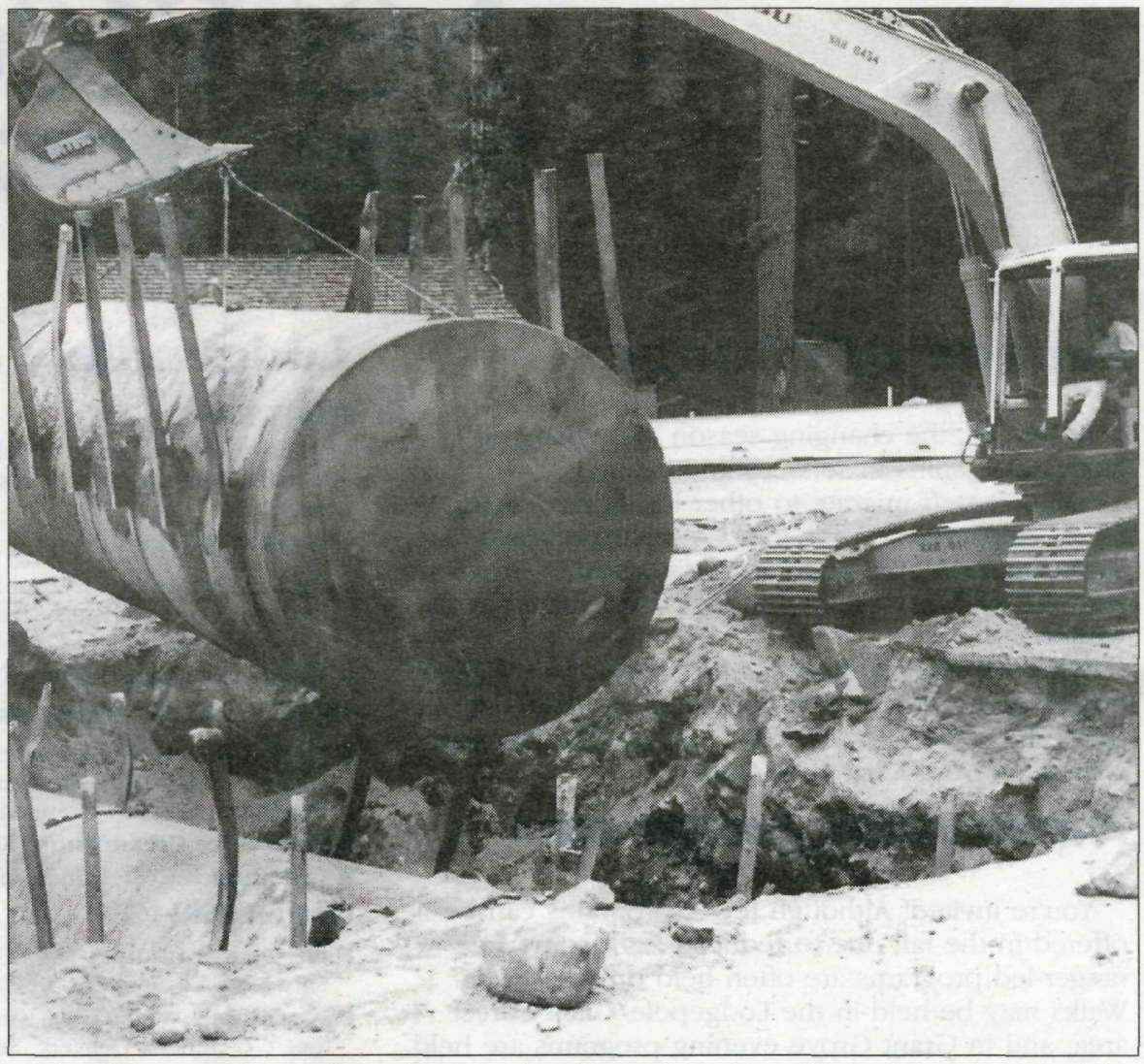
Sequoia & Kings Canyon NATIONAL PARKS

The Sequoia Bark
Fall 1997

Look inside!

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  - Jr. Ranger program
  - Religious services
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Visit our website!
www.nps.gov/seki



Old underground fuel tanks are being replaced by leakproof models. Modern technology helps in meeting current environmental standards.

Upgrades protect us — and the park

When you made plans to visit Sequoia and Kings Canyon, did you remember to check on whether the park's undergound storage tanks were functional? Or to ask about the location of the sewage treatment plant? And what about the condition of the water treatment facility?

Of course not. We take these things for granted. What do they have to do with anyone's vacation? Well, a lot, it turns out.

Let's start with gas. More than a few visitors are surprised to find park gas stations closed. Yet the reason for the closure is the same one that is causing temporary closures at neighborhood gas stations across the country:

In the mid-1980s California discovered several major leaks from underground fuel tanks that caused groundwater and soil contamination. Nearby wells had to be destroyed and deeper ones had to be drilled. Lawmakers found that approximately one out of three tanks was leaking!

In order to protect underground and surface water, federal and state laws were written requiring that all new tanks be double-walled and have corrosion protection to prevent leaks. Included in the rules was a deadline: By the end of 1998 all underground tanks have to meet the new standards.

That year is fast approaching, and gas stations and other facilities throughout the country are scrambling to comply. Most have to close during the upgrade process. Where leaks are found, the spill must be cleaned up.

Tests at Grant Grove confirm that significant amounts of gasoline had leaked from the tanks.

Monitors are determining the extent of the problem and cleanup will be required. Similar tests have just been conducted at Lodgepole, and the initial results show that contaminated soil will have to be removed before the tanks can be replaced.

Within the parks, the concessioner that operates the gas stations is responsible for replacing the tanks and cleaning up any contamination in the soil. Guest Services, Inc., who operated the gas stations and other park concessions until the end of 1996, has taken responsibility for the clean up and is working with the county. Replacement of the tanks — and operational gas stations — may be delayed while cleanup of the old problem is finished.

At Cedar Grove, where the little station has never sold enough gas to be economically viable, the cost of new tanks doesn't make sense. Since gas is sold just 17 miles away, and the concessioner can provide gas in an emergency, there will be no gas station there. Fortunately, tests in Cedar Grove found no contamination.

Recognizing the inconvenience, the Park Service's goal is to meet all requirements and reopen the stations at Lodgepole and Grant Grove as soon as possible, so that people can again take the presence of gas stations for granted.

But it isn't just at gas stations where your visit to these national parks is tied to state and local regulations. One of the major factors in moving commercial facilities out of the Giant Forest involves sewage treatment and safe drinking water, which are under state and county jurisdiction.

Some background: Perched on the edge of the Giant Forest is a sewage treatment plant that was state-of-the-art — in 1950. It is so inadequate that the State of California is no longer willing to license it. It must be closed completely by the end of 1998, and is not permitted to operate in winter when the poorly treated sewage, disposed of by spraying, has a greater potential of running into streams. That is why the Giant Forest Village closes in winter.

In addition, both the pipes that carry sewage and those that carry drinking water are old and leaky. In several places they run next to each other, risking cross-contamination.

■ Please see ***Upgrades***, page 10

Services

SEQUOIA

Season of change

In the fall, the changing season and changing faces cause shifts in services and facilities.

Summer staff migrate to other locations, leaving fewer employees on the job. Cold temperatures force the shutdown of some water systems. Soon snowfall will close some buildings and roads for the winter.

When visiting the parks in fall, check local bulletin boards and visitor centers for the most up-to-date date information on services — schedules may vary somewhat from what is printed.

Naturalist programs

You're invited! Although fewer programs can be offered in the fall due to reduced staff, some free ranger-led programs are often held on weekends. Walks may be held in the Lodgepole/Giant Forest area, and in Grant Grove evening programs are held in the visitor center auditorium at 7:30 pm on Saturdays.

Once enough snow has fallen, both areas offer weekend snowshoe walks. Join us!

Crystal Cave

Tours of this beautiful marble cavern have ended for the season, and the cave is closed until mid-May.

We hope you can return then to visit.

The Sequoia Bark

This paper is published by the **Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)** in cooperation with the **National Park Service (NPS)** and **Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)**. Please address questions or comments to the SNHA.

Malinee Crapsey, Editor
Selma Enterprise, Printer

National Park Service (NPS)

An agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the NPS oversees all aspects of these parks. Park rangers provide services including visitor centers, educational programs, and emergency response.

NPS crews maintain roads, campgrounds, and water systems. Other NPS employees carry on research and resources management activities. Address: Superintendent Michael J. Tollefson, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271; (209)565-3341; http://www.nps.gov/seki

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)

This non-profit corporation has played a significant role in supporting education and science in these parks since 1940. In addition to publishing the Sequoia Bark, the SNHA operates Crystal Cave and the Pear Lake Ski Hut, sponsors natural history field seminars, publishes educational materials, and supports other educational and scientific programs. Membership is available to everyone. Contact: HCR 89 Box 10, Three Rivers, CA 93271; (209)565-3759; e-mail: a-seqnha@inreach.com; http://home.inreach.com/a-seqnha.

Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)

As primary concessioner for these parks, KCPS provides commercial services, food, lodging, retail shops, and public transportation. Created by Asilomar Management Company, the headquarters are located at Grant Grove in Kings Canyon National Park, where the president, Fred Vreeman, directs the company. Write them at P.O. Box 909, Kings Canyon National Park, CA 93633; (209)335-5500.

Lodgepole — 6700' (2040m) elevation

FEATURES

Lodgepole is in the beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, a few miles from the Giant Forest. In addition to camping and picnic areas. Lodgepole Village offers:

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center** (NPS): Exhibits and a slide program on local geology and forest life, as well as local wilderness permits, books, maps, and first aid. Daily 9am-5pm through November 11, then weekends only. (209) 565-3782.
- **Walter Fry Nature Center** (NPS): Closed for the season.

FOOD/SHOPS — *Last day of operation for the season is November 16*

- **Market & Deli** (KCPS): Supplies, outdoor equipment, bear canisters, gifts, sandwiches, ice cream. Sunday-Thursday 10am-5pm; Friday-Saturday 9am-6pm through October 31. From November 1-16 Friday-Sunday only, 10am-5pm.
- **Pizza & Ice Cream Shop** (KCPS): Pizza, calzones,sandwiches. Same hours as market.
- **Gift Shop** (KCPS): Handicrafts, souvenirs, film. Same hours as market.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Showers & Laundry** (KCPS): Open daily through October. Next to market. Coin operated. Showers daily 7am-7:50pm; laundry 7am- 9pm (last load starts at 8:30pm).
- **Post Office**: Weekdays 8:30am-1pm & 1:30-4pm. Stamp machine 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.

Giant Forest — 6400' (1950m) elevation

FEATURES

This grove is home to the biggest sequoias, Moro Rock, and Crescent Meadow. In addition to lodging (through October 30) and a picnic area, Giant Forest Village offers:

FOOD/SHOPS/LODGING — *Closed for the season October 31*

- **Village Restaurant** (KCPS): Cafeteria service. Breakfast daily 7:30-11am. Dinner Friday-Saturday 5-8pm (through October 30).
- **Fireside Pizza** (KCPS): Pizza, calzones, salads. Daily 11am-9pm through October 30.
- **Village Market, Gift Shop** (KCPS): Supplies, handicrafts, souvenirs, film. Daily 9am-5pm.
- **Studio Gift Shop** (KCPS): Specialty handmade crafts. Friday-Saturday noon-5pm.
- **Lodging** (KCPS): Front desk open 5:30am-midnight. Last night of the season October 30.

Foothills — 1500-3500' (457-1067m) elevation

Expect delays: Starting in November, delays may be possible between Potwisha Campground and Hospital Rock due to road reconstruction. Delays of up to 1 hour are possible on weekdays (except for holidays). Check locally for updates.

FEATURES

The foothills are a land of oaks, chaparral, and river canyons, with hot summers, snow-free winters, and the greatest biological diversity in these parks. Park headquarters is here at Ash Mountain. In addition to camping and picnic areas, the foothills offer:

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center** (NPS): New exhibits on the extraordinary foothills, as well as books, maps, local wilderness permits, bear canisters, first aid. Daily 8am-5pm through October 31, then 8:30am-4:30pm on weekdays, 8am-5pm on weekends and holidays. (209) 565-3134.

Mineral King — 7800' (2380m) elevation

Seasonal closure: The Mineral King Road closes for the winter 17 miles from Hwy 198 on November 1 (or sooner if significant snow falls). It is scheduled to reopen for Memorial Day weekend 1998. Water in the campgrounds is turned off in mid-October.

FEATURES

Mineral King is a beautiful subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road (not recommended for RVs or trailers). There is no electricity to the area. In addition to camping, a river, and picnic area. Mineral King offers:



INFORMATION

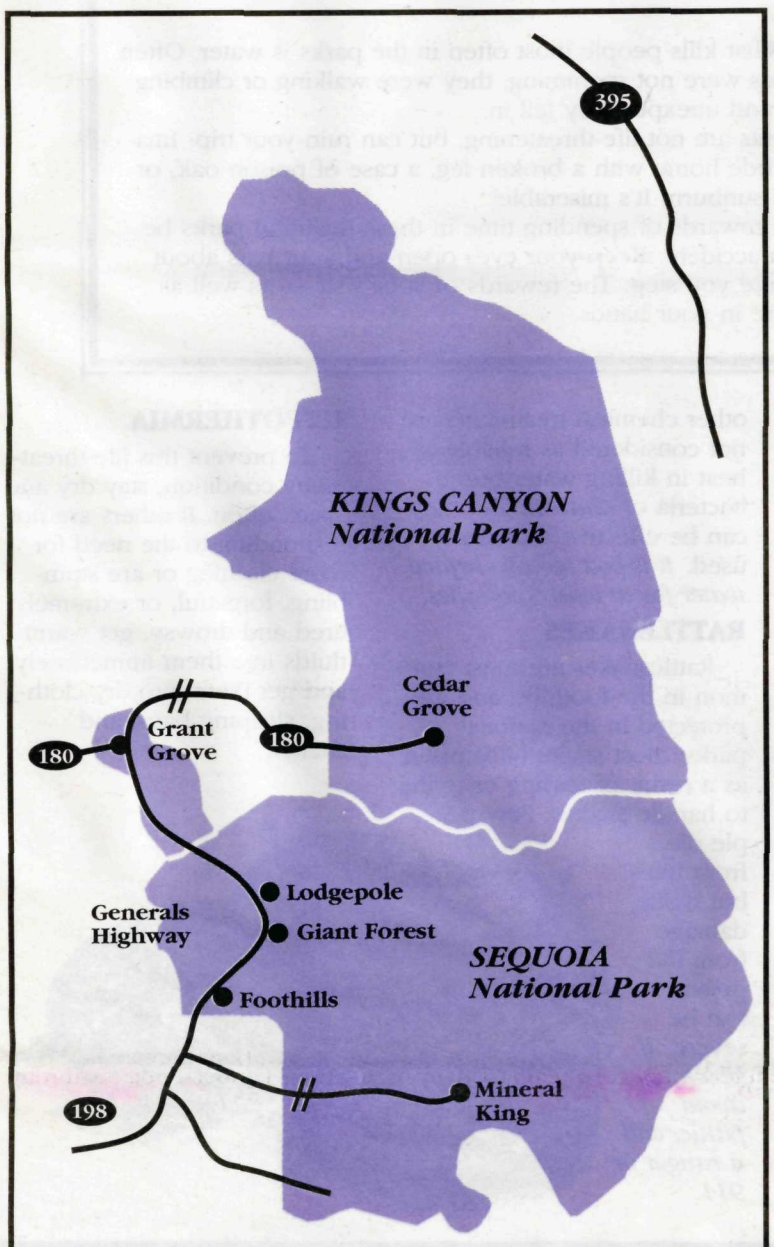
- **Ranger Station** (NPS): Closed for the season. Self-register for local wilderness permits on the porch.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Silver City Resort** (privately owned): Closed for the season.

Services

KINGS CANYON



Driving times in good weather

- Foothills/Hwy 198 to:
  - Giant Forest/Lodgepole — 1 hour
  - Visalia — 1 hour
  - Mineral King — 1-1/4 hour.
- Giant Forest/Lodgepole to Grant Grove — 1 hour.
- Grant Grove to:
  - Cedar Grove — 1 hour
  - Fresno — 1-1/2 hour
  - Yosemite via Highway 41 (Wawona) — 3 hours.

Information numbers

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
(no coins needed)

24-Hour Park Information (NPS)- (209)565-3341
then for detailed information press:

1 backcountry/stock use
2 camping/lodging
3 Crystal Cave and other activities
4 weather/road conditions
5 park employment
6 to receive park information by mail
7 directory assistance

Park Internet Home Page (NPS) — http://www.nps.gov/seki

Lodging Reservations (KCPS) — (209)335-5500

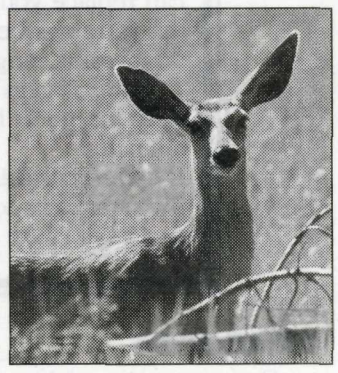
Camping Reservations (Destinet) — 1-800-365-2267
For most national parks up to 5 months in advance.
Reservations available for only two campgrounds in Sequoia: Lodgepole (through 10/14) and Dorst (through 9/2)

Forest Service Camping Reservations (Destinet)
1-800-280-2267 up to 1 year in advance

Yosemite Information (NPS) — (209)372-0264

California Road Conditions (Caltrans) 1-800-427-7623

Cedar Grove — 4600' (1410m) elevation



Seasonal closure: *At noon on Monday, November 10, Highway 180 to Cedar Grove closes east of Kings Canyon Lodge. During winter this road is peppered by frequent, dangerous rockfall. It will reopen in mid-April, 1998.*

FEATURES

Cedar Grove is in the Kings Canyon, a glaciated valley that features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River — "a rival to the Yosemite," according to John Muir. In addition to camping, lodging (last night November 7), and horseback riding, Cedar Grove Village offers:

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center** (NPS): Closed for the season.
- **Wilderness Permits** (NPS): At Road's End, east of Cedar Grove Village 6 miles. Self-register for local wilderness permits. Rent or buy bear canisters at the market.

FOOD/SHOPS/LODGING — *Open through November 7*

- **Restaurant** (KCPS): Counter-service meals and snack bar. Daily breakfast 8-10am, dinner 5-8 pm. Deli sandwiches and soup at the market.
- **Gift Shop & Market** (KCPS): Supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs, film. Sunday-Thursday 8am-5pm, Friday-Saturday 8am-8pm.
- **Lodging** (KCPS): Front desk 8-11am & 4-8pm. Last night November 7.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Showers & Laundry** (KCPS): Same hours as market; inquire there. Coin operated. (Shower closed 11am-3pm).
- **Boyden Cave** (private): Open through November 3. Tours on the hour 11am-4pm. $6.50 ages 13 and up; $3.25 ages 6-12; under 6 free. In National Forest.

Grant Grove — 6600' (2008m) elevation

FEATURES

Grant Grove was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from the lumberman's axe. It is an excellent area to see both a pristine grove and one that was logged in the 1800s. In addition to camping, lodging, and picnic areas, Grant Grove Village offers:

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center** (NPS): Exhibits and a 10-minute slide show on the natural and human history of Grant Grove, as well as books, maps, local wilderness permits, first aid. Daily 9am-4:30pm. (209)335-2856.

FOOD/SHOPS/LODGING

- **Restaurant** (KCPS): Sunday-Thursday 7am-8pm; Friday-Saturday 7am-9pm.
- **Gift Shop** (KCPS): Handicrafts, souvenirs, film. Sunday-Thursday 8am-8pm; Friday-Saturday 8am-9pm.
- **Market** (KCPS): Supplies, bear canisters, emergency gasoline. Sunday-Thursday 9am-6pm; Friday-Saturday 8am-8pm.
- **Lodging** (KCPS): Open year-round. Front desk 7am-11pm.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Showers** (KCPS): Arrange at Lodge. Daily 10am-4pm, (schedule may vary). $3/person.
- **Post Office:** Monday-Thursday 10:30am-12:30pm; Friday-Saturday 8:30am-5:30pm. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon National Park, CA 93633.

Picnic Areas

(NPS) Each offers tables, restrooms, fire pits, and drinking water unless indicated.

FOOTHILLS

Ash Mountain
Across from visitor center. No fire pits.

Hospital Rock
On Generals Highway, 6 miles north of Hwy 198/park entrance.

MINERAL KING

Across from ranger station. Pit toilets.

GIANT FOREST

Crescent Meadow
On Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road, 2.6 miles from village. No fire pits.

LODGEPOLE

Halstead Meadow
On Generals Highway, 4 miles north of Lodgepole. Pit toilets, no water.

Lodgepole
On Generals Highway, 1/4 mile north of Lodgepole junction. Pit toilets, no fire pits or water.

Wolverton
At end of Wolverton Road, off Generals Highway 1 mile north of the Sherman Tree.

GRANT GROVE

Columbine
On Grant Tree Road, 1/2 mile northwest of visitor center.

Big Stump
On Hwy 180, 3 miles southwest of visitor center.

Lost & Found

(NPS) Report lost items and turn in found items to any park visitor center or ranger station. Every attempt is made to match found items with reported losses.

Horses

Cedar Grove Pack Station
Closed for season November 10. East of Cedar Grove Village 1 mile; follow signs. Hourly to all-day rides; backcountry spot or pack trips. (209) 565-3464.

Grant Grove Stables
Closed for season.

