



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

News Release

For Immediate Release – May 20, 2009

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Wireless Tower Proposed for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Public Invited to Comment on Environmental Assessment

An environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an 80-foot cellular tower on Park Ridge near Grant Grove within Kings Canyon National Park was released today by Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The National Park Service (NPS) is required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to consider all applications for the installation of cellular equipment on NPS lands.

In June 2007, Verizon Wireless submitted an application to the NPS to construct, operate, and maintain a wireless telecommunications facility on Park Ridge near Grant Grove Village in Kings Canyon National Park. Park Ridge is an established telecommunications site for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Current structures on Park Ridge include two concrete-block structures containing NPS and US Forest Service (USFS) communications equipment with power generators, a 20-foot fire lookout tower, two 40-foot lattice towers with NPS and USFS telecommunications equipment, and a 30-foot tower on the NPS communications building supporting a passive reflector used for landline service operated by Verizon California.

The tower would provide wireless communication and internet coverage along a portion of the Generals Highway and State Highway 180 in the vicinity of Grant Grove, Grant Grove Village, and Wilsonia in Kings Canyon National Park, and nearby undeveloped areas within the park and the surrounding Giant Sequoia National Monument. The telecommunications facility would include an 80-foot monopole tower with antennas, a prefabricated single-story building beside the tower for equipment storage, and a stand-by generator. The unmanned facility would provide service to area residents and businesses year-round, 24 hours per day.

The EA to Construct Verizon Wireless Telecommunication Facility atop Park Ridge in Kings Canyon National Park may be reviewed and public comment may be submitted online by selecting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/seki>. Printed or CD versions of the document may be obtained by calling (559) 565-3102. The public may also direct concerns or comments regarding this project to the park in writing by sending an e-mail to seki_planning@nps.gov, or the public may mail or hand deliver their comments to:

Superintendent
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Attn: Verizon Wireless Project
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

All comments must be received by June 22, 2009.

Commenters should be aware that their entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While commenters can ask in their comments to withhold personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Anonymous comments will not be accepted.

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