



Winter (?)



REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



March 2, 2026





REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



March 2, 2026



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.”

What is the ESSRP

Alpine

SIERRA WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS

CALIFORNIA
JOBS FIRST
Sierra Region

SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA
A DIVISION OF THE

MLTPA
MANMOTH LAKES TRAIL & PUBLIC ACCESS



Sierra Jobs First

Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

- Role of the ESSRP
 - Ongoing Information Sharing
 - SJF Recreation and Tourism Working Group Updates
 - **Through August 3, 2026**

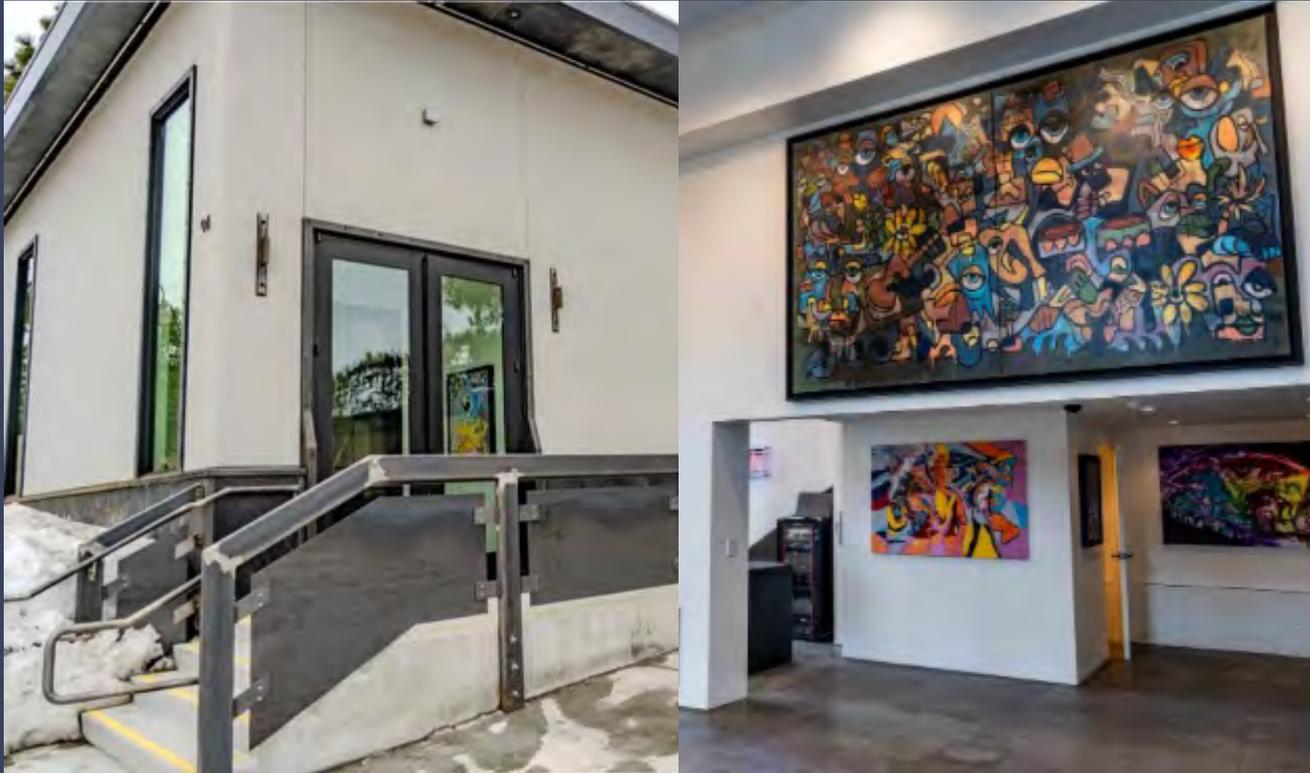
Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells





War in Iran

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Wind Drift Studios

Chris Benchetler & Kimmy Fasani
Benchetler

- *“Wind Drift Studios exists to elevate others – community members, artists, athletes, and those with collective interest – by offering a space where creativity & conversation can thrive.”*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



**CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR
RECREATION PARTNERSHIP**



California Outdoor Recreation
Partnership (CORP)

- Lexie Gritfeld - *Director*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

HIPCAMP



HIPCAMP

- Cassandra Prenn-Vasilakis
- *Government and Community Relations*

Hot Links March 2, 2026

- 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
 - Sierra Works
 - Sierra Works: Discover
- Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells
 - Welcome
 - Winter Olympics
 - War in Iran
 - Wind Drift Studios – Chris Benchetler & Kimmy Fasani Benchetler
 - California Outdoor Recreation Partnership (CORP) - Lexie Gritfeld, Director
 - Hipcamp - Cassandra Prenn-Vasilakis
- The Weather
 - The Christmas Miracle

The Weather

Happenings of Interest

San Francisco Chronicle e-Edition Account

Trending: Tommy Lee Jones | Bay Area homicides | Growing breweries | Total SF | Saks to sell S.F. property | California 'billionaire tax'

WEATHER

'A Christmas miracle': Tahoe, Mammoth ski resorts revel in snow dumps after dry early season

By Megan Cassidy, Lucy Hodgman, Staff Writer
Updated Dec 31, 2025 9:13 a.m.



The Town of Truckee that morning after a winter storm in 1983. The Tahoe and Truckee regions were impacted with 10-12" of snow that resulted in significant snowfall in the area.
William Hall Photo for NBC & A. Erickson

UPDATE: Tahoe digs out from snowstorm as Bay Area dries out from days of deluge

A winter storm system that clobbered the Bay Area with triple-digit wind speeds, landslides and power outages this week received a welcome reception in some of the state's most popular ski enclaves, with one resort describing the massive snowfall there as a "Christmas miracle."

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NEWS | BAY AREA & STATE

California snowpack jumps more than 600% in just 12 days

By Gillian Mohney, News Editor
Updated Dec 31, 2025 1:35 p.m.



The California Department of Water Resources measured the state's snowpack on Dec. 30, 2025.
California Department of Water Resources

San Francisco Chronicle e-Edition Account

BAY AREA

Flood risk and avalanche danger remain as California emerges from Christmas storms that battered the state

By Jessica Torres, Lucy Hodgman, Staff Writer
Updated Dec 31, 2025 3:11 p.m.



A sinkhole developed along California highway 9 in Wrightwood (San Bernardino County) on Wednesday.
By Associated Press & AP Wirephoto

The Christmas week storms that slammed into California buried Tahoe in snow and a Southern California town in mud while knocking down trees, flooding roads and cutting power in many communities, but the Bay Area emerged Friday in fairly good shape — having dodged disaster but still watching for trouble.

More showers hit the Bay Area on Friday and were expected to linger into Saturday morning, though the most severe weather had subsided, meteorologists said.

Happenings of Interest

Instagram

Log In



happylustig · Follow
Mammoth Lakes, California



happylustig 5d
Leaves changing and storms rolling by in the Eastern Sierra. Sure doesn't look like this now after all that snow!

[#mammothlakes](#) [#visitmammoth](#) [#fallcolor](#)
[#fallleaves](#) [#easternsierra](#)



travel.nirvana_ 5d
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Like Reply

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5 days ago



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Happenings of Interest



Weather Risk Outlook: When Should I Freakout?

Weather Forecast Office
Reno, NV
Monday, December 22

	Monday, Dec 22	Tuesday, Dec 23	Wednesday, Dec 24	Thursday, Dec 25 🎄🎁	Friday, Dec 26	Saturday, Dec 27	Sunday, Dec 28
Greater Reno Area, Quad Counties	Rain, gusty winds, creek rises.	Breezy.	Rain, foothill snow, gusty winds, creek rises, localized flooding	On/off rain, changing to snow late day or evening, possibly in valleys	Snow ending early, travel impacts likely	Looking dry, chilly →	
Tahoe Region	Rain, high elevation snow, strong winds, creek rises.	Lingering showers, gusty winds.	Rain to snow transition, travel impacts, flooding possible, breezy	Continued snow, travel disruptions.	Snow ending early, travel disruptions likely persist	Lingering snow showers, colder	Looking dry
E Lassen, Surprise Valley, N Washoe	Showers, gusty winds, creek rises.	Breezy.	Rain showers, gusty winds	Rain showers, changing to snow	Snow showers early	Looking dry, chilly →	
Lassen W of US-395, Plumas Co	Rain, gusty winds, flooding possible.	Breezy.	Rain, foothill snow, breezy. Flooding possible.	Snow, travel disruptions likely	Snow ending early, travel impacts likely	Looking dry, chilly →	
Mono Co, E Sierra	Gusty winds, light showers high elevations	Lingering showers, gusty winds.	Heavy snow, strong winds, travel impacts	Additional snow, travel disruptions	Snow ending mid-day, travel disruptions likely	Lingering snow showers, colder	Looking dry
Pershing, Churchill, Mineral Co	Light showers	Breezy, localized travel impacts	Light rain, breezy →		A few residual showers	Looking dry, chilly →	

What Does This Mean?

Color integrates impact potential and forecaster confidence levels.

No worries



Minor freakoutness



Moderate freakoutness



Major freakoutness



Extreme freakoutness



Week 2: 12/29 - 1/4

Initially quiet, but potential for wind/snow/rain returns after New Years

Happenings of Interest

Mammoth

Thu 1	30 °F			10:1	 4-8"	7,600	100%	0.61"
	23 °F			13:1	 0-1"	6,200	45%	0.03"
Fri 2	34 °F			--	 0"	7,500	0%	0.00"
	26 °F			11:1	 0-1"	6,700	50%	0.03"
Sat 3	28 °F			11:1	 7-11"	7,000	100%	0.84"
	23 °F			13:1	 4-8"	6,300	100%	0.47"
Sun 4	25 °F			12:1	 8-12"	5,800	100%	0.88"
	19 °F			14:1	 8-12"	5,000	100%	0.72"
Mon 5	23 °F			14:1	 3-5"	5,200	50%	0.29"
	17 °F			16:1	 2-4"	4,800	35%	0.18"



Mammoth | January 1, 2026

Mammoth 5-Day Snow Forecast = 36-62 inches

Mammoth 5-Day Snow Report = 50 inches

5-Day Snow Forecast Accuracy: 100%



Happenings of Interest

Sections

Los Angeles Times



CALIFORNIA

Avalanches killed two ski patrollers at Mammoth in a year. What's going wrong?



Mammoth Mountain ski patrol members Claire Murphy, left, and Cole Murphy (no relation) both died while doing avalanche mitigation on the mountain. (Courtesy of Lisa Apa; Tracy Murphy)

Happenings of Interest

Home / Earth / Earth Sciences
Home / Earth / Environment

JANUARY 26, 2025

Rain, not snow: Extraordinary warmth leaves mountains less snowy across the West

by Ian James

edited by Sadie Harley, reviewed by Andrew Zinin

The GIST

Add as preferred source



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

At UC Berkeley's Central Sierra Snow Laboratory, located at 6,894 feet above sea level near Donner Pass, researchers collect detailed measurements of the snowpack each day. There is still some snow on the ground to measure, but less than they usually see in late January.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Rain, not snow: Extraordinary warmth leaves mountains less snowy across the West



Scientists Iram Bano, left, and Maggie Woodworth measure snow depth in Soda Springs, Calif., on Jan. 15. (Eric Thayer / Los Angeles Times)



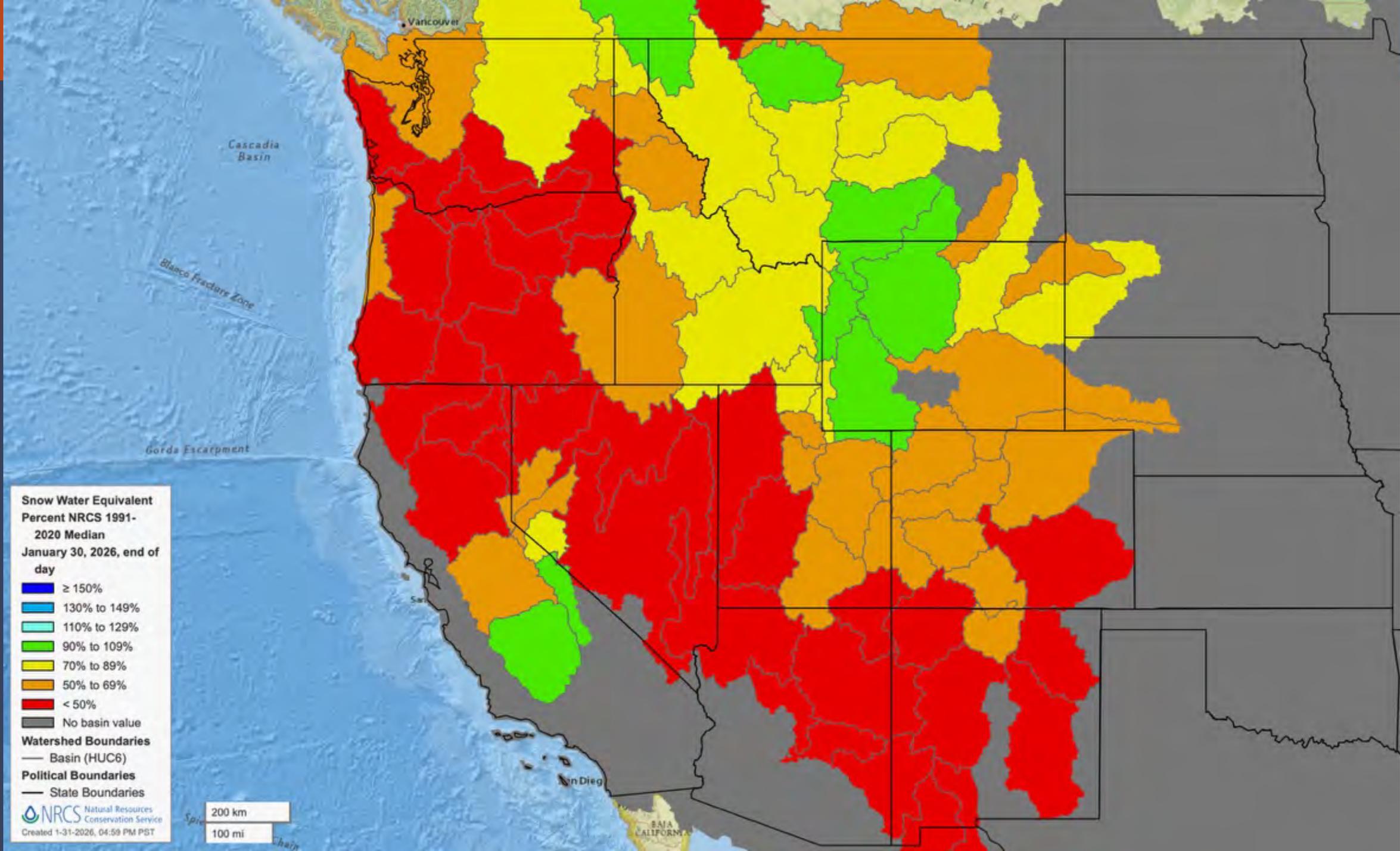
By Ian James
Staff Writer | Follow

**Snow Water Equivalent
Percent NRCS 1991-
2020 Median
January 30, 2026, end of
day**

- ≥ 150%
- 130% to 149%
- 110% to 129%
- 90% to 109%
- 70% to 89%
- 50% to 69%
- < 50%

- No basin value
- Watershed Boundaries
 - Basin (HUC6)
- Political Boundaries
 - State Boundaries

200 km
100 mi



Happenings of Interest



Weather Risk Outlook: When Should I Freakout?

Weather Forecast Office
Reno, NV
Monday, February 2

	Monday, Feb 2	Tuesday, Feb 3	Wednesday, Feb 4	Thursday, Feb 5	Friday, Feb 6	Saturday, Feb 7	Sunday, Feb 8
Greater Reno Area, Quad Counties	Mild & dry. Valley inversions. →						5-10% chance of showers.
Tahoe Region	Mild & dry. Valley inversions. →						15-20% chance of rain/snow.
E Lassen, Surprise Valley, N Washoe	Mild & dry. Valley inversions. →						15-25% chance of rain/snow.
Lassen W of US-395, Plumas Co	Mild & dry. Valley inversions. →						20-30% chance of rain/snow.
Mono Co, E Sierra	Mild & dry. Valley inversions. →						5-10% chance of showers.
Pershing, Churchill, Mineral Co	Mild & dry. Valley inversions. →						

What Does This Mean?

Color integrates impact potential and forecaster confidence levels.

No Worries



Minor Freakoutness



Moderate Freakoutness



Major Freakoutness



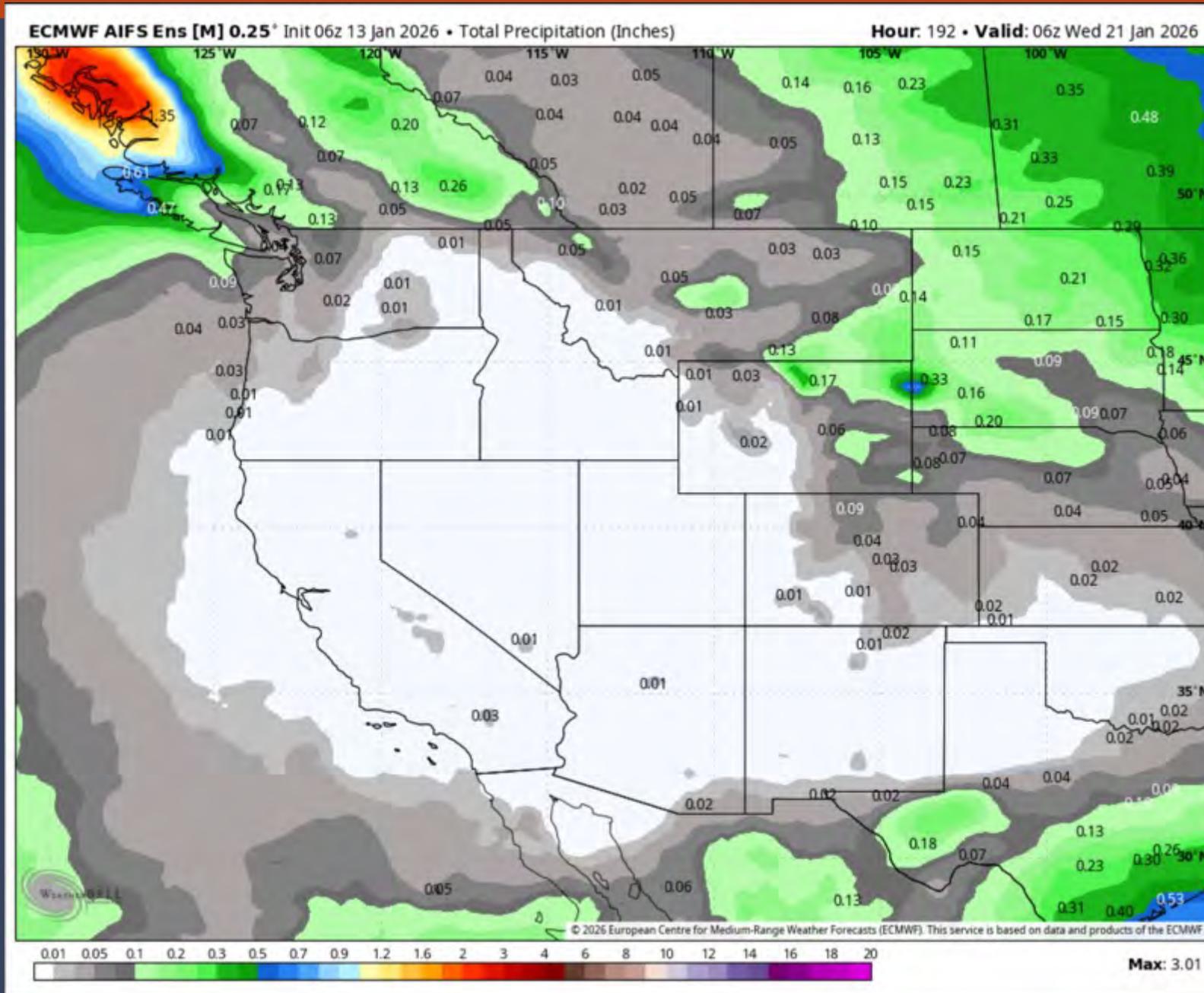
Extreme Freakoutness



Week 2: 2/9 - 2/15

Leaning above average for temperatures and precipitation.

Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest



Weather Risk Outlook: When Should I Freakout?

Weather Forecast Office
Reno, NV
Friday, February 13

	Friday, Feb 13	Saturday, Feb 14	Sunday, Feb 15	Monday, Feb 16	Tuesday, Feb 17	Wednesday, Feb 18	Thursday, Feb 19
Greater Reno Area, Quad Counties	Dry with light winds	Dry with afternoon breezes	Breezy with very light rain/snow showers late PM	Increasing snow/rain chances, gusty winds	Valley snow possible →		Lingering showers
Tahoe Region	Dry with light winds	Dry with afternoon breezes	Snow showers, breezy/gusty ridges	Increased heavy snow risk, gusty-strong winds →			Lingering showers
E Lassen, Surprise Valley, N Washoe	Dry with light winds	Dry with afternoon breezes	Breezy with rain/snow showers late	Increasing snow/rain chances, gusty winds	Valley snow possible →		Lingering showers
Lassen W of US-395, Plumas Co	Dry with light winds	Dry with afternoon breezes	Snow showers, increasing winds	Increased heavy snow risk, gusty-strong winds →			Lingering showers
Mono Co, E Sierra	Dry with light winds	Dry with afternoon breezes	Snow showers, increasing winds	Increased heavy snow risk, gusty-strong winds →			Lingering showers
Pershing, Churchill, Mineral Co	Dry with light winds	Dry with afternoon breezes	Increasing PM breezes	Increasing snow/rain chances, gusty winds →			Lingering showers

What Does This Mean?

Color integrates impact potential and forecaster confidence levels.

No Worries



Minor Freakoutness



Moderate Freakoutness



Major Freakoutness



Extreme Freakoutness



Week 2: 2/20 - 2/26

Cooler & wetter than average; slight risk for NE CA/Sierra heavy snow 2/20-26

Happenings of Interest

Mammoth

Mon 16	24 °F			13:1		9-13"	4,900	100%	0.89"
	10 °F			15:1		10-14"	3,000	100%	0.80"
Tue 17	15 °F			14:1		9-13"	2,600	100%	0.89"
	6 °F			14:1		20-26"	1,900	100%	1.62"
Wed 18	8 °F			18:1		1-3"	1,200	60%	0.14"
	6 °F			18:1		0-1"	1,100	15%	0.04"
Thu 19	16 °F			18:1		4-8"	2,700	60%	0.32"
	9 °F			19:1		3-5"	2,100	50%	0.19"
Fri 20	20 °F			17:1		0-1"	3,200	10%	0.01"
	16 °F			17:1		0-1"	3,200	5%	0.01"



Mammoth | February 15, 2026

Mammoth 5-Day Snow Forecast = 56-82 inches

Mammoth 5-Day Snow Report = 76 inches

5-Day Snow Forecast Accuracy: 100%



UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab

@UCB_CSSL

2/20/26 8:35 am Update:

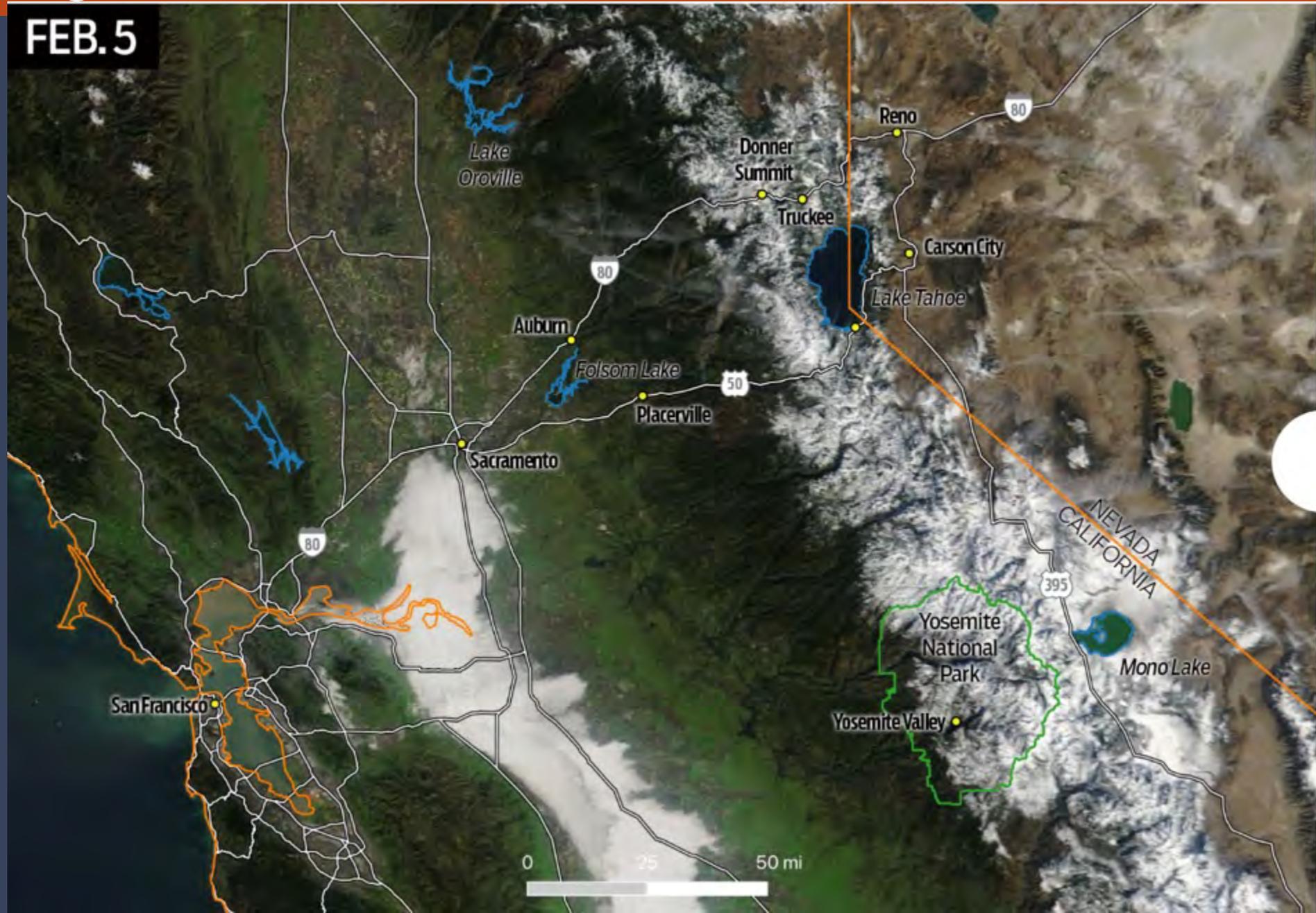
#snow has stopped but not before giving us 18.5" (47 cm) in the last day. That brings our 5-day total to 111" (281.5 cm), third snowiest 5-day period on record at the lab*.

Calm conditions for the next several days but a warmer storm moves in mid-week.

