



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

For Immediate Release – September 20, 2010
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Firefighters Work to Contain Western Growth of Sheep Fire

The Sheep Fire Complex has grown to 7,562 acres (3,078 in Kings Canyon National Park, 4,484 acres in the Sequoia National Forest). Fire growth remains predominately to the west.

Fire crews began burnout operations yesterday south of Deer Meadow. Burnout operations remove forest fuels from between the active wildfire edge and the recently constructed fireline. These efforts are to contain the western edge of the Sheep Fire to reduce smoke impacts and hold the fire east of Boulder Creek. Burnout operations and line improvements are planned to continue north along the line.

Fire crews remain on patrol along Highway 180 in Kings Canyon to prevent fire spread north of the Kings River.

Mildly cooler temperatures and higher relative humidities are forecast over the fire for next two days.

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 www.airquality.org/smokeimpact/

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