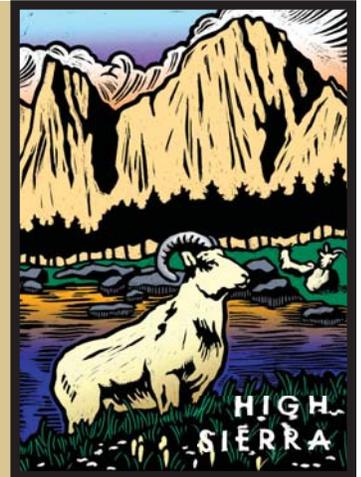


Visitor Guide: Fall 2013

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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



Autumn Park Updates

WELCOME to a beautiful autumn in your national parks! So much changes during this season – for visitors, wildlife, and the park environment:

Most animals are hurrying to eat what they can or to cache food before winter comes. Others move downhill or head south to their wintering grounds.

Tarantulas emerge to wander the foothills in fall, while deer sport new antlers. Long-tailed weasels living in snowy areas begin to turn white.

Black bears busily feast on acorns and whatever else they can find (be sure to store your food; see page 11). Once snow gets deep, many bears (especially pregnant females) will den up for winter, but some stay active throughout the year. Please drive slowly; wildlife often appears unexpectedly on the roads.

For humans in the park, autumn may mean a time of slowing down. Quiet trails offer solitude and slanted sunlight makes peaceful vistas glow. Park

facilities reduce hours or close down, and most seasonal employees leave for winter. Three visitor centers stay open, however, offering exhibits and answers to your questions (see page 2).

For the hardy, Lodgepole Campground is open until November 3; then Grant Grove's Azalea takes over as the coldest campground in the parks. Once snow is deep enough, Wolverton will be open for snowplay, but the road to it will only

be plowed Friday through Sunday, plus holidays.

Fall can seem like the end of a cycle, but in the foothills it signals a beginning. A few October rains prompted a start to spring's growth already! Given the huge range of elevation in these parks—1300 to 14,494 feet—snow may be falling on the peaks while wildflowers sprout at lower levels. Enjoy the variety!



IT'S FALL IN THE FOREST. Pink dogwood leaves, the yellow of ferns and thimbleberries, and golden leaves of black oak grace the woods briefly before winter sets in. Photo © Brent Paull

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