



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release – May 22, 2014
Anne Birkholz (559) 565-3704

Bear Hill Prescribed Fire Planned

Fire crews plan to ignite the Bear Hill prescribed fire unit in Sequoia National Parks May 27-28, weather and air-quality conditions permitting. The Bear Hill unit is 149 acres and ignitions will occur over two to three days.

This unit, located in Giant Forest, was last burned with prescribed fire in 2001. Fuel accumulations are well within historical levels which will likely result in a low intensity fire with limited smoke production. It is surrounded by units burned over the last 10 years which will assist in controlling a drought year fire.

Giant Forest is one of the most heavily visited sequoia groves in the park with a rich history of prescribed fire. These efforts over time on the part of fire managers have contributed to 1) protecting visitors enjoying this spectacular area, 2) maintaining historic levels of fire in Giant Forest, and 3) returning a large area of the greater forest to the open condition which existed across the southern Sierra Nevada before extensive fire suppression began in the early 1900s.

A number of trail closures will be in effect within and adjacent to the unit (see attached map). However, a number of trails in the area will remain open allowing visitor's views of the firefighters and the fire itself.

-nps-