

Recommended Wilderness and Backcountry Management Areas Proposal
Sierra and Sequoia National Forests
January 12, 2018

The wilderness inventory completed for the Sierra (SNF) and Sequoia (SQF) forest plan revisions provides an excellent, comprehensive summary of the extent of roadless lands on these forests. In expectation of a 2018 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), we propose protecting these areas with a mix of modified recommended wilderness and Backcountry Management Area (BMA) designations that protect key ecosystem values while minimizing conflicts. The descriptions below and attached maps summarize these concepts. We are reaching out to various stakeholders to share these ideas.

Wilderness Prioritization and Boundary Adjustments

For the inventoried areas that we believe most deserving of wilderness protection, we prioritized areas on each forest based on their size, connectivity with other protected lands, manageability as wilderness, presence of ecosystems underrepresented in the NWPS, and other factors. For each priority area, we have worked or plan to work with interested stakeholders to modify potential recommended wilderness boundaries to exclude areas of conflict with mountain bike trails, motorized trails, and other non-wilderness uses. See the attached maps for examples of these boundary adjustments.

Sequoia National Forest (in order of priority)	Sierra National Forest (in order of priority)
1. Golden Trout Addition (Polygon #1387)* 2. Domelands Additions (Polygon #1394)* 3. Cannell Peak (Polygon #1384)* 4. Stormy Canyon (Polygon #1408)* 5. Oat Mountain (Polygon #227)**	1. Devil Gulch – Ferguson Ridge (Polygon # 772)** 2. Monarch Wilderness Addition West (Polygon # 1378)** 3. Sycamore Springs (Polygon # 315)** 4. Ansel Adams San Joaquin Addition (Polygon #819)** 5. Bear Mountain Dinkey Lakes Addition (Polygon #539)**

*Revised boundaries depicted in attached maps (Maps 1, 2, 3 and 4). Map 4 is a finer-scale map that illustrates how the boundaries were revised to reduce stakeholder conflicts.

**Boundaries will be modified in the near future to reduce stakeholder conflicts

Backcountry Management Areas Concept

The intent of the proposed BMA prescription is to conserve roadless lands while allowing for more recreation activities and management flexibility than is permitted in recommended wilderness. We propose using selected polygons from the Forest Service wilderness evaluation as boundaries for BMAs. See the attached table for a proposed list of permitted and prohibited uses in BMAs, and see the attached maps for their proposed locations.

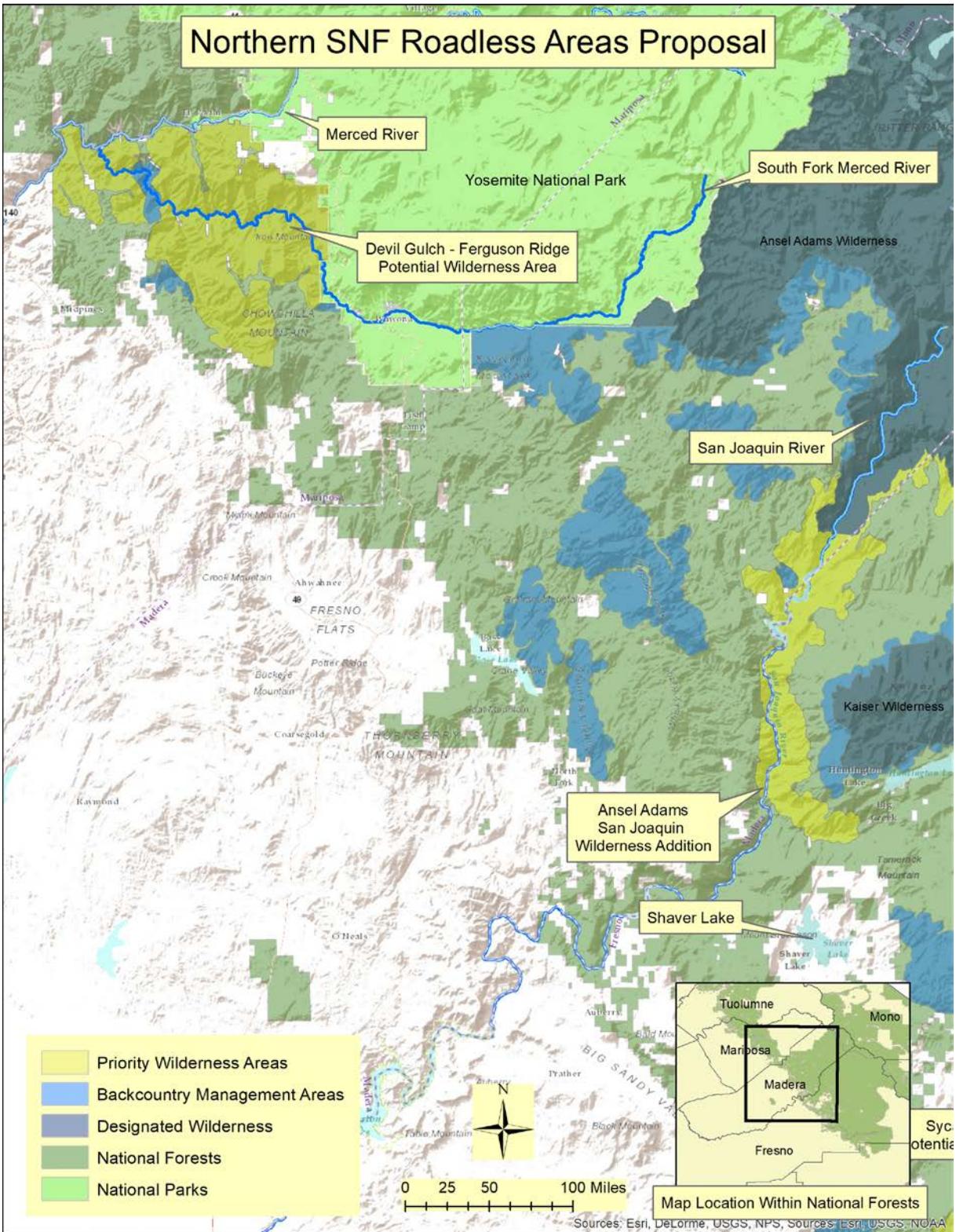
Plans for Outreach

As of this writing (1/11/2018), we have not finalized our proposed boundaries for all of the BMAs and priority recommended wilderness additions. We intend to engage various stakeholders who use and care about these areas to discuss the proposed boundaries and the concept for the BMAs.

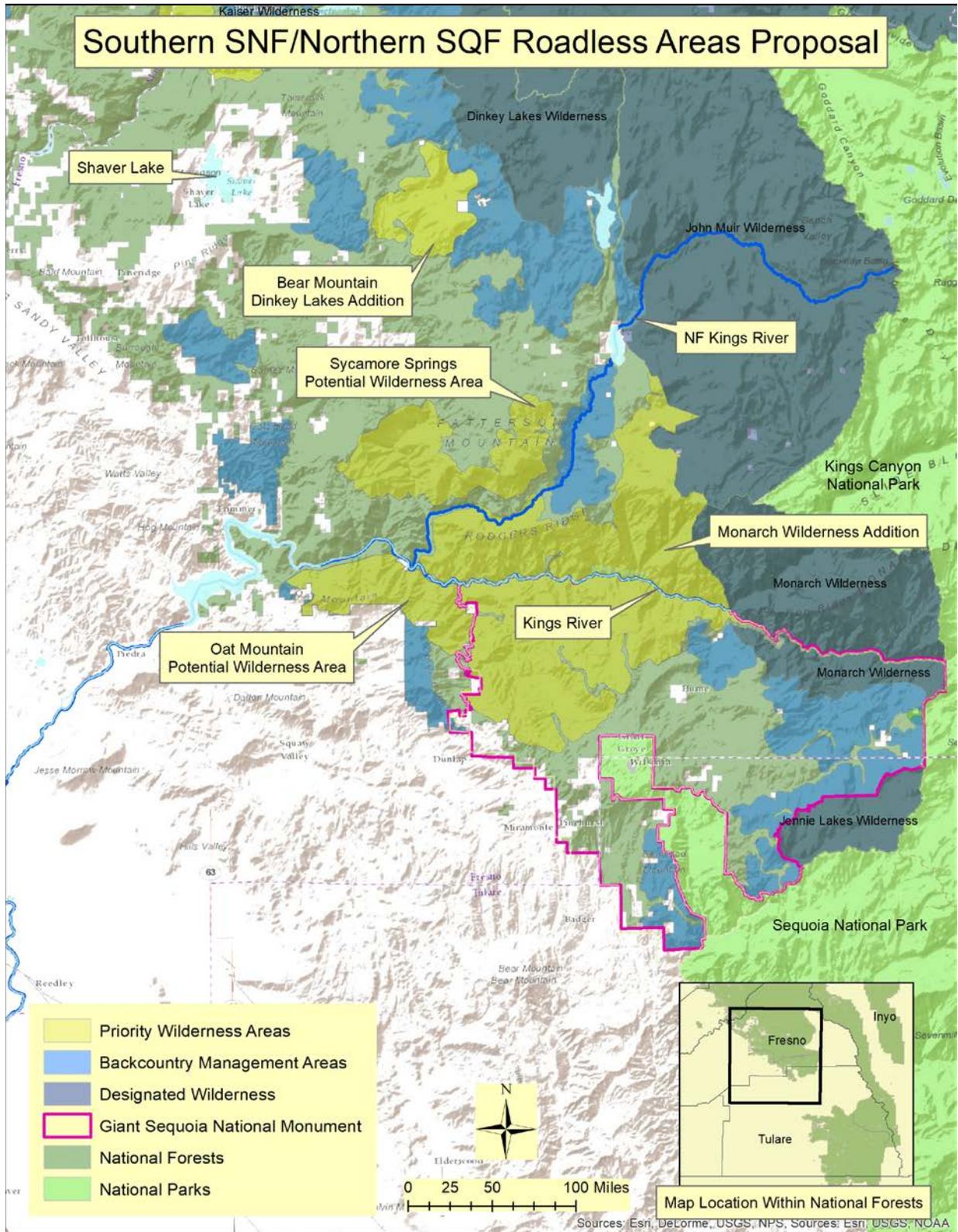
If you have questions about this proposal, please contact:

Jamie Ervin, Sierra Forest Legacy (Jamie@sierrforestlegacy.org), Steve Evans (sevans@calwild.org) or Sue Britting, Sierra Forest Legacy (britting@earthlink.net)

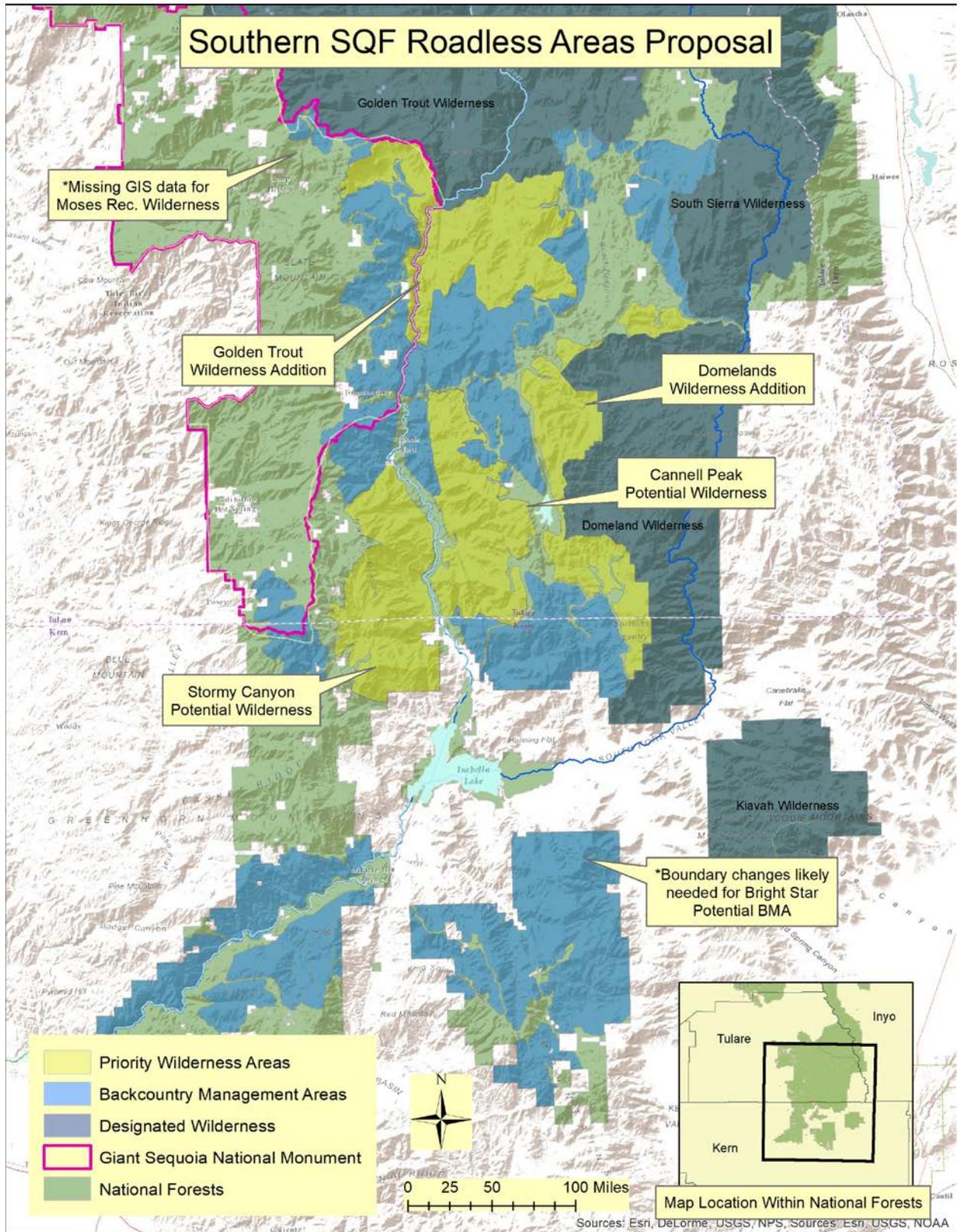
Map 1. Map of the recommendations for wilderness and Backcountry Management Areas for the northern portion of the Sierra National Forest.



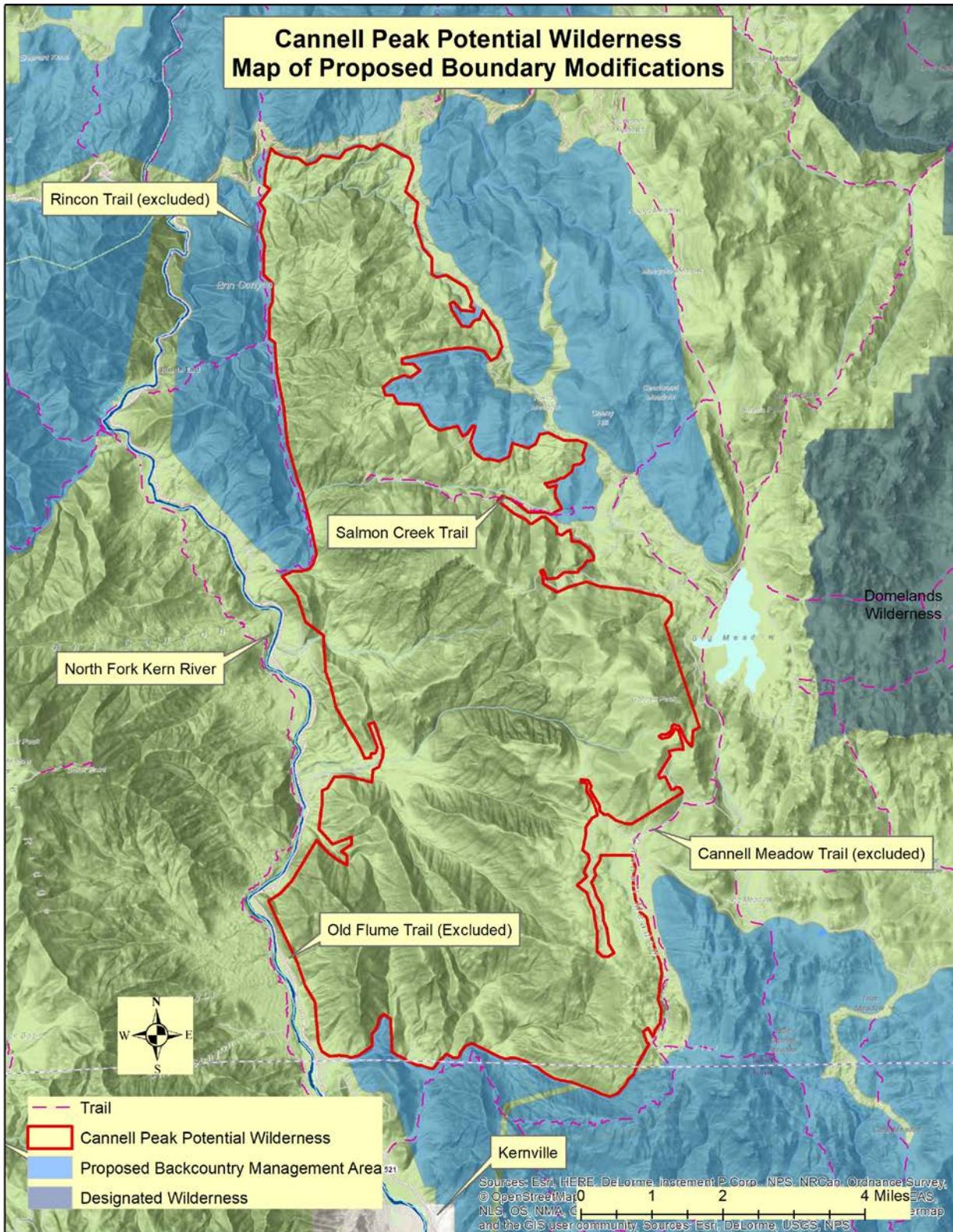
Map 2. Map of recommendations for wilderness and Backcountry Management Areas for the southern portion of the Sierra National Forest and northern portion of the Sequoia National Forest.



