

# The Guide

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



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



# FALL 2011



## Welcome to the Land of Giants

YOU EXPECT GIANT TREES and huge canyons—and you won't be disappointed. What may surprise you is that the whole of these parks is even greater than the sum of its most 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 related to 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 park projects.

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 cooperation is needed to help preserve these amazing places.



**AUTUMN ACTIVITY:** Wildlife spend this season getting ready for winter. For many animals, that includes eating acorns. These seeds of the oak trees provide nutrition that helps many creatures to survive the coming cold season. Bears scavenge acorns from the ground or climb oaks to harvest them. Acorn woodpeckers store them for later use in holes pecked in trees, buildings, and phone poles. What other animals do you see getting ready for winter?

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## Telephone & Internet

**EMERGENCY — DIAL 911.** No coins needed in payphones. Cell service is very limited in most parts of these parks.

### Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

- 1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu then 1 for road, weather & fire; 2 for camping & lodging; & other options.
- [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)
- Twitter (SequoiaKingsNPS)
- Facebook (Sequoia-and-Kings-Canyon-National-Parks)

### Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

### Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)

### California Road Conditions (Caltrans)

1-800-427-7623

### Cell service

Very limited in most parts of these parks.

### Wi-Fi

At lobbies in Wuksachi Lodge, Grant Grove Lodge, & John Muir Lodge.

## Translations

**Welcome** - You may borrow a Braille copy of the park map & guide at visitor centers.

**Bienvenue** - Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

**Bienvenidos** - Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

**Willkommen** - Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhältlich.

**Benvenuti** - La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.



## Visitor Centers

Each offers different exhibits and films. They sell many items including books, maps, and postcards. All purchases support the parks!

### Giant Forest Museum

(NPS) Daily 9am-5pm. Closed as of 10/11. Exhibits on the Big Trees. Book store. No payphone; closest at Lodgepole & Wolverton.

### Lodgepole Visitor Center

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm through 10/24, then 9am-4:30pm. Movie about bears; exhibits on geology & park life. Book store. Crystal Cave tickets sold only here & at Foothills Visitor Center (details on page 5). Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center. Pay phone. 1-559-565-4436.

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Book store. Local wilderness permits issued up to 1/2 hour before closing. 1-559-565-4307.

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center

(NPS) Closed for the season. Store. 1-559-565-3793.

### Foothills Visitor Center

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits on the diverse foothills area. Book store. Crystal Cave tickets sold only here & at Lodgepole Visitor Center (details on page 5). 1-559-565-4212. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center.

### Mineral King Ranger Station

(NPS) Closed for the season. Self-issue wilderness permits on the porch. 1-559-565-3768.

### Hume Lake District Office

(FS) 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251.

## Partners in the Parks

The following organizations work to provide this guide, first published in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*. Editor: NPS (Malinee Crapsey). Publisher: SNHA. Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

### National Park Service (NPS)

1-559-565-3341, [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

### Forest Service (FS)

1-559-784-1500, [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

### Geological Survey (USGS)

1-559-565-3171, [www.werc.usgs.gov](http://www.werc.usgs.gov)

### Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)

1-559-565-3341, [www.sequoiahistory.org](http://www.sequoiahistory.org)

### Sequoia Parks Foundation (SPF)

1-559-739-1668, [www.sequoiaparksfoundation.org](http://www.sequoiaparksfoundation.org)

### DNC Parks and Resorts @ Sequoia (DNC) - concessioner

1-888-252-5757, [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com)

### Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS) - concessioner

1-866-KCANYON (522-6966), [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com)



## SNHA: Making connections to your national park

The Sequoia Natural History Association commits itself to enriching visitor experiences and promoting awareness of public lands through educational programs, publications, and financial support. This non-profit funds education, interpretation, research, and preservation of the natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

