



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST / GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

SPRING 2005 GUIDE

CONTENTS:

Activities in the Parks • page 3	Services in Sequoia • page 8
Road & Safety Tips / Finding Gasoline • page 5	Services in Kings Canyon & USFS • page 9
Highlights in Sequoia Park • page 6	Camping, Lodging, Storing Food from Bears • pages 10-11
Highlights in Kings Canyon & USFS • page 7	Park Road Map • page 12



Getting away from it all

Friends suggest that you drive miles from civilization to an isolated spot out in the woods. They swear you'll sleep contentedly with nothing but a zipper and a slip of nylon between you and the big bad world. They're not crazy — it's true! It's a getaway to your National Parks.

Are ancient trees, looming mountains, and dancing rivers casting a spell over otherwise sensible humans? Perhaps. Under the open sky, we feel transported to a simpler time before alarm systems and the evening newscast. We turn to national parks to "get away from it all." And it works. In addition to the beauties of nature, there is relatively little crime here.

However, confrontations with society's negative aspects can break the spell. A smashed stalactite in Crystal Cave or a gang symbol carved into a fallen sequoia chip away at our sense of security.

Crimes cost us financially, as well. Each year, park maintenance spends thousands of dollars repairing such vandalism. Just last year, for example, the park spent over \$19,000 on new cave gates to prevent destruction of delicate, age-old stone formations.

One of the single most destructive crimes here is illegal marijuana cultivation. Growers seek remote areas hidden under oak and manzanita bushes at lower elevations in the park, below where giant sequoias grow. They tear up native plants, steal water from streams, dump hundreds of pounds of fertilizer and insecticides, poach wildlife, and abandon trash and sewage.



Taking a break from excavating trash in a once-pristine forest, a volunteer contemplates the insult to the land left by marijuana growers. @NPS Photo by B. Meadows

In this park alone, rangers pulled out 44,000 marijuana plants last year. They removed some six miles of irrigation line and restored acres of damaged terrain, although the landscape is forever changed. Every year operations like these cost us all millions, money that could go to much better uses.

Visitors pay another price — loss of freedom. To reduce criminals' access to these areas, there is increasing regulation of our wild places. For example, a new gate at the park boundary on Mineral King Road now blocks easy access by marijuana growers from fall through spring. It also means, however, that visitors need to get a free permit before they can go past it during those seasons.

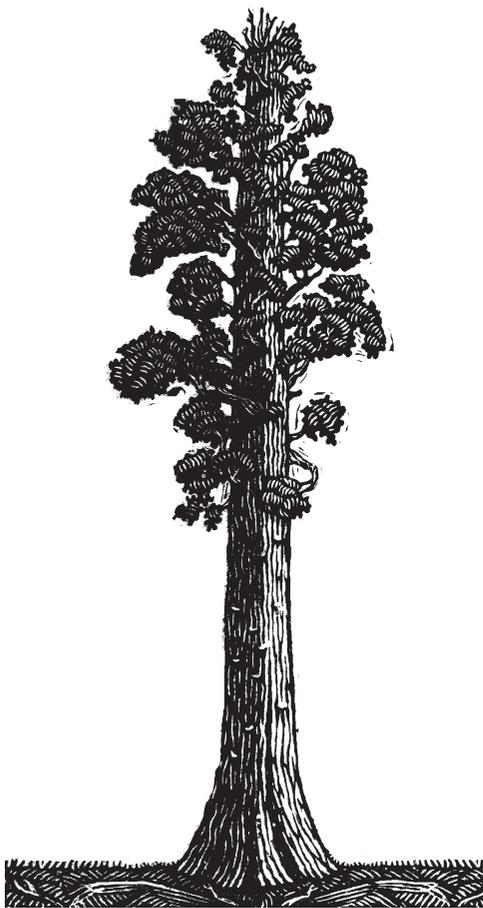
Hope, however, is not lost. Park officials and visitors alike are fighting back. Tips received through a toll-free hotline, 1-888-NPS-CRIME, have been instrumental in preventing vandalism. Volunteers have spent hundreds of hours restoring marijuana sites and damaged caves, among other projects. People are keeping their parks safe.

