

**Table 6. Preliminary Draft Alternatives by Key Topic –Stock Use: Access and Travel; Camps; Party Size; and Grazing
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.
STOCK USE: ACCESS AND TRAVEL; CAMPS; PARTY SIZE; AND GRAZING							
Stock Use: Access and Travel – The use of stock is considered a primitive type of recreation and appropriate to fulfill the recreational purpose of wilderness within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI). However, constraints are placed on access and travel for resource protection and to minimize conflicts between users.		Zone A – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass through and day use only; currently light to moderate day use by stock. 	Zone A – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock would be allowed to pass through and for day use only; Lakes Trail would be closed to stock on Lakes Trail/ Watchtower. 	Zone A – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas that could be closed to stock: Lakes Trail/ Watchtower, Muir Grove, Little Baldy, Paradise Creek [Sequoia National Park (SEQU)], and Lookout Point to East Fork Kaweah. 	Zone A – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas that could be closed to stock include but are not limited to: Lakes Trail/Watchtower, Muir Grove, Little Baldy, Paradise Creek (SEQU), and Ladybug Trail. 	Zone A – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas that could be closed to stock: Lakes Trail, Muir Grove, Little Baldy, Paradise Creek (SEQU), Tar Gap Trail (stock would use Atwell Trail), Lookout Point to East Fork Kaweah, Eagle/Mosquito/ White Chief Trails, and Ladybug Trail. 	Common to All Zones – Stock travel would be allowed throughout the wilderness with specific exceptions for resource protection (e.g. Sixty Lakes Basin to protect important breeding habitat for mountain yellow-legged frogs).
		Zone B – Currently all trails in this zone are open to stock except for: the top two miles of the John Muir Trail (JMT) to summit of Mt. Whitney, and no stock in Kearsarge Basin (lower trail closed to stock access except for drop offs at Kearsarge Lake via the upper trail).	Zone B – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use would be allowed up to ½ mile from trails for pleasure and to reach established camps. • Existing closure on JMT to summit of Mt. Whitney would be continued. 	Zone B – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas that could be closed to stock include: above Guitar Lake, Dusy Basin (no overnight stock use, pass through only), Kearsarge Lakes (lower trail closed to stock), between Kearsarge and Charlotte/ Vidette (no overnight stock use), and Rae Lakes Basin (closed to overnight stock use). 	Zone B – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas that could be closed to stock to facilitate separation of backpackers and pack animals include but are not limited to: no stock above Crabtree Ranger Station, Dusy Basin (no overnight stock use, pass through only), Kearsarge Lakes (lower trail closed to stock), Lakes Trail (Watchtower and Hump) and Twin Lakes/ Silliman/J.O. Pass. 	Zone B – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas that could be closed to stock include but are not limited to: Army Pass/Rock Creek (stock would be restricted to Cottonwood Pass/ Pacific Crest Trail); no stock above Crabtree Ranger Station, Dusy Basin (no overnight stock use, pass through only), Kearsarge Lakes (lower trail closed to stock), no overnight stock use between Kearsarge and Charlotte/Vidette; Rae Lakes Basin (closed to overnight stock use), and Lakes Trail (Watchtower and Hump). 	

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		<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently all trails except Lower Sixty Lakes Basin (spot and dunnage to designated drop point), are open to stock, but some trails are not maintained to stock standards. 	<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All trails except Lower Sixty Lakes Basin (spot and dunnage to designated drop point), would remain open to stock. 	<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas that could be closed to stock: Sixty Lakes Basin (spot and dunnage to designated drop point) and Alta Peak - Mehrten Meadow to the summit (stock travel to Alta Meadow allowed). 	<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas that could be closed to stock include but are not limited to: Tar Gap (two routes to Hockett), Shepherd Pass to JMT [dependent on US Forest Service (USFS)], and Bearpaw Meadow to Tamarack Lake (lower trail). 	<p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas that could be closed to stock: Tar Gap (two routes to Hockett), Shepherd Pass to JMT (dependent on USFS), Bearpaw Meadow to Tamarack Lake (lower trail), Sixty Lakes Basin (spot and dunnage to designated drop point), and Lake South America loop. 	
		<p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off trail stock access is allowed in specific areas (not on Sawtooth Pass). Stock travel and grazing are permitted on the following designated unmaintained trails (but not limited to) and routes (per 1986 BMP): Hell for Sure Pass, Lower McGee Canyon (below 10,400 ft), Blue Canyon (below 10,000 ft), Old Cartridge Pass Trail (JMT at Taboose Junction to Lake Basin and down Cartridge Creek to Simpson Meadow Trail), and Glacier Lakes. 	<p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock travel would be allowed in specific areas (areas would be the same as no action), but with some possible maintenance of Class 1 Trails (routes). 	<p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas that could be closed to stock include but are not limited to: Rock Creek to Miter Basin, Paradise Peak/Ridge, Glacier Pass/Spring Lake, Wallace Creek, Lost Grove to Dorst Creek, McGee Lakes, Dragon Lake, Big Brewer Lake, Copper Mine Pass, and Amphitheater Lake. 	<p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas that could be closed to stock include but are not limited to: Rock Creek to Miter Basin, Paradise Peak/Ridge, Glacier Pass/Spring Lake, Wallace Creek, Lost Grove to Dorst Creek, McGee Lakes, Dragon Lake, Big Brewer Lake, Coppermine Pass, and Amphitheater Lake. 	<p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No stock access would be allowed. 	
<p>Stock Use: Camps –</p> <p>Under this topic, alternatives would be provided to address the issue of hiker and stock user conflicts.</p>	<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 resource concern. 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are recommended stock camps (shown on maps) in Zones B-D. See also “Night Limits.” 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would allow for some overlap of stock camps and backpacker camps. 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would separate stock camps and backpacker camps. 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would provide a limited number of separate stock camps and backpacker camps. 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would allow for the overlap of stock camps and backpacker camps. 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alt 5.

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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"> 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 protection and the preservation of wilderness character. 	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.
		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 2.	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 large parties, but smaller stock parties 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.
Stock Use: Party Size – Party size for stock parties is managed to protect resources, preserve opportunities for solitude, and to control impacts on wilderness character created by the number of stock and people traveling and camping together. The entire party size would be limited to manage social and resource impacts (wilderness character).	Local changes may be implemented to protect wilderness character and for resource protection. A maximum party size would be established for each zone and the number of people and stock would be limited, not to exceed overall party size (described by the three numbers below):	Common to All Zones – • Maximum stock party size of 20 head/15 people except where noted below. • Temporary variances in 5 areas of Zone D, with a temporary restriction of 8 people/stock or combination: Dusy Basin, Sphinx Lakes, Darwin Canyon, Mount Langley, Sixty Lakes Basin.	Common to All Zones – • Existing variances in Zone D (combined party size of 8) would be removed.	Common to All Zones – • Existing variances in Zone D (combined party size of 8) would be considered for permanent adoption at Dusy Basin, Sphinx Lakes, Darwin Canyon, Mount Langley, and Sixty Lakes Basin.	Common to All Zones – • Existing variances in Zone D (combined party size of 8) would be adopted permanently at Dusy Basin, Sphinx Lakes, Darwin Canyon, Mount Langley, and Sixty Lakes Basin.	Common to All Zones – • Existing variances in Zone D (combined party size of 8) would be removed. • The party sizes listed below would be adopted.	Common to All Zones – • Same as Alt 2.

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<p>The goal of combining the maximum people/stock numbers is to give the visitor flexibility to manage their party size and composition.</p> <p>For example, a party size limit of 20 (with no more than 12 people or no more than 12 head of stock), the following would be allowed: A party of 12 people and 8 head of stock; or a party of 10 people and 10 head of stock, <i>as long as the maximum number of people AND maximum head of stock AND maximum total party size are not exceeded.</i></p>	<p>1.The total number of people in a party is limited to the same total number of people allowed in a hiking party to limit social impacts.</p> <p>2.The total number of stock in a party is limited to manage resource impacts.</p> <p>3.The overall party size is limited to manage the cumulative social and resource impacts of a large party.</p>	<p>Zone A –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock party size of 20 w/ 25 people [from 1986 Backcountry Management Plan (BMP)]. <p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock party size of 20 with 15 people with some lower exceptions, e.g. 15 head at Castle Domes, Scaffold, Cement Table, and Junction (Kern) Meadows. <p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock party size of 20 with 15 people with some lower exceptions (per 1986 BMP and temporary restrictions). <p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock party size of 20 with 15 people with some lower exceptions in cross-country areas where stock is specifically allowed. 	<p>Zone A –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock-supported day trips only:: -Max number of people=35 -Max number of stock=20 Combined total = no more than 40 <p>Zone B -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=18 -Max number of stock=20 Combined total = no more than 36 <p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=18 -Max number of stock=20 Combined total = no more than 36 <p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=15 -Max number of stock=20 Combined total = no more than 35 	<p>Zone A –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock-supported day trips only: -Max number of people=15 -Max number of stock=20 Combined total = no more than 35 <p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=15 -Max number of stock=20 Combined total = no more than 35 <p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=15 -Max number of stock=20 Combined total = no more than 35 <p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=12 -Max number of stock=12 Combined total = no more than 20 	<p>Zone A –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock-supported day trips only: -Max number of people=15 -Max number of stock=15 Combined total = no more than 25 <p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=12 -Max number of stock=12 Combined total = no more than 20 <p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=12 -Max number of stock=12 Combined total = no more than 20 <p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=8 -Max number of stock=8 Combined total = no more than 12 	<p>Zone A –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alt 4. <p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=10 -Max number of stock=10 Combined total = no more than 20 <p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=10 -Max number of stock=10 Combined total = no more than 20 <p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No stock would be allowed. 	<p>Zone A –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock-supported day trips only: -Max number of people=12 -Max number of stock=12 Combined total = no more than 20 <p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=10 -Max number of stock=10 Combined total = no more than 16 <p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=10 -Max number of stock=10 Combined total = no more than 16 <p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Max number of people=10 -Max number of stock=10 Combined total = no more than 16
<p>Stock Use: Grazing (Recreational and Administrative) –</p> <p><i>Note: Administrative pastures and related facilities are considered under Administrative Facilities – Ranger Stations.</i></p>	<p>For alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If allowed, grazing would be managed to protect ecological functions, scenic values, and to promote resiliency. If allowed, grazing would continue to be adaptively managed using a suite of tools, including length of stay (night) limits, head 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For meadows open to grazing, continue to develop capacities which protect ecological function, and wilderness character. 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate areas closed to grazing in the 1986 SUMMP to identify potential areas to be open to stock access and/or grazing. 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No grazing would be allowed above a selected elevation limit TBD. 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No grazing would be allowed above a selected elevation limit TBD (this may be a different elevation limit than in Alt 3). 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No grazing would be allowed wilderness-wide; tie and feed only. 	<p>Common to All Zones –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unrestricted grazing would be allowed, but with some specific closures for resource protection (which may or may not be the same closures as in the 1986 SUMMP). Closures would be based on meadow vulnerability, threat of exotic species,

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	<p>limits, temporary restrictions, and rest-rotation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative grazing would be managed to minimize impacts on public grazing, where allowed (e.g. but for rare exceptions, visitors are given preference for limited grazing resources). 	<p>Zone A –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No grazing. <p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing is allowed in selected meadows, in accordance with the 1986 Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan (SUMMP) and subsequent adaptive management actions. <p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Zone B above. <p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Zone B above. 	<p>Zone A –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No grazing. <p>Zone B –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected meadows would be open to grazing by small parties of stock (6 head or less) only. Selected meadows would be closed to large parties of stock (15 head or more) only. Some large and resilient meadows would be open for grazing by parties of all sizes. <p>Zone C –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select meadows would be open to grazing by small parties of stock (6 head or less) only. Select meadows would be closed to large parties of stock (15 head or more) only. Some large and resilient meadows would be open for grazing by parties of all sizes. <p>Zone D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select meadows would be open to grazing by small parties of stock (6 head or less) only, or open to small and medium parties (up to 14 head). Grazing by large parties (15 head or more) would be prohibited. 	<p>Zone A –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alt 2. <p>Zones B, C, and D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below the elevation restriction, the 1986 SUMMP for grazing management would be adopted, including adaptive management options. 	<p>Zone A –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alt 2. <p>Zones B, C, and D –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below the elevation restriction, the 1986 SUMMP for grazing management would be adopted, including adaptive management options. The 1986 closures based on the SUMMP would be maintained. Additional closures would be imposed based on scientific, ecological, or scenic reasons. 		<p>scientific value, and/or scenic values.</p>