



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

GUIDE - FALL 2004

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Changing climate changes everything

Hot, cold, moist, and dry, four champions fierce, strive here for mast'ry.

John Milton, Paradise Lost, 1667

The Sierra knows these "four champions" well. From its hot, dry foothills to the frosty peaks, temperature and moisture play a critical role in determining what lives where. In fact, the ups and downs of these climatic conditions affect just about everything everywhere.

Climate has always shifted, but almost always gradually. Over these long periods of time, life adjusts very slowly, adapting to survive.

Therefore, each creature and plant lives where the specific conditions suit it. Each has a range of hot and cold, wet and dry, that it can tolerate — or that the food it depends on can tolerate. Those that can live with a wide range of conditions inhabit many places (think of common species like coyotes and dandelions). Others are remarkably limited in where they can survive (think of rare life forms like sequoias and cave insects). Climate dictates all.

If climate shifts quickly, life doesn't have time to adapt. Animals and plants cannot change rapidly. A few can migrate, but only if appropriate habitat is close enough. When climate change is faster than usual, what cannot adapt or move on must perish.

Due to its extreme variety of elevations — and therefore climatic conditions — this park is home to incredibly diverse life. Given that shifting climates could mean big changes for that life, park staff work hard to understand what climate was like in the past and how it could change. They join researchers from other agencies and universities to study a broad field of



Ancient Sierran ice is melting. Photos of the Darwin Glacier and others document a century of change — and shrinkage. © USGS G.K. Gilbert; © H. Basagic

topics related to climate:

- **Snow:** Monthly measurements taken at 29 places throughout the parks reveal snow's depth and water content. This tells approximately how much snowmelt will flow into rivers that support wildlife and reservoirs that serve people.

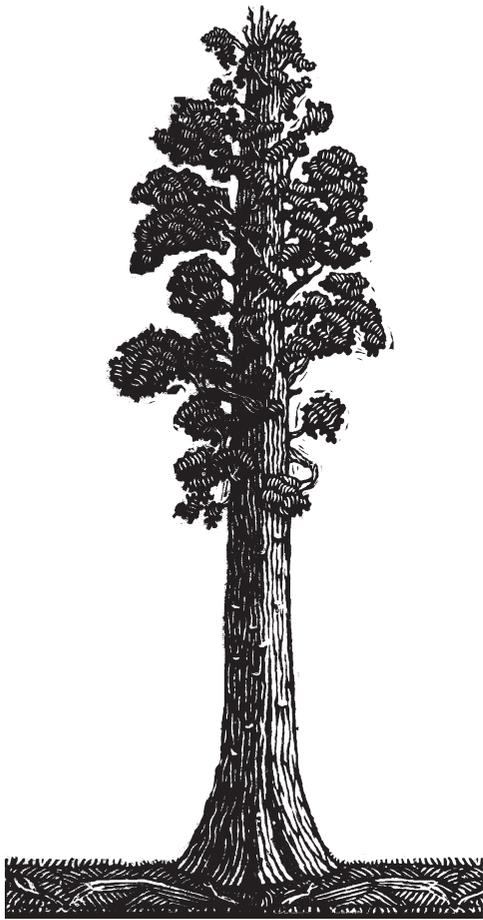
- **Daily weather:** Over a dozen stations record temperature and other weather factors. These documents record highs and lows as well as averages over time. Temperature affects whether precipitation comes as rain or snow, which affects how much snow accumulates *and* how soon it is melted away by spring rains and heat. It affects how much water evaporates from rivers and reservoirs. In some reptiles, it affects the gender of offspring. For the pika, an alpine cousin of the rabbit, a few degrees too warm spells death. This tiny mammal, already living on mountain peaks, has nowhere to go if the climate heats up.

- **Tree rings:** Weather affects growth, so tree ring patterns tell us about past climate. Long-lived trees like sequoias give us a climate history over thousands of years. We can see when they grew well and when they grew not at all.

- **Fire:** Scars on tree rings also record the number and intensity of past fires. Since we can date tree rings down to season, we know when the fires occurred. Fire intensity and frequency is strongly related to climate. Fire is critical to sequoia reproduction, overall forest health, and creation of habitat for many plants and animals.

Studying these clues to past climate helps to predict how upcoming climatic shifts might affect life. What will come to pass if the "fierce champion" of heat increases? Are we willing to accept those changes?

WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON



INFORMATION NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
(no coins needed)

24-Hour Park Information (NPS) — 1-559-565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki

National Forest Information (FS)
1-559-338-2251
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Yosemite Information (NPS)
1-209-372-0200
www.nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions (Caltrans) 1-800-427-7623

Partners in the Parks

The following groups work together to provide this guide, first published in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*. It is published by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and printed by the Selma Enterprise:

- National Park Service (NPS)
Malinee Crapsey, Editor
1-559-565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki
- Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)
1-559-565-3759
www.sequoiahistory.org
- Forest Service (FS)
559-784-1500
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia
- Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNC)
1-559-565-4070
www.visitsequoia.com
- Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)
1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com
- US Geological Survey (USGS)
1-559-565-3171
www.werc.usgs.gov

Page 1 illustrations ©NPS by Rick Wheeler

Get to know your parks

Given the park's names, you expect giant trees and spectacular canyons — and you won't be disappointed. But the whole of this place is even greater than the sum of its great parts.

Ranging from 1300' to 14,494', these parks encompass a huge elevational range. This impressive span from low to high means dramatic shifts from hot, dry foothills to shady mid-elevation forests to the chilly high Sierra. It means an extraordinarily diverse collection of plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

There is diversity, too, in the caretakers of this landscape. Bordering the two national parks is a national monument that is part of a national forest. A U.S. Geological Survey Field Station conducts research here. The Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) ensures that books and maps are available for sale at visitor centers and contributes to education and research here. The Sequoia Fund supports other significant projects.

Other partners, public and private, cooperate with the Park Service to accomplish a challenging mission — to provide for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations.

You are an equally important partner! Experience the parks fully by learning all you can about them, and join in preserving them. Together we can succeed in meeting their inspiring mission:

*The National Park Service
cares for special places
saved by the American people
so that all may experience
our heritage.*

Expect Change

We often think of parks as outdoor museums, but caretaking a living ecosystem is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit; trees fall and buildings change. Park management tools may or may not affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone-monitoring equipment that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities. Some of them may unavoidably affect your visit: smoke from a prescribed fire or a campsite closed due to revegetation or intense bear activity.

These actions are important tools in maintaining this landscape, and in protecting its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you a snapshot of the year-round process of park management. Nature may decide the timing of many of these activities, but they all share one goal: preservation of these parks for people now *and* in the future.

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

Ask at entrance stations about the following:

- **7-day pass** for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): \$10 per vehicle or \$5 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **Annual pass** for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): \$20.
- **National Parks Pass:** \$50 pass admits all passengers in a private vehicle to all U.S. national parks for one year from date of purchase. Not redeemable at Crystal Cave. Also available via 1-888-GO-PARKS and www.nationalparks.org.
- **Golden Eagle Pass:** \$65 pass not only for national parks, but also for entrance fees at all federal monuments, historic sites, recreation areas & wildlife refuges. Also honored at National Forests charging for use of high-impact recreation areas. Valid for one year from date of purchase.
- **Golden Age Passport:** A one-time \$10 fee buys this lifetime pass to all national parks for U.S. citizens & residents aged 62 or over.
- **Golden Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens & residents. Bring appropriate documentation to any park visitor center.

WELCOME!

You may borrow the park map & guide in Braille at visitor centers.

BIENVENUE!

Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

BIENVENIDOS!

Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

WILKOMMEN!

Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucherzentrum erhältlich.

BENVENUTI!

La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

What is the difference between Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument? You see signs for all them in this area!

All are on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses. National parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation. Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior.

National forests, managed under a "multiple use" concept, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, and recreation with and without vehicles. Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.

Both agencies manage wilderness and other areas where they strive for maximum protection of natural resources. For example, part of Sequoia National Forest has been designated Giant Sequoia National Monument to emphasize protection of sequoias.

Parks, forests, and monuments may have different rules in order to meet their goals. Read "Where can I...?" on the next page to check what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we are lucky to enjoy the wide range of benefits these diverse areas can offer.



Crystal Cave Rocks!



Explore fabulous formations! Protected since its discovery in 1918, this is the only one of over 200 caves in these parks that can be toured. ©NPS Photo

Tickets are NOT sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1-1/2 hours in advance of your tour.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance on Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see map on page 12). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m).

Use restrooms at the parking lot; these are not available at the cave. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Bring a jacket (free loaner jackets are available); the cave is 50° F (10° C).

No strollers, tripods, or baby backpacks. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about Wild Cave Tours and group reservations! Tours operated by SNHA: 1-559-565-3759.

45-minute tours (be sure to check details above):

Saturdays - October 2, 9, & 16: 11am - 4pm on the hour. October 23 & 30: 1pm - 4pm on the hour.

Sundays through Fridays - October 1-22: 11am, 2pm, 3pm.
Sunday, October 24: 3pm, 4pm. Closed Monday, October 25.
October 26-29: 2pm, 3pm. **Sunday, October 31:** 3pm, 4pm.
Schedules may be subject to change.

Fees - Ages 6-12 \$5; age 13-61 \$10; age 62 & up, \$8; under 6 free. National Park & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a 50% discount and all fees go to help the parks!

Last tours of the season: October 31!

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

WALKS & TALKS In the fall, free ranger activities may be offered on some weekends. Check bulletin boards for detailed schedules. Once snow accumulates, snowshoe walks will begin. See *Nature Programs* on pages 8 & 9. Ranger programs have been a tradition here since 1931 — join us!

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy and sells a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Your purchases help to support the parks!

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM People of all ages earn a patch while learning to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn a Senior patch! To get started, purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!

TEACHERS - BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!

Rangers offer curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6th-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology & caves, sequoias, & Native Americans. Reserve a date for a fun, interactive program: 1-559-565-4303.



SEQUOIA FIELD INSTITUTE!

Enjoy your parks more than ever — try the Sequoia Field Institute! Choose from their wide variety of programs: indoor and outdoor seminars, nature hikes, backpacking, school trips, and environmental education. In winter learn cross-country skiing, spend a day exploring on snowshoes, or try winter camping!

Housed in the Beetle Rock Education Center in Giant Forest, the Institute also arranges special educational packages for your club, school, group, or extended family. Whether you are new to the parks or an old hand, there is something for you at the Field Institute.

The Institute offers low fees, and any profits go to support park education and science programs. Pick up a course catalog at any visitor center or contact the non-profit Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA), which operates the Institute: www.sequoiahistory.org or john_lockhart@sequoiahistory.org or 1-559-565-4251.

WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different types of areas - a National Park and a National Forest. Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. See page 2 to learn why this is so, and use a map to know where you are!

- **GO CAMPING** In Parks: Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. In National Forest: In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road & no further.
- **CUT WOOD** Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Get permit & guidelines at Hume Lake Ranger District: 1-559-338-2251.
- **GO FISHING** In both areas: Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.
- **WALK A PET** In Parks: Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, roads). In National Forest: Leashed pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave them in hot cars.
- **RIDE A BICYCLE** In Parks: Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. In National Forest: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.
- **FEED WILDLIFE** Don't do it anywhere! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous; some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.
- **COLLECT THINGS** Not in the Parks: Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. In National Forest: Gathering a few cones or rocks for personal

use is permitted. In both areas: Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.

- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD** Not in either area. Stay on roads.
- **HAVE A CAMPFIRE** Use of fire is restricted due to very dry conditions. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for local restrictions before starting any fire, including charcoal. Smoking locations may be limited as well. In Parks: Only in fire grills in unrestricted campgrounds & some picnic areas. In National Forest: Get your required fire permit free at Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump Entrance Station, or the USFS office in Dunlap on Highway 180.
- **GO PICNICKING** See picnic symbols on map (back page). Fire restrictions are in place; check before starting any fire: wood, charcoal, or gas. Never leave food unattended due to bears! Most sites have tables,

restrooms & fire grills, except: No grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. Fires are never permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, and Powdercan. Water may be turned off in fall at higher elevations.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Rides by-the-hour; back-country spot trips and guides.

Cedar Grove - closed
 1-559-565-3464 summer
 1-559-337-2314 off season

Grant Grove - closed
 1-559-335-9292 summer
 1-559-337-2314 off season

Mineral King - closed
 1-559-565-3106

Horse Corral (in National Forest/Monument) - closes by mid-October.

Please call for reservations.
 1-559-565-3404 summer
 1-559-564-6429 off season
 1-559-679-3573 cell

Fire — a Long-Lost Partner

Have you ever accused anyone of something only to discover later that you were wrong? In parks and forests nationwide, we have learned that a accused vandal is actually an important partner. That partner is fire. Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape because we believed it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences for park resources. It turned out that fire suppression blocked important ecological processes and caused many problems. Two stand out:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires are critical to sequoia regeneration. They create an ash seedbed and open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.



Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels that would otherwise feed intense wildfires. Occasional hot spots leave openings in the forest that are ecologically important — that is where sequoia trees regenerate. ©NPS Photo

Second, a vast accumulation of dead wood and small, dense white fir trees now increase wildland fire hazards. Natural fires used to burn away these excess fuels. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels cause bigger blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife. They burn hotter and are harder to put out.

To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service has taken steps to end this misunderstanding about fire. For over 30 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. When and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires and allow lightning-caused fires to spread naturally to improve resource conditions.

We see strong evidence that working with this powerful natural partner is better than resisting it — we are reducing fuels and stimulating sequoia growth with the help of fire.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Early rangers thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural partner only hurts what we are trying to protect.

