

Giant Sequoia National Monument -Sequoia National Forest



... at a Glance

Monument acres—353,000 --- Forest acres—1.2 million

Hume Lake Ranger District – Monument

Located in Dunlap
2 work centers: Pinehurst and Lakeshore
90 Personnel: 52 permanent and 38 temporary

Kern River Ranger District

Offices located in Lake Isabella and Kernville
8 work centers: Kernville, Lake Isabella, Havilah, Democrat, Fulton, Kernville Heliport, Greenhorn Summit and Blackrock
1 Visitor Center in summer: Blackrock
249 Personnel: 92 permanent, 55 permanent seasonal and 102 temporary

Western Divide Ranger District - Monument

Located in Springville
5 work centers: Springville, Hot Springs, Peppermint Heliport, Deer Creek and Johnsondale
113 Personnel: 69 permanent and 44 temporary

Forest Supervisor Office - Located in Porterville

4 work centers: Supervisors Office, Central California Interagency Communication Center, Porterville Air Tanker Base and Porterville Work Center
172 Personnel: 92 permanent and 80 temporary

Forest Overview

The Sequoia is home to the world's largest living thing, the giant sequoia tree, which can live for over 2,000 years and grow to a mass of over 600 tons. The Giant Sequoia National Monument, home to 33 giant sequoia groves, is a publicly owned treasure in California's southern Sierra Nevada. In April 2000, President Clinton proclaimed 353,000 acres of the Sequoia as the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Another superlative, Kings Canyon, is the deepest canyon in North America. At its deepest point, Kings Canyon drops over 8,000 feet.

The Sequoia has few peers among other national forests in terms of ecological diversity. Elevations range between about 500 feet to about 10,500 feet, and one can pass through four distinctly different ecosystems (desert, chaparral, deciduous forests, and conifer forests) while exploring the forest. The Sequoia extends from the southern tip of the Sierra Nevada to the Kings River, covering almost 1.2 million acres.

The forest is also one of the major watersheds for the San Joaquin Valley and California. Most of the water that flows from the forest is used by the agricultural sector for irrigation and to sustain the communities in the valley. The Sequoia offers a full range of year-round recreation opportunities. Lake Isabella is well-known for excellent and predictable conditions for windsurfing, sailing, and waterskiing. The Kings and Kern Rivers beckon whitewater enthusiasts for thrilling rafting and kayaking.

Unknown to many people, the Sequoia contains more rock domes than Yosemite National Park and is a mecca for rock climbers. Rental cabins offer people the chance to relax. In the summer, alpine heights provide a refreshingly cool haven for visitors looking to escape the baking heat of the San Joaquin Valley, southern California, and Nevada. If conditions are dry enough in March and April, hiking in the foothills and lower mountains is ideal, especially when the wildflowers are blooming and the waterfalls are rushing with freshly melted snow. In the winter, snowmobiling is a popular activity, and downhill skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing are also possible, as is relaxing in the warmth of a cozy lodge.

While the Sequoia is a true multiple use forest, the focus of its use has changed significantly over the years. Initially, its uses were primarily timber harvesting, recreation, grazing, and watershed management. Starting in 1993, timber harvesting fell sharply, as restrictions became much more stringent. Today, the focus of the Forest is on ecological restoration in particular restoring and perpetuating giant sequoia groves.

Enabling Legislation

President Benjamin Harrison established the Sierra Forest Reserve in 1893, with north and south administrative districts. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt renamed the Sierra South Reserve the Sequoia National Forest after the forest's most prominent inhabitants. In 1910, President Taft named the southern half the Kern National Forest, but in 1915, President Wilson signed the enabling legislation that dropped the Kern National Forest name and rejoined it with the Sequoia National Forest.

District Management

The Sequoia is administratively combined into three (3) district organizations; the Giant Sequoia National Monument Districts: Hume Lake and Western Divide; and the Kern River.

