



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST / GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

WINTER GUIDE 2005-2006

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Changing winter in a changing world?

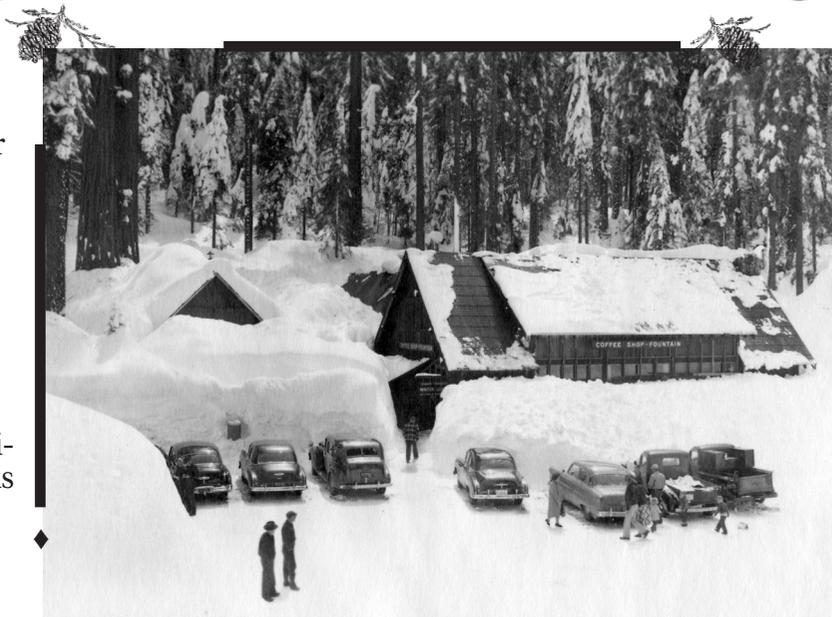
During a winter visit to these parks you may find yourself facing the cold season in all its unfettered power ... then again, you may not. The nature of winter in our mountain range seems to be changing.

The Sierra Nevada has long been famous for its white winters and heavy snowpack in the high mountains. Snow depths of 10 to 20 feet on the ground are common in historical records. We owe many of the things we find most special about the Sierra — its giant forests, multitudinous lakes and ample rivers — to this generous snowfall. The range's wintry character is even expressed in its name, bestowed upon it by early Spanish explorers, that means "snowy mountains."

Records suggest, however, that winter is losing some of its grip on the Sierra. In recent years, more precipitation at low and middle altitudes has been falling as rain rather than as snow. At the same time, high-altitude snowpack is melting earlier, with the result that peak stream runoff is coming sooner in the spring. The glaciers of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are shrinking in their extent and volume.

The apparent root cause behind these and other related phenomena is that the measured climate of the range is warming significantly.

The implications of this for the natural systems of the parks are enormous. In a mountain range like the Sierra many plants and animals occupy relatively narrow altitudinal ranges with specific localized climates. Giant sequoias, for example, grow where they do because it is too dry at lower elevations and too cold up higher. Thousands of other organisms each have their own limits, too.



Some Sierran winters, such as 1952, have had almost overwhelming snowfall. How does this year compare? NPS Photo

Another aspect to consider is that the mountains of the southern Sierra are cool, moist "islands" extending south into the dry heat of California. This allows many plants and animals to exist at the very edge of their ranges.

All of this means trouble if the climate changes. Plants like giant sequoias face real challenges if they find the climate where they are growing has shifted to become unhealthy for them. If stream waters warm, they may not support trout. If the snowpack at middle-altitudes disappears, then oaks and cedars — trees that tolerate warmer, drier conditions — may move in to replace pine and fir trees. Many biologists worry that this is beginning to happen to the Sierra Nevada.

Some species can move more easily than others. Certainly, we can imagine birds flying off to try to find new sites... but giant sequoia trees?!

The purpose of places like Sequoia and Kings Canyon is to preserve what we found here. But what if those special resources cannot be sustained in place? That is the question these parks will face as this new century proceeds.

In the meantime, take a moment while you are in the parks this winter to evaluate the seasonal conditions. Talk to a park ranger and find out what's been going on. Are recent temperatures average or on the mild side? Are weather stations at Grant Grove and Lodgepole receiving usual amounts of snow or are they falling short again this year? What are high-altitude snow surveys showing this winter?

These are questions every Californian ought to care about. The implications for our children and our parks are profound.

Wm. Tweed, Chief Park Naturalist

WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

Get to know these parks

Doubtless you expect giant trees and huge 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 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, part of a national forest. A U.S. Geological Survey Field Station conducts research here. The Sequoia Natural History Association sells books and maps at visitor centers and contributes to education and research. The Sequoia Fund supports significant park projects.

