
Part 1—Vision

Purpose of the Monument Plan

The purpose of the Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan (Monument Plan) is to provide overall strategic guidance for managing the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Monument). The unique and special features of the Monument—the giant sequoia groves, the ecosystems that support them, and the other objects of interest—are what make the Monument what it is: a special area that merits careful management, protection, and preservation. This plan provides for the protection of the objects of interest while encouraging continued public and recreation access and use consistent with the purposes of the Monument (Clinton 2000, p. 24097). It contributes to social, economic, and ecological sustainability by guiding the restoration or maintenance of the health of the land in the Monument.

This Monument Plan was developed for the selected alternative, Alternative B, as identified in the Giant Sequoia National Monument Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The FEIS describes the analysis used in formulating the Monument Plan. A Record of Decision is also available that identifies the selected alternative and the rationale used in making the decision.

The Monument Plan provides the strategic direction at the broad program level for managing the Monument and its resources over the next 10 to 15 years. It includes the direction required by the Clinton proclamation (Proclamation), and it replaces, in its entirety, all previous management direction for the Monument, including the direction in the 1988 Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for this part of the Sequoia National Forest. It is the single comprehensive management plan for this area. While the Monument Plan is a stand-alone document, it is also a subset of the entire Forest Plan.

This strategic direction was developed by an interdisciplinary planning team working with forest staff, making use of extensive public involvement and collaboration, and the best science available. The Monument Plan implements the Proclamation by providing guidance to protect the objects of interest, restore ecosystems, and provide opportunities for public use. It provides a context for informed

decision making, while guiding resource management programs, practices, uses, and projects. It will guide the development and analysis of resource management activities in future site-specific projects to move resources toward the desired conditions for the Monument.

This plan does not include any decisions on specific projects or activities. Those decisions will be made later, after more detailed analysis of specific project sites and additional public involvement on site-specific proposals. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required for any project-level decision that may have an effect on the environment. Project-level decisions must be informed by site-specific analysis through an open, public process.

The Monument Plan is adaptive in that new knowledge and information can be analyzed and the plan changed, if appropriate, at any time. It provides overall intent and guidance, but provides the flexibility needed for the responsible official to work with the public and adapt management strategies to the constantly changing demands that are inherent to natural resource management. It defines the parameters (limits) for management but allows for the adjustment of future project-level decisions to accommodate rapidly changing social and resource conditions. This allows the latest science and public input to be employed at the time a decision is to be made.

The Monument Plan was prepared according to the requirements of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219 (77 FR 21260, April 9, 2012), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1509. NFMA's current implementing regulations at 36 CFR 219.17(b)(3) (77 FR at 21270) allow the use of the provisions of the prior planning regulation, including its transition provisions (2000 Planning Rule at 36 CFR 219.35(a) and (b) [2010], December 18, 2009). The transition provisions of the 2000 planning rule allow the use of the prior planning regulation promulgated in 1982. The Monument

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Plan was developed using the process outlined in the 1982 planning regulations, while considering the best available science as required by the 2000 rule transition provisions (36 CFR 219.35(a) (2010)).

Unless otherwise noted, all subsequent citations to “36 CFR 219” in this document refer to the 1982 planning process: see 36 CFR Part 219 (2000).

Organization of the Monument Plan

This Monument Plan consists of four interrelated parts that work together to facilitate the use of adaptive management and the development of management activities that will move the Monument toward the desired conditions. Part 1—Vision paints the picture of the conditions desired in the long term. Part 2—Strategy contains the strategic management direction. Part 3—Design Criteria contains the guidance for designing actions and activities in order to make progress toward the vision and desired conditions described in Part 1. Part 4 contains the Transportation Plan for the Monument.

Part 1 is the Vision for the Monument. It includes the purpose of the Monument Plan, the relationship of the Monument Plan to other documents, and a description of the Monument. Part 1 discusses the Monument niche (the Monument’s uniqueness on a national and regional level) and its recreation niche. Part 1 also describes the desired conditions (36 CFR 219.11(b)⁽¹⁾) for the resources of the Monument.

Part 2 is the Strategy for the Monument. It begins by identifying generally suitable land uses and activities

for the Monument. It then lays out the management strategies and objectives (36 CFR 219.11 (b)⁽²⁾) that the Forest Service will strive to achieve in order to move the Monument toward the desired conditions described in Part 1. Part 2 also identifies special areas in the Monument (36 CFR 219.17⁽³⁾), as well as the land allocations and management areas (36 CFR 219.11(c)⁽⁴⁾) for the Monument.

Part 3 is the Design Criteria for the Monument. The design criteria include the laws and regulations, treatment and clear need criteria, the decision tree, standards and guidelines (36 CFR 219.11(c) and 219.13 through 219.29⁽⁵⁾), and monitoring and evaluation procedures that will be used during site-specific project planning and implementation. Design criteria are sideboards for subsequent projects and activities to help achieve the desired conditions.

Part 4 is the Transportation Plan for the Monument. Required by the Proclamation, it provides a framework by which to manage the transportation system and make future decisions concerning changes to it.

1. These are 1982 regulations that are no longer in the CFR, but are still applicable to this plan amendment.

2. Ibid.

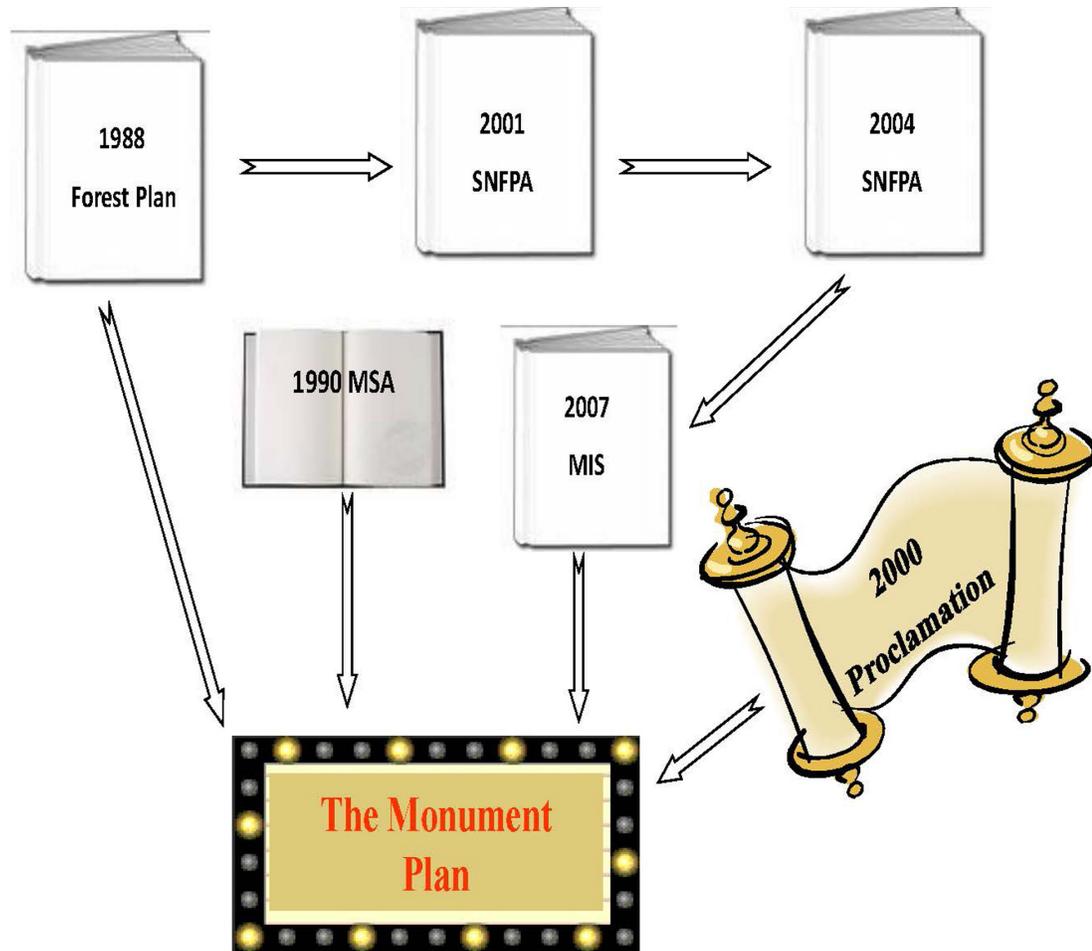
3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

5. Ibid.

Relationship of the Monument Plan to Other Documents

Figure 1 Management Direction and Guidance for the Monument



The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Monument Plan EIS amends the existing 1988 Forest Plan, as amended by the 1991 Kings River Wild and Scenic River and Special Management Area Implementation Plan (KRSMA), the 2001 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001 SNFPA), and the 2007 Sierra Nevada Forest Management Indicator Species Amendment (SNF MIS). The Monument Plan was developed using the guidance and management direction provided by the 1990 Mediated Settlement

Agreement (MSA) and is constrained by that which is applicable to the Monument and consistent with the Proclamation. The Monument Plan also considers the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2004 SNFPA), but is not constrained by its management recommendations. The Monument Plan was guided by the best available science, a thorough review of relevant scientific information, and practical experience, as required by national forest planning direction and the Proclamation.

Monument Description

The Giant Sequoia National Monument (Monument) is located in south-central California and covers 328,315 acres administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest (see location maps in Appendices A and B). Created by presidential proclamation on April 15, 2000, the “rich and varied landscape of the Giant Sequoia National Monument

holds a diverse array of scientific and historic resources. Magnificent groves of towering giant sequoias, the world’s largest trees, are interspersed within a great belt of coniferous forest, jeweled with mountain meadows. Bold granitic domes, spires, and plunging gorges texture the landscape” (Clinton 2000, p. 24095).

Vision

The Monument is set apart and reserved for the purpose of protecting the objects of interest identified in the Proclamation, for their proper care and management (Clinton 2000). The objects of interest were generally identified in the Proclamation, with the requirement that the Monument Plan provide direction for their proper care. Through public and agency dialogue, the objects of interest have been determined to be a mix of individual objects or locations (such as specific caverns or named sequoias) and broad ecosystems with their natural processes. For the purpose of managing the Monument, the Forest Service has refined the list of objects of interest as follows:

- The naturally-occurring giant sequoia groves and their associated ecosystems, individual giant trees, and other rare and endemic plant species listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive by the Endangered Species Act or the Forest Service.
- The ecosystems and outstanding landscapes that surround the giant sequoia groves.
- The diverse array of rare animal species, including the Pacific fisher; the great gray owl; the American marten; the northern goshawk; the peregrine falcon; the California spotted owl; the California condor; several rare amphibians; the western

pond turtle; and other species listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive by the Endangered Species Act or the Forest Service.

- The paleontological resources in meadow sediments and other sources of recorded ecological changes such as fire regimes, volcanism, vegetation, and climate.
- The limestone caverns and other geological features, including granite domes, spires, geothermally produced hot springs and soda springs, and glacial and river-carved gorges.
- Cultural resources, both historic and prehistoric, which provide a record of human adaptation to the landscape and land use patterns that have shaped ecosystems.

The Monument provides for and encourages continued public and recreation access and use consistent with protecting the objects of interest (Clinton 2000). The Monument provides exemplary opportunities for biologists, geologists, paleontologists, archaeologists, and historians to study the objects of interest; for understanding ongoing environmental changes; and for studying forest resilience and the consequences of different approaches to forest restoration (Clinton 2000).

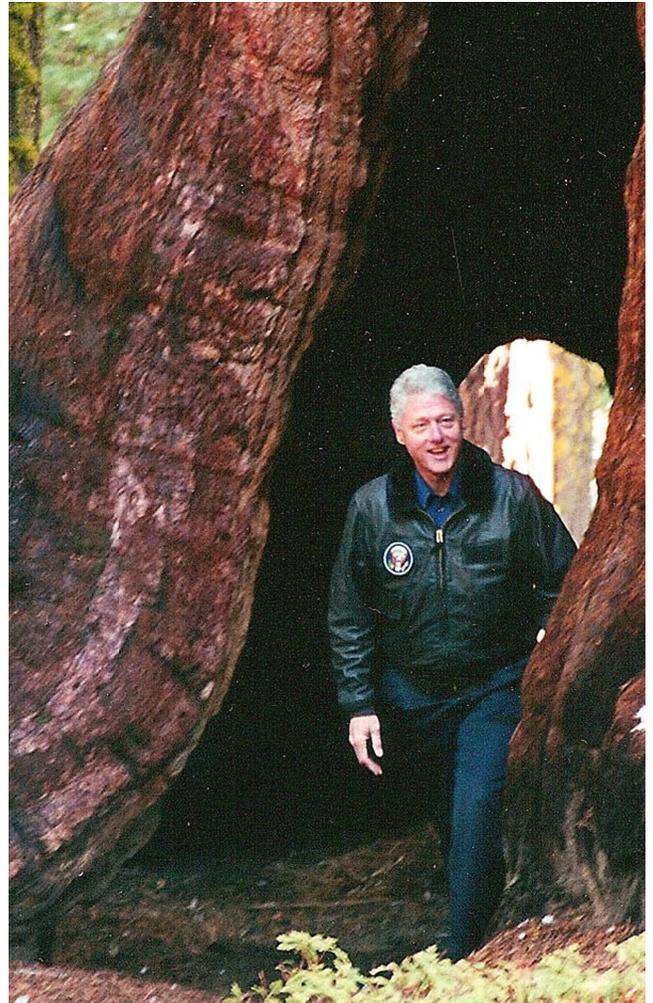
Monument Niche

Giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) grow only on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in California. These trees can tower 270 feet high and reach 30 feet in diameter. Located at the southernmost end of the Sierra Nevada in central California, the Sequoia National Forest, named for the world's largest trees, contains the greatest concentration of giant sequoia groves in the world. Thirty-three groves and the areas around them are protected within the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Monument) (see the list in Appendix C and the map in Appendix D).

The Monument is unique as it is the only national monument in California that was designated by presidential proclamation. With authority vested in the American Antiquities Act of 1906, in April 2000, President Clinton set aside and reserved the Monument for the purpose of protecting the objects of interest.

The rich and varied landscape of the Giant Sequoia National Monument holds a diverse array of scientific and historic resources. Magnificent groves of towering giant sequoias, the world's largest trees, are interspersed within a great belt of coniferous forest, jeweled with mountain meadows. Bold granitic domes, spires, and plunging gorges texture the landscape. The area's elevation climbs from about 2,500 to 9,700 feet over a distance of only a few miles, capturing an extraordinary number of habitats within a relatively small area. This spectrum of ecosystems is home to a diverse array of plants and animals, many of which are rare or endemic to the southern Sierra Nevada. The monument embraces limestone caverns and holds unique paleontological resources documenting tens of thousands of years of ecosystem change. The monument also has many archaeological sites recording Native American occupation and adaptations to this complex landscape, and historic remnants of early Euroamerican settlement as well as the commercial exploitation of the giant sequoias (Clinton 2000, p. 24095).

