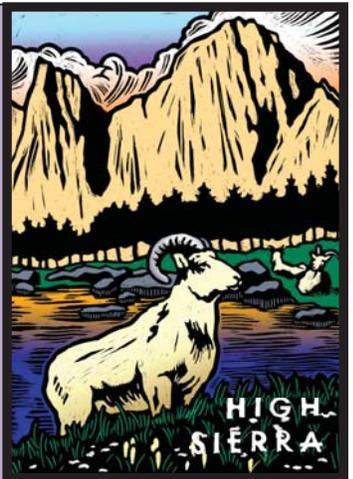
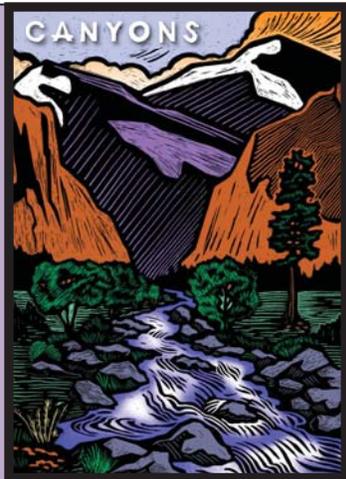


# Visitor Guide: Late Winter 2014 - 2015

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



## A birthday gift to national parks

In 2015, Sequoia marks its 125<sup>th</sup> year as a national park, while Kings Canyon National Park reaches its 75<sup>th</sup> year! In 2016, we observe the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service itself.

What better time to take action and help these parks meet the challenges of this century? Inside the parks or out, you can celebrate by helping them to thrive.

Teachers and parents: Share the purpose and promise of national parks with students and children, offering them both short-term delights and deep, life-long connections to these places of national significance and beauty.

There are so many ways to make a difference: Artist Dave Williams donated his spectacular logo art for the park anniversaries. A volunteer videographer produced a film about the High Sierra Trail's history for all to learn from and enjoy.

"River rovers" work successfully every year to reduce drownings by delivering safety messages to visitors along park rivers. Thanks to the Volunteers in Parks program, we all enjoy refinished picnic tables, erased graffiti, and restored meadows, among other benefits.

You can help from home, too.

Since parks and towns alike share the same air and water, conservation at home helps parks, as well.

Join the anniversary spirit; stand up for your national parks. A volunteer project may be waiting for your time and talent. Visit [www.nps.gov/seki/supportyourpark](http://www.nps.gov/seki/supportyourpark). Thank you!



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## Telephone & Internet

**911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911**  
No coins needed in payphones.

### Limited Cell Signals & Service

See pay-phone locations by area, pages 8-9.

### Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu then: for roads/weather/fire, press 1; camping/lodging 2; wilderness 4; and more.

### GPS, Web & Social Media

GPS programs sometimes misdirect travellers here. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions.

The only official park information sources online:



Website:  
[nps.gov/seki](http://nps.gov/seki)



Facebook:  
Sequoia and Kings  
Canyon National Parks



Twitter:  
SequoiaKingsNPS

### Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, [fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://fs.usda.gov/sequoia)

### Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, [nps.gov/yose](http://nps.gov/yose)

### California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

1-800-427-7623, [dot.ca.gov](http://dot.ca.gov)

### Wi-Fi

At lobbies in Wuksachi and John Muir lodges, Grant Grove Restaurant, and at Montecito Lake Resort (see *Lodging* page 5).

## Translations

**Welcome** - You may borrow a Braille copy of the park map & guide 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.

**Willkommen** - 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.

## Visitor Centers, Book Stores, & Information Desks

Each offers park and area information, varied exhibits and films, and many sales items such as books, maps, gifts, and postcards. All profits from park visitor centers support the parks!

### Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits on life in the low elevations. Book store. 1-559-565-4212. Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quien habla Español. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside visitor center.

### Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits on sequoias. Book store. 1-559-565-4480. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center. No pay-phone; closest are outside at Lodgepole Market & Wolverton.

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 9am-4:30pm (closed 12-1pm through 4/5, then open through lunch). Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Book store. 1-559-565-4307. Self-issue local wilderness permits at permit box outside.

### Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in the Forest Service office in Dunlap, 19 miles west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251, [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

### Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Closed; reopens 5/8/15. Pay phone outside.

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center (in Kings Canyon)

(NPS) Road & facilities closed until April.

### Mineral King Ranger Station (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Closed until late May. Self-issue wilderness permits on station porch and roadside near Atwell Mill Campground. See more details on page 12.



## Partners in the Parks

The following work together to protect these lands, provide services, and publish this guide, which was first printed in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*.

- Editor: NPS - Malinee Crapsey.
- Publisher: SNHA (see below).
- Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.



