



REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



January 6, 2025





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Recording in Progress

Public lands in the United States hold the creation stories, burial grounds, and ceremonies of Indigenous people who were killed or forcibly removed from their ancestral homes during territorial acquisition.

Many tribes, comprised of different bands, live in the Eastern Sierra region, caring for their native lands as they coexist with the ongoing impacts of colonization. Past or present tribes and bands associated with the region that this effort is aware of include, but are not limited to, the Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika'a, Mono/Monache, Nüümü (Paiute), Newe (Shoshone), Timbi-Sha, Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute, and Washoe.

Two Nüümü terms describe the region and provide important context to ideas offered in this presentation. The first is Pamidu Toiyabe (Western Mountains), and the other, more widely known, place name is Payahuunadü (The Place Where Water Flows).

This acknowledgement is an invitation to all organizations, residents, and visitors to recognize the way this history has shaped the present as all parties work together in anticipation of a better future.

What is the ESSRP

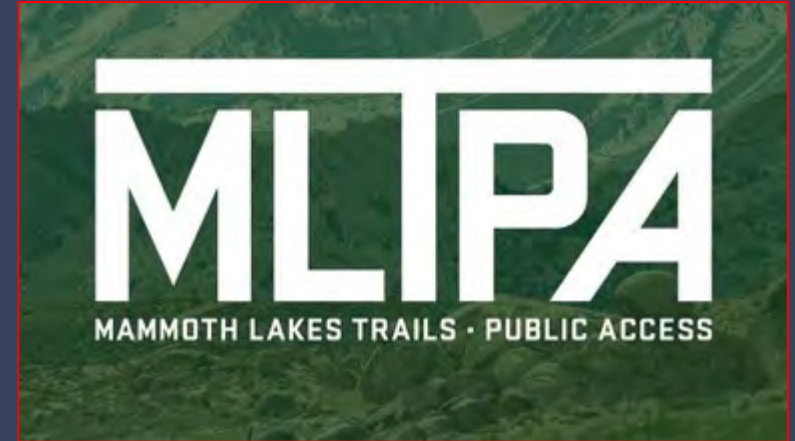


“A public/public partnership between tribal, local, state, and federal government agencies and a regional voice for sustainable outdoor recreation in California.”

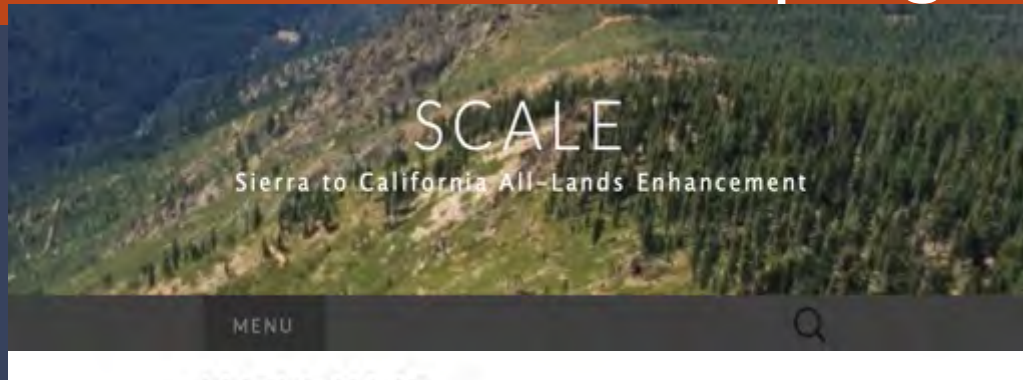
Welcome and Housekeeping



Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments



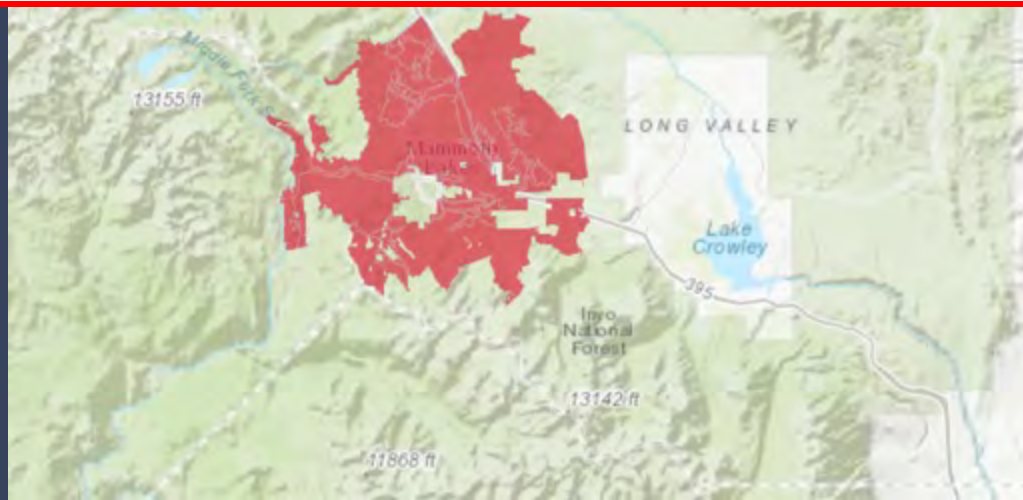
Welcome and Housekeeping



SCALE Collaborative Capacity - Notice of Funding Opportunity

Background: The Sierra Institute's Sierra to California All-Lands Enhancement (SCALE) Project brings together roughly 20 forest collaboratives along with multiple state and federal agencies working to address landscape-scale restoration, as well as community enhancement and resiliency across rural forested areas of California. SCALE utilizes annual and virtual meetings as a peer-learning forum to bring collaborative groups together to identify and address collective and unique social and political challenges to advance landscape restoration. SCALE's vision is to create

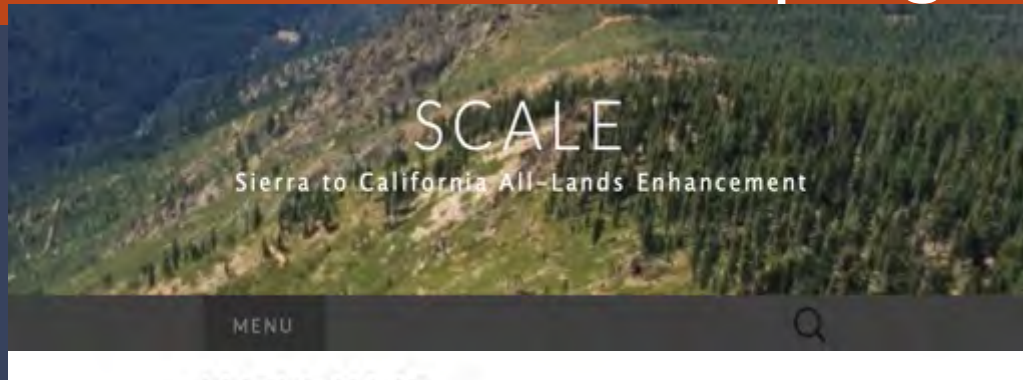
Micro-Grant Opportunity: To support the capacity building of collaboratives within the SCALE network, the Sierra Institute, with funding from and in partnership with the USFS, has established a fund for micro-grants up to \$10,000. These grants are intended to assist collaborative groups in strengthening their capacity to move forward work on the national forests and across boundaries by addressing specific collaborative group needs. Eligible applicants include non-profits, collaborative groups, and partner entities that participate in the collaborative (e.g., Resource Conservation Districts). Eligible capacity-building activities include, but are not limited to:



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- Developing and finalizing a charter or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or enhancing an existing charter/MOU.
- Organizing a collaborative retreat to review and improve partnership processes.
- Hosting outreach events or training sessions, such as public meetings, Tribal outreach meetings, field tours, workforce development training, or training on the use of existing decision support tools such as the regional resource kits.
- Creating strategic plans to guide collaborative processes, including post-fire recovery plans, development of strategic fire management plans and focal areas of interest to address the wildfire crisis, expansion of wood utilization including business plans for wood utilization facilities or project monitoring plans.

Welcome and Housekeeping

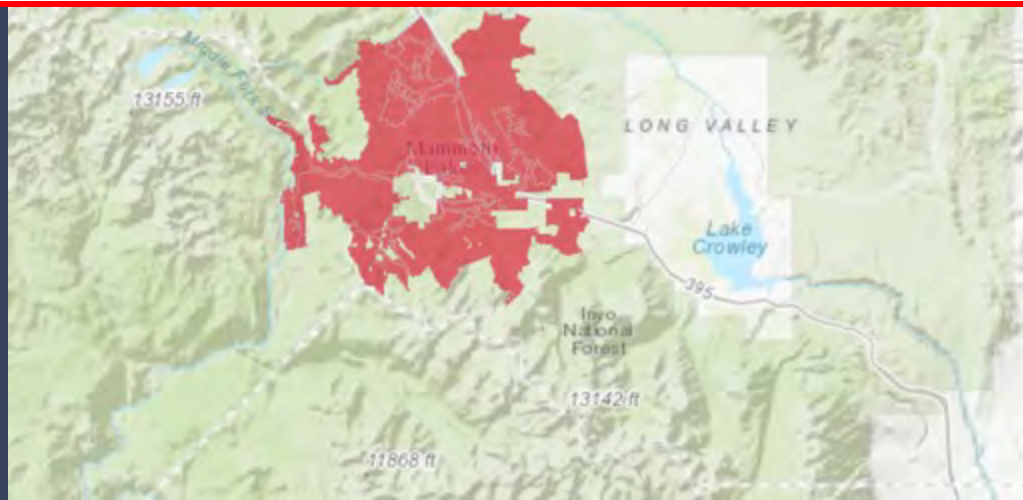


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On behalf of Sierra Institute, we are pleased to inform you that your organization has been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$9,993.00 for the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership's capacity-building activities. This grant reflects our commitment to fostering collaborative capacity and recognizes the outstanding work your organization does to advance these goals.

We will be in touch with you after the new year to discuss next steps, but wanted to inform you prior to the holidays.



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Welcome and Housekeeping



Welcome and Housekeeping



Hot Links January 6, 2025

- What is the ESSRP
 - Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)
 - Review the critical documents of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership
 - Origin Story
 - Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan
 - Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative
- Welcome + Housekeeping
 - Jonathan Changus, Director of External Affairs, Visit California
 - Regional Strategic Tourism Plans
- Housekeeping
 - SCALE Grant Application on behalf of ESSRP Awarded
- Headlines of Interest
 - Here's how California's snowpack is shaping up so far
 - Sierra snowpack sees promising start but California's water fortunes have 'a long way until April'
 - Map shows surprising place that gets the most snow in California
 - California typically sees its wettest weather now. Are storms on the horizon?
 - One Ski Resort's Long-Shot Bet to Survive Low Snowfall and Devastating Wildfires

Welcome and Housekeeping



Visit California

- Jonathan Changus, Director of External Affairs, Visit California

[BACK TO PROGRAMS](#)

REGIONAL STRATEGIC TOURISM PLANS

Regional Strategic Tourism Plans

[REQUEST INFORMATION](#)

Since January 2023, Visit California has collaborated with the global consulting firm Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) on the development of regional strategic tourism plans for each of the state's 12 tourism regions. The initiative is funded through a one-time investment by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.



The plans are designed to examine the full range of tourism dynamics, from destination brand perceptions to housing imbalances, environmental challenges, workforce development, public safety issues and infrastructure priorities.

visit
CaliforniaREGIONAL STRATEGIC
TOURISM PLANSvisit
California

Regional Strategic Plan Update

Welcome and Housekeeping

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visit
California

REGIONAL STRATEGIC
TOURISM PLANS



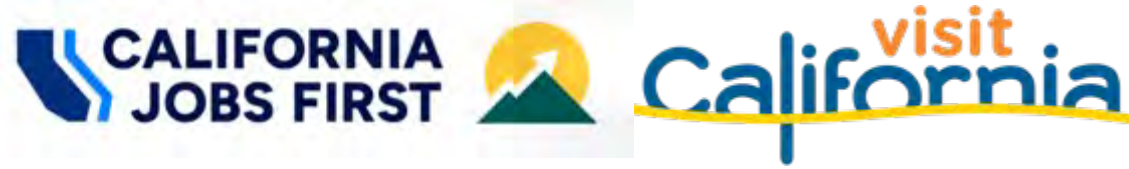
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Regional Strategic Plan Update

Welcome and Housekeeping



Welcome and Housekeeping



Regional Map



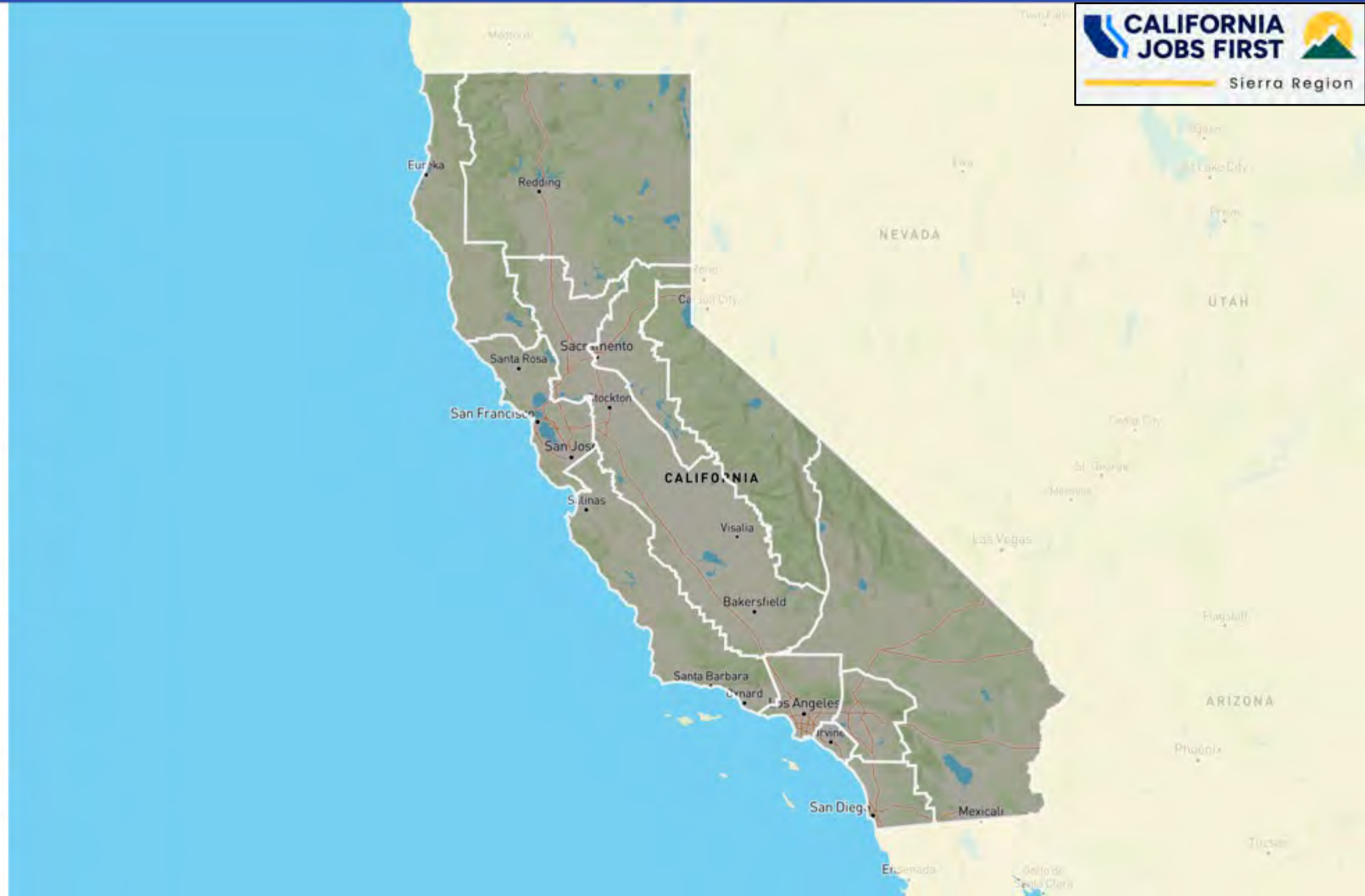
San Francisco Bay Area

With its iconic bridge, historic cable cars, and beautiful Victorian architecture, San Francisco is undeniably one of the world's great cities. The...



Shasta Cascade

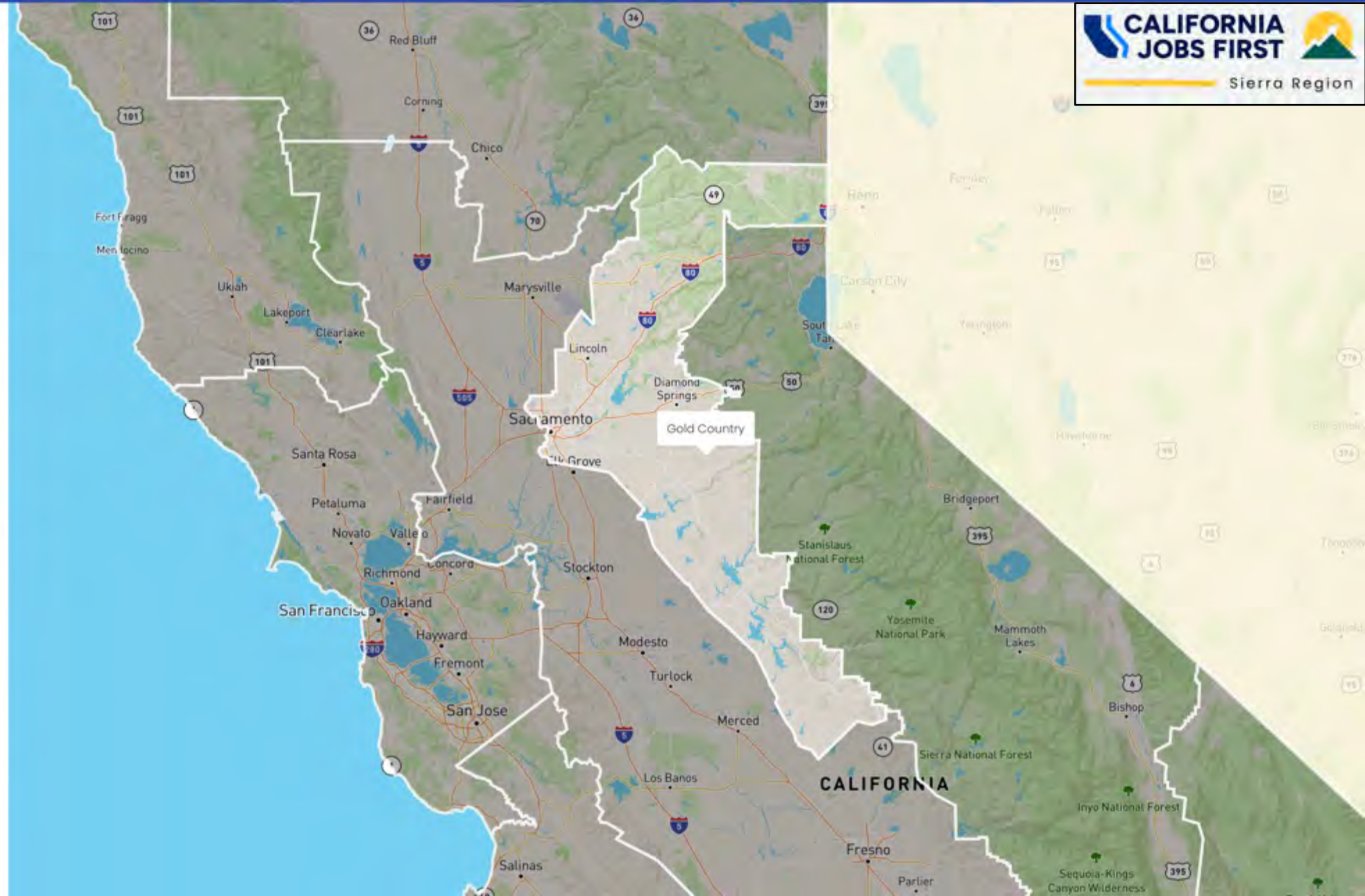
California's northeast corner—sometimes referred to as "Upstate California"—is an outdoor-lover's paradise, with scenic volcanoes, hushed forests,...



Gold Country



Bumping up against the west side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the Sierra foothills are where California's past, present, and future merge into one unforgettable destination. The Gold Rush sparked one of the largest mass migrations in America's history, when more than 300,000 pioneers headed west to California hoping to strike it rich. You'll find treasures of a different kind along the historic Golden Chain Highway, which oozes Old West charm. Or leave the towns in your rearview and head to



Close

View Details

High Sierra



Snow-covered peaks in winter, gushing waterfalls in spring, wildflower meadows and glistening lakes in summer, vibrant colors in fall—this is a land of dramatic and wild beauty. World-class mountain resorts circle turquoise-blue Lake Tahoe. Mammoth Lakes offers epic skiing and endless high-altitude delights. Yosemite National Park, a World Heritage Site, is more beautiful than you can imagine and absolutely worth a visit.

Whether you hike a mountain, ski the steep slopes, or relax in a hot tub beneath a canopy of



Welcome and Housekeeping



Bear Valley Mountain Resort, Bear Valley

Under California Mountain Resort Company's new ownership, Bear Valley has installed a new triple chair for beginners and a new fixed-grip quad chair serving intermediate and advanced terrain. New food service options include a pizza bar in the day lodge. [Cali Pass](#) holders now have unlimited access to Bear Valley. *Opens: TBD*

Big Bear Mountain Resort, Big Bear Lake

Each of Big Bear's three mountains—Snow Valley, Snow Summit, and Bear Mountain—have benefitted from major capital improvements in the past few years. This December, Bear Mountain will debut its new Midway high-speed six-passenger chairlift. [Ikon Pass](#) holders get unlimited skiing and riding at Big Bear. *Opens: TBD*

Boreal, Truckee

The only California resort to offer [night skiing and riding](#) seven days a week, Boreal will celebrate its 60th anniversary season this year. Play Forever Fridays will take place one day each month with \$25 lift tickets for everyone. *Opens: Nov. 22*

Heavenly, South Lake Tahoe

Heavenly's [California Lodge](#) will debut Golden State Kitchen, a new eatery featuring healthier fare. Events like the [Air & Après](#) big-air competition, [Brews and Views](#), and Heavenly Holidays will return this winter, and the resort will continue its [reservations-based parking program](#) on weekends and peak periods. Guests can sign up for [My Epic Gear](#), a membership program that combines gear rental with premium valet services. *Opens: Nov. 22*

Kirkwood, Carson Pass

Kirkwood will institute a new [reservations-based parking program](#) this winter with a mix of free and paid parking options on weekends and peak periods. Planned events will include a New Year's Eve celebration with torchlight parade and fireworks, Banked Slalom, and Slush Cup. [Expedition Kirkwood](#) programs offer advanced coaching and guided backcountry experiences. *Opens: Dec. 6*

Mammoth Mountain, Mammoth Lakes

Mammoth's new Chair 1 (Broadway Express) will start spinning on Nov. 15 with an uphill capacity of 3,000 people per hour, a 25 percent increase over its predecessor. The resort has also committed \$3.5 million to improve its snowmaking capacity. Non-skiing families can play at the revamped [Woolly's Adventure Summit](#): Zoom down groomed lanes in the Tube Park, zip around on the new Mountain Coaster, or cozy up at the snack bar. *Opens: Nov. 15*



Welcome and Housekeeping



MLTPA Foundation

- Recreate Responsibly
California Coordinator, MLTPA
Project Specialist

Headlines of Interest

SUBSCRIBER EDITION

San Francisco Chronicle Bay Briefing

JANUARY 2, 2025

Here's how California's snowpack is shaping up so far

By Kellie Hwang



Photo by: Noah Berger (Special to the Chronicle)

Will it be enough?

California will see [one more winter storm](#) before an extended dry spell takes over. Up to a foot of snow could drop at Tahoe ski resorts on Friday, creating challenging driving conditions but great weekend skiing conditions. A few hours of moderate to heavy snow is expected in the northern and central Sierra Nevada, with light to moderate rain for the Bay Area.

At the same time, the first snow survey of the season shows California is off to a good start, as the late fall and holiday storms primed the state's mountains with a solid base of snow.

On Thursday, state water managers reported a cumulative snowpack across the Sierra, southern Cascades and Trinity mountains of 108% of average for the date. Snowpack was greatest, by far, in the north with some areas in the south missing out on the early winter weather.

"We got a ton of snow with those atmospheric rivers (in December), but it was less and less as we moved south through the state," said Andy Reising, manager of the snow surveys and water supply forecasting unit at the California Department of Water Resources. "Feeling good today, but we need to see more storms coming."

No major cold systems are expected over the next two weeks, Reising said.

Snowpack, which is likely to grow as winter progresses, makes up about a third of the state's water supplies. Beyond melting and filling reservoirs, the snow recharges aquifers and helps hills and valleys green up and keep from burning in wildfires.

Headlines of Interest

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

NEWS SPORTS POLITICS RESTAURANTS OPINION GAMES OBITUARIES FINANCE CLASSIFIEDS CAREERS GIFT GUIDES

LOCAL

Sierra snowpack sees promising start but California's water fortunes have 'a long way until April'

By Darrell Smith and Daniel Hunt

Updated January 02, 2025 2:22 PM | 3



As California water officials took the first snowpack survey of the year, measurements collected across the state showed levels above average. By David Caraccio and Department of Water Resources

San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition

Account

California typically sees its wettest weather now. Are storms on the horizon?

By Anthony Edwards, Newsroom Meteorologist

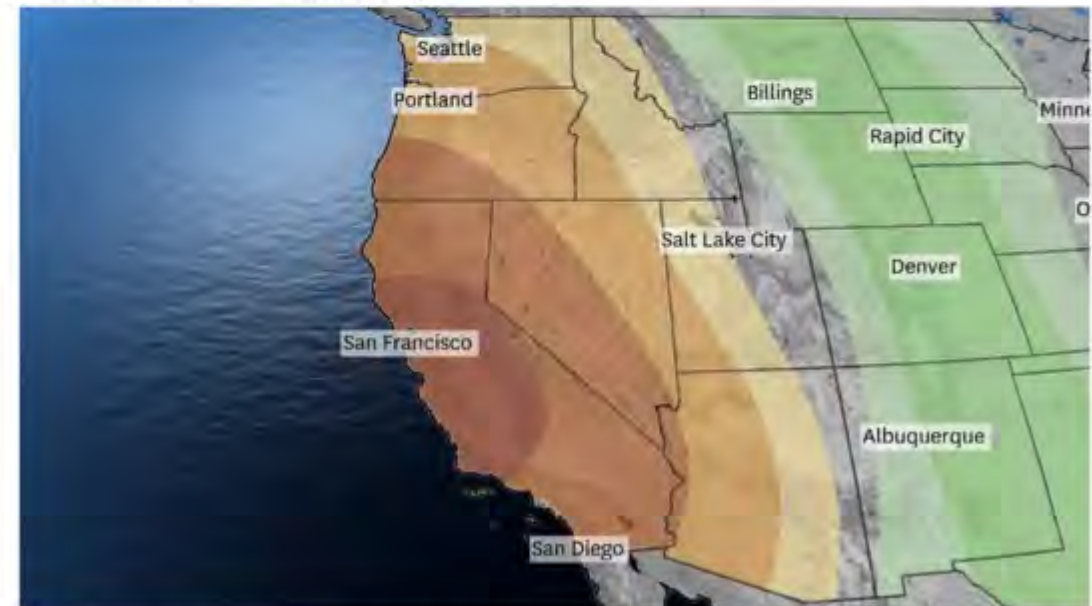
Jan 1, 2025

Gift Article



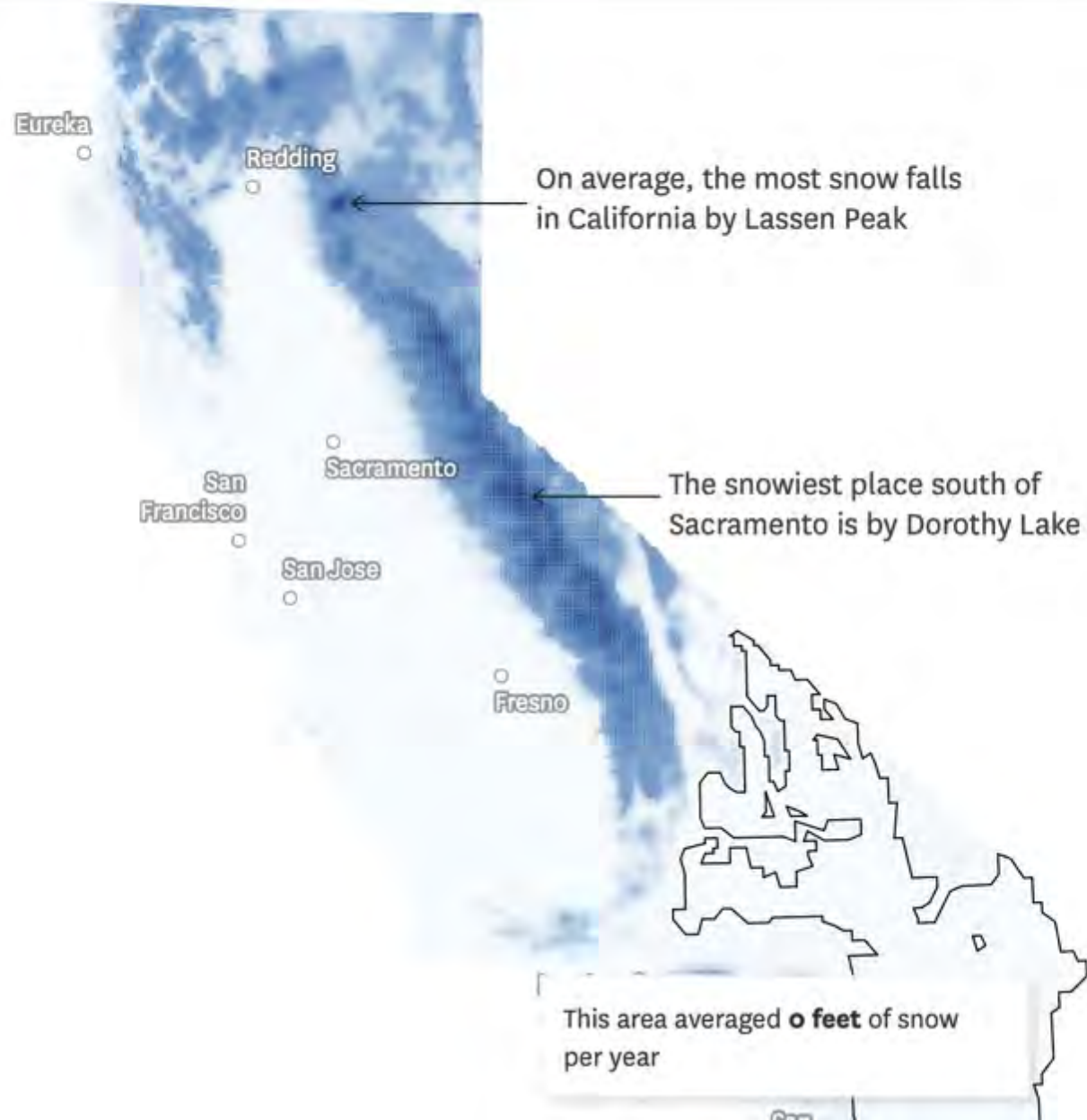
Precipitation outlook: Mon., Jan. 6 to Fri., Jan. 10

Below Average Above Average



Drier than normal conditions are expected across California in early to mid-January. The Climate Prediction Center forecasts a 60% to 70% chance of below-normal precipitation in the Bay Area from Jan. 6-10.

Baron/Lynx



Headlines of Interest

The New York Times

SQUARE FEET

One Ski Resort's Long-Shot Bet to Survive Low Snowfall and Devastating Wildfires

The closest ski hill to Los Angeles recently sold to an investment group with big plans. But can those ideas work amid catastrophic climate threats that continue to plague the mountain?

Unlike all other ski hills in Southern California, Mount Waterman, the closest mountain resort to Los Angeles, didn't make snow (its motto has long been "Praying for snow since 1939"), and it has only a modest warming hut and three chairlifts. But its steep inclines and access to backcountry terrain kept loyal snow-sports fans coming back.

"It's steep, gladed — one of the greatest places I've skied," said Michael Melton, a board member of the Buckhorn Ski Lodge, a private lodge near Mount Waterman. "It doesn't have the acreage of a Palisades Tahoe, but it has the punch."

That rustic experience will soon get a face-lift — the ski hill is under contract to be sold to an investment group, [Angeles Mountain Partners](#), with a more aggressive business vision. The new owners, Josh Shelton, an entertainment lawyer, and Scott Towsley, a veteran of ski-area construction in Southern California, have plans for an amphitheater and glamping cabins. They also plan to add a snow-making system and offer a club-membership program that would give skiers helicopter access to Mount Waterman.



Headlines of Interest

Not only had they braved the summit's soaring altitude and fierce wind, they each also had risked a \$5,000 fine for violating a U.S. Forest Service closure order.

After a September wildfire [ravaged Mt. Baldy Village](#), destroying 20 homes and burning more than 50,000 acres on surrounding hillsides, the U.S. Forest Service closed all of the trails leading to the mountain's breathtaking summit for more than a year — until December 2025 — to ensure public safety and promote "natural recovery" of the fragile plants and soils that had been damaged.

But had the three climbers, who ascended a trail called the Devil's Backbone for its narrow ridge with spine-tingling drops on either side, seen any scorched earth or trees along the way?

"No, nothing at all, the trail was fine," said Isaiah Rosas of Moreno Valley. "There were a lot of people going up and down with us."



A hiker makes his way down Mt. Baldy at a popular ski area. (Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times)

That's the catch. While the village 5,000 feet below was devastated by the autumn Bridge fire, the summit and the most popular trails leading to it escaped largely unscathed.

And so, like seemingly everything else in our fragile public discourse these days, the government's closure of the mountain has sparked a heated social media debate. On one side are so-called trail Karens, who monitor online web cameras and question why the forest service isn't ticketing "ignorant and selfish" rule breakers who are hiking the mountain anyway. On the other side: scofflaws who condemn the forest service as another "useless" government agency reflexively shutting things down in the name of "safety" at the expense of freedom.

The feds closed Mt. Baldy to hiking until December 2025. Rebellion is brewing



Headlines of Interest

GOT A TIP?

THE

Hollywood

REPORTER

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GOLDEN GLOBES

All the Winners (Updating Live)

HOME > LIFESTYLE > LIFESTYLE NEWS

Powder Player: How Reed Hastings Is Disrupting the Ski Industry

Inside the Netflix co-founder's controversial plan to launch a private membership club at one of America's most pristine resorts: "This isn't about exclusivity for its own sake."

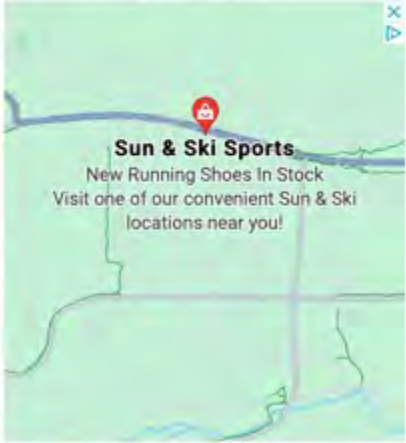
BY ELYCIA RUBIN  DECEMBER 20, 2024 10:00AM



The view from Powder Haven, the site of a new members club, residences and private ski lifts at Utah's Powder Mountain.

PAUL BUNDY

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Tahoe is a mess, so I found a California ski area that actually works

Column: Tahoe's toxic blend of billionaires and angry townies has become unbearable, writes SFGATE cannabis editor Lester Black



A snowboarder rides down from the summit of Mammoth Mountain with the Eastern Sierra pictured in the background.

Lester Black/SFGATE

By **Lester Black**, Cannabis editor

Dec 29, 2024



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Lester Black/SFGATE

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NEWS: OUTDOORS

Ski patrol strike disrupting holiday week at Park City may set tone for union talks ahead in Colorado

Park City Mountain Resort owner Vail Resorts has been sending non-union managers to mind the Utah mountain. Workers at Keystone, Breckenridge and Crested Butte are watching tactics closely.



Jake Hutchinson, a former Park City ski patrol director and first president of the patrollers union in the '90s, shows his support as Park City ski patrollers officially go on strike early Friday, Dec. 27, 2024. Citing unfair labor practices and marking the latest chapter in the union's negotiations with Park City Mountain and its owner, Vail Resorts, patrollers took up the fight picketing at numerous location around Canyons and Park City. (Francisco Kjolseth, The Salt Lake Tribune)

ALTERRA
MOUNTAIN COMPANY

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FORWARD STANCE



PEOPLE

PLANET

COMMUNITY

RESPONSIBILITY

Douglas County Comprehensive Trails Plan

*Douglas County implemented its initial Comprehensive Trails Plan in 2003, aiming to establish a framework for trail development and connectivity. **The new plan has been finalized and utilized to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to the changing needs and preferences of the community.***

The Douglas County Comprehensive Trails Plan 2023 offers a vision for a trail system that connects Douglas County residents and visitors to each other and their natural environment. The plan is more than “lines on a map” - it demonstrates how a county-wide system of pathways and trails can promote quality of life, economic development, and resilience.

The Plan is a blueprint, informed by public priorities, that will guide the County and its partners as they design, fund, build, and maintain a high-quality system of routes and trails over time.

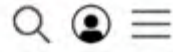


DOUGLAS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRAILS PLAN 2023



Headlines of Interest

singletracks



How one mountain biker is resurrecting the longest National Recreation Trail in Nevada

The Toiyabe Crest Trail runs for 70 miles one-way and had not seen a trail crew work on it in four decades.

