

From: Williams, Timothy
To: [Howarth, Robert](#); [Bowman, Randal](#); [Downey Magallanes](#)
Subject: Fwd: Tulare County Comment - Giant Sequoia Monument Review
Date: Friday, July 07, 2017 7:16:02 AM
Attachments: [TC Monument Comment.pdf](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Julieta Martinez** <JMartinez2@co.tulare.ca.us>
Date: Thu, Jul 6, 2017 at 7:07 PM
Subject: Re: Tulare County Comment - Giant Sequoia Monument Review
To: timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Valerie Smith <valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov>

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find a letter from the County of Tulare as a comment to the Giant Sequoia National Monument review currently taking place.

Included is also a link to a Tree Mortality video produced by County staff. We hope you find it informative and helpful to your review process.

Link: <https://youtu.be/4qKcp5qMlfo>

Please contact our office should you need any further information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Julieta Martinez

Chief of Staff

Tulare County Board of Supervisors

2800 W. Burrell Ave / Visalia, Ca / 93291

tel: 559.636.5000 / fax: 559.733.6898

<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/county/>

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Department Of The Interior

External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Timothy Williams

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County of Tulare

June 27, 2017

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The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On behalf of the County of Tulare, California, we write this letter to offer comment in regards to the review you are conducting of National Monument designations in the State of California, specifically the Giant Sequoia National Monument, a portion of which is located in Tulare County.

President Bill Clinton established the Giant Sequoia National Monument ("GSNM") under Presidential Proclamation 7295 in 2000, carving the area out of the Sequoia National Forest for additional protections. The monument designation, now slightly over 328,000 acres, was intended to protect the unique Giant Sequoia groves.

At the time, local elected officials, including the Board of Supervisors, were not given the opportunity to comment on the proposed designation and felt the process was not allocated enough time to gather public opinion in support or against the designation.

Tulare County is and has been suffering for a number of years from a tree mortality epidemic that stems from years of passive forest management, exacerbated by prolonged drought, bark beetle infestations, and devastating wildfires. There are at least 8.1 million dead or dying trees in Tulare County attributable to the tree mortality epidemic, and 102 million dead or dying trees throughout the state of California, including millions of dead and dying trees in the GSNM.

We believe the current National Monument designation has constrained the ability of the U.S. Forest Service to use science-based, active forest management to thin the adjacent forests to protect the groves and buffer the areas from the risks posed by fire, disease, and insect infestations. Over the past two years, 20 percent of the GSNM burned, including 62,000 acres in the 2015 Rough Fire. The continued failure to use science-based, active forest management in the GSNM to remove hazard trees threatens the Giant Sequoia Groves, as well as the rest of the forest in the National Monument.

DOI-2018-06 01569

For these reasons, our Board recommends that Presidential Proclamation 7295, and/or any related regulations or administrative guidance, be amended or revised to clearly permit the removal of dead or dying hazard trees, and to allow the U.S. Forest Service to actively manage the groves and associated zones of influence to protect the forest and the majestic Giant Sequoias for future generations.

Furthermore, we have three additional comments to offer:

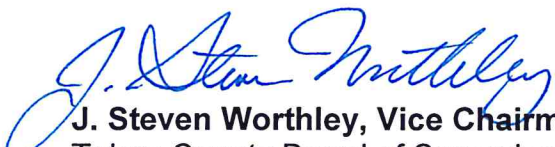
As the largest agricultural County in the United States, which is still suffering from an historic drought, Tulare County supports active forest management because it is our understanding that such forest management techniques can actually create water for our region.

In addition, we ask that your Department recommend and that the Trump Administration support increased funding for the U.S. Forest Service, so that the agency is able to fulfill its mission and commitments.

Finally, we support reducing the size of the Giant Sequoia National Monument to the approximately 90,000 acre size that was designated by President Bush in 1990.

Tulare County continues to join in the efforts of the county, community, state and federal government to protect cultural, historic, and natural resources on public land. Please feel free to contact us should you have any further questions at 559-636-5000. Thank you.

Sincerely,


J. Steven Worthley, Vice Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors


Kuyler Crocker, District One
Tulare County Board of Supervisors


Michael Ennis, District Five
Tulare County Board of Supervisors