

# FUTURE OF SEQUOIAS

## *Sustaining Parklands in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

*A grove of giant redwoods or sequoias should be kept just as we keep a great or beautiful cathedral.*  
**Theodore Roosevelt**, *Natural History Magazine*, 1919

*National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American...they reflect us  
at our best rather than our worst.*  
**Wallace Stegner**, 1983

This fine art and environmental advocacy exhibit celebrates two of our nation's most spectacular, but lesser known, national parks: Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Combining the panoramic photography of Jeff Jones with the writing of William C. Tweed, the *FUTURE OF SEQUOIAS* raises public awareness of the parks while inspiring individuals to action.

### **The Parks**

Sequoia and Kings Canyon harbor the world's largest trees, the giant sequoias, found naturally nowhere on earth but California's Sierra Nevada. With more than 80% of their land as designated wilderness, the parks contain the largest continuous wilderness area in California and the second largest in the lower 48. The parks' intact watershed boasts the Kaweah, Kern, and Kings rivers, the latter of which flows through canyons equal in depth to the Grand Canyon. With an extraordinary continuum of ecosystems ranging from the Sierra foothills to 14,495-foot Mount Whitney, Sequoia and Kings Canyon have been honored as a Biosphere Reserve. Sadly, Sequoia and Kings Canyon also are among the country's five most polluted parks (Code Red: *America's Five Most Polluted National Parks*, National Parks Conservation Association). The parks suffer from high levels of ground ozone, extreme haze, and global warming.

### **The Exhibition**

The *FUTURE OF SEQUOIAS* approaches these problems positively, showing how we have solved past problems in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. The exhibition then presents current challenges using Jones's more journalistic photographs paired with Tweed's text. At the heart of the exhibition, Jones's fine art images convey the immense beauty and profound feeling we experience when fully immersed in the natural world. Using the art of image and word, the exhibition follows the story of these great parks to its natural conclusion: We must act now to save our parks and our planet. *FUTURE OF SEQUOIAS* is especially timely, helping new generations to embrace stewardship of parks as among their most pressing priorities. With regard to this last point—and in line with our nation's changing demographic—exhibition text is presented in English and Spanish.