

SEEING . . .

GIANT FOREST

You are in the largest remaining forest of giant sequoias. Use this map to guide you to its most interesting features. Hale Tharp, early pioneer, discovered this forest in 1858, and it was named by John Muir.

Logging operations of the 1880's threatened the existence of this and other sequoia groves. To protect some of them, Sequoia National Park was established in 1890, the second of America's system of 28 national parks. Some of the land, then in private ownership, was purchased by interested organizations and individuals and donated to the Federal Government for park purposes so that this forest might be preserved intact for all generations.

At first the park included the sequoia groves, and extended only to about the Great Western Divide. Later additions brought the wilderness of the Kern Canyon and Mount Whitney into the national park. Today, after visiting the sequoia forests, you may follow extensive trails into a true mountain wilderness of towering peaks and profound canyons.

ABOUT THE SEQUOIAS

At first you may not realize the gigantic size of the sequoias. Beauty of color and form, stateliness, majesty, balance and harmony, or the pervading quietness of the forests may impress you most. Then, as you observe individual trees more closely, other special features excite your curiosity. Perhaps the following will answer some of the questions that will confront you:

A Mixed Forest—Note that the sugar pine, ponderosa pine, white fir, and incense-cedar grow in the same forest with the giant sequoia.

Cone and Seed—An astonishingly small seed is borne in small, hard, thick-scaled, somewhat egg-shaped cones. They may cling tenaciously to the tree for years, but many are cut down by squirrels.

Young Sequoias—Look for them along roadsides, in the lodge and museum grounds, and in other open places.

Compare the Crowns—Young and the early mature sequoias are perfect sharp spires with numerous branches down to ground level. As the tree grows taller, the lower branches slough away, but the spire top remains. Later, Nature prunes out most upper branches, and the remaining ones expand and become many-branched to form the rounded or domelike crown.

Dead Crowns—Sometimes these result from decreased nourishment following severe injury of the base.

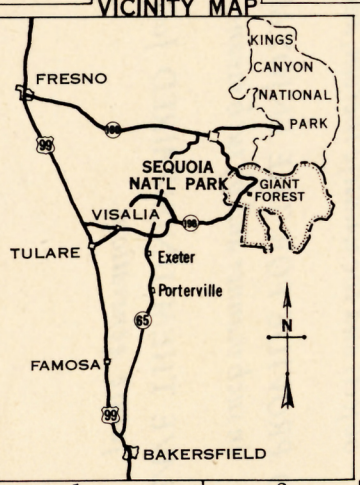
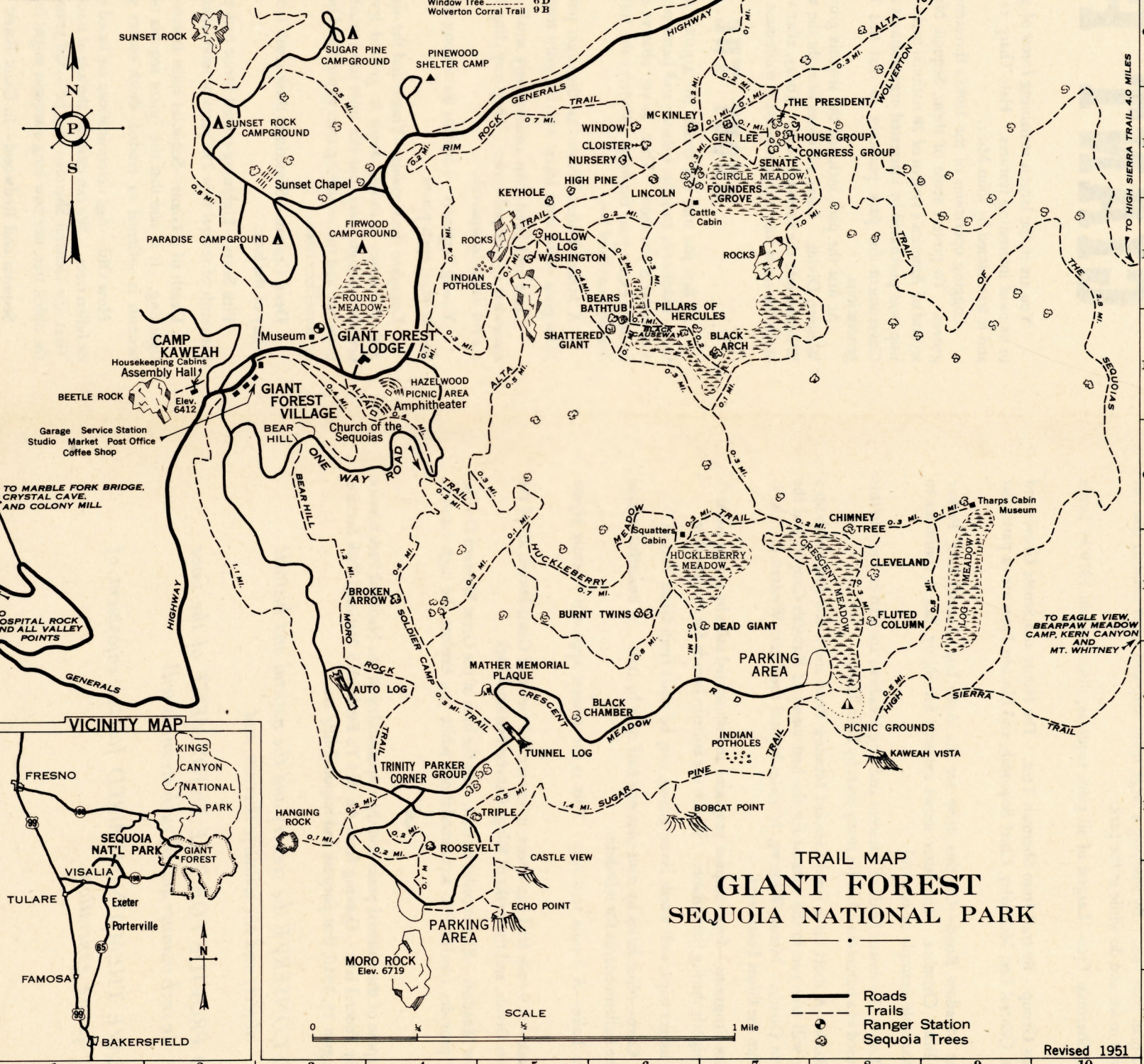
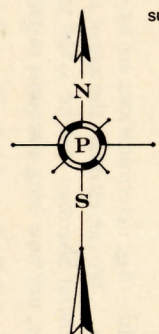
Fire Scars—Lightning-caused forest fires produced these injuries. Each deep scar is the result of several fires 250 years or more apart.

Death of a Giant—Sequoias resist insects and rot. Rarely are they killed by fire or lightning. It is said that the "giant sequoia never dies on its feet." When the ground beneath is softened or eroded, death comes when the tree loses balance and crashes.

How Old—Age determinations are based on counts of annual growth rings of stumps or fallen trees. We can estimate the age of standing sequoias only on the basis of diameter. Thus, the General Sherman may be 3,500 years old or older. We do not know which is the oldest tree, nor how long a sequoia might live.

Sequoia and Redwood—In Giant Forest you see the giant sequoia (*Sequoia gigantea*), sometimes called the big tree or Sierra redwood. Along the coast of California grows another species of sequoia, the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*).

KEY FOR LOCATION			
Alta Trail.....	4 F	Congress Group.....	7 D
Amphitheater.....	4 F	Corrals.....	8 A
Assembly Hall.....	2 F	Crescent Meadow.....	8 H
Auto Log.....	3 J	Dance Hall.....	2 F
Bear Hill Trail.....	3 G	Dead Giant.....	7 I
Beetle Rock.....	1 F	Eagle View.....	10 J
Bears Bathub.....	5 E	Echo Point.....	5 L
Black Arch.....	7 F	Firwood Camp.....	4 E
Black Causeway.....	6 F	Fluted Column.....	8 H
Black Chamber.....	5 J	Founders Grove.....	7 D
Bobcat Point.....	7 K	Garage.....	3 F
Broken Arrow Tree.....	4 H	Generals Highway.....	2 G
Burnt Twin Tree.....	6 H	General Lee Tree.....	7 D
Camp Kaweah.....	2 F	General Sherman Tree.....	7 B
Cattle Cabin.....	6 E	Giant Forest Lodge.....	3 F
Cattle View.....	5 L	Hanging Rock.....	3 K
Chimney Tree.....	8 G	Hazelwood Picnic Area.....	4 F
Church of the Sequoias.....	3 G	High Pine Tree.....	5 D
Cleveland Tree.....	8 H	High Sierra Trail.....	8 J
Coffee Shop.....	3 F	Hollow Log.....	5 E
Cloister.....	6 D	House Group.....	7 D
		Huckleberry Meadow.....	7 H
		Indian Potholes.....	7 K
		Kaweah Camp.....	2 F
		Kaweah Vista.....	8 K
		Kennels.....	8 A
		Keyhole Tree.....	5 D
		Lincoln Tree.....	6 E
		Lodge.....	3 F
		Log Meadow.....	9 H
		Market.....	3 F
		Mather Plaque.....	3 J
		McKinley Tree.....	6 D
		Moro Rock.....	3 L
		Museum.....	3 F
		Nursery Tree.....	6 D
		Paradise Camp.....	3 E
		Parker Group.....	3 K
		Pillars of Hercules.....	6 F
		Pinewood Camp.....	4 C
		Post Office.....	3 F
		President Tree.....	7 D
		Rim Rock Trail.....	4 D
		Roosevelt Tree.....	4 K
		Round Meadow.....	3 E
		Senate Trees.....	7 D
		Service Station.....	3 F
		Shattered Giant.....	6 F
		Squatters Cabin.....	6 H
		Studio.....	3 F
		Sugar Pine Camp.....	3 C
		Sugar Pine Trail.....	5 K
		Sunset Rock Camp.....	2 D
		Sunset Chapel.....	3 D
		Sunset Rock.....	2 C
		Telescope Tree.....	7 B
		Tharps Cabin.....	9 G
		Trail of Sequoias.....	10 F
		Trinity Corner.....	4 K
		Triple Tree.....	5 K
		Tunnel Log.....	5 J
		Village.....	3 F
		Washington Tree.....	5 E
		Window Tree.....	6 D
		Wolverton Corral Trail.....	9 B



TRAIL MAP GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Revised 1951

POINTS TO VISIT

Ranger Station-Museum—If you will stop here the rangers or ranger naturalists will help you plan your visit. By studying a large relief map and other exhibits you can determine what to see and do while in the park.

General Sherman Tree—Largest of all giant sequoias; discovered in 1879 by James Wolverton.

Congress Group—By trail from Sherman Tree. The House and Senate Groves and the President, General Lee, McKinley, Chief Sequoyah, and Lincoln Trees are of particular interest.

Crescent Meadow Road—On this drive are the Auto Log, Tunnel Log, Parker Group, and Black Chamber. The latter shows extreme fire injury, but it continues to grow—a remarkable example of survival.

Tharp Log—The flower fields of Crescent and Log Meadows are seen en route to this historic log, used as a mountain cabin for many years by Hale Tharp.

Moro Rock—A short drive from Crescent Meadow Road and a 300-foot climb up a safe stairway will take you to the summit for the best views of Kaweah Canyon and the Great Western Divide. Mount Whitney, 16 miles beyond the Great Western Divide, is not visible from the Giant Forest area.

Campfire Programs—Free campfire programs and illustrated talks by ranger naturalists are held nightly during the summer. Watch the bulletin boards for the schedule.

Several longer trips, well worth investigating, may be made from Giant Forest:

Crystal Cave—Nine miles by road plus one-half mile by trail. A beautiful marble cave. See the bulletin boards for schedules.

Heather Lake—A 5-mile trail trip. This is the nearest approach to truly alpine country.

Alta Peak—A 9-mile trail trip opens up unexcelled views of Giant Forest, all of the Great Western Divide, and the peaks of Kings Canyon National Park.

Bearpaw Meadow—Eleven miles by trail. At the base of the Great Western Divide, a tent-chalet provides comfortable accommodations while you explore the high country.



The purpose of the national parks and the responsibility of the National Park Service are defined by Federal law. Quoting from An Act To Establish a National Park Service, approved August 25, 1916, that purpose and responsibility are:

*TO CONSERVE the scenery and the natural and historic
objects and the wildlife therein, and*

*TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENJOYMENT of the same
in such manner and by such means as will*

*LEAVE THEM UNIMPAIRED for the enjoyment of
future generations.*