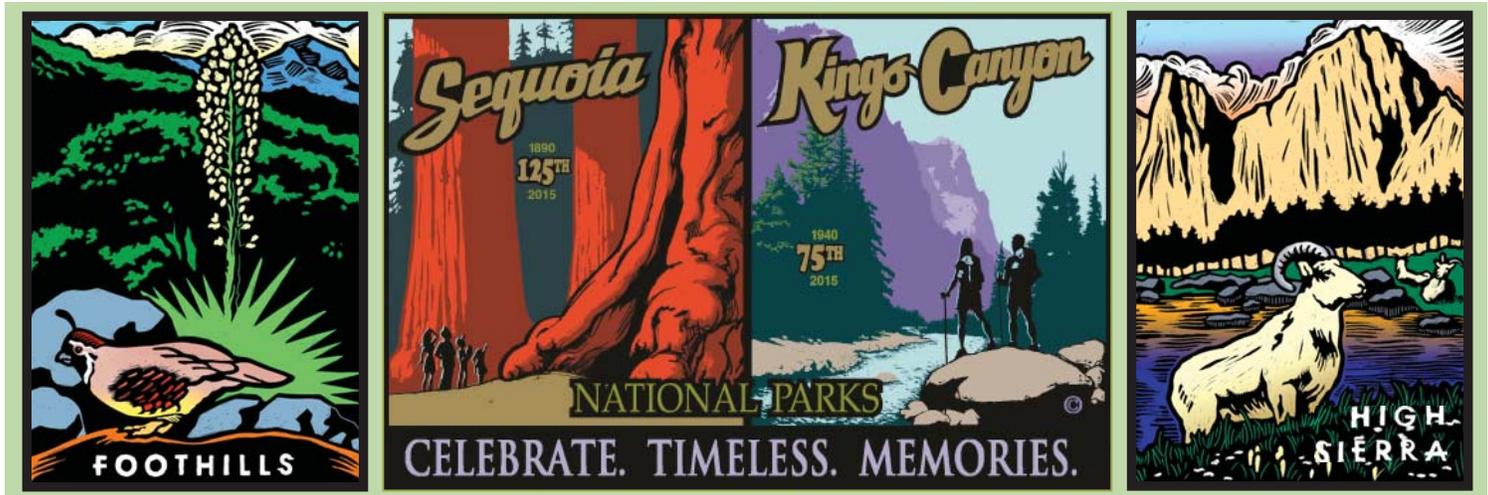




Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



The start of something big

Plant something—a seed, an idea, a dream—and incredible things may grow.

In 1890, local farmers and businessmen planted a seed when they fought to protect two small areas of sequoia trees: One included the Giant Forest; the other surrounded the General Grant Tree.

They convinced Congress to turn each one into a new entity, something called a "national park."

Some 125 years later, these isolated, separated boxes on the map have grown into an iconic pair of parks, Sequoia and Kings Canyon.

They've grown to protect more sequoias, over half of the 70 groves in existence. Their lower slopes protect more tremendously diverse oak and chaparral lands than any other place in California.

They've stretched, with public support, to the highest peak in the lower 48 states and the grand Sierra highcountry that it crowns.

Visited by over a million people each year, they have grown into two of the most prized possessions of an entire nation.

These parks served as another kind of seed as well, the start of a national park system. As two of the first "national parks" in the world, they joined Yellowstone and Yosemite in setting an example for what could be—a protected net-

work of unique, important places.

That concept, often called "America's best idea," has taken root across the country and around the world. People travel the globe to share each others' most treasured national parks and monuments.

Like the park idea, sequoias start small but grow to inspirational size. This year, we celebrate these trees *and* the parks that protect them!



At Peace with the Giants - courtesy of Tharwa Rabah

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