



# NEWS RELEASE

Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument

1839 S. Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257

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## **Monumental Outlook Over The Horizon**

(What's Happening on the Sequoia National Forest  
Giant Sequoia National Monument)

**By Tina Terrell, Forest Supervisor**

**Porterville, CA.....**

Hello Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument Stakeholders!

In January 2008, the Forest Service (Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument along with the Pacific Southwest Research Station) signed a historic partnership agreement with the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and the US Geological Survey to work together to better understand climate change and its effects on the Southern Sierra Nevada ecosystem. The long-term goal of this partnership was the establishment of a Research Learning Center. One of the short term goals was the hosting of a science symposium in the fall.

Well, the time for the science symposium is fast approaching so mark your calendars to attend. The purpose of the Southern Sierra Science Symposium is to explain and design the research science agenda for the future in the southern Sierras according to the partnership agreement or Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU).

The MOU states,

"The parties to this agreement recognize and agree to collaboratively develop a program of research, resources management, and public education to help mitigate the impacts from and adapt to climate change effects on ecosystems of the southern Sierra Nevada."

The science symposium will be organized around broad scale environmental "[agents of change](#)" affecting the Southern Sierra Ecosystems which include giant sequoia groves. The array of topics the Program Committee established focus on 5 areas or [agents of change](#):

- [Climate change](#)
- [Fire](#)
- [Forest management](#)
- [Pollutants](#)
- [Invasive species](#)

The symposium is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, September 4 and 5, 2008, to be held at the Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, California from 9:00 AM until 5:30 PM. Day 1 will be open to the public. Day 2 would be a committee of scientists and resource managers working with a facilitator to begin developing the research plan for the Southern Sierra Nevada. These dates also give the symposium participants the opportunity to attend the Celebrate Sequoias Festival the next day, Saturday, September 6, on the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Day 1 will consist of facilitated science panel presentations based on resource areas or ecosystem topics. Interested publics and scientists will be invited to attend and listen to the presentations/discussions. By the end of Day 1 there should be some clarification on what are the research gaps and challenges facing the southern Sierra Nevada ecosystems in relation to climate change.

Day 2 will be a facilitated discussion/ work day to begin developing the research plan. This will include resource managers and scientists to come up with an overall outline for the research needs, a priority list, identification of the next step in the collaborative process and initial working groups to initiate next steps. The outcomes from this work day and the development of a research plan will be shared with the public.

Currently the planning committee has a diverse array of speakers lined up to speak at the symposium. They represent scientists from academia, federal agencies (National Park Service, Forest Service, US Geological Survey), and conservation organizations. A poster session will be on display as well with additional related science topics dealing with: fire behavior and ecology, invasive species, air/water pollution, climate change, forest management practices and social aspects of natural resource management.

For more information about the Southern Sierra Science Symposium you can visit:

[www.fs.fed.us/psw/southernSierrascience](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/southernSierrascience).

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