

Wilderness Stewardship Plan: Guide to the Document

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
California



With more than 1,000 pages, the Wilderness Stewardship Plan / Draft Environmental Impact Statement (WSP/DEIS) provides a lot of information to absorb. While we encourage you to read the entire document, this guide may help you focus on the parts that may be the most relevant to your interests.

Executive Summary

This provides a relatively brief summary of the WSP/DEIS, including a table that shows differences and similarities between the alternatives. It also has a table summarizing the possible impacts of each alternative on natural and cultural resources as well as on qualities of wilderness. Chapters 1 through 5 provide much more detail and background.

Chapter 1: Purpose and Need for the Plan

Chapter 1 provides background on topics such as the parks' wilderness and the reasons that the National Park Service is developing a plan. It gives information on related legislation, policies, and plans, and the purpose and significance of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The chapter describes which resources could be affected by the plan, which would not be affected, and the reasons why.

Chapter 2: Alternatives

This chapter may be the most important to review, as it describes all five alternatives: the no-action or status-quo alternative (the current management of the wilderness) plus the four action alternatives that propose changes to the status quo. Eleven key elements are discussed under each alternative these examine different aspects of visitor use, trails, campfires, food storage, human waste, party size, camping/campsites, stock use, grazing, structures, and commercial services. This chapter also covers management actions that are common to all alternatives, mitigations that could be adopted to prevent or minimize harm, and elements and/or alternatives that were considered but dismissed from analysis.

Chapter 3: Affected Environment

This chapter describes those resources that are expected to experience environmental effects as a result of implementing any of the alternatives. It is not a comprehensive look at all the resources in the parks' wilderness; it is a focused discussion on what the NPS knows about the resources that may be affected by any of the alternatives.

Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences

This chapter is the heart of the analysis of the alternatives. The potential effects of each alternative are described for the resources and topics that were described in Chapter 3.

Chapter 5: Consultation and Coordination

This chapter describes the methods that were used to collect information from the public, affiliated tribes and tribal groups, and area agencies in order to determine what issues to address in the plan and to refine the alternatives. Chapter 5 also describes work products related to wilderness topics, lists the plan recipients, and names the primary staff involved in the development of the draft WSP/EIS.

Glossary and References

These sections include definitions of terms used in the WSP/DEIS, and list papers, plans, and other documents that were used or cited.

Appendices

Appendices A through P provide a wealth of information. They include implementation strategies for components of the WSP/DEIS, such as trail management and education, as well as background information on resources, wilderness legislation and regulation, commercial services, and research in wilderness.

- A: Visitor Capacity
- B: Extent Necessary Determination for Commercial Services
- C: Wilderness Character Monitoring Strategy
- D: Stock Use and Meadow Monitoring and Management Strategy
- E: Wilderness Legislation
- F: Wilderness Regulations and Permit Conditions
- G: Scoping Materials
- H: Wilderness Information and Education Strategy
- I: Minimum Requirements Analysis
- J: Climbing Management Strategy
- K: Draft Trail Management Plan
- L: Analysis of Special-status Animal Species
- M: Programmatic Minimum Requirements Analysis
- N: Strategy for Reducing Nonnative Plants in Wilderness
- O: Analysis of Park Sensitive Plant Species
- P: Permitted Research Program and Process

*. . . to secure for the American people of present and future generations
the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.*

