



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 Slow Growth in Sequoia National Park

Fire managers surveyed the *Willow Fire* by helicopter flight on August 19th and mapped the fire at 184 acres.

The *Willow Fire* (discovered 7/21/07) 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 is slowly increasing as the fuels dry. 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. *There are no trail closures in place near the Willow Fire at this time.* Hikers may notice limited smoke 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. It provides an excellent opportunity for backcountry users to see one of the many natural events that shape the beautiful Sierra Nevada.

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 have noticed some smoke over the parks. This is due to increased fire behavior on the Zaca Fire in southern California that is affecting regional air quality. Smoke from this fire will likely impact air quality in the parks on and off for several weeks to come.

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