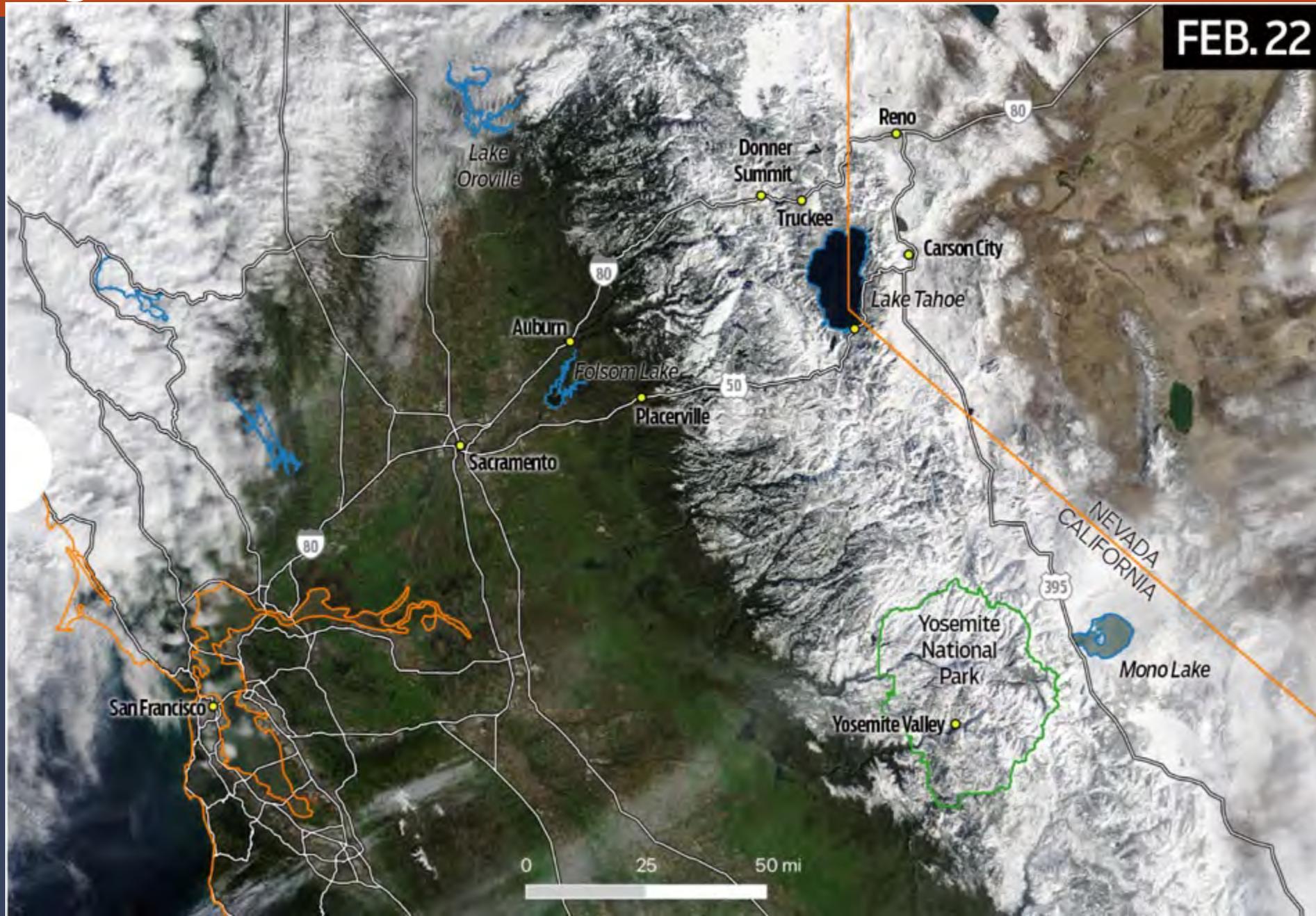


Happenings of Interest

FEB. 5



Happenings of Interest



The New York Times

Sierra Nevada Avalanche Killed a Group of 6 Moms Who Bonded Over the Outdoors

Families and friends of the women, many from the Bay Area, confirmed their identities. The women went on regular trips to the Tahoe region and were experienced skiers, the families said.



The trail to Castle Peak in the Lake Tahoe region on Wednesday. Max Whittaker for The New York Times

Happenings of Interest

The New York Times

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The trail to Castle Peak in the Lake Tahoe region on Wednesday. Max Whittaker for The New York Times

SFGATE
TRAVEL | TAHOE

CA MINI CROSSWORD

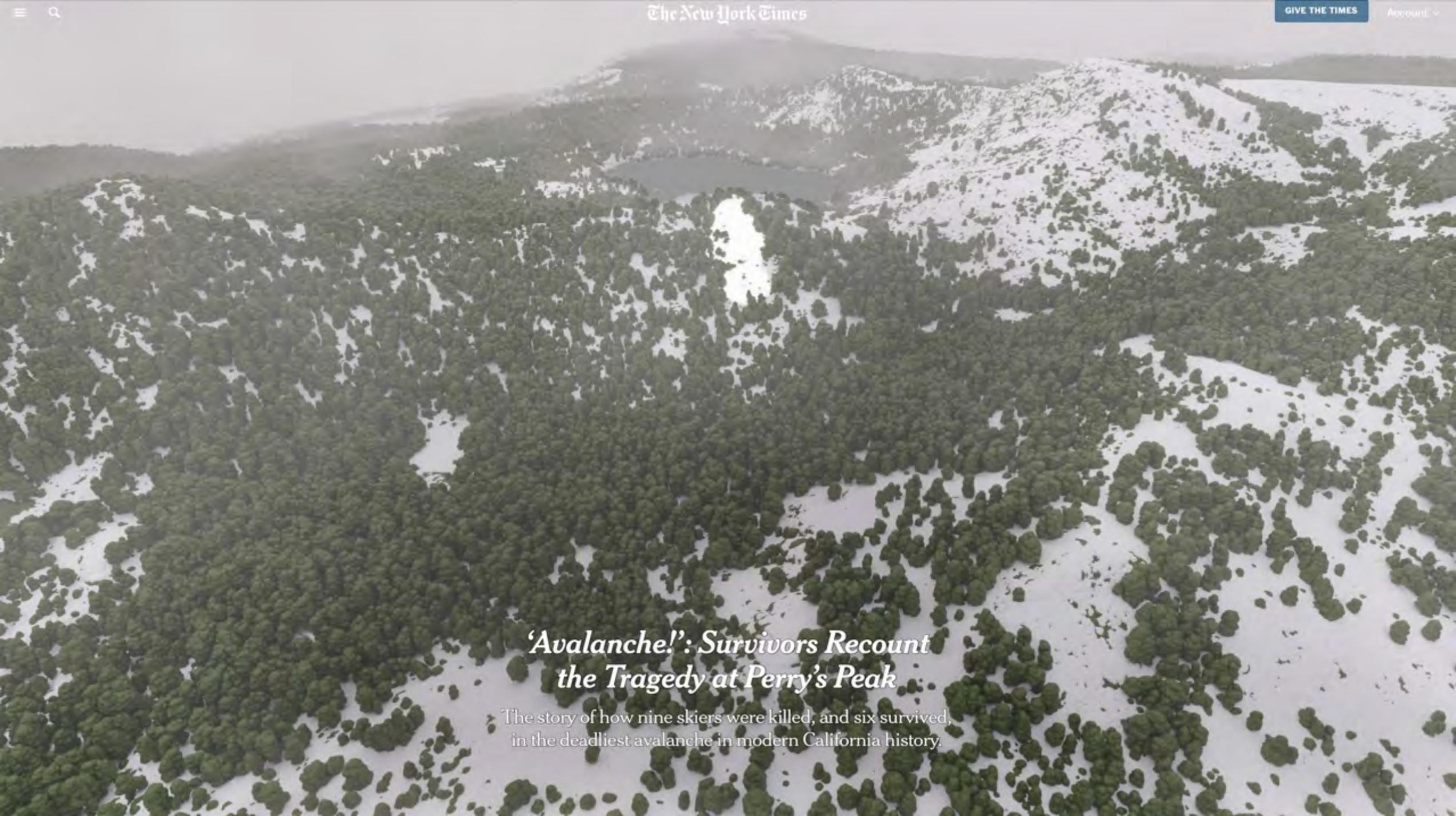
Account

Anger, grief and questions surround the worst avalanche in California history

Why did they venture out in the storm? And how did so many people die?



FILE: The sun rises behind Frog Lake, near Castle Peak, in California. On Tuesday, a deadly avalanche struck on a north-facing slope near Perry Peak above Frog Lake, and just east of Castle Peak in the Central Sierra Nevada. Ryan Salmi/For SFGATE



'Avalanche!': Survivors Recount the Tragedy at Perry's Peak

The story of how nine skiers were killed, and six survived,
in the deadliest avalanche in modern California history.

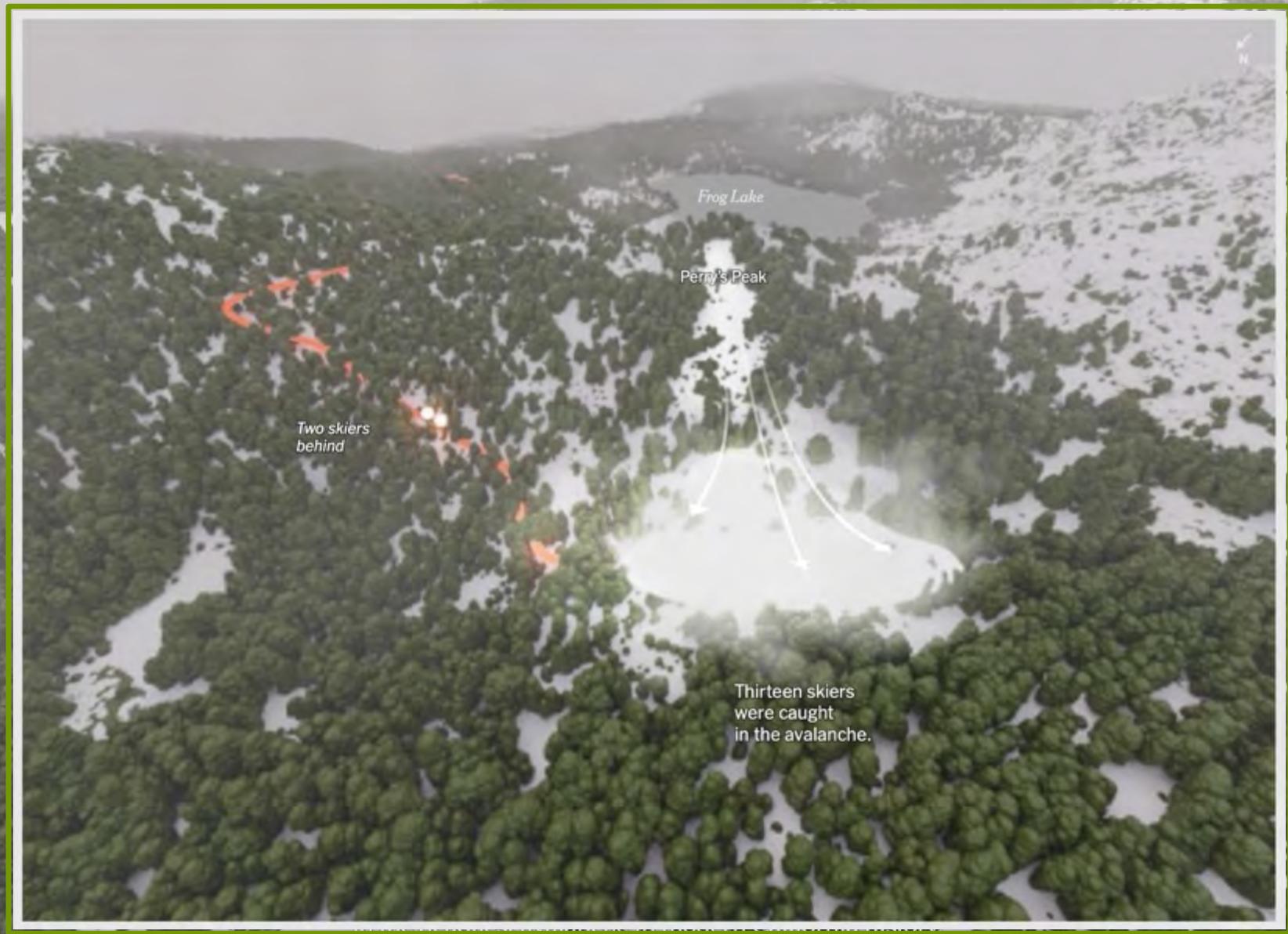


Jim Hamilton: Max Whitaker for The New York Times

Ashton Azuaga: Lauren Segal for The New York Times

'Avalanche!': Survivors Recount the Tragedy at Perry's Peak

The story of how nine skiers were killed, and six survived,
in the deadliest avalanche in modern California history.



Frog Lake

Perry's Peak

Two skiers behind

Thirteen skiers were caught in the avalanche.

Happenings of Interest

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

NEWS SPORTS POLITICS RESTAURANTS OPINION GAMES OBITUARIES FINANCE CLASSIFIEDS CAREERS GUIDES

CAPITOL ALERT

As backcountry skiing grew, Blackbird Guides grew with it. Then came deadly Sierra avalanche

By Andrew Graham

Updated February 28, 2026 10:18 AM  Gift Article



Castle Peak, seen from a rest stop on Interstate 80 near Truckee, on Monday, Feb. 23, 2026.
HANNAH RUHDFF hruhdf@sacbee.com

 Listen to this article

For decades, skiing in the backcountry – far from chairlifts, parking lots and the apres-ski bar scene – was the domain of only the most dedicated, or the most anti-corporate, adherents of the sport.

Los Angeles Times

Focus mode

CALIFORNIA

A fatal avalanche put a spotlight on the risks of backcountry skiing. Here's why people will keep going



Veteran guide Howie Schwartz leads a tour into the popular backcountry near the Mill City site in Mammoth Lakes, Calif. (Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)

Last winter, while guiding at a remote, fly-in backcountry lodge in Canada, Miller said he and his clients were surrounded by avalanche terrain in all directions. Instead of risking it, they spent a stormy day skiing a relatively gentle slope, between some trees, right next to the lodge.

POWDER

SKIERS

Nerds Are Ruining Backcountry Skiing

A sport pioneered by eccentrics on crappy tele gear and drugs is being taken over by nerds and people marketing to nerds.

FEB 10, 2026 12:48 PM EST

BY THE JADED LOCAL

Nerds! Self-Righteousness! Paleolithic Murder!

Taking backcountry skiing seriously is seriously dumb. I always figured that it was so purposeless, so goofy and impractical that it couldn't become nerded out and upright. I was so, so wrong.

In 1991, high in the Alps on the Austria/Italy border, German tourists found a body melting out of a glacier, assuming it was a mountaineer. Which was true, but the mountaineer had actually died more than 5000 years ago, almost perfectly preserved by the ice. The body, nicknamed "Otzi", was well-equipped for mountain travel with specialized gear, and also had been involved in (and killed by) some kind of interpersonal conflict, as evidenced by the arrow lodged in his back. We'll return to him later.

Nerds! I see you. You want to turn the purest and oldest form of skiing into road biking, rock climbing, content creation and influencing. We had one last game we could play just for fun, and now you're trying to define it, police it, score it, hack it—for ego, profit, or because you just don't know how to loosen the hell up.

Happenings of Interest

the sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra
TO THE 10TH POWER



Kate Gray, the 19-year-old Olympian from Crowley Lake returned home from Italy this week after placing 10th in the women's half pipe ski finals. She said competing in the Olympics was a surreal experience. "You have to enjoy the moment," Gray said. "Like, you made it. Look at the rings at bottom of the half-pipe and just think 'wow, that's crazy.'"



californiapost and capostsports

californiapost 3w
A skier died attempting an expert run from the top of 11,000-foot Mammoth Mountain as horrified witnesses helplessly looked on.

The unidentified thrill-seeker was killed while skiing a run called Dropout 2, a notorious trail that drops about 1,200 vertical feet and is one of the steepest in California. Read more at the link in bio.

@PeakRankings / YouTube

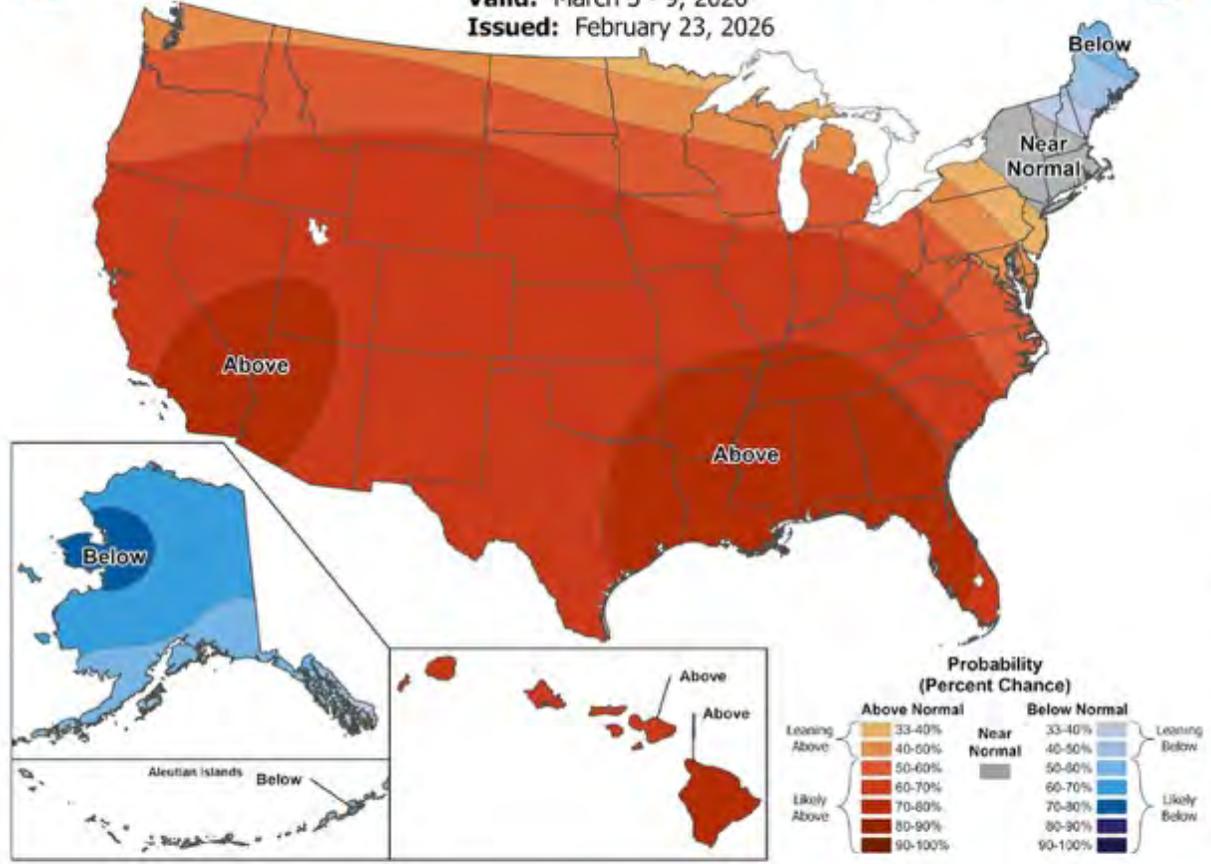
smgriffin1962 2w
🙏🙏🙏
1 like Reply

_gsf29 2w
🙏

4.3K 115
February 7

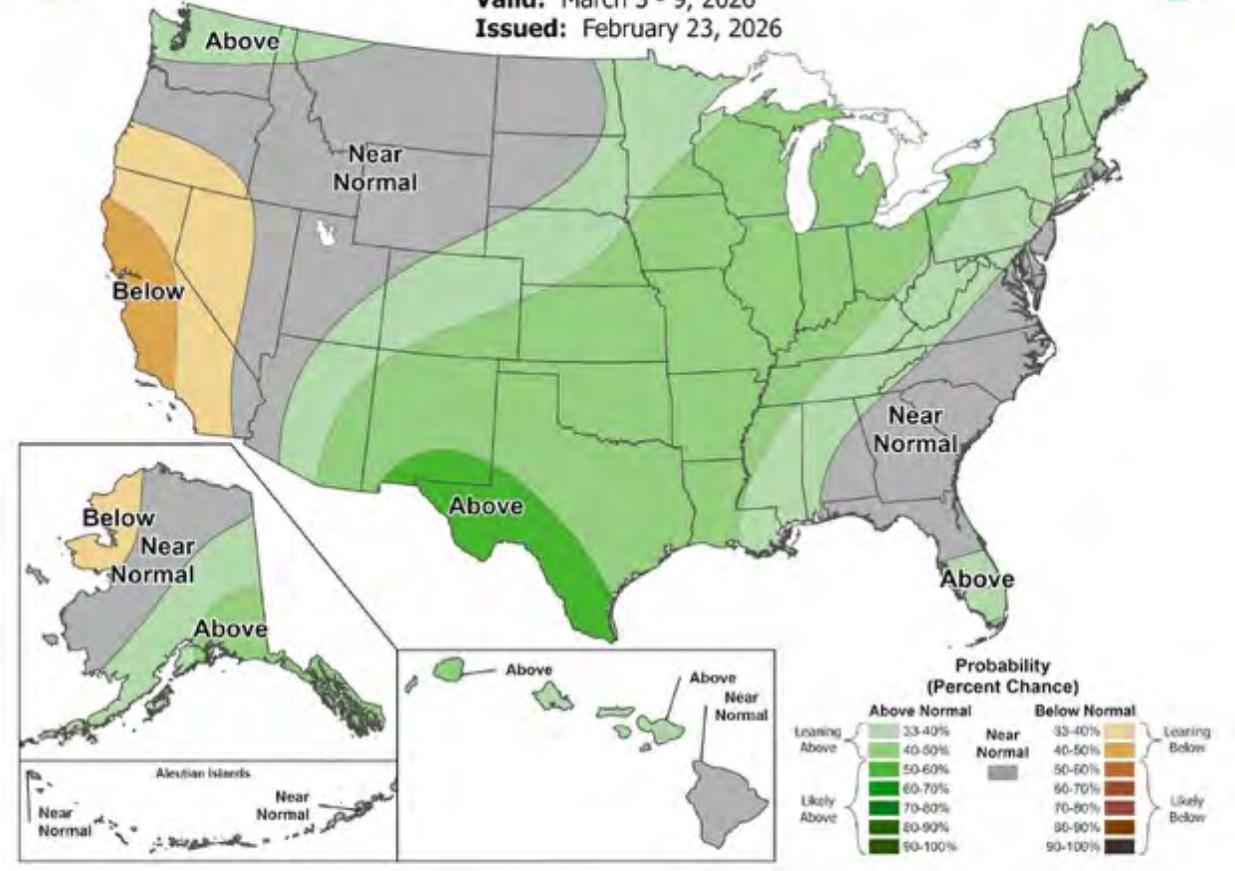
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: March 3 - 9, 2026
Issued: February 23, 2026



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: March 3 - 9, 2026
Issued: February 23, 2026



Above normal temperatures (60-70% chance) and below normal precipitation (33-40% chance) for early March.



Tuesday-Wednesday Storm: Rain on Snow Impacts

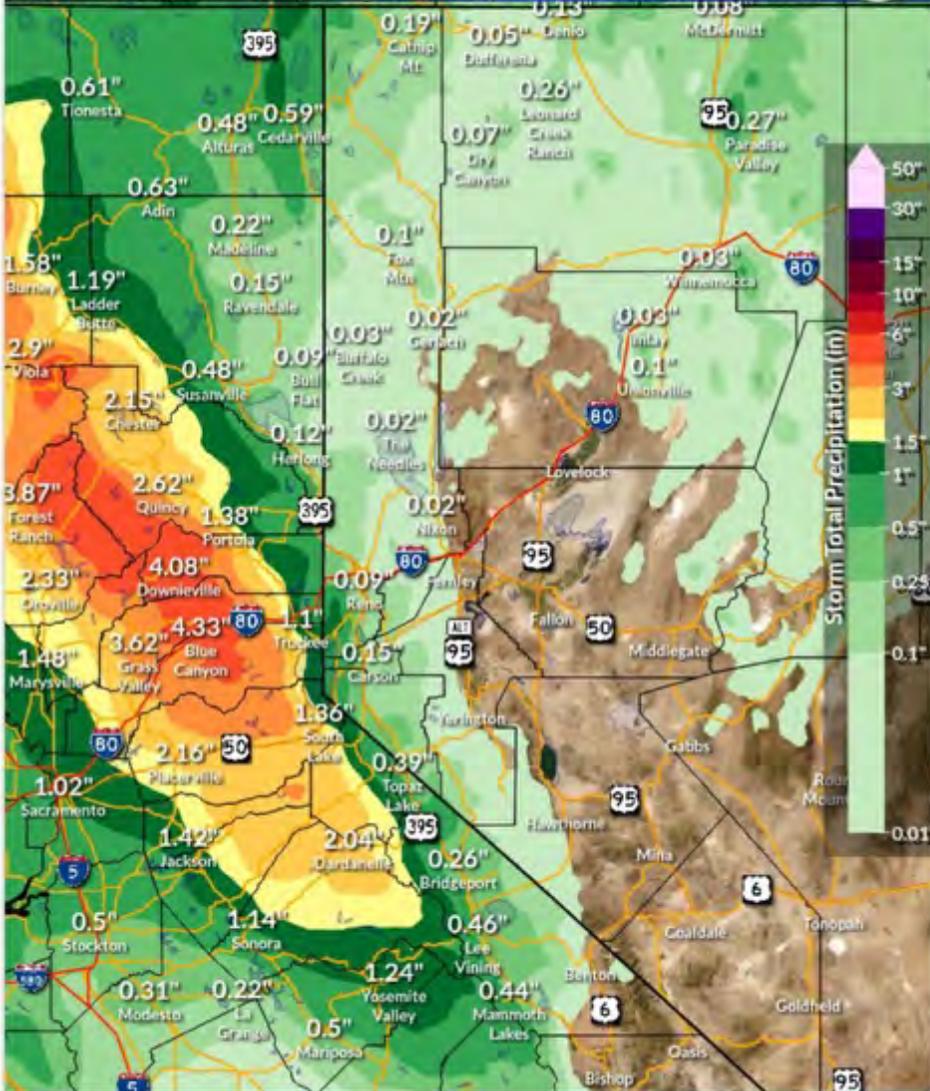
Weather Forecast Office
Reno, NV
Tuesday, February 24

"Best Guess" Forecast

Weather Forecast Office
Reno, NV



Storm Total Precipitation: Today through Wednesday PM Issued Feb 24, 2026 6:30 AM PST



@NWSReno

weather.gov/reno

Storm Timing

Through Wed afternoon
(peak intensity today).

High Snow Levels

~9000-10,000+ ft. Snow
impacts limited to the
highest peaks.

Flooding Concerns

Any snow blocked
drainages may result in
ponding of water. Flooding
risks are possible along
streams and rivers,
particularly the Susan
River and the W.Fork
Carson River.

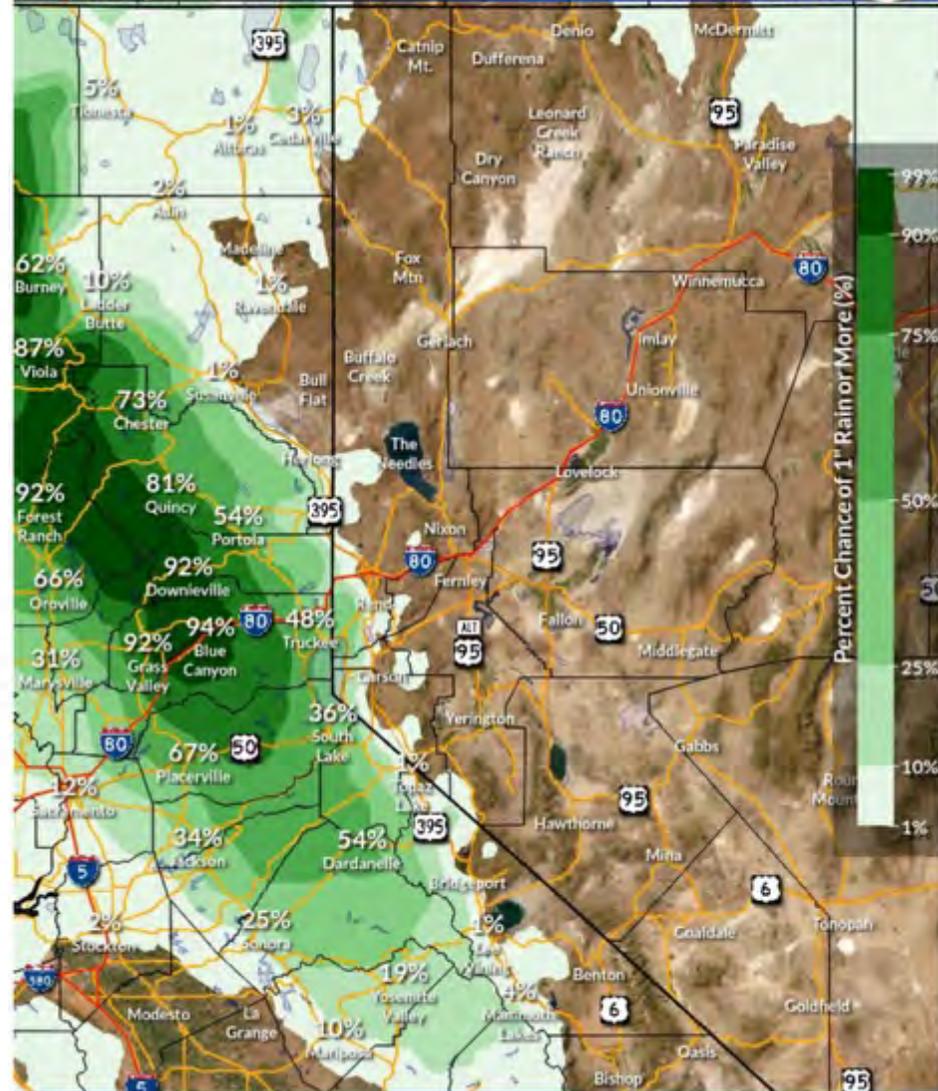
Percent Chance of 1" Liquid or More

Weather Forecast Office
Reno, NV



Today Through Wednesday Afternoon

Issued Feb 24, 2026 7:38 AM PST



@NWSReno

weather.gov/reno

Three Feet in Ten Days*

** not scientific!*

February 18 - 61 Inches*

**48 inches + 13 inches*



February 28 - 25 Inches



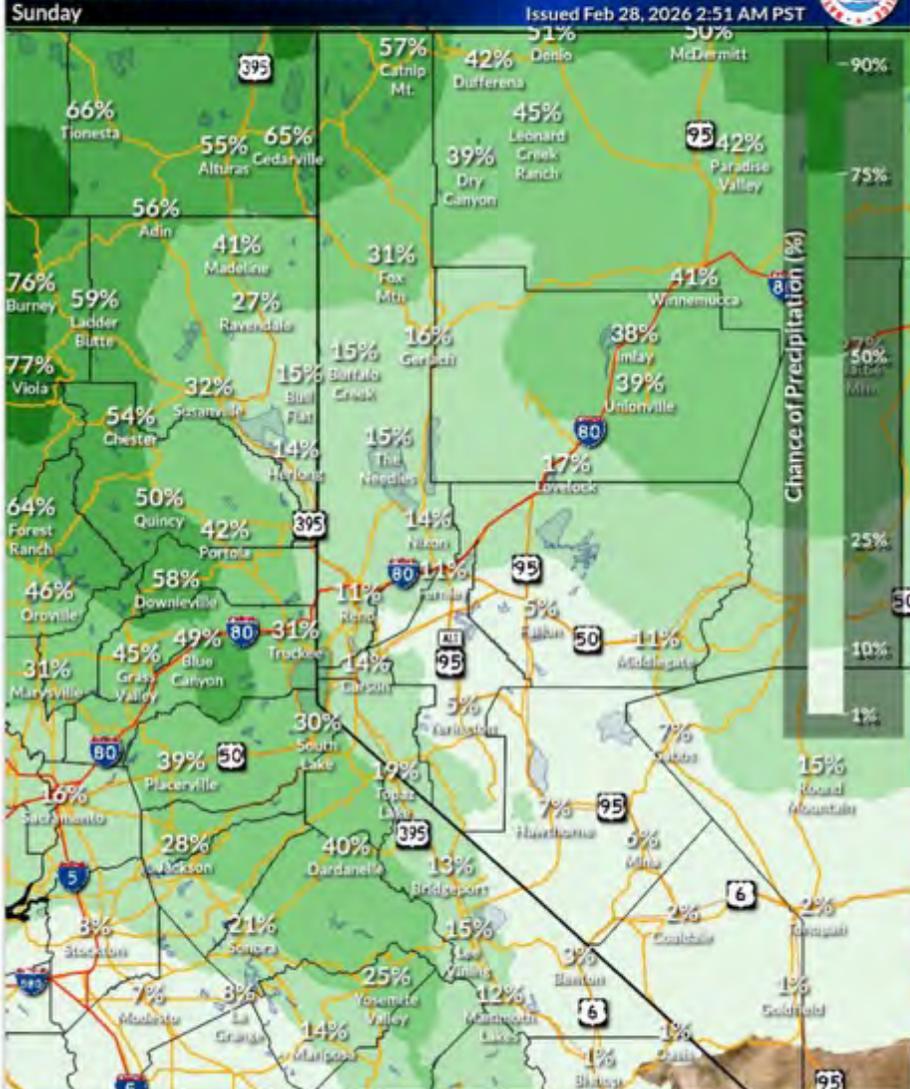


Spring-Like Weather Continues Next Week

Weather Forecast Office
Reno, NV
Saturday, February 28

Precipitation Chances

Weather Forecast Office
Reno, NV

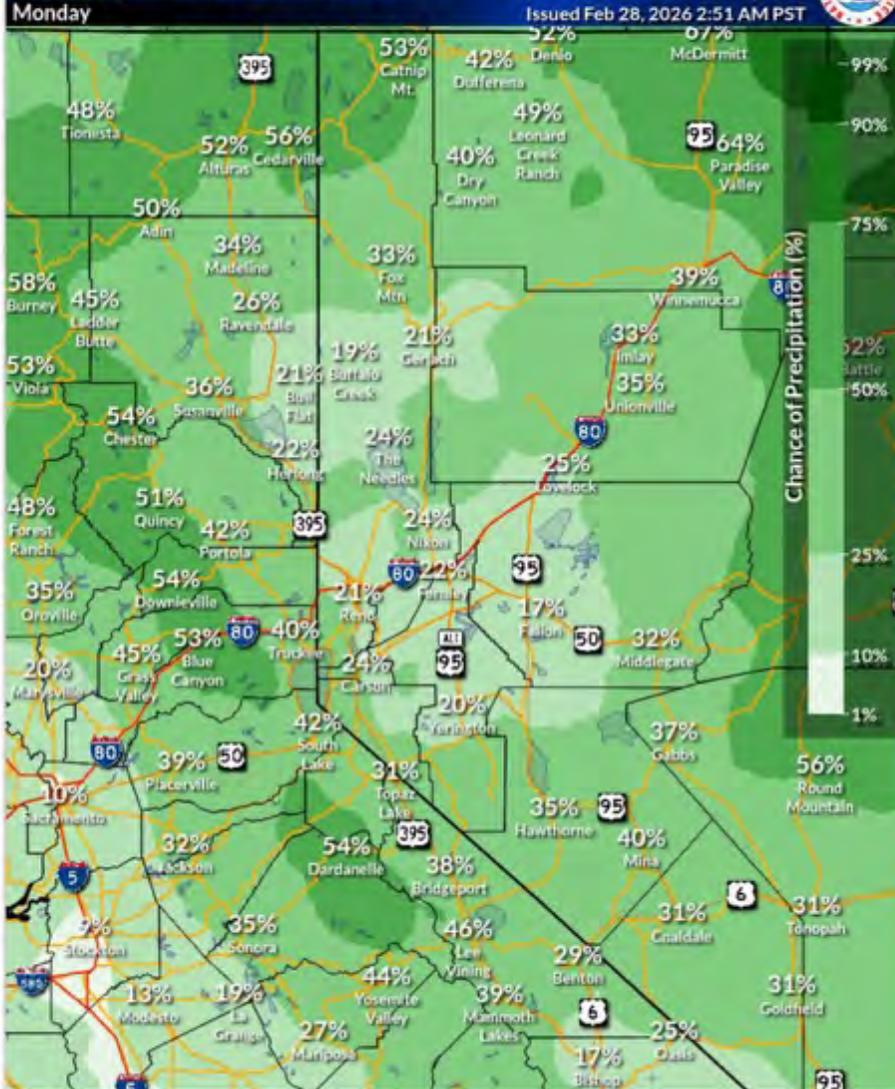


@NWSReno

weather.gov/reno

Precipitation Chances

Weather Forecast Office
Reno, NV



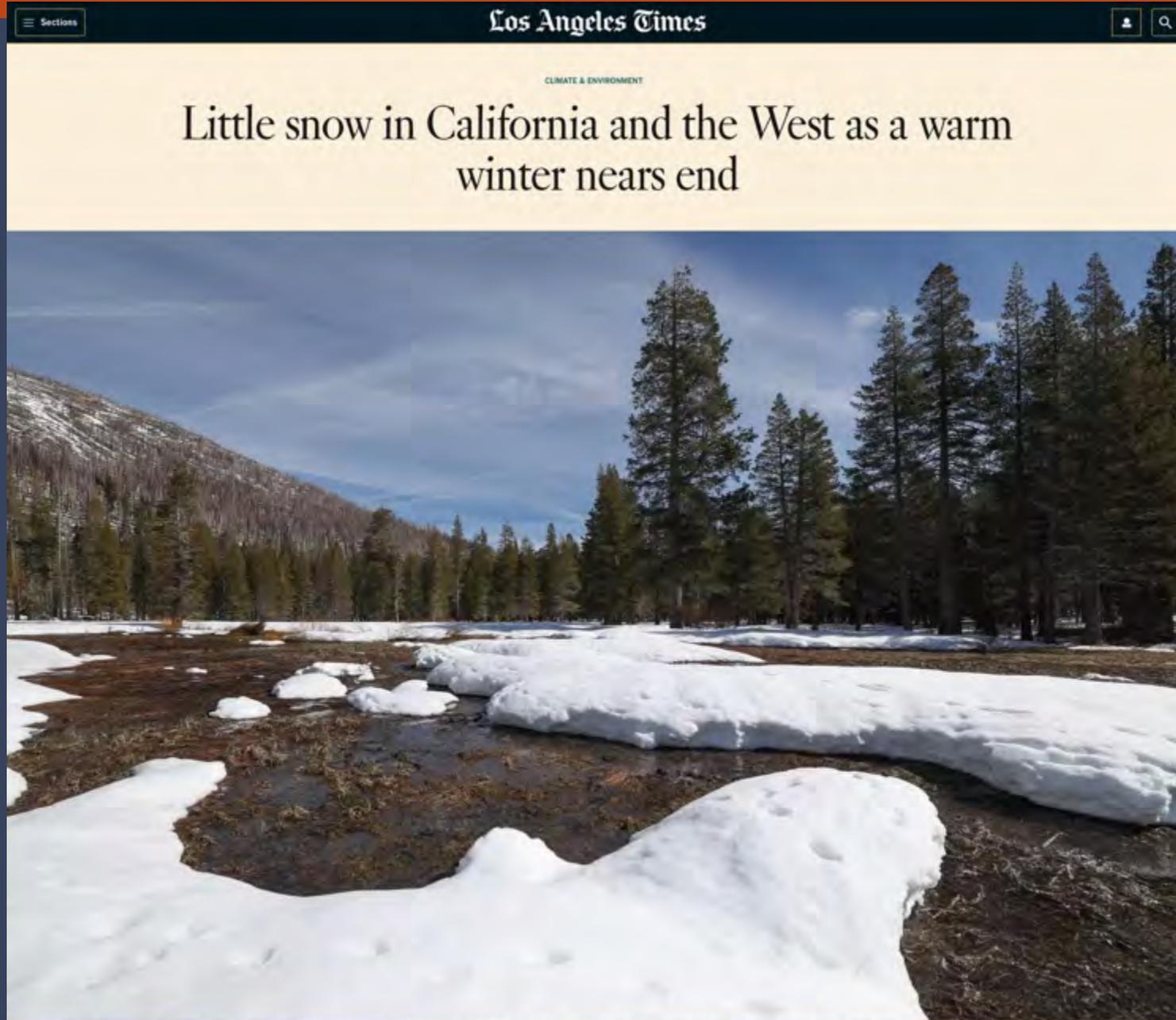
@NWSReno

weather.gov/reno

A secondary weather system moves in Sunday into Monday with additional chances of showers both days.

Isolated T-Storm chances return again on Monday afternoon for the Sierra and NE CA, less likely on Sunday.

Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest

Popular Latest Newsletters *The Atlantic* Saved Stories My Account

CLIMATE

The West's Winter Has Been a Slow-Moving Catastrophe

Without snow in the mountains, the places that depend on the West's rivers will hurt for water.

By Rebecca Boyle



R.T. Nease / The New York Times

FEBRUARY 14, 2026

SHARE AS GIFT DISCUSS SAVE

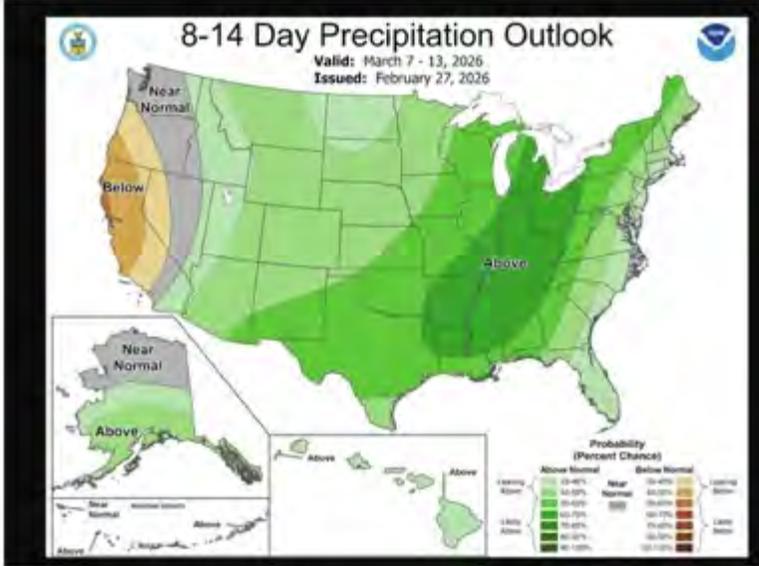
San Francisco Chronicle e-Edition Account

WEATHER // WEATHER FORECASTS

California's rainy season is running out of time. Will storms return?

By Greg Porter, Senior Meteorologist
Feb 28, 2026

GR Article f X T



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook
Valid: March 7 - 13, 2026
Issued: February 27, 2026

March will probably be wet in every part of the country except California.

San Francisco Chronicle e-Edition Account

CLIMATE

California cities and farms brace for water cutbacks as snow falls short

By Keith Alexander, Staff Writer
Feb 28, 2026

GR Article f X T



Snow covers the peaks of Inyo National Forest on Sunday, as seen in Truckee. This month's snowstorms weren't enough to bridge California's snow deficit. (Michael Luo/USA Chronicle)

Happenings of Interest

TCO

GET \$5K FOR UPGRADES GET \$5K FOR HVAC SAVE \$15K ON SOLAR AUTO TECH MARKETPLACE NEWSLETTER HOME

OUTDOORS

Ski resort CEO issues warning amid unprecedented trend in US region: 'We can never let [this] happen again'

"We experienced one of the worst ... in the Western U.S. in over 30 years."

By Zachary Elmann / February 6, 2026



Western ski resorts are going through one of the worst seasons in decades. Historic snow drought, labor disputes, and declining international visits are all threatening mountain communities and regional water supplies.

What's happening?

According to a recent piece in The New York Times, Colorado and Utah are facing catastrophic snowpack deficits as February kicked off. Colorado recorded its lowest statewide snowpack ever, at 57% of typical levels. Utah reached just 62%, approaching the worst performance since measurements began over 100 years ago.

HighCountryNews

Donate



WATER

Snowmaking could be the future of skiing. But at what cost?

As the climate changes, ski resorts have begun relying more on energy and water-intensive machine-made snow.

Susan Shain February 24, 2026

Print Email Save Article More

GREENWIRE

Heavy snow in northern Japan blocks roads, causes deaths

Fifteen prefectures have been affected, with snow reaching up to 6.5 feet in worst-hit areas.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



GREENWIRE | TOKYO — Heavy snow piling up in northern Japan in the last two weeks has blocked roads and is being blamed for dozens of deaths nationwide.

As of Wednesday, 15 prefectures have been affected, with snow reaching up to 6.5 feet in worst-hit areas. The unusually heavy snowfall is largely due to a cold air mass from the Arctic that has lingered over the Japanese archipelago. More than 1,700 homes were without electricity, and most train lines weren't running, including the bullet trains, according to Aomori prefecture.

"We anticipate some roads might get blocked off, and so we are consulting with services that can help with ambulances and fire trucks to get through to their destinations," Aomori Gov. Soichiro Miyashita told reporters Wednesday.

Emergency vehicles that weren't able to get to their destinations had parked nearby, and medical staff had gone on foot with stretchers to rescue people in need, he said.

Environment

We're about to turn night into day. Is that a good idea?

The Washington Post



We're about to turn night into day. Is that a good idea?

The Washington Post

"Two little-noted applications under review by the Federal Communications Commission would, if fully implemented, fundamentally remake the night sky. But the FCC, the satellite regulator, appears to have fast-tracked approval without much of a pause to weigh the benefits of these proposals against the harms they could cause to life on the planet."

We're about to turn night into day. Is that a good idea?

The Washington Post

"A start-up called Reflect Orbital proposes to use large, mirrored satellites to redirect sunlight to Earth at night, with plans to bathe solar farms, industrial sites and even entire cities in light that could, if desired, reach the intensity of daylight. At the same time, Elon Musk's SpaceX wants to launch as many as a million satellites to serve as orbiting data centers — 70 times the number of satellites now in orbit."

Environment

We're about to turn night into day. Is that a good idea?

The Washington Post

"We could have a million points of light streaking across our skies at night."

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

**SIERRA
WORKS**

AMADOR | ALPINE | CALAVERAS | INYO | MÓNO | MARIPOSA | TUOLUMNE

RICA

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION
AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION

**CALIFORNIA
JOBS FIRST**
Sierra Region

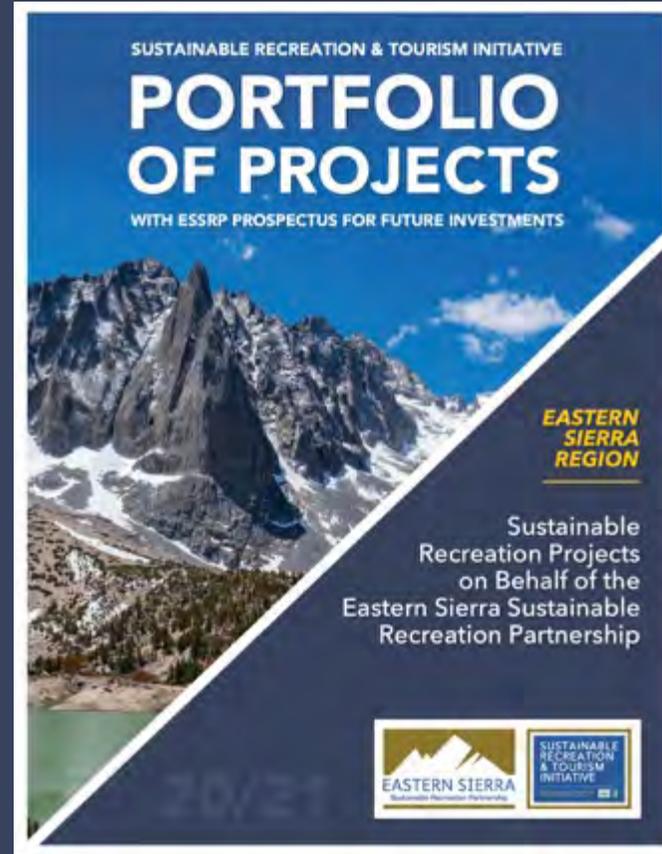
SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA

MLTPA
WAMMOTH-LASSO TRAILS - PUBLIC ACCESS

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



SIERRA WORKS

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND TOURISM IN THE CA JOBS FIRST SIERRA REGION

AMADOR | ALPINE | CALAVERAS | INYO | MONO | MARIPOSA | TUOLUMNE

FINAL REMINDER!

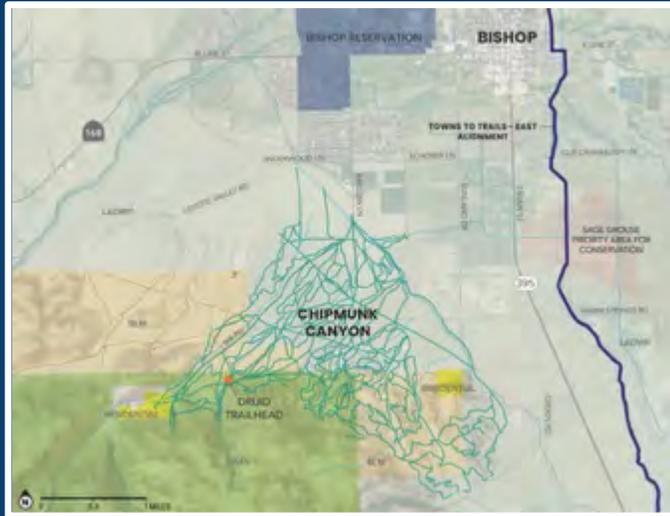
WORKING GROUP

POLICY BARRIERS

FEBRUARY 23RD, 3:30 PM

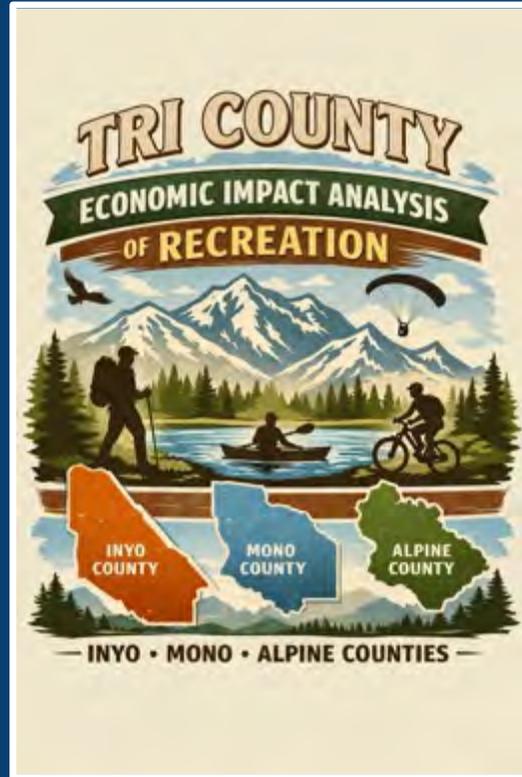
TAKE THE PRE-MEETING SURVEY!

Project presentations & Interviews



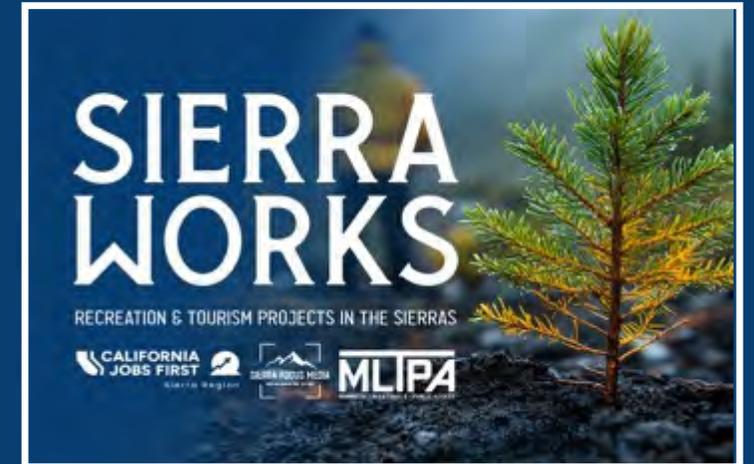
Chipmunk Canyon Trails Existing Conditions Analysis

Elaine Kabala; ESCOG



Tri-County Economic Impact Analysis of Recreation in Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties

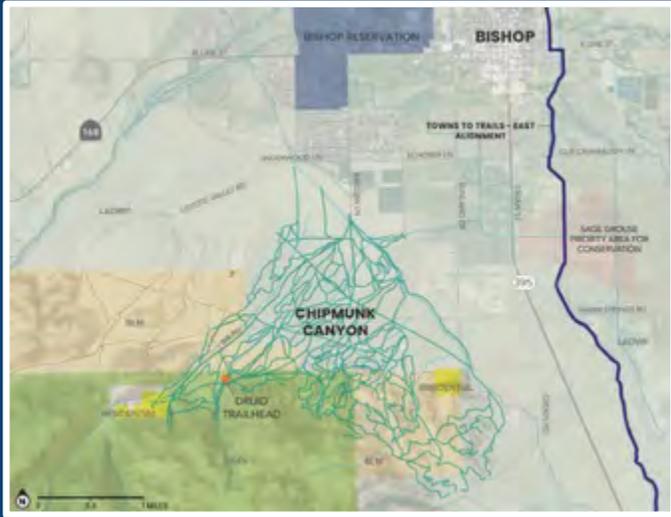
JT Chevallier; Alpine County



Andie Stewart; MLTPA



CHIPMUNK CANYON TRAILS EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS



Elaine Kabala
ESCOG

Project Description:

- This project will lay the groundwork to ensure Chipmunk Canyon is a well-managed, ecologically responsible trail system that reflects the needs of nearby communities. With input from local residents, Tribes, and public land agencies, the plan will identify where and how recreation can happen responsibly.

Partners:

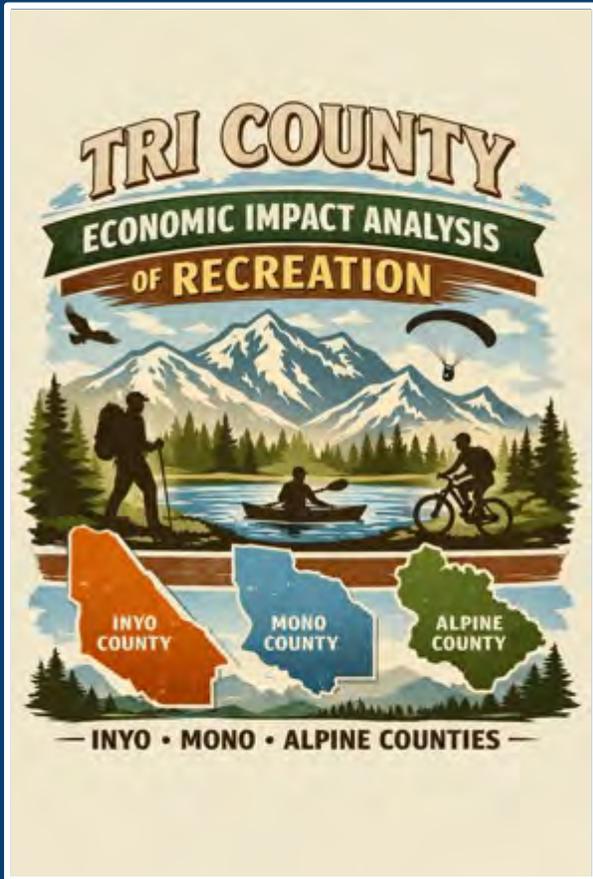
- USFS
- BLM
- Tribal Partners
- Inyo County
- LADWP
- City of Bishop

Counties:

- Inyo



TRI-COUNTY ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS OF RECREATION



JT Chevallier
Alpine County

February 23, 2026

Project Description:

- This project aims to conduct a comprehensive Economic Impact Study to guide sustainable recreation management and development in Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties. The study will analyze recreational patterns, assess cost-benefit impacts, and provide actionable recommendations to optimize resource use while balancing economic, ecological, and community benefits.

Partners:

- Alpine County
- Mono County
- Inyo County
- ESCOG

Counties:

- Alpine
- Mono
- Inyo

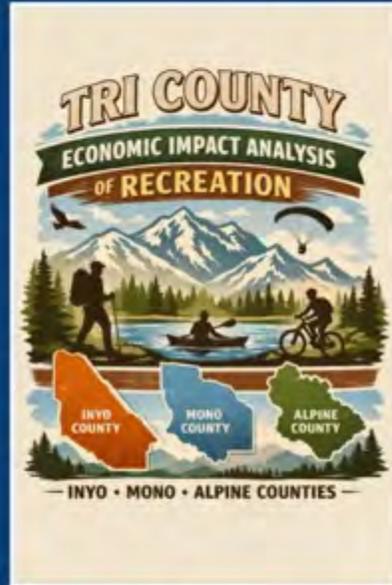


PROJECT PRESENTATIONS & INTERVIEWS



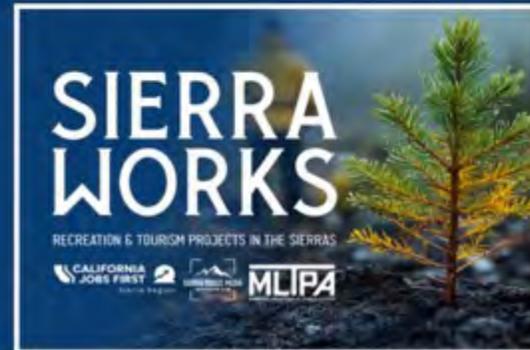
Chipmunk Canyon Trails Existing Conditions Analysis

Elaine Kabala; ESCOG



Tri-County Economic Impact Analysis of Recreation in Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties

JT Chevallier; Alpine County



Andie Stewart; MLTPA



Andie Stewart



Elaine Kabala



JT Chevallier - Alpine County - TRI-COUNTY Economic Team



GUIDED QUESTIONS OVERVIEW

We have three group questions, and we'll be offering scenarios and then posing questions to understand from YOU (the audience) what policy barriers might keep these projects from moving forward.

