



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Notice

For Immediate Release – October 21, 2011
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Segment A of Round Meadow Prescribed Fire Planned

Fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the Round Meadow Prescribed Fire in Sequoia National Park on Sunday, October 23, weather and air quality conditions permitting. Segment A of this project is 22 acres and should take one day to complete.

This unit is in Giant Forest, north and west of Generals Highway and east of the Big Tree Trail. Round Meadow is a popular visitor destination in the park. The fire will be an excellent opportunity for visitors to witness how fire encourages giant sequoia germination and provides a healthier habitat for these trees. Rangers will be on hand to explain prescribed fire techniques and the role that fire plays in a healthy sequoia forest.

Giant sequoias are fire adapted and thrive in naturally cycling fire. Fire opens the cones, and releases the tiny seeds to the nutrient rich ash and mineral soil below—ideal conditions for this tree's germination. Sequoias have a thick, fire-resistant bark that protects them from the frequent fire cycle in the Sierra Nevada. Sequoia can heal fire scars over time, even those with black catfaces at their base.

This project is considered a restoration burn- meaning that fire is being returned to the forest after approximately 100 years of fire exclusion. Fires occurred approximately every 10-15 years in a sequoia forest.

Portions of the Big Trees Trail will be closed adjacent to the burn perimeter. See map for details. There are numerous alternative trails accessible to visitors adjacent to the unit, and the American with Disabilities Act parking area will stay open throughout the prescribed fire.

Visitors may experience temporary delays due to traffic control from smoke across the Generals Highway. Please drive with lights on, obey posted speed limits, and keep alert for firefighters on the road near fire operations.

-- www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm --