



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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Zumwalt Prescribed Fire Planned in Kings Canyon National Park

National Park Service fire crews plan to start the Zumwalt Prescribed Fire in Kings Canyon National Park starting June 19th, weather and air quality conditions permitting. The purpose of this project is to reduce forest fuels and maintain the natural fire cycle in the Cedar Grove area in Kings Canyon National Park. The project area is 192 acres south of the Kings River, north of the rock bluffs, running from Roaring River east to the Zumwalt Meadow area.

Historically, the fire return interval in the mixed conifer vegetation type in this drainage is approximately once every three to ten years. The entire burn area was previously treated with prescribed fire in 1995 and 1997. Therefore, this is considered to be a maintenance burn.

Other than short duration smoke production, the primary impact to visitors will be the need to temporarily close all the trails south of the Kings River from Roaring River to the bridge south of the Roads End parking lot. This will be during ignition and until it is determined the trails are safe from hazards. The Roaring River Falls Trail, all the trails north of the Kings River and east of the burn unit should remain open.

This project's ignitions should be completed over a two day period. Throughout the project, fire managers will work closely with the San Joaquin Valley 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/>.

Maintenance of the natural fire cycle in these areas allows the forest to be thinned, opening the canopy and allowing sunlight through. It 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. Prescribed fire also helps to create a mosaic of diverse habitats for plants and animals.

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