

# Visitor Guide: Winter 2015-16

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



## Your fees make a difference!

Amazing things can happen with your help. Are you aware of how much good your entrance fee does for these parks?

Fees don't go toward basic park operations, but 80% of them stay here to maintain and improve facilities and services that contribute to your park experience. Year by year, project by project, you can see this in a wide variety of repairs, replacements, and renovations.

Your fees fund projects indoors and out: They make some trails more accessible to wheelchairs, strollers, and all of us! They pay for improving camp sites and restrooms, as well as better signage.

Better bear boxes keep people and bears safer from each other. Picnic areas offer more accessible tables, and amphitheater walkways have been paved. Water-

treatment plants have been upgraded. And the map brochure that you get at the entrance station? Funded mostly by fees.

Trails take a beating from weather and use. Funds from fees help support projects that repair or reroute trails to decrease erosion and protect soils and wetlands.

Many exhibits have been improved or replaced. The 40-year-old exhibits at Lodgepole Visitor Center? We are working, with your help, toward replacing them in a few years. Watch for change at Crystal Cave, too; we'll be rebuilding the trail *and* adding exhibits.

While people know these parks best for their natural wonders, cultural resources benefit, too. Archeological sites, historic buildings, and objects left by early residents and visitors teach

us how people interacted with this place, and help us to envision and learn from the past.

As helpful as your fees are, see if you qualify for one of the money-saving passes (senior, access, and active military). Or consider buying an annual pass if you visit more than once a year (*details on page 11*).

Take advantage of fee-free days, too. In 2016, there will be 16 of them at parks nationwide to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Additional no-fee days at these parks take place with special events: Junior Ranger Day - April 23; National Trails Day - June 4; a day honoring Buffalo Soldiers - June 18, and the annual Nation's Christmas Tree celebration - December 11. Mark your calendars and join us!

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## Telephone & Internet

**911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911**  
No coins needed in payphones.

**To Report a Wildfire — 559-565-3195**

### Limited Cell Signals & Service

See pay-phone locations by area, pages 8-9.

### Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu then: for roads/weather/fire, press 1; camping/lodging 2; wilderness 4; and more.

### GPS, Web & Social Media

GPS programs often misdirect travellers here. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions.

The only official park information sources online:



Website:  
[nps.gov/seki](http://nps.gov/seki)



Facebook:  
Sequoia and Kings  
Canyon National Parks



Twitter:  
SequoiaKingsNPS

### Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, [fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://fs.usda.gov/sequoia)

### Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, [nps.gov/yose](http://nps.gov/yose)

### California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

1-800-427-7623, [dot.ca.gov](http://dot.ca.gov)

### Wi-Fi Locations

Wuksachi & John Muir lodge lobbies, Grant Grove Restaurant, and at Montecito Sequoia (see page 5).

## Translations

**Welcome** - You may borrow a Braille copy of the park map & guide at visitor centers.

**Bienvenidos** - Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

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

**Willkommen** - Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhältlich.

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

## Visitor Centers & Book Stores

Each offers park and area information, varied exhibits and films, and many sales items such as books, maps, gifts, and postcards. All profits from park visitor centers support the parks!

### Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits on life in the low elevations. Book store. Crystal Cave tickets sold here through 11/29. 1-559-565-4212. Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quienes hablan español. Local wilderness permits: self-issue permit box outside the visitor center.

### Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits on sequoias. Book store. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone; closest are outside at Lodgepole Market & Wolverton. Local wilderness permits: self-issue permit box outside the visitor center.

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 9am-4:30pm (may close 1 hour at lunch). Exhibits, movie in English & Spanish, & book store. 1-559-565-4307. Local wilderness permits: self-issue permit box outside the visitor center.

### Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in the Forest Service office in Dunlap, 19 miles west of the Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia); 1-559-338-2251.

### Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) *Reopens early May, 9am-4:30pm.* Until then, get local wilderness permits at Giant Forest Museum. Pay phone outside.

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center (in Kings Canyon)

(NPS) *Center and area are closed for the season.* Bookstore, maps, park information.

### Mineral King Ranger Station (Sequoia)

(NPS) *Station and area are closed for the season.* Wilderness permits, bookstore, maps.

**Trash in the parks?  
Not if you can help it!**  
**Please:  
put all trash in bins.**

## Partners in the Parks

The following work together to protect these lands, provide services, and publish this guide, which was first printed in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*.

- Editor: NPS - Malinee Crapsey.
- Publisher: SPC (see below).
- Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.



**National Park Service (NPS)** - federal agency in the Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3341, [nps.gov/seki](http://nps.gov/seki)

**Forest Service (USFS)** - federal agency in the Dept. of Agriculture: 1-559-784-1500, [fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://fs.usda.gov/sequoia)

**Geological Survey (USGS)** - federal agency in the Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3171, [werc.usgs.gov](http://werc.usgs.gov)

**Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC): the new unified nonprofit park partner formed by the merger of Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and Sequoia Parks Foundation (SPF)** - See below, or contact the SNHA: 1-559-565-4255, [sequoiahistory.org](http://sequoiahistory.org), or the SPF: 707-217-6561, [sequoiaparksfoundation.org](http://sequoiaparksfoundation.org)

**DNC Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNC)** - the concessioner providing lodging & food services: 1-888-252-5757, [visitsequoia.com](http://visitsequoia.com)



## Connect to your national park!

The Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) works with these parks to enrich your experience and promote awareness of public lands. They offer educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving the natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

### Support the Conservancy in all it does:

- Seeks funding for park improvement projects, resource protection, and research;
- Provides activities & tour-guide services through Sequoia Field Institute (SFI; page 5);
- Supports park programs & activities;
- Increases accessibility of park trails;
- Conducts Crystal Cave tours;
- Expands park outreach;
- Accepts donations for search & rescue efforts;
- Manages the Pear Lake Winter Hut;
- Funds park books, maps, & this guide!



# 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.



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove

## 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 often as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this practice. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes, which led to big problems:

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

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. In the past, frequent natural fires burned these away. Now, after fire's long absence, these serve as fuels, feeding bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at these parks, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, we now work with fire to restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but when and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The national parks exist 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.

*Note: The effects of the 2015 Rough Fire will continue to influence this area. See page 7 for information.*

## Unnatural Change: Alien Invaders

Plants and animals 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. This is because the competitors, predators, and diseases that keep them in check in their home communities are not here. This imbalance breaks links in the local web of life, badly disrupting native species that depend on each other. Sometimes the non-native aliens completely replace local 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!

### Imminent Alien Threats!

**Star thistle** is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny growth completely excludes native plants and limits wildlife movements. It is not yet established in these parks, but it is close! If you recognize its yellow flower and thorny spines from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in. If you see it here, tell a ranger.



**New Zealand mud snails** completely

take over and change waterways that they invade. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! These tiny light-brown animals—less than 1/8-inch long—stick to your gear. Check boots, waders, and boats thoroughly for this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



For more information on fire management, visit <http://go.nps.gov/sekifire>. To report a wildfire: 559-565-3195.



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# Camping

Check regulations at each campground; fire restrictions are in place. Rules vary between the Park and National Forest (see page 9). Each standard campsite has a table and fire ring with grill. No hook-ups.

**You must store food correctly all year due to black bears.** The park supplies bear boxes; most are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. See page 11.

**Summer reservations:** See \* on chart and below for reservable campsites in these parks (NPS) and in National Forest (USFS). Reservations available up to 6 months in advance: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov); 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

### Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

- **Up to 6 people:** Most campgrounds limit a site to 1 vehicle & 6 people. Check locally for variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.
- **7 to 19 people (mid-size):** Summer only at \*Crystal Springs, \*Canyon View (reservations, see above).
- **Large-group sites:** Reservable (see above) in the national park at \*Dorst Creek Campground, \*Grant Grove, or \*Cedar Grove, or in the national forest.

### Fire Restrictions, Campfires, & Firewood

- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees. Please don't transport firewood. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find/buy wood close to where you will use it. Please burn any wood you brought in.
- Fires must be out cold before you leave.
- On Forest Service (USFS) land, free fire permits are required. Ask about them at Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), a USFS ranger, or read about and download them at [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

### Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument (USFS): Permitted unless posted otherwise; see fire-permit requirement info above.

### Quiet & Generator Hours

Music should be audible in your site only. Quiet hours 6am-10pm. Generator use 9am-9pm only; at Lodgepole & Dorst 8-11am & 5-8pm only.

### RV & Trailer Length Limits

Check limits & advisories on back page.

### Propane/Fuel Canisters

Recycle at home. Do not put them in park trash-cans or leave them here.

## Campgrounds: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Footfalls Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low-elevation oaks and chaparral.
* Potwisha - 40 sites Open all year.	\$22. *Some sites reservable all year.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
* Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Closed.	\$22. *Sites reservable for mid-May to late September.	No RVs or trailers. River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
South Fork - 10 sites All year.	\$12. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	AREA CLOSED UNTIL LATE MAY. No electricity or gas.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Closed until late May.	\$12.	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Bear boxes. Food, pay showers nearby at Silver City (summer only).
Cold Springs - 40 sites Closed until late May.	\$12.	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & pay showers at Silver City (summer only). Bear boxes in varied sizes.
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	*Reservations available in summer. Conifer forest.
* Lodgepole - 203 sites Closed until late April.	\$22. Sites reservable for mid-May to late September.	Pay phone, flush toilets. River. Food services nearby. Generator use from 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Dump station closed.
* Dorst Creek - 211 sites Closed until mid-May.	\$22. Sites reservable mid-May to late September.	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Generator use 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Large group sites for 15-50: \$70, for 15-40: \$60, for 15-30: \$50.
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	Conifer forest near sequoias.
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year.	\$18. Self-register near site #29.	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food services. Nature programs, pay showers in summer.
Crystal Springs - 49 sites. Closed. Open 5/25-6/1/16.	\$18. Reopens late June. *Mid-size group sites \$40.	Nature programs. Village nearby: food; pay showers in summer. *14 group sites for 7 to 19 reservable mid-May through September.
Sunset - 156 sites Closed. Opens late May.	\$22. *Large-group sites for 15-30 people: \$50.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, pay showers in summer. Large-group sites reservable 5/25 to 9/7.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	CLOSED FOR THE SEASON. On the floor of the Kings Canyon.
Sentinel - 82 sites Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer. Opens late April, conditions permitting.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Closed.	\$18. Opens by late May.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer.
*Canyon View: 12 group sites Closed. No RVs or trailers. Open by late May.	*\$40 Mid-size groups (7-19); *\$50 Large groups (15-30); *\$60 Large groups (15-40).	No RVs or trailers. Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby. *Reservable mid-May through early September (mid-sized groups) & through late Sept. (large groups).
Moraine - 121 sites Closed.	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby. Opens for Memorial Day weekend only, then July on.