Please raise your hand 🙋 or drop feedback in the chat to be collected.



GUIDED QUESTION #1

Scenario: A regional economic study shows that, in a specific location managed by a federal partner, trail running and dispersed glamping will generate five times more revenue for the local tax base than traditional camping. The community now has clear and actionable data on recreational opportunities to boost their local economy.

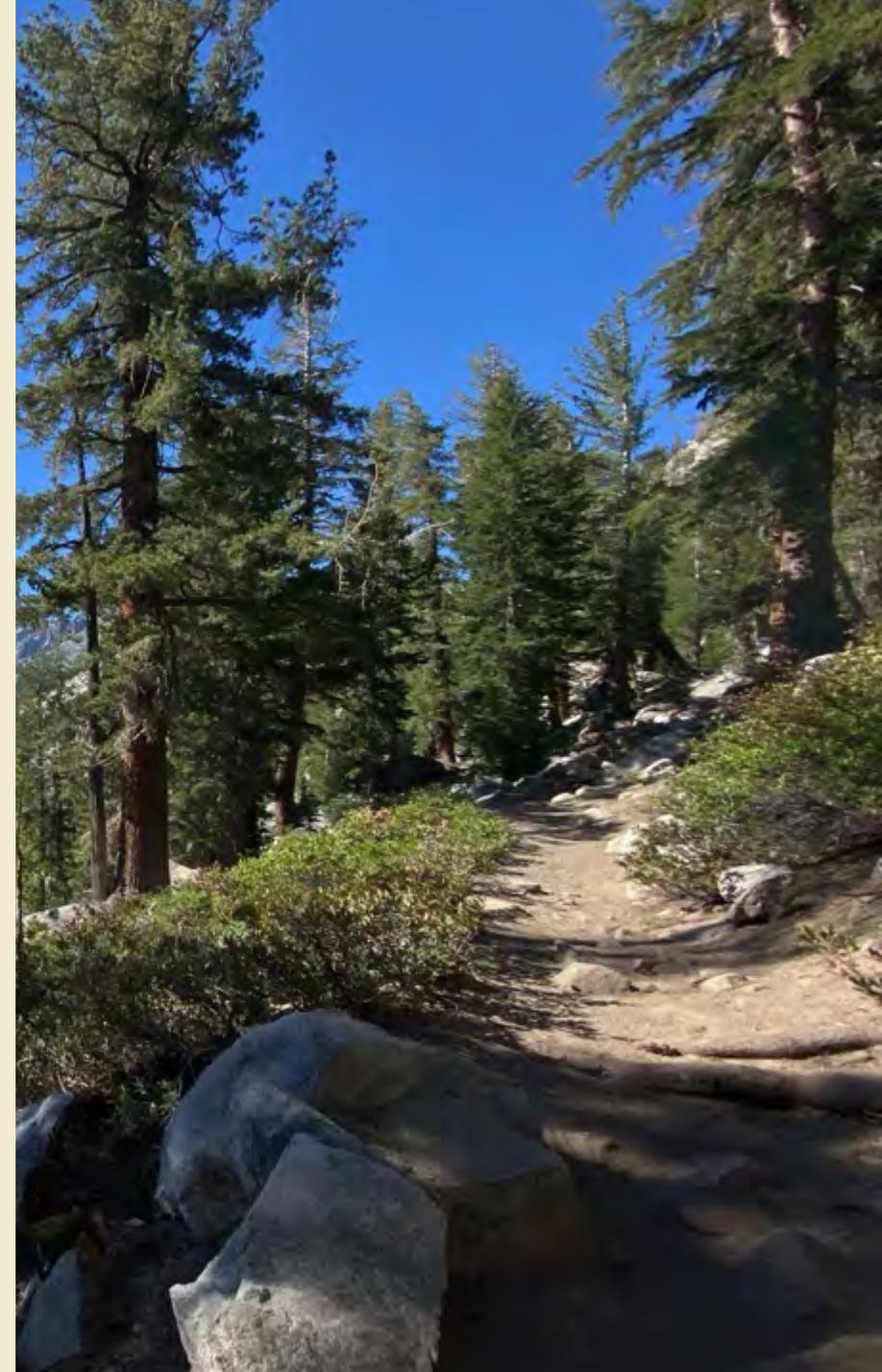
Question: How does the community leverage this new data to effectively overcome policy barriers while ensuring that local investment isn't sidelined by federal capacity issues? What tools might be used — a Special District, a Shared Stewardship Agreement, an Arts Alliance, a Business Improvement District? Patience, persistence, and legal expertise?

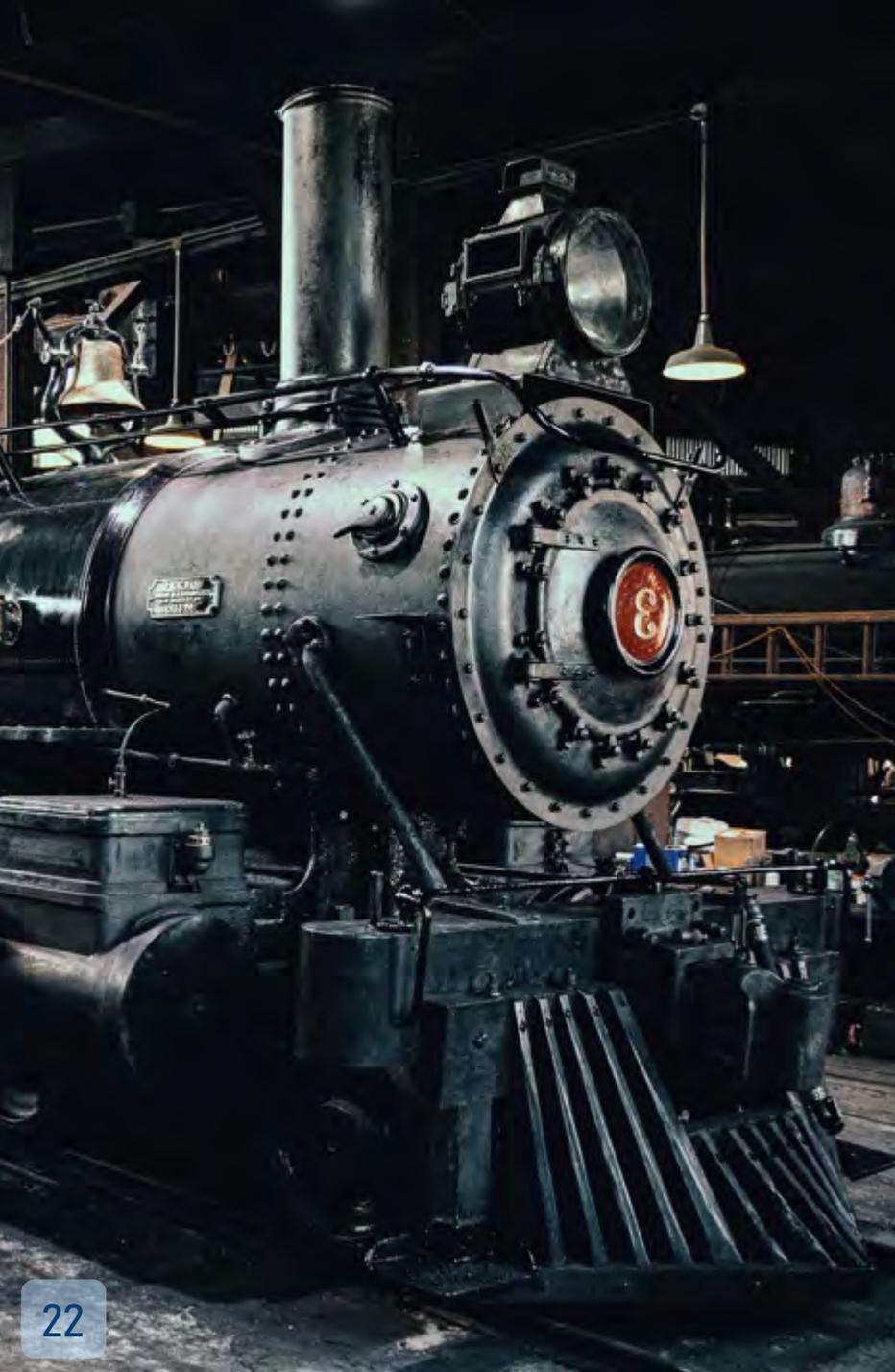


GUIDED QUESTION #2

Scenario: There is a well loved local trail system that attracts a lot of visitation and lacks signage. A local volunteer group has raised \$200k to restore a trail that crosses 2 different federal jurisdictions, ending at a County-maintained trailhead.

Question: What are the policy barriers (from your experience) that might prevent this project from moving forward in the next 12 months? (e.g. *Do we have a mechanism or entity to fund work or lead stewardship efforts that crosses multiple jurisdictions?*)





GUIDED QUESTION #3

Scenario: A coalition of downtown businesses, artists, and a local nonprofit has secured \$350k to activate a vacant historic block through façade improvements, public art, live performance space, and extended-hours programming. The project spans city-owned sidewalks, privately owned buildings, and a state highway corridor running through downtown.

Question: What policy barriers - specific approvals, regulations, or interagency coordination requirements - would most likely delay or stop this project altogether and where does this type of process typically break down?



SCENARIO #1:

A regional economic study shows that, in a specific location managed by a federal partner, trail running and dispersed camping will generate five times more revenue for the local tax base than a traditional campsite. The community now has clear and actionable data on recreational opportunities to boost their local economy.

QUESTION:

How does the community leverage this new data to effectively overcome policy barriers while ensuring that local investment isn't stifled by federal capability issues? What laws might be used — a Special District, a Shared Stewardship Agreement, an Arts Alliance, a Business Improvement District? Finance, permitting, and legal expertise?

POTENTIAL POLICY BARRIERS:

AB 518 - concerns raised around stewardship — i.e. creating a shared stewardship agreement; big fan of business improvement districts — need to come with a high degree of transparency.

Really narrowing down what it is you're trying to do, where is trail running to occur for example work with federal partners and outline what you're trying to do

Stewardship is an issue as well as seasonality. How do people find camping spots? AirBnB/Glamping sites, orgs. like Visit the Redwood on North Coast; need standardized ways to find these opportunities and be incentivized to provide the signs; there is a lack of people showing up to those sites throughout the year; difficulty in maintaining.

Opportunity Zone - where you can have outside investment into community benefits that folks want to contribute to and defer capital gains by investing into these zones.

First thought might be community concerns about equity when an entity starts charging money for an activity (camping) that the public is used to having access to without a fee, response from N. Coast folks — there's a lack of opportunities

HIP camp and TOT revenue for reinvestment

NREI - North Tahoe Business Improvement District generates \$ million; great way to raise money; in Tahoe, there is difficulty in permitting — need "cutting the green tape" working with local jurisdictions; develop one stop permitting requirement at the local level allows projects to become shovel ready at a faster rate.

Hipcamp - local ordinances that can be built upon AB 518; work with nonprofit partners can be a good option as well

SCENARIO #2:

There is a well loved local trail system that attracts a lot of visitation and backcountry signage. A local volunteer group has raised \$200k to restore a trail that crosses 2 different federal jurisdictions, ending at a County-maintained trailhead.

QUESTION:

What are the policy barriers (from your experience) that might prevent this project from moving forward in the next 12 months? (e.g. are there a jurisdiction or entity in your way or legal stewardship efforts that crosses multiple jurisdictions?)

POTENTIAL POLICY BARRIERS:

Env. Considerations - NEPA/CEQA are two of the significant new challenges for any project; different regs for different land managers

Stakeholder responsibilities over the landscape for Federal/Local. Not being able to have cost-share agreements has been difficult; inability for funds to spend money even if they had it to spend.

Lack of Cost-Share agreements; restrictions specific to working with Forest Service; also the capacity of Federal partners to get the needed approvals.

The Mammoth Lakes Trail System was able to connect to sign programs because it has Measure R - a dedicated public funding resource with no sunset

North Coast - The CEQA exemption has been both a boon and a major lightning rod for the Great Redwood Trail Agency up here in the North Coast, so there's a front and a back.

SCENARIO #3:

1. A coalition of downtown businesses, artists, and a local nonprofit has secured \$350k to activate a vacant historic block through façade improvements, public art, live performance space, and extended-hours programming. The project spans city-owned sidewalks, privately owned buildings, and a state highway corridor running through downtown.

QUESTION:

1. What policy barriers - specific approvals, regulations, or interagency coordination requirements - would most likely delay or stop this project altogether and where does this type of process typically break down?

POTENTIAL POLICY BARRIERS:

North Coast - Political will is important; really comes down to how involved the city staff and council are; they will be directly interfacing with business owners; if you don't have city on board, it will stall out

Alignment is important; highly recommend that you catalyze a public process, get public input, so that political leadership knows the community wants it; also want to show there is succession planning to make sure it's lasting;

Outreach/communication with local NGOs such as local historical societies for their buy-in/partner opportunity.

Tuolumne County Arts - partnership is important; need buy in from county/cities...wherever the project is going on; need Arts/Cultural Strategic Plan in place as well; lots of pushback within towns...constant difficulty you experience; artists doing work can become disenfranchised; there's a lot of balance needed.

Arts Component to Tri-County Initiative is important; Disc Golf Course is a good example...identified a sit on Federal land; submitted a permit; local project will be managed by Alpine County on Federal land run by local partners.

John Wentworth - Should we assume that the arts strategic plan should be adopted by the local jurisdiction where the project will be happening?

Answer - if your county has arts/cultural strategic plan in place, this will help. You can push something through.

Elaine Kabala - really likes this discussion; need to be talking about things like arts/culture as those are part of our assets; not just recreation facilities; really important on W. Side gold country towns; continue to include arts and cultural development in our planning; need to communicate this all to the State

Calder Johnson - N. Coast - always see a massive difference between communities that have strategic plans vs. ones that don't; get Commissions attached to it as well.

John W. - Where does placemaking live in Sierra Jobs First? Placemaking falls within the Arts/Cultural Strategic Plan

Elaine Kabala - Placemaking is included in the foundational element strategies - but there isn't much focus in those areas as "industries"



Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

Meeting Recaps



Recreation & Tourism Working Group Meeting Recaps

Updated February 27th, 2026

Policy Barriers February 23rd

Presenting Projects:

- [Tri-County Economic Impact Analysis of Recreation in Inyo, Mono, & Alpine Counties](#)
- [Chiemunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis: ESCOG](#)

High-Level Recap:

- Participants used three hypothetical scenarios to identify the policy barriers and structural gaps that prevent projects within the region from reaching shovel-ready status.
- The meeting highlighted the disconnect between the recreation assets that generate economic activity for the region, and the limited administrative capacity to execute local priorities.
- Emphasis was placed on the necessity of regional "brokers", such as Joint Powers Authorities, NGOs, and Counties, to stand in the gap where legacy institutions cannot keep pace with regional needs.

Key Functions // Actions for Policy Navigation:

- **Invest in the net community benefits:** Use quantitative data to shift the conversation from maintenance costs to investment opportunities.
- **Institutionalize art and placemaking as assets:** Transition arts, culture, and placemaking work into foundational economic assets by pursuing formal strategic plans to ensure buy-in.

Top Five Immediate Priorities for Asset Mapping:

- Establish agreements for funding and managing work across multiple jurisdictions.
- Adopt regional data playbooks to inform capital allocation and grant applications.
- Codify Arts/Cultural plans across the region.
- Pursue dedicated maintenance funding.
- Explore one-stop permitting pilot projects.

Tensions That Must Be Addressed:

- **Federal Mandates vs. Local Diversification:** Navigate the policy barriers where federal decision-making limits a local community's ability to diversify the economy.
- **Public Access vs. Revenue Generation:** Balance community concerns regarding equity when transitioning from free public assets to fee-based revenue models.
- **Political Will vs. Administrative Capacity:** Managing the risk of stakeholder disenfranchisement when high-level political support fails to translate into timely approvals.

To see all meeting materials, the full recording, and original comments gathered from Working Group Participants on February 23rd [visit the website](#).



Asset Mapping January 20th

Presenting Projects:

- [Eastern Sierra Regional Education & Recreation Jobs Creation MLTPA](#)
- [Eastern Sierra Regional Campgrounds Improvements & Jobs Creation MLTPA](#)

High-Level Recap:

- Participants emphasized that the primary function of the asset mapping exercise is to catalog the existing resources for the creation of a possible unified regional ecosystem.
- The current siloed nature of funding/data prevents assets from reaching their full economic potential. More coordination across often disparate efforts is desired by participants.
- Move towards a dynamic regional service layer that integrates human capital, (technical skills), and explores cross-jurisdictional funding or stewardship methods.

Key Functions // Actions for Asset Mapping:

- **Align Funding with Regional Realities:** Transition from localized/county-line spending toward regional models (e.g. ESERP) that allow resources to flow where the impact is greatest.
- **Issue-Based Coordination:** Organize stakeholders around specific challenges, (e.g. workforce housing or trail infrastructure) to eliminate administrative duplication.
- **Institutionalize Stability:** Demonstrate institutional longevity and ground-level engagement.
- **Technical Literacy:** Bridge the digital gap and modernize grant writing and project management.

Top Five Immediate Priorities for Asset Mapping:

- Centralized GIS Inventory of Physical Assets
- Public-Public Partnership Scaling
- Technical Capacity Building
- Private Investment Incentivization
- Workforce Pipeline Integration

Tensions That Must Be Addressed:

- **Data Sharing vs. Data Security:** Balancing the need for a transparent, centralized regional database with the privacy and proprietary concerns of individual organizations.
- **Regional Vision vs. Local Burden:** Addressing the burden on local staff who must balance high-level regional planning with the day-to-day work of project execution.
- **Visitor Growth vs. Resident Sentiment:** Navigating the disconnect between tourism promotion and the local community's understanding of economic impact and quality-of-life concerns.

To see all meeting materials, the full recording, and original comments gathered from Working Group Participants on January 20th [visit the website](#).



Regional Governance November 17th

Presenting Projects:

- [ESERP \(Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership\) MLTPA](#)
- [Regional Collaborative: ESCOG \(Eastern Sierra Council of Governments\)](#)

High-Level Recap:

- The primary function of the entity is relational and network driven, focused on breaking silos to facilitate conversations and foster genuine connections across sectors and geographies.
- The regional entity should be developed from the ground level, highlighting the uniqueness of each community, and should avoid imposition from outside entities.
- This entity should prioritize implementation and funding of projects, highlight common issues and advocacy across the region, and provide guidance and expertise to expedite projects and navigate barriers.

Key Functions // Action Bias of Regional Entity:

- **Action Over Planning:** Focus on implementation & funding of projects.
- **Unified Advocacy:** Focusing on common issues and advocacy across the seven counties.
- **Technical Assistance:** Expertise and guidance to expedite projects and navigate barriers.
- **Environmental Anchor:** Centralized commitment to preserve natural resources.

Top Five Immediate Priorities for a Regional Entity:

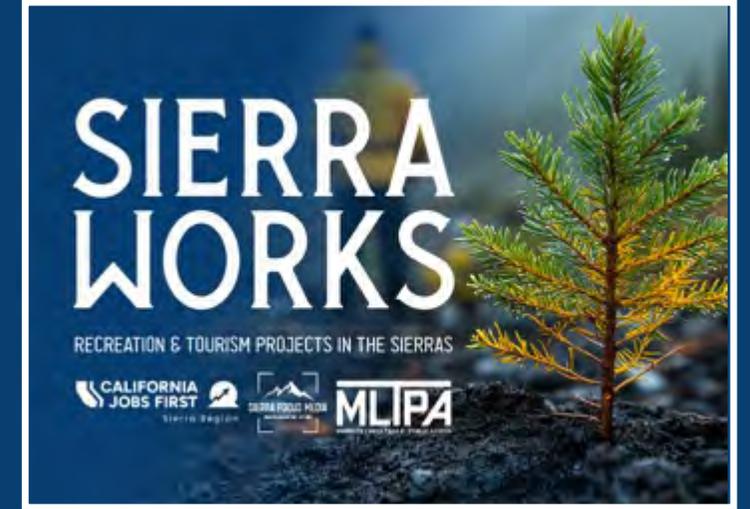
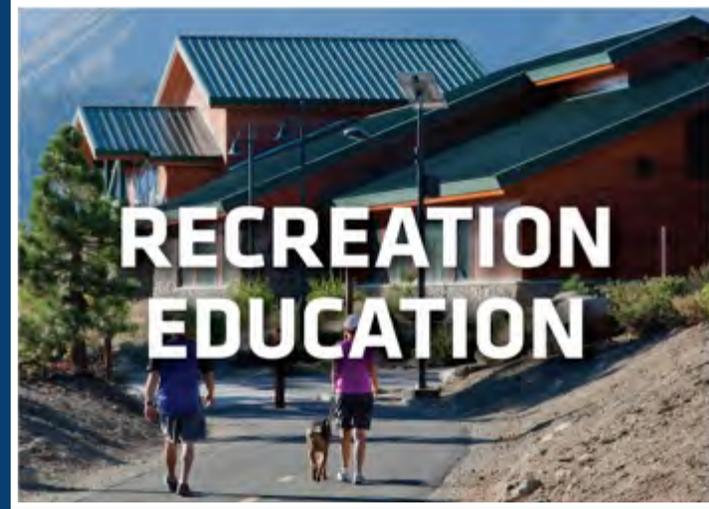
- **Secure Funding Sources**
- **Asset Mapping & Needs Assessment**
- **Relationship Building & Information Sharing**
- **Define Tribal Engagement Protocol**
- **Establish Project Prioritization Method**

Tensions the Regional Entity Must Address:

- **Control vs. Coordination:** Frame the entity as a Regional Service Layer that exercises real action, rather than mandating it.
- **Speed vs. Deliberation:** Focus on "Quick Wins" and ensure follow-through on projects to build momentum while the foundational structure is allowed to evolve informally.

To see all meeting materials, the full recording, and original comments gathered from Working Group Participants on November 17th [visit the website](#).

Project presentations & Interviews



John Wentworth



Kristy Williams



Robyn Gorecki



MEETING #2 JANUARY 2026

MEETING RECAP

January Meeting Initial Recap:

“Asset Mapping” to highlight local strengths, the Working Group discussions revealed that we are:

Rich in Natural & Human Assets

- Invest in ground-up administrative capacity
- Invest in expeditors marrying State and Federal authorities through funding opportunities
- Invest in the people and the relationships that are our projects



Project presentations & Interviews



John Wentworth
MLTPA & ESSRP



Elaine Kabala
Regional Collaborative



Practitioners &
Stakeholders

November 17, 2025



MEETING #1 NOVEMBER 2025

MEETING RECAP

November Meeting Initial Recap:

Engaging with the topic of “Regional Governance,” the Working Group expressed desires for:

A Regional Information Sharing Body

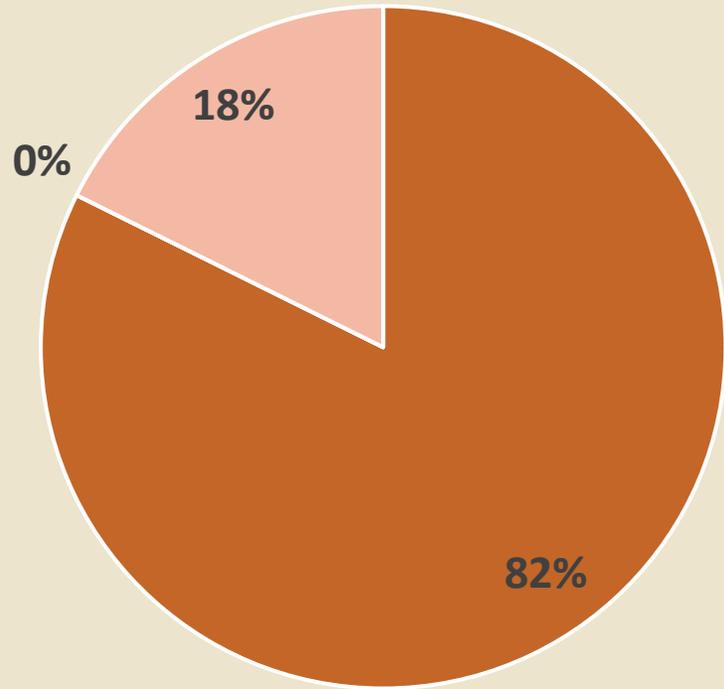
- Invest in Strong Communication, Listening, and Convening and Facilitation Capacity
- Coordinate to Capitalize on Real Needs
- Build Relationships Throughout the Region



We had 51 stakeholders in attendance!

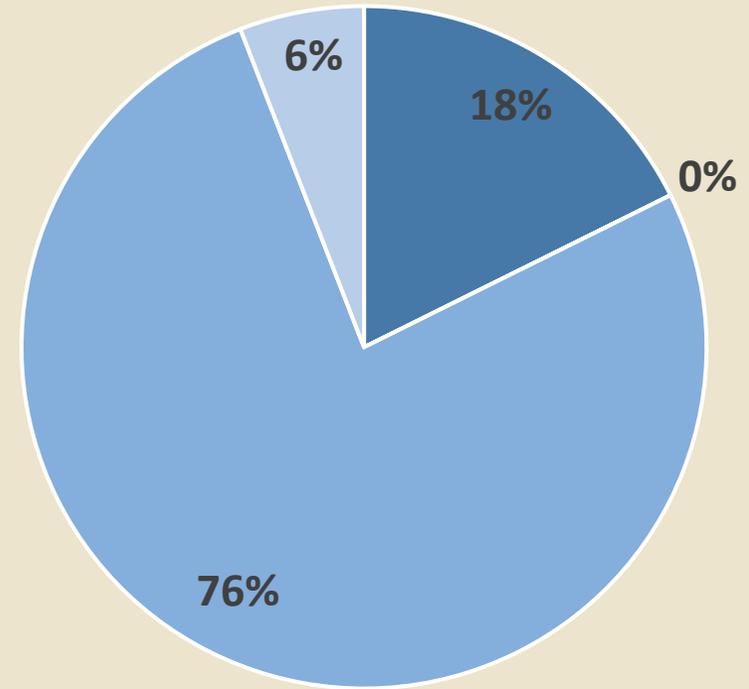


Would the region benefit from a 7-county regional information sharing body specific to Recreation & Tourism?



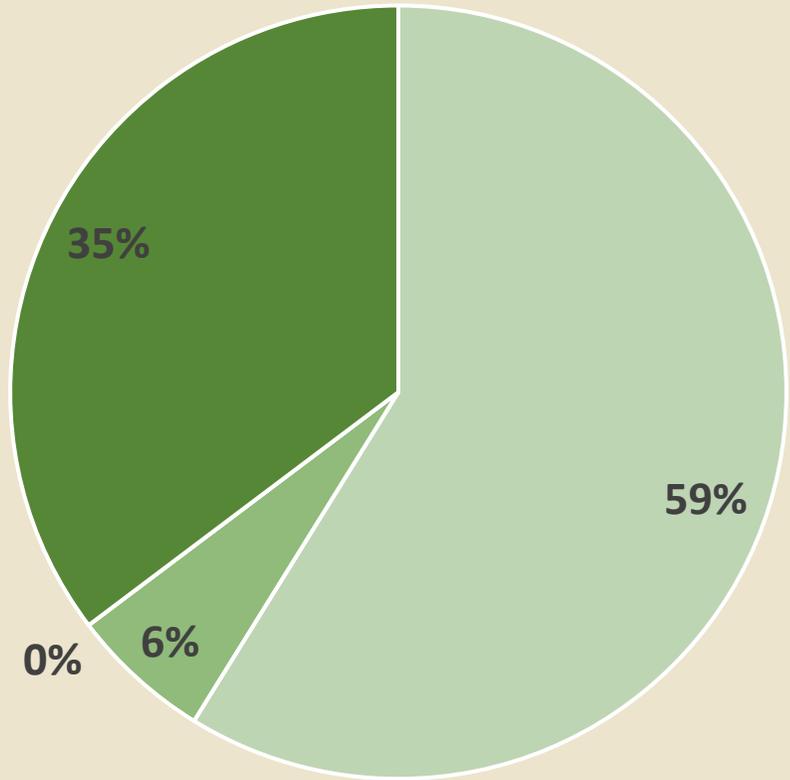
82% : Yes 0% : No 18% : Other

Do you believe that this multi-county region is more likely to win state and block grant funding if we apply per project or as a unified region?



18% : As a region 0% : Individually
76% : It will depend on the project 6% : Other

If you had \$500k in grant funding today, would you spend it on infrastructure/capital projects, analysis (such as economic impact studies), or environmental regulatory compliance, or some other way?



