



# SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

## WINTER GUIDE 2004-2005



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## Winter fun in “summer” parks

National parks are often dubbed "winter" or "summer" parks, depending on their busy season. Death Valley, for example, or Florida's Everglades, get most of their visitors in the cooler season, making them "winter" parks. Acadia and Glacier, on the other hand, are easiest to visit — and therefore busiest — in summer.

Most people see the cold, snowy countenance of the Sierra Nevada and treat Sequoia and Kings Canyon as summer parks. That's when roads and trails are clear, the weather is mild, and most people come to these mountains. But if you're here now, you've figured out the secret: winter offers some of the greatest beauty, mystery, tranquility, challenge, and just plain fun in these parks.

It's not always easy to enjoy the parks in winter: You may well need to “chain up.” In fact, if you are in the park now and want to see sequoias but don't have tire chains, you should think again. The suddenness and unpredictability of Sierran weather as well as genuine concern for your safety make the rangers err on the side of caution when deciding to require chains. But if you've got chains, layers of warm clothes, and you're willing to take the roads very slowly, then the beauty and fun of winter await you!

If it's social fun you want, head to one of the bustling snowplay areas (see pages 8 and 9). Didn't bring a sled? They're available for sale at Grant Grove and Wuksachi Village.

Take your fun seriously, though, and play safe. People get hurt snowplaying every year when they let things get out of control. Some



♦ For some, Sierran snows are the first of their lives! Puerto Rican Tania Metz, a Student Conservation Assistant, said, “I feel like I'm in a store window that's been decorated for winter!”

of the injuries are devastating; don't let it happen to you! When the hills get extremely icy, rangers close all or part of the snowplay areas, but only *you* can prevent accidents.

Want to be active but not in a crowd? Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing into the wintry heart of a sequoia grove is like nothing else you've ever tried. Whether you find misty fog or bright sunshine, the peace and clean, clear beauty will refresh your spirit while your legs get pleasantly tired! Be safe here, too. Take a map. Tell someone where you are going. Learn how to spot and follow the ski-trail signs on the trees, and get back before winter's early sunset.

Step into a visitor center for information on these wonderful parks and how to enjoy them safely. It's a great way to make sure you have what you need for your particular winter adventure, or to warm up after a romp in the snow. Check out the exhibits to learn more about this place. When you head outside again, you'll know and appreciate the natural scene around you even more.

If you've had enough of cold, the snow-free foothills are in their glory now. Green grass coats the hills that were bone dry just a few months ago. Flowers pop up by late January. Birds not seen here in summer flash through oak and chaparral. Slanted and soft, winter sunlight highlights the landscape's details. Take advantage of the lower elevation trails now; they'll be very hot by summer!

We're glad that you didn't let the “summer park” label keep you away this winter. Just remain flexible and let the weather call the shots. Safe travels leave you with the best memories of winter fun.



# 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](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

**National Forest Information (USFS)**  
1-559-338-2251  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

**Yosemite Information (NPS)**  
1-209-372-0200  
[www.nps.gov/yose](http://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, which was 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](http://www.nps.gov/seki)
- **Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)**  
1-559-565-3759  
[www.sequoiahistory.org](http://www.sequoiahistory.org)
- **Forest Service (USFS)**  
559-784-1500  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)
- **Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)**  
1-888-252-5757  
[www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com)
- **Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)**  
1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)  
[www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com)
- **US Geological Survey (USGS)**  
1-559-565-3171  
[www.werc.usgs.gov](http://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](http://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.





# Seasonal specialties

Two special opportunities are available here – one in summer, one in winter – thanks to the Sequoia Natural History Association. This important non-profit association offers winter lodging at the rustic Pear Lake Ski Hut as well as summer tours in beautiful Crystal Cave.



Pear Lake Ski Hut. ©NPS Photo

Crystal Cave's fantastic decorations lie beneath the beautiful surface of Sequoia Park. Over eons, water trickling underground formed this cavern and decorated its walls with intricate formations.

Since its discovery in 1918, some of the rarest cave formations in the world have been preserved there.

Crystal Cave is the only one of the over two hundred caves in these parks that can be toured. The cave is open late spring into fall, when daily tours are offered by the SNHA. Plan to return then to see it!

Pear Lake Ski Hut is obviously a winter destination! This chalet sits in a granite basin high above Lodgepole, at 9,200 feet elevation (2804m).

It is a strenuous six miles on skis or snowshoes to get there, but what a reward – glistening snowfields, rock walls shimmering with icicles, and a deep blue sky surround you. Weasels scamper through the snow in search of rodents that burrow beneath it.

Ten bunks and a wood-pellet stove keep visitors warm. It's a great opportunity to challenge yourself, meet other people, and experience the high Sierra in winter. (Check with the Sequoia Field Institute for seminars on winter travel).

Call 559-565-3759 for reservations. [www.sequoiahistory.org](http://www.sequoiahistory.org).



Marble drapery in Crystal Cave. ©NPS Photo

## NATURALIST PROGRAMS

**WALKS & TALKS** A tradition here since 1931! Although winter is the parks' "slow" season, free ranger activities may be offered on some week-ends. Check bulletin boards for detailed schedules of evening programs, talks, or snowshoe walks. See *Nature Programs* on pages 8 & 9.

**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. Reserve a date for a fun, interactive program: 1-559-565-4303.

## Activities

### 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](http://www.sequoiahistory.org) or [john\\_lockhart@sequoiahistory.org](mailto:john_lockhart@sequoiahistory.org) or 1-559-565-4251.

## WHERE CAN I...

*You are visiting two different types of 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 why this is so, and use a map to know where you are!*

- **GO CAMPING** *In Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near road-sides. Pull safely off the road & no further.
- **GO FISHING** *In both areas:* Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.
- **WALK A PET** *In Parks:* Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (picnic areas, roads, campgrounds). *In National Forest:*

Leashed 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.
- **FEED WILDLIFE** *Don't do it anywhere!* Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous; some can carry disease. Roadside beggars almost always get hit by cars.
- **COLLECT OR PICK 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:* Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.

- **HAVE A CAMPFIRE** *In Parks:* Only in fire grills & some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Get your required fire permit 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 back-page map. *Bears active:* Never leave food unattended! Hospital Rock & Foothills are usually snow free. Big Stump (Grant Grove) & Big Meadows are plowed; others may be snow covered. Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. Fires not permitted at Lodgepole.
- **RIDE SNOWMOBILES** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat, & Cherry Gap.

- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD** *Not in either area. Stay on roads.*
- **CUT WOOD** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Season ends 11/15. Call Hume Lake Ranger District for guidelines & permit: 1-559-338-2251.

### • RIDE HORSEBACK

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

**Cedar Grove - closed**  
1-559-565-3464 summer  
1-559-337-2314 off season

**Grant Grove - closed**  
1-559-335-9292 summer  
1-559-337-2314 off season

**Mineral King - closed**  
1-559-565-3106

**Horse Corral (in National Forest/Monument) - closed**  
1-559-565-3404 summer  
1-559-564-6429 off season  
1-559-679-3573 cell



# Fire — a Long-Lost Partner

**H**ave 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.

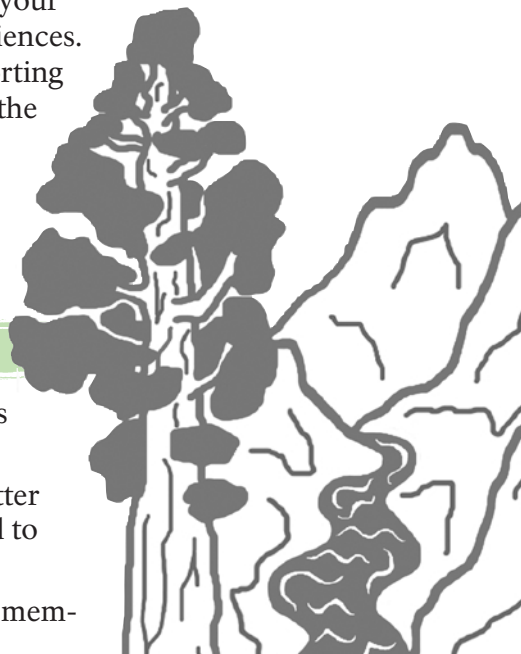
## HELP US HELP THE PARKS! THE SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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 park's primary partner in funding education and research programs, and in helping to support exhibits, ranger programs, and bear protection. The association also operates 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](http://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](http://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 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 late 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.**  
HCR 89 Box 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](http://www.nps.gov/seki/bcinfo.htm).

### BACKCOUNTRY LODGES

- **PEAR LAKE SKI HUT (SNHA)**  
Reservations required:  
1-559-565-3759  
[www.sequoiahistory.org](http://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](http://www.visitsequoia.com)  
Reservations required:  
1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June through mid-September, 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.

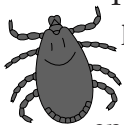


**SNOWPLAY:** Every year there are serious injuries. Don't slide or ski on or into plowed roads, trees, or rocky areas. Sleds have better steering and handholds than other devices. Please be safe and considerate.

**SAFE WINTER TRAVEL:** Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen to avoid snowglare. Watch out on roads for people on sleds, skis, cars, bikes, snowmobiles, and on foot.

