

PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BACKCOUNTRY USE

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

		Date
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INTRODUCTION

The increase in popularity of backpacking and other forms of high country use is causing environmental impact by trampling of choice camp areas, depletion of wood supplies for fuel in campfires near timberline, human waste problems and crowding in what should be a low density wilderness experience. The objective of this plan is, therefore, to control these uses in order to preserve the high country wilderness resources and to provide for a sustained flow of benefits for people.

Scope of Plan. The plan deals with lands shown as Classes III, IV, and V in the Park's Master Plan and with lands proposed for Wilderness under the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. It is intended to supplement the existing Backcountry Management Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks printed in 1963.

Guidelines. This plan is written within the framework of existing legal and administrative guidelines including the enabling legislation, Administrative Policies of the National Park System, Code of Federal Regulations Title 36, and the 1964 Wilderness Act. The plan is guided further by the Sequoia and Kings Canyon Master Plan, the Wilderness Proposal, A Backcountry Management Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, 1963, and as directed by Western Region Office memorandum dated December 12, 1972.

Review. Annual review will be made of the plan by a committee made up of the District Rangers, District Interpreters and District Maintenance

Supervisors assisted by the Resource Management Specialist. The Sierra District Ranger will set up the meeting.

Beginning in 1975, and thereafter at the end of each five year cycle, an evaluation team from outside the service will come in to look at our backcountry management operations. Membership of the team will be selected by the Superintendent as recommended by the Resource Management Specialist.

Public participation in the management of the backcountry will be invited and accomplished through a planned effort to keep the channels of communication open.

VISITOR USE LIMITS AND ACTIVITIES

Well distributed, low density use is an alternative to designated campsites and the need for elaborate water and sewer systems. Use limits and controls established at the wilderness boundaries will make fewer controls necessary on the inside, thus providing for more individual freedom once a person enters.

Use controls for Sequoia and Kings Canyon will be implemented by a three phase plan.

1972 - Rae Lakes Loop
1973 - Kings Canyon National Park
1974 - Sequoia National Park

Annual Limit. A maximum of 50,000 overnight visitors will be permitted in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks within the Wilderness boundary between June 16 and September 15, a period of 90 days. Travel occurring outside these dates is not restricted at this time. This number is derived from the average annual use recorded for 1971 and 1972. The best available information suggests that this level of use can be maintained without producing unacceptable change to the natural resources or further deterioration of other wilderness benefits. We realize that no definitive answer to carrying capacity now exists and experience will probably lead to revision of these figures.

Daily Limits. Daily visitor limits for each point of entry are shown in Appendix A. These will generally be set low enough so visitors may be permitted free choice of campsite once they have entered. Exception

to this will be necessary in popular areas where capacities are definitely limited and where specific problem areas are identified.

Size of Group. Twenty-five persons is the maximum size group.

Length of Stay. Camping is permitted for not more than a total of 30 days in any calendar year.

Permit System. A Wilderness Use Permit is required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. See Appendix B.

Computerized Reservation System. Ticketron submitted a proposal for a computerized backcountry reservation system December 11, 1972. It appears that such a system can be used to more efficiently control the use of the backcountry resources. It is flexible enough to be compatible with our existing permit system. 1975 is the suggested target date for implementation.

CAMPING USE

Campsites. Free selection of any campsite is permitted except in those areas identified as having specific impact problems. Developments are limited to a fire place, a sign and a toilet. Signs and toilets are used on a very limited basis. No camping is permitted in meadows and in the grassy margins around lakes. Sites are to be at least 100 feet away from any lake or stream where the terrain permits but no closer than 25 feet from high water line.

Sanitation. Where soil cover is adequate to accommodate disposal of human excrement, the individual "cat hole" is the preferred method. Pit toilets merely localize this activity. Future plans include primary removal of all human wastes by helicopter in areas where low density use is not possible such as the summit of Mt. Whitney.

Use of soaps or detergents directly in water supplies is prohibited. Swimming is permitted.

All non-burnable refuse will be packed out.

Firewood Utilization. Where fires are permitted, only dead wood on the ground may be used. Dead standing trees must be protected. Substantial areas are now closed to use of wood fires and visitors are encouraged to make maximum use of gasoline or other chemical fuel stoves.

Restricted Camping Areas. To allow for resource recovery from man caused changes, restrictions are in effect in a number of camping areas. See Appendix C.

TRAIL USE

Impact of Hiker. Shortcutting switchbacks is probably the most damaging hiker activity as it relates to trails. Other adverse impact from hikers comes from trails established around lake shores and which develop between campsite and water supply. These are indicators that an area is reaching or is beyond its physical carrying capacity.

Impact of Rider. Stock use is damaging to trails when it occurs too early in the season and where it becomes necessary to ride around snow drifts or uncleared, down trees. Where water accumulates in the trail, multiple trails develop. Cross-country travel to high' mountain lakes is a practice that leads to resource damage. Measures will be taken to control such use.

STOCK USE

Number of Stock. The limit is 20 head of stock per party. The Superintendent must approve any trip with more than this number.

Grazing. Grazing is permitted subject to the regulations shown in Appendix D.

Trail Use. Loose herding is prohibited except as necessary for safety while crossing steep rocky passes or where the exposure is great and there is danger of animals falling off the trail. Shortcutting is prohibited. Cross-country travel must be approved by the Superintendent. Unmaintained routes are considered the same as cross-country travel.

Drift Fences. Drift fences are used to protect meadows by allowing the pack and saddle stock to graze freely over a wide area and in some cases, to keep animals out of protected meadows. Fences are not constructed solely as a convenience to the stock user, but in conjunction with the objective as stated above.

