



Wilderness Legislation

Wilderness Act of 1964

16 U.S.C. Sections 1131-1136, September 3, 1964, as amended 1978.

The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System. Over 100 million acres have been included in the System so far. Wilderness is a federal designation and added layer of protection for lands that are found eligible for inclusion. 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;
- has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation; and
- may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.

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)."

California Wilderness Act of 1984

Public Law 98-425 — September 28, 1984

The California Wilderness Act of 1984 was passed by the United States Congress on September 28, 1984. This federal law (Public Law 98-425) authorized the addition of over 3 million acres of land within the State of California, to the National Wilderness Preservation System established by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

"NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS - SEC. 106. The following lands are hereby designated as wilderness in accordance with section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c)) and shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act.

(2)Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness, comprising approximately seven hundred and thirty-six thousand nine hundred and eighty acres; and potential wilderness additions comprising approximately one hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Wilderness Plan—Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks—California", numbered 102-20, 003-E and dated July 1980, and shall be known as the Sequoia Kings Canyon Wilderness."
(pp. 9, California Wilderness Act of 1984)

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

Public Law 111-11 — March 30, 2009

On March 30, 2009, President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11) into law. This law designated 52 new wilderness areas and added acreage to 26 existing areas, a total addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System of over 2 million acres. The John Krebs Wilderness Area within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks was part of this legislation.

