



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 – August 26, 2009
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New Fire Detected in Sequoia National Park

Fire managers detected a new fire on Friday, August 21st in Sequoia National Park. The *Mehrten Fire* is approximately one -half acre 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. Fire managers have decided to suppress the fire because of its proximity to the High Sierra Trail and other trails. This fire was contained on Monday, August 24th.

The *Horse Fire* (discovered 7/19/09) has now grown to 123 acres in size. 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 assigned to 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.

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.

Fire managers will continue to watch for other new potential fire starts from the lightning storms that have passed over the parks. This will detect any “sleeper” fires, or fires that will not become noticeably active, until the forest fuels dry.

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>