

Congress of the United States of America

At the first Session,

Washington, on Monday, the seventh day of December, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-



150 YEARS AGO TODAY,

on June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed an act “authorizing a grant to the State of California of the Yo-Semite Valley, and of the land embracing the Mariposa Big Tree Grove.” This legislation protected Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias “for public use, resort and recreation.” Under this law, scenic natural areas were set aside and protected for the benefit of future generations for the first time in the history of our nation.



YOSEMITE GRANT *Sesquicentennial*

JUNE 30, 2014 • 10:00 AM

Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias



YOSEMITE
CONSERVANCY



Providing For Yosemite's Future

COVER: The photographs by Carleton Watkins were unprecedented in their size and detail, and helped convince the 38th U.S. Congress and President Lincoln to pass the Yosemite Act of 1864, the first official step toward preserving the Sierra Nevada valley for public use. Courtesy of Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University. PHOTO ABOVE: © Nancy Robbins.



Ceremony Schedule

YOSEMITE FAVORITES

Tom Bopp on the Piano

WELCOME

Don Neubacher
Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

YOSEMITE & CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS MOUNTED PATROL

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Performed by Emma Boone

AMERICAN INDIAN BLESSING

Les James
Tribal Elder, American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Jon Jarvis
Director, National Park Service

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL & YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Jon Jarvis
Director, National Park Service

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK AS A NATIONAL ICON

Tom McClintock (R-4th)
U.S. House of Representatives

REGIONAL IMPORTANCE OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Jim Costa (D-16th)
U.S. House of Representatives

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK'S PLACE IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY

Gavin Newsom
Lieutenant Governor, State of California

RESTORATION OF THE MARIPOSA GROVE OF GIANT SEQUOIAS

Don Neubacher
Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

THE CAMPAIGN FOR RESTORATION OF THE MARIPOSA GROVE OF GIANT SEQUOIAS

Phil Pillsbury
Board Chair, Yosemite Conservancy

Mike Tollefson
President, Yosemite Conservancy

GROUNDBREAKING

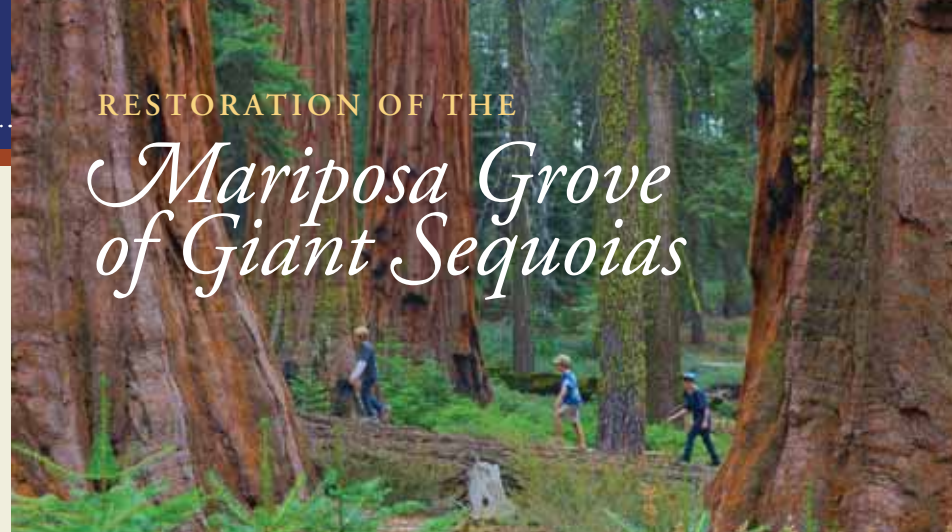
RETIRING OF THE COLORS

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PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT:
© Josh Helling & © Scot Miller

RESTORATION OF THE

Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias



THROUGH FIRE & SNOWSTORM, through disease and war, through the birth of modern civilization and the rise of a new nation, they have stood, tall and majestic, above the land. They are the giant sequoias, found only on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada range in California. Some of the oldest and largest living things in the world, they inspire awe, wonder and an enduring sense of serenity in modern visitors more accustomed to skyscrapers and traffic.

After as many as two thousand years undisturbed, the giant sequoias within the Grove have been unintentionally damaged by the heavy human traffic of recent decades. Their shallow roots bear the impact of a constant stream of automobiles and pedestrians, while parking lots, roads and culverts interfere with the Sierra Nevada's complex hydrology.

The primary focus of the Restoration of the Mariposa Grove project is to preserve the trees and the extraordinary experiences they make possible. As we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Yosemite Grant, we renew President Abraham Lincoln's vision by making a commitment to protect this amazing grove for our children and the children of future generations. ■

ONE HUNDRED & FIFTY YEARS

would comprise less than a tenth of the Grizzly Giant's life so far... A century and a half ago, the tree witnessed the birth of a new idea, watched that idea germinate like one of its own seeds, and personally met the people most responsible for the idea's development from seedling to sapling to something capable of producing its own seeds and regenerating its own species. That idea – that a nation's most majestic and sacred places should be preserved for everyone, and for all time – we now call the national park idea.

Dayton Duncan

SEED OF THE FUTURE

