



# SIERRA CLUB

## TEHIPITE CHAPTER

### The "Save Our Sequoias Act" is a Trojan Horse for Logging Giant Sequoia Groves

*in National Parks, the Giant Sequoia National Monument, and Wilderness!*

The "Save Our Sequoias Act" (SOS Act) is a **cynical and destructive logging bill** masquerading as a measure to protect giant sequoia groves. In reality, it would open up all giant sequoia groves on public lands to industrial logging, even in Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks, the Giant Sequoia National Monument, and designated wilderness areas.

It is one of the most dangerous anti-environmental bills in memory and is based on Trump Administration disinformation about recent wildfires. It was passed by the House of Representatives on March 16 and is now in the Senate, where it is co-sponsored by Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA).

If signed into law, the Act would **exempt** from environmental analysis logging projects of **up to 2,000 acres** and **abandon** all requirements for public participation and oversight. The Act would implement **intensive logging** methods in all existing giant sequoia groves, including post-fire clearcutting and industrial tree plantations. The Act contains no limits on the size, age, percentage, or species of trees to be logged and allows logging of old-growth trees—even the sequoias. These logging projects would occur in **all giant sequoia groves** and represents a **deeply dangerous sneak attack** on our National Parks and Wilderness areas.

The Trump Administration is keeping giant sequoia groves **closed to the public**, under threat of arrest and severe fines, to prevent residents and the press from witnessing this miraculous forest recovery following recent high-intensity fires. Independent scientists able to access these areas published peer-reviewed studies that **expose** the Trump Administration and supporters of the SOS Act logging bill, which is based on four myths:

- **MYTH #1: "Giant sequoias cannot regenerate in high-intensity fire patches."** In fact, giant sequoias evolved as a serotinous tree species, and can effectively reproduce **only** after high-intensity fires. Super-abundant giant sequoia regeneration is found—up to 8,000 giant sequoia seedlings and saplings per acre! The dishonesty of the SOS Act's promoters is exposed effectively in the new 24-minute film, **The Great Big Giant Sequoia Scam** (<https://youtu.be/TOMJjhuv64>).
- **MYTH #2: "Fire suppression and overgrown forests cause unnatural, high-intensity fire, and killed 20% of all large sequoias."** The 20% claim is anecdotal and has been discredited. Current peer-reviewed science finds that mortality rates of large giant sequoias is also considerably lower now than before fire suppression began.
- **MYTH #3: "Mechanical 'thinning', post-fire logging, and other logging activities is needed to protect giant sequoias."** Recent peer-reviewed scientific research finds that logging kills 83% of giant sequoia seedlings and saplings that naturally regenerated after wildfires. Heavy **logging machinery has crushed thousands of giant sequoia seedlings and saplings** on public lands, at taxpayer expense. The Trump Administration has even begun to clearcut young, regenerating sequoia trees in recent high-intensity wildfire patches, in an apparent attempt to

eliminate evidence that contradicts the Administration's dishonest claims that sequoias are not naturally regenerating there.

- **MYTH #4: "Logging effectively curbs wildfires."** *This claim is strongly contradicted by dozens of scientific studies and hundreds of top scientists.* Wildfire behavior is driven overwhelmingly by weather and climate factors. Pre- and post-fire logging is ineffective and counterproductive, since it does not curb wildfires. In fact, thousands of sequoia seedlings and saplings are crushed by heavy logging equipment.

**To learn about how Sierra Club is working to stop this destructive federal logging bill, text or call Gary at the Tehipite Chapter at 559-790-3495.**



Natural sequoia regeneration in a high-intensity patch, Nelder giant sequoia grove (Dec. 2023).



Total destruction of regenerating forest from logging in the same Nelder grove high-intensity fire patch (Dec. 2023).

#### Tehipite Chapter Outings: April, 2026

Please text or call Barbara Showalter 209-628-2065 for further information. Heavy rain will cancel events.

##### Saturday, April 11:

- **Hike** (Merced County): 9 to 11 AM, Pacheco State Park (near Los Banos): a 3.2-mile easy hike, 337-foot elevation gain, with hope to still see wildflowers (if the heat hasn't dried them up yet).
- **Auto tour**: 4 pm to sunset: San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. Drive this waterfowl route, with a 1-mile easy flat walk at Sousa Marsh through riparian woodlands to marsh observation area.

##### Saturday, April 18:

- **Fresno's Earth Day** event, 10 am to 4 pm, Fresno City College on the West Lawn
- **Mariposa's Merced River Fest** hosted by the Upper Merced River Watershed Council (<https://www.merced-river.org/events/mercedriverfest>). 2-4 pm youth film festival (free); 5-6 pm social hour; 6-9:30 pm Wild and Scenic Film Festival (purchase tickets online).

##### Saturday, April 25:

- **Hike** (Stockton Creek Preserve, Mariposa), 9-11 am. A 3.3-mile walk in the oak and pine covered hills near town. Birds, wildflowers, and native plants abound in this 700+ acre haven out of sight and sound of the town. We will follow the Low Trail, a mostly flat dirt road to the small reservoir, a total elevation gain of 500 feet.

#### Wednesday, April 15 at 7 PM at Woodward Park Regional Library, 944 E. Perrin Ave, Fresno.

#### Working with Nature to Protect California's Agricultural Regions: How Nature-Based Solutions Can Build Resilience



Photo by Fernández-Bou

Scarcity of water in California has triggered the need to transition part of our irrigated agriculture into other uses that generate multiple benefits for people, the environment, and the economy.

This presentation will offer practical applications from household to regional scales, including managed aquifer recharge, floodplain restoration, constructed wetlands, buffer zones, rain gardens, sustainable agriculture, habitat restoration, and renewable energy integration. These transformative approaches can benefit communities, farmers, Indigenous peoples, and the environment.

This event is free and open to the general public, so invite anyone you know who may be interested.

Angel S. Fernández-Bou is a scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, founder and partner of the mission-driven company SEEDS, and co-founder of the educational nonprofit SEEN.

Email Karen Hammer at [ecuagirl45@yahoo.com](mailto:ecuagirl45@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

The attached image is of the Merced National Wildlife Refuge and shows what areas of the valley may have looked like 200 years ago.