**National Park Service (NPS)** - federal agency in Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3341, [nps.gov/seki](http://nps.gov/seki)

**Forest Service (FS)** - federal agency in Dept. of Agriculture: 1-559-784-1500, [fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://fs.usda.gov/sequoia)

**Geological Survey (USGS)** - federal agency in Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3171, [werc.usgs.gov](http://werc.usgs.gov)

**Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)** - non-profit park partner designated by Congress: 1-559-565-3759, [sequoiahistory.org](http://sequoiahistory.org)

**Sequoia Parks Foundation (SPF)** - non-profit park partner: 559-739-1668, [sequoiaparksfoundation.org](http://sequoiaparksfoundation.org)

**DNC Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNC)** - concessioner providing lodging & food services: 1-888-252-5757, [visitsequoia.com](http://visitsequoia.com)

## Connect to your national park!



The Sequoia Natural History Association - or SNHA - is the park's partner in enriching visitor experience and promoting awareness of public lands. They offer educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving the natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

### SNHA offers all this:

- EdVenture & Sequoia Field Institute (SFI) courses, tour-guide services — see page 5!
- Bear-resistant food-container rentals
- Park Partnership & in-park volunteer program
- Visitor-center stores & Pear Lake Ski Hut
- Free & low-cost school programs
- Ranger program supplies
- Funds exhibit, research, & black-bear protection
- Park books, maps, & this guide
- Visitor information



# Change: 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 those 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.



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove

## 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 natural processes. Two of these resulted in big problems:

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

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small fir trees increased tremendously. Frequent, relatively small natural fires used to burn these away. Now, after fire's century-long absence, this growth fuels bigger, hotter blazes that are more

dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife.

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 restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but, when and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning 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.

# 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. This is because the competitors, predators, and diseases that keep them in check in their home communities are not here. This imbalance breaks links in the local web of life, badly disrupting native species that depend on each other. Sometimes the non-native aliens completely replace local 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!

## Imminent Alien Threats!

**Star thistle** is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny growth completely excludes native plants and limits wildlife movements. It is not yet established in these parks, but it is close!



If you recognize its yellow flower and thorny spines from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in. If you see it here, tell a ranger.

**New Zealand mud snails** completely take over and change waterways that they invade. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population!



These tiny light-brown animals—less than 1/8-inch long—stick on your gear. Check boots, waders, and boats thoroughly for this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.

# 4

## Camping

Check regulations at each campground. Rules vary between the Park and National Forest (see details on page 9). Each standard campsite has a table and fire ring with grill. No hook-ups in the park.

**You must store food correctly all year due to black bears.** The park supplies many 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high bear boxes. Page 11 has details.

**Summer reservations:** See \* on chart (to the right) for reservable campgrounds in Sequoia National Park (NPS) and in National Forest (FS). Reservations available up to 6 months in advance: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov); 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

### Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

- **Up to 6 people:** Many campgrounds limit a site to 1 vehicle & 6 people. Check locally for variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.
- **7 to 19 people:** Summer only, first-come/first-served sites: groups of 7-15 at Crystal Springs; groups 7-19 at Canyon View, \$35/site.
- **Larger groups:** Reservations for large-group sites in Dorst Creek, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove in the national park or in the national forest: 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

### Campfires & Firewood

- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees.
- Firewood: Please don't transport it. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find/buy wood close to where you will use it. If you brought wood, please burn it up before you go.
- Fires must be out cold before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), a FS ranger, or download from [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

### Propane Canisters

Do not put propane or fuel canisters in park trash-cans or leave them here. Recycle them at home.

### Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument: Permitted unless posted otherwise.

### Quiet & Generator Hours

Music should be audible in your site only. Use generators 9am-9pm only. At Lodgepole & Dorst use them 8-11am & 5-8pm only.

### RV & Trailer Length Limits

Check limits & advisories on back page. There are limited spaces for RVs more than 30 feet long.

