



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

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New Fires Detected in Kings Canyon National Park

Fire managers completed an aerial reconnaissance over Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks on August 31st to determine if there were any new fires after the lightning storms that passed over the parks in the last several days. Two new fires were discovered in Kings Canyon National Park and three fires were discovered on the Sequoia National Forest close to Kings Canyon National Park.

The *Baldy West Fire* is approximately one -half acre in size. It is due west of Big Baldy and is in timber at 8,200 feet. Fire managers suppressed the fire because of its proximity to infrastructure and the Forest Service boundary. Observed fire behavior included creeping surface fire. The fire is contained and in patrol status at this time.

The *Quintero Fire* is located in the Tehipite Canyon near Blue Canyon. It is named in memory of Dave Quintero, a member of Sequoia National Park's Crew 91 who died in an automobile accident last year. It is at 8,400 feet in elevation and is .1 acre in size. It is smoldering in sparse timber and has low to moderate potential for growth. Fire managers are recommending the *Quintero Fire* to be managed as a wildland fire use fire—allowed to spread naturally for resource benefit.

Park resources also suppressed the *Fir Fire*, approximately .1 acre, on the Sequoia National Forest east of Chimney Rocks. It is in contained and in patrol status. The other two fires on Forest Service land are also suppression fires.

Fire managers will continue to watch for other new potential fire starts from the lightning storms that have passed, and continue to pass, over the parks. This will detect any “sleeper” fires, or fires that will not become noticeably active, until the forest fuels dry.

As with all fires, managers will make a determination on how to handle each fire based on its location, elevation, potential for spread, fuels, and other variables. Lightning fires that can be safely managed promote forest health by reducing forest fuels and returning the natural cycle of fire to the parks. Fires that threaten lives, homes, or infrastructure are suppressed.

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