



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

For Immediate Release – August 25, 2010

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Sheep Fire Mapped at 2425 Acres

The *Sheep Fire* in Kings Canyon National Park has grown to 2425 acres based upon an infrared (IR) mapping mission August 24. 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.

Fire growth has been predominately along the southern and western flanks.

Resources include the parks' Crew 91, Helicopter 552, Engine 51 (Grant Grove), and Engine 72 (Ash Mountain). Sequoia National Forest's resources include Crew 20 and Crew 2.

Additionally, three helicopters have been ordered to complete water drops along the western flank. This is in an effort to slow the fire's western growth and reduce smoke impacts. Cooler temperatures are forecasted for this weekend and should moderate fire growth.

Indirect fireline (away from the fire's edge) has been constructed on the forest to tie in the fire's western and northern edge to keep fire out of Lightning Creek drainage. Several spot fires over the Lookout Peak Ridge fireline have been handled by crews.

This fire is located south of Cedar Grove and has safely backed to the valley floor. 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.