The Monument's landscape is as spectacular as its trees. Soaring granite monoliths, glacier-carved canyons, limestone caves, roaring world-class



Picture 1 President Clinton next to the giant sequoia where the Proclamation was signed (April 2000)

whitewater, and scenic lakes and reservoirs await visitors' discovery at the Sierra Nevada's southern reach. The Monument offers visitors spectacular views in a dramatic range of settings. These mountains stand in contrast to California's San Joaquin Valley, providing cool relief for families from the scorching heat of summer and welcome blue skies and sun during the cold fog of winter. From the dramatic Kings Canyon, through the ancient giant sequoias, down to the mighty Kern River, the Monument features diverse settings and special places.

The Monument is well-known for these settings and places. These settings, as well as other outstanding features that are less well-known, are important to

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individuals and create strong connections to place, which may come from personal experience or from someone else’s experience. Places have particular meaning for individuals, and each person can have that attachment for a different place or multiple locations, which may vary with the activity, such as a favorite camping spot, or a favorite trail, or a favorite vista point. No one place can satisfy that connection for all people. The place and the reason for the attachment are as individual as the person.

The Giant Sequoia National Monument is a unique place, highly valued by its neighbors, visitors, and distant admirers. Giant sequoias are a symbolic vestige of the wild Sierra, evoking a deep emotional response, even from people who have never experienced their grandeur firsthand.

Over the years, people have named a number of individual giant sequoia trees or stumps. Some of these trees or stumps have multiple names. The reason they were named is often unknown and is the subject of speculation and stories passed down through the generations. These named trees or stumps are still important to people and represent part of the cultural landscape of the Monument. However, current Forest Service policy is to avoid any further naming of giant sequoia trees. The following table lists the known officially named giant sequoia trees and stumps in the Monument. Named giant sequoia have either been identified on the forest recreation map or in officially published documents such as *The Giant Sequoias of California*, published by the United States Government Printing Office in 1942.

Table 1 Named Giant Sequoias

Tree Stump	Grove Name	Ranger District	Remarks
Boole	Converse Basin (includes Cabin Creek Grove)	Hume Lake	Largest giant sequoia on National Forest System lands
Chicago Stump	Converse Basin	Hume Lake	Formerly the General Noble Tree—cut for the 1893 World Fair in Chicago
Bush	Freeman Creek	Western Divide	Named for President George H.W. Bush in 1992

Recreation Niche

The recreation niche is what the Monument has to offer in terms of special places, opportunities, and potential experiences, overlapped with what people desire and expect in terms of outdoor recreation from public lands. The Monument is best known for particular attributes or settings, including giant sequoias and their ecosystems. The following settings can be found within the Monument:

- **Rivers and Lakes:** Water is the magnet, featuring world-class whitewater and attracting family use at Hume Lake and the Kern, Kings, and Tule rivers (high niche conformance⁶).
- **Scenic Routes:** These routes offer great views through a range of life zones, providing access to adventure and discovery (high niche conformance).

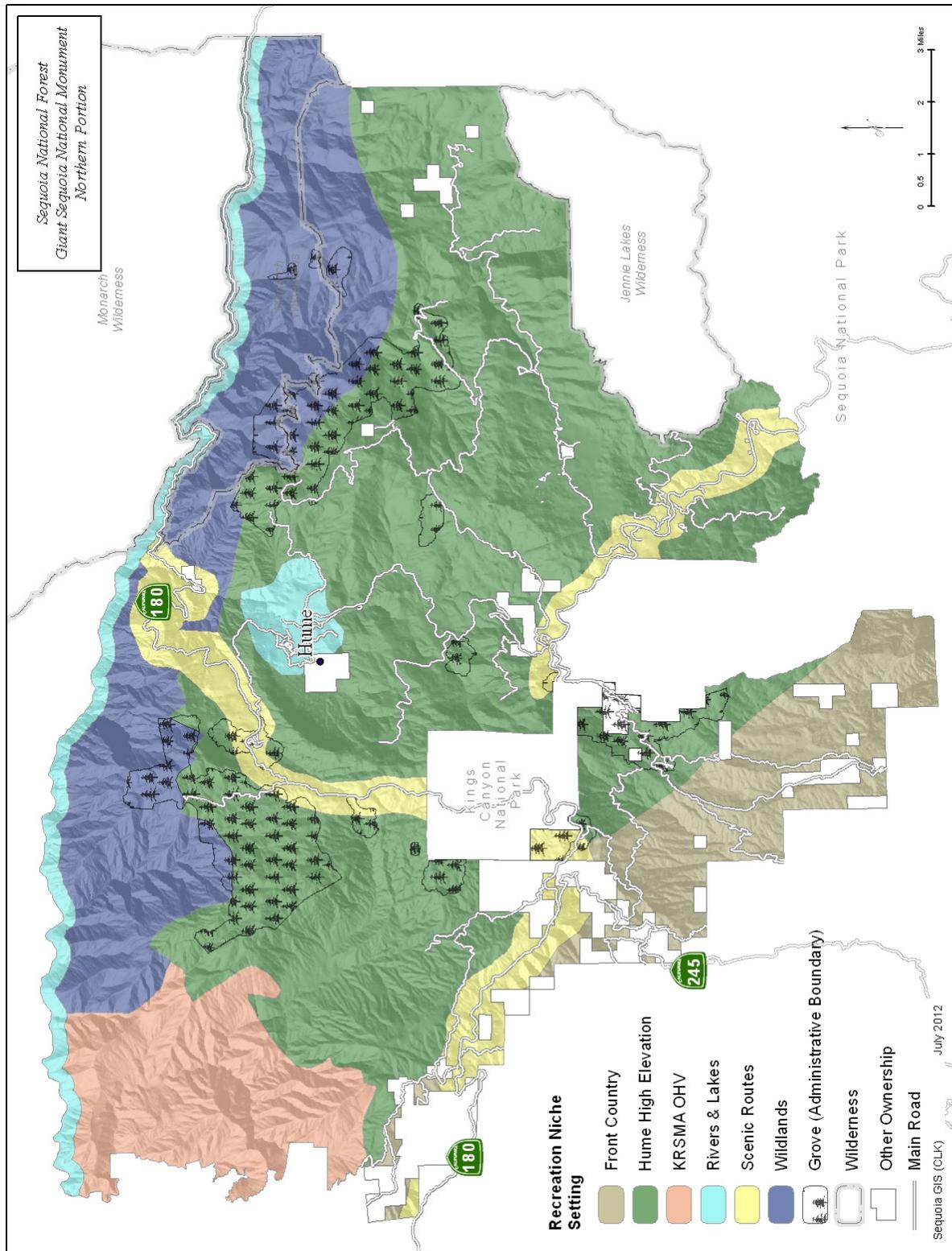
- **Great Western Divide:** Giant sequoias and dispersed recreation (high niche conformance).
- **Lloyd Meadow:** Spectacular Kern Canyon views; rock climbing on granite formations; dispersed recreation; giant sequoias (high niche conformance).
- **Hume High Elevation:** Overnight destination with giant sequoia logging history; wilderness access; intertwined with national parks (high niche conformance).
- **Wildlands:** Includes parts of two wildernesses in the Monument and a few other areas, offering solitude and scenic backdrop (moderate niche conformance).
- **Front Country:** Year-round access; desirable in spring (wildflowers) and fall (hunting); very hot in summer; chaparral, oak to mixed conifer (low niche conformance).
- **Kings River Special Management Area OHV:** Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the

6. How well those settings fit with what the forest is known for is called niche conformance. However, just because a setting is noted as having low or moderate niche conformance does not mean that those settings are not important to individuals; their own connection to place may be strongest for some of those locations.