The District Rangers and their staffs are responsible for on-the ground management of the resources, goods, and services in their districts. Among their program responsibilities are administering and coordinating interdisciplinary management and protection of all natural resources, facilities, human resources, and the associated budgets. The district offices also establish and maintain cooperative relations with local, state, and national representatives and agencies, civic groups, permittees, the general public, the media, and industries.

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Northern District , Hume Lake (559) 338-2251

Southern District , Western Divide (559) 539-2607

Kern River Ranger District - Lake Isabella (760) 379-5646, Kernville (760) 376-3781

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Partnerships

The Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument maintain numerous and diverse partnerships for the mutual benefit of the forest and its partners. The Sequoia is extremely grateful to all of its partners, without whom the forest would not be able to function. Not all of these partnerships involve money. Some provide in-kind contributions, such as labor, equipment, supplies, or services, while others involve collaboration toward a mutual goal.

and endangered species, 44 sensitive animal species, and 23 sensitive plant species. Among them are the California gold trout, the state fish. The program has active formal external relations with federal, state, and local regulatory agencies.

Sequoia National Forest Inventory

Total.....	Inside GSNM	Outside Total	
Gross Acreage	353,342	833,568	1,186,128
Net National Forest Acreage	329,093	809,958	1,139,051
Permanent Employees	643		
Natural Features			
Wilderness (number)	2	6 portions	6
Wilderness (acres)	13,294	300,628	313,922
Giant Sequoia Groves	33	0	33
Giant Sequoia Groves acres	27,830	0	27,830
Perennial Streams (miles)	513	1,729	2,242
Lakes (acres)	1,069	9,195	10,264
Wild & Scenic Rivers (miles)	4,669	14,077	18,746
Visitor Resources			
Campgrounds & Recreation Rental Cabins	72		
Picnic Areas	11		
Target Range	1		
Marinas	3		
Resorts	2		
Golf Course	1		
Cave with Tours	1		

Specially Designated Areas Management

Specially designated areas include the Sequoia's six Wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers (Kern and Kings), the Kings River Special Management Area, the Giant Sequoia National Monument, research natural areas, botanic areas, scenic byway (Highway 180) and special interest areas. This program includes implementation of the areas' plans. Inventory and monitoring of resource conditions, developing and implementing wilderness education programs, management of recreation opportunities, trail maintenance, and patrol are among the required work activities.

Facility Operations & Maintenance

The Sequoia manages an extensive infrastructure, spread throughout the forest, to serve its millions of visitors and administrative needs. In order to maintain these facilities, provide public service, patrol the forest, conduct resource management activities, and fight fires, the Sequoia maintains a fleet of 344 vehicles.

Roads	1,618 miles
Trails	1,014 miles
Buildings	469
Developed sites	119
Concentrated Use Areas	182
Picnic & Day Use Areas	23
Recreation residences	208
Trailheads	14
Wildernesses	6
Wilderness acres	313,922
Special Use Permits	263
Wild & Scenic Rivers	4 sections

Roads

The roads program consists of maintenance, construction, reconstruction, and decommissioning roads and OHV routes. Activities include grading, paving, striping, repairing potholes, cleaning and installing drainage control structures, removal of rocks and slides, repairing washouts, and bridge inspection and repairs. Operations include managing road closures, road use permits, road maintenance agreements, and road rights-of-way. Management of the transportation system is coordinated with state and local public road officials.

Recreation Management

Most developed sites are operated and maintained by campground concessionaires. Maintenance work includes cleaning and repairing restrooms, picnic tables, fire rings and grills, signs, renting portable toilets, pumping vault toilets, removing graffiti from facilities and natural features,

Resource Management

The resource management functional area encompasses all natural and heritage resources, as well as land ownership adjustment, data management, and management of specially designated areas.

Wildlife Management

The primary functions of the wildlife management program are to maintain a current wildlife inventory and to conduct wildlife monitoring, in order to provide accurate and up-to-date data for use in making forest management decisions that affect the forest's wildlife. The forest is home to 19 threatened

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testing and maintaining water systems, and picking up and hauling trash. This program also includes developed site construction and reconstruction.

