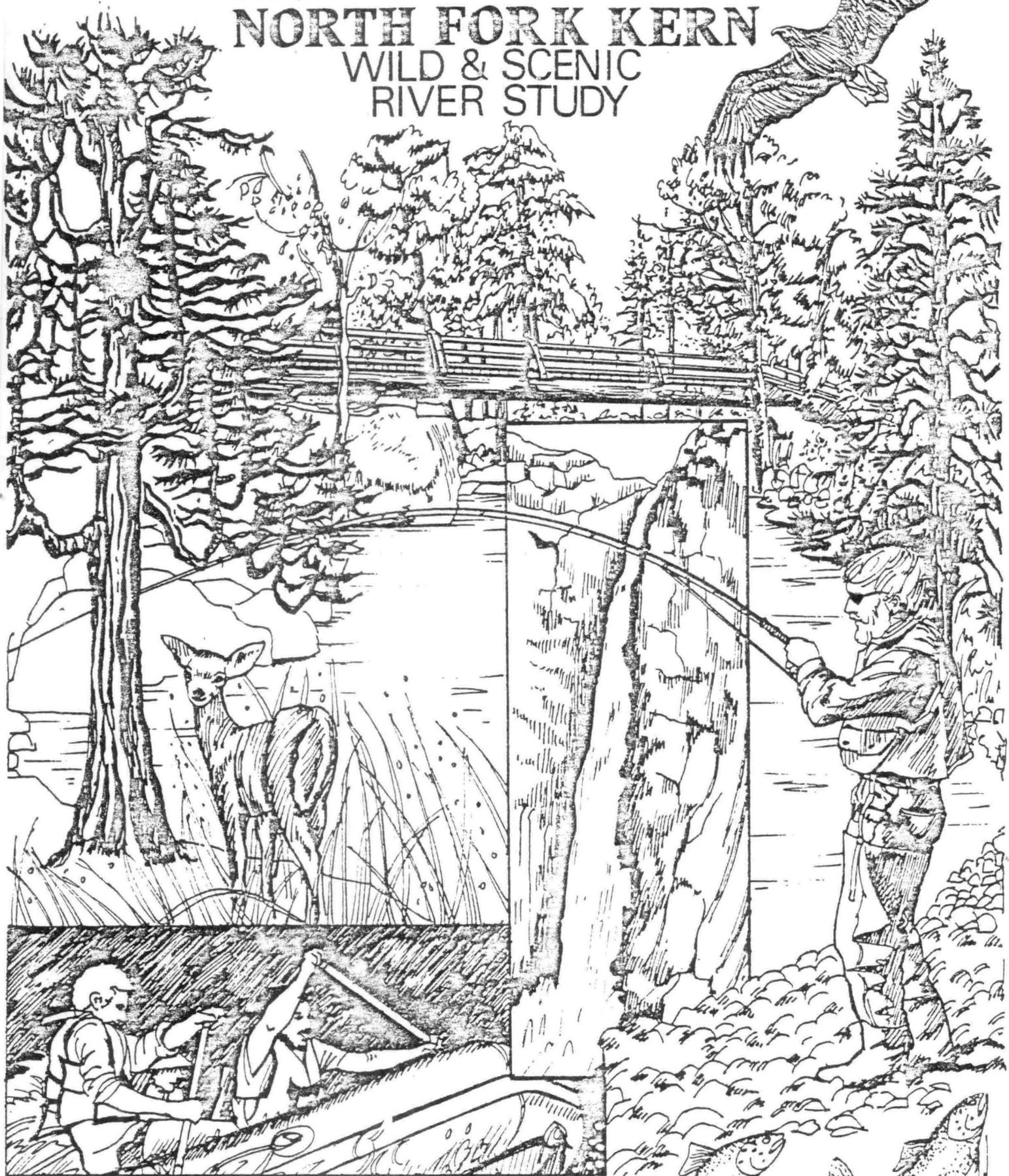


FINAL

ER-81/234

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
 STATEMENT AND STUDY REPORT
NORTH FORK KERN
 WILD & SCENIC
 RIVER STUDY



United States Department of Agriculture
FOREST SERVICE
 Sequoia National Forest



C. Robert

ADDENDUM

On Friday, April 23, 1985, President Reagan transmitted the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River study report to Congress. Alternative B, with a minor change, is recommended, assuring that three segments of the Kern River remain in a free-flowing condition and that all outstandingly remarkable values identified in the undeveloped river segments will be legislatively protected. The change in Alternative B shortens the designated river segments by leaving 5,600 feet above the Johnsondale Bridge undesignated in order to avoid conflicts with mining claims. 60.7 miles would be designated as a Wild River, extending from the headwaters to 5,600 feet above the Johnsondale Bridge. This configuration will further the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act while leaving the already-developed portions of the river open to future economic growth without imposition of additional restrictions and regulations.

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND STUDY REPORT

NORTH FORK KERN WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY
Tulare and Kern Counties, California

August 1982

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service

Cooperating Agencies:

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

State of California
Department of Natural Resources

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Abstract: This Final Environmental Impact Statement and Study Report describes and evaluates five alternatives with respect to the possible inclusion of the North Fork Kern River in California into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Alternative B, which recommends inclusion of approximately 61.5 miles of the river into the National System, is the preferred alternative of the Forest Service. Rationale for this recommendation is given, plus documentation of the process used to determine the river's eligibility.

Date FEIS made available and notice
printed in Federal Register:

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND AND RIVER ELIGIBILITY

This study considers the potential designation of portions of the North Fork Kern River in California as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as provided by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542, Oct. 2, 1963). The 83-mile length of the river, located in Tulare and Kern counties, California, was identified for study as a possible candidate for Wild and Scenic designation by an amendment (Public Law 95-625, Nov. 10, 1978) to this Act.

Four of the five river segments studied possess outstandingly remarkable aesthetic and other resource values, and were found to be eligible for designation. The upper 47.5-mile portion of the river is located within Sequoia National Park and Golden Trout Wilderness. The remaining 31-mile eligible portion is located almost entirely on National Forest land and has some limited potential for alternative uses.

ALTERNATIVES

Five alternative designation schemes were evaluated for their environmental, social, and economic effects. The five alternatives include:

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles.

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles.

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles.

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Major factors that influenced the alternatives were:

- ° The upper 47.5 miles of the river flow through National Park and designated Wilderness lands and, therefore, would continue to be managed under the same policies with or without designation.
- ° No major feasible water impoundments or diversions are presently planned for the river, and economic feasibility studies have shown that water projects in the foreseeable future are extremely unlikely. Alternative E assumes that Elephant Knob Dam would never be built. Pre-feasibility studies are underway at the Junction Reservoir site but no data has been made available. Regardless of economics, development of this site would be very controversial and seems unlikely on that basis alone. Designation and nondesignation, therefore, have essentially no practical difference with respect to influencing the potential for future water projects.
- ° The only eligible segment of the river which is not currently managed as wilderness and is presently undeveloped, has such steep terrain that significant future development is highly unlikely. This segment is also under Forest Service jurisdiction and is subject to its management policies.

- ° The eligible river segment which is presently developed for recreation is already near or at visitor use capacity. Although this area could be more intensively developed, this is not likely under current Forest Service management policy. Increased recreation use as a result of designation will require further management controls, but neither designation nor nondesignation is likely to make a significant difference in the way this area is managed in the future.
- ° Very little private land is within the study corridor. No acquisition of private property is necessary as a result of designation and little need is seen to acquire easements. Therefore, the private land ownership is not a major factor in reaching a recommendation in this study.
- ° The Trans-Sierra Highway, originally proposed 15 years ago to cross the N.F. Kern, is no longer regarded as a viable proposal.
- ° Although designation would be expected to increase visitor use of the river over normal increases (due simply to the river's greater recognition, publicity, and attractiveness to recreationists), these levels would be attained eventually anyway.
- ° The study corridor and adjacent lands are heavily mineralized south of the Golden Trout Wilderness. The mineral resource potential may be significant, and exploration has increased greatly in recent years. Since various river classifications have extensive and varying effects on minerals, this resource becomes an important factor in all the alternatives.
- ° Neither designation nor nondesignation would commit or withdraw significant timber resources or grazing lands.

Alternative A would provide statutory protection for all eligible segments of the river. It offers the greatest degree of assurance that the natural environment and cultural resources will remain unchanged. Consistent with that premise, it limits the range and extent of uses which can occur in the river corridor. Water development projects at Elephant Knob and Junction would be

precluded as would expansion of the Fairview site. Minerals would either be withdrawn or restricted. Use of private lands would come under public scrutiny. Recreation use would accelerate due to national recognition of the river, and that will necessitate further restriction and control. That portion of the local economy supported by recreation use and the scenic attractiveness of the area will benefit while other economic growth and employment possibilities are foregone.

Alternative B offers a high degree of protection of natural qualities and cultural resources since it designates all eligible Wild segments of the river. These segments contain all but one of the identified Outstandingly Remarkable characteristics which are unique to this river. However, it leaves open the possibility of mineral resource development and water projects south of the Johnsondale Bridge. Likewise, recreation use is not expected to be as intense or as tightly controlled as in Alternative A. Any effects on private landowners are greatly reduced since the bulk of these lands are in a river segment not recommended for designation. The local economy will benefit from a variety of recreation, mineral, and water development opportunities as reflected in the economic accounts (Tables V-1 and V-2).

The environmental analysis for Alternative C and D show substantial net environmental, economic, and social costs, but this is because the development of Elephant Knob Reservoir (to the north of Johnsondale Bridge) was assumed for analysis purposes. As mentioned previously, however, this project has been shown to be so economically infeasible that it is unlikely it would be built. In all other respects, Alternative C is similar to Alternative A in that it recommends designation of the river south of the Johnsondale Bridge thereby assuring a high degree of protection of natural and cultural values. Since this involves a river segment already highly developed and containing only one outstandingly remarkable characteristic, the degree of environmental protection is considered to be less than that offered by Alternative B.

Conversely, Alternative D leaves the lower river open to development possibilities as described in Alternative B. Combined with the assumption of development at Elephant Knob, this alternative provides for the least protection of natural, scenic, and cultural values of the five alternatives.

Alternative E assumes that current management plans and ongoing policies and uses will continue. It thereby leaves open the possibilities for water recreation, and mineral development with attendant growth in the economy and employment. It is projected that Elephant Knob would not be built given its undesirable cost/benefit ratio. Though it is likely that the free-flowing characteristics of the river and its Outstandingly Remarkable values will not be degraded, Alternative E offers no new or additional protection of these values. Neither does it further the objectives of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to add to the nation-wide system of rivers since no designation is recommended. Each of the other alternatives offers an expansion of the Wild and Scenic River System in accordance with the purpose of the Act.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Alternative B has been selected by the Forest Service as the preferred alternative in the Final EIS. The recommendation in the Draft EIS was changed as a result of public comment and presentation of new information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIS

A total of 171 public responses were received from October 19, 1981 to January 19, 1982 concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Major issues raised were: 1) effects of designation on mineral exploration and development; and 2) development of reservoirs on the river. Other concerns expressed included expectation of increased recreation use induced by the river designation; probable consequences of recreation increases; and purchase of scenic easements.

Appendix C contains a complete statement of the Forest Service position regarding all public comments and questions submitted concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

FUTURE PROCEDURES

The Final EIS will be submitted to the President by the Secretary of Agriculture. The President will make his recommendations to Congress with respect to the potential designation of portions of the N.F. Kern River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
SUMMARY	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	
I. INTRODUCTION	1
BACKGROUND	1
STUDY AREA AND LOCATION	3
ISSUES	3
II. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	8
REGIONAL SETTING	8
GEOLOGY AND SOILS	10
MINERALS	11
VEGETATION	13
WILDLIFE	15
FISHERIES	16
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY	18
CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY	19
LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE	21
RECREATION	22
VISUAL RESOURCES	24
SOCIOECONOMICS	26
CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL	28
III. ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSIFICATION	30
IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF RIVER SEGMENTS	30
SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE FEATURES	39
ELIGIBILITY FOR DESIGNATION AND POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION	44
IV. ALTERNATIVES AND EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES	48
ALTERNATIVE A (DESIGNATION OF ALL ELIGIBLE SEGMENTS OF THE N.F. KERN RIVER)	51
ALTERNATIVE B (DESIGNATION OF ALL ELIGIBLE SEGMENTS EXCEPT THE 17-MILE STRETCH FROM 1,500 FEET NORTH OF JOHNSONDALE BRIDGE TO THE TULARE-KERN COUNTY LINE)	65
ALTERNATIVE C (DESIGNATION OF ALL ELIGIBLE SEGMENTS EXCEPT THE 14-MILE STRETCH FROM THE SOUTHERN GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS BOUNDARY TO 1,500 FEET NORTH OF THE JOHNSONDALE BRIDGE)	69
ALTERNATIVE D (DESIGNATION OF ONLY THE 47.5-MILE STRETCH FROM THE HEADWATERS TO THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS)	75
ALTERNATIVE E (NO DESIGNATION [NO ACTION])	78

TABLE OF CONTENTS (cont'd)

	PAGE
V. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS	84
NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT	85
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT	86
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACCOUNT	88
OTHER SOCIAL EFFECTS ACCOUNT	88
VI. THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	93
VII. CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS	95
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	95
ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONSULTED	101
FINAL EIS DISTRIBUTION LIST	103
VIII. LIST OF PREPARERS/PARTICIPANTS	105
IX. REFERENCES AND LITERATURE CITED	107
X. INDEX	112

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	WORKING PAPERS BY REFERENCE	A-1
APPENDIX B	SOURCES, ASSUMPTIONS, AND METHODS FOR TABLE V-1, NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT	B-1
APPENDIX C	PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT	C-1
APPENDIX D	LANDOWNERS IN THE NORTH FORK KERN RIVER CORRIDOR	D-1
APPENDIX E	CONTOURED MAPS OF RIVER SEGMENTS	E-1
APPENDIX F	VISUAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	F-1

TABLES

Table III-1	N.F. Kern River Study Segments and Their Present Status	31
Table III-2	N.F. Kern Wild & Scenic River Study, Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Characteristics	40
Table III-3	Summary of Existing Environmental Conditions for Eligibility Evaluation	42

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont'd)

Table IV-1	Summary of Significant Impacts of N.F. Kern River Designation Alternatives	52
Table V-1	National Economic Development Account	89
Table V-2	Regional Economic Development Account	90
Table V-3	Environmental Quality Account	91
Table V-4	Other Social Effects Account	92

FIGURES

Figure I-1	North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Area Location Map	4
Figure I-2	Land Ownership/Study Area	5
Figure III-1	Outstandingly Remarkable Features	43
Figure III-2	North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study Eligibility/Classification Analysis	45
Figure IV-1	Alternatives, North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study	82

I. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Federal Government has long recognized the importance of the Nation's rivers for commerce, transportation, irrigation, and power generation, having developed several programs in relation to these activities. It was only recently, however, that the Federal Government recognized that rivers in their natural state also possessed values worthy of protective attention. The National Park Service in 1960 (quotation to Congressional meeting) recommended that

... certain streams be reserved in their free-flowing condition because their natural, scenic, scientific, esthetic, and recreational values outweigh their value for water development and control purposes.

Congress responded to this and other similar recommendations by passing Public Law 90-542, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et. seq.) on October 2, 1968. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states:

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other national conservation purposes. (16 U.S.C. 1271)

The Act provided a means to implement this policy by establishing a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It also designated eight rivers as the initial components of that system, identified 27 rivers for study as potential additions, and prescribed methods and standards by which additional rivers could be included in the future.

On November 10, 1978, Congress amended the Act by passing Public Law 95-625, the National Parks and Recreation Act. The amendment (16 U.S.C. 1276) mandated that the main stem of the North Fork of the Kern River, from its source to Isabella Reservoir (83 miles), be evaluated for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The U.S. Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture was directed to conduct the required evaluation. The study was developed under the administration of the Sequoia National Forest, and in cooperation with Sequoia National Park, Inyo National Forest, the State of California, and other agencies, and included assessments of the N.F. Kern River's recreational, environmental, historical, social, and economic values. Much of the inventory, evaluation, and report preparation work for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was contracted to Western Ecological Services Company (WESCO), a private environmental planning firm. The study team conducted its assessment in cooperation and consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local government agencies, and with private groups and individuals.

This report is the product of the study team's evaluation efforts. As required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it identifies and assesses the N.F. Kern River's characteristics in order to determine if they render the river a worthy addition to the system. These characteristics are based on those values listed in Section 1 of the Act and on criteria developed by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture in accord with the provisions in Section 2(b) of the Act.

In addition to an assessment of the river's characteristics, the report also contains an environmental analysis of the preferred and alternative designation plans as required by Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and a comparison of alternatives to the recommended plan according to "Principles and Standards for Planning Water and Related Land Resources," published in 1973 by the Water Resources Council pursuant to Section 103 of the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965. The Principles and Standards require that "An explicit presentation will be shown of the comparisons and resulting trade-offs of the recommended plan to other alternative plans considered for recommendation." The Principles and Standards evaluation gives a concise appraisal

of environmental and socioeconomic gains and losses that would result if a river were to be included in the national system. Since development of the draft of this study, this comparison is no longer required. However, we have retained the material for analysis.

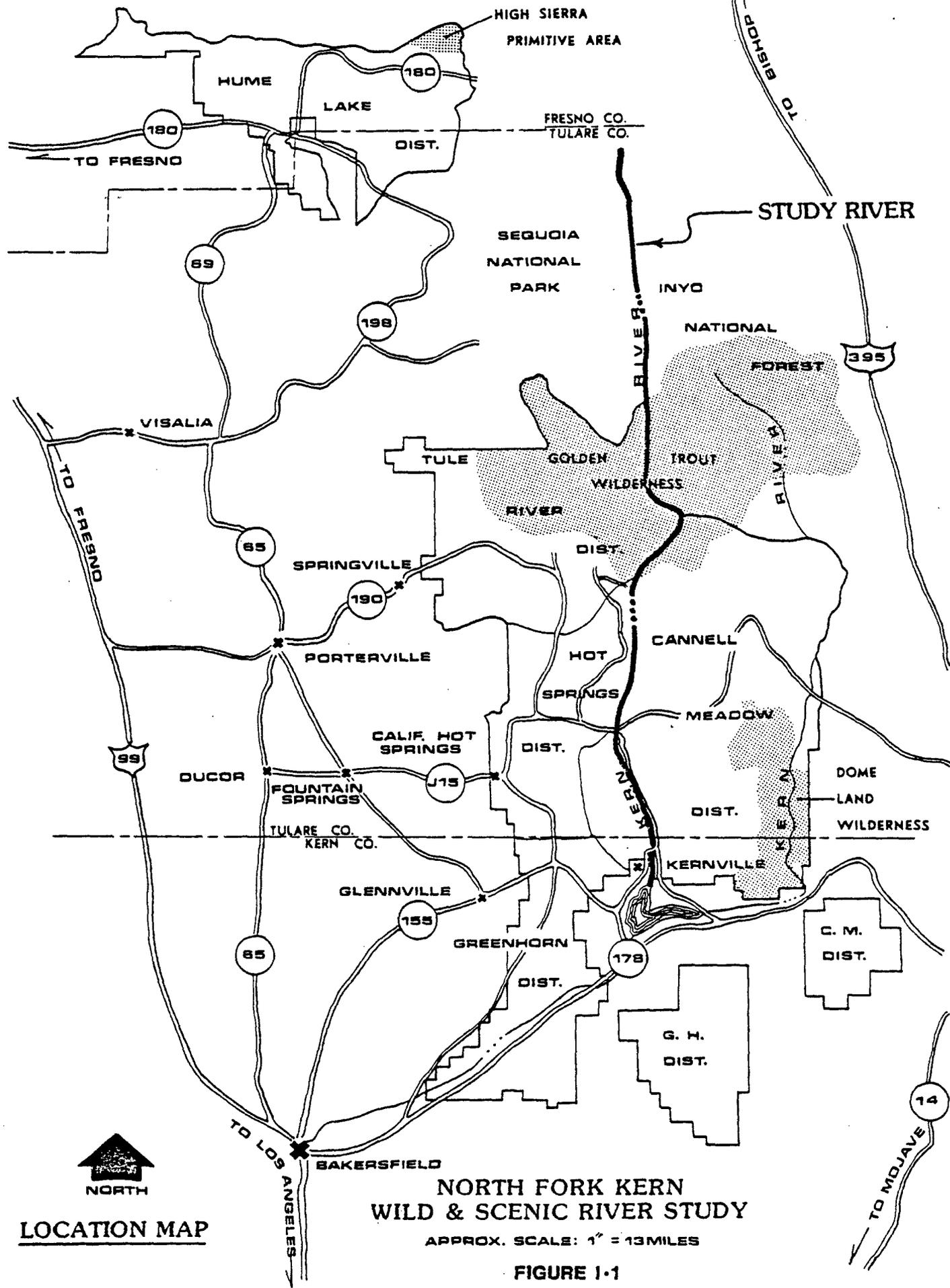
STUDY AREA AND LOCATION

The N.F. Kern river is located in the southern Sierra Nevada of California (Figure I-1). Lake Isabella and Kernville, at the southern terminus of the river, are approximately 45 miles northeast of the City of Bakersfield. The headwaters of the north-south oriented river are within Sequoia National Park, about 70 miles east-southeast of the City of Fresno. Driving time to Kernville from Los Angeles is approximately 3-1/2 hours; from Fresno also about 3-1/2 hours. Travel time from Bakersfield is about 1-1/2 hours.

The river corridor under study (Figure I-2), from the headwaters to Isabella Reservoir, has a total length of 83 miles. The corridor extends an average of 1/4 mile on each side of the river channel for a total average corridor width of 1/2 mile. Within the 83 miles of river in this study, all but 4.5 miles occur on public lands. Twenty-seven miles flow through the Sequoia National Park and 54.5 miles on the Sequoia National Forest with 11 miles forming a common boundary with the Inyo National Forest in the Golden Trout Wilderness. The N.F. Kern River flows a total of 20.5 miles in the Golden Trout Wilderness. The section of the river south of the Golden Trout Wilderness to the Johnsondale Bridge is within the Rincon Roadless Area. From the Johnsondale Bridge south to Isabella Reservoir is located the portion of the river which receives the most concentrated recreation use, primarily due to the less rugged terrain and establishment of a paved county road adjacent (within the 1/4-mile wide corridor) to the N.F. Kern River.

ISSUES

Since late 1979, the Forest Service has conducted several information and involvement activities with the public during development of the N.F. Kern Wild and Scenic River study. These included a series of meetings and news releases. Written comments and responses to a Sequoia National Forest questionnaire were

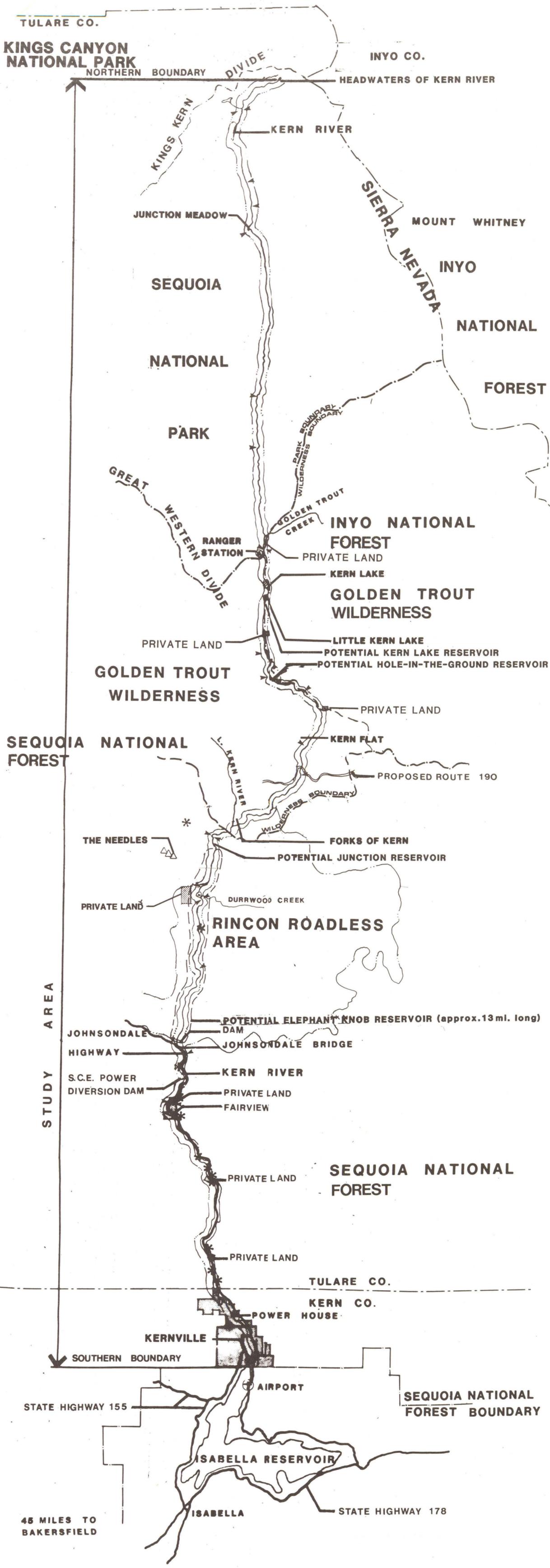


LOCATION MAP

**NORTH FORK KERN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY**

APPROX. SCALE: 1" = 13 MILES

FIGURE 1-1



LAND OWNERSHIP/STUDY AREA MAP
NORTH FORK KERN
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY

FIGURE 1-2

also requested. All of the responses were screened to determine the primary issues relative to the N.F. Kern River study. Seven issues were identified as a result of this process, and can be stated in the form of questions as follows:

1. Does the North Fork Kern qualify as a Wild and Scenic River?
2. Should the river be recommended for designation as a whole or in segments according to the eligibility criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational classification?
3. Which private lands or interests, if any, should be acquired by the Forest Service within the study boundary?
4. What are the desired levels of recreational experience, types of activities, and kind of developments appropriate for the river?
5. Should opportunities be retained for reservoir and water diversion developments in lieu of classification of various segments?
6. Should the opportunity be retained for the Trans-Sierra corridor (Highway 190)?
7. How will mining activities be affected by the designation of the North Fork Kern as a component of the Wild and Scenic River system?

These issues were addressed during the course of the study and preparation of this report. Specific responses to these issues are provided in Chapter VII (page 93) under "Public Participation," in addition to a more detailed account of the public involvement process.

II. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The first step in this study was to conduct an inventory of the N.F. Kern River's varied resources and attributes. The study team conducted an extensive literature review and field survey, and contacted knowledgeable agencies and individuals to complete the inventory. The results of this phase are documented in a series of "working papers." These extensive technical reports are maintained at Sequoia National Forest headquarters as file documents, and are incorporated herein by reference as Appendix A to this report.

A primary objective of the inventory was to identify "outstandingly remarkable" resource values as indicated by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Because the Act does not specifically define "outstandingly remarkable," the study team developed a definition that would truly distinguish those features that are of exceptional value and unique or unusual to the study area. The definition generally applied is as follows: "Outstandingly remarkable features include those which possess high ecologic, scientific, educational, aesthetic, historic, recreational, or social values, and are relatively unusual or unique when considered in a regional comparison to the Sierra Nevada, the nation, or the world."

This chapter presents a condensation of the inventory and describes those features identified as outstandingly remarkable.

REGIONAL SETTING

The region in which the N.F. Kern River is situated is defined as the Sierra Nevada, a mountain range generally encompassing lands above 500 feet elevation on the west slope and 5,000 feet on the east slope to a crest elevation of roughly 11,000 feet. In a national context, this region is relatively small, but is a dominant feature within the exceptionally diverse physical and ecological landscape of California. A geologically young and active mountain range, the Sierra Nevada is well known for its roles in forming California's unique flora, supporting abundant wildlife, supplying substantial mineral, timber, water, and power resources, and providing exceptional opportunities for recreation, education, and scientific research.

The Kern River drains the extreme southern end of the Sierra Nevada, and the North Fork arises from the western slopes of the highest point in the contiguous United States, Mount Whitney (14,494 feet elevation). The drainage is largely representative of the west slope of the Sierra Nevada, but its close proximity to the Great Basin and Southwestern Deserts give it an unusual character.

The N.F. Kern River is unique in its physical attributes, being the only major river of the region which is oriented north-south and is defined for almost its entire length by a remarkably straight fault zone, the Kaweah Peaks Pluton-Kern Canyon Fault. The drainage area of the N.F. Kern (1,050 square miles) is comparable to that of other Sierran rivers, and provides outflows which are similar in volume and peak flow. None, however, are as undisturbed and undeveloped for such a great distance (61 miles). The N.F. Kern River is unique in the region because of its untouched lower elevations (down to about 3,500 feet), including a lack of man-induced streamflow changes. It is also unusual because its major runoff is predominantly spring snowmelt, whereas most other Sierran streams release a large amount of runoff early in the season as a result of heavier winter rains.

The exceptional scenic and natural values of the river canyon are reflected by the inclusion of the upper 27 miles in Sequoia National Park, and the fact that approximately 55 percent (600 square miles, 47.5 river miles) of the total 1,050 square miles (83 river miles) is an administratively endorsed or Congressionally designated wilderness (Sequoia National Park and Golden Trout Wilderness). This is quite high compared to other river drainages of the region or the state. The remaining 21.5 miles are readily accessible, including 17 miles with some recreational development, and provide extensive public use opportunities for the population centers of Los Angeles, Bakersfield, and Fresno. The study area provides exemplary wilderness experience of national significance, fishing and hunting, rock climbing, car camping, rafting, and some of the finest technical whitewater conditions in North America.

The N.F. Kern River study area contains a combination of unusual and typical regional resource values. It exhibits the blending of several very different biotic regions, displays especially well-developed geologic aspects of the Sierra Nevada, is predominantly undeveloped and undisturbed, and holds a great potential for scientific research and high quality recreation.

Outstandingly Remarkable Features

- ° The N.F. Kern River is in a unique geographic position, occurring within the influences of several very different climatic and geologic regions, including the Sierra Nevada, Great Basin (Intermountain), Hot Desert (Mojave), and Southern California.
- ° It also involves a descent of over 10,000 vertical feet over some 83 miles from its headwaters at the Kings-Kern divide (12,800 feet) to Isabella Reservoir (2,605 feet). It is the Sierra Nevada's longest stream without major impoundments or flow alternations.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The N.F. Kern River drains a large portion of the southern Sierra Nevada in Tulare County, California. The mountains comprise a high-standing platform which was uplifted along faults to the east and west. The Kern River is the largest and most notable of the streams which dissect the platform. The river flows southward in a dramatic linear canyon that has formed mainly along the Kaweah Peaks Pluton-Kern Canyon Fault. The study area extends from 12,800 to 2,605 feet elevation and has predominantly high, steep walls and minimal floodplain development. The northern half of the canyon shows signs of glaciation: It is a broad-bottomed, U-shaped valley with tributaries cascading down the walls from high above. The southern part of the canyon was not glaciated and displays a V-shaped valley with some flat, alluvial areas. From 2 miles north of Kernville to Isabella Reservoir, a broad, gravel floodplain extends as much as 1 mile in width.

Predominantly granitic bedrock is well-exposed in the northern Kern Canyon, while metamorphic rocks occur near Forks of the Kern and further south. At various locations, volcanic basalt flows cap granitic peaks and frequently display columnar jointing, for which Devil's Postpile National Monument in Mono County is famous.

Most soils of the N.F. Kern River are thin and derived from the rocks which they overlie. Porous, sandy, and gravelly glacial soils derived from granitic rocks predominate in the northern part of the canyon. Along the river's floodplain, and in the valleys and meadows, the soil is thicker and richer in silt, clay, and organic material. Finer-grained, silty soils derived from metamorphic rock characterize the southern portion of the canyon. Debris slides occur frequently on the steeper slopes of the lower canyon. No prime agricultural soils occur within the study area.

Outstandingly Remarkable Features

- ° The N.F. Kern River canyon may be the longest, linear glacially-sculptured valley in the world.
- ° The canyon contains a regionally unique feature referred to as Kernbutts and Kerncols. These are rounded to elongated (parallel to the axis of the canyon) granitic knobs (Kernbutts) and the depressions between them (Kerncols) which were first identified and named in the Kern Canyon.
- ° The Kaweah Peaks Pluton-Kern Canyon Fault is a unique feature of geologic study and observation in the unravelling of the geologic and tectonic history of the southern Sierra Nevada.
- ° Big and little Kern lakes and the large debris landslide that created the lakes provide one of the few historical examples of a landslide damming a major river and forming a canyon-wide lake with any significant life span measured in terms of years. This has created a unique opportunity to observe the natural successional stages in the life span of a lake.

MINERALS

Mining and mineral resources have played an important part in the history of the North Fork Kern River. Gold discoveries in the late 1800's led to the development of the communities of Keysville and Old Kernville. Several gold and silver claims were filed along the river and a small gold stamp mill operated for a time near Fairview.

During the mid 1900's claims were filed for discoveries of gold, silver and tungsten. Considerable prospecting occurred and a small quantity of tungsten was removed for milling.

Geologic maps of Kern and Tulare Counties show a band of pre-Cretaceous metamorphic rock generally following the Kern Canyon Fault from near Kernville north to the Little Kern River. North of the Johnsondale Bridge, this band of mineralization narrows and is confined to the east side of the Kern River Canyon. Below Johnsondale it underlies the river bed and appears both to the east and the west.

This highly mineralized zone offers great potential for recovery of tungsten, in particular, and other strategic metals such as chromium. Total reserves are unknown, but initial estimates on one claim indicate that a recovery of three million tons of tungsten (current value about \$30/ton) may be possible.

Accelerated exploration over the past few years indicate a growing interest in the mineral resources in or adjacent to the river study corridor from Durrwood Creek south. A listing of 28 claims filed since 1971 is attached to the Minerals Working Papers and are located on topographic maps. None of these claims have been patented.

Since the enactment of Public Law 95-625 on November 10, 1978, all minerals in federal lands in the study corridor have been withdrawn from all forms of appropriation for a five year period. This means that no new mining claims can be filed until the Wild and Scenic River Study is completed and legislative action taken by Congress, or until the five year period is over. In fact, a number of claims have been filed during this withdrawal which indicates continued growth of interest in the mineral resources. They are, of course, null and void ab initio.

Several operations are currently active in or near the study corridor. A small claim at Durrwood Creek, primarily for gold, is basically a one-man operation. Limited quantities of tungsten are removed from 4 small mines just north of the Johnsondale Bridge. One silver claim near Corral Creek has been operated each summer with a small amount of ore being removed each year. At Brush Creek, Superior Oil and private investors have spent more than \$1,000,000 in exploratory drilling of tungsten deposits, and active exploration is continuing.

VEGETATION

The vegetation of the N.F. Kern River drainage is typical in physiognomy and general zonation to that of other rivers of the Sierra Nevada, but represents an unusually rich flora. It is within the Californian Floristic Province (Raven and Axelrod, 1978) and is characterized by a regionally typical transition from alpine meadows, through subalpine and mixed conifer forests, to oak woodland, chaparral, and foothill grassland. The vegetation zones encountered along the river's descent are similar to the rest of the region's drainages, but include a much greater range of plant communities and contain many species which are not common in the region. The study area's close proximity to two other very different floristic provinces (Great Basin and Mojave Desert) is reflected by the presence of many desert-adapted species. The mixture of these with the already diverse and endemic-rich flora (including the big tree or giant sequoia) of the Californian Province, gives the drainage a unique blend of floristic elements from widely differing regions.

As a result of the drainage's unique geographic position and floral history, it contains numerous botanically important areas, including the Kaweah Basin, Diamond Mesa, Whitney Creek, The Needles, Ramshaw Meadows, Sirretta Peak, Bald Mountain, and Big Meadow on the Kern Plateau. All of these contain special ecological features, including rare or endangered plant species, uncommon habitats, or exemplary or unusual populations or communities of particularly interesting species. For example, the upper drainage contains perhaps as much as half the total distribution of foxtail pine, a disjunct relict found only in this area and the mountains of northwestern California.

The actual river corridor under study is less unusual, however, than the overall drainage and contains a typical sequence of riparian communities. Although the upper reaches of the river support several well-developed riparian meadows (Upper and Lower Funston meadows), the corridor does not contain any regionally significant riparian woodland, nor does it contain any significant stands of commercially valuable timber or grazing land.

In addition to the intermixing of floristic provinces, the study area's vegetation exhibits an unusually long and gradual transition through many communities. The river's long, largely uninterrupted, north-south alignment and great elevational descent (11,800 vertical feet) produce a regionally unmatched sequence from moist alpine meadows to near-desert grassland, and foster at least 15 different plant communities, including subalpine, fir, and mixed conifer forests; oak, riparian, pinyon-juniper, and oak-pine woodland; alpine, montane, and riparian meadows; and montane, mixed, and chamise chaparral. The corridor (1/2 mile) also includes such specialized habitats as hot spring, aquatic, alkaline seep, alpine rockfield and snowfield, and cliffs.

Outstandingly Remarkable Features

- ° The wetland habitat at Kern Lakes is regionally uncommon and supports several uncommon aquatic and marsh species, including the unusual water-shield (Brasenia schreberi) and the insectivorous bladderwort (Utricularia vulgaris).
- ° The alkaline seep at Forks of the Kern is regionally unusual and also supports several uncommon plants.
- ° As a whole, the entire river canyon is remarkable in its diversity of plant species and communities. Also, because of the existing literature's lack of in-depth studies of the canyon (particularly the Rincon Roadless Area), and the area's geographic situation, the N.F. Kern River corridor holds outstanding values for scientific and educational research in the field of botany.

WILDLIFE

Because of the undisturbed nature of the N.F. Kern River drainage, it provides excellent habitat for several rare, endangered, or sensitive wildlife species, many of which require wilderness conditions for survival. At least three state-listed rare species (wolverine, Tehachapi slender salamander, and the Kern Canyon slender salamander) and three state and federally-listed endangered species (California condor, bald eagle, and the peregrine falcon) inhabit or range into the region. In addition to these six species, as least 12 other species listed as sensitive or unique by Region 5 of the Forest Service are known to occur in the river canyon. Habitat for most of these species occurs primarily in the undisturbed coniferous forests along the upper half of the river and in the excellent stands of riparian woodland along the lower river between Kernville and Isabella Reservoir.

The N.F. Kern River study area also contains the only known habitat for a unique and, as yet, undescribed species of slender salamander in the genus Batrachoseps. This species was first identified in the 1970 edition of "At the Crossroads" published by the California Department of Fish and game, and was rediscovered in 1980.

The Kern Canyon Slender Salamander (Batrachoseps simatus) was tentatively identified in the Upper Kern River Canyon at three locations; southeast of the river near Fairview (T.23S., R.32E., Sec. 23), Brin Canyon above Fairview; and Packsaddle Canyon above Fairview. Further information indicates that these specimens are actually an undescribed species separate from Batrachoseps simatus. Batrachoseps simatus is listed as rare by the State of California. The undescribed species has no status at this time.

Very little is known about the range or habitat requirements of the undescribed species of slender salamander since it is known from so few specimens. The problem is further complicated by the fact that it can only be distinguished from the more common Batrachoseps relictus through electrophoresis which requires destructive sampling. It is assumed that the requirements for habitat are similar to that of relictual slender salamander which inhabits small seeps, damp areas under rotten logs or large rocks and talus on steep north facing slopes.

The N.F. Kern River corridor supports a high wildlife diversity which is a result of the influence of four major wildlife regions (distinctive geographic areas of similar climate and topography which tend to support certain typical plants and animals [Brown and Livezey, 1962]). Other Sierran rivers are typically influenced by two regions, the Sierran and Great Valley. In addition to these two, the study area is also influenced by the Mojave Desert and Great Basin regions, primarily in the lower half. Along most of the upper river, wildlife associations are typical of other Sierran streams. The N.F. Kern River's unique associations are most notable along the lower river between Johnsondale Bridge and Isabella Reservoir.

Outstandingly Remarkable Features

- ° The only wildlife feature considered outstandingly remarkable is the presence of the only known habitat for the presently undescribed, but distinct, species of slender salamander in the genus Batrachoseps.

FISHERIES

When European man first arrived in the upper N.F. Kern River basin, the native fish were the Sacramento sucker, and three closely related golden-like trout; Little Kern golden trout, South Fork Kern golden trout (Golden Trout Creek and vicinity), and the dominant Kern River rainbow. The Wilderness portion of the Upper Kern River has been stocked with hatchery rainbow trout. While it appears populations of Kern River rainbows still occur, their relationship to the other existing trout is still being researched.

The present fishery of the study corridor consists of a high quality wild trout fishery in the upper river above the Johnsondale Bridge, and a hatchery-supported catchable trout fishery between the bridge and Isabella Reservoir. Sacramento sucker remain relatively common to the river above Johnsondale Bridge, but are not overly abundant except in the partially dewatered portion of the river below the Kern River No. 3 Canal Diversion Dam near Fairview. The fish maintenance flow release schedule for this diversion dam ranges from 40 to 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) during normal water years, and 25 to 90 cfs during dry water years. These flows presently appear adequate to maintain coldwater fishery conditions in this stretch of the river.

In addition to Sacramento sucker, the lowermost section of the river below the diversion dam also supports large numbers of Sacramento squawfish. These two nongame species make extensive spawning migrations each spring from Isabella Reservoir upstream to the diversion dam. Brown trout also occur in the N.F. Kern River at least as far upstream as Kern Flat, but are not abundant.

As the N.F. Kern River channel size and morphology changes throughout the study corridor in regard to pool:riffle ratio and substrate composition, so does the quality of the trout habitat. All of the river within the study area boundaries provides suitable trout habitat, but certain portions exhibit distinctive limiting factors. The uppermost section from the headwaters to the mouth of Golden Trout Creek is typified by a paucity of pool habitat. This is the primary reason why the trout of this river section, while numerous and easily caught by anglers, rarely exceed 9 inches in length. In contrast, the deep pool habitat of the middle portion of the study corridor supports a good population of wild trout between 9 and 18 inches in length. The greatest change in trout habitat occurs below the diversion dam where reduced flows, warmer water temperatures, and the presence of large numbers of nongame fish have reduced the wild trout population to only 1 percent of the total fish biomass for this stretch of river. For this reason, and because of the intensive angling pressure (80,000 angler-days per year) on the portion of the river easily accessible by road, the California Department of Fish and Game maintains a catchable trout program between the Johnsondale Bridge and Isabella Reservoir, stocking approximately 230,000 rainbow trout annually.

Newest genetic finding shows that Kern River rainbows do, in fact, occur. While they are considered a "golden-like" trout, they are one of seven subspecies of California rainbow trout. The geneticists have reverted back to calling them Salmo gairdneri gilberti. The North Fork Kern River contains pure populations of these trout from Junction Meadow down through at least the Forks of the Kern into probably the Freeman/Peppermint Creek areas (trout at the Fairview Dam are fully introgressed-hybridized).

Outstandingly Remarkable Features

- The upper N.F. Kern River fishery provides anglers with the rare opportunity to experience vividly colored hybrid trout possessing a variety of characteristics derived from their golden trout, Kern River rainbow trout, and introduced rainbow trout ancestry.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

The N.F. Kern River from its headwaters to Isabella Reservoir is free-flowing except for one diversion for hydroelectric power generation about 17 miles above Kernville, and a few small irrigation ditches in this same area. The diversion dam is owned and operated by Southern California Edison Company. A maximum of 630 cfs of water is diverted from the N.F. Kern River channel and is then returned to the river at a location 15 miles downstream of the diversion point. The Gilbert irrigation ditch diverts up to 7 cfs from the river below the Southern California Edison Company powerhouse.

The streamflow pattern of the N.F. Kern River is somewhat atypical of Sierran rivers in that it has basically one peak of high flow which occurs from snowmelt during April through June. Because winter precipitation in the upper basin occurs primarily as snowfall, the N.F. Kern River does not experience a major winter rain-induced peak of runoff during November through December as is common to most Sierran waterways. Low flows in the N.F. Kern River usually occur from September through January.

The extreme of N.F. Kern River flow as recorded at the point of diversion (combined river and diversion flows) are a maximum of 60,000 cfs and a minimum of 78 cfs. The average discharge at this location as measured over a 58-year period is 711 cfs and typical spring runoff flows reach 4,000 to 6,000 cfs. Late fall flows in the lower river seldom drop below 150 cfs.

Water quality of the upper N.F. Kern River can be characterized as well oxygenated, cold, generally clear, low in nutrients, and essentially without significant water quality problems. Examples of water quality indicators are provided for the upper and lower portions of the study corridor in the following paragraphs.

The waters of the upper portion of the study area are very pristine, typically low in turbidity and dissolved solids, slightly alkaline in pH, and cold year-round. Nutrient nitrogen and phosphorus are very low, and fecal coliform bacteria levels are negligible at most locations in the river. Surface runoff from pack trails and grazed meadows provides the only occasional significant input of fecal coliform bacteria, however, the limited nature of the contaminant and the volume of river flow appear to prevent this from becoming a problem.

The lowermost portion of the river within the study area is located adjacent to the town of Kernville. Kernville's wastewater treatment needs are served by septic tank and leach field system. The river water at this location is still suitable for coldwater fishes, and is only slightly more mineralized. Dissolved oxygen levels remain high. Nutrient nitrogen and phosphorus remain relatively low and present no problems. Bacterial contamination occurs periodically in this section of the river, but appears to be associated with winter storm runoff from the Kernville area and is not considered to be a problem.

Portions of the North Fork Kern River have existing power site classification withdrawals. Some of these areas have current studies being conducted for feasibility of power development and water storage. These sites have been identified and analyzed in Section IV, Alternative and Effects of Alternatives.

Outstandingly Remarkable Features

None of the hydrologic characteristics of the upper Kern River can be described as outstandingly remarkable, since similar conditions are common to Sierran rivers throughout California.

CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY

The climate of the southern Sierra Nevada, as well as most of California, is dominated by mild Pacific air brought inland by prevailing westerly winds.

Summers are characteristically mild and dry with scattered thunder showers in the higher elevations. Depending on elevation, maximum summer temperatures range from 80 to 100 degrees F; minimum summer temperatures range from 15 to 37 degrees F. Winters are also comparatively mild. Maximum winter temperatures range from 55 to 70 degrees F and minimum temperatures range from 0 to about minus 30 degrees F, again depending on elevation.

The majority of precipitation occurs during the winter, falling as snow in the higher elevations and rain in the lower. The persistent snowline in the Kern River drainage is approximately 5,000 to 6,000 feet, and average standing snow pack in April is between 50 and 75 inches at higher elevations and 10 to 25 inches at lower elevations (Kahr1 et al., 1979).

Because of its north-south alignment, the N.F. Kern River is more protected from incoming westerly and northwesterly storm fronts than other Sierran rivers, and receives less rainfall. The Great Western Divide and Greenhorn Mountains intercept much of the 30 to 50 inches of precipitation which normally fall on the middle and upper slopes of the Sierra Nevada annually, leaving only 10 to 30 inches annually for much of the N.F. Kern River drainage. The area around Isabella Reservoir receives from 0 to 10 inches of rain per year.

The N.F. Kern River lies in the southeastern edge of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. In the mountainous areas of the basin only limited air quality monitoring has been conducted. Due to the limited industrial and urban development in the Kern River Valley, air quality in the area is generally good. The major source of airborne pollutants in the area is from the intensive development of the San Joaquin Valley.

The Clean Air Act of 1977 established a classification system for preventing significant deterioration of air quality. The Sequoia National Park is a Class I area in which only small increases in air pollution are allowed. The remainder of the study area, including the Golden Trout Wilderness, is Class II. This classification permits greater deterioration of air quality before it is considered to be significant.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND USE

Almost the entire river corridor (95 percent) is in public ownership, under the U.S. Departments of the Interior (National Park Service) and Agriculture (Forest Service). The upper 27 miles are managed by Sequoia National Park as administratively endorsed wilderness. The next 20.5 miles are managed as designated wilderness (Golden Trout Wilderness) by the Forest Service, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests. Located within or adjacent to the Golden Trout Wilderness corridor section is a total of 70 acres of private inholdings (see Appendix E). The first parcel of land is near Soda Springs, consisting of 30 acres which are entirely within the corridor. The second parcel is 2-1/2 miles south of Kern Lake and consists of a 40 acre section, 25 acres of which are in the corridor. A third parcel is at Soda Flat, currently in title dispute with the Forest Service, consisting of 80 acres, 15 acres of which are within the corridor.

Immediately downstream from Forks of the Kern is a 14-mile stretch of river which lies within the Rincon Roadless Area of Sequoia National Forest. This area was evaluated under RARE II and recommended for nonwilderness status. This is currently a State Suit Area as a result of litigation in progress against the RARE II conclusion. It is extremely rugged terrain and is currently managed essentially as wilderness. The Rincon area ends downstream at the Johnsondale Bridge, below which the corridor becomes a heavily utilized recreation area. One 320 acre private inholding exists in the proximity of the corridor (see Appendix E) in this section.

The next 17 miles, from approximately the Johnsondale Bridge south to the Tulare-Kern County line, is still within the Sequoia National Forest, but is managed for more intense recreation purposes. The entire distance is accessible by vehicle, and numerous developed campgrounds and a few resort operations are present. The recreational activities which take place here are almost completely river oriented. Three areas of private inholdings occur in this area and are also recreation oriented. The private land in the Fairview area consists of 3 contiguous parcels and a total of 157± acres; all parcels have structural improvements. The private land adjacent to Corral Creek and the N.F. Kern River consists of 20± acres and is unimproved. The third private land area is about 4 miles south of Corral Creek and consists of an unimproved single 5-acre parcel (see Appendix E). All of the above 182 acres are zoned "A-1", Agricultural Zone. Parcel sizes, parcel numbers, assessor's appraisal, and zoning descriptions are on file at Sequoia National Forest Headquarters in Porterville.

The existing "A-1" zoning allows for numerous agricultural uses and some residential uses without a use permit. A minimum 5-acre parcel can have an owner or lessee's home and an employee's home; these can be mobile homes. A 5-acre parcel could be a 25-animal swine farm, 25-cow dairy, or a 25-animal feed lot among a number of other agricultural uses. More obnoxious uses such as asphalt plants, sand and gravel operations, and fertilizer manufacturing require a use permit. Recreation uses such as campgrounds, ball parks, golf courses, and recreation centers also require a use permit.

The remainder of the corridor (4.5 miles) from the county line to Isabella Reservoir is predominantly private land with extensive residential and commercial development. This development is largely river oriented also, and includes no significant industrial or agricultural operations. This area includes river-oriented recreational use, tourist-oriented small businesses, a golf course, a small resident population (roughly 2,000), and the normal services and facilities associated with a small town.

As a whole, the N.F. Kern River is predominantly a publically owned recreation area. Aside from the lower 4.5 miles, the river descends through a wide range of recreational settings, providing opportunities for numerous outdoor activities.

RECREATION

Recreation is a very popular use throughout the 83 miles of the river study area. Based on 1979 data, the study area accommodated approximately 206,460 visitor-days, including 183,800 visitor-days between Johnsondale Bridge and Isabella Reservoir, 5,000 in Sequoia National Park, and 17,660 in the Golden Trout Wilderness and Rincon Roadless areas. The National Park Service estimates a capacity of 133 people per night along the river within the park during a 90-day season; however, for a seasonal total they foresee a maximum of 8,000 instead of the projected 11,970. Current use is about 50 visitors per night. The Golden Trout Wilderness Plan establishes a capacity of 230 people at one time in the river corridor (Wilderness Travel Zones 107 and 108). Current use is substantially less than capacity, even on the highest use days. The Forest Service has not established a capacity at this time for remaining areas along

the river. The principal recreational activities along the river include camping, hiking, swimming, backpacking, canoeing, rafting, and fishing. Other activities include rock climbing, horseback riding, hot spring bathing, sightseeing, mining, and photography.

Specifically, below Johnsondale Bridge are seven developed campgrounds with a total of 249 family camp units and three picnic areas available for visitor use. In addition, dispersed camping is allowed for the area. These dispersed sites may vary from large open areas with toilets, to small single car turnouts. One trail (Whiskey Flat Trail) is located on the west side of the river and runs from the end of Burlando Road to Fairview where it crosses the river. Other trails within the corridor, such as the Cannell Trail and the Packsaddle Trail, generally serve to take people away from the river. The upper portions above Johnsondale Bridge are accessible by trail only.

The current management of the Sequoia National Park and Golden Trout Wilderness is to restrict all off-road vehicle use in the area (Zone A of the ORV Policy). Otherwise, the remainder of the corridor is open to all vehicle use on trails or cross-country, limited by terrain only (Zone D).

As of March 29, 1982 the Golden Trout Wilderness has an interim management plan which sets guidelines for the management of the Wilderness and its resources. Some of the management directions from the plan are: (1) enforce the maximum party size of 25 people, which includes leaders, outfitters, etc.; (2) establish a Forest Order limiting the maximum number of stock per party to 25 without prior approval of the District Ranger; (3) continue the requirement for a visitor permit to enter the Wilderness; and (4) allow for commercial white-water river rafting on the main fork of the Kern River from the Forks of the Kern down river.

The lower part of the study area terminates south of Kernville at the high water mark of Isabella Reservoir. Within 175 road miles of the lower terminus, a market area population of 9,279,000 exists. The Kernville area is approximately 160 miles from metropolitan Los Angeles and 45 miles from Bakersfield. Because of the southern latitude, portions of the river study area receive recreational use throughout the year, with the heaviest use occurring during the

summer months. The Isabella Reservoir area, south of and adjacent to the study corridor, is a major attraction to visitors. During an average 1979 weekend day during the peak season, 10,000 people visited the lake.

Outstandingly Remarkable Features

- ° Fishing in the upper portions of the river and its tributaries is unique because of the setting and solitude, and the opportunities to catch fish with unusually vivid coloration that are hybrids of golden, Kern river rainbow, and introduced rainbow trout. Also, the golden trout is indigenous to the river and pure strains can be caught in several tributaries.
- ° Sightseeing is outstanding in portions of the river due to the numerous waterfalls and rock faces. Also, the straight, deep, north-south oriented U-shaped canyon provides an outstanding view, especially from the plateau north of Junction Meadow. As noted in the Visual Resources section, scenery consisting of rock and water combinations along with the native vegetation provides excellent viewing.
- ° Because of the extreme solitude and outstanding alpine scenery, the headwaters are considered to be outstandingly remarkable for their recreational opportunities.
- ° The whitewater boating opportunities along the 16-mile stretch from Forks of the Kern to the Johnsondale Bridge are considered to be outstandingly remarkable. Boating in this section is outstanding from a technical standpoint and because of the solitude and scenery in this area.

VISUAL RESOURCES

An extensive visual resource study was completed for the entire river corridor. As part of the study, several hundred slides were taken from a helicopter and ground points. The study compared the interrelationships of water, landform, vegetation, and the overall aesthetic qualities of the N.F.

Kern river with other rivers. In general, the river's steep canyon walls, numerous waterfalls, straight line north-south oriented U-shaped canyon, contrasts between rock and clear, free-flowing water, and vegetative variety gave it a high aesthetic rating. The visual qualities are further enhanced by the essentially natural conditions which extend for over 61 miles. The N.F. Kern River was found to possess outstandingly remarkable scenic value when compared with other rivers within the Sierra Nevada.

The current status of the visual resource visual quality objectives within the corridor is "Retention." This visual quality objective provides for Management activities which are not visually evident. Activities should only repeat form, line, color and texture which are frequently found in the characteristic landscape. The visual quality objective is only an expression of a desired landscape condition and is not meant to imply a mandatory condition. Additional information or reference is available from the National Forest Landscape Management Handbooks Volume 1, Volume 2 - Chapter 1 (VMS).

Outside the corridor the desirable Visual Quality Objective is partial retention. Again, this is only a suggested objective under the current status; but could change if the river is designated. This visual quality objective calls for management activities to repeat form, line, color and texture common to the characteristic landscape; but changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape (see Appendix F).

Outstandingly Remarkable Features

- The long, straight, U-shaped valley in the upper canyon area
- The often visible, parallel fault line
- The quantity and quality of waterfalls
- The height and steepness of the canyon walls
- Numerous basaltic (postpile) formations
- Kern Lakes -- lakes which were naturally formed by damming via a landslide in 1869
- The overall effect of clear water flowing in cascades over bedrock, and clear, deep pools framed by steep rock walls in a setting of solitude and diverse vegetation
- The variety and coloration of golden trout and related hybrids

SOCIOECONOMICS

The economy of Tulare and Kern counties is based primarily on agriculture, mineral extraction, manufacturing, and tourism. The study area's local communities of Kernville, Wofford Heights, Lake Isabella, and others are largely tourist and recreation oriented, similar to other small foothill towns of the region. The economy of the lower portion of the study area is dependent to a great extent on recreation activities associated with Isabella Reservoir and the Kern River, while the upper portions of the study area are largely uninhabited and used for public recreation.

The recreational and tourist uses of the lower study area are supplemented by a growing service industry, an influx of retired persons, and the building and use of second homes. In the last ten years (1970 to 1980) it is estimated that service-related jobs have grown by at least 100 percent, and have been accompanied by significant increases in construction, finance, insurance, and real estate activities. The 100 percent estimated increase in service-related jobs is a conservative estimate based on the nature of the growth (i.e., growth consisting of retirees and recreationists creates considerably more demand for service-related jobs than do the agriculture and oil industries). According to the State Department of Employment, the two-county-wide increase in service jobs has been 65 percent. Although Kernville and River Kern are the only two towns actually within the study area, the high use of the lower 22 miles of river extends the need for goods and services beyond the study area. Also, the complementary uses of the lower river and Isabella Reservoir tie the economics of all the local communities together.

Population growth in the Kernville-Lake Isabella area is rapid, with Kernville growing at a rate of 61 percent (975 to 1,574) and Lake Isabella at 136 percent (838 to 1,978) between 1970 and 1980. The rapid growth is largely attributable to and evidenced by the high proportion of retired residents. The over-65 age group is estimated to be 23 percent of the total area-wide population. The growth rates of the local communities are substantially greater than for Tulare (20.8 percent) and Kern (13.6 percent) counties. Unemployment for the local area is estimated to be essentially the same as for the entire two-county region (10 percent) and is similarly seasonal in nature. Due to the

area's dependence on tourist-related services, unemployment is generally higher during winter, the "off season." (John Folpmers, Kern County Planning Department, pers. comm.)

The area-wide population more than doubled (2,419 to 5,475) between 1960 and 1970, and is projected to hit 8,500 permanent residents by 1990, in addition to a seasonal population of 7,000 (Army Corps of Engineers, 1980). Current trends toward increased recreational use, mobile home developments, real estate sales, and tourist-related retail businesses are expected to continue.

The upper portions of the study area (above Johnsondale Bridge) provide only limited input to the local economy; this area is virtually all uninhabited public land and supports little commercial activity. Access to this section of the river is by trail with the primary trail heads near Quaking Aspen, Lloyd Meadows and Mineral King. Recreational use areas below the Johnsondale Bridge add significantly to the local tourist economy since these visitors use most of the local commercial facilities. A few small private inholdings provide an economic base for small resort and camp operators (such as those at Fairview).

Timber and grazing resources are not extensive in the study area, and their utilization has little direct bearing on the N.F. Kern River. Tungsten mining has been pursued in the area between Forks of the Kern and Fairview, but only a small amount of ore is extracted each year. The extent of recoverable minerals in the corridor is not completely known, but may be extensive based on results of recent exploration. The potential for expansion of mining opportunities is significant but dependent on a continuing demand for tungsten and other minerals.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL

A ten percent archaeological survey was designed by the Forest Archaeologist in order to obtain a representative sample of both quantity and distribution of resources in the corridor. Evaluation of sites within the corridor are based on the definition of "outstandingly remarkable" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. There is no correlation between the definition criteria and 36 CFR 60.6 to determine whether or not a site is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The Forest will determine final eligibility of the sites when future projects may have effect on them.

The N.F. Kern River lies within the traditional territory of the Tubatulabal peoples, a distinct linguistic branch of the Plateau Shoshone. Their territory encompassed the drainages of the N.F. and S.F.. Kern Rivers. The Tubatulabal used much of the N.F. Kern River drainage in a systematic yearly or seasonal cycle based upon tribal subsistence and trade. Use in the mid and high elevations was limited to food gathering and hunting in the summer and fall. Winter and spring were spent primarily at permanent hamlets in lower elevations.

Because of the seasonal use of the drainage, prehistoric sites occur intermittently along the length of the river as is typical for most Sierra Nevada rivers. Cultural resource surveys for the Wild and Scenic River study identified 27 prehistoric sites in a 10 percent sample of the river corridor. Twelve of the sites (44 percent) were found along the lower river below Johnsondale Bridge, reflecting the more extended periods of use and perhaps slightly greater population densities.

As with prehistoric use, historic use largely involved seasonal resource exploitation at different elevations. Historic use was related primarily to grazing, gold mining, and homesteading. During the cultural resource survey, seven historic sites were identified. None of the sites, however, are considered to be of special historical significance.

Outstandingly Remarkable Features

- Only one of the 34 sites identified during the cultural resource survey is considered to qualify as outstandingly remarkable. This site, located in the Golden Trout Wilderness portion of the corridor, is a large (0.6 km x 0.3 km) multi-occupation area and lies at the junction of several aboriginal trails of regional importance for both seasonal movement and trade. Although this site is and has been subject to indiscriminate collecting for a number of years, it appears that a considerable portion of the site remains intact.
- In general, archaeological resources in the corridor are numerous and still largely undisturbed; therefore, the scientific and educational potentials are extremely high.

III. EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR RIVER ELIGIBILITY

The first and primary objective of this study is to determine if the N.F. Kern River, or certain segments of it, meet the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Generally, a river must be free-flowing and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable resource values as previously identified in Chapter II.

Once eligibility is determined, the next step is to determine which classification (Wild, Scenic, or Recreational) is appropriate for the eligible segments. This is accomplished through the application of classification criteria defined in the Act.

The remainder of this section describes the application and results of this process relative to the N.F. Kern River.

IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF RIVER SEGMENTS

To facilitate identification of outstandingly remarkable resource values and the application of designation and classification criteria, the study area was divided into five river segments. Each segment possesses certain natural and/or land management characteristics which distinguish it significantly from the others. For this particular river, the boundaries between segments are formed by existing administrative designations or other man-made features.

The five identified segments are summarized in Table III-1 and described more fully on the following page.

Table III-1. N.F. River Study Segments and Their Present Status.

Segment Number	Description	Length (mi)	Status
1	Headwaters to Southern Boundary of Sequoia National Park	27.0	Managed as de facto or administrative wilderness by the National Park Service
2	Golden Trout Wilderness	20.5	Designated wilderness, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests
3	Southern Golden Trout Wilderness Boundary to 1,500 Feet Above Johnsondale Bridge	14.0	Presently managed by Sequoia National Forest to maintain its wilderness character pending resolution of the California Rare II suit
4	1,500 Feet Above Johnsondale Bridge to Tulare-Kern County Line	17.0	Managed as recreational area by Sequoia National Forest; three small private parcels are present
5	Tulare-Kern County Line to Isabella Reservoir	4.5	Predominantly private; largely residential and commercial development
	TOTAL MILES	83.0	

Segment 1 - Headwaters to Southern Boundary Of Sequoia National Park
(27.0 Miles).

This segment begins with the N.F. Kern River's headwaters at the Kings-Kern Divide, bounded on the west by the Great Western Divide and on the east by Tyndall Creek Basin. The segment runs almost due south through Sequoia National Park for 27 miles to the park's boundary with Golden Trout Wilderness. A well-traveled trail follows the length of the river and, aside from numerous primitive camps and a few footbridges, the only improvements are a ranger's cabin and associated facilities at the southern boundary. Kern Hot Spring, a popular destination for hikers, is in this segment at Rock Creek's confluence with the N.F. Kern.

Segment 2 - Golden Trout Wilderness (20.5 Miles).

This segment begins at the southern boundary of Sequoia National Park and runs 20.5 miles through Golden Trout Wilderness to Forks of the Kern. This segment is entirely within federally-designated wilderness and is accessible only by trail. There are no major improvements, but several campsites exist at Little Kern Lake, Kern Flat, and between Osa Creek and Forks of the Kern, and a few cabins exist at the river's confluence with Nine Mile Creek. Segment 2 descends roughly 1,400 feet, from 6,200 to 4,800 feet, and is readily accessible by trail for all but 2 miles on the north slope of Hockett Peak (an area called Hole-in-the-Ground).

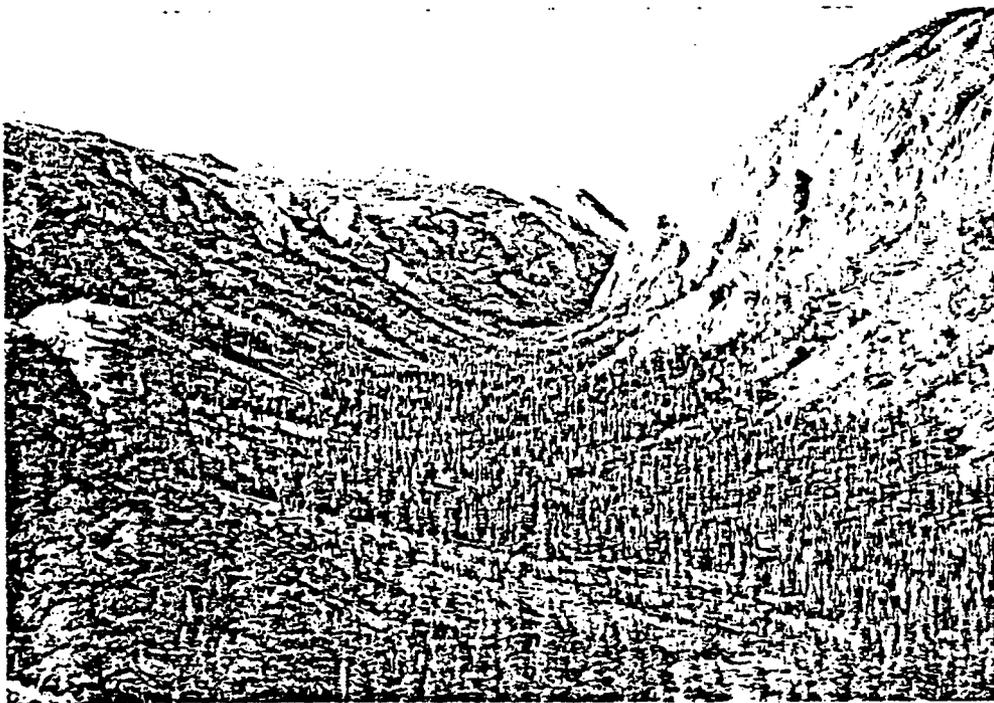
Segment 3 - Southern Golden Trout Wilderness Boundary to 1,500 Feet Above
Johnsondale Bridge (14.0 Miles).

This segment runs from the existing wilderness boundary at Forks of the Kern to a point roughly 1,500 feet upstream from the Johnsondale Bridge. This is a stretch of 14 miles of extremely rough terrain through a very steep gorge. It is only accessible by trail, primarily via the river corridor from above or below, as the length of the segment is not served by a continuous parallel trail. Feeder trails such as those to Needle and Durrwood camps provide access to selected points on the river.

SEGMENT 1



Kern River Canyon, view south.



Kern River Canyon, view south, near Wallace Creek.

SEGMENT 2



Upper Kern, just above the Forks of the Kern.



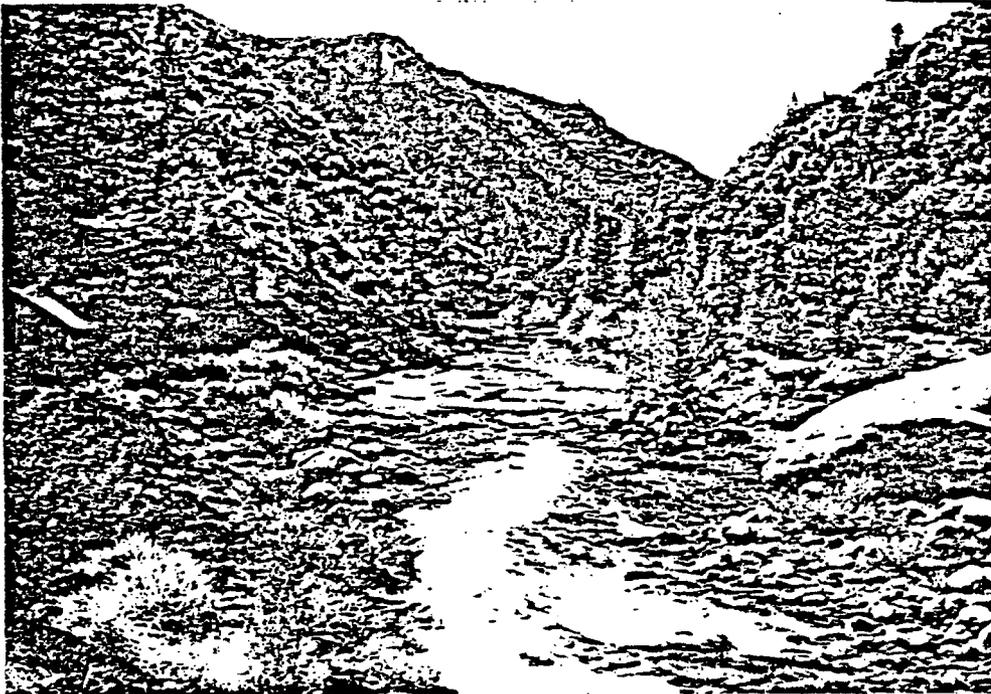
Kern River pool, view south.

PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS

SEGMENT 3



Kern River near Dry Meadow Creek.



Rapids, view south, Durrwood Creek area.

A paved road runs parallel to Segment 3 approximately 1 mile upslope to the west. Although traffic does not reach within the study corridor, it is, in places, only about one-quarter mile from the river; several cut slopes along it can be seen from points on the river. Most of this segment's one-half mile corridor is within the Rincon Roadless Area. During the RARE II process, this area was recommended for nonwilderness designation, but is currently being managed by the Forest Service to protect its wilderness potential until the State RARE II suit is resolved, or the Forest Land Management Plan is completed and approved.

This segment is minimally developed and contains only a few primitive campsites and old structures associated with the mining claims.

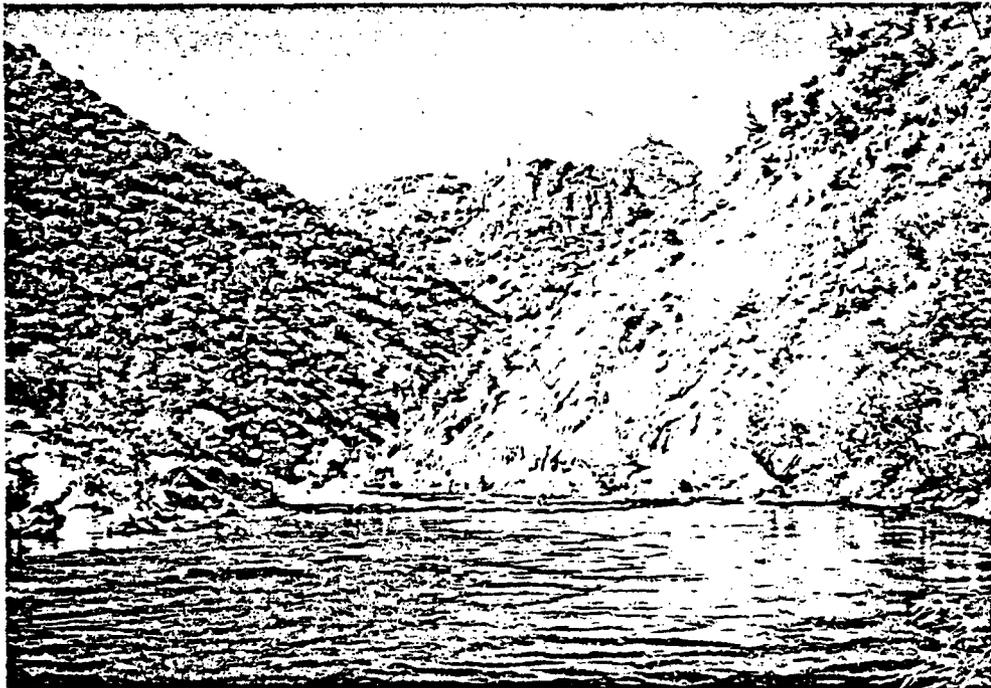
Segment 4 - 1,500 Feet Above Johnsondale Bridge to Tulare-Kern County Line (17.0 Miles).

This segment runs from just above the Johnsondale Bridge (approximately 3,760 feet elevation) 17 miles downstream to the Tulare-Kern County line (2,760 feet elevation). A paved two-lane highway provides ready access to the river on the east side for most of the length of this segment and serves nine developed campgrounds. This segment is also accessible by trail along its west bank. The corridor is primarily under Forest Service management as a recreation area, but includes several small privately owned parcels, the most notable being the one at Fairview where there are moderate improvements and facilities (store, service station, campground).

This segment is only moderately developed (almost entirely as campgrounds) and contains no major commercial or industrial facilities. A small dam detains and diverts water from the river channel at a point approximately 2 miles downstream from the Johnsondale Bridge, but does not create an extensive impoundment, nor does it greatly alter the free-flowing character of the river. The diverted water is returned by pipe to the channel 16 miles downstream near Kernville.

PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS

SEGMENT 4



Kern River below Limestone, above Brin Canyon.



Fishing the Kern.

PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS

SEGMENT 5



Aerial view of Kernville, looking north.



Aerial view of Kernville, looking south to Isabella Lake.

Segment 5 - Tulare-Kern County Line to Isabella Reservoir (4.5 Miles).

Segment 5 is 4.5 miles long and contains the private lands and developed areas of River Kern and Kernville. Only about one-quarter mile of the corridor is under Forest Service jurisdiction, the rest being private and supporting extensive residential and commercial improvements. There are many roads within this segment, plus fish hatchery facilities, a golf course, a small hydro-electric power plant, and numerous residences and small commercial establishments.

SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE FEATURES

Although described earlier in the Affected Environment section for each technical subject area, the specific identified outstandingly remarkable resource values are summarized here in Table III-2 for reader convenience. Table III-3 provides a second summarization, indicating the general types of outstandingly remarkable values for each segment, as well as other pertinent information needed for eligibility evaluation. Figure III-1 shows the geographic location and extent of the outstandingly remarkable features.

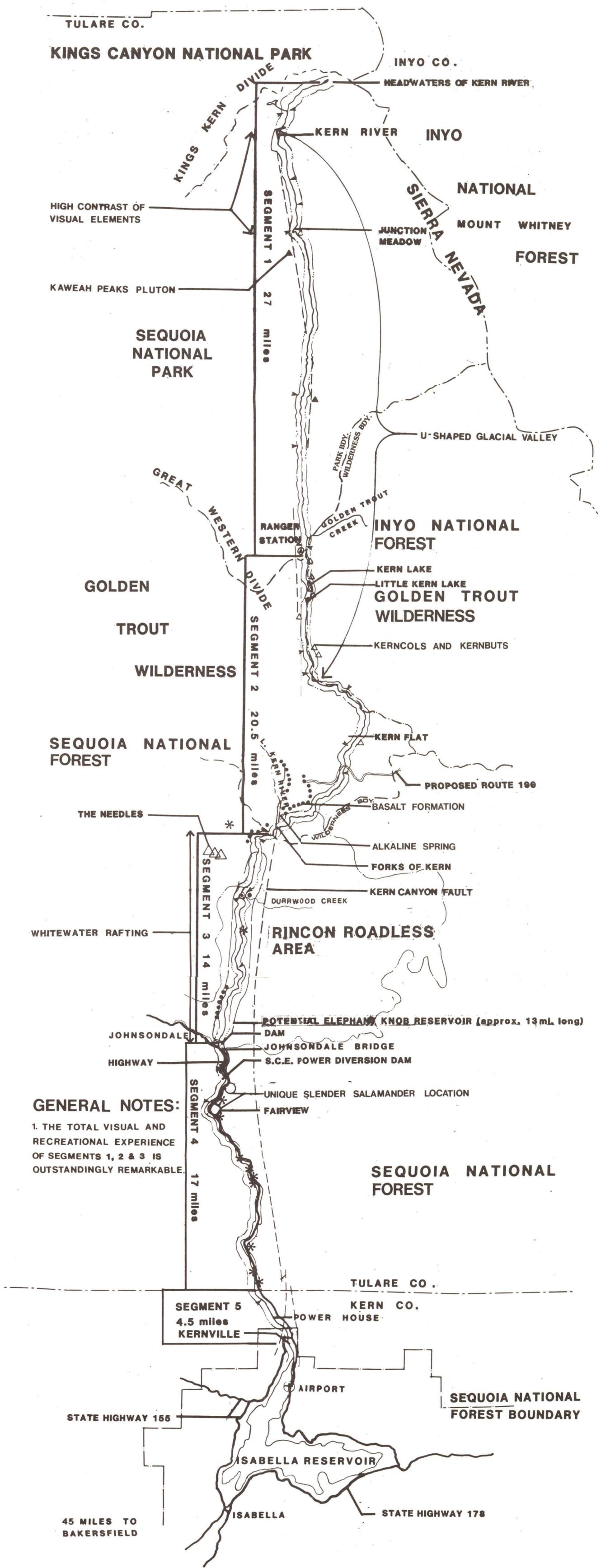
Table III-2. N.E. Kern Wild and Scenic River Study, Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Characteristics.

<u>Segment</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Outstandingly Remarkable Characteristics</u>
1	Recreation	The <u>total experience</u> more than individual characteristics, with the following high quality items contributing to the experience: Hiking, viewing, camping, fishing, solitude.
	Visual	High contrast to visual elements (headwaters to Junction Meadow); long, linear U-shaped valley; the height and steepness of canyon walls; crystal clear water in rapids and small pools; and numerous waterfalls. Again, the total experience is considered outstandingly remarkable.
	Geology	Long, linear glacial valley; Kernbutts and Kerncols; and Kaweah Peaks Pluton-Kern Canyon Fault.
	Fisheries	The extremely varied coloration of rainbow-golden trout hybrids.
2	Recreation	Excellent hiking, horseback riding (pack trips), camping, fishing; the area provides solitude, outstanding visual experiences. The total experience is considered outstandingly remarkable.
	Visual	Numerous basaltic postpile formations and lakes in river channel; clear pools framed with steep rock sides; numerous waterfalls. The total experience.
	Geology	Kernbutts and Kerncols, Kern Canyon Fault, and Little Kern Lake and large debris landslide (lakes in river channel).
	Vegetation	Wetlands at Kern Lakes and the alkaline spring at Forks of the Kern.
	Cultural/ Historical	Large multi-occupation area characterized by several loci of bedrock mortars, dense lithic scatter, and midden.

Table III-2. (Continued)

Segment	Resource	Outstandingly Remarkable Characteristics
3	Recreation	Whitewater rafting; excellent camping, hiking, fishing, solitude; exceptional visual experiences. The total experience is outstanding.
	Visual	Several waterfalls; deep V-shaped canyon, cataracts in series; large clear pools with rock sides. The total experience is outstanding.
4	Wildlife	Only known habitat for a unique (and unnamed) species of slender salamander in the genus <u>Batrachoseps</u> .
5	All	None
General*		<p>The river corridor provides an unparalleled (in California) natural transition of relatively unaltered habitats (for both plants and animals) from high elevation alpine country to near-desert grassland, chaparral, and woodland habitats. (Segments 1-4)</p> <p>General north-south alignment of canyon. (Segments 1-3)</p> <p>Length of view down the canyon from the upper Kern River. (Segments 1 and 2)</p> <p>The fact that the river flows through wilderness or near wilderness conditions for most of its length and is a truly wild river for approximately 74 percent of its length. (Segments 1-3)</p> <p>Archaeological resources are numerous and still largely undisturbed; therefore, the scientific and educational potentials of the river corridor are extremely high. (Segments 1-4)</p>

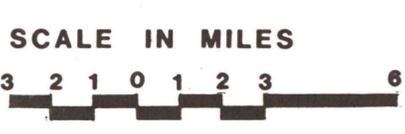
*These characteristics are more generally applied to two or more segments, as indicated, as opposed to being characteristically identifiable within an individual segment.



GENERAL NOTES:
 1. THE TOTAL VISUAL AND RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF SEGMENTS 1, 2 & 3 IS OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE.

LEGEND

- WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
- NATIONAL PARK/FOREST BOUNDARY
- ROADS
- * CAMPGROUNDS (EXISTING)
- - - COUNTY LINE
- - - 1/2 MILE STUDY CORRIDOR
- - - KERN CANYON FAULT
- △ KERN COLS/ KERN BUTS
- ▲ KAWEAH PEAKS PLUTON
- ... BASALT FORMATIONS
- ▶ TRAIL ACCESS



OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE FEATURES NORTH FORK KERN WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY FIGURE III-1

Table III-3. Summary of Existing Environmental Conditions for Eligibility Evaluation.

	Segment 1 (27.0 mi)	Segment 2 (20.5 mi)	Segment 3 (14.0 mi)	Segment 4 (17.0 mi)	Segment 5 (4.5 mi)
Outstandingly Remarkable Values*:					
Recreation	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Visual	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Geology	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Water Quality	No	No	No	No	No
Fisheries	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Vegetation	No	Yes	No	No	No
Wildlife	No	No	No	Yes	No
Cultural and Historical	No	Yes	No	No	No
Free Flowing Nature Affected By:					
Impoundments	No	No	No	No	No
Diversions	No	No	No	Yes	No

*Only those outstandingly remarkable values associated with specific segments are included; values identified as general to the corridor are not (see Table III-2).

ELIGIBILITY FOR DESIGNATION AND POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

Following the identification of outstandingly remarkable values, the next step is the application of stated criteria to determine river eligibility and classification, based on the condition of the river corridor at the time of the study. Each eligible segment is recommended for classification as one of three categories which are defined by the Act (16 U.S.C. 1273) as follows:

1. Wild river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
2. Scenic river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
3. Recreational river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past.

Applying these criteria, with the added assistance of the supplemental criteria outlined in "Guidelines for Evaluating Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Areas Proposed for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Under Section 2, Public Law 90-542" (Department of Agriculture and the Interior, 1970), the study team exercised its judgement in determining eligibility and classification. It should be understood that the criteria are not absolute, and that certain exceptions are allowed as long as they are few in number and are minor such that they do not detract from the overall experience. Accordingly, in addition to evaluating each segment individually, the entire river system and its immediate land area were considered as a unit, with primary emphasis upon the quality of the experience obtained and the overall impressions and perceptions of the public while using the river.

FIGURE III-2. NORTH FORK KERN WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ELIGIBILITY/CLASSIFICATION ANALYSIS

	ELIGIBILITY				CLASSIFICATION <u>WILD</u>			CLASSIFICATION <u>SCENIC</u>			CLASSIFICATION <u>RECREATIONAL</u>	
	FREE FLOWING?	POSSESSES OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE RESOURCE VALUES?	FREE OF IMPOUNDMENTS?	GENERALLY INACCESSIBLE EXCEPT BY TRAIL?	WATERSHED/ShORELINE ESSENTIALLY PRIMITIVE?	WATERS UNPOLLUTED?	FREE OF IMPOUNDMENTS?	ACCESSIBLE IN PLACES BY ROAD?	WATERSHED SHORELINE LARGELY PRIMITIVE AND LARGELY UNDEVELOPED?	READILY ACCESSIBLE BY ROAD OR RAILROAD?		SOME DEVELOPMENT ALONG SHORELINE SOME IMPOUNDMENT OR DIVERSION IN THE PAST?
ENTIRE RIVER	YES	YES										<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
SEGMENT 1	YES	✓	✓	✓	✓							<u>WILD</u>
SEGMENT 2	YES	✓	✓	✓	✓							<u>WILD</u>
SEGMENT 3	YES	✓	✓	✓	✓							<u>WILD</u>
SEGMENT 4	YES	✓(1)			✓	✓(1)	✓		✓	✓	✓	<u>RECREATIONAL</u>
SEGMENT 5	NO	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓(2)	✓(2)		<u>INELIGIBLE</u>

NOTE: (1) Small impoundment below Johnsondale bridge is a justifiable exception.
 (2) Road access and development to a much greater degree than intended by Wild and Scenic River Act.

The study team devised a matrix (Figure III-2) which shows eligibility and classification at the time. The matrix is organized with the criteria (in the form of questions) for each classification category heading the columns. A separate column is provided to indicate the presence or absence of outstandingly remarkable resource values. The first row, directly under the criteria headings, indicates the response required to meet the stated criteria. Note that the criterion is satisfied by a check response. This indicates that these are "threshold" criteria; that is, conditions up to and including those stated are allowed, but those exceeding the intent of the particular criterion are not. Where a segment meets all the criterion for classification, the rest of the row is exempt. The highest possible classification was chosen for each segment. The remaining rows of the matrix represent the five river segments.

In order for a river segment to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, two conditions must be met: (1) it must be free-flowing as defined in the Act, and (2) it must possess at least one outstandingly remarkable resource value. Eligible segments are then classified according to the highest category (Wild being the highest) for which all criteria are met.

The matrix shows the results of this analysis to be as follows:

- ° Segment 1 is eligible for designation and qualifies for Wild classification.
- ° Segment 2 is eligible for designation and qualifies for Wild classification.
- ° Segment 3 is eligible for designation and qualifies for Wild classification.
- ° Segment 4 is eligible for designation and qualifies for Recreational classification.
- ° Segment 5 is ineligible for designation.

Segments 1, 2, and 3 qualify for wild classification because of their undisturbed and largely inaccessible nature. Segment 4 is classified as recreational because of the ready access afforded by the adjacent highway, several developed campgrounds, and minor water impoundment and diversion facilities. Segment 5 is ineligible for designation or classification because of extensive residential and commercial development.

IV. ALTERNATIVES AND EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES

The primary purpose of a study under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is to determine if a river is suitable for designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and, if so, what is the best classification or mix of classifications. The Act requires that the study consider and the report show

...the reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the national wild and scenic rivers system... (16 U.S.C. 1275)

Several alternative designation plans were developed and evaluated. Each alternative is legally, technically, financially, economically, and politically feasible. The following alternative plans, with a brief indication of their reasons for inclusion, were developed for consideration by the decisionmakers (see Figure IV-1, p. 51, for a graphic representation of these alternatives):

- Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River (Segments 1, 2, 3, and 4 -- 78.5 miles).

This alternative provides maximum protection of the river's identified environmental values.

- Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line (Segments 1, 2, and 3 -- 61.5 miles).

This alternative would allow the Forest Service and County to plan and provide for future recreation, mineral, energy and other development along the Segment 4 river corridor without the restrictions of Wild and Scenic designation.

- Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except for the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge (Segments 1, 2, and 4 -- 64.5 miles).

This alternative provides for an evaluation of the effects of development of Elephant Knob Reservoir (discussed later in this section) at its highest pool (4,560 feet elevation), plus potential associated recreational, road, and hydropower facilities, all of which were given a feasibility analysis by the Army Corps of Engineers.

- Alternative D: Designation of only the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness (Segments 1 and 2 -- 47.5 miles).

This alternative provides for an evaluation of the effects of planning and development considerations in both Segments 3 and 4, as described under Alternatives B and C.

- Alternative E: No designation.

This is the "no action" alternative required for evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act. For evaluation purposes, it is assumed that this alternative would maintain status quo conditions and represents no change from present management policies.

The only major potential water resources development project on the N.F. Kern River considered to be feasible with respect to current management policies is the Elephant Knob Reservoir, which would inundate at least 13 miles of Segment 3. The Army Corps of Engineers has examined the feasibility of this project and, although it has been determined to have a negative benefit to cost ratio, its potential is considered in alternative designation plans C and D. It should be understood, however, that selection of an alternative which includes development of the reservoir would not mean that it would be built, especially since it has been shown to be economically infeasible. It is incorporated in

these alternatives for impact analysis and comparison purposes only. Three other potential reservoir sites were located by Southern California Edison Company. These, however, are all within the Golden Trout Wilderness in even more remote and inaccessible areas than the Elephant Knob site and were therefore considered by the study team to be economically infeasible and incompatible with present land management objectives.

The Junction Reservoir has been identified as a potential reservoir by the North Kern Water Storage District. The Junction Hydroelectric Project is located at the junction of the Kern and Little Kern Rivers. This project is now under study by the North Kern Water Storage District; but determination of suitability has not been made. Portions of this reservoir would inundate the Golden Trout Wilderness.

Also considered by the study team for its general applicability to this study was the possible construction of Route 190, also known as the Trans-Sierra Highway. Originally proposed in 1965, it still remains on the adopted route list of the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), however, the State has not authorized funds for its construction during the past 15 years. The adopted route also traverses the area which is now designated as the Golden Trout Wilderness, and it is questionable as to whether a suitable alternative alignment could be found in the general region to the south. Since all communications with CalTrans failed to give any indication that this route is being seriously considered, the study team determined that no further consideration of it was necessary in the evaluation of alternatives. For practical purposes, however, the "no action" alternative would retain any potential for implementation of the highway.

The remainder of this chapter presents a detailed description of each alternative and an analysis of the effects of these alternatives. For reader convenience, Table IV-1 provides a capsulized summary of the most notable effects for each alternative.

It is important to note here that, as a general rule, any designation of the N.F. Kern River as Wild and Scenic would be expected to increase visitor use during the first ten years 10 to 15 percent over normal increases, largely due to the greater notoriety associated with this status. This increased use is a key element in many of the impact evaluations which follow.

ALTERNATIVE A (DESIGNATION OF ALL ELIGIBLE SEGMENTS OF THE N.F. KERN RIVER)

Under this alternative, all eligible segments of the river would be designated for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. A total of 78.5 miles of the N.F. Kern River would be given statutory protection and managed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The five segments would be designated and managed under the following classifications:

- ° Segment 1: WILD - Headwaters to southern Sequoia National Park boundary (27 miles)
- ° Segment 2: WILD - Golden Trout Wilderness (20.5 miles)
- ° Segment 3: WILD - Southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet above Johnsondale Bridge (14 miles)
- ° Segment 4: RECREATIONAL - 1,500 feet above Johnsondale Bridge to Tulare-Kern County line (17 miles)
- ° Segment 5: INELIGIBLE - Tulare-Kern County line to Isabella Reservoir (4.5 miles)

TULARE CO.

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

INYO CO.

HEADWATERS OF KERN RIVER

KINGS KERN DIVIDE

KERN RIVER

SIERRA NEVADA

MOUNT WHITNEY

JUNCTION MEADOW

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

SEGMENT 1

- ALTERNATIVE A - WILD
- " B - WILD
- " C - WILD
- " D - WILD
- " E - NOT DESIGNATED

SEGMENT 1 27 miles

GREAT WESTERN DIVIDE

RANGER STATION

PARK BOUNDARY WILDERNESS BOUNDARY

GOLDEN TROUT CREEK

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS

KERN LAKE
LITTLE KERN LAKE
GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS

SEGMENT 2

- ALTERNATIVE A - WILD
- " B - WILD
- " C - WILD
- " D - WILD
- " E - NOT DESIGNATED

SEGMENT 2 20.5 miles

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

KERN FLAT

PROPOSED ROUTE 190

THE NEEDLES

FORKS OF KERN

SEGMENT 3

- ALTERNATIVE A - WILD
- " B - WILD
- " C - NOT DESIGNATED
- " D - NOT DESIGNATED
- " E - NOT DESIGNATED

SEGMENT 3 14 miles

RINCON ROADLESS AREA

DURRWOOD CREEK

POTENTIAL ELEPHANT KNOB RESERVOIR (approx. 13mi. long)

JOHNSONDALE

DAM

JOHNSONDALE BRIDGE

HIGHWAY

KERN RIVER

S.C.E. POWER DIVERSION DAM

FAIRVIEW

SEGMENT 4

- ALTERNATIVE A - RECREATIONAL
- " B - NOT DESIGNATED
- " C - RECREATIONAL
- " D - NOT DESIGNATED
- " E - NOT DESIGNATED

SEGMENT 4 17 miles

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

TULARE CO.

SEGMENT 5

INELIGIBLE

SEGMENT 5 4.5 miles
KERNVILLE

KERN CO.

POWER HOUSE

AIRPORT

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY

STATE HIGHWAY 155

ISABELLA RESERVOIR

STATE HIGHWAY 178

45 MILES TO BAKERSFIELD

ISABELLA

LEGEND

- WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
- - - NATIONAL PARK/FOREST BOUNDARY
- ROADS
- * CAMPGROUNDS (EXISTING)
- - - COUNTY LINE
- - - 1/2 MILE STUDY CORRIDOR
- ▶ TRAIL ACCESS



SCALE IN MILES



ALTERNATIVES NORTH FORK KERN WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY

FIGURE IV-1

Designation of Segments 1 and 2 (47.5 miles) would not involve significant changes in their management because these areas are already managed as de facto and official wilderness, respectively. The basic resource values here would not be changed. Designation of Segment 3 would provide statutory protection for an additional 14 miles of roadless area which is currently managed essentially as wilderness, but which remains open to multiple use, including ORV use, water power development, mineral appropriation, and other management opportunities. Designation of Segment 4 would place restrictions on some types of future development on this 17-mile stretch of river, particularly mineral extraction, and call into question future permitted uses on private lands, and at Southern California Edison's Fairview site.

IMPACTS

Geology and Soils

No significant impacts would be expected for this alternative. Increased visitor use could result in a minor increase in soil erosion in some of the study area.

Minerals

The primary concern under this alternative is the impact on present and foreseeable mining operations. Under Wild classification, mineral exploration and new mining operations (those not currently holding valid existing rights) would be prohibited. Existing mining claims and operations would be subject to restrictions designed to protect visual and water quality values and limit noise pollution and surface disturbance in the immediate area. Monitoring of operations by the Forest Service would be necessary on a frequent basis. Such restrictions would increase mining operation costs substantially, and could have the effect of causing marginal claims to be unworkable.

No valuable or extensive mineral resources are known to occur in Segments 1 and 2, and no commercial mining operations are active there.

In Segment 3, the Durrwood claim is within the corridor. Operated at its current level, it would be basically in compliance with a Wild classification, but it is likely that expansion would be severely restricted. Sunnyside #3, #4, and #5 claims lie on the edge of the study corridor about two miles below Durrwood and generally out of view of the river. A Wild classification could have a small effect on the operation of these claims, depending on the specific location of waste dumps, roads etc., which might be viewed from the river. The same is true of Lucky Star claims #1-6 presently being explored by Superior Oil Company one-half mile east of the study corridor. Only a small portion of these can be viewed from the river and little effect from classification is expected.