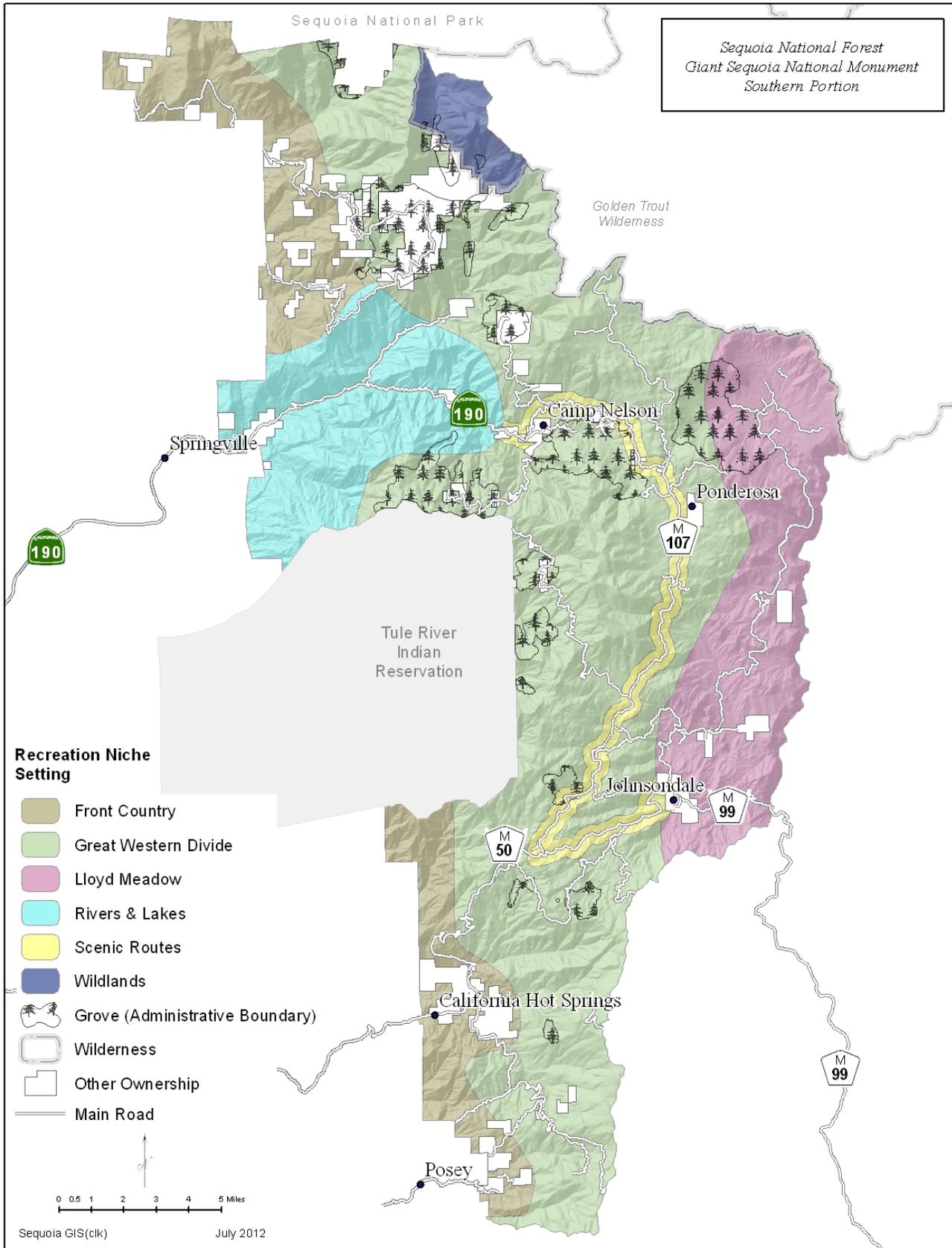
Monument, authorized by law; this steep canyon offers motorized trails with solitude (low niche conformance).

Maps 1 and 2 display the recreation niche settings established for the Monument.

Map 1 Recreation Niche Settings for the Northern Portion of the Monument

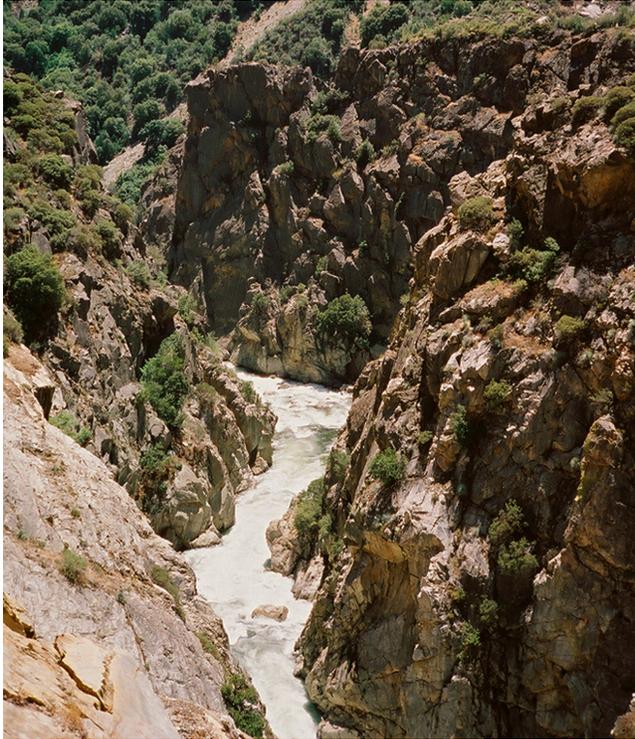


Map 2 Recreation Niche Settings for the Southern Portion of the Monument



The recreation niche settings, as delineated for the entire Sequoia National Forest, are further divided into places and are described in the following paragraphs.

Rivers and Lakes



Picture 2 Kings River

Kings River

The Kings River forms the boundary between the Sierra National Forest and the Sequoia National Forest. Portions of the river in both forests are designated as wild and scenic. The Kings River Special Management Area (KRSMA), a congressionally designated area, also lies in both forests, but is administered by the Sierra. The river formed the world-renowned Kings Canyon, which is more than 8,000 feet deep, located in both the national forest and the adjacent Kings Canyon National Park. Both the Middle and South Forks begin in Kings Canyon National Park and flow down through portions of the Monarch Wilderness in the national forests.

Highway 180, which is the Kings Canyon Scenic Byway, drops into the Kings River Gorge along the South Fork and provides the only vehicle access to

the Cedar Grove portion of Kings Canyon National Park. This highway provides access for sightseeing tourists along the South Fork of the Kings River, to Cedar Grove, and to the wilderness trailheads. This is a prime fly fishing area.