### The SNHA:

- Provides the Park Partnership program
- Operates visitor center stores
- Provides free & low-cost school programs
- Purchases supplies for ranger programs
- Operates Beetle Rock Education Center
- Funds exhibits & research projects
- Manages Pear Lake Backcountry Ski Hut
- Provides visitor information
- Rents bear-resistant food canisters
- Publishes park books & maps
- Supports protection of black bears
- Provides volunteer opportunities for park projects
- Offers SFI & EdVenture course plus guide services
- Publishes this Guide



## Change: Natural & Unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



## Fire: A Natural Change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes. Two of these resulted in big problems:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: Fires leave behind a seedbed fertilized with ash and they open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous

for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works with fire to restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but, when and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows that we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

## Unnatural Change: Alien Invaders!

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often they keep each other in check.

When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly since the competitors, predators, and diseases they evolved with in their home communities are not here. They break links in the local web of life, badly disrupting species that depend on each other. Sometimes they completely replace native plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks.

The natives will thank you!

### Imminent Alien Threats

**Star thistle** is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny growth completely excludes native plants and limits wildlife movements. It is not yet established in these parks, but it is close! If you recognize it from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in. If you see it here, tell a ranger.



**New Zealand mud snails** completely take over and change waterways that they invade. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! These tiny animals—less than 1/8-inch long—stick on gear. Check boots & waders thoroughly for this tiny invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



Check regulations at each campground. Rules vary between the Park & National Forest (more details on page 9). Each standard campsite has a table & fire ring with grill. No hook-ups in the park.

**\*Summer reservations** for Lodgepole & Dorst (in Sequoia NP) & reservable campgrounds (\* on the chart) on National Forest (FS) available up to 6 months in advance of date desired. [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov); 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 888-448-1474.

**Food storage must be done correctly all year** due to black bears. See back page.

### Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

**UP TO 6:** Many campgrounds limit a site to 1 vehicle & 6 people. Check locally for variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.  
**7 TO 19:** Summer only, first-come/first-served sites: groups of 7-15 at Crystal Springs; groups 7-19 at Canyon View, \$35/site.

**LARGER:** Call in advance to request summer group tent sites. For Sunset or Canyon View: 1-559-565-4335. Group-site reservations in Dorst or national forest: 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

### Fire restrictions

Always check bulletin boards at each area.

- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees.
- Firewood: Please don't transport it. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find/buy wood close to where you will use it. If you brought wood, please burn it.
- Fires must be out before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a FS ranger.

### Propane Canisters

Do not put propane or fuel canisters in park trash-cans or leave them here. Recycle them at home.

### Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument: roadside camping permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger about options.

### Quiet & generator hours

At Lodgepole & Dorst use generators 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Other campgrounds 9am-9pm. Music should be audible in your site only.

### RV & Trailer Length Limits

Check limits & advisories on back page.

There are limited spaces for RVs over 30 feet.

## Campgrounds in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Foothills Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low elevation, often hot in summer
<b>Potwisha - 40 sites</b> Open all year	\$18	Nature programs (summer). River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station
<b>Buckeye Flat - 28 sites</b> Last night 9/27	\$18 No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
<b>South Fork - 10 sites</b> Open all year	\$12 May - October No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Vault toilets. No drinking water. Non-potable water in summer only.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	No RVs or trailers. Area closes 11/1.
<b>Atwell Mill - 21 sites</b> Last night 10/31	\$12 No water starting 10/19	River & sequoias. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City (summer). Nature programs (summer).
<b>Cold Springs - 40 sites</b> Last night 10/31	\$12 No water starting 10/12	Pay phone. River nearby. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City. Nature programs (summer).
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	*Reservations recommended
<b>*Lodgepole - 205 sites</b> Open all year	\$20 through x/x, then \$18	Nature programs (summer), pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Showers, laundry, & food nearby.
<b>*Dorst - 210 sites</b> Closed	\$20	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	
<b>Azalea - 110 sites</b> Open all year	\$18 during summer, then \$10	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers.
<b>Crystal Springs - 50 sites</b> Closed	Tent/RV sites \$18 Group sites \$35	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers.
<b>Sunset - 157 sites</b> Closed	\$18	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	Road closes at noon, 11/14
<b>Sentinel - 83 sites</b> Last night 9/27	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
<b>Sheep Creek - 111 sites</b> Last night 11/13	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
<b>Canyon View - 12 sites</b> Last night 9/26	\$35, No RVs or trailers. Groups of 7-19 only	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
<b>Moraine - 120 sites</b> Closed	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.

## Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (FS)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	*Reservable in summer
<b>*Princess - 88 sites</b> Last night 9/24	\$18 single	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Dump station (not recommended for RVs greater than 30 feet long)
<b>*Hume Lake - 74 sites</b> Last night 9/24	\$20 single	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, & laundry nearby.
<b>Tenmile - 13 sites</b> Closes with snow	\$16 No drinking water.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets.
<b>Landslide - 9 sites</b> Last night 9/24	\$16	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets.
<b>Convict Flat - 5 sites</b> Last night 11/14	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	*Reservable in summer
<b>*Stony Creek - 49 sites</b> Last night 9/24	\$20 single	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, & showers nearby at lodge.
<b>*Upper Stony - 18 sites</b> Last night 9/24	\$16	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, laundry, & showers nearby.
<b>Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites</b> Close with snow.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets.

## Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9:

### Sequoia National Park

#### Wuksachi Village

(DNC) All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). North of Lodgepole two miles. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

### Kings Canyon National Park

#### Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge

(KCPS) All year. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts, showers.

#### Cedar Grove Lodge in Kings Canyon

(KCPS) Mid-May to mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Motel, restaurant, laundry, market, showers.

### Sequoia National Forest

#### Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

Year-round. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; desk 1-559-565-3388; [www.mslodge.com](http://www.mslodge.com). On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, seasonal/children's activities.

#### Stony Creek Lodge (FS permittee)

(KCPS) Early May to mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gas.

#### Big Meadows Cabin (FS)

July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Historic station south of Grant Grove.

### Private Land within National Park/Forest

#### \* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Late May to mid-October. Summer: 1-559-561-3223; Winter: 1-805-528-2730; [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com). Cabins, chalets, store, restaurant, bakery, gifts, showers. No gasoline.

#### \* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

Open mid-April to mid-November. Reservations: 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Lodge, food, gasoline.

\* Note: These two facilities on private land cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by the National Park or National Forest.

### Neighboring Towns

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging & camping. Ask at visitor centers or see [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit).

## Programs & Tours

5



Formations in Crystal Cave

### Crystal Cave Tours

Open through 10/30. Tickets sold only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers, not at the cave. Buy tickets at least 1½ hours in advance (see traffic-delay information on back page).

**Directions:** Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from Sequoia Park entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles south of General Sherman Tree (see map page 8). Maximum vehicle length on the road is 22'. Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes; the ½-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No baby backpacks, strollers, or tripods. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about group reservations and wild cave tours: 1-559-565-3759. Note: Tours are weather-dependent and subject to change.

#### 45-Minute Cave Tours Daily

Through October 23.

Weekdays: 11am, 1pm, 2pm.

Saturdays: noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm;

Sundays: noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm.

Fees: Age 5-12 \$7; age 13-61 \$13; age 4 & under free; Golden Age (age 62 & up) & Golden Access pass-holders \$12. National Park & Interagency passes do not apply. Discount for SNHA members!

#### Halloween Tours

October 29 & 30: 11am, 1pm, 3pm each day.

Meet ghosts from the cave's past!

Fee: \$16 each. Appropriate for adults & children 8 years & older.

### Junior Ranger Program

FREE for all ages! From age 5 to 105, you can be a Junior Ranger! To earn your badge, pick up a free booklet at any visitor center and complete the activities for your age group.



Ranger program on Moro Rock

### Ranger Walks & Talks

Free programs are held by rangers in some park areas. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for schedules.

### Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore these parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These guides help you to watch, paint, photograph, or write about these places as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy them! SNHA members receive a discount on many of the programs and activities offered by the Sequoia Field Institute: 1-559-565-4251; [sfi@sequoiahistory.org](mailto:sfi@sequoiahistory.org)

### Touring on Horseback

Hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, guided trips. Opening /closing dates depend on weather.



#### Cedar Grove

May to mid-October

1-559-565-3464 summer, 1-559-337-2314 off season

#### Grant Grove

Early June to September

1-559-335-9292 summer, 1-559-799-7247 off season

#### Horse Corral

Late May through September at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest

1-559-565-3404 summer, 1-559-679-3573 cell

Review safety tips on page 4. Be extra careful near rivers. Take a map; guides sold at visitor centers detail even more options. You are on your own—be safe!

## The Foothills

The low elevations host more different plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined!

### Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Hours on page 2.

### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food to keep it away from bears.

**Marble Falls Trail** climbs 3.7 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a waterfall. Park across the highway from Potwisha (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

### Paradise Creek

At Buckeye Flat Campground, take the path across from site #28 across the footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1½ miles (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

## Mineral King

Open late May through October 31 (weather permitting), the winding, steep road to this valley ends at 7800', the park's highest road. Trails there lead to the High Sierra and excellent hiking. Fall weather can be severe on the passes; ask for a weather report. No gasoline or electricity in the area. Starting 11/1 at noon, the road is gated at the park boundary (about 9 miles from Hwy 198). See page 8 for facilities, page 4 for camping.

## Giant Forest

### Giant Forest Museum

The best place to learn about sequoias before exploring! Hours on page 2. Closes 10/11.

### Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) loop with colorful trailside panels describing sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum; parking at the trail is only for cars with placards. 1 hour round trip.

### General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

- **Main Trail** - This trail, which has some stairs, runs 1/2 mile down to the tree, making the walk back to your car uphill. Its large parking lot closes by mid-November. Drive two miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Highway for those with disabled placards only). Turn right on Wolverton Road and follow signs.

- ** Wheelchair-accessible trail** from Generals Highway to the Sherman Tree has parking for those with disabled placards only. If you have no placard but can't make the walk on the main trail, ask at any visitor center for a temporary permit. When the upper lot closes for winter, anyone can park here.

### Congress Trail

A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

### Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. This road closes mid-November, unless it snows sooner. Page 5 has road details. Highlights:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular view of the Great Western Divide. Two miles from Generals Highway. Do not climb if steps are icy/snowy.



The General Sherman Tree

- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. Bypass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles from the Museum.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Towering sequoias around a fragile meadow. Stay on designated trails; use only fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here. Try the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia, or the High Sierra Trail (71 miles/114 km to Mt. Whitney, at 14,494 feet / 4417 m, the highest peak in the lower 48 states).
- **Auto Log** - Once you could drive a car onto this fallen giant sequoia, but rot in the log has put an end to the tradition.

## Lodgepole

### Lodgepole Visitor Center

Film about park bears; exhibits on geology & park life. Hours on page 2.

### Tokopah Falls

1.7 miles (2.7 km) along a river, ending at cliffs & a waterfall. Be careful by the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground. For the 500-foot/152-meter elevation gain, allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

### Little Baldy

Ascends 700 vertical feet in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit and grand view. Start at Little Baldy Saddle, on the Generals Hwy 9 miles north of General Sherman Tree. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.



Moro Rock

**Review safety tips on page 4. Be extra careful near rivers. Take a map; guides sold at visitor centers detail even more options. You are on your own—be safe!**

## Grant Grove

### Kings Canyon Visitor Center (NPS)

Exhibits/film in English & Spanish. Details, page 2.

### Grant Tree Trail

This 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail visits one of the world's five largest living trees. President Coolidge named it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. Trail guides sold at visitor center. North then west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

### North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 1/2-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet forest walk. Start at Grant Tree overflow-parking area.

### Panoramic Point Road

A steep, narrow road to a High Sierra vista until snow closes it; then it's a ski trail. Trailers/RVs not recommended. Go east through visitor-center parking and follow signs. Park Ridge Trail (4 miles/6.4 km round-trip) begins here.

### Redwood Canyon Sequoia Grove

One of the world's largest; road closes with snow. Research here revealed the positive link between sequoias and fire. Across Generals Highway from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (7 miles south of Grant Grove). Turn right (west) at Redwood Saddle; go 2 miles to parking lot.

### Big Baldy Ridge

Great views over Redwood Canyon from the top (8209 feet); elevation gain 600 feet (183m). Round trip 4 miles (6.4km). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead.

## Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

The Kings River Bridge to Cedar Grove is being replaced this year. A detour is in place.

### Canyon View

The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village Road.

### Knapp's Cabin

During the Roaring '20s, a California businessman stored gear in this small cabin for lavish fishing trips. Two miles east of the village road.

### Roaring River Falls

A very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. East of the Village 3 miles. Paved, accessible with assistance.

### Zumwalt Meadow

This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop passes high granite walls, lush meadows, and the Kings River. Parking is 4 1/2 miles east of Cedar Grove Village road. Buy a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

### Mist Falls

One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4 - 5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip from Road's End. 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles.

### Hotel Creek Trail

Starts .2 mile north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3 -4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

## National Forest (USFS)

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest.

### Converse Basin

Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop, 6 miles north of Grant Grove to a monarch they spared, or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

### Indian Basin

A one-mile accessible trail & one-mile unpaved trail. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Turn left past the dump station to trailhead parking area.

### Hume Lake

Formed by a rare, historic dam, the lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger. An easy 2 1/2-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page # lists facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on HumeLake Road.

### Buck Rock Lookout

A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11, then take Forest Road 13S04.



The Kings Canyon

## The Generals Highway

Driving this 80-year-old roadway is part of the experience of these parks. It carries you up almost a mile in elevation, and connects the General Sherman Tree to the General Grant Tree, thereby earning its name.

An intense effort to upgrade the highway is underway. For years, a skin of pavement barely improved the original wagon road. Today's work is building a route that can handle today's large numbers of modern vehicles, without losing the joys of a mountain road.

Wayside exhibits at overlooks along this historic road offer insight into these parks. Stop, read, and enjoy the views at these and other overlooks:

### Kings Canyon Overlook

View the High Sierra wilderness from this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

### Redwood Mountain Overlook

Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction. Views of one of the world's largest sequoia groves.

### Eleven Range Overlook

South of the Giant Forest, this turnout offers views to the west over the foothills and the distant valley.



The Generals Highway in Giant Forest

## Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees.

### Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Hours & details on page 2. No pay phone.

### Crystal Cave (NPS)

Details on page 5.

## Lodgepole Village

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River.

### Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours & details on page 2.

### Village Center (DNC)

- Market, Gift Shop, & Laundry: Daily 9am-6pm through 9/26, then 10am-4:30pm. Closed starting 10/24. Last laundry in 1 hour before closing.
- Snack Bar: Closed as of 9/26.
- Deli: Closed for the season.
- Showers: Daily 9am-1pm & 3-5:30pm through 9/25, then 9am-1pm & 3-4pm. Last day 10/23.

### U.S. Post Office

Year-round. Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 1-559-565-3678. Lobby open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside visitor center & market.

## Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Picnic area; winter snow play.

## Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. (DNC) Year-round lodging & food service in Sequoia, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree.

**Dining Room:** Daily 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-10pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. Lounge 5-10pm. 1-559-565-4070.

### Wuksachi Lodge

Details on page 5. Desk 1-559-565-4070. Pay telephones at main lodge.

### Gift Shop

Daily 8am-8pm. Souvenirs, clothing, crafts.



### Alta Market & Ski Shop

Opens 10/24. Daily 10am - 5pm. Limited supplies, snowplay sales. When conditions permit, cross-country ski/snowshoe rentals start at 9am.

## Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

### Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours & details on page 2.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

## Mineral King Area

7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, twisting road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline. Road and area facilities close at noon, November 1.

### Ranger Station (NPS)

Closed for the season. Details: page 2.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area.

### Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Closes 10/16. Restaurant, store: Thurs-Mon 8am-8pm. Tues-Wed 8am-5pm, pie & coffee only. Hours vary starting late September; closed starting 10/16. Lodging: last night 10/16. Pay telephone. 1-559-561-3223; www.silvercityresort.com.

## Grant Grove Village

6600' elevation. Near a pristine sequoia grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours & details on page 2.

### Village Center (KCPS)

- Restaurant: Daily 7am-2pm & 5-8pm.
- Gift Shop & Market: Daily 9am-6pm (7pm Friday-Saturday). Souvenirs, clothing, ATM. Food, supplies, sandwiches, bear canisters, emergency gasoline.
- Showers: 11am-4pm through 11/27, then closed.

### Lodging (KCPS)

Desk 7am-10pm. 1-559-335-5500. Details on page 5.

### U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30 pm; Saturday 10-noon. Lobby open 24 hours. Send mail for visitors to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); outside gift shop & market.

## Cedar Grove Village

4600' elevation. A glaciated valley with towering cliffs, waterfalls, and the Kings River.

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS)

Closed for the season. Details on page 2.

### Wilderness Permits (NPS)

At Road's End, 6 miles east of the village. Daily 7am-3pm through 9/24 then self-issue.

### Village Center (KCPS): Last day 10/16

- Restaurant: Counter-service meals, snack bar; not full service. Daily weekdays 8-10:30am & 5-7pm; weekends 8am-2pm & 5-7pm through noon on 10/16, then closed.
- Gift Shop/Market: Daily 8am-7pm. Sandwiches, supplies, gifts. Last day 10/16.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-6pm through 10/15 then closed.
- Lodging: Details on page 5. Last night 10/15. Front desk 8am-7pm.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside lodge & ranger station.

### Horseback Riding: Details on page 5.

## National Forest & Monument

**Hume Lake & Big Meadows Areas:** You enter Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

### USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) 19 miles west of park entrance. Daily 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

- Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove: Summer only at Big Meadows trailhead.
- Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove: Hume Lake (year round; see Hume Lake below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

### Lodging

Details on page 5.

### Hume Lake (FS permittee)

All year. Open to the public: 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market & snack shop. On public land north of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

### Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee)

On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Daily cave tours 11am-4pm to mid-Nov. Gift shop. Evening flashlight tours & canyoneering trips. Ages 14 & up \$13; 3-13 \$6.50; under 3 free. AAA discount. Senior/ access pass discounts do not apply. School/group reservations: 1-559-338-0959.

### Stony Creek Resort (FS)

On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. Last night open 10/9. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. Market daily 8am-7pm. Restaurant Wed-Thurs 11am-6:30pm (closed Monday-Tuesday). Both open 1 hour later on Friday-Saturday. Showers 9am-6pm. Laundry 10am-6pm. 1-866-KCANYON; 1-559-565-3909.

### Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. On public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Meals 8am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

### Horseback Riding

Details on page 5.

### Gasoline Sales

All year at Hume Lake; summer at Stony Creek & Kings Canyon Lodge. Hours on page 11.

**Your visit may include both a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest. Know which one you are in!**

Where can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
<b>Walk my leashed pets?</b>	Not permitted on any trails but o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads).	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
<b>Collect things to take home?</b>	Not in Parks: Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem.	Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.
<b>Hunt?</b>	Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.	Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
<b>Drive off-road?</b>	Not in the parks. Stay on roads.	Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Cut wood?</b>	Not in the Parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
<b>Build fires?</b>	Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. Restrictions change; always check first.	Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
<b>Go fishing?</b>	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
<b>Ride a bicycle?</b>	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove).	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets. Be careful & courteous near people & horses.

## You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. Icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather pose dangers. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims just walking or climbing near rivers unexpectedly fell in.

The National Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

### DROWNING

The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be extra careful around water; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible: Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Currents are always stronger than they appear.

### DISEASE CAUTIONS

Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

**TICKS** are common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



**WEST NILE VIRUS** is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

### GIARDIA

This protozoan in lakes and streams causes intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

### POISON OAK

A common shrub up to 5000 feet elevation. Red leaves and whitish berries in fall; bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



### HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

### RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills and near water. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



### LIGHTNING

See dark clouds or lightning? Hear thunder? Get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above your surroundings, such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

### CARBON MONOXIDE

This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent or RV.

### OZONE POLLUTION

See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

### WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here; don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9).

### MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout the parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. Cautiously move away if you find a partially buried animal carcass. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey:

- Don't run; it may trigger pursuit.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the cougar.
- Pick up children.
- If the cougar acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any sightings.



### DRINKING WATER

We test the 13 park water systems to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

### OPERATION NO-GROW

Prevent illegal marijuana growing and keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities. Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

### KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

Pets may be vulnerable to wildlife, ticks, and overheating in closed vehicles. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

## Explore Safely

Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.

Take a map.

Watch and listen for potential hazards above you, around you, and on the ground.

Beware of trails and sidewalks slippery with ice or leaves.

Slow down to safely share roads with people and wildlife.

## Driving Park Roads

### Rules & Recommendations

**Expect traffic delays** daily on Generals Highway south of Giant Forest. Details on back page.

#### Gasoline Stations

No gas stations within the park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: 1-559-565-3909. Open through 10/9. Available 24 hours with credit card, summer only. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: 1-559-335-2405. Closes no later than 11/28. Gas sold 9am-dark, usually. 17 miles (27 km) from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

#### Icy Roads & Trails

Cold fall temperatures can mean slippery areas, especially in the morning and in the shade. If it snows, watch out for plows. Recorded road information: 1-559-565-3341.

#### Don't Lose Your Brakes

Frequent braking causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

#### Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

#### Prevent Car Fires

Hot brakes & mufflers can easily start fires. Stop only on paved areas, not on grasses.

#### Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

#### Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under 18: helmet required.

#### Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit them if they wait for handouts on roadsides.

#### Vehicle Length Limits

Maximum is 22 feet between Hospital Rock Picnic Area and Giant Forest Museum on Generals Hwy due to a very narrow single-lane road.

Between Potwisha Campground and Hospital Rock, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet. Maximum limit on other parts of the Generals Highway is 40 feet for single vehicles, 50 feet for vehicle + towed unit.

Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car, camp in the foothills and use the car.

#### Narrow Winding Roads & Winter Closures

##### In Kings Canyon & National Forest:

- Hwy 180 East into Cedar Grove closes at noon on 11/14 at lower gate near Yucca Point trail-head. Upper gate just below Hume Lake junction closes 11/28 (depending on weather).
- Panoramic Point & unpaved Redwood Mountain roads (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS, unpaved) close with snow.

##### In Sequoia:

- Crystal Cave Road: Closes 10/25 at the latest. Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m).
- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Vehicle-length limit 22'. No trailers/towed units. Closes by mid-November at the latest.
- Mineral King Road: Closes 11/1 at noon. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).
- South Fork & Middle Fork roads: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes in winter.

## Entrance Fees

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### Your Fees Help the Parks!

Most entrance and camping fees stay right here. The parks invest them in improving facilities and protecting resources. Fees have paid for repairing roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have updated visitor centers, exhibits, and slide programs! For details on fee options and commercial fees, ask at entrance stations, visitor centers, or search [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) for "fees."

- **7-day pass** to Sequoia & Kings Canyon & Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument: \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

- **12-Month Pass** to Sequoia & Kings Canyon & Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/GSNM: \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year. Not valid at Crystal Cave.

- **Interagency Annual Pass:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees for one year at Federal recreation sites nationwide (not at Crystal Cave).

- **Seniors Interagency Pass:** \$10 one-time fee buys a lifetime pass for entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over (not valid at Crystal Cave).

- **Accessibility Interagency Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to park entrance stations (not valid at Crystal Cave).

### Driving Times (in good weather)

#### From Foothills to:

<b>Giant Forest</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Lodgepole</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Visalia</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Mineral King</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>

Road closed Nov. 1 - late May

#### From Giant Forest to:

<b>Grant Grove</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
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#### From Grant Grove to:

<b>Cedar Grove</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
Road closed mid-Nov. to late April	
<b>Fresno</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
<b>Yosemite south entry</b>	<b>3 hours</b>

(via Hwy 41)



## Traffic Delays & Length Limits

### Generals Highway Reconstruction

Amphitheater Point to Deer Ridge (between Hospital Rock & Giant Forest). Expect delays through 5/2012:

**Daytime:** Delays up to 1 hour on weekdays through 10/28, then up to 2 hours through November.

**Night:** Possible night closures 9pm-6am Sunday night - Friday morning with one pass-through at 11:30pm. Traffic signals control 20-minute delays during non-working hours/weekends.

**Vehicles longer than 22' long cannot travel** between Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum due to physical limitations of vehicles; long vehicles cannot make the tight curves in the one-lane construction zone. Construction schedules are on bulletin boards or [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

### Rebuild of Cedar Grove Bridge

Expect detours through 11/2011: Between Hwy 180 and Cedar Grove Village. Village and lodge are accessible via detour on Northside Road. Use Lewis Creek Trailhead as turn-around for large vehicles/trailers.

### Other Road Repairs

**Through 10/2011:** Expect intermittent delays on weekdays in several park areas. 1-2 day closures may affect some single-lane roads, parking lots, & campgrounds. Bridge repair on Mineral King Road will prohibit access to the last parking lot on the road. Alternative parking is at Sawtooth Trailhead 1/3 mile away.

**More road information - page 11**

## Wilderness Overnights

Wild places are hazardous and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Know and follow restrictions, as they protect both the environment and your experience.

### Permits

Required for overnights (not day hikes). Issued in summer (reservations available) and self-issued the rest of the year at trailhead locations near where you are hiking or riding.

**Quotas & Permits:** Each trail has a daily entry quota and a required wilderness camping fee (\$15) between late May and late September. Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date within the quota season are accepted starting March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date. Permits must be picked up the afternoon before (starting at 1pm) or by 7am on the day of departure at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead. If delayed, call the Wilderness Office or you may lose the permit.

If you don't have a reservation and the quota for your preferred trail is full, choose another trail for that day or another day to start. Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

**Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (FS):** Permits not required but the FS requires free fire permits for any open flame.

**Camping in the park's "frontcountry"** is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

See [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.  
47050 Generals Highway #60  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766  
Fax 565-4239

## Pear Lake Ski Hut

Operated by the SNHA, it sits in a granite basin high above Lodgepole. At 9,200 feet elevation, in winter it is surrounded by glistening snowfields and icy rock walls. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. A great opportunity to experience winter in the High Sierra: 559-565-3759 (reservations required). Also check [www.sequoiahistory.org](http://www.sequoiahistory.org) for SNHA's winter travel seminars.

## Proper Food Storage is the Law!

Bears often get unattended food and easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. The following reduces, but does not eliminate, the risk of a bear break-in:

### Drivers

Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes are provided.

### Picnickers

Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out.

### Lodge Guests

Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

### Campers

Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page # for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit). Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even non-food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

### Backpackers

Hanging food is not effective in these parks! Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets.

### Everyone

Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

