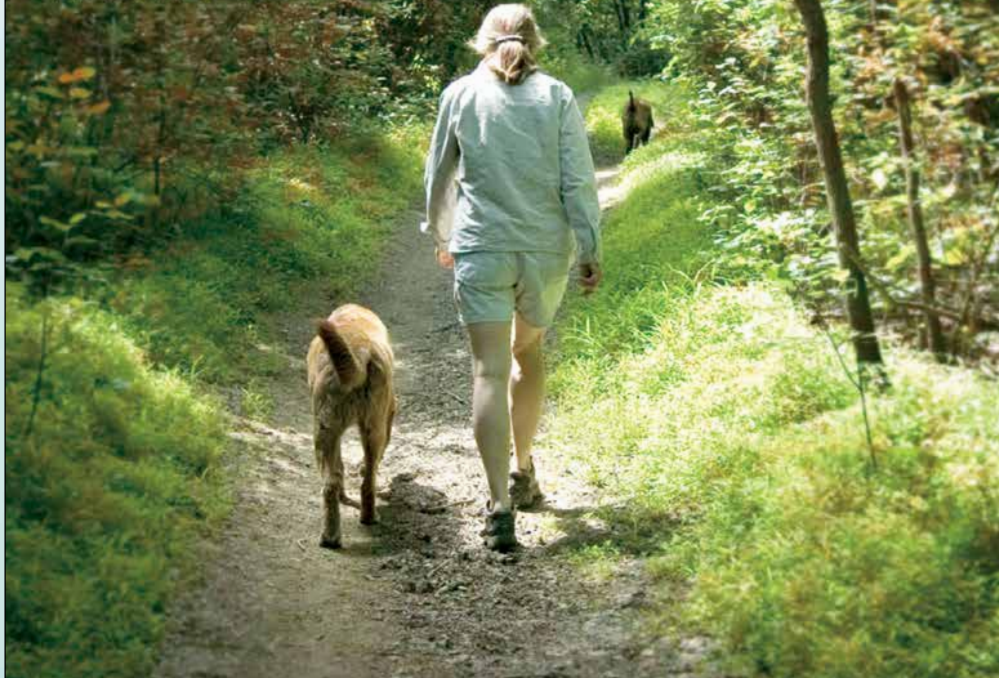


# PEOPLE CONNECTING WITH THEIR FORESTS



2015 was a year of change in the Stanislaus, Sierra and Sequoia National Forests. A fourth season of drought continued to take a hit on the forests, while record numbers of travelers came to visit and recreate in these public lands. Three Forests Interpretive Association was able to connect with thousands of visitors and provide tools and experiences to enhance the public's understanding of the history, natural resources, recreational and commercial uses of our National Forests.

**More inside >>>**



## Fourth Graders Released in Forests

OVER ONE THOUSAND fourth graders will visit and learn in the Stanislaus National Forest this year thanks to a grant sponsored outreach and engagement program presented by 3FIA, the Tuolumne River Trust and the Stanislaus National Forest.

Last fall forest interpretive specialists from the Stanislaus began visiting fourth grade classrooms in Tuolumne, Mariposa, Stanislaus, and Alpine Counties presenting a hands-on wildlife program entitled, “Skins, Scat, and Skulls.” Local school environments and animals are identified in these classroom presentations to help foster awareness and appreciation of wildlife/natural resources while motivating curiosity.

The program also prepares students for a visit to the forest where activities include guided hikes, becoming a “Junior Ranger”, park volunteer cleanups, discussion of “Leave no Trace” wilderness stewardship concepts, tree planting in the affected Rim Fire area, and a discussion of renewable resources and fire safety.

Upon completion of the classroom program, students received an “Every Kid in the Park” pass good for fee-free access to all federal lands and waters, including nearby Yosemite National Park. *The pass is valid for fourth grade students and their families through August 31, 2016.*

The pass and transportation grant are part of a larger initiative launched last year by the National Park Foundation. The “Every Kid in the Park” initiative is aimed at increasing access to nature for all.

While all of the students participating in this outreach effort live approximately 10 to 50 miles from the Stanislaus Forest, many have never visited this local public treasure. Not all kids have the same opportunities to connect with nature, particularly those living in an urban setting.

This initiative helps people from everywhere and from all backgrounds to discover their own connection to our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and other public lands and waters.

“Every Kid in the Park” challenges us to think about the next 100 years. What will the future of our outdoor legacy look like if we don’t make sure all kids have a chance to experience it.

*Fourth graders can get a free “Every Kid in a Park” Pass for themselves and their family online at [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov).*



# New Audio Tour Guides Visitors through Rim Fire Site

It's difficult for most people to comprehend the immense power of a forest wildfire. The 2013 Rim Fire was the third largest in California history and burned over 250,000 acres, including over 55 percent of the Groveland Ranger District. The fire was one of the first of a new breed of mega-fires that are impacting forests across the west. Lessons learned in fighting and recovering from the blaze will inform future fire management efforts.

Now visitors can learn the story of the Rim Fire using a free downloadable audio tour produced by the Stanislaus National Forest, Tuolumne River Trust, and Three Forests Interpretive Association. Beginning at the Groveland Ranger Station, this eleven stop audio tour is marked with numbered posts that guide you through the burned area along approximately 42 miles of paved roads. The tour stops at many of the key sites that were impacted by the fire and tells the human story as well as the fire's lasting effects on the forest landscape and wildlife.

The entire tour takes at least 3 hours to complete. We recommend setting aside an entire day to enjoy side destinations such as the Carlon Falls Trail or Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Listening to the tour will enhance your visit to the Rim Fire site and begin to communicate some of the compelling stories surrounding the blaze and its aftermath.

*Download the free mp3 files on the 3FIA Rim Fire page: [www.3forests.us/rimfire](http://www.3forests.us/rimfire)*



**FOURTH GRADERS**  
*Get your*  
**EVERY KID IN A PARK**  
**FREE PASS**  
*online at*  
**EVERYKIDINAPARK.GOV**

## West Side Trail Project Update

Five new interpretive panels created by students at Columbia College were erected in 2015, completing work that was initiated when 3FIA received a federal grant for the creation of a set of panels to be located along the West Side Trail in the Stanislaus National Forest. The trail follows the route of the historic West Side Railway that transported lumber in the 1930's & 40's.

Passing through land owned and managed by the US Forest Service, BLM, and the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, the trail project involved the cooperation and shared vision of many organizations and individuals including the Tuolumne Park and Recreation District, the Tuolumne County Historical Society, the Carlo M. DeFerrari Archive, and the Tuolumne City Memorial Museum.

Thanks to these collaborative efforts trail users will now have a better understanding of the area's natural and human history.

*For more detailed information on the West Side Trail, including maps & directions, go to: [www.westsidetrail.biz.ht](http://www.westsidetrail.biz.ht)*

# Artists in the Woods Series in Stanislaus Continues to Inspire

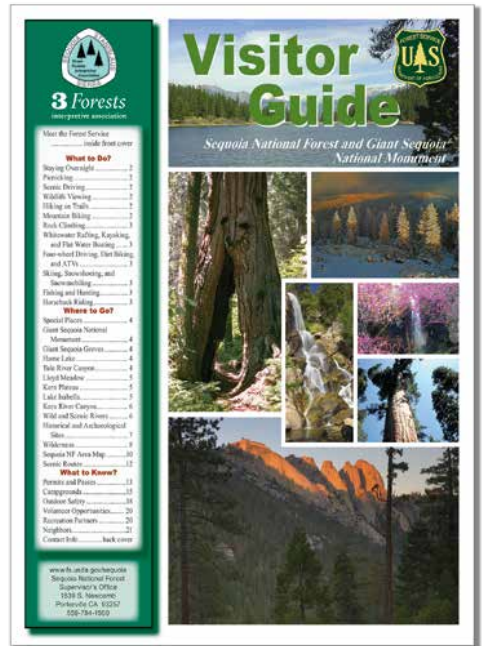
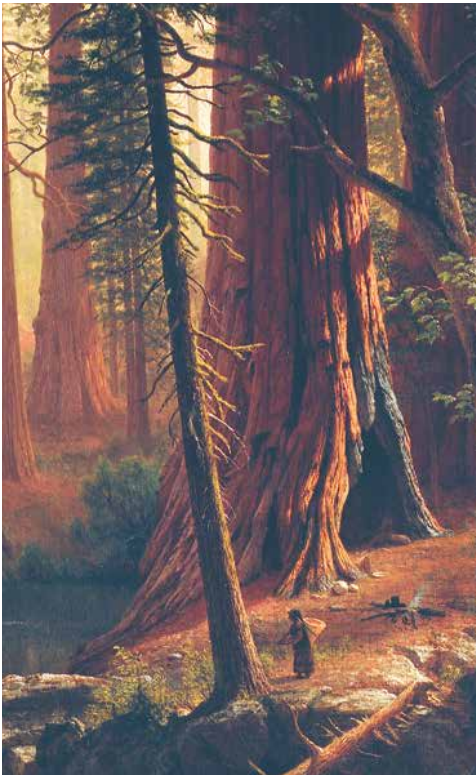
The natural world has always been a theme for artists. Photographers, painters, sculptors, and poets have all found inspiration in the forest.

The Stanislaus National Forest and 3FIA continued their “Artists in the Woods” series in October with an interactive workshop by artist Dona Seegers.

With the goal of creating a sense of stewardship for the natural and cultural resources of the Stanislaus National Forest, the Artist in the Woods Program provides professional artists of all media an opportunity to receive and share creative inspiration derived from the Sierra Nevada landscape while pursuing their artistic discipline.

Artists who are selected stay in a historic cabin in the Summit Ranger District for two weeks during the fall. Participating artists donate an original piece of artwork or a performance that is representative of their stay in the forest and conduct a workshop instructing the public in their discipline.

*Learn more about upcoming artist workshops on our website: [www.3forests.us](http://www.3forests.us)*



## Forest Visitor Guides Inform and Educate

There are many reasons people are drawn to Sierra forests. Campers, hikers, anglers, and hunters all come to experience and share these public lands. For over 15 years 3FIA’s Forest Visitor Guides have provided key information for visitors to the Stanislaus, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests, including updated road maps with detailed recreation, campground, and trailhead locations.

These widely distributed free guides also provide accurate information on fire prevention and how to experience the outdoors responsibly, encouraging “Leave No Trace” forest stewardship practices. Over 40,000 travel guides were distributed to visitors in 2016.

Visitor guides are updated to stay as current as possible regarding campground availability, road closures, and other information that might effect travelers and recreationalists.

Three Forests Interpretive Association believes that an informed public can better aid in the conservation mission of the Forest Service and contribute to the preservation of these precious national resources for future generations.

*Visitor Guides are also available to download in pdf format at [www.3forests.us](http://www.3forests.us). Look for updates in June of each year.*

# CONNECT with YOUR FORESTS! CONTRIBUTE TO 3FIA

Help to support our mission of education and interpretation  
in the STANISLAUS, SIERRA & SEQUOIA NATIONAL FORESTS



## About Three Forests Interpretive Association

Founded in 1972, Three Forests Interpretive Association (3FIA) seeks to enhance the public's understanding of the history, natural resources, recreational, and commercial uses of the National Forests. 3FIA publishes and distributes books, maps, and other interpretive resources relating to the human and natural history of the Sierra Nevada. Each year, profits from these activities are used to fund a wide range of interpretive programs in the Stanislaus, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests, further contributing to the enjoyment and appropriate use of these public lands.

Learn more at [www.3forests.us](http://www.3forests.us).

## Membership Renewal

Now is the time to renew your membership by paying the annual member dues.

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## Join, Renew or Contribute Online

Join, renew, or make a contribution online at [www.3forests.us/join](http://www.3forests.us/join)

## E-Newsletter Saves Trees

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