

**Table 2. Preliminary Draft Alternatives by Key Topic – Trails, Bridges and Signs  
October 2012**

| <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Common to All Action Alternatives</b>   | <b>Alternative 1 –<br/>No Action - Current Management Practices Continue.</b>  | <b>Alternative 2 –<br/>Protect wilderness character while accommodating increased visitor use and allowing for expanded facilities for visitor and administrative support.</b>  | <b>Alternative 3 –<br/>Protect wilderness character by balancing visitor access, development, and restrictions.</b>   | <b>Alternative 4 –<br/>Protect wilderness character and reduce need for development by decreasing visitor access and increasing restrictions.</b>  | <b>Alternative 5 –<br/>Substantially reduce development and protect wilderness character by reducing visitor use and increasing restrictions.</b>   | <b>Alternative 6 –<br/>Provide for the most unconstrained wilderness experience and protect wilderness character by significantly reducing visitor access.</b>   |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>TRAILS, BRIDGES, AND SIGNS</b>  |  |  |   |   |  |   |  |
| <p><b>Trails, Bridges and Related Trail Structures –</b></p> <p>A Trail Management Plan will be a component of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.</p> <p>Trail Classes (based on US Forest Service Guidelines):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Class 1 – minimally developed; generally narrow and sometimes faint, with few constructed features and few signs.</li> <li>- Class 2- moderately developed; tread is continuous with some constructed features and some signs.</li> <li>- Class 3- developed; tread is continuous and obvious, generally wider and with regular constructed features and signs.</li> </ul> <p>(Note: see separate Supplemental Information document for more detailed definitions.)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A network of maintained trails continues in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) wilderness, including the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and feeder trails.</li> <li>• Trail maintenance work is performed.</li> <li>• Generally new trails would not be constructed except to benefit natural resources or wilderness character.</li> <li>• Trail development levels, grades, and maintenance intervals are incorporated into Trail Class Standards; no Class 4 or 5 trails in wilderness.</li> <li>• Abandoned trails may be restored to natural (trail-less) conditions.</li> <li>• Where trails or zones (or specific areas) are closed to stock, trails would not be maintained to stock standards.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Zone A –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class 2 and 3 trails exist.</li> <li>• Class 3 trails predominate.</li> <li>• Trail maintenance is completed appropriate to trail class.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone B –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class 2 and 3 trails exist.</li> <li>• Class 3 trails mostly on John Muir Trail (JMT), PCT, High Sierra Trail (HST), Rae Lakes Loop and some feeders.</li> <li>• Other trails Class 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone C –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class 1 and 2 trails exist.</li> <li>• Most trails are Class 2, with a few Class 1 (e.g. Blue Canyon, Kennedy Canyon, Hell for Sure Pass, Milestone Basin).</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone D –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few Class 1 trails exist but they are abandoned and/or unmaintained.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Zone A –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails would be constructed and maintained to Class 3.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone B –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails would be constructed and maintained to Class 3.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone C –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails would be constructed and maintained to Class 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone D –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Class 1 trails would be maintained.</li> <li>• New Class 1 trails would be established to protect resources when use may cause undue impacts.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Zone A –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some trails would be upgraded to Class 3.</li> <li>• Others would be maintained to Class 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone B –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some trails would be upgraded to Class 3.</li> <li>• Others would be maintained to Class 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone C –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most trails would be maintained as Class 1 and 2.</li> <li>• Some Class 1 trails would be upgraded to Class 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone D –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as Alt 2.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Zone A –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer trails would be upgraded to Class 3.</li> <li>• Others would be maintained to Class 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone B –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Class 3 trails downgraded to Class 2.</li> <li>• Others would be maintained to Class 3.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone C –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Class 2 trails would be downgraded to Class 1.</li> <li>• Others would be maintained to Class 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone D –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Class 1 trails would be maintained.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Zone A –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Class 3 trails downgraded to Class 2.</li> <li>• Others would be maintained to Class 3.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone B –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More Class 3 trails downgraded to Class 2.</li> <li>• Others would be maintained to Class 3.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone C –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More Class 2 trails would be downgraded to Class 1.</li> <li>• Others would be maintained to Class 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone D –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No trail maintenance efforts would occur.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Zone A –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails would be repaired and maintained to Class 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone B –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails would be repaired and maintained to Class 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone C –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails would be repaired and maintained to Class 1.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone D –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as Alt 5.</li> </ul> |

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|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trail classifications may change, and zone boundaries may change based on the alternative selected.</li> </ul>   |   |  |   |   |   |  |
| <p><b>Signs –</b></p> <p>The overall goal is to reduce the total number of signs in wilderness. However, the National Park Service (NPS) recognizes that some signs are appropriate within wilderness.</p> <p>Signing is covered by the trails classification system but would be modified based on NPS requirements.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new memorials or associated signs would be allowed. The existing memorial signs would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if they should be removed.</li> <li>NPS would evaluate options for sign design to ensure consistency with wilderness character and sustainability.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trail signs with directional markers and mileages are present.</li> <li>Interpretive signs are generally not authorized.</li> <li>There are some destination indicator signs.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Common to All –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage is appropriate to Trail Class (see alternative Trail Classes above).</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone A Signage Standards (mostly Class 2 and 3 trails) –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route identification signing at junctions and as needed for user reassurance.</li> <li>Regulatory and resource protection signing may be common.</li> <li>Destination indicator signs generally not present.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone B Signage Standards (mostly Class 2 and 3 trails) –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route identification signing at junctions and as needed for user reassurance.</li> <li>Route markers as needed for user reassurance.</li> <li>Regulatory and resource protection signing may be common.</li> <li>Destination indicator signs generally not present.</li> <li>Information and interpretive signing rare.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone C Signage Standards (mostly Class 2/3 trails) –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route identification signing limited to junctions.</li> <li>Route markers present when trail location is not evident.</li> <li>Regulatory and resource protection signing infrequent.</li> <li>Destination indicator signs are rare.</li> <li>Information and interpretive signing rare.</li> </ul> <p><b>Zone D Signage Standards (mostly trail-less but may contain Class 1 trails or routes) –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signing would be rare/infrequent and for regulatory and resource protection purposes.</li> <li>Route markers would be rare and route identification signing limited to junctions.</li> <li>Destination indicator signs not present.</li> <li>Information and interpretive signing not present.</li> </ul> |   |   |   |  |