Spring opening dates depend on weather, road, and other conditions.

## Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (FS)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
* Princess - 88 sites Closed for the season.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. RV dump station \$10. Extra car \$7.
* Hume Lake - 74 sites Closed for the season.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7.
* Tenmile - 13 sites Open.	Free, no services. Reservable in summer.	Not plowed in winter. In summer: \$20 single, \$40 double. River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets.
Landslide - 9 sites Closed for the season.	\$20 single, \$40 double	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Closed for the season.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. OPens when Hwy 180 into the Kings Canyon/Cedar Grove area reopens in spring.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	
* Stony Creek - 49 sites Closed for the season.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge (summer). Extra car \$7. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high
* Upper Stony - 18 sites Closed for the season.	\$20 single, \$40 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Food, laundry, showers nearby. Extra car \$7. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites	Closed for the season. Free. No water.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow has bear boxes ~47" long, 33" deep, 28" high.

Camping in wilderness? See page 11.

## Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

Three park areas have lodging, as do several locations in the nearby national forest:

### In these National Parks (NPS)

#### IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK:

##### • Wuksachi Lodge

All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). North of Lodgepole two miles; 7200'. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts, ATM.

#### IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK:

Reservations 1-877-436-9617; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). Lodging in two areas:

##### • Grant Grove Cabins & John Muir Lodge

All year. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts, ATM. Registration moves to John Muir Lodge in late December. 6500' elevation. 1-559-335-5500. See page 9.

##### • Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon Motel, restaurant, market at 4600' elevation.

### Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

#### Montecito Sequoia Lodge (FS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388; [www.mslodge.com](http://www.mslodge.com). On Generals Hwy 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, seasonal & children's activities. Details, page 9.

#### Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

Mid-May to mid-October. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, gasoline, market, showers, laundry.

#### Big Meadows Cabin (USFS)

July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Historic station south of Grant Grove.

### On Private Land within Park

\* **Note:** These lodges, on private land surrounded by national park, cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by these agencies.

#### \* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Open late May into late October. [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com); 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery.

#### \* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

Closed. 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180.

### Neighboring Towns

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging & camping. Ask at visitor centers or see [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit).

## Programs & Tours - Winter 2015-16

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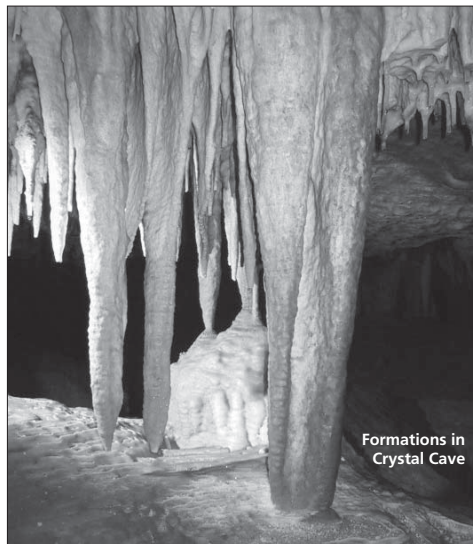
### Free Snowshoe Walks

When snow conditions permit, these may be offered on weekends or holidays. Snow shoes are provided. Check bulletin boards at Giant Forest and Grant Grove. You can also rent snowshoes at Wuksachi and Grant Grove (see pages 8 & 9). When enough snow is on the ground, try this fun way of exploring the winter woods!



### Crystal Cave Tours - start 5/7/16

NEW! Tickets will be available online through [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) starting in spring of 2016. Find details at [www.explorecrystalcave.com](http://www.explorecrystalcave.com) or at park visitor centers. In the parks, tickets will be sold *only* at Foothills and Lodgepole visitor centers in Sequoia National Park, *not* at the cave. Buy tickets at least 1½ hours in advance.



### Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Check in at the Foothills, Giant Forest, and Grant Grove! Some programs may be offered on weekends and holidays; check bulletin boards.

### Junior Ranger Program - free

For ages 5 to 105! Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center, finish the activities for your age group, & earn your badge.

### Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These experts help you see, paint, photograph, or write as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy! SNHA members may get a discount on SFI activities: 1-559-565-4251; [sfi@sequoiahistory.org](mailto:sfi@sequoiahistory.org)

### Touring on Horseback

*Closed for the winter.* Hourly rides, spot trips, guided trips. Opening and closing dates depend on weather conditions.

**Cedar Grove** Mid-May to mid-October  
1-559-565-3464 summer, 1-559-337-2413 off season

**Grant Grove** Mid-June to early September  
1-559-335-9292 summer

**Horse Corral** Late May through September:  
At Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest (USFS): 559-565-3404 summer, 1-559-679-3573 cell

### Interested in volunteering?

Log in to [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov) and enter keywords "Sequoia and Kings Canyon" to see available opportunities, or call the volunteer office: 1-559-565-4232. Volunteers are needed for invasive plant control, special events, and routine clerical and maintenance tasks. Individuals and groups welcome!