Future Controls. The level of all types of stock use has remained fairly constant for the past ten years. Backcountry meadows are now considered as being in good to excellent condition. Controls will remain about the same provided there is no sudden increase in the use of pack and saddle stock.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Fishing. Fishermen have a noticeable impact in areas known to support good fishing. Fishing is permitted with a State fishing license. Fisheries management and visitor use are being coordinated.

Bighorn Sheep. A Zoological Zone for preservation of the Bighorn Sheep is established along the Sierra Crest in the vicinity of Sawmill, Baxter and Shepherd Passes. The purpose of this zone, established by the Inyo National Forest, is to minimize the presence of humans in the Bighorn habitat. A special Wilderness Permit is required to tour this area. While further studies are being conducted, use levels will be kept as low as possible in this area. Do not advertise the existence of these remaining herds.

OTHER USES

Winter Use. Permits for winter backcountry use are the same as those used in the summer. Winter users of the Pear Lake Ski Hut register their trips at the Lodgepole Visitor Center. Cross-country ski touring is encouraged. Snow machines are not permitted in the backcountry.

Spelunking. Exploration of caves is concentrated to use of Lost Soldiers Cave. Access to this cave is limited to technically qualified people. Equipment is checked and the waivers are signed when the party checks in for the key at the Chief Ranger's Office. Other wild caves exist but are not often visited due to the difficult access problems.

Rock and Mountain Climbing. These activities are permitted. There is no mandatory registration system although climbers are urged to check in at the nearest Ranger Station prior to climbing. Overnight use by climbing parties requires a standard Wilderness Permit.

CONCESSION USE AND PERMITTEE PACKERS

One concession operated backcountry camp is located at Bearpaw Meadow. Two concession pack stations operate within the Park and seventeen commercial pack stations have their operating base outside the Parks. All are regulated by revocable special use permits.

Bearpaw Meadow Camp. All supplies are brought in by concessioner stock. Pelletized feed or concentrates must be brought in for any overnight stock use. Normally the supply run is a round trip in one day. All non-combustible waste is packed out. The National Park Service is responsible for providing and maintaining water and sanitation facilities at this camp.

Permittee Packers. Commercial packer use has remained at about a constant level for ten years. No additional permits will be issued and no plans are made for expansion of this activity. Close coordination with these operators is maintained to keep them informed of backcountry management plans. The Eastern and Western Units of the High Sierra Packers Association invite our attendance at their meetings and the Park staff deals with each of the owners on an individual basis as problems arise.

Use Limits. Pack stations are permitted their present level of use and the numbers in their parties are counted as part of the daily limit if notice is received before the limits are reached. Unexpected arrival of pack parties after limits are reached will be permitted entry and counted as an override.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

A coordinated approach to Visitor Management, Resources Management and Maintenance Management is the challenge. We must exercise our overall responsibility to maintain the resource values and to provide the visitor with a quality experience.

Management Responsibility. Responsibility for the management of the backcountry follows the Park's organization lines through each of the respective Division Chiefs. A major coordinating role is filled by the Sierra District Ranger.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Responsibility. The Chief of the Division of Resources Management and Visitor Protection is responsible for the management of backcountry visitor activities.

Management Units. The land within the Wilderness boundary is divided into nine travel zones for the purpose of recording wilderness use. These units are set up to coincide with existing backcountry Ranger Stations and to fit within the approximate boundaries of Ranger Districts. See Appendix E.

Contact Stations. Wilderness Permits will be issued at the major roadside visitor centers at Ash Mountain, Giant Forest, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove and from Ash Mountain and Big Stump Entrance Stations during the night. Permits are issued from all manned trailhead locations

and from the offices of Inyo, Sierra and Sequoia National Forests. These contact stations are complemented by a system of twelve manned backcountry Ranger Stations.

Information. Each employee assigned to a contact station is responsible for providing accurate information about conditions the backcountry visitor will encounter. Alternate routes or camping areas are suggested to suit the experience level of the visitor. Not all hikers need to go into a classified wilderness area to enjoy a backcountry type of camping experience. Lower elevation zones are alternatives.

Education. Minimum impact methods of camping will be stressed to all users. This includes proper sanitation measures and wise use of water sources, wood utilization, campsite location and respect for other users.

Interpretation. All Ranger-Naturalists and Rangers have responsibility to use interpretive efforts to bring about awareness of the impact of man on the natural processes, and to encourage careful use of the backcountry. The Sierra District Ranger, through the Chief of Interpretation, will provide all interpreters with information concerning backcountry operations.

Enforcement. Law enforcement in the backcountry is necessary and all backcountry Ranger personnel will be trained to carry out law enforcement activities at a professional level. Courtesy warnings, using the Field Interrogation Card, will be issued to first-time offenders for failure to obtain a Wilderness Permit.

Emergencies. All backcountry Rangers are required to have as a minimum a current Standard First Aid Card. Special training for high altitude health problems is given annually. The use of the helicopter will continue where the victim requires immediate treatment by a doctor.

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

The proper management of the backcountry trails network is probably the single most important job to be done by the Maintenance Division. It is in the trails system that our management or lack of management really shows. Annual review of this program is included in the framework of this plan whereby all those involved with backcountry activities will get together for coordination of programs.

Backcountry Repeaters. The radio system serving the backcountry consists of six fixed radio repeater installations. Facilities include a cabinet to house the electronic equipment and an antenna structure. The repeater units are solid state and are powered by solar energy.

Maintenance of this system is performed by radio technicians using a helicopter for transportation.

Buildings. Maintenance of backcountry buildings is the responsibility of the Maintenance Division. No additional permanent structures are planned at this time except for a minimum number of toilets.

