



Spring



REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



June 1, 2026





REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



June 1, 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**

CALIFORNIA

PRIMARY ELECTION

2026

Election Day

May 27, 2026

Governor Newsom signs legislation to further protect California elections from interference and intimidation

What you need to know: As President Trump continues to threaten political interference in the upcoming midterm election, Governor Newsom signed a new law to strengthen California's election protections ahead of the June 2 statewide primary — safeguarding voters, election workers, and ballot security from interference, intimidation, and unauthorized law enforcement activity. Watch [here](#).

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom today signed Senate Bill 73 (Cervantes and Umberg), legislation strengthening California's existing election safeguards in response to growing threats of election interference and intimidation, including efforts by allies of President Donald Trump to undermine confidence in elections and disrupt lawful election administration.

Home > Elections and Voter Information > Upcoming Elections > Primary Election - June 2, 2026

Choose Language

English ↕

2026 California Primary

- Eligible citizens who missed the May 18 deadline to register to vote may complete the "Same Day" voter registration process through Election Day on June 2, 2026, at their local county elections office or any in-person voting location within their county.
- Secure ballot drop-off locations opened on May 5, 2026.
- Ballots can be dropped off at a drop-off location, county elections office, or returned by mail.
- The first vote centers opened for early in-person voting in all Voter's Choice Act counties on May 23, 2026.
- In person early voting locations throughout California will be open on Saturday, May 30, 2026.
- June 2 is the last day to vote in-person or return a ballot by 8:00 p.m. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Vote-by-mail ballots must be postmarked no later than June 2. If mailing on Election Day, get a hand-stamped postmark from a postal employee inside a United States Post Office.



WATCH NOW Rich on Tech Weekly KTLA 5 LA'S VERY OWN SIGN 77° LOS ANGELES

News > Los Angeles Inland Empire Orange County More > Search

NUK

INSIDE CALIFORNIA POLITICS

New poll shows California governor race down to 3 frontrunners

By [Mark Goodell](#)
Posted: May 26, 2026 / 10:40 AM EDT
Updated: May 26, 2026 / 11:00 AM EDT

SHARE

The race for California governor appears to be down to three candidates vying for two spots in the November runoff, based on the final Emerson College/[inside California Politics](#) poll ahead of Tuesday's primary.

Former Health and Human Services Secretary [Xavier Becerra](#), a Democrat, leads the field with 28% support among likely voters, followed by fellow Democrat and billionaire [Tom Steyer](#) at 22% and Republican commentator [Steve Hilton](#) at 21%. Riverside County Sheriff [Chad Bianco](#), a Republican, was fourth with 12%. Democrats [Katie Porter](#), [Matt Mahan](#) and Antonio Villaraigosa were in the mid- to low single digits.

The survey, released Saturday morning, was conducted May 27-28 and polled 1,000 likely voters. The margin of error was 3%.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 [New poll shows governor's race down to 3 frontrunners](#)
- 2 [Historic L.A. taquito stand raises \\$30K in 4 days](#)
- 3 [1 killed, another critically hurt in SCV shooting](#)
- 4 [1 dead, 2 hurt after shooting near vigil; suspect ...](#)
- 5 [Jeep flies 50 feet off freeway into storm drain, ...](#)

BESTREVIEWS.COM - TOP PICKS TO MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY >

Election Day



TUOLUMNE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND SERVICES FUNDING INITIATIVE

WRITTEN BY THE PEOPLE.

A 0.75% special sales tax dedicated by law to Tuolumne County fire services. Drafted by residents, not by Supervisors. Locked to one purpose. The Board doesn't get to spend it on anything else.

[SIGN THE PETITION -](#)

[SEE THE DIFFERENCE](#)

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT.

A 0.75% special sales tax in the unincorporated areas of Tuolumne County — dedicated by law to county fire services, with independent annual audit. Smaller than Measure Z. Focused on one priority. Designed so the Board cannot redirect a single dollar of it.

02 / THE TAX

0.75% ON THE DOLLAR.

Three-quarters of one-cent on every dollar of taxable purchases in unincorporated Tuolumne County. About 75¢ on a \$100 purchase. Sized to what fire actually needs — closing the \$1.8M shortfall, restoring Station 96, and stabilizing 3/0 staffing under the CalFire contract. Smaller than Measure Z's 1%.

02 / THE LOCK

SPECIAL, NOT GENERAL.

Under California law, a "special tax" is legally restricted to the specific purpose stated on the ballot. These funds cannot be deposited into the County's general fund. They cannot be redirected by board majority. They cannot be reallocated to other priorities. The Board still administers the CalFire contract — but they cannot spend this money on anything except fire services.

02 / THE AUTHOR

CITIZENS, NOT THE BOARD.

This measure was drafted by Tuolumne County residents and qualified for the ballot by voter petition signatures — not by a Board of Supervisors vote. That changes who controls the ballot language, who controls the spending restrictions, and the voter threshold required to pass it. The Board doesn't get to redraft it. The Board doesn't get to water it down.

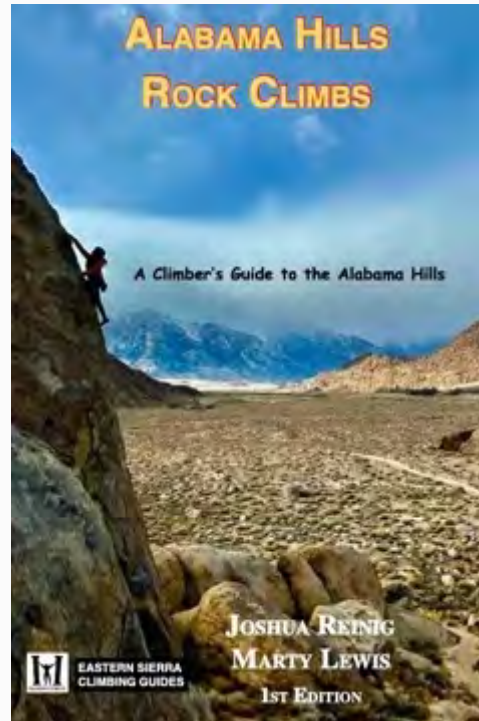
THE PETITION IS THE FIRST VOTE.

A measure isn't a measure until it's on the ballot.

Voters didn't reject the need for fire funding. They rejected how the Board asked. Twice. This initiative removes the Board from the equation — drafted by residents, qualified by petition, restricted by law to a single purpose. No general fund. No advisory promise. No trust required.

[SIGN THE PETITION -](#)

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce

- Melissa Reinig - *Executive Director*
- Joshua Reinig –*Husband & Co-Author "Alabama Hills Rock Climbs"*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Visit Mammoth

- Brian Wright
 - Executive Director



ESSRP - Information Sharing

- *Undersecretary, CA Natural Resources Agency*
- *Deputy Secretary for Access, CA Natural Resources Agency*
- *Assistant Secretary for Climate Change*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



- BLM, CA DOI Region 10
- Sherri Lisius - *Field Manager*
 - *Retired as of April 30*

Hot Links June 1, 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
 - Election Day
 - State Primary
 - Primary Election – Tuesday, June 2, 2026
 - New poll shows California governor race down to 3 frontrunners
 - Governor Newsom signs legislation to further protect California elections from interference and intimidation
 - Regional
 - Tuolumne County Fire Protection, Restoration, And Services Funding Initiative

Spring

San Francisco Chronicle e-Edition Account

Trending: Why turning 55 is important | Deadly S.F. crash | Red light therapy | Adam Sandler in S.F. | Governor polls | Transgender

WEATHER

Sierra highway passes close as late-season snowstorm moves in

By Anthony Edwards, Newsroom Meteorologist
Updated May 26, 2024 3:37 p.m.

Gift Article f x t e



A snowplow clears the road on Highway 99 in Olympic Valley in January. Highway 99 at Monitor Pass closed on Tuesday due to a late-season snowstorm, and other Sierra passes have closed also.

© 2024 WISN-TV, S.F. Chronicle

A cold, late-season storm is expected to drop snow in the Sierra Nevada this week as it slowly spins over Northern California.

POWDER

Mammoth Mountain Just Recorded 5 Inches of New Snow (Photos)

NEWS

Mammoth Mountain Just Recorded 5 Inches of New Snow (Photos)

A storm coming down the western US dropped new snow on Mammoth Mountain, ahead of its last week of operations.

MAY 26, 2024 3:11 PM EDT

BY IZZY LIDSKY Staff Writer & Photographer, Powder

Add us on



Cody Matheson/Mammoth Mountain

Happenings of Interest

Spring


San Francisco Chronicle

Trending: Why turning 55 is important | Deadly S.F. crash | Red light threat

WEATHER

Sierra highway passes close as snowstorm moves in

By Anthony Edwards | [@anthonyedwards](#)
Updated May 29, 2026



A snowplow clears the road on highway 99 in Olympic valley in January. Highway 99 is snowed out, and other Sierra passes have closed also.
© AP/Wide World

A cold, late-season storm is expected to drop snow in the Sierra Nevada and slowly spins over Northern California.

SFGATE

CA MINICROSSWORD Account

NEWS | WEATHER

Record-breaking rain may delay start of peak fire season for Bay Area

By Gillian Mohney, News Editor
May 29, 2026



A late-season storm brought wet weather to the Bay Area and Central Coast earlier this week, NOAA.

A late-season storm that broke a San Francisco record this week could push back the start of peak fire season in the area.

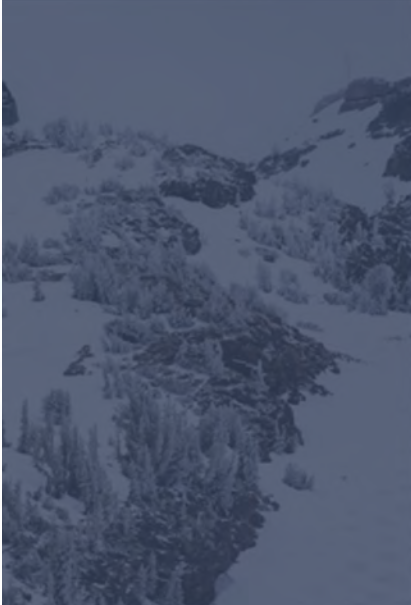
POWDER

5 Inches of New Snow (Photos)

5 Inches of New Snow (Photos)

on Mammoth Mountain, ahead of its last week of

Add us on



Spring

SFGATE CA MINICROSSWORD Account

TRAVEL | TAHOE

Controversial development at Tahoe's largest ski resort approved

Private equity developers and grassroots activists finally agree on the future of Palisades Tahoe

By **Julie Brown Davis**, Mountain Towns Editor
Updated May 12, 2025 3:04 p.m.



Palisades Tahoe, the largest ski resort in the Lake Tahoe region, cleared the final hurdle for a massive development project on May 12, 2025.

George Rose/Getty Images

Ski season is coming to an end at Palisades Tahoe, which announced a closing date on May 24. But the long-term future of Palisades has never been more clear: A development that promises to reshape the Lake Tahoe region is finally moving forward.

SKI NEWS

California's Biggest Ski Resort Receives Approval For Village Expansion

The massive expansion of the Village at Palisades Tahoe has received a critical approval from Placer County.

by Ian Wood
May 12, 2025



A rendering of the full buildout of Palisades Tahoe's village. Image Credit: Palisades Tahoe

Olympic Valley, California – After around 15 years of endless debate and scrutiny, Palisades Tahoe has received the critical vote to grow its base village.

Trending

- USA's Largest Ski Resort Receives Approval For Lift Replacements
- America's Summer Ski Area Announces Opening Date
- General Manager Of America's Summer Ski Area Details Strategy
- Close-Up Grizzly Encounter Shows What Not to Do While Visiting Glacier National Park
- Utah Ski Resort Gives Update On 2026 & 2027 Projects

TOP STORIES

Spring

Sunday, May 31, 2026 Advertise Publicize F.A.Q. Site Map RSS SUBSCRIBE NOW EN


TourismReview NEWS Respectful Voice of Tourism TOURISM DIRECTORY THINK GLOBALLY ACT LOCALLY

HOME > Weekly Travel News > U.S. INBOUND TOURISM SLUMPS FURTHER

U.S. INBOUND TOURISM SLUMPS FURTHER

Laura Lonn · May 18, 2026

f x in p



April 2026 saw fewer visitors arriving in the U.S., down 14 percent compared to last year. Not long after small improvements returned, numbers slipped again. With the FIFA World Cup starting soon, timing could hardly be worse. Officials are now asking what travelers really think when they consider coming here. Confidence might not be where it needs to be. Tough figures like these tend to linger longer than expected.


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES NACo

NEWS

Hawai'i locals stress planning to avoid extractive tourism

MAY 14, 2026

CHARLIE BAN
County News Digital Editor & Senior Writer



UPCOMING EVENTS

WEBINAR
Leveraging Opioid Settlement Funds for Housing Supports: Strategies for Counties
JUNE 8, 2026

WEBINAR
Collaborative Leadership Leads to Housing for All

Key Takeaways

< As a popular tourist destination, Hawai'i faces a challenge shared by many public lands counties — being loved to death.

As a popular tourist destination, Hawai'i faces a challenge shared by many public lands counties — being loved to death.

Happenings of Interest

AMERICAN TRAILS Since 1986, 2017-2023

OUR WORK TRAINING & CAREERS RESOURCES WAYS TO SUPPORT

Keyword Search Search

Home Our Programs Resource Library

What's National Trails Day® All About?

Whether you are a seasoned hiker or a first-time participant, National Trails Day® offers a chance to explore the outdoors, give back to your community, and promote sustainable trail use.



Volunteers celebrate National Trails Day at Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site

National Trails Day® (NTD) is celebrated every year on the first Saturday in June. The day is dedicated to promoting the benefits of hiking and the importance of trails, encouraging people to engage in outdoor activities, and advocating for trail service. It is an annual event hosted by the [American Hiking Society](#), celebrating all trails on public lands.

NTD celebrates the over 200,000 miles of trails in the U.S., from short local paths to iconic long-distance trails like the Appalachian Trail. It unites hikers, cyclists, paddlers, equestrians, trail clubs, nonprofits, and public land agencies in a nationwide effort to protect and enjoy outdoor spaces.

Countdown to [America's 250th Anniversary](#) at: **1 month / 4 days**

An official website of the United States government
[Here's how you know](#) -
[News](#) [Blog](#) [Employee Resources](#)

USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture [MENU](#)

PRESS RELEASE

Forest Service Announces Additional 2026 Fee-Free Day on June 6

PUBLISHED: May 13, 2026

SHARE: [f](#) [x](#) [in](#)



Happenings of Interest



May 28, 2026

Media Contact:

Mark Topping, WCB Communications, (916) 539-4673



The Feather River flows near Sunset Weir in Sutter County. Photo courtesy of WCB staff.

WCB Approves \$80.4 Million for Wildlife Connectivity, Salmon Recovery, Biodiversity and Public Access Projects

Funding Will Protect Biodiversity Hotspots and Expand Access to Nature Across California

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approved \$80,450,797 in grants for 23 projects across 16 counties to protect biodiversity, restore wildlife habitat and expand public access to nature. The board met today at the California Natural Resources Agency headquarters in Sacramento.

Among these, seven projects advance the [California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future](#), restoring floodplains, improving stream function and enhancing habitat for coho salmon, Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Projects also include investments in wildlife corridors, wildfire resiliency, wildlife-oriented recreation and butterfly pollinators.



Park Ranch
Alpine County

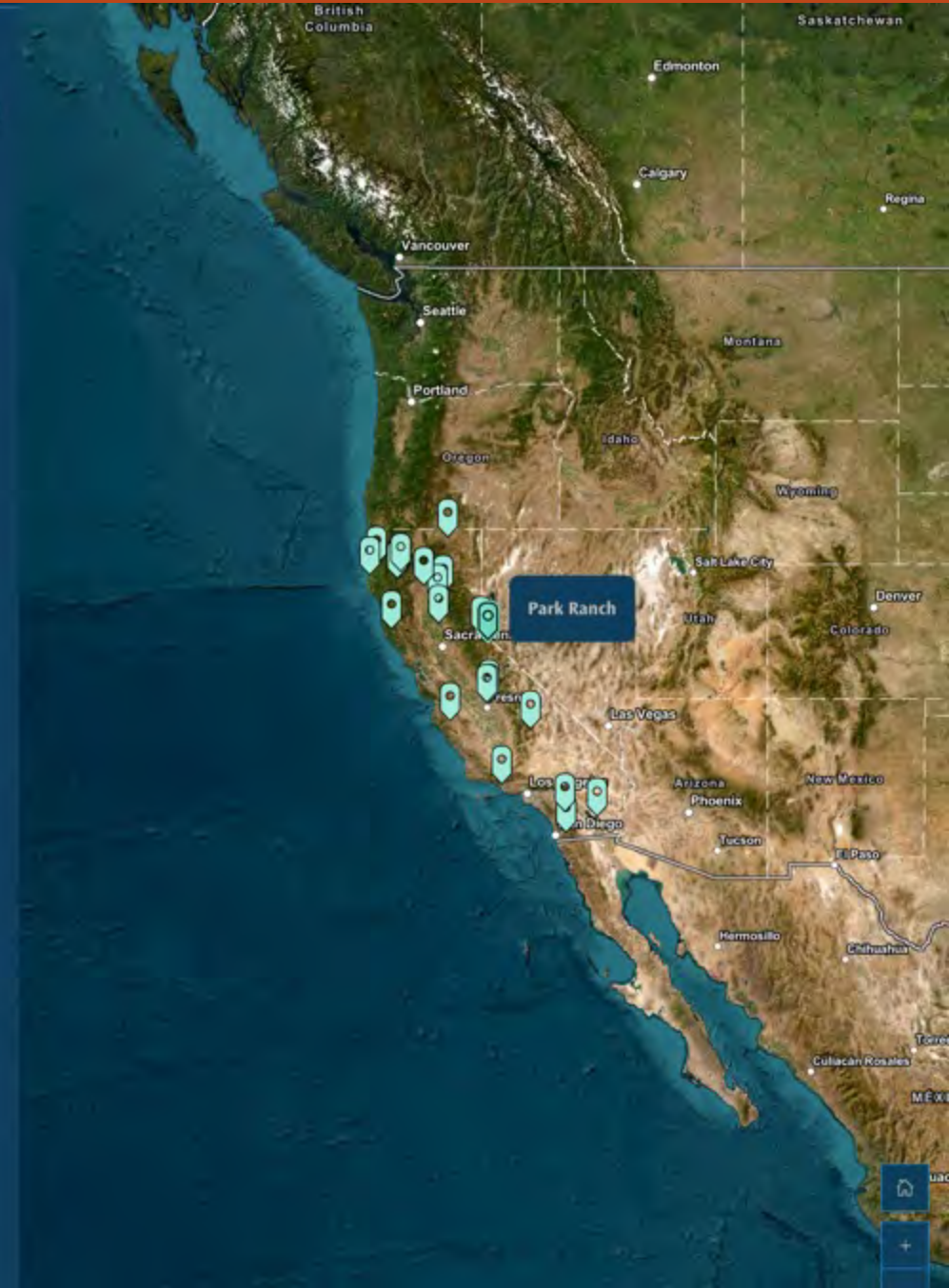
Park Ranch

Grantee: [Western Rivers Conservancy](#) and [Alpine County](#)

County: Alpine

Grant Awarded: \$8,000,000

Summary: This project will protect a connected landscape of wet meadows, springs, riparian habitat, mixed conifer forest and sage-steppe in the Eastern Sierra. The property provides habitat for species including Lahontan cutthroat trout, Sierra Nevada red fox, western bumblebee and monarch butterfly, while also improving connectivity with nearby national forest and other public lands. Alpine County plans to manage the property for long-term conservation and year-round public access, with opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, fishing, hunting and winter recreation. The project also supports wildfire resilience through continued grazing practices that help reduce fuel loads and the risk of catastrophic wildfire.



Happenings of Interest

Tri-County Recreation & Business Roundtable Session

Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Virtual / Online

Please register in advance using the link below:

Registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tri-county-ca-recreation-roundtable-session-tickets-1990118434811?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Tri-County Recreation Landowner & Land Manager Roundtable

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Please register in advance using the link below:

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tri-county-ca-recreation-landowner-land-manager-roundtable-session-tickets-1990176731177?aff=oddtcreator>

JT Chevallier

Public Information Officer

Economic Development Director

Alpine County, CA

(530) 240-5574

jchevallier@alpinecountyca.gov



Happenings of Interest



ALPINE COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alpine County Announces the Return of Market at Markleeville on Saturday, May 30th from 10 AM – 2 PM in Downtown Markleeville, CA & Road Closure Notice

[Alpine County, CA – May 28, 2026] -

The *Market at Markleeville* is back! This event is produced by Sierra Chef, bringing together talented local artists, crafters, producers, growers, and non-profit organizations in one dynamic marketplace. The market offers an incredible opportunity for attendees to engage with a diverse array of artistic expressions, discover unique handcrafted treasures, and support the thriving arts community.



Highlights of the Market at Markleeville include:

- 1. Live Music:** Enjoy the soulful melodies and captivating performances of talented local musicians, who will create an enchanting ambiance throughout the day. From acoustic melodies to foot-tapping beats, the live music will enhance the overall experience and delight all attendees.
- 2. Local Artists and Crafters:** Immerse yourself in the world of creativity as you peruse the works of talented local artists and crafters. Explore handmade jewelry, paintings, ceramics, sculptures, textiles, and much more. Witness the passion and dedication that goes into every piece, and discover that perfect artwork to adorn your living space.
- 3. Producers and Growers:** Delight your taste buds with an assortment of delectable treats. From artisanal cheeses to baked goods, the market showcases the finest offerings from local producers and growers.
- 4. Non-Profit Organizations:** Engage with non-profit organizations dedicated to making a positive impact in the community. Learn about their missions, initiatives, and how you can contribute to



EST.  2023

THE MARKET

AT MARKLEEVILLE

10am to 2pm - Downtown

Saturday, May 30th...Saturday, June 27th
Saturday, July 25th...Saturday, August 29th
Saturday, September 19th

FOOD - FARMERS - LIBATIONS - MUSIC - KIDS ACTIVITIES - ARTS - CRAFTS - BAKERY
FOOD TRUCKS - GOURMET ITEMS - AND...SOOOOOO MUCH MORE...SEE YOU THERE!

775.392.4417 Events@SierraChef.com

Happenings of Interest



Here we go!

The farm opens June 6th!

It's finally here.

We are beyond excited to announce that Blue Heron Farm is officially opening for the season **9 am - 2 pm on Saturday, June 6th!**

Rach will be giving a farm tour at **11 AM on Saturday, June 6th**. We will meet at the barn. Come walk the farm with us and see what we've been building, planting, and dreaming up for the season ahead.

Our farm stand hours this season will be:

Tuesdays: 4 PM to 7 PM

Fridays: 4 PM to 7 PM

Saturdays: 9 AM to 2 PM

Sundays: 9 AM to 2 PM



Mammoth Wednesday Market

*Eat local. Shop local.
Support local.*

Location

Outbound Mammoth in the Sierra Bar Parking Lot
164 Old Mammoth Rd, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Market Hours

Wednesday | 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
June through fall



The Box.

Here we go!

The first farm "Box Email" of the season!

This is the time of year when everything is moving fast. The fields are catching their strides, the weeds are up, the irrigation is still in works, getting all of the systems dialed, and we are out picking the first big harvests of the season.

It feels so dang good to be here again.

Every Wednesday at 4 PM during the season, I'll send out a farm email with a recipe for something we're harvesting that week, maybe a little field story or article about growing food, and any events, classes, or farm happenings coming up.

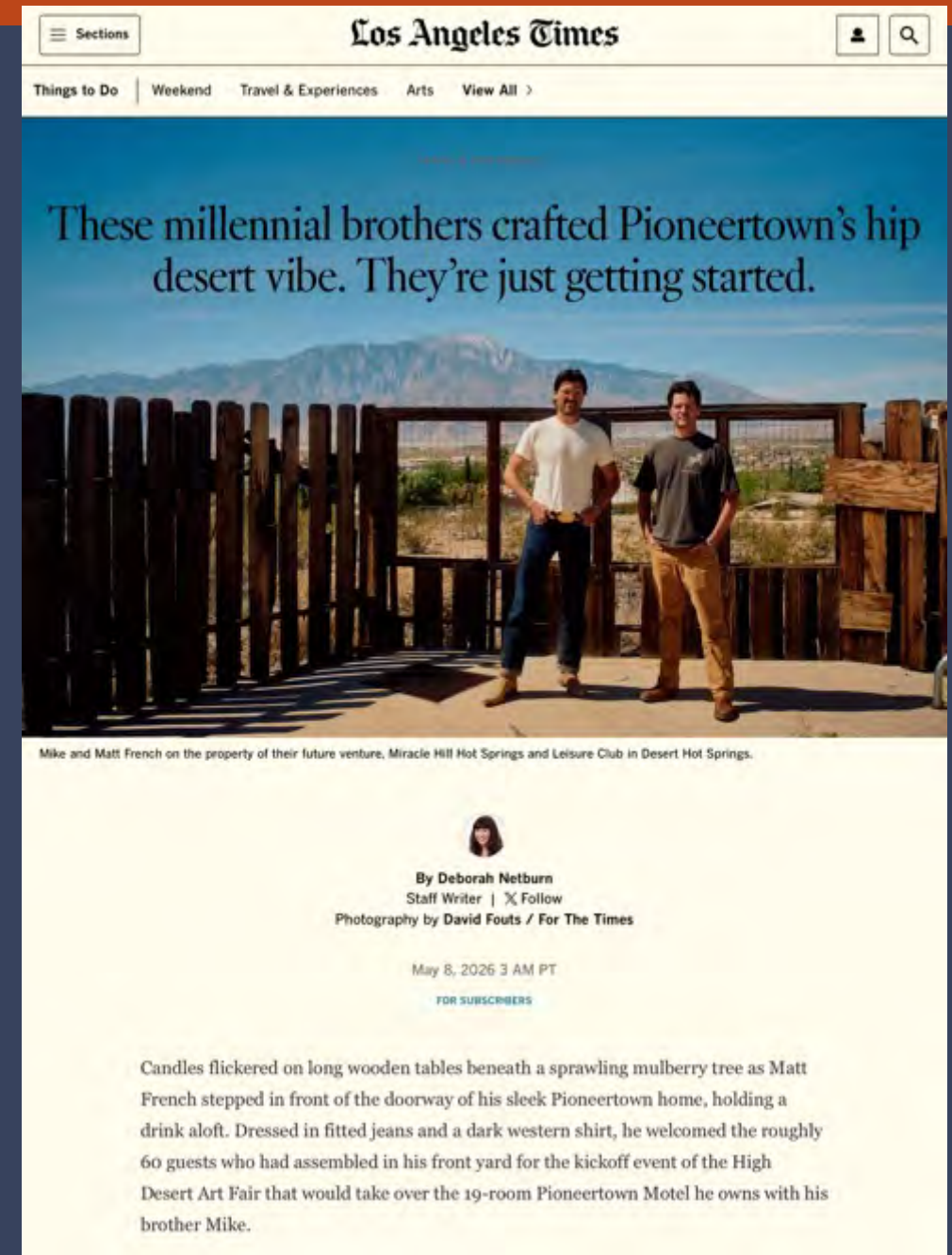
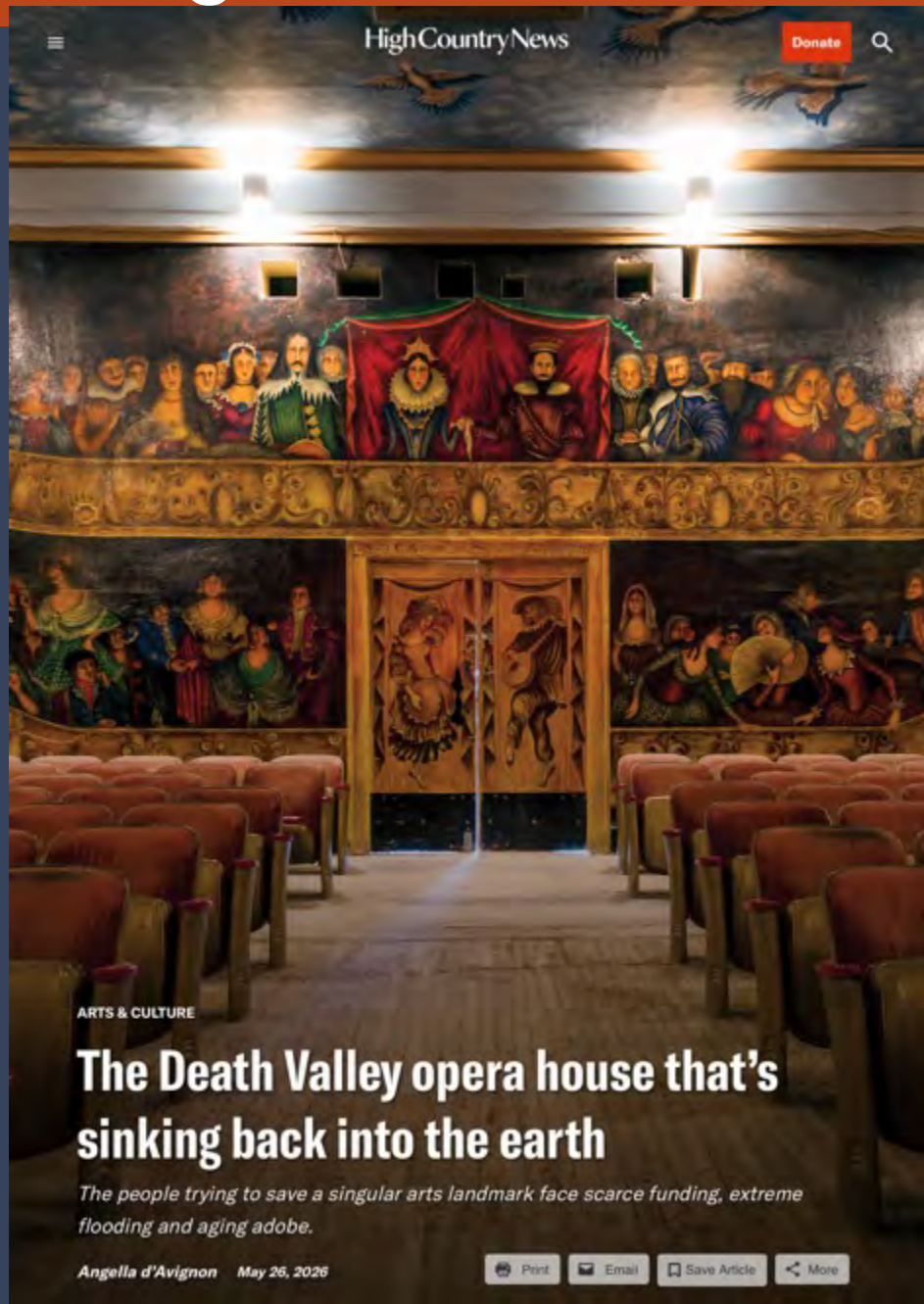
We are so thrilled to kick this season off with you. Thank you for showing up for this farm, for local food, and for the messy, beautiful work of trying to grow more of what we eat right here in the Eastern Sierra.

We are so grateful to be growing food for this community.

With bear hugs & so much excitement!

Rach + Aki

Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest



At BLM long-term visitor areas like La Posa, a patchwork housing system has emerged in place of tents — people living in cars, vans, trucks, RVs and buses. (Credit: Joshua Jackson)

NEWSLETTER

A NEW KIND OF #VANLIFE

Every winter, tens of thousands of Americans migrate to public lands in the Arizona desert. For a growing number, it's not a vacation—it's the only housing they can afford.

By [Christopher Kenney](#), [Joshua Jackson](#) • May 6, 2020

When I was first sketching out what RE:PUBLIC could be and began making the rounds to tell people about it, the same book kept being recommended to me: *The Enduring Wild*, by Joshua Jackson. It's a celebration of California's oft-overlooked and immensely diverse Bureau of Land Management areas, the places most maps barely pause on. Eventually someone made an introduction, Jackson and I spoke, and he sent me a copy. His inspiring words and beautiful photographs stuck with me.

So when we connected in person for the first time at a public lands conference in California last fall, it felt less like a coincidence than a convergence. We share a deep passion for these lands—and for passing along that passion to more Americans. Inevitably, we started talking about topics he could report on for us. We eventually settled on one: the quiet, accelerating phenomenon of people building lives on public lands—not as campers passing through, but as residents in makeshift communities navigating a housing system that has increasingly shut them out. We assigned Jackson the story. He spent a good chunk of last winter making visits to a desert encampment in Quartzsite, the small Sonoran Desert BLM-managed outpost that has become, every winter, an unlikely Arizona metropolis of vans, buses, and RVs.

What he found was a community more organized and more economically desperate than the casual observer might expect. BLM long-term visitor permits at Quartzsite have more than doubled since 2019, and the composition of who's arriving has shifted: fewer traditional snowbirds, more people who have done the math on rent and wages and concluded that a \$180 seasonal permit is the most viable housing option available to them.



Home sweet home on wheels. (Credit: Joshua Jackson)

OPINION

ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF LIVING—AND PUBLISHING

Affordability and journalism both require radical—and rewarding—new models of community.

