

# SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST / GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

## FALL GUIDE 2005

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## Changes in the works

### NEW SHERMAN TREE TRAIL

An important restoration project is underway! Parking and trails are being relocated around this giant sequoia and trailside exhibits are being created. Work such as this has its awkward stages, and we are in the middle of one of them. Here is what you need to know:

**Finding the new parking area:** A mile or so north of the Sherman Tree (between the tree and Lodgepole), turn east off the Generals Highway onto Wolverton Road. From there, signs direct you to turn right onto the road to the parking area.

**The new trail:** It is paved, with a few stairsteps along the way. From the parking lot to the base of the Sherman Tree, this trail drops 212 feet in elevation in less than 1/2 mile. At this elevation (~7000 feet), this will feel fairly steep as there is probably less oxygen than you are used to.

Don't go further down the trail than you can climb back up. Take your time and use the benches along the way to catch your breath. Those who really cannot make it back up may walk downhill from the Sherman Tree to the Generals Highway and have someone pick them up. But be careful: There is neither a trail nor a parking area along the highway for this.

Why did we put the new parking area uphill from the Sherman Tree? It is as close as it could be without damaging more sequoias, and its location had already been disturbed by earlier roads.

If this is too steep, try the easy, paved Big Trees Trail. It offers wonderful closeups of huge sequoias plus wayside exhibits and accessible parking (see page 6 for details).

**No wheelchair access — yet:** An accessible trail and parking is now



Along the new trail, this viewpoint of the Sherman Tree includes an outline of the tree's "footprint" in granite blocks.

under construction near the old parking area. We could not build it at the same time as the new parking area without closing *all* access to the tree for almost a year. We hope to have the accessible trail and parking open by next summer.

**Why this change?** This is one of the last major steps in a huge project to protect the world's largest trees. Pavement, pipes, road cuts, a sewage treatment plant, and commercial buildings have been removed from the grove to help ensure that the Giant Forest remains the best habitat anywhere for Big Trees. In addition, the old parking area, far too small for modern traffic, often gridlocked in summer. Yet it could not be enlarged due to surrounding sequoias. The new location let us make it larger.

Construction or early snowfall may disrupt access occasionally. Thank you for your patience!

### ENTRANCE FEE INCREASE NEXT YEAR

On January 1st, the fee increases to \$20 per car for one week of visiting Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and portions of Sequoia National Forest. The good news: Most of it stays here to improve your visit! See page 4 for more on how these funds are being put to work.

### NEW EXHIBITS FOR GRANT GROVE

Say a fond goodbye to the 40-year-old photos and text in the Grant Grove Visitor Center. By next summer, new exhibits should be taking their place! Paid for by entrance fees and donations, the exhibits and a new film will focus on the fantastic features protected in Kings Canyon National Park.

Starting in November, the old exhibit area and the slide program will be closed as we renovated these rooms to receive the new exhibits. The information desk will remain open. Stop by and ask for an update!

# WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

## Get to know these parks

Doubtless 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!

Rising from 1300' to 14,494', these parks protect a huge elevational range. This span from low to high means dramatic shifts from hot foothills to shady forests to the cold high Sierra. It means extraordinarily diverse 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 these two national parks is a national monument, part of a national forest. A U.S. Geological Survey Field Station conducts research here. The Sequoia Natural History Association sells books and maps at visitor centers and contributes to education and research. The Sequoia Fund supports significant park projects.

Other partners, public and private, cooperate with the Park Service to meet a challenging mission — providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. *You* are an equally important partner! Experience the parks fully: Learn all you can and join in preserving them. Together we can meet this inspiring goal:

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

### FEES HELP YOUR PARKS!

Part of your entrance and camping fees stay in the park to improve the experience here. Congress allows the parks to invest these funds in projects that enhance visitor facilities and protect park resources.

Fees have paid for repairing roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have funded updated exhibits, improved visitor centers, and modernized naturalist slide programs. See page 4 for more of these projects!

On January 1, 2006, the park entrance fee will increase to \$20. This will permit even more of these repairs and improvements.

### ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

- **7-day pass** for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): \$10 per vehicle (increases to \$20 on 1/1/06) 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 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase (increases to \$30 on 1/1/06).
- **National Parks Pass:** \$50 pass admits all passengers in a private vehicle to U.S. national parks that charge an entrance fee, for one year from month of purchase. Not redeemable at Crystal Cave. Also available via 1-888-GO-PARKS and [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org).
- **Golden Eagle Pass:** \$65 pass not only for national parks, but also for entrance fees at all federal recreation areas including monuments, historic sites & wildlife refuges. Valid for one year from month of purchase.
- **Golden Age Passport:** One-time \$10 fee buys a lifetime pass for park entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over.
- **Golden Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens & permanent residents. Take 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?

