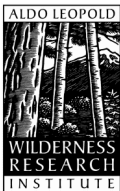


# Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness



## Visitor Survey



Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute  
790 East Beckwith Ave.  
Missoula, Montana 59801

Thank you for your time on this survey. Please answer every question to ensure the accuracy and value of the study results. If you traveled to the Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness more than once in 2010, fill out this survey based on your **trip on this date** \_\_\_\_\_, **2011**. Participation in this study is voluntary and your answers will remain anonymous. It is important that the person who was sent this survey answer the questions.

**SECTION I: YOUR TRIP TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS WILDERNESS**

- Q1.      Was your trip entirely within the wilderness areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks?  
 Partly in Sequoia and Kings Canyon (NPS) wilderness and partly in Forest Service wilderness?  
 Not sure

Please briefly describe where you went; list major destinations and other distinguishable places you visited or passed on this trip (e.g. Pacific Coast Trail, John Muir Trail, Roper route, High Sierra Trail, Rae Lakes Loop, other named route).

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Q2. How many nights in the wilderness areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks did you camp on this particular trip? \_\_\_\_\_ nights

Q3. How many people were in your group on this visit? \_\_\_\_\_ people

Q4. How did you travel in the wilderness on this visit? Check all that apply, but if more than one, underline the primary method of travel.

- Hiked, carrying own equipment  
 Hiked, leading packstock animal(s)  
 Hiked with a commercial guide without packstock animals  
 Hiked, with an outfitter dropping off gear  
 Rode on horses provided by an outfitter and was dropped off to camp  
 Rode on horses provided by an outfitter who remained with the group  
 Rode on privately owned (visitor-owned) horses  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 

Q5. Which of these activities did you participate in on this trip?

- Fishing  
 Hiking on trails  
 Speed hiking  
 Hiking in a trail-less area (i.e. cross-country)  
 Technical mountain climbing (i.e. using ropes and special gear)  
 Non-technical mountain climbing (i.e. without using ropes and special gear)  
 Kayaking  
 Trail running

If you hiked in a trail-less area, how many nights did you camp in trail-less areas?  
\_\_\_\_\_ nights

Q6. What type of fuel did your group use for cooking on this trip (check all that apply)?

- wood
- liquid (e.g. white) gas
- propane or similar fuel in a pressured canister
- other fuel \_\_\_\_\_
- didn't cook on this trip

Q7. How many times did you have a campfire on this trip? \_\_\_\_\_ (if none, skip to Q8)  
How many of these campfires were in the evening? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many of these campfires were for purposes other than cooking? \_\_\_\_\_

Q8. How did you store your food on this trip? Check all that apply, but if more than one, underline or circle the primary method of storage.

- In a portable bear resistant food storage canister
- In a NPS-installed bear resistant food storage locker
- Counterbalanced in a tree
- Hidden or buried
- Sitting out
- Kept in tent
- In a packstock-carried pannier or drum
- Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

If you **did** use canisters, how many canisters did your group carry on this trip into the Sequoia-Kings Canyon wilderness? \_\_\_\_\_ canisters (If you didn't use canisters, skip to question #13.)

Q9. Did you know *before you left for the trailhead* if all your food, toiletries and other scented items would fit in your canister after dinner your first night?

- Yes, we knew it **would**
- We were **unsure** if it would or not
- No, we knew it definitely **would not**
- We didn't consider it/we had no idea

Q10. Which of the following statements most accurately describes your use of food storage canisters on this trip: (check **one**)

- Some trash, food or toiletries had to be left out *some* nights of our trip because we didn't have enough room in our canister(s).
- We were able to fit *all* our food, trash and scented items in the canister(s) *every night* of this trip (skip to question #13)

Q11. If you ended up having too little room in your canister(s) for all your food, toiletries, and trash at the beginning of the trip, *by what night of your trip did everything fit?* \_\_\_\_\_ night

Q12. What did you do with those items that **didn't** fit in your canister(s)?

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Q13. Did you take any of the following technological devices with you on this trip? (check all that apply)

- Cell phone
- Satellite phone
- Personal Locator Beacon, such as a SPOT
- GPS device
- "Entertainment" type electronic devices (e.g. iPod)
- Other technological devices (please list) \_\_\_\_\_
- No technological devices

Q14. Did you use GPS for any of the following? (check all that apply)

- to follow a described or downloaded route cross-country (off-trail)
- to locate a "waypointed" campsite
- to locate a specific waypoint, destination or landmark
- to determine your exact location
- general trail navigation
- to create a log or record of your route
- N/A -- didn't use GPS

**SECTION II: THINGS THAT MAY HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR TRIP**

Q15. "Technology" in questions a – h refers to cellular phones, satellite phones, SPOT and other Personal Locator Beacons, GPS, and other similar devices. Please circle the number that best describes the degree to which you agree or disagree with each statement.

