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News Release

Contact: Denise Alonzo 559-539-2607 <u>dalonzo@fs.fed.us</u> Date: July 29, 2015



One-Lane Traffic on HWY 190 Due to Wildfire

SPRINGVILLE, California, July 29, 2015 – The "Stairs Fire" was found burning along Highway 190, between the river and the highway, just before 7 p.m. yesterday evening. The fire was located between Coffee Camp Day Use Area and the PG&E Powerhouse on the Western Divide Ranger District in Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sequoia National Forest.

Traffic was limited to one lane overnight, and will continue as firefighters are working along the highway to fully suppress the fire. Firefighters were able to contain the fire at 5 acres, and will be putting out hot spots on the fire today. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

"We were fortunate to have firefighters available to attack this fire right away," stated District Ranger Eric LaPrice. "With the dry vegetation in the Tule River Canyon, people need to be extremely careful with any activity they are doing along the river to ensure they do not cause a fire." The Forest is under fire restrictions banning all campfires and smoking along the Tule River.

For more information, please contact the Western Divide Ranger District (559) 539-2607 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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