SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

& SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

LATE WINTER GUIDE 2010-11

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Winter welcome

Many people see the cold winter face of these parks and shiver at the thought of a visit. Those who come anyway figure out the secret: Winter welcomes us with some of the greatest beauty, mystery, tranquility, challenge, and just plain fun these parks can offer.

Enjoying the parks in winter may not be as easy as a summer visit: You may need to "chain up." In fact, if you are in the park now and want to see sequoias but don't have tire chains in the car, check the weather forecast and think again. The suddenness and unpredictability of Sierran weather, plus genuine concern for your safety, make the rangers err on the side of caution when deciding to require chains. But if you've got chains, layers of warm clothes, and you're willing to take the roads slowly, then the delights of winter await you!

If there's enough snow and you enjoy social fun, head to one of the bustling snowplay areas (see pages 8 and 9). Take your fun seriously, though, and play safe. People get hurt snowplaying every year. Some of the injuries are devastating; don't let one happen to you! Rangers may close all or part of the snowplay hills if they get extremely icy, but only *you* can prevent accidents.

Want to be active but not in a crowd? When the snow is deep enough, snowshoe or cross-country ski into the wintry heart of a sequoia grove; it's like nothing else you've ever tried. Whether you find misty fog or bright sunshine, the peace and clean, clear beauty will refresh your spirit while your legs get pleasantly tired. Not enough snow? Take a hike!

Snow highlights the sequoias' red bark and black fire scars.
©C. Purchis.

Stay safe on the trails, too. Carry a map and tell someone where you are going. Follow a road that's closed to vehicles, or learn how to spot and follow the ski-trail signs on the trees. Get back before winter's early sunset.

Didn't bring a sled, snowshoes, or skis? You can rent or buy them at Grant Grove Market and Wuksachi Lodge.

Visitor-center staff can help you make sure you have what you need for your particular winter adventure. Step into the centers at Grant Grove or Lodgepole (Giant Forest Museum is closed this winter) and check out the exhibits while you're there. When you head outside again, you'll know and appreciate the natural scene around you even more.

If you've had enough of cold, the snow-free foothills are in their glory now. Green grass coats the hills that were bone dry and brown just a few months ago. Flowers pop up by late January. Birds not seen here in summer flash through oak and chaparral. Slanted and soft, winter sunlight highlights the landscape's details. Take advantage of the lower-elevation trails now; they'll be very hot by summer!

So welcome to winter in the Sierra. We're glad you didn't let the cold keep you away. Just remain flexible and let the weather call the shots; winter fun unmarred by accidents make the best memories.

WELCOME to SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
No coins needed.

24-Hour Park Information
1-559-565-3341 (NPS)
www.nps.gov/seki

National Forest Information
1-559-338-2251 (USFS)
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Yosemite Information (NPS)
1-209-372-0200
www.nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions
1-800-427-7623 (Caltrans)

Partners in the Parks

The following organizations work together to provide this guide, first published in 1974 as the Sequoia Bark. It is published by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and printed by Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

National Park Service (NPS)
Malinee Crapsey, Editor
1-559-565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)
1-559-565-3759
www.sequoiahistory.org

Sequoia Parks Foundation
1-559-739-1668
www.sequoiaparksfoundation.org

U.S. Forest Service (FS)
1-559-784-1500
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)
1-888-252-5757
www.visitsequoia.com

Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)
1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
1-559-565-3171
www.werc.usgs.gov

Page 1 illustrations ©SNHA by Rick Wheeler

Land of giants... and more

You expect giant trees and huge canyons—and you won't be disappointed. Yet the whole of these parks is even greater than the sum of its 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. A national monument, which is part of a national forest, borders these two national parks. The U.S. Geological Survey conducts research here. The Sequoia Natural History Association runs bookstores at visitor centers and contributes to education and research. The Sequoia Parks Foundation supports important park projects.

Other partners, public and private, cooperate with the Park Service to meet a challenging mission—providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. You are an important partner, too! Experience these parks, learn all you can, and help to preserve them. Thank you!

YOUR FEES HELP YOUR PARKS!

Most of your entrance and camping fees stay right here. The parks invest them in projects that improve visitor facilities and protect park resources. Fees have paid for repairing and upgrading roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have also improved visitor centers, updated exhibits, and modernized slide programs offered by rangers!

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

- **7-day pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM)**: $20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or $10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **12-Month Pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/GSNM**: $30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **12-Month: America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Pass**: $80. Valid for entrance fees at Federal recreation sites including National Parks, National Forests, FWS, BLM, & Bureau of Reclamation. Admits all passengers in a single private non-commercial vehicle where per-vehicle fees are charged, *or* the passholder plus up to 3 persons (age 16 & older) for per-person fee areas, for 12 months. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Seniors: America the Beautiful Interagency Pass**: $10 one-time fee buys a lifetime pass for entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. (Previously issued Golden Age passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Accessibility: America the Beautiful Interagency Access Pass**: Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to any park entrance station or visitor center. (Previously issued Golden Access passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.

WELCOME

You may borrow the park map & guide in Braille 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.

WILKOMMEN

Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucherzentrum erhaltlich.

BENVENUTI

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

PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

What is the difference between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument?

Each is on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

National parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation. Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior.

National forests, managed under a "multiple use" concept, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, as well as recreation with and without vehicles. Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.

Both agencies manage wilderness and other areas where they maximize protection of natural resources. For example, part of Sequoia National Forest has been designated Giant Sequoia National Monument to emphasize protection of sequoias.

Parks, forests, and monuments may have different rules in order to meet their goals. Read "Where can I..." on the next page to learn what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we get a wide range of benefits from these diverse areas.

Our park partners

Two non-profit park partners can help you to help the parks, and *everyone* benefits:

Become a member of the **Sequoia Natural History Association** (SNHA) and get discounts in park book stores and on activities including seminars, the winter Pear Lake Ski Hut, and the summer tours in Crystal Cave. Join at any visitor center or go online at *www.sequoiahistory.org*.

***Pear Lake Ski Hut**, operated by the SNHA, sits in a granite basin high above Lodgepole. At 9,200 feet elevation (2804m), it is surrounded by glistening snowfields, icy rock walls, and a deep blue sky. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and warm wood-pellet stove. It's a great opportunity to experience the winter glory of the High Sierra. Call 559-565-3759 (reservations are required) and check the website above for winter travel seminars with the SNHA.*

The **Sequoia Parks Foundation** raises funds for projects that enhance these parks. Be part of their efforts!

Beetle Rock Center in the Giant Forest would not exist without the help of the Foundation. They funded remodel of the historic building into an education center. Together with the SNHA, they made use of this facility possible for us all.

The Foundation also raises funds for trailwork and for the *Rangers in the Classroom* program. In addition, it has started an initiative to explore these fabulous parks through art. Ask for information at a visitor center, or go to www.sequoiaparks-foundation.org to learn how you can help advance your interests in these parks.

Recent contributions have helped to improve and repair several popular trails, including increased accessibility at Zumwalt Meadow with an extended boardwalk.

Activities

FREE WALKS & TALKS: Ranger-led talks and walks may be offered at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, or the Foothills. Watch for snowshoe walks once the snow flies. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for details and schedules.

VISITOR CENTERS & STORES:
Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. Park stores in each visitor center sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: All your purchases in visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8-9 for details.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM
FREE for all ages. If you are 5 to 105 years old, you can become a Sequoia & Kings Canyon Junior Ranger! To earn your badge, pick up a free booklet at any visitor center and complete the activities for your age group. Have fun learning!

TEACHERS - BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS! Fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades offered in spring and fall. Topics include life cycle and adaptations of sequoias, species interdependence, and cultural history of the Kaweah River drainage. For details or to reserve a date: 1-559-565-4303.

WHERE CAN I...

Your visit may include both a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Activities that are illegal in the Park *may* be legal in the Forest (see page 2 for details). Know which area you are in (see page 12)!

- ***WALK A PET - In the Parks**: Not on any trails but it's o.k 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads).* **In the National Forest**: Pets can go on trails. ***In both areas**: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Never leave pets in cars when it's warm as they overheat quickly.*
- ***COLLECT THINGS TO TAKE HOME - Not in Parks**: Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem.* **In the National Forest**: Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. ***In both areas**: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.*
- ***HUNT - Not in the Parks**. Visitors are responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.* **In the National Forest**: Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
- ***GO CAMPING - In the Parks**: Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds.* **In the National Forest**: In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.
- ***DRIVE OHVs OFF-ROAD - Not in the parks**. Stay on roads.* **In the National Forest**: Off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes available. Get specific information at USFS Hume Lake office (in Dunlap on Hwy 180) or Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove).
- ***CUT WOOD - Not in the Parks**.* **In the National Forest**: Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit and guidelines: 559-338-2251.
- ***GO PICNICKING -** See picnic symbols on back-page map. **Due to bears, never leave food unattended!** Most sites have tables, restrooms and fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills and Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Halstead, Powdercan, Lodgepole, and Crescent Meadow. Area across from Foothills Visitor Center may be closed intermittently.
- **SNOWMOBILE *Not in the Parks.*** **In National Forest**: Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. For information: 1-559-338-2251.
- ***HAVE A FIRE In the Parks**: Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas.* **In National Forest**: Free fire permits required, even for gas stoves and lanterns. Some areas are more restricted than others. Get permits at Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (in Grant Grove) or USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.
- ***GO FISHING - In both areas**: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.*
- ***RIDE BICYCLES - In the Parks**: Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove).* **In the National Forest**: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. ***In both areas**: Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People younger than 18 must wear helmets.*

- ***RIDE HORSEBACK***
  Closed for the season. Spring opening dates depend on weather. Rides, backcountry spot trips, or guided trips.
  - **Cedar Grove**
    1-559-565-3464 summer
    1-559-337-2314 off season
  - **Grant Grove**
    1-559-335-9292 summer
    1-559-799-7247 off season
  - **Horse Corral**
    at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest
    1-559-565-3404 summer
    1-559-564-6429 off season
    1-559-679-3573 cell

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 in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels. Without it, these fuels would feed intense, hard- to-control wildfires. The natural burn pattern includes occasional hot spots. These leave important openings in the forest — the sunny, bare places where sequoia trees regenerate best.

©NPS Photo

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 ecological processes and caused many problems. Two problems were glaring:

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 may 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.

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

A permit is required for all overnight wilderness trips into these parks. Between late May and late September (the quota season), each park trail has a daily entry quota for overnight trips and a wilderness camping fee of $15 is required. The quota and fee are tools to help protect your wilderness environment and experience (they are not required for day hikes, or for overnight trips in the adjacent US Forest Service Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses, but a free fire permit is required for any open flame on USFS land).

Outside the quota season, permits are still required, but are on a self-issue basis. Get self-Issue permits at the station nearest your trailhead (see pages 8 & 9). No quota or fee applies at this time of year. Trail condition information is limited; be careful and expect winter conditions.

Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date within the quota season are accepted beginning March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date.

Permits must be picked up either the afternoon before, starting at 1pm, or by 9am 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 the quota for your preferred trail is full, you can choose another trail for that day or another day to start, if space is available. Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

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

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

For more details, visit Wilderness Information at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm or call.

HIGH SIERRA LODGE

- **BEARPAW HIGH SIERRA CAMP** (DNCPR) See page 8 for details

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!

STAR THISTLE

Two immediate threats:

Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny patches completely exclude native plants and limit wildlife movements. It is not yet established here! If you recognize it from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in.

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! They 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.

NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL

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 may create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

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

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

Be Safe!

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.

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

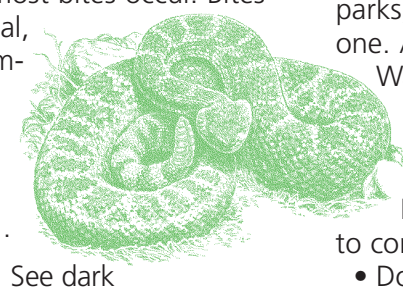
POISON OAK: This common shrub grows up to 5000 feet elevation: Red leaves with whitish berries in fall, bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes right away.

TICKS: 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.

GIARDIA in lakes and streams can cause 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.

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, are 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 or 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 the surrounding landscape 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.

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

CARBON MONOXIDE: This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent, camper, 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.

CELL PHONES rarely work well in these mountains; don't rely on them. Note where pay telephones are available (see pages 8 & 9).

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, the goal is to 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 mountain lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

BE SAFE: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. 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 and trails with people and wildlife.

SAFE DRINKING WATER: The 13 park water systems are tested to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers.

OPERATION NO-GROW
Prevent illegal marijuana growing! Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

Rules of park roads

EXPECT TRAFFIC DELAYS on the Generals Highway south of Giant Forest. Details on page 12.

22' VEHICLE LENGTH LIMIT on Generals Hwy between Hospital Rock Picnic Area and Giant Forest Museum due to single-lane road. Between Potwisha Campground and Hospital Rock, *advised* maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum limit on other parts of the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) 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.

EXPECT ICY, SLICK ROADS
***Slow down*. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Allow 6 seconds of stopping distance between cars. Check antifreeze, battery, wipers, chains and road conditions before you come: 24-hour recorded information 1-559-565-3341 (press 1, then 4). Motorcyclists: Avoid oil buildup in center of lanes.**

ALWAYS CARRY CHAINS that fit your tires and comply with signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; most cars have them. Check the side of the tire for M/S, M+S, or a snowflake symbol.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS
For a tow: 1-559-565-3341 then press zero (24 hours).
In Sequoia Park only, AAA is available for out-of-gas, lock outs, minor repairs, jump starts: *1-559*-565-4070 (24 hours).

GET SNOW OFF CAR ROOFS
It may slide onto the windshield and block the driver's vision.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES
***Always* downshift going downhill. In automatic cars, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L.**

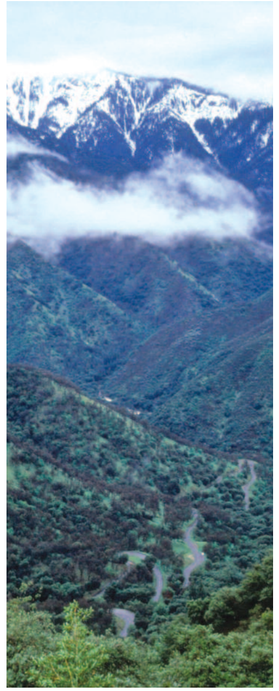
SNOWPLOWS RULE
Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, watch for signals from the plow operator. Slow down but do not stop.

FINDING GASOLINE
No gas stations lie within the park. Fill up in nearby Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or the National Forest's Hume Lake (1-559-335-2000) 24 hours with credit card: 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180. Grant Grove Market sells cans of emergency gas.

BICYCLES
Ride only on roads (not trails), single file, with traffic. Wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

WINTER ROAD CLOSURES
In Kings Canyon Park & National Forest/Monument –
• Generals Highway (the main park road) closes for plowing from Wuksachi to junction with Hwy 180 during & after storms. Depending on snowfall, closure may last for hours or weeks.
• Highway 180 to Cedar Grove is closed mid-November until mid-April due to rockfall.
• Redwood Mountain Road is unpaved and unplowed.
• Panoramic Point Road closes with first snow. No trailers or motorhomes.
• Big Meadows, Converse Basin (USFS): All are partially unpaved and close with snow.
In Sequoia National Park –
• Crystal Cave Road closes late October to mid-May.
• Mineral King Road reopens 5/27/11 (snowmelt permitting).
•Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road closes with first snows; reopens with spring melt. No drinking water along this road.
• South Fork Road is partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.
• Road to Middle Fork Trail is unpaved; slippery when wet. Road closes for winter; park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area.

LET OTHERS PASS
Slow vehicles must use paved turnouts to pull over.



THE FOOTHILLS

The lower elevations offer wonderful winter visits -- green and usually snowless! The foothills house more biological diversity (different kinds of plants and animals) than the conifer forests and High Sierra combined. Flowers appear in January. Ticks appear in December; watch out for them and poison oak (see page 5).

HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC AREA: Western Mono people once lived here; exhibits offer insight into their lifestyle. A trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade; 1/4-mile round-trip. Careful! People often drown here.

MARBLE FALLS: This trail climbs 3.9 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely waterfall. Park across the main road from Potwisha Campground (no non-camper parking in the campground). From the trailhead near site #14, follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch. The trail starts on the right.

PARADISE CREEK: Park at Hospital Rock and walk to Buck-eye Flat Campground. Follow the footpath across from site #26 and cross the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for 1-1/2 miles (1.6 km) before growing faint.

MIDDLE FORK: Leading through chapparal to highcountry, the first miles offer views of Moro Rock and Castle Rocks. Park at Hospital Rock. Walk toward Buckeye Flat Campground but turn left on the dirt road before the campground. Go 1.3 miles (2 km) to a parking area. Panther Creek Falls is 3 miles (5 km) beyond that. Use caution at stream crossings.

SOUTH FORK

These trails start at tiny South Fork Campground (closed for winter), at the end of a 13-mile road that leaves Hwy 198 at the west end of Three Rivers. This partly unpaved road can be very slippery when wet.

LADYBUG: Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah River in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5 km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

GARFIELD: A steep 5-mile (8.3 km) one-way climb to Garfield sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

GIANT FOREST

Rent snowshoes and cross-country skis downstairs at Wuksachi Lodge, and purchase a ski-trail map. Talk to a ranger, then carefully follow the yellow triangular markers above eye level on trees (other than sequoias).

GIANT FOREST MUSEUM: The best place to start your visit and learn about the Big Trees**.**

BIG TREES TRAIL: This 2/3-mile (1 km) trail (no yellow markers) circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Park at Giant Forest Museum or, once it is plowed, the small lot near Round Meadow. Then ski or snowshoe on either side of the road (not *in* the road).

When there is no snow, paved trails lead from the north end of the museum plaza, around the meadow, and back via the other side of the road.

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE: Through mid-winter, if conditions permit, the upper trail and parking stay open (take the Wolverton Road between the Sherman Tree and Lodgepole and follow signs). From there you walk down to the tree. While this upper option is open, the lower parking area along the Generals Highway requires an accessibility permit for parking. Once much snow flies, access to the world's largest tree is from the parking area along the Generals Highway. The trail from there may not be plowed, but snow is usually packed down enough to walk on it.

If the upper trail is too steep and you don't have an official placard, just ask for one at any visitor center. If you can walk down but not back up, have your driver pick you up at the lower parking area on the Generals Highway.

MORO ROCK/CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road closes in winter to become a ski and snowshoe trail. It begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway, crosses the southwest portions of the sequoia grove, and ends at Crescent Meadow. Highlights include:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot /91 m elevation gain). Don't climb if there is any ice or snow on the stairs; it is very dangerous. A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide and the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. The only tree you can ski through in these parks. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

CRESCENT MEADOW: Several trails connect here. It is 1 mile (1.6 km) from here to Tharp's Log, the hollow fallen sequoia lived in by Giant Forest's first settler. The summer High Sierra Trail runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (highest peak in thelower 48 states at 14,494 feet/ 4417 m).

MINERAL KING

The steep road to this subalpine valley closed at the park boundary as of November 1; it reopens May 28, if weather permits. Skis or snowshoes are required for winter visits. Page 8 has more details.

Highlights

EXPLORING IN WINTER

BE SAFE: Review all safety advice on page 5. Carry a map, warm clothes, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the winter woods.

TRAVEL ON SNOW: There is plenty to see from wintry roadsides, but try skis or snowshoes. It's a great way to enjoy the snowy forest. You don't need to go far or fast.

WALKERS & SNOWSHOERS: Don't walk in ski tracks. Your footprints harden and catch ski tips, making it dangerous for skiers.

VISIT THE SNOW FOREST: Conical-shaped trees evolved to catch less snow, minimizing the amount that weighs them down. Flexible branches bend to dump what snow has piled up when it gets too heavy. Conifer needles are tough and slippery, so snow tends to slide off easily.

WATCH FOR SIGNS OF WILDLIFE: Deer, cougars, bobcats, martens, weasels, coyotes, and Douglas squirrels (called chickarees) may be active all year. Bears may stay active, so continue to store food properly (see page 10). Winter birds greet you from the trees: ravens, juncos, chickadees, red-breasted nuthatches, brown creepers, and white-headed woodpeckers, to name a few. Look for the sweep of wings in the snow where an owl caught a rodent for dinner.

SNOWPLAY AREAS

BE SAFE & CONSIDERATE: Every year we see **very** serious injuries. Safety tips: Use devices that are steerable. Don't sled or ski into roads. Steer clear of trees, rocks, people, and other obstacles. See page 5 for safety tips.

STICK TO DESIGNATED AREAS: **Snowplay is prohibited in** park residential areas, and other areas as signed.

NOTE LOCATIONS OF PUBLIC PHONES: **Cell signals are poor. Diall 911 in emergencies.**

Wolverton Snowplay Area
near the Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park

Sledding hills two miles (3.2 km) north of the Sherman Tree. After storms, it may take several hours for plows to open the area.

- **Cross-country skis & snowshoes** are rented at Wuksachi Lodge, and snowplay gear, snacks, and hot drinks are sold there (see page 8).
- **Public telephones:** The closest are outside the building next to the Wolverton restrooms and at Lodgepole Visitor Center. Dial 911 in emergencies.
- **Snowplay is prohibited in** the Sherman Tree Trail area.

Snowplay Areas in & around Grant Grove
in Kings Canyon National Park

In the National Park (Grant Grove): Columbine & Big Stump.

In the National Forest: Cherry Gap, and, when the Generals Highway is not closed by snow, Big Meadows & Quail Flat.

- **Cross-country skis & snowshoes** are rented, and snowplay gear, snacks, and hot drinks are sold at Grant Grove Market.
- **Public telephones:** The closest are outside the **Grant Grove Visitor Center, Gift Shop, and Market.** Dial 911 in emergencies.
- **Snowplay is prohibited in** the Grant Tree Trail area. Azalea Campground is for campers only, not people who are just snowplaying.

GRANT GROVE

The only plowed trail is the Grant Tree loop. Beware of slipping on ice on the path!

Rent skis or snowshoes at the Grant Grove Market. Buy a ski trail map and follow the colored markers on trees. See pages 8-9 for details on snowplay areas.

KINGS CANYON PARK VISITOR CENTER: Explore the exhibits and see the film about this park.

TALKS & SNOWSHOE WALKS: Check local schedules to see if a ranger-led walk is taking place. Showshoes are loaned for free!

GENERAL GRANT TREE: The only trail in the area that is plowed in winter. General Grant is one of the world's largest living trees. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km). See *85th Annual* below.

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD: Once snow flies this becomes a ski or snowshoe trail to a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Park at Grant Village, go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the sign "Panoramic Point 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." It's 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

NEARBY VIEWPOINTS

OVERLOOKS & VIEWS: For a view of the High Sierra, drive to **Kings Canyon Overlook**, about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway.

For a look out over the Kings Canyon, drive the Hume Lake Road, 8 miles (13 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

About 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, **Redwood Canyon Overlook** faces west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. Early studies in this grove revealed the strong positive relationship between fire and sequoia reproduction.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, a part of Sequoia National Forest (see page 2 for details). Check page 5 for road closures.

Three USFS trailheads offer snowplay, cross-country ski trails, and snowmobile routes. Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove or Montecito Lake Resort (see page 9 for details). Ask for information and a map at Kings Canyon Visitor Center:

- **Cherry Gap** is on Highway 180 2.5 miles (4km) north of Grant Grove. It offers 10 miles (16km) of marked winter routes, including a ski trail to the Chicago Stump at the edge of Converse Basin grove. Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. The stump is a remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

South of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway are two trailheads with restrooms:

- **Quail Flat (**6 miles/9.6km south of Hwy 180) has 23 miles (37km) of trails and snowmobile routes. Some connect to Big Meadows.
- **Big Meadows** (8 miles/13km south of Hwy 180) offers 23 miles (37km) of marked, groomed trails and routes that traverse meadows and forest. One route goes to the 1916 Buck Rock Fire Lookout (the tower is closed in winter).

THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON

Highway 180 down into the canyon closes in winter due to rock falling from the canyon walls onto the road. You can get a good view out over the canyon between Hume Lake Road junction on Hwy 180 and Hume Lake. The road reopens mid-April; return then if you can to enjoy one of our nation's deepest gorges. See page 9 "In the Kings Canyon" for more.

IN KINGS CANYON PARK

85th Annual
Trek to the Tree Ceremony
December 12, 2010 at 2:30 pm

Held annually at the base of the General Grant Tree on the 2nd Sunday of December

This event celebrates both the holiday season and two honors given to the General Grant Tree:

- President Coolidge designated it the official Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926 (the "National Christmas Tree" is lit on the Mall in Washington, D.C.); and

- In 1956, President Eisenhower proclaimed the tree the only living National Shrine, and had his personal representative, Fleet Admiral Nimitz, officially dedicate it on Veteran's Day that year.

Each year during the ceremony, park rangers place a large wreath at the base of this giant sequoia in memory of men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. Caroling and readings are also part of the ceremony.

The event is sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce. Parking is limited. Chartered buses from Sanger are available. For information: 559-875-4575 or www.sanger.org.

FACILITIES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' (1950m) elevation. This grove is the home of the world's biggest trees. It offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking and ski trails. See highlights, page 6, and traffic-delay information (back page).

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS)**: Opening date in May, depends on snow (Lodgepole Visitor Center open year-round). No payphone; closest are at Lodgepole & Wolverton (don't rely on cell phones).
- **Giant Forest Shuttle - Spring Service (NPS)**: Operating April 16-May 1, from 10am to approximately 4pm, from Wuksachi to Lodgepole to the Sherman Tree. See bulletin boards for details.

Crystal Cave

A major park highlight! Tours start May 14, weather permitting. Buy tickets well in advance at Foothills and Lodgepole visitor centers only (not at the cave), up to one day before the tour. www.sequoiahistory.org

Lodgepole Village

6700' (2040 m) elevation. A few miles north of Giant Forest, in beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 & the map on page 12.

INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Visitor Center**: Daily 9am-4:30pm. *Bears of the Sierra* movie; exhibits on geology & forest life; books; maps. Pay phone. 1-559-565-4436. **Wilderness permits**, required for overnight trips, self-issued outside to the left of the front door of the visitor center. Details on page 4. 1-559-565-3766.

FOOD, OTHER SERVICES - Openings weather dependent

- **Market, Gift Shop, & Laundry** (DNCPR): Opens 4/15. Daily 9am-6pm. Groceries, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, ice cream, film, souvenirs. Last laundry load in 1 hour before closing.
- **Snack Bar** (DNCPR): Opens 4/30 weekends only 9am-6pm.
- **Showers** (DNCPR): Opens 4/30. Daily 9am-1pm & 3-5:45pm.
- **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.
- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS)**: Open all year. See page 11.
- **Pay Telephones:** Outside visitor center & market (cell-phone signals are usually poor).

Wilderness Camp

BEARPAW MEADOW HIGH SIERRA CAMP

(DNCPR) Opens mid-June, weather permitting. A tent hotel at 7800' elevation on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest. Reservations required: 1-888-252-5757. www.visitsequoia.com

Foothills Area

1300-3500' (457-1067 m) elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters; the greatest biological diversity in these parks. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

- **Visitor Center (NPS)**: Daily 8am-4:30pm through 5/26, then 8am-6pm. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid. Local wilderness permits self-issued outside visitor center through 5/26/11. 1-559-565-4212.
- **Camping (NPS)**: At Potwisha. Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones** (cell phone signals are usually poor): Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground, Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

Mineral King Area

Road to this area opens May 27, weather permitting.

7800' (2380 m) elevation. A subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, twisting road. No RVs, buses, or trailers, please. No electricity or gasoline.

- **Ranger Station** (NPS): Opens Friday, May 27, 8am-4pm. Until then, self-register for wilderness permits on the porch. Check there for schedules of free ranger-led programs. 1-559-565-3768.
- **Pay Telephones:** Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area. Cell phone signals are usually poor.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort**: Open 5/27. Cabins, chalets, showers, small store (gifts, supplies, ice, **no gasoline,** no fishing licenses). Pay telephone. 1-559-561-3223; www.silvercityresort.com.
- **Camping** (NPS): No RVs or trailers. Details: page 11.

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' (2160 m) elevation. DNCPR: Year-round lodging & food service in Sequoia 4 miles (6.4 km) north of Sherman Tree.

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR) and the National Park Foundation make it easy for Wuksachi Lodge guests to contribute to these parks. Ask about the Guest Donation Program when you check in!

- **Dining Room:** Daily 7:30am-9:30pm, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070. Lounge 5-8:30pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8pm. Souvenirs, clothing, crafts.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details. Front desk 24 hours.
- **Pay Telephones**: At main lodge. Cell-phone signals are poor.

FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

Join us for ranger-led walks, talks, and campfire programs! Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for times, topics, and meeting locations.

IN THE FOOTHILLS

Join us at locations throughout the foothills. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for times, topics, and meeting locations.

IN GIANT FOREST & LODGEPOLE

Rangers usually offer walks and talks on weekends & holidays.

FACILITIES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS

Grant Grove Village Area

6600' (2008 m) elevation. This was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here are both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

INFORMATION

- **Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS)**: Daily 9am-5pm through 5/26, then 8am-6pm. Exhibits, movie in English & Spanish. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. Local wilderness permits issued until 1/2 hour before closing. 1-559-565-4307.

FOOD, LODGING & OTHER SERVICES

- **Restaurant** (KCPS): Daily 9am-2pm & 5-8pm.
- **Gift Shop, Market & Ski Rental (KCPS)**: Daily 9am-6pm (7pm Friday-Saturday). Souvenirs, clothing, ATM. Food, supplies, sandwiches, bear canisters, emergency gasoline, snow play gear. Cross-country skis/snow shoes rented if enough snow is on the ground. See page 6 for snow-play information. Showers reopen 5/26.
- **Camping & Lodging**: Lodge desk 7am-10pm. See page 10-11.
- **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**: Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door) & outside gift shop & market. Cell phone signals are poor.

Cedar Grove Village in the Kings Canyon

Road to this area opens April 29, weather permitting.

4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River — "a rival to the Yosemite," according to John Muir.

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS)**: Opens 5/26. Daily 9am-5pm. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. 1-559-565-3793.
- **Wilderness Permits (NPS)**: At Road's End, 6 miles (9.6km) east of the village. Self-issue through 5/26, then 7am-3pm daily.

FOOD, LODGING & OTHER SERVICES - Opens May 12

- **Restaurant (KCPS**: Counter-service meals & snack bar; not a full-service restaurant. Starting 5/12, weekdays 8-10:30am & 5-7pm; weekends 8am-2pm & 5-7pm. Lunch supplies available at market.
- **Gift Shop & Market (KCPS)**: Opens 5/12. Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs. 8am-7pm.
- **Camping & Lodging**: See pages 10-11. Lodge opens 5/12.
- **Showers**: Opens 5/12, 8am-1pm & 3-6pm.
- **Pay Telephones**: Outside lodge & ranger station.
- **Horseback Riding**: Details on page 3. Open late spring.

FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for details on these and other ranger-led programs.

IN GRANT GROVE:

• Walks or talks may be offered on weekends in April and May. Starting 5/27 - Grant Tree Walks at 10am daily. Starting 6/3 - evening programs nightly at the amphitheater by Azalea Campground. Check locally for times and topics.

IN CEDAR GROVE:

• Walks, talks, and campfire programs begin 5/27!

Paying Your Entrance Fee at Kings Canyon in Grant Grove

Until mid-May, you can pay the required park and forest entrance fee just outside the visitor center. After that, the entrance station at Big Stump opens. Please stop to purchase or show your pass. One fee covers your visit to *both* parks *and* the forest! Construction of a new entrance station on Highway 180 near the park boundary starts this spring. Expect brief delays.

USFS: National Forest & Monument

Hume Lake & Big Meadows Areas (FS)

Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, borders the western edge of these National Parks. You are in National Forest when you drive from the park area of Lodgepole to Grant Grove and from Grant Grove to Cedar Grove.

PAY TELEPHONES (cell-phone signals are usually poor):

- **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).

INFORMATION

- **USFS Hume Lake District Office** (FS): 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles (31 km) west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm, daily starting 5/28 (closed 5/30, 7/4, 9/5). Maps & books sold. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

LODGING & OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping** (FS) **& Lodging** (private): See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Montecito Lake Resort** (FS permittee): Open all year. A resort on public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Meals 8-9am, noon-1pm, & 6-7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities, x-c skiing. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Open all year. Facilities on public land open to the public: 24-hour **laundry** (coin operated) & **gas station** (with credit card). **Market & snack shop**. North of Grant Grove 8 miles (13km) on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles (5km). 1-559-335-2000.
- **Boyden Cavern**: On Highway 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Daily 4/29-5/27 tours on the hour 11am-4pm; starting 5/28 10am-5pm. Gift shop. Ask about evening flashlight tours & guided canyoneering trips. Ages 14 & up $13; 3-13 $6.50; under 3 free. AAA 10% discount. *Senior and Access Interagency Pass discounts do not apply.* Schools/group reservations: 1-559-338-0959.
- **Stony Creek Resort** (FS): On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Opens 5/5. Lodge. Market: 8am-7pm; restaurant 4-6:30pm (open 1 hour later Friday-Saturday). Showers 9am-6pm. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. 1-866-KCANYON; 1-559-565-3909.

GASOLINE SALES IN THIS AREA

- At Hume Lake & Stony Creek (USFS permittees) and Kings Canyon Lodge (private facility on private land). See page 3.

Staying Overnight

CAMPING DOs & DON'Ts: These rules protect the park & you!

NOTE: Rules may vary between the Park and the National Forest. Check page 3 for details.

KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS!

It's required all year! Learn how to do it correctly — see below.

CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Always check bulletin boards. Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees. Better yet, bring wood with you. Fires must be out cold before you leave.

In the national forest & monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a Forest Service ranger.

ROADSIDE CAMPING?

It's not permited in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In the National Forest & Monument, roadside camping is permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger for possible locations.

PROPANE CANISTERS

Do not put propane or other fuel canisters in park trash cans or leave them in the parks. Take them with you when you leave.

NO HOLDING CAMPSITES

You may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; property may be impounded.

GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

UP TO 6: Many campgrounds allow only one vehicle & six people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

7 TO 19: In summer, Crystal Springs (Grant Grove) has first-come, first-served sites for groups of 7-15. Canyon View in Cedar Grove has sites for 7-19; $35/site.

LARGER: Call in advance for information on requesting summer group tent-camping sites: For Sunset or Canyon View 1-559-565-4335 (5/1-10/31: 565-3792 for Canyon View). To reserve a group site in Dorst or in the national forest/monument: 1-877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

TIME LIMITS ON CAMPING

Camping stays are limited to 14 days between June 14 and September 14, with 30 days total per year.

RVS & TRAILERS

Length limits & advisory: See *Rules of the Road* (page 5) and *Road Delays & Detours* (page 12) for vehicle-length limits and advisories. Dump stations: See chart on page 11.

Trailers are permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check the chart on page 11. Many sites are not suitable for trailers or RVs. Sites may not be level. Vehicles over 30 feet long can fit in a small number of sites.

No hookups are available.

QUIET & GENERATOR HOURS

10pm-6am. Generator use: At Lodgepole & Dorst only 8-11am & 5-8pm; at other campgrounds 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

BE A VOLUNTEER HOST!

Live in the park, take care of campgrounds & resources, & meet great people! Learn about volunteer opportunities here and nationwide at www.volunteer.gov/gov.

PROPER FOOD STORAGE IS THE LAW!

Bears often get unattended food and even 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.**
- **CAMPERS - Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit). Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it's not 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.**
- **PICNICKERS - Never leave food unattended.**
- **LODGE GUESTS - Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.**
- **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, but if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.**

Sales of Save-a-Bear kits & pins in visitor centers directly support bear management.

LODGING

SEQUOIA PARK

- **Wuksachi Village** (DNCPR) Reservations: 1-888-252-5757 Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070 www.visitsequoia.com. Open all year. North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6 km). Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

* **Silver City Mountain Resort** * Summer: 1-559-561-3223 Winter: 1-805-528-2730 www.silvercityresort.com. Open late May to mid-October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gas.

KINGS CANYON PARK

- **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge** (KCPS) Reservations: 1-866-522-6966 Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500 www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open all year. In Grant Grove. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, showers (closed in winter), store, gifts.
- **Cedar Grove Lodge** (KCPS) Reservations: 1-866-522-6966 Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100 www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com Mid-May to mid-October. In the Kings Canyon. Motel, public showers, restaurant, laundry, store.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/ MONUMENT AREA

- **Montecito Lake Resort** (formerly Montecito-Sequoia Lodge) Reservations: 1-800-227-9900 Front Desk: 1-559-565-3388 www.mslodge.com. Open all year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, seasonal & children's activities.
- **Stony Creek Lodge** (KCPS) Reservations: 1-866-522-6966 Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909. www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com Open early May through October 9. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gas.
- **Big Meadows Cabin** (FS) 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov. Open mid-June to mid-October. An historic guard station in the National Monument between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.

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

* **Note:** These two facilities are on private land and 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, & services. Ask at visitor centers or check www.nps.gov/seki, click PLAN YOUR VISIT then link to LODGING.

WILDERNESS LODGE & PERMITS

See page 4 for details.

Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups.

Food-storage is required!: *Always* read & follow instructions on bulletin boards to help save a bear! See other rules on page 10.

*Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole (in Sequoia NP) & for reservable campgrounds (marked * below) in the National Forest (USFS) may be made up to 6 months in advance of the date desired. Contact www.recreation.gov or 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST from 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 888-448-1474.

CAMPGROUNDS

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

"Nearby"-Within 2 miles/ 3.2

✔ -Year-round

❂ -Summer only

FOOD STORAGE: *Avoid bringing items that won't fit.*

Symbols on the chart tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in each campground:

One small box per site (47" long x 17"deep x 16"high);

✦ One large box per site (at least 47"long x 33"deep x 28"high);

✠ A mix of box sizes;

\+ Additional boxes available for sites to share.

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

	# of sites #	Daily Fee $	Rest-rooms	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles
FOOTHILLS AREA Elevation 2100'-3600'. Lowest in elevation, therefore warmest and, rarely snowy.												
Potwisha: ✦ Open all year.	40	$18	Flush				✔	❂	✔		✔	
Buckeye Flat: ✦ Last night 9/28, then closed. No trailers or RVs.	28	$18	Flush				at Potwisha	❂			✔	
South Fork: # Open all year. No water starting 10/15.	10	$12 May -Oct.	Vault								✔	
MINERAL KING AREA Elevation 6650' - 7500'. No RVs or trailers. ROAD CLOSED UNTIL 5/27/11.												
Atwell Mill: # Last night 10/31. No piped water starting 10/20.	21	$12	Vault	❂	❂			❂			✔	✔
Cold Springs: # Last night 10/31. No piped water starting 10/13.	40	$12	Vault	at Silver City	at Silver City			❂	✔		✔	
LODGEPOLE AREA Elevation 6700'. *= reservable in summer up to 6 months in advance (see Reservations above.)												
***Lodgepole**: ✠ + Open all year. Reservation period late May through 9/29.	205	$20/18 $20 during summer reservation period then $18.	Flush	❂	❂	❂	❂	✔	❂		✔	✔
***Dorst**: ✠ + Closed.	210	$20	Flush				❂	❂	❂		✔	✔

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

	# of sites #	Daily Fee $	Rest-rooms	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles
GRANT GROVE AREA Elevation 6500'.												
Azalea: ✦ Open all year.	110	$18/10	Flush	✔	❂			✔	at village	❂		✔
Crystal Springs: ✦ Closed. Sites for groups of 7-15 (see page 10):	36 14	$18 $35	Flush	✔	❂			✔	"	❂		✔
Sunset: ✦ Closed.	157	$18	Flush	✔	❂			✔	"	❂		✔
CEDAR GROVE AREA (ON THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON) Elevation 4600'. AREA CLOSED UNTIL MID-APRIL.												
Sentinel: 4600' ✦+ Last night open 9/28.	83	$18	Flush	❂	❂	❂		❂	at visitor center	❂	✔	
Sheep Creek: 4600' ✦+ Last night 11/11.	111	$18	Flush	❂	❂	❂		❂	"	❂	✔	
Canyon View: 4600' ✦+ Last night 10/11. All sites are for groups of 7-19 people.	12	$35	Flush	❂	❂	❂		❂	"	❂	✔	
Moraine: 4600' ✦ Closed.	120	$18	Flush	❂	❂	❂		❂	"	❂	✔	

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)

	# of sites #	Daily Fee $	Rest-rooms	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles
HUME LAKE AREA Elevation 4000' - 5900'. *= reservable in summer. CLOSED IN WINTER.												
***Princess**: Campground & dump station	88	$18 single	Vault				❂ $7 Dump station not recommended for vehicles over 30 feet long.	❂			✔	✔
***Hume Lake**: ✦ Last night 9/25.	74	$20 "	Flush	✔		✔		❂	✔		✔	
Tenmile: No water. Closes with snow.	13	$16	Vault								✔	✔
Landslide: Last night 9/17.	9	$16	Vault								✔	✔
Convict Flat: Last night 11/14. No water.	5		Vault								✔	
BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREAS Elevation 6400-7500'. *= reservable in summer. CLOSED IN WINTER.												
***Stony Creek**: # Closed.	49	$20 single	Flush	❂	❂	❂		❂	at lodge		✔	✔
***Upper Stony**: # Closed.	18	$16	Vault	❂	❂	❂		❂	at lodge		✔	✔
Horse Camp: No water. Closes with snow.	5		Vault								✔	
Buck Rock: No water. Closes with snow.	11		Vault									
Big Meadow: ✦ No water. " " "	45		Vault						by trailhead	✔	✔	

PARK ROADS

- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Lodging
- Horses/riding
- Gas station

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

STEEP ROADS:

Grades of 5-8%. Downshift to avoid overheated or failed brakes. See page 5.

DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER:

FROM FOOTHILLS TO:
Giant Forest - 1 hour.
Lodgepole - 1 hour.
Visalia - 1 hour.
Mineral King - 1-1/2 hour. Road closed Nov 1 to late May.

FROM GIANT FOREST TO
Grant Grove - 1 hour.

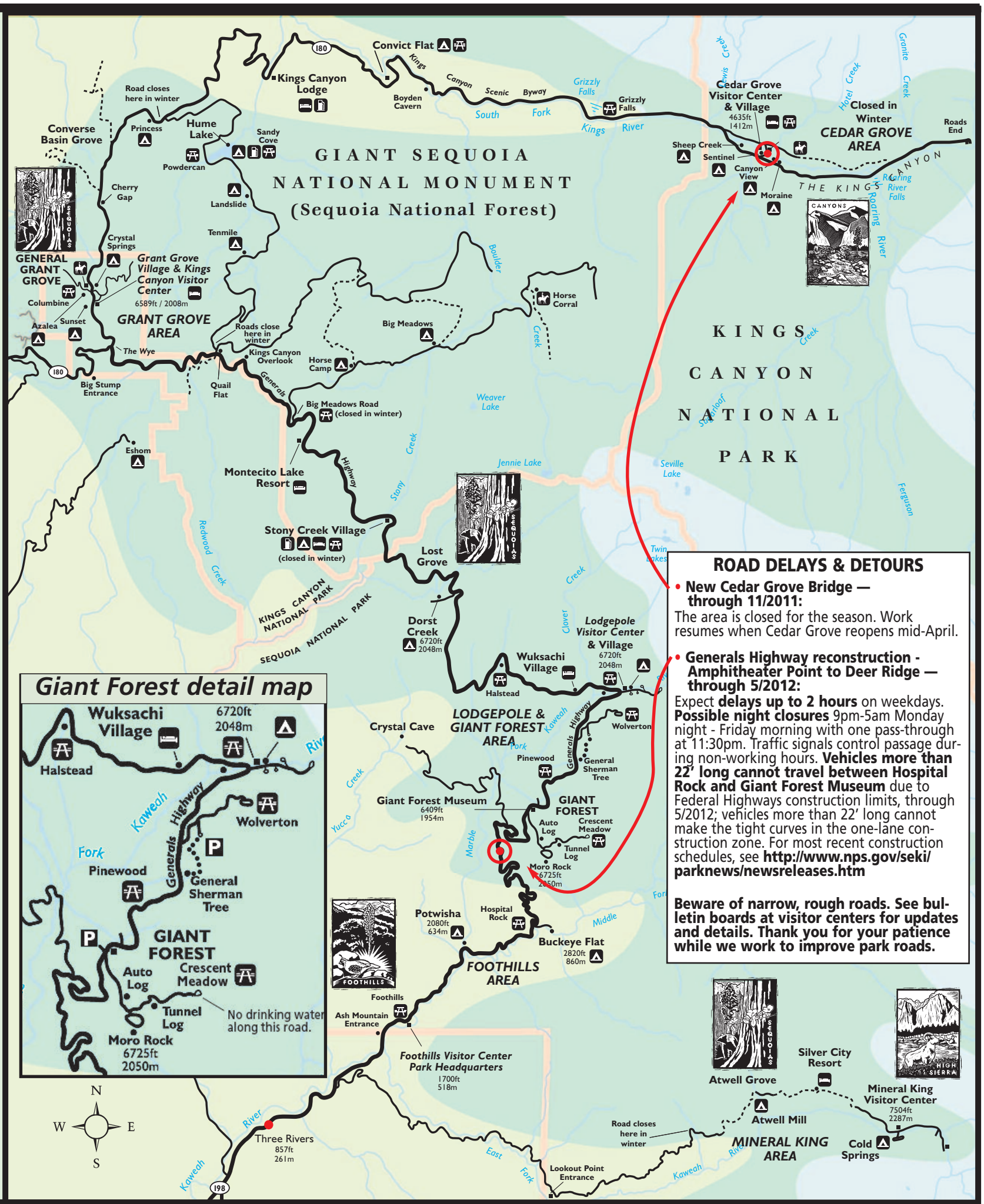
FROM GRANT GROVE TO:
Cedar Grove - 1 hour. Road closed mid-Nov to late April.
Fresno - 1-1/2 hours.
Yosemite south entry via Hwy 41 - 3 hrs.

LIFE ZONES:

High Sierra - 9,000 to 14,500 feet.
Summer: Warm to chilly days; nights down to low 30s. Winter: frigid.

Conifer zone - 5,000 to 9,000 feet.
Summer: Warm days & cool nights. Winter: deep snow, cold days.

Foothills zone - 1,500 to 5,000 feet.
Mild, wet winters; hot, dry summers. Cedar Grove is cooler than the foothills, but hotter than Grant Grove.

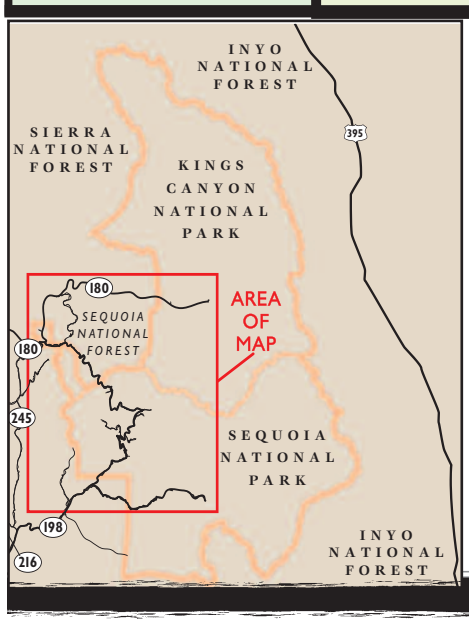


ROAD DELAYS & DETOURS

- **New Cedar Grove Bridge — through 11/2011:**
The area is closed for the season. Work resumes when Cedar Grove reopens mid-April.

- **Generals Highway reconstruction - Amphitheater Point to Deer Ridge — through 5/2012:**
Expect **delays up to 2 hours** on weekdays. **Possible night closures** 9pm-5am Monday night - Friday morning with one pass-through at 11:30pm. Traffic signals control passage during non-working hours. **Vehicles more than 22' long cannot travel between Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum** due to Federal Highways construction limits, through 5/2012; vehicles more than 22' long cannot make the tight curves in the one-lane construction zone. For most recent construction schedules, see **http://www.nps.gov/seki/parknews/newsreleases.htm**

Beware of narrow, rough roads. See bulletin boards at visitor centers for updates and details. Thank you for your patience while we work to improve park roads.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WINTER 2010-2011

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS
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