OMB Control: 1024-0224
Expiration: XX-XX-XXXX

(Helicopter Surveys)

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Visitor Survey

2010

ID: _____ **Location: _____**

Date: _____ **Time: _____AM / PM**

A. Trip Description

1. How many people are in your personal group (family/friends) today, including yourself? [1. GR3]

Number of people: _____

2. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Check one.) [1. Variation GR6]

☐ Yes
☐ No

3. Have you visited Sequoia or Kings Canyon national parks before today? (Check one.) [1. VISITHIS1]

☐ Yes (CONTINUE TO QUESTION 4)
☐ No (SKIP TO QUESTION 5)

4. Approximately how many times have you visited Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Parks in the last 12 months? (Record a number or check the box.)

Approximate number of prior visits: _____ **OR** ☐ Don't know/Not sure

5. Please rate the importance of each of the following reasons for your visit to Sequoia or Kings Canyon national parks today. (Check one box for each item.) [4. PREF1]

	Not important	Somewhat important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Appreciate the scenic beauty	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Experience solitude	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spend time with family/friends	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Get some exercise	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Experience the sounds of nature	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Experience a sense of connection with nature	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enjoy peace and quiet	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. **Please indicate how your experience of each of the following items during your visit compared with your expectations. (Check one box for each item.) [5. CROWDATT12]**

	How did it compare with your expectations?					
	I had no expectations	**A lot less than expected**	**Less than expected**	**About as expected**	**More than expected**	**A lot more than expected**
Number of people you saw while hiking.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunity to experience sounds of nature.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunity to view wildlife.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Amount of time you heard aircraft.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

FOR THE NEXT SET OF QUESTIONS, PLEASE ASK THE SURVEY ATTENDANT FOR ASSISTANCE.

B. The Park Soundscape

7. **[HELICOPTER TREATMENT VERSION ONLY] The National Park Service uses helicopters for a number of administrative purposes (e.g., search and rescue, fire management, support for research, and resource management). Consequently, visitors hiking in this area of Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks can sometimes hear helicopters flying overhead. We would like to know how acceptable you think it is to hear these helicopter sounds while hiking in this area of the park. To help judge this, we would like you to listen to several short recordings of sounds in Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks. Please rate each recording by indicating how acceptable you would find the sounds heard in the audio clip while hiking in this area of the park. (Circle one number for each recording.) [5. VERP7]**

[HELICOPTER CONTROL VERSION ONLY] We would like you to listen to several short recordings of sounds in Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks. Please rate each recording by indicating how acceptable you would find the sounds heard in the audio clip while hiking in this area of the park. (Circle <u>one</u> number for each recording.) [5. VERP7]

	Very Unacceptable			**Recording 1**					Very Acceptable	
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	

ADVANCE YOUR PLAYER AND RESUME YOUR LISTENING SESSION.

	Very Unacceptable			**Recording 2**					Very Acceptable	
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	

ADVANCE YOUR PLAYER AND RESUME YOUR LISTENING SESSION.

	Very Unacceptable			**Recording 3**					Very Acceptable	
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	

ADVANCE YOUR PLAYER AND RESUME YOUR LISTENING SESSION.

	Very Unacceptable			**Recording 4**					Very Acceptable	
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	

ADVANCE YOUR PLAYER AND RESUME YOUR LISTENING SESSION.

	Very Unacceptable			**Recording 5**					Very Acceptable	
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	

YOU HAVE COMPLETED THIS PORTION OF YOUR LISTENING SESSION. CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE.

8. Which of the five recordings you just heard sounds most like what you heard at Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Parks today? (Check one.) [5. VERP12]

☐ Recording 1
☐ Recording 2
☐ Recording 3
☐ Recording 4
☐ Recording 5

9a. Please describe the sounds in the recordings that you found to be pleasing or annoying.

Pleasing sounds: **[5. Variation VERP9]** _____

_____

Annoying sounds: **[5. Variation VERP11]** _____

_____

9b. Please describe the sounds in the recordings that you found to be appropriate or inappropriate for this area. [Topic Area 6, Individual Perceptions of their Park Experiences]

Appropriate sounds:_____

_____

Inappropriate sounds:_____

_____

For the next question,
please ask the survey attendant for assistance.

