



# Fire Atlas – 2012

## Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks December 15, 2012

**Total acreage burned by all causes: 1,412 acres**  
**Total number of fires: 28**

### Wildland Fires (328.85 acres)

Unplanned fires started by humans or lightning. Human-caused fires are always suppressed. Lightning-caused fires are evaluated to determine the best response strategy. Fire response considers safety, community protection, ecological benefits, fuel reduction, smoke, etc. Response ranges from monitoring to suppression. Because of an unseasonably dry year and because the demand for firefighting resources throughout the west, a cautious approach to fire management was used.

- **Lightning Fire (327.45 acres)**

In 2012, there were twelve lightning fires in the parks. The most significant was the *Woods Creek Fire* at 325.5 acres. Its growth was limited to keep the popular Rae Lakes Loop Trail open and for smoke management. The *Dennison Fire* was suppressed because of significant growth with undesired ecological effects and because of interagency concerns. The *Merhten Fire* was suppressed for smoke management. The *Cactus Fire*, *Pan Point Fire*, and the *Little Baldy Fire* were suppressed because of proximity to developments. The remaining fires were monitored and showed little to no growth: *Slide 1 and 2*, *Rattlesnake*, *Rockslide*, *Boreal*, *Dougherty Creek*, and *Willow*.

- **Human-Caused Wildfires (1.4 acres)**

Human caused fires are unplanned and unwanted wildfires that were aggressively suppressed. In 2012, there were ten human-caused fires (mostly escaped campfires) totaling one and 4/10 acres. Fire names: *Fallen Monarch*, *Azalea*, *Siberian*, *Silver City*, *Groundhog*, *Heather*, *Big Tree*, *Evolution Meadow*, *Kearsarge* and *Big Baldy*. None of these fires were a significant challenge for suppression.

### Prescribed Fires (1,082 acres)

Fires planned and set by NPS staff in designated areas to reduce hazardous fuels and/or restore natural conditions. Dry conditions and poor air quality led to a short prescription windows before fall storms. In 2012, there were six completed prescribed fires:

Ash Mountain	Sequoia NP	25	acres
Round Meadow	Sequoia NP	50	acres
Circle Meadow	Sequoia NP	176	acres
Whitaker	Kings Canyon NP	512	acres
Lodge	Kings Canyon NP	22	acres
Swale East	Kings Canyon NP	297	acres
Pile burning	Parkwide	0	acres

### Mechanical Fuel Reduction Projects

Faculty Flat Mechanical Thinning Project	Sequoia NP	5	acres
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Out-of-park Mechanical Thinning Projects completed by park crews

Devil's Post Pile National Monument		59	acres
Manzanar National Historic Site		5	acres