



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

& SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

WINTER 2009-10 GUIDE



- Free Activities • page 3
- Safety Tips / Finding Gasoline • page 5
- Highlights in Sequoia Park • page 6
- Highlights in Kings Canyon & USFS • page 7
- page 8 • Facilities & Ranger Programs in Sequoia
- page 9 • Facilities & Programs in Kings Canyon & USFS
- page 10 • Camping & Lodging / Bears & Your Food
- page 12 • Park Road Map



The changing face of winter

As days get shorter and cold nights lengthen, many visitors look forward to the changes that winter brings. These parks show a new face as summer dust settles and cool, green shadows replace the yellow wash of heat. The clatter of traffic and voices and the buzz of summertime bugs and birds fade with the waning daylight, replaced by the solo call of a raven over an otherwise quiet land.

We are given the chance to marvel at the stillness and outward simplicity of a world blanketed by snow. For most animals, however, winter survival is anything but simple.

American pikas (small, high-altitude cousins of rabbits) survive the Sierra Nevada's harshest climes by preparing all summer. Pikas not only store food like some other species, they have evolved a clever way to preserve it by making hay while the sun shines – literally. Pikas collect grasses and dry them in the summer sun. This preserves the plants that then provide sustenance under the snow during the long, cold winter.

Mountain yellow-legged frogs in the high Sierra use a different survival tactic: they can survive below ice for up to nine months without harm. Over thousands of years, they evolved the ability to change their physical needs in winter to tolerate low oxygen and cold water in lakes. This allows them to live in an area that is hostile to many of the predators that their lower-elevation relatives must escape from.

All animals and plants have, over thousands of years, developed survival traits specific to their environments. They may not, however, be



To survive, pikas need cool temperatures in summer and the insulation of a snowpack in winter. Seven inches long, they live in tunnels under the snow where they eat "hay" — grasses they dried in the summer sun and store for winter food.

able to adapt fast enough to meet the threat of global climate change. The traits that the pika and the mountain yellow-legged frog have perfected over thousands of years may not be enough to protect them as rapidly changing climate changes their habitats.

As the climate warms, snowpacks are shrinking and melting earlier. Pikas in some areas have had to move farther uphill in search of the protective snowpack that they need to live safely in winter – if there is still room uphill to move to.

The mountain yellow-legged frogs' ability to survive winter in an icy place has helped keep them safe from many threats. A warmer environment, however, may let predators and diseases move up into that area.

In the western United States, impacts from climate change that we are now observing include not only changing snow packs, but also increased wildland fires, invasion by non-native species, and more tree deaths. Some scientists view the Sierra Nevada as one of the "canaries in the coal mine" when it comes to climate change. We know that the stillness that we appreciate in winter now covers a quickly changing face.

Get to know the parks in winter. Rent snowshoes at Wuksachi Lodge or Grant Grove and be the first to make a trail through new-fallen snow. Notice how the trunks of the behemoth sequoias shine red against the white, and listen for the call of the raven. Look at the face of winter, before the face of winter changes. It will "take a village" – parks, cities, scientists, and you – working together to tackle the challenges of climate change.

-Adrienne Freeman, NPS

Get to know Sequoia & Kings Canyon



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT IN PARKS

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is still in action in these parks. ARRA is providing funds for important, shovel-ready maintenance projects that need doing here. Five ARRA projects represent an investment of more than \$11 million in these parks:

- The largest project entails replacing drinking-water tanks and improving fire-suppression systems at headquarters. We are replacing a system from the 1930s and 1940s, and adding a generator so that water systems can function during power outages.
- Crystal Cave now has quieter, more energy-efficient lighting via a photovoltaic system rather than the old, noisy, polluting generator. This benefits cave tours as well as the health of life in the cave. Check it out next summer!
- Crews have rebuilt damage on the Kennedy Pass Trail in western Kings Canyon Park, where a severe rainstorm had carved a large gully on trail switchbacks. They have also rebuilt trail damage and cleared fallen trees from the Tehipite Fire.
- A fifth project involves replacing mandatory compliance-monitoring components of the parks' five wastewater treatment plants and 17 potable water systems.

FEES HELP YOUR PARKS!

Most of your entrance and camping fees stay here. The parks invest them in improving visitor facilities and protecting resources. Fees have paid for repairing and upgrading roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have improved visitor centers, updated exhibits, and modernized naturalist slide programs.

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

- **7-day pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM):** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **12-Month Pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/GSNM:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **12-Month America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Pass:** Cost \$80. Valid for entrance fees at Federal recreation sites including National Parks, National Forests, FWS, BLM, & Bureau of Reclamation. Admits all passengers in a single private non-commercial vehicle where per-vehicle fees are charged, or the passholder plus up to 3 persons (age 16 & older) for per-person fee areas, for 12 months. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Seniors: America the Beautiful Interagency Pass:** \$10 one-time fee buys a lifetime pass for entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. (Previously issued Golden Age passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Accessibility: America the Beautiful Interagency Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to any park visitor center. (Previously issued Golden Access passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.

WELCOME!

Borrow the park map & guide in Braille at visitor centers.

BIENVENIDOS

Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

BIENVENUE

Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

WILKOMMEN

Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher- zentrum erhältlich.

BENVENUTI

La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

What is the difference between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument?

Each is on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

National parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation. Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior.

National forests, managed for "multiple use, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, as well as recreation with and without vehicles. Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.

Both agencies manage wilderness and other areas where they strive for maximum protection of natural resources. For example, part of Sequoia National Forest has been designated Giant Sequoia National Monument to emphasize protection of sequoias.

Parks, forests, and monuments have some different rules in order to meet their goals. Read "Where can I..." on the next page to learn what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we get a wide range of benefits from these diverse areas.



PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
No coins needed.

