Fires only in safe fireplaces/grills. Vehicles, including bicycles, limited to a few roads leading to campsites. Some campsites available only by backpacking. Perhaps a few trails designated OK for bicycles.

Inappropriate: Off-road vehicles of any sort. Any vehicles in large main sections of the wilderness. Horseback riding. Loud music. Motorized boats.

Topic Question 5: Limited to small designated areas with safe fireplaces/grills.

Topic Question 6: Only very minimally; not allowed to proliferate. Offices should be outside of the park. Participants must be educated about the ecology and preserving it. Littering prohibition strictly enforced.

Topic Question 7: Everyone should receive information before entering wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics, including the concept of Leave-No-Trace. In the development and adoption of your wilderness stewardship plan, please seek maximum public involvement at all stages.

Topic Question 8: Any areas with endangered species. Any streams or rivers.

Correspondence ID: 799 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 12:28:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: These wilderness areas are vital to the health of our country - both for people to visit and enjoy, to help keep the air clean, and provide habitat for many varieties of wildlife.

Topic Question 2: Do NOT allow under any circumstances, any logging or development beyond that which must be done to protect the health of the forest and its inhabitants EVER!!!!!!!!!! NEVER LET PRIVATE DOLLARS INFLUENCE THE DECISIONS MADE TO PROTECT THESE IMPORTANT AREAS.

Topic Question 3: I keep healthy and mentally OK by enjoying wilderness - a walk in the woods can sooth almost all mental stresses - thus keeping me healthy and happy.

Topic Question 4: Hiking without leaving a 'footprint' including taking out all you bring in. Totally leaving some areas unused. Inappropriate are the use of any motorized vehicles by private parties anywhere in the wilderness areas - Vehicles belong on already developed roadways. Vehicles provide pollution both to the air, ground and noise.

Topic Question 5: NO CAMPFIRES unless in wet and already professionally built fire pits - certainly not anywhere that there is not a close and accessible supply of water. Food storage must be done in animal-proof ways such as well sealed freeze dried

foods. Bears, racoons and many birds are very smart about figuring out how to get people food. If they cannot smell it and have no prior knowledge of contents, food can be safe for people. Hiking groups should ALWAYS have two. No more than ten can insure both people and animal safety.

Topic Question 6: Professional guides are very important for people who are not very experienced in the area they are visiting. It becomes dangerous and very expensive to rescue for people to take off on their own in unfamiliar territory.

Topic Question 7: Minimum -- keep track of fires and trespassing via satellite and aerial information from an office area on edge of wilderness areas so response time can be minimized. ALL hikers should be registered before entering any wilderness area so their safety can be monitored if needed.

Topic Question 8: Keep ALL commercial endeavors and activities (oil exploration, digging and mining and logging OUT!!!!!!)

Create a way for senior citizens to obtain the 'Golden Eagle' passes to national parks and wilderness areas with having to drive two hundred or more miles to obtain one - PLEASE!!!!.

Correspondence ID: 800 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Other
Correspondence: That they'll get destroyed if not protected. No more logging roads. Make human impact as minimal as possible while keeping it open to people. The chance to experience the raw beauty of nature. To be somewhere where I don't see another person for a day or more. Camping, walking nature trails, are appropriate. Inappropriate: mass logging, clear cutting, overdevelopment of natural areas. Group size: 10 max. Food storage: have the metal lock down boxes, or encourage people to tie their food on a rope over the limb of a tree. Campfires: small. Guided hiking: good. Don't know what guided stock trips means. Guided climbing/mountaineering: good. Don't really know what is being asked. Of course. Some that are unique habitats and/or have populations of species which are very small. None.

Correspondence ID: 801 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about the long-term viability of wilderness areas in SEKI as reservoirs of biodiversity, for their contributions to watershed protection, and refugia from the pressures, pollution, etc. of developed areas. Specifically, I am concerned about the lack of proper limitations on commercial, private and NPS packstock and their impacts on fragile mid- and high-altitude areas that are still recovering from the excesses of grazing that took place in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Topic Question 2: Limits should be placed on all packstock as to where and by what routes they can travel, and no grazing should be allowed above 9,700 feet, following the recommendations of the park's own scientific staff. I support the use of trailhead quotas to limit both hikers and those utilizing stock, and commercial pack operations should be required to compete for available slots on the same basis as individual or group users, i.e., not automatically given rights to unlimited slots that are outside of the general trailhead quotas. Also, the size of both commercial and NPS pack strings should be limited to reduce impacts on trails and meadow areas. Stock should not be allowed to wander freely where they urinate and defecate in streams and water sources. I also strongly support the restoration of backcountry ranger positions to critical areas of SEKI, like the Bearpaw area of the Middle Fork Kaweah drainage. These are extremely important positions for the protection of wilderness areas, and to allow them to go unstaffed is to abdicate a basic responsibility for backcountry management.

Topic Question 3: It is important that backcountry wilderness areas be managed in such a way as to allow their physical and biotic components to function in as natural a way as possible, and to restore species and ecological function when possible. When recreation activities conflict with those goals, they should be modified or simply eliminated. It is important that visitors understand their role in preserving and protecting wilderness backcountry areas (not building new fire rings, pack-it-in, pack-it-out, storing food properly to avoid conflicts with wildlife, etc.) and understand it is a joint responsibility of the visitor and the NPS. There is no substitute for the educational contacts that take place between backcountry rangers and visitors for building that sort of knowledge and understanding, so the NPS needs to reallocate human resources to the backcountry. Public access without patrol presence is a recipe for disaster, in the short- and long terms.

Topic Question 4: Those which are permitted under the Wilderness Act and which do not harm or impair resources in the short- or long term. No motorized travel, no mountain bikes, no BASE jumping--in general, muscle-powered activities that do not require significant infrastructure. Limits on the use of packstock, so that trails are not turned in to eroded, dusty, manure- and fly-infested corridors. Meadows that have not been nuked by packstock (I once hiked through an area upstream of East Lake in Kings Canyon that had been absolutely hammered by packstock. A high altitude, fragile area with very thin soils and vulnerable streambanks had suffered inexcusable damage that would take decades to heal.)

Topic Question 5: Party sizes should be no larger than eight, group sizes no larger than twelve, and packstock should be limited to ten head per group. The current food storage policies have gone a long way towards eliminating human/wildlife conflicts, and I support the use of bear boxes in high-traffic areas that see a lot of use and a lot of bear activity. I would limit the types of goods that can be packed in by stock to those that are absolutely necessary--as a former SEKI backcountry ranger, I got very

wary of cleaning up massive beer-can dumps and garbage of every description left behind by packed-in "spot" trips. Campfires should be limited to existing campfire rings and those areas where annual wood production is adequate to justify such use, thereby eliminating high-altitude areas and those areas that are borderline and heavily-used. The huge "volcano pits" that seem to be the favorite of some pack groups are inappropriate in any backcountry area and should be eliminated.

Topic Question 6: Limit, limit, limit, and make them compete for permits on an equal basis with private users. Pack stock are responsible for the spread of a number of species of noxious, invasive weed species and should be required to carry certified weed-free feed for their stock.

Topic Question 7: Visitor education and contacts are key, as well as the availability of accurate and up-to-date information on the park's website. Nothing substitutes for good rangeland, however, and the park needs to reconsider and reverse its decision not to staff, or to staff only on a very part-time basis, its backcountry stations. It's bad policy and bad practice, and leads to unacceptable damage to park resources.

Topic Question 8: The packstock and grazing policies have been in dire need of overhaul for over 25 years, so it is high time the park lent some attention and effort towards instituting a revised set of policies that will actually protect park resources over the near and long term.

Correspondence ID: 802 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.31,2011 14:30:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: If our goal is to leave these lands unimpaired for future generations, I feel we are not meeting that goal. I am a former employee of Sequoia National Park and have spent many summers exploring sequoia and kings canyon National parks' wilderness. This summer I spent most of June, July and August backpacking in sequoia, during my adventures I noticed some disturbing uses of the parks. I believe stock grazing to be very harmful to park resources; allowing non native animals to graze any park meadows seems to stand in glaring contrast to the park service mission. Stock animals trample our meadows and pollute our water as well as polluting the life in and around these waters, they leave non native seeds in their excrement and trample park trails. While traveling through Sugar loaf valley and Cloud Canyon I noticed some of the water (even after being filtered) didn't taste like the fresh mountain water I had grown accustomed too, It had more then a hint of the taste of horse poop. I understand that back country rangers need to eat but maybe there is another way to bring them food. Or maybe we can limit the use of stock animals to just bringing rangers food? I also understand back country trail crews use these animals for work, but is there not a better way to accomplish trail maintenance? It seems part of the reason we continue to use these animals is because of tradition, it is a "historic" aspect of the park. There are many traditions we've had to abandon in these parks, I believe the negatives associated with stock use to out way the positives. Probably the biggest threat to the National Park Service mission is global climate change. John Muir was right when he said "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." Parks will not stay unimpaired as "wilderness islands." I believe the National Parks need to be better role models to the visiting public. Why is it that when I come out of the back-country and into Lodge Pole in June I see so many empty park shuttles, running just as often as they do during peak season? How come we don't have recycling and compost bins along with every trash can in the Parks? Why aren't we giving incentives to carpooling park visitors in the form of a lower park entrance fees? And why after the recent chip seals in Sequoia do I notice thousands of yellow road reflectors broken from the road and lining the Generals Highway? It's not difficult to imagine them being left for 70 years until they gain "historic" status. Actions speak louder then words! How can we talk to the public about fighting global climate change by recycling and composting and reducing emissions when we are doing so little within our parks?

Correspondence ID: 803 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: My concerns are primarily about the impacts of grazing and use by private and for-profit stock traffic. They create an impact that exceeds the benefits and size of those user groups.

Topic Question 2: No grazing should be allowed at all. It is almost impossible to ensure that the alpine environment is not irreparably damaged by grazing activities, especially sensitive wet lands and river banks. Stock use should be limited in scope.

Topic Question 3: The value of the wilderness experience resides largely in experiencing the alpine environment in a condition where it has not been strongly impacted by human activities. Hence a measure of solitude (small group size), (natural) quiet conditions and untrammled spaces. This means no bells on animals.

Topic Question 4: Backpacking, climbing, day-hiking, limited horse travel are all appropriate. Grazing and large groups supported by pack-trains are not appropriate. Encountering commercial stock trips in the back country is usually like seeing a circus, with excessive amounts of camp junk and sprawling, noisy, smelly (from manure) conditions.

Topic Question 5: Groups should have no more than eight members, and stock groups no more than eight animals. Campfires should be prohibited in any area where agency scientists deem them inappropriate or anywhere above 9,000 feet elevation. Food storage is dependent on bear activity and will vary from place to place.

Topic Question 6: I have no problem with *small* guided climbing or packing trips, parties up to eight people. If there are

guided stock trips, the stock must stay on designated trails, the participants in trips must apply for wilderness permits in the quota system like any other user *prior* to arranging a commercial trip, and the commercial packers should be charged for the costs of any remediation to off-set the damage from horse travel.

Topic Question 7: Reduce the size of frequency of commercial stock trips. Remove bells from animals in the back country. Reduce party size and require stock to stay on maintained routes only. Eliminate grazing. A network of trails that are only for hikers would be a novel and terrific idea.

Correspondence ID: 804 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I would not like to see any overdevelopment occur.

Topic Question 2: Continue to charge park entrance fees if federal and state funding is unavailable.

Topic Question 3: Large expanses of undeveloped resources is important to me.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking and car camping. I would like their to continue to see limited use of roads and highways to enter the park boundaries so that most travel within the park would be on foot once the existing camping facilities are reached. I don't like the idea of building lots of additional roads or using any offroad vehicles including mountain bikes on existing or non-existent trails.

Topic Question 5: I am open to different ideas in these areas.

Topic Question 6: As long as group sizes and the use of animals does not affect accesibility and quality of trails for the individual or private family or small group hikers/campers I could see some commercial enterprises if they were required to pay for use.

Topic Question 7: Trail maintenance when necessary near the camping grounds. Some fire prevention techniques may need to be employed.

Topic Question 8: Protecting the forests from commercial foresting and wildfires.

Correspondence ID: 805 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: For the most part I feel SEKI is doing a wonderful job of managing their wilderness. My primary concern is the the wilderness stay wild. For me this means minimal traces of man and zero commercial exploitation.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, backpacking, art, camping, educational activities, environmental research.

Topic Question 5: I feel campfires are largely unnecessary. They create eyesores, smoke pollution, and use up natural resources. During a recent three day visit to Cedar Grove I was amazed at how many campfires there were (hot days too) and how smoke filled the valley became. I understand campfires are incredibly recreational and a huge part of what makes camping fun for many people but possibly they should be eliminated from wilderness areas except in cases of emergency (hypothermia).

Topic Question 6: I feel commercial businesses provide beneficial services to people who want to experience the wilderness. I would like to see more oversight of these companies and how they operate in the parks; especially in regards to stock. Stock create huge problems with their waste. Its not just eyesore (and nose-sore) on the trail but they pollute water sources; especially near frequented campsites. There is no reason stock should not have to pack out their waste. In fact I believe there are bags made just for that purpose. I have seen them on the horses in New York City. It seems park management could better regulate the commercial services by requiring them to the licensed by the park service. Just in the way taxi cabs need to get permits to operate in a city. This way you can regulate the size, duration, and frequency of groups and have opportunity for education. This summer, when I was in SEKI I saw a stock trip that had TWO customers. How many stock walked the trail from Horseshoe to Whitney over 5 days for these two people creating massive waste? I saw TEN. TEN stock for these two people. Too much.

Topic Question 8: Stock.

Protection of water sources from stock and cows.

I saw a couple of campground where the corrals were upstream from the human camping and trail crossing of the river. Does

that make any sense? Shouldn't the horses be stabled and pooping downstream from the humans?

Thank you for all you do.

Correspondence ID: 806 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My concern is for the health of the old forests in wilderness protection.

Topic Question 2: Make the forests fire resilient.

Topic Question 3: Whether I use wilderness directly or not, wild places without humans are important to the planet.

Topic Question 4: Walking, and some horses and pack animals. NO motorized vehicles.

Topic Question 5: Base it on the trail and camping situation. Fires, especially in summer scare me, but at least tell campers the correct way to have a fire.

Topic Question 6: Low impact guide service is a way for people to appreciate wilderness. Guides need to be ecologists.

Topic Question 7: Control burns are necessary. Consider Thousand Lakes wilderness. It looks like a fire waiting for a match.

Topic Question 8: On the western edge of Lassen Volcanic National Park, there is a forest that has been set aside and not designated. I think it is still roadless. This is a sensitive area with a large lake. This should become wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 807 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I want to keep it pristine and enjoyable

Topic Question 2: Preventing motorized traffic off of paved highways, and any logging/mining/etc.

Topic Question 3: To preserve it for all to enjoy, particularly to preserve the bears.

Topic Question 4: Activities should be limited to hiking and controlled camping

Topic Question 5: Group size should be limited to 6, campfires should be restricted, food should be stored strictly in bear lockers.

Topic Question 6: All commercial services should be limited if not completely restricted.

Topic Question 8: All of it!

Correspondence ID: 808 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My main concerns about wilderness in SEKI concern scientific research in the Parks. As I will describe in a later section of my comments, I have a desire to see the Parks adopt an appropriate balance between wilderness preservation and research, and one which takes into account all of the legislation relevant to Park lands.

Here is some information about myself, to provide context for my comments:

My involvement with SEKI comes in two main forms: 1) As a recreational visitor to wilderness (e.g. hiking, climbing), and 2) As an academic geologist who conducts research on the structural and tectonic history of this part of western North America, as well as on the geology of caves, including caves in SEKI. I currently conduct geologic research on the rocks that host one of the Parks' major cave systems, under a Research and Collecting permit from the NPS. I have been a participant in the non-profit Cave Research Foundation's activities in SEKI since 2002, and I am a member of both CRF and of the National Speleological

Society.

Preservation of physical resources, and wilderness-related human values are, clearly, central issues when considering the management of Wilderness-designated federal lands. The Wilderness Act makes this clear. However, it is important to point out that other values enter into this discussion as well, such as recreation and scientific research. In the case of research, such as the activities conducted by geologists like myself and by CRF, there is other legislation to consider, in addition to the Wilderness Act.

In particular, I feel it is important to emphasize the 1998 Omnibus Act, which directs the National Park Service to foster scientific research on NPS-managed lands. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have a long and rich history of research activities, but I am concerned that this legacy may not continue under the proposed Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Taking legislation like the 1998 Omnibus Act into account will not necessarily be easy, as the aims of the Wilderness Act and the Omnibus Act seem, at first glance, somewhat at odds vis-a-vis research on Park lands that are designated Wilderness. However, I would venture to guess that any federal agency's actions regarding lands under its control must be demonstrably crafted with a careful balancing of all relevant legislation. Another piece of legislation to consider is the 1988 Federal Cave Resources Protection Act, which encourages research on caves and cave-related science on Federally-managed lands.

In summary, I suggest that as the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact statement evolve toward their final forms, specific consideration be given to all relevant legislation. Such legislation includes the 1998 Omnibus Act and the 1988 Federal Cave Resources Protection Act, both of which (and particularly the former) include charges to the NPS to foster scientific research on the lands that it administers.

Correspondence ID: 809 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence:

Topic Question 1: The greatest concern is degradation of the wilderness by pack and riding stock due to trail erosion in wet areas and on steep traverses, fouling of trails, streams, and campgrounds by stock feces, and introduction of weeds from stock feces. Another concern is spoiling of the wilderness experience of hikers and backpackers by being forced off the trail, often on the steep downhill side, by pack trains, and of disturbance of the peace of the wilderness by noisy parties brought by packers.

Topic Question 2: Limit pack groups to 10 or fewer animals, require them to stay on trails that will not be greatly damaged by them and require the animals to wear manure catchers with the manure dumped away from streams, trails and camping areas. Require stock users to pack in weed-free feed for their animals, and do not allow grazing. Limit packer customers to those unable to hike or carry packs, or at least restrict supplies carried into wilderness areas to the minimum required for reasonable comfort.

Topic Question 3: The beauty of nature, especially in the high country, and the peace of the wilderness. I am seventy-two years old now and suffering from arthritis. But after over 45 years of backpacking in the Sierra, I will accommodate by hiking in a shorter distance and taking day trips from there. I will not defile the pristine wilderness by using a horse or pack animal.

Topic Question 4: Day hikes and backpacking while enjoying the grand vistas and, at times, photographing them seem most appropriate. Groups going in with packers to party in the wilderness and all exploitative activities seem inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: A limit of ten seems reasonable to me whether they are back-packers or with pack animals. The heavy duty plastic bear barrels seem to work well for food storage. Ice chests, ice, canned beverages and a broad selection of food are not necessary to the wilderness experience. Keep it simple and you won't need a mule. I also feel that campfires are unnecessary as well as air polluting, destructive of vegetation, and a cause of forest fires.

Topic Question 6: Guided groups should also be limited in size to 10 including leaders. All people entering the wilderness areas should be required to apply for wilderness permits as individuals through a single system. Trailhead quotas or other limits should apply to all equally; there should be no access guarantees for the packers who have a much greater impact on the wilderness than hikers.

Topic Question 7: The fees for commercial stock packers should be raised to cover the costs of trail damage, monitoring their impact, controlling weeds and enforcing regulations. Such a policy would provide income for more rangers in the park.

Topic Question 8: The areas over 9700 feet elevation are particularly vulnerable to degradation by hoofed animals and large groups. Grazing should definitely be prohibited above that elevation as recommended by SEKI scientists.

My husband and I, sometimes with our children, have enjoyed the marvelous experience of hiking and backpacking in the wilderness areas of the Sierra for more than 45 years. This is an experience that I strongly desire be available for generations to come.

The purpose of the Wilderness Act is to preserve the wilderness character of each area in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This can only be done if there is minimal impact on these fragile environments. One of the richest heritages of this great nation is its beautiful wild areas. A very small portion of this splendor remains. It is each generation's obligation to act as

stewards to preserve these wildernesses for the future generations. The obligation of the National Park Service is to allow only the appropriate types and amounts of public use that are compatible with protection of the undeveloped, primitive, natural and uncrowded conditions of these areas, to leave them, as much as possible, the way they found them

It is not the Park Service's job to promote the use of these areas except to enhance the public appreciation of the qualities and values that make wilderness unique and different from the rest of the country. It is not the Park Service's job to make the wilderness more convenient or more like a playground or like a theme park with organized special events. These activities will destroy what they are trying to promote ? and they will destroy it for the future as well as the present.

The Wilderness Act allows commercial activities in the wilderness only "to the extent necessary." I have witnessed first-hand the degradation that comes from large commercial pack groups' impact on fragile meadows and steep inclines and their fouling of campsites, trails, and of streams and lakes. Commercial outfitters should be held to the same rules and standards as I am, as to group size limits, camp facilities and equipment caches in the wilderness. The number of stock and the amount of equipment hauled into the wilderness should be limited to the bare minimum.

Thank you for considering the input of a very concerned citizen. The Park Service is and should be the protector of the remnants of wilderness in this country so that the current and future generations have an opportunity for a true wilderness experience.

Correspondence ID: 810 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please see "Comments"

Topic Question 2: Please see "Comments"

Topic Question 3: Please see "Comments"

Topic Question 4: Please see "Comments"

Topic Question 5: Please see "Comments"

Topic Question 6: Please see "Comments"

Topic Question 7: Please see "Comments"

Topic Question 8: Please see "Comments"

Dear Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich,

The following comments are regarding the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

1. Stock users should not be allowed to let their animals graze anywhere within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Period! Their feed should be packed in. Many times I have seen the terrible impact from allowing stock animals to graze within the Parks. Again and again we have asked this to be banned, but it still continues.
2. The spread of invasive weeds is a huge problem and in other parks they have become uncontrollable, which must not be repeated in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness. The stock should be on a diet of weed-free feed several weeks before entering any parks. They too should be cleaned of any weed and seed debris before entering the Parks.
3. Commercial pack stock services should be strictly limited to serving only those persons who are legitimately unable to hike or carry a backpack, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear and/or luxury items.
4. Both commercial stock outfits and backpackers should compete for wilderness permits equally. The existing system is unfair and favors the commercial outfits.
5. The commercial stock outfits, and therefore their clients, should be required to pay fees to cover the repair costs for the extensive damage to trails and meadows that the Park Service has to undertake.
6. The stock animals should only be allowed on established trails - they should not be allowed off-trail at any time. They cause

way too much damage to our fragile Parks.

7. A large network of "foot-travel-only" trails should be established.

8. There should never be allowed to be more than 5 stock animals in any party. It is just so unnecessary and damaging. Plus, the party should leave the area as found. I have seen all too many times the cans and bottles amongst other trash stuffed in to rocked-over fire pits (many above 10,000' such as in the Merriam Lake Basin - a stock party favorite) where there is very recent evidence of stock. It is so sad to see the total disrespect for these precious places. On which note each and every party member should be given a list which should be signed to show they have read it concerning leaving the Parks in pristine condition as, hopefully, found upon arrival. Leave no trace! Pack out all your trash!

9. All stock animals should be required to wear diapers to reduce water contamination from livestock manure.

10. The High Sierra Camp, Bear Paw, should be removed. And, the former commercial pack station buildings at Mineral King should be removed, and NOT replaced.

The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness is under increasing pressure from all sides. We can help save them by taking great care of them. Commercial stock outfits need to be limited and held accountable for all the damage they cause. Let's stop further damage to these jewels in our Park system.

Thank you for your time to read my concerns,

Correspondence ID: 811 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: 1. Dusty manure-covered trails from too many horses. 2. Too many fat, lazy people on horses who can & should be walking. 3. Big horse groups with too damned much stuff that nobody needs (tables & chairs, cases of drink, multiple ice chests, etc.), party, party, party, noise, noise, noise. They are not experiencing the wilderness, and they're ruining it for me. 4. Soft meadows and high lakes shores trampled into mud. What should be a pristine alpine scene turned into a stinking barnyard shithole. 5. Horses running thru my camp at night !!! This is perhaps my greatest concern of all. Can't even sleep in peace. 6. Aircraft noise (can't get away from it along the southern crest, even for an hour).

Topic Question 2: 1. Do whatever you must to keep the horses from running freely thru people's camps at night. Make them carry pellets and keep them tied up at night. 2. One thing i definitely want to put on the table is you should have (in addition to, over & above any other rules), a maximum ratio of horses to people per group. I hear a mule can carry 150 lbs (or more), and nobody needs more than 50 lbs to enjoy the wilderness, so how about a MAXIMUM of 1 animal per 3 people (ratio 1:3). Why not?

Topic Question 3: Quiet. Silence. Solitude. Untrampled, ungrazed landscapes.

Topic Question 4: Definitely Inappropriate: 1. Lazy people on horses who can and should be walking. 2. Grazed meadows in a national park wilderness. 3. Gadgets, gadgets, gadgets, everywhere. GPS, "spot," even phones. You should educate people to leave their gadgets at home. It prevents them from disconnecting from the modern world and experiencing the wilderness, and it snaps me out of my wilderness experience every time i see it.

Topic Question 5: Get the silly food boxes out of the wilderness. What next? Cell phone towers? I haven't seen food lockers in any other wilderness (and i've visited a lot of them). Please stop pampering the visitors, and let us have a wilderness experience.

"Party" size is right. The big horse groups are a BIG PARTY with too much stuff that nobody needs. You should limit party size to no more than 10 TOTAL "animals" (horses plus people, no more than 10 total). Then the rest of us might be able to at least get some sleep at night, and not have to walk thru manure and dust all day long.

Topic Question 6: Stop it. End it. The place is so over-crowded and regulated and restricted already that anything commercial should be banned. The rest of us already have a hard enough time getting a wilderness permit. (I even broke down once and hired the mule-skinners just so i could get a permit, so maybe they are good for something.)

Topic Question 7: If that helicopter that's always buzzing around in Kings-Sequoia is yours, then you should stop it. If it's somebody else, you should find them and insist that they knock off the tours. The constant "whack whack whack" is very upsetting to me for personal reasons i won't get into (hint, i am a veteran). I love the Kings-Sequoia high country VERY much, but i'm about to give up on it because of the noise.

Topic Question 8: The high soggy meadows and lakes shores that are trampled by horses are just a disgrace.

Correspondence ID: 812 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: In response to the request for comments on <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>><http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>

Item #1 Recreational Caving Very little, if any, text is included or mentioned about this aspect of wilderness.

Item #2 Research and Scientific Caving Very little, if any, is mentioned about this aspect of wilderness. The cave in Redwood Canyon is a major contributor in this area.

Item #3 NPS Patrol Cabin, Redwood Canyon Language needs to be inserted such that the cabin is allowed. The research and scientific caving effort, which the park service supports, is highly dependent upon this resource.

Item #4 To carry a point to its logic extreme, the requirement of "no human encroachment" within a wilderness would require: Such items as bridges across streams should be removed as these are not natural. Such items as trail signs should also be removed. The next step would be to eliminate trailhead parking as this further aids human encroachment into wilderness. Eliminate trail maintenance such as fallen trees as this modifies the natural environment.

Item #5 Existing Legislation At the minimum, the proposed text needs to mention and incorporate the following: Cave Resources Protection Act. 1998 Omnibus Act Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988

Item #6 Original Wilderness Intent The proposed text needs to keep in mind the original intent of "Wilderness": Prevent or exclude such activities as "strip mining", logging which leaves hill sides bare, urban / housing and commercial development Some of today's concept of wilderness is to completely eliminate all traces of human involvement.

Correspondence ID: 813 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have enjoyed both Sequoia and Kings Canyon on numerous camping and backpacking trips over the years. They encompass some of the most stunning and pristine wilderness lands in the world. Please continue to preserve and protect this precious land for generations to come.

Correspondence ID: 814 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My primary concern is the impact of stock usage in the wilderness areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. Specifically, the environmental damage caused by the presence of stock (overgrazing and trampling, trail erosion, spreading of non-native plants, fouling of water with urine and feces, providing host and habitat for biting flies, etc.) and the associated diminishing of aesthetic enjoyment of the wilderness area (excessive trail grading, repair, and damage due to stock impact, plumes of dust, the visual impact of feces and fences, noise from bells, etc.).

Topic Question 2: The most straightforward way to protect the wilderness resources is to eliminate the root causes of the injury. I would ban all off-road stock travel above 8000' within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park.

Topic Question 3: Being able to access and interact with the pristine world. It's so wonderful in the high country, where every object, every tree, plant, rock, or drop of water arrives at its perfect place, due to a fragile equilibrium of natural forces. In the higher elevations, the only thing that is out of place is horse manure, and the enduring scars generated by their presence (e.g., trampled meadows, granite slabs blasted to cobbles in order to ease the passage for stock, etc.)

Topic Question 4: I believe that activities that an individual, unaided and unassisted, can undertake (e.g., hiking and climbing) are appropriate. I believe that any activities that require assistance to individual activity, such as using stock or motorized vehicles, are inappropriate.

Topic Question 5: I believe that campfires are unnecessary and inappropriate above 8000', due to the fragile balance of life at the higher elevation. They should not be permitted. Individuals traveling in the back country should be responsible for securing their food from both the small animals (mice) and the large ones (bears). Bear-proof containers should be strongly recommended, but not required. I have no comment on party/group size, as long as stock presence in higher elevations is prohibited.

Topic Question 6: Individual, human-powered commercial services are OK by me (guided hiking, climbing, mountaineering, etc.), but I do believe that all wilderness users should have equal access to permits. Once individuals have obtained a permit for their party, at that time they should be free to engage any guides (provided that the guides are Guided stock trips, due to the severe detrimental effects of stock presence in the higher elevations, should be prohibited.

Topic Question 7: The higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada have evolved quite nicely without any "management". The focus should be on minimizing the impact of human activities. The most straightforward way is to limit the impact of any one individual, and not allow the impact to be magnified by the usage of stock animals.

Topic Question 8: The fragile and delicate balance of life at the higher elevations should be preserved. It's so easily damaged, and it takes so long to heal.

To reiterate: When I go to the higher elevations in the Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks (or elsewhere in the Sierra), I feel that I'm entering a near-perfect world, where the imperfections are due entirely due to human actions and activities. The most obvious imperfections are a direct consequence of the presence of stock animals and their usage in these areas. The damages include the grazing of plants, the trampling of vegetation (due to the pressure (weight/footprint area) of horses and mules being much greater than people or any of the native, resident wildlife), the fouling of water with feces and urine, the increased erosion and damage to foot trails, the excessive engineering and maintenance required to support continued stock traffic (blasting erosion, filling ruts with cobbles), the hosting and dispersal of biting flies, and the spread of non-native plants by stock. Additional adverse impacts are the construction and maintenance of stock fences, the excessive clouds of dust generated by stock, and, in my experience, the trash that parties that use stock leave in the mountains, as they tend to be less mindful of all of the material that they bring in, and don't notice that they're not bringing it out.

We've been given a wonderful gift. To preserve this area for future generations that following should be undertaken: 1) Prohibit grazing anywhere within Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park 2) Prohibit stock presence above 8000' 3) Require diapers (manure catchers) for all stock animals, with all manure to be packed out and disposed of outside of the park. 4) Remove all stock fences. 5) Prevent the introduction and spread of non-native plants by requiring all stock animals to be fed a week-free diet for at least two weeks prior to entering the park, cleaning their coats and hooves prior to entering the park, and having the people who bring stock into the park pay for all costs associated with inspections and compliance with the protective measures. 6) Require that all trail maintenance expenses due to stock travel be paid for by the stock users. This should include the full apportioned cost of turnouts, roads, and stock loading/unloading areas.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID: 815 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about the issues of air pollution and issues of overdevelopment near these parks

Topic Question 3: I want these parks to be protected for perpetuity.

Topic Question 4: Hiking, camping, backpacking and swimming.

Correspondence ID: 816 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Wilderness in Kings Canyon National Parks is an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity high water quality and a place to experience the peace and quite of nature.

Topic Question 2: Careful and thoughtful wilderness management to allow natural ecological processes to operate freely.

Topic Question 3: The Wilderness provides a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet only found there.

Topic Question 4: Important activities are hiking, camping, fishing and enjoying the tranquility of the Wilderness.

Avoid heavily used campsites, campfires, stock use, off road vehicles.

Topic Question 5: Party Group size should be limited to 20 people maximum. Visitors should provide their own food storage. Visitors should be educated and monitored to practice proper wilderness use and ethics. Most especially " Leave-No-Trace"

Topic Question 6: Guided hiking, climbing or mountaineering should be conducted according to Sierra Club guidelines.

Topic Question 7: Education, education, education.. Suggest a short (10 question)pre-test about accepted wilderness use and ethics when the public makes their reservation or pay their fee; or a park ranger could include that information. Provide a simple

brochure of accepted wilderness use and ethics.

Topic Question 8: The impact of Climate Change. Research and continual monitoring is needed to detect climate change induced impacts. Reducing other threats such as pollution and invasive species are very important.

Have many fond memories of visiting, camping and hiking in several Wilderness areas. I sincerely hope many more generations will be able to experience and remember the incredible treasures of the Wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 817 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Loss of commercial packing.

Topic Question 6: Your decisions will have a great effect on our Livelihood. We provided services into the wilderness area discussed. Our services provide recreational services, scientific endeavors, provide scenic opportunities and even emergency rescue services. Pack services are a needed service. Helicopter use is not within the guidelines of the Wilderness Act. Pack stock meet the wilderness act requirements.

While some would say packing services should only be used for particular projects or for particular people, however if this thinking were allowed to guide wilderness planning, packing would not exist. This is because the small businesses that currently provide this service are small family operations, and exist in finite numbers with multiple operating restrictions. In order to exist, they require the recreation user, as well as the "needy one". They need the "person on vacation" as well as the research scientist with his/her equipment in order to keep the business afloat. These pack stations have been in the Sierra Nevada range for almost 100 years, and their facilities are National Register eligible. They comprise historic districts which include cook houses, bunk houses, cabins, corrals etc. and require access to the trails. These trails that lead from the station, take the user to their wilderness destination, many of which are located in the Park. Much like a train station and the related rails, so the trails connect the stations with the Park. Therefore how the Park manages the related "rails" will ultimately have an effect on the "Train Station." Along this vein, we request the Park to consider the historical use of the trails, and keep them open as before to continued stock use. We request that no negative trail assignments will be made as the Inyo National Forest did in 2005, with their Not Suitable for Commercial Stock Trail (NSCS) designation. This designation was in response to a lawsuit filed by the High Sierra Hikers group, who felt the trails belong only to human feet, and were offended by commercial services being provided into wilderness areas. As in any NEPA/EIS process a balance of criteria must be met. The National Historic Act (NHPA) is included in one of these criteria that must be met. As is the Wilderness Act, and many others. We request that as the Park wades through this process, it will consider the benefits of commercial packing, stock use in the back country, private stock use, and its historical connection of stock to the land. Where else would one see a pack train? On the 405 freeway, in the city? No, because the pack train was born of necessity, to reach remote areas, such as the Park has to offer, and because stock use is a large part of the Parks' rich history. Hopefully stock use, whether commercial or private, will be allowed to continue into the Parks future.

Correspondence ID: 818 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 21:28:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Some use of the wilderness has greater impact and degrades the _wilderness_ much more than other uses. These uses (see #2) should be limited or curtailed. Some uses have much greater impact on _other users_ than other users of the wilderness, and these activities should be limited or curtailed.

Topic Question 2: As someone who has used the back country wilderness in SEKI multiple times, I urge the elimination of commercial packers and commercial guides, reasonable restrictions of pack traffic, and development of a foot-travel-only trail system to enhance the wilderness enjoyment of the majority of users.

Commercial packers have negatively impacted my wilderness experiences in the SEKI wilderness more than any other single thing. For too many of them, the attitude seems to be to use the resource for commercial gain rather than a stewardship care of the resource. They have let their pack animals trample meadows I have wandered on, defecate in streams I have drunk from, and urinated on trails I hiked on. Their impact is also greater in terms of trail degradation, animal waste, human waste (they pack in so much for those they 'support'), spreading of invasive plants through their feed, proliferation of non-native birds such as cow birds that displace native song birds, building of corrals and other stock structures, and damming and diversion of water sources to water stock. I urge the elimination of commercial packers attributable due to their use, which is greater than all other users combined (though they are a small minority of all users).

Commercial packers and guides, if allowed to continue to operate, should receive lower priority in permits and priority for resources. Though they may facilitate access for a very few people, the wilderness belongs to the public and should be offered to the public first, in higher priority, than those seeking to exploit the wilderness for private gain.

Cattle have negatively impacted my use of the wilderness by occupying and making a mess of high-value areas including meadows, stream beds, and potential camp sites. They also create noise and visual distraction from otherwise wilderness environments. I urge that grazing permits be retired where not used, eliminated where good alternatives exist, and lease rates

raised to levels on par with private land lease rates in all other locations. Remaining grazing permits, when issued, should be revoked for infractions of their requirements.

Non-commercial pack use has impacted my enjoyment of the wilderness often similarly to commercial pack use, though to a lesser degree. Pack animal use should be more carefully reviewed and permits more carefully issued. Condition of trails should be considered. For instance, some trails that are not built heavily enough for stock use should be restricted from stock use, particularly where good alternatives exist. Trail condition, such as soft or muddy areas should be considered and fragile sections of trail closed to stock use. Stock are particularly indiscriminate in troding over damp or wet trails, whereas hikers generally avoid such segments by going around them.

Activities with low impact to the wilderness should be given preferential permit and other treatment, including backpacking, mountaineering, and rock climbing.

Use should be spread over a greater area to lower impact by creating a network of foot-travel-only trails.

Topic Question 3: Serenity, beauty, access, and peacefulness. Pure water, clean trails, absence of domestic pack animal odors.

Topic Question 4: Activities that are important must first: not unduly degrade the wilderness. Second, they should not unduly degrade the wilderness experience of other users. Third, public activities should have priority over commercial activities.

Topic Question 5: Occasional larger groups such as Boy Scout troops seem much less damaging to the environment of lower impact on my wilderness experience than stock and pack animal parties. A group of 25 scouts is lower impact and less damaging than ten stock and eight riders. Where stock are allowed, the party count size should be counted by adding the number of people plus two for each animal, so that a ten stock and eight rider party would count as equivalent to 28 hikers. Larger groups should be directed to camp sites that are not unduly negatively impacted due to group size. I would propose a maximum group size count of 21, with a maximum of seven stock. All pack animals should be required to use manure catchers.

Campfires should be allowed where sufficient renewable resources support it.

Structures such as bear boxes strike me as a reasonable compromise to help preserve the wilderness character of camp sites, by maintaining bears in their natural habitat, rather than rifling through human food.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services in the wilderness should be eliminated, except perhaps where absolutely necessary to provide accessibility for those unable to hike. Guided climbing and mountaineering seem more frequently 'necessary' for users than travel on trails, as by stock outfitters or by guided hiking. The wilderness belongs to the public and should be offered to the public first, in higher priority, than those seeking to exploit the wilderness for private gain. The Bear Paw High Sierra Camp should be closed.

Topic Question 7: The permit system, where used, should favor _public_ use, rather than _commercial_ use. Commercial parties should have to obtain permits in the identical fashion that non-commercial parties are required to meet, such as being present in person, requesting of the same issuing persons. Commercial parties should not be allowed to issue their own permits or act as sub-permit issuers.

Topic Question 8: Structures such as bear boxes strike me as a reasonable compromise to help preserve the wilderness character of camp sites, by maintaining bears in their natural habitat, rather than rifling through human food. Similarly, established camp sites where use is frequent and environmental impact reduced by their establishment strikes me as a reasonable practice. The wilderness is intended to be used and enjoyed by people, though of course unnecessary over-use and abuse should be avoided.

Correspondence ID: 819 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: The impact of grazing and pack animals on trails and the environment.

I never filter water, except when there is any evidence of stock in the area. And usually this evidence is a trail beat into 6 inches of dust (especially on the west side), horse manure, lots of flies, and deep mud ruts anywhere around water.

I understand the historical aspects of stock animals in the Sierras. I also know that whatever they're paying in fees, it's not compensating for trail destruction and a serious loss of the wilderness experience for hikers.

Topic Question 2: Equitable usage of resources among competing interests, which is primarily hikers versus packers.

My capitalistic approach would be to significantly increase fees for grazing and pack trips.

And setting aside more trails as hiking-only, especially trails that have been seriously impacted by stock usage.

Topic Question 3: Sustainability, protection of the environment, maintaining a wilderness experience, and being able to drink water from a stream without worrying about cryptosporidium.

Topic Question 4: Appropriate - non-mechanized recreation of all shapes and sizes.

Inappropriate - grazing, and frat boy parties on pack trips like I endured near Gem Lake a few years back.

Topic Question 5: Max size of 15, regardless of whether it's foot or horse.

Require either bear canisters or Ursack/equivalent everywhere that has significant bear activity.

Install food lockers at all high use campgrounds.

No campfires anywhere.

Topic Question 6: Guides are fine.

The issues with guided stock trips are the impact of horses on trails, not whether it's guided or not.

Topic Question 7: See above for setting fees and quotas that are appropriate. Here "appropriate" is based on the impact of the activity, and the ratio of users (e.g. hikers to packers should factor into # of permits available for each).

Correspondence ID: 820 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31.2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I am concerned about the Parks' broad responsibility to foster research on the lands in manages. My particular interest and experience is in cave and karst research, and in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks the majority of caves and karst areas are located in wilderness areas. I was alarmed that the legislation that makes this responsibility explicit was not mentioned in the public outreach for comments on the wilderness plan. Specifically, I mean the 1998 Omnibus Act. I think it should have been presented as relevant legislation as other items were.

Ultimately, my concern is that if all pertinent legislation is considered by SEKI Wilderness Management as a new policy is developed, then a more balanced management plan is more likely to emerge. To talk only about the Wilderness Act and exclude mention of more broadly worded yet still pertinent legislation is to mislead if not fully inform the public and is thus inappropriate. All pertinent laws should hold sway throughout the parks, and the broader concept of management embraced for selected areas in the Parks or we are all going to be the poorer for it.

I am also concerned about the trail quota imposed by the park on human versus trail / pack animal usage. It seems to me that the current policy favoring high impact stock access is in contradiction to the legislative mandates to protect the wilderness for public use.

Topic Question 2: Establish a robust scientific program to foster research in the wilderness. Establish an impact based assessment method to establish, measure and revise trailhead quotas.

Topic Question 3: It is important to me that the experience of wilderness use be one of solitude, without large scale visible impacts from other wilderness users. As well, the scientific study of natural resources, caves, wildlife, geology, etc. in the wilderness should be encouraged.

To establish and monitor regulations for wilderness usage, the impact of use should be measured and evaluated. In particular the pack / trail animal community is obnoxious in their high impact use of the backcountry. They disproportionately impact trail quality with the erosive impact from horse hooves and leaving feces on the trail. This is all compounded by the attitude entitlement and supercedence I have experienced from these people. But for that, I likely wouldn't mind so much.

Topic Question 4: Exploration of all areas of the wilderness.

Scientific study and inquiry into the resources contained within the wilderness.

Scientific study and inquiry into the impacts upon the wilderness by human activities.

Inappropriate activities include motorized equipment, large high-impact groups, and large scale use of animals not normally present in the backcountry.

Topic Question 5: Group sizes should be appropriate to their impact on the wilderness. Food storage should be appropriate for bear safety (err on the side of requiring bear canister and bear boxes). Campfires should be allowed wherever there is minimal risk of uncontrolled fire.

Topic Question 6: Commercial services should be allowed, but given no special permissions in regards to permits, etc. over other users.

Topic Question 7: Management activities should be evidence based and scientifically grounded. Management rules should be established using such scientific measurements and updated accordingly on a regular basis. I think this is an area where the Park could do better in the future.

I believe as well that the most balanced management plan (including activities and techniques) is likely to emerge from consideration of all pertinent legislative directives, not solely the Wilderness Act, including broadly worded legislation such as the 1998 Omnibus Act.

Topic Question 8: I strongly believe that research activities in wilderness areas warrant more consideration than has been paid so far in the public outreach for comments on the wilderness plan. Again, I refer specifically to the 1998 Omnibus Act that directs the NPS to foster research on the lands in manages.

Another special consideration is the directive from the Cave Resources Protection Act to foster cooperation between government agencies and the caving community, and one of the criteria for a cave being significant being its recreational value. Caves with high recreational value may warrant special consideration under this act.

Please foster exploration and scientific research in wilderness areas!

Correspondence ID: 821 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 22:44:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Please see letter in comments section

August 31, 2011

Superintendent Karen F. Taylor-Goodrich Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Attn: Wilderness Stewardship Plan 47050
Generals Highway Three Rivers, CA 93271

Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

These comments are in response to your request to provide input to the development of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement to guide existing and future wilderness use and management at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

The Plan should continue to allow for commercial and private stock to use historical routes and places in the Park. In 1986, the Park recognized historical use for many trails and cross country travel. That should be continued. In addition, commercial use should be studied and allowed in the Darwin Bench.

Not having access to grazing at Evolution Lake is ok?however, historically the Darwin Bench was used for camping for hiking and pack supported trips and should be allowed.

Camping and commercial livestock should be allowed in Center Basin and the use of traditional Sierra Club and Wampler trip itineraries should be permitted.

The Park continues to close campfires throughout many areas of the Park. Campfires can be permitted in Sequoia National Park by allowing users to use lodgepole pine for fires. The Park user can distinguish between lodgepole and the foxtail pine trees.

Many within the Park want to get rid of livestock supported use by getting rid of campfires. It will work?.most people that have

historically traveled in the Park want to have a campfire. By restricting campfires to lower elevations?.you will have more impacted areas. And, you will select for users who don't mind not having fires.

There are many areas in Kings Canyon National Park that should permit fires above the 10,000 ft level. The overuse from the 1970's has been corrected by use quotas and the plan should address opening these areas to the public for campfires.

Grazing is essential along the Pacific Crest Trail. While some advocate eliminating sub-alpine grazing?.to do so will eliminate the traditional activity of mule supported trips. The Parks were setup to allow people to travel with livestock. To eliminate grazing at high altitude will essentially eliminate stock travel in the Park along the PCT.

Commercial Packers make it possible for those that aren't rich enough to own their own livestock to travel in the Park. It allows many in the public to enjoy their Parks. There are those that enjoy a livestock supported trip. And, there are those that can not enjoy the wilderness without the help of a commercial outfitter. Both types of livestock users should be allowed the opportunity to use commercial services.

Regulations should be minimal to allow a person traveling in the Park to enjoy the freedom of travel in the wilderness. In recent years, there is the tendency to regulate every aspect of travel in the Park. It takes away from the enjoyment of those entering in the Park. There is an acceptable amount of resource impact from all users. The planning process should recognize that impacts will occur from humans and livestock.

The plan should address the competency of backcountry rangers and managers. Too often, those administering the Park do not have common sense and any real knowledge of how to manage livestock and people. There is the tendency for low and mid-level employees to feel their knowledge is superior to anyone in the private sector.

And, the spouses and significant others sharing the tents and ranger stations of the Rangers should be paid and go through the training of paid help. The practice of allowing volunteers?sharing the bed of the rangers?to dictate rules and policies should be highly regulated.

The Park is not hiring people with mixed social backgrounds. I have never seen a person of Hispanic or African-American heritage working in the backcountry. And, I haven't ever met anyone in management at Sequoia-Kings Canyon that wasn't caucasian. And, there is a lack of sensitivity to those of Native-American heritage. Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park should strive to hire people that reflect the population of the entire United States.

It is a rare occurrence to find a park employee who hasn't always enjoyed a government job. Many have never had a "real job" in a world where if you don't provide good customer service and do a great job?.you won't be hired back the next year.

A good example is that this past summer I called to talk to a District Ranger or the Chief Ranger in the Park. Dispatch replied that they had weekends off and couldn't be bothered on Saturdays and Sundays. Where in America in private industry can you have a high salaried job and have the freedom of saying?. "I can't be bothered."

The people preparing and writing the WSP and EIS should be representative of a wide range of interests. Too often the plans are developed by young white people from affluent backgrounds. It would be fair to include those from a working class background that have a sense of what average families might want to experience in the Park visit.

Too often, it is the Park personnel that set the vision of what they expect the visitor to experience while on a wilderness trip. Not everyone wants to carry a backpack and eat a freeze dried meal. To many, a nice steak cooked over a fire with biscuits made from scratch cooked in a reflector oven is a treasured evening.

The Plan should be developed to critically look at the environmental consequences of various decisions. Too often, wilderness management decisions are made without proper environmental review. In recent years there is the tendency to cite an opinion of a so called scientific paper and assume it is a valid statement. The Park should conduct its own studies on subjects as group size, designated campsites, campfire closures, etc. before reaching conclusions.

Group size restrictions, designating stock camps, elevational fire closures and a variety of regulations are made without looking at the unintended consequences. Hopefully, as the WSP/EIS develops, the Park will accept input from those of us who understand the outcome from a proposed action.

Cell phones, satellite phones, GPS units and other electronic devices are ruining the experience in the wilderness. Going into the wilderness means there is risk. And, there should be some place in the United States where you can escape phones. The current management strategy for the backcountry relies too much on radios and phones. Good organization and planning on the part of Park officials will minimize the need for instant communication with the outside world.

The Park uses helicopters, phones, radios and all of the modern conveniences of the world. Biologists and managers in the Park have no real sense of the wilderness I traveled in as a youth. And, when Congress enacted the Wilderness Act?I don't think they

intended it to be serviced by a fleet of helicopters and scores of staff with radios and hi-tech satellite supported technology.

Recently, Park administration feels that all communications should be made by posting it on the internet. There are a lot of older people and especially those that enjoy traveling in the wilderness that don't have good internet access. The Park should continue to service those that aren't connected to the net.

When developing a wilderness management plan the Park should realistically look at what Congress will give them funding to accomplish. If the Park outlines a plan of things the Park will due in the future?.and, they don't do it for lack of funding?it opens the door for unending litigation.

The Park has done a good job of monitoring meadows and collecting data over the years. These efforts should be continued.

Trail maintenance has been outstanding and helps old people and those with physical disabilities to travel safely in the Park.

The Park has done an outstanding job of including women and mothers in management and as field rangers. This has been of benefit to the public and should be continued.

The Park should develop a plan that recognizes limits in public funding. It seems that there is no lack of money being spent in the Park for staff and studies. In light of the fiscal situation in the United States the Park managers should realize there isn't unlimited money coming from Washington.

By hiring staff that has been in the real world, has to meet a payroll and has some sense of what things cost?the Park will do a better job of allocating money for managing the wilderness.

I look forward to participating in the planning process. Please keep my name on the mailing list.

Correspondence ID: 822 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Topic Question 1: I have been concerned about the condition of the pit toilets at several of the heavily used lakes in the Mineral King area. The walls are often missing and the entrances are not designed for any privacy. The condition deters visitors from using them in these areas that really need such use.

Military overflights and training exercises severely impact one's enjoyment of the backcountry areas. The noise from the jets disrupt the quiet and solitude in the backcountry, one of the key values of a wilderness experience. Please ban the overflights.

Topic Question 3: The health and well-being of a wilderness area needs to be prioritized over visitor use. It is important that the NPS monitor the impact that visitors are having throughout the wilderness areas and modify accessibility if necessary. (For example, close an area to camping if visitor use has degraded the area.) Wilderness should be preserved unimpaired for future generations.

Topic Question 5: I think that groups should be limited to no more than ten. We have found that big groups are noisier and tend to have a greater negative impact on the environment simply because there are a lot of people together that need to eat, camp, and deal with human waste. Large groups can negatively impact a wilderness experience.

I am very concerned about food storage and feel that more bear boxes need to be put in heavily used areas, both in the backcountry and in places closer to trailheads. Those already there need to be checked and repaired when needed. Canisters often aren't big enough and are bulky to fit into backpacks. I'm sure that this inevitably deters people from using them.

I support the current SEKI campfire policy.

Topic Question 6: Small groups are okay as long as they are regulated and allowed only in specified areas.

Topic Question 7: It is important that the trails, signs, and bridges are adequately maintained. Additional bridges should be added where needed, such as at the lower Franklin Creek crossing in Mineral King.

Data collection and research should be on-going to monitor visitor impacts, the health of indicator species and endangered and threatened species, and climate change.

Helicopter use should be kept to a minimum.

Topic Question 8: While the preservation of the flora and fauna in wilderness areas is key, there are also important cultural resources that should be preserved and maintained. These include cabin sites, Native American sites, dams, and mines. The new plan needs to address how these sites will be preserved and explanatory signs added if none exist to let visitors know the history of the site.

I feel that the SEKI 1986 Backcountry Management Plan sets out a philosophy and a set of policies that are still appropriate and valid today. I don't believe that it is necessary to change much in this previous plan. I think that the wilderness areas should be managed the way that they have been for the past 20 or so years.

Correspondence ID: 823 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 23:16:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Superintendent Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9700

August 31, 2011

Subject: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan

The first challenge is determining what Wilderness means within the context of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI.) Air quality, climate change, aircraft, noise, and light from surrounding areas create a situation where human presence is always noticeable within SEKI wilderness. The Park Service needs to allocate resources to education, research, monitoring, and enforcement of external impacts on Wilderness. A start would be evaluating the lighting within the SEKI front country and the removal of sodium-vapor/high output type lights.

Any additions within Wilderness or restrictions placed on visitors should be considered as mitigations necessary to protect the character and resources of the wilderness. All mitigations should be evaluated both in terms of resource protection and the visitors experience identified within the Wilderness Act. Any new mitigation not identified in a final Wilderness Stewardship Plan should go through a NEPA process with public involvement. Examples of mitigations are trails, campsites, bridges, ranger stations, and other permanent fixtures. Some items have transitioned from being mitigations to historical or archeological resources. The management of these Wilderness exceptions need to be identified in the Plan.

The Wilderness permit system within SEKI is badly flawed. Wilderness permits, first issued for the Rae Lakes Loop, were a mitigation to resolve a specific issue of overcrowding that was impacting the resource and the visitor experience. The reason for permits and what is contained in the permit needs to be justified in terms of resource protection and visitor experience. Where specific resource protection is not an issue there should be no requirements of an itinerary. The wilderness experience should allow the visitor to not know what lies ahead and to make decisions as they come. The Wilderness permit needs to be flexible enough to allow entry at any time of the day or night. Do not try to cubbyhole the wilderness user. The majority may leave at 6:00 to 10:00 A.M. given the choice. But there are others visitors who prefer very early morning, evening, or walking with the moon and stars (and fewer mosquitos). It is also a wilderness access issue for those with health issues. The SEKI front country has no opportunities for camping away from campfire smoke. The existing Wilderness permit system makes it difficult to get to some trailheads without spending a night at a SEKI front country campground. My wife has had severe migraines caused by the need to stay in a campground prior to wilderness entry. I am certain others with respiratory problems have also had campground issues.

Consider a volunteer system for SEKI Wilderness like the Park has for its cave resources. The combination of research, education, and restoration using volunteers is very effective in creating a clientele that supports the Park resources. A Wilderness "trustee" system should also be considered.

Within Wilderness "permanent" campsites should be eliminated unless absolutely necessary to reduce resource impacts. Under no circumstances should fire rings be allowed to remain. They are inconsistent with the Wilderness Act of man being a visitor that does not remain. This does not necessarily mean no fires only that they be small enough to be completely obliterated when the visitor leaves camp. Campfires should only be allowed in areas where resource damage will not occur.

It is impossible to determine the long term impact that stock grazing has on species relationships within the Wilderness ecosystem. Grazing within the Park should be eliminated with stock required to carry weed free feed. Other mitigation options to reduce stock impacts should be considered within the Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Per person equipment weight limits and stock to individual ratios are possible mitigation methods.

Correspondence ID: 824 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 23:50:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Such a large proportion of SEKI is wilderness that how the management policies and practices are drawn will

strongly color or impact the visitor experience there in future years. The 1964 Wilderness Act is much more restrictive of modes of research that it allows; some might say it is hostile to science for science's sake, and allows research only if that research will improve wilderness management practices or enhance the wilderness experience. I'm concerned that the emerging management practices with respect to scientific research at SEKI will be so much more restrictive that much of the value of SEKI as a potential natural laboratory in the future will be irreparably compromised or lost.

Topic Question 2: I am fond of a zoned approach that keeps the developed areas along the roads and highly impacted areas and upgrades the protection afforded Park resources as the degree of remoteness increases.

Topic Question 3: I recreate at SEKI for a number of reasons. I enjoy the interpretive programs; I enjoy day-hiking; I enjoy backcountry hiking and that wilderness experience.

Topic Question 4: As a professional researcher, I value the opportunity that SEKI has traditionally afforded to conduct well-designed research projects for the sake of science. I'm concerned that new management's policies will unduly impact the scope and quality of research at SEKI to the detriment of the resource and ultimately our society.

Topic Question 5: I fully support reasonable party size limits, bear-proof food storage practices, and the use of stoves in lieu of campfires.

Topic Question 6: Unbridled commercial use of Park resources is always been a mistake.

Topic Question 7: I support the use of minimum tool requirements; properly and objectively implemented, it is a useful tool with value for preventing undue degradation of the wilderness experience.

Topic Question 8: I'd urge that the areas of the Parks that are least trammled merit the most zealous levels of protection and proactive management practice. More impacted areas merit less restrictive policies.

I have concerns about the implementation of wilderness management at SEKI (and elsewhere, for that matter). As a career researcher in the earth sciences, I place an extremely high value on the Nation's national parks as potential research laboratories for the earth and biological sciences. These lands afford opportunities to conduct research that simply are unavoidable elsewhere. I'm delighted that SEKI has maintained a very strong presence of research through a pro-active research office for the 34 years I've been associated with these Parks.

I'm quite concerned that the strong preeminence for research is going to change for the worse, as some 96% of SEKI is going to be covered by the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, according to the presentations by SEKI staff at public presentations scheduled around the State prior to opening the public commentary phase of the scoping process. I know I am not alone in these concerns. I was privileged to attend the presentation in/near Oakland, CA in late April 2011. While that briefing was tightly scripted and informative, I was disturbed by the overwhelming focus on the 1964 Wilderness Act and the omission or wholesale de-emphasis on other pertinent legislation that ought not to be ignored. While a brief history of Park-related legislation was presented, there was no mention of the 1998 Omnibus Act, which among other things requires the NPS to encourage and abet research on lands it manages. In contrast, the Wilderness Act seemingly does not support research for research's sake; rather it restricts research to topics that either enhance the wilderness experience or that would serve to improve the management of wilderness. Science for the sake of science is not sufficient under the Wilderness Act, at least as I read that language. I'd submit that to not mention the 1998 Omnibus Act results in an unbalanced presentation that is/was inappropriate.

I urge SEKI management to adopt the broadest possible view and interpretations of Wilderness Act as they select and implement management policies and practices, and adopt those practices that strike a balance among the competing pertinent pieces of legislation that govern the Parks. If too narrow a viewpoint or suite of policies ultimately prevails, then much potential future research at SEKI will be lost, at least for 96% of SEKI, and the strong research traditions that far-sighted managers such as Dr. David Parsons and Dr. David Graber supported and encouraged for several decades are highly likely to be severely compromised, protracted, or even terminated.

Correspondence ID: 825 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967 **Private:** Y
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: My biggest gripe is the proliferation of electronic gizmos that people are now bringing into the wilderness. My 2nd biggest concern is the damage to trails and meadows from horses, and when the horses run thru my camps at night.

Topic Question 2: Please educate people to leave the gizmos at home. It keeps them from connecting with the wilderness and ruins my own wilderness experience when they pull their gizmos out in front of me. And please keep the horses tied up at night so they can't stomp thru people's camps.

Topic Question 3: The escape (albeit temporary) from the modern techno world.

Topic Question 4: What's inappropriate: (1) the proliferation of electronic gizmos that people are now bringing into the

wilderness; (2) damage to trails and meadows from horses, and when the horses run thru my camps at night.

Topic Question 6: Cut down on the horse groups. They are a bunch of white, middle-age, lazy folks with no apparent disabilities, and would be better off hiking, even if they don't know it yet. They bring the entire city with them.

Topic Question 8: Keep the horses out of the high country!

What has to be done to keep horses from stomping thru people's camps at night? It's scary and unsettling and not fair.

Correspondence ID: 826 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Topic Question 1: Permit system needs overhaul.

Topic Question 3: To be able to find wilderness in as close to its natural state as possible, without noticeable damage from other users, without "improvements." To be able to find solitude when I want it.

Topic Question 4: All types of foot travel are highly appropriate--day hiking, running, backpacking, fastpacking. Low-impact equestrian use is also appropriate. It should be considered that not everyone fits into the standard user categories. Non-standard users (for example, night hikers, runners, fastpackers) must not be pressured to conform to more "traditional" activities.

Topic Question 5: I like small groups in the wilderness. Stock users and commercial packers should be no exception. I think the current limit on head of stock is too big. Personally, I would like to see an end to campfires in wilderness. I have health issues with wood smoke. If another party builds a fire in the area, I am forced to flee my camp. Can I be the only one with this problem?

Topic Question 6: Commercially guided services must never have priority over private wilderness users.

Topic Question 8: Caves, high altitude areas with tundra vegetation.

I have serious problem with some of the current permit regulations. Specifically, that Roads End users must pick up their permits at the trailhead the day before, and that the permit station closes at 3:00 PM. This makes it extremely difficult for weekend users who work until 5:00 on Friday. There is no possibility to get a very early start on Saturday if you have to wait around until 7:00 AM.

Correspondence ID: 827 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Superintendent 47050 Generals Highway Three Rivers, CA 93271

Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

I am writing in regards to the Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Almost every year I take a trip to the high country of the Sierra. Plans for stock use in this area concerns me greatly. I would highly recommend severely limiting stock access to SEKI. In the 30 years I've been a visitor to the Sierra, I have seen over and over again the negative impact pack animals have on the land, impact that persists from one year to the next.

Stock animals should not be allowed to graze. They trample high elevation land, and their feces remain for years--the short summers and "thin" soil does not allow for quick decomposition. This year's droppings are also next year's and the year after that, and so on for many years to come. This is something I see every visit, including my visit earlier this year to Volcanic Lakes.

Stock parties should be small. Stock animals grind up trails, turning sections of them into dust, and defecate and urinate on them. A hiker walks every inch of a trail and is keenly and unpleasantly aware of this--something that commercial outfits or their riders are oblivious to. A back country hiker impacts the trail with just 2 boots for a one-way trip, whereas a single backcountry rider averages at least 12 to 24 hooves (there is usually a guide and many times the animals deliver a party, walk back out, and return to pick them up). And of course, a hiker's offal is off the trail and has no impact on another's backcountry experience which cannot be said for the multiple stock used to bring in just one member of a party. The number of animals per party should be small, less than 8.

It is always a pleasure to come across a trail or an area where stock haven't been. I firmly believe that IF a wilderness plan is

going to allow stock, then there should be some trails and lake basins where stock are not allowed. A hiker should be able to walk on trails and camp in places that have not been stressed and impacted by stock and stock parties/outfits. Currently, if a trail goes into an area, more than likely so do horses and mules.

Again, this is something that isn't important to people who work with mules and horses, or to their clients who choose to ride into the high country. But it does matter to others who choose to walk, not ride. In addition, stock campsites are large areas of packed dirt, something created by too many people and too many stock in an area too many times. These areas have little ability to recover from year to year and are the not a place many backcountry users would choose to stay.

If stock use is going to continue in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon, the permit system needs to be fair. The trailhead quota system in some areas of the Sierra has been totally broken, with a quota for backpackers and none for stock outfits. Ideally all users should use the same system. However, because of the high impact of stock animals, a very limited number of animals should be let in per day. So if a person is riding in with stock, only a few of these should be allowed into an area in anyone week.

As a regular visitor to the "range of light", the incredible wilderness of the Sierra, I feel strongly that stock animals should never be left to graze in the back country of Sequoia and Kings Canyon and that there should be far fewer of them allowed in. Current and future visitors will appreciate trails that are pleasant to walk, and meadows and open spaces that are not trampled or fouled by mules and horses.

Correspondence ID: 828 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich,

I am writing to provide are commenting on SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I have been lucky enough to make several trips through he area, on foot and on skis, and I know what a treasure this area is. Something that I have always noticed while traveling in the Sierras is the destructive influence of horses in their non-native environment. I think any plan should consider the disproportionately large damaging influence that equine recreation has on our fragile high-altitude mountain areas. I have personally seen multiple instances of such damage, including:

Trails worn down up to 12 inches into the soil and rocks. Tree roots severed and mashed by steel-shod hooves. Piles of excrement in and near water sources. Clouds of insects attracted to said piles. Small springs trampled and polluted

Related to horse travel in the sierras is the use of our lands for a narrow range of business, the pack outfitter. With horses, large groups of people can pack in immense amounts of creature comforts, including large amounts of alcohol and portable music, which can often negatively affect the wilderness experience other users are after.

Given that I have experienced these detriments first hand, I would like to comment on a few issues that should be addressed in a stewardship plan:

1. Consider limiting or abolishing pack operations and/ or horse traffic in the area. Horses are not native, open up a wide range of uses out of character for a wilderness area and in my opinion do more damage than motorcycles.
2. If horse access persists, make operators of the animals use manure catchers and make them responsible for the spread of invasive species through special fees or something similar. At the same time, make access to the park equal to all users, as now I believe there is an advantage to using a pack service to get wilderness access when others are denied permits.
3. We should move toward a network of foot-only trails that would provide a more genuinely Sierra experience.
4. It is time to consider removing the Bearpaw High Sierra Camp. This again is out of character with wilderness areas, and in its current state is selective and expensive, unattractive and generates a considerable amount of pollution in a fragile high-altitude environment.

Thank you for considering these comments and I hope you will give them weight deserving of a local who has passed many miles in this beautiful area, and seen firsthand the subject of my comments and suggestions. Furthermore, our appreciation for your efforts to protect this national treasure are appreciated.

Correspondence ID: 829 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Fax
Correspondence: Tuesday, August 30,2011

Ms. Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Superintendent Sequoia, Kings Canyon Parks 47050 Generals Highway Three Rivers, California

By fax: 559 565-4202

Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich,

Comment on the SEKJ Wilderness Plan.

I never have been a fan of grazing in the Sierra. My opinion was confirmed after a simple two day walk to the south of the Cottonwood Pass trailhead.

Ash Meadow is one of the attractions, on the east side of the PCT there. It's not a very wet meadow, you must walk about a mile east of the trail to get moisture. What little there was was trampled by cows, and fouled by their waste. It was nothing short of disgusting.

The meadow stream had been shored up with logs and rocks at the head end, in an attempt to prevent more erosion and cutting that had already occurred.

Of course, on leaving the trailhead I crossed Horseshoe Meadow, and I expected to see damage from the cows that are usually there in the summer. They are in there again, doing more damage.

But Ash Meadow, being more remote, was an unpleasant surprise.

Please. Get those cows out of the Sierras. They don't belong, are unnatural, upset the natural order of things in the meadows where they of course congregate, and are just plain disgusting. That they were there first is a condition to be corrected, not an excuse to continue the degradation.

PLEASE, GET RID OF COWS IN THE SIERRAS.

Correspondence ID: 830 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization:
Received: Sep.06.2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

I am writing to comment on the impending "Wilderness Stewardship Plan" of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

I am an avid supporter of the national wilderness treasures that lie within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. A former resident of California, over the past twenty years I have spent many priceless, inspiring and even life-changing moments hiking (day and overnight) in both of those parks. To describe the preservation of their wilderness integrity as important to me would be an extreme understatement. In my mind the very meaning and value of "wilderness" for our natural heritage rests first and foremost on the natural integrity of these two national parks.

It is self-evident that the Park Service faces an enormous challenge when trying to balance the need to make the parks accessible to the public, while at the same time limiting the inevitable harm and impact that increased visitation causes to the parks. At the same time, in my view it should be equally self-evident that some park visitors cause incomparably greater harm and impact than others and should be managed accordingly. The most obvious example of this, in my SEKI experience, has been the ongoing (if not growing) entry into the backcountry by large parties with pack animals. While one can still -thank heaven! - hike mile upon mile of trail in the SEKI backcountry without noticing foot-hiker impact beyond the edges of the hiking trail itself, the destructive impact of pack stock is immediately and glaringly evident. On many segments of trails in SEKI I have had to walk through and around mound upon mound of manure, with its stench and lingering flies. On multiple occasions I have had to forego an important source of stream water for drinking - even with filter and iodine pills - because countless hooves of pack animals had transformed it into a shallow, stagnant (and thus unsanitary) puddle. And I can't count the number of times I have arrived with camera at a long-anticipated meadow setting - even at high elevation- only to find it trampled and scarred by hoof-prints, sometimes beyond recognition.

I completely understand the need for pack animals to carry an individual or park employee who is incapable of reaching a point in the backcountry without a supplementary means of transport. It is not only harmful for the wilderness, however, but blatantly unfair that pack stock be allowed to enter the parks-particularly the backcountry-without the same rigorous assessments of impact that apply to foot hikers, whose impact is incomparably lower, even in large numbers. As a regular hiker on the Appalachian trail, I can say that perhaps its greatest, most foresighted regulation is the prohibition of horse-riders, who - incidentally - happily make their way into many parts of the Appalachian mountains along primitive roads without ever touching

the AT.

I therefore ask that you consider and/or count my support for the following proposals for regulation:

(1) Most important for the long-term protection of SEKI wilderness is a limitation of the use of pack animals exclusively to park employees, law enforcement, emergency medical personnel, or individuals who are legally handicapped. If pack animals are to be used solely for the sake of increasing physical access, speed or comfort for an individual who is, in fact, fully capable of entering the backcountry on foot like the majority of foot-hikers, then they should be considered excessive and unnecessary for an outing in the SEKI wilderness.

(2) There should be one single reasonable, fair and "democratic" system of providing entry permits to park visitors in light of a single criterion - the amount of minimal physical impact that visitors will inevitably cause. Because visitors on pack animals cause far greater physical impact (principally through far greater body weight and volume of excrement and urine) than a visitor on foot, the limitations placed on the number and rate of pack-animal visitors on pack animals allowed into SEKI should be much stricter than those placed on the number of foot-only hikers.

(3) Also in the interest of reasonable fairness, when arriving at a maximum number of individuals for a group permit (i.e. who can all enter the backcountry on the same day), any individual on a pack animal should count for at least three individuals (six legs). Thus, if the limitation on group size is twelve applicants for a given day, then twelve foot-only hikers would be allowed to enter together on a given day, but pack animal hikers would be limited to TWO.

(4) For those few stock animals that are allowed into the backcountry, there should be much stricter limitations on their physical range. Specifically, stock animals should be kept away as far as feasible from hiking trails (especially from watersheds and meadows that lie near hiking trails), and should most certainly be prohibited from fragile ecosystems at high elevation. At the same time (and it should go without saying), limitations on the movement of animals should be regulated by strictly enforced rules, not by means of more physical obstacles (fences and the like) that merely infringe further upon the wilderness by threatening to turn it visually into a farm.

(5) Ideally, in the SEKI-as on the Appalachian trail corridor-there should be a sharp differentiation between paths for hikers on foot and paths for stock animals,. Where there already exist fire roads, old jeep roads, etc. (i.e. that are NOT part of major hiking trails.), stock animals should be compelled to use them instead of hiking trails.

(6) Finally, our National Park Service should treat (and budget for) the need to reverse the impact caused by pack animals at the same level of priority as any other aspect of park integrity. Preserving the natural condition of hiking trails and their environs will benefit the park's reputation and encourage more citizens of this country to turn off their PC's and take a hike in the wilderness of two of our most spectacular national treasures!

Correspondence ID: 831 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: American Whitewater Conservation/Preservation
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

American Whitewater appreciates having the opportunity to comment on the Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement ("WSPIEIS"), and we thank you for extending the deadline for comments. With over 800,000 acres of wilderness, we write to highlight the importance of human-powered boating opportunities on the rivers within the Parks and related Wilderness Areas. The Stewardship Plan and EIS provide management direction and important updates to management documents, including the 1986 Backcountry Management and California Wilderness Action of 1984, and current interagency policies regarding the preservation of Wilderness character within the Park.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have over 5,000 members and 100 locally-based affiliate clubs, and represent the conservation interests of tens of thousands of whitewater enthusiasts across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. Founding principles of our organization include protection of the wilderness character of waterways and promotion of the recreational value of wilderness rivers.

A significant percentage of American Whitewater members reside in California and throughout the western U.S. and regularly take advantage of the opportunities for wilderness exploration that the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park and its related Wilderness Areas offer. The Middle and South Fork Kings, Roaring River, and the Kaweah and its tributaries provide thrilling and technically challenging whitewater recreation opportunities for advanced boaters. And while these recreational opportunities are important, we place a high value on protecting naturally functioning river ecosystems, including their fish and wildlife, geomorphic processes, and incredible riparian forests, where natural successional processes dominate. For our members, the river systems and associated riparian zones represent defining landscape features of the Park that are highly valued by our membership and the general public.

Our members regularly enjoy a number of rivers within the Parks and their related Wilderness Areas. Unlike nearby rivers in the Sierra Nevadas, which are heavily impacted by hydropower operations, the rivers in the Parks offer unparalleled and

unique opportunities for wilderness exploration. They allow for primitive and unconfined recreation, where individuals have freedom to explore, can practice self-sufficiency, and engage in a direct experience with the natural environment. The paddling experience on each one of these rivers offers a unique experience and opportunity for boaters to develop a strong connection with the Sequoia-Kings Parks and related Wilderness Area. The following includes some of the rivers that provide this experience.

Middle Fork Kings - This river is among the most highly respected and sought after runs of the trans Sierra kayaking trips. While the timespan that this river is boatable is short (during Spring runoff) and the hike in is challenging, paddlers come from around the country and the world to experience the stunning and sheer Kings Canyon, Tehipite Valley and granite Tehipite Dome. The most difficult part of this section is just outside the park boundary from Tehipite Valley to the confluence with the SF Kings. Typical trips down this section last 4 to 5 days. South Fork Kings - Paddlers enjoy the headwaters of this river, but it has not become a widely popular run due to the difficulty of hiking over the crest to the put-in. Those who do hike in find an easier route from the end of Cedar Grove Road, and enjoy the river to the confluence with Bubbs Creek. Roaring River - This river has a series of impressive cascades and waterfalls, the last few of which have been boated. Boaters hauled their boats a very short way up the canyon. We also know of boaters who have planned to backpack boats into the upper reaches of Roaring River and then boat down into Cedar Grove. The flow window would be very narrow on the low end and only highly skilled and strong experts would have the confidence to attempt such a trip. Clover Creek - Kayakers primarily boat this Creek near Wuksachi Lodge. They carry their boats about 1 mile upstream along the creek then paddle back down. There is a narrow boating window of a few days to a week or so when flows are optimum for this trip. The streambed is attractive to boaters for its granite slides, falls and potholes. North Fork Kaweah - Kayakers often carry their boats upstream from Yucca Creek several miles then paddle back down over beautiful bedrock slides and drops. Boaters have also launched further upstream from the Cherry Flat/ Tarbell Pocket area to boat on down to Yucca Creek. Middle Fork Kaweah - Paddling from Hospital Rock picnic area down to Potwisha or further to the park boundary has been popular since it was first run by the pioneering team of Lars Holbeck and Chuck Stanley in 1984. This section is especially popular in the winter as flows begin to rise. Boaters have also taken to hiking further and further up trails to access the high sections of the Middle Fork. The trek is made infrequently as the river is difficult to access and the whitewater is only for experts. Those who make the trek enjoy the geology of the river valley - primarily granite with metamorphic sections. Kaweah - This river offers a technical run with waterfalls, hydraulics and continuously challenging rapids for the advanced kayaker. The Kaweah and its tributaries are popular among boaters for wilderness exploration. Kayakers paddling the gateway section of the Main Kaweah previously accessed the river at the Gateway Bridge. Since access was lost at this location, paddlers now often launch after driving 1/2 mile into Sequoia National Park. East Fork Kaweah - Boating on this river is only done by upper echelon expert boaters. While boating on this river is mostly outside the park, starting at Oak Grove Bridge, there are opportunities on the upper reaches within the park boundaries. North Fork Kern - First run in 1981 by Royal Robins, the headwaters of the NF Kern is one of the easiest of the high elevation expedition boating trips. Getting to the put-in requires boaters to carry their equipment from Whitney Portal and over Muir Pass to the river. The Kern is unique in that it flows North to South while all other major Sierra rivers flow east to west.

Paddlers who have enjoyed the wilderness rivers of the Park for the past several decades have developed a deep appreciation for the unique resources these rivers provide. The wilderness setting and diversity of these rivers allows individuals to find solitude and explore areas of the park where one can find new adventures and rivers to explore.

We note, however, that there is a ban on all watercraft on the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Kings River between its confluence with Bubbs Creek and the Kings Canyon National Park border. This reach flows in part through the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Area. American Whitewater respectfully requests that a fresh look be taken at this closure in the management and planning process and that lifting the ban be considered in the EIS as an alternative.

Rivers are natural trails that flow through the landscape, reflecting the unique character of the geology and natural beauty of the area. Floating down a river is likely the most ancient form of travel and exploration aside from walking. Paddling is human-powered, place-based, low-impact, quiet, non-consumptive, skill-based, and Wilderness-compliant. In fact, prohibiting the activity from a Wilderness area is inconsistent with the Wilderness Act.

Wilderness Areas are "devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historical use", and the Wilderness Act describes "wilderness" as an area that has "outstanding opportunities for ... a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." Paddling is a form of recreation that is a core part of the Act, and the founders of the Wilderness concept, including Olaus Murie, Bob Marshall and Aldo Leopold wrote specifically of the unique perspective and adventure that paddling in Wilderness areas offer. Exploring the rivers in Sequoia-Kings National Park and their related Wilderness Areas by hand-powered craft affords visitors with a unique opportunity to experience park resources, enjoy the river and riparian landscape, and provides inspirational opportunities to experience wild rivers. We ask that you value this experience equally with the experiences sought by other Park visitors. The core element of paddling is experiencing a place through interaction with moving water, going with the natural flow and experiencing the landscape from the river's perspective.

Paddling meets with the Park Service's 2006 Management Policy 6.4.3, which pertains to Wilderness and requires that "recreational uses of wilderness will be of a type and nature that ensures that its use and enjoyment (1) will leave it unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness; (2) provides for the protection of the area as wilderness, and (3) provides for the preservation of wilderness character."

Further, prohibiting recreation on the Wild and Scenic South Fork Kings River, both inside and outside of the designated Wilderness Area, is inconsistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. As a general rule, paddling is allowed and fully supported on the 200(+) Wild and Scenic Rivers throughout the country. The general basis for this policy is found within the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) itself, providing in relevant part:

"Each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall be administered in such manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values."

In many cases paddling is recognized as an ORV, or as an integral component of a more general "recreation" ORV. On these rivers, paddling is protected and enhanced under the first part of Section 1281 .. On Wild and Scenic Rivers where paddling is not specifically recognized as an ORV, agencies support paddling because paddling does not "substantially interfere" with public enjoyment of rivers. Far from substantially interfering, paddling itself is a powerful means for the public to use and enjoy Wild and Scenic Rivers. Paddling is protected and enhanced on these rivers under the second part of Section 1281. For these reasons the public is generally encouraged to enjoy Wild and Scenic Rivers in canoes, kayaks and rafts.

Concerns over safety hazards - including large woody debris - need not shape a ban on human-powered watercraft within the park. People who kayak, canoe and raft recognize that woody debris and other natural obstacles are an inherent part of every river and have no expectation that they be removed. We understand what the NPS General Management Policy 6.4.1 clearly outlines - that "park visitors need to accept wilderness on its own unique terms."

While paddlers are a relatively small segment of back country users in the Park, we recognize that all visitors have an impact on the environment. River exploration within the Park has similar impacts as hiking, backpacking, and backcountry fishing, although use of a trail is one way with the river serving as the return route. We support continued management of backcountry users, where hand-powered boating (including kayaking, rafting, pack -rafting) is recognized as a wilderness, compliant activity for all wilderness zones in the park. Our organization has a history of focusing our public education efforts on establishing a wilderness ethic for paddlers who explore wilderness rivers. We regularly publish articles in our journal to educate paddlers on safety issues that must be considered on wilderness trips and the importance of practicing Leave No Trace principles including the need to carry rather than drag boats. We will continue to educate our members on this ethic in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. We would like to remain on the mailing list for any future updates or opportunities for public input. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding public use of rivers in the Park.

Sincerely,

Dave Steindorf California Stewardship Director

Correspondence ID: 832 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

I would like to comment on the SEKI Wilderness Stewardship plan. I have been backpacking in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks since I was 14 years old (I am now 60 years old). I've had some of the best experiences of my life in these parks and would very much like to see them protected for future generations .

A major concern of mine has been the impact of commercial stock animals in the parks. The stock animals cause many problems that I have noticed over the years. They tear up the trails and make them hard to hike on and very unpleasant because they are so dusty, they cause swarms of flies, create animal waste on trails and in campsites, use noisy bells, require fences in some areas which are unsightly, and trample wet meadows. I have had to get off the trail in dangerous areas because of large pack animal groups, I have had piles of fresh horse manure and urine in the middle of my camp site, I have seen sensitive wet meadows trampled into mud by stock animals that should not be allowed in the area.

There is also the issue of IUxury in the back country. I have backpacked several days into "wilderness" areas only to end up camping next to a group with folding tables, chairs, wine, and gourmet food all brought in by commercial stock. These were young people in good shape who should carry what they need themselves. If someone requires that type of IUxury in the park they can stay in a lodge. Just this last August in Sequoia at lower Soldier Lake there were two different groups that had their food and gear brought in by commercial pack animals which was completely unnecessary. One group of pack animals tore up the wet meadow that had a sign saying "no camping- sensitive area", and the other group of pack animals defecated and urinated in our campsite. Needless to say, my wife and I were not pleased. The people these pack animals were servicing were half our age and in good shape. The animals just allowed these people to arrive in their base camp nice and fresh without expending much energy.

Over the years I have seen piles of bottles and cans in camping areas in Sequoia and Kings Canyon, and I am sure that these piles of trash are from pack animal groups, and not from backpackers, as the items would be too heavy for a backpacker to carry. Some of these trash piles appear older in age, but I am sure the items were brought in by pack animals and should have been carried out by pack animals.

I feel that commercial pack animals should no longer be allowed into the parks, period. Times change and the impact of the pack animals is just too great. If they are allowed (for some reason)they should be restricted to certain trails and should be required to

bring in their own feed. NO Grazing should be allowed- high elevation vegetation is just too sensitive to allow pack animals to graze. Pack animal groups should be very small to reduce their impact- 4 animals and 4 people maximum. Pack animals should be reserved for only those with physical disabilities, and the items carried in by pack animals should be pure camping necessities and no luxury items. Commercial pack animals should be subject to the same trailhead quota system as backpackers out of simple fairness.

If the decision is to allow some pack animals into the park there needs to be a trail system for backpackers only so they can enjoy the wilderness without all the flies, manure, and deep dust on the trails. In addition, there should be a substantial fee paid to the park for each pack animal per trip to help pay for trail maintenance as the pack animals tear up the trails much more than a backpacker on foot.

There is also the issue of pack animals bringing in non-native invasive weeds on their hooves and in their feed. There needs to be some regulation that addresses this problem.

As you can tell, I have very strong feeling regarding pack animals in the parks. Over my 46 years of backpacking I have seen a lot of abused trails, meadows, and campsites caused by pack animals. I have hiked on many trails that had a layer 6 inches deep with dust, with swarms of flies bothering me which were caused by pack animals. I always wondered why this could possibly be allowed- it just isn't right. The want of a few people to make money with pack animals should not be allowed to have such a huge impact on the environment and wilderness hikers. These parks need to be protected for future generations.

I also have a suggestion for the maximum group size for backpackers, as group size for everyone is an important issue in the parks. I would suggest that backpacking groups be restricted to a maximum of 8 people. Any more than that is too large an impact on campsites and their camping neighbors.

Correspondence ID: 833 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to comment on the SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Let me say first I am both a horse owner/wilderness rider and a back-packer.

As a dual user of the wilderness areas I feel I might have a balance opinion.

My thoughts are: 1) limit stock to 10 animals/ pack train 2) Pack in all feed- no grazing 3) Maintain a few trails designated for hikers only.

I have no problem meeting and passing stock on the trails as long as the strings are of reasonable length <10 animals. by that I mean the buer all number of stock needs to be reduced not the same number of animals in more tains.

I think the commercial stock outfits should be required to rehab overused camps and perform trail maintainance.

Correspondence ID: 834 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to comment on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Based on personal experience backpacking in the Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks over the last 40 years, it is clearly evident that impacts from commercial Pack Stock operators are seriously damaging the fragile alpine environment.

The gouging of thousands of hooves is seriously eroding the trails in many areas,which are a shared resource. This creates onerous safety and aesthetic problems for all users. In many places pack trains wander off the trail tread, particularly in wet or marshy areas leaving devastated terrain.

In meadows where stock are allowed to graze the impact is blatantly evident. I have seen hooves puncture the soil 6 to 10 inches. In damp conditions, meadows can be ruined in this way. I have also observed streamsidess and lakeshores where the soils and vegetation have been trampled and eroded.

Pack animal waste polluting the water is a serious concern. Many times I have observed pack trains at stream crossings where

numerous animals have defecated and urinated into the water, the very same source people are drinking from.

The campsites used by packers are most often seriously impacted. They are typically dusty, over used and have large messy fire rings. The surrounding area is usually over grazed and littered with manure. The trees near these campsites often show signs of limbs being sawed or chopped off for firewood.

The degradation of the high country by commercial pack stock use is of great concern to me. Where possible I now try to avoid visiting areas they tend to frequent.

It seems to me there are a number of inequities in the balance of regulations applied to commercial pack stock businesses as opposed to hikers. The fact that packers have guaranteed access while hikers are subject to strict quotas is basically unfair.

Based on the conditions alluded to above the Wilderness Stewardship Plan should fully address all impacts of commercial pack stock on natural resources, facilities, including trails, campsites, effects on other users and to evaluate the cumulative impact of user numbers. The following are suggested regulations to be considered:

* There is considerable physical evidence that the overall numbers of pack stock must be reduced in the subject wilderness. Group size maximums of 25 head of stock and 15 people serves only to compound the above sited impacts and should be greatly reduced. I suggest a maximum of 6 people and 8 head of stock.

* Cross-country travel by pack stock should not be allowed. The impact of even one group of stock churning up the ground in sensitive high altitude areas can last for years or decades.

* A trail impact mitigation fee should be levied on pack stock users, the proceeds of which should be used strictly to restore damaged trails in the wilderness.

* An analysis should be made for implementing an elevation-based restriction on camping by stock groups. The high alpine environment is the most vulnerable to degradation by stock related impacts and should have strong protection. I recommend no stock camps above 9,000 feet.

* Campfires should be further restricted and prohibited in the higher elevations. Under no circumstances should commercial enterprises be allowed to transport firewood into restricted high elevation areas.

One of the biggest changes I have noticed in the last decade is the dramatic increase in jet airplane traffic over the Sierra both commercial and military. The noise pollution from these aircraft has moved beyond annoyance to a threat to the nature of this wilderness. The Park Service cannot ignore this pervasive annoyance. Some standard for noise must be adopted so that there will be a tool to reduce this inescapable impact

Correspondence ID: 835 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to request that all the impacts of stock grazing and commercial pack services be included in the scoping for the new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. As a regular visitor to the backcountry I can attest that nothing degrades the wilderness or the user experience as much as current stock use does.

I do not advocate for the elimination of all stock use. Commercial pack services and private stock use provide valuable access to the very young, the very old, the infirm and disabled. All of whom should be able to enjoy our public lands, albeit without deteriorating the eco system or the experience of others. That said, these lands were not set aside for the profits of commercial enterprises. The new plan should impose fees that pay for the damage stock do and to help fund the park like other concessioners do.

In order to protect the environment, stock should be prohibited from grazing at high elevation, required to to have weed free feed and strictly limited to 10 animals. Abuse of stock limits and grazing reached the absurd on one trip when my party passed a group of people who had 60 animals and were headed to a pristine 10,000 ft. lake. When we asked about their group size, they explained that they had three permits and had met up in the wilderness.

To protect the wilderness experience of all users, stock should not wear bells, which destroy the natural silence, and fences should be removed, as they are the antithesis of the concept of wilderness. Moreover, all animals should be required to wear manure catchers. I have had the misfortune of watching stock stand in the shallows of a lake while they defecate and urinate in the water. Manure should be disposed of away from both water and trails. Not only do manure filled trails ruin the experience for hikers, but I have also noticed that Black Flies seem only to be a problem in areas and trails heavily used by stock. Getting

rid of the manure would alleviate this problem.

Lastly, commercial outfitters should not be allowed to write their own permits and should have strict quotas like other users do. It is the height of unfairness that the public has to compete for permits to use our public lands, when a few commercial outfitters can use and abuse these same lands for private profit with few restrictions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Correspondence ID: 836 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: High sierra Unit of the Back Country Horsemen of California Recreational Groups
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich:

I am writing as legal counsel to the High Sierra Unit of the Back Country Horsemen of California in response to the National Park Service's ("NPS") scoping process for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness and John Krebs Wilderness areas. Set out below are concerns and issues of the High Sierra Unit of the Back Country Horsemen of California related to the scope of alternatives which may be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement. Specifically and as discussed below, NPS cannot, as a matter of law, consider any alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness and John Krebs Wilderness Stewardship Plan that bans the use of stock in these areas. In addition, all such alternatives must be consistent with the protection and preservation of historical stock activity which is set out in the laws that pertain to these areas.

As NPS is aware, stock use has occurred in the areas which are now the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks since the mid-1800s. Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan, Sequoia & Kings Canyon (1986 Revision) at 5 [hereinafter "Stock Plan"] (Att. 1). In the late 1800s, pack and saddle stock were used for recreational purposes in these areas and this activity predates the establishment of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Id. at 5, 9. The Sequoia-Kings Canyon General Management Plan also recognizes that stock use is one of the traditional activities in the area. GMP Vol. 1 at 68-69 (Att. 2).

While the areas at issue are the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness and John Krebs Wilderness, Congress stated that, with respect to pack and saddle stock activities, these specific wilderness areas were to be managed in a manner "consistent with the statutory authority under which the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks were created" as well as the Wilderness Act. House Report No. 110-694 (*4)(Att. 3). Thus, it is important to recognize the statutory authority which created both these Parks.

Sequoia National Park was established in 1890 for the purpose of being "set apart as a public park, or pleasure ground, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." 16 U.S.C. ' 41 (Att. 4). To ensure that the people could continue to enjoy and recreate in this "pleasure ground," Congress directed the Department of the Interior to "provide for the preservation from injury of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities or wonders within [the Park]" and the retention of these specific assets "in their natural condition." 16 U.S.C. ' 43(Att. 4). Congress also directed that regulations, which would include any management plans, must be "primarily aimed at the freest use of said park for recreation purposes by the public" as well as to prevent "injury or spoliation" to the three specific categories of assets (timber, natural curiosities and wonders within the park) which would otherwise preclude this enjoyment. 16 U.S.C. ' 45b (emphasis added)(Att. 5).

Thus, it is clear that Congress directed the Department of the Interior to implement regulations "for the preservation of [Sequoia National Park] in a state of nature so far as is consistent with the purposes of this Act," which purposes were to ensure that the Park was for "the benefit and enjoyment of the people" and was managed to allow the "freest use" for recreation purposes. 16 U.S.C. ' 41, 45b (Att. 4, 5). Perhaps aware of likely future user conflicts, Congress also directed that no one person or group should be given "exclusive privilege[s]" over the use of any parts or trails in Sequoia National Park. 16 U.S.C. ' 45d (Att.6). [1]- If stock use were prohibited from any area, backpackers would effectively have an "exclusive privilege" in that area. Therefore, when backpackers express a personal distaste for sharing trails with stock and seek to ban stock use for that reason, they are essentially seeking exclusive use of that trail, which is contrary to law.]

In establishing Kings Canyon National Park, Congress did not include the same language with regard to protecting against injury or spoliation, but simply stated that Kings Canyon National Park was established "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" and mandated that the area was to be administered "for public recreational purposes." 16 U.S.C. ' 80, 80b (emphasis added)(Att. 7). The NPS's Organic Act mandates that the agency's regulation of both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks must "conform to the fundamental purpose" of these Parks as set out by Congress and must be set up to ensure that this recreation opportunity is "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." 16 U.S.C. ' 1 (Att. 8).

The original area of the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Area was designated by the California Wilderness Act of 1984, P.L. 98-425; 98 Stat. 1619 (Sept. 28, 1984). An additional portion of the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Area, referred to as the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Addition, was recently added onto the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Area pursuant to

the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, ' 1903)(March 30, 2009). This statute also established the John Krebs Wilderness Area. This authorizing legislation for these two areas stated that the areas were to be administered in accordance with the Wilderness Act, 16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq., subject to the following explicit condition:

Nothing in this [authorization] precludes horseback riding in, or the entry of recreational or commercial saddle or pack stock [into the John Krebs Wilderness Area or the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Addition].

Public Law 111-11, ' 1903(March 30, 2009)(emphasis added)(Att. 9). With regard to this section of the statute, House Report No. 110-694 (*4) stated:

While horseback riding and pack and saddle stock are authorized uses within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, the Secretary has the authority to manage such uses in accordance with laws applicable to the park, and consistent with park planning documents. The use of pack and saddle stock is an appropriate and historically accepted recreational activity, as documented in the 2006 General Management Plan for the parks. The Secretary may authorize horseback riding in, or the entry of recreational or commercial saddle or pack stock into, an area designated as wilderness by this Act. The Committee intends that any decision made to authorize these activities shall be consistent with the statutory authority under which Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks were created, and the Wilderness Act, including section 4(d)(5) related to commercial services. Any authorization of these activities shall be subject to conditions and restrictions deemed necessary to protect park resources and wilderness values.

(Emphasis added)(Att. 3).

Given this explicit language in the authorizing statute, the Wilderness Act cannot be cited as a basis to preclude in any way horseback riding in the John Krebs Wilderness Area or the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Addition. In fact, horseback riding is the only public use which is explicitly authorized in these Wilderness Areas. Moreover, because this protection was an explicit condition for the areas being designated as Wilderness Areas, any violation of this explicit condition would not only be a violation of law, it would be renegeing on a promise made to horseback riders in order to obtain their agreement to the establishment of the Johns Krebs Wilderness and the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Addition.

While the Wilderness Act was established in 1964 "[i]n order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States" (16 U.S.C. ' 1131(a)), the National Historic Preservation Act ("NHPA") was established two years later in 1966 because of Congress' belief that "the historical and cultural foundations of the [United States] should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people." 16 U.S.C. ' 470(b)(2)(Att. 10). As the NHPA held:

[T]he preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans.

16 U.S.C. ' 470(b)(4)(Att. 10). In fact, the Wilderness Act itself recognizes the importance of preserving historical activities and states that "wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of [] recreational [] and historical use." 16 U.S.C. ' 1133(b)(emphasis added).

As NPS has found, "[t]he use of pack and saddle stock is still recognized as a traditional, historically and culturally significant, and legitimate activity that will continue in the backcountry of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks." Stock Plan at 5 (Att. 1). Therefore, the historic stock activity in the backcountry of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is protected by the Wilderness Act, the specific statutes establishing both the Johns Krebs Wilderness and the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness areas and the NHPA as well. Because of this determination by Congress, NPS cannot, as a matter of law, consider any alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness and John Krebs Wilderness Stewardship Plan that bans the use of stock in these areas.

As counsel for the High Sierra Unit of the Back Country Horsemen of California, thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments related to the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness and John Krebs Wilderness areas.

Very truly yours,

The Garden law Firm, P.C

Kevin R. Garden

cc: High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Correspondence ID: 837 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear superintendent,

Please "scope" options to vastly decrease the impact of shod stock on SEKI.

Specifically:

1) Max stock in partly limit 10 2) Limit stock to designated trails above 7,500'. 3) No off-trail stock travel above 7,500'. 4) No grazing above 7,500'. 5) Imported weed free feed in SEKI. 6) Manure catches required for all stock. 7) Dunnage limit of 50 lbs @ person. 8) Establish "foot travel" only trails. 9) Packer quotas based on weekly (not seasonal) amount (i.e, late winter means loss of days) 10) eliminate "day rides" in SEKI. 11) Direct shod stock use to lower elevation trails in SEKI. 12) Evaluate use of " non shod" stock (burros, llamas, etc) to be hed by perbetrion employes of consumers.

I appreciate this opportunity for comment and the upcoming efforts of staff to reate scoping opers.

Correspondence ID: 838 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Fax
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent:

First of all, I'd like to say that the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park personnel has been doing a commendable job of managing and protecting the designated wilderness areas in the two parks over the past four decades. They have acted within the scopes of the wilderness legislations - Wilderness Act of 1964 (1978 amended version), California Wilderness Act of 1984, and the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. With over 700,000 wilderness acres to manage and protect, this takes a lot of manpower and regulations to keep these areas in its primeval character and influence without much of man's permanent improvements or habitation. I am very appreciative to have ventured many times in the SEKI backcountry and found the wilderness being maintained as defined. Not much needs to be done since nature cannot be improved on by man. The forces of nature will slowly affect the area without man's help and it will keep evolving as it has done for millions of years before we were here. Having visited the unique and unparalleled areas such as Evolution Basin, Dusy Basin, Upper Basin, Rae Lakes Basin, Big Horn Plateau, and parts of Mineral King to name a few, over the past four decades repeatedly, I find that these areas have remained virtually the same - reinforcing the stewardship plan of protecting these areas and preserving their wilderness character. Well done NPS!

Recreational use is important to me because it gives me an outlet to calm down all the stress I've built up living in the populated areas of human habitation. Everyone needs to get away from the doldrums of everyday life where we have to work for a living. That's why fishing, hiking, camping, swimming, exploring are important activities for everyone. Now, these can be done in nonwilderness areas, too, but the magnificence and wildness of the wilderness enhances these activities even to a greater degree and gives me a more unforgettable experience. Obviously, such activities as hunting, mining, OHV / A TV use, logging, etc., would be and should be inappropriate in wilderness areas. Even the use of helicopters to drop off wilderness visitors is inappropriate. Stock use and non-motorized mountain bicycles should be acceptable as long as they don't grossly damage the trails or scare the wild animals.

I think the practice of not having wood fires above 9,500-10,000 feet is good. The lack of wood in certain areas is a big issue and there needs to be some wood naturally decaying via organisms rather than used in a campfire. And there's plenty of areas below this elevation where there is a large abundance of wood to have a campfire. On most of my treks to the wilderness, I generally avoid campfires since I'm already in my sleeping bag at dusk. I find it not a necessary activity for a camping experience since there are other means - such as gas stoves - to prepare meals. I think some campers feel secure with a fire in that it may keep wild animals away but a wilderness experience is having wild animals around you. Enjoy them. As for group size, I think 6 should be the maximum and no more than 12 should camp together in a common area. If possible, designated campsites with bear boxes should be in place in popular areas; otherwise, common sense of storing food out of reach of critters is a must. Bear-proof canisters should be mandatory for all hikers carrying food.

