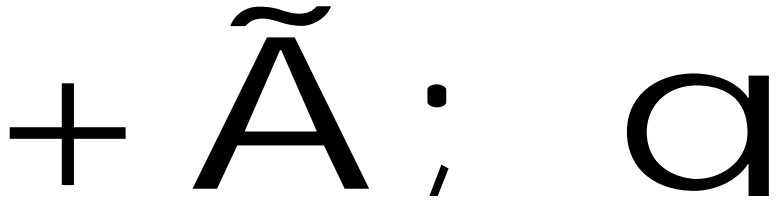


# Hiking Trails

Hume Lake Ranger District  
Sequoia National Forest  
Giant Sequoia National Monument



At one time the Converse Basin was home to one of the largest privately owned sawmills and timber operations in America. Around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and before the area became federally managed by the Forest Service, Converse Basin including Hume Basin and Indian Basin was extensively logged of its largest and oldest Giant Sequoia trees. Most of these areas were logged around the turn of the century, and in some cases, the Little Boulder Grove was logged as recent as the 1980s. These hiking trails provide a glimpse of the past and changes from logging in Sequoia Groves. The Giant Sequoia stumps depict an ever-lasting reminder of human's ravenous appetite for lumber and the perception of endless resources from days past while the vigorous growth of young Giant Sequoia trees portray nature's determination and strength after a large ecological disturbance.

To get to the Converse Basin, Indian Basin, and Hume Basin Trails, take Highway 180 east from Fresno and go left at the Park Wye and continue driving past the Kings Canyon Visitor Center and Grant Grove Village (see map on back):

- Three (3) miles past the Visitor Center on Hwy 180 will be a large intersection and parking area named Cherry Gap and is the turnoff for **Chicago Stump** Trailhead. Go left on Forest Road 13S03 until you come to the marked trailhead.
- Four (4) miles past the Visitor Center on Hwy 180 will be Forest Road 13S55. There will be directional signs next to the road marker. Make a left turn onto Forest Road 13S55 and drive through **Stump Meadow** towards the marked **Boole Tree** Trailhead.
- Five (5) miles past the Visitor Center on Hwy 180 will be the Princess Campground. Turn right into the campground entrance. At the first intersection, near the campsite hosts, make a left turn and drive another 150 yards towards the marked **Indian Basin** Trailhead.
- Ten (10) miles past the Visitor Center will be **Hume Lake**. Right past Princess Campground will be a right turn to Hume Lake. Parking is available near Powder Can Day Use Area, Hume Lake Day Use Area, or at Sandy Cove Day Use Area which is past the privately owned concessionaire facilities.

## 1. Chicago Stump Trail

*Distance:* ¼ mile (loop trail)  
*Difficulty:* Very Easy  
*Time:* 15 minutes

The General Noble Tree was cut down to display at the Colombian Exposition in Chicago, 1893. The Department of the Interior paid a local contractor \$15,000 to fell the "giant redwood" and deliver it for display at the fair. The tree was portioned, shipped and reassembled in Chicago for the exhibit. The stump now bears the name of the tree's final resting place. Many of the pine trees in the area are examples of a planting effort to reforest after the McGee fire of 1955. While on the trail take note of the perimeter of the nearby meadow. The young Sequoias are an excellent example of natural Sequoia regeneration after a disturbance such as fire and timber harvesting.

## 2. Boole Tree Trail

*Distance:* 2.5 miles (loop trail)  
*Difficulty:* Moderate  
*Time:* 2 hours

The Boole tree is one of the few standing monarch trees in the Converse Basin area left after the historic logging in the late 1800s. The tree was named for the Converse Mill foreman, Frank Boole. It is ranked eighth largest in the world and is the largest tree on National Forest System. This trail has a bit of everything to offer. Wildflowers, Giant Sequoias, forested backdrops and scenic panoramas of the Kings River Canyon are some of the spectacular features of this trail.



### 3. Stump Meadow

On your way to the Boole Tree Trail, stop and explore Stump Meadow. This meadow is a stark example of the historic logging that took place in the late 1800s. The area was logged in the "Kings River Land Grab," which changed the meadow ecology. Approximately 70 monarch giants were logged from the Stump Meadow hillsides, increasing the flow of water into the meadow, and making it too wet for Giant Sequoias to grow. The number of trees removed from the area greatly reduced the demands on the water supply and created the meadow. The center of the meadow is too wet for young Sequoias to survive beyond sprouting. Giant Sequoias line the perimeter of the meadow and are slowly reclaiming Stump Meadow.

### 4. Indian Basin Trail

*Distance:* .5 and 1.0 mile (double loop trail)  
*Difficulty:* Easy – a portion is ADA accessible  
*Time:* 45 min.-1 hour

Located at Princess Campground is the Indian Basin Sequoia Grove; this trail offers marvelous views of Indian Basin meadow and the regenerating Sequoia trees. The basin was the historic cabin site of Charles Converse for which the Converse Basin is named. Interpretive signs help explain the unique features of this Sequoia Grove and several benches along the way invite you to sit and enjoy the quiet beauty of the forest scenery.

### 5. Hume Lake Loop Trail

*Distance:* 2½ miles (several access points)  
*Difficulty:* Easy (a portion is ADA accessible)  
*Time:* 1½ hour

Hume Lake was originally a holding pond for the Hume-Bennett Lumber Mill, and now provides fishing and water play for thousands of visitors. The Hume Dam is a unique multiple arch design, and it was completed in April 1909. The dam was nominated to the National Register of Historic Landmarks in 2001 and can best be viewed from one of the two bridges that are features of this trail. The trail runs around the entire perimeter of the lake. From Powdercan Day Use Area to the Dam, the trail is a dirt hiking trail. From the Dam to Sandy Cove Day Use Area, the trail is paved offering ADA accessible hiking. The portion of trail from the Sandy Cove to Hume Lake Christian Camp is hardened surface, though not fully accessible.

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To get to Little Boulder and Evans Grove Trail, turn right onto the General's Highway from the intersection and drive for 4 miles and turn left at Quail Flat (Hume Lake turnout). At the far right of the large road junction will be signed Forest Road 14S02 (Burton Pass Road):

- For the **Evans Grove** Trail, follow Burton Pass Road for 5 miles and turn left at Forest Road 13S26 to Kennedy Meadows then follow the signs for 2 miles to Kennedy Meadows trailhead.
- For the **Little Boulder Grove** Trail, follow Burton Pass Road for 10.5 miles then follow Forest Road 13S23 for 3 miles until you see Little Boulder Grove trailhead marker on the left side of the road.

### 6. Evans Grove Loop Trail

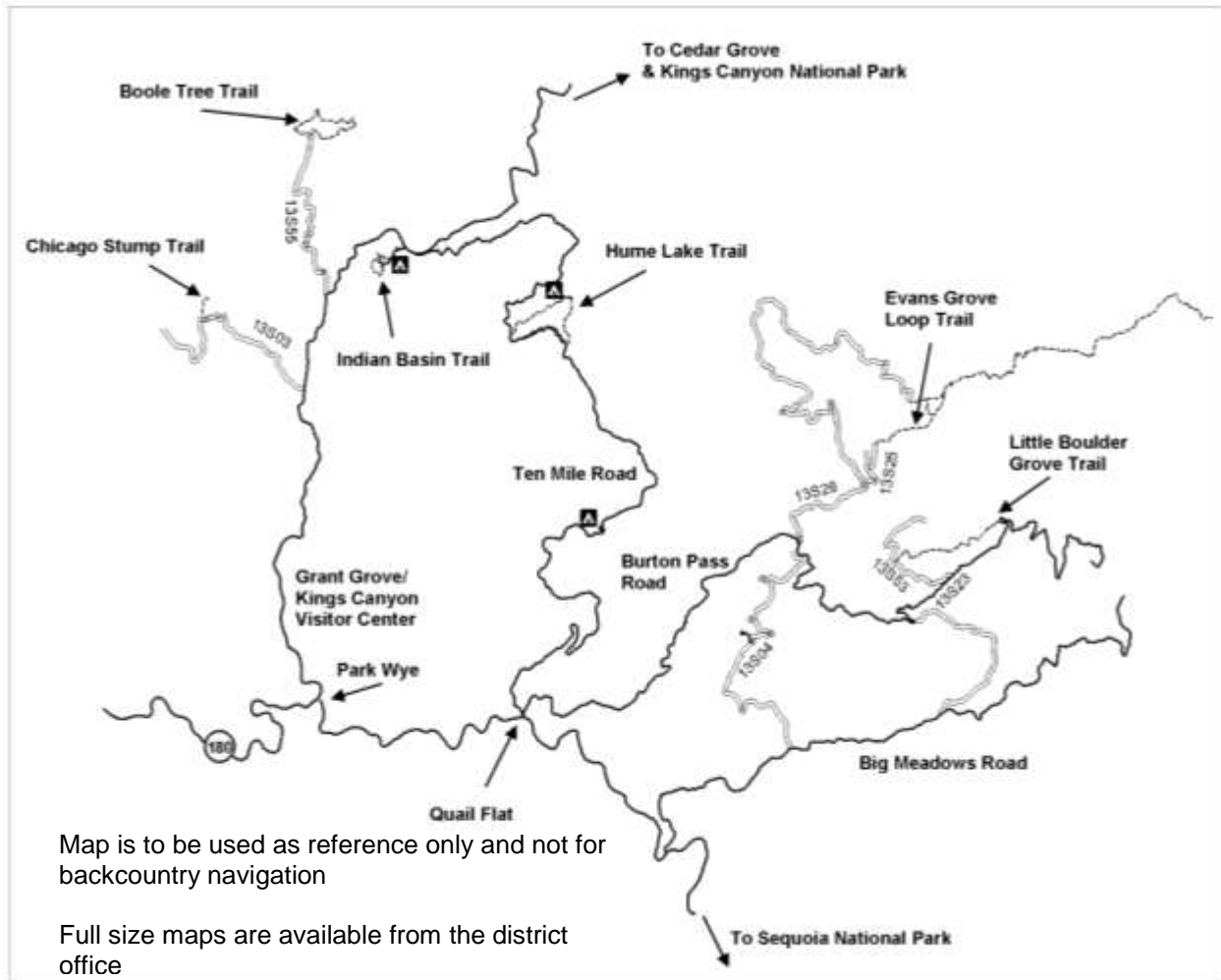
*Distance:* 1.5 miles +  
*Difficulty:* moderate to difficult  
*Time:* 1 – 1.5 hours

Starting at the Kennedy Meadow Trailhead, you'll hike on an old logging road for about a mile. Turn left at the signed junction and descend into the eastern old growth forest. At the bottom of the descent there's an old railroad bed created by the Hume-Bennett Company. Turn right at junction brings you back to another junction, turn right again and ascend up until you get to the prior junction, continue forward back to the trailhead. The western part of the Evans Grove Complex near the railroad bed was extensively logged before 1920, but the eastern part along the switchbacks is old growth forest and still retains many monarch trees.

### 7. Little Boulder Grove Trail

*Distance:* 1.7 miles (3 miles round trip)  
*Difficulty:* easy to moderate  
*Time:* 2 hours

The Little Boulder Trail meanders through a portion of the Evans Grove Complex. Along this trail there are views of Kings Canyon to the north, including the 7 Sisters or the Grand Dike across the canyon in Monarch Wilderness. The rounded tops of the Sequoia trees in Evans Grove Complex are visible on the ridge to the west. In the early 1980s, this grove was harvested of non-sequoia species and underburned in order to provide openings in the forest canopy and allow Sequoia trees to grow in the sunlight.



### Please Practice Leave No Trace When Hiking In The Frontcountry

The *Leave No Trace* principles help protect natural resources and help reduce the impacts of sights and sounds of your visit. The Forest Service supports and lends its resources to the *Leave No Trace* program. Like the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest recognizes that education will conserve and preserve our country's wild places for future generations.

We share in, practice and support *Leave No Trace* skills and ethics and believe in the stewardship of America's public lands. Join us in our work to *Leave No Trace* by following these seven, simple principles:

- Know before you go – plan ahead
- Stick to trails and camp overnight right
- Trash your trash and pick up poop
- Leave it as you find it
- Be careful of fire
- Keep wildlife wild
- Share our trails and manage your pet



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