24-Hour Park Information
1-559-565-3341 (NPS)
www.nps.gov/seki

National Forest Information
1-559-338-2251 (USFS)
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Yosemite Information (NPS)
1-209-372-0200
www.nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions
1-800-427-7623 (Caltrans)

Partners in the Parks

This guide, first published in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*, is published by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and printed by Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

The following groups work together to provide the information:

National Park Service (NPS)

Malinee Crapsey, Editor
1-559-565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)

1-559-565-3759
www.sequoiahistory.org

Sequoia Parks Foundation

1-559-739-1668
www.sequoiafund.org

U.S. Forest Service & Giant Sequoia National Monument (USFS)

1-559-784-1500
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)

1-888-252-5757
www.visitsequoia.com

Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)

1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com

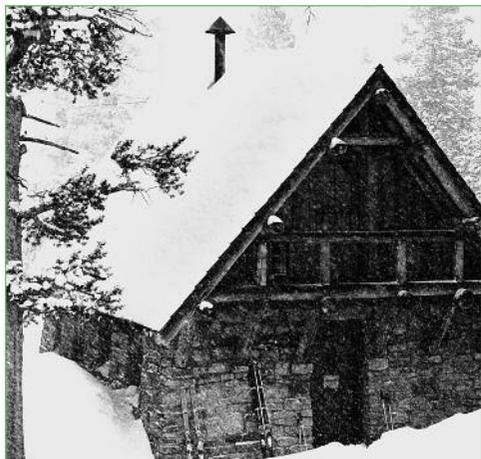
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

1-559-565-3171
www.werc.usgs.gov

Partner with parks

Two non-profit park partners can help you to help the parks, and *everyone* benefits:

Become a member of the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and get discounts in park book stores and on activities including seminars, the winter Pear Lake Ski Hut, and the summer tours in Crystal Cave. Join at any visitor center or go online at www.sequoiahistory.org.



Pear Lake Ski Hut, operated by the Sequoia Natural History Association, sits in a granite basin high above Lodgepole. At 9,200 feet elevation (2804m), it is surrounded by glistening snowfields, icy rock walls, and a deep blue sky. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunk-beds and warm wood-pellet stove. It's a great opportunity to experience the winter glory of the High Sierra. Call 559-565-3759 (reservations are required) and check the website above for winter travel seminars with the SNHA.

The Sequoia Parks Foundation raises funds for projects that enhance these parks. Be part of their efforts!

Beetle Rock Center in the Giant Forest would not still exist without the help of the Foundation. They funded the remodel of the historic building into an education center. Together with the SNHA, they made use of this facility possible for us all.

The Foundation is also raising funds for trailwork and for the *Rangers in the Classroom* program. It has also started an initiative to explore these fabulous parks through art. Ask for information at a visitor center, or go to www.sequoiaparksfoundation.org to learn how you can help advance your interests in these parks.



Recent contributions have helped to improve and repair two very popular trails: Zumwalt Meadow and Tokopah Falls. We extended the boardwalk along Zumwalt Meadow, increasing accessibility.

Free Activities

WALKS & TALKS Free ranger-led talks, walks, or snowshoe walks may be offered at Giant Forest, Wuksachi, Grant Grove, and the Foothills. See pages 8 and 9 or check bulletin boards and visitor centers to see what is scheduled.

VISITOR CENTERS & PARK STORES Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. Park stores in each visitor center sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: All your purchases in visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8 and 9 for details.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM - FREE

People of all ages earn a badge while helping to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn an Arrowhead Award. Pick up a free Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!

TEACHERS:

- BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS! Fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th-grades in spring and fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date, call 1-559-565-4303.

- RANGER IN YOUR CLASSROOM! Bring the parks to your elementary students and let them discover these world-famous parks from their own classroom. Call 1-559-565-3733 to learn more.



WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest and Monument (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest (see page 2 to learn more). Use a map to know where you are!

WALK A PET? *In the Parks:* Not on any trails but it's o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). *In National Forest:* Pets can go on trails. *In both areas:* Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.

COLLECT THINGS? *Not in the Parks:* Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. *In National Forest:* Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. *In both areas:* Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.

SNOWMOBILE? *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat, & Cherry Gap. For information: 1-559-243-4005.

GO CAMPING? *In the Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

GO PICNICKING? See picnic symbols on map (back page). Never leave food unattended! Check bulletin boards for fire restrictions. Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Halstead, Powdercan, Lodgepole, & Crescent Meadow.

HAVE A FIRE? *In the Parks:* Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves and lanterns. Some areas are more restricted than others. Get permits at Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (in Grant Grove) or USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.

RIDE A BICYCLE? *In the Parks:* Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). *In the National Forest:* Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas:* Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People younger than 18 must wear helmets.

DRIVE OFF-ROAD? *Not in either area.* Stay on roads.

HUNT? *Not in the Parks.* Firearms are subject to state & federal regulations, and strongly discouraged. *In National Forest:* Only during the season with a license. Call 1-559-243-4005.

CUT WOOD? *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.

GO FISHING? *In both areas:* Permitted during the season; California fishing licenses required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Closed until late spring. Call regarding hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, & guided trips then.

Cedar Grove
1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Grant Grove
1-559-335-9292 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Horse Corral
at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest
1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell

Changes: Natural & unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels. Without it, these fuels would feed intense, hard-to-control wildfires. The natural burn pattern includes occasional hot spots. These leave important openings in the forest — the sunny, bare places where sequoia trees regenerate best.

©NPS Photo

Fire: A natural change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this. Fire suppression blocked important ecological processes and caused many problems. Two problems were glaring:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: They create a fertile ash seedbed and they open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, dead wood and small, dense white fir trees increased tremendously. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger blazes that are more dangerous for people, property, plants, and wildlife. They burn hotter and are harder to put out.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works with fire to gain the benefits it brings.

When and where it's appropriate, we may ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning-caused fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows that we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

A permit is required for each overnight trip at any time of year. Each park trail has a daily entry quota for overnight trips, and from late May to late September a wilderness camping fee of \$15 is required. Both quotas and fees are used to help protect your wilderness environment and experience. (They are not required for day hikes, or for overnights in the adjacent Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses in US Forest Service. However, a free fire permit is required for any open flame on USFS land.)

Camping or sleeping in vehicles in the park's "frontcountry" is permitted only in campgrounds. It is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads.

Late May to late September:

Get your permit at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead (see pages 8 & 9). If the quota for your preferred trail is full, choose another trail for that day or another day to start (if space is available). Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp. Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date during this period are accepted beginning March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your start date. Reserved permits must be issued either after 1pm the day before or by 9am on the day of departure. If delayed, call the Wilderness Office or you may lose the reservation:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

From late September to late May, self-issue your permit at the station closest to your starting trailhead (check locally for locations).

For more details, visit Wilderness Information at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm or call.

HIGH SIERRA LODGE

- **BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP** (DNCP) www.visitsequoia.com Reservations required; taken starting 1/2/10. 1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June to mid-September. Tent hotel at 7800' on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.

Unnatural change: Alien invaders!

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often they keep each other in check. When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly since the competitors, predators and diseases they evolved with in their home communities are not here. They break links in the local web of life, badly disrupting species that depend on each other. Sometimes they completely replace native plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks. The natives will thank you!



STAR THISTLE

Two immediate threats:

Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny patches completely exclude native plants, and limit wildlife movements. Not yet established here! If you recognize it from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in.

New Zealand Mud Snails take over waterways that they invade, eating most of the food. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! They stick on gear; check boots & waders thoroughly for this tiny invader. Common just east of the parks. Could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards: Rocks roll, trees topple, limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. People create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Drowning causes most deaths here. Some victims walking near rivers fell in; others didn't understand river currents.

Park staff work to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings. Ask a ranger for advice.

Be Safe!

DROWNING: It is the #1 cause of death in national parks. Be extra careful along rivers and streams; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength.

PLAGUE: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

POISON OAK:

Common in the foothills! Red leaves with whitish berries in fall, bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. Ask a ranger to show you. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



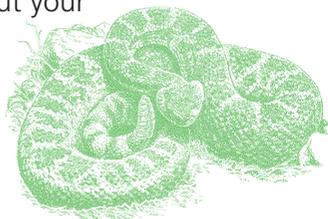
TICKS: Common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



GIARDIA in lakes and streams can cause intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

HYPOTHERMIA: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

RATTLESNAKES are especially common in the foothills. Watch where you put your hands and feet! They are protected; do not kill them. Most bites result from handling or teasing. Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic and call 911.



LIGHTNING: If you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

WEST NILE VIRUS is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

CARBON MONOXIDE: This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent, camper, or RV.

OZONE POLLUTION: See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

CELL PHONES rarely work well in these mountains; don't rely on them. Note where pay telephones are available (pages 8-9); dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. Calling cards are often required.

COUGARS roam all of these parks. They rarely attack people and pets, but be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Do not run. They may think you are prey and chase. Face the lion.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly, still facing the cougar.
- If it acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

EXPLORE SAFELY: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Keep your eyes and ears open for potential hazards above and around you. Slow down and share roads and trails with people and wildlife.

SAFE DRINKING WATER:

The 13 park water systems are tested to insure that they meet state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

OPERATION NO-GROW

Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities, including marijuana growing! Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

WINTER ROAD RULES

EXPECT ICY, SLICK ROADS

SLOW DOWN. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Allow 6 seconds of stopping distance between cars. Check antifreeze, battery, wipers, chains and road conditions before you come: 24-hour recorded information 1-559-565-3341 (press 9, then 4). Motorcyclists: Avoid oil buildup in center of lanes.

ALWAYS CARRY CHAINS

that fit your tires and comply with signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; most cars have them. Check the side of the tire for M/S, M+S, or a snowflake symbol.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

For a tow: 1-559-565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, AAA is available for out-of-gas, lock outs, minor repairs, jump starts: 1-559-565-4070 (24 hours).

GET SNOW OFF CAR ROOFS

It slides onto the windshield and blocks the driver's vision.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Always downshift going downhill. In automatic cars, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L.

SNOWPLOWS RULE

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, watch for signals from the plow operator. Slow down but do not stop.

FILL YOUR GAS TANK FIRST

No gas stations lie within the park. Fill up in nearby Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or the National Forest's Hume Lake (1-559-335-2000) 24 hours with credit card: 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180. Grant Grove Market sells cans of emergency gas.

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails),

single file, with traffic. Wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

LENGTH ADVISORY

On the 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia Park, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car, camp in the foothills and use the car.

WINTER ROAD CLOSURES

IN KINGS CANYON PARK & NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT -

- **Generals Highway** (the main park road) closes for plowing from Wuksachi to junction with Hwy 180 during & after storms. Depending on snowfall, closure may last for hours or weeks.
- **Highway 180 to Cedar Grove** closed mid-November until late April due to rockfall.

• **Redwood Mountain Road** is unpaved. Not plowed.

• **Panoramic Point Road** closes with first snow. No trailers or motorhomes.

• **Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS):** All are partially unpaved and close with snow.

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK -

- **Crystal Cave Road** closes late October to mid-May.
- **Mineral King Road** reopens 5/28/09 (snowmelt permitting).
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road** closes with first snows; reopens with spring melt. No drinking water along this road.
- **South Fork Road** is partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.
- **Road to Middle Fork Trail** is unpaved; slippery when wet. Road closes for winter; park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area.

LET OTHERS PASS

Slower vehicles *must* use paved turnouts to let traffic pass. Park and drive only on pavement.

GO SLOW FOR WILDLIFE!



THE FOOTHILLS

The lower elevations offer wonderful winter visits -- green and usually snowless! The foothills house more biological diversity (different kinds of plants and animals) than the conifer forests and High Sierra combined. Flowers appear in January. Ticks appear in December; watch out for them and poison oak (see page 5).

HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC AREA:

Western Mono people once lived here; exhibits offer insight into their lifestyle. A trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall; 1/4-mile round-trip. Careful! People often drown here.

MARBLE FALLS: This trail climbs 3.9 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park across the main road from Potwisha Campground (no non-camper parking in the campground). From the trailhead near site #14, follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch. The trail starts on the right.

PARADISE CREEK: Park at Hospital Rock and walk to Buck-eye Flat Campground. Follow the footpath across from site #26 and cross the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for 1-1/2 miles (1.6 km) before growing faint.

MIDDLE FORK: Leading through chaparral to highcountry, the first miles offer views of Moro Rock and Castle Rocks. Park at Hospital Rock. Walk toward Buckeye Flat Campground but turn left on the dirt road before the campground. Go 1.3 miles (2 km) to a parking area. Panther Creek Falls is 3 miles (5 km) beyond that. Use caution at stream crossings.

SOUTH FORK

These trails start at tiny South Fork Campground (closed for winter), at the end of a 13-mile road that leaves Hwy 198 at the west end of Three Rivers. This partly unpaved road can be very slippery when wet.

LADYBUG: Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah River in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5 km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

GARFIELD: A steep 5-mile (8.3 km) one-way climb to Garfield sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.

Highlights

EXPLORING IN WINTER

BE SAFE: Review safety advice on page 5. Carry a map, warm clothes, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the winter woods.

TRAVEL ON SNOW: There is plenty to see from wintry roadsides, but try skis or snowshoes. You don't need to go far or fast, and it's a great way to enjoy the snowy forest.

WALKERS & SNOWSHOERS: Don't walk in ski tracks. Your footprints harden and catch ski tips, making it dangerous for skiers.

VISIT THE SNOW FOREST: Conical-shaped trees evolved to catch less snow, minimizing the amount that weighs them down. Flexible branches bend to dump what snow has piled up when it gets too heavy. Conifer needles are tough and slippery, so snow tends to slide off easily.

WATCH FOR WILDLIFE SIGNS: Deer, cougars, bobcats, martens, weasels, coyotes, and Douglas squirrels (called chickarees) may be active all year. Bears may stay active, so continue to store food properly (see page 10). Winter birds greet you from the trees: ravens, juncos, chickadees, red-breasted nuthatches, brown creepers, and white-headed woodpeckers, to name a few. Look for the sweep of wings in the snow where an owl caught a rodent for dinner.



GRANT GROVE

The only plowed trail is the Grant Tree loop. Beware of slipping on ice on the path!

Rent skis or snowshoes at the Grant Grove Market. Buy a ski trail map and follow the colored markers on trees. See pages 8-9 for details on snowplay areas.

KINGS CANYON PARK VISITOR CENTER:

Explore the exhibits and see the film about this park.

TALKS & SNOWSHOE WALKS:

Check local schedules to see if a ranger-led walk is taking place. Showshoes are loaned for free!

GENERAL GRANT TREE:

The only trail in the area that is plowed in winter. General Grant is the world's third-largest living tree (see the story below). Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

Once snow flies this becomes a ski or snowshoe trail to a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Park at Grant Village, go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the sign "Panoramic Point 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." It's 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

NEARBY VIEWPOINTS

OVERLOOKS & VIEWS: For a view of the High Sierra, drive to Kings Canyon Overlook, about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway.

For a look out over the Kings Canyon, drive the Hume Lake Road, 8 miles (13 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

About 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, Redwood Canyon Overlook faces west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. Early studies in this grove revealed the strong positive relationship between fire and sequoia reproduction.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, a part of Sequoia National Forest (see page 2 for details). Check page 5 for road closures.

Three USFS trailheads offer snowplay, cross-country ski trails, and snowmobile routes. Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove or Montecito Lake Resort (see page 9 for details). Ask for information and a map at Kings Canyon Visitor Center:

• Cherry Gap is on Highway 180 2.5 miles (4km) north of Grant

Grove. It offers 10 miles (16km) of marked winter routes, including a ski trail to the Chicago Stump at the edge of Converse Basin grove. Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. The stump is a remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

South of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway are two trailheads with restrooms:

• Quail Flat (6 miles/9.6km south of Hwy 180) has 23 miles (37km) of trails and snowmobile routes. Some connect to Big Meadows.

• Big Meadows (8 miles/13km south of Hwy 180) offers 23 miles (37km) of marked, groomed trails and routes that traverse meadows and forest. One route goes to the 1916 Buck Rock Fire Lookout (the tower is closed in winter).

THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON

Highway 180 down into the canyon closes in winter due to rock falling from the canyon walls onto the road. You can get a good view out over the canyon between Hume Lake Road junction on Hwy 180 and Hume Lake. The road reopens mid-April; return then if you can enjoy one of our nation's deepest gorges. See page 9 "In the Kings Canyon" for details.

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

GIANT FOREST

Rent snowshoes and cross-country skis downstairs at Wuksachi Lodge, and purchase a ski-trail map. Talk to a ranger, then carefully follow the yellow triangular markers above eye level on trees (other than sequoias).

GIANT FOREST MUSEUM: The best place to start your visit and learn about the Big Trees.

BIG TREES TRAIL: This 2/3-mile (1 km) trail (no yellow markers) circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Park at Giant Forest Museum or, once it is plowed, the small lot near Round Meadow. Then ski or snowshoe on either side of the road (not in the road).

When there is no snow, paved trails lead from the north end of the museum plaza, around the meadow, and back via the other side of the road.

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE:

Once much snow flies, access to the world's largest tree is from the parking area along the Generals Highway. The trail from there is not plowed, but snow is usually packed down enough to walk on it. Through mid-winter, if condi-

tions permit, the upper trail and parking stay open (take the Wolverton Road between the Sherman Tree and Lodgepole and follow signs). From there you walk down to the tree. While this upper option is open, the lower parking area along the Generals Highway requires an accessibility permit for parking.

If the upper trail is too steep and you don't have an official placard, just ask for one at any visitor center. If you can walk down but not back up, have your driver pick you up at the lower parking area on the Generals Highway.

MORO ROCK/CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road closes in winter to become a ski and snowshoe trail. It begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway, crosses the southwest portions of the sequoia grove, and ends at Crescent Meadow. Highlights include:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot /91 m elevation gain). Don't climb if there is any ice or snow on the stairs;

it is very dangerous. A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide and the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. The only tree you can ski through in these parks. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Generals Highway.

CRESCENT MEADOW: Several trails connect here. It is 1 mile (1.6 km) from here to Tharp's Log, the hollow fallen sequoia lived in by Giant Forest's first settler. The summer High Sierra Trail runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (highest peak in the lower 48 states at 14,494 feet/ 4417 m).

MINERAL KING



The steep road to this subalpine valley closed at the park boundary as of November 1; it reopens May 28, if weather permits. Skis or snowshoes are required for winter visits. Page 8 has more details.

IN KINGS CANYON PARK

84th Annual Nation's Christmas Tree Ceremony

December 13, 2008 at 2:30 pm
Held annually at the base of the General Grant Tree on the 2nd Sunday of December

This event celebrates both the holiday season and two honors given to the General Grant Tree:

- President Coolidge designated it the official Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926 (the "National Christmas Tree" is lit on the Mall in Washington, D.C.); and
- In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower proclaimed the tree the only living National Shrine, and had his personal representative, Fleet Admiral Nimitz, officially dedicated it on Veteran's Day that year.

Each year during the ceremony, park rangers place a large wreath at the base of this giant sequoia in memory of men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. Caroling and readings are also part of the ceremony.

The event is sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce. Parking is limited. Chartered buses from Sanger are available. Information: 559-875-4575.



FACILITIES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Giant Forest Area

GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

6400' (1950m) elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees, it offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking trails. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 and the map on page 12. See Highlights on page 6.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 1-559-565-4480. No pay-phone; closest are at Lodgepole & Wolverton (don't rely on cells).

