

Unite the Parks

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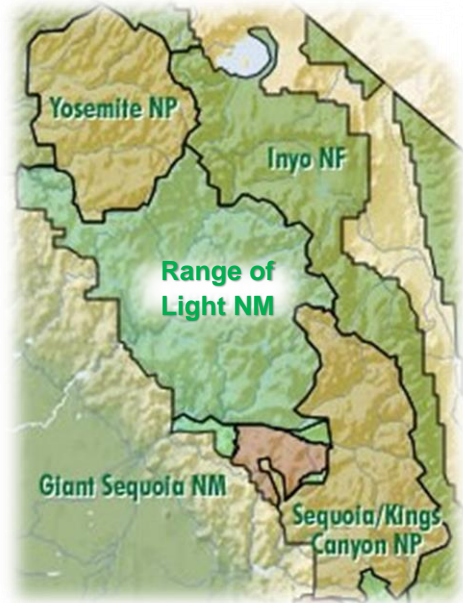
The Range of Light National Monument

The proposed Range of Light National Monument will protect the federal land between Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks. The land is primarily managed by the Sierra National Forest (SNF) and is 1.4 million acres (about twice as large as Yosemite). A small portion is managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the San Joaquin Gorge (nearly 7000 acres).

Environmental Importance

The monument lies in the center of the longest interconnected wilderness area in the lower 48 and between two major National Parks; for more than 150 miles, no road crosses over the range. By protecting the magnificent landscape at the center of it all, we will create a 1.4-million-acre interconnected habitat area (3 million acres when including the two parks). This is one of the most vital landscapes in the nation.

Half of California's native plant species live in Sierra Nevada and more than 400 are found nowhere else on earth. This includes 26 species of conifers and the infamous Giant Sequoia. These trees are champions in the fight against climate change, and play an important role in protecting the planet as a whole.



In addition, [93 at-risk species live in the area](#), 12 of which are on the endangered species list such as the Pacific fisher. (Read the latest [on our Pacific fisher ESA lawsuit](#).) The forest is also home to three major rivers: the Kings, the South Fork of the Merced and the San Joaquin River: these rivers provide water for farms and drinking water for millions of Californians.

Economic Importance

The monument will create a refuge for people and wildlife that brings forth the best aspects of park's management and retains the forest's wild beauty and rugged freedom. It will halt commercial extractive abuse of the land, restore habitat for wildlife, provide recreation for people and revitalize a decaying trail system. This will have [a positive effect on the local economy](#), bolstering jobs in restoration and recreation. Locally, Yosemite (which is half as large as the proposed monument) directly employs 5 times as many people in the summer and 9 times as many in the winter, as the Sierra National Forest. Simply put, protection puts people to work.

About the Campaign

Starting in 2013, this campaign was built from the ground up by [Unite the Parks](#). It's supported by 153 businesses and organizations, the [California Democratic Party](#), the [Democratic National Committee](#), 21 members of House, and the [San Jose Mercury News](#). The project has been featured on [NPR](#) and in [National Geographic](#), [the Fresno Bee](#), [3R News](#), and the [Merced Sun Star](#). In 2019, [200 scientists](#) signed a support letter endorsing the Range of Light and providing the scientific basis for its creation. To learn more, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), and watch our video series on [YouTube](#).