



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Willow Fire Discovered in Sequoia National Park

Fire managers detected a new fire in Sequoia National Park wilderness on Monday, July 19.

The *Willow Fire* is located two miles southwest of Big Arroyo in the southern part of the park. It is approximately 95 acres in size and burning in foxtail pine above 10,000 feet in elevation. Fire behavior includes creeping ground fire with some torching. It has moderate to high potential for growth. Smoke may be noticed in the vicinity.

Fire managers observed the fire with a helicopter overflight. Yesterday, two fire monitors were placed near the fire to assess the fuels and potential fire behavior and spread.

This is the fourth fire that is being managed by Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. Fire managers have determined that these fires can safely be managed for resource benefit. Since the fires pose little threat to life or property, simply monitoring these fires frees up firefighting resources needed elsewhere throughout the state and the west.

- The *Lost Canyon Fire* (discovered on 7/6/07) has been placed in inactive status. It is one-half of an acre in size. It is due west of Moraine Lake and the Big Arroyo near the Lost Canyon Trail. The fire is at 9,000 feet in elevation.
- The *Sphinx Fire* (discovered on 7/6/07) is two acres and has been placed in inactive status. It is at 11,000 feet in elevation and is northwest of Mt. Brewer, near Sphinx Lakes, in Kings Canyon National Park.
- The *Claire Fire* (discovered 7/16/07) is burning due east of Little Claire Lake. It is one-tenth of an acre in size and burning in a single foxtail pine at 11,000 feet in elevation. It has low potential for growth.

Fire has been part of the natural system of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks for thousands of years. Fire maintains a variety of habitats, recycles nutrients into the soil, and keeps dead vegetation from accumulating.

Fire managers will continue to look for possible ignitions from thunderstorm activity as lightning-ignited fires may not be visible immediately after the storm.

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