



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

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## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release – April 11, 2013  
Anne Birkholz (559) 565-3704

### Cedar Grove Prescribed Fires In Progress

Fire crews successfully completed ignitions on the 33 acre the Heliport Prescribed Fire on Wednesday, April 10. As anticipated, conditions were favorable for accomplishing this burn a month earlier than would generally be expected in a normal precipitation year. The early season burn precluded smoke impact to employees and the public.

This is an ideal time to complete this project. A dry winter means that the Cedar Grove is in prescription nearly a month earlier than in “typical” years. Fire crews are taking advantage of this early season prescription window to complete the project prior to Cedar Grove opening to visitors.

Ignitions are scheduled to begin on the four segments of the 95 acre Valley Floor Prescribed Burn today, April 11, weather and air-quality conditions permitting. Individual segments will be ignited sequentially as conditions allow and expected to be completed over the next two days. Smoke impacts are expected to be minimal.

The Valley Floor Prescribed Fire is north of the Kings River and the Sheep Creek and Sentinel Campgrounds. It takes advantage of the 2010 Viewpoint and 2011 Nature Trail prescribed fires to the west. This unit is 95 acres. However, it can be safely segmented into four different sections. Some segments of this unit burned in 1994, some in 1998, and some have no recent recorded fire history. Ignitions on this unit will be completed over two days and are reliant on conditions remaining favorable.

There may be temporary closures on the Don Cecil Trail for approximately a month and employees and contractors working to open the Cedar Grove are may experience episodic smoke, especially in the morning hours when the inversion is in place.

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