Security claims #1 and #2 straddle the river at the lower end of Segment 3. A Wild classification would place severe limitations on the operation of these claims which are almost entirely within the study corridor and immediately visible from the river. It is difficult to conceive that any significant mining operations could be undertaken here and remain compatible with the concepts of a Wild River. It is likely that mining would be foregone as a result.

As previously mentioned, the zone of mineralization lies along the entire east side of the river in Segment 3. In addition to current perfected claims, there is great potential for filing new claims in or adjacent to the study corridor. As a Wild River, no new claims could legally be filed in the corridor, and it is estimated that new claims adjacent to the corridor would be foregone by potential claimants due to increased costs of compliance. Value of mineral resources lost or foregone as a result has not been estimated.

The northernmost portion of Segment 4 south to Brush Creek is a hub of mineral activity. Security claims #3, 5, and 6 straddle the river above the Johnsondale Bridge and are almost entirely within the corridor. Mining operations would be subject to restrictions that minimize surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Given the narrow river corridor and steep canyon slopes, it is estimated that such restrictions would severely affect the economic viability of these claims. Superior Oil operations would also be affected since the only transportation route to and from the site is within the proposed Recreation River corridor. Affects would be most severe if a mill is eventually established because new transmission lines, gas lines,

water lines etc., would be discouraged in the corridor. Utilities construction would be required on a more costly route.

Farther down river in Segment 4, the San Mateo-George claims #1-6 are in the river corridor and would be subject to the same restrictions as described for Security claims #3, 5, and 6.

In addition, eight claims were filed in the Segment 4 study corridor after the minerals were withdrawn from all forms of appropriation on November 10, 1978. Currently they have no status but could be refiled after the temporary withdrawal ends on November 10, 1983 since a Recreation River classification does not preclude filing of mining claims. The potential for even more claims is high along the entire length of Segment 4. Any future activities would be governed by the restrictions previously mentioned.

There are no current mining claims within Segment 5 of the river, and there are no anticipated future impacts since this Segment is ineligible for classification.

Vegetation

Designation of all eligible segments will involve only minor impacts to vegetation. These will include potential direct and indirect effects on local and surrounding vegetation from predicted increases in use of the river corridor, plus possible long-term impacts to the overall watershed as a result of future management policies. The direct effects will be localized along the river and will include both short-term and long-term impacts. The indirect effects will be essentially long-term, and spread over a more general portion of the watershed. None of the impacts, however, are considered to be significantly adverse. Depending on future management, positive impacts may accrue from improved control over access and use of sensitive areas.

The primary direct negative impacts will include potential increases in trampling of herbaceous plants, soil compaction, breaking of woody branches associated with angler and other user access to the river, vegetation removal due to trail improvements and maintenance, a potential reduction in dead and

green wood (snags, branches, ground litter) due to firewood collection, and a possible degradation of the quality of riparian communities. These direct impacts are not expected to be significant and would occur to some degree even without designation as a result of normal increases in visitor use.

Indirect impacts will include a potential increase in fire hazard in proportion to the projected increase in visitor use, minor long-term soil erosion, and possible changes in plant community characteristics such as floral composition, productivity, and succession. These effects will be of minor significance. The implementation of a river management plan may result in future indirect impacts which cannot be ascertained at this time.

Although use of the river corridor is anticipated to increase about 15 percent above normal use increases under this alternative, the actual increase in associated impacts is difficult to determine. A certain increase in these kinds of impacts will occur with or without designation and, with designation, the possibility for additional protective management may help to reduce and stabilize these effects to a greater degree than under continuation of current policies. Designation will provide statutory protection for the vegetation of Segment 3 and, thus, result in positive impacts. This will include the preservation of riparian, rare plant, and other natural habitats. Overall, therefore, the net impacts of this alternative are expected to be positive in relation to protection of vegetation.

Wildlife

Alternative A will result in minor adverse impacts to wildlife. These impacts relate to the expected increase in recreational use due to the river's designation as Wild and Scenic, and include general degradation of habitat, increased harassment and disturbance to wildlife, reduced reproductive success of birds nesting along the river, and increased potentials for wildfire. These effects will be most noticeable in heavily used or readily accessible areas such as Kern Flat, Forks of the Kern, and along the river between Johnsondale Bridge and Isabella Reservoir.

Although designation is expected to increase recreational use by an additional 15 percent, long-term impacts to wildlife are not anticipated to be significantly different from those that would occur if the river were not designated. Normal visitor use would eventually increase to the area's maximum manageable carrying capacity with or without designation. Designation, however, may cause this maximum capacity to be reached sooner than with nondesignation.

Classification of Segment 3 as Wild would have beneficial effects on wildlife by providing protective measures (statutory protection against development; additional comprehensive management) which would serve to maintain or enhance the existing riverine environment. Designation would preclude development of potential projects such as Elephant Knob Reservoir which would eliminate or severely impact wildlife along a 13-mile stretch of the river canyon.

Riparian and adjacent upland habitats along Segment 4 are currently degraded due to intensive recreational use. Continued increases in recreational use would further contribute to the decline in habitat quality. Impacts to wildlife in this segment, therefore, will largely be determined by future management policies.

No significant direct impacts to rare, threatened, endangered, or game species are anticipated for this or any other alternative. Overall, the net impacts of this alternative are expected to be positive in relation to the protection of wildlife resources.

Fisheries

Designation of all eligible segments will ensure that the full length of the N.F. Kern River from its headwaters to Isabella Reservoir continue to provide a riverine (free-flowing) type of fishery.

With the headwaters of the North Fork Kern River within Sequoia National Park (Segment 1) and Segment 2 within the Golden Trout Wilderness, it is unlikely that management activities will effect trout habitat in either of these areas. Segment 3 contains some quantity of pure Kern rainbows. Hybridization or introgression is probably the greatest current threat to the integrity of

these trout. Considering the size of the watershed above and in Segment 3, versus activities within or outside the study corridor in Segment 3, the only real threat to Kern rainbow habitat within the river is reservoir development. Dam construction and impoundment of water will inundate the river habitat thus displacing the rainbows as well as creating conditions that will favor other species. Any fishery in a reservoir would almost have to be supported by stocked hatchery trout, further endangering the genetic integrity of the Kern rainbow. Maintaining the status quo in terms of activities in the upper drainage through Segment 3 offers the best habitat protection for Kern rainbows.

An impact of this alternative would be an accelerated increase in angler use of the designated waters above Johnsondale Bridge. This would cause angling pressure to more rapidly increase to levels sufficient to reduce angler harvest in terms of both trout numbers and the average size of trout captured.

Although public resistance to chemical treatment of the nongame fish dominated waters below the Kern River No. 3 Canal Diversion Dam may be heightened by Wild and Scenic River designation of this section, the designation does not implicitly prohibit chemical treatment of a fishery as a management tool.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Because of the publicity associated with Wild and Scenic River designation, increased visitor use of the N.F. Kern River will result in increased levels of fecal coliform bacteria entering the waters of the study corridor during storm runoff. Most of this additional bacterial input will be from pack animals. The anticipated level of bacterial input will not, however, significantly alter the high quality of the waters within the study corridor.

Wild and Scenic designations would eliminate the possibility of any future water development projects that would impair the free-flowing nature of the N.F. Kern River in a manner that would be inconsistent with current water quality management objectives. Expansion, major rehabilitation, and co-generation would probably be disallowed for the Southern California Edison Power Diversion Dam located in Segment 4.

Climate and Air Quality

No significant impacts would be expected from this alternative. Some minor increase in campfire smoke could occur, but would probably not be distinguishable from that which will take place under present trends. Some increased vehicle emissions can be expected in association with increased visitor use in Segment 4 and 5. Improvements in vehicular emission controls, and changing travel patterns due to rising fuel costs, however, could offset a commensurate decrease of local air quality.

No impacts to existing Class I air quality areas (Sequoia National Park) are anticipated. If the N.F. Kern River is designated, it is possible that designated segments outside of existing Class I areas could be reclassified to Class I. In this event, tighter restrictions could be placed on future development if it violated criteria for these new Class I areas.

Land Ownership and Use

Minimal, if any, changes are anticipated with respect to land ownership, and no significant impacts are expected for existing land uses. Future land use changes would be restricted to those in keeping with the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and extensive commercial or industrial use of the corridor above the county line would be prevented. Some expansion of facilities would be possible in Segment 4, while virtually no developments (including Elephant Knob Reservoir) would be allowed in Segment 3. The private lands in Segment 2 and 4 could potentially become subject to new use guidelines and restrictions via the purchase of scenic easements, but even these may not be necessary. The private land is in an agricultural zone as detailed in the Land Ownership and Use section of the Affected Environment chapter. Significant development not regularly permissible under the zoning regulations would require a use permit and would allow Forest Service participation in the decision process. The designation of the river will not affect maintenance of the existing diversion located in Segment 4.

It is not anticipated that full designation would require any land acquisition, although easements may need to be considered for control of use in private inholdings. The Act provides that if more than 50 percent or more of the acreage within the corridor of a federally administered Wild, Scenic, or Recreation River area is in public ownership, condemnation cannot be used, for fee purchase but could still be used to acquire easements. Greater than 90 percent of the N.F. Kern River crosses federal ownership, greatly reducing the probability of need to acquire either lands or easements. The Act allows for condemnation to acquire scenic easements and other easements as are reasonably necessary to give the public access to the river and to traverse a particular segment. Since it appears unlikely that any significant conflicting use of the private land in Segment 4 would be permitted (with or without the proposed Recreational classification), it is probable that no easement will be acquired. Also, based on the above, it is probable that the classification of Segment 4 as Recreational will not decrease the value of the private land in this Segment. If it is determined that unacceptable development activities are being planned or legally permitted private land uses are actually being burdened or restricted by the Recreational classification, the purchase of an easement is possible. The value of the easement is determined by the diminishment of the existing value of the land.

Recreation

The implementation of this alternative would facilitate the long-term protection of the outstanding recreation characteristics of the river corridor.

Under this alternative, recreational uses are expected to increase by approximately 30 percent (15 percent due to incremental growth and 15 percent due to designation) within 10 years of implementation, or 63,100 visitor-days. One-half of this increase, or 31,550 visitor-days, is attributed to designation. The annual cost of meeting the demand attributed to designation is \$18,300; this total cost includes \$6,941 for administration, \$6,626 for maintenance, and \$4,733 for facilities development. While most recreational activities are expected to increase 30 percent in 10 years, whitewater boating deviates from this pattern because of capacity limits. Segment 4 is at capacity with 11,667 visitor-days and Segment 3 is expected to be at a capacity of 3,000 visitor-days by the year 1990 with or without designation.

Under classification, the existing developed campgrounds in Segment 4 will remain and continue to be dedicated to family use. Dispersed camping will remain available throughout the segment. Some of the dispersed sites may have specific roads and parking areas identified to control vehicle use.

At this time no development work is planned for the County road except for reconstruction of the Johnsondale Bridge. However, if work is needed in the future to correct problems with visitor safety it will be allowed.

Some of the currently planned actions that will continue if Segment 4 is classified will include an attempt to acquire full public access to the southern end of the Whiskey Flat Trail. The trail crosses private land and use can be restricted by private landowners if they desire. Acquisition of a public right-of-way will guarantee continued access to the west side of the river from the south.

Some preliminary planning has been completed on a bicycle trail to parallel the river for the entire length of Segment 4. Portions of the trail may not be feasible because of high construction costs. However, where construction will meet economic and environmental criteria the trail could be built. Classification may add emphasis to this project. Total development cost of this 20 mile trail may exceed \$200,000 with maintenance averaging about \$1,000 per year. Other projects which have not been explored but which may take on added importance with classification would be an extension of the Whiskey Flat Trail on the west side of the river to the Johnsondale Bridge, and improvement of the signing along the river. Costs of extending the trail will exceed \$75,000 with maintenance costing \$200 per year. Increased signing may cost an additional \$750 to \$1,000 per year.

Some additional limitations that will come about with classification will effect use levels on heavily used weekends and off-road vehicles.

Off-road vehicle use will be restricted within the corridor and will be limited to a few selected routes in Segment 4. Segment 3 would be closed to off-road vehicle use with the classification of "Wild".

As noted previously in this report, this study area provides recreation diversity to a market area population in excess of 9 million people; this alternative would ensure the continuation of diversity and availability of recreational resources that are dependent on high quality, free-flowing water.

It is not the intent of this alternative to open any new areas to vehicular access, even though an area that is primarily in Segment 3 has been identified as having outstanding potential for whitewater rafting. It is envisioned that more rafters will be using this segment in future years, that they will have to pack into the starting point, and that the number of trips per year would be limited. This limited use would appear not to be a matter of great concern to all recreationists since several other accessible sections of the N.F. Kern River provide good whitewater rafting, and this section has very difficult trail access.

The river corridor has an undetermined but finite capacity to accommodate visitors while maintaining an acceptable level of environmental quality. This capacity may have already been reached for certain peak periods of the year on some sections of the river. The National Park Service and the Forest Service control the use of Sequoia National Park and the Golden Trout Wilderness by the issuance of permits. While permit issuance is being used for accounting and control, the Forest Service has not limited the number of permits issued. The National Park Service has limited the number of permits at some of the most popular trail heads during season peaks. The projected increased use falls within the capacity stated for the National Park and Golden Trout Wilderness segments. The Forest Service also issues permits to control commercial rafting.

It is possible that some increased use will be environmentally acceptable because the season can be extended, especially into the fall. The possibility of extending a season is based on the fact that many summer visitors have the option of visiting after Labor Day which marks the end of the current peak season. Also, some management and maintenance techniques are possible to ameliorate damage to recreation areas.

Based on an estimated market area population growth of 10 percent by 1990 and a local population growth in excess of 60 percent (Kernville grew by 61 percent between 1970 and 1980 and Lake Isabella grew by 136 percent during this period), it is estimated that recreation use on the river will increase about 15 percent by 1990 whether or not the river is added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In an Army Corps of Engineer study of recreation uses on Isabella Reservoir, a 19 percent increase in visitor-days is projected between 1980 and 1990 without adding new facilities, and a 40 percent increase is estimated with extensive additional facilities (Army Corps of Engineers, 1979). It appears that the inclusion of the river in the system would increase visitation at a greater rate, resulting in reaching the visitor-day capacity at an earlier date.

Increased visitor use could accelerate environmental damage within the river corridor. Possible overuse has the potential to cause increased vandalism, littering, excessive noise, deviant behavior, disturbance to plant and animal life, and an increase in fire potential.

Visual Resources

The outstandingly remarkable scenic values which qualify the river for designation would be protected from detracting developments which might otherwise occur along the river. The overall impact from the protective status of designation would be beneficial. There is a potential for some negative visual impacts from increased use that could result in more trail wear and littering. It is apparent that the corridor will continue to receive more use with or without designation and that defining capacity, limiting use, and other management may be required at an earlier date with designation. If the river is designated the visual quality objectives of the area could become more of a constraining factor or even receive a mandatory emphasis.

Socioeconomics

The impacts of designating all eligible segments would include minor changes in current recreational use. There will be no impact on the timber industry, nor any significant adverse effects on agriculture or grazing.

Recreational use of the river would be expected to increase perhaps an additional 15 percent (above the normal 15 percent rate of increase) over the next 10 years with designation. This would contribute to the lower river area's economic growth, and would be in line with current growth trends in services and tourist-oriented retail business. Virtually all of the growth would be in Segment 5 or in areas outside the study area. Implementation of this alternative would not significantly alter the type of growth in the general Isabella Reservoir area, but could be expected to encourage it and provide a somewhat accelerated pace. It may have some effect on the area's land values.

On the other hand, full designation would limit future economic development in Segment 3 and 4, precluding any further significant water resource projects (including Elephant Knob Reservoir), and potentially restricting expanded commercial ventures in Segment 4. Increased recreational use in Segment 4 could be allowed, however, as long as it was in keeping with the intentions and guidelines of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Designation could lead to an increase in the recreational economy of this segment.

The preclusion of hydroelectric power development in conjunction with Elephant Knob Reservoir is considered to be insignificant, since an extremely unfavorable benefit to cost ratio for this reservoir indicates that its construction is highly unlikely even without designation.

The impacts to existing and potential mining would be significant. The prohibition on new claims in Segment 3 and additional restrictions on operations of perfected claims would limit the growth of this industry. Potential operable claims would lose economic viability resulting in a loss of potential employment and tax revenue.

Cultural and Historical

The major impact of this alternative relates to the increased visitation and corresponding increases in vandalism and illegal collecting of artifacts. The majority of the sites along the river, particularly in Segment 4, have already been disturbed and impacted by recreational use and development. Any increases in recreational use will add to the cumulative impact on cultural and historical resources.

Designation of Segment 3, however, would preclude development of projects such as Elephant Knob Reservoir and protect any existing archaeological and cultural resources from inundation.

ALTERNATIVE B (DESIGNATION OF ALL ELIGIBLE SEGMENTS EXCEPT THE 17-MILE STRETCH FROM 1,500 FEET NORTH OF JOHNSONDALE BRIDGE TO THE TULARE-KERN COUNTY LINE)

This alternative would designate Segments 1, 2, and 3 for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The management of Segments 1 and 2 would remain essentially unchanged. The main significance of this alternative would be the added statutory protection of Segment 3 which would preclude future development from Golden Trout Wilderness to approximately 1,500 feet above the Johnsondale Bridge; eliminate the possibility of constructing Elephant Knob Reservoir; preclude future mining claims; and place restriction on mining operations.

Segment 4 would not receive Recreational status as it would in Alternative A. This alternative would retain the option to expand development along this highly popular stretch of river. The degree of impact here would depend on the extent to which additional development is allowed and encouraged by future management policies.

IMPACTS

Geology and Soils

The impacts associated with this alternative are similar to those described for Alternative A. Though future exploration and mining in Segment 4 would be subject to current State and Federal regulations, there is a potential for increased soil erosion as activities increase.

Minerals

Effects on exploration and mining for Segments 1, 2, 3, and 5 are the same as for Alternative A.

Under Alternative B, increased minerals activity can be expected in Segment 4. There would be no new restrictions governing operations at the Security and San Mateo-George claims. The eight claims filed since 11/10/78 would be perfected and could become active subject to current regulations to protect scenic values and water and air quality. It can be expected that future claims within and adjacent to the study corridor will be more numerous under this alternative.

Extraction and milling of various minerals at the Superior Oil site and other locations becomes more economically viable because options for access roads, utility corridors, mill sites etc., are left open. Increased production of gold, tungsten and other strategic minerals can be expected under this alternative. The value to the economy cannot be fully estimated but could be substantial based on the results of exploration already done. The revised Minerals Working Papers include a model of a typical tungsten mine and milling operation which we have used to estimate employment and economic possibilities in Segment 4. Mineral value alone can be estimated at \$16,000,000 per year with about 100 people employed. State and County tax revenues would be increased about \$2,000,000 per year as a result of this "typical" operation.

Selection of Alternative B would not require or assure that a mill would be constructed. However, the likelihood is much greater than in Alternative A and C, and as a means of displaying the economic, social and environmental consequences, it is being assumed for this alternative as well as Alternative D and E that a mill will eventually be built.

Vegetation and Wildlife

The impacts to vegetation and wildlife from this alternative would be the same as for Alternative A, except that no statutory protection would be provided for Segment 4; however, this is not considered to be significant due to the already sparse nature of the vegetation and the high use which the area receives. Management of Segment 4 is likely to continue as it is now, and the resource values would not be significantly affected with or without designation.

Since even specialists cannot differentiate between Batrachoseps relictus, B. simatus and the undescribed slender salamander in the field, all identified habitat or populations of slender salamanders in the vicinity of the sightings near Fairview will be protected. Projects affecting similar habitat are surveyed for possible populations and suitable protective measures are developed as populations are found.

Designation or nondesignation of the Kern River as Wild and Scenic will have little effect on the protection of the slender salamander since it is fully protected under current management direction. Increased tourism as a result of Wild and Scenic designation may increase habitat disturbance but overall no significant effect is expected either beneficial or detrimental.

Fisheries

The impacts associated with this alternative are nearly identical to those impacts described for Alternative A. The stretch of the N.F. Kern River between Johnsondale Bridge and the Tulare-Kern County line would not be ensured free-flowing status under this alternative.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Impacts associated with increased use are similar to those described previously for Alternative A. Development from mining activities could impact the water quality of the river in Segment 4.

Climate and Air Quality

Although this alternative would not be expected to have any significant effects on air resources, the potential for future development in Segment 4 could result in elevated particulate levels and occasional impaired local visibility.

Land Ownership and Use

This alternative would not result in any significant changes in land ownership, and is not likely to significantly alter land uses. Future planning and development in Segment 4 would not be subject to restrictions of Wild and Scenic designation. (Please see Land Ownership and Use section under Alternative A for a discussion of acquisition and easements.)

Recreation

The impacts of implementing this alternative would be essentially the same as under Alternative A, except that there may be a greater potential for political and economic pressures to significantly increase recreational uses of Segment 4. Presently, Forest Service and County policies determine the kind and extent of land uses on the federal and private land in the corridor, and the current status could continue. On the other hand, Segment 5 to the south and nearby Lake Isabella are experiencing rapid growth that is predicted to continue for some time.

Visual Resources

The impacts of implementing this alternative are essentially the same as under Alternative A, except where it might encourage additional mining or other development of Segment 4. Additional development from mining or other activities, if it occurs, could negatively impact the segment's natural visual qualities.

Socioeconomics

The impacts of this alternative would be similar to those of Alternative A. The main difference would be the exclusion of Segment 4 from statutory restriction of significant new development; the potential for increase minerals exploration and mining, and for additional commercial operations and/or expansion of the existing private ones. This alternative would allow for a potential increase in the economic base in Segment 4, subject to existing policies.

Cultural and Historical

Impacts of this alternative would be essentially the same as Alternative A. Additional impacts could be expected if developments from mining or other activities are expanded within archaeological and cultural resource sites.

ALTERNATIVE C (DESIGNATION OF ALL ELIGIBLE SEGMENTS EXCEPT FOR THE 14-MILE STRETCH FROM THE SOUTHERN GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS BOUNDARY TO 1,500 FEET NORTH OF THE JOHNSONDALE BRIDGE)

This alternative would designate Segments 1, 2 (47.5 miles of Wild classification), and 4 (17 miles as Recreational) for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Segment 3 (the 14 miles from Golden Trout Wilderness to 1,500 feet above the Johnsondale Bridge) would not be designated and would remain open to future changes in management and resource use in contrast to Alternatives A and B, both of which provide added long-term protection to Segment 3. Elephant Knob Reservoir is the only major development currently being studied in relation to Segment 3, and this alternative is being considered as a means of evaluating the effects of this project. This project would also include additional uses such as recreational access and development, and the construction of transportation corridors. The degree of impact from this alternative could be very high depending on the extent of development allowed by various regulatory agencies' existing constraints. The primary impacts which would occur with full development (that is, reservoir construction and associated recreational facilities) include the loss of some 3,500 acres of natural habitats, the loss of 13 miles of freeflowing river (including quality stream fishery and whitewater), the flooding of several existing mining claims, the regulation of downstream flows, improved access to neighboring lands, plus the creation of new recreational facilities and opportunities, added flood protection and, as the primary goal, an enhancement of existing recreational opportunities at Isabella Reservoir.

IMPACTS

Geology and Soils

If Elephant Knob Reservoir were constructed, this impoundment would have the potential of inundating existing rock formations and waterfalls, located in Segment 3. All other impacts would be identical to those described in Alternative A. Short-term soil erosion will be inevitable during the construction of the dam.

Minerals

Mineral impacts under this alternative will be the same as Alternative A for Segments 1, 2, 4, and 5.

If the Elephant Knob Reservoir were constructed, the impoundment elevation would be at about 4560 feet and would flood most of the Segment 3 study corridor where the primary zone of mineralization exists. The Durrwood claim would be inundated and the Security #1 and #2 claims would be severely impacted and possibly obliterated by the dam construction. Basically, the reservoir will preclude any further exploration and mining in the study corridor.

Other existing claims just outside the corridor of Segments 3 and 4 would be impacted as in Alternative A.

Vegetation

The impacts to vegetation from this alternative would be essentially the same as for Alternative A, but would not include the statutory protection of existing vegetation along the river in Segment 3. This would leave a large area of relatively unexplored vegetation potentially vulnerable to development and/or destruction. This area, known locally as the gorge, contains a scientifically interesting mix of plant communities and special habitats, and may support populations of rare or endangered plants. Lack of designation for this segment would leave open the possibility of future reservoir construction which could result in the loss of riparian and upslope communities. A possible indirect

impact of this alternative would be the loss of a significant scientific opportunity, as this area has not been intensively studied and contains an unusual mixture of yellow pine forest, oak-pine and pinyon-juniper woodlands, and a variety of Sierran and desert shrubs and herbs.

Wildlife

This alternative differs from Alternative A only in that Segment 3 would not receive any statutory protection which would maintain the existing environment. If Elephant Knob Reservoir were constructed, riverine wildlife along an approximate 13-mile stretch of the river would be eliminated and secondary developments such as roads and recreational facilities would adversely affect wildlife resources in areas outside the actual reservoir.

Fisheries

Thirteen miles of high quality riverine trout habitat would be eliminated in Segment 3 should this stretch of river be impounded. Because the catchable trout fishery below the proposed location of Elephant Knob Dam is dependent on a regular hatchery stocking program, the water release schedule for this reservoir would not significantly impact the downstream fishery. Additional impacts associated with this alternative would be similar to those previously described for Alternative A. A potential positive effect from the reservoir would be the development of warm water fishery opportunities.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Should Elephant Knob Reservoir be constructed in Segment 3, the construction activity would increase the level of sediment input to the river channel. A portion of this sediment would be derived from the dam site, but much of it would be associated with access road construction. If proper precautions are maintained throughout the construction process, however, sediment input could be kept to relatively minor levels that would be well within the transport capacity of N.F. Kern River flows, and turbidity and sedimentation would probably not become a serious problem.

Should this impoundment be constructed, downstream water releases would likely be derived from the cold, deeper portions of the thermally stratified reservoir and would maintain the cold water conditions presently occurring in the lower reach of the study area. These water releases would also be more enriched with planktonic detritus than what occurs under present conditions. Impacts related to increased visitor use of the river are described under Alternative A.

Climate and Air Quality

This alternative would involve only minor air quality degradation due to construction activities associated with Elephant Knob Reservoir and the long-term increase in camping in this area. Vehicular pollutants would also increase in the area of Segment 3, but would probably not be significant.

Land Ownership and Use

Under this alternative, the construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir would involve a very significant change in land use in Segment 3, from primitive-type recreation and whitewater opportunities to developed recreation and flatwater opportunities. This would include the loss of stream-oriented activities and uses (including small mining claims) along 13 miles of river, and 3,500 acres of terrestrial wildlife habitat and potential hiking terrain. It would create roughly 3,425 surface acres of flatwater, facilitate increased access to Segments 2 and 3, and add water storage as a resource use in the area. This would benefit downstream agricultural users; provide flood control; and offer minimum pool recreation benefits at Isabella Reservoir. Streamflow changes downstream could alter the types of use in Segment 4. (For a discussion of the need for acquisition and easements, refer to the Land Ownership section under Alternative A.)

While actual land ownership would probably not change significantly, administration of the reservoir would certainly involve some trespass, easement, and other use-restricting changes for particular areas on and around the reservoir.

Recreation

Implementation of this alternative would create the impacts noted for Alternative A except for the following:

- The 14-mile Segment 3 would not have statutory protection from further developments such as Elephant Knob Reservoir currently being evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Essentially, 13 miles of stream would be inundated by the reservoir pool thereby eliminating the opportunity for hiking, fishing and camping in a solitude setting. (Since much of Segment 3 is now inaccessible, it is primarily the potential for more trail development, and hiking, etc. that would be eliminated.)
- The reservoir would create a 3,425-acre pool when filled, thereby replacing solitude-type stream recreation with reservoir recreation. The Corps study tentatively projects an ultimate recreation use of the reservoir area at 220,000 visitor-days with primitive quality annual recreation costs of \$310,000 and benefits of \$345,000, and first-quality annual recreation costs of \$1.6 million and benefits of \$3.3 million. The present use of Segment 3 is approximately 1,630 visitor-days per year.
- The reservoir project accommodated by Alternative C would also eliminate the potential for whitewater boating on a stretch of river that has been determined to be outstanding for that use. Whitewater boating for Segment 3 has an estimated capacity of 3,000 visitor-days. The effect of a reservoir on whitewater boating in Segments 4 and 5 is difficult to fully evaluate since release schedules were not determined, but the impacts would not be expected to be positive since releases would be geared to maintaining Isabella Reservoir in late summer and fall. The proposed maintenance level of Isabella Reservoir probably means less than ideal flows during spring and early summer periods, and probably only barely adequate flows later in the year; also, the water temperature could be significantly lower so that contact would be less comfortable.

- ° Elephant Knob Dam could facilitate an increased minimum pool at Isabella Reservoir with recreational benefits. These benefits include more marina space, more camping and picnicking facilities, a larger fishery, and increased surface area for boating.
- ° Off-road vehicle use will be open to trail and cross-country travel in Segment 3. Segment 4 will have restrictions on ORV use because of the Recreation classification.

Visual Resources

The implementation of Alternative C would create the same impacts as Alternative A except for Segment 3. Segment 3 presently has outstandingly remarkable natural visual qualities which would be eliminated and replaced with the visual qualities of a reservoir that would have considerable fluctuation in pool level. During much of the year, a strip of bare ground would be visible between the surrounding vegetation and the reservoir pool.

Socioeconomics

Implementation of this alternative would retain the option for substantial future water resource development in Segment 3, and the added growth inducement around Isabella Reservoir as discussed under Alternative A. Segment 4 would not be as accessible to future economic growth as in Alternative B and restrictions on mineral resources would be significant as described in Alternative A.

The construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir would involve considerable increases in temporary and permanent employment, expansion of recreational services and facilities, and provide economic benefits through flood control and recreation enhancement downstream. These gains are, however, significantly outweighed by the high costs of construction and associated impacts (A. Squires, Army Corps of Engineers, prs. comm.). Also, a potential source of revenue and visitor attraction, in the form of high quality whitewater opportunities, would be lost. As noted in the Recreation section above, a pilot program is proposed to test the feasibility of whitewater boating in Segment 3.

Cultural and Historical

Impacts of this alternative are the same as under Alternative A, except that the cultural resources in Segment 3 would not receive the statutory protection afforded by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. If Elephant Knob Reservoir were authorized, a detailed plan for recovery of artifacts in the site would be required. Depending on the adequacy of the recovery plan, inundation of this river segment could result in the permanent loss of artifacts.

ALTERNATIVE D (DESIGNATION OF ONLY THE 47.5-MILE STRETCH FROM THE HEADWATERS TO THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS)

This alternative would result in the designation of Segments 1 and 2 (headwaters through Golden Trout Wilderness) for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It would provide a minimal degree of additional protection to the designated segments (both of which are currently managed as official or de facto wilderness) and would not provide statutory protection for the river below Forks of the Kern (Golden Trout Wilderness boundary).

Segments 3 and 4 would remain open to resource management changes, including the possible construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir, exploration and extraction of mineral resources, and the expansion of recreational and other commercial interests. Of the four designation alternatives, this would provide the least statutory protection. Impacts would depend on future management policies in nondesignated segments but could become quite significant in Segments 3 and 4 if resource management goals evolve toward greater resource utilization and more intense recreational use. Resource values may or may not change significantly with this alternative.

IMPACTS

Geology and Soils

Increased visitor use would result in a minor increase in soil erosion in much of the study area. Potential impacts would be the same as described in Alternative A and C. Short-term soil erosion will be inevitable during construction of the dam.

Minerals

Impacts on Segments 1, 2, and 5 are the same as described for Alternative A. Impacts on Segment 4 are the same as described for Alternative B.

Assuming construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir, impacts on Segment 3 are the same as for Alternative C. If the reservoir is not built, impacts will be the same as described in Alternative E.

Vegetation and Wildlife

The impacts to vegetation and wildlife from this alternative would be essentially the same as for Alternatives B and C in combination. The most significant impact is the potential loss of vegetation and wildlife habitat in Segment 3 through construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir.

Fisheries

This alternative will result in fishery impacts identical to those of Alternative C.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Impacts associated with this alternative are a combination of those impacts described for the previous three alternatives, namely an increased input of fecal coliform bacteria from pack animals, and a temporary increase in sediment input to the river from potential dam and road construction.

Climate and Air Quality

The impacts of this alternative would be insignificant, but would include the minor effects described under Alternative B and C.

Land Ownership and Use

This alternative would involve the combined impacts of Alternatives B and C; however, this would not result in any significant impacts unless Elephant Knob Reservoir is constructed. (Please see the Land Ownership and Use section under Alternative A for a discussion of acquisition and easements.)

Recreation

Implementation of this alternative would combine the impacts of Alternative B and C. This would primarily involve the potential loss of the whitewater and primitive opportunities in Segment 3, and their replacement by flatwater activities.

Visual Resource

Implementation of this alternative would combine the impacts of Alternative B and C. This would include the potential loss of 13 miles of natural stream-side scenery and its replacement by a flatwater setting.

Socioeconomics

The impacts of this alternative would be a combination of those discussed for Alternatives B and C. This would include the potential for considerable water resource development in Segment 3, and a general expansion of minerals exploration and mining and recreational and tourist-oriented commercial operations in Segments 3 and 4. Growth inducement could be less than with Alternatives A, B, or C, but they could be offset by a higher use in Segments 3 and 4.

Cultural and Historical

Under this alternative, archaeological and historical resources along the entire river would be impacted through increased visitation and corresponding increases in vandalism and artifact removal as in Alternative A. The resources in Segment 3 could be impacted by developments such as Elephant Knob Reservoir.

ALTERNATIVE E (NO DESIGNATION)

Under this alternative, no part of the N.F. Kern River would be included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. None of the 83 miles of river would be protected and managed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Segments 1 and 2 would continue to be managed in a manner in keeping with the Wilderness Act. Segments 3 and 4 would likely continue to be managed by the Forest Service much as they are now; however, they could be subject to future management policy changes and to new proposals from business and industry.

IMPACTS

Geology and Soils

The no action alternative would not involve any significant changes under existing management direction.

Minerals

Non-designation of Segments 1 and 2 would have negligible impact on mining as there are no active claims or operations in this area, and the deadline for filing new claims in wilderness areas is approaching on 12/31/83. No activity is expected here regardless of the alternative selected.

This alternative assumes Elephant Knob Reservoir will not be built, and mineral activities may proceed under the current regulations with no new restrictions as a result of designation. Alternative E permits expansion of operations at the Durrwood claim though there is no identified need to do so at this time. It permits operation of the Sunnyside and Lucky Star claims with

somewhat less scrutiny and monitoring of activities. More options are left open for location of access roads, waste dumps and other necessary facilities.

No new impacts would be placed on the Security claims and their economic viability would be unchanged. It would be more likely under this alternative that these claims would be workable in a larger scale than currently being done.

The entire Segment 3 corridor will remain open to future claims and it is expected that exploration will continue.

With non-designation, the management of minerals in Segments 4 and 5 will be as described in Alternative B.

Vegetation and Wildlife

This alternative will not involve any significant direct impacts to vegetation and wildlife. Impacts would be similar to those of Alternative A, but would not include statutory protection of habitat in Segment 3, and may include minor impacts due to the absence of additional management restrictions which may be implemented with designation. Vegetation trends will likely continue as they are, but the positive effects of designation (increased protection of habitat and potentially improved management) may not be gained. Impacts associated with increased visitor use would not occur as rapidly as with Alternative A, but would be reached eventually.

Fisheries

Status quo conditions would essentially be maintained. Angling pressure would be expected to increase with the normal 15 percent increase in visitor-days over the next 10 years.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The no action alternative could result in a gradual increase in the quantity of pack animal-derived fecal coliform bacteria entering the waters of the study area. This level of increase would not significantly alter the quality of these waters. Impacts may be expected if mining activities are expanded in Segments 3 and 4.

Climate and Air Quality

The no action alternative would not involve any significant direct changes in air quality or climate.

Land Ownership and Use

The no action alternative would involve no direct impacts to land ownership or use, which would be determined by future county and federal agency management policies.

Recreation

Current recreation activities and trends would likely continue, and would be subject to future management policies.

Visual Resources

Existing visual resources would likely remain unchanged given continuation of current management policies. However, if mining activities are developed, impacts to the visual resource could be expected.

Socioeconomics

Alternative E would avoid the projected additional increase in use of the river due to increased national attention attributed to designation. The potential for growth in local and regional economies as a result of anticipated expansion of minerals operations could be important and are the same as described in Alternative B and in the economic tables in Chapter V.

Cultural and Historical

Under the no action alternative, archaeological and cultural resources would still be adversely impacted through increases in vandalism and collecting, but at a slower rate than with any of the other alternatives.

Table IV-1. Summary of Notable Impacts of N.F. Kern River Designation Alternatives.

Resource	Alternative A Designate All Eligible Segments (78.5 mi)	Alternative B Designate Segments 1,2,3 (61.5 mi)	Alternative C* Designate Segments 1,2,4 (64.5 mi)	Alternative D* Designate Segments 1, 2 (47.5 mi)	Alternative E No Designation (0 mi)
Geology & Soils	Insignificant impacts	Insignificant impacts - Minor impacts from minerals	Potential inundation of rock formations, waterfalls, caves in Segment 3. Short term impacts on soils.	Potential inundation of rock formations, waterfalls, caves in Segment 3. Minor impacts from minerals.	Minor impacts from minerals.
Minerals	Prohibit mineral exploration and new mining operation in Segment 1-3. Segment 4 would have restriction concerning mining activities.	Prohibit mineral exploration and new mining operations in Segment 1-3. Segment 4 would be open to exploration and extraction. Possible impacts on other resources.	Mining areas inundated by reservoir will preclude any further exploration and mining. Segment 4 would have restrictions concerning mining activities.	Mining areas inundated by reservoir will preclude any further exploration and mining. Segment 4 would be open to exploration and extraction of minerals. Possible impacts on other resources.	Insignificant impacts on Segment 1-2. Will be able to develop mining potential in Segment 3 and 4.
Vegetation & Wildlife	Guarantees preservation of basic integrity of biological communities over 78.5 mi. Minor impacts.	Guarantees preservation of basic integrity of biological communities over 61.5 mi, including highest value areas. Segment 4 would be managed under current management plans.	Potential inundation of 13 mi of pristine riverine habitat.	Potential inundation of 13 mi of pristine riverine habitat.	Insignificant impacts - current management - no statutory protection.
Fisheries	Gives added protection to highest value fisheries in upper river. Minor impacts because of increased use.	Gives added protection to highest value fisheries in upper river.	Potential conversion of 13 mi of river fishery to reservoir; potential alteration of water quality and flow below Johnsondale Bridge.	Potential conversion of 13 mi of river fishery to reservoir; potential alteration of water quality and flow below Johnsondale Bridge.	Insignificant impacts - current management - no statutory protection.
Hydrology & Water Quality	Gives added protection from potential water quality degradation; precludes potential reservoirs. Expansion or rehabilitation of Fairview diversion would likely be disallowed.	Gives added protection from potential water quality degradation; precludes potential reservoirs. Possible impacts in Segment 4 on water quality from mineral and other development expansion.	Potential construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir in Segment 3 plus related water quality and flow changes.	Potential construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir in Segment 3 plus related water quality and flow changes; other potential water development possible in nondesignated segments.	Current management. Potential impacts because of possible increased mining and development activities.
Climate & Air Quality	Insignificant impacts	Insignificant impacts	Insignificant impacts.	Insignificant impacts.	Insignificant impacts - current management.
Land Ownership & Use	Generally insignificant. Potential expansion of private land use in Segment 4 would be subject to additional review for consistency of intent of recreation classification.	Insignificant impact - Segment 4 would not be subject to land ownership restriction.	Potential commitment of 14 mi of pristine river environment to water storage and reservoir-oriented recreation.	Potential commitment of 14 mi of pristine river environment to water storage and reservoir-oriented recreation.	Insignificant impacts - current management.

Table IV-1 - (continued)

Resource	Alternative A Designate All Eligible Segments (78.5 mi)	Alternative B Designate Segments 1,2,3 (61.5 mi)	Alternative C* Designate Segments 1,2,4 (64.5 mi)	Alternative D* Designate Segments 1, 2 (47.5 mi)	Alternative E No Designation (0 mi)
Recreation	Gives statutory protection to existing recreation opportunities in Segment 3; would influence future management policies in Segment 4. Minor impact.	Gives statutory protection to existing recreation opportunities in Segment 3. Segment 4 may receive more pressure to increase recreation facilities.	Potential inundation of 13 mi. of whitewater river; creation of reservoir and related recreation; would influence future management policies in Segment 4. Commercial rafting on Forks Run would be lost.	No statutory regulation of activities in Segments 3 and 4; potential inundation of 13 mi of whitewater river, creation of reservoir and related recreation. Commercial rafting on Forks Run would be lost.	No statutory regulation of activities in Segments 3 and 4.
Visual Resources	Preserves the most significant existing visual qualities. Minor impacts.	Preserves the most significant existing visual qualities. Segment 4 may have visual disturbance from possible mining and development expansions.	Potential loss of high quality riverine visual resources in Segment 3 via inundation; creation of flatwater (lake) scenery.	Potential loss of high quality riverine visual resources in Segment 3 via inundation; creation of flatwater (lake) scenery. Possible impacts from expansion of mining & other development.	Insignificant impacts - no statutory protection. Possible impacts from expansion of mining and other developments.
Socio-economics	Expected net use increase of 15% will result in positive impact on the local economy. Potentially operable claims would lose economic viability in Segments 3 & 4.	Expected net use increase of 15% will result in positive impact on the local economy. Also, Segment 4 will be open to mineral and other development opportunities. Permanent jobs would be added.	Elephant Knob Reservoir construction would provide employment and would cause an increase in use greater than that anticipated in Alternatives A & B.	Elephant Knob Reservoir construction would provide employment and would cause an increase in use greater than that anticipated in Alternatives A & B. Permanent jobs would be added in mining industry.	No additional 15% increase in use as with other alternatives. Permanent jobs added as a result of increased mining activity.
Cultural & Historical Resources	Some added protection to archaeological sites in Segments 3 & 4. Minor impacts.	Some added protection to archaeological sites in Segment 3. Possible adverse effects from mining in Segment 4.	Potential loss of archaeological sites in Segment 3 via inundation; some added protection to sites in Segment 4.	Potential loss of archaeological sites in Segment 3 via inundation. Possible adverse effects from mining on Segment 4.	Possible adverse effects from mining in Segments 3 and 4.

*NOTE: Although construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir is assumed in these alternatives for analysis purposes, this should not be interpreted to mean that selection of any of these would result in its construction. In fact, construction under any circumstance is highly unlikely due to an undesirable benefit to cost ratio.

V. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS

The United States Water Resource Council published "Principles and Standards for Planning Water and Related Land Resources" pursuant to Section 103 of the Water Resources Planning Act (Public Law 89-80). They were approved by the President and became effective in October 1973. The Council provided detailed guidance for evaluating effects on national economic development and environmental quality in the December 14, 1979 and September 29, 1980 issues of the Federal Register. On February 3, 1983 new Principles and Guidelines were developed by the Council and are no longer required for Wild and Scenic Rivers study. However, we have retained the analysis in this study.

As set forth in the Principles and Standards, this EIS includes an evaluation of the proposed action(s) in terms of four accounts. These are:

1. National Economic Development Account (NED)
2. Regional Economic Development Account (RED)
3. Environmental Quality Account (EQ)
4. Other Social Effects Account (OSE)

These accounts are designed to summarize and compare the expected results of the different alternative actions, including no action. Because many of the effects of the alternatives are difficult to quantify, the first two accounts display those aspects which can be translated into monetary terms, and the last two accounts summarize the effects which are better shown in nonmonetary terms. The four accounts are given in Tables V-1 through V-4 at the end of this chapter.

The Principles and Standards accounts show the net changes which can be expected to occur with the implementation of each alternative over those conditions expected to occur if current management direction of the river were to continue (Alternative E).

While water resource development is normally a prime factor in such a study, Elephant Knob Reservoir, the only project evaluated in the study area, has been shown preliminarily to have an unfavorable net benefit to cost ratio (about 0.6:1.0). Also, the annual outflows of the N.F. Kern River are essentially

owned by downstream users (primarily for irrigation in the San Joaquin Valley), to the extent that further diversion or appropriation of water from the channel is not realistic; however, the Corps of Engineers reports that irrigation interests support the Elephant Knob project because of the potential for irrigation and power storage. While the dam would provide reservoir recreation, hydroelectric power and irrigation storage, the net value is relatively low because of cost, displacement of stream recreation and fisheries, and other factors noted under discussions in Alternative C.

It is difficult to quantify effects of alternatives on mineral resources, but an attempt has been made to show these in monetary terms for purposes of display in the economic accounts. To do so, construction and operation of a "typical" mill in Segment 4 was projected in Alternatives B, D, and E. Mill size, production and employment are considered to be in scale with the potential mineral resource in and near the study corridor, but are not intended to indicate that only a mill of these proportions would be built. In fact, no mill may ever be built, but rather than speculate on the probabilities of such an occurrence, construction of a mill, beginning in 1985, was assumed. Conversely, given the restrictions on minerals resulting from designation in Alternative A and C, it is assumed that a mill would be highly unlikely and would not be built under those conditions.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (TABLE V-1)

The NED account displays those effects which influence or alter national income. The net effect of each alternative is calculated by subtracting the costs of the indicated action from the value of the goods and services it would produce. The costs of a given alternative include the value of the resources it commits plus the costs of any facilities or improvements called for by the action.

The basic assumptions and methods used to estimate the values shown in Table V-1 are listed below; additional sources, assumptions, and methods relative to derivation of costs and other values are given in Appendix B.

1. All values are expressed in October 1980 dollars.
2. All amortization and discounting calculations used the Water Resources Council's 7-3/8 percent interest rate.
3. Due to the length and highly controversial process required for obtaining permits and licenses for potential hydroelectric projects under Alternatives C and D, 1990 through 2090 was selected as the period of analysis. This assumes that development of hydroelectric projects with a 100-year life could not occur before the late 1980's or early 1990's.
4. Recreation values were based on information in the December 14, 1979 Federal Register.
5. Hydroelectric values were based on studies completed in 1981 by the Corps of Engineers.
6. Tungsten mining and milling costs and production values were based on data submitted as a result of the DEIS. A ten-year project life was assumed beginning in 1987. Mineral value in March 1982 discounted to October 1980 dollars was used.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (TABLE V-2)

The RED account is designed to show the net effect of each alternative on regional and local income, employment, and patterns of economic activity. For this analysis, the region was defined as Kern and Tulare counties. Because designation is expected to encourage recreation use of the river by roughly 15 percent over normal use increases, Alternative A would be expected to promote local growth in the lower part of the study area and around Lake Isabella. The extent of such an effect is difficult to determine but, with any alternative, is not likely to be a significant departure from the current rapid growth of the area. Designation would probably help maintain the existing emphasis on recreational uses and associated commercial goods and services. The Corps of Engineers notes that the "Elephant Knob project would provide a large (110,000 acre-foot) minimum recreation pool at Isabella Reservoir." This would result in a

large and stable recreation visitation and would stabilize and enhance the local economy which is highly dependent upon recreation use at Isabella." In completing an environmental alternatives assessment, the Corps discussed alternative ways to provide supplemental storage in Isabella Reservoir without the Elephant Knob project (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1980). The successful application of an alternative would also allow recreation growth and stability at Isabella Reservoir.