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

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

FEES HELP YOUR PARKS!

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

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

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

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

- **7-day pass** for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): \$10 per vehicle (changes to \$20 on 1/1/06) or \$5 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **Annual pass** for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): \$20 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase (changes to \$30 on 1/1/06).
- **National Parks Pass:** \$50 pass admits all passengers in a private vehicle to U.S. national parks that charge an entrance fee, for one year from month of purchase. Not redeemable at Crystal Cave. Also available via 1-888-GO-PARKS and www.nationalparks.org.
- **Golden Eagle Pass:** \$65 pass not only for national parks, but also for entrance fees at all federal recreation areas including monuments, historic sites & wildlife refuges. Valid for one year from month of purchase.
- **Golden Age Passport:** One-time \$10 fee buys a lifetime pass for park entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over.
- **Golden Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens & permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to any park visitor center.

WELCOME

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

BIENVENUE

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

BIENVENIDOS

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

WILKOMMEN

Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucherzentrum erhältlich.

BENVENUTI

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

PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

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

All are on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

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

National forests, managed under a "multiple use" concept, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, and recreation with and without vehicles.

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

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

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



INFORMATION NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
(no coins needed)

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

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

SNHA offers seasonal specialities

Learn about SNHA's activities — and how you can participate — in the insert enclosed in this newspaper. One of the parks' most important partners, the Sequoia Natural History Association makes several activities possible here in the parks. Among many other programs, this non-profit organization offers two seasonal favorites: the winter Pear Lake Ski Hut and the summer tours in beautiful Crystal Cave.

Read the insert and learn more about the SNHA, or look them up at www.sequoiahistory.org.

Right: Pear Lake Ski Hut provides shelter for backcountry venturers.

Below: Graceful stone draperies decorate Crystal Cave, open in summer for tours.

©NPS Photos



Pear Lake Ski Hut is obviously a winter destination! This chalet sits in a granite basin high above Lodge-pole, at 9,200 feet elevation (2804m).

It is a strenuous six miles on skis or snowshoes to get there, but what a reward — glistening snowfields, rock walls shimmering with icicles, and a deep blue sky surround you. Weasels scamper through the snow in search of rodents that burrow beneath it.

Ten bunks and a wood-pellet stove keep visitors warm. It's a great opportunity to challenge yourself, meet other people, and experience the high Sierra in winter. (Check with the Sequoia Field Institute for seminars on winter travel).

Call 559-565-3759 for reservations.



Activities

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

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

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! Call 1-559-565-4303.

FIELD CLASSES & SEMINARS See the exciting list of options for you on the back of the Sequoia Natural History Association insert found in this paper.

JR. RANGER PROGRAM

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



WHERE CAN I...

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

- **WALK A PET?** *In Parks: Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, roads). In National Forest: Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.*
- **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 or the USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.*

- **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.*

CUT WOOD? *Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.*

- **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.*

- **FEED WILDLIFE?** *Not in either area! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous and may have to be killed. Some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.*

- **GO 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.*

- **RIDE SNOWMOBILES?** *Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat, & Cherry Gap.*

- **HUNT?** *Not in the Parks. Firearms must be dismantled prior to entering national parks. In National Forest: Only until 10/23, with license. For information: 559-243-4005.*

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

- **RIDE A BICYCLE?** *In Parks: Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. In National Forest: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.*

- **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.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

- Rides by-the-hour; backcountry spot trips & guides.
- Cedar Grove - closed**
1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season
- Grant Grove - closed**
1-559-3359292
1-559-337-2314 off season
- Horse Corral - closed**
(Big Meadows in National Forest/Monument)
1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell
- Mineral King - closed.**
1-559-565-3106.

Expect Change

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

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

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

Fire: A Long-Lost Partner

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



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

©NPS Photo

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape because we believed it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 20 years.

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

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

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

To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service has taken steps to end this misunderstanding about fire. For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. When and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires and allow lightning-caused fires to spread naturally and improve resource conditions.

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

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

Fees work for the parks

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

So far, these funds have built a bicycle path; repaved roads; fixed campground sinks, tables, parking, and fire grates; improved picnic areas; and made restrooms handicapped accessible. New exhibits and a film funded by fees and donations are now open at Grant Grove in the newly named Kings Canyon Visitor Center.

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



Big Stump Picnic area restroom built with fee dollars.

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

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

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

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

Camping in the park's "front-country" is permitted only in campgrounds; camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

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

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

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

BACKCOUNTRY LODGES

- BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP (DNCRP) www.visitsequoia.com Reservations for next summer (required) are taken starting January 2: 1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June to early September, weather permitting. This tent hotel is at 7800' on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

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

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

The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

Be Safe!