Mineral King Pack Station
Closed for season.

Wolverton Pack Station
Closed for season.

Horse Corral (private)
Last day of season October 18. In Sequoia National Forest on Big Meadows Road, 10 miles east of Generals Highway. Half-day, all-day, backcountry spot or pack trips. (209) 565-3404.

Safety

Risk . . . and responsibility

The Park Service works to reduce risks in the parks, but nothing can replace your responsibility for your own safety. Take time to read the warnings below and on local bulletin boards. If you have questions, ask a ranger.

Natural areas present certain hazards — rocks roll unexpectedly, trees topple or limbs drop without warning, we cross paths with wild animals.

Other hazards here are man-made, such as hot pans on the campfire, tent stays to trip on, construction zones to avoid. Common traffic accidents cause more injuries in the parks than most of the natural hazards here! What kills people most often in the parks is water. Often drowning victims were not swimming; they were walking or climbing near the water and unexpectedly fell in.

Some accidents are not life-threatening, but can ruin your trip. Imagine having to ride home with a broken leg, a case of poison oak, or even just a bad sunburn. It's miserable!

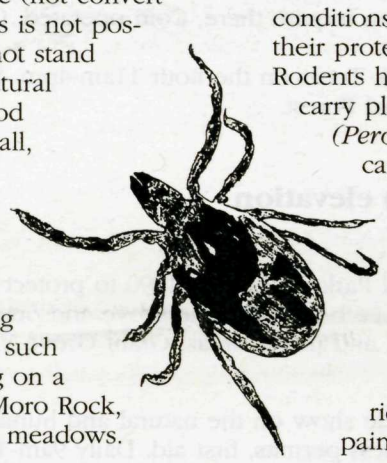
Don't let the rewards of spending time in these beautiful parks be tarnished by an accident. Keep your eyes open and your wits about you. Watch where you step. The rewards of your visit — as well as your safety —are in your hands.

RIVER RISKS

Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Streamside rocks are smooth and slippery, and swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Drowning is the #1 cause of death in these parks.

LIGHTNING

When thunderstorms threaten, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible). If this is not possible: Do not stand under a natural lightning rod such as a tall, isolated tree. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape, such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows.



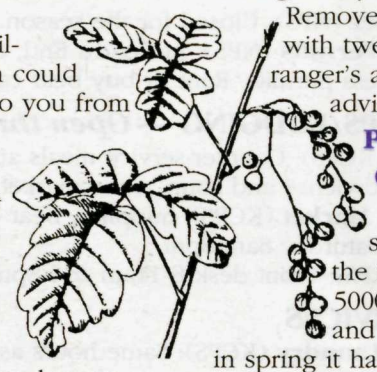
Stay away from bodies of water and wire fences, metal railings, etc., which could carry lightning to you from a distance.

PLAGUE

Please do not feed ANY park animals. All wildlife should live in natural conditions, for their protection and yours. Rodents have fleas that can carry plague. Deer mice *(Peromyscus)* feces can carry hantavirus. Do not touch squirrels or other animals.

TICKS

As you walk through foothill grasses, ticks may hitch a ride. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a ranger's and/or doctor's advice.



POISON OAK

This twiggy shrub grows in the foothills up to 5000 feet. Red in fall and bare in winter, in spring it has shiny green leaves in groups of three. If you touch any part of the plant, wash your skin and clothes as soon as possible.

CARBON MONOXIDE

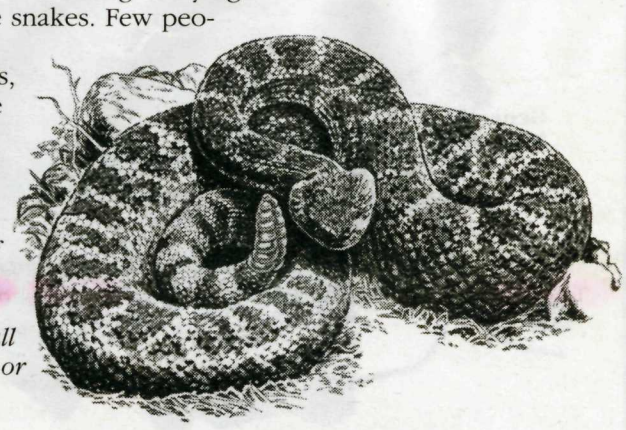
Never burn charcoal inside a tent, camper, or RV. Death can result from inhaling carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas.

UNSAFE WATER

Giardia is a protozoan in lakes and streams. Iodine and other chemical treatments are not considered as reliable as heat in killing water-borne bacteria or *Giardia*, but they can be effective if properly used. *It is best to boil surface water for at least 3 minutes.*

RATTLENAKES

Rattlesnakes are most common in the foothills, and are protected in the national parks. Most snake bites occur as a result of teasing or trying to handle snakes. Few people die from bites, but tissue damage from the poison can be severe. *If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.*



HYPOTHERMIA

To prevent this life-threatening condition, stay dry and snack often. If others are not responding to the need for more clothing or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm fluids into them immediately, and get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

Rules of the road

GASOLINE

Gasoline stations are closed for environmental cleanup, but emergency gas is sold in park markets. Gas is also available nearby in Three Rivers and Clingan's Junction. In neighboring Sequoia National Forest, two locations sell gas east of Grant Grove on Highway 180:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp (209-335-2881) Daily 8am-noon & 1-5pm; Fridays until 7pm (closed 5-5:30pm). Ten miles from Grant Grove.
- Kings Canyon Lodge (209-335-2405) daily 8am-7:30pm. 15 miles from Grant Grove.

NARROW ROADS/ SEASONAL CLOSURES

Crescent Meadow: Often crowded parking lots at Moro Rock and Crescent Meadow. Closes with first snow.

Kings Canyon Highway: Hwy 180 into Cedar Grove closes 11/10.

Mineral King Road: Trailers, motor homes not recommended. Partially unpaved. Closes 11/1.

Panoramic Point Road: No trailers or motor homes. Closes with first snow.

Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved, rough.

South Fork Road: Partially unpaved.

EMERGENCY SERVICE

AAA Road Service for out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, and minor repairs. 8am-5pm call (209)335-2135; after hours 335-2649.

LENGTH ADVISORY

A length advisory is in effect for vehicles traveling to Giant Forest from Highway 198 through the Ash Mountain entrance of Sequoia National Park

From Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Village, the steepest and narrowest stretch, the advised maximum for vehicle length is 22 feet.

The maximum legal length limit anywhere on the Generals Highway is 40 feet for single vehicles, 50 feet for vehicles plus a towed unit.

Vehicles longer than 22 feet would do better to travel into these parks via Highway 180 from Fresno, a straighter, less steep, and wider road.

If you are towing a smaller vehicle, consider seeking a campsite in the foothills and visiting the big trees by car.

CONSTRUCTION DELAYS

On the Generals Highway in the foothills of Sequoia Park, between the Foothills Visitor Center and Potwisha Campground, there may be delays up to 1 hour a on weekdays. Check locally for updates. *See page 2 "Foothills" for details.*

DRIVING STEEP ROADS

When it's hot, turn off air-conditioning to avoid overheating when going uphill.

Downshift to prevent a burned out transmission when going uphill and burned out brakes on the downgrade. In automatic cars, downshift by putting the gearshift on 1 or 2. The engine gets louder as it works to slow you down, but it will save your brakes.

If you stop to let the engine or brakes cool, do not pull off into dry grass. Wildfires have started this way!

WINTRY CONDITIONS

As winter approaches, be prepared for icy roads, especially on shady stretches. Carry chains once snowfall begins and watch for plows.

LET OTHERS PASS

Slow-moving vehicles must pull over to let traffic pass. Pull over into a safe turnout to look at scenery.

WHEELS STAY ON ROADS

To protect the soil and plants, all vehicles must park and travel on the pavement only.

MOTORCYCLES

Avoid the oil buildup in the center of the uphill lane.

BICYCLES

Ride with the traffic, never ride beside another bicycle, and wear light-colored clothing after dark.

The Generals Highway

Improvement makes straight roads; but the crooked roads without improvement are roads of genius.

—William Blake

How do you improve a beautiful old road without diminishing its genius?

The builders of the historic Generals Highway, opened in 1926 to link a foothills wagon road to the Giant Forest, never envisioned the volume of today's traffic, its speed, or the size of modern vehicles. The old highway has deteriorated badly. Without repair, portions of it may eventually collapse.

The road, however, has become part of the park experience, curves and all, so a multi-year effort to preserve both the road and the experience is underway. Thanks to the Federal Highway Administration, over a number of years the highway will be given a solid base, retaining walls will protect it from erosion, and its width will be made more consistent. The changes will make the road safer and more durable, but the curves and the scenery — the genius of this road — will be unchanged. Such a project takes time. Your patience during this effort is appreciated!

Activities

Get involved!

From picnics to horse packing, there are many activities to try. See pages 2 and 3 for details. Make the most of your time here by putting as much distance as you can between yourself and your car. It's the best way to discover the parks!

NATURALIST PROGRAMS — Free programs may be offered in Grant Grove and Giant Forest. Check bulletin boards for schedules and see pages 6-7 for details. Join us in exploring!

JR. RANGER PROGRAM — Kids ages 5 to 13 can earn a patch while discovering the resources here and learning to protect them. This program deepens understanding and appreciation of our limited resources. It adds depth and excitement to your visit here and may prompt you to try conservation at home.

The activities take some time to complete. The requirements are based on age, and everyone helps by picking up litter. If you are 9 to 12 years old, you work toward the Raven Award. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award.

To get started, purchase the $1 Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and start learning!

VISITOR CENTERS — Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. Check them out!

TAKE A SEMINAR — Most last only two to three days, but offer memories and knowledge to last a lifetime. See page 10 for details, and contact the SNHA at (209)565-3759.

TAKE A STROLL — Try one of the walks suggested on pages 8 and 9.

GO FISH — A California State Fishing License is required for everyone aged 16 or older. Licenses and tackle are usually available at park markets. Some park regulations vary from the state's and there are some restrictions, so get a copy of the park regulations at a visitor center.

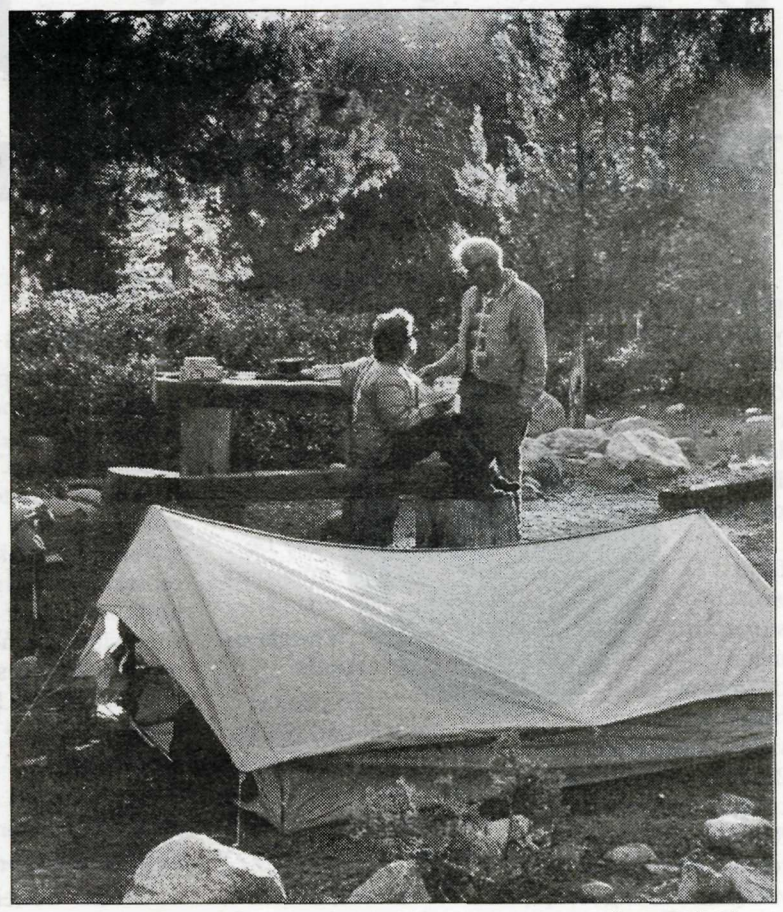


PHOTO BY BILL JONES

Rays of light slanting through the trees and crisp, bracing air — two of the rewards of autumn hikes. Long trail or, short, pick one and go!

Walk lightly on the land

Protect the parks as you enjoy them by following these simple rules:

BICYCLES

To reduce erosion and conflicts with pedestrians and horses, *no bicycles are permitted on trails.*

TAKE ONLY PICTURES

The attractive cones, bark, flowers, rocks, and lichen-covered twigs are part of the natural scene we have all come to enjoy. It is against the law to remove anything from a national park. Please leave it for the next visitor to see and to play its role in the natural ecosystem.

PET POLICY

For the sake of wildlife and other visitors, *dogs, cats, and other pets must always be leashed or under physical restraint.* Leashes may not be longer than six feet. Leaving pets unattended and tied to an object is not permitted. *Pets are not permitted on trails or in public buildings.*

PROTECT THE PAST

As with plants and wildlife, archaeological sites and artifacts here are protected by law. These resources teach us about our history; once removed that knowledge is gone. If you find artifacts, or see evidence of digging or collecting, please contact any park employee.

BEARS

Never feed wildlife, and please don't stop if you see a bear along the road. Bears near the road are used to getting food handouts, and can be aggressive. They usually must be destroyed, if they don't get hit by a car first.

MEADOWS

"Take only pictures, leave only footprints," the saying goes. Yet sometimes footprints are too much — such as in fragile meadows. The damage they cause lasts for years. Please enjoy meadows from their edges.

Hunting season is here

HUNTERS

Hunting is not permitted in these parks at any time, but hikers using trails near park boundaries should be careful during hunting season.

Hunters with game legally taken outside the parks may camp in the parks, but carcasses or other remains may not be displayed; game may be carried across parklands if tagged and kept out of sight. Park rangers are authorized to validate deer tags.

With a permit, hunters may take properly stored weapons across park backcountry to reach lands *outside* the parks.

FIREARMS

Guns cannot be used in the parks, and must be unloaded, disassembled, and stored out of sight at all times.

Weapons are not permitted at all in the backcountry.



Cougar country

Mountain lions, or cougars, roam throughout these parks, although your chances of seeing one of these secretive animals are small.

The likelihood of encountering an aggressive lion is even more remote, although cougars have been known to attack people and pets.

Still, it is wise to be prepared. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely, never letting them run ahead of you on the trail.

If you do meet up with a mountain lion, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous yourself. Remember the following tips:

- Don't run. Cougars may chase things that run because they associate running with prey.
- Do not crouch down; try to appear as large as possible. Attempts to hide are unsuccessful; cougars see most people long before people spot them.
- Hold your ground, or move away slowly while facing the lion.
- If you have little children with you, pick them up.
- If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings to a ranger.

Their solitary nature, as well as the cougars' tendency to live in remote areas, explains why we know relatively little about these graceful cats.

Cougars once ranged from northern Canada through South America and from coast to coast. Probably no other native land mammal in this hemisphere had a more extended range from north to south. Due to hunting and loss of habitat, they have been creatures largely of the west since the 1920s.

The mountain lion is, for many, the quintessential symbol of wilderness — a large animal ranging freely in wild areas, independent of human interference.

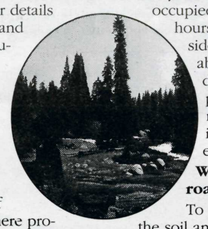
It is the largest carnivore in these parks, the top of a food chain, and thereby an indicator of the whole system's health.

When visiting lion habitat, we must understand the cats' survival behaviors, and act accordingly to protect ourselves — and them.

Staying Overnight: Camping & Lodging

Keep in mind when camping

These rules help to protect your parks and you! Check bulletin boards for details on these and other regulations.



Beware of bears

All food *must* be stored in metal bearproof boxes where provided. Most boxes are 2'x2'x4'; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit. Remove all food and related items from vehicles. Food not stored will be impounded. Keep a clean campsite; deposit all garbage in bearproof containers.

Quiet hours

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

Fires

Gather only dead and down wood; do not cut limbs from trees. Better yet, bring wood from home or purchase it from a market. Make sure fires are out before leaving your campsite.

Protect the area

Using soaps in rivers and digging, trenching or leveling ground are not permitted.

Reserving campsites

Reserving campsites is prohibited in first-come, first-served campgrounds. You may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived yet. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; property may be impounded.

Wheels on roads

To protect the soil and plants, all vehicles must park and travel on pavement only.

Limits

Many campgrounds permit a maximum of one vehicle and six people per campsite. Check locally for slight variations in these limits. Parking is available nearby for extra vehicles.

Camp in campsites

Camp only in designated campsites. Roadside camping is not permitted.

Camping limit

14 days during the period from June 14-September 14, with 30 days total per year.

Brake failure

Steep hot grades of 5-8%, hot weather, and heavy traffic cause brakes to overheat. Avoid brake failure; use low gear for downhill travel. Overheated engines are common; turn off air conditioning for uphill travel.

RVs & Trailers

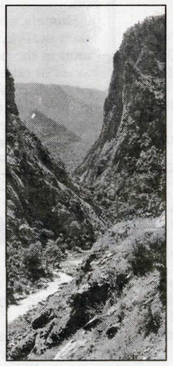
Trailers are permitted at all but four campgrounds — check specific listings. However, due to terrain many sites are not suitable for trailers or recreational vehicles. A limited number of campsites can accommodate vehicles or trailers over 30 feet long.

Hookups

No hookups at any park campground.

Length advisory

On the Generals Highway between Potwisha Campground and Giant Forest Village, a vehicle length limit of 22 feet is advised. Absolute maximum length in these parks is 40 feet for single vehicles, 35 feet for trailers. Combination vehicles may not exceed 50 feet. Width limit is 8 feet.



Park Campgrounds

- * Indicates campgrounds open all year.
- There are no hookups anywhere in the parks.
- Every campground has drinking water except South Fork.
- Each campsite has a table and fire pit.
- Always check campground bulletin boards for local updates, regulations, and activity schedules.
- Reservations are available only for Lodgepole and Dorst during summer. For reservations call DESTINET at 1-800-365-2267 or visit their website: http://www.destinet.com

"Nearby" means within 1 mile

	# of Sites	Daily Fee $	Restrooms	Nearby	Showers Nearby	Laundry Nearby	Dump Station Nearby	Ranger Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding Stable Nearby	River Nearby	Nearby
IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK												
Foothills — First-come, first-served.												
Potwisha* — 2100'	44	12	Flush				●	●			●	
Buckeye Flat — 2800' *No RVs or trailers Last night 10/13*	28	12	Flush								●	
South Fork* — 3600'	13	6	Pit								●	
Mineral King — (No RVs or trailers) — First-come, first-served. Drinking water turned off mid-October. Area closes November 1												
Cold Springs — 7500' *Last night 10/31*	40	6	Pit					●	●	●	●	
Atwell Mill — 6650' *Last night 10/31*	21	6	Pit		●				●		●	●
Lodgepole — Reservations available in summer: 1-800-365-2267												
Lodgepole* — 6700' *Location of winter campground in this area may shift later in the season. Check locally.*	250	14	Flush	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Dorst — 6800' *Closed for season*	218	14	Flush				●	●	●		●	
IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK												
Grant Grove — First-come, first-served.												
Azalea* — 6500'	114	12	Flush	●	●		●	●	●	●		●
Crystal Springs — 6500' *Closed for season*	66	12	Flush	●	●		●	●	●	●		●
Sunset — 6500' *Closed for season*	119	12	Flush	●	●		●	●	●	●		●
Cedar Grove — First-come, first served. Area closes November 10												
Sentinel — 4600'	83	12	Flush	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Sheep Creek — 4600' *Closed for season*	111	12	Flush	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
Canyon View (tents only) — 4600' *Closed for season*	37	12	Flush	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
Moraine (open as needed) — 4600' *Closed for season*	120	12	Flush	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	

Lodging

For reservations in the parks, contact:
Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)
(209) 335-5500
P.O. Box 909
Kings Canyon National Park, CA 93633

In Sequoia National Park

Giant Forest Lodge (KCPS) — 209-335-5500 — Last night October 30, then closed for the season. Register at Giant Forest Village on Generals Highway, 16 miles from Hwy 198 and park entrance. Motel.

Mineral King Silver City Resort (privately owned) — 209-561-3223 — Closed for season. On Mineral King Road, 3 miles west of ranger station..

In Kings Canyon National Park

Grant Grove Lodge (KCPS) — 209-335-5500 — Open year-round. In Grant Grove Village. Rustic cabins with bath, housekeeping cabins.

Cedar Grove Lodge (KCPS) — 209-335-5500 — Last night November 7. In Cedar Grove Village. Motel.

In Neighboring National Forest

Stony Creek Lodge (KCPS) — 209-335-5500 — Open through November. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove and Lodgepole. Dinner Friday-Saturday 6-9pm. Restaurant may close sooner than lodge.

Montecito-Sequoia Lodge (privately owned) — 800-227-9900 — Open year-round. On Generals Highway, 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Cabins, lodge, meals, activities, ski touring.

Kings Canyon Lodge (privately owned) — 209-335-2405 — On Highway 180, 17 miles east of Grant Grove. Gas, meals, cabins.

In Neighboring Communities

Local communities such as Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, and Squaw Valley offer a variety of accommodations, campgrounds, and services year-round. Ask for information at park visitor centers, or see the park website (http://www.nps.gov/seki).

Bearpaw Meadow Camp
(KCPS)

Closed for the season. A tent hotel on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest. Reservations are taken for next summer starting on January 2, 1998. (209)335-5500.



DON'T BE BEAR CARELESS!

Fall Naturalist Programs

Programs are limited in the fall, but we still hope you'll join us! Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for schedules.

LODGEPOLE/GIANT FOREST

■ Rangers usually lead walks on weekends. Come winter, snowshoe walks will be held on Saturdays with sufficient snowfall.

GRANT GROVE

■ Evening programs are held in the visitor center auditorium on Saturdays at 7:30pm. Weekend snowshoe walks begin with sufficient snowfall.



Be a host!

Ever dream about spending a summer camping in a national park? If you have an RV or a tent and lots of enthusiasm, we need you as a campground host!

Campground hosts assist rangers in working with the public to caretake park resources. Hosts teach campers how to store food properly away from bears, share information about local trails and features, and direct folks to any services they need. Park campgrounds need friends to watch over them — keep bulletin boards up to date, round up litter, and attend to details.

The Park Service offers a campsite, but not necessarily one with hookups. Little is provided, but past hosts can tell you — the satisfaction comes from friends made and time spent in these beautiful surroundings.

For information about the host program or other volunteer opportunities, contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

Group Campsites

During the summer, there are several group tent-camping areas available at Dorst, Sunset, and Canyon View campgrounds. Group sizes from 12 to 50 may be accommodated, depending on location.

Sites *must* be reserved in advance. Reservation requests are accepted *by mail only*, after January 1, and are processed in order of date of postmark. Telephone inquiries are welcome, but *only written requests are accepted* for reservations.

For information on Dorst call (209)565-3776; for Sunset call (209)335-5545; and for Canyon View call (209) 565-3792

Sequoia National Forest

Neighboring Sequoia National Forest has four group campgrounds in the Hume Lake District that accommodate groups of 50-100 people.

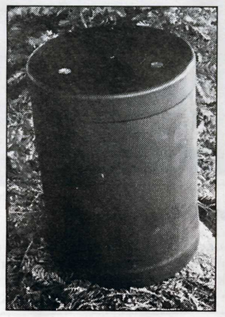
For reservations call: 1-800-280-CAMP.

Store your food!

Bears keep getting better at defeating our efforts to keep food from them. They even go into highcountry, well outside their natural range, seeking backpackers' food! If they get aggressive in their efforts, they must be destroyed.

In the campgrounds, large metal boxes offer bear-proof food storage. Use them faithfully at all times, and latch them completely. Also store ice chests, grocery bags, and any scented items, like toothpaste, from your luggage or car.

Backpackers: Protect your food — and park wildlife — by storing your grub in a portable canister. Less than three pounds, it holds up to five day's food for one hiker and fits in your pack. Rent or buy one at a park visitor center or market. Remember not to leave any food in cars at trailheads. Storing food is the only way we can prevent bears from learning to seek human food — a habit that ends in their death.



Packing into the Wilderness

To preserve the natural environment and assure a quality wilderness experience for all, it is necessary to control backcountry use, and a free permit is required. Each trail has a daily entry quota.

Permits are available at the ranger station nearest your trailhead (see pages 2-3). Reserved permits must be picked up by 9am on the day of departure or the afternoon before. If you are delayed, call the ranger station or you may forfeit your reservation.

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

Permits are not written late in the afternoon since minimum distances must be reached before camping is allowed.

For those who plan an evening arrival to begin early the next morning, remember: Camping in the "front-country" of these parks is permitted only in established campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads.

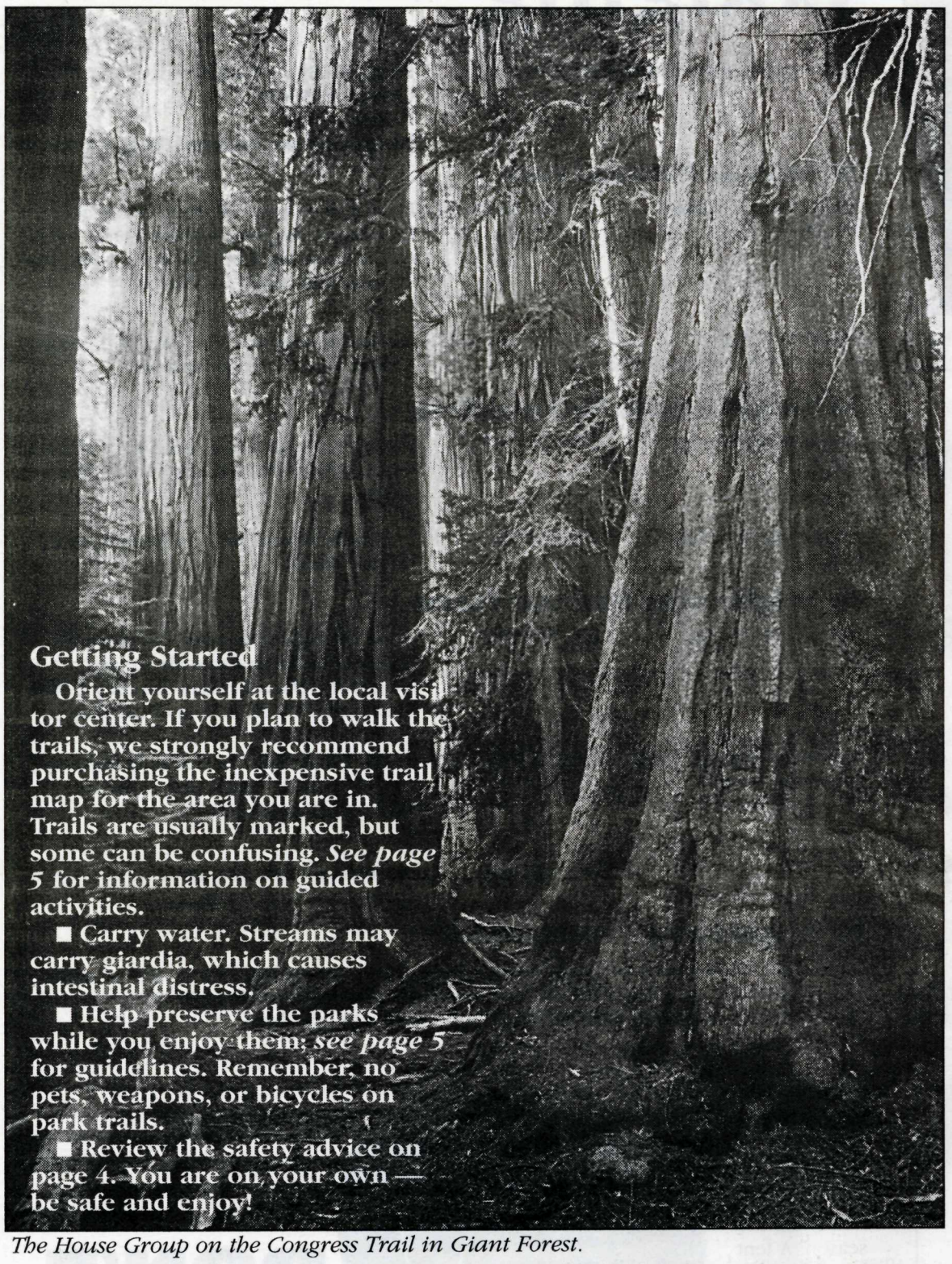
Reservations are available at least 3 weeks in advance if you can prearrange a firmly committed trail entry date during the summer. For information contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
Three Rivers, CA 93271
(209)565-3708
FAX: (209) 565-3797

Remember: Firearms of any type are prohibited in the parks. Bears are interested in your food, not you. There has never been a fatality due to bears or cougars recorded in these parks.

Highlights

SEQUOIA



Getting Started

Orient yourself at the local visitor center. If you plan to walk the trails, we strongly recommend purchasing the inexpensive trail map for the area you are in. Trails are usually marked, but some can be confusing. *See page 5* for information on guided activities.

■ Carry water. Streams may carry giardia, which causes intestinal distress.

■ Help preserve the parks while you enjoy them; *see page 5* for guidelines. Remember, no pets, weapons, or bicycles on park trails.

■ Review the safety advice on page 4. You are on your own — be safe and enjoy!

The House Group on the Congress Trail in Giant Forest.

Around Giant Forest

General Sherman Tree: A short, easy walk to the world's largest tree, named in 1879 by a Civil War veteran. A sequoia slab nearby illustrates the relationship between the Big Trees and fire. North of Giant Forest Village 2 miles.

Congress Trail: A fairly level 2-mile loop through the heart of the sequoia grove, beginning at the Sherman Tree. Excellent for first-time visitors. Highlights: the House and Senate groups, and the President and McKinley trees. Trail brochure may be purchased at the Sherman Tree or visitor centers. Allow 1-2 hours.

Trail for All People/Round Meadow: A 2/3-mile paved, handicapped-accessible trail rings this sequoia-encircled meadow. Good summer wildflowers. Trail-side signs describe forest and meadow life. 1/4 mile north of Giant Forest Village.

Hazelwood Nature Trail: A 1-mile loop featuring trailside information about man's impact on the sequoias. Small parking area across the highway from Round Meadow road.

Along Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

This 3-mile, dead-end road beginning at Giant Forest Village explores the southwest portions of the grove. Not recommended for trailers or RVs. In summer try taking the shuttle and walking back on a trail. In winter, the road closes to become a ski trail. Allow 1 to 2 hours for the following:

Auto Log: Drive your car onto this fallen giant sequoia, 0.9 miles from the Village.

Moro Rock: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the summit. Spectacular view of the Great Western Divide and the western half of the park. 2.0 miles from the Village.

Tunnel Log: A fallen giant sequoia with a tunnel for traffic (bypass available for larger vehicles). The only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. 2.7 miles from the Village.

Crescent Meadow: John Muir's "gem of the Sierra" lies at the end of Crescent Meadow Road. Excellent summer wildflowers. Stay on designated trails; walk only on fallen logs for access into fragile meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile route to **Tharp's Log**, summer home of the first settler in Giant Forest, and the **High Sierra Trail**, which runs 71 miles to Mt. Whitney (highest peak in the lower 48 states —14,494'; 4417m).

Nearby Trails

Tokopah Falls: 1.7 miles along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, ending below the impressive granite cliffs and waterfall of Tokopah Canyon. Starts in Lodgepole Campground, 4.5 miles north of the Village. Allow 2-1/2 to 4 hours.

Little Baldy: Ascends 700 vertical feet in 1.7 miles to a rocky summit with a grand view. Starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 11 miles north of the Village on the Generals Highway. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.

In the Foothills

Hospital Rock

Early residents of this area, the Western Mono lived year-round where we now picnic. Exhibits offer details about their lifestyle. A trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to the river.

Marble Falls

This 3.7-mile dead-end trail to a lovely cascade opens up chaparral-covered terrain, some of the most rugged in Sequoia Park. Park near site #17 at Potwisha Campground, then follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch. Watch for the start of the trail as it climbs the steep bank to the right.

