



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

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Tehipite Fire Slow Growth

Containment Actions Complete on North, East and West Flanks

The *Tehipite Fire*, a lightning-ignited fire in the wilderness of Kings Canyon National Park, continues to grow slowly. The fire has burned 288 acres of old growth mixed conifer and decadent red fir forest with litter and dead and down under-story. The fire is located in the wilderness, located 20 miles northeast of Dunlap, California.

The primary containment action to keep the fire within the park boundary using backfire operations, and not allow it to spread onto the Sierra National Forest is complete. Actions have been taken on the north, east, and west flanks by successfully tying the containment line into natural barriers of rock to prevent any spread to the north. All lines have held with no control problems encountered. Crews continue to secure our control lines on the north end of the fire and have begun to assess the rehabilitation needs from the suppression efforts.

The remaining fire is in steep terrain which continues to make direct fire response unsafe along much of the perimeter. There are currently about 19 personnel and two helicopters assigned to this fire. There are no threats to property or infrastructure at this time.

The southern flank is spreading slowly and will be monitored. This portion of the fire is being managed to improve ecosystem health. Each year, lightning strikes result in wildland fires that help shape the beauty of the wilderness. Fire recycles nutrients to the soil while reducing the amount of dead, woody debris. This aids the sprouting and re-growth of plants, shrubs, and trees.

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 burning in mixed conifer and live oak between 5,400 - 7,400 feet in elevation in steep bluffs and cliffs.

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 resulting short range spot fires but, these are well within the containment lines.

A 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

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

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