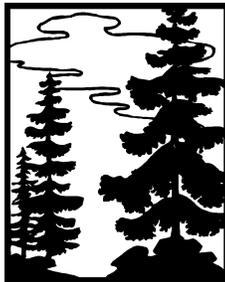


Our Wilsonia



***Information for
Wilsonia Cabin Owners
and Guests***

WELCOME TO WILSONIA

Welcome cabin owners! Wilsonia Village Inc. and the Wilsonia Historic District Trust want to provide this information to all Wilsonia cabin users. Cabin owners and principal users are encouraged to become active members of Wilsonia Village Inc. and be aware of the Wilsonia Historic District Trust. These two organizations strive to provide education, information, social activities and services to the Wilsonia community. Most importantly, these organizations work toward conserving our precious Wilsonia Village and maintaining the historic status for Wilsonians to enjoy for generations to come.

History of Wilsonia

Wilsomia is a privately owned 100-acre village located within the Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park. It began as a plot of land homesteaded during the 1870s. Many ownership changes took place during the years that followed. The land was eventually subdivided, and the village began its life in 1918. In 1996 it became a Historic District. There are currently just over 200 cabins in the village.

The name Wilsonia originated in the presidential election of 1916. Woodrow Wilson was seeking re-election, and the vote was very close. Wilson's campaign was about to concede the election, but waited for votes to come in from the "far west," which were delayed because of a snowstorm in the mountain communities east of Fresno. When they were at last received, it threw the California vote to Wilson, and the California vote was enough to swing the nation into a narrow majority for Wilson. And so the story goes... our mountain community was then named Wilsonia in memory of this influential event.

Buy a Piece of Wilsonia History

The Wilsonia Experience is a collection of stories, photos and memories of Wilsonia residents from 1918-1998. This book was compiled by longtime Wilsonia resident and Historian Fern Tripp. It is for sale by her granddaughter Sally Tripp, or from the Wilsonia website.

The Cabins of Wilsonia, a 176-page book by artist Jana Botkin, is also available. The book consists of beautiful drawings of interesting features of many of the eclectic cabins in Wilsonia. Quotations from cabin owners depict life in a historic mountain community. For more information and to purchase a copy:

www.thecabinsofwilsonia.com

Wilsomia Historic District

The Wilsonia Historic District Trust (WHDT) is a nonprofit and educational 501(c)(3) corporation that provides educational opportunities and works to maintain the historic designation. Tax deductible donations are accepted to further the mission of the WHDT.

The entire community of Wilsonia became a National Historic District on March 15, 1996, at which time the National Park Service (NPS) officially placed Wilsonia on the National Register of Historic Places. On July 4th, 1997, a bronze plaque was dedicated in the Wilsonia Clubhouse, noting the designation of Wilsonia as a National Historic District.

The story of how this came to pass is one of perseverance and patience. In the 1970s and 80s, the NPS actively sought to purchase and remove cabins in Wilsonia. Close to 100 cabins and all commercial property were purchased and totally removed. If nothing had been done, Wilsonia would have probably vanished. But in 1991, at a meeting in the Clubhouse, a group of

cabin owners proposed the formation of a Historic District that would effectively halt the NPS “buy and remove” activities. It took several years and several thousands of dollars, but in 1995, an ultimately successful application was made to the State of California’s Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We received word from the U.S. Department of the Interior that the entire community of Wilsonia had been designated as a Historic District. This status put an immediate halt to the NPS activities to buy and remove cabins.

However, this is not a permanent protection. A percentage of still-standing cabins must continue to be historic in nature. If a cabin is modernized so much that it no longer has its original historic appearance, it can no longer qualify as historic. Obviously, if a historic a cabin is torn down, it too loses its historic designation. If the number of the cabins designated as “historic” drops below the required percentage, the historic district would be lost.

If you are planning changes, such as different windows, siding or additions to the footprint of your cabin, we encourage you to contact a WHDT board member and consult the Wilsonia Architectural Guidelines. It is not that difficult to maintain historic status, and it is extremely important that each of us do so.

