



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



A sign of history

History emanates from some objects. Sequoia National Park's entrance sign, whose powerful presence usually greets visitors at the boundary, is one such antique. Its origins speak of varying aspects of our past.

Carved more than 80 years ago, the mammoth 4-foot by 10-foot sign emerged from a slab of sequoia wood that was beyond historic. It came from a fallen tree that might have seen two thousand years come and go.

The carver, George Munro, served in the Civilian Conservation Corps, a remarkable program that put penniless young men to work here and in other parks during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Munro based the sign on the Native American profile on the old "buffalo" nickel, first minted in 1913. That profile was the work of James Fraser, the artist who in 1894 created "The End of the Trail." This famous, larger-than-life sculpture

of a weary American Indian man on an exhausted horse has stood for decades in Visalia's Mooney Grove Park, just an hour's drive from Sequoia's famous entrance sign. (An additional coincidence of history: the name of one of the three Native Americans who posed for that profile was Big Tree.)

The idea of using such a profile on the park sign came from an earlier, smaller sign that also featured an American Indian man. Both signs were intended to honor Sequoyah, the Cherokee scholar whose invention of an alphabet for his language brought advances in literacy. Many believe that the giant sequoia trees were named for this historic figure.

Neither profile, however, bears any resemblance to Sequoyah or to the people of the California tribes who have lived in these lands for thousands of years and who still call them home. The profile shows a stereotype of an American Indian from a tribe of the Great Plains, not someone from the Sierra Nevada.

Since 1935, this sign has welcomed visitors to the nation's second-oldest national park—until now, that is. This winter, the sign must undergo repairs. Such a task is not easy, given the age and weight of the sign, and it will take time.

This old sign evokes so many aspects of our history—from a famous American Indian to visual stereotyping of American Indians, from hard economic times to booms in tourism, from using sequoia wood to preserving sequoia trees, to name but a few. It reminds us of the challenges and benefits, cultures and crafts, people and resources that contribute to who we are as a nation.

As you make this sign part of *your* history by photographing friends and family here, remember that national parks preserve a complex web of history, not all of it inspiring. This amazing old sign calls us to reflect on these parks *and* on all the people who care for them—past, present, and future.

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Information as of 11/22/17

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 press 1 for roads/weather/fire; press 2 for camping/lodging; 4 for 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 are:



The Park Website:
nps.gov/seki



Facebook:
Sequoia and Kings
Canyon National Parks



Twitter:
[SequoiaKingsNPS](https://twitter.com/SequoiaKingsNPS)

Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

1-800-427-7623, dot.ca.gov

Wi-Fi Locations

For lodging and dining guests at Wuksachi, Grant Grove, and Montecito Sequoia Lodge (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 visitante.

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 & Park Stores

Each one offers information, exhibits, films, and a park store with books, maps, gifts, cards, and more. All profits from park visitor centers support the parks!

Pay phones: All visitor centers have one outside except Giant Forest Museum.

Foothills Visitor Center in Sequoia

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits on life in the low elevations. Book store. 1-559-565-4212. *Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quienes hablan español.*

Local wilderness permits: Self-issue at permit box outside the visitor center.

Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia

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

Kings Canyon Visitor Center, Grant Grove

(NPS) Daily 9am-4pm (may close one hour at lunch) through December 31. January 1-March 11, 10am-3pm, then 9am-4pm. Starting April 16, 9am-5pm. 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; 1-559-338-2251.

Lodgepole Visitor Center in Sequoia

(NPS) *Closed until May 11.* Until then, self-issue local wilderness permits at Giant Forest Museum. Pay phone outside the market nearby.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center in Kings Canyon (NPS)

Area closes for the season until April 27, 2018. Visitor center opens late May.

Mineral King Ranger Station in Sequoia

(NPS) *Station & area are closed until late May. Payphone in Cold Springs Campground.*

**Please -
Don't trash the parks!
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*.

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

National Park Service (NPS) - federal agency in the Department of the Interior: 1-559-565-3341



Forest Service (FS) - federal agency in the Department of Agriculture: 1-559-338-2251



Geological Survey (USGS) - federal agency in the Department of the Interior: 1-559-565-3171, werc.usgs.gov

Delaware North Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNPR) - the concessioner providing lodging & food services: 1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC): The official non-profit park partner! Members get a discount on some activities. See below or call 1-559-565-4251.



**Connect to
your national park!**

The Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) works with these parks to enrich your experience and awareness of public lands. It offers educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving the natural and cultural history of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and nearby Lake Kaweah. Visit sequoiaparksconservancy.org and exploresequoiakingscanyon.com for activities and programs or to donate to a great cause. 1-559-561-4251.

Support the Conservancy as it:

- Seeks funding for park improvement projects, resource protection, and research;
- Provides activities & tour-guide services via the 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; and
- 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, as 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, open the cones, and 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 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's effects tells us that excluding this natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

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

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 any waterway 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; 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.

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 and noise should be audible in your site only. Quiet hours 10pm-6am (no generators). At Lodgepole & Dorst, generator use 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. *Sites reservable for 5/1 - 9/26/18.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
* Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Closed until 3/21/18.	\$22. *Sites reservable for 5/23 - 9/26/18.	No RVs or trailers. River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
South Fork - 10 sites Open all year.	\$12. No drinking water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high. Non-drinkable water available starting 5/23/18.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	Road closed until late May. No electricity or gas.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Closed until 5/23/18.	\$12. See road info, page 12.	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, pay showers nearby at Silver City (summer only).
Cold Springs - 40 sites Closed until 5/23/18.	\$12. See road info, page 12.	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food-storage boxes in varied sizes.
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	*Reservations available in summer. Conifer forest.
* Lodgepole - 203 sites Last night 11/29/17.	\$22. Sites reservable for 5/23 - 9/26.	Pay phone, flush toilets. River. Food services nearby. Generator use: 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Dump station. Starts to open 4/18/18.
* Dorst Creek - 212 sites Closed until 6/20/18.	\$22. Sites reservable for 6/20 - 9/5/18.	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. Pay showers (summer).
Crystal Springs - 49 sites. Closed until 5/23/18.	\$18 Standard sites closed. *Mid-size group sites \$40.	Food & pay showers nearby in summer. *14 sites for mid-sized groups (7 to 15) reservable late May through late September. Flush toilets.
* Sunset - 156 sites Closed until 5/23/18.	\$22. *Large-group sites (15-30 people) \$50.	Flush toilets. Nearby with food service; pay showers in summer. Regular sites reservable for 6/27 - 9/5/18; large sites for 5/23 - 9/5/18.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	Road closed until mid-April. No RV tank dump stations.
* Sentinel - 82 sites Closed until 4/27/18.	\$18. Sites reservable for 5/23 - 9/5/18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer. Starts to open 4/27/18.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Closed until 5/23/18.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer. Many dead trees have been cleared.
* Canyon View: 16 group sites No RVs or trailers. Sites start to open 5/23/18.	\$40 mid-size groups (7-15); *\$50 large groups (15-30); *\$60 large groups (15-40).	No RVs or trailers. Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby. *Large-group sites reservable for 5/23 - 9/26/18. No small (family) sites.
Moraine - 121 sites Closed. Opening starts 5/23/18.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers, laundry nearby.

Note: Opening and availability may change with weather and other conditions.

Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (Forest Service)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
* Princess - 88 sites Closed.	\$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.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7.
* Tenmile - 13 sites Closed.	\$20 single, \$40 double. Reservable in summer.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. No potable water. Reopens when snow melts.
Landslide - 9 sites Closed.	\$20 single, \$40 double	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7. Reopens when snow melts.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Closed.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Reopens with 2018 spring opening of Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	Between Grant Grove & Wuksachi Lodge. Open with snowmelt.
* Stony Creek - 49 sites Closed.	\$24 single, \$48 double. Reservable in summer.	Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge (summer). Extra car \$7. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high
* Upper Stony - 18 sites Closed.	\$20 single, \$40 double. Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Food, laundry, showers nearby. Extra car \$7. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11. Big Meadow - 45 sites	Closed. No water. Closed. \$21 single site, \$42 double.	Vault toilets. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high. Vault toilets. Big Meadow food boxes ~47" long, 33" deep, 28" high.

Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

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

In these National Parks (NPS)

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK:

• Wuksachi Lodge

All year. Reservations 1-866-807-3598; www.visitsequoia.com. North of Lodgepole two miles; 7200'. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts, ATM, wi-fi.

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK:

Reservations 1-866-807-3598; www.visitsequoia.com. Lodging in two areas:

• Grant Grove Cabins & John Muir Lodge

All year. Hotel (with wi-fi), cabins, restaurant, market, gifts, ATM. Register at the John Muir Lodge. 6500' elevation. 1-559-335-5500. See page 9.

• Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon

Mid-May to mid-October. Motel, restaurant, market at 4600' elevation.

Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

Montecito Sequoia Resort (FS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388; www.msllodge.com. On Generals Hwy 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel (wi-fi), seasonal & children's activities. See page 9.

Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

Mid-May to mid-October. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. On the 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. 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 to late September. www.silvercityresort.com; 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery.

* Kings Canyon Lodge (private) - Closed.

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.

Programs & Tours - Winter 2017-18

5

Free Snowshoe Walks



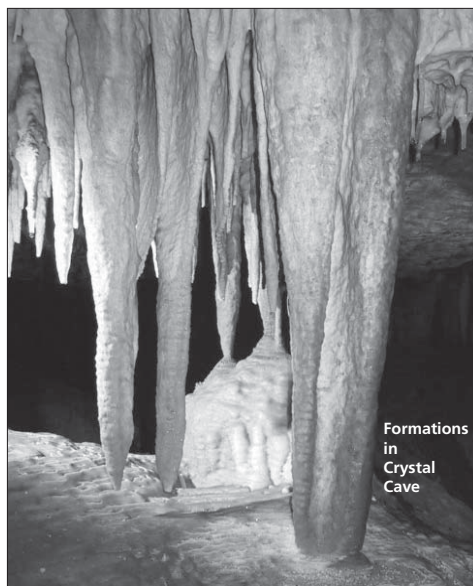
When snow permits, walks may be offered on weekends or holidays (snowshoes provided free). Check bulletin boards for schedules at Giant Forest and Grant Grove. When snow is plentiful, you can also rent snowshoes at Lodgepole and Grant Grove (see pages 8 & 9) and head out on your own. See page 10 for safety tips and enjoy!



Join a ranger for a walk on the snow!

Crystal Cave Tours start 5/25/18

For 2018, get tickets online starting in January through recreation.gov. For details, see www.explore-crystalcave.com or ask at park visitor centers. In the parks, tickets will be sold only at Foothills and Lodgepole visitor centers, not at the cave. Buy tickets at least 1½ hours in advance.



Formations in Crystal Cave

Free Ranger Walks & Talks

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

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! Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) members may get a discount on activities: 1-559-565-4251; sfi@sequoiaparks.org

Touring on Horseback

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

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, 1-559-799-7247 off-season.

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 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. And ask about the "Every Kid in a Park" free pass for 4th-graders and their families!



6 Exploring Sequoia National Park - Winter 2017-18

PLEASE EXPLORE SAFELY! Enjoy these parks and return in one piece to family and friends. Review advice on pages 10 and 12, and take charge of your welfare. Always store food properly before leaving your car or camp.

The Foothills

These low elevations offer wonderful winter visits—green and usually snowless! More different plants and animals live here than in other park areas combined. Wildflowers may start blooming by January. Avoid ticks and poison oak (*see page 10*).

Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Details, page 2.

Marble Falls Trail

A 3.7-mile climb (6km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park across the highway from Potwisha Campground (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.

Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who still honor this place as home. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade on the river. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food in the metal boxes provided to keep it from bears.

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

Once snow builds up, rent snowshoes and cross-country skis at Lodgepole Market. Rangers may offer free snowshoe walks (snowshoes provided) on weekends and/or holidays (*see page 5*).

Giant Forest Museum

Park across from Giant Forest Museum, then enjoy the exhibits and warm up! Page 2 has details. Walking and ski-trail maps are sold here. Next-closest restroom is at the Sherman Tree.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road closes with snowfall to become a ski and snowshoe trail. It begins at Giant Forest Museum. There is no drinking water. *Walkers & snowshoers: Please don't walk in ski tracks; the footprints can trip skiers.* 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 the Generals Highway.
- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through; the only "tree you can drive (or ski) through" in these parks.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here, including a 1-mile path to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia, and the High Sierra Trail to Mt. Whitney (60+ miles).

Big Trees Trail

Walk from Giant Forest Museum to this level 2/3-mile paved trail circling Round Meadow (until much snow falls, parking by the meadow is only for cars with disability placards). Trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Ski or snowshoe once snow gets deep (no yellow ski-trail markers here).

General Sherman Tree

Two miles north of Giant Forest Museum. Two trails lead to the tree. Main trail: From Generals Hwy take Wolverton Road (between Sherman Tree and Lodgepole); follow signs to trailhead parking. Once there is much snow, this 1/2-mile trail closes and access to the tree is only from the parking area along the Generals Hwy. This parking is only for those with disability placards when the main trail is open or when the shuttle is running (*see Holiday Shuttle information below*). The short, paved, fairly level trail from there may be plowed or the snow packed down enough to walk on; it is often slippery. Snowplay is prohibited in this area.

Lodgepole

The market and gift shop is open most days (*see page 8*). Get snowplay gear, hot drinks, and rent skis here. The visitor center is closed until spring.

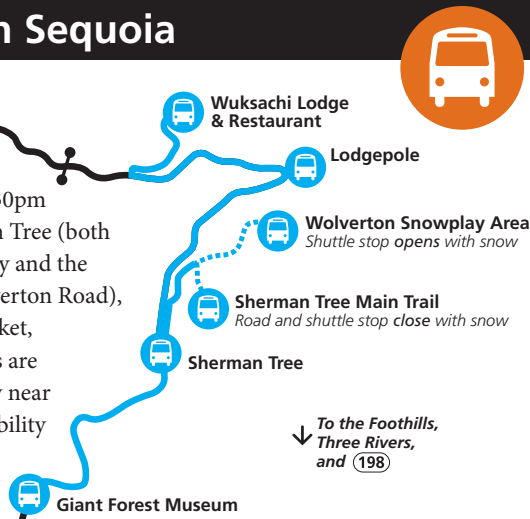
Mineral King closed until spring

The road closes late October to late May at the park boundary approximately 9 miles from Hwy 198 (*see page 8*). Check forecasts before going.

Free Holiday Shuttle in Sequoia

December 23
- January 1

Weather permitting, shuttles run 10am–4:30pm from Giant Forest Museum to the Sherman Tree (both the accessible trail by the Generals Highway and the main trailhead & parking area off the Wolverton Road), Wolverton Snowplay Area, Lodgepole Market, Wuksachi Lodge, then back. When shuttles are running, parking on the Generals Highway near the Sherman Tree is only for cars with disability placards; park at a different stop and ride back to the biggest of all trees!



Snowplay Areas & Wint

Avoid Injuries!

People are seriously hurt *every* year.

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

To most enjoy the beauty and fun of the winter forest, be prepared for a range of conditions: snow, cold, ice, and wet. See safety advice on pages 10 and 12, and warm up in the visitor center or restaurant.

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 Market (*details, page 9*). Get a ski trail map (*see Finding Your Way, below*).

Grant Tree Trail

This is 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. Designated the Nation's Christmas Tree, this giant is also the only living national shrine honoring those who died for our country (*see 92nd Annual Trek, right*). Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile (1.6km) from Grant Grove Village; go north on Hwy 180 and follow signs.

Panoramic Point Road

Paved but narrow, this leads to a paved, accessible trail with a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Closed to cars once snow flies, the road becomes a ski or snowshoe trail. 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)." 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.

Hume Lake

This man-made lake once supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) down to the town of Sanger in the valley below! Page 9 lists facilities there, including a gas station (*see page 9*). Six miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

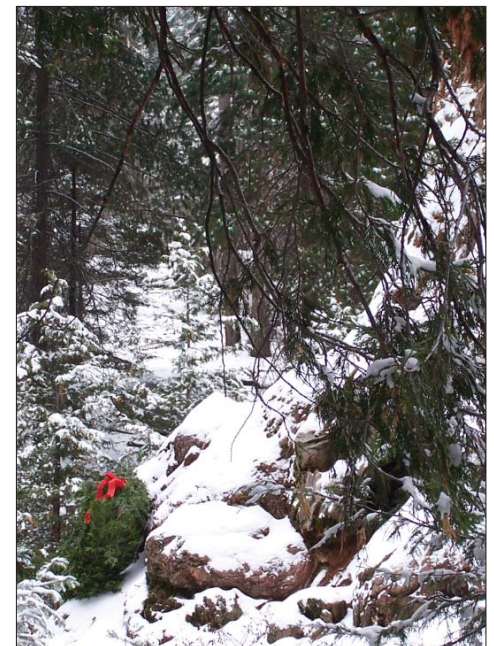
Area Overlooks & Viewpoints

- **McGee Vista Point:** Westerly/sunset views; 3 miles north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180.
- **For a vista of the Kings Canyon:** Go north of Grant Grove 8 miles via Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road. Watch on your left for an opening that reveals the chasm of the Kings River.
- **Redwood Mountain Overlook:** Look 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:** A view NE across the Kings Canyon to the High Sierra. On Generals Highway, 7 miles south of Grant Grove.

From many of these overlooks you can see evidence of the 2015 Rough Fire. The lightning-caused fire started at the end of July, high on the slope north of the Kings River canyon, and burned for almost 5 months. Ultimately, it grew to over 151,623 acres, one of the largest fires in California history. Most of the fire was on national forest land outside these parks.

92nd Annual Trek to the Tree

Held annually at the General Grant Tree at 2:30pm on the second Sunday of December (12/10/18), to celebrate the 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.



Ski Trails: Play It Safe & Clean!

Snowplay at Wolverton

Wolverton Road starts two miles north of the Sherman Tree (*see page 8*). It is plowed during daylight hours Fridays through Sundays plus Wednesdays and holidays, through March 17. After storms, it may take hours to open this road as plows must clear the main road first.

Sledding is at the end of the road. Call 911 in case of emergency from the pay telephone outside the building next to the restrooms.

Please don't leave broken sleds & trash behind! Too often spring melt reveals piles of trash left thoughtlessly in the snow.

Snowplay at Grant Grove

Use Big Stump & Columbine picnic areas only (*see map on page 9*). Snowplay is prohibited in all other areas in Grant Grove. Azalea Campground is for campers only, not those here only for snowplay. Pay telephones are located outside the visitor center and the market. Have fun and stay safe!

Nearby Forest Service areas:

Areas at the Quail Flat, Big Meadows, and Cherry Gap trailheads are open for snowplay. Ask for directions at the visitor center.

Finding Your Way

When snow makes it 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; the footprints can trip skiers.

Buy a map at the visitor center if you plan to use unpaved trails, and get advice about the current conditions.

8 Facilities: Sequoia

In winter, several facilities and roads close. Stop at Foothills Visitor Center on your way into the park for updates on conditions and activities.

Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & usually snow-free winters. See page 10 for highlights. Park headquarters is behind 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).

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. Park 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. Lodgepole visitor center is closed for the season.

Lodgepole Village (DNC) - limited services:

- **Market & Gift Shop:** Open Thursdays-Mondays (daily during holiday periods: 12/21-1/8, & 2/19-26). On Tuesdays & Wednesdays, you can find a small selection of snacks & gifts at Wuksachi. Supplies, clothing, groceries, grab-and-go food, ATM. Ski & snowshoe rentals when enough snow is on the ground.
- **Food Service:** The deli & grill, now being remodeled, are expected to reopen late spring/early summer.
- **Showers/laundry** reopens mid-April.

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.

Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Good open area for viewing night skies. Snowplay area once enough snow falls (see pages 6-7).



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

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining (DNC)

7200' elevation. Year-round, 4 miles north of the Sherman Tree. The only sit-down dining experience available in Sequoia this winter.

The Peaks Dining Room Daily 7:30-10am, 11am-2:30pm, 5-9pm, & lounge 2-9pm. Reservations recommended for dinner. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070.

Gift Shop Daily 8am-6pm. Limited supplies. Snow-play gear & rentals at Lodgepole.

Wuksachi Lodge

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

Mineral King - Closed until spring

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

Pay Telephones

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

Silver City Mountain Resort

Closed until late May. Page 5 has details.

In winter, fewer facilities are available. Stop at the visitor center in Grant Grove for information, exhibits, and a beautiful film about Kings Canyon National Park.

Grant Grove

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

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

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

Grant Grove Village

- **New restaurant!** Daily 7–10am, 11:30am–3:30pm, & 5–9pm. Enjoy the meadow views!
- **Market:** 9am–6pm. Grab-and-go food, groceries, supplies, ATM.
- **Gift Shop:** Friday–Sunday 8:30am–6:30pm; Monday–Thursday 9am–5pm. Souvenirs, supplies, clothing, ATM. Ski/snowshoe rentals once enough snow accumulates.
- **John Muir Lodge:** 1-559-335-5500. 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) In the village outside the market.

Cedar Grove closed until late April

4600' elevation. Cedar Grove Village, on the floor of the Kings Canyon next to the South Fork of the Kings River, has camping, a visitor center, and commercial facilities. The area usually reopens the 4th Friday in April. Lodge, market, and grill reopen May 11 (BBQ starts May 26).

National Forest & Monument

Hume Lake & Big Meadows are in Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. You pass through the monument when driving between Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove. See below for details on differences between National Forests and National Parks.

Lodging - Details on page 5.

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).

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

Hume Lake (on private land)

Open all year to the public. Facility hours vary. Gasoline sold when store is open (limited days & hours through December, daily starting in January; no international credit cards. 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. All-inclusive lodging, meals, and activities. Meals 7:30am–9am, 12–1pm, 6–7:30pm. Cabins, hotel, cross-country skiing, children's & winter 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.

Basic Rules National Parks & National Forests lie side by side here. Some activities are illegal in one but not in the other.

Can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
Walk my leashed pets?	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.
Collect things to take home?	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.	You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use.
Hunt?	Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.	Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
Drive off-road?	Not in these 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.
Cut wood?	Not in these parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permits & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	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.
Go fishing?	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
Ride a bicycle?	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.
Snowmobile?	Not in these parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.
Fly a drone?	Not in any national park.	
		Only in accordance with FAA guidance, and not in wilderness areas.



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. GPS directions may mislead you here.

Water is the main cause of death here. In addition to swimmers, many drowning victims walking or climbing near rivers unexpectedly fall 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. Especially keep an eye on children who are wet or cold.

RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills, in the Kings Canyon, 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 and call 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.

GPS & WEAK CELL SIGNALS

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

MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout these 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 down.
- 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 are dead, even when there is no wind. Keep eyes and ears open. Run if you hear cracks or snapping from roots, trunks, or branches (sometimes there is no sound). Don't linger under dead, cracked, broken, or hanging branches. Avoid spending any time under trees that are rotten at the base or have cracked bark that is peeling off the trunk.

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.

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 these parks are designated wilderness. They offer outstanding opportunities for you to enjoy both solitude and challenge. Thank you for following minimum-impact, no-trace guidelines to protect the wilderness!



Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Many trees have died from drought, which may increase hazards from falling trees and branches; be careful where you linger or camp. See Be Safe, page 10.

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips. After the summer quota period ends in September, permits are free and self-issued 24 hours/day outside the visitor center closest to your trailhead (see page 2). Information you provide on the permit may be helpful should search and rescue be needed. The 2018 quota period is 5/25 to 9/2/18; the permit fee during that time is \$10 plus \$5/person. Permits can be reserved by email or U.S. mail beginning March 1.

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.

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 nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness or:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766
seki_wilderness_reservations@nps.gov

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.

Pear Lake Ski Hut (SPC): 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: 1-559-565-4251.

Your entrance fee helps the Parks!

Most of your entrance fee goes to projects related to your visit here: roads, exhibits, and more. Save time at the entrance by paying your fee in advance at www.yourpassnow.com/parkpass and showing it as you go in. Ask about passes for 4th graders. No passes are valid at Crystal Cave.

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

- **7-day pass:** \$30 per vehicle (private, non-commercial). \$15 per person on foot, bicycle, or bus; \$25 per motorcycle (not per person).
- **12-Month Pass:** \$50 admits all passengers in a private vehicle.

Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide:

- **Annual:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide.
- **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:** \$80 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or older. 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.

Winter Roads & Closures

Availability of roads and facilities varies with conditions. GPS often misdirects travelers in this area; follow signs, maps, or ask.

Generals Highway between the parks:

- **From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Hwy 180 (in Grant Grove):** The road is not plowed during storms or between 4:30pm and 8am, and it closes during and after snowstorms. From 8am on January 2, 2018, to noon on March 16, 2018, the road is not plowed and may be open only if there is no snow.

In Kings Canyon (NPS) & National Forest:

- **Hwy 180 down to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon:** Closed for winter by Caltrans at the Hume Lake junction. Reopens, conditions permitting, April 27, 2018.
- **Panoramic Point Road in Grant Grove:** Closes with snow; reopens by late May. Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- **Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile roads (USFS):** Closed for winter. Unpaved, unplowed, rutted.
- **Converse Basin & Cherry Gap (USFS):** Closed; usually reopen by late May. Unpaved, rutted, unplowed.

In Sequoia National Park:

- **Giant Forest:** Restroom by Giant Forest Museum open 24 hours; parking is across from the Museum. Sherman Tree parking varies with conditions: See page 6 for details.
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Closes with snow; reopens by late May (*details on page 6*). No drinking water is available along this road.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Closed. Reopens late May (see page 5).
- **Wolverton Road & Snowplay Area:** The road is plowed Fridays–Sundays, Wednesdays, daily from Dec. 18 to Jan. 2, and some other holidays. Area is open other days if the road is passable and safe (*see page 6 for details*).
- **Mineral King Road:** Closed until late May. 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, but 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. Keep extra 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 Roof & Hood

It may slide onto the windshield, blocking vision.

Snowplows Rule

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

Slow Down without Losing 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 and cause less skidding than braking.

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!

Animals may run or fly across your path any time. Never feed animals near the road; it makes them more likely to linger and get hit by cars.

Traffic Delays

Expect delays going up the main park road to the Giant Forest in Sequoia NP through 12/16/2017 (see map on page 8). From then through 4/1/2018, delays due to construction will stop. Note: Weather may affect this schedule.

LENGTH LIMITS: Vehicles longer than 22 feet are NOT permitted from Hospital Rock Picnic Area to Giant Forest Museum through 12/16/2017. From 12/17/2017 through 4/1/2018, vehicles longer than 22 feet are permitted but not advised.

DETAILS ON DELAYS: Construction is on the Generals Highway between Amphitheater Point Overlook and Crystal Cave Road (see page 8 map). Flaggers or traffic lights hold traffic at either end of the construction.

After 1- or 2-hour delays, pass-throughs are on the hour; uphill traffic first (don't stop in the construction zone). Plan to arrive at least five minutes before scheduled pass-throughs (check locally for tips on timing and for schedule changes):

Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4 pm: Expect delays up to 2 hours through 12/16/2017. Traffic will pass at 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm, and 4pm. Delays will be reduced when possible so traffic may pass at other times. Delays may resume April 1, 2018.

Other Hours: Delays up to 20 minutes.

Driving Times

When roads are clear and open:

Foothills to:

Giant Forest	1 hour (see above)
Lodgepole	1 hour minimum
Visalia	1 hour
Mineral King	1½ hours - closed

Giant Forest to Grant Grove on Generals Hwy (closes 1/2 - 3/16/18 if snowy) - **1 hour**

Grant Grove to:

Cedar Grove	1 hour - closed
Fresno	1½ hours
Yosemite south entrance via Hwy 41	3 hours

