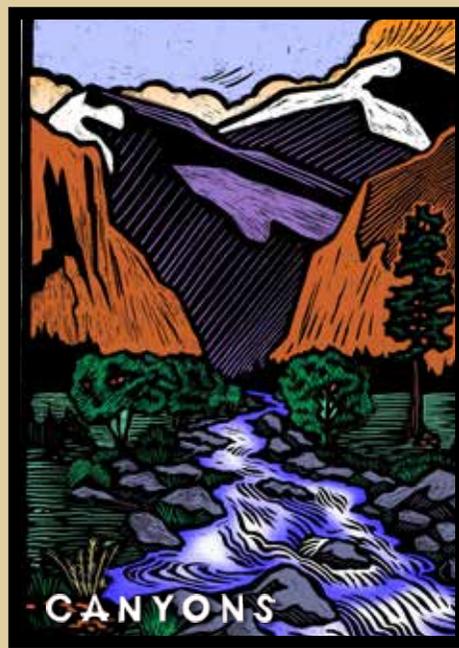




Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



What's with all the dead trees?

The reason depends a bit on where you are in these parks. The huge range in elevation here, from 1300' to 14,500', causes conditions--and types of trees--to vary a lot from place to place. But there is one main culprit -- "hot drought."

For more than four years, it's been very dry *and* hotter than normal. California is no stranger to droughts, but with the added heat, this drought has been more deadly to trees here than we've ever seen before.

Some trees take it harder than others, such as ponderosa and sugar pines. These grow at the lowest elevation of the conifer belt, and form most of the brown you see in these "evergreen" forests.

In the low-elevations of the foothills, blue oaks are in trouble. Some have died on their feet, while others are collapsing or dropping large limbs.

Once drought stresses trees, some of them lose the ability to fight off diseases and insects. This is the case on much of the floor of the Kings Canyon. There, native bark beetles are infesting drought-weakened trees and finishing them off.

Even among the hardy sequoias, you can see stress in many trees. Scan the giants for browning foliage for the canopy die-back that has caught the attention of scientists. Overall, the big trees are holding their own so far, but scientists are keeping a close eye on them as the climate continues to warm.

Two exceptions to blaming hot drought: In and around Kings Canyon National Park, many dead trees resulted from the 2015 Rough Fire, which raced through areas that had not burned naturally for decades. And in the foothills, those silvery-barked trees with the dry, cinnamon-colored leaves? Not

dead! These California buckeyes always let their leaves die in summer, so that they use less moisture when it's driest.

Studies show that trees fare better in areas where low-intensity fire, either lightning fire or intentional prescribed fire, has played its natural role. This is likely because low-intensity fires thin out small trees, resulting in less competition between the remaining trees.

Research in the parks continues to seek answers to how climate change is altering this environment, as hot droughts may become more frequent. Studies may also offer suggestions for how scientists and society respond to the shifts and changes.

If we can work together to reduce the actions that contribute to climate change, we have a chance to reduce the damage that may be in store for our great trees.

Details inside:

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Telephone & Internet

911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
No coins needed in payphones.

Limited Cell Signals & Service

See pay-phone locations by area, pages 8-9.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu then: for roads/weather/fire, press 1; camping/lodging 2; wilderness 4; and more.

GPS, Web & Social Media

GPS programs sometimes misdirect travellers here. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions.

The only official park information sources online:



Website:
nps.gov/seki



Facebook:
Sequoia and Kings
Canyon National Parks



Twitter:
SequoiaKingsNPS

Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

1-800-427-7623, dot.ca.gov

Very Limited Wi-Fi

In lobby at Wuksachi Lodge, and at Montecito Lake Resort for guests (see *Lodging* page 5).

Translations

Welcome - You may borrow a Braille copy of the park map & guide at visitor centers.

Bienvenidos - Hay un folleto en español disponible en los centros de visitante.

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

Willkommen - Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhältlich.

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

Visitor Centers, Book Stores, & Information Desks

Each offers park and area information, varied exhibits and films, and many sales items: books, maps, gifts, postcards. All profits from park visitor centers support the parks!

Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits on life in the low elevations. 1-559-565-4212. *Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quienes hablan español.* Local wilderness permits: On weekdays get them at the Wilderness Office behind the visitor center; on weekends, self-register near the visitor center door.

Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits on sequoias. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone (closest is outside Lodgepole Market & Wolverton).

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 8am-5pm through 9/30, then 9am-4:30pm. Starting 10/31, 9am-4pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. 1-559-565-4307. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside.

Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in the Forest Service office in Dunlap, 19 miles 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

Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 7am-5pm through 9/24; 9/25 through 10/10, 8am-4:30pm, then closed for the season. Films, exhibits. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside. Payphone outside.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (in Kings Canyon) (NPS) Closed for the season. Self-issue wilderness permits at Road's End.

Mineral King Ranger Station (Sequoia)

(NPS) Closed for the season. Self-issue wilderness permits on the porch. 1-559-565-3768.



Partners in the Parks

The following work together to protect these lands, provide services, and publish this guide, which was first printed in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*.

- Editor: NPS - Malinee Crapsey
- Publisher: Sequoia Parks Conservancy
- Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

National Park Service (NPS) - federal agency in the Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3341, nps.gov/seki



Forest Service (USFS) - federal agency in the Dept. of Agriculture: 1-559-784-1500, fs.usda.gov/sequoia



Geological Survey (USGS) - federal agency in the Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3171, werc.usgs.gov



Delaware North Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNPR) - the concessioner providing lodging & food services: 1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC): This new non-profit park partner was formed by the merger of the Sequoia Natural History Association and Sequoia Parks Foundation. See below or www.sequoiaparksconservancy.org, & www.exploresequoiakingscanyon.com for activities and programs. 1-559-561-4803.



**Connect to
your national park!**

The Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) works with these parks to enrich your experience and promote awareness of public lands. They offer educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving the natural and cultural history of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

Support the Conservancy in all it does:

- Seeks funding for park improvement projects, resource protection, and research;
- Provides activities & tour-guide services through Sequoia Field Institute (SFI; page 5);
- Supports park programs & activities;
- Increases accessibility of park trails;
- Conducts Crystal Cave tours;
- Expands park outreach;
- Accepts donations for search & rescue efforts;
- Manages the Pear Lake Winter Hut;
- Funds park books, maps, & this guide!



Change: Natural & Unnatural

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

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

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



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove

Fire: A Natural Change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as often as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this practice. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes, which led to big problems:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: Fires leave behind a seedbed fertilized with ash, and they open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. In the past, frequent natural fires burned these away. Now, after fire's long absence, these serve as fuels, feeding bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at these parks, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, we now work with fire to restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but when and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The national parks exist to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

Note: The effects of the 2015 Rough Fire continue to influence the Kings Canyon area (page 7).

Unnatural Change: Alien Invaders

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often, they keep each other in check.

When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly. This is because the competitors, predators, and diseases that keep them in check in their home communities are not here. This imbalance breaks links in the local web of life, badly disrupting native species that depend on each other. Sometimes the non-native aliens completely replace local plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks.

The natives will thank you!

Imminent Alien Threats!

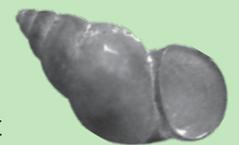
Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny growth completely excludes native plants and limits wildlife movements. It is not yet established in these parks, but it is close!

If you recognize its yellow flower and thorny spines from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in. If you see it here, tell a ranger.



New Zealand mud snails completely

take over and change waterways that they invade. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! These tiny light-brown animals—less than 1/8-inch long—stick on your gear. Check boots, waders, and boats thoroughly for this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



For more about fire management, visit <http://go.nps.gov/sekifire>. To report a wildfire: 559-565-3195.

Check regulations at each campground. Rules vary between the National Park and National Forest (details on page 9). Each standard campsite has a table and fire ring with grill. No hook-ups in the park.

You must store food correctly all year due to black bears. The park supplies many 47" long x33" deep x28" high food-storage boxes. See page 11.

Summer reservations: See * on chart (to the right) for reservable campgrounds in this area. Reservations available up to 6 months in advance: www.recreation.gov; 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

- **Up to 6 people:** Many campgrounds limit a site to 1 vehicle & 6 people. Check locally for variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.
- **7 to 19 people:** Summer only, first-come/first-served at Crystal Springs and Canyon View, \$40/site.
- **Larger groups:** Reservations for large-group sites in Dorst Creek, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove in the national park or in the national forest: 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov.

Fire Restrictions, Campfires, & Firewood

- Restrictions are in place in these parks and surrounding national forests. See page 12.
- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs or trees. Please don't transport firewood. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it. Please burn up any wood you brought in.
- Fires must be out cold before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from their Dunlap Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (in Grant Grove), a FS ranger, or you can download it from www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

Ranger-Led Programs - Free

Check locally to see if programs are being offered.

Take Propane Canisters Home

They cannot go in park trashcans or be left here.

Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park; camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument: Permitted unless posted otherwise.

Quiet & Generator Hours

Music should be audible in your site only. Use generators 9am-9pm only. At Lodgepole & Dorst use them 8-11am & 5-8pm only.

RV & Trailer Length Limits - See back page.

Campgrounds: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Foothills Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low-elevation oaks and chaparral.
* Potwisha - 40 sites Open all year.	\$22. *Some sites reservable all year.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
* Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Last night 9/27.	\$22. *Sites reservable for 5/25-9/27.	No RVs or trailers. River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
South Fork - 10 sites Open all year.	\$12. No drinking water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high. Non-drinkable water on 5/25-10/12/16.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	Road closes for the season at noon, 10/26. No electricity or gas.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Last night 10/25.	\$12. See road info, page 12.	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, pay showers nearby at Silver City (summer only).
Cold Springs - 40 sites Last night 10/25.	\$12. See road info, page 12.	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & pay showers at Silver City through 9/27. Food-storage boxes in varied sizes.
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	*Reservations available in summer. Conifer forest.
* Lodgepole - 203 sites Last night 11/29.	\$22. Sites reservable 5/25-9/27.	Pay phone, flush toilets. River. Food services nearby. Generator use: 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Dump station.
* Dorst Creek - 212 sites Closed.	\$22. Sites reservable mid-June to early September.	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Generator use 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Large group sites for 15-50 \$70, for 15-40 \$60, for 15-30 \$50.
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	Conifer forest near sequoias.
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year.	\$18. Self-register near site #29.	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food services. Pay showers (summer).
Crystal Springs - 49 sites. Last night mid-size sites 9/27.	\$18 Standard sites closed. *Mid-size group sites \$40.	Village nearby: food; pay showers in summer. *14 sites for mid-sized groups (7 to19) reservable late May through late September.
* Sunset - 156 sites Closed.	\$22. *Large-group sites (15-30 people) \$50.	Flush toilets. Nearby with food service; pay showers in summer. Regular sites reservable 7/1-9/6 & large-group sites 5/25-9/6.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	Road to area closes at noon, 11/14. No RV tank dump stations.
Sentinel - 82 sites Last night 11/13.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer. One loop open until road closes; remainder opens as needed.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Closed.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer. Many dead trees have been cleared.
*Canyon View: 16 group sites No RVs or trailers. Last night 9/27.	*\$40 mid-size groups (7-19); *\$50 large groups (15-30); *\$60 large groups (15-40).	No RVs or trailers. Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby. * Mid-sized group sites reservable 5/25-9/6; large-group sites 5/25 - 9/27. No small (family) sites.
Moraine - 121 sites Closed.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers, laundry nearby. Many dead trees had to be cleared before opening.

Note: Opening/closing dates and availability may change with weather and other conditions.

Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (Forest Service)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
* Princess - 88 sites Closed.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. RV dump station \$10. Extra car \$7.
* Hume Lake - 74 sites Closed.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7.
* Tenmile - 13 sites Closed.	\$20 single, \$40 double. Reservable in summer.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. No potable water.
Landslide - 9 sites Closed.	\$20 single, \$40 double	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Open until mid-November.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Closes when Hwy 180 / Cedar Grove Road closes, scheduled for 11/14.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	Between Grant Grove and Wuksachi Lodge.
* Stony Creek - 49 sites Closed.	\$24 single, \$48 double. Reservable in summer.	Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge (summer). Extra car \$7. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high
* Upper Stony - 18 sites Closed.	\$20 single, \$40 double. Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Food, laundry, showers nearby. Extra car \$7. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
Big Meadow - 45 sites, new fee:	\$21 single site, \$42 double.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow food boxes ~47" long, 33" deep, 28" high. These campgrounds close when the roads to them close.

Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

You can find lodges in three areas within these parks, operated by Delaware North (DNPR), and in several locations in the neighboring national forest:

In these National Parks

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

• Wuksachi Lodge

All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; www.visitsequoia.com. North of Lodgepole two miles at 7200'. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts, wi-fi.

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Reservations 1-877-436-9617; www.visitsequoia.com.

• Grant Grove Cabins & John Muir Lodge

All year. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts at 6500'. Register at John Muir Lodge. 559-335-5500

• Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon Motel, eatery, market at 4600'.

Sequoia National Forest

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; desk 1-559-565-3388; www.mslodge.com. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, seasonal & children's activities.

Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)

(KCPS) Mid-May to mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, gasoline, pizza, market, showers, laundry.

Big Meadows Cabin (FS)

July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov. Historic station south of Grant Grove.

On Private Land in Park/Forest

*** Note:** *These two lodges on private land surrounded by national park or forest cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by these agencies.*

* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Late May to late September. www.silvercityresort.com; 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, supplies, showers. Store, restaurant/bakery. No gasoline.

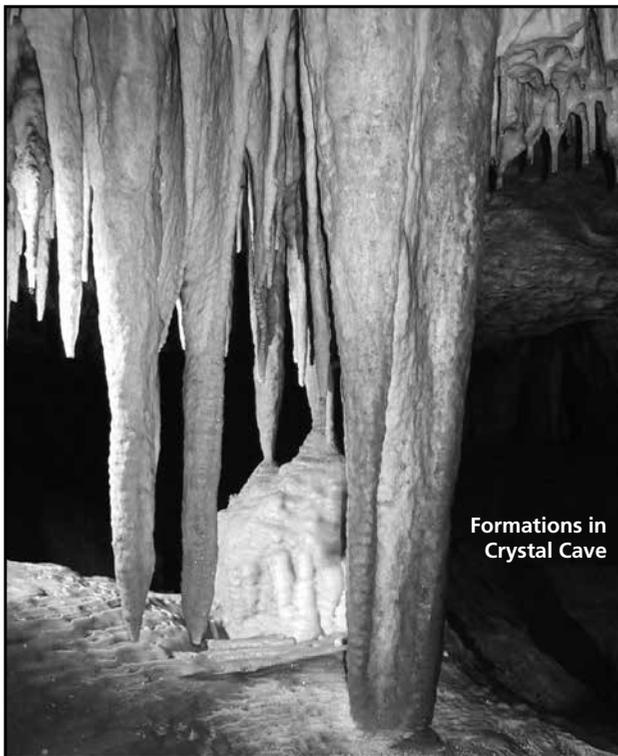
* Kings Canyon Lodge (private) - Closed.

Neighboring Towns

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & other nearby towns offer year-round lodging, camping, and gasoline stations. Ask at visitor centers or see www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit for details.

