



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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Wuksachi Prescribed Fire Planned in Sequoia National Park

National Park Service fire crews plan to start the Wuksachi Prescribed Fire in Sequoia National Park in on October 29, weather and air quality conditions permitting. The purpose for this burn is to treat 99 acres for hazard fuel reduction and to restore the natural cycle of fire in this area. The plan of this project is to perform a low to moderate intensity prescribed fire to remove the remaining fuels from a mechanical thinning project.

This unit was thinned of ladder fuels and dead and down forest debris in 2004 and 2006. This material was formed into piles that were burned over the winter of 2005 and 2007. This fire will provide a further buffer around the Wuksachi Lodge area protecting it from a wildfire. The project is divided into four segments and their ignitions will be timed to minimize smoke impacts. The previous mechanical treatments reduced the amount a fuel in the area which will help limit smoke production.

Fire is a vital process in the Sierra Nevada which has been excluded by the intervention of fire suppression activities. This has resulted in fuels that are at an abnormally high level. Mechanical thinning has already reduced the fuels and prescribed fire will allow the further reduction under controlled conditions. This helps prevent an unwanted wildfire from spreading through the Wuksachi area during the hot dry months, results in improved visitor and employee safety, and provides low intensity fire that benefits this ecosystem.

Ignitions should be completed over a period two to four days. Throughout the project, fire managers will work closely with the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District to manage smoke production and reduce local impacts. 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 --