

Daily Report - Yosemite National Park Monday, August 31, 2009

Weather

Yosemite Valley

Today: Sunny, with a high near 91. Southeast wind 6 to 16 mph becoming southwest.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. Southwest wind between 13 and 16 mph becoming light.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 91. Light wind becoming southwest between 10 and 13 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. West southwest wind between 7 and 10 mph becoming calm.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 94. East wind around 7 mph becoming west southwest.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55.

El Portal Area

Today: Sunny, with a high near 95. East wind 8 to 14 mph becoming south southwest.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 57. South southwest wind between 10 and 13 mph becoming calm.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 95. East wind at 9 mph becoming west.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57. West wind at 8 mph becoming north.

Wednesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 98. East northeast wind 6 to 9 mph becoming west southwest.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58.

Tuolumne Area

Today: Sunny, with a high near 69. Southwest wind 7 to 10 mph increasing to between 17 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 23 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 37. Southwest wind 17 to 20 mph decreasing to between 7 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 23 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 69. Southwest wind between 6 and 16 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39. Southwest wind between 12 and 15 mph becoming calm.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39.

Happening This Weekend

- **Road Closures:** The Big Oak Flat road is closed from Highway 140 to Crane Flat and the Foresta road into the community of Foresta. There is no estimated time for the road to re-open. Highway 120 from Big Oak Flat entrance station is open to Crane Flat, on to Tuolumne Meadows, and Highway 395.
- **Monday Aug 31 through Thurs:** The District Forestry and Roads Crews will continue removing hazard trees and encroaching vegetation along the Valley Loop roads. Work will proceed east along S. Side Drive from the Bridelveil Jct area. Traffic control with temporary delays will be in effect from 8:00am until 4:30pm
- **The Superintendent's Bridge will be closed for repairs during the work week from the dates of August 31 to September 18.** Alternative crossings can be made at Swinging Bridge, approximately .7 mile downstream, or Sentinel Bridge, approximately .3 mile upstream. Access **will** be allowed from Thursday evening to Monday morning during this time.

Park News

Residents in Old El Portal and Foresta are approved for administrative leave until the evacuation order is lifted. Please continue to check in with your supervisor on a daily basis.

If your work area is in Old El Portal (i.e. Fiscal Office, Vegetation Office, etc) and you have not been evacuated, please report to your work station Monday and report to your supervisor.

Please note that the Big Oak Flat Road (intersection at Crane Flat down to Hwy 140) is still closed to traffic. Only fire personnel or workers with fire orders will be allowed access. You must present appropriate paper work in order to be allowed through. (R Soden 8/31/09)

Note this change for seasonal/temporary employees: Seasonal and temporary uniform ordering cut-off date is September 1, 6:00 PM EST. Permanent and term uniform ordering cut-off date for FY 2009 remains the same: September 5, 6:00 PM EST. (M De Boer 8/31/09)

Updates

Big Meadow Fire Incident Fact Sheet Yosemite National Park Saturday, August 30, 2008 – 8:00am

Fire Information

Phone (209) 372-0480, 372-0327 or 372-0669

Media Inquiries– (209) 209-372-0248 or 372-0529

Big Meadow Fire Website: www.inciweb.org/incident/1869/

Current Situation: Yesterday, firefighters made good progress improving fire lines east of El Portal. The active portion of the fire is in the north and northwest flanks away from Foresta and El Portal. Today, the highest priority continues to be improving fire lines east of El Portal and structure protection in Foresta. Firefighters are aided by 11 water dropping helicopters and six air tankers. Control difficulties continue to be hot weather, low humidity, and steep terrain.

Fire Status	Resources
Fire Name: Big Meadow	Crews: 24
Geographic Location: Foresta, CA	Engines: 94
Acres Burned: 4,382 acres (updated at 0930am)	Helicopters: 11
Start Date: 8/26/2009	Air Tankers: 6
Percent Contained: 50 percent	Dozers: 8
Expected Containment Date: September 10, 2009	Water Tenders: 12
Cause: Escaped Prescribed Fire	Total Personnel Assigned: 906
Injuries: 2, minor	Estimated Cost: 5,000,000.
Structures Threatened: 50 residences, 1 commercial, 25 outbuildings	
Structures Destroyed: 0	

Special Announcements: Due to fire operations, the Tioga Road maybe closed or restricted at anytime.

Evacuations: Foresta, Old El Portal, and the Yosemite View Lodge

Public Meeting: A fire update meeting is scheduled for El Portal on Monday, August 31, at 6:30 pm at the El Portal School.

Evacuation Centers: An evacuation center has been established at the Mariposa Elementary School, 5044 Jones Street in Mariposa.

Road Closures: The Big Oak Flat Road from Crane Flat Gas Station to the intersection of El Portal Road and Big Oak Flat Road.

Trail Closures: Old Big Oak Flat Trailhead to El Capitan, Rockslides to El Capitan, Tamarack Creek to El Capitan.

Campground Closures: Tamarack and Crane Flat Campgrounds.

Cooperating Agencies: U.S. Forest Service, Mariposa County Sheriff, Mariposa County Fire, Cal Fire, CHP, American Red Cross, Delaware North Parks and Resort at Yosemite.

Fire Information: Fire information phone lines are staffed from 6am until 9pm. Phone numbers for fire information are 209-372-0327 and 209-372-0669.

Yosemite News Release
August 30, 2009, 12:50 p.m.
For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:
Scott Gediman 209-372-0248
Victoria Mates 209-372-0529

Tioga Road Access Restricted Due to Big Meadow Fire

The Tioga Road in Yosemite National Park will have restricted access, between Crane Flat and White Wolf, beginning Monday, August 31, continuing until fire operations along the road are complete. This segment of the road will have controlled access with a pilot car during daylight hours, and be closed completely each night. Motorists should expect delays, which could begin as early as Monday morning.

The Big Meadow Fire continues to spread northeast and use of the Tioga Road for fire operations is necessary. Fire activity is dynamic and conditions may dictate a complete closure of Tioga Road at any time.

Visitors to Yosemite National Park may also experience delays on Route 140 due to fire operations. The Big Oak Flat Road, from Crane Flat Gas Station to the intersection of El Portal Road and Big Oak Flat Road, remains closed. In addition, Crane Flat and Tamarack Flat Campgrounds, Foresta, Old El Portal, and Yosemite View Lodge also remain closed. There is no projected opening date at this time.

The Big Meadow Fire in Yosemite National Park and Stanislaus National Forest has grown to 4,382 acres and is 50% contained. The Big Meadow Fire was set by Yosemite National Park Fire Crews on August 26, 2009 as a prescribed burn and shortly thereafter, the fire grew out of the prescription lines.

For additional fire information please visit www.inciweb.org, www.nps.gov/yose/fire and www.nps.gov/fire/public/pub_firenews.cfm. In addition, visitors may call 209-372-0669 or 209-372-0327 for updated fire information during business hours. (V Mates 8/31/09)

Construction Project Status Report – 08/28/09

Projects Managed by the Project Management Division,
Construction Management Branch.

Integrated Utilities Phase 3a

(Water line from Lower Pines CG to the Ahwahnee)

- On-site work has begun and will continue into the fall of 2009.
- The contractor is working on either side of, and on the south side of the Ahwahnee Bridge. The bike path on the west side of the bridge is closed during work hours, with pedestrian and bicycle traffic being detoured.
- The secondary channel crossing east of the Ahwahnee Bridge is complete, restoration is underway.

Integrated Utilities Phase 3b

(Utility corridor in roadways from The Ahwahnee to east Yosemite Village)

- This project is currently in the construction contracting phase
- Construction will likely start toward the end of September.

Lower Tecoya Housing Utilities

(Water, sewer and power lines throughout the Lower Tecoya Housing area)

- Work is expected to begin by mid September.

Yosemite Lodge sewer line repairs

- Construction work to start again in October

Replace Gas Chlorination Systems at 5 Utility Plants

- The project is now substantially complete.

Half Dome View Rehabilitation

- Substantial Completion inspection has been postponed until further notice due to Big Meadow Fire.

