

The Planning Process

Scoping is the first step to involve the public in the planning process. The National Park Service (NPS) is conducting scoping by holding public meetings and providing opportunities for the public to comment. The NPS uses your comments to ensure that it is considering the possible issues and concerns for the management of the resources in question.

Tentative Dates	Planning Phase
March 2011	Internal Scoping
April 2011	Public and Agency Scoping
Winter 2012	Alternatives Development
Summer 2012 – Fall 2013	Prepare Draft WSP/EIS
Fall 2013 – Winter 2014 (90 days)	Public Comment on Draft WSP/EIS
Summer 2014	Release of the Final WSP/EIS
Fall 2014	Record of Decision
After Record of Decision	Implementation of Plan

How to Comment

There are several ways to provide comments:

- Attend the public meetings;
- Submit comments online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>; or
- Mail or fax comments to:
*ATTN: WSP
Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Superintendent,
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9700
Fax: (559) 565-4202*

The comment period for scoping will begin on April 11, 2011 and end 90 days after publication of the Notice of Intent.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be publicly available at any time. Comments made by individuals or organizations on behalf of other individuals or organizations will not be accepted.


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U.S. Department of the Interior
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, California 93271-9700



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**Wilderness Stewardship Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement**

Public Scoping Meetings
April 25 – 29, 2011

You’re Invited!
Your Participation Will Help Shape This Plan

Because of your interest in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) we are requesting your input for developing a Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at the parks.

The National Park Service (NPS) requests your participation in the project planning process to identify potential environmental impacts, issues, and concerns. The NPS would like to discuss the proposal and gather any thoughts, ideas, or comments that you may have regarding this project.

Open House

Monday, April 25, 2011
7:00 – 9:00 *p.m.*
Fresno Pacific University
Marpeck Center, Room 102
1717 South Chestnut Avenue
Fresno, California, 93727

Tuesday, April 26, 2011
7:00 – 9:00 *p.m.*
East Bay Regional Parks
Richard C. Trudeau
Training Center, Conf. Room 2
11500 Skyline Boulevard
Oakland, California, 94619

Wednesday, April 27, 2011
7:00 – 9:00 *p.m.*
Inyo National Forest HQ
Conference Room
351 Pacu Lane
Bishop, California, 93514

Thursday, April 28, 2011
7:00 – 9:00 *p.m.*
L.A. River Center
California Building Atrium
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six
Los Angeles, California, 90065

Friday, April 29, 2011
6:00 – 8:00 *p.m.*
Tulare County Office of Education
“The Pit”
2637 West Burrel Avenue
Visalia, California, 93291

Format

The meeting will consist of a formal presentation followed by an open house to provide you with opportunities to discuss your issues and concerns with NPS staff. Attendees may also submit comments on written forms available at the meetings, online, or via mail as described inside this newsletter.

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

The National Park Service, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI or parks), are pleased to announce the resumption of our Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (WSP/EIS) for the Sequoia-Kings Canyon and John Krebs Wildernesses, both located entirely within the parks. These wildernesses are comprised of an 808,000 acre expanse of wild High Sierra lands that were designated by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 and the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009.

This planning process represents a renewed commitment by SEKI to prepare a plan for the management of wilderness resources within the parks. A wilderness planning process was first initiated in 1997 with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to notify the public of the intent to prepare a wilderness plan and environmental impact statement. Seven public scoping meetings were held in communities in California between May and October 1996. However, the wilderness planning process was put on hold until the parks could complete a General Management Plan (GMP).

The GMP was completed with a Record of Decision in September 2007 and provides broad, programmatic direction for wilderness management. This WSP would be tiered to the GMP, and would be an implementation level plan focusing on wilderness stewardship and would provide guidance on the management of wilderness within the parks. The WSP/EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).



Need for Action

The Wilderness Stewardship Plan is needed to:

- Fulfill the General Management Plan guidance to develop a WSP;
- Provide detailed guidance on a variety of issues including, but not limited to: day and overnight use; wilderness permitting; use of campfires; wildlife and proper food storage; party size; camping and campsites; human waste management; stock use; meadow management; research activities; wildlife management in wilderness; cultural resources in wilderness; maintenance of trails, bridges, or other necessary infrastructure;
- Provide guidance on the “minimum requirement” for administration of the areas as wilderness;
- Provide guidance on the preservation of the wilderness character of SEKI;
- Determine the extent to which commercial services are necessary to fulfill the recreational and other purposes of SEKI’s Congressionally designated wilderness areas to ensure compliance with Sec. 4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act; and
- Reevaluate existing wilderness related plans and guidance, such as the 1986 Backcountry Management Plan and the 1986 Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan.

Goals of this Scoping Process

Through this scoping process, the NPS intends to do the following:

- Engage a broad spectrum of the public and relevant agencies in the National Environmental Policy Act process.
- Articulate the management opportunities and directives of the Wilderness Act and NPS policies.
- Improve working relationships with neighboring agencies, particularly of the wilderness areas, to achieve consistency in wilderness management.

Questions to Consider

- What is important to you about recreational use?
- What types of activities do you consider important and appropriate in wilderness? And inappropriate?
- What are your thoughts on party/group size, food storage practices, and campfire necessity?
- Are there any areas of the wilderness that warrant special consideration?
- What are your thoughts on minimum requirements, i.e. appropriate management activities and techniques?
- What are the possible strategies for protection of wilderness resources?
- What are your thoughts about commercial services in wilderness, such as guided hiking, guided stock trips, guided climbing, etc.?
- What other concerns do you have about wilderness at SEKI?

