



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

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Silver Prescribed Fire Begins Soon in Mineral King Area

On Tuesday, October 10, fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the Silver Prescribed Fire in the Mineral King area of Sequoia National Park. The fire is located south of the Mineral King Road, north of the East Fork Kaweah River, east of Silver City, and west of Faculty Flat. Ignitions will be done by firefighters on the ground and personnel in the helicopter. Limited operations will target 75 to 100 acres in the eastern portion of the unit over the next one to two days. Further operations will commence at a later date to ignite the remaining portion of the 354-acre project.

No roads, trails, or facilities will be closed. Residents and visitors are asked to use caution while driving in the area since firefighters and equipment will be on the roads. Temporary road delays might occur between Silver City and Faculty Flat.

The parks are working closely with the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District to minimize the smoke impacts from the Silver Prescribed Fire. This is largely accomplished by scheduling and implementing the burn in October when most summer residents have departed, park visitation slows down, and local businesses are nearing closure. “It’s a balancing act because we want to wait until most people are gone, but not wait so long that rain or snow ruins our ability to complete the project,” said David Allen, Sequoia District Fire Management Officer.

The Silver Prescribed Fire is very important for the protection of private homes and government facilities in Mineral King. Burning the fuels below this infrastructure under mild conditions will reduce the possibility of a large fire during the hot summer months.

In preparation for the Silver burn, the parks began thinning forest fuels around Silver City in 2002 using chainsaws to create defensible space. This extra space provides additional protection for the buildings during the prescribed fire and gives firefighters a larger and safer place to work.

NPS