

Some roads, trails, and areas in Grant Grove and Giant Sequoia National Monument remain closed or limited this winter and next spring due to the effects of the Rough Fire. Cedar Grove, as usual, is closed for winter.

Grant Grove

Free guided snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends/holidays (*ask at the visitor center; see page 2*). Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove Village (*details, page 9*). Get a ski trail map (*see Finding Your Way, below*).

Grant Tree Trail

The only intermittently plowed trail in the area. Beware of slippery ice and packed snow! General Grant, one of the world's largest trees, grows along this 1/3-mile (0.5 km) paved trail. The tree is designated the Nation's Christmas Tree, as well as a living national shrine honoring those who gave their lives for our country (*see 90th Annual Trek, right*). Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile from the visitor center; go north on Hwy 180 then follow signs (1.6 miles).

Panoramic Point Road

Closed to cars 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, no trailers or RVs.

National Forest by Grant Grove

USFS - Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. See page 12 for road closures, and page 9 for ways that the national parks and the national forests differ:

Area Overlooks & Views

- **McGee Vista Point:** Westerly/sunset views; 3 miles north of Grant Grove Village.
- **Vista of Kings Canyon:** Take Hume Lake Road, 8 miles north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180. Watch on your left for an opening that reveals the chasm of the Kings River.
- **Redwood Mountain Overlook:** Faces west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. South of Grant Grove 6 miles, across Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction.
- **Kings Canyon Overlook:** View NE across the Kings Canyon to the High Sierra. On Generals Highway, 7 miles south of Grant Grove.

90th Annual Trek to the Tree

Held annually at the General Grant Tree at 2:30pm on the 2nd Sunday of December (12/13/15), to celebrate two honors given to the famous tree (*see Grant Tree Trail, left*). The Sanger Chamber of Commerce sponsors the event. Parking is limited, and chartered buses are available. For details, contact 1-559-875-4575 or www.sanger.org.



The Rough Fire - 2015

Lightning gave birth to the fire on July 31, high on the slope north of the Kings River canyon. Very rugged, steep terrain, and dry, hot conditions always make firefighting difficult here. After four years of harsh drought that have killed trees by the thousands, it was *extremely* challenging.

In addition, in such steep country, fire-fighting aircraft need to be able to see a certain distance in order to fly to the fire, release water or retardant accurately, then accelerate up and out of the mountains. Given the thick smoke held in the canyons, pilots sometimes could not see to fly.

The Rough Fire began on Sierra National Forest, east-northeast of Grant Grove. Within a few days it ran east to the park boundary northwest of Cedar Grove, as well as westward down the river canyon. On August 18, it sped south across the Kings River and crossed Highway 180 east of Junction View. This forced the evacuation of Cedar Grove.

Before long, fire officials also had to evacuate Hume Lake, Grant Grove, and foothill areas to the west. Winds and very active fire were starting spot fires up to one-half mile ahead of the fire front.

Fortunately, where previous prescribed burns had reduced forest fuels, the fire slowed. With many earlier burns around them, Grant Grove and Cedar Grove remained safe.

The majority of the fire was on national forest lands outside these parks. It included over 151,623 acres, one of the largest fires in California history.

Trails, & Playing Safe!

Wolverton

Wolverton Road starts two miles north of the Sherman Tree (*see page 8*). It is plowed during the day on Friday through 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 the messages in left-hand column for tips on safe sliding!

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 snowplaying. Pay telephones are located outside the visitor center, market, & gift shop.

Nearby Forest Service areas:

Areas at the Quail Flat, Big Meadows, and Cherry Gap trailheads are open for snowplay, but some areas around them may remain closed. Ask at visitor centers before you go.

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. Find these colored markers intermittently on trees, above eye level. When you are standing by one marker, you should be able to see another 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.