



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Notice

For Immediate Release – June 17, 2011
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Burning to Reduce Hazard Fuels in Sequoia National Park

National Park Service fire crews will be working on the Ash Mountain hazard fuel reduction project in Sequoia National Park (between 1,700 and 3,000 feet in elevation) over the next two weeks. This project includes mechanical treatments (weed whacking), as well as prescribed fires.

The prescribed fire segments consist of eight small segments (between one and seven acres) between the Buckeye Housing area and Hospital Rock Picnic Area. Some segments are burned each year and others are on a bi-annual rotation.

The first prescribed fire is planned for June 20, weather and air quality conditions permitting. This one acre segment is adjacent to the Buckeye Housing Area. Additional units may be completed in the upcoming two weeks and may include the following units: a roadside unit along the Generals Highway entering the park (near Cricket Hollow), near the Research Center, near the Foothills Visitor Center, and below the maintenance yard in Sequoia National Park. Further ignitions will occur when conditions are favorable and should be completed by July 2.

The segments are strategically located near park buildings, residences, and high-use picnic areas. By reducing fuels in these areas, the parks hope to prevent the spread of any accidental fires that might threaten people and structures during hotter, drier conditions.

Each burn segment takes less than a day to finish and ignitions should be completed by early afternoon.

In all segments, the ground fuels are grass and scattered brush, which burns quickly and produces smoke for very short periods. However, residents and employees near these areas are recommended to keep their windows closed on ignition days. Ignition days will be coordinated with the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District.

-- www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm --