

# Converse Basin

## Sequoia National Forest

### Giant Sequoia National Monument

### Hume Lake Ranger District



#### Background

Converse Basin Grove at over 4,600 acres is one of the largest groves of giant sequoias in the world. Located in the northeast corner of the grove is the Boole Tree, the largest tree in the National Forest System and one of the largest living trees in the world. Before Converse Basin came under USDA Forest Service management in the 1930s, most of the large trees had been cut down during the extensive logging operations beginning in the late 1800s and running into the early 1900s.

Today the grove is vibrantly alive again and is managed as a living laboratory for scientists to study and for the public to enjoy. Several stands of mature sequoias escaped the 1880s logging. Over the last 100 years, second-growth giant sequoias and other forest species have grown to replace the fallen giants. Relics of both prehistoric and historic use remain in the grove, but remember; all these items are protected by law and must remain in the woods. The oldest verified sequoia stump is in Converse Basin Grove and is just over 3,200 years old.

In 1955 the McGee Fire burned most of Converse Grove and provided opportunities to study the interaction of fire and second-growth forests. Converse Basin is a living testimony to the resilience of giant sequoias.



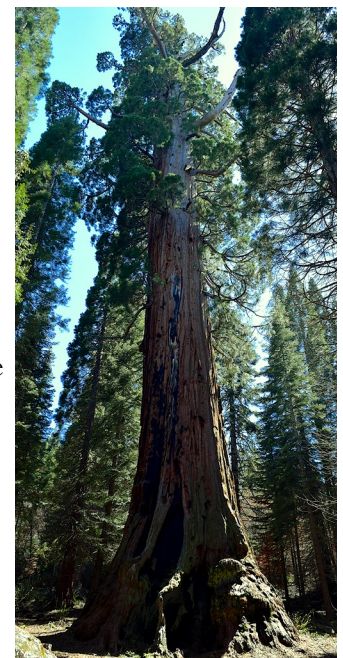
#### Recreation Opportunities

The **Chicago Stump** Trail is an easy 0.5 mile loop to the stump along a meadow ringed by young sequoias. Chicago stump was originally known as the General Noble tree. In 1897 it was cut down in sections and reassembled at the World's Fair in Chicago that year. People believed the reassembled giant was made of several trees and called it the "California Hoax."

**Stump Meadow** is named for the impressive collection of stumps remaining from the historic logging period. The giant stumps provide a textbook of information. Studying the tree rings in the stumps, scientists can reconstruct past events, including weather patterns, fires, droughts or other significant events over the last several thousand years.

**The Boole Tree Trail** is a moderate 2.5 mile loop to the Boole Tree. This trail offers spectacular views of the Kings River gorge and beautiful high mountain vistas. There are restrooms at the trailhead, but no drinking water.

There are a few *dispersed camping* areas which people are welcome to use in the grove. Closest developed campground is Princess on Highway 180. There is an interpretive trail through the Indian Basin Grove that is accessible to persons with disabilities.