By [Kurt Gensheimer](#)

December 18, 2024

4 comments

Singletracks may receive compensation for purchases made through any affiliate links in this article.



Photo: [Ken Etzel](#)



U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Office of Communications | press@usda.gov


Biden-Harris Administration Proposes Protections for Ruby Mountains

Withdrawal would protect wildlife habitat, cultural heritage and the thriving local outdoor recreation economy

Headlines of Interest

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[Mapping SDS sources](#)

[Observation, monitoring, forecasting & early warning](#)

[Risk and vulnerability assessment](#)

[Source control and management](#)

[Impact mitigation](#)

Owens Lake SDS Site Realtime Monitoring

Owens Lake, dried by water diversion for use in Los Angeles, became a major source of dust emissions from its exposed playa. To manage this, the [Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District](#) has employed extensive monitoring systems and fieldwork to identify dust sources, evaluate control measures' effectiveness, and adjust strategies as needed. This comprehensive system is further described in [this case study](#).

California Updates

Los Angeles Times

California e-bike voucher program flooded with almost 100,000 applications in just 45 minutes

Andrew J. Campa, Karen Garcia

Fri, December 20, 2024 at 5:24 PM PST · 3 min read



126



A man rides an e-bike in Hermosa Beach. (Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times)

Californians still hoping to nab a state voucher to help pay for an e-bike this holiday season were met instead with seven unwelcome words: "We are no longer accepting incentive applications."

That's the message the California Air Resources Board had on its [E-Bike Incentive Project webpage](#) as of Friday after residents flooded the agency with applications, leaving some disappointed and frustrated by the process.

The program began [accepting online applications](#) at 6 p.m. on Wednesday. Within 45 minutes, the application window was closed after nearly 100,000 applications were submitted, according to the air resources board.

Some applicants complained they were [unable to log on](#) mere minutes after that window opened. Some [posted screenshots on social media](#) of estimated wait times exceeding an hour.

Others said the application process froze or produced error messages.

Lys Mendez, the board's communications director, said a fully staffed team handled the application process, which included testing the website and checking for technical issues.

California Updates

The Life and Legacy of P-22 w/ Beth Pratt



California Director for the National Wildlife Federation and resident badass, Beth Pratt, showing off her P-22 tattoo by Gary Kazanjian/Los Angeles Times



Beth Pratt

December 12 at 5:08 PM · 🌐



Wow! Just learned about this effort to create a new 550 mile trail for mountain biking the length of the eastern Sierra. To say that would be devastating to wildlife and connectivity of ecosystems is an understatement. Especially when there are already abundant mountain biking trails in the area and of course 395 is used by cyclists already as well.

I'll be watching this one-and please spread the word so we all monitor this project.



Sierra Camino



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California Director for the National Wildlife Federation and resident badass, Beth Pratt, showing off her P-22 tattoo by Gary Kazanjian/Los Angeles Times



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Sierra Camino



California Updates

Sections

Los Angeles Times



POLITICS

Column: California is growing again. Hurrah! Or ho-hum?



Thousands of beachgoers celebrating summer in Huntington Beach. California's nearly unbroken history of population growth is an affirmation not just of the state's weather and lifestyle but the promise it holds to many. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)

San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition

Account

US & WORLD // CALIFORNIA

California's population is finally increasing — thanks to this demographic

By Aseem Shukla, Deputy Data Editor

Dec 21, 2024

Gift Article



California's population has increased during the past year, a change from the early years of the pandemic when the state's population was contracting. Estefany Gonzalez/Special to the Chronicle



California's population is finally increasing — thanks to this...

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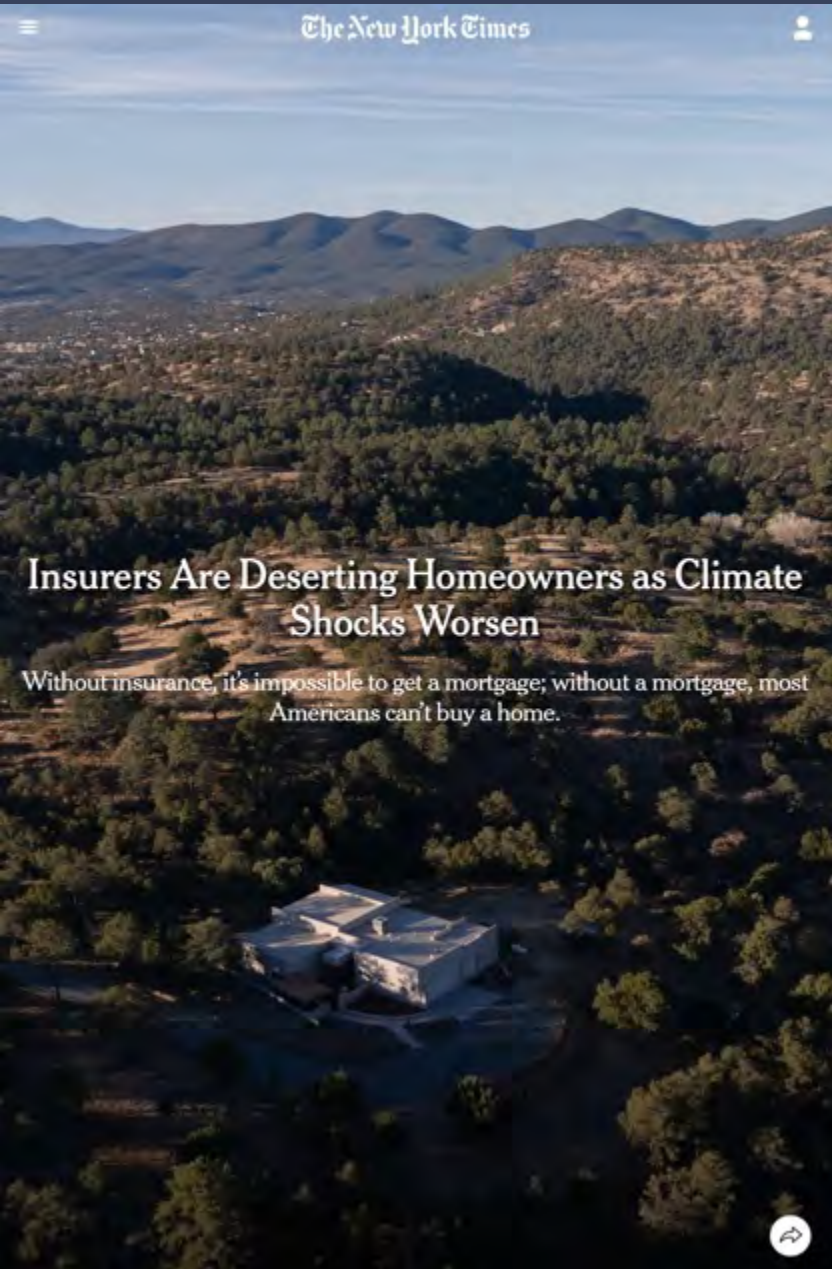
via Everett

After shrinking during the pandemic and then stagnating for several years, California's population is finally growing — thanks to immigration from abroad.

California Updates



California Updates



The New York Times

Insurers Are Deserting Homeowners as Climate Shocks Worsen

Without insurance, it's impossible to get a mortgage; without a mortgage, most Americans can't buy a home.

The insurance crisis spreading across the United States arrived at Richard D. Zimmer's door last week in the form of a letter.

Mr. Zimmer, who lives in the increasingly fire-prone hills outside Silver City, N.M., had done everything right. He trimmed the trees away from his house, and covered his yard in gravel to stop flames rushing in from the forest near his property. In case that buffer zone failed, he sheathed his house in fire-resistant stucco, and topped it with a noncombustible steel roof.

None of it mattered. His insurance company, Homesite Insurance, dumped him. "Property is located in a brushfire or wildfire area that no longer meets Homesite's minimum standard for wildfire risk," the letter read. (Homesite did not respond to a request for comment.)

Mr. Zimmer has company. Since 2018, more than 1.9 million home insurance contracts nationwide have been dropped — "nonrenewed," in the parlance of the industry. In more than 200 counties, the nonrenewal rate has tripled or more, according to the findings of a congressional investigation [released Wednesday](#).

As a warming planet delivers more wildfires, hurricanes and other threats, America's once reliably boring home insurance market has become the place where climate shocks collide with everyday life.



The consequences could be profound. Without insurance, you can't get a mortgage; without a mortgage, most Americans can't buy a home. Communities that are deemed too dangerous to insure face the risk of falling property values, which means less tax revenue for schools, police and other basic services. As insurers pull back, they can destabilize the communities left behind, making their decisions a predictor of the disruption to come.

Now, for the first time, the scale of that pullback is becoming public. Last fall, [the Senate Budget Committee demanded](#) the country's largest insurance companies provide the number of nonrenewals by county and year. The result is a map that tracks the climate crisis in a new way.



Richard D. Zimmer, who did everything right, and still lost his insurance.

California Updates



The insurance crisis spreading across the United States arrived at Richard D. Zimmer's door last week in the form of a letter.

Mr. Zimmer, who lives in the increasingly fire-prone hills outside Silver City, N.M., had done everything right. He trimmed the trees away from his house, and covered his yard in gravel to stop flames rushing in from the forest near his property. In case that buffer zone failed, he sheathed his house in fire-resistant stucco, and topped it with a noncombustible steel roof.

The consequences could be profound. Without insurance, you can't get a mortgage; without a mortgage, most Americans can't buy a home. Communities that are deemed too dangerous to insure face the risk of falling property values, which means less tax revenue for schools, police and other basic services. As insurers pull back, they can destabilize the communities left behind, making their decisions a predictor of the disruption to come.

Now for the first time, the scale of that pullback is becoming public. Last

Now, for the first time, the scale of that pullback is becoming public. Last fall, the Senate Budget Committee demanded the country's largest insurance companies provide the number of nonrenewals by county and year. The result is a map that tracks the climate crisis in a new way.



Richard D. Zimmer, who did everything right, and still lost his insurance.

California Updates

US & WORLD // CALIFORNIA

California may lose a popular carpool program — and the traffic impact could be huge for everyone

By Matthias Gafni, Investigative Reporter
Jan 1, 2025

Gift Article



A Chevrolet Volt with a clean-air decal charges at a Los Angeles parking garage. The program that has allowed California motorists to drive solo in carpool lanes in their low- and zero-emission vehicles is set to expire this year.

Richard Vogel/Associated Press 2018



California may lose a popular carpool...

0:00 / 6:05

1X

Full Screen

The popular program that has allowed more than 1.1 million California motorists to drive solo in carpool lanes in their low- and zero-emission vehicles for more than two decades is set to expire this year.

The removal of solo drivers from carpool lanes could have a major impact on some highways, though transportation officials are cautious in making precise predictions. HOV lanes could speed up, incentivizing more commuters to drive together or take buses. Regular lanes could slow down. Express lanes, which allow solo drivers to pay their way in through a toll system, could see a boost in revenue.

It's also possible the change could backfire completely, slowing down both the regular and HOV lanes on some highways if the vehicle speeds in each are too imbalanced. A 2011 study by UC Berkeley researchers concluded that when regular lanes grow more crowded, carpoolers have to match the sluggish pace while merging in and out.

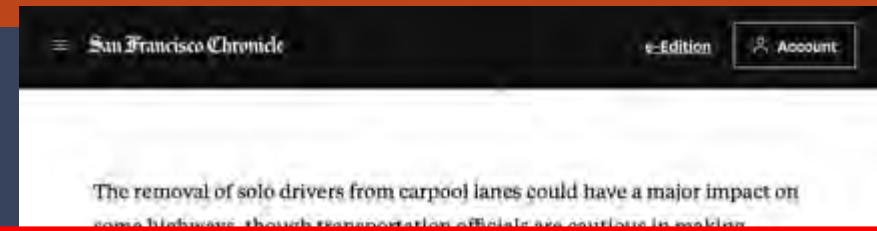
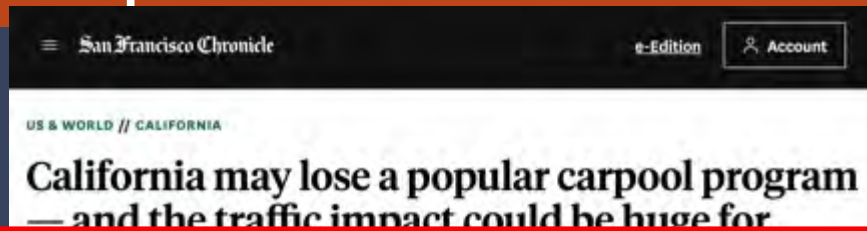
Currently, more than a half million California motorists have active Clean Air Vehicle decals. That's up from the year before, when more than 333,000 drivers had registered their vehicles to obtain the stickers. Three of the top six California counties in 2023 with decal registration were in the Bay Area: Santa Clara (14,598), Alameda (10,708) and Contra Costa (6,227), according to a May Caltrans report.