10. **[HELICOPTER TREATMENT VERSION ONLY] Noise from helicopters operated by the National Park Service for administrative purposes (e.g., search and rescue, fire management, support for research and resource management) can sometimes interrupt visitors from hearing the sounds of nature and/or hearing other members of their group. We would like to know how often you think it is acceptable to experience these types of interruptions while hiking in this area of Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks. Please rate the acceptability of each of the following scenarios describing different frequencies of aircraft-caused interruptions. (Circle one number for each scenario.) [5. VERP13]**

[HELICOPTER CONTROL VERSION ONLY] Aircraft noise can sometimes interrupt visitors from hearing the sounds of nature and/or from hearing other members of their group. We would like to know how often you think it is acceptable to experience these types of interruptions while hiking in this area of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Please rate the acceptability of each of the following scenarios describing different frequencies of aircraft-caused interruptions. (Circle one number for each scenario.) [5. VERP13]

Interrupted by helicopter sounds once…	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable	
Every 5 minutes	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Every 15 minutes	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Every 30 minutes	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Every 60 minutes	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Never hear the sounds	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	

11. **How often would you prefer to experience interruptions by helicopters while hiking in this area of Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks? (Record a number or check the box.) [Topic Area 6, Individual Perceptions of their Park Experiences]**

No more than every _____minutes OR ☐ I would prefer to never be interrupted by helicopters

12. How frequently could you hear helicopters <u>before you would no longer hike</u> in this area of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks? (Record a number or check the box.) [Topic Area 6, Individual Perceptions of their Park Experiences]

No more than every _____minutes OR ☐ I would hike in this area of Sequoia and Kings Canyon regardless of how often I was interrupted by helicopters.

13. How frequently <u>should the National Park Service allow</u> helicopter-caused interruptions while hiking in Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Parks? In other words, at what point should the use of helicopters for park administrative purposes be restricted from flying over Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Parks? (Record a number or check the box.) [Topic Area 6, Individual Perceptions of their Park Experiences]

No more than every _____minutes OR ☐ Administrative use of helicopters in Sequoia or Kings Canyon should not be restricted

14. Approximately how frequently were you interrupted by helicopters while hiking in this area of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks today? (Record a number or check the box.) [Topic Area 6, Individual Perceptions of their Park Experiences]

Every_____minutes OR ☐ Don't know/Not sure

C. Park Management

15. Please indicate the extent to which you would support or oppose each of the following potential management actions at Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Parks. (Check one box for each item.) [6. OPMGMT1]

	Strongly Support	Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know/ Not Sure
Reduce the use of helicopters for administrative purposes in the park.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maintain the use of helicopters for administrative purposes in the park at the current level.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Increase the use of helicopters for administrative purposes in the park.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Limit the use of helicopters for administrative purposes in the park to specially designated dates and times.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Limit the use of helicopters for administrative purposes in the park to designated flight paths over limited areas of the parks.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Prohibit the use of helicopters for administrative purposes in the park.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

16. Humans can cause noise in national parks in several ways. Please rate the degree to which you think the following types of human-caused noises were a problem during your visit in this area of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. (Check one box for each item.) [6. OPMGMT2]

	Problem during your hike today?		
Noise from…	**Not a Problem**	**Small Problem**	**Big Problem**
Automobile traffic	☐	☐	☐
Park operations (e.g., trail maintenance, construction vehicles)	☐	☐	☐
Visitors talking loudly	☐	☐	☐
Aircraft flying overhead	☐	☐	☐
Personal electronics (e.g., cell phone, IPod)	☐	☐	☐

D. Background Information

17. What is your gender? (Check one.) [1. GEND2]

☐ Male
☐ Female

18. In what year were you born? [1. AGE1]

Year born:_____

19. Do you live in the United States? (Check one.) [1. RES3]

☐ Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
☐ No (What country do you live in? _____)

20. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Check one) [1. Variation ED1]

- ❒ **Less than high school**
- ❒ **Some High school**
- ❒ **High school graduate**
- ❒ **Vocational/trade school certificate**
- ❒ **Some college**
- ❒ **Two-year college degree**
- ❒ **Four-year college degree**
- ❒ **Masters degree**
- ❒ **Ph.D, M.D., J.D., or equivalent**

21. Are you Hispanic or Latino? (Check one.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

22. What is your race? (Check one or more.) [1. RACE/ETH3]

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White

Thank you for your help with this survey!
Please return the completed questionnaire to the survey administrator.

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement: 16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. The permanent data will be anonymous. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. BURDEN ESTIMATE statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 15 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to:

Superintendent
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
[MAILING ADDRESS]
[CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE]
[EMAIL ADDRESS]