

# FOREST, MONUMENT, OR PARK?



You may see signs for Sequoia National Forest, Giant Sequoia National Monument, and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks... and wonder what is the difference between these places? All are on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

National Forests, managed under a "multiple use" concept, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, livestock grazing, minerals, and recreation with and without vehicles. Forest employees work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture. The U.S. Forest Service was created in 1905.

National Monuments can be managed by any of three different agencies: the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, or the Bureau of Land Management. They are created by presidential proclamation and all seek to protect specific natural or cultural features. Giant Sequoia National Monument is managed by the U.S. Forest Service and is part of Sequoia National Forest. It was created by former President Bill Clinton in April of 2000.

National Parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation. Park employees work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service was created in 1916.

Forests, Monuments, and Parks may have different rules in order to meet their goals. Read "Where can I..." below to check out what activities are permitted where within the Sequoia National Forest, Giant Sequoia National Monument, and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. Despite confusion over names, these areas provide a wide range of opportunities.

## **Where can I?**

**WALK A PET?** In National Forest & Monument: Pets are allowed on trails. In Parks: Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, roads). In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.

**GO CAMPING?** In National Forest & Monument: In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road & no further. In Parks: Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds.

**HAVE A FIRE?** Regulations change during mid- to late- summer and early fall; always check before starting a fire. In National Forest & Monument: Fire permits are required outside picnic area grills & campgrounds. Get a permit at any Forest Service, California Department of Forestry, or Bureau of Land Management Office. In Parks: Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas.

**CUT WOOD?** In National Forest & Monument: Call Hume Lake Ranger District (559-338-2251), Tule River Ranger District (559-539-2607), or Kern River Ranger District (760-376-3781) for permit & guidelines. It's not allowed in the Parks.

**GO FISHING?** Fishing is regulated by the California Department of Fish & Game. In all areas: Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any office. For information: 559-243-4005.

**HUNT?** Hunting is regulated by the California Department of Fish & Game. In National Forest & Monument: During hunting season with license. For information: 559-243-4005. Not in the Parks. Firearms must be dismantled prior to entering National Parks.

**COLLECT THINGS?** In National Forest & Monument: Gathering one or two cones or rocks for personal use is allowed without a permit. Not in Parks: Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. In both areas: Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.

**FEED WILDLIFE?** Not in any area! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous and may have to be killed. Some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.

**GO PICNICKING?** All areas have designated picnic sites. Never leave food unattended! Most picnic sites have tables, restrooms, water & fire grills.

**DRIVE OFF-ROAD?** Not in Monument or Park. In the Forest: ask a ranger about designated routes.

**RIDE A BICYCLE?** In National Forest & Monument: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In Parks: Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. In both areas: Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet. Bicycles are never allowed in designated Wilderness Areas.

**For information on Sequoia National Forest & Giant Sequoia National Monument contact:**

**Sequoia National Forest & Giant Sequoia NM**  
1839 S. Newcomb Street  
Porterville, CA 93257  
559-784-1500  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

**For information on Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks contact:**

**Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks**  
Ash Mountain Headquarters  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
559-565-3341  
[www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)



United States  
Department of Agriculture



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region

Tule River & Hot Springs Ranger Districts  
Sequoia National Forest

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