



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST / GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

LATE SUMMER GUIDE 2005

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A new trail to the biggest Big Tree

Tons of asphalt are being lifted off sequoia roots as the old parking site near the General Sherman Tree is removed. A large new parking area that doesn't damage sequoias has opened just outside the sequoia grove. A new trail to the famous tree has opened, and trailside exhibits are being created for it.

What's going on? An important restoration project. Unfortunately, work such as this can have its awkward stages, and we are in the middle of one of them. Here is the basic information you need to get through it:

FINDING THE NEW PARKING AREA:

From the Generals Highway, turn east onto Wolverton Road a mile or so north of the Sherman Tree (between the Sherman Tree and Lodgepole). A short distance up the road, look for signs directing you to turn right onto the access road to the parking area.

NEW TRAIL TO THE TREE:

This paved trail drops 212 feet in elevation from the parking lot to the base of the Sherman Tree in less than 1/2-mile. That makes it a some-what steep trail. Since there may be less oxygen at this altitude (~7000 feet) than you are used to, don't go any further down the trail than you can climb back up. Take your time! Several benches along the way let you catch your breath and enjoy the view.

Those who find they really cannot make it back up may walk downhill from the Sherman Tree to the Generals Highway to have someone pick them up there. Be aware, however, that no parking or waiting area exists along the road there. Be careful!



Along the new trail you'll find this viewpoint of the General Sherman Tree, along with the "footprint" of the tree set in granite. @NPS Photo

NO WHEELCHAIR ACCESS — YET:

You will find accessible parking at the top of the trail, but the trail itself does not meet accessibility standards. Why? The new parking area is uphill from the Sherman Tree for two reasons: 1) That was as close as we could put it without damaging more sequoias, and 2) that location had already been disturbed by earlier roads and grading.

An accessible trail and parking are now under construction near the old parking area. Unfortunately, we could not build it at the same time as the new parking area without closing *all* access to the tree for almost a year. Rather than do that, we kept the old parking lot open while the new one was built. We hope to have the accessible area open by next summer.

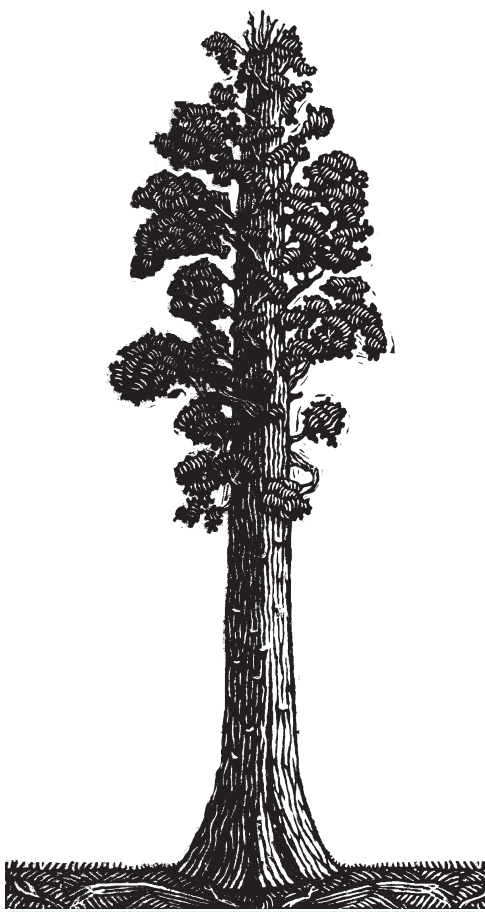
In the meantime, the easy, paved Big Trees Trail offers wonderful closeups of huge sequoias as well as wayside exhibits and accessible parking (see page 6 for details).

WHY THESE CHANGES?

You are witnessing one of the last major steps in a huge project to protect the world's largest trees. Paving, pipes, road cuts, a sewage treatment plant, and commercial buildings have all been moved to help ensure that the Giant Forest remains the best habitat anywhere for the big red trees. In addition, the old parking area, far too small for modern traffic, is often gridlocked in summer. Yet it could not be enlarged due to surrounding sequoias. The new location let us make it larger.

In coming years, watch for even more improvements for the giant sequoias and the people that love to see them thrive.

WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON



INFORMATION NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
(no coins needed)

24-Hour Park Information
1-559-565-3341 (NPS)
www.nps.gov/seki

National Forest Information
1-559-338-2251 (USFS)
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Yosemite Information (NPS)
1-209-372-0200
www.nps.gov/yose

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

Partners in the Parks

The following work together to provide this guide, first published in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*. It is published by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and printed by the Selma Enterprise:

- **National Park Service (NPS)**
Malinee Crapsey, Editor
1-559-565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki
- **Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)**
1-559-565-3759
www.sequoiahistory.org
- **Forest Service (USFS)**
559-784-1500
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia
- **Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)**
1-888-252-5757
www.visitsequoia.com
- **Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)**
1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com
- **US Geological Survey (USGS)**
1-559-565-3171
www.werc.usgs.gov

Page 1 illustrations ©SNHA by Rick Wheeler

Get to know these parks

Doubtless 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!

Rising from 1300' to 14,494', these parks protect a huge elevational range. This span from low to high means dramatic shifts from hot foothills to shady forests to the cold high Sierra. It means extraordinarily diverse 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 these two national parks is a national monument, part of a national forest. A U.S. Geological Survey Field Station conducts research here. The Sequoia Natural History Association sells books and maps at visitor centers and contributes to education and research. The Sequoia Fund supports significant park projects.

Other partners, public and private, cooperate with the Park Service to meet a challenging mission — providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. *You* are an equally important partner! Experience the parks fully: Learn all you can and join in preserving them. Together we can meet this inspiring goal:

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

FEES AT WORK IN YOUR PARK!

Part of your entrance and camping fees stay in the park to improve the experience here. Congress allows the parks to invest these funds in projects that enhance visitor facilities and protect park resources.

Fees have paid for repairing roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have funded updated exhibits, improved visitor centers, modernized naturalist slide programs, and purchased bigger, better bear boxes.

Next year, the park entrance fee may increase to \$20. This will permit even more of these repairs and improvements. One project, still awaiting approval, may include a shuttle transportation system for the Giant Forest area to reduce parking problems, vehicle traffic, and pollution in the parks.

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

- **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 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase.
- **National Parks Pass:** \$50 pass admits all passengers in a private vehicle to all U.S. national parks for one year from month 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 month of purchase.
- **Golden Age Passport:** One-time \$10 fee buys a lifetime pass for park entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over.
- **Golden Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens & permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to any park visitor center.

WELCOME

You may borrow the park map & guide in Braille at visitor centers.

BIENVENUE

Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

BIENVENIDOS

Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

WILKOMMEN

Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucherzentrum erhältlich.

BENVENUTI

La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

You see signs for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument. What is the difference between them?

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 parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural 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 out what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we get a wide range of benefits these diverse areas offer.



Crystal Cave Rocks!



Explore fabulous formations! Protected since its discovery in 1918, this is the only one of over 200 known caves in these parks that can be toured.

No tickets are 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. Ask about Wild Cave Tours and group reservations! Operated by SNHA: 1-559-565-3759.

• 45-minute Tours (be sure to check details above)

Schedule: Daily 10:30am-4pm on the half-hour through 9/5. Then Monday-Friday at 11am, 12pm, 3pm, & 4pm through 9/25, weekends 11am-4pm on the hour. From 9/26 through 10/30 Sunday through Friday 11am, 2pm, 3pm; Saturday 11am, 12pm, 3pm, and 4pm. Extra tours may be added other times.

Fees: Ages 6-12 \$5.95; age 13-61 \$10.95; age 62 & up, \$8.95; under 6 free. National Park & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a 50% discount!

• 1-1/2 hour Discovery Tours

Daily at 4:15 pm through 9/02. Try a more in-depth tour of this fabulous cave! Limited to 16 people aged 13 & up.

Fee: \$18.95 each (\$17.95 seniors, \$16.95 for SNHA members).

WALKS & TALKS Join a free ranger-led walk or talk offered at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Dorst, Wuksachi, Grant Grove, Cedar Grove, the Foothills, & Forest Service areas. By late August we cannot offer as many programs, but check bulletin boards to see what is scheduled. Pages 8 & 9 have more details, or ask a ranger.

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. They also sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, & other items. Remember: all your purchases there help to support the parks! See pages 8 & 9 for hours and locations.

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 & have fun!

TEACHERS: BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS! Rangers offer fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6th-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, & other cultural history. Reserve a date for your class! Call 1-559-565-4303.

FIELD CLASSES & SEMINARS See the exciting list of options for you on the back of the Sequoia Natural History Association insert found in this paper. There's no better way to get to know your park!

Activities



CELEBRATE SEQUOIAS IN SEPTEMBER!

The 7th Annual Celebrate Sequoias Festival returns to Grant Grove Village on September 10, 2005. Enjoy walks to less-visited groves, music, arts and crafts, kid's activities, and talking to experts about the awesome giant sequoias.

WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. See page 2 to learn more, 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 pets in hot cars.

• **COLLECT THINGS?** Not in 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: Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.

• **HAVE A FIRE?** Regulations may change; always check before starting a fire. In Parks: Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. No wood or barbecue fires in Hospital Rock & Foothills picnic areas or below 6000' in backcountry. No smoking below 6000' except in enclosed vehicles, campgrounds, or developed areas. In National Forest: Fire permits are required outside picnic area grills & campgrounds. Get one at Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump Entrance Station, or the USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.

• **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 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?** Not in either area! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous and may have to be killed. Some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.

• **CUT WOOD?** Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.

• **GO PICNICKING?** See picnic symbols on map (back page). Never leave food unattended! Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, & Powdercan.

• **DRIVE OFF-ROAD?** Not in either area. Stay on roads.

• **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.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Rides by-the-hour; back-country spot trips & guides.

Cedar Grove

1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Grant Grove

1-559-335-9292 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Horse Corral (in National Forest/Monument)

1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell

Mineral King Closed for the season. For information call 1-559-565-3106.

Expect Change

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

Both natural features *and* human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone-monitoring equipment working 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire or campsite closures due to revegetation or bear activity.

The park staff uses these actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of the process of park management. Nature decides the timing of many of these actions, but they all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now *and* in the future.

Fire: A Long-Lost Partner

Have you ever accused someone of something only to discover that you were wrong? In parks and forests nationwide, we have learned that an accused vandal is actually an important partner. That partner is fire.



Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels. Without this, the fuels would feed intense, hard-to-control wildfires. The natural burn pattern includes occasional hot spots. These leave important openings in the forest — the sunny, bare places where sequoia trees regenerate best.

