



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

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## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

For Immediate Release – July 28, 2008  
Deb Schweizer (559) 565-3703  
Alex Olow (559) 565-4287

### *Trail to Tehipite Valley Closed Due to Fire* Containment Actions Underway on Northern Flank

The trail into Tehipite Valley between the Sierra National Forest and Simpson Meadow was closed today as a safety measure due to the *Tehipite Fire*.

The *Tehipite Fire* is located approximately one-half mile west of Tehipite Valley and Crown Creek and one mile east of Tombstone Ridge in Kings Canyon National Park. It is approximately 76 acres in size and burning in mixed conifer and live oak between 5,400 - 7,400 feet in elevation in steep bluffs and cliffs.

The fire is showing slow growth and is currently below the trail. The fire is expected to spread over the trail in the next few days. Rangers will work with visitors to provide alternative backpacking options for those with itineraries that include Tehipite Valley.

Steep terrain and inaccessibility make direct fire response unsafe. However, the parks are taking indirect containment actions above the cliff band to keep this fire within the park. This requires constructing fireline and lighting a backfire to consume the fuels before the head of the fire. The Fulton Hotshot Crew from Sequoia National Forest and the parks' Arrowhead Hotshot Crew are assigned to this fire.

The observed fire behavior includes a slow backing ground fire spreading primarily through burning vegetation rolling down the slope. Occasional torching of trees is occurring during the hot afternoons.

A good view of this fire can be seen from the Buck Rock web cam. Please visit [http://sierrafire.cr.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/swfrs\\_display\\_webcam\\_lm.pl?camera=buck\\_rock\\_1](http://sierrafire.cr.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/swfrs_display_webcam_lm.pl?camera=buck_rock_1)

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