



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

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Updates on parking & planning

NEW SHERMAN TREE PARKING

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

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

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

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

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

SEE THE DRAFT GMP!

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

From input gathered over the past seven years of internal and public discussions, the GMP identifies four alternative scenarios for the future of these parks. They describe varying degrees of accommodating visitation while protecting park resources. From these four alternatives came a fifth



Look for the new parking lot for the Sherman Tree to open later this year. ©NPS

one – the Preferred Alternative. This synthesis represents the judgment of park managers as the best course to follow.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON



INFORMATION NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
(no coins needed)

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

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

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

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

Partners in the Parks

The following groups 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 (FS)**
559-784-1500
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia
- **Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNC)**
1-559-565-4070
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 ©NPS by Rick Wheeler

Get to know your parks

Given the park's names, you expect giant trees and spectacular canyons — and you won't be disappointed. But the whole of this place is even greater than the sum of its great parts.

Ranging from 1300' to 14,494', these parks encompass a huge elevational range. This impressive span from low to high means dramatic shifts from hot, dry foothills to shady mid-elevation forests to the chilly high Sierra. It means an extraordinarily diverse collection of plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

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

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

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

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

Expect Change

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

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit; trees fall and buildings change. Park management tools may or may not affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone-monitoring equipment that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities. Some of them may unavoidably affect your visit: smoke from a prescribed fire or a campsite closed due to revegetation or intense bear activity.

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

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

Ask at entrance stations about the following:

- **7-day pass** for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): \$10 per vehicle or \$5 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **Annual pass** for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): \$20.
- **National Parks Pass:** \$50 pass admits all passengers in a private vehicle to all U.S. national parks for one year from date of purchase. Not redeemable at Crystal Cave. Also available via 1-888-GO-PARKS and www.nationalparks.org.
- **Golden Eagle Pass:** \$65 pass not only for national parks, but also for entrance fees at all federal monuments, historic sites, recreation areas & wildlife refuges. Also honored at National Forests charging for use of high-impact recreation areas. Valid for one year from date of purchase.
- **Golden Age Passport:** A one-time \$10 fee buys this lifetime pass to all national parks for U.S. citizens & residents aged 62 or over.
- **Golden Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens & residents. Bring appropriate documentation to any park visitor center.

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?

What is the difference between Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument? You see signs for all them in this area!

All are on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

National 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 what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we are lucky to enjoy the wide range of benefits these diverse areas can offer.



Crystal Cave Rocks!



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

Tickets are NOT sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1-1/2 hours in advance of your tour.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance on Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see map on page 12). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m).

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

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

45-minute tours (be sure to check details above):

Schedule: Daily 11am -4pm on the half-hour through Monday, September 6. Tours then continue on a reduced schedule into the fall. On weekends, tours may be added at 10 & 10:30am and at 4:30 & 5pm if needed.

Fees - Ages 6-12 \$5; age 13-61 \$10; age 62 & up, \$8; under 6 free. National Park & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a 50% discount! All fees go to help the parks.

2-hour Discovery Tours through September 3rd:

4:15 pm daily *except Saturdays* - Limited to 12 people aged 13 & up. \$18 each (\$16 ages 62 & up; \$12 for SNHA members).

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

WALKS & TALKS Join in the free ranger activities at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Wuksachi, the Foothills, Grant Grove, Cedar Grove, and USFS areas. See *Nature Programs* on pages 5 & 7 and check bulletin boards for detailed schedules. Many activities are offered through mid-August; some continue into September. Ranger programs have been a tradition here since 1931 — join us!

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

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

TEACHERS - BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!

Rangers offer curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6th-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology & caves, sequoias, & Native Americans. Call 1-559-565-4303 to reserve a date for a fun, interactive program!



SEQUOIA FIELD INSTITUTE!

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

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

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

WHERE CAN I...

