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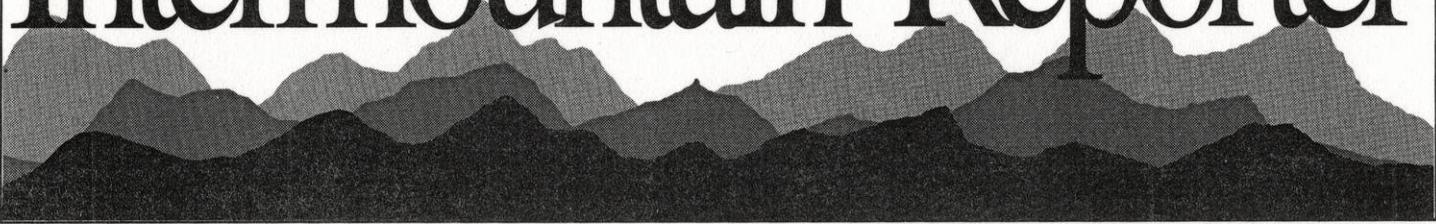
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Intermountain Reporter



1998 Fall Edition



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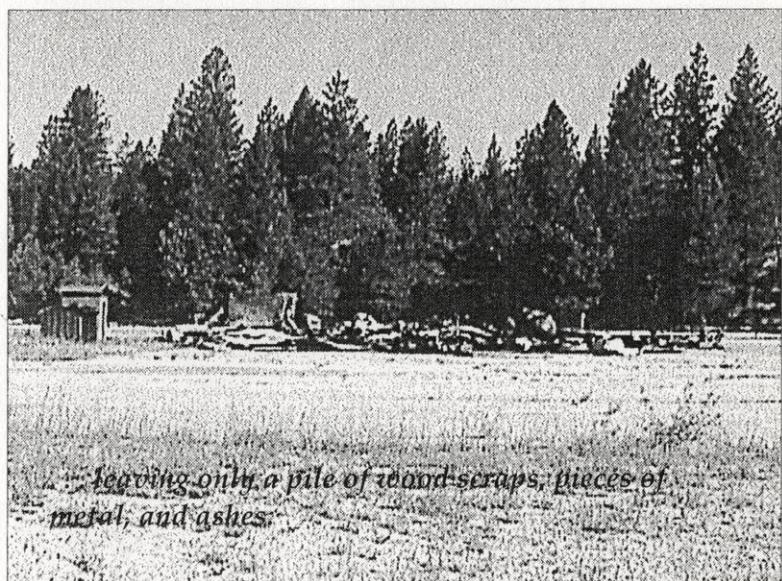
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Fire Fights Back, Levels Idaho Hangar

Idaho has long been a base for various firefighting operations including the McCall Smokejumper Base and the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. This summer, wildfire struck back! On June 21, a fire destroyed the Idaho City Airport Hangar. The hangar was built in the 1950s for smokejumpers based in Idaho City at that time. Over the years, it was used by smokejumpers awaiting fire assignments. In more recent times, the hangar was used for helicopter operations during wildfire season. With the fire, a piece of firefighting history has gone up in smoke.



Idaho City Airport Hangar shown before the June 21 fire that leveled the structure and its contents . . .



leaving only a pile of wood scraps, pieces of metal, and ashes.

Utah Newspaper Features Fishlake NF, Chief's Agenda

The Richfield Reaper, a central Utah newspaper, ran a series of articles this summer on how the Forest Service's Natural Resources Agenda is being carried out on the Fishlake National Forest.

One part of that series was a telephone interview with Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck in late June. For half an hour, Dombeck chatted with *Reaper* reporter Bill McClure on his Natural Resources Agenda to restore watersheds, improve recreational opportunities, develop a forest roads strategy and work collaboratively for sustainable forest management. Dombeck discussed specific projects and challenges on the Fishlake.

"I was astounded," said McClure recalled. "For a guy in that position to talk so easily, so cordially, so frankly, really amazed me." He said the article featuring Dombeck



Chief Mike Dombeck.

elicited positive comments from readers. "They really enjoyed getting insights on who is running the outfit."

The *Reaper* previously ran articles expressing local officials' concerns over a Regional Office proposal to merge Fishlake and Dixie National Forest offices. The aim was to cut administrative overhead, which runs as high as 80 percent on some forests in the Intermountain Region. However, based on concerns expressed by elected officials, R4 will retain two SOs at present, but share more services between the two forests; as well as sharing services and resources with the Bureau of Land Management.

In the *Reaper* interview, Dombeck brought up the Dixie-Fishlake situation, noting that the Forest Service originally set up district offices to be one day's horseback ride apart to provide access by rangers to people. "We need to continue that spirit," he told McClure. "Our challenge is how to balance shrinking budgets and numbers of people with that philosophy."

Dombeck said local officials should be involved in these proposals, but that he relied on his regional officials to make the decisions needed to increase resources available to the ground. "I don't think the people of Utah would like seeing those decisions made in Washington, D.C."