The junction of the South and Middle Forks is also the eastern boundary of the KRSMA, which extends west along the main stem of the Kings River to Mill Flat Campground, and includes the surrounding lands up to the main ridges of the Kings River Gorge. This section of the river has steep terrain and very limited access, so this part of the KRSMA has little visitation. It is visited mostly by anglers accessing the river on the Yucca Point or Mill Flat Creek Trails (Forest Trails 28E01 and 27E01).

From Mill Flat Campground west to Pine Flat Reservoir, Mountain Road 2 and Road 12S01 provide vehicle access to the river. Portions of the Kings River are famous for whitewater rafting and fly fishing.

The main stem of the Kings River (west of KRSMA) is popular with activity-oriented adventure seekers such as whitewater rafters (managed by the Sierra National Forest), anglers, water players (couples and families), and social gatherers.

Hume Lake

This area includes the Hume Lake Campground, multiple day use sites, a group camp, and a recreation residence tract. The lake was once a mill pond created



Picture 3 Hume Lake

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by the Hume Bennett Lumber Company during the historic logging period. Now the lake draws huge crowds during the summer months. The campground is often full. People staying overnight in other areas often use the facilities here during the day. At about 5,200 feet in elevation, the reservoir is located in mixed conifer forest within the Monument. The Hume Lake Dam, designed by John Eastwood in 1908, is the first concrete-reinforced multiple arch dam to be constructed in the United States. The dam is being considered for nomination as a national historic landmark. An interpretive trail was developed around the lake, part of which is accessible for persons with disabilities. The Hume Lake Christian Conference, which is highly developed and nationally known, is located on private land at one end of the lake and is open year-round.

Forest experience seekers, anglers, water players, and social gatherers use the area. Sightseeing tourists overflow from the national parks and the Hume Lake Christian Conference. Because of these influences, visitors tend to be family-oriented and very interested in learning. Overnight camping, non-motorized boating, picnicking, fishing, water play, and hiking are popular activities.

Tule River

Originating in high-elevation alpine meadows, the three branches of the Tule River flow through the Monument. Steep canyons escort the three forks as they drop in elevation and meet in Lake Success reservoir. The rural community of Springville, at 1,000 feet elevation, is developing quickly and serves as a gateway to the Monument. The Tule River Indian Reservation, the second largest in California, surrounds the South Fork of the Tule River. Special management challenges include fire, hydroelectric power projects, urban interface, crowd and traffic control, litter, graffiti, and gang-related problems.

The Tule River corridor is a year-round refuge for recreation, providing relaxation for neighbors (communities of Porterville, Springville, Pierpoint Springs, Camp Nelson, Sequoia Crest, Ponderosa), anglers and hunters, social gatherers, water players



Picture 4 Tule River

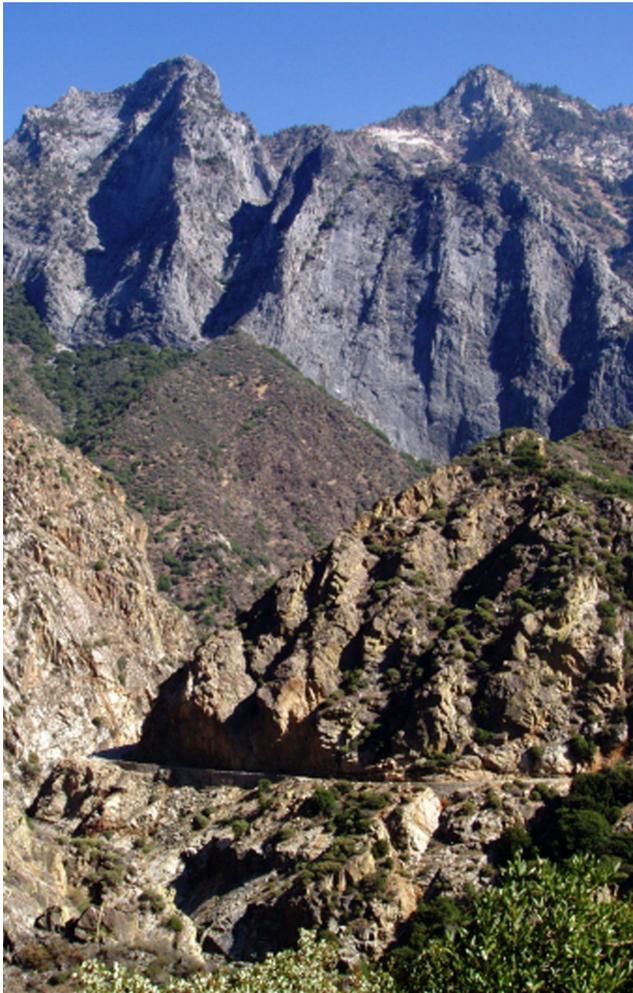
(residents of the central valley), and sightseeing tourists. Proximity and easy access allow lower income groups to frequently use the river corridor. Youth, Hispanic, and Asian visitors are numerous. The rapidly developing community of Springville is attracting retirees and families from the urban areas of California, many of whom have little experience with the urban/wildland issues of a foothill community.

Scenic Routes

Kings Canyon Scenic Byway

This scenic route transects a number of recreation settings: Front Country, Hume High Elevation, and Rivers and Lakes. The Kings Canyon Scenic Byway is the only designated national forest scenic byway in the Sequoia National Forest, and it provides the only vehicle access into the world-renowned Kings Canyon. This area of the forest is strongly influenced by visitors to the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Grant Grove, the Kings River, the Monarch Wilderness, Grizzly Falls, and Boyden Cavern are popular attractions along the route. Elevations range from 2,000 to 8,000 feet.

Sightseeing tourists (accessing the national parks) and forest experience seekers (central valley residents



Picture 5 Kings Canyon Scenic Byway

escaping the summer heat) use the route to reach favorite recreation destinations. Some wilderness users travel this route to reach backcountry and wilderness. Environmental students and geology enthusiasts are drawn to the rare folded rock formations along the highway and other outstanding geological characteristics.

Generals Highway

This route travels through National Forest System lands connecting Sequoia National Park with Kings Canyon National Park. The road is high elevation that is closed periodically during the winter when snow makes travel questionable for passenger vehicles. Routes that go to Jennie Lakes Wilderness, Buck Rock, the Big Meadows area, and Ten Mile Road are accessed from this highway. Management challenges include risks associated with wildfire, urban/private property, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks interface. Visitation rates and visitor expectations for scenery are high because of the adjacent national parks.

Western Divide Highway

Steep mountains with granite outcrops rising from 4,500 feet to 10,000 feet in elevation, mixed conifer forests with multiple giant sequoia groves, and mountain meadows characterize this area. This setting shares a boundary with the Tule River Indian Reservation. Several small residential communities, recreation rental cabins, recreation residences, and the popular Trail of 100 Giants are in this setting. Special management challenges include giant sequoia health, fisher habitat, off-highway vehicle (OHV) and over-snow vehicle (OSV) use, public use and the need for patrols, wildland urban intermix, and proximity to Mountain Home State Forest.

Visitors include sightseeing tourists, including international visitors from European and Asian countries, forest experience seekers and their families escaping the heat of summer, and individuals from all market zones. Hispanic and Southeast Asian visitation is increasing. Hunters, anglers, and traditional users frequent developed and dispersed camping sites. Activity-oriented adventure seekers are attracted to



Picture 6 View of Needles from Dome Rock

outstanding rock climbing opportunities, stock use, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and OHV and OSV use.

Great Western Divide

The Great Western Divide is the high elevation ridge line that breaks the Sierra Nevada range into two watersheds. This area has 19 recorded giant sequoia groves. Old growth forests provide habitat for rare wildlife species such as the Pacific fisher. Meadows, some lined with aspen groves, creeks with waterfalls, and distant vistas are abundant. Needles and Dome Rock are spectacular, high profile granite monoliths. Slate Mountain is an unusual and prominent landmark with a botanical area hosting rare plants. Jordan and Mule Peak are still in operation as fire lookouts, and they are open to the public. Scenic attributes cover a wide variety of habitats including old growth forests with rare wildlife species, giant sequoia groves, meadows, aspen groves, creeks with waterfalls, views to distinctive ridge lines at Slate Mountain, Jordan Peak, Mule Peak; and geological features of Needles and Dome Rock.

Lloyd Meadow

This high mountain shelf, in the Monument between the Western Divide and the Kern Plateau, has an average elevation of 5,500 feet. The southern third of this meadow was burned in the McNally Fire of 2002. Granite formations and expansive vistas of the Kern River and Kern Plateau are enjoyed from many areas. Special management challenges include lost visitors, visitor safety, patrolling, and litter.

Activity-oriented adventure seekers (rock climbers, equestrians), social gatherers, forest experience seekers, traditional users, hunters, anglers, and wilderness users (accessing trailheads or coming from organizational camps) are primary users.



Picture 7 View from Lloyd Meadow Road

This area is a generational destination and family use area. Native American, international, and out-of-state use is increasing. Organizational camps contribute a youth component in the summer. Popular activities are dispersed camping, water play at the “tubs and slides,” equestrian use, developed camping, group use (non-commercial), rafting and kayaking the Forks of the Kern, hunting, fishing, rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, and viewing the George Bush Tree. Outfitter guides provide services for some of these activities. This area contains the only access point for boaters starting the Forks of the Kern run and provides early season access to wilderness.

Hume High Elevation

Located in the northern portion of the Monument in the Hume Lake Ranger District, this area is strongly influenced by the national parks and the Hume Lake Christian Camps. Elevations range from 4,000 to 8,000 feet in mixed conifer forest, with one of the largest concentrations of giant sequoia groves. Visitors have many opportunities to discover and explore these groves in their natural, wild condition, while enjoying outstanding scenery, including Buck Rock and vistas of the Sierra high country and into Kings Canyon. Special management challenges include coordination of the fee program with the National Park Service.

Year-round use is by sightseeing tourists (many are out-of-state and international), traditional users with long-standing family traditions, forest experience seekers (mostly central valley residents, with nontraditional user groups of Hispanic and Hmong), some activity-oriented adventure seekers (equestrian camp), wilderness users, and environmental students and enthusiasts visiting the sequoia groves. Popular activities include camping in developed sites, day use, social gatherings, dispersed camping,

hiking, equestrian camping, hunting, fishing, rock climbing, and OHV and OSV use (designated roads only). This area provides wilderness access, two resorts, a recreation rental cabin, a pack station, and organizational camps.

Wildlands

Wildlands include designated wilderness and a few other areas with limited access. The following places are in the Monument: parts of the Golden Trout Wilderness and the Monarch Wilderness, the Agnew Roadless Area, and part of the KRSMA (non-OHV portion).

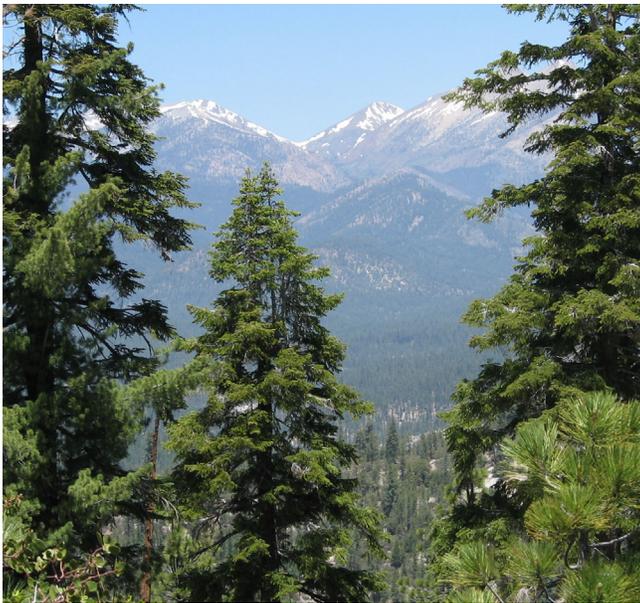
This setting offers the best opportunities for solitude and those recreation experiences centered on self-reliance. No developed facilities and very, very steep slopes characterize these lands. Many areas have significant geological formations. Historic cabins and trails, and a wide range of settings and physical challenges, draw visitors who desire experiences in these remote locations; wilderness attracts a relatively small number of visitors to the Monument. Special management challenges include shared



Picture 8 Hume High Elevation

management and needed coordination for some of these areas, managed wildfire, grazing, private inholdings, administrative facilities, trail maintenance, group use management, feral pigs, threatened and endangered species, OHV trespass and encroachment, permits, marijuana cultivation, and archaeological site protection. The Monarch Wilderness is shared with the Sierra National Forest, the Golden Trout is shared with the Inyo National Forest, and KRSMA is administered by the Sierra National Forest.

Wilderness visitors are generally tough, adventurous types, and use is predominantly in the summer months. Outfitters and guides operate in these areas, bringing in anglers, hunters, and sightseers.



Picture 9 Golden Trout Wilderness

Golden Trout Wilderness

Designated in 1978, totaling 303,511 acres, the Inyo manages the eastern two-thirds, and the western third is managed by the Sequoia. Only a small section in the northwest corner of the Golden Trout Wilderness and adjacent to Mountain Home State Forest is in the Monument. Maggie Mountain and Moses Mountain are outstanding landmarks, along with the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Tule River and the Maggie Mountain, Middle Tule, and Upper Tule River giant sequoia groves.

Kings River Special Management Area (KRSMA)

The portion of KRSMA in the Wildlands setting begins at the junction of the South and Middle Forks of the Kings River where highway 180 climbs out of the canyon. This part of KRSMA has little visitation because of the steep terrain. This area is visited mostly by anglers accessing the river. The Boole Tree is located on the southern boundary of this area and can be accessed by a two-mile loop trail. Plant communities range from riparian along the Kings River, forming the northern boundary, through grassland and chaparral to giant sequoia groves at the top of the drainage of Converse Creek. Prehistoric and historic use by Native Americans and ranchers occurred in this area.

Monarch Wilderness and Agnew Roadless Area

The Monarch Wilderness was designated in 1984, totaling 44,896 acres. The Sierra National Forest manages the northwest portion, and the rest is managed by the Sequoia. The wilderness is adjacent to Kings Canyon National Park. From 2,000 feet in elevation at the South Fork of the Kings River to 11,077 feet on Hogback Peak, this land is steep and rugged with magnificent views from high ridges into deep canyons. Riparian areas to brush lands to conifer forests to meadows to giant sequoia groves, the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Kings River and highway 180 bisect the area. The Kanawyer Trail traverses the Monarch and provides magnificent views into Kings Canyon. The Deer Cove Trail leads up to Grizzly Lakes and Wildman Meadow, popular only with the hardiest of hikers, hunters, and stock users. At the higher elevations are the Monarch, Deer Meadow, Agnew, and part of Evans giant sequoia groves. Agnew Roadless Area, like the adjacent Monarch Wilderness, is generally steep terrain, broken by rock outcrops and streams with mixed conifer forest. The Windy Gulch Geological Area (caves) is located in this area.

