

Quote of the season:

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in times of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

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The Sequoia Seedling

Hi Sequoia ForestKeeper members!

My name is Kalyani Robbins, and I am thrilled to be your new Legal Director. The work that you have already done, with the generous assistance of attorneys from other organizations, is truly impressive. The successful results that SFK has already achieved make me optimistic that we can do more to protect these beautiful giants. It is an honor to have the opportunity to take this torch, and it is my mission to find any legal means to stop further logging in the Monument and Sequoia National Forest.

I've been asked to tell you a bit about myself. I was born in San Francisco and raised mostly in Berkeley, but with several stretches in India (which is where my first name came from). Growing up I had the great fortune to spend plenty of time in the tranquil forests of northern California, both with my mother (who kept some land in the woods for us to take a long drive to on weekends) and at summer camp each year in an old-growth redwood grove. There is something about being surrounded by massive trees and their inhabitants that provides a true sense of peace, and I was so fortunate to be able to grow up with these experiences.

Although I have always loved nature, my career path did not initially show it. At some point in my childhood it was understood that I was destined for law school (I had a tendency to out-log adults at times!), and I never really questioned that plan. After completing my undergraduate education at Berkeley I went on to law school, initially at Northwestern but ultimately at Stanford, from which I received my JD in 1999. Upon graduation I took and passed the California bar exam (for which I studied while spending two months at the Great Barrier Reef!). Ultimately, after clerking for two federal judges, one at the appellate level, I became a criminal prosecutor in Manhattan. I had no prior interest in criminal law, but it was a fantastic job that offered a great deal of court time. I took on a lot of domestic violence work, and felt like I did some good. Of course, I also gained a lot of valuable experience there.

I left this job upon the birth of my son, Skyler, now 15



Kalyani and Skyler

months old and full of energy and curiosity. By the time I was pregnant I had already decided I wanted to move toward an environmental career. Since graduating from law school I had spent significant time traveling the world, mostly via ecotourism, covering all seven continents. It was on my final continent, Antarctica in December 2004, that I realized I had to stop watching and start participating. I applied and was accepted to the Environmental and Natural Resources Law LL.M. degree program at Lewis & Clark in Portland, Oregon. Now I'm excited to be working for Sequoia ForestKeeper!



Editor's Note: Special thanks for the generosity of several of our members, as well Environment Now, for their contributions to help hire our first Legal Director.

WIN A TRIP TO THE SEQUOIAS!

Throughout 2007, SFK will be holding a membership drive contest to reach 1,000 members. Both our 1,000th member, as well as the member who refers them, will win a trip to visit the sequoias, including:

- Two nights accommodations at the beautiful Sierra Gateway Cottages in scenic Kernville
- One breakfast and dinner for two
- An enlightening tour of the sequoias with Sequoia ForestKeeper staff, including a picnic lunch.

For more information, call (760) 376-4434. Airfare not included.

We have waited 12 years for a friendly Congress. Let's act now, and maybe we can stop the logging before it starts this spring.

HOPE FOR THE MONUMENT

Grassroots Cooperation gets Results

By Ara Marderosian, Executive Director and Valerie Cassidy, Programs Director

About a year ago, Sequoia ForestKeeper worked with a grassroots group in Washington D.C., Save America's Forests (SAF), to gather clear evidence of on-the-ground damage in the Monument, was able to facilitate the introduction of The Act to Save America's Forests (S. 1897) in the United States Senate to transfer the Giant Sequoia National Monument into the care of the National Park Service. A few months ago, the same legislation (HR 6237) was introduced in the House of Representatives.

This is historic! For years, we talked about, drafted, and thought about legislation to transfer the Monument; now we have it, thanks to the work of grassroots groups just like Sequoia ForestKeeper, Forests

Forever, and Tule River Conservancy. We welcome decisions by the Sierra Club, Federation of Outdoor Clubs, and the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters that the Monument should be transferred.

The Act to Save America's Forests has been endorsed by the highly respected and influential Union of Concerned Scientists, as well as other famous scientists such as Jane Goodall and E.O. Wilson. Sequoia ForestKeeper provided pictures and information that was used in a House committee hearing to grill the Chief of the Forest Service about the illegal logging in the Monument last year. Sequoia ForestKeeper also provided evidence of on-the-ground damage which was used to draft a letter that was signed by 29 Democrats in the House of Representatives pressuring the

Chief of the Forest Service to end logging in the Monument.

With our friends in Congress now chairing committees, funding for Forest Service logging in the Monument could be ended. We can get more Congressional support for this legislation, now, by showing more lawmakers the evidence of damage and look forward in three years to having an environmentally-conscious President sign the transfer into law.

The Democrats have already assumed their positions of power internally; they are lining up their votes and strategy. We have to act quickly to get this legislation on the agenda. That means we have to get the support of other activist organizations and they have to educate Congress ASAP. We have waited 12 years for a friendly Congress. Let's act now, and maybe we can stop the logging before it starts this spring.



What Can You Do?

- You can make a difference.
- The Act to Save America's Forests is an act that protects all forests nationwide. You can reach your representative by calling the capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Tell your representative to support the Act to Save America's Forests

- Also, please tell your neighbors, friends, relatives, and associates about the plight of the giant sequoias and ask them to get involved.

A History of Saving America's Forests

By Ara Marderosian, Executive Director, Valerie Cassidy, Programs Director, and Carl Ross, Executive Director of SAF

Sequoia ForestKeeper is part of a coalition called Save America's Forests, a group that was created in 1990, as a nationwide coalition of grassroots groups, many disgusted with the national organizations. Clearcutting was wiping out the native biodiversity and old growth on millions of acres of national forests, and if the trend was not stopped, America's last wild forest areas would be lost forever. SAF quickly decided to start working to promote a nationwide national forest anti-clearcutting bill, the Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Prohibition Act, which had just been introduced in Congress in order to counter the massive wave of logging in the national forests in the 1980s. The Act had only garnered 18 cosponsors and was going nowhere.

Within three years, SAF had gathered over 100 congressional cosponsors for the anti-clearcutting bill, gotten protection for roadless areas added to the bill, had a Senator introduce it in the Senate, and had three hearings in two separate Congressional committees. And here is the incredible thing: in May 1994, the bill was debated and voted on by the entire House of Representatives—the first time clearcutting and national forest management was discussed by the entire House since the passage of National Forest Management Act in the 1970s.

SAF added new sections to the old anti-clearcutting bill, creating the Act to Save America's Forests. The Act not only bans clearcutting on federal forest lands, but ends logging in roadless areas. This bill is vitally important as it protects the last virgin forests, of which there are only 5% left in the United States.

Sequoia ForestKeeper's President, the legendary Martin Litton, contributed to this new Act by adding language to ban logging in all Sequoia Groves.

In 2005, the Act was reintroduced in the Senate and in 2006 in the House with new language to transfer the Giant Sequoia National Monument to the National Park system.

In 2006, Martin Litton and Sequoia ForestKeeper Executive Director, Ara Marderosian went on whirlwind visits to Congress to support the Act. Martin met dozens of Congressmen and their aides; Ara met over 50 in his one week DC trip. Ara also met the Assistant Director of the National Park Service. As a result, we have the support of over 80 members of this Congress for the transfer of the Monument into the National Park System already.

Anna Eshoo, (D-CA 14), is the sponsor of the Act to Save America's Forests. Martin lives in Anna's district, and after speaking with him and learning of the plight of the Monument under Forest Service control, she introduced the bill

with the section to transfer the Monument into the National Park system.

Unfortunately, we believe there will be no bill signed into law as long as Bush is President. The next two years are for building support for the Monument transfer, and working to stop funding for logging in 2007.

To TAKE ACTION, see "What Can You Do" on page 2.



