



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Notice

For Immediate Release – September 25, 2009
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Moro Prescribed Fire Planned

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks announce plans to complete the *Moro Prescribed Fire* on Tuesday, September 29, weather and air quality conditions permitting.

This 24 acre unit is located in the Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park and should take one day to complete.

This project provides an excellent opportunity for visitors to witness how fire encourages giant sequoia germination and provides a healthier habitat for these trees. The parks' *Fire Place* will be located at the Moro Rock parking lot to provide enhanced educational activities for visitors during the prescribed fire. Opportunities to safely view the fire will exist from nearby trails.

Moro Rock Road will remain open with possible delays due to smoke. Please observe posted speed limit signs and travel with your lights on for your safety and the firefighters' safety.

This unit was last treated by prescribed fire in 1979. A natural fire cycle for a mixed conifer forest is approximately 10 to 15 years. A regular fire cycle improves forest health by reducing the amount of dead, woody debris that can lead to larger, more intense fires. Fire aids the sprouting and re-growth of plants, shrubs, and trees and creates a diverse habitat for plant and animals.

Giant sequoias are fire adapted and thrive in naturally cycling fire. Fire opens the cones, and releases the tiny seeds to the nutrient rich ash and mineral soil below—ideal conditions for this tree's germination. Fire thins competing vegetation and trees and opens the canopy for this sun-loving species.

Visitors should expect to see smoke in the area during ignitions. There are trail closures associated with the project. Please see attached map for details.

-- www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm --