Support SFK
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Meet the Interns!
Kernville, CA – We have started another amazing year of research in Sequoia National Forest and have a great team of four interns. Our summer GIS-Intern Coordinator, Kate Rowe is leading the team conducting forest and wildlife surveys to augment Forest Service research and to assist them in planning forest management.

Kate began her summer with us in May and jumped in with great ideas and immediately began organizing everything to begin the surveys in June. The rest of our intern team began in mid-June and will be with us for the next two months.

Welcome to Erika, Emily, Holly, and Kate.

Meet Kate Rowe
Hello, my name is Kate and I am the 2014 GIS/Intern Coordinator.

My background includes banding birds in Oregon, looking for salmon spawning redds in Northern California, collecting water quality samples in the Boston area, and making maps as often as I can. I love working with local organizations to make our environmental challenges psychologically accessible, the results from community-driven work more visible, and hopefully binding us together to make further projects more feasible.

I am already approaching the halfway mark for my time in the Kern River Valley and can’t believe how quickly the summer is going. I’m thankful to work with the Sequoia ForestKeeper® community, to learn about your successful grassroots work, and to contribute to the further
protection of this incredibly important and beautiful area. We’ve got an amazing intern team this year and I couldn’t be more excited about this summer!

Emily Malkauskas

Hello, West Coast! My name is Emily Malkauskas and I am coming to you all the way from England, the Newer one. Okay, so I’m not actually English. But I have spent my life living and studying in the New England states. I am originally from the town of Newington, CT, but I have spent the past four years earning my bachelor’s degree at the University of New Hampshire.

I recently graduated from UNH, where I majored in Wildlife and Conservation Biology with a minor in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Studies. I also hold a small town on the North Island of New Zealand close to my heart – Kaiaua, where I participated in a study abroad program focused on ecology, biodiversity, and a plethora of environmental topics – “sweet as”! My interests are many, but I mostly spend my free time backpacking, rock climbing, longboarding, practicing yoga and reiki, and hanging with my two snakes – Simon and Garfunkel.

I applied to participate in the Sequoia ForestKeeper® summer internship program because I am eager to experience and learn about the wilderness areas of the West Coast firsthand. Much of the wildlife and vegetation of this area is new to me, and I am excited to expand upon my background as a wildlifer from the Northeast. I feel as though Sequoia ForestKeeper® has a lot to offer, and I plan on making the most of my summer spent in such a beautiful place.

I am truly enthralled by the grandeur of the great Sequoia trees – the sight of which never ceases to reassure me of my chosen path of study. Working amongst the giants this summer has been humbling, to say the least. I feel that we as a human species have a duty to protect and honor the forests that these trees call home. They have existed in this area much longer than any of us have been around, and their role as a keystone species has created a unique environment, home to many unique species of wildlife. The loss of giant sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum) habitat may ensure not only a loss of the trees themselves, but of the many additional species dependent upon their existence for survival. For these reasons, I am eager to contribute to the Sequoia ForestKeeper® mission to save the forest.

I am incredibly grateful to have been chosen to participate in this summer internship alongside the wonderful staff at Sequoia ForestKeeper®. Their guidance and shared knowledge of the surrounding environment here in the Sierra Nevada has set the tone for a highly productive and inspirational summer. I am looking forward to contributing to their collection of information on the health of the forest and I am hopeful that our findings can be used for the overall benefit of this irreplaceable ecosystem!

Meet Erika Winner

My name is Erika Winner and as a true native of the Pacific Northwest, I have a deep love of the outdoors. I grew up in Portland, Oregon and attended Western Washington University. There I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Geology. In college, I studied the aggregative effect of harbor seals to salmon runs and identified ‘rogue’ individuals. This project was important because it made me rethink how science can be used when species have conflicting conservation goals.

I have always had a fascination with the interplay between species and their environment. I was interested in this internship as a means to learn more about the conservation of forest ecosystems. This is a unique and rare opportunity to work with the great Giant Sequoia. This summer I hope to learn everything that makes this tree and its forests so exceptional. The Spotted Owl particularly piques my fascination. This enchantment began in the fourth grade when my class studied birds of prey and I was assigned the Spotted Owl. I fell in love with its shy, gentle, brown eyes. This was also my first introduction to the importance of old growth
forest preservation. To this day I feel a passion for this cause. Through working with the Sequoia ForestKeeper®, I believe I will gain the experience necessary to become an effective promoter on the forests behalf.

Just in the first two weeks that I have worked for SFK, I have learned a great deal. In my first week, we have conducted habitat and soil surveys while searching for sequoia seedlings and saplings. I have been happy to lend my knowledge of geology in the assessment of soils. This week I learned how to set up wildlife cameras and “hoot” for spotted owls. I can’t wait to see what animals we catch on the camera!

In my future career, I hope to work with scientifically based management practices and advocate for conservation. I am not sure yet if this will be through research, consulting, or another venue, however it is my goal to help create a more sustainable planet.

Meet Holly Starks

Hello my name is Holly Starks and I am an intern for Sequoia ForestKeeper®. I have moved around a lot throughout my life, from Arizona, Oklahoma and all over California, which imbedded in me a deep passion for traveling. My dad always jokes that I inherited the traveler’s bug from him. I love seeing the world around me, absorbing any information I can about each area from landscape to wildlife. These experiences I believe had a huge impact on my chosen career path.

I’m a recent graduate from Humboldt State University majoring in Wildlife with an emphasis in conservation biology and applied vertebrate ecology. I have been involved in various field research projects ranging from vegetation and waterfowl surveys to mammal trapping. My main taxonomic interest is mainly mammals because I love learning about behavior and population dynamics as well as the relationship/role animals play in their environment.

It is all quite fascinating to me. I feel very privileged working for the Sequoia ForestKeeper®, because I agree full heartedly with their mission and their passion for conservation. There are very few sequoia groves left and I feel it is very important to conserve these areas to assure they persist in the future because if we don’t care then who will. I hope to gain a lot of knowledge and experience that will become invaluable throughout my career which so far has already become true.

I’m learning something new every day and hopefully the information we gather can be used to help conserve this beautiful area. So far it has been a roller coaster ride. One second we have a plan of what we are doing for the week or even for the day but Mother Nature has a way of changing your plans in a moment’s notice but that’s why I love working in the field, every day is an unexpected adventure just waiting to be explored. Plus it always helps to have an amazing team to work with.

SFK’s 8th Annual Summer Campout Aug. 8-10

Come join us for our 8th annual Great American Campout, which will be taking place August 8-10 at Quaking Aspen Campground in Sequoia National Forest. Always a great time, the campout is a family-friendly, relaxed event where forest lovers can come together for great conversation, music, and fun. Join us if you want to understand why we believe there is a better way to manage the forest than through constant consumption of our precious natural resources. Our Programs Director is an expert naturalist, who will talk about the big picture of forest ecology on our walk under the cathedral of sequoias.

Bring your hiking boots for Saturday’s guided hike, and a dish to share at the evening potluck. If you play an instrument, bring it along and add your own flavor to the music around the campfire. Our interns will present their initial findings for the season during an evening PowerPoint presentation.
Please call or email Alison if you would like more information, or to RSVP to the campout. We have registered and paid for two-12 person group campgrounds so we ask a $25 suggested donation per tent for the weekend to help cover the cost of the campground and supplies, but everyone is welcome and no one ever turned away. Hope to see you in the forest!

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Help us protect tomorrow’s legacy by supporting SFK with a membership today. CLICK HERE FOR OUR SECURE DONATION PAGE HERE

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.

Mapping Giant Sequoia Groves

Giant Sequoias grow 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 develop over the next few months and it pinpoints the locations of all of the named Sequoia groves from the southernmost grove, Deer Creek to the northernmost, Placer County Grove.

http://goo.gl/g5Ss1y

Most groves 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 Deer Creek Grove.

Packsaddle Grove - Giant Sequoia National Monument

This is a beautiful old-growth grove covering 325 acres along South Creek, a tributary of the Kern River. The ecosystem is mixed conifer with white fir as the most common tree with many other tree species in the grove including black oak, incense cedar, sugar pines, white alder, canyon live oak, ash, willow, and Sequoias. The dirt road to this grove is pretty worn out requiring 4-wheel drive, but hiking to the grove along the road is a wonderful journey. Of the 105 large trees in the grove, the largest known sequoia here is the Packsaddle Giant, which has the fourth-largest ground perimeter of any sequoia at 107 feet (33 m). Two other named giants are the Candelabra Tree and the General Lee Tree, also known as the Ghost Tree.

And you can Adopt-a-Sequoia as a fun way to help fund Sequoia ForestKeeper®.
Adopt a Sequoia

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 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

SFK's Facebook Page

Sequoia ForestKeeper® has a Facebook page! Like us to learn about what is going on around the Southern Sierra Nevada. We post information, including timber sale notices, special events, victories, photos, and other relevant information. We hope to see you there!

Donate now to support our work.

Sequoia ForestKeeper® · P.O. Box 2134 · Kernville, CA · 93238

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