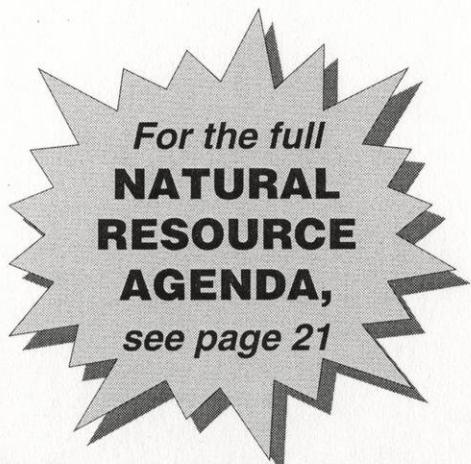
Dombeck noted two examples of good collaboration in Central Utah: the Paiute ATV Trail (a long OHV loop on the Fishlake and adjacent lands) and a project to

provide aspen regeneration through harvest and prescribed burning while supplying aspen to a local mill. "We need to develop partnerships and make forests an economic asset to communities."

Discussing his interview with the Chief, McClure said he realizes that the economic problems driving reorganization and merger proposals "are still there. The Forest Service just doesn't have the dollars to maintain the level of service that's needed. That's why the collaboration is so important. I believe the public support is there. People want to help."

The *Reaper* series of articles has featured interagency fire management between the BLM, Forest Service and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands; the Fishlake's forest-wide prescribed natural fire plan; and Utah Backcountry Horsemen partnership efforts to maintain trails on the forest.

Cindy Chojnacky
Strategic Communications
Regional Office



"I was astounded, for a guy in that position to talk so easily, so cordially, so frankly, really amazed me.

— Bill McClure, *The Richfield Reaper*

Chief Dombeck Presents National Wilderness Awards to R4, RMRS Employees

Chief Mike Dombeck was in Ogden last winter to present two National Wilderness Awards to an outstanding group of Intermountain Region and Rocky Mountain Research Station employees: Leise Dean, Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA); and to Kurt Becker, Salmon-Challis National Forest; and Alan Watson and Don Hunger, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute.

Leise Dean was recognized as the 1996-97 Bob Marshall Individual Champion of Wilderness Management, co-sponsored by Wilderness Inquiry. Leise manages the Sawtooth Wilderness within the SNRA. Leise guided revision of Sawtooth Wilderness management direction, standards and guidelines in the Sawtooth Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Utilizing a Limits of Acceptable Change process, a citizen's group representing divergent viewpoints worked through key issues such as group size limits, recreation use, lack of firewood, social conflicts, and the use of fire. Despite political and special interest pressure throughout the intense planning process, Leise kept all parties talking and working toward an improved wilderness plan.

In 1991, Leise recognized that serious resource degradation was



Chief Mike Dombeck shares Bob Marshall award with recipient Liese Dean, SNRA wilderness manager, while Jack Blackwell, R4 Regional Forester, looks on.



Award recipients Dr. Alan Watson, Don Hunger and Kurt Becker focus on Chief Dombeck.

occurring from unregulated crystal gathering, and researched and wrote a report on "Crystal Collecting in the Sawtooth Wilderness." This report helped guide the national policy on recreational mining that ultimately protects wilderness resources.

Liese also has helped develop and implement both internal and external education programs on a local, regional and national level. She has initiated successful partnerships with the Natural Resources Conservation Education Program, the Twin Falls School District, and the Idaho Fish and Game.

The Excellence in Wilderness Management Research Award went to a unique "team" effort between a wilderness manager and two wilderness researchers. Early in the planning effort for the Frank Church River of No Return (FC-RONR) Wilderness, the planning team recognized that the primary issues

were social, not resource-related. Kurt Becker, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, realized the planning team members did not have the depth of social science knowledge necessary to address these issues. He contacted Dr. Alan Watson of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute in Missoula, Montana, and together they discussed and devised an approach to incorporate the social aspects of wilderness into the FC-RONR planning process.

The approach was simple, yet incredibly effective. Through a series of surveys, Alan and a graduate assistant, Don Hunger, gleaned valuable input on public expectations for wilderness experiences and what was a desirable and undesirable social experience in wilderness. Thousands of surveys were handed out to visitors by random sample and the response rate was very high.



April 15, 2000

GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 15, 2000

GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT
April 15, 2000

President Clinton will sign a proclamation today creating the Giant Sequoia National Monument in California's Sierra Nevada. The 328,000-acre monument will protect 34 groves of ancient sequoias and the rich forests that surround them.

Ancient Giants of the Sierra Nevada. Giant Sequoias are the largest trees on Earth, growing more than 300 feet tall and 30 feet across. They also are among the oldest, living up to 3,000 years or more. Ancestral forms of the Giant Sequoias were part of the western North American landscape for millions of years. Today, they survive in only about 70 groves on the western slopes of the Sierra. Thirty-four groves are in the Sequoia National Forest and will be protected in the new national monument.

The new monument will be in two parcels - one north, the other south, of Sequoia National Park. The northern parcel is bordered by the Kings Wild and Scenic River; the southern by the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River. Elevation ranges from 2,500 to 9,700 feet in a richly varied landscape that includes bold granite domes, spires, and plunging gorges. Archeological sites provide evidence of human habitation as long as 8,000 years ago. Wildlife includes the Pacific fisher, the American marten, the northern goshawk and the peregrine falcon. Giant Sequoias are the only known trees with nesting cavities large enough for California Condors, and the last breeding pair in the wild was found in a Giant Sequoia within the area of the new monument. Condors have since been reintroduced in California's Coast Range, where they nest on cliff faces.