You see signs for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument. What is the difference between these places?

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.

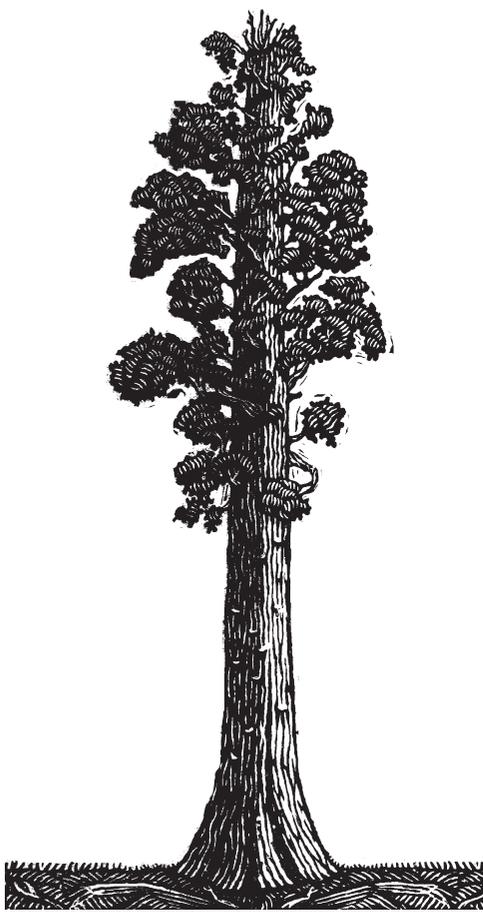
National parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation. Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior.

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 out what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we get a wide range of benefits from these diverse areas.



### INFORMATION NUMBERS

**EMERGENCY — DIAL 911**  
(no coins needed)

**24-Hour Park Information**  
1-559-565-3341 (NPS)  
[www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

**National Forest Information**  
1-559-338-2251 (USFS)  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

**Yosemite Information (NPS)**  
1-209-372-0200  
[www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)

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

### Partners in the Parks

The following 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](http://www.nps.gov/seki)
- **Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)**  
1-559-565-3759  
[www.sequoiahistory.org](http://www.sequoiahistory.org)
- **Forest Service (USFS)**  
559-784-1500  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)
- **Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)**  
1-888-252-5757  
[www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com)
- **Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)**  
1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)  
[www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com)
- **US Geological Survey (USGS)**  
1-559-565-3171  
[www.werc.usgs.gov](http://www.werc.usgs.gov)

Page 1 illustrations ©SNHA by Rick Wheeler

# Crystal Cave Rocks!



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

NPS Photo

No tickets are 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; there are none at the cave. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Bring a jacket; the cave is 50° F (10° C).

No strollers, tripods, or baby backpacks. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about Wild Cave Tours and group reservations!

Operated by SNHA:  
1-559-565-3759.

## • 45-Minute Daily Tours (check details above)

**Schedule:** Through 10/30. Saturdays 11am, 12pm, 3pm, & 4pm; Sundays through Fridays at 11am, 2pm, & 3pm. Extra tours may be added at other times.

**Fees:** Ages 6-12 \$5.95; age 13-61 \$10.95; age 62 & up, \$8.95; under 6 free. National Park & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a 50% discount!

# Activities

**WALKS & TALKS** Free ranger-led walks or talks may be offered at Giant Forest, Wuksachi, Grant Grove, & the Foothills, usually on weekends. Check bulletin boards to see what is scheduled. Pages 8 & 9 have more details, or ask a ranger.

**VISITOR CENTERS** Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. They also sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, & other items. Remember: all your purchases there help to support the parks! See pages 8 & 9 for hours and locations.

**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! Purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions & have fun!

## TEACHERS: BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!

Rangers offer fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6<sup>th</sup>-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, & other cultural history. Reserve a date for your class! Call 1-559-565-4303.

**FIELD CLASSES & SEMINARS** See the exciting list of options for you on the back of the Sequoia Natural History Association insert found in this paper. There's no better way to get to know your park!



## 80th Annual Nation's Christmas Tree Ceremony

This ceremony in Grant Grove on December 11, 2005, honors those who have given their lives in service to their country. Sponsor: Sanger Chamber of Commerce - call 559-875-4575.

## WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. See page 2 to learn more, and use a map to know where you are!

- **WALK A PET?** In Parks: Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, roads). In National Forest: Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.
- **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.

- **COLLECT THINGS?** Not in 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.
- **HAVE A FIRE?** Regulations change during fall; always check before starting a fire. In Parks: Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. In National Forest: Fire permits are required outside picnic area grills & campgrounds. Get one at Grant Grove Visitor Center or the USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.

**CUT WOOD?** Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 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.
- **FEED WILDLIFE?** Not in either area! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous and may have to be killed. Some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.
- **GO PICNICKING?** See picnic symbols on map (back page). Never leave food unattended! Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, & Powdercan.
- **HUNT?** Not in the Parks. Firearms must be dismantled prior to entering national parks. In National Forest: Only until 10/23, with license. For information: 559-243-4005.

- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD?** Not in either area. Stay on roads.
- **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.

• **RIDE HORSEBACK**  
Rides by-the-hour; backcountry spot trips & guides.  
Grant Grove & Cedar Grove closed for the season  
1-559-337-2314 off season  
Horse Corral (Big Meadows in National Forest/Monument) - closes by mid-October  
1-559-565-3404 summer  
1-559-564-6429 off season  
1-559-679-3573 cell  
Mineral King - closed.  
For information:  
1-559-565-3106.

# Expect Change

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

Both natural features *and* human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone-monitoring equipment working 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear activity.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process. Nature decides the timing of many of these actions, but they all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now *and* in the future.

## Fire: A Long-Lost Partner

Have you ever accused someone of something only to discover that you were wrong? In parks and forests nationwide, we have learned that an accused vandal is actually an important partner. That partner is fire.



*Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels. Without this, the fuels would feed intense, hard-to-control wildfires. The natural burn pattern includes occasional hot spots. These leave important openings in the forest — the sunny, bare places where sequoia trees regenerate best.*

©NPS Photo

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 20 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 a fertile ash seedbed and open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

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 40 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 and improve resource conditions.

We see strong evidence that working with this powerful natural partner is better than resisting it — we are successfully 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.

## Fees work for the parks

For each dollar collected at the entrance station, 80 cents supports projects here in these parks!

So far, these funds have built a bicycle path; repaved roads; fixed campground sinks, tables, parking, and fire grates; improved picnic areas; and made restrooms handicapped accessible.

Right now exhibits are being created for the Grant Grove Visitor Center and the Grant Tree Trail.

A future project is a shuttle transportation system for the Giant Forest area to reduce parking problems, vehicle traffic, and pollution in the parks.



Big Stump Picnic area restroom built with fee dollars.

## WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

Each park trail has a daily entry quota for overnight trips. There is also a backcountry camping fee between mid-May and late September. These help to protect the wilderness environment and your experience. (Permits and fees are not required for park day hikes or for overnights in the US Forest Service Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses).

A permit is required for each solo or group. First-come, first-served permits can be issued the morning of your trip or after 1pm the day before at the park ranger station nearest your trailhead (see pages 8 & 9). If the quota for your desired trail is full, you can choose another trail or another day to start. Permits are not issued late in the day as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

Permits on hold 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 permit on hold. Requests to put a permit on hold for a certain date are accepted beginning March 1 and at least 3 weeks before your trip's start date.

Camping in the park's "front-country" 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.

Wilderness Permit Reservations  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.  
47050 Generals Highway #60  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
1-559-565-3766  
Fax 1-559-565-4239

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

## BACKCOUNTRY LODGES

- BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP (DNCRP) [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com) Reservations for next summer (required) are taken starting January 2: 1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June to early September, weather permitting. This tent hotel is 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. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.



**DROWNING** is the #1 cause of death in national parks! Be extra careful along rivers and streams; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength.

**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.

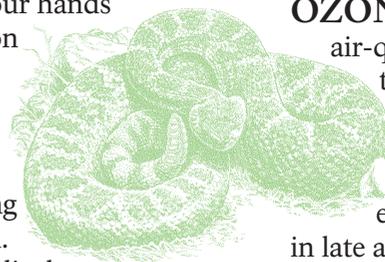
**WEST NILE VIRUS** is caused by bites from infected mosquitos. The chance of infection is low and human illness is unusual, but avoid mosquito bites.

**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.

**LIGHTNING:** If you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), 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 meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.



**RATTLESNAKES:** Watch where you put your hands and feet! 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** roam the parks, but chances of seeing one are very small. Mountain lions rarely attack people and pets, but 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.

**POISON OAK:** This common shrub grows in the foothills up to 5000 feet elevation. Red in fall with whitish berries, bare in winter, in spring its shiny green leaves grow in groups of three. If you touch any part of the plant,

wash skin and clothes right away.

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

### OPERATION NO-GROW

- Prevent illegal marijuana growing.
  - Protect visitor & employee safety.
  - Preserve your natural resources.
- Keep your parks safe and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities to 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

**UNSAFE WATER:** Giardia, a protozoan in lakes and streams, can cause intestinal distress. 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 DRINKING 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.

**EXPLORE SAFELY:** Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen. Give right of way to wildlife.

## Rules of the road

### TRAFFIC DELAYS - SEQUOIA

Slow for construction along the Generals Highway just north of the Giant Forest Museum. Watch for signs to new parking area for the Sherman Tree; see the front page for details.

### ROAD CONDITIONS

Watch for ice and snowplows. 24-hour recording: 1-559-565-3341 then press 9, then 4.

### 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.

### LET OTHERS PASS

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

### STAY ON PAVEMENT

Park & travel on pavement only.

### FINDING GASOLINE

No gas stations within park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction or in the National Forest at:

- Stony Creek Lodge 1-559-565-3909: through 11/8, 7am-7pm weekdays & 7am-8pm weekends or 24 hours with credit card. South of Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.
- Hume Lake Christian Camp 559-335-2000: Weekdays & Sunday 8am-10:30pm, Saturday 7am-7pm; 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Kings Canyon Lodge 1-559-335-2405: usually 9am-dark. 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

### MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup in uphill lanes.

### NARROW, WINDING ROADS

IN KINGS CANYON & NATIONAL FOREST/ SEQUOIA MONUMENT –

- Panoramic Point Road:

Closes with first snow. No trailers or motorhomes.

- Redwood Mountain Road:

Unpaved, rough. Not plowed.

- Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS): All or partially unpaved.

IN SEQUOIA –

- Crystal Cave Road: Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m). No trailers. Closes late October.

• Mineral King Road: Steep.

RVs & trailers strongly discouraged (not permitted in campgrounds). Closes 11/1.

• Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road: RVs & trailers not recommended. Limited parking. Closes with first snow.

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

- Road to Middle Fork Trail:

Unpaved. Slippery when wet.

### LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia Park, advised maximum is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum 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, & wider. If you are towing a car, camp in the foothills & use the car to explore.

### EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, AAA is available for out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, minor repairs: call 565-4070 (24 hours).

### BICYCLES

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



NPS Photo

# Highlights

## SEQUOIA PARK

Review safety tips on page 5, and take a map and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going — you are on your own in the woods! Remove coolers and odorous items from cars before you leave them.

### GIANT FOREST



Parking for the Sherman Tree has moved. Parking and trail access is now located off Wolverton Road; see page 1 for details. Work along the Generals Highway may

cause short delays. Ask a ranger for information.

**GIANT FOREST MUSEUM:** The best place to start your visit and learn about the Big Trees.

**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 paved, accessible trail from there. Allow 1 hour round trip.

**GENERAL SHERMAN TREE:** A .45 mile (.72 km) walk starting at the new parking area off the Wolverton Road leads to the world's largest tree, named in 1879 by a Civil War veteran. Bulletin boards will explain the changes and make suggestions for a smooth visit.

**CONGRESS TRAIL:** Walk the new trail down to the Sherman Tree to find the start of this 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the grove.

### ALONG MORO ROCK - CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway and explores the southwest portion of the grove. Not recommended for trailers or RVs. 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). A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide and the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

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

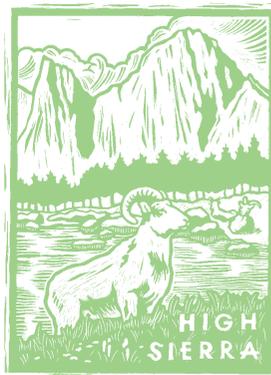
**CRESCENT MEADOW** lies at the end of this road. Excellent summer wildflowers. Stay on designated trails; walk only on fallen logs to access fragile meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, summer home of the first settler in Giant Forest, and the High 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 a car onto this fallen giant sequoia but rot in the log has put an end to the tradition.

### NEARBY TRAILS

**TOKOPAH FALLS:** 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, ending below the impressive granite cliffs and waterfall of Tokopah Canyon. Spectacular in early summer, but be careful around the water! 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

Open late May through October 31 (weather permitting), the winding, steep road to this valley ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. From there, trails lead to the High Sierra and excellent — if hilly — hiking. Fall weather can be severe on the passes; ask for a weather report. No gasoline or electricity is available. Starting November 1, the road is gated at the park boundary (about 9 miles from Highway 198). See page 8 for more information.

### THE FOOTHILLS

These 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 lifestyle. A trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall; 1/4-mile round-trip. Be careful! Drownings occur here.

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

**PARADISE CREEK:** Follow the footpath across from site #26 in Buckeye Flat Campground and cross the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for just over 1-1/2 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. Take the Buckeye Flat Campground road 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 (5 km) beyond that. Park at Hospital Rock if Buckeye Flat is closed.

### SOUTH FORK

Park at South Fork Campground at the end of a 13-mile road leaving Highway 198 in Three Rivers.

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

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

# Highlights

## KINGS CANYON



The Whalebuck © Peter Stekel, used with permission.

Review safety tips on page 5, and take a map and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going — you are on your own in the woods! Remove coolers and odorous items from cars before you leave them.

### GRANT GROVE



**GENERAL GRANT TREE:** One of the five largest living trees in the world, the Nation's Christmas Tree, and a National Shrine. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the

Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.5 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 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

**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:** One of the world's largest sequoia groves. Acres of rejuvenating forest result from 30 years of prescribed fires, showing the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across Generals Highway from the Quail Flat/ Hume Lake junction (6 miles/9.6 km south of Grant Grove), turn south/west at Redwood Saddle. Go right for 2 miles (3.2 km) on a bumpy dirt road.

**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).

**REDWOOD CANYON OVERLOOK:** About 6 miles (9.5 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 sequoia reproduction.

**KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK:** For a view to the northeast of the High Sierra wilderness, stop at this overlook about 6 miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove.

### KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

The road into this spectacular gorge closes November 7 to late April. Be careful near the river!

#### 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 turnoff.



**KNAPP'S CABIN:** During the Roaring '20s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions, 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. East of the Village turnoff 3 miles (4.8 km). Paved, accessible with assistance.

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

**ROAD'S END:** Here where the pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra. East of the Village turnoff 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km).

**MIST FALLS:** Follow the river through forest to one of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 8 miles (12.8 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.

**DON CECIL TRAIL:** The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. This steep trail starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs the north-facing canyon wall past Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up). Lookout Peak (13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/ 1220 m elevation gain) has a great panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

**HOTEL CREEK TRAIL:** Starts 0.2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Strenuous, it climbs through chaparral to a forested ridge and Cedar Grove Overlook. Great views up and down canyon. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Allow 3-4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

### USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. Ask rangers for details.

**CONVERSE BASIN:** The largest-known sequoia grove, most of its mature sequoias were felled early in the 1900s. Walk a 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to see the Chicago Stump, remnant of the General Noble Tree cut for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Take Highway 180 north of Grant Grove 2 miles, then left on the graded dirt road (FR 13S03). Or walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared; take Highway 180 north of Grant Grove 5 miles, then left on the graded dirt road (FR 13S55).

**INDIAN BASIN:** Logged a century ago, this recovering forest and meadow look quite different today. Walk the one-mile, accessible trail; take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Turn left between the campground host site and the dump station.

**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 recreational options there. 8 miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

**BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT:** A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. From Generals Highway, go ~6 miles (9.6 km) on Big Meadows Road (FR14S11) then Forest Road 13S04.

# FACILITIES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

## Giant Forest Area

### GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

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

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 8am-5pm through 9/30, then 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4480.

### CRYSTAL CAVE - Daily tours through 10/30 (weather permitting)

One of *the* highlights of the park! Tickets are **not** sold at the cave; see page 3 for details and schedule.

## Lodgepole Area

### WOLVERTON MEADOWS

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

### LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

6700' (2040 m) elevation. 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) - last day open October 30.

- **Visitor Center:** Daily 9am-4:30pm through 10/30, then closed for winter. Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. Exhibits & a slide program on the park; books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4436.
- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for overnight backcountry trips. Self-registration outside visitor center. See page 4 for details.

#### FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR) - last day October 23.

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

#### OTHER SERVICES

- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. Details on page 11.
- **Laundry & Showers (DNCPR):** Next to Market. Laundry daily through winter 9am-4:30pm. Last load of laundry in 1 hour before closing. Showers daily through 10/23 9am-4:15pm; closed for cleaning 1-3pm.
- **Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 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. The only center for lodging and food services in Sequoia Park, open year-round 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the General Sherman Tree.

#### FOOD, SHOPS & LODGING (DNCPR)

- **Dining Room:** Through 10/22 - Breakfast 7:30-9:30am; lunch 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner 5-9pm (dinner 5-8:30pm starting 10/23). Dinner reservations required. Lounge open daily 4pm-10pm through 10/23 then 4pm-9pm. Box lunches available. 559-565-4070.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-7pm through 10/23, then 8am-5pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing, art, and snacks.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details.

## 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. 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

*This area closes November 1 through late May.*

*NOTE: Starting November 1, Mineral King Road is gated at the park boundary (about 9 miles from Highway 198), due to illegal activities and resource damage. With a permit from the Foothills Visitor Center, visitors may drive another 8 miles to the winter gate, weather permitting.*

7800' (2380 m) elevation. This subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road open until October 31, weather permitting. No RVs, buses, or trailers, please. There is no electricity or gas; no drinking water in campgrounds starting 10/11.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Closed for the season. Self-register for wilderness permits on the porch.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Last night 10/15. Cabins, chalets, bakery, showers, small store (gifts, limited supplies & ice; no gas or fishing licenses), restaurant (open Saturday-Sunday only). Weekends 8am-8pm; store open Monday-Friday variable hours. 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730; [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com).
- **Camping (NPS):** No RVs or trailers. Details: page 11.



## RANGER PROGRAMS

Park rangers may offer free walks and talks in the Giant Forest, Wuksachi, and the Foothills, usually on weekends. Ask at visitor centers and see local bulletin boards for times, locations, & topics.



Thanks to  
*Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts*  
and the *National Park Foundation*,  
Wuksachi Lodge guests can easily contribute to  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.  
Ask about the Guest Donation Program!

# FACILITIES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS AREA

## Grant Grove Area

### GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

6600' (2008 m) elevation. This 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), the village offers:

#### INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-5pm through 10/29, then 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits may close for remodeling starting November, reopening by summer of 2006. Information desk remains open: books, maps, first aid. Local wilderness permits issued 8am-4pm through 10/29, then 9am-4pm. 559-565-4307.

#### FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Through 10/22: 8am-2pm & 5-7pm Sunday-Thursday (Friday-Saturday until 8pm). Starting 10/23 9am-2pm & 5-7pm (open until 8pm Friday-Saturday).
- **Gift Shop:** Through 10/22 9am-7pm (Friday-Saturday until 8pm). Starting 10/23 9am-6pm (open until 7pm Friday-Saturday). Souvenirs, film, clothing. ATM in lobby.
- **Market:** Through 10/22 9am-7pm (Friday-Saturday until 8pm). Starting 10/23 9am-6pm (Friday-Saturday until 7pm). Supplies, bear canisters, emergency gasoline.

#### OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** See page 10-11 for details.
- **Showers (KCPS):** Closed for season.
- **Post Office:** Hours may vary. Monday 10-11:30am; Tuesday- Friday 9am-4pm, & Saturday 9-11:30am. Lobby & stamp machine 24 hours. Address visitor mail: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

## Cedar Grove Area:

*Highway 180 from Junction View into the canyon remains open until noon, November 7, weather permitting.*

### CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE

4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River — “a rival to the Yosemite,” according to John Muir. In summer the area offers picnicking (see page 3) and horseback riding (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 (9.6 km) east of the village. See details on page 4.
- **Camping (NPS):** Last night 11/6. Details on page 11.

#### FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS) - Closes 10/16.

- **Restaurant:** Closes at 11am 10/16. Counter-service meals & snack bar (not a full-service restaurant). Weekdays 8-10:30am & 5-7pm; weekends 8am-2pm & 5-7pm (lunch supplies available at market).
- **Gift Shop & Market:** Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs, film. Daily 8am-7pm through 10/15.
- **Lodging:** Last night 10/15. See page 10 for details.
- **Showers & Laundry:** Daily 8am-6pm (shower closed 1-3pm for cleaning). Last day open 10/15. Get shower key at market. Last laundry load in by 1 hour before closing.

## RANGER PROGRAMS

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

## 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 Parks and Forests). Sold to the government as a Forest Reserve in 1935, it is an excellent place to see recovery from the intensive logging of 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](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia).

#### OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Historic Guard Station at Big Meadows (FS):** See page 10.
- **Boyden Cavern:** Last day open 11/6. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Cave tours on the hour 10am-5pm; holiday weekends (Saturday-Monday) 9am-6pm. \$10 ages 14 & up; \$9 62 & over; \$5 ages 3-13; under 3 free. AAA discounts. 1-209-736-2708.
- **Stony Creek Village & Lodge (FS):** Open until 11am on 11/9, weather permitting. Market 8am-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday); showers 8am-5pm. Restaurant closed. 1-866-KCANYON or 1-559-565-3909.
- **Montecito-Sequoia Resort (FS):** A permitted resort on public land, open year-round. On Generals Highway, 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Breakfast 8-9:30am, lunch 12-1:30pm, dinner 6-7:30pm (hospitality/sandwich bar until 10pm). Cabins, hotel, children's activities; cross-country skiing in winter. 1-800-843-8677 or 559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Private facilities open to public; 8 miles (13 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180 then 3 miles (5 km) south on Hume Lake Road. Laundry (coin operated 24-hour) & gas station (24 hours with credit card). General Store: Daily 8am-5pm. Snack bar hours vary. Call for details: 1-559-335-2000.

#### GASOLINE SALES

Year-round, 24 hours/day with credit card at **Hume Lake** (or during General Store hours - see *Hume Lake* above). At **Stony Creek Village** until 10/9, 24 hours/day with credit card (weather permitting; see *Stony Creek Village* above). At **Kings Canyon Lodge** (usually 9am-dark) into November. See *Rules of the Road*, page 5, for more details.



# Staying Overnight

## LODGING

### SEQUOIA PARK

• **Wuksachi Village (DNCPR)**  
Reservations: 1-888-252-5757  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070  
www.visitsequoia.com. *All year. North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6 km). Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.*

\* **Silver City Mountain Resort \***  
Summer: 1-559-561-3223  
Winter: 1-805-528-2730  
www.silvercityresort.com. *Open late May to mid-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  
*Mid-May to through mid-October 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 activities, swimming*

• **Stony Creek Lodge (KCPS)**  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.  
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com  
*Open late May through 10/8. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodge-pole. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gas.*

• **Historic Guard Station (FS)**  
Reservations: 1-559-338-3222.  
*Open mid-June - November, weather permitting. 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.*

### 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.*

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

**NOTE: Some rules vary from the Park to the National Forest. Check page 3 & bulletin boards.**

### KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS!

It's required all year! Learn how to do it correctly — see below.

### CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs from trees. Better yet, bring wood or buy it at a market. Fires must be out cold before you leave.

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.

### CAMPGROUND OR ROADSIDE CAMPING?

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.

### NO 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.

### 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.

### QUIET HOURS

10pm-6am. At Lodgepole & Dorst use generators only 8-11am & 5-8pm. At other campgrounds 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

### GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

Maximum for most campsites is 6 people. At Crystal Springs in Grant Grove there are first-come, first-served sites for groups of 7-15 & at Canyon View in Cedar Grove for 7-18, for \$35. Larger groups: Call in advance for information on reserving group tent-camping areas in the parks: Dorst 1-800-365-2267; Sunset 1-559-565-4335; Canyon View 1-559-565-3792. In the national forest/monument: call 877-444-6777 or go to www.ReserveUSA.com.

### RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups are available. Dump stations: See chart on page 11. 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.

### PROPANE CANISTERS

Do not throw propane or other fuel canisters in park trash cans or leave them in the parks. Take them with you when you leave.

### BE A VOLUNTEER HOST!

Live in the park, help care for campgrounds & resources, & meet great people! Learn about these & 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 the pins at visitor centers.**

## YOU MUST STORE ALL FOOD!

**B**EARS 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 item 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.

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 start January 5, 2006 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

for National Forest/Monument:  
Reservations\* 1-877-444-6777 or  
[www.reserveusa.com](http://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

Avoid bringing items that won't fit. Symbols on the chart tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in each campground: ☒ 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 Fees	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 Generally snow-free camping.

Potwisha ◆ 2100' - Open all year.	42	\$18	Flush				✓	☀	✓		✓	
Buckeye Flat ◆ 2800' - Closed. No trailers or RVs.	28	\$18	Flush				at Potwisha	☀			✓	
South Fork # 3600' - Open all year. No drinking water; non-potable water available through 10/12.	10	\$12	Vault								✓	

### MINERAL KING AREA Road to area closes by October 31. No RVs or trailers. No drinking water starting 10/11.

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

### LODGEPOLE AREA \*See summer reservation information above.

*Lodgepole ☒ + 6700' - Open all year. \$20 during summer reservation period then \$18. \$10 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 at Azalea drops to \$10 once heavy snow limits facilities.

Azalea ◆ 6500' - Open all year.	110	\$18/10	Flush	✓	☀			✓	at village	☀		✓
Crystal Springs ◆ 6500' - Closed. 14 sites for groups of 7-15:	36	\$18 \$35	Flush	✓	☀			✓	"	☀		✓
Sunset ◆ 6500' - Closed.	157	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓	"	☀		✓

### CEDAR GROVE AREA Highway 180 to Cedar Grove open until noon, November 7, weather permitting.

Sentinel ◆ + 4600' - Closed.	82	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at visitor center	☀	✓	
Sheep Creek ◆ + 4600' - Last night Nov 6.	111	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	
Canyon View ◆ 4600' - Closed. No RVs or trailers. 5 sites for groups of 7 - 19: \$35	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' - Closed	88	\$15/17	Vault				☀ \$7	☀			✓	✓
*Hume Lake + 5200' - Closed	74	\$17/19	Flush	✓		✓		☀	✓		✓	
Tenmile 5800' - No water.	13	\$13/15	Vault								✓	✓
Landslide 5800' - Closed	9	\$13/15	Vault								✓	✓
Convict Flat 4000' - No water.	7		Vault								✓	

### BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK Most sites 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.	40		Vault					☀	✓	✓		

