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**NEWS**

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## **Chevron Grant to Support Sequoia Restoration**

Thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Chevron Corporation, Nature Corps volunteers and the company's employees will continue their work on a critical tree planting campaign to restore the world renowned ecosystems of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Over the last nine years Chevron has sponsored this important volunteer program to assure the preservation of the parks' rare habitats. As a result of the successful Chevron/Nature Corps partnership, volunteers have planted 15,000 tree seedlings to restore impacted areas within the park.

As a result of Chevron's support, The Nature Corps recruits many inner city youth to assist on these important conservation projects including the restoration of the park's rare giant sequoia groves. Every year hundreds of student volunteers and Chevron employees return to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to plant more trees and confirm that the young seedlings they planted in years past have survived another season of hot summers and severe winter weather to, in some cases, more than doubled in size.

According to Richard Theil, the park's revegetation specialist, "the trees are doing very well and because of the extra attention they get from the volunteers more trees are surviving." The park's Chief Forester, Tom Warner added that, "This is an enormous project that simply could not be undertaken if it were not for Chevron's support. We just don't have the manpower that this project requires."

Involving their employees in the preservation of our National Parks is nothing new for Chevron. “Hundreds of Chevron employees from the company’s San Ramon, Richmond and Bakersfield offices have volunteered on several important conservation efforts in California’s National Parks, “ commented Sharon Craig Carter, a spokesperson for Chevron. “Volunteering in the parks is a truly rewarding experience. In the coming years, when the volunteers return to Sequoia, the seedlings they planted will have grown to towering pines, standing as a legacy of their commitment to preserve the park.”

Through its partnership with Chevron, The Nature Corps has been able to mobilize hundreds of volunteers to work on a number of critical conservation projects. “This successful partnership among our organizations contributes significantly to the enhancement of natural resources in Sequoia National Park and represents a growing trend in preservation of our National Parks.” added Mark A. Landon, Executive Director of The Nature Corps. Corporate collaborations of this kind have proven to be very successful and provide a means by which to assure the preservation of our nation’s most cherished wilderness treasures. For their accomplishments Chevron and The Nature Corps have received the National Park Service’s highest recognition, the “Partnership Achievement” Award.

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