



The Sequoia Seedling

Quote of the season:

"If many little people in many little places do many little deeds, they can change the face of the Earth."

-African proverb

Inside this issue:

- Forest Service to Close Campgrounds Across U.S. **2**
- Kristina Haddad, SFK Board Member **3**
- New way to earn money for SFK **4**
- Join Us **5**
- Adopt a Sequoia **6**
- Great American Campout **7**
- Legal Update **7**
- Monument Lawsuit Status **7**
- Special Thanks

USDA Inspector General Looks into Logging in Sequoias

By Valerie Cassity, Programs Director

On Thursday, October 11, 2007, Reps. Maurice Hinchey (NY), Jim Moran (VA) and John Olver (MA) sent a letter to Department of Agriculture Inspector General Phyllis Fong asking her to examine the legality of a 2004-2005 Forest Service logging operation in the Trail of 100 Giants, which felled healthy, centuries-old giant trees, and severely damaged the closed canopy habitat around the trail, which is the premiere tourist spot in the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

The data which prompted this investigation was provided by Sequoia ForestKeeper (SFK) and Save America's Forests, who accuse the Forest Service of violating laws, violating the Forest Service's own rules, and not giving accurate information to Congress about logging in the Trail of 100 Giants in oral and written testimony in response to questions from members.



Martin Litton sits amongst the remains of a sugar pine on the trail

The Inspector General acted swiftly on the request, and on November 1, 2007 SFK Executive Director Ara Marderosian and Programs Director Valerie Cassity met for four hours with Jowdy Johnson, a representative from the Inspector General's office, to discuss the logging project. A week later, Marderosian and Cassity brought Johnson to the Trail of 100 Giants to show him the devastation, and to reveal the damage that had been done at the hands of the Forest Service.

Johnson explained that his role is to determine whether any actual laws had been violated by the Forest Service in conducting the project, and his final report, expected early in 2008, will reflect his findings in that matter.



This cover-up is an admission of guilt, like a child holding his chocolate-covered hands behind his back so his parents can't see them following his raid on the candy jar, even though his face is obviously covered with chocolate.

Golden Trout Wilderness 2007 Trail Damage Proves U.S. Forest Service Incapable of Caring for Public Lands

By Ara Marderosian, Executive Director



A woman observes the destruction in the once-untouched Wilderness

In the summer of 2007, we were confronted with yet another case of abuse of authority by Sequoia National Forest. This time, Forest Service employees implemented a so-called "trail maintenance" project, along 50 miles through the Golden Trout Wilderness in California's Sierra Nevada. This project was Categorically Excluded from environmental impacts analysis and was not published or announced to the public.

In May 2007, the Sequoia National Forest Supervisor, Tina Terrell, authorized the use of chainsaws on 50 miles of trails in the wilderness, supposedly, to clear trails. The Forest Service fire crews that were directed and trained by Sequoia personnel went way beyond the "trail tread."

Hundreds of trees were felled in the wilderness beyond the trail tread, trees were cut as far as 119 feet from the trail center, bushes were cleared from 20 feet on both sides of the trail, and many trees that were left standing within 20 feet of the trail had their lower branches removed for as far as 10 feet up the tree.

We knew nothing of the scope of this project until it was done because Sequoia failed to publish or notify the public of this project. The wilderness now looks like a debris field from a timber sale.

On September 25, 2007, SFK's attorney, Kalyani Robbins, wrote to the Regional Forester requesting his explanation about this illegal behavior. While the Regional Forester failed

to reply to our request, beginning on October 6, 2007, Supervisor Terrell published an article in the local print media that attempted to justify the harmful actions with unsubstantiated excuses for the damage, but she included no discussion of why her project did not follow the conventional procedure mandated by the laws that govern forest management.

The National Environmental Policy Act and the Appeals Reform Act require the Forest Service to give the public notice of proposed project, a public comment period, and an appeal period in which to challenge the proposed project.

