



## Forest Service

Sequoia National Forest &  
Giant Sequoia National Monument  
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# News Release

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## Celebrate Independence Day in the Great Outdoors!

**Porterville, Calif., June 28, 2016** – This holiday weekend is the busiest time of the in the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument. Keep the following information in mind while you enjoy a safe and fun holiday.

As the Fourth of July weekend approaches, Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliott reminds visitors that wildfire prevention is everyone's responsibility. Possession of fireworks of any kind, including firecrackers and sparklers, is illegal in the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument.

"If gazing up at stars rather than fireworks is more your style, let us help you honor our nation's independence while you visit the Forest and recreate in the Great Outdoors," said Elliott.

Drought-stressed trees are succumbing to bark beetle attacks and dying in numbers never seen before. Dead trees present a danger because they can fall unexpectedly onto people and roads used to access recreation sites. Dead and dying trees also create dry fuels for wildfires. For more tree mortality information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/CATreeMortality](http://www.fs.usda.gov/CATreeMortality).

Keep Fire Restrictions in mind while visiting your favorite location. A hot ember can travel for miles in the wind and it only takes one small spark to ignite a large wildfire. One less spark can mean one less wildfire. Do your part to prevent wildfires."

### Fire Restrictions

- Campfires or charcoal fires, are allowed only in designated campgrounds listed in [Forest Order 16-08, Ranger District exhibits](#), visit [www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sequoia/alerts-notice](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sequoia/alerts-notice) for a list of areas. Campfires and charcoal fires require a Free Campfire Permit, available at Forest Service offices and [www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit](http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit).
- Smoking will be confined to enclosed vehicles or buildings, developed recreation sites and other designated sites as listed in the [ranger district exhibits](#).
- Lanterns and portable stoves with a shut-off valve that use gas, gelled alcohol, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel are allowed, only with a Campfire Permit. Forest visitors must clear all flammable material five feet in all directions from their camp stove, have a shovel available, and ensure that a responsible person attends the stove at all times when in use.



- Operating an internal combustion engine off of properly designated roads or trails and welding are all strictly prohibited during the increased fire restriction period.
- Fireworks, exploding targets, tracer rounds and other incendiary ammunition or devices are not allowed on the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument at any time. This includes sparklers and so-called safe and sane fireworks.

Violation of these fire restrictions is punishable by a fine of no more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization or incarceration for not more than six months, or both.

### **Campgrounds**

Most campgrounds are open for the season; you can visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 877-444-6777 to reserve your favorite location.

### **Hume Lake Ranger District Closure**

The Monarch Wilderness is closed due to the 2015 Rough Fire. Please call the Ranger Station at 559-338-2251 for more information.

### **Kern River Ranger District Closures**

Due to the Erskine Fire near Lake Isabella numerous campgrounds are closed along the shoreline. Please view the Forest Closure Order, attachments and maps at [www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sequoia/alerts-notice](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sequoia/alerts-notice)

Live Oak North, Live Oak South, and Live Oak Group Campgrounds will remain closed for the duration of 2016, unless needed for overflow camping.

### **Isabella Lake and the Kern River Glass Ban**

Along the shorelines of the Kern River and Isabella Lake, broken glass has been a hazard and an eyesore for many years. Broken glass can be tough to pick up, can be unsightly, and can cause injury to people and animals. Volunteers and recreation staff have spent considerable time carefully removing sharp glass shards from campgrounds and shorelines and sifting through fire pits for pieces of broken glass bottles.

The Forest Order with maps and specific descriptions of areas included in the glass ban can be found online at [www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sequoia/alerts-notice](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sequoia/alerts-notice), or can be found at any of the Sequoia National Forest's offices. For more information, or if you have questions about the ban, please call Tricia Maki, Kern River Recreation Officer, at 760-376-3781, extension 630.

### **Western Divide Ranger District – Tule River Canyon Glass Ban**

In response to large amounts of broken glass found along the Tule River the Forest Service has prohibited glass containers along sections of the river. "This needed to be done in order to protect public health and safety for visitors in the area," said District Ranger Eric LaPrice.

Possessing or storing alcoholic beverages and food items in glass containers is prohibited along the Tule River from Wishon Campground to its intersection with Highway 190 and from the Forest Service boundary along Highway 190 to the Moorehouse Fish Hatchery located just below Camp Nelson.

The Forest Order with maps and specific descriptions of areas included in the glass ban can be found online at [www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sequoia/alerts-notice](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/sequoia/alerts-notice), or can be found at any of the Sequoia National Forest's offices.

### **Pack it in, Pack it out - Become part of the solution – Leave No Trace**

While, trash and debris left behind after festivities can be a health hazard for humans it can be harmful and even fatal to wildlife. Trash cans may become full, so plan ahead and pack out all garbage.



### **Conserve Water**

Due to the long-term drought conditions, some amenities may not be available. Please come prepared and conserve water! It's the best way to help ensure that everyone has water for safety and health, and to keep facilities open to all visitors.

Neighboring recreational areas such as Balch Park, operated by Tulare County, and Mountain Home State Forest, operated by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection are open. Please call (559) 539-3896 or (559) 624-7000 for Balch Park or (559) 539-2321 or (559) 539-2855 for Mountain Home State Forest.

Information about the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks can be found at [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) or by calling (559) 565-3341. The Sierra National Forest can be reached at (559) 297-0706 or [www.fs.usda.gov/sierra](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra)

Off-highway vehicle use is restricted to designated roads within the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Mountain-bike use is also restricted to designated trails and roads. Trails where mountain-bike use is prohibited are signed. All motorized and mechanized use, such as mountain-bikes, are prohibited within wilderness areas.

Forest Service Law Enforcement personnel respond to an increased number of incidents on the forest, often involving alcohol and driving during holiday weekends. Visitors are encouraged to recreate safely, know and abide by federal, state and local regulations so that everyone can have a safe, enjoyable weekend.

Forest visitors are encouraged to "Know Before You Go" and call ahead to the local ranger station to check on local conditions. For more information contact your local ranger station or visit the Sequoia National Forest website at [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

"We are committed to visitors having a safe and pleasant visit to the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument," Elliott added. "Please have a happy and safe Fourth of July celebration!"

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