©NPS Photo

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 a fertile 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 and improve resource conditions.

We see strong evidence that working with this powerful natural partner is better than resisting it — we are successfully 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.

Big Snowpack = High Water

Last winter brought heavy snowfall late into the spring. The result may include several things to take into account:

- Rivers and creeks staying higher and colder later in the season than usual. Any time of year the water is swift and the rocks smooth and slippery. The river is dangerous and several drownings have occurred this year. Be careful!
- An extra-long mosquito season. Protect yourself with repellent.
- A beautiful wildflower season. Enjoy!



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 solo travelers). Permits are not required for park day hikes or for overnights in the Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses in the national forest.

Get your permit at the park ranger station nearest your trailhead (see pages 8 & 9). There is a backcountry camping fee between mid-May and late September.

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 "frontcountry" 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.
47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766
Fax 1-559-565-4239

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

- **BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP (DNCPR)** www.visitsequoia.com
Reservations required:
1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June-September 5, weather permitting. This tent hotel is 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. People may create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

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. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.



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

TICKS: Common in foothill grasses; check yourself after a walk. 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.



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

WEST NILE VIRUS is caused by bites from infected mosquitos. The chance of infection is low and human illness is unusual, but avoid mosquito bites.

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 open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.



RATTLESNAKES:

Watch where you put your hands and feet! Common in the foothills, rattlesnakes are protected in parks. Most bites result from teasing or handling them.

Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.

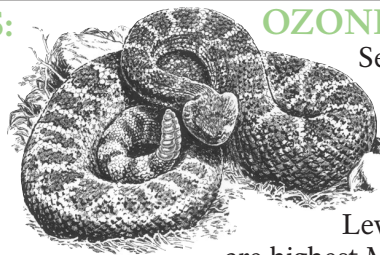
COUGARS roam the parks, but chances of seeing one are very small. It is rare, but mountain lions have attacked people and pets, so be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Don't run. Cougars associate running with prey and give chase.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.
- Pick up children.
- If the lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

CARBON MONOXIDE:

This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in enclosed spaces such as a tent, camper, or RV.

POISON OAK: This common shrub grows in the foothills up to 5000 feet elevation. Red in fall with whitish berries, bare in winter, in spring it has shiny green leaves in groups of three. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes as soon as possible.



OZONE POLLUTION:

See air-quality index forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm afternoon winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. These peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state and federal standards and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms in sunlight from gases in car and factory exhaust. This statewide problem challenges us all to reduce pollution.

OPERATION NO-GROW

- Prevent illegal marijuana growing.
- Protect visitor & employee safety.
- Preserve your natural resources.
- Promote your National Park experience!

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

UNSAFE WATER: Giardia, a protozoan in lakes and streams, can cause intestinal distress. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria or Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

SAFE DRINKING WATER:

Each of the parks' 13 water systems is tested regularly to ensure that it meets state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers, or call 559-565-3341.

EXPLORE SAFELY: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen. Share roads and trails with people and wildlife.

Rules of the Road

TRAFFIC DELAYS - SEQUOIA

On weekdays near the Sherman Tree, along the Generals Highway, slow down for road reconstruction. Expect short delays. Watch for signs to new parking area; see the front page for details.

ROAD CONDITIONS

24-hour recording: 559-565-3341 then press 9, then 4.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder as it slows you down, but it will save your brakes.

LET OTHERS PASS

Slower vehicles *must* use paved turnouts to let traffic pass.

STAY ON PAVEMENT

Park & travel on pavement only.

FINDING GASOLINE

No gas stations within park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction or in the National Forest at:

- Stony Creek Lodge 1-559-565-3909: 7am-7pm weekdays & 7am-8pm weekends; 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.
- Hume Lake Christian Camp 559-335-2000: Weekdays & Sunday 8am-10:30pm, Saturday 7am-7pm; 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Kings Canyon Lodge 1-559-335-2405: usually 9am-dark, call to confirm. 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails), single file with traffic, and wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

PREVENT CAR FIRES

Hot brakes & mufflers start fires in dry grass. Don't stop in grassy areas; used paved turnouts only.

AVOID OVERHEATING

Going uphill, turn off air conditioning. Go slow; use low gear. If overheating, turn the heat and fan on high until you can stop safely.

MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup in uphill lanes.

LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia, advised maximum is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum length limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, & wider. If you are towing a car, camp in the foothills & use the car to explore.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park

only, AAA is available for out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, minor repairs: call 565-4070 (24 hours).

NARROW, WINDING ROADS IN KINGS CANYON & NATIONAL FOREST/ SEQUOIA MONUMENT –

- Panoramic Point Road: Views toward High Sierra.
- Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved, rough.

- Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS): All or partially unpaved.

IN SEQUOIA –

- Crystal Cave Road: Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m). No trailers. Closes in October.
- Mineral King Road: Steep. RVs & trailers strongly discouraged (not permitted in campgrounds).
- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road: RVs & trailers not recommended. Limited parking.
- South Fork Road: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.
- Road to Middle Fork Trail: Unpaved. Slippery when wet.



Photo: J. Sullivan

Highlights

SEQUOIA PARK

GIANT FOREST



Review the safety tips on page 5. Take a map and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the woods

— Enjoy the solitude but be safe!

Parking for the Sherman Tree has moved. Parking and trail access is now located off the Wolverton Road. See page 1 for details. Work for this project along the Generals Highway may cause short delays. Ask a ranger for the latest information on current conditions. Thank you for your patience.

GIANT FOREST MUSEUM: The best place to start your visit and learn about the Big Trees.

BIG TREES TRAIL: This 2/3-mile (1 km) trail circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum and follow the paved, accessible trail from there. Allow 1 hour round trip.

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE: A .45 mile (.72 km) walk starting at the new parking area off the Wolverton Road leads to the world's largest tree, named in 1879 by a Civil War veteran. Bulletin boards will explain the changes and make suggestions for a smooth visit.

CONGRESS TRAIL: A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the sequoia grove, beginning at the Sherman Tree.

ALONG MORO ROCK - CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway and explores the southwest portion of the grove. Not recommended for trailers or RVs. Some highlights include:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot / 91 m elevation gain). A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide and the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. The only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. A by-pass is available for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Generals Highway.

CRESCENT MEADOW lies at the end of this road. Excellent summer wildflowers. Stay on designated trails; walk only on fallen logs to access fragile meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, summer home of the first settler in Giant Forest, and the High Sierra Trail, which runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (14,494 feet / 4417 m; highest peak in the lower 48 states).

AUTO LOG: Once you could drive a car onto this fallen giant sequoia but rot in the log has put an end to the tradition.

NEARBY TRAILS

TOKOPAH FALLS: 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, ending below the impressive granite cliffs and waterfall of Tokopah Canyon. Spectacular in early summer, but be careful around the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground, 500 foot / 152 m elevation gain. Allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

LITTLE BALDY: Ascends 700 vertical feet (213 m) in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit with a grand view. Starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 9 miles (14 km) north of the General Sherman Tree on the Generals Highway. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.



MINERAL KING

The winding, steep road to this valley ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. Many trails lead to even higher country and excellent — if hilly — hiking. Some passes may remain snowy well into summer; ask a ranger for information. No gasoline or electricity is available along this road. Be sure to learn about marmots, as they often damage cars in early summer. The road is open late May through October 31.

THE FOOTHILLS

These lower elevations host more different kinds of plants and animals than the rest of the park. Watch for ticks and poison oak on foothills trails.



HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC AREA: Western Mono people once lived here; exhibits offer insight into their lifestyle. A trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall; 1/4-mile round-trip. Be careful! Drownings occur here.

MARBLE FALLS: This trail climbs 3.9 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park near site #14 at Potwisha Campground. Follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch. The trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

PARADISE CREEK: Follow the footpath across from site #26 in Buckeye Flat Campground and cross the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for just over 1-1/2 mile (1.6 km) before growing faint.

MIDDLE FORK: Leading through chaparral to highcountry, the first miles offer views of Moro Rock and Castle Rocks. Take the Buckeye Flat Campground road and turn left on the dirt road before the campground. Go 1.3 miles (2 km) to a parking area. Panther Creek Falls is 3 miles (5 km) beyond that. Park at Hospital Rock if Buckeye Flat is closed.

SOUTH FORK

Park at South Fork Campground at the end of a 13-mile road leaving Highway 198 in Three Rivers.

LADYBUG: Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5 km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

GARFIELD: A steep 5 mile (8.3 km) one-way climb to Garfield sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.

Highlights

KINGS CANYON



Photo courtesy of Jim Warner

GRANT GROVE

Befre taking to the trail, review safety advice on page 5. Carry a map and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going.



GENERAL GRANT TREE:

The world's third-largest living tree. 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 (.5 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 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.

NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

Spectacular vista of the high Sierra. Go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the intersection signed "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." Walk 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. Trailers and RVs not recommended on this steep, narrow road. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

BUENA VISTA PEAK: Begin just south of Kings Canyon Overlook on Generals Highway, 7 miles (11 km) southeast of Grant Grove. 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and the high Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

REDWOOD CANYON: The world's largest grove of sequoias. Acres of rejuvenating forest resulting from 30 years of prescribed fires show the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (6 miles/9.6 km south of Grant Grove), turn south/west at Redwood Saddle. Go right for 2 miles (3.2 km) on a bumpy dirt road.

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

(13 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.

REDWOOD CANYON OVER-

LOOK: 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 sequoia reproduction.



KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

The road into this spectacular gorge is open late April to mid-November. Be very careful around the river!

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. East of the Village turnoff 3 miles (4.8 km). Paved, accessible with assistance.

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 4-1/2 miles (7.2 km) east of the Cedar Grove Village turnoff. Purchase a trail guide at the trailhead or visitor center. Allow 1 hour.



ROAD'S END:

Here where the pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra. East of the Village turnoff 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km).

MIST FALLS: Follow the river through forest to one of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 8 miles (12.8 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.

DON CECIL TRAIL: The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. This steep trail starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs the north-facing canyon wall, passing Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up). Lookout Peak (13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/1220 m elevation gain) has a great panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL: Starts 0.2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Strenuous, it climbs through chaparral to a forested ridge and Cedar Grove Overlook. Great views up and down canyon. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Allow 3-4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. Ask rangers for details.

CONVERSE BASIN: Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, remnant of the General Noble Tree cut for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Take Highway 180 north of Grant Grove 2 miles, then left on the graded dirt road (FR 13S03). Or walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared.

INDIAN BASIN: Logged a century ago, this recovering forest and meadow look quite different today. A one-mile, newly constructed accessible trail extends another unpaved mile. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Trail begins next to the campground host site near the dump station.

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 9 for recreational options there. 8 miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 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 14S11 then Forest Road 13S04.

SERVICES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Giant Forest Area

GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

6400' (1950m) elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees, it offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking trails. See page 6 for highlights. Check page 3 and your map for picnic areas.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 8am-6pm (5pm starting 9/5). Exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4480.

CRYSTAL CAVE - Daily tours

One of *the* highlights of the park! Tickets are **not** sold at the cave; see page 3 for details and schedule.

Lodgepole Area

WOLVERTON MEADOWS

7200' (2160 m) elevation. 2 miles (3.2km) north of the General Sherman Tree. **FOOD (DNCPR):** Wednesdays through Sundays. "Dinner with a Ranger" Barbecue: all-you-can-eat, served outdoors starting at 6pm through 9/5.

LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

6700' (2040 m) elevation. 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:

INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Visitor Center:** Daily 7am-6pm through 9/5, 7am-5pm through 9/30, then 9am-4:30pm until 10/1. Crystal Cave tickets sold 8am-4pm. Exhibits & a slide program on the park; books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4436.
- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for overnight backcountry trips. Daily at visitor center 7-11am & 12-3:45pm through 9/30 then self-registration outside. 559-565-4408.

FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR)

- **Lodgepole Market & Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8pm through 9/5; then 9am-6pm through 10/2; then 9am-4:30pm through 10/23. Supplies, bear canisters, gifts, sandwiches, ice cream.
- **Snack Bar:** Daily 8am-8pm through 9/5, then weekends only 9am-6pm through 10/2; then 9am-4:30pm, after 10/24 closed for winter. Breakfast, hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza.
- **Deli:** Daily 11am-6pm through 9/5 then closed. Sandwiches, salads.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. Details on page 11.
- **Laundry & Showers (DNCPR):** Next to Market. Laundry daily 8am-8pm through 9/5; Through 10/2 9am-6pm then, 9am-4:30pm closed for winter starting 10/25. Last load of laundry in 1 hour before closing. Through 9/5: Showers 8am-1pm & 3-7:45pm, then 9am-1pm & 3-5:45pm. Starting 10/2 9am-4:15pm; closed for winter starting 10/25.
- **Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 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. The only center for lodging and food services in Sequoia Park, open year-round 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the General Sherman Tree.

FOOD, SHOPS & LODGING (DNCPR)

- **Dining Room:** Through 9/5 - Breakfast 7-10am; lunch 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner 5-10pm then 7:30am-9:30am; 11:30am-2:30pm; 5pm-9pm. Dinner reservations required. Lounge open daily 4-11pm through 9/5, then 4pm-10pm through 10/23. Box lunches available. 559-565-4070.
 - **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8pm through 9/5. Starting 9/6, 8am-7pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing, art.
- Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details.

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.
- **Potwisha Campground (NPS):** Year-round. Details on page 11.

Mineral King Area

Be sure to ask: In early summer, marmots chew on hoses & wiring of cars parked in upper Mineral King. 7800' (2380 m) elevation. This subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road (no RVs, buses, or trailers, please) has no electricity or gas. Mineral King offers:

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Daily 8am-4pm through 9/25 then closed (hikers register for wilderness permits on porch after that). A small visitor center with books, maps, local wilderness permits, first aid, bear canisters, & exhibits on area history. 559-565-3768.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Through 10/15. Cabins, chalets, restaurant, bakery, showers & small store (gifts, limited supplies & ice; no gas or fishing licenses) 8am-8pm Thursday-Monday, Tuesday-Wednesday 8am-1pm (restaurant closed but pie & beverages available). 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730; www.silvercityresort.com.
- **Camping (NPS):** No RVs or trailers. Details: page 11.

RANGER PROGRAMS

This is not a complete list! Check bulletin boards & visitor centers for times, locations, & topics!

GIANT FOREST, LODGEPOLE, DORST & WUKSACHI

Daily free programs given through August 20; some will continue into September.

- **Nature Programs - At Beetle Rock Education Center next to the museum parking lot; Friday-Monday 1-5pm. Programs and exhibits for all ages - stop in any time through 8/20! (Walter Fry Nature Center at Lodgepole is closed.)**

THE FOOTHILLS - through September 5:

- **Friday & Saturday 8:30pm - Potwisha Campfire: Meet at the campground amphitheater for family fun. 1 hour.**

MINERAL KING - Programs end after September 4. Check locally for the current schedule of activities.



Thanks to
Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts
and the *National Park Foundation*,
Wuksachi Lodge guests can easily contribute
to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.
Ask about the Guest Donation Program !

SERVICES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS AREA

Grant Grove Area

GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

6600' (2008 m) elevation. This 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 8am-6pm through 9/4, then 8am-5pm. Exhibits & a 15-minute slide show on this area's natural & human history, books, maps, first aid. Local wilderness permits issued 8am-5pm only. 559-565-4307.

FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Daily 7am-2pm; 5-9pm through 9/4, then 8am-2pm & 5-7pm Sunday-Thursday (Friday-Saturday until 8pm) through 10/22. Espresso coffee available inside lobby.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-9pm through 9/4, then 9am-7pm (Friday-Saturday until 8pm). Souvenirs, film, clothing. ATM in lobby.
- **Market:** Daily 8am-9pm through 9/4. Starting 9/5 9am-7pm (Friday & Saturday until 8pm). Supplies, bear canisters, emergency gasoline.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** See page 10-11 for details.
- **Showers (KCPS):** Daily 11am-4pm through 9/4, then closed.
- **Post Office:** Hours may vary. Weekdays 9am-4pm, Saturday 9-11:30am. Lobby & stamp machine 24 hours. Address visitor mail: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

Cedar Grove Area

CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE

4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River — "a rival to the Yosemite," according to John Muir. In summer the area offers picnicking and horseback riding (see page 3), as well as:

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 9am-5pm through 9/5 then closed for the season. Books, maps, first aid. 559-565-3793.
- **Wilderness Permits (NPS):** At Road's End, 6 miles (9.6 km) east of the village. Permits issued daily 7am-3:30pm through 9/25.
- **Camping (NPS):** Details on page 11.

FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Counter-service meals & snack bar (not a full-service restaurant). Daily 7am-2pm & 5-9pm through 9/4. Starting 9/5 weekends 8am-2pm & 5-7pm; weekdays 8-10:30am & 5-7pm (lunch supplies available at market). Closed for winter starting 10/16.
- **Gift Shop & Market:** Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs, film. Daily 7am-9pm through 9/4, then 8am-7pm through 10/15 then closed for winter.
- **Lodging:** See page 10 for details.
- **Showers & Laundry:** Daily 7am-7pm through 9/4, then 8am-6pm (shower closed 1-3pm for cleaning). Last day open 10/15. Get shower key at market. Last laundry load in by 1 hour before closing.

IN GRANT GROVE These free programs are offered through Sunday, September 4. Some will continue later into September. Check visitor centers and bulletin boards for schedules and details:

- **Daily 2pm - Grant Tree Walk:** Stroll this paved trail beneath the giant trees. Meet at Grant Tree parking lot. 1 hour, 1/3 mile.
- **Daily 3:30pm - Ranger's Choice:** Let us introduce you to some of the area's special features in a talk or easy walk. Check bulletin boards for topics. 1 hour.
- **Nightly - Evening Campfire:** Spend time under the stars learning about the parks. Meet at Sunset campground amphitheater. Check bulletin boards for times.

IN CEDAR GROVE Some free programs may continue into September. Check locally for times, locations, and topics!

USFS: National Forest & Monument

HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, borders much of the western edge of these National Parks. You are in National Forest when you drive between the park areas of Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove (see page 2 for more on Parks and Forests). Sold to the government as a Forest Reserve in 1935, it is an excellent place to see recovery from the intensive sequoia logging of the late 1800s. Snowy in winter, in summer it offers picnicking & horseback riding (see page 3) as well as:

INFORMATION

- **USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS):** 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles (31 km) west of Kings Canyon Park entrance at Big Stump. Monday-Saturday 8am-4:30pm through 9/5 then weekdays only. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Historic Guard Station at Big Meadows:** (FS) See page 10.
- **Boyden Cavern:** On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Cave tours on the hour 10am-5pm; holiday weekends (Saturday-Monday) 9am-6pm. \$10 ages 14 & up; \$9 62 & over; \$5 ages 3-13; under 3 free. AAA discounts. 1-209-736-2708.
- **Stony Creek Village (FS):** Lodging, market, showers. Market 7am-8pm (9pm Friday-Saturday); restaurant Tuesday-Sunday 11:30am-2pm & 5-8pm (9pm Friday-Saturday); closed Monday. Showers 8am-7pm. Reduced hours starting 9/5. 1-866-KCANYON or 1-559-565-3909.
- **Montecito-Sequoia Resort:** (FS): A permitted resort on public land open year-round. On Generals Highway, 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Breakfast 7:30-9am, lunch 12-1:30pm, dinner 6-7:30pm (hospitality/sandwich bar until 10pm). Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 1-800-843-8677 or 559-565-3388.
- **Boat & Bicycle Rentals, Swimming, Fishing:** Private facilities open to public at Hume Lake, 8 miles (13 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180 then 3 miles (5 km) south on Hume Lake Road. Laundry (coin operated 24-hour) & gas station (24 hours with credit card). General Store: weekdays 8am-10:30pm, Saturday 7am-7pm, Sundays 8-10:30am & 12:30-10:30pm. Reduced hours starting 9/5. Snack bar hours vary, usually 11am-11pm daily. 559-335-2000.

GASOLINE SALES

Year-round, 24 hours/day with credit card at **Hume Lake** (or General Store hours - see *Boat & Bicycle Rentals* above). Into the fall at **Stony Creek Village** (or market hours - see *Stony Creek Village* above) and **Kings Canyon Lodge** (usually 9am-dark; call to confirm availability). See Mountain Driving, page 11, for more details.

RANGER PROGRAMS



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.

KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS!

It's required all year! Learn how to do it correctly — see below.

CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs from trees. Better yet, bring wood or buy it at a market. Fires 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.

CAMPGROUND OR ROADSIDE 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.

NO 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; property may be impounded.

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.

QUIET HOURS

10pm-6am. At Lodgepole & Dorst use generators only 8-11am & 5-8pm. At other campgrounds 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

Maximum for most campsites is 6 people. At Crystal Springs in Grant Grove there are first-come, first-served sites for groups of 7-15 & at Canyon View in Cedar Grove for 7-18, for \$35. Larger groups: Call in advance for information on reserving group tent-camping areas in the parks: Dorst 1-800-365-2267; Sunset 1-559-565-4335; Canyon View 1-559-565-3792. In the national forest/monument: call 877-444-6777 or go to www.ReserveUSA.com.

RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups are available. Dump stations: See chart on page 11. Trailers are permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check the chart on page 11. 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 5 for other limitations & warnings.

PROPANE CANISTERS

Do not throw propane or other fuel canisters in park trash cans or leave them in the parks. Take them with you when you leave.

BE A VOLUNTEER HOST!

Live in the park, help care for campgrounds & resources, & meet great people! Learn about these & other volunteer opportunities; contact the Park Volunteer Coordinator, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651.



save a bear!

Sales from the Save-a-Bear Kit & color pin (above) directly support bear management. See the pins at visitor centers.

LODGING

SEQUOIA PARK

- **Wuksachi Village (DNCPR)**
Reservations: 1-888-252-5757
Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070
www.visitsequoia.com. All year.
North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6 km). Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

- * **Silver City Mountain Resort ***
Summer: 1-559-561-3223
Winter: 1-805-528-2730
www.silvercityresort.com. Open late May to mid-October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gasoline.

KINGS CANYON PARK

- **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge (KCPS)**
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. All year. In Grant Grove. Cabins, hotel, restaurant, gifts, showers.
- **Cedar Grove Lodge (KCPS)**
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Mid-May to through mid-October in Cedar Grove. Motel, restaurant, public showers, gifts, laundry.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT

- **Montecito-Sequoia Lodge**
Reservations: 1-800-227-9900
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3388
www.mslodge.com. All year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, seasonal & children's activities, swimming
- **Stony Creek Lodge (KCPS)**
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open late May through early September. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gas.
- **Historic Guard Station (FS)**
Reservations: 1-559-338-3222.
Open mid-June - November. A cabin in Big Meadows between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.
- * **Kings Canyon Lodge (Private*)**
Reservations: 1-559-335-2405
Open mid-April through mid-November. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove.

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 4 has details.

* *Note: These two facilities on private land are not evaluated or regulated by the Park or Forest.*

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.

Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups.

Food-storage regulations: always read instructions on 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: 1-301-784-9079

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

CAMP GROUNDS

KEY TO SYMBOLS

“Nearby” -Within 2 miles (3.2km)
✓ -Year-round
☼ -Summer only

FOOD STORAGE

Symbols on the chart tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in each campground. Avoid bringing items that won't fit. The symbols & sizes are:

- ⊠ A mix of box sizes;
One small box per site (47" long x 17" deep x 16" high)
◆ One large box per site (at least 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high)
+ Additional boxes available for sites to share.

	# of Sites	Daily Fees	Rest-room Facilities	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles
	#	\$										

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

FOOTHILLS AREA No trailers or RVs in Buckeye Flat.

Potwisha ◆ 2100' Open all year.	42	\$18	Flush				✓	☼	✓		✓	
Buckeye Flat ◆ 2800' Open until 10/12. No trailers or RVs	28	\$18	Flush				at Potwisha	☼			✓	
South Fork # 3600' Open all year. No drinking water; non-potable water available through 10/12.	10	\$12 May	Vault								✓	

MINERAL KING AREA Open late May through October 31, weather permitting. No RVs or trailers.

Atwell Mill # 6650' - Open through 10/31.	21	\$12	Vault	☼	☼			☼			✓	✓
Cold Springs # 7500' - Open through 10/31.	40	\$12	Vault	at Silver City	at Silver City			☼	✓		✓	

LODGEPOLE AREA See summer reservation information above.

Lodgepole ⊠ + 6700' Open all year. \$20 during reservation period then \$18.	214	\$18/20	Flush	☼	☼	✓	☼	✓	✓		✓	✓
Dorst ⊠ + 6700' - Open until 9/5.	204	\$20	Flush				☼	✓	☼		✓	✓

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

GRANT GROVE AREA *

Azalea ◆ 6500' - Open all year.	110	\$18	Flush	✓	☼			✓	at village	☼		✓
Crystal Springs ◆ 6500' - Open until 9/14. 14 sites for groups of 7-15 people:	36	\$18 \$35	Flush	✓	☼			✓	“	☼		✓
Sunset ◆ 6500' - Last night 9/5.	157	\$18	Flush	✓	☼			✓	“	☼		✓

CEDAR GROVE AREA * Area closes mid-November.

Sentinel ◆ + 4600' - Open as needed.	82	\$18	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼	at visitor center	☼	✓	
Sheep Creek ◆ + 4600' - Open until early Nov.	111	\$18	Flush	☼	☼	☼	☼		☼	“	☼	✓
Canyon View ◆ 4600' - Open as needed. No RVs or trailers. 5 sites for groups of 7 - 19:	23	\$18 \$35.	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼	“	☼	✓	
Moraine ◆ 4600' - Closed for rehab until mid-summer, then open as needed.	120	\$18	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼	“	☼	✓	

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST / GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)

HUME LAKE AREA Campgrounds open late May into fall, weather permitting. *Reservable in summer: see above.