Map 3. Map of recommendations for wilderness and Backcountry Management Areas for the southern portion of the Sequoia National Forest.



Map 4. Fine scale detail illustrating how the boundary for the Cannell Peak Potential Wilderness Area (Sequoia National Forest) was revised to reduce stakeholder conflicts.



Attachment 1: Summary of Wilderness Proposal Adjustments (Sequoia Forest only)

The following describes how we revised the potential wilderness areas for this proposal.

Cannell Peak Proposed Wilderness – Proposed boundaries avoid the following non-wilderness uses and infrastructure:

- Rincon Trail (33E23)
- Cannell Meadow National Recreation Trail (33E32)
- Old Flume Trail
- SCE KR3 aqueduct route, as well as SCE facilities in Sec. 33, T24S, R33E

*The Salmon Creek Falls Trail (33E36) is included in the proposed wilderness.

Domeland West Proposed Wilderness Addition – Proposed boundaries avoid the following non-wilderness uses and infrastructure:

- Cannell Meadow National Recreation Trail (33E32)

*The Sirretta Peak Trail (34E12) and the Trout-Machine Creeks Trail (33E28) below the junction with Trail 34E10 are included in the proposed wilderness.

Golden Trout Proposed Wilderness Addition – Proposed boundaries avoid the following non-wilderness uses and infrastructure:

- Rincon Trail (33E23) south of the junction with the Cedar Canyon Trail (33E26)
- Cedar Canyon (33E26) and Schaeffer Meadow (33E24) Trails south of Stony Meadow
- Rattlesnake Trail (33E22) southeast of Bonita Flat
- Bonita Flat Trail (34E04) east of Bonita Flat
- Lion Meadow Trail east of the Road 21S60 Trailhead in sec. 6, T21S, R34E
- Trail 32E29
- Freeman Creek Trail (32E20)
- Jerkey Meadows Trail (32E12) north of the Road 22S82 trailhead
- Hermit Rock climbing area in section 21, T20S, R32E

*The Rincon Trail north of the Cedar Canyon Trail junction, Durwood-Bean Camp Trail (32E44) east of the 32E29 junction, Needle Camp Trail (32E23) east of Lloyd Meadows Road, River Trail (33E30) west of the Rincon Trail junction and north of the Johnsondale Bridge, Schaefer Trail north of Stony Meadow, Rattlesnake Trail west of Bonita Flat, and Lion Meadow Trail north of the Road 21S60 Trailhead are included in the proposed wilderness.

Stormy Canyon Proposed Wilderness – Proposed boundaries avoid the following non-wilderness uses and infrastructure:

- Whiskey Flat Trail (32E35)
- Tobias Trail (32E34)
- Flynn Canyon Trail (32E33)
- Baker Point Trail (32E37)

*The Bull Run Creek user trail west of the Mill Ruins, Split Mountain Trail (32E50) east of Cave Spring, and the Black Mountain Trail east of the Road 22S16 Trailhead are included in the proposed wilderness.

Attachment 2: Table of Select Permitted and Prohibited Uses in Backcountry Management Areas

Select Permitted Uses	Select Prohibited Uses
<p>*Non-motorized recreation including hunting, mountain biking, camping, and horseback riding</p> <p>*Off-highway vehicle (OHV) and over-snow vehicle (OSV) use on designated Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) routes</p> <p>*The maintenance of designated MVUM routes and construction of new non-motorized trails</p> <p>*Forest management activities including management of existing plantations, hazard tree removal, as well as removal and sale of generally small-diameter material to improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat or to maintain or restore characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period</p> <p>*Prescribed and managed fire use, as well as fire suppression activities</p> <p>*Habitat restoration projects for sensitive plant or wildlife species</p> <p>*Restoration activities (such as road decommissioning)</p> <p>*Commercial livestock grazing</p> <p>*Mining on existing valid claims</p> <p>*Collecting firewood and non-timber products</p>	<p>*New road construction or reconstruction, except for minor reroutes to prevent irreparable resource damage or improve safety</p> <p>*New OHV or OSV route construction or reconstruction, except for minor reroutes to prevent irreparable resource damage or improve safety</p> <p>*Timber harvest for purposes other than for improving threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat or maintaining or restoring characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period</p> <p>*New utility construction</p> <p>*Other development activities</p>