



Wilderness Timeline and History

- September 25, 1890** Sequoia National Park Established (Boundary changes occurred: Oct. 1, 1890; July 3, 1926; Dec 21, 1943; July 21, 1949; Oct. 19, 1951; Aug. 14, 1958; Nov. 10, 1978; Dec. 4, 2001)
- October 1, 1890** General Grant National Park Established
- March 4, 1940** General Grant NP renamed and enlarged as **Kings Canyon National Park** and includes language that states: "*Provided, That in order to insure the permanent preservation of the wilderness character of the Kings Canyon National Park, the Secretary of the Interior may, in his discretion, limit the character and number of privileges that he may grant within the Kings Canyon National Park.*" (Boundary changes occurred: June 21, 1940; Aug. 14, 1958; Aug. 6, 1965; Sept. 28, 1984)
- September 3, 1964** *The Wilderness Act* is passed by Congress and signed by the President.
- April, 1966** Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs make initial Wilderness recommendations.
- March, 1971** Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs make further Wilderness recommendations.
- November 10, 1978** Mineral King area is added to **Sequoia National Park** (approximately 16,200 acres)
- Early 1980s** Two California wilderness bills are introduced in Congress; one in Senate and one in House.
- July, 1983** Deputy Director of the NPS, Mary Lou Grier, testifies before a Senate sub-committee on California National Park wilderness issue and recommends the passage of the Senate bill (this bill would have designated all three areas in SEKI).
- September 28, 1984** House version of the *California Wilderness Bill (PL 98-425)* is passed designating "*approximately 736,980 acres*" as the **Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness**. Two areas that were recommended, Redwood Canyon/North Fork and Hockett Plateau are not designated, but "*without prejudice.*" Along with the passage of the bill, the "*Jennie Lakes Addition,*" in the Chimney Rock area, is transferred from the U.S. Forest Service to the NPS as part of **Kings Canyon National Park** (approximately 1,745 acres). Redwood Canyon/North Fork and Hockett Plateau areas are classified as "*Recommended*" wilderness.
- March, 1986** SEKI's *Backcountry Management Plan and Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan* are approved and enacted. These documents guide the parks in wilderness management to this day.
- July/August 1999** NPS issues *Director's Order and Resource Manual 41* to provide policy guidance to parks in managing wilderness.
- Early to Late 1990s** SEKI works on consolidating *Backcountry and Stock Use and Meadow Management Plans* into a *Wilderness Management Plan*. The process is overtaken by the development of the Park's *General Management Plan*. The *Final GMP* was released in 2006, with its accompanying *Record of Decision (ROD)* finalized in 2007. The *FGMP/EIS/ROD* includes general guidelines and direction for management of the park's wilderness areas.
- December 4, 2001** Dillonwood area is added to **Sequoia National Park** (approximately 1,540 acres).
- May, 2002** *New California Wilderness Bill* is introduced by Senator Barbara Boxer. Includes Hockett Plateau, but not Redwood Canyon/North Fork. (In 2009, a form of this bill passed, see below)

June, 2003 SEKI conducts Wilderness Suitability (Eligibility) Assessments for three areas: Chimney Rock, Mineral King, and Dillonwood. Chimney Rock and Mineral King are determined to possess characteristics making them eligible for wilderness designation, and Dillonwood is determined to not have these characteristics. Mineral King and Chimney Rock are classified as Wilderness Study Areas.

September, 2003 SEKI submits Final Wilderness Boundary to NPS and on to Congress. Using GIS Technology, size of the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness is determined to be 723,036 acres (California **Wilderness Act of 1984** had said the wilderness was "approximately 736,980 acres." The difference is attributed to better mapping technology in 2003 and possible calculation errors in 1980 [when original map was made]).

September, 2007 (and into the future) The *Record of Decision* for SEKI's *Final General Management Plan* (released in December 2006) is signed by the Regional Director. The *GMP* contains broad policy statements regarding the preservation of wilderness. This plan calls for the development of a comprehensive *Wilderness Stewardship and Stock Use Plan*. This will be a multi-year planning effort involving public and internal scoping, and the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement to accompany the plan.

March 30, 2009 President Obama signs House Resolution 146, the "**Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009**" (**PL 111-11**). In this large bill is Subtitle M, a section on **Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness** which designates the 39,740 acre **John Krebs Wilderness** (some of Hockett Plateau and Mineral King areas) and adds 45,186 acres of the North Fork Kaweah, Redwood Canyon/Mountain, and Chimney Rock areas to the existing **Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness**.

Note: acreages may change slightly after final boundaries are determined.

Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness Acreages

Designated:

807,962 acres (93.4% of SEKI) – Potential Designated: Approximately 190 acres

Recommended:

Approximately 35,000 acres (Hockett Plateau and Mineral King make up approximately 4% of SEKI)

The total acreage of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is 865,257.

Wilderness Pertinent Legislation and Management Documents Include:

National Park Service Organic Act – 1916 (and subsequent)

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Enabling Legislations – 1890 through 2001

The Wilderness Act of 1964

The California Wilderness Act of 1984

SEKI Backcountry Management Plan and its supplemental Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan (1986)

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

National Park Service Management Policies (2006)

Director's Order and Reference Manual 41 (1999)

Final General Management Plan/EIS and Record of Decision (2006/2007)

Management Directives:

MD-09, Meadow and Group Size Management

MD-42, Administrative Compliance with Wilderness Regs.

MD-49, Minimum Requirement Analysis and Determination