SNOWPLAY: Every year there are serious injuries. Don't slide or ski on or into plowed roads, trees, or rocks. Sleds have better steering and handholds than other devices. Please be safe and considerate.

SAFE WINTER TRAVEL:

Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen to avoid snowglare. Watch out on roads for people on sleds, skis, cars, bikes, snowmobiles, and on foot.

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 ranger's and/or doctor's advice.



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

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.

ROAD CONDITIONS

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

GET SNOW OFF CAR ROOFS

The driver's vision gets blocked when snow slides onto the windshield when going downhill.

WINTERIZE YOUR CAR

Check antifreeze, battery, wipers, & chains before your trip.

FINDING GASOLINE

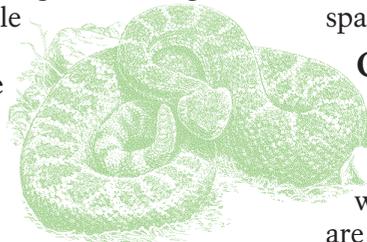
No gas stations within park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction or at Hume Lake Christian Camp (1-559-335-2000): 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.

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).

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

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



COUGARS roam 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.

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.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

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

LET OTHERS PASS

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

LENGTH ADVISORY

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

STAY ON PAVEMENT

Park & travel on pavement only.

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails),

SAFE DRINKING WATER:

The parks' 13 water systems are tested to ensure that they meet state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers.

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.

WEST NILE VIRUS is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is unusual, but avoid mosquito bites.

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.

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.

single file with traffic, and wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

WINTER ROAD CLOSURES

Generals Highway (main park road) closes for plowing between Wuk-sachi & Grant Grove during & after storms. Depending on snowfall, closure may be brief or last for weeks.

IN KINGS CANYON –

- Highway 180 to Cedar Grove: Closed below Hume Lake turnout.

- Panoramic Point Road: Opens late spring.

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

IN SEQUOIA –

- Crystal Cave Road: Opens mid-May, weather permitting.

- Middle Fork Road: Gated at Hospital Rock when wet.

- Mineral King Road: Opens 5/26.

- Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road: Opens late spring.

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

- Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS): Not plowed.

Rules of the road

TRAFFIC DELAYS - SEQUOIA

See details on page 8.

EXPECT ICY ROADS

Slow down. Don't turn, speed up, or stop suddenly; you will lose traction. Allow six seconds of stopping distance between cars.

ALWAYS CARRY CHAINS

Make sure they fit your tires. Obey "Chains Required" signs. Buy or rent chains in shops outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; they show M / S, M+S (mud+snow) or a snowflake on the side of the tire. Be sure to check!

SNOWPLOWS RULE

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, slow down but don't stop. Proceed cautiously, watching for signals from the plow operator.



NPS Photo

Highlights

SEQUOIA PARK

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. You are on your own in the winter woods—be safe!

GIANT FOREST

There is plenty to see from wintry roadsides, but consider trying skis or snowshoes.



You don't need to go far or fast, and it's a great way to enjoy snowy sequoia forests! Rent them at Wolverton (between Lodgepole and

the Giant Forest Museum); see details on page 8. Purchase a ski trail map, ask a ranger for details, and carefully follow the yellow triangular markers on trees.

Walkers & snowshoers: Avoid walking in ski tracks. It makes them dangerous for skiers.

Watch for wildlife tracks in the snow. Bear, deer, mountain lions, martens, weasels, coyotes, and squirrels may be active all winter. Remove coolers and odorous items from cars before you leave them.

Get to know the snow forest: This forest was designed for snow. Most trees are cone-shaped, minimizing the amount of snow that catches on them. The branches are flexible, so that they bend to dump what snow does stick when it gets too heavy. Conifer needles are tough and slippery, so snow tends to slide off easily.

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

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE: A short walk to the world's largest tree, named in 1879 by a

Civil War veteran. Park on the east side (heading northbound) of the Generals Highway two miles (3.2 km) north of the Giant Forest Museum. The trail from there is not fully plowed, but snow is usually packed down enough to walk on it. By next summer, a paved, accessible trail will wind from here to the biggest of these Big Trees.

BIG TREES TRAIL: This 2/3-mile (1km) trail circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Park at Giant Forest Museum and ski or snowshoe along the trails on either side of the road (not *in* the road). If there's no snow, it is wheelchair-accessible all the way from the north end of the museum plaza, around the meadow, and back.

