



## VISION STATEMENT

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*The Giant Sequoia National Monument is a publicly owned treasure in California's southern Sierra Nevada. The Monument's diverse geologic formations, ecosystems, and human history hold unique opportunities for public education, scientific study, and recreation. The Presidential Proclamation that created the Monument requires the protection of its natural, prehistoric and historic objects, while encouraging public enjoyment and use consistent with that protection.*

*Recognizing the need for pro-active, community-based solutions to mutually-dependent social, ecological, and economic concerns, the Sequoia Monument Recreation Council has as its foundation three unifying goals: (1) to promote community caring, respect, honesty, and collaborative processes; (2) to ensure forest and ecosystem health; and (3) to provide a range of ideas to assist Forest Service management personnel as they develop and implement a management plan to support a premier Monument that will well serve generations to come.*

## CHARTER

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1. The purpose of the Sequoia Monument Recreation Council collaboration is to thoroughly explore issues that relate to recreation on the Giant Sequoia National Monument and to provide a range of perspectives to the Forest Service as the Service develops a management plan for the Monument.
2. The Proclamation and other pertinent laws provide the context for all of the group's activities.
3. This collaboration is made up of representatives of groups with interests related to the Monument. Examples of "groups with interests related to the Monument"—a purposely large category—are listed in Appendix A. A representative may be added simply by showing that they do in fact represent a group with interests related to the Monument.

a) Members-at-Large (participants who are not representing a group) may be recommended by the Coordinating Committee and approved by the other members by super-majority (60% or more voting for approval). A member at large shall be eligible if his or her interests cannot be represented by a group.

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b) An alternate is a representative who alternates attendance with another representative from the same group.

c) For the sake of brevity, the term “representatives” will be used to signify “representatives, alternates and members at large, if any.”

d) If the size of the group expands beyond forty, the structure of this process may be reconsidered.

#### 4. Responsibilities of representatives include

- Consistent participation (representatives or representative / alternate teams never miss more than two meetings in a row),
- Control and management of this process,
- Candor and courtesy,
- Attention to the input of members of the public,
- Distilling issues and providing the Forest Service with a range of well thought-out perspectives,
- Coordination with the membership / constituents of the group they represent (not applicable to members at large),
- Coordination within the representative / alternate team, and
- Coordination with other aspects of the Monument Management Plan Collaborative.

“Coordination with other aspects of the Monument Management Plan Collaborative” means that representatives who participate in this group and who are involved in other aspects of the collaborative have a responsibility to share information between this group and the others, so long as that is permitted by the various confidentiality agreements.

5. The Sequoia Monument Recreation Council will provide a range of perspectives to the Forest Service after full discussion.

6. A Coordinating Committee of 7 representatives will:

- Employ and dismiss support staff, including the facilitator (working in coordination with the US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution as appropriate);
- Meet by conference call for one hour prior to each meeting to finalize the agenda and provide insight to the facilitator;
- Recommend members-at-large as appropriate, and
- Provide direction for the facilitator’s communications with the press.

With the exception of firing and hiring staff, which must be agreed upon by at least five of the members, the coordinating committee may propose decisions to the larger group, but they are not empowered to make those decisions themselves.

7. Members of the public are important participants in this process. As well as observing the representatives’ deliberations, the public will have ample opportunity to comment on agenda items prior to the meeting and will comment on plenary discussions during the meeting to the extent logistically possible. Members of the public are asked to jot down notes and raise issues during those

opportunities rather than jumping into the representatives' discussions. The intention here is to create some sort of defined "space" within which representatives can begin to form a consistent, forward-moving dialog, while including the diversity and energy of all interested people to the extent possible.

8. Responsibilities of the members of the public who attend the meetings include:

- Candor and courtesy,
- Consideration for the meeting agenda and the purposes of the meeting.

9. The vast majority of meetings will be public. The group may occasionally schedule a retreat, where the primary purpose is to strengthen communication and relationship.

10. The location of the meetings may vary so that would-be participants —representatives and members of the public—are not unduly disadvantaged.

11. Plenary meetings will typically be held once a month, the last Thursday of the month, from 5:30 to 8:30.

12. Outreach, such as press releases for meetings, will be performed by the Forest Service until June 1st, 2008. Subsequently, a non-FS representative will ensure that the public is informed of the meetings and of important decisions.

13. Draft notes of plenary meetings will be posted on a publicly-available website and distributed by e-mail to interested parties within two weeks of a meeting; the notes will be amended and approved at the following meeting, then posted in their final form.

14. Draft Agendas for an upcoming meeting will be developed at the end of the current meeting and included in the notes.

15. Conference calls and smaller group meetings may or may not be public, at the discretion of the participants. However, decisions made in smaller meetings must be forwarded to the full Sequoia Monument Recreation Council meeting for approval. These smaller meetings may include representatives as well as people who are not representatives, depending on the objectives of the meeting. Typically, non-trivial meetings should have notes posted on the publicly-available website within two weeks of the meeting.

16. The group's website will be managed by the facilitator through 2008. As long as the participation is constructive, the website will be managed as a collaborative website. This includes:

- a) A shared space accessible to anyone who requests a login and password, and who has access to the internet. All information that is in its final form, and much that is yet in draft form, will be available on the shared space: documents, announcements, scheduling, calendars, contacts, and the facilitator's evolving workplan. This provides access not only to this group's activities, but also to the other aspects of the Monument Management Plan Collaborative. As well as the ability to download this information, any member of the public who has asked for a login may post documents, announcements, etc. This space is managed by the facilitator; if postings are

unconstructive, or if the space is deemed unnecessary or unused, the facilitator may shut down the shared space and move it to a static website. When this document refers to a “publicly-available website” that means this shared space or, if necessary, the static website that replaces it. The facilitator will make periodic updates on this space.

- b) Several virtual “caucuses.” This means private spaces for subgroups in the larger collaborative. For instance there is a collaborative web space for representatives to this group. It is a place where draft documents can be posted and e-mail-type communication can occur. The confidentiality of these materials is protected under the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act. The ground rule for this space is that once preliminary ideas have taken shape, a summary of those thoughts should be posted on the shared space.

17. A representative will distribute, gather, and ensure the posting of evaluations for all plenary meetings.

18. Except for public meetings, discussions and virtual discussions (e-mail, discussions on the private shared space, etc.) among representatives or between representatives of this collaborative and participants in other aspects of the Monument Management Plan Collaborative are confidential as provided under the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act. Likewise, the facilitator’s discussions and virtual discussions related to this group’s work or to the Monument Management Plan Collaborative are confidential.

19. The facilitator may not speak to the press with regard to this process except as directed by the Coordinating Committee.

20. Statements made outside meetings are an important part of community-building, both the community that each representative enjoys with those represented, and also the community that will develop among members of this collaboration. Nothing in this charter restricts the types of statements a Sequoia Monument Recreation Council member may make (so long as they do not violate confidentiality). However, statements made within one group, such as in their newsletter or on their website, can raise concerns outside that group. If this happens, representatives are asked to bring such issues to the Council for discussion.

21. Funding. As of early 2008, funding for this process is provided by the Forest Service through its Memorandum of Understanding, with the US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. The Institute contracts with the facilitator, who is a member of their roster. Alternate funding is welcome and may grow out of the partnerships developed by this group. Conversely, the group could become self-facilitating.

22. Amendments to this document should be made by consensus, if possible, or by 80% of the representatives in a duly-noticed meeting.

23. This charter is not legally binding. Its primary purpose is to define the aspirations for this group. A secondary purpose for this charter is to establish this as a collaboration process subject to the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act. Also, this charter does not set a precedent for ground rules in other aspects of the Monument Management Plan Collaborative.

**SEQUOIA MONUMENT  
RECREATION COUNCIL MEMBERS:****Backcountry Horsemen:**

Steve Ladrigan

**CA Association 4 Wheel Drive:**

John Stewart

**CA Land Management:**

Eric Mart

**CA Native Plant Society:**

Joan Stewart

**El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust:**

Michael Weinberg

**Hume Lake Christian Camps:**

Jeff Lilley

**Kaweah Fly Fishers:**

Jim Brem

**Kern River Valley Revitalization:**

Jim Davis

**McIntyre Tract Organization:**

Eleanor Foerster

**Mineral King Preservation Society:**

Louise Jackson

**National Forest Recreation Association:**

Marily Reese

**National Park Service:**

Craig Axtell

Alternate: John Austin

**ORBA: Fred Wiley****Quaker Meadow Christian Camp:**

Matt Lusk

Alternate: Rick Ellis

**Rouch and Associates:**

Brian Rouch

**Safari Club International:**

Orville Hudspeth

**Sequoia Snowmobilers:**

Shidan Towfiq

**Soda Flat Tract:**

Jason Sherburne

**Southern Tulare County Sportsmen:**

Dwight Chaddock

**Sportsman's Council:**

Don Conner

**Springville Chamber of Commerce:**

Del Pengilly

**Tulare County Board of Supervisors:**

Steve Worthley

Alternate: Allen Ishida

**Tulare County Historical Society:**

Terry Ommen

**Tule River Tribal Council:**

Neil Peyron, Chairman

Alternate: Shannon Alto

**Upper Tule Association:**

Margaret Towfiq

**US Forest Service:**

Tina Terrell

Alternates: Marianne Emmendorfer, Nancy

Ruthenbeck

**Youth:** Tyler Willis

**SIGNED:**

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Steve Ladrigan  
Backcountry Horsemen

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Date

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Michael Weinberg  
Big Meadow Property Owners; Buck Rock Foundation;  
El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust

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Date

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Eric Mart  
CA Land Management

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Joan Stewart  
CA Native Plant Society

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Date

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John Stewart  
CA Association 4 Wheel Drive

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Date

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Jeff Lilley  
Hume Lake Christian Camps

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Date

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Jim Brem  
Kaweah Fly Fisher

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Date

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Jim Davis  
Kern River Valley Revitalization, Inc. (KRVR)

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Date

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Eleanor Foerster  
McIntyre Tract Organization

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Date

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Louise Jackson  
Mineral King Preservation Society

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Date

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Marilyn Reese  
National Forest Recreation Association

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Date

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Craig Axtell  
National Park Service

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Date

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Fred Wiley  
ORBA

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Date

*Signature pending*

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Matt Lusk  
Quaker Meadow Christian Camp

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Date

*Signature pending*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Rouch  
Rouch and Associates

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Orville Hudspeth  
Safari Club International

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Shidan Towfiq  
Sequoia Snowmobilers

Date

*Signature pending*

Jason Sherburne  
Soda Flat Tract

Date

Dwight Chaddock  
Southern Tulare County Sportsmen

Date

*Signature pending*

Don Conner  
Sportsman's Council of Central California

Date

Del Pengilly  
Springville Chamber of Commerce

Date

*Signature pending*

Steve Worthley  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Date

*Signature pending*

Terry Ommen  
Tulare County Historical Society

Date

*Signature pending*

Neil Peyron, Chairman  
Tule River Tribal Council

Date

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Margaret Towfiq  
Upper Tule Association

*Signature pending*

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Tina Terrell  
US Forest Service

*Signature pending*

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Tyler Willis  
Youth

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Date

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Date

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Date