



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 Fire Update

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Deb Schweizer (559) 565-3703

Willow Fire Continues to Grow in Sequoia National Park

Fire managers are anticipating that the *Willow Fire*, located in the wilderness of Sequoia National Park, may see significant growth in the upcoming weeks.

The *Willow Fire* (discovered 7/21/07) is currently 165 acres. It is located two miles southwest of Big Arroyo in the southern part of Sequoia National Park and is burning in foxtail pine above 10,000 feet in elevation. Fire behavior has increased in the last several days as the fuels have dried. Fire behavior includes creeping ground fire with some torching. The fire is backing toward the Big Arroyo and into more continuous fuels in the lodgepole pine. This, coupled with the strong winds typical in the Kern River drainage, will likely lead to further growth of the fire. Smoke may be noticed in the vicinity.

The *Willow Fire* can be safely managed in the park's wilderness as there are no significant threats to life or property. This allows fire to maintain its role in the natural system of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. Fire has been, and will continue to be, one of the natural processes that shape the parks' distinctive landscape. Just like glaciers and floods, natural fire contributes to the dynamic beauty of the parks.

The *Sphinx Fire* (discovered on 7/6/07) is two acres and has been placed in inactive status. It is at 11,000 feet in elevation and is northwest of Mt. Brewer, near Sphinx Lakes, in Kings Canyon National Park.

The *Josephine Fire* (discovered on 7/31/07) is due west of Josephine Lakes on the east side of Deadman Canyon. It is approximately one-tenth of an acre and has been placed in inactive status.

Residents, visitors, and employees may notice some smoke over the parks. This is due, in part, to increased fire behavior on the Zaca Fire in southern California that is affecting regional air quality.

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