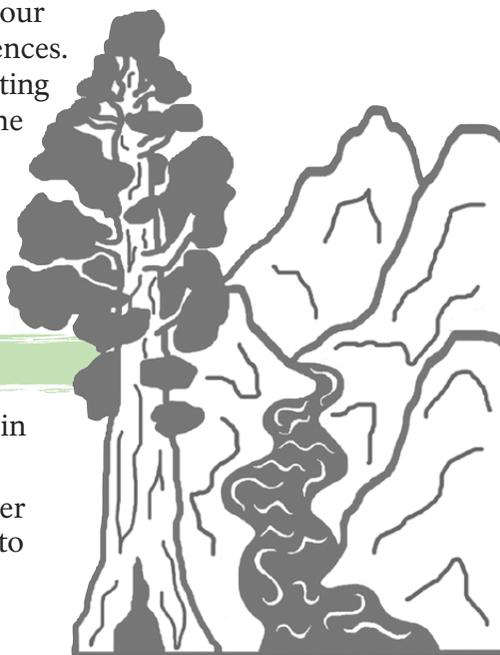
HELP US HELP THE PARKS! THE SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Does the sight of a majestic sequoia or the dramatic Kings Canyon take your breath away? Then join an organization that helps to preserve these experiences. The non-profit Sequoia Natural History Association is dedicated to supporting the parks, enriching *your* experience, and promoting public awareness of the significance of national parks.

SNHA is the park's primary partner in funding education and research programs, and in helping to support exhibits, ranger programs, and bear protection. The association also operates bookstores in the visitor centers, Crystal Cave tours, and the Sequoia Field Institute education programs.

MEMBER BENEFITS

- 15% off everything sold in park visitor centers, at Lake Kaweah Visitor Center, the Sierra Nature Store in Visalia, and from the website.
- 10-20% off books at most other national park visitor centers.
- Half-price tickets on regular Crystal Cave tours and a reduced fee on special tours (see page 3).
- Internet access for \$13.95 /month, unlimited. No contract or sign-up fee.
- Discounts at selected hotels in Three Rivers.
- Biannual members' newsletter and copies of this Guide mailed to you seasonally.
- An invitation to the annual members' picnic in the sequoias.
- Discounts on Sequoia Field Institute programs.
- The knowledge that you are helping your national parks!



Sequoia Natural History Association
www.sequoiahistory.org
559-565-3759

The Sequoia Fund

Another non-profit group comes to the rescue when limited funds put important park projects on hold.

Beetle Rock, in the Giant Forest, is a great example. This historic building was slated for destruction. Instead, the Sequoia Fund continues to raise money to remake it into a unique classroom facility. As the new Beetle Rock Education Center, it houses the Sequoia Field Institute, which offers outstanding seminars, workshops, and field trips to researchers, school groups, and YOU! Now the Sequoia Fund needs your help to finish the classrooms and make the Education Center complete.

The Fund's efforts on behalf of these parks are numerous: bear-proof food-storage boxes, Junior Ranger programs, research on the threatened Sierra bighorn sheep, habitat restoration, and trail repair. Help turn important goals into reality — contact The Sequoia Fund: 559-739-1668, www.sequoiafund.org.

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

To preserve the wilderness environment and experience, each park trail has a daily entry quota for overnight trips. A permit is required for each party (including those traveling solo). Permits are not required for park day hikes or for overnights in the Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses in the national forest.

Get your permit at the park ranger station nearest your trailhead (see pages 8 & 9). There is a backcountry camping fee of \$15 for each party.

First-come, first-served permits can be issued the morning of your trip or after 1pm the day before. If the quota for your desired trail is full, you can choose another trail or another day to start.

Reserved permits must be picked up between the afternoon before and 9am on your day of departure. If delayed, call the ranger station or you may forfeit your reservation.

Permits are not issued late in the day as minimum distances must be reached before you camp. Camping in the park's "frontcountry" is permitted only in campgrounds; camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

Requests to reserve a trail-entry date are accepted starting March 1 and at least 3 weeks before your trip's start date:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
HCR 89 Box 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766; Fax 559-565-4239

Get a copy of *Backcountry Basics* at visitor centers or by mail for free details on wilderness, or see www.nps.gov/seki/bcinfo.htm.

BACKCOUNTRY LODGES

- **PEAR LAKE SKI HUT (SNHA)**
Reservations required:
1-559-565-3759
www.sequoiahistory.org
Open December to April. This cabin is a beautiful, strenuous 6-mile ski into the wilderness.
- **BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP (DNCPR)** www.visitsequoia.com
Reservations required:
1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June through September 11, weather permitting. A tent hotel at 7800' on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. People may create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.

The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your hands. Keep alert. Watch where you step. Read the warnings below and on bulletin boards, and ask a ranger for advice.



DROWNING is the #1 cause of death in national parks. Getting out of rivers can be nearly impossible; rocks are smooth and slippery and swift, cold water saps your strength. Be extra careful along rivers; falling in is as dangerous as swimming.

TICKS: Common in foothill grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease.



Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a ranger's and/or doctor's advice.

PLAGUE: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

TUSSOCKSIS: Tussock moths occur naturally in these forests. Tiny hairs from these moths, caterpillars, egg masses, and cocoons may cause allergic reactions in some people. Learn more at visitor centers.

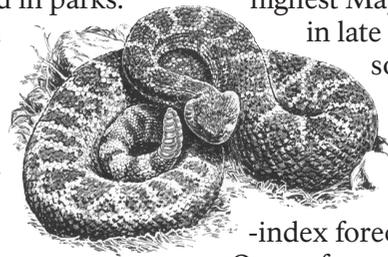
UNSAFE WATER: Giardia, a protozoan in lakes and streams, can cause intestinal problems. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria or Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

SAFE WATER: Each of the parks' 13 water systems is tested regularly to ensure that it meets state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers, or call 559-565-3341.

POISON OAK: This common foothills shrub is red in fall with whitish berries, bare in winter, spring leaves are shiny green in groups of three. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes as soon as possible.



RATTLESNAKES: Watch where you put your hands and feet! Most common in the foothills, rattlesnakes are protected in parks. Most bites result from teasing or handling them. Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



COUGARS: Mountain lions roam this area, but the chance of seeing one is very small. It is rare, but cougars have attacked people and pets, so be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Don't run. Cougars associate running with prey and give chase.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.
- Pick up children.
- If the lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

CARBON MONOXIDE: This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in enclosed spaces such as a tent, camper, or RV.

HYPOTHERMIA: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

OZONE POLLUTION: This colorless gas rises into the Sierra on warm afternoon winds. Levels are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. These peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state and federal standards and can affect respiratory systems. See air-quality index forecasts in visitor centers. Ozone forms in sunlight from gases in car and factory exhaust. This statewide problem challenges us all to reduce pollution.

WEST NILE VIRUS is caused by bites from infected mosquitos. The chance of infection is low; human illness is rare. Avoid mosquito bites.

SAFE PARK TRAVEL: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sun-glasses and sunscreen. Share roads and trails with others: cars, bikes, walkers, and wildlife all travel here.

LIGHTNING: As soon as you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle, if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open areas. Stay away from water, wire fences, and metal railings.

OPERATION NO-GROW

- Prevent illegal marijuana growing.
- Protect visitor & employee safety.
- Preserve our natural resources.
- Promote *your* National Park experience!

Keep parks safe and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities to 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

Rules of the Road

GIANT FOREST ROAD WORK

Slow for construction along the Generals Highway just north of the Giant Forest Museum and near the Sherman Tree. The parking lot for the tree remains open. See page 8 for details.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder as it slows you down, but it will save your brakes.

COLD NIGHTS/ICY ROADS

Winter starts early here. Watch for icy roads, especially at night and in mornings, and for snowplows.

LET OTHERS PASS

Slower vehicles *must* use paved turnouts to let traffic pass.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

Need towing? Call 24-hour park switchboard: 565-3341 then press zero. In Sequoia Park only, AAA for out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, minor repairs: call 565-4070 (24-hour).

STAY ON PAVEMENT

To protect soil and plants, you must park & travel on pavement only.

PARK ROAD CONDITIONS

24-hour recording: 1-559-565-3341 then press 9, then 4.

VEHICLE LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia, advised maximum is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum legal length limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. Or, if you are towing a car, try camping in the foothills and using it to explore.

NARROW WINDING ROADS & SEASONAL CLOSURES

IN KINGS CANYON –

- Highway 180 to Cedar Grove: Closes below Kings Canyon Lodge 11/8 and below Hume Lake turnout on 11/29.

- Panoramic Point Road: No trailers or motorhomes. Closes with first snow.

- Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved, rough. Not plowed.

IN SEQUOIA –

- Crystal Cave Road: Closes with first snow. Maximum length 22' (6.7m). RVs not recommended.

- Mineral King Road: Closes 11/1. Steep; RVs & trailers discouraged (not permitted in campgrounds).

- Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road: Trailers and RVs strongly discouraged. Closes with first snow.

- South Fork Road: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

DON'T STOP IN THE GRASS

Use paved turnouts only. Hot brakes and mufflers start fires.

MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup in the uphill lane.

NO GAS STATIONS IN PARK

Only Grant Grove and Cedar Grove markets sell cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or in the National Forest at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp:

24 hours with credit card; year round. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.

- Stony Creek Village: 24 hours with credit card. Closes 11am 11/1. Between Wuksachi and Grant Grove on Generals Hwy.

- Kings Canyon Lodge: usually 9am-dark, call to confirm (see page 10). 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180. Closes by mid-November.

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails), single file with traffic, and wear light-colored clothes after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.



©NPS by S. Collector

Highlights

SEQUOIA PARK

GIANT FOREST



Review the safety tips on page 5. Take a map, warm clothes, sunglasses, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are

going. You are on your own!

Road work and trail reconstruction is affecting vehicle and foot traffic on weekdays in the area near the Sherman Tree and across from the Big Trees Trail. Traffic may be delayed up to one hour through November. The parking area and restrooms remain open. Page 8 has details. Thanks for your patience!

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE:

Park two miles (3.2km) north of Giant Forest Museum (a new parking area opens next year). A short walk to the world's largest tree, named in 1879 by a Civil War veteran. A huge sequoia cross-section nearby illustrates the connection between sequoias and fire.

BIG TREES TRAIL: ♿

This 2/3-mile (1 km) trail circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum and follow the wheelchair-accessible trail from there. Allow 1 hour round trip.

CONGRESS TRAIL: A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the sequoia grove, beginning at the Sherman Tree. Excellent for first-time visitors. Allow 1-2 hours.

CRYSTAL CAVE: See page 3.

ALONG THE MORO ROCK - CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), narrow, dead-end road begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway & explores the southwest portion of the grove. Trailers and RVs are strongly discouraged. It closes with the first snow to become a ski trail.

Some highlights include:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot/91 m elevation gain). Spectacular view of the Great Western Divide & the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through (a bypass is available for larger vehicles). The only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Generals Highway.

CRESCENT MEADOW lies at the end of this road. Excellent summer wildflowers. Stay on designated trails; walk only on fallen logs to access fragile meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, summer home of the first settler in Giant Forest, & the High Sierra Trail, which runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (14,494 feet /4417 m; highest peak in the lower 48 states).

AUTO LOG: Once you could drive your car onto this fallen giant sequoia, but rot in the log has put an end to this old tradition.

NEARBY TRAILS

TOKOPAH VALLEY: 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, ending below the impressive granite cliffs of Tokopah Canyon. Start in Lodgepole Campground; 500 foot/152 m elevation gain. Allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

LITTLE BALDY: Ascends 700 vertical feet (213 m) in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit with a grand view. Starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 9 miles (14 km) north of the General Sherman Tree on the Generals Highway. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.



MINERAL KING

The winding, steep, narrow road to this valley is open late May through October 31 (weather permitting). It ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. Many trails, too numerous to list here, lead up to higher country and excellent hiking. Ask a ranger for information about the area. Drinking water systems are turned off as of October 13.

THE FOOTHILLS

The lower elevations host more different kinds of plants and animals than the rest of the park. Watch for ticks and poison oak on foothills trails.



HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC AREA:

Western Mono people once lived here; exhibits offer insight into their lives. A 1/4-mile trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Be careful: Drownings have occurred here.

MARBLE FALLS: This trail climbs 3.9 miles (6km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park near site #14 at Potwisha Campground. Follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch. Watch for the trail along the steep bank to the right.

PARADISE CREEK: Park at Hospital Rock and walk the road to Buckeye Flat Campground. Follow the footpath across from site #26 & cross the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for just over one mile (1.6 km) before growing faint.

MIDDLE FORK: Leading through chapparral to highcountry, the first miles offer views of Moro Rock and Castle Rocks. Park at Hospital Rock. Walk toward Buckeye Flat Campground and turn left on the dirt road before the campground. Go 1.3 miles (2 km) to a parking area. Panther Creek Falls is 3 miles (5km) beyond that.

SOUTH FORK

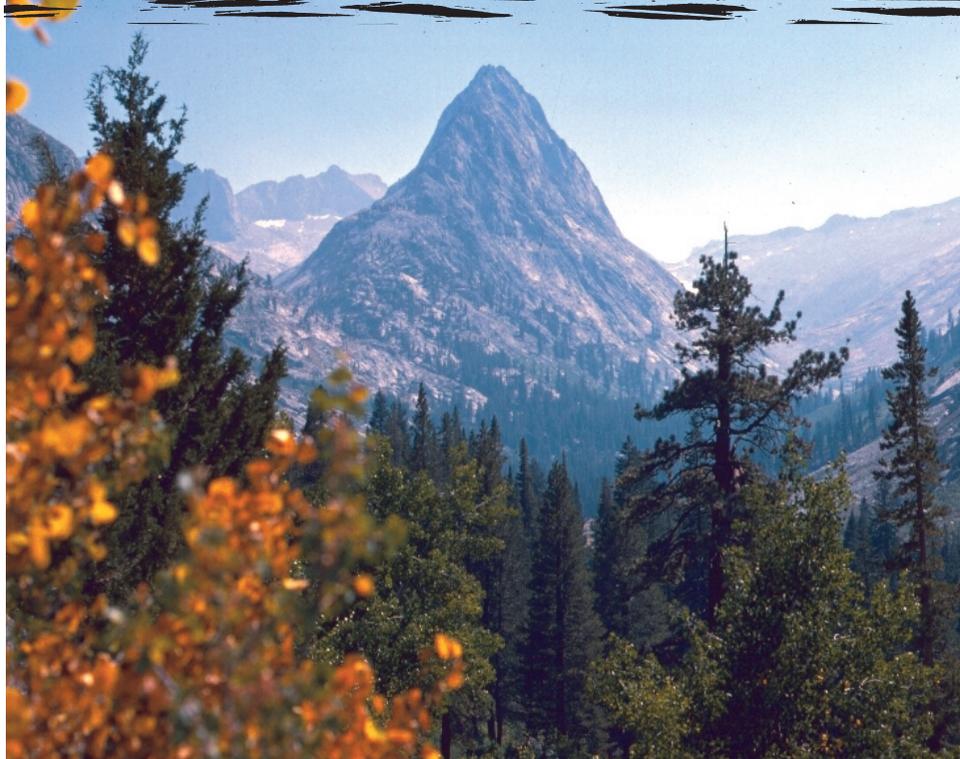
Tiny South Fork Campground lies at the end of a 13-mile road that leaves Highway 198 in Three Rivers.

