



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
National Parks

47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone  
559 565-3730 fax

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## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Deb Schweizer (559) 565-3703

### Fires Discovered in Wilderness of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Two fires are burning in the wilderness of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. The *Lost Canyon Fire* and the *Sphinx Fire* were both ignited by lightning after thunderstorms passed over the parks on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

The fires will be managed by the parks. They will be allowed to spread naturally to improve forest conditions. This management strategy, called “wildland fire use,” seeks to utilize the benefits of lightning-caused fires when there is low risk to people and development.

The *Lost Canyon Fire* is approximately one-half acre in size and is burning in sparse lodgepole pine and brush. It has low to moderate potential for growth. A backcountry ranger reported the smoke to fire managers on July 6<sup>th</sup> who then assessed the fire from a helicopter. This fire is in Sequoia National Park and is due west of Moraine Lake and the Big Arroyo near the Lost Canyon Trail. The fire is at 9,000 feet in elevation. Fire monitors assessed the fire for potential growth and behavior yesterday. The fire was showing little activity.

The *Sphinx Fire* is one-tenth of an acre and is burning in a single foxtail pine with limited smoldering fire behavior on the ground. It has low potential for growth. This fire is at 11,000 feet in elevation and is northwest of Mt. Brewer, near Sphinx Lakes, in Kings Canyon National Park. It was discovered on July 6<sup>th</sup> by the park helicopter en route to assist on the *Inyo Complex*. Fire managers will routinely monitor the *Sphinx Fire* by helicopter.

Fire managers have determined that these fires can safely be managed for resource benefit. Both fires are at high elevation, in sparse fuels, and near natural granite barriers.

Visitors and residents in these parks may see smoke over the parks and nearby vicinity. There are several wildland fires burning on the Inyo National Forest and these fires are affecting the regional air quality. Please go to <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/767/> for information about the *Inyo Complex* including current evacuations and closures.

-- [www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm) --

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