Mineral development in Alternatives B, D, and E would spur economic growth and employment in the Kern River Valley. An eighteen month construction period and ten year operating life are assumed for the "typical" mill. Employment would be about 200 people during construction and half of that thereafter. Salaries and corporate taxes would inject about \$3,000,000 annually into the local economy. It would cost about \$20,000,000 to construct the "typical" mill which would process 1000 metric tons per day of tungsten ore. Permanent local employment opportunities in the minerals industry in the immediate future would be greater than those offered through expansion of hydroelectric or recreation development.

The income portion of Table V-2 shows how the income effects for the nation as a whole are distributed between the region and the rest of the nation. The basic assumptions used in making these estimates are as follows:

1. About 20 percent of the recreationists come from within the region.
2. About 20 percent of the recreation benefits caused by hydroelectric development accrue to the region. Other hydroelectric costs and benefits accrue to the nation.
3. Designation, with or without Elephant Knob project is expected to have regional benefits that include increased retail sales, employment, and property values.
4. Non-designation of Segment 4 will result in regional benefits from employment in the mining industry. It is estimated that about 20% of the benefits or costs will accrue within the region.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACCOUNT (TABLE V-3)

The EQ account summarizes the major environmental effects of the different alternatives. Alternative A would provide the greatest protection for the river, while Alternative D could eventually result in the degradation of the river's resources from the Forks of the Kern to the county line. Alternative C and D both assume construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir for comparison purposes. Alternative B, D, and E assume increased minerals activities as a way of showing trade-offs with visual resources and the natural environment. The river corridor is considered not to have retained its natural surroundings not only where it would be inundated by reservoir, but also where it remains undesignated within the mineralized zone. Alternative E would continue current environmental management policies, but would not result in impacts from projected visitor use increases associated with designation.

OTHER SOCIAL EFFECTS ACCOUNT (TABLE V-4)

The OSE account measures the effects of each alternative on such social features as educational and cultural opportunities, health and safety, emergency preparedness, standard of living, and real income distribution. Alternatives A and B would generally protect and enhance the area's existing dependence on tourism, and would preserve much of the cultural and educational opportunities. Alternatives C and D assume added flood control through the construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir, would contribute to the recreational enhancement at Isabella Reservoir, and would contribute to safety by eliminating exposure of Borel Canal. (Borel Canal is a sharp-sided channel that was inundated by Isabella Reservoir and sometimes appears at or near the surface during low water levels, thereby creating a potential boat hazard and a physical barrier to a portion of the lake.) Alternatives B and D would allow potential expansion of commercial interests in Segment 4, and could alter recreational opportunities significantly. Production of strategic minerals to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign sources would be enhanced in Alternatives B, D, and E. Small quantities would continue to be produced even where the river is designated.

Table V-1. National Economic Development Account, Potential Average Annual Effects on National Income
(All figures given in 1980 dollars).

	Alternative A (78.5 mi Designated)	Alternative B (61.5 mi Designated)	Alternative C (64.5 mi Designated)	Alternative D (47.5 mi Designated)	Alternative E (No Designation)
HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT¹					
<u>Beneficial Effects</u>					
Value of Electric Power Produced	---	---	21,600,000	21,600,000	---
Value of Flood Control	---	---	400,000	400,000	---
Carryover Irrigation Storage	---	---	1,000,000	1,000,000	---
Modification to Isabella Savings	---	---	2,700,000	2,700,000	---
Subtotal	---	---	25,700,000	25,700,000	---
<u>Adverse Effects</u>					
Cost of Dam	---	---	46,800,000	46,800,000	---
Increased Evaporation	---	---	300,000	300,000	---
Subtotal	---	---	47,100,000	47,100,000	---
<u>Net Effects</u>	---	---	-21,400,000	-21,400,000	---
RECREATION					
<u>Beneficial Effects</u>					
Whitewater Boating	114,000	114,000	84,000	84,000	114,000
Stream Fishing	369,000	351,000	355,000	338,000	333,000
Reservoir Fishing	10,000	9,000	124,000	123,000	9,000
Camping & Other	420,000	390,000	692,000	662,000	379,000
Recreation at Isabella Lake	---	---	3,600,000	3,600,000	---
Subtotal	913,000	864,000	4,855,000	4,807,000	835,000
<u>Adverse Effects</u>					
Costs of Recreation Facilities and Management	37,000	37,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	18,000
<u>Net Effect</u>	876,000	827,000	3,155,000	3,107,000	817,000
MINERALS					
<u>Beneficial Effects</u>					
Value of Tungsten Produced		4,500,000		4,500,000	4,500,000
<u>Adverse Effects</u>					
Cost of Tungsten Mill		3,600,000		3,600,000	3,600,000
<u>Net Effects</u>		900,000		900,000	900,000
TOTAL EFFECTS					
<u>Beneficial Effects</u>	913,000	5,364,000	30,555,000	35,007,000	5,335,000
<u>Adverse Effects</u>	37,000	3,637,000	48,800,000	52,400,000	3,618,000
<u>Net Effects</u>	876,000	1,727,000	-18,245,000	-17,393,000	1,717,000

¹Alternative A, B, and E do not incorporate Elephant Knob Reservoir.

Table V-2. Regional Economic Development Account, Potential Effects on Regional Income
(All dollar figures based on 1980 dollars).

	Alternative A (78.5 mi Designated)	Alternative B (61.5 mi Designated)	Alternative C (64.5 mi Designated)	Alternative D (47.5 mi Designated)	Alternative E (No Designation)
ANNUAL INCOME, TOTAL NATION¹					
Beneficial Effects	913,000	5,364,000	30,555,000	35,007,000	5,335,000
Adverse Effects	37,000	3,637,000	48,800,000	52,400,000	3,618,000
Net Effects	876,000	1,727,000	-18,245,000	-17,393,000	1,717,000
ANNUAL INCOME, REGION²					
Beneficial Effects	183,000	1,073,000	6,111,000	7,001,000	1,067,000
Adverse Effects	7,000	727,000	9,760,000	10,480,000	724,000
Net Effects	176,000	345,000	-3,649,000	-3,479,000	343,000
ANNUAL INCOME, REST OF NATION³					
Beneficial Effects	730,000	4,291,000	24,444,000	28,006,000	4,268,000
Adverse Effects	30,000	2,910,000	39,040,000	41,920,000	2,894,000
Net Effects	700,000	1,382,000	-14,596,000	13,914,000	1,374,000
EMPLOYMENT IN TULARE-KERN CO.					
Temporary Construction Jobs ⁴	---	200	2,000	2,200	200
Permanent Utility Industry Jobs	---	---	8	8	---
Permanent Recreational Jobs	---	---	2	2	---
Permanent Mineral Industry Jobs	---	102	---	102	102
Seasonal Rafting Industry Jobs	40	40	---	---	40
Other Seasonal Recreation Jobs	7	7	38	38	3
Economic Stability in Tulare-Kern County	Very Slight Expansion	Slight Expansion	Expansion then Contraction	Expansion then Contraction	Slight Expansion

¹ Same as "Total Effects," Table V-1.

² Population and regional use calculations indicate that 20 percent of total benefits and adverse effects accrue to the region.

³ This is the difference between total national annual income and regional annual income.

⁴ Peak construction period only.

Table V-3. Environmental Quality Account.

	Alternative A (78.5 mi Designated)	Alternative B (61.5 mi Designated)	Alternative C (64.5 mi Designated)	Alternative D (47.5 mi Designated)	Alternative E (No Designation)
<u>Miles Preserved & protected by Designation</u>					
Wild River Classification	61.5	61.5	47.5	47.5	0
Scenic River Classification	0	0	0	0	0
Recreational River Classification	17.0	0	17.0	0	0
Total Miles Designated	78.5	61.5	64.5	47.5	0
Miles Currently Afforded Protection (National Park, Wilderness)	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5
Additional Miles Afforded Protection by Designation	31.0	14.0	17.0	0	0
<u>Adverse Effects From Potential Development Projects</u>					
Construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir - Miles of Riverine Habitat Inundated	0	0	13.0	13.0	0
Miles Remaining Without Statutory Protection From Potential Recreation and Minerals Development	4.5	21.5	18.5	35.5	35.5
<u>Cultural Resources</u>					
Archaeological Sites	Slightly Impaired	Moderately Impaired	Moderately Impaired	Moderately Impaired	Moderately Impaired
<u>Recreational Resources</u>					
Acres of Useable Flatwater Created by E.K. Reservoir	0	0	3,425.0	3,425.0	0
Miles of Lake Shore Created	0	0	26.0	26.0	0
Miles of Fishable River					
- Potentially Eliminated	0	0	13.0	13.0	0
- Potentially Enhanced Fishery	0	0	0	0	0
- Potentially Reduced Quality of Fishery	0	0	0	0	0
Miles of Whitewater Rafting					
- Potentially Eliminated	0	0	13.0	13.0	0
- Potentially Reduced Quality of Experience ¹	0	0	23.5	23.5	0
- Potentially Enhanced Quality	0	0	19.5	19.5	0
- With Increased Access	0	0	14.0	14.0	0
<u>Visual Resources</u>					
Mi. of River Retained in Natural Surroundings	78.5	70.1	65.5	56.1	64.4
<u>Biological Resources</u>					
Miles of Riverine Wildlife Habitat					
- Afforded Protection	31.0	14.0	17.0	0	0
- Degraded Due to Increased Use	83.0	83.0	83.0	83.0	83.0
- Potentially Eliminated	0	0	13.0	13.0	0
Habitat For Rare, Endangered, or Unique Species	Slightly Degraded	Slightly Degraded	Slightly Degraded	Slightly Degraded	Slightly Degraded
Net Relative Environmental Quality Benefit ³	Highest	High	Low	Lowest	Moderate
<u>Mineral Resources</u>					
Miles of Mineralized River Corridor	14.1	5.7	14.1	5.7	0

¹ Includes one mile above reservoir and entire distance downstream. (Note: Since reservoir releases are unknown, rafting quality could potentially be decreased downstream.)

² Includes river only downstream of diversion dam.

³ Judgment of interdisciplinary study team.

Table V-4. Other Social Effects Account.

	Alternative A (78.5 mi Designated)	Alternative B (61.5 mi Designated)	Alternative C (64.5 mi Designated)	Alternative D (47.5 mi Designated)	Alternative E (No Designation)
<u>Educational and Cultural Opportunities at Archaeological Sites</u>	Slightly Impaired	Moderately Impaired	Moderately Impaired	Moderately Impaired	Moderately Impaired
<u>Regional Opportunities (Visitor-Days/Year in 1990)</u>					
Whitewater Boating	14,770	14,770	11,770	11,770	14,770
Stream Fishing	98,810	92,060	97,520	90,770	90,320
Reservoir Fishing	3,350	2,960	58,350	57,960	2,960
Camping & Other	<u>146,200</u>	<u>134,040</u>	<u>310,370</u>	<u>298,210</u>	<u>132,370</u>
TOTAL	263,130	243,830	478,010	458,710	240,420
<u>Quality of Life, Health, and Safety</u>					
Net Power Generation (million kilowatt-hours/year)	---	---	200	200	---
Additional Flood Control (1980 dollars/year at Kernville)	---	---	\$400,000	\$400,000	---
Higher Minimum Pool at Isabella Lake for Safety and Increase in Visitor-Days (1990)	---	---	350,000	350,000	---
<u>Emergency Preparedness</u>					
Potential Reduction in Imported Oil from Construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir (energy equivalent, barrels/year)	---	---	245,700	245,700	---
Potential Annual Production Strategic minerals (millions of pounds)	Negligible Amount	2.7	Negligible Amount	2.7	2.7

VI. THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Alternative B is the preferred alternative. It offers the most desirable balance of uses which will protect natural values and Outstandingly Remarkable features while allowing continued economic growth.

The decision to change the selected alternative from that shown in the Draft EIS (Alternative A) came as a result of the public response and new information which was received during the 90-day public comment period. Nearly all of the response dealt with issues related to river Segments 3 and 4, primarily 4. Recommendations for Segments 1, 2, and 5 were not controversial. Dispute over the DEIS recommendation to designate Segment 4 surfaced strongly at the public meeting in Kernville on December 12, 1981, and continued in the written responses we received. The public criticized Designation of Segment 4 on the basis that conflict over private land ownership, mining, power development, ranching and recreation use would occur.

The public made it clear that the Draft EIS had not adequately described the mineral resources of the study area, and that presented serious omissions in the assessment of the alternatives, particularly as regards Segment 4. As a result, a complete re-working of the current minerals situation and future potential was undertaken. Major revisions are evident throughout the Final EIS and show graphically in the Economic and Environmental Account. One of the factors in the selection of Alternative B is the significant effect designation would have on mineral activities in Segment 4.

To a lesser degree, the assessment of fisheries, recreation, socioeconomics, timber and grazing were revised and supplemented as a result of public comment and new data submitted.

Alternatives C and D were least favored by all the respondents. Both of these assumed construction of the Elephant Knob Reservoir and neither would preserve the free-flowing characteristics of the Kern River. Keeping the Kern in a free-flowing condition seemed to be the single most important concern of those who favored some form of designation.

Alternative A was favored by most respondents because it would provide statutory protection for the greatest portion of the Kern River and would best preserve natural scenic and cultural values. Even though no designations are recommended in Alternative E, the foreseeable results are very similar to Alternative A, except in Segment 4. Here, Alternative A would have a substantial negative impact on various potential developments. Alternative E would allow such developments under current control regulations, with attendant employment increases and economic growth in the local and regional economics.

Thus, the recommendation for Segment 4 emerges as the focus for the preferred alternative. Alternative B, which would leave Segment 4 undesignated, has economic and environmental advantages in a combination not offered by any other alternative. The Kern River would remain in a free-flowing condition since there are no new projected water developments in Segment 4. Alternative B would institute an additional cloak of protection on all outstandingly remarkable values found in the study corridor except for the unidentified salamander in Segment 4. Because of the specific, localized habitat of this species, it can be properly protected by special measures without designation of a 17-mile segment of river. Conceivably, the additional recreation caused if this segment were designated could work to disadvantage and result in real adverse impacts to the salamander. The natural resources of Segment 4 do offer the greatest potential of any of the segments to be utilized in a manner which will enhance economic growth. Public concerns over the implications of designation on private land ownership and use are substantially resolved under Alternative B.

Finally, Alternative B will further the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by recommending designation of approximately 61.5 miles as part of the nation-wide river system. The Kern is within easy reach of a large urban population base and it would be the only component of the Wild and Scenic River System anywhere in Southern California. Since most of the adverse economic, private landownership and other concerns can, at the same time, be avoided, we are recommending Alternative B as the preferred alternative.

VII. CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Throughout the N.F. Kern River Study, coordination of public involvement meetings has been a major activity. Attempts to inform and involve the public were directed toward local government agencies, interested organizations, and concerned individuals in order to keep everyone informed during the study development. Priority was given to public involvement in all study phases.

An 83-mile portion of the river, located within Tulare and Kern counties, California, was identified for study by an amendment (Public Law 95-625, Oct. 2, 1968) to the existing Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542, Nov. 10, 1978). The study considers the potential designation of the N.F. Kern River under the Act. A necessary part of the study process is public involvement with the objective of informing the public of the study and identifying issues and concerns. Initial public input on the river was received between January 5 and March 7, 1980.

Public Information and Involvement Summary

- November 30, 1979 - News release to the public of Notice of Intent for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement and scoping sessions.

- December 4-12, 1979 - Conducted scoping session and mailed out response forms to interested organizations and individuals.

- January 5, 1980 - General information session and slide presentation at Kernville, California to inform the public that the study would be conducted, why it would be conducted, and the location of the study area. Forty-eight people, other than government employees, attended.

Results of Public Meeting

Major concerns expressed by the public were:

Reason for the study - Many individuals questioned the purpose of the study.

Extent of Condemnation - Landowners felt that easements are an encroachment of individuals' rights. It was stressed at the meeting that easements acquired by condemnation would be compensated for at fair market value (if easements had to be acquired at all).

Extent and Consequence of Easements - The extent to which easement provisions will restrict landowners' rights and freedom to develop or live on their land is a great concern.

Reservoirs - Inclusion of the river segment(s), for which there are proposed reservoirs, under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System would halt any type of construction of potential reservoirs.

August 11, 1980 - Newsletter to respondents and local newspaper listing issues and screening criteria and contractor selected for the study.

October 19, 1981 - January 19, 1982 - Review and Response period by the public for the DEIS.

October 27, 1981 - News release to the public of the availability of the DEIS.

December 12, 1981 - Informal public meeting to explain the Study and DEIS.
Location: Kernville Elementary School, Kernville, California, 93238.

Interested Organization Involvement

Presentations were given to the following groups: Kernville Chamber of Commerce, East Bakersfield Rotary, Tulare County Board of Supervisors, Bakersfield Audubon Society, and Porterville Women's Club.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1) WILD AND SCENIC RIVER INPUT TABULATION
FOR ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT CONCERNS (SCOPING)

<u>Input From</u>	<u>No. of Inputs</u>
Individuals	47
Local Government Agencies	4
State Government Agencies	2
Federal Government Agencies	2
Industry	1
Environmental/Conservation Group Organizations	4
User Group Organizations - 4 WD, Etc.	5
Elected Officials	<u>0</u>
TOTAL INPUTS	65

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NORTH FORK KERN RIVER
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Type of Input

Personal letter	118
Form letter	0
Response form	52
Petition	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	171

Location of Response

Southern California	51
Northern California	44
Kern County	14
Tulare County	11
Fresno County	8
Kern River Valley	34
Other	<u>9</u>
TOTAL	171

Type of Respondent

Individual	138
Local Government	3
State Government	2
Federal Government	3
Industry	10
Environmental Conservation Groups	11
Organized Groups	3
Elected Officials	0
Other (Petition)	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	171

Final Resolution of Issues and Management Concerns

Following is a discussion of how each of these Issues and Concerns will be treated or resolved under the preferred alternative.

1. Does the North Fork Kern qualify as a Wild and Scenic River?

Yes. Applications of the eligibility criteria defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act reveals that the N.F. Kern River, with the exception of the lower 4.5 miles from the Tulare-Kern County line to Isabella Reservoir, does qualify. Chapter III documents this evaluation in detail.

2. Should the river be recommended for designation as a whole or in segments according to the eligibility criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational classification?

Because of significant differences in existing environmental and land use conditions and statutory management policies along the length of the river, it was appropriate to evaluate the river for designation and classification eligibility in segments. Five segments were identified for study. Those segments meeting the criteria for a Wild classification are recommended for designation. Refer to Chapter III and IV for details.

3. Which private lands or interests, if any, should be acquired by the Forest Service within the study boundary?

Because there are so few private holdings in that portion of the river study corridor recommended for designation, acquisition of these lands will not be necessary. Neither will it be necessary to acquire scenic easement or easements for public access to the river.

4. What are the desired levels of recreational experience, types of activities, and kind of developments appropriate for the river?

Segments 1, 2, and 3, those recommended for Wild classification will continue to be managed for a primitive recreation experience. Current management plans for Sequoia National Park and the Golden Trout Wilderness are compatible with the Wild classification. Recreation activities in the upper three river segments will be non-motorized and made up primarily of hiking, stock use, fishing, dispersed camping, and whitewater rafting. Facilities will remain primitive and consist of trails and undeveloped camp sites. No new developments are anticipated. Current recreation activities will continue in non-designated river segments. The recreation experience remains in a National Forest setting but with considerable road and facility development including developed campgrounds, resorts and ORV trails. Major activities will be driving for pleasure, camping, whitewater rafting, fishing and swimming. For more detail see Chapter IV and V of this report.

5. Should opportunities be retained for reservoir and water diversion developments in lieu of classification of various segments?

Future development of Elephant Knob, Junction and other sites further upriver would be precluded. Opportunities for expansion of the Fairview diversion or addition of power generation at that site would be left open and could be proposed in the future. For more information, refer to Chapters IV and V of this report.

6. Should the opportunity be retained for Trans-Sierra corridor (Highway 190)?

Not in its original location in Segment 2 or anywhere in Segment 3. We understand CalTrans is dropping this proposal. As an alternative, existing east/west road system utilizing the Johnsondale Bridge could be designated the Trans-Sierra Highway if it became necessary to do so.

7. How will mining activities be affected by the designation of the North Fork Kern as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System?

The Wild river corridor would be immediately withdrawn from mineral entry. No new claims could be filed. Mining operations in and adjacent to the corridor would be subject to strict controls. Effectively, little or no mining would occur in Segments 1, 2, and 3.

Mineral exploration and extraction in non-designated river segments would be subject to current controls and is expected to increase in activity. For more detail see Chapters IV and V of this report.

ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONSULTED

The following agencies, organizations, and individuals were contacted during the preparation of this report.

Agencies and Organizations

California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, Sacramento and San Francisco, California.

- ° Perry Amimoto - Mineral Resources.
- ° John Burnett - Geology of Kern Canyon.
- ° Charles W. Jennings - Geologic maps.

California Department of Fish and Game, Fresno, Sacramento, and Wofford Heights, California.

- ° Dan Christensen - Endangered species; fisheries; Kern River rainbow trout; Little Kern golden trout.
- ° Roy Hines - Wildlife.
- ° Dennis Lee - Fisheries; river flow releases.
- ° Bill Rowen - Hatchery practices; fish stocking below Johnsondale Bridge.
- ° Deon Hamilton (Kernville) - Status of fishery; angler usage; Kern River rainbow trout.
- ° Gordon Gould - Nongame birds, mammals, and furbearers.
- ° John Brode - Rare and endangered herpetological species.
- ° Dave Console - Wildlife.

California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), Sacramento, California

- ° Ann Barkley - Trans-Sierra Highway status.
- ° Craig Martz - Trans-Sierra Highway status.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Fresno, California

- ° Sargent Green - Status of Kernville sewage treatment facilities.

California Natural Diversity Data Base, Sacramento, California

- ° Rick York - Rare plants; natural areas.

California Native Plant Society

- ° Robert W. Power (U.C. Davis) - Rare and endangered plants.
- ° Alice Q. Howard (U.C. Berkeley) - Rare and endangered plants.

California State Department of Water Resources, Sacramento, California

- ° Jonas Minton - Water Resources
- ° Harley R. Woodsworth - Kern River water quality data.

National Park Service, Sequoia National Park, Ash Mountain, California, and the Western Regional Office, San Francisco, California

- John W. Palmer - Recreation Policy.
- Charles Warner - Wildlife.
- Philip W. Ward, Chief - Recreation.
- Daniel J. Olson - Recreation and planning.

The Nature Conservancy, San Francisco, California

- Steve McCormick - Natural areas; riparian habitats.

Southern California Edison Company, Los Angeles, California

- A.H. Ruckles - Potential hydro projects.
- B.J. "Joe" Mbunt - Potential hydro projects.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Sacramento, California

- Ada Squires - Elephant Knob Reservoir feasibility.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento, California

- Diana Wittschalk - Minerals, Claims Information.

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, Kernville, Porterville, San Francisco, and Springville, California

- Jay Woody - Recreational use and status of Kern Canyon.
- Walter Welborn - Multiple use of Kern Canyon.
- Dale Dague - Angler use above Johnsondale Bridge.
- Tom Crimmins - Recreation.
- Norman Arseneault - Recreation.
- Cathy Dymkoski - Wildlife.
- Mark Dymkoski - Notable physical features of Kern Canyon.
- Mike Lee - Past and present status of Kern Canyon.
- James Shevock - Rare plants and botany.
- Richard Standage - Status of fishery; Kern River rainbow, Little Kern golden trout.
- Jim Shiro - Air photography.
- Gil Ward - Special Areas classification.
- Gary Sinclair - Recreation.
- Joe DiVittorio - Range conservation.
- James Heinle - Recreation; Visual Resources.
- Julie Allen - Economics; Environmental coordination.
- Walter Gould - Mineral Resources

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco, California

- William Lewis - Kern River water quality data.

U.S. Bureau of Mines, Spokane, Washington

- Dave Lockard - Minerals resource

U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, California

- Library - Air photography.

University of California, Geology Department, Davis, California

- ° Robert Matthews - Geology of Kern Canyon.

Whitewater Voyages, El Sobrante, California

- ° William McGinnis - Rafting along the Kern River.

Individuals

Anton Farman - Wofford Heights, California - Wildlife.

Robert Hansen - Fresno, California - Slender salamanders.

Paul Zinke - Univ. of California, San Francisco - Forest ecosystems; soils.

FINAL EIS DISTRIBUTION LIST

Federal Agencies

Federal Energy Administration
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Interagency Whitewater Committee
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
United States Department of Defense
Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Coast Guard
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Mines
Fish and Wildlife Service
Geological Survey, Conservation Division
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Park Service
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
United States Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration, Region Nine

California State Agencies

Office of the Governor, Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse
Air Resource Control Board
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Justice
Department of Navigation and Ocean Development
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources

Public Utilities Commission
The Reclamation Board
Water Resources Association
Water Resources Control Board

Tulare/Kern County Agencies

Board of Supervisors
Chamber of Commerce
Historical Society
Planning Department

Special Interest and Other Cooperative Groups

Stanislaus Audubon Society
Associated California Loggers
Woodstock Ski Club
Bakersfield Californian
Boy Scouts of America
American Rivers Conservation Council
Sunset Magazine
California Association of 4-WD Clubs
California Wilderness Coalition
Porterville Environmental Council
Conservation Call
Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Southern California Edison Company
Far West Ski Association
Federation of Fly Fishermen
Izaak Walton League
California State University, Fresno
California State University, Humboldt
Sportmen's Council
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Humboldt Builders Exchange
Friends of the River
Kern Audubon Society

Individuals

Additional mailing will be made to individuals that are included on the mailing list located at Sequoia National Forest.

VIII. LIST OF PREPARERS/PARTICIPANTS

The DEIS report was prepared under contract to and under the direction of the U.S. Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest, by Western Ecological Services Company (WESCO) of San Rafael, California and its team of associated consultants. Individuals contributing to the study and report, along with information on their qualifications, are presented below.

CONTRACTOR

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U.S. FOREST SERVICE

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Chic Spann	Hydrologist	BS	4
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James Shevock	Botanist	BS,MS	3
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INDEX

A

- Aesthetic qualities. See Visual Resources
- Agriculture, 11, 21, 25, 53, 56, 95
- Air quality, 20; alternatives and, 47, 52, 60, 64, 69, 72
- Alternative A, 43, 46-58, 74, 86-88; and Principles and Standards, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81-84
- Alternative B, 43-44, 47, 58-61, 74, 87; and Principles and standards, 80, 81-84
- Alternative C, 44, 45, 47, 61-67, 74, 87; and Principles and Standards, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81-84
- Alternative D, 44, 45, 47, 67-70, 74, 87; and Principles and Standards, 77, 79, 80, 81-84
- Alternative E, 44, 47, 70-73, 74, 86, 87-88; and Principles and Standards, 80, 81-84
- Alternatives, 43-88. See also individual alternatives
- Archaeological resources, 27-28, 36, 67, 70
- Army Corps of Engineers, U.S., 77, 86; and Elephant Knob Reservoir, 44, 45, 65, 77-78, 95; and Lake Isabella levels, 66, 78; population figures of, 26; recreation use study of, 56

B

- Bacteria, 18, 19, 52, 69, 71
- Bakersfield, 3, 10, 23
- Bald Eagle, 14
- Bald Mountain, 13
- Basaltic formation, 11, 25
- Batrachoseps, 15
- Big Kern Lake, 12

Big Meadow, 13
Bladderwort, 14
Boating. See Whitewater boating
Borel Canal, 80
Brasenia schreberi, 14
Brown trout, 16

C

Cabins, 32
California condor, 14
California Department of Employment, 26
California Department of Fish and Game, 15, 17
California Department of Transportation, 45, 96
Californian Floristic Province, 12, 13
Campgrounds, 21, 23, 27, 32, 33-34, 42;
 alternatives and, 64, 76
Chemical treatment, of fisheries, 51
Classifications, 30, 39-42, 43, 46, 87-88. See
 also Recreational classification; Wild
 classification
Class I air quality areas, 20, 52
Class II air quality areas, 20
Clean Air Act, 20
Climate, 19-20; alternatives and, 47, 52, 60, 64,
 69, 72
Condors, 14
Construction, 25, 64, 67
Consultation, 90-101
Cultural resources, 27-28, 36; alternatives and,
 47, 58, 61, 70, 72, 80

D

Dams, 16, 17, 34, 66, 78, 92

Department of Agriculture, U.S., 2, 20, 39.
See also Forest Service

Department of Interior, U.S., 2, 20, 39. See also
National Park Service

Devil's Postpile National Monument, 11

Diamond Mesa, 13

Durrwood camp, 33

E

Eagles, 14

Easements, 53-54, 91, 92, 94

Economics, 25-27; Alternative A and, 47, 54, 56-57, 87; Alternative B and, 47, 61; Alternative C and, 44, 45, 47, 65, 66-67, 87; Alternative D and, 45, 47, 70, 87; Alternative E and, 47, 72, 86; Elephant Knob Reservoir and, 44, 45, 57, 67, 77, 78, 86, 95; national (account), 75, 76, 78-79, 82, 87

Elephant Knob Reservoir, 45, 95; Alternative A and, 51, 53, 57, 58; Alternative B and, 58; Alternative C and, 44, 45, 47, 61-62, 63-66, 67, 78, 79, 80; Alternative D and, 45, 47, 68, 69, 70, 79, 80; Alternative E and, 47, 86; Principles and Standards and, 77-78, 79, 80, 81

Eligibility, 30-42, 93

Employment, 25-26, 67, 82

Environmental quality (EQ) account, 75, 76, 79, 83

Erosion, soil, 49, 59

F

Fairview, 21, 27, 33

Falcons, 14

Fault zone, 9, 10, 12, 25
Fecal coliform bacteria, 18, 52, 69, 71
Federal Register, 75, 77
Finance activities, 25
Fire hazard, 49
Fisheries, 16-17, 18, 23; alternatives and, 47, 51, 59, 63, 69, 71
Flood control, 62, 64, 67, 80, 87
Footbridges, 32
Forest Service, 2, 20, 22, 33, 34, 94; Alternative A and, 53, 55; Alternative B and, 43-44, 60, 61; Alternative E and, 70; public-information activities of, 6; and wildlife, 15
Forks of the Kern, 14, 50
Foxtail pine, 13
Fresno, 3, 10

G

Geology, 10-12; alternatives and, 47, 48, 59, 62, 68, 71
Gilbert irrigation ditch, 17
Gold, 11, 28
Golden trout, 16, 17, 23, 25
Golden Trout Creek, 11
Golden Trout Wilderness, 3-6, 9, 20, 22; air quality in, 20, 52; alternatives and, 55, 58, 67, 86; cultural resources in, 28; reservoir potential in, 45, 95; Segments 2 in, 32, 86; Trans-Sierra Highway in, 45, 96
Grazing, 22, 27, 28, 56, 77, 78
Great Basin, 9, 10, 13, 15
Great Valley, 15

Great Western Divide, 19-20

Greenhorn Mountains, 19-20

"Guidelines for Evaluating Wild, Scenic and
Recreational River Areas...", 39

H

Historical resources, 27-28; alternatives and, 47,
58, 61, 67, 70, 72

Highways, 33, 42, 45, 96

Hockett Peak, 32

Hole-in-the-Ground, 32

Homesteading, 28

Hydropower, 17, 76, 77, 79, 87; and Elephant Knob
Reservoir, 44, 57, 77-78, 81

I

Income: national, 76, 79, 81; regional, 78, 79, 82

Insurance activities, 25

Inyo National Forest, 2, 3, 20, 24

Irrigation, 17, 77-78

J

Junction Meadows, 11

K

Kaweah Basin, 13

Kaweah Peaks Pluton-Kern Canyon Fault, 9, 10, 12,
25

Kernbutts and Kerncols, 12

Kern Canyon, 10-11, 12, 25

Kern Canyon slender salamander, 14

Kern County, 26, 78-79
Kern Flat, 16, 32, 50
Kern Hot Springs, 32
Kern Lakes, 14, 25
Kern River rainbow trout, 16, 17, 23
Kernville, 3, 23, 90-91; socioeconomics of, 25, 26,
55, 87; water quality at, 18-19

L

Lake Isabella area, 3, 64; rainfall of, 20;
recreation in, 23, 56, 60, 64, 66, 80;
socioeconomics of, 25, 26, 55, 57, 66-67, 78;
water levels at, 66, 78, 80
Land ownership and use, 5, 20-22, 91; alternatives
and, 47, 53-54, 60, 64-65, 69, 72
Land values, 57
Little Kern Lake, 12, 32
Los Angeles, 3, 10, 23
Lower Funston meadows, 13

M

Manufacturing, 25
Mining, 11-12, 22, 25, 27, 96; alternatives and,
48, 57, 59, 62, 68, 71, 77, 78; historic, 28
Mobile home development, 26
Mojave Desert, 10, 13, 15
Mount Whitney, 9
Multiple-use management, 22, 92

N

National economic development (NED) account, 75,
76-78, 81, 87

National Environmental Policy Act, 3, 44
National Parks and Recreation Act, 2
National Park Service, 1, 20, 22, 24, 55
National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 2, 91, 92;
 alternatives and, 43, 46, 58, 61, 67, 70, 88;
 eligibility for, 30, 39, 41
Needle Camp, 33
Needles, The, 13

O

Other social effects (OSE) account, 75, 76, 79-80,
 84, 87
Outstandingly remarkable features, 30, 34-38, 41,
 86, 92; cultural/historical, 28, 35; defined,
 8; of fisheries, 17, 35; geological, 12, 35;
 recreational, 23-24, 35, 36; regional, 10; of
 vegetation, 14, 35; visual, 25, 35, 36; of
 wildlife, 15, 36

P

Pegegrine falcon, 14
Permits, 21, 53, 55
Pine, 13
Plant communities, 14, 62-63. See also Vegetation
Plateau Shoshone, 27
Population: market area, 23, 54, 55; resident, 22,
 26, 55
Precipitation, 18, 19-20
"Principles and Standards for Planning Water and
 Related Land Resources," 3, 75-84
Public participation, 6-7, 90-96

R

- Rainbow trout, 16, 17, 23
- Ramshaw Meadows, 13
- RARE II, 20, 33
- Real estate activities, 25, 26
- Recreation, 6, 10, 21, 22-24, 33, 46; Alternative A and, 47, 49-50, 51, 52, 54-57, 58, 86-87; Alternative B and, 43-44, 47, 60, 87; Alternative C and, 47, 61, 62, 63, 65-66, 67, 87; Alternative D and, 47, 68, 69, 70, 87; Alternative E and, 47, 71, 72, 86; economy based on, 25, 26-27; Principles and Standards and, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81; public concerns about, 92, 94-95
- Recreational classification, 39, 42, 87-88, 94-95, 96; Alternative A and, 46, 48, 53-54, 86; Alternative B and, 58, 59; Alternative C and, 61
- Regional economic development (RED) account, 75, 76, 78-79, 82, 87
- Reservoirs, 45, 91, 92, 95. See also Elephant Knob Reservoir
- Residential development, 21-22, 25, 26, 42
- Resorts, 21, 27
- Retired residents, 25, 26
- Rincon Roadless Area, 6, 14, 20-21, 22, 33
- River Kern, 26
- Roads, 33, 34, 42, 96; alternatives and, 44, 45, 61, 63, 76
- Rock Creek, 32
- Route 190, 45, 96

S

Sacramento squawfish, 16

Sacramento sucker, 16

Salamanders, 14, 15

San Joaquin Valley, 20, 77

Scenery. See Visual resources

Scenic classification, 39, 87-88

Segment 1, 31, 32; Alternative A and, 43, 46, 48, 86; Alternative B and, 43, 58; Alternative C and, 44, 61; Alternative D and, 44, 67, 68; Alternative E and, 70, 86, on eligibility/classification matrix, 40, 42; outstandingly remarkable features in, 35

Segment 2, 31, 32; Alternative A and, 43, 46, 48, 86; Alternative B and, 43, 58; Alternative C and, 44, 61, 64, 67; Alternative D and, 44, 68; Alternative E and, 70, 86; on eligibility/classification matrix, 40, 42; outstandingly remarkable features in, 35

Segment 3, 31, 32-33, 45, 78, 95; Alternative A and, 43, 46, 48, 50, 53, 54-55, 57, 58, 86; alternative B and, 43, 58, 80; Alternative C and, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 87; Alternative D and, 44, 68, 69, 70, 80, 87; Alternative E and, 70, 71, 86; on eligibility/classification matrix, 40, 42; outstandingly remarkable features in, 36

Segment 4, 31, 33-34, 78; Alternative A and, 43, 46, 48, 51, 53, 54, 57, 58, 86, 87; Alternative B and, 58, 59, 60, 61, 80; Alternative C and, 44, 65-66, 67; Alternative D and, 44, 68, 70, 80; Alternative E and, 70, 86; on eligibility/classification matrix, 40, 42; outstandingly remarkable features in, 36

Segment 5, 31, 34, 36; Alternative A and, 48, 57; Alternative B and, 60; Alternative C and, 65-66; on eligibility/classification matrix, 40, 42

Segments, 30-34, 94. See also individual segments

Sequoia National Forest, 2, 3, 6, 8, 20-21, 24

Sequoia National Park, 2, 3, 9, 20; air quality in,
20, 52; recreation in, 22, 55; Segment 1 in,
32, 86

Service industry, 25-26

Sierra Nevada, 8-9, 10, 15

Sightseeing, See Visual resources

Siretta Peak, 13

Socioeconomics, 25-27; alternatives and, 47, 56-57,
61, 66-67, 70, 72. See also Economics

Soda Flat, 27

Soils, 10-12; alternatives and, 47, 48, 59, 62, 68,
71

Solitude, 24, 25, 65

Southern California Edison Company, 17, 45, 95

Southwestern Deserts, 9

Squawfish, 16

T

Tehachapi slender salamander, 14

Thorium, 11

Timber, 22, 27, 56, 77, 78

Tourism. See Recreation

Trails, 26-27, 32, 33, 55, 76

Transportation. See Roads

Trans-Sierra Highway, 45, 96

Trout, 16-17, 23, 25, 51, 63

Tubatulabal, 27

Tulare County, 10, 26, 78-79

Tungsten, 11-12, 27, 48, 62, 68, 78

U

Unemployment, 26
Upper Funston Meadows, 13
Utricularia vulgaris, 14

V

Vegetation, 12-14, 15, 25; Alternatives and, 47,
49-50, 59, 62-63, 68, 71
Visitor use. See Recreation
Visual resources, 23, 24-25, 92; alternatives and,
47, 56, 60, 61, 70, 72

W

Waterfalls, 25
Water quality, 18-19; alternatives and, 47, 51, 52,
59, 63-64, 69, 71
Water resources, 17-19, 77, 95; Alternative A and,
47, 52, 57, 86; Alternative B and, 47, 59;
Alternative C and, 47, 63-64, 66, 87;
Alternative D and, 47, 69, 70, 87; Alternative
E and, 47, 71. See also Reservoirs
Water Resources Council, U.S., 3, 75, 77
Water Resources Planning Act, 3, 75
Water-shield, 14
Western Ecological Services Company (WESCO), 2
Whitewater boating, 10, 24; alternatives and, 54,
55, 65-66, 67, 69, 76
Whitney Creek, 13
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1-2, 8, 43, 94, 96;
Alternative A and, 46, 53, 57, 86-87;
Alternative C and, 67; Alternative E and, 70;
eligibility criteria in, 39, 93
Wild and Scenic Rivers System. See National Wild
and Scenic Rivers System

Wild classification, 39, 41, 42, 87-88, 94-95, 96;
Alternative A and, 46, 48, 50, 86; Alternative
C and, 61

Wilderness Act, 33, 70, 86

Wildlife, 14-15; alternatives and, 47, 50-51, 59,
63, 68, 71

Wofford Heights, 25

Wolverines, 14

APPENDIX A

WORKING PAPERS BY REFERENCE

The working papers, produced as technical baseline information for this study, are incorporated herein by reference. These extensive reports are maintained as file documents at Sequoia National Forest Headquarters in Porterville, California and the Forest Service Regional Office in San Francisco, California, and are available there for public review. The working papers cover the following topics:

1. Geology
2. Vegetation
3. Wildlife
4. Fisheries
5. Water Quality
6. Recreation
7. Visual Resources
8. Economic Baseline
9. Archaeological Survey and Cultural Resource Inventory
10. Minerals
11. Public Responses on the DEIS

APPENDIX B

SOURCES, ASSUMPTIONS, AND METHODS FOR TABLE V-1

HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Value of Electric Power Produced:

- Assume the maximum benefit case, that of Elephant Knob Dam (High Dam)
- Value of Power - 88.46 mills/kwh (Ada Squires, Army Corps of Engineers [ACE])

Annual Power Generation = 200 million kwh/yr (Ada Squires, ACE)

Value of Power x Annual Generation = \$21.6 million

Note: These figures are approximations according to A. Squires.

2. Value of Flood Control:

- At Kernville = \$400,000/yr (Ada Squires, ACE)

Note: This is an approximation.

3. Cost of Dam:

- Assume Elephant Knob, High Dam
- Assume cost = \$46.79 million (Ada Squires, ACE, pers. comm. with L. Young, 2/6/81).

Note: This is an approximation.

4. Cost of Developing Recreation:

- Assume the costs is for developing first quality recreation.
- First quality cost = \$1.7 million annually (Ada Squires, ACE)

MINERAL RESOURCE

1. Ore

- Grade of 0.35% WO_3 (tungsten)
- Value \$30/ton for unprocessed ore
- Value \$6/pound of WO_3

2. Mill

- Construction period 1985-1987
- Cost of construction - \$20,000,000
- Operating period 1987-1996
- Capacity 1000 metric tons of ore per day
- Produce 7700 pounds per day of WO₃

3. Fiscal Data

- Gross revenues \$16,000,000 annually
- After tax profit 8.8% of gross revenue
- Before tax profit 20.3% of gross revenue
- State and County taxes 11.5% of gross revenue; \$2,000,000 annually

4. Calculations for Table V-1

- Adverse effects (costs) are assumed to be gross revenues minus profits before taxes.

	<u>Beneficial Effects</u> (Benefit)	<u>Adverse Effects</u> (Cost)	<u>Net Benefits</u> (\$)
	<u>Million Dollars</u>		
March 1982 \$ (annual)	16.0	12.8	3.2
October 1980 \$ (annual)	14.0	11.2	2.8
(Converted back based on change in the GNP deflator)			
October 1980 present value of total benefits/costs during 1985-1996	58.73	46.98	11.75
1980 present values converted to average annual equivalent over 50 years.	4.5	3.6	.9

GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS

1. In all alternatives with designation, visitor-days were increased by 30 percent as per SWA recreation study: 15 percent normal growth by 1990 without designation, 15 percent additional by 1990 due to designation. These percentages are approximations only since whitewater boating is considered to already be at capacity in Segments 4 and 5. The new whitewater use in Segment 3 is expected to be at capacity by 1990, with or without designation. (See 4a-d for visitor days and assumptions.)
2. Dollar values were assigned to each recreation activity, by segment, using the Federal Register, Vol. 44, No. 242, Dec. 14, 1979. 1980 dollar values were used and it was assumed that:
 - Whitewater boating is a "specialized recreation other than hunting and fishing.
 - Stream fishing is "specialized fishing and hunting" in Segments 1, 2, and 3; "general fishing and hunting" in other segments that are more accessible.
 - Reservoir fishing is "general fishing and hunting."
 - Camping and other is "specialized recreation other" in Segments 1, 2, and 3, and "general recreation" in remaining segments.
3. Dollar values were multiplied by visitor-days to derive value of each activity with and without designation for each segment. Segments 1 and 2 were combined because all alternatives except "E" designate both Segments 1 and 2.

4. To complete Table V-1, the relevant numbers were added by segment for each alternative. For example, whitewater boating for Alternative A would consist of the value shown in Table B-1 for Segments 1, 2, 3, 4 "with designation", and 5 "without designation". The same is done for each recreation category. In the case of reservoir fishing, it is assumed that an additional reservoir in Alternative C and D will increase total reservoir visitor-days by 55,100 (220,000 visitor-days x 25 percent for fishing = 55,100) compared to 1,130 for stream fishing now.

(Note: For purposes of the NED account, it was assumed that the construction of the dam, contained in Alternative C and D would eliminate whitewater boating in Segment 3, but have no other negative impacts on recreation except the elimination of stream fishing in Segment 3.)

a. Existing Visitor Days:

Use data is from the "Recreation" working paper.

5,000	Segment 1
16,030	Segment 2
1,630	Segment 3
128,660	Segment 4
<u>55,140</u>	Segment 5
206,440	

Assumes split of Segment 4 and 5 (total 183,000) to be 70 and 30 percent, respectively.

Table B-1. 1990 Assumptions, Reference Table for Recreation.

	Segments 1 & 2		Segment 3			Segment 4		Segment 5
	With Designation	Without Designation	With Designation	Without Designation Without Dam	Without Designation With Dam	With Designation	Without Designation	Without Designation
Whitewater Boating	0	0	3,000* <u>x 10.01</u> \$30,030	3,000* <u>x 10.01</u> \$30,030	0	11,670* <u>x 7.15</u> \$83,440	11,670* <u>x 7.15</u> \$83,440	100 <u>x 7.15</u> \$720
Stream Fishing	13,670 <u>x 10.57</u> \$144,490	12,090 <u>x 10.57</u> \$127,790	1,290 <u>x 10.57</u> \$13,630	1,130 <u>x 10.57</u> \$11,940	0	58,540 <u>x 2.51</u> \$146,940	51,790 <u>x 2.51</u> \$129,990	25,310 <u>x 2.51</u> \$63,530
Reservoir Fishing	0	0	0	0	55,000 <u>x 2.07</u> \$113,850	3,350 <u>x 2.94</u> \$9,850	2,960 <u>x 2.94</u> \$8,700	0
Camping & Other	13,670 <u>x 6.44</u> \$88,030	12,090 <u>x 6.44</u> \$77,860	830 <u>x 6.44</u> \$5,280	740 <u>x 6.44</u> \$4,700	165,000 <u>x 1.68</u> \$277,200	93,700 <u>x 2.48</u> \$232,380	81,540 <u>x 2.48</u> \$202,220	38,000 <u>x 2.48</u> \$94,240
Total Visitor Days	27,340	24,180	5,120	4,870	220,000	167,260	147,960	63,410

*At capacity (no change).

Now we have: 1990 without designation = 115% x existing visitor-days.