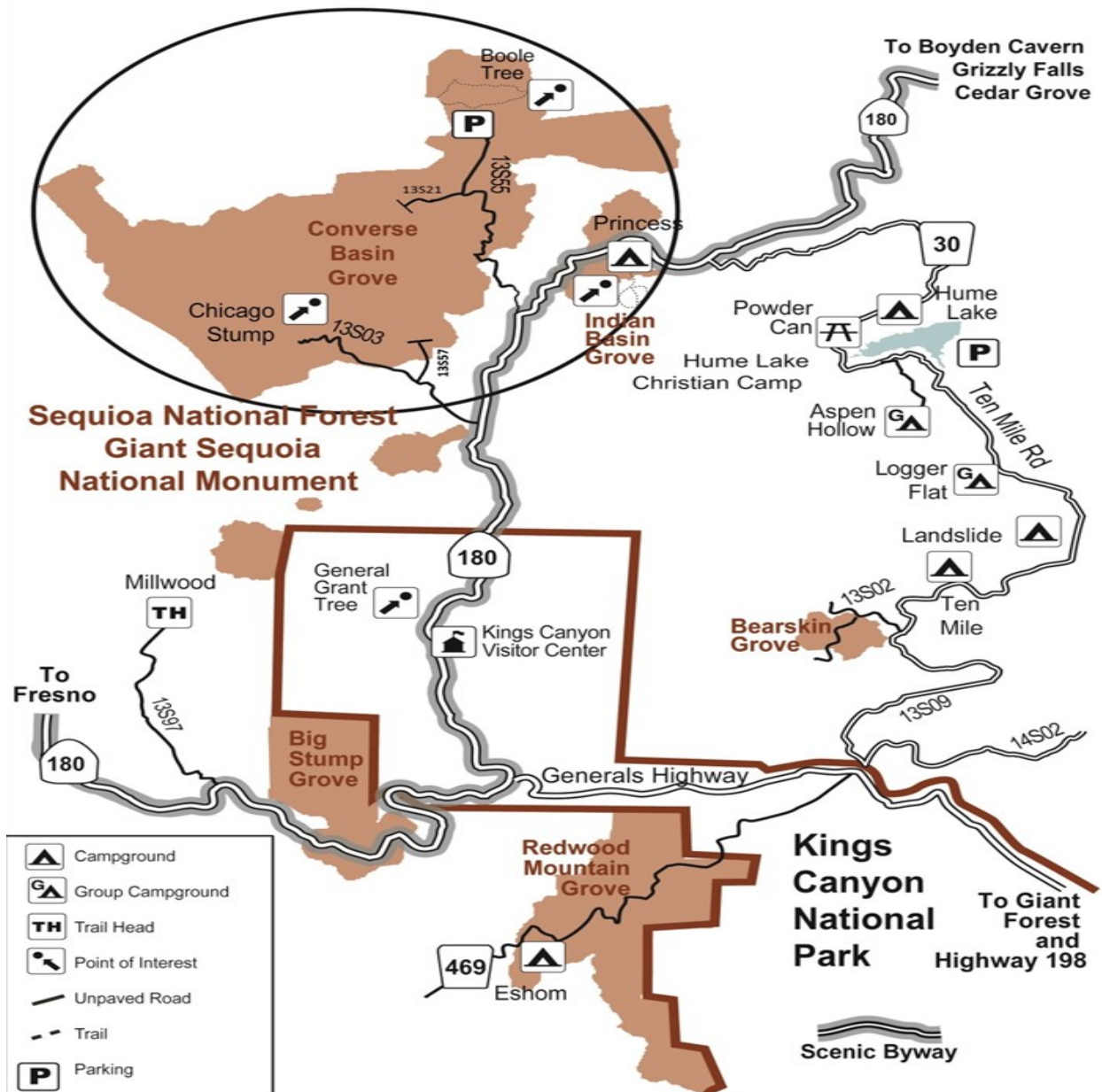


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## How to Get There

The **Converse Basin Grove** is fairly easy to reach on dirt road by car from State Highway 180 (Kings Canyon Scenic Byway). It is best to visit in the summer when the road is dry or in the winter by cross-country skis or snowmobile. Take Highway 180 three miles north of Grant Grove Village to Forest Road 13S03 and travel 2.8 miles to the **Chicago Stump** trailhead.

Take Highway 180 about four miles north of Grant Grove village to the Converse Turnoff (Forest Road 13S55). Take Forest Road 13S55 about 2 miles to **Stump Meadow**. Continue on this route 1 mile to the **Boole Tree** Trailhead at the end of road.



Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

**Hume Lake Ranger District**  
35860 East Kings Canyon Road  
Dunlap, CA 93621  
[559-338-2251](tel:559-338-2251)

**Forest Supervisor's Office**  
220 E Morton Ave  
Porterville, CA 93257  
[559-784-1500](tel:559-784-1500)