Use of Motorized Equipment. Presently the following equipment is being used:

- Chain saws
- Rock drills
- Electric welder
- Electric generator for bash rock drills and blowers
- Trail buggy
- Air compressor for spray painting
- Helicopter.

The equipment is used on an as needed basis during the working hours of 0800 - 1630. No chain saws are to be used outside normal working hours.

Backcountry Transportation Policy (Helicopter). See Appendix I.

Trails. Standards for backcountry trail maintenance are given in the Trails Maintenance Handbook. All normal maintenance and construction is the responsibility of the backcountry trail maintenance foremen. In addition, the relocation, obliteration and restoration of trails is the trail crews' responsibility. Trails in Class IV areas are being eliminated and these trails will no longer be maintained.

Bridges. No additional bridges are planned at this time, although replacement of existing bridges will be permitted.

Drift Fences. The responsibility for the maintenance of drift fences is assigned to the appropriate permanent Sub-district Ranger. When it becomes necessary to rebuild any fence due to avalanche or to poor condition, Soil and Moisture crews will be used. Fenced pastures, located at any Ranger Station, will be fully maintained by the man assigned to that Station.

On trails where heavy hiker use occurs, such as the John Muir, drift fences will be kept to a minimum.

Signs. The maintenance and emplacement of backcountry signs is the responsibility of the trail crew. Regulatory signs for camping and grazing are the responsibility of the Ranger Division. The approved sign is of routed aluminum with one (1) inch letters and a 2" x 2" square metal post.

Sanitation. Primary responsibility for backcountry sanitation is assigned to the Maintenance Division. This includes collection and removal of refuse. Because of the large area to be covered and the scattered crews, refuse pickup and haul-out becomes a combined effort of all backcountry personnel from all divisions.

Stock Use. Where it can be definitely shown that use of stock, government or otherwise, is detrimental to Park resources, measures will be taken to control such use.

Government pack and riding stock are to be brought out and fed in front country corrals to the greatest extent possible. This means packers will bring out excess stock whenever the crews are not on the move.

Maintenance and supply functions at elevations above 10,000 feet are to be supported by helicopter to minimize the impact of stock.

Crew Camp Facilities. No permanent facilities are planned to house trail crews due to the need for flexibility in work location. Any unoccupied backcountry station may be used by maintenance crews. Government crew campsites may be established so long as they are signed as such and are located away from view of the trail. Permitted improvements include a fireplace, toilet and bear-proof storage box. Tables and hitchracks which are completely disassembled when the crew moves are permitted.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Resources management is concerned with all the components of the eco-systems represented in the Sierra landscape and a resources management plan is under development for these Parks.

Responsibility. The Resources Management Branch is responsible for all technical and professional programs of soil, water, air, plant and animal management.

Vegetation Management. The Resources Management Specialist is responsible for the meadow studies, drift fence location and monitoring the grazing use.

Wildfire. Approximately 70 per cent of the area within the Park's boundary is in a zone where naturally occurring fires are allowed to run their course. The conditions under which fires are permitted to burn are outlined in Appendix F.

Fish and Wildlife. Fish planting and guidance in fisheries management is the responsibility of the Resources Management Branch. Fish planting will be in accordance with established policy.

Recommendations for deer, bear and Bighorn Sheep management are a responsibility of this branch.

RESEARCH

Research which is funded by the National Park Service is management oriented.

Future Needs in Research. Sociological research is needed to direct the ways in which people can be made aware of the need for their active support in the protection of wilderness.

We need to know more about what the wilderness user expects to receive from his experience or to find out what the products of wilderness use are.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

All phases of backcountry management must be concerned with activities surrounding the Park. We do not exist in a vacuum.

Cooperating agreements exist with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, California Department of Water Resources, City of Los Angeles, and Southern California Edison Company in connection with snow course facilities and use of water resources.

The National Park Service is collaborating with the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Fish and Game in fish and wildlife management. Primary interest is in the management of deer herds and Bighorn Sheep.

Three National Forests surround the Parks and all have similar Wilderness Use problems.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is cooperating in control of the exotic beaver found in the Kern River drainage.

STAFFING

Backcountry staffing for the three divisions is summarized in Appendix H.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Daily Limits for Individual Entry Points

Appendix A

June 16 - September 15

<u>Trailhead</u>	<u>Daily limit with Park Destination</u>
1 North Lake	25
1 South Lake	50
1 Laboose Pass	25
1 Sawmill Pass	25
1 Baxter Pass	25
1 Onion Valley	60
1 Shepherd Pass	25
1 Whitney Portal	50
1 Cottonwood Lakes (New Army Pass)	25
1 Siberian Pass	25
4 Kern Ranger Station	25
2 Coyote Pass	25
2 Shotgun Pass	25
2 Franklin Pass	50
2 Sawtooth Pass	25
2 Timber Gap	50
4 Atwell Mill	25
4 Hockett Meadow	50
2 Wet Meadows	25
2 Quinn Ranger Station	25
4 Clough Cave	50
4 Middle Fork Kaweah	25
4 Crescent Meadow	40
4 Wolverton	25
4 Pear Lake	25
4 Twin Lakes	25
2 J.O. Pass	25
2 Sugarloaf	50
4 Bubbs Creek	30
4 Woods Creek	30
4 Copper Creek	30
4 Lewis Creek	30
3 Crown Valley	25
3 North Fork (Hell-for-Sure)	25
3 South Fork (Piute Entrance)	30

1. Associated with the Inyo National Forest
2. Associated with the Sequoia National Forest
3. Associated with the Sierra National Forest
4. Control by SEKI

PERMIT SYSTEM

Appendix B

Objective. The objective of a permit system is to provide management with a tool for personal contact with the visitor, use data and control and distribution of use. Education and enforcement regulations are further objectives.

Background. A backcountry fire permit system has been in effect in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks since 1962. This non-fee permit was required for all overnight use and anytime a fire was to be used. Its use has been discontinued with issuance of the Wilderness Permit.

Wilderness Permit. On July 1, 1972 a new cooperative N.P.S.-U.S.F.S. Wilderness Permit system began. It provides Park and U.S. Forest Wilderness travelers with a single permit good for continuous travel through adjacent lands administered by the two agencies. The permit is designed for computer analysis and has copies for exchange between the issuing agencies.

Issuing Procedure. Permits are available by mail until June 15. No more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the daily limit for any one trailhead is filled by mail issued permits. All other permits are issued on a first-come first-served basis at the station nearest the point of departure no more than 24 hours in advance. All permits must be picked up in person and no permits are issued in the backcountry.

Availability. Permits are available at all major visitor centers on the average of 12 hours each day. U.S. Forest Service offices of the three surrounding National Forests issue permits and several selected commercial pack stations may issue to their own parties.

Enforcement. A courtesy warning, on a standard Field Interrogation card, is issued to all first-time offenders. This is accompanied by a request for future cooperation and a short explanation of why the permit is required. The Field Interrogation card serves as a record of where and how many backcountry travelers are being missed as they enter. The Field Interrogation card will include all information required on the Wilderness Permit so this data can be used in compiling use figures.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS
THREE RIVERS, CALIFORNIA 93271

Appendix C

SUMMARY OF WILDERNESS CAMPING RESTRICTIONS

The following restrictions are summarized here for the purpose of providing information to hikers traveling these portions of the Sierra Wilderness.

Over the past several years these limitations have become necessary in order to protect these valuable high country resources.

Grazing restrictions governing use of saddle and pack animals are included in a separate release.

Bullfrog Lake: (In Kearsarge Basin) Closed to all camping and grazing.

Evolution Basin: (From Evolution Lake to Muir Pass) Closed to use of wood fires, camping with chemical stoves permitted.

Dusy Basin: Due to severe wood shortage, no wood fires from Bishop Pass to Upper Bridge in Dusy Trail. Use gas stoves only.

Kearsarge Lakes: (In Kearsarge Basin) Closed to use of wood fires, camping with chemical fuel stoves permitted.

Pear Lake: (Reached from Lodgepole-Wolverton Trailhead) Overnight camping is permitted only in numbered campsites located at Aster, Emerald, Pear and Moose Lakes. Heather Lake has been set aside for day use only, overnight camping is prohibited.

No camping between the trailhead at Wolverton and the campsites at Emerald Lake.

Open campfires are not permitted at any of the above lakes due to severe wood shortage.

Rae Lakes Loop: One day camp limit at each camping area around the entire loop. Camps are to be at least 100 feet from lakes and streams. These restrictions apply to Paradise Valley, Woods Creek, Rae Lakes, Kearsarge Lakes, Charlotte Lake, Sixty Lake Basin, Junction Meadow and Bubbs Creek. No wood fires at Rae Lakes from Dollar Lake (Baxter Pass Trail Junction) to Glen Pass. Use gas stoves only.

Timberline Lake: (West of Mt. Whitney on Muir Trail) Closed to all camping and grazing.

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UNITED STATES
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS
THREE RIVERS, CALIFORNIA 93271

Appendix D

1973
GRAZING AND LIVESTOCK REGULATIONS
for
SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Overuse of some popular or fragile sections of the back country has made it necessary to restrict public and government grazing in certain areas. We shall appreciate and expect your cooperation as these restrictions are the only way of preserving the very scenic values that so many visitors come to enjoy.

GENERAL

In all instances where 20 or more head of stock are used in one party, the number of days, places to stop over, and grazing sites to be used, will be submitted to the Superintendent sufficiently in advance of the trip to permit changes in routes when and where adjudged necessary.

Grazing limits will be applied this summer to the following areas:

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

GIANT FOREST AREA: The following areas are closed to grazing: Alta Meadows, Cahoon Meadow (Silliman Creek Watershed), Halstead Meadow, and within a radius of five (5) miles of Giant Forest Village. At Willow Meadow, grazing is not to exceed two (2) nights per party per trip.

MIDDLE FORK KAWEAH: Redwood Meadow. Grazing limit 48 hours; stock limit seven (7) head per party.

HOCKETT MEADOW AREA: South Fork and Tuohy Meadows. Parties with more than twelve (12) head are limited to a 48-hour stay.

KERN CANYON AREA: Junction Meadow closed to grazing. Upper Funston Meadow: No grazing before June 15; grazing limit 48-hours per party per trip. Lower Funston Meadow: No grazing before June 1. Grazing limit 48-hours per party per trip. Kern River Administrative Pasture closed to the public and restricted to the use of the Kern Canyon Ranger. No picketing permitted in the Kern Canyon.

CRABTREE MEADOW AREA: Timberline Lake closed to grazing and camping. Guitar Lake limited to grazing by burros and walking mule parties only. Crabtree Lakes closed to stock travel. Parties with twelve (12) head or more will be advised by the Crabtree Meadow Ranger as to where to graze.

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

ROARING RIVER AREA: Scaffold Meadow, not to exceed twelve (12) head per party for 2 nights. The Scaffold Meadow Administrative Pasture is closed to the public and restricted to Government use, as is the small fenced pasture near the Roaring River Ranger Station. The fenced pasture at Horse Corral Pack Base is restricted to Government use.

