



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
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## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Notification

For Immediate Release – June 23, 2011  
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### **Hole-in-the-Wall Prescribed Fire Planned**

Fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the Hole-in-the-Wall Prescribed Fire in Kings Canyon National Park on Saturday, June 25; weather and air-quality conditions permitting.

This unit is located on the floor of the Kings Canyon in Cedar Grove area, along the north side of the road near the NPS pack station. The project is 36 acres in size and should be completed in one day.

Fire has long been a natural process in the Sierra Nevada. Fire suppression policies over the last century have resulted in abnormally high levels of forest fuels. Prescribed fire consumes these fuels under favorable conditions. This reduces the risk of an unwanted fire during hotter, drier conditions.

The unit was last burned in 1993. The Cedar Grove area shows the most frequent fire cycle in the parks, with fire occurring approximately once every three to ten years. This level of frequent fire is likely influenced by Native American burning practices. In Cedar Grove, local tribes used fire to encourage the growth of black oak; a staple food source.

The River Road (or Motor Nature Trail) will be closed between the pack station and the South Fork of the Kings River for this project. The main road in Cedar Grove will remain open, but possibly with temporary traffic control for smoke. The segment of the horse trail that leads through prescribed fire unit will also be closed during the project.

Visitors and residents in Cedar Grove should expect localized smoke impacts near Hole-in-the-Wall and in the morning when the smoke is held in the valley by inversion patterns. Park visitors who are sensitive to smoke or have pre-existing respiratory problems should limit their outdoor activities, particularly in the morning, and keep car windows closed during the burn. For more information about how to limit exposure to smoke, please visit <http://www.airquality.org/smokeimpact/>.

<http://www.nps.gov/seki/naturescience/current-fires.htm>