Because of their great longevity, Giant Sequoias hold within their rings multi-millennial records of past environmental changes. These records show that the Sequoias spread as the climate cooled and summer droughts shortened, suggesting that global warming could put them at risk.

Managing the New Monument. The area within the new monument will continue to be managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Roads will remain open and full public access will be permitted for hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, biking, river rafting, horseback riding, and other types of non-motorized recreation. A detailed management plan will be adopted within three years, and a Science Advisory Board will provide outside expertise on issues such as fire management. A limited number of timber sales will be allowed,

providing about a two-and-a-half-year transition before ending commercial timber harvesting within the monument. Valid existing rights, such as water rights and access to private lands, will be preserved. And "special" uses -- such as grazing, youth camps, and bee keeping - will be allowed to continue under normal permitting processes.

History and Public Process. Interest in protecting Giant Sequoias began as early as 1864, when the Mariposa Grove was deeded by the federal government to the state of California. By 1890, public reaction to the extensive logging of Sequoias contributed to creation of Sequoia, General Grant, and Yosemite National Parks. President Theodore Roosevelt later established the Sierra Forest Reserve, later divided into the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. In 1992, President Bush barred commercial logging within Sequoia groves on national forests. Legislation championed by Congressman George Brown and others to permanently protect the groves and surrounding forest did not pass Congress. In January, President Clinton asked Agriculture Secretary Glickman to recommend whether the groves should be protected under the Antiquities Act. The Forest Service held public meetings in Visalia and Fresno, California, to gather public input, and consulted with local, state, and tribal officials, as well as members of Congress and other federal agencies with expertise in Sequoia management.

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April 15, 2000

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Bakersfield, California)

For

Immediate Release

April 15, 2000

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The rich and varied landscape of the Giant Sequoia National Monument holds a diverse array of scientific and historic resources. Magnificent groves of towering giant sequoias, the world's largest trees, are interspersed within a great belt of coniferous forest, jeweled with mountain meadows. Bold granitic domes, spires, and plunging gorges texture the landscape. The area's elevation climbs from about 2,500 to 9,700 feet over a distance of only a few miles, capturing an extraordinary number of habitats within a relatively small area. This spectrum of ecosystems is home to a diverse array of plants and animals, many of which are rare or endemic to the southern Sierra Nevada. The monument embraces limestone caverns and holds unique paleontological resources documenting tens of thousands of years of ecosystem change. The monument also has many archaeological sites recording Native American occupation and adaptations to this complex landscape, and historic remnants of early Euro-American settlement as well as the commercial exploitation of the giant sequoias. The monument provides exemplary opportunities for biologists, geologists, paleontologists, archaeologists, and historians to study these objects.

Ancestral forms of giant sequoia were a part of the western North American landscape for millions of years. Giant sequoias are the largest trees ever to have lived, and are among the world's longest-lived trees, reaching ages of more than 3,200 years or more. Because of this great longevity, giant sequoias hold within their tree rings multi-millennial records of past environmental changes such as climate, fire regimes, and consequent forest response. Only one other North American tree species, the high-elevation bristlecone pine of the desert mountain ranges east of the Sierra Nevada, holds such lengthy and detailed chronologies of past changes and events.

Sequoias and their surrounding ecosystems provide a context for understanding ongoing environmental changes. For example, a century of

fire suppression has led to an unprecedented failure in sequoia reproduction in otherwise undisturbed groves. Climatic change also has influenced the sequoia groves; their present highly disjunct distribution is at least partly due to generally higher summertime temperatures and prolonged summer droughts in California from about 10,000 to 4,500 years ago. During that period, sequoias were rarer than today. Only following a slight cooling and shortening of summer droughts, about 4,500 years ago, has the sequoia been able to spread and create today's groves.

These giant sequoia groves and the surrounding forest provide an excellent opportunity to understand the consequences of different approaches to forest restoration. These forests

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need restoration to counteract the effects of a century of fire suppression and logging. Fire suppression has caused forests to become denser in many areas, with increased dominance of shade-tolerant species. Woody debris has accumulated, causing an unprecedented buildup of surface fuels. One of the most immediate consequences of these changes is an increased hazard of wildfires of a severity that was rarely encountered in pre-Euroamerican times. Outstanding opportunities exist for studying the consequences of different approaches to mitigating these conditions and restoring natural forest resilience.

The great elevational range of the monument embraces a number of climatic zones, providing habitats for an extraordinary diversity of plant species and communities. The monument is rich in rare plants and is home to more than 200 plant species endemic to the southern Sierra Nevada mountain range, arrayed in plant communities ranging from low-elevation oak woodlands and chaparral to high-elevation subalpine forest. Numerous meadows and streams provide an interconnected web of habitats for moisture-loving species.

This spectrum of interconnected vegetation types provides essential habitat for wildlife, ranging from large, charismatic animals to less visible and less familiar forms of life, such as fungi and insects. The mid-elevation forests are dominated by massive conifers arrayed in a complex landscape mosaic, providing one of the last refugia for the Pacific fisher in California. The fisher appears to have been extirpated from the northern Sierra Nevada mountain range. The forests of the monument are also home to great gray owl, American marten, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, spotted owl, and a number of rare amphibians. The giant sequoias themselves are the only known trees large enough to provide nesting cavities for the California condor, which otherwise must nest on cliff faces. In fact, the last pair of condors breeding in the wild was discovered in a giant sequoia that is part of the new monument. The monument's giant sequoia ecosystem remains available for the return and study of condors.

