

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

559 565-3341 phone 559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

For Immediate Release – August 20, 2012 Anne Birkholz (559) 565-3704, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Two Lightning Fires Detected in Kings Canyon National Park

Two new lightning-caused fires have been detected in Kings Canyon National Park. The Slide 1 and Slide 2 fires are both located in remote locations in the cliffs above the Middle Fork of the Kings River within the park.

Both fires are one-tenth of an acre and burning in Red Fir and Manzanita.

Slide 1 is at 8,700 feet in elevation. It cannot be safely accessed by firefighters because it is in an area with 150% slope. It has low potential for growth since is surrounded by rock cliffs. This fire will be routinely monitored by air.

Slide 2 is at 9,900 feet and has low potential for growth for now as the fuels are wet. It is also in steep country, in an area with a 60% slope.

For now, park firefighters are being stationed in critical front-country locations near development to be ready for any new fire starts in these areas. Fire danger is extreme and numerous lightning storms have passed over the parks.

The Slide 2 Fire will be re-assessed after hazards to firefighters subside (the current lightning pattern). During this very active fire season, monitoring this fire may be the best strategy so that firefighters can be made available to more critical needs fires throughout the western United States.

Neither fire poses a threat to life or property.

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