NEWS FLASH

On Feb. 13, Martin received a gift for his 90th Birthday from two Democratic members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee, who questioned Mark Rey, Undersecretary of Agriculture, about the logging that was done in 2004 in the Trail of 100 Giants, located in the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The Representatives, Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and James Moran (D-VA), based their questions on information and pictures supplied to them by Sequoia ForestKeeper and Save America's Forests. Rey maintained that the logging done on the trail was legitimately conducted for fuels reduction and hazard tree abatement purposes, despite the fact that SFK has recorded evidence to the contrary. Rep. Moran (D-VA) pointed out that the Forest Service has lost the trust of the American people due to their actions, and that Congress is unhappy with the agency's actions. Mark Rey insisted there was nothing to hide. We hope in near future to be able to show conclusively to our congressional representatives the truth about the environmentally catastrophic, immoral, and illegal logging in the Monument, so that Congress will permanently stop the FS from logging in GSNM.



Martin Litton and Carl Ross

HAVE A SEQUOIA PARTY!

Do you have friends who love the sequoias as much as you do? Or maybe you know someone who could use a night out. Well, invite them over to your place and educate those you love (or even just like) about the plight of the Sequoias! We will provide the materials, talking points, and a short DVD to show; all you have to do is invite some people over, open a bottle of wine (or soda, or water), and let them know how much you care about these precious trees and what they can do to help. For more information, or to order your house party kit today, call Valerie at (760) 376-4434.



Forest Service Misrepresents Fire Suppression Losses

By Ara Marderosian, Executive Director

The Forest Service (FS) is attempting to justify multi-billion-dollar losses* to the federal treasury with the false and scientifically baseless claim that wildfire suppression implemented miles from homes or communities is carried out to protect communities.

For years the Forest Service has ignored and misrepresented the research of the leading fire specialist, Jack D. Cohen, Research Physical Scientist FS Fire Sciences Laboratory in Missoula, Montana. Cohen's research is clear - modifying the home ignition zone (the home and its immediate surroundings within 200 feet) can effectively reduce home ignitability during extreme wildfire conditions. This produces far less landscape disturbance for the purpose of community protection and reduces the threat to the community from wildland fires.

The Forest Service has for years been falsely claiming that logging miles from communities is protecting communities. This has caused homeowners to believe they were protected from wildfire risks because the FS reduced fuels by logging the forests around them. The FS should be using real scientific research and telling homeowners that the credible research strongly advises homeowners to remove fuels from within 200 feet of their homes, and to ensure that their homes are constructed and landscaped in ways that reduce wildfire risks.

Forest Service misinformation has caused state and local governments to believe that logging and thinning miles from homes and communities would provide wildfire protection, which has caused their failure to regulate WUI community development, zoning, and planning to ensure that homes and structures adjacent to or in

forests are constructed and landscaped in ways that reduce wildfire risks.

The FS spends much suppression funding on aerial suppression activities. The FS has for years claimed that its aerial suppression activities have achieved program goals, but experienced FS aviation professionals strongly disagree.

In March of 2003, John Litton, Manager and Supervisory aerial firefighting pilot, gave the following testimony to the Scientific Advisory Board for the Giant Sequoia National Monument refuting the need for most aerial wildfire suppression costs.

I have been working for the U.S. Forest Service as an aviation manager and supervisory aerial firefighting pilot for over eight years. It is from this aviation background as a leadplane and smokejumper pilot that I give my observations and opinions on this issue of wildland fire suppression.

NO wildland fires have ever been put out by aircraft. The inclusion of aviation into the fire suppression business was to provide a rapid "initial attack" response to slow the advance of small fires by the use of chemicals (retardant) in support of ground firefighters, or by the use of smokejumpers. Not all tactics and resources work well, if at all, on every incident. It should be no surprise to anyone that we are totally ineffective in stopping wildland fires when they reach a certain state. The best we can do is evacuate and wait, much the same as those who wait for the passing of a tornado. The state at which a fire is unstoppable is easy to predict and yet many firefighters are put in harm's way each year without a hope of accomplishing anything.

The FS is now trying to convince Congress to allow it to use funding allocated for wildfire

suppression activities to simultaneously implement "fuel reduction" projects throughout the national forests at the same time as they are fighting wildfires.

This would allow the FS to tap into the huge funds available for fire suppression to use the crews and equipment on-site to do work that might not be as well funded otherwise, and also to get things done without public review under the cover of smoke.

All of this massive overspending and damage to the forest is supposedly being done for the public good; saving the public from the forest.

