# 4.4) <u>The Park's Fire Web Site "Fire Information Cache"</u>

- 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.

<u>Specific topics on which the site focuses include:</u>

- **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.
  - **Research Needs and Proposed Projects:** A page detailing research needs is under development. It will focus on describing specific high priority fire related research needs that have been identified by researchers, resources specialist, and fire managers within the parks. Additionally, other potential studies targeting specific fire related topics that are of interest but lower priority will be proposed. These may be of particular interest to graduate students or other researchers
  - **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**.