	Strongly						
Strongly	Disagree						Agree
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a) Technology creates a genuine sense of safety for wilderness users.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b) I would feel safer by having technology with me on a wilderness trip.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c) I would be more likely to use technology to request rescue when I could make it out on my own but the process of self-rescue would be long and uncomfortable.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d) I would be more likely to take chances that could increase risk if I had technology with me in the wilderness.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| e) Technology creates a false increase in safety for wilderness users.                                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| f) Technology in the wilderness makes people feel that their safety is not their personal responsibility. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| g) Technology in the wilderness can successfully substitute for skill/experience/knowledge.               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| h) Technology reduces many of the dangers people associate with being in the wilderness.                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

Q16. In planning the itinerary for this trip, were there any places or times you avoided because of conditions you have encountered in the past?

No

Yes (please describe the conditions you wanted to avoid)

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Q17. We'd like to know three things about the number of different types of groups you encountered while in the wilderness areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. First, we'd like to know the total number of each type of group you saw. Then, tell us the least number of groups you saw on any one day. Third, tell us the most you saw in any one day.

Total

Least in a

Most in a

for trip

single day

single day

a. all types of groups

—

—

—

b. large groups (more than

—

10 people together)

—

—

c. groups that had pack animals

—

—

—

d. groups camped within sight

—

or sound of your campsite

—

—

e. number of groups that traveled

—

past your campsite

—

—

Q18. Do you feel there should be a limit on the size of groups visiting this wilderness? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

If Yes, what is the maximum number of people and/or stock that should be permitted in any one group?

\_\_\_\_\_ number of people in hiking-only groups (no pack animals) on trails

\_\_\_\_\_ number of people in hiking-only groups traveling cross-country in  
trail-less  
areas

\_\_\_\_\_ number of people in groups with pack animals on trails

\_\_\_\_\_ number of people in groups with pack animals traveling cross-  
country in  
trail-less areas

\_\_\_\_\_ number of pack animals in groups on trails

\_\_\_\_\_ number of pack animals in groups in trail-less areas

Q19. We are interested in finding out what types of things influence the quality of your wilderness visit. For each of the items listed below, tell us 1) if you saw or noticed the item (Yes or No), if so 2) the extent to which it added to or detracted from the quality of your visit (circle one), and 3) whether you would like to see the Park Service manage for more, less, or the same of that thing (circle one).

If you noticed, did it      Do you suggest

Did you notice

Detract - Neither      -Add

Less or the Same

to your visit quality



a. wilderness ranger stations

Yes/No

- / 0 / +

L/S

b. Park Service crew camps

Yes/No

- / 0 / +

c. radio repeaters

L/S

Yes/No

/ 0 / +

-

L/S

d. food storage lockers

Yes/No

- / 0 / +

L/S

e. bridges

Yes/No

- / 0 / +

L/S

f. directional signs

Yes/No

- / 0 / +

L/S  
g. regulatory signs

Yes/No

/ 0 / +

-

L/S  
h. informational signs

Yes/No

- / 0 / +

L/S

i. packstock gates and Yes/No

- / 0 / +

L/S

drift fences

j. science equipment/

installations (e.g. weather Yes/No

/ +

- / 0

L/S

and water monitoring devices)

k. helicopter overflights/ Yes/No

/ 0 / +

-

landings  
 l. fixed wing overflights      Yes/No      -      / 0      /+      L/S

m. the presence of people      Yes/No      -      / 0      /+      L/S

along the trail  
 n. the presence of groups  
 with pack animals along      Yes/No      -      / 0      /+      L/S

the trail  
 o. the presence of large      Yes/No      -      / 0      /+      L/S

L/S  
 groups (>10) along the trail  
 p. the presence of groups  
 camped within sight or      Yes/No      -      / 0      /+

sound of your campsite      L/S

Q20. Please indicate how you would rate the following management actions:

A. Intervention to restore natural conditions, such as

	Strongly Oppose						Strongly Support
--	--------------------	--	--	--	--	--	---------------------

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. removing nonnative species to promote<br>recovery of native species | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 2. reintroduction of missing native species                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 3. management-ignited fires  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

B. Intervention to mitigate climate change impact, such as

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. introducing new genetic material more<br>resistant to drought or disease | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 2. moving plants or animals in anticipation                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

of habitat change  
 3. using irrigation due to changes in precipitation

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Q21. After visiting the Wilderness of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, how **important** do you believe each of the following characteristics is to defining this wilderness (things that should be protected in order to maintain its value to you)? Please circle one response for each description that best represents the importance you place on it.

	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>Slightly Important</u>	<u>Moderately Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>
a. A place where I can go for recreation	NI	SI	MI	VI
b. A place with no (or few) non-native plants	NI	SI	MI	VI
c. A place where human influences are relatively unnoticeable	NI	SI	MI	VI
d. A place with opportunity for unrestrained or unconfined recreation	NI	SI	MI	VI
e. A place where I can practice or demonstrate primitive skills	NI	SI	MI	VI
f. A place to experience adventure and the unknown	NI	SI	MI	VI
g. A place with opportunities for off-trail travel and camping	NI	SI	MI	VI
	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>Slightly Important</u>	<u>Moderately Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>
h. A place I can go for a specific activity I enjoy (Which activity?) _____	NI	SI	MI	VI
i. A place without private inholdings	NI	SI	MI	VI
j. A place where I can go to spend time with my family or friends	NI	SI	MI	VI
k. A place with little development for visitor use (e.g., trails, bridges, signs, etc.)	NI	SI	MI	VI
l. A place with little evidence of modern human occupation or modification (e.g.,				

buildings, dams, mines, etc.)	NI	SI	MI	VI
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m. A place where I can hike long distances in the High Sierra	NI	SI	MI	VI
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n. A place I can go to test my physical abilities	NI	SI	MI	VI
---	----	----	----	----

o. A place without management actions that manipulate the environment	NI	SI	MI	VI
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p. A place I can go to connect to the past – a historic place with a tie to the past	NI	SI	MI	VI
--	----	----	----	----

q. A place where I don't see or hear motorized or mechanized equipment	NI	SI	MI	VI
--	----	----	----	----

r. A place I can go with a low density of people	NI	SI	MI	VI
--	----	----	----	----

s. A place where natural fires are not suppressed	NI	SI	MI	VI
---	----	----	----	----

t. A place where natural conditions, or forces, dominate	NI	SI	MI	VI
--	----	----	----	----

u. A place without fish stocking (native or non-native)	NI	SI		MI
---	----	----	--	----

w. A place without non-native animals	NI	SI	MI	VI
---------------------------------------	----	----	----	----

x. A place that remains the same as during earlier visits	NI	SI	MI	VI
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y. A place with relatively clean air	NI	SI	MI	VI
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	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important
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z. A place where rivers and streams flow unimpeded	NI	SI	MI	VI
--	----	----	----	----

aa. A place with pure water.	NI	SI	MI	VI
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bb. A place with only natural sounds	NI	SI	MI	VI
--------------------------------------	----	----	----	----

cc. A place with no restrictions on my behavior.	NI	SI	MI	VI
--	----	----	----	----

dd. A place where scientific exploration is valued	NI	SI	MI	VI
--	----	----	----	----



**SECTION III: POTENTIAL CONFLICTS AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING YOUR TRIP**

Q22. Did the actions or behavior of any other group or individual interfere with your enjoyment of the wilderness on this trip?

- Yes     No

If Yes, what type of group or person interfered with your enjoyment on this trip?

- Hikers with day packs
- Hikers with backpacks (overnight campers)
- Groups with pack animals
- People using electronic devices
- Trail runners
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the behavior that interfered with your enjoyment of this visit.

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Q23. The following items are problems you may have run into on your visit to the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness. Please indicate how much of a problem each item was for you.

	Small	Moderate	Big	Not a Don't
Problem		Problem	Problem	
		Problem	Know	
a. overall trail conditions	( )	( )	( )	( )
	( )		( )	
b. rutted trails	( )	( )	( )	( )
	( )		( )	

- c. horse manure on the trail ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( )
- d. too many hikers on the trail ( ) ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( )
- e. too many stock animals ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( )  
 on the trail
- f. stock damage to vegetation ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( )  
 e.g. trampled meadows, damaged trees
- g. human damage to vegetation ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( )  
 e.g. hatchet/axe damage to trees
- h. groups with too many horses ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( )
- i. horse manure in the campsite ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( )
- j. litter ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
- l. improper human waste disposal ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( )
- m. lakes/streams appear polluted ( ) ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( )
- n. too many fire rings ( ) ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( )
- o. too many large groups ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( )
- p. too many people in the area ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( )  
 as a whole
- q. too many people in certain ( ) ( )  
 ( ) ( ) ( )  
 places in the area



- medium city (50,000 to 1 million population)  
 in a major city or metropolitan area (over 1 million population)

Q28. What is the highest level of education you have attained? (*circle one number that best represents your education*)

1. Less than a high school diploma
  2. High school graduate or GED
  3. Trade or professional school
  4. Some college
  5. Four-year college degree
  6. Some graduate school
  7. Graduate degree (*specify*)
- 

Q29. What was your annual household income (US Dollars) in 2010 before taxes? (*circle one number*)

1. Less than \$25,000
2. \$25,000 to \$49,999
3. \$50,000 to \$74,999
4. \$75,000 to \$99,999
5. \$100,000 to \$149,999
6. \$150,000 to \$199,999
7. \$200,000 to \$249,999
8. \$250,000 or more

Q30. What is your age? \_\_\_ years on most recent birthday

Q31. What is your sex? Please mark one: \_\_Male \_\_Female

Q32. How would you best describe your

A. Ethnicity?

- \_\_\_ Hispanic or Latino  
\_\_\_ Not Hispanic or Latino

B. Race? (check all that apply)

- \_\_\_ American Indian or Alaska Native,

- Asian or Asian Indian,
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan or Other Pacific Islander,
- White

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PARTICIPATING!**

Please use the remaining space on the back to make any further comments.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, OIRM, Room 404-W, Washington, DC 20250; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (OMB #0596-xxxx, Exp. 00/00/xxxx), Washington, DC 20503.