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

- **WALK A PET** *In Parks:* Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, roads). *In National Forest:* Pets can go on trails. *In both areas:* Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave them in hot cars.
- **RIDE A BICYCLE** *In Parks:* Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. *In National Forest:* Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas:* Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

- **GO CAMPING** *In Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road & no further.
- **CUT WOOD** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 1-559-338-2251.
- **GO FISHING** *In both areas:* Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.
- **FEED WILDLIFE** *Don't do it anywhere! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous; some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.*
- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD** *Not in either area. Stay on roads.*

- **HAVE A FIRE** Expect to limit your use of fire this summer due to *very* dry conditions. Check for restrictions before starting any fire, including charcoal. Smoking locations may be limited as well. *In Parks:* Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Fire permits are required. Get one free at Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump Entrance Station, or the USFS office in Dunlap on Highway 180.
- **GO PICNICKING** See picnic symbols on map (back page). Check for fire restrictions before starting any wood or charcoal fire! *Never leave food unattended due to bears!* Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. Fires are never permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, and Powdercan.

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

• RIDE HORSEBACK

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

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

Mineral King - closed for the season. Call the park for information: 1-559-565-3106

Horse Corral (in National Forest/Monument)

Please call for reservations.
1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell



Highlights

SEQUOIA PARK

GIANT FOREST



Review the safety tips on page 11. Take a map, warm clothes, sunglasses, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are

going. You are on your own in the woods — be safe and enjoy!

Trail construction may affect access to the Sherman Tree from the Generals Highway late this summer. See the front page for information on the new trail and parking area. Reconstruction may also cause some delays along the road. Thank you for your patience!

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE: The new parking area opens this summer! Head north from the Giant Forest Museum and follow signs. A short walk to the world's largest tree, named in 1879 by a Civil War veteran. A huge sequoia cross-section nearby illustrates the connection between sequoias and fire.

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 wheelchair-accessible trail from there. Allow 1 to 1-1/2 hours round trip.

CONGRESS TRAIL: A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the sequoia grove, beginning at the Sherman Tree. Excellent for first-time visitors. Allow 1-2 hours.

ALONG THE MORO ROCK - CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway & 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). Spectacular view of the Great Western Divide & the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through (a bypass is available for larger vehicles). The only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. 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, & 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 your car onto this fallen giant sequoia, but rot in the log has put an end to this old 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. 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, narrow road to this valley, open late May through October 31, ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. Many trails, too numerous to list here, lead to higher country and excellent — if hilly — hiking. Ask a ranger for information about the area. Be sure to learn about its mar-mots, which often damage cars in early summer.

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 1/4-mile trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Be careful by the river! Drownings have occurred here.

MARBLE FALLS: This trail ends 3.9 miles (6km) up from Potwisha Campground at a lovely cascade after climbing through chaparral-covered terrain. Park near site #14 at the Campground. Follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch. Watch for the trail's start along the steep bank to the right.

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

MIDDLE FORK: Leading through chapparral to the highcountry, the first miles offer views of Moro Rock and Castle Rocks. Take the road toward Buckeye Flat Campground. Turn left on the dirt road before the campground; go 1.3 miles (2 km) to the trailhead parking area. Panther Creek Falls is 3 miles (5km) up the trail.

SOUTH FORK

Tiny South Fork Campground is at the end of a 13-mile road that leaves 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 (5km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

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

SERVICES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Traffic Delays between Potwisha Campground & Giant Forest

Delays may total up to one hour from 6am to 6pm on weekdays and occasional Saturdays.

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

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

Lodgepole Area

LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

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

INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Visitor Center:** Daily 8am-5pm. Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. Exhibits & a slide program on geology & forest life; books, maps, first aid. 1-559-565-4436. Hours may be reduced after 9/6.
- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Get them at the permit office by the visitor center daily 7:15-11am and noon-4pm through September. See details page 10. 1-559-565-4408.
- **Walter Fry Nature Center:** Open Friday through Monday noon-5pm at least through mid-August. Check bulletin boards.

FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR)

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

OTHER SERVICES

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

WUKSACHI VILLAGE

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

FOOD, SHOPS & LODGING (DNCPR)

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

WOLVERTON MEADOWS

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

FOOD (DNCPR)

- **Barbecue:** 6pm Wednesday-Sunday evenings through 9/6. All-you-can-eat meal served outdoors.

Giant Forest Area

GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

6400' (1950m) elevation. Home to the world's biggest trees, this grove offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking trails. See page 4 for highlights. For picnic areas, check page 3 and your map.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 8am-5pm. Explore exhibits about the amazing Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4480.

CRYSTAL CAVE - Daily tours of this park highlight

Tickets are not sold at the cave; see page 3 for details and schedule.

Foothills Area

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

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-5pm. Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. 559-565-3135.
- **Potwisha Campground (NPS):** Year-round. Details on page 9.

Mineral King Area

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

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

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Daily 8am-4:30pm. A small visitor center with exhibits on area history, books, maps, local wilderness permits, first aid, & bear canisters. 559-565-3768.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Cabins, chalets. Restaurant, bakery, showers & small store (gifts, limited supplies, ice, firewood; no gasoline or fishing licenses) 8am-8pm Thursday-Monday, Tuesday-Wednesday 8am-3pm (restaurant closed; breakfast bar & pie available). Summer 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730. www.silvercityresort.com.
- **Camping (NPS):** No RVs or trailers. Details on page 9.

NATURE PROGRAMS

GIANT FOREST/ LODGEPOLE

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

Daily 11am - Moro Vista: Meet on top of Moro Rock to take in its vistas with a ranger. Plan at least 15 minutes to climb the staircase! 1/2 hour.

Daily 2pm - Bears of the Sierra: Gain insight into these strong, smart, yet vulnerable animals. At Lodgepole Visitor Center. 45 minutes.

Daily 3:30pm - Realm of Giants: Learn more about the world's largest living trees. Meet in front of Giant Forest Museum. 1-1/2 hours.

Nightly - Lodgepole Campfire: Learn more about this park! Check locally for times & topics. Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater. 1 hour.

IN THE FOOTHILLS

Programs through Monday, 9/6:

Daily 12:30pm - Hospital Rock Talk: Meet at this important cultural feature to learn more about it. 1 hour.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday 5pm - River Rove: An informal talk along the Kaweah River. Locations vary; check locally. 1 hour.

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 9am - Buckeye Flat Walk: Explore the Kaweah River canyon country. Meet at Buckeye Flat Campground bulletin board. 1 hour.

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday 7:30pm - Potwisha Campfire: Meet at the campground amphitheater for family fun. 1 hour.

MINERAL KING

Programs are offered through 9/5:

Thursday 8pm - Mineral King Treasures: Discover the hidden treasures of this unique area. Meet at Silver City Resort. 1 hour.

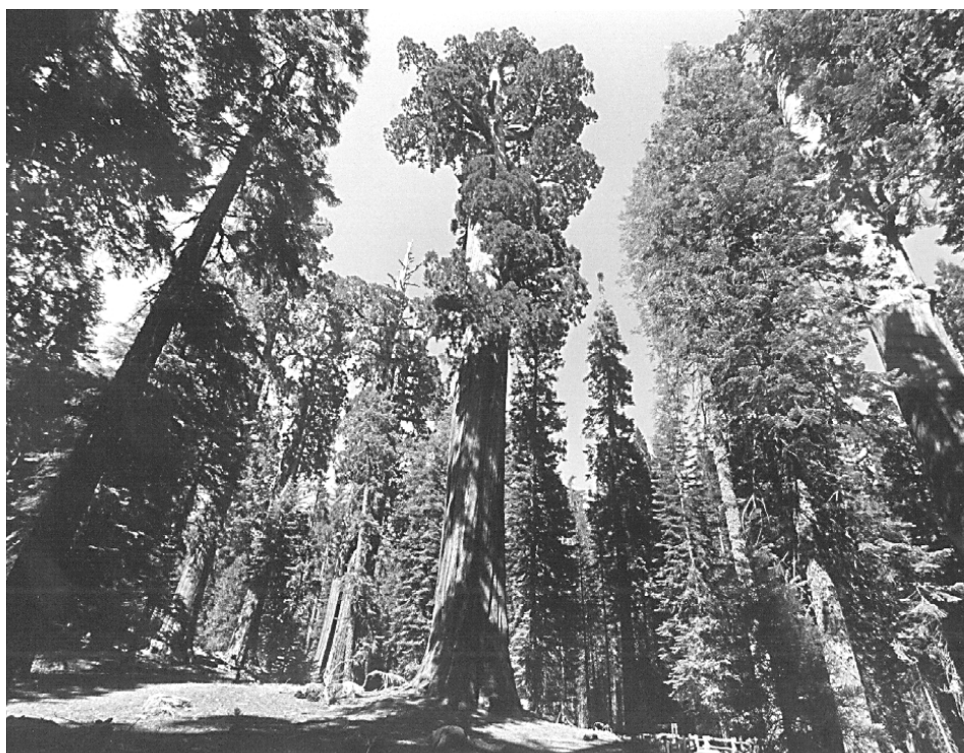
Friday - Night Walk: Explore Sierran nightlife with all your senses. Check locally for time. At Mineral King Ranger Station. 1 hour.

Saturday - Campfire Traditions: Discover Mineral King's rich natural and cultural history through songs, stories, legends, and more! Mineral Kings Ranger Station. 1 hour.

Sunday 9:30am - Sequoia Walk: Explore Mineral King through the "eyes" of a giant. Atwell/Hockett trailhead. 1-1/2 hours.

Highlights

KINGS CANYON



GRANT GROVE

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



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

It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.48 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (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 (not plowed).

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 OVERLOOK:

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



KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

Take the time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge.

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

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

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

ZUMWALT MEADOW: This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, a lush meadow, and the meandering Kings River. Park at trailhead 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 pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra.

TAKE TIME FOR A HIKE

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

DON CECIL TRAIL: Once the main route to Cedar Grove prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180, this trail starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village. It climbs the north-facing slope, passing Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) and affording good views. Lookout Peak (a 13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/1220 m elevation gain) provides an incredible panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL: Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Strenuous, it switches up through chaparral to a forested ridge and Cedar Grove Overlook with gorgeous views up and down canyon. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Allow 3 to 4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore the Giant Sequoia National Monument within the Sequoia National Forest.

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

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic multiple-arch dam, supplied water for a flume that floated lumber to Sanger, 67 miles (108 km) below. An easy 2 1/2-mile (4 km) trail encircles it. See page 7 for other recreational options there. 8 miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT: A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road via Forest Road 13504.



SERVICES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS AREAS

Grant Grove Area

GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

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

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-6pm through 8/21, then 8am-5pm Exhibits & a 15-minute slide show on the area's natural & human history, books, maps, first aid. Local wilderness permits issued 8am-4pm only. 1-559-565-4307.

FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Daily 7am-9pm through 9/5. Pizza available daily noon-2pm & 5-10pm. Starting 9/6 Saturday 7am-8pm; Sunday 7am-7pm; weekdays 7:30am-2pm & 4:30-7pm (Friday until 8pm).
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-9pm. Starting 9/6 9am-7pm (8pm on weekends). Film, souvenirs, clothing. ATM in lobby.
- **Market:** Daily 8am-9pm. Starting 9/6 9am-7pm (8pm on weekends). Groceries, bear canisters, emergency gasoline, supplies.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (NPS) & Lodging:** See page 8-9 for details.
- **Showers (KCPS):** Daily 11am-4pm through 9/5 then closed.
- **Post Office:** Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30pm & Saturday 9am-11:30pm. Lobby & stamp machine open 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. In summer the area offers picnicking and horseback riding (see page 3) as well as:

INFORMATION

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

FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS)

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

USFS: National Forest & Monument

HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

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 the difference between Park and Forest). The area was sold to the government as a Forest Reserve in 1935. It is an excellent place to see recovery from intensive sequoia logging in 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 9/4 then weekdays only. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 8-9 for details.
- **Boyden Cavern:** On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Cave tours on the hour 11am-4pm through May then 10am-5pm. \$10 ages 14 & up; \$5 ages 3-13; under 3 free. AAA discounts. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. 1-209-736-2708.
- **Stony Creek Village & Lodge (FS):** Market 7am-8pm (9pm Friday-Saturday). Restaurant Tuesday-Sunday 11:30am-2pm & 5-8pm (9pm Friday-Saturday); closed Monday. Showers 8am-7pm. Starting 9/6, facilities close one hour earlier and restaurant closed Monday-Tuesday.
- **Montecito-Sequoia Resort (FS):** A permitted resort on public land open year-round. On the Generals Highway, 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Restaurant: breakfast 7:30-9am, lunch 12-1:30pm, dinner 5:30-7pm. Hours change in early September. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. Reservations: 1-800-227-9900; www.mslodge.com. Lodge: 1-800-843-8677 or 1-559-565-3388.
- **Boat & Bicycle Rentals, Swimming, Fishing:** Private facilities open to public at Hume Lake, 8 miles (13km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180 then 3 miles (5km) south on Hume Lake Road. 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market weekdays 8am-10:30pm, Saturday 7am-7pm. Snack bar hours vary. Call for details and dates of rentals: 1-559-335-2000.

GASOLINE

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

CELEBRATE SEQUOIAS!

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



NATURE PROGRAMS



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

GRANT GROVE

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

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

CEDAR GROVE

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

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

Staying Overnight

CAMPING DOs & DON'Ts: These rules protect the landscape & you!

NOTE: Some rules vary between the park & the national forest. Check bulletin boards for details.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

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

CAMPSITES VS DISPERSED CAMPING

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

HOLDING CAMPSITES

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

PROPANE CANISTERS

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

QUIET HOURS

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

RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups are available.

Trailers are permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check the chart on page 15. Many sites are not suitable for trailers or RVs. Vehicles over 30 feet long can fit in a small number of sites.

Length advisory: On Generals Highway in Sequoia Park, from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum, a vehicle length limit of 22 feet is advised. See page 11 for other limitations & warnings.

Dump stations: See chart on page 9 for locations in parks. There are several stations outside the parks; ask for details at visitor centers.

PROTECT THE PARK!

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

GROUP CAMPSITES

Summer only. Call in advance for information on reserving group tent-camping areas in the parks: Dorst 1-800-365-2267; Sunset 1-559-565-4335; Canyon View 1-559-565-3792. In the national forest/monument: 877-444-6777 or www.ReserveUSA.com.

LIMITS ON CAMPING

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

BE A CAMP HOST!

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



save a bear!

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

LODGING

SEQUOIA PARK

- **Wuksachi Village (DNPS)**
Reservations: 1-888-252-5757
Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070
www.visitsequoia.com. *All year. North of Sherman Tree 4 miles (6.4km). Lodge, restaurant, gifts. Sequoia Park's only center for commercial services in Sequoia.*

- **Silver City Mountain Resort ***
Summer: 1-559-561-3223
Winter: 1-805-528-2730
www.silvercityresort.com. *Open May 28 to late October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gasoline.*

KINGS CANYON PARK

- **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge (KCPS)**
Reservations: 1-866-KCANYON
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-KCANYON
Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. *Open May 13 to early Oct. 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-KCANYON
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. *Open late May into October. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gas.*

- **Historic Guard Station (FS)**
Reservations: 1-559-338-3222.
Open late May-November. A cabin in Big Meadows between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.

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

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

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

WILDERNESS LODGES & PERMITS

Page 10 has details.

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

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 instructions & regulations: always read bulletin boards.

Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole can be made up to 5 months in advance, 4am - 4pm PST:
1-800-365-2267
<http://reservations.nps.gov>
International calls: 1-301-722-1257
TDD: 1-888-530-9796
Fax: 1-301-722-1174

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

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: ☼ 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.

