



“Save Our Sequoias Act” (S. 4103), Built on Fraudulent Data and Discredited Assumptions, Would Sacrifice Sequoia Groves to the Chainsaw

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 disinformation about recent wildfires in Giant Sequoia groves. This bill does not “save” a single tree or tree species, rather it mandates “projects” which include logging of mature trees (no diameter limit) and post-fire clearcutting in and around all Giant Sequoia groves including in Giant Sequoia National Monument, Yosemite National Park, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and Wilderness Areas. Yes, even Giant Sequoias, live and snags, are on the chopping block. New categorical exclusions and “emergency” provisions under NEPA would circumvent environmental review, and limit public participation. Finally, the bill would codify the hand-over of *OUR* Sequoia groves to the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition (GSLC), comprised of federal land agencies and select private entities, all of which are currently clearcutting and deforesting Sequoia groves, while lying about wildfire benefits, and logging impacts to Giant Sequoia ecosystems and wildlife:

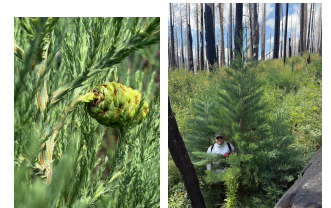
The GSLC just clearcut a portion of the iconic Mariposa Giant Sequoia Grove in Yosemite National Park, logging many huge old-growth trees and selling them to logging companies.



The GSLC claimed that endangered California Condors, Pacific Fishers, and imperiled CA Spotted Owls would not be impacted by post-fire logging because they would not use recent fire areas. They lied. Scientists have found all three species actively using and inhabiting burned Sequoia groves, including the high-intensity patches. [Scientists documented that dozens of Condors are preferentially selecting high-intensity fire patches in the Giant Sequoia National Monument—in the very same areas targeted by the GSLC for logging.](#)



Contrary to the propaganda of GSLC members, new peer-reviewed, published research has found that [there is abundant, rapidly-growing Sequoia regeneration](#) within large high-intensity fire patches in Giant Sequoia groves. In these areas regenerating Giant Sequoias outnumber other species 50 to 1, and many saplings are over 10 feet tall, some of which are already producing cones!



The GSLC, after denying they exist, is deliberately cutting and killing large swaths of natural Sequoia regeneration in high-intensity fire patches, throwing Sequoia saplings into hundreds of huge slash piles, and incinerating them with the public funds they have been receiving. [In just one grove, Freeman Creek, scientists found the GSLC has already killed 158,000 young Sequoia trees.](#)

