

Proclamation 6457 of July 14, 1992**Giant Sequoia in National Forests**

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

For centuries, groves of the Giant Sequoia have stimulated the interest and wonder of those who behold them. The Giant Sequoia is a tree that inspires emotion like no other and has mystically entered the hearts of humanity everywhere. Ancestors of Giant Sequoia trees have existed on Earth for more than 20 million years. Naturally occurring old-growth Giant Sequoia groves located in the Sequoia, Sierra, and Tahoe National Forests in California are unique national treasures that are being managed for biodiversity, perpetuation of the species, public inspiration, and spiritual, aesthetic, recreational, ecological, and scientific value.

This Nation's Giant Sequoia groves are legacies that deserve special attention and protection for future generations. It is my hope that these natural gifts will continue to provide aesthetic value and inspiration for our children, grandchildren, and generations yet to come.

So as to promote greater appreciation and awareness of our Giant Sequoia groves, such groves in the Sequoia, Sierra, and Tahoe National Forests should continue to be managed by the Secretary of Agriculture as unique objects of beauty and antiquity for the benefit and inspiration of all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that naturally occurring old-growth Giant Sequoia groves within the Sequoia, Sierra, and Tahoe National Forests in the State of California shall be managed, protected, and restored by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Forest Service, to assure the perpetuation of the groves for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to delineate the location of such Giant Sequoia groves, as set forth in the Sequoia National Forest Mediated Settlement Agreement, and subsequently to provide the Secretary of the Interior with a list of the designated groves and with a description of the boundaries of each of the groves. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby directed, to the maximum extent permitted by law, to segregate immediately and subsequently to withdraw the designated groves from all forms of location and entry under the general mining laws, and from any disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws and laws pertaining to the disposal of mineral material, subject to valid existing rights.

The designated Giant Sequoia groves shall not be managed for timber production and shall not be included in the land base used to establish the allowable sale quantities for the affected national forests. The designated Giant Sequoia groves shall be protected as natural areas with minimal development. Consistent with the best scientific information available, the Secretary of Agriculture shall assure that any proposed development shall provide for aesthetic, recreational, ecological, and scientific value. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Converse Basin Grove shall be managed as set forth in the Sequoia National Forest Mediated Settlement Agreement.

This proclamation is not intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14 day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6458 of July 15, 1992

Captive Nations Week, 1992

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

When Americans first observed Captive Nations Week in 1959, repressive communist regimes had overtaken nations from Central and Eastern Europe to mainland China and overshadowed many others with the very real threat of expansionism. Three years earlier, forces of the Soviet Union had brutally suppressed a popular movement for freedom in Hungary; some 16 years before that, the Soviets had invaded Poland and achieved the forcible annexation of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. In 1959, the United Nations had only recently ended its efforts to thwart communist expansionism below the 38th parallel in Korea, and a communist-led insurgency had already begun to threaten South Vietnam. At a time when millions of people were enslaved by Soviet domination or subjugated by proxy, at a time when countless others were terrorized by the threat of communist aggression and subversion, Americans paused during Captive Nations Week to reaffirm our commitment to liberty and self-government and to express our solidarity with all those peoples seeking freedom, independence, and security.

Today, 33 years after our first observance of Captive Nations Week, millions of people who suffered under Soviet domination and communist rule are free. The Iron Curtain and its most despised symbol, the Berlin Wall, have fallen—toppled by courageous individuals who would no longer stand the denial of their fundamental human rights. Today we celebrate the existence of a free and unified Germany, as well as the independence of the Baltic States, Central European countries, and 12 new states that replaced the U.S.S.R. In Afghanistan and Angola, where bloody civil war against Soviet-supported, Marxist-Leninist regimes left thousands dead and millions of others homeless, chances of achieving lasting peace have reached their highest level in years.

As we celebrate the hope of peace and freedom in these and other once-captive nations, we also remember the many courageous, freedom-loving men and women who resisted tyranny and oppression—often at great personal cost. These include the thousands of dissenters who risked imprisonment, exile, and death in order to demand rights that we Americans enjoy: freedom of religion, speech, and assembly,