



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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First Phase of Valley View Prescribed Fire Begins on Monday

On Monday, October 30, fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the first phase of the Valley View Prescribed Fire in the Grant Grove area of Kings Canyon National Park. The fire is located south of Panoramic Point and east of Grant Grove Village. The first phase of the burn will include 71 acres and should take 1-2 days. If weather conditions permit, an additional 40 acres will be ignited later in the week. The remaining 264 acres of the project is targeted for later this fall or next year.

When operations begin, the Park Ridge Fire Road and the Park Ridge Trail will be closed between Panoramic Point and the Manzanita Trail intersection. Visitors can still access Park Ridge Lookout on foot via the Azalea Trail. If ignitions continue on the additional 40 acres, the North Boundary Trail will be closed from Panoramic Point to the Lone Pine Trail intersection. Residents and visitors are asked to use caution while driving in the area since firefighters and equipment will be on the Panoramic Point Road. The parks are working closely with the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District to reduce local smoke impacts.

Update on Lightning Fires

The lightning-caused Roaring-Ridge Fire is now 1,725 acres. The fire is located south of Cedar Grove and has been managed as a *wildland fire use* project since it began on July 23. Allowing this fire to spread naturally is improving forest conditions. Fire managers will continue to monitor this fire's activity until it is extinguished by rain or snow. The fire has grown approximately 200 acres in the last month. Fire crews have constructed fireline to protect the intake and tank for the Cedar Grove water system.

The lightning-caused Pond Fire, which is less than two acres, was discovered on October 20. Since the Pond Fire is burning on the boundary between Kings Canyon National Park and Sequoia National Forest north of Pond Meadow, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service are cooperatively managing the fire.

Status of Planned Fire Projects for 2006

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks planned to complete nine prescribed fires and one mechanical fuel reduction project this summer and fall. To date, the parks have finished the mechanical work and four burns: Ash Mountain (25 acres), Horse Trail (120 acres in the Cedar Grove area), Upper Redwood (619 acres in the Grant Grove area), and Silver (357 acres in the Mineral King area). In addition to Valley View mentioned above, managers would still like to complete the remaining four prescribed fires (Cabin Meadow, Wall Spring, Ella, and Davenport) if weather conditions permit. If not, the burns will be postponed until next year.

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