The most fragile areas of the wilderness are those areas that have lush, moist meadows and the fragile shorelines around the alpine lakes. No one should be allowed to camp in meadows or closer than 100 feet of the lake's edge. Other than this, all wilderness areas are special and need to be protected in an equal manner. I feel the park service is already doing what needs to be done on minimum requirements. There's always the question of overgrazing and the impact of stock use on trails in wet areas and meadows. Appropriate management activities and techniques should be followed in accordance with the many past studies on the environmental impact of stock use by the resource management division. Eventually, a point will be reached where there is minimal acceptable damage within the tolerable limits set by the park.

If everyone adheres to the phrase "leave no trace", our wilderness resources should and will be protected to eternity. There should not be any special strategy other than common sense. Leave nature alone and nature should take care of itself without the interference from man. Hopefully, nature will be able to handle the added ozone and increasing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

My thoughts on commercial services in the wilderness such as guided hiking, guided stock, and guided climbing trips are not very favorable but because the National Parks are funded in part by the tax-paying public and if more people are given a chance

to experience these wilderness areas, then more people will be into preserving and protecting these areas. There has to be some give and take compromise. However, I can see some limits put on these commercial services so they don't get out of hand. People who use these services have more wealth and power and we need to accommodate some of them to help out with this stewardship plan. I also think we need to plug the wilderness areas more at the main visitor centers since most of our park visitors only see about 10% of the park - mainly by automobile. By having dramatic, surround-sound, wide-screen videos taken of these magnificent wilderness areas and put on the amphitheaters' screens to be experienced by even those who may be disabled and will never be able to experience an actual outing, this simulated taste of our wilderness will get even more people to want to preserve and protect such areas. I've seen some of this already being done but we need even more. I know that the bottom line is that it costs money to produce such grand work.

In dosing, all I can say is that we will keep these areas as they are forever. Hopefully, with our financial crisis in this country, we won't have to down size or sell off our National Park and Forest lands, wilderness and non-wilderness, for the sake of paying off our debts. Or even close down parks or cut budgets like the state of California has done. That would be sad for all Americans.

Correspondence ID: 839 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

Thank you for beginning the important work of creating a "Wilderness Stewardship Plan" for SEKI, and providing an opportunity for public input during the project. I am writing to submit my comments for the scoping phase of this project. My very first backpacking trip into the Sierra Nevada was to visit the Monarch Wilderness in Kings Canyon. It is an enduring and cherished memory, and Kings Canyon has special significance for me.

I am very concerned about the impact that pack animal use has on the High Sierra environment, and feel that the rules, fees and enforcement with respect to the wilderness areas of the park is in need of significant review and revision. I understand that the National Park Service must operate under the conflicting mandates of public access and resource preservation. I think as a guiding principal that has precedent in previous NPS policies and decisions, preservation of unique and fragile resources must trump broad public access. The wilderness areas of SEKI, along with the rest of the Sierra are a shared resource of international significance that are under extreme pressure, and as such, high impact uses must be balanced against the health of the resource.

Generally, as a high impact and destructive mode of transportation, I feel that pack animal use should be significantly curtailed in the wilderness areas of the park, and that those restrictions should be progressive as a function of elevation and resource fragility. Specifically, there should be no grazing permitted anywhere within the SEKI boundaries. Backpackers must pack in what they need, packout their waste and practice leave no trace ethics. Pack users should be required to pack-in feed. There is no reason that pack animals and the commercial concerns that use them should not be required to operate under the same rules. As a matter of fact, allowing commercial pack outfits to operate under more lenient access and use rules is a violation of equal access laws for federal property and subjects the NPS to legal risk.

Additionally, the use of pack animals should be limited to providing access for people who are physically unable to use the resource on foot and carry a pack. The number of animals per party should be reduced to a maximum of 10, and ideally, the ratio of pack animals to people should small enough to support carriage of only required gear and food, and not luxury items. In other words all efforts should be to minimize the impact of the use of these animals and only permit that impact to provide access to those who would otherwise be unable to use and appreciate the high country wilderness area. This is required to comply with Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the extent necessary. Our wilderness areas are not there as a commercial catalyst. In fact, they are just the opposite.

I visit the high country in search of a wilderness experience and solitude, and hiking over fly ridden manure piles and through the dust lanes created or exacerbated by pack animals ruins that experience. I would like to see a network of foot travel only trails in the wilderness areas and throughout SEKI. Pack users should be required to stay on those designated trails, keep pack animals tied up when not in use and under no circumstances be permitted to take pack animals of trail cross-country.

Wilderness areas are, in part, defined by their absence of man made improvements. Foot trails themselves are an accepted incursion, but fences for the support of pack animals are incompatible with wilderness areas and completely spoil the wilderness experience. They should be removed and other methods used to restrain animals. Destroying the wilderness quality with fencing in support of a minority of stock users is inexcusable.

Access to the wilderness should be equally available to all. The practice of allowing guaranteed access to commercial stock outfits and their clients when private hikers are turned away due to quotas or other limits is completely unacceptable. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial outfits should be at the back of the line. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system and only be allowed to employ commercial services after obtaining a permit.

Finally, the commercial Bearpaw High Sierra Camp and pack station buildings at Mineral King should be removed, not replaced, and the affected sites restored.

If this were a different time, with many fewer people, and much more wilderness available, it might be easier to overlook the destruction caused by the use of pack animals to access the Sierras. But the simple fact there is not nearly enough, and what we have is under very heavy use, makes it necessary to phase out damaging uses of this land.

Thank you for what you do, for your time and for your consideration of my comments.

Correspondence ID: 840 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,02,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrick,

We are writing to offer a few comments regarding the urgent need to provide protection for our magnificent wilderness within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

It is our understanding that current policies allow unlimited commercial services-no ceiling on the number of stock animals allowed to serve this vast wilderness area. Such policies, which apparently have been in place for nearly thirty years, are sorely in need of updating.

We are long-time visitors to both Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks, having back-packed into them many times since 1952, so we are familiar with these national treasures. We are offering the following brief comments, intending to provide input for the scoping process involved in the updating of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

1. First and foremost, stock use must be limited. No grazing should be allowed, at least higher in elevation than, say 9500 feet, and commercial pack stock services should be limited in number (10 or fewer per group) so as to serve only those unable to hike or carry a backpack.
2. All users, including those entering the area using stock, should be allowed to compete for wilderness permits via a single system. The playing field should be leveled so that commercial stock outfits or their clients are not allowed to buy access while others are turned away.
3. Appropriate fee should be charged to commercial stock outfits-sufficient to cover the costs of repairing trail damage and enforcing regulations.

Please keep us informed of your progress regarding these issues.

Correspondence ID: 841 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,02,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: 1) Stock use Mules and horses. Packing into the Wilderness with stock.

2) Camping with stock being able to graze and have camp fires above 10,000 ft. in August.

3) People who cannot get into the high country on foot get a great deal of enjoyment by going in with stock. Part of the enjoyment is being able to have a campfire.

4) Make it easier for stock use. Good stock camps.

5) Trails are in good shape, continue to keep up with trail maintenance.

6) Stock users should be able to camp and graze where they feel they will have the least impact on the wilderness. Sportive than stock camps are not the best for camping and grazing.

7) Commercial stock users bring in a great deal of revenue to the area. They should be encouraged to do more with less restorations.

Correspondence ID: 842 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: Wilderness Provides the citizens of the U.S. and visitors from around the world with an experience of what wild America once was with a minimum of constraints. Hiking, boating, climbing, riding, horses, and use of pack stock were all part of the opening and expansion of the American frontier. Wilderness areas by nature should include all such activities our forefathers also fished and hunted on our frontier. While hunting is avoided in some areas to provide game to view the abundance of fish should be

available for the angler.

Camp fires have been eliminated by elevation rather than by fire supply. Fire provide comfort along with a social focus at the end of day. It makes 700 wonder when after you have camped in a no fire area only to see it burned over by a wildfire that was let burn.

the availability of professional guide services is essential to ensure the access and wise use of our wild areas to those who do not have the skills to enjoy these areas on their own.

Access to our countries great areas should be guaranteed to all americans.

Correspondence ID: 843 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: I believe that it is important for commercial guided stock trips because it gives people that would not otherwise have the opportunity to go back in and see the National park because of age or disability. Fishing is important for people to be able to have the experience of catching your dinner and cooking it over the campfire. It is just not camping with out having a campfire to sit around and talk in the evening.

Correspondence ID: 844 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,06,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Park Form
Correspondence: #1 That new rangers LISTEN to old packers that have done their job for 10-20 years!

Iron out the inconsistencies in the decisions made.

Don't assume that every stock user is an idiot. Some have higher education than the rangers.

6) Don't limit camping to designated places if the ranger has never seen a camp after an outside packer has left.

The decisions of rangers destroy more habitat than what a good packer would by choosing his own camp. ie one use every 3 years has way less impact than putting everybody in the same place time after time.

and last notify the individual in charge of sending out pack trips of any changes in camping or grazing. sometimes the packer informed never gets back to the pack station for weeks at a time.

Also hire people of color. Not just rich white folk with nothing better to do than tell people what they can't do.

P.S. I am a poor black person.

Correspondence ID: 845 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,17,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Goodrich:

As you embark on a new comprehensive Wilderness Plan, I write to plead with you to make all your decisions with an overriding judgment: how each of these decisions will affect the goal of preserving the state of "wilderness" in SEKI. And when a decision involves adjudicating between commercial interest in using SEKI vs. wilderness preservation, please keep in mind that only the long term interest in preserving wilderness in as pristine state as possible has any true merit. Almost any sort of commercial use of these areas is antithetical to wilderness preservation. I so want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to have an High Sierra experience as uplifting as I did when I first hiked in 60 years ago.

Our planet is being despoiled at an increasing rate. The tendency is to throw up our hands in despair, feeling that that the need for some to earn a living using OUR wilderness is only a fair middle ground between opposing points of view regarding wilderness usage. But it takes little foresight to realize that in response to increasing population pressure the ability to preserve pristine wilderness will become even more difficult than it is today. Therefore the strongest possible regulations regarding control of despoiling activities is more necessary today than ever before. It is true that our High Sierras are only a microcosm of Earth's surface, but it is a vital beacon for most of the country and possibly other similar areas on our planet. What is decided here may well serve as a model around the globe.

It is my understanding that you are to limit commercial use of SEKI "to the extent necessary". It is my fervent hope that in deciding what is "the extent necessary" you will consider all that I have written in the two prior paragraphs. I would like to express my own opinion regarding some of the issues that may be confronted when drawing up the new Wilderness Plan in the hope that you might be influenced in deciding what is necessary:

Stock animals in the high sierra:

Nothing is so unnerving as to be hiking and have to step off the trail to allow a caravan of 4 legged beasts crank past you as they leave a trail of their excrement. It smells bad. IN the "wilderness" such 4 legged animals never chose to climb into the higher mountain area. Man has introduced them here, and their dropping have brought weed seeds into higher areas. There grazing has deleterious effects on the high alpine area. A disproportionate amount of trail maintenance funds is allotted to caring for the trails made passable to pack animals, disproportionate because the larger number of citizens in the high country have not ridden there on a mount. Hikers truly need trails that are not open to beast of burden.

Who gets into the high country, why and in what manner:

Equity would require that commercial operators should not have preference in permits for citizens to use SEKI lands, yet during peak seasons the commercial operators have unfettered access to high trails, while hikers often cannot get a permit. It would be great if this is truly a way for the disabled to share the high country, but of course this is not the case. I have seen large camps set up with coolers of beverage. Somehow I've never seen truly disabled; instead I have seen "luxury" equipment hauled up so that the campsite looks like one you see at a drive-up campsite.

A few simple measures to ameliorate these problems:

1. All who want permits to the high country are in the same pool of people. 2. Some trails are dedicated to foot traffic only; money allocated for trail maintenance should be allotted for the two trail types in proportion to the number of citizens using each type. 3 .. To diminish the impact on the environment of pack animals: A. Sharply limit the total number of animals per group; 10 is a fair number. B. Animal must be limited to approved trails only; C. Animals must not be allowed to graze, nor fences constructed to corral them. D. Animals must not transport weed seeds on hooves into high country. E. Droppings from these animals must be removed and packed out.

Costs for all these control measures should be borne by the interests that use these animals in our wilderness areas for business reasons. Costs to repair damage done by these animals, and costs to administer regulations and assure compliance should be raised by sufficient assessments (fees) to commercial operators. The mood in the country and in Washington is now swinging markedly to the opinion that there should not be a transfer of funds from the general public to support operations that help a small segment in their business, unless there exists a national interest in that business.

Not only is there no national interest in such financial support of the commercial stock industry, but there is ample evidence that the detriment wrought on the environment, per person, brought up on horseback, is very much greater than the detrimental influence of one person hiking up.

I sincerely hope that these viewpoints will help you devise a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan that is more equitable and forward looking and will correct deficiencies that exist today

Correspondence ID: 846 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.17,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Karen,

I am writing to you regarding the SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I am a teacher who backpacks in the Sierra, usually the SEKI area, during the summer.

The only negative side to backpacking is the impact I experience from stock animals and pack stock services. Can you believe it! The impact of this "industry" is so visible that it actually diminishes the wilderness experience.

My list of personal complaints is long. I've waited off trail, in the dust, for long (sometimes two together) pack trains to pass. I've seen invasive weeds growing along trails. I've stepped over and around horse and mule poop and held my nose when walking through their pee. I've seen degraded river and creek banks, shattered by hooves. I've been bit by those huge flies that seem to breed at pack stock campsites. All I can say is enough is enough. Why can't this industry be regulated! They have abused their right to be in the wilderness, and that's a fact.

Please, please, please do something to limit their impact and make them responsible for maintaining the areas that they negatively affect. SEKI is a jewel that has been tarnished by their abuse. Help! SEKI needs your protection.

Respectfully,

Correspondence ID: 847 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

I am pleased to know that you are accepting comments regarding plans for a new "Wilderness Stewardship Plan". I have been writing letters for years regarding my concerns about backcountry management and the regulation of stock use. I am a frequent visitor to Sequoia and Kings Canyon. I have hiked the John Muir trail as well as the High Sierra trail and many other areas in the two parks.

My enjoyment of the wilderness has been greatly impacted by what I would consider as abuse and overuse of stock/pack animals. I have commented to management via writing letters many times and would like to ask that this time my input be considered in your formulation of a new plan.

There are many problems I have observed and experienced.

#1: Stock cause terrible wear and tear to the trail system. I have seen large groups of animals cutting across switchbacks and walking off trail. I think they should only be allowed in small numbers and their operators should be observed from time to time. I would like to be able to have trails that are designated for foot traffic only. The dust and manure on the trails from stock is outrageous. Why not designate certain areas for them and other areas off limits?

#2: The manure they leave behind should not be allowed to litter the meadows and trails. There are "catchers" that the horses could wear. I am also concerned that hikers are encouraged to "leave no trace" but the horses leave hay and weed seeds all over the wilderness. Why aren't they required to feed animals a weed free mix? Prior to entry and during their stay in the backcountry. Outfitters should have to pack out the manure with them, not dispose of it anywhere in the park.

#3 Because of such large groups being "packed" into the backcountry with all their unnecessary gear it takes away from my wilderness experience. When I hike into an area with only my backpack and get to a lake where there are huge tarps, tents, "shower areas", "bathrooms", "kitchens", fire pits, ice chests and coolers etc. set up by an outfitter for their group it detracts from my experience.

There is no reason for them to have all that STUFF in there. It causes terrible strain on the wilderness. Besides the fact that these people could walk in (most of them at least) I believe that the use of stock should be reserved for persons who have a disability which prevents them from hiking or carrying a backpack.

#4 What is the permit process for pack stock? I believe it should be as strictly regulated as I am when I try to get into a trailhead. There seems to be no quota or limit on them. I believe everyone should have to get a permit via the SAME system. Pack stock users should pay for permits to offset the trail damage they cause. I know that Park service spends money for fixing trails and the hikers are doing minimal use damage compared to packstock users.

#5 How do you control or oversee that packstock are not damaging meadows? I know there are rules but I see them broken all the time. They tie horses to trees for long periods, let them roam free (un-hobbled) to graze and they wear down the grass and plants in some areas to the dirt. Compacting soils and damaging plant life as well as jeopardizing the health of the large trees. If outfitters brought feed in with them it would protect the meadows. Also- bells on horses is a terrible disturbance to the peace one wants on a trip in the wilderness.

Thank you for your time. Please consider these issues and how they may be addressed. I would like to know what your decision is throughout the process.

Correspondence ID: 848 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms Taylor-Goodrich,

Please accept this letter as response to your request for comments in the process to create a Wilderness Stewardship Plan and EIS.

Like many others who love the outdoors, I have spent a lot of time in the Sierras. The country never grows old, and the desire to return never diminishes. The place is magnificent. I would like to give you some of my thoughts.

Permits and Quotas- I fully support permit and quota systems necessary to prevent degradation of the Sierra's natural condition

from overuse. When demand exceeds carrying capacity, such systems must be implemented. Without this form of management the wilderness and pristine conditions are negatively impacted. I've followed the Mt. Whitney situation from no controls to the current lottery system, and the place now looks better than ever. I applaud.

Grazing should not be allowed.- As stated in the 2006 UC Davis publication Mountain Meadows of the Sierra Nevada by Purdy and Moyle, page 31:

"The single biggest factor that reduces meadow resiliency and hence promotes degradation in the Sierra Nevada is grazing, particularly in the way it can change meadow hydrology."

Grazing is an unnatural condition. It destroys natural resources and often destroys proper functioning condition. In extreme cases, it can degrade meadows with enough severity that selfrestoration when grazing is removed cannot happen. I suspect grazing exists only because it was there 'first'. But imagine if recreational visitation were the historic use. Would any land manager seriously consider introduction of grazing? I hope that when you write the management plan you are able to consider how SEKI should be managed from a biological viewpoint, and can ignore the pressures of destructive historic uses.

My travels in the Sierras include on- and off-trail. Off-trail often involves passing ungrazed meadows, They are magnificent, exciting, exhilarating places abundant with undisturbed, flourishing life - undisturbed save for the wildlife enjoying them as much as I. I recall early one morning passing the Summit Meadow at the top of the Haiwee trail on my way out after a several day backpack. The grass was tall and getting taller, flowers were blooming, and in its midst was a large brown bear minding his business. Most of the rest of the day, at the beginning of July, was spent descending the Haiwee trail, passing the annual herd coming uphill for their summer grazing. My constant thought that day was the devastation ahead for Summit Meadow, and the routing of that bear from peace in his home. These were not pretty thoughts.

I also recall camping at Big Whitney Meadow before grazing had stopped. We chose a place on the southeast boundary, a low hill comfortably distant from the meadow and the cattle in it. But sometime before morning they found us, and we woke encircled by curious cows. We shooed them out of our camp but they would not stay shooed, and returned to fracture our preferred solitude. That's not the kind of experience visitors should risk.

At another time I watched the herd in Monache Meadow, with several cows standing in the Kern River, one of them urinating into it. It was horrid to see this pristine stream so senselessly used as a sewer. Not so blatant obvious, but just as real, were the cow pies away from the river discharging rain-dissolved manure into the Kern. This must be stopped.

And, would that we could find a way to stop the bellowing and mooring. Visitors want respite from unnatural noises - it's part of the recreational experience.

Please, no grazing. It's just plain inappropriate. It does not belong in a National Park.

Pack Stock- Is there any way you can cut down on pack stock? In some places they overwhelm, with trails becoming manure-stained pathways. I especially object to contamination of creeks similar to the cattle mentioned above. Trail manure runs with snowmelt or rain into creeks and lakes. I recall crossing Mono Pass when the trail was almost a continuous path of horse manure. Snow melt was following the trail, carrying the pollution along with it.

Nor can I ever forget watching a horse crossing the Little Kern just at the junction with the Kern at the Forks of the Kern. The wrangler's pack horse defecated into the Little Kern as it was crossing. Bright green horse manure, since these animals had apparently just come from the pack station, dropped into the Kern, staining it green. The green gradually disappeared as the manure was carried downstream. Is there anything you can do?

Correspondence ID: 849 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich:

I am writing with regards to the Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI)- Please protect does crown jewels of the High Sierra- My comments:

SEKI began airlifting large bear- proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s before potable canisters are widely available, SEKI should stop installing these permanent improvements and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

SEKI should stop its extensive routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn, sheep surveys, collars, supplemental crews, etc. helicopters are present almost daily in the wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft over flights is everywhere. The NPS should end its reliance on mechanized transport.

To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups commercial packet services should be strictly limited to serving only

those who require their services and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or expensive gear. The NPS has long ignored the wilderness act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary" while courts have ruled that terms such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests and other luxury items are unnecessary for the improvements of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything.

All visitors to SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or stay limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away.

Finally, SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds from visible seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the back country-while giving only lip service to prevention measures. The NPS should 1 prohibit open sales of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed. 2 require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks, and 3 require all stock animal hooves and coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections).

Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode relying on expensive, intrusive and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully and sincerely

Correspondence ID: 850 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.17,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Karen:

This letter is concerning the new Wilderness Plan for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. The people who have a true passion for the wilderness are not all pine cone eating extremists as we are depicted by the commercial stock outfits. I have lived in the Eastern Sierras and hiked the back country consistently for over 20 years. The first half of my life I spent working with horses in Virginia. I love horses. For my first couple years hiking I was blind to the damage not understanding the fragile environment of the Sierras. Now I am in disbelief as to the damage the animals cause. It completely sucks the wilderness experience out of hiking. Walking for miles in pulverized dust, flies, urine, dislodged rocks and cut trails that are eroded into deep loose soil ditches that sometimes are 6 or more swatches wide, (the horses, mules and hikers do not want to walk in them so they keep making more as the terrain allows). It is especially unpleasant to taste the urine in the pulverized talc the horse's metal shoes pound out. I am sickened watching horses urinating, defecating, rolling and grazing in our fragile high alpine meadows and contaminating our mountain streams and lakes. This past winter with the extreme snow amounts has made our meadows even more vulnerable to damage.

Last year a friend encountered a rotting dead horse by a meadow that had grazed on a poisonous plant. In response to the horse dying the group ripped out all the plants that looked like the one that they thought the horse ate. It seems as if the meadows would have been protected long ago.

Over the years I have seen 4 wrecks. That is what the packers call accidents with the pack animals. The worst I have seen are on the passes or on slick rocks. Around 10 years back my husband and I saw a packer and spoke to him as we were hiking in and he was heading out with a large string of horses and mules. We were on the top of the pass. He was clearly rushing to get them out before dark. When hiking out 4 days later the pretty dappled grey Arabian on the end of the packer's string was down in the boulders at the top of the east side of the pass dead. The entire string of pack animals went over the cliff. We followed a solid trail of blood and gore on the 8 mile hike out. They are told get the horses out even if they are severely injured. We hiked over pieces of horses or mules the entire way out. It was sick! They do not want to deal with moving the dead animals.

On August 2nd of this month I witnessed a couple of packers on horses with a string of five mules coming down Duck Pass. The animals were forced through steep snow fields. They had no idea where the trail was under the snow. I watched in disbelief as the horses and mules broke through the snow slipping, sliding and breaking through in some areas. There are sharp rocks and crevices under that snowfield! I followed behind anticipating another wreck. I looked down and saw blood. I alerted the commercial packers that one of the animals was bleeding. They heard me and ignored me. They did not even dismount to check the animals. A group of tourist day hikers followed a steady blood trail out for four miles! They took pictures of the blood and commented it ruined their hike and their day. The packers were desperate to go over that snow field. I know horses and what they can handle. Not only did they have no respect for their animals but they cut the switch backs all the way down the pass. They tore up what the volunteers and rangers worked so hard on last summer. (The Commercial stock outfits pay about \$200 a year and only do trail maintenance if it benefits their cause). This letter is not about cruelty to animals but disrespect of our

National Parks. All one has to do is simply walk on a stock trail then walk on a hiker trail and it is crystal clear. This craziness of 16 stock animals and our other destructive actions as humans will end as we are becoming more educated. I just hope the damage is reversible. We as hikers are just not as cohesive as a group to fight this battle. We are not making a living off the Sierras as the packers have for generations. I hope the little bit of money the packers supply to the Forest Service doesn't cloud the issue during these years of budget cuts. Our 45 years of paying taxes should count for something. Please help change our destructive actions that date back 100 years.

Correspondence ID: 851 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Karen:

I am writing in response to the new Wilderness Plan for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. As a 23 year resident in the Sierras the Commercial Stock Outfits are my biggest gripe. The summers are short and trying to maximize the outdoors experience hiking and backpacking is quickly ruined once the passes are open enough for the pack animals. The urine, manure, flies and pulverized trails has become more than I can handle. I now find my wife and I hiking more cross country which does its own damage which we hate but have no choice.

I am not a purist or radical by any means. We have snowmobiles, mountain bikes, cross country and downhill skis. We even do a bit of four wheeling. We need to limit the pack string sizes and the damage the animals do along with too large of parties for the sites. I know we aren't yet to the point of eliminating the outfits completely. We see that the majority of the large parties do not understand the fragile environment and the packers are not going to act like sheriffs with paying customers. They also need to have more designated stock trails. I know that they generate needed money in these lean times but to have the outdoor experience of a small number of pack trip customers ruin the experience for the thousands of us on foot is not right. We also put money into the Forest Service through taxes. I would gladly give the money we now send the High Sierra Hikers Association to you if we start seeing needed changes.

Correspondence ID: 852 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Superintendent:

I am writing to comment on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and provide suggestions to improve the condition of the SEKI wilderness and the experience for the many users of this wonderful park.

While I have been backpacking in Sequoia-Kings since the 70's, I am not entirely against the use of stock animals by other travelers. I just feel strongly that their use shouldn't damage the resource or take away from the experience of hikers like myself. Here are my suggestions:

If I have to get a Wilderness Permit according to the quota system, then people using stock outfits should go through the same process. I resent that if I paid for a trip I wouldn't have to worry about the permit. Enough with the horse manure on the trail! Why can't you require the stock animals to wear those things and carry out the manure? I have to camp away from water sources but they do their business right next to creeks and lakes. Disgusting! I know when I take the main trails in the park, I'm sure to come across evidence of stock. I go off trail to get away from them. Please outlaw letting people take their stock animals anywhere they want and leave some places for us die-hards. I've seen some really stomped-on meadows and think it would be a good idea to require the pack outfits to bring in food for their animals, rather than letting them graze wherever they choose. Every time I see a train of stock animals, I cannot BELIEVE that the National Park Service thinks that my dog does more damage or ruins other people's experience more than a string of 20 mules!!!! Have a certification process (the owner pays!) for those well-behaved dogs that don't chase animals, bark incessantly, or bite other hikers. The Delta Society and other therapy and service animal organizations have rigorous dog + handler tests that would permit people like me to enjoy the mountains with my canine friend while preserving the safety of park animals and visitors. Please contact me, Ms. Taylor-Goodrich, if you would like my support in researching this policy change.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my comments.

Correspondence ID: 853 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent,

I am amazed to understand how anyone who is responsible for keeping a precious piece of rural estate pristine would allow it to fall into disrepair.

I am an eight-one year old who has hiked and camped in the High Sierras when the air was clean. The streams had the sweetest,

coldest best tasting water anywhere.

Now the trails are filed with manure, pack animals urinate in the streams. On one occasion I was camped off trail and during the night a bunch of pack animals with bells blazing come right throw my camp site.

I would urge you to do everything possible to return this High sierras to the best possible condition- It's never the wrong time to do the right thing!

Correspondence ID: 854 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.22,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich:

I am writing in reference to the SEKT's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I have just returned from a 6 day loop trip out to the Miter Basin, coming in over Cottonwood Pass and leaving via New Army Pass. I have also gone on annual backpacking trips into Sequoia and Kings canyon, out of various trailheads off Highway 395.

I have always been concerned about pack stock use in these parks, and in the Sierra in general. This year, as in every year, we have had to hike trails that are dusty, loose, and manure strewn, thanks to pack stock. We camped in sites where pack animals have recently defecated and urinated. We have seen beautiful meadows disturbed by the heavy feet of the animals, creating mud and destroying the fragile grasses and flowers. This year, as in many years, we were camped over 11,000', and there was still evidence of frequent stock usage. While we hiked in from the trailhead carrying our heavy packs, we encountered two different groups of pad animals carrying supplies for able-bodied hikers—one group had their packs carried in so they could continue on to hike and fish from the drop off site, and a second group had the packers carry their supplies to Soldier lake so they could base camp from there. Both of these groups consisted of young to middle-aged men, who were clearly perfectly able to hike on their own. In prior years I have seen pack stock carry in chairs, large tents, coolers, and alcoholic beverages, creating a luxury camp environment which is inconsistent with a true wilderness experience.

I am concerned about all this from a variety of angles. Environmentally, pack stock are a disaster, destroying fragile ecosystems with their feet, contaminating water sources with their wastes, and potentially spreading invasive weeds and plants. Weed free feed should be used as well, for this reason. Stock should be limited to designated trails only, at low elevations, and smaller groups, and outfitters should be required to pay appropriate fees to mitigate the damage they cause. Feed should be carried in, so that fragile grasses are not consumed. Aesthetically, stock should wear manure catchers so that hikers don't have to hike through flies and piles of manure on the trails. Non-necessities and luxury items should be prohibited. From a fairness perspective, packers should not be allowed to avoid the quota system—permits should be granted to hikers via a single system, and once the permit is granted the hiker can contract with a pack company if they wish.

My father first took me backpacking when I was six years old, and instilled in me a true appreciation of the wilderness and the high Sierra. The wilderness experience at that time encompassed peace and quiet, beautiful meadows, and streams and lakes that you could dip your Sierra Oub cup in and drink from. He taught me to value simplicity and ingenuity and to get along with only what you can carry on your back. Now we have to filter our water, trudge through manure and muddy or dusty trails, and camp next to people who are sipping on a beer while sitting in their lawn chairs. It's time to get back to a pure wilderness experience, and limit the environmental and aesthetic disaster created by excessive pack stock in these unique and special areas.

Thank you-

Correspondence ID: 855 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.22,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Hello Karen Taylor-Goodrich,

I had the pleasure of meeting you at a meeting on Lacu Ln. in Bishop early this year. We had an extended conversation on High Sierra issues.

I spoke with you about my opposition to the commercial use of SEKI wilderness.

I am sure that you have seen this letter from the high sierra hikers association.

These are the issues I discussed with you. I do not have the time to hand write all the points addressed in the letter but I totally agree with them!!

I hope you remember that I told you I have been backpacking the High sierra on solo month long trips for 21 years now.

I have seen 1st hand the damage that stock travel have done to my beloved Sierra and ask that you PLEASE do all you can to help stop this abuse.

Sorry about including this form letter from the High Sierra High association, but this letter explains my views in a more concise form that I could do.

I continue to offer my free consulting service to you based on my 20+ years of backpacking the Sierra.

Correspondence ID: 856 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.22,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich,

This letter provides my comments on the proposed Sequoia and Kings Canyon (SEKI) Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I am pleased, but also somewhat concerned, to hear that the SEKI Wilderness Plan is moving forward. I'm pleased because a strong, new plan is vital; concerned, because of my fear that once again commercial packer interests will dominate the result to the detriment of the SEKI wilderness and those of us who enjoy its peace, solitude and environmental integrity. What is particularly vexing is that the science is clear, the research by both the Park Service and outside experts unanimous, and yet somehow those elements are pushed aside and the same old heavy-impact commercial use wins again. Let's make sure that doesn't happen this time.

Packers play a part and have a place in the wilderness, but not unlimited right to use and abuse this precious, very fragile, environment.

Here are my specific recommendations:

1. Low Impact Rules Should Apply to All. Many times I have defended the quota system and strict regulation of access for light-footed hikers, only to see the heaviest impact users of all waltz in with no restrictions. This is unfair and completely counter-productive to a healthy wilderness environment. Quotas and access rules should be based on real impact, with rules for all that bear some resemblance to the extent of that impact. Packers shouldn't have pre-guarantees for permits.
2. Specific Measures to Reduce Impact Should Be Spelled Out for Packstock. Limit the number of animals per train, and the number of trains, and the load they can carry.
3. Limit the Geography. "Multiple Use" doesn't mean that those who inflict the most damage should be able to go and inflict that anywhere and everywhere. Let's have some hiker-only areas, both trails and even entire basins. Stock shouldn't be able to just wander anywhere for grazing or to get to a particular spot more quickly.
4. Fair Fees For Heavy Users. To the extent you do allow packer use, let them pay fees that are in proportion to the impact they make. We all know the primary cause of those miles long dusty troughs we call trails that always happen to be lined up with pack stations! Remedial trail work for damage caused by all those heavy hooves, weed abatement, and other recovery work should be borne primarily by the people who profited from and caused the harm.
5. Why are we still allowing grazing in Wilderness Areas? With millions of acres available for taxpayer-subsidized private grazing, why can't we set aside some areas-such as our wilderness areas-where we can enjoy nature without having to share it with our bovine pals? At a bare minimum, as your own scientist's say, there should be no grazing above 9,700 feet.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of these suggestions, and for your hard work in bringing this plan to completion. I look forward to seeing a fair and equitable document, based on science, fact, and respect for this precious, ever-diminishing jewel called SEKI Wilderness.

Correspondence ID: 857 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Karen Taylor-Goodrich,

Here are comments on Sequoia Kings (SEKI) Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

I am pleased that SEKI has began process of writing a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. We have an opportunity to bring SEKI management up to the standards of the 21st century. In particular, It is time now to revise our approach to stock use in the Sierra. Current stock use in the reflects a 19th century approach that was consistent with the resource utilization paradigm of the time. However, our current understanding of adverse environmental impacts on a limited and fragile ecosystem necessitates a new approach. This new approach should gradually reduce stock use in the Sierra towards an eventual cessation of overnight stock trips. During the transition towards this long-term goal, stock use should be restricted to select trails, feed should be packed-in and certified weed-free, and manure catchers need to be mandated. These steps will not be popular with the minority of stock users, but will bring SEKI management into alignment with 21st century science and 21st century use patterns.

Correspondence ID: 858 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.22,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich:

I would like to comment on SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan based on my own decades of experience hiking in these parks, which I and many others consider the most spectacular parts of the Sierra Nevada.

Since there are many negative impacts associated with commercial packers, these services should not be given preferential treatment for wilderness permits and should only be allowed for people who physically cannot hike. I have been on many hikes and seen able-bodied people being transported into the wilderness along with extensive amounts of unnecessary gear. As a result, trails are covered with manure, bells interfere with natural sounds, weeds are introduced, water sources are polluted, and trails are degraded.

I would like to see foot-tavel-only trails established so that hikers can escape these impacts. In addition, grazing should strictly limited, commercial stock outfits should be required to pay fees to cover the costs of repairing the damage they cause, the number of stock animals per group should be reduced, and their animals should be required towear "diapers." Finally, prevention measures should be required to deal with the threat of invasive weeds.

Thank you for considering my suggestions and I hope that SEKI can remain the spectacular place I have visited since my childhood in the 1950's.

Correspondence ID: 859 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent:

I have been coming to Mineral King since I was nine months old--first to the Hart cabin, then to the Bissiri cabin after I married. My grandfather Hart and his family first came to Mineral King near the end of the nineteenth century, so I do know a little about the area and the many changes which have taken place--some necessary and some not so necessary. Like you I am concerned about preserving the cultural and historical integrity of Mineral King as well as the surrounding wilderness area. I would like to add that I like many others in Mineral King worked tirelessly to bring about the inclusion of Mineral King in Sequoia National Park Every summer I have volunteered time and expertise to various programs for the Park. Now I would like to make a few suggestions relevant to the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

First, I would like to address the absence of a functioning pack station in Mineral King. When I was growing up, there were sometimes as many as four pack stations in the valley and one in Silver city. As a member of CNPS, I am very familiar with native plant life. After over a hundred years of stock usage in the Mineral King valley and surrounding "wilderness" area (cattle and horse grazing), I see no negative effect on the meadows or other vegetation--nor do I see any alien plants around the park corral or last pack station site. As I understand it, repeated testing of the water from the river below the station, have not revealed any negative impacts.

After WWII, with the advent of light weight materials and freeze dried food, back packing became popular, but two pack stations continued as a form of recreation Between 1996 and 2002, there was only one--not because of lack of public interest but because of too many restrictions from the Park--primarily, no day rides. How can a station operator survive a short season without day rides, his major source of income. He can tolerate all of the other restrictions, but he must be permitted to give day rides The infrastructure of the old station is still there and in fair condition. If no operators are available in California, advertise in other states, making it clear that day rides are permitted. Let packers take in supplies to trail crews--not helicopters. (Use helicopters only for emergency purposes. Their noise is certainly disruptive to a wilderness experience)/ Make running a pack station more attractive to an operator.

Pack animals may chop up the trail a little more than hikers, but their manure rapidly turns into compost and helps settles the dust--and fertilizes the neighboring plants along the trail--also does not appear to attract cowbirds.

The valley and the wilderness area surrounding it should be accessible to stock usage, but for safety reasons, if for no other reason, it should be guided--unless the stock is private. Both guided and private users of the trail would need to abide by those rules and regulations which are currently in place for back country trips--please, no new rules or regulations. What exists is adequate.

I have both backpacked and ridden stock into the areas included in the Krebs' Wilderness. Each experience has been delightful, but each experience is very different. Both experiences need to be made available in a wilderness area. There is still strong interest in horse activities among Mineral King visitors. To test the strength of that interest, a friend and I took a petition through the campground, and in two weekends gathered over three hundred signatures from people who would like to have a pack station -some who had come to Mineral King specifically, because they thought that there were still horses to rent. Without the provision for a pack station, the WSP discriminates against the needs of the elderly, the handicapped, and the small children who very much want to ride a real horse. The wilderness becomes completely inaccessible for these groups.

With society in its current state of decay, exposure to the nourishing power and beauty of the wilderness areas has become even more important. Let's not make the newly designated Kreb's Wilderness accessible to only a privileged few but make it

accessible to all of those who are willing to abide by reasonable rules and regulations for backcountry usage.

Secondly, I would like to comment on fishing in the wilderness area. For over one hundred and twenty five years, fishing has been an important tradition in the wilderness area. Fishing is a healthy activity for young and old, but the streams and lakes need some management. The WSP should include a component that provides for the restocking of fish in the lakes and streams. The money for a fishing license, as I understand it, goes to the Department of Fish and Game. If a license is required for fishing in the wilderness, shouldn't Fish and Game be permitted to plant fish in that area? Otherwise, no license should be needed in the wilderness area, or for that matter in the Mineral King valley where Fish and Game has no access.

Finally, I would like to see the WSP focus on specific techniques to be used in controlled burns within the wilderness. Certainly the continuing, long term effect on the forest is a prime consideration. But perhaps equally important is the immediate visual effect on visitors--to be seen for the next twentyfive to fifty years--especially when the area is large. Some poorly supervised past burns have burned unscheduled areas causing bad erosion, mudslides, and damage to streams, trails, and roads. The WSP should state that controlled burns be limited to very small areas, be well supervised and easily controlled. The 1400 acres in the Mosquito wilderness area, proposed to be burned this fall, is not a small area. I know that there are a lot of dead trees and duff between Mosquito Creek and Fowler Creek; I have been told that the plan is to burn mostly below the Tar Gap trail. .However, I question how easy it will be to control a 1400 acre of fire all burning at once--plus the amount of smoke generated. If such a large expanse of burning is considered necessary, wouldn't it be better to do it in small increments?

Thank you for giving my suggestions your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 860 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear folks,

I recently learned that the Park Service intends to create a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. This comes as very good news to me, since as a lifelong backpacker in the Sierras, I have become increasingly concerned about some of the changes I have observed while hiking the backcountry trails.

My husband and I backpack annually in the Sierras. He began when he was twelve (he celebrated his 60th birthday last year on the trail ascending to Silver Pass) and I have been enjoying those mountains with him for more than 20 consecutive years now, having begun visiting on my own when I was 18.

We have both become quite concerned about the increasing impact and destruction which we have observed as a result of heavy stock use, especially in connection with commercial pack outfits, on the trails and in the overall wilderness environment. We have stumbled over miles of trails, strewn with overturned rocks and manure, breathing dust mingled with dry, pulverized horse manure.

Often we have noticed that astounding numbers of animals are being used, not only to transport people, but to lavishly furnish their encampments with brightly decorated tables, chairs, extended kitchens, huge tents, inflatable boats, steak dinners, and even tiki torches on one occasion, arranged in front of each enormous tent! This type of encampment is sometimes hauled in and set up, at which time the horses depart, returning days later to collect everything and everyone. Thus they have actually made two round trips on the trails to allow a fairly small group of campers a bit of time "away from civilization", while being well supplied with a great many of the comforts of home. This sort of practice is destructive beyond all reason and it ruins the very Simplicity and solitude for which so many of us venture into the wilderness.

Of course the horses don't always leave the scene, and on several occasions we have listened all night to the bells of horses approaching in the dark, eventually arriving in our camp to mill around our tiny tent. This is not merely unpleasant, but quite unsafe. After chasing horses from my camp, and getting back to sleep, I have been awakened again in the early morning darkness, by the wranglers tearing off on horseback to find the wandering herd, later chasing them back along the trail in front of my tent. This is a ridiculous amount of chaos and disruption for people wanting a little peace and quiet.

For years, we have found that we must seek out cross country or primitive trail routes to find camps that are not polluted with manure and flies. While we find some marvelous country this way, we also must face much more difficult terrain than we would if we were able to use the marvelous network of long established trails. We are not getting any younger, so I don't know how much longer this particular alternative will exist for us.

A year ago when I backpacked in Glacier National Park, I was delighted to find that the trails were relatively clean and undamaged as a result of what seemed to be much lighter stock use than I notice in the parks and wildernesses of the High

Sierras. I met rangers there who had worked for years in California parks and who seemed quite familiar with the relatively filthy and overused condition of the trails there. They seemed as relieved as I was to find themselves in better circumstances.

Having accepted for years the need to control access by backpackers with entry quotas and other restrictions on wilderness use intended to minimize negative impact, I repeatedly observe the passage of pack trains, anyone of which rototills and soils the trail to an extent that could not be achieved by a thousand humans on foot. It is not fair for horse people to leave trails in a condition which makes their enjoyment impossible for anyone not riding a horse, but for large stretches of trail this has become the case. I have met many delightful packers over the years and I sympathize with their need to make their livings in mountains that they, too, love. My concerns are focused, though, on situations where use becomes overuse, and on the need to limit the disproportionate impact of people with stock. Without believing that it is just to prevent all people with stock from using the wilderness, it is quite clear to me that all sane notions of limiting negative impact have at some point been abandoned.

I strongly urge you to take this opportunity to take extensive measures to reverse and limit the destruction of the Parks by stock overuse. Probably you are even more aware than I am of ways that this can be done. Certainly lower limits on the number and size of pack trains are very much in order. I face trailhead quotas on every trip I take, sufficient to preserve the quality of the wilderness experience, and packers need to do the same.

It would be very helpful to reduce the the number of animals allowed for the support of each person in a group, so that excessive and inessential goods are not transported. It would be beneficial to encourage people to walk the trails, perhaps with some support from stock, and to find a way to encourage packers to provide more expeditions of this kind for people who are not disabled.

Stock should not be running free at night, trampling and soiling camps, or wearing bells to disrupt the quiet.

Packers can find ways to clean up after their animals, both along the trails and where they are tethered. I have seen manure catchers and cleanups performed in cities, and don't see why this cannot be done in the woods. Certainly commercial stock operations can pay fees to have trails cleaned and repaired or dispatch people to do this.

Perhaps more trails could be designated as foot trails only, or new trail plans could reflect the need for these. Meadows and lakes need much greater protection in order to maintain water quality. Certainly grazing needs to be more restricted and not allowed at all in the higher reaches of the parks, perhaps above 9,500 feet or so. I would definitely expect that anyplace that is too delicate for a campfire is far too delicate for a horse!

I appreciate the opportunity to encourage you to create a new plan that will reverse some of the very destructive trends that have degraded the experience of those of us who venture into the wilderness on foot, carrying the few things that are necessary to spend days and weeks in some of the most magnificent mountains on earth.

Thank you,

Correspondence ID:	861	Project:	33225	Document:	39967
Outside Organization:	Unaffiliated Individual				
Received:	Aug.31.2011 00:00:00				
Correspondence Type:	Letter				
Correspondence:	Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:				

This letter follows Mr. Eugene R. Wilson's of Shawnee, KS (see attached) regarding comments by the High Sierra Hikers Association, in particular the "Stock Use Plan." I am one of the other "geezers" with Mr. Wilson on this year's hike to Fifth Lake in the Big Pine Lakes area. This will be my 66th year in the California Sierra Nevada mountains. And, as a point of clarification, we always walk (not ride), both in and out. Again this year, we have arranged with a packer, Mr. M.A. Stewart of Glacier Pack Train, to deliver our supplies and to return to collect them for this year's 10-day trip.

It is unfortunate the High Sierra Hikers Association continues to publicize inaccurate facts such as in their recent newsletter with overstated claims of "unlimited commercial services" and "no ceiling on the number of stock animals". It has been our direct experience in all our annual trips that we have not seen any large pack trains of more than 5-6 stock animals nor have we seen any campsite evidence of animals "allowed to graze, trample, and pollute SEKI's fragile alpine meadows and lakeshores."

The California Sierra Nevada mountains are a unique and exceptional wilderness. I also have hiked and camped along the Appalachian Trail in the East and the Rocky Mountains and neither can compare with the high Sierras. I also appreciate greatly that both Sequoia (1890) and King Canyon (1940) were established as National Parks for continuous preservation and access to the public.

Lastly, it is our hope and desire to be able to continue to enjoy many more hiking, fishing and camping trips in the high Sierras, made possible only with the help of the individual owners and operators of the Eastern and Western High Sierra Packers Association.

Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:

Three of my friends and I are about to embark on my 40th annual back pack in the High Sierras, this year into the Big Pine Basin. (Two of the others have been enjoying the Sierras for over 60 years!) This year, we will base at Fifth Lake, and plan to overnight during our week up to Sam Mack Lake, hopefully with a hike up to Palisade Glacier, where we last visited in 1972. We are all over 70 years old, and are continually troubled that the High Sierra Hikers Association is advocating regulations that would not allow us to enjoy our precious Sierras any longer.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I wrote the Director of the Sierra National Forest Headquarters in Clovis expressing our dismay at the position that is being promoted by the High Sierra Hikers Association. My three back packing friends and I are all FORMER members of that Association, but we terminated our support when we realized that, by limiting our use of the commercial Packers, we could no longer get up to the mountains we love so much. We do not believe the Wilderness should be available only to young elite athletes who seem to have no use for any Packers. We urge, therefore, that your review of the Backpack Management Plan and the Stock Use Plan will take the desires of us older "geezers" into account and NOT prevent our future use of Packers to get us up to where we used to be able to get on our own. Hopefully, this letter and enclosure will become a part of the public comment you are seeking, and that both will serve as strong statements that the Wilderness should be available even to those of us who no longer possess the physical strength to get there on our own.

We appreciate all that you and your outstanding staff members do to make the forests and wilderness so vital an American treasure. Thank You!!

Correspondence ID: 862 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Please consider Stock users in the New Wilderness Stewardship Plan. This was the only vacation my family was ever able to take and the values and education of lakes, meadows, wild animals and animal husbandry is unmeasurable. My child is a respectable successful adult now passing on his values and traditions to his children. To teach them to respect their animals and environment is a responsibility we do not take lightly. My niece is now working in Sequoia Nat'l Park. Help keep our traditions alive by allowing stock use in the backcountry.

Correspondence ID: 863 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

I'm writing to convey my comments on livestock packing practices in Sequoia Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) as part of the National Park Services' (NPS) scoping process of a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Currently the existing Stock Use Plan, which nearly thirty years old, allows unlimited commercial services in the SEKI wilderness, and they place no ceiling on the number of stock animals allowed to graze, trample, and pollute SEKI's fragile alpine meadows and lakeshores.

The existing plan fails miserably at protecting SEKI's magnificent and fragile wilderness from high-impact uses. The NPS has promised several times over the past twenty years to update these plans to place adequate limits and controls on stock use and commercial businesses-which continue to exploit SEKI for private gain-but the NPS has never delivered on its promises.

As a mountaineer with over 40 years of experience in SEKI, I'm hoping that my comments will serve to help the NPS to align its current standards/practices in accordance with scientifically-based principles for wilderness protection in accordance with the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Specifically, the packstock operations within SEKI have over the last century resulted in contaminated ground and surface waters and eroded riparian stream banks that are trampled, denuded and polluted by manure, urine, odors, dust, and flies. These poor packstock management practices have contributed significantly to the sedimentation of spawning gravels, eliminating this habitat critical to sustaining ESA listed species.

No packstock grazing should be allowed anywhere within SEKI, or at the very minimum, grazing should be prohibited above 9,700 ft. elevation, as recommend many years ago by SEKI's own scientist. Stock users should be required to keep animals tied up when not in use and to supply packed-in weed free "feed" as is required by many other national parks. This would protect meadows, prevent animal from stomping through hiker's camps at night, preclude the need for annoying bells, reduce the pollution of campsites and water sources by animal wastes, decrease the spread of invasive weeds, and reduce conflicts with

wildlife such as the endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

A network of "foot-travel-only" trails should be established so that hikers who so desire may enjoy a wilderness experience free of the dust, flies, and manure that invariably litter and pollute trails used by stock animals. There is no valid reason why stock animals should be allowed to trample and pollute every single trail within SEKI. All visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. And where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. It's simply not fair that the clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits are guaranteed access when private (non-outfitted) hikers are being turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. Put simply, clients of the commercial outfits should not be allowed to "buy" access when others are being turned away. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip.

Commercial stock outfits (and/or their clients) should be required to pay fees sufficient to defray the Park Service's costs of repairing trail damage, monitoring stock impacts, controlling weeds, and enforcing regulations. Heavy use by commercial stock outfits pulverizes and destroys trails, and the NPS spends huge sums of taxpayers' money to fix trails, monitor meadows, track stock use, and control weeds. But the outfits pay paltry fees, usually only a couple hundred dollars per year, even as they rake in hefty profits. The commercial outfits get (literally) a free ride at the expense of taxpayers and park resources.

Stock animals should be required to stay on designated, maintained trails (i.e., no off-trail or "cross-country" travel by stock animals should be allowed). Scientists have repeatedly documented the many impacts of stock use, and recommended that stock animals be required to stay on designated trails.

In the face of these impacts, all packstock operations within SEKI should be upgraded to include tie downs in order to keep packstock out of the riparian corridor. In allotments where tie downs to protect the riparian corridor is deemed unfeasible or cost prohibitive I urge you to pursue a "No Grazing" policy to allow for these highly degraded systems to recover.

To minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those persons who are truly unable to hike or carry a backpack, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary or excessive gear and/or luxury items. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, excessive food/beverages, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and often damaging to the experience of other wilderness visitors), SEKI continues to allow commercial outfits to cater to anyone and to haul anything that their clients may desire. In short, despite the law, SEKI currently places no limits on commercial services. It is high time the NPS starts following the laws that it is charged with enforcing.

SEKI's limit on the number of stock animals per group should be reduced from the current 20 animals/party to 10 or fewer animals/group. Because parties using stock are known to cause more than ten times the impact of foot travelers, stock users should be required to minimize the number of animals, and to leave unnecessary and luxury items at home. This can be effectively accomplished in part via smaller group size limits. Large groups are also known to have substantial adverse effects on the experience of other wilderness visitors.

Bells should be prohibited and all fences should be removed. "Cowbells" placed on stock animals shatter the natural quiet and make sleep difficult for many backcountry campers. Fences ruin the scenery, giving the SEKI wilderness the look and feel of someone's private ranch. The many "drift fences" that currently exist throughout the SEKI backcountry were constructed primarily for the convenience of stock users. Hikers (the vast majority of users) and wildlife are substantially inconvenienced (and injured) by clumsy gates and rusty wire, for the sole benefit of a small handful of stock users. Some stock users and NPS personnel claim that the fences are needed for "resource protection." This is a ruse. Other methods (such as tie & feed, hobbles, and/or portable solar-electric fences) can be used to restrain animals, and stock users should be responsible for their own animals rather than the NPS constructing ugly, permanent fences across the landscape.

The NPS in SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is a well documented fact that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds, both from viable seeds in their manure, and from seeds imported on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks--even deep in the SEKI backcountry, but it has given little more than lip service to prevention measures.

The NPS in SEKI should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require the use of weed-free feed by all stock users; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks (and require that all animals be inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done. Stock users should be charged a fee to pay for the inspections). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail.

All stock animals should be required to wear "manure catchers" (i.e., diapers) to reduce water contamination from livestock manure. Manure catchers are now widely available, and manure should be either packed out or disposed far from surface water sources. This has been a standard practice the Grand Canyon for over 20 years.

The commercial Bearpaw "High Sierra Camp" should be closed, removed, and the site restored. This ugly and polluting commercial enterprise, located deep in the SEKI wilderness, exists solely to pamper its clients with soft beds, hot showers, flush toilets, and fancy chef-prepared meals. Weekly mule trains are needed to continually supply the camp with fresh food, beverages, linens, and other luxury items. Congress directed the Park Service in 1984 to monitor and annually report on impacts caused by the camp, but the NPS has never done so. Congress also authorized the NPS to remove the camp, and authorized the Secretary of Interior to formally designate the camp, and the area surrounding the camp, as wilderness once the camp is removed. (Currently, the camp and surrounding area are formally classified as a "potential wilderness addition. ") Tell SEKI that the Bearpaw camp is elitist, ugly, and polluting. If people want soft beds, fine dining, hot showers, flush toilets, and other comforts, they can and should stay in town (i.e., Lodgepole or Grant Grove). It is an affront to the SEKI wilderness to allow a commercial enterprise to provide luxury accommodations deep in the wilderness.

The former commercial pack station buildings at Mineral King should be removed, and not be replaced. The long-defunct commercial pack station at Mineral King is an eyesore that should be removed, and the site naturalized. The NPS should not relocate or reopen the pack station, as some commercial and pro-stock interests are now advocating. The areas accessed via Mineral King Valley are too high in elevation, too wet, and too fragile to support commercial packstock activities without causing substantial harm to natural resources and the experience of park visitors. And, if any for-profit commercial enterprise wants to operate "day rides" to squeeze money out of tourists, they should open a stables on private lands, not within SEKI.

The NPS needs to undertake a scientifically based monitoring program for assessing and redressing negative impacts from packstock grazing to both ground and surface waters, as well as the associated riparian corridors to avoid future degradation of these critical upstream tributaries. I appreciate your time, and look forward to hearing your decisions on the scoping process for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan in the SEKI.

Correspondence ID: 864 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich:

I am writing to offer some ideas for incorporation into SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan, which I understand is under development at this time. As a backpacker who has completed one or more extended trips in at least one of these parks every summer for the past 28 years, I have a great deal of love for SEKI's wilderness areas and a keen interest in their preservation for generations to come.

First and foremost, this plan must identify and assess the impacts made upon park lands and resources by an ever-expanding population, and devise effective means of mitigating these impacts in the long-term. I urge you to think in terms of decades, not years, as you assemble this management plan.

I also urge you to drop the "we've always done it this way" attitude, which only serves to stifle rational thinking and favor a permissiveness toward flagrant violators of good ecological practice. We tend not to question that which has always been, but I think this attitude needs to change now.

I am referring to the high impacts made by large animals--horses, mules and cattle--owned by commercial enterprises which appear to have carte blanche to do pretty much whatever they want, and are never, ever expected to pay for damages inflicted on the ecosystem. While backpackers are strictly limited by trailhead quotas and taught to bury wastes to keep streams clean, horse packers currently have no real limits on the number of stock they can take in (20 is hardly a "limin, or where they can go. Their animals litter the trails with large amounts of manure, often unavoidable by hikers, which draw flies and pollute streams. They trample meadows and campsites, giving the backcountry the feel of someone's ranch. I see this scenario every time I go out, so it's not a small problem, but a big, disgusting one, involving the entire Sierra Nevada. Yet, I have never read an EIR from any national forest or park that made any more than a passing reference to it. This is incomprehensible to me.

So, in order to mitigate the obvious impacts made by stock of all kinds, I urge you to:

1. Establish limits on the number of animals per party for commercial packers, ideally 10 or less.
2. Establish trailhead human quotas for packers; or alternatively, require their clients to compete with everyone else for wilderness permits in a single system. It's only fair.
3. Require stock animals to stay on designated trails, and disallow any off-trail stock use.
4. Require packers to clean up the manure dropped by their stock; this alone would serve to limit their numbers.
5. Require commercial packers to pay sufficient fees to cover trail maintenance & repair, monitoring of impacts, invasive weed control, and enforcement of regulations.
6. Designate a network of trails as "foot only" so that hikers can enjoy a wilderness experience free of the "barnyard effect" created by stock animals.
7. Prohibit any and all grazing in wilderness areas, including cattle. The pollution of streams and the introduction of invasive weeds is the concern here. Require the use of weed-free feed for all stock.
8. Be strict and proactive about controlling the introduction of invasive weeds by stock animals, i.e., establish a requirement for cleaning of coats and hooves prior to park entry, and enforce it.
9. Consider phasing out the use of horses and mules in favor of smaller animals

such as llamas, which would lessen the environmental impact in many ways.

In short, I feel that this management plan should face the real environmental costs of stock use in the backcountry, and take definitive steps to both limit that use and place those costs on the shoulders of the users, where they belong, rather than on the hiking and backpacking public, and the parks. With the diminishing financial resources of our parks, including SEKI, this makes even more sense now.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project and thank you for your consideration of my views.

Correspondence ID: 865 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Scoping Comments on Wilderness Stewardship Plan

What is important to you about recreational use? A primeval, quiet, natural environment, untrammled and undeveloped.

What types of activities do you consider important and appropriate in wilderness? hiking; backpacking; fishing; small party size; small size stock trips in less sensitive areas; research and monitoring of biological and botanical resources, climate change, air quality, and water quality.

What activities are inappropriate? campfires large guided hiking large guided stock trips any guided climbing bear boxes- Any increase in the number of bear boxes is a mistake. Too many people congregate around them, impacting the area adversely. Some backpackers and packers put their trash in them.

Are there any areas of the wilderness that warrant special consideration? wildlife corridors migration corridors any areas containing endangered species any sensitive area

What are appropriate management activities and techniques? Research, monitoring, restoration, removal of non-native species, enhancement, prescribed burns

What are possible strategies for protection of wilderness resources? Ban stock trips to degraded (by stock) trails and meadows. The National Park Service must make comments on general plans in the counties where the park is located. Poor air quality and greenhouse gases adversely impact plants and animals in the parks. Water quality and watersheds poorly managed by development on private land within the park's boundaries will negatively impact park wilderness. The National Park Service needs to write a letter to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District about the impact of air pollution and greenhouse gases on the park's resources.

Controlling access to wilderness. Overuse will impair the wilderness for future use and enjoyment.

Protect wildlife corridors, migration corridors, future places for plants and animals to move as foothills and mountains get warmer and drier by keeping trails away from them.

Protect archeological and ethnological resources by not putting them on maps or otherwise revealing them and keeping trails away from them.

Manage wilderness on an ecosystem level. Manage for adaptation to climate change. A reasonable fee should be charged to backpackers. A larger fee should be charged to commercial stock packers, perhaps based on number of stock animals and per person, because of the much larger impact of stock on meadows, trails, and lakes.

Stock use must be held to performance standards. Meaningful sanctions must be applied in a timely manner when infractions occur. This applies to packing outfits and Sierra Club backcountry trips alike. Some packing outfits have repeatedly violated wilderness rules. Why are they reissued permits? Permit fees should cover the total costs of annually rehabilitation equestrian trails and meadows, removing trash and dispersing campfire rings. The National Park Service must reduce human impacts on natural Resources.

Reduce the number of campers allowed in most popular areas. Some campsites are too crowded, too noisy, and too heavily impacted.

Resource protection and management are more important than recreation and visitor experience.

Correspondence ID: 866 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Sierra Nevada Resilient Habitats Campaign for the Sierra Club Conservation/Preservation
Received: Aug,03,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich,

The Sierra Club is pleased to submit these scoping comments on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement you plan to prepare for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. The Sierra Club regards the designated Wilderness in these parks as one of the jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System. We have supported the incremental additions to the Wilderness System in SEKI over the last several years. Hopefully the remaining portion of the south end of the Hockett Plateau that qualifies for wilderness designation will be added in the next few years to complete the designation process for SEKI. Careful and thoughtful Wilderness management according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will assure that the wilderness resource is perpetuated for future generations. We look forward to working with you as you review wilderness management in SEKI.

One of the most important management issues that must be considered is monitoring the condition of the wilderness resource. Base line data is needed so that over time changes can be detected. If changes are identified that are created by human use they may need to be corrected. Monitoring will be critical to detect climate change impacts. Monitoring is particularly important if adaptive management is used. If a solution to a problem is implemented then monitoring is critical so the results can be assessed. Too often monitoring is not adequately funded which undermines the entire premise of adaptive management. We urge you to assure there is adequate funding available for monitoring.

The Sierra Club worked tirelessly to assure passage of the Wilderness act in 1964. We strongly support strict adherence to the provisions of the Wilderness Act in management of designated Wilderness. The Wilderness Act prohibits the entry and use of mechanical equipment in designated wilderness. Sometimes that is difficult. Too often mechanical entry into Wilderness is viewed as the easy way to resolve a problem. The Wilderness Act does not provide for consideration of convenience for management. Its strong principles mandate maintaining a non-mechanized environment. The use of helicopters to supply back country rangers and trail crews is one example. The use of pack stock for that purpose may be time consuming and more expensive than helicopters but they are an intrusion into the Wilderness. Another example of mechanical equipment often used in Wilderness is the use of chain saws to clear trails instead of hand held cross cut saws. The Wilderness Act requires managing agencies to do a minimum tool analysis if there is no alternative to the use of mechanical equipment in Wilderness. We hope that issue is dealt with in depth as you review your Wilderness management plan at SEKI.

While we support the use of helicopters during a true emergency to save lives, we oppose the use of helicopters in Wilderness for the purpose of training Search And Rescue personnel. Training is not covered by the emergency exemptions of the Wilderness Act and, if it involves helicopter use, and especially helicopter landing, it should take place outside of Wilderness.

Climate change is another issue that you will need to consider. Base line data and continual monitoring will be needed to detect climate change induced impacts. The Wilderness Act will limit your options to deal with changes due to climate change. Any management actions to deal with problems that occur due to climate change must comply with that Act. One of the purposes of the Wilderness Act is to limit human interference with natural processes inside of designated Wilderness. We urge you to consider minimizing active, trammeling management projects to deal with impacts that are clearly the result of climate change. How natural processes respond to climate change may be valuable information useful in management of lands outside of Wilderness.

Management of areas with high visitor use will be an important issue for you to consider in your plan. Obviously wilderness near entry points at trail heads and popular destinations will receive the most impact from human use. We feel strongly that the use of "zoning" with the goal of applying different standards of management to portions of a Wilderness area is inappropriate. A system of zoning creates the possibility for allowing undesirable degradation and possibly illegal uses in less strictly regulated zones. We urge you to consider other options to deal with this problem. Wilderness Rangers are a very important asset that can be used for public education to reduce impacts in high use and environmentally sensitive areas. Designating campsites as you already do for example at Pear Lake is another method you have available. You may even need to prohibit overnight use in some intensely used and environmentally sensitive areas like you do at Heather Lake and Bull Frog Lake. Zoning Wilderness to allow less restrictive management near high impact and sensitive areas is a mistake. Wilderness is Wilderness. The Wilderness Act does not make exceptions for different levels of management to deal with high use areas.

Campfires in areas where wood is scarce can result in serious degradation of ground cover. You have already designated areas where no campfires are permitted. We urge you to retain that restriction. Monitoring will be necessary to consider changes in those rules as time passes. Allowing wood to be packed in would make it difficult to enforce the rules for all visitors. Please consider prohibiting the use of imported fire wood for all users, commercial and private parties, in all areas where camp fires are prohibited.

The Wilderness Act has a provision for using the "minimum tool" for difficult management problems. There should be a clear process or protocol for how this provision will be implemented. Too often in designated Wilderness some public land managers have used the easy way out to by pass this requirement. The use of helicopters and chain saws are examples of tempting methods to resolve a problem when other non-mechanical methods could be viable options. We urge you to include a clear non-arbitrary process to implement the minimum tool requirement in your revised plan. We realize that can lead to time consuming and expensive solutions but it is important to adhere to the concept of Wilderness as clearly defined in the Wilderness Act.

Wilderness Rangers have a very important role to play in Wilderness management. They are key in educating Wilderness users in order to reduce impacts. Their first priority should be to approach visitors in a friendly manner to explain the reason for rules

in order to obtain cooperative compliance. But if necessary they should issue citations to scoff-laws who refuse to comply. Of course Wilderness Rangers are important in search and rescue operations. They will need to have food and shelter. The use of helicopters to supply them should only be used when there is no other option. Temporary shelter such as tent cabins should be used wherever possible. The few permanent small structures you already have for them should be used in a manner that minimizes their visual and physical impacts on the surrounding Wilderness. Wilderness Rangers are one of the most important resources you have for managing Wilderness. They have been doing a good job and we hope you will find even better ways to use them in your revised Wilderness management plan.

All Wilderness permit holders should receive information before entering Wilderness about proper wilderness use and ethics. The information should at the very least accompany the permit when it is issued. The internet can be used for this purpose for those who get their permit ahead of time. Permit applicants could be required to complete an on line program to demonstrate their knowledge about impacts. Wilderness Rangers can make contacts to educate visitors near trail heads as much as possible.

Another method we would like to suggest for reducing user impacts is to educate visitors about using the concept of "Leave-No-Trace". You currently limit the size of groups that plan to travel off trail and cross country. This is especially important in sensitive alpine areas above the tree line. If group leaders are qualified as a "Leave No Trace Trainer" you could consider allowing them to lead slightly larger groups into these sensitive areas. This would not only reduce the impacts of the group, it could also have spin off benefits. Group participants who receive LNT training could use this knowledge to reduce their own impacts in future wilderness visits. The Sierra Club is also an outings organization that requires its leaders to meet strict standards. We have organized our own LNT Trainer program for leaders of backpack outings and would be glad to share information about that with you. Human impacts in sensitive areas are not just a function of numbers of people. They are also caused by people unaware of proper practices and ethics for Wilderness use.

Quotas at heavily used trail heads are unfortunately needed. The results of quotas should be monitored and altered as needed depending on the results of user impacts. Where possible part of the quota should be reserved for first come first serve visitors.

We feel fees for entering Wilderness are inappropriate. Fees are undemocratic and tend to discriminate against the lower socio-economic levels of our society. Fees also commercialize the Wilderness experience and subtly alter the relationship between Americans and their highly valued Wilderness Preservation System. Most Wilderness users in National Parks have already paid a park entrance fee; they should not incur an additional fee for enjoying Wilderness. However, it is acceptable to charge a reservation fee for administrative costs associated with reserving Wilderness permits in advance as long as some permits are available without charge at the last minute. Fees should not be used to augment management costs nor for regulating impacts by reducing use levels.

Stock use, both commercial and private, can have a much greater impact on Wilderness than users who walk in. Groups using stock in Wilderness therefore have a greater responsibility to do what they can to reduce impacts. You have control of the situation regarding commercial packers since they must get a permit from you in order to operate. Private stock users should also have to demonstrate their knowledge of Wilderness use and ethics considering their much greater impact per person in order to get a permit. Working with the organized groups of private stock users to help educate their members about minimizing impacts would help. In general stock should be required to remain on trails. There will be a need to continue to limit stock grazing in meadows due to limited forage. Because of their greater impacts there are many sensitive areas that should be off limits to stock. High altitude meadow areas above the tree line are particularly vulnerable to stock impacts. Just one string of stock traveling through one of these areas can leave a trail that will soon become permanent as others follow. Sixty Lake Basin in Kings Canyon National Park is an example of this kind of situation.

Trail management will be an important issue for you to deal with. Trail standards should be utilized that provides access to visitors. Ever increasing trail widths and low grades are not needed. Adequate access should be the goal. If new trails into are considered where they do not currently exist there should be compelling reasons for new trails to be constructed. Signs should be kept to a minimum, for example at trail junctions. Some steep narrow trails in rugged terrain may need to be off limits to stock.

Permanent installation of electronic equipment for communication purposes is inappropriate in Wilderness. Communication towers outside of Wilderness for the purpose of serving Wilderness visitors are also inappropriate. Casual conversation on cell phones or electronic entertainment devices are not part of a Wilderness experience. Snow pillows to report snow depth and water content may be necessary for public safety and to inform plans for water storage in reservoirs outside of wilderness but they should be kept to the bare minimum needed. Where ever possible winter entry on skis or snow shoe should be used to obtain snow pack information.

Heavily used camp sites are a problem in many areas. All visitors should attempt to minimize impacts at campsites. Knowledge of Leave-No-Trace methods should be used as much as possible. In some high use areas designated camp sites may be needed. Some areas, such as Frog Lake in Kings Canyon National Park, may need to be permanently off limits to overnight camping. Other locations may need to have a limit of one or two nights stay as you do at Rae Lakes. Sensitive wet areas like meadows, riparian areas and lake shores may need to be permanently off limits to overnight camping. Wilderness Rangers can be invaluable in helping visitors understand the necessity of minimizing impacts at camp sites by making contacts with visitors and explaining the problems of inappropriately located campsites.

Bears and human confrontations are a problem that cannot be ignored. Steel bear boxes may be a solution at some sites. However they tend to concentrate users and create heavy localized impacts. Bear canisters are in general a better solution in

preventing bear problems. SEKI has made great strides over time in dealing with bear problems.

Visitors should know how to deal with human waste in Wilderness. Wilderness Rangers and information provided to visitors before Wilderness entry should be used as much as possible. In extreme cases such as the Mt. Whitney Trail visitors are asked to carry out their waste. SEKI has recognized this problem and should continue using every method available to minimize it.

Marijuana gardens have become a problem in Wilderness, particularly in Sequoia National Park. We support doing everything possible to enforce the law to eliminate this problem. Cleaning up the mess and restoring the sites is necessary. However the minimum tool provision of the Wilderness Act should be utilized in carrying this out in so far as possible. Not only are pot gardens a serious impact on Wilderness resources they can also endanger the public.

Finally we recognize that rules are necessary and must be enforced. Not all Wilderness users demonstrate Wilderness ethics and many do not understand how to minimize their impacts. Rules are needed. But part of the Wilderness experience is to experience freedom of movement and the challenge of personally confronting primitive conditions. That is clearly and eloquently articulated in the Wilderness Act of 1964. When rules do not obtain the desired results they may need to be changed. If rules serve a bureaucratic purpose and do not result in reducing Wilderness impacts they should be abandoned. There must be a balance between regulating human use in Wilderness to protect the resource and the intent of the Wilderness Act in providing a challenging primitive experience for the public. Rules should be continually monitored to determine if they provide the proper balance between these goals and either changed or eliminated when they do not.

Joe Fontaine Sierra Nevada Resilient Habitats Campaign for the Sierra Club

Correspondence ID: 867 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,25,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Sequoia + Kings Canyon National Parks

This letter is concerning your new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. For the last 30 years we have been making annual trip by horseback + pack animals to Roaring River area (Deadman Canyon) South Fork Meadow. My request + concern is you continue to allow horses access to the trails in your parks.

Correspondence ID: 868 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association Recreational Groups
Received: Jun,30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

I am writing to request that scoping for your Wilderness Stewardship Plan and EIS be extended by one month, to August 25, to provide more opportunity for the interested public to provide comments. We have been fielding numerous questions about this plan and process from our members, and on behalf of thousands of hikers who use and enjoy the SEKI backcountry, we request this modest extension of the scoping deadline to allow for meaningful public involvement.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please notify me at the letterhead address if this would be agreeable.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Browning, President High Sierra Hikers Association

Correspondence ID: 869 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear SEKI Team-

I am writing to comment on SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship plan. I write as someone who has been backpacking in SEKI for more than 30 years, including both on trails and cross-country into the more remote regions of the parks. As such, I have seen much that is good about the management of these parks, and a few things that are in need of significant change.

Your website provides a series of guiding questions, and I will offer comments on most of these. However, there is one question on this list that seems to me to be inappropriate, and in many respects typifies those aspects of wilderness management that are in most need of reform. Specifically, question 6 asks "What are your thoughts on commercial services in wilderness, such as guided biking, guided stock trips, and guided climbing/mountaineering?"

I find this question troubling in that it appears to be asking the public what they think is an appropriate level of commercial activity. The Wilderness Act is very clear that commercial services are to be allowed in wilderness only to the extent necessary to meet the intended purposes of the Act. Recent court rulings have clearly stated that "need" and "desire" are distinct. It does not matter if a certain segment of the population may "desire" to visit the wilderness on horseback or under the guidance of a professional guide. What matters whether if commercial services are necessary to meet the intended purposes of the Act. In an era when trailhead quotas are making it increasingly difficult for the non-paying public to visit specific portions of the wilderness that they would like to see, the Park Service should be seriously considering elimination of these commercial services since they effectively limit the number of noncommercial visitors from entering the wilderness. My point is that how much commercial service should be allowed should not be a popularity contest. Rather, it should be determined through a formal and rigorous assessment of true "need" (i.e., access for persons who are unable to carry a backpack), not a popularity contest among those who take the time to respond to the scoping letter.

This issue is critically important to me and many other hikers, as clearly the most pervasive source of impacts to the wilderness environment---trails, soils, meadows, water quality, and the aesthetic experience---throughout SEKI is the excessive use of commercial and administrative livestock. These impacts significantly affect my enjoyment of the SEKI backcountry, and stock management in SEKI seems to be lagging well behind many other national parks in the West.

With that in mind, here are my thoughts on a number of other wilderness management issues.

Group Size Limits

Human Limits

Large groups, both backpackers and stock users, seriously detract from the wilderness experience and do serious damage to the wilderness environment. There is nothing more disheartening than spending a long day on the trail and arriving at your destination only to find that there is a group of 15 people camped there. Even more frustrating is when this occurs in off-trail portions of the wilderness.

A recent trip over Kearsarge Pass is illustrative of the negative impacts of large groups have had on my wilderness experience. As me and my two hiking partners arrived at the Onion Valley trailhead, we were rather shocked to see a group of 30 backpackers who were just setting out toward Kearsarge Pass. A few individuals in the party set off up the trail as we packed up, while other in the group continued to get ready. The last people in the party, a man, his son, and a third person who appeared to be one of the trip leaders brought up the rear. As we caught up with the group, we asked one of the last in line if they were all part of the same group, knowing that the group size limit was 15. He replied "Yes, there are 30 of us." The trip leader quickly jumped in and said "No, we're actually two separate parties," giving the unwitting hiker a stem look. Clearly, this group (a Sierra Club outing, we learned later) was breaking the rules, going in as one massive group under the pretense of being two "separate" groups.

So here we were, stuck in the midst of this mass of humanity. We spent the entire morning, trying to catch up and pass the lead hikers in this group, but they had a good mile head start, and were in moving fast enough that we could not overtake them. So we spent the next 4-5 hours stuck in this throng of people, catching up to people ... having to wait until they noticed us so that we could pass them ... having some of them pass us up if we stopped for a rest ... and then having to repeat the process all over again. At one point, we considered just stopping for an hour or so just to let the entire seething horde get ahead of us. But as it turns out, the young kid who was near the back of the group started complaining of headaches and dizziness from the altitude, so we were stuck in the middle. Needless to say, we felt more like we were in a line at Disneyland than in a wilderness setting.

Large groups also do considerable damage to the wilderness landscape. First, many logical camping destinations in SEKI have only a handful of suitable and "hardened" campsites where pitching a tent is possible. When a small group arrives at a lake, they typically gravitate toward these previously used sites as they have usually been cleared of rocks, pine cones, and other debris that is likely to cause discomfort while sleeping. A large group arriving at the same site, however, has no other choice than to clear new sleeping areas. Subsequent campers will then continue to use these "new" sites; thus, large groups cause a proliferation of hardened sites. It is well established in the scientific literature that most of the soil compaction and vegetation damage occur in the first few uses of a site, and that it often takes years or even decades for natural processes to reverse these effects.

Large groups also lead to much more rapid "trails of use" between campsites and water sources, around the perimeters of lakes, and on cross-country routes. For example, two or three people traveling cross country often tend to spread themselves out over the landscape, where as groups of 10 or 15 people tend to travel single file, resulting in the establishment of trails of use.

Large stock parties are the most problematic of all large groups because of the combined impacts of both people and stock animals. A pack train hauling 15 persons and 20 head of stock is simply unconscionable in this era. These groups cause an order of magnitude more impact to trails, meadows, and camping areas than groups traveling on foot. It is time for the Park Service to establish group size limits that reflect the disproportionate impact that stock have on both the wilderness environment and the

experience of visitors.

Stock Limits The only thing worse than encountering 15 people on the trail or at a camping destination is encountering 15 people along with 20 meadow-mowing, defecating, water polluting, frog trampling, bell-wearing horses and mules. The current limit of 20 head of stock results in unacceptably high impacts to the vast majority of wilderness users (including most stock users), as evidenced by work conducted in and around SEKI (see Cole 1989, Cole 1990, and Watson et al. 1993). Furthermore, these limits exceed maximum group size limits in place in most other parks in the West. Several parks have maximum group-size limits that range from 6 to 16 head of stock (Mt. Rainier, Olympic, North Cascades, Crater Lake, Lassen Volcanic, Rocky Mountain), and those that allow large numbers (20-25 head) do so only on a limited number of trails constructed to high standards. Although the scientifically defensible approach would be to establish area-specific group-size limits that reflect differences in environmental sensitivities and capacities, the Park Service has in the past argued (as part of the effort to establish uniform group-size limits throughout the central and southern Sierra) that uniform group-size limits are desirable from a management standpoint. If that remains the case, then for groups size limits to be effective, they must be low enough to protect the most sensitive areas.

The current group size limit for stock simply cannot be justified. Essentially, the current regulations state that 16 people hiking in a group cause unacceptable impact to the environment, but 15 people and 20 head of grazing, dust-creating, meadow thrashing, manure producing livestock is perfectly fine! This makes no sense.

Recommendation

For these reasons, I strongly support the following steps to protect the SEKI wilderness regarding group size limits:

Hikers and stock-users alike should be limited to no more than 10 heartbeats (i.e., people and stock combined). Although this does not completely remedy the disproportionate impact caused by stock, it does at least improve the equity among users. It also places on the onus on stock users to reduce the number of unnecessary luxury items (and hence the need for more mules) that they bring into the backcountry so that they can maximize the number of people in a party. ? Groups traveling cross-country should be limited to no more than 6 persons. One of the primary motivations for traveling cross-country is to find solitude. Large parties ruin those opportunities for solitude.

Your EIS should include alternatives that contains these provisions.

Foot-travel only trails

Should the Park Service decide to continue to allow stock use in the wilderness of SEKI, the Park Service should give serious consideration to establishing a network of foot-travel only trails. A network of foot travel only trails would allow hikers the opportunity to experience wilderness free from the many impacts of recreational stock. This is not a radical concept. Many other national parks in the West, including Mt. Rainier, Olympic, North Cascades, Crater Lake, Glacier, and Yellowstone, have modest networks of foot-travel only trails to allow hikers to enjoy a stock-free experience and to protect sensitive areas.

There is a trail I frequent in the John Muir wilderness just north of SEKI that receives considerable traffic from hikers but very little stock use due to a rough access road that precludes horse trailers. The difference in the hiking experience between this trail compared to one of the many high stock-use trails in SEKI and elsewhere is like night and day. On this trail, the tread measures at most about 20-24 inches wide. Forested sections of the trail are covered with pine duff, which has the effect of eliminating virtually all dust. There is no horse manure/urine or accompanying smell or flies. Indeed, one truly feels like they are visiting a wilderness where the impacts of man are truly "scarcely noticeable."

This experience runs in sharp contrast to the experience of hiking any of trails frequented by stock, and commercial pack stock operators in particular. These trails are typically 2-3 times as wide as those used only by hikers. The duff layer that holds down dust is quickly pulverized by the pounding hooves of horse and mules and ground into the mineral soil. Copious quantities of manure, both fresh and dried, are ground into this dust, and on the fresher manure piles, dozens of flies buzz around, landing on your legs as you pass. When hiking down these trails, a plume of this smelly mixture rises up from the feet of the hikers passing in front of you. Often, it is so bad that you have to space yourselves out on the trail so that the dust has time to settle or blow away between hikers. Worse yet is the fact that this dust sticks to your sweat, so that within a mile or two, your legs and even arms are coated with this stinking residue. Indeed, it becomes a necessity at the end of each day (and sometimes more than once per day) to jump into the nearest creek or lake to try and get rid of this slime, as failure to do so means your sleeping bag will soon become filthy. And if it happens to rain that day, re-wetting the trail? Well, instead of experiencing the clean, pure smell of pines after a rain, you instead you have to endure the smell of a barnyard as the manure and urine are re-wetted.

Now, I know there are some people who, for reasons of nostalgia, find the smell of horse manure to be tolerable or even pleasant. But for the vast majority of wilderness users--those who are on foot and have to walk in the filthy dust clouds created by excessive stock use---this is a nontrivial impact that often lasts for miles and miles on the more heavily used trails. I have been on many trails in SEKI and elsewhere where you literally could not walk 50 paces without encountering remnants of a manure pile.

A network of foot travel only trails would also substantially reduce trail maintenance costs. On a recent trip to the Evolution Lakes area, I was astonished at the extent of highly engineered trail sections. In many areas, tread measuring 4-5 feet wide had

been constructed of rock that was filled in with sand. Much of this construction was done to move the trail out of meadow areas in which multiple treads had formed in response to wet conditions and heavy use by both hikers and stock. While I applaud the attempt to protect meadows from further damage, this could have been accomplished with much less damage to the landscape (i.e., removal and hauling of vast amounts of rock and soil from nearby locations). The resulting "freeways" are visible from long distances, looking more like roads than trails. All of this excess construction was simply to accommodate stock use. In fact, in one area, a rock "causeway" some 5-6 feet wide and perhaps 100-150 feet long was built directly on top of a large granite slab. This structure was built solely for the convenience of stock users, as a hiker would have had no problem crossing this very modest slope of granite.

My point is that if a trail requires such Herculean efforts to make them meet "stock standards" then the trail should be considered for designation as "foot-travel only." I recognize that some of the more obvious candidates originate on Forest Service lands outside of SEKI (e.g., Shepherd, Baxter, Sawmill, Taboose). However, by designating those trails as foot-travel only, the Park Service could effectively halt any Forest Service plans to upgrade these trails (as was unsuccessfully done to Sheperd Pass trail and was proposed back for Taboose back in the 1990s). This is a waste of taxpayer monies that could be better spent on other aspects of wilderness management.

Recommendation

The ESI should include alternatives that establish a network of foot-travel only trails so that hikers that do not have experience to travel cross-country can have an experience wilderness free from the impacts of stock.

Livestock Grazing

Grazing of recreational livestock in the backcountry is a damaging practice that ought to have ceased decades ago. Since the time I was a small child, I have had countless rangers discuss the importance of leaving no trace in the backcountry, including not picking wildflowers or otherwise destroying natural vegetation. Yet the Park Service seems to have no qualms about 20 head of stock parading through mountain meadows, eating the grasses and forbes, trampling streamside areas, and munching on willows, leaving them looking more like cow pastures than natural ecosystems. This is an affront to the wilderness. It is time to end grazing in the SEKI wilderness and to require all stock users to carry in certified weed-free feed. Numerous other parks have had the wisdom to end grazing in the wilderness and it is time for SEKI to follow suit.

Recommendation

The EIS should consider alternatives that: ? Cease all grazing within the park wilderness areas ? Cease grazing above 9600 feet.

Cross country travel by stock

Cross country travel by stock in SEKI is inappropriate. Such use results in a proliferation of trails-of-use and other ecological damage.

Recommendation The EIS should consider alternatives in which the current ban on cross-country travel by stock in most areas of the SEKI wilderness is expanded to include all areas of the park, including those areas where such use is currently allowed.

Food Storage Practices

I would like to express my strong objection to the proliferation of food storage lockers in the SEKI wilderness. According to the SEKI website, there are now 80 food storage lockers in the backcountry of SEKI.

I fully understand and appreciate that these food storage lockers have contributed to a decline in the number of "bear incidents" in these parks. That is most certainly a positive thing. However, the fact is that most backpackers carry their own food canisters, which has greatly reduced the need for these intrusive structures in the backcountry. Further, these food storage lockers have resulted in concentration of use in the areas surrounding them. On one recent trip to Bubbs Creek (near Junction Meadow), I was appalled to find between 20 and 25 people camped near the storage lockers. The experience was more akin to a campground than a wilderness.

Even worse, the result of this concentration of use was that human waste was a substantial problem. When it came time to "do my business," virtually every available place to dig a cat hole had already been used, and as a result, people had taken to climbing the hillside and turning over rocks to move their bowels in the resulting hole. I literally saw evidence of 8-10 "deposits" in the single night I spent there.

The result is not more composting toilets in the woods. The solution is to rely on bear canisters so that use once again becomes more dispersed.

Recommendation

The Parke ServiceEIS should consider alternatives that remove all food storage lockers from the backcountry and require carrying of bear canisters.

Sanitation

In preparing these comments, I visited SEKI's website to learn what was new in wilderness regulations for 2011. I was surprised and more than a little annoyed to see that SEKI is now requiring wilderness visitors to pack out their used toilet paper.

To be frank, this regulation is rather absurd. In the first place, it is a completely unenforceable regulation. Does SEKI intend to have rangers spy on hikers while they move their bowels? (Creepy!) Will there be "spot inspections" to make sure you hikers are carrying a ziplock with their soiled toilet paper in it? (Creepy!). Now, I imagine that the park service really has no intention of actively enforcing this regulation. And maybe the regulation was promulgated under the assumption that the most conscientious wilderness users among us will adopt the practice, and that any reduction in toilet paper waste is a good thing.

If that is indeed the case, then the park service is neglecting the fact that regulations such as these highlight the tremendous double standard that SEKI applies to hikers versus livestock. Hikers are required to carry out their soiled toilet paper, but a horse or mule will deposit 25 lbs of fecal matter per day pretty much wherever it decides to relieve itself, which is often either near water or on trails where the runoff eventually ends up in the nearest stream.

The ridiculousness of this double standard is illustrated in the photographs below. Figure 1a shows typical fecal deposit of a horse. On average, a horse will deposit between 6 and 8 comparable piles per day (range about 4-12). Figure 1b shows is the ash residue left after burning 20 sheets of standard 2-ply toilet paper ... the amount I would typically use in the course of doing my business.

Figure 1. (A) The typical manure pile left by a horse compared to (B) the ash remaining from the burning of toilet paper.

So which of these constitutes the bigger impact on the wilderness? What SEKI's current regulations tell us is that the thimble-sized ash pile in Figure 1 b is an unacceptable impact to the wilderness, while the manure pile in Figure 1a, multiplied by 6-8 each day, is perfectly fine! This ludicrous conclusion demonstrates the inequity of SEKI policies, which continue to place more and more constraints on backpackers while at the same time casting a blind eye toward the impacts of recreational livestock, which are far more detrimental to the wilderness ecosystem.

SEKI's credibility suffers from hypocritical policies such as these. In fact, let me share a true story. When Yosemite National Park first adopted this regulation, my son, who was 6 years old at the time, and I did a short backpacking trip up the Vogelsang trail out of Tuolumne Meadows. About 3 miles into the trip and after having stepped over, around, and through dozens of manure piles (the trail leads to the High Sierra camp that is regularly supplied by pack stock), my son turned to me and said "Dad, why is it that we have to pack out our dirty toilet paper but horses area allowed to poop all over the place?" If my 6-year old was astute enough to recognize this inconsistency, you can reckon that most other hikers see it as well. If you want backpackers to take the pack-out-your-toilet-paper regulation seriously, then please demonstrate that you're equally serious about reducing the impacts from stock waste (see discussion of manure catchers below).

Is there a problem with human sanitation at SEKI? In certain locations (see discussion of bear lockers), absolutely. And I am certainly no fan of witnessing the evidence of other people's poor burial practices. But please answer me this. Do you really think that the wilderness visitor who, under the park services old advice on waste disposal, didn't take the time to properly bury their waste and burn their paper is now suddenly going to have the inclination to stuff his soiled toilet paper into a zip lock bag and then carry it for the duration of their trip? The answer would seem obvious to me.

Recommendation The Park Service consider alternatives that abandoned the requirement that people pack out soiled toilet paper and instead promote education of proper disposal practices. The Park Service should then address the far more pressing ecological and aesthetic issue of stock waste as described below.

Manure Catchers

The time has come for the park service to implement policies that will reduce the amount of stock waste that enters streams and lakes of the SEKI wilderness. There are now numerous peerreviewed scientific publications that demonstrate that water bodies in areas with recreational stock use are being contaminated with wastes from these animals (citations). These studies show elevated levels of fecal choloform. Further, horses and mules can carry various pathogens including giardia, chryptosporidium, and campylobacter.

The park service should require stock users to use "manure catchers" so that waste from horses and mules can be deposited away from streams and rivers. These manure catchers are readily available in a variety of sizes and cost less than \$100. (Consider that a bear canister costs about \$80 and the Park Service does not blink at asking hikers to pay this cost).

Now I know that stock users will complain loudly about having to stop and empty these manure catchers every few hours. But if the park service is going to continue to allow people to bring arge, nonnative, waste-producing animals into the SEKI wilderness, then this is one of the inconveniences that stock users will have to endure.

Recommendation

The Park Service consider alternatives that require stock users to use manure catchers and dispose of waste away from water sources.

Campfires For the most part, I support the elevation- and area-specific closures on campfires that are currently in place. However, I would recommend the following change:

The current elevation limit of 10,400 feet in the Kern River basin should be lowered to 10,000 feet. This would substantially simplify the existing regulations, making it consistent with Kings Canyon, and eliminating the need for the area-specific 10,000 ft. closures in Nine Lakes Basin/Big Arroyo and Lower Crabtree Meadow. Further, such a closure would have minimal effect on the ability of people to have fires where they are accustomed to doing so, owing to the fact that almost all the major lake basins are already above the 10,400 ft closure, and due to the nature of the Kern Basin topography, much of the band between 10,000 feet and 10,400 feet lies on the steep sidewalls of the main Kern Canyon and so are not particularly suitable for camping anyway. The only lake basin that would be appreciably affected is the Big Five Lakes basin. A 10,000 ft closure would mean that fires would not be allowed at the upper four lakes in this basin. This would be a positive change, as the forests at these subalpine lakes are sparse. People who wanted to have a fire could do so at the lowermost lake, where there is considerably more wood available.

Recommendation The EIS should consider alternatives that establish a uniform fire closure at elevations above 10,000 feet.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp

The Bearpaw High Sierra Camp is an anachronism and should have been closed long ago. The wilderness is not the setting for pampered, LUXUry experiences. It is a place where the influence of man is scarcely noticeable. The Park Service has failed in its obligation to monitor the effects of the Bearpaw enclave, as required by law. It is time for this abomination to be removed.

Recommendation The EIS should consider alternatives that permanently close the Bearpaw High Sierra Camp.

Mineral King Pack Station The idle Mineral King Pack station is an eyesore that ought to have been removed when the pack station was closed.

Recommendation The EIS should consider alternatives that remove all traces of the Mineral King Pack Station and restore the area to its natural condition.

Thank you for considering my views.

Correspondence ID: 870 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: The Irascible Order of Soararsis Civic Groups
Received: Sep.08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Re: Wilderness Stewardship Plan

Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:

This correspondence amounts to the written comments by the Irascible Order of Soararsis ("Soararsis") on the proposed Wilderness Stewardship Plan WSP).

Soararsis is a non-profit California corporation which had its beginnings in 1940. The founding of Soararsis was tied to the creation by Congress of Kings Canyon National Park. Ever since the late 1800's park advocates had tried unsuccessfully to include Kings Canyon into the emerging National Parks Service. Eight times the proponents tried and failed. The 1930's were particularly contentious, marked by two different efforts to move the measure through Congress. Nowhere was the battle more engaged than in Fresno. California the eastern gateway to the scenic canyon. Passions ran high on both sides of the issue in Fresno. Some people wanted to see the great canyon protected. Others felt it would be better off under the United States Forest Service where its resources could help end the great Depression of the 1930's . After years of controversy, Congress finally approved and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation in late 1940, establishing Kings Canyon National Park. Tempers continued to simmer among the various members of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce even though many recognized the need for reconciliation about the issue of whether or not Kings Canyon should be made into a national park.

Most of the active and high profile proponents and opponents of the matter of whether or not Kings Canyon should become part of the National Park Service agreed to go on a pack trip in the Sierras in an attempt to reconcile their differences. The first pack

trip into the Sierras took place in September of 1941. The first pack trip began from Cedar Grove. It was here that the organization started the tradition of a "Trails End Dinner". The participants in the first pack trip in 1941 literally buried an old hatchet in a ceremony in the middle of a meadow on the trip. Thus began the Soararsis annual tradition of a pack trip into the Sierras by its members. Soararsis is comprised of individuals who are principally from the San Joaquin Valley. The members are farmers, doctors, dentists, lawyers, and business people. Many of the members are retired. The preponderance of the members are from the greater Fresno area. The group comprises approximately 60 members at this time.

Soararsis is comprised of both back packers and horse riders. However, the annual Fall Ride is supported in terms of transporting gear and supplies by commercial operators, including commercial pack station operators.

Soararsis is an environmentally conscious organization. Soararsis annually supports two scholarships at the California State University at Fresno in the environmental sciences field. Soararsis also annually grants four scholarships to the participants in the Forestry Program at Reedley College.

Soararsis also provides financial support for various organizations that support and facilitate use of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Soararsis is very supportive of the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew. Soararsis also recently donated funds to the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Search and Rescue Fund.

Without the support of commercial operators, and in particular without commercial pack station operators, Soararsis members would not be able to continue our use and enjoyment of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) wilderness areas. The approximate average age of the participants on our Fall Rides is 65 years of age. All of our gear needs to be carried in by pack stock.

Soararsis has made recent trips into the wilderness areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Recent trips were to Evolution Valley in Kings Canyon National Park and another recent trip was into Big Wet Meadow in Sequoia National Park.

The first use by Soararsis of the backcountry areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks pre-dates the designation of any part of these two (2) parks as wilderness areas.

Pictures of the most recent pack trip by Soararsis are enclosed and described as follows:

- A. Photo showing Soararsis gear being transported Into Sierra National Forest by Clyde Pack Outfit in September, 2010.
- B. Soararsis hiker and riders on day ride during 2010 trip in Sierra National Forest.
- C. Soararsis members on a granite dome overlooking Lower Geraldine Lake with the Kings Canyon in the background.
- D. Soararsis members riding into camp after day ride to Lower Geraldine Lake.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Very truly ours, Richard H. Cochran The Big Soar/Great Soar/President of Soararsis

RHC/db Enclosures

Correspondence ID: 871 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31.2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:

Three of my friends and I are about to embark on my 40th annual back pack in the High Sierras, this year into the Big Pine Basin. (Two of the others have been enjoying the Sierras for over 60 years!) This year, we will base at Fifth Lake, and plan to overnight during our week up to Sam Mack Lake, hopefully with a hike up to Palisade Glacier, where we last visited in 1972. We are all over 70 years old, and are continually troubled that the High Sierra Hikers Association is advocating regulations that would not allow us to enjoy our precious Sierras any longer.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I wrote the Director of the Sierra National Forest Headquarters in Clovis expressing our dismay at the position that is being promoted by the High Sierra Hikers Association. My three back packing friends and I are all FORMER members of that Association, but we terminated our support when we realized that, by limiting our use of the commercial Packers, we could no longer get up to the mountains we love so much. We do not believe the Wilderness should be available only to young elite athletes who seem to have no use for any Packers. We urge, therefore, that your review of the Backpack Management Plan and the Stock Use Plan will take the desires of us older "geezers" into account and NOT prevent our future use of Packers to get us up to where we used to be able to get on our own. Hopefully, this letter and enclosure will become a

part of the public comment you are seeking, and that both will serve as strong statements that the Wilderness should be available even to those of us who no longer possess the physical strength to get there on our own.

We appreciate all that you and your outstanding staff members do to make the forests and wilderness so vital an American treasure. Thank You!!

Correspondence ID: 872 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Hello I would like to comment on SEKI's wilderness plan.

I travel by foot through SEKI several times a year, and have done so extensively for the past 12 years. I know the parks very well, and the problems that they face.

I would like to see all stock use, and grazing eliminated out of the national park. These animals cause significant damage to our national park. At the very least strict limits need to be placed on these animals.

- Smaller groups of less than 10 animals - required manure catchers at all times - made to pay for all the trail damage they create -limit their elevation to under 9700' -required to bring in their own food -keep animal tied up at all times -limited to only a few select trails - no cross country travel -no commercial groups -limit stock travel to only people physically unable to walk with a pack -limit what they can carry into park to only essential items- no luxury items -the pack station camp and High Sierra camp should be removed -remove fences

Again these measures are at the very least of what I would like to see done. What really needs to be done is an outright ban on all stock use in the National Park. Also the system of permit quotas needs to be made fair between user groups. All users should be required to go through the same system. I would like to see all commercial use of the parks eliminated.

The quality of my experience in the national parks is significantly degraded by these pack animals. The damage they cause to the national parks is real and must be stopped.

Thanks for reading, I hope it makes a difference.

Correspondence ID: 873 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Jul,11,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Coordinator:

To understand my views on the back country and wilderness management of SEKI National Park , I'll state my background. I was raised in Lemoncove and worked in the forties as a packer in the Mineral King area and then worked as a trail crew packer during my college years in the early fifties. I then alternately worked occasionally as a packer and made family pack trips in the back country through 1974. In 1974 we moved to Wyoming , but made two trips back to Kern Canyon in 1984 and 1993 via Cottonwood Creek trailhead and trail pass. It was in 1984 that I joined the High Sierra Stock Users.

I applaud the park services' past effort in a job well done on the general management plan and its involvement of the public in the planning process.

Over the years and particularly in 1984 and 1993 I noticed that historic horse use, in the Kern Canyon Back Country seemed to be down. This may be due in part to the increased restrictions and entry quotas over that of the pre 1974 era.

I have many good memories of back country trips, over the years shared with family and friends, first as a individual horse user, then as a High Sierra stock user and currently as BCHC (High Sierra Unit) and a similar unit in Wyoming. Again I hope Back Country Stock users can have this opportunity in the future. This includes a feeling of solitude, meeting few other users and a relative freedom of choice as to route and campsites.

For this reason, I feel the management of the back country stock use should be a continuation of current management and no further reduction in quotas or party sizes. Some value or credit should also be given to the educational effort of the BCHC in low impact horse use (gentle on the land ethic) and similar effort by other users, (leave no trace). I think a good case be made for dispersed use, camping and cross country travel, where appropriate. Other key scoping issues should include trail classification, maintenance policy and classes of pack animals (equestrian, llamas and pack goats etc.) Types of winter use may also be a scoping issue. I feel most of the other scoping issues have been set forth in the current wilderness plan, the 1998 wilderness planning handbook and the 1993 guide to the wilderness forage plan of SEKI national park.

Finally the list of rules, for individual users, should be short, clear and easy to follow. Please include me on your "New

Wilderness Stewardship Plan" mailing list, through this process.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 874 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms Taylor-Goodrich,

We have hiked and backpacked the Sierra Nevada for over 50 years. The Sierras are an important part of our, and our son's life. Last year we brought our 18 month old granddaughter to Tuolumne Meadows. We will be there again next month.

I have written many letters about the use stock animals by wilderness visitors. I believe that if they are physically able to heft a pack, they should do so. I would limit use of stock animals to the handicapped.

We have seen the destruction of meadowland by recreationally used stock animals. Furrows cut two feet deep where the foot path should have been. Along one of the trails, a Ranger checked out wilderness permit, and we asked when the meadow would be repaired. "Years from now, given the backlog of work, and lack of funds." On another trip, we crossed Donahue Pass from Thousand Island Lake just ahead of a pack train of about a dozen animals. They were moving faster than us, so we let them pass. The whole rest of the downhill track we had the stink of manure and urine in our noses and the annoyance of flies. We camped about a half mile past their campsite. The pack animals, some with bells were roaming free, foraging along the Lyell Fork banks and drinking from the creek. And who knows what all. Chaise lounges for the clients and the delicious fragrance of grilling steaks. With background music from boom boxes. Hardly a wilderness experience.

When we plan a wilderness trip we have to comply with trailhead quotas. Not so the stock animal groups. We are low impact hikers. The stock animal groups are not. And they don't pay their fair share of trail maintenance cost.

The following are my recommendations for items that should be included in the new Stewardship Plan.

Commercial Stock Outfits should pay fees commensurate with the damage to the trails, vegetation (meadow and riparian) that they damage.

Hikers and outfitters should be treated equally when issuing trailhead permits. The number of stock animals should be reduced significantly.

Stock animals should stay on trails. No cross country travel.

In the long term, phase out pack animals, except for the truly handicapped. If the number of handicapped clients is too small to warrant a commercial enterprise, then the US Government should provide a handicapped person service. Possibly under the Aid to Disabled Persons legislation.

Thank You. Respectfully,

Correspondence ID: 875 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep.08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Sirs-

I am writing to put my two cents worth of commetns for the "New Wilderness Stewardship PLAN. I am totally Against increasing the Wilderness Areas in the Sierras. These Wilderness Plans always end up cutting out all public uses whether it be bicycles, horses, jeeps or AT or snowmobiles

Correspondence ID: 876 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

I am writing to you to comment on SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I have backpacked in Sequoia-Kings for over 35 years

and have also used the services of commercial stock outfits.

I believe the significant impacts of stock in the backcountry need to be minimized by enacting the following common sense policies:

- 1) Maintain some trails as "foot-travel-only" so individuals wishing to enjoy the wilderness "stock-free" can do so. Besides, most of the trails in the parks are not suitable, nor truly maintained, for stock use.
- 2) Stock should be required to stay on designated, "maintained for stock" trails. Stock users should pay extra fees to cover the extra costs of maintaining designated trails to a "maintained for stock" level. No off-trail travel, nor free grazing, should be allowed. These activities cause the greatest environmental harms as has been well documented by SEKI's own scientists. Weed-free feed should be packed in for stock use and regulations enacted to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive weed species.
- 3) The number of stock head per group should be restricted to a maximum of 10 total.
- 4) Items brought into the wilderness by stock should be limited to what is needed for the proper care of the animals and what personal gear is necessary for a true wilderness experience. Camp furniture, ice chests, and watercraft are all examples of excessive, unnecessary items that detract from wilderness.
- 5) Stock users should remove and bury manure away from trails, stream, and lakes just as people must do with their waste products.

Thank you for considering these and other regulations which help safe guard the Wilderness Act and allow for multiple user types to enjoy the parks in a reasonable manner that doesn't lead to the deterioration of our wilderness resources.

Best regards,

Correspondence ID: 877 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: The Wilderness Society; Back Country Horsemen of America Recreational Groups
Received: Sep,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

The following comments are submitted jointly on behalf of the Backcountry Horsemen of America and The Wilderness Society. Representatives from our organizations have come together with the goal of pursuing a plan of action to "insure that traditional, historical, and responsible pack and saddle stock use in Wilderness Areas is recognized, protected, supported and sustained consistent with the capabilities of the land." Both of our organizations are committed to the long-term sustainable management of Wilderness lands in a way that ensures compatible recreational uses are allowed to occur while preserving wilderness character.

Management and maintenance of trails is important to facilitate the enjoyment of Wilderness by the public, both for stock and other compatible uses. Ensuring that these lands are able to be enjoyed by the public is important, and we believe the National Park Service should do what it can, consistent with the Wilderness Act, to maintain trails. The use of traditional tools and primitive means should be the first alternative when it comes to trail maintenance. However, at times, the minimum requirement might include the limited use of mechanized equipment. "Responsibly-maintained trails" in special cases may include the use of motorized equipment when it is appropriate and/or necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Act, including assuring that these areas are "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people." (Section 2a, P.L. 88-577) Congress, in House Report 95-540, which accompanied the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978, provided guidance as to "how the Wilderness Act should now be interpreted as it relates to certain uses and activities." Of special note is the guidance it provided for "Trails, Bridges, Trail Signs -- Trails, trail signs, and necessary bridges are all permissible when designed in keeping with the wilderness concept. These are often important to the recreational access and use of a wilderness area. Trail construction or maintenance can include the use of mechanical equipment where appropriate and/or necessary." Both the statutory language and your written policy permit a reasonable interpretation that motorized equipment is "appropriate and/or necessary" under certain circumstances to provide for the "use and enjoyment of the American people" (S2, P.1.. 88-577).

The National Park Service should not look to the use of mechanized equipment in Wilderness as a common method of maintaining trails, and should always follow the minimum viable tool standard when it comes to wilderness management. As stated in NPS Wilderness Management Policy 6.3.5, we would expect that use of mechanized equipment would be "determined by the superintendent to be the minimum requirement needed by management to achieve the purposes of the area, including the preservation of wilderness character and values, in accordance with the Wilderness Act." The wilderness stewardship plan should provide clarification as to when, specifically, mechanized equipment will be authorized. Our point here is to suggest there may very well be circumstances where the minimum requirement to complete the job justifiably involves motorized or mechanized use, and that such use is permissible, so long as it is the minimum tool to accomplish the purposes established in the law. These purposes, of course, include administering the area "for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness."

Enjoyment of the wilderness areas for horseback riding and packing has been a historical and traditional pursuit within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks since the 1800s. These experiences were inherent social attributes of the "wilderness character" that existed when Congress determined that the areas qualified as wilderness. The example of "wilderness character" that Senator Hubert Humphrey used in his speech introducing the first wilderness bill was a social attribute ' hunting: "Rather than being concerned with any special use or user, this bill relates instead to the character of the areas involved. Hunting, for example, although it is not mentioned in the bill, will continue to be a major recreation within many national forest units of the System and will be prohibited in national parks." It was clear that Congress intended that existing compatible uses be preserved where they existed at the time of designation. He went on to emphasize that "the central concept of this measure, I repeat, is that our present areas of wilderness can be preserved within the existing land-management pattern if the preservation purpose is made a matter of fundamental policy."

In preparing your Wilderness Stewardship Plan, one of the guiding principles should be that horseback riding, packing and hiking are primitive, non-motorized, non-mechanized forms of travel that are appropriate uses of Wilderness Areas in accordance with the purposes and provisions of The Wilderness Act. The plan should ensure that adequate access, appropriate trailhead facilities, reasonable grazing practices for pack and saddle stock that ensure the sustainability of subalpine and alpine vegetation, and responsibly-maintained trails are managed for appropriate recreational uses including pack and saddle stock consistent with the Wilderness Act. It is also important that the ability designated National Park wilderness within SEKI to facilitate such use is not overburdened, and the Park Service should consider how it will ensure historical recreational uses are allowed to continue while simultaneously ensuring protection of wilderness resources within designated Park wilderness.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment and look forward to engaging with you in the development of the wilderness stewardship plan for the iconic wilderness of SEKI Parks. Both Back Country Horsemen of America and The Wilderness Society stand ready to assist you in your planning effort.

Sincerely,

Brad Koehler Senior Regional Conservation Rep. The Wilderness Society's Wilderness Support Center

Dennis Dailey, Senior Advisor Wilderness, Recreation & Trails Back Country Horsemen of America

Correspondence ID: 878 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich:

I am in receipt of your request for a letter regarding the new Wilderness Plan for Sequoia & Kings National Parks. Please see the following commenting on SEKI'S Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

SEKI's goal is to have stock users comply with a common requirement among most national Parks. Namely that the stock animals be prohibited from grazing above the 9,700 ft elevation level. This would alleviate the need for bells, reduce pollution (at campsites and water sources) from animal wastes and decrease potential conflicts between the native wildlife and the stock animals. In addition stock animals should be required to stay on designated, maintained trails. ? SEKI seeks to create an experience for hikers and other users that is free of manure, litter, dust, flies, unnecessary noise and visual impairments. Therefore bells should be prohibited and all fences should be removed.

SEKI seeks to limit commercial packstocks to serving only those persons who have been designated as disabled. In addition, all commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling unnecessary, excessive gear and/or luxury items.

Wilderness permits for commercial use should be strictly limited or eliminated and all other users should be able compete on a "level playing field".

SEKI seeks to establish a well rounded fee program. Fee amounts for commercial stock outfits (and clients) will be fairly assessed so that SEKI is able to defray the costs of repairs, trail damage, monitoring stock impacts, controlling weeds, and the enforcement of regulations.

SEKI's goal is to limit the number of stock animals per group from the current 20 animals/party to 10 or fewer animals/group. In addition all stock animals should be required to wear "manure catchers".

In an ongoing effort to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive weeds, SEKI requests the capability to enforce strict preventive measures.

Thank you for all you good work.

Correspondence ID: 879 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich,

I am sending you my suggestions for the new Wilderness Stewardship Plan for the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. I have spent many days - months, even - in these parks, backpacking from the east and from the west into the incomparable wildernesses of the Sierra high country, beginning in 1943 and continuing almost yearly up to the present. At age 80 I can no longer carry a week's worth of food and gear on my back, so I walk in and must rely on packers to deposit the gear at a base camp. This will color my remarks somewhat, but I've had plenty of experiences both ways in my time in the mountains.

My basic suggestion is to keep the Wilderness Areas wilderness. This means to ensure that no construction takes place there, that the number of visitors is controlled and that only trail maintenance that is necessary for safety be performed. Besides human visitors, this includes animals: pack stock (horses, mules and llamas), cattle, sheep and dogs. I know that these latter are not allowed, but on my last trip to Charlotte Lake I passed a hiker with his dog. I might have reminded him that the dog wasn't allowed there, but the large revolver on his belt dissuaded me. So some increase in the ranger patrols may be indicated.

Packers and their stock are a necessary part of the parks and wilderness. It is also necessary that they be controlled so as not to change the character of the park experience. This requires that several rules governing them be included in the Stewardship Plan. One, it should be stated that the use of pack stock ought to be kept to a minimum. Large parties, or small parties, with six, eight, ten head of stock (particularly parties with people riding in, a packer and mules enough to set up a small village) are simply inappropriate. Make the rules clear and keep the total number of animals below one per traveler, plus a mule for every two travelers, the total not to exceed eight animals - plenty for a party of four or even five people. Two, no group should have more than six or seven members; larger groups, or more stock, just take away the wilderness experience for the rest of us, leave the trails worn and dusty and (in plenty of experiences) leave messes where they have camped. To be honest, that aspect has improved lately, but I still don't trust all my fellow humans to clean up after themselves. Stock parties impinge on the rest of us, not just on the trails but as we are camped and exploring. The animals are turned loose to graze, a bad idea, and I have been scared to death as a group of seven horses and mules tore through our camp one night on their way to a meadow. That happened in the Sierra National Forest, but it could have been anywhere that stock are allowed to wander and graze. Loose stock are also usually 'belled,' a bad thing for light sleepers. Bells should be prohibited. Similarly, stock gates are not necessary if the stock are kept under control. Since the gates and fences are 'constructions,' they should not be allowed in the wilderness.

Common sense tells me that the central feature of the plan should be to keep the number of visitors under control. All of us, however, should have equal access to wilderness permits; the current practice of having the packer write permits as he (or she) chooses is unfair. Last summer, in the Emigrant Wilderness, my group had to get our own permit; the packer did not provide it, even though it's customary for the packer to do so down south. As human beings cover more of the planet, we've got to accept more rules to keep life fair for all. Please write a plan that will do that.

Correspondence ID: 880 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Friends At The National Park Service

The purpose of this letter is to give you my comments regarding your updating of the SEKI Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I am writing as a private individual who, over a period of many years has spent many enjoyable weekends and vacations hiking/camping in the higher elevations of the SEKI Wilderness. Below are my comments for your consideration.

Regarding Stock Animals On The Trail -- It is quite a disturbing thing to be hiking in a remote, tranquil area and be overtaken by a long string of stock animals with their noisy bells, choking trail dust, stinking manure, etc. As my party and I move to the side of the trail, the animal handlers and riders smile innocently as they pass. The area suddenly resembles New York City's Grand Central Station. Horrible! Here's my recommendations -- (1) Limit the number of stock animals per party to 10 or less. Preferably less. (2) Require all stock animals to wear manure catchers to prevent trail clutter and water contamination. (3) Require that all animal manure be packed out. (4) Prohibit cow bells on stock animals. Bells shatter the tranquility of the wilderness in otherwise peaceful areas. (5) Require stock animals to stay on maintained trails at all times. Prohibit off-trail travel by stock animals.

The Wilderness Permit System ? As I understand it, the purpose of the Wilderness Permit System is to prevent overcrowding in the back country and to minimize damage to trails and sensitive areas. On that basis, the logical and fair way to give out permits is by means of a single system, not a dual system as presently exists. What's fair for the general public is also fair for the commercial users. In those areas where trail quotas are in effect, I recommend that all back country travelers be given permits on a first-come-first-served basis. After obtaining a permit, those who wish to employ a commercial service may do so. It is grossly unfair for some to be able to buy their way into the wilderness by using a commercial service having unrestricted access when independent hikers may be turned away after the trail quota has been reached.

Repairing Trail Damage ? I'm told that the National Park Service spends considerable amounts of taxpayer money in the repair of trails that get pulverized by stock animals. It is wrong for the taxpayers to have to pay for this trail repair. I recommend that commercial users be required to pay fees in appropriate amounts to offset this expense. I also recommend that commercial user fees be in amounts that would offset the expenses of the various monitoring, control and enforcement functions that the Park

Service provides.

Grazing Restrictions -- Unrestricted grazing of stock animals can be very damaging to meadows and a danger to hikers camped nearby and may promote conflicts with wildlife. Here's my recommendations. -- (1) Prohibit all grazing within SEKI National Parks. Alternatively, grazing may be permitted at elevations below 9,700 feet. I understand that the 9,700 foot grazing restriction was recommended long ago by scientists employed by SEKI. The NPS should listen to the expert scientists. That's why you have them! (2) Require that all stock animals be kept tied when not in use. (3) Require that weed-free feed for the animals be packed in. Other National Parks make that requirement.

Trails For Foot-Travel Only ? I recommend that SEKI establish a network of trails that are for foot-travel-only. Foot-travel-only trails will enhance the wilderness experience of hikers by allowing them to travel without being exposed to the undesirable aspects of having to share the trail with stock animals.

Who Owns Our National Parks? ' I feel compelled to remind all concerned that our national parks were established and therefore exist for the usage and enjoyment of all the People. They do not exist as a vehicle to be exploited for profit and with disregard for the consequences by any kind of commercial enterprise. No commercial enterprise has inherently greater usage rights than individual users. I believe the NPS needs to recognize that fact. I agree that some commercial enterprises have excessively loud voices in Washington. Maybe they are just paranoid?

Thank you for considering my thoughts on these matters.

Correspondence ID: 881 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Ms Karen Taylor-Goodrich,

I have backpacked in the Sierra for the last 17 years. Sometimes for pleasure and sometimes to work on Sierra Huts or rebuild trail with the PCTA.I am writing to ask you to please be fair with the money collected from the hikers and the pack companies.

Please require all horses on the trail to wear diapers. It is awful walking through their manure. We are all here to protect the mountains. I am here to help do my part.

To our future,

recycled paper- of course

Correspondence ID: 882 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Southern Sierra Climbers Association and The Access Fund Conservation/Preservation
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Sequoia-Kings Canyon Climbing

Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks is an important resource for rock climbers and wilderness mountaineers who come here from all over California and throughout the country. The climbing at SEKI varies from short to multi-day climbs, from easy peak bagging on the Sierra's highest summits to multi-day backcountry grade VI walls climbing. Routes range in difficulty from intermediate to expert, and most climbs require at least a day's hike in. The rock here is similar to Yosemite in quality but without the crowds and pressure of more famous climbing areas. Important climb attractions include the Obelisk, Grand Sentinel, Chimney Rock, Charlotte Dome, Moro Rock, Angel Wings, and Tehipite Dome.

Given the significance of SEKI to the climbing community, SCSA and the Access Fund support reasonable and effective climbing management policies for this area that benefit climbing opportunities while providing the NPS with effective guidance that protects other important resources and values. The Access Fund would like to offer assistance towards any future management planning initiatives that involve climbing at SEKI.

Access Fund Assistance and Expertise The Access Fund has assisted land management agencies in climbing management and general planning initiatives in the following ways:

Work with local climbing organizations such as the Southern Sierra Climbers Association. Advice on visitation, use patterns, and climbing techniques and tools. Helping conduct and/or undertake surveys of climbing activity to determine management preferences. Assistance with consultation and outreach at a local and national level through making available Access Fund membership mailing lists, website and newsletter. Meeting and other communications with our key stakeholders to develop compromise management solutions. The Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grant program provides funds for research, monitoring, educational outreach, and stewardship projects at climbing areas on an annual basis.

Specific components of this Wilderness Plan may be appropriate for Access Fund grant support. In addition, please see <http://www.accessfund.org/atf/cf/%7B1F5726D5-6646-4050-AA6EC275DF6CA8E3%7D/CM-web.pdf> for a copy of the Access Fund publication "Climbing Management: A Guide to Climbing Issues and the Production of a Climbing Management Plan." This publication, now in its second edition, has proven helpful to dozens of land managers across the country who work on climbing related issues. Also please reference www.climbingmanagement.org which is a new online resource available to land managers and climbing activists that provides information on a variety of climbing management issues around the country involving federal, state, local, and private climbing properties.

Relevant Law and Policy Earlier this year the National Park Service took public comment on its proposal to revise the agency's wilderness policies found at Director's Order #41,^[1] and the Access Fund submitted detailed comments after months of collaboration with climbing interests, the outdoor industry and wilderness organizations. While developing climbing management policies at SEKI that comply with the Wilderness Act and DO #41, planners at SEKI should acknowledge that the ability to explore the vertical wilderness, and to climb new routes that require some basic level of fixed anchor use, most closely fits Wilderness Act goals of providing "outstanding opportunities for solitude" and "primitive and unconfined type[s] of recreation." While the occasional use of fixed anchors is necessary for this type of climbing activity, the specific use and location of such new anchors is unpredictable and thus can be difficult to manage in advance. We support the following proposed guidance put forth by NPS planners for wilderness climbing: Climbing is in many cases a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness. If significant climbing activities occur in wilderness, a climbing management plan must be prepared or be included as part of the park's wilderness stewardship plan or another activity level plan. Plans will be developed with the aid of public involvement and collaboration and will include public review and comment. The occasional placement of a fixed anchor for belay, rappel or protection purposes does not necessarily impair the future enjoyment of wilderness or violate the Wilderness Act. However, climbing practices with the least adverse impact on wilderness resources and character will always be the preferred choice. "Clean climbing" techniques should be the norm in wilderness. The use of motorized equipment is prohibited and practices such as gluing or chipping holds, and damaging or removing vegetation on or at the base of climbing routes are prohibited. Climbers are encouraged to adopt Leave No Trace principles and practices, to include packing out human waste when on or in the vicinity of climbing routes. Fixed anchors or fixed equipment may be appropriate, but should be rare in wilderness. Authorization may be required for the placement of new fixed anchors or fixed equipment. The requirements for authorization, and the process to be followed, will be effected through an approved climbing management plan. The establishment of bolt-intensive face climbs, such as "sport climbs," is considered incompatible with wilderness preservation and management. For SEKI the NPS should develop criteria that would guide and direct decisions on managing new climbing routes. A first consideration for management action by the NPS should determine whether potential impacts to resources can be mitigated through climber education and outreach. We believe the NPS should focus on responding with a reasonable lesser restrictive alternative to address resource impacts rather than area closures or regulatory restrictions on use. The NPS should also consider effective means by which it can notify the climbing public of any interim or permanent closures such as signage or media outlets.

Fixed Anchors

Climbers have a long history of working on fixed anchor policies with land management agencies. The Access Fund is currently working with the US Forest Service and National Park Service to develop nationwide management guidelines for the use and placement of climbing fixed anchors in federally designated wilderness areas. Fixed anchors, especially bolts, are sometimes controversial. In our experience concerns about bolting are almost never related to the resource impacts that may be associated with the placement and use of these traditional climbing tools, but rather to philosophical convictions. Any decisions regarding fixed anchors should be grounded in a firm understanding of resource capacity, associated impacts, and acceptable rates of change to the natural and social environment.

Climbing anchors are necessary for climbers to experience the unique challenges found at SEKI, however it is the Access Fund's position that fixed anchors are neither necessary nor appropriate for all climbing routes or even all climbing areas. However, the need for fixed anchors to provide the desired climbing experience should be evaluated before any decisions are made to restrict the use of these tools. Furthermore, the specific character of much of the rock at the SEKI requires that some level of fixed anchor use be authorized if climbing is to take place. Many technical routes at SEKI have some fixed anchors, and many future classics will require the same. Accordingly, we believe that some level of fixed anchor use must be allowed in SEKI wherever climbing is allowed, and that the appropriate level of use should be established on an area-by-area basis depending on specific resource considerations.

Trails

At present there exists a very minimal network of trails used by the climbing community to access the various climbing objectives within SEKI. The NPS should consider whether to formally acknowledge and incorporate some of these trails into SEKI's formal trail network. If trails are incorporated, the NPS should determine what level of trail development and maintenance is appropriate or required, what materials should be used, and what level of maintenance will be regularly needed, if any. In maintaining these trails, the NPS should consider working with the local climbing community and Access Fund to help build effective trails using volunteers for climbing. Climber assistance for constructing access trails has proven successful where volunteers have worked with agency officials to build trails, address erosion concerns, and better serve the needs of the user community.

Human Waste

Human waste can be a significant issue at areas that are popular climbing locations. The SEKI Wilderness Plan should consider signage educating climbers regarding Leave No Trace principles posted at parking lots and trailheads to effectively inform

recreational users as to acceptable human waste disposal practices. Our experience is that the best way to address human waste issues in climbing areas is to inform climbers of their proven, documented impacts, and suggest alternative conduct that can ameliorate the problem. The NPS should document the extent of this impact prior to or during the implementation of this Wilderness Plan so that any proposed management solutions will be based on objective information. The NPS should also consult the resources recently developed at the American Alpine Club's Exit Strategies conference see <http://www.americanalpineclub.org/exitstrategies>.

Education/Community Outreach

A climber outreach program is a critical component to any effective climbing management initiative. Nearly all climbers will choose to "do the right thing" if they understand the appropriate behavior and the justification for any restrictions. For example, signage educating climbers regarding Leave No Trace principles should be posted at parking lots and trailheads to effectively inform recreational users as to acceptable human waste disposal practices. For this Wilderness Plan to be successful the NPS should work with the climbing community directly to foster understanding, appreciation, respect, and a sense of ownership for the resources found at SEKI. By soliciting input from the climbing community directly on any proposed management initiative, the NPS will secure a key partner that can provide insight into specific resource issues and conditions, labor for building trails or other infrastructure, support for regulation compliance, and a good relationship with one of its significant user groups. Climbers have a long tradition of resource stewardship and support for resource protection. This tradition can be harnessed to support NPS planning, through consistent outreach, and an emphasis on education rather than law enforcement. * * * We hope the above information helps the NPS identify the appropriate scope for the SEKI Wilderness Plan and clarifies ways in which the climbing community can be of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require more information, or would like to discuss any of the points covered in this comment letter. The SSCA and Access Fund look forward to working with the NPS and any interested parties throughout the planning process for the SEKI Wilderness Plan.

Best Regards,

Torey Ivanic Southern Sierra Climbers Association

Jason Keith The Access Fundnce I

Correspondence ID: 883 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: RE: Wilderness Stewardship Plan

I am being gradually driven away from enjoying SEKI, due to the number of stock animals allowed to graze, trample and pollute, SEKI's alpine meadows and lakeshores, as well as the same stock, depositing tons of manure on trails, while at the same time, tearing trails' surfaces to pieces, with their hooves .

Why NPS ruis for so long, allowed this particular form of commercial interest, to so degrade SEKI, to the detriment of both the parks' environment and hikers, I can only ascribe to the timidity of NPS management, in the face of organized pressure from stock interests and their local political allies.

The time is now at hand (hopefully), for NPS to fnally, institute and enforce, radical changes upon the use and presence of stock in SEKI, by both minimizing its presence and, by adopting stringent measures to reduce the impact of stock's presence; to do anything less at this juncture, is an abdication of NPS's responsibility to protect SEKI.

I'll not prolong this submission by listing the many measures which must be implemented to fnally end the plague of degradation, which unlimited, unrestricted, unregulated, stock usage, is imposing upon SEKI, as a number of concerned organizations have provided yourselves with numerous, wellconsidered, recommendations, such as those advanced by High Sierra Hikers Association.

Please, at long last, impose upon the commercial stock interests, the sort of stringent, comprehensive, regulations, which will both cause a cessation of their awful damage to SEKI, as well as allow the majority of SEKI backcountry visitors, hikers such as me, to not be plagued by the mess and destruction, stock use is causing.

Correspondence ID: 884 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: RE: Caves

Since a large number of SEKI caves are located within designated wilderness, any Wilderness Stewardship Plan needs to include an array of legally-mandated cave resource management concepts. Due to the highly unique and sign ificant quality of this particular cave resource, considerations will be required that may deviate in some degree from traditional or otherwise

desirable wilderness-related goals and ideals for the areas. Here are some examples:

-Active support of research in wilderness caves. -Cooperation with science-based groups such as CRF (Cave Research Foundation). -Maintenance of remote structures and trails needed for ongoing cave research. -Continuous staffing of a cave resource management office to coordinate cave related activity at SEKI. -Partnering with responsible caving groups participating in volunteer park cave projects. -Expansion of cave-related educational activity as appropriate. -Active support of safe and responsible recreational caving. -Monitoring, maintaining, repairing, and building cave gates, when needed. -Protection of highly fragile or pristine speleothems and specialized biota from degradation.

SEKI has already done some excellent work in these areas. This should continue, and writing it down in so many words in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan will help insure that it does indeed continue and improve over time.

Correspondence ID: 885 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,24,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to offer my views on the SEKI Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I belong to no organization nor am I affiliated with any business that has dealings with the National Park Service; my opinions are entirely my own. I have been camping and backpacking in the Sierra Nevada wilderness for 35 years and have hiked the SEKI wilderness from the northern to southern boundary and east and west from the John Muir Wilderness in Inyo National Forest to the western boundary, including extensive off-trail travel.

The most important aspect of the SEKI Wilderness is that it remain wilderness. That is, an area that maintains its natural evolving ecology with minimal as possible human impact. Leave-no-trace principles must apply to all human interaction.

The National Park Service has done an excellent job fulfilling its stewardship in the SEKI wilderness. However, I understand the need for clarifying and modifying certain regulations to continue fulfilling that stewardship. Any strategy for protection should, above all, include the retention of the backcountry rangers. Not only is their presence important in terms of providing emergency services. They also do an excellent job of educating the public in leave-no-trace principles and their presence discourages parties from not following those principles.

In regards to your specific questions for requested comments, here are my thoughts.

What types of activities do you consider important and appropriate in wilderness? And inappropriate?

The only activities that are important and appropriate are the following: hiking, backpacking, mountain climbing with minimal aid (ropes and pitons), fishing, and, within certain areas, pack stock travel and camping. All other activities should remain outside the wilderness, including any and all electronic devices that make significant noise, hunting of local wildlife, the carrying of firearms, and hang gliding.

What are your thoughts on party/group size, food storage practices, and campfire necessity? Party/group size should be limited to no more than 10 on trails and trail camps and no more than 6 on off-trail routes and camps. As much as I wish otherwise, certified bear canisters need to be required throughout the SEKI wilderness. Even in more off-trail areas where the likelihood of bears getting one's food is minimal, canisters should still be required: I once encountered a bear at a campsite by a lake in the Upper Kern a mile from the nearest trail. Pacific Crest Trail through hikers should continue to be required to either camp at bearbox locations or carry a canister. The current campfire restrictions should remain in place. I have not built a campfire in the backcountry for many years, even at lower elevations where they are permitted. The large, elaborate fireplaces that remain in legal fire areas should be knocked down and rebuilt to a smaller size. Anyone found constructing a fireplace should be dealt with harshly, including a hefty fine.

SEKI Wilderness Stewardship Plan Comments, Laurence Brauer, page 2 Are there any areas of the wilderness that warrant special consideration? All off-trail areas need to be treated with special consideration. Many of these areas retain a beauty and tranquility that is unique and almost unchanged. As mentioned above, group size in off-trail areas should be limited to six. Off-trail pack stock travel should be prohibited. Anyone found to be abusing the regulations in off-trail areas should be dealt with more harshly than those on the more heavily visited trailed areas.

What are your thoughts on minimum requirements, i.e. appropriate management activities and techniques? The current management activities and techniques appear to be effective, though individuals and groups who have a history of violating wilderness regulations do not seem to be dealt with as harshly as they should. Repeat offenders should be banned from the wilderness. The current permit procedure works well with a good balance between reserved and walk-up permits. As mentioned above, the backcountry rangers are essential to the continued preservation of the SEKI wilderness. What are the possible strategies for protection of wilderness resources? The best strategy for protection of wilderness resources is to minimize human impact as much as possible through the maintenance of the current quotas and not allowing any commercial activity within the wilderness. What are your thoughts about commercial services in wilderness, such as guided hiking, guided stock trips, guided climbing, etc.? I have no problem with guided hiking, stock trips, and climbing as long as those commercial operators are

located outside the wilderness boundary and abide by all rules within the wilderness, including being responsible for all people in their party. Commercial operators should be held responsible for educating their clients on wilderness regulations. Commercial pack trips should be restricted to major trails and prohibited from cross-country travel. Any operator who violates the rules should be banned from operating in the wilderness after the second violation. What other concerns do you have about wilderness at SEKI? My major concern for not only wilderness in SEKI, but all wilderness in the United States is that it is endangered under the current political climate in our country. However minuscule in comparison to almost every other area of the federal budget, any and all government expenditures for wilderness (and the National Park Service) are called into question by certain commercial and political interests. The entire National Park Service and the U.S. wilderness system is under attack by the voices of ignorance. As the Wilderness Act states, the designated wild lands of the United State are "for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and to provide for the protection of these areas and the preservation of their wilderness character." Please continue to maintain your stewardship over the SEKI wilderness. It is not only an American treasure, it is a world treasure. It's unique ecology and incomparable beauty make the SEKI wilderness an unequaled place on our planet. Please continue to keep this place as it is now for future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

Correspondence ID: 886 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,01,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Karen,

This letter is concerning the new wilderness plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. As a mammoth lakes local for ten years and an avid hiker of the eastern sierras for twenty years. I have a very well formed opinion regarding pack animals on our trails. To be blunt, it is a tracery.

First, and most importantly, is the devastating impact on our environment. Did you know that an average horse or mule produce about thirty pounds of feces and two and a half gallons of urine a day?! That's a lot to ask mother nature to deal with (imagine 30x the # of animals x the number of days in the Sierras- wow!) From invasive weeds, to altering the fragile ecosystems of our lakes and streams, to tearing up trails until they become trenches, (which become small rivers in the spring causing further damage) to the massive destruction caused by open grazing of "our" park lands, these animals destroy the eastern sierras.

My thought is that it is only allowed because it has been "grandfathered in." In other words, if the park out fitters were to try to gain access and permission to run their pack trains, 20 animals three to four times a day, everyday, they would fail. Even the most conservative environmental impact report would damn them into non-existence. The amount of money paid yearly by these businesses, doesn't even begin to off set the costs of monitoring the animals, repairing the trails, controlling weeds, and further environmental studies.

Let be sensible and bring some well needed boundaries to the scope of their operations. pack animals should only be used for the elderly or disabled and necessary items. pack trains should consist of no more than ten animals, going out once or twice a day. (that's still quite a lot!) Require pack outfitters to pay for trail rehabilitation, invasive weed control, and stock monitoring. Require stock animals to stay on trails and ban all grazing.

Lastly, make manure catches mandatory. I believe we can all enjoy the beauty of the eastern sierras if we have consideration for others and the environment. Thus fur, the pack outfitters have demonstrated little or no consideration for the environment and other using the trails. So now, we must make it law.

My own personal experience from hiking on pulverized, powdered urine and feces, is quite depressing. My legs get welts that are so sever they run together, covering 75% of my legs, from my ankles to my hips. These welts are red, swollen, painful and burning. Showering hurts, shaving is out of the question. This only happens on trails with heavy horse travel. i shudder to think of what I am inhaling and what is happening to my lungs (no pain fibers in the lungs). God forbid, but we may see diseases form this in the next decade or so.

Please consider the many thousand of hikers that utilize our trails, and that have not had the opportunity to voice their options, but who pay taxes!

But mostly Please, please consider the beautiful fragile ecosystems of the sierras that rely on good and wise people for protection and stewardship.

Correspondence ID: 887 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:

I have previously offered some suggestions on management of the SEKI wilderness areas. Following are some further suggestions for your consideration.

Management Personnel The career paths requirements for Wilderness Areas supervisors candidates should include a mandatory 2-4 year working assignment in the specific area. The area superintendent should have intimate knowledge of the areas physical features and concerns. This can only be obtained by actual working experience (e.g.--backcountry ranger, trail crew supervisor, and the like.) While enforcement, NPS policies, budgeting, etc. skills can be developed throughout the NPS. the knowledge to successfully manage a wilderness area can only be gained through actual on the site experience. Zones Common sense dictates that different areas of a wilderness area will have different requirements. For example ,areas subject to day visitors should allow NPS personnel to utilize "modern equipment" in trail maintenance and allow denser populations of visitors than would be allowed in remote high country regions.

Flexibility Superintendents of wilderness areas should have flexibility in interpreting NPS policies to meet site peculiarities and emergencies. An example would be the use of chain saws to open trails following a severe windstorm which felled many large trees.

Historical Wilderness areas should recognize past historical events (not just the impact of pre-history natives) The SEKI wildernesses have witnessed Significant events and interesting "characters" during the past 150 years. I recently read a fascinating account in the Tulare County Historical Society publication "Las Tulares" recalling the activities of sheep and cattlemen in the 1800's moving their flocks and herds up the Kern Canyon from the San Joaquin Valley to the upper reaches of the Kern River and over Colby Pass to the southern parts of Kingsl Canyon Park. A similar article on the establishment of Lewis Camp on the Kern River reminded me of my experience when encountering the old store and unique water ways to the old campsites. Old miner and stocking cabins, hunter camps, and the like are interesting remains from the 18th century and should not be removed.

Handicap Access The preservation of our national wilderness areas is important. However, this preservation must also recognize the needs of the handicapped, the elderly and the young. Limiting area access to only foot traffic will prevent the less physically fit of us from being able to enjoy portions of our rich environment. The continued use of stock on a daily basis and extended pack trips will provide opportunities for the handicapped to view areas not otherwise accessible to them. The use of stock in SEKI has been an important activity since the 1800s-its use should be continued.

Noise Pollution Military, commercial, private and NPS overflights are very disrupting to the peace and solitude of the wilderness experience. These activities should be limited to emergencies only. The use of helicopters for remote provisioning and personnel transportation should be discouraged--mule pack trains as used in the past were compatible with the wilderness environment and also provided employment for packers to augment their incomes. In general, the current policies and procedures being followed in SEKI are successfully protecting the fragile High Sierra environment. I do not feel that major changes should be made.

Correspondence ID: 888 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Karen;

As a long time (40+ years) hiker, backpacker and back country skier on the Sierras I was delighted to see I had the opportunity to comment on the SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

In my enclosures you can see what some of my personal experiences have been. Primarily a person walking on a trail is a lot closer to the ground than a horse back rider and gets the full impact of horse damage.

The ground in the Sierras is so fragile and there is so little soil. Horses' hoofs act like plows and quickly make a trench. Then the rocks are scrapped off, then the horses go on to create another trench, all over! I have seen especially this year with the late start the trail after winter and some foot traffic becomes usable again, but it take only one pack train to ruin it again. Like Yosemite horse hoofs should be shod with big soft coverings to minis trail damage. Horses have to be limited to only necessary use, not bringing lazy luxurious guests in. Meadows are ruined by grazing horses and mules, turned into muddy messes.

There are only a few lesser known places one can hike without piles of hose manure, files and dust, there should be more, and could be if we could limit horse use to only a few trails and have some for hikers only. It would be welcomed by all foot traffic if one member of the pack team would be last with a shovel to toss the horse poop off the trail. Packers should be limited just as hikers in the permitting system, even if it is a short season. No more letting them write their own permits.

Correspondence ID: 889 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: I am writing in response to the SEKI Stewardship Plan. I have been in the SEKI area many times in my 32 years of hiking and backpacking in the Sierra Nevada mountains from Bridgeport to Mt. Whitney and from my observations on those trips I am making my comments.

I am glad the Park Service has decided to make some changes in that area. The last time I was asked to send in my comments was when Mike Tollefson was Park Superintendent! Have also written on the many Yosemite Master Plans when he was

Superintendent there.

1) The grazing done in the SEKI area should be hauled immediately! I remember so many times observing the cattle trampling the beautiful meadows and leaving dung in that area, which probably brought in so many invasive plants. and the fact they were up so high in these mountains did not seem right! Horses were also to blame when they were used to haul in humans. If only there were trails then for foot hikers and other trails for pack animals. The animals should stay on maintained and designated trails.

2) Through the years I also observed the increase in the number of humans these horses were bringing in! The total number for a pack train should be a maximum of 10 persons. (To constantly have to move off the trail to let them pass is annoying and time consuming.)

3) All commercial stock outfitters should pay an extra fee to help maintain the beaten up trails or charge extra to the persons they are hauling in.

4) Also, all stock animals dung should be packed out, or if disposed in the area-stay away from water, just as humans have to!

5) Commercial users should have to apply for the same Wilderness permits as hikers have to and if the quotas are taken for that day or week, they should be turned away and should ask for another application to enter on other days/weeks.

Correspondence ID: 890 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: whom it may concern,

I've been visiting or working in SEKI since 1970. So here you go again with yet another "plan". Even a lemonade stand updates their plan more often than 30 years!?! Okay, so its clear that all users should complete for permits via a single system. This includes outfitter, etc.

Almost everyone knows that fees for outfitters and guides don't cover the cost of their Impacts and so the fees should be increased.

large 10 + group of stock or people affect almost everyone's experience negatively- so reduce group sizes to 10 or less!!

In regards to stock use: 1) Weed free feed should be required esp. 8500' or below(used even by the U.S.Fs) 2) No cross country travel awarded 3) Food travel only trails should be established! 4) Grazing should be recorded using the data on file at the park right now! No grazing should be allowed anywhere above 9500'!

It's time to stop the vacillation and gratuitous attitude toward all commercial services and come forward with a fair pragmatic plain that will address these issues.

Thanks,

Correspondence ID: 891 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Karen,

I love the Sierra Nevada Mts! I have been backpacking there for 36 years. I am not 79 years old and am looking forward to another 10 day trip the end of Aug.

There has always been the on-going friction of stock vs. people. I have witnessed the damage done by both but the stock use far outweighs the people use. I'm sure you have witnessed that also. A horse or donkey or mule stamping on a trail even just once does a lot more damage than a person. I have watched many horse trains as they went by as I sought higher ground. Amazing what their hooves and excrement do to the trails compared to people. We were in a campground on the back side (west) of Mt. Whitnet and it had been visited by a "horse party"! It took us and a ranger almost an hour to clean up the excrement left behind. The ranger stated that the particular camping spot was not for animals.

We backpackers cannot get permits easily but it seems to be no problem for high-impact commercial users. Some commercial

users can even write their own permits! There should be a single system where all users have to request permits.

Consider requesting stock users to wear "manure catchers", or cleaned up by their owners. It should be packed out or at least buried away from water sources.

Also, in order to cut down on invasive weeds, the stock should be fed weed-free feed at least 2 weeks before entering the park. The animals should be certified by qualified rangers that their time in our beautiful mountains will not harm them. Stock users could pay a fee for this to off-set expenses.

If you decided to continue letting stock use the mts. perhaps the size of the groups could be limited. Smaller is better!

I appreciate the big job ahead of you in decisions that have to be made. I wish you well and I trust our beautiful mountains will benefit by your good decisions in their behalf!

Correspondence ID: 892 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: As lifetime backpacker with over fifty summers spent in the High sierra, swatting horse flies, breathing horse dust and stumbling + some times falling in the sea of loose stones, dust and debris left by stock users, I have very strong negative feelings about the fact that stock users have been getting away with 'wilderness' murder for a century or more. There is no point for me to relate instance of stock damage, your own scientists have documented this abuse for years. It is how time to finally listen to the experts and enact meaningful control on the number one, on the ground threat to our (not their) wilderness.

Of course grazing could be banned, causing stock damage to be restricted only to the twenty miles a day that stock can easily manage before nightfall. This would cause main trails to continue as stock freeways while more remote trails would not be damaged and become "stock free" areas. a huge improvement for the hikers and the land.

At the every least grazing should be limited and moved way down hill. Weed-free feed is a must, bells, fences banned, stock numbers 10 or fewer.

Stop giving pack outfits unlimited access to wilderness permits. They should have to stand in line like everybody else. Thought should be given to requiring only disabled patrons on horseback. Of course stock must stay on trails, not go cross country. An dhow about stock users paying the actual cost for their trail, campsite and other damage. As far as I'm concerned all stock parties should be required to have at least one man following on the ground picking up the turds, litter, pulling weeds, and removing all the stock loosened rocks that cause many accidents as hikers wade through all the stock damage, trying to enjoy their vacations.

Please get real on stock damage control and finally give some support to the hikers who have endured so much for so long. How about horse mocascins?

Correspondence ID: 893 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: I would like to make some comments about some of the proposals for the new Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

I'm 74 years old and have backpacked for many, many years. However, now the only way I can get very far into the back country is to have an animal carry what used to go into my backpack. But now a group of younger people has suggested many things which would essentially bar many older Americans from using the SEKI back country. And I don't mean just greybeards -- the "baby boomers" would be significantly effected by the elitist plan proposed by a fringe group. I don't think this is either fair or right.

I have read the proposals of HSSA, the primary elitist group, and would like to comment some of them.

1. "Network of foot-travel-only trails should be established." Their hatred for horses is beyond any rational reasoning!! The only thing accomplished by this suggestion would be to force horse parties to detour around such "blockages", and increase the cost and time to pack in. Also, how would trail crews get their tools and supplies to their work site?

2. How about building new trails for foot travel only? Good luck finding the money to do that!!

3. Would the Park Service create a new job category of "Horse Inspector" to make certain all pack stock was bathed just before going into the wilderness? Perhaps he/she could also be trained to dig through fresh horse manure to insure that the stock had only been eating food free of weed seeds!

4. "Commercial packstock services should be limited to serving only those persons who are truly disabled". Perhaps the Park Service could create a new job category of rangers who would hang around pack stations and give physical exams to determine if persons about to board horses are truly disabled. Or maybe you'd just have to bring along a certificate of disability from your doctor. Do they think people aren't going to get around that one??

5. "All stock animals should be required to wear manure catchers." This would be really funny, except I think they're serious!! This would be great material for the Late Night Show!

The philosophy here is that wilderness must NEVER change in any way. I think this is an unrealistic goal. But most of all, such suggestions are designed to keep people out of the wilderness !! I suspect these elitist fringe groups would deny that, but its true, and many of us deeply resent these "brilliant" ideas which would restrict our ability to use the people's land. Please add me to the contact list for the various notices about hearings on the subject Wilderness Plan.

Correspondence ID: 894 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent,

It's come to my attention that SEKI is seeking input towards revising its current "Backcountry Management Plan" and "Stock Use Plan". I have been backpacking in SEKI every year since 1986. (I'm going over Bishop Pass tomorrow!) I take 3-8 day trips alone or with my partner and do loops that take me to the most remote/pristine locations. I try to leave the trail system as quickly as possible as I find hiking off-trail much more satisfying. I'm very conscious of, and an enthusiastic practitioner of, the "Leave No Trace" ethic. It's my understanding that the Wilderness Act obligates SEKI to adopt, not just promote, Leave No Trace ethics. SEKI too often falls short of this excellent mantra.

I am particularly concerned about the impact of mules and horses in the high country.

Pack-stock have a heavy negative impact on backcountry trails. There is no question at all in my mind that the "trail dust" which gets deeper and deeper as the season wears on is chiefly attributable to stock use. I don't know how you'd measure the negative impact this has on most users experience, I only know how unpleasant my friends and I find it. The dust, which is some not insignificant percentage feces, permeates shoes and socks, and requires strenuous scrubbing at days end. You know it's bad when you blow your nose and it comes out black with dust. (No exaggeration.) Then there are the flies. The flies wouldn't be there if not for the poop. It's not like I'm some terribly sensitive type but part of the allure of wilderness is that every little thing is as nature intended, without modification by people. Continuous piles of stock dung are out of place then in wilderness. Some might argue that the trail itself is out of place (as it is in parts of Alaskan wilderness), but the trail is a necessity in our more frequented parks. Commercial pack-stock operations are not a necessity. They are a privilege, and the privilege should be weighed against the costs. (The historical usage argument is very weak - conditions change, CA has 35 million citizens, rules must change too.)

Aside from the aesthetic costs there are also monetary costs involved. It's bizarre that taxpayers should be asked to shoulder any of the costs of trail maintenance necessitated by for profit commercial operators.

If I had my way I would ban commercial pack-stock trips in SEKI. Pack-stock use would be limited to necessary resupply/maintenance of backcountry ranger stations and medical emergencies.

If I were to compromise I would sharply limit the number of total pack-stock days per trail. Five animals hiking in and out on separate days would be 10 pack-stock days. Some trails might be able to handle more "PSD's", some less, and many should be none at all. This would allow SEKI scientists to properly evaluate how much pack-stock usage the trail system can handle. It would also allow for human only trails to be maintained with a lighter footprint then stock fortified trails. So perhaps the Bishop Pass trail down to LeConte Canyon would have 200 PSD's per year. The pack-stock operators could then bid (\$\$) for rights for those permits. The money generated would offset the cost of the necessary backcountry PSD permit checking.

Other mitigations should include the banning of grazing, period. They should carry their own feed, and it should be weed free feed. That's just common sense.

I have taken umbrage over the years when five times a year I'm required to listen to a lecture and sign a pledge requiring me to practice LNT camping while knowing the governing authority (SEKI) continues to allow commercial operations/practices in direct contradiction to those requirements. I would practice LNT whether there was a pledge required or no, but it's hard not to be galled sometimes knowing that SEKI doesn't fully practice what it preaches. This creation of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan is a great opportunity, one that makes me very hopeful that SEKI will take the high road and put it's principles and practices in

harmony. Thanks so much for including my input!

Correspondence ID: 895 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep.08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich

As a Californian who greatly cares about wildlife and has visited Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks three times in my life, I am writing to respectfully ask that you do all you possibly can to protect these magnificent trees and forests. This "Range of Light" as John Muir so eloquently put it, is one of the more rare and invaluable ecosystems on the planet.

I am very concerned about the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and would like to strongly encourage some of the following enhancements.

Firstly, SEKI began airlifting dozens of large bear-proof food lockers into its wilderness in the 1980s, before portable canisters were available. Now that portable canisters are widely available, SEKI should cease installing these permanent improvements, and remove the existing lockers by primitive methods.

Second, SEKI should also stop its extensive, routine and unnecessary use of helicopters for research, fire monitoring, bighorn sheep surveys/collars, supplying trail crews, etc. Helicopters are landing almost daily in the Wilderness during summer months, and the noise from aircraft overflights is ubiquitous. The NPS should END its reliance on mechanized transport (i.e., helicopters).

Third, in order to minimize the size and impact of commercial groups, commercial packstock services should be strictly limited to serving only those who require their services, and commercial packing outfits should be prohibited from hauling un-necessary or excessive gear. The NPS has long ignored the Wilderness Act's legal mandate to limit commercial services to the "extent necessary." While courts have ruled that items such as camp furniture, boats, radios, ice chests, and other luxury items are unnecessary for the enjoyment of a wilderness experience (and damaging to the experience of other visitors), SEKI places no limits on commercial services, allowing commercial outfits to cater to anyone and haul anything. The parks are for everyone and those who bring in all this extra material effect those who do not. One of the big reasons people visit nature is to get away from all the stuff of daily life and go to a place that is in its natural state. This should not be compromised. Another concern is that all visitors to the SEKI wilderness should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field. Where the general public is limited by trailhead quotas or other restrictions, commercial uses should be strictly limited or eliminated. Clients of high-impact commercial stock outfits should not be guaranteed access while private (non-outfitted) hikers are turned away by trailhead quotas or other limits. All users should compete for wilderness permits via a single system, and then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services as needed to facilitate their trip. Clients of commercial outfits should also not be allowed to "buy" access while others are being turned away.