# AREA MAP

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

**Major paved road**

**Minor paved road**

**Unpaved road**

**Park boundary**

## LIFE ZONES

**High Sierra:** 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:**

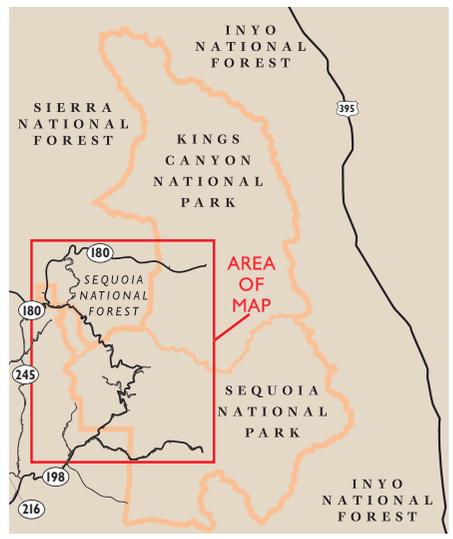
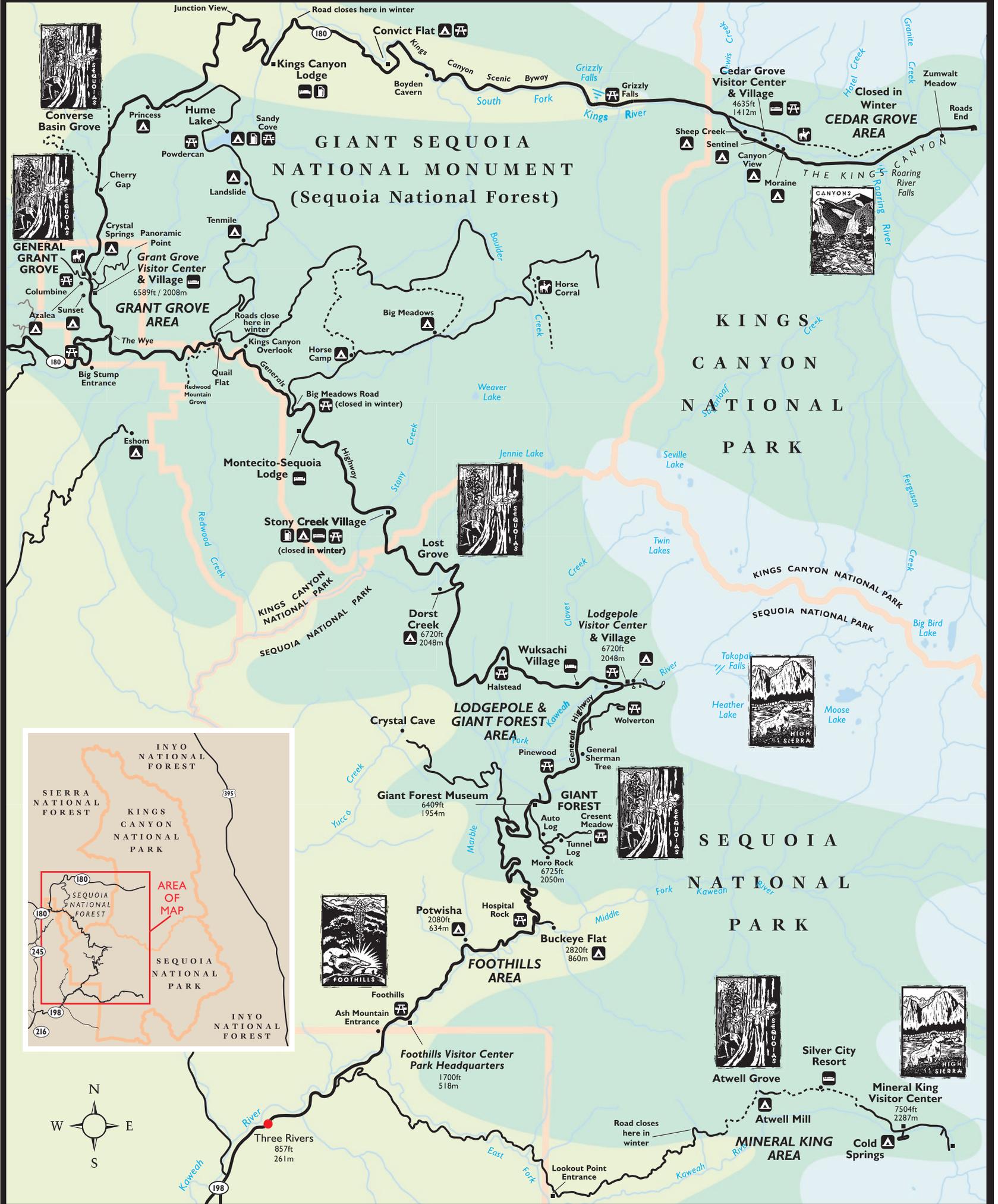
- Giant Forest 1 hour.
- Lodgepole 1 hour.
- Visalia 1 hour.
- Mineral King 1-1/4 hours. Road closed Oct 31 to late May.

**GIANT FOREST TO:**

- Grant Grove 1 hour.

**GRANT GROVE TO:**

- Cedar Grove 1 hour. Road closes 11/7.
- Fresno 1-1/2 hours.
- Yosemite's south entry via Hwy 41 3 hours.



**FALL 2005**  
**SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS**  
 47050 Generals Highway  
 Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651  
[www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

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