



NEWS RELEASE

Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument

1839 S. Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257

Centennial 1908-2008

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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..... Spring is here and it's time to get out into the great outdoors. Mother Nature is calling for you to come up and visit the Giant Sequoia National Monument in the Sequoia National Forest. This article focuses on the giant sequoia groves. Yes, those gorgeous, spectacular giant sequoia groves!

Within the Giant Sequoia National Monument there are 33 distinct groves. There has been much discussion regarding; *where* the groves are located in the Monument, *have* the groves been inventoried, *what* are the names of the groves, and the big question: *how many* giant sequoia trees are in the giant sequoia groves?

Well, here are the answers to the questions listed above. First, the names of the 33 groves are provided below along with their approximate acreage:

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|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Alder Creek – 408 acres | 21. Abbot Creek – 25 acres |
| 2. Black Mountain – 2,585 acres | 22. Agnew – 43 acres |
| 3. Burro Creek – 278 acres | 23. Bearskin – 187 acres |
| 4. Cunningham – 32 acres | 24. Big Stump – 431 acres |
| 5. Deer Creek – 144 acres | 25. Cherry Gap – 170 acres |
| 6. Dillionwood – 366 acres | 27. Converse Basin – 4,666 acres |
| 7. Freeman Creek – 4,182 acres | 27. Deer Meadow – 168 acres |
| 8. Long Meadow – 568 acres | 28. Grant – 292 acres |
| 9. Maggie Mountain – 64 acres | 29. Indian Basin – 448 acres |
| 10. Middle Tule – 301 acres | 30. Landslide – 226 acres |
| 11. Mountain Home – 1,299 acres | 31. Monarch – 54 acres |
| 12. Packsaddle (Packsaddle, Powderhorn) – 528 acres | 32. Redwood Mountain – 989 acres |
| 13. Peyrone – 741 acres | 33. Evans Complex – 4,255 acres |
| 14. Red Hill – 602 acres | (Evans, Lockwood, Kennedy) |
| 15. Silver Creek – 108 acres | |
| 16. South Peyrone – 115 acres | |
| 17. Starvation Complex – 182 acres | |
| 18. Upper Tule – 22 acres | |
| 19. Wishon – 171 acres | |
| 20. Belknap Complex (Belknap, Wheel, McIntyre) – 3,083 acres | |

The acreages listed are estimates which were developed in the 1990's when the Forest initiated an inventory and mapping project to delineate and define the boundaries of the giant sequoia groves. This initial inventory mapped all the giant sequoia groves, *but not the trees*, and estimated the boundary of the groves based on a negotiated perimeter line (under the Mediated Settlement Agreement between the

Forest Service and other parties) but didn't count the trees.

With new inventory and mapping techniques now available, we hope that satellite imagery will provide us with a better resolution to map the large trees. More sophisticated and accurate global positioning systems are now available, and we are pursuing opportunities to update our current inventory and maps of the groves. This new information as it is developed, will be included in the environmental document for the *new* Giant Sequoia National Monument Management. This next step forward will include the public at each step! Please visit our website to see the grove locations at: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/maps.

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Additional Background:

Many millions of year ago, giant sequoias and their ancestors grew throughout the Western United States and were found in higher elevation from present-day Idaho to Nevada. With the rise of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, less rain reached sequoias to the east, and those populations vanished. Populations of the giant sequoia trees, now mostly limited to the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, diminished even more at the end of the last ice age—about 10,000 to 4,500 years ago, when the Earth became slightly warmer than it is today.

Today, naturally occurring sequoia populations remain in central California, where they grow along a 260-mile stretch of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada range. Sequoias grow at middle elevations within this stretch—a narrow zone that is, in no place, more than 15 miles wide—alongside other tree species in mixed stands known as “groves.” The entire naturally occurring sequoia population consists of some 75 geographically disconnected groves, ranging from 1 to 4,000 acres in size. (The northern most grove is on the Tahoe National Forest and the majority of the groves lie south of the Kings River). Ample supplies of water, one of sequoias' most basic needs, explain the discontinuity of these groves. Sequoias naturally grow only where deep soils can hold water long into the dry summer. These patchy reservoirs of soil and water sustain the giants through the long, dry Sierra Nevada summers.

Sequoia Workshops Scheduled to Discuss

Recreation Facility Analysis 5-Year Program of Work

Porterville, CA..... Today, Forest Supervisor Tina Terrell has announced a series of public workshops to be held to introduce the revised document titled, **Recreation Facility Analysis 5-Year Program of Work**. “I want to say thank you to everyone who gave us input during this process,” stated Tina Terrell Forest Supervisor. “A quality recreation experience is my goal for visitors to the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument.”

Many of the recreation facilities on the forest were built 30-50 years ago and have reached the end of their useful life without significant investment. To keep these sites open and available for public use, operation and maintenance costs, and deferred maintenance need additional resources through partnerships, user fees and managing recreation areas that meet the public’s recreation niche. The forest will build a sustainable program in all of our recreation facilities over the next five years through partnerships, concessionaires and new avenues.

Workshops

Porterville – Forest Supervisors Office 1839 S. Newcomb	April 28, Monday	5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Bakersfield – East Bakersfield Vets Hall 2101 Ridge Road	April 29, Tuesday	5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Lake Isabella – Senior Center/Vet’s Hall 6405 Lake Isabella Blvd	April 30, Wednesday	5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Ridgecrest - Heritage Inn 1050 N. Norma	May 1, Thursday	5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Nationally, the Forest Service is analyzing all developed recreation sites through a national process called Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA). The purpose is to display the tasks needed over the next five years to bring each forest’s recreation infrastructure into alignment with the resources available to operate and maintain it to Forest Service standards. The Sequoia released the initial proposed program of work for public comment in January, 2007, and then revised the proposal. The result is the **Recreation Facility Analysis 5-Year Program of Work** dated March 19, 2008. This 5-Year Program of Work is a *blueprint* for managing recreation facilities on the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument. Any proposed closures or decommissioning of facilities must be implemented through the development of an environmental document process.

For further questions or comments, please contact Mary Chislock, Public Affairs Officer, or Mary Cole, Forest Landscape Architect at 559-784-1500. For a copy of the document, visit the Sequoia’s website at: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/projectsandplans/

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