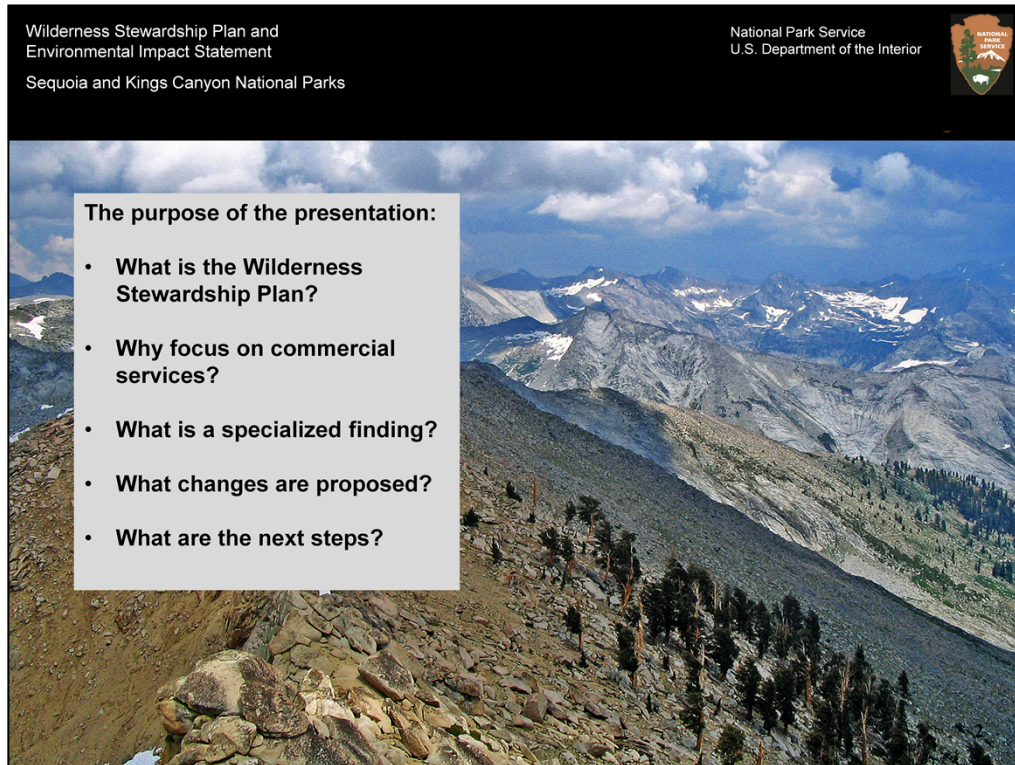
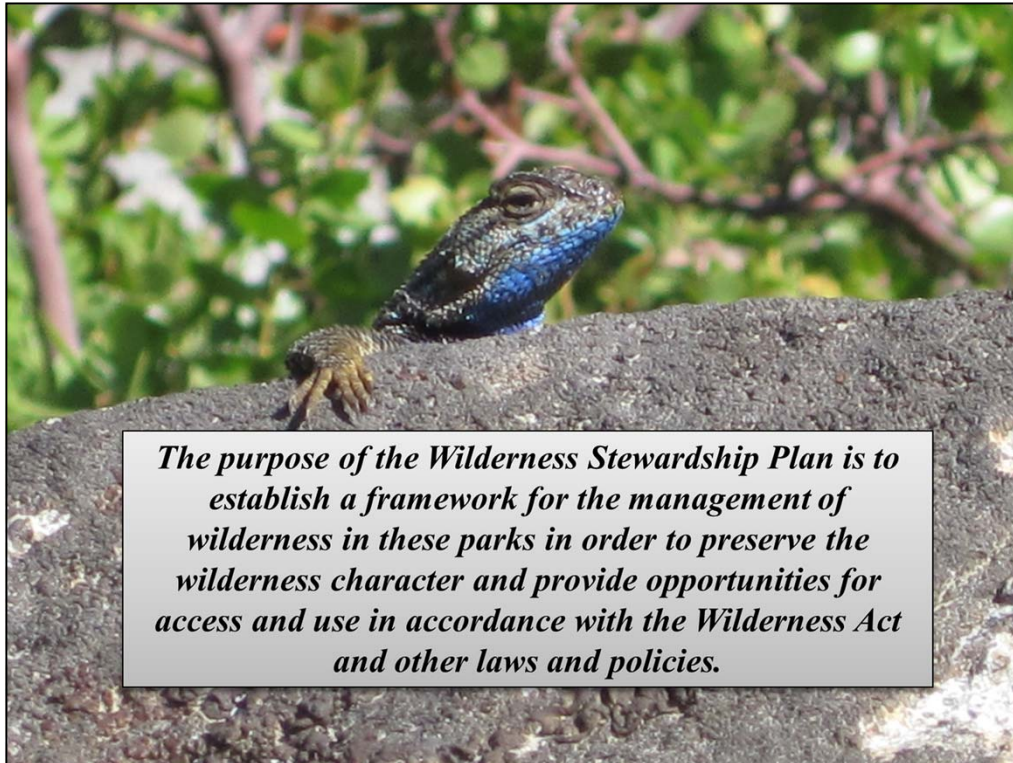


