



**U.S. Forest Service**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Sequoia National Forest

**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks



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## ***Interagency News Release/ Fire Update***

For Immediate Release

August 1, 2011

Contact: Denise Alonzo, 559-539-2607x 212

### **Rain Slows Growth of Lion Wildfire**

Much of the Lion Wildfire received intermittent rain yesterday, slowing the growth of the fire, especially along the northeastern flank at higher elevations. However, only limited rain was seen on the active, southern area of the fire. This lightning-caused fire is currently 19,046 acres, and 50% percent contained.

Approximately 400 acres are burning within the Sequoia National Park. Other parts of the north and east perimeter are being contained by rocky ridges or past wildfires. To the west, firefighters have made good progress with burning operations south and east along Peck's Creek to secure that line.

On the south and east side, firefighters continue with property protection around Lion Meadows. Fire progression from the west will require burning operations in order to protect this property and secure the fireline along Table Meadow Creek in this area.

The fire is still expected to be contained at 22,000 acres. "We have received rain in many parts of the fire, said Paul Gibbs, Incident Commander. "However, this is not enough to contain or control the fire," he cautioned. "We still have an active wildfire to manage and the fire crews will continue to secure the fire lines."

The fire is continuing to reduce surface fuel such as accumulations of needle-cast and fallen leaves from trees, logs, and snags with very little tree mortality. Residents and visitors should continue to expect smoke in the Kern River Valley, eastern Sierra towns, and the mountain communities of Tulare County.

Public meetings are planned for Monday, August 1 at 6:30 pm at the Boulder Creek Resort, 2550 S. Hwy 395, in **Lone Pine** and for Wednesday, August 3 at 6:30 pm at the Three Rivers Memorial Building, 43490 Sierra Drive, in **Three Rivers**.

Area closures are in effect in Sequoia National Forest and Sequoia National Park. Visit <http://inciweb.org/incident/2400/> for maps of the closures. Anyone planning to travel into the Forest's Wilderness is asked to contact the Western Divide Ranger District at 559-539-2607. For those planning wilderness travel in the southern area of Sequoia National Park, call the 559-565-3766.