

# SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

## & SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

### SPRING 2007 GUIDE



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## Sequoia road delays

With a little planning, you can avoid much of a wait at the road repair area on the Generals Highway. A 1-1/2 mile section of old road is being reconstructed in Sequoia Park between Hospital Rock Picnic Area and the Giant Forest.

**Planned work schedule:** Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Traffic can pass once per hour, at the top of every hour. Uphill traffic goes through first, then downhill traffic. Aim to get to the work zone at about 15 minutes before the hour (see drive-time chart below). If night work is needed, signs and notices will be posted.

**Last restrooms before the construction** are at Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum. Be sure to use them (none are available near the construction zone)!

**Flaggers, pilot cars or automatic lights** (after work hours) will direct you. No stopping in the construction zone; Amphitheater Point and other overlooks in that stretch are closed. Go slow, and give the workers plenty of room.

**While waiting, put the car in park, turn it off, and keep your foot off the brakes** or they won't cool off. Overheated brakes fail, and cause most of the accidents on this steep road.

**During Memorial Day weekend**, the only delay will be an automated traffic light (9-15 minutes wait) from noon on Friday, 5/25 through 6 a.m. on Tuesday, 5/29. The same is true of July 4th week: Only brief delays from noon on 7/3 to 6 a.m. on 7/5. Be sure to wait for the green light, or you'll get trapped by oncoming traffic! **Thank you for your patience.**

#### DRIVE TIME TO CONSTRUCTION ZONE FROM:

- Sequoia Entrance/Hwy 198 – 35 minutes
- Foothills Visitor Center – 30 minutes
- Potwisha Campground – 21 minutes
- Hospital Rock Picnic Area – 15 minutes
- Giant Forest Museum – 15 minutes
- Grant Grove Village – 1-1/4 hours

## A shuttle to the sequoias

### Be driven.



A new shuttle bus system serves the Giant Forest from May 24 to September 3!

One shuttle route runs from Visalia to the Giant Forest Museum. Another, the Giant Forest Route, runs from the museum to the General Sherman Tree, Lodgepole Village, and Wuksachi Lodge. A third route goes from the Giant Forest Museum to Moro Rock and Crescent Meadow (see page 8 for details). You can ride one, two, or all three between about 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.!

The shuttle reduces traffic, air pollution, and parking hassles. You can park once, take the shuttle to another spot, then stroll a trail through the sequoias back to your car. Or ride it just to get an overview of the area before deciding where you want to stop and visit.

This shuttle is the story of perseverance and partnerships. It represents one of the last steps in a decades-long effort to improve preservation and visitation in the Giant Forest sequoia grove (see exhibits in the Giant Forest Museum for more of that story).

It took a great partner, the City of Visalia, to make this pilot project a reality. They charge a reasonable fee for the ride from Visalia to the Giant Forest. The other routes are free, funded in part by park entrance fees.

We have three years to prove that enough visitors will ride the shuttles to continue the service. Try it; we hope you'll like it (the environment will thank you). Please pass on suggestions to any park ranger. Enjoy the ride!

# WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

## Get to know these parks!



Given the names of these parks, you expect giant trees and huge canyons — and you won't be disappointed. Yet the whole of them is even greater than the sum of their famous parts.

Rising from 1300' to 14,494', these parks protect a spectacular 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, which is 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 these 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.*

### PHONE 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)
- **Sequoia Parks Foundation**  
1-559-739-1668  
[www.sequoiafund.org](http://www.sequoiafund.org)
- **Forest Service (USFS)**  
1-559-784-1500  
[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

### 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?

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument.... What is the difference between them?

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



### FEES HELP YOUR PARKS!

Most of your entrance and camping fees stay here. The parks use them to invest in projects that enhance visitor facilities and protect park resources. In the past few years, fees have paid for repairing and improving roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have improved visitor centers, updated exhibits, and modernized naturalist slide programs.

### ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS:

- **7-day pass** for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM): \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **12-Month Pass** for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, & for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/GSNM: \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase.
- **12-Month: America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Pass:** Cost \$80. Valid for entrance fees at Federal recreation sites including National Parks, National Forests, FWS, BLM, & Bureau of Reclamation. Admits all passengers in a single private non-commercial vehicle where per-vehicle fees are charged, OR the passholder plus up to 3 persons (age 16 & older) for per-person fee areas, for 12 months. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Seniors: America the Beautiful Interagency Pass:** \$10 one-time fee buys a lifetime pass for entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. (Previously issued *Golden Age* passes remain valid.)
- **Accessibility: America the Beautiful Interagency Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to any park visitor center. (Previously issued *Golden Access* passes remain valid.)

# Crystal Cave Rocks!



Explore fabulous cave formations. 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 the 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 page 12 map). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m) on the road to the cave.

Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a jacket; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep and it's 50°F (10°C) inside.

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

## 45-minute cave tours daily starting May 12

Schedule: *Don't miss this opportunity!*

From 5/12 through 6/15: Weekdays 11am, noon, 2 pm, & 3 pm. Saturday & Sunday 11 am-4 pm on the hour. Memorial Day weekend (5/26-28): every half hour from 10:30 am to 5pm. Extra tours may be added.

From 6/16 through 9/3: Weekdays 10:30 am to 4:30 pm every half hour. Saturdays & July 4th holiday (6/30-7/4) every half hour 10 am to 5 pm; Sundays 10:30 am to 5 pm.

Fees: Ages 6-12 \$6; age 13-61 \$11; age 62 & up \$10; under 6 free. National Park, Interagency, & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a discount!

## 1-1/2 hour Discovery Tours start June 25th

Weekdays only through 8/31 (no tours 7/2-4), starting at 4:15 pm. Enjoy a more in-depth tour of this fabulous cave! Limited to 16 people aged 13 & up. Fee: \$18.95 each (SNHA members \$16.95).

# Activities

**WALKS & TALKS** Free ranger-led talks or walks may be offered in spring at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, Cedar Grove, & the Foothills, usually on weekends. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers to see what is scheduled.

**VISITOR CENTERS** Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy (check out the new exhibits at the visitor center in Grant Grove). They also sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: All your purchases at visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8 and 9 for hours and locations.

**TEACHERS: BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!** Rangers offer fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6<sup>th</sup>-grade classes in spring and fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date for your class, call 1-559-565-4303.

## SEMINARS & FIELD CLASSES

See the exciting list of options on the back of the Sequoia Natural History Association insert found in this paper.

## JR. RANGER PROGRAM

People of all ages earn a badge 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 an Arrowhead Award! Pick up a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!

## 8th Bi-Annual Cleanup of the South Fork of the Kings River!

On June 2, meet at 9am sharp in Cedar Grove Visitor Center parking lot in the Kings Canyon. Be prepared with sturdy shoes, work gloves, insect repellent, water, sunscreen & snack. BBQ lunch provided if you RSVP in advance. For more information: [wtemplin@surewest.net](mailto:wtemplin@surewest.net) or <http://sfkingsriver.org> or 916-601-9954

## NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP WEEK!

## WHERE CAN I...

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

• **WALK A PET?** In the Parks: Not on trails but it's ok 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, 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 the 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.

• **RIDE A BICYCLE?** In the 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.

• **HAVE A FIRE?** In the Parks: Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. In National Forest: Fire permits required outside campgrounds & picnic-area grills. Get one at Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (Grant Grove) or 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.

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

• **RIDE SNOWMOBILES?** Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Only on designated routes. 1-559-243-4005.

• **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.

• **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.

• **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.

• **HUNT?** Not in the Parks. Firearms must be unloaded, inoperable & stored in way that prevents ready use prior to entering national parks. In National Forest: Only during the season with a license. For details: 1-559-243-4005.

## • RIDE HORSEBACK

From late spring or early summer into fall. Hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, & guided trips.

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

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

Horse Corral  
(at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest south of Grant Grove)  
1-559-565-3404 summer  
1-559-564-6429 off season  
1-559-679-3573 cell

# Change: Natural & unnatural

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 monitor that works 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 management.

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. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now *and* in the future.



## Fire: A natural change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing 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 from this. Fire suppression blocked important ecological processes and caused many problems. Two problems were glaring:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: They create a fertile ash seedbed and they open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, dead wood and small, dense white fir trees increased tremendously. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife. They burn hotter and are harder to put out.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety *and* benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works *with* fire to gain the benefits it brings.

When and where it's appropriate, we may ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning-caused fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows that we are succeeding.

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

*Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels. Without it, these 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.*

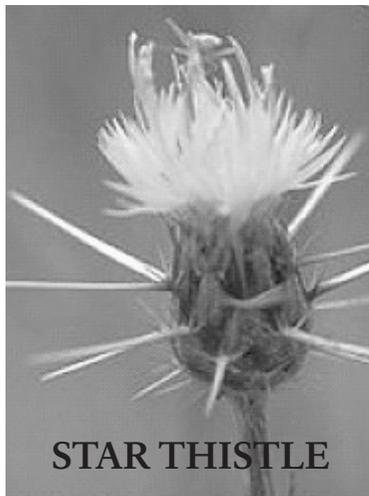
©NPS Photo

## Unnatural change: Alien invaders!

Plants and animals here evolve together in communities over time. Often they keep each other in check. When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly since the competitors, predators and diseases they evolved with in their home communities are not here. They break links in the local web of life, badly disrupting species that depend on each other. Sometimes they completely replace native plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks.

The natives will thank you!



STAR THISTLE

Two immediate threats:

Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny patches completely exclude native plants, and limit wildlife movements. Not yet established here! If you recognize it from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in.

New Zealand Mud Snails take over waterways that they invade, eating most of the food. Due to their biology, *just one snail* can start a huge population! They stick on gear; check boots & waders thoroughly for this tiny invader. Common just east of the parks. Could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL

## WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

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

A permit is required for each trip. First-come, first-served permits are issued the morning of your trip or after 1pm the day before at the park permit station/visitor center 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.

Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date are accepted beginning March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date.

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

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.

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

For more details, visit Wilderness Information at [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm) or get a free copy of **Backcountry Basics** at visitor centers or by mail.

