Finding aid for the Fire Monitoring and Fire Effects Records

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Finding aid for the Fire Monitoring and Fire Effects Records

Collection number: SEKI 22368

Museum and Archives
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
Three Rivers, California

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Fire Monitoring and Fire Effects records
Dates: 1968-1999
Collection number: SEKI 22368
Creator: Sequoia National Park (Calif.). Division of Visitor, Fire and Resource Protection
Collection Size: 13 linear feet.
Repository: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Museum and Archives
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9700
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Abstract: Records generated within the organizational divisions of Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park concerning Park management, planning and development.
Access
Collection is open for research by appointment.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
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Biography / Administrative History
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have been at the forefront of fire management and the evolution of National Park Service fire policy since the 1950s. Building on the research into the ecology of Giant Sequoia groves begun by Richard Hartesveldt in the mid-1960s, the Parks recognized that the exclusion of all fire was inhibiting Sequoia regeneration. An appreciation of the central role played by fire, the Parks were among the first in the Park service to reappraise its approach to fire management. In 1968, the Parks began both a prescribed burn and a let burn policy for selected fires ignited by lightning at higher elevation, where the risks for major conflagration were minimal. By the early 1970s, the Parks had begun to reintroduce fire to much of landscape, a complete reversal of nearly a hundred years precedent.

The Parks' began monitoring the effects of fire on park ecosystems with the advent of the early, experimental burns of the late 1960s. The Fire Monitoring and Fire Effects crew was established in 1982 as a part of the Division of Resources Management to standardize these efforts. The fire monitoring effort was meant to document short-term effects, while the fire effects program was to document long-term effects. In the mid-1980s, a review of fire management brought attention to the new program. In the early 1990s, fire monitoring efforts were separated from fire effects so different skill sets could
be emphasized. Around 2000, the fire monitoring program was placed under the authority of the Parks' fire management program.

**Scope and Content of Collection**
The collection consists of correspondence, reports, plans, field notes, and briefing papers.

**Arrangement**
The collection is organized into four series: Series I Correspondence; Series II Fire Monitoring Reports and Surveys; Series III Fire Management Program Planning; and Series IV Fire Management Program Review.

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
- Sequoia National Park (Calif.). Division of Visitor, Fire and Resource Protection.
- Fire testing--Sequoia National Park (Calif.)
- Fire management--Sequoia National Park (Calif.)
- Fire investigation--Sequoia National Park (Calif.)

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**Folder 001-052**


**Series Scope and Content Summary**
The series consists of correspondence, plans, reports, memoranda, and research studies relating to forest fire control, fire management, prescribed fire, and forest ecology.

**Arrangement**
Chronological.

**Folder 053-336**


**Series Scope and Content Summary**
The series consists of protocols, reports, narratives, field notes, weather reports, and fuels inventories. Important topics include post-fire rehabilitation, the Amphitheater Point fire, and primary data for fire behavior.

**Arrangement**
Chronological.

**Folder 337-356**


**Series Scope and Content Summary**
The series consists of plans, articles and Press releases relating to the parks' fire management program and prescribed fire.

**Arrangement**
Chronological.

**Folder 357-398**


**Series Scope and Content Summary**
In the mid-1980s, public concern over the Parks' use of prescribed fire as a means of maintaining the ecological health of forest ecosystems lead to the cessation of all prescribed burning in the National Park Service. A panel was convened to review the Parks' fire management program in an attempt to balance public concern with resource benefit.
The series consists of reports, policies, proceedings, and public comments relating to the Parks' fire management program, particularly its use of prescribed fire as a resource management tool.

**Arrangement**
Chronological.