While Los Angeles County had the most registered clean air vehicles (84,752), Alameda County had the highest rate of clean air vehicles per HOV mile at 228. The three Bay Area counties saw steep increases in registration since 2021, with some nearly doubling their decals from just two years earlier.

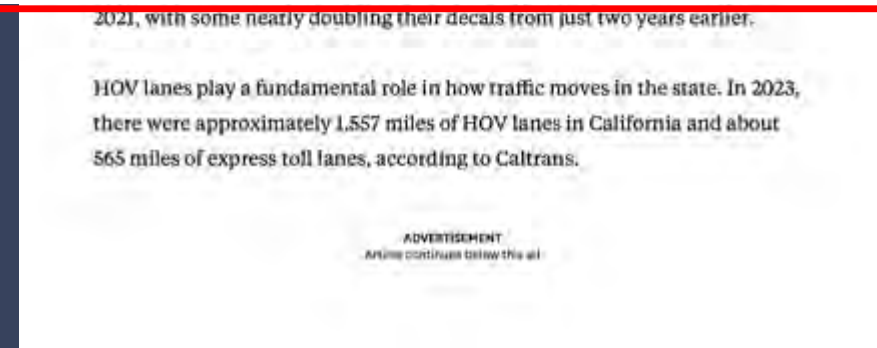
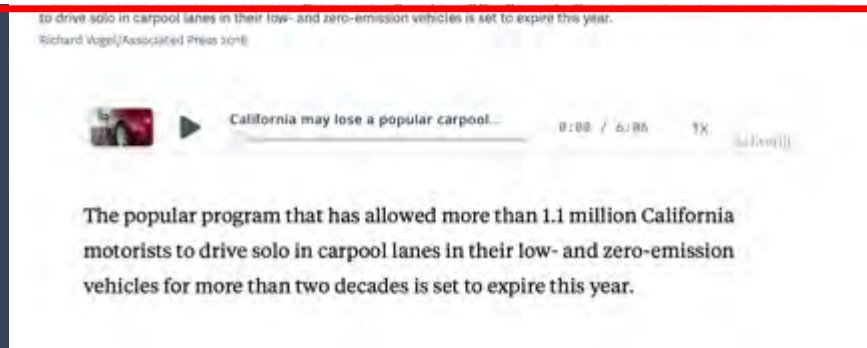
HOV lanes play a fundamental role in how traffic moves in the state. In 2023, there were approximately 1,557 miles of HOV lanes in California and about 565 miles of express toll lanes, according to Caltrans.

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California Updates



Absent Congress approving an extension, the Clean Air Vehicle decal program — heavily used by Teslas and other electric cars — will expire Sept. 30, 2025. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation in September extending the program to Jan. 1, 2027, but that state law becomes moot unless federal officials lengthen a provision allowing such use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes.



California Updates

Climate Solutions

Biden to create two national monuments in California honoring tribes

The Chuckwalla and Sattitla national monuments would safeguard landscapes that Native American tribes have revered for thousands of years.

January 2, 2025

8 min 165



Boulders with indigenous rock carvings, or petroglyphs, at the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument near Chiricahua Summit, Calif. (David McNew/Getty Images)



By Maxine Joselow

President Joe Biden plans to create two new national monuments in California in the coming days, according to two people briefed on the announcement, aiming to cement his environmental legacy before President-elect [Donald Trump](#) takes office.



Source: Audubon California

MAXINE JOSELOW / THE WASHINGTON POST

The area is part of the ancestral homelands of several Indigenous peoples, including the Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mohave, Quechan and Serrano tribes. The Quechan people say their ancestors emerged from a sacred mountain in Nevada — [Avi Kwa Ame](#), which Biden designated as a monument in 2022 — and then migrated through this stretch of desert, dropping pottery shards as trail markers and leaving petroglyphs as guidance for future generations.

“If someone went and bulldozed the Vatican, that would be the equivalent of desecrating this desert for us,” said Donald Medart, a council member of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe.

California Updates



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Boulders with indigenous rock carvings, or petroglyphs, at the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument near Chiricahua Summit, Calif. (David McNew/Getty Images)



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CALIFORNIA
WILDFIRE & FOREST RESILIENCE
TASK FORCE

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THE FRONT LINES OF LANDSCAPE HEALTH

In a response commensurate to the challenge, Governor Gavin Newsom created the California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force, bringing together an unprecedented coalition of the best available resources for preventing catastrophic wildfires by creating healthier, more sustainable natural environments. The Governor's Task Force is a proactive effort that is already showing progress towards long term forest health and safe, sustainable coexistence with fire.

[LEARN MORE](#)

California Updates

THE LATEST

SEE WHERE TANGIBLE, ON THE GROUND PROGRESS IS BEING MADE NOW.

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**U.S. Forest Service
Completes Record
Setting Year for
Prescribed Fire**



**Leading Scientists Shared Latest Findings on
Wildfire Resilience at December 13 Meeting.
Recap Now Available.**



**State Coastal
Conservancy Awards
Nearly \$6 Million For
Wildfire Resilience
Projects**



**California Public Seed
Banks Complete Historic
Cone Collection Year**



**U.S. Forest Service Thinning Projects Protect
Southern California Communities**



**Federal Funds Reduce
Wildfire Risk and
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MARIN COUNTY

**INFORMATION
TO COME**

Approaching danger by Brad Powell, with scenarios posed and by Headwaters Economics



Future-proofing the outdoor recreation economy

November 26, 2024

Communities with outdoor recreation economies are rich in natural assets such as mountains and rivers, but their proximity to these resources also puts them on the front lines of natural hazards such as wildfire and flooding.

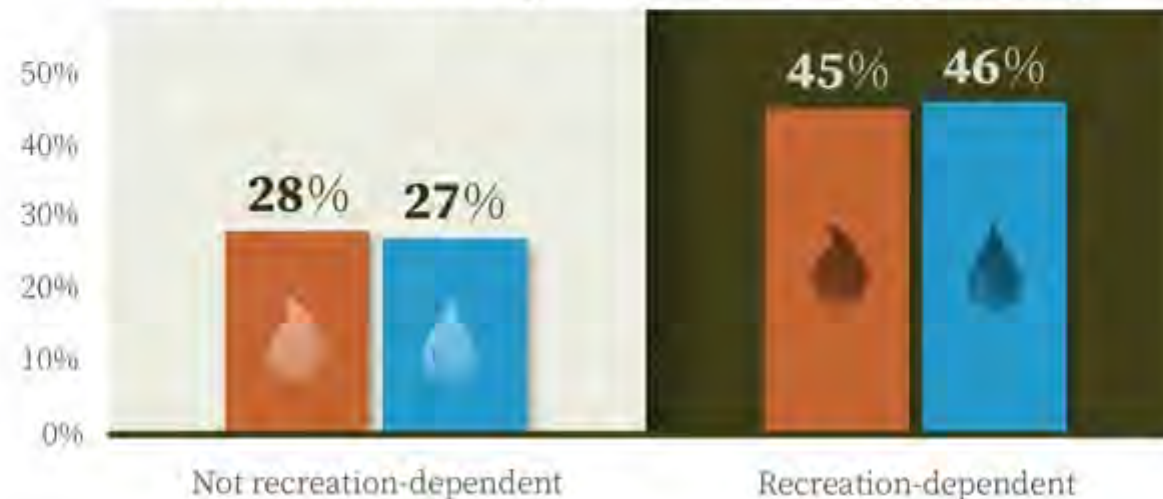
Outdoor recreation communities often experience disproportionate economic and social impacts from disasters because of their reliance on natural assets. Damage to infrastructure such as roads or water systems can keep away the visitors that keep

Recreation-dependent communities face much higher wildfire and flood risks than others

Nearly half of the 425 outdoor recreation counties in the United States have a high risk of wildfire or flooding, according to federal data sources. Forty-five percent of recreation-dependent counties have high or very high wildfire risk compared to 28% of non-recreation-dependent counties. Forty-six percent of recreation-dependent counties have high or very high flood risk compared to 27% of non-recreation-dependent counties.

Recreation counties have higher risk of natural hazards

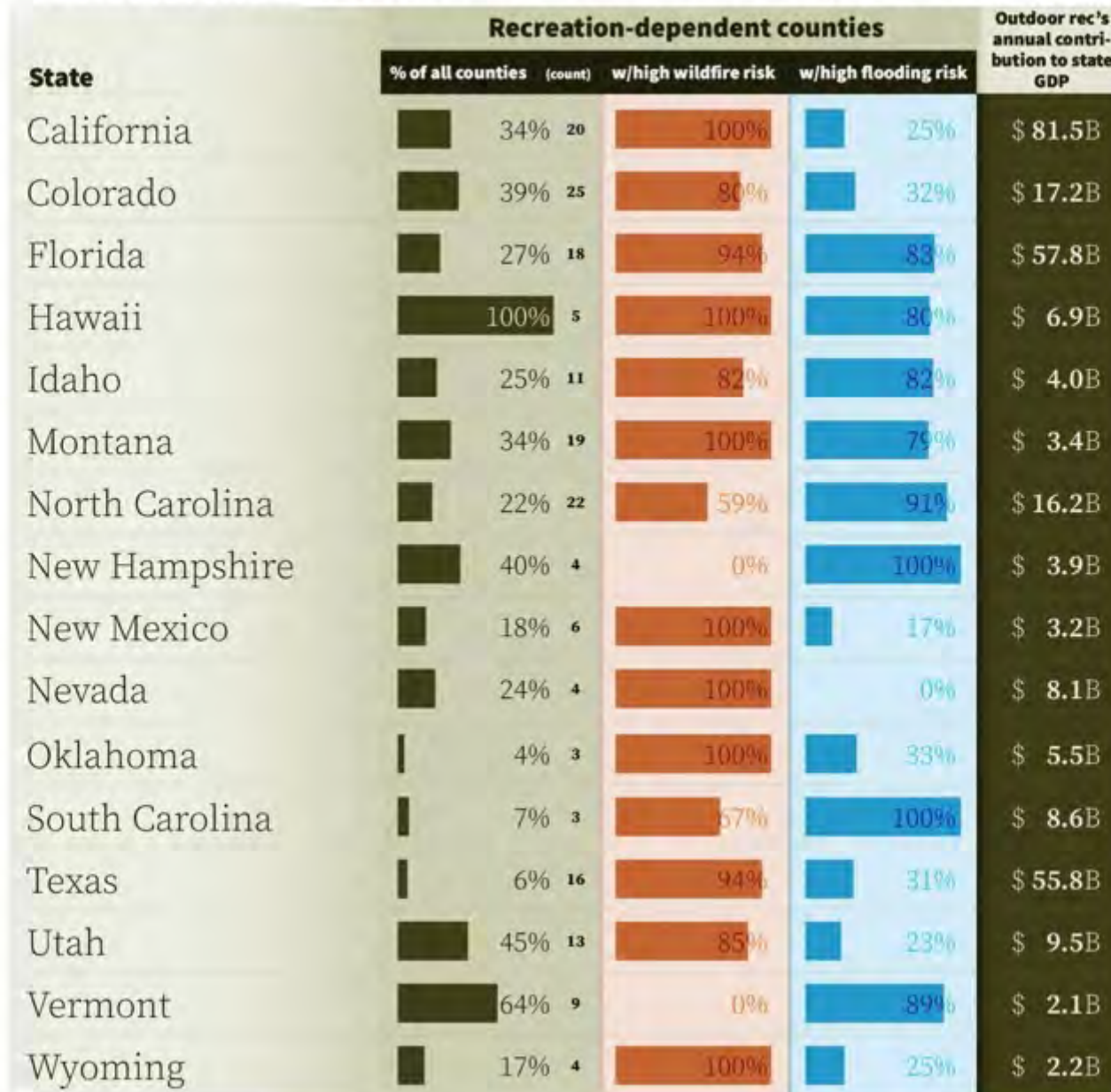
Share of counties with high risk from **wildfire** and **flood**



Data sources: USDA Economic Research Service, County Typology Codes; USDA Forest Service, Wildfire Risk to Communities; First Street Foundation, Risk Factor

California Updates

Outdoor recreation economies most threatened by natural hazards



Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Releases Annual State Rankings Based on \$1.2 Trillion Economic Impact Report

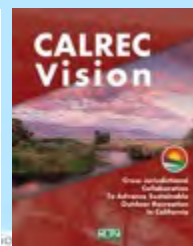
Rank	Overall GDP 2023	\$B	% State GDP 2023	%
1	California	\$81.5	Hawaii	6.3
2	Florida	\$57.8	Vermont	4.8
3	Texas	\$55.8	Montana	4.6
4	New York	\$33.9	Alaska	4.6
5	Illinois	\$24.4	Wyoming	4.1

California Updates



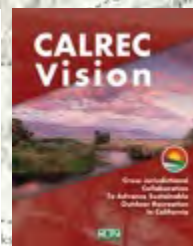
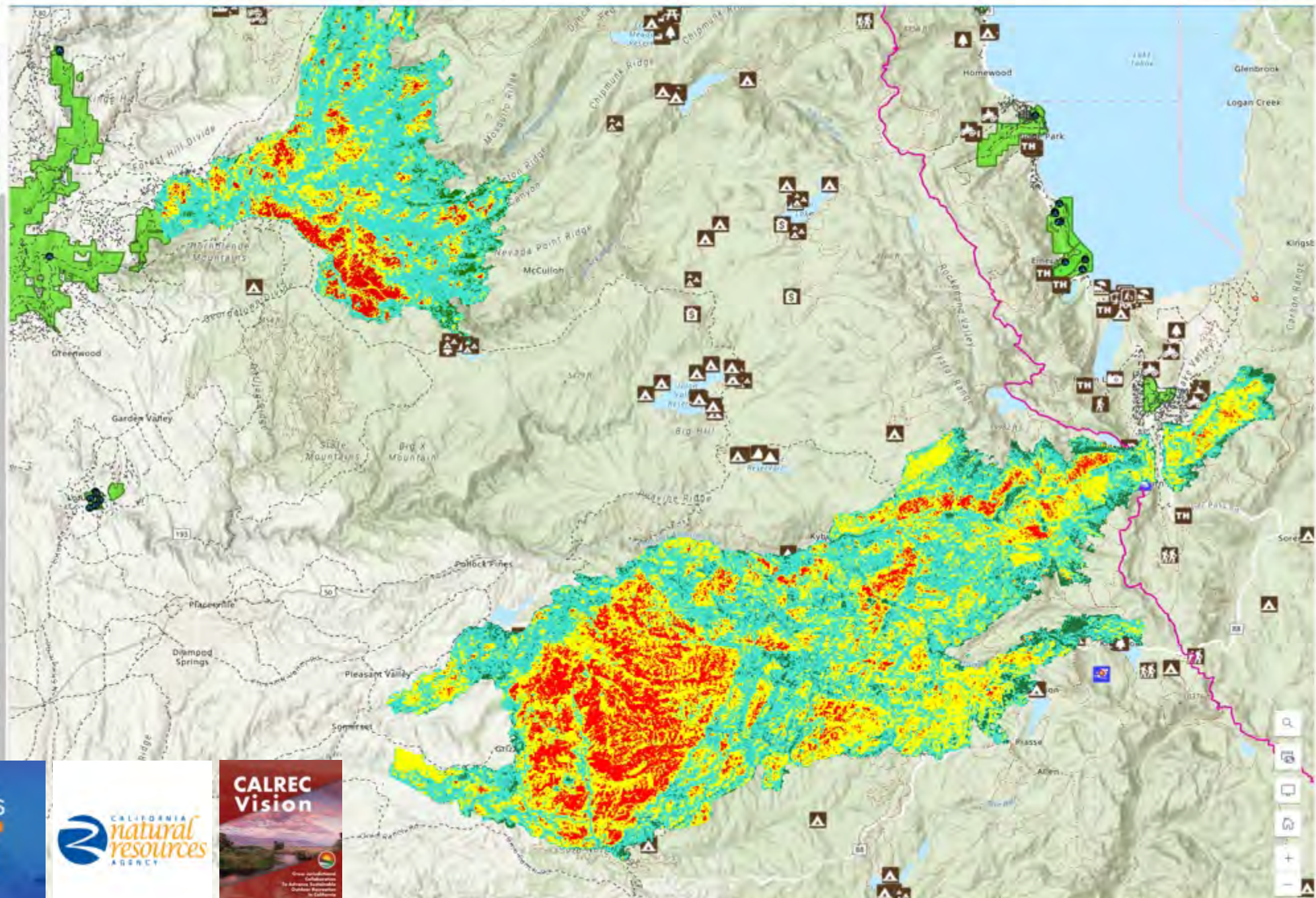
October 10, 2024

✕



Layers

- BLM Natl NLCS National Monuments
- National Conservation Areas Polygons
- Pacific Crest Trail Centerline
- California Ski Resorts
- RockClimbing_20190116_SanGabriel_we b
- RockClimbing_20190116_CentralCoast
- RockClimbing_20191030_ROT
- NW_CA_RockClimbing_20190116_AdvPr i
- WhitewaterPaddling_CentralCoast
- SequoiaSierra_WhitewaterPaddling_AW_ 20190609
- Inyo_WhitewaterPaddling_AW_20190609
- > R5_Backcountry_SkiZones
- > 025_36 California Regions
- > WUI: Wildland Urban Interface
- Incorporated Cities
- Recreation
 - USFS Recreation Opportunities California
 - > BLM Natl Recreation Sites Facilities
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PRESS RELEASE

Biden-Harris Administration Launches New Program to Support Wood Processing Facilities and Help Reduce Wildfire Threats

Funding Made Available Through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Promotes Healthy Forests, Spurs Job Growth and Strengthens the American Timber Industry

PUBLISHED: December 23, 2024

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California Updates

California Gov. Newsom plans to deliver State of the State address before Trump's inauguration

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Ashley Zavala • SACRAMENTO, Calif. —



Gov. Gavin Newsom is planning to give his State of the State speech before President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Jan. 20, making it the soonest he has ever delivered the address as governor of California.

Newsom confirmed to reporters last week that he plans to combine his annual State of the State speech with his January budget presentation, which is due by Friday, Jan. 10. Twice a year, the governor provides the budget update that includes the state's spending plan and financial condition to prepare for the upcoming fiscal year. He had signaled in early December that doing the address and the presentation together would be an effort to intentionally provide the updates before Trump takes office.

GOVERNOR ADJUSTING HIS TIMELINE



California Updates



POLITICO

Newsom's new Trump-proofing plan

By CHRISTOPHER CADELAGO | 10/21/2024 09:00 PM EDT

With help from Wes Venteicher, Camille von Kaenel, Alex Nieves and Ry Rivard

TOP OF THE DAY



Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to tap state funds to fend off a Trump administration. | Eric Thayer/AP

Trump or no Trump, California is worried

TOP OF THE DAY



California's tailpipe regulations could be at risk if they wind up before the Supreme Court. | Alex Brandon/AP

DON'T CALL IT TRUMP-PROOFING: As California officials scramble to Trump-proof their climate policies ahead of the November election, a new reality is dawning.

California Updates

California Gov. Newsom plans to deliver State of the State address before Trump's inauguration

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Ashley Zavala • SACRAMENTO, Calif. —

The most recent state budget outlook from the state Legislature's top financial analyst shows **California may face a shortfall of about \$2 billion in the upcoming year**, with larger deficits expected in the years to come.

GOVERNOR ADJUSTING HIS TIMELINE



California Updates

California Gov. Newsom plans to deliver State of the State address before Trump's inauguration

California's total expenditures for this current year are \$450.8 billion. According to the California Budget and Policy Center, **federal dollars account for a little more than a third of that** with about \$153 billion. The majority of that money, about \$116 billion, helps the state with health and human services expenses. The rest goes toward public schools, higher education, workforce development and transportation programs.

GOVERNOR ADJUSTING HIS TIMELINE



California Updates



POLITICO

President Joe Biden is betting that \$1.6 trillion in climate and infrastructure money can transform America, create green jobs, outcompete China — and maybe catapult him to a second term.



Maximize Investment into Communities

\$190 Billion in Federal Funding for California

\$48 Billion*

California Climate
Commitment
3-Year Horizon*

**\$41.9
Billion***

Infrastructure
Investment and Jobs Act
2026 Horizon*

**~\$390
Billion***

Inflation Reduction
Act
2026 Horizon*

**~\$52
Billion***

Chips & Science Act
2026 Horizon*



California Updates

ENERGY

Trump vows to pull back climate law's unspent dollars

The former president also pledged to establish a government efficiency commission floated by Tesla's Elon Musk, who he suggested could lead the commission.



Former President Donald Trump did not specify which IRA programs he would target. | Alex Brandon/AP

POLITICO

ENERGY

'No big plan B': A global anti-Trump climate resistance struggles to gain ground

Diplomats and activists from around the world are discussing ways to keep up the fight against global warming, even in the face of an absent or hostile U.S. administration.



Protesters hold up signs in front of the White House on June 1, 2017, objecting to then-President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the 2015 Paris climate agreement. | Paul J. Richards/AFP via Getty Images

California Updates



**California Jobs First: State
Launches First-of-its-Kind
Council to Create Thousands of
More Jobs Across All Regions**

California Updates



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California Jobs First: State Launches First-of-its-Kind Council to Create Thousands of More Jobs Across All Regions

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

focused on creating jobs and investment initiative to accel

SACRAMENTO – Governor Ga and operational plan focused create more jobs, faster. The workforce development to cr growth.

WHAT GOVERNOR NEWSOM

businesses than any other st new council and these invest for Californians in every com

Co-chaired by Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor to Governor Newsom and Director of the Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development, and Stewart Knox, Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development, the California Jobs First Council will bring together various state entities, including:

- **Director of the Governor's Office of Planning & Research:** promoting alignment with General Plan guidelines and land use policies
- **Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency:** representing nature-based solutions and clean energy industries
- **Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture:** representing the agriculture industry
- **Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency:** representing the circular economy
- **Secretary of the California Health & Human Services Agency:** representing the healthcare industry and promoting jobs for disabled and disadvantaged workers
- **Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs:** representing the more than 1.6 million former service members that reside in the state

California's Diverse and Dynamic Economy is Reflected in its Strategic Sectors

Strengthen



Creative Economy



Film, TV & the Arts



Manufacturing



Financial & Professional Services



Transport & Logistics



Tourism & Outdoor Recreation



Working Lands & Water



Agricultural Production



Food Processing

Accelerate



Aerospace & Defense



Aircraft



Space, Defense & Satellites



Life Sciences



Medtech



Pharma / Biotech



High-Tech



Hardware



Semiconductors & Microelectronics



Software & Services



Clean Economy



Batteries



Onshore Wind



Solar



ZEVs



Working Lands & Water



Agtech & Farm Equipment

Advanced & Precision Manufacturing¹

Bet



Clean Economy



Carbon Management



Hydrogen



Critical Minerals



Offshore Wind



High-Tech



Artificial Intelligence



Quantum



Robotics



Working Lands & Water



Bioeconomy



Blue Economy / Tech

Anchor



Education & Skilled Workforce



Housing



Infrastructure



Healthcare



Childcare



Broadband



Transportation Infrastructure



Transmission & Distribution



Water

California's Diverse and Dynamic Economy is Reflected in its Strategic Sectors

Strengthen



Creative Economy



Film, TV & the Arts



Manufacturing



Financial & Professional Services



Transport & Logistics



Tourism & Outdoor Recreation



Working Lands & Water



Agricultural Production



Food Processing

Accelerate



Aerospace & Defense



Aircraft



Space, Defense & Satellites



Life Sciences



Medtech



Pharma / Biotech



High-Tech



Hardware



Semiconductors & Microelectronics



Software & Services



Clean Economy



Batteries



Onshore Wind



Solar



ZEVs



Working Lands & Water



Agtech & Farm Equipment

Advanced & Precision Manufacturing¹

Bet



Clean Economy



Carbon Management



Hydrogen



Critical Minerals



Offshore Wind



High-Tech



Artificial Intelligence



Quantum



Robotics



Working Lands & Water



Bioeconomy



Blue Economy / Tech

Anchor



Education & Skilled Workforce



Housing



Infrastructure



Healthcare



Childcare



Broadband



Transportation Infrastructure



Transmission & Distribution



Water

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ELECTIONS

Prop. 4 passes: Californians approve \$10 billion for water, wildfire, climate projects

BY ALEJANDRO LAZO
NOVEMBER 5, 2024 UPDATED NOVEMBER 6, 2024

A photograph showing a young man in a red shirt standing next to a large stack of empty five-gallon water containers. The containers are stacked in rows, and the man is looking down at them. The background shows a white building and some trees.

A stack of empty five-gallon water containers at Shady Lane Estates in Thermal on March 23, 2023. According to some residents, there is no clean drinking water from the mobile park, so these five-gallon containers are their only option. Pablo Unzueta for CalMatters

YES
on 4





THE COLORADO SUN

NEWS EVENTS NEWSLETTERS PODCAST APP COLORADO'S BEST ABOUT US 

EXPLAINER: OUTDOORS

A second Trump presidency could create big shifts in Colorado's outdoor recreation economy

Could Trump fiddle with Biden's Camp Hale and Thompson Divide mineral withdrawal? Will a return of tariffs and visa bans hurt recreation businesses? Will the BLM return to Grand Junction?

