

Belknap Complex – McIntyre, Wheel Meadow, Bear Creek Groves

WESTERN DIVIDE RANGER DISTRICT

GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST



Background

Belknap is a complex formed from the large McIntyre Grove, Wheel Meadow Grove and the smaller, compact Carr Wilson, or Bear Creek Grove. This grove complex offers beautiful trails through old-growth sequoias along Bear Creek and the Middle Fork of the Tule River. The grove complex is about 2,460 acres.

How to Get There

Take State Highway 190 up the Tule River Canyon past Springville to the small mountain community of Camp Nelson. Follow the signs to Belknap Campground. The campground is closed in the winter due to snow, and roads may be impassable during inclement weather. There are several large giant sequoias that can be enjoyed at Belknap Campground however there is a fee for day use. Parking is available at the trailhead for the Camp Nelson Trail at the end of the road, past the campground and summer homes.

Recreation Opportunities

There are several trails through this grove, including Forest Trail 31E30 and 31E31. Forest Trail 31E30, the Camp Nelson Trail, goes through the heart of the grove along the river and can be started at Belknap or Quaking Aspen campgrounds. You can stop and fish the Tule River along this trail. One large tree in the main grove area has been described as a monstrous umbrella. It is very short for a sequoia, but has a trunk almost as massive as the General Sherman tree (the largest sequoia in the world). Two other large sequoias in this complex have been hollowed out by fires. Amazingly enough they are still alive and growing.

The Bear Creek Trail (31E31) climbs from Coy Flat Road to Slate Mountain Ridge along the western edge of the grove. Along this trail you'll find a group of sequoias, as well as beautiful vistas along Slate Mountain Ridge.

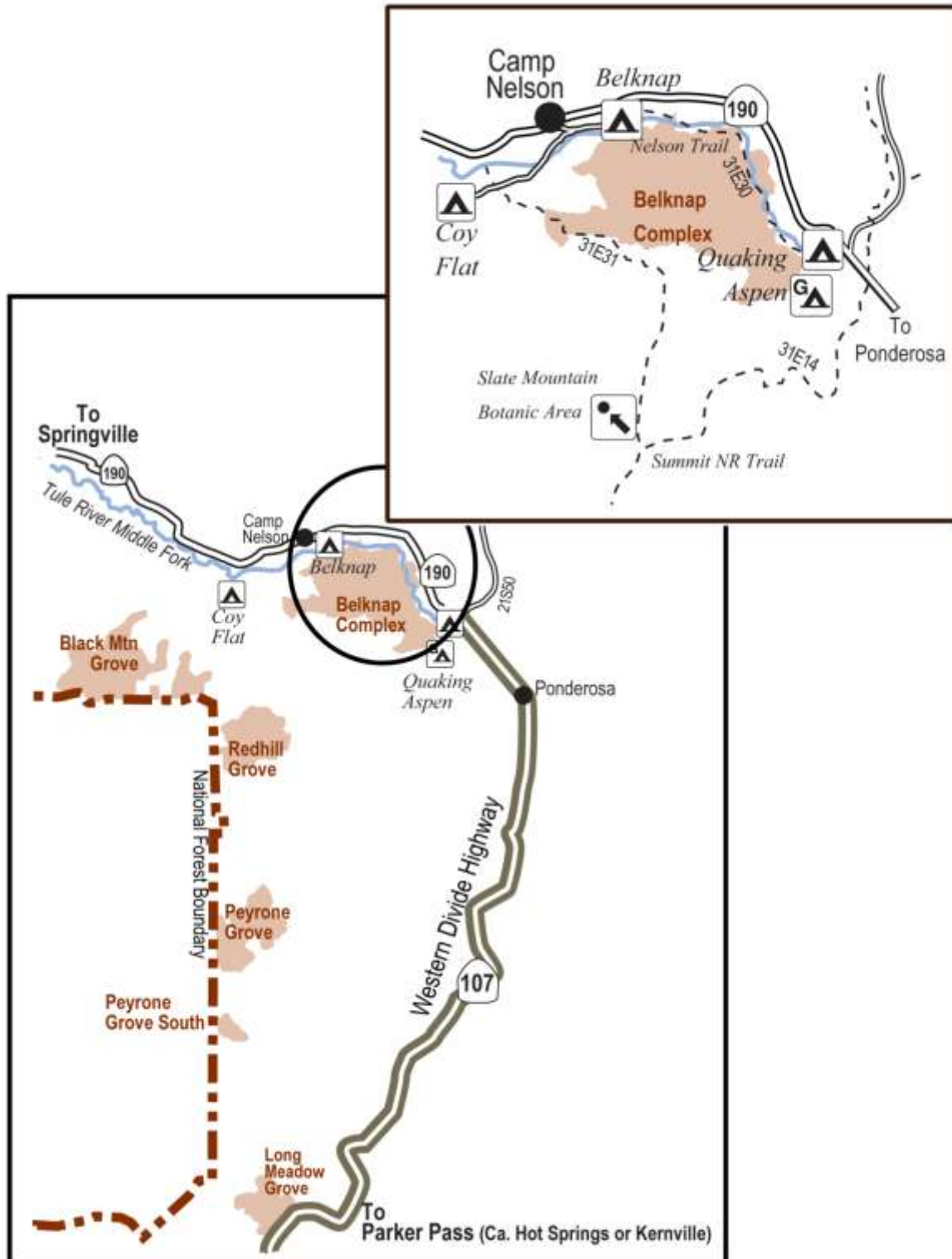
There are three campgrounds in the area. Belknap Campground is within the grove itself, Coy Flat is adjacent to it, and Quaking Aspen is a 30-minute

drive along Highway 190 to the east. These are fee campgrounds with drinking water and vault toilets. There are private cabins allowed under special use permits in two Forest Service Recreation Residence Tracts within the grove as well.



This tree is located on the Camp Nelson Trail east of Cedar Slope. Hikers, mountain bikes, and persons on horseback can pass through it's enormous trunk.

There are many large and interesting trees along this trail and the section of the Summit National Recreation Trail that travels along Bear Creek.



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