



National Park Service
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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Sentinel Fire in Kings Canyon National Park Being Managed for Wilderness Benefit

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Calif. September 9, 2016 – The Sentinel Fire, caused by a lightning strike, was discovered on August 19th, high on Sentinel Ridge within the Sheep Creek drainage. The fire is located south of Cedar Grove in the mountains above 9,000' elevation.

Currently, the fire is 12 acres in size, and is being managed for wilderness benefit. Fire is a natural process in the Sierra Nevada. An understory burn, which clears out dead and down fuel to maintain forest health, is a desirable action in a wilderness environment, especially in the Sentinel Fire's current elevation and fuel-type. If conditions change, any actions taken will use minimally invasive suppression tactics to ensure that wilderness character is maintained.

The fire has been slowly increasing in size, and is smoldering and creeping in the duff and among some larger downed logs. Flame lengths are 1 -2 feet with low intensity. There are no threats to trails, structures, or people at this time. The closest trail is approximately 2 miles away.

Due to public interest in this fire, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have created an InciWeb page for further updates that can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5019/>.

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About Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks' Fire Management Program

For over forty years, our mission has been to use the full range of options and strategies available to manage fire in the parks. This includes protecting park resources, employees, and the public from unwanted fire; building and maintaining fire resilient ecosystems; reducing the threat to local communities from wildfires emanating from the parks or adjacent lands; and recruiting, training, and retaining a professional fire management workforce.