Updates on parking & planning

NEW SHERMAN TREE PARKING

Parking and access for the General Sherman Tree may change late this summer. Then, to see the world’s largest tree, you will drive up the Wolverton Road and signs will direct you to the new parking area and restroom just outside the sequoia grove. From there take a new trail down to the tree.

If you ever got stuck in the small old parking lot, the large new one will relieve you. If you know that these giant trees drop huge limbs unexpectedly, you’ll feel safer parking out from under them. If you came to see sequoias undamaged by asphalt and erosion, you’ll enjoy the view.

This change will achieve two important goals: liberating the roots of the world’s most famous sequoias from the pounding of traffic and improving visitor experiences.

Once they’ve completed the new parking area and trail, crews will close much of the old access near the base of the Sherman Tree. They’ll build new accessible trails. Handicapped parking and a shuttle stop will shift to the side of the Generals Highway closest to the tree (no more dodging traffic to get to the biggest sequoia). The old restroom and its failing sewage system will be replaced.

This part of the work, which will continue into the fall, will cause traffic delays. Unfortunately, there will be no accessible parking during this phase. The results, however, will improve both accessibility and traffic flow.

SEE THE DRAFT GMP!

What’s a GMP? It’s a critical planning tool. The General Management Plan provides direction and vision for managing these parks over the next 15 to 20 years. The draft version is now available for public comment.

From input gathered over the past seven years of internal and public discussions, the GMP identifies four alternative scenarios for the future of these parks. They describe varying degrees of accommodating visitation while protecting park resources. From these four alternatives came a fifth – the Preferred Alternative. This synthesis represents the judgment of park managers as the best course to follow.

The GMP also includes a management plan for the sections of rivers in the parks that are part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. In addition to those, portions of the South Fork of the San Joaquin and the five forks of the Kaweah River were evaluated for “wild and scenic” consideration. All but the North Fork of the Kaweah were found to be eligible.

The plan also includes the results of wilderness studies on three areas. Found suitable for wilderness were Chimney Rock and the Mineral King area (except for the road corridor and present development). These areas will undergo a public study process that could lead to wilderness recommendations for Congress to consider. Dillonwood, a once-logged sequoia grove, was found “not suitable” for wilderness on account of its many roads and other developments.

The GMP is linked to an environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS assesses impacts of the alternatives on natural and cultural resources, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, transportation, visitor experiences, private inholdings, special-use permits in the parks, park management and operations, and the socioeconomic environment.

You can see the draft GMP on the web (http://www.nps.gov/seki, then click on “Management Docs”). To get a copy on CD call 303-969-2280. Paper copies are in many local libraries.

This summer, public meetings in the park, Three Rivers, Visalia, Fresno, Bishop, San Francisco, and Los Angeles give opportunities to comment in person. Comments will be accepted through August 5th; please address them to the Superintendent, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271. We cannot consider anonymous comments.

All comments will be reviewed and the plan revised to reflect them. The final version should be issued some time next year!
Get to know your parks

Given the park’s names, you expect giant trees and spectacular canyons — and you won’t be disappointed. But the whole of this place is even greater than the sum of its great parts. Ranging from 1300’ to 14,494’, these parks encompass a huge elevational range. This impressive span from low to high means dramatic shifts from hot, dry foothills to shady mid-elevation forests to the chilly high Sierra. It means an extraordinarily diverse collection of plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

There is diversity, too, in the caretakers of this landscape. Bordering the two national parks is a national monument that is part of a national forest. A U.S. Geological Survey Field Station conducts research here. The Sequoia National History Association (SNHA) ensures that books and maps are available for sale at visitor centers and contributes to education and research here. The Sequoia Fund supports other significant projects.

Other partners, public and private, cooperate with the Park Service to accomplish a challenging mission — to provide for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations.

You are an equally important partner! Experience the parks fully by learning all you can about them, and join in preserving them. Together we can succeed in meeting their inspiring mission:

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Expect Change

We often think of parks as outdoor museums, but caretaking a living ecosystem is very different than protecting unchanging objects. Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit; trees fall and buildings change. Park management tools may or may not affect your visit. You won’t notice the ozone-monitoring equipment that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities. Some of them may unavoidably affect your visit: smoke from a prescribed fire or a campsite closed due to revegetation or intense bear activity.

These actions are important tools in maintaining this landscape, and in protecting its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you a snapshot of the year-round process of park management. Nature may decide the timing of many of these activities, but they all share one goal: preservation of these parks for people now and in the future.

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS
Ask at entrance stations about the following:

• 7-day pass for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): $10 per vehicle or $5 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

• Annual pass for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): $20.

• National Parks Pass: $80 pass admits all passengers in a private vehicle to all U.S. national parks for one year from date of purchase. Not redeemable at Crystal Cave. Also available via 1-888-GO-PARKS and www.nationalparks.org.

• Golden Eagle Pass: $65 pass not only for national parks, but also for entrance fees at all federal monuments, historic sites, recreation areas & wildlife refuges. Also honored at National Forests charging for use of high-impact recreation areas. Valid for one year from date of purchase.

• Golden Age Passport: A one-time $10 fee buys this lifetime pass to all national parks for U.S. citizens & residents aged 62 or over.

• Golden Access Pass: Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens & residents. Bring appropriate documentation to any park visitor center.

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PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?
What is the difference between Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument? You see signs for all of them in this area! All are on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses. National forests manage our wildlife and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation. Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior. National forests, managed under a “multiple use” concept, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, and recreation with and without vehicles. Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.

Both agencies manage wilderness and other areas where they strive for maximum protection of natural resources. For example, part of Sequoia National Forest has been designated Giant Sequoia National Monument to emphasize protection of sequoias. Parks, forests, and monuments may have different rules in order to meet their goals. Read “Where can I...?” on the next page to check what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we are lucky to enjoy the wide range of benefits these diverse areas can offer.
Crystal Cave Rocks!

Tickets are NOT sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1-1/2 hours in advance of your tour. Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance on Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see map on page 12). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m).

Use restrooms at the parking lot; these are not available at the cave. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Bring a jacket; the cave is 50°F (10°C).

No strollers, tripods, or baby backpacks. Not wheelchair accessible. Schedules are subject to change. Ask about Wild Cave Tours and group reservations! Tours operated by SNHA: 1-559-565-3756.

Explore fabulous formations! Protected since its discovery in 1928, this is the only one of over 200 caves in these parks that can be toured. • SNPS Photo

Activities

WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different types of areas - a National Park and a National Forest. Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the surrounding Forest. Please see page 2 to learn why this is so, and use a map to know where you are!

• WALK A PET In Parks: Not on trails but it’s ok in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, roads). In National Forest: Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don’t leave them in hot cars.

• RIDE A BICYCLE In Parks: Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. In National Forest: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

• GO CAMPING In Parks: Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. In National Forest: In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road & no further.


• GO FISHING In both areas: Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.

• FEED WILDLIFE Don’t do it anywhere! Animals’ resistance & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. Fires are never permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, and Powdercan.

• HAVE A FIRE Expect to limit your use of fire this summer due to very dry conditions. Check for restrictions before starting any fire, including charcoal. Smoking locations may be limited as well. In Parks: Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. In National Forest: Fire permits are required. Get one free at Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump Entrance Station, or the USFS office in Dunlap on Highway 180.

• GO PICNICKING See picnic symbols on map (back page). Check for fire restrictions before starting any wood or charcoal fire! Never leave food unattended due to bears! Most sites have fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. Fires are never permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, and Powdercan.

• COLLECT THINGS Not in the Parks: Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. In National Forest: Gathering a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. In both areas: Archaeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.

• RIDE HORSEBACK Rides by-the-hour & backcountry spot trips and guides.

SEQUOIA FIELD INSTITUTE!

Enjoy your parks more than ever – try the Sequoia Field Institute! Choose from their wide variety of programs: indoor and outdoor seminars, nature hikes, backpacking, school trips, and environmental education. In winter learn cross-country skiing, spend a day exploring on snowshoes, or try winter camping!

Housed in the Beetle Rock Education Center in Giant Forest, the Institute also arranges special educational packages for your club, school, group, or extended family. Whether you are new to the parks or an old hand, there is something for you at the Field Institute.

The Institute offers low fees, and any profits go to support park education and science programs. Pick up a course catalog at any visitor center or contact the non-profit Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA), which operates the Institute: www.sequoiahistory.org or john_lockhart@sequoiahistory.org 1-559-565-4251.

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

WALKS & TALKS Join in the free ranger activities at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Wuksachi, the Foothills, Grant Grove, Cedar Grove, and USFS areas. See Nature Programs on pages 5 & 7 and check bulletin boards for detailed schedules.

Many activities are offered through mid-August; some continue into September. Ranger programs have been a tradition here since 1931 — join us!

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy and sells a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Your purchases help to support the parks!

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM People of all ages earn a patch while learning to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn a Senior patch! To get started, purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!

TEACHERS - BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS! Rangers offer curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6th-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology & caves, sequoias, & Native Americans.

