

Fire Atlas – 2015

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks December 31, 2015

Total acreage burned by all causes: 9,851 acres
Total number of fires: 40

Wildland Fires (9,720 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. Due to an unseasonably dry year and the extreme demand for firefighting resources throughout the west, a cautious approach to fire management was used. The big story this year was the Rough Fire, which started on the Sierra National Forest but burned into Kings Canyon National Park.

- **Lightning Fires (9,715 acres)**

In 2015, there were thirty-one lightning fires started in the parks. Additionally, the *Rough Fire*, which actually started on the Sierra National Forest, burned 9,285 acres in Kings Canyon National Park. The *Big Five Fire* in Sequoia National Park grew to 264 acres over four months. The *Burnt Fire* started in late October and burned over 161 acres. Several fires were suppressed due to locations in potentially volatile areas with heavy fuels, including *Big Baldy, Cahoon, Creek, Dennison, Garfield, Halstead, Homer, Kanawyer, Lakes, Marble Falls, Red Fir, Seven Mile, and Tyndall*. The remaining fires were monitored and showed little to no growth: *Arroyo, Chagoopa, East Fork, Laurel, Mineral, Pear, Plateau, Pond Meadow, Rattlesnake, Sheep, Tar Gap, Tawny, Tunemah, Whitney Creek, and Williams*.

- **Human-Caused Wildfires (5 acres)**

Human caused fires are unplanned and unwanted wildfires that are aggressively suppressed. In 2015, there were four human-caused fires totaling five acres. These were *Azalea, Potwisha, Sunset, and Upper Heights*.

Prescribed Fires (131 acres)

Fires planned and ignited by NPS staff in designated areas to reduce hazardous fuels and/or restore natural conditions. Dry conditions allowed for one spring burn while early fall rains allowed for additional pile burns. In 2015, there were four completed prescribed fires:

Ash Mountain	Sequoia NP	25	acres
Parkwide Piles	Sequoia NP	4	acres
Sunset Rock	Sequoia NP	79	acres
Parkwide Piles	Kings Canyon NP	23	acres

Mechanical Fuel Reduction Projects

Lookout Point Mechanical Thinning Project	Sequoia NP	4	acres
Grant Grove Mechanical Thinning Project	Kings Canyon NP	46	acres
Wilsonia Mechanical Thinning Project	Kings Canyon NP	30	acres