

The following activities in Grant Grove and parts of Giant Sequoia National Monument may be closed or limited due to fire this fall. Cedar Grove is closed for the season. See below for a link to fire updates.

Review safety advice (page 10). Be careful near rivers. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite. Carry a map. Be careful with fire!

Grant Grove

Kings Canyon Visitor Center - See page 2.

Grant Tree Trail

General Grant, one of the world's largest trees, grows along this 1/3-mile (0.5 km) paved trail. The tree is also a living national shrine. 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).

The Rough Fire - 2015

Lightning gave birth to the fire on July 31, high on the slope north of the Kings River canyon. Named for a creek near where it started, the Rough Fire has indeed proven to be a tough one to tame.

Very rugged, steep terrain, and dry, hot conditions typically make firefighting difficult here. This summer, after four years of harsh drought that have killed trees by the thousands of trees, it is *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, then accelerate up and out of the mountains. Given the thick smoke held in the canyons, there were times when pilots could not see to fly.

The Rough Fire started on Sierra National Forest, west of the Cedar Grove area of Kings Canyon National Park and east-northeast of Grant Grove. Within a few days it had worked its way east to the park boundary northwest of Cedar Grove, as well as westward down the river canyon.

On August 18, it ran south across the Kings River, up the south side of the canyon, and crossed Highway 180 at Horseshoe Bend east of Junction View and west of Convict Flat Campground. This closed the road to Cedar Grove and forced its evacuation.

As the fire raced south and west on national forest land toward Hume Lake, the facilities there were closed. Soon after, the Grant Grove area of Kings

North Grove Loop

This 1½-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet forest walk. Start at Grant Tree bus-parking area.

Panoramic Point Road

A narrow road to a trail to a Sierran vista. Trailers/RVs prohibited. Go east through visitor-center parking; follow signs to the paved, accessible trail to an overlook. Park Ridge Trail (5 miles/8 km round-trip) begins here. Closes with snow.

Redwood Mountain Sequoia Grove

Rutted dirt road to one of the world's largest Big Tree groves. Research here revealed the positive link between sequoias and fire. Across Generals Highway from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction;

Canyon National Park was also closed to visitors. Just two days later, a change in fire behavior allowed Grant Grove to open again.

However, the threat increased on the west side of Grant Grove as the fire continued toward the foothills of the San Joaquin Valley. Winds and very active fire behavior drove the fire uphill to the south, and started spot fires up to one-half mile away from its front.

Visitors as well as park and concession employees and their families had to leave Grant Grove, and areas west of the park were also evacuated. As of this printing (September 15), the boundary of the fire includes over 138,000 acres, one of the largest fires in California history. The majority of the acreage is on national forest lands outside the parks.

The fight continues. Areas where previous prescribed burns reduced forest fuels are helping to slow the fire in places. High hopes remain that there will be no more property damage or injuries.

With the vegetation and some guard rails burned away from stretches along the road into Cedar Grove, we know that extra work will be required to try to get the road open for next summer.

Firefighters from many agencies, local, state, and national, came forward to tackle the Rough Fire. Our ranger flat-hats are off to each and every one of them!

For updates, visit inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/4456/

7 miles south of Grant Grove. Turn right (west) at Redwood Saddle across from Quail Flat junction. Go 2 miles to parking lot. Loop trails up to 10 miles.

Area Overlooks & Views

- **McGee Vista Point:** Westerly/sunset views; 3 miles north of Grant Grove Village on the Generals Highway.
- **Kings Canyon Overlook:** View NE across the Kings Canyon to the High Sierra. On Generals Highway, 7 miles south of Grant Grove.
- **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.

National Forest around Grant Grove (USFS)

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, a part of Sequoia National Forest next door to these parks. Ask for a trail handout at the visitor center, and see page 12 for road information. Page 9 has details on how national parks and forests differ.

Converse Basin

Almost every sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk Boole Tree loop (2 miles / 3.2 km) to a monarch they spared (north of Grant Grove 6 miles); or walk ½-mile (0.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, cut to exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (north of Grant Grove 2 miles).

Hume Lake

Formed by a rare, historic dam, the lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles to Sanger. An easy 2½-mile trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles south on Hume Lake Road.

Buck Rock Lookout

A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11, then take Forest Road 13S04.



Historic Gamlin Cabin on Grant Tree Trail wrapped with foil to protect it from the Rough Fire's sparks.

Photo courtesy of Matt Connelly