LADYBUG: Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

GARFIELD: A relatively steep 5 mile (8.3km) one-way climb to Garfield sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.

Highlights

KINGS CANYON



The Whaleback ©Peter Steckel

GRANT GROVE

Review safety advice on page 5. Carry a map, warm clothes, and water, and tell someone where you are going. Once it snows, only the Grant Tree Trail may be plowed.

GENERAL GRANT TREE: One of the world's ten largest-living trees. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. It is also a National Shrine, the only living



memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.48 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

NORTH GROVE LOOP: This lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

DEAD GIANT LOOP: Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) round trip.

NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD: Spectacular vista of the high Sierra. Go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the intersection signed "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." Walk 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. Trailers and RVs not recommended on this steep, narrow road. The 5-mile (8 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here. The road closes with the first snow.

BUENA VISTA PEAK: Begin just south of Kings Canyon Overlook on Generals Highway, 7 miles (11 km) southeast of Grant Grove. 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and the high Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

REDWOOD CANYON: The world's largest grove of sequoias. Acres of rejuvenating forest resulting from 30 years of prescribed fires show the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (6 miles/9.6 km south of Grant Grove), turn southwest at Redwood Saddle. Go right for 2 miles (3.2 km) on a bumpy dirt road (not plowed).

BIG BALDY: Great views and a look down into Redwood Canyon from this ridge. The trail

winds 2 miles (3.2 km) to the summit at 8,209 feet (2502 m). From Grant Grove, drive 8 miles (13 km) south on the Generals Highway to Big Baldy Trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183 m); round trip 4 miles (6.4 km).

KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK: For a view to the northeast of the high Sierra wilderness, stop at this overlook about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove.

REDWOOD CANYON OVERLOOK: Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, this looks west over one of the world's largest groves of sequoias. Studies here proved the positive relationship between fire and sequoias.



KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

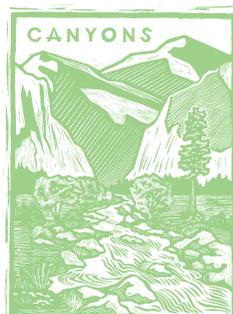
The road into the canyon stays open until November 8, weather permitting. Take time to see this spectacular gorge before then.

CANYON VIEW: The "U" shape of Kings Canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village turnout.

KNAPP'S CABIN: During the Roaring '20s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, using this small cabin to store gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

ROARING RIVER FALLS: A shady five-minute walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village turnout. Paved, relatively accessible.

ZUMWALT MEADOW: This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, a lush meadow, and the meandering Kings River. Park at the signed trailhead 4-1/2 miles (7.2 km) east of the Cedar Grove Village turnout. Allow 1 hour.



ROAD'S END: Vehicles can go no farther than this. Find high granite walls and trails to the High Sierra and to Muir Rock and the river.

TAKE TIME FOR A HIKE

MIST FALLS: Follow the river through forest to one of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; a 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End, 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km) east of the Village turnout.

DON CECIL TRAIL: Once the main route to Cedar Grove prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180, this trail starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village. It climbs the north-facing slope, passing Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) and affording good views. Lookout Peak (a 13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/1220 m elevation gain) provides an incredible panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL: Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Strenuous, it switchbacks up through chaparral to a forested ridge and Cedar Grove Overlook with gorgeous views up and down canyon. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Allow 3 to 4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore the Giant Sequoia National Monument within Sequoia National Forest. Roads to Converse Basin and Buck Rock are gated as winter advances.

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic multiple-arch dam, supplied water for a flume that floated lumber to Sanger, 67 miles (108 km) below. An easy 2 1/2-mile (4km) trail encircles it. See page 9 for other facilities there. 8 miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

CONVERSE BASIN: Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared, or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair. Take Highway 180 north of Grant Grove 6 miles (9.6 km), then left on the graded dirt road. Ask for details.

BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT: A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road via Forest Road 13S04.

Road Construction in Giant Forest

Through November, work on roads and trails may cause delays on weekdays near the General Sherman Tree and across from the Big Trees Trail. Both are north of the Giant Forest Museum.

Work may take place from 6:30am to 5:30pm. Delays up to one hour are possible near the Sherman Tree. The parking lot and restrooms there remain open and the tree is accessible (weather permitting). Please slow down and travel safely.

Thank you!

Lodgepole Area

LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

6700' (2040 m) elevation. This village is a few miles north of Giant Forest, in beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 and your map. Lodgepole Village offers:

INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Visitor Center:** Daily 9am-4:30pm through 10/31, then closed for the season. Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. Exhibits & a slide program on geology & forest life; books, maps, first aid. 1-559-565-4436.
- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Self-register for them outside the Lodgepole Visitor Center. See details on page 4.
- **Walter Fry Nature Center:** Closed for the season.

FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR) - last day October 24.

- **Lodgepole Market & Gift Shop:** Daily 9am-6pm through 10/2, then 9am-4:30pm through 10/24. Supplies, bear canisters, gifts, premade sandwiches, ice cream.
- **Snack Bar:** Saturday-Sunday only 9am-4:30pm. Breakfast, hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. Details on page 11.
- **Showers & Laundry (DNCPR):** Last day open 10/24. Showers daily 9am-1pm & 3-5:45pm through 10/3, then 9am-4:15pm. Laundry 9am-6pm through 10/2, then 9am-4:30pm. Last laundry in 1 hour before closing.
- **Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 1-559-565-3678. Lobby with stamp machine open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.

WUKSACHI VILLAGE

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Open year-round 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the General Sherman Tree. Cross-country ski rentals in winter.

FOOD, SHOPS & LODGING (DNCPR)

- **Dining Room:** Breakfast 7:30-9:30am, lunch 11:30am-2:30pm, dinner 5-9pm (starting 10/25, dinner ends at 8:30pm). Dinner reservations required: 1-559-565-4070. Box lunches available. Lounge daily 4-10pm through 10/24, then for 4-9pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-7pm through 10/24, then 8am-5pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing, art, snacks.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details.