CLOUD CANYON-CEMENT TABLE AREA: Stock limited to twelve (12) head per party. Grazing limit 2 days per party per trip in this area.

CEDAR GROVE AREA: South Fork of the Kings: No grazing on the floor of the valley from the Park boundary to Bubbs Creek Bridge.

BUBBS CREEK: No grazing of pack and saddle stock from the Sphinx Creek Trail Junction through Junction Meadow. Burros and walking mules are permitted to graze overnight only. No picketing permitted.

EAST LAKE: Lake shore closed to all grazing; stock must be kept above East Creek drift fence.

PARADISE VALLEY: Closed to grazing of pack and saddle stock. Burros and walking mules parties permitted to graze overnight only. No picketing permitted.

CASTLE DOMES MEADOW: One day's grazing only. Limit of twelve (12) head per party. No picketing permitted.

RAE LAKES AREA: Closed to pack and saddle stock grazing. Burros and walking mules parties permitted to graze one (1) night only. Grazing permitted below the Baxter Creek Trail Junction. No picketing of stock on the Rae Lakes Loop.

SIXTY LAKES BASIN: One day's grazing only. Stock limited to twelve (12) head per party. No picketing permitted.

CHARLOTTE LAKE AREA: The meadows at the upper end of Charlotte Lake (the southeast end) are closed to all grazing. The first big meadow below the lake is closed to all grazing, and stock parties are requested not to allow their stock to cross the meadow. Grazing is permitted along Charlotte Creek below the drift fence. No picketing permitted.

KEARSARGE-BULLFROG BASIN: Closed to grazing. Bullfrog Lake is closed to camping.


VIDETTE MEADOW: No grazing before June 15. Two (2) wrangle horses per party may be kept in Vidette Meadow; the remainder of the stock must be held above the East Vidette drift fence. Burros and walking mules parties limited to 48-hours grazing. No picketing permitted.

McCLURE MEADOW: No grazing before August 1. Grazing permitted in Evolution Meadow. No picketing permitted. Maximum number of stock per party is 20 head.

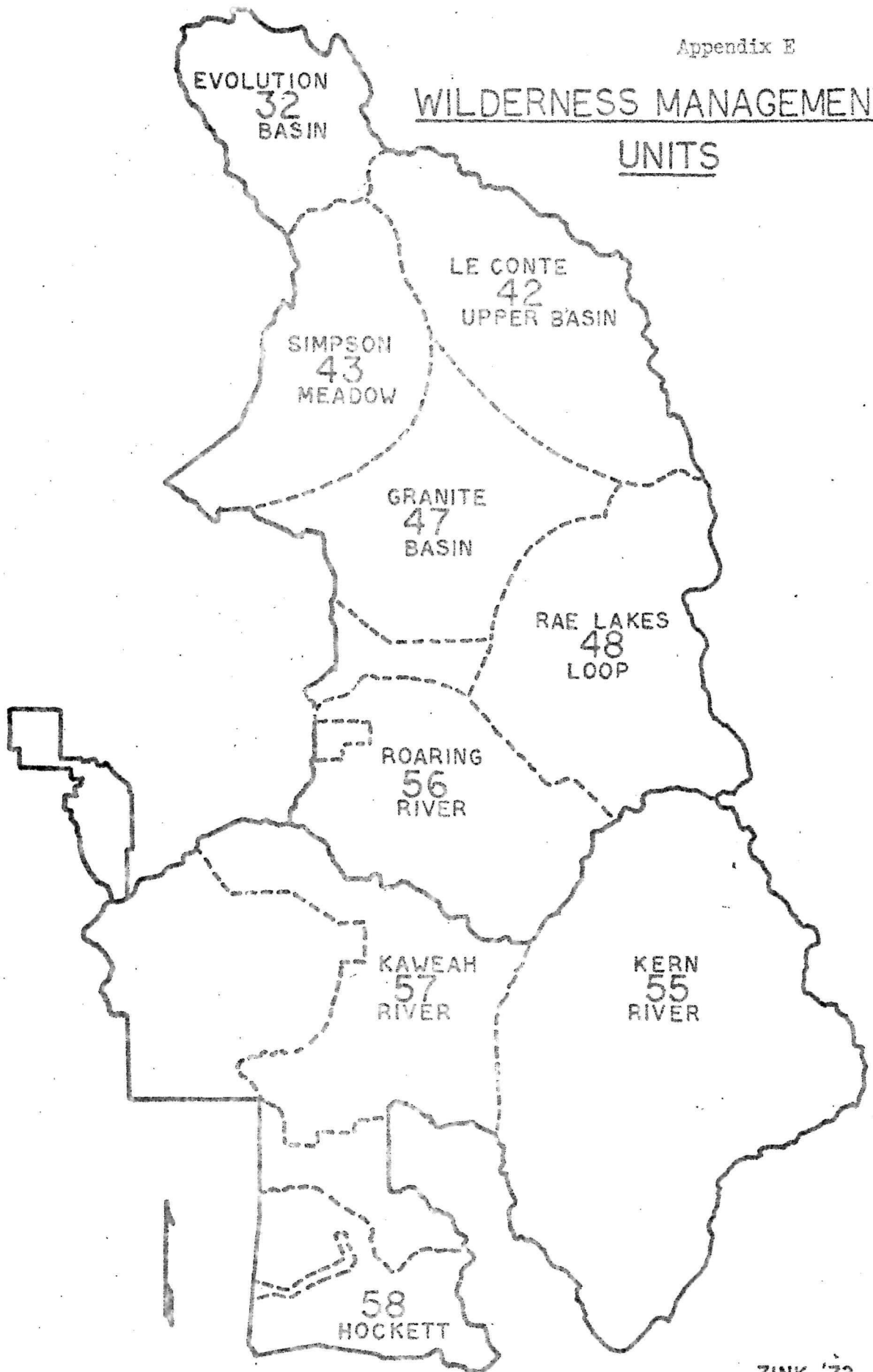
COLBY MEADOW: No grazing before August 1. Grazing permitted in Evolution Meadow. No picketing permitted.

