



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

For Immediate Release – October 9, 2009
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Ella Prescribed Fire, Pile Burning Planned in Kings Canyon National Park

Fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the *Ella Prescribed Fire* in Kings Canyon National Park on Sunday, **October 11th**, weather and air quality conditions permitting.

This 70 acre unit is located west of Grant Grove and Highway 180. Ignitions should take two days to complete.

This unit was last treated by prescribed fire in 1995 so completion of the project maintains a natural fire cycle for the mixed conifer forest. A regular fire cycle improves forest health by reducing the amount of dead, woody debris that can lead to larger, more intense fires. Fire aids the sprouting and re-growth of plants, shrubs, and trees and creates a diverse habitat for plant and animals.

A portion of the South Boundary trail will be closed during this project for firefighter and public safety. Please see attached map for details.

Visitors and residents should expect to see some smoke near Grant Grove, especially in the early morning hours when the prevalent inversion pattern holds smoke in the area. Fire managers will work closely with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to manage smoke production and reduce local impacts.

Significant rain and possibly snow at the higher elevations is forecasted for the parks starting Monday night. Firefighters will take advantage of this window as conditions permit to complete pile burning projects throughout the parks. Pile burning will likely start in Grant Grove and in Giant Forest near the Sherman Tree.

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