



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Notice

For Immediate Release – October 11, 2009
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Prescribed Fire in Giant Forest to Begin

Fire crews plan to begin ignitions on a segment of the *Quarry West Prescribed Fire* in the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park on Monday, October 12th, weather and air quality conditions permitting.

The 48 acre unit is located near the Wolverton Corrals and north of the Giant Forest Museum and the General Sherman Tree. The General Sherman tree will still be accessible during this prescribed fire. Ignitions will likely take one day to complete.

Throughout the project, fire managers will work closely with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to manage smoke production and reduce local impacts.

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.

The Generals Highway will remain open during the prescribed fire with potential delays. Please use caution while driving in the area since firefighters, equipment, and/or smoke may be present on the roads. A portion of the Lodgepole and General Sherman Trail will be closed due to this prescribe fire. Please see attached map for more details.

Park residents and visitors in the area who are sensitive to smoke or have pre-existing respiratory problems should limit their outdoor activities and keep windows closed during the burn.

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