### Teachers & Parents, Take Note!

Invite a ranger to your class, visit the parks with your school group, download lesson plans, and participate in distance learning. All education programs are standards-based and free! Visit [nps.gov/seki/learn/education](http://nps.gov/seki/learn/education). And ask about the "Every Kid in a Park" program for 4<sup>th</sup>-graders and their families!



# 6 Exploring Sequoia National Park - Winter 2015-16

**PLEASE EXPLORE SAFELY!** Enjoy these parks and return safely to family and friends. Review the advice on page 10, and take charge of your safety. And always store food properly before leaving your car or camp.

## The Foothills

These lower elevations offer wonderful winter visits—green and usually snowless! There are more different plants and animals here than in the other park areas combined. Wildflowers often start blooming late in January. Ticks and poison oak should be avoided any time of year here (*see page 10 for safety tips*).

### Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Hours on page 2.

### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food in the metal boxes provided to keep it from bears.

**Marble Falls Trail** climbs 3.7 miles (6km) through chaparral to a waterfall. Park across the highway from Potwisha (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road across a concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

### Paradise Creek

Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (no non-camper parking in campground). Walk 0.8 miles to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 to cross a footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile until the trail grows faint.

## Giant Forest

Park across from Giant Forest Museum. Next-closest restroom is at the Sherman Tree. Once snow builds up, rent snowshoes and cross-country skis at Wuksachi Lodge. Free snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends/holidays (*see page 5*).

### Giant Forest Museum

Warm up and enjoy the exhibits! Page 2 has details. Walking and ski-trail maps are sold here.

### Big Trees Trail

Walk this level 2/3-mile (1 km) paved trail that circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Try skiing or snowshoeing it once snow gets deep (no yellow markers)!

### General Sherman Tree

Two miles north of Giant Forest Museum. In winter, access to the world's largest tree is usually only from the parking area along the Generals Highway (*see information on holiday shuttle, below*). The short, paved, fairly level trail from there to the tree may be plowed or the snow packed down enough to walk on, but either way it is often slippery. Be careful!

The other 1/2-mile trail to the tree opens in spring (or earlier, if there is no snow). From the Generals Hwy, take Wolverton Road (between the Sherman Tree and Lodgepole) and follow signs.

### 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 Giant Forest Museum and ends at Crescent Meadow. *Walkers & snowshoers: Please don't walk in ski tracks.* Highlights:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular views. Do not climb when any ice or snow is on the stairs! Two miles from Generals Highway.
- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias around a fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails or fallen logs to get into meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia; and the High Sierra Trail (60+ miles to Mt. Whitney, at 14,500', highest in the lower 48 states).

## Lodgepole - closed for winter

## Mineral King - closed until spring

Road closed late October to late May. The steep, winding road ends at 7800'. No gas or electricity. Until spring, the road is gated at the park boundary (~9 miles from Hwy 198); ask at Foothills Visitor Center for a pass to through the gate. Check weather forecasts before going.

## In-Park Holiday Shuttles

Ride Free  
December 25 – January 3

Shuttles run 10am–3:30pm. Weather permitting, they go from Giant Forest Museum to the Sherman Tree, Wolverton, Wuksachi Lodge, then back. While shuttles are running, parking at Sherman Tree is for cars with disability placards, so park at a different stop and ride back to the biggest of all trees!



## Snowplay Areas, Winter

### Avoid Sledding Injuries!

People are seriously injured *every* year.

- Slide feet first, on slopes clear of trees, rocks, people, and other obstacles. After you slide, move out of the way of other sledders. Fast sledding and collisions cause most injuries; Page 10 has more safety tips.
- Play only in designated areas. Don't sled or ski into roads. Snowplay is prohibited in park residential areas and other areas as signed.
- In an emergency, dial 911 (*pages 8-9 give pay-phone locations*). Cell signals are usually poor.



*Some roads, trails, and areas in Grant Grove and Giant Sequoia National Monument remain closed or limited this winter and next spring due to the effects of the Rough Fire. Cedar Grove, as usual, is closed for winter.*

## Grant Grove

Free guided snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends/holidays (*ask at the visitor center; see page 2*). Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove Village (*details, page 9*). Get a ski trail map (*see Finding Your Way, below*).

## Grant Tree Trail

The only intermittently plowed trail in the area. Beware of slippery ice and packed snow! General Grant, one of the world's largest trees, grows along this 1/3-mile (0.5 km) paved trail. The tree is designated the Nation's Christmas Tree, as well as a living national shrine honoring those who gave their lives for our country (*see 90th Annual Trek, right*). Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile from the visitor center; go north on Hwy 180 then follow signs (1.6 miles).

## Panoramic Point Road

Closed to cars once snow flies, this becomes a ski or 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)." When not closed, no trailers or RVs.

## National Forest by Grant Grove

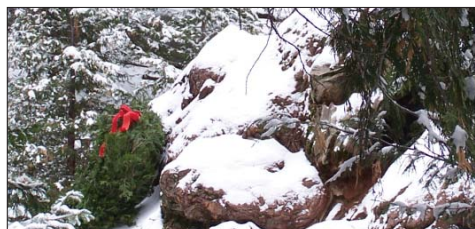
USFS - Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. See page 12 for road closures, and page 9 for ways that the national parks and the national forests differ:

## Area Overlooks & Views

- **McGee Vista Point:** Westerly/sunset views; 3 miles north of Grant Grove Village.
- **Vista of Kings Canyon:** Take Hume Lake Road, 8 miles north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180. Watch on your left for an opening that reveals the chasm of the Kings River.
- **Redwood Mountain Overlook:** Faces west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. South of Grant Grove 6 miles, across Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction.
- **Kings Canyon Overlook:** View NE across the Kings Canyon to the High Sierra. On Generals Highway, 7 miles south of Grant Grove.

## 90th Annual Trek to the Tree

Held annually at the General Grant Tree at 2:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of December (12/13/15), to celebrate two honors given to the famous tree (*see Grant Tree Trail, left*). The Sanger Chamber of Commerce sponsors the event. Parking is limited, and chartered buses are available. For details, contact 1-559-875-4575 or [www.sanger.org](http://www.sanger.org).



## The Rough Fire - 2015

Lightning gave birth to the fire on July 31, high on the slope north of the Kings River canyon. Very rugged, steep terrain, and dry, hot conditions always make firefighting difficult here. After four years of harsh drought that have killed trees by the thousands, it was *extremely* challenging.

In addition, in such steep country, fire-fighting aircraft need to be able to see a certain distance in order to fly to the fire, release water or retardant accurately, then accelerate up and out of the mountains. Given the thick smoke held in the canyons, pilots sometimes could not see to fly.

The Rough Fire began on Sierra National Forest, east-northeast of Grant Grove. Within a few days it ran east to the park boundary northwest of Cedar Grove, as well as westward down the river canyon. On August 18, it sped south across the Kings River and crossed Highway 180 east of Junction View. This forced the evacuation of Cedar Grove.

Before long, fire officials also had to evacuate Hume Lake, Grant Grove, and foothill areas to the west. Winds and very active fire were starting spot fires up to one-half mile ahead of the fire front.

Fortunately, where previous prescribed burns had reduced forest fuels, the fire slowed. With many earlier burns around them, Grant Grove and Cedar Grove remained safe.

The majority of the fire was on national forest lands outside these parks. It included over 151,623 acres, one of the largest fires in California history.

## Trails, & Playing Safe!

### Wolverton

Wolverton Road starts two miles north of the Sherman Tree (*see page 8*). It is plowed during the day on Friday through Sunday plus Wednesdays and holidays. Sledding is at the end of the road. After storms, it may take hours to open this road as plows must clear the main road first. Pay telephone is outside the building next to the restrooms.

Snowplay is prohibited in the Sherman Tree Trail area. See the messages in left-hand column for tips on safe sliding!

### Grant Grove

Use Big Stump & Columbine picnic areas (see map on page 9). Snowplay is prohibited in the Grant Tree Trail area. Azalea Campground is for campers only, not those who are just snowplaying. Pay telephones are located outside the visitor center, market, & gift shop.

### Nearby Forest Service areas:

Areas at the Quail Flat, Big Meadows, and Cherry Gap trailheads are open for snowplay, but some areas around them may remain closed. Ask at visitor centers before you go.

### Finding Your Way

When snow makes it very hard to follow a trail on the ground, be careful not to get lost. It may be easier to follow ski-trail markers. Find these colored markers intermittently on trees, above eye level. When you are standing by one marker, you should be able to see another one; each points in the direction of the next marker. Thank you for not walking in the ski tracks.

Be sure to buy a map at the visitor center if you plan to use unpaved trails. It's important to get advice that matches the current conditions.

## 8 Facilities: Sequoia

In winter, several facilities are closed. Be sure to stop at Foothills Visitor Center for updates on road conditions and what winter activities are available.

### Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees.

#### Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Call to ask about snowshoe walks: 1-559-565-4480, 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits on sequoias. Book store.

**Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS):** Operates during the December holidays only. See page 6.

### Lodgepole

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. Shuttle stop.

#### Lodgepole Village & Visitor Center

Closed until spring. Openings begin mid-April.

- Market, Grill, & Gift Shop: Reopen 3/25/16. Supplies, clothing, food, ATM.
- Showers & Laundry: Reopen 4/20/16.

#### U.S. Post Office

Mail drop only, behind visitor center. Full postal services at Grant Grove.

#### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside visitor center & market.

### Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. Year-round service, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree.

**The Peaks Dining Room:** 7:30-9:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm, & lounge 4-8pm. Reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070.