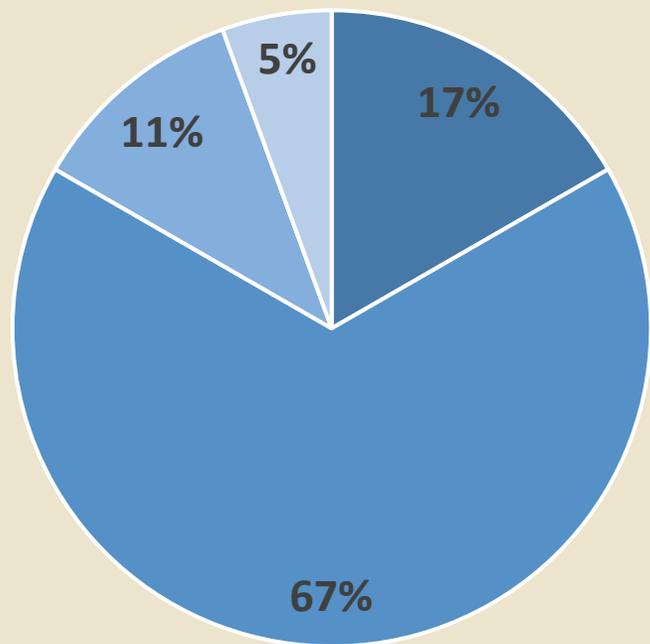
59% : Infrastructure & Capital Projects

6% : Analysis (Such as Economic Impact Studies)

0% : Environmental/Regulatory Compliance

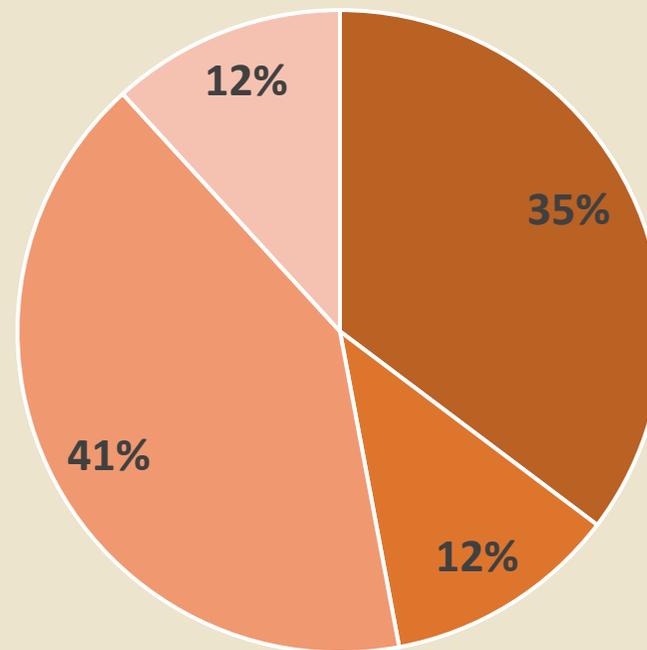
35% : Other

What is the single biggest reason projects stall in this region?



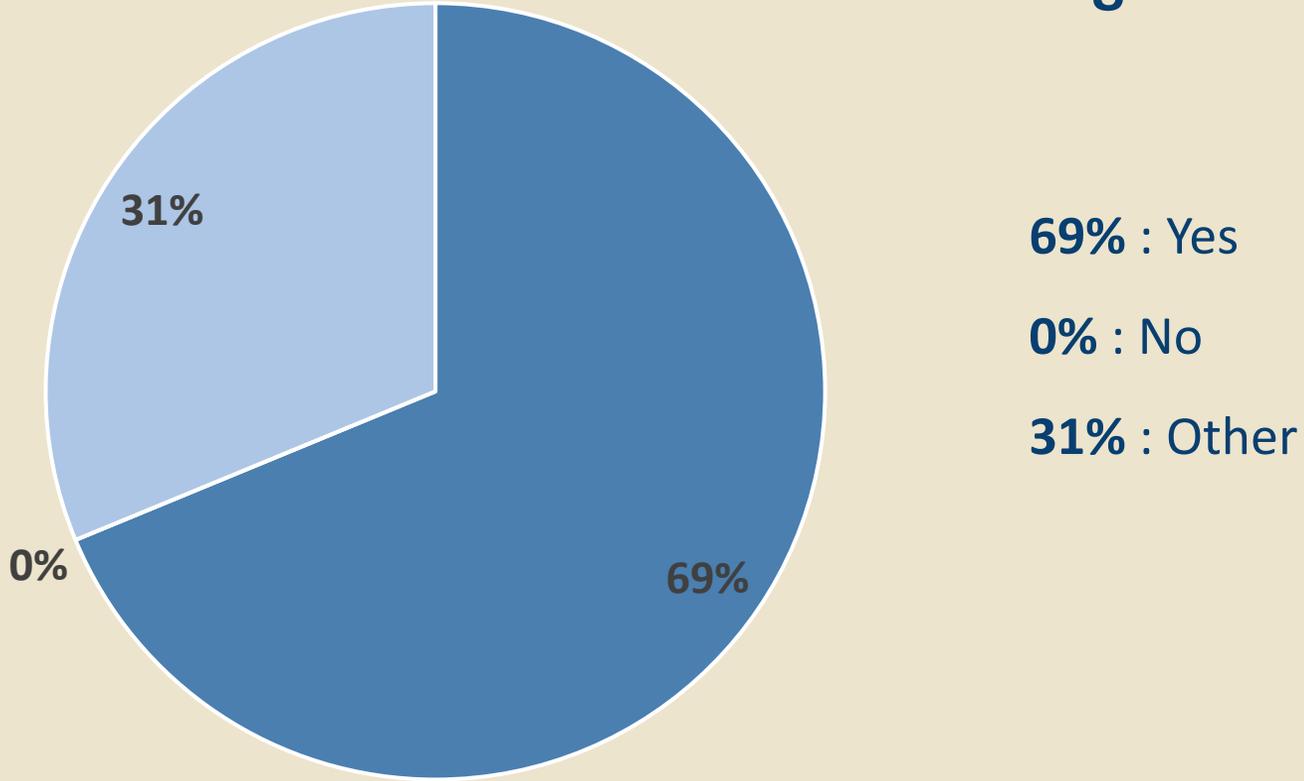
17% : Funding **67% : Capacity**
11% : Lack of Jurisdictional Coordination
5% : Other

Do current land-use policies in your county allow for agritourism, arts & culture, or multi-use spaces?

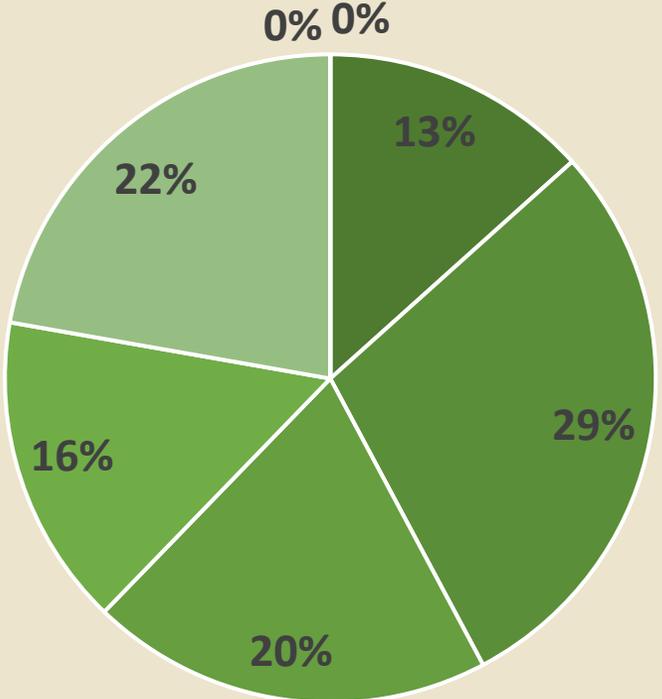


35% : Yes **12% : No**
41% : Don't Know **12% : Other**

A Special District is a focused, independent legal entity created to provide dedicated funding and management for recreation and tourism assets and has its own authority to partner directly with federal agencies and its own protected budget. Would the region benefit from creation of Special Districts (as recommended by the SJF Regional Strategic Plan)?

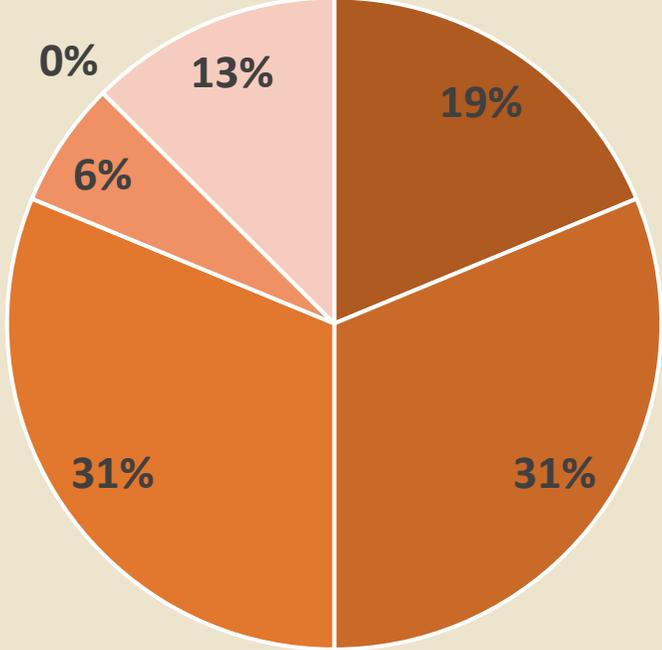


Where do your projects typically find funding?



13% : State Conservancies **29%** : State Dollars
20% : Federal Dollars **16%** : Local Public Resources (i.e. TBIDs)
22% : Private Foundations
0% : Not Applicable **0%** : Other

How confident are you that we currently have the data and requisite analysis needed to prove the ROI of recreation and tourism?



19% : Very Confident **31%** : Pretty Confident
31% : Probably Not **6%** : Not Confident
0% : We Do Not Have Data **13%** : Other

Goal of the Working Group

**“Recommendations for
Implementation and Collaborative
Action” (RICA)**

Recommendations for how we build on the work done so far and carry it forward to align with the funding opportunities that currently exist and those that will exist in the future.

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

- Nov. 17th – Regional Governance
- Jan. 20th – Asset Mapping
- Feb. 23 – Policy Barriers
- March 16th – Regional Branding & Financing
- April 20th – Climate Resiliency
- May 18th – Workforce Capacity
- June 15th – Arts & Culture
- July 20th – Final Meeting and Review of RICA Updates

SIERRA WORKS

THANK YOU FOR COMING



Next Meeting:
March 16, 2026

“Regional Branding & Finance”

Next Month's Feature Projects:

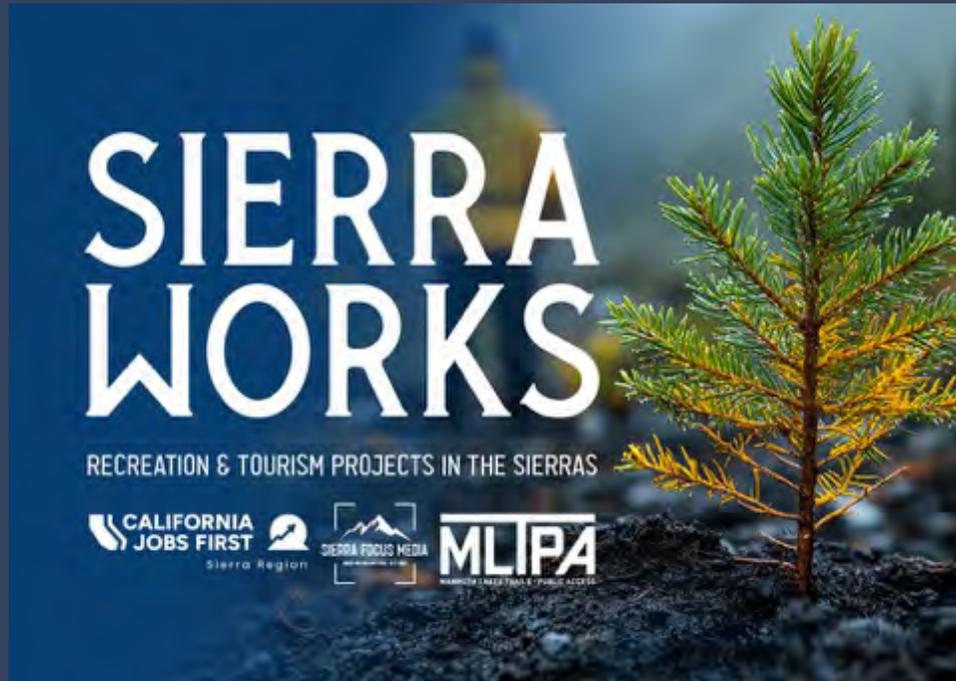
Mat Galvan; Sierra Focus Media; Sierra Sourced

&

Andy Carter; TCTC; Gold Rush Path

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

Recreation and Tourism Working Group



WORKING GROUP SIGN-UPS

Join a Working Group! We are convening a collaborative **Working Group** to bring together partners, industry leaders, and community stakeholders to exchange ideas, align projects with resources, and drive impactful solutions for recreation and tourism in the Sierra region.

This is an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, share expertise, and help shape the future of our local economy. **Sign up today to get involved and be part of the conversation!**

Sign-up Today!

[Join Our Working Groups](#)



Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



Recreation and Tourism Working Group

WORKING GROUP SIGN-UPS

Please Sign up Now!



up today to get involved and be part of the conversation!

Sign-up Today!

Join Our Working Groups



“Cohort of Practice”



California Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Statewide Cohort



Next Meeting
Friday March. 6



Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Cohort

Monthly Meeting

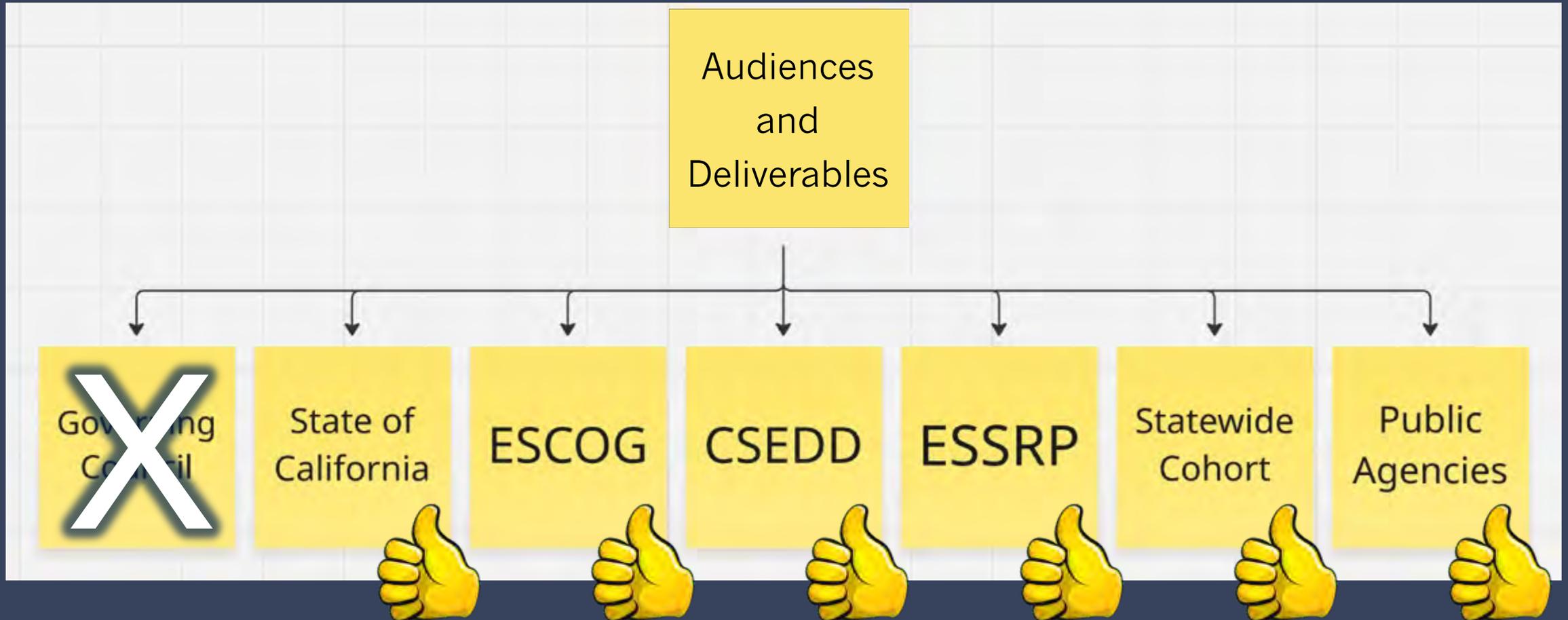
March 6, 2026: 1:30 - 2:30

[Google Calendar Link](#) | [Zoom link](#)

AGENDA

TIME	GOAL	PRESENTED BY
1:30-1:35	Welcome & Check-in	All
1:35-1:45	Field Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates on the sector	John
1:45-2:25	Presentations - Session Seven <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesse Voremberg - Bay Area Trails Collaborative (Bay Area Region)• Anne Bown-Crawford - Arts in California Parks (State-wide)	Jesse/Anne
2:25-2:30	Update on the Symposium of Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 23, Sacramento.	John/Erin
2:30	Adjourn Meeting	

Goals for the Working Groups



Advocacy

TRANSITION & FUTURE PLANNING

Shaping the Future, Together



SIERRA
BUSINESS COUNCIL

Summary from Industry Sector Coordinators/Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Date – February 25, 2026

- This was the last meeting for the Technical Advisory Committee
- SBC is preparing a document “...intended to summarize the SJF Collaborative process, why we did things in a specific way and reminders for what to include in case someone wants to pick this work back up...”
- The document is not a deliverable for the state; it is an SBC document.
- To be drafted by Agnew::Beck and SBC
- SBC will post on the Sierra Jobs First website this summer



SIERRA
BUSINESS COUNCIL

New and Upcoming Funding Opportunities

- K-16 Grant Opportunity
- NFF Collaborative Capacity Grant
- RCP Funding Overview
- Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI) 2026 Grant
- IMBA Trail Accelerator Grants

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



Smart Growth

[About Smart Growth](#)

[Technical Assistance](#)

[Examples of Smart Growth](#)

[Publications](#)

[Tools](#)

[Topics](#)

[Webinars, Videos, and Podcasts](#)

[Smart Growth in Your Community](#)

[Contact Us about Smart Growth](#)

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities

The Recreation Economy for Rural Communities planning assistance program helps communities identify strategies to grow their outdoor recreation economy and revitalize their main streets.

Outdoor activities are increasingly popular across the United States, and many communities are seeking to grow their outdoor recreation and tourism economy, while investing in their main streets and conserving forests and natural lands. Encouraging growth on main streets while promoting outdoor recreation can help foster community revitalization, protect air and water quality, create jobs and support economic diversification, and offer new opportunities for people to connect with the natural world.

On this page:

- [Background](#)
- [Project Partners](#)
- [Applying for Assistance](#)
- [Partner Communities](#)
 - [Community Stories](#)
 - [2025 Partner Communities](#)
 - [2022 Partner Communities](#)
 - [2019 Partner Communities](#)

On other pages:

- [EPA's Perspectives Blog](#): Read the inspiring view of the RERC program manager in her blog post, "How Community-Led Change is Helping Rural Places and People Thrive."
- [Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities](#): Additional information about how smart growth strategies can help rural places strengthen their economies, improve quality of life and protect the environment and human health.

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MENU SEARCH

NEWS GALLERY LIVESTREAM INVESTMENTS SAVE AMERICA WH WIRE CONTACT



PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

ESTABLISHING THE PRESIDENT'S MAKE AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AGAIN COMMISSION

Executive Orders | July 3, 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. The United States is blessed with vast beautiful landscapes, abundant natural resources, and a rich heritage of discovery by travelers and outdoorsmen. America's national parks, forests, waterways, and public lands have inspired generations and kindled our Nation's spirit of exploration. To ensure that the next generation of Americans inherits this same sense of duty and adventure, my Administration will prioritize conserving our great American national parks and outdoor recreation areas.

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



Recommendations to the Make America Beautiful Again Commission *Growing the \$1.2 Trillion Outdoor Recreation Economy A250 and Beyond*

America 250 and Our Outdoor Legacy

As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, America has a unique opportunity to reflect on the shared values that unite us. Our public lands and waters—and the outdoor recreation experiences they enable—embody the enduring American ideals of freedom, exploration, stewardship, and opportunity.

Outdoor recreation is a powerful economic engine, generating **\$1.2 trillion in annual economic impact and supporting more than 5 million American jobs**. These benefits touch every state, strengthen rural and gateway communities, and contribute directly to the health and wellbeing of the American people.

The [Make America Beautiful Again Executive Order](#) establishes a clear mandate to expand access to public lands and waters, invest in infrastructure and stewardship, and leverage partnerships to conserve the natural resources that define our national identity. In alignment with that mandate, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) offers the following recommendations to ensure America's outdoor legacy remains healthy, sustainable, and accessible for the next 250 years.

Support Recreation Infrastructure through Reauthorizing and Strengthening the Legacy Restoration Fund

Relevant EO Provisions:

- Expanding access to public lands and waters
- Improving infrastructure and maintenance of public lands
- Leveraging partnerships and shared stewardship

Recommendations

- Reauthorize and strengthen the **National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF)** established by the Great American Outdoors Act, with a clear emphasis on recreation infrastructure that supports access, safety, and economic vitality.
- Elevate **250 high-value recreation projects**—including campgrounds, trails, boat launches, and marinas—as part of America 250, placing them in a national spotlight and accelerating delivery by addressing regulatory and permitting barriers.
- Utilize **Youth Corps** wherever feasible to increase project cost efficiency, build skillsets and stewardship among young Americans, and strengthen the future outdoor recreation workforce.



SUPPORT



Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Welcomes Make America Beautiful Again Commission Meeting and Releases Recommendations to Grow a Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Economy



Washington, D.C. — Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) welcomes today's meeting of the Make America Beautiful Again (MABA) Commission and its focus on expanding access to public lands and waters and growing America's outdoor recreation economy.

As the nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding, outdoor recreation offers a powerful opportunity to unite conservation, economic growth, and public health. America's \$1.2 trillion outdoor recreation economy supports more than 5 million jobs, strengthens rural and gateway communities, and improves the physical and mental health and well-being of people in every state.

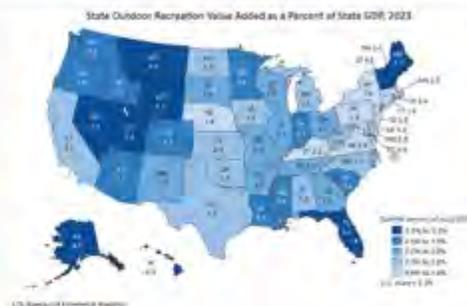
"As we celebrate America's 250th, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in the infrastructure, access, and partnerships needed to ensure our public lands and waters continue to deliver economic opportunity, healthy communities, and world-class outdoor experiences for the next 250 years," said **Jessica Turner, President of Outdoor Recreation Roundtable**. "The MABA Commission meeting comes at a pivotal moment to get this right."

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and States, 2023

The value added of the outdoor recreation economy accounted for 2.3 percent (\$639.5 billion) of current-dollar gross domestic product (GDP) for the nation in 2023. At the state level, value added for outdoor recreation as a share of state GDP ranged from 6.3 percent in Hawaii to 1.6 percent in Delaware, Connecticut, and New York. The share was 0.8 percent in the District of Columbia.



Current Release

Current Release: November 20, 2024 Next Release: March 5, 2026

Current Release

Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and States, 2023

Full Release & Tables (PDF)

Tables - National Level (PDF)

Tables - State Level (PDF)

Interactive State Tables

What are the Outdoor Recreation Economic Statistics?

These statistics measure the economic activity as well as the sales or receipts generated by outdoor recreational activities, such as fishing and RVing. These statistics also measure each industry's production of outdoor goods and services and its contribution to U.S. GDP. Industry breakdowns of outdoor employment and compensation are also included.

[Learn More](#)

Get an overview of outdoor recreation economic activity across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

[Browse the Map](#)



Release of 2024 Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account Data

Date & Time: Mar 5, 2026 08:00 AM in Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Description: Join the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) and representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to unpack the release of new data on the impact of the outdoor recreation economy in 2024. This data is gathered annually in the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA).

Featuring:

- Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Member, U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee
- Jessica Turner, President, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
- Glenn Hughes, President, American Sportfishing Association
- Christy LaCurelle, President and CEO, Motorcycle Industry Council
- Kai Twanmoh, Head of Brand Engagement, AllTrails
- Nathan Reigner, PhD, Director of Outdoor Recreation, Pennsylvania Office of Outdoor Recreation
- U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

Note: This data is typically released in November following the year of data collection. This year's release was delayed due to the 2025 shutdown of the U.S. Government.

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation



Kevin Kiley
CALIFORNIA'S 3RD DISTRICT

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Hi, I'm Congressman
Kevin Kiley.

Appropriations Requests

My office is pleased to participate in the annual appropriations process to obtain federal funding for important local projects in California's Third Congressional district for Fiscal Year 2026.

As a reminder, there are three types of requests I can submit to the Appropriations Committee for consideration:

Community Project Funding requests: Members may request funding for specific projects in their communities, so long as the projects have a federal connection and meet other requirements established by federal law, House Rules, and the Committee to ensure only high-quality projects are requested and funded. For Example, in FY24 we provided: *\$1,040,000 to City of Folsom for the Folsom Lake Crossing Safety Improvement Phase II Project.*

Appropriations Programmatic requests: Members may request specific funding levels for agencies and programs funded in the twelve appropriations bills. *Example: Fund the ReConnect program for \$2,000,000 in FY25.*

Appropriations Language requests: Members may request bill language or report language directing or encouraging specific actions by federal agencies. *Example: "The Committee encourages USDA to study the impact of expanded broadband on rural communities."*

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to submit a Community Project Funding request. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to submit a programmatic or language request.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view our FY 2024 Community Project Funding Requests.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view our FY 2025 Community Project Funding Requests.



What is Community Project Funding?

- Colloquially known as “earmarks”
- **Definition** - CPF requests generally seek to direct funding within an appropriations program or account to a specific entity or project.
- CPF requests are unique, because they direct the use of funds within an existing program or account to a specific state, local government, or nonprofit recipient. Very rarely can programmatic appropriations be directed to a specific project.
- Since CPF's were brought back in 2021, Members of Congress have been allowed to submit between 10-15 projects depending on the guidance released from the Appropriations Committee. This year, offices can submit 20.

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Appropriations Requests

Examples of Community Funded Projects

Kokila Reservoir Replacement Project

- a. **Submitted by:** San Juan Water District
- b. **Amount Requested:** \$4,000,000
- c. **Amount Given:** \$1,250,000
- d. **Summary:** The purpose of this project is to replace the aging Kokila Reservoir with a new partially buried prestressed tank. This project would benefit the community by ensuring reliable drinking water delivery and protecting public health and safety for the 330,000 residents in Placer and Sacramento counties.
- e. **Approps Bill:** Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

My office is pleased to participate in the annual appropriations process to obtain federal funding for important local projects in California's Third Congressional district for Fiscal Year 2026.

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Please [CLICK HERE](#) to submit a Community Project Funding request. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to submit a programmatic or language request.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view our FY 2024 Community Project Funding Requests.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view our FY 2025 Community Project Funding Requests.



Appropriations Requests

Examples of Community Funded Projects

Bridgeport Ambulance Replacement Project

- a. **Submitted by:** Mono County
- b. **Amount Requested:** \$214,500
- c. **Amount Given:** \$215,000
- d. **Summary:** The purpose of this project is to replace an ambulance used by a critical care facility that no longer complies with emergency response vehicle safety standards. This project would benefit the community by providing a new, reliable ambulance to replace an end-of-lifecycle unit, ensuring the continuity and safety of emergency medical services for residents in the area.
- e. **Approps Bill:** Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

My office is pleased to participate in the annual appropriations process to obtain federal funding for important local projects in California's Third Congressional district for Fiscal Year 2026.

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Appropriations Requests

Examples of Community Funded Projects

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- e. Approps Bill: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

FY2027 Community Project Funding Appropriations Request Form

Congressman Kevin Kiley

Deadline: March 5, 2026

Thank you for your interest in the Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional appropriations process. We will be accepting two types of appropriations requests. We will be accepting two types of appropriations requests. The first are **programmatic/language requests**. These requests are for Congress to fund an authorized federal program at a specific level or include language directing a federal agency to carry out a program in a certain way. The second are **Community Project Funding requests**. These requests are to allocate funds for a specific project by a non-federal government entity or not-for-profit organization in district.

If you are interested in submitting a Community Project Funding request, please fill out this form as completely as possible for **each request that you want considered**. To adhere to the Appropriations Committee deadlines, electronic copies of this form, in **Word format**, should be sent no later than close of business on **March 5, 2026**. Due to the high volume of requests, we cannot guarantee your request will be supported, but we will evaluate all requests and **be sure to reach out** with any questions. Early submissions are welcome and appreciated.

Criteria and guidance can be found here: (<https://appropriations.house.gov/fy27-member-requests/fy27-guidance-overview>). Please consult the guidance prior to submitting a proposal to find out if your project is eligible. Congressman Kiley will only accept proposals for projects within his district.

In FY22-FY26, the Committee limited CPF funding to public and not-for-profit entities, i.e., private businesses and other for-profit entities are not eligible for CPF funding. In FY26, not-for-profits eligibility was extremely limited. In the previous fiscal years, a random sample of projects were audited by the Government Accountability Office after funding was made available.

Sierra Jobs First: State Opportunities

“AB-35 Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.”

Nonprofit & Nonpartisan News

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POLITICS

How California lawmakers are trying to speed up spending on voter-approved climate projects

BY NADIA LATHAN
JANUARY 23, 2026

Republish



Sprinklers water a field on farmland near Salinas on Feb. 11, 2025. Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

Sierra Jobs First: State Opportunities

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY CALMATTERS [Donate](#) Search for bills, hearings, people, and more

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AB 35: Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.

Session Year: 2025-2026 House: Assembly Latest Version Date: 2026-01-14

Current Status: IN PROGRESS (2026-01-27: In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.)

Introduced **First Committee Review** First Chamber Second Committee Review Second Chamber Enacted

Summary **Bill Text** Status Votes Supporters & Opponents Analysis

Version: Amended Assembly (1/14/2026) ▾

Existing law, the Administrative Procedure Act, sets forth the requirements for the adoption, publication, review, and implementation of regulations by state agencies.

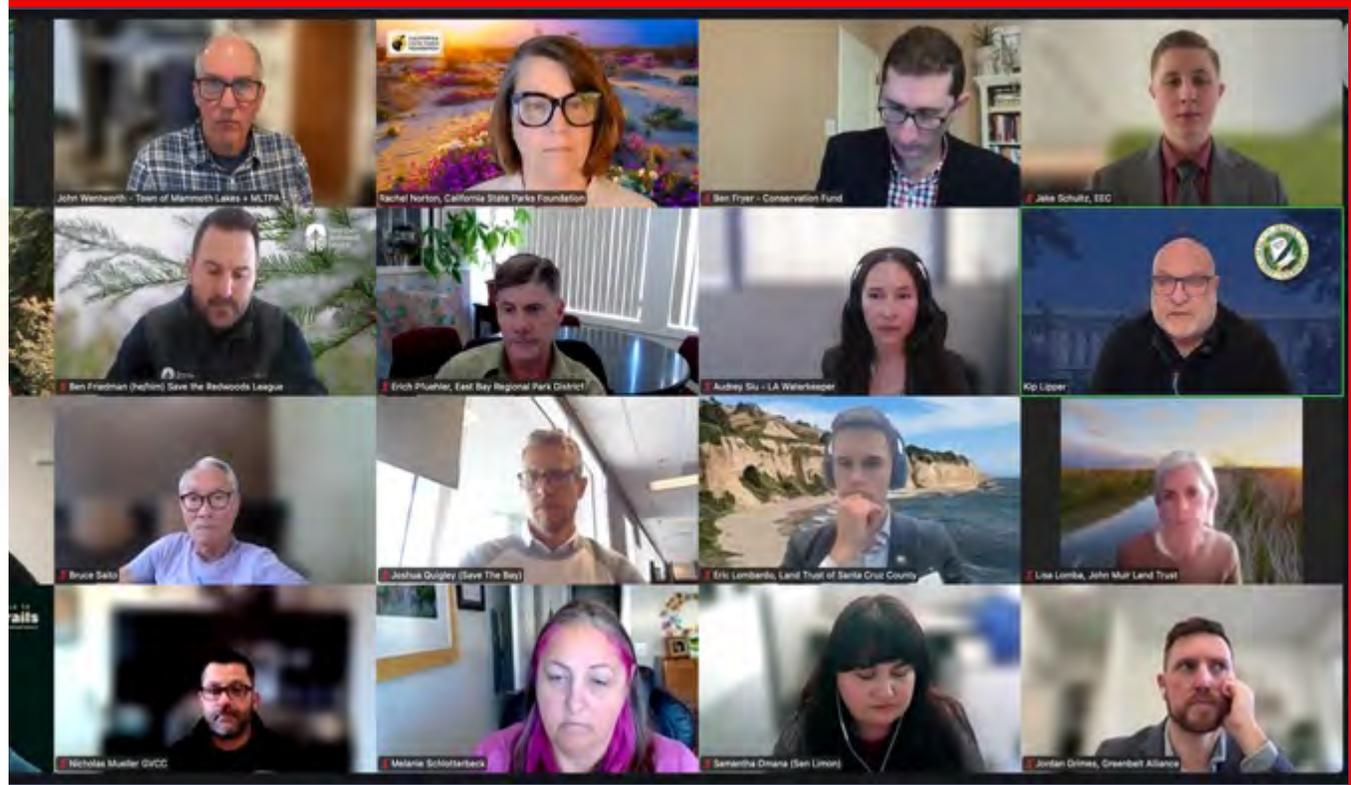
The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (act), approved by the voters as Proposition 4 at the November 5, 2024, statewide general election, authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and

Authors shown for version:
Amended Assembly (1/14/2026)

Bill Author
 [David Alvarez](#)

Bill Co-Author(s):
 [Juan Alanis](#)
 [Benjamin Allen](#)

“AB-35 Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.”



Sierra Jobs First: State Opportunities



California LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

Home Bill Information California Law Publications Other Resources My Subscriptions My Favorites

AB-2578 Public recreation access and outdoor economy support organizations. (2025-2026)

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2578

Introduced by Assembly Member Rogers

February 20, 2026

An act to add Article 1.8 (commencing with Section 526) to Chapter 1 of Division 1 of the Public Resources Code, relating to outdoor recreation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

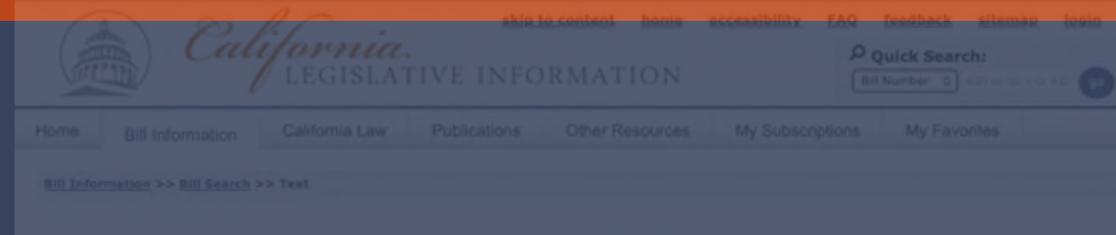
AB 2578, as introduced, Rogers. Public recreation access and outdoor economy support organizations.

Existing law authorizes the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into a statewide agreement with a park support organization to facilitate the implementation of reforms recommended by the Parks Forward Commission and to develop and secure expertise, services, resources, and projects that are not readily available to the state park system, for specified purposes.

This bill would authorize the Natural Resources Agency to enter into a statewide agreement with a public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization to facilitate and implement certain objectives, and would require the agency and support organization to, after entering into a statewide agreement, collaborate to develop an annual list of strategic initiatives and projects that are statewide priorities, as provided. The bill would authorize certain persons, including the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, to serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the support organization's board of directors, as provided.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

Sierra Jobs First: State Opportunities



“This bill would authorize the Natural Resources Agency to enter into a statewide agreement with a public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization to facilitate and implement certain objectives, and would require the agency and support organization to, after entering into a statewide agreement, collaborate to develop an annual list of strategic initiatives and projects that are statewide priorities, as provided. The bill would authorize certain persons, including the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, to serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the support organization’s board of directors, as provided.”

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Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

California Wildfire and Recreation



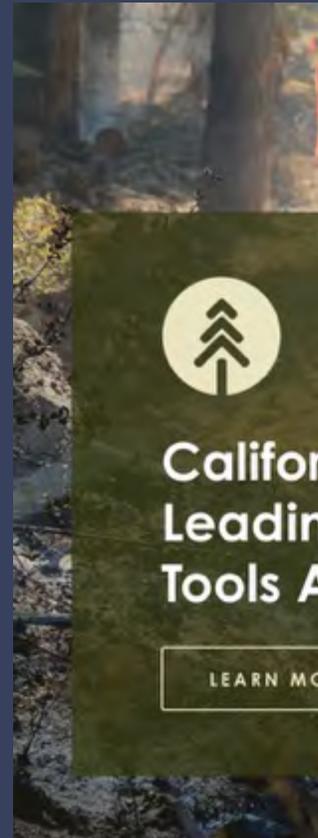
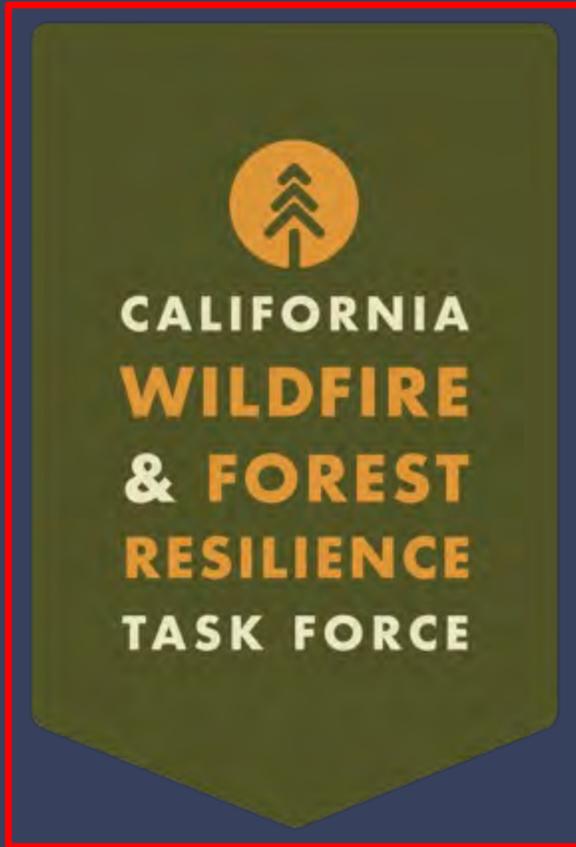
CALIFORNIA
WILDFIRE
& **FOREST**
RESILIENCE
TASK FORCE

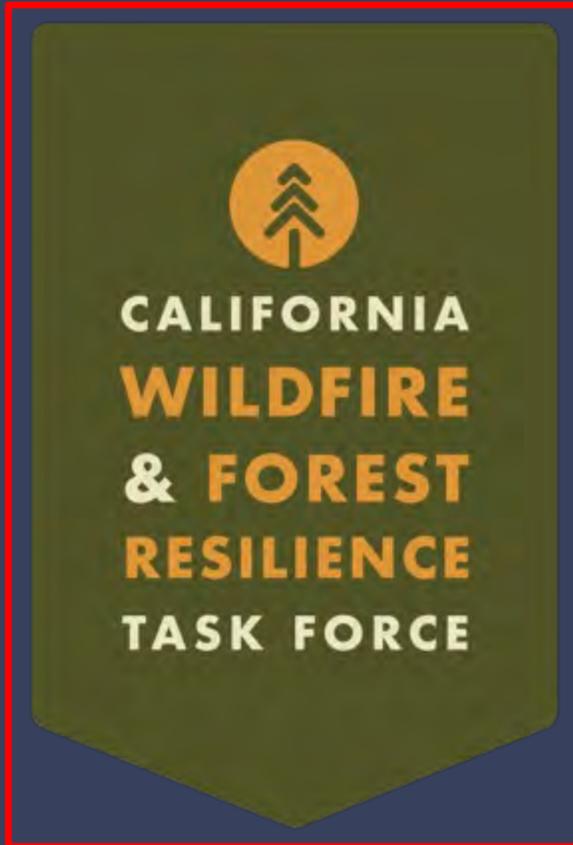


California's Wildfire Task Force Continues Nation-
Leading Efforts To Protect Communities, Unveils New
Tools And Data

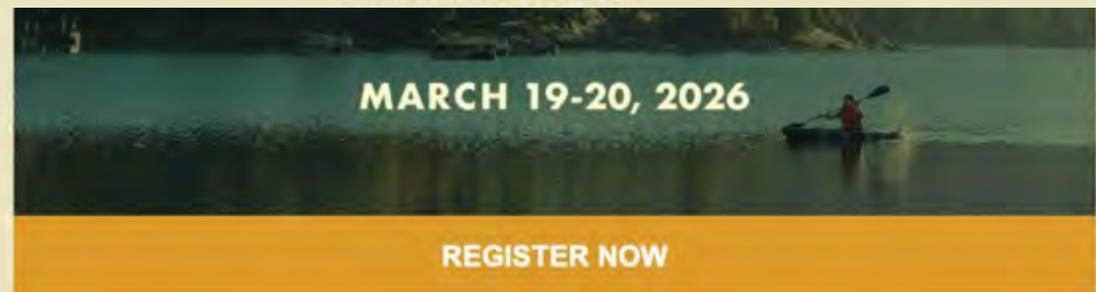
[LEARN MORE](#)







Join us in Jamestown, CA in Tuolumne County — or remotely via [Zoom](#) — for the [Sierra Nevada Regional](#) meeting of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. Hosted by Mountain Counties Water Resources Association and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, this meeting will highlight the 2026 Action Plan and issues of regional importance. Visit the [Regional Meeting page](#) for registration and lodging information.





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Arnold Rim Trail Community Update – January 8th, 2026

UPDATE: Thank you to the many ARTA trail lovers who [...]



Mountain Lion Habitat: What to do if you encounter a cougar

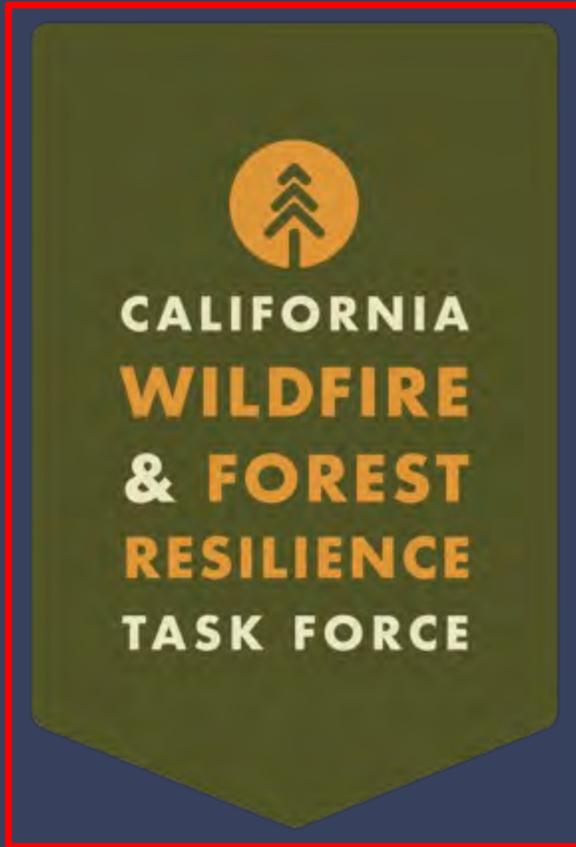
With the recent sightings of a Mountain Lion on the [...]



ARTA Community Survey Results are in!

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California Wildfire and Recreation



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**Strengthening Communities.
Protecting Landscapes.
Inspiring Action.**

About

Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council serves the rural and foothill communities of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Tulare, and Northern Kern counties. Council members are diverse and range from, Tribal Governments, Resource Conservation Districts, boards of Supervisors, Fire Safe Councils, Community Development Councils, Economic Development Councils, educational institutes, and other community groups.

[Read More](#)

[Let's Chat!](#)

California Wildfire and Recreation

GREENWIRE Gift article

Zeldin to LA: If you want wildfire recovery money, ditch Newsom

The EPA administrator said that wildfire-scarred local governments might have better success in unlocking federal dollars if they abandoned the governor's \$33 billion aid request.

BY **LIAM DILLON** | 02/05/2026 01:11 PM EST

E&E DAILY Gift article

Lawmakers push expanded tax credit for forest biomass

Bipartisan legislation would extend a carbon-capture credit to residue from wildfire mitigation.

BY **MARC HELLER** | 02/04/2026 04:29 AM EST

Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.) is sponsoring the "Carbon Resource Innovation Act." Francis Chung/POLITICO

California Wildfire and Recreation



Action Plan Timeline – Draft 2025-10-16

AUDIENCE

Internal State Partners

Internal Task Force Partners

External/Regional Partners

Executives/GO

Public

Internal State Working Draft Review Period (7/28-9/18)

Develop Internal Partner Review Draft (8/15-10/16)

Internal Partner Review Window (10/16-11/17)

Develop External Partner Materials (9/29-10/24)

External Partner Briefing Sprint (10/27-12/12)

Develop Executive Review Package (11/1-12/9)

Executive Review Window (12/10-1-10)

Develop Final Action Plan (12/15-1/23)

Publish Action Plan (1/26-2/5)

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

Sacramento Task Force Meeting

California Wildfire and Recreation



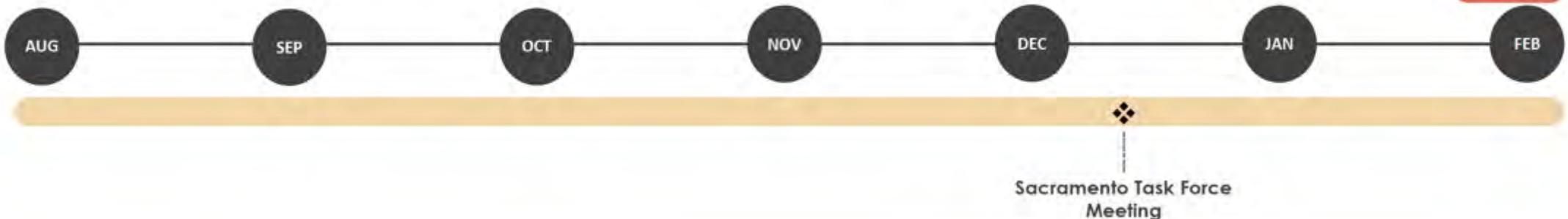
Action Plan Timeline – Draft 2025-10-16

Internal State Working Draft Review Period (7/28-9/18)

AUDIENCE

Internal State Partners

“Existing law requires the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, established by former Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., to develop a comprehensive implementation strategy to track and ensure the achievement of the goals and key actions identified in the states Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, as provided. Existing law requires, on or before March 1, 2026, and every 5 years thereafter, the task force to update the action plan.”





CALREC Vision



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

[White Paper](#)[CA Joint Strategy](#)[Adoption](#)[Data Map](#)[Support](#)[About](#)[Sign Up](#)

STAND UP FOR CALIFORNIA ADOPT THE JOINT STRATEGY

With wildfire risk rising and federal priorities shifting, there's a bold strategy available that transforms recreation infrastructure into community defense.

[▶ WATCH THE OVERVIEW VIDEO](#)[GET SUPPORT](#)

Recreation is resilience

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

- Amador County
- Butte County
- Calaveras County
- City of Bishop
- City of Richmond
- City of Truckee
- Contra Costa Mayors Conference in 2026
- East Bay Regional Park District
- East Bay Wildfire Coalition
- East Bay Fire Save Alliance of FSCs
- Humboldt County
- Mariposa County
- Mendocino County Fire Safe Council
- Napa County
- Placer County
- Plumas County
- Sonoma County
- Tuolumne County
- West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council

CALREC Vision

[White Paper](#) [CA Joint Strategy](#) [Adoption](#) [Data Map](#) [Support](#) [About](#) [Sign Up](#)

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RESOURCES

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Brad Wagenknecht
Director, Board Chair

Ryan Gregory
Director, Board Vice

Patricia Clarey
Director, Board Vice

Nancy Heliotte
Director, Board Vice

Barry Christian
Director, Board Vice

AGENDA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday February 9th, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.
Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 2nd floor, Napa, CA

This is an in-person meeting.
You may also attend and provide comments via Zoom Conference Call.

Please Note: Remote participation for members of the public, whether by telephone, Zoom, or any other technology, is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Zoom or other connection is disconnected or malfunctions for any reason, the Board of Directors reserves the right to conduct or to continue a meeting without remote access.

Instructions for Joining Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom meeting online:
<https://na06web.zoom.us/j/8763069287?pwd=cmVabUJ1OjQ4SjZlbnZlWVZ2Zkxh>

Or by phone:
+1 408 638 0968
+1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 876 3069 9287
Passcode: 265026

Find your local number:
https://na06web.zoom.us/join/8763069287?invitation=2e7yNlEbLxTmxTM1zJlUcID289FJ_2D3xwJ2akTG6eEIB



NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

MENU

About The District



Ward 1 Brad Wagenknecht 2023-2027	Ward 2 Ryan Gregory 2025-2029	Ward 3 Patricia Clarey 2023-2029	Ward 4 Nancy Heliotte 2020-2029	Ward 5 Barry Christian 2013-2027
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About the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

In November of 2006 Napa County voters approved Measure I establishing the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. The District is authorized to protect and preserve natural areas, wildlife habitat and other open space resources, and to plan, improve and operate a system of public parks, trails, outdoor recreational facilities, and outdoor science and conservation education programs. Its jurisdiction includes all of Napa County.

The District is governed by a Board of Directors whose members are directly elected by the public in each of five wards. Ward boundaries coincide with the County's Board of Supervisors' districts. Ward boundaries and a full map of all District Wards [can be found here](#).

Funding for the District currently comes from a mix of program income and a share of the County of Napa's transient occupancy tax as set by the Board of Supervisors. The District is also empowered to obtain grants, accept gifts, and collect fees for services provided. Subject to voter approval, the District is authorized to raise revenues through some types of property assessments and taxes. The District has no power to regulate private land use, is subject to all applicable city and county regulations, and may only acquire property from willing sellers.

For more information about our work, please [contact us here](#). A full board and staff directory is [available here](#).



About Our Work

Since our inception in 2006, the Napa Open Space District has protected more than 6,000 acres of watersheds, forests and other open spaces, built and now operates Ecocamp Berryessa as a youth outdoor education camp, and constructed and/or operates over 75 miles of recreational trails. The District also manages and provides recreational access to another 9,000 acres of open space owned by other



CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



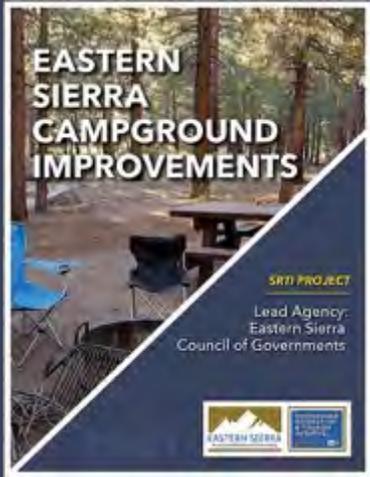
PREPARED FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE
DECEMBER 12, 2022





March 10 – On Agenda for Adoption

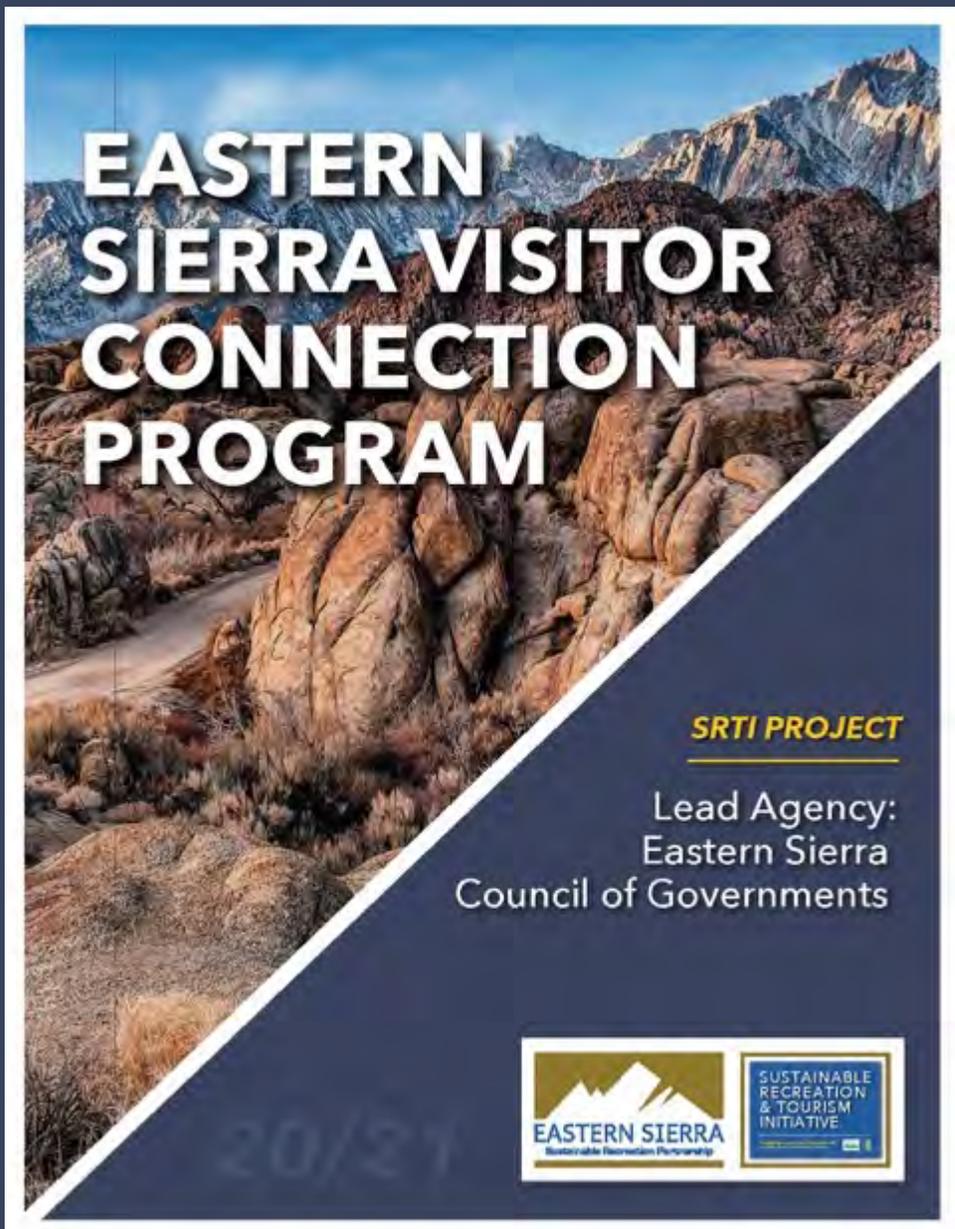
MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, March 24



**EASTERN
SIERRA VISITOR
CONNECTION
PROGRAM**

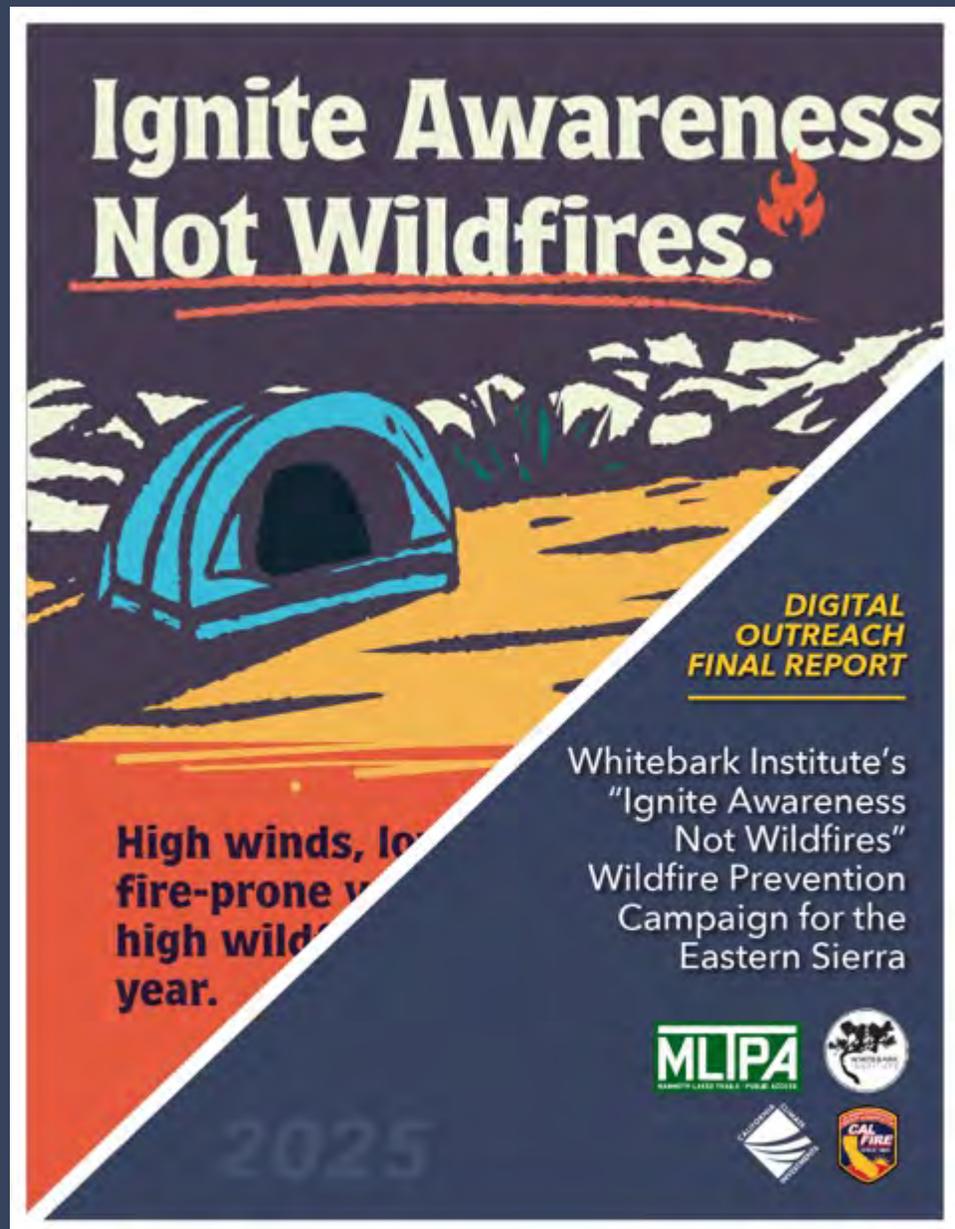
SRTI PROJECT

Lead Agency:
Eastern Sierra
Council of Governments

EASTERN SIERRA
Sustainable Recreation Partnership

**SUSTAINABLE
RECREATION & TOURISM
INITIATIVE**

20/21



**Ignite Awareness
Not Wildfires.**

*DIGITAL
OUTREACH
FINAL REPORT*

High winds, low
fire-prone vegetation
high wildfire
year.

Whitebark Institute's
"Ignite Awareness
Not Wildfires"
Wildfire Prevention
Campaign for the
Eastern Sierra

MLTPA
MANAGED TRAILS & PUBLIC ACCESS

CAL FIRE

2025



EASTERN SIERRA
Sustainable Recreation Partnership

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION
& TOURISM INITIATIVE

**VISITOR
AUDIENCE**

Funded by a grant from Proposition 65
and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires.

DIGITAL OUTREACH FINAL REPORT

Whitebark Institute's "Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires" Wildfire Prevention Campaign for the Eastern Sierra

High winds, low humidity, and a fire-prone year. High winds, low humidity, and a fire-prone year.

OVERVIEW

The Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires (INW) campaign was launched in May 2023 by the Whitebark Institute with funding from CAL FIRE's Collaborative Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Program. The campaign was designed to increase wildfire prevention awareness among visitors across the Eastern Sierra through coordinated digital and on-site ground outreach.

A core component of the initiative was a nearly eight-month digital media campaign, managed by the MLTPA Foundation, which ran from May through December, 2023. Using a multi-year contract from the Visitor Connection Program (an initiative originally funded by the Eastern Sierra Center Grant), the MLTPA Foundation engaged local partners to fully share campaign materials and broader outreach. In keeping with this work plan, a new website was developed (transparent and high quality) and newly placed campaign assets with regional partners. This coordinated approach enabled a consistent and wide spread delivery of the established wildfire prevention messaging, ensuring a unified and comprehensive visitor education effort across the Eastern Sierra.

The digital outreach effort described in this report represents one component of the broader "Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires" campaign. While the overall campaign included multiple elements, this report focuses exclusively on the digital outreach activities conducted by the MLTPA Foundation in partnership with regional organizations from May through December 2023.

METRICS

TOTAL IMPRESSIONS:	470,456	TOTAL # OF POSTS:	105
NUMBER OF PARTNERS:	16	PARTNER ORIGINATED:	80
		PROGRAM ORIGINATED:	25

REACH: 122,721
(MANY PARTNERS DID NOT SELF-REPORT REACH. THIS NUMBER IS FROM PROGRAM ORIGINATED POSTS ONLY.)

DIGITAL ASSETS

IGNITE AWARENESS NOT WILDFIRES (MAIN CAMPAIGN)

IGNITE AWARENESS NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)

DIGITAL ASSETS CONT.

IGNITE ADVENTURE NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)

IGNITE CONNECTION NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)

IGNITE RESPECT NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)

VCP TOOLKIT WEBSITE

The Visitor Connection Program Toolkit Website was developed to easily share all campaign assets with partners and will remain in operation at www.vcp.org as a means of sharing regional messaging beyond the scope of the Ignite Awareness effort.

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

SYNCHRONIZED POST: MAY 3, WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS DAY ALSO CAMPAIGN KICK OFF

Partner originated posts:

- Total Impressions: 6,160
- Total # posts: 13
- Total # partners that reported: 8

NOTE: By coordinating and timing the campaign around the wildfire preparedness day, the campaign allowed for unified messaging by having the same message at each visitor drop-off point throughout the area.

FOURTH OF JULY MESSAGE

Program Originated Post + Partner Originated Posts:

- Total Impressions: 74,523
- Total # posts: 17
- Total # partners that participated: 11

NOTE: Digital content aligned with holidays or relevant events increased engagement and overall performance.

HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

TOP PERFORMING INSTAGRAM POST: JULY 2

- Total Impressions: 11,000
- Reach: 14,150
- Interactions: 102

NOTE: Posts that were featured in collaborations with summer organizations generated the highest engagement. These examples included a \$150 post (local and multi-partner collaboration between MLTPA, Whitebark Institute, and Visit Mammoth).

TOP PERFORMING FACEBOOK POST: DECEMBER 9

- Total Impressions: 10,543
- Interactions: 50

NOTE: Facebook posts generated the highest engagement. This example included a \$200.50 post (local).

WORDS FROM OUR PARTNERS

BISHOP AREA CLIMBERS COALITION

"As a volunteer organization with a deep love for climbing, stewardship, and education, we highly value having vetted, sustainable recreation messaging and graphics at our fingertips. This campaign helped us effectively share important stewardship messaging alongside other local organizations."

- SARAHAN PAGE, SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR, BISHOP AREA CLIMBERS COALITION

VISIT MAMMOTH

"Stewardship and collaboration are just a few of the core values of Mammoth Lakes Tourism, so partnering with the Whitebark Institute, Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation, and other organizations in work that we believe in. The Ignite campaign assets were thoughtfully built with stewardship and sustainability in mind, which made it easy for us to activate content, educational, and interpretive messaging across our channels, from social to our website. With summer approaching at the time of launch, the campaign was perfectly timed. Wildlife and cognitive awareness needed to be a main focus, and the Ignite campaign helped us achieve exactly that."

- SARAHAN LINDBERG, LEAD MARKETING MANAGER, MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM

FRIENDS OF THE INYO

"The Ignite Awareness Campaign has made it effortless to place the simple things anyone can do to prevent the catastrophic wildfires we face all too well. It's been so rewarding when educating visitors and locals alike on how to respect the land and practice sustainable recreation."

- JORDAN MARQUEL, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, FRIENDS OF THE INYO

TAKEAWAYS FROM WHITEBARK INSTITUTE & MLTPA FOUNDATION

WHITEBARK INSTITUTE

"Wildfire impacts all of us across the Eastern Sierra, a reality made abundantly clear by the many fires and profound loss of recent years. Small personal actions can lead to meaningful changes that reduce the risk of devastating wildfires within the communities and landscapes we love."

- LAURA HENNINGTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHITEBARK INSTITUTE

MLTPA FOUNDATION

"MLTPA's collaboration with Whitebark and the Ignite Awareness campaign empowers the Visitor Connection Program and the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative in 2023. After just eight meetings, the Working Group agreed on a detailed action plan to establish a regional voice for the Eastern Sierra. The 2023 "Ignite Awareness" Campaign was the first fully funded initiative by the Working Group and its partners. We are thrilled with the results, and we're looking forward to the next year."

- JOHN WORTHINGTON, BOARD PRESIDENT, MLTPA FOUNDATION

Visit Bishop Story Share

INSPECT REGULARLY



Loose chains can create sparks that ignite dry grass and vegetation.



Regularly check trailer chains to ensure they are properly in place and not dragging on the ground.

Funded by this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

805 805

SECURE PROPERLY



Securely fasten trailer chains before driving, especially in fire-prone areas.



Follow manufacturer guidelines for installation.



Funded by this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

818 818

EASTERN SIERRA FIRE TIPS



did you know...

ignitions of road-side fires can occur by direct contact of metal and pavement due to dragging trailer chains and metal parts.



FOLLOW TIPS TO PREVENT IGNITIONS →

Funded by this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

838 841

As we welcome friends to our region for the annual splendor of Fall colors, we wanted to share tips and precautions that can be taken to support fire safety.

Thank you for being a part of our community!

#RecreateResponsibly
#VisitBishop

Funded by this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

875 877

STAY ALERT



If you hear unusual noises or feel vibrations while driving your trailer, pull over to inspect your chains.



Fix any issues immediately to prevent fire risks.

Funded by this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

792 793

BISHOP AREA CLIMBERS COALITION

"As a volunteer organization with a deep love for climbing, stewardship, and education, we highly value having vetted, sustainable recreation messaging and graphics at our fingertips. This campaign helped us effectively share consistent stewardship messaging alongside other local organizations."

– SAVANNA DEGER, SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR, BISHOP AREA CLIMBERS COALITION

FRIENDS OF THE INYO

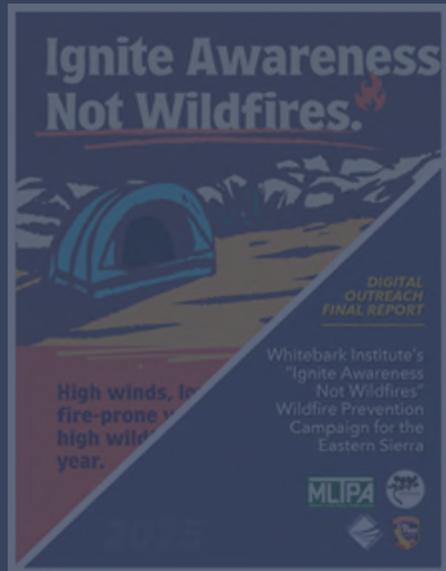
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VISIT MAMMOTH

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– SAMANTHA LINDBERG, SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER, MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM





EASTERN SIERRA

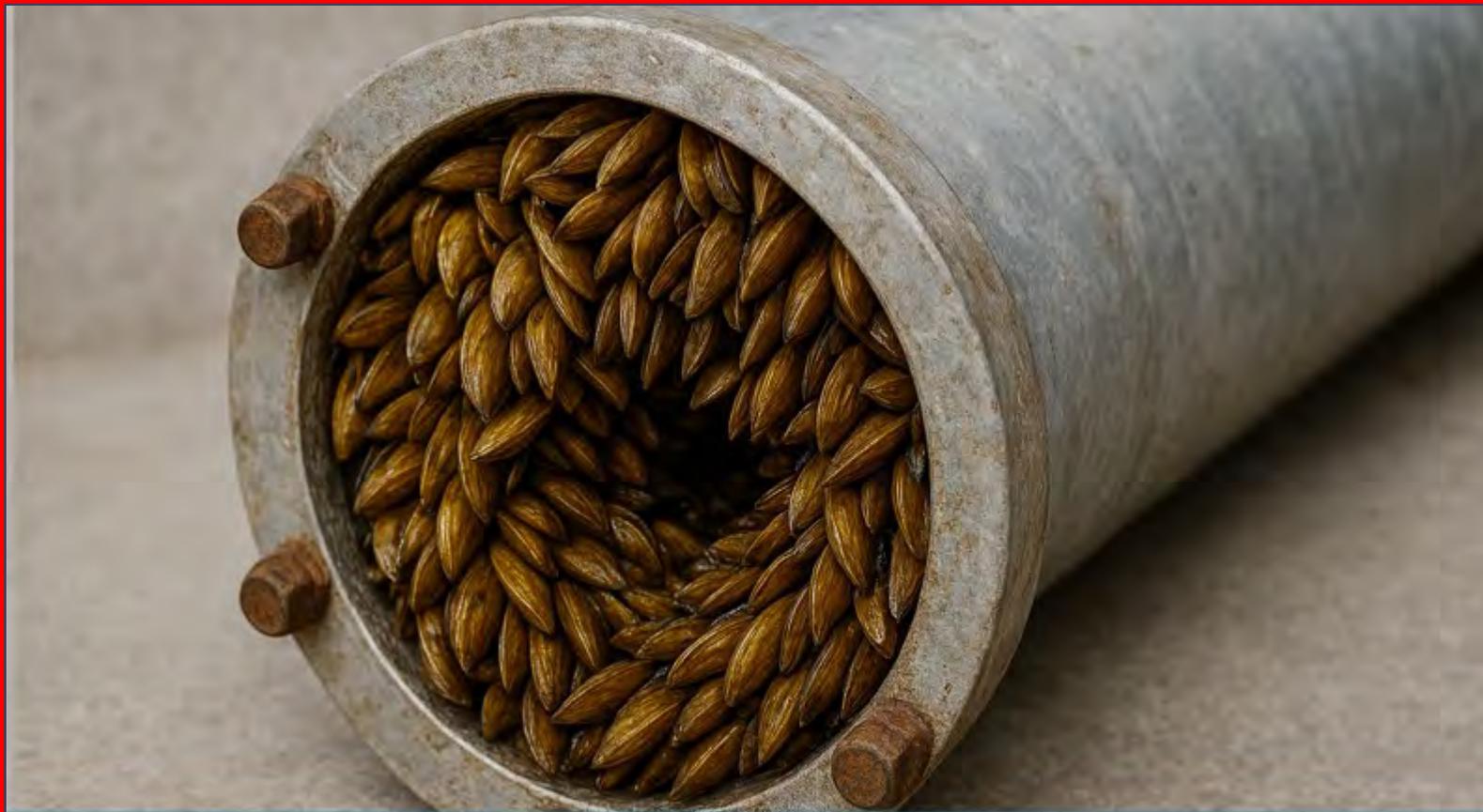
VISITOR CONNECTION PROGRAM TOOLKIT

Welcome to our resource page for organizations in California's Eastern Sierra that are interested in promoting coordinated sustainable recreation and educational messaging to our visitor audience.

ON THIS WEBSITE YOU WILL FIND:

- Content for social media posts including instructions and suggestions for captions
- Source websites, links to videos, and downloadable print materials
- Information about creating campaigns
- Gratitude: thank you for participating in this information sharing effort dedicated to educating our audiences and protecting the recreation experience in our region.





Golden Mussel Threat

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

E&ENews PM Gift article

Colorado River 'infested' with zebra mussels

Colorado wildlife officials confirm first adult zebra mussels near Grand Junction.

BY JENNIFER YACHNIN | 09/15/2025 04:14 PM EDT



SFGATE CA MINICROSSWORD Account

NEWS | BAY AREA & STATE

Fears grow as invasive species spreads through California waterways

By Sam Maubay-Moore, National Parks Reporter
Feb 25, 2026



The Friant-Kern Canal is an irrigation canal and part of the Central Valley Project aqueduct.
Education Images/Universal Images Group via Getty

CA Learn About CDFW Contact Sign up for Newsletters

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Home Fishing Hunting Licensing Conservation Learning



CDFW Invasive Species Program News

2026 QZ Grant Solicitation Notice and Presentation

A Presentation will be conducted via MS Teams on:

March 13, 2026 10:00 a.m. to noon

The application window is

March 9, 2026 to April 17, 2026



**Eastern Sierra Visitor Connection Program
Digital Campaign Implementation
Stop the Golden Mussel
March 2026 – November 2026**

To: Eastern Sierra Golden Mussel Outreach Committee

From: The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA Foundation)

Date: February 27, 2026

Brief – Sustainable Recreation Issue

Eastern Sierra waters are at risk of severe and devastating impacts if the Golden Mussel invades. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has raised the alarm that this is an issue with massive environmental and recreational impacts. Key to preventing the invasion is public outreach, and a regional, multi-jurisdictional Outreach Committee has been formed.

Outreach Plan

The committee has developed an outreach plan that is supported by committee member organizations. The plan includes on-the-ground efforts to support boat inspections and decontamination stations, as well as messaging to "Recreational Waterbody Users," including analog collateral (posters, flyers, etc.) and digital assets for websites and social media.

The Eastern Sierra Visitor Connection Program ("VCP")

Originated in 2021 by a group of regional agencies and organizations funded by a Proposition 68 grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the **Visitor Connection Program** supports partners in sharing sustainable recreation campaigns across the Eastern Sierra—expanding reach, increasing awareness, and delivering consistent messaging to visitors through a coordinated regional platform.

Currently, the program is being shepherded by the non-profit MLTPA Foundation, and the systems and processes outlined in the 2021 framework are in place and ready for use. These tools support consistent, region-wide sustainable recreation messaging for both the original working group partners and new organizations interested in participating.

MLTPA Board's Commitment To the "Eastern Sierra Golden Mussel Outreach Committee"

- Adding the committee's digital assets to www.vcptoolkit.org
- Regular communication to the VCP Partners requesting they share the digital assets on their own social pages/channels.
- Coordinating efforts for synchronized, collaborative, and boosted social media posts.
- Reporting total impressions
- \$15,000 to stand up and provide initial support for this element of the program.



**Eastern Sierra Visitor Connection Program
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Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments



SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects

**Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments**

Ken Etzel

*Regional Recreation
Collaborative Coordinator*

Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative

*Building Resilience Through
Collaboration in the Eastern Sierra*



ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects

**Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments**

Ken Etzel

*Regional Recreation
Collaborative Coordinator*

Chipmunk Canyon Trails Existing Conditions Analysis

*Balancing Access, Ecology, and
Culture in Recreation*

**Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments**

Quarterly Hybrid Meetings

~~Meeting 1: Monday February 9th, 10am-1pm~~
~~Mammoth Lakes Civic Center Mono Lake Room~~
~~1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA~~

Meeting 2: Wednesday May 6th, 10am-1pm
Inyo County Consolidated Office Building, Room 101
1360 North Main Street, Bishop CA

Meeting 3: Wednesday August 5th, 10am-1pm
Mammoth Lakes Civic Center Mono Lake Room
1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA

Meeting 4: Wednesday November 4th, 10am-1pm
Inyo County Consolidated Office Building, Room 101
1360 North Main Street, Bishop, CA

Meeting Materials

Eswildfirealliance.org

Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

Home

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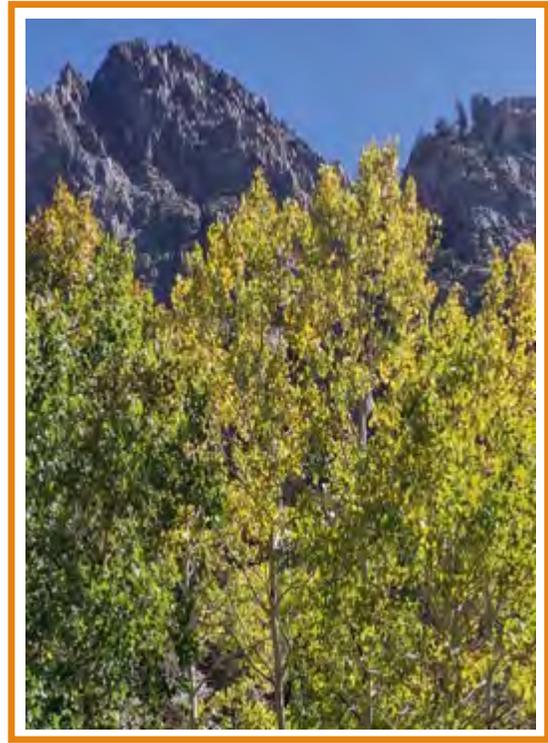
Fire Safe Councils



Building Regional
Wildfire Resilience

2026 Workplan

- MOU finalization
- Development of regional project database and dashboard
- Establishment of a steering committee
- Working group establishment and integration
- Website update and communications
- Development of an annual action plan
- Partner updates and accomplishments



Interested in
joining?

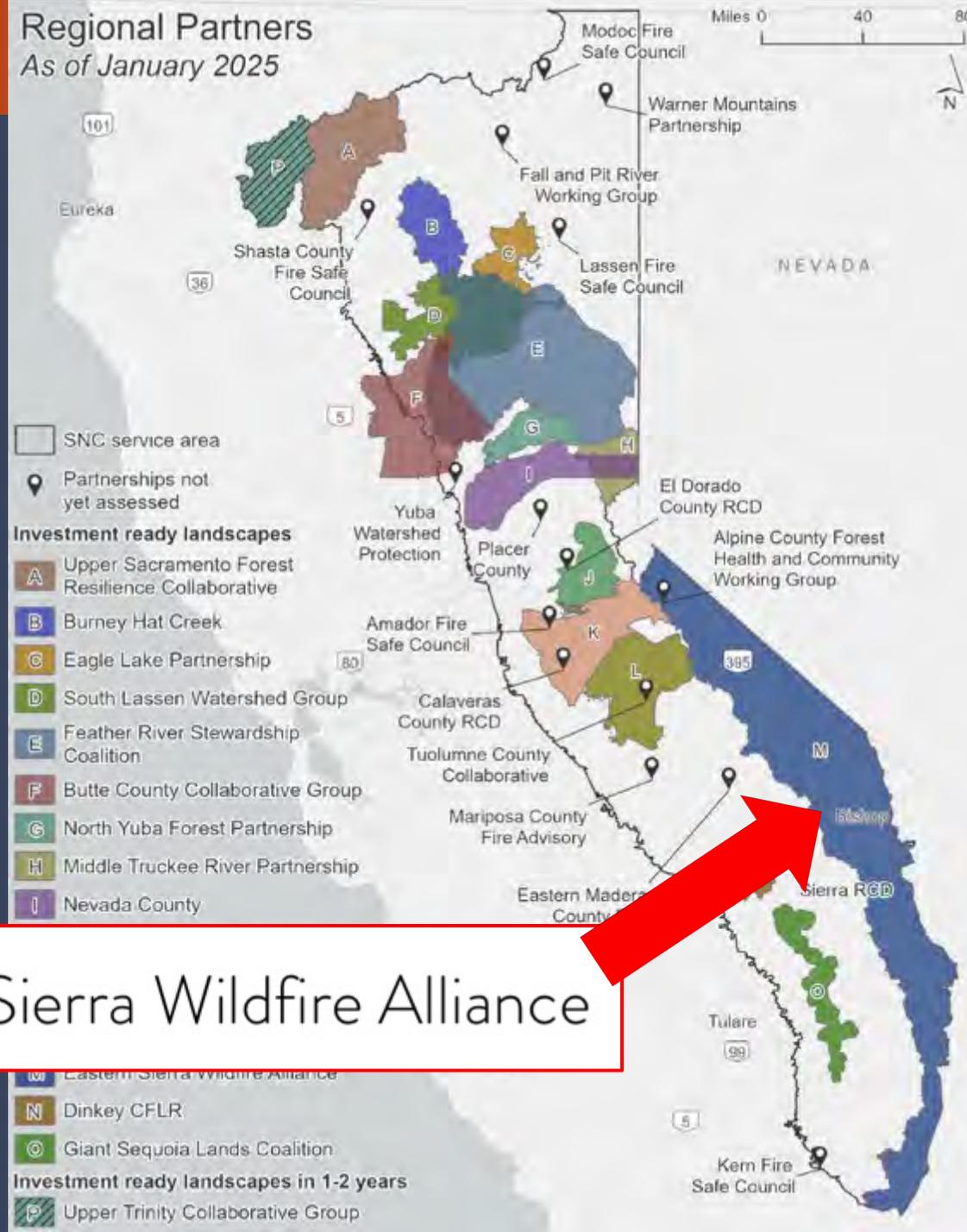
Contact:

tracy@whitebarkinstitute.org

Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance



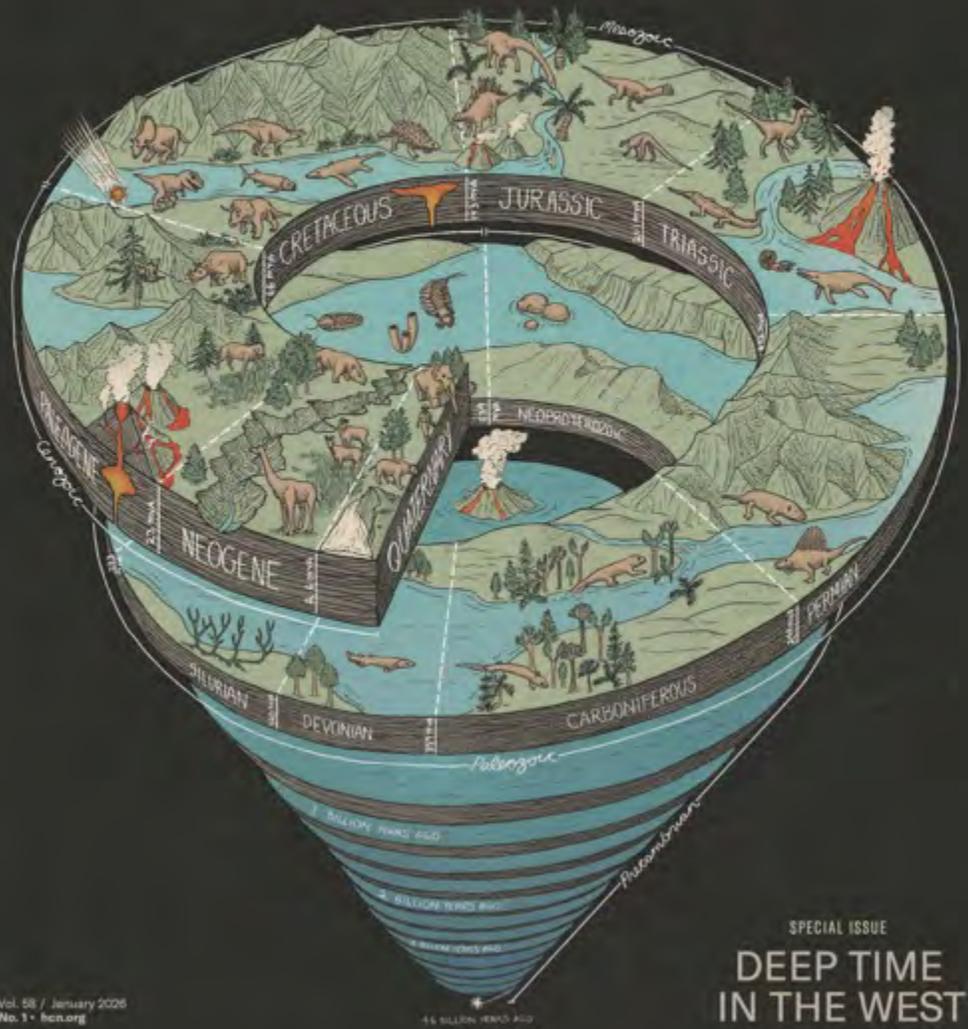
Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance





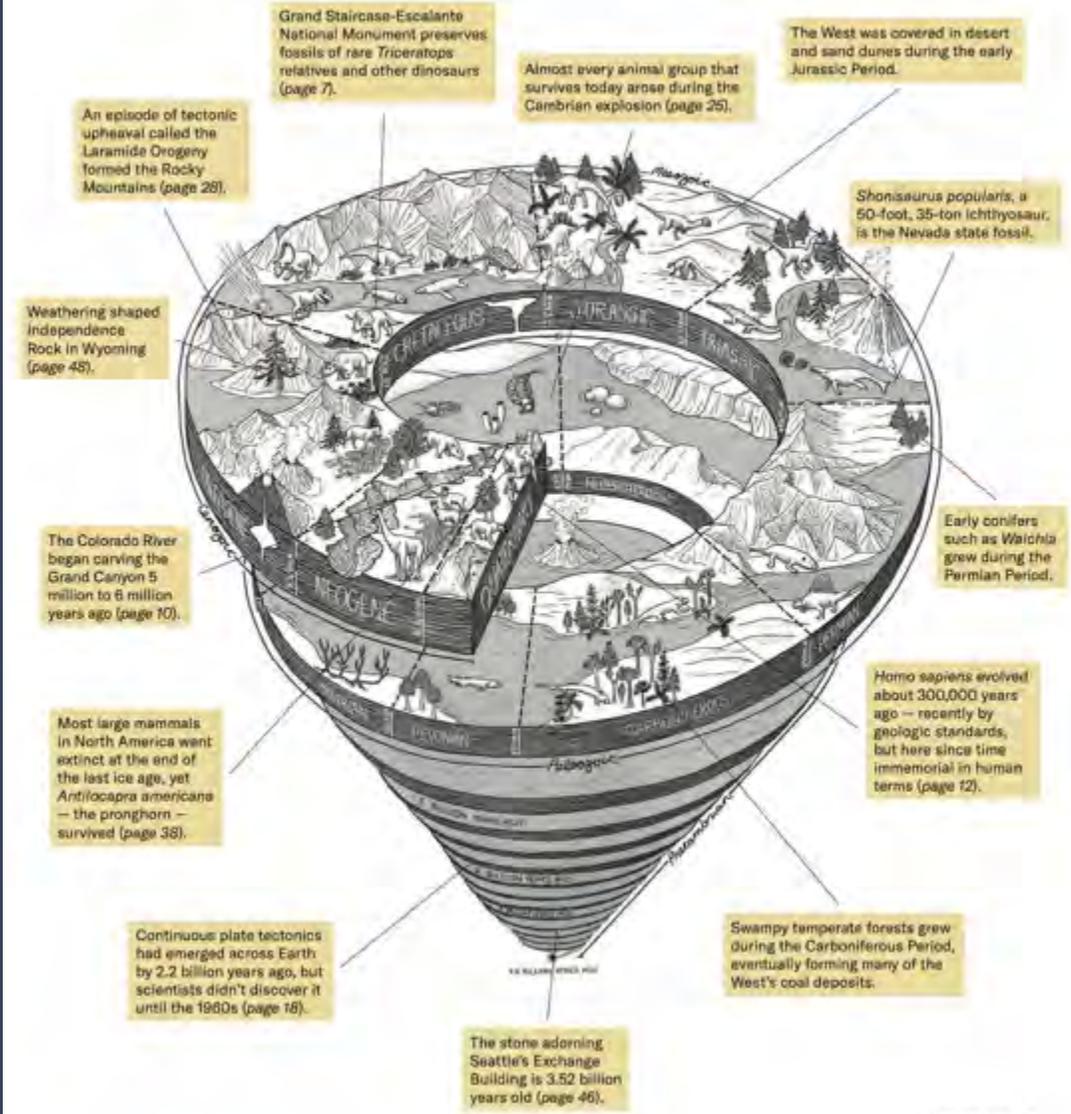
Happenings of Interest for Eastern Sierra Recreation

High Country News



SPECIAL ISSUE
**DEEP TIME
IN THE WEST**

Geologic past | See how the West is remade throughout Earth's history.