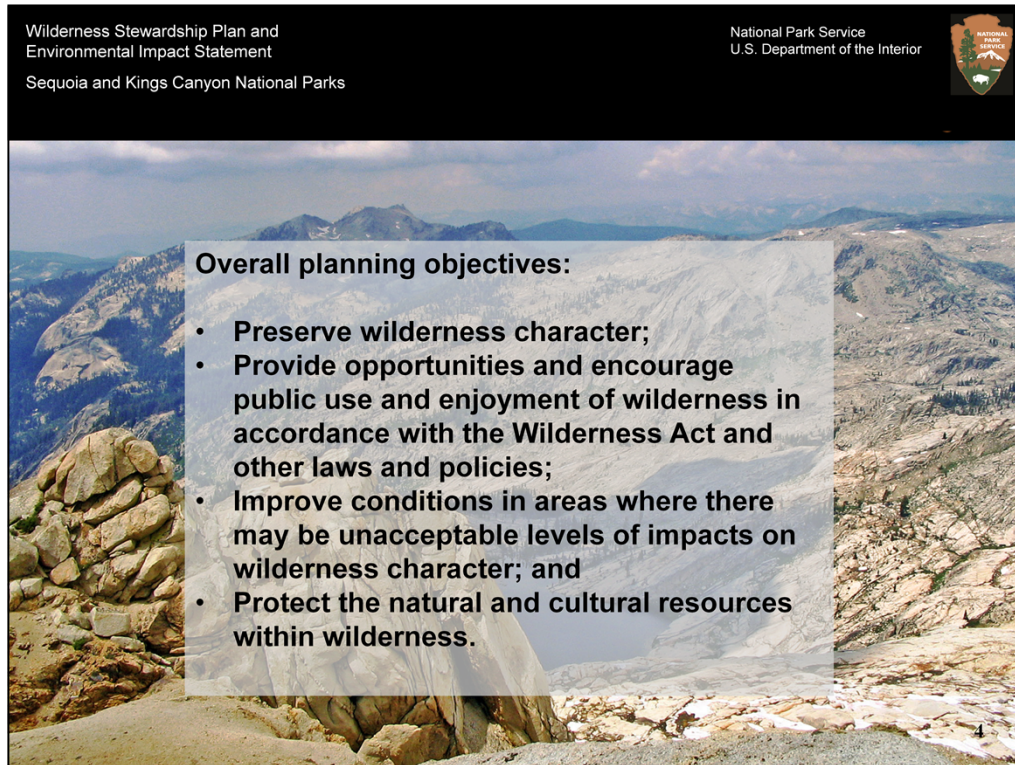
The presentation will focus on the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan specialized finding/ extent necessary determination for commercial services in wilderness.



The purpose of the presentation is to provide a review of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, discuss why there is a focus on commercial services in this plan, review the specialized finding, focus on the changes proposed in the plan, and discuss the next steps.



This Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP or plan) will establish a framework for managing wilderness and areas managed as wilderness within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks for the next 15-20 years in order to preserve wilderness character, as mandated by the Wilderness Act.



The overall planning objectives included in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan are to:

Preserve wilderness character;

Provide opportunities and encourage public use and enjoyment of wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act and other laws and policies;

Improve conditions in areas where there may be unacceptable levels of impacts on wilderness character; and

Protect the natural and cultural resources within wilderness.

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Current Management

- General Management Plan (2007)
- Backcountry Management Plan (1986)
- Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan (1986)
- Commercial services managed through concessions contracts and commercial use authorizations (1 year)

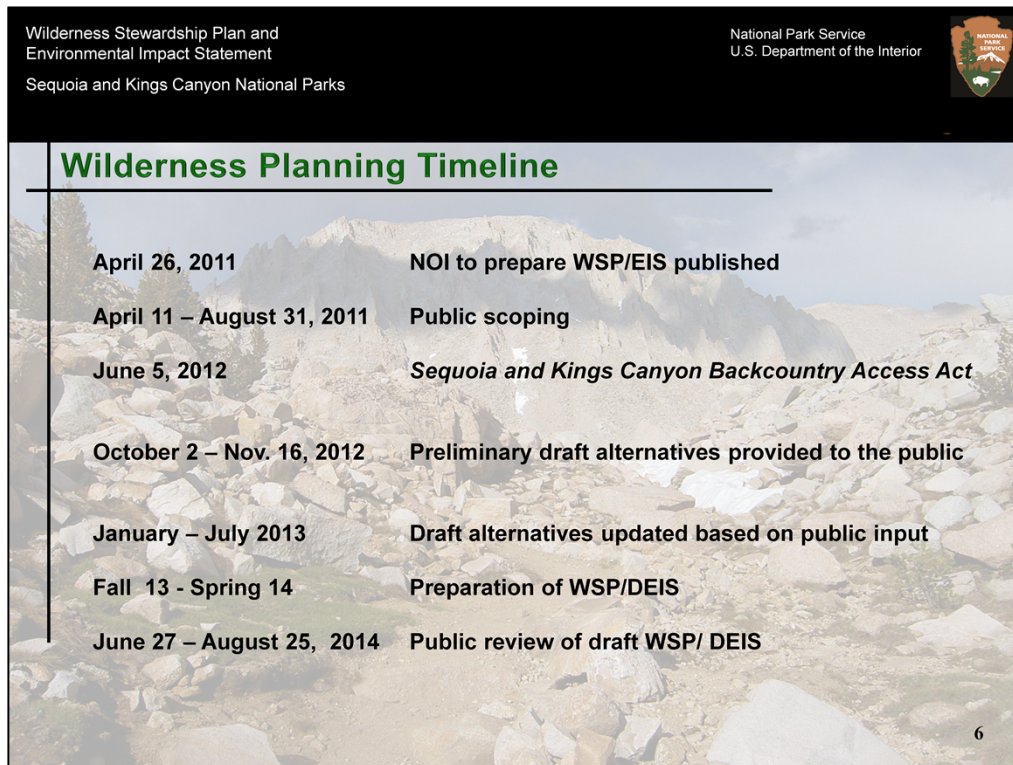


5

The purposes of the WSP include implementing the long-term vision for protecting wilderness character that is contained in the parks' Final General Management Plan (GMP) (those parts not vacated by HSHA v. DOI), as well as enhancing established programs and actions for managing the parks' wilderness.

The WSP will replace the current plans of record - the 1986 Backcountry Management Plan and its accompanying 1986 Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan.

The WSP also provides the specialized finding for commercial services in wilderness – those that are currently managed through concessions contracts and commercial use authorizations.



The planning process was initiated in 2011. Public scoping commenced in April 2011. The public was invited to submit comments on the scope of the project and potential issues and concerns related to wilderness management through July 25, 2011. On July 14, 2011 the deadline for comments was extended to August 31, 2011. We received more than 900 individual comment letters, and a variety of issues were brought forward.

From internal and public comments we developed key issues, and were working on preliminary draft alternatives when the Backcountry Access Act was brought forward to Congress and passed on June 5, 2012 – setting the deadline for completing the WSP of June 5, 2015.

Since that time we released preliminary draft alternatives to the public, and updated the alternatives based on public feedback. Our leadership team selected a management preferred alternative, and we have been preparing the Draft WSP/Draft EIS which is now out for public review and comment.

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior


## WSP Draft Alternatives

**Alternative 1 – No Action – Current management practices continue per BMP and SUMMP (still requires specialized finding)**

**Alternative 2 – Implement site-specific actions to reduce recreational impacts to wilderness character**

**Alternative 3 – Provide more opportunities for primitive recreation**

**Alternative 4 – Emphasize undeveloped quality and non-commercial recreation**

**Alternative 5 – Emphasize opportunities for solitude**

7

We used public comment to help use define the alternatives. We framed the draft alternatives on what aspect of wilderness character they best preserved - A common theme across all of the alternatives is preserving the natural quality of wilderness character.


Each alternative emphasizes a different quality in different ways. Alternative 1 is our current management based on the existing Backcountry Management Plan and Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan (1986). However, we still would be required to conduct a specialized finding for the extent necessary for commercial services in wilderness per the Wilderness Act and Backcountry Access Act.

Alternative 2 is in line with our current management, but with site specific actions at identified areas to reduce recreational impacts on wilderness character. Alternative 3 would provide more opportunities for recreation by increasing access, but with increased access comes increased restrictions and regulations. Alternative 4 promotes more self reliance in wilderness by removing the most developments as compared with the other alternatives, and limiting commercial recreation throughout wilderness. Alternative 5 reduces the visitor quotas – reduces access – but the lower use levels would allow us to have fewer restrictions and regulations, so it highlights the unconfined quality of wilderness character.

We selected Alternative 2 as our draft preferred alternative – but we want to hear from you about what you like and don't like about the alternatives – tell us where we are off base – where we should make changes – and why.


Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Elements of the Alternatives

- 1 – Visitor Use and Capacities
- 2 – Trails and Signs
- 3 – Campfires
- 4 – Food Storage
- 5 – Human Waste Management
- 6 – Party Size
- 7 – Camping/Campsites and Night Limits
- 8 – Stock Access and Travel
- 9 – Administrative Structures and Facilities
- 10 – Frontcountry Facilities that Support Wilderness Use
- 11 – Commercial Services




8

The issues brought forward during public scoping helped us identify those key topics that we needed to address within the alternatives. Commercial services is the element we will address most in this presentation, but we will highlight other aspects of the plan that could affect commercial services in wilderness.


Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Commercial Services


**Commercial services help visitors experience their wilderness in a variety of appropriate ways.**



Commercial services help park visitors enjoy a wilderness experience. For visitors – they provide for the health and safety of wilderness visitors – particularly during high risk activities, introductory experiences, help visitors develop self reliance, teach visitors how to recreate in the wilderness, help visitors get somewhere that they wouldn't be able to go without assistance, and teach and practice leave no trace and wilderness ethics.

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks


National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Commercial Services

**Help us accomplish work in the wilderness!**

- Delivery of equipment to our resource crews
- Delivery of supplies to our wilderness rangers
- Assisting with resource projects
- Reporting and assistance during SARS
- Educating and helping wilderness visitors have positive experiences



10

Commercial service providers help the NPS do work – from delivering sensitive scientific equipment, delivering food and supplies to our crews, reporting and assisting with search and rescues, and educating and helping visitors have a positive experience in wilderness – it's truly a partnership – and we hope in the future to maintain this partnership and expand upon how we work together in the future.

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior




## Commercial Services in Wilderness

- The Wilderness Act
- The NPS Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (The Concessions Management Improvement Act)
- NPS Policies
- Recent Litigation
- The Sequoia and Kings Canyon Backcountry Access Act

To view additional information about related laws and policies, click [here](#).

11

However, though wilderness commercial services support visitor use and enjoyment of the wilderness in many ways, there are a number of laws, related litigation, and policies that require us to focus on commercial services in wilderness in this Wilderness Stewardship Plan. For the purposes of this presentation, the focus is on the Wilderness Act, but there is a link provided to more information if you are interested in other laws, legislation, policies, and litigation related to commercial services in the National Park Service.

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## The Wilderness Act

**Under the Special Provisions section of the Wilderness Act, in §4(d)(5), it states that**

**“Commercial services *may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary* for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.”**

**The “purposes” per §4(b),**

***“... recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.”***




12

### Commercial Services in Wilderness.

The Wilderness Act in its Prohibition of Certain Uses section (§ 4(c)) lists some specific prohibited uses, or practices. There are absolute prohibitions on commercial enterprise and permanent roads, and also general prohibitions, with qualified exceptions, on: temporary roads; use of motor vehicles; motorized equipment and motorboats; landing of aircraft; mechanical transport; and structures and installations. Under the Special Provisions section of the Act, in §4(d)(5), it states that “Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.”

