



Fire Management at Sequoia & Kings Canyon

Fire in the Parks

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**A community-wide survey about fire management in
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**

This survey is one part of the Fire Management Planning process at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The Park wants to know about your ideas, opinions and experiences related to fire and fire management. Please answer all of the questions and add any additional comments in the space provided on the last page of the survey.

Please, return the survey in the postage paid envelope when you are finished.

Thanks for your help!



The National Park Service

And Paul Schissler Associates, Incorporated

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by the National Park Service to determine those issues related to fire management at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks that are important residents in the nearest smoke-sensitive community, Three Rivers, California. Response to this request is voluntary. No action will be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name will not be asked so the information you give is anonymous. Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 25 minutes per respondent. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Paperwork Reduction Project 1024-0223, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503; and to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The Fire Management Program at the Park is designed to achieve many different objectives. In this first section of the survey, we are interested in learning how important certain fire management objectives are to you, and how well you believe the National Park Service is accomplishing these objectives. (Please keep in mind that throughout this questionnaire, “Park” refers to Sequoia and Kings Canyon, and “Three Rivers” refers to the area which includes the North, South, East and Middle forks)

Q-1. How important do you feel each of the following fire management objectives are?

Fire Management Objective	Importance of fire management objective					Don't know*
	Percent of response					
	Unimportant	Of little importance	Undecided	Important	Very important	
A. Reduce the risk of a catastrophic fire	3	7	5	27	50	9
B. Improve conditions for giant sequoia trees	3	3	5	38	41	10
C. Restore the Park ecosystem to the way it functioned before European settlement	11	12	14	26	22	17
D. Manage fires for minimum smoke in nearby communities	3	8	4	28	51	7
E. Educate local residents about fire management in the Park	3	8	4	42	35	10
F. Notify local residents of fire management actions.	1	4	3	43	43	7

* includes “don’t know” and missing responses

Q-2. Which of the above fire management objectives are most important to you?

	Percent
A. Reduce the risk of a catastrophic fire	46
B. Improve conditions for giant sequoia trees	8
C. Restore the Park ecosystem to the way it functioned before European settlement	8
D. Manage fires for minimum smoke in nearby communities	25
E. Educate local residents about fire management in the Park	1
F. Notify local residents of fire management actions.	3
NO RESPONSE	9

Q-3. Which of the 5 choices best describes your rating of the Park Service's accomplishment of each of the following fire management objectives at the Park?

Fire Management Objective	Accomplishment of fire management objective (Percent of response)					
	Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Don't know
A. Reduce the risk of a catastrophic fire	4	9	19	30	14	25
B. Improve conditions for giant sequoia trees	3	4	14	39	13	26
C. Improve the health of the Park's forests	3	8	18	36	8	27
D. Manage fires for minimum smoke in nearby communities.	18	23	24	15	3	16
E. Educate local residents about fire management in the Parks	7	24	29	19	5	17
F. Notify local residents of fire management actions.	11	26	24	19	5	16

Q-4. Recalling Park fires that have occurred over the past 12 months, indicate whether the following events occurred for ALL, ALMOST ALL, ABOUT HALF, ONLY SOME, or NONE of the fires.

	Frequency of occurrence (Percent of response)					
	All	Almost all	About half	Only some	None	Don't know
Fire was ignited purposely by Park staff.	6	26	13	14	1	40
Smoke bothered me at my home.	11	14	12	30	25	9
The Park provided adequate notification about fire to local residents.	6	17	10	26	14	26
Smoke from fire violated air quality standards in Three Rivers.	14	15	15	16	9	30
The decisions on how to manage fire were made by local Park officials.	22	17	2	1	1	57

Q-5. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

	Level of agreement (Percent of response)					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
One way to prevent big fires is to ignite small fires.	23	40	10	9	3	15
The Park should let all lightning caused fires burn unless they threaten lives and private property.	18	38	11	18	4	11
Managing lightning fires and lighting prescribed fires are the best ways to meet the Park's fire management objectives.	17	37	10	12	5	20
Restoring natural ecosystem processes should be the Park's highest priority.	17	31	17	15	7	13
The Park should suppress all fires because smoke is bad for the community.	4	8	11	46	21	10
To restore natural ecosystems, the Park must allow natural fires to burn and even ignite fires under controlled conditions.	16	36	11	16	6	16
Giant Sequoia trees can survive severe fires.	16	42	7	12	3	21
If the Park would time fires later in the year (autumn), there would be more smoke in Three Rivers.	6	16	13	11	4	51

Q-6. In the past 12 months, which effect, if any, did you experience from smoke MOST FREQUENTLY at your home ? (Circle the number of your answer)?

REDUCED VISIBILITY	39
BREATHING PROBLEMS	33
UNPLEASANT ODOR	31
OTHER EFFECT	9
I DID NOT EXPERIENCE SMOKE EFFECTS AT MY HOME	24

Q-7. Have you ever personally experienced discomfort related to smoke from Park fires at your home (Circle the number)?

YES	59
NO	34
DON'T KNOW	2
NO RESPONSE	5

Q-8. Do you suffer from a respiratory ailment (Circle the number)?

YES	24
NO	68
DON'T KNOW	3
NO RESPONSE	6

Q-9. Does anyone else in your household suffer from a respiratory ailment (Circle the number)?

YES	24
NO	66
DON'T KNOW	3
NO RESPONSE	7

Q-10. Park fires may have the following effects on the local community. To what extent do you believe Park fires effect each item?

Local effects from Park fires	Size of effect (Percent of response)					
	No effect	Small effect	Some effect	Large effect	Severe effect	Don't know
Cause respiratory problems among local residents	3	15	36	25	10	11
Allows visitors to see natural ecosystem process	11	19	27	15	3	26
Cause a decrease in tourism	13	22	26	15	7	17
Reduce local wildfire risks	7	12	27	31	5	18
Create inconvenience due to road closures	7	32	34	9	5	13
Reduce access to Park	9	31	32	8	5	14
Causes stress among local residents	3	9	21	17	9	41
Keeps friends and relatives from visiting	25	13	13	5	4	40

Another important purpose of this survey is to find out more about the communication between local residents and the Park, especially with respect to fire management.

Q-11. From which of these information sources have you LEARNED THE MOST about the Park’s fire management activities and events (upcoming burns, meetings, educational opportunities)? (Percent of response)

THE KAWEAH COMMONWEALTH NEWSPAPER	65
THE “SEQUOIA BARK” NEWSPAPER	2
OTHER NEWSPAPER	2
LOCAL BULLETIN BOARD	2
RADIO	0
TELEVISION	1
FAX NOTICES	0
PUBLIC MEETINGS	1
PARK INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS	1
PERSONAL COMMUNICATION WITH PARK STAFF	11
OTHER INFORMATION SOURCE	4
NO RESPONSE	9

Q-12. From which of these information sources would you PREFER to receive information about the Park’s fire management activities and events? (Percent of response)

THE KAWEAH COMMONWEALTH NEWSPAPER	54
THE “SEQUOIA BARK” NEWSPAPER	2
OTHER NEWSPAPER	4
LOCAL BULLETIN BOARD	2
RADIO	2
TELEVISION	4
FAX NOTICES	0
PUBLIC MEETINGS	5
PARK INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS	1
PERSONAL COMMUNICATION WITH PARK STAFF	10
OTHER INFORMATION SOURCE	6
NO RESPONSE	10

Q-13. How informed do you feel about the following events and activities?

	Size of effect (Percent of response)				
	Not at all informed	Slightly informed	Well informed	Very well informed	Don't know
Upcoming controlled burn activities in the Park	25	47	14	5	9
Ongoing fires in the Park	21	47	18	5	9
Opportunities for public comment on management of the Park	26	36	15	4	19

Next, we would like to ask you about your relationship with the Park, and about the relationship between the Park and your community.

Q-14. Did you visit the Park in the past 12 months?

YES	80
NO	15
DON'T KNOW	0
NO RESPONSE	4

Q-15. If you answered YES to Question 14, how many times have you visited the Park in the previous 12 month period? (Only count recreational and leisure trips.)

MEAN = 6.1 visits

MEDIAN = 3.0 visits

Q-16. If you answered YES to Question 15, in which activities did YOU personally participate during your visit(s) to the Park (Percent of respondents that answered YES to question 14).

SIGHT-SEEING	66	SNOWSHOE HIKING	7
DAY HIKING	50	SWIMMING	13
BACKPACKING	13	ROCK CLIMBING	4
CAMPING	17	FISHING	15
BIKING	5	ATTEND A PARK INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM	0
HORSEBACK RIDING	4	VISIT A VISITOR'S CENTER	44
SKIING	12	OTHER ACTIVITY	19

Our next interest is the economic relationships between the Parks and the community.

Q-17. Indicate which of the following statements applies to you by circling YES or NO.

	(Percent of response)	
	YES	NO
I <i>own</i> a company that does business directly with the Park or with Park concessions	2	98
I <i>work for</i> a company that does business directly with the Park or with Park concessions	5	95
I <i>own</i> a company that relies heavily on customers who are also Park tourists	6	94
I <i>work for</i> a company that relies heavily on customers who are also Park tourists	6	94
I <i>own</i> a company that is economically dependent on the Park even though tourists, the Park, and its concessions are not my main customers	5	95
I <i>work for</i> a company that is economically dependent on the Park even though tourists, the Park, and its concessions are not my main customers	2	98
I am currently a Park employee	10	90
I am a former Park employee	10	90
Someone else in my household is currently a Park employee	8	92

Q-18. There are many reasons why people choose to live, or reside seasonally, in a certain area. Please tell us why you chose to live in Three Rivers. (Percent of respondents)

TRANSFERRED HERE BY MY EMPLOYER	11
TO GET AWAY FROM THE UNPLEASANTNESS OF URBAN LIFE	63
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	40
THE PROXIMITY TO THE NATIONAL PARKS	43
THE BEAUTIFUL NATURAL SETTING	77
TO FIND WORK	5
MY SPOUSE OR PARTNER'S JOB BROUGHT ME HERE	10
I GREW UP HERE AND STAYED	8
MY FAMILY IS HERE	13
OTHER REASON	22

Q-19. Here are some reasons people think that the Park is an important part of the community. How much do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

Reasons why the Park is important to the community	Level of agreement (Percent of response)					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The Park offers recreational activities that I and/or my family enjoy.	45	43	4	2	1	6
The Park enhances the scenic beauty of the area.	55	33	3	2	2	5
The Park preserves critical natural resources.	46	38	4	4	1	8
The Park brings people in the community together because they take pride in it.	15	39	25	8	2	11
I see my family and/or friends more frequently because they enjoy the Park.	5	25	39	21	3	8
The Park attracts interesting visitors.	16	55	16	2	2	9
The Park staff are active community members.	10	40	19	9	3	18
The Park links us to the past by representing the landscape before European settlement.	8	22	15	7	3	46
The economic impact of the Park is vital to the community.	23	31	5	2	1	39
The Park provides a buffer for Three Rivers against development and population growth	23	33	14	14	4	11
The Park brings the federal government closer to our community in a helpful way	8	25	29	15	9	15

Q-20. Please complete the following sentences:

The WORST thing about Fire Management at the Park is

_____.

The BEST thing about Fire Management at the Park is

_____.

Finally, we would like to ask you a few questions about yourself for statistical purposes.

Q-21. Your sex.

MALE	53
FEMALE	47

Q-22. Are you a permanent or seasonal resident of the Three Rivers area?

PERMANENT RESIDENT	64
SEASONAL RESIDENT	1
NOT A THREE RIVERS RESIDENT	1
NO RESPONSE	35

Q-23. Do you OWN or RENT your residence in the Three Rivers?

OWN	88
RENT	8
DON'T KNOW	0
NO RESPONSE	4

Q-24. How long have you lived in Three Rivers?

MEAN = 17 MEDIAN = 13 YEARS

Q-25. In which of the following specific areas is your Three Rivers residence located?

NORTH FORK	9
SOUTH FORK	29
MIDDLE FORK	30
EAST FORK	5
OTHER	1
NO RESPONSE	27

Q-26. Which ONE of the categories listed below comes closest to the type of place you were living before you moved to Three Rivers?

IN OPEN COUNTRY BUT NOT ON A FARM	8
ON A FARM	2
IN A SMALL CITY OR TOWN (Under 50,000)	10
IN A MEDIUM-SIZE CITY (50,000-250,000)	15
IN A SUBURB NEAR A LARGE CITY	11
IN A LARGE CITY (Over 250,000)	15
I HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN THREE RIVERS	3
DON'T KNOW	0
NO RESPONSE	35

Q-27. Are you presently:

EMPLOYED FULL-TIME	44
EMPLOYED PART-TIME	8
UNEMPLOYED	0
RETIRED	40
FULL-TIME HOMEMAKER	3
NO RESPONSE	5

Q-28. Please describe your occupation. (If retired, describe your occupation before retirement.)

TITLE: _____

KIND OF WORK YOU DO: _____

KIND OF COMPANY OR BUSINESS: _____

Q-29. Which is the highest level of education that you have completed?

NO FORMAL EDUCATION	0
SOME GRADE SCHOOL	1
COMPLETED GRADE SCHOOL	1
SOME HIGH SCHOOL	1
COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL	13
SOME COLLEGE	29
TWO-YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE	6
COMPLETED 4-YEAR COLLEGE	12
SOME GRADUATE WORK	12
A GRADUATE DEGREE	15
NO RESPONSE	11

Q-30. Number of children (under 18) living in your household. (If none, write "0")

MEAN = 0.4 MEDIAN = 0 CHILDREN

Q-31. Number of adults (over 18) living in your household.

MEAN = 1.7 MEDIAN = 2 ADULTS

Q-32. Your age:

MEAN = 58.7 MEDIAN = 59.5 YEARS