WOLVERTON

7200' (2160 m) elevation. This open grassy meadow and picnic area is just 2 miles (3.2km) north of the General Sherman Tree.

Giant Forest Area

GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

6400' (1950m) elevation. Home to the world's biggest trees, this grove offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking trails. See page 6 for highlights. For picnic areas, check page 3 and your map.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4480.

CRYSTAL CAVE - Daily tours of this park highlight through October 31 (except October 25).

Tickets are not sold at the cave; see page 3 for details and schedule.

Foothills Area

1500-3500' (457-1067 m) elevation. A land of oaks, chaparral, and river canyons, hot summers and snow-free winters, the foothills have the greatest biological diversity in these parks. Park headquarters is here at Ash Mountain. In addition to picnic areas (page 3), the foothills offer:

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-4:30pm. Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm through October. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. 559-565-3135.
- **Potwisha Campground (NPS):** Year-round. Details on page 11.

Mineral King Area

The road to this area closes November 1.

7800' (2380 m) elevation. Mineral King is a beautiful subalpine river valley, at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road (no RVs, buses, or trailers, please). There is no electricity or gasoline in the area; no drinking water in campgrounds starting 10/13.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Closed for the season. Self-register for wilderness permits on the porch.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Last night 10/16. Cabins, chalets. Late season hours vary. Restaurant/bakery always open Saturdays 8am-8pm. Showers & small store (gifts, limited supplies, ice; no gasoline or fishing licenses) always open Saturday-Sunday 8am-8pm. Summer 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730. www.silvercityresort.com.
- **Camping (NPS):** No RVs or trailers. Details on page 11.

Park rangers may offer free walks & talks on weekends in the Giant Forest and the Foothills. Ask at visitor centers and see local bulletin boards for schedules.

NATURE PROGRAMS



Celebrate 40 years of Wilderness!

In 1964, the Wilderness Act secured "for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of Wilderness."

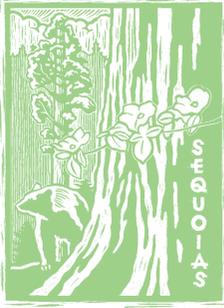
President Reagan signed the California Wilderness Act 20 years later, bestowing the additional protection of Wilderness on much of these parks.

What is "Wilderness" with a capital "W"? It is a place where nature prevails. It is the opportunity to find quiet, solitude, challenge, inspiration, and an untamed community of life. It is an outdoor laboratory where we can study our natural heritage in a relatively unchanged state. It is part of our American heritage, a history

that we can explore in books, films, or first-hand. And it is a legal designation on certain special lands designed to preserve all of these benefits.

Wilderness is our shared inheritance – it belongs to us all! So learn about it. Experience it. Enjoy and support it. Celebrate your Wilderness!

SERVICES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS AREAS



Grant Grove Area

GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

6600' (2008 m) elevation. Grant Grove was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here you can see both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s. In addition to picnicking (see page 3) & horseback riding in summer, the village offers:

INFORMATION

• **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-5pm through 10/30, then 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits, books, maps, first aid. A 15-minute slide show on the park's natural & human history (not available starting late fall due to exhibit replacement). Local wilderness permits issued 8am-4pm only (see details page 4). 1-559-565-4307.

FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Through 10/23: weekdays 7:30am-2pm & 5 - 7pm (until 8pm Friday); Saturday 7am-8pm; Sunday 7am-7pm. Starting 10/24: 8am-2pm & 5-7pm (open until 8pm Friday-Saturday).
- **Gift Shop:** Through 10/23: Daily 9am-7pm (8pm on Friday-Saturday). Starting 10/24: 9am-6pm (open until 7pm Friday-Saturday). Film, souvenirs, clothing. ATM in lobby.
- **Market:** Through 10/23: Daily 9am-7pm (8pm on Friday-Saturday). Starting 10/24: 9am-6pm (open until 7pm Friday-Saturday). Groceries, bear canisters, emergency gasoline, supplies.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (NPS) & Lodging:** See page 10-11 for details.
- **Showers (KCPS):** Closed for the season.
- **Post Office:** Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30pm & Saturday 9am-11:30pm. Lobby & stamp machine open 24 hours. Address visitor mail: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

Cedar Grove Area

Hwy 180 into the canyon is open until November 8, weather permitting.

CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE

4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the Kings River. The area offers picnicking (see page 3) and horsebackriding (now closed for the season) as well as:

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Closed for the season. Check bulletin boards for information.
- **Wilderness Permits (NPS):** Self-register at Road's End, 6 miles (9.6km) east of the Village. See details page 4.
- **Camping** Last night 11/7. Details on page 11.

FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS) - close at 11am on 10/17

- **Restaurant:** Counter-service meals & snack bar; not a full-service restaurant. Weekends 7:30am-2pm & 5-7pm, weekdays 7:30-10:30am. Lunch supplies available at market.
- **Gift Shop & Market:** Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs, film. Daily 7:30am-7pm.
- **Lodging:** Last night 10/16. See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Showers & Laundry:** Daily 8am-6pm. Last laundry load in by 1 hour before closing. Get shower key at market.

USFS: National Forest & Monument

HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, borders much of the western edge of these National Parks. You are in National Forest when you drive between the park areas of Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove (see page 2 for more on the difference between Park and Forest). The area was sold to the government as a Forest Reserve in 1935. It is an excellent place to see recovery from intensive sequoia logging in the late 1800s. Snowy in winter, in summer it offers picnicking & horseback riding (see page 3) as well as:

INFORMATION

• **USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS):** 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles (31 km) west of Kings Canyon Park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Boyden Cavern:** Closes 11/8. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Tours on the hour 11am-4pm weekdays; 10am-5pm on weekends. \$10 ages 14 & up; \$5 ages 3-13; under 3 free. AAA discounts. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. 1-209-736-2708.
- **Stony Creek Village & Lodge (FS):** Opens until 11am on 11/1, weather permitting. Market 7:30am-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday). Restaurant Wednesday-Sunday 11:30am-2pm & 5-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday); closed Monday-Tuesday. Showers 8am-6pm. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card.
- **Montecito-Sequoia Resort (FS):** A permitted resort on public land. Open year-round. On the Generals Highway 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Restaurant: breakfast 8-9:30am, lunch 12-1:30pm, dinner 6-7:30pm. Cabins, hotel, children's and winter activities. Reservations: 1-800-227-9900; www.mslodge.com. Lodge: 1-800-843-8677; 1-559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Private facilities open to public; 8 miles (13km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180 then 3 miles (5km) south on Hume Lake Road. 24-hour gas station (with credit card) & laundry (coin operated). Market daily 8am-12 & 1-5pm (Friday until 7pm). Snack bar hours vary. Call for details and dates of rentals: 1-559-335-2000.

GASOLINE

• **Gas Sales (private):** Year-round at Hume Lake Christian Camps (24 hours with credit card; see above); until late October at Stony Creek Village (24 hours with credit card) and into November at Kings Canyon Lodge (usually 9am-dark). See *Rules of the Road*, page 5, for details.



NATURE PROGRAMS

In the fall, park rangers offer free walks & talks some weekends in Grant Grove. Check local bulletin boards & visitor centers for schedules.