## HIGH SIERRA LODGING

- **BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP (DNCPR)** [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com)  
Reservations for summer (required) taken starting January 2: 1-888-252-5757. Open June 8 to September 15. 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.

# Be Safe!

**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.

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

**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.



**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 doctor's advice.



**GIARDIA IN WATER:** This 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.

**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.

### 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: May 10-10/9, 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: Open no sooner than 4/13. Gas sales usually 9am-dark, call to confirm. 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

### BICYCLES

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

**RATTLESNAKES** are especially common in the foothills. Watch where you put your hands and feet! They are protected here; do not kill them.

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.



**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.

**WEST NILE VIRUS** is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

### CARBON MONOXIDE:

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

**OZONE POLLUTION:** See air-quality index forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm 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 from gases in car and factory exhaust.

### LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia Park, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum 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 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).

### PREVENT CAR FIRES

Hot brakes & mufflers start fires in dry grass. Do not stop in grassy areas; used paved turnouts only.

### MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup on pavement.

**CELL PHONES** rarely work well in these mountains; don't rely on them. Note where pay phones are available (see pages 8 & 9).

**COUGARS** roam throughout the parks, but chances of seeing one are very small. They 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.

**EXPLORE SAFELY:** 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.

**SAFE DRINKING WATER:** The parks' 13 water systems are tested to ensure that they meets state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers.

### 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.

### SPRING OPENINGS OF NARROW, WINDING ROADS IN KINGS CANYON & NATIONAL FOREST/ SEQUOIA MONUMENT –

- Panoramic Point Road: Opens 5/25 or sooner.
- Redwood Mountain Road (NPS) & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS): Unpaved, unplowed. Opens when snow melts.

### IN SEQUOIA –

- Crystal Cave Road: Open 5/12, weather permitting. Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m).
- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road: During shuttle season 5/25-9/3, single vehicles more than 22 feet long and combination vehicles prohibited (exception: those with valid disabled-parking placards displayed).
- Mineral King Road: Opens 5/25, weather permitting. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).
- South Fork Road: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

## Rules of the road

### SLOW DOWN FOR WILDLIFE!

#### ROAD DELAYS in SEQUOIA

On weekdays on the Generals Highway between Hospital Rock and the Giant Forest. See page 1 for details or call 1-559-565-3341 ext. 941 for updates.

#### LET OTHERS PASS BUT STAY ON PAVEMENT

Slower vehicles *must* use paved turnouts to let traffic pass. Park & drive only on pavement to protect plants and soils and to avoid fires.

#### DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Frequent braking causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, *always* downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.



@NPS Photo

# Highlights

## SEQUOIA PARK

### GIANT FOREST

Review safety tips on page 5. Take a map, warm clothes, sunglasses, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the woods — be safe and enjoy! *Use the Sequoia Shuttle system to visit many of these sights between 5/24 and 9/3. See the Shuttle schedule on page 8.*



**GIANT FOREST MUSEUM:** The best place to start your visit and learn about the Big Trees. *Shuttle stop & transfer point.*

#### 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 - MAIN TRAIL & PARKING:

Drive 2 miles (3.2 km) north of Giant Forest Museum (past the first Sherman Tree access which is for those with disabled parking placards only), turn on Wolverton Road, then right to the parking lot. Walk down to the world's largest tree, named in 1879 by a Civil War veteran. *A shuttle stop from 5/24-9/3. Try walking to the tree, then on to the shuttle stop below, and ride back to your car.*

**ACCESSIBLE TRAIL** A parking area for disabled-parking placards only for the Sherman Tree area. You need a permit to park there (ask at visitor centers if you need one) *or, in summer, take the shuttle.*

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

#### MORO ROCK/CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road begins at Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway. Not recommended for trail-

ers or RVs (during shuttle season 5/25-9/3, single vehicles more than 22 feet long and those towing something are prohibited - except those with valid disabled parking placards displayed). 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. Two miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway. *Summer shuttle stop.*

**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 in the fragile meadows. Stay on designated trails; walk only on fallen logs into meadows. Here starts 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). *Summer shuttle stop.*

#### 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. Be careful around the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground; 500 foot/152 m elevation gain. Allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours. *Summer shuttle stop at Lodgepole Campground.*

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

#### MINERAL KING



The winding, steep road to this valley opens May 25. It ends at 7800' (2380m), the park's highest road. Before then, you need a permit from the Foothills Visitor Center to open a gate at the park boundary. Many trails lead to higher country and excellent hiking. Some trails may remain snowy through spring. Be sure to learn about marmots, as they often damage parked cars.

### THE FOOTHILLS

The Sierra's lower elevations offer more biological diversity — different kinds of plants and animals — than the conifer forests or high-country. Follow spring up as flowers bloom ever higher on the slopes. 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:** Park at Hospital Rock and walk to Buckeye Flat Campground. Follow the footpath across from site #26 & cross the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for just over 1-1/2 mile (1.6 km) before growing faint.

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

#### SOUTH FORK

Two trails start at tiny South Fork Campground, at the end of a 13-mile road that leaves Hwy 198 from the west end of Three Rivers. Partly unpaved, the road can be very slippery when wet.

**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



Yellow-throated gilia - © Peter Stekel

### GRANT GROVE

Before taking to the trail, review safety advice on page 5. Carry a map, warm clothes, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going.

#### GENERAL GRANT TREE:

One of the world's largest living trees. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's



Christmas Tree in 1926. It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.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 oldroad 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:

Ski until the snow melts, then hike or drive the road to 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) south of Grant Grove. 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and High Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

**REDWOOD CANYON:** The world's largest grove of sequoias. Acres of rejuvenating forest result from 30 years of prescribed fires, showing the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (7 miles/11.3 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, go 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 MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK:

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



### KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

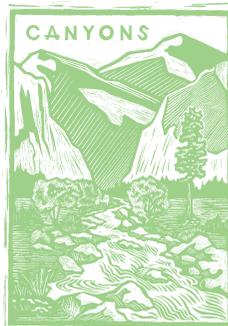
Take time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge. Be very careful around the water!

**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:** One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; 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. It starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs a north-facing slope past Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up); 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; climbs through chaparral to a forested ridge and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; 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 (see page 2).

**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 (6 miles north of Grant Grove), or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, a tree cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

**INDIAN BASIN:** Logged a century ago, this recovering forest and meadow look quite different today. A new one-mile accessible trail extends another unpaved mile. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Trail begins by the host's site.

**HUME LAKE,** formed by a rare, historic multiple-arch dam, supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108 km) to Sanger. An easy 2-1/2-mile (4km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists recreational options. 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 ad 14S11 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. Page 6 lists highlights. For information on road delays between the Giant Forest and Three Rivers, see page 1.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30 through 5/25, then 9am-6pm. Exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. ~~Starting 5/11, Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm (cave opens 5/12).~~ 559-565-4480. No payphone; closest are at Lodgepole & Wolverton.
- **Family Nature Center at Beetle Rock (NPS):** Open 6/30. Across the Generals Highway from the Giant Forest Museum. Stop in!
- **Picnic Areas (NPS):** See the map on page 12; details on page 3.

### CRYSTAL CAVE - Daily tours starting May 12

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. 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:** Opens 5/5 daily 9am-4:30pm through 5/24, then 7am-5pm. Starting 5/11, Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. Exhibits on geology & forest life; books, maps, first aid. Pay phone. New "Bears of the Sierra" movie. 1-559-565-4436.
- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Self-register outside the visitor center through 5/24. Starting 5/25 go to the visitor center daily 7am-noon & 1-3:45pm. 559-565-4408.

#### FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR)

- **Lodgepole Market & Gift Shop:** Daily 10am-4:30pm through 5/3; 9am-6pm 5/4 -5/24; then 8am-8pm. Supplies, bear canisters, gifts, premade sandwiches, ice cream.
- **Harrison Grill:** Open 5/19 -9/30 daily 8am-7:45pm. Breakfast, hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza.
- **Watchtower Deli:** Open 5/19 through 9/2. Daily 11am-6pm. Sandwiches, salads.

#### OTHER SERVICES

- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. Details on page 11.
- **Laundry (DNCPR):** Daily 10am-4:30pm through 5/3; 9am-6pm 5/4 -5/24; then 8am-8pm. Last load of laundry in 1 hour before closing.
- **Showers (DNCPR):** Starting 5/5 - 5/24 daily 9am-5:45pm, then 8am-7:45pm. Closed daily 1-3pm for cleaning.
- **Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 1-559-565-3678. Lobby with stamp machine open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.
- **Picnic Areas (NPS):** See the map on page 12; details on page 3.
- **Pay Telephones:** Outside visitor center & market buildings.

### WUKSACHI LODGE & DINING ROOM

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Open year-round 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the Sherman Tree. The center for lodging & food services in Sequoia.

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts and the National Park Foundation have made it easy for Wuksachi Lodge guests to contribute to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Ask about the Guest Donation Program when you check in!

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

- **Dining Room:** Through 5/24, breakfast 7:30-9:30am; lunch 11:30am-2:00pm; dinner 5-9pm. Starting 5/25, 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm & 5-10pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 559-565-4070. Lounge daily 5-9pm through 5/24, then 4:30-10pm. Pay telephones downstairs in lodge.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing, art, snacks.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** Year-round. See page 10 for details.

### WOLVERTON MEADOWS

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Two miles (3.2km) north of the Sherman Tree. **Wolverton BBQ (DNCPR):** 6/13 -9/2 Daily, weather permitting. All-you-can-eat barbeque, served outdoors starting at 6pm.

## SHUTTLE ROUTES — 5/24 to 9/3/07

**GIANT FOREST ROUTE (Green Route, #1):** Free! Wuksachi Village to Giant Forest Museum (~1/2-hour ride), stopping each way at Lodgepole and Sherman Tree. Alternate buses (every other one) go to Wuksachi; the others travel between Lodgepole and Giant Forest Museum:

FROM	HEADING TO GIANT FOREST	HEADING TO WUKSACHI
• Wuksachi Lodge -every 1/2 hour	1st bus: 9 am Last bus: 5:59 pm	- -
• Lodgepole Visitor Center / Market & Campground (2 stops) -every 15 minutes	1st bus: 9:07 am Last bus: 6:07 pm	1st bus: 9:21 am Last bus: 5:51 pm
• Sherman Tree Trail & Parking (aka Upper Sherman) -every 15 minutes	1st bus: 9:16 am Last bus: 6:16 pm	1st bus: 9:12 am Last bus: 6:12 pm
• Sherman Tree (accessible trail; disabled-placard parking only) -every 15 minutes	1st bus: 9:21 am Last bus: 6:21 pm	1st bus: 9:07 am Last bus: 6:07pm
• Giant Forest Museum & All-Shuttle Transfer Point -every 15 minutes	- -	1st bus: 9:00 am Last bus: 6:00 pm

**MORO ROCK / CRESCENT MEADOW ROUTE (Gray Route, #2):** Free! Leaves Giant Forest Museum every 15 minutes for Crescent Meadow (~1/4-hour ride), stopping each way at Moro Rock:

FROM	HEADING TO CRESCENT MDW	HEADING TO GIANT FOREST
• Giant Forest Museum	1st bus: 9:00 am Last bus: 6:00 pm	- -
• Moro Rock	1st bus: 9:07 am Last bus: 6:07 pm (Last bus to Wuksachi Lodge leaves at 5:49 pm.)	1st bus: 9:19 am Last bus: 6:19 pm
• Crescent Meadow	- -	1st bus: 9:13 am Last bus: 6:13 pm (Last bus to Wuksachi Lodge leaves at 5:43 pm.)

**GIANT FOREST-TO-VISALIA ROUTE** - Not free. Ask at visitor centers or call 1-559-713-4100. An inexpensive 2-hour ride to the City of Visalia.

## Foothills Area

500-3500' (457-1067 m) elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters; & the greatest biological diversity in these parks. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-4:30pm (6pm starting 6/15). Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. Starting 5/11, Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. 1-559-565-3135.
- **Potwisha Campground (NPS):** Year-round. Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones:** Foothills Visitor Center (by front door), Potwisha Campground, Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

## Mineral King Area

**Opens May 25.** See page 6 for more details. Be aware: In spring & early summer, marmots chew on hoses and wiring in parked cars in the valley. 7800' (2380 m) elevation. A subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road (no RVs, buses, or trailers, please). No electricity or gas.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Starting 5/26 daily 8am-4pm (register for wilderness permits on the porch until then). Maps, books, local wilderness permits, first aid, & bear canisters. 559-565-3768.
- **Pay Telephones:** Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Open 5/25. Cabins, chalets, showers, small store (gifts, limited supplies & ice; no gas or fishing licenses). Restaurant/bakery/store: 5/25-6/14 Thursday-Monday; closed Tuesday-Wednesday. From 6/15-9/15: Thursday-Monday 8am-8pm, Tuesday-Wednesday bakery & store only, 8am-3pm. Summer 559-561-3223; winter 805-461-3223; www.silvercityresort.com.
- **Camping (NPS):** No RVs or trailers. Details: page 11.

# FACILITIES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS

## 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.

#### INFORMATION

- **Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS):** Through 5/4, 9am -5pm; 5/5 - 6/14 8am - 5pm; then 8am - 6pm. Exhibits in English & Spanish; 15-minute movie (captioned). Books, maps, first aid. Local wilderness permits issued 9am until 1/2 hour before closing. 1-559-565-4307.

#### FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Daily through 5/24, 8am-2pm & 5-7pm (Friday & Saturday until 8pm). From Friday, 5/25 - 9/2, 7am-2pm & 5-9pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily through 5/24, 9am-7pm (Friday & Saturday until 8pm); from 5/25 - 9/2, 8am-9pm. Souvenirs, film, clothing. ATM in lobby.
- **Market:** Same hours as Gift Shop (above). Supplies, sandwiches, bear canisters, emergency gasoline.

#### OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** Details on page 10-11. Front desk 7am-10pm.
- **Showers (KCPS):** 11am - 4pm starting 5/3. Ask at registration desk.
- **Post Office:** Hours may change without notice. Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday 9am - 4:30pm. Saturday & Wednesday 10 -11:45am. Lobby open 24 hours. Send mail for visitors to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.
- **Pay Telephones:** Available 24 hours at Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); outside gift shop, market, & post office.
- **Picnicking & Horseback Riding:** See page 3 & the page 12 map.

## In the Kings Canyon

Road open April 27-November 13, 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.

#### INFORMATION & CAMPING (NPS)

- **Visitor Center:** Opens 5/25- 6/5 & 6/8 into September. Daily 9am-5pm. 559-565-3793.
- **Wilderness permits:** At Road's End, 6 miles (9.6 km) east of the village. Self-issue permits through 5/24, then 7am-3pm daily. No permits issued after 2:45pm.
- **Camping (NPS):** Details on page 11.

#### FOOD, LODGING, SHOPS, & OTHER SERVICES (KCPS)

Open Thursday, May 17 - Saturday, October 13.

