

# Visitor Guide: Early Summer 2013

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



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



### Low water, high fire danger

On May 1, the amount of water held by snow in these mountains was the third lowest in 60 years. It totaled just 10% of average, according to the California Department of Water Resources.

Plants and animals native to the parks adjust their lifestyles to this water shortage, and so must we. Throughout the state, we need to conserve water until fall rains return.

Given how very dry the landscape has gotten, we also need to be especially careful with fire. Firefighting response may be stretched this year.

Give nature a hand and follow the requests and requirements of such a dry season. Obey fire restrictions, which may get tighter as summer goes on. Check bulletin boards or ask at visitor centers for updates.

- As of June 10, no wood or barbecue fires are permitted below 6,000 feet, except in designated campgrounds.

This means no cooking fires in Ash Mountain, Hospital Rock, or Cedar Grove picnic areas, although gas or propane stoves may be used at all elevations. Those hiking or riding in park wilderness must use stoves, not fires, below 6,000 feet in elevation. (Giant Forest and Grant Grove lie at about 6,500 feet.)

- No smoking below 6,000 feet is permitted, except within a developed area,

a campground, an enclosed vehicle, or a building which allows smoking. Outdoors above 6,000 feet, stay in one place while you smoke, then crush the match and butt until they are cold and don't leave them on the ground. These restrictions may change; check locally.

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.



HOT DRY SUMMERS and cool damp winters define the climate of these parks, but the dry season started early this year. Many plants were as dry in June as they would usually be in August. Life will adapt as best it can. Plants may shed leaves earlier or go dormant in summer. Animals may adjust the size and timing of their litters, and may change the timing of migration.

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