Call 1-559-565-4303 to reserve a date for a fun, interactive program!
The winding, steep, narrow road to this valley, open late May through October 31, ends at 7800’ (2380 m), the park’s highest road. Many trails, too numerous to list here, lead to higher country and excellent — if hilly — hiking. Ask a ranger for information about the area. Be sure to learn about its mar-mots, which often damage cars in early summer.
Services in Sequoia National Park

Traffic Delays between Potwisha Campground & Giant Forest

Delays may total up to one hour from 6am to 6pm on weekdays and occasional Saturdays. Automated signal lights may be used to stop traffic briefly day or night if one lane is blocked. Other than occasional automatic signals, no delays are expected on weekends or holidays. There will also be delays near the Sherman Tree; check locally for updates.

Avoid overheating and losing your brakes! When stopped, keep your foot off the brake. Put your vehicle in PARK and set the emergency brake. Thanks for slowing down and giving workers plenty of room.

Giant Forest Area

GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

6000’ (1830 m) elevation. Home to the world’s biggest trees, this grove offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking trails. See page 4 for highlights. For picnic areas, check page 3 and your map.


CRYSTAL CAVE - Daily tours of this park highlight

Tickets are sold at the cave; see page 3 for details and schedule.

Foothills Area

1500-3500’ (457-1067 m) elevation. A land of oaks, chaparral, and river canyons, hot summers and snow-free winters, the foothills have the greatest biological diversity in these parks. Park headquarters is here at Ash Mountain. In addition to picnic areas (page 3), the foothills offer:

- Visitor Center (NPS): Daily 8am-5pm. Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. 559-565-3135.

Mineral King Area

BEWARE! In spring & early summer, marmots chew on hoses & wiring in cars parked in upper Mineral King. Ask a ranger for information.

7800’ (2380 m) elevation. Mineral King is a beautiful subalpine river valley, at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road (no RVs, buses, or trailers, please). There is no electricity or gasoline in the area.

- Ranger Station (NPS): Daily 8am-4:30pm. A small visitor center with exhibits on area history, books, maps, local wilderness permits, first aid, & bear canisters. 559-565-3768.
- Silver City Mountain Resort: Cabins, chalets. Restaurant, bakery, showers & small store (gifts, limited supplies, ice, firewood; no gasoline or fishing licenses) 8am-8pm Thursday-Monday, Tuesday-Wednesday 8am-6pm (restaurant closed, breakfast bar & pie available). Summer 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730. www.silvercityresort.com.
- Camping (NPS): No RVs or trailers. Details on page 9.

Nature Programs

GIANT FOREST/ LODGEPOLE

These programs continue through mid-August. Some go into September:

- Daily 11am - Moro Vista: Meet on top of Moro Rock to take in its vistas with a ranger. Plan at least 15 minutes to climb the staircase! 1/2 hour.
- Daily 2pm - Bears of the Sierra: Gain insight into these strong, smart, yet vulnerable animals. At Lodgepole Visitor Center. 45 minutes.
- Daily 3:30pm - Realm of Giants: Learn more about the world’s largest living trees. Meet in front of Giant Forest Museum. 1-1/2 hours.
- Nightly - Lodgepole Campfire: Learn more about this park! Check locally for times & topics. Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater. 1 hour.

IN THE FOOTHILLS

Programs through Monday, 9/6:

- Daily 12:30pm - Hospital Rock Talk: Meet at this important cultural feature to learn more about it. 1 hour.
- Friday, Saturday & Sunday 5pm - River Rove: An informal talk along the Kaweah River. Locations vary; check locally. 1 hour.

- Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 9am - Buckeye Flat Walk: Explore the Kaweah River canyon country. Meet at Buckeye Flat Campground bulletin board. 1 hour.
- Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday 7:30pm - Potwisha Campfire: Meet at the campground amphitheater for family fun. 1 hour.

MINERAL KING

Programs are offered through 9/5:

- Thursday 8pm - Mineral King Treasures: Discover the hidden treasures of this unique area. Meet at Silver City Resort. 1 hour.
- Friday - Night Walk: Explore Sierran nightlife with all your senses. Check locally for time. At Mineral King Ranger Station. 1 hour.
- Saturday - Campfire Traditions: Discover Mineral King’s rich natural and cultural history through songs, stories, legends, and more! Mineral Kings Ranger Station. 1 hour.
- Sunday 9:30am - Sequoia Walk: Explore Mineral King through the “eyes” of a giant. Atwell/Hockett trailhead. 1-1/2 hours.

