

Sequoia ForestKeeper
P.O. Box 2134
Kernville, CA 93238
760.376.4434

www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org

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Priscilla Summers, District Ranger
Anne Thomas mariannethomas@fs.fed.us
Western Divide Ranger District
32588 Highway 190
Springville, CA 93265

RE: Fallen Giant Sequoia at Trail of 100 Giants Comment #2

Dear Ms. Summers:

Thank you for reopening the Trail of 100 Giants to the public, for providing the opportunity to observe the fallen sequoia, and for providing the opportunity to 'brainstorm' on what the Forest Service should do next.

We believe that the Forest Service must consider the fact that both asphalt and concrete paving contain toxic substances that should not be introduced into sequoia groves.

Asphalt is a toxic waste product from the oil refining process that, over a very short period of time leaches toxic chemicals into the aquifer and outgases toxic chemicals into the atmosphere on a continuing basis. Over time, the asphalt becomes brittle and disintegrates, due to the release of those toxic chemicals, which causes particles of asphalt to become mixed into the soil of the sequoia grove.

Cement is also toxic because it contains mercury, hydrochloric acid, and hydrocarbons that can leach into the aquifer and soil in the sequoia grove.

The manufacturing process for both asphalt and concrete, in addition to producing massive amounts of greenhouse gasses that exacerbate climate change, releases chemicals, and in some cases radioactive materials (like Radium-226) to be released, into the environment, so the Forest Service must consider these impacts in the EIS that is prepared for this potential project.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Ara Marderosian
Executive Director
Sequoia ForestKeeper
ara@sequoiaforestkeeper.org