Even during a brief visit you can help to maintain security and good will in your national parks. Contact a ranger if you see a problem.

Slow down to protect wildlife and people. Be patient with unexpected weather or road conditions. A kind word to a fellow visitor or picking up litter improves the experience for you and the 1.5 million other folks who come every year — just to get away from it all.

-Melanie Rawlins

WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON



INFORMATION NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
(no coins needed)

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

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

Yosemite Information (NPS)
1-209-372-0200
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
- **Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)**
1-559-565-3759
www.sequoiahistory.org
- **Forest Service (USFS)**
559-784-1500
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia
- **Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)**
1-888-252-5757
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 ©SNHA by Rick Wheeler

Get to know your 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.

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. Park management 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 you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire or campsite closures due to revegetation or bear activity.

The park uses these as tools to maintain this landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you a snapshot of the year-round process of park management. Nature decides 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

- **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 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase.
- **National Parks Pass:** \$50 pass admits all passengers in a private vehicle to all U.S. national parks for one year from month 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 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 them?

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.

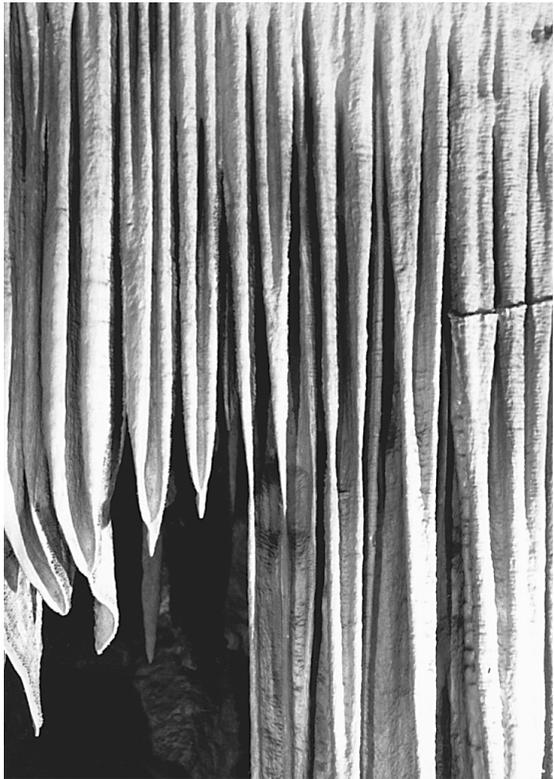
Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.

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 these diverse areas offer.



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.

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; 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; 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 cave tours daily starting May 14

Schedule: From 5/14 through 6/10, daily 11am-4pm on the hour. Starting 6/11, daily 11am-4pm on the half-hour through Monday, 9/5. Additional tours offered Friday 5/27 through Monday 5/30 (Memorial Day weekend). Extra tours may be added other times.
Fees: Ages 6-12 \$5.95; age 13-61 \$10.95; age 62 & up, \$8.95; under 6 free. Check at the front desk for weekday discounts through Thursday, 6/16. National Park & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a 50% discount!

1-1/2 hour Discovery Tours start June 25

6/25-9/2 at 4:15 pm daily. Try a more in-depth tour of this fabulous cave! Limited to 16 people aged 13 & up. Fee: \$18.95 each (\$17.95 seniors, \$16.95 for SNHA members).

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

WALKS & TALKS In spring, free walks and talks may be offered on weekends at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Wuksachi, the Foothills & Grant Grove. Check bulletin boards for activity schedules. Daily activities start in mid-to-late June. See pages 8 & 9 for details.

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. They also sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, & 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 & have fun!

TEACHERS - BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!

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



THE SEQUOIA FIELD INSTITUTE

Seminars indoors and out, summer and winter, nature hikes, backpacking, school trips, and environmental education — the Institute has them all! They also arrange educational packages for your club, school, group, or extended family.

Fees are low, and any profits go to support park education and science programs. See the the SNHA insert in this paper!

From 9am-noon on May 14, join in the 4th bi-annual cleanup of the South Fork of the Kings River! Meet at Boyden Cavern parking lot in the Kings Canyon. Be prepared with sturdy shoes, work gloves, insect repellent, water & lunch. For more information: wtempin@surewest.net.

NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP WEEK!

WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different types of 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.
- **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.

- **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.
- **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** In both areas: Don't do it! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous; some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.

- **HAVE 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, Big Stump Entrance Station, or the USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.
- **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.
- **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.

- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD** Not in either area. Stay on roads.
- **RIDE SNOWMOBILES** Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat & Cherry Gap.

- **RIDE HORSEBACK** Rides by-the-hour; back-country spot trips & guides.
Cedar Grove - open 5/28
1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season
Grant Grove - open mid-June
1-559-335-9292 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season
Mineral King - temporarily closed; call park for info:
1-559-565-3103
Horse Corral - open 5/28 (in National Forest/Monument)
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 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 that would otherwise feed intense wildfires. Occasional hot spots leave openings in the forest that are ecologically important — that is 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 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 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 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.

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 solo travelers). 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 between mid-May and late September.

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.
47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766
Fax 1-559-565-4239

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.

IT'S EASY TO HELP THE PARKS!

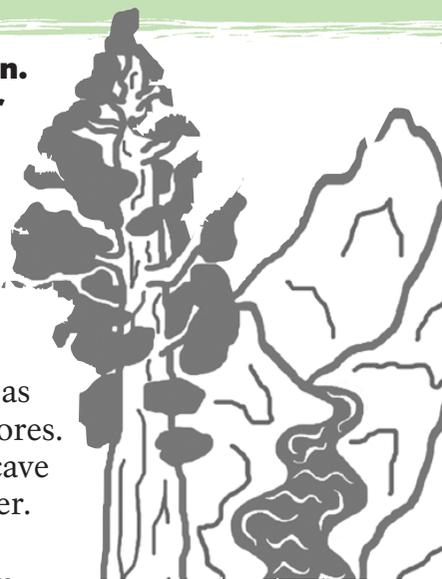
Two non-profit groups directly support Sequoia & Kings Canyon. Their goals: to provide for your enjoyment while preserving your parks for the future! Many of us who love these parks want to know how to help. Here is a simple way — support the Sequoia Fund and the SNHA!



Connecting People & Parks
www.sequoiafund.org

◆ The Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) is the park's primary partner in funding education and research. They support exhibits, ranger programs, and bear protection, as well as operating visitor-center bookstores. Join and get a discount on books and cave tours! See the SNHA insert in this paper.

◆ The Sequoia Fund helps out when limited funds put important projects on hold. Beetle Rock Center, in the Giant Forest, is a great example. This historic building was slated for destruction. Instead, the Fund is raising money to make it into a unique classroom facility. As Beetle Rock Education Center, it now houses the Sequoia Field Institute, which offers outstanding seminars, workshops, and field trips to researchers, school groups, and YOU! The Fund helps in many ways: bear-proof boxes, Junior Ranger programs, Sierra bighorn sheep, habitat restoration, and trail repair. Call 559-739-1668.



BACKCOUNTRY LODGES

- BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP (DNCPR) www.visitsequoia.com
Reservations required:
1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June, 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. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Be extra careful along rivers and streams; 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.



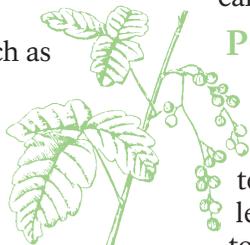
PLAGUE: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

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.

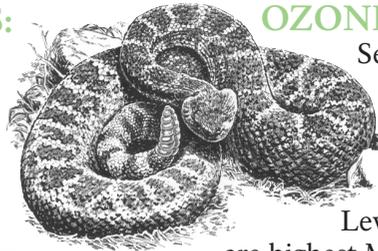
LIGHTNING: As soon as you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible.

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.



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.
- Promote *your* National Park experience!

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.

SAFE EXPLORATION: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen. Share roads and trails with people and wildlife.

Rules of the Road

TRAFFIC DELAYS - SEQUOIA

Slow for road work & trail reconstruction along the Generals Highway in the area near the Sherman Tree. The parking lot near the tree remains open.

ROAD CONDITIONS

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

STILL-ICY ROADS

Spring storms & cold nights can mean slick roads. Slow down on ice; don't make sudden moves.

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.

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 Village 1-559-565-3909: starting 5/12 weather permitting, available 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.
- Hume Lake Christian Camp 559-335-2000: year-round 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, call to confirm. 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

PREVENT CAR FIRES

Hot brakes & mufflers start fires in dry grass. Don't stop in grassy areas; used paved turnouts only.

MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup in uphill lanes.

LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia, 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 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.

LET OTHERS PASS

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

SPRING ROAD OPENINGS

IN KINGS CANYON & NATIONAL FOREST/ SEQUOIA MONUMENT –

- Panoramic Point Road: Opens late spring when conditions allow.
- Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved, rough. Not plowed.
- Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS): Not plowed; opens with snow melt.

IN SEQUOIA –

- Crystal Cave Road: Open 5/14, weather permitting. Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m).
- Middle Fork Road: Open by 5/20; slippery when wet.
- Mineral King Road: Opens 5/27, weather permitting. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds). Until 5/27, new gate closed at Lookout Point entrance station requires a free permit from Foothills Visitor Center (see page 1).
- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road: Opens with snowmelt.
- South Fork Road: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.



@PDPHOTO, J. Sullivan

Highlights

SEQUOIA PARK

GIANT FOREST



During spring, ask a ranger if snow still covers the trails that interest you. Review the safety tips on page 11. 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 in the woods — be safe and enjoy!

Road work and trail reconstruction will affect the area near the Sherman Tree. This work may also cause some delays along the road. Thank you for your patience!

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

BIG TREES TRAIL: This 2/3-mile (1km) 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: Two miles (3.2 km) north of the Giant Forest Museum. 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 critical connection between sequoias and fire.

CONGRESS TRAIL: A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the sequoia grove, beginning at the Sherman Tree.

ALONG MORO ROCK - CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road opens when the snow melts. It 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. Don't climb if it's snowy or icy!

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 this 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 spring, but be careful around the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground, 500 foot / 152 m elevation gain. Allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

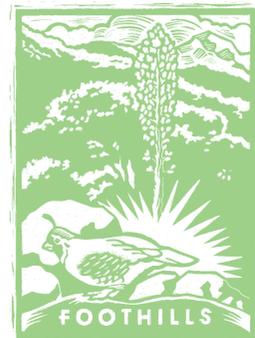
LITTLE BALDY: Ascends 700 vertical feet (213 m) in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit with a grand view. Starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 9 miles (14 km) north of the General Sherman Tree on the Generals Highway. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.



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 very short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. 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. Park at Hospital Rock if Buckeye Flat Road is closed.

MIDDLE FORK: Leading through chaparral 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; it will be open by 5/20.

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

MINERAL KING

The winding, steep road to this valley opens Friday, 5/27. It ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. Before 5/27, a permit is needed to open the gate at Lookout Point entrance station: see page 8. Many trails lead to higher country and excellent hiking. Some trails will remain snowy through spring. Be sure to learn about marmots, as they often damage cars.

Highlights

KINGS CANYON



GRANT GROVE

Before taking to the trail, review safety advice on page 11. Snow may still cover many trails. Carry a map, warm clothes, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going.

GENERAL GRANT TREE: The world's third-largest living tree. 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 (.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:

Once the snow melts and the road opens, this gives a 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: 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 south/west 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 sequoia reproduction.



KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

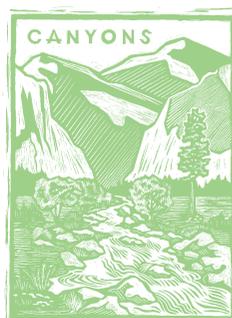
Take time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge. Be very careful around the water!

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 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 turnoff. 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 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).

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.

DON CECIL TRAIL: The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. This trail starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs a north-facing slope, passes Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up); has good views. 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 .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: 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 cut for 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.

