



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
National Parks

47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone  
559 565-3730 fax

---

## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release – May 29, 2014  
Anne Birkholz (559) 565-3704

### Bear Hill Prescribed Fire Planned

Fire crews plan to ignite the Bear Hill prescribed fire unit in Sequoia National Park on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, weather and air-quality conditions permitting. The Bear Hill unit is 149 acres and ignitions will occur over two to three days. This burn was originally scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>, but was postponed due to the fuel conditions being too wet from recent storms.

This unit, located in Giant Forest, was last burned with prescribed fire in 2001. Fuel accumulations are well within historical levels which will likely result in a low intensity fire with limited smoke. It is surrounded by units burned over the last 10 years which will assist in managing a drought-year fire.

Giant Forest is one of the most heavily visited areas of the park with a rich history of prescribed fire. Fire managers' efforts over time have contributed to 1) fuel reduction, which helps protect these forests from unwanted high severity fire; 2) maintaining the historic levels of fire so important to seedling establishment in giant sequoia groves; and 3) returning this area of mixed-conifer forest to the more open conditions which occurred across the southern Sierra Nevada before extensive fire suppression began in the early 1900s.

A number of trail closures will be in effect within and adjacent to the unit (see attached map). However, some trails in the area will remain open, allowing visitors views of the firefighters and the fire itself. The shuttle service will remain in operation and the Giant Forest Museum will be open.

-nps-