

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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We are writing to criticize the continuing logging operations being conducted by the Forest Service in the Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM). The GSNM was created by presidential proclamation in April 2000 with the express purposes of ending logging and preserving the unique natural sequoia ecosystems in the area.

Using blatantly transparent excuses, such as non-existent "hazard-tree" threats, or supposed fire-reduction logging of giant, fire-resistant, centuries-old trees, the Forest Service has been conducting major logging operations in the GSNM. These logging operations are destroying the natural sequoia forest ecosystem of the GSNM, in direct violation of the spirit and the letter of the presidential proclamation creating the GSNM in 2000.

The Forest Service is clearly conducting these logging operations in the GSNM for the commercial gain of a small number of private logging interests, destroying the ecological values of the GSNM and the natural assets of the American people, and violating the public trust.

Further, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, in response to a lawsuit brought by the Attorney General of California, found the Forest Service fire plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument to be illegal, and the Forest Service withdrew it. This illegal fire plan is the basis of much of the logging that has occurred and the logging specified by the GSNM management plan.

Following is a short selection of instances of Forest Service violations of federal laws and regulations.

- Failing to consider or to properly evaluate new information and the impacts to the environment by arbitrarily extending the contract expiration date for the Burton Thinning Timber Sale, so 3.6 million board feet of trees could be removed from the Monument;

