



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, 2011  
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### Swale East Prescribed Fire Planned

Fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the Swale East Prescribed Fire in Kings Canyon National Park on September 25, 2011, weather and air quality conditions permitting.

This project has been divided into two segments. One or both of these segments will be completed as conditions warrant. The first segment is 26 acres and ignitions should take one day to complete. The second is 75 acres and ignitions should take one or two days to complete.

This project is west of Highway 180 and the Azalea and Sunset Campgrounds, east of the South Boundary Trail, and south of the Grant Tree Road.

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. Sequoias have a thick, fire-resistant bark that protects them from the frequent fire cycle in the Sierra Nevada.

Most of the area was first burned in 1996. Historically, natural fires occurred in sequoia forests approximately once every 10-15 years. A regular fire cycle improves forest health by reducing the amount of dead, woody debris that can lead to larger, more intense fires.

Portions of the South Boundary Trail will be closed for this prescribed burn. See the attached map for details.

Visitors may experience temporary delays due to traffic control from smoke across Highway 180 and the Grant Tree Road. Please drive with lights on, obey posted speed limits, and keep alert for firefighters on the road near fire operations.

Fire managers work closely with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to manage smoke production and reduce local impacts. However, visitors and residents of Grant Grove, Wilsonia, and Sequoia Lake should anticipate smoke from this project, especially in the late evening and morning hours when inversion patterns that hold the smoke in the valleys. For more information about how to limit exposure to smoke, please visit <http://www.airquality.org/smokeimpact/>.

-- [www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm) --

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