By [Ruwereeth Hightower Allen](#) • May 6, 2020

This Tuesday, RE:PUBLIC co-published a story with the *Guardian* that we've been excited about for a long time: "The Desert Safety Net," California writer and photographer Joshua Jackson's account of the lives of the nomads who converge on the BLM's long-term visitor areas every winter. Josh spent weeks in the Arizona and California deserts, documenting the varied stories of the vehicle residents who live there. "Over the past several months of reporting," he says, "I had the great privilege of actually getting to go out to the desert to temporarily camp among these folks, pitching my tent next to people that are living in their minivans and cars and converted box trucks and old busses. I joined the morning meditation circles and evening bonfires, getting to interview dozens and dozens of nomads to find out their incredible stories of what ultimately led them to the desert."

The result was a big-hearted investigation into what drives people out of the traditional housing market and onto the open road. Josh says: "As the affordable housing crisis continues to sweep across our country state by state—not just in cities but in rural areas, too—we're seeing this growing influx of people who are actually utilizing public lands as a way to solve the affordability crisis that they're facing back at home."

Visitor permits at La Posa LTVA, outside Quartzsite, Arizona, cost \$180 for a seven-month stay, though the BLM is considering raising those fees. For some, that's attractive math. As the chart below shows, permits have shot up 139% since 2019.

Happenings of Interest



**Help Shape Outdoor
Recreation & Downtowns in
the Kern River Valley
MAY 18-19, 2026**

RECREATION ECONOMY
for
RURAL COMMUNITIES

KERN RIVER VALLEY, CA

We're thrilled to have been selected into the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities program!

Community members are invited and encouraged to attend all or any part of this upcoming workshop. Participation is free. Advance registration is requested (*not required*) to help organizers plan appropriately.

Community Workshop

Monday, May 18: 4:00-6:30 pm

Kern River Valley Veterans/Senior Center
6405 Lake Isabella Blvd, Lake Isabella, CA

Tuesday, May 19: 10:00am-5:00pm

USFS Kern River RD Office, 11380 Kernville Rd. Kernville, CA

Contact: Justin Powers, Sierra Shared Spaces
Email: events@sierrashared.space

Host Organization:

**SIERRA
SHARED
SPACES**

Scan to register



RERC is a joint program of federal
and regional partners



Northern Border
Regional Commission



Appalachian
Regional
Commission



Smart Growth

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Podcasts](#)

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Community](#)

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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](#)

Happenings of Interest

ENERGYWIRE

This Lake Tahoe community needs new electricity — fast

Cut off from its power supplier, a California utility faces a crowded electricity marketplace where data centers are soaking up energy.

By JASON FLEETE | 5/4/2025 10:07 AM EDT



ENERGYWIRE | One California community's search for a new source of electricity is highlighting the perils of the country's fragmented grid and the public's anxiety over the rise of data centers.

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

Tahoe is losing a major power source amid Google, Apple data center expansion

"It snuck up on a lot of communities, just how quickly things were moving"



Tahoe residents were alarmed after learning their utility company has little more than a year to find a new source of power, as data centers put unprecedented competition on the grid.

By Julie Brown Davis, Mountain Times Editor
May 4, 2025

INSURANCE JOURNAL

Lake Tahoe Power Crunch Shows AI's Growing Energy Toll in West

By Dan Kasper | May 10, 2025



Lake Tahoe has long been a refuge for Silicon Valley's tech elite, from Mark Zuckerberg to Larry Ellison. Now the artificial intelligence boom behind much of that wealth is straining the region's power market, pushing up costs for residents in the lakeside towns below.

Bloomberg

ENERGYWIRE

Data centers drive 76% surge in PJM power prices

The findings highlight inflationary pressures on electricity costs in mid-Atlantic and Midwestern states. "The price impacts on customers have been very large and are not reversible," the grid market monitor said.

By CHRISTA MARSHALL | 5/11/2025 10:07 AM EDT



ENERGYWIRE | Power prices in the nation's largest grid market jumped almost 76 percent in the first quarter year-over-year, showcasing how energy demand driven by data centers is remaking the economy across the mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

Happenings of Interest

SFGATE CA MINI-CROSSWORD Account

TRAVEL | TAHOE

Federal government set to spray 'devastating' herbicide in Tahoe Basin

The Forest Service is spraying 'record' amounts of glyphosate, the main ingredient in Roundup

By **Julie Brown Davis**, Mountain Towns Editor
Updated May 26, 2026 8:48 a.m.

[f](#) [x](#) [t](#) [m](#)



Trees stand alongside the access road to the Sierra-at-Tahoe ski resort in Twin Bridges, Calif.
Julie Brown Davis/SFGATE

Tahoe Daily Tribune **action**

Lake Tahoe's fire restoration plan includes controversial herbicide use across thousand of acres

News | May 18, 2022

Petra Molina Follow
petramolina@tahoeaction.com

SHARE THIS STORY

LAKE TAHOE BASIN, Calif. — A yearlong investigation by Mother Jones is casting new scrutiny on the use of glyphosate in California forests at the same time the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit plans to use the controversial herbicide across thousands of acres in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Glyphosate, commonly sold under the brand name Roundup, is widely used to kill shrubs and hardwood vegetation that compete with replanted conifers after fires and logging operations.

However, the herbicide has long been controversial. In 2015, the cancer research arm of the World Health Organization classified glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen," and manufacturer Bayer has paid more than \$12 billion in settlements tied to lawsuits alleging the herbicide caused cancer.

The [Mother Jones investigation](#) analyzed more than 5 million California pesticide records and found glyphosate use in the state's forests reached approximately 266,000 pounds in 2023 — nearly five times the amount used two decades ago. The report identified forest spraying as the fastest-growing use of the herbicide in California.

The investigation also reported that a U.S. Forest Service safety assessment relied heavily on a study later retracted after allegations that it had been ghostwritten by employees of Monsanto, the agrochemical company best known for producing glyphosate-based herbicides before being acquired by Bayer in 2018.

Animal Politics with Ed Boks


NEWS & ANALYSIS

Roundup in the National Forests: How the U.S. Forest Service Is Turning California's Wildlands into Tree Farms

Glyphosate spraying in California's forests are poisoning post-fire landscapes, endangering wildlife, and exposing a captured system that treats public lands as cheap timber.

ED BOKS
ed@edboks.com

19 22 28



The new fire restoration in California's national forests plants trees, dead birds, and herbicide spray planes leaving massive loss

This is indefensible. Spraying glyphosate over wildlands is ecocide. In California and across the country, the U.S. Forest Service and timber companies are **hombarding** fire scarred national forests with Roundup so they can grow trees the way agribusiness grows corn: fast, uniform, and disposable. Tens of thousands of acres that should be erupting with wildflowers, shrubs, birds, and insects are being turned into chemically maintained tree farms and "dead zones," where the only life that really matters is measured in board feet.

Happenings of Interest

ORIGENESIS Ride Events News Seat About Donate

SIERRA CAMINO TAHOE TIER

Sierra Camino - Tahoe Tier
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Yuba City Carson City Sacramento

TAHOE TIER
SIERRA CAMINO

A new way on old ground

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

Community Sourced, Shared and Supported

Home About Contributors Ideas For Organizational Improvement New Topics or Questions from Readers

Planning Humor Donations

Adding Trails: Tahoe Basin-Wide Trails Analysis Project, Mad Rabbit, and Others?

May 27, 2008 by Sharon

Recommended Comment Considerations

When commenting, please consider the three doors that charitable speech must pass through. The gatekeeper at the door asks, "is it true?" The second gatekeeper asks, "is it helpful?" The third gatekeeper asks, "is it kind!" (adapted from the writings of Krishnamurti) by James Martin on p. 99 of his book "Between Heaven and Earth."

Glenn commented yesterday:

The last 15 years or so has seen an explosion of demand for public lands recreation, to which the federal land management agencies have not appropriately responded – by creating new national parks and monuments, new campgrounds, new wilderness areas, new hiking and biking trails, etc.

2026 Donations

San Francisco Chronicle 6 Edition Account

TRAVEL // TAHOE

Tahoe's top attraction is chaotic. Officials hope they've found a fix

By Gregory Thomas, Staff Writer
May 23, 2018

The lookout at Emerald Bay is an increasingly popular stopover but has little parking relative to the number of visitors.

One of the most visited and gridlocked attractions on Lake Tahoe is about to get a summertime shuttle service that locals hope will clear out road congestion and set an example for better travel in a region desperate for transit solutions.

Starting mid-June and running through Labor Day, travelers to scenic Emerald Bay will be encouraged to hop on shuttle vans rather than drive. The daily service picks up every 20 minutes or so at two points north and south of the bay and costs \$10 roundtrip. One route will depart from South Lake Tahoe; the other will carry people down from Tahoe.

San Francisco Chronicle 6 Edition Account

TRAVEL // TAHOE

Tahoe parking enforcement is getting brutal with \$450 tickets

By Gregory Thomas, Staff Writer
May 23, 2018

Speedboat Beach in Chapel Beach, North Lake Tahoe, has become a hot spot for traffic violations and officials are cracking down. Higher parking ticket fees, more signage and better enforcement.

Two Austrian women visiting Lake Tahoe for the first time were excited to get to Speedboat Beach, a tiny-but-gorgeous swim area tucked in a residential neighborhood on the north shore.


But they didn't dare drive there.

Happenings of Interest


U.S. Forest Service - Inyo National Forest's Post

U.S. Forest Service - Inyo National Forest
May 22 at 2:04 PM

ROAD WORK UPDATE: Coyote Flat Road (7510) just got a safety upgrade. Recently, drainage features were installed from Peterson Mill area down to the kiosk at the start of the switchbacks. More work is planned later this summer based on staffing availability. Please use caution while in this area and recreate responsibly.



ALERT
Road Work
Inyo National Forest



Alex Ertaud and 45 others
3 comments 14 shares

Nathan Robinson
Way to go, this work looks amazing!!!

Derek Beal
Awesome work!

U.S. Forest Service - Inyo National Forest's Post

U.S. Forest Service - Inyo National Forest
May 26 at 11:57 AM

ROAD OPENING: Monache Meadows has dried out and will be opening by 12 p.m. on Friday, May 29. Forest Order 05-04-54-26-05 will be rescinded. If you use this area to recreate, remember to stay on designated roads, douse your campfires, and pack out what you packed in. Original Alert: https://www.fs.usda.gov/_jcr_content/monache-meadows-area-seasonal. Monache Jeep Road: https://www.fs.usda.gov/_jcr_content/monache-meadows-jeep-road.



RECREATION UPDATE
Inyo National Forest



Sydney Quinn and 110 others
2 comments 35 shares


Arthur Medina
Had the pleasure of meeting the hard working crews yesterday while I snagged a trout or two.



Hot Creek IS THREATENED Gold Mining

No Hot Creek Mine is leading the fight to protect Mammoth Lakes from gold mining.

The threat has re-emerged at Hot Creek and KORE Mining wants to begin exploratory drilling once again. Under the current administration, mining companies have been



SFGATE

GA MINI-CROSSWORD Account

NATIONAL PARKS

Viral OnlyFans model Kamryn Renae rescued off Mount Whitney hike

Just really bad timing, honestly.

By **Ashley Maxwell**, National Parks Bureau Chief
May 25, 2023



FILE: Early morning hikers ascend the last section of trail en route to the summit of Mount Whitney on Sept. 4, 2014, in Sequoia National Park, Calif. David Huxford/Getty Images

Kamryn Renae was about 2 miles from the summit of Mount Whitney — the tallest mountain in the contiguous United States at 14,505 feet — when she started to feel sick.

The 22-year-old OnlyFans model had been backpacking since March 26 along the Pacific Crest Trail, documenting the 2,600-mile journey from Mexico to Canada with provocative social media videos and amassing tens of thousands of new followers on Instagram.

Happenings of Interest

USDA Forest Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Alerts and Fire Danger Status



Forest Service Home > Pacific Southwest Region > Inyo National Forest > Natural Resources > Rangeland and Grazing > Wild Horses

Wild Horses

About the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory

The Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory comprises an area of roughly 200,000 acres in California and Nevada, including 65,942 acres on the Inyo National Forest. The remaining territory acres occur on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and Stillwater and Bishop Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management. It is located east of Mono Lake, in the southern portion of the Excelsior Mountains, approximately 40 miles north of Bishop, California along the Nevada-California state line.

The origin of the Montgomery Pass Herd is unknown, but it is speculated that the herd originated in connection to mustang drives between the Owens Valley and Nevada. In 1972, the population of the territory was documented as 50 horses. There are no wild burros in this wild horse joint management area, and no genetic work has been done on this herd. The herd consists of horses of many colors.

The Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory is managed for a wild horse herd size of 138 to 230 animals. A 2024 census counted approximately 694 horses in the herd, which is 3 to 4 times the appropriate management level (AML) established in 1988, with the majority of them outside the territory. Wild Horses are documented approximately 20 miles outside the establish territory, causing sensitive resource damage and visitor impacts at Mono Lake and other properties.

USDA U.S. FOREST SERVICE Caring for the land and serving people

United States Department of Agriculture

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FOREST SERVICE HOME • U.S. FOREST SERVICE WILD HORSE AND BURRO

Wild Horse and Burro

- Home
- About Us
- Territories
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Legal, Regulatory, & Policy Direction
- Did You Know?
- Just for Kids
- Contact Us

Wild and Free



The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, amended by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978, directs the protection and management of wild horses and burros on public lands.

[Learn more](#)

Wild Horse and Burro Territories

The Forest Service administers wild horse or burro territories located in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah. [Read more...](#)

Related

-  **Rangeland Management**
Rangelands in the United States are diverse lands. They are the wet grasslands of Florida to the desert shrub ecosystems of Wyoming. They include the high mountain meadows of Utah to the desert floor of California. [Read more...](#)
-  **National Grasslands**
These wind-swept seas of grass and wildflowers—four million acres in all—have witnessed the pageant of the frontier, the Dust Bowl, and the dramatic recovery into a great national treasure. [Read more...](#)

Contact Us

U.S. Forest Service
Rangelands Management and Vegetation Ecology
1400 Independence Ave SW
3rd Floor SW Mallstop 1153
Washington DC 20250-1153

[Contact the Forest Service](#)

Rangelands Management and Vegetation Ecology Programs

- Rangeland Management
- Wild Horse & Burro
- Celebrating Wildflowers
- Invasive Species
- Soils

National Headquarters

- Office of the Chief
- Chief Financial Officer
- Business Operations
- National Forest System
- Research and Development
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Contact Webmaster

TRAVEL // OUTDOORS

Seven Summits of California: The state's most iconic peaks and unforgettable views

You don't have to leave the state to chase this bucket-list hiking challenge. Are you up for it?



Happenings of Interest

TRAVEL // OUTDOORS

'Best views in the entire state': California's top mountain climbs, according to Chronicle readers

By Gregory Thomas, Staff Writer
May 17, 2025

Gift Article f X W



The White Mountains of eastern California loom above a herd of wild horses grazing near Lee Vining (Mono County).
Carlos Avila Gonzalez/S.F. Chronicle

Earlier this month, the Chronicle published an ode to the state's must-climb mountains — the [Seven Summits of California](#).

We sought a mix of essential experiences: Shasta, Lassen, Half Dome, Tam, Whitney, Baldy and San Jacinto. In keeping such a short list, we were bound to leave out some good ones. Emails from readers started flowing in: *How could you have missed my favorite peak?*

NEWS | LOS ANGELES

California mountain lions killed on famous LA roads within 2 days

Both mountain lions were less than a year old

By Erin Rode, Contributing LA Outdoors Editor
May 29, 2025

f X W



A mountain lion looks at the camera as it climbs the hills near Los Angeles, the Santa Monica Pier and the Pacific Ocean.
Sept. 23, 2023.
Jason Klass/Getty Images

Two [mountain lions](#) were killed on busy Los Angeles-area roadways within two days of each other this month, and conservation advocates say the deaths showcase the need for [wildlife crossings](#) and better habitat connectivity in the region.

Happenings of Interest

☰ Newsletters

Outside

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Home Featured Gear Deals Adventure Gear Travel More ▾

As the United States's big birthday approaches, meet the people and forces redrawing its outdoor future.

👁️ 💬 Share Save



America's Next

250 Years

(Photo: Kathleen Fu)

Happenings of Interest


Sections

Los Angeles Times

Politics | Trump Administration | California Politics | L.A. Politics | View All >

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

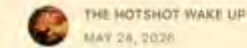
Fire-prone California could lose hundreds of millions of dollars for wildfire prevention



A fire crew and a remote-controlled masticator work on a wildfire risk reduction project near Topanga in October. (Myung J. Chun / Los Angeles Times)

As Wildfires Get More Intense And Costly, Prescribed Fire And Fuel Mitigation Work Needs To Be Viewed As A Long Term National Investment.

