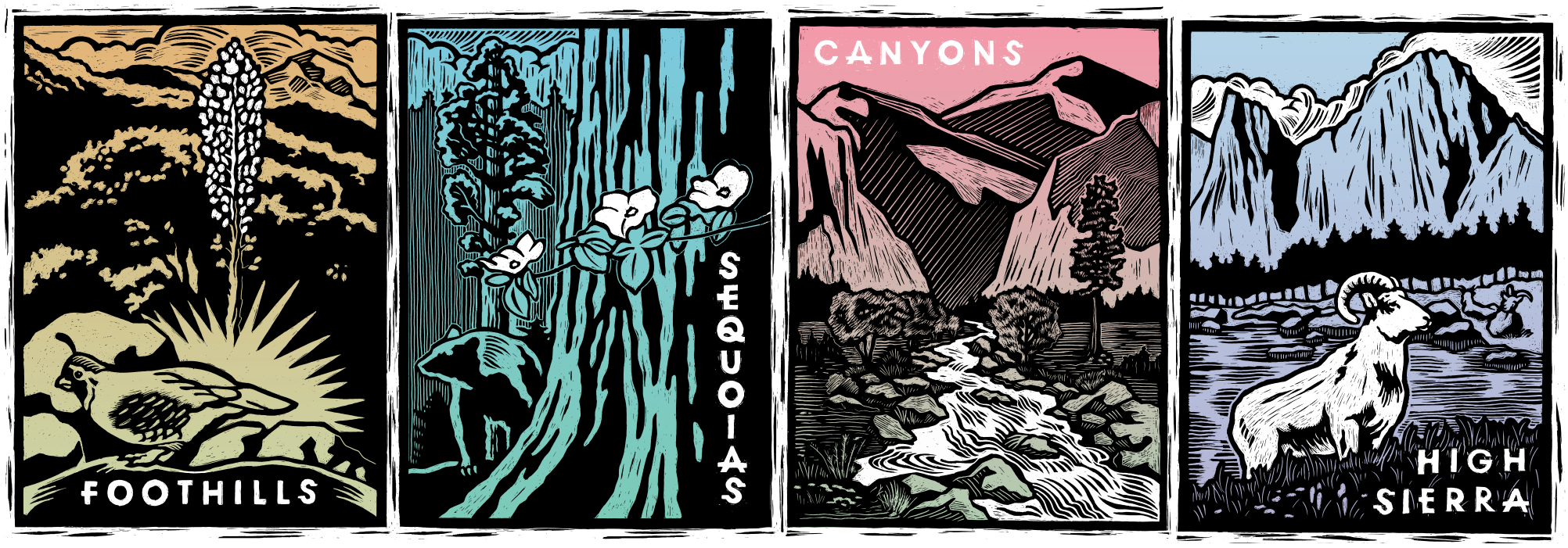

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

& SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

LATE SUMMER 2007

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Sequoia road delays

With a little planning, you can avoid much of a wait at a construction area on the Generals Highway. A 1-1/2 mile section of the old road is being reconstructed in Sequoia National Park between Hospital Rock Picnic Area and the Giant Forest.

Planned work schedule: Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Traffic can pass once per hour, at the top of the hour. Uphill traffic goes through first, then downhill traffic.

Try to get to the work zone at about 10 minutes before the hour (see drive-time chart below). *Slow down* as you approach the area; traffic may be stopped just around a curve. If night work is needed, signs and notices will be posted.

Last restrooms before the construction are at Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum. Be sure to use them, as none are available near the construction zone!

Follow instructions from flaggers and pilot cars. No stopping in the construction zone; Amphitheater Point and other overlooks in that stretch are closed. Go slow, give workers plenty of room, but keep up with traffic. After hours, automatic lights control traffic where the road narrows to one lane. Wait for the green light, or you'll get trapped by oncoming traffic!

While waiting, *put the car in park, turn it off, and keep your foot off the brakes* or they won't cool off. Overheated brakes fail, and cause most of the accidents and fires on this steep road.

During Labor Day weekend, traffic delays will be kept to 1/2 hour or less from noon on Friday, August 31, through Monday, September 3. Check locally for details.

Drive Time to Construction Zone from:

Sequoia Entrance / Hwy 198 – 35 minutes
Foothills Visitor Center – 30 minutes
Potwisha Campground – 21 minutes
Hospital Rock Picnic Area – 15 minutes
Giant Forest Museum – 15 minutes
Grant Grove Village – 1-1/4 hours

Do the Sequoia Shuttle!

A new shuttle bus system is serving the Giant Forest from late May through September 3!

Two free routes run in Sequoia National Park. One, the Giant Forest Route, goes from the Giant Forest Museum to the Sherman Tree, Lodgepole Village, and Wuksachi Lodge. The second leaves Giant Forest Museum for Moro Rock and Crescent Meadow.

See page 6 for details. Park in one of the large lots; the Lodgepole Campground (go past the campground entrance) or main Sherman Tree Parking are best.

The City of Visalia also runs a shuttle from Visalia to Three Rivers and up to the Giant Forest Museum — all for $10 round trip (including entrance fee). Riders can use it to connect to the free in-park shuttles.

Shuttles reduce traffic, air pollution, and parking hassles. You can park once, take the shuttle to another spot, then stroll a trail through the sequoias back to your car. Or ride it to get an overview of the area before deciding where to get off and visit.

This shuttle results from perserverance and partnerships. It represents one of the last steps in a decades-long effort to better preserve the Giant Forest and serve the visitors to the sequoia grove.

The park, working with the City of Visalia, has three years to make this pilot project permanent. We must show that enough visitors will ride the shuttles to continue the service. Try it; we hope you'll like it (the environment will thank you). Please pass on your suggestions and enjoy the ride!