



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Sequoia National Forest



Interagency News Release / Fire Update

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Sheep Fire Mapped at 2025 Acres

The *Sheep Fire* in Kings Canyon National Park has grown to 2025 acres based upon an infrared (IR) mapping mission August 22. The fire is visible in Cedar Grove. However, there are currently no threats to life or property. The park and the Sequoia National Forest are in unified command of the fire.

The fire spread across containment lines west of Cedar Grove on Saturday. The parks' Crew 91 worked hard in steep terrain to construct a new fireline along the edge of the fire. They were assisted by the parks' Helicopter 552, which ran cycles of bucket drops to cool the fire for Crew 91 below. The helicopter used the Kings River as a water dip site. This new handline is holding well.

Additional park resources include Engine 51 (Grant Grove), Engine 72 (Ash Mountain), and Crew 9.

Sequoia National Forest's Crew 20 and Crew 2 have constructed indirect fireline (away from the fire's edge) on the forest to tie in the fire's western and northern edge to keep fire out of Lightning Creek drainage. This effort is to reduce smoke impacts as well as provide better control of the fire on the western flank.

This fire is located in the southern cliffs above Cedar Grove. Fire behavior includes backing fire with some isolated active pockets and occasional torching. It was started by lightning on or about July 16th.

Visitors to the Cedar Grove area should anticipate smoke settling into the valley in the late evening and early morning hours. This is based upon inversion patterns that hold the smoke in the valley. As the day warms and the inversion breaks, smoke should lift out of the valley.

The Don Cecil Trail in Kings Canyon National Park (from the trailhead at Cedar Grove to the park boundary) is closed for public safety. The trail closure is in effect until further notice.

Strategies for managing the fire consider firefighter and public safety, cost management, protection of park and forest facilities, and the ecological benefits of fire in the Sierra Nevada.