**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.

**TICKS** are 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.



**DROWNING** is the #1 cause of death in national parks. Getting out of rivers can be nearly impossible; rocks are smooth and slippery and swift, cold water saps your strength. Be extra careful along rivers; falling in is as dangerous as swimming.

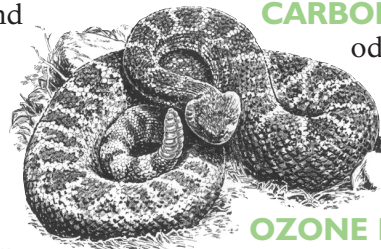
**PLAGUE:** Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.



**POISON OAK** is a common foothills shrub. Red in fall with whitish berries, bare in winter, its shiny green spring leaves grow in groups of three. If you touch

any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes as soon as possible.

**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.

**UNSAFE WATER:** Giardia, a protozoan in lakes and streams, can cause 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 drinking water at least 3 minutes.

**SAFE 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.

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

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

**WEST NILE VIRUS** is caused by bites from infected mosquitos. The chance of infection is low; human illness is rare. Avoid mosquito bites.

**LIGHTNING:** As soon as you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle, 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 areas. Stay away from water, wire fences, and metal railings.

### OPERATION NO-GROW

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

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

## Rules of the Road

### ROAD CONDITIONS

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

### ALWAYS CARRY CHAINS

Make sure they fit your tires. Obey "Chains Required" signs. Buy or rent chains in shops outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; they show M / S, M+S (mud+snow) or a snowflake on the side of the tire. Be sure to check!

### SNOWPLOWS RULE

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, slow down but don't stop. Proceed cautiously, watching for signals from the plow operator.

### GET SNOW OFF CAR ROOFS

The driver's vision gets blocked when snow slides onto the windshield when going downhill.

### NO GAS STATIONS IN PARK

Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or at Hume Lake (in national forest) - 24 hours with credit card; year round. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.

### EXPECT ICY ROADS

Slow down. Don't turn, speed up, or stop suddenly; you will lose traction. Allow six seconds of stopping distance between cars.

### WINTERIZE YOUR CAR

Check antifreeze, battery, wipers, & chains before your trip.

### 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.

### BICYCLES

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

### 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. In Sequoia Park only, AAA available for out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, minor repairs: call 565-4070 (24-hour).

### VEHICLE LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia, advised maximum 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. Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, & wider. Or, if you are towing a car, try camping in the foothills & using it to explore.

### STAY ON PAVEMENT

Park & travel on pavement only.

### MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup in the uphill lane.

### WINTER ROAD CLOSURES

Generals Highway (main park road) closes for plowing between Wuk-sachi & Grant Grove during & after storms. Depending on snowfall, closure may be brief or last for weeks.

#### IN KINGS CANYON -

• Highway 180 to Cedar Grove: Closed below Hume Lake turnoff until mid-April.

• Panoramic Point Road: Opens late spring.

• Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved, rough. Not plowed.

#### IN SEQUOIA -

• Crystal Cave Road: Opens mid-May, weather permitting.

• Middle Fork Road: Gated at Hospital Rock when wet.

• Mineral King Road: Opens 5/28, weather permitting.

• Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road: Opens late spring.

• South Fork Road: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

• Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS): Not plowed.





# Highlights

## SEQUOIA PARK

### GIANT FOREST



The only plowed trail is a short stretch near the General Sherman Tree. Still, there is plenty to see from road-sides, or give skis or snowshoes a try;

you don't need to go far or fast. It is a great way to enjoy the sequoia forest in a very different style! Rent them at Wuksachi Lodge, two miles (3.2km) north of Lodgepole. Purchase a ski trail map, ask a ranger for details, and carefully follow the yellow triangular markers on trees.

Review safety advice on page 5. Carry a map, warm clothes, sun-

glasses, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the winter woods!

**Walkers & snowshoers:** Avoid walking in ski tracks. It makes them dangerous for skiers.

**Watch for wildlife tracks** in the snow. Bear, deer, mountain lions, martens, weasels, coyotes, and squirrels may be active all winter.

**Get to know the snow forest:** This forest was designed for snow. Most trees are cone-shaped, minimizing the amount of snow that catches on them. The branches are flexible, so that they bend to dump what snow does stick when it gets too heavy. Conifer needles are tough and slippery, so snow tends to slide off easily.

**GIANT FOREST MUSEUM:** If you want to get to know sequoias, don't miss the exhibits here!

**GENERAL SHERMAN TREE:** A short walk to the world's largest tree, named in 1879 by a Civil War veteran. Park on the west side of the Generals Highway two miles (3.2 km) north of the Giant Forest Museum, and carefully cross the road. The trail from there is not fully plowed, but snow is usually packed down enough to walk on it.