Front Country

This setting is a desirable destination for visitors in spring and fall, when temperatures are moderate and snow prevents access to higher elevations, and less desirable in the heat of summer. During the spring, the hillsides are dressed in spectacular displays of wildflowers. Often referred to as the foothills, the landscape progresses uphill from grasslands, chaparral, and oak woodland to mixed conifer forest. Elevations range from 1,000 to 4,500 feet, with decomposed granite and erosive soils. These areas are subject to fire, by nature, and the wildland urban intermix increases that risk. Special management challenges include the control of marijuana cultivation, OHV trespass, tribal relations, lack of Forest Service presence in the field, grazing, wildland urban intermix, and fire control.

Activity-oriented adventure seekers include equestrians during the cool months, hang gliders, hunters, hikers, OHV users, and dog trainers. A diverse group, most are day using neighbors. Spring wildflower displays attract visitors driving for pleasure.



Picture 10 Spring wildflowers in the Front Country

Kings River Special Management Area (KRSMA) OHV

This area is bounded on the north by the Kings River and has the only two OHV trails in the Monument, as authorized by the legislation that created the KRSMA. This area is generally steep, with brush- and grass-covered canyons, is not very accessible, and provides great opportunities for solitude. Native American use and needs may preclude some types of interpretive efforts. Millwood staging area and Mill Flat Campground are the access points to this area, via the Davis Road (12S01). Visitors consist of OHV users and local hunters. Special management challenges include shared management and needed coordination for the KRSMA, which is administered by the Sierra National Forest.



Picture 11 Kings River Special Management Area

Desired Conditions

The desired conditions stated below are essentially the long-term goals for resources in the Monument. They describe the desired future state of resources in the Monument. Desired conditions may be achievable only over a long period of time. They are based upon:

1. The Proclamation (Clinton 2000)
2. Advisories from the Scientific Advisory Board and information presented at the Southern Sierra Science Symposium
3. Current management direction
4. Public comments on the interpretation of the Proclamation and the proposed action

The desired conditions are presented by the resource areas affected by this plan amendment.

Scientific Study and Adaptive Management

Resource management decisions are based on sound science. Research projects focus on science relevant to the proper care and management of the objects to be protected. This includes continuous, iterative collaboration between scientists and managers in the implementation of research projects.



Picture 12 An hydrological assessment

Vegetation, including Giant Sequoias

Forested stands in the Mediterranean climate of the Monument are subject to frequent weather cycles. Years of cooler, wetter weather are often followed by years of hotter, drier weather. The desired condition of

a forested stand subject to these extremes is diversity in composition (species, size, age class, distribution) and spatial distribution that are expected to be more resilient to climate changes over time.

Mixed Conifer Forest

The mixed conifer forest varies by both species composition and structure—as influenced by elevation, site productivity, and related environmental factors, including disturbance—and is in a condition that is resilient to changes in climate and other



Picture 13 Bearskin Grove

ecological conditions. The composition is patchy, consisting of a variable mixture of conifer and hardwood trees, as well as a diverse mixture of shrubs, herbaceous vegetation, and grasses. Spatial arrangements vary from pure, or nearly pure, groupings to complex combinations, often within relatively limited areas. Low density forests with frequent canopy openings, varying in size, dominate much of the landscape, with higher density forests on portions of north and east aspects.

More frequent openings with early seral structure and composition (10 percent of the vegetation type) exist within the giant sequoia groves. Some mid-seral structure has converted to a later seral stage as tree sizes increase. Approximately 70 percent of the mixed conifer within groves is dominated by trees greater than 24 inches in diameter. Some of the large trees have multi-layered crowns, producing 60 percent or more canopy cover.

Outside giant sequoia groves, 10 percent of this vegetation type is early seral structure and composition. Almost half of the mid-seral structure has converted to a later seral stage as tree sizes increase. Approximately 50 percent of the mixed conifer is dominated by trees greater than 24 inches in diameter. Some of the large trees have multi-layered crowns, producing 60 percent or more canopy cover.

Blue Oak–Interior Live Oak⁽⁷⁾

Blue oak conditions are maintained at their current condition: a fire regime of low intensity fires, with flame lengths less than three feet; natural vegetation types; and a highly variable and complex landscape pattern. Blue oak dominates, with grass and occasional shrubs as the understory. There are occasional or periodic flushes of regeneration to replace mortality in older trees.

Chaparral–Live Oak⁽⁸⁾

Interior and canyon live oak vegetation is a mosaic of varying size and age classes. Large expanses of dense or older chaparral are broken up by recent disturbances of 10 acres or more, to help slow the spread of fire and regenerate chaparral species. Fire susceptibility and severity are low, and fire hazards to adjacent human communities and surrounding forest types are reduced.

7. Foothill woodlands.

Montane Hardwood–Conifer

The montane hardwood/mixed conifer forests vary by both species composition and structure—as influenced by elevation, site productivity, and related environmental factors, including disturbance—and are in balance with climate and other ecological conditions. The composition is patchy, with an abundance of large black oaks. More frequent openings with early seral structure and composition (10 percent of the vegetation type) exist within the groves. Most mid-seral structure has converted to a later seral stage as tree sizes increase.

Approximately 70 percent of the montane hardwood-conifers within giant sequoia groves is dominated by trees greater than 24 inches in diameter. Some of the large trees have multi-layered crowns, producing 60 percent or more canopy cover.

Outside of giant sequoia groves, 20 percent of this vegetation type is early seral structure and composition. Over one-half of the mid-seral structure has converted to later seral as tree sizes increase. Approximately 40 percent of the mixed conifer is dominated by trees greater than 24 inches in diameter. Some of the large trees have multi-layered crowns, producing 60 percent or more canopy cover.

Red Fir

Red fir consists of a mosaic of varying size and age classes, with structural clumping greater than 10 acres, as necessary for species dependent on this vegetation type.

More frequent openings with early seral structure and composition (10 percent of the vegetation type) exist within the giant sequoia groves. Some mid-seral structure has converted to later seral as tree sizes increase. Approximately 70 percent of the red fir within groves is dominated by trees greater than 24 inches in diameter. Some of the large trees have multi-layered crowns, producing 60 percent or more canopy cover.

Outside of giant sequoia groves, 10 percent of this vegetation type is early seral structure and composition. Most mid-seral structure has converted to a later seral stage as tree sizes increase. Approximately 70 percent of the mixed conifer

8. Interior and canyon live oaks.

outside groves is dominated by trees greater than 24 inches in diameter. Some of the large trees have multi-layered crowns, producing 60 percent or more canopy cover.

Fire and Fuels

Fire occurs in its characteristic pattern and resumes its ecological role. Frequent fire maintains lower, manageable levels of flammable materials in most areas, especially in the surface and understory layers. There is a vegetation mosaic of age classes, tree sizes, and species composition, and a low risk for uncharacteristic large, catastrophic fires. The objects of interest are protected; sustainable environmental, social, and economic benefits (such as those associated with tourism) are maintained; and the carbon sequestered in large trees is stabilized.

Fire susceptibility and severity, and fire hazards to adjacent human communities and surrounding forest types, are low. The need to maintain fuel conditions that support fires characteristic of complex ecosystems is emphasized and allows for a natural range of fire effects in the Monument.



