

NEWS RELEASE



Giant Sequoia National Monument
Sequoia National Forest
Hume Lake and Western Divide Ranger Districts
32588 HWY 190, Springville CA 93265

Centennial 1908 - 2008

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For Immediate Release

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Giant Sequoia National Monument Recreation Update for Labor Day Weekend

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST Labor Day weekend has historically been one of the busiest weekends of the year in the Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sequoia National Forest. In order to ensure a camping spot, advanced reservations are recommended by calling 1-877-444-6777 or on the World Wide Web at www.recreation.gov

Dispersed camping is available most anywhere in the National Forest; however we are currently in fire restrictions. Under these restrictions, campfires and charcoal barbecues will only be allowed in developed campgrounds and posted designated areas. A California campfire permit is required for campfires in those designated areas and can be picked up, free of charge, from any Forest Service office. Only lanterns and portable gas stoves using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel will be permitted outside campgrounds and developed areas with a valid California campfire permit.

With continuing hot and dry temperatures, fire officials urge the public to "Please Be Fire Safe," when visiting our forests and public lands. Wildfires can be damaging. The personal liability can be enormous for the cost of suppression and damages caused by any wildfire that starts by negligence. It's a clear choice ... "Be Fire Wise!!!"

Off-highway vehicle use is restricted to roads within the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Mountain-bike use is restricted to trails and roads. Trails where mountain-bike use is prohibited are signed. Possessing or storing glass containers is prohibited along the Tule River from Wishon Campground to its intersection with Highway 190 and from the Forest Service boundary along Highway 190 to the Moorehouse Fish Hatchery located just below Camp Nelson.

On the Hume Lake District there will be naturalist programs at Hume Lake, Princess, and Stony Creek Campgrounds throughout the holiday weekend. Please check at the campground kiosk for more information. The programs are free and all are invited.

At Quaking Aspen Campground, on the Tule River Ranger District, the last in a series of campfire programs will begin at 8:00 p.m. Saturday August 30th with Ruthie Heuer presenting a talk about mountain lions and black bears. The program is free and all are invited; it lasts approximately 1 hour.

The Forest Service office in Springville will be open Friday August 29th until 8 p.m. then closed Saturday August 30. Dunlap will be open for visitors Saturday August 30th. Both offices will be closed Sunday and Monday August 31, and September 1st. For more information about the Hume Lake Ranger District please call (559) 338-2251. For more information about the Western Divide Ranger District please call (559) 539-2607.

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