

# Supervisors skeptical of sequoia plan

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## Clinton proposes marking some sequoia groves as national monument

By John Holland  
Times-Delta

President Clinton's suggestion that giant sequoia groves might need more protection drew a hostile response Tuesday from the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

Board members said the county's few remaining jobs in the timber industry are at risk in a proposal to create a "national monument" for sequoia groves in the Sequoia National Forest.

"I would regard that as the final nail in the coffin of the national forest being operated as a multiple-use forest and just becoming de facto another national park," Supervisor Steve Worthley said.

Many of the groves already are in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks, where no logging is allowed and visitor access is somewhat restricted to protect the trees. The neighboring Sequoia National Forest does allow logging, although at a much-reduced scale over the past decade.

A national monument, which Clinton could declare without a vote of Congress, would have whatever rules the president decides are proper — maybe logging and other intensive uses, maybe not.

"He could say, for instance, that the area would be managed under the forest plan," said Art Gaffrey, supervisor of the Sequoia National Forest. "He could say that the area would be managed under some other restriction."

The size of the monument also is uncertain. Gaffrey said it could be as little as 20,000 acres if just the scattered sequoia groves are covered or as much as 400,000 acres if it

## What's next

■ The U.S. Forest Service will host a public forum on the national monument proposal for sequoia groves from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 18, at the Fresno County Fairgrounds, Fine Arts Building, 1121 S. Chance Ave., Fresno. Information: 784-1500.

■ President Clinton, who announced the proposal Feb. 14, asked Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to make a recommendation within 60 days, by mid-April.

includes the more common pine, cedar and fir forest between the groves. The national forest has about 1.1 million acres.

Gaffrey's staff is preparing a report on the sequoia groves for Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, who in turn will advise Clinton on whether to create the monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

Gaffrey, who appeared before the Board of Supervisors to talk about several issues, spent most of the time on the monument issue. He declined board members' queries as to what he thought should be done with this land.

"I feel my responsibility as a forest manager is to provide the secretary with the best expertise that is available," Gaffrey said.

The monument proposal did get support from one audience member, Mary Moy of Visalia. She said it would protect the groves while not interfering with leases, water rights, hunting or fishing in the forest.

See Sequoias/2C

now runs a television network, will speak at a fundraising dinner for the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project March 17 at the Visalia Holiday Inn.

Cisneros, former secretary of housing and urban development, will be joined by Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, Rep. Cal Dooley, D-Hanford, and Assemblywoman Sarah Reyes, D-Fresno, among others.

The Southwest Voter Registration Education Project is a nonpartisan organization, based in San Antonio, Texas, that raises money to register and mobilize new Latino voters.

Tickets for the dinner are \$100. Information: (800) 222-5654.

## Horse 'listener' to visit Agri-Center

TULARE — Monty Roberts, known as "the man who listens to horses," will demonstrate his gentle technique for training horses at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the International Agri-Center in Tulare.

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