Once enough snow piles up, snowshoe walks are on the schedule! Snowshoes are loaned for free, but group size is limited. Ask about this unusual way to enjoy the forest and plan to come back this winter!

Staying Overnight

CAMPING DOs & DON'Ts: These rules protect the landscape & you!

NOTE: Some rules vary between the Park & the National Forest. Check bulletin boards for details.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Check locally before starting any fires, including charcoal grills. There are limitations on where you can have a fire; conditions are very dry. Fires must be out cold before you leave.

Gather only dead & down wood, bring wood, or buy it at a market. Do not cut limbs from trees. In the national forest & monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump entrance station, or a Forest Service ranger.

CAMPSITE OR ROADSIDE?

In the park, camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In the National Forest & Monument roadside camping is permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger for possible locations.

PROTECT THE PARK!

Do not use dig trenches, level campsites, or use soaps in rivers. Protect soils & plants — park & travel on pavement only.

PROPANE CANISTERS

These cannot be disposed of in the park. Please take them with you.

QUIET HOURS

10pm-6am. Use generators from 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

HOLDING CAMPSITES

In first-come, first-served campgrounds, you may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; property may be impounded.

RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups are available. Trailers are permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check the chart on page 11. Many sites are not suitable for trailers or RVs. Vehicles over 30 feet long can fit in a small number of sites.

Length advisory: On Generals Highway in Sequoia Park, from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum, a vehicle length limit of 22 feet is advised. See page 5 for other limitations & warnings.

Dump stations: See chart on page 11.

GROUP SIZE & GROUP SITES

Maximum for most campsites is 6 people. For groups of 7-15, there are first-come, first-served sites at Crystal Springs (Grant Grove) and

Canyon View (Cedar Grove). Sites for groups larger than 15 must be reserved; call in advance for information on group tent-camping areas in the parks: Dorst 1-800-365-2267; Sunset 1-559-565-4335; Canyon View (last night 10/3) 1-559-565-3792. In the national forest/monument: call 877-444-6777 or go to www.ReserveUSA.com.

LIMITS ON CAMPING

Many campgrounds allow only one vehicle & six people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits. Parking is available for extra vehicles. Camping is limited to 14 days between June 14-September 14, with 30 days total per year.

BE A VOLUNTEER HOST!

Hosts help care for campgrounds & resources while living in beautiful areas & meeting great people. Learn about these and other volunteer opportunities; contact the Park Volunteer Coordinator, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651.



save a bear!

Sales from the Save-a-Bear Kit & color pin (above) directly support bear management. See them at visitor centers.

YOU MUST STORE ALL FOOD!

BEARS quickly learn to get food from cars, picnic tables, and backpacks. They then become destructive and sometimes aggressive. They want our food, not us, but people can get hurt. Too often these bears must be killed. This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly.

- **DRIVERS:** Never leave any food or scented items in cars. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.
- **CAMPERS:** Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit). Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it's not food) -- including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, store food in the car trunk (seal food to reduce odors). If the car has no trunk, put everything on the floor, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food.
- **PICKNICKERS:** Guard your food at all times.
- **LODGE GUESTS:** Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.
- **BACKPACKERS:** Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets. Bears defeat most attempts to hang food in trees.
- **EVERYONE:** Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks in their direction (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. If a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

SEQUOIA PARK

- **Wuksachi Village (DNPS)**
Reservations: 1-888-252-5757
Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070
www.visitsequoia.com. All year. North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6km). Lodge, restaurant, gifts. Sequoia Park's only center for commercial services in Sequoia.

- **Silver City Mountain Resort ***
Summer: 1-559-561-3223
Winter: 1-805-528-2730
www.silvercityresort.com. Open May 28 to late October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gasoline.

KINGS CANYON PARK

- **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge (KCPS)**
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. All year. In Grant Grove. Cabins, hotel, restaurant, gifts, showers.

- **Cedar Grove Lodge (KCPS)**
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open mid-May to through Oct. 16. In Cedar Grove. Motel, restaurant, public showers, gifts, laundry.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT

- **Montecito-Sequoia Lodge**
Reservations: 1-800-227-9900
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3388
www.mslodge.com. All year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, seasonal & children's & winter activities.

- **Stony Creek Lodge (KCPS)**
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open late May through October 31. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gas.

- **Historic Guard Station (FS)**
Reservations: 1-559-338-3222.
Open late May-November. A cabin in Big Meadows between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.

- **Kings Canyon Lodge (Private*)**
Reservations: 1-559-335-2405
Open mid April through mid-November. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Food, cabins, gasoline.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging, camping, & services. Ask at visitor centers or click "Plan your visit" on the park website, www.nps.gov/seki, & link to "Lodging."

WILDERNESS LODGES & PERMITS

Page 4 has details.
* Note: These two facilities on private land are not evaluated or regulated by the Park or Forest.

Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups.

Food-storage regulations: always read instructions on bulletin boards.

Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole can be made up to 5 months in advance, 4am - 4pm PST:

1-800-365-2267

<http://reservations.nps.gov>

International calls: 1-301-722-1257

TDD: 1-888-530-9796

Fax: 1-301-784-9079

National Forest/Monument:
Reservations* 1-877-444-6777 or
www.reserveusa.com
Information 1-559-338-2251

CAMP GROUNDS

KEY TO SYMBOLS

"Nearby" Within 2 miles (3.2km)



Year-round



Summer only

FOOD STORAGE: Symbols on the chart tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in each campground. Avoid bringing items that won't fit. The symbols & sizes are: ☒ A mix of box sizes;

One small box per site: 47" long x 17" deep x 16" high;

◆ One large box per site: at least 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high;

+ Additional boxes available for sites to share.

	# of Sites	Daily Fee	Rest-room Facilities	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles
		\$										

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

FOOTHILLS AREA Usually snow free year-round. No trailers or RVs in Buckeye Flat.

Potwisha ◆ 2100' Open all year.	42	\$18	Flush				✓	☀	✓		✓	
Buckeye Flat ◆ 2800' - Closed.	28	\$18	Flush				Potwisha	☀			✓	
South Fork # 3600' Open all year. No drinking water; non-potable only 5/10-10/14.	10	\$12 May -Sept.	Vault								✓	

MINERAL KING AREA Road to area closes by 10/31. No RVs or trailers. No drinking water starting 10/13.

Atwell Mill # 6650' - Last night 10/31.	21	\$12	Pit	☀	☀						✓	✓
Cold Springs # 7500' - Last night 10/31.	40	\$12	Pit	☀	☀			☀	✓		✓	

LODGEPOLE AREA Reservations period at Lodgepole late May -9/30/04 & Dorst late May -9/7/04; see Reservations.

Lodgepole ☒ + 6700' Open all year. \$20 during summer reservation period then \$18. Free once heavy snow limits facilities.	214	\$18/20	Flush	☀	☀	✓	☀	✓	✓		✓	✓
Dorst ☒ + 6700' Closed.	204	\$20	Flush				☀		☀		✓	✓

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

GRANT GROVE AREA * Camping free at Azalea once heavy snow limits facilities.