#### Gift Shop, Winter Market, & Ski Shop

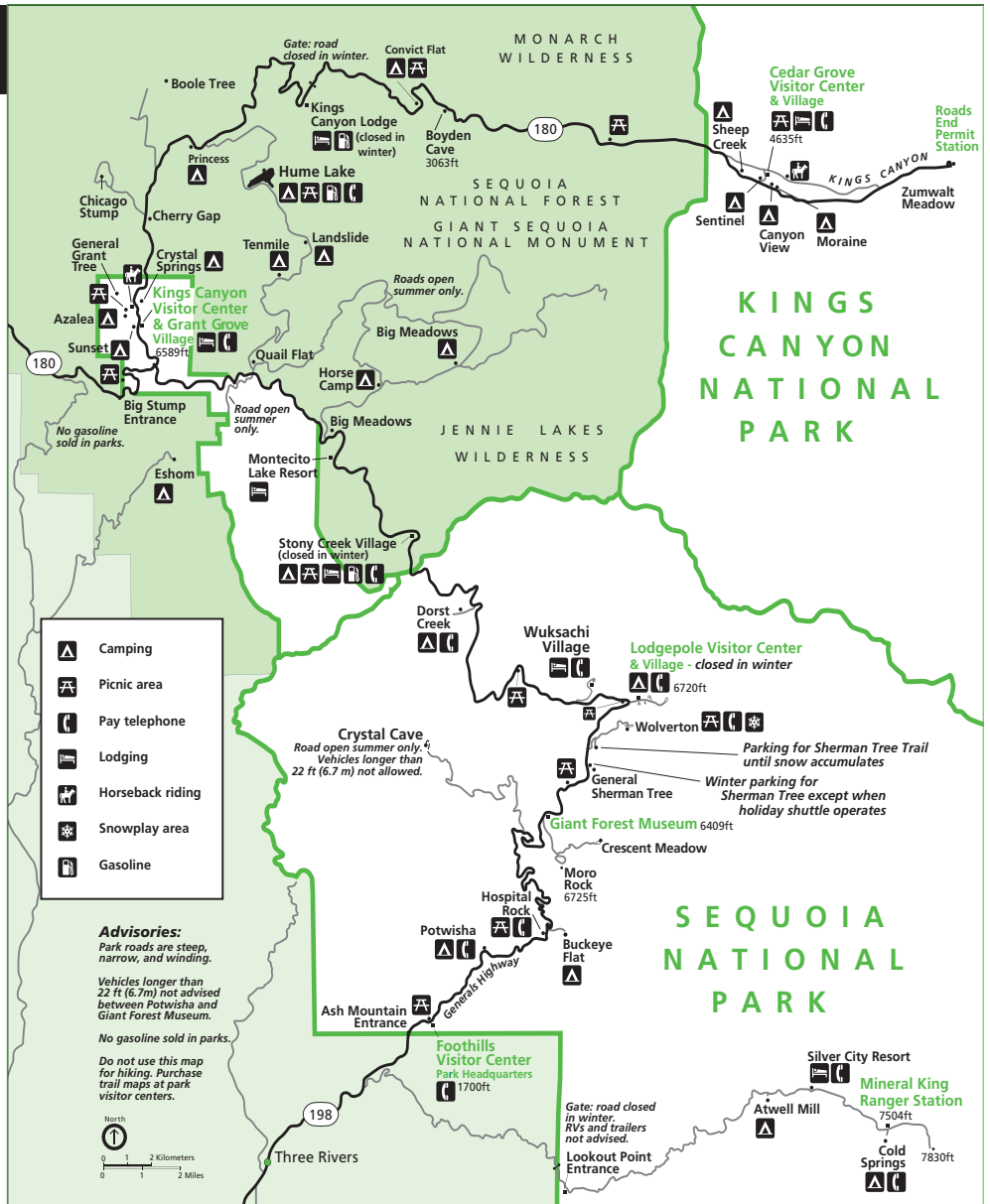
- Gift shop daily 9am-6pm.
- Alta Market: Friday-Sunday 8:30am-6:30pm; Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm. Limited supplies. Snow-play gear. Ski/snowshoe rentals when enough snow accumulates. Closes 3/25/16 and moves to Lodgepole Village.

#### Wuksachi Lodge

Details on page 5. Desk 24 hours. Pay telephones at main lodge. ATM. Ask about naturalist programs.

### Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Snowplay once enough snow falls. Please be careful! People are seriously injured in this park every year. See pages 6-7. Fast sledding and collisions cause most injuries. Slide feet first. Don't sled or



See page 12 for information on road closures, chain requirements, and winter driving.

ski in roads. Enjoy safe winter fun!

### Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is by the Foothills Visitor Center.

#### Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. Details, page 2.

#### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

### Mineral King - Closed until spring

7800' elevation. Road closed until late May. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline. Ask at Foothills Visitor Center for a pass through the gate. A machine near the boundary will collect your entrance fee. Enjoy!

#### Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, and in Sawtooth and Eagle/Mosquito parking areas.

#### Silver City Mountain Resort

Closed until late May. Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. 1-559-561-3223 (see page 5).



**In winter, fewer facilities are available. Stop at the visitor center in Grant Grove for information, exhibits, and a film.**

## Grant Grove

6600' elevation. Experience a pristine sequoia grove and one that was logged in the 1800s.

## Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

See page 2. Movie, exhibits in English & Spanish.

## Grant Grove Village

- Restaurant: Daily 7:30–9:30am, 11:30am–2:30pm, & 5–8:30pm.
- Market & Gift Shop: Friday–Sunday 8:30am–6:30pm; Monday–Thursday 9am–5pm. Food, supplies, clothing, ATM. Ski/snowshoe rentals once enough snow accumulates.
- Lodging: 1-559-335-5500. Registration moves to John Muir Lodge in late December. Details, page 5.

**U.S. Post Office** Hours may vary. Monday–Friday 9am–4pm; 24-hour lobby. Send visitor mail

c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

## Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); outside gift shop & market.

