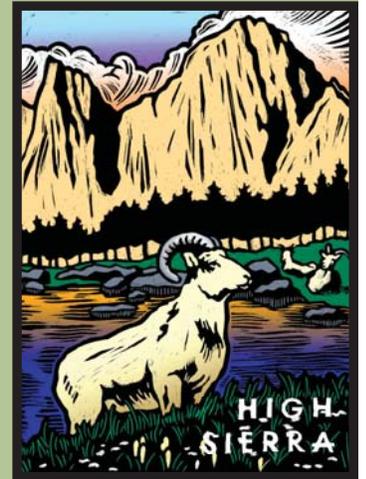
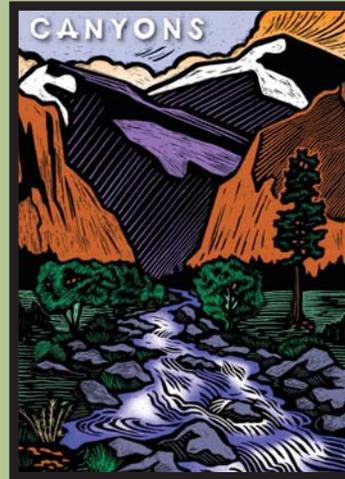




Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



Welcome to the Land of Giants

YOU EXPECT GIANT TREES and huge canyons—and you won't be disappointed. What may surprise you, however, is that the whole of these parks is even greater than the sum of their famous parts.

Rising from 1300' to 14,494' (the highest elevation in the lower 48 states), these parks protect a spectacular elevational range. This span from low to high means dramatic shifts from warm foothills to cool forests to the cold High Sierra. It means diverse plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains, and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

The caretakers of this landscape are also diverse. This is not one, but two national parks—Sequoia and Kings Canyon—managed by the National Park Service as one. A national monument, which is part of a national forest, borders the two parks. Researchers

with the U.S. Geological Survey conduct scientific studies on park resources here. The Sequoia Natural History Association runs bookstores at visitor centers, then plows those funds into park education and research efforts. Another non-profit, the Sequoia Parks Foundation, supports important projects, from outreach to trails.

All park partners, public and private, cooperate to meet a challenging mission—providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. *You* are the most important partner! Experience these parks and learn all you can. Your help is needed to preserve and share these treasured landscapes.



HOW MUCH SNOW IS THERE?: As of March 14, the answer was "not much!" In the southern Sierra Nevada where these parks lie, the snow held less than 30% of its "normal" amount of water on that date. Snow may still fly, so check the forecast. Be prepared if it calls for frosty air and slick roads, or explore the warmer foothills. They offer snow-free camping and hiking, plus wildflowers that bloom even when higher elevations lie cold and ice-bound.

In This Issue

Bears & food storage.....	11
Camping	4
Exploring on your own:	
Sequoia	6
Kings Canyon & USFS	7
Facilities & hours	8-9
Lodging	5
Map	8
Park ecosystems	3
Phone numbers	2
Ranger programs & snowshoe walks.....	5
Road information	12
Safety	10
Snowplay & sledding	6-7
Traffic delays	12
Visitor centers	2
Wilderness permits	11