



**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



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## Interagency News Release / Fire Update

For Immediate Release – August 19, 2010

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### Sheep Fire Grows to 1805 Acres

The *Sheep Fire* in Kings Canyon National Park has grown to 1805 acres based upon an infrared (IR) mapping mission August 18. The fire is highly visible in Cedar Grove. However, there are currently no threats to life or property.

The fire has spread onto the Sequoia National Forest on the western flank. The park and the forest are in unified command of the fire.

The fire was quite active in Tuesday when high temperatures and low relative humidities encouraged fire growth. Firefighters also conducted burnout operations as the fire approached the valley floor and park infrastructure. Fire activity has moderated with cooler temperatures and cloud cover on Wednesday.

Holding line has also been constructed along the ridge to Lookout Peak in an effort to mitigate smoke impacts in the Kings River drainage.

Sequoia National Forest resources were ordered to assist with burnout and holding operations in Cedar Grove as the fire approached the valley floor and the road. These additional resources help to ensure safe management of the fire in then Cedar Grove Valley. The Springville Hotshots, the Rincon Crew, Crew 20, Crew 2, Engine 32 and Patrol 32 are all assigned to the fire at this time. Park resources include Crew 91, Engine 51 (Grant Grove), Engine 72 (Ash Mountain), and Crew 9.

This fire is located in the southern cliffs above Cedar Grove. The fire has backed down to the Cedar Grove Valley and is active on the south and west flanks. Fire behavior includes backing fire with some isolated active pockets and occasional torching. It was started by lightning on or about July 16<sup>th</sup>.

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, and protection of park and forest facilities.