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

FOOTHILLS AREA		Usually snow free year-round.										
Potwisha ◆ 2100' Open all year.	42	\$18	Flush				✓	☼	✓		✓	
Buckeye Flat ◆ 2800' - Open 5/21-10/12.	28	\$18	Flush				at Potwisha	☼			✓	
South Fork # 3600' Open all year. No drinking water; non-potable only 5/10-10/14.	10	\$12 May - Sept.	Vault								✓	
MINERAL KING AREA		Open May 28 through October 31, weather permitting. No RVs or trailers.										
Atwell Mill # 6650' - Open 5/28.	21	\$12	Pit	☼	☼				✓		✓	✓
Cold Springs # 7500' - Open 5/28.	40	\$12	Pit	☼	☼			☼	✓		✓	
LODGEPOLE AREA		Reservations available for Lodgepole 5/26-9/30/04 & Dorst 5/26-9/7/04. See Reservations above.										
Lodgepole ☼ + 6700' Open all year.	214	\$18/20	Flush	☼	☼	✓	☼	✓	✓		✓	✓
Dorst ☼ + 6700' Open 5/26-9/6/04.	204	\$20	Flush				☼		☼		✓	✓

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

GRANT GROVE AREA												
Azalea ◆ 6500' - Open all year.	110	\$18	Flush	✓	☼			✓		☼		✓
Crystal Springs ◆ 6500' - Open 5/21-9/15.	62	\$18	Flush	✓	☼			✓		☼		✓
Sunset ◆ 6500' - Open 6/30-9/10.	157	\$18	Flush	✓	☼			✓		☼		✓
CEDAR GROVE AREA		Area closes mid-November.										
Sentinel ◆ 4600' - Open as needed.	82	\$18	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼		☼	✓	
Sheep Creek ◆ 4600' - Open.	111	\$18	Flush	☼	☼		☼		☼	✓		
Canyon View ◆ 4600' - Open as needed. No RVs or trailers.	37	\$18	Flush	☼	☼	☼		☼		☼	✓	
Moraine ◆ 4600' - 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. Open 4/23.	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.	30		Vault					☼	✓	✓		

Fire — a Long-Lost Partner

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

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

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



Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels that would otherwise feed intense wildfires. Occasional hot spots leave openings in the forest that are ecologically important — that is where sequoia trees regenerate.

©NPS Photo

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

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

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

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

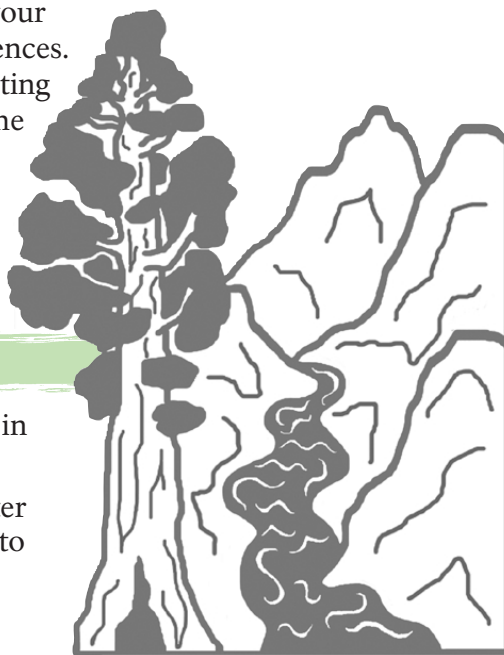
HELP US HELP THE PARKS! THE SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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

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

MEMBER BENEFITS

- 15% off everything sold in park visitor centers, at Lake Kaweah Visitor Center, the Sierra Nature Store in Visalia, and from the website.
- 10-20% off books at most other national park visitor centers.
- Half-price tickets on regular Crystal Cave tours and a reduced fee on special tours (see page 3).
- Internet access for \$13.95 /month, unlimited. No contract or sign-up fee.
- Discounts at selected hotels in Three Rivers.
- Biannual members' newsletter and copies of this Guide mailed to you seasonally.
- An invitation to the annual members' picnic in the sequoias.
- Discounts on Sequoia Field Institute programs.
- The knowledge that you are helping your national parks!



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

The Sequoia Fund

Another non-profit group comes to the rescue when limited funds put important park projects on hold.

Beetle Rock, in the Giant Forest, is a great example. This historic building was slated for destruction. Instead, the Sequoia Fund continues to raise money to remake it into a unique classroom facility. As the new Beetle Rock Education Center, it houses the Sequoia Field Institute, which offers outstanding seminars, workshops, and field trips to researchers, school groups, and YOU! Now the Sequoia Fund needs your help to finish the classrooms and make the Education Center complete.

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

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

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

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

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

Reserved permits must be picked up between the afternoon before and 9am on your day of departure. If delayed, call the ranger station or you may forfeit your reservation.

Permits are not issued late in the day as minimum distances must be reached before you camp. Camping in the park's "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.
HCR 89 Box 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766; Fax 559-565-4239

Get a copy of *Backcountry Basics* at visitor centers or by mail for free details on wilderness, or see www.nps.gov/seki/bcinfo.htm.

BACKCOUNTRY LODGES

- **PEAR LAKE SKI HUT (SNHA)**
Reservations required:
1-559-565-3759
www.sequoiahistory.org
Open December to April. This cabin is a beautiful, strenuous 6-mile ski into the wilderness.
- **BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP (DNCPR)** www.visitsequoia.com
Reservations required:
1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June through September 11, weather permitting. A tent hotel at 7800' on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

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

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

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

Be Safe!

RISK & RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

HYPOTHERMIA: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for

warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

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

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

SAFE PARK TRAVEL:

Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen. Share

roads and trails with others: cars, bikes, walkers, and wildlife all travel here. Check your planned route for potential avalanche areas.

RATTLESNAKES:

Watch where you put your hands and feet. Most common in the foothills, rattlesnakes are protected in parks. Most bites result from teasing or trying to handle snakes. Few people die from bites, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.

COUGARS: Mountain lions roam throughout the area. Your chances of seeing one, especially an aggressive one, are very low, but cougars have been known to attack people and pets, so be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead of you. If you meet 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: Never burn charcoal in a tent, camper, or RV. Carbon monoxide, an odorless and colorless gas, can be fatal.

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.

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.

OZONE POLLUTION: The air quality index forecast is displayed in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm afternoon winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, and peak in late afternoon. These peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" levels, according to state and federal standards. Ozone forms in sunlight from gases in car and factory exhaust. This statewide problem challenges us all to reduce pollution: sleds, skis, cars, bikes, snowmobiles, and on foot.

OPERATION NO-GROW

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

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

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

Rules of the Road

TRAFFIC DELAYS - SEQUOIA

Expect delays on the Generals Highway between Hospital Rock and Giant Forest, and near the Sherman Tree. See page 5 for details.

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.

ROAD CONDITIONS

24-hour recording: 1-559-565-3341 then press 9, then 4.

LET OTHERS PASS

Slower vehicles must use paved turnouts to let traffic pass.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

Need towing? Call 24-hour park switchboard: 565-3341 then press zero. AAA: For out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, minor repairs - In Sequoia call 565-4070 (24-hour); in Kings Canyon call 335-2135.

STAY ON PAVEMENT

To protect soils & plants, you must park & travel on pavement only.

LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum legal length limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. An alternate route is Hwy 180 from Fresno, a straighter, less steep, and wider road. If you are towing a car, try camping in the foothills and using it to explore.

PREVENT CAR FIRES

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

FINDING GASOLINE

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

- Stony Creek Village 1-559-565-3909: 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi and Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.
- Hume Lake Christian Camps 559-335-2000: 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.

MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup in the center of the uphill lane.

NARROW WINDING ROADS

IN KINGS CANYON & NATIONAL FOREST / SEQUOIA MONUMENT—Panoramic Point Road: No trailers or motorhomes.

Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved, rough.

IN SEQUOIA —

Mineral King Road: RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).

Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road: Winding, steep. RVs & trailers not recommended.

Crystal Cave Road: Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m). RVs & trailers not recommended.

South Fork Road: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

BICYCLES

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

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 11.

DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER

FOOTHILLS TO:

Giant Forest 1 hour
(expect traffic delays - see page 5).
Lodgepole 1 hour.
Visalia 1 hour.
Mineral King 1-1/4 hours. Road open May 28 to Oct 31.

GIANT FOREST TO:

Grant Grove 1 hour.

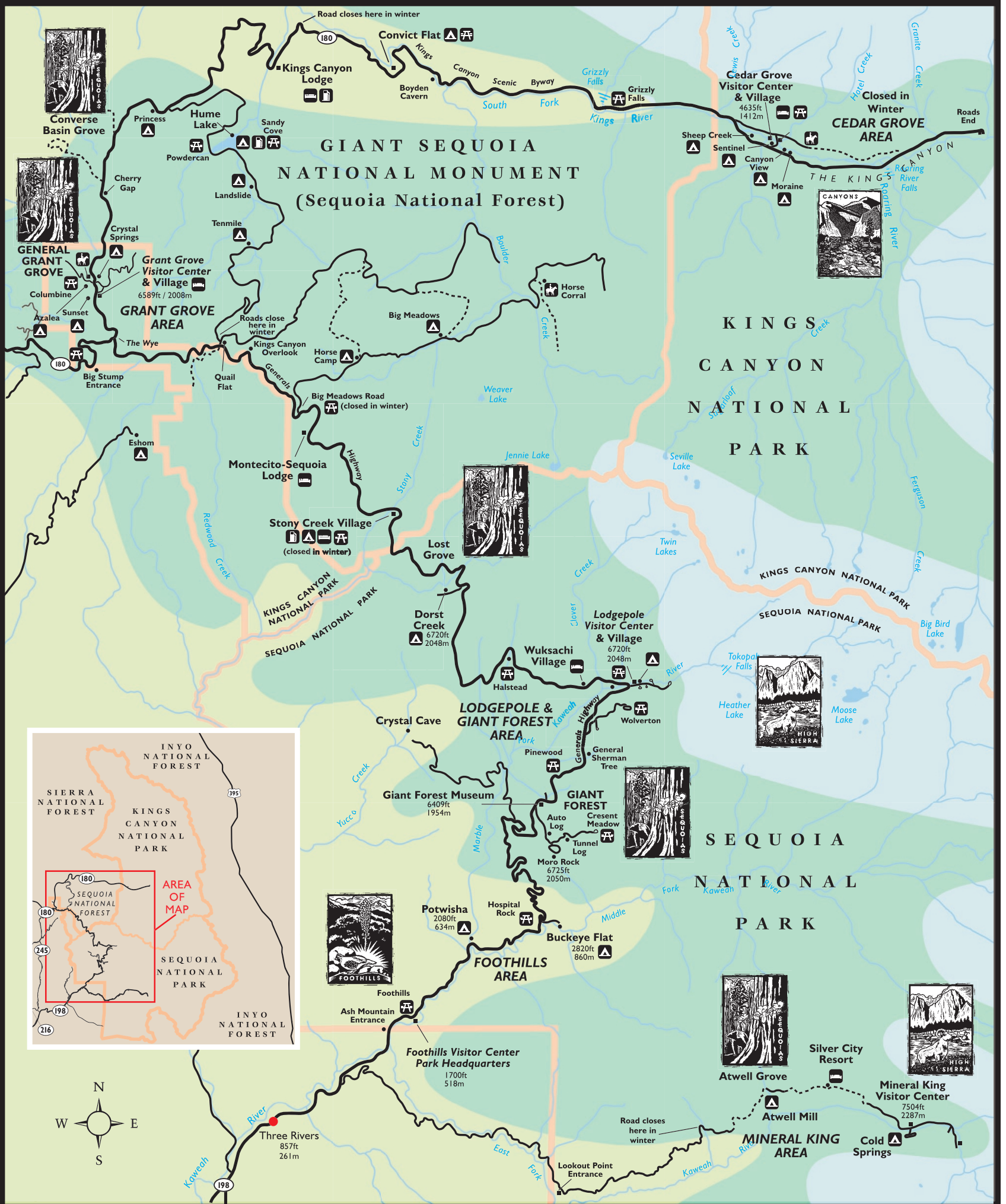
GRANT GROVE TO:

Cedar Grove 1 hour.

Road opens mid-April to Nov.

Fresno 1-1/2 hours.

Yosemite's south entry via Hwy 41 3 hours.



SUMMER 2004

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

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

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