The physiography and geology of the monument have been shaped by millions of years of intensive uplift, erosion, volcanism, and glaciation. The monument is dominated by granitic rocks, most noticeable as domes and spires in areas such as the Needles. The magnificent Kern Canyon forms the eastern boundary of the monument's southern unit. The canyon follows an ancient fault, forming the only major north-south river drainage in the Sierra Nevada. Remnants of volcanism are expressed as hot springs and soda springs in some drainages.

Particularly in the northern unit of the monument, limestone outcrops, remnants of an ancient seabed, are noted for their caves. Subfossil

vegetation entombed within ancient woodrat middens in these caves has provided the only direct evidence of where giant sequoias grew during the Pleistocene Era, and documents substantial vegetation changes over the last 50,000 or more years. Vertebrate fossils also have been found within the middens. Other paleontological resources are found in meadow sediments, which hold detailed records of the last 10 millennia of changing vegetation, fire regimes, and volcanism in the Sierra Nevada. The multi-millennial, annual- and seasonal-resolution records of past fire regimes held in giant sequoia tree-rings are unique worldwide.

During the past 8,000 years, Native American peoples of the Sierra Nevada have lived by hunting and fishing, gathering, and trading with other people throughout the region. Archaeological sites such as lithic scatters, food-processing sites, rock shelters, village sites, petroglyphs, and pictographs are found

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in the monument. These sites have the potential to shed light on the roles of prehistoric peoples, including the role they played in shaping the ecosystems on which they depended.

One of the earliest recorded references to giant sequoias is found in the notes of the Walker Expedition of 1833, which described "trees of the redwood species, incredibly large...." The world became aware of giant sequoias when sections of the massive trees were transported east and displayed as curiosities for eastern audiences. Logging of giant sequoias throughout the Sierra Nevada mountain range began in 1856. Logging has continued intermittently to this day on nonfederal lands within the area of the monument. Early entrepreneurs, seeing profit in the gigantic trees, began acquiring lands within the present monument under the Timber and Stone Act in the 1880s. Today our understanding of the history of the Hume Lake and Converse Basin areas of the monument is supported by a treasure trove of historical photo-graphs and other documentation. These records provide a unique and unusually clear picture of more than half a century of logging that resulted in the virtual removal of most forest in some areas of the monument. Outstanding opportunities exist for studying forest resilience to large-scale logging and the consequences of different approaches to forest restoration.

Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431) authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases, shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

WHEREAS it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands as a national monument to be known as the Giant Sequoia National Monument:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), do proclaim that there are hereby set apart and reserved as the Giant Sequoia National Monument, for the purpose of protecting the objects identified in the above preceding para-graphs, all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the United States within the boundaries of the area described on the map entitled "Proposed Giant Sequoia National Monument" attached to and forming a part of this proclamation. The Federal land and interests in land

reserved consist of approximately 327,769 acres, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected as identified in the above preceding paragraphs.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, or other disposition under the public land laws including, but not limited to, withdrawal from locating, entry, and patent under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument. Lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument not owned by the United States shall be reserved as a part of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States.

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The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights.

Timber sales under contract as of the date of the proclamation and timber sales with a decision notice signed after January 1, 1999, but prior to December 31, 1999, may be completed consistent with the terms of the decision notice and contract. No portion of the monument shall be considered to be suited for timber production, and no part of the monument shall be used in a calculation or provision of a sustained yield of timber from the Sequoia National Forest. Removal of trees, except for personal use fuel wood, from within the monument area may take place only if clearly needed for ecological restoration and maintenance or public safety.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall manage the monument, along with the underlying Forest, through the Forest Service, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, to implement the purposes and provisions of this proclamation. The Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare, within 3 years of this date, a management plan for this monument, and shall promulgate such regulations for its management as deemed appropriate. The plan will provide for and encourage continued public and recreational access and use consistent with the purposes of the monument.

Unique scientific and ecological issues are involved in management of giant sequoia groves, including groves located in nearby and adjacent lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. The Secretary, in consultation with the National Academy of Sciences, shall appoint a Scientific Advisory Board to provide scientific guidance during the development of the initial management plan. Board membership shall represent a range of scientific disciplines pertaining to the objects to be protected, including, but not necessarily limited to, the physical, biological, and social sciences.

The Secretary, through the Forest Service, shall, in developing any management plans and any management rules and regulations governing the monument, consult with the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. The final decision to issue any management plans and any management rules and regulations rests with the Secretary of Agriculture. Management plans or rules and regulations developed by the Secretary of the Interior governing uses within national parks or other national monuments administered by the Secretary of the Interior shall not apply within the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

The management plan shall contain a transportation plan for the

monument that provides for visitor enjoyment and understanding about the scientific and historic objects in the monument, consistent with their protection. For the purposes of protecting the objects included in the monument, motorized vehicle use will be permitted only on designated roads, and non-motorized mechanized vehicle use will be permitted only on designated roads and trails, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes or to provide access for persons with disabilities. No new roads or trails will be authorized within the monument except to further the purposes of the monument. Prior to the issuance of the management plan, existing roads and trails may be closed or altered to protect the objects of interest in the monument, and motorized vehicle use will be permitted on trails until but not after December 31, 2000.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to diminish or enlarge the jurisdiction of the State of California with respect to fish and wildlife management.