Wilsonia Village Inc.
Cabin Owners Association

Wilsonia Village Inc. (WVI) is managed by a board of directors elected from dues paying cabin owner members. A total of seven board members serve terms of three years. Board members are elected on an alternating schedule. Board meetings are held five times a year and are open to all Wilsonians.

WVI General Information

Annual Dues: Annual Dues are determined by the WVI board and are due in October for the upcoming calendar year. Dues are the primary source of revenue for WVI, and pay for the insurance, property taxes, maintenance and supplies for the Clubhouse. They also fund the garbage service and the cost of the newsletters and maintaining a website.

Clubhouse: WVI owns a community clubhouse located at 83672 President's Lane (north of Lilac Lane).

Clubhouse Rental: Wilsonia property owners in good standing (dues paid) may rent the Clubhouse. Rental rates and terms are set by the WVI board.

Activities: WVI sponsors many social activities during the summer months. Potlucks typically are held on Saturday evenings on Memorial Day weekend, July 4th weekend and Labor Day weekend. The WVI General Meeting is held on the first weekend in August. Other events are scheduled each year during the winter planning meeting, and are listed on a Calendar of Events published in the newsletter, online and posted on bulletin boards.

By-laws: May be requested from a WVI Board member.

The Wilsonia Times is the newsletter for the community. It is mailed, emailed, and posted online providing Wilsonians information about the community. It is published five times each year. A subscription to the Wilsonia Times is included with your paid membership. Additional postal subscriptions are available for a nominal fee. Emailed subscriptions are free of charge.

Wilsonia Village Inc. manages a website at

wilsoniavillage.com

and a Facebook page at

facebook.com/wilsoniavillage.

Trash Dumpsters

Residents who have paid their annual dues are welcome to use the dumpsters. These are for household garbage/trash ONLY. WVI is charged by volume. Please crush all boxes, and compact all trash as much as possible. Please help to provide space for the needs of all Wilsonians and help reduce our monthly bill. **NO** ashes, building materials or yard waste are permissible.

Please recycle glass, plastic and aluminum food and beverage containers using the green recycle bin.

Dumpster service is seasonal. Dumpsters are removed during the winter months (typically from mid October to mid May).

Emergency Reporting Instructions

- In an emergency call 911 -

Wilsonia is in an area of high concern for wildfire. Additionally, medical conditions may be aggravated by the nature of mountain living, including the high elevation. Please be familiar with the emergency reporting procedures outlined on the card provided. Please post this yellow card in a prominent place visible for all cabin users and guests.

911 emergency calls placed from Wilsonia landline telephones are normally routed directly to the NPS-Ash Mountain emergency dispatcher. In the event of a fire, medical or police emergency, the appropriate Grant Grove personnel will be dispatched to your cabin.

Make sure you know your address and nearest cross streets. Emergency responders (fire fighters or paramedics) cannot find you if your house number is not readable from the street. Please obtain and post reflective address signs. Signs are available to order from the Wilsonia website.

Make your Property “Fire Safe”

Inside Your Cabin:

Smoke detectors should be installed in or near each sleeping area of your cabin. **Carbon monoxide detectors** should also be installed in each building following current regulations and recommendations. Check or replace the batteries twice a year or at the beginning of each summer season. **Fire extinguishers** can save lives and property; please have them available and know how to use them. Recharge or replace them annually.

Outside Your Cabin:

Follow the guidelines provided by the Wilsonia Fire Committee, NPS, Tulare County or other fire protection agencies to make your property FireSafe, including:

- When possible, create a 30 foot defensible space around structures by removing pine needles, brush, branches and dead leaves.
- Trim up ladder fuels around your structures.
- Remove pine needles, leaves and other debris from your roof. Remove tree branches overhanging your roof and within 10 feet of any chimney.
- Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a wire screen of ½ inch or smaller mesh.
- Stack firewood and scrap woodpiles 30 feet away from structures when possible. All wood should be covered with a fire retardant tarp.
- Make sure house numbers are readable from the street at all times.
- If you have a campfire pit, consider having a metal fire ring, and always keep the area around it clear of fuels. Have a shovel, hose or fire extinguisher ready for use if needed.
- Make sure all campfires and barbecues are monitored at all times and extinguished completely before leaving your cabin or retiring for the night.

