



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Sequoia National Forest
Giant Sequoia National
Monument

1839 South Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257-2035
(559)784-1500

File Code: 1950

Date: SEP 04 2012

Dear Interested Parties:

The Giant Sequoia National Monument Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Management Plan are finished!

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter to announce the Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan (Monument Plan). The Regional Forester selected **Alternative B and added one element of Alternative E (Moses Wilderness recommendation) as the basis for the management plan for the Monument.**

I believe the direction provided in this Monument Plan strikes a balance between protecting, caring for, and maintaining the objects of interest; restoring and maintaining ecosystems; and providing for visitor enjoyment of the Monument. The presidential proclamation designating the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Proclamation), signed on April 15, 2000, recognized the importance of the giant sequoias, the surrounding ecosystems that support them, and the role they play in understanding ongoing environmental changes that are expected to continue over time. It also recognized the importance of effectively managing the Monument to meet the expectations of millions of people who will use and enjoy this national monument in the future.

Many of you collaborated with us by attending meetings and providing comments as we developed the management direction for the Monument. I sincerely appreciate all of your help and concern for the management of the Monument.

With this letter many of you are receiving either printed copies of the documents or a compact disk (CD) containing the documents in .pdf format. For those of you who will be using the internet, the documents are available on the Sequoia National Forest's website at:
http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/gsnm_planning.html.

This decision is subject to administrative appeal in accordance with the provisions of 36 CFR 219.17(b) (3) of the current National Forest Management Act regulations (77 FR 21260, 21270, April 9, 2012), which allow for use of the optional administrative appeal procedures in the prior planning regulations. Under the transition provisions of the reinstated 2000 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.35(b) and 219.35 (Appendix A) [2010]), the responsible official may elect to use the administrative appeal procedures for land management plans and amendments approved during the planning rule transition period. A written Notice of Appeal must be filed within 90 days of the date the legal notice of this decision is published in the *Porterville Recorder* and *Sacramento Bee*.

The administrative appeal procedures for this plan amendment can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/applit/includes/PlanAppealProceduresDuringTransition.pdf>, or by requesting them from the Pacific Southwest Regional Office of the Forest Service. Section 8 of these procedures explains that it is the responsibility of the appellant to file the notice of appeal on or before the last day of the filing period.

The appeal must be filed with the Chief of the Forest Service and contain sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why this decision should be changed or reversed. At a minimum, the written notice of appeal must:



1. State that the document is a Notice of Appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR 219.35, Appendix A;
2. List the name, address, and telephone number of the appellant;
3. Identify the decision about which the requester objects;
4. Identify the document in which the decision is contained by title and subject, date of the decision, and name and title of the deciding officer;
5. Identify specifically that portion of the decision or decision document to which the requester objects;
6. State the reasons for objecting, including issues of fact, law, regulation, or policy, and, if applicable, specifically how the decision violates law, regulation, or policy; and
7. Identify the specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant (54 FR 3357, Jan. 23, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 7895, Mar. 6, 1990; 56 FR 4918, Feb. 6, 1991).

Appeals must be filed with the Chief of the Forest Service at any of the following addresses:

For delivery by the U.S. Postal Service

USDA Forest Service
 Attn: EMC Appeals
 Mail Stop 1104
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20250-1104

For delivery by private carrier or hand delivery*

USDA Forest Service
 Ecosystem Management Coordination
 Attn: Appeals
 Yates Bldg., 3CEN
 201 14th St., SW
 Washington, D.C. 20250

Main phone**: (202) 205-0895

Fax: (202) 205-1012

E-mail: appeals-chief@fs.fed.us

*Appeals may be hand delivered to this address between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

**The main phone line can be used for carrier deliveries. This number is staffed during regular business hours.

Thank you for working with us on this Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan. My staff and I look forward to implementing the management direction provided in the Monument Plan to protect the giant sequoia groves and other objects of interest, restore and maintain healthy ecosystems, and provide key opportunities for public use in the Monument.

Sincerely,



KEVIN B. ELLIOTT
 Forest Supervisor