



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 –September 1, 2011  
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### **Willow Fire Contained in Sequoia National Park**

Firefighters discovered the Willow Fire burning in southern Sequoia National Park and have made the decision to contain the fire.

It was ignited by lightning from storms that passed over the parks last weekend and was discovered Tuesday, August 30. At that time, it was estimated to be three acres. The fire is near Willow Creek, just west of the Kern River drainage and to the east of Franklin Pass at approximately 8,600 feet in elevation.

Often, fires are not detected right after a storm. Precipitation or cooler weather may keep the fire latent for several days. That is why firefighters monitor for fires for several days after a lightning storm.

Although the fire is located in the park's wilderness and is in an area that the parks would like to see a natural fire to occur, this fire has the potential to grow to approximately 3,000 acres and the smoke would be pulled into the Kern River drainage. The parks recognize that visitors and residents in this area have experienced significant smoke impacts from the Lion Fire. This influenced the parks' decision to contain the fire.

Members of the parks' Crew 91, helitack, and Santa Monica National Recreation Area's Engine 73 constructed direct handline around the fire and contained it at eight acres. They used minimum impact tactics to adhere to wilderness standards. Crews will continue to monitor the fire periodically.

-- <http://www.nps.gov/seki/naturescience/current-fire-information.htm> --