Azalea ◆ 6500' - Open all year.	110	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓		☀		✓
Crystal Springs ◆ 6500' - Closed. 14 sites for group sizes 7-15.	36	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓		☀		✓
Sunset ◆ 6500' - Open 6/30-9/10.	157	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓		☀		✓

CEDAR GROVE AREA * Highway 180 to Cedar Grove open until November 8, weather permitting.

Sentinel ◆+ 4600' - Last night 10/4.	82	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀		☀	✓	
Sheep Creek ◆+ 4600' - Last night 11/7.	111	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀		☀	✓	
Canyon View ◆ 4600' - Closed. No RVs or trailers. 5 sites for group sizes 7 - 19.	23	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀		☀	✓	
Moraine ◆ 4600' - Closed.	120	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀		☀	✓	

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST / GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)

HUME LAKE AREA Campgrounds open late May into fall, weather permitting. *Reservable in summer: see above.

*Princess 5900' - Open through Oct.	88	\$15/17	Vault				☀ \$7	☀			✓	✓
Hume Lake + 5200' - * Closed.	74	\$17/19	Flush	✓		✓		☀	✓		✓	
Tenmile 5800' - No water.	13	\$13/15	Vault								✓	✓
Landslide 5800'	9	\$13/15	Vault								✓	✓
Convict Flat 4000' - No water. Open 4/23.	7		Vault								✓	

BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREAS Most open late May into fall, weather permitting. *Reservable in summer: see above.

*Stony Creek # 6400' - Closed.	49	\$17/19	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	✓		✓	
Upper Stony # 6400' - Closed.	18	\$13/15	Vault	☀	☀	☀		☀	✓		✓	
Horse Camp 7500' - No water.	5+		Vault					☀	✓		✓	
Buck Rock 7500' - No water.	5+		Vault					☀	✓			
Big Meadows 7600' - No water.	30		Vault					☀	✓	✓		

* NOTE: Ask about about the new campsites for groups of 7 to 15/19) at Grant Grove and Cedar Grove!

AREA MAP

-  Campground
-  Picnic Area
-  Lodging
-  Horses/riding
-  Gas station

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

LIFE ZONES

High Sierra zone
9,000 to 14,500 feet
Summer: Warm to chilly days; nights down to low 30s. Winter: frigid.

Conifer zone
5,000 to 9,000 feet
Summer: Warm days & cool nights. Winter: deep snow.

Foothills zone
1,500 to 5,000 feet
Mild, wet winters; hot, dry summers. Cedar Grove is cooler than the foothills, hotter than Grant Grove.

STEEP ROADS

Grades of 5-8%.
Downshift to avoid overheated or failed brakes. See page 5.

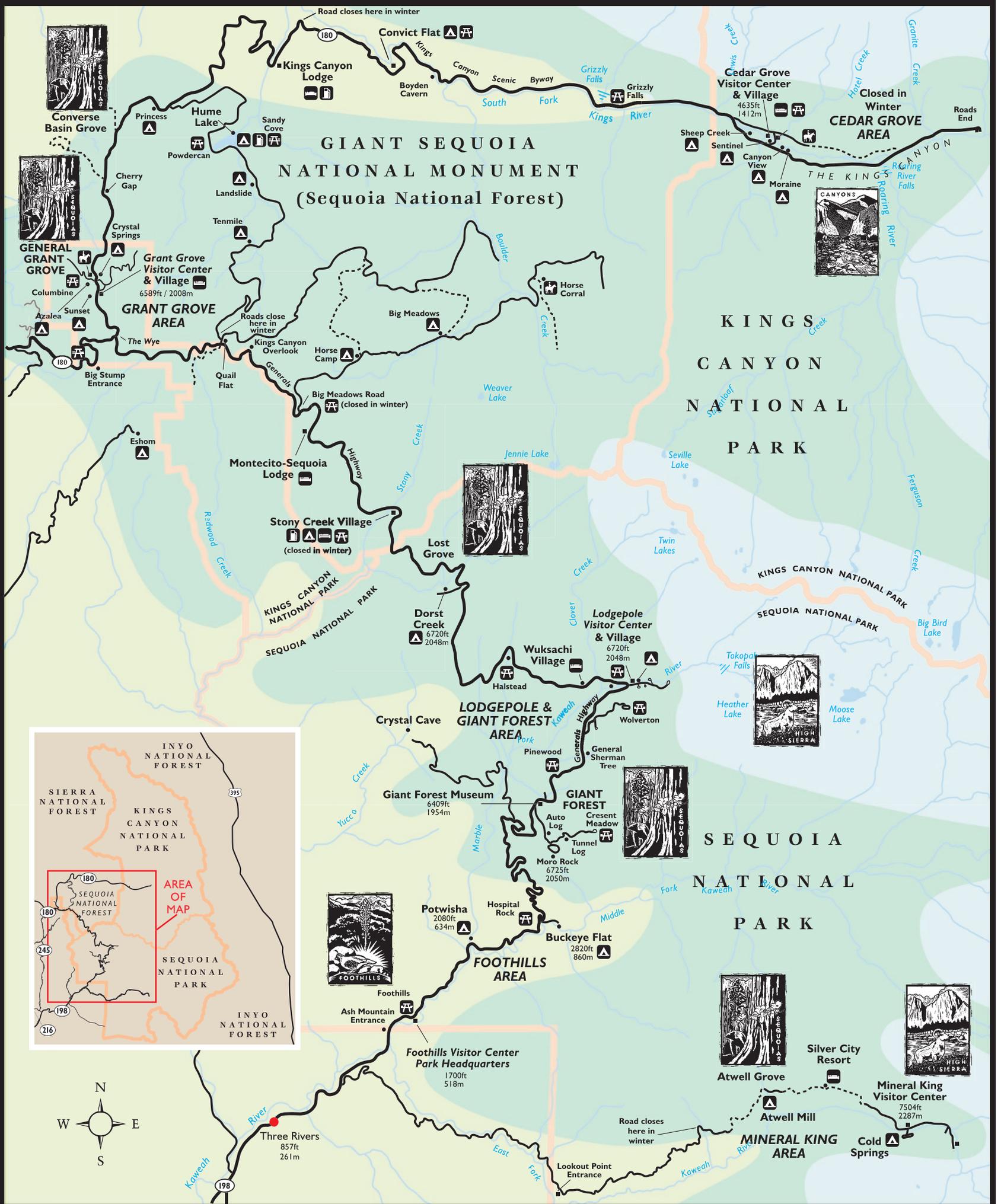
DRIVING TIME

IN GOOD WEATHER

FOOTHILLS TO:
Giant Forest 1 hour (expect traffic delays - see page 8).
Lodgepole 1 hour.
Visalia 1 hour.
Mineral King 1-1/4 hours. Road open May 28 to Oct 31.

GIANT FOREST TO:
Grant Grove 1 hour.

GRANT GROVE TO:
Cedar Grove 1 hour.
Road open mid-April to Nov. 8.
Fresno 1-1/2 hours.
Yosemite's south entry via Hwy 41 3 hours.



FALL 2004

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS
4705 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651
www.nps.gov/seki

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