



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release – October 18, 2012

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Lodge Prescribed Fire Planned in Grant Grove

Fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the Lodge Prescribed Fire in Kings Canyon National Park on Sunday, October 21, weather and air quality conditions permitting. The parks plan to complete the 22 acre unit over a one day period. The purpose of this project is to provide community protection to Grant Grove and are and John Muir Lodge.

This unit is adjacent to the John Muir Lodge and south of the Crystal Springs Trail, west and north of the Pan Point Road, and east of Crystal Springs Campground.

This project is one in a series of concerted steps that fire managers have taken to reduce hazardous fuels around Grant Grove to protect this community from unwanted fire. Previous thinning and prescribed fires have strategically reduced fuels around this developed area.

This unit no recorded fire history; therefore this is considered a restoration burn. This means that fire is being introduced here after more than 100 years of fire exclusion. This has created an unnaturally dense amount of fuels that had accumulated in the absence of the naturally-cycling fire regime of every 10-15 years.

Prescribed fire consumes these fuels under favorable conditions. This reduces the risk of an unwanted fire during hotter, drier conditions that could threaten the developed areas in Grant Grove. Thoughtful ignition techniques and cooler conditions should help re-create a natural, lower-intensity fire for the best ecological effects as well.

A portion of the Crystal Springs Trail (from Highway 180 east to the Pan Point Road) will be closed for this project. See map for details. There are numerous alternative trails accessible to visitors adjacent to the unit and throughout Grant Grove. The Pan Point Road may temporarily close during the ignition phase for short periods of time.

Smoke impacts should be localized to Grant Grove. However, these impacts may be significant, especially at the John Muir Lodge, because it is so close to the prescribed fire unit. Nearby areas such as Sequoia Lake may experience some smoke in the late evening to morning hours when the inversion settles. Visitors and residents who are sensitive to smoke or have pre-existing respiratory problems should limit their outdoor activities when smoke is present. For more information about how to limit exposure to smoke, please visit <http://www.airquality.org/smokeimpact/>.

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