

**Table 5. Preliminary Draft Alternatives by Key Topic – Camping: Campsites, Stock Camps, and Camping Night Limits
October 2012**

Topic	Common to All Action Alternatives	Alternative 1 – No Action - Current Management Practices Continue.	Alternative 2 – Protect wilderness character while accommodating increased visitor use and allowing for expanded facilities for visitor and administrative support.	Alternative 3 – Protect wilderness character by balancing visitor access, development, and restrictions.	Alternative 4 – Protect wilderness character and reduce need for development by decreasing visitor access and increasing restrictions.	Alternative 5 – Substantially reduce development and protect wilderness character by reducing visitor use and increasing restrictions.	Alternative 6 – Provide for the most unconstrained wilderness experience and protect wilderness character by significantly reducing visitor access.
CAMPING: CAMPSITES, STOCK CAMPS, AND CAMPING NIGHT LIMITS							
Backpacker Campsites – The goal is to provide opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and to preserve the natural quality of wilderness character, while limiting development of facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Common to Alternatives 1 through 5</u>: National Park Service (NPS) would retain the ability to designate campsites in areas that are receiving high levels of use. • Developing designated campsite areas may require site-specific implementation plans following the Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP). • Current policies of camping on durable surfaces and away from water sources would continue to apply. • Areas may be closed at any time for resource protection. 	Common to All Zones	Common to All Zones	Common to All Zones	Common to All Zones	Common to All Zones	Common to All Zones – No camp sites would be designated.
		Zone A – • No camping	Zone A – • No camping would be allowed in most of this zone. • Consider a variance for camping within this zone for specific areas (North Dome, Don Cecil Trail, and Colony Mill Trail), • Consider one or more universally accessible campsites within this zone that would be designed to meet wilderness standards.	Zone A – • No camping would be allowed in most of this zone. • Consider a variance for camping within this zone at North Dome.	Zone A – • No camping would be allowed in this zone.	Zone A – • Same as Alt 4.	Zone A – • No camping would be allowed in most of this zone. • Consider a variance for camping within this zone for specific areas (North Dome, Don Cecil Trail, and Colony Mill Trail).
		Zone B – The 1986 Backcountry Management Plan (BMP) identified seven areas where designated campsites would be established. Designated campsites were subsequently established only at Paradise Valley, Pear and Emerald Lakes, and Bearpaw Meadow.	Zone B – • Existing designated sites at Pear Lake, Emerald Lake, Paradise Valley, and Bearpaw Meadow would be retained. Designate sites at selected high use areas, including but not limited to Evolution Valley, Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), John Muir Trail (JMT), Dusy Basin, Guitar Lake, and Mineral King Lake Basins. • Consider the construction of hardened campsites at specific locations where use is high, party size is high, and where there are resource issues.	Zone B – • Existing designated sites at Pear Lake, Paradise Valley, and Bearpaw Meadow would be retained. Campsites would be designated at selected high use areas, including but not limited to Guitar Lake and Dusy Basin.	Zone B – • Existing designated sites at Pear Lake, Paradise Valley, and Bearpaw Meadow would be retained. No other designated sites would be established at this time; <i>however see statement in Common to All Action Alternatives.</i>	Zone B – • Consider removal of all or some existing designated sites at Pear Lake, Paradise Valley, and Bearpaw Meadow. • No other designated sites would be established at this time; <i>however see statement in Common to All Action Alternatives.</i>	Zone B – • All existing designated sites at Pear Lake, Paradise Valley, and Bearpaw Meadow would be removed. • No other designated sites would be established. • All installations would be removed from camp areas.

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		Zone C – • The 1986 Backcountry Management Plan (BMP) identified five areas where designated campsites would be established. These areas are highly recommended but there is no requirement to camp in specific sites. Some areas have designated camp areas (e.g. Hockett Meadow).	Zone C – • Consider designating campsites at selected high use areas where resources and/or opportunities for solitude are at risk.	Zone C – • No designated campsites would be established, but camping would be allowed at designated camp areas (e.g. Hockett Meadow).	Zone C – • Same as Alt 3.	Zone C – • No designated sites would be established.	Zone C – • Same as Alt 5.
		Zone D – • No designated sites or camp areas.	Zone D – • No designated sites or camp areas.	Zone D – • Same as Alt 2.	Zone D – • Same as Alt 2.	Zone D – • Same as Alt 2.	Zone D – • Same as Alt 2.
Stock Use: Camps – Under this topic, alternatives would be provided to address the issue of hiker and stock user conflict. Stock support facilities (e.g. drift fences, hitch rails) that relate to stock camps are addressed under Stock Use - Facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be no stock camps in Zone A. • Each stock camp would be evaluated to ensure there are no-unacceptable impacts to natural or cultural resources. • Designated stock camps would be for use by stock parties only. • The NPS would continue to have the flexibility to institute site specific variances for resource 	Common to All Zones – • There are recommended stock camps (shown on meadow maps) in Zones B-D. • See also “Night Limits.”	Common to All Zones – • Would allow for some overlap of stock camps and backpacker camps.	Common to All Zones – • Would separate stock camps and backpacker camps.	Common to All Zones – • Would provide a limited number of separate stock camps and backpacker camps.	Common to All Zones – • Would allow for the overlap of stock camps and backpacker camps.	Common to All Zones – • Same as Alt 5.
		Zone A – • No stock camping.	Zone A – • No stock camping.	Zone A – • Same as Alt 2.	Zone A – • Same as Alt 2.	Zone A – • Same as Alt 2.	Zone A – • Same as Alt 2.
		Zone B – • There are recommended camp areas for stock.	Zone B – • Would identify existing and additional areas for stock camps. Some stock camps may be designated for stock parties only.	Zone B – • Would identify and designate stock camps • Stock users would be required to camp in designated stock camps only.	Zone B – • Would recommend areas for stock camps (e.g. previously established stock camps) and strongly encourage their use.	Zone B – • Same as Alt 4.	Zone B – • Same as Alt 4.

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	protection and the preservation of wilderness character.	Zone C – • There are recommended camp areas for stock.	Zone C – • Would recommend areas for stock camps (e.g. previously established stock camps) and strongly encourage their use.	Zone C – • Would identify and designate stock camps; stock users would be required to camp in designated stock camps only.	Zone C – • Same as Alt 3.	Zone C – • Same as Alt 3	Zone C – • Same as Alt 2.
		Zone D – • The use of established stock camps is strongly encouraged.	Zone D – • Would recommend areas for stock camps (e.g. previously established stock camps) and strongly encourage their use (where stock is allowed).	Zone D – • Same as Alt 2.	Zone D – • Camping in designated stock camps would be required for medium to large parties (7 head or more), but small stock parties (6 head or less) would be allowed to camp in recommended areas or previously established stock camps (where stock is allowed).	Zone D – • There would be no stock allowed and no stock camping.	Zone D – • Same as Alt 2.
Night Limits for All Campers (Stock and Backpackers) – Short-term night limits are established in high use areas in order to optimize opportunities for solitude. These are usually in areas close to trailheads, near busy trail junctions, or at popular destinations on high use trails. Long-term night limits ensure that individuals / parties do not establish semi-permanent camps in an area thereby limiting opportunities for others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variances would be considered on a case-by-case basis for administrative purposes such as trail maintenance, research, and resource management projects. • Night limits would be adjusted on a site-specific basis as determined necessary and if conditions warrant to protect natural resources and wilderness character. • Grazing limits are treated separately. 	Common to All Zones – • A 14-night consecutive stay limit at a single location and a 21-night consecutive trip limit and a 63-night annual limit.	Common to All Zones – • A 14 night consecutive stay limit at a single location and a 25-night consecutive trip limit and a 75-night annual limit.	Common to All Zones – • A 10-night consecutive stay limit at a single location and a 20-night consecutive trip limit and a 60-night annual limit.	Common to All Zones – • A 7-night consecutive stay limit at a single location and a 20-night consecutive trip limit and a 60-night annual limit.	Common to All Zones – • A 5-night consecutive stay limit (at a single location and a 20-night consecutive trip limit and a 60-night annual limit.	Common to All Zones – • No night limits.
		Zone A – • No camping.	Zone A – • Generally no camping with some exceptions: -North Dome would have 3-night limit. -Don Cecil Trail would have a 3-night limit; Colony Mill Trail would have a 3-night limit.	Zone A – • Generally no camping with some exceptions: • North Dome would have a 2-night limit.	Zone A – • No camping and no overnight use.	Zone A – • Same as Alt 4.	Zone A – • Same as Alt 4.

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		<p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current site specific limits are: Charlotte Lake 2 nights; Hamilton Lake 2 nights; Kearsarge Lakes 2 nights; Paradise Valley 2 nights; Rae Lakes 2 nights per lake; Redwood Canyon 2 nights. 	<p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following night limits would be established: 14-night limit at a single location except for 4-night limit at: Pear and Emerald Lakes (combined), Charlotte Lake, Paradise Valley, Guitar Lake, Dusy Basin, Kearsarge Basin, Soldier Lake, Crabtree area, and Rae Lakes Basin (4 nights per lake). 	<p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following night limits would be established: 10-night limit at a single location except for 4-night limit at: Pear and Emerald Lakes (combined), Charlotte Lake, and 2-night limit at: Paradise Valley, Guitar Lake, Dusy Basin, Kearsarge Basin, Soldier Lake, Crabtree area, and Rae Lakes Basin (2 nights per lake). 	<p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following night limits would be established: 7-night limit at a single location, except for a 2-night limit at: Pear and Emerald Lakes (combined), Paradise Valley, Guitar Lake, Dusy Basin, Kearsarge Basin, Soldier Lake, Charlotte Lake, Crabtree, and Rae Lakes Basin (2 nights per lake). 	<p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following night limits would be established: 5-night limit at a single location, except for a 2-night limit at: Pear and Emerald Lakes (combined), Paradise Valley, Guitar Lake, Dusy Basin, Kearsarge Basin, Soldier Lake, Charlotte Lake, and Crabtree area. • 1- night limit at any location on the JMT from Bubbs Creek to Woods Creek. 	<p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No night limits.
		<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No special restrictions 	<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-night limit at a single location. 	<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-night limit at a single location. 	<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-night limit at a single location. 	<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as Alt 4. 	<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No night limits.
		<p>Zone D–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No special restrictions 	<p>Zone D–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-night limit at a single location. 	<p>Zone D–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-night limit at a single location. 	<p>Zone D–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-night limit at a single location. 	<p>Zone D–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as Alt 4. 	<p>Zone D–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No night limits.