#### BIG TREES TRAIL: ♿

This 2/3-mile (1km) trail circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Park at Giant Forest Museum and ski or snowshoe along the trails on either side of the road (not *in* the road). If there's no snow, it is wheelchair-accessible all the way from the north end of the museum plaza, around the meadow, and back.

#### ALONG MORO ROCK/ CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD / SKI TRAIL

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road closes in winter and becomes a ski and snowshoe trail. It begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway, explores the southwest portions of the sequoia grove, and ends at Crescent Meadow. 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). Don't climb if there is any ice or snow on the stairs; it is very dangerous. 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 ski through" in these parks. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Generals Highway.

#### CRESCENT MEADOW

Several trails connect here. It is 1 mile (1.6 km) from here to Tharp's Log, the hollow fallen sequoia lived in by Giant Forest's first settler. The summer High Sierra Trail runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (highest peak in the lower 48 states - 14,494 feet / 4417 m).

#### MINERAL KING CLOSED IN WINTER



The winding, steep road to this valley, closed November to late May, ends at 7800' (2380m), the park's highest road. Skis or snowshoes are required to visit in winter.

### THE FOOTHILLS



The Sierra's lower elevations offer wonderful winter visits - green and usually snowless! They have more biological diversity - different kinds of plants and animals - than the conifer forests or highcountry. Flowers appear by late January. 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 very short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Be careful: Drownings have occurred 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. Watch for the trail along the steep bank to the right.

**PARADISE CREEK:** Park at Hospital Rock and walk to Buckeye Flat Campground. Follow the footpath across from site #26 & 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. Park at Hospital Rock. Walk toward Buckeye Flat Campground 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.

#### SOUTH FORK

These trails start at tiny South Fork Campground, at the end of a 13-mile road that leaves Highway 198 at the west end of Three Rivers. This partly unpaved road can be very slippery when wet.

**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 relatively 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



*You may not always feel cold in the sun, but make sure that backpack has some very warm clothes in it!*

©NPS Photo

### AROUND GRANT GROVE

The only plowed trail is the Grant Tree Trail loop. When snow covers other trails, give skis or snowshoes a try! Rent them at Grant Grove Market. Purchase a ski trail map and follow the colored markers on trees. See pages 8-9 for snowplay areas.

**Review safety advice on page 11.** Carry a map, warm clothes, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the winter woods – be safe!

**Walkers & snowshoers:** Avoid walking in ski tracks. The footprints harden and catch ski tips, making it dangerous for skiers.

**Watch for wildlife** tracks in the snow. Bear, deer, mountain lions, bobcats, martens, weasels, coyotes, and Douglas squirrels (or chickarees) may be active throughout the winter.

Winter birds may greet you from the trees: ravens, juncos, chickadees, red-breasted nuthatches, brown

creepers, and white-headed woodpeckers, to name a few. Look for the sweep of wings in the snow where an owl caught a rodent for dinner.



### TALKS & SNOWSHOE WALKS:

Check local schedules to see if a ranger-led walk is taking place.

**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).

**PANORAMIC POINT:** A marked ski/snowshoe trail to a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Park at Grant Village, go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the sign "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." It's 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

### NEARBY VIEWPOINTS

**OVERLOOKS & VIEWS:** For a view of the High Sierra, drive to Kings Canyon Overlook about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove. For a look down into the Kings Canyon, visit Junction View, ~11 miles (15.5 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

### REDWOOD CANYON

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

### USFS NATIONAL FOREST & MONUMENT

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest.

Three trailheads offer snowplay, cross-country ski trails, and snowmobile routes. Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove or Montecito-Sequoia (see page 9 for details). Ask for information and a map at Grant Grove Visitor Center:

- **Cherry Gap** is on Highway 180 2.5 miles (4km) north of Grant Grove. It offers 10 miles (16km) of marked winter routes, including a ski trail to the Chicago Stump at the edge of Converse Basin grove.



Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. The stump is a remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

South of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway are two trailheads with restrooms:

- **Quail Flat** (6 miles/9.6km south of Hwy 180) has 23 miles (37km) of trails and snowmobile routes. Some connect to Big Meadows.
- **Big Meadows** (8 miles/13km south of Hwy 180) offers 23 miles (37km) of marked, groomed trails and routes that traverse meadows and forest. One route goes to the 1916 Buck Rock Fire Lookout (the tower is closed in winter).

### THE FLOOR OF KINGS CANYON

Highway 180 down into the canyon closes in winter due to falling rock. There are some good views out over the canyon between Grant Grove and the Hume Lake junction.

Return in summer to enjoy one of our nation's deepest gorges. See the next page "Cedar Grove" for details.



### 79th Annual Nation's Christmas Tree Ceremony

December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm

(held annually on the second Sunday of December).

*This event celebrates the season and the special designations given to the General Grant Tree. It has been the Nation's Christmas Tree since 1926. In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower proclaimed it a National Shrine and had his personal representative, Fleet Admiral Nimitz, officially dedicate it on Veteran's Day. Each year during the ceremony, National Park Rangers place a large wreath at the base of this giant sequoia in memory of men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. The event is sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce. Arriving via the chartered buses from Sanger is recommended as parking is limited. Information: 559-875-4575.*

©NPS Photo



# SERVICES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

## Wolverton Snowplay Area!

7250' (2160 m) elevation. An open area two miles (3.2km) north of the General Sherman Tree with sledding hills. After snowstorms, it may take several hours before plows can get the area open for the day.

- **Be safe & considerate!** Don't slide or ski on or into plowed roads. Sleds have better steering and handholds than other devices. See safety information on page 11.
- **Cross-country ski & snowshoe rentals**, snowplay gear sales, and food service are all available at Wuksachi (see below).
- **Snowplay is prohibited in some areas:** the Sherman Tree Road, residential areas, and other areas as signed.

## 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 trails. See page 6 for highlights. For picnic areas, check page 3 and your map.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30pm. A gallery of fun exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4480.

**CRYSTAL CAVE - Closed until spring.**

## Lodgepole & Wuksachi Area

### WUKSACHI VILLAGE

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Open year-round 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the General Sherman Tree. The center for lodging, food services, and winter-recreation equipment in Sequoia National Park.

#### FOOD, SHOPS & LODGING (DNCPR)

- **Dining Room:** Breakfast 7:30-9:30am, lunch 11:30am-2:30pm, dinner 5-8:30pm. Dinner reservations required: 1-559-565-4070. Box lunches available. Lounge daily 4-9pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-5pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing, art, snacks.
- **Ski & snowshoe rentals:** Daily through March, 9am-4:30pm, when there is enough snow coverage. Snowplay accessories, convenience items.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details.

### 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. Lodgepole Village offers few facilities in winter (see Wuksachi, above):

#### INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Visitor Center:** Closed until mid-April.
- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Self-register for them outside the Lodgepole Visitor Center. See details on page 4. 559-565-3764.

**FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR) - closed until mid-April.**

#### OTHER SERVICES

- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. Details on page 11.
- **Laundry (DNCPR):** Daily 9am-5pm; door is unlocked and lights are on sensors. Last load in by 4pm.
- **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.

## 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-4:30pm. 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

*The road to this area is closed until late May.*

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, and all facilities are closed for the season.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Closed until late May.
- **Wilderness Permits (NPS):** Self-register for wilderness permits in front of the Atwell Ranger Station (closed) near Atwell Campground.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Reopens 5/27, weather permitting. Cabins, chalets, restaurant/bakery, showers & small store. Summer 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730. [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com).
- **Camping (NPS):** Closed until late May. Details on page 11.

## Evening Talks & Snowshoe Walks!

**On Saturday evenings (and often on Fridays) rangers host free slide programs downstairs at Wuksachi Lodge at 7:30pm.**

**Snowshoe walks (2 hours, 1 mile) are usually offered on weekends & holidays if there is enough snow. Group size is limited; reserve a spot at any visitor center or call 559-565-4480.**

**We provide snowshoes for free. Snowshoeing may be strenuous and difficult for small children.**

**Not enough snow? An alternate program will be offered.**

**Check locally for details!**

## NATURE PROGRAMS

## Celebrate 40 years of Wilderness!

**In 1964**, the Wilderness Act secured "for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of Wilderness."

President Reagan signed the California Wilderness Act 20 years later, bestowing the additional protection of Wilderness on much of these parks.

What is "Wilderness" with a capital "W"? It is a place where nature prevails. It is the opportunity to find quiet, solitude, challenge, inspiration, and an untamed community of life. It is an outdoor laboratory where we can study our natural heritage in a relatively unchanged state. It is part of our American heritage, a history

that we can explore in books, films, or first-hand. And it is a legal designation on certain special lands designed to preserve all of these benefits.

Wilderness is our shared inheritance – it belongs to us all! So learn about it. Experience it. Enjoy and support it.

**Celebrate your Wilderness!**



# 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 (see page 3) & horseback riding in summer, the village offers:

#### INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits, books, maps, first aid. A 15-minute slide show on the park's natural & human history. Local wilderness permits issued 8am-4pm only (see details page 4). 1-559-565-4307.

#### FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

*Note: All operating hours will be extended by one hour on Saturday, Sunday*

*and Monday of the Martin Luther King and President's Day holidays.*

- **Restaurant:** Through 3/24: Friday 9am-2pm & 5-8pm; Saturday 8am-2pm & 5-8pm; Sunday 8am-2pm & 5-7pm. Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm & 5-7pm. Starting 3/25: 8am-2pm and 5-7pm (open until 8pm on Friday & Saturday).
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 9am-6pm (open until 7pm Friday-Saturday). Film, souvenirs, clothing. ATM in lobby.
- **Market:** Daily 9am-6pm (open until 7pm Friday-Saturday). Groceries, bear canisters, emergency gasoline, supplies, sleds, cross-country ski & snowshoe rentals.

#### OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (NPS) & Lodging:** See page 10-11 for details.
- **Showers (KCPS):** Closed for the season.
- **Post Office:** Hours may vary. Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm; Saturday & Monday 9am-11:30pm. Lobby & stamp machine open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

## Cedar Grove Area

*Hwy 180 into the canyon will reopen in mid-April.*

### CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE

4600' (1410 m) elevation. The road into Kings Canyon closes below Yucca Point every fall due to frequent rockfall. Frost heave causes rocks in the cliffs to tumble onto the road.

This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River — "a rival to the Yosemite," according to John Muir. In addition to facilities listed below, in summer the area offers picnicking and horseback riding (see page 3).

#### INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Closed until late spring. 559-565-3793.
- **Camping (NPS):** Closed until mid-April. Details on page 11.

#### FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant, Shop, Market, Showers, Laundry:** Closed for the season.

## NATURE PROGRAMS

**Snowshoe walks are usually offered in Grant Grove on Saturdays and holidays when conditions permit, beginning Friday, December 31.**

**We provide free snowshoes for the 2-hour, 1-mile walk. Group size is limited, so reserve your place at any visitor center or call 559-565-4307. Snowshoeing may be strenuous and difficult for small children. Ask for more information about this unusual way to enjoy the forest!**

**If there is not enough snow for a snowshoe walk, we will offer an alternate program. Check local bulletin boards and visitor centers for schedules of activities.**

## Snowplay Areas!

Big Stump and Columbine are in the National Park's Grant Grove area. Big Meadows, Quail Flat and Cherry Gap are in the National Forest.

- **Be safe & considerate!** See safety information on page 5.
- **Cross-country skis & snowshoes** are rented at the market, where other snowplay gear is also for sale. See Food & Shop hours in the left column.
- **Snowplay is prohibited in some areas:** residential areas, the Grant Tree Trail area, and other areas as signed.

## 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. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia).

#### OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Boyden Cavern:** Closed until the road to the canyon opens in spring.
- **Stony Creek Village & Lodge (FS):** Closed until spring.
- **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 8-9:30am, lunch 12-1:30pm, dinner 6-7:30pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. Ski & snowshoe rentals, sales, & lessons. Day-use permit available for a fee to use groomed trails, snow play, & ice skating. Reservations: 1-800-227-9900 or [www.mslodge.com](http://www.mslodge.com). Lodge: 1-800-843-8677; 1-559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Private facilities open to public; 8 miles (13 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180 then 3 miles (5 km) south on Hume Lake Road. 24-hour gas station (with credit card) & laundry (coin operated). Market daily 8am-7pm Friday-Saturday & 8am-5pm Sunday-Thursday (closed 12/25). Snack bar hours vary. 1-559-335-2000.

#### GASOLINE

- **Gas Sales (private):** Year-round at Hume Lake Christian Camps (24 hours with credit card; see above). See *Rules of the Road*, page 5, for details.





# 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

Fires must be out cold before you leave.

Gather only dead & down wood, bring wood, or buy it at a market. Do not cut limbs from trees.

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.

### CAMPSITE OR ROADSIDE?

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.

### PROTECT THE PARK!

Do not use dig trenches, level campsites, or use soaps in rivers.

Protect soils & plants — park & travel on pavement only.

### PROPANE CANISTERS

These cannot be disposed of in the park. Please take them with you.

### QUIET HOURS

10pm-6am. At Lodgepole and Dorst, use generators from 8-11am and 5-

8pm only; 9am-9pm only at other campgrounds. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

### 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.

### RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups are available.

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.

Dump stations: See chart on page 11.

### GROUP SIZE & GROUP SITES

Maximum for most campsites is 6 people. For groups of 7-15, there are first-come, first-served sites at Crystal Springs (Grant Grove) and Canyon View (Cedar Grove). Sites

for groups larger than 15 must be reserved; call in advance for information on group tent-camping areas in the parks: Dorst 1-800-365-2267; Sunset 1-559-565-4335; Canyon View (last night 10/3) 1-559-565-3792. In the national forest/monument: call 877-444-6777 or go to [www.ReserveUSA.com](http://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 VOLUNTEER HOST!

Hosts help care for campgrounds & resources while living in beautiful areas & meeting great people.

