



NEWS RELEASE

Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument

1839 S. Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257

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From the Sequoia

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Kern and Tulare County Resource Advisory Committee

The Kern and Tulare Counties Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) consist of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The RAC was formed in 2010 to recommend funding for special projects using partnerships that implement forest stewardship objectives under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. In 2011, the committee met five times and recommended funding 12 projects, in addition to five projects approved in 2010, totaling \$379,254.

Dollar for dollar, RAC projects represent an excellent investment of taxpayer dollars by use of volunteers, developing partnerships, and implementing projects that benefit forest users and the environment.

Of the 17 projects in process several have been completed. In 2011, the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew completed restoration of 4 miles of the Long Meadow Trail from Balch Park to Summit Lake. Using pack animals 25 volunteers reestablished the original trail alignment to correct rutted trail surfaces.

In 2012, HSVTC was given \$10,322, to complete 8 miles of the Long Meadow trail, maintain the Nelson and Tule River Recreation Trails and 60 miles of wilderness trails near Manter Meadow.

The Western Divide Ranger District will repair switchbacks to the world known Trail of 100 Giants and received \$50,000.

The Tule River Tribe is partnering with Sequoia National Forest to repair the Forks of the Kern Trail for \$44,696, and remove fallen trees in the Red Hill Grove Road to re-open the road for \$19,000.

In Kernville two grants awarded include the Riverside Park Project which completed a feasibility study for river bank stabilization and whitewater park improvements received \$66,610.

Three projects for community hazardous fuels treatments include: Kern County Fire Department thinning vegetation along Alta Sierra Escape Routes on Highway 155; the Tulare County Resource Conservation District/Sequoia Fire Safe Council clearing vegetation around buildings through the Johnsondale Fuel Load Reduction project; and the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council providing Defensible Space Demonstrations around residential properties whose owners have demonstrated a hardship received \$6,000.

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The Buck Rock Foundation manages the spectacular and historic Buck Rock Lookout in Tulare County. They assist with early detection of fire and provide tours and education. Funding for rehabilitation, upgrades and preservation of structural integrity received \$28,722.

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