



U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Sequoia National Forest and
Giant Sequoia National Monument
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia

News Release

For Immediate Release

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A Notice to the Public about Prescribed Burning

PORTERVILLE, Calif., – The Pacific Southwest Region is moving forward with prescribed fire operations as conditions and resources permit. Previously, the region had postponed prescribed fires to reduce potential smoke impacts to communities while public health officials considered the interactions of smoke with COVID-19 effects; and to ensure our emergency response resources were putting into place proper procedures to mitigate COVID-19 risks.

Regional Forester Randy Moore stated, “To date we have accomplished a lot of important fuels reduction projects this year with our partners to protect communities and reduce the risks of catastrophic wildland fires. We will continue to prioritize the health and safety of communities and firefighters during this global and national emergency, and will also conduct prescribed fire where feasible as an important tool to protect communities and natural resources as we prepare for the upcoming peak fire season.”

Prescribed fire is an important tool in the protection of communities and forests from large scale wildfire. Continuing our service to you while doing our part to address the COVID-19 Pandemic is our priority.

The Forest Service manages 18 national forests in the Pacific Southwest Region, which encompasses over 20 million acres across California, and assists state and private forest landowners in California, Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. National forests supply 50 percent of the water in California and form the watershed of most major aqueducts and more than 2,400 reservoirs throughout the state. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/R5.

Please call your local Sequoia National Forest Ranger Station, Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm or email SM.FS.SequoiaNF@usda.gov for current Forest information.

Kern River Ranger District	760-549-9533
Western Divide Ranger District	559-920-0460
Hume Lake Ranger District	559-791-5758
Supervisor’s Office	559-920-1588

Stay informed, follow our webpage at www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia, Facebook at [#SequoiaNF](https://www.facebook.com/SequoiaNF), Twitter at [@sequoiaforest](https://twitter.com/sequoiaforest) or [SequoiaNF OnCell app](#).

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our national forests safe and healthy for everyone’s use.

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