And a new study runs the numbers.



38 5 5

Share

Decades of litigation, funding issues, and workforce constraints have hindered fuel reduction work in our National Forests.

Clearly, we are not doing enough; they are riddled with lawsuits, prescribed fires are causing complaints about a smoky nuisance, and there is a lack of an actual labor force to complete the giant backlog that the Agencies have on their books.

Everybody agrees that catastrophic wildfires are a problem. A lot of this is due to the fuel loading on our landscapes. To be honest, some of our forests are a complete mess. Dead standing, dead and down, and more or less a tinder box waiting for a lightning strike or a drunk camper with an unattended stove, or a few misplaced Roman candles.

It's Memorial Day weekend, and the people are out in the woods.



Happenings of Interest



Task Force to Release Draft 2026 Action Plan at June 5 Meeting

Join us in Sacramento to learn more about the key elements of the 2026 Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan. Remote attendance available via Zoom.

[MEETING AGENDA](#)

[REGISTER FOR REMOTE ATTENDANCE](#)



Task Force to Present on Key Elements of the 2026 Action Plan at June 5 Meeting

Join us in Sacramento to learn more about the 2026 Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Happenings of Interest

CALIFORNIA
WILDFIRE & FOREST RESILIENCE
TASK FORCE




Task Force Meeting
JUNE 5 - SACRAMENTO, CA

**Task Force to Release
Draft 2026 Action Plan
at June 5 Meeting**

Join us in Sacramento to learn more about the key elements of the 2026
Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan.
Remote attendance available via Zoom.

MEETING AGENDA

REGISTER FOR REMOTE ATTENDANCE



**Task Force
2026 Action Plan**

Join us in
2026 Wild

LEARN MORE



**TASK FORCE
MEETING AGENDA**

June 5, 2026

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE & FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE
Friday, June 5 – 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
In person: CA Natural Resources Agency Auditorium, 715 P St., Sacramento
Online: [Register for Zoom](#)

9:00 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Wade Crowfoot, CA Natural Resources Agency Jacque Buchanan, U.S. Forest Service
9:30 AM	Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">2026 Action Plan	Patrick Wright, Task Force
9:40 AM	Science Advisory Panel Updates	Steve Ostoja, USDA Climate Hub
9:50 AM	Community Wildfire Preparedness Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strategy OverviewZone Zero ImplementationScience Behind the StrategyCommunity Preparedness ProgramsIgnition Reduction & Focused Treatments	Moderator: Patrick Wright, Task Force Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE Tony Andersen, CA Board of Forestry Yana Valachovic, UC Ag. & Natural Resources Joe Nordlinger, Napa Firewise Michael O'Connell, Irvine Ranch Conservancy
10:50 AM	Break	
11:05 AM	Landscape Resilience Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strategy OverviewPrioritizing & Restoring Post-Fire LandscapesExpanding Beneficial FireRegional Implementation	Moderator: Patrick Wright, Task Force John Battles, UC Berkeley Brian Kittler, American Forests Lenya Quinn-Davidson, UC Ag. & Natural Resources Jeff Heys, U.S. Forest Service Amanda Watson, Amador RCD
12:05 PM	Closing Remarks	Task Force Co-chairs
12:30 PM	Adjourn	

Happenings of Interest

E&E NEWS

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CLIMATEWIRE

New Mexico jump-starts massive tree planting after wildfires

The state is employing an integrated approach to quicken and deepen its recovery from a major wildfire in 2022.

BY MIKE LEE | 05/26/2026 06:10 AM EDT



A New Mexico state worker plants trees as part of the state's reforestation program. | Courtesy of Philli Sikelianos, New Mexico Highlands University

CLIMATEWIRE | New Mexico is beginning one of the country's most ambitious reforestation programs after a string of wildfires scorched millions of wooded acres.

San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition Account

U.S. & WORLD // CALIFORNIA

Sierra wildfire prevention group's leader indicted on two dozen white-collar charges

By Aldo Toledo, Staff Writer
May 4, 2026


Gift Article



A view of Main Street in downtown Grass Valley (Nevada County), as seen Sept. 18, 2025.
Stephen Lam/S.F. Chronicle

Two officials with ties to a Sierra foothills wildfire prevention nonprofit were indicted last week on more than two dozen felony charges, a major development after years of public scrutiny over the organization's finances, county prosecutors said.

Happenings of Interest

 **The Mammoth Lakes Trails & Public Access Foundation (MLTPA)**
175 followers
1w · 🌐

As part of our work towards statewide adoption of the California Strategy, MLTPA was thrilled to present at the **California Counties® Legislative Conference** this year, alongside **California State Parks** and **Buttes Trail Stewardship**.



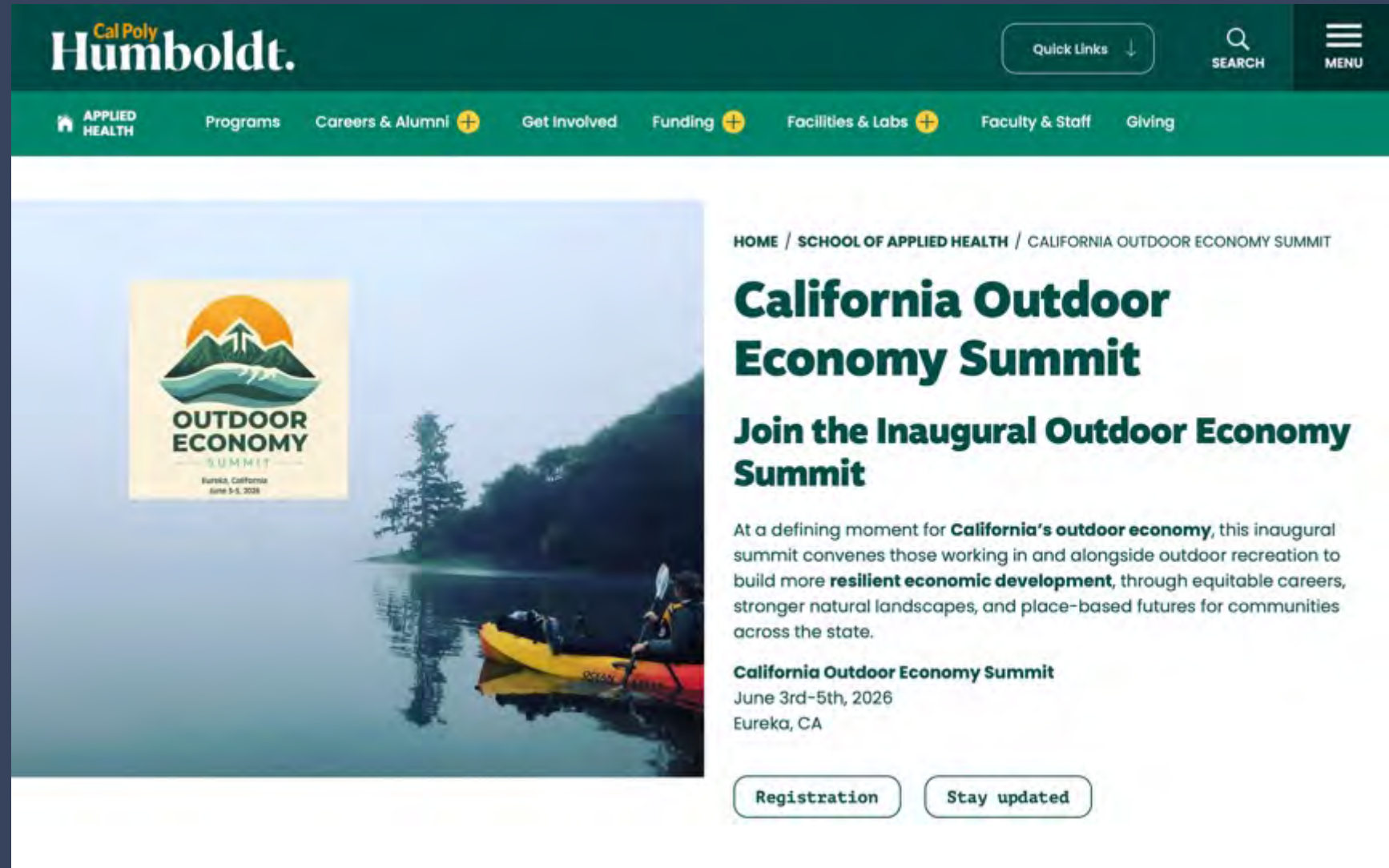
The Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources session on Wildfire and Energy, attended by a wide array of legislators and leaders from counties across California, was an incredible opportunity for Sustainable Recreation advocacy. Greg Williams shared the latest on the "Fire-Hardened Trails Prescription," a cross-discipline collaborative concept for intentional trail design as assets for combatting wildfires and protecting our forests, while John Wentworth presented "California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience."

Learn more about Fire-Hardened Trails here <https://lnkd.in/gBuXDR6r>

As California prepares for the summer wildfire season, both projects present key opportunities and unique strategies for protecting our communities and public lands. Joint Strategy adoptees from across the state were in attendance along with members of the California Wildfire Taskforce's leadership, and together we're striving for a sustainable future for outdoor recreation.

MLTPA is working with regional entities and recreation partners across the state to ensure 20 Counties adopt the Joint Strategy before the end of 2026. We only need 10 more counties to adopt the strategy in order to meet our goal, so if you want to help get the Strategy adopted in your county, you can find more information and resources at <https://lnkd.in/g3jxz5au>

#WildfireResilience #SustainableRecreation #PlacerCounty #CaliforniaNature #



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California Outdoor Economy Summit

Join the Inaugural Outdoor Economy Summit

At a defining moment for **California's outdoor economy**, this inaugural summit convenes those working in and alongside outdoor recreation to build more **resilient economic development**, through equitable careers, stronger natural landscapes, and place-based futures for communities across the state.

California Outdoor Economy Summit
June 3rd-5th, 2026
Eureka, CA

Registration Stay updated

Happenings of Interest

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NEWS | POLITICS

Newsom celebrates as the AI boom bails out California

By **Matthew Brown**, Tech Reporter
May 14, 2026



California Gov. Gavin Newsom, pictured here in 2026, released his latest budget figures Tuesday, showing a projected \$0 deficit for 2026-27. The influx of cash from California personal income taxes. Anadolu/Anadolu via Getty Images

California is poised to see a spike in revenue in the next fiscal year. For a state that has faced multibillion-dollar budget deficits the past three years, it's potentially a cause for celebration. But analysts warn it's no time to celebrate.

GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

California 2026-27 Budget: **May Revise**

\$0 DEFICIT

NO deficit THIS YEAR. NO deficit NEXT YEAR.

-\$1.8 Billion SPENDING DOWN GENERAL FUND	\$0 CALIFORNIA'S STRUCTURAL DEFICIT TODAY - JULY 2028	\$16.5 Billion REVENUES HIGHER THAN PROJECTIONS
--	---	--

Governor Newsom's revised budget proposal is a fiscally disciplined, balanced plan that cuts the long-term deficit by more than half and tightens Sacramento's belt — while supporting our most vulnerable Californians amid Donald Trump's cruel assault on the state. As Trump attacks healthcare, education, and working families, California is staying focused on protecting essential services while advancing fiscal responsibility and affordability.

Key Announcements

Balanced Budget This Year and Next

The Governor is delivering a balanced budget plan that addresses not only the budget this year, but balances the next one as well — as he continues to **reduce the state's long-term deficit** through responsible spending reductions.

Cutting the Long-term Deficit by More than Half

The revised budget continues the Governor's push to rein in ongoing spending commitments, reduce the out-year deficit, and put the state on a stronger long-term fiscal footing without abandoning core services. His spending plan will slash the state's ongoing spending, making the state's deficit **\$0 through July 2028**.

POLITICO

California California Playbook California Climate California Decoded

As 2028 looms, Jennifer Siebel Newsom faces increased conservative attacks

Conservative media outlets and GOP operatives are churning out an array of content attacking Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the wife of California Gov. Gavin Newsom's wife.



California Gov. Gavin Newsom's partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, wife of Gov. Gavin Newsom, speaks during a campaign event in San Francisco on Nov. 3, 2025. | Jeff Chiu/AP

11:00 PM EDT



Conservative media outlets are unloading a barrage of attacks on Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the wife of California Gov. Gavin Newsom's wife — signaling an early start to a high-profile and deeply personal race for president in the post-Trump era.

While the spouses of political hopefuls have long been a key part of bids for the White House, they often try to humanize their partners. And while future first ladies have often been scrutinized on the trail and in office — from Michelle Obama

to Melania Trump — they have also been the subject of intense scrutiny, from battling racial stereotypes of being described as an "angry Black woman" to coverage of Laura Bush's teenage car accident that killed a friend — this era of

SB 1268 Outdoors for All

“California (sp) is home to hundreds of state, regional, and local parks and a nation-leading outdoor recreation industry. Yet access to the outdoors is not equal across different geographic areas, ethnicities, and income levels. In 2021, the state took a major step forward by launching the Outdoors for All initiative with an initial investment of over \$1 billion, designed to increase access to the outdoors and prioritize underserved communities. Now, as the federal government repeatedly attacks public lands, deploys federal immigration agents to stage raids in public parks, and rolls back equity programs, it is more important than ever to strengthen the state’s commitment to outdoor equity and conservation.”



PRESS RELEASE

ON EARTH DAY, SENATOR LENA GONZALEZ AND OUTDOOR EQUITY ADVOCATES CELEBRATE SB 1268 ADVANCING TO CODIFY OUTDOORS FOR ALL

APRIL 22, 2026

SACRAMENTO, CA – On April 21st, 2026 Senator Lena Gonzalez’s (D-Long Beach) **SB 1268**, which would codify the Outdoors for All initiative in state law passed the Senate Natural Resources Committee on a 5-0 vote.

California is home to hundreds of state, regional, and local parks and a **nation-leading outdoor recreation industry**. Yet access to the outdoors is not equal across different geographic areas, ethnicities, and income levels. In 2021, the state took a major step forward by launching the **Outdoors for All initiative** with an **initial investment of over \$1 billion**, designed to increase access to the outdoors and prioritize underserved communities. Now, as the federal government repeatedly attacks public lands, deploys federal immigration agents to stage raids in public parks, and rolls back equity programs, it is more important than ever to strengthen the state’s commitment to outdoor equity and conservation.

SB 1268 Outdoors for All

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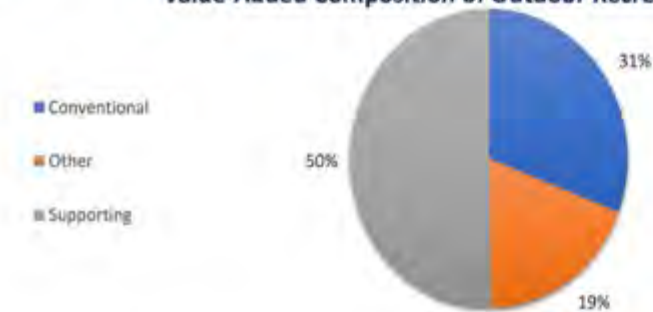


2021—California

Value added [gross domestic product]		Employment		Compensation	
ORSA total	Share of state	ORSA total	Share of state	ORSA total	Share of state
\$54.7 billion	1.6%	517,238 jobs	2.9%	\$28.3 billion	1.5%

Value Added by Select ORSA Activity [Thousands of dollars]				
Activity	2019	2020	2021	State rank
Boating/Fishing	2,098,824	2,695,388	2,294,269	2
RVing	1,488,918	1,627,020	2,014,214	3
Motorcycling/ATVing	709,953	719,882	792,541	2
Hunting/Shooting/Trapping	648,517	715,079	763,782	2
Climbing/Hiking/Tent Camping	407,590	430,614	596,001	1
Equestrian	495,299	479,024	544,837	2
Bicycling	419,837	498,434	536,292	1
Snow Activities	595,480	489,890	505,666	3
Recreational Flying	117,361	107,625	96,251	2

Value-Added Composition of Outdoor Recreation Activities



Conventional ORSA activities include traditional outdoor activities, such as camping, hiking, boating, and hunting.

Other ORSA activities include those that take place outside, such as gardening and outdoor concerts.

Supporting ORSA activities are those that contribute to the core activities and include such things as construction, travel and tourism, local trips, and government expenditures.

AB 2578 (ROGERS): OUTDOOR ACCESS & RECREATION ECONOMY ACT



Author: Assemblymember Chris Rogers, 2nd District (Santa Rosa) · Public Resources Code §526+

Authorizes the California Natural Resources Agency to enter a strategic partnership with a new statewide nonprofit Outdoor Access Support Organization unlocking funding, expertise, and resources the state cannot access on its own to implement the *Outdoors for All* strategy plan in collaboration with GO-Biz.



