



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 19, 2009
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Horse Fire Continues Slow Growth in Sequoia National Park

The *Horse Fire* (discovered 7/19/09) had slowly grown to 104 acres over the past month. This fire is located in the south end Sequoia National Park in the vicinity of Hockett Meadow near the headwaters of Horse Creek. It is at 9100 feet in elevation.

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 at this time. Hikers may notice some smoke in the vicinity.

Each year, lightning strikes result in wildland fires that help shape the wilderness. Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks allow natural fire to function as a landscape process in these remote areas as long as they pose no threat to life or property.

Naturally occurring fire allows forests to be thinned, opening the canopy and allowing sunlight through which allows for the sprouting and re-growth of plants, shrubs and trees. Fire also allows for the recycling of nutrients to the soil while reducing the amount of dead, woody debris. Managed lightning fires limit the size and severity of subsequent fires.

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