## Cedar Grove - closed until spring

4600' elevation. Along the South Fork of the Kings River on the floor of the Kings Canyon. Road usually reopens the 4th Friday in April. Lodge, market, and grill reopen mid-May.

## National Forest & Monument

**Hume Lake & Big Meadows areas are in Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest.** You pass through the monument when you drive between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove. Some areas and roads in the vicinity remain closed due to the Rough Fire (see page 7).

## USFS Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) 19 miles west

of park entrance. Weekdays 8am–4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia

## Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

- Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove: Summer near the Big Meadows trailhead.
- Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove: Hume Lake (year round; see Hume Lake below).

**Lodging** - Details on page 5.

**Gasoline Sales** Outside the parks or at Hume Lake. See page 12.

## Hume Lake (on private land)

All year. Open year-round to the public: gas station usually 24 hours (with US credit card, not international). Market may be open some weekdays/limited hours through December; starting in January open daily, & snack bar may open weekends. North of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

## Montecito Sequoia Resort (USFS permittee)

All year. Daily. On Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Meals 7:30am–9am, 12–1pm, 5:30–7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

## Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

**Closed until spring.** On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. 1-800-227-9900; 559-565-3909.

## Boyden Cavern Tours (USFS permittee)

**Closed until spring.** On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. 1-888-965-8243.

## Basic Rules & Regulations:

**National Parks (NPS) & National Forests (USFS) lie next to each other here. Some activities are illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest.**

Can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
<b>Walk my leashed pets?</b>	Not on any trails. OK 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). Certified service dogs only (not assistance or therapy animals); see www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
<b>Collect things to take home?</b>	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.	Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted.
<b>Hunt or shoot?</b>	Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering the parks.	Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
<b>Drive off-road?</b>	Not in the parks. Stay on roads.	Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Cut wood?</b>	Not in the Parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
<b>Build fires?</b>	Restrictions are in effect in the park and forest; always check locally for up-to-date information. In park, only in fire grills in some campgrounds & some picnic areas.	Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
<b>Go fishing?</b>	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
<b>Ride a bicycle?</b>	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles.
<b>Snowmobile?</b>	Not in the parks.	Only on designated routes. Trailheads at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat may remain closed due to Rough Fire. Call 1-559-338-2251.



## You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Cold temperatures, icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather all pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

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

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

### DROWNING

The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be careful around water; 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. Currents are always stronger than they appear, even during low water. Ask at visitor centers about river conditions.

### PLAGUE, HANTAVIRUS & WEST NILE

Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. Avoid areas of rodent activity, as fleas on rodents can carry *plague* and deer mice feces can carry *hantavirus*. *West Nile virus* is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

**TICKS** are common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself for these little animals after a walk. Their bite is painless, but some carry *Lyme disease*. Remove them carefully with tweezers and seek a doctor's advice.



### GIARDIA

This protozoan in lakes and streams causes intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water from waterways for at least 3 minutes.

### POISON OAK

A common shrub up to 5000 feet elevation. Red leaves and whitish berries in fall; bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



### HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; snack often. If others don't react 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 clothes, sleeping bags, and shelter. Keep an eye especially on children who are wet or cold.

### RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills and near water. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



### LIGHTNING

See dark clouds or lightning? 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 your surroundings, 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.

### CARBON MONOXIDE

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

### OZONE POLLUTION

See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra Nevada on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest from May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

### GIS & WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here, and GIS may misdirect you. Don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9), and use maps.

### MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout the parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. Cautiously move away if you find a partially buried animal carcass. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey:

- Don't run; that may trigger pursuit.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the cougar.
- If the cougar acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back! Report any sightings.



### DRINKING WATER

We test the 13 park water systems to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

### ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities, including marijuana growing and fireworks! Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

### KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

Pets are vulnerable to wildlife, ticks, and overheating in vehicles. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

### TREE HAZARDS

Branches and trees may fall, whether or not they appear dead. When under trees, stay aware. Run if you hear cracks or snapping overhead. Don't linger under dead, cracked, or broken branches. Report falling branches or trees to a ranger.

## Explore Safely

- Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.
- Take a map, water, flashlight, and layers of clothes.
- Watch and listen for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.
- Slow down and share the road.

## Bear Habitat: Proper food storage is the law!

**Bears can grab unattended food or easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.**

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. Follow the rules below to reduce (but not eliminate) the risk of a bear break-in.

### Drivers

Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes are provided.

### Picnickers

Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

### Lodge Guests

Remove food from your vehicles.



### Campers

Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid bringing coolers that won't fit; most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even non-food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take baby seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

### Backpackers

Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a portable container. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few wilderness locations offer backup storage. Rent/buy a container at visitor centers or markets.

### Everyone

Don't let bears approach you or your food, picnic area, or campsite. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Easily abandoning your food teaches bears that it is acceptable to approach humans; it may hurt someone in the future. If a bear does get food, however, *never* try to take it back.

## Wilderness

11

Over 800,000 acres of designated wilderness in these parks offer outstanding opportunities for you to enjoy solitude and challenge.



Following minimum-impact restrictions helps to protect both the wilderness and your experience. Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant.

Permits are required for all overnight trips, and they are limited during the summer quota period (May 27 through September 24, 2016). The permit fee during that time is \$10 plus \$5/person. Permits can be reserved by mail or fax beginning March 1. Outside of the quota period, permits are free and can be self-issued at the permit station or visitor center closest to your trailhead (see page 2).

**Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (USFS):** Permits are not required but please complete a registration card at Jennie Lakes trailheads; information is used to manage the wilderness effectively. USFS requires a free fire permit for any open flame; downloadable from [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

**Camping in the park's "frontcountry"** is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

See [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness) or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks  
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

## Your entrance fee helps the Parks!

Most entrance fees get invested here on projects connected to your experience (see page 1). On January 1, 2016, they are increasing for the first time since 2006.

### Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS) plus Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (USFS):

• **7-day pass:** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial), increasing to \$30. \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, bus, or motorcycle, increasing to \$15, with cost per motorcycle (not person) going to \$20.

• **12-Month Pass:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee. Increasing to \$50 on 1/1/16.

### Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide:

• **Annual:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

• **Annual Military:** Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173. Crystal Cave has its own fee, but offers a discount.

• **Seniors:** \$10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

• **Accessibility:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

## Seasonal Wilderness Lodgings

• **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC):** Open late May into late September, conditions permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken by phone starting 7am on the first business day in January: 866-807-3598. See [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com).

• **Pear Lake Ski Hut (SNHA):** Winter only. High above Lodgepole at 9,200' elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis/snowshoes get you to its stove and 10 bunkbeds. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.



## Winter Roads & Closures

*All openings depend on weather and, in some areas, conditions left by the Rough Fire:*

### Generals Highway between the parks:

- **From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Hwy 180 (in Grant Grove):** The road may close during and after snowstorms. Starting January 4, the road may remain closed due to snowfall until March 18.

### In Kings Canyon (NPS) & National Forest (USFS):

- **Hwy 180 down to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon:** Closed for winter by Caltrans at the Hume Lake junction. Reopens, conditions permitting, in late April.
- **Panoramic Point Road:** Closes with snow. Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- **Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile roads:** Closed for winter. Unpaved, unplowed, rutted.
- **Converse Basin, Cherry Gap, & other roads in the area of the Rough Fire (USFS):** Closed through winter. Unpaved, rutted, unplowed.

### In Sequoia National Park:

- **Parking in Giant Forest area:** Across from the Giant Forest Museum. Restroom open 24 hours. Sherman Tree parking along Generals Highway and, unless snow falls, off the Wolverton Road (follow signs).
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Closes with snow (*see more on page 6*). No drinking water along this road.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Closed. Reopens late May, sooner if conditions permit.
- **Wolverton Road & Snowplay Area:** Through 3/18/16 the road is plowed Friday–Sunday plus Wednesdays and some holidays. Area is open other days if the road is passable and safe without plowing. (*See page 6 for details.*)
- **Mineral King Road:** Opens late May, conditions permitting. For access past the first gate, contact Foothills Visitor Center (*see page 2*).
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved; slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes in winter; park at Hospital Rock.

## Rules & Recommendations

### Chains May be Required at Any Time

Always carry chains that fit your tires and obey signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are also required often, and most cars have them. Check the side of your tires: If you see *M / S*, *M+S*, or a snowflake symbol embedded in the rubber, it's a snowtire.

### Expect Icy Roads

Slow down. Watch for ice in shade or where the road looks wet. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Allow 6 seconds of stopping distance between cars.

### Check conditions before going uphill

Call for 24-hour recorded road information: 1-559-565-3341, then press 1, then 1 again. Check your antifreeze, battery, and wipers, and carry clothing layers and a flashlight.

### Clear Snow Off Car Roofs Before Driving

It may slide onto the windshield, blocking vision.

### Snowplows Rule

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, watch the plow operator for signals; they often cannot stop. Slow down but do not stop. They usually plow 6am–6pm.

### Don't Lose Your Brakes

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.

### Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 559-565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

### Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

### Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under age 18: helmet required.

### Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit wildlife that waits for handouts on roadsides.

## Driving Times

*When roads are clear and open:*

### From Foothills to:

<b>Giant Forest</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Lodgepole</b>	<b>1 hour minimum</b>
<b>Visalia</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Mineral King</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
closed until late May	

### From Giant Forest to Grant Grove

via Generals Hwy	<b>1 hour</b>
closed 1/4-3/18 if snowy	

### From Grant Grove to:

<b>Cedar Grove</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
closed until late April	
<b>Fresno</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
<b>Yosemite south entry</b>	<b>3 hours</b>
(via Hwy 41)	

*Note: GPS often misdirects travellers in this area. Follow signs, use maps, or ask.*

## Gas Up Outside the Parks

No gas stations lie within the park boundaries. Fill up in Three Rivers (5 miles from Hwy 198 park entrance), Clingan's Junction (20 miles outside the Hwy 180 park entrance), or in the USFS at:

- **Hume Lake Christian Camp:** 559-305-7770. Usually available 24 hours with credit card (not international cards) all year. 11 miles north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180. Other nearby stations on USFS land are closed for winter.

## Vehicle Length Limits

On Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park:

- **Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum:** longer than 22 feet not recommended.
- **Foothills Visitor Center to Potwisha Campground:** longer than 24 feet not recommended.

**Alternatives:** Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car with an RV, camp in the foothills and use the car.