High Country News



Vol. 58 / January 2026
No. 1 • hcn.org

4.6 BILLION YEARS AGO

SPECIAL ISSUE
DEEP TIME
IN THE WEST

High Country News [Donate](#)

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The Grand Canyon and Meteor Crater have a surprising link

Mysterious driftwood high in Grand Canyon caves hints at the legacy of Arizona's huge impact crater.

Evan Howell January 23, 2026

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Happenings of Interest



Here's what to know about the partial government shutdown and its impact



Happenings of Interest

PBS NEWS

Menu

Notifications



Here's what to know about the partial government shutdown and its impact

Nation Jan 31, 2026 2:23 PM EST

CNN Politics

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POLITICS • 7 MIN READ

A partial government shutdown has hit the Department of Homeland Security. Here's what that means

UPDATED FEB 24, 2026

By  Tami Luhby



Community members react to federal immigration agents conducting enforcement tasks in Minneapolis, Minnesota, February 5, 2026. (Seth Herald/Reuters)

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The Department of Homeland Security has been ensnared by a partial government shutdown as Congress did not act to fund the agency by the end of February 13. But nearly all DHS workers will remain on the job — even if many won't get paid until the lapse ends — and much of the public probably won't notice a change.

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

Government Executive
NEWS MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT DEFENSE TECH PAY & BENEFITS WORKFORCE

PODCASTS | EVENTS | TRENDING: SHOTDOWN | SUPPORT | 4/10 | TOP



Oversight

A thinning roster at Indian Affairs leaves tribes wondering who's left to help, watchdog reports

Indian Affairs' workforce has decreased by 11% since the start of President Donald Trump's second term.

Cultural Landscape Training Framework



This webinar will provide an exclusive first walk through of the Cultural Landscape Training Framework showcasing how outdoor professionals can embrace multiple perspectives of the Indigenous landscapes they work on.

Presented by:

- Amanda Grace Santos, Archaeologist, USDA Forest Service
- Valery Serrano-Lopez, Partnership Liaison Specialist, Rocky Mountain Region, USDA Forest Service

GREENWIRE

Trump rule aims to ease firings of feds who 'thwart' him

Critics promise a fight in court.

BY ROBIN BRAVENDER | 02/05/2025 01:30 PM EST



President Donald Trump speaks to reporters at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, on Tuesday. | Mark Schifano/AP

GREENWIRE

It could be the biggest US data center — next to a Civil War battlefield

A Virginia court heard arguments Tuesday over the Digital Gateway project that would border Manassas National Battlefield Park.

BY ARIEL WITTEMBERG | 02/05/2025 01:29 PM EST



Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia is home to a clash over a massive potential data center. | Theodor Park/Bettina



Brendan Foody

CEO, Mercor

in X Instagram

Brendan is a serial entrepreneur obsessed with AI and its potential to solve labor misallocation. He is the CEO at Mercor, a San Francisco startup using AI to automate the way we hire. Mercor has quickly accumulated hundreds of thousands of users and 7 figure annual recurring revenue. Before Mercor, Brendan was a student at Georgetown University, where he dropped out. He also founded Seres, a cloud computing company.

SPEAKERS A-Z | Speaker SCHEDULE | Demo SCHEDULE

Devos 2024

Government Executive

NEWS MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT DEFENSE TECH PAY & BENEFITS WORKFORCE

PODCASTS | EVENTS | TRENDING: SHOTDOWN | SUPPORT | 4/10 | TOP



Workforce

Trump admin moves to finalize return of Schedule F

Officials estimate that around 50,000 federal workers will be stripped of their civil service protections beginning in around a month, as unions, employee associations and good government groups decry their positions' politicization.

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

Trump's BLM Nominee Waffles On Public Land Sell-Off Stance

Steve Pearce, the White House's second oil and gas-connected pick, is "not so sure" he's changed.

ROQUE PLANAS AND CHRIS D'ANGELO
FEB 25, 2020



The Honorable Steve Pearce

Former U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM) fields questions in the hearing for his nomination to head the Bureau of Land Management on Feb. 25, 2020. Photo credit: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Republicans Keep Invoking Teddy Roosevelt. The Roosevelt Family Keeps Pushing Back.

"It is now time for all of you to get in the arena with him," four descendants of the late president wrote in a letter to GOP senators.

CHRIS D'ANGELO
FEB 12, 2020



Theodore Roosevelt in 1910. Photo credit: Library of Congress.

Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Announce Support for Legislation that Will Help Protect Habitat and Sporting Opportunity on California Public Land

January 24, 2020



Contact: Katie Hawkins, California Policy Manager, Trout Unlimited

House approves pro-mining bill

The legislation has the backing of industry groups and some unions. Environmentalists have blasted it.

HANNAH NORTHEY | 02/26/2020 04:27 PM EST



Rep. Peter Rosenthal (R-Minn.) during House floor debate Wednesday. House Television.

The GOP Goes Scorched Earth in Boundary Waters Battle

House Republicans slash conservation protections for beloved wilderness while targeting green groups for investigation.

JIMMY THIBAU
FEB 15, 2020



Sunset in the Boundary Waters. Courtesy Jimmy Thibau.

House Republican advocate for land sales announces retirement

Nevada Rep. Mark Amodei, a senior member of the Natural Resources and Appropriations committees, will step down after 15 years.

ANDRES PIERRE | 02/25/2020 04:28 AM EST



Nevada Republican Rep. Mark Amodei announced he will retire from Congress after finishing his current term. © Scott Applebaum/SP

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

Trump's Nominee to Lead the National Park Service Is a Hospitality Executive

Summary

The president's pick to lead the Park Service is Scott Socha, a longtime executive with NPS concessionaire Delaware North.

Frederick Dreier



The image shows the iconic arrowhead logo of the National Park Service, mounted on a stone wall. The logo is orange with a green border and contains a white silhouette of a bison at the bottom, a mountain range in the middle, and a tree on the left. The words "NATIONAL PARK SERVICE" are written in white across the center.

Visitation is booming at America's 'deadliest national park'

North Cascades saw visitation climb again in 2026, continuing a steady rise in recent years



Wildflower meadows sit beneath towering peaks in the North Cascades.

Marina Pouchkina/Getty Images

The image shows a vibrant meadow of yellow wildflowers in the foreground, with a range of blue mountains under a soft, hazy sky in the background. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking up towards the peaks.

Interior documents reveal department's inner workings

The Sierra Club released a trove of emails, texts and calendars released following a records lawsuit.

BY ROBIN BRAVENDER



These images illustrate the release of documents, showing a hand reaching through a large stack of papers.

The image features a hand with fingers spread, appearing to emerge from a thick stack of white papers. The background is a solid red color, and the papers are piled high, creating a sense of depth and volume.

'Unprecedented and a mess': Sweeping new rules restrict nearly all aspects of national park communications

It's getting more I--ked up every day



A hiker wearing a hat and a green jacket is seen from behind, walking across a wooden bridge over a stream in a lush forest.

The image shows a person from behind, walking across a wooden bridge that spans a small stream. The surrounding area is a dense forest with green trees and foliage. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

'We are still here': Death Valley is the latest battleground in fight over national park signs and exhibits



A man hikes on the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes in Death Valley National Park in 2024.

Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times

The image shows a vast landscape of sand dunes under a clear blue sky. A single person is visible in the distance, walking across the dunes. The dunes are light-colored and have a smooth, undulating surface.

Bryce Canyon National Park closes one of its most popular trails amid bizarre winter weather

The trail was closed after rapid snowmelt caused mudslides and rockfall

By Amanda Hellett, Southwest Contributing Parks Editor

Feb 27, 2026



This photo, taken on Feb. 25, shows damage to the Two Bridges Trail in Bryce Canyon National Park that prompted park officials to close the popular hiking route until further notice.

The image shows a rocky trail with significant damage. Large rocks and debris are scattered across the path, and there is a noticeable amount of snow or ice on the ground, indicating recent weather events.

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

RE:PUBLIC

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM FOR PUBLIC LANDS.

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STEWARDSHIP

★ FEATURED

THE GROUND TRUTH

Government-issued maps are a public trust, a promise to help us explore America's public lands safely. Yet they no longer reflect the reality of our nation's trails.

14 min read



CHECKING IN ON THE CHAOS THEORY

Coal craziness, unconfirmed nominees, roadless forests, and the Bannion-style blitz: why stepping back to track public-lands decisions has never been more important.



PREDICTIONS: 2026

MAJOR SHRINKAGE

Project 2025 provided a blueprint for reducing and dismantling national monuments. And now the work is underway.

5 min read



PREDICTIONS: 2026

THE RE:PUBLIC YEAR AHEAD

Last year was a consequential one for America's public lands. What does 2026 have in store? Presenting 29 bold predictions from the experts.

7 min read



GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

THE LAST REFUGE

A surprise, end-of-year review at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could signal major changes are underway at our refuges

9 min read



GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

SHORTSIGHTED IN THE EXTREME
If you thought this week's Boundary Waters news was bad, wait until you hear what Utah Senator Mike Lee is proposing.

11 min read



STEWARDSHIP

THE GROUND TRUTH

Government-issued maps are a public trust, a promise to help us explore America's public lands safely. Yet they no longer reflect the reality of our nation's trails.

14 min read



NATIONAL PARKS

STICKER SHOCK

International visitors are now being charged higher entry fees to national parks. The rollout has not been smooth.

7 min read



POLITICS

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Revisiting year one of RE:PUBLIC—and how a certain Utah Senator had an outsized impact on the early stages of our organization

8 min read



LAND & INDUSTRY

A TINY LAND DEAL WITH GIANT IMPLICATIONS

A recent public lands bill has critics once again wondering: what exactly is Utah Senator Mike Lee up to?

3 min read



WILDLIFE

SEASONAL MIGRATIONS

This year's onslaught of bad news has us all looking for perspective. I'm not the only one who wanted to fly home.

9 min read

Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATEWIRE

EPA repeals endangerment finding

The move discards a scientific determination that empowered the government to limit climate pollution.

BY JEAN CHENKICK | 02/10/2024 01:28 PM EST



EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin (center) and Max Gerson, a representative of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Small Business Caucus, speak at a news conference on the repeal of the endangerment finding for greenhouse gases on Thursday. (Lance Winters/AP Photo)

CLIMATEWIRE

Olympic town warms up as climate change puts Winter Games on thin ice

Weather plays a critical role in the smooth running and safety of winter sports competitions.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS | 02/10/2024 04:37 AM EST



The United States' Jeannette Wilson speaks during the women's freestyle snowboard cross final at the Sochi Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, on Thursday. (Lance Winters/AP Photo)

GREENWIRE

5 highlights in EPA's big climate rollback

Here's what's in the rule released by EPA near midnight.

BY ALEX GULLÉN, JEAN CHENKICK | 02/10/2024 01:44 PM EST



President Donald Trump speaks alongside EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin during an event to announce a rollback of the 2009 endangerment finding for the greenhouse gases for winter ozone on Thursday. (Lance Winters/AP Photo)

E&E NEWS PM

Obsession with growth is destroying nature, 150 countries warn

China, India and EU countries were among the signatories of a report that criticized the prevailing measures of economic success.

BY LEONIE KATZ | 02/10/2024 09:00 AM EST

E&E NEWS PM | BRUSSELS — More than 170 countries including China, India and European Union members have signed off on a report that warns focusing on unchecked economic growth is contributing to the destruction of global biodiversity.

"Unsustainable economic activity and a focus on growth as measured by the gross domestic product, has been a driver of the decline of biodiversity... and stands in the way of transformative change," says the report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services published Monday.

IPBES is the leading intergovernmental body for assessing the state of biodiversity. Monday's report follows three years of work, and was approved by government representatives at the IPBES summit that wrapped up in Manchester, United Kingdom, on Sunday.

One eighth of the world's estimated 8 million species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction, according to IPBES. Some 75 percent of the Earth's land surface has already been significantly altered by human action.

CLIMATEWIRE

Winter Games organizers open to earlier start dates as planet warms

The International Olympic Committee has long acknowledged that the changing climate is a challenge for finding future hosts and organizing competitions.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS | 02/10/2024 04:05 AM EST



A snowy ski slope at the Sochi Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, on Thursday. (Lance Winters/AP Photo)

CLIMATEWIRE

Trump delayed a global carbon tax. Now he wants to finish the fight.

American officials are drafting a diplomatic cable that warns dozens of countries against adopting a climate fee on the shipping industry.

BY SARA SCHENKARD | 02/10/2024 02:14 AM EST



A cargo ship sails in New York Harbor on Thursday. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

GREENWIRE

Supreme Court accepts oil industry's bid to quash climate lawsuits

If successful, the lawsuits from cities, states and counties could put companies like Exxon Mobil on the hook for billions of dollars.

BY LESLEY CLARK | 02/10/2024 09:41 AM EST



The Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on Thursday. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

The Storm Skiing Journal and Po... [Subscribe](#) [Sign in](#)

Yes, Virginia, There Is A Climate Change

The question is not whether climate change is happening. It's whether we will adapt to it. And the answer, so far, is "no."

BY ERIC HUGHES | 02/10/2024 09:00 AM EST

Back when I was Twitter and before the platform was overrun by fringe-theory propagandists and cartoonish vectors I would sometimes post springtime lists of still-open ski areas. And in the East that would often be some April 25-ish version of Sugarbush-by-Killington. But eventually I stopped doing this because inevitably some richard with an @Skilife handle and nine followers would contribute the amazing insight that I "forgot about" Big Som, New Jersey's forever-open indoor ski center. And I found it annoying that users of a platform defined by a 140-character limit would demand that each post include the recitation of established basic truths.

Which is another way of saying that I'm not in the habit of professing belief in demonstrable facts undergirded by supercomputers full of data. Or just things that are very obvious. Like I don't go around saying "It's an established fact that..." "snow is

Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The New York Times

GIVE THE TIMES

Climate and Environment

[Sign up for the Climate Forward newsletter.](#)



John L. Moore/Associated Press

Judge Approves \$345 Million Verdict Against Greenpeace in Pipeline Suit

Greenpeace has said the verdict could bankrupt it. The lawsuit was over the group's role in protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

1d ago · By KAREN ZRANICK



Genalo Kasper/Agence France Press — Getty Images

Wildfire Seasons Are Starting to Overlap. That Spells Trouble for Firefighting.

Simultaneous emergencies in different parts of the world could stop countries from sharing ground crews and equipment, new research warns.

3d ago · By REBECCA DZOMBAY

Birds Aren't Just Declining. They're Declining Faster, a New Study Finds.

Scientists studying data collected over more than three decades found accelerating losses. Their research offers clues about the causes.



February 26, 2026 · By CATRIN EINHORN

Sorry, SpaceX: It's Getting Too Crowded Up There

Elon Musk wants to launch a million satellites, but researchers say global warming is changing the upper atmosphere in ways that makes space junk linger.



2d ago · By SACHE KITAJIMA MULKEY



We Asked for Environmental Fixes in Your State. You Sent In Thousands.



A Climate 'Shock' Is Eroding Some Home Values. New Data Shows How Much.



There's a Race to Power the Future. China Is Pulling Away.



Trash or Recycling? Why Plastic Keeps Us Guessing.



A Climate Change Guide for Kids

Happenings of Interest - State

#CABudget

LAO upgrades state revenue estimates a lot



The Desert Sun

Voters may be asked if California should be own country. What to know

Steve Pastis and Daniela Segura, Palm Springs Desert Sun
Feb. 6, 2026 at 10:06 AM PST
1 min read

Add Yahoo on Google



A bold political movement is pushing for California to secede from the United States and become an independent country.

CA FWD's Vision For State And Regional Economic Partnership: Summary Of Current Recommendations

JANUARY 28, 2026 | CA FWD AND CALIFORNIA STEWARDSHIP NETWORK

The Opportunity and Challenge

California's economy is at a crossroads. The world's fourth largest economy, the state boasts incredible assets including our geography, natural resources, innovation culture, and human capital. At the same time, the state has some of the country's highest inequality and poverty rates, a reality felt in both rural and urban regions. Meanwhile, the world faces unprecedented challenges from a fast-changing economy, shifting geopolitical priorities, and a warming climate.

California has the opportunity to lead the way in navigating these tensions in a way that models a truly sustainable, resilient, and inclusive economic model for the modern era. Seizing that opportunity requires improved coordination, governance, and action at both the state and regional level, as well as new implementation tools to effectively deliver projects throughout the state.

For nearly 20 years, California Forward (CA FWD) and our partners in the California Stewardship Network (CSN) have championed a "regions-up" approach where each of the state's diverse regions has the tools and capabilities to deliver on strategic priorities within their regions as well as in Sacramento.

Under Governor Gavin Newsom, the state has elevated and prioritized the role of regions, regional planning, and regional investments into economic and workforce development, integrated land use and transportation, housing, natural and working landscapes, and climate action—including directing over \$1.4 billion into regional programs such as California Jobs First, K-16 Education Collaboratives, and Regional Early Action Planning Grants (REAP 2.0). Taken together, these programs resulted in strong stakeholder engagement and capacity building, new strategic plans across every region in the state, and tangible and transformative projects on the ground.

OPINION

Republican Rep. Kevin Kiley won't say where he's running, but gave a big hint | Opinion

By Tom Philp

February 21, 2026 5:00 AM Gift Article



U.S. Rep. Kevin Kiley joins Sacramento Bee Opinion Editor Marcos Bresón and Politics Editor Grace Wyler for a Q&A session in Loomis on Feb. 18, 2026. By Sacramento Bee staff

Happenings of Interest - State



California's Working Landscapes: Evolving Contributions to National, State, and Regional Economies

By Alec Dompka, Alexandra E Hill, Aaron Wilcher

November 2025

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources



Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation, a sizable contribution to urban California economies

70,800 Number of jobs
\$3 billion Total earnings
\$9 billion Sales
4,300 Number of businesses

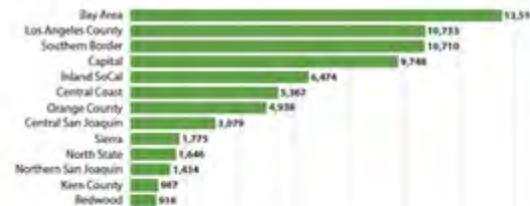
The outdoor recreation industry includes zoos, skiing facilities, parks, and recreational and vacation camps. In terms of employment, earnings, and sales income, the outdoor recreation segment is the third smallest segment of the nine studied in this report, but California's outdoor recreation segment is the largest in the nation. Outdoor recreation has not always been considered with working lands, but many communities in California are putting efforts into supporting this sector as a key working lands component.

Outdoor Recreation Jobs, 2024

In 2024, there were more than 70,800 outdoor recreation jobs in the state. Nearly one-half of all outdoor recreation jobs are in the Bay Area (13,500 jobs), Los Angeles County (10,700), and the Southern Border (10,700) (Exhibit 39).

These jobs were provided by the state's 4,300 outdoor recreation businesses, which have similar geographic concentrations as the segment's jobs, with 50% of businesses in the top three jobs regions.

Exhibit 39. Outdoor recreation jobs, 2024

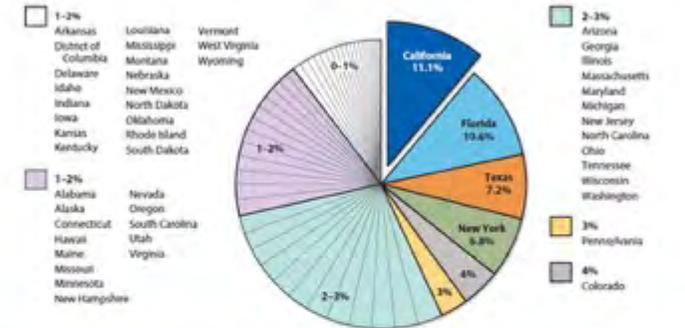


Outdoor Recreation Nationally, 2024

California is first nationally in outdoor recreation sales with 11% of US sales, first in jobs with 10%, and first in earnings with 11% (Exhibit 42). California is known (internationally for its outdoor recreation splendor and

its economic success in the sector backs this up. California has the second most outdoor recreation businesses at 8% behind Florida.

Exhibit 42. Outdoor recreation sales by state, 2024



UC Cooperative Extension Specialist- Community Economic Development: Outdoor Recreation and Tourism (AP# 25-36)

[Apply now](#)

Job #JPF00362

- [UC ANR / UC Agriculture and Natural Resources / UC Agriculture and Natural Resources](#)

APPLICATION WINDOW

Open date: December 9, 2025

Most recent review date: Thursday, Jan 29, 2026 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)

Applications received after this date will be reviewed by the search committee if the position has not yet been filled.

Final date: Saturday, Feb 28, 2026 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)

Applications will continue to be accepted until this date, but those received after the review date will only be considered if the position has not yet been filled.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Overview

The University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) invites applications for a UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Specialist at the Assistant Rank.

California's outdoor recreation economy is the largest in the United States. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, California's outdoor recreation activities led the nation in value, accounting for 2.1 percent of the state's GDP in 2023—approximately \$81.5 billion, which encompassed more than 545,000 jobs and \$38.1 billion in earnings. Activities include boating and fishing, cycling, climbing, hunting and shooting, winter snow sports, equestrian

UC Cooperative Extension Outdoor Recreation Advisor Serving Plumas, Sierra and Nevada Counties (25-19)

[Apply now](#)

Job #JPF00366

- [UC ANR / UC Agriculture and Natural Resources / UC Agriculture and Natural Resources](#)

APPLICATION WINDOW

Open date: December 15, 2025

Next review date: Thursday, Feb 5, 2026 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)

Apply by this date to ensure full consideration by the committee.

Final date: Tuesday, Apr 7, 2026 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)

Applications will continue to be accepted until this date, but those received after the review date will only be considered if the position has not yet been filled.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The University of California division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) invites applications for a **UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Outdoor Recreation Advisor, in the Assistant Rank, serving Plumas, Sierra and Nevada Counties**. The advisor will work at the local level and regionally with other community groups to leverage their assets associated with outdoor recreation opportunities. Outdoor recreation is an important local economic activity. These counties are known for their unique combination of high-elevation forests, alpine lakes, volcanic geology, and remote scenic valleys that create a distinct Sierra Mountain experience, focused on hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, OHV riding, and skiing to cycling, birding, and water-based recreation on lakes and rivers.

Happenings of Interest – Regional

Sections Los Angeles Times

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

This California reptile closed down a Mojave Desert haven for off-road racing



Vehicles driving on- and off-road on Feb. 2 on Bureau of Land Management land in Johnson Valley, Calif. (Ethan Szepe / For The Times)

The Guardian US

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

US news US politics World Climate crisis Middle East Ukraine US immigration Soccer Business Ethic

California

Washoe Tribe buys 10,000 acres in one of California's largest ever land returns

Tribe, which was forcibly removed from its lands near Lake Tahoe, used \$5.5m grant and private donations for purchase



The newly owned Washoe Preserve. Photograph: Elizabeth Carnell

HighCountryNews Donate

HOUSING

How Breckenridge reserved almost 75% of its full-time housing for workforce

The iconic ski town is aiming to keep locals local.

Susan Shalin February 10, 2024



AURA RESIDENCES, an affordable rental housing project by the town of Breckenridge, Colorado.

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

TRAVEL | TAKE

New Nevada law brings big changes to wealthy Incline Village

'An urgent and important matter'



A view out to the lake from the Lone Eagle Grille restaurant and bar in Incline Village, Nev., on July 22, 2024. Andrew Phillips/SFGATE

Happenings of Interest – Regional

The Mercury News 🔍

NEWS • ENVIRONMENT • News

Trump administration eliminates reservations at Yosemite National Park this summer

Environmental groups say crowding, long lines, and traffic jams are likely



The end of the season of Lower Yosemite Falls is crowded on Monday, May 27, 2019 in Yosemite National Park. (Anthony L. Soto - Santa Cruz Sentinel)

E! NEWS PM 🔍

Fired Yosemite ranger sues NPS over trans pride flag unveiling

The biologist climbed up El Capitan and helped hang a flag to protest the Trump administration removing references to transgender people from agency websites and properties.

BY MICHAEL DOYLE | 5/27/19 12:21 PM PST



Protest with a view: Biologist Doyle and a group of transsexuals' rights activists hang a trans pride flag in Yosemite National Park in May 2019 to protest the Trump administration's removal of transgender people from agency websites and properties.

San Francisco Chronicle e-Edition Account

U.S. & WORLD // CALIFORNIA

The latest plan for California high-speed rail: Connect it to Yosemite

By Sarahell Dawn, Staff Writer
Feb 1, 2018



The Merced River flows through Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park, in 2013. Some officials are suggesting California's High-Speed Rail service should connect to the park.

San Francisco Chronicle e-Edition Account

TRAVEL // OUTDOORS

'We're held hostage': Snow tourists are pushing a rural California county to the brink

By Gregory Thomas, Staff Writer
Feb 5, 2018



Families play in the snow at Spicer Snow Park, a designated play area along Highway 4 near Bear Valley. (Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

Partner Updates – In REVERSE 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
- BLM
- Alpine County

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

Thank You - !

Next Regular ESSRP Partner Meeting

Monday, April 6, 2026 @ 3:30