EVOLUTION LAKE: Closed to grazing of pack and saddle stock. Burros and walking mules parties allowed one (1) night's grazing.

McGEE LAKES: Closed to stock travel above the McGee Canyon Meadow beginning at the 10,400 foot level.


Henry G. Schmidt
Superintendent

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT
UNITS



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Appendix F

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Three Rivers, California 93271

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HIGH ELEVATION NATURALLY OCCURRING FIRES

Authority to let natural occurring fire burn is found in Administrative Policies for Natural Areas of the National Park System. Paragraph 2 under the subject "Fire" on page 17 states:

"Fires in vegetation resulting from natural causes are recognized as natural phenomena and may be allowed to run their course when such burning can be contained within predetermined fire management units and when such burning will contribute to the accomplishment of approved vegetation and/or wildlife management objectives."

The quoted paragraph stipulates two conditions:

1. Burning "can be contained within predetermined fire management units."
2. Burning "will contribute to the accomplishment of approved vegetation and/or wildlife management objectives."

Relative to these conditions:

1. Experience and investigation indicate, in the areas outlined herein, naturally occurring wildfire can readily be contained.
2. Administrative Policies states, "The presence or absence of natural fire within a given habitat is recognized as one of the ecological factors contributing to the perpetuation of plants and animals native to that habitat."

Since it is our objective to perpetuate plants and animals of the habitats included in the management unit and since, as recognized by Service Policy, natural fire is a factor contributing to the perpetuation of such plants and animals, condition 2 above is satisfied.

The following procedures will be followed in implementing the plan:

1. Fires occurring in the unit will be detected by normal aerial and/or ground techniques. Naturally occurring fires will not be suppressed.
2. A complete daily report of naturally occurring fires in the unit will be tendered each morning after reconnaissance flights.

3. At any time the Park Fire Chief, Acting Fire Chief, or a quorum of the Wildfire Committee can order the fire suppressed or order and direct other appropriate suppression activity which will keep the fire within the unit or otherwise manipulate the fire to eventually limit its size by directing it against natural fuel breaks which, for the most part, include discontinuities in the vegetative cover such as barren open rocky areas, ridges, non-flammable types (wet meadows), streams, etc.

Generally, we are allowing naturally occurring wildfires to burn in all Park lands over 9,000 feet in elevation, except where fuels are continuous across Park boundaries. In addition, significant acreage below 9,000 feet elevation has been included in management units. Such areas are described below:

1. In the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Kings River, all areas above 8,000 feet in elevation are included in the management unit.
2. All of Kern Canyon north of Lower Funston Meadow.
3. All of the Roaring River drainage lying south and east of Sugarloaf Creek.
4. The Hockett Plateau from Cahoon Ridge east to the Hockett Crest.
5. Across other drainages the plan includes some area below 9,000 feet in elevation. Here, strict adherence to a 9,000 foot contour would result in many miles of additional unit boundary which would be difficult to define and which would make it very difficult to decide whether fire was in or out of the unit.

A map showing unit boundaries is available in the offices of the Chief Ranger, Resources Management Specialist, Fire Control Officer, Kings River District Ranger, and the Kaweah River District Ranger.

Superintendent's Office
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Three Rivers, California 93271

February 2, 1972

BACKCOUNTRY STAFFING - 1973

Appendix G

Maintenance

Permanent

2 Maintenance Foremen

Other than Permanent

14 Laborers

5 Animal Packers

1 Animal Packer Leader

6 Trail Maintenance Leader

1 Motor Vehicle Operator

1 Trail Maintenceman

Rangers

Permanent

4 Supervisory Park Rangers

Other than Permanent

22 Park Ranger, General

1 Clerk

Ranger-Naturalist

None

Resources Management

Permanent

0

Other than Permanent *

6 Soil and Moisture (Includes Forestry Leader, Sawyer, Axeman)

3 Indian Neighborhood Youth Corps

1 Animal Packer

* Part of field season is spent in backcountry

1972 BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL INTO THE PARKS

Based on Information from Fire and Wilderness Permits Issued in 1972

ENTRANCE	NO. of PEOPLE	VISITOR DAYS
NORTH LAKE	125	487
SOUTH LAKE (BISHOP PASS)	2,834	11,053
TABOOSE PASS	547	2,133
SAWMILL PASS	361	1,408
BAXTER PASS	224	874
ONION VALLEY	3,448	13,447
SHEPHERD PASS	679	2,648
WHITNEY PORTAL	10,356	40,388
	(9,376 Summit 937 to Muir Trail)	
COTTONWOOD LAKES (NEW ARMY)	1,163	4,536
SIBERIAN PASS	823	3,210
KERN RANGER STATION	822	3,206
COYOITE PASS	52	203
SHOTGUN PASS	61	238
FRANKLIN PASS	1,727	6,735
SAWTOOTH PASS	1,314	5,125
TIMBER GAP	653	2,547
ATWELL MILL	233	909
HOCKETT MEADOW	593	2,313
WET MEADOWS	65	254
QUINN RANGER STATION	61	238
SUMMIT LAKE	235	916
CLOUGH CAVE	441	1,720
MIDDLE FORK KAWEAH	610	2,379
CRESCENT MEADOW	2,415	9,418
WOLVERTON	2,008	1,807
PEAR LAKE	1,794	6,997
TWIN LAKES	2,215	8,638
JO PASS	178	694
SUGARLOAF	2,409	9,395
BUBBS CREEK	3,395	13,240
WOODS CREEK	3,951	15,409
COPPER CREEK	1,994	7,777
LEWIS CREEK	310	1,209
CROWN VALLEY	56	218
N. FORK (HELL-FOR-SURE)	64	250
PIUTE ENTRANCE	<u>2,779</u>	<u>10,838</u>
SEASON TOTALS	50,995	192,857

Avg. Group Size = 3.5 people

Avg. Length of Stay = 3.9 days/person

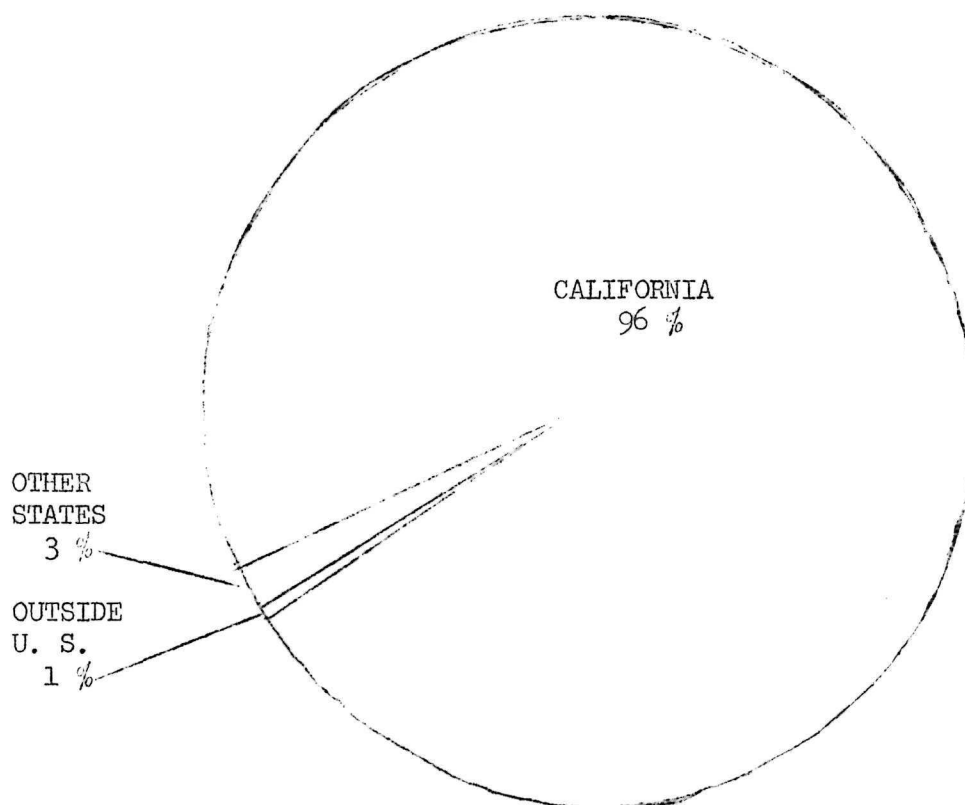
Visitor Day = 24 hour day

Appendix H (Continued)

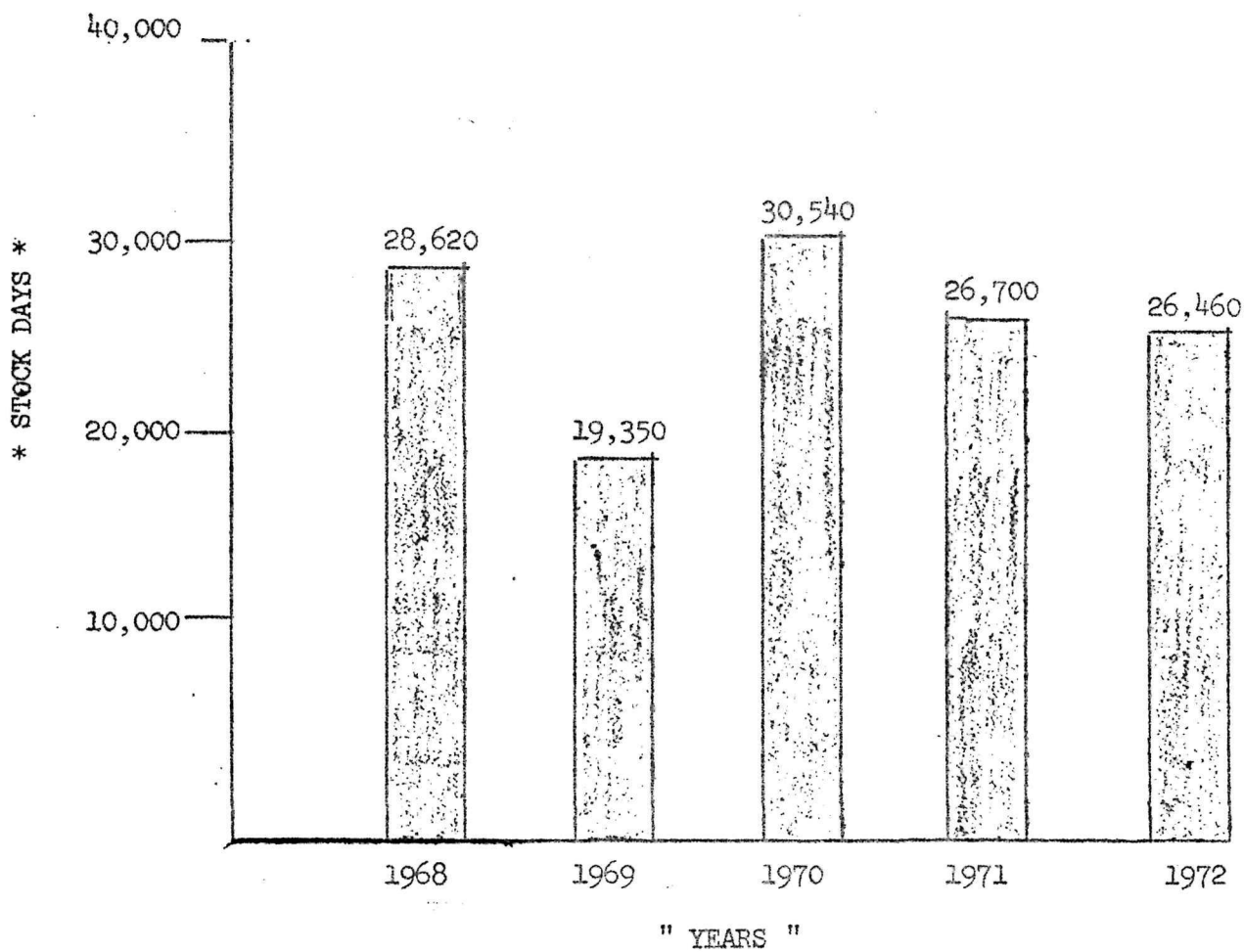
GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF CALIFORNIA BY % - % OF TOTAL PEOPLE

<u>REGION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PEOPLE (VISITORS)</u>
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA : 2 %	1,020
BAY AREA : 11 %	5,609
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA : 27 %	13,769
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA : 56 %	28,557
OTHER STATES : 3 %	1,530
OUTSIDE U. S. : <u>1 %</u>	<u>510</u>
100 %	50,995 - TOTALS **

** Of the above TOTALS figures, 96 % (or 48,955 VISITORS) are California residents. See graph illustration below.



U.S. GOVERNMENT			CONCESSIONER		COMMERCIAL PACKERS		PRIVATE STOCK		TOTALS	
Year	No. of Stock	Stock Days	Cedar Grove Wolverton No. of Stock	Stock Days	No. of Stock	Stock Days	No. of Stock	Stock Days	No. of Stock	Stock Days
1972	76	15,120	165	3420	888	7350	56	570	1185	26,460
1971	73	15,600	165	2940	871	7560	187	540	1296	26,700
1970	87	14,820	165	3480	1035	11,460	217	780	1504	30,540
1969	64	9570	245	5640	494	3900	102	240	905	19,350
1968	58	13,920	143	1970	1012	11,010	209	720	1422	28,620
1967	57	9240	42	330	942	9900	178	540	1219	20,010
1966	58	9180	183	3330	978	12,090	249	930	1468	25,530
1965	57	5130	183	5220	943	9300	426	1920	1609	21,570
1964	58	15,000	1252	14,550	---	---	175	1560	1485	31,110
1963	67	19,320	866	9600	---	---	---	---	---	---



TOTAL PACK & SADDLE STOCK USE
Includes NPS and all others

1968 - 1972

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

TOTAL BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL

1971 and 1972

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Visitors	44,160	50,995
Visitor Days*	207,788	192,857
Average Length of Stay in Days	4.7	3.9

*Visitor Days = 24-hour day.

For 12-hour day, multiply number by two (2).

Policies and Objectives

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

The unusually rugged alpine topography, generally favorable and open summer weather, a twelve thousand foot differential in elevation, and relatively heavy visitor use in these National Parks require judicious use of various types of transportation to deal with requirements of visitor safety and protection; fire suppression; trail, facility, and resource maintenance in the backcountry. Pack and saddle stock, foot travel, and, more recently, aircraft, particularly the helicopter, provide reasonable means of transportation and access in the backcountry to accomplish the management mission of the National Park Service. Each of these modes of transportation has its place in the Parks' backcountry depending on the particular time and circumstances of the situation at hand and the nature of the terrain and weather. At various times each of these transportation methods is necessary, singly or in combination, to deal with a particular situation. There is no intention to eliminate any of them in favor of the other because each must be available at any given time to adequately deal with regular activities and contingencies. Minimum impact on Park resources and values must be considered in deciding on the method of transportation required for any particular mission. The following general policies will apply in selecting a particular method of transportation or combination thereof in these Parks:

Saddle and Pack Stock. Both privately owned and NPS stock will be used on a priority basis on regular and emergency conditions where minimum impact on Park values and resources can be maintained and economy of operations justify such use provided the stock is available for the mission under consideration.

Aircraft. Helicopter use is permissible in emergency situations involving human life or protection of threatened Park resources, or when such use offers significant economy advantages and minimum disturbance to visitor enjoyment and Park resources. In no circumstances will helicopter use be authorized except for missions of public safety, resource management or strictly Park management activities. Cooperating Federal, State, local government, and contractors with the Service may use helicopters in these Parks when in compliance with foregoing policy with advance permission of the Superintendent. Fixed wing aircraft may be used for public safety emergencies; fire presuppression and suppression aerial observation and reporting activities, as well as State fish planting; but landing of such aircraft in the Parks will not be permitted.

Foot Travel. Such travel is encouraged by Park personnel in areas where the majority of visitors are hikers and backpackers, as well as in trailless or primitive and unique areas where other means of travel may unduly affect the environment.

Motorized Vehicles. These vehicles are not permitted on Park trails for any reason.

/s/ JOHN S. McLAUGHLIN

March 29, 1972

Superintendent