The FS fails to see the forest as a forest; it is politics and money for the benefit of the timber corporations. The FS wants to get funds, so declaring an emergency fuels situation gets budgets for work and keeps supervisors in their jobs. Even if they wanted to do good things, there are those funds begging to be tapped into—tied to fuel reduction projects—and no other funding to keep the doors open.



*The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (FS) Office of Inspector General (Report No. 08601-44-SF FS Large Fire Suppression Costs Issued November 20, 2006) (OIG) says, "Forest Service's (FS) wildfire suppression costs have exceeded \$1 billion in 3 of the past 6 years. FS' escalating cost to fight fires is largely due to its efforts to protect private property in the wildland urban interface (WUI) bordering FS lands.

To read the full report, go to: <http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/08601-44-SF.pdf>

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Congress should be reminded that aerial wildfire suppression is ineffective, primarily a waste of taxpayer dollars, dangerous for firefighting personnel, harmful for ecosystems, and that logging will increase, not decrease, fire risk. Science demonstrates that logging is not restoration; logging causes long-term damage. The time for compromise has ended - these forests are already depleted!

The presidential proclamation that created the Monument said, "These forests need restoration to counteract the effects of a century of fire suppression and logging." More logging is not the answer.

The Forest Service must be reined in, and funding must be withheld for any more logging in the Giant Sequoia National Monument and our national forests. You can reach your representative by calling the capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and giving your zip code. Tell your representative how you want public lands protected.

JOIN US TODAY!

As a membership organization, we depend on the support of individuals, businesses, and organizations. Membership funds go directly to sustain the valuable work of the ForestKeeper. When considering what to buy the person in your life who has everything, why not give the gift of philanthropy? Membership benefits include:

- 🌲 Quarterly Newsletter
- 🌲 SFK Bumper Sticker
- 🌲 Organic Cotton SFK T-Shirt Printed with Natural Organic Ink*
(American Marten Level and above) *Please Circle Size: **S M L XL**
- 🌲 Organic Cotton SFK Tote Bag (Northern Goshawk Level and above)

Individual and gift Memberships are available at the following levels:

- PACIFIC FISHER.....\$25**
- PILEATED WOODPECKER.....\$35**
- AMERICAN MARTEN.....\$50**
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK.....\$100**
- SPOTTED OWL.....\$250**
- GIANT SEQUOIA*.....\$1000+**

*Please call 760-376-4434 for details on this special category

Enclosed is my donation of: \$ _____ to _____ become a member of or _____ renew my membership with Sequoia ForestKeeper.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Referred By: _____

Please mail your tax-deductible donation to:

**Sequoia ForestKeeper-
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 2134
Kernville, CA 93238**

ADOPT A SEQUOIA!

Sequoia Forest-Keeper is continuing our Adopt a Sequoia program due to popular demand. For only \$100 for a single tree and \$2,500 for a stand of sequoias*, you can give yourself or those you cherish a gift that will last for generations. All proceeds will be used to continue our work to protect and preserve the Giant Sequoias

ADOPT A SEQUOIA

I would like to adopt:
 Single Sequoia (\$100)_____ Stand of Sequoias (\$2500)_____

Donor Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone:_____

Email:_____

Recipient Name(s) (if same, write n/a):_____

Address:_____

Message to Recipient:_____

Please indicate if you would like a photo of the top or trunk of your sequoia.

*Adoption of sequoia does not indicate legal ownership

Sequoia Adoption includes:

- 🌲 A beautiful certificate of adoption
- 🌲 GPS coordinates of your adopted Sequoia
- 🌲 A map so you can visit your tree or stand of trees anytime you wish
- 🌲 A lovely 8x10 color photo of your tree or stand

If you are interested in adopting a Sequoia for yourself or a loved one, call Valerie at 866-KEEP-TREES (533-7873) or fill out the form above and mail it to the Sequoia ForestKeeper office with payment.



Example of Sequoia trunk picture

Giant Sequoias are the world's largest living things. These majestic trees can easily grow to over 300 feet with diameters approaching 40 feet. They weigh up to 600 tons.