Paradise Creek

Follow the footpath from site #22 in Buckeye Flat Campground across the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for one mile before growing quite faint.

Middle Fork

Leading eventually to the high country, the first miles provide views of upper Kaweah Canyon, Moro Rock, and Castle Rocks. Take the road toward Buckeye Flat Campground, then left on a dirt road just before the campground. Continue 1.3 miles to the trailhead parking. When Buckeye Flat is closed, park at Hospital Rock.

South Fork

Ladybug

A fairly easy hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah the upper reaches of the foothills zone. Park at South Fork Campground. Cross the footbridge to the trail, which ends 3 miles up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

Garfield

A relatively steep 6 1/2-mile climb to the Garfield sequoia grove. Starts on the south side of the river at South Fork Campground.



Photo: D. Porter

Mineral King ***(This area closes November 1.)***

The winding, steep road to this valley ends at 7800' (2380m), the highest point you can drive to in these parks. The many trails that lead from Mineral King to the highcountry, too numerous to list here, make it an excellent place for hikers who don't mind hills. Ask at visitor centers for information if you are considering a visit to Mineral King.

Highlights

KINGS CANYON

Around Grant Grove

General Grant Tree: The world's third-largest living tree as well as the Nation's Christmas Tree and a designated National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who gave their lives for freedom. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch on this easy, 1/3-mile paved trail. Relatively accessible. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile.

North Grove Loop: This lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk past meadows and creeks through mixed-conifer forest. Starts at Grant Tree parking area.

Dead Giant Loop: Speculate on what killed the Dead Giant, enjoy a picturesque view of a historic mill pond (Sequoia Lake), and reflect on the differences between management of national forest and national park land. Follow the old road at the lower end of the Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off the road, creating a 1-1/2 mile round trip.

Nearby Trails & Points of Interest

Big Stump Basin: Once a noisy, bustling logging camp, only stumps remain from Smith Comstock's lumbering operation. This 1-mile loop through regenerating forest has excellent birdwatching and wildflowers. Purchase the trail booklet at the visitor center. Another trail visits the Sawed Tree, a sequoia that survived being cut nearly in two over a century ago. Southwest of the visitor center 2-1/2 miles on Highway 180.

Panoramic Point: A spectacular vista of the high Sierra from Mt. Goddard in northern Kings Canyon Park to Eagle Scout Peak in Sequoia Park (Mt. Whitney is not visible). Go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the intersection signed "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles." Walk 1/4 mile up to the viewpoint. Trailers and RVs not recommended on this steep, narrow road. The 4-mile round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

Buena Vista Peak: Begin just south of Kings Canyon Overlook on the Generals Highway, 6 miles southeast of Grant Grove. The 360-degree vista overlooks Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Fire Tower, and the high Sierra. 2 miles round trip.

Redwood Canyon: The world's largest grove of the world's largest trees, plus mixed-conifer forest, meadow, and shrubland. Acres of rejuvenating sequoia forest result from prescribed fires over the last 25 years, offering no better place to observe the relationship between the Big Trees and fire. Start at Redwood Saddle, about 6 miles south of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then turn right for 2 miles on a bumpy dirt road.

In Neighboring National Forest

Converse Basin: Once the largest grove of sequoias, virtually every mature tree was felled early in the 1900s. Just the Boole Tree and a few other giants were spared. The oldest-known sequoia, the Muir Snag (over 3000 years old when it died) was discovered here by the famous naturalist. Take Highway 180 6 miles north of Grant Grove then left on the graded dirt road. Ask for details at the visitor center.

Hume Lake: This mill pond supplied water for a flume that floated rough-cut sequoia lumber to the planing mill at Sanger, 54 miles below. During summer the lake offers fishing, swimming, boat rental (Hume Lake Christian Camps), and a campground; gas, groceries, and a small laundry are open year-round. 8 miles north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then 3 miles south on Hume Lake Road.



The Oregon Tree in Grant Grove.

Cedar Grove *(This area closes November 10.)*

Along Kings Canyon Highway

Canyon View: The "U" shape of Kings Canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile east of Cedar Grove Village turnoff.

Knapp's Cabin: During the roaring '20s, wealthy Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here. This small cabin was used to store quantities of extravagant gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles east of Cedar Grove Village turnoff.

Roaring River Falls: A refreshing, shady five-minute walk to a forceful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. 3 miles east of the Village turnoff. Paved, relatively accessible.

Zumwalt Meadow: This scenic mile-long trail offers high granite walls, a lush meadow, and the meandering Kings River. A trail booklet is available at the ranger station or trailhead. Park 4-1/2 miles east of the Cedar Grove Village turnoff. Allow 1 hour.

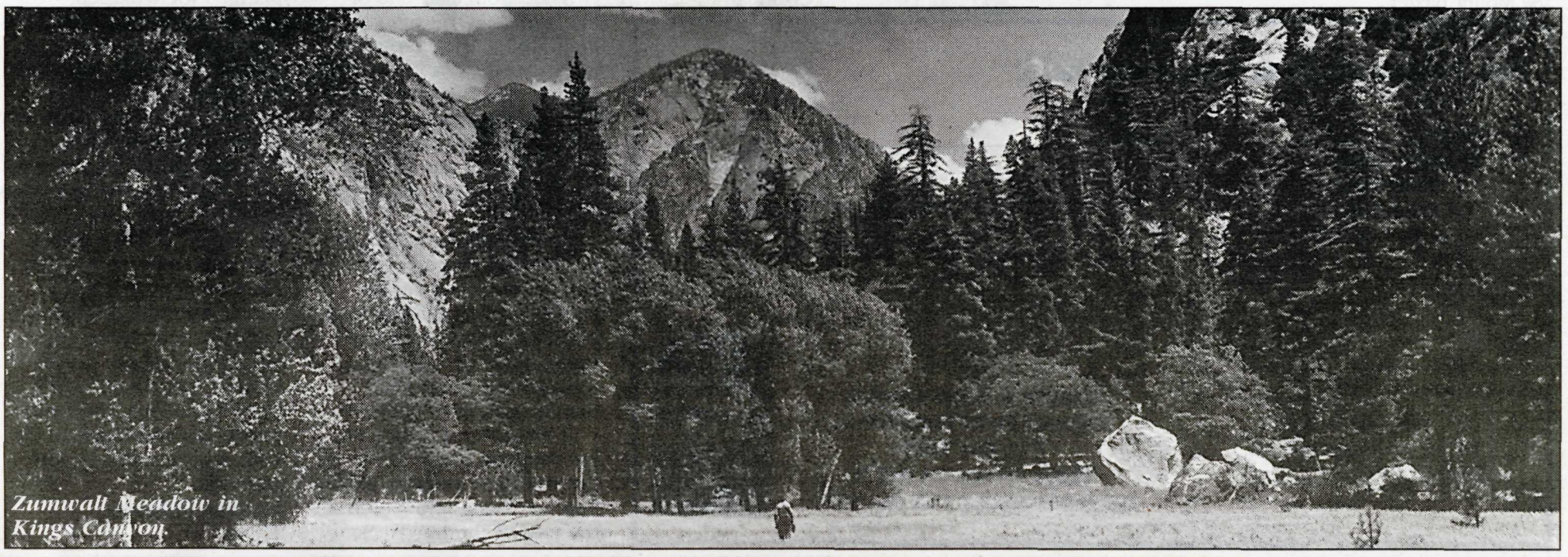
Road's End: To cross the Sierra you will have to walk from here; no road crosses this range in these parks. Here you will find trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra.

Take Time for a Hike

Mist Falls: Follow the glaciated South Fork Canyon through chaparral then forest, past rapids and cascades, to one of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 8 miles round trip. The beginning is relatively flat; the 600-foot elevation gain is in the last mile. Park at Road's End, 5-1/2 miles east of the Village turnoff.

Don Cecil Trail: Once the major access route to Cedar Grove prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180, this trail starts .2 miles east of Cedar Grove Village. It climbs the north-facing slope, passing Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile up) and affording good views. Lookout Peak (13 miles round trip, 4000 feet elevation gain) provides an incredible backcountry panorama. Strenuous; allow all day to the top.

Hotel Creek Trail: This trail starts .6 miles north of the Village Market at the intersection with the pack station road. Strenuous, it switchbacks up through chaparral to a forested ridge and Cedar Grove Overlook and gorgeous views up and down the canyon. 5 miles round trip; 1200-foot elevation gain. Allow 3 to 4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile loop.



Zumwalt Meadow in Kings Canyon.

What can one person do?

Environmental challenges loom so large, sometimes it's hard to believe that you can make a difference — but you can! As one statesman said, "Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."

Two organizations make it easier for you to help. One is the ***Sequoia Natural History Association,*** *or* ***SNHA.*** *By joining, you combine forces with others who love the resources these parks preserve. Purchase anything at a park visitor center, and the nonprofit SNHA gives part of the proceeds to educational and research programs here. They have donated over $1 million in the past decade. Give them a call: (209)565-3758.*

Or contribute to the ***Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Foundation****. This nonprofit raises money for a wide variety of important park projects for which federal money is not available. It supports special resource management programs, including restoration efforts. Reach them at (209)561-1312.*

Learn about the environment. The more you know, the more you can help. Join a ranger in an activity, or participate in an SNHA seminar. Fascinating books await you at the visitor centers, or you can mail order them from the SNHA. Some will give you ideas on what you can do at home, too. You'll find some options here, but the possibilities are endless.

You can make a difference!

Working in the parks

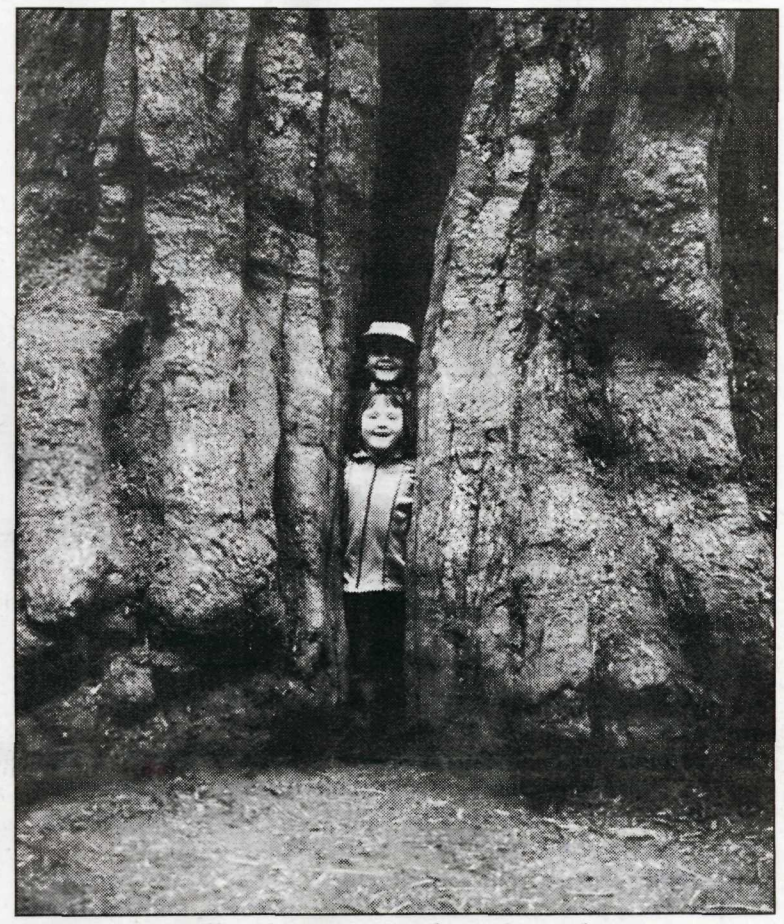
Most people get their start in the National Park Service as seasonal employees or volunteers. More than a few of us found a second career in the national parks.

