

# Yosemite reopens park areas affected by Rim fire

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Areas within Yosemite National Park closed due to last year's massive Rim fire -- including the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias and hiking trails in the Hetch Hetchy area -- are now open to the public, park spokesman Scott Gediman announced Wednesday.

Gediman, however, cautioned those traveling in areas affected by last year's Rim fire to be aware of potential risks, including burned trees, uneven ground, potential rockfall and debris on trails.

The now-open areas have been closed since the fire started in August. The Rim Fire, which began in Stanislaus National Forest, burned approximately 255,000 acres with about 77,000 of those acres within Yosemite.

Fire restrictions put in place last summer and fall have also been rescinded, Gediman said. However, he added, with California's extreme drought underway, it's possible that fire restrictions may be needed later this year.

For more information about areas within Yosemite affected by the Rim fire, visit <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/rimfire.htm>.

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