# Glossary

**ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE**
Hamilton Lake
NPS Photo

# GLOSSARY

**abandoned trail** – see trail, below.

**adaptive management** – a system of management practices based on clearly identified desired conditions and monitoring of those conditions to determine if management is achieving them. If not, adaptive management facilitates changes that will either best ensure the desired conditions or reevaluate them. This system recognizes that knowledge about natural resources is sometimes uncertain; it is the preferred method of management in these cases. (Adapted from *Departmental Manual 516 DM 4.16*)

**administrative structure** – development or facility used to support the administration of wilderness but not intended for public use, for example, ranger stations.

**appropriate use** – a use that is suitable, proper, fitting, and legal within wilderness.

**archeological resource** – any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities that are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. Archeological resources are capable of revealing scientific or human information through archeological research.

**backcountry** – primitive, undeveloped portions of parks, some of which may be managed as wilderness.

**best management practices** –practices that apply the most current means and technologies available to comply with mandatory environmental regulations, and to maintain a superior level of environmental performance. See *mitigation*, below.

**cat-hole** – a small user-dug hole at least 6 inches deep where human waste is deposited, covered with soil, and left to break down naturally. See *toilet* below.

**character** – see *wilderness character* below.

**closed to grazing** – open to travel and camping with stock (see *stock* below) provided that animals are confined on a hardened surface and given substitute feed.

**commercial enterprise –**for the purposes of this plan, the Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp and the Pear Lake Ski Hut are the only allowed commercial enterprises in the wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (pursuant to the House Report 98-40).

**commercial service –** an activity in which any duties or work are provided by one person or entity for another person or entity in exchange for money; it includes diverse services commonly associated with guiding and outfitting. See *day ride, commercial* below.

**counterbalance –** a food-storage method in which two bags are hung opposite each other over a branch or rock in a manner that keeps the food inaccessible to wildlife, especially bears.

**cultural landscape –** a reflection of human adaptation and use of natural resources expressed in the way land is organized and divided, patterns of settlement, land use, systems of circulation, and the types of structures that are built.

**cultural resources –** archeological resources, historic structures, cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. Cultural resources may be linked to historic events or noteworthy people;

they may be embodiments of technical accomplishment, design, or workmanship; they may be sources of information important in historical or archeological research; or they may be important in the cultural system of an ethnic group (*NPS-28 Cultural Resource Management Guideline 1998; NPS Management Policies 2006*). See *ethnographic resource* below.

**day ride** – a horseback ride that does not involve an overnight stay. Areas *open to day rides and pass-through travel only* are open to stock travel but animals may not graze or stay overnight. See *stock* below.

> **commercial day-ride** – guided horseback ride, provided by a commercial-services provider, that does not involve an overnight stay.
>
> **wilderness camp day-ride** – horseback rides (commercial or private party) that start and end from a single campsite in wilderness.

**day use** – wilderness use that does not involve an overnight stay. Day-use activities could include hiking, canyoneering, climbing, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing, day rides, etc., in which the visitor expects to exit wilderness on the same day they enter.

**designated campsite** – a campsite delineated with a marker that identifies a location in which people who would like to camp in the vicinity are required to camp. Such campsites may or may not include associated facilities (e.g., firepits, toilets, food-storage boxes, etc.).

**Designated Potential Wilderness Addition (DPWA) –** federal lands that Congress intends to become fully designated wilderness upon the elimination of an existing and allowed nonconforming use prohibited by the Wilderness Act that is associated with that land.

**desired condition –** qualitatively describes an ideal condition of wilderness character. This is both a holistic condition, as well as the desired condition for all qualities of wilderness character: *untrammeled*, *natural*, *undeveloped*, and *opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation*, and the other features of value quality.

**destination quota** – a limit on the number of visitors, groups, or campsites in a specific wilderness location. Destination quotas help to protect wilderness quality and visitor experience in given areas. Quotas are based on resource information, desired condition, and professional judgment by an interdisciplinary team of specialists and decision makers.

**dunnage –** when visitors' supplies and/or equipment are carried into wilderness on stock (see *stock*, below), or by a porter, while the visitors hike in; stock or porter(s) leave once the supplies are delivered to the visitors at their destinations. This could occur at the beginning of a trip, in the middle of a trip as a resupply, or at the end of a trip to remove supplies and/or equipment.

**effect** (used interchangeably in this document with the word *impact*) – the likely impact of an action or proposed action upon specific natural, cultural, social, or socioeconomic resources. Effects may be direct, indirect, individual, cumulative, beneficial, or adverse.