Recreation fee collection involves collecting fees, fee compliance and enforcement, safe-guarding passes and revenues, ordering passes, reporting, billing, making deposits, and auditing. The Sequoia's recreation fee program consists of entrance fees at the Hume Lake District, retaining outfitter-guide special use permit fees from the Kern River outfitters, and fees at some campground, a few sites at Lake Isabella and Western Divide District.

Planning

The planning program includes developing and updating the forest land and resource management plan; coordinating with other governmental agencies' large-scale planning, zoning development, or review; responding to legal complaints; conducting programmatic multi-year strategic planning; and coordinating forest level coordination of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) activities. Developing the forest plan requires about 3-4 years of effort every 10-15 years, with annual maintenance to keep the plan up-to-date, and monitoring. Substantial collaboration with public and private stakeholders and coordination across administrative boundaries are required.

Heritage Resources

Heritage resources program efforts are directed toward heritage planning, resource protection, interpretation, and conservation, through stabilization, restoration, and maintenance. Databases, site and report files, historic maps, and other documents must be maintained. The program requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Land Ownership & Adjustment

This program focuses on real estate management of National Forest System lands. Work includes land adjustments (purchases, donations, and land exchanges); rights-of-way; boundary management; and protection of land ownership title, including encroachment and trespass resolution. The Sequoia is one of the few forests in the country that has legislation to allow the use of forest receipts for land purchase. Consequently, the forest has an active land acquisition program and has purchased several key parcels.

Fire & Aviation Management

Within the past ten (10) years the Sequoia has managed three mega-fires: the 2008 Piute (37,026-acres), 2002 McNally (150,696-acres), and the 2000 Manter (75,000-acres) fires. The Sequoia's fire management programs encompass all activities related to wildfire pre-suppression, preparedness and suppression. This functional area also includes reduction of hazardous fuels, monitoring of managed wildfire for resource benefits, and emergency response to non-fire related incidents. The Central California Interagency Communication Center responded to over 4,355 incidents.

Fire Organization:

Fire Personnel	251
Fire Engines	14
Fire Lookouts	9
Fire Stations	14
Fire Handcrews	5 Crews
Wildland Fire	3 Crews

Modules

Helicopter 522	189.3 Hours flight
Helicopter 523	271.1 Hours flight
Air Attack 13	420 Hours flight

Fire Management & Administration

The management and administration program involves general management, supervision, and oversight of all fire management operations. This workload includes budget and planning, scheduling, and other administrative duties, as well as the formulation and administration of safety plans and materials handling plans. The program includes management of the interagency emergency communication center (dispatch), interagency air attack base, call-when-needed (AD, administratively determined) crew program, fire caches, and equipment trailers.

Fire Pre-Suppression & Preparedness

The primary activities related to pre-suppression and preparedness includes fire prevention, training, and maintenance of fire suppression equipment. Prevention consists of three basic functions: education, engineering, and enforcement. The education aspect involves building community awareness about how to prevent wildfires. The engineering aspect includes clearing around buildings, so that they conform to the fire safety code. Enforcement involves examining areas around public and private structures, in order to ensure they comply with state laws regarding fire hazard abatement. Fire assets include fire engines, lookout towers, hot shot crews, helitack crews, hand crews, helicopters, an air tanker base, fire prevention personnel, and an emergency communication center.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Hazardous fuels reduction involves direct management of vegetation, using prescribed fire, mechanical treatment, or manual removal of vegetation, in order to prevent fires and to reduce fire intensity. Forest officials must coordinate with state officials on when to burn, depending on meteorological and air quality conditions. Mechanical treatment, which is much more expensive than prescribed fire, involves the direct removal of brush and small wood. All of these activities require detailed planning, and implementation is closely monitored, in order to avoid environmental damage. Approximately half of the work pertains to removing vegetation to protect communities. The program relates directly to the community protection and forest health elements of the National Fire Plan.