5,750	Segment 1
18,430	Segment 2
4,870	Segment 3
147,960	Segment 4
<u>63,410</u>	Segment 5
240,420	

b. Inflate existing visitor-day use data by 30 percent to derive 1990 with designation = 130% x existing visitor-days:

6,500	Segment 1
20,840	Segment 2
5,120	Segment 3
167,260	Segment 4
<u>71,680</u>	Segment 5
271,400	

c. Using the above totals, visitor-days are distributed per the following percentage assumptions:

	Segments 1 & 2 With or Without <u>Designation</u>
Whitewater boating	0%
Stream fishing	50%
Camping & other	<u>50%</u>
	100%

	Segment 3 <u>Without Designation</u>	Segment 3 <u>With Designation</u>
Whitewater boating	62%	59%
Stream fishing	23%	25%
Camping & other	<u>15%</u>	<u>16%</u>
	100%	100%

	Segment 4 <u>Without Designation</u>	Segment 4 <u>With Designation</u>
Whitewater boating	8% ¹	7%
Stream fishing	35%	35%
Camping & other	55%	56%
Reservoir fishing	<u>2%</u>	<u>2%</u>
	100%	100%

	Segment 5 <u>Without Designation</u>
Whitewater boating	0%
Stream fishing	40%
Camping & other	<u>60%</u>
	100%

¹Whitewater boating is proposed new use in Segment 3 and is expected to be at capacity (3,000 visitor-days) by 1990 with or without designation. Whitewater boating is presently at capacity in Segments 4 and 5 at 11,770 visitor-days.

NORTH FORK F.E.I.S. AND STUDY REPORT

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENT
ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Letters Not Requiring a Response

- C-1 Letters Supporting Inclusion
- C-82 Letters Supporting Alternative E
- C-153 Letters Supporting Alternative B
- C-168 Letters With no Preference

Letters Requiring a Response

- C-9 Letters Supporting Inclusion of
Eligible Segments
- C-57 Letters From Agencies Providing
Technical Comment
- C-88 Letters Supporting Alternative E
- C-98 Letters Opposing Alternative A
Because of Water Power Development
- C-117 Letters Opposing Alternative A
Because of Mining & Minerals
- C-162 Letters Supporting Alternative D

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENT
ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Letters supporting inclusion of the eligible segments of the North Fork Kern River into the National Wild and Scenic River System and not requiring a response were received from the following individuals (organizations):

THOMAS AMNEUS	LOS ANGELES, CA
PAT & JERRY ANDERSON	SEAL BEACH, CA
SUSAN L. ANDERSON	DAVIS, CA
C. BALLSON	SAN DIEGO, CA
CONSTANCE J. BENTLEY	ALTADENA, CA
MRS. HARRY BIEBER	GREAT NECK, NY
GREG BLOMSTROM (SISKIYOU FORESTRY CONSULTANTS)	ARCATA, CA
KELLY BOGLE	LOS ANGELES, CA
MICHAEL BORDENAVE (SIERRA ASSOC. FOR ENVIRN.)	FRESNO, CA
MELINDA LEE-YAN BOSSVYT	BEAVERTON, OR
ALBERT BRETO	LA HABRA, CA
GEORGE A. BRIDGES	SACRAMENTO, CA
SAM BRILL	DAVIS, CA
DAN CAREY	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
R.H. CHAMBERLAIN	PORTERVILLE, CA
MIKE A. CHYLINSKI	ANAHEIM, CA
JAMES W. CLARK	PORTERVILLE, CA
LUCY G. CLARK	DELANO, CA
WINDY COHEN	DAVIS, CA
JENIFER COIL	LOS ANGELES, CA
KRISTEN COOR	BAKERSFIELD, CA
LANCE COURY	CANOGA PARK, CA
ORA L. CRAIG	ONYX, CA
DON M. DECK	LONE PINE, CA
WILLIAM R. DeJAGER	FREMONT, CA
DENNIS L. DELAPP	KERNVILLE, CA
FRANCES DOLLAR	NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA
ELENA FIAUT	LA HONDA, CA
FRIENDS OF THE RIVER	LOS ANGELES, CA
VICTOR FRESCO	LOS ANGELES, CA
P. GAFFNEY	DAVIS, CA
STAN GELB	LOS ANGELES, CA

RON GERVAIS	SAN DIEGO, CA
KIM GODWIN	GARDEN GROVE, CA
KEN GOLDSMITH	NORTHFORD, CT
RICHARD GRAUMAN	ANAHEIM, CA
SYLVIA GREGORY	SAN BRUNO, CA
RON GUENTHER	FORT BRAGG, CA
SAMUEL & GRACE HADNETT	BUENA PARK, CA
LYNN HANGER	SACRAMENTO, CA
DOUG HANSEN	SAN DIEGO, CA
DAVE HARVEY	LAKE ISABELLA, CA
VINCE HAUGHEY	NEVADA CITY, CA
RONALD A. HENRY	RIDGECREST, CA
MIKE A HENSTRA	LAKE ISABELLA, CA
ELIZABETH HOLDEN	BUENA PARK, CA
GLEN HOLSTEIN	DAVIS, CA
DANA HOROVITZ	MONTEREY, CA
RUBY & WILLIAM JENKINS	NORTHRIDGE, CA
MICHAEL JIMENEZ	DAVIS, CA
TOM & VIRGINIA JOHNSON	KERNVILLE, CA
ALAN JONES (KERN RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON)	WOFFORD HEIGHTS, CA
RICHARD E. KANGOS	SELMA, CA
LINDA KELLY	CAMPBELL, CA
KERN VALLEY WILDLIFE ASSOC.	LAKE ISABELLA, CA
BEVERLY KOHFIELD	FRESNO, CA
MARIE L. KOONCE	ONYX, CA
PAUL KRISTY	WOFFORD HEIGHTS, CA
BRUCE KUHLEMAN	HAYWARD, CA
DAN & PAT LOMAX	LAKE ISABELLA, CA
JAKE MACKENZIE	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
N. MARDA	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
BETTY MATYAS	SACRAMENTO, CA
JAMES McDONALD	BISHOP, CA
WILLIAM McGINNIS	EL SOBRANTE, CA
TIM McLAUGHLIN	ENCINO, CA
MIKE McWHERTER	OXNARD, CA
FRED MILLER	WHITTIER, CA

JOHN MILLER
RUTH V. MILLER
ROGER MITCHELL
BRIAN MYRES
FRANK NAVIS
LARRY L. NORRIS
ANN NOTTHOFF
NANCY PEARLMAN
GEORGE PILLING
JOHN RAWLINGS
DAVID RAYMOND
SUSAN RAYMOND
CHUCK RICHARDS
W.E. RIDDLE
MR. & MRS. WILSON ROESSLER
BRUCE RORTY
JULIA A. ROSUSTEIN
C.W. RUST
RICHARD SARETSKY
PETER SARTUCCI
RICHARD SCHWABE
C.A. SEDGWICK
CHRISTOPHER SHEPARD
JAMES SHEVOCK
DANIEL SILVER
JANET SILVERFARB
J. FISHER SOLOMON
RICHARD SPOTTS (DEFENDER OF WILDLIFE)
RICHARD STANDAGE
T. STUMP
JOHN SWANSON
GARY VESPERMANN
DIANNE WALDRON
FREDRICK WASHBURN
GEORGE WHITMORE
NANCY WHITMORE

LOS ALTOS, CA
WHITTIER, CA
FRESNO, CA
CYPRESS, CA
SAN DIEGO, CA
DEATH VALLEY, CA
OAKLAND, CA
LOS ANGELES, CA
SPRINGVILLE, CA
SAN CARLOS, CA
LONG BEACH, CA
LONG BEACH, CA
LAKE ISABELLA, CA
MAR VISTA, CA
DOWNEY, CA
PALOS VERDE, CA
CONCORD, CA
LA GRANGE, CA
SAN DIMAS, CA
LAMAR, CO
LOMITA, CA
KERNVILLE, CA
LOS ANGELES, CA
PORTERVILLE, CA
LOS ANGELES, CA
MONTEBELLO, CA
LOS ANGELES, CA
SACRAMENTO, CA
PORTERVILLE, CA
PORTERVILLE, CA
BERKELEY, CA
MENLO PARK, CA
GLENDALE, CA
COSTA MESA, CA
FRESNO, CA
FRESNO, CA

PETER WIECHERS
DWIGHT WILLIARD
DAVID WILSON
MERLE E. WILSON
NANCY WOODS
GLENN S. YOSHIOKA
STEVE ZACHARY

SACRAMENTO, CA
ALBANY, CA
LOS ANGELES, CA
ONYX, CA
EL SEGUNDA, CA
DAVIS, CA
UKIAH, CA

Four sample letters from this group follow. The remaining letters are not reproduced in this document, but are available at:

Supervisor's Office
Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, California 93257

A	0	0	8	4	A	9	5	5	2	1
0	5									

Heine *10/5/82* *SPC*

SISKIYOU FORESTRY CONSULTANTS

P.O. BOX 241, ARCATA, CA. 95521 707 822 - 3915

NR

7 January 1982

Forest Supervisor
 Sequoia National Forest
 900 West Grand Ave.
 Porterville, CA 93275

Dear Sir:

It is with a great deal of satisfaction that I am writing to support designating the North Fork of the Kern as wild. There have been very few times in the last seven years that I have been involved in Forest Service planning where I have supported the preferred alternative.

I have had extensive experience backpacking on the Kern mostly in Sequoia National Park. I can attest to the wild and lovely nature of the Kern. Although I have not visited the lower stretches per se I have worked in and around Johnsonville and can at least attest to the grandeur of the scenery and the ruggedness of the canyon.

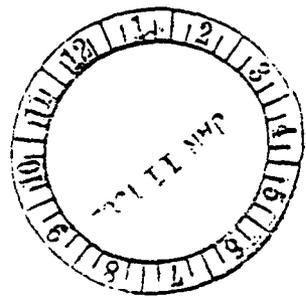
It is gratifying to me to know that at least some portions of some of our most scenic rivers can be left untouched. Someday I hope to visit the entire Kern. Until that day however I hope that the designation and implementation of Alternative A "the wild alternative" will leave the river in a pristine state.

There can be no better choice for a wild river designation than the Kern. Thank you for recommending that the entire stretch of the river be protected.

Sincerely yours

Greg Blomstrom

Greg Blomstrom
 Professional Forester



GB/me

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
A	0	1	3	8	A	9	4	5	4	1
0	5									

WA are

Bruce Kuhlemann
 2644 Hidden Lane
 Hayward, CA 94541
 January 13, 1982

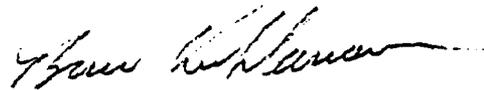
Forest Supervisor
 Sequoia National Forest
 900 West Grand Avenue
 Porterville, CA 93275

Howdy

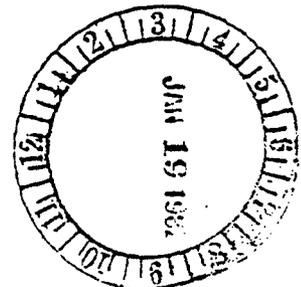
Regarding the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study, I support your proposal for 78.5 miles of the North Fork be given wild river status. It has frankly been quite a while since I last supported a Forest Service position on such an issue. I congratulate you for your enlightened position on this matter.

Although I was unable to attend the public meeting at Kernville in December, the issue is important enough to have my position made part of the public record.

Sincerely



Bruce Kuhlemann



NA

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
A	0	0	5	8	A	9	4	5	3	89
0	5									2

William R. DeJager
 3094 Via Moraga
 Emeryville, CA 94538

Forest Supervisor
 Sequoia National Forest
 900 West Grand Avenue
 Porterville, CA 93275

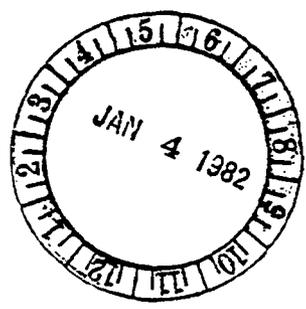
Dear Sir,

I am writing to you regarding the proposal for classifying the North Fork of the Kern River as a "wild" river. I strongly support this proposal. We have already lost many wild rivers to dams and other developments, and those rivers remaining in a natural state are very valuable for recreation and wildlife. The North Fork of the Kern River is the longest river left in the southern Sierra Nevada that is still nearly natural, and as such it ought to be protected.

I am pleased that the U.S. Forest Service is supporting protection of this river, and I urge you to stand behind this proposal in the final EIS.

Also, I would appreciate receiving a copy of the FEIS when it comes out. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
 William DeJager





REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
E	0	0	4	9	A	8	0	2	2	2
0	0									

AMERICAN WILDERNESS ALLIANCE
 4260 East Evans Avenue • Suite 8 • Denver, Colorado 80222
 (303) 758-5018

Sequoia National Forest
 DEC 28 1981
 FS _____
 AC _____
 LUP _____
 OI _____
 TMO _____
 FMC _____
 EVC _____
 REC _____
 RWC _____
 LWP _____
 STA _____
 COPIES RECEIVED

Heintz JEA
 12-29-81

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 Sally A. Ranney
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 Secretary-Treasurer

December 18, 1981

Sequoia National Forest
 900 West Grand Ave.
 Porterville, CA 93275

BOARD OF ADVISORS
 Dr. John Craighead
 L.W. (Bill) Lane, Jr.
 Francois Leydet
 Martin Litton
 W Mitchell
 Dr. Roderick Nash
 Margaret Wentworth Owings
 Eliot Porter
 James A. Posewitz
 Wallace Stegner

Dear Sir:

The American Wilderness Alliance, a western-based, national conservation organization, would like to join with the California Wilderness Coalition and many other conservation groups and private citizens, in supporting the excellent recommendation of including over 78 miles of California's North Fork of the Kern River.

Many of the California members of the American Wilderness Alliance are familiar with the N.F. of the Kern. Through hiking, rafting and sight-seeing, they have come to know the meaning and intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System and the place of a wild river in a natural ecosystem.

The N F. of the Kern has all of the earmarks of a wild and scenic river. There is much more than just the 80 major rapids which earn it the title "wild". Nearly 30 miles of the river course through the Sequoia National park (and proposed wilderness) and another 20 miles through the already established Golden Trout Wilderness. The shores are the home of such rare species as bald eagle and peregrine falcon, while the waters are the habitat of golden and rainbow trout. The Kern is the longest free-flowing river in the Sierra Nevada's and harbors many geologic features.

Together, this spells Wild and Scenic River.

The American Wilderness Alliance applauds the far-sighted and excellent recommendation. Please make these comments a part of the official record on the subject.

Sincerely,
Jeff Rennie
 Jeff Rennie, Field Representative

cc--CWC

Executive Director
 Clifton R. Merritt

Editorial Offices
Wild America
 William A Schneider
 Editor
 324 Fuller
 Helena, Montana 59601

Letters supporting inclusion of the eligible segments of the North Fork Kern River into the National System and requiring a response were received from the following individuals (organizations):

AMERICAN RIVERS CONSERVATION COUNCIL	WASHINGTON, D.C.
GAYLE DANA	DAVIS, CA
DEBORAH DISHINGTON	KERNVILLE, CA
ERIC GERSTUNG	CARMICHAEL, CA
IRENE HEATH (KERN AUDUBON SOCIETY)	BAKERSFIELD, CA
CLARENCE E. HELLER	ATHERTON, CA
GARY E. PEEBLES (WEST WATERS EXPEDITIONS)	LONG BEACH, CA
LESLIE & SALLY REID	FRAZIER PARK, CA
JOSEPH C. SCHOTT	STARKVILLE, CA
D.S. VILLARS	KERNVILLE, CA
ROBERT N. WERNER	SUN CITY, AZ
DIANA WHITE	CYPRESS, CA

NORTH FORK KERN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
OCTOBER 21, 1981

JFH
12-1-81

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN PENDENT IDENTIFIER									
E	0	0	1	1	C	2	0	0	3

PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than
JAN 19 1982.

NAME: American Rivers Conservation Council

ADDRESS: 323 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E.

Washington, D.C.

Please return to:

Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

ZIP CODE: 20003



AFFILIATION (Optional)

Government Agency (Specify)

Industry (Specify)

Interested Citizen _____

Environmental/Conservation Org.
(Specify)

American Rivers Conservation Council

Other (Specify)

NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

(X) Do not include my name in the record.

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

We can endorse your recommendation. A few notes, however: I see a bit less similarity between this alternative and alternative E than you suppose. Although you propose that river management and the future of the Kern North Fork would be virtually similar in either case, you mentioned several times the possibility of future construction of Elephant Knob Dam. It may be logical to say that "Alt. E assumes that (the dam) would never be built," (p. ii) but perhaps it's best to do what is possible now to ensure that the river is saved. Dams with low cost/benefits have, after all, been built.

We question your casual disqualification of segment 5, seemingly because of private land ownership. The Wild and Scenic bill was designed to accommodate for purchases of scenic easements or other less-than-fee acquisition, rather than outright purchase. The flexibility of river protection should be utilized. The DEIS did not talk much of the degree of development along segment 5 and how it contributes to that segment's character, so we have no way of knowing for sure just what the local situation is there. How is the character of that stretch such that it does not qualify as recreational?

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

We see no reason why segment 4 should be exempted from designation. There seems to be some confusion about recreation on this segment: it seems to be popular and quite good in the first several miles of the segment yet the stretch does not qualify as remarkable in this sense.

Also, segment 4 is less protected by public ownership than are the stretches that flow through Sequoia National Park and Golden Trout Wilderness. Deserving sections that are not so protected should receive primary attention. Whereas designation of some of the northern stretches would not significantly increase protection, designation here would be quite beneficial and most necessary.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

The possible construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir would greatly affect the area environmentally: wildlife, fisheries, water quality. Even assuming the unlikelihood of the dam, the statutory protection of wildlife not given to section 3 by the acceptance of this alternative would be a detriment.

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

Why designate only those stretches already within National Parks and Wilderness areas? There should be an alternative for designating only segments 3 and 4 or 3, 4, and 5. Segments 1 and 2 do not really need further protection.

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

Although no designation (no action) would not change the status of protection of segments 1 and 2, it could potentially affect stretches 3, 4, and even 5. The extra statutory protection would be good for these areas that are outside NPS management. Also, the further extension of the NW&SR system, especially to a new region, would be good. In these days of lessened land acquisition it would be good to demonstrate how river protection can be carried out without excessive costs. Furthermore, the absence of a threat to a river is no real reason for not protecting that river. It's really much less painful that way.

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

We at ARCC can endorse your recommendation. Although there is no pressing need for designation to protect the North Fork of the Kern against destruction, misuse or mismanagement, there is no reason why we should not attempt to preserve rivers beforehand. We should take this opportunity to expand the NW&SR system, especially in this part of California.

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Response to American River's Conservation Council

1. The study team found the North Fork Kern River between Tulare/Kern County line and Isabella Reservoir not to be eligible based on the criteria for classification defined in the Act. Some general comments extracted from the specialist's working papers are: (1) "The overall visual character of this segment does not appear to be compatible with any of the wild and scenic river classifications;" (2) "The urbanization detracts from the total experience because of close proximity of commercial, industrial, and residential development;" and (3) "This segment is the most disturbed, due to human development and the introduction of ornamental species (vegetation)."

It is our opinion that development along the shoreline of Segment 5 exceeds the guidelines necessary to be eligible for classification.

NA

NORTH FORK KERN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

REFERENCE & FOREST PLAN IDENTIFIER										
A	0	0	3	Z	C	9	5	6	1	6
0	5									

PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement(DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than

JAN 19 1982

NAME: GAYLE DANA

ADDRESS: DIV. ENVIRONMENTAL

Please return to:

Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT;
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS, CA

ZIP CODE: 95616

AFFILIATION (Optional)

Government Agency (Specify)

Industry (Specify)

Interested Citizen

Environmental/Conservation Org.
(Specify)

Other (Specify)

NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

X
(X) Do not include my name in the record.

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

Pg. 51: CONCERNING CHEMICAL TREATMENT OF NON-SAME FISH BELOW THE KERN RIVER #3 CANAL DIVERSION DAM.

IT IS STATED THAT
ALTHOUGH designation of a river as wild + scenic does not implicitly prohibit chemical treatment, I feel that ~~the~~ such treatment is contradictory with the guidelines set forth by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. (see pg 1 Kern River Draft EIS) It is stated that

" . . . would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free flowing condition to protect water quality of such rivers'" At the very least, a study of the impacts of such treatments should be made

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

I don't feel breaking the designated stretch of Wild+ Scenic River with a segment of non wild+ scenic river would be beneficial to the downstream designated segment, especially with consideration to impacts on fisheries, vegetation and wildlife

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

IT IS stated that there is little difference between alternative A, and E, given current management policies of the N.P.S + U.S.F.S. However who guarantees that those policies will continue in the future, especially with the current Administration, which is not known for its environmentally sensitive stands. I feel that the Kern needs the extra protection of Wild and Scenic River status, as a fall back to major policy changes.

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

I fully urge that the Kern River be placed in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. I too, choose Alternative A as the preferred Alternative.

I commend the U.S.-Forest Service for their EIS Study and choosing the most environmentally sound Alternative.

THANKS!

Sincerely, Gayle Dana

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). 12/16/81

Response to Gayle Dana

1. The section of the North Fork Kern River below the Johnsondale Bridge has not been chemically treated in the past 10-15 years. It is our opinion that no treatment will be made in the future. The State of California has been contacted on this concern and agree that treatment in this segment is very unlikely.

NORTH FORK KERN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
OCTOBER 21, 1981

PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than

JAN 19 1982

NAME: DEBORAH DISHINGTON

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 171

Please return to:

KERVILLE, CALIF.

Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

ZIP CODE: 93238

AFFILIATION (Optional)

Government Agency (Specify)

Industry (Specify)

Interested Citizen

Environmental/Conservation Org.
(Specify)

MEMBER OF SIERRA CLUB +
CONTRIBUTE MONEY TO VARIOUS
ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES.

Other (Specify)

I WAS
BEFORE GRADUATION, A PAST
MEMBER OF U.C.L.A.
CONSERVATION CLUB.

NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

Do not include my name in the record.

(X)

2 I FOUND "C" + "D" Totally out of the question.

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

↓ COMPOSITE COMMENTS CONCERNING "A" "B" + "E" COMBINED
Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

I have thoroughly gone over the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Study Report concerning the North Fork Kern Wild + Scenic River Study; and have attended all meetings, and I still must say, as a non-apatetic + concerned individual, I'm a bit confused. The confusion is mainly over the real differences of ALT A, B, + E. True, the concept of designation makes the biggest difference, but there is yet much ambiguity over the wording, concerning designation v.s. non-designation, particularly between ALT "A" + "B".

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

In general, it is stressed that ALT "A" gives the most protection through more complete designation, yet ironically, it states that such designation could cause maximum capacity to be reached sooner than with non-designation.

I feel that, at this time, due to its concentrated use, that segment 4, and its future status, is absolutely crucial. What happens to that segment is crucial and I'm worried about it! Alt A claims it will be protected through designation, yet "B" claims it will go on as it is, without any threat of recreational expansion, since it wouldn't be dubbed "RECREATIONAL" in alt "B".

~~Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14 mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.~~

I could go on forever sighting sentences (out of the Draft Environmental Report) that would sort of conflict each other. One time, it says designation would protect from future development, then another time, it says it wouldn't protect that area from development, because it wasn't "designated". Yet, it goes on to say that if "designated", such designation could increase needs for possible recreational development. But then, if you don't choose to designate, then you face

~~Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.~~

the threat of unwanted dams + ~~reservoirs~~ reservoirs being built. It is all somewhat frustrating to me because I feel so strongly about the river's future. I want to choose the best plan that would protect it the most, keep it as it is today, (with no more development of any kind), and keep out any possible building of dams + reservoirs!

Alt "A" sounds as if it would do just that, but that little act of declaring or "designating" Seg 4 as "recreational" appears to be a means of defeating its own purpose of preservation just by calling attention to it!

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

One wonders if it wouldn't be better to let "sleeping logs lie" in this case. Yet, because I fear for the river's future, I feel it necessary to vote for as much "designation" as possible (even though Alt "E" looks most inviting in allowing those logs to remain undisturbed by keeping the "STATUS-QUO").

The Kern River definitely needs to be thoroughly protected through designation, but as I tend to find myself favoring ALT "A" overall, I still feel a bit of doubt and ask myself, "will choosing this alternative REALLY

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

protect the Kern River from future threats of man's environmental destruction?!"

I can only answer —

I HOPE SO!

FINAL COMMENT ↓

Knowing of, living in, and loving the Kern River and its unique valley, for over 22 years, I have never, in all that time, been

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

(CONTINUED)
(Page 5)

able to resist "getting involved" in any particular, political matter or event that concerned the future of this beautiful area and its environment.

Unlike many, (whose political responses are often based upon their personal monetary aspirations and greed), I can honestly say that "lust for the dollar" has never been the motivating force behind my political reactions.

True, it is obvious that we are living in crucial times of socio-political + economic stress. When times get rough, people sometimes make emotional, irrevocable decisions + actions (concerning their "pocket book"), that could possibly, permanently endanger the ecological balance + beauty of our fragile, environmental planet. Sad to say, that many of these decisions are made for their immediate "needs" of extra monetary gratification (above + beyond real needs for survival + "paying the bills"). Unfortunately, these decisions often create much damage to some "unspoiled areas".

Now, more than ever before, the war between the "developer" v.s. the "environmentalist" has escalated to heights never before imagined.

Realizing this, I find it necessary to NOT adopt a "wait + see what happens" attitude (described on page 92), concerning the future of our beautiful Kern River.

The river has too much going for it,

that if we "wait + see," we may just
wait too long until its too late to
save it from man's destruction! Therefore,
at this point I find it necessary to say
that the Kern River must be designated
to be protected thus to be saved!

I have written this out of long,
deep + lasting love for the Kern River!

Most sincerely
Reborah Dickinson

Jan 19, 1982

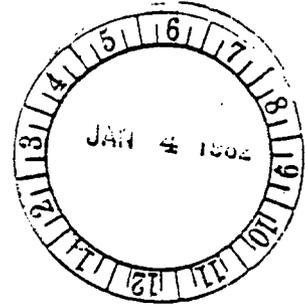
Response to Eric Gerstung

1. This has been corrected. Thank you for bringing it to our attention.
See page 16, 17, and 51 for corrections.

NA

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
F	O	O	6	1	A	9	3	3	8	5
0	5									

Kern Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3581 □ Bakersfield, CA 93385



December 29, 1981

Joe J. Brown, Forest Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest
900 W. Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

RE: D.E.I.S. AND STUDY REPORT FOR THE NORTH FORK KERN WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY

Dear Mr. Brown:

Our chapter favors "Alternative A" which will protect 78.5 miles of the river corridor north of Lake Isabella.

We find the study to be adequate and well done.

Recreation is important, as is wildlife habitat and scenery.

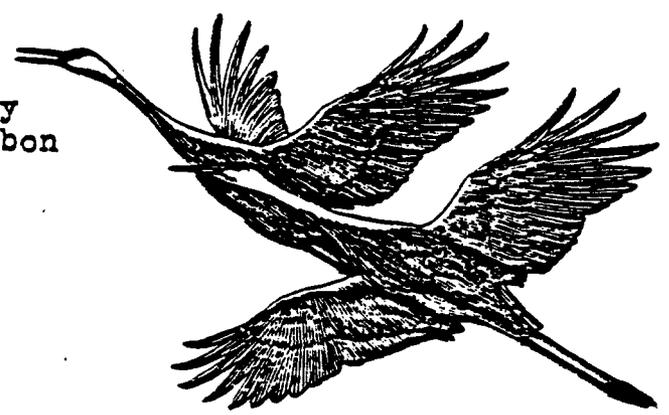
1 | However, we fear that heavy use of the river by white-water enthusiasts may eventually cause damage to the very values we are trying to protect along the river. Hopefully, if signs occur which show this is happening, the Forest Service will cut back on use of the river until conditions have normalized.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully yours,

Irene Heath
Conservation Chair

cc Harry Love, Sierra Club
Jack Zaninovich, Nature Conservancy
Alan Jones, Kern River Valley Audubon
National Audubon Society



Response to Clarence E. Heller

1. It will not be necessary to acquire lands for Wild & Scenic River purposes if the North Fork Kern River is designated by Congress. However, private lands may be acquired through purchase, exchange or donation when offered by the owner. The following Acts give the Forest Service this authority: (1) USDA Organic Act (August 3, 1956); (2) Receipts Act (June 17, 1940); (3) Land and Water Conservation Act (September 3, 1964); and (4) General Exchange Act (March 20, 1922). This is common procedure throughout the National Forest system. See information in the report, pages 21 and 53.

NORTH FORK KERN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

JFH

WA

OCT REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER 1.21.82										
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PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

ade

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than
JAN 19 1982

NAME: GARY E. PEEBLES

ADDRESS: 236 EUCLID AV
LONG BEACH, CA. 90803

Please return to:

Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

ZIP CODE: _____

AFFILIATION (Optional).

Government Agency (Specify)

Industry (Specify)

WEST WATERS EXPEDITIONS

Interested Citizen ENVIRONMENTALIST

Environmental/Conservation Org.
(Specify)

Other (Specify)

NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

_____ Do not include my name in the record.
(X)

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

Increased use of the Kern river needs to be managed and I want it to be here for my grandchildren to enjoy. Let's get protection while we can/~~and~~ abuses are still minor enough to control. Regardless of Wilderness ^{while} designation the Kern will have an increase in use, primarily private.

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

I want to be notified of any other meetings and the designation time table.

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Response to Gary E. Peebles (Westwater Expeditions)

1. We are continually trying to improve our management, especially in high use areas such as the North Fork Kern River corridor. However, we are limited by personnel ceilings and funding, and must accomodate a wide variety of public demands.

If the North Fork Kern River is designated, a river management plan will be developed. The public will be asked for suggestions and recommendations on what provisions, including maintenance and law enforcement, to include in the plan. We will then submit budget proposals for funding to properly implement the river management plan.

2. See response #1 to Irene Heath (Kern Audubon Society).

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

no

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

no

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

no

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Response to Leslie V. and Sally M. Reid

1. See response #1 to D.S. Villars which follows.

NORTH FORK KERN
 WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
 OCT 8 REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER

A	0	0	1	0	C	3	9	7	5	9
0	5									

PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than
JAN 19 1982

NAME: JOSEPH C. SCHOTT

ADDRESS: 1212 LOUISVILLE RD. #56

JFH
11-21-81

Please return to:

STARBUCKLE MS. 39759

Sequoia National Forest
 900 West Grand Avenue
 Porterville, CA 93257

ZIP CODE: _____

AFFILIATION (Optional)

Government Agency (Specify)

Industry (Specify)

abd

Interested Citizen _____

Environmental/Conservation Org.
 (Specify)

Other (Specify)

NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

_____ Do not include my name in the record.
 (X)

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

This alternative makes the most sense to me and I support your proposal that this recommendation be made to the U.S. Congress.

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

For the final report I think you need to slightly modify p.20.

7 | The last paragraph talks of the River Roadless area and says "... but
was concluded to be non-wilderness". I think what was meant to
say was that the Forest Service decided not to recommend this area
for protection under the 1964 wilderness act. In reality, it is basically
"wilderness" now.

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Response to Joseph C. Schott

1. This paragraph, page 20, has been revised based on your information.
Thank you.

WA

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT ID NUMBER									
A	0	0	7	6	A	9	3	2	38
0	5								

Forest Supervisor,
Sequoia National Forest,
900 W. Grand Ave.,
Porterville CA, 93257

NAME: D. S. Villars
ADDRESS: St. Rte. 1, Box 77
Kernville CA, 93238

AFFILIATION:
Interested property
owner

Alternative A:

My family prefers Alternative A. It is the concept of the writer that the underlying purpose of the Wild/Scenic Rivers Act is to protect a river against future commercialization. The Forest Service contends that there will be little appreciable difference in the final outcome between alternative A and E since present administration policies with "no designation" are essentially the same as would be adopted for Alternative A. The writer contends that the River needs the protection of the law against sudden changes in policy introduced by a new administration. For example, how much would status quo remain intact should management of the Forest be shifted from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior?

Alternative E:

1 | See discussion under Alternative A. The Forest Service should be much more careful to point out that their contention the E is equivalent to A is entirely a hope there will be no changes in the future.

SEQUOIA NS
JAN 7 1982

- FS _____
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- PMC _____
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- LMO _____
- JTS _____
- COPIES RECEIVED _____

Other Comments:

I wish to compliment Messrs Arseneault and Heine and their helpers on their organization of the meeting December 12. All the men had their facts ready at hand and it was a fast moving meeting.

Yours sincerely

D S Villars
Jan 6, 1982

Response to D.S. Villars

1. It is the opinion of the study team that the effects of Alternative A and E are similar in Segments 1, 2, and 3. For example:
 - (a) We have no plans for roads or other developments that would change these segments.
 - (b) No one else has any plans that seem economically or politically feasible.
 - (c) We are only asked under the law to address the "reasonably foreseeable" effects. Thus, we are not implying that something will never happen, but in the reasonably foreseeable future Segments 1, 2, and 3 would remain the same with or without designation.

However, public comment has demonstrated to us that there are differences in Alternative A and E for Segment 4. Activity on existing mining claims and new exploration has increased dramatically in the past year. Discovery includes strategic metals which are critical to the national well-being. The zone of mineralization is concentrated in Segment 4, both within and immediately adjacent to the study corridor. It is reasonable to expect that designation under Alternative A would tend to limit recovery of these important resources through stricter interpretation of visual and water quality guidelines and more restrictive standards for roads, waste sites, etc. Operating costs would obviously increase, but how much is not known.

Alternative A would also preclude expansion or addition of power generation facilities at the existing Fairview diversion.

NR

NORTH FORK KERN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
OCTOBER 21, 1981

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
A	0	0	0	8	C	8	5	3	5	1
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PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than
JAN 19 1982

NAME: ROBERT M. WERNER

ADDRESS: 4477 PARKER STONE DRIVE

SUN CITY ARIZONA

ZIP CODE: 85351

JFH
11/19/81

Please return to:

Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

AFFILIATION (Optional)

Government Agency (Specify)

RETIRED USFS

Industry (Specify)

Interested Citizen

Environmental/Conservation Org.
(Specify)

Other (Specify)

ase



NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

(X) Do not include my name in the record.
C-50

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

FROM A LONG RANGE MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC
STAND POINT THIS IS THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE
TO USE. THIS DOCUMENT (DEIS) WAS PREPARED
WELL PREPARED AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND.

SEE COMMENTS ON BACK PAGE

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

1. Page 6 RIVER NOT ADJACENT TO RYCOAN ROADLESS AREA BUT WITHIN AS STATED ON PAGE 20 TO USE WHERE.
2. HAS THE FOREST SERVICE OR PARK SERVICE ACQUIRED THE PRIVATE LAND NEAR KERN RIVER RANGER STATION? (NOT LISTED IN REPORT) (THAT INCLUDES BUILDINGS.)
3. ANY SPECIAL USE PERMITS THAT STILL EXIST ALONG THE "WILD" PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE RIVER SHOULD BE POINTED OUT. (SECTIONS)
4. CATTLE GRAZING PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN MORE COVERAGE, ARE CATTLE STILL GETTING INTO THE KERN FLAT AREA FROM THE EAST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SUMMER is water quality

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Response to Robert N. Werner

1. This clarification has been made on page 6.
2. No! This oversight has been corrected on our maps. Thank you.
3. The designation of the river does not give any authority to terminate special use permits. No special use permits will be terminated or phased out because of the designation of the North Fork Kern River.
4. We have addressed this concern in the report. See response #2 to John Nicoll.

NA

SEQUOIA NF

JAN 18 1982

COPIES RECEIVED
SS _____
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TMO _____
FAC _____
ENG _____
REC _____
RWH _____
LNO _____
DPS _____

January 15, 1982

JPN 1-15-82

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
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0	5									

Forest Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93275

Alternative "A"

Dear Sir:

1 | It has recently been brought to my attention that you are considering using some of the Kern River water and land for building purposes. I do not understand how you can even consider the proposition. The Kern River is one of the most beautiful rivers I have ever seen. My family and friends have retreated there, to escape the city long before I was born, and I hope that someday my children may do so.

There are so many people who depend on the Kern River for recreation and leisure. The fishing is absolutely wonderful, and the water is always clean. I travel through many of the towns near the Kern River two or three times a year and often talk with the residents. They are always willing to tell you about a favorite fishing or camping spot, and only ask that you leave it as you found it.

I only wish I could speak with them now to find out how they feel about the new proposition. I am sure they would be as angry as I am. The Kern River is one of the few free-flowing rivers left in California, and it would be a great injustice to those of us who appreciate it's beauty, (and know the value of it to the thousands of animals it supports) to see it altered and torn apart. I am sure that the people who thought of this proposition have never spent a few days and evenings there, by the river in the sun, or by the campfire in the evening listening to the peaceful sounds. Please do not let them tear apart an irreplaceable peace of time.

Sincerely,

Diana K. White

Response to Diana K. White

1. Neither the Draft or Final EIS is proposing any type of use of the North Fork Kern River water or land for building purposes. The intent of designating rivers for inclusion in the National System is to preserve outstandingly remarkable values which exist at the present time. This usually minimizes change.

Letters providing technical comment were received from the agencies listed below. Some indicated support for designation of the North Fork Kern River; others opposed or did not indicate a position. Several comments required answers.

RANDALL L. ABBOTT (KERN COUNTY PLANNING DEPT.)	BAKERSFIELD, CA
JAMES W. BURNS (RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIF.)	SACRAMENTO, CA
BRUCE E. CANNON (U.S. DEPT. OF TRANS.)	SACRAMENTO, CA
MARTIN CONVISSER (U.S. DEPT. OF TRANS.)	WASHINGTON, D.C.
ROBERT W. DAVIES (DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY)	WASHINGTON, D.C.
WILLIAM W. LINDSAY (FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION)	WASHINGTON, D.C.
EDGAR H. NELSON (SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE - USDA)	WASHINGTON, D.C.
F. SCOTT NEVINS (CAL. REG. WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD)	FRESNO, CA
EUGENE E. SMITH (TULARE COUNTY PLANNING DEPT.)	VISALIA, CA
GEORGE WEDDEL (CORPS OF ENGINEERS)	SACRAMENTO, CA
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR	WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Kern County Planning Department has prepared a Master Environmental Assessment as part of the Year 2000 General Plan project. Information contained in this assessment may be useful to the Forest Service in the present study or in future studies. Please feel free to contact us if we can provide any assistance in this regard.

Very truly yours,

RANDALL L. ABBOTT
Planning Director

By: 
MELINDA MOORE
Associate Planner

MM:rl
Enclosures

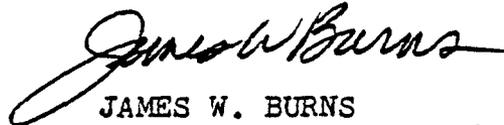
Response to Randall L. Abbott (Kern County Planning Department)

1. We have reviewed our working papers dealing with Segment 5. Though certain natural values remain along this stretch of river, it is our opinion they are not of sufficient merit to be deemed "outstandingly remarkable". Also see response #1 to American Rivers Conservation Council.

Page two
Joe Brown

3. The report mentions (page 66) potential recreational benefits that could result from an increased minimum pool at Lake Isabella. To be complete, the statement should also cite the adverse impacts of such an action. These could include the more frequent and longer inundation of habitat in the current flood reservation space. A particularly valuable area is the conservancy area at the South Fork end of the reservoir.
4. Estimates of the annual average power generation and value from the Elephant Knob Dam (High Dam) should be reconciled. The 200 million kilowatt-hours/year (page 84) does not agree with the 90 million kilowatt-hours/year (page B-1). Similarly, the estimated annual value of electrical power produced of \$21,600,000 (page 81) does not agree with the \$7,960,000 (page B-1). It is not clear if the difference in value is because the values in the Principles and Standards tables are discounted. This inconsistency is contrasted with the dam costs which are the same on pages 81 and B-1.
5. The report should make it clear that designation as a Wild and Scenic River would not affect the small diversion dam approximately two miles downstream of the Johnsondale Bridge (page 34).

Sincerely,



JAMES W. BURNS
Assistant Secretary for Resources

cc: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(SCH 81102950)

Response to James W. Burns (The Resources Agency of California)

1. We share your concern on minerals and have updated the working papers and the EIS. This effort has been coordinated with your agency representative. See response #1-13 to Robley Berry (Superior Oil).
2. Thank you for bringing this point out. We have made the changes. See reference on page 45 of the document and figures IV-1. Also see discussion in our response to Milo E. Hall (North Kern Water Storage District), and response #7 to U.S. Department of the Interior.
3. Increasing the minimum pool at Lake Isabella by storing water at Elephant Knob and releasing it late in the year after the Isabella pool has lowered will not cause the effects to which you refer. At any rate, the Corp of Engineers will be making a recommendation not to increase the minimum pool of Isabella Reservoir.
4. These figures have been checked with the Corp of Engineers and changed to show the correct facts in Appendix B.
5. This has been done (see page 53). Thank you.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
 REGION NINE
 CALIFORNIA DIVISION
 P. O. Box 1915
 Sacramento, California 95809

ARIZONA
 CALIFORNIA
 NEVADA
 HAWAII
 GUAM
 AMERICAN SAMOA

January 19, 1982

IN REPLY REFER TO
 HC-CA

File: 434.7

P	& FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER									
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NA

Forest Supervisor
 Sequoia National Forest
 900 West Grand Avenue
 Porterville, California 93257

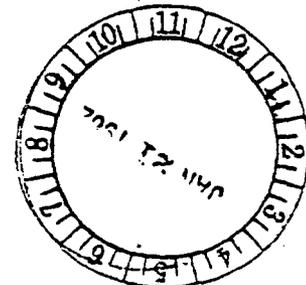
Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Wild and Scenic River Study and DEIS for the North Fork Kern River in Tulare and Kern Counties. We have no comments to make at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Monte Darden

For
 Bruce E. Cannon
 Division Administrator





U.S. Department of
Transportation
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

CC
AG
E

06 - B09784

SW

ENV. & REC.

Comments.

82 JAN 5 11:13

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

29 DEC 1981

Mr. John R. Block
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

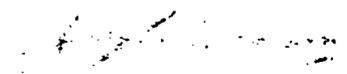
Dear Mr. BLock:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Environmental Impact Statement and Study Report prepared to evaluate the possible inclusion of the North Fork Kern River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

We note from the report that there was early consultation with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) concerning the proposed Trans-Sierra Highway, which would cross segment 2 of the river corridor. The report indicates that plans for the Trans-Sierra Highway are currently dormant. It appears that CalTrans was not provided with copies of the Draft EIS and Study Report. In order that the current, official views of CalTrans concerning the Trans-Sierra Highway and its relationship to the Wild and Scenic River proposals may be obtained, we urge that copies of the report be made available to CalTrans and that they be allowed a reasonable time to review and comment on it.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft report.

Sincerely,


Martin Convisser
Director, Office of Environment

Response to Martin Convisser (U.S. Department of Transportation)

1. Copies of the DEIS were sent to the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) through the State Clearing House. No comments were received from the Department.



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

JAN 21 1982

Mr. William R. Snyder
Land Management Planning
U.S. Forest Service
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Snyder:

This is in response to Secretary of Agriculture Block's October 20, 1981, letter requesting our review and comment on the proposed report and draft environmental impact statement prepared for the North Fork of the Kern River in California.

We have reviewed the report and draft environmental impact statement in accordance with Section 4(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Our review indicates that the development of significant energy resources would not be foreclosed by the inclusion of the North Fork of the Kern River in the Wild and Scenic River System.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert W. Davies".

Robert W. Davies
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Environment, Safety, and Health

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 20426

IN REPLY REFER TO:

OEPR-DHRA
Cooperative Studies
North Fork Kern River
Draft Wild & Scenic
River Study

DEC 09 1981

Mr. R. Max Peterson
Chief, U.S. Department
of Agriculture
Forest Service
Post Office Box 2417
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Mr. Peterson:

This is in response to your letter of October 20, 1981, requesting our review and comments on the draft North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Environmental Impact Statement.

The U.S. Forest Service recommends inclusion of 78.5 river miles of the North Fork Kern River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Reportedly, this designation would have negligible impacts on the management of existing resources, since nearly all affected resources are currently managed as wilderness by the Federal government.

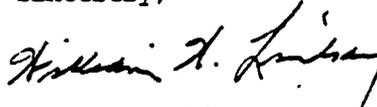
We have reviewed the proposal to determine any effects on matters concerning the Commission's jurisdictional responsibilities under the Federal Power Act and Natural Gas Act. Such responsibilities relate to the licensing of non-Federal hydroelectric projects, participation in the planning of Federal water and power projects, and the regulation of construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities.

Our review indicates that the proposed designation would have no effect on natural gas facilities or hydrocarbon resources. Further, while the river may have some potential for further hydroelectric development, there is no recent or current planning effort to develop the basin's water resources by either Federal or non-Federal entities.

As you are aware, Southern California Edison operates a diversion facility and 32,000-kilowatt hydroelectric plant that is located on the North Fork Kern River in study segments 4 and 5. The project is licensed by this Commission as Project Number 2290. It is implied in the report that the existing diversion schedule would not be affected by designation; however, we recommend that it be explicitly stated in the final report that designation would not affect project operation.

In conclusion, it does not appear that the proposed designation would conflict with projects under the jurisdiction of this Commission, provided that the diversion schedule for the existing Southern California Edison hydroelectric plant is not affected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William W. Lindsay".

William W. Lindsay, Director
Office of Electric Power Regulation

Response to William W. Lindsay (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission)

1. Correction has been made - see page 53. Also see response #5 to James W. Burns (Resources Agency of California).



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C.
20013

Subject: BAP - Draft EIS and Study Report - North Fork
Kern Wild and Scenic River Study

Date: JAN 22 1982

To: Charles R. Hartgraves, Director, Land Management Planning,
Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

We have reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement and study report for the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study. The 78.5 miles of the North Fork Kern River, from its headwaters to the Tulare-Kern County line in California, are recommended for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This river has a number of outstanding features that should be preserved--features that Congress must have had in mind when they passed the Wild and Scenic River Act. According to the study, four of the five river segments studied were found to be eligible for designation. All four are included in the preferred alternative. Good! The protection of the outstandingly remarkable features described in the "Affected Environment" section and summarized in Table III-2 provides the rationale for a sound preference.

Consideration should be given to rewriting parts of the report including the impact assessment and Preferred Alternatives of the "Summary" section to strengthen the recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this report.

EDGAR H. NELSON
Director
Basin and Area Planning

cc:
Francis C. H. Lum, State Conservationist, SCS, Davis, California
Charles F. Lemon, Director, WNTC, SCS, Portland, Oregon
John A. Vance, Director, Area Planning and Development, FS,
Washington, D.C.



The Soil Conservation Service
is an agency of the
Department of Agriculture

WO-AS-2
10-79



REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
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Planning Department

Rooms 103-107 • County Civic Center • Visalia • California • 93277
Telephone (209) 733-6254

January 19, 1982

Joe J. Brown, Forest Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest
900 W. Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

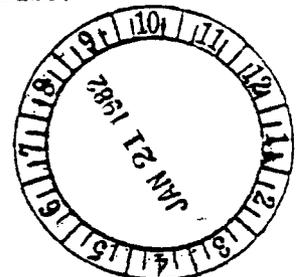
SUBJECT: North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study

Dear Mr. Brown:

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors has directed me to submit to you its comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Study Report for the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study.

The Board of Supervisors reviewed the DEIS and Study Report at its regular meeting of January 19, 1982. The Board discussed the merits of the alternative designation schemes and noted that the U.S. Forest Service has identified Alternative A (full designation) as the preferred alternative. However, after consideration of the information contained in the study report, the Board concluded that designation of the North Fork Kern River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act would not be in the best interest of the citizens of Tulare County. This conclusion is based upon the following reasons:

1. The upper 47.5 miles of the river (Segments 1 and 2) is contained within either the Sequoia National Park or the Golden Trout wilderness area. As such, management practices for this portion of the river will not change if this portion of the river is designated.
2. Designation will prohibit future major water improvement projects from being constructed on the river. Although construction of the proposed Elephant Knob Reservoir is infeasible at this time, it is inappropriate to preclude consideration of this and other such water projects in the future. The development of water resources for both energy and agricultural irrigation purposes is of major importance to the well-being of the citizens and economy of Tulare County and surrounding areas.
3. Designation of the river could constrain the development of other desirable projects being considered for the area, such as the upgrading or relocation of the river crossing near Johnsondale.



Joe J. Brown, Forest Supervisor

January 19, 1982

Page 2

4. The report states that a 15% increase in visitor use is anticipated to occur after the new status of the river is publicized. This additional visitor use will increase demands upon public services, including police protection and road maintenance, the costs of which are normally borne by Tulare County. The Board noted that the study anticipates increases in local revenues to result from the additional visitor use. However, as the majority of the developed camping facilities are situated in Segment 4, it is likely that most visitors to that segment will purchase goods in Kernville (Kern County), as it is the nearest existing community with shopping facilities. This will substantially limit the revenues to be realized by Tulare County, probably to the extent that increased service costs will not be offset.

The study report states that the net environmental, social, and economic benefits of Alternative A (full designation) and Alternative E (no designation) are essentially the same. As such, it appears that little overall benefit is to be gained from designating the North Fork Kern River as proposed. Instead, due to the reasons cited above, certain detrimental effects can be anticipated to occur. Therefore, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors hereby voices its opposition to the designation of the North Fork Kern River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and supports Alternative E (no designation) as set forth in the draft EIS and Study Report.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment upon this matter.

Sincerely,

TULARE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT



Eugene E. Smith
Planning Director

EES:MO:mer

xc: Board of Supervisors



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

CONTROL 06-B75451
F-5
EXEC. ORDER & REC.
82 MAR 2 P 3: 01

FEB 2 1982

Honorable John R. Block
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We have reviewed the Department of Agriculture's draft wild and scenic river study report and environmental statement for the North Fork of the Kern River, California. We compliment the authors on this concise, well organized, and clearly presented report. Specific technical points on the EIS analysis are enclosed to assist in its revision.

We agree with the selection of Alternative A (Designation of All Eligible Segments) as the preferred alternative. Alternative A would ensure the recognition and protection which the river merits because of its unique geological features and outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, and archeological values.

We hope that the enclosed comments will be helpful in finalizing the study report and environmental statement.

Sincerely,

SECRETARY

Enclosures

Comments

1 | Page v. TABLE OF CONTENTS. Chapter III would be better titled as "ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSIFICATION".

2 | Page 16, Fisheries: The Little Kern River, a tributary to the Kern River, supports the Little Kern golden trout which is Federally listed as a threatened species. It is reasonable to assume that the Little Kern golden trout would immigrate into the Kern River. We believe the report should note that this species may be present in the study area.

3 | Page 19, WATER QUALITY AND WATER RESOURCES. This section would be better titled as "HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY". Under the subheading "Outstandingly Remarkable Features", the words "water quality" should be changed to "hydrologic" wherever they appear. Water quality is not a potential outstandingly remarkable value. On the other hand, some hydrologic feature such as hot springs, mineral springs, sink holes and other unusual hydrologic features are sometimes considered outstandingly remarkable.

4 | Page 39, last paragraph, lines 1 and 2. We suggest changing "allowed determination of" to "shows".

5 | Page 40, Figure III-2, and p. 41, entire page. The figure and explanatory text serve an important purpose in the report as they show how the determinations of eligibility and classification were made. Therefore, they should be clear and consistent with the Act and the study guidelines. As the study report recognizes on page 30, eligibility is determined by application of two criteria—a river must be free-flowing and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values. Eligible rivers are then classified according to three sets of criteria—wild, scenic or recreational. The table could be better organized to show more clearly this two-step process by taking the following steps: (1) Move the column titled "Possesses Outstandingly Remarkable Resource Value?" to the left side of the table (first column position); (2) Place a new column titled "Free-flowing?" in second column position; (3) Place a heading "ELIGIBILITY" across the top of these two columns; (4) Place a heading "CLASSIFICATION" across the top of the remaining columns, above the headings, "WILD" "SCENIC", and "RECREATIONAL"; (5) Delete the row titled, "QUALIFYING ANSWER(S)"; (6) Where a segment meets a criterion, place a check mark; (7) If a segment meets all the criteria for WILD, delete the rest of the row except the final column; (8) Delete all the NOTES except existing number 3. (Dwellings in WILD and SCENIC are not exceptions. A small number of dwellings is permitted in WILD and a moderate number is permitted in SCENIC.) The text on page 41 should then be revised by deleting the confusing explanation of "yes", "no", and "yes +" responses and replacing it with the explanation that a check mark means that the segment meets the criterion.

6 | Page 41, last paragraph. In order to be consistent with the Act and the study guidelines, condition (1), "it must meet all criteria for at least one classification category" should be deleted and replaced with "it must be free-flowing as defined in the Act".

- 7 | Page 43, Alternatives and Effects of Alternatives. The North Kern Water Storage District was issued a preliminary permit (July 22, 1981) to investigate the feasibility of constructing a hydroelectric generation facility (Junction Project) at the confluence of the Little Kern River and the Kern River. The alternative analysis should provide an evaluation of the effects of development of the hydroelectric facility. As appropriate, the development of the Junction Project should also be assessed in (1) the Impact section, page 50; (2) the Evaluation of Alternatives Under Principles and Standards section, page 75; and (3) the Preferred Alternative section, page 86.
- 8 | Page 43, second paragraph. Reference to Figure IV-1 should be to p.74, not p.71.
- 9 | Page 46. Somewhere on this page, before describing the alternatives and their effects, the period of analysis should be stated. On page 54, recreation impacts are projected over a 10 year period from implementation. The same period should also be noted in Table IV-1 on page 47.
- 10 | Page 47, Table IV-1. Minimally, the asterisk above Alternative E (No Designation) should be removed. Alternative E does not assume construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir. However, we would prefer a more extensive revision of this table as follows: We suggest removal of the assumed construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir from Alternatives C and D as this assumption confuses impacts from reservoir construction with those from wild and scenic designation and is inconsistent with the assumption in Alternative E (No designation) that Elephant Knob would not be constructed. If the study team desires to show the impacts of construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir, it should show these in a separate alternative. These suggestions also apply to the text on pages 61-72 and Tables V-1 through V-4, pages 81-84.
- 11 | Page 53, second paragraph, second sentence. This sentence is inconsistent with the Act. It should read "...if 50 percent or more of the acreage within a federally administered wild, scenic or recreational river area is in Federal ownership, condemnation cannot be used..."

Page 47, Effects of Alternatives (also pgs. iii, iv, 70, 83, 86, 87). It is stated throughout this analysis, and its various portions on the above pages, that either Alternative A or Alternative E is acceptable because neither designation or non-designation is likely to make a significant difference in the future management of the area or the impact of either alternative on the environment of the area. This conclusion is not verified by any factual analysis presented in the EIS. It also flies in the face of known conditions and clearly possible future trends. The conclusion apparently rests on the assumption that FS and NPS, under current management policy, will never allow activities or development that could impinge on river classification and reduce river eligibility in any segment. This assumption is very questionable. It refutes the very basis of the Wild & Scenic River Act, itself, which has already provided numerous NPS and FS lands added legal protection. Also, it does not recognize the potential developments that could take place without river designation in this region. We submit that Alternative E is not equal to Alternative A. We believe Alternative E is much more likely to result in future degradation of river quality than Alternative A and the EIS should be corrected accordingly to recognize this clear possibility.

For example, the FS notes (on p. iii) that the corridor area could be more intensively developed, only "current" policy does not intend to do so. What happens 10 years hence if "current" policy changes? There are presently non-economic resource areas in the corridor that might become economical to develop someday. Why should it be expected that FS, without a specific legal mandate to protect the character of this river as a specific local example of a wild river, would never alter its local policy? Also, it is recognized in the EIS that although NPS has designated a capacity use-level for its segment of the corridor, the FS has not. Under the No Action alternative, why must it be accepted that FS will retain the NPS level of low use (133 people/night) and not allow use levels to grow in campsites, around roads and intersections, along and on the river and adjacent to private lands such that present qualification of these segments could not change? Tourism is the big activity in this area. It is already growing. It seems clearly apparent that in spite of present good intentions, future conditions could be quickly changed without a specific legal mandate not to permit this. Therein lies the real significant difference between a designated Wild & Scenic River and a non-designated river. The two alternatives cannot be objectively considered equal and the EIS should be revised in the appropriate tables, analytical discussions, and summaries.

Response to U.S. Department of the Interior

1. This has been changed based on your suggestion on page V.
2. It is extremely unlikely that any pure Little Kern Golden Trout (LKGT) reach the Kern River presently or will for some time in the future because:
 - a. The LKGT have the trait of simply not moving either upstream or downstream:
 - b. The nearest sizable pure population of LKGT is 13 to 14 miles upstream from the Kern River (Fish Creek stocks are so depressed number-wise there is little pressure for them to move out of their newly recovered streams); and
 - c. Recovery efforts for the lower Little Kern River proper (Critical Habitat down to a barrier falls one mile below the confluence of Trout Meadow Creek with the Little Kern River) will not occur much before 1992 which would put the pure population 3 to 6 miles above the Kern River proper.

Genetic samples taken in 1981 indicate the Kern River at the Forks of the Kern contains only a pure population of Kern River rainbow trout.
3. Changes have been made. Thank you.
4. Changes have been made. Thank you.
5. Changes have been made. Thank you.
6. Changes have been made. Thank you.
7. We have not been able to secure any data on the feasibility of the Junction Reservoir. The North Kern Water Storage District has been contacted, but no data is available from the "pre-feasibility" study they have begun. The Elephant Knob Feasibility Report is the only current study available to reflect the potential for water projects on the North Fork Kern River.

Any development at the Junction site would back water into the Golden Trout Wilderness. This can only be done with Presidential approval. Many political implications would be raised. It is our opinion that the intent of Congress for use of the Forks of the Kern Area was made clear when it was declared part of the National Wilderness System.

8. This error on page 43 has been corrected.
9. The period of analysis must include the "reasonably foreseeable future". Though we stated recreation impacts in terms of a 10-year period, all economic effects in the economic tables have been translated to a 50-year period of analysis so they will be additive.
10. Asterisk has been removed from above Alternative E. Though there is some confusion, we feel the effects of construction of Elephant Knob Reservoir are adequately displayed without adding a new alternative which would be similar to one already developed.
11. Has been reworded - see page 53.
12. National Environmental Policy Act requires only that "reasonably foreseeable" impacts of a proposal must be addressed. We do not intend to say that characteristics of the river would remain forever alike under either Alternative A or Alternative E, but that they would in the foreseeable future. As a result of comment on the DEIS, we now feel there are foreseeable differences regarding Segment 4. See the response to Mr. D.S. Villars.

Letters supporting Alternative E were received from the following individuals (organizations). These letters did not require a response.

LEWIS & DORIS K. BALTHASAR	LAKE ISABELLA, CA
ED BROWN	JOHNSONDALE, CA
GERALD A. CLICK	KERNVILLE, CA
GERALD C. CLICK	KERNVILLE, CA
BILLY & MARY COLE	KERNVILLE, CA
ROY W. CRAWFORD	KERNVILLE, CA
R.O. DUDLEY	HANFORD, CA
GLEN DUYSSEN	PORTERVILLE, CA
J. LESS GUTHRIE	PORTERVILLE, CA
OWEN KERANS JR.	BAKERSFIELD, CA
EILEEN MANOUSH	KERNVILLE, CA
GERALD McDERMITT	LAKE ISABELLA, CA
MR. & MRS. JOHN MCNALLY	KERNVILLE, CA
DONALD V. NELSON	LAKE ISABELLA, CA
MILDRED PAGGI	KERNVILLE, CA
JAY M. PROBASCO (SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS)	CALIF. HOT SPRINGS, CA
ROBERT TORRENCE	KERNVILLE, CA
JAMES WEEKS	LYNWOOD, CA
JOHN W. WEIS	KERNVILLE, CA
BERNICE WERMUTH	KERNVILLE, CA
C.H. WILLIAMS (KERN RIVER WATERMASTER)	BAKERSFIELD, CA

Two sample letters from this group are enclosed. The remaining letters are not reproduced in the document, but are available for review at the Sequoia National Forest Supervisor's Office.

NORTH FORK KERN
 WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
 OCTOBER 21, 1981

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
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PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

NA
2/29

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than
JAN 19 1982.

NAME: Billy C + Mary Anne Cole
 ADDRESS: P.O. Box 509

Please return to:

Kennell, Calif.

Sequoia National Forest
 900 West Grand Avenue
 Porterville, CA 93257

ZIP CODE: 93238

AFFILIATION (Optional)

Government Agency (Specify)

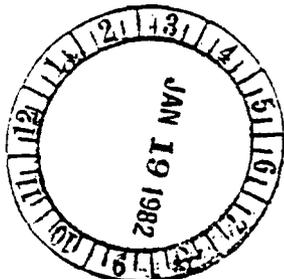
Industry (Specify)

Interested Citizen _____

Environmental/Conservation Org.
 (Specify)

Other (Specify)

Alternative E



NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

_____ Do not include my name in the record.
 (X)

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

We are against or opposed to this Wild River Act to be applied to the North Fork of the Kern River. We are choosing this alternative E.

We are bring to your attention right now Alternative E is the one we want.

We are sending a copy of this to William Thomas Congressman to bring to his attention how we feel about this matter on the Wild River Act for the North Fork of the Kern River.

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

We have enough government control we sure don't need more. The people should be able to voice and have some say what will be done in this whole matter. This is a free country and we should have a say on things that concern all of us people who live in this country of America.

May God have complete control of this whole matter in Jesus Christ name we ask.

THANKS!

Sincerely
Mrs. Mary Anne Cole

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

NA

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFICATION										
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V

512

Sequoia Nat'l Forest
 900 W. Grand
 Fernville, Calif
 93257

Gentlemen:
 I have been a resident of
 the Kern River Valley for 18 years
 and love this river.
 I am opposed to it being a
 wilderness river.

Yours
 Mildred M. Paggi
 P.O. Box 577
 Kernville, Calif
 93238



Letters supporting Alternative E were received from the following individuals (organizations) and required a response. Response to the letters are enclosed.

ED DUNKLEY

(CALIF. ASSOC. OF 4-WHEEL DRIVE CLUB, INC.)

SACRAMENTO, CA

WILLIAM INSKEEP

KERNVILLE, CA

JOHN NICOLL

WELDON, CA



Handwritten initials

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER									
G	0	1	1	5	A	9	5	8	4
0	5								

5831 Rosebud Lane, Unit M-1
 Sacramento, CA 95841
 (916) 338-4540

January 14, 1982

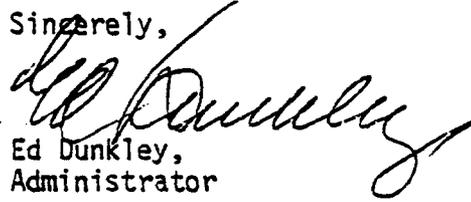
Sequoia National Forest
 Mr. Joe J. Brown, Forest Supervisor
 900 W. Grand Avenue
 Porterville, Ca. 93257

Dear Mr. Brown,

SEQUOIA NF
 JAN 18 1982
 FS _____
 AO _____
 SUP _____
 DI _____
 TMO _____
 FMC _____
 ENG _____
 REC _____
 M _____
 ND _____
 DRS _____
 COPIES RECEIVED

The North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study has been reviewed and alternative E, the No Action alternative, is our preferred choice. We can see no valid reason for proposing a wild and scenic river classification in 27 miles of formal wilderness, nor can we find any sound and practical reasons for designating the remaining 51.5 miles of river down to Kernville. This proposal is strictly a long standing goal of the environmentalists, who place their form of recreation above the best interest of everyone else who share a concern in this area. We find from previous experience on Wild River designation, there are serious impacts on other established resource uses, such as water, energy, timber, mining, recreation, access by motorized vehicles and loss of primitive roads. A wild river proposal not only affects the river itself, but the entire watershed and the local economy along with it. We can no longer afford the luxury of locking up our valuable public resources unless the need for such action is overriding above all other uses. In this case, we find the insufficient need and the associated costs unjustified for any form of classification other than normal Forest Service management.

1 | We would like to know just exactly how many dollars have been spent on this project todate and who authorized it? We find it difficult to justify the expenditure of funds for this particular subject, when so many other worthwhile projects are unfunded or carry a low priority. One finds it difficult to believe that no more than one percent of the public can arrange for this study solely in their behalf. We would appreciate that the decision on this subject be weighted on logical and careful deliberation and not a massive write in campaign such as happened on the Tuolumne River. You have to realize that the vast majority of the public doesn't understand these issues and even if they did, they seldom write a letter. The proponents of this proposal have everything going their way unless a few of us speak up.

Sincerely,

 Ed Dunkley,
 Administrator

Response to Ed Dunkley

1. Congress directed the USDA-Forest Service as lead agency to study the North Fork Kern River for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System.

92 STAT. 3530 PUBLIC LAW 95-625 - NOVEMBER 10, 1978

DESIGNATION OF THE KERN RIVER (NORTH FORK) FOR STUDY

16 USC 1276. Sec. 721., Section 5(a) of the wild and Scenic Rivers Act is amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end thereof:

"(59) Kern, California. - The main stem of the North Fork from its source to Isabella Reservoir excluding its tributaries."

We estimate that it will cost \$175,000 to produce a Final EIS.

NA

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER									
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0	5								

S/66

Heink JFH 1/13/82

Jan. 14, 1982

Sequoia National Forest
900 W. Grand Ave.
Porterville, Ca. 93257

Gentlemen:

I have just become aware of the U.S. Government's attempt to spend more money for additional controls on the upper sections of the North Fork of the Kern River.

1 | I believe that these expenses are totally unnecessary as I have been advised by several Forest Service personnel that adequate laws and regulations are already being enforced to protect this area.

2 | I have watched this area grow for 32 years. We do not need the added damage from the 15% increase in use that you predict if your proposal is enacted into law. We do not need more public lands removed from our possible reserve supply of strategic minerals.
3 | We do need to control the size of big government, and it's high costs. I believe in free enterprise with a minimum of government controls.

I did not appreciate the manner in which your "Pacification Meeting" was conducted in Kernville. Your press release to the Bakersfield Californian newspaper stating that there was little opposition to your recommendation was an outright lie. There were many, many more negative comments made than there were positive, except those made by government personnel.

WE DON'T NEED THIS LAND GRAB BY BIG GOVERNMENT.

SEQUOIA NF

JAN 14 1982

- FS _____
- AG _____
- LUP _____
- CI _____
- TMO _____
- FMC _____
- ENG _____
- REC _____
- RW _____
- LND _____
- DR'S _____
- COPIES _____

Yours truly,

William F. Inskeep
William F. Inskeep

James Watt, Sec. of Interior
William Thomas, Congressman
John Block, Sec. of Agr.
Ronald Reagan, Pres.

Response to William F. Inskeep

1. The intent of designating the river for inclusion into the National System is to preserve outstandingly remarkable values which exist at the present time. Current regulations may give adequate protection to the river; but do not address the suitability of the river for inclusion in the National System. See response #1 to Ed Dunkley.
2. This increase is not immediate. Projections for recreation increases of 15% are over the next ten years or 1-1/2% annually. The designation of the river only accelerates the normal increase of use; the river would reach this higher level of use sooner or later because of its value to recreation users. We share your concern and agree that it will need to be re-addressed during the development of the river management plan, if the river is designated by Congress.
3. Designation of the North Fork Kern River will not end mineral exploration, except in Wild classified segments. The analysis of minerals in Segments three and four was inadequate in the DEIS and has been more fully addressed in this Final EIS. For additional information see response to Robley E. Berry (Superior Oil).

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT STUDY REPORT.

WFA

Securia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA. 93257.

<input type="checkbox"/>	FS	_____
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Weldon, California-
93283.
January , 1982.

JAN 12 1982

Dear Sirs:

This protest is written under Alternative E--No Designation (No action) for your thoughtful consideration.

In reading your study of the North Fork of the Kern River, it appears that the study is made for the express purpose of recreation-- such as back packing, rafting, fishing and scenery.

At an informal public workshop at the Kernville Llementary School on Dec.12, 1981, the picture slides shown,depicted the asthetic beauty of the northern part of your study and only part of the southern portions which do not have the scenic features of the upper part. The latter showed few stands of timber, no livestock feed areas, no mineral deposits or geology effects. Therefore your study does not completely assess the values of the North Fork of the Kern River.

T I M B E R .

1 | There are stands of timber within sight of the corridor which may need to be partially harvested at some time in the future for the health and preservation of the timber stands and for their economic value.

C A T T L E .

There are 4 livestock operations on the east side of the river and others on the west side. The use of the corridor for feed and water is very necessary for them. Cattle were grazing here from the 1880s into the early 1900s. When the Forest Service was enacted, permits became necessary. The users took out permits, which are still being used. Cattle grazing this area, keep down the thickening of brush and dry grass known as tinder. This grazing tends to keep down the possibility of large forest fires.

N | It would be impossible to keep the cattle from the corridors. This would eventually mean cancellation of the permits. This would be disastrous to cattlemen who need this summer grazing in order to stay in business. Also it would mean revenue loss to the Forest Service from these cattlemen. There is no mention of revenue, which will be coming from the Wild River Users for recreation.

M I N E R A L .

U | The mineral value has not been properly assessed. Only 2 small active mines on the east side of the river were mentioned. Unmentioned were the 72 active mining claims on the east side of the river. These claims have an estimated tonnage of more than 10 million tons of willeable tungsten and molybdenum--strategic minerals for industry and national defense. In process now are the proving of these deposits. 94 additional claims are yet to be evaluated. There is a mineralized zone of exposed metamorphic rock extending in a northerly direction up the Kern River Fault almost to Kern Lakes, then

bearing easterly toward Indian Head and Nine Mile Creek headwaters. Geological reports of the Kern River Fault claim this area is likely to produce large quantities of minerals. Should these minerals be locked up by Wild River designation? The potential County, State, and Federal tax revenue from mineral in the Kern River Fault area would be tremendous. There would also be an increased yearly income for Kernville, Woffard Heights, Lake Isabella, the closest towns where the miners and their families would live. Mineral development along the Kern River Fault is just getting started.

F I S H A N D W I L D L I F E .

4 | The impact on Wildlife and Fish needs more information than given. Along the river's southern portion are the late fall breeding grounds and wintering grounds for deer while the river's upper portion are the summer feeding grounds. Foot travel along the river would have a very unfavorable effect on deer and other wildlife using the river water and feed along both sides. Referring to Page 14 of the North Fork Of the Kern River Study (on Wildlife) "Because of the undisturbed nature of the North Fork of the Kern River drainage it provides excellent habitat for several rare, endangered, or sensitive wildlife species, many of which require wilderness conditions for survival."

Also the impact on the native fish from the anticipated 15% increase of tourism would surely make its pressure felt on them and soon these fish would be on the list of endangered species. Even the present fishing has caused a down trend in the fish population.

From the Forest Service booklet, "Techniques & Equipment For Wilderness Horse Travel published in October 1981, Page 1, we read "America's wilderness trails are busier than ever before. Crowding, litter, pollution are becoming part of our wilderness experience." The Wild and Scenic River highlighted on tour maps, magazines, and pamphlets would bring all types of people among the anticipated 15% increase to the area. Pollution and sanitation would become major problems. To install and maintain sanitary facilities would be very difficult and costly in such a deep, narrow gorge. This could only be done by pack mules or helicopters and would not solve the entire water pollution and land degradation problems.

With the increasing of more Wilderness travelers, will come the increasing danger of fires. Within the past few years in this area, there have 2 huge fires which burned out of control for over a week causing great damage to wildlife, scenery, watershed, quality timber and later causing erosion. The scars of these fires will be many years in healing. These fires were caused by tourists camp fires. Not only is there danger to the wildlife and scenery but also danger to human life. People could be trapped in this deep gorge and burned to death.

5 | The owners of private lands within the corridors would be forced to sell at the government price offered for the use of recreation. This is a very undesirable and dangerous precedent.

At present, we are under "Multiple Use" for all of this land which is being considered for the Wild and Scenic North Fork of the Kern River. By this act, the uses for cattle, timber, minerals, fish and wildlife can be allowed. Under the control of the Forest Service Management Plan, the continuation of all these interests can be kept with the preservation of the wildlife and scenery of the North Fork of the Kern River.

Therefore, I am protesting the establishing of the Wild and Scenic North Fork of the Kern River and appealing for the continuation of Multiple Use for this area. As stated in the North Fork of the Kern River Study--Introduction Page 1, let us act so that "the immediate environment shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present, and future generations."

Thanking you for your consideration of this protest, I am

Sincerely,

John W. Nicoll

John W. Nicoll

Response to John Nicoll

1. Designation of the river will not cause a reduction in commercial timber operation. Map # (Appendix E) shows that no significant commercial timber is within the study corridor. Timber stands in view of the river, but outside the study corridor, will not fall under any provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and would be managed much as it is now. Within the corridor, non-commercial cutting for such purposes as protection or salvage from fire, insects, and disease will be allowed.
2. It is not the intent of the designation to keep cattle out of the corridor. We anticipate no change will be necessary in the current grazing allotments. Within Segment 2, the Golden Trout Wilderness interim management plan direction is to continue grazing basically at current levels. Segment three most likely will have similar direction if classified "Wild".
3. Final EIS has been revised to reflect your concerns. See response to Robley E. Berry (Superior Oil). Thank you.
4. We share your concern and this will need to be resolved during the development of the river management plan, if the river is designated. However, it was not an issue and is not a determining factor in designation or non-designation of the river.
5. There will be no acquisition of private lands for Wild and Scenic River purposes. Owners will not be forced to sell their land because they are located within the corridor.

The Act provides that if more than 50% of the length of an eligible river crosses Federal lands, condemnation cannot be used to acquire property in fee, but could still be used to acquire easements. Greater than 90% of the North Fork Kern river crosses Federal ownership greatly reducing the probability of need to acquire either lands or easements.

Also, existing zoning for private lands in Tulare County is suitable and adequate to complement the intent of classifications. We do not feel that scenic easements will be necessary. However, we share your concern and that concern will be included as part of the public input to the river management plan, if the North Fork Kern River is designated. In that event, the record will show that it is our opinion that no fee acquisition and few, if any, easements are necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.

The private lands issue is substantially resolved by the change in our selected alternative in the Final EIS.

Individuals (organizations) who opposed Alternative A primarily because of hindrance of water and power development:

HERMAN FUENTES	KERNVILLE, CA
FRANK GARONE (KERN DELTA WATER DISTRICT)	BAKERSFIELD, CA
MILO E. HALL (NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT)	BAKERSFIELD, CA
LORON J. HOOGE (KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU)	BAKERSFIELD, CA
THOMAS M. STETSON (WATER DEPT. CITY OF BAKERSFIELD)	BAKERSFIELD, CA
J.R. WILSON (SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY)	LONG BEACH, CA

NA

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
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MCMURTREY AND ETCHEVERRY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Kern Delta Water District

P.O. Box 155
DEL KERN STATION
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93307
TELEPHONE (805) 834-4653

BOYLE ENGINEERING
CONSULTING ENGINEERS



DIRECTORS
 STANLEY E. WILLIS, PRESIDENT
 FRANK GARONE, VICE PRESIDENT
 HOWARD R. FRICK, SECRETARY
 MELVIN DESTEFANI, COMBINED OFFICER
 STANLEY ANTONGIOVANNI
 ROBERT F. BOON
 PHILLIP J. CERRO
 HALE COSTERISAN
 THOMAS HURLBUTT
 GILBERT CASTLE, JR., GENERAL MANAGER
 GENE MCMURTREY, ASST. SECY.
 LUCIA HARRIS, ASST. TAX COLLECTOR - ASST. SECY.

January 19, 1981

Mr. Joe J. Brown
 Forest Supervisor
 Sequoia National Forest
 900 West Grand Avenue
 Porterville, California 93257

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement and
 Study Report - North Fork Kern-Wild &
 Scenic River study

Dear Mr. Brown:

Kern Delta Water District, owner of the primary irrigation rights to the annual runoff of the Kern River, has reviewed the comments of North Kern Water Storage District regarding the subject DEIS. As a sister entity with North Kern in the water rights of the Kern River and as a partner with North Kern in the Junction project Kern Delta subscribes to and endorses the North Kern comments in whole and their entirety.

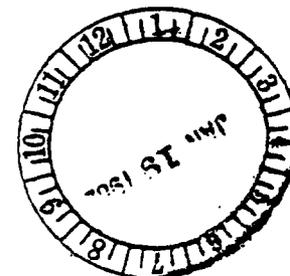
Said North Kern comments are attached hereto and made part hereof by reference. Please consider the comments contained therein as being those of this district.

Very truly yours,

Frank Garone
 President
 Kern Delta Water District

FG/leh

attachment



NA

NORTH KERN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

1415 - 18th STREET, ROOM 705
BOX 1195
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93302
(805) 325-3116

January 19, 1982

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
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0	5									

Mr. Joe J. Brown
Forest Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, California 93257

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
and Study Report - North Fork Kern -
Wild and Scenic River Study

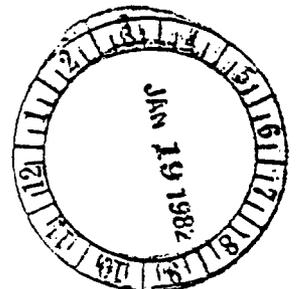
Dear Mr. Brown:

This presents the comments of North Kern Water Storage District on the subject Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared and submitted pursuant to your transmittal and request for comments received on November 2, 1981.

Comment No. 1

The DEIS states that "Alternative A has been selected as the preferred alternative by the Forest Service." Alternative A would give Wild and Scenic River designation to all of the North Fork of the Kern River located upstream of the boundary line between Kern County and Tulare County, a total of about 78.5 river miles. The DEIS identifies four stream segments within Alternative A. Segments 1, 2 and 3 would be given a "Wild River Area" designation and Segment 4 would be given a "Recreational River Area" designation.

The DEIS also describes an Alternative E which would be a "no action" alternative and would "perpetuate present policies, activities and management plans". The DEIS further states that "Either Alternative A or E is well suited to be the preferred alternative. Though they represent opposite ends of the designation/non-designation spectrum, there are no significant differences in environmental, social, or economic effects between these alternatives."



Furthermore, the following statements appear in the DEIS:

"...it is anticipated that mere classification will accelerate increases in recreation use. Such increased visitation could adversely affect certain outstandingly remarkable features identified in the environmental resource inventory. In this regard, designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act could tend to interfere with carrying out the objectives of the Act. Designation of Segment 4 in particular could be expected to result in significant increases in recreation visitors, necessitating regulation of capacities and extending maintenance of recreation sites into the spring and fall seasons. This situation would result in increased administration and operating costs during an uncertain period of budget tightening and restrictions on federal employment..."

In addition to the increased costs mentioned in the latter quote, the initiation of the wild and scenic designation and the continued administration of the designated area will require increased public expenditures, primarily in the budget of the U. S. Forest Service. These additional expenditures are not estimated in the DEIS, but a rough estimate was given verbally at the public meeting on December 12, 1981 in Kernville.

Based upon the excerpted statements from the DEIS and the prospect of unnecessary additional public costs, there is no reasonable basis for proceeding with the designation. North Kern Water Storage District hereby states its objection to the further expenditure of public funds on this proposed Wild and Scenic River designation and requests that the public activity on the proposed designation be brought to termination by the most economical and expeditious means possible. Should the Forest Service choose not to do so, North Kern requests consideration of Comment No. 2 presented following.

Comment No. 2

River Segment 1 includes the portion of the Kern River contained within the Sequoia National Park. River Segment 2 includes the stream reach within the Golden Trout Wilderness. Therefore, these two segments are already subject to a high degree of control by the Park Service and Forest Service, which agencies can retain these areas in essentially "wild" status.

River Segment 4 has a relatively high degree of recreational development, and within this segment a paved highway closely follows the edge of the stream. An existing power development (Southern California Edison Company's Kern No. 3 Power Project) utilizes essentially the full available hydraulic head and most of the stream flow (except high flows and releases for fishery maintenance) in this reach of the stream. There are no outstanding features in this reach and it is questionable that designation in this reach would comply with either the spirit or the letter of the Act.

Based upon these facts, it is readily apparent that the only real issue in the concerned area is the question of the designation of Segment 3. Furthermore, the principal issue within this Segment 3 is the potential conflict of natural resource use and whether or not the DEIS properly addresses the alternatives respecting the natural resource use. In a proper analysis of this issue, water and hydroelectric power development gains would have to be weighed against losses to other resource uses, and resource values preserved in wild and scenic designation would have to be weighed against water and hydroelectric power values (and possibly other values such as minerals) foregone. The DEIS does not present such analyses and, in fact, fails to describe for Segment 3 the range of natural resources, their uses, and the socioeconomic effects of the alternative development actions.

The DEIS presents information developed by the Corps of Engineers on the Elephant Knob Reservoir and its hydroelectric, water control and recreational accomplishments. However, the project plan which was given only preliminary study by the Corps shows a deficit of revenues versus costs, and the DEIS presents this as an economic loss to the National Economic Development Account which would result from adoption of Alternatives C or D, the alternatives that would not include designation in Segment 3.

The DEIS gives no indication that the Forest Service performed independent studies of alternative water and hydroelectric power development potentials. Furthermore, the DEIS presents no analyses of, or information on, the long-term effects which would result from the loss of the opportunity to develop these water and energy resources for use in the San Joaquin Valley portion of the Kern River basin where agricultural and urban water and energy requirements in excess of local resources must be fulfilled from outside sources at dramatically increasing costs.

During February 1981, North Kern Water Storage District made application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a Preliminary Permit for the proposed Junction Project, which would develop water and hydroelectric power resources in the stream reach which the DEIS refers to as Segment 3. By order dated July 22, 1981, the FERC granted a Permit (Project No. 4112) to the District.

The District is presently studying the feasibility of the proposed Junction Project. These studies are only at the initial (prefeasibility) level and, therefore, no conclusive information can be provided at this time. However, the following are preliminary data for one project alternative under consideration which would develop the water and energy resources in Segment 3:

Project Plan

- (1) A dam and reservoir at the Junction site, about 1.5 miles downstream of the forks of the Kern, with a storage capacity of 70,000 acre-feet (normal maximum water surface elevation of 4,860 feet).
- (2) A power conduit, mostly in tunnel, having a length of about 68,000 feet. A conduit inside diameter of 16 feet for a conveyance capacity of 1,200 cfs.
- (3) A power plant (with switchyard and transformers) with two 53,000 kw generating units (Pelton turbines) with a design head of 1,210 feet and a tailrace elevation of 3,650 feet, discharging to the Kern River just upstream of the Fairview diversion dam of the Kern No. 3 Power Project.
- (4) An afterbay dam and reservoir with a storage capacity of 500 acre-feet.

Project Cost

At December 1981 price levels, the project construction is estimated to be about \$200 million including allowances for contingencies, engineering, etc.

Project Yield

Average hydroelectric generation of about 332 million kwh per year. The renewable generation would replace the consumption of more than 550,000 barrels of oil per year in a fossil-fueled steam electric generation plant.

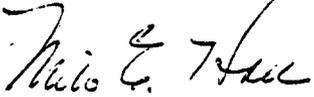
Stream regulation accomplishments and benefits in the order of \$1 million per year.

It must be emphasized that the District's studies are only in the preliminary stages and no conclusions have been reached regarding the feasibility of financing and constructing the proposed Junction Project.

4 North Kern Water Storage District hereby requests that the U. S. Forest Service take action to prepare a supplemental DEIS for River Segment 3 encompassing alternatives for no action, wild and scenic status, recreational river status and full development for hydrogeneration and recreation. The supplemental DEIS should analyse Segment 3 as a resource for hydrogeneration and recreation using the Junction Project and other projects. The reason for this request is the inadequate investigation and evaluation of alternative uses of the resources of Segment 3 in the DEIS. North Kern would be most willing to cooperate with and consult with the Forest Service in the supplemental DEIS preparation.

Very truly yours,

North Kern Water Storage District

By: 
Milo E. Hall
President

Response to Milo E. Hall (North Kern Water Storage District)

1. This has been updated and added to the report. See response to Ed Dunkley.
2. We have been directed by Public Law 95-625, Nov. 10, 1978, to complete this study. This process will be complete only after the Final EIS has been published, circulated to other Federal Agencies, and sent to the President for presentation to Congress.
3. The Final EIS describes the natural resources of Segment 3 to the extent that they are known and that descriptive data is available. For instance, the mineral resource working papers have been substantially updated to incorporate information made available since the DEIS was written. Virtually no new information regarding the feasibility of Elephant Knob has surfaced, and our conclusions in the DEIS stand accepted.
4. Besides Elephant Knob, the only other water development site identified on Segment 3 is the Junction site at the Forks of the Kern. Though the dam would be in Segment 3, water would be backed up into Segment 2, the Golden Trout Wilderness. Such a project, even if economically feasible, would be extremely controversial, politically sensitive, and precedent setting. Presidential approval would be required under Section 4(a)(4) of the Wilderness Act. It is our opinion that the intent of Congress for managing the Forks of the Kern was made clear when it was included in the Golden Trout Wilderness.

It is not the role of the Forest Service to conduct feasibility studies for water projects. Neither can such studies be completed within the time frame specified by Congress for completing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River study. No feasibility data was provided by North Kern Water Storage District during the DEIS public comment period.

When data on the feasibility of the Junction site becomes available, it can be presented through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as part of the licensing procedure. A project-specific Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement would have to be completed if the project proves to be feasible.

On June 24, 1982 more than 5 months after the close of the public response period, we received some detailed data from North Kern Water Storage District on the feasibility of the Junction Reservoir site. The data is included in Appendix G. The site is within recommended Wild River classification and would thereby be precluded. At this time, the potential merits of Junction Reservoir are not sufficient to cause us to change our recommendation from Alternative B.



KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU, inc.

P. O. BOX 2425, BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93303
OFFICE: 2724 "L" STREET - PHONE: 805-323-7897

BARTON L. BUSSELL
PRESIDENT

FREDRICK A. WEGIS
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

CLINTON C. SHICK
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

LORON J. HODGE
SECRETARY-MANAGER

WA

January 5, 1982

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
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Mr. Norman G. Anseneault
Recreation Staff Officer
Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Ave.
Porterville, CA 93257

Dear Mr. Anseneault:

We have recently been informed that the U.S. Forest Service, Sequoia District, has proposed to include the upper portion of the Kern River in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

We oppose this proposal because of the restrictions it places on the river, which would eliminate any future development of the river for Hydro-Electric power plant projects. Also the California Farm Bureau Federation has adopted a policy that states:

"We are apposed to proposals which would prevent the economic development of a stretch of river which has potential resource value; which would necessitate the taking of scenic easements or fee title to privately owned land by eminent domain; or which would unnecessarily involve federal responsibility for a river which is being adequately managed by a state. Any land designated for wild rivers should be subject to local zoning ordinances. We oppose the expansion of the National and State Wild and Scenic Rivers System."

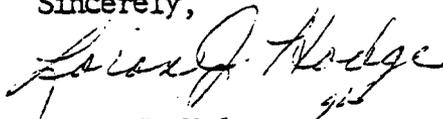
We in the valley are faced with a very real dilemma. Utility rates are increasing so fast that we who are in farming can hardly keep pace. In 1982 PG&E will be increasing its rates by almost 70% over 1981, and this is just the beginning, 1983 promises even higher costs.

If new Hydro Developments are not acheived in the next few years, we may not be able to continue operations, or we will have to seek higher prices for our commodities which will affect all of consumers.

Therefore any restrictions on the use of the Kern River as a possible resource for electrical generation would greatly compound our problems in the future.

We therefore respectfully request that you withdraw your proposal to include the upper Kern River in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Loron J. Hodge".

Loron J. Hodge
Secretary-Manager

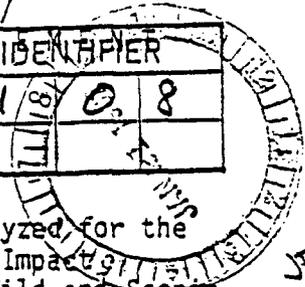
LJH/mer

NORTH FORK KERN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL

NA

PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM

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JFH
1.21.82

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

oh

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than
JAN 19 1982.

Thomas M. Stetson
NAME: Consulting Civil Engineer

ADDRESS: 550 Kearny Street

Please return to:

San Francisco, CA

Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

ZIP CODE: 94108

AFFILIATION (Optional)

Government Agency (Specify) Consultant to:
Water Department
City of Bakersfield

Industry (Specify)

Interested Citizen _____

Environmental/Conservation Org.
(Specify)

Other (Specify)

NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

_____ Do not include my name in the record.
(X) C-110

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

This designation is not necessary at this time. The report states, at page 86, that "...there are no significant differences in environmental, social, or economic effects between..." this alternative and Alternative E, the no designation, no action, alternative.

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

This designation if not necessary at this time.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

This designation is not necessary at this time.

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

This designation is not necessary at this time.

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

The City of Bakersfield, Water Department, recommends Alternative E. This would perpetuate present policies, activities, and management plans and, as stated in the report, result in no significant differences in environmental, social or economic effects between this alternative and Alternative A. The impacts of this alternative, described at pages 71 and 72 of the report, are generally less adverse than the impacts described for the other four alternatives.

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

The City of Bakersfield, Water Department, which owns in excess of 125,000 acre-feet per year of water rights in the Kern River and about one-third of the storage rights in Lake Isabella, prefers Alternative E, the "no designation" scheme. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Study Report states, at page iv, that: "Nondesignation of the river would not likely result in future loss or significant degradation of its (Kern River) free-flowing character and outstanding resource values."

Dam and reservoir sites on the North Fork Kern River are now being studied for potential hydroelectric power generation. In view of the energy needs of the nation, it would be prudent to take the nondesignation action at this time.

James M. Steiner

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

NA

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER

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Southern California Edison Company

P.O. BOX 410
100 LONG BEACH BLVD.
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90801

C. J. LOWERISON, JR.
MANAGER
OF
RIGHT OF WAY AND LAND

Mr. Norm Arseneault
Recreation Staff Officer
Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, California 93257

January 19, 1982

Dear Mr. Arseneault:

Subject: North Fork Kern
Wild and Scenic River Study

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement dated October 21, 1981 and hereby supply the following comments:

1 | We are somewhat concerned with the fact that the report ignores the use of the Junction Reservoir. We feel that the Junction Reservoir is one of the better projects proposed for the Kern River and the dam, located very close to the border of Segment 2 and 3, would back up water only about two to three miles on each fork of the river. It is difficult to say at this time if this would actually flood any of the Golden Trout Wilderness and it definitely would not reach back into the U-shaped glacial valley. We agree that the other two projects in Segment 2, the Little Kern and Kern Lake, are impractical on an economic basis.

The statement that the Corps of Engineers considers impoundment sites in Segment 2 to be impractical should be explored as to what the Corps considers the benefits of a project-to-be. They are most likely concerned with a multi-use concept looking at flood control, power, irrigation and recreation. We, at Edison, would develop a site such as Junction purely as a power producer.

January 19, 1982

It is our recommendation that provisions be maintained for future development of the Junction project via a set-aside statement in the report. It is also recommended that Segment 4 be "not designated" due to future plans to develop generation at the power diversion dam and storage and generation on Salmon Creek, a tributary to the river in this area.

For any further discussions or questions in this regard, please contact me at (213) 435-1121, extension 353.

Very truly yours,



J. R. WILSON
Right of Way Agent

jml

Response to J.R. Wilson (Southern California Edison Company)

1. The Junction Reservoir has been identified as a potential reservoir by the North Kern Water Storage District. This project is now under study but determination of suitability has not been made. Sections of this report have been corrected to properly represent the reservoir site. See response #4 to Milo E. Hall (North Kern Water Storage District) and response #7 to U.S. Department of the Interior for additional information.
2. Based on public response against designation of Segment 4 and because of new information gathered during the 90-day public review period, we have dropped our recommendation that Segment 4 be designated. One reason for doing so is to retrain the opportunities for expansion and possible power development at Fairview. It is our opinion that these possibilities would be precluded by designation.

Individuals (organizations) whose letters expressed opposition to Alternative A primarily because of hindrance to mining and mineral operations and entry.

ROBLEY E. BERRY
(SUPERIOR OIL)

TUCSON, AZ

DARVIN P. WADE
(METAL TECH EXPLORATION INC.)

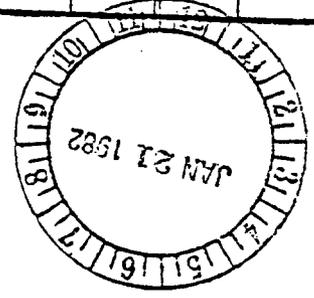
LAKE ISABELLA, CA

LANSING L. WARREN

WOFFORD HEIGHTS, CA

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NA
we
SUPERIOR OIL



January 18, 1982

Forest Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, California 93257

RE: North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study/
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Sir:

The Superior Oil Company, Minerals Division is the holder of valid existing mining claims in the Sequoia National Forest, located on lands adjacent to or within the area known as Segment 3 in the Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft EIS for the North Fork Kern River, Tulare and Kern Counties, California. Based upon our prospecting work to date, we have committed a substantial amount to exploration of the deposit. Economics govern the development of any mining project and the costs of compliance and mitigative measures are an increasing portion of these total costs. We have carefully reviewed the proposed action in an attempt to evaluate the impacts of designation on mining in general and our project specifically.

Quite simply, we cannot evaluate the impacts because the specific management guidelines will not be developed until after Congressional designation. This fact is significant because of the added uncertainty which must accompany any economic evaluation of the prospect. Consequently, we must stand opposed to the designation of any portion of the river.

Rather than simply oppose designation, we are providing our detailed comments at this time in the spirit of trying to gain the Forest Service's appreciation of our situation as well as the situation of every valid mineral holder in the North Fork Kern River Basin. We believe that there are substantial difficulties associated with the Proposed Alternative and have identified some of these problem areas for your consideration. After

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JAN 21 1982
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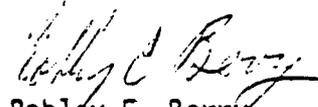
SUPERIOR OIL

you have had the opportunity to review our comments and supporting information, we would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss our concerns and provide additional information.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our point of view.

Sincerely,

SUPERIOR OIL



Robley E. Berry
Landman

REB:sam

Enc.

NORTH FORK KERN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
OCTOBER 21, 1981

PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than

JAN 19 1982

NAME: The Superior Oil Company

ADDRESS: Minerals Division
P. O. Box 13628
Tucson, Arizona
Robley E. Berry, Landman

Please return to:

Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

ZIP CODE: 85732

AFFILIATION (Optional)

Government Agency (Specify)

Industry (Specify)

Minerals and Mining

Interested Citizen _____

Environmental/Conservation Org.
(Specify)

Other (Specify)

NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

_____ Do not include my name in the record.

(X)

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

We do not agree with Alternative A, please see our specific comments attached for our detailed rationale.

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

We do not agree with Alternative B, please see our specific comments attached for our detailed rationale.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

We do not agree with Alternative C, please see our specific comments attached for our detailed rationale.