SUMMIT DAILY Serving Summit County, CO

'Unacceptable': Colorado's federal lawmakers respond to U.S. Forest Service seasonal hiring freeze

Ryan Spencer • Oct 29, 2024



U.S. Senator Michael Bennet listens to U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Michael Woodbridge on Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2023. Bennet and other members of Colorado's congressional delegation are criticizing the Forest Service's hiring freeze and for changes.

John F. Russell/Steamboat Pilot & Today

The Colorado congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., is calling U.S. Forest Service to continue partnerships with Rocky Mountain communities amid the agency's hiring freeze on seasonal employees.

Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper as well as Colorado Representatives Joe Neguse and Brittany Pettersen penned Monday, Oct. 28, to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas

SUMMIT DAILY Serving Summit County, CO

Concerns grow in Colorado's mountain towns as U.S. Forest Service freezes hiring for swath of seasonal employees

Ryan Spencer • Oct 26, 2024



A White River National Forest sign is pictured on March 27, 2023. Local officials are growing concerned about a plan to freeze hiring of non-fire employees at the U.S. Forest Service, which support many initiatives in Summit County, a hotspot for outdoor recreation in the nation.

Liz Casper/Summit Daily News/archive

The U.S. Forest Service has issued a nationwide hiring freeze on all non-fire seasonal employees, a decision that could have ripple effects across Colorado mountain communities, where vast swathes of land are national forests.

One-fifth of Colorado is comprised of U.S. Forest Service-owned lands. In

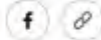
Vox

Leaked recordings detail a major environmental agency quietly gutting its workforce

Seasonal workers help keep our forests healthy. What happens when you fire them?

by Nick Bowlin

Oct 8, 2024 at 4:00 AM PDT



Temporary workers for the US Forest Service work in areas like timber, wildlife, watershed, botany, recreation, and visitor services. Facing budget woes, the agency has confirmed it has put a hiring freeze on all seasonal positions until further notice. Dave Gardner Creative/National Forest Foundation.

Nick Bowlin is a freelance journalist whose work has appeared in Harper's, ProPublica, and the Guardian, among others. He lives in Gunnison, Colorado, and is a contributing editor at High Country News magazine.

This story was published in collaboration with High Country News.

Americans visit hiking and camping areas managed by the US Forest Service more than 150 million times each year.

HighCountryNews

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U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The Forest Service is cutting its seasonal workforce and public lands will suffer

Employees warn that important work will go undone all over the country.

Nick Bowlin

October 8, 2024

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US & WORLD // CALIFORNIA

'Public is going to be so impacted': California's national forests face huge staffing cuts

By Kurtis Alexander, Reporter

Dec 2, 2024

Gift Article



Joshua Kilgore tends to mules that haul gear to his trail crew in the backcountry at the Stanislaus National Forest. Kilgore is among many U.S. Forest Service employees who aren't expected to be hired back next year.

Courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service

At the Stanislaus National Forest, the staffing cuts will hit hardest in the popular Pinecrest area. Tens of thousands of people, many from the Bay Area just 2½ hours away, descend on the woodsy community and its glistening lake to camp, boat and swim in the summer.

"It's not a park, but it almost seems like a park because of how crowded it is," said Faye Mealing, who has worked as a seasonal interpretive ranger in the area for four years but was told she won't be hired back for a fifth. "I've talked to people who have been coming to Pinecrest for 60 years. There are so many families. The kids are older. I can tell how much they've grown."



Seasonal interpretive ranger Faye Mealing provides information to visitors at Pinecrest Lake at the Stanislaus National Forest. Her job is not being funded next year because of budget problems at the U.S. Forest Service.

Courtesy of U.S. Forest Service

CALIFORNIA

A day without Mexicans in Mammoth? Locals mull how to get a message to Trump



Mammoth Lakes residents say their resort town would be devastated if the undocumented workers who provide much of the labor were swept up in mass deportations. (Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)

"I feel badly for the business owners, because they're not the ones making these awful threats and they'd be left in the lurch," Bubser said.

As state and local officials across the state grapple with the fallout of Trump's proposed deportation policies, Mammoth Lakes, in the Central Valley, where roughly half the population is believed to be undocumented.

But pricier ZIP Codes are vulnerable in a state that would suffer more than most from the loss of the undocumented workforce suddenly.



A worker moves lumber at a condominium construction site in Mammoth Lakes. (Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)

About a third of Mammoth's population is Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and more than half the students in the local public school system are from Spanish-speaking homes.

Many of the Latinos in town are citizens or green card holders, some from families who have lived here for generations. But residents guess at least half are in the country illegally. They're not hard to find.

On a recent chilly afternoon, about a half dozen men were clearing snow from a commercial office building in town. The roofing company owner asked to be identified only as Julio, because he is undocumented. He said he has been doing construction work in the U.S. since 1989, most of that time in Mammoth Lakes.

The Worst Idea Ever?: Making the Chief of the Forest Service a Political Appointee

December 9, 2024 by Sharon

E&E NEWS
By POLITICO

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E&E NEWS PM

Mike Lee aims to make forest chief a political pick

By Marc Heller | 12/06/2024 04:13 PM EST

The incoming Energy and Natural Resources chair said the Forest Service's expanding mission makes a switch to a Senate-confirmed leader overdue.



Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), incoming chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, wants lawmakers to help select who leads the Forest Service. Francis Chung/POLITICO

From E&E News:

The Worst Idea Ever?: Making the Chief of the Forest Service a Political Appointee

December 9, 2024 by Sharon



From E&E News:

In calling for a forest chief nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, Lee revisits a debate that has surfaced from time to time in the Forest Service's history.

Legislation to do so has been introduced in the past but was never enacted.

"From grazing and recreation to timber harvesting and wildfire management, the Chief of the Forest Service has an immense influence on the daily lives of Americans," Lee said in a release. "It's time for this position to be accountable to the people affected by its decisions through their elected representatives in Congress."

ENVIRONMENT

GOV & POLITICS

Environmentalists sue to block Utah's 'Stand for Our Land' challenge

The new legal challenge argues Utah's lawsuit to claim 18.5 million acres of unappropriated lands is unconstitutional

BY: ALIXEL CABRERA - DECEMBER 18, 2024 2:46 PM



Steve Bloch, legal director at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, speaks about a lawsuit against Utah's "Stand for Our Land" challenge near the Scott M. Matheson Courthouse in Salt Lake City on Dec. 18, 2024 (Alixel Cabrera/Utah News Dispatch)

Environmental advocates filed a lawsuit against Utah Gov. Spencer Cox and outgoing Attorney General Sean Reyes over what they described as "unlawful land grab litigation" that Utah leaders hope will be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Utah's lawsuit – which has been largely advertised across the state with a [million-dollar bill for legal fees and marketing](#) that has placed billboards, television and newspaper ads declaring "Stand for Our Land" – is an ambitious request to claim 18.5 million acres of "unappropriated" land controlled by the Bureau of Land Management. In its presentation, Cox said this may solve questions



Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Together, America Prospers

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA to Host Jan. 8 Webinar on Resources to Improve Rural Economies and Enhance Local Arts and Community Centers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3, 2025 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today is inviting rural leaders to join a webinar on **Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. ET**, to learn about resources to invest in local arts and community centers, which are key to enhancing economic growth and quality of life in rural areas.

To register, visit [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

To learn more, read the full [Stakeholder Announcement](#).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Federal Highway Administration LOCAL AID SUPPORT

ANNOUNCEMENT

New and Notable!

On December 19, USDOT's Build America Bureau (Bureau) released a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for the [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#), created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The NOFO offers \$27 million in technical assistance grants to rural and Tribal communities for the planning and design phase development of transportation projects. There is no local funding match required to participate in this program. The Bureau designated up to \$10 million for Tribal applicants. **The Bureau will accept applications on a first-come, first-served basis beginning March 4, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. ET.** The Bureau posted a copy of the application on the website for interested entities to review and draft responses in advance. **The application portal will close on April 3, 2025, at 4:59 p.m. ET. The Bureau will host a free webinar on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. ET. about the application process and what activities can be funded through the program. Register for the webinar [here](#).** Participation in the webinar is not mandatory to receive funding. The Bureau will post a recording of the webinar and a copy of the presentation at [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program | Build America \(transportation.gov\)](#). To provide an inclusive experience, the Bureau will arrange accommodations for requests received at RuralandtribalTA@dot.gov up to five business days prior to the webinar.

Non-USDOT Capacity Building Resources and Opportunities

With the goal of passing along outside resources specifically designed to build local capacity, especially for disadvantaged urban, rural, and tribal communities, to successfully develop transportation projects and funding applications, the USDOT Navigator Bulletin includes opportunities that have been shared with the Department. Their inclusion does not indicate USDOT endorsement.

- The **National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) Center for Heat Resilient Communities**, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-funded Center of Excellence dedicated to supporting local governments in determining the best strategies to advance heat resilience in local communities, is seeking applicants for its inaugural cohort. This first-of-its-kind opportunity brings together teams of experts and over 50 cross-sector partners to create a roadmap for equitable community heat resilience across six core areas of preparation and response. **The application window is now open, and will close on January 24, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET.** [Visit the website](#) to learn more and sign up for an upcoming Q&A session.
- The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials recently released its [“Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 5th Edition,”](#) which provides information on the planning, design, and operation of bikeways along streets, roads, and highways, as well as on off-street paths in urban, suburban, and rural settings.
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury published [“A Framework for Providing Technical Assistance and Capacity Building to State and Local Governments for the Use of Elective Pay.”](#) For many state and local governments – especially smaller or low-capacity local governments – there is a need for capacity building and technical assistance to maximize the use of elective pay in developing clean energy projects. This paper provides a framework for understanding the need for technical assistance and capacity building, a readout on what is understood about programs and initiatives already in place, and ideas and options for what should come next.

BIG WIN

ORR OUTDOOR
RECREATION
ROUNDTABLE

**FOR RURAL
RECREATION
ECONOMIES**



U.S. Congress Re-Authorizes the Economic Development Administration

December 20, 2024

SGB Update



Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is applauding the bipartisan reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The EDA, a federal agency focused on promoting economic growth and job creation in communities across the country, plays a crucial role in supporting the outdoor recreation economy. For the first time, the just-passed reauthorization bill designates recreation as a priority for EDA funding, giving it special consideration when awarding infrastructure grants through the Public Works Program. Outdoor recreation is a vital driver of the U.S. economy, contributing 2.3% of GDP and generating \$1.2 trillion in gross economic output in 2023.

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SGB Update



The EDA will help the outdoor industry thrive by funding projects that expand recreation infrastructure, improve access to public lands, and support rural communities that depend on outdoor tourism. Previously, the EDA has invested in trail development and park restoration projects that attract visitors, create jobs, and enhance local economies.



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Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Applauds Final Passage of Economic Development Reauthorization Act with New Emphasis on Outdoor Recreation



Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) applauds the House and Senate passage of the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024, which includes language reauthorizing the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the first time in two decades. This landmark legislation not only modernizes EDA's authority to strengthen local economies, but also acknowledges the significance of outdoor recreation as an economic driver for rural communities for the first time and explicitly authorizes outdoor recreation projects as an eligible use of EDA funding. This is a major achievement for rural communities and their resiliency, small businesses, job creation, economic development nationwide, and a strengthened commitment to the great outdoors.

The Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024 sets a new precedent by recognizing outdoor recreation as a cornerstone of the rural economy. It mandates prioritization in funding opportunities for infrastructure grants within the EDA's public works program to support outdoor recreation. This legislation will grow the public works program's funding for communities to invest in recreation infrastructure such as boat ramps, trails, and campgrounds. These investments are critical for the expansion of Main Street economies, ensuring a sustainable economic future and enhancing the quality of life for residents across the nation.

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Entire Outdoor Recreation Industry Celebrates the Monumental Passage of the EXPLORE Act

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JANUARY 04, 2025

Press Release: Bills Signed: H.R. 670,
H.R. 1318, H.R. 2997, H.R. 3391, H.R.
5103, H.R. 5443, H.R. 5887, H.R. 6062,
H.R. 6395, H.R. 6492, H.R. 6852, H.R.
7158, H.R. 7180, H.R. 7365, H.R. 7385,
H.R. 7417, H.R. 7507, H.R. 7508...





S. 4367, the “Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024,” which authorizes construction of Army Corps of Engineers water resources projects for flood risk management, navigation, hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, and ecosystem restoration; modifies previously authorized projects; and contains other water related provisions.

Thank you to Senators Carper, Capito, Kelly and Cramer, and Representatives Sam Graves, Rick Larsen, Napolitano and Rouzer for their leadership.



