PARK-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS
for
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND COLLECTING PERMIT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

• Check in at nearest ranger station at start of field season, and show Research and Collecting Permit.

• Research permittees at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are required to obtain a Backcountry (Wilderness) Permit for overnight stays away from the developed areas. These permits are issued at several locations in the parks; Cedar Grove, Grant Grove, Lodgepole, Ash Mountain, and Mineral King. Permits must be obtained at the location nearest the trailhead which will be used for backcountry access. For those researchers entering the parks via the east-side, permits can be obtained at the White Mountain and Mt. Whitney Ranger Stations of the Inyo National Forest in Bishop and Lone Pine, respectively. Researchers are required to comply with all backcountry regulations and restrictions (though they are not subject to the backcountry fee, need not make reservations, and will generally be permitted to exceed entry quotas), in order to preserve the wilderness environment. Review these regulations with all field personnel prior to your visit. A permit must be obtained for each overnight visit into the backcountry, that is, they are issued for each trip, not for the entire season. Researchers are respectfully requested to be acutely aware of how their activities affect the wilderness experience of other backcountry users. For additional information on permits and backcountry use of these parks, please call the Wilderness Office at 559-565-3766, or visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm

• A minimum tool analysis may be required to conduct approved research in Wilderness when the use of aircraft or ground machinery is proposed.

• Projects that would require fixed installations, excavation, or other resource disruption may require an Environmental Analysis prior to final consideration.

• All field markers, such as tags, flagging, nails, poles, paint, etc. must be approved in advance, and completely removed at the end of field sampling unless other arrangements with the Park have been made.

• Visit the park web site (www.nps.gov/seki) to obtain specific park and Wilderness guidelines and regulations. Review these with all field staff prior to initiating field work.

• A copy of field notes, and/or a digital table showing identification, location coordinates, and dates of samples collected or recorded may be required within 90 days following the year in which the permit was issued. This will be indicated on the permit itself.

• A digital copy (e.g. PDF) of any publications or reports stemming from this research is due to the park upon publication or release. Either: 1) Digital files (preferably in PDF format) may be sent by email to seki_resource_management@nps.gov or 2) Two hard copies may be sent to Office of Resource Management and Science, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271
• Like other visitors, permit holders are responsible for their own and their team’s health and safety when in a national park unit. All natural areas pose risks, therefore be prepared in advance to eliminate or mitigate those risks. Let someone know your itinerary, communicate to that person if it changes, and establish an action threshold if your party fails to communicate as expected. Consider what is needed if a medical emergency occurs and take the appropriate actions to insure that those needs will be met. Permit holders need to exhibit a degree of self reliance and responsibility for their own safety commensurate with the difficulty of their chosen activities.

• Collection of specimens or materials – Federal law [36 CFR 2.5(g)] states that specimens collected in national parks remain the property of the National Park Service and that reports, publications, and other data resulting from specimen collecting must be filed with the park’s Superintendent. All specimens that are to be permanently retained (i.e., any specimens that are not consumed in analysis or research), regardless of where they are to be stored, must be accessioned and cataloged into the National Park Service (NPS) National Catalog and must bear official NPS museum labels. Specimens that are consumed in the course of analysis or research need not be cataloged. The following steps are provided to make the process as understandable as possible. In all cases, the researcher is encouraged to maintain contact with the parks’ Curator (for contact information, please see below).

A) Before specimen collecting begins, the researcher must contact the park’s Curator to obtain an NPS accession number for the collection. This number will be placed on all reports, field records, correspondence, and permits relating to the collection; the accession number will serve to link the research project with its products. Collected specimens or materials may not leave the Park until they are accessioned.

B) When specimen collecting is finished, the researcher must contact the Curator to obtain a block of NPS catalog numbers for those specimens that will be permanently retained; these catalog numbers will serve to permanently identify individual specimens. At this time, the researcher will provide the Curator with the following information:

- Park accession number
- Collection date(s)
- Number of specimens collected (estimates are acceptable for large collections)
- If the collected specimens are to be curated at a non-NPS institution, the researcher will provide the name, address, and telephone number (and email address if available), of the institution and the name and title of the individual who will be responsible for the curation of the specimens.

C) The Curator will provide NPS specimen labels to the researcher with instructions for their completion. The labels must be completed in permanent ink and appropriately affixed to specimens or their containers even if the researcher applies their own or their institution’s labels. If the size of the specimen or container precludes completion of another label, the researcher’s label must at minimum include the NPS accession and catalog number, in permanent ink, in the following format:

  SEKI-1234    (for the accession number, must include a hyphen)
  SEKI  99999  (for the catalog number, do not include a hyphen)

Again, the accession number must appear on all reports, correspondence, and permits regarding the collection. NPS catalog numbers will be used in the final report or publication whenever individual specimens are referenced.
D) The Curator will provide the researcher (or the non-NPS institution responsible for curating the specimens collected) catalog worksheets. If preferable, the researcher or cataloger may submit catalog data in either Microsoft Excel or Access formats for importation by the parks’ Curator into the NPS National Catalog. In either case, the Curator will provide detailed instructions in the completion of this requirement.

At minimum, specimen catalog data must include:

- Classification
- Specimen Name (scientific and common name)
- Quantity or item count
- Collection Site
- Township/Range/Section or UTM Coordinates or Latitude/Longitude (if GPS is used, include the datum)
- Collector
- Collection Number
- Collection Date
- Collection Method (chisel, shovel, net, hand, etc.)
- Identified By and Date
- Formation (for geology)
- Period/System (for geology and paleontology)
- Condition
- Type or voucher (if designated)
- Description
- Preservative and/or preparation
- Accession number
- Catalog number

E) If the collected specimens are to be curated and stored at a non-NPS institution, the Curator will send the institution an Outgoing Loan form, referencing the collection’s Park accession and catalog numbers. The form is to be signed by the individual who will be responsible for the curation of the specimens. All specimens, as well as their derivatives and byproducts, shall remain federal property.

F) The researcher must submit to the Park Curator within one (1) year of the final date of collecting:

- All specimens that are to be permanently retained in the parks’ museum collection at Ash Mountain, their associated labels, and catalog documentation (catalog worksheets and/or electronic data)
- Associated catalog documentation (catalog worksheets and/or electronic data) for all specimens that are to be permanently retained in a non-NPS institution
- Copies of all field records (notes, maps, recordings, reports, etc.), printed or copied onto archival or acid-free quality paper
- Copies of final reports or publications

If the researcher cannot meet the one-year submission deadline, please call or write the Curator to make other arrangements. The researcher is responsible for annually reporting the status of their collection cataloging and curation. Research and collecting projects are considered complete when all of the above conditions are fully met.

G) Researchers are encouraged to contact the Curator’s office at any time during this process with any questions that may arise. Curatorial staff is available to help researchers comply with the
terms of their permit and make compliance as easy as possible under current regulations. The Curator’s office is located in the Ash Mountain Headquarters Building, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. Please contact:

Ward Eldredge, Museum Technician
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Tel: 559 565-3133
Fax: 559 565-3730
Email: ward_eldredge@nps.gov