April 20, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Wicks,

On behalf of California Outdoor Recreation Partnership (CORP), Mammoth Lakes Trails Public Access Foundation (MLTPA), California Mountain Biking Coalition (CAMTB), and the organizations signed below, we would like to express our full support for AB 2578, the Outdoor Access and Recreation Economy Act.

SIX WAYS THIS BILL CHANGES THE GAME

01

CREATES AN OUTDOOR ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

Authorizes CNRA to formally partner with a statewide nonprofit — bringing private-sector speed, fundraising, and expertise to state government and allowing access to delivering future state grants.

03

GROWS THE RECREATION ECONOMY

Directs resources toward branding, promotion, and transitioning gateway communities from extractive to recreation-based economies.

05

COORDINATES A FRAGMENTED SYSTEM

Brings partners across CNRA departments, GO-Biz, and private and NGO partners into one coherent, high-impact structure and coordinate with federal partners.

02

EXPANDS SUSTAINABLE ACCESS ACROSS ALL LANDSCAPES & GIVES SUPPORT FOR ALL PUBLIC LANDS

Broadly defines outdoor access across state, federal, and private lands for hiking, biking, camping, climbing, kayaking, and more.

04

CENTERS EQUITY & YOUTH ACCESS

Aligns with Outdoors for All — prioritizing communities historically locked out of California's remarkable public lands.

06

BUILDS A GREEN WORKFORCE PIPELINE FOR GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

Supports outdoor career pathways in rural gateway communities, aligned with the Governor's Jobs First report.

Happenings of Interest



California Travel Industry

Back to Research Dashboard

2025 Economic Impact of Travel

Overview

Takeaways

Download report (PDF)

Share

Overview

This report evaluates the economic impact of travel to the state of California in 2025, its 12 tourism regions and all 58 counties.

Travel remains a vital sector of California's economy. This report outlines the economic activity generated by travel statewide, highlighting key trends within the industry. Spending, employment, earnings and tax revenue are the primary indicators used to measure travel's economic contribution.

As is customary, the report presents revised travel impact figures for the prior year (2024) based on data available after the report was published. With this year's report there were additional re-statements related to changes in the methodology for estimating the "Other Travel" spending category. Estimates for "Other Travel" were revised for 2022, 2023 and 2024. Please refer to the methodology section of the report for an explanation of the changes.

Note: Some destinations in California use different visitor definitions and data collection methods, which may result in variations between reported figures.

Dean Runyan also prepared 2025 economic impact reports for [Counties](#) and [Assembly](#) districts.



California remains the nation's top travel destination, tourism spending climbs to a record high \$158.9 billion

What you need to know: It is no surprise that everyone wants to come visit the Golden State. From the majestic redwood trees in the north to the Hollywood studios in the south, and from the pristine coastline in the west to the towering Sierra Nevada mountains in the east, California remains the top travel destination across the nation - bringing an economic boon to communities across the state.



More jobs!

Tourism, as a key **California Jobs First** industry sector, continues to be a major economic engine across every region of the state:

- California **added 4,350 travel-related jobs** in 2025, bringing total tourism employment to **approximately 1.2 million jobs statewide**.
- Increased hotel demand and bookings outpaced national trends, with **1.2 million additional room nights booked** across the state.



WTTC Welcomes U.S. Tourism Envoy Nick Adams for First Global Address, Signalling New Era of U.S. Leadership in Travel & Tourism

Home > News >

WTTC Welcomes U.S. Tourism Envoy Nick Adams for First Global Address, Signalling New Era of U.S. Leadership in Travel & Tourism

DATE: 8 MAY 2026

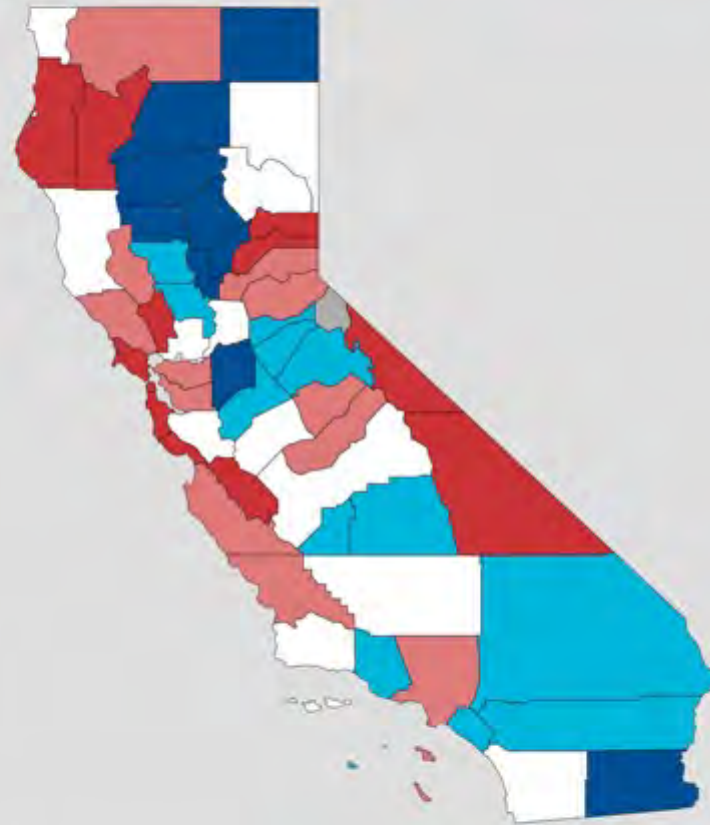
The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) welcomed His Excellency, Ambassador Nick Adams, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Tourism, for his first major international public address since assuming the role, marking a significant moment for both the United States and the global Travel & Tourism sector.

Happenings of Interest



Today's AAA National Average \$4.336 Price as of 5/31/26

Today's AAA California Avg. \$6.032 Price as of 5/31/26



County Retail Prices

- 7.061 to 6.200
- 6.074 to 5.993
- 5.909 to 5.752
- 6.199 to 6.075
- 5.992 to 5.910
- No Data Available

County average gas prices are updated daily to reflect changes in price. For metro averages, [click here.](#)



Trump may have created an accidental EV mandate

Automakers are concerned that a little-noticed regulatory tweak could eventually force them to quadruple their electric vehicle production.

BY JEAN CREMICK | 05/28/2024 01:45 AM EDT



President Donald Trump at an event calling back fuel economy standards at the White House in December. (Evan Vostz/AP)

CLIMATEWIRE | American automakers say they're worried that the Trump administration has unwittingly placed a ticking time bomb inside its sweeping push to roll back fuel efficiency standards, and could force Detroit to dramatically increase the number of electric vehicles it makes under a future administration.

At issue is a little-noticed change made by the Energy Department this February to a formula used to determine compliance with what is known as corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards.

The effect on automakers — including the Big Three of Ford, GM and Stellantis — would not be immediate, most observers acknowledge, since congressional Republicans and the administration have gutted penalties for automakers who don't comply with fuel efficiency standards.



Democrats on collision course over EV fees in highway bill

The House unveiled its transportation bill Sunday. House and Senate Democrats are set for an intraparty fight.

BY ANDRES PICON | 05/31/2024 01:38 AM EDT



House Finance Committee member Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) said he co-sponsored a proposal to co-optimize gas and tolls to "fill the void" in highway bill funds. (Yusuf Chaudhry/PHOTO)

E&E DAILY | House and Senate Democrats are hurtling toward an intraparty clash on one of the most contentious provisions of the new surface transportation bill: a fee on electric and hybrid vehicles.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unveiled its long-awaited transportation bill, also known as the highway bill, on Sunday. The legislation from Chair Sam Graves (R-Mo.) and ranking member Rick Larsen (D-Wash.) contains provisions on permitting reform and it repeals some Biden-era environmental initiatives.

But a disagreement over the proposed EV and hybrid fees is now poised to pit Larsen against his Senate counterparts, potentially undermining part of the Democratic negotiating position for one of Congress' biggest legislative priorities this session.

Happenings of Interest

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

TECHNOLOGY • PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY • NICOLE NGUYEN

E-Hiking Is Here. You Can Tell by My 1,000-Watt Hips.

With Hypershell's X Ultra S and similar personal exoskeletons, AI takes on the great outdoors

Gift-unlocked article Listen (5 min)



Hypershell's new X Ultra S motorized exoskeletons appeal to outdoor enthusiasts who want to cover more distance with less effort.

By Nicole Nguyen Follow | Photography and Video by Poppy Lynch
May 20, 2024 at 9:00 pm ET

AI is entering the physical realm in a big way. Case in point: I spent Mother's Day e-hiking with bionic leg boosters.

I strapped my two-year-old in a hiking carrier, and went for a walk up a winding dirt trail. The robotic hip motors whirred and a mechanical force tugged at my quads.

As the incline got steeper, I opened the companion app on my phone and pressed "Boost."

My stride quickened. The whirring got louder. As the AI marched me toward the summit, I enjoyed the view. Thirty seconds later, the surge of power was over, and the legs returned to the gentler Eco mode.

Hypershell X

Buy Now

The World's First Outdoor Exoskeleton

Next-Gen Exoskeleton

48% More Leg Strength

38% Less Physical Exertion

Hypershell X

Shop Now



But as I crossed a rocky section with some loose boulders, I worried one wrong jerk could send me tumbling, so I dialed down the power. A Hypershell spokesman said that a snug, proper fit and a lower level of assistance can help on unstable terrain.

I was disappointed with my downhill experience. Descents can be exhausting but the AI isn't smart enough to detect them. You have to dig into the app, and activate Downhill mode yourself.

A couple of power-walking hours later, I removed the legs. My body felt slow and heavy. I was like an astronaut returning to Earth, getting reacquainted with my own muscles.

The cyborg cyclist

On a bike ride, the puppet effect was even more dramatic. At one point I was barely moving my legs myself. On certain climbs, I topped out panting and exhausted, then realized my bike was in its hardest gear.

The Spandex-clad cyclists who tackle San Francisco's iconic Hawk Hill have a saying: "The climb doesn't get easier, you just get faster."

That's also true of riding with battery-boosted legs. I was out of breath because I was pedaling at my regular cadence, but each stroke had a lot more power.



Hypershell's companion app, left, lets you set the assistance intensity of the exoskeleton which can output a max of 1,000 watts of power

The device is mostly intuitive but comes with some dangers. After my ride, I unstrapped the unit thinking it was off, but an active arm snapped back with full force. I wasn't hurt, but it was a stark reminder of the risks of robotics in our everyday lives. Hypershell's app includes reminders for responsible use, including the proper way to disengage.

Happenings of Interest

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

TECHNOLOGY • PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY • NICOLE NGUYEN

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WIRED

NEWSLETTERS

FEATURES: BEST COMPUTER SPEAKERS OUTDOOR SECURITY CAMERAS BEST SMART RINGS ROUTERS VS. MODEMS BEST P

Review: Hypershell X Ultra S

With its clever new algorithm, the latest Hypershell exoskeleton powers your legs without making you feel like a puppet on a string.



COURTESY OF HYPERHELL

SAVE THIS STORY

All products featured on WIRED are independently selected by our editors. However, when you buy something through our retail links, we may earn an affiliate commission.

Rating: 7/10

WIRED

Lighter, more refined design. Responsive, better-timed assistance. Handles changing terrain more naturally. For the first time, I can genuinely feel the difference.

TIRED

Target audience still unclear. You'll never forget you're wearing it. Niche, expensive proposition. Battery range is not very adventurous.

But as I crossed a rocky section with some loose boulders, I worried one wrong jerk could send me tumbling, so I dialed down the power. A Hypershell spokesman said that a snug, proper fit and a lower level of assistance can help on unstable terrain.

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Happenings of Interest






We Won in Sacramento

Big news this week: the two harmful e-bike bills we've been fighting in Sacramento are [officially dead](#). Both would have set California e-bike policy back significantly. Instead, we spent this past Monday in the Capitol talking with lawmakers about how to do the opposite — make it easier for millions more Californians to choose a bike for daily life. Thank you to everyone who wrote letters, signed on, and showed up!

Other Good News

And while we're celebrating, we have a few more reasons to smile this week and beyond:

-  [New sale and demo bikes just added](#)
-  [18 months, 0% financing](#) on all e-bikes over \$2,000 — through May 31
-  [\\$300 bonus](#) on your e-bike trade-in toward a new bike — through May 31

Have questions or ready to start your build? Call us at 415-524-7362, send us [an email](#), or visit us for a test ride in [San Francisco](#), [Marin](#), or [Oakland](#).

Sections

Los Angeles Times



CALIFORNIA

E-bikes are all over mountain trails. Some want them banned



Happenings of Interest



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Brett Thurber ✓ • 3rd+

Owner at The New Wheel

2w • 🌐

+ Follow



🎉 Huge news out of Sacramento today.

AB 1557 and AB 1942 — two bills that would have decimated California's legal e-bike industry — are dead in the Appropriations Committee. 🚲

To everyone who called, emailed, went to Sacramento, and stood up to be counted: you did this. Lawmakers count the people who show up, and you showed up.

A huge thank you to Assemblymember [Buffy Wicks](#) 🙏 for helping bring these misguided bills to an end.

But the work isn't finished.

E-motos falsely sold as e-bikes are a real problem on our streets and we need to work to get this problem dealt with. This win is a reminder of what's possible when riders, advocates, retailers, and manufacturers organize together and tell the true story: legal e-bikes are one of the best things happening for our health, our communities, and our planet. 🌍

Today, we celebrate. 🎉

Tomorrow, we roll up our sleeves and organize. Every Californian who trades a car for an e-bike is a win for all of us — let's get millions more riding. ✨

Happenings of Interest

 [JOIN](#)

POLICE & FIRE

E-motorcycle crackdown coming to Summit County as new Utah law takes effect May 6

by **Heather Bergeson**
Published: Apr 6, 2026 at 2:43 pm



Captain Chase Pili from the Utah DNR Law Enforcement Division breaks down the key differences between e-motorcycles and e-bikes. Photo:

With new regulations and clearer definitions now in place, Summit County officials say enforcement around illegal e-motorcycles will increase heading into summer

San Francisco Chronicle [Account](#)

A photograph of several e-bikes parked in a metal rack. A large white text overlay is centered on the image.

E-bikes are getting more like motorcycles. Can you tell them apart in our quiz?



California Mountain Biking Coalition

491 followers
1d • 🌐



An E-Moto is not an E-Bike. Let's make it official!

The terminology we use defines the access we ...more

e-Bike? Nope.



California Mountain Biking Coalition

491 followers
1d • 🌐



An E-Moto is not an E-Bike. Let's make it official!

The terminology we use defines the access we keep. Currently, high-powered electric motorcycles (some hitting 30+ mph with 3,750W motors) are being marketed as "e-bikes." This creates a massive headache for land managers and puts traditional cyclists and pedal-assist riders at risk of losing trail access due to the actions of motorized vehicles.

CAMTB is proud to stand with @CalBike, @PeopleForBikes, and @CORP in support of SB 1167 (Blakespear).

Why it matters:

- 👉 **Clear Definitions:** SB 1167 draws a hard line between low-powered pedal-assist e-bikes and high-powered/high-speed e-motos and e-mopeds.
- 👉 **Consumer Protection:** It makes it illegal to market a motor-driven cycle as an "e-bike."
- 👉 **Protecting Access:** When land managers see a 40mph machine on a multi-use trail, they often blame "e-bikes." By reclassifying these as mopeds or motorcycles, we protect the rights of actual cyclists.

The bottom line: Clear boundaries protect our trails. We're fighting to ensure that high-powered machines don't jeopardize the progress we've made for the cycling community.

Happenings of Interest

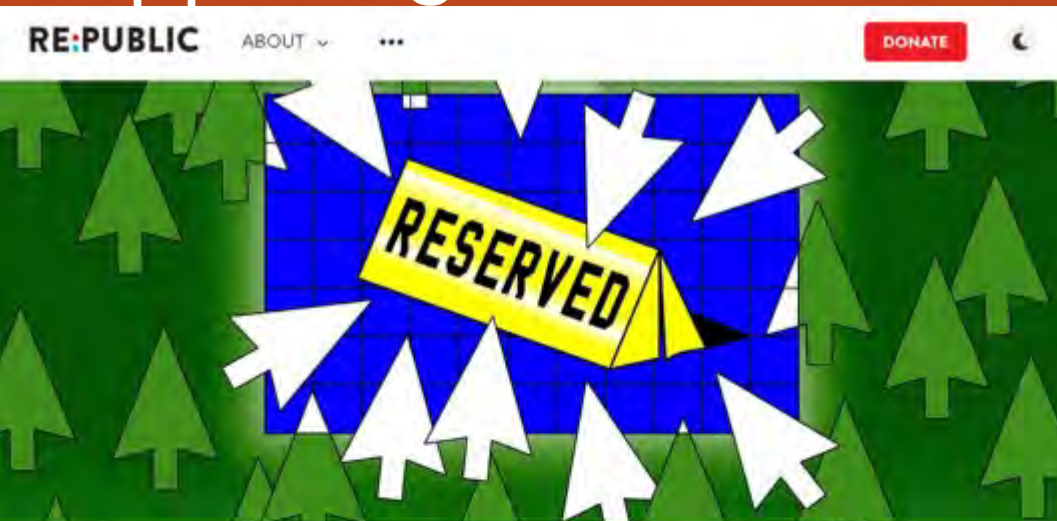


Illustration: VanLiew/Wired

NEWSLETTER

THE BOTS STOLE YOUR CAMPSITE

By Heather Hansman, [Illustration: Jacqui VanLiew](#) • May 10, 2018

When we first started brainstorming stories for RE:PUBLIC last summer, one idea wouldn't let me go. Like many paddlers and campers and boaters around the country, I've become unhealthily obsessed with Recreation.gov. The government website is supposed to make reserving a campsite or river permit as easy as a mouse click. But the reality is about as easy as winning the lottery. Your odds of scoring a permit on the Middle Fork of the Salmon or other popular rivers are as low as 2%. And yet, when you do manage to score a campground reservation or date for a boat launch, you pass empty campsite after empty campsite—all reserved no-shows. People are frustrated—and only more so when they learn that the whole Recreation.gov juggernaut is operated by the giant government contractor Booz Allen Hamilton.

But providence soon brought me a gift: a pitch from one of my favorite writers, Heather Hansman. Heather, the author of *Downriver*, *Powder Days*, and the forthcoming *Eierce Country*, is a seasoned environmental reporter and an avid paddler herself. Recreation.gov, she wrote, was being gamed. People were creating custom bots to scrape hard-to-get permits off the site in bulk—and Booz Allen Hamilton was profiting off every single transaction.

"This gets into one of the trickiest questions about public land access," Heather wrote in her pitch. "How do you regulate access to the outdoors in a way that preserves the integrity of the landscape and the experience, while still making it accessible, especially for people who need it the most? And the way that bots are gaming our biggest federal reservation system seems like a story that encapsulates all of that. Technology is clearly going to play a role in the future of outdoor access, but I want to look at what's not working now, who the bad actors are, how federal agencies do and don't have power and what could happen to make it right."

WIRED

NEWSLETTERS



ILLUSTRATION: JACQUI VANLIEW

Happenings of Interest



Eastern Sierra Golden Mussel Prevention

5/1/26 Update




2026 Inspection Required Before Launch



- New ordinances in Mono and Inyo Counties **require inspections before launching any trailered watercraft**, including boats and jet skis, into any body of water
- Trailered watercraft must stop at a local **Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination (WID) station** and receive an **Eastern Sierra mussel sticker** before launching
- Failure to do so could result in fines, misdemeanor charges
- **Any boat that launches outside Mono or Inyo County** must be inspected again before launching locally

Outreach

- EASTERSIERRAWID.com
- Other Resources:
 - Business/Local one sheet
 - Visitor handouts: postcard, table tent
 - Poster
 - Email/Website banner
 - A-Frames and road signage
 - Social media and digital assets
- <https://monocounty.ca.gov/economic/page/mono-county-fish-wildlife-programs>
- <https://www.vcptoolkit.org/golden-mussels>



DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL!

Inspections are now required for all trailered watercraft before launching in Eastern Sierra waters.

Learn more and plan ahead at: EasternSierraWID.com



DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL!

What Local Businesses & Partners Need to Know About Golden Mussel Prevention

Golden mussels are an invasive freshwater species not yet detected in the Eastern Sierra — and keeping them out is critical. They spread primarily by hitchhiking on boats, trailers, and gear that move between lakes and rivers. Once they are here, they cannot be removed.

Why Are They Such a Serious Threat?

Golden mussels:

- Attach to almost anything — rocks, rocks, boats, motors, swim, aquatic plants, and nearby lake bottoms.
- Survive in a wide range of water temperatures and chemistry, including low-oxygen water like brown, Eastern Sierra water.
- Can live outside of water for periods of time.
- Reproduce rapidly, spawning up to 100,000 eggs per year, and producing thousands of mussels per year (depending on water temperature and oxygen levels).
- Unlike snails or other mollusks, golden mussels are especially capable of surviving in Eastern Sierra conditions.

Why Should We Care in the Eastern Sierra?

If introduced to the Eastern Sierra, golden mussels can:

- Permanently damage life and stream ecosystems.
- Deplete oxygen that fish depend on to feed.
- Threaten recreational fishing, boating, and tourism.
- Clog water intakes, water delivery systems and pipes.
- Smother water and forest plants due to excessive biofouling.

In October 2010, golden mussels were placed on the list of Invasive Species that can spread from Lake Tahoe to Mono and Inyo counties. Our research indicates that if uncontrolled, an introduction to the Eastern Sierra could spread quickly across the region. Prevention is the only solution.



STOP! DO NOT LAUNCH

Trailered watercraft inspection is required by law in Mono and Inyo County

BEFORE LAUNCHING

- Stop at a Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination (WID) station
- Get your free Eastern Sierra Mussel Sticker*

*Mussel stickers do not prevent mussels from spreading.

For current inspection locations, hours, FAQs, and resources, visit EasternSierraWID.com

Keeping mussels out of our waters is critical

These invasive mussels can permanently:

- Damage our lakes and waterways
- Harm fish populations
- Clog boats, motors, and water systems

Clean - Drain - Dry - Inspect

Before entering any waterbody:
CLEAN plants and mud
DRAIN all water
DRY completely

No inspection required for canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, float tubes, waders, fishing gear, but these can still spread invasive species — Clean, Drain, Dry every time!

Display your **DRY** Registration and Eastern Sierra Mussel Stickers on the hull.

Protect our waters. Protect our fisheries.



INVASION OF THE GOLDEN MUSSELS

KEEP THEM OUT OF OUR WATERS!

THEY'LL DESTROY OUR FISH!

PREVENTION IS THE ONLY SOLUTION. WATERCRAFT INSPECTION IS MANDATORY... OR ELSE!

EasternSierraWID.com

Happenings of Interest

A reward of up to \$200,000 is being offered to anyone who proposes a solution to stop the spread of these invasive mussels in California before the problem worsens



By Kevin Montien

Published On: April 28, 2026 at 3:00 PM

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EASTERN SIERRA WILD

**DON'T
MOVE A
MUSSEL!**



Happenings of Interest

RE:PUBLIC ABOUT ... DONATE



POLITICS

A LIBRARY BUILT ON CONTRADICTIONS

A monument to an icon of public lands, championed by their dismantler

By [Alex Heard](#), [Theater of the Mind](#) • May 27, 2020

On July 4, on the semiquincentennial of the United States of America, a grand new presidential library will open its doors: the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, a majestic, privately funded tribute to the 26th president and the father of American conservation.

The library sits on 93 acres of North Dakota prairie on the doorstep of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It was here that T. R. retreated after his mother and his wife died on the same day, February 14, 1884. His time in the Badlands would change his life, proving his worth as a rancher and horseman and providing a natural respite from his life of politics back East.

Roosevelt would go on to protect more than 230 million acres of public land, establish the U.S. Forest Service, and create 5 national parks, 150 national forests, 51 federal bird reserves, 4 national game preserves, and 18 national monuments.

So, a library set against the dramatic Badlands is a fitting legacy. The building will generate onsite energy through solar and wind. It will include water reclamation systems, carbon sequestration, and composting waste. It will aim for net zero energy, zero emissions, zero water, and zero waste.

But as Alex Heard writes in "The Hollow Man in the Arena," his new story for RE:PUBLIC, "The man who did as much as anyone to help the library reach its impressive scale—Doug Biergan, the current U.S. Secretary of the Interior—has overseen deep cuts in public-lands agencies for Donald Trump, the least conservation-minded president in modern history."

THE HILL SIGN UP NEWSLETTERS

NEWS POLICY BUSINESS HEALTH OPINION EVENTS VIDEOS

Concert Trump lawyers Reconciliation bill Iran war Sponsored: Content from Google Cloud

Judge on challenge to Trump golf course takeover: 'I'm no Amy Poehler'

BY ZACH SCHONFELD - 05/04/20 9:46 AM ET



A federal judge declined to immediately block the Trump administration from closing East Potomac Golf Links, saying recent reports about renovation plans aren't enough for her to step in, but the judge warned she's prepared to quickly intervene if the plans move forward.

"I don't want to be the overseer of Parks and Rec. I'm not Amy Poehler," U.S. District Judge Ana Reyes said at a Monday hearing.

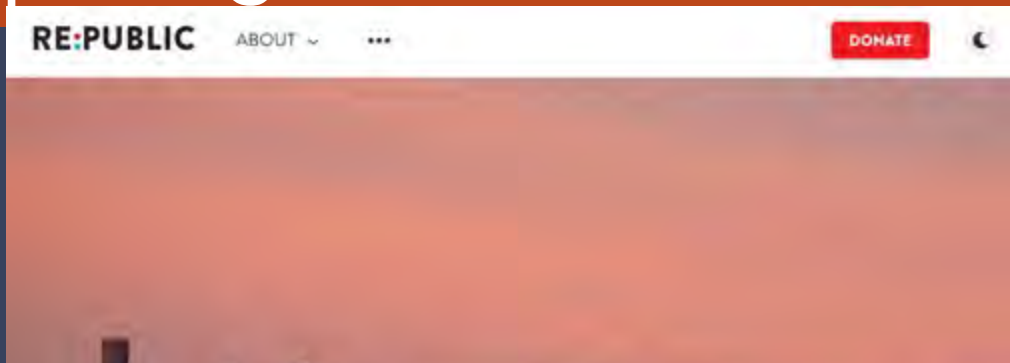
Construction crews have for months dumped debris from the East Wing demolition on East Potomac's course.

The DC Preservation League and two golfers originally sued in February, but they picked up their efforts over the weekend after reports from NOTUS and The Washington Post indicated that deferred maintenance and tree-clearing work was set to begin this week ahead of renovations.

Reyes, an appointee of former President Biden, ordered government attorneys to work overnight so they could be ready to present their response at a hastily scheduled Monday morning proceeding.



Happenings of Interest



Judge on challenge to Trump golf course takeover: 'I'm no Amy'

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Happenings of Interest



FEDERAL REGISTER


The Daily Journal of the United States Government



 Proposed Rule 

Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance

A Proposed Rule by the Management and Budget Office, the Health and Human Services Department, the Agriculture Department, the State Department, the Agency for International Development, the Veterans Affairs Department, the Energy Department, the Treasury Department, the Defense Department, the Transportation Department, the Commerce Department, the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the United States Agency for Global Media, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Social Security Administration, the Housing and Urban Development Department, the National Science Foundation, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Small Business Administration, the Justice Department, the Labor Department, the Homeland Security Department, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Education Department, the Export-Import Bank, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Peace Corps, the Election Assistance Commission, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, the Federal Communications Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, the Marine Mammal Commission, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration on 05/29/2026

 This document has a comment period that ends in 43 days. (07/13/2026)


[VIEW COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS](#)

Happenings of Interest



“The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposes to revise the Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance to improve government-wide policies and requirements related to the management of grants, cooperative agreements, and other forms of assistance.”

the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Peace Corps, the Election Assistance Commission, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, the Federal Communications Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, the Marine Mammal Commission, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration on 05/29/2026

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[VIEW COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS](#)

Happenings of Interest



"1. New Prohibitions and Certifications The most notable impact is the addition of several specific "prohibitions." Organizations receiving federal funds would likely need to certify that they are complying with these new rules: Prohibition of Disparate-Impact Theories: Organizations would be prohibited from using federal awards to promote or support theories of "disparate-impact liability" (the idea that policies are discriminatory even if they weren't intended to be). Discriminatory Event Services: There is a new prohibition regarding "discriminatory event services." Foreign Collaborations: The proposal includes a section (Section 200.220) aimed at prohibiting the use of federal funds for certain "covered foreign collaborations." 2. Heightened Transparency and Oversight The government is moving toward a more "outcome-driven" approach. Organizations should expect: Increased Scrutiny: Agencies are being directed to perform stricter risk assessments on applicants. If your organization has a history of audit findings or poor monitoring, you may face "specific conditions" (extra oversight) on your awards. Performance Metrics: There is a stronger push for measurable results. Recipients will need to clearly demonstrate how their projects achieve federal objectives using data and evaluations. Stricter Audit Trails: The proposal emphasizes the need for strong internal controls and clear documentation. Failure to maintain these can result in lost funding or disqualification. 3. Potential Administrative Burden While the government claims to want to "reduce recipient burden," the reality for many organizations is often different during the transition: New Compliance Procedures: Organizations will need to update their internal manuals, policies, and grant-management procedures to align with these new definitions and requirements. Legal/Consulting Costs: As noted by groups like the National Council of Nonprofits, the complexity of these new rules may require organizations to spend money on legal counsel to ensure their operations don't inadvertently violate the new certifications. SAM Registration Updates: Changes to certifications usually occur when organizations register or update their profiles in SAM.gov (the system used to do business with the federal government). Organizations should prepare for new, mandatory checkboxes or statements they must agree to in order to remain eligible for funding. 4. What Organizations Should Do Now Since this is currently a Proposed Rule, it is the "comment period" phase. Review the Full Text: Your organization's grant or compliance officers should review the specific sections of the PDF (especially Part 200, which covers "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements"). Submit Comments: If your organization believes any of these rules are vague, overly burdensome, or difficult to implement, you have until July 13, 2026, to submit an official comment through the Federal Register portal (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/29/2026-10817/regulation-for-federal-financial-assistance>). Prepare for Implementation: Start an internal review of your current grant-management practices. Even if the rule changes slightly before it becomes final, the overall trend toward stricter oversight, less focus on disparate-impact models, and more focus on "outcome-driven" results is likely to move forward. Summary for your team: This is not just a "paperwork" update; it is a policy shift. You should treat this as a potential change in your organization's legal and compliance risk profile, particularly regarding how you handle diversity initiatives and foreign partnerships.

the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Peace Corps, the Election Assistance Commission, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, the Federal Communications Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, the Marine Mammal Commission, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration on 05/29/2026

This document has a comment period that ends in 43 days. (07/13/2026)

VIEW COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Happenings of Interest



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VIEW COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Happenings of Interest

E&ENews PM

Trump administration proposes governmentwide NDAs

It is the Trump administration's latest attempt to crack down on leaks to media organizations.

BY CHEYANNE M. DANIELS | 05/22/2020 12:15 PM EDT



Former employees who signed the NDA would be required to acquire "written permission from an authorized agency official" to speak about information the Trump administration declares "confidential."

E&E NEWS PM | The Trump administration may ask all federal employees to sign nondisclosure agreements in order to prevent leaks to media organizations, according to a draft agreement posted by the Office of Personnel Management on Tuesday.

The draft notice states that "federal employees do not have discretion to disclose Confidential Government Information" and that unauthorized disclosure of such information disrupts agency operations and "erodes public trust."

The proposed NDA — which individual agencies would have to elect to sign on to — would apply to a broad swath of government employees, including after they leave federal service.

Former employees who signed the NDA would be required to acquire "written permission from an authorized agency official" to speak about information the Trump administration declares "confidential."

Government Executive

NEWS MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT DEFENSE TECH PAY & BENEFITS WORKFORCE

TRENDING: OPM | CIVIL SERVICE | ATTACHMENT PLANNING | RETIREMENT RISKY

Workforce

OPM proposes requiring all feds to sign an NDA

Experts warned the measure, when combined with the federal HR agency's new power to target employees' suitability for federal employment, creates a new pathway for Trump administration officials to purge those deemed insufficiently loyal to the president.

MAY 20, 2020

OPM CIVIL SERVICE

in f e



ETICH WADNES

The Office of Personnel Management is set to propose requiring all federal employees to sign a nondisclosure agreement barring them from divulging "confidential" information in most cases, a move that experts warn violates workers' First Amendment rights and statutes aimed at protecting whistleblowers from retaliation.

OPM announced its plan in a filing set for publication in the *Federal Register* Wednesday. In justifying the requirement, officials cited reporting in *Government Executive* and other news outlets disclosing controversial proposals to overhaul federal layoff and performance management rules—and internal warnings against their implementation—prior to their formal publication.

"Unauthorized disclosures of confidential government information disrupt agency operations and erode public trust," OPM wrote. "In recent months, unauthorized disclosures have included internal government materials not intended for public release such as pre-decisional documents and interagency comments exchanged during internal coordination processes . . . Such disclosures risk chilling candid interagency feedback, disrupting orderly decision-making and weakening trust within and among federal agencies."

