

Winter Roads & Closures

All openings depend on weather and, in some areas, conditions left by the Rough Fire:

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. Starting January 4, the road may remain closed due to snowfall until March 18.

In Kings Canyon (NPS) & National Forest (USFS):

- **Hwy 180 down to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon:** Closed for winter by Caltrans at the Hume Lake junction. Reopens, conditions permitting, in late April.
- **Panoramic Point Road:** Closes with snow. Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- **Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile roads:** Closed for winter. Unpaved, unplowed, rutted.
- **Converse Basin, Cherry Gap, & other roads in the area of the Rough Fire (USFS):** Closed through winter. Unpaved, rutted, unplowed.

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:** Closes with snow (*see more on page 6*). No drinking water along this road.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Closed. Reopens late May, sooner if conditions permit.
- **Wolverton Road & Snowplay Area:** Through 3/18/16 the road is plowed Friday–Sunday plus Wednesdays and some holidays. Area is open other days if the road is passable and safe without plowing. (*See page 6 for details.*)
- **Mineral King Road:** Opens late May, conditions permitting. For access past the first gate, contact Foothills Visitor Center (*see page 2*).
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved; slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes in winter; park at Hospital Rock.

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 also required often, and 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. Watch for ice in shade or where the road looks wet. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Allow 6 seconds of stopping distance between cars.

Check conditions before going uphill

Call for 24-hour recorded road information: 1-559-565-3341, then press 1, then 1 again. Check your antifreeze, battery, and wipers, and carry clothing layers and a flashlight.

Clear Snow Off Car Roofs Before Driving

It may slide onto the windshield, blocking 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. They usually plow 6am–6pm.

Don't Lose Your Brakes

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.

Driving Times

When roads are clear and open:

From Foothills to:

Giant Forest	1 hour
Lodgepole	1 hour minimum
Visalia	1 hour
Mineral King	1½ hours
closed until late May	

From Giant Forest to Grant Grove

via Generals Hwy	1 hour
closed 1/4-3/18 if snowy	

From Grant Grove to:

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

Note: GPS often misdirects travellers in this area. Follow signs, use maps, or ask.

Gas Up Outside the Parks

No gas stations lie within the park boundaries. Fill up in Three Rivers (5 miles from Hwy 198 park entrance), Clingan's Junction (20 miles outside the Hwy 180 park entrance), or in the USFS at:

- **Hume Lake Christian Camp:** 559-305-7770. Usually available 24 hours with credit card (not international cards) all year. 11 miles north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180. Other nearby stations on USFS land are closed for winter.

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.