A variety of jobs are held by seasonal employees, especially in the summer: ranger, resource manager, fire technician, naturalist, clerk, and several types of maintenance positions. Applications for summer positions are usually due by January 15. Volunteer applications are accepted year-round.

Interested? Contact the Personnel Office, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

Working for the concessioner is another way to get involved in the parks. Kings Canyon Park Services accepts applications throughout the summer for positions in food services, hotel, retail, maintenance, and administration.

Contact KCPS, P.O. Box 909, Kings Canyon National Park, CA 93633.



Start the kids off early in caring about the parks!

A good Foundation

If you have a particular interest in these parks, the Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Foundation can help. Important projects wait for willing donors to step forward and help make them happen.

Since the Foundation was formed, over $200,000 has been raised for significant projects that are beyond available federal budgets. The lovely "Trail for All People" that makes Round Meadow handicapped-accessible was made possible this way. So was "Backcountry Basics," a unique newspaper that has educated thousands on how to visit this wilderness without harming it — or themselves.

Foundation funds may have provided the bear-proof box in which you store your food or the display you enjoy most at the Nature Center. Recently over $5000 went to the Mount Baxter Bighorn Sheep Research Program, which may eventually reintroduce these magnificent animals to part of their historic range in these parks.

Donations to the Foundation have gone toward repairing backcountry trail bridges and completing the successful trail restoration around the General Sherman Tree, as well as funding exhibits to educate visitors about the complex ecology of these amazing giants.



Other vital projects being considered for funding include rehabilitation of the Grant Tree Trail, an educational program on prescribed fire, an 8' by 10' raised relief map of the Sierra, and trail rehabilitation in Kings Canyon's Granite Basin.

Almost two million people journeyed to Sequoia and Kings Canyon last year. As more of us turn to the parks for recreation and inspiration, it is more important than ever to contribute towards their preservation — for ourselves and for the future.

Please select the giving category best suited for you, and mail in your tax-deductible gift TODAY.

Thank you!

Robert F. Wilkins, Chairman

Yes, I share the commitment to help!

- ❑ *Endower* $5,000 or more
- ❑ *John Muir Fellow* $1,000 or more
- ❑ *George Stewart Fellow* $500 or more
- ❑ *Benefactor* $250 or more
- ❑ *Centurion* $100 or more
- ❑ *Contributor* _____
- ❑ *I can volunteer to help! Call me to discuss options. Telephone #:* _____

Name _____

Address _____

_____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Three Rivers, CA 93271
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Sequoia and Kings Canyon NATIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION

Get an education — outdoors

Imagine immersing yourself in Sierran scenery while an expert shares the secrets of the wild world around you.

SNHA seminars offer just that opportunity. The Sequoia Natural History Association brings experts in birds, wildflowers, geology, and botany together with interesting, interested people like you. Together you can share two or more days of learning about these parks and their resources.

No matter what your background is, you'll find the instructors are great at explaining their subject, from the sweeping concept to the fascinating detail. College credit is available for most of the seminars, too!

Ask for details at any visitor center or call the SNHA at (209) 565-3759. Do it soon! Seminars start this winter.

Upgrading the park:

FROM PAGE ONE

Aside from age, one of the culprits is the sequoias themselves. Their roots have infiltrated the old pipes. The regular repair required to keep drinking water safe and sewage well-contained means cutting the roots of the Big Trees we aim to protect.

In 1980 the park, the public, and the concessioner met and agreed to move the facilities, rather than destroy portions of this famous sequoia grove by building a new sewage plant and trenching in rows of pipes.

It has taken a long time, but the final stages of the effort are close at hand. Buildings are being removed from the toes of the Big Trees, and replacement facilities are planned for Wuksachi Village, 6 miles from the Sherman Tree. Modern sewage treatment and water treatment plants have been built — outside the sequoia grove — to serve them.

These efforts help to preserve the trees that inspire us and the wildlife that lives among them. They help to guarantee that the water we all share is pure when it comes from the ground, safe to drink, and cleaned up before going back underground. Their goal is protection of precious resources, which has everything to do with our vacations — and our lives.

Malinee Crapsey,
Editor

These parks are home to bears ...

Before Europeans settled here, the grizzly called these parks home. Today this symbol of California is extinct throughout the state, but the savvy Sierran black bear still ranges from the foothills to the highcountry.

Much smaller than the grizzly, male black bears rarely reach 400 pounds here; females may grow to 250. Despite their name, black bears can be brown, cinnamon, or blonde.

In mild winters some bears stay active, but most spend winter in dens, typically in the base of a rotted fir tree. The young are born there, usually two to a litter, but there can be up to four cubs in a family. The babies are tiny, often weighing less than 1/2 pound at birth.

By spring, cubs have gained five pounds but adults have lost up to 50% of their weight during hibernation!

They emerge to seek sustenance from grasses and tender herbs, and whatever carrion they can find. They rely on meadow plants until berries begin to ripen. Despite membership in the carnivore family, bears eat relatively little meat.

Later in the season they tear apart logs for carpenter ants and dig up yellow jacket nests. Autumn's acorns are crucial to the bears' desperate efforts to gain weight needed to survive the coming winter.

A cycle of unnatural behavior begins when normally shy and timid bears learn to associate people with food. Yearlings, in their first season away from mom, know the least about finding wild foods and are most vulnerable. They may be the first to become campground bears and the most difficult to return to a natural diet.

These intelligent animals identify food not only by smell, but by appearance — bags, cans, coolers, and even cars become tempting. Once one ice chest or car yields food, bears don't hesitate to pry open others to check for our protein-rich, high-calorie food.

If bears grow used to getting our food, they lose their natural fears and become bold and aggressive. To deter such destructive behaviors, biologists may trap, radio-collar, and track them in order to scare them off, but all this rarely succeeds. Because all wildlife is protected in national parks, a problem bear is killed only as a last resort, but it *does* happen. Each of us is responsible for preventing this!

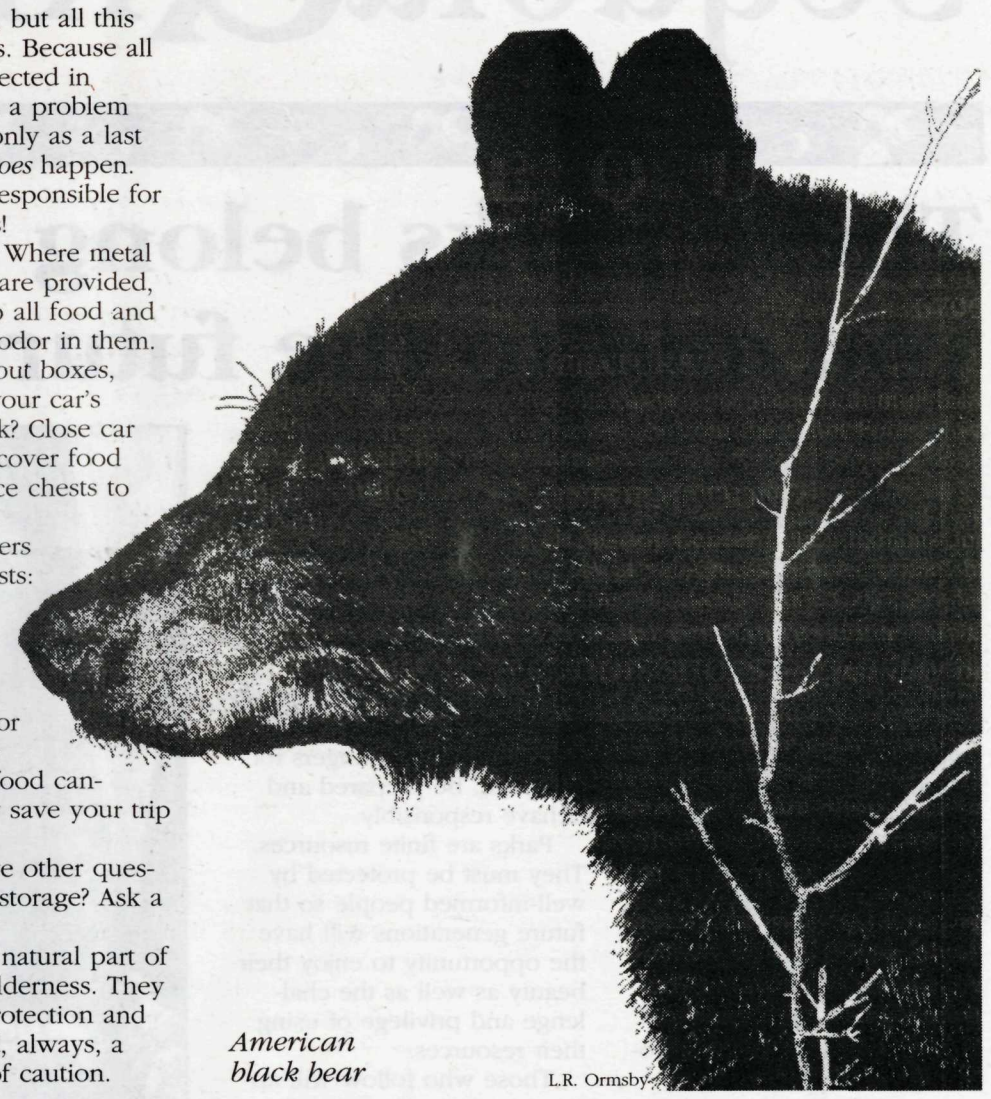
■ Campers: Where metal storage boxes are provided, you *must* keep all food and items with an odor in them. In places without boxes, store food in your car's trunk. No trunk? Close car windows and cover food supplies and ice chests to hide them.

■ Backpackers and lodge guests: *Never* leave food in your car overnight.

■ Backpackers: Rent or buy a portable bear-resistant food canister; they may save your trip and a bear!

Do you have other questions for food storage? Ask a ranger.

Bears are a natural part of this Sierran wilderness. They deserve our protection and respect — and, always, a healthy dose of caution.



American black bear

L.R. Ormsby

Park *or* Forest?