The “purposes” referred to in §4(d)(5) are those enumerated in §4(b), which states that “...wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.” It is worthwhile to note that these purposes are rarely, if ever, discrete; that is, a recreational activity would commonly contain scenic or educational or both components. The Wilderness Act does not define the terms “activities” or “commercial services,” or “necessary.”

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Commercial Services

**What is a “Specialized Finding?”**

**Determines both the “proper” commercial activities, and to what extent (i.e. the amount) these activities will be allowed in wilderness.**

**The purposes of the finding:**

**-to ensure that commercial services support appropriate visitor activities that achieve desired conditions and objectives, and preserve wilderness character while allowing for the public’s use and enjoyment of wilderness.**




13

In order to meet the mandate of the Act, wilderness management agencies must determine both the “proper” activities, and to what extent (i.e. the amount) these activities will be allowed. These parks conducted a comparative and qualitative analysis to make this specialized determination, or finding. This is contained in Appendix B of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

The purposes of the finding, and the limitations it sets forth, are to ensure that commercial services support appropriate visitor activities that achieve desired conditions and objectives, and preserve wilderness character while allowing for the realization of wilderness purposes, i.e. the public’s use and enjoyment of wilderness. This “Extent Necessary Determination” (END – appendix B) was developed as an extension of the establishment of the wilderness visitor capacity (appendix A).

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

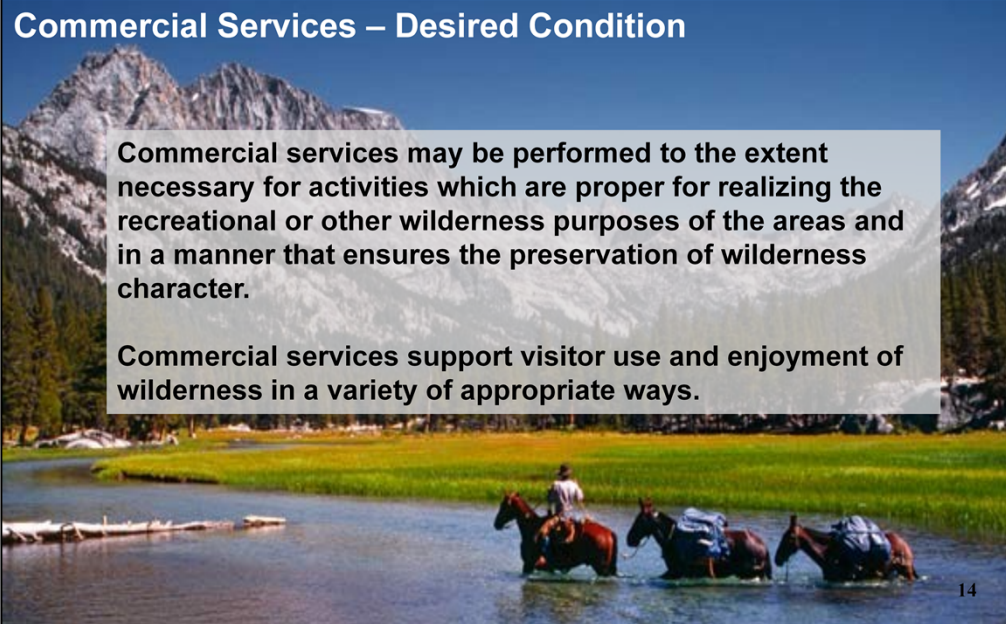
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Commercial Services – Desired Condition

**Commercial services may be performed to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas and in a manner that ensures the preservation of wilderness character.**

**Commercial services support visitor use and enjoyment of wilderness in a variety of appropriate ways.**



14


The parks first considered what the desired conditions for commercial services in wilderness should be – based on the existing laws and policies. Commercial services may be performed to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas and in a manner that ensures the preservation of wilderness character – this is language directly from the Wilderness Act.

We also want to maintain appropriate commercial services in wilderness – So our second desired condition reflects that - Commercial services would support visitor use and enjoyment of wilderness in a variety of appropriate ways.

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement








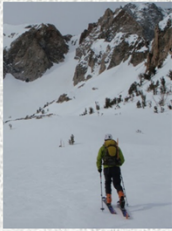
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