Programs & Tours - Fall 2016

5



Crystal Cave Tours

Through 10/19, reserve tickets online at www.recreation.gov at least 48 hours in advance through 10/19. Got to the parks without a ticket? Check first thing in the morning at Lodgepole or Foothills visitor centers to see what is available (*not at the cave*).

Starting 10/20, buy tickets only in the park at Lodgepole or Foothills visitor centers (*not at the cave*). Allow for wait times at park entrances, especially on holiday weekends.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from Sequoia Park's entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles south of Sherman Tree (map, page 8). Maximum vehicle length on this narrow, winding road is 22'. Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail to the cave is steep. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No bags/packs of any kind, strollers, or tripods; no flash/lighted photography/video. Not wheelchair accessible. Tours times subject to change. For school tours & groups larger than 21, visit www.explorecrystalcave.com. Tours operated by the Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC).

Family Cave Tour - Daily, 50 minutes

Sept. 26- Oct. 16

- Saturday & Sunday: 11am; 12 noon; 1, 2, 3pm
- Weekdays: 11am; 1pm, 2pm

Oct. 20 - November 27

- Thursday-Friday: 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm
- Saturday & Sunday: 11am, 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm

• Fees: Ages 0-5 \$5; 6-12 \$8; 13-61 \$16; 62 & up \$15. National Park & Interagency passes do not apply.

Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Offered in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, and other locations! See bulletin boards for schedules of ranger-led activities.

Junior Ranger Program - free

For ages 5 to 105! Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center, finish the activities for your age group, & earn your badge.

Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These experts help you see, paint, photograph, or write as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy! Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) members may get a discount on SFI activities: 1-559-565-4251; sfi@sequoiaparks.org

Touring on Horseback

Hourly rides, spot trips, guided trips. Opening & closing dates depend on conditions.

Cedar Grove May to mid-October, 8am-5pm. 559-565-3464 summer, 559-337-2413 off season

Grant Grove Closed. 1-559-335-9292 summer.

Horse Corral Late May through September: At Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest 1-559-565-3404 summer, 1-559-679-3573 cell

Teachers & Parents, Take Note

Expand your classroom: Invite a ranger to your class, visit the parks with your school group, download lesson plans, and participate in distance learning. All education programs are standards-based and free! Visit nps.gov/seki/learn/education.

91st Annual Trek to the Tree

Held annually at the base of the General Grant Tree, at 2:30pm on the 2nd Sunday of December (12/11), to celebrate two honors given to this famous tree (see page 7): the Nation's Christmas Tree and the only living national shrine. The Sanger Chamber of Commerce sponsors the event. Parking is limited, and chartered buses from Sanger are available. For information, contact 1-559-875-4575 or www.sanger.org.

Plan ahead for winter fun!

Wildflowers start appearing in the usually snow-free foothills starting in late December, and the trails in the sequoia groves are serene. Once enough snow falls, shops here rent cross-country skis and snowshoes. Remember to bring tirechains!

Review safety advice on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry water and a map (sold at visitor centers). Orient yourself before going and tell someone your plans. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite.

The Foothills

The low elevations host more different plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined!

Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Hours on page 2.

Marble Falls Trail climbs 3.7 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a waterfall. Park across the highway from Potwisha (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Careful; drownings often occur here!

Paradise Creek

Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (no non-camper parking in Buckeye Flat Campground). Walk 0.8 miles to the campground. Take the path across from site #28 to cross a footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum

See page 2 for details.

Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias -- the perfect place to start your explorations. Begin your walk at Giant Forest Museum (parking at the trail is only for cars with disability placards). 1 hour round trip.

Congress Trail

A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

- **Main Trail** - This 1/2-mile trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Beware of slippery or wet spots. Drive 2 miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy only for those with disability placards). Turn right on Wolverton Road; follow signs. This trail and its parking area may close as early as 10/12, if weather conditions require.

 **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Hwy to the Sherman Tree. Parking here is only for those with disability placards. If you have no placard but can't walk the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor center for a temporary permit.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at the Giant Forest Museum. Road closes with snowfall.

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular views. Keep close watch on children. Two miles from Generals Hwy. Do not climb if the steps are icy.
- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through; the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. Bypass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles from the Museum.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia; and the High Sierra Trail (60 miles/97 km to Mt. Whitney (14,500'/4419 m), highest in the lower 48.

Mineral King

Closes at noon on 10/26 (sooner, if weather requires it). The steep road ends at 7800', the park's highest road. No gasoline or electricity. Use the machine at Lookout Point entrance to pay your fee. The road is gated at the park boundary (~9 miles from Hwy 198) from the last Wednesday in October to late May; ask at Foothills Visitor Center for a pass to get through the gate. Check weather forecasts before going.

Free In-Park Holiday Shuttles



Only during
November 24 - 27 &
December 23 - January 1

Shuttles run 10am-4:30pm. Weather permitting, they go from Giant Forest Museum to the Sherman Tree, Wolverton, Lodgepole, Wuksachi Lodge, then back. Check for updated details on bulletin boards and at visitor centers. Plan a holiday visit to your parks!



The large 2015 Rough Fire burned in this area. Burned-out stumps and ash areas are unstable and dead standing trees can fall at any time. Stay on trails to avoid crushing new growth, and give the plants and animals a chance to recover.

Also review safety advice (page 10). Be careful near rivers and with fire. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite. Carry a map and water.

Grant Grove

Kings Canyon Visitor Center - See page 2. Exhibits/film in English & Spanish. Details, page 2.

Grant Tree Trail

General Grant, one of the world's largest trees, grows by this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. The tree is also a living national shrine and the Nation's Christmas Tree. Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile/1.6km from the visitor center: north on Hwy 180 then follow signs.

North Grove Loop

This 1½-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet forest walk. Start at Grant Tree bus/RV parking.

Panoramic Point Road

A narrow road to a trail to a beautiful Sierran vista. Trailers/RVs prohibited. Go east through visitor-center parking; follow signs to the paved, ¼-mile accessible trail to an overlook. Park Ridge Trail (4 miles/6.4 km round-trip) begins here. Closes with snowfall.

Big Stump Basin & Picnic Area

Late 19th-century logging left stumps here, including the giant Mark Twain Stump you can climb on. Slabs of this tree are in museums in New York and London. 1.5 mile loop, fairly easy.

Redwood Mountain Sequoia Grove

Unpaved, rutted dirt road to one of the world's largest Big Tree groves. Research here revealed the positive link between sequoias and fire. Across Generals Hwy from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction; 7 miles south of Grant Grove. Turn right (west) at Redwood Saddle; 2 miles to parking lot. Loop trails up to 10 miles long.

Big Baldy Ridge

Great views over Redwood Canyon from the top at 8209'; elevation gain 600' (183m). Round trip 4 miles (6.4km). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead.

Area Overlooks & Views

- **McGee Vista Point:** Sunset views. North of Grant Grove Village 3 miles on Hwy 180.
- **Kings Canyon Overlook:** View of the high country. On Generals Hwy, 7 miles south of Grant Grove.
- **Redwood Mountain Overlook:** Look west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. South of Grant Grove 6 miles on the Generals Hwy.

The Kings Canyon/Cedar Grove

The road into the area closes at noon on 11/14.

Canyon View

The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village Road.

Knapp's Cabin

In the 1920s, before Kings Canyon was designated a national park, a businessman kept gear for lavish fishing trips in this cabin. East of village 2 miles.

Roaring River Falls

A very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. East of the Village 3 miles. Paved, accessible with assistance.

Zumwalt Meadow

This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop passes high granite walls, lush meadows, and the Kings River. Parking is 4½ miles east of Cedar Grove Village. Buy a guide at trailhead or visitor center. Plan for 1 hour.

Mist Falls

One of the park's largest waterfalls. Don't get close to the edge! Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km)

round trip from Road's End. 600' elevation gain in the last 2 miles.

Hotel Creek Trail

Starts 0.2 mile north of the market at the intersection with the pack-station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200'/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3 -4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9km) loop.

National Forest / Monument

Giant Sequoia National Monument is part of Sequoia National Forest (USFS) next to these parks. Page 9 details how national parks and forests differ.

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, 6 miles north of Grant Grove to a monarch they spared, or the ½-mile (0.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

Indian Basin

One-mile accessible trail & one-mile unpaved trail. On Highway 180, go six miles north of Grant Grove to Princess Campground (closed; do not block gate). Walk past the dump station to the trailhead.

Hume Lake

Formed by a rare type of historic dam, the lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to the town of Sanger. An easy 2½-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Six miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.



The Kings Canyon

Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is by the Foothills Visitor Center.

Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. See page 2. Ask about cave tickets.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees.

Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Hours on page 2.

Crystal Cave (NPS)

Details, page 3. Tickets *not* sold at cave.

Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS): See page 6.

Lodgepole

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Kaweah River.

Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours, page 2. Ask about cave tickets here (page 5).

Lodgepole Village Shops (DNPR):

- Market & Gift Shop: Daily 8am-8pm through 10/23, then Monday-Thursday 9am-6pm, Friday-Sunday 8:30am-6:30pm. Supplies, clothing, food. Ski rentals once it snows enough.
- Grill: Daily 9am-6pm. Closed as of 10/24.
- Showers & Laundry: Daily 8am-12 noon & 2-8pm. Last laundry in 1 hour before closing. Last day open 10/23.

U.S. Post Office

Mail drop only. Behind visitor center. Full postal services at Grant Grove.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

