

GIANT SEQUOIA WORK GROUP (2F)

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Giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) are an iconic feature of Sierra Nevada forests and one of the largest living things on earth. Old growth sequoia groves were threatened for years by over-harvest but more recently are threatened by lack of fire and understory thinning, particularly for seedling recruitment but also creating ladder fire fuels and wildfire risk to existing groves. Various agencies and non-profits have are collaborating to develop ways their organizations can work to improve the management of sequoias particularly in the face of climate change. Generally speaking, better exchange and access to research data, exchange of best management practices and coordination among the participating groups were identified as key needs. The group has two goals: 1) serve as a forum for sharing information and discussing ideas; and 2) provide an inter-agency framework for regional conservation of giant sequoia. Key questions distilled by the group are the following: 1) where on the landscape are giant sequoias most vulnerable to climate change?; 2) how should we monitor giant sequoias?; and 3) are there areas where we should be thinking about establishing new groves through assisted migration on public and private lands? Critical outcomes for the group are related to long-term species survival and monitoring grove stand health. Group participants will also strive to develop a giant sequoia climate adaptation plan or recommendations that can be integrated into other regional planning efforts such as forest plans.

Key words (not to exceed 5): Sequoia, best management, climate adaptation