## Campgrounds: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Footfalls Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low elevation oaks and chaparral.
* Potwisha - 40 sites Open all year.	\$22. Reservable all year.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
* Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Closed.	\$22. Reservable for 5/20 through 9/29/15.	No RVs or trailers. River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha. Opens 3/25/15, conditions permitting.
South Fork - 10 sites All year.	\$12. No drinking water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high. Non-potable water turned on by late May, conditions permitting.
<b>Mineral King Area closed</b>	<b>Elevation 6650' - 7500'</b>	<b>No RVs or trailers. No electricity/gasoline. Road opens late May.</b>
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Closed. Opens late May.	\$12	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, showers nearby at Silver City (summer only).
Cold Springs - 40 sites Closed. Opens late May.	\$12	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City (summer only). Bear boxes in varied sizes.
<b>Lodgepole Area closed</b>	<b>Elevation 6700'</b>	<b>* Reservations available in summer.</b>
* Lodgepole - 205 sites Closed. Opens mid-April.	\$22. Reservable for 5/20 through 9/29/15.	Pay phone, flush toilets, RV dump station. River. Food, showers, laundry nearby in summer. Generator use from 8-11am & 5-8pm only.
* Dorst Creek - 210 sites Closed. Opens mid-June.	\$22. Reservable for 6/17 through 9/8/15.	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Generator use from 8-11am & 5-8pm only.
<b>Grant Grove Area</b>	<b>Elevation 6500'</b>	<b>A forested area near sequoias.</b>
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year.	\$18. Limited sites available in winter.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers.
Crystal Springs - 36 sites Closed. Opens late May.	Tent/RV standard sites \$18. * Mid-size group sites \$35.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby: food, showers in summer. * 14 group sites for group sizes of 7 to 15 reservable for 5/20 through 10/14/15.
Sunset - 157 sites Closed. Opens late May.	\$18. *Large group site reservable for 5/20 through 9/8/15.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer.
<b>Cedar Grove Area closed.</b>	<b>Elevation 4600'</b>	<b>On the floor of the Kings Canyon. Road to area opens April 24.</b>
Sentinel - 83 sites Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Opens late April.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Closed. Opens late May.	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
* Canyon View - 12 group sites Closed. No RVs or trailers.	\$35 Mid-size groups (7-19); \$50 Large groups (20-40).	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. *Reservable for 5/20 through 9/8 (mid-size) & 9/29 (large size).
Moraine - 120 sites Closed.	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Opens for Memorial Day weekend, then for July 4th week.
<b>Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (FS)</b>		
<b>Hume Lake Area</b>	<b>Elevation 4000' - 5900'</b>	<b>Between Grant Grove &amp; Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.</b>
* Princess - 88 sites Closed.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. RV dump station \$10. Extra car \$7.
* Hume Lake - 74 sites Closed.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7.
* Tenmile - 13 sites Open.	\$20 single, \$40 double No drinking water.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7.
Landslide - 9 sites Closed.	\$20 single, \$40 double	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Closed.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
<b>Big Meadows &amp; Stony Creek</b>	<b>Elevation 6400 - 7500'</b>	<b>*Reservable in summer.</b>
* Stony Creek - 49 sites Closed.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge. Extra car \$7. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high
* Upper Stony - 18 sites Closed.	\$20 single, \$40 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Food, laundry, showers nearby. Extra car \$7. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites	Free. No water. Closes with snowfall.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow has bear boxes ~47" long, 33" deep, 28" high.
<b>For information on camping in wilderness, see page 11.</b>		

## Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

Lodging is available in three areas within these parks, and in several adjacent locations in neighboring national forest:

### In these National Parks

#### IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (DNC):

##### • Wuksachi Lodge

All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). North of Lodgepole two miles at 7200'. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

#### IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

(DNC) Reservations 1-877-436-9617; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). Lodging in two areas:

##### • Grant Grove Cabins & John Muir Lodge

All year. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts at 6500'. 1-559-335-5500

##### • Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon

Closed until spring. Motel, eatery, market at 4600'.

### Sequoia National Forest

#### Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; desk 1-559-565-3388; [www.mslodge.com](http://www.mslodge.com). On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, seasonal & children's activities.

#### Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)

(KCPS) Mid-May to early October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, gasoline, pizza, market, showers, laundry.

#### Big Meadows Cabin (FS)

July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Historic station south of Grant Grove.

### On Private Land in Park/Forest

\* **Note:** These two lodges on private land surrounded by national park or forest cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by these agencies.

#### \* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Closed until late May. [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com); 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery.

#### \* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

Open April to as late as mid-November. Call for reservations: 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Lodge, food, gasoline.

### Neighboring Towns

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging & camping. Ask at visitor centers or see [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit).

## Programs & Tours - Late Winter 2014-15

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### Ranger Talks

Free programs may be offered, depending on weather and staffing. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for schedules and locations.

**Walks, Talks, or Evening Programs** may be offered on weekends at John Muir Lodge in Grant Grove and in Wuksachi Lodge or in the foothills of Sequoia. You don't need to be a lodge guest to attend; all are welcome! See bulletin boards.

### Snowshoe Walks

When snow conditions permit, these may be offered on weekends or holidays. Snow shoes are provided.

Check bulletin boards at Giant Forest and Grant Grove.

You can also rent snowshoes at Wuksachi and Grant Grove (see pages 8 & 9). Try this fun way of exploring the winter woods!



### Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These guides help you see, paint, photograph, or write as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy! SNHA members may get a discount on SFI activities: 1-559-565-4251; [sfi@sequoiahistory.org](mailto:sfi@sequoiahistory.org)

### Junior Ranger Program

FREE for all ages, from age 5 to 105! To earn your badge, pick up a free booklet at any visitor center and complete the activities for your age group.

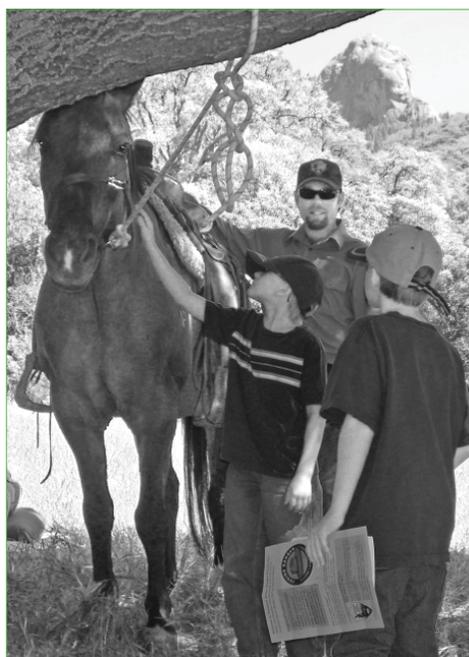
### Touring on Horseback

Closed until spring. Openings depend on weather.

- Cedar Grove 1-559-337-2314
- Grant Grove 1-559-335-9292
- Horse Corral in National Forest 1-559-679-3573

### Crystal Cave Tours

Tours start again May 9, 2015, weather and conditions permitting. Return then to see exotic cave formations in an underground wilderness—a highlight of these national parks!



Join us on April 18<sup>th</sup> for Junior Ranger Family Day!

### Teachers & Parents, Take Note!

**Expand your classroom:** Invite a ranger to your class, visit the parks with your school group, download lesson plans, and participate in distance learning. All education programs are standards-based and free! See <http://www.nps.gov/seki/forteachers>.

Review all safety advice on page 10. Carry a map and warm clothes. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going.

## The Foothills

These lower elevations offer wonderful winter visits—green and usually snowless!

**Foothills Visitor Center:** 8am-4:30pm.

### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Careful: Drownings occur here too often! Always store food to keep it away from bears.

**Marble Falls Trail** climbs 3.7 miles (6 km) to a waterfall. Park across the highway from Potwisha (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow a dirt road across a concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

### Paradise Creek

At Buckeye Flat Campground, take the path across from site #28 across the footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1½ miles (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

## Mineral King

Open late May to late October, weather permitting. The steep road ends at 7800', the park's highest road. Check forecasts before heading out. No gasoline or electricity. Until spring, the road is gated at the park boundary (~9 miles from Hwy 198); ask at Foothills Visitor Center for a pass through the gate.



Winter forest near Lodgepole

## Giant Forest

Winter parking is across from the Giant Forest Museum. Next-closest restroom is at the Sherman Tree. Once snow accumulates, rent snowshoes and cross-country skis at Wuksachi Lodge. Snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends (page 5).

### Giant Forest Museum

Daily 9am-4:30pm. See page 2. Walking and skiing trail maps available for sale.

### 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 Giant Forest Museum on Generals Highway and ends at Crescent Meadow. *Walkers and snowshoers: Please don't walk in ski tracks.* Highlights:

- 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 any ice or snow is on the stairs; it is very dangerous. Spectacular views. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

- Tunnel Log: Through a fallen sequoia. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.
- Crescent Meadow: Several walking and ski trails connect here. It is 1 mile (1.6 km) from here to Tharp's Log.

### General Sherman Tree

If conditions permit, the upper trail and main parking stay open until significant snow falls. From the Generals Hwy, take the Wolverton Road between the Sherman Tree and Lodgepole and follow signs. From there you walk down to the tree. Once much snow flies, access to the world's largest tree is only from the parking area along the Generals Highway. The trail from there may not be plowed; snow is usually packed down enough to walk on, but it is often slippery — be careful.

### Big Trees Trail

Walk this 2/3-mile (1 km) paved trail (no yellow markers) that circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Try skiing or snowshoeing it once the snow gets deep!



## Snowplay Areas & Winter Trails

### Avoid Sledding Injuries!

People are seriously injured *every* year.

- Slide feet first. Steer clear of trees, rocks, people, and other obstacles. After you slide, move out of the way of other sledders. Fast sledding and collisions cause most injuries; Page 10 has more safety tips.
- Play only in designated areas. Don't sled or ski into roads. Snowplay is prohibited in park residential areas and other areas as signed.
- In case of emergency: Dial 911 from the nearest pay phone (cell signals are usually poor).

### Wolverton

Wolverton Road starts two miles north of the Sherman Tree (see page 8). It is plowed Friday-Sunday plus Wednesdays and holidays. Sledding is at the end of the road. After storms, it may take hours to open this road as plows must clear the main road first. Pay telephone is outside the building next to the restrooms.

Snowplay is prohibited in the Sherman Tree Trail area. See safety messages in the next column!

### Grant Grove

Use Big Stump & Columbine picnic areas (see map on page 9). Snowplay is prohibited in the Grant Tree Trail area. Azalea Campground is for campers only, not those who are just snow-playing. Pay telephones are located outside visitor center, market, & gift shop.

### Nearby Forest Service areas:

Quail Flat, Big Meadows, Cherry Gap. See the map on page 8.

**Review all safety advice on page 10. Carry a map and warm clothes. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going.**

## Grant Grove

Grant Tree Trail is the only intermittently plowed trail. Beware of slippery ice! Once snow is deep, rent skis or snowshoes at Grant Grove Gift Shop. Buy a ski trail map and follow the colored markers on trees. Guided snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends.

## Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Daily 9am-4:30pm (closed 12-1pm). Details, page 2.

## General Grant Tree Trail

May be plowed in winter. General Grant, one of the world's largest living trees, stands along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A guide is sold at the visitor center. It is also a living national shrine. Northwest 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)." When not closed by snow, no trailers or RVs.

## Overlooks & Views Nearby

- **McGee Vista Point:** For sunset views and a look out over the Central Valley, drive about 3 miles (5km) north of Grant Grove Village on the Generals Highway.

## Finding Your Way

When snow makes it very hard to follow a trail on the ground, be careful not to get lost. It may be easier to follow ski-trail markers. These colored markers are placed intermittently on trees, above eye level. When you are standing by one, you should be able to see the next one; each points in the direction of the next marker. Thank you for not walking in the ski tracks.

Be sure to buy a map at the visitor center if you plan to use unpaved trails. It's important to get advice that matches the current conditions.

- **Kings Canyon Overlook:** To look north-east across the top of the Kings Canyon to the High Sierra, drive about 7 miles south of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway.

- **Redwood Mountain Overlook:** About 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, this overlook faces west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves.

- **Kings Canyon Overlook:** For a view of the High Sierra, drive about 7 miles south of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway.

## Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

Highway 180 down into the canyon closes in winter due to rock falling from canyon walls onto the road. CalTrans reopens the road in late April (see page 12 for scheduled dates).

## National Forest (USFS)

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, a part of Sequoia National Forest. Check page 12 for road closures, and see page 9 for some information about how the national parks and the national forests differ.

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 (page 9 has details). Get information and a map at Kings Canyon Visitor Center.

- **Cherry Gap:** 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.

- **Quail Flat** (on the Generals Highway, 6 miles/9.6km south of Hwy 180) has 23 miles (37km) of trails and snowmobile routes. Some connect to Big Meadows.

- **Big Meadows** (on the Generals Highway, 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).



Plowing the Generals Highway

## The Generals Highway

Driving this 80-year-old roadway is part of the experience of these parks. It carries you up almost a mile in elevation, and connects the General Sherman Tree to the General Grant Tree, thereby earning its name.

It can be a challenge to keep the road clear in the winter. Nicknamed "Sierra cement," local snows tend to harden over time, challenging even the parks' heaviest equipment.

Spring can offer even more challenges. Loosened by the freeze-thaw cycles of warming days but still-icy nights, rock falls add complications to getting the roads open. When machinery can't push or pull the large granite blocks off the pavement, park staff must blast them into smaller pieces.

Aside from the annual efforts to keep it passable, an intense effort is underway to upgrade the Generals Highway from the bottom up. For decades, a skin of pavement barely improved the original wagon road. Current work is building a route that can handle today's large numbers of modern vehicles, without losing the joys of a mountain road.

*See page 12 for tips on driving these roads in winter.*



Spring rockfall on the Generals Highway

## 8 Facilities: Sequoia

In winter, many facilities are closed. Be sure to stop at Foothills Visitor Center for updates on road conditions and what winter activities are available.

### Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees. See page 6 for information on exploring.

### Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Daily 9am-4:30pm (see page 2). Closest pay phones are at Wolverton or outside Lodgepole Market.

### Lodgepole

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River.

### Lodgepole Village & Visitor Center

Closed until spring. Openings begin mid-April.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside market & visitor center.

### Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. (DNC) Year-round lodging & food service in Sequoia, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree.

**Dining Room:** Daily 7:30-9:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm. Dinner reservations are required. Box lunches are available. Lounge 5-8:30pm. 1-559-565-4070.

### Alta Market & Ski Shop

Daily 10am-5pm. Limited supplies, snowplay sales. When conditions permit, cross-country ski/snowshoe rentals start at 9am.

### Lodging

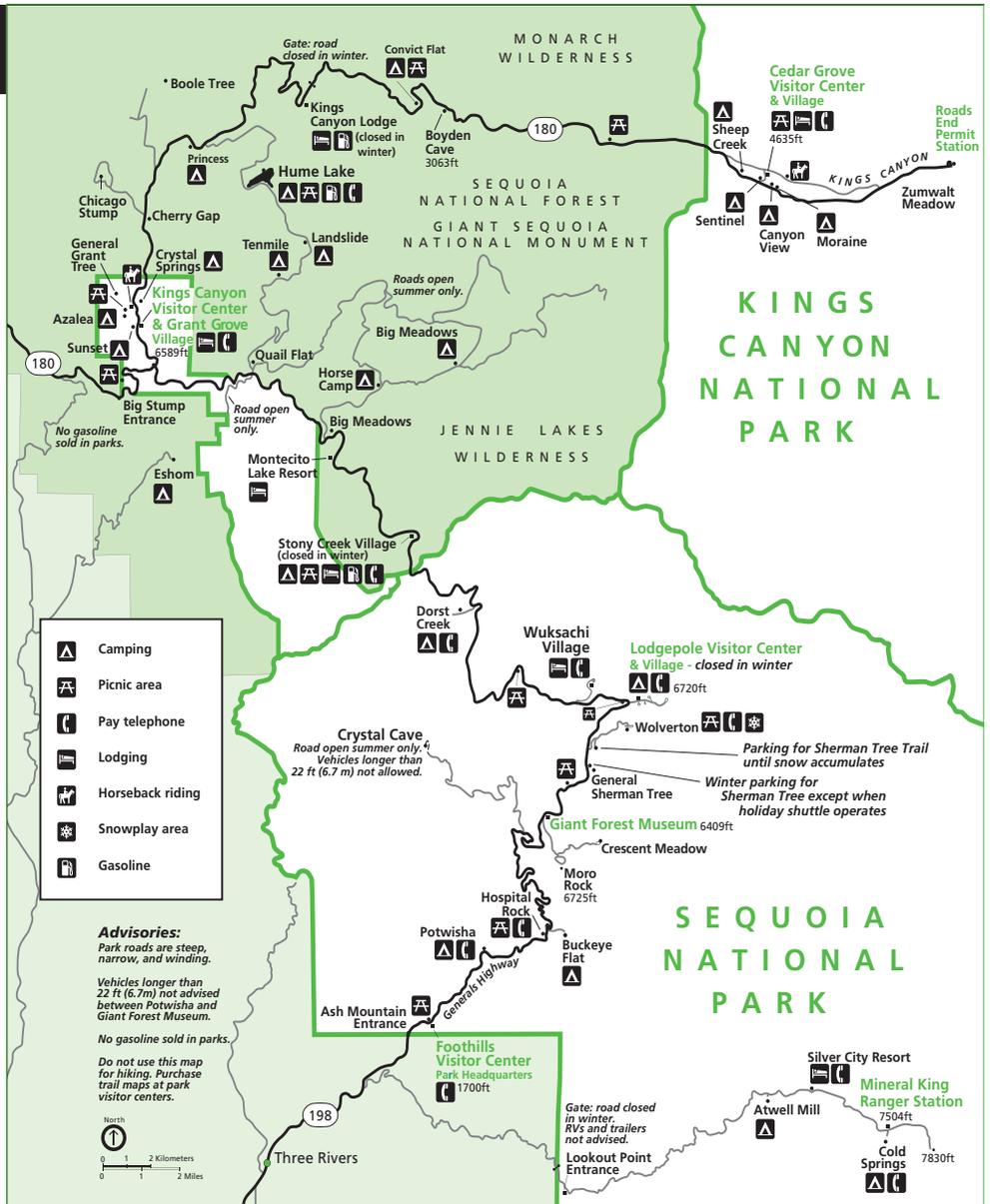
Details on page 5. Desk 24 hours: 1-559-565-4070. Pay telephones at main lodge.

### Gift Shop

Daily 8am-8pm. Souvenirs, clothing, crafts.

### Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Winter snowplay area (see page 6).



### Mineral King Area

Road, camping, ranger station, and Silver City Mountain Resort (see page 5) closed until late May, weather depending.

### Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area.

### Foothills Area

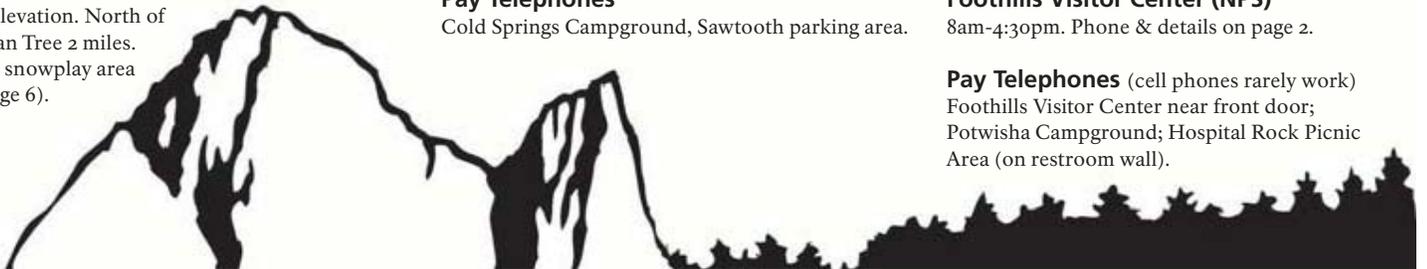
1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is by the Foothills Visitor Center.

### Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. Phone & details on page 2.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).