Lastly, SEKI should require strict prevention measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. It is well documented that stock animals are responsible for introducing and spreading invasive weeds from viable seeds both in their manure and on their hooves and coats. SEKI has for many years been quietly using chemical herbicides to control weed outbreaks even deep in the backcountry while giving little more than lip service to prevention measures. For this reason, the NPS should: 1) prohibit open grazing of park lands and require stock users to use weed-free feed; 2) require that all animals be provided weed-free feed for at least two weeks before entering the parks (to allow time for the animals to excrete weed seeds before entering the parks); and 3) require all stock animal hooves & coats to be thoroughly cleaned before entering the parks and inspected by qualified rangers to ensure that this is done (Stock users should also be charged a fee to pay for the inspections.). Without a robust and mandatory weed prevention program, SEKI will be increasingly stuck in a reactionary mode, relying on expensive, intrusive, and chemical-intensive weed control efforts that often fail,

Thank you very much for taking the time to carefully consider these important issues impacting SEKI. Please help protect and preserve Sequoia/Kings Canyon for future generations.

Correspondence ID: 896 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug.31,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

The SEKI National Park is the most beautiful place on Earth and my favorite place in the world. I have been backpacking into it several times a year for twenty years, on trail and cross-country, and to its highest, spectacular elevations. During that time, I have been surprised by an increasing number of commercial stock parties in its upper elevations.

I have seen off-trail wet meadows utterly degraded with horse and mule excrement and urine, and hoof prints a foot deep. At one lake over-used by commercial packers I listened to not one but two blaring boomboxes - hardly a "wilderness experience". In the attempt to sell their packages, commercial packers regularly go way off-trail to encamp their parties, apparently without limits of any kind; their exploratory hoofprints, and excrement, are everywhere. While I'm always astonished to see parties of perfectly able-bodied people being horsed into wilderness areas - I ran into one such group of young men with a heavy, full

boxed crate of bottled alcoholic beverages - I'm equally astonished when I meet backpackers, men and women, in their 70s and 80s, hiking over the highest - and cross-country - passes. My wife and I backpacked from Cottonwood up and over Mt. Whitney - with our 8-year-old son! - and I have seen similar family groups with even younger children heading over that pass at the end of hiking the entire JMT.

Camped one year near a high alpine lake, I watched dumbfounded as two strings of mules were coming over together, twenty mules in all; stopping to drink, each mule in its turn urinated directly into the lake. I've crossed innumerable creeks on wilderness trails reeking of horse urine.

One recent summer, two mules died in the Upper Kern at about 10,000 ft., just below the lakes basins that form the Kern's headwaters. I'm unsure how, or if, SEKI decided to dispose of these animals in the watershed. I'd rarely seen even old signs of stock scat below this along the Kern.

In the Upper Kern I have run into lots of various commercial stock parties along the JMT for the first time. One came in from the west and was headed over Forester Pass, which was being dynamited to make stock access easier. The JMT was relatively and unusually thrashed out between Crabtree and Wright's Creek, and I walked offtrail to avoid the mess.

A large Sierra Club party of thirteen was being full-serviced by Rock Creek Pack Station encamped up Wright Creek upstream from the JMT at about 11,000' where I've never seen stock before. I was dead tired having come from a week's hike and a night on Whitney, and had mules & horses walking around all night, their bells jangling, further upstream where I camped. The next day this party was resupplied with stock over Shephard's Pass - a wrangler had earlier had his finger torn off from a stock accident there - and I spent a dusty, noisy night at Anvil Camp on its east side also surrounded by that stock. In the morning, the wranglers dispersed the accumulated excrement with pitchforks around the campsite, where other campers would soon find it.

I have never understood the permitting process for commercial stock parties. It appears to be a free-for-all for commercial pack stations, and a quota system for hikers. If there are currently any restrictions for commercial packers, they appear to be largely ignored or unenforceable.

In updating SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan I hope The Park will consider managing commercial enterprises within its boundaries in a way that protects and preserves this remarkable resource. This must include enforceable limitations on the number of stock and parties, the elevations they can be allowed, and their offtrail travel. SEKI should certainly be off-limits to commercial packers for drunken frat parties, hardly a "wilderness experience". Most of the damage caused to the resource and trails is a result of uncontrolled stock over-use, the majority of it commercial. SEKI should recover fees in its permit structure to manage and mitigate the damage it shouldn't allow in the first place. Stock should clearly not be allowed free-range grazing in alpine and sub-alpine meadows.

Nor should SEKI bow to the overblown and self-serving commercial hype about the mythological cowboy romance of horsey trips into the wilderness, which it should manage for the American public's future, and not commercial interests. Thank you for considering my comments, and I look forward to learning more about the revision of the SEKI Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Correspondence ID: 897 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Back Country horsemen of America and the Wilderness Society Recreational Groups
Received: Aug.07,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

The following comments are submitted jointly on behalf of the Backcountry Horsemen of America and The Wilderness Society. Representatives from our organizations have come together with the goal of pursuing a plan of action to „insure that traditional, historical, and responsible pack and saddle stock use in Wilderness Areas is recognized, protected, supported and sustained consistent with the capabilities of the land." Both of our organizations are committed to the long-term sustainable management of Wilderness lands in a way that ensures compatible recreational uses are allowed to occur while preserving wilderness character.

Management and maintenance of trails is important to facilitate the enjoyment of Wilderness by the public, both for stock and other compatible uses. Ensuring that these lands are able to be enjoyed by the public is important, and we believe the National Park Service should do what it can, consistent with the Wilderness Act, to maintain trails. The use of traditional tools and primitive means should be the first alternative when it comes to trail maintenance. However, at times, the minimum requirement might include the limited use of mechanized equipment. "Responsibly-maintained trails" in special cases may include the use of motorized equipment when it is appropriate and/or necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Act, including assuring that these areas are "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people." (Section 2a, P.L 88-577) Congress, in House Report 95-540, which accompanied the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978, provided guidance as to "how the Wilderness Act should now be interpreted as it relates to certain uses and activities." Of special note is the guidance it provided for "Traifsf Bridges, Trail Signs _ . Trails, trail signs, and necessary bridges are all permissible when designed In keeping with the wilderness concept. These are often important to the recreational access and use of a wilderness area. Trail construction or maintenance can include the use of mechanical equipment where appropriate and/or necessary." Both the statutory language and your written policy permit a reasonable interpretation that motorized equipment is "appropriate and/or necessary" under certain

circumstances to provide for the "use and enjoyment of the American people" (52, P.L. 88-577).

The National Park Service should not look to the use of mechanized equipment in Wilderness as a common method of maintaining trails, and should always follow the minimum viable tool standard when it comes to wilderness management. As stated in NPS Wilderness Management Policy 6.3.5, we would expect that use of mechanized equipment would be "determined by the superintendent to be the minimum requirement needed by management to achieve the purposes of the area, including the preservation of wilderness character and values, in accordance with the Wilderness Act." The wilderness stewardship plan should provide clarification as to when, specifically, mechanized equipment will be authorized. Our point here is to suggest there may very well be circumstances where the minimum requirement to complete the job justifiably involves motorized or mechanized use, and that such use is permissible, so long as it is the minimum tool to accomplish the purposes established in the law. These purposes, of course, include administering the area "for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness."

Enjoyment of the wilderness areas for horseback riding and packing has been a historical and traditional pursuit within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks since the 1800s. These experiences were inherent social attributes of the "wilderness character" that existed when Congress determined that the areas qualified as wilderness. The example of "Wilderness character" that Senator Hubert Humphrey used in his speech introducing the first wilderness bill was a social attribute - hunting; "Rather than being concerned with any special use or user, this bill relates instead to the character of the areas involved. Hunting, for example, although it is not mentioned in the bill, will continue to be a major recreation within many national forest units of the System and will be prohibited in national parks." It was clear that Congress intended that existing compatible uses be preserved where they existed at the time of designation. He went on to emphasize that "the central concept of this measure, I repeat, is that our present areas of wilderness can be preserved within the existing land-management pattern if the preservation purpose is made a matter of fundamental policy."

In preparing your Wilderness Stewardship Plan, one of the guiding principles should be that horseback riding, packing and hiking are primitive, non-motorized, non-mechanized forms of travel that are appropriate uses of Wilderness Areas in accordance with the purposes and provisions of The Wilderness Act. The plan should ensure that adequate access, appropriate trailhead facilities, reasonable grazing practices for pack and saddle stock that ensure the sustainability of subalpine and alpine vegetation, and responsibly-maintained trails are managed for appropriate recreational uses including pack and saddle stock consistent with the Wilderness Act. It is also important that the ability designated National Park wilderness within SEKI to facilitate such use is not overburdened, and the Park Service should consider how it will ensure historical recreational uses are allowed to continue while simultaneously ensuring protection of wilderness resources within designated Park wilderness.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment and look forward to engaging with you in the development of the wilderness stewardship plan for the iconic wilderness of SEKI Parks. Both Back Country Horsemen of America and The Wilderness Society stand ready to assist you in your planning efforts.

Dennis Dailey and Brad Koehler

Correspondence ID: 898 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,08,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Sirs:

I'm commenting on the SEKI Wilderness Stewardship Plan. As a backcountry traveler + mountaineer, I'm concerned about the damage caused by packers and the noise, manure, flies, etc they created. My main concern is the preferential treatment they get. Packers should have to be on the quota system just like everyone else. Also, how about trails for hikers only. Not having to side step manure would be nice. Thank you for your consideration and I know you'll do the right thing.

Correspondence ID: 899 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Mineral King District Association
Received: Sep,10,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Petition
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:

These are my comments on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Scoping process.

Some context to my comments: My family has been enjoying Mineral King since the late 1890's. We have been MK cabin owners since 1923. My father was the summer U.S. Forest Service Ranger based in Mineral King for most of the 1950's. Over the years, my family and I have hiked all over the Mineral King area and as far away as the Kern River Hot Springs, numerous times. We have also rented pack station animals on numerous occasions. Needless to say, we enjoy the area very much.

I would like to focus on two items, both of which take the view that human beings and stock animals have been, are, and should be part of the wilderness experience in and around Mineral King.

All of the trails in Mineral King and the back country should be maintained at the highest possible level, for enjoyment and for

safety.

Mineral King needs a full service pack station for day rides, spot packing, and extended trips into the back country.

The ability to rent and ride pack animals (horses, mules, and burros) is an important, even fundamental and necessary part of the wilderness experience. Some reasons include: riding a stock animal gives people with physical limitations the same ability to enjoy the wilderness as other people. Stock animals are a much cheaper and less polluting method of sustaining wilderness ranger stations and trail crew camps than helicopters. It is a thrill to see a pack string wending its way over the trails. Of course, one can cover a lot more ground in a day, riding rather than walking.

I enclose a recent petition, sponsored by the Mineral King District Association, containing over 150 names of people who support a full service pack station in Mineral King. I urge you to do what you can to allow, and even encourage, restoration of a full service pack station to serve areas in and around Mineral King.

Thank you,

Brian A. Reynolds , Mineral King District Association

Petition to Restore a Full Service Mineral King Pack Station

The undersigned petitioners strongly encourage appropriate agencies and interested parties to support immediate restoration of a full service Mineral King Pack Station. A full service pack station is a vital part of preserving Mineral King history and a necessary service component for current and future visitors who are otherwise unable to enjoy the natural wonders of Mineral King and the surrounding backcountry.

Correspondence ID: 900 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Backcountry Horsemen of California, Public Lands Committee, High Sierra Unit Recreational Groups
Received: Aug.31.2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:

This correspondence amounts to the written comments by the Public Lands Committee of the High Sierra Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California on the proposed Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP).

Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) evolved from a previous organization called the High Sierra Stock Users Association (HSSUA). The HSSUA was formed to articulate the interests and concerns of stock users in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and to deal with United States Forest Service and National Park Service officials on land management plans and user policy. The organization had its first meeting in 1981. Eventually, the HSSUA learned of the Back Country Horsemen of America and became affiliated with it and changed its name to the Backcountry Horsemen of California. HSSUA originated in Visalia, California and held its first meeting at the California Division of Forestry Office in Visalia.

At the time of being organized, the HSSUA was not aware that the 1971 Master Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) provided for the ultimate elimination of stock use. See attached letter from SEKI Superintendent John H. Davis dated October 18, 1985 addressed to Richard Cochran (Exhibit A).

After becoming formally organized, the HSSUA learned that SEKI was working on a pair of plans regarding stock use. In fact, we were informed that SEKI had been working on these plans for several years. On March 13, 1984 the Public Lands Committee of the HSSUA received the Backcountry Management Plan (BMP) and the Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan (SUMMP) from SEKI, along with environmental assessments for the BMP and SUMMP. The four documents were lengthy and complex. More significantly, the transmittal letter that accompanied the four documents stated that SEKI required formal written responses by March 31, 1984.

The receipt by the HSSUA of the BMP and the SUMMP commenced a two year battle which ended in 1986.

The HSSUA did not know how to begin to comment on these complicated and complex plans. We sought an extension of time to comment on the plans but did not receive offers that provided HSSUA with sufficient time to review and digest and respond to the plans. Eventually, William Clark, then the Secretary of the Interior of the United States, granted us a one year period of time in which to comment on the plans. It was while the HSSUA was evaluating the plans that the HSSUA learned that the 1971 Park Master Plan called for the ultimate elimination of stock use.

Charles Morgan, a concerned and pivotal member of the HSSUA, performed a historical analysis of the plans and regulations that affected stock use in SEKI. Morgan also prepared overlays of the maps of the SEKI backcountry. In a presentation to William Penn Mott, then the Director of the National Park Service, Morgan explained to Mott that the proposed BMP and proposed SUMMP contained more closures and restrictions on pack and saddle stock use than all of the previous plans and

regulations combined.

When the Backcountry Management Plan was eventually adopted and published in 1986 it contained, in Section 5.8 entitled Stock Use and Meadow Management, the following provision:

"Pack and saddle stock use of the backcountry of these parks is a long established historically and culturally significant and traditional use that will be continued with controls that will keep the effects of such use within acceptable limits."

The Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan, when it was adopted and published in 1986, provided in the Introduction the following language:

"The use of pack and saddle stock is still recognized as a traditional, historically and culturally significant, and legitimate activity that will continue in the backcountry of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks."

There is a vocal and litigious organization named the High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA) that has intimidated SEKI Management for many years. Consequently, out of fear of provoking more litigation by the HSHA, SEKI management has been looking over its proverbial shoulder as it deals with issues relating to stock use.

When SEKI attempted to make its party size limits commensurate with the surrounding national forests and parks, the HSHA sued. SEKI and the surrounding national forests and national parks wanted to make the party size limits uniform so that parties, whether hikers or stock users, could travel from one national forest or national park to another without fear of being cited for having more stock or more people than allowed. The HSHA recognized a flaw in the procedure followed by SEKI to increase its party size limits to match those of the surrounding parks and forests and sued. The HSHA prevailed. SEKI had failed to follow all of the appropriate steps to make its party size limits the same as the surrounding forest and parks.

The HSHA is presently engaged in litigation with SEKI over the General Management Plan that SEKI adopted in 2007. This litigation is currently pending in United States District Court in San Francisco. The HSHA picks forums for their litigation favorable to their position. San Francisco is the most liberal city in the United States. Right now the US District Court in San Francisco is deciding whether or not to allow the administrative record, which SEKI prepared and submitted to the Court, to be augmented by documents favorable to the position of the HSHA. One such document is a letter, obviously from a backpacker, who wrote a letter to SEKI complaining that the stock party in a nearby camp had a two burner stove and a table in their camp.

Recent litigation by the HSHA includes litigation against Sierra National Forest over its management of commercial packer concession contracts. This litigation and the consequent results of it threaten the existence of the commercial pack stations that service the public in the central Sierra Nevada Mountains

The focus of the HSHA litigation against SEKI and its General Management Plan is over stock use and allegedly about commercial stock use. However, a reading of the actual complaint filed by the HSHA causes the reader to conclude that it is really an action filed against all stock use. Some of the language in the actual complaint (lawsuit) is interesting in that it periodically refers to the alleged utterly devastating effects of stock use in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. That unsupported claim is aimed at a trial judge and his or her law clerks sitting in San Francisco.

The reality about stock use is that it has declined dramatically over the last 50 and more years. The exact cause of this dramatic decline is unknown. However, the numerous restrictions placed on pack and saddle stock use by the BMP and the SUMMP have not helped. Attached as Exhibit "B" is a document entitled Stock Use Nights in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks ' 1990 through 2010. This document was obtained by a member of the Backcountry Horsemen of California at the scoping session for this Wilderness Stewardship Plan in Visalia, California from SEKI staff. Exhibit "5" dramatically demonstrates the steady decline in stock use in SEKI. SEKI management should be focused on maintaining and encouraging this historical and traditional use rather than placing more and further restrictions and limitations on it.

Mitchel P. McClaran is a well respected college professor that has contracted with SEKI over many years to perform studies and analysis of the backcountry meadows in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. McClaran authored a 411 page report dated June 30, 1989 entitled "Past and Present Conditions of Backcountry Meadows in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks". In the executive summary of said report McClaran states, in part, as follows!

"Compared to past conditions, as indicated by old photographs and historical reports, the backcountry meadows are generally in excellent condition".

At the time of performing his services and preparing the previously described report McClaran was an Assistant Professor in the School of Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Arizona.

Aldo Leopold is considered to be one of the foremost proponents of creating wilderness areas. While on a pack trip in the headwaters of the Pecos River in 1913, Leopold shared with his companion, District Ranger Elliott Barker, an incredible dream. He propounded a belief that our nation should set aside large tracts of land that would remain forever wild. These tracts would serve as "anchor points so society would always have a touchstone to the past." Leopold believed that Public wilderness areas are, first of all, a means of perpetuating, in sport form, the more virile and primitive skills in pioneering travel and subsistence."

Two examples "are as American as a Hickory Tree; they have been copied elsewhere, but they were developed to their full perfection only on this continent. One of these is canoe travel and the other is travel by pack-train."

Harvey Broome, an attorney and one of the eight organizers of the Wilderness Society, is recognized to be one of the three co-writers of the Wilderness Act along with Howard Zahniser, and George Marshall (brother of Robert Marshall). His book "Faces of the Wilderness" gives accounts of numerous Wilderness Society trips in the decade before passage of the Wilderness Act. Most of these trips were supported by pack and saddle stock. It is inconceivable to think that the framers of the Wilderness Act did not recognize the propriety and symbolism of the pack-train when they drafted the original bill, (This information provided by Dennis Dailey, Wilderness Resource Consultant).

According to Dennis Dailey, the pack string in modern wilderness remains as a commemoration of the pioneering of America, of mountain men, the forms of travel and way of life he experienced during the expansion era of our history. Every time a Back Country Horseman throws a load on his horse and mule and rides into America's wilderness, he is living Aldo Leopold's dream, in helping to "preserve a ...traditional, historic and folk culture that [is] a living expression of our American heritage."

At the present time SEKI management is presiding over a historical use (pack and saddle stock use) that is threatened with extinction because SEKI management and the National Park Service are afraid to stand up to the HSHA and their litigation team at the law firm of Morrison and Forester.

Pack and saddle stock use pre-dates the formation of both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. First stock use by Euro-Americans was in the late 1850's. In 1861 horse use and trail building took place in Log Meadow. In 1890 Sequoia National Park was formed and the 4th United States Cavalry conducted its first administrative patrols in 1891. In 1902, a contract was awarded for commercial transportation with horses and mules (wagons, pack-trains, etc.). Moreover, stock use was the primary means of access into Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks into the early 20th century. There is a hollow Giant Sequoia tree in the Grant Grove part of Kings Canyon National Parks where the Cavalry stabled its horses. African American Buffalo Soldiers participated in patrolling the parks as part of the United States Cavalry.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are "out of balance" in their dual mandate to preserve and protect the environment and to provide for public use and enjoyment of the two parks. There is at present only one commercial pack station operating in SEKI. This station is located in Cedar Grove. We are informed and believe that the Cedar Grove Pack Station is operating on a year to year permit. This pack station is literally on life support. In the recent past SEKI has closed down an ice skating rink as well as a ski area. The pack station located at Wolverton has been closed for the alleged reason that the area was needed for a parking lot for visitors to use to enjoy and view the General Sherman Tree. The pack station located in Mineral King was also owned by the operator of the Wolverton Pack Station and he was unable to operate just the one station. In the recent past SEKI has caused the closure of two of the three remaining pack stations located within the boundaries of the two parks. Further, the HSHA has submitted formal written comments to SEKI on SEKI's Mineral King Management Plan requesting SEKI to demolish and remove the structures which comprise the Mineral King Pack Station,

BCHC as well as BCHA focus a great deal of attention on education programs that teach our members how to be gentle with the back country areas that we love and treasure. Significant effort is devoted to "Leave No Trace" and "Gentle Use" education. All of the states that comprise the BCHA participate in these education programs and even train members to educate the public and our fellow members about "Leave No Trace" and "Gentle Use" concepts and practices.

BCHC and BCHA not only educate our members about low impact use but we also contribute significant amounts of labor and materials to maintain trails and campsites on the Federal lands that we use for recreation purposes. In 2010 the BCHA membership contributed \$7,500,000.00 worth of services to our Federal lands and of this \$7,500,000.00, \$4,124,566.64 was contributed by the BCHC. Meanwhile, the HSHA squanders the resources of our Federal land management agencies by pursuing litigation to accomplish their selfish goals.

De Facto Stock Free Zones are a concern of ours. We are concerned that SEKI is creating De Facto Stock Free Zones in a clandestine way to placate the HSHA and the back packer community. SEKI needs to confront the challenge posed to it by the HSHA and the back packer community through education and educate other user groups that stock use is a historic and traditional use that will be continued.

As regards any proposed modifications to it, the SUMMP provides in Appendix III as follows:

"Significant modifications will be made available for review by interested public before being implemented."

This same language or similar language should be placed in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan. We have the following recommendations:

1. Provide for the continued use of pack and saddle stock in both the front country and wilderness areas of SEKI at the traditional use levels using 1954 as the base level.
2. Change grazing restrictions on all trail systems to facilitate shorter travel distances. The maximum distance between allowable camping and grazing areas should be no greater than 7 miles, with camping limits of no less than 2 nights per area. This provides opportunities for visitors to travel with both young and old members of their group and aids in the mission of the

parks to facilitate and enhance visitor experiences.

3. Party and group size limits should be no less than 15 people and 25 head of stock.

4. Increase private and commercial stock use. It is clear that the parks' capacity to handle more stock use is far greater than current use levels. It is therefore our contention and our recommendation that private and commercial stock use be increased and use areas expanded (trails, corrals, overnight facilities, hitch rails, bear boxes, etc.).

5. Reestablish the commercial pack station operations in Wolverton and Mineral King. Establish facilities that can provide services for day rides and overnight trips. Include facilities and services for persons with disabilities. Include overnight corrals and facilities for private stock users. Include camping sites for stock users for both short' term (1 night) and longer term (14 nights). Continue to allow commercial pack stations to enter from surrounding national forests.

6. Allow commercial pack stations to issue wilderness permits to stock parties.

7. Do not make any provisions that separates user groups.

8. Supplying backcountry and wilderness administrative functions should be done primarily using pack and saddle stock. The use of helicopters should be limited to emergency situations including evacuations, rescues, and initial attack on fires.

The High Sierra Unit of the BCHC as well as the Sequoia Unit have contributed significant efforts to eradicate an exotic species, velvet grass, which became established in a tiny portion of SEKI. This exotic specie is believed to have been imported from the adjacent Sequoia National Forest. For several years now, BCHC members have packed in gear and supplies to the volunteers who are now on the verge of eradicating this exotic specie.

The Need for Commercial Pack and Saddle Stock Services in Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Areas

The Wilderness Act: American People and Commercial Services Public Law 88-577 ' September 3, 1964

"To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes."

"For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as `wilderness areas', and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people..."

"Except as otherwise provided in this Act, wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use."

"Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas."

PUBLIC NEED

The 1964 Wilderness Act clearly provides for the inclusion of commercial services for recreation and other purposes. The Act states:

"Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas."

The purposes that are referred to are also specified in the Wilderness Act:

"Except as otherwise provided in this Act, wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use."

Commercial packing services have a long and important history in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

L The Wilderness Act of 1964 and Outfitter Services

The basis of the requirement for determining 'need' is derived from the Wilderness Act specifically Section 4(c) which reads "Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities

which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas."

A review of the Congressional Record (leading up to passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act), subsequent legislation, and related literature provides solid guidance and direction for enabling the managing agency to allow for the continuation of commercial outfitting and guiding as a legitimate use.

This is consistent with the information provided when the High Sierra Packers Association inquired of Congress in 1959, as to the intent of the proposed wilderness bill as it related to commercial packing. In response to the inquiry, Congressman George Miller requested an interpretation from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and provided the Association with the following information: "I am advised by the staff of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs that, in the hearing on the Senate legislation and in discussions thus far, it has been understood that this language would not be intended to prevent the continuation of the commercial operation of pack stock into the wilderness. (emphasis added) The indication was that the detailed regulation of the use of pack stock for travel into the wilderness would be subject to the administration of the various agencies administering the lands such as ... In other words, it would not be expected that the enactment of S.1123 or a similar measure would necessarily cause any change in this respect."

Many of our country's leaders from President Theodore Roosevelt to Senator Frank Church spoke fondly and often of their outfitted experiences. There can be no doubt from reading the Congressional Record that outfitting and guiding was intended as an accepted use of wilderness. Congress's intent of preserving for the future, without eliminating uses established at the time of passage, has been the subject of considerable debate between prominent legislators and the administering agencies, and has resulted in specific language and interpretation in subsequent wilderness legislation.

Senator Frank Church (floor manager in the Senate when the wilderness bill was passed by the Senate in 1961 and 1963), in an address at the University of Idaho, made the statement "It was not the Intent of Congress that wilderness be administered in so pure a fashion as to needlessly restrict its customary public use and enjoyment. Quite the contrary, Congress fully intended that wilderness should be managed to allow its use by a wide spectrum of Americans." (emphasis added)

It is very obvious from the Congressional Record that, unless the actions were specifically prohibited, Congress intended that they would continue at a level not less than that which existed at the time the wilderness was included in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

History of Packing

A 'Summary of the History of Commercial Packing in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks' is included with these comments as Exhibit "C." This Summary provides a brief history of commercial packing in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and confirms the important role that packing has played in the development and protection of the Parks. Commercial packing services began in the 1800's. Commercial pack operations are a well-established historical use and an integral part of the "wilderness character" of the Parks that Congress intended to be preserved through passage of the Wilderness Act.

Over the course of the last century, the services of guides, the transportation of goods and visitors, and the wide range of assistance and support that have been provided by the pack stations operating in the Parks is a significant factor in each and every aspect of the exploration and protection of the Sierra as we know it today. The history of both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is rich and interrelated with the services, equipment, and knowledge that have been provided by the packers and guides, and the horses and mules who carried men and women throughout the mountains for leisure and work, exploration and study, and rejuvenation of mind, body and spirit.

D 1901: Sierra Club Outings. Although some members would hike, many chose to ride. "What better way to help preserve our few remaining wilderness areas and give our people a fine spiritual boost than to actually show them what a fantastically wonderful country we have? The Sierra Club outings have had that purpose since they were first started in 1901." An article in the Inyo-Mono Fishing Guide chronicles a Sierra Club Base Camp Trip that was located at the head of Minaret Creek Valley. "Counting the commissary group there were about 175 persons in this second two-week base camp period." The base camps were annual trips sponsored by the Sierra Club in which members could sign up from one to six weeks in the backcountry. In addition to having a camp naturalist who would identify the trees and plants, there were many who learned to fish. All of the gear, food and supplies were packed in on a regular basis,

1912: Advertisements in the Inyo Register Magazine included (1): - The Nevada Stables, Bishop. "Tourists and Campers' Outfits"

- Pioneer Livery Stable, Bishop. "An kinds of outfits for tourists' mountain trips" - Ben R. Ransome, the Guide of the Sierras ' Big Pine. "Outing in the Sierras" 10 day, 15 day and 30 day trips - Mt. Whitney Hotel and Anton's Resort ' Lone Pine. "We outfit parties at Lone Pine for Sierra trips ' Saddle and pack horses for hire."

1915: The State of California approved \$10,000 for the construction of the John Muir Trail Hiking, camping and other forms of recreation had taken its place early on. The push to build the John Muir Trail reflected a growing interest in back country recreation (2). Roy Boothe was the Ranger in charge of the construction. Roy was the father of Dudley Boothe, who owned Rainbow Pack Station for many years.

Many pack stations trace their history back to the 1920's and 30's. A study titled "The Tourist Packing Business of the High Sierra Region" by Norman B. (Ike) Livermore, Jr. conducted in 1935, reports there were 71 pack stations at that time serving the High Sierra area from Kernville to Yosemite, with over 2700 head of stock.

Today, the number of pack stations serving the same Sierra region is less than 30. Several operations were consolidated, and some eliminated. In the 1920's and 30's trips would take anywhere from 10 to 30 days. In today's world, there are fewer visitors who have that same amount of time for a backcountry vacation,

The historic role of the packing industry should be perpetuated for as long as their services are needed by the public as well as the hundreds of groups, universities, government agencies, institutions and others who use their services. It is because of the packers that many of the trails, bridges, and other improvements exist throughout the backcountry and wilderness areas. The Park Service would be remiss to reduce or place any additional limits on the commercial packers.

Commercial packing is a modern day link to our past, and it plays a critical role in sharing conservation values for current and future generations. As agreed to with Congressman Nunes, the Park Service should move forward with its promise to relocate and re-establish the pack station in the Wolverton area, and should re-establish the pack station at Mineral King. The General Management Plan calls for commercial packing at these locations, and it is imperative the Parks move forward with that commitment.

Present Day Packing

"Is there a need for this service?" The wilderness resource was established for the "use and enjoyment of the American people." Without the services of the commercial pack stations, wilderness areas would be limited to only those who were skilled, knowledgeable about wilderness travel, have their own equipment, and are physically able to access the areas. That is not what Congress intended. More of today's society is untrained and unprepared for trips to rugged and isolated wilderness areas. The commercial pack stations provide access for all people to use and enjoy the wilderness.

In addition to the historic traditions of traveling by stock through the mountains, maintaining the historic packing skills, and learning about the history of the area, there are some modern day benefits that Americans and foreign visitors derive from the packers' services.

Many Baby Boomers were backpackers in the 70's who are now fully engaged in their careers, are raising families, have limited time, cannot carry what they need, no longer have specialized equipment for backpacking, live in urban areas and are not in physical condition to access higher elevations and traverse steep and rocky trails. They want to expose their children to the same outdoor experiences they had in their lives. They may arrange for everyone to ride, and have all their gear packed. Or, they may arrange for some to ride, some to walk. Or, they may all walk, and have their gear dropped off. Regardless of how long they stay and what they do they need the help and assistance of the commercial stock outfitters to access the wilderness. They seek advice and rely on the expertise of their guides for their wilderness experience.

Grandparents ' and great-grandparents ' who have spent many summers in the Sierra ' want to share and experience the backcountry with their children, grandchildren, and great- grandchildren. With Americans living longer lives, these experiences are more possible today than ever before. For many, the ruggedness of the Sierra is it too formidable for some older individuals to walk the trails and carry the loads, hence they need the services of the packers.

Those who have infirmities or disabilities need the services of the commercial packers to access the wilderness. The nature of those disabilities should remain private ' and they should not have to provide proof of their impairment. Many of these are important trips for carrying on family traditions, and for mental and spiritual renewal.

Many groups have been taking pack supported trips for decades, some even pre-dating the Wilderness Act (e.g. Sierra Club Outings - 1901). Group trips are sponsored by: Boy and Girl Scouts, churches, YMCA's, schools, universities, companies, conservation groups, clubs, organizations, camps, inner-city youth programs, and others ' and often they need the services of the commercial packers to provide guiding, equipment and skills.

Some trips are organized for a specific purpose, such as: educational aspects, photography, artists, writers, religions, research, wilderness medicine, nature study, etc. Agency sponsored trips are also frequently supported by pack and riding stock, and include trail crews, search and rescues, fish stocking, survey crews, mapping specialists, military personnel, Congressional representatives, and many others. They often need the services of a commercial packer to transport specialized equipment and/or the individuals who may not be 'wilderness' savvy.

There are visitors who travel individually or gather with a small group of friends, family, or work associates and take a pack supported trip to access and experience the wilderness. There are often members of the group who lack the skills, equipment and knowledge to travel on their own, thus they need the services of the commercial pack station.

II. The Values and Benefits of Commercial Outfitting and Guiding.

"Perhaps the ultimate riding adventure is a pack trip into one of the state's 129 National Wilderness Areas. Outfitters operate

pack strings, sometimes with mules, into the backcountry for camping, fishing, and hunting."

Excerpt from "California Outdoor Recreation" published for the California Division of Tourism, California Trade and Commerce Agency, on behalf of the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism,

Outfitting and guiding are historical professions the world over. From expeditions and explorers to modern day vacationers, there have always been people capable and willing to share their knowledge, skill, and equipment with people needing their assistance. The Hudson's Bay Company, Lewis and Clark, John Wesley Powell, Jedediah Smith, Sacajawea, John Muir, Jim Bridger, the "Wagons West", and famed mountain guides of the Alps were associated with early outfitters and guides. Teddy Roosevelt, an ardent supporter of public lands, frequently utilized outfitters and guides to show him the country.

Outfitters and their customers play a vital role in the mix of constituents on public lands who support resource conservation. They are often the first link to the outdoors for many families and beginners. Outfitting fulfills deeply personal needs for many families. Some of the strongest childhood memories are derived from family outings and vacations. As the ethnic diversity of the American population undergoes significant changes, and as America becomes increasingly urbanized, the need for professionals to provide skills, equipment, facilities, and trip planning are constantly increasing.

Statistics from the Bureau of the Census indicate that the Asian and Hispanic ethnic groups are the fastest growing ethnic segments. It will be important to ensure these populations have connectivity with their public lands to help perpetuate and continue conservation goals.

The Bureau of Census also indicates the largest segment of the population will be the maturing segment - ages 55 and up - for the next 20 years. AARP reports the following:

In 1994-95, more than half of the older population (51.5%) reported having one or more disabilities. One-third had at least one severe disability.

Most older persons have at least one chronic condition and many have multiple conditions. The most frequently occurring conditions per 100 elderly in 1995 were: arthritis, hypertension, heart disease, hearing impairments, orthopedic impairments, cataracts, sinusitis, and diabetes.

As the population ages, the need for packing and riding services will be increasingly important to enable visitors to travel into the wilderness. Various levels of physical disabilities and infirmities will necessitate that these individuals have assistance to transport themselves and their equipment into the wilderness. As the statistics indicate, that will be a continuously growing segment of the population. The commercial outfitters continue to play a critical role for enabling people with disabilities access into the wilderness.

Recreation is critical to our mental, physical, spiritual and economic well-being. There is a solid need in the future for commercial service providers to continue to provide for education, enjoyment, economic stability, and sustainable resource management, while meeting the needs of a changing population of greater ethnic diversity and maturity.

An increasing number of international visitors come to experience the wilderness areas of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. Without the services of the commercial providers, many of these visitors would never be able to visit the wilderness. They need these services.

The history of the commercial pack stations shows they have been operating continuously for over 150 years. Their practices and methods are consistent with current trends and techniques for taking proper care of the natural and cultural resources. They have the utmost concern for the well being of the wilderness. The pack stations work hard to ensure the trails, campsites, meadows, vegetation, water, and wildlife are protected and sustainable for the future.

The number of wilderness related search and rescues shows the predominance of wilderness rescues are private users 'not customers of the pack stations. If anything, the Parks should consider requiring more people to utilize the services of a commercial guide to reduce life threatening accidents and risks to rescue teams. These rescues are very costly for state and federal agencies, with significant risks to the search and rescue team members and helicopter pilots.

Examples of rescues and evacuations include:

-10/20/04: Two overdue hikers in the Sierra Crest Area of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. Four adults in the Mt. Whitney area, and an overdue lone hiker in the Bishop Pass area. These searches required search teams and helicopter use.

-7/23/05: Two climbing fatalities on Mt. Whitney.

-7/24/05: Hiker who was found submerged in a lake in Kings Canyon National Park wilderness. Another hiker went off-trail and

his body was found submerged in the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River near the Pear Lake area.

-7/28/05: Backpacker rescued for altitude sickness in Kings Canyon National Park wilderness. Helicopter and search teams were utilized.

-8/4/05: One hiker killed and 11 others evacuated from the wilderness area of Sequoia National Park. Rescue included Park medics, multiple helicopters, and numerous rangers.

-6/14/07: A couple was lost in Sequoia National Park (Mineral King wilderness area). Helicopter and 20-person search team were used.

-10/16/09: 3 hikers rescued from a mountain ledge in Kings Canyon National Park wilderness, Helicopter and a 50-person search team were used.

-10/21/10: Three hikers were rescued from Mt. Whitney. Two additional hikers were lost. Helicopter and a 45-person search team were used.

-8/4/11: Two search and rescue operations in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. The second rescue involved 2 hikers who were lost, with injuries. A search team and helicopter were used for this evacuation.

lit Commercial Services fulfill the Recreational, Scenic, Scientific, Educational, Conservation, and Historical purposes of the Wilderness Act

Some of the pack stations pre-date the establishment of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and nearly all pre-date designation of backcountry areas as wilderness. The pack stations serve diverse populations that would otherwise lack the means of accessing the wilderness. Individuals and groups without the necessary equipment, skills, knowledge, or physical ability are able to access the wilderness for the purposes for which it was established: recreation, scenic, scientific, education, conservation, and historical uses. There are no other services that serve as many different segments of the population as the pack station operators.

Recreational

Many visitors need help and assistance accessing the wilderness. They have questions, seek advice, and rely on the expertise of their guide to make sure they are relatively safe.

-Anna Allen Family. Anna was one of the survivors of an avalanche at Alpine Meadows where she was buried alive before being rescued. Anna lost a leg, toes and fingers. Fitted with a prosthesis, she made her first trip back into the wilderness through the services of a pack station.

-Numerous trips using the pack stations have been sponsored by the Boy and Girl Scouts USA, various churches, and YMCA's.

-Climbing and mountaineering explorations continue to use the services of pack stations. Many of the individuals who made first ascents of the peaks in the High Sierra region ' and for whom the peaks are named ' had pack stock support, including John Muir.

-Pack stations have been providing access for people to enjoy fishing since they began. The California Department of Fish and Game utilized pack stations to pack fish into many of the High Sierra lakes ' solely for the enjoyment of fishing enthusiasts,

Scientific Researchers contract with pack stations to provide trip support for personnel and equipment to collect data from field monitoring locations.

Educational 1) Documentaries 2) Natural History, Geology and Astronomy Three Corner Round has been conducting courses in geology and astronomy for over 95 years. Joseph Wampler conducted education trips on the natural history of the area. 3) General Education Many public and private schools bring students and classes for wilderness trips as part of their extended education programs. 4) Youth Enrichment Utilize pack stations to help assist trips provided to inner city youth. YMCA's have a long history of providing trips for youth into the wilderness. 5) Churches 6) Publications and Periodicals Publications and periodicals feature articles about the wilderness areas of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. Staff from these publications have used the services of pack stations to help gather their story information and to help assist them with their trips.

Conservation 1) Conservation Groups

Pack stations provide services to national and local conservation groups. Some of the national and local organizations utilizing professional packing services include: Sierra Club (Began High Trips in 1901) , Nature Conservancy , Wilderness Society ,

Nature Expedition , High Sierra Hikers , California Alpine Club

2) Trail Maintenance and Reconstruction Projects Numerous cooperative efforts between pack station owners and volunteer groups have been conducted to perform trail maintenance and reconditioning projects. Park Service trail crew support for personnel, equipment and supplies has been provided by pack stations for decades.

3) Search and Rescues Pack stations participate in search and rescues each year, providing stock and guides for the searchers and for those being rescued. Rescues include those suffering from: high altitude pulmonary edema, heart attacks, fractures and pneumonia. Pack stations are also called on to pack out persons who have deceased while in the wilderness.

4) Federal Agencies Pack stations have and continue to assist the Park Service in conservation projects. These have significantly contributed to resource protection, accomplishment of wilderness objectives, and improvement of visitor services.

Park Service specialists use the pack stations to help support their trips to conduct their regular work duties. Examples include: Archaeologists; Fire Crews; Wildlife Biologists and other specialists.

Historical 1) Rock Climbing and Mountaineering Many of the individuals who made first ascents of the peaks in the High Sierra region ' and for whom the peaks are named ' had pack stock support.

2) Sierra Club Sierra Club Base Camp trips date back to 1901. In the 1950's, the Base Camps had 200 person in the camp at each period of the trip. Pack stations supplied these base camps with food and supplies on a regular schedule. Sierra Club High Lite Trips were developed over the years and were trips that were oriented for hikers, with the food and equipment supplied by pack stock.

3) Place Names of the Sierra Nevada -The Don Cecil trail is named after Don Cecil, who started the Cecil Pack Train in 1923. - Rae Lakes and Crabtree Meadows are named for Rae Crabtree, who owned the Rae Crabtree Pack Stations.

4) Historic Trips -During the 1939 World's Fair, customers from San Francisco brought their European guests on a trip to Mt. Whitney. The Cecil Pack Station provided the packing services. - The Alpine Club from the San Francisco Bay Area would hike and have their duffel and supplies packed on mules. These trips took place in the 1950's.

Wilderness Areas for the use and enjoyment of the American people...

Over the past 100 years, pack stations have provided more opportunities for persons with disabilities to access the backcountry and wilderness than any other provider or group. There are many persons who do not disclose their disability, but who could not otherwise go into the wilderness without the assistance of the professional packers. Some infirmities disclosed are: Amputees Polio Muscular Dystrophy Cancer Blindness Deafness Mental Retardation Downs Syndrome Paraplegics Cerebral Palsy Lou Gherig's Disease

Wheelchairs have also been packed into the wilderness for those who require their use.

IV. Levels of Commercial Service A review of the legislative intent of the 1964 Wilderness Act shows that Congress clearly intended outfitting and guiding be permitted to continue at a level not less than that which existed at the time the wilderness area was added to the system. The law provides for historical and pre-existing uses. The history of the pack stations clearly shows that they existed well before each area was designated wilderness.

In 1964, at the time of the initial Wilderness Act, the total stock numbers were 1807 under permit to the pack stations. In 1984, after passage of the California Wilderness Act, the total stock numbers were 1420. This indicates a net decrease of over 20%. The intent of Congress in passing the wilderness Act was to preserve the condition and provide for appropriate uses that existed at that time. Data shows that the largest increase in use over the past 20 years has been with hikers and day users, but limits have continued to be placed on the pack stations. It is a gross inequity to continue to restrict the commercial packers when the component of use that has changed the most is backpacking and day use.

Pack stations need to allow for growth to accommodate the public who will need their services and to provide for economically viable business operations. The population trends indicate: growth of the overall total population, with significant growth in California; an increasingly aging population with health and disability issues; an increase in minority populations; and an increase in urban populations.

Summary of the Need for Commercial Services: 1. The Wilderness Act provides for commercial services, and the congressional intent of that law supports the provision that accepted uses will be allowed to continue at a level not less than that which existed at the time of designation. 2. Commercial pack stations have an established history of use in the areas pre, dating their designation as wilderness. That use will continue to be needed in the future. 3. Values and benefits of commercial services to the public include: Continued conservation and opportunities for minorities and non-traditional users; Continued service to the public for recreation, education, conservation, historic, scenic and scientific purposes; Continued public safety service, including search and rescues; Continue to provide conservation ethics to foster supportive constituencies; Continue to sustain

and contribute to economies of a local, regional, national and international basis for recreation and tourism, 4. The commercial pack stations impart conservation practices with their customers. It is incorporated into their regular course of business, such as the trip planning and assistance they provide their customers, selection of campsites and destinations, preparation and provisions for safety and emergencies, orientation to proper backcountry management of horses and mules, and protection of the natural and cultural resources.

HIGH SIERRA PACKERS - 1935 From the Report: The Tourist Packing Business of the High Sierra Region" Norman B. Livermore, Jr. - February, 1935. Name of Packer and/or outfit Location 1. Slim Tatum Silver Lake 2. Lloyd Summers "Mammoth Camp Pack Outfit" Mammoth, Lake Mary, Agnew Meadow, Red's Meadow 3. McGuffin "Lake Mary Pack Outfit" Lake Mary 4. Vance Brown Hilton Lakes Resort 5. D.G. McComber "Broken Bar Pack Outfit" Rock Creek Lakes 6. George Brown Pine Creek 7. Cecil Thorington McGee Creek 8. Schober Bishop Creek (North Lake) 9. Halliday "Halliday's Rainbow Pack Outfit" Bishop Creek (South Lake) 10. R.H. Logan Big Pine Creek 11. C.H. Hyers "Circle Dot Pock Train" Independence 12. Archie Dean Independence 13. Allie Robinson Independence, Onion Valley. Symmes Creek, Oak Creek, Davis Creek, Taboose Creek 14. Chrysler and Cook "Mt. Whitney Pack Trains" Lone Pine Creek, Carrol Creek 15. Wally Wilson Lone Pine 16. Dick Burns Olancho 17. Burkhart and Olivas Olancho 18. Dan Cook Olancho 19. Barney Sears Olancho 20. Walter Dow South Fork "Jordan Hot Springs" Headwaters of Kern River, 21. Sam Lewis Haiwee Canyon 22. Thelan Kennedy Meadows 23. Cecil Pascoe "Bar 53 Pack Outfit" Kernville 24. Earl Pascoe "Camp Pascoe" 20 miles up Kern River from Kernville 25. Bob Welch "Kern River Pack Train" 1/2 mile below Camp Pascoe 26. "Fairview Pack Outfit" Y2 mile below Welch 27. "Durrwood's Pack Outfit" Above Pascoe 28. Gregory 29. Hobbs 30. Frank Burton 31. Ed Snider 32. Nelson Smith 33. Walter Greigg 34. Kenneth Rutherford 35. George Dillon 36. Art Griswold 37. Phil Buckman 38. Tom Carrol 39. Phil Davis 40. Roy Davis 41. Frank Eggers 42. Ord Loverin Near Greenhorn Pass Balance Rock Mt. View Resort California Hot Springs "Camp Nelson Pack Train" Camp Nelson, Quaking Aspen Quaking Aspen Meadow Camp Wishon Near Balch Park Near Balch Park "Mineral King Packing Company" Mineral King Three Rivers Three Rivers Three Rivers Three Rivers Three Rivers HIGH SIERRA PACKERS -1936 Name of Packer and/or Outfit Location 43. 44. 45. Earl McKee Roland Ross Craig Thorne Giant Forest Mineral King Silver City 46. Ernest Cecil "Cecil Pack Train" Big Meadows 47. R.T. Coker Big Meadows 48. Dick Wilson General Grant National Park 49. Poly Kanowyer Hume 50. Hugh Traweek "Bar-Seven Pack Train" Hume 51. Crabtree Bros. "Arrow-Heart Pack Train" Coolidge Meadows 52. Bill Bash Coolidge Meadows 53. J. Robinson Coolidge Meadows, Shaver Lake Heights 54. Clyde Johnson Crown Valley 55. Ted Anderson Dinkey Creek 56. John Dale Dinkey Creek 57. Berryhill Huntington Lake, Blayne Meadows 58. E.R. Cosner Near Mono Hot Springs 59. V. Cunningham Lakeshore 60. Burns Lakeshore 61. Milo Lemm Hogue Ranch 62. Tom Jones 10 miles below Jackass 63. Billy Brown Jackass Meadows 64. W.F. Dillon Below Jackass Meadows 65. Fred Dupzyk Near Bass Lake 66. George Hamby Koontz Meadows

67. Lloyd Philipps 68. N.J. Philipps 69. Fred Wass 70. Floyd Branscom 71. Yosemite Park & Curry Company Jerseydale Jerseydale Fish Camp Mariposa Yosemite Valley, Wawona, Mather, Tuolumne Meadows Estimated Total Number of Stock : 2764

HIGH SIERRA PACKERS -1964 Data Collected From: The High Sierra Packers Association (Campbell-OkeU & Co. Insurance), and Owner Records Name of Packer and/or Outfit Location 1. Roe Crabtree Roe Crabtree Pack Stations Dinkey Creek 2. Allen R. Simmons Kings Canyon Pack Train Cedar Grove 3. Floyd Fike D8.F Pack Station Lakeshore 4. David Fraga Dean & Dave's Pack Train Dinkey Creek 5. T.H. Cunningham & High Sierra Pack Station Mono Hot Springs J.E. Cunningham 6. Lee Maloy Maloy Pock Trains Three Rivers 7. Johnny Jones Johnny Jones Pack Trains Coarsegold 8. Clark Wicks Balch Park Pack Station Springville 9. John McNally & Fairview Pack Station Kernville Pauline McNally 10. Robert 8. Darlene Garrison. Aspen Meadow Pack Station Springville And Dorothy Aston 11. Melvin Wass & Fish Camp Pack Station Fish Camp Troy Henry 12. R.S. Hanham Woody's Pock Station Springville 13. Ralph Walton Walton's Pack Station Bass Lake 14. Fred Ross Lost Valley Camp Lakeshore 15. William De Carteret Mineral King Pack Station Mineral King 16. S. Joseph 8. Peg Bridges Huntington Lake Pack station Lakeshore 17. Archie Frantzich Lazy A. Pack Station Clovis 18. Clyde Johnson III 8. Crown Valley Pack Station Orange Cove Edwin Johnson 19. Arch Mahon. Herb Carls & Agnew Meadows Pock Train 8. Mammoth Lakes Bob Tonner 20. Louis Roeser & Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit Mammoth Lakes Lou Fitzhugh 21. Roberl Wenger Convict Lake Pack Station Bishop 22. Ed 8. Lil Kyte Kyte's Hilton Lakes Pack Station Bishop 23. Herbert London Rock Creek Pack Station Bishop 24. John Nivens Pine Creek Saddle & Pock Train Bishop 25. Dudley 8. Alice Boothe Rainbow Pock Outfit 26. Eugene Burkhart Sequoia Kings High Sierra Pack Trains 27. Charles Morgan 8. M. Whitney Pack Trains Tom Jefferson 28. Purnel Brothers Jordon Hot Springs Pack Station 29. C.W. Vinnedge Frontier Pock Trains 30. Russ 8. Ann Johnson McGee Creek Pack Station 31. Art Schober Schober Pack Train 32. Hugh & Iyadell Carpenter Glacier Pack Train 33. Robert White Tunnel Pock Station 34. Bob Moore 8. Tiny Moore Coltonwood Pack Trains 35. Sam N. Lewis. JR. Sam N. Lewis Pock Train 36. Irwin & Alice Burkhart Kennedy Meadows Pack Trains 37. Horse Corral Pack Station 38. Karl 8. Adeline Smith Muir Trail Ranch Estimated Total Number of Stock: 1807

Bishop Independence Lone Pine Lone Pine June Lake Bishop Bishop Big Pine Lone Pine Olancho Coso Junction Inyokern Big Meadows Ahwahnee

Various photographs which are attached show or refer to historic stock use in SEKI. Exhibit "0" is a picture taken in the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park in 1915. Horseback was the mode of travel for the first visitors to Giant Forest. The party in this photo poses in front of the Giant Forest hotel dining room. This photograph is from the National Park Service Collection. Exhibit "E" shows the Mount Whitney Power Company dam under construction at Franklin Lake in what is now the Mineral King area of Sequoia National Park. The picture was taken in 1904. Thousands of pounds of cement, sand, rock, wood forms, and construction supplies were hauled in by mules to this location. Exhibit "F" is a picture taken in the year 1926 of a Rangerled pack trip. This picture is in what is now Kings Canyon National Park. This picture came from the Sequoia National Park Archives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Our organization expects to continue

to be involved in the plan process until the process is concluded.