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There is hereby reserved, as of the date of this proclamation and subject to valid existing rights, a quantity of water sufficient to fulfill the purposes for which this monument is established. Nothing in this reservation shall be construed as a relinquishment or reduction of any water use or rights reserved or appropriated by the United States on or before the date of this proclamation.

Laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to administration by the Department of Agriculture of grazing permits and timber sales under contract as of the date of this proclamation on National Forest System lands within the boundaries of the monument shall continue to apply to lands within the monument.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to affect existing special use authorizations; existing uses shall be governed by applicable laws, regulations, and management plans.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the national monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

THE ANTIQUITIES ACT

Section 2 of the Antiquities Act, 16 U.S.C.431, authorizes the President of the United States to establish as national monuments "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States..." The Act further states that boundaries shall be "... confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

A. Objects of Historic or Scientific Interest

The Giant Sequoia National Monument is located within the Sequoia National Forest in south-central California. The map appended to the Proclamation sets out the boundaries of the land reserved for the Monument. The outer boundaries of the area encompass approximately 327,769 acres of federal land managed by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service "Forest Service". The Proclamation describes objects in the area that warrant protection as a national monument.

The Monument is located in two parcels bisected by Sequoia National Park. The northern parcel is in Fresno and Tulare Counties. The northern boundary is the Kings River Wild and Scenic River. The southern parcel is entirely in Tulare County. The uppermost boundary of the southern parcel is formed by Sequoia National Park. The eastern boundary is the North Fork Kern Wild and Scenic River. Establishment of the Giant Sequoia National Monument brings permanent protection and recognition to all the federally owned giant sequoia groves within the Sequoia National Forest.

The rich and varied landscape of the Giant Sequoia National Monument holds a diverse array of scientific and historic resources. Magnificent groves of towering giant sequoias, the world's largest trees, are nested within a great belt of coniferous forest, jeweled with mountain meadows. Bold granitic domes, spires, and plunging gorges texture the landscape. Elevation climbs from around 2,500 to 9,700 feet over a distance of only a few miles, capturing an extraordinary array of habitats within a relatively small area. The spectrum of ecosystems is home to a diverse array of plants and animals, many endemic to the southern Sierra Nevada. The Monument embraces limestone caverns and paleontological resources, documenting tens of thousands of years of ecosystem change. The Monument contains many archaeological sites recording Native American occupation and adaptations to this complex landscape, and historic remnants of early Euroamerican settlement as well as the early commercial exploitation of the giant

sequoias. The Monument provides exemplary opportunities for biologists, geologists, paleontologists, archaeologists and historians to study these objects.

Ancestral forms of giant sequoias were a part of the western North American landscape for millions of years. Today's giant sequoias are among the world's longest-lived trees with a confirmed maximum age of at least 3,266 years or more. The great longevity of giant sequoias means that they hold within their tree rings multi-millennial records of past environmental changes such as climate, fire regimes, and consequent forest response. Only one other North American tree species, the high-elevation bristlecone pine of the desert mountain ranges east of the Sierra Nevada, holds such lengthy and detailed chronologies past changes and events.

Sequoias and their surrounding ecosystems provide a context for understanding ongoing environmental changes. For example, a century of fire suppression has led to an unprecedented failure in sequoia reproduction in otherwise undisturbed groves. Climatic change has also influenced the sequoia groves; their present highly disjunct distribution is due in part to generally higher summertime temperatures and prolonged summer droughts in California from about 10,000 to 4,500 years ago. During this period, sequoias were much more rare than they are today. Only following a slight cooling and shortening of summer droughts about 4,500 years ago have the giant sequoia been able to spread out and create today's groves.

The giant sequoia groves and the surrounding forest provide a great opportunity to understand the consequences of different approaches to forest restoration. These forests are in need of restoration to counteract the effects of a century of fire suppression and logging. Fire suppression has caused forests to become denser in many areas, with increased dominance of shade-tolerant species. Woody debris has accumulated, causing an unprecedented buildup of surface fuels. One of the most immediate consequences of these changes is an increased hazard of wildfires of a severity that was rarely encountered in pre-Euroamerican times. Outstanding opportunities exist for determining the consequences of different approaches to mitigating these conditions and restoring natural forest resilience.

The great elevational range of the Monument embraces a number of climatic zones, providing habitats for an extraordinary diversity of plant species and communities. The Monument is rich in rare plants and is home to more than 200 plant species endemic to the southern Sierra Nevada, arrayed in plant communities ranging from low-elevation oak woodlands and chaparral to high-elevation subalpine forest. Numerous meadows and streams provide an interconnected web of habitats for moisture-loving species.

This spectrum of interconnected vegetation types provide important habitat for wildlife, ranging from large mammals and birds to less visible and less familiar forms of life such as fungi, bacteria and insects. For example, the mid-elevation forests are dominated by massive conifers arrayed in a complex landscape mosaic, providing one of the last refugia

for the pacific fisher in California. The forests of the Monument are also home to great gray owl, American marten, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, spotted owl, and a number of rare amphibians. The giant sequoias themselves are the only known trees large enough to have provided nesting cavities for the California Condors, which must otherwise nest on cliff faces. In fact, the last breeding pair of condors in the wild was discovered nesting in a giant sequoia that is part of the new Monument. The Monument's giant sequoia ecosystem remains available for the return and study of condors.

The physiography and geology of the Monument have been shaped by millions of years by intensive uplift, erosion, volcanism and glaciation. The Monument is dominated by granitic rocks, most noticeable as prominent domes and spires in areas such as the Needles. The magnificent Kern Canyon forms the eastern boundary of the Monument. The canyon follows an ancient fault, forming the only major north -south river drainage in the Sierra Nevada. Remnants of volcanism are expressed as hot springs and soda springs in some drainages.

Particularly in the northern unit of the Monument, limestone outcrops, remnants of an ancient seabed, are noted for their caves. Subfossil vegetation entombed within ancient woodrat middens in these caves has provided the only direct evidence of where giant sequoias grew during the Pleistocene Era, and documents substantial vegetation changes over the last 50,000 years or more. Vertebrate fossils have also been found within the middens. Other paleontological resources are found in meadow sediments, which hold detailed records of the last ten millennia of changing vegetation, fire regimes, and volcanism in the Sierra Nevada. The multi-millennial, annual and seasonal-resolution records of past fire regimes held in giant sequoia tree-rings are unique worldwide.

During the last 8,000 years Native American peoples and their ancestors in the Sierra Nevada have lived by hunting and fishing, gathering, and trading with other people throughout the region. Archaeological and ethnological studies indicate that Native Americans shaped the landscape and its resources to some extent through the use of fire, weeding, irrigation, and tilling. Archaeological sites including lithic scatters, food-processing sites, rock shelters, a few ethnographically documented village sites and petroglyphs/pictographs are in the Monument area. These sites have the potential to shed light on the role prehistoric people, including the role they played in shaping the ecosystems on which they depended.

The earliest recorded reference to giant sequoias is found in the notes of the Walker Expedition of 1833, which described "trees of the redwood species, incredibly large...." The world became aware of giant sequoia when sections of the massive trees were transported east and displayed as curiosities for eastern audiences. Logging of giant sequoias began in 1856. Logging has continued intermittently to this day on nonfederal lands within the Monument. Early entrepreneurs, seeing profit in the gigantic trees, began acquiring lands within the present Monument under the Timber and Stone Act in the 1880s. Today our understanding of the history of Hume Lake and Converse Basin

areas of the Monument is supported by a treasure trove of historical photographs and other documentation. These records provide a unique and unusually clear picture of more than half a century of logging that resulted in the virtual removal of most forest in that area. Outstanding opportunities exist for studying forest resilience to massive disturbance and the consequences of different approaches to forest restoration.

Interest in the protection of Giant Sequoia began as early as 1864, when the Mariposa Grove was deeded by the federal government to the State of California. By 1890, public reaction to the extensive logging of giant sequoia elsewhere, was a major factor in the establishment of the Sequoia, General Grant and Yosemite National Parks. Shortly thereafter, President Theodore Roosevelt established the Sierra Forest Reserve, which was later divided into the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. In 1938, the Forest Service purchased the private lands owned by the Hume-Bennett logging company. This purchase returned several groves to public ownership including Converse Basin, which had been one of the largest pure stands of Giant Sequoia in the world until the landowners logged it in the late 19th century. At about the same time, Congress created the Kings Canyon National Park, which added the Redwood Mountain Grove to the National Park System in 1940.

B. Consultation with Interested Parties

In his letter of February 14, 2000 letter, the President asked the Secretary to consult with appropriate federal, state, local and tribal officials and agencies before making a recommendation. The Forest Service responded to this request by meeting with interested state, federal, local and tribal officials. The Forest Service also two public meetings in Visalia and Fresno, California to provide the public an opportunity to express their views regarding the creation of a national monument in Sequoia National Forest. Additionally, the Forest Service encouraged written comments at the public meetings, through individual contacts, newspaper articles and through a website designed for the purpose. Primary concerns regarding the Monument centered on access to the forest for recreational and special use permit opportunities, and that this may be the first step to the eventual transfer of the area to National Park designation. Proponents of the proposal pointed out the permanent protection that would be afforded the groves and their ecosystem. Written responses from the BLM, NPS, USGS Biological Resources Division and state agencies indicated that they support a degree of management flexibility to explore the ecology of giant sequoias and a variety of management options for restoration, protection, and maintenance of giant sequoias. The Proclamation responds to these concerns by preventing further commercial logging within the area of the Monument, establishing a science advisory board to assist in the development of a management plan, directing that monument status could not form the basis for the denial of renewal of existing special use permits, and providing for continued access into the area.

C. Current Management

The Monument area contains hundreds of miles of roads and trails that provide access to the area, including state highways and county maintained roads. There are several private property inholdings that contain residential developments within the Monument. A few of these properties are adjacent to, or within groves. Currently, the federal lands in the area are managed for a large number of values including recreation, forest health, fire and fuels management, livestock grazing, hydropower development, and special uses. Management is limited in the sequoia groves, which are withdrawn from the timber base and from mineral entry. Congressionally designated areas including Wild and Scenic River corridors, a portion of the Kings River Special Management Area, and Wilderness are managed as required by their enabling legislation. There are also other substantially unroaded areas within the Monument that are managed according to requirements of the existing Forest Plan.

Congressionally designated areas within the Monument area include small portions of the Monarch and Golden Trout Wilderness areas, the Kings River Special Management Area and the Kings and Kern Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Forest Service has also established botanical areas known as Baker Point, Slate Mountain, and Freeman Botanical areas. Also within the area of the Monument are the Moses Mountain and South Mountaineer (candidate) Research Natural Areas, critical habitat for the Little Kern Golden Trout, the Starvation Grove Condor Nest Area, and several roadless areas including Chico, Moses, Dennison Peak, Agnew, Black Mountain and Lion Ridge. The portions of the Monarch and Golden Trout Wilderness included in the Monument area contain watersheds that directly influence Giant Sequoia Groves.

The Monument is adjacent to the Tule River Indian Reservation, but does not contain any reservation lands. The reservation has some inholdings within the forest administrative boundary, but these lands are not included within the Monument designation. Also, while there are other state or private inholdings within the Monument boundary, these lands are not included within the Monument designation.

Currently there are 10 timber sales under contract in the Monument area. These contracts will likely be completed within three years. The contracts represent about 22 million board feet (MBF) at a value of 1.8 million dollars. There are also two sales that have signed decision notices in 1999, which can be sold allowing an additional 8 million boardfeet of transition timber.

The Monument area contains about 24,000 acres of tree plantations ranging in age from 1 to 50 years old. These plantations are the result of wildfire rehabilitation, timber removal, and replanting of openings created by insect and disease. Other habitat protection and improvement projects include an estimated 5,000 acres of prescribed burning per year, watershed, and riparian improvement projects.

There are a number of special use permits for various activities under existing authorities in the Monument area. These include, but are not limited to, personal use fuel wood collection for about 1600 cords annually, other miscellaneous forest products including cone collection, commercial river rafting, campground concessions, four recreation residence tracts within grove boundaries, outfitter guide pack stations, organization camps, apiary sites, electronic sites, municipal water supplies, and other permitted activities.

The Monument area contains 32 grazing allotments for 23,000 head months. The majority are annual grass allotments that, in some cases, include grazing on mountain meadows as well.

There is one hydropower development licensed within the Monument area. This development is not within the watershed area of the sequoia groves and is currently in the re-licensing process.

Organization camps located within the Monument area include Hume Lake Christian Camp, Pyle's Boys Camp, Quaker Meadow Camp, and Camp Keep, among others. The purpose of these camps, which are on private and federal land within the Monument, is primarily educational or religious in nature.

There are two lode claims for gold and one claim for rose quartz within the Monument area. None of the claims are patented. There are also numerous abandoned claims within the area.

There is extensive recreational use in the Monument area. The Sequoia National Forest, as a whole, experiences around four million visitors per year. Recreation use in the Monument area includes 16 developed campgrounds and associated facilities. Four of these campgrounds are within grove boundaries. There are also several trailheads; five are within grove boundaries. There are an estimated 550 miles of recreational trails within the Monument boundary that provide both summer and winter activities. Hikers, horsemen, mountain bikes, OHVs, cross-country skiers and snowmobilers use these trails.

D. Land Area Reserved for the Proper Care and Management of the Objects to be Preserved

The Antiquities Act authorizes the President, as part of his proclamation of a national monument, to reserve land, "the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected." (16 U. S. C. section 431). The Monument area has been carefully delineated, based on a thorough review of available information, to meet the goals of effectively caring for and managing the objects in perpetuity.

Preservation of such objects requires, among other things, protection of enough land surrounding them to restore or maintain the conditions that have made their continued existence possible. The scientific value of many of the objects within the Monument requires the reservation of areas large enough to maintain the objects and their interactions. Many plant and animal species rely upon the entire area to maintain viable populations and their role in the ecosystem. Thus, proper care and management of the aggregate area is necessary for proper care of the objects. Even if it were possible to disaggregate the area, management of a patchwork of reserved lands would be impractical, as it would make it more difficult to care for the objects, reduce options for proper management, and lead to inconsistent resource management standards for overlapping resources. Such a fragmentation of the Monument would undermine the purposes of the Monument itself, and create substantial impediments to effective management of the Monument. In short, reservation of a smaller area would undermine proper care and management of the Monument.

LEGAL EFFECTS OF THE PROCLAMATION

There are several significant aspects of the Proclamation. First, it reserves only the federal lands in the area, because the Antiquities Act applies only to objects of historic or scientific interest "that area situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States." (16 U.S.C. section 431)

Second, the Proclamation is subject to valid existing rights. Thus, to the extent a person or entity has valid existing rights in the federal lands or resources within the area, the Proclamation respects their rights. The exercise of such rights could, however, be regulated in order to protect the purposes of the Monument, but any regulation must respect such rights.

Third, the Proclamation appropriates and withdraws the federal lands and interest in lands within the boundaries of the Monument from entry, location, sale, leasing, or other disposition under the public lands laws, including but not limited to withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the Monument. This withdrawal prevents the location of new mining claims under the 1872 Mining Law, and prevents the Secretary of the Interior from exercising discretion under the mineral leasing acts and related laws to lease or sell federal minerals within the boundaries of the Monument.

Fourth, timber sales under contract as of the date of the Proclamation, and timber sales with a decision notice signed between January 1, 1999, and December 31, 1999, may be offered and completed consistent with the terms of the decision notice and contract. No portion of the Monument shall be part of the suitable timber base, and no portion of the Monument shall be used in a calculation or provision of a sustained yield of timber from the Sequoia National Forest. Except for the timber sales described above and personal

use fuel wood, removal of trees from within the Monument area may take place only if clearly needed for the purposes of ecological restoration and maintenance or public safety.

