

Teresa Benson



Teresa Benson was the Forest Supervisor of the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument between 2018-2023. Teresa graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a B.S. in Forestry and Wildlife in 1989. She started her career with the US Forest Service in 1990 on the Sequoia National Forest as a wildlife biologist and branched into a Resource Manager, supervising hydrology, wildlife, archaeology, and botany programs.

The next steps in her career took her to Alaska where she continued serving as a Resource Manager on the Chugach National Forest. Teresa became a District Ranger on the Chugach, living in Cordova and focusing on complex fisheries and wetland restoration projects. She returned to California to become the District Ranger on the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest. After a few years she transferred to the Tahoe National Forest as the Deputy Forest Supervisor. In 2018, Teresa returned to the southern Sierra Nevada when she became the Forest Supervisor for the Sequoia National Forest.

Teresa's leadership during her 34 years with the Forest Service, focused on sustainable natural resources, while also managing for a safe and enjoyable experience for Forest staff, volunteers, partners and the visiting public. Priority areas included fuels management, restoration of fire-impacted landscapes, tribal relations, and providing quality visitor services.

In retirement, Teresa plans to stay involved with the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition, the Southern Sierra Research Center, and the Kern River Conservancy. Teresa and her husband, Andy, consider the Southern Sierras to be their home. Andy has one son who Teresa helped to raise, and they have 4 grandsons, ages 5, 7, 9, and 11. Teresa and Andy love to travel, hike, camp, spend time with their grandchildren, and explore public lands.