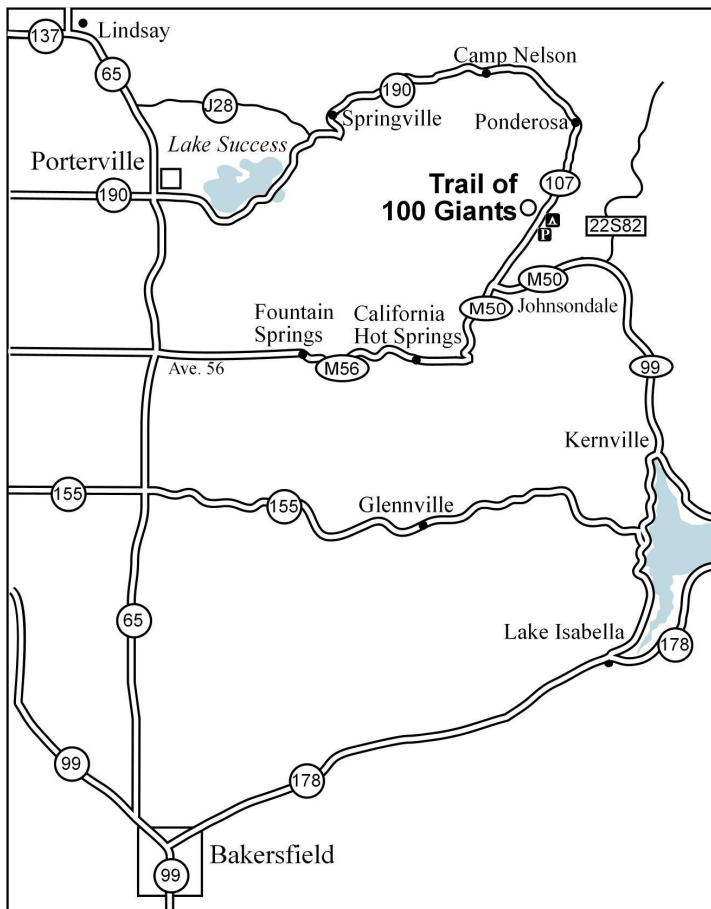


Trail of 100 Giants

Sequoia National Forest

Giant Sequoia National Monument

Trail of 100 Giants is an easy, accessible walk through Long Meadow Grove, one of the premier groves of giant sequoias. The grove showcases monarchs estimated to be up to 1,500 years old. About 1.3 miles of paved trail offers several loop options with interpretive signs. Located on the Western Divide Highway (107), facilities include a paved parking area, restrooms, a picnic area, and a campground nearby. A \$5.00 per vehicle fee is charged to help maintain and improve these facilities.



HOW TO GET THERE - This trail is ONLY accessible by road during the summer months (May 15-November 15, weather depending) due to annual closures by Tulare County. The trail is located on the Western Divide Highway (107), across the road from Redwood Meadow Campground and the Trail of 100 Giants parking area. The trail is about 45 miles northwest of Kernville, 41 miles southeast of Springville, and 15 miles northeast of California Hot Springs.

From Kernville, travel 22 miles north on County Mtn. 99 to Johnsondale. Continue west 7 miles on Mtn. 50 to 107, and turn right (north). Travel 2½ miles to the Trail of 100 Giants parking area or Redwood Meadow Campground. Travel time is about 1½ hrs.

From Bakersfield, take Hwy 65 north to Avenue 56 and turn east to Ducor and Fountain Springs. At Fountain Springs, continue straight on M56 through California Hot Springs. Pass the Hot Springs Ranger Station and continue up the mountain approximately one mile beyond Parker Pass, stopping at the intersection of 107. Turn left (north) on 107 and drive 2½ miles. Travel time is about 1½ hrs.

From Porterville, take Hwy 190 east through Springville (you will pass the Western Divide Ranger Station). Hwy 190 turns into the Western Divide Highway near Quaking Aspen; stay on it as it heads south. From Quaking Aspen, the driving distance is about 13 miles. Travel time from Springville is about 1½ hrs.

A GROVE OF GIANTS - Giant Sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) grow only on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada in California. The groves are scattered throughout a narrow belt of forest 15 miles wide and 260 miles long, between the elevations of 5,000 and 7,500 feet. The coastal redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) are related and occupy two million acres of fog belt along the northern California coast.

Giant sequoias are slightly shorter than the coastal redwoods, more massive, and considered to be the largest tree in the world in terms of volume. The largest sequoia and the biggest living organism on earth is the General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park, which stretches 275 feet high and 36.5 feet in diameter.

On April 15, 2000, President William J. Clinton established the Giant Sequoia National Monument, making his announcement beneath one of the giant trees at the Trail of 100 Giants. The grove contains approximately 125 giant sequoias greater than 10 feet in diameter, and more than 700 giant sequoias less than 10 feet in diameter. The largest tree in the grove has a diameter of 20 feet and is 220 feet in height. The grove, as defined by the outermost giant sequoia trees, covers 341 acres. It is estimated that the ages of larger giant sequoia trees in the grove are up to 1,500 years.

Notable sites along the Trail of 100 Giants include the Fallen Giant, trees that have been hollowed by large fire scars, a giant sequoia and incense cedar that are growing as one tree with their bark fused together, a small seasonal creek, and several meadows. In June and July, one can find many wildflowers blooming in the grove. In October and November, the leaves of the black oaks turn a brilliant shade of gold.

STEWARDSHIP AT WORK

After the winter of 2004, approximately 200 dead trees threatened the safety of trail visitors and forced the closure of the trail. On April 29, 2004, the Forest Service held a public meeting at the trail to see the hazard trees and to discuss public concerns and options. In May, a short portion of the trail was cleared and re-opened, while forest officials determined how best to remove the remaining hazards.

Beginning the week of August 23, the entire trail was closed so that remaining hazard trees, none of which were giant sequoias, could be removed. Extra measures were taken during the removal to protect the giant sequoias and protect wildlife. Sequoia National Forest personnel felled the hazard trees and removed debris that could increase fire danger. Some trees were left on the ground where they fell to provide ecological benefits and some were chipped. Some limbs were piled and burned. Fire crews on standby for wildfires did much of the handwork. A helicopter flew out some of the largest pieces of wood and over 300 cords of wood were made available to the public with personal use firewood permits. On July 1, 2005, after it was repaired and rehabilitated, the trail re-opened. The Trail of 100 Giants is again open for visitors to safely enjoy the sites and sounds of a thriving giant sequoia grove in the Giant Sequoia National Monument.



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



**Forest Service
Pacific Southwest
Region**

**Western Divide Ranger District
Sequoia National Forest**

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.” trhs:da:08/07:yellow