Picture 14 Fuel reduction by a giant sequoia

Air Quality

Emissions generated by the Monument are limited and managed, and clean air is provided for the Monument and surrounding communities.

Wildlife and Plant Habitat

Lands in the Monument continue to provide a diverse range of habitats that support viable populations of associated vertebrate species, with special emphasis on riparian areas, montane meadows, and late successional forest. Proper hydrologic and ecological functioning conditions in riparian areas and meadows are restored and maintained. Old forest habitat is in suitable quality, quantity, and distribution to support viable populations of late successional dependent species, including Pacific fishers, American martens, California spotted owls, northern goshawks, and great gray owls. The configuration of habitat in the Monument provides connectivity and heterogeneity.



Picture 15 California spotted owl fledglings

Ecological conditions contribute to the recovery of federally threatened and endangered species such as the California condor and Springville clarkia, and help avoid federal listing of Forest Service sensitive species.

Hydrological Resources

Aquatic, riparian, and meadow ecosystems are protected and restored and provide for the viability of species associated with these ecosystems. Hydrological resources, including rivers, streams, meadows, seasonally or perennially wet areas, and their associated riparian vegetation, are able to adjust and recover from natural and human-caused events.



Picture 16 Big Meadows

Riparian and wetland areas are dynamic systems that change in response to climatic events including climate change. Riparian areas are in dynamic equilibrium with respect to erosion and deposition, sediment supply, discharge, pattern, profile, and dimension. Riparian and wetland areas function hydrologically according to their riparian ecotype: naturally-stable, stable-sensitive, unstable-sensitive-degraded, and naturally-unstable.⁽⁹⁾

Range

Livestock grazing opportunities are maintained and managed for sustainable, healthy rangelands that contribute to local economies and improve watershed conditions.

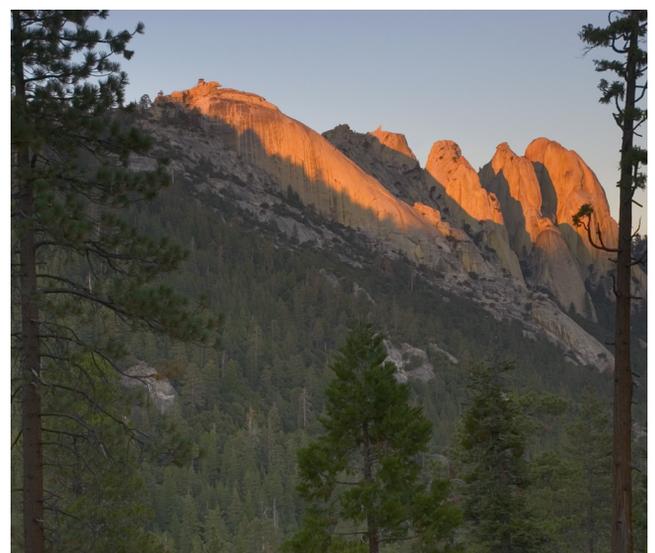
Groundwater

Groundwater quality and quantity in aquifers across watersheds are sustained.

9. Definitions and more in-depth discussion of riparian ecotypes can be found in Chapter 4 of the FEIS (FEIS, Volume 1, Chapter 4, Effects on Hydrological Resources, Assumptions and Methodology, Ecological Restoration).

Geological Resources

Geological features, including caves, domes and spires, soda springs, and hot springs, are protected while providing for public use and enjoyment of these resources.



Picture 17 The Needles, a well-known dome and spire feature popular with rock climbers

Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources retain the components providing the fossil record.



Picture 18 Flowstone and drapery inside Boyden Cave

Soils

Productive soil conditions are maintained to promote ecosystem health, diversity, and productivity.

Human Use

The Monument provides wide and varied public use of Monument resources and opportunities while protecting sensitive resources and the objects of interest. Recreation use throughout the year is promoted. Visitors find a rich and varied range of sustainable recreational, educational, and social opportunities enhanced by giant sequoias and the

surrounding ecosystems. Consistent and easy-to-read signs and informational materials are provided. Interpretation and conservation education reflect scientifically supported scholarship and research data, conveying clear messages about natural and cultural resources and multiple use. Partnerships are established, providing people with a connection to place and promoting a sense of stewardship. The Monument provides a wide variety of visually appealing landscapes, such as oak woodland, chaparral, a variety of mixed conifer forest, and giant sequoia groves, for the public to enjoy within the places they prefer to visit.



Picture 19 Wide and varied public use

Cultural Resources

A comprehensive cultural resource management program places a greater management emphasis on the rich cultural resources within the Monument as described in the Proclamation. Cultural resources are identified and allocated to appropriate management categories (FSM 2363) (e.g., preservation,

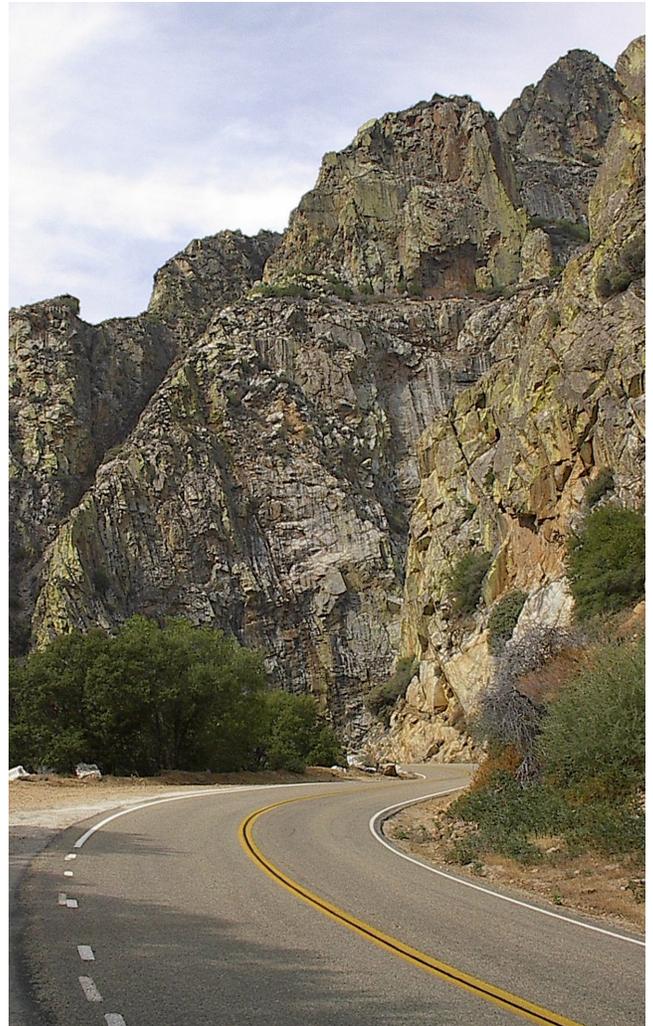
enhancement, scientific investigation, interpretation, release) and are protected, maintained, studied, and used by the public.



Picture 20 Cultural resource site

Transportation System

Roads are safe and fully-maintained to minimize adverse resource effects, while providing public and administrative access to National Forest System lands and facilities within the Monument. The road system is properly sized to provide needed access to the objects of interest for their proper care, protection, and management, as well as visitor enjoyment of the Monument. Roads that are no longer needed have been decommissioned to restore natural drainage and vegetation or converted to other uses.



Picture 21 Kings Canyon Scenic Byway