After we wrote to the Regional Forester, we observed that the fire crews were sent back into the wilderness to cover up the cut stumps and cut ends of the downed trees, with pieces of bark and dirt, in an effort to hide from the public the damage they had caused.

This cover-up is an admission of guilt, like a child holding his chocolate-covered hands behind his back so his parents can't see them following his raid on

Continued on next page...

Wilderness Continued...

the candy jar, even though his face is obviously covered with chocolate.

SFK interviewed 13 environmental students from the Santa Cruz Waldorf High School who walked the Golden Trout Wilderness trails for five days. The students documented the damage they observed and said they were alarmed by the damage that the Forest Service had done to the wilderness. They said they thought the Forest Service was supposed to protect the wilderness and the forests in their care.

Although the damage has already occurred, the possibility for repetition of the same sort of activity in the Golden Trout Wilderness, other wilderness areas, or in the Giant Sequoia National Monument is very likely. SFK is considering filing a lawsuit that would ask the court to require the Forest Service to comply with forest management laws, so they would be in violation of a court order, if they repeated the damage.

SFK will inform Congress of this illegal activity in the hope that Congress sees the pattern of Forest Service damage to public lands as a reason to remove funding from the Forest Service.

**My Journey to Activism**

Charlene Little, Board Member

I've been asked by Valerie, our Programs Director and editor of this newsletter, for an article explaining how I became involved with forest issues and the founding of Sequoia ForestKeeper. In 1976, I moved to the Kern River Valley, which is a lovely scenic area surrounded by the Sequoia National Forest. With my family, I frequented and enjoyed this forest, and like many other citizens, assumed that "National Forest" meant "protected forest." We soon found out that the protections were heavily biased in favor of the local mill, protecting their so-called right to "harvest" the forest, regardless of the ensuing damage. During the 1980's, under the Reagan administration, even the minimal standards were winked at, and the infamous, destructive clearcuts were employed, obliterating large swaths of pristine forest.

Along with other concerned nature lovers, I began to study environmental protection laws, best management forest practices, and more specifically, what was actually happening on the ground in our particular forest. It wasn't pretty. I had the help of dedicated environmentalists, like Dan Christenson, the fisheries biologist for the State De-

partment of Fish and Game, who was charged with protecting his beloved forest streams, meadows and fish habitat. He was totally frustrated with his efforts being thwarted by logging interests, barreling through the forest with excessive, destructive road building and denuding the wildlife habitat. I was able to link up with Carla Cloer, longtime, persevering and effective activist with the Sierra Club. Members of other groups, such as the Audubon Society, were instrumental in furthering our efforts to stop the abuse to the forest. We found that this was not just a local issue, but something that was uniformly happening on every one of our timber producing National Forests. The Forest Service orders were coming directly from Washington D.C..

We began appealing these timber sales that were blatantly violating National protective laws. Most of our appeals were denied and it seemed our only recourse would be to sue the National Forest Service. Having never sued anyone or even contemplated it, this was like a foreign subject to me. But I found I could learn. I spent many hours in Forest Service offices, poring over their regulations and records. I made...

Continued on Pg. 7

Earn \$\$\$ for SFK without spending a dime!

What if Sequoia ForestKeeper earned a penny every time you searched the internet? Well, now we can!

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Sequoia ForestKeeper as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word!

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: _____

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 Sequoia Seedling

Page 6

Take a Trip Down the Salmon River with Martin Litton!

Sequoia ForestKeeper invites you to book a trip with Sundog Expeditions for six spectacular days on the Salmon River in Idaho with environmental legend Martin Litton. Profits from this trip benefit SFK and support our efforts to protect and preserve the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Sundog Expeditions encourages you to take off your watch and let the sun, the moon, and the river set the pace for your vacation. The people who participated in this trip the past two years have said that it was a wonderful experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Don't let another year go by without taking the opportunity to experience life on the river with Martin! Whether you are a novice camper or an experienced rafter; an individual traveler, a group of friends, or a family; young, old, or in between, this trip is designed to meet your individual and family needs.