ALONG MORO ROCK - CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

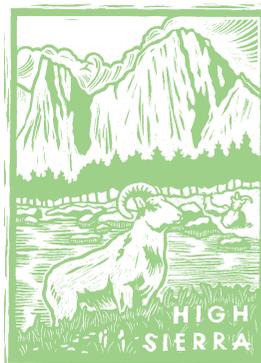
This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road closes in winter to become a ski and snowshoe trail. It begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway, explores the southwest portions of the sequoia grove, and ends at Crescent Meadow. Some highlights include:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot / 91 m elevation gain). Don't climb if there is any ice or snow on the stairs; it is very dangerous. A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide and the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. The only "tree you can ski through" in these parks. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Generals Highway.

CRESCENT MEADOW: Several trails connect here. It is 1 mile (1.6 km) from here to Tharp's Log, the hollow fallen sequoia lived in by Giant Forest's first settler. The summer High Sierra Trail runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (highest peak in the lower 48 states - 14,494 feet / 4417 m).

MINERAL KING CLOSED IN WINTER



The winding, steep road to this valley, is closed November to late May, ends at 7800' (238km), the park's highest road. Skis or snowshoes are required to visit in winter.

THE FOOTHILLS

The Sierra's lower elevations offer wonderful winter visits - green and usually snowless! They have more biological diversity - different kinds of plants and animals - than the conifer forests or highcountry. Flowers appear by late January. Watch for ticks and poison oak on foothills trails.



HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC

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

These trails start at tiny South Fork Campground, at the end of a 13-mile road that leaves Hwy 198 at the west end of Three Rivers. This partly unpaved 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



Photo by Wm. Tweed

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. You are on your own in the winter woods-be safe!

GRANT GROVE

The only plowed trail is the Grant Tree Trail loop. When snow covers other trails, give skis or snowshoes a try! Rent them at Grant Grove Market. Purchase a ski trail map and follow the colored markers on trees. See pages 8-9 for snowplay areas.

Walkers & snowshoers: Avoid walking in ski tracks. The footprints harden and catch ski tips, making it dangerous for skiers.

Watch for wildlife tracks in the snow. Bear, deer, mountain lions, bobcats, martens, weasels, coyotes, and Douglas squirrels (or chickarees) may be active throughout the winter.

Winter birds may greet you from the trees: ravens, juncos, chickadees, red-breasted nuthatches, brown



creepers, and white-headed woodpeckers, to name a few. Look for the sweep of wings in the snow where an owl caught a rodent for dinner.

TALKS & SNOWSHOE WALKS:

Check local schedules to see if a ranger-led walk is taking place.

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).

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

A marked ski/snowshoe trail to a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Park at Grant Village, go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the sign "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." It's 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

NEARBY VIEWPOINTS

OVERLOOKS & VIEWS: For a view of the High Sierra, drive to Kings Canyon Overlook about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove. For a look down into the Kings Canyon, visit Junction View, ~11 miles (15.5 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

REDWOOD CANYON

OVERLOOK: About 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, this looks west over one of the world's largest groves of sequoias. Studies here proved the strong positive relationship between fire and sequoia reproduction.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST & MONUMENT

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest.

Three trailheads offer snowplay, cross-country ski trails, and snowmobile routes. Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove or Montecito-Sequoia (see page 9 for details). Ask for information and a map at Grant Grove Visitor Center:

- **Cherry Gap** is on Highway 180 2.5 miles (4km) north of Grant Grove. It offers 10 miles (16km) of marked winter routes, including a ski trail to the Chicago Stump at the edge of Converse Basin grove.



Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. The stump is a remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

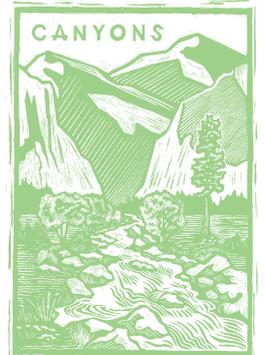
South of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway are two trailheads with restrooms:

- **Quail Flat** (6 miles/9.6km south of Hwy 180) has 23 miles (37km) of trails and snowmobile routes. Some connect to Big Meadows.
- **Big Meadows** (8 miles/13km south of Hwy 180) offers 23 miles (37km) of marked, groomed trails and routes that traverse meadows and forest. One route goes to the 1916 Buck Rock Fire Lookout (the tower is closed in winter).

THE FLOOR OF KINGS CANYON

Highway 180 down into the canyon closes in winter due to falling rock. There are some good views out over the canyon between Grant Grove and the Hume Lake junction.

Return in summer to enjoy one of our nation's deepest gorges. See page 9 "Cedar Grove" for details.



80th Annual Nation's Christmas Tree Ceremony

December 11th at 2:30 pm

(held annually on the second Sunday of December).

This event celebrates the season and the special designations given to the General Grant Tree. It has been the Nation's Christmas Tree since 1926. In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower proclaimed it a National Shrine and had his personal representative, Fleet Admiral Nimitz, officially dedicate it on Veteran's Day. Each year during the ceremony, National Park Rangers place a large wreath at the base of this giant sequoia in memory of men and women who gave their lives in service to their country.

The event is sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce. Arriving via the chartered buses from Sanger is recommended as parking is limited. Information: 559-875-4575.

©NPS Photo

FACILITIES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Wolverton Snowplay Area!

7250' (2160 m) elevation. Sledding hills two miles (3.2km) north of the General Sherman Tree. After snowstorms, it may take several hours for plows to get the area open for the day. Snowplay is prohibited in some areas: the Sherman Tree Area, park residential areas, and other areas as signed.

- **Cross-country ski & snowshoe rentals; snacks, hot drinks, sandwiches, souvenirs, sleds, & snowplay accessories for sale** Friday through Monday 10am-4pm from December 16 to March 13, *snow coverage permitting*. Mid-week rental at Wuksachi Lodge. Open daily 12/23/05-1/2/06.
- **Be safe & considerate!** Don't slide or ski on or into plowed roads. Sleds have better steering and handholds than other devices. See safety information on page 11.

Giant Forest Area

GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

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

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

CRYSTAL CAVE - Closed until spring.

Lodgepole & Wuksachi Area

WUKSACHI VILLAGE

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Open year-round 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the General Sherman Tree. The center for lodging, food services, and winter-recreation equipment in Sequoia National Park.

FOOD, SHOPS & LODGING (DNCPR)

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

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. Lodgepole Village offers few facilities in winter (see Wuksachi, above):

INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Visitor Center:** Closed until mid-April.
- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Self-register for them outside the Lodgepole Visitor Center. See details on page 4. 559-565-3764.

FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR) - closed until mid-April.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. Details on page 11.
- **Laundry (DNCPR):** Daily 9am-5pm; door is unlocked and lights are on sensors. Last load in by 4pm.
- **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.

Expect Delays between Entrance Station at Hwy 198 & Foothills Visitor Center from 11/14 to 12/14:

During repair of storm damage, flaggers and automated traffic signals will direct traffic. Delays will be from 10 to 20 minutes.

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. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. 559-565-3135.
- **Potwisha Campground (NPS):** Year-round. Details on page 11.

Mineral King Area

The road to this area is closed until late May.

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

7800' (2380 m) elevation. Mineral King is a beautiful subalpine river valley, at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road (no RVs, buses, or trailers, please). There is no electricity or gasoline in the area, and all facilities are closed for the season.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Closed until late May.
- **Wilderness Permits (NPS):** Self-register for wilderness permits in front of the Atwell Ranger Station (closed) near Atwell Campground.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Reopens late May, weather permitting. Cabins, chalets, restaurant/bakery, showers & small store. Summer 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730. www.silvercityresort.com.
- **Camping (NPS):** Closed until late May. Details on page 11.

Evening Talks & Snowshoe Walks!

On most Saturday evenings rangers host free slide programs downstairs at Wuksachi Lodge at 7:30pm.

Snowshoe walks (2 hours, 1 mile) are usually offered on weekends & holidays if there is enough snow.

Group size is limited; reserve a spot at any visitor center or call 559-565-4480.

We provide snowshoes for free. Snowshoeing may be strenuous and difficult for small children.

Not enough snow? An alternate program will be offered. Check locally for details!

NATURE PROGRAMS

Celebrate Wilderness!

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

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

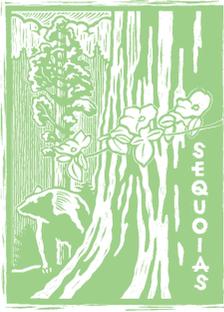
What is "Wilderness" with a capital "W"? It is a place where nature prevails. It is the opportunity to find quiet, solitude, challenge, inspiration, and an untamed community of life. It is an outdoor laboratory where we can study our natural heritage in a relatively unchanged state. It is part of our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

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

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

Celebrate your Wilderness!

FACILITIES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS AREAS



Grant Grove Area

GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

6600' (2008 m) elevation. Grant Grove was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here you can see both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s. Winter often brings heavy snow; rent skis or snowshoes in the market. In summer the area offers picnicking (see page 3) & horseback riding.

INFORMATION

• **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30pm. Books, maps, first aid. Information desk open throughout exhibit closure for remodel; Exhibits reopen by summer of 2006. Local wilderness permits issued 8am-4pm only (see details page 4). 1-559-565-4307.

FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

Note: All operating hours will be extended by one hour on Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

- **Restaurant:** Through 3/24: 9am-2pm & 5-7pm; (open until 8pm on Friday & Saturday). Hours may increase after that.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 9am-6pm (open until 7pm Friday-Saturday). Film, souvenirs, clothing. ATM in lobby.
- **Market:** Daily 9am-6pm (open until 7pm Friday-Saturday). Groceries, bear canisters, emergency gasoline, supplies, sleds, cross-country ski & snowshoe rentals.

OTHER SERVICES

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

Cedar Grove Area

Hwy 180 into the canyon will reopen in mid-April.

CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE

4600' (1410 m) elevation. The road into Kings Canyon closes below Yucca Point every fall due to frequent rockfall. Frost heave causes rocks in the cliffs to tumble onto the road.

This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River — “a rival to the Yosemite,” according to John Muir. In addition to facilities listed below, in summer the area offers picnicking and horseback riding (see page 3).

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Closed until late spring. 559-565-3793.
- **Camping (NPS):** Closed until mid-April. Details on page 11.

FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant, Shop, Market, Showers, Laundry:** Closed for the season.

Snowplay Areas!

In the National Park's Grant Grove area: Big Stump and Columbine. In the National Forest: Big Meadows, Quail Flat and Cherry Gap.

- **Be safe & considerate!** See safety information on page 5.
- **Cross-country skis & snowshoes** are rented at the market, where other snowplay gear is also for sale. See Food & Shop hours in the left column.
- **Snowplay is prohibited in some areas:** residential areas, the Grant Tree Trail area, and other areas as signed. Azalea Campground in the park is a campground only – no snowplay.

USFS: National Forest & Monument

HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

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

INFORMATION

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

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Boyden Cavern:** Closed until the road to the canyon opens in spring.
- **Stony Creek Village & Lodge (FS):** Closed until spring.
- **Montecito-Sequoia Resort (FS):** A permitted resort on public land. Open year-round. On the Generals Highway 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Restaurant: breakfast 8-9:30am, lunch 12-1pm, dinner 6-7:30pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. Ski & snowshoe rentals, sales, & lessons. Day-use permit available for a fee to use groomed trails, snow play, & ice skating. Reservations: 1-800-227-9900 or www.mslodge.com. Lodge: 1-800-843-8677; 1-559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Private facilities open to public; 8 miles (13 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180 then 3 miles (5 km) south on Hume Lake Road. 24-hour gas station (with credit card) & laundry (coin operated). Market daily 8am-12pm & 1-5pm; Snack bar: Friday: 3pm-11pm; Saturday 7am-11pm Sunday: 7am-12pm. Additional hours at times. Call for information: 1-559-335-2000.

GASOLINE

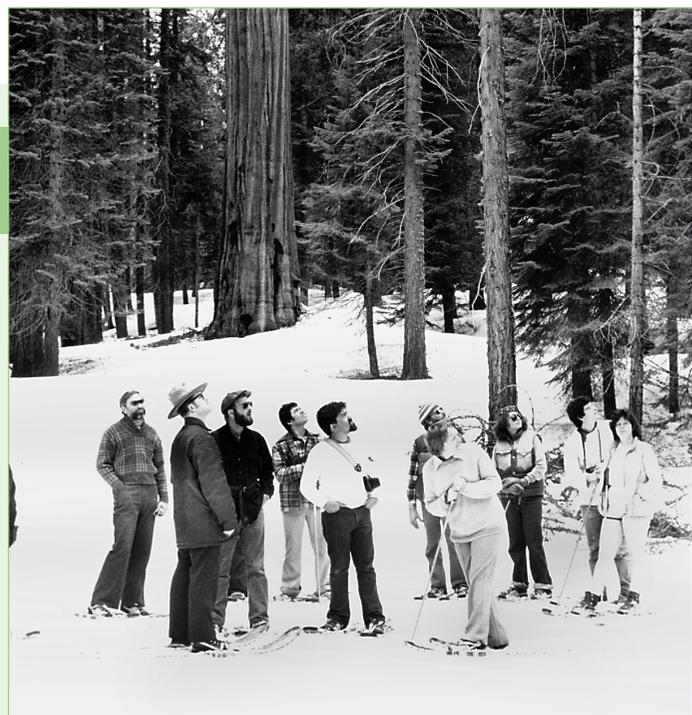
- **Gas Sales (private):** Year-round at Hume Lake Christian Camps (24 hours with credit card; see above). See *Rules of the Road*, page 5, for details.

NATURE PROGRAMS

Snowshoe walks are usually offered in Grant Grove on Saturdays and holidays when conditions permit, beginning Saturday, December 31.

We provide free snowshoes for the 2-hour, 1-mile walk. Group size is limited, so reserve your place at any visitor center or call 559-565-4307. Snowshoeing may be strenuous and difficult for small children. Ask for more information about this unusual way to enjoy the forest!

