

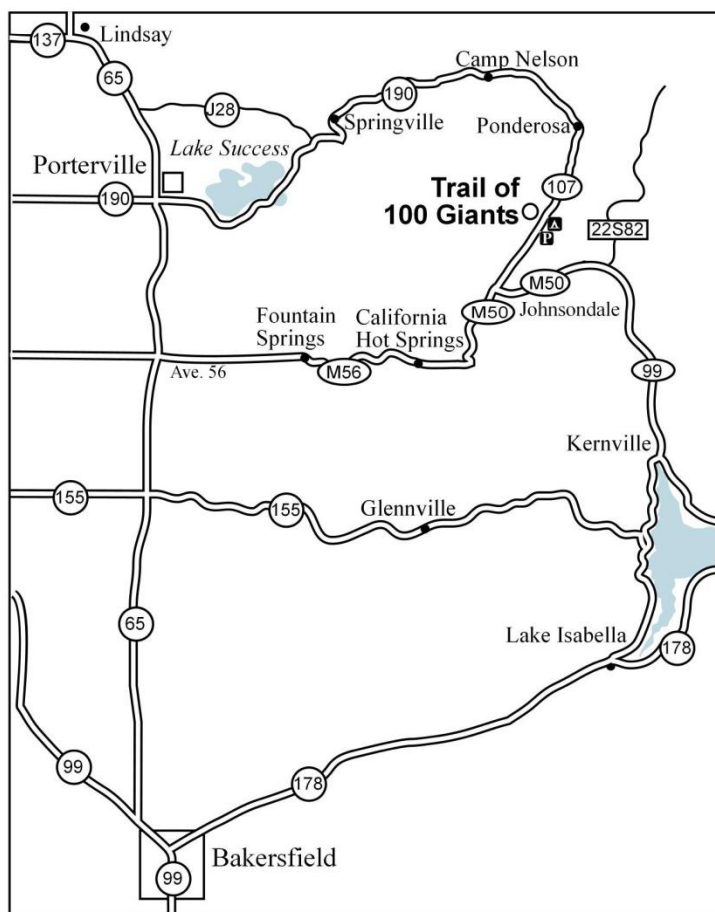
# Trail of 100 Giants

## Sequoia National Forest

### Giant Sequoia National Monument



Trail of 100 Giants is an easy, accessible walk through Long Meadow Grove, one of the premier groves of giant sequoias. The grove showcases monarchs estimated to be up to 1,500 years old. About 1.3 miles of paved trail offers several loop options with interpretive signs. Located on the Western Divide Highway (107), facilities include a paved parking area, restrooms, picnic area and campground nearby. A \$5.00 per vehicle fee is charged to help maintain and improve these facilities.



**HOW TO GET THERE - This trail is ONLY accessible by road during the summer months (May 15-November 15, weather depending) due to annual closures by Tulare County.** The trail is located on Western Divide Highway (107) across the road from Redwood Meadow Campground and Trail of 100 Giants parking area. The trail is about 45 miles northwest of Kernville, 41 miles southeast of Springville, and 15 miles northeast of California Hot Springs.

From Kernville, take County Mtn. 99 22 miles north to Johnsondale. Continue west on Mtn. 50 7 miles to 107 and turn right (north). Travel 2-1/2 miles to Trail of 100 Giants parking area or Redwood Meadow Campground. Travel time is about 1-1/2 hrs.

From Bakersfield, take Hwy 65 north to Avenue 56 and turn east to Ducor and Fountain Springs. At Fountain Springs continue straight on M56 through California Hot Springs. Pass the Hot Springs Ranger Station and continue up the mountain stopping at the intersection of 107 approximately one mile beyond Parker Pass. Turn left (north) on 107 and drive 2-1/2 miles. Travel time is about 1-1/2 hrs.

From Porterville, take Hwy 190 east through Springville (you will pass the Western Divide Ranger Station). Hwy 190 will turn into Western Divide Highway near Quaking Aspen, and head south. From Quaking Aspen, the driving distance is about 13 miles. Travel time from Springville is about 1-1/2 hrs.

**A GROVE OF GIANTS** - Giant Sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) grow only on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada in California. The groves are scattered over a narrow 260-mile belt 15 miles wide between the elevations of 5,000 - 7,500 feet. Related are the coastal redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) which occupy two million acres of fog belt along the northern California coast.

Giant Sequoias are slightly shorter than the coastal redwoods, more massive, and considered to be the largest tree in the world in terms of volume. The largest sequoia and the most massive living organism on earth is the General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park stretching 275 feet high, 36.5 feet in diameter, and over 52,500 cubic feet of wood.

On April 15, 2000, President William J. Clinton proclaimed the establishment of the Giant Sequoia National Monument and made his announcement beneath one of the giant trees at the Trail of 100 Giants. The grove contains approximately 125 giant sequoias greater than 10 feet in diameter and more than 700 giant sequoias less than 10 feet in diameter. The largest tree in the grove has a diameter of 20 feet and is 220 feet in height. The grove defined by the outermost giant sequoia trees covers 341 acres. It is estimated that the ages of larger giant sequoia trees in the grove are up to 1,500 years old.

Notable sites along the Trail of 100 Giants include the Fallen Giant, several trees that have been hollowed by large fire scars, a giant sequoia and incense cedar that are growing together with their bark fused, and a small seasonal creek and several meadows. In June and July one can find many wildflowers blooming in the grove area. In October and November the black oak in the grove turn a brilliant shade of gold.

## **STEWARDSHIP AT WORK**

After the winter of 2003-2004, approximately 200 dead trees threatened the safety of visitors and forced the closure of the trail. On April 29, 2004 the Forest Service held a public meeting at the trail to see the hazard trees and to discuss public concerns and options. In May a short portion of the trail was cleared and reopened, while forest officials determined how best to remove the remaining hazards.

Beginning the week of August 23 the entire trail was closed so that remaining hazard trees, none of which were giant sequoias, could be removed. Extra measures were taken during the removal to protect the giant sequoias and protect wildlife. Sequoia National Forest personnel felled the hazard trees and removed debris that could increase fire danger. Some logs were left to provide ecological benefits, some were chipped, and over 300 cords of wood were made available to the public purchasing personal use firewood permits. Some limbs were piled and burned. Fire crews on standby for wildfire did much of the handwork. A helicopter was hired under contract to fly out some of the largest pieces of wood. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, the trail reopened after it was repaired and rehabilitated. The Trail of 100 Giants is again open for visitors to safely enjoy the sites and sounds of a thriving giant sequoia grove in the Giant Sequoia National Monument.



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



**Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest  
Region**

**Western Divide Ranger District  
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