The trip will take place **August 10-15** and will be an experience to remember. The cost is \$1,530 per person, which includes the amazing dory trip, gourmet meals, and all equipment you will need. To book your trip or to get more information, call Sundog Expeditions at 888-455-5077.

Charlene Little, Cont'd from Pg. 3...

hundreds of trips into the forest, many with Forest Service personnel, observing and recording what I found. Now you might think that members of the Forest Service would not want to share information with me. This was true of those in higher positions, who were responding to the powerful timber lobby and pressures from Washington, but your dedicated employees, who joined the Service out of love for the Forest, were eagerly telling me what was wrong with current practices and where to look for evidence that would stand up in court.

About this time, people were repeatedly telling me I should meet Martin Litton, longtime conservationist, who had a history of successfully standing up to the Forest Service and rallying support from the environmental community. He was an invaluable aid to our cause, and like Carla and Dan, is still at the forefront of this effort. Martin can be credited as the moving force to organize our ForestKeeper organization and we are proud to have him serving as our president.

We filed our first lawsuit in 1986 and won in favor of the nine timber sales that were involved. A number of lawsuits have followed, with mixed success. What is especially gratifying is that this initial lawsuit has had a lasting effect, becoming case law for other forests across the

U.S.. Many of our own favorite areas were spared, with their trees still standing to this day, such as the Freeman Creek Giant Sequoia Grove, which had been designated to be 90% logged, leaving only a few specimen Giant Sequoias, scattered among the barren acres. This magnificent natural forest was scheduled to be replaced with neat little rows of pines that would again be harvested in 150 - 200 years, after they reached 18 inches in diameter. The Forest Service architect said that the public would get used to seeing tree farms with smaller trees, all of one species, and would eventually forget what they had lost.

We have seen administrations in D.C. come and go, and I will testify that who is sitting at the helm, guiding this country, has a direct bearing on the health of our environment, including our forests. While Clinton was president, we had a large portion of our forest become a National Monument, with commercial logging forbidden. Under George W. Bush, the logging interests are once again being catered to, with trees even being logged from the Monument. This is why our Sequoia ForestKeeper works on all fronts, from monitoring the local forest, appealing harmful timber sales and using litigation when necessary, to working on

Federal legislation.

What would I like to see happen next regarding the Sequoia National Forest? I firmly believe that in order for it to receive the protection it needs and deserves, it must be transferred from the hands of the Forest Service and placed under the management of the National Parks System. What is the difference? Our National Forests are governed by the Department of Agriculture, hence the trees are regarded as a "crop," whereas our National Parks are managed by the Department of the Interior. This Department is charged with preserving, protecting, and providing access to our public lands. Under the present Chief of the Forest Service, there is a proposal to sell more than 200,000 acres of National Forest land. Are we so broke from President Bush's disastrous war in Iraq that we must now sell off our National Forests?

I have studied the rules and regulations of the National Park Service and believe that we should be honored to have our Sequoia National Forest placed in this category where it rightfully belongs. A major thrust of our SequoiaKeeper efforts is to bring this transfer about.



Hiking Legend, Friend, Passes

By Valerie Cassity, Programs Director

On Sunday, Oct. 28, Sequoia ForestKeeper, and the forest itself, lost a great friend. Ruby Jenkins passed in her home in Kernville that day, at age 82. One never would have guessed her age, as Ruby had found the fountain of youth; exploring and appreciating the beauty of the southern Sierras. In fact, she hiked regularly until this past August, when she returned from a hike on Sunday and suddenly became ill the next day. She went to the doctor and discovered that she had liver cancer, despite her lifelong commitment to health.

Ruby was born in Cleveland, OH, in 1925, and lived there until her family relocated to Los Angeles in 1936. She served in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and married Bill Jenkins in 1944, soon after the war had ended. They had two children, a daughter and a son, but it was Ruby's tragic loss of her son, J.C. "Jim" Jenkins, that brought her to the trails she came to know in such intimate detail.

Jim was an avid hiker, and in 1979 was working on a hiking guide of the southern Sierra when he ran into car trouble and pulled off the road to the shoulder, where he was fa-

tally struck by another vehicle.

For a time, Ruby was lost in her sorrow, but one day the publisher and owner of Wilderness Press came to Ruby, asking her to continue her son's legacy by finishing and updating his books. She grabbed onto the challenge with both hands, and immediately went to work hiking all of the trails in the southern Sierra, and said she felt very close to Jim there. In researching the books, "Exploring the Southern Sierra: West Side," and its companion volume, which covers the "East Side," Ruby walked nearly 6,000 miles in her effort to map the footpaths of this vast landscape.

Having fallen in love with the trails and wanting quicker access to the Sierras, Ruby and Bill moved to Kernville in 1987. They saw that people didn't know the majesty and diversity of the wildlands that could be found in their own backyard, and so the following year, they founded the Kern River Valley Hiking Club, an organization that has provided upwards of 1,000 people the opportunity to hike an extraordinary variety of mountain paths in the southern Sierra.

Ruby was a legend and a



hero to many people who traveled from around the world to hike this region, and she considered the mountains and streams her cathedral. "When I go climb to the top of mountains, it's a spiritual thing," Ruby said four years ago. "I just think, 'Look, I'm way up here. I'm so close to heaven.'"

Perhaps that is why Ruby chose Sequoia ForestKeeper as the organization for her friends and family to donate money to in her memory. We are touched and honored that such a pioneer of the Sierras, as well as a wonderful person and friend, chose our humble organization to honor her memory. So thank you to all of Ruby's loved ones who have contributed to us at Ruby's request, and thank you, as well, Ruby, for believing in us to protect the mountains you loved so dearly. May we meet again on the trail.



SPECIAL THANKS

Educational Foundation of America

Environment Now Foundation

Fund for Wild Nature

Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund

Bill and Ruby Jenkins

Norcross Wildlife Fund

Parade Magazine

Patagonia

Turner Foundation

Unity Avenue Foundation



SEQUOIA FORESTKEEPER

P.O. Box 2134
Kernville, CA 93238
Phone: 760-376-4434 or
866-KEEP-TREES (533-7873)

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Kernville, CA 93238
Permit #9

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Executive Director, Ara Marderosian
ara@sequoiaforestkeeper.org

Programs Director, Valerie Cassity
valerie@sequoiaforestkeeper.org

Legal Director, Kalyani Robbins
kalyani@sequoiaforestkeeper.org

Winter 2008

www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org

Board of
Directors

- ◆ Dan Christenson
- ◆ Danielle Fugere
- ◆ Kristina Haddad
- ◆ Richard Kangas
- ◆ Charlene Little
- ◆ Martin Litton
- ◆ Stacia Wells

Do you work for a corporation, agency, or company that offers matching grants for charitable donations? If so, **your employer might be willing to match your donation to Sequoia ForestKeeper!** Next time you are renewing your membership, ask your employer if they have a **matching grant program**, and if so, you can increase your donation by up to 100%!

Advisory Board-

- Carla Cloer
Educator, Forest Historian
- Paul Hughes
Executive Director, Forests Forever
- Matt Kondolf
UC Berkeley, Biology and Environmental Science Geomorphology, Hydrology, and Water Resources
- Phil Rundel
UCLA Biology & Environmental Science
- Terry Tamminen
Author; Former head of CA EPA
- Ruby Vargas
Wukchimni Tribe Elder
- Rob Wells
Board of Directors, Environment Now
- Melba Whitebird
Wukchimni Tribe Elder