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 – June 18, 2010
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Burning to Reduce Hazard Fuels in Sequoia National Park

National Park Service fire crews will be working on the Ash Mountain hazard fuel reduction project in Sequoia National Park (between 1,700 and 3,000 feet in elevation) over the next two weeks. This project includes mechanical treatments (weed whacking), as well as igniting prescribed fires.

The prescribed fire segments consist of eight small segments (between one and seven acres) between the Buckeye Housing area and Hospital Rock Picnic Area. Some segments are burned each year and others are on a bi-annual rotation.

The first prescribed fires are planned for June 22 and 23, weather and air quality conditions permitting, and may include segments near the Research Center, near the Foothills Visitor Center, below the maintenance yard, and adjacent to the Buckeye Housing Area in Sequoia National Park. Further ignitions will occur when conditions are favorable and should be completed by July 2.

Each burn segment takes less than a day to complete and should be completed by early afternoon.

In all segments, the ground fuels are grass and scattered brush, which burns quickly and produces smoke for very short periods. However, residents and employees near these areas are recommended to keep their windows closed on ignition days. Ignition days will be coordinated with the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District.

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