



GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Giant Sequoia National Monument protects 328,315 acres in the Sierra Nevada. It is notable for its collection of towering giant sequoias, vast, lush mountain meadows, and thousands of miles of pristine streams.

The Giant Sequoia, only naturally viable on the western slope of our Sierra Nevada, are the largest and some of the oldest living trees on earth. Approximately seventy-five percent of all living Giant Sequoia in the world are located in Giant Sequoia National Monument. Unfortunately, there are current efforts to undermine Giant Sequoia's protection—where logging and development could put the landscape and wildlife at serious risk.

GIANT SEQUOIA'S MONUMENT DESIGNATION

Tribal communities, volunteers, scientists, nonprofits, Congress, and at least five U.S. presidents have worked to protect this forest for more than 150 years. In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln protected Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. Throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, President Benjamin Harrison and President Theodore Roosevelt continued to expand protections to safeguard the natural resources of these critical upper watersheds. In 1992 President George H. W. Bush signed an order to withdraw the giant sequoia groves from mining. In 2000, 327,769 acres in the Southern Sierra were permanently protected by designating the Giant Sequoia National Monument, through the 'Antiquities Act' which was meant to forever preserve the unique objects of historic, cultural and scientific interest found therein. Since it was signed into law by Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, the Antiquities Act has been used by sixteen presidents—eight Republicans and eight Democrats—to protect America's most iconic natural, cultural, and historic places.

An extensive, collaborative, and years-long process determined that the designated area was the smallest area compatible to protect the Giant Sequoias and other objects of historical and scientific interest. These objects include the ancient Giant Sequoia themselves, as well as limestone caves and other geological formations, and essential habitat for rare plant and animal species. The national monument also contains hugely significant archeological sites which provide a story of the Native American peoples who have lived in the region for the past 8,000 years. Giant Sequoia's outstanding natural, scientific and cultural values deserve to be preserved for future generations.

WHAT'S AT RISK FOR GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

• Ecological Diversity:

- Only naturally viable on a narrow band of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, the Giant Sequoia is a rare and amazing organism in of itself. Growing from a seed only half an inch long, a fully grown specimen can reach over 250 feet, with many growing to over 25 feet in diameter. However, the Giant Sequoia cannot exist in isolation and rely on the canopy and watersheds within the greater forest ecosystem for survival.
 - This ecosystem supports the great gray owl, American marten, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, California spotted owl, California condor, Pacific fisher and a number of rare amphibians.
- Local Communities:

- Local communities in the Central Valley, which suffer from some of the worst air and water pollution in the nation, depend on the monument as a place to experience clean air, cool streams and nature. Outdoor Recreation:
- National Monuments like Giant Sequoia n drive tourism and outdoor recreation. Maintaining the status of GSNM and investing in visitor facilities in gateway communities like Porterville, will bring jobs and revenue to Central California.

- **Climate Change:**

- The Monument mitigates climate change. Researchers have discovered that Giant Sequoia and related coast redwood forests store more climate-altering carbon pollution per acre than any other forest type on Earth.

- **Fire:**

- The current Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan recommends the full range of fuel-reduction activities within the national monument, including prescribed fire, thinning, and removal of dead trees for ecological purposes.
- The issue is funding—the Forest Service needs to secure additional independent federal funding in order to execute fuel reduction activities in the Wildland Urban Intermix (WUI) zones. These resources, as well as visitor and tourism resources, are more likely with National Monument status. Our federal elected officials should advocate for more funding to protect our forests and communities.

- **Water:**

- Giant Sequoia National Monument protects our precious water resources, as rivers like the Kings, Kaweah, and Kern are critical to the livelihood of downriver communities.
- The forests within and surrounding the monument keep clean water flowing downstream to hundreds of small family farms and large agricultural enterprises in California’s Central Valley. The Central Valley generates 8 percent of all food produced in the United States and contributes substantially to agricultural exports. The viability of those farms depends directly on the water that comes from these forests.

- **Economic Benefits:**

- Our national monuments are tremendous drivers of California’s economy. Outdoor recreation in our state generates approximately 732,000 jobs and \$85.4 billion in consumer spending each year. The monument is good for local businesses

and communities that rely on it economically—a phenomenon common to national monuments. Research from VisitCA found tourism is a \$2.23 billion industry in the Central Valley, generating almost 24,000 jobs.

- In Tulare County alone, travel dollars generated \$37.8 million in local and state tax receipts. Research by Headwaters Economics shows that since designation of the Giant Sequoia National Monuments, jobs in the area increased by 20 percent, per capita income by 24 percent, and population in the area by 21 percent.
- Gateway communities like Kernville and Springville have seen diners, breweries, and hotels spring up as visitation has increased over the past 17 years. This recreation industry supports tourists, bikers, hikers and rafters. Giant Sequoia National Monument is the closest access point for the 18 million people of the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area to these forests.

- **Widespread Public Support:**

- More than **2.7 million comments** poured in during the Interior Department 60-day comment period for the review of the national monument. More than [98 percent](#) of all comments received expressed support for maintaining or expanding Giant Sequoia and other National Monuments.
- This review was deeply unpopular across the board, but especially in states like California where multiple monuments were put up for review. In the 2017 Conservation in the West poll conducted by Colorado College, 80% of Western voters supported keeping protections for existing monuments in place while only 13% of Western voters supported removing protections for existing monuments.
- There was strong support in California for Giant Sequoia from:
 - Senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein
 - California State Legislature
 - California Attorney General Xavier Becerra
 - City of Porterville
 - Visalia Tourism Bureau
 - Sierra Business Council
 - Porterville Chamber of Commerce
 - Ed Begley, Jr.
 - Southern California Edison
 - Scientists
 - Sequoia Riverlands Trust