

Land Stewardship Proposal for Doyle Springs Planning Unit

USDA Forest Service

Primary Proposal Contact

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Executive Director for Lead Proposal Organization

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Executive Summary

Provide a two-page Executive Summary that concisely describes your organization's qualifications and proposed plans for the planning unit. For collaborative proposals, identify the role of each team member. Please be advised that the Stewardship Council expects to post this executive summary (or parts thereof) to its website (two pages or less).

Organization Information The Land Stewardship Proposal must provide the basic organization information for the eligible donee, as described below. For proposals that involve collaboration among multiple organizations, please include the below organizational information only for the proposed conservation easement holder(s) and the proposed fee title recipient(s).

Indicate which category applies to your organization(s):

- A nonprofit corporation that is a public charity exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3), qualified to do business, and in good standing in the State of California
- A public entity
- A recognized tribe

Attach documentation of your organization(s)' status, such as Internal Revenue Service and/or Franchise Tax Board Determination Letters.

Proposing Organization(s)

USDA Forest Service

Sequoia National Forest

1839 South Newcomb

Porterville, California 93257

Primary Telephone: (559-784-1500

Fax: (559) 784-1500

Website Address: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/

Year Founded: 1908

Organization Tax ID:

Organization/Team Qualifications

For proposals that involve collaboration among multiple organizations, please include the below organizational information only for the proposed conservation easement holder(s) and the proposed fee title recipient(s).

Organization/Team Mission or Programmatic Focus

1. Describe how your organization's mission and/or programs and activities include preservation and enhancement of beneficial public values consistent with Volume II of the adopted LCP. (two pages or less)

In one page or less, describe how your **organization's mission and/or programs and activities** are consistent with the requirements that the Watershed Lands be preserved and enhanced for the following beneficial public values, and **are consistent with the management objectives established for the planning units in Volume II of the Land Conservation Plan.** (*one page*)

Beneficial Public Values

Protection of the natural habitat of fish, wildlife, and plants

Preservation of open space

Outdoor recreation by the general public

Sustainable forestry

Historical values

Attach any existing materials you have that demonstrate this commitment to stewardship, such as mission and vision, fundraising and communication materials, or your annual report.

The Sequoia National Forest management direction for the Doyle Springs area is governed by the following regional guidelines, referred to as the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. This strategy closely mirror the Stewardship Council Public Values listed above.

Water Quality: Maintain and restore water quality to meet goals of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, providing water that is fishable, and suitable for drinking after normal treatment.

Species Viability: Maintain and restore habitat to support populations of native and desired non-native plant, invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependent species. Prevent new introductions of invasive species. Where invasive

species are adversely affecting native species, work cooperatively with appropriate State and Federal wildlife agencies to reduce impacts to native populations.

Plant and Animal Community Diversity: Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant and animal communities in riparian areas, wetlands, and meadows to provide desired habitats and ecological functions.

Special Habitats: Maintain and restore the distribution and health of biotic communities in special aquatic habitats (such as springs, seeps, vernal pools, fens, bogs, and marshes) to perpetuate their unique functions and biological diversity.

Watershed Connectivity: Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity for aquatic and riparian species within and between watersheds to provide physically, chemically and biologically unobstructed movement for their survival, migration and reproduction.

Floodplains and Water Tables: Maintain and restore the connections of floodplains, channels, and water tables to distribute flood flows and sustain diverse habitats.

Watershed Condition: Maintain and restore soils with favorable infiltration characteristics and diverse vegetative cover to absorb and filter precipitation and to sustain favorable conditions of stream flows.

Streamflow Patterns and Sediment Regimes: Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to sustain desired conditions of riparian, aquatic, wetland, and meadow habitats and keep sediment regimes as close as possible to those with which aquatic and riparian biota evolved.

Stream Banks and Shorelines: Maintain and restore the physical structure and condition of stream banks and shorelines to minimize erosion and sustain desired habitat diversity.

Regional Presence

2. Describe your organization's knowledge and work within the region where the watershed lands are located. Please include information about your ability to be inclusive of the cultural, economic, and political diversity of the region. (two pages or less)

The Doyle Springs Planning Unit is surrounded by public lands administered by the Giant Sequoia National Monument in the Sequoia National Forest, Western Divide Ranger District. The Western Divide Ranger District manages approximately 319,000 non-wilderness acres of the 1,430,000 acres of the Sequoia National Forest. The Sequoia National Forest has been managing these adjacent lands for over 100 years. The agency has a demonstrated history of quality land resource management for a broad range of ecological, economic and social benefits, including such services and activities as: developed and dispersed recreation opportunities, wilderness and wild and scenic rivers management, motorized and non-motorized recreation experiences, trail and road construction and maintenance, special use permitted activities (resorts, organization camps, recreation residences, communication/electronic sites, events, outfitting and guiding services, etc.), mining, grazing, vegetation management, wildlife and aquatic species habitat protection and enhancement, protection of sensitive botanical resources, archeological and historical resource protection and management, wildland fire protection, prevention and suppression, interpretive and conservation education services, and law enforcement.

The Forest Service is required by numerous statutes to actively encourage public, tribal and local government involvement in planning and decision making processes for activities, projects and changes in management

direction of Forest lands. The Forest is located within three counties: Fresno, Tulare, Kern. Each District Ranger and the Forest Supervisor regularly communicate and interact with County representatives on a variety of issues. The Forest is not only a major employer, but also contributes to the local economies through the delivery of goods and services that support local and regional businesses.

Legal Compliance and Best Practices

3. Describe what best practices, standards, or guiding principles your organization uses to ensure all operations are legally and ethically sound and in the public interest. (one page)
4. Describe any current violations of law that may involve your organization(s) in any way. (one page)

Organization Capacity and Experience

5. Describe up to three examples of projects that most effectively illustrate your organization's capacity to manage the type of resource for which you are interested in obtaining an easement or fee simple title. (three pages or less)

In two pages or less, describe up to three **specific projects** that most effectively illustrate your organization's capacity to own, manage and enhance resource values that are comparable to those associated with the selected planning unit. (*two pages*)

As a major Federal land management agency, the Forest Service has a great capacity to manage the resources associated with the parcel. The Sequoia NF employs over 100 professionals with expertise in a multitude of specialties and management functions and is also able to draw on the expertise of over 1000 Forest Service professionals within California. Employee expertise includes wildlife, fisheries, and botanical management, fuels and vegetation management, recreation management, business management, and engineering. The Sequoia NF manages over 1,143,000 acres of public land for multiple uses including recreation management providing developed campgrounds as well as wilderness experiences, range and vegetation management providing timber products, grazing opportunities, fuels management, and botanical resource protection, and fish and wildlife management.

Provided below are three specific projects that illustrate the Forest's capacity to own, manage and enhance resource values associated with the Kennedy Meadows Planning Unit:

Giant Sequoia National Monument Plan

An example of our collaboration is the development of the Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM) Plan. The process is using a collaborative approach to planning which means sharing power, engaging in ongoing conversation with stakeholders and the general public, and being open to any possibilities that are legal, fair and practical. The Sequoia National Forest has engaged stakeholders from local communities and communities of interest to formulate a collaboration process in developing a management plan. A third party facilitator, for both an assessment of internal and external collaborative capacity, and for running the process itself has been contracted with the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to ensure success of this process. The Sequoia is currently asking stakeholder groups to provide comments on how the Presidential Proclamation for the GSNM and Science Advisories for the plan should be interpreted. Future opportunities will allow stakeholder groups to recommend desired conditions, define objectives, craft alternatives, ensuring the Sequoia's efforts are transparent to the public and easy to understand every step of the way. The Forest has also worked with local communities to develop projects such as the Granite Stewardship Project which developed management strategies to enhance vegetation resources and provide economic benefits to the local community.

Tule River Cleanup and Education Grant

This year the Sequoia National Forest received a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in conjunction with WildPlaces and Community Service Employment and Training (CSET) to conduct litter clean-up, place recycling stations,

remove graffiti, and do outreach and education to the community regarding proper river etiquette and use of the Tule River. This includes visiting schools and community organizations for educational programs as well as leading youth in projects to clean up the river.

Sequoia Youth Summit

In 2008 the Forest Service (Sequoia National Forest) initiated meetings with multiple agencies, organizations and education leaders to develop a program and strategy to get Central Valley kids of all ages connected to the land. The goal of this collaboration is to give kids a continuum of opportunities to develop a hands-on understanding of their environment through outdoor experiences that will grow the next generation of citizen stewards with a life long love and commitment to the land and natural resources. Three outcomes of this collaborative partnership will be the development of the MyForest Summit, a youth corps program, and an outdoor resource clearinghouse. The MyForest Summit will be an annual overnight event for junior high-aged kids focused around Public Lands Day and volunteer projects on public lands. The youth corps program will be a collaborative effort to establish a leadership and job training program for high school students ages 16-24. The outdoor resource clearinghouse will be a website teachers, youth directors, parents and kids can utilize to get information on recreation opportunities, special events, educational programs, and volunteer activities on public lands.

6. Describe how your organization adheres to sound financial management practices and processes. (one page)

Financial Capacity

7. Provide your organization's operating budget for the current year and three years of your organization's audited financial statements including a Statement of Activities and Statement of Financial Position. Audited Financial Statements with full footnotes are preferred; however, if those are NOT available, provide one of the following (in order of preference): an independent auditor's review, an independent auditor's compilation with full footnote disclosure, or a complete Income Statement and Balance Sheet with no independent review.

The Forest Service Budget is allocated by Congress annually¹.

As seen in the attached spreadsheets, the Forest receives and allocates funding in a variety of resource areas that are relevant to management of the Doyle Springs parcel. Efficient management of Forest resources requires that individual staff managers collaborate and share funds to accomplish work.

8. Optional: Provide any information you would like to explain or highlight on your operating budget or financial statements. (one page)

Key Personnel

9. Provide names and affiliations for your organization's board of directors (or equivalent).

10. Provide names and full resumes that describe relevant experience for your organization's executive leadership and the proposed lead personnel for this particular project.

¹ See the following website for national budget information: <http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/>

The National Forest System is managed through a hierarchy consisting of four levels of national forest offices and decision makers. However, the history of the Forest Service which sets it apart from many other agencies is an emphasis on decision making at the Forest and Ranger District level so that management can be tailored to local conditions.

The top level of management for the Forest Service is located in the Washington Office and managed by the Chief of the Forest Service who is the ultimate decision maker for the agency. Next are Regions which are governed by a Regional Forester. Each Region is composed of individual National Forests, each of which is managed by a Forest Supervisor. Each National Forest is composed of Ranger Districts, managed by a District Ranger who has the closest connection to the actions occurring on the specific National Forest lands under their direction.

The Doyle Springs parcel is located within the Western Divide Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest. The Western Divide Ranger District encompasses 319,000 acres of public land and is managed by District Ranger **Priscilla Summers**. Priscilla has been the District Ranger for the Western Divide Ranger District (formerly the Tule River & Hot Springs Ranger Districts), on the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument for the past three and a half years. Her previous position (from 7/2002 to 2/2005) was Forest Ecologist on the Dixie National Forest in Cedar City, Utah. This position included participation on the Forest Plan Revision Team for the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests and a 5- month detail as District Ranger on the Powell Ranger District, Dixie National Forest. She held Wildlife Biologist positions from 7/1994 to 7/2002 on the Dixie National Forest, Cedar City Ranger District in Utah, and from 7/1986 to 7/1994 on the Silver Lake Ranger District, Fremont National Forest in Oregon. Her earlier career included Recreation Technician on the Galice Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon, and on the Klamath Ranger District, Winema National Forest in Oregon. She has a B.S. Degree in Natural Resources from Humboldt State University (1974) and attended Humboldt State University again in 1986 to convert into the Wildlife Biologist series.

Overall management of the Sequoia National Forest is guided by Forest Supervisor **Tina Terrell**. Ms. Terrell would fulfill the role of Executive Director.

TINA J. TERRELL

Biography

1984 — Ms. Terrell started her Forest Service career as a temporary forestry technician working for the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) staff at the Northeastern Research Experiment Station in Broomall, Pa. She became a co-op education student at the end of the summer while majoring in forest science at Penn State University.

1984-1989 — Ms. Terrell worked as a Field Inventory Forester and Supervisory Field Inventory Forester, working in Massachusetts, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, Arkansas and Mississippi. During this time, She graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in Forest Science.

1989-1991 — Ms. Terrell transferred to the Six Rivers National Forest in California as the Small Sales Officer.

1991-1994 — Ms. Terrell worked at the regional office in Region 5 in Sacramento, California at the Remote Sensing Lab as an Inventory Forester working on every national forest in California except for the four forests in southern California. She was responsible for the old growth inventory contracts and the inventory contracts on forests in the Sierras. She also worked on the forest mortality survey conducted at Lake Tahoe in 1992.

1994 — Ms. Terrell transferred to the National Forests in Alabama, working at Tuskegee University as the forest liaison officer. She managed the Tuskegee University Forest Resources Program recruiting future Forest Service leaders into the agency. The program was the first program developed to educate and recruit African-Americans to join the forestry profession, and/or work for the Forest Service.

1997 — Ms. Terrell transferred to the Southwestern Region to become the District Ranger on the Tonto Basin Ranger District, Tonto National Forest in Arizona, and managed more than 690,000 acres. She managed Roosevelt and Apache Lakes located on the Salt River. The Tonto National Forest had a very large range program, a complex recreation program, and a vast fire program.

2000 — Ms. Terrell transferred to the Washington Office, as a legislative specialist in the Programs, Legislation and Communications Deputy Area. She was responsible for communicating with congressional members and senators, and she tracked legislation that was important to the agency. My areas of responsibility included: all issues in R3 (Arizona and New Mexico) and R5 (California), range management, invasive species, complex lands projects, ecosystem planning, civil rights, human resources, job corps, law enforcement, fuels projects in California, recreation fee, wilderness, recreation management, and senior/youth/volunteer programs.

2004 — Ms. Terrell became the Forest Supervisor of the Cleveland National Forest in California responsible for managing over 450,000 acres of national forest system lands in Orange, Riverside, and San Diego County, respectively. She supervised over 440 employees during the summer with a very large and complex fire program (3rd largest fire program in California). The budget on the forest was approximately \$25 million dollars.

2007 — Ms. Terrell became the Forest Supervisor of the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument responsible for managing over 1.2 million acres of national forest system lands in Fresno, Tulare, and Kern County, respectively. She currently supervisor over 460 employees during the summer with a very large and complex vegetation and fire program (5th largest fire program in California). The budget on the forest is approximately \$30 million dollars. The forest is extremely complex as we move to develop a new management plan for protecting the 38 giant sequoia groves within the monument.

ROGER PORTER

Biography

I have over 32 years of service with the Forest Service. I have worked on five different National Forests during that time. I am currently the Assistant Lands and Minerals Officer for the Sequoia National Forest.

Prior to that I was on the Inyo National Forest, last as a Forest Planner, from 1980-2006. During that time I served in many different jobs encompassing recreation, lands, minerals, and resources. I was the Scenic Area Manager for the Mono Basin National Scenic Area for 14 years, District Ranger for two years and Forest Recreation Team Leader for two years.

References

11. Please submit three references which can attest to your organization's track record and capacity to undertake the type of stewardship responsibilities associated with the land interest (easement or fee simple title) to be conveyed. Provide name, title, relationship, address, phone, and email.

First Name: Brent

Last Name: Handley

Title: Director, Natural Resource Management, USDA Forest Service, Regional Office

Relationship: Regional Director for Lands, Minerals, Vegetation Management

Address: 1323 Club Drive

City: Vallejo

State: CA

Zip Code:

Telephone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx ext. xxxx

E-Mail Address:

First Name: Mike

Last Name: Ennis

Title: Supervisor, District 5, Tulare County

Relationship: Elected Official

Address: Administration Building 2800 W. Burrel Avenue

City: Visalia

State: CA

Zip Code: 93291

Telephone: (559) 733-6271

E-Mail Address:

First Name: Neil

Last Name: Peyron

Title: Chairman, Tule River Tribal Council

Relationship: Tribal Relations

Address: Box 589

City: Porterville

State: CA

Zip Code: 93258

Telephone: (559) 781-4271 ext. 1002

E-Mail Address:

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

12. To assist the Stewardship Council in evaluating whether any actual or potential conflicts of interest may arise when your proposal is considered, please include a disclosure of any personal or financial relationships of which you are aware between (a) your organization/proposal team and its members, trustees, directors, officers or stockholders, and (b) a member of the Stewardship Council's Board, his or her family members, or the Board Member's constituent organization. The existence of such a

relationship may or may not require the affected Board Member to refrain from participating in the consideration of a land transaction in which you are involved.

Proposal Information

For proposals that involve collaboration among multiple organizations, please include the below proposal information for the full proposal team, including all partners.

Proposal Team

13. If the Land Stewardship Proposal represents the interests of several organizations, indicate the specific interest or role for each. (two pages or less, if applicable)

14. Attach a letter from the executive director or equivalent officer of each organization approving the submission of the Land Stewardship Proposal and the organization's participation in the Stewardship Council's land conservation process for the subject Planning Unit. (The selected donees will be expected to submit resolutions of their governing boards authorizing them to enter into negotiations toward a land transaction).

Overall Approach

15. Describe your organization's/team's overall approach to the future management of the planning unit. (two pages or less)

Land Interests Sought

16. Describe the scope of your proposal. Is the proposal for the entire planning unit or just select parcels or areas (specify which parcels or areas are included)?

Does the proposal include both the proposed fee title recipient and conservation easement holder? (half page)

Does the proposal require a legal parcel split or subdivision of the subject land? If the proposal reflects a request to use a mechanism other than a conservation easement to ensure the long-term conservation of the land, include an explanation that addresses how applicable law or policy precludes the donee from accepting a conservation easement, and describes how the Stewardship Council will be provided with satisfactory assurances in another form that the parcel or area will be managed consistent with the purpose of the Land Conservation Commitment. (two pages or less)

The Sequoia National forest is interested in becoming the fee title recipient of the parcel of land within NE 1/4, Section 7, T20S, R31E, shown on the attached map and described as follows:

- The west boundary consists of the private land/Sequoia National Forest boundary,
- North boundary extends from the 1/4 section of NE 1/4 Section 7 to 100 feet east of centerline of Trail 30E14;
- East boundary continues south 100 feet east of centerline of Trail 30E14 to Road 208, east to the North Fork Middle Fork Tule River, east to unnamed road within the FERC boundary, south to the private land/Sequoia National Forest boundary; and
- The south boundary runs along the Sequoia National Forest boundary.

This proposal does **not** include the slivers of land containing transmission line corridors surrounded by private land (T.20S., R.30E., Section 31 and 32).

The FERC property in the middle of the proposed parcel (the cherry-stem leading to a spring and including the Wishon Cabin, storage building, and grave site) is proposed to be included in the fee title and would be managed in the same manner as other National Forest System lands under FERC licensing.

This proposed parcel includes lands currently owned by the Doyle Springs Homeowners. Trail 30E14 currently runs through this private land and the Forest Service desires ownership of the land on which the trail travels. Therefore, this proposal would require a land exchange on the part of PG&E **prior to** the Sequoia National Forest fee title acquisition. The Sequoia National Forest is not willing to conduct the exchange.

The proposed parcel does not include land containing any of the Doyle Springs homes. The water tank that serves the Doyle Springs homes would continue to be within private land and is not included in the proposed parcel.

Forest Service does not accept land with conservation easements. Therefore, the Forest Service is interested as a donee if a reasonable substitute to the conservation easement is agreed upon by the Forest Service and the Stewardship Council.

The proclamation establishing the Giant Sequoia National Monument regarding land acquisitions states:

...Lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument not owned by the United States shall be reserved as a part of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States.

Therefore, this land, if donated to the Sequoia National Forest, would become part of the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Partners and Community Support

17. Describe any efforts to work collaboratively with public and private entities in the geographic region to plan and/or implement the proposal, including:

- (a) Consultation and cooperation with private non-profits and local, state, federal, and tribal governments, including methods used to solicit participation.
- (b) Participation by stakeholders in designing and/or implementing the proposal, including methods used to solicit participation.
- (c) Community support and project partners, beyond those identified in response to question #1. (three pages or less)

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has awarded a grant to fund the existing Tule River Partnership between the Forest Service, WildPlaces, and CSET². Using this grant we have implemented a education, outreach to the community, and Rio Limpio (“clean river”) events that include getting kids in the woods to learn about river stewardship, picking up litter, and obliterate graffiti, as well as employing youth (with CSET) for regular litter pick-up and recycling. These activities are taking place

² See the following website: <http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/docs/SNC070230cmb.pdf>

along the Middle Fork Tule River and the North Fork Middle Fork Tule River on which the Doyle Springs parcel is located.

The SNC also awarded a grant to the Tule River Partnership in order to complete the necessary environmental review³ to protect cultural resources and improve access and facilities along the Tule River Canyon, of which the North Fork Middle Fork Tule River (Wishon area) are a part. This will include maintenance of the Tule River Canyon Trail (30E29) determining which user-created trails from main roads to the river should be obliterated and which ones to improve and improved visitor facilities such as garbage cans and restrooms. An application to the SNC will be submitted to implement these improvements upon completion of the environmental review.

The Forest Service is currently working on an agreement with the Alder Creek Fire Safe Council to support their Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and working together preparing an application for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant to complete the necessary environmental review for fuel reduction treatments. These treatments will include the Doyle Springs area since they are in the same watershed.

Preservation and Enhancement Measures

18. For each applicable beneficial public value present in the planning unit, describe any specific preservation and enhancement measures that your organization/team proposes to implement in the first ten years. For each measure, explain the connection to the objectives listed in the LCP Volume II for the relevant beneficial public value. Describe how your overall approach is consistent with the overall management objectives for the planning unit as adopted by the Stewardship Council in LCP Volume II. (five pages or less)

The Forest Service mission is consistent with the overall management objectives for the planning unit adopted by the Stewardship Council. The Forest Service Mission is, “Sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”

The Forest Service’s National Strategic Plan outlines the agency’s over-arching goals and objectives. The agency has six strategic goals⁴ of which four directly relate to the beneficial public values of the Stewardship Council:

- 1) Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire. Restore the health of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to increase resilience to the effects of wildland fire.
- 2) Reduce the impacts from invasive species. Restore the health of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to be resilient to the effects of invasive insects, pathogens, plants, and pests.
- 3) Provide outdoor recreation opportunities. Provide high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities on forests and grasslands, while sustaining natural resources, to meet the Nation’s recreational demands.
- 4) Improve watershed condition. Increase the number of forest and grassland watersheds that are in fully functional hydrologic condition.

³ See the following websites: <http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/docs/SNC070271cmb.pdf> and <http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/docs/SNC070347.pdf>

⁴ See the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/strategic/fs-sp-fy07-12.pdf>

The overall approach for managing the proposed Doyle Springs parcel would be the same as other lands within the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument. Currently management for the Giant Sequoia National Monument is guided by the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), as amended by the 1990 Mediated Settlement Agreement⁵ (MSA) and the 2001 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment⁶ (2001 Amendment), and must be in compliance with the proclamation establishing the Giant Sequoia National Monument (Proclamation). Management of the parcel would fall under the direction in the Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan when it is implemented.

The Forest Service would not place special emphasis or accelerated strategy for management of the proposed parcel over an above our regular management. However, if funding is available we plan to conduct the analysis (as required by the National Environmental Policy Act) and implement fuels reduction treatments in the area, including the Sequoia Crest private lands higher in the same watershed Doyle Springs is located.

Protection of the Natural Habitat of Fish, Wildlife, and Plants. Current management direction for fish, wildlife and plants consists of forest goals, standards and guidelines and management prescriptions. Goals for the Sequoia National Forest stated below (from Forest Plan, pg. 4-3, and MSA, pg. 66) are consistent with the Stewardship Council Planning Unit Objective to, “Preserve and enhance habitat in order to protect special biological resources.”

- 1) Maintain and improve habitat for endangered and threatened plant and animal species on Federal and State lists to meet objectives set forth in their recovery plans.
- 2) Provide well distributed habitat diversity on each Ranger District for all indigenous wildlife species.
- 3) Maintain or increase habitat capabilities so support viable populations of wildlife and fish species (CFR 36 219.19) in cooperation with the California Department of fish and Game.
- 4) Provide increased quality and quantity of opportunities for enjoyment of consumptive and nonconsumptive uses of the wildlife, fish and plant resources.
- 5) Increase the diversity of plant and animal communities.
- 6) Promote recreational opportunities by striving to increase fish biomass by 20% via habitat improvement projects. (MSA).

The 2001 Amendment specifically addressed five areas which also support the Stewardship Council Planning goals and objectives (2001 Amendment Record of Decision, pg. 1):

- 1) Protect, increase, and perpetuate old forest ecosystems and provide for the viability of native plant and animal species associated with old forest ecosystems,
- 2) Protect and restore aquatic, riparian, and meadow ecosystems and provide for the viability of native plant and animal species associated with these ecosystems,
- 3) Manage fire and fuels in a consistent manner across the national forests, coordinate management strategies with other ownerships, integrate fire and fuels management objectives with other natural resource management objectives, address the role of wildland fire, and set priorities for fire and fuels management actions,

⁵ Found at the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/projects/>

⁶ Found at the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/snfpalibrary/archives/rod/rod.pdf>

- 4) Reduce, and where possible, reverse the spread of noxious weeds, and
- 5) Maintain and enhance hardwood forest ecosystems in the lower westside of the Sierra Nevada.

The Proclamation establishing the Giant Sequoia National Monument also addresses wildlife, fish and plants with the intent preserve and protect a, “*spectrum of interconnected vegetation types provides essential habitat for wildlife*” including the Pacific fisher, great gray owl, American marten, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, spotted owl, California condor, a number of rare amphibians, and the giant sequoias.

Preservation of Open Space. The Forest Service believes that open space is vital to the public’s health, economy and well-being⁷. Both public and private lands, including wilderness and working land, provide public benefits and ecosystem services we all need and enjoy. These include clean water, natural flood control, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, recreation and relaxation, timber and other forest products, and jobs.

The Forest Service has developed an Open Space Conservation Strategy⁸ to identify how the agency can best help conserve open space, with an emphasis on partnerships and collaborative approaches. The agency is interested in addressing the effects of the loss of open space on private forests; on National Forests and Grasslands and the surrounding landscape; and on forests in cities, suburbs, and towns. The goal of this strategy is to: Sustain the environmental, social, and economic benefits of forests and grasslands across the landscape by:

- Protecting the most ecologically and socially important lands;
- Conserving working lands as sustainable forests and grasslands;
- Expanding and connecting open spaces in cities, suburbs, and towns; and
- Reducing the potential ecological impacts and risks of development.

This strategy will meet the Stewardship Council Planning Unit objective to, “preserve open space in order to protect natural and cultural resources, as well as viewsheds.”

Outdoor Recreation by the General Public. Providing outdoor recreation is one of the founding principles of multiple use management under which the Forest Service operates. Objectives of wilderness and recreation management in Forest Service Manual direction that address the Stewardship Council objectives are (FSM 2302):

- 1) To provide nonurbanized outdoor recreation opportunities in natural appearing forest and rangeland settings.
- 2) To protect the long-term public interest by maintaining and enhancing open space options, public accessibility, and cultural, wilderness, visual, and natural resource values.
- 3) To promote public transportation and/or access to National Forest recreation opportunities.
- 4) To shift land ownership patterns as necessary to place urbanized recreation settings into other ownerships to create more public open space and/or natural resource recreation values.

⁷ See position paper at the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/policy-analysis/loss-of-open-space-position-paper.pdf>

⁸ Found at the following website: http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/national_strategy.html

- 5) To provide outdoor recreation opportunities and activities that:
 - a. Encourage the study and enjoyment of nature;
 - b. Highlight the importance of conservation;
 - c. Provide scenic and visual enjoyment; and
 - d. Instill appreciation of the nation's history, cultural resources, and traditional values.

This policy is reflected in the following Sequoia National Forest Goals, including: 1) Establish use fees that are compatible with costs and that reduce public competition with the private sector. 2) Encourage investment of private risk capital for development of appropriate facilities and services on National Forest System lands.

The Proclamation states that the Monument Plan shall “provide for and encourage continued public and recreational access and use consistent with the purposes of the monument.” Some restrictions do apply, “For the purposes of protecting the objects included in the monument, motorized vehicle use will be permitted only on designated roads, and non-motorized mechanized vehicle use will be permitted only on designated roads and trails, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes or to provide access for persons with disabilities. No new roads or trails will be authorized within the monument except to further the purposes of the monument.”

Within the proposed Doyle Springs parcel, the existing trail (Trail 30E14) receives low use compared to other trails on the Forest and in the Monument. Due to the steep topography, the trail and trailhead location are limited to their existing locations, and the Forest Service has no plans to change either location. The Forest Service budget for trails has been on a steady decline for the past 15 years⁹ such that the Sequoia National Forest has not had a trail crew for the past 12 years. Any trail maintenance that would occur in the next ten years will be dependent upon volunteers such as the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew or grants to fund non-profit organizations such as Community Service Employment Training. Because the trail is little used, priorities for any dollars received or volunteers are likely to go to other trail more heavily used or in need of repair. With partnerships or grants, improved signage at the trailhead could occur within the next ten years.

Sustainable Forestry. The Stewardship Council’s objective for this beneficial public value focuses on “developing and implementing forestry practices in order to ensure appropriate fuel load and fire management.” Forestry practices that include “the removal of trees, except for personal use fuel wood, from the Monument area may take place only if clearly needed.” The Proclamation established that the monument cannot be considered to be “suited for timber production or used in a calculation or provision of a sustained yield of timber from the Sequoia National Forest.”

The need to reduce fuels is recognized in the 2001 Amendment and the Proclamation, “a century of fire suppression has led to an unprecedented failure in sequoia reproduction in otherwise undisturbed groves.”

The Proclamation recognizes the need for restoration:

These forests need restoration to counteract the effects of a century of fire suppression and logging. Fire suppression has caused forests to become denser in many areas, with increased dominance of

⁹ See the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/>

shade-tolerant species. Woody debris has accumulated, causing an unprecedented buildup of surface fuels. One of the most immediate consequences of these changes is an increased hazard of wildfires of a severity that was rarely encountered in pre-Euroamerican times.

Fuels management in the Doyle Springs parcel would be conducted following the existing documents guiding the management of the Giant Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia National Forest, and not a separate fuels management plan. This may or may not include creation of a “fuel break”, as the site specific treatment needed would be developed in context with the surrounding area and fuel modeling. A separate fire management and response plan is not needed since the area surrounding Doyle Springs is within National Forest System lands already having these protocols in place in cooperation and coordination with Cal Fire and the Tulare County Fire Department.

Agricultural Uses (None proposed with Doyle Springs).

Preservation of Historic Values. The objective identified by the Stewardship Council for Preservation of Historic Values is supported by Forest Service management. In addition to numerous laws, regulations, and Executive Orders, Congress in 1966 declared it to be our national policy that the Federal government will “administer federally owned, administered, or controlled prehistoric and historic resources in a spirit of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of present and future generations. To this end, the Forest Service will “provide leadership in preserving America’s heritage through responsible stewardship activities that recognize, preserve, protect, enhance, and use cultural resources for the greatest public benefit”, and “Identify and manage cultural resources in order to ensure their protection, as well as to support opportunities for public education.”(FSM 2360.2)

Surveys for cultural resources on National Forest System lands are conducted prior to implementing any undertaking (such as fuels treatments, trail maintenance, or new signage). This may or may not lead to ethnographic studies, a management plan, or an evaluation to determine site eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, depending upon the results of surveys conducted in association with a proposed project.

The Sequoia National Forest regularly coordinates with the Tule River Tribal Council when proposing projects or implementing cultural resource measures.

Forest could provide interpretive to enhance opportunities for public education of the Doyle’s homestead, the Wishon family, and hydroelectric development providing that the results of project-generated cultural surveys reveal this to be a positive action, and if funding and/or partnerships are available for implementation.

19. How will the proposal preserve and enhance the land’s beneficial public values while honoring existing agreements for economic uses? (three pages or less)

The Forest Service has no existing agreement for economic uses. However, the proposal will preserve and enhance the land’s beneficial public values by following the laws, policy and regulations governing the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument. The Monument management “will provide for and encourage continued public and recreational access and use consistent with the purposes of the monument.”

20. Provide a timeline for proposed preservation and enhancement measures for the first ten years.

Youth Investment Program Synergies

21. How will the proposal create opportunities for youth engagement, education, and the development of a future generation of land stewards? Please describe. (one page)

Emphasis themes established by the Chief of the Forest Service include climate change, water issues, and reconnecting people, especially kids, with nature¹⁰. Our future generations must understand why forests are so valuable so they will grow into citizens who support conservation. Building on the Forest Service traditions of conservation education, the Forest Service works with partners to ensure that American children have the opportunity to experience the great outdoors, whether it is a remote mountain wilderness or a spot of nature in the heart of a city.

The existing Tule River Partnership between the Forest Service, WildPlaces, and CSET have implemented a program getting kids in the woods. Education outreach to the community and Rio Limpio (“clean river”) events for this partnership have been funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and include getting kids in the woods to learn about river stewardship, picking up litter, and obliterating graffiti. In 2008 this partnership participated in a youth summit¹¹. These events have taken place along the Middle Fork Tule River and the North Fork Middle Fork Tule River on which the Doyle Springs parcel is located.

Budget and Funding Plan

22. Use the Excel template provided to estimate a preliminary budget plan for the planning unit within the following categories:

- a) Initial transaction costs.
- b) Ongoing operations and management costs (baseline operations).
- c) One-time and ongoing costs related to enhancements of beneficial public values.
- d) Administration costs related to the conservation easement.

Notes: Please include all costs you expect to incur related to the acquisition and management of the planning unit. However, please note that this does not indicate that the Stewardship Council intends to fund all transaction or management costs related to the planning unit.

Categories of activities that the Stewardship Council will consider funding include:

- Transactional costs (e.g., parcel splits, land surveys, title reports, etc.)

- Studies of management issues
- Capital costs for physical improvements
- Annual operation and maintenance (e.g., endowment)
- Long-term monitoring of easements

23. The preliminary budget plan will be used to consider organizational capacity and endowment needs. We are particularly interested in additional resources and forms of support you will be able to bring to

¹⁰ For more information see the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/emphasis/>

¹¹ See the following website: http://www.wildplaces.net/images/events/wp_youthsummit.pdf

the project. Please include any sources of revenue or support you expect to be able to apply to the project in the budget template (grants, in-kind support, matching funds, etc.).

Please include a narrative which describes your strategy for securing these additional sources of support for the project. (two pages or less)

Additional sources of funding

Supporting Documentation

Attach the following information to your proposal:

1. Charter Documents

- Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (not available online)
- 1990 Mediated Settlement Agreement (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/projects/>)
- 2001 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/snfpa/library/archives/rod/rod.pdf>)
- Proclamation establishing the Giant Sequoia National Monument (see attachment).
- Sequoia National Forest Business Plan (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/business-plans/>)
- USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan FY 2007-2012 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/strategic/fs-sp-fy07-12.pdf>)

2. Internal Revenue Service and/or Franchise Tax Board Determination Letters

3. Letter from the executive director or equivalent officer of each organization approving the submission of the Land Stewardship Proposal and the organization's participation in the Stewardship Council's land conservation process for the subject Planning Unit.

4. Operating Budget (current year)

5. Financial statements for the past three years (prefer audited)

6. Tax Filings (most recently filed 990 if applicable)

7. Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices Organization Assessment and/or Accreditation as applicable

THE
WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Bakersfield, California)

For Immediate Release

April 15, 2000

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The rich and varied landscape of the Giant Sequoia National Monument holds a diverse array of scientific and historic resources. Magnificent groves of towering giant sequoias, the world's largest trees, are interspersed within a great belt of coniferous forest, jeweled with mountain meadows. Bold granitic domes, spires, and plunging gorges texture the landscape. The area's elevation climbs from about 2,500 to 9,700 feet over a distance of only a few miles, capturing an extraordinary number of habitats within a relatively small area. This spectrum of ecosystems is home to a diverse array of plants and animals, many of which are rare or endemic to the southern Sierra Nevada. The monument embraces limestone caverns and holds unique paleontological resources documenting tens of thousands of years of ecosystem change.

The monument also has many archaeological sites recording Native American occupation and adaptations to this complex landscape, and historic remnants of early Euro-American settlement as well as the commercial exploitation of the giant sequoias. The monument provides exemplary opportunities for biologists, geologists, paleontologists, archaeologists, and historians to study these objects.

Ancestral forms of giant sequoia were a part of the western North American landscape for millions of years. Giant sequoias are the largest trees ever to have lived, and are among the world's longest-lived trees, reaching ages of more than 3,200 years or more. Because of this great longevity, giant sequoias hold within their tree rings multi-millennial records of past environmental changes such as climate, fire regimes, and consequent forest response. Only one other North American tree species, the high-elevation bristlecone pine of the desert mountain ranges east of the Sierra Nevada, holds such lengthy and detailed chronologies of past changes and events.

Sequoias and their surrounding ecosystems provide a context for understanding ongoing environmental changes. For example, a century of fire suppression has led to an unprecedented failure in sequoia reproduction in otherwise undisturbed groves. Climatic change also has influenced the sequoia groves; their present highly disjunct distribution is at least partly due to generally higher summertime temperatures and prolonged summer droughts in California from about 10,000 to 4,500 years ago. During that period, sequoias were rarer than today. Only following a slight cooling and shortening of summer droughts, about 4,500 years ago, has the sequoia been able to spread and create today's groves.

These giant sequoia groves and the surrounding forest provide an excellent opportunity to understand the consequences of different approaches to forest restoration. These forests need restoration to counteract the effects of a century of fire suppression and logging. Fire suppression has caused forests to become denser in many areas, with increased dominance of shade-tolerant species. Woody debris has accumulated, causing an unprecedented buildup of surface fuels. One of the most immediate consequences of these changes is an increased hazard of wildfires of a severity that was rarely encountered in pre-Euroamerican times. Outstanding opportunities exist for studying the consequences of different approaches to mitigating these conditions and restoring natural forest resilience.

The great elevational range of the monument embraces a number of climatic zones, providing habitats for an extraordinary diversity of plant species and communities. The monument is rich in rare plants and is home to more than 200 plant species endemic to the southern Sierra Nevada mountain range, arrayed in plant communities ranging from low-elevation oak woodlands and chaparral to high-elevation subalpine forest. Numerous meadows and streams provide an interconnected web of habitats for moisture-loving species.

This spectrum of interconnected vegetation types provides essential habitat for wildlife, ranging from large, charismatic animals to less visible and less familiar forms of life, such as fungi and insects. The mid-elevation forests are dominated by massive conifers arrayed in a complex landscape mosaic, providing one of the last refugia for the Pacific fisher in California. The fisher appears to have been extirpated from the northern Sierra Nevada mountain range. The forests of the monument are also home to great gray owl, American marten, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, spotted owl, and a number of rare amphibians. The giant sequoias themselves are the only known trees large enough to provide nesting cavities for the California condor, which otherwise must nest on cliff faces. In fact, the last pair of condors breeding in the wild was discovered in a giant sequoia that is part of the new monument. The monument's giant sequoia ecosystem remains available for the return and study of condors.

The physiography and geology of the monument have been shaped by millions of years of intensive uplift, erosion, volcanism, and glaciation. The monument is dominated by granitic rocks, most noticeable as domes and spires in areas such as the Needles. The magnificent Kern Canyon forms the eastern boundary of the monument's southern unit. The canyon follows an ancient fault, forming the only major north-south river drainage in the Sierra Nevada. Remnants of volcanism are expressed as hot springs and soda springs in some drainages.

Particularly in the northern unit of the monument, limestone outcrops, remnants of an ancient seabed, are noted for their caves. Subfossil vegetation entombed within ancient woodrat middens in these caves has provided the only direct evidence of where giant sequoias grew during the Pleistocene Era, and

documents substantial vegetation changes over the last 50,000 or more years. Vertebrate fossils also have been found within the middens. Other paleontological resources are found in meadow sediments, which hold detailed records of the last 10 millennia of changing vegetation, fire regimes, and volcanism in the Sierra Nevada. The multi-millennial, annual- and seasonal-resolution records of past fire regimes held in giant sequoia tree-rings are unique worldwide.

During the past 8,000 years, Native American peoples of the Sierra Nevada have lived by hunting and fishing, gathering, and trading with other people throughout the region. Archaeological sites such as lithic scatters, food-processing sites, rock shelters, village sites, petroglyphs, and pictographs are found in the monument. These sites have the potential to shed light on the roles of prehistoric peoples, including the role they played in shaping the ecosystems on which they depended.

One of the earliest recorded references to giant sequoias is found in the notes of the Walker Expedition of 1833, which described "trees of the redwood species, incredibly large...." The world became aware of giant sequoias when sections of the massive trees were transported east and displayed as curiosities for eastern audiences. Logging of giant sequoias throughout the Sierra Nevada mountain range began in 1856. Logging has continued intermittently to this day on nonfederal lands within the area of the monument. Early entrepreneurs, seeing profit in the gigantic trees, began acquiring lands within the present monument under the Timber and Stone Act in the 1880s. Today our understanding of the history of the Hume Lake and Converse Basin areas of the monument is supported by a treasure trove of historical photographs and other documentation. These records provide a unique and unusually clear picture of more than half a century of logging that resulted in the virtual removal of most forest in some areas of the monument. Outstanding opportunities exist for studying forest resilience to large-scale logging and the consequences of different approaches to forest restoration.

Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431) authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases, shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

WHEREAS it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands as a national monument to be known as the Giant Sequoia National Monument:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), do proclaim that there are hereby set apart and reserved as the Giant Sequoia National Monument, for the purpose of protecting the objects identified in the above preceding paragraphs, all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the United States within the boundaries of the area described on the map entitled "Proposed Giant Sequoia National Monument" attached to and forming a part of this proclamation. The Federal land and interests in land reserved consist of approximately 327,769 acres, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected as identified in the above preceding paragraphs.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, or other disposition under the public land laws including, but not limited to, withdrawal from locating, entry, and patent under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument. Lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument not owned by the United States shall be reserved as a part of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights.

Timber sales under contract as of the date of the proclamation and timber sales with a decision notice signed after January 1, 1999, but prior to December 31, 1999, may be completed consistent with the terms of the decision notice and contract. No portion of the monument shall be considered to be suited for timber production, and no part of the monument shall be used in a calculation or provision of a sustained yield of timber from the Sequoia National Forest. Removal of trees, except for personal use fuel wood, from within the monument area may take place only if clearly needed for ecological restoration and maintenance or public safety.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall manage the monument, along with the underlying Forest, through the Forest Service, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, to implement the purposes and provisions of this proclamation. The Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare, within 3 years of this date, a management plan for this monument, and shall promulgate such regulations for its management as deemed appropriate. The plan will provide for and encourage continued public and recreational access and use consistent with the purposes of the monument.

Unique scientific and ecological issues are involved in management of giant sequoia groves, including groves located in nearby and adjacent lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. The Secretary, in consultation with the National Academy of Sciences, shall appoint a Scientific Advisory Board to provide scientific guidance during the development of the initial management plan. Board membership shall represent a range of scientific disciplines pertaining to the objects to be protected, including, but not necessarily limited to, the physical, biological, and social sciences.

The Secretary, through the Forest Service, shall, in developing any management plans and any management rules and regulations governing the monument, consult with the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. The final decision to issue any management plans and any management rules and regulations rests with the Secretary of Agriculture. Management plans or rules and regulations developed by the Secretary of the Interior governing uses within national parks or other national monuments administered by the Secretary of the Interior shall not apply within the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

The management plan shall contain a transportation plan for the monument that provides for visitor enjoyment and understanding about the scientific and historic objects in the monument, consistent with their protection. For the purposes of protecting the objects included in the monument, motorized vehicle use will be permitted only on designated roads, and non-motorized mechanized vehicle use will be permitted only on designated roads and trails, except for emergency or authorized administrative

purposes or to provide access for persons with disabilities. No new roads or trails will be authorized within the monument except to further the purposes of the monument. Prior to the issuance of the management plan, existing roads and trails may be closed or altered to protect the objects of interest in the monument, and motorized vehicle use will be permitted on trails until but not after December 31, 2000.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to diminish or enlarge the jurisdiction of the State of California with respect to fish and wildlife management.

There is hereby reserved, as of the date of this proclamation and subject to valid existing rights, a quantity of water sufficient to fulfill the purposes for which this monument is established. Nothing in this reservation shall be construed as a relinquishment or reduction of any water use or rights reserved or appropriated by the United States on or before the date of this proclamation.

Laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to administration by the Department of Agriculture of grazing permits and timber sales under contract as of the date of this proclamation on National Forest System lands within the boundaries of the monument shall continue to apply to lands within the monument.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to affect existing special use authorizations; existing uses shall be governed by applicable laws, regulations, and management plans.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the national monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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