Fifth, the Proclamation, subject to valid existing rights, reserves, as of the date of the proclamation, a quantity of water sufficient to fulfill the purposes for which the Monument is established. Nothing in the reservation shall be construed as a relinquishment or reduction of any water use or rights reserved or appropriated by the United States on or before the date of the proclamation.

Sixth, after December 31, 2000, all motorized vehicle use within the Monument is limited to designated roads. As of the date of the Proclamation, non-motorized mechanized vehicle use is permitted only on designated roads and trails. Off-road and off-trail motorized and mechanized uses are prohibited, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes or to provide access for persons with disabilities. Nothing in the Proclamation is intended to exempt the Monument from the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE MONUMENT

The Federal lands in the area described in the Proclamation are currently under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. The Forest Service manages the land pursuant to its basic organic authorities, the primary one being the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C. 473-475, 477-482, 551)

The Proclamation keeps the area under the existing Forest Service management. This keeps the management of the federal land under this agency's existing authorities, but subject to the overriding purpose of protecting the scientific and historic objects described in the Proclamation. The establishment of the Monument thus constitutes an overlay on the management regime otherwise applicable to lands managed by the Forest Service; by eliminating commercial timber harvesting within the area and mandating the protection of the historic and scientific objects within the Monument, the Proclamation limits the management discretion that the Forest Service might otherwise have.

The Proclamation requires the Secretary to appoint a Science Advisory Board in consultation with the National Academy of Sciences. The primary role of this Board is to provide scientific guidance during the development of the initial management plan by the agency. Board membership will include, but not be limited to, the physical, social and biological sciences. The Secretary is further directed to complete and publish the management plan in three years from the date of the proclamation.

The designated wilderness areas and congressionally designated special management areas encompassed within the Monument would continue to be managed in accordance with statutes and policies that pertain to them.

A. Impact of Monument Designation on Existing or Planned Activities in the Area

Currently authorized livestock grazing, recreation and non-recreation special uses, recreation activities, hunting and other similar activities:

These uses generally are not be affected except where (1) the Forest Service, under applicable law, identifies areas where such uses are to be restricted or prohibited as necessary to protect the federal lands and resources, including the objects protected by the Monument designation; or (2) where the Forest Service finds a clear threat from such a use to the federal lands and resources, including the objects protected by the Monument designation and the circumstances call for swift protective action. Such uses, of course, remain subject to applicable laws and regulations, and therefore remain subject to regulation and limitation under such provisions for reasons other than establishment of the Monument.

Use of Existing rights-of-way:

The area covered by the Proclamation hundreds of miles of roads and trails, including state highways and county roads. Use of existing rights-of-way would generally be subject to the same standards as described in the preceding paragraph regarding currently authorized uses. In some cases existing rights-of-way may be valid existing rights. The exercise of such rights could be regulated in order to protect the purposes of the Monument, but any regulation must respect such rights.

Scheduled timber harvest:

Timber sales under contract as of the date of a final proclamation, and timber sales with a decision notice signed between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999, may be completed or offered consistent with the terms of the contract or decision notice. This allows for an orderly completion of the fuels reduction and forest health treatments under contract, as well as provides a transition supply of timber to local industry. No portion of the Monument may be considered to be suited for timber production, and no part of the Monument can be used in a calculation or provision of a sustained yield of timber from the Sequoia National Forest. Except for the timber sales described above and for personal use fuel wood, removal of trees from within the Monument may only take place only if clearly needed for purposes of ecological restoration and maintenance, or public safety.

Prescribed fire projects, cultural treatments, wildlife, fisheries, watershed improvements and regularly scheduled facility, road, and trail maintenance activities:

In general, these activities are consistent with the goals of the Monument. Current projects with an approved environmental decision document will be completed as planned. Scheduled maintenance will continue as planned for the protection of Monument resources.

Motorized and mechanized use:

After December 31, 2000, all motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads. As of the date of the Proclamation, non-motorized mechanized vehicle use is permitted only on designated roads and trails. Off-road and off-trail motorized and mechanized uses are prohibited, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes or to provide access for persons with disabilities. Nothing in the Proclamation is intended to exempt the Monument from the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Activities on state or private land:

The area within the Monument contains approximately 4,807 acres of state, 160 acres of county, and 16,650 acres of private land. The Monument designation does not apply to those lands, but the Proclamation provides that if any of these lands within the outer boundaries of the Monument are acquired into federal ownership in the future, they will become part of the Monument. In the absence of acquisition, the laws applicable to the use of private or state lands prior to the establishment of the Monument will apply.

Mining claims:

New mining claims are prohibited. The proclamation withdraws the area from the 1872 Mining Law (30 U.S.C. section 21 et seq.) and other mining laws. Existing mining claims with a valid discovery of a valuable mineral deposit as of the date of the designation will constitute valid existing rights. The exercise of such rights may be regulated in order to protect the purposes of the Monument, but any regulation must respect such rights. Existing mining claims that lack a valid discovery of a valuable mineral deposit have no valid existing rights; activities on such claims may be regulated or prohibited to protect the purposes of the Monument.