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

We do not agree with Alternative D, please see our specific comments attached for our detailed rationale.

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

At this time, we believe that Alternative E is the most viable alternative and should become the preferred alternative. Our detailed rationale is attached.

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

Please see our detailed rationale and comments attached.

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Background

The designation of the North Fork Kern River as an addition to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System is a major Federal action and, consequently, requires a NEPA review in accordance with the regulations of the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) as published in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and supplemented by the Department of Agriculture in 7 CFR Part 3100. We wish to comment specifically on Parts 1501.7 Scoping, 1501.6 Cooperating Agencies, 1502.15 Affected Environment, 1502.14 Alternatives, and 1502.16 Consequences.

o Scoping - During the period of December, 1979 through August 1980 and in accordance with the provisions of 1501.7, the study team encouraged public participation and identified the following as significant issues to be addressed in depth as required by Subpart (a)(2) and detailed on page iv of the DEIS; "the need to retain opportunities for development of water projects and the Trans-Sierra Highway; the need to acquire private lands in the study corridor; and the effect of designation on existing and future mining and recreational activities". Thus, multiple use concepts, water development, recreation and mining were identified as significant issues. Recognizing this, the Forest Service should have made a determination as to its capabilities in analyzing the minerals and mining issue. If sufficient experience were available in-house, then a minerals specialist should have been assigned to the study team.

1 If sufficient experience were not available within the Forest Service, then a cooperative agreement should have been initiated with the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Geological Survey, and/or the California Division of Mines and Geology in accordance with 1501.6.

o Cooperating Agencies - This section sets forth the responsibilities of the lead and cooperating agencies. "Upon request of the lead agency, any

2 other Federal agency which has jurisdiction by law shall be a cooperating agency. In addition, any other Federal agency which has special expertise with respect to any environmental issue, which should be addressed in the statement, may be a cooperating agency upon request of the lead agency. Similarly, State and Local agencies may be cooperating agencies (1501.5)(b). The Department of the Interior warrants a special mention at this time. The Forest Service recognizes the role of Interior in its 36 CFR 252.1 regulations for the management of minerals. Furthermore, the Mining and Minerals Policy

Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-631) directs the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the policy of the Federal Government in the national interest to foster and encourage private enterprise in (1) the development of economically sound and stable mining industry; (2) the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral "resources" and "reserves". Interior attempts to accomplish this goal through the actions on the part of the Geologic Survey and the Bureau of Mines. The California Division of Mines and Geology has much the same mission within the State.

The DEIS does not include USBM, USGS, or the California Division of Mines and Geology as cooperating agencies.

In carefully reviewing the list of Preparers/Participants (DEIS pages 102 and 103) and Organization and Persons Consulted (DEIS pages 97-99) we find the following:

- o No Forest Service Minerals Specialist was assigned to the study team.
- o No individual had responsibility for minerals assessment or impacts on mining.
- o Two consultants had responsibilities for geology.
- o California Division of Mines and Geology provided geologic information.
- o No Forest Service Minerals Specialist was consulted.
- o The USGS library provided air photography information.
- o The USBM was not consulted.

In view of the legal jurisdiction and special expertise of Interior; the identification of minerals and mining as a significant issue; the requirement of the Act to detail opportunities foreclosed or curtailed; the Forest Service knowledge of the requirement of the Wilderness Act of 1964 which requires mineral assessments of national forest lands placed in the National Wilderness Preservation System by 1984 by Interior (Segment 2), we find it remarkable that the Forest Service did not request Interior assistance as a cooperating agency, nor even see fit to consult. This must be remembered in considering our observations regarding affected environment, alternatives and consequences as well as in the consideration of our specific comments.

3

o Affected Environment - The "EIS shall succinctly describe the environment of the area(s) to be affected by the alternatives under consideration. Data and analysis in a statement shall be commensurate with the importance of the impact" Part 1502.15. We direct the reader to the affected environment chapter of the DEIS. We are told "small quantities of gold and tungsten are occasionally found in the metamorphic rocks. Exposed granitic rocks near Kernville contain minute deposits of uranium and thorium-bearing minerals." "Two small, but active, tungsten mining operations are located along the river" (page 11). "Since the North Fork Kern River drainage immediately surrounding the study corridor does not include significant mining" (page 22). ".... mining resources are not extensive in the study area, and their utilization has little direct bearing on the North Fork Kern River. Tungsten mining has been pursued in the area between Forks of the Kern and Fairview, but has not developed into any large-scale operations. The extent of recoverable minerals in the corridor is unknown; the potential for expansion opportunities is dependent on this and the future economic viability of tungsten and other resources" (page 27). "Historic use was related primarily to gold mining" (page 28).

Not finding any meaningful information on the potential for mining and minerals, we next reviewed the various technical reports, particularly the Geology Paper, looking for additional detail. There is no reference to actual mining, claims, or potential mineralization in the discussions on Segments 1, 2, or 5. The discussion of Segment 3 states "Tungsten has been mined for many years from deposits along the Kern River." "Three tungsten mining areas are found along the River." Next we receive a description of the location of the claims (page 11). However, there is no discussion of their development potential, estimated reserves, or the potential for other deposits. The minerals write-up on Segment 4 totally consists of the following: "A tungsten mine is located on the west bank of the River near Fairview and a prospect is found on the east bank two-thirds of a mile north of the Kern County Line" (page 13).

In summary, the geological report tells us about some active tungsten mines and claims. There is no mention of gold nor of uranium or thorium. As a footnote we add that a discussion of gold mining in the area can be found in the Cultural Resource working paper which attributes the initial settlement of the Kern Canyon to prospectors and miners. We also suspect that the Segment 4 information came from the review of the Kernville USGS Quadrangle rather than

as a result of any effort to identify the real and potential resources in and adjacent to the corridor.

4 The alternatives section of the DEIS is to be the "heart of the environmental impact statement. Based upon the information and analysis presented in the Sections on the Affected Environment and the Environmental Consequences, it should present the environmental impacts of the proposal and the alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public."

The consequences section forms the scientific and analytical basis for the comparisons of alternatives. Included should be discussions of impacts of alternatives, adverse affects should the proposal be implemented, the relationship between short-term and long-term productivity, and any reversible or irretrievable commitments of resources should it be implemented. Specifically included should be: Direct and indirect effects and significance, possible land use plan conflicts and natural or depletable resource requirements.

Knowing the objectives of the alternatives and consequences sections, the following analysis of the Alternatives and Effects of the DEIS is offered. For analysis purposes, we are comparing Alternative A - Designation with Alternative E - No Designation. It is assumed that minerals and mining would be considered in the Geology and Soils, Land Ownership and Use, and Socioeconomic Sections.

The following exerpts were taken from the analysis of Alternative A, Designation.

The DEIS states that the primary geologic concern is the impact on present and future mining operations. "Under Wild classification future mineral exploration and mining would be prohibited and existing mining operations would likely be subject to certain restrictions to protect other values and resources in the immediate area." "Two active tungsten claims in Segment 3 could be required to adhere to restrictions which may include prohibition of expansion, periodic monitoring of operations, and requirements to keep spoils from leaching into the river and its tributaries. Within Segment 4 there are two old tungsten prospects and one mine, none of which are active. Recreational classsification would have no impact on current mining activities. Future exploration and mining could occur, but would have to be consistent with the purposes of a Recreational Classification" (page 48).

The Ownership and Use section of Alternative A states that "minimal, if any, changes are anticipated with respect to land ownership, and no significant impacts are expected for existing land uses. Future land use changes would be

restricted to those in keeping with the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act" (page 53). "The Act allows for condemnation to acquire scenic easements" (page 53). "The value of the easement is determined by the diminishment of the existing value of the land" (page 54).

The socioeconomics section of Alternative A states that "the impacts to existing and potential mining would be minor. The very few and small existing operations may have additional restrictions placed on them. Because mineral resources in the area are not extensive, it is unlikely that significant mining activity would develop in the future in any case" (page 57).

The following was offered in the analysis on no designation, Alternative E. "Minerals exploration and mining activities would continue to be subject to existing State and Federal regulations" (page 71). "The no action alternative would involve no direct impacts to land ownership or use, which would be determined by future County and Federal agency management policies" (page 72). "Nondesignation of the river would not lead to significant socioeconomic changes in or around the study area; current growth and use trends would likely continue" (page 72).

Thus, we have a situation where Alternatives A and E are presented as having little difference, options are not sharply defined nor is there a clear basis for choice by decision makers and the public. The consequences section does not form a scientific and analytical basis for the comparison of alternatives. We suggest that the inadequacy of the alternatives and consequences has its roots in the inadequacy of the description of the affected environment where we have found no evidence of a good faith effort to define the known and potential of mineral resources in the study area and adjacent area. Before stating our specific comments, it would be beneficial to compare our understanding of Alternative A versus Alternative E, Designation versus Non-designation.

We have reviewed: The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub. L 90-542 (the Act); Guidelines for Evaluating Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Areas Proposed for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Under Section 2, Public Law 90-542 of February, 1970 (Guidelines); National Wild and Scenic River Areas published January 28, 1981 by Agriculture and Interior 46 FR 9148 (proposed guidelines); a proposed rule by Agriculture, Water Resources Projects on Wild and Scenic Rivers 46 FR44007 (proposed rule); the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Study Report, North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study, dated August, 1981 (DEIS); and the technical reports (working papers); and finally,

the various Forest Service land use plans in the areas of concern. The purpose of identifying the laws, regulations, and other documents above is to enable the various readers and reviewers to understand our comments, concerns and questions.

Relevant excerpts from items reviewed:

Section 1 of the Act states "the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreation, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

Section 2(b) of the Act states that to be included in the system in addition to being "free-flowing", a river must possess one or more of the values referenced in Section 1.

Section 4 specifies the content of the river study report including: current status of land ownership and use; reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included and; the administering agency, extent of administration, costs of administration, proposed cost sharing between State and Local agencies, cost to the U.S. for land acquisition and administration.

Section 6 authorizes the use of condemnation to clear title, acquire scenic easements or other easements.

Section 7 requires that no department or agency of the U.S. shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse affect on the values for which such river was established. Nothing contained in the foregoing sentence shall preclude licensing of developments below or above a wild, scenic or recreational river or any stream tributary which will not invade the area or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values present in the area on the date of approval of this Act.

5 Section 9 addresses mining by stating that nothing in the act shall affect the applicability of the U.S. mining and mineral leasing laws within components of the National Wild and Scenic River System except that operations shall be subject to such regulations as may be prescribed to effectuate the purpose of this Act and, subject to valid existing rights; all Federal minerals within the boundaries of a designated river shall be withdrawn.

In reviewing the Act, Congress certainly recognized the potential impacts of designation on mining operations by setting forth a separate policy section (Section 9). Additionally, the requirements of Section 4 direct the preparers of a study report to detail the current status of land ownership and use as well as what reasonably foreseeable potential uses would be foreclosed or curtailed if the area were included. Finally, the costs for land acquisition must be included. Therefore, it seems to us that an adequate study report would clearly present: some estimate of current mineral claims (a valid mining claim represents a valid, existing land use); potential mineral resources (reasonably foreseeable uses which would be foreclosed or curtailed in terms of mineral, reserves, and values); and, the costs of land acquisition to the U.S. (taking of a claim by condemnation, Section 9; taking by condemnation of a scenic easement, Section 6; or taking by denial of a water resources permit, Section 7; will be compensated under the Act and the dollar costs must be presented in the study report).

To this characterization we compare the current situation, the no action alternative. - - - Currently, Superior, as the holder of valid existing mining claims located on National Forest System lands, is required to conduct operations in accordance with Forest Service regulations as set forth in 36 CFR, Part 252 - Minerals. These regulations provide for the minimizing of adverse environmental impacts on surface resources. The management of the mineral resource is the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior. Mining operations can be conducted only after the Forest Service approval of a plan of operations which must set forth the operator's intentions to minimize adverse environmental impacts including: Air Quality; Water Quality; Solid Wastes; Scenic Values; Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat; Roads; and Reclamation. Certification or other approval issued by State agencies or other Federal agencies of compliance with laws and regulations relating to mining operations will be accepted as compliance with similar or parallel requirements of the Part 252.8 regulations. The Forest Service will review the proposed operations and prepare an environmental statement, if required, in accordance with NEPA and Part 252.4 of the regulations.

Currently, the Forest Service is managing portions of the lands included in and adjacent to the study area as wilderness (Segment 2); wilderness reverting to multiple use pending settlement of a lawsuit (Segment 3); and, as multiple use (Segment 4). The Forest Service has developed planning regulations (36 FR, Part 219) to meet the requirements of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable

Resources Planning Act of 1974 and NEPA which prescribe how land and resource management planning is to be conducted on Forest System lands. The resulting plans are to provide for multiple use and sustained yield of goods and services from the National Forest System. These plans are to be based on a number of principles, including: consideration of the relative values of all renewable resources, including the relationship of mineral resources to these renewable resources; establishment of goals and objectives for the sustained yield of products and services; a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to ensure coordination and integration of planning activities for multiple-use management; management in a manner that is sensitive to economic efficiency; and responsiveness to changing conditions in the land and changing social and economic demands of the American people. In general, the land and resource management planning process will include adherence to the NEPA environmental process and other laws, executive orders, regulations and Forest Service Policy. The plans are to specifically consider the effects of mineral exploration and development in the planning area, including: (if available) active area mines; outstanding or reserved mineral rights; probable occurrence of various minerals; potential for future mineral development; and, the probable effect of renewable resource allocations and management on mineral resources. This planning process for the Sequoia National Forest is underway.

In summary, the current minerals situation in the forest (the no action alternative) provides for the responsible development of mineral resources on the part of both the operator and the Forest Service. A similar situation exists for all other forest resources, including water development, timber, grazing, and recreation.

Tungsten warrants special mention at this time as its importance to the U.S. was not considered in the DEIS. Tungsten is a strategic mineral. The usefulness of tungsten is related to its high melting point and its high tensile strength (highest of all metals). End uses include metal working machinery, tool steel, turbines, rocket nozzles, electrical equipment, lamp filaments, and inorganic chemicals. According to USGS Professional Paper 820, increasing demand has been met by new deposits, processing of low-grade deposits, recycling, and imports. The Subcommittee on Mines and Mining of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in its report U.S. Minerals Vulnerability: National Policy Implications, stated that the U.S. was 59% dependent upon imports to meet 1979 U.S. requirements. The report points out that some of the significant problems caused by import reliance are local economy (employment and tax base)

vulnerability to supply disruptions (national security) and balance of payments. The problems result from the improper consideration of minerals in land use decisions and the uncertainty in application of environmental regulations to a project.

Specific Comments

Having said all of this, we present our specific comments on the DEIS and the selection of a preferred alternative.

Comment 1 - The action was properly scoped in accordance with NEPA. The impacts of designation or non-designation upon mining were properly identified as a significant issue. Why was Interior (under the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970) not requested to make the expertise of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey available as a cooperating agency? Similarly, why not California Division of Mines and Geology? Why were these groups not consulted? Why was no Forest Service Minerals Specialist a member of the study team or even consulted?

6 | Comment 2 - The description of the affected environment is inadequate because it does not address the following questions derived from the identification of mining and minerals as a significant issue:

What are the known and probable minerals which do or could occur in the corridor and adjacent lands? What strategic minerals occur or could occur in the corridor? What is the importance of these minerals to the local economy, tax base and service requirements? What is the importance to the U.S. economy, including employment, balance of payments, taxes and national security? Are any of these minerals important energy supplies? What is their importance? What are the known and probable reserves in the corridor and adjacent lands? What grade? How many claims currently exist which could be affected by designation and result in U.S. costs for acquisition? What are the current land use plans for the area (current Golden Trout which will be modified as the plan is proposed, the current Sequoia Plan which is being modified, Little Kern, Cannell Meadows, Hot Springs, Rincon, National Park Service, State of California and Tulare County)? How do these current plans treat mining as a valid land use?

It is not surprising to us that authors conclude that the "extent of recoverable minerals is unknown and that the potential for expansion opportunities" is also unknown. We suggest that this is due to the fact that no good faith effort was made to identify resources. No one with mineral expertise was included in or consulted by the study team. The statement will not be adequate until proper consideration is given to known and probable mineral occurrences in terms of type, reserves, and grade. The public, decision makers, and the Congress must have more information about a matter of national importance before they can act to enhance (non-designation) foreclose or curtail (designation) its development.

Comment 3 - The affected environment description of the DEIS is inadequate because the study area is improperly defined. Under Section 7 of the Act as expanded in Agriculture's proposed rule found in 46 FR 44007, no agency shall assist by license any water resources project that would have an adverse and direct effect on the values for which a river was established. Nothing shall preclude the licensing of a project which will not unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational and fish and wildlife values present in the area on the date of approval of this Act. In our conversations with Forest Service personnel, we were told that this portion of the Act and the proposed rule were not our concern, that these rules were for other agencies and were not the concern of private developers. The provisions of NEPA require that a statement assess both the direct and indirect effects and their significance. Therefore, if effects are to be properly assessed, the entire area potentially affected must be described in the affected environmental section. With this in mind, the following information answering these questions must be included in the DEIS.

What are the mineral and other development projects in the entire Kern River drainage which would have the potential to be affected by the action being considered? What is the agricultural dependence of Kern and Tulare Counties upon the North Fork Kern? What is the status of the current groundwater resource in the area recharged by the Kern? What are the desires of the agricultural interests in increasing the water yield of the North Fork Kern?

Comment 4 - The alternatives and consequences section of the DEIS is not adequate because substantial issues are not addressed. The alternatives and consequences section does not clearly address the effects upon the actual and potential minerals resource because nothing is known about the resource. In order to properly assess consequences and evaluate alternatives, the following issues must be addressed:

What are the changes in management direction of minerals development under the various alternatives? General statements do not allow evaluation of consequences. What are the values of resources which will be enhanced, foreclosed or curtailed by the selection of a particular alternative? What are the additional costs likely to be incurred on the part of developers in complying with specific management guidelines? Will these costs substantially affect the operations? What additional times may be expected in the permitting cycle due to agriculture's required approval of non-agriculture jurisdictional permits?

What additional study requirements are likely to be incurred in proving the action will not unreasonably diminish? What is the definition of unreasonably diminish? What will be the costs to the local economy in terms of tax base and employment should developments be foreclosed or curtailed? What will the costs be to the national economy in terms of increased dependence upon imports for tungsten and other minerals, including taxes not paid, minerals vulnerability, and balance of payments? What will be the national economic loss due to any foreclosed or curtailed agricultural water developments?

Comment 5 - The DEIS states that condemnation will not occur and consequently no additional costs will accrue to the Federal government except for possibly some unquantified costs for scenic easements. Given the 1872 Mining Laws and the restrictions placed upon mining by Section 9 of the Act, we believe that operators foreclosed or curtailed would consider designation as taking and look for compensation as condemnation. What are these costs?

11

We believe that the Section 6 condemnation of scenic easements curtailing mining activities would result in "taking" and result in significant compensation. What are these costs? We believe that the denial of a water resources permit (intake structure, diversion structure, settling pond outfall, etc.) which was otherwise valid but denied under the Section 7 rule would be "taking" and would result in compensation. What are these costs? What are the increased administrative costs associated with designation? How can these costs be estimated without knowing what guidelines and management policies are proposed for the area?

Comment 6 - Sections 1 and 2 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that rivers eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall be free-flowing streams which possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural and other similar values. The primary objective of the North Fork Kern River Wild and Scenic Study was to determine if the defined segments of the North Fork Kern River meet these eligibility criteria.

The results of eligibility evaluation inferred that 4 of the 5 study segments were eligible for inclusion into the system. Only Segment 5 was defined as ineligible because it contained no outstandingly remarkable resource values. We disagree with the eligibility evaluation and feel that the conclusions reached are unsubstantiated in the study report or the supporting technical working papers. In order to explain the specific points of disagree-

ment it is necessary to review the key conditions of the eligibility criteria, free-flowing and outstandingly remarkable resource values.

Free-Flowing Considerations

Section 15(b) of the Act defines free-flowing as meaning "existing or free-flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping or other modification of the waterway." The study concluded that all segments under investigation were eligible for inclusion under this definition. Southern California Edison Company's diversion for hydroelectric power generation and other diversions which occur in Segment 4 were judged to be minor by the study team and were regarded as justifiable exceptions.

Although Section 15(b) of the Act does state that minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion shall not automatically bar its consideration; the definition does not define minor or specific criteria for justifiable exceptions. The term "automatically bar its consideration" implies that Congress intended that exceptions should be recognized only for compelling reasons and that any exception should be justified and supported. The study report does not justify or support the exception for the diversion in Segment 4.

12 | It is our opinion that the hydroelectric diversion in Segment 4 does affect the free-flowing nature of the North Fork Kern River and the resource values present in the area. This position is supported by the fact that the flow in the 15 mile river segment downstream of the diversion is not of a natural condition as required under the Act, but rather is artificially regulated according to a release schedule implemented to maintain a minimum instream flow for fish maintenance. According to information contained in the study report and working papers, this diversion has and continues to have a significant negative effect on visual, recreation, fish and wildlife, and other resource values present in Segment 4. For example, the affected environment section of the study report states "the greatest change in trout habitat occurs below the diversion dam where reduced flows, warmer water temperatures and the presence of large numbers of non-game fish have reduced the wild trout population to only 1 percent of the total fish biomass for this stretch of the river.

The information available clearly demonstrates that the Kern River No. 3 diversion is not a minor structure and that Segment 4 is not eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Comment 7 - Outstandingly Remarkable Considerations - In order to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System the segments identified for study must possess at least one outstandingly remarkable resource value. Neither the Act nor the 1970 Guidelines provide a definition of outstandingly remarkable value. To facilitate a consistent, unbiased use of the term outstandingly remarkable for the North Fork Kern River eligibility evaluation the study team developed the following definition: "Outstandingly remarkable features include those which possess high ecologic, scientific, educational, aesthetic, historic, recreational, or social values and are relatively unusual or unique when considered in a regional comparison to the Sierra Nevada, the nation, or the world". To be outstandingly remarkable features, the resource must be of high value and unusual or unique. Resources which are of high value, but which are not particularly unusual or unique to the study area were defined as special features.

Although we do not totally agree with the definition used in this evaluation, we support a need for a method to consistently quantify and document outstandingly remarkable features. Since determination of values is a professional judgement, the process used to reach that determination and the information to substantiate it should be well documented.

In review of the study report and supporting working papers we are of the opinion that the definition of outstandingly remarkable features was not consistently applied by the resource specialist in the classification of resource values; and in many cases the outstandingly remarkable features identified do not meet the two requirements specified in the definition.

Since Segments 1 and 2 are located entirely in designated Wilderness or National Park Lands, our comments on the outstandingly remarkable evaluations will be limited to Segments 3 and 4. This does not imply that we concur with the resource evaluations for Segments 1 and 2 contained in the study report, but rather relates to the fact that these segments are currently managed as wilderness and, consequently, the potential implications of these evaluations are insignificant.

Segment 3 contained two resources with values judged to contain outstandingly remarkable value, visual and recreation. The visual resources working paper identifies areas of Segment 3 which have scenic value, but based on the authors' discussion of visual units it appears that this segment contains no high values. Furthermore, under comparison with other rivers in Section #(1)(h) on Page 26 of the visual working paper, the author states that "this section of the river

13 is very similar to other typical Sierra rivers in its bedrock conditions and vegetated slopes." This sentence is the only comparison provided for in this segment and no unusual or unique values were identified. Consequently, by the study team's definition, Segment 3 does not contain outstandingly remarkable visual resource values and this resource can not be used as an eligibility criteria for this segment. The results of this evaluation are consistent with those contained in the Final Environmental Statement (EIS) for the Little Kern Land Use Plan. The Little Kern Planning Area is included in portions of the wild and scenic study area; the EIS contained an evaluation of the Rincon Roadless Area for wilderness classification. The Rincon Roadless Area is the eastern boundary of Segment 3 and, consequently, the overall visual quality of Segment 3 should be somewhat comparable to Segment 3. The Rincon received a total visual ranking of 10 out of 20 which corresponds to a low to moderate overall visual quality.

It is our opinion that the outstandingly remarkable recreation value for Segment 3 is not substantiated by the study report or the supporting working papers. Furthermore, these documents do not even define the basis for determining recreational value or quantifying this value so it can be compared on a regional basis for unusual or unique qualities as required to apply the definition of outstandingly remarkable values.

Recreation by definition requires the use of the land for some type of activity. Without use the land only holds recreation potential. If recreation potential is to be used as a basis to establish values, then these values can be defined only with considerations of the basic land use objectives to be achieved through land management practices (multiple use planning) and the present and future demand for various recreation activities. The recreation study did not give any considerations to these factors even though one of the issues identified as part of the scoping process specifically addressed these factors. The issue as stated in the study report was: "What are the desired levels of recreational experience, types of activities, and kinds of developments appropriate for the river?" The response to this issue in the study report simply stated the management constraints on recreation if the river were designated as wild or recreational, and made no attempt to address the issue stated. Without adequate data to define the recreational needs of the citizens who utilize the Sequoia National Forest, definition of Forest Service management planning which affects recreational use, and the development of an evaluation basis which allows quantification and comparison of recreational

values, the evaluation of value must be based on existing recreational use. In this regard, Segment 3 receives very limited recreational use because of lack of access and this segment would have to be given a low to moderate recreational value classification.

14 | Segment 4 contained one resource value judged to be outstandingly remarkable, wildlife. This classification was based solely on the presence of a yet undescribed or accepted species of slender salamander. Until the taxonomy of this salamander is resolved there is no assurance that it is a true species and not a hybrid of other species of salamanders in the valley. Consequently, we do not believe it is appropriate to define a segment of a river eligible for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System based on a single outstandingly remarkable value which may be found invalid in the future. Furthermore, since the potential species has been located in only three small areas on the Sequoia National Forest, we feel the public and the salamander would be better served by establishing management plans to protect these specific areas rather than to manage 14 miles of river to a recreational classification. If the salamander is determined to be a true rare species in the future, then it and its habitat would be eligible for protection under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act. This action would provide considerably more protection than the recreational designation.

In summary, the proposed outstandingly remarkable features of Segments 3 and 4 do not seem to hold up to critical review of the criteria and our understanding of the intent of the Act and other Forest Service actions.

Summary and Conclusions

Based upon our analysis we believe that the no-action alternative (non-designation) would be most appropriate. We have seen that the scoping process defined the development of water resources and recreation, the impacts upon minerals and mining, and the need to acquire private lands as significant issues. However, the minerals and water resources issues were not adequately addressed in the DEIS or considered under the concept of land uses, enhanced foreclosed or curtailed. The issue of real costs to the government for taking mineral resources was not hinted at nor was the issue of acquisition of mining claims as private lands. No existing or alternative recreational development plans were presented or analyzed other than those associated with Elephant Knob Reservoir. There are valid concerns with the determination of Segment 3's qualification as outstandingly remarkable due to contradictions in the Rincon determination versus the DEIS and evaluation criteria. Also, the definition of "outstandingly remarkable" changes for recreation and confusion enters due to real recreational use versus potential uses. Segment 4 is quite simply ineligible due to its not meeting the definition of "free-flowing". Additionally, the determination that the unnamed salamander is "outstandingly remarkable" is somewhat suspect. This leaves alternatives D and E. We believe that alternative D is probably not viable because no consideration was given to the Forks Reservoir and its potential benefits to the downstream irrigation operations, Kernville flood control, recreation use, and potential to generate power. Consequently, we believe that Alternative E - No designation - (no action) is the only supportable alternative based upon the Act and the information presented for analysis.

Response to Robley E. Berry (Superior Oil)

1. Corrections based on your comments have been made. As you suggested, we have involved our Forest Service mineral specialist, and have met with other agencies involved with minerals and mines to develop working papers to identify potential problems and concerns. We have examined the minerals and mining needs extensively and this report reflects the new information. Working papers have been developed and portions incorporated into this report. See the list of organizations and persons consulted at end of the report for additional information (pages 97-98).
2. Because of your concern we have contacted and coordinated our DEIS review with the U.S. Bureau of Mines and California Divisions of Mines and Geology. We do not feel that the agencies need to be cooperating agencies as defined in the Act in order to properly address the minerals issue.
3. Thanks for your comments and concerns. Corrections based on your comments and the working papers have been made in the final report.
4. See pages 82 and 83 for references and summary of notable impacts.
5. Minerals under Federal land in the river study corridor are withdrawn during the study period or no longer than five years - in this case, until November 10, 1983. If the river is designated by law, minerals remain withdrawn in Wild segments only, not in Scenic or Recreation segments.
6. See above responses! The revised Minerals Working Paper is available for your review.
7. As you indicate, this is still a proposed rule and has not been considered in our EIS. It is our understanding that the rule is undergoing extensive revision from the proposal published in the Federal Register, and we don't know what the final outcome will be.

8. This information has been added to the working papers and incorporated into the Final EIS.
9. Ground water recharge and the effect on agricultural interests are issues peripheral to this study because of potential reservoir sites. However, they did not emerge during scoping as central issues and we did not develop data for them.
10. There will be potential increases of expenses to the agency and private individuals if the river is designated. The total costs will not be available until the management plan is developed or realistic data is available for cost determinations.
11. We anticipate no "taking" of valid existing rights as a result of the recommendation in our EIS. As mentioned before, Section 7 rulemaking is not final as of this date.
12. After re-evaluating your comment, we feel no change in eligibility is necessary. We have incorporated additional information regarding the Fairview Dam in the EIS. It remains our opinion that the Fairview Dam and impoundment qualifies under the exception in Section 15(b) of the Act, though we agree that its existence diminishes the value of recommending river Segment 4 for designation.
13. After re-evaluating your concerns, no change is necessary. The North Fork of the Kern River was judged to have outstandingly remarkable scenery and recreation attributes.
14. Your comments regarding the slender salamander are well taken, and our Wildlife Working Paper has been updated. Since this species must be fully protected right now, designation of Segment 4 offers no additional protection, but may introduce further threat due to increased recreational use. In our opinion, the salamander remains an Outstandingly Remarkable feature but we agree it is not sufficient in itself to cause us to recommend river Segment 4 for designation.

METAL TECH EXPLORATION, INC.
P.O. BOX XX
LAKE ISABELLA, CA. 93240

Heinle *JFH*
1.18.82

Jan. 12, 1982

JA

Joe J. Brown, Forest Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest
900 W. Grand Ave.
Porterville, Ca. 93257

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
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Dear Mr. Brown:

Per our conversation at your office on Jan. 11, 1982, this is to request that your office extend the deadline for public input on your Draft Invironmental Impact Report, North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River.

1 | We herewith ask that a new deadline be set at February 22, 1982. This will enable us, and others, to assimilate the facts that you have requested.

As you know, some of this information is coming to us from outside sources, and therefore the time of arrival is out of our control. We will be in contact with you at the earliest possible time following the arrival of this information.

You know that we are opposed to this project on the basis of several incorrect facts and conclusions contained in your report. Detailed reasons for this opposition will follow shortly.

Thanks again for meeting with us and for your interest in our position on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Darwin P. Wade

DARVIN P. WADE
President

SEQUOIA NF

JAN 14 1982

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DPW:cw

Response to Darwin P. Wade (Metal Tech Exploration, Inc.)

1. Public comment period was not extended beyond January 19, 1982, but additional time was granted specifically to Metal Tech Exploration, Inc. and others who made written request prior to 1/19/82.

REGIONAL & FOREST PLAN RESPONDENT IDENTIFIER										
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Jan. 18, 1982

Mr. Joe Brown, Forest Supervisor
 Sequoia National Forest
 900 W. Grand Ave.
 Porterville, Ca. 93257

Dear Mr. Brown:

Your "Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Study Report, North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study" contains several errors, misstatements of facts, and therefore incorrect conclusions have been drawn. Other statements made are merely misleading.

At James Heinle's request, I will address each of the points on a page by page basis to assist your office in re-evaluating this report.

Summary, P. ii, Paragraph 5; "The upper 47.5 miles....." This statement would be more appropriate as justification for Alternatives C & D as it applies to only part of alternative A. It is also incorrect in that mining claims by now be filed on Wilderness area land, and it would not be allowed on Scenic River unit land.

Page iii, Para. 1; "The eligible river" Last sentence; False. Designation will prohibit future mining claims and/or expansion.

P. iii, Para. 5; "Neither..."; This is a false conclusion based on incorrect facts, and raises the question, Known by whom??? Both grazing and mineral reserves will be discussed below at the appropriate point.

P. 3, Para. 6, "Alternative B...." This statement is false as there are known significant mineral values, and cattle movements in Segment 3, to be outlined below.

P. iv, Para. 4, "Nondisignation of..." This statement is true and is the most compelling possible reason for Alternative E, as it imposes no new restrictions, confesses that there are already enough, does not increase the size of government, and therefore it's costs.

P. iv, Para 3, "Designation of..."; This statement is false as designation will have significant economic costs to the area and the nation, to be outlined below. I also consider the immediate 15% increase in use and damage as significant environmental cost, as outlined in your draft E.I.S.

P. iv, Para. 5 "Alternative A..." Your choice of this alternative A may well prove to be inadvisable and perhaps indefensible upon consideration of the costs to the nation to be outlined below.

Page 10, Para 3, "The N.F...."; How is it influenced by the "Hot Desert (Mojave)? It is not in the Mojave Desert, and no explanation is evident in your report.

P. 11, Para. 3, "Small..."; This statement shows an almost total lack of knowledge about the true mineral values in this area. John Nicholl and Superior Oil Co. are actively developing a tungsten and molybdenum resource of considerable size. There are known tungsten deposits around the entire Kern River Valley area. The statement implies that these are the only minerals of any value in the area, when, in fact, there are known deposits of at least 8 strategic minerals, traces of at least 12 other minerals in addition to gold and silver, and the possibility of several others lying in the corridor that are currently known to exist in the surrounding area.

P. 11. Para. 6, "Two small..."; As noted above, the reference to one of the mines as "small" is subjective, and may be considered by many as incorrect, or misleading. It also implies, incorrectly, that those two "small" mines are the only mining activity in the area. As you now know from our conversations, there are now more under development.

P. 14, Para 5, "Because of..."; When is the last official sighting of a California Condor in this area? By whom?

P. 22, Para. 3, "Since the..." This sentence is worded in a manner designed to lead the reader into the mistaken conclusion that significant mining and grazing operations do not exist, particularly in the area surrounding the study. This broad statement is further undermined due to the lack of a definition of the "drainage immediately surrounding the study corridor." How far is immediately? Does this refer to the entire drainage of the river, only that portion within sight of the river, one mile from the river, or what? In any case, the statement is still false. As your office is well aware, the Joughin Ranch, Wofford Ranch, Kissack Ranch, Guthrie Ranch, Carver Ranch, and Shannon Ranch all have Forest Service leases to graze cattle on both sides of the river all the way up to the upriver wilderness areas. These cattle must be moved in and out of the areas along the river trail. They must also graze on proposed corridor land and cross it repeatedly for water from the river. There is no practical way to keep them out. I don't believe that any of the ranchers listed would consider their grazing operations as not being significant. Since our conversation at your office on Jan. 12, 1982, I know that you are now aware that this statement about significant mining resources is false, but this statement about the surrounding area having no mining operations is wrong by billions of dollars. It is now, and has historically been, a very active mining area, as the entire area is highly mineralized.

P. 27, Para. 2, "Timber, mining..." Mining and grazing resources in this area are extensive in this area, as pointed out above. The last sentence implies that the future expansion of mining opportunities is rather nebulous. Not so. The economic viability of tungsten, gold, silver, and the major ore bodies of strategic minerals already known to exist is already well established on the open market.

P. 28, Para. 1, "As with..."; The second sentence implies that gold was the only significant historic mining in the area, when, in fact, copper, lead, silver, and tungsten have all been mined in commercial quantities off and on since the 1880's.

P. 34, Para. 1, "This segment..." This statement misleads the reader into believing that there are no business or commercial facilities at all. Not true, as I am sure that the owner's of Road's End Resort, Johnny McNally's Fairview Lodge, and the Lazy River Lodge will agree. Three lodges, two grocery stores, two cocktail Lounges, and three ice dispensing stations, while perhaps not qualifying as major facilities, certainly do deserve recognition as being in existence when their presence is so important to the users of the area.

P. 38, Map. Wilderness area boundaries should be shown on this map, since they are discussed in the report.

P. 43. Para. 2, "Several alternative..."; I submit that alternative A is not economically feasible, due to cost to the nation of billions of dollars in strategic minerals that occur in the corridor. I further submit that alternative B may not be economically feasible, in that some strategic minerals are known to exist in sections 2 & 3 of the corridor. More exploration will be required to determine their extent, which requirement requires more time than will be available before the areas are withdrawn from further mining development if this proposal is passed by congress. Alternative C is equally counterproductive.

P. 45, Para 1, "The only..."; The key to this paragraph is that possible dam and reservoir construction is "economically infeasible" with respect to "Current management policies.." (emphasis mine). This presents a very short-sighted view of the economics of energy development in view of the near vertical raise in energy prices in recent years, and extremely unstable nature of the energy producing areas of the world. I submit that the options be left open for the future development of these possible dams, and that they each be considered on their own merits (or lack thereof) when the time comes. Future increases in oil prices may very well make these projects vital to the nation security. They should not be automatically be stopped by a blanket proposal such as this. The benefit to cost ratio would change dramatically if the cost of oil should double or triple again.

P. 47, Table IV-1, "Geology & Soils..."; The term "Insignificant" is now known to be totally inappropriate, under headings for alternatives A & B, and alternative C will have to be rewritten to reflect the tremendous loss of mineral resources. The last sentence of the "NOTE" at the bottom should have the phrase, "at today's energy prices." added to the end.

P. 48, Para. 2, "Designation of..."; Designation of the upper segments would make a significant change by removing any possibility of mining claims being filed. Segment 3 in not managed essentially as wilderness in regards to mining operations, as motorized vehicles and equipment are now allowed in the area.

P. 48, Para. 3, "The primary..." What are the "certain restrictions" that existing mines would be subject to? Within Segment 4, there is at least one active gold mine, and the John Nicholl property extends South out of Segment 3 to a point South of Brush Creek Road, and will be restricted by designation of either segment. Metals Tech Exploration is currently in the process of re-opening eight mines and will soon be producing from a major new ore discovery of strategic metals. The last two sentences are misleading and/or false. Section 9. (a) (iii) of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. states: "subject to valid existing rights, the mineral in Federal lands which are part of the systemare hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from operation of the mineral leasing laws..." Future exploration could NOT occur. I submit that this entire paragraph is vague, misleading, contains false statements and conclusions, and should be rewritten completely.

P. 51, Para. 3, "No significant..."; The subjective use of the word significant is misleading. Your own report states an expected 15% increase in use and damage to the environment. Many people would consider this unnecessary increase as significant. How is this increase in damage going to be so selective that it will only effect game species that are not rare, threatened, endangered, or game species?

P. 53, Para. 1, "Minimal..."; If "commercial or industrial use of the corridor above the county line would be prevented," how are the miners going to file for Mill sites and build the necessary structures on them to properly operate their mines?

P. 53, Para. 2, "it is not..."; Owner's of the private land feel that designation of Segment 4 would inhibit the value of their land because the Forest Service would be more likely to oppose them at Planning Commission hearings, and invoke Scenic Easement condemnation if they wish. This could occur over the building of homes, barns, tool sheds, bunkhouse, etc., along the river on their own private property. I would also like to point out that such decisions, being subjective, will be made based on standards that will change from one administration to the next.

A further consideration should be made regarding Scenic Easements that you have not addressed at all in your Draft E.I.S. Section 15 (c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states: "Scenic easement means the right control the use of land (including the air space above such land) within the authorized boundries..." Such authority over the air space could lead to restrictions being placed on the land owner who may wish to use his land for any type of aircraft operations (including mine surveying, timber harvesting, etc.), restrictions on the military who currently fly through at low altitudes on training flights (the entire area is in a Military Operations Area), or restrictions on aircraft descending to, or departing from, the Kern Valley Airport. While no such restrictions are contemplated now, the door would be open under subsequent administrations.

P. 56, Para 3, "The ourstandingly..."; This increased impact is justification for recommendation of Alternative E.

P. 56, Para 4, "The impacts..."; There would be very significant changes in the projected trends for the local economy. Your incorrect conclusion was based on incorrect projected trends, do to your lack of knowledge about significant changes soon to take place here, primarily in the field of mineral resources. The last sentence that "There will be no impact on the timber industry, nor any significant adverse effects on agriculture or grazing" is also misleading. Section 12 (a) of the W. & S.R. Act states "...Particular attention shall be given to scheduled timber harvesting, road construction, and similar activities which might be contrary to the purposes of this Act." This does not imply "no" impact. Adverse effects on agriculture or grazing are also open to question in view of the Forest Service Guidelines empasizing "Collective intent" of the Act to preserve the resource to be included, and the areas "immediately surrounding the unit."

P. 57. Para 2, "On the..."; In view of present plans to develop mineral resources in the area, "...restricting expanded commercial ventures in Segment 4" would damage the future of the local economy by huge amounts, as opposed to the small increase that could be realized from tourism.

P. 57. Para 4, "The impacts..."; This entire paragraph is false except for the part about existing operations having more restrictions placed on them. Your department has almost no knowledge of the potential mining in this area. The entire region is very highly mineralized, and has been mined for over 100 years. Significant mining activity is being developed at this very moment, and would already be much more apparent if it were not for the time, expense, and energy being expended to correct the major errors of fact and the conclusion drawn from them, contained in this report.

P. 58. Para 5, "This alternative..." Another incorrect statement that reflects lack of knowledge of the Act, and the mineral resources contained in Segments 3 & 4.

P. 76. Para 2, "Alternative A..."; The removal of mineral claim rights belies this statement and the conclusions drawn from it. Because Alternative A is not similar to existing management direction, the Principles and Standards accounts show minimal changes in national economic development, regional economic, and other social effect incorrectly.

P. 76. Para 3, "The NED..."; The last sentence is icorrect. The natural resources are of major significance, not minor, to commercial interests, the local, regional, and national economies, and to the ational defense.

P. 77, Para. 7, "None of..."; False statement. Alternatives A, B, and C would all withdraw significant resources from development as previously noted. Also, note the unfavorable benefit to cost ratios would only be accurate at today's energy and water prices. The last sentence, appearing on P. 78, should be corrected also for reasons previously stated.

5 | P. 79, Para 1, "The income..."; The basic assumptions used for table V-2 totally ignores mineral income even though this reports acknowledges that some small mines are in operation. It appears that no effort was expended to contact those mines for estimates of income, present and future, nor was any contact made with any of the ranches holding grazing leases along the up river area to determine any possible impact on cattle grazing or movement along the river.

P. 81, ble V-1; The total adverse effect on the national economy will exceed \$1 Billion from lost mineral resources alone. This figure is conservately based on the resources known at this moment. Estimates are being upgraded almost weekly, and the known resources may well exceed \$5 Billion within the year. This table of will have to completely revised.

P. 82, Table V-2; Not only are the "Adverse effects" not even close to reality, as noted above, the conclusions near the bottom opposite the heading "Economic Stability in Tulare-Kern County" are wrong, particularly under the headings for Alternatives B & E.

P. 83, Table V-3; Mineral Resources, as a group, are not shown at all.

P. 84, Table V-4; The "Emergency Preparedness" group ignores Strategic Minerals. When the value of these minerals is added, all of the other figures on the chart become almost insignificant.

P. 86, Para 1, "Either Alternative..." In view of the tremendous adverse cost to the nation of Alternative A, it is no longer well suited to be the preferred alternative. There are huge economic, and significant social, effects between your two most preferred Alternatives (A & E), therefore, I submit that Alternative E should be your recommendation for the Preferred Alternative.

P. 86, Para. 3, "Alternative A..." (Continues on Page 87, as Para. 1; To paraphrase, "It is anticipated that mere classification will accelerate the adverse affect to certain remarkable features in the resource inventory...", and in view of the "...increased administration and operating costs...", Alternative E, again is the most appropriate classification.

P. 87, Para 3, "Alternatives C..."; Alternatives C & D should not be grouped together due to the large adverse impact of C, as noted previously.

P. 87, Para. 4, "In the..."; This paragraph, being a "final analysis," of incorrect information is inappropriate, and should be rewritten in it's entirety.

P. 88, Para 2, "Based on..."; The "...analysis presented in this report..." was based on one or more false premises, and must be reevaluated. Alternative A, therefore, should not be the preferred alternative.

P. 95, Para. 1, "The Recreational..."; False statement! A full range of agriculture and other resource uses is NOT allowed, especially mineral resources.

P. 95, Para. 3, "Only one..."; It should be noted that the benefit to cost ratio is based on today's energy and water costs, and no allowance is made for future price increases.

P. 96, Para. 4, "Existing mining..."; The last sentence states that new or expanded mining may be allowed in Recreational segments. This is vague and ambiguous, and subject to the whims of the administration currently in power. Major investments in the developement of strategic minerals for the best interests of this county must have a better foundation than that.

P. 96, Para. 1, "Should the..."; Since this question implies that the Trans-Sierra corridor is considered as a seperate issue, it should be an option that is left open for future State officials to decide on it's own merits. A change of administration in California may well install persons that are intested in building highways, instead of Rapid Transit Studies.

P. 97, ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONSULTED, *en totalis*; This list does not include one single name showing that anyone was consulted such as the ranchers using the area under Forest Service, or public land, leases. It shows that no consultation occurred with timber and mining interests. This is indeed curious in view of the long history of all three industries in this area.

In summary, the draft report draws conclusions from both incorrect and incomplete facts. These conclusions, therefore, are not only suspect, but in several cases, point in directions opposing logical conclusions based on complete information about the given subject.

Please be assured that while this letter appears intirely negative, that is only because of the nature of it's contents, not from the intent of myself, or those I have consulted, to criticize the many individuals that have worked long and hard to compile the report. Constructive criticism, at best, is hard to maintain on a high plane, but that is truly the intent of this rather extensive critique, and I hope it will be received and used within that framework.

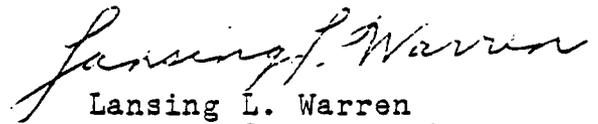
In conclusion, I believe that my study of your draft report has been proven to be rather exhaustive. I have gathered and presented to you information that was omitted from your report that has a major impact on your conclusions. I have presented it in a form that should allow you to consider alterations to a great deal of the report. I hope it proves to be a valuable tool in your reevaluation of your recommendations.

I think it obvious by now, that based on your findings, and well as mine, that I believe that Alternative E is the best possible designation for North Fork of the Kern River. Alternative D would be my second choice.

In view of the fact that so much information is missing from the report, I request that your Jan. 19, 1982, deadline for public comment be extended for 30 days to allow contacts to be made with the ranchers and other users of the area that have not been contacted yet.