CRYSTAL CAVE - Scheduled reopening May 8, 2010

One of the park's highlights! See page 3 for details & schedule.

Lodgepole Area

LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

6700' (2040 m) elevation. A few miles north of Giant Forest, in beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 & the map on page 12.

INFORMATION (NPS)

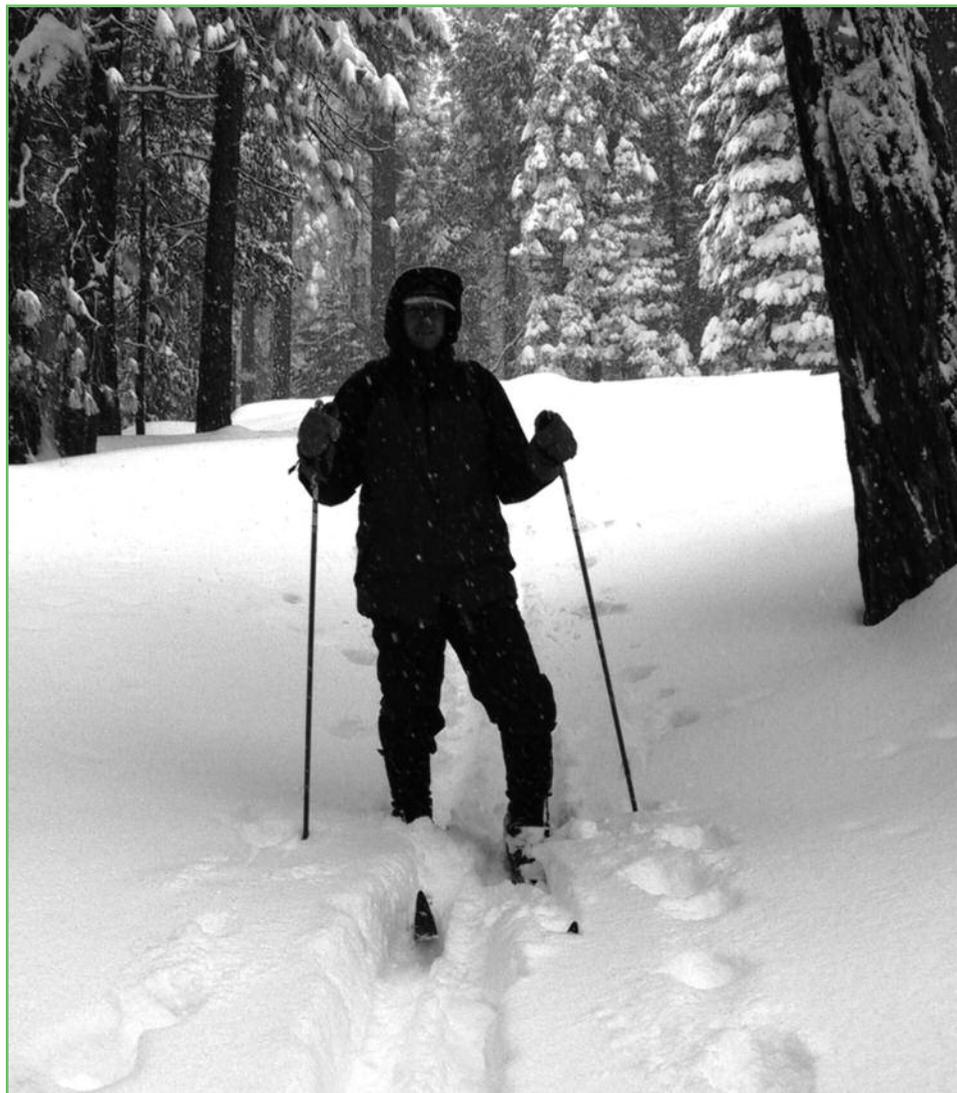
- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Self-register outside along the front wall of the visitor center. See page 4 for details.
- **Visitor Center:** Closed for the season. Pay phone outside.

FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR) - closed for the season

- **Lodgepole Market, Gift Shop, & Laundry:** Scheduled to reopen 04/02/2010, 10am-4:30pm.
- **Showers & Snack Bar:** Scheduled to reopen 04/30/2010.
- **Deli:** Scheduled to reopen 05/28/2010.

OTHER SERVICES (DNCPR)

- **U.S. Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 1-559-565-3678.
- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Year round. Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones:** Outside visitor center & market (poor cell signals).



Foothills Area

500-3500' (457-1067 m) elevation. Characterized by chaparral, oaks, river canyons, hot summers and snow-free winters, the foothills offer year-round interest. Park headquarters is here at Ash Mountain.

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. 1-559-565-4212.
- **Camping (NPS):** At Potwisha (year-round) & Buckeye Flat (last night open 9/29). Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones** (cell phone signals are usually poor): Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground, Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

Mineral King Area

The road into this area closed November 1.

It will reopen May 28, conditions permitting.

7800' (2380 m) elevation. A subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road (allow 1½ hours to drive; closes 11/1). No RVs, buses, or trailers, please. No electricity or gasoline.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Closed. Self issue permits on porch.
- **Pay Telephones:** Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area. Cell phone signals are extremely poor.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Reopens in spring with the road. Pay telephone. 1-559-561-3223; [ww.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com).
- **Camping (NPS):** No RVs or trailers. Details: page 11.

Wuksachi

LODGE & DINING ROOM (DNCPR)

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Year-round center for lodging & food services in Sequoia; 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the Sherman Tree.

- **Dining Room:** Daily 7:30am-9:30pm, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070. Lounge daily 5-8:30pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing.
- **Alta Ski Shop:** Limited groceries/supplies. Ski/snowshoe rentals available when conditions permit. Daily 10am-6pm (opens 9am when conditions permit skiing) through early April.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details. Front desk: 24 hours.
- **Pay Telephones:** At main lodge. Cell-phone signals often poor.

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts and the National Park Foundation have made it easy for Wuksachi Lodge guests to contribute to these parks. Ask about the Guest Donation Program when you check in!

FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

AT GIANT FOREST & LODGEPOLE

- Park rangers may offer free walks and talks on weekends. Check local bulletin boards and visitor centers for details. Snowshoe walks may be offered at the higher elevations once conditions permit.