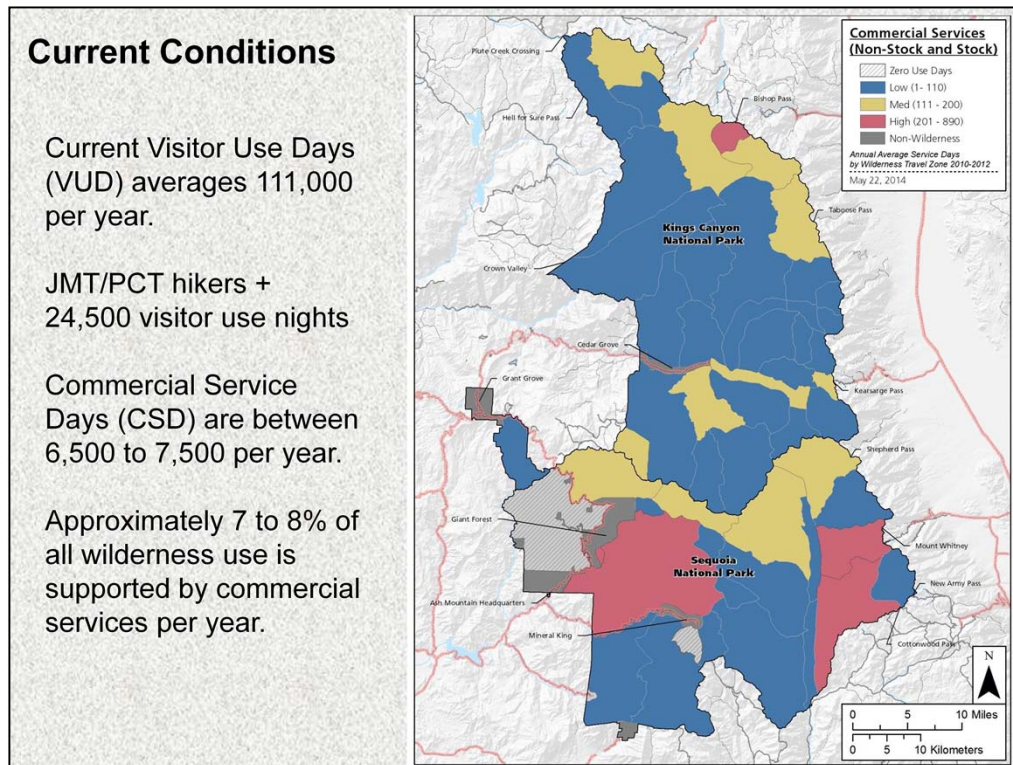
## Commercial Services

### “Proper” Activities

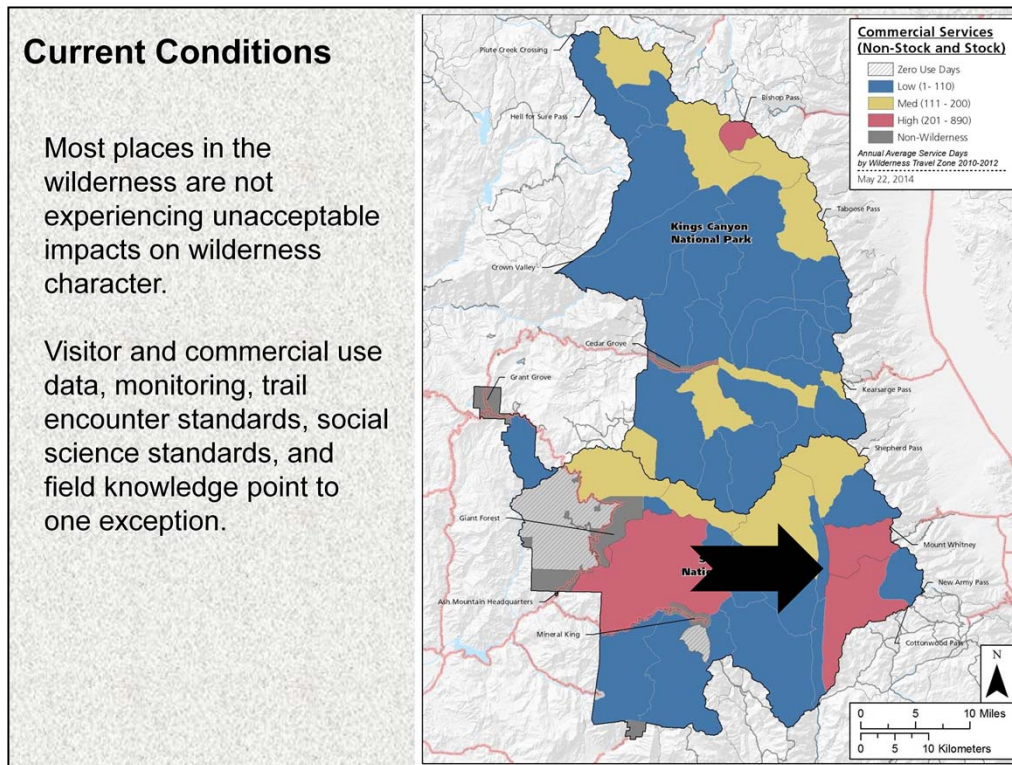
15

There are a variety of proper wilderness activities that could be supported by commercial services – from currently allowed activities such as day hiking, backpacking, stock trips (riding, packing, day rides, and overnight camping with stock), overnight camping, ski and snowshoe touring and winter camping, and climbing and mountaineering, to additional activities such as human porters, fishing, river-running, and photography.



