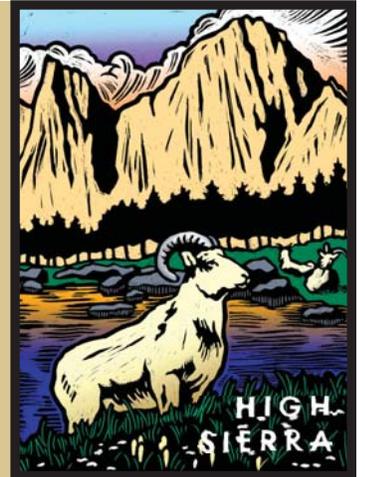




Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



Awaiting autumn rains

On May 1, the amount of water in the snow in these mountains was the third lowest in 60 years—10% of average. Last year the snowpack was also light.

Plants and animals native to the parks adjust their lifestyles to this water shortage, but it gets more difficult as time goes on.

Throughout the state, we need to conserve water until fall rains return. Park staff strive to reduce water use in a number of ways. Your added efforts to save water are appreciated by all the life that shares this landscape.

Given how very dry the landscape has gotten, we also need to be especially careful with fire.

Give nature a hand and follow the requests and requirements of such a dry season. Obey fire restrictions. Neighboring national forests may have even stricter limits on fires. Check for details at bulletin boards and visitor centers when you arrive:

- As of September 9, no barbecue or wood fires are permitted below 6,000 feet in the parks, except in designated campgrounds. This means no fires in foothills picnic areas, including Ash Mountain and Hospital Rock, or their environs. Exception: You may have a fire at the Cedar Grove picnic area. Giant Forest, Grant Grove, and Lodgepole lie above 6,000 feet. Gas or propane stoves may be used at all elevations.

- No smoking is permitted below 6000 feet except within 30 feet (9m) of a fire-safe ashtray outside buildings, hotels, and some developed areas; or in an enclosed vehicle or building that allows smoking. Stay in one place while smoking. Crush matches and butts then carry them to trash cans.

Thank you for helping to protect your national parks.



BENEFICIAL FIRES: It may surprise you to know that several fires are quietly burning in these parks. Far from roads and buildings, they are recycling nutrients and opening the forest floor to sunlight. Their low flames clear dead wood and litter from the forest floor. Park staff track fire activity and respond as needed, but most likely these fires will burn slowly until autumn rains.

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