According to a draft copy of the proposed NDA, feds would be required to sign a document barring them from disclosing information related to internal agency operations, personnel and procurement matters and "any sensitive, pre-decisional or deliberative material" and vowing to inform their agency if they learn of others making such a disclosure.

The draft NDA includes language stating that it does not conflict with the Whistleblower Protection Act, and that whistleblowers may continue to disclose information either to Congress or their agency's inspector general's office. But Kevin Owen, a partner at Gilbert Employment Law, a firm that specializes in federal employment issues, described those exceptions as mere "lip service."

GREENWIRE

Trump's gag order sends shivers down feds' spines

If civil servants break a proposed nondisclosure agreement — or refuse to sign it — they could be fired by their agencies.

BY KEVIN BOGARDUS, HANNAH NORTHEY | 05/27/2020 9:22 PM EDT



President Donald Trump gestures Friday after speaking at Bingham Community College in Sullivan, West Virginia. (Aly Brantner/AP)

GREENWIRE | President Donald Trump wants everyone in government to sign a nondisclosure agreement. Federal employees see it as another attempt by his administration to intimidate them.

The Office of Personnel Management on Wednesday published in the *Federal Register* a proposal to have civil servants sign a governmentwide NDA. The measure is designed to have new and existing employees acknowledge and agree with laws already in place to safeguard "non-public, confidential, or proprietary information." If those employees break the NDA — or refuse to sign it — they could be fired by their agencies.

The new push is part of an ongoing effort by the Trump administration to crack down on leaks surrounding policy moves and to further realign the federal workforce. The proposal cites unauthorized leaks to outlets like *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* tied to military operations.

Happenings of Interest

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

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Cities, Counties and Special Use Permits for Improved Recreation Management

May 26, 2026 by Sharon



2026 Donations

Help us reach our 2026 goal of \$1200 in donations! We didn't achieve our 2025 goal of \$1200 and only received \$970 in donations. Hoping for a better year this year!



\$1,080 raised 5 donations \$1,200 goal



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Happenings of Interest



“The U.S. Forest Service says it can no longer manage a popular recreation area near Aspen in Western Colorado. The agency is hoping that Pitkin County will take over management of the Maroon Bells Scenic Area for five years under a special use permit.”




Happenings of Interest

The New York Times

Trump Administration LIVE Updates Vehicle in 2028 Kennedy Center Ruling Fund for Trump's Allies Gas Prices Approval Rating

Trump Lifts Restrictions on Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands

The president rescinded two executive orders that led to prohibitions on the use of the vehicles in most national parks.



A horse crosses a road in Big Bend National Park in Texas in March. Tom Parks for The New York Times

By Maxine Joselow
Reporting from Washington

May 29, 2026

President Trump on Friday rescinded two decades-old executive orders that restricted off-road vehicles on public lands, in a move that could lift prohibitions on their use in most national parks.

The first executive order, signed by President Richard M. Nixon in 1972, established strict criteria for the use of off-road vehicles on federal lands, in an effort to minimize their environmental impact. The second, signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1977, authorized the government to immediately shut down off-road driving if it was causing ecological damage.


The Guardian US

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

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

Trump administration Trump officials cancel rule that made conservation a 'use' of public lands

Move comes as administration seeks to boost drilling, logging, mining and grazing on taxpayer-owned land



Cows graze along a section of the Missouri River near Fort Benton, Montana, on 19 September 2011. Photograph: Matthew Brown/AP

Associated Press

Mon 11 May 2026 20:50 EDT

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GREENWIRE

Ex-GOP senator lobbies for contentious Minnesota mining project

Congress narrowly voted to lift a mining ban in the Boundary Waters region last month.

BY HANNAH NORTREY | 06/14/2026 12:52 PM EDT



Norm Coleman, former US Republican Jewish Coalition's Executive Council member of the Vermont Jewish Community Center, speaks at the Republican Jewish Coalition event in Las Vegas, 7 March 2023. Mike/Getty Images

GREENWIRE | The ongoing effort to advance mining near Minnesota's pristine Boundary Waters is getting a bit more K Street lobbying muscle.

Former Republican Sen. Norm Coleman of Minnesota, now senior counsel of global regulatory at the law and lobbying firm Hogan Lovells, is lobbying for the Bernhardt Group on behalf of Twin Metals Minnesota, according to a [lobbying disclosure](#).

So too is Daniel Winkler, a longtime aide for former independent Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, who [joined Hogan Lovells last year](#), according to the form. Sinema is a senior adviser at the firm.

Hogan Lovells and the Bernhardt Group did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Twin Metals declined to comment.

Happenings of Interest

PUBLIC DOMAIN Upgrade to founding

Steve Pearce's Confirmation Tested The Senate Public Lands Caucus. It failed.

Members of the purportedly bipartisan caucus voted on party lines to confirm Trump's controversial pick to lead the Bureau of Land Management.

CHRIS D'ANGELO
MAY 18, 2026

22 3 9 Share



Former U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM) fields questions at the hearing for his nomination to lead the Bureau of Land Management on Feb. 25, 2026. (Photo credit: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee)

The Senate on Monday narrowly confirmed Steve Pearce, a former New Mexico congressman with a [long history](#) of pushing for federal public land sell-offs, to serve as director of the Bureau of Land Management.

The vote, entirely on party lines, puts a man who has argued that "[we do not even need](#)" most federal lands in charge of overseeing nearly 250 million acres of them. It also lays bare the extent to which public lands remain wildly partisan in the halls of Congress, despite overwhelming public support.


NPR News, Colorado Stories Donate

KUNC It's Been a Minute / Wild Card NEXT UP: 8:30 PM Chris & Colorado Playlist

Forest Service OKs chainsaws to clear trails in one of the largest wilderness areas

KUNC | By Rachel Cohen
Published May 14, 2026 at 1:21 PM MDT

LISTEN • 0:57



A Forest Service employee cuts limbs off a downed tree. The agency does not allow chainsaws in wilderness areas except in limited cases.


The U.S. Forest Service has granted a rare exemption allowing the use of chainsaws in one of the country's largest wilderness areas.

Trump Admin Targets Five of Oregon's Seven Wonders for Destruction

In 2013, Travel Oregon named the seven places that define this state. Twelve years later, five of them are under direct federal attack.

WILL FATTIZ AND MORE THAN JUST PARKS
MAY 26, 2026

236 33 290 Share



The Seven Wonders of Oregon

In 2013, Travel Oregon hired the Portland ad agency Wieden+Kennedy and asked a simple question: What are the seven places that make Oregon, Oregon? After a good deal of argument, they came back with an answer.

1. The Oregon Coast.
2. Crater Lake.
3. Smith Rock.
4. The Painted Hills.
5. The Willows, which Travel Oregon's itinerary defines to include Eagle Cap Wilderness and Hells Canyon.
6. The Columbia River Gorge.
7. Mount Hood.

Happenings of Interest



THE MOUNTAIN PACT



Happenings of Interest

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite ditches reservations, drawing huge crowds in a free-for-all



Even before the summer rush, California's most visited national park is seeing big crowds. Above, Vernal Falls is shown in Yosemite in 2021. (Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

Government Executive

Workforce

'Going to be a s***show': Parks, Interior struggle to hire temporary staff ahead of busy season

The department fell well short of its goals last year and is failing to keep pace with even that level of hiring.

MAY 15 | MAY 15, 2024

NATIONAL PARKS | HIRING | TRAVEL

📍 in f 📧 📱

The Interior Department is struggling to keep up with even the diminished pace of hiring for its busy season it experienced last year, according to several officials and internal documents, raising concerns about its capacity to handle the upcoming surge in both park visitors and wildfires.

Interior had around 4,200 seasonal employees on board as of early April, according to internal figures obtained by *Government Executive*, a 1% decrease from the same period in 2023 and down around 14% from the same period in 2024. As of late March, Interior was tracking 7% behind its 2025 seasonal hiring figures.

The department brings on temporary staff each year to handle the surge of tourists who visit National Parks, as well as federal monuments, historical sites, wildlife refuges and other federal lands, as well as to support the response to wildfire season. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said last year the National Park Service alone would hire 7,700 seasonal staff—in part to offset dramatic decreases in the agency's permanent workforce—but internal data show the agency peaked at around 5,150 temporary workers, or 33% short of its target.

Interior has shed around 11,000 permanent employees, or 17% of its workforce, since January 2023, while NPS has reduced its rolls by around 4,000 workers, or 22%. It last month offered another incentive for a large swath of its workforce to leave the department.

While seasonal hiring typically ramps up significantly in May and June, the department has already fallen behind last year's pace and employees say it no longer has the infrastructure to execute widespread onboarding as quickly as it typically does. Interior has lost around 18% of its human resources staff, which several current and former employees said has diminished its capacity to move seasonal hires through the system. The department lost more than 100 additional HR personnel during last month's "deferred resignation" offer, according to multiple employees.

"We don't have the staff to hire, do backgrounds or even onboard," one Interior HR official said.

PIVOTAL MOMENT TO RESTORE HETCH HETCHY VALLEY

JUNE 10 | 11:00 AM

Join us for a timely conversation on the future of one of California's most iconic and debated landscapes: **Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park.**

We will explore the opportunities and challenges surrounding proposals to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley, including dam removal and resilient water solutions for San Francisco.

A once-in-a-generation ecological restoration opportunity, the conversation will examine what restoration could mean for water reliability, ecosystems, outdoors recreation, and the future of this treasured landscape.

There will be a call to action and discussion on how we can support and be part of this effort.

PRESENTERS



ROBERT HANNA
Conservationist & great-great-grandson of John Muir



SPRECK ROSEKRANS
Executive Director of Restore Hetchy Hetchy



REGISTER HERE!

Scan QR code



Happenings of Interest

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite ditches reservations, drawing huge crowds in a free-for-all



Even before the summer rush, California's most visited national park is seeing big crowds. Above, Vernal Falls is shown in Yosemite in 2021. (Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

Workforce

'Going to be a s***show': Parks, Interior struggle to hire temporary staff ahead of busy season

The department fell well short of its goals last year and is failing to keep pace with even that level of hiring.

MINI-BYTE | MAY 19, 2026

NATIONAL PARKS | HIRING | TRAVEL

in f e

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NATIONAL PARKS

Yellowstone National Park wolf pups face 'particularly lethal' virus

By [Kylie Mohr](#), *Big Sky Country Contributing Parks Editor*
May 27, 2026

f x t



A gray wolf standing on snow-covered land, Yellowstone National Park. Mark Perry/Getty

Yellowstone National Park's famous wolf packs are facing an invisible threat that's bringing the number of surviving pups to historic lows: a contagious viral disease called canine distemper.

At the end of 2025, Yellowstone National Park had 84 wolves dispersed among seven packs, according to spokesperson Linda Veress. This amounts to an approximately 16% decrease from the average end-of-year population over the past 15 years. Veress told SFGATE that the


Happenings of Interest

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NATIONAL PARKS

This Utah national park is famous for its tiny pies. I went to find out why.

A refurbished homestead in Capitol Reef's heart slings out 600 pies a day



Trees in the valley in Utah's Capitol Reef National Park have signs indicating the type of fruit or nut that they bear.
Amanda Heidt/SFGATE

By **Amanda Heidt**, Southwest Contributing Parks Editor
Updated May 27, 2026 10:02 a.m.

f x t m

People mostly visit Utah's Mighty 5 — Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Zion national parks — to experience their otherworldly landscapes. Wandering amid the towering hoodoos and soaring arches, you're transported to a world shaped not by news cycles and social media but by wind and water. Every year, millions of people take this deep geological dive, arriving back at the parking lot cleansed.

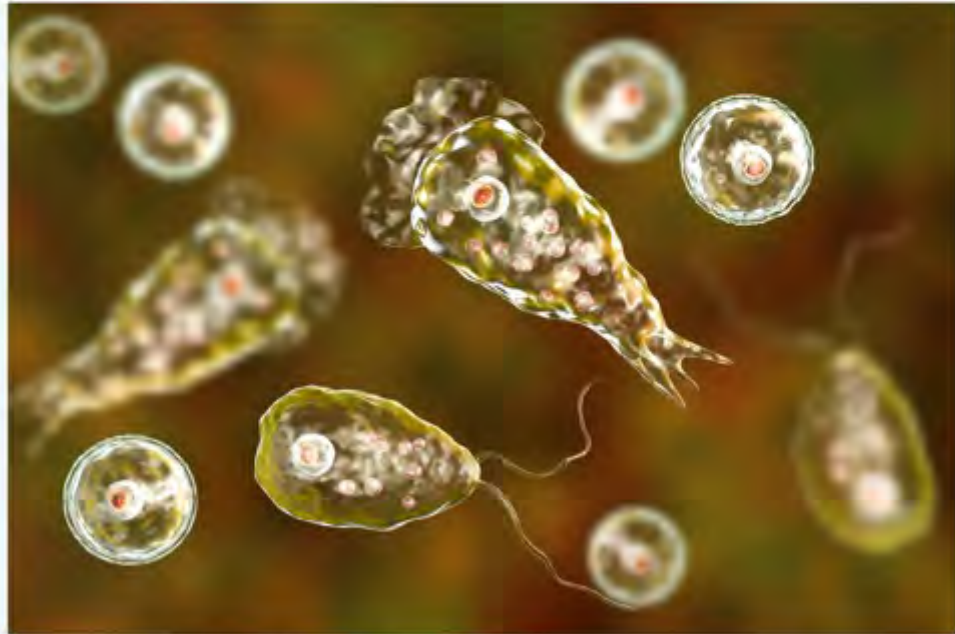
NEWSLETTERS

HEALTH

These Popular National Parks Are Teeming With Brain-Eating Amoebas

Recent research finds that *Naegleria fowleri* can be commonly found in recreational hot water springs.

BY ED CARA
PUBLISHED MAY 7, 2026, 4:50 PM ET
READING TIME 3 MINUTES

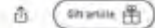


An illustration of *Naegleria fowleri* amoeba. © Kateryna Kon via Shutterstock

READ LATER COMMENTS (15)

Happenings of Interest

E&EDAILY



Burgum clashes with Dems on renewables, defends reorganization

House Democrats tried to appeal to the former North Dakota governor's past support for wind energy.



BY IAN M. STEVENSON / 58/11/2024 5:25 AM EDT



Interior secretary Doug Burgum prepares to testify before the House Natural Resources Committee on Capitol Hill on Wednesday. | FLORENCE CHENG/POLITICO

E&E DAILY | House Democrats and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum argued over renewable energy projects during a hearing Wednesday that also touched on the ongoing permitting reform negotiations.

The administration has been at odds with Democrats on wind and solar, as officials work to slow down or block projects onshore and off. That tension was on display Wednesday, when Burgum appeared before the Natural Resources Committee.

Multiple Democrats held up batteries to emphasize the ability to store energy from wind and solar. The administration has called both unreliable. And Burgum, at one point, responded to Democrats by saying, "false, false, false."

Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-R.I.) played a video of Burgum talking about wind energy as North Dakota governor. In the video, he said the state had become the sixth leading producer of wind and that "we're not slowing down."

The New York Times

Trump Administration Orders Rapid End to Some Hunting Rules on Federal Lands

Internal Interior Department documents show parks are imposing sweeping changes like expanding areas where firearms can be used and allowing game to be cleaned in restrooms.



Curecanti National Recreation Area in Colorado, where a prohibition on discharging firearms around trails is one of dozens of hunting regulations that will be taken off the books. *Matt*

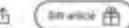


By Lisa Friedman
Reporting from Washington

May 4, 2024

The Trump administration has directed national recreation areas, seashores, wildlife refuges and other public lands to immediately lift dozens of restrictions on hunting and trapping, internal Interior Department documents show.

E&ENEWS PM



Interior proposes opening 95% of wildlife refuges to hunting

The hunting and fishing expansions would occur at refuges in 32 states, while Interior also removed some restrictions on hunting at certain national parks.

BY HEATHER RICHARDS, IAN M. STEVENSON / 58/12/2024 6:15 PM EDT



Hunting at the Clark River National Wildlife Refuge in Kentucky. | Michael Johnson/Black and White Services/Flckr

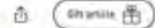
E&E NEWS PM | The Interior Department plans to expand hunting and fishing access across national parks and wildlife refuges.

Interior officials on Tuesday announced that the Fish and Wildlife Service would open or expand hunting and fishing in 32 states. Those figures include 14 national wildlife refuges opening up to new hunting or sport fishing opportunities. If completed, the changes would mean 95 percent of lands in the refuge system — 92 million acres — are open to hunting. "America's public lands belong to the American people, and they should be able to access them without unnecessary bureaucracy standing in the way," said Interior Secretary Doug Burgum.