If I may be of any further service to you in this matter, please feel free to contact me, for I am

Sincerely yours,



Lansing L. Warren
P O Box 217
Wofford Ht., Ca. 93385

cc: Wm. M. Thomas
Phil Wyman
John Brock, Sec. Agriculture
James Watt, Sec. Interior
Sec. U.S. Army

Chairman, Federal Power Commission
Director, Federal Aviation Agency

Response to Lansing Warren

1. After re-evaluation of your page-by-page points of concern, the study team has made corrections where appropriate. As pointed out in other responses, working papers have been developed because of your concern on minerals and mining. The Final EIS now reflects our findings resulting from the additional analysis and other agency input. For additional information on your concerns see response for Robley E. Berry (Superior Oil) and John Nicoll (grazing interest).
2. If the river is designated, future exploration could occur in Scenic or Recreation segments.
3. The final recommended alternative leaves open the possibility for mill sites.
4. It is our opinion that aircraft operations are of little consequence in relation to management of river segments 1 through 4, and we foresee no conflict whether or not the river is designated.
5. Economic Tables for mining have been revised (see Chapter V).

Individuals (organizations) who selected Alternative B and required no response. Examples of these letters follow the listed names.

JOHN E. BETHELL

VALENCIA, CA

PHILIP GANONG

BAKERSFIELD, CA

CLAIRE HEMINGWAY

KERNVILLE, CA

MICHAEL L. LEKAS

SAN CLEMENTE, CA

JAMES R. LIGHTFOOT

PORTERVILLE, CA

The Bethell, Lightfoot letters were printed as being typical of the concerns of this group.

NORTH FORK KERN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
OCTOBER 21, 1981

PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than
JAN 19 1982.

NAME: John E. Bethell
ADDRESS: 27211 Henry Mayo Dr,
Valencia, Ca. 91355
ZIP CODE: 91355

Please return to:

Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

AFFILIATION (Optional)
Government Agency (Specify)

Industry (Specify)

Interested Citizen _____
Environmental/Conservation Org.
(Specify)

Other (Specify)
R. M. Pyles Boys Camp

NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

_____ Do not include my name in the record.
(X)

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

2nd Choice

Some concern about impact on private property owners with existing businesses - am aware of the intent of Alternative A, but administrations do change and property does change hands (ownership).

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

1st Choice

I do favor this plan because of my concern listed previously under Alternative A. The present management seems to be keeping the expected segment in line with the guidelines of the Wild and Scenic River Act.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

Little merit for "C".

The pristine nature of the fourteen miles between the Johnsondale ^{Bridge} and the Golden Trout Wilderness is the main criterion for the Wild and Scenic River Study!

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

The pristine quality of the Kern River between the Golden Trout Wilderness and the Johnsondale Bridge must be preserved.
No merit to "D".

4

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

NORTH FORK KERN
WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
OCTOBER 21, 1981

PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

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The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than
NOV 19 1982.

NAME: James R. Lightfoot

ADDRESS: 291 N. Main St.

Please return to:

Porterville CA.

Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

ZIP CODE: 93257

AFFILIATION (Optional)

Government Agency (Specify)

City of Porterville
City Planner

Industry (Specify)

Interested Citizen _____

Environmental/Conservation Org.
(Specify)

Other (Specify)

NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

_____ Do not include my name in the record.

(X)

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

It appears that this would be the preferred alternative, taking advantage of the benefits of Wild and Scenic River status while retaining greater control by the Forest Service for more intensively used areas below the Johnsondale Bridge. Alternative A would be a second choice.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

4

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

C-161

Individuals (organizations) who supported Alternative D and required a response.

WILLIAM RIESER

VALENCIA, CA

WILD & SCENIC RIVER STUDY/
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
OCTOBER 21, 1981

PUBLIC RESPONSE FORM:

We are requesting your comments on the alternatives analyzed for the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are providing the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study for your use as background information. This response booklet provides space for you to enter written comments. Please use this form to respond with your comments.

The completed response form must be postmarked dated no later than
JAN 19 1982.

NAME: WILLIAM R. RILSER

ADDRESS: 25585 VIA PALADAR

Please return to:

Sequoia National Forest
900 West Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

VALENCIA CALIFORNIA

ZIP CODE: 91355

AFFILIATION (Optional)

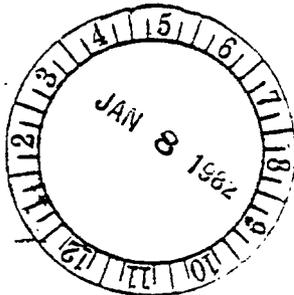
Government Agency (Specify)

Industry (Specify)

Interested Citizen X

Environmental/Conservation Org.
(Specify)

OWN APPROX 2000 FT
RIVER FRONTAGE IN SEGMENT
Other (Specify) 5



NOTE: Your responses become a part of Agency records that will be retained for 2 years after the decision has been made. Under the Freedom of Information Act 1974 regulations, these records might be accessed by the public during that period. If you do not want your name and address included in that record, please so indicate here:

_____ Do not include my name in the record.

(X)

The following spaces are provided for your convenience in commenting on the alternative described in the North Fork Kern Wild & Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Statement.

Alternative A: Designation of all eligible segments of the N.F. Kern River - 78.5 miles designated.

1 | I. QUESTION IF SEGMENT 4 IS REALLY ELIGIBLE,
AS THE DIVERSION DAM YOU CALL ~~IT~~
MINOR IS IN REALITY A MAJOR BLOCKAGE
OF THE RIVER. ALONG WITH THIS STRUCTURE
BEING A MAJOR VISUAL BLIGHT IT HAS THE
ABILITY, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, TO
DRY UP THE RIVER SOUTH OF IT.

2 | PRIVATE PROPERTY IN THIS SEGMENT SHOULD
BE DISPOSITIONED PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF
THE FINAL PLAN. IF PROPERTY IS RESTRICTED
FROM USE OR DEVELOPMENT DUE TO WILD &
SCENIC RIVER CLASSIFICATION OWNERS MUST
BE COMPENSATED FAIRLY.

Alternative B: Designation of all eligible segments except the 17-mile stretch from 1,500 feet north of Johnsondale Bridge to the Tulare-Kern County line - 61.5 miles designated.

NO COMMENT.

Alternative C: Designation of all eligible segments except the 14-mile stretch from the southern Golden Trout Wilderness boundary to 1,500 feet north of the Johnsondale Bridge - 64.5 miles designated.

I FEEL THE VALUE OF THE ELEPHANT
KNOB DAM HAS BEEN UNDERSTATED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1.) FLOOD CONTROL: LOSS OF ONE STRUCTURE COULD EXCEED THE VALUE GIVEN IN REPORT.
- 2.) POWER GENERATION: THE VALUE OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER COULD BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE IN THE FUTURE AS OIL SUPPLIES DWINDLE & AIR IS POLLUTED BY OIL GENERATED POWER.
- 3.) IF RECREATION WAS ELIMINATED AT THE RESERVOIR, COST TO RETURN FACTOR WOULD BE MORE FAVORABLE.
- 4.) MAJOR FUTURE FLOODS COULD POSE A THREAT TO ISABELLA DAM & BAKERSFIELD

Alternative D: Designation of the stretch from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the Golden Trout Wilderness - 47.5 miles designated.

THIS ALTERNATIVE IS THE MOST VIABLE AS IT ALLOWS FOR POSITIVE EXPANSION & ALSO PROVIDES FOR A WILD & SCENIC RIVER WHERE THE MEANING IS FULLY APPLICABLE.

Alternative E: No designation (no action).

I DO NOT AGREE WITH THIS ALTERNATIVE.

Other Comments (Attach additional comments if required):

WHETHER THE WILD & SCENIC RIVER CLASSIFICATION IS ADAPTED OR NOT THE FOREST SERVICE SHOULD STRIVE TO PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS BY MAKING CERTAIN THE FOREST SERVICE REGULATED ACTIVITIES ARE LEGALLY CONTROLLED. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE FOREST SERVICE ISSUES LICENSES RAFTING OVER PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT INSURING THE PROPERTY OWNERS. THIS COULD BE ELIMINATED BY MAKING RAFT TRIPS TERMINATE AT THE TULARE COUNTY LINE.

THANKS!

The Sequoia National Forest appreciates your time and effort in assisting us with the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Response to William R. Rieser

1. See response #9 to Robley Berry (Superior Oil).
2. See response #5 to John W. Nicoll.
3. After re-evaluation of your concerns and coordination with the Corps of Engineers, no changes seem necessary. All your factors were considered in the working papers or guidelines for the Elephant Knob Reservoir.

The \$400,000 flood cost is an average estimate over a twenty year period. We do not expect to have flood losses each year. In other-words, the average 20-year flood would cause \$8,000,000 damage, which translates to \$400,000 per year.

4. We don't license rafters over private property. Commercial outfitters are permitted operations on the Kern River where it flows through National Forest System Lands. With operators under permit, we can have some control over their use of the river flowing through private lands. Outside the National Forest boundaries, however, we cannot preclude it, since at that point State law regarding recreational navigability takes precedence. In our opinion, private landowners are not liable for accidents occurring on recreational navigable waters, but landowners should check with their own attorneys. Our permit systems do not authorize commercial permittees use of any private lands without the landowners explicit approval.

Individuals (organizations) who had no preference and required no response.

O.J. DAVIS

ALAMEDA, CA

Individual had no preference for an alternative but did have a concern for mining and required a response.

JOHN S. HUBERT

SAN DIEGO, CA

A	0	0	1	2	A	9	2	1	2	8
0	5									

12-1-81
File #1
NA

Mr. Joe J. Brown
 Forest Supervisor
 Sequoia National Forest
 Porterville, Calif. 93257

November 16, 1981

Jim - send copy of this letter to Joe and to you NA

Dear Mr. Brown;

While in Kernville area last week, I noted an article in the Kern Valley Sun relative to "Wild River Study". This puzzled me so I checked with Mr. Addison, District Ranger of that section of the forest. He in turn tried to help me, with information, to satisfy my curiosity.

It is noted in your Wild and Scenic River Study, also in the newspaper, that there is an error in description of Segment 3, on page 12, the underscored, also in the article in the news paper.

I am the owner of these claims. My claims lie on both the east and the west banks of the Kern River. See enclosed rough drawn maps. (Item 1) The original discovery location, made in 1962, is approximately 400 feet south of the north boundary of section 35, the N. W. corner post, on the west side of the river, is in close proximity to the line separating sections 35 and 26. This would place my claims about 4500 feet north of the bridge.

As a retired supervisor, in government service, I always tried to maintain good relations with the Rangers and other Forest supervisors, by consulting with them relative to regulations, and advising them of my intended actions in order to avoid creating problems.

Glen Smith, Art DuFault who I knew from earlier days in the Angeles Forest, and Don Overbaugh, who I have known from his days as a guard in Elizabeth Lake Canyon, will testify to this.

1 | My main interest is claim #1, where 19 years ago I found a commercial grade of ore, called Pyrrhotite. My secondary interest is the tungsten deposits. I am enclosing several separate items relative to the claims. Items, #1 will show locations of claims, #2 summary of geologists visit. #3 Explanation for delays, #4 copies of a few assay reports.

In view of the work I have done and the expense involved (approximate 30,000 dollars) and having made every effort to abide by all existing laws and rules relative to mining, I intend to hold on to my claims, even going to a friend in Congress for help if necessary. In a spirit of cooperation it is possible, through relocation, that I could eliminate the claim #5, and the portions of claims #1 and #3 which lie on the west side of the river, this would result in my having 3 claims on the east side. #s 1, 3 and 2. #2 would be adjusted to absorb #6. This also would leave free about 1000 feet north of the bridge.

I would like to compliment you on the selection of Mr R.D. Addison for District Ranger, I feel that he will be a great asset to the area and bring a great deal of credit to your department.

Respectfully yours,
John S. Hubert
 John S. Hubert
 16649 San Salvador Road
 San Diego, Calif. 92128

SEQUOIA NP
 NOV 19 1981
 PORTERVILLE
 RECEIVED

Response to John S. Hubert

1. We appreciate your spirit of cooperation with the Forest Service during this study period. We intend to work with you on any final decision that is made. Thank you for your response and concern during the Wild and Scenic River Study.

Since your claims were filed in 1977, they constitute a valid, existing right you hold which would not be removed by designation of the river. We have revised the EIS to more adequately assess effects on your claims.

During the comment period, a petition opposing designation of the North Fork Kern River was received. The petition has been typed for clarity; the actual petition is on file at the Supervisor's Office, Sequoia National Forest. One hundred and seventy-seven (177) names appeared on the petition. The petition states:

CITIZENS AGAINST THE WILD RIVER PROJECT

As citizens of the Kern Valley we feel the U.S. Forest Service is misleading the people as to the cost of the project to the public. With most of us on a fixed income they do not need any more of our money.

"DO WE NEED MORE BIKERS, VANDELIS'M (sic), DRUGS, TRAFFIC POLLUTION?"

Do you remember the 1968 Yellowstone National Park episode when the hippies took over the park CLUBING (sic) AND STONING the Forestry (sic) officials. Most of us moved to this area to get away from this sort of CRIME.

As an example the Wild Scenic River Acts Law states in Section Six (6) paragraph B, that any lands in this proposed land grab will be acquired regardless of the feeling of the involved citizens.

"DO WE NEED THIS HERE IN OUR KERN VALLEY?"

APPENDIX D

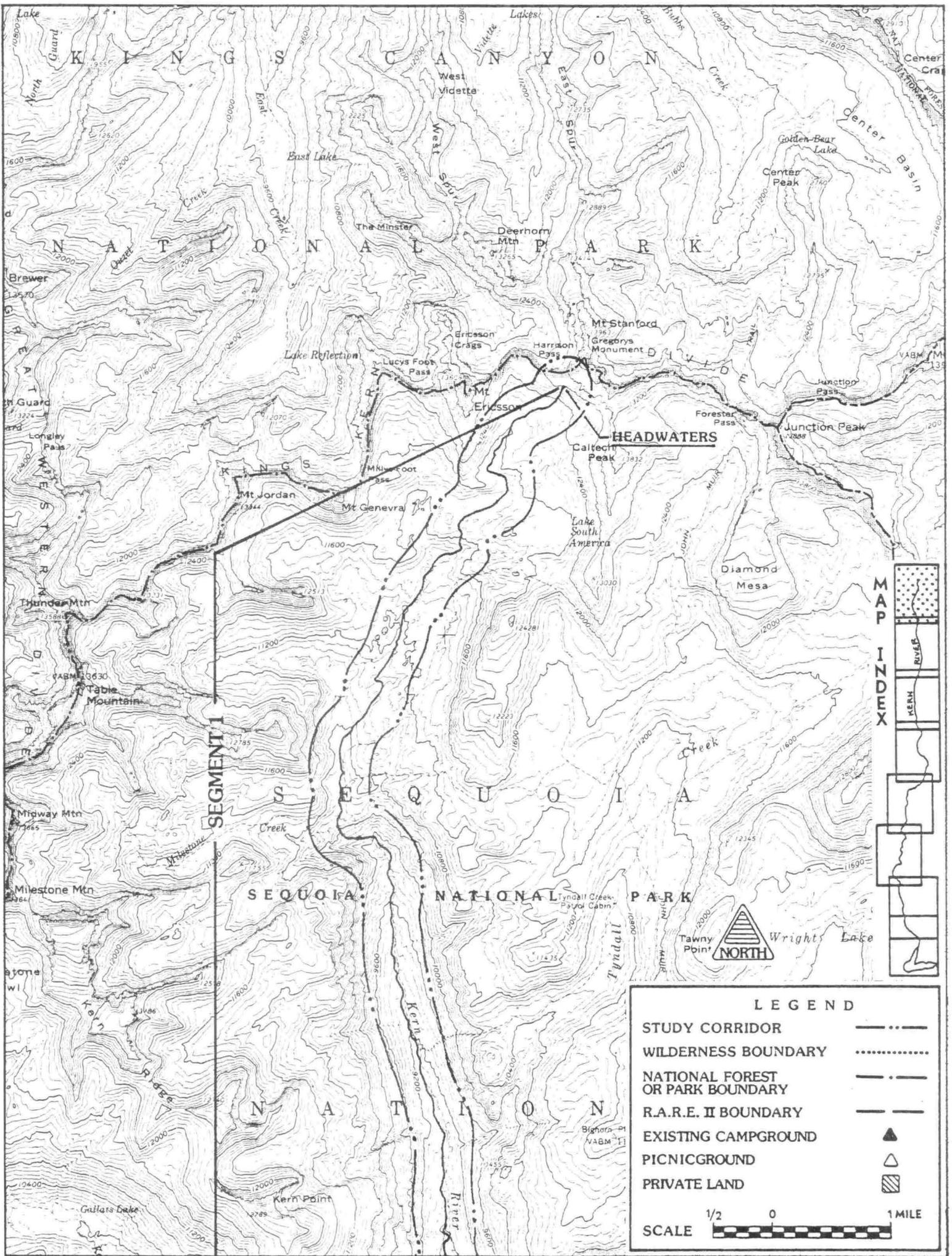
Landowners in the Kern River Corridor

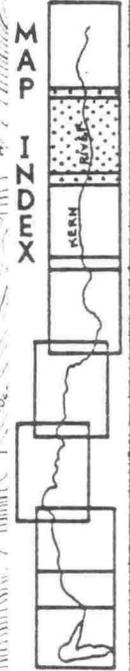
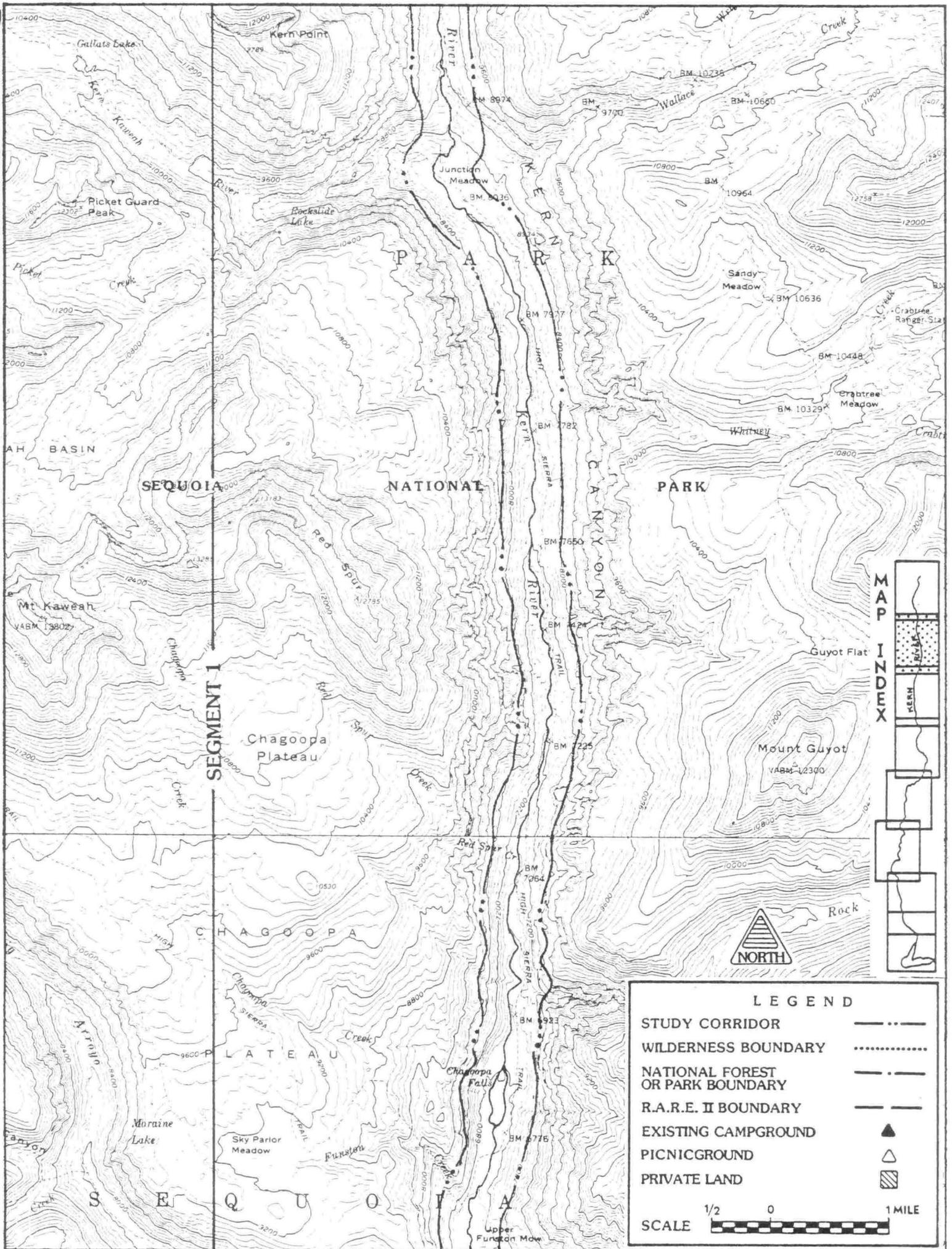
Listed below are all landowners who own private property wholly or partially within the corridor boundaries shown in Appendix E. This list is current as of March 26, 1982.

CHARLES & CAROL BURNS (A.P.N. #328-040-27)	KERNVILLE, CA
HELEN L. CARVER (A.P.N. #223-040-07)	DELANO, CA
BILLY AND MARY COLE (A.P.N. #328-40-30)	KERNVILLE, CA
CLAIRE J. HEMINGWAY (A.P.N. #328-020-07)	KERNVILLE, CA
JOHN AND PAULINE MCNALLY (A.P.N. #328-040-29)	KERNVILLE, CA
JOHN G. OHANNESON (A.P.N. 116-070-01)	SHAFTER, CA
SOUTHERN CALIF. EDISON (SBE 148-54-14-2)	LOS ANGELES, CA
NATIONAL FOREST LANDS - TITLE DISPUTED BY SODA FLAT COMPANY OF BAKERSFIELD (A.P.N. 116-07-03)	

APPENDIX E

Contoured Maps of River Segments

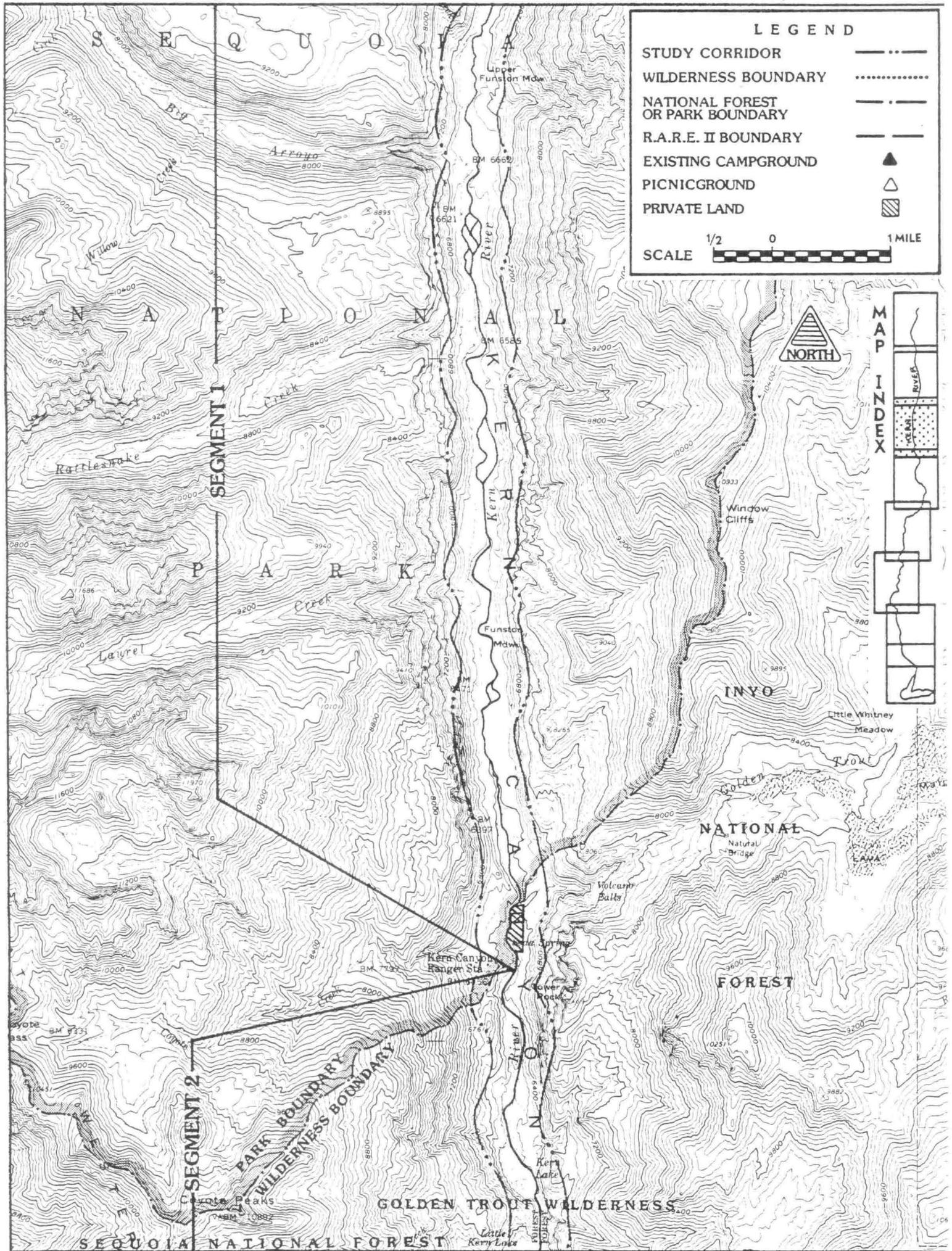


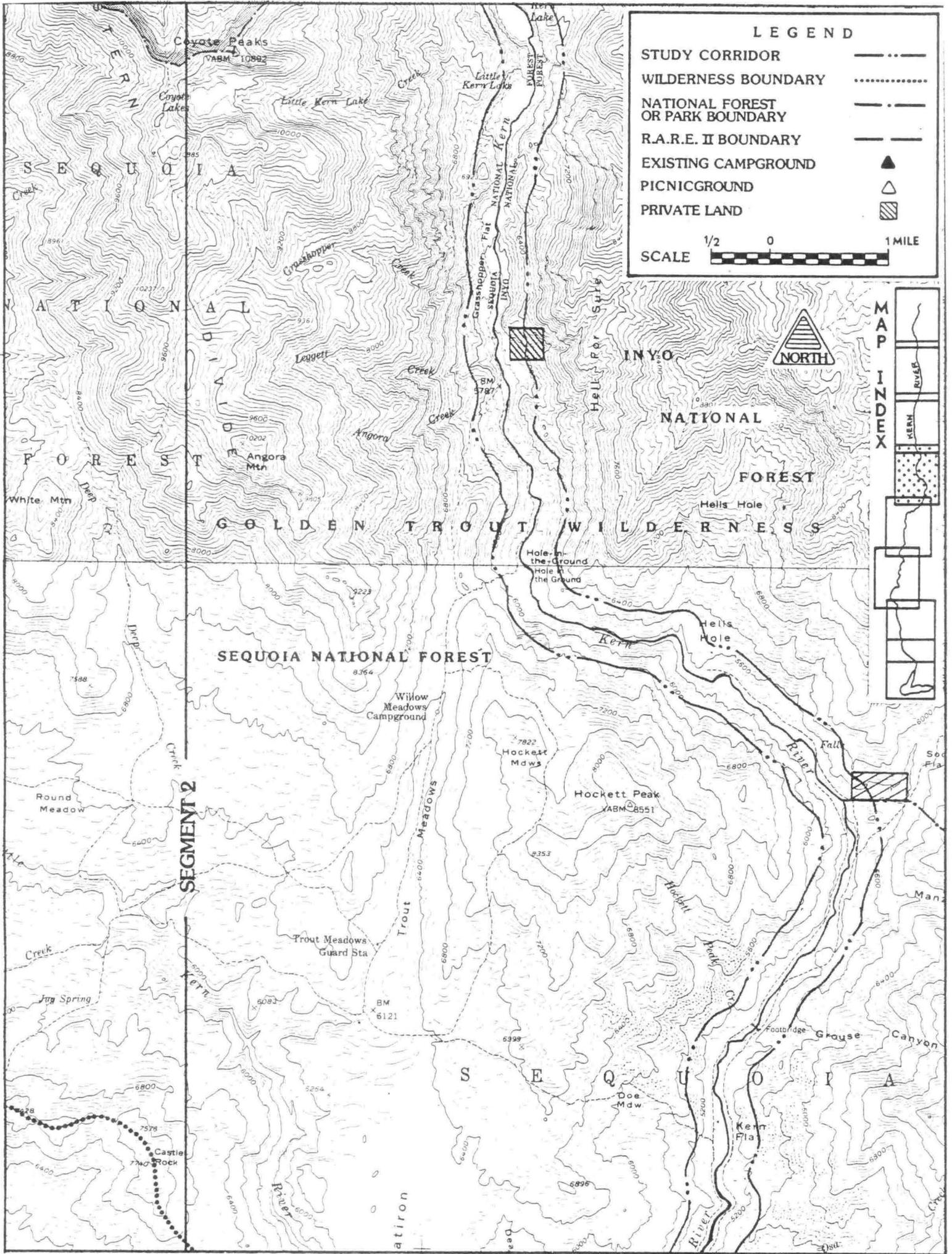


LEGEND

- STUDY CORRIDOR
- WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
- NATIONAL FOREST OR PARK BOUNDARY
- R.A.R.E. II BOUNDARY
- EXISTING CAMPGROUND
- PICNICGROUND
- PRIVATE LAND

SCALE
1/2
0
1 MILE



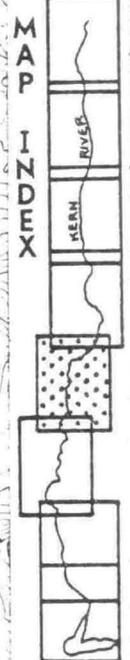
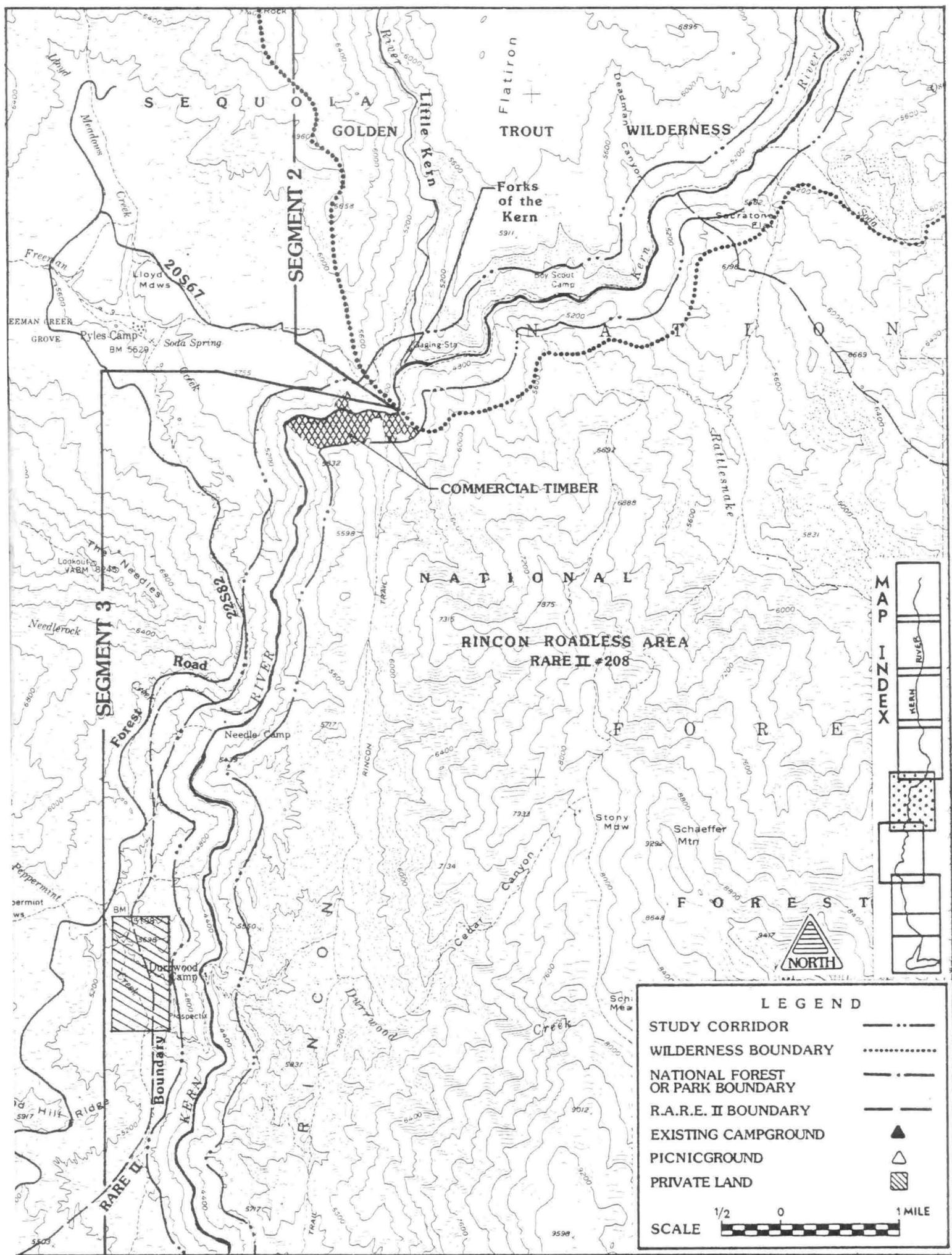


LEGEND

STUDY CORRIDOR	---
WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
NATIONAL FOREST OR PARK BOUNDARY	----
R.A.R.E. II BOUNDARY	----
EXISTING CAMPGROUND	▲
PICNICGROUND	△
PRIVATE LAND	▨

SCALE
1/2
0
1 MILE

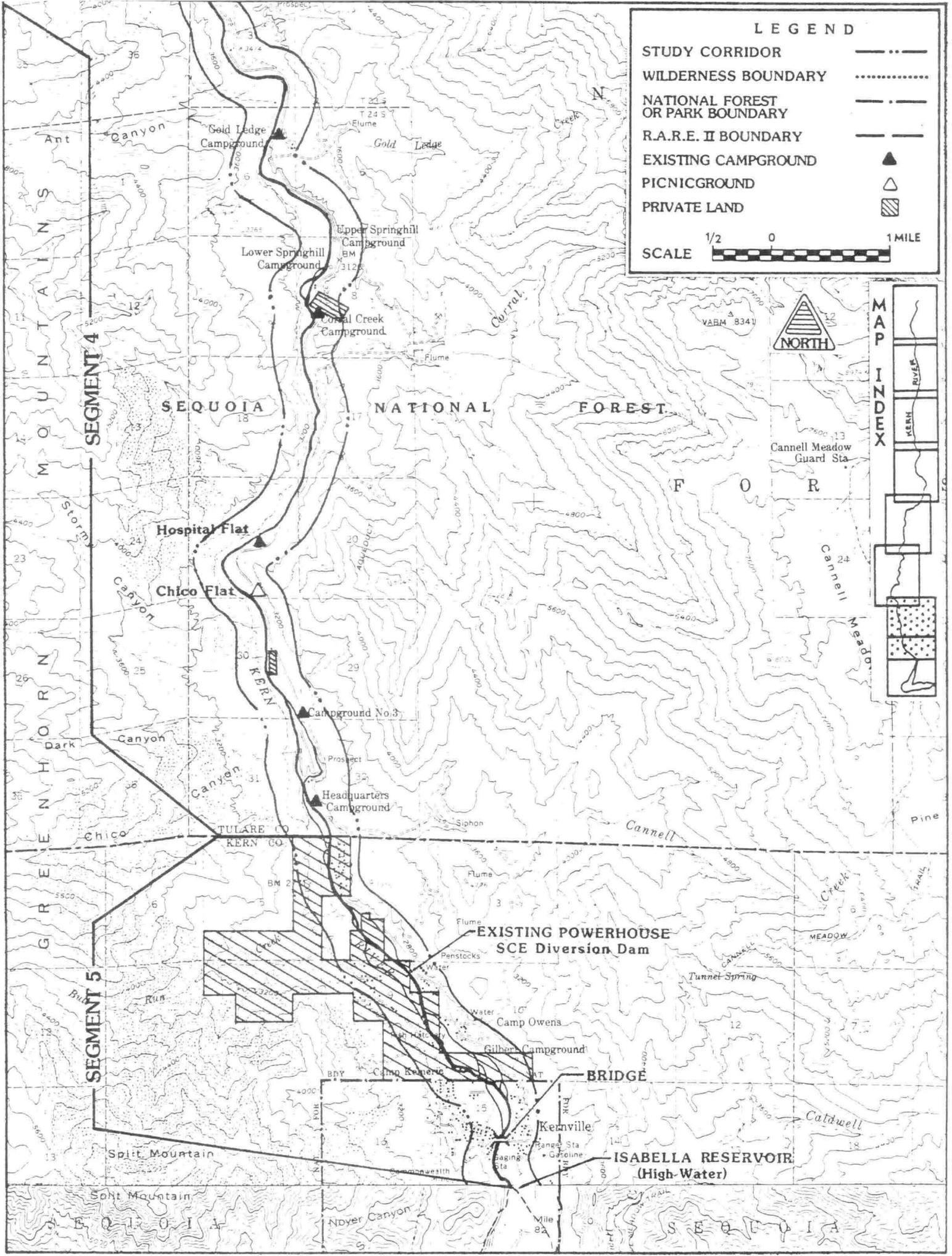
MAP INDEX



LEGEND

STUDY CORRIDOR	---
WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
NATIONAL FOREST OR PARK BOUNDARY	- - - -
R.A.R.E. II BOUNDARY	— — — —
EXISTING CAMPGROUND	▲
PICNICGROUND	△
PRIVATE LAND	▨

SCALE 1/2 0 1 MILE

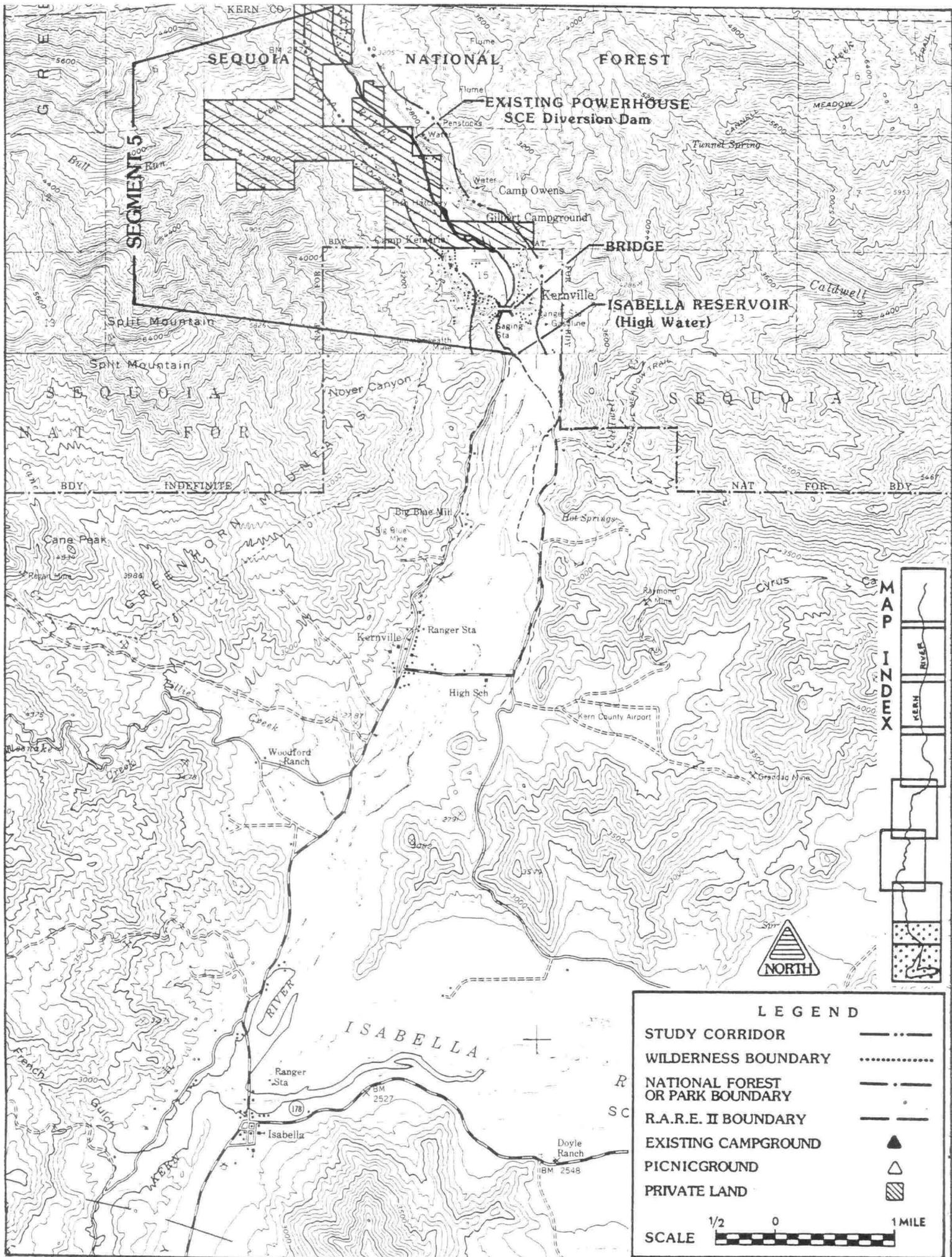


LEGEND

STUDY CORRIDOR	---
WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
NATIONAL FOREST OR PARK BOUNDARY	— — — — —
R.A.R.E. II BOUNDARY	- - - - -
EXISTING CAMPGROUND	▲
PICNICGROUND	△
PRIVATE LAND	▨

SCALE 1/2 0 1 MILE

MAP INDEX



APPENDIX F

Visual Management System

Visual Management System

U.S.D.A. Ag. Handbook 462

Visual Quality Objectives

Preservation P

This visual quality objective allows ecological changes only. Management activities, except for very low visual impact recreation facilities, are prohibited.

This objective applies to Wilderness areas, primitive areas, other special classified areas, areas awaiting classification and some unique management units which do not justify special classification.

Activities may also introduce form, line, color, or texture which are found infrequently or not at all in the characteristic landscape, but they should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the characteristic landscape.

Duration of Visual Impact

Reduction in form, line, color, and texture to meet partial retention should be accomplished as soon after project completion as possible or at a minimum within the first year.

Retention R

This visual quality objective provides for management activities which are not visually evident.

Under Retention activities may only repeat form, line, color, and texture which are frequently found in the characteristic landscape. Changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., should not be evident.

Duration of Visual Impact

Immediate reduction in form, line, color, and texture contrast in order to meet Retention should be accomplished either during operation or immediately after. It may be done by such means as seeding vegetative clearings and cut-or-fill slopes, hand planting of large stock, painting structures, etc.

Modification M

Under the modification visual quality objective management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. However, activities of vegetative and land form alteration must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so completely and at such a scale that its visual characteristics are those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area or character type. Additional parts of these activities such as structures, roads, slash, root wads, etc., must remain visually subordinate to the proposed composition.

Activities which are predominately introduction of facilities such as buildings, signs, roads, etc., should borrow naturally established form, line, color and texture so completely and at such scale that its visual characteristics are compatible with the natural surroundings.

Duration of Visual Impact

Reduction in form, line, color, and texture should be accomplished in the first year or at a minimum should meet existing regional guidelines.

Partial Retention PR

Management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape when managed according to the partial retention visual quality objective.

Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to the characteristic landscape but changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc., remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

SIERRA NEVADA

Landscape Character Type

	CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C
	DISTINCTIVE	COMMON	MINIMAL VARIETY
LANDFORM	<p>Terrain is highly varied and distinctive -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With such features as hanging valleys, cirques, aretes, horns, monadnocks, splintery peaks and/or sharply serrated ridges. - Or with isolated peaks or domes with distinctive form and color contrast that become focal points. - Or with deep canyons or distinctive gorges with vertical or near vertical walls and/or unusual configuration and colors. - Or with massive rock outcrops, cliffs, talus slopes, avalanche chutes, boulders or groups of boulders. 	<p>Terrain is moderately varied -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With broad slopes which may be steep but stable, with broad valleys that are not dramatically defined by adjacent landforms. - Or with rounded hills, ridges and peaks which are not visually dominant but surrounded by more landforms of similar types. - Or with subordinate lateral canyons that lack distinctive configuration or colors. - Or with minor rock outcrops, cliffs, talus slopes, avalanche chutes, boulders, or groups of boulders. 	<p>Terrain is slightly varied -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With vast expanses of indistinctly dissected landforms or unbroken that provide little illusion of spacial definition or landmarks with which to orient. These expanses may be sloping but relatively lacking in visual interest in comparison to the normal landforms in the character type.
VEGETATION	<p>Vegetation is highly varied and distinctive -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With strongly defined patterns of combinations of coniferous forest, deciduous forest, stringers of riparian vegetation, brushland, barren soil, barren rock and/or meadows. - Or with dramatic displays of seasonal color. - Or with extra large, wind-shaped, gnarled or dwarfed specimen stands of vegetation which may create unusual forms, colors or textures in comparison to surrounding vegetation. 	<p>Vegetation is moderately varied -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With predominately forest or brush-cover combined with some natural openings and/or riparian vegetation in patterns that offer some visual relief. - Or with some contrast caused by seasonal color. - Or with vegetative stands that exhibit the normal range of sizes, forms, colors, and textures and spacing. 	<p>Vegetation is unvaried -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With extensive areas of similar vegetation, such as lodgepole pine and white fir or brushfields and very limited variation in texture and color.
WATER FORM	<p>Waterforms are highly varied and distinctive -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With varied flow characteristics such as waterfalls, cascades, rapids, and/or still pools with reflecting qualities. - Or with variations in types of waterbodies such as small rivulets, streams, rivers, ponds, small lakes and/or large lakes. - Or with unusual shoreline character and/or channel configurations. - Or with high water clarity and a high degree of visibility. - Or with hot springs or geothermal vents. 	<p>Waterforms are moderately varied -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With some rapids and still pools. - Or with streams, rivers and/or small lakes. - Or with common shoreline character and/or channel configurations. - Or with medium water clarity and a moderate degree of visibility. 	<p>Waterforms are unvaried -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With no waterforms present or with only intermittent flows. - Or with low water clarity and/or a low degree of visibility to the point that they are not visually apparent except in immediate foreground.



EXISTING VISUAL INVENTORY AND OBJECTIVES

DISTANCE ZONES
 fg - FOREGROUND
 mg - MIDDLEGROUND
 bg - BACKGROUND

SENSITIVITY LEVELS
 1 - HIGHEST SENSITIVITY
 2 - AVERAGE SENSITIVITY
 3 - LOWEST SENSITIVITY

VARIETY CLASSES
 A - DISTINCTIVE
 B - COMMON
 C - MINIMAL

VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES
 P - PRESERVATION
 R - RETENTION
 PR - PARTIAL RETENTION
 M - MODIFICATION

LEGEND

North Fork Kern River
 Forest Boundary ———
 Wilderness Boundary - - -

SCALE: 1 = 250,000

14.5
 406
 15.5
 405
 16.5
 404
 30'
 17.5
 403
 18.5
 402
 19.5
 401
 20.5
 400
 21.5
 399
 22.5
 398
 23.5
 397
 24.5
 396
 25.5
 395
 26.5
 394
 27.5
 393
 30'
 28.5
 392
 29.5
 391

SWANSEA 8 MI.
 KEELER 19 MI.
 DUNDOVY 12 MI.
 TO CALIFORNIA 14