Wildfire Suppression, Monitoring, & Rehabilitation

The forest spends federal emergency funds to fight wildfires every year, to perform emergency rehabilitation of burned areas, and to monitor naturally occurring fires (fire use fires). During the fire season, forest employees across all departments and professions are quite commonly pulled off of their regular work to aid in this program. In addition, the forest frequently has to import other resources and personnel to battle large fires. More than half of all fires on the forest threaten people, property, and resources. More than 25% of all fires require extended attack, resulting in high costs for this program area.

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National Fire & Disaster Support

Also funded from federal emergency funds, most of these national support assignments relate to fighting large forest fires outside the Sequoia National Forest, while a smaller number are responses to non-fire disasters. In FY03, all funds spent for national support were fire related. A large number of employees work in national support, spending considerable time away from the Sequoia each year. The Sequoia has the highest percentage (15%) of national incident management team membership of any California forest. In addition to supporting large suppression operations nationally, other types of assignments come via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Past assignments have included earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, terrorist attacks, space shuttle debris recovery, and management of Newcastle's Disease in poultry flocks.

Vegetation Management

The purposes of this program are to maintain and improve the forest's vegetation resources. This work includes reforestation, timber stand improvement, forest surveys, fire protection, invasive/noxious weed management, botany and range management, wildlife habitat management, and public safety (identification and removal of hazard trees). The program also focuses on managing the sustainable use of vegetation for wildlife habitat, forage, watershed, wood products, and tourism. Giant sequoias and the forest's other diverse flora are major recreation attractions.

Vegetation Cover Type:

Total.....	Inside GSNM	Outside Total	
Conifer	153,342	366,410	519,752
Mixed Conifer	55,189	53,702	108,891
Hardwood	66,588	76,411	142,999
Herbaceous	4,704	61,199	65,903
Shrub	41,380	198,590	239,970
Barren	6,311	43,915	50,226
Water	205	8,781	8,986
Agriculture	36	0	36
Urban	560	483	1,043
Total	328,315	809,491	1,137,806

Data Management

The purpose of data management is to facilitate, enhance, support, and enable the sharing of information by both internal and external stakeholders and to assist the decision-making process. Up-to-date and accurate electronic data are essential. Key goals are to establish and maintain a coordinated data management program; to minimize cost, improve productivity, and reduce duplication of effort; to establish and maintain a high level of data security; to maintain Federal Data Committee compliant metadata (description of data and its sources) for all GIS data; to facilitate intra-agency data exchange; and to provide and manage data for use by stakeholders.

Watershed, Air, & Geologic Resources

The purposes of this program's work are to maintain healthy functioning ecosystems through protection and enhancement of air quality; to provide clean water for instream values for public and private downstream water users; to ensure consideration of geologic information for public safety; and to provide resource support to various activities. The program includes monitoring, inventory, and research. The program also includes dam safety, abandoned mine reclamation, CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act), and RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) program management. Due to its diversity of activities, interagency coordination is required to support the program.

Public Affairs

The public affairs program in the supervisor's office is mainly involved in coordinating efforts with the Forest Supervisor and long-term strategic public relations planning. Also part of this program is tribal relations, the purpose of which is to fulfill the forest's legal and ethical responsibilities to American Indian tribes. Website creation and maintenance are also part of this program. At the district level, the public affairs programs focus on building positive relations with community groups to balance diverse, often competing interests, issues, and concerns.

Commodity & Commercial Uses

The commodity and commercial uses functional area includes activities that are not related to recreation, such as extractive uses and non-recreation special uses. Timber production occurs in areas outside the Monument. Commodity and commercial uses include: mining, grazing, firewood cutting, hydroelectric power generation, telecommunications, apiaries, waterlines and an airport.

General Management

The general management program includes the Forest Supervisor and assistant. The Forest Supervisor is responsible for the overall management, protection, and development of the Sequoia's resources. This responsibility includes short and long range planning, organization, direction, and oversight of all operations and people, coordination of ongoing activities, and integration of resource programs across the forest. This program is also responsible for high-level interactions with other governmental agencies, as well as corporate, nonprofit, and public institutions.