Lodgepole Area

LODGEPOLe VILLAGE

6700’ (2040 m) elevation. This village is a few miles north of Giant Forest, in beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 and your map. Lodgepole Village offers:

- Visitor Center: Daily 8am-5pm. Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. Exhibits & a slide program on geology & forest life; books, maps, first aid. 1-559-565-4416. Hours may be reduced after 9/6.
- Wilderness Permits: Required for backcountry overnight trips. Get them at the permit office by the visitor center daily 7:15am-11am and noon-4pm through September. See details page 10. 1-559-565-4408.
- Walter Fry Nature Center: Open Friday through Monday noon-5pm at least through mid-August. Check bulletin boards.
- Silver City Mountain Resort: Cabins, chalets. Restaurant, bakery, showers & small store (gifts, limited supplies, ice, firewood; no gasoline or fishing licenses) 8am-8pm Thursday-Monday, Tuesday-Wednesday 8am-6pm (restaurant closed, breakfast bar & pie available). Summer 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730. www.silvercityresort.com.
- Potwisha Campground (NPS): No RVs or trailers. Details on page 9.

- Ranger Station (NPS): Daily 8am-4:30pm. A small visitor center with exhibits on area history, books, maps, local wilderness permits, first aid, & bear canisters. 559-565-3768.
- Silver City Mountain Resort: Cabins, chalets. Restaurant, bakery, showers & small store (gifts, limited supplies, ice, firewood; no gasoline or fishing licenses) 8am-8pm Thursday-Monday, Tuesday-Wednesday 8am-6pm (restaurant closed, breakfast bar & pie available). Summer 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730. www.silvercityresort.com.

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FOOD & SHOPS (DNCRP)

- Lodgepole Market & Gift Shop: Daily 8am-8pm. Starting 9/7 9am-6pm. Supplies, bear canisters, gifts, premade sandwiches, ice cream.
- Snack Bar: Daily 8am-8pm through 9/6, then weekends only 9am-6pm. Breakfast, hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza.
- Deli: Daily 11am-6pm through 9/6, then weekends only 9am-6pm. Sandwiches, salads.

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OTHER SERVICES

- Showers & Laundry (DNCRP): Showers daily 8am-1pm & 3-7:45pm through 9/6, then 9am-1pm & 3-5:45pm. Laundry 8am-8pm through 9/6, then 9am-6pm. Last load of laundry in 1 hour before closing.
- Post Office: Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 1-559-565-3678. Lobby with stamp machine open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.

WUKSACHI VILLAGE

7200’ (2160 m) elevation. Open year-round 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the General Sherman Tree.

FOOD, SHOPS & LODGING (DNCRP)

- Dining Room: Breakfast 7-10am, lunch 11:30am-2:30pm, dinner 5-10pm. Dinner reservations required: 1-559-565-4070. Box lunches available. Lounge daily 4-11pm.
- Gift Shop: Daily 8am-8pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing, art, snacks.
- Wukasachi Lodge: See page 8 for details.

WOLVERTON MEADOWS

7200’ (2160 m) elevation. This open grassy area is just 2 miles (3.2km) north of the General Sherman Tree.

FOOD (DNCRP)

- Barbecue: 6pm Wednesday-Sunday evenings through 9/6. All-you-can-eat meal served outdoors.
NORTH GROVE LOOP:
Before taking to the trail, review mile (2.4 km) round trip.
trail branches off, creating a 1-1/2 parking area for about a mile. The historic mill pond. Follow the old trail providing a close look at the lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) round trip.

REDWOOD CANYON OVERLOOK:
Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, this looks west over one of the world’s largest groves of sequoias. Studies here proved the positive relationship between fire and sequoias.

KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK:
For a view to the northeast of the high Sierra wilderness, stop at this overlook about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove.

KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE
Take the time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge.

CANYON VIEW: The “U” shape of Kings Canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village turnoff.

KNAPP’S CABIN: During the Roaring ‘20s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, using this small cabin to store gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

ROARING RIVER FALLS: A shady five-minute walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village turnoff. Paved, relatively accessible.

ZUMWALT MEADOW: This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, a lush meadow, and the meandering Kings River. Park at trailhead or visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

ROAD’S END: Here where pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra.

GRANT GROVE
Before taking to the trail, review safety advice on page 11. Carry a map, warm clothes, and water, and tell someone where you are going.

GENERAL GRANT TREE: One of the world’s ten largest living trees. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation’s Christmas Tree in 1926.

It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.48 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (.6 km).

NORTH GROVE LOOP: This lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

DEAD GIANT LOOP: Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) round trip.

BIG BALDY: Great views and a look down into Redwood Canyon from this ridge. The trail winds 2 miles (3.2 km) to the summit at 8,209 feet (2502 m). From Grant Grove, drive 8 miles (9.3 km) south on the Generals Highway to Big Baldy Trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183 m); round trip 4 miles (6.4 km).

KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK: For a view to the northeast of the high Sierra wilderness, stop at this overlook about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove.

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ROAD’S END: Here where pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra.

TAKE TIME FOR A HIKE
MIST FALLS: Follow the river through forest to one of the park’s largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; a 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road’s End. 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km) east of the Village turnoff.

DON CECIL TRAIL: Once the main route to Cedar Grove prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180, this trail starts .2 miles (3 km) east of the village. It climbs the north-facing slope, passing Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) and affording good views. Lookout Peak (a 13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/1210 m elevation gain) provides an incredible panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL: Starts .2 mile (3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Strenuous, it switchbacks up through chaparral to a forested ridge and Cedar Grove Overlook with gorgeous views up and down canyon. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1400-foot/425 m elevation gain. Allow 3 to 4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST
Explore the Giant Sequoia National Monument within the Sequoia National Forest.

CONVERSE BASIN: Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared, or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 World’s Fair. Take Highway 180 north of Grant Grove 6 miles (9.6 km), then left on the graded dirt road. Ask a ranger for details.

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic multiple-arch dam, supplied water for a flume that floated lumber to Sanger, 67 miles (108 km) below. An easy 2.1/2-mile (.4 km) trail encircles it. See page 7 for other recreational options there. 8 miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT: A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road via Forest Road 1304.

MIST FALLS: Follow the river through forest to one of the park’s largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; a 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road’s End. 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km) east of the Village turnoff.

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USFS NATIONAL FOREST
Explore the Giant Sequoia National Monument within the Sequoia National Forest.

CONVERSE BASIN: Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared, or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 World’s Fair. Take Highway 180 north of Grant Grove 6 miles (9.6 km), then left on the graded dirt road. Ask a ranger for details.

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic multiple-arch dam, supplied water for a flume that floated lumber to Sanger, 67 miles (108 km) below. An easy 2.1/2-mile (.4 km) trail encircles it. See page 7 for other recreational options there. 8 miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT: A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road via Forest Road 1304.
Grant Grove Area

CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE

6600’ (2008 m) elevation. Cedar Grove was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here you can see both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s. In addition to picnicking and horseback riding (see page 3), the village offers:

INFORMATION
- Visitor Center (NPS): Daily 9am-5pm through 9/6, then closed for the season. 1-559-565-3793.
- Wilderness Permits (NPS): At Road’s End, 6 miles (9.6km) east of the Village. Permits issued daily 7:30am-3:30pm through 9/21, then self-register. Map sales and bear-canister rentals.

FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS)
- Restaurant: Counter-service meals & snack bar; not a full-service restaurant. Daily 7am-2pm & 5-9pm. Starting 9/6 weekends 7:30am-2pm & 5-7pm, weekdays 7:30-10:30am. Lunch supplies available at market.
- Gift Shop & Market: Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs, film. Daily 7am-9pm. Starting 9/6 7:30am-7pm.
- Camping & Lodging: See page 8 & 9 for details.
- Showers & Laundry: Daily 8am-7pm (until 6pm starting 9/6). Last laundry load in by 1 hour before closing. Get shower key at market.

USFS: National Forest & Monument

HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

6600’ (2008 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River. In summer the area offers picnicking and horseback riding (see page 3) as well as:

INFORMATION
- Visitor Center (NPS): Daily 9am-5pm through 9/6, then closed for the season. 1-559-565-3793.
- Wilderness Permits (NPS): At Road’s End, 6 miles (9.6km) east of the Village. Permits issued daily 7:30am-3:30pm through 9/21, then self-register. Map sales and bear-canister rentals.

FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS)
- Restaurant: Daily 7am-9pm through 9/6. Pizza available daily noon-2pm & 5-9pm. Starting 9/6 Saturday 7am-8pm; Sunday 7am-7pm; weekdays 7:30am-2pm & 4:30-7pm (Friday until 8pm).
- Gift Shop: Daily 8am-9pm. Starting 9/6 9am-7pm (8pm on weekends).
- Market: Daily 8am-9pm. Starting 9/6 9am-7pm (8pm on weekends).

GASOLINE
- Gas Sales (private): At Stony Creek Village and Hume Lake Christian Camps (both 24 hours with credit card) and Kings Canyon Lodge (usually 9am-dark). See Rules of the Road, page 11, for more details.

CELEBRATE SEQUOIAS!

On September 11, join us for the 6th Annual Celebrate Sequoias Festival in Princess Campground. Enjoy walks to less-visited groves, music, arts & crafts, kid’s activities, and talking to experts about the awesome giant sequoias.