Princess 5900' - Reservations	88	\$15/17	Vault				☼ \$7	☼			✓	✓
Hume Lake + 5200' -Reservations	74	\$17/19	Flush	✓		✓		☼	✓		✓	
Tenmile 5800' - No water.	13	\$13/15	Vault								✓	✓
Landslide 5800'	9	\$13/15	Vault								✓	✓
Convict Flat 4000' - No water.	7		Vault								✓	

BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREAS Most open late May into fall, weather permitting. *Reservable in summer: see above.

Stony Creek # 6400' -Reservations	49	\$17/19	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼	✓		✓	
Upper Stony # 6400'	18	\$13/15	Vault	☼	☼	☼		☼	✓		✓	
Horse Camp 7500' - No water.	5+		Vault						✓		✓	
Buck Rock 7500' - No water.	5+		Vault					☼	✓			
Big Meadows 7600' - No water.	40		Vault					☼	✓	✓		

AREA MAP

- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Lodging
- Horses/riding
- Gas station

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

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 5.

DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER

FOOTHILLS TO:

Giant Forest 1 hour.

Lodgepole 1 hour.

Visalia 1 hour.

Mineral King 1-1/4

hours. Road closed

Oct 31 to May 27.

GIANT FOREST TO:

Grant Grove 1 hour.

GRANT GROVE TO:

Cedar Grove 1 hour.

Road open mid-

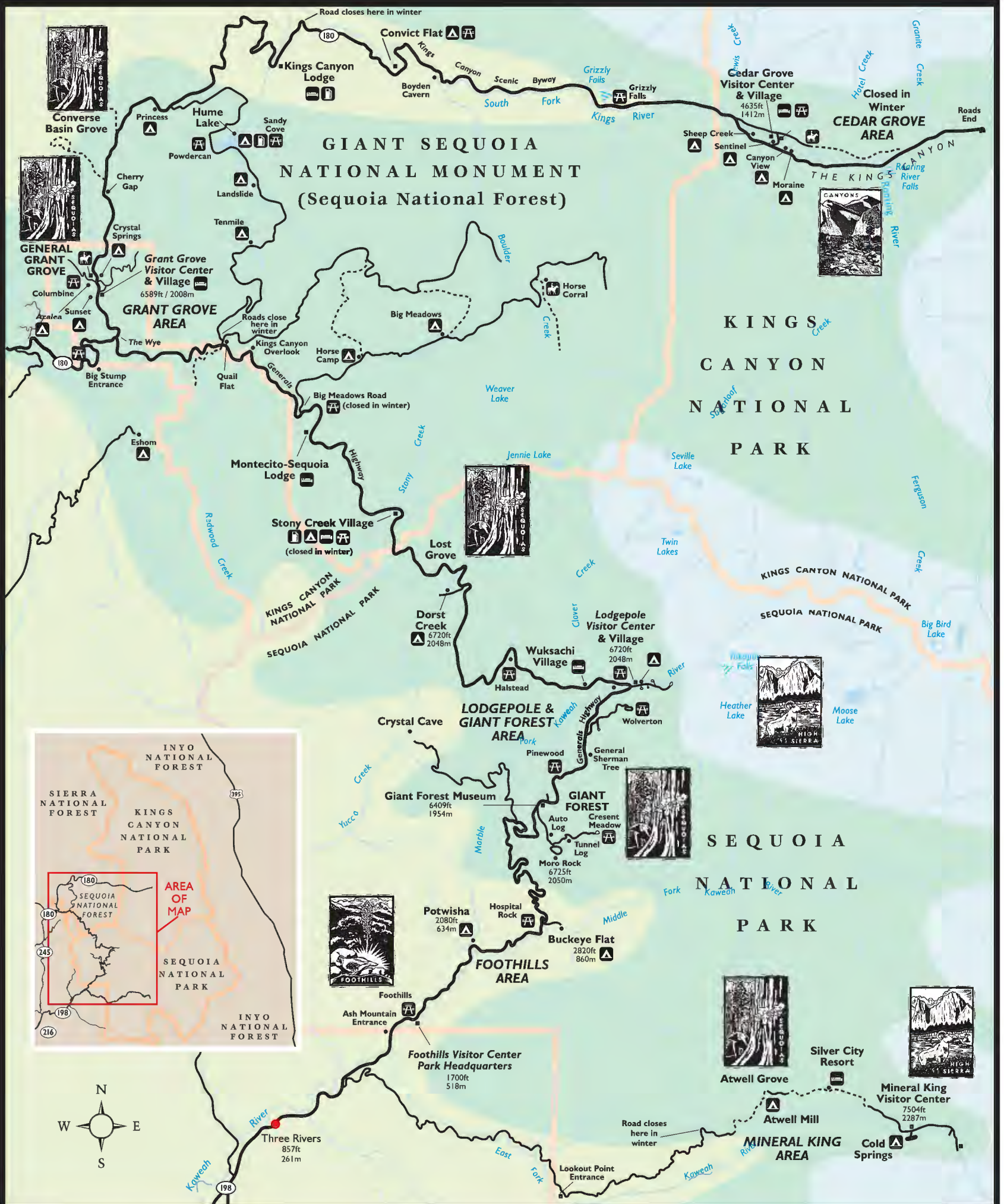
April to Nov. 8.

Fresno 1-1/2 hours.

Yosemite's south

entry via Hwy 41

3 hours.



LATE SUMMER 2005

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651
www.nps.gov/seki

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