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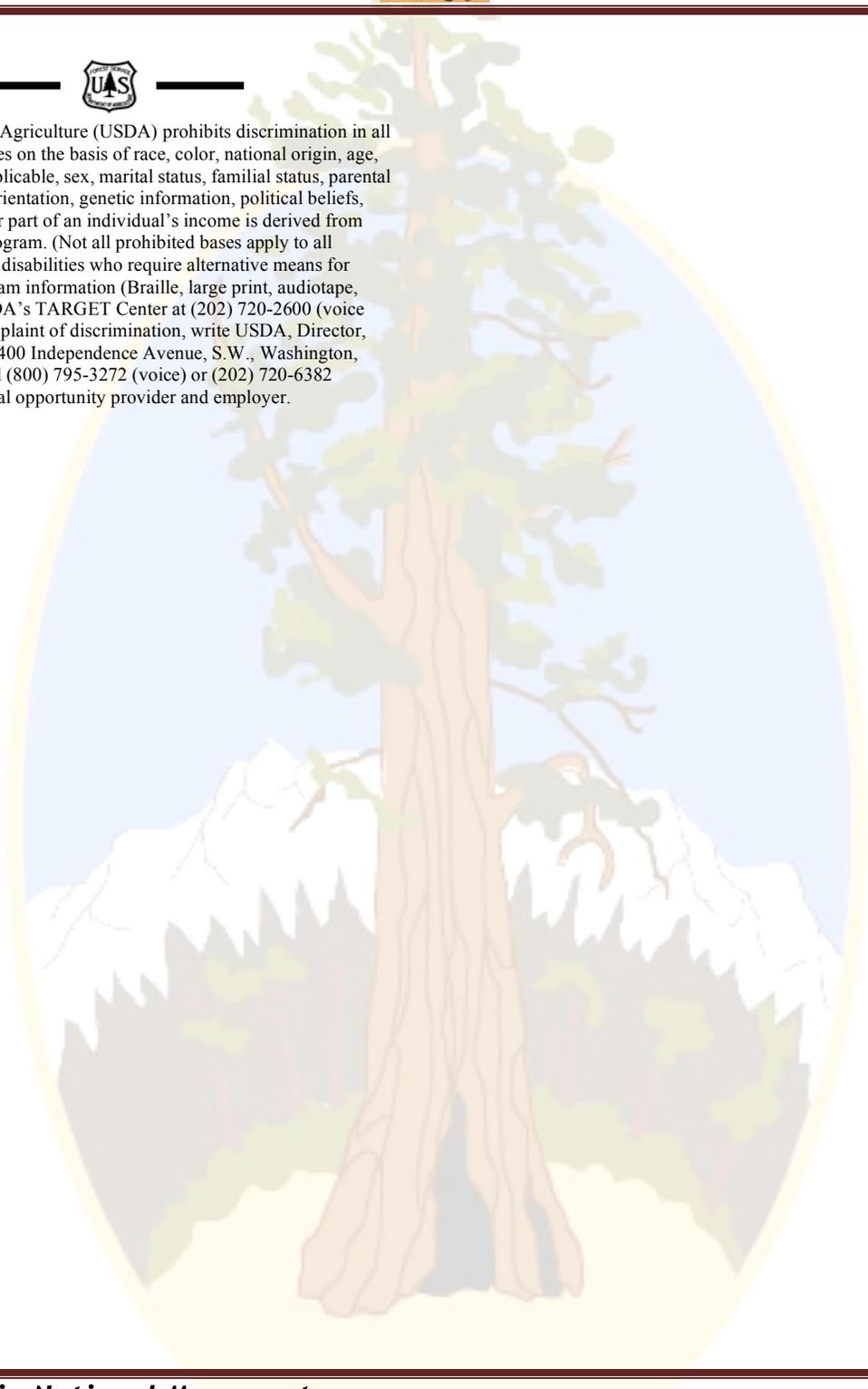
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