NATURE PROGRAMS

Ranger-led programs listed below are offered through mid-August; some may continue into September. Other walks and talks may be offered; please check bulletin boards for schedules.

GRANT GROVE

Daily 2pm - Grant Tree Walk: Stroll this paved trail beneath the giant trees to learn about sequoias, fire, and local history. Meet at Grant Tree parking lot, 2/3 mile, 1 hour.

Nightly - Evening Campfire: Spend time around the fire and under the stars learning about these parks. Meet at the Sunset Campground amphitheater. Check locally for times and topics.

CEDAR GROVE

Ranger Walks - Join us in exploring the natural and cultural world of Cedar Grove. We may explore Zumwalt Meadow, the Kings River, and Kanawyer’s Camp & Copper Mine. Check local bulletin boards for topics, dates, and times. 1-2 hours.

Evening Campfire: Meet a ranger at the amphitheater near the visitor center and learn more about this special place. Check locally for days and times. 1 hour.
Staying Overnight

CAMPING DOs & DON’Ts: These rules protect the landscape & you! NOTE: Some rules vary between the park & the national forest. Check bulletin boards for details.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS
Check locally for restrictions before starting any fires, including charcoal grills. Expect to find limitations on where you can have a fire; conditions are very dry. Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs from trees. Better yet, bring wood or buy it at a market. Fire must be out cold before you leave.

In the national forest & monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump entrance station, or a Forest Service ranger.

CAMPsites vs. DISPERSED CAMPING
In the park, camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In the National Forest & Monument roadside camping is permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger for possible locations.

HOLDING CAMPsites
In first-come, first-served campgrounds, you may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; properties may be impounded.

PROpane CANisters
These cannot be disposed of in park dumpsters or garbage cans. Please take them with you.

QUIET HOURS
10pm-6am. Use generators from 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

RVS & TRAILERS
No hookups are available. Trailers are permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check the chart on page 15. Many sites are not suitable for trailers or RVs. Vehicles over 30 feet long can fit in a small number of sites.

Length advisory: On Generals Highway in Sequoia Park, from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum, a vehicle length limit of 22 feet is advised. See page 11 for other limitations & warnings. Dump stations: See chart on page 9 for locations in parks. There are several stations outside the parks; ask for details at visitor centers.

PROTECT THE PARK!
Do not use soaps in rivers, dig trenches, or level campsites. Protect soils & plants — park & travel on pavement only.

GROUP CAMPsites
Summer only. Call in advance for information on reserving group tent-camping areas in the parks: Dorst 1-800-356-2627; Sunset 1-559-565-4335; Canyon View 1-559-565-3792. In the national forest/monument: 877-444-6777 or www.ReserveUSA.com.

LIMITS ON CAMPING
Many campgrounds allow only one vehicle & six people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits. Parking is available for extra vehicles. Camping is limited to 14 days between June 14-September 14, with 30 days total per year.

BE A CAMP HOST!
Volunteer hosts help care for campgrounds & resources. Their reward: living in beautiful areas & meeting great people. Learn more these and other volunteer opportunities; contact the Park Volunteer Coordinator, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651.

YOU MUST STORE ALL FOOD!

BEARS quickly learn to get food from cars, picnic tables, and backpacks. They then become destructive and sometimes aggressive. They want our food, not us, but people can get hurt. Too often these bears must be killed. This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly:

• DRIVERS: Never leave any food or scented items in cars. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

• CAMPERS: Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won’t fit). Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it’s not food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, store food in the car trunk (seal food to reduce odors). If the car has no trunk, put everything on the floor, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food.

• PICKNICKERS: Guard your food at all times.

• LODGE GUESTS: Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

• BACKPACKERS: Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day’s food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets. Bears defeat most attempts to hang food in trees.

• EVERYONE: Don’t let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks in their direction (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. If a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

LODGING

SEQUOIA PARK


KINGS CANYON PARK


SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT


• Historic Guard Station (FS) Reservations: 1-559-338-3132. Open late May-November. A cabin in Big Meadows between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.

• Kings Canyon Lodge (Private*) Reservations: 1-559-335-2405 Open mid April through November. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Food, cabins, gasoline.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging, camping, & services. Ask at visitor centers or click: “Plan your visit” on the park website, www.nps.gov/seki, & link to “Lodging.”

WILDERNESS LODGES & PERMITS Page 10 has details.