Very truly yours,

PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE HIGH SIERRA UNIT BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

Richard H. Cochran, Co-Chairman

RHC/db File No. 9397720 cc: Congressman Devin Nunes Congressman Jeff Denham Jim Harvey, Co-Chairman Bill See Art Jones Ron Pereglen Marily Reese Ann Lang

FOOTNOTES: 1 "Sierra Clubbers in the Sierra" by Tom Henderson, layo-Mono Fishing Guide, 1956 2 Sierra Centennial by Gene Rose, 1994

Correspondence ID: 901 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association Recreational Groups
Received: Sep,09,0201 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich,

This letter (along with Enclosures #1 through 43) provides our scoping comments regarding the preparation of a Wilderness Stewardship Plan [1] for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI).

The High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA) is a nonprofit public-benefit organization that educates its members, public officials, and the public-at-large about issues affecting hikers and the High Sierra, and that advocates the protection of park values and wilderness character in the High Sierra for the public benefit. The HSHA represents thousands of citizens living throughout the United States who use and enjoy SEKI's wilderness and backcountry for hiking, camping, backpacking, climbing, mountaineering, cross-country skiing, horse packing, wildlife viewing, photography, and other recreational pursuits, as well as to seek solitude, quietude, and spiritual refreshment.

Background & General Comments

As detailed in these comments, our members' use and enjoyment of SEKI's wilderness and backcountry areas has been, and continues to be, substantially harmed by the NPS's failure to adequately control certain high-impact and/or inappropriate uses that impair SEKI's park values and wilderness character. It is our hope that you will craft and adopt a strong Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) that will: 1) protect from further injury and impairment SEKI's park values and wilderness character; 2) restore SEKI's park values and wilderness character where they have been degraded; and 3) bring SEKI into compliance with applicable federal laws, including but not limited to, the Wilderness Act, the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, the Park Service's Organic Act, SEKI's enabling legislation, the California Wilderness Act of 1984, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

We very much appreciate this opportunity to provide comments for your consideration. While cognizant of our past differences, and acknowledging that some of our comments herein are critical of past and ongoing actions taken (and not taken) by the National Park Service (NPS) at SEKI, please know that we sincerely intend our criticisms to be constructive, and that we sincerely desire to be a partner of the NPS, going forward, to ensure preservation of SEKI's park values and wilderness character. It is our hope that we may transcend our past differences, and that this long-overdue process to develop a wilderness management plan for SEKI may resolve the issues that have precipitated conflict over the past decades. We have prepared these comments with these hopes in mind, and implore you to consider these comments in the spirit of a new relationship between SEKI staff, decision-makers, and interested stakeholders.

Our specific comments are as follows:

Purpose & Need and the Scoping Record 1. The "Purpose & Need" for this project should clearly articulate several long-overdue actions: 1) the need to bring SEKI into compliance with the federal laws cited above; 2) the need to substantially curtail commercial uses in the SEKI wilderness to the extent necessary and proper per the Wilderness Act; 3) the need to replace SEKI's outdated Backcountry Management Plan (BMP) and Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan (SUUMP) to acknowledge that most of SEKI is now designated as wilderness-and as such, the SEKI wilderness deserves and is mandated by law to have far greater protections put into place than exist in the BMP and SUMMP; 4) the need to develop, adopt, and implement a modern, science-based wilderness management plan that fully protects SEKI's park values and fully preserves SEKI's wilderness character; and 5) the need to reform SEKI's wilderness permit system so it is fair, and to eliminate the current preferential treatment afforded to certain commercial users. Any effort to craft a WSP for SEKI would fall short if any of these five urgent needs is not articulated in your EIS's "Purpose & Need" statement, and enthusiastically embraced by your staff.

2. The scoping record for this WSP should include and incorporate all relevant input provided by hikers during past efforts to develop a Wilderness Management Plan for SEKI. This project must not begin in a vacuum. Your staff has on at least two previous occasions (i.e., in 1991, and then again in 1996) embarked on planning processes to develop a Wilderness Management Plan for SEKI.[2] Prior to this latest incarnation of a wilderness planning process, our members and others spent substantial time

and effort over many years to articulate the relevant issues and concerns, attend meetings, complete workbooks, and otherwise provide comments. That input must not be lost or forgotten; it should be captured and included in your renewed scoping process.

To assist you, Enclosure 3 provides copies of more than three dozen letters that were submitted to SEKI during the 1991 process, and Enclosure 4 provides copies of more than fifty letters submitted during the 1996 process. Those comments remain very relevant today, and we hereby re-submit them as scoping comments for your WSP. Please note that Enclosures 3 and 4 are but small samples of the substantial input provided by our members and others during your wilderness planning processes. Your planning staff should initiate the effort to develop a wilderness plan by first assembling all of the input provided to you previously (including but not limited to: letters, completed planning workbooks, input from public meetings, etc.), during the 1991 and 1996 processes.

We acknowledge that your Federal Register notice for this WSP mentions the 1996 wilderness planning process, however, it does not at all mention the 1991 process, nor does it say that you will now consider the large volume of input generated during those prior wilderness planning processes. Your scoping summary for the current WSP should make clear that all prior input will be incorporated into the record, and be fully evaluated and considered.

3. All complaints received by SEKI regarding wilderness issues should be included in your scoping record and be given full consideration. We are aware that the NPS receives numerous complaints from park visitors about their negative experiences in the SEKI wilderness, and that the impacts caused by stock animals are "a major source of complaints." See, for example, Enclosure 5, in which a SEKI visitor describes registering a complaint with a park ranger, to which the ranger responded that NPS receives "many such complaints." See also Enclosure 6 (which provides examples of written complaints), Enclosure 7 (which provides examples of SEKI "Case Incident" records that document verbal complaints), Enclosure 8 (which provides examples of back country rangers' reports that document and/or discuss visitor complaints), and Enclosures 9-10 (which provide examples of other SEKI records that document visitor complaints).[3] It is very important to note that these enclosures contain only a small sample of the many complaints received by NPS regarding wilderness issues at SEKI. Your planning team should: 1) assemble all complaints related to wilderness and/or backcountry issues that were provided to NPS since the designation of SEKI's wilderness in 1984; 2) include all such complaints in your scoping record; and 3) ensure that they are analyzed, compiled, and fully considered. This should include complaints from all available sources, including written letters, electronic mail messages, Case Incident records, backcountry rangers' end-of-season reports, other SEKI ranger and specialist reports, and all other available sources.

4. The administrative record for SEKI's 2007 General Management Plan (GMP) should be included in the record for this project. Because the NPS states that this WSP is tiered off of the GMP, and because the GMP and its accompanying ROD state repeatedly that this WSP is needed to fill in key missing details in the GMP, including key missing mitigation measures discussed in the GMP/EIS, the entire administrative record for the GMP should be included in the record for this WSP.

Historical Context and the No Action Alternative 5. The WSP should acknowledge the concerns raised about stock use in SEKI's 1971 Master Plan, and fully evaluate and consider alternatives regarding stock use that are consistent with that plan. An essential piece of SEKI's history is its 1971 Master Plan. [4] That plan explicitly acknowledged the substantial harm to park resources and to the experience of park visitors resulting from certain stock uses. The plan states (in part):

"Because of the damage resulting from livestock foraging for food and resultant trampling of soih possible pollution of water, and conflict with foot travelers, use of livestock in the higher elevations for any purpose should be phased out as conditions permit ... Livestock may be used in the lower elevations and around developed areas where it can be stabled and fed without open grazing on park lands." (Master Plan at p. 24)

Some may opine that the Master Plan is irrelevant because it was arguably superseded :in 2007 by SEKI's new General Management Plan (GMP). However, the above language from the Master Plan remains highly relevant, for at least three very important reasons. First, the impacts of stock use identified by the Master Plan have not gone away, and remain a serious concern to this day. Those impacts were not evaluated in any detail during the GMP process, and - as discussed throughout these comments - there is even more evidence today of serious adverse environmental effects resulting from stock use than when the Master Plan was written and adopted. Second, the concerns expressed in the Master Plan, and the direction prescribed by the Master Plan to address those concerns, make plainly evident that the alternatives of phasing out all grazing (park-wide) and phasing out all stock use in SEKI's sensitive higher elevations are entirely reasonable, and should be fully evaluated and considered in the WSP. And third, the GMP is the subject of ongoing litigation, in part because SEKI adopted it without adequately evaluating the environmental consequences of stock use. If the GMP is overturned, the Master Plan may return as the controlling programmatic direction for SEKI. Your planning team should anticipate this possibility by respecting and fully evaluating as alternatives the direction contained in the Master Plan regarding stock uses.

6. The WSP's "No Action" alternative must articulate and evaluate a proper and coherent baseline for stock uses. SEKI's disputed 2007 GMP/ROD states that stock uses would be allowed up to then-" current levels," but it nowhere defines or quantifies those levels. Despite repeated requests that it do so, the NPS has dodged and never answered the obvious questions: "What does SEKI mean by 'current levels,' and what are the current levels?" It is entirely disingenuous for the NPS to claim that it is capping stock use at II current levels" when it has not defined or quantified those levels. Going forward, in order to properly articulate and evaluate a baseline No Action alternative for the WSP, the NPS must first define and quantify the "current levels" of stock uses that existed at the time the GMP was adopted. This must necessarily include a clear quantification of all relevant stock uses, including but not limited to: 1) levels and locations of commercial stock uses (both overnight and day uses); 2) levels and locations of private stock uses (both overnight and day uses); 3) levels and locations of administrative stock uses (both overnight and day uses); 4) levels of grazing (vs. the use of packed-in feed); 5) the number of in-park concession pack stations in operation at the time of the GMP's adoption (i.e., one); 6) the total number of stock animals stabled at and used by in-park

concession pack stations at the time of the GMP's adoption; and 7) the number of commercial pack outfits authorized by NPS to operate within SEKI at the time of the GMP's adoption. A quantification of each and everyone of these facets of stock use is absolutely necessary to understand and evaluate the "current levels" of stock use that existed at the time the GMP was adopted.[5]

Wilderness Permits and Equity for All

7. All wilderness visitors should compete for wilderness permits on a level playing field, and the preferential treatment afforded to certain commercial outfits must end. Under existing law, hiring commercial services in order to circumvent trailhead quotas is a violation of the Wilderness Act. The easiest and surest way to prevent this chronic problem is for all visitors to compete for wilderness permits via a single system. Then only after obtaining a permit should visitors be allowed to employ commercial services (when necessary and proper under the Wilderness Act).

The current wilderness permit system creates numerous perverse incentives. It encourages hikers who are denied a permit due to trailhead quotas to hire a commercial packer in order to gain access to the wilderness. It also encourages commercial packers to "market" the fact that they can deliver easy access-for a price-to those denied a permit from the agencies. And it essentially guarantees the commercial packers a defined level of access, whether their services are truly necessary, or not. This has led many agency personnel to believe that the current mule-packers have grandfather rights, and to look the other way as unnecessary services are routinely provided.

It is also extremely biased and unfair that portions of trailhead quotas are "reserved" or set aside "off the top" for certain commercial outfits. It is also enormously inequitable that members of the general public (i.e., private, non-outfitted visitors) are turned away or diverted from the trail of their choice (due to trailhead quotas) while certain commercial clients may gain access after the non-commercial quotas have been filled. Clients of the commercial outfits are thus buying access when other (non-commercial) citizens are being turned away. This deplorable situation is not only unjust, it is completely counter to the intent of the Wilderness Act, which allows commercial services to be provided in wilderness only when truly necessary, and only to the extent necessary. Obviously, it is not necessary for the clients of any commercial outfit(s) to be granted special privileges for access when private, non-outfitted visitors are being turned away.

The WSP should direct that: 1) a single system - whereby all visitors compete equally for wilderness permits-will be implemented for all access into SEKI's wilderness; and 2) no portion of trailhead quotas will be reserved or set aside for commercial services; and 3) SEKI will do everything in its power to see that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) adopts such systems for visitors passing from USFS lands into SEKI, or else the NPS will take over the permit/quota system for all visitors entering SEKI's wilderness.

Findings of Necessity

8. Per the Wilderness Act, the WSP must prohibit commercial enterprises within designated wilderness; commercial services may be authorized only under the Act's very narrow exception. Prior to allowing any commercial services in SEKI's wilderness, the NPS must make credible and substantiated findings that: 1) any authorized commercial service is both necessary and proper per the Wilderness Act; and 2) any authorized commercial service is allowed only to the extent that it is truly necessary. Under existing law, commercial services are not necessary for those seeking to circumvent trailhead quotas, to haul unnecessary items, or to serve persons who do not truly need commercial assistance.

Before commercial stock services are authorized for any person in SEKI's wilderness, the NPS should apply meaningful criteria in keeping with the Act's very narrow exception for commercial services. For example, at least four criteria should be met regarding necessity: 1) the potential commercial client must be physically incapable of hiking and/or carrying a backpack on their own (i.e., not simply be "out of shape," or desiring to not hike or carry a backpack for any reason). Even those persons who are physically challenged in some way, but still able to hike and carry a pack, do not "need" stock support to enjoy a wilderness experience; 2) the potential client must need stock support to facilitate a wilderness-dependent activity (i.e., not simply desiring a horse ride or pack trip in a scenic setting; not seeking convenience, comfort, or luxury; not seeking to evade or circumvent trailhead quotas or other access limits; not seeking simply to save time or get a "head start" on a longer hiking trip, etc.); 3) the potential client must be willing to travel with the minimum necessary gear-that normally carried by a backpacker (i.e., approx. 50 lbs./person-any more is unnecessary for a two-week trip); and 4) the potential client must have no access to non-commercial stock animals, or be otherwise unable to pack their own stock. It is essential to note that these are not the only criteria. Additional criteria are discussed in more detail in our comments below.

9. The NPS must not rely on trailhead quotas or commercial limits established by neighboring USFS units to meet SEKI's statutory responsibility to strictly limit commercial services. The NPS must make its own findings of necessity for each commercial service that occurs within SEKI's wilderness, and establish limits (i.e., "service days" or some equivalent) to restrict commercial services to the extent necessary under the Wilderness Act. And, wherever a commercial service is found to be truly necessary, and has been limited to the extent that it is truly necessary, the NPS must further ensure that the activity is proper by adopting and enforcing additional limits and controls (i.e., trailhead quotas and other spatial & temporal controls) that ensure the full preservation of wilderness character.

The NPS cannot abdicate its responsibilities under the Wilderness Act to another neighboring agency. Even if it could, the record is exceedingly clear that neighboring USFS units have not limited commercial services entering SEKI to the extent necessary, or adopted trailhead quotas sufficient to preserve wilderness character. For example, a 1981 letter from the USFS

regional forester to a representative of the commercial packing industry documents that the trailhead quotas for USFS units surrounding SEKI were originally developed following the perverse approach of strictly limiting non-commercial visitors while fully protecting the economic interests of the commercial packers.[6] This letter, and substantial additional evidence, shows that the USFS essentially "grandfathered" commercial packstock enterprises when it developed the trailhead quotas for units surrounding SEKI. Further, the USFS has continually modified over time the trailhead quotas for trails entering SEKI to allow the incremental expansion of commercial packstock services—all without any credible finding of need by either the USFS or the NPS.

A USFS memorandum provides details about how the USFS trailhead quotas and "service days" for commercial packers were originally developed, and then implemented over time.[7] This memorandum by the USFS's High Sierra Area Manager (responsible for managing large portions of the Sierra National Forest adjacent to SEKI) documents that limits on commercial services were not derived with any consideration of necessity, but were simply set at levels requested by the commercial pack stations themselves. This memo also proves that the commercial packers significantly benefited from increased business after the trailhead quotas were established, because many visitors unable to secure a wilderness permit under the quota system would simply employ commercial packers to gain access. This problem is well documented,[8] and continues to this day. After being sued in part over its abject failure to regulate commercial enterprises, the USFS finally (in 2001) adopted a new Wilderness Management Plan for the areas surrounding SEKI (i.e., the John Muir and Ansel Adams wildernesses). That plan contained a so-called "needs assessment" that purported to evaluate the need for commercial services. But in reality, the USFS simply took the estimated current levels of commercial services, rounded the numbers upward,[9] and concocted shallow excuses and rhetorical constructs in an attempt to rationalize all existing levels of commercial uses (as well as its plan to allow continual increases in commercial services over time). A panel of judges at the U.S. Court of Appeals found unanimously that the USFS's so-called "needs assessment" was badly flawed and inadequate to comply with the Wilderness Act, and the courts ordered that a new needs assessment and environmental analysis be prepared. The USFS responded by adopting a new "needs assessment" and wilderness plan in 2005 which again relied on semantics, rhetoric, and chicanery to arrive at the same conclusion (i.e., commercial services should be continued at then-existing levels, plus additional allowances for the continual expansion of commercial services over time). But that plan too was rejected by the courts. A permanent injunction was issued in 2008 which caps commercial services authorized by the USFS units surrounding SEKI, and requires additional restrictions on commercial packstock uses, until the USFS produces a credible needs assessment. It has not yet done so, and the dispute is ongoing.

This entire time, SEKI has sat on the sidelines and failed to take any action to limit commercial services to the extent necessary and proper under the Wilderness Act. SEKI did question the USFS's 2001 plan for regulating commercial services,[10] but when the USFS moved forward with its plan and failed to adequately regulate commercial outfits that enter SEKI from surrounding national forest lands, the NPS took no action to meet its responsibility under the Wilderness Act to limit commercial services to the extent necessary.

After the USFS's 2001 "needs assessment" was invalidated by the courts, and the USFS was ordered by the district court to conduct a cumulative effects analysis and develop a new needs assessment by December 2005, SEKI (in July 2004) expressed significant concerns about the USFS's emerging proposal,[11] but still SEKI took no action to limit commercial services in SEKI to the extent necessary. Even when the USFS asked SEKI to "provide us clear direction for the amount of use that you feel is acceptable,"[12] SEKI staff (without asking for public input and without conducting any environmental analysis of its own) quickly replied to USFS with seat-of-the-pants recommendations requesting some adjustments to trailhead quotas and a few other very limited restrictions, but it remained silent about the extent to which commercial services are necessary in SEKI's wilderness.[13] To date, the neighboring USFS units have not implemented even the limited recommendations provided by SEKI.

During all of this time, the NPS has known full well that surrounding USFS units do not limit the type or level of commercial services provided in SEKI. In brief, the trailhead quota system used by the USFS does not in any way limit commercial services in SEKI to the extent necessary, the "service days" system which USFS uses to limit commercial services in national forests surrounding SEKI does not apply in SEKI, and the USFS does not otherwise track or limit commercial services in SEKI.[14] Even worse, the NPS has done nothing to limit commercial services to the extent necessary even when surrounding USFS units actively encourage commercial outfits to pursue business opportunities in SEKI. (ibid) And your staff has been aware for many years that restrictions imposed by the district court on commercial packers' use of USFS lands surrounding SEKI has created incentive for those outfits to increase their use of the SEKI wilderness, yet the NPS has done nothing to limit those increased commercial uses to the extent that is truly necessary. In sum, the following three facts must be remedied by your WSP: 1) The trailhead quotas and "service days" established by surrounding USFS units do nothing to limit commercial services in SEKI to the extent that they are truly necessary; 2) USFS units surrounding SEKI have actively encouraged commercial packers to conduct their business in SEKI, because court-imposed limits have capped commercial use on the USFS lands, but NPS has placed no limits on the magnitude of business the commercial packers may conduct at SEKI; and 3) The NPS has thus inappropriately and unlawfully relied on neighboring USFS units to regulate commercial activities that originate on USFS lands but pass into SEKI. The record is clear that SEKI has periodically raised concerns about some USFS actions (and inaction), but SEKI has done nothing to affirmatively limit commercial services in SEKI to the extent that they are truly necessary.

10. Commercial stock services are not necessary to provide access to Mt. Whitney, and therefore should not be allowed. Under existing law, commercial services are not necessary for those seeking to circumvent trailhead quotas, or to serve persons who do not truly need commercial assistance. There are at least three compelling reasons why commercial stock services should not be allowed for any person climbing Mt. Whitney. First, commercial stock services are currently being used to access Mt. Whitney not because they are at all necessary, but because they allow a way for Whitney hikers to circumvent the quotas. This is unlawful under the Wilderness Act and court precedents. Second, Mt. Whitney is an "extremely popular wilderness destination," [15] and is in fact the "most frequently climbed mountain peak in the Sierra Nevada, if not in the U.S." [16] It is thus exceedingly clear that the recreational capacity of the Mt. Whitney area is already vastly exceeded and can be fully met by non-commercial visitors without any need for commercial services. And third, the Mt. Whitney area (including Crabtree and Guitar Lake) is extremely over-used, over-crowded, and heavily impacted.[17] Any unnecessary commercial stock use would therefore

be improper, as it would add to the cumulative significant harm already documented throughout this area.

The trails that access the summit of Mt. Whitney have long been closed to stock use, and the evidence is clear that it is not safe or otherwise suitable for stock animals to access the summit of Mt. Whitney.[18] Visitors unable to hike or carry a backpack cannot therefore employ commercial stock services to access the summit of Mt. Whitney. However, some visitors have continued to employ commercial stock services to access the western slope of Mt. Whitney within SEKI, as far as Crabtree, Guitar Lake, or to the switchbacks below Trail Crest (beyond which stock animals are not allowed to travel, due to safety and other concerns). From there, they continue on foot to the summit, an arduous hike gaining several thousand feet of elevation, to the highest point in the contiguous United States (14,494 ft. elevation). These visitors then either exit under their own power via the long and strenuous east-side route over Trail Crest, or descend to the west side and continue on a hiking trip within SEKI or resume their trip with a commercial stock packer. The serious problem here is that, obviously, anyone who can hike to the summit of Mt. Whitney is also capable of accessing the area on their own without the support of commercial stock services. Any person climbing Mt. Whitney therefore does not need commercial stock services.

Demand by non-outfitted visitors for wilderness permits to access Mt. Whitney is so great, and competition for permits so keen, that a lottery has been established for distributing the limited number of permits. [19] When hikers fail to submit their request during the lottery's narrow time window, are not selected in the lottery, are unsuccessful obtaining a permit via the lottery for their preferred dates, decide after obtaining a permit via the lottery to change their plans, or otherwise desire access to Mt. Whitney in any way that is not allowable under the strict lottery system, they can simply and easily circumvent the whole process by "buying" access via a commercial packer. Neither SEKI nor the Inyo National Forest (which neighbors SEKI) has done anything to ensure that Whitney hikers who employ commercial stock services in fact need such services. This shady and obviously inequitable and unlawful situation must end.

Evidence documents that the Inyo National Forest has condoned this practice by affording special privileges to certain commercial packers that operate trips to Mt. Whitney through SEKI. Specifically, the Inyo NF has made special allowances for hikers that use commercial stock services in SEKI to exit via Trail Crest,[20] thereby encouraging and facilitating these unnecessary commercial services in SEKI's wilderness. The result is that able-bodied hikers with no bona fide need for stock support are employing commercial stock services to access the Whitney area in SEKI, then climbing Mt. Whitney and exiting over Trail Crest. There is (and can be) no documented need for these persons to hire commercial stock services in the SEKI wilderness, yet the NPS has done nothing to stop it. Your WSP should put an end to this, once and for all.

11. If a single system for wilderness permits is not implemented (as discussed above), and/or the biased and highly problematic system of separate trailhead quotas for commercial vs. non-outfitted visitors is to be continued, then commercial uses should be prohibited in those areas where the recreation capacity can be met by noncommercial visitors. The situation at Mt. Whitney (above) is but one example of the many places in SEKI where visitation is rationed via a strict trailhead quota system. In numerous other areas that access SEKI's wilderness, trailhead quotas have been established that reserve a portion of the quota for commercial outfitters, and non-commercial visitors are often turned away when the "public" portion of the quota has been filled. In these cases, while non-commercial visitors are being turned away, commercial clients may still gain access. This biased and perverted situation favors commercial enterprise over the general (non-outfitted) public.

If this double-standard situation is to continue, SEKI should not allow commercial services at all wherever the recreation capacity of an area is "rationed" and can be fully met by non-commercial visitors. In other words, if the non-commercial portion of a quota "fills" much of the time, commercial visitors should be turned away instead (Le., diverted to portions of the wilderness that have not reached their capacity). It's admittedly true that this would create a "bias" against the commercial visitor. But the alternative (Le., the present situation) is a clear bias against the non-commercial visitor - because at present, non-commercial visitors are often denied access due to the quotas, while commercial clients may "buy" access under the dual-quota portion that is reserved for commercial outfits. Reversing the current bias (Le., favoring non-commercial visitors over commercial visitors) would be much more in keeping with the Wilderness Act's general prohibition against commercial enterprise than is the current system which clearly favors commercial clients over non-outfitted visitors.

Of course, it would be better and preferable to eliminate the bias completely. The best and only way to do so is to implement a single wilderness permit system, and a single trailhead quota system whereby all visitors compete equally for wilderness permits-and then those who truly need commercial services may employ them (when necessary and proper under the Wilderness Act) after obtaining their permit on a level playing field. 12. Age and physical limitation(s) by themselves do not and cannot determine need for commercial stock support. The commercial stock interests and their lobbyists often claim that commercial mule-packing services are necessary for the young, the old, and the disabled to enjoy a wilderness experience in the High Sierra. This is a canard, and must be critically examined. Young and old people can and do routinely visit and enjoy SEKI's wilderness without stock support.[21] It may be sometimes easier, or more convenient, or more comfortable to hire commercial stock services, but it isn't "necessary" simply due to age. For commercial stock support to be "necessary," there must be some disability or lack of ability aside from age alone (such as the inability to hike or carry a backpack), and there also must be a genuine need for the stock animal itself. For example, an aged person who is able to hike but cannot carry their own gear could, instead of using stock animals, have their 50-lb. pack spot-hauled to their campsite by a human porter-all with far less impact on the environment than hiring commercial packstock services to haul the load. Or, a llama outfitter could be used instead of horses and mules, which would also greatly reduce the environmental impact. Such alternatives should be fully considered.

Outfitters (such as local mountain guides and llama guides) have expressed interest in providing human-porter and llama-packing services in the High Sierra, but the commercial mule packers have a strangle-hold monopoly because the agencies discourage and/or refuse to issue permits to those who might compete with the long-entrenched mule packers. There are in fact many young, able-bodied persons who would love to have summer jobs hauling packs or dunnage to assist those genuinely not able to do so. And such services could probably be offered at lower cost to the client, and far less impact to the wilderness. This

discrimination against human-powered outfits and llama packers should end. The WSP should fully explore minimum-impact means of providing assistance for those SEKI visitors who truly need it.

Further, even people with substantial physical limitations can often enjoy a wilderness experience without commercial stock services.[22] For example, a guide who assists disabled people on wilderness trips has written:

"The means for successful wilderness travel by mobility impaired people are no secret-hard work and determination ... If the desire is there, every person can go out and discover the beauty and mystery of Wilderness, regardless of their level of ability."

While the above guide's company sometimes uses stock animals to serve disabled persons, his need to resort to high-impact stock use is the exception and not the rule. Finally, we are aware of no credible evidence to support the claim by some stock interests that commercial packstock services are needed at SEKI to provide wilderness access to persons with disabilities. There certainly is no evidence that commercial packers at SEKI provide wilderness stock services to disabled persons. In fact, there is evidence that they do not. Commercial packers at SEKI "generally decline to provide accommodation" for people with disabilities for insurance reasons and because they don't have the experience, qualified staff, or equipment necessary to do so.[23]

The obvious conclusion is that most commercial stock services occurring at SEKI are not necessary. People hire the commercial packers to circumvent trailhead quotas, to haul unnecessary items, and for reasons of comfort, convenience, and luxury. Your WSP needs to take a fresh look at these issues, and not simply assume that existing commercial services must be continued because of desire, convenience, comfort, tradition, monopoly, or the political connections of your current commercial permittees.

The Significant Effects of Stock Use on Bio-physical Resources 13. Your WSP/EIS should acknowledge, evaluate, and fully address the many significant adverse environmental consequences of stock use in SEKI's wilderness. The WSP should begin by explicitly acknowledging that horses and mules are not native to North America. They are alien, disease-bearing, weed-spreading, half-ton animals that cause great harm to SEKI's native ecosystems.

In the defense of continued heavy stock use in SEKI, the Park Service has often recited the mantra of "historically and culturally significant," which makes it sound as if stock users have grandfather rights to exploit these parks because they've been doing it for so long. But no one has such grandfather rights. There is nothing in the Organic Act, the Wilderness Act, or the California Wilderness Act that grants grandfather rights to any individual, group, or category of people to conduct activities harmful to the scenery, natural resources, or wilderness character of SEKI. Nor is there any statutory language that specifies-or even permits-harmful commercial exploitation of SEKI by private interests for their own gain.

Many research scientists have documented the significant adverse impacts that result from recreational stock use. For example, Whitson (1974) provides a good discussion of how horse impact differs from hiker impact. Dale and Weaver (1974) observed that routes used by horses were deeper than those used by hikers only. Trotter and Scotter (1975) documented deterioration of trails used by large horse parties. Weaver and Dale (1978) found that horses caused significantly greater trail erosion than hikers. Whittaker (1978) concluded that horses significantly increased the potential for severe erosion by churning soil into dust or mud. Weaver et al. (1979) found that horses caused more trail wear than both hikers and motorcycles. After reviewing the available literature, Kuss et al. (1986) concluded that: "Pack stock and horse travel is considerably more damaging to trails than hiking." More recent studies (e.g., Wilson and Seney 1994, Deluca et al. 1998) have confirmed these earlier studies, documenting that horses produce more erosion than hikers, bicycles, and even motorcycles.

Numerous studies have documented adverse impacts to meadows caused by recreation livestock.[24] In addition to the impacts discussed above, trampling and grazing by livestock are known to increase bare ground and soil compaction, and to contribute to streambank erosion, sedimentation, widening and shallowing of channels, elevated stream temperatures, and physical destruction of vegetation. [25] Streambanks and lakeshores are particularly susceptible to trampling because of their high moisture content (Marlow and Pogacnik 1985). Unstable streambanks lead to accelerated erosion and elevated instream sediment loads (Duff 1979, Winegar 1977).

Of significant concern are the physical, or "mechanical," impacts that result to fragile high-elevation soils, meadows, and wetlands when these areas are trampled by recreation stock animals (i.e., horses and mules). The impact is so severe because: "A small bearing surface carrying heavy weight, a horse's hoof can generate pressures of up to 1,500 pounds per square inch." (Cole 1990)

When stock animals are released to graze in areas with low soil strength - such as is found throughout much of the SEKI high country - these high pressures can result in numerous deep hoofprints, broken sod, plant pedestalling, increased erosion, shifts in species composition, and even lowering of water tables. Many reports prepared by SEKI staff over the years have documented such persistent, ongoing damage. [26] The "opening dates" adopted by SEKI to reduce trampling impacts during the early summer season have not been effective at preventing significant, adverse impacts to meadows, streambanks, lakeshores, and wetlands (see references in preceding paragraph). Studies conducted at SEKI have documented some of the long-term effects of multiple deep hoofprints created by recreation livestock in high-elevation meadows (see "hoofprint impact study" in Neuman 1991b, 1992, 1994a). These SEKI reports clearly show that stock trampling of high-elevation meadows in SEKI results in long-term adverse changes in meadow ecology. For example, the SEKI scientist who conducted the studies concluded that the numerous deep hoofprints created by stock animals contributed to soil loss, declines in species diversity, and shifts in species

composition. He concluded that:

"These changes may have occurred in imperceptible stages, remaining fully vegetated and showing only moderate impact at any given time during the process, but the result is undeniably a negative change in the meadow that can be considered permanent." (Neuman 1994a)

Unfortunately, SEKI's hoofprint impact studies were discontinued in 1994, due to "other priorities." The NPS cannot make these problems go away simply by continuing to turn its back on them.

14. Stock animals pollute water. The Park Service does not effectively control the discharge of stock animal wastes into surface waters. Your EIS must evaluate this issue and alternatives for addressing it, and your WSP should incorporate meaningful measures needed to protect SEKI's water resources from contamination due to livestock wastes. Horses and mules produce about 33 pounds of manure and 18 pounds of urine per animal per-day (Lawrence et al. 2003). This means that a single group of 20 stock animals on a one-week trip produces more than two tons of manure and more than 300 gallons of urine that are left behind in the wilderness to contaminate streams, lakes, and wetlands. Stock manure and urine deposited by domestic livestock has long been known to contaminate surface waters in SEKI (see, for example, Schelz 1996c, at p. 22), and to contribute to the accelerated eutrophication of streams and lakes (see, for example, Stanley et al. 1979). Increased nutrient inputs to surface waters is also known to adversely affect instream aquatic organisms and alter their community assemblages (US EPA 1999). Such impacts are a significant concern in the natural aquatic environments of SEKI, which should be protected from degradation (in part) by following the USEPA's Antidegradation Policy (40 CFR 131.12).

Livestock manure pollutes water with pathogens such as Giardia, Campylobacter, Cryptosporidium, and other disease-causing organisms.[27] A study in 2002 by scientists from the U.C. Davis School of Medicine found that about 20 percent of packstock manure samples collected along the John Muir Trail contained pathogenic organisms.[28] Some "pro-livestock" interest groups claim that recreational livestock do not spread these organisms, and/or that the strains of Giardia, Campylobacter, Cryptosporidium, E. coli, etc., carried by domestic livestock are not a risk to humans. Neither of these claims is credible. [29]

A major five-year study conducted in the Sierra Nevada, including within SEKI, found that recreation livestock (i.e., horses & mules) cause significant pollution of surface waters. More than 300 samples were collected and analyzed, including 111 samples from fifteen sites exposed to pack animals. The results were striking: 63% of the water samples from pack animal sites were positive for coliform bacteria, and eighteen of the pack animal site samples apparently breached the regulatory standard of 200 cfu/100ml.[30] It is an undeniable fact that stock animals released to graze openly on park lands deposit large quantities of manure and urine both directly into surface waters and near enough surface waters that the waste products may be carried via overland runoff into streams, lakes, and wetlands. Therefore, a "no grazing" alternative should consider the benefits to water resources of requiring that stock animals be tied and fed without open grazing on park lands. Packing feed and keeping animals tied up could (along with other measures discussed below) avoid most discharges of stock manure and urine into and near surface waters.

The contamination of SEKI's surface waters by livestock manure and urine violates State of California water quality standards-in particular, the water quality objectives for nutrients, bacteria, taste & odor, and the Nondegradation Objectives contained in the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. The State's objectives for protecting drinking water (MUN) and recreation (REC-1, REC-2) are violated due to bacteria concentrations, and the State's objectives for preventing problems due to taste & odors are violated by the foul odors created by discharges of stock manure into surface waters, including wetlands.

Wilderness visitors do not want to drink water contaminated by controllable discharges of stock manure and urine, and visitors are repulsed when they see direct discharges of stock manure and urine into surface waters that they drink. Visitors are also offended by the odors created by discharges of stock manure and urine into streams, lakes, and wetlands.

Regarding the State's Nondegradation Objective, the California State Water Resources Control Board's Resolution 68-16 ("Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California") lays out mandatory requirements that apply to Park Service lands in California. State water quality objectives and policies, including Resolution 68-16, which must be adhered to by SEKI, require that specific, formal findings be made by State officials before water quality may be degraded by controllable sources such as direct inputs of stock manure and urine into park waters. To date, these requisite findings have not been made.

The contamination of surface waters due to stock manure and urine, and all of the resulting significant and potentially significant impacts to water quality (e.g., eutrophication, alteration of instream community assemblages, spread of diseases), could be substantially lessened by a "no grazing" alternative-if such an alternative is accompanied by park-wide mitigation measures, such as requiring that all campsites for stock users be designated (away from water sources, on level and dry sites), and that stock animals wear manure catchers, which are now readily available, that are emptied away from surface waters to minimize discharges of waste.

15. Stock animals harm wetlands. High-elevation meadows, due to their characteristic short growing seasons, saturated conditions from snowmelt, high ground water tables, and wetland-dependent plant communities, often meet the definition of jurisdictional wetlands. Unfortunately, the hundreds of meadows in the SEKI high country that qualify as jurisdictional wetlands have never been adequately disclosed or protected from the adverse impacts of stock trampling. The NPS's Management Policies regarding wetlands have been ignored. In addition to federal laws, regulations, and policies that apply to wetlands, it

should be noted that under California law, all wetlands are "waters of the state" that must be protected from harm. The WSP must disclose the location and extent of wetlands in SEKI's wilderness, and protect wetland functions and values from the impacts of stock use.

16. Stock animals introduce and spread invasive weeds. The role of herbivores in dispersing seeds is well established. Seeds can be spread from one location to another by attachment to the bodies of animals (epizoochory) or by being ingested and later excreted (endozoochory).[31] Many native herbivores have been shown to be effective seed dispersers. In addition, domestic stock animals such as cattle[32], sheep[33], pigs[34], and horses[35] have all been shown to pass viable seeds through their intestinal tracts. A detailed review of the scientific literature regarding the spread of weeds by domestic livestock (cattle, sheep, and horses) concluded:

"Recent research showing that livestock significantly increase invasions by nonindigenous plants in the western U.S. is persuasive. Similar results were found in all western states and for nearly every introduced species that has been studied. Although many of these studies would have benefited from both better replication and more recent research techniques, the pattern of evidence is overwhelming." [36]

Numerous other reports document specifically that recreation livestock (i.e., horses, mules, etc.) can and do spread exotic weeds.[37] For example, several reports show that horses can excrete viable seeds for many days or even weeks after ingestion.[38] Hammitt and Cole (1987) state that horse manure is a major source for exotic seeds in wilderness recreation areas. Campbell and Gibson (2001) found that "seeds transported via horse dung can become established on trail systems," and that weed seeds found in horse manure had become established along trails used by horses, but not along trails that weren't used by horses. [39] Weaver and Adams (1996) documented "substantial overlap in the weed species germinated from horse manure and the weeds present along trails used by horses." After reviewing all available scientific evidence, Landsberg et al. (2001) concluded that "concerns about dispersal of weeds by horses are legitimate." [40]

Correspondence ID: 902 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: High Sierra Hikers Association Recreational Groups
Received: Sep,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter

Correspondence: Invasive species have been specifically identified-at the national level-as one of the four greatest threats to our national forests. [41] The spread of invasive weeds has also been identified by the Regional Forester as an urgent issue that needs to be addressed in all Forest Service activities in California. [42] Current direction requires Forest Service units surrounding SEKI to address these issues.[43]

At SEKI, the Park Service has for years acknowledged that weed problems exist[44], but rather than imposing prevention measures that may inconvenience stock users, SEKI has instead chosen to focus on control efforts after weeds have become established in the wilderness. By implementing only a meek weed prevention program, and focusing instead largely on reactionary control measures, SEKI will become hopelessly stuck in an endless "catch-up" mode, relying on control methods that trammel SEKI's wilderness, including meadow "tarping," helicopter use, and applications of chemical herbicides. [45] In sum, as outlined above, scientists have documented "overwhelming" evidence that domestic livestock (including horses, mules, etc.) can and do spread harmful weeds. Your WSP must forcefully address the issues of weeds and plant pathogens that may be spread by domestic stock animals. Please evaluate all reasonable alternatives for mitigating the potential for spread of weeds and plant pathogens, including but not limited to: (1) prohibiting all grazing by domestic stock (to minimize the free-roaming of stock animals and dispersion of seeds across the landscape via epizoochory and endozoochory); (2) requiring stock users to feed their animals weed-free feed for at least several days before entering the park (in order for stock animals to excrete viable weed seeds before entering the park); (3) requiring stock users to clean stock coats and hooves before entering the park (to minimize the potential for epizoochory) and requiring mandatory inspections (by qualified rangers) of all stock entering the parks to ensure that this is done; (4) requiring designated campsites for stock parties, with designated stock holding areas, to minimize seed dispersion; and (5) requiring "manure catchers" on all stock animals, with designated manure disposal sites.

17. Stock animals harm SEKI's wildlife. Stock animals are known to harm SEKI's native wildlife in numerous ways. For example, the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep-which is critically endangered-is known to leave key feeding sites when approached by domestic stock animals. The bighorn have been observed to avoid key feeding sites for days after encounters with domestic stock.

Domestic stock is known to trample sensitive habitats of rare amphibians such as the mountain yellow-legged frog (MYLF) and Yosemite toad (YT).[46] Both of these disappearing amphibian species are candidates for the federal list of endangered species and have been classified as "warranted" for listing as threatened or endangered species.[47] The NPS at SEKI has limited stock use in one area (Sixty Lake Basin) specifically to protect MYLF habitat. It is arbitrary and capricious to implement protections for MYLF in only one area, but not the other MYLF habitats throughout SEKI. Currently, SEKI provides no protections for YT. One recent study suggests that livestock should at minimum be excluded from a SOO-meter protection zone around all Yosemite toad breeding pools (Martin 2008).

Domestic stock attracts non-native cowbirds, which parasitize the nests of native songbirds. Accumulations of stock, and stock manure, attract cowbirds. Cowbirds are known to frequent pack stations, such as the Cedar Grove Pack Station, and significantly harm native songbird populations in the Sierra Nevada. Cowbirds are obligate brood parasites that can significantly impact native passerine species. One study in the northern Sierra found that up to 78 percent of warbler nests are parasitized by cowbirds, resulting in significant decreases in the reproductive success of those species (Airola 1986). Individual female cowbirds in the Sierra Nevada have been reported to lay an average of 30 eggs per season (Fleischer et al. 1987). These high rates of parasitism and fecundity by cowbirds indicate that significant local impacts occur wherever cowbird populations are

present. Habitat modifications and the presence of livestock throughout the Sierra may contribute significantly to regional declines in songbird populations (Graber 1996). Pack stations in particular are known to be breeding centers for cowbirds.

Impacts on wildlife in addition to those outlined above have also been noted, and should be fully evaluated, including but not limited to, impacts to terrestrial invertebrates, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds.

The Significant Effects of Stock Use on Scenery & Aesthetic Values 18. The WSP/EIS should acknowledge, evaluate, and fully address the many significant adverse social and experiential impacts of stock use in SEKI's wilderness. The 1916 Organic Act that created the National Park Service establishes its mission: "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

And the 1964 Wilderness Act establishes the Park Service's duty when managing designated wilderness: "each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character."

We are very concerned about the myriad aesthetic impacts that result from stock use, such as the presence of annoying bells, dust, manure, urine, and flies; the proliferation of unsightly hoofprints and drift fences; and impairment of the scenery due to the unnatural appearance of meadows grazed by domestic stock. (See, for example, Absher and Absher 1979, Cole 1990, Lee 1975, Stankey 1973, Watson et al. 1993.)

One study in the Sierra Nevada found that 60 percent of groups surveyed thought that the use of stock was entirely inappropriate (Absher and Absher 1979). Another study found that 59 percent of visitors preferred not to meet horse users in the wilderness (Stankey 1973). Another study in Yosemite National Park found that the presence of horse manure and other signs of stock animals were key sources of visitor dissatisfaction (Lee 1975). A study in Rocky Mountain National Park showed that a majority of hikers who disapproved of horse use - 57 percent of all users - did so because they disliked horse manure and urine, and the flies and other insects attracted to it (see Cole 1990). A recent study in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks documents similar findings (Watson et al. 1993).

One key provision of the Organic Act directs the Park Service to protect the scenery of the national parks. Yet managers at SEKI continue to demonstrate complete reluctance to regulate stock use in any way to comply with this mandate.

Put simply, park visitors have an absolute right to view park meadows (i.e., scenery) in a healthy, natural, unimpaired condition. SEKI Ranger Randy Morgenson perhaps said it best—that park visitors deserve and should have the opportunity to view: "... knee-high grasses, ripe and open panicles drifting in the moving air, luminous-bronze in the backlight." [48]

Such an experience simply cannot be had in meadows that are grazed and trampled by domestic livestock. The Park Service needs to acknowledge this truth. The year-end reports prepared by SEKI's backcountry rangers should be a key source of information to your planning team. SEKI managers have acknowledged that SEKI's wilderness rangers are its "backcountry experts," [49] and their reports document many of the impacts discussed above, as well as complaints registered by the public. For example, one such report states:

"McClure Meadow is one of the most unique examples of an alpine meadow in the Sierra. Even after twenty years of fairly strict grazing regulations, it still shows much evidence of poor recovery in the summer heat—even a week after a stock party leaves the entire meadow smells like a corral. This is a major source of complaints by hikers." [50]

The preponderance of public comments and other evidence readily available to SEKI staff show that the majority of park visitors who encounter stock impacts are significantly and adversely affected, and that the impacts of stock animals are "a major source of complaints."

Put simply, SEKI's current wilderness management paradigm is devoid of any serious consideration of scenic or aesthetic impacts, and the experience of wilderness visitors has been substantially harmed. Your EIS should fully evaluate the impacts discussed above, and incorporate provisions into the WSP that will protect (and restore where necessary) the precious scenery and wilderness character of these majestic national parks. This will necessarily include careful evaluation and adoption of a park-wide "no grazing" alternative, authorizing commercial stock use only to the extent that is truly necessary, and adoption of other limits, controls, and mitigation measures for stock use, as discussed below.

Needed Limits, Controls, and Mitigation Measures

19. The WSP should prohibit all grazing by domestic livestock within SEKI. Given the known significant adverse effects of grazing and trampling on park values and wilderness character, all grazing of park lands should be strictly prohibited. Stock users should be required to pack feed for their animals, as required at many other national parks.

20. Your EIS must evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives regarding grazing. While we advocate in the strongest possible terms for a prohibition of all grazing by domestic livestock at SEKI, we acknowledge your responsibility under NEPA to

evaluate and consider a range of reasonable alternatives. Such alternatives must necessarily include: 1) prohibition of all grazing above 9,700 feet elevation (i.e., allowing grazing only at lower elevations); and 2) prohibition of private and commercial grazing above 9,700 feet (i.e., allowing grazing above 9,700 feet only for essential administrative purposes). In an effort to address many (but not all) of the significant effects of stock use at SEKI,[51] the NPS's own scientists (Schelz 1996b, 1996c) long ago recommended an immediate ban on grazing in "Production Class 1" (i.e., high-elevation) meadows within SEKI:

"All production Class 1 meadows should be closed to grazing. This includes all measured Class 1 meadows and all others within the elevation limits of this class. In other words, all meadows above 9700 feet should be closed to grazing ... Class 1 meadows are our very sensitive high elevation meadows that generally do not receive much use ... but they are so sensitive to disturbance that the little use they do get causes high impacts and the available feed is exhausted quickly." (Schelz 1996c, emphasis added)

This recommendation by SEKI's professional scientific staff should have been implemented immediately via an order of the Superintendent, yet it has languished for more than a decade and still has not been implemented. While the public has been told repeatedly that the superintendent has the discretion and authority to rapidly adopt restrictions whenever necessary to avoid adverse impacts to park resources, this authority is rarely used when the interests of stock users may be affected. Quoting from a United States District Court ruling:

"... the evidence demonstrates that SEKI management's discretion may be too heavily impacted by political factors to have a predictable ability to protect the environment..." High Sierra Hikers Association v. Kennedy, No. C 94-03570 CW (N.D. Cal. June 14, 1995)

Your new WSP is an historic opportunity for SEKI to turn a new leaf, to take seriously the mandates to fully protect park wildlife, scenery, water, and wilderness character. An honest and forthright evaluation of the above alternatives, and selection of a No Grazing alternative for SEKI would go a long way toward reclaiming the Park Service's credibility and stature.

21. Off-trail travel by stock should be prohibited. Horses and mules should be required to stay on designated trails that have been located, designed, constructed, and maintained to withstand their enormous impacts. Off-trail travel by horse/mule parties is of particular concern because of the damage that is caused when 1,000-pound, steel-shod stock animals leave constructed trails. Dr. David Cole (1989) concluded:

"Trampling impacts of packstock are particularly severe because considerable weight is carried on a small bearing surface (Weaver and others 1979). Therefore, vegetation and soil damage occur rapidly where stock leave the trail ... The size of stock parties influences the severity of a number of problems. Particularly in little-used and off-trail places, it is critical that stock party size is minimized."

Many other park and forest areas throughout the nation acknowledge the significant impacts of off-trail stock use by prohibiting all off-trail travel by stock animals. SEKI should do the same.

22. Designated camps for stock. Scientists and managers have long acknowledged the benefits of requiring overnight stock users to stay at designated campsites.[52] Confining stock impacts to designated sites lessens the areal extent of impacts to soil and vegetation, reduces the introduction and spread of weeds, allows better control of manure, reduces water contamination with sediment and pathogen runoff from camp areas, and prevents sites used by hikers from being polluted with stock manure.

23. Manure catchers. Devices to capture manure excreted by stock animals are now readily available and affordable. They should be required in order to keep manure off trails and out of waterways and campsites.

24. All fences should be removed from SEKI's wilderness. Fences seriously degrade the scenery, trammel the free movement of wildlife, and give SEKI's wilderness the look and feel of someone's private ranch. Hikers (the vast majority of users) and wildlife are substantially inconvenienced (and injured) by clumsy gates and rusty wire, for the sole benefit of a small handful of stock users. Helicopters used to transport fence materials also intrude on the wilderness.

Fences and their associated gates, hardware, rolls of wire, etc., are structural intrusions that not only harm scenery, wildlife, and visitors by their mere presence; they also "invite abuse" of the wilderness by stock users who are attracted to the conveniences that the fences provide.[53]

Some stock users and Park Service personnel claim that the fences are needed for "resource protection." This is a ruse. The truth is that the fences were installed primarily for the convenience of stock users. Other methods, such as a No Grazing alternative (i.e., tie & feed), hobbles, and/or portable solar-electric fences, can be used to restrain animals. Stock users should be responsible for their own animals rather than the Park Service constructing ugly, permanent fences across the landscape.

25. Bells on stock animals should be prohibited. Bells placed on stock animals are a noisy annoyance, and they disturb the solitude and sleep of many wilderness visitors. Quietude is a unique and valued attribute of wilderness character that should be preserved. Bells are simply a convenience for stock users, and are unnecessary. They should be prohibited. 26. The WSP should establish a network of foot-travel-only trails to provide a trail system for visitors who desire an experience free of the dust, manure, flies, and other impacts caused by stock use. Essentially all of the trails in SEKI's backcountry are open to stock animals except one (Mt. Whitney). Hikers deserve to have some trails where they can enjoy SEKI's wilderness without the many

substantial impacts of stock.

27. SEKI's magnificent alpine lake basins should be protected from the ravages of stock use. NPS rangers and top-level managers have for decades acknowledged that SEKI's sublime alpine lake basins deserve special consideration and protection from the impacts of stock use.[54] If your WSP adopts adequate controls (as discussed elsewhere in these comments) including: 1) a No Grazing alternative (or no grazing above 9,700 feet elevation), 2) a prohibition against off-trail travel by stock animals, and 3) an appropriate network of foot-travel-only trails, then SEKI's high-elevation lake basins could be adequately protected by those measures. However, if all three of those measures are for any reason not adequately implemented, then SEKI needs a distinct, concerted program to protect SEKI's superlative alpine lake basins from the ongoing adverse impacts of stock use.

28. Group size limits. The group size limits currently in effect at SEKI are inadequate to sufficiently protect the scenery, natural resources, and wilderness character of SEKI. Group size limits (for both number of persons and number of stock animals) must be lowered.

The group size limits selected by the Sierra Interagency Wilderness Managers' Group in the early 1990s (15 persons, 25 stock animals) were concocted without the benefit of any formal environmental analysis or NEP A documentation. Those limits were chosen by a small group of managers who had a pro-stock bias, and dictated without NEP A compliance-over the strong objections of the vast majority of commenters. The managers knew at the time that if they went through the public involvement procedures and conducted a scientific analysis as required by NEP A, that those high numbers could not be justified. This is evidenced by a memorandum from the forest supervisor of the Inyo National Forest which states:

"... we did not feel that it was necessary to go through the NEPA process on this as an aside, I will assure you as I have Tanner and London, that if we take this through NEP A the numbers will, in all likelihood, come out lower, and all of our packers will be significantly impacted."

It is truly disheartening that the interagency wilderness managers placed a higher priority on protecting the interests of the commercial packers than protecting the natural resources under their charge. We can only hope that this attitude has changed. Impacts of group size on the experience of park visitors. The fact that large groups have an adverse impact on the experience of park visitors was documented in the early 1970s by preeminent wilderness scientist Dr. George H. Stankey (1973). A 1990 wilderness management text co-authored by Dr. Stankey and endorsed by federal agencies, including the National Park Service (Hendee et al. 1990), concludes:

"Large parties are not common in most wildernesses, but the few that occur seriously diminish other visitors' experiences."

Later research conducted in SEKI confirms Dr. Stankey's early work, and demonstrates that the current group size limits in SEKI (both for number of persons and stock animals) are inadequate to protect the experience of park visitors (Watson et al. 1993). This is key research that deserves full consideration by your planning team. It documents that even the average stock user in SEKI strongly supports smaller group sizes than those currently in effect. For example, the average stock user in SEKI recommended 13 as the maximum allowable number of stock animals per group. The average hiker in SEKI recommended six animals per group as a maximum. Regarding the maximum number of persons per group, the average stock user in SEKI recommended 12; the average hiker in SEKI recommended nine. These recommendations by the visiting public are approximately equal to the limits suggested by scientists and adopted by many other national parks (discussed below).

There simply is not any valid justification for the higher limits currently in effect at SEKI. Although the commercial outfitters would prefer the existing (or larger) group size limits, the existing (or larger) limits cannot be supported by either the scientific evidence or public opinion.

Impacts of group size on the biological-ecological wilderness character. Other research scientists specializing in wilderness management have also documented the social and ecological impacts caused by large groups. For instance, Dr. David N. Cole (1989) concluded:

"The effectiveness of reduced party sizes in reducing resource damage is greatest where impact is likely to occur quickly (for example, in fragile areas, in little-used and relatively undisturbed areas, and where parties travel with stock). Limits on party size must be quite low (certainly no larger than 10) to be worthwhile." Concerning group size limits for numbers of stock animals, Dr. Cole (1990) concluded:

"A large party detracts much more from visitor satisfaction than a small party (Stankey 1973). Although a limit on party size is currently the most common packstock management technique in wilderness-almost one-half of all areas have a limit-the number allowed ranges from five to 50 animals per party, with 20 the most common limit (Washburne and Cole 1983). Such high limits will have very little beneficial effect; both social and campsite impacts are unlikely to be reduced unless limits are 10 animals or less."

Group size limits for off-trail travel. Large groups traveling off-trail substantially harm the experience of other visitors who are seeking solitude in remote areas, and they also harm bio-physical resources. Cole (1989) concluded that: "Once a party size exceeds a certain number (perhaps four to six), special care must be taken in off-trail travel, campsite selection, and avoidance of visitor conflict." SEKI should not rely on larger groups to "take special care" to avoid such impacts; the WSP should limit off-trail travel to groups no larger than 4-6 persons. The number of stock animals allowed off-trail should be zero (as discussed

above).

Summary and conclusion re: maximum group size limits. National parks throughout the western United States have adopted maximum group size limits significantly lower than those in effect at SEKI. The WSP should lower SEKI's maximum group size limits, both for numbers of persons and numbers of stock, to protect both natural resources and visitors' experiences. Per the studies cited above, group size limits should be no higher than the following ranges:

persons per group on trails: 9-12 persons per group off trails: 4-6 stock per group on trails: 6-10 stock per group off trails: zero

Your WSP should also evaluate alternatives for regulating the size of stock parties via the number of "heartbeats" per group, such as a maximum of 9-12 "heartbeats" per group. For example, recognizing the disproportionately high impact of stock travel compared to foot travel, the number of "heartbeats" for stock groups should be the same-or lower than the number of persons allowed per group.

SEKI's Current "ad hoc" Approaches are Inadequate 29. SEKI's ad hoc approach to managing stock use is seriously flawed and woefully inadequate. For decades, SEKI has implemented an insular ad hoc approach to managing stock use. It has conducted monitoring, but then discontinued those monitoring projects that document harm to park resources and wilderness character. For example, SEKI's "hoofprint impact studies" were discontinued in the 1990s after documenting "negative and permanent" impacts caused by ongoing stock use.[55] Instead of continuing and heeding the findings of those studies-and without ever inviting public comment or conducting a public environmental review-SEKI has for the past two decades focused on developing a residual biomass monitoring (RBM) scheme that is designed and intended to promote and perpetuate continued grazing despite the known and documented impacts. We have detailed in previous correspondence, and incorporate by reference, our concerns regarding the inadequacy of the RBM scheme (i.e., lack of statistical power to reliably detect change, observer bias, absence of management standards to maintain meadows in an unimpaired condition, failure to consider or protect scenic values, lack of practical means to implement and enforce grazing limits in remote settings, lack of ability to adjust limits or take action before harm occurs, etc.). We will provide supplemental comments on this subject in the near future.

SEKI rangers and specialists have for decades raised concerns about the substantial impacts of stock use, and made numerous recommendations that to this day have not been implemented. Meanwhile, SEKI managers conduct meetings and make ad hoc decisions behind closed doors, without public input-and even when they do act, the evidence is clear that SEKI's approach allows significant harm to occur before action is taken. Once rangers and scientists have for years raised warnings and the damage becomes undeniable, temporary site-specific restrictions are adopted, the use is shifted to other areas, and the process repeats.

Considered as a whole, the minimal actions specified in SEKI's SUMMP, together with its ad hoc RBM scheme and opening dates, are not adequate to avoid significant adverse effects. SEKI's obstinate reliance on its ad hoc measures is especially disturbing since SEKI scientists have reported clearly that the measures, considered as a whole, cannot address key issues such as continued physical impacts resulting from stock animals being allowed to graze in fragile areas.[56] The record is clear that past SEKI managers have defended continued livestock grazing and stock use in sensitive areas at all cost. We hope this will change.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp 30. Your WSP should direct that the ugly commercial camp at Bearpaw Meadow be removed, and the site restored. The polluting camp is an affront to the national park and an intrusion on the surrounding wilderness. The camp creates adverse impacts due to sewage disposal, greywater disposal, food storage, excessive stock use, helicopter intrusions, noise, and impairment of the scenery.

In 1984-more than a quarter century ago-Congress instructed the National Park Service to prepare a report on the impacts caused by the Bearpaw commercial camp. In defiance of the will of Congress and the American people, the Park Service has apparently never conducted the intended studies. Congress also asked the Park Service to regularly monitor environmental impacts at the camp, and to remove the camp if impacts ever increased above 1984 levels.

In its House Committee Report on the 1984 Act that designated the SEKI Wilderness, Congress recognized the incompatibility of this "High Sierra camp," and, in a rare move, deferred Congressional authority so that the Secretary of Interior may designate the enclave as wilderness once the nonconforming developments are removed. This vision will never be realized as long as the Park Service continues to ignore Congressional direction and to blindly promote continuance of the Bearpaw camp.

Clear direction is needed to remedy this situation. Put simply, the WSP should direct that the Bearpaw camp be removed as soon as possible, and the site restored. At the absolute minimum, the WSP should require the following: 1) an independent study to document baseline conditions at the commercial Bearpaw Meadow camp, funded by the Park Service and conducted under contract by a reputable third party (such as an independent California university); 2) a provision for mandatory monitoring (of parameters to be recommended by the initial study), no less frequently than every two years (under contract as in #1 above); and 3) a provision (without loopholes) that if any adverse environmental impacts resulting from operation of the Bearpaw Meadow camp should ever increase beyond those documented in the baseline study, that the camp will be promptly removed and the area immediately recommended to the Secretary of Interior and to Congress for wilderness designation. This is the process that Congress intended to put in motion more than 25 years ago.

The Park Service knows full well that the Bearpaw camp is causing adverse impacts to SEKI's scenery, natural resources, and surrounding wilderness character, yet it denies culpability on grounds that it cannot afford to conduct the detailed monitoring of

those impacts as directed by Congress. If the NPS cannot afford the monitoring requested by Congress, it should either require the concessioner to pay for it, or close the camp.

Conclusion Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments for your consideration. I invite you to contact us at the letterhead address should you desire clarification of any comment(s) contained here in.

Please let us know if you will agree to our request that the administrative record for your GMP become part of the record for this project. Please also note that we may provide supplemental comments and/or additional supporting documentation in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Browning, President High Sierra Hikers Association

List of Enclosures Enclosure 1: Jan. 14, 1991 letter from SEKI superintendent re: WMP process Enclosure 2: April 30, 1997 Federal Register notice re: WMP process Enclosure 3: Examples of (37) letters submitted during SEKI's 1991 WMP process Enclosure 4: Examples of (57) letters submitted during SEKI's 1996 WMP process Enclosure 5: Nov. 20, 1994 letter by David Campbell Enclosure 6: Examples of (8) visitor complaints re: wilderness issues at SEKI Enclosure 7: Examples of SEKI Case Incident records (#101034 and 101035) Enclosure 8: Example SEKI ranger reports: McClure 1994 (see p. 2) Little Five 1991 (see p. 5) Enclosure 9: SEKI memo from Chief Ranger to Superintendent, Sept. 6, 1989 (2 pp.) Enclosure 10: Recommendations, Wilderness Management Staff, 1991 Season (41 pp.) Enclosure 11: Excerpt from 1971 Master Plan (3 pp.) Enclosure 12: March 2, 1981 letter from USFS regional forester to Ike Livermore (1 p.) Enclosure 13: Nov. 4, 1995 memo from USFS High Sierra Area Manager to ID Team (3 pp.) Karen F. Taylor-Goodrich, WSP Scoping Comments, page 34 of 41 Enclosure 14: SNEP Report, vol. II, pp. 557, 602 Enclosure 15: Apr. 9, 1996 memo from USFS High Sierra Area Manager to B. Bramlette (1 p.) Enclosure 16: USFS emails: 1/30/96, 4/1/96, 4/2/96 (3 pp.) Enclosure 17: Activity Allocation / Actual Use Tables - Final, Inyo NF, 6/28/2000 (2 pp.) Enclosure 18: Jan. 3, 2001 synopsis of SEKI's comments to USFS (1 p.) Enclosure 19: July 28, 2004 email from SEKI superintendent to Inyo N.F. (3 pp.) Enclosure 20: June 7, 2005 letter from INF supervisor to SEKI superintendent (2 pp.) Enclosure 21: June 27, 2005 letter from SEKI superintendent to Inyo N.F. (5 pp.) Enclosure 22: March 24, 2000 letter from Lucinda McKee (INF) to Greg Allen (3 pp.) Enclosure 23: "Mt. Whitney Trail," from website of Inyo National Forest (2 pp.) Enclosure 24: "Climbing Mt. Whitney," from SEKI's +website (2 pp.) Enclosure 25: "Recreation Passes & Permits," from website of Inyo NF (4 pp.) Enclosure 26: Inyo NF memos re: Trail Crest & Cottonwood P.5. dated 5/13/08 & 4/19/04 Enclosure 27: Oct. 5, 2004 letter from Richard Judd to SEKI (3 pp.) Enclosure 28: Excerpts from website of Great Old Broads for Wilderness (3 pp.) Enclosure 29: "Wilderness is not Supposed to be Convenient," Spring 1997 (2 pp.) Enclosure 30: Derlet & Carlson 2002, Wilderness & Environmental Medicine 13:113-118 (6 pp.) Enclosure 31: Derlet et al. 2008, Wilderness & Environmental Medicine 19:82-90 (9 pp.) Enclosure 32: "Livestock Grazing and Weed Invasions in the Arid West," ONDA Enclosure 33: "The Effects of Seeds of Exotic Species Transported via Horse Dung" Enclosure 34: "Horse riding ... Scientific evidence to guide management" Enclosure 35: "Velvet Grass in the Kern River Canyon" 2008 (2 pp.) Enclosure 36: Nov. 20, 2009 letter from SEKI to J.Olson (3 pp.) Enclosure 37: "Velvet Grass in the Kern River Canyon" 2009 (2 pp.) Enclosure 38: Aug. 11, 1991 memo from Chief Ranger to District & Backcountry Rangers (1 p.) Enclosure 39: Sept. 26, 2000 SEKI email from D.Graber to S.spain and others (1 p.) Enclosure 40: Federal Register 1/16/03 Sierra Nevada Mountain Yellow-legged Frog (21 pp.) Enclosure 41: Federal Register 12/10/02 Yosemite toad (10 pp.) Enclosure 42: SEKI Special Wilderness Closures for 2011 (2 pp.) Enclosure 43: April 18, 1993 memo by Dennis Martin, then-supervisor of Inyo NF (2 pp.)

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1 In re: Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement for Wilderness Stewardship Plan, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Federal Register, Vol. 76, No. 80, April 26, 2011. 2 Enclosure 1 is a copy of SEKI's kick-off letter dated January 14, 1991, announcing its intent to develop and implement a Wilderness Management Plan by the summer of 1992. After considerable public input, that process was discontinued without notice to the public. SEKI's process to develop a Wilderness Management Plan was re-started in 1996; a formal notice appeared in the Federal Register on April 30, 1997 (see Enclosure 2). After again obtaining substantial public input (in the form of letters, completed planning workbooks, and public meetings), SEKI for a second time tabled the wilderness planning process, ostensibly because it wanted to focus instead on developing a new General Management Plan (GMP). 3 See, for example, Enclosure 9 at pp. 1-2; Enclosure 10 at p. 25 4 See Enclosure 11, excerpt from SEKI's Master Plan 5 A detailed quantification of "current levels" of stock use is absolutely necessary to properly articulate and evaluate a baseline No Action alternative under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). However, our discussion of this issue does not in any way suggest or imply that the "current levels" of stock use at SEKI are appropriate or lawful. In fact, the current levels of stock use at SEKI are clearly excessive, unnecessary, and unlawful (as discussed further below), and need to be substantially curtailed notwithstanding the requirement under NEPA to evaluate a baseline No Action alternative. 6 See Enclosure 12, letter from Zane Smith, USFS Regional Forester, dated March 2, 1981 7 See Enclosure 13, memo by USFS High Sierra Area Manager, Nov. 4, 1995, at p. 2 8 See Enclosure 14 (SNEP Report, vol. II at p. 602); Enclosure 15 (4/9/96 USFS memo); and Enclosure 16 (USFS emails discussing the problem) 9 See Enclosure 17, USFS estimates of then-existing commercial uses and proposed allocations for its 2001 plan 10 See Enclosure 18, synopsis of SEKI comments to USFS 11 See Enclosure 19, e-mail from SEKI superintendent to Inyo National Forest, dated July 28, 2004 12 See Enclosure 20, letter from Inyo NF supervisor to SEKI superintendent, dated June 7, 2005 13 See Enclosure 21, letter from SEKI superintendent to USFS, dated June 27, 2005 14 See Enclosure 22, letter from Inyo NF to owner of Rainbow Pack Station, dated March 24, 2000 15 See Enclosure 23 16 See Enclosure 24 17 See, for example, Enclosures 18 and 23 18 See, for example, Enclosure 19 at p. 3 19 See Enclosure 25; see also Enclosures 23 and 24 20 See Enclosure 26, two Inyo NF memos (dated 5/13/08 and 4/19/04) 21 See, for example, Enclosure 27 (10/5/04 letter to SEKI), and Enclosure 28 (Great Old Broads for Wilderness). These are but examples. Both young and old people regularly use and enjoy SEKI's wilderness under their own power, and neither the NPS nor USFS has ever made any credible finding that anyone needs commercial mule trains in SEKI simply due to their age. For example, those who are able to hike but cannot carry their own gear could have their pack or dunnage hauled by llamas or human porters, with far less impact than commercial horses and mules. 22 See, for example, Enclosure 29, "Wilderness is not supposed to be convenient," by G. Lais (2 pp.) 23 See, for example, Enclosure 39, SEKI email dated 09/26/2000 24 See, for example, Cole 1977, DeBenedetti and Parsons 1979, Haultain and Das 2000, Merkle 1963, Nagy and Scotter 1974, Neuman 1990, Neuman 1991a-b, Neuman 1992, Neuman 1993, Neuman 1994a-b, Olson-Rutz et al. 1996, Schelz 1996a-c, Strand 1972, Strand 1979a-c, Sumner and Leonard 1947, Weaver and Dale 1978 25 See, for example, Behnke and Ralleggh 1978, Bohn and Buckhouse 1985, Kauffman and Krueger 1984, Kauffman et al. 1983, Olson-Rutz et al. 1996, Siekert et al. 1985 26 See DeBenedetti and Parsons 1979; Haultain 1999; Haultain and Das 2000; Neuman 1991b, 1992, 1994a; Schelz 1996d; Suk 1989, 1990, 1991; and SEKI's "Case Incident reports" #200835, 200836, 200842, 201491; and other SEKI Case Incident reports. 27 See Bemrick 1968, Blaser et al. 1984, Buret et al. 1990, Butzler 1984, Capon et al. 1989, Davies and Hibler 1979, Derlet and Carlson 2002, Derlet et al. 2008, Faubert 1988, Isaac-Renton 1993, Kasprzak and Pawlowski 1989, Kirkpatrick and Skand 1985, Kirkpatrick 1989, LeChevallier et al. 1991, Manahan 1970, Manser and Dalziel 1985, Meyer 1988, Rosquist 1984, Rush et al. 1987, Saeed et al. 1993, Stranden et al. 1990, Suk 1983, Suk et al. 1986, Taylor et al. 1983, Upcroft and Upcroft 1994, Weniger et al. 1983, Xiao et al. 1993, Xiao and Herd 1994. 28 See Enclosure 30, Derlet and Carlson 2002, *Wilderness and Environmental Medicine* 13: 113-118 29 While the current state-of-knowledge regarding the cross-transmission of enteric pathogens from stock animals is less than perfect, there is ample evidence to demonstrate the potential for cross-

transmission of pathogens between stock animals and humans. (ibid) 30 See Enclosure 31, Derlet et al. 2008, Wilderness and Environmental Medicine 19:82-90 31 See Fenner 1985, Hammit & Cole 1987, Harmon & Kiem 1934, Heady 1954, Janzen 1982, Ridley 1930 32 See Harper (1977), Janzen (1982), McCully (1951), Welch (1985). 33 See Harmon and Kiem (1934), Heady (1954), Piggan (1978). 34 See Harmon and Kiem (1934). 35 See Harmon and Kiem (1934), Janzen (1981), Janzen (1982), St John-Sweeting and Morris (1991). 36 See Enclosure 32, Belsky and Gelbard (2000) 37 See Benninger (1989), Benninger-Truax et al. (1992), Campbell and Gibson (2001), Hammit and Cole (1987), Harmon and Kiem (1934), Janzen (1981), Janzen (1982), Landsberg et al. (2001), Quinn et al. (2006), Weaver and Adams (1996). 38 See, for example, Janzen (1981), and St John-Sweeting and Morris (1991). 39 See Enclosure 33, Campbell and Gibson, Plant Ecology 157:23-35 40 See Enclosure 34, Landsberg et al. 2001, Ecological Management & Restoration 2(1):36-46 41 See <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/four-threats/> 42 See <http://www.fs.fed.us/rS!noxiousweeds!> 43 See <http://www.fs.fed.us/rS/snfalfinal-seis/rod/appendix-alstandards-guidelines!forest-wide.htm> 44 See Enclosure 35, "Velvet Grass in the Kern River Canyon" 2008 45 See, for example, Enclosure 36 (11/20/09 letter from SEKI Acting Superintendent, 3 pp.), and Enclosure 37 ("Velvet Grass in the Kern River Canyon - 2009," 2 pp.) 46 See, for example, Enclosure 40 (MYLF Federal Register notice), and Enclosure 41 (YT Federal Register notice) 47 ibid 48 1989 Evolution Valley Ranger Report, by Randy Morgenson 49 See Enclosure 38, memo from SEKI Chief Ranger dated 8/11/91 50 See Enclosure 8, "McClure Ranger Station: End of Season Report 1994" 51 For example, a "No Grazing" alternative would prevent most grazing and trampling impacts to meadows, lakeshores, and wetlands, eliminate the need for unsightly drift fences and annoying bells, and avoid much of the water pollution caused by stock use. But stock impacts to trails, watering sites, and campsites would persist. 52 See, for example, Cole 1990 at p. 461 53 For example, see: Neuman 1991b at p. 8 54 See, for example, Enclosure 9

Correspondence ID: 903 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Aug,29,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: E-mail
Correspondence: RE: Pack Animals and the Wilderness Stewardship Plan

Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich:

I am concerned about future grazing and pack animal use in Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park and whether the new Wilderness Stewardship Plan will protect the parks. While I have not seen many problems caused by equines in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, I have been shocked and dismayed at the condition of trails, creek crossings and lake shores in several supposed wilderness areas of the National Forest which get heavy stock use. This must not happen at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

In 40 years of mountain hiking, I've seen a lot. I have seen huge pools of mule urine within inches of a creek in the John Muir Wilderness, a creek from which I had to draw water later in the day. I have seen steep trails basically destroyed -- eroded 12 inches below their original surface level by heavy stock animal use with run-off structures destroyed and making it difficult for a person to walk on the trail. I've seen a great deal of stock animal dung right in the creeks at ford areas. I have seen an entire side of a small alpine lake denuded of vegetation, with horseshoe prints to tell the sad tale. I have seen a packer lead a long mule train off the trail and across a delicate alpine meadow rather than take the trouble to disconnect the animals and turn them around one by one on the trail. This year, I saw packers lead a train of animals off the trail for half a mile because they didn't want to walk the animals over snow. I have arrived exhausted at a lake and been unable to find a campsite unpolluted by horse manure. I have seen huge latrines dug by packers to accommodate noisy, inebriated parties. I have seen large holes dug by packers for open-pit cooking and creating saunas. I have seen a dozen small trees cut down near a packer campsite and used to build camp furnishings such as latrines, kitchen tables, shower stalls and a shade structure, this in the Russian Wilderness. I've been unable to sleep because of the smoke blown into my tent from huge and unnecessary fires built to entertain packer clients. I've seen pack animals used to haul heavy, unnecessary stuff over mountain passes, like huge cast iron pots, big camp stoves and sinks with metal legs and shelving, cases of bottled wine, toilet seats, gigantic ice chests and other camp furniture. I have been prevented from sleep by cowbells. I have been saddened to see more and more exotic weeds growing in areas which are grazed... sometimes the only native wildflowers left were in rocky areas the cattle and horses dislike.

There are light users and heavy users of our precious back country. Commercial packers are the heaviest users and cause an unacceptable amount of damage, some of it unnecessary. The Sequoia Kings Canyon Park must be protected from excess pack animal use.

- Please do not allow grazing in our beloved Sequoia/Kings Canyon parks. Private individuals should be favored over commercial users for park access because they cause less damage and do not profit financially from using the resource. Commercial packers, who profit from damaging the park, should be severely limited in their access to the park.
- Those who bring equines into the park need to be charged fees high enough to fund habitat restoration and repair of trails damaged by the animals.
- Pack animals must be prevented from polluting creeks and lake with manure as follows: Animals should be watered well away from lakes and creeks so they don't urinate in them. Animals should wear manure-catchers, and manure should be packed out of the park.
- I would like to see no pack animals at all above 8,000 feet. At the very least they should be excluded from the fragile alpine zone, i.e., kept below tree-line.
- There should be no more than eight animals in one party, anywhere.
- The number of trips allowed packers on any one trail needs to be kept low. It is very depressing to hike on a trail which has had many pack trains per day cross over it for week after week in the summer. Such a trail has no area free of manure, no area where the trail has not been churned and ploughed into sometimes ankle-deep, traction-less sand and dust. The slightest breeze raises clouds of manure dust for the hiker to inhale, while the equestrians, much

- higher off the ground, breath clean air. Rocks kicked loose by the animals cause treacherous footing.
- Pack animals should not be allowed in the park at all until some means of preventing off-trail travel can be found.
- Since exotic weeds are such a problem in our state, users of pack animals need to be monitored carefully to make sure they feed the animals only weed-free grain before and during trips.

Finally, it is deeply troubling that in some areas, commercial packers and have ended up having more say in resource use than individuals. Commercial interests can afford to lobby for more use permits, cheaper fees, exclusive use of desirable sites, and fewer limitations. They can gain undue influence. An example of a concessionaire having such a privilege is the exclusion of campers from the Bear Paw Meadow in Sequoia National Park, forcing them to use a dark, ugly, distant and unpleasant campground far, far away from the lovely view and even the main trail. This is truly unfair. A new Wilderness Stewardship Plan needs to find a more equitable balance of power between individual and commercial users than now exists. Packers and concessionaires need to be held to higher standards than they are in the national forests.

Our national parks were created for all to enjoy, not for the few to rape and exploit. I fervently hope the new plan protects the parks adequately. I thank you for taking my views under consideration.

Correspondence ID: 904 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep.09.2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:

I am writing to comment on Sequoia and Kings Canyons Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

I've been enjoying SEKI for more than twenty years. As a frequent backpacker, I've seen, first hand, the disastrous impacts commercial stock groups have had on the wilderness. However, with better park management, you can mitigate these dreadful effects, and keep the park unimpaired for future generations. Please concentrate your efforts on these areas of concern:

Excessive Group Size: The size of commercial stock groups is far too large. It profoundly disturbs my experience when I am confronted with fifteen or twenty mules, and I must find a safe place to step off the trail to allow them passage. The longer the stock train, the more hazardous and unpleasant it is for the hiker (and camper). I suggest that the maximum stock group size be eight. This would adequately support a group of four or five customers, lightweight essentials, and a commercial wrangler.

Trails: Hiking a trail that is slathered with manure, piss, dust, and flies is truly disgusting. In addition, stock animals chum up the trail with their hooves, detaching the soil. This leads to unnecessary muddy run-off during the next storm.

Water Quality: During rain events, whatever was on the trail (manure, piss, mud, and dust) ends up downstream in creeks and lakes. Many times I've arrived at a "pristine" lake planning to drink and swim, but upon seeing the muddy manure and piss water flowing into it, I've angrily changed my mind. Would you want to drink from or swim in a contaminated water source? **Camp:** When I prepare for a backpacking trip I think carefully about what goes into my pack. I invest good money in lightweight gear and freeze-dried meals. When in camp, I sit on a log or rock and enjoy a Spartan meal cooked over a small flame. It pleases me to be unattached to the modern world. I enjoy the sights and sounds around me: the wildlife, wind, and water. I work very hard to free myself of Man's contrivances.

However, the situation is very different at my neighbor's camp. Their camp is cluttered with bulky ice chests, hefty pots & pans, unneeded chairs and tables, cases of beer, bottles of spirits, and even blaring radios. From the look of their gear, my neighbors might be at a parking lot tailgate party instead of deep within the wilderness.

The Wilderness Act states that commercial services must be limited to the extent necessary. Can you tell me, in all honesty, that all those luxury items are necessary? And how did my neighbors get all those contraptions into the wilderness?

It takes additional stock to carry all those luxury items' stock that exact a heavy toll on the resource. And because my neighbors have paid big money for their ride into the mountains, they often act as if they are "customers" on a catered vacation rather than visitors of the wilderness.

As customers, they want to get their money's worth out of all those supplies and gear. I've seen this attitude lead to loud, late night partying with blaring radios. How unfortunate for people like me, who hiked all this way for peace and quiet. The wrangler, who wants to earn a big tip, looks the other way when his clients behave inappropriately and break park rules.

If the park restricted the number of stock per person, then they'd only bring what's truly necessary and therefore have a wilderness-dependent experience.

Grazing: I understand park rules concerning disturbing the fauna and flora. Therefore, I do not pick flowers or harm butterflies. But when twenty hoofed, half-ton animals are set loose to graze in meadows, they trample fragile wetlands, eat flowers, and defecate & urinate on whatever hapless creatures are below. I suggest wranglers carry food for their animals and restrain them at

night.

Other concerns about grazing? the prospect of horses trampling my camp at night, the annoying bells they wear, and the drift fences that I am expected to open and close as I pass through on the trail. These fences make me feel as if I am traveling through private property.

In addition, when stock animals eat in the lowlands and then travel in the park, they can spread invasive weeds through their feces. Horses should be quarantined for a few days before a wilderness trip where they are given only seedless feed. This procedure would reduce the invasive weed problem at its source.

For these, and other reasons, grazing should not be allowed in the wilderness. Most national parks have "no grazing" policies.

Disabled Services: Commercial stock outfitters claim that they serve people who are disabled. I find that claim doubtful. I founded an outdoor program for the disabled, and therefore I have a few questions about their practices: Are their wranglers trained in assisting disabled customers? Or do they require additional personnel for disabled clients? Do they have special insurance and waivers? How disabled is "too disabled"? Will they take anyone with any disability? I suspect that if I called them and requested a trip for a dozen disabled adults, they would refuse me.

To my eyes, the bulk of the people these outfitters carry into the wilderness are simply unfit and out of shape. But imagine if wilderness visitors actually trained for their backcountry experience. They would be the better for it.

Most often, commercial stock customers seem "out of their element" in the Sierra wilderness. Is this because they actually want a "guided horse-camp-out"? If so, that could be accommodated outside of wilderness.

Thank you for your earnest consideration of these issues and ideas. Please seriously consider them in your deliberations for your upcoming Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

Correspondence ID: 905 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to comment on the SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan. I do so as someone who has spent a few days or a few weeks each summer roaming the SEKI's Wilderness for more than 25 years. My comments concern the use of stock ' specifically commercial stock ' in the Wilderness. I have 3 principal concerns:

1. The number one thing that galls me as a private foot hiker is that I have to compete with hundreds or thousands of other private hikers for the limited number of backcountry permits for popular trailheads for the key summer weeks in August, trying to plan this months and months in advance (e.g., making plans in March for trips to happen in August), oftentimes finding certain trails unavailable to me due to the quotas, and then knowing that a commercial stock outfit who is not subject to these same quotas can essentially "write their own permit" for a trail I am prevented from using due to the quota. AND to add insult to injury the commercial outfit is going to make a profit off of this. Now where is the justice in that? The public's National Park Wilderness system has limited access for the public but unlimited access for a commercial outfit making a profit. This needs to stop, and the playing field needs to be leveled. Anyone wanting to go in via the popular trailheads ' Bishop Pass, Florence Lake, anything up Bubbs Creek, etc. ' should FIRST have to successfully compete for a permit, with one system with everyone in the same pool. After someone has a permit, then they can contract with a stock outfitter, if they so choose. We can't have a system where some people can buy their way past the quota system.

2. The second most important thing to me is to put some restrictions ' enforceable restrictions ' so that stock can't go everywhere, so that there are some places where hikers can go where they can be assured that they won't be walking in horse manure surrounded by flies. I vividly recall a trip into Milestone Basin some years back ' a place that is well off the usual path, and something we were looking forward to as the highlight of our trip ' only to find that it had been recently despoiled by what looked to be a huge contingent of stock animals; there were hoofprints and manure everywhere, including in the fragile meadow areas. It felt desecrated, and to have hiked 2+ days to get to that spot, to find it wrecked by stock, was a huge letdown. I perfectly understand that horses and mules and stock are a traditional use of the Wilderness and am not advocating they be eliminated, but I do not understand why the Wilderness needs to be open to stock use everywhere.

3. My third most important concern is to try and decrease the impact of the stock users where they are allowed to go in. In several areas of the Sierra, hikers are now asked to pack out used toilet paper or pack out poop. How is this request to hikers to reduce their impact compatible with letting stock users come in and graze and trample the meadows, haul in lawn chairs and coolers and all sorts of other conveniences not compatible with the wilderness (only use what you can carry in on your own back!), have stock poop everywhere, and degrade the trails wherever they go through anything sensitive, like moist areas in meadows and the forest? AND, not to mention those infernal bells, which go "tinkle tinkle tinkle" all night long. I well remember a night spent just below McClure meadow where a stock party moved in just as dusk was falling, and then subjected us to the irritating noise of those stupid bells all night long. The Wilderness plan needs to have provisions to minimize the impact of stock that are similarly rigorous as the requirement that hikers pack out used toilet paper and poop. This will mean

limited stock party size, no grazing, no lawn chairs and coolers and ' in areas of high use ' packing out the stock poop, just like the humans are asked to do.

Again, I'd like to close by saying I am not advocating eliminating stock use. I understand it has its role. Furthermore, many of the stockmen I have come across in the Wilderness and elsewhere are fine men and women, the kind of folks I like and who have certain shared values with me. All I am asking for is to bring this into better balance, where it doesn't feel like one group ' the private foot hikers ' have all the restrictions and limits on access and requests to minimize impact by packing out poop, while another group gets as much access as they want and can go anywhere and leave their poop all over the trails, meadows and streams. There's a basic inequality here that needs to be corrected.

Correspondence ID: 906 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Wilderness Watch Conservation/Preservation
Received: Sep,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:

Wilderness Watch is providing these scoping comments for consideration in developing the Sequoia-Kings Canyon (SEKI) Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

The SEKI Wilderness is one of the jewels in the National Wilderness Preservation System. We urge you to use this planning process to also make SEKI one of the jewels of wilderness stewardship. Below are what we view to be several key issues that should be addressed in the plan.

Motorized and mechanized use for administrative use

As you know, the Wilderness Act prohibits the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft except in those rare instances where such use is necessary to meet the minimum requirement for protecting the Wilderness. Put another way, the job of Wilderness protection could not be met but for the use of these motorized tools. Setting places aside where growing mechanization does not reach was one of the fundamental goals enumerated in the Wilderness Act.

Sadly, the use of helicopters, chainsaws and other motorized tools has become commonplace in SEKI Wilderness. Apparently, managers have deemed their use to be cheaper, more convenient, more familiar, or otherwise preferable to adhering to higher ideals (and legal requirements) of the Wilderness Act. Using helicopters to supply a trail crew or a wilderness ranger with food and other supplies are almost never necessary, and would be unheard of even in other large remote areas of the NWPS. Pack stock or backpack support is more than adequate and is indeed how such tasks are performed in Wildernesses throughout the System. Further, the use of helicopters to shuttle administrators or their supplies to and from Wilderness, to assist researchers or wildlife managers who should know how and be required to travel and work in Wilderness without such aid, or ferry fire monitors who can and should walk out of the mountains, is unnecessary and likely unlawful. Even if stock use or foot traffic squishes more plants than a helicopter might, those uses are compatible with Wilderness whereas motor vehicle use is anathema to it. It is our understanding that SEKI has a helicopter assigned to it full time for administrative tasks. This is remarkable for a Park where 96 percent of the land base is administered as Wilderness, where aircraft is banned. Perhaps it's no wonder that SEKI wilderness managers have become reliant on aircraft use. But is also self-evident that the need for significant and fundamental change is in order.

We urge you to use this planning process to rethink and revise how Wilderness stewardship is engaged at SEKI and to set it on the path toward total elimination of aircraft use except in emergencies and other rare instances where access is essential and non-motorized means isn't feasible. If a project requires motorized access, in all likelihood the project itself is incompatible with Wilderness preservation.

It is long past time to take the chainsaws away from trail crews and rangers. Like aircraft, chainsaws represent the growing mechanization the Wilderness law sought to hold at bay. The wilderness stewardship plan should assess the current trail system, maintenance standards, trail crew operating procedures and other factors that have caused the Park to rely upon motorized use for routine administration, and revise those standards, practices and procedures so that the SEKI Wilderness can be protected and administered in accordance with both the spirit and letter of the Wilderness Act and the ideals it espouses.

Wildlife management represents another area where motorized incursions have become routine. Studying wildlife without the need to capture, handle, control, and collar them is not only safer and more humane for the animals, it adheres to the ideal of an untrammelled Wilderness, using the "minimum tool," and avoiding the use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment. The wilderness stewardship plan should establish standards and procedures that ensure wildlife managers and researchers are trained to work in wilderness conditions and to conduct their activities without motorized equipment. Non-invasive research techniques should be the norm. The SEKI Wilderness plan should be a leader in promoting and perfecting these non-invasive techniques.

Structures and installations for administrative or visitor use As with motor vehicle use, the Wilderness Act prohibits all structures and installations unless they are necessary to meet the minimum requirement to protect Wilderness. The wilderness stewardship plan should address each structure (bridge or other trail structure, ranger cabin, food locker, sign, fence, campfire ring, etc.) to determine that it is both the minimum requirement and necessary for wilderness protection, and not for reasons

such as administrative or visitor convenience.

Food lockers are an example of structures that are no longer necessary. Portable bear-proof canisters are now available for visitor use. They not only eliminate the need for permanent food locker structures, they enhance the self-reliance component of a wilderness experience for visitors. Moreover, food lockers tend to congregate use causing biophysical impacts and loss of solitude in the areas where lockers have been placed. The wilderness stewardship plan presents an excellent opportunity to reduce the administrative footprint in the Wilderness by requiring the removal of food lockers. The plan should also consider closing the Bearpaw High Sierra Camp, and restoring the site to natural conditions. The Camp is not necessary for visitors to experience and recreate in wilderness. It merely exists for the commercial benefit of the camp operator and the comfort and convenience of their clients. The "pampering" the Camp advertises is not necessary for a wilderness experience, nor is the presence of a permanent resort-like camp compatible with the Wilderness setting. It is a relic of early 20th Century management no longer compatible with the area's current status and future as Wilderness.

The wilderness stewardship plan should prohibit the placement of fixed anchors or other structures or installations for climbing unless they are administratively placed for resource protection. This is keeping with NPS policies state that wilderness visitors must accept wilderness on its own terms, and with the Wilderness Act's prohibition on installations and structures. Just as other visitors such as hikers and stock users are prevented from creating their own trails, installing structures to convenience their use, or permanently altering the Wilderness resource, climbers must also abide by these fundamental rules.

Commercial services

We are pleased the plan will include a determination of the extent to which commercial services are necessary to realize the benefits of Wilderness. We feel that in the past commercial demand has driven decision-making with regard to the types and amount of services provided in Wilderness. The determination of what is necessary should include the following considerations:

- a. Professional commercial operators should be experts in minimum-impact camping and traveling techniques. Their camps and practices must exemplify minimum- impact use. They should be a model for other wilderness visitors to follow, nor an exception that would lead to wilderness denigration if other users mimic their practices.
- b. Commercial operators and their clients must be required to abide by the same rules that apply to other users. If campfires are prohibited in an area, there should be no exceptions for commercial users. Where quotas or other limits are in place, commercial clients should have to compete for permits via a single system that gives all users an equal opportunity to gain access. No one should be able to buy access if it means other citizens are excluded.
- c. There is almost no single action that will minimize impacts from visitor use as much as limiting the number of stock. As noted elsewhere, using stock is an appropriate and compatible wilderness use. But the impact of stock can't be denied. Studies by David Cole at the Aldo Leopold Research Institute and others have shown stock impacts to be from 20 to 50 times greater than hiker impacts. Such studies usually don't include the added impacts from spreading weeds or causing water pollution, or impacts to the experience of other users from manure, flies and urine along the trail. d. The easiest way to limit these negative impacts without limiting the ability of visitors to enjoy Wilderness on horseback is to limit group size and the number of stock used for packing. There is no reason that one pack animal can't haul all the gear needed for three or four people. Many so-called "luxury" items might make camping more enjoyable for some visitors, but they aren't necessary to enjoy a wilderness experience and they come with a cost (impacts) to Wilderness. Resupply trips should also be prohibited unless a group is on an extended outing of two weeks or more.
- e. The commercial services' analysis needs to take an equally hard look at non-stock supported commercial use. Here again, a marketing-driven demand is not the same as the limitations imposed by the extent necessary criteria in the Wilderness Act.

Stock use

As noted above, stock are an appropriate use of Wilderness, but require special consideration because of their impacts on wilderness character and the experience of other visitors. The plan should include measures that will prevent the introduction or spread of non-native plants. The measures should require animals be quarantined for an effective period of time before entering Wilderness, require palletized weed seed free feed, and prohibit camping with or grazing stock in areas where weeds are present. Stock use that damages native vegetation, creating sites where weeds can be established, should also be prohibited.

"Cowbells" placed on stock should be prohibited. There are many ways to keep track of animals without shattering the silence for other wilderness visitors. Cowbells broadcast ones presence for great distance they are totally inappropriate in a place like the SEKI Wilderness.

Numerous studies in Wilderness in the High Sierra have shown that stock are degrading water quality. The wilderness stewardship plan should include measures that will protect water quality and prevent human-caused degradation.

Group size (all users)

The draft plan should present and analyze various group size limits. A limit of 12 people is common, while research shows

smaller groups have much less impact on the land and on other users. The plan should assess the impacts for a group size limit of six, eight, and twelve.

Research suggests stock limits should be set at 8 or fewer animals to avoid unnecessary and unacceptable damage. This would accommodate a party of six people and two pack animals, enough to haul all of the groups' gear. If a stock supported group is larger than 6 people, some could walk or the group could take turns riding and walking. We believe it would still be necessary to limit the overall size to a "heartbeat" limit of 16 to lessen the impact of the group on biophysical resources and other visitors (10 people with six horses is in almost all cases a larger impact than 12 people). The draft plan should present and analyze various group size limits ranging from 8 to 12 stock. This would provide an informative analysis to determine the impacts of such limits on the Wilderness and the vast majority of visitors.

Stewarding an Untrammelled Wilderness

Wilderness Act author, Howard Zahniser, historians and other noted Wilderness scholars have noted that the fundamental characteristic that sets the American concept of Wilderness apart is the emphasis on preserving an "untrammelled" or wild nature. As one of the largest Wildernesses in the Lower '48, and as part of the second largest contiguous block of Wilderness land, the SEKI Wilderness presents an extraordinary opportunity to manage an untrammelled Wilderness. There have been and currently are proposed a number of activities in SEKI that significantly compromise an untrammelled Wilderness including significant fire suppression and manager-ignited fire programs, a plan to poison 80 lakes and streams and most of their life-forms to remove fish the agency previously stocked, spraying herbicides to control unwanted plant species, and so forth. The wilderness stewardship plan should redirect SEKI's wilderness management scheme toward one of restraint, where natural processes dictate the evolutionary path the SEKI Wilderness will follow. Where actions are taken that attempt to undo a human-caused impact, such as removing non-native plants or animals, mechanical measures that remove only the unwanted species should be employed rather than poisons that disrupt the entire ecosystem.

Zoning

The wilderness stewardship plan must not "zone" areas to create watered-down Wilderness that allows impairment of wilderness character or allows activities otherwise inconsistent with preserving Wilderness. We recognize there are different conditions within any given Wilderness and that managers might and often should choose to put in place practices to protect the most pristine areas in their wildest condition. But in no case should areas be "zoned" to allow conditions within any area to degrade. Congress "zoned" SEKI when it designated part of the area as Wilderness and part of it as non-wilderness. Everything that is Wilderness needs to be managed in accordance with the high standards of the Wilderness Act. It might be that because the vast majority of SEKI is designated Wilderness some uses or actions (visitor or administrative) incompatible with Wilderness cannot be provided in this national park. So be it. Those opportunities will exist elsewhere on the public domain.

Climate change

One of the scientific benefits of Wilderness is as a "control" to study how nature responds to dynamic natural processes without direct human interference. In an age of climate change, the value of Wilderness to provide a baseline to compare areas that are largely wild to those with active management will be greater than ever. The stewardship plan should incorporate a rigorous monitoring program and a non-interventionist stewardship approach to study how conditions within the SEKI Wilderness respond to a changing climate. Thank you for considering our comments as you develop the draft wilderness stewardship plan. Wilderness Watch looks forward to being involved in the planning process and to reviewing the draft plan.

Sincerely, George Nikas Executive Director

Correspondence ID: 907 **Project:** 33225 **Document:** 39967
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Sep,09,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Letter
Correspondence: Ref: Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich:

Since 1964, I have backpacked yearly or more often in the Sierras, mostly along the John Muir, High Sierra, Mono Creek, and many other main, lateral, and access trails. I will be leaving this afternoon on such a trip, of seven days backpacking along Bear Creek, with another shorter trip to follow immediately, in an area we have not decided upon. My wife, brother, son, and many friends share this interest and have enjoyed the Sierras wilderness areas for nigh unto fifty years.

It has very recently come to my attention that the Backcountry Management Plan and the Stock Use Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are presently under extensive review, and I would like my opinions considered during this process.

My family, friends, and I strongly urge the Park Service to completely eliminate the presence of stock of any kind (including llamas) in these parks. These animals pollute the water, destroy the meadows, and wreak absolute havoc on the trails. They do

not belong in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

What is occurring at present is a complete, ongoing, freewheeling destruction of the wilderness which these animals have been permitted to trample.

I realize that my wish for complete elimination of stock is at one end of a scale, the other, extreme end of which is the status quo. I loathe the idea that some compromise of my position will, the nature of things, have to be implemented by the Service. I would therefore simply urge that you push back permitted stock use of the Sierras absolutely as far as you can.

The most popular trails and camps have long been trampled and shit-covered beyond use, and we avoid such trails and camps whenever we can. Some trails are so degraded by stock traffic that the footing has become dangerous. Perhaps you will be unable to change this; certainly stock damage has been a way of life for the half century I have visited these mountains. But what I and my family find particularly heart-breaking is to hike into a high lake basin, using a secondary trail or sometimes merely a ducked route, and find that stock have been there some time during the summer. Even one or two animals, staying only a night, can completely ruin the shoreline areas of such a place for the remainder of the season at least.

Please, at a minimum: Roll back stock usage in all areas, and eliminate it entirely for areas above 9500' elevation

Where backpacking is limited in any way, all stock use should be prohibited!!!

Designate as many trail systems as possible to be foot-only.

Where stock use must be permitted, restrict its use to two or three animals per travel party ' regardless of the number of people in that party!.

Prohibit human passenger travel on horseback, except for stock handlers. Make an exception for folks who qualify for handicapped parking in their home states.

Impose a luggage weight limit per tourist.

Thank you for considering my views and those of my family and friends who share the Sierras with me.

This letter is written on my own behalf, on behalf of my wife and son, and on behalf of 13 other people of my acquaintance. All my best,