INDIAN BASIN: Logged a century ago, this recovering forest and meadow look quite different today. A one-mile, newly constructed accessible trail extends another unpaved mile. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Trail begins next to the campground host site near 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 (4 km) 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. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11 then Forest Road 13S04.

SERVICES 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 9am-4:30pm through 5/26 then 8am-5pm. Open until 6pm starting in late June. Explore exhibits about the amazing Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4480.

CRYSTAL CAVE - Daily tours starting May 14

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

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 5/26 then 7am-5pm. Open until 6pm starting in late June. Starting 5/14, Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. Exhibits & a slide program on geology & forest life; books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4436.
- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Self-register outside the visitor center through 5/27. Starting 5/27 go to the visitor center daily 7am-4pm. 559-565-4408.
- **Walter Fry Nature Center:** Temporarily closed for summer 2005.

FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR)

- **Lodgepole Market & Gift Shop:** Daily 9am-4:30pm through 5/6; 9am-6pm 5/7-20; then 8am-8pm. Supplies, bear canisters, gifts, pre-made sandwiches, ice cream.
- **Snack Bar:** Starting 5/7 weekends only, 9am-4:30pm through 5/22, then daily 8am-8pm. Breakfast, hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza.
- **Deli:** Opens 5/21. Daily 11am-6pm. Sandwiches, salads.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. Details on page 11.
- **Laundry and Showers (DNCPR):** Laundry daily 9am-4:30pm through 5/6; 9am-6pm 5/7-20; then 8am-8pm. Last load of laundry in 1 hour before closing. Showers 9am-5:45pm, 5/7-20; then 8am-7:45pm. Showers closed daily 1-3pm for cleaning.
- **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. Open year-round 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the General Sherman Tree. The center for lodging and food services in Sequoia Park.

FOOD, SHOPS & LODGING (DNCPR)

- **Dining Room:** Through 5/26, breakfast 7:30-9:30am; lunch 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner 5-9pm. Starting 5/27, 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm & 5-10pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 559-565-4070. Lounge open daily 4-10pm through 5/26, then 4-11pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-7pm through 5/26, then 8am-8pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing, art, snacks.

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 when you check in!

- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details.

WOLVERTON MEADOWS

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

FOOD (DNCPR): Beginning 6/17, Wednesday-Sunday "Dinner with a Ranger" Barbeque. All-you-can-eat, served outdoors starting at 6pm.



NATURE PROGRAMS

- ◆ **At Giant Forest, Lodgepole & Wuksachi, rangers may offer Saturday evening talks plus some weekend walks.**
- ◆ **Saturday wildflower walks are given in the foothills until May 14.**
- ◆ **On Memorial Day weekend, some programs are offered on Saturday, Sunday & Monday, May 28-30.**
- ◆ **Starting mid-June, daily programs begin in several areas. Check bulletin boards for schedules.**

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 through 5/27, then 8am-5pm. Open until 6pm starting late June. Starting 5/14, 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 9.

Mineral King Area - opens May 27

New gate: Until Friday, May 27, Mineral King Road is gated at the park boundary, about 9 miles from Highway 198. Visitors may go through with a permit from the Foothills Visitor Center. This gate was needed for law-enforcement reasons (see page 1). We regret any inconvenience.

Be aware: In spring & early summer, marmots chew on hoses & wiring in cars parked in upper Mineral King. Ask for information.

7800' (2380 m) elevation. This beautiful subalpine river valley at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road (no RVs, buses, or trailers, please) has no electricity or gasoline. Mineral King offers:

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Starting 5/27 daily 8am-4:30pm (hikers register for wilderness permits on the porch until then). A small visitor center with exhibits on area history, books, maps, local wilderness permits, first aid, & bear canisters. 559-565-3768.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Open 5/27, weather permitting. Cabins, chalets. Restaurant, bakery, showers & small store (gifts, limited supplies & ice; no gasoline or fishing licenses) 8am-8pm Thursday-Monday, Tuesday-Wednesday 8am-5pm (restaurant closed). Summer 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730; www.silvercityresort.com.
- **Camping (NPS):** First night 5/27. No RVs or trailers. Details: page 11.

SERVICES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS AREAS

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 and horseback riding (see page 3), the village offers:

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 9am-5pm through 5/1, then 8am-5pm through 6/16. Starting 6/17, 8am-6pm. Exhibits & a 15-minute slide show on the area's natural & human history, books, maps, first aid. Local wilderness permits issued 8am-4pm only. 559-565-4307.

FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** *Through 5/26* -Sun-Thur 8am-2pm & 5-7pm (8pm om Fri/Sat). Starting 5/27 7am-2pm, 5pm-9pm
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 9am-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday) through 5/26, then 8am-9pm. Souvenirs, film, clothing. ATM in lobby.
- **Market:** Daily 9am-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday) through 5/26, then 8am-9pm. Groceries, bear canisters, emergency gasoline, supplies.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** See page 10-11 for details.
- **Showers (KCPS):** Open 5/27, daily 11am-4pm.
- **Post Office:** Hours may vary. Starting 5/1, Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm, Saturday 9-11:30am. Lobby & stamp machine 24 hours. Address visitor mail: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 559-335-2499.

Cedar Grove Area

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 and horseback riding (see page 3), as well as:

INFORMATION – Only camping available prior to May 12

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Open 5/28-30 (Memorial Day weekend) 9am-5pm, then closed. Starting 6/18, daily 9am-5pm. 559-565-3793.
- **Wilderness permits (NPS):** at Road's End, 6 miles (9.6 km) east of the village. Self-issue permits through 5/26, then 7am-3pm daily.
- **Camping (NPS):** Details on page 11.

FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS) Open starting May 12

- **Restaurant:** Counter-service meals & snack bar (not a full-service restaurant). *From 5/12-6/9:* weekdays 8-10:30am & 5pm-7pm. Saturday-Sunday 8am-2pm & 5-7pm. *Starting 6/10,* daily 7am-2pm & 5pm-9pm. Lunch supplies available at market.
- **Gift Shop & Market:** Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs, film. *From 5/12-6/9:* 8am-7pm. *Starting 6/10,* 7am-9pm.
- **Lodging:** First night open 5/12. See page 10 for details.
- **Showers & Laundry:** *From 5/12-6/9:* 8am-6pm. *Starting 6/10,* 7am-7pm. Last laundry load in by 1 hour before closing. Get shower key at market. Shower closed 1-3pm daily for cleaning.

CELEBRATE SEQUOIAS IN SEPTEMBER!

On September 10, join us at the 7th Annual Celebrate Sequoias Festival in Grant Grove Village. Enjoy walks to less-visited groves, music, arts and crafts, kid's activities, and talking to experts about the awesome giant sequoias.



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). It 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. Open Saturdays starting 5/21. 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:** On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Cave tours on the hour 11am-4pm through May then 10am-5pm. \$10 ages 14 & up; \$5 ages 3-13; under 3 free. AAA discounts. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. 209-736-2708.
- **Stony Creek Village (FS):** Open 5/15. Lodging, market, showers. *Through 6/10:* Market 7:30am-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday); closed Monday-Tuesday. Call for restaurant hours. Showers 8am-6pm. *Starting 6/11:* Market 7am-8pm (9pm Friday-Saturday); restaurant Tuesday-Sunday 11:30am-2pm & 5-8pm (9pm Friday-Saturday); closed Monday. Showers 8am-7pm. 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. *Through June 9:* breakfast 8-9:30am, lunch 12-1:30pm, dinner 6-7:30pm. *Starting June 10:* 7:30-9am, 12-1:30pm, 5:30-7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 800-843-8677 or 559-565-3388.
- **Historic Guard Station at Big Meadows (FS)** See page 10.
- **Boat & Bicycle Rentals, Swimming, Fishing:** Private facilities open to public at Hume Lake, 8 miles (13km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180 then 3 miles (5 km) south on Hume Lake Road. 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market weekdays, 8am-12 & 1-5pm, weekends 8am-5pm through mid-June, then weekdays 8am-10:30pm, Saturday 7am-7pm. Snack bar hours vary until 6/12, then 11am-11pm daily. Call for details: 559-335-2000.