**established camp** – a campsite that has been previously used and has indications of use, such as bare ground or a fire ring.

**ethnographic resource –** expressions of human culture and the basis of continuity of cultural systems (*NPS-28 Cultural Resource Management Guideline* 1998). Ethnographic resources can include sites,

structures, objects, traditional landscapes, or a natural resource feature assigned traditional legendary, religious, subsistence, or other significance in the cultural system of a traditionally associated group.

**food-storage box –** also referred to as food-storage *locker*: an administrative structure that is semi-permanently fixed to a location such as a campsite, intended to prevent bears and other wildlife from obtaining food.

**food-storage container –** a portable, visitor-owned or rented, bear-resistant storage device that is designed to be carried from location to location. Note: Only products allowed by *both* Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Yosemite National Park can be used in the parks.

**forage** – plant material (mainly plant leaves and stems) eaten by grazing animals. Forage areas are defined as the parks' primary meadows and their associated forested or upland grasslands that are commonly used by stock for grazing. See *weed-free forage*, below.

**formal trail** –see *trail* below.

**frontcountry** – areas of the park that are not designated or managed as wilderness. The frontcountry contains developed park areas and is generally along or accessed by roads.

**gateway community** – a community in close proximity to a national park, whose residents are often affected by decisions made in the course of managing the park and whose decisions may affect the resources of the park. Because of this, there are shared interests and concerns regarding decisions. Gateway communities usually offer food, lodging, and other services to park visitors. They also provide opportunities for employee housing, and a convenient location to purchase goods and services essential to park administration.

**General Management Plan (GMP)** – a comprehensive plan that guides park management for 15–20 years. It is accompanied by a draft and final environmental impact statement. The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks General Management Plan was approved in 2007.

**historic structure** – "a constructed work…consciously created to serve some human activity" (*NPS-28 Cultural Resource Management Guideline 1998*). Usually immovable, although some have been relocated and others are mobile by design. Historic structures in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks include buildings, cabins, historic districts, shelters, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-era structures, campgrounds, roads, fences, and other structures of historic, aesthetic, or scientific importance.

**historic travelway**– a route and/or formal trail that has special value under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

**impact** (used interchangeably in this document with the word *effect*) – the likely effect of an action or proposed action upon specific natural, cultural, social, or socioeconomic resources. Impacts may be direct, indirect, individual, cumulative, beneficial, or adverse.

**impairment** – an impact that, in the professional judgment of a responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of park resources or values and violate the 1916 NPS Organic Act's mandate that park resources and values remain unimpaired.

**indicator –** a distinct and important element within each quality of wilderness character, which has measurable attributes that can be the focus of wilderness character monitoring. These function as

categories that have one or more measures within them, and are established in *Keeping it Wild* (Landres et.al. 2008). See *qualities of wilderness*, below, and "Appendix A: Visitor Capacity."

**informal trail** – a landscape impact such as bare ground or damaged vegetation, caused solely by repeated use, that looks like a segment of trail. An informal trail does not receive trail maintenance. See *trail* below.

**inholding –** privately-owned land that is inside the boundary of the parks.

**installation** – structure used to support activities such as telecommunications, water development, grazing, or wildlife management. It includes debris such as old dump sites, aircraft-crash sites, or memorials or other monuments. It also includes unattended measurement devices for the purpose of recording environmental data, such as meteorology or seismic activity.

**invasive species** – a nonnative species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species display rapid growth and spread, establish over large areas, and persist.

**lacustrine** – see *wetlands*, below.

**management actions** – deliberate actions taken by park management to address anticipated problems or mitigate undesirable conditions or impacts.

**management directive –** a document providing NPS field employees with guidance on NPS policy, including compilations of legal references, operating policies, standards, procedures, general information, recommendations, and examples. They may reiterate or compile requirements (for example, laws, regulations, and policies) that have been imposed by higher authorities.

**measure** – a specific aspect of wilderness resources or character that can be measured or quantified. Specific feature(s) used to quantify an indicator, as specified in a monitoring or sampling protocol. One or more specific measures may be used to quantify or qualitatively evaluate the condition of an indicator at a particular place and time.

**Minimum Requirement Analysis (MRA)** – a written analysis that helps determine and document if potential actions by the National Park Service or its approved cooperators are the minimum necessary to accomplish a particular objective in wilderness and, if so, how to minimize any adverse effects.

**minimum tool** – a use or activity that has been determined to be necessary in order to accomplish an essential task in a wilderness area. It is generally the tool, equipment, device, force, regulation, or practice that has the least impact on wilderness character while achieving the management objective.

**Mission 66** – the most-recent intensive systemwide program of park development. It represented a nationwide response to deteriorated park conditions and increasing visitorship in the postwar era. The program sought to implement large-scale capital improvement between 1956 and 1966 (the latter marked the 50$^{th}$ anniversary of the founding of the NPS). Mission 66 buildings have been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places as significant historic structures and as important representatives of a new building type.

**mitigation –** activities that will avoid, reduce the severity of, or eliminate an adverse environmental impact.

**monitoring –** activities designed to detect changes or trends in a resource over time. Further defined as collection and analysis of repeated observations or measurements to evaluate changes in condition and progress toward meeting a management objective. As used in this document, it is synonymous with tracking change in wilderness character. See *wilderness character*, below.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)** – a public law requiring federal agencies to look at alternatives for proposed major federal actions and to fully analyze the impacts of those alternatives on the human environment before a decision is made.

**native species** – all species that have occurred, now occur, or may occur in a given area as a result of natural processes. Native species in a place have evolved in concert with each other.

**natural quality** – one of the qualities of wilderness character. See *qualities of wilderness*, below.

**necessary** – important in order to achieve a specific result, or desired by authority or convention.

**nonnative species** – those species that occupy or could occupy park lands directly or indirectly as the result of deliberate or accidental human activities. (Also commonly referred to as *exotic*, *alien*, or *invasive* species.) Because a nonnative species did not evolve in concert with the species native to the place, it is not a natural component of the natural ecosystem at that place.

**nonconforming use –** uses or activities that do not conform to the purposes and preservation of wilderness outlined in the Wilderness Act; for example, the presence of modern structures, installations, habitations, and the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanical transport in wilderness. Nonconforming uses influence the *undeveloped* and *solitude* qualities of wilderness.

**off-trail –** travel in areas with no formal trail. See *trail*, below.

**on-trail –** travel along a Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 trail. See *trail*, below.

**other features of value quality –** See *qualities of wilderness*, below.

**pack-out waste kit** – a user carried waste kit composed of a bag(s) with a chemical agent where waste is deposited. Kit is carried out by user and disposed of in a waste receptacle (e.g., WagBag®, or Restop®). See *toilet*, below.

**palustrine** – see *wetlands*, below.

**pass-through area** – an area open to stock travel but animals may not graze or stay overnight.

**pass-through rides** – stock rides (commercial or private party) that start and end in wilderness when relocating to a new wilderness-based campsite. Areas *open to day rides and pass-through travel only* are open to stock travel but animals may not graze or stay overnight. See *stock* below.

**permit –** a written authorization to engage in uses or activities that are otherwise prohibited, restricted, or regulated.

**porter –** a person(s) who carries materiel for another person as a commercial service. This could involve carrying in supplies at the start of a trip, carrying in food/equipment in the middle of a trip as a resupply, or carrying out equipment at the end of a trip.

**preferred alternative** – the alternative NPS decision-makers have identified as preferred at the draft EIS stage. It is identified to show the public which alternative is likely to be selected to help focus their comments.

**primeval –** of or relating to the first or earliest age or ages, where forces other than humans dominate, wild (referenced in the Wilderness Act Section 2(c): "wilderness is . . . an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence").

**primitive –** of or relating to early or earliest state or stage of development, marked by simplicity, e.g., walking is a primitive form of transport (referenced in the Wilderness Act Section 2(c): "a primitive and unconfined type of recreation").

**pristine –** having its original purity uncorrupted, unsullied, or unspoiled; remaining in a pure state (pristine is not contained in the Wilderness Act and thus is not a mandatory condition or standard to be achieved).

**privy (or privies)** – see *toilet*, below.

**propagule** – any part or structure of a plant capable of being propagated or acting as an agent of reproduction.

**propagule pressure** – a measure of the number of individual nonnative plants released into an area, or the quality, quantity, and frequency of invading organisms.

**public involvement** – public input sought in planning for public lands and required under National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Comment is sought at the initial scoping and at the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) stages. Substantive comment on the DEIS must be responded to in the final environmental impact statement (FEIS).

**qualities of wilderness** – primary elements of wilderness character that link directly to the statutory language of the 1964 Wilderness Act. All defined qualities are assessed to establish trends in wilderness character. See *wilderness character*, below, and "Chapter 3: Affected Environment."