Is there really a difference between these often-confused names? The answer is an emphatic **yes**. National parks and forests have very different purposes; together they provide us all with a wide spectrum of uses.

National **parks** emphasize strict preservation of pristine areas. They focus on protecting natural and historic features plus light-on-the-land recreation. The ultimate goal is to preserve resources "unimpaired for future generations." Park rangers work for the National Park Service under the Department of the Interior.

National **forests,** on the other hand, emphasize not only preservation, but other kinds of use as well. Under this "multiple use" concept, national forests are managed to provide services and commodities, including lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, and recreation with and without vehicles. National forests are managed by the U.S. Forest Service under the Department of Agriculture. Both agencies have designated wilderness where they strive for maximum protection of natural landscapes.

Because they have different purposes, adjoining parks and forests may need to have very different rules. For example, national parks usually forbid hunting, while forests usually allow it. Dogs can be taken on national forest trails, but not on those in parks. National forests may provide trails for mountain bikes and motorcycles; national parks do not.

Because Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks are next to Sequoia, Sierra, and Inyo national forests, visitors need to pay attention to where they are. A perfectly legal activity in a forest may get you cited before a court of law in a park. Check your park map for guidance as to where you are and which rules apply, or ask a park ranger. In this case, there is a lot in a name.



Fire in the Sierra is often ground fire, its low flames consuming the dangerous build-up of fuels that feed unnaturally intense wildfires. Openings left in the forest by occasional hot spots are also ecologically important. Among other things, that is where sequoia trees regenerate.

The question of fire

The story of fire can be confusing. You are asked to prevent wildfires, yet rangers set prescribed fires. Fires are given different labels, depending on whether or not they are wanted.

Wildfires are unwanted, whether lightning- or human-caused. They are suppressed because they threaten lives, property, or sensitive resources, or because they would be too difficult to manage at the time or place they started.

The cost of fire suppression is the tremendous risk to firefighters plus millions of tax dollars. Last year's 4479-acre Kaweah Fire, started by a car's exhaust pipe in dry grass on a road shoulder, took over 1,500 fire fighters and $4 million.

Yet fires contribute to forest health and public safety. Prescribed fire is a carefully planned and managed tool to achieve such goals.

A fire's "prescription" includes detailed analysis of geographic and ecological conditions. It limits the weather conditions under which fire may be ignited, in order to maximize our ability to control it and to minimize smoke in local communities. If the weather doesn't meet the prescription, the fire is not ignited.

Why use a tool that appears as destructive as fire? Burning around buildings clears grass and other flammable material that would feed destructive fires. Other fires play important ecological roles.

Lightning fires have burned frequently here for centuries. Some species, including giant sequoias, reproduce better after fire. An ash seedbed is critical to germination and growth of sequoia seedlings. Fire also opens the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Historically, fires have burned in sequoia groves roughly every 5 to 15 years. In the past century, our suppression of fire has blocked this important process. Now a vast accumulation of dead wood increases wildfire hazards dramatically, and sequoias are not reproducing.

To reduce this hazard and restore natural conditions, trained crews carefully plan the size and timing of fires. For the same reasons, lightning fires that are in prescription and away from buildings are not suppressed.

Trails around prescribed fires sometimes remain open, so please use caution. Ask rangers for information, and enjoy the chance to see a powerful natural tool in managing park resources.

Prevent wildfire!

■ Use low gear for downhills. Frequent braking overheats brakes which can cause fires. Before going uphill check coolant; turn off air conditioner and use low gear to avoid overheating when driving uphill.

■ In campgrounds, use only fire grills; in the backcountry, use existing fire rings. Keep fires small; never leave them unattended.

■ Put out fires half an hour before leaving. Use water (not dirt), and mix the ashes until they feel cold.

■ Never smoke while walking. Smoke in an area clear of flammable materials, crush out the ashes and butt, and carry the match and butt to a garbage can.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon

These parks belong to you *and* to the future ...

Welcome to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks! We are pleased that you have come to these internationally significant places, areas that are so important to our national heritage.

How do we benefit from these lands that are protected for our use? These remnants of wild America preserve biologic and geologic treasures, landscapes full of opportunities for inspiration, research, education, and personal enjoyment. We all have the privilege of using the parks to relax, to learn, to challenge our skills or to realize personal fulfillment.

What must we all give in return? Our *dedication* to protecting the wildlife, limited water, and plants that make up the natural scene; our *commitment* to leaving the area as pristine as possible; and our *resolution* to think beyond ourselves, beyond today, as we recognize the long-term effects of our various activities in these parks.

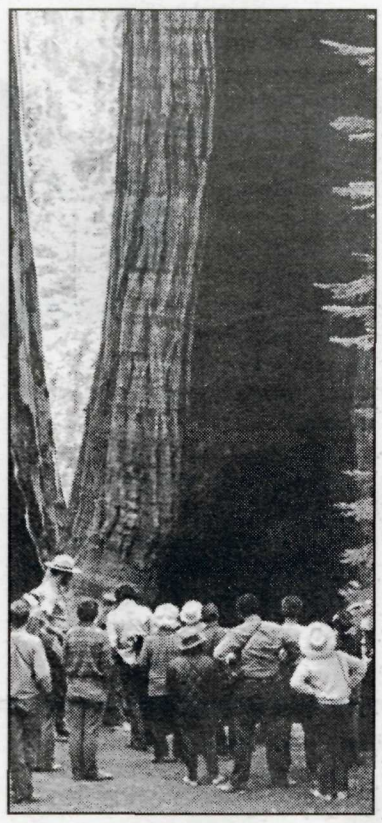
Equally important is personal protection from potential hazards. During your visit you meet the natural world on its own terms. Your safety and your enjoyment is of great concern to us.

Please read the information here, adhere to safety warnings, and ask the rangers for guidance. Be prepared and behave responsibly.

Parks are finite resources. They must be protected by well-informed people so that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy their beauty as well as the challenge and privilege of using their resources.

Those who follow will appreciate your wise use of these magnificent places.

Superintendent
Michael J. Tollefson and
the staff of Sequoia &
Kings Canyon National Parks



Get acquainted with the giant sequoias.

Estos parques pertenecen a Usted y al futuro...

¡Bienvenidos a Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks! Nos da placer que haya venido a estos lugares de significancia internacional, áreas que son tan importantes a nuestra herencia nacional.

¿Cómo podemos beneficiarnos de estos terrenos que son protegidos para nuestro uso? Estos restos de la América salvaje preservan tesoros biológicos y geológicos, terrenos llenos de oportunidades para la inspiración, investigación científica, educación, y gozo personal. Nosotros tenemos el privilegio de usar estos parques para relajar, aprender, poner a prueba nuestra destreza o realizar éxito personal.

¿Qué deben todo el mundo dar en cambio? Nuestra dedicación a proteger los animales salvajes, el agua limitada, y las plantas que hacen la vista natural; nuestra compromiso a dejar la área tan prístina como posible; y nuestra resolución a pensar más allá de nosotros mismos, más allá de hoy día, mientras reconocemos los efectos a largo plazo de nuestras varias actividades en estos parques.

De igual importancia es protección personal de riesgos potenciales. Durante su visita va a encontrar al mundo natural en sus proprias condiciones. Su seguridad y su gozo son de gran importancia para nosotros. Por favor de leer la información, adhiérese a los avisos de seguridad, y pídales a los guardaparques para consejo. Sea preparado y compórtese con responsibilidad.

Los parques son recursos finitos; hay que protegerlos por gente bien informada para que las generaciones futuras tendrán la oportunidad de gozar de la belleza y el reto y el privilegio de usar sus recursos. La gente que le siga apreciará su uso sabio de los Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Park fees & passes

$10/vehicle (or $5/person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus) buys 7 days in both Sequoia and Kings Canyon! An annual pass to these two parks is only $20. Golden Eagle Passports, an annual pass for all 375 national park units, are $50. Buy them at park entrance stations.

For a one-time $10 fee, U.S. citizens and residents 62 or over can buy a Golden Age Passport, a lifetime pass to all national parks, at entrance stations.

The free Golden Access Passport is for citizens and residents who are blind or permanently disabled. Bring appropriate documentation to any park visitor center.

Other fees are charged for commercial tours. Contact the park for information.

Weather or not...

The great elevational range of these parks — 1400' to 14,494' — causes a great range of weather conditions! Plan for this by bringing layered clothing, a raincoat just in case, and sunscreen!

Average high/low temperatures in:

	January	*April*	*July*	*October*
Foothills — Mild, wet winters; hot, dry summers. Cedar Grove is often cooler than the foothills, but hotter than Grant Grove.	*57/36*	*70/46*	*97/68*	*80/52*
Giant Forest/Grant Grove — Warm days, cool nights in summer; deep snow in winter.	*42/24*	*51/30*	*76/51*	*61/38*
Highcountry — Summer days vary from warm to cold; nighttime temperatures often drop to the low 30s. Frigid winters.				



Planning a trip?

Learning some of the basics, like rules and weather conditions, can help to avoid disappointment — or even disaster.

Knowing in advance that pets and bicycles are not permitted on trails, what the busiest times are, or that certain roads are under construction or closed for the winter can make a big difference in your trip.

Call in advance (our number is **209-565-3341**), or check out the park website (our address is **http://www.nps.gov/seki**).

Read anything you can get your hands on. Books and maps of the park are available by mail order from the SNHA (209/565-3759; **http://home.inreach.com/a-seqnha**).

Come informed, come prepared, come and enjoy!

Visitantes, Visiteurs, Besuchers

Bienvenido, bienvenue, Herzlich Willkommen!

Español — Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los Centros de Visitas.

Las leyes federales requieren el almacenaje apropiado de la comida y prohiben la alimentación de cualquier animal del parque.

Français — Demandez le dépliant sur les installations et services dans les parcs. Disponibles aux Centres d'Accueil.

Les lois federals expliquent qu´il faut ranger les provisions soigneusement et defendre aux visiteurs de donner la nourriture aux animaux sauvages.

Deutsch — Im Park-Besucher-Zentrum sind Broschüren in deutscher Sprache erhältlich.

Die Staatsgesetze fordern die richtige Aufbewahrung der Nahrungsmittel und untersagen das Füttern irgendwelcher Tiere des Parks.

Preservation in progress

We often think of parks as outdoor museums, but caretaking a living, changing ecosystem is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

You won't notice the ozone-monitoring equipment that works unseen 24 hours a day, but other park management activities may unavoidably affect your visit: You may see smoke from a prescribed fire. Last year's favorite campsite might be closed for revegetation, or due to intense bear activity.

These actions are important tools in maintaining this landscape, its inhabitants, and its visitors.

Your time at Sequoia and Kings Canyon gives you but a snapshot of the year-round process of park management. Nature often calls the shots in terms of timing these activities. Please keep in mind that all of these projects share one goal: preservation of these magnificent parks for everyone — today *and* tomorrow.

National Park Service
Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks
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