- **Restaurant:** Counter-service meals & snack bar (not a full-service restaurant). From 5/17 - 6/7: weekdays 8-10:30am & 5-7pm; Saturday-Sunday 8am-2pm & 5-7pm. Starting 6/8, daily 7am-2pm & 5-9pm. Lunch supplies available at market.
- **Gift Shop & Market:** Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs, film. 5/17-6/7: 8am-7pm. Starting 6/8, 7am-9pm.
- **Lodging:** Open 5/17 through 10/13 (last night). Page 10 has details.
- **Showers & Laundry:** Daily starting 5/17 (shower closed 1-3pm for cleaning). From 5/17 - 6/7: 8am-6pm. Starting 6/8, 7am-7pm. Last laundry load in by 1 hour before closing. Purchase shower tokens at market.
- **Picnicking & Horseback Riding:** See page 3 & the page 12 map.
- **Pay Telephones:** Outside visitor center & restaurant/market.

**Join us!** In spring, free ranger-led activities may take place on weekends. Extra programs are offered Memorial Day weekend, 5/25-27. Daily activities will be offered starting mid- to-late June. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers throughout these parks for schedules of these walks, talks, and evening programs.

## NATURE PROGRAMS

### CELEBRATE SEQUOIAS!

On September 8, join us for the 9th Annual Celebrate Sequoias Festival. Enjoy walks, music, crafts, and kid's activities at Princess Campground in Sequoia National Forest.

## 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.

#### PAY TELEPHONES

- **Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove:** Summer only at Stony Creek Resort & by Big Meadows trailhead across from guard station.
- **Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove:** Hume Lake (year round); Kings Canyon Resort only from 4/27 -11/13, when Hwy. 180 is open.

#### 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. Open weekdays 8am-4:30pm, 5/26, & the 1st Saturday of the month through September. Maps & books sold. 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.
- **Picnic Areas & Horseback Riding:** See page 3 & the page-12 map.
- **Boyden Cavern:** On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Tours on the hour 11am-4pm through May then 10am-5pm. \$11 ages 14 & up; \$6 ages 3-13; under 3 free. AAA discounts. 209-736-2708.
- **Stony Creek Village (FS):** Opens 5/10. On the Generals Highway between Grant Grove and Lodgepole. Lodging. Through 6/7: restaurant 4-7pm, market 8am-7pm (both until 8pm Friday-Saturday), showers 9am-4pm. Starting 6/8: restaurant 11am-2pm & 4-8pm, market 7am-8pm (both until 9pm Friday-Saturday), showers 9am-6pm. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. 1-866-KCANYON or 1-559-565-3909.
- **Montecito Lake Resort (formerly Montecito-Sequoia Lodge) (FS):** A permitted resort on public land open all year. On Generals Highway 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Breakfast 7:30-9am, lunch 12-1:30pm, dinner 5:30- 7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 1-800-227-9900 or 559-565-3388.
- **Historic Guard Station at Big Meadows:** (FS) Details on 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 (hours change mid- June). Snack bar. Boat rentals by late April. For details: 1-559-335-2000.

#### GASOLINE SALES

See page 5 *Rules of the Road - Gasoline* for hours of Hume Lake, Stony Creek, and Kings Canyon Lodge.



# 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 May 26 to mid-October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gas.*

### KINGS CANYON PARK

- **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge (KCPS)**  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500  
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. *All year. In Grant Grove. Cabins, hotel, restaurant, gifts, showers.*
- **Cedar Grove Lodge (KCPS)**  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100  
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com *Open 5/17; last night 10/13. In the Kings Canyon. Motel, restaurant, public showers, restaurant, laundry.*

### SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT

- **Montecito Lake Resort (formerly 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, swimming, seasonal & children's activities.*
- **Stony Creek Lodge (KCPS)**  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.  
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com *Open May 10 through 10/9. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gas.*
- **Historic Guard Station (FS)**  
Reservations: 1-877-444-6777 or www.reserveamerica.com  
*Opens mid-June into October, if weather permits. A cabin in the National Monument 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.*

\* *Note: These two facilities on private land are not evaluated or regulated by the Park or Forest.*

### 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

See page 4 for details.

## 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, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), 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.

### GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

**UP TO 6:** Many campgrounds allow only one vehicle & six people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits. Parking is available for extra vehicles.

**7 TO 19:** In summer, Crystal Springs in Grant Grove has first-come, first-served sites for groups of 7-15 & Canyon View in Cedar Grove has sites for 7-19, for \$35.

**LARGER:** Call in advance for information on reserving group tent-camping areas in the parks: For Sunset or Canyon View - 1-559-565-4335 (5/1-10/31: 565-3792 for Canyon View). To reserve a group site in Dorst or in the national forest/ monument: call 877-444-6777 or go to www.recreation.gov.

### TIME LIMITS ON CAMPING

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.

### 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.

## 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.



## 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.

**Food-storage regulations:** always read & follow instructions on bulletin boards -- please help save a bear!

**Summer reservations** for Dorst & Lodgepole (in Sequoia NP) & for reservable campgrounds (marked \* below) in the National Forest (USFS) may be made up to 6 months in advance of the date desired.