Entire Outdoor Recreation Industry Celebrates the Monumental Passage of the EXPLORE Act



**PASSES THE
SENATE!**

**PASSES THE
HOUSE!**



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Entire Outdoor Recreation Industry Celebrates the Monumental Passage of the EXPLORE Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) celebrates the U.S. Senate's historic passage of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act, a groundbreaking bipartisan achievement that cements the outdoor recreation industry as a cornerstone of America's economy and a necessity to quality of life for all Americans. The legislation passed the House in April and now advances to the President's desk to be signed into law.

THE SENATE!

*First-Ever Outdoor Recreation Package will
Supercharge the \$1.2 Trillion Outdoor Recreation
Economy and Support all Americans*

the Monumental Passage of the EXPLORE Act

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Federal Updates

SUPPORT

Letter Signed by 250 Outdoor Businesses and Organizations Calls on Senate to Pass EXPLORE Act

NewsJun 16 2024



SENATE LETTER

Broad Coalition Calls on the Senate to Make History During Great Outdoors Month® and Pass the EXPLORE Act to Expand Access to Outdoor Recreation for All

WASHINGTON – Hundreds of national and local businesses and organizations spanning the entire \$1.1 trillion outdoor recreation economy are calling on the Senate to pass the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act, this bipartisan legislation would increase access and transform outdoor recreation opportunities across the country for all activities and all Americans.

The EXPLORE Act [passed the House in April](#) by unanimous consent and is poised to stimulate local and national economies, enhance access for Americans—particularly those in underserved communities and with disabilities—to the outdoors, and modernize policies to bolster the recreation businesses that bridge people with nature and support 5 million jobs across America. The bill is similar to the America's Outdoor Recreation Act (AORA), which passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

- 1 **Breaks down** government silos to address pressing recreation challenges and opportunities
- 2 **Expands parking** at highly-visited destinations
- 3 **Unifies** and makes data collection consistent
- 4 **Allows** for selling passes and collecting fees online
- 5 **Modernizes** film and photo permitting
- 6 **Creates** more transparency in processes
- 7 **Provides** flexibility in cross-agency outings
- 8 **Updates** infrastructure
- 9 **Improves** resources for hunters and anglers
- 10 **Supports** youth and veterans
- 11 **Builds** sustainable local economies

IMBA

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

Home • Press Releases

EXPLORE Act Passes House, Moves On To Senate

Bipartisan recreation package containing the BOLT Act rolls forward in Congress



RUNNING INSIGHT

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JUNK HEADBANDS

THE BEST HEADBAND YOU WILL EVER WEAR

WATER-RESISTANT

RECHARGEABLE

WIND-UP

House Passes Bipartisan EXPLORE Act

Retail Success Stories, Community

April 16, 2024

SHARE f x in



League of American Bicyclists's Post



BIG WIN FOR THE OUTDOORS

EXPLORE ACT PASSES!

2024 VICTORIES

The EXPLORE Act promotes equity, inclusion, and expanded access to the outdoors for all Americans.



2024 VICTORIES

Thanks to your advocacy, we have ensured:

- NEW OR IMPROVED LOCAL PARKS
- IMPROVED DISABILITY ACCESS
- A JOBS PILOT PROGRAM FOR VETERANS
- FREE ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS, WATERS, AND SHORES FOR ALL-ATH GRADERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

2024 VICTORIES

THANK YOUR REPRESENTATIVES!

TOGETHER WE PASSED THE EXPLORE ACT!

SEND YOUR THANKS: se.org/ExploreWin

2024 VICTORIES

Comment as John Wentworth

BIKEPACKING



Dec 20, 2024 in Dispatch

THE EXPLORE ACT PASSES BOTH CHAMBERS OF CONGRESS!

PREVIOUS DISPATCH FROM FRI DEC 20, 2024
READER'S DIG: WATT'S ALL CITY CORILLA MONSON

BY REC CONVERSATION ASK FOR LATER

With bipartisan support, Congress has finally passed the EXPLORE Act, a key piece of legislation that will be instrumental in expanding access and securing funding to our public lands. For more information on this much-needed piece of good news, read on...

Donate

The Wilderness Society

Press Release

Bipartisan EXPLORE Act Passes Both Chambers of Congress

December 19, 2024 | By Keri Gilliland



AMC

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

Menu

The EXPLORE Act Passed in Congress! Here's What You Need to Know.

Thank Your Lawmakers for Passing the EXPLORE Act



Please use the form below to thank your lawmakers for passing the EXPLORE Act.

This bipartisan package of outdoor recreation legislation will protect, improve, and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities on America's public lands and waters.

Sending a thank you note to your lawmakers after they pass a bill is incredibly important. It signals that you are watching their votes and will influence how willing they are to pass recreation and conservation legislation in the future.

REI CO-OP

Cooperative Action Network



18,050 people took action

VICTORY: The EXPLORE Act

We're supporting better stewardship of our public lands and improved outdoor recreation in America, for everyone.

Federal Updates

Increased Access

- Prioritizing better access to public lands and waters for diverse recreational activities, creating more opportunities for outdoor experiences.

Technology Modernization

- Enhancing visitor experiences through increased broadband availability, digital recreation passes, and improved data collection systems.

Streamlined Permitting

- Reducing permitting fees and simplifying processes for small businesses like guides and outfitters who rely on public land access.

Infrastructure Investments

- Funding restoration and modernization projects for campgrounds, trails, and other recreational facilities on public lands.

Federal Updates

Long-Distance Trails

- Promoting the creation of new long-distance biking trails through the "Biking on Long-Distance Trails (BOLT) Act"

Inclusivity

- Emphasizing accessibility for people with disabilities, veterans, and youth by creating more inclusive outdoor spaces and programs

Gateway Community Support

- Addressing housing shortages and infrastructure challenges in communities surrounding public lands to foster sustainable economic development

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP)

- Codifying the ORLP program to provide grant funding for developing parks and trails in underserved communities

Federal Updates

Rock Climbing Protection

- Safeguarding rock climbing access in iconic wilderness areas

Management Improvements

- Providing land managers with new tools to manage recreation on public lands sustainably.

Federal Updates

Key points about the EXPLORE Act

- Focuses on improving public land access and infrastructure for a wide range of outdoor recreation activities
- Aims to enhance visitor experiences through technology upgrades and streamlined processes
- Prioritizes inclusivity by improving accessibility for people with disabilities and underrepresented communities
- Includes provisions to support local communities impacted by outdoor recreation

The screenshot shows the CONGRESS.GOV website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CONGRESS.GOV logo, a 'Sign In' button, and links for 'Advanced Searches' and 'Browse'. Below this is a search bar with 'EXPLORE' entered and a 'MORE OPTIONS' dropdown. A secondary navigation bar includes links for 'Citation', 'Subscribe', 'Share/Save', and 'Site Feedback'. The main content area displays 'H.R. 6492 - EXPLORE Act' for the 118th Congress (2023-2024). A red 'BILL' button and a 'Hide Overview' link are present. The bill details include: Sponsor: Rep. Westerman, Bruce [R-AR-4] (Introduced 11/29/2023); Committees: House - Natural Resources; Agriculture; Veterans' Affairs; Committee Meetings: 01/17/24 10:15AM, 11/30/23 10:00AM; Committee Reports: H. Rept. 118-441; Latest Action: 12/27/2024 Presented to President. (All Actions); and a Tracker showing the bill's progress: Introduced, Passed House, Passed Senate, and To President.

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H.R. 6492 - EXPLORE Act
118th Congress (2023-2024)

BILL Hide Overview

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Committee Reports: [H. Rept. 118-441](#)

Latest Action: 12/27/2024 Presented to President. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: [i](#)

Introduced > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President

More on This Bill

[Constitutional Authority and Single Subject Statements](#)

[CBO Cost Estimates \[0\]](#)

By Jordan W. Smith, Ph.D. | January 2, 2025



BEYOND THE TRAIL: The Science, Policy, and Business of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

The EXPLORE Act: A Turning Point for Outdoor Recreation on Public Lands

Jordan W. Smith
Professor and Director



Email: jordan.smith@usu.edu



JANUARY 04, 2025

Press Release: Bills Signed: H.R. 670, H.R. 1318, H.R. 2997, H.R. 3391, H.R. 5103, H.R. 5443, H.R. 5887, H.R. 6062, H.R. 6395, H.R. 6492, H.R. 6852, H.R. 7158, H.R. 7180, H.R. 7365, H.R. 7385, H.R. 7417, H.R. 7507, H.R. 7508...





H.R. 6492, the “Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act” or the “EXPLORE Act,” which improves recreation opportunities on, and facilitates greater access to, Federal public lands;

Thank you to Representatives Westerman, Grijalva, Curtis, Neguse, Lamborn, Barragán, Moylan, Peltola, Carl, Susie Lee, Radewagen, Porter, Wittman, Sablan, Kiggans, Dingell, Collins, Leger Fernandez, Levin and Case, and Senators Manchin and Barrasso for their leadership.



Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Projects



Updates from Sierra Jobs First

Kaela Frank, Project Navigator

Industry Sector: Sustainable
Recreation and Tourism



- Catalyst RFP Closed- Nearly 50 Projects Submitted!
- Next Steps and Important Dates for Catalyst Funding
- Recap: Year-end Governing Council Meeting December 17

Catalyst RFP Closed- Nearly 50 Projects Submitted!

The Catalyst RFP submission period, which opened October 15 and closed December 15, was a resounding success, with several projects coming in just under the wire to bring the total project submissions to 47. The enthusiastic response means we expect to fully deploy the available funding to the many worthwhile projects that applied in the first round.

To further break down the 47 projects and give you a sense of the broad reach and impact of the Sierra Jobs First initiative, the projects included:

- 20 westside-focused projects
- 15 eastside-focused projects
- 12 regional projects
- 13 projects had tribal participation or a tribal letter of support

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Projects

Applications addressed the following target industries as their primary:

- 15 Sustainable Rec & Tourism
- 6 Sustainable Ag & Food Systems
- 6 Natural & Working Lands
- 5 Clean Energy & Energy Resilience
- 4 Community Healthcare

*11 focused solely on Foundational Elements (all 6 represented)

Projects addressed the following foundational elements as their primary:

- 17 Workforce Development and Education
- 13 Small Business & Entrepreneurship
- 15 Physical Infrastructure
- 6 Land Use & Tenure
- 6 Social & Civic Infrastructure
- 4 Housing & Placemaking

*Some applications addressed multiple Foundational Elements

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Projects

Applications addressed the following target industries as their primary:

- 15 Sustainable Rec & Tourism
- 6 Sustainable Ag & Food Systems
- 6 Natural & Working Lands
- 5 Clean Energy & Energy Resilience
- 4 Community Healthcare

Between all the projects, just over \$22 million was requested, meaning the Project Identification subcommittee and Governing Council will have their work cut out for them in Q1 of 2025 to determine the best way to allocate the \$9M in available funding to best serve the Sierra region.

- 17 Workforce Development and Education
- 13 Small Business & Entrepreneurship
- 15 Physical Infrastructure
- 6 Land Use & Tenure
- 6 Social & Civic Infrastructure
- 4 Housing & Placemaking

*Some applications addressed multiple Foundational Elements

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Projects

Next Steps and Important Dates for Catalyst Funding

With 47 project applicants having submitted RFPs for Catalyst funding, the assessment and voting process has changed slightly to enable efficiency in the assessment process. Notably, the public Pitch Session originally slated for February has been canceled. Project applicants will be contacted as needed if the Governing Council requests more details.

- **January 9:** On or before January 9, the Sierra Jobs First team will notify projects whether they are moving on to be voted on by the Governing Council. (Industry Sector Coordinators will work with projects that do not fit the Sierra Jobs First or Catalyst funding criteria to identify more suitable funding opportunities)
- **February 12:** Governing Council Onboarding meeting to review Catalyst priorities and criteria, voting process, best practices, and materials
- **February 13 - March 14:** Governing Council to receive all applications for review and pre-vote by virtual ballot
- **March 21:** Governing Council meeting (virtual, open to the public) to discuss and finalize vote
- **March 25-26:** Award announcements
- **April - May:** Contract process

Please note, these dates are subject to change. Any changes will be reflected on the [calendar page](#) of the Sierra Jobs First website and/or emailed to project applicants and the Collaborative.

NOTE

January 9 notifications
have been bumped to
January 10 in respect to
the passing of President
Jimmy Carter.

Partner Updates – In Alphabetical Order

- Town of Mammoth Lakes
- National Park Service
- Mono County
- Inyo National Forest, USFS
- Inyo County
- HT National Forest, USFS
- ESCOG
- City of Bishop
- CALTRANS
- Alpine County

Next Meeting - First Monday of the Month @ 3:30



Thank You - !

Next Regular ESSRP Partner Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2025 @ 3:30