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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Completed Environmental Assessment for the Disposition of Park-Owned Structures in Wilsonia within Kings Canyon National Park

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, THREE RIVERS, CALIFORNIA— The National Park Service (NPS) has completed a plan and corresponding environmental assessment (EA) for the disposition of 12 NPS-owned structures in the Wilsonia Historic District within Kings Canyon National Park. On February 13, 2014, a “Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)” was signed by the NPS Pacific West Region Director Christine S. Lehnertz. The FONSI and EA constitute the record of the environmental impact analysis and decision-making process for this project.

After careful analysis of six action alternatives and a no action alternative, potential impacts to the park/visitors, and public comments, the NPS has selected a modified-preferred alternative based upon Alternative G in the EA. Public comments included suggestions that elements of alternatives could be accomplished in any order or simultaneously.

In the final decision, the NPS will accomplish the following in any order or simultaneously:

1. Seek land exchanges (title).
2. Seek partners for non-NPS adaptive reuse – leasing and assigning (including partnering).
3. If there are no parties interested in land exchanges or non-NPS adaptive reuse for specific structures, then the structures will either be:
 - a. Stabilized as static elements of the Historic District.
 - b. Improved for NPS adaptive reuse.
 - c. Removed from the site and the property restored.

-continued on page 2-

-continued from page 1-

Implementation of the selected alternative will:

- Meet legal requirements.
- Protect park natural and cultural resources.
- Manage NPS-owned properties in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner.
- Ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management.
- Consider *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.
- Meet minimum life-health-safety codes and/or requirements, and determine applicable code and policy variances.
- Maintain the integrity of the Wilsonia Historic District.

The EA was available for public review and comment during a 30-day period from April 28 to May 29, 2013. The NPS received comments from 12 entities, including one letter with 54 signatories. Commenters expressed opinions on the alternatives, and several requested clarification on some elements, primarily the timing involved in the implementation of the selected alternative. *The NPS considered these comments and, as noted above, Alternative G was slightly modified to create the alternative selected for implementation.*

Decision documents for this project may be found on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

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