Contact ReserveAmerica at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST from 3/1-10/31; 7am -7pm 11/1 - 2/28). Customer service: 888-448-1474.

# 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:

- # 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.

## IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

### FOOTHILLS AREA

Lowest in elevation, therefore warmest and usually snowfree.

Campground	Elevation	Open	# 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
Potwisha ◆	2100'	Open all year.	42	\$18	Flush	☀			✓	☀	✓		✓	
Buckeye Flat ◆	2800'	4/6-9/28.	28	\$18	Flush				at Potwisha	☀			✓	
South Fork #	3600'	Open all year. Non-potable water on 5/11-10/11.	10	\$12 May -Sept.	Vault								✓	

### MINERAL KING AREA

Open 5/25, weather permitting. No RVs or trailers.

Atwell Mill #	6650'	Water on 5/25-10/10.	21	\$12	Vault	☀	☀			☀			✓	✓
Cold Springs #	7500'	Water on 5/25-10/10.	40	\$12	Vault	Silver City	Silver City			☀	✓		✓	

### LODGEPOLE AREA

\*Summer reservations up to 6 months in advance (see Reservations above.)

*Lodgepole ⊠ +	6700'	Open all year. Reservation period: 5/25-10/9.	214	\$20/18 \$20 during summer reservation period then \$18.	Flush	☀	☀	☀	☀	✓	☀		✓	✓
*Dorst ⊠ +	6700'	6/28-9/6 (last night)	204	\$20	Flush				☀	☀	☀		✓	✓

## IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

### GRANT GROVE AREA

Azalea ◆	6500'	Open all year	110	\$18/10	Flush	✓	☀			✓	at village	☀		✓
Crystal Springs ◆	6500'	5/18-9/12.	36	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓	"	☀		✓
Sites for groups of 7-15 (see page 10):			14	\$35										
Sunset ◆	6500'	5/25-6/1 & 6/26-10/6.	157	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓	"	☀		✓

### CEDAR GROVE AREA (ON THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON)

Camping available but other facilities open 5/17.

Sentinel ◆ +	4600'	5/21-10/9.	82	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at visitor center	☀	✓	
Sheep Creek ◆ +	4600'	4/27-11/13.	111	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	
Canyon View ◆	4600'	5/21-10/9.	23	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	
No RVs or trailers. Sites for groups of 7-19				\$35										
Moraine ◆	4600'	Open Memorial Day weekend then open as needed.	120	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	

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

### HUME LAKE AREA

Most campgrounds open late May into fall, weather permitting. \*Reservable in summer.

*Princess	5900'		88	\$17 single	Vault				☀ \$7	☀			✓	✓
										Dump station not recommended for vehicles over 30 feet long.				
*Hume Lake +	5200'		74	\$19 "	Flush	✓		✓		☀	✓		✓	✓
Tenmile	5800'	No water	13	\$15	Vault								✓	✓
Landslide	5800'		9	\$15	Vault								✓	✓
Convict Flat	4000'	No water.	5		Vault								✓	

### BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK

Most campgrounds open late May into fall, weather permitting.

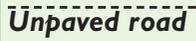
*Stony Creek #	6400'		49	\$19 single	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at lodge		✓	✓
Upper Stony #	6400'		18	\$15	Vault	☀	☀	☀		☀	at lodge		✓	✓
Horse Camp	7500'	No water	5+		Vault								✓	
Buck Rock	7500'	No water	11		Vault									
Big Meadow	7600'	No water	40		Vault						by trailhead	✓	✓	

## PARK ROADS

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

 Major paved road

 Minor paved road

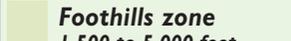
 Unpaved road

 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

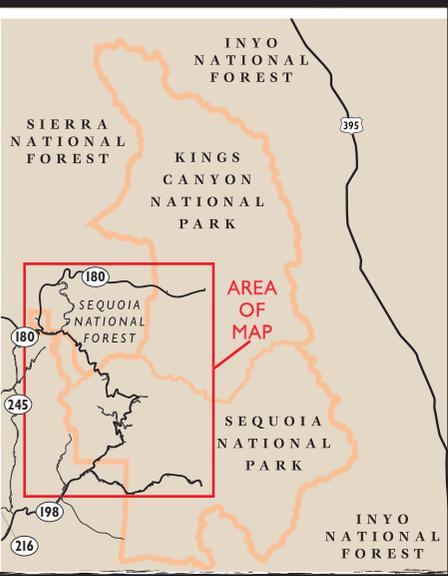
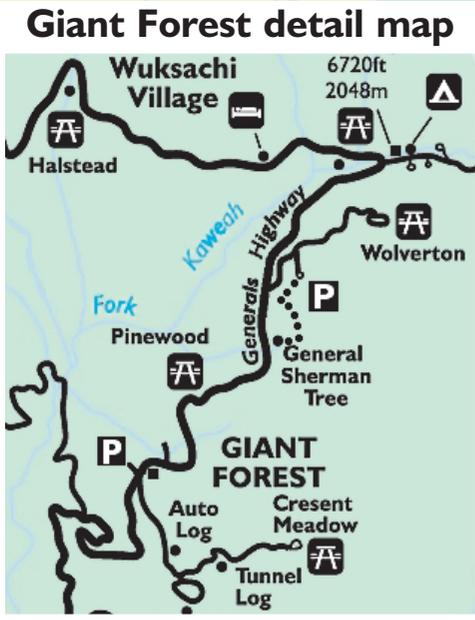
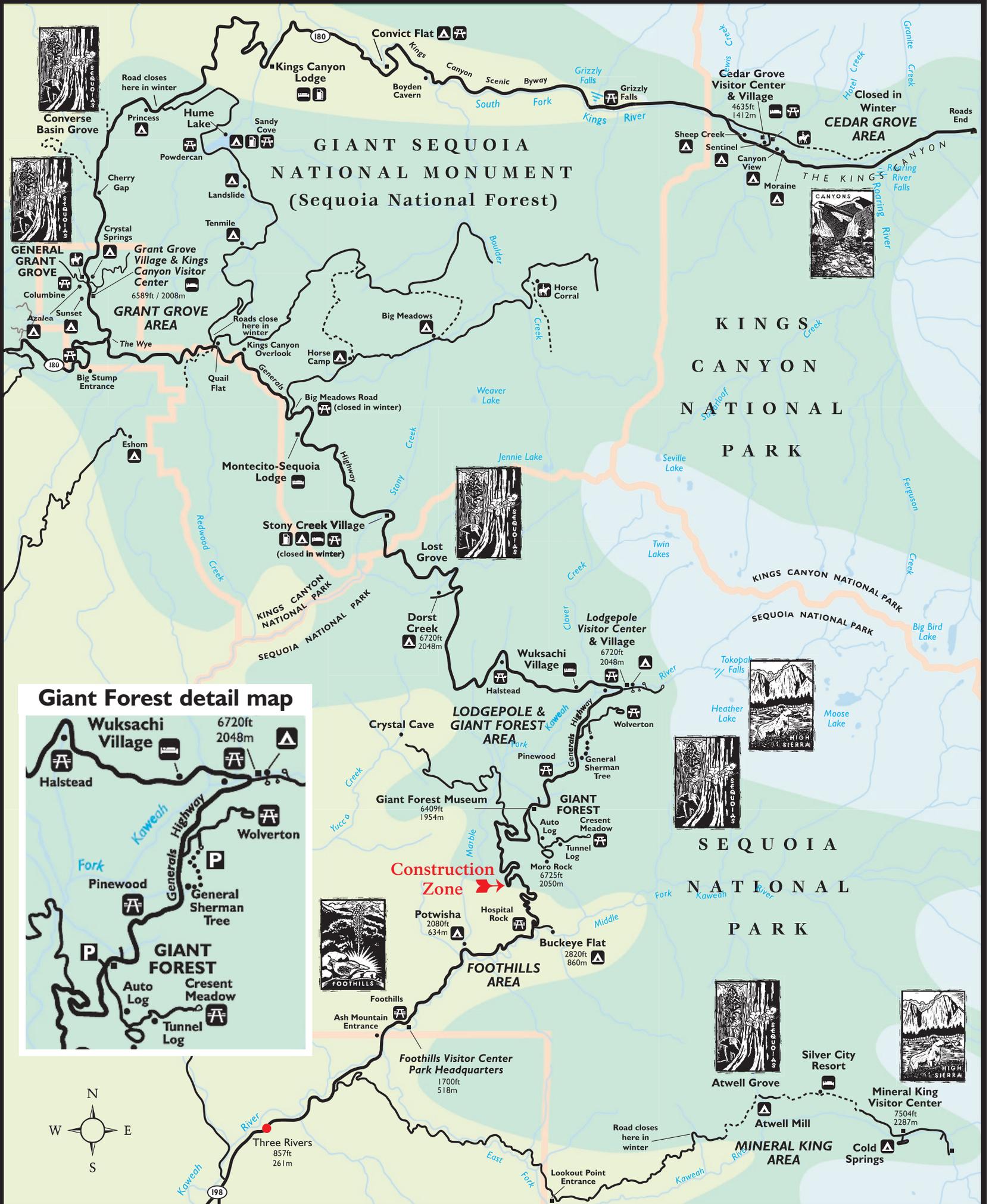
Grades of 5-8%.  
Downshift to avoid overheated or failed brakes.  
See page 5.

## DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER

**FROM FOOTHILLS TO:**  
 Giant Forest - 1 hour  
 Lodgepole - 1 hour  
 Visalia - 1 hour  
 Mineral King - 1-1/4 hours. Road closed Nov 1 to late May.

**FROM GIANT FOREST TO**  
 Grant Grove - 1 hour

**FROM GRANT GROVE TO:**  
 Cedar Grove - 1 hour.  
 Road open mid-April to Nov. 13.  
 Fresno - 1-1/2 hours.  
 Yosemite south entry via Hwy 41 - 3 hours.



**SPRING 2007**  
**SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS**  
 4705 Generals Highway  
 Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651

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