GASOLINE SALES

Hume Lake Christian Camp - 24 hours with credit card. *Stony Creek Village* - 24 hours with credit card (heavy snow may delay availability of gas this spring). *Kings Canyon Lodge* - usually 9am-dark. See Mountain Driving, page 11, for more details.

NATURE PROGRAMS



IN GRANT GROVE:

- ◆ Saturdays at 2pm through May 28: rangers offer Grant Tree Walks. Starting May 9, we also offer walks on Sundays. Meet at Grant Tree parking area for this one-hour, 3/8-mile stroll.
- ◆ Memorial Day weekend: Saturday May 28 & Sunday May 29 campfire programs at Sunset amphitheater, 8:30pm. See bulletin boards for details.
- ◆ No programs offered May 31-June 16. June 17-23: check bulletin boards.
- ◆ June 24: daily walks & campfire talks begin at Grant Grove!

IN CEDAR GROVE: Regular programs begin in late June, but check bulletin boards for occasional activities before then, especially on Memorial Day weekend.

Staying Overnight

LODGING

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.

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.

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 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. 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 early September. 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.

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.*

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.



save a bear!

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

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

Check bulletin boards for food-storage instructions & regulations.

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: 301-722-1257

TDD: 1-888-530-9796

Fax: 301-722-1174

National Forest:

Reservations 1-877-444-6777

Information 1-559-338-2251

www.reserveusa.com

CAMP GROUNDS

KEY TO SYMBOLS

"Nearby" Within 2 miles (3.2km)
 ✓ Year-round
 ☀ Summer only
 # ♦ ✕ + Food storage: These

symbols on the chart below tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in campgrounds. Avoid bringing items that won't fit.
 # 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.
 ✕ A mix of box sizes.
 + Additional boxes available for sites to share.

	# of Sites	Daily Fee \$	Restroom Facilities	Food Nearby	Showers Nearby	Laundry Nearby	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding Stables Nearby	River Nearby	Sequoias Nearby
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IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

FOOTHILLS AREA Usually snow free.

Potwisha ♦ 2100' Open all year.	42	\$18	Flush				✓	☀	✓		✓	
Buckeye Flat ♦+ 2800' Opens 5/20	28	\$18	Flush				Potwisha		☀		✓	
South Fork # 3600' Open all year. No drinking water.	10	\$12 May - Sept.	Vault								✓	

MINERAL KING AREA Open late May 27, weather permitting. No RVs or trailers.

Atwell Mill # 6650' Open 5/27	21	\$12	Pit	☀	☀						✓	✓
Cold Springs # 7500' Open 5/27	40	\$12	Pit	☀	☀			☀	✓		✓	

LODGEPOLE AREA Summer reservation. Starts 5/25/05. See Reservations above.

Lodgepole ✕ + 6700' Open all year.	214	\$20/18	Flush	☀	☀	☀	☀	✓	✓		✓	✓
Dorst ✕ + 6700' Open 5/25-9/5.	204	\$20	Flush				☀	☀	☀		✓	

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

GRANT GROVE AREA

Azalea ♦ 6500' Open all year.	113	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓		☀		✓
Crystal Springs ♦ 6500' Closed.	62	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓		☀		✓
Sunset 6500' - Closed.	200	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓		☀		✓

CEDAR GROVE AREA Camping available but other facilities don't open until mid-May.

Sentinel ♦ 4600' Open.	82	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	✓	☀	✓	
Sheep Creek ♦ 4600' Open as needed.	111	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀		☀	✓	
Canyon View ♦ 4600' Open as needed. No RVs or trailers. 5 sites for group sizes 7-19 available 5/26 (\$35).	37	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀		☀	✓	
Moraine ♦ 4600' Closed for rehab.	120	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀		☀	✓	

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

HUME LAKE AREA Most campgrounds open late May into fall, weather permitting. *Summer reservations: see above.

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

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

Stony Creek # 6400' *Reservations.	49	\$17/19	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	✓		✓	
Upper Stony # 6400'	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					☀	✓	✓		

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

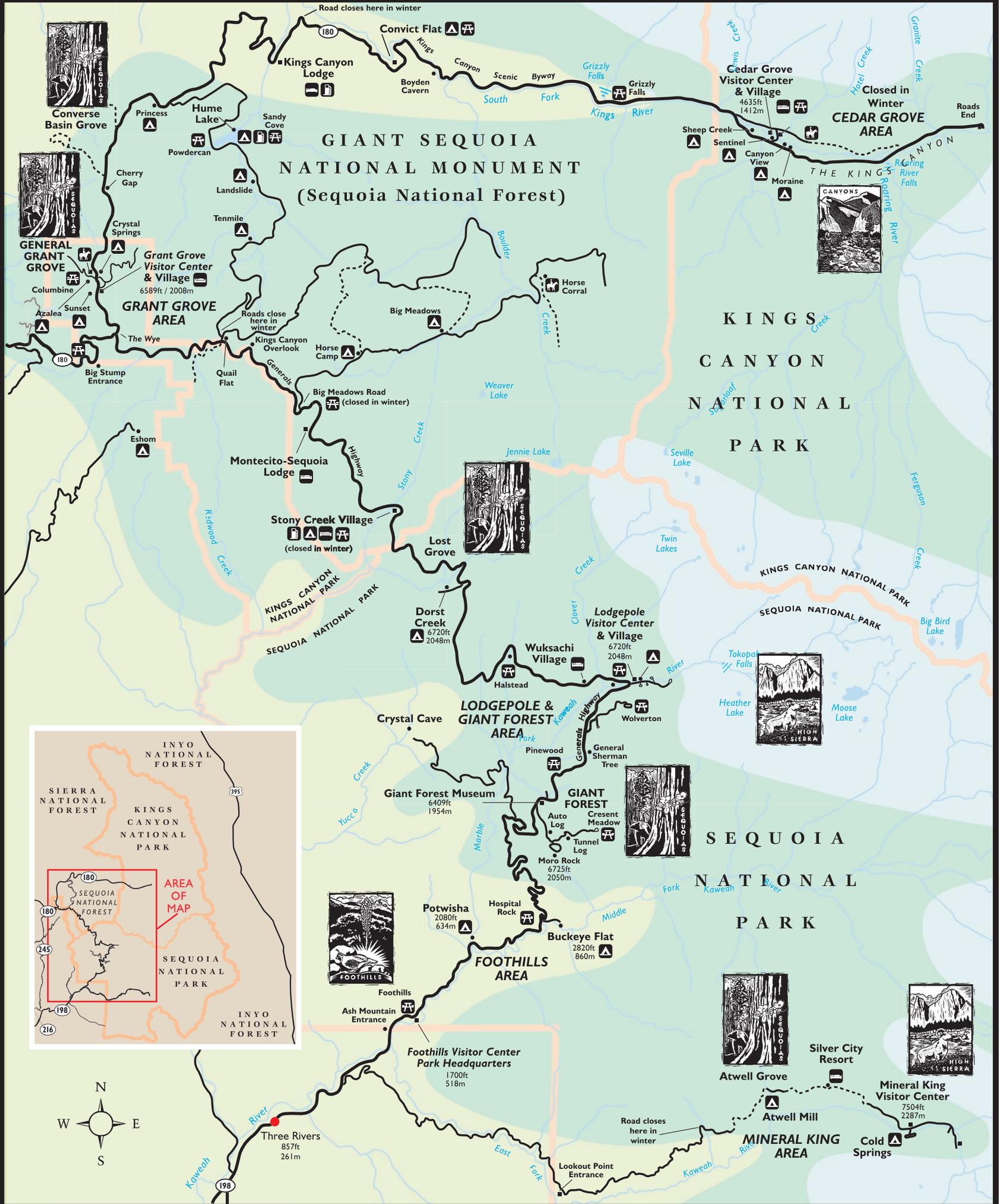
Grades of 5-8%.
Downshift to avoid overheated or failed brakes. See page 5.

DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER

FOOTHILLS TO:
Giant Forest 1 hour.
Lodgepole 1 hour.
Visalia 1 hour.
Mineral King 1-1/4 hours. Road closed Oct 31 to May 27.

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.



SPRING 2005

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

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www.nps.gov/seki

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