* Note: These two facilities on private land are not evaluated or regulated by the Park or Forest.
Food-storage instructions & regulations: always read bulletin boards. Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole can be made up to 5 months in advance, 4am - 4pm PST: 1-800-365-2267 http://reservations.nps.gov International calls: 1-301-722-1257 TDD: 1-888-530-9796 Fax: 1-301-722-1174

National Forest/Monument: Reservations* 1-877-444-6777 or www.reserveusa.com Information 1-559-338-2251

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

FOOTHILLS AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Altitude</th>
<th>Open Dates</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Restroom</th>
<th>Showers</th>
<th>Laundry</th>
<th>Nature Programs</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Riding</th>
<th>River</th>
<th>Sequoias</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potwisha</td>
<td>2100'</td>
<td>Open all year.</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckeye Flat</td>
<td>2800'</td>
<td>Open 5/21-10/12.</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Fork</td>
<td>3600'</td>
<td>Open all year.</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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MINERAL KING AREA

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<tr>
<td>Atwell Mill</td>
<td>6650'</td>
<td>Open 5/28.</td>
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<td>Vault</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold Springs</td>
<td>7500'</td>
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<td>$12</td>
<td>Vault</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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Lodgepole AREA

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<th>River</th>
<th>Sequoias</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lodgepole 6700'</td>
<td>Open 5/26-9/30/04</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorst 6700'</td>
<td>Open 5/26-9/6/04</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Vault</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST / GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)

GRANT GROVE AREA

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<th>River</th>
<th>Sequoias</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Azalea 6500'</td>
<td>Open all year.</td>
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<td>Vault</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crystal Springs 6500'</td>
<td>Open 5/21-9/15.</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Vault</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset 6500'</td>
<td>Open 6/30-9/10.</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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CEDAR GROVE AREA

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<th>River</th>
<th>Sequoias</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel 4600'</td>
<td>Open as needed.</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep Creek 4600'</td>
<td>Open.</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canyon View 4600'</td>
<td>Open as needed.</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraine 4600'</td>
<td>Open as needed.</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST / GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)

HUME LAKE AREA

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<th>River</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Princess 5900'</td>
<td>Reservations*</td>
<td>$15/17</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hume Lake 5200'</td>
<td>Reservations*</td>
<td>$17/19</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenmile 5800'</td>
<td>No water.</td>
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<td>Vault</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landslide 5800'</td>
<td>No water.</td>
<td>$13/15</td>
<td>Vault</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convict Flat 4000'</td>
<td>No water.</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREAS

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<th>Riding</th>
<th>River</th>
<th>Sequoias</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stony Creek 6400'</td>
<td>Reservations*</td>
<td>$17/19</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Stony 6400'</td>
<td></td>
<td>$13/15</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horse Camp 7500'</td>
<td>No water.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buck Rock 7500'</td>
<td>No water.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Meadows 7600'</td>
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<td>Vault</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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</table>
Fire — a Long-Lost Partner

Have you ever accused anyone of something only to discover later that you were wrong? In parks and forests nationwide, we have learned that a accused vandal is actually an important partner. That partner is fire. Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape because we believed it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences for park resources. It turned out that fire suppression blocked important ecological processes and caused many problems. Two stand out:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires are critical to sequoia regeneration. They create an ash seedbed and open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, a vast accumulation of dead wood and small, dense white fir trees now increase wildland fire hazards. Natural fires used to burn away these excess fuels. Now, after fire’s long absence, these fuels cause bigger blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife. They burn hotter and are harder to put out.

To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service has taken steps to end this misunderstanding about fire. For over 30 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. When and where it’s appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires and allow lightning-caused fires to spread naturally to improve resource conditions.

We see strong evidence that working with this powerful natural partner is better than resisting it — we are reducing fuels and stimulating sequoia growth with the help of fire.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists to conserve resources “unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Early rangers thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural partner only hurts what we are trying to protect.

HELP US HELP THE PARKS!
THE SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Does the sight of a majestic sequoia or the dramatic Kings Canyon take your breath away? Then join an organization that helps to preserve these experiences. The non-profit Sequoia Natural History Association is dedicated to supporting the parks, enriching your experience, and promoting public awareness of the significance of national parks.

SNHA is the primary partner in funding park education and research programs, and helping to support exhibits, ranger programs, and bear protection. The association also operates the bookstores in the visitor centers, Crystal Cave tours, and the Sequoia Field Institute education programs.

MEMBER BENEFITS

• 15% off everything sold in park visitor centers, at Lake Kaweah Visitor Center, the Sierra Nature Store in Visalia, and from the website.

• 10-20% off books at most other national park visitor centers.

• Half-price tickets on regular Crystal Cave tours and a reduced fee on special tours (see page 3).

• Internet access for $13.95/month, unlimited. No contract or sign-up fee.

• Discounts at selected hotels in Three Rivers.

• Biannual members’ newsletter and copies of this Guide mailed to you seasonally.

• An invitation to the annual members’ picnic in the sequoias.

• Discounts on Sequoia Field Institute programs.

• The knowledge that you are helping your national parks!

Sequoia Natural History Association
www.sequoiahistory.org
559-565-3759

The Sequoia Fund

Another non-profit group comes to the rescue when limited funds put important park projects on hold. Beetle Rock, in the Giant Forest, is a great example. This historic building was slated for destruction. Instead, the Sequoia Fund continues to raise money to remake it into a unique classroom facility. As the new Beetle Rock Education Center, it houses the Sequoia Field Institute, which offers outstanding seminars, workshops, and field trips to researchers, school groups, and YOU! Now the Sequoia Fund needs your help to finish the classrooms and make the Education Center complete.

The Fund’s efforts on behalf of these parks are numerous: bear-proof food-storage boxes, Junior Ranger programs, research on the threatened Sierra bighorn sheep, habitat restoration, and trail repair. Help turn important goals into reality – contact The Sequoia Fund: 559-739-1668, www.sequoiafund.org.

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

To preserve the wilderness environment and experience, each park trail has a daily entry quota for overnight trips. A permit is required for each party (including those traveling solo). Permits are not required for park day hikes or for overnights in the Backcountry and Jennie Lakes wildernesses in the national forest.

Get your permit at the park ranger station nearest your trailhead (see pages 5 & 7). There is a back-country camping fee of $15 for each party.

First-come, first-served permits can be issued the morning of your trip or after 1pm the day before. If the quota for your desired trail is full, you can choose another trail or another day to start.

Reserved permits must be picked up between the afternoon before and 9am on your day of departure. If delayed, call the ranger station or you may forfeit your reservation. Permits are not issued late in the day as minimum distances must be reached before you camp. Camping in the park’s “firepermit area” is permitted only in campgrounds; camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park. Requests to reserve a trail entry date are accepted starting March 1 and at least 3 weeks before your trip’s start date:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
HCR 89 Box 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766; Fax 559-565-4239
Get a copy of Backcountry Basics at visitor centers or by mail for free details on wilderness, or see www.nps.gov/seki/bcinfo.htm.

BACKCOUNTRY LODGES

• PEAR LAKE SKI HUT (SNHA)
  Reservations required:
  1-559-565-3759
  www.sequoiahistory.org
  Open December to April. This cabin is a beautiful, strenuous 6-mile ski into the wilderness.

• BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP
  (DNCP) www.visitsequoia.com
  Reservations required:
  1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June through September 11, weather permitting. A tent hotel at 7800’ on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.
You Are Responsible For Your Safety!

Natural areas present hazards. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. Other accidents people cause themselves, through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and other decisions they make.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.

The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your hands. Keep alert. Watch where you step. Read the warnings below and on bulletin boards, and ask a ranger for advice.

Be Safe!

Risk & Responsibility

Drowning is the #1 cause of death in national parks. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Be extra careful along rivers and streams; falling in is as dangerous as swimming.

Ticks: Common in foothill grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully; fully with tweezers; seek a ranger’s and/or doctor’s advice.

Plague: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

Hypothermia: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don’t respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

Lightning: As soon as you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible.

Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from bodies of water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

Safe Park Travel:

Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time.

Keep your parks safe and free from illegal activities! Please report any suspicious activities to 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

Unsafe Water: Giardia, a protozoan in lakes and streams, causes intestinal problems. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria or Giardia, but can be effective if used properly.

Motorcycles:

Avoid oil buildup in the center of the uphill lane.

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LIFE ZONES
- High Sierra zone: 9,000 to 14,500 feet. Summer: Warm to chilly days; nights down to low 30s. Winter: frigid.
- Conifer zone: 5,000 to 9,000 feet. Summer: Warm days & cool nights. Winter: deep snow.
- Foothills zone: 1,500 to 5,000 feet. Mild, wet winters; hot, dry summers. Cedar Grove is cooler than the foothills, hotter than Grant Grove.

STEEP ROADS
Grades of 5-8%. Downshift to avoid overheated or failed brakes. See page 11.

DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER
- Foothills to:
  - Giant Forest: 1 hour (expect traffic delays - see page 5).
  - Lodgepole: 1 hour.
  - Visalia: 1 hour.
- Giant Forest to:
  - Grant Grove: 1 hour.
  - Giant Grove to:
    - Cedar Grove: 1 hour. Road opens mid-April to Nov.
    - Fresno: 1-1/2 hours. Yosemite’s south entry via Hwy 41.

SUMMER 2004
SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651
www.nps.gov/ seksi

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA!