



Each person has an important perspective on the management of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and can make a unique contribution that will help the National Park Service produce better planning documents. The type of comment that is most useful in evaluating a plan or project depends on how far along the agency is in the planning process. The parks' project team solicits comments during what is referred to as *scoping*, as well as upon release of an environmental assessment or impact statement. The public is also encouraged to send in general comments for consideration by park staff at any time.

Scoping Comments

The primary goal of scoping for a project is to determine the range of issues and alternatives to be addressed. At the time of scoping, the park generally provides a description of the project proposal, including a statement of the purpose of and need for the project and a list of project goals. The public is asked to submit comments, concerns, and suggestions related to these goals.

The most useful types of scoping comments consider the following:

- Alternative approaches and ideas for accomplishing the project goals
 - Potential environmental and socioeconomic issues that need to be considered
 - Other projects in the area that might affect or be affected by the proposal
 - Information that needs to be considered (such as related research) and why
 - Information on how you use the park and how a project might affect your use
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Comments on Environmental Assessments/Impact Statements

Ideally, comments on an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement assess the adequacy of the document in disclosing and evaluating a project's effect on the environment. Comments are most useful if they are as specific as possible and do the following:

- Discuss a particular plan element or alternative
 - Identify incomplete or incorrect information
 - Offer reasons why a particular alternative or plan element would or would not work
 - Offer a reasonable, new plan element or completely new alternative that could accomplish the stated goals
 - Point out discrepancies between legal mandates and proposals
 - Highlight deficiencies in the analysis of environmental consequences
 - Provide information on how you use the park and how particular proposals in the planning document would affect that use
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General Comments

Even outside of a formal planning effort, park staff would like to hear your thoughts and ideas relating to planning and management issues at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. All comments received will be read and directed to the appropriate staff within the park.

How to Stay Involved

- Visit the park's website regularly
- Submit comments on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>
- Get on the parks' mailing list by writing: Superintendent, Project Mailing List, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271 or emailing seki_planning@nps.gov