Replace Primary Electric to Wawona Tunnel

- This project is currently in the early design phase.

Crane Flat Water – Phase 1

- This project is currently in the construction contracting phase.
- Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in mid September, 2009

Wawona Tunnel Ventilation Repair

- Continued installation of the carbon monoxide analysis system.
- Continued work on emergency phone and traffic gate system.

Wawona Road Rehabilitation

- Design-resource investigations are ongoing.

Arch Rock Entrance Station Rehabilitation

- On-site work will not begin until after Labor Day.

Glacier Point Road Rehabilitation

- Work continues on brushing, guardwall installation and subgrade repair. This work is requiring traffic control on both Glacier Point Road and Wawona Road. Pilot cars will escort traffic from both ends of the project on the hour and half hour intervals.
- Please be cautious of trench plates and loose gravel at culvert crossings and subgrade repair areas.

Yosemite Creek Campground Bridge

- Removal of the existing Yosemite Creek Campground Bridge will begin on Monday, 8-31-09. Construction of the new bridge will follow removal of the existing bridge and then continue until the Tioga Road closes. (M Wichmann 8/31/09)

Employee/Volunteer Corner

Dennis Mattiuzzi is retiring! Please join us in a celebration dinner, 5 pm, Friday September 11 at Cedar Lodge. \$16 includes Tri tip dinner and gift contribution. RSVP Rhonda Soden 372-0496. Reservations and payment must be made by Sept 4. No exceptions please. (D Stewart 8/31/09)

Acting Designations

Laura Elze (379-1012) will be acting for Carol Knipper, August 31st - September 7th, 2009.

Ken Stowell will be acting PCO Supervisor from 8/29-9/2 and Greg Green from 9/3-9/4 while Alan Hawksley is out of the park. Ken can be reached at 372-0533 or you may leave a message with Tammy Lawhon at 379-1278.

Mark Jones will be the acting El Portal Buildings and Grounds Supervisor from 8/28/09 to 9/7/09. He can be reached at 379-1171 or you may leave a message with Tara Hawksley at 379-1054.

Chris Flanagan will be Acting Corrals Supervisor from August 28 to September 21, 2009. Chris can be contacted at the NPS Corrals for any stock related issues at 372-0524 or 372-0575.

Historical Landscape Architect Daniel Schaible (379-1295) will be acting Branch Chief for History, Architecture & Landscapes from Thursday, Aug. 27 through Friday Sept. 4, 2009

I will be out of the Park through 9/8. Please contact Heather Whitman 379-1810 through 8/28; Cindy Whitten 379-1878 8/31 - 9/7; Thank you (I Keheley)

Craig Anthony will be acting for Roger Farmer while he is on a fire assignment. He can be reached at 379-1064

Andy Fristensky will be Acting Branch Chief, Public Involvement & Outreach, and Jeffrey Trust will be Acting Valley District Supervisor for Interpretation and Education until November 8.

Community News

Job Available: Executive Director for Mariposa Safe Families – responsible for leadership and overall management of Mariposa Safe Families, a nonprofit family support organization. Must be an organized people person who likes collaborating and multi-tasking. Bachelor's degree + 3 years nonprofit management experience preferred. Will consider equivalent combination of experience and education. Starting salary \$41,000/year + PTO – no benefits. Application deadline 8/31/09. Call (209)966-2211 or visit www.mariposafamilies.org for instructions to apply. (J Tilton 8/28/09)

Entries must be in by 7:00am the day of publication. There are no weekend or holiday editions.

Submissions: email yose_daily_report@nps.gov

Yosemite's *Daily Report* is an internal memorandum of long standing intended to provide timely administrative information needed for daily park operations. The primary purpose of the report is to serve as a communication tool for park management to pass specific operational information to field employees of Yosemite National Park, park partners, concessioners, and related government agencies in a fast and efficient manner and offer a format for interdivisional, interagency, and general intra-park notifications. Although the *Daily Report* is intended exclusively as an internal memorandum, it is posted here in an effort to extend timely operational information to the communities surrounding the park