National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: March 23, 2012 Contact: Dana M. Dierkes Phone Number: (559) 565-3131 (desk)

Plan Ahead to Reduce Impacts of Storm Damage on Plans to Camp/Hike at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Three Rivers, CA – Recent storm damage has affected visitor access to several park facilities at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The affected areas are located in Sequoia National Park near the town of Three Rivers, California, and may be accessed via Highway 198. Specifically:

- Potwisha Campground remains closed and is scheduled to reopen (tentatively) on 3/30 at 12 noon. Check <u>http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm</u> or call the park at 559-565-3341 to confirm open/closed status before an upcoming visit to the park.
- Other camping is available in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Buckeye Flat Campground (28 tent-only sites, no RVs or trailers allowed) is now open in Sequoia National Park. (*This facility opened a week early to provide more camping opportunities for the public.*) South Fork Campground (10 tent-only sites, no RVs or trailers allowed) in Sequoia National Park is open. In addition, Azalea Campground (limited # of sites, snow) is available for camping in Kings Canyon National Park. For more details, visit http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm.
- RV/trailer campsites may be available in nearby communities.
- The Marble Fork Trail, which is accessed through Potwisha Campground, is closed until further notice.
- The Middle Fork Trailhead Road, which may be accessed from Buckeye Flat Campground Road, is closed to vehicular traffic until further notice. However, hikers may still access the area.
- Recent storms caused a significant amount of damage to trees at lower elevations in the parks. Be alert for damaged trees, and avoid overhead hazards while visiting the parks.

For more information, visit <u>www.nps.gov/seki</u> or call 559-565-3341.

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