IN THE FOOTHILLS

Programs are offered on weekends from late December through April. Check locally for details. From late January to early spring, Sequoia National Park will host *Sequoia Speaks*, a speaker series at the Three Rivers Arts Center. Stop by the Foothills Visitor Center for topics, dates, times, and directions. All are welcome!

FACILITIES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS

Grant Grove Area

GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

6600' (2008 m) elevation. This was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here are both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

INFORMATION

- **Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. Local wilderness permits issued up to ½- hour before closing. 1-559-565-4307. Pay telephone outside.

FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Daily 9am-2pm & 5-7pm (8pm on Friday-Saturday).
- **Market, Gift Shop, & Cross-Country Skis & Snowshoe Rental:** Daily 9am-6pm (7pm on Friday-Saturday). Supplies, food, snow-play toys, film, clothing, sandwiches, bear canisters, and cans of emergency gasoline. ATM. Ski & snowshoe rentals begin when enough snow covers the ground.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** See page 10-11. Lodge front desk 7am-10pm, 559-335-5500.
- **Post Office:** Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30 pm; Saturday 10-noon. Lobby open 24 hours. Send mail for visitors c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.
- **Stables/Horseback Riding:** Details on page 3. Closed for winter.
- **Pay Telephones:** Available 24 hours at Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); & outside gift shop, market, & post office. They use calling cards only.

In the Kings Canyon

Highway 180 is closed from the Hume Lake Road junction into the canyon due to regular, heavy rockfall that occurs once temperatures drop. CalTrans reopens it in mid-April.

CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE - Closed for the season

4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River.



Paying Your Entrance Fee at Kings Canyon in Grant Grove

Stop at the kiosk in front of the Kings Canyon Visitor Center in Grant Grove to purchase the required park and forest entrance fee or show your pass.

One fee covers your visit to *both* Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks *and* to Sequoia National Forest!

USFS: National Forest & Monument HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, borders much of the western edge of these National Parks. You are in National Forest when you drive between park areas Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove (see page 2, Parks and Forests). Sold to the government as a Forest Reserve in 1935, it is an excellent place to see sequoias recovering from intensive logging in the late 1800s.

PAY TELEPHONES

Cell-phone signals are usually poor. Calling cards may be required.

- **Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove:** Summer only at Stony Creek Resort & Big Meadows trailhead.
- **Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove:** Hume Lake (year round; see *Hume Lake* below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

INFORMATION

- **USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS):** 35860 E. Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles (31 km) west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Open 8am-4:30pm weekdays. Maps & books sold. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

LODGING & OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee):** Open all year. A resort on public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Breakfast 8-9am, lunch 12-1pm, dinner 6-7pm. Cabins, hotel, activities. 1-800-227-9900 or 1-559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Year-round private facilities open to public: 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). **Market & snack shop.** North of Grant Grove 8 miles (13km) on Hwy 180 then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles (5km). 1-559-335-2000.
- **Boyden Cavern:** Closed for the season. Reopens when Highway 180 opens in spring. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Daily tours, gift shop. 1-559-338-0959.
- **Stony Creek Village (FS):** Closed for the season. On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. 1-866-KCANYON; 1-559-565-3909.

GASOLINE SALES on FOREST LANDS

- At Hume Lake year-round; Stony Creek and Kings Canyon Lodge late spring through early fall. See page 3 for details.

FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

IN GRANT GROVE

Evening programs: Join us in the John Muir Lodge lobby. Time and topics vary, so check at the visitor center or on bulletin boards for details.

Snowshoe walks begin 12/26, conditions permitting.

- Grant Tree Walks start again in spring.

Staying Overnight

LODGING

SEQUOIA PARK

- **Wuksachi Village** (DNCPR)
Reservations: 1-888-252-5757
Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070
www.visitsequoia.com. Open all year. North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6 km). Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

- **Silver City Mountain Resort** *
Summer: 1-559-561-3223
Winter: 1-805-528-2730
www.silvercityresort.com. Open late May to late October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gas.

KINGS CANYON PARK

- **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge** (KCPS)
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open all year. In Grant Grove. Hotel all year, cabins (May-Nov.), restaurant, showers, store, gifts.

- **Cedar Grove Lodge** (KCPS)
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open Mid-May to mid-October. In the Kings Canyon. Motel, public showers, restaurant, laundry, store.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST & MONUMENT

- **Montecito Lake Resort** (formerly Montecito-Sequoia Lodge)
Reservations: 1-800-227-9900
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3388
www.mslodge.com. Open all year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, x-c skiing, seasonal & children's activities.

- **Stony Creek Lodge** (KCPS)
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open early May - early October. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Restaurant, market, showers, gas. Hotel.

- **Big Meadows Cabin** (FS)
1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov. Open mid-June to mid-October. An historic guard station in the National Monument between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.

- **Kings Canyon Lodge** (Private*)
Reservations: 1-559-335-2405
Open mid-April to mid-November. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove.

* **Note:** The two facilities on private land cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by the National Park or National Forest.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging, camping, & services. Check www.nps.gov/seki, click PLAN YOUR VISIT then link to LODGING, or ask at visitor centers.

WILDERNESS LODGE & PERMITS

See page 4.

CAMPING DOs & DON'Ts: These rules protect the park & you!

NOTE: Rules may vary between the Park and the National Forest. Check page 3 for details.

KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS!

Required all year! Learn how to do it correctly — see below.

CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs from trees. Better yet, bring wood or buy it at a market. Fires must be out cold before you leave.

In National Forest & Monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a Forest Service ranger.

ROADSIDE CAMPING?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument, roadside camping is permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger.

NO SAVING/HOLDING CAMPSITES

You may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; property may be impounded.

GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

UP TO 6: Many campgrounds allow only 1 vehicle & 6 people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

7 TO 19: In summer, Crystal Springs (Grant Grove) has first-come, first-served sites for groups of 7-15. Canyon View in Cedar Grove has sites for 7-19. \$35/site.

LARGER: Call in advance for information on requesting summer group tent-camping sites: For Sunset or Canyon View 1-559-565-4335 (5/1-10/31: 565-3792 for Canyon View). To reserve group sites in Dorst or in national forest/monument: 1-877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

CAMPING TIME LIMITS

14 days between 6/14 & 9/14, with 30 days total per year.

QUIET HOURS & GENERATORS

10pm-6am. Generator use: At Lodgepole & Dorst only 8-11am & 5-8pm; at other campgrounds 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups available.

Dump stations: See page 11 chart.

Trailers permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check chart on page 11. Many sites not suitable for trailers or RVs. Sites may not be level. Vehicles over 30 feet (9 m) long can fit in a small number of sites.

Length advisory: On Generals Highway in Sequoia Park, from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum, advised vehicle length limit = 22 feet. See page 5 for other limits & warnings.

PROPANE CANISTERS

Do not put propane or other fuel canisters in park trash cans or leave them in the parks. Take them with you when you leave.

VOLUNTEER AS A HOST

Live in the park, take care of campgrounds & resources, & meet great people! Learn about volunteer opportunities; contact Park Volunteer Coordinator, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651.



save a bear!

Sales from the Save-a-Bear Kit & color pin (above) directly support bear management. See the pins at visitor centers.

YOU MUST STORE ALL FOOD!

BEARS quickly learn to get food from cars, picnic tables, and backpacks. They then become destructive and sometimes aggressive. They want our food, not us, but people can get hurt. Too often these bears must be killed. This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly.

- **DRIVERS:** Never leave any food or scented item in cars. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

- **CAMPERS:** Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit).

Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it's not food) -- including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, store food in the car trunk (seal food to reduce odors). If the car has no trunk, put everything on the floor, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food.

- **PICKNICKERS:** Guard your food at all times.

- **LODGE GUESTS:** Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

- **BACKPACKERS:** Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets. Bears defeat most attempts to hang food in trees.

- **EVERYONE:** Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks in their direction (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. If a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups.

Food-storage is required!: Always read & follow instructions on bulletin boards to help save a bear! See other rules on page 10.

*Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole (in Sequoia NP) & for reservable campgrounds (marked * below) in the National Forest (USFS) may be made up to 6 months in advance of the date desired. Contact www.recreation.gov or 1-877-444-6777 or TDD 1-877-833-6777 (7am-9pm PST from 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

CAMP GROUNDS

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- "Nearby" - Within 2 miles / 3.2km
 ✓ - Year-round
 ☀ - Summer only

FOOD STORAGE: Avoid bringing coolers/food boxes that won't fit in bear boxes. Symbols on the chart tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in each campground:

- # One small box per site (47" long x 17" deep x 16" high);
 ◆ One large box per site (at least 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high);
 ☒ A mix of box sizes;
 + Additional boxes available for sites to share.

# of sites	Daily Fee	Rest-rooms	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles
#	\$										

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

FOOTHILLS AREA Elevation 2100'-3600'. Lowest in elevation, therefore warmest.

Potwisha: ◆ Open all year.	42	\$18	Flush			✓	☀	✓		✓	
Buckeye Flat: ◆ Closed until late March. No trailers or RVs.	28	\$18	Flush			at Potwisha	☀			✓	
South Fork: # Open. Water (non-potable only).	10	\$12 May -Sept.	Vault							✓	

MINERAL KING AREA Elevation 6650' - 7500'. Road to area closed; open late May to 11/1. No RVs or trailers.

Atwell Mill: ◆ Closed.	21	\$12	Vault	☀	☀		☀			✓	✓
Cold Springs: ☒ Closed.	40	\$12	Vault	at Silver City	at Silver City		☀	✓		✓	

LODGEPOLE AREA Elevation 6700'. *Reservable in summer up to 6 months in advance (see Reservations above.)

*Lodgepole: ☒ + Open all year. Reservation period late May into September.	214	\$20/18	Flush	☀	☀	☀	☀	✓	☀		✓	✓
*Dorst: ☒ + Closed until late May.	204	\$20	Flush				☀	☀	☀		✓	✓

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

GRANT GROVE AREA Elevation 6500'.

Azalea: ◆+ Open all year.	110	\$18/10	Flush	✓	☀		✓	at village	☀		✓
Crystal Springs: ◆+ Closed. Sites for groups of 7-15 (see page 10): 14	36	\$18	Flush	✓	☀		✓	"	☀		✓
Sunset: ◆+ Closed.	157	\$18	Flush	✓	☀		✓	"	☀		✓

CEDAR GROVE AREA (ON THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON) Elevation 4600'. Road to area closed mid-November - mid-April.

Sentinel: 4600' ◆+ Closed.	82	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at visitor center	☀	✓
Sheep Creek: 4600' ◆+ Closed.	111	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓
Canyon View: 4600' ◆ No RVs or trailers. Closed. Sites for groups of 7-19: 35	23	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓
Moraine: 4600' ◆ Closed.	120	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)

HUME LAKE AREA Elevation 4000' - 5900'. *= reservable in summer.

*Princess: Closed for the season. May not reopen until 7/4/10 due to construction.	88	\$18 single	Vault				☀ \$7	☀			✓	✓
*Hume Lake: + No water. Closed.	74	\$20 "	Flush	✓		✓		☀	✓		✓	✓
Tenmile: No water. Open until snowfall.	13	\$16	Vault								✓	✓
Landslide: Closed.	9	\$16	Vault								✓	✓
Convict Flat: No water. Closed.	5	-	Vault								✓	✓

BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREAS Elevation 6400-7500'. *= reservable in summer.

*Stony Creek: # Closed.	49	\$20 single	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at lodge		✓	✓
*Upper Stony: # Closed.	18	\$16	Vault	☀	☀	☀		☀	at lodge		✓	✓
Horse Camp: No water. Open until snow.	5+	-	Vault								✓	
Buck Rock: No water. Open until snow.	11		Vault									
Big Meadow: No water. Open until snow.	40		Vault						by trailhead	✓	✓	

PARK ROADS

-  Campground
-  Picnic Area
-  Lodging
-  Horses/riding
-  Gas station

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

STEEP ROADS:

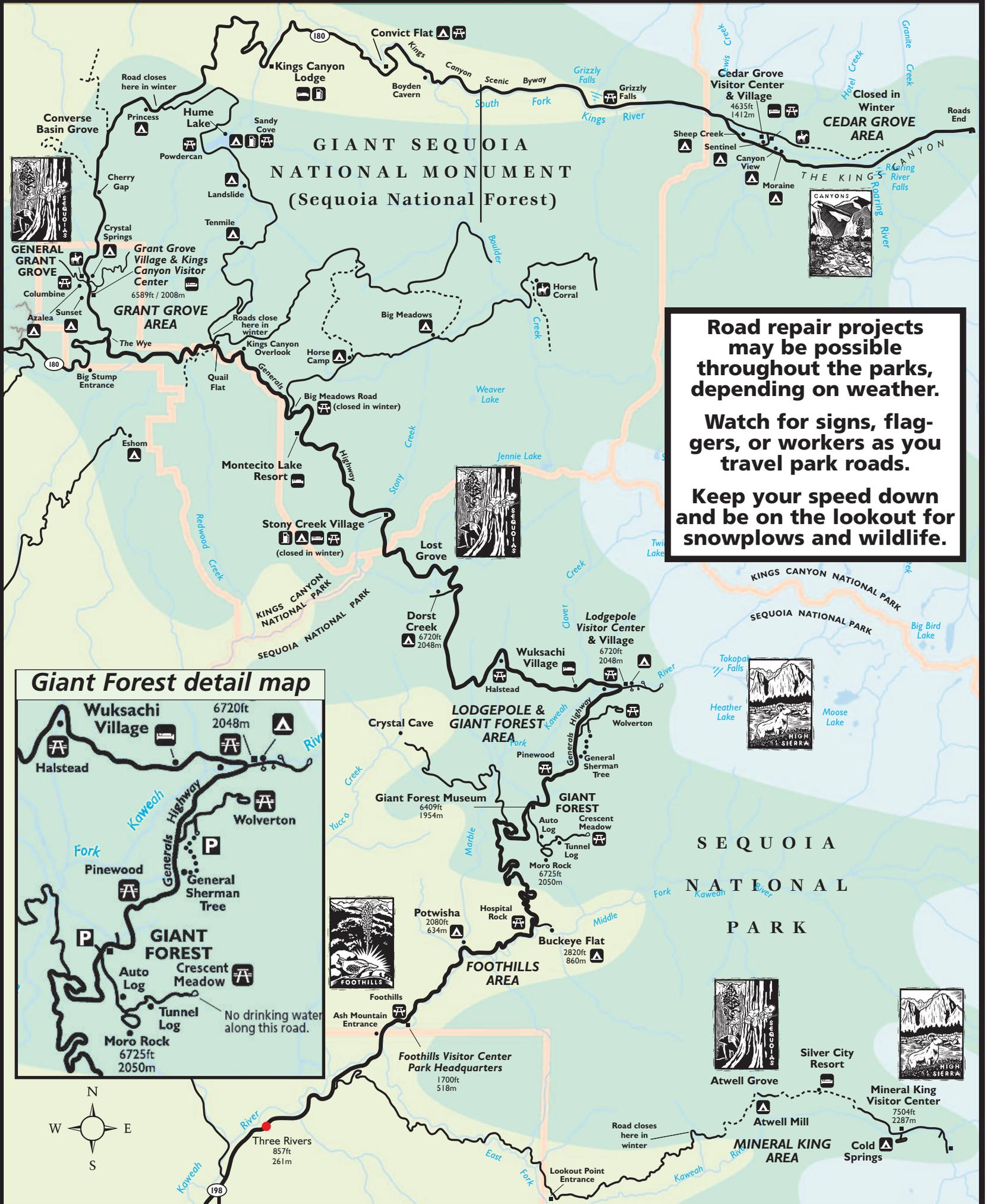
Grades of 5-8%.
Downshift to avoid overheated or failed brakes. See page 5.

DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER:

- FROM FOOTHILLS TO:**
 Giant Forest - 1 hour.
 Lodgepole - 1 hour.
 Visalia - 1 hour.
 Mineral King - 1-1/2 hour. Road closed Nov 1 to late May.
- FROM GIANT FOREST TO Grant Grove - 1 hour.**
- FROM GRANT GROVE TO:**
 Cedar Grove - 1 hour. Road closed mid-Nov to late April.
 Fresno - 1-1/2 hours.
 Yosemite south entry via Hwy 41 - 3 hrs.

LIFE ZONES:

- High Sierra - 9,000 to 14,500 feet.**
Summer: Warm to chilly days; nights down to low 30s. Winter: frigid.
- Conifer zone - 5,000 to 9,000 feet.**
Summer: Warm days & cool nights. Winter: deep snow, cold days.
- Foothills zone - 1,500 to 5,000 feet.**
Mild, wet winters; hot, dry summers. Cedar Grove is cooler than the foothills, but hotter than Grant Grove.

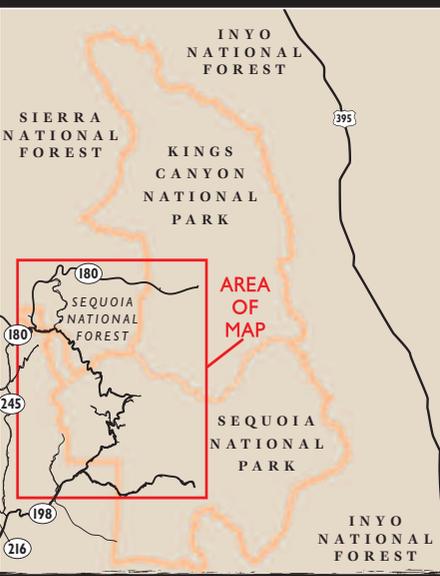
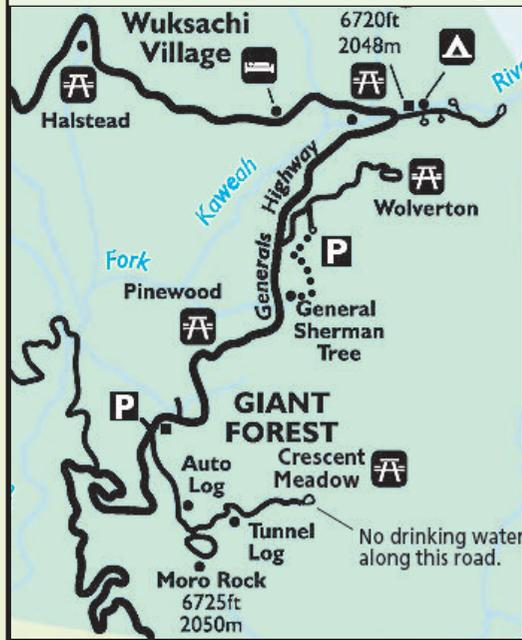


Road repair projects may be possible throughout the parks, depending on weather.

Watch for signs, flaggers, or workers as you travel park roads.

Keep your speed down and be on the lookout for snowplows and wildlife.

Giant Forest detail map



WINTER 2009-10

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

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