



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

For Immediate Release – September 9, 2009
Michelle Puckett (559) 565-4287
Deb Schweizer (559) 565-3703

Horse Fire Continues Slow Growth in Sequoia National Park

The *Horse Fire* (discovered 7/19/09) has now grown to 272 acres. It is located in the south end of Sequoia National park in the vicinity of Hockett Meadow near the headwaters of Horse Creek. It is at 9,100 feet in elevation. This fire is being managed for resource benefit.

The *Horse Fire* behavior includes smoldering, creeping ground fire with some isolated torching. Two fire monitors have been monitoring this fire to assess the fire and map its growth. They are hiking into this wilderness fire for multiple-day assignments and supplies and materials are being brought in by stock to adhere to the principles of the Wilderness Act.

The *Mehrten Fire* (discovered 8/21/09) is approximately one and a half acres in size. This fire was started by lightning and is located south of Alta Peak. The fire is burning in mixed conifers at 7,800 feet. This fire has been contained and will continue to be monitored.

There are no trail closures in place near the Horse Fire or Mehrten Fire at this time. Hikers may notice some smoke in the vicinity.

As with all fires, managers will make a determination on how to handle each fire based on its location, elevation, potential for spread, fuels, and other variables. Lightning fires that can be safely managed promote forest health by reducing forest fuels and returning the natural cycle of fire to the parks. Fires that threaten lives, homes, or infrastructure are suppressed.

<http://www.nps.gov/seki/naturescience/current-fires.htm>