



U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Sequoia National Forest
Giant Sequoia National Monument



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Interagency News Release / Fire Update

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Firefighters Taking Action to Contain Western Growth of Sheep Fire

The Sheep Fire Complex has grown to 6,990 acres (3,057 in Kings Canyon National Park, 3,933 acres in the Sequoia National Forest). Fire growth remains predominately to the west.

Firefighters continue actions to contain the western edge of the Sheep Fire based upon planned control objectives and to reduce smoke impacts. Fire crews have constructed firelines in advance of the western edge of the fire and are preparing the line (removing brush and trees) to stop the fire's growth. This fireline has been constructed at the safest location for firefighters as much of the terrain is steep and inaccessible. Planned burnout operations to remove fuels from the oncoming fire and provide better control of the western line are anticipated to begin tomorrow. Additional hotshot crews have been ordered to complete this assignment.

In addition, engines and crews continue patrolling along Highway 180 in Kings Canyon to prevent fire spread north of the Kings River. Fire growth to the east has been limited by previous prescribed and wildland fires. The south flank of the fire has slowed significantly due to scarce fuels and burnout operations previously completed.

Favorable fire behavior continues to be observed including creeping ground fire with occasional pockets of torching.

Visitors to the Cedar Grove area should anticipate significant smoke in the valley at periods throughout the day. Visitors to Hume Lake should expect smoke in the valley in the morning hours. This is based on inversion patterns that hold the smoke in the valley. As the day warms and the inversion breaks, smoke should lift out of the valley.

The Don Cecil Trail and the Rattlesnake Creek Trail in Kings Canyon National Park are closed. The Forest Service has expanded a temporary area closure on the Hume Lake Ranger District. The closure is between Horse Corral Meadow and the south side of California State Highway 180 and from Boulder Creek east to the boundary with Kings Canyon National Park.

To view the fire and associated smoke, go to the Sheep Fire Webcam at:
http://sierrafire.cr.usgs.gov/camHist/viewer09.pl?camera=3_mobile_knp_1&lastFrame=true

For tips on reducing your exposure to smoke, please visit <http://www.airquality.org/smokeimpact/>

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