Example of Sequoia top picture

The Sequoias Lose a Friend

By Ara Marderosian, Executive Director

On January 1, 2006, we learned of the death of long-time member and friend of Sequoia ForestKeeper, Robert Linden. Bob was an unassuming person, an artist, and a personal friend who left good cheer wherever he went.

Bob was instrumental in my becoming involved in forest protection. In 1996, I was invited by Bob to view a slide show about Sequoia National Forest. Bob knew that as a backpacker and a photographer, I would have an interest in seeing the beauty of the forest as others see it.

The slide show was presented by Charlene Little, the local resident who, in the 1980's, discovered Forest Service logging in the Giant Sequoia groves. Charlene has been on the Board of Directors of SFK since its inception.

The images that Charlene presented in the slide show were devastating photos of the damage caused by Forest Service logging in the giant sequoia groves. We were

all shocked by what we saw.

In subsequent years Charlene arranged field trips into the forest which Bob and I both eagerly took. We learned much from forest activists like Carla Cloer, Martin Litton, and Dan Christenson, who had been defending Sequoia from Forest Service mismanagement for more than a decade. Martin became the President of SFK, Dan is the Chief Financial Officer, and Carla is on SFK's Advisory Board. That one slide show affected me deeply and led me to becoming the Sequoia ForestKeeper.

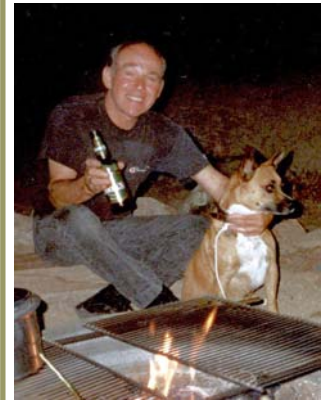
When we started Sequoia ForestKeeper, Bob helped us and maintained an interest in how we were progressing. He supported our efforts to grow a grassroots organization to focus on protecting Sequoia National Forest and the giant sequoias groves it contains.

Bob Linden was a Los Angeles city-person who became enamored of the beauty, peace, and

tranquility of Sequoia National Forest. He moved from Los Angeles, sold his city property and became quite comfortable living in the rural town of Kernville, California - surrounded by Sequoia National Forest - where he lived for the last twenty years of his life. Bob enjoyed taking his dog for walks along the Kern River, in the forest, and in the mountains throughout Sequoia National Forest. He appreciated the beauty that Sequoia provided.

Bob supported the things he loved and he contributed to SFK, the organization that he knew was protecting the things he loved most - Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument. I am grateful to Bob for his longtime personal support and his support of SFK's work.

We were recently notified that SFK would receive a substantial bequest from Robert to help continue our work of protecting the Sequoias. Thank you Bob, wherever you are.



Bob Linden with Lily

**THERE ARE
MORE WAYS TO
GIVE!**

Sequoia ForestKeeper is establishing an endowment fund to ensure our financial solvency to continue protecting the sequoias into the future. An endowment allows money to continue working into the future. Help create a legacy for the forest.

If you are interested in helping Sequoia ForestKeeper to establish an endowment fund or in making a bequest, please contact us at 866-533-7873.

VACATION WITH THE LEGENDARY MARTIN LITTON!

And Benefit Sequoia ForestKeeper at the same time!

Back by popular demand, Sequoia ForestKeeper invites you to take a river trip with Sundog Expeditions. Enjoy five spectacular days on the Grande Ronde River in Oregon with environmental legend Martin Litton. Profits from this trip benefit SFK and support our efforts to protect and preserve the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Past participants have said they will remember this wonderful experience for the rest of their lives. Don't let another year go by without taking the opportunity to experience the Grande Ronde river with Martin!

The trip will take place **May 28-31** and will be an experience to remember. The trip includes the amazing raft trip, gourmet meals, and all equipment you will need at a cost of \$1,115 per person. To book your trip or to get more information, call Sundog Expeditions at:



888-455-5077

We would like to give sincere thanks Sundog Expeditions for their generosity!



SEQUOIA FORESTKEEPER

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A recent Time Magazine article reveals that about a quarter of last year's total charitable donations went to just 10 non-profit groups. Please remember us little guys with your donation!

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