It is important that defensible space cleaning is completed early in the summer, before the fire danger levels increase due to the hot and dry weather across the state. June is the designated yard clean-up month. Properly dispose of yard debris by taking it to the NPS dump. A key to the dump is available at the KCNP Grant Grove Visitor Center. Only natural yard debris is allowed at the dump. No bags, lumber or household discards are allowed.

Burning of yard debris, except for in a small contained fire pit, is not allowed without a permit.

Other Fire Safety Concerns:

Several large green water tanks are positioned around Wilsonia to provide water for firefighting operations. Do not ever block access to these tanks, as they will be used in case of a fire.

Fire lanes are marked throughout the village. Become familiar with the location of the fire lanes and different evacuation routes from your cabin. Please do not park vehicles in places that impede traffic, especially along the marked fire lanes.

Wildlife

DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS

Bears are driven by their powerful sense of smell and are especially drawn to the smell of human food and garbage. Once bears get this food, they continue to seek it out from ice chests, cars and cabins. When their instinctive fear of people fades, they become dangerous and destructive and must be killed. Bear break-ins have occurred in Wilsonia. Help protect your cabin and save a bear by making sure food and garbage are securely stored.

Squirrels and raccoons may carry serious diseases, including bubonic plague and rabies. Avoid feeding and contact with these animals.

Pet Control

There is a leash law within Wilsonia and the National Park. This means that a pet must have a visible restraint and be in the control of an individual. Electronic collars are not acceptable. This law applies to all pets. When walking your dogs, please clean up after them.

Pets that are allowed to run loose may scare off or harm wildlife and create a nuisance to other Wilsonians. Please secure your pets on your property.

The solitude most Wilsonians expect is destroyed by barking dogs. Owners must control their animals' behavior, including excessive barking.

Night-time lighting and noise

Please be a considerate neighbor and limit noise and excessive outdoor lighting in the evening and overnight hours. Noise disturbs the solitude of others seeking a quiet retreat at their cabins. Excessive lighting pollutes the night sky and detracts from the abundant stars visible away from city lights.

National Park Service Information

Wilsonia Village Inc. and the Wilsonia Historic District Trust in recent years have been working to develop a mutually beneficial partnership with the NPS. This partnership has been formally established in the form of the **Wilsonia Advisory Team (WAT)**. The WAT is made up of members of WVI, WHDT, the Sierra Masonic Family Club, and NPS representatives. The purpose of the team is to establish priorities from items of concern from cabin owners and develop work plans to pursue actions and solutions to those areas of concern.

Representatives of the NPS also regularly attend WVI meetings and certain functions. Please contact the Visitor Center or the Superintendent's Office at Ash Mountain in Sequoia Park with any questions or concerns related to the NPS.

Contact information is listed on the back cover.

NPS Passes and Entry to the Park

Property owners may obtain entry stickers for each of their vehicles. These stickers identify you as a property owner and allow you fee-free access to your cabin. Stickers may be obtained at the Visitor Center or Big Stump entrance station. Property owner stickers do not allow you access to any other locations within the National Park or Forest. Wilsonians are encouraged to obtain a visitor pass to the National Park to recreate in National Park areas. Annual passes are available and lifetime passes are available for seniors.

Property owners with stickers may use the far right lane at the Big Stump entrance station; STOP and wait to be acknowledged by the Ranger staffing the station.

NOTES:

Important NPS Numbers
(as of 2016)
All are area code (559)

Emergency/NPS Dispatch **Call 911** or 565-3196 / 565-3197
Kings Canyon Visitor Center 335-2856 or 565-4307
Website www.nps.gov/seki

*We strongly recommend
that you keep this booklet readily available
for all cabin users.*

For the most current and more in-depth information,
visit our website: **wilsoniavillage.com**
our Facebook page: **facebook.com/wilsoniavillage**
and subscribe to **The Wilsonia Times**