> ***natural* quality** – This quality is related to the effects of modern society on ecological systems inside wilderness since the time the area was designated. Wilderness ecological systems are to be substantially free from the effects of modern civilization.
>
> ***other features of value* quality** – sometimes referred to as the *fifth quality*, this quality of wilderness character has been defined by the National Park Service to capture features with ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may not be included under the other four qualities. This quality is unique to an individual wilderness and, typically, the *other features of value* occurs only in specific locations within a wilderness.
>
> ***solitude or primitive-and-unconfined-recreation* quality** – wilderness is to provide opportunities to experience solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, including the values of inspiration and physical and mental challenge. This quality is related to conditions that affect the opportunity for people to experience solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation, rather than monitoring visitor experiences per se.
>
> ***undeveloped* quality** – wilderness is to be essentially without permanent improvements or modern human occupation. This quality is related to the presence or absence of structures, installations, habitations, and other evidence of modern human presence or occupation.

> ***untrammeled* quality** – wilderness is to be essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation. This quality is related to human activities that directly control or manipulate the components or processes of ecological systems inside wilderness.

**Record of Decision (ROD)** – a document that states the official decision for alternative actions proposed by agencies in a draft environmental impact statement and revised in a final environmental impact statement.

**restroom** – see *toilet,* below.

**riparian** – adjacent to, or living on, the bank of a river, or sometimes a lake or pond.

**riverine** – see *wetlands,* below.

**route** – see *trail,* below.

**scoping** – internal NPS decision-making on issues, alternatives, mitigation measures, the analysis boundary, appropriate level of documentation, lead and cooperating agency roles, available references and guidance, defining purpose and need, and so forth. External scoping is the early involvement of the interested and affected public.

**service day (or commercial service day) –** all or part of a day spent by a client of a commercial service provider on NPS-managed lands.

**soil orders** – the most general level of classification in the USDA system of soil taxonomy, frequently defined by a single dominant characteristic affecting soils in a location. Soil orders in these parks include Mollisols, Entisols, Alfisols, Inceptisols, Spodosols, and Gelisols.

**solitude, or primitive and unconfined recreation quality** – see *qualities of wilderness,* above.

**spookum** – a temporary barrier at a narrow or "pinch" point to contain stock. Temporary barriers may only be used when stock is actually roaming free in permitted grazing areas; barriers must be removed when the stock is gathered. Damaging natural resources and preventing unencumbered travel by the public when constructing temporary barriers is prohibited.

**spot trip** – a trip in which visitors ride stock into wilderness and are dropped off at their chosen site. The stock are then removed from the area. This also includes visitors being picked up from a camp in wilderness and all or part of a party riding out of wilderness.

**standards** – the thresholds which conditions should not exceed. Standards identify the minimum level of acceptable wilderness condition, beyond which management action to improve conditions is triggered.

s**tewardship** – the ethic of using the most effective concepts, techniques, equipment, and technology to prevent, avoid, or mitigate unacceptable impacts on natural or cultural resources.

**stock** – defined as horses, mules, burros/donkeys, and llamas only (as designated in the Superintendent's Compendium) that can be ridden or used to carry supplies.

**stock use** – travelling, camping, and grazing with horses, mules, burros/donkeys, or llamas.

**Superintendent's Compendium** – park-specific rules implemented under the discretionary authority of the park superintendent. It serves as public notice with an opportunity for public comment, identifies areas closed for public use, provides a list of activities requiring either a special-use permit or reservation, and elaborates on those public-use and resource-protection regulations that pertain to the specific administration of the park. It does not contain those regulations found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and other United States Codes (USC) and CFR titles, which are enforced without further elaboration at the park level.

**Toilet, varieties of** – methods of containing human waste:

> **cat-hole** – a small user-dug hole at least 6 inches deep where human waste is deposited, covered with soil, and left to break down naturally.
>
> **pack-out waste kit** – a user carried waste kit composed of a bag(s) with a chemical agent where waste is deposited. Kit is carried out by user and disposed of in a waste receptacle (e.g., WagBag®, or Restop®).
>
> **privy (or privies)** – a primitive toilet facility usually consisting of a dug hole with a small privacy structure, and a toilet seat on a platform constructed over the dug hole. Deposited waste is left to break down naturally. The privy structure is portable and is moved to a new hole in the general locale when necessary.
>
> **restroom** – a permanent building that houses one or more composting toilets. There are only two public restrooms in the parks' wilderness, one at Emerald Lake and one at Pear Lake.
>
> **vault toilet** – a self-contained vault where human waste is deposited, then subsequently removed.

**trail, types of –**

> **abandoned trail** –a trail that was once a formal, maintained trail, but maintenance has been discontinued.
>
> **formal trail** – designated Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 trails that are regularly maintained.
>
> **informal (or social) trail** – a landscape impact, such as bare ground or damaged vegetation, caused solely by repeated use that looks like a segment of trail. An informal trail does not receive trail maintenance.
>
> **restored trail** – a feature that was at one time a formal or informal trail that has had restoration work done to restore the landscape to its natural, untrailed condition.
>
> **route** – a travel corridor of social value with no designated trail; it does not receive maintenance (except in rare cases where restoration may occur to protect resources). Traffic may create informal trails in parts of a route; a route may include informal trails and abandoned trails.
>
> **unmaintained trail** – an informal term that includes many different situations. For clarity, this term will not be used.

**transitory crew camps** – short-term camps used by small traveling work crews who use minimum-impact practices and rehabilitate the camps when work is completed.

**undeveloped quality** – see *qualities of wilderness*, above.

**untrammeled quality** – see *qualities of wilderness*, above.

**vault toilet** – see *toilet*, above.

**visitor capacity** –a component of visitor-use management consisting of the maximum amounts and types of visitor use that an area can accommodate while sustaining desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, consistent with the purpose for which the area was established. See *desired condition*, above.

**visitor/user of wilderness –** a person in the wilderness. The term includes hikers, backpackers, and stock users.

**weed-free forage, certified** – hay, feed, or straw products grown in a field that received reasonable and prudent visual inspection that detected no propagative plant parts or seeds from state or federal noxious-weed list. Fields passing inspection are state certified; the producer may then label the product *certified weed-free*. Certification does not guarantee complete absence of noxious weeds, nor are these materials inspected for nonnative or invasive plants not listed on the state- or federal-noxious weed list.

**weighted value per campable mile (WVCM)** – a metric that considers three factors of a travel subzone: length of shoreline of water courses and lakes; the number of campsites; and the condition class of the campsites. The final WVCM number is calculated using these three factors (Parsons and Stohlgren 1987, Cole and Parsons 2013).

**wetlands –** all wetlands within these parks fall into one of three system types: **riverine** (rivers, creeks, and streams), **palustrine** (shallow ponds, marshes, swamps, and sloughs), or **lacustrine** (lakes and deep ponds). The lacustrine class represents wetlands and deepwater habitats that are situated in topographic depressions or dammed river channels; that lack trees, shrubs, and emergent mosses and lichens over 60% of their area; and that are greater than 8 hectares (20 acres) in size.

**wilderness:**

> **designated wilderness** – federal land designated by Congress as a component of the national wilderness preservation system.
>
> **eligible, study, proposed and/or recommended wilderness** – federal lands found to possess wilderness character based on the criteria specified in the Wilderness Act. The four categories reflect different stages of the wilderness review process; all are managed to preserve the wilderness resources and values that make them eligible for wilderness designation.
>
> **potential wilderness** – federal lands surrounded by, or adjacent to, lands designated or proposed for wilderness designation that do not themselves immediately qualify for designation due to temporary, nonconforming uses or incompatible conditions. Potential wilderness is a subset of the other wilderness categories (it can be eligible, study, proposed, recommended, or designated potential wilderness).

**wilderness character** – the combination of biophysical, experiential, and symbolic ideals that distinguishes wilderness from other lands. These ideals combine to form a complex and subtle set of relationships among the land, its management, its users, and the meanings people associate with wilderness (source: *Keeping It Wild*, 2008). See *qualities of wilderness*, above, and "Chapter 3: Affected Environment."

**wilderness character monitoring** – gathering data on selected measures of wilderness character in order to assess if and how wilderness character is changing over time. See "Appendix C, Wilderness Character Monitoring Strategy."

**wilderness travel zone, and subzone –** the parks use wilderness travel zones as a way of monitoring and analyzing wilderness conditions and use, and to address a variety of wilderness-stewardship issues. In the early 1970s, park managers divided the parks into 52 wilderness travel zones overlying the parks' wilderness, generally based on geographic features (watersheds). Each zone is subdivided into multiple subzones (273 in total).

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| | |
|---|---|
| BEA | Bureau of Economic Analysis, in the U.S. Department of Commerce |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management, in the U.S. Department of the Interior |
| CDFG | California Department of Fish and Game |
| CDFW | California Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CFGC | California Fish and Game Commission |
| CNDDB | California State Natural Diversity Database |
| CNPS | California Native Plant Society |
| NPS | National Park Service, in the U.S. Department of the Interior |
| NRC | National Research Council |
| SEKI | Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, in the National Park Service |
| USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| USDI | U.S. Department of the Interior |
| USEPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| USFS | U.S. Forest Service, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the U.S. Department of the Interior |
| USGS | U.S. Geological Survey, in the U.S. Department of the Interior |
| WACAP | Western Airborne Contaminants Assessment Project |

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