If there is not enough snow for a snowshoe walk, we will offer an alternate program. Check local bulletin boards and visitor centers for schedules of all activities.



Staying Overnight

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

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

KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS!

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

CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

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

In the national forest & monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump entrance station, or a Forest Service ranger.

CAMPGROUND OR ROADSIDE CAMPING?

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

NO HOLDING CAMPSITES

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

LIMITS ON CAMPING

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

Camping is limited to 14 days between June 14-September 14, with 30 days total per year.

QUIET HOURS

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

GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

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

RVS & TRAILERS

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

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

PROPANE CANISTERS

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

BE A VOLUNTEER HOST!

Live in the park, help care for campgrounds & resources, & meet great people! Learn about these & other volunteer opportunities; contact the Park Volunteer Coordinator, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651.



save a bear!

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

LODGING

SEQUOIA PARK

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

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

KINGS CANYON PARK

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

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

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT

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

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

- **Historic Guard Station (FS)**
Reservations: 1-559-338-3222.
Open mid-June - November, weather permitting. A cabin in Big Meadows between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.

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

* *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.

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 item in cars. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

- **CAMPERS:** Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit).

Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it's not food) -- including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, store food in the car trunk (seal food to reduce odors). If the car has no trunk, put everything on the floor, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food.

- **PICKNICKERS:** Guard your food at all times.

- **LODGE GUESTS:** Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

- **BACKPACKERS:** Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets. Bears defeat most attempts to hang food in trees.

- **EVERYONE:** Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks in their direction (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. If a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups. Food-storage regulations: *always* read instructions on bulletin boards.

CAMP GROUNDS

Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole available starting 01/05/06 for up to 5 months in advance of camping date, 4am - 4pm PST:
1-800-365-2267
<http://reservations.nps.gov>
International calls: 1-301-722-1257
TDD: 1-888-530-9796
Fax: 1-301-784-9079

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

KEY TO SYMBOLS

"Nearby" -Within 2 miles (3.2km)
 ✓ -Year-round
 ☀ -Summer only

FOOD STORAGE

Avoid bringing items that won't fit.

Symbols on the chart tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in each campground: ☒ A mix of box sizes;

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

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

+ Additional boxes available for sites to share.

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

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

FOOTHILLS AREA Generally snow-free camping.

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

MINERAL KING AREA Closed until May 26, weather permitting. No RVs or trailers.

Atwell Mill # 6650' - Closed.	21	\$12	Vault	☀	☀			☀			✓	✓
Cold Springs # 7500' - Closed.	40	\$12	Vault	Silver City	Silver City			☀	✓		✓	

LODGEPOLE AREA *See summer reservation information above.

*Lodgepole ☒ + 6700' - Open all year. \$20 during summer reservation period then \$18. \$10 once heavy snow limits facilities.	214	\$18/20	Flush	☀	☀	✓	☀	✓	✓		✓	✓
*Dorst ☒ + 6700' - Closed.	204	\$20	Flush				☀	☀	☀		✓	✓

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

GRANT GROVE AREA Camping at Azalea drops to \$10 once heavy snow limits facilities.

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

CEDAR GROVE AREA Closed until mid-April.

Sentinel ◆ + 4600' - Closed.	82	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at visitor center	☀	✓	
Sheep Creek ◆ + 4600' - Last night Nov 6.	111	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	
Canyon View ◆ 4600' - Closed. No RVs or trailers. Sites for groups of 7 - 19:	23	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	
Moraine ◆ 4600' - Closed.	120	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	

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

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

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

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

*Stony Creek # 6400' - Closed	49	\$17/19	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	✓		✓	
Upper Stony # 6400' - Closed	18	\$13/15	Vault	☀	☀	☀		☀	✓		✓	
Horse Camp 7500' - No water.	5+		Vault						✓		✓	
Buck Rock 7500' - No water.	5+		Vault					☀	✓			
Big Meadows 7600' - No water.	40		Vault					☀	✓	✓		

AREA MAP

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

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

LIFE ZONES

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

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

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

STEEP ROADS

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

DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER

FOOTHILLS TO:

Giant Forest 1 hour.
Lodgepole 1 hour.
Visalia 1 hour.
Mineral King 1-1/4 hours. Road closed Nov 1 to May 26.

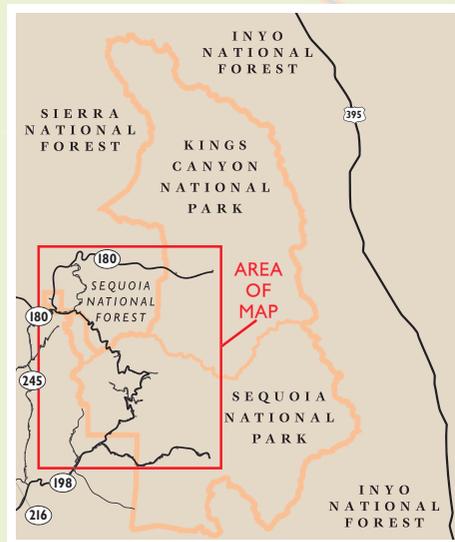
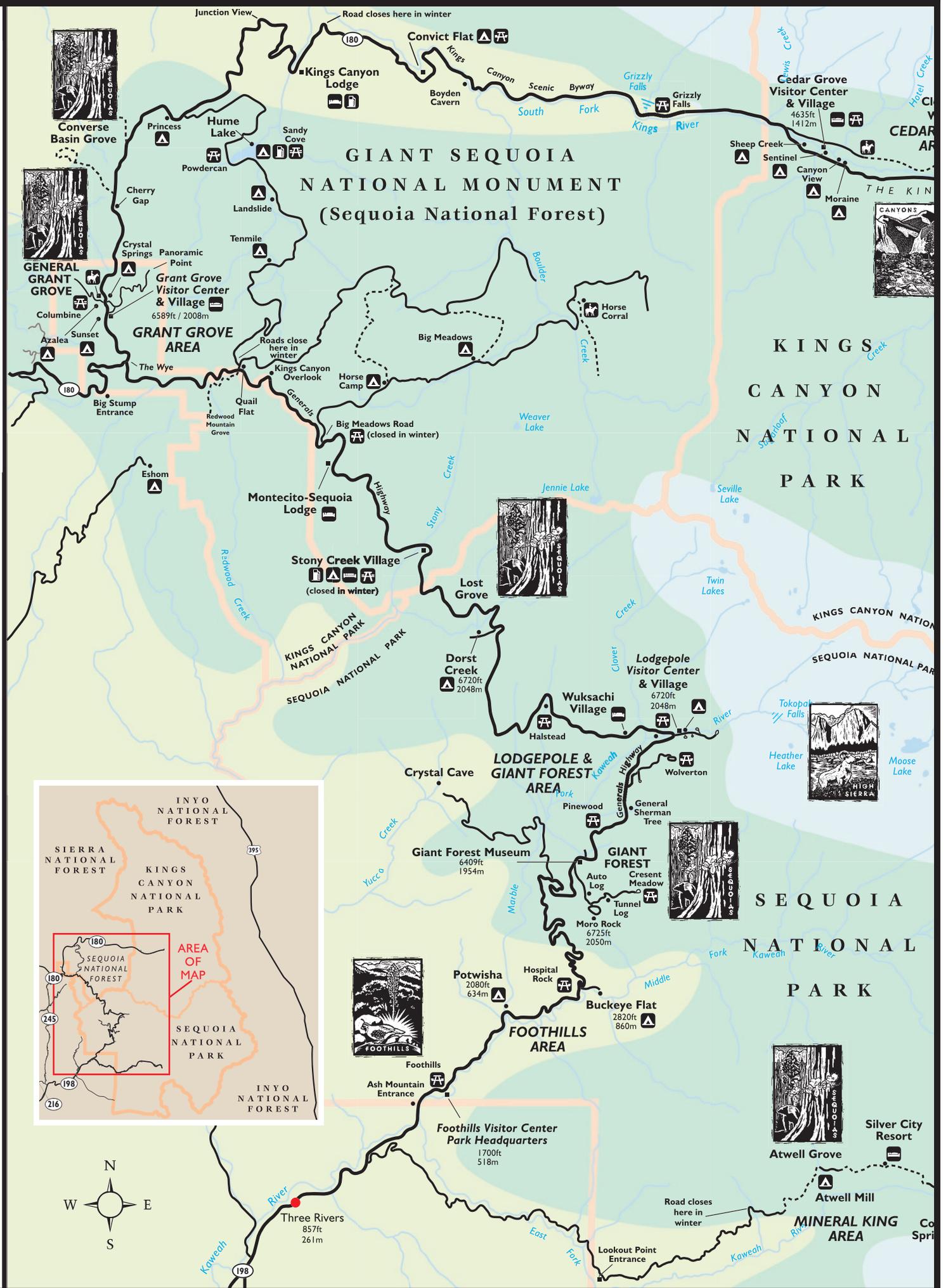
GIANT FOREST TO:

Grant Grove 1 hour.

GRANT GROVE TO:

Cedar Grove 1 hour.
Road reopens mid-April, 2006.

Fresno 1-1/2 hours.
Yosemite's south entry via Hwy 41 3 hours.



WINTER 2005-06

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

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