

# SEQUOIA FORESTKEEPER

## E-UPDATE

### Winter 2019

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## Thank You

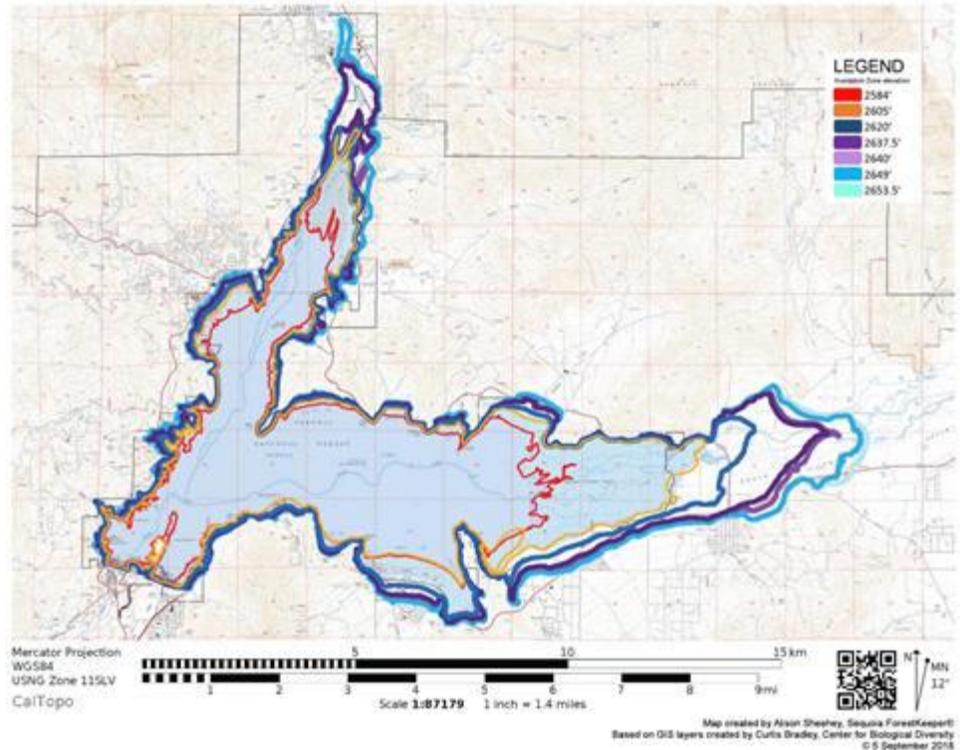
Thank you to our many donors and supporters. In these troubling times, the professional staff and board of Sequoia ForestKeeper® appreciate all donations and volunteers that support our mission. We believe the hubris of the current administration causes people to misunderstand how important the environment is to their physical and economic health. The recent federal government shutdown proved how callous some people are and why landscapes must be protected from the growing number of vandals who believe that they can do whatever, wherever, and whenever they want. We are fighting harder than ever to get the word out that the health of the southern Sierra Nevada and its wildlife are as important as the health of the economy.



We have much work to do in 2019 to continue our goal of protecting the giant sequoias and their surrounding forests for future generations, and hope that we can count on your continued support to further our work this year. SFK remains the eyes, ears, and voice of the forest and the voice of the many people who understand that our legacy is not what we take from nature, but what we leave.

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# ISABELLA DAM PROJECT PUTS LOCAL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN DANGER



At their annual meeting in December, the SFK board unanimously voted

to begin efforts to educate the community about the dangers to not only the flora and fauna of the Kern River Valley, but to the businesses and residents there. Because the Army Corps of Engineers had not provided one, SFK created a map of the inundation zone that shows that campgrounds, businesses, Kernville Airport, and homes would be flooded in an extreme weather event, which are happening more frequently in the modern age due to climate change. Read more about this issue [HERE](#).

# SFK TRAVELS TO THE STATE CAPITOL TO SPEAK FOR THE TREES

On Dec. 6, 2018, SFK Executive Director Ara Marderosian and Programs Director Alison Sheehey traveled to Sacramento, CA, to tell the Board of Sierra Nevada



*Allison Sheehey © 2017*

Conservancy, a CA state agency, to change course and not collaborate with the Trump Administration's destructive logging plans. Representatives from 12 conservation and research

organizations testified against the plans to log the Rim Fire.

This burned snag forest has thriving populations of Great Gray Owls, California Spotted Owls, and Black-backed Woodpeckers. Ara Marderosian spoke eloquently about ecosystems while Alison imitated the sounds of the forest to illustrate that burned forests are full of life. She said: “Don’t silence the snag forest.” The board then agreed to visit the forest to experience firsthand the resilient and naturally regrowing Rim Fire forest in the Stanislaus National Forest.

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## PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

Wildfire has always been an issue in California’s Wildland Urban Interface zones, but has been exacerbated in recent years by a combination of climate change and increased development in forested and chaparral habitats. In Northern California, the entire community of Paradise was completely destroyed late last year by an extreme fire weather, wind-driven wildfire. What can you do to protect yourself from wildfire? You can listen to a four-part radio podcast of an interview of Dr. Chad Hanson, whose John Muir Project has partnered with Sequoia ForestKeeper since before its inception to advice on fire and logging issues.

In this podcast, Chad explains, in layman’s language, how to protect homes in California’s era of wildfires, the myths and misinformation regarding fires and logging, climate change and carbon sequestration, and the politics behind forest management policy. There is music between the parts, so keep listening to the end where the interviewer specifically calls Chad about the fire in Paradise.



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## SFK’S 2018 AT A GLANCE - [click on links to view those stories online](#)

As our country’s leadership has moved in the past two years toward more destructive practices that put profits over people and stewardship of our precious natural wonders, SFK and other grassroots groups are more necessary than ever. Here is a partial list of what SFK accomplished in

2018 to protect the forest for future generations:

**[We employed three interns:](#)** Brandon Nooner, Katherine Cook, and Kate Nicholson in 2018 to continue forest monitoring. The projects this year included a continuation of the remote wildlife camera stations in the Pier Fire, and mapping forest plants and wildlife via iNaturalist, Calflora, and eBird.

**We collaborated with the Forest Service** on the Fisher monitoring project. Eleven species were captured on cameras, but no fishers were detected this year.



**[We mapped fire area of Butterbreth Spring](#)** and surveyed plants and animals as a volunteer project for the California State Parks.

**[We Monitored Air Quality](#)** – the Purple Air Monitoring system is a citizen science effort to fill a gap in the governmental agencies that inadequately monitor the air.

**[We Surveyed Twisselmann Botanical Area](#)**

**[We Surveyed Cannell Trail Extension Route](#)**

**[Our Interns Created a Potential Hazard Tree Spreadsheet](#)**

**We were interviewed by Bakersfield Eye Witness News reporter, Kyle Harvey** about Cedar Fire burned forest habitat. Kyle filmed both male and female Black-backed woodpecker in the burn area and the felling of trees as he [interviewed Ara about reasons to leave burned forest habitats in place](#).

**[We Mapped Fisher Core 3 for Eshom Project](#)** with overlays of fires, recent projects, roadless areas, and land ownership

**[We Built an Emergency Osprey platform with the Forest Service](#)** for an osprey nest that caught fire.

And more!

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## Mapping Giant Sequoia Groves

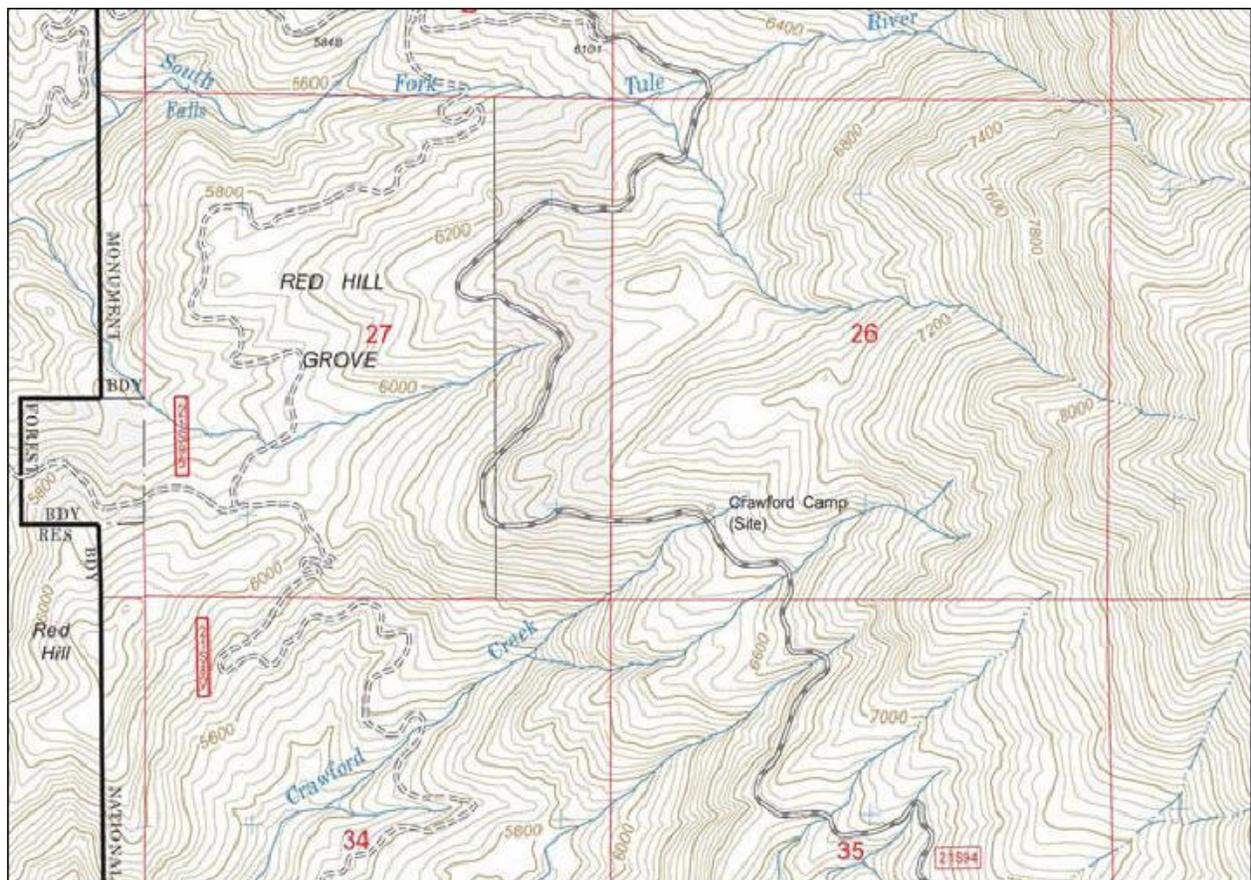
Giant Sequoias grow naturally only on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada from Placer County to Tulare County. Sequoia ForestKeeper® loves all sequoias, but our primary area of interest is the 40 or so groves found within the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Several groves have multiple land owners. The map will continue to evolve with information on all of the named Sequoia groves from the southernmost grove, Deer Creek Grove to the northernmost, Placer County Grove.

<https://goo.gl/yoRvJc>

Most groves on the map are accompanied by descriptions and, if you click on a grove, you can get exact directions to the grove from your location. For example, here is the description for the Red Hill Grove.

### Red Hill Grove - Giant Sequoia National Monument & Tule River Indian Reservation

This 650-acre multiple ownership grove is along the south fork of the Tule River. The paved forest service road 21S94 goes through the east side of the grove. There are several hundred mature sequoias and many large trees but no true giants. About 120-acres of the grove are owned by the Save the Redwoods League and 100-acres are on the Tule River Indian Reservation. The rest of the grove (420-acres) is in the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The Red Hill Grove is in the Tule River drainage at an elevation of 6,430 ft.



**Directions:** From Kernville take Sierra Way/Mountain Hwy 99 for 24.1 mi, continue for 6.6 mi on Mtn 50 just past Johnsondale, turn right onto Mtn-90 (Western Divide Hwy) 6.9 mi. Turn left on the U.S. Forest Service Crawford Road (21S94) and drive 9 mi to the Red Hill Grove, there are giant sequoias on both sides of the road.

From Springville. Take CA-190 E for 15.6 mi. At Camp Nelson make a slight right onto the Coy Flat Campground Road (21S94) continue past Coy Flat Campground and keep right as you drive up the mountain. Continue straight past Rogers Camp and bear left at the Tule Indian Reservation Road (you will be on reservation/forest service land), exit the reservation and you will encounter trees almost immediately. Approximately 11.5 miles on this dirt road.

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## Adopt a Sequoia

For only \$100 for a single tree and \$2,500 for a stand of sequoias\* you can give to 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 and their ecosystem.

***\*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
- ✦ A lovely 8x10 color photo of your tree or stand

CLICK HERE TO ADOPT A SEQUOIA -

[http://www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org/adopt\\_a\\_sequoia.aspx](http://www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org/adopt_a_sequoia.aspx) – If you donate online, please add the \$5 processing fee so Sequoia ForestKeeper® can expedite your gift.



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## SFK'S INTERNET PRESENCE

Are you on [Facebook](#)? So is SFK. Is [Twitter](#) your style, SFK is there too! We have a presence on [YouTube](#), [Pinterest](#), and [LinkedIn](#) as well. Follow us to learn about what is going on around the Southern Sierra Nevada. We regularly post information, including timber sale notices, special events, victories, photos, and other relevant information, including our comment letters and appeals, so please follow us on [Facebook](#) for more frequent updates. We hope to see you on the net! Visit our [website](#), join us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), view us on [YouTube](#), and most importantly [contact](#) us to take a walk with us in your forest.

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## WHY SUPPORT SFK?

If you shop at Amazon.com you can support Sequoia ForestKeeper® at no expense to you. Amazon.com donates 0.5% of every purchase to SFK when you use the link: <https://smile.amazon.com> and name Sequoia ForestKeeper® as your charity.

Our founder, Martin Litton said, "*When you compromise nature, nature gets compromised. It's gone, it's hurt, it's injured, and you gain nothing back ever.*"

Our first and foremost priority is to monitor the activities of local agencies by reading and responding to every project that will have a deleterious effect or a cumulative impact on the varied ecosystems of the southern Sierra Nevada.

The effects of climate change are evident and happening at an escalating pace in the southern Sierra Nevada. Two effects not integrated into other climate science or forest management cumulative impacts analyses are the impacts of water extractions from forested ecosystems on the remaining trees in the ecosystem and the destruction, by tree removal, of mycorrhizal fungi/root systems that feed nutrients from the soil and dead and dying trees to thriving trees in the ecosystem. Out of sight out of mind is no way for managers to promote ecosystem integrity. SFK's goal is to make water extraction and mycorrhizal relationships standard with every environmental review.

Educating the community is key to protecting the environment. Sequoia ForestKeeper® teaches public servants and the general public about why safeguarding all of the species in every niche in the ecosystem is necessary to protect the watersheds of the forest. Not everyone understands that southern Sierra Nevada watersheds must remain intact to protect the downslope communities from floods and landslides. But with knowledge, citizens can direct the Forest Service to stop pretending that the motorcycle lobbyists, mining, grazing, or logging industries are benefiting the ecosystem.

SFK tries not to be an adversarial organization: we strive to collaborate with agencies, working within the local and environmental communities to build and sustain long-term relationships to foster the understanding that each individual must make conscious decisions at every step and walk a gentler path to create a legacy of a healthy planet to sustain mankind.

**[Donate now to support our work](#)**

**[Sequoia ForestKeeper](#) · P.O. Box 2134 · Kernville, CA · 93238**

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