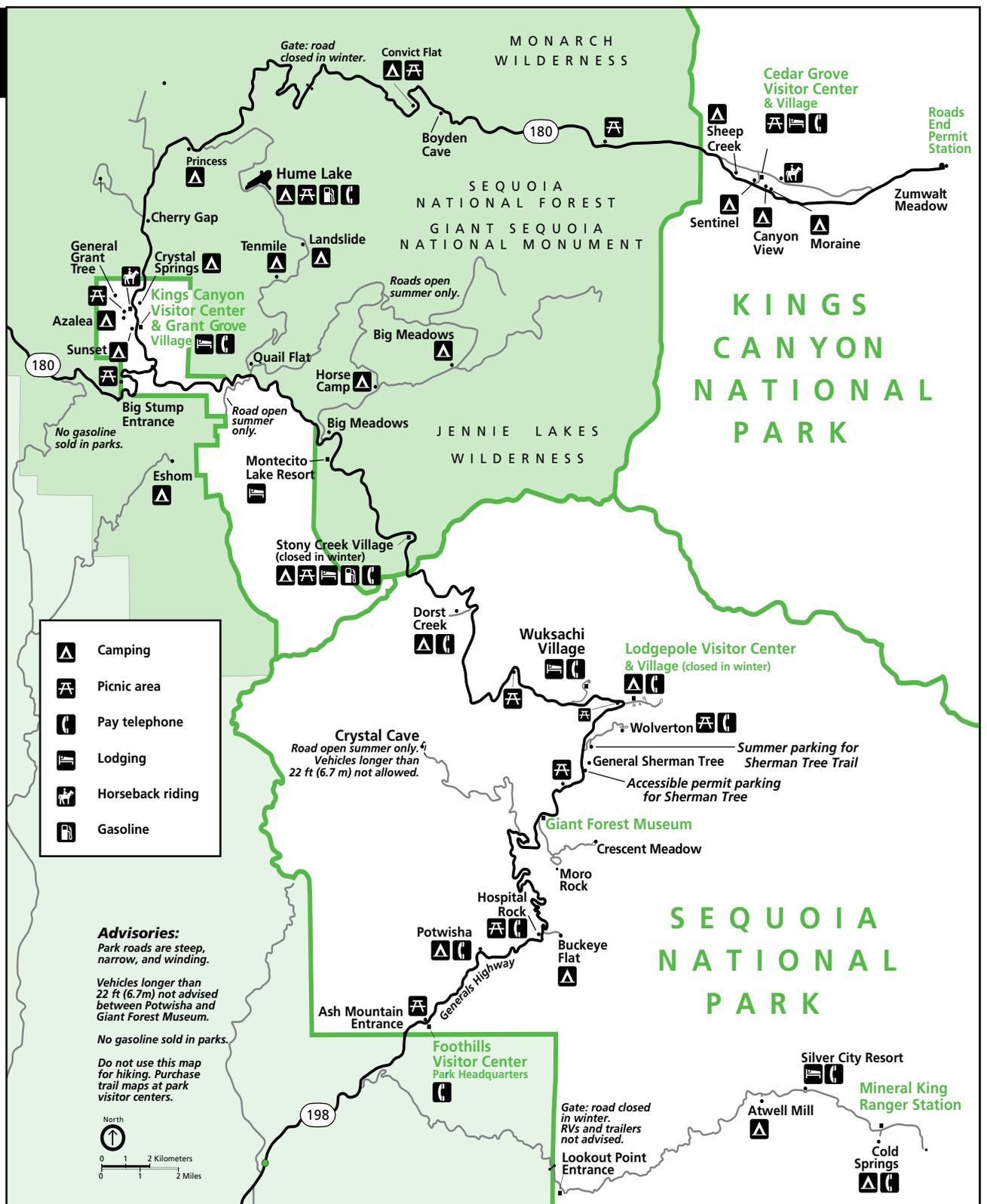
Outside visitor center & market.

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. (DNPR) Year-round, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree. Pay phones at main lodge. Check for naturalist programs.

The Peaks Dining Room & Gift Shop

Dining daily 7-10am, 11:30am-3pm, 5-9:30pm, & lounge 4-10pm through 10/23; then 7:30-9:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm, & lounge 4-8pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070. Gift shop daily 8am-9m.



See last page for more on roads and for approximate driving times between areas of the parks.

Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. A dam was once planned to flood this area, but the geology could not sustain it. Summer picnic area, good area for viewing open night skies.



Mineral King - closes 10/26

7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline. Pay your entrance fee at the machine at Lookout Point entrance. See page 2 for ranger station hours.

Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area.

* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Daily. Closed until late May, 2017 (see page 5).

The large 2015 Rough Fire burned in this area. Exploring it may seem inviting, but burned-out stumps and ash areas are unstable. Dead standing trees can fall at any time. Stay on trails to avoid crushing new growth, and give the plants and animals a chance to recover.

Horseback Riding: In Grant Grove, Cedar Grove, and the National Forest. Details, page 5.

Grant Grove

6600' elevation. Near a pristine sequoia grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (NPS)

See page 2. Movie, exhibits in English & Spanish.

Grant Grove Village Shops, Lodging (DNPR)

- Food service through 10/23: A new restaurant is under construction. An outdoor food court and the market offer pizza slices, fresh soups, food-truck meals, BBQ. Breakfast 7-10am; lunch/dinner 11am-8pm.

- Food service 10/24-27: some prepared foods are available at the market.
- Food service starting 5pm on 10/28: In the lobby of the John Muir Lodge: 7-10am, 11:30am-3:30pm, 5-9pm.
- Market & Gift Shop: Daily 8am-9pm through 10/23, then 9am-6pm. Supplies, clothing, food, sandwiches, gifts.
- Lodging: 1-559-335-5500. Details on page 5.
- Showers: Daily 9:30am-12:30pm, 2:30-5:30pm. Last day 10/15.

U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-4pm; 24-hour lobby. Send visitor mail to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)
Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); outside gift shop & market.

Cedar Grove

4600' elevation. Along the South Fork of the Kings River on the floor of the Kings Canyon.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS) - Closed.

Pay Telephones Outside lodge & visitor center.

Village Center, Lodge (DNPR)

All of the following are closed starting 10/24:

- Grill: Limited-service snack bar. Daily 7:30-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8pm.
- Gift Shop/Market: Daily 7:30am-8pm (through noon on 10/24). Sandwiches, supplies, souvenirs.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-8pm.
- Lodging: Last night 10/23.

Wilderness Permits (NPS)

At Road's End, 6 miles east of the village. Self-issue.

National Forest & Monument

Some areas remain closed due to effects of the Rough Fire; watch for signs or ask for updates. Hume Lake & Big Meadows areas are in Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest.

USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) 19 miles west of park entrance. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Hume Lake (on private land)

Open to the public year-round: Gas station (24 hours with credit card; not international cards). Market, snack shop. North of Grant Grove 6 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee) - Closed.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

- Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove: Summer near the Big Meadows trailhead.
- Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove: Hume Lake (year round; see above).

Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)

Last night 10/9. On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. Daily: Market 8am-7pm. Restaurant open 4-6:30pm (both open 1 hour later on Friday-Saturday. Showers/laundry 9am-6pm. 1-559-565-3909.

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Meals 7:30am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7:30pm. Desk 7am-9pm. Cabins, hotel, children's and winter activities. 1-559-565-3388.

Basic Rules: National Parks & National Forests lie next to each other here. Some activities are illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest.

Can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
Walk my leashed pets?	Not on any trails. OK 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). Certified service dogs only (not assistance or therapy animals); see www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
Collect things to take home?	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.	You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use.
Hunt?	Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.	Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
Drive off-road?	Not in these parks. Stay on roads.	Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
Cut wood?	Not in these parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permits & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	Restrictions are in effect in the park and forest; always check locally for up-to-date information. In park, only in fire grills in some campgrounds & some picnic areas.	Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
Go fishing?	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
Ride a bicycle?	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles.
Snowmobile?	Not in these parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.
Fly a drone?	Not in any national park.	Only in accordance with FAA guidance, and not in wilderness areas.

You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Cold temperatures, uneven or slippery ground, wild animals, and changing weather all pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, and poor decisions. GPS may lead you incorrectly.

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

The National Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

DROWNING

The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be careful around water; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible: Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Currents are always stronger than they appear, even during low water. Ask at visitor centers about river conditions.

DISEASE PRECAUTIONS

Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. Avoid areas of rodent activity, as fleas on rodents can carry *plague* and deer mice feces can carry *hantavirus*. Mosquitos can carry *West Nile virus* and other diseases. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

TICKS are common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry *Lyme disease*. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



GIARDIA

This protozoan in lakes and streams causes intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water from waterways for at least 3 minutes.

POISON OAK

A common shrub up to 5000 feet elevation. Red leaves and whitish berries in fall; bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; 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. Keep an eye on children who are wet or cold.

RATTLESNAKES

Especially common in the foothills, in the Kings Canyon, and near water (they can swim). Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur, and they are protected here. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



LIGHTNING

See dark clouds or lightning? 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 your surroundings, such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

CARBON MONOXIDE

This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent or RV.

OZONE POLLUTION

See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra Nevada on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest from May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here; don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9).

MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout these parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you find a partially buried animal carcass, cautiously move away. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey:

- Don't run; that may trigger it to pursue.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the cougar.
- If the cougar acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back! Report any sightings.



DRINKING WATER

We test the 13 park drinking-water systems to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Prevent illegal marijuana growing. Report any suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

Pets are vulnerable to wildlife, ticks, and overheating in vehicles. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

TREE HAZARDS

Branches may fall, whether or not they appear dead. When under trees, stay aware. Run if you hear cracks or snapping overhead. Don't linger under dead, cracked, or broken branches. Report falling branches or trees to a ranger.

Explore Safely

- **Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.**
- **Take water, a map and a layers of clothes.**
- **Watch and listen for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.**
- **Trails and walkways can be slippery with sand, water, leaves, or ice.**
- **Slow down. Share the road with cars, bikes, walkers, and wildlife!**

Bear Habitat: Proper food storage is the law!

Bears can grab unattended food or easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. Follow the rules below to reduce (but not eliminate) the risk of a bear break-in.

Drivers

Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes are provided.

Picnickers

Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

Lodge Guests

Remove food from your vehicles.



Campers

Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid bringing coolers that won't fit; most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even non-food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take baby seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

Backpackers

Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a portable container. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few wilderness locations offer backup storage. Rent/buy a container at visitor centers or markets.

Everyone

Don't let bears approach you, your food, picnic area or campsite. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Wilderness

11

Over 800,000 acres of these parks are designated wilderness. They offer outstanding opportunities for you to enjoy both solitude and challenge.



Following minimum-impact restrictions helps to protect both the wilderness and your experience. Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Fire restrictions are in place; check locally for details.

Permits are required for all overnight trips, and they are limited during the summer quota period (late May through late September). The permit fee during that time is \$10 plus \$5/person. Permits can be reserved by mail or fax beginning March 1. Outside of the quota period, permits are free and can be self-issued at the permit station or visitor center closest to your trailhead (see page 2).

Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (USFS): Permits are not required but please complete a registration card at Jennie Lakes trailheads; information is used to manage the wilderness effectively.

Camping in the park's "frontcountry" is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

Learn more about wilderness and wilderness travel at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

Your fees help the Parks & the Forest!

Entrance fees are invested here to enhance roads, trails, visitor centers, and your visit!

Passes to these National Parks (NPS) plus the Hume Lake area of Sequoia National Forest (USFS):

- **7-Day Pass:** \$30 per vehicle (private, non-commercial). \$15 per person on foot, bicycle, bus, or motorcycle. Cost per motorcycle (not person) will be changing to \$20.

- **12-Month Pass:** \$50 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

Passes to All National Parks & Inter-agency Federal Recreational Lands:

- **Fourth-graders & family:** Free! You must first go to www.everykidinapark.gov for information.

- **Annual:** \$80. For entrance fees nationwide. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

- **Annual Military:** Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173. Crystal Cave has its own fee, but offers a discount.

- **Seniors:** \$10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

- **Accessibility:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

Seasonal Wilderness Lodgings

- **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNPR):** Open June into September, conditions permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) are taken by phone starting 7am on the first business day in January: 866-807-3598. See www.visitsequoia.com.

- **Pear Lake Ski Hut (SPC):** Winter only. The hut sits high above Lodgepole at 9,200' elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.



The Generals Highway in Giant Forest

Finding Gasoline

No gas stations are within the park boundaries. Fill up in Three Rivers (5 miles from Hwy 198 park entrance), Clingan's Junction (20 miles outside the Hwy 180 park entrance), or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round, 24 hours with credit card (international cards not accepted). 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: 1-559-565-3909. 24 hours with credit card through mid-October. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: Closed.

Rules & Recommendations

Don't Lose Your Brakes or Start Fires

If you brake for too long, brakes may fail. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder but will save your brakes. Note that hot brakes & mufflers easily start fires. Stop *only* on paved areas, not on grasses.

Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 559-565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock-outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

Colder Nights Mean Snow or Ice

Watch for ice in shade or where the road looks wet. Once it snows, chains may be required at any time, and snowplows rule. If you see one, slow down but do not stop, and watch for signals from the driver.

Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under age 18: helmet required.

Narrow Winding Roads

Always keep to the right. Road access depends on weather and other conditions.

In Kings Canyon & National Forest:

- **Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon:** Tentative closing date for winter by Caltrans is 11/14, just beyond the junction of Hwy 180 and Hume Lake Road.
- **Panoramic Point Road:** Motorhomes/trailers not permitted. Closes with snow.
- **Converse Basin (USFS) & Redwood Mountain Road (NPS):** Unpaved, rough, unplowed. Closes with snow.
- **Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Chicago Stump, and Cherry Gap roads (USFS):** Unpaved, unplowed. Close with snow.

In Sequoia National Park:

- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Vehicle-length limit 22'; no trailers or towed units (Exception: those with valid disabled-parking placard or a current local wilderness permit). Take a water bottle; no drinking water is available along this road. Closes with snow.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m). Narrow and winding. Closes no earlier than 10/11, no later than 11/28.
- **Mineral King Road:** Very narrow & winding; steep. Partly unpaved. RVs/trailers not recommended (not allowed in campgrounds there). Closes last Wednesday in October (10/26).
- **Wolverton Road:** Once heavy snows begin, it will be plowed Fridays through Sundays plus Wednesdays and holidays.
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes when wet.



Photo courtesy of Alex Olow

Driving Times

When roads are clear and open:

From Foothills to:

Giant Forest	1 hour
Lodgepole	1 hour minimum
Visalia	1 hour
Mineral King (MK)	1½ hours

From Giant Forest to Grant Grove

via Generals Hwy **1 hour**

From Grant Grove to:

Cedar Grove	1 hour
Fresno	1½ hours
Yosemite south entry	3 hours
(via Hwy 41)	

Note: GPS may misdirect travellers in this area. Follow signs, use maps, or ask.

Vehicle-length Limits on Main Park Road in Sequoia

- **Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum:** longer than 22 feet not recommended.
- **Foothills Visitor Center to Potwisha Campground:** longer than 24 feet not recommended.

Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car with an RV, camp in the foothills and use the car.

For limits on RVs in campgrounds, see the campgrounds table on page 4.

Fire Restrictions in Place

Always check locally for updates, as restrictions are likely to increase. As of September 22:

Charcoal and wood fires are prohibited in Potwisha, Buckeye Flat, and South Fork campgrounds, and at Ash Mountain and Hospital Rock picnic areas. You can use gas, propane, alcohol, or tablet/cube stoves in all established campgrounds and established picnic areas.

Smoking is prohibited below 6000', except within an enclosed vehicle or in campgrounds and picnic areas where wood/charcoal fires are permitted.

Get updates from visitor centers, bulletin boards, and www.nps.gov/seki/learn/nature/fire-restrictions. In wilderness locations, wood and charcoal fires are prohibited below 6000'; ask for details. In neighboring Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument, all fires are prohibited now. Check locally for details.

Never stop a car in dry grass; use paved turnouts. Cigarette butts and matches go in trash cans.