



Wilderness Act

Keeping it Wild

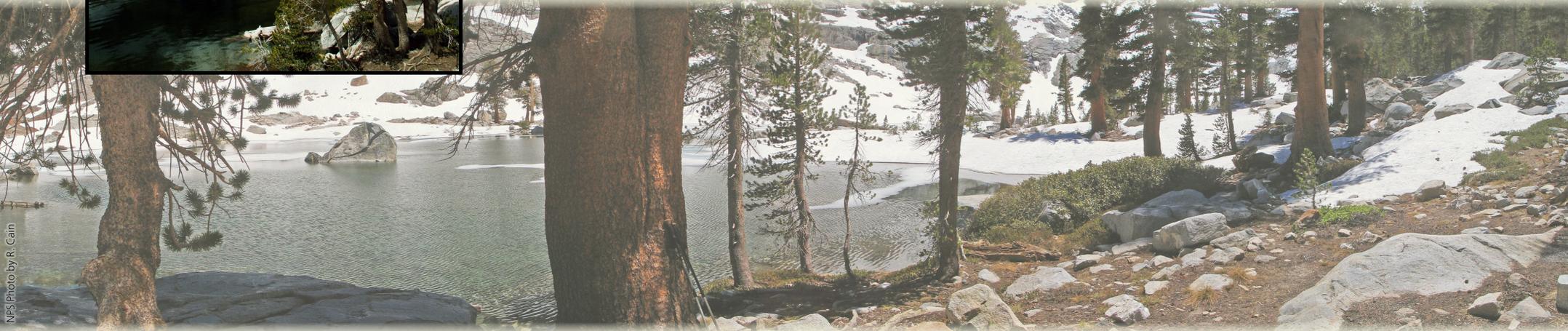
The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System (16 USC Sections 1131-1136, September 3, 1964, as amended 1978). Since 1964, over 110 million acres have been added to the System, including more than 800,000 acres in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Wilderness is a federal designation and protection for wild lands “to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States... leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition”.



NPS Photo by R. Cain

By definition, **wilderness** is, “An area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or habitation, and which:

- generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with man’s imprint substantially unnoticeable;
- has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; and
- may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.”



NPS Photo by R. Cain

Wilderness lands are managed under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 “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 (sec. 2(a) 1964 Wilderness Act).”