



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559-565-3341 phone
www.nps.gov/seki

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

Release Date: October 1, 2013

Contact: Dana M. Dierkes, dana_dierkes@nps.gov, 559-565-3131 (o), 559-679-2866 (cell)

Government Shutdown Forces Closure of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA—Because of the shutdown of the federal government caused by the lapse in appropriations, the National Park Service (NPS) has closed all 401 national parks, including Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. All visitor facilities including visitor centers, park hotels, campgrounds and roads are closed. The park will remain closed until the government reopens.

Woody Smeck, superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, said that park visitors in all overnight campgrounds and lodges will be given until 3 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Thursday, October 3, to make travel arrangements and leave the parks. In addition, all park programs and special events have been canceled.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks hosts 3,900 visitors on average each day in October; nationally, more than 715,000 visitors a day frequent the National Park System. Nationwide the NPS stands to lose approximately \$450,000 per day in lost revenue from fees collected at entry stations and fees paid for in-park activities such as cave tours, boat rides and camping. Gateway communities across the country see about \$76 million per day in total sales from visitor spending that is lost during a government shutdown. Visitors spend approximately \$121,892,000 a year in the communities around Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

In Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, 284 employees are on furlough because of the shutdown. A total of 63 employees remain on duty, providing security and emergency services.

Nationwide, the shutdown has also furloughed more than 20,000 National Park Service employees; approximately 3,000 employees remain on duty to ensure essential health, safety, and security functions at parks and facilities. About 12,000 park concessions employees are also affected.

Because it will not be maintained, the National Park Service website will be down for the duration of the shutdown. NPS.gov has more than 750,000 pages and 91 million unique visitors each year.

For updates on the shutdown, please visit www.doi.gov/shutdown.

-NPS-

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts nearly 1.7 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.