



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Notification

For Immediate Release – June 13, 2010
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Viewpoint Prescribed Burn Planned

Fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the Viewpoint Prescribed Burn in Kings Canyon National Park on Tuesday, June 15, weather and air-quality conditions permitting.

This unit is located on the floor of the Kings Canyon near the Cedar Grove area, along the north side of the road. The project unit, 71 acres in size, will begin at the Cedar Grove Dump and extend just east of the Moraine Campground.

Moraine Campground will be closed, beginning June 14, until smoke impacts decrease. Other camping facilities in the Cedar Grove area will be available to visitors during this time. The road to Cedar Grove will remain open with delays possible if smoke affects visibility. Please observe posted speed-limit signs and travel with your lights on for your safety and the firefighters' safety.

Fire, a vital process in the Sierra Nevada, has long been excluded by fire suppression. This has resulted in abnormally high levels of forest fuels. Prescribed burns reduce these fuels, which in turn reduces the risk of an unwanted fire during hotter, drier conditions.

The area within this prescribed burn was last burned in 1994. Historically, fires occurred in the Cedar Grove area approximately once every three to ten years.

The Cedar Grove area may be impacted by smoke. Park visitors who are sensitive to smoke or have pre-existing respiratory problems should limit their outdoor activities, particularly in the morning, and keep car windows closed during the burn. For more information about how to limit exposure to smoke, please visit <http://www.airquality.org/smokeimpact/>.

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