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**NEWS**

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**Nature Corps Volunteers Plant 20,000 trees  
to Restore Sequoia Landmark**

This week a group of Nature Corps volunteers returned to Sequoia to plant the last batch of trees slated for the Giant Forest Restoration Project thus signifying the completion of one of the most significant conservation projects in the park's history. After years of planning, design, and implementation, commercial development is no longer part of the Giant Forest. Since 1997, crews have removed 282 buildings from within the Giant Forest including shops, restaurants and overnight accommodations. As part of the restoration process, Nature Corps volunteers planted fifteen thousand trees and shrubs to restore this world renown habitat.

The ultimate objective of this critical effort is the ecological restoration of 231 acres that comprised some of the world's most rare ecosystems, the giant sequoia groves of the Sierra Nevada. To that end, a significant portion of this restoration project required the planting of thousands of tree seedlings, a task too monumental for limited park staff to undertake.

Thanks to grants from the Chevron Corporation over the last nine years, The Nature Corps, a volunteer conservation organization, has recruited the company's San Ramon and Richmond employees along with hundreds of community volunteers to participate in this historic tree planting campaign. According to Chief Forester, Tom Warner, "This is an enormous project that simply could not be implemented if it were not for the volunteers' support. We just don't have the manpower that this project requires."

As a result of Chevron's commitment to the project, The Nature Corps was also able to host over 500 youth from throughout California to participate on this important effort to preserve one of the most magnificent "crown jewels" in the National Park Service system. (End)