



# United States Department of the Interior

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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1.A.1.

August 28, 2015

## Memorandum

From: Environmental Protection Specialist

To: General Management Plan Files

Subject: Update to General Management Plan - Items vacated by Remedy Order for Case Number 09-cv-04621 and how they were addressed in Wilderness Stewardship Plan / Record of Decision

Pursuant to the May 29, 2012 Remedy Order issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California in the case High Sierra Hikers Assn. v. U.S. Department of the Interior, Case Number 09-cv-04621 (RS), the Court vacated all portions of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) General Management Plan / Record of Decision (GMP/ROD; 2007) which provide programmatic guidance regarding the type or level of commercial stock services necessary in the SEKI wilderness area or direction as to the need, appropriateness, or size of developments, structures, or facilities used completely or partially for commercial stock services. This includes all references to the future development or installation of stock facilities.

The portions of the GMP/ROD that have been vacated are those that “provide:

- (1) programmatic guidance regarding the type or level of commercial stock services necessary in SEKI's wilderness; [and]
- (2) direction as to the need, appropriateness, or size of developments, structures, or facilities used completely or partially for commercial stock services.

This includes all references to the future development or installation of stock facilities including, but not limited to, those anticipated in the Ash Mountain/Foothills area, at North Fork, in the South Fork and Dillonwood areas, in Mineral King, and to replace the Wolverton station.

The following modifications to the vacated GMP/ROD are approved in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan / Record of Decision (WSP/ROD), signed May 27, 2015 by Acting Pacific West Regional Director Patricia Neubacher.

## **Kings Canyon National Park**

Cedar Grove Pack Station — The Cedar Grove Pack Station will continue to be operated under concession authority based on a contractual relationship with NPS with approved use types and levels. Stock camping sites will be developed at the Cedar Grove Pack Station primarily for private users. Holding pen/corral space, hitch rail(s), adequate parking and turnaround space for stock trailers, campfire pit, picnic tables, restrooms, food-storage boxes, and water supply will be installed.

## **Sequoia National Park**

Middle Fork Kaweah Trailhead — At the Middle Fork Kaweah Trailhead the NPS will provide improved parking and turnaround space for stock trailers and a hitch rail; no other stock amenities will be provided. Commercial service providers will be allowed to use this trailhead. No camping for stock or backpackers will be allowed.

Mineral King Area — Selected sites within the Atwell Mill Campground will be adapted to accommodate stock camping in two or three sites. Site specific planning and design will occur prior to developing stock sites, and considerations will include distance from non-stock sites, drainage, and natural and cultural resource concerns. Facilities may include a holding pen, hitch rail(s), table, campfire pit, picnic table, and stock trailer parking. The sites will be maintained through an agreement between the NPS and a cooperating partner. Commercial service providers will be allowed to use the Atwell/Hockett trailhead.

There will be no concessions operations at the Mineral King Pack Station. Existing facilities at Mineral King administrative corrals in east Mineral King Valley will continue to be used for park administrative purposes at the existing location or at a new location to reduce and minimize environmental impacts on wetlands and water quality. Existing stock facilities could be modified to allow for short-term public camping or staging and/or short-term camping by commercial use authorization (CUA) holders.

Modifications to the site to provide for use by private individuals and/or CUA holders could include adequate parking and turnaround space for stock trailers, a small corral, water, a picnic table, and a vault toilet or restroom. These facilities will provide for stock camping for private parties (1 to 2 sites, one- or two-night limit). The site will be maintained through an agreement between the NPS and a cooperating partner.

North Fork Kaweah Trailhead — At the North Fork Kaweah Trailhead improved parking and turnaround space for stock trailers and additional hitch rail(s) will be provided. Commercial service providers will be allowed to use this trailhead and controlled through conditions of a permit. The area will be maintained through an agreement between the NPS and a cooperating partner. No camping for stock or backpackers will be allowed.

South Fork Kaweah Campground and Trailhead — Stock use will continue to be allowed at the South Fork Kaweah Trailhead. The South Fork Kaweah Trailhead will be slightly modified to improve the existing parking and turnaround space for stock trailers at the trailhead, and a hitching post will be provided. Site specific planning and design will occur prior to any modifications, with the intent to minimize impacts on the natural resources in the area. Use will be primarily for private users, with limited commercial use by CUA holders (managed via permit conditions) and administrative users. The site will be maintained through an agreement between the NPS and a cooperating partner.

Wolverton Area (trailheads and administrative corrals) — The facilities in the Wolverton area will continue to be used for park administrative purposes. The Wolverton facilities could be modified to provide for short-term use for private parties and commercial service providers. There will be no

permanent occupancy of the Wolverton corrals by a commercial service provider to operate wilderness stock trips.

The above modifications to frontcountry facilities and trailheads will require site-specific planning, design, and compliance.