



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon  
National Parks

47050 Generals Hwy.  
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone  
559 565-3730 fax

## Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

**For Immediate Release:** January 13, 2012

**Contact:** Deb Schweizer

**Phone Number:** (559) 565-3703 (office)

### Fee Free Weekend in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

In observance of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** on **Monday, January 16, 2012**, the National Park Service is waiving entrance fees to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks the entire weekend: **Saturday, January 14 – Monday, January 16.**

Although *popular winter activities are not possible at this time due to lack of snow*, visitors can still **sightsee, hike**, and experience the **giant sequoia trees, Moro Rock, and Crescent Meadow**. Highway 180 east of Fresno enters Kings Canyon National Park near the General Grant Grove of sequoias. Highway 198 east of Visalia takes you to Sequoia National Park 's entrance, with an hour drive up to the Giant Forest Grove of sequoia trees. All hiking trails in these and surrounding areas are open and free of snow.

The section of the Generals Highway (road connecting the two parks) between Wuksachi Lodge and Monticeto Lake Resort will be open only from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. this weekend and on Monday; the holiday. This will allow visitors to enter the parks at one end and exit at the opposite end. This portion of the highway is closed on regular weekdays.

On Saturday and Sunday, road construction on a short section of the Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park will cause delays of up to 20 minutes, enforced by a traffic light. On Monday, vehicles will experience 20-minute to 2-hour delays. Go to [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) for a more detailed road construction schedule. Although the roads are clear of snow at this time, *chains could be required in the event of new snow*. Please call 559/565-3341 for more information about weather and road conditions before heading to the parks.

After entering the parks, stop at a park visitor center for updated information and advice on planning your visit. Each visitor center offers information, exhibits, a bookstore, and restrooms.

- **Foothills Visitor Center** near the south entrance of Sequoia National Park is open 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily.
- **Lodgepole Visitor Center** in Sequoia National Park is open Friday – Monday only, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **Kings Canyon Visitor Center** at Grant Grove in Kings Canyon National Park is open from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily.

Come enjoy the parks, the unseasonably warm and dry weather, and the Fee Free Days to honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.

–NPS–

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.