In winter, facilities are more limited than in summer. Stop at the visitor center in Grant Grove for exhibits and a film.

## Grant Grove

6600' elevation. Near a pristine sequoia grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

## Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS)

9am-4:30pm. 559-565-4307. Details on page 2.

## Village Center (KCPS)

- Restaurant: Daily 7:30-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, & 4-7:30pm.
- Gift Shop/Convenience market: Daily 9am-5pm. ATM. Limited supplies, clothes, gifts, food. Main market Friday-Sunday 9am-6pm.
- Lodging: Desk 7am-11pm. Next to restaurant. 1-559-335-5500. See page 5.

## U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-4pm. 24-hour lobby. Send visitor mail to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 559-335-2499.

## Lodging (KCPS)

Desk 7am-10pm. 559-335-5500. Details on page 5.

## National Forest & Monument

Hume Lake & Big Meadows areas: Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, lies between Lodgepole and Grant Grove as well as between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

## USFS Hume Lake District Office

Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Phone & details on page 2.

## Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

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

## Lodging

Details on page 5.

## Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. On public land, along Generals Highway

9 miles south of Grant Grove. Meals 8am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities, cross-country skiing, sledding. When the Generals Hwy closes between the parks, it is accessible only from Highway 180 via the Grant Grove area. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

## Hume Lake

All year. Open to the public: Gas station (24-hours with credit card); market, snack shop. On private land north of Grant Grove 6 miles on Hwy 180, & right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

## Gasoline Sales

All year at Hume Lake; summer only at Stony Creek & Kings Canyon Lodge. Details on page 12.

## Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee)

Closed until spring. 888-965-8243.

## Stony Creek Resort (FS)

Closed until spring. 1-559-565-3909.

## Horseback Riding

Closed for the season. Details on page 5.

## Cedar Grove

Highway 180 to Cedar Grove is closed below the Hume Lake junction. The road reopens, conditions permitting, as far as Yucca Point on 4/10 at noon, and down to Cedar Grove on 4/24 at noon.

## Basic Rules & Regulations:

National Parks & National Forests lie next to each other here. Some activities are illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. Which are you in now?

Can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
Walk my leashed pets?	Not on any trails. OK 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). Certified service dogs only (not assistance or therapy animals); see <a href="http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010">www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010</a>	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
Collect things to take home?	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.	Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted.
Hunt?	Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.	Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
Drive off-road?	Not in the parks. Stay on roads.	Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
Cut wood?	Not in the Parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	Restrictions are in effect in the park and forest; always check locally for up-to-date information. In park, only in fire grills in some campgrounds & some picnic areas.	Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
Go fishing?	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
Ride a bicycle?	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles.
Snowmobile?	Not in the parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.



## You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Cold temperatures, icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather all pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims just walking or climbing near rivers unexpectedly fell in.

The National Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

### DROWNING

The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be careful around water; 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. Currents are always stronger than they appear, even during low water. Ask at visitor centers about river conditions.

### DISEASE PRECAUTIONS

Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. Avoid areas of rodent activity, as fleas on rodents can carry *plague* and deer mice feces can carry *hantavirus*. *West Nile virus* is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

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



### GIARDIA

This protozoan in lakes and streams causes 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 from waterways for at least 3 minutes.

### POISON OAK

A common shrub up to 5000 feet elevation. Red leaves and whitish berries in fall; bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



### HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; 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. Keep an eye on children who are wet or cold from snowplay.

### RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills and near water. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



### LIGHTNING

See dark clouds or lightning? 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 your surroundings, 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.

### CARBON MONOXIDE

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

### OZONE POLLUTION

See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra Nevada on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest from 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.

### WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here; don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9).

### MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout the parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. Cautiously move away if you find a partially buried animal carcass. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey:

- Don't run; that may trigger pursuit.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the cougar.
- If the cougar acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back! Report any sightings.



### DRINKING WATER

We test the 13 park water systems to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

### ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

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

### KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

Pets are vulnerable to wildlife, ticks, and overheating in vehicles. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

### TREE HAZARDS

Branches may fall, whether or not they appear dead. When under trees, stay aware. Run if you hear cracks or snapping overhead. Don't linger under dead, cracked, or broken branches. Report falling branches or trees to a ranger.

## Explore Safely

- Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.
- Take a map and a warm clothes.
- Watch and listen for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.
- Trails and sidewalks may be slippery with ice, sand, water, or leaves.
- Slow down. Share the road with people and wildlife.

## Bear Habitat: Proper food storage is the law!

**Bears can grab unattended food or easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.**

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. Follow the rules below to reduce (but not eliminate) the risk of a bear break-in.

### Drivers

Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes are provided.

### Picnickers

Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

### Lodge Guests

Remove food from your vehicles.



### Campers

Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid bringing coolers that won't fit; most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even non-food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take baby seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

### Backpackers

Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a portable container. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few wilderness locations offer backup storage. Rent/buy a container at visitor centers or markets.

### Everyone

Don't let bears approach you, your food, picnic area or campsite. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

## Wilderness

11

Over 800,000 acres of designated wilderness in these parks provide outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined types of recreation.



Check for updated requirements or fire restrictions before leaving on your trip.

Following minimum-impact regulations helps to protect both the wilderness and your experience. Wild places include hazards and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant.

Permits are required for all overnight trips. They are limited during the summer quota period (May 22, 2015 through late September) and cost \$15. Permits can be reserved by mail or fax beginning March 1. Outside of the quota period, permits are free and can be self-issued at the permit station or visitor center closest to your trailhead (see page 2).

**Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (FS):** Permits are not required but please complete a registration card at Jennie Lakes trailheads. Information is used to manage the wilderness effectively. USFS requires a free fire permit for any open flame; downloadable from [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia). Check for any fire restrictions.

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

See [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness) or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks  
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

## Seasonal Wilderness Lodgings

• **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC):** Open June 13 to September 20, snow permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken by phone starting 7am on the first business day in January; 866-807-3598. See [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com).

• **Pear Lake Ski Hut (SNHA):** Winter only. The hut sits high above Lodgepole at 9,200' elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.

## Your fees help the Parks & the Forest!

Most fees get invested here to improve and protect these parks: They repair roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They update visitor centers, exhibits, and slide programs. For more on these and commercial fees, ask park staff or search [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) for "fees."

**Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks plus Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest):**

• **7-day pass:** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

• **12-Month Pass:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave).

**Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide:**

• **Annual:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Annual Military:** Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD173.

• **Seniors:** \$10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Accessibility:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations (not valid at Crystal Cave).

## 12 Park Roads: Late Winter 2014-15

### Gas Up Outside the Parks

There are no gas stations within park boundaries. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770.  
Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 9 miles (14 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Other stations are closed for the winter.

### Rules & Recommendations

#### Chains May be Required at Any Time

Always carry chains that fit your tires and obey signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; most cars have them. Check the side of your tires: If you see *M/S*, *M+S*, or a snowflake symbol embedded in the rubber, it's a snowtire.

#### Expect Icy 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 1, then 1 again).

#### Get Snow Off Car Roofs

It may slide onto the windshield and block the driver's vision.

#### Snowplows Rule

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

#### Don't Lose Your Brakes

Frequent braking causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

#### Emergency Car Repairs

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

#### Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

#### Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under age 18: helmet required.

#### Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit wildlife that waits for handouts on roadsides.

### Winter Road Closures

*All schedules depend on weather conditions:*

#### Generals Highway between the parks:

- **From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Hwy 180 (in Grant Grove):** The road may close during and after snowstorms. If enough heavy snow falls, the road may remain closed through March 27; after that it is plowed 6am - 6pm. This is subject to change.

#### In Kings Canyon & National Forest:

- **Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon:** Closed for winter by Caltrans at the Hume Lake junction. Reopens, conditions permitting, as far as Yucca Point at noon 4/10, and down to Cedar Grove at noon on 4/24.
- **Panoramic Point Road:** Closes with snow. Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- **Redwood Mountain road (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS):** Unpaved, rough. Closes with snow.

#### In Sequoia National Park:

- **Parking in Giant Forest area:** Across from the Giant Forest Museum. Restroom open 24 hours. Sherman Tree parking along Generals Highway and, unless snow falls, off the Wolverton Road (follow signs).
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Open until snowfall closes it. See more on page 6.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Closed until mid-May.
- **Wolverton Road & Snowplay Area:** If snow falls, the road is plowed Friday-Sunday plus Wednesdays and some holidays. Area is open other days if road is passable and safe without plowing. See page 6 for details.
- **Mineral King Road:** Scheduled to open 5/20, conditions permitting. For access past the first gate, contact the Foothills Visitor Center.
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet. Middle Fork closed in winter (park at Hospital Rock).

### Vehicle Length Limits

#### On Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park:

- **Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum:** longer than 22 feet not recommended.
- **Foothills Visitor Center to Potwisha Campground:** longer than 24 feet not recommended.

**Alternatives:** Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car with an RV, camp in the foothills and use the car.

## Driving Times

*When roads are clear and open:*

#### From Foothills to:

<b>Giant Forest</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Lodgepole</b>	<b>1 hour minimum</b>
<b>Visalia</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Mineral King (MK)</b>	<b>1½ hours</b> closed until late May

#### From Giant Forest to Grant Grove

via Generals Hwy **1 hour**  
Snowfall may close it through 3/27

#### From Grant Grove to:

<b>Cedar Grove</b>	<b>1 hour</b> closed until late April
<b>Fresno</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
<b>Yosemite south entry</b>	<b>3 hours</b> (via Hwy 41)

*Consider recycling  
this guide & your map.*

*You can leave them at  
visitor centers or  
park entrance stations.*

The Generals Highway winding up through the green foothills of winter