Learn about 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](http://www.visitsequoia.com). All year. North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6km). 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](http://www.silvercityresort.com). Open late May to late October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gasoline.

### KINGS CANYON PARK

- **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge (KCPS)**  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500  
[www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://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](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Open 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](http://www.mslodge.com). All year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, children's & winter activities, ski touring.
- **Stony Creek Lodge (KCPS)**  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.  
[www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Open late May through October 31. 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 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](http://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!

**B**EARS 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

National Forest/Monument:  
Reservations\* 1-877-444-6777 or  
[www.reserveusa.com](http://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 Usually snow free year-round. No trailers or RVs in Buckeye Flat.

|                                                                           |    |                 |       |  |  |  |          |   |   |  |   |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------------|-------|--|--|--|----------|---|---|--|---|--|
| Potwisha ◆ 2100' Open all year.                                           | 42 | \$18            | Flush |  |  |  | ✓        | ☼ | ✓ |  | ✓ |  |
| Buckeye Flat ◆ 2800' Closed until mid-May                                 | 28 | \$18            | Flush |  |  |  | Potwisha | ☼ |   |  | ✓ |  |
| South Fork # 3600' Open all year.<br>No drinking water. No fee in winter. | 10 | \$12 May -Sept. | Vault |  |  |  |          |   |   |  | ✓ |  |

MINERAL KING AREA Closed until late May. When open, no RVs or trailers.

|                                |    |      |     |   |   |  |  |   |   |  |   |   |
|--------------------------------|----|------|-----|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| Atwell Mill # 6650' - Closed.  | 21 | \$12 | Pit | ☼ | ☼ |  |  |   |   |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| Cold Springs # 7500' - Closed. | 40 | \$12 | Pit | ☼ | ☼ |  |  | ☼ | ✓ |  | ✓ |   |

LODGEPOLE AREA Summer reservation period starts 5/25/05; see Reservations above.

|                                                                                |     |         |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Lodgepole  + 6700' Open all year.<br>\$20 during reservation period then \$18. | 214 | \$18/20 | Flush | ☼ | ☼ | ✓ | ☼ | ✓ | ✓ |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| Dorst  + 6700' Closed.                                                         | 204 | \$20    | Flush |   |   |   | ☼ |   | ☼ |  | ✓ | ✓ |

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

GRANT GROVE AREA \*

|                                                                     |     |      |       |   |   |  |  |   |  |   |  |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------|-------|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| Azalea ◆ 6500' - Open all year.                                     | 110 | \$18 | Flush | ✓ | ☼ |  |  | ✓ |  | ☼ |  | ✓ |
| Crystal Springs ◆ 6500' - Closed.<br>14 sites for group sizes 7-15. | 36  | \$18 | Flush | ✓ | ☼ |  |  | ✓ |  | ☼ |  | ✓ |
| Sunset ◆ 6500' - Closed.                                            | 157 | \$18 | Flush | ✓ | ☼ |  |  | ✓ |  | ☼ |  | ✓ |

CEDAR GROVE AREA \* Closed until mid-April.

|                                                                                      |     |      |       |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------|-------|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| Sentinel ◆ + 4600' - Closed.                                                         | 82  | \$18 | Flush | ☼ | ☼ | ☼ |  | ☼ |  | ☼ | ✓ |  |
| Sheep Creek ◆ + 4600' - Closed.                                                      | 111 | \$18 | Flush | ☼ | ☼ | ☼ |  | ☼ |  | ☼ | ✓ |  |
| Canyon View ◆ 4600' - Closed.<br>No RVs or trailers. 5 sites for group sizes 7 - 19. | 23  | \$18 | Flush | ☼ | ☼ | ☼ |  | ☼ |  | ☼ | ✓ |  |
| Moraine ◆ 4600' - Closed.                                                            | 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' - Closed.                   | 88 | \$15/17 | Vault |   |  |   | ☼ \$7 | ☼ |   |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| Hume Lake + 5200' - * Closed.               | 74 | \$17/19 | Flush | ✓ |  | ✓ |       | ☼ | ✓ |  | ✓ |   |
| Tenmile 5800' - No water. No fee in winter. | 13 | \$13/15 | Vault |   |  |   |       |   |   |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| Landslide 5800' - Closed.                   | 9  | \$13/15 | Vault |   |  |   |       |   |   |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| Convict Flat 4000' - No water. Closed.      | 7  |         | Vault |   |  |   |       |   |   |  | ✓ |   |

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

|                                       |    |         |       |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|----|---------|-------|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| *Stony Creek # 6400' - Closed.        | 49 | \$17/19 | Flush | ☼ | ☼ | ☼ |  | ☼ | ✓ |   | ✓ |  |
| Upper Stony # 6400' - Closed.         | 18 | \$13/15 | Vault | ☼ | ☼ | ☼ |  | ☼ | ✓ |   | ✓ |  |
| Horse Camp 7500' - No water. Closed.  | 5+ |         | Vault |   |   |   |  | ☼ | ✓ |   | ✓ |  |
| Buck Rock 7500' - No water. Closed.   | 5+ |         | Vault |   |   |   |  | ☼ | ✓ |   |   |  |
| Big Meadows 7600' - No water. Closed. | 30 |         | Vault |   |   |   |  | ☼ | ✓ | ✓ |   |  |

\*NOTE FOR NEXT SUMMER: Ask about about the new campsites for groups of 7 to 15 or 19 at Grant Grove and Cedar Grove!



## 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.

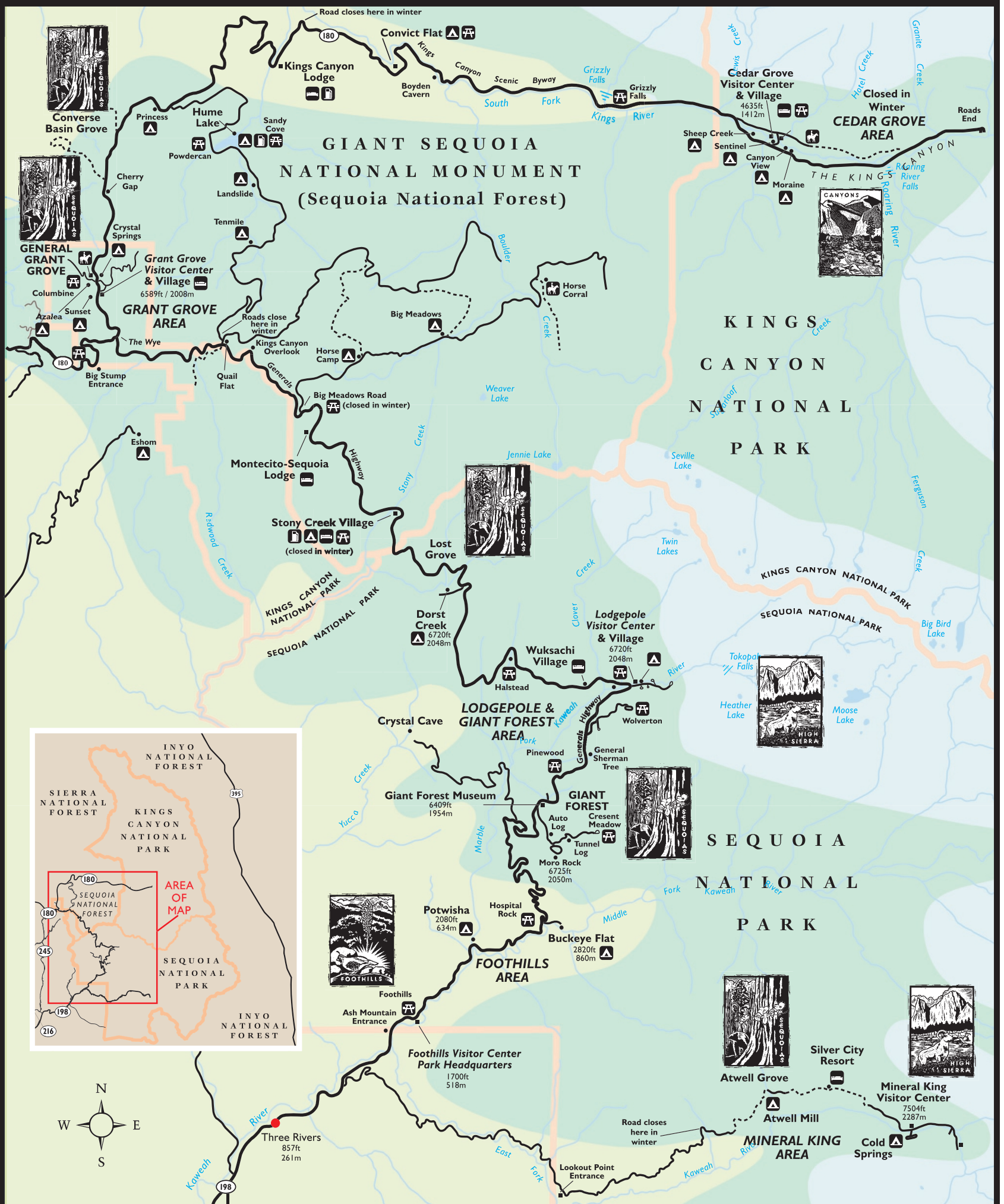
**GRANT GROVE TO:**

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.



# WINTER 2004-05

**SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS**

47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651  
[www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

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