

Freeman Creek Grove—President George H.W. Bush Tree

WESTERN DIVIDE RANGER DISTRICT
GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT
SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST



Background

Freeman Creek Grove is 1,700 acres and is the largest unlogged grove outside of a National Park. There are more than 100 trees with 15-foot diameters and a couple with a diameter greater than 20 feet. This is the eastern-most grove of sequoias. Groves typically are on the cooler, moister western slopes of the Sierra Nevada range. There are several noteworthy sequoias to see in this grove. Foremost among these is the President George H.W. Bush Tree.

The President George H. W. Bush Tree was named to commemorate the proclamation he signed to protect all of the sequoia groves throughout the Sierra. He signed the proclamation at this site in 1992. The grove is accessible by vehicle from Lloyd Meadow Road or by trail from the North Road between May to October, depending on weather.

How to Get There

To reach the Freeman Creek Grove and the Bush Tree, turn north onto Lloyd Meadow Road (22S82), which is off of Road M50, a half mile west of Johnsondale R-Ranch. Continue on Lloyd Meadow Road for about 19 miles. You will see the sign for the Bush Tree to the left. Take this dirt road (20S78) about a mile to the parking area. There is a loop trail from the parking area to the Bush Tree. An engraved stone marks the site.

An alternate way to reach the tree is to hike 3.2 miles down the Freeman Creek Trail from the North Road. From Springville, drive east about 24 miles up Highway 190 to the North Road (21S50) (a tenth of a mile before Quaking Aspen Campground). Take the North Road 0.4 mile past a little meadow on the right. Watch for the sign and park at the Freeman Creek Trailhead.

Recreation Opportunities

The Freeman Creek Trail (33E20) begins on the North Road about 7,000 feet in elevation and drops

into Lloyd Meadows about 5,750 feet. This trail is suitable for hikers, horses, and mountain bikers. The trail travels through meadows, along Freeman Creek, and through mixed conifer forests. Sequoias begin to appear as you move downward along the trail. When the trail crosses Freeman Creek you will find the Bush Tree to the north.

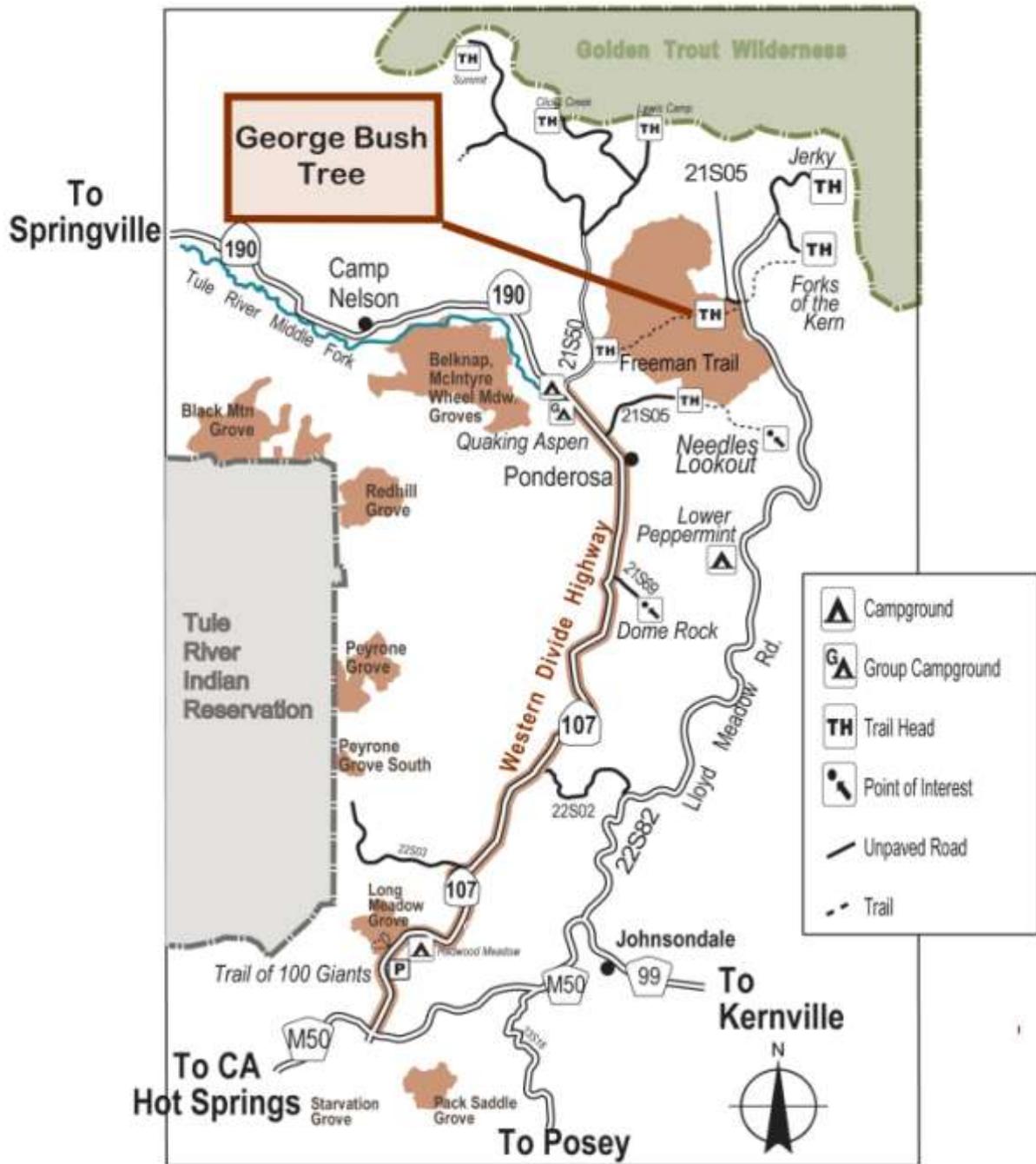
There is a shorter loop trail that is accessible for persons with disabilities at the end of Road 20S78 off Lloyd Meadow Road.

There are no campgrounds within the grove boundaries. Quaking Aspen Campground is within 4 miles of the Freeman Creek Trailhead on Hwy 190 and Lower Peppermint Campground is on Lloyd Meadow Road at the eastern end of the grove. Dispersed camping is popular along the road and near Jerky and Forks of the Kern Trailheads.

From the Jerky and Forks of the Kern Trailheads, visitors can enter the Golden Trout Wilderness. Outstanding granite features in the area include The Needles and Dome Rock popular with rock climbers.



Pres. George H.W. Bush Tree



“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.” Revised 2010



United States
Department of Agriculture



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region

Western Divide Ranger District
Sequoia National Forest