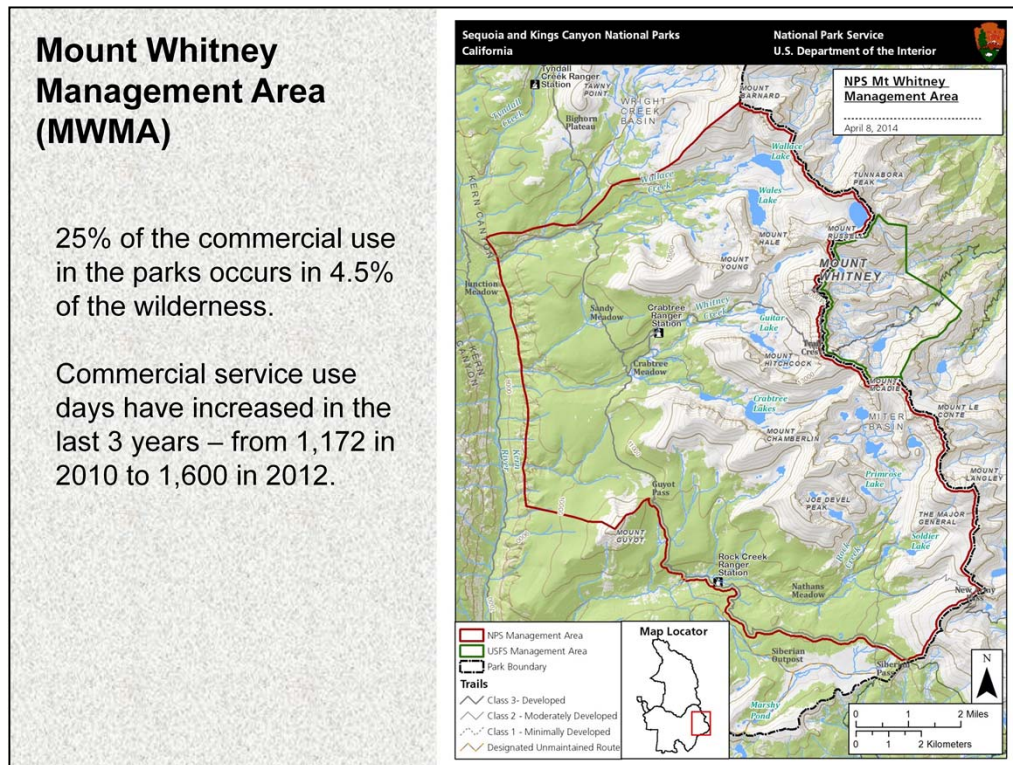
After we established what types of commercial services would be considered appropriate in wilderness, the next step was to define the extent (or how much) would be allowed in wilderness. Our first task was to review our existing data. From this we found that we average in the wilderness about 111,000 visitor use days per year. These figures are compiled from permits issued by Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra national forests. This does not include Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail hikers coming from south of Sequoia National Forest or coming from north of Inyo and Sierra national forests, or John Muir Trail hikers coming from Yosemite National Park or other points north of Sierra National Forest. It is estimated that these additional 3,000 to 3,500 visitors account for an additional 24,500 visitor-use nights (based on projected numbers of hikers and projected nights of use).

Of the 111,000 visitor use days in the parks' wilderness, about 8% is currently supported by commercial services.



We were able to look at the data where use occurs, and pinpoint those areas not only with higher levels of commercial use, but with higher overall use. We also looked at our existing monitoring, trail encounter studies, campsite conditions, social science research, and grazing standards.

Based on this information, and field knowledge, we determined that for the most part, the current level of commercial services in wilderness – the yearly averages – are not causing undue impacts on wilderness character. However, there is one exception to this. The exception is in the Mount Whitney area – where our data show that there are high levels of overall use, high levels of commercial use, and some impacts on wilderness character.




For those reasons, we are proposing to separate Mount Whitney into a separate area for the allocation of commercial services. These data show that 25% of the commercial use in the parks occurs in 4.5% of the land area – an approximately 37,000 acre area around Mount Whitney. Narrowing this area to just the area around Mt. Whitney it would be more like 25% of the use concentrated in 2% of the wilderness. Commercial service use days have increased in the last 3 years in the Mount Whitney area, from 1,172 in 2010 to 1,600 in 2012 (resulting primarily from increases in guided backpacking/ hiking trips which has nearly doubled).

Limiting commercial services in this area is one method the parks propose to reduce the adverse impacts on wilderness character in this area, along with group size limits, night limits for camping, grazing limits, and working with the USFS and Yosemite National Park to better manage use and access from other areas.



Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Management Concerns

### Degradation of wilderness character




*Campsite at Guitar Lake*

*Mount Whitney summit*

19

For example, in areas proximate to Mount Whitney, impacts are evident – there are impacts around campsites at Guitar Lake – and impacts to opportunities for solitude on Mount Whitney. In this area, encounter rates for visitors are the highest of anywhere in the parks’ wilderness.

Key Actions	No Action – Alternative 1	Preferred - Alternative 2
Commercial Service Days – Total	6,532 (average)	<b>8,400</b>
Commercial Service Days – Stock	2,877 (average)	<b>3,360</b>
Commercial Service Days – Non-stock	3,855 (average)	<b>5,040</b>
Commercial Service Days Mt Whitney Management Area	863* – Non-stock supported 551* – Stock supported (*based on 3-yr average)	<b>930 – Non-stock supported</b> <b>550 – Stock supported</b>



Alternative 2 proposes overall commercial service days similar to Alternative 1 and may be slightly increased wilderness wide. However, we are proposing a special management area for the Mount Whitney area, where we would cap the allocations for commercial services. These changes would be consistent with the desired conditions for this alternative.


Parks wide for all use we propose a capacity of 8,400 CSDs - from an average of 6532 CSDs, with a high of 7,462 - so we are allowing an increase (of 22%). Of the 8,400 parkwide CSDs, 5,040 are allotted to non-stock (from average of 3855 with high of 4352 -- up 23%), and 3,360 CSD are allotted to stock (from average of 2877, with high of 3110 -- up 14%)

Under Alt 2, in the Whitney area, non-stock Commercial Service Days (CSDs) allowed will be 930, compared to a three year (2010-2012) average of 863, which is a slight increase of average, but below high year of 1081 (2012). For stock in Whitney area, Alt 2 allows 550 CSDs, compared to a three year (2010-2012) average of 551, so right at average but well below high year of 635 (2012).

Effectively, these may lead to a reduction as we are setting a cap at below what high years were - which would likely result in a lowered average over time. These are not technically reductions but will keep further growth from occurring.


Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Within the MWMA – Stock Access

- The JMT from the Crabtree Ranger Station to the base of Mt. Whitney switchbacks would be open to overnight use by walking parties with burros or llamas, or day-use only for parties with horses or mules (*same as current conditions*).
- Stock is not allowed above the base of the Mt. Whitney switchbacks (*same as current conditions*).




21


Specific to the Mount Whitney Management Area: The portion of the JMT from the Crabtree Ranger Station to the base of Mount Whitney switchbacks would be open to overnight use by walking parties with burros or llamas, or day-use only for parties with horses or mules. No stock use would be allowed above the base of the switchbacks. This is the same as current conditions (no action).

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### Trail and Off-Trail Stock Access Wilderness-wide




- Stock travel would be allowed on 653 miles (out of 695 miles) of maintained trails.
- Approximately 534 miles of maintained trails would be open to camping with stock.
- Travel more than 0.5 mile from trails open to camping with stock would be allowed: on the Monarch Divide, in the Roaring River area, on the Hockett Plateau, and along the western side of the Kern River watershed south from the Chagoopa Plateau (except lower Big Arroyo).

22

Wilderness-wide, under the preferred alternative, stock travel would be allowed on 653 miles of maintained trails, and of that, 534 miles of maintained trails would be open to camping with stock. Stock would also be allowed more than 0.5 miles from tails in four areas of the parks (similar to current conditions).


Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Proposed specifically for MWMA - Grazing

- Lower Crabtree Meadow and all areas above the Crabtree Ranger station would be closed to grazing.
- A 10-head grazing limit for commercial and administrative parties at Upper Crabtree and Sandy Meadows. Lower Whitney Creek (Strawberry) Meadow would be open to grazing by private parties only.
- Private users would have first “bite” followed by commercial users, then, lastly, administrative users.

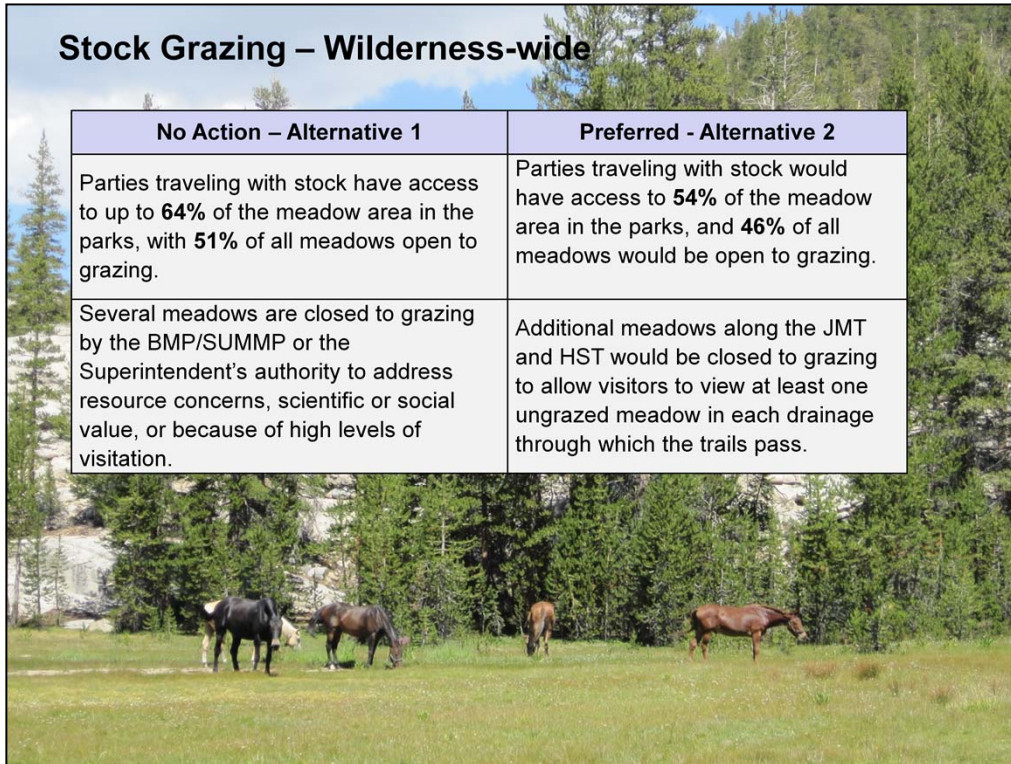


23

Specific to the Mount Whitney Management Area: Lower Crabtree Meadow and all areas above the Crabtree Ranger station would be closed to grazing. A 10-head limit for administrative and commercial parties would be applied at Upper Crabtree and Sandy Meadows. Lower Whitney Creek (Strawberry) Meadow would be open to grazing by private parties only.

Private users would get the first “bite” followed by commercial users, then administrative users.

Stock Grazing – Wilderness-wide	
No Action – Alternative 1	Preferred - Alternative 2
Parties traveling with stock have access to up to <b>64%</b> of the meadow area in the parks, with <b>51%</b> of all meadows open to grazing.	Parties traveling with stock would have access to <b>54%</b> of the meadow area in the parks, and <b>46%</b> of all meadows would be open to grazing.
Several meadows are closed to grazing by the BMP/SUMMP or the Superintendent's authority to address resource concerns, scientific or social value, or because of high levels of visitation.	Additional meadows along the JMT and HST would be closed to grazing to allow visitors to view at least one ungrazed meadow in each drainage through which the trails pass.



Grazing would be allowed in most areas open to overnight stock travel. Out of about 220 meadows currently open to grazing, less than half receive any level of grazing each year. Generally, less than 50 meadows are grazed consistently (by private, commercial, and administrative stock) each year.


Grazing would be managed to maximize protection of resources while allowing visitors traveling with stock continued access to forage. Grazing would generally be allowed in areas open to overnight stock travel (within one-half mile of maintained trails open to overnight stock use or in off-trail travel areas). Grazing would not be allowed in those areas open to day-use only or pass-through only.

Selected meadows along the John Muir Trail and High Sierra Trail would be closed to grazing to make it possible for visitors traveling along those trails to experience at least one ungrazed meadow in each drainage through which the trails pass. Six meadows (Bighorn Plateau and the meadows south of Bighorn Plateau and west of the JMT and north of Wright Creek; Chagoopa Plateau #3 Meadow; Darwin Meadow; Grouse Meadow; Lower Crabtree Meadow; and Taboose Pass Meadow) would be closed to grazing for visitor experience and specific resource protection needs.

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement


Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Party Size	No Action – Alternative 1	Preferred - Alternative 2
Party Size – Day Use Hikers	25 people	<b>25 people</b>
Party Size – Overnight Use on Trail – Hikers	15 people	<b>15 people</b>
Party Size – Overnight Use Off Trail – Hikers	15 people	<b>12 people</b>
Party Size – Day Use Stock	25 people 20 stock 45 combined	<b>20 people 20 stock 40 combined</b>
Party Size – Overnight Use On Trail	15 people 20 stock 35 combined	<b>15 people 20 stock 28 combined</b>
Party Size – Overnight Use Off Trail	15 people 20 stock 35 combined	<b>12 people 12 stock 14 combined</b>

### Party Size




25

Alternative 2 keeps the current maximum number of people and stock for on-trail travel, but reduces the combined party size. Lower party-size limits are set for off-trail travel to preserve opportunities for solitude and to discourage development of informal trails. The combined party size for stock plus people is reduced to prevent impacts on solitude by the largest stock parties.

Alternative 2 would reduce the largest allowable stock-party sizes and reduce off-trail party sizes for both stock and hiker parties. However, this would affect only the largest parties (more than 12) traveling off-trail, which account for less than 1.3% of all overnight visitors (on and off-trail). There are area-specific restrictions both under the no action and preferred alternative that are not listed here.


Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Proposed specifically for MWMA

- A maximum off-trail party size of eight would be adopted for this area.
- Designated sites or designated camp areas may be established at Guitar Lake.
- A 2-night limit would be applied at Crabtree (area-wide) and at Guitar Lake.
- Pack-out waste kits may be required in the MWMA.




*Mt. Langley summit*

26

There would be specific party sizes adopted for the Mount Whitney Management Area. This is not just for the commercial users, these limits would apply to all parties. We may, in the future, designate campsites or camp areas at Guitar Lake. A 2-night limit would be applied at Crabtree (area-wide) and at Guitar Lake, and pack out waste kits would likely be required in the Mount Whitney Management Area. These proposed changes would help reduce impacts on the resources, and on visitors' opportunities for solitude.


Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Other proposed changes

- Campfires would be allowed up to 10,000 feet in the San Joaquin, Kern, and Kings river drainages, and up to 9,000 feet in the Kaweah and Tule river drainages.
- Allowed in 395,710 of the 837,806 acres of wilderness (3,119 fewer acres open to campfires in the Kern)




27

The elevation limit where campfires are allowed would be changed under alternative 2 in the Kern River drainage. The campfire limits would be adjusted to further protect sensitive high elevation forests and pine species, and ancient downed-wood resources (paleo-resources). This change would result in 3,119 fewer acres open to campfires in the Kern River drainage.


Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Other proposed changes

- In wilderness, commercially processed pellets, rolled grains, or fermented hay would be required whenever supplemental feed is provided in lieu of or in addition to grazing
- In frontcountry areas in the parks, the use of state-certified weed-free feed would be required.




28

We are also proposing to allow only commercially process pellets, rolled grains, or fermented hay products in wilderness. This would be imposed to reduce the potential for the establishment and spread of invasive and nonnative vegetation/weed species in wilderness, in addition, in frontcountry areas within the parks, we are proposing to allow only the use of state-certified weed-free feed.

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## The END Involves Adaptive Management


- **Group size limits, client-to guide ratios, number of trips, allocation of use and locations of use may be revised.**
- **The number of commercial service providers may be limited.**
- **Approved activities, if found incompatible with resource protection, visitor enjoyment, and / or safety, may be suspended or terminated.**
- **The limits on commercial services imposed by this plan will be recalculated if significant changes in use patterns occur.**
- **Extent Necessary methodology will be reevaluated using improved data that will be collected in the future.**

29

Adaptive management and reassessment of the established process of managing commercial services in wilderness will be employed by park staff in response to changes that occur during the life of the WSP. Any changes would go through a public process.

Wilderness Stewardship Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Dates	Planning Phase
June 27 to August 25, 2014	Draft WSP/EIS open for Public Review and Comment
Fall 2014	Analyze Public Comments
Fall/Winter 2014	Prepare Final WSP/EIS
Spring 2015	Release Final WSP/EIS
	30-day no action period
<b>By June 5, 2015</b>	<i>Legislatively mandated</i> deadline (per the Backcountry Access Act) for the Record of Decision to be signed

30

30

We will be accepting comments until August 25, 2014 – comments must be input into the website or postmarked by that date. It's important for you to submit your comments. We are legislatively mandated to complete the plan by June 5, 2015. Depending on the number and complexity of the comments we receive during public comment, and the number of revisions we make to the final plan, we will be on a very tight timeline to get the plan completed by the legislatively mandated deadline.



Address to submit comments and for more information go to  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>.