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Save the Redwoods League and USDA Forest Service Sign Stewardship Agreement to Accelerate Giant Sequoia Emergency Action

League will lead work to reduce wildfire risk in two vulnerable groves beginning October 31



Photo caption: Representatives from Save the Redwoods League and the Sequoia National Forest hike through a portion of Long Meadow Grove in the Giant Sequoia National Monument to assess opportunities for shared restoration work. Despite the recent 2021 Windy Fire, large portions of this grove continue to be at risk from high-severity wildfire and drought. Photo: Ben Blom for Save the Redwoods League

San Francisco, Calif. (October 26, 2022) – Save the Redwoods League and the USDA Forest Service have signed a partnership agreement to accelerate stewardship activities in the threatened giant sequoia range. Under this stewardship agreement, the League will lead restoration efforts to reduce the wildfire risk to two giant sequoia groves in partnership with USDA-FS. One of the groves is among the 12 specifically cited in the [USDA-FS “emergency action”](#) announced in July 2022.

The League will work to restore two groves within the USDA-FS-managed Giant Sequoia National Monument. While both groves burned in the 2021 Windy Fire, large portions of them continue to be vulnerable to climate-driven wildfires. The 568-acre Long Meadow Grove is home to the famed [Trail of 100 Giants](#), the most popular trail within the National Monument. The nearby 533-acre Packsaddle Grove is one of the southernmost groves within the National Monument, making it particularly vulnerable in a warmer and drier climate. The agreement allows for the League to partner with USDA-FS on stewardship of additional groves over a 10-year period.

The League's work in the two groves will begin on October 31 and continue until the work is completed, which the League estimates to be by 2025. The goal of the work is to protect remaining ancient giant sequoia trees, reduce the potential for future high-severity wildfires, restore a natural fire regime through the reintroduction of prescribed burning and promote forest health and resiliency in the face of climate change. The work will be conducted in accordance with the USDA-FS Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan.

"Following the intense wildfires that have killed nearly 20% of the mighty giant sequoias in the last several years, there is a tremendous urgency to treating the remaining forests while we still can," said **Sam Hodder**, president and CEO of Save the Redwoods League. "We are eager to put the League's scientific and restoration expertise into action to accelerate the pace and scale of restoration. There is no time to waste."

To implement this restoration project, the League is engaging a local contractor and Indigenous forestry crews from [CHIPS](#), a non-profit organization based in Calaveras County whose forestry crews are staffed more than 80% by members of multiple tribes from the Sierra Nevada region. Partnering with California Native tribes in its work to protect and restore the giant sequoia and redwood forests is a [commitment](#) of Save the Redwoods League.

"The 2020 Castle Fire was a dramatic wake-up call, highlighting the vulnerability of this unique system, in that an unprecedented number of giant sequoias were killed. These fire effects are extreme and, if not prevented in future wildfires, represent a significant threat to giant sequoia survival across their already limited range," explained Teresa Benson, Sequoia National Forest Supervisor. "We look forward to working with Save the Redwood League in this and future restoration efforts to protect our beloved Giant Sequoias."

Save the Redwoods League and the USDA Forest Service are both members of the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition, which was formed in 2021 to coordinate and catalyze the work to restore fire resilience to the giant sequoia forests across the agencies and nonprofits specifically responsible for their stewardship. This agreement is one outcome of those efforts, along with many other actions underway by multiple Coalition partners.

To access hi-res images of giant sequoia groves in need of restoration, please [visit the League's online newsroom](#).



Save the Redwoods League

One of the nation's longest-running conservation organizations, Save the Redwoods League has been protecting and restoring redwood forests since 1918. The League has connected generations of visitors with the beauty and serenity of the redwood forest. The nonprofit's 240,000 supporters have enabled the organization to protect more than 220,000 acres of irreplaceable forests in 66 state, national and local parks and reserves. For information, please visit SaveTheRedwoods.org.

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