

#### 4.4) The Park's Fire Web Site "Fire Information Cache"

- Anthony Caprio, Science and Natural Resources Management Division, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

The *Fire Information Cache* Web site was developed in order to provide easy access to high quality information about fire and park resources to a large audience via the World Wide Web. It provides a variety of materials but emphasizes policy and natural resource issues and information pertinent to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The site was designed to be useful to the public, resource and fire management professionals, park staff, and scientists, for addressing issues and answering questions related to fire in the region. The site is dynamic and is updated or expanded as new information becomes available.

##### Specific topics on which the site focuses include:

- **Fire Policy:** Policy statements for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and the National Park Service are made available.
- **Fire and Park Resources**
  - **Fire Bibliography:** A detailed bibliography lists references pertaining to fire in the region or of general importance. Most current documents produced in the Park are made available for downloading as PDF or HTML documents. Additionally, a variety of older relevant documents have been converted into electronic format and made available.
  - **Current Research Projects:** Descriptions of current fire related research projects underway in the Parks are provided. Examples include studies by the USGS, results from the Parks fire monitoring program, and regional interagency projects funded by the Joint Fire Sciences Program.
  - **Annual Reports:** Copies of annual reports on fire related resource/research studies by NPS, USGS, and other researchers are available to view or download. These provide up-to-date information on what projects are underway, their objectives, accomplishments or preliminary results, and current status.
- **Annual Burn Program Planning and Results:** Maps of potential burn units are provided at the start of each year, updated periodically during the fire season, with a final "Burn Atlas" and burn summary produced at the end of the fire season.
- **Historic Fire Maps:** Maps documenting resource burning in developed sequoia groves (Giant Forest, Redwood Mountain, Grant Grove) are provided along with downloadable GIS databases of pertinent fire information and records.
- **Fire Links:** A variety of links to other fire related information and web sites, both within the NPS and around the world, are provided.

The site has provided a valuable source of information supporting the fire management program in the Parks. Based on statistics from the NPS server hosting the pages the site has received considerable interest. The site is averaging slightly over 2,100 requests monthly with an average of 250 MB of information (documents, data, or maps) also downloaded during this time interval. Several examples of pages are provided on the following pages.

The URL for the Fire Information Cache is: [HTTP://WWW.NPS.GOV/SEKI/FIRE/INDXFIRE.HTM](http://www.nps.gov/seki/fire/indxfire.htm).



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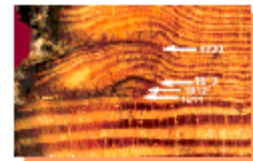
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# Fire Information Cache

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks  
 Three Rivers, California



## Why Does the National Park Service Use Fire?

Fire has been a natural part of the Sierran ecosystem for centuries. Natural fires swept through these plant communities at intervals that provided conditions for many plant species to regenerate. Fire thins competing species, recycles nutrients into the soil, releases and scarifies seeds, and opens holes in the forest canopy for sunlight to enter. All of these are critical to forest health and natural cycles of growth and decomposition.

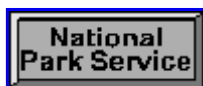
Plants are not the only living things that have evolved with and adapted to fire. Animal species are just as much a part of the "fire environment." With the increased forage that results after a fire, many animals low on the food chain experience increases in their populations; therefore species above them on the food chain also benefit.

Despite the evidence that fire is a necessary element in the Sierra Nevada, over most of the past century people have feared and suppressed it whenever possible. Especially in the western United States, the accumulation of dead forest litter and duff during that time now presents extreme hazards to the health of the trees, soil, and wildlife, to humans living in these areas, and to the taxpayer who has to fund the fighting of catastrophic wildfires.

Prescribed fire is used in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to restore this natural process to the forests. These fires are strategically used to reduce the risks that unnaturally heavy fuels pose to humans and ecosystems.

You can learn more about wild and prescribed fire in this [overview](#). For more technical information about fire, fire research and fire management, select from the following links:

- [Sequoia and Kings Canyon Fire Management Policy](#) Excerpts from the parks' management plan pertaining to fire and fire management.
- [NPS Wildland Fire Management Policy](#) The section of the National Park Service's Management Policies concerning fire use.
- [Fire in the Parks. What do You Think?:](#) Responses to the fall 1998 survey concerning fire management in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.
- [Mineral King Risk Reduction Project](#) A multi-year project to reduce the risk of intense wildfire in the Mineral King area.
- [Fire and Park Resources:](#) Papers and other sources of information on fire research, fire effects and fire monitoring.
- [Fire Maps](#) and [GIS \(Geographic Information System\) Data:](#) A visual database of park fire history.
- [Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project](#) (SNEP): SNEP was a Congressionally mandated study of the Sierra Nevada ecosystem by an independent panel of scientists. This page links to the sections of the SNEP report relating to fire.
- [Other sites](#) with information about fire and fire research
- [Information for Kids](#) About Fire in the Parks. This file is in Adobe Acrobat format [96kb download size] that requires Acrobat Reader to view. The page was taken from the *Sequoia Seeds* - to see all the articles in the newspaper go to the [KID'S and TEACHER'S](#) pages.
- [LINK to 1998 Fire and Aviation Management Operations Guide\(FAMOG\)](#)



<http://www.nps.gov/seki/fire/index.htm>

Last update to site: April 6, 2000



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## Mineral King Risk Reduction Project?

Beginning in 1995, Sequoia National Park embarked on a series of prescribed burns in the Mineral King area. Fires such as these reduce hazardous forest fuel buildup, protect public safety, and restore ecosystems to a more natural state. The Mineral King Risk-Reduction Burn Project is a multi-year plan to reduce the potential for intense wildfires as well as the high cost of fighting them. Burning adjoining areas over a number of years will create a patchwork of areas with less fuel and younger growth; these will slow the spread of inevitable future fires.

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[http://www.nps.gov/seki/fire/mk\\_intro.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/fire/mk_intro.htm)  
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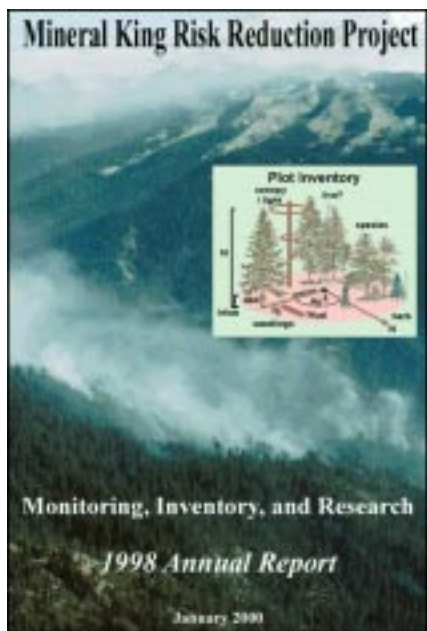
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# Annual Report 1998

## Research, Inventory and Monitoring

### Mineral King Risk Reduction Project

*Compiled by Anthony Caprio*

The [Executive Summary](#) of the 1998 Mineral King Risk Reduction Project Annual Report is available in HTML format. The entire report is available in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. To view these files you will need a free Acrobat Reader. If you do not have one, you can download it from Adobe [here](#).

**Download** [the full report as one file here \(8.75 MB - PDF file\)](#)

The report is divided into multiple sections for easier downloading.

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