



# NEWS RELEASE

Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument

1839 S. Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257

Date: May 27, 2010

Op-Ed – *Monumental Outlook Over the Horizon*

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## Volunteer Efforts Needed for Tule River Protection

Memorial weekend officially signals summer is here so plan to get outdoors in the Sierras! A joint effort between the Forest Service and a community based non-profit organization known as WildPlaces is underway in the Giant Sequoia National Monument on the Western Divide Ranger District. WildPlaces efforts create and support communities that are active *stewards of the land* through education, youth service learning, community organizing, and hands-on restoration projects.

WildPlaces mission is to preserve, support, and protect California's natural and rural places, and the people of these landscapes, through volunteer-driven habitat restoration, natural and cultural education, and career development. This partnership envisions communities that are active and provide a long term role in the preservation and health of the resources - water, land, air and culture.

The joint efforts include:

**Río Limpio** - Tule River Outreach and Cleanup is a watershed-wide community effort to keep the Tule River safe, clean and open for all to use. Volunteers eliminate garbage and graffiti from the river while educating river users on good stewardship practices. WildPlaces has recently partnered with the Sequoia, Community Services Employment Training (CSET) and others to gather resources for a long term watershed management program.

**Springville Nursery** - WildPlaces and the Sequoia work in cooperation at a joint nursery to propagate native species for restoration and education purposes. Native oaks are grown to increase awareness about the status of oak woodlands in California. These oaks are available to educate private landowners on the benefits of using native drought tolerant plants in a region that is prone to prolonged drought. Giant Sequoia seedlings are also grown that are planted in the Giant Sequoia National Monument at volunteer events with the Sequoia. These seedlings offset poor natural seedling regeneration in the forest and also provide an educational opportunity on giant sequoia ecology.

### Volunteer, get out and get going to help provide healthy watersheds!

The first *Rio Limpio*, or river cleanup is scheduled Saturday, June 5. A BBQ lunch will be provided by WildPlaces. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Springville Memorial Park on Highway 190. Sign-ups start at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be held at Upper Coffee Camp Day Use Area starting at noon for volunteers. Additional river clean-ups dates to schedule are: July 10, and September 25, 2010.

Sign up to help with Rio Limpio events this summer. Contact Emily Creegan, WildPlaces at: (559) 539-5263, or email [emily@wildplaces.net](mailto:emily@wildplaces.net).

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