


**File Code:** 1950/2350

**Date:** May 26, 2017

**Subject:** Addendum to Special Use Permit Sites and Rental Cabins Sites Hazard Tree Mitigation Project – Quaker Meadow Camp Hazard Tree Removal

**To:** Kevin B. Elliott, Forest Supervisor

**From:** Eric G. La Price, Western Divide District Ranger 

I have determined there is a clear need to remove the trees from Giant Sequoia National Monument to provide for public safety and reduce fuel loading at sites identified in the October 26, 2016 letter for felling hazard trees. This addendum is specific to Quaker Meadow Organizational Camp.

Removal from the Monument as defined in the Monument Plan can include chipping, burning or hauling off the Monument. I evaluated the removal criteria on page 81 of the Monument Plan. The applicable criteria are:

Plan Criteria	Determination
<p><b>Protection of Objects of Interest</b> If keeping one or more trees on site would cause unacceptable fuels accumulation and fire severity effects; if removing trees would reduce the risk of wildfire to the giant sequoia groves, sensitive wildlife habitat, and adjacent communities at risk</p>	<p>I have determined the number of felled trees, if left in place, would increase the amount of surface fuel to a level incompatible with historic fire return intervals thereby increasing the risk of loss to the objects of interest for which the monument was created.</p>
<p><b>Public Safety</b> If keeping one or more trees on site would create a public safety hazard or attractive nuisance.</p>	<p>I have determined the number of felled trees, if left in place, would be an unacceptable hazard to the children using this camp.</p> <p>The presence of the numerous logs presents a physical danger to persons in the camp – tripping hazards, impalement hazards, barriers to movement for persons with disabilities and an attractive nuisance for wildlife in the camp.</p> <p>These logs also increase the amount of surface fuel in the camp. If these fuels are left in place, it would be a public safety hazard in the event of a wildfire. The high severity fire that would result would threaten lives and infrastructure at this camp.</p> <p>Decking the logs would also increase the hazard. Due to the amount of hazard trees felled, there is not enough room to deck all the logs out of the way of camp activities. In addition, decked logs present a tempting obstacle for children to climb, which may result in injury.</p>