



National Park Service
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Sheep Fire Grows to 383 Acres

The *Sheep Fire* in Kings Canyon National Park has grown to 383 acres based upon a helicopter reconnaissance and mapping mission on Monday. The fire is highly visible in Cedar Grove. However, there are currently no threats to life or property.

This fire is located in the southern cliffs above Cedar Grove, one-half mile north of Sentinel Ridge. Wind from a thunder cell that passed over the fire this weekend encouraged growth along the southern and eastern flanks.

Smoke from the *Sheep Fire* is visible in Cedar Grove. Visitors to the Cedar Grove area should anticipate smoke settling into the valley in the late evening and early morning hours. This is based upon 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) is closed for public safety. The trail closure is in effect until further notice.

The *Sheep Fire* is in a mixed conifer forest and at 7,000 feet in elevation. Fire behavior includes creeping, backing fire with some isolated active pockets. It was started by lightning on or about July 16th.

There is no recorded fire history within the *Sheep Fire* perimeter. Recent wildland fires and prescribed fires to the east should limit or slow fire spread in that direction. One of the ecological benefits of managed lightning fires is that they limit the size and severity of subsequent fires. Fire is a natural process in the Sierra Nevada and is necessary to maintain ecosystem diversity.

The *Cahoon Fire*, the *Sugarloaf Fire*, and the *Gardiner Fire* are all showing limited or no fire activity. *The Gardiner Fire* is now one-quarter of an acre.

-- www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm --