

For Immediate Release – September 12, 2010  
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### **Sheep and Marvin Fires Update**

An infrared mapping on September 11<sup>th</sup> shows the Sheep Fire has grown to 5,261 acres (3,031 in Kings Canyon National Park, 2,230 acres in the Sequoia National Forest). This fire was ignited by lightning around July 16<sup>th</sup> in Kings Canyon National Park and moved onto Sequoia National Forest around August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Fire growth is predominately to the west. The fire reached the valley floor and continues to burn along the Kings River's bank. Firefighters are patrolling the river and road corridor 24 hours a day to hold the fire south of the river. Recent wildland fires and prescribed fires to the east have slowed fire spread in that direction. Firefighters are monitoring the fire on the southwest side, while two fire crews are building fireline along Deer Meadow Ridge to the west. This line, away from the fire's edge, will help provide better control and help reduce smoke impacts as the fire continues to grow.

Cooler temperatures and higher relative humidities in the fire area the past few days have slowed fire activity. With expected warmer temperatures over the next three to four days fire, behavior and spread is expected to increase. However, there are currently no threats to life or property.

The Marvin Fire remains at 15 acres in Sequoia National Forest. This fire is burning at a high elevation in rocky terrain near Marvin Pass in the Jennie Lakes Wilderness.

Wildland fire is a reality in the Sierra Nevada. By managing lightning fires, the risk of future fires being larger, more destructive, and smokier is diminished.

Visitors to the Cedar Grove should anticipate significant smoke in the valley at periods throughout the day. Visitors to Hume Lake should expect smoke in the valley in the morning hours. This is based on inversion patterns that hold the smoke in the valley. As the day warms and the inversion breaks, smoke should lift out of the valley.

The Don Cecil Trail in Kings Canyon National Park (from the trailhead at Cedar Grove to the park boundary) and the Kanawyer Trail on Forest Service land are closed for public safety. These trail closures are in effect until further notice. The U.S. Forest Service has issued a temporary area closure for the Sheep Fire on the Hume lake Ranger District between Horse Corral Meadow and the Kings River and from Corral Meadow east to the boundary with Kings Canyon National Park.

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