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“Save Our Sequoias Act” is a Trojan Horse for Industrial Logging in Giant Sequoia Groves— *Even in National Parks, the Sequoia Monument, and Wilderness!*

The deceptively-named “Save Our Sequoias Act” (SOS Act), S. 4103 (Padilla, D-CA, and Curtis, R-UT), is a destructive logging bill built on Trump Administration disinformation about recent wildfires. It was passed through the House of Representatives on March 16, 2026, and introduced in the Senate on March 17, 2026. If passed, the SOS Act would **mandate** the implementation of so-called “protection projects” in all existing giant sequoia groves, and would create a new “categorical exclusion” to exempt such projects from environmental analysis of adverse impacts, or public participation and oversight. The Act defines these “protections projects” as including intensive logging, including mechanical thinning and post-fire clearcutting, as well as industrial tree plantations. The Act contains no limits on the size, age, percentage, or species of trees that would be logged in giant sequoia groves, allowing clearcutting, logging of mature and old-growth trees, and even logging of giant sequoias! Under the SOS Act, these industrial **logging projects would occur in all giant sequoia groves—even in Yosemite National Park, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and the Giant Sequoia National Monument!** Because the Act’s provisions apply to Wilderness Areas too, it also represents a **deeply dangerous sneak attack on Wilderness Areas.** Further, the Act would turn over management of all giant sequoia groves to a panel called the “Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition” that would be comprised mostly of representatives from agencies and entities that are actively promoting logging in sequoia groves.

The promoters of the SOS Act logging bill, including the Democrats who have capitulated, are relying upon Trump Administration claims that the bill is needed supposedly because giant sequoias cannot naturally regenerate in high-intensity fire patches in recent wildfires, and that logging is needed supposedly to prevent future high-intensity fire patches. The Trump Administration is keeping vast areas of giant sequoia groves closed to the public, under threat of arrest and severe fines, to prevent the people and the press from being able to freely see for themselves whether the Administration is telling the truth. Independent scientists have been able to gain access to these areas and have published peer-reviewed studies that expose the lies being told by the Trump Administration and the Republican and Democrat supporters of the SOS Act logging bill in Congress:

- Their claim that giant sequoias cannot regenerate in high-intensity fire patches is a lie. In fact, giant sequoias evolved as one of many “serotinous” tree species. Such species can **ONLY** effectively

reproduce in high-intensity fire patches. Recent peer-reviewed scientific research, published just after the House passed the SOS Act logging bill based on disinformation, found a massive and pervasive regeneration failure among giant sequoias by 20 years after lower-intensity prescribed fires, and found super-abundant giant sequoia regeneration in larger high-intensity fire patches, especially in the highest-intensity areas known as “crown fire” patches, with an extraordinary average of nearly 8,000 giant sequoia seedlings and saplings per acre in these areas! The dishonesty of the SOS Act’s promoters is exposed effectively in the new 24-minute film, [“The Great Big Giant Sequoia Scam”](#).

- Their claim that fire suppression and supposedly “overgrown” forests caused an unnatural excess of high-intensity fire, and killed 20% of all large sequoias, is another falsehood. The 20% claim has been discredited, as it is anecdotal and is not peer-reviewed. What the current, peer-reviewed science finds is that, even after recent large wildfires, there is still a deficit of fire of all intensities, including high-intensity fire, in giant sequoia groves compared to rates that occurred naturally before fire suppression policies began. Levels of mortality of large giant sequoias are also still considerably lower now than it was before fire suppression.
- Their claim that mechanical “thinning”, post-fire logging, and other logging activities will protect giant sequoias is a lie. Additional recent peer-reviewed scientific research finds that logging kills 83% of that giant sequoia seedlings and saplings that naturally regenerate after wildfires, as the heavy logging machinery rolls over the sequoia regeneration, crushing and killing giant sequoia seedlings and saplings by the thousands on public lands, at taxpayer expense. In fact, the Trump Administration has now begun to clearcut young, naturally-regenerating giant sequoia forests in some parts of recent high-intensity wildfire patches in an apparent attempt to eliminate evidence that contradicts the Administration’s dishonest claims that sequoias are not naturally regenerating in high-intensity fire patches.
- The claim by the Trump Administration, and backers of the SOS Act logging bill, that logging effectively curbs wildfires is strongly contradicted by [many dozens of scientific studies](#), and by [hundreds of top scientists](#). The most comprehensive and current science finds that wildfire behavior is driven overwhelmingly by weather and climate factors, and that mechanical “thinning” and post-fire logging are ineffective and counter-productive, since they do not curb wildfires, they kill far more trees than they prevent from being killed, they kill most of the natural forest regeneration, and they dramatically increase carbon emissions into the atmosphere relative to wildfire alone. In addition, where more lower-intensity fire is desired, decades of research find that this can be easily, safely, and inexpensively accomplished by [fire alone](#), through managed wildfire, prescribed fire, or Indigenous cultural burning, without any prior tree removal—even in the very densest forests and even in stands that have not burned in over a century. The burning is simply conducted in the early part of the natural fire season, during mild to moderate fire weather.

Take Action: Please call your U.S. Senators today (**Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121**) and urge them to strongly oppose S. 4103, the dishonest “Save Our Sequoias Act” logging bill that would destroy giant sequoia groves if passed. Please also make a special effort to generate calls to Sen. Adam Schiff, if you are in California, to persuade him not to support this bill, which would be profoundly harmful to giant sequoia groves.