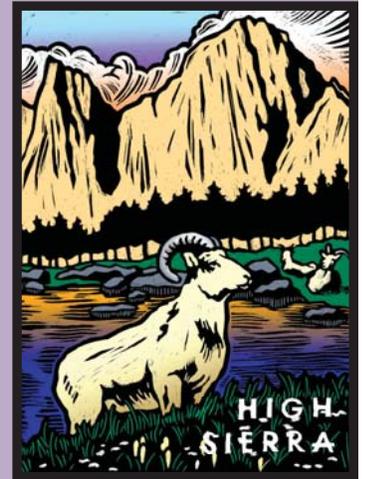
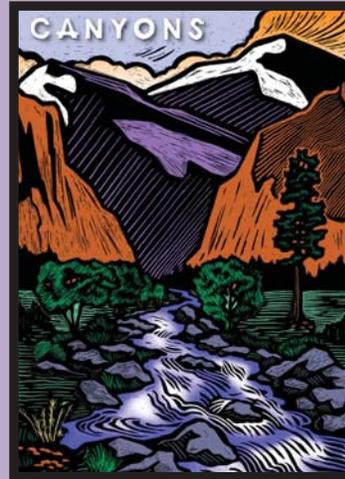




Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



Less water, higher fire danger

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

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. Some facilities may be limited by water shortages.

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, which may get tighter as summer goes on. Neighboring national forests have even stricter limits on fires. Check for details at bulletin boards or visitor centers:

- As of July 1, no wood or barbecue fires are permitted below 6,000 feet in the parks. (Giant Forest and Grant Grove lie at about 6,500 feet.)

This means no fires in Ash Mountain, Hospital Rock, or Cedar Grove picnic areas or campgrounds. Only gas or propane stoves may be used at all elevations. No fireworks anywhere.

- Wood or barbecue fires are not permitted at any elevation in the wilderness or backcountry.
- No smoking is permitted at any elevation, except within 30 feet (9m) of a fire-safe ashtray provided outside

park buildings, hotels, and some developed areas; in campgrounds above 6,000 feet; or in an enclosed vehicle or building that allows smoking. Smokers: stay in one place while smoking. Crush matches and butts until they are cold and don't leave them on the ground.

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 are shedding leaves and may go dormant earlier. Animals may adjust the size and timing of their litters, and change the timing of migration.

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