The changes follow a January secretarial order by Burgum that told Interior bureaus to improve access for outdoorsmen and tackle rules that pose an "unnecessary regulatory burden." That order said that federal land should be open to hunting "unless a specific, documented, and legally supported exception applies."

Happenings of Interest

E&EDAILY



Burgum clashes with Dems on renewables, defends reorganization

House Democrats tried to appeal to the former North Dakota governor's past support for wind energy.



BY IAN M. STEVENSON | 58/11/2026 5a:26 AM EDT



Interior Secretary Doug Burgum prepares to testify before the House Natural Resources Committee on Capitol Hill on Wednesday. | Flickr/Chris/PHOTO

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By Lisa Friedman
Reporting from Washington

May 4, 2026

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PUBLIC DOMAIN



A Top Interior Official's Former Ranching Clients Wanted Bison Off Public Land. Doug Burgum Personally Intervened.

In administrative cases before DOI, Interior Secretary Burgum intervened to make policy changes that involved or benefited the former legal clients of Karen Budd-Falen, one of his top deputies.



CHRIS D'ANGELO AND JIMMY TOBIAS
MAY 14, 2026

37 1 19

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Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum in late March after signing of a memorandum of understanding to boost grazing on federal lands. Photo credit: USDA.X

In August 2022, Karen Budd-Falen, a private attorney at the time who now serves as the third highest-ranking official at the Interior Department, sent a 53-page appeal challenging a Bureau of Land Management decision to allow a conservation nonprofit to continue grazing bison on public land in central Montana while expanding its access to new areas.

Happenings of

E&ENEWS PM

Gift article

Burgum spars with Democrats over Trump's DC projects

Lawmakers questioned the president's many projects — from work on the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool to building a proposed 250-foot triumphal arch.



BY IAN H. STEVENSON | 05/13/2024 04:16 PM EDT



Interior Secretary Doug Burgum testifies Wednesday before the House Natural Resources Committee on Capitol Hill. | Francis Chung/POOL/STICO

E&E NEWS PM | Interior Secretary Doug Burgum on Wednesday defended President Donald Trump's ongoing efforts to renovate property on the National Mall, build a triumphal arch in Virginia and construct a major new addition to the White House.

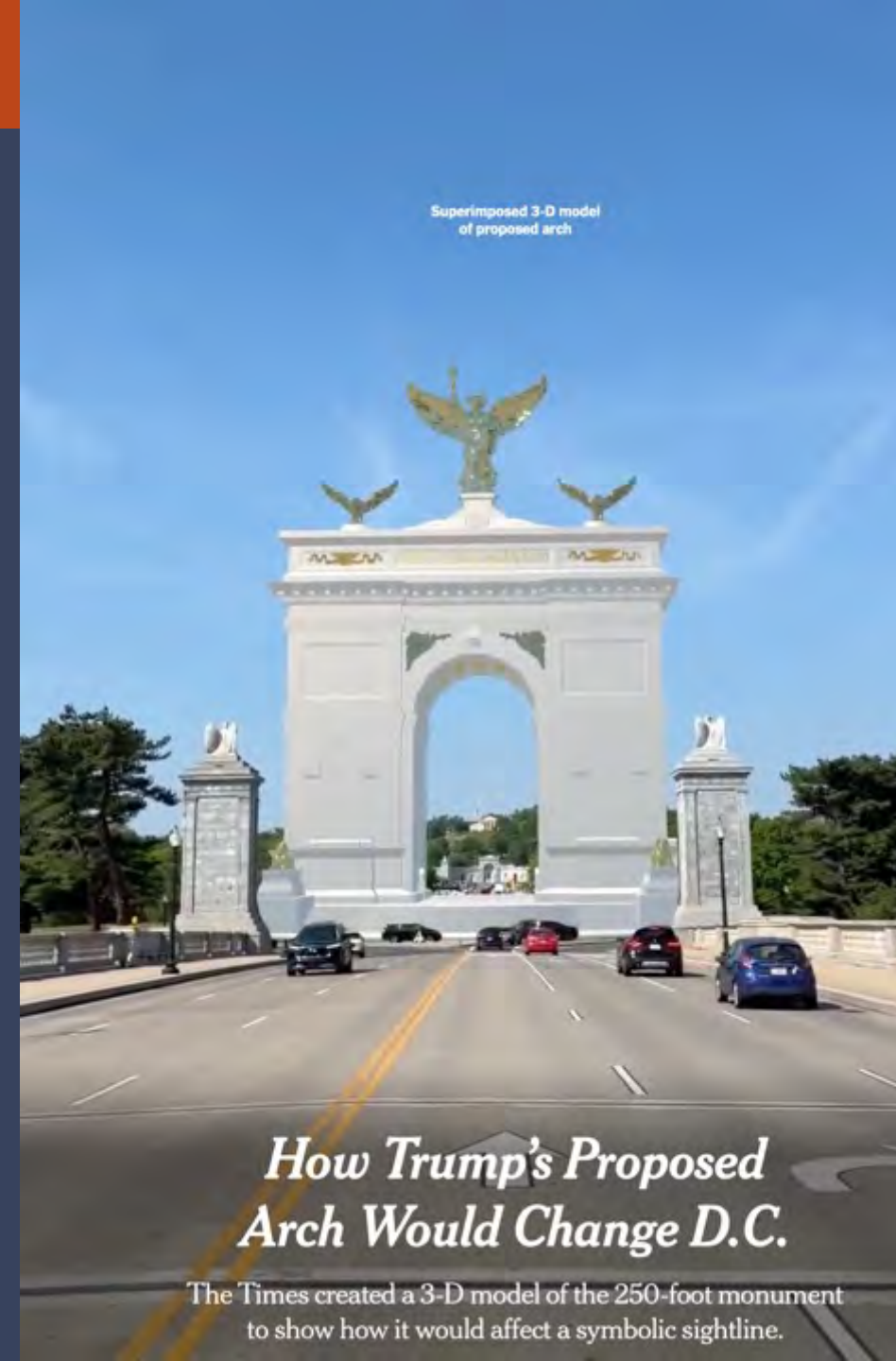
At a hearing of the Natural Resources Committee, Burgum told House members that the White House's plans for an expanded ballroom — along with \$1 billion that Senate Republicans have earmarked for the project — was needed for enhanced security.

He disputed Democrats' claims that the ballroom and other projects are being built in service of President Donald Trump's ego.

"Teddy Roosevelt tore stuff down to build the West Wing. Were those vanity projects?" Burgum asked.

Lawmakers repeatedly peppered Burgum with questions about the Washington projects, denouncing them as distractions.

Superimposed 3-D model of proposed arch



How Trump's Proposed Arch Would Change D.C.

The Times created a 3-D model of the 250-foot monument to show how it would affect a symbolic sightline.



Happenings of



Burgum spars with Democrats over Trump's DC projects

Lawmakers questioned the president's many projects — from work on the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool to building a proposed 250-foot triumphal arch.

BY IAN H. STEVENSON | 05/13/2024 04:16 PM EDT



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Burgum: \$10B park fund won't pay for Trump's arch

The Interior secretary defended the president's proposal to spend \$10 billion on renovations in the nation's capital while also pushing to cut overall funding for the National Park Service.

BY HEATHER RICHARDS | 04/29/2024 03:53 PM EDT



Interior Secretary Doug Burgum testifies Wednesday during a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing to examine the president's proposed budget request for the Department of the Interior. | Marian Zahrad/AP

E&E NEWS PM | Interior Secretary Doug Burgum told senators Wednesday that the Trump administration's proposal to set aside \$10 billion to fix up national park sites in Washington won't pay for the president's proposed triumphal arch.

President Donald Trump wants to build a 250-foot arch to rival Paris's Arc de Triomphe in a traffic circle near the Potomac River. But it remains unclear how that project, as well as other legacy-defining architectural proposals the president is advancing in Washington, will be funded.

Testifying before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Burgum said the "Presidential Capital Stewardship Program" proposed in the White House's fiscal 2027 budget won't be used to bankroll new monuments in Washington. The \$10 billion pot of money — described in budget documents as necessary to "rehabilitate historic buildings and landscapes, and enhance architectural grandeur" in the nation's capital — is intended to address existing maintenance needs, he said.

Happenings of



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Huffman: Burgum misled Congress on triumphal arch

The National Park Service kicked off survey work on the proposed site of Trump's "Independence Arch" this week.

BY IAN M. STEVENSON | 05/19/2024 06:08 AM EDT



Construction workers use drilling equipment on Memorial Circle, which could be home to President Donald Trump's proposed "Independence Arch" in Washington. | Ian Stevenson/POLITICO

E&E DAILY | House Natural Resources Committee ranking member Jared Huffman on Thursday accused Interior Secretary Doug Burgum of misleading Congress about the status of President Donald Trump's proposed triumphal arch — making his charge as he stood near active heavy machinery on the site outside of Arlington National Cemetery.

The California lawmaker, who has criticized the Trump administration for its plans to construct a massive, 250-foot arch gilded with gold called "Independence Arch," toured the Virginia site along the Potomac River between the Lincoln Memorial and the cemetery, where workers in hard hats could be seen actively drilling.

Raising his voice to be heard above the sound of an active boring drill, Huffman accused Burgum of misrepresenting the status of the arch plans to lawmakers in testimony earlier this week.

"They have broken ground," Huffman said while standing in the traffic circle alongside a fenced location where workers were boring holes. "You don't do

Burgum spars with Democrats over Trump's DC projects

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TIMES EXCLUSIVE

Reflecting Pool Contract Has 'Inflated' Profit Margin, Government Analysis Finds



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TIMES EXCLUSIVE

National Park Entrance Fees Are Funding Trump's D.C. Projects

The administration is spending at least \$67 million worth of fees paid by visitors to national parks on fixing D.C. fountains and the Reflecting Pool.



The National Park Service is spending millions in fees paid by visitors to parks across the country, like Yosemite National Park in California, to pay for restoration of nine ornamental fountains in Washington, D.C. | Bevela Will/Polarr/San Francisco Chronicle, via Associated Press



By Maxine Joselow and Andrea Fuller

Maxine Joselow reported from Washington, and Andrea Fuller from New York.


May 27, 2024

The National Park Service is using at least \$67 million worth of park entrance fees to help fund President Trump's beautification projects in Washington, according to a New York Times analysis of federal records.



Happenings of Interest

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The BLM's Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (Photo by Daniel Hainth / Onepixel)

LAND MANAGEMENT

THE PUBLIC LANDS RULE IS GONE

What the BLM's Public Lands Rule was, why the Trump administration killed it, and what it means for the 245 million acres we all own.

By [Christopher Korman](#) • May 15, 2020

On Tuesday, the Bureau of Land Management officially rescinded the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule—better known as the Public Lands Rule. The change takes effect June 11. The administration had been signaling this move since last spring, but this week made it final, and it landed alongside a separate proposed rule [weakening grazing oversight](#) on 155 million acres of Western land.

I haven't previously written about the Public Lands Rule, in large part because, frankly, it's very much an in-the-weeds policy story and tough to make interesting. But that doesn't mean the rule was not important or that this week's decision won't have downstream impacts. The PLR was a sincere attempt to put conservation on equal footing with drilling, mining, and grazing in how the BLM makes decisions about the 245 million acres it manages—roughly one in ten acres in the United States. That the administration moved so aggressively to kill even that modest reset tells you something about where its priorities lie.

Here's what you need to know.

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Happenings of Interest



Be Part of This Moment: Join Us for Our 4-Part Webinar Series

The launch of the ORPCF is more than the release of a document, it is a *defining moment for our profession*. It signals that outdoor recreation planning and management is a serious, skilled, and valued field deserving of the same professional recognition as any other discipline.

We invite you to explore the framework, share it with your colleagues and networks, and join us for our upcoming FREE four-part webinar series to learn how to put it to work in your career and organization.

July 8, 2026

What Are Core Competencies, and Why This Framework?

This foundational session introduces the Outdoor Recreation Professional Competency Framework, developed through a partnership between the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) and the U.S. Forest Service. Participants will explore what professional core competencies are, how this framework was developed, and why it represents a landmark step in legitimizing the outdoor recreation profession.

Ideal for all professionals

REGISTER

July 15, 2026

How Is the Framework Adaptable to Organization-Specific Needs?

No two organizations are alike – and neither are their workforce development needs. This session explores how the Outdoor Recreation Professional Competency Framework is designed with flexibility in mind, allowing agencies, nonprofits, and organizations of all sizes to tailor it to their unique contexts, missions, and staffing structures.

Ideal for supervisors, HR, agency leaders

REGISTER

July 22, 2026

Incorporating Competencies Into Degree Programs

As the outdoor recreation profession grows, so does the need for academic programs that prepare students with the skills and knowledge employers expect. This session examines how the Outdoor Recreation Professional Competency Framework can be integrated into university and college curricula to better align academic preparation with professional practice.

Ideal for faculty, academic program directors

REGISTER



OUTDOOR RECREATION PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

About Core Competencies

Outdoor recreation professionals play a critical role in creating, managing, and sustaining meaningful outdoor experiences for all. To support this work, the Outdoor Recreation Professional Competency Framework was developed through a multi-year, cross-sector collaboration.

Led by the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the Epley Center for Parks and Public Lands, and informed by a cross-sector Advisory Group, this effort brings together perspectives from federal, state, and local agencies, nonprofit organizations, academia, and private industry. The result is a research-based, consensus-driven framework that defines the foundational knowledge, skills, and abilities needed across the outdoor recreation field.

Happenings of Interest



The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

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Forest Service and Boone and Crockett Club sign memorandum advancing wildlife-based access

May 28, 2026 by Sharon



From the FS press office.

(Washington, D.C., May 27, 2026) –

The U.S. Forest Service and the Boone and Crockett Club signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) underscoring the importance of sustaining outdoor recreation opportunities with a particular emphasis on public access for hunting, angling, wildlife conservation, habitat stewardship, and conservation education.

Fourteen other organizations participated in the signing and are recognized as collaborating partners to support the implementation of the MOU. Under the framework the Boone and Crockett Club will convene with these partners to identify, develop and implement opportunities to enhance the recreational access on public lands.

2026 Donations

Help us reach our 2026 goal of \$1200 in donations! We didn't achieve our 2025 goal of \$1200 and only received \$970 in donations. Hoping for a better year this year!



\$1,080 raised 5 donations \$1,200 goal

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Help us reach our 2026 goal of \$1200 in donations!

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Happenings of Interest



Green groups sue to block predator removals on wilderness lands

A division of the Agriculture Department is charged with killing predators that attack grazing livestock.

BY JENNIFER YACHNIN | 05/27/2026 04:00 PM EDT



A coyote makes its way through the snow on a hillside north of Reno, Nevada. | Scott Sommer/AP

E&E NEWS PM | Environmental groups sued Wednesday to halt the Agriculture Department from killing bears, wolves, mountain lions and other predators inside designated wilderness areas to protect domestic livestock, asserting that federal agencies are overstepping the Wilderness Act.

The WildEarth Guardians, Western Watersheds Project and Wilderness Watch filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico, accusing both the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service of "disregarding the plain language and core purpose of the Wilderness Act." That 1964 law allows Congress to designate wilderness areas, the highest level of protections for public lands. There are just over 800 of those sites nationwide, totaling 112 million acres.

But the law includes a narrow exception for continued grazing on wilderness lands, where that use predates the designation as a protected area.

Happenings of Interest



Forest chief bows to Congress on state and local grants

Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz vowed to let grants flow to states and localities if Congress rejects his agency's request to slash them next year.

BY [MARC HELLER](#) | 05/14/2026 09:37 AM EDT



Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz testifies Wednesday at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on his agency's fiscal 2027 budget. | Anna Mousymaker/Getty Images.

E&E DAILY | Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz promised Wednesday to defer to congressional appropriators if they refuse the Trump administration's proposed cuts to state and local forestry grants.

At a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing, Schultz committed to spending the money Congress appropriates to state, private and tribal forestry programs — a routine process that's become politically fraught in this administration.

What would typically be an easy matter — disbursing funds as directed by Congress — has become a point of contention since the Forest Service [last year diverted](#) as much as \$43 million from state and local grants to cover upfront costs of the agency's broad staff reductions.

Congress brushed off a similar cut the administration proposed for the current fiscal year, and lawmakers haven't shown much appetite to slash funding to their states in fiscal 2027 either. Congress devoted \$310 million to state, private and tribal forestry programs this year.

Happenings of Interest

Friday, May 29th, 2026

Forest Service Is Not Reorganizing, It Is 'Dismantling,' Says Union

Published: May 12, 2026
More in: Fedweek



The union said that based on past experience, many employees will resign or retire rather than relocate, following out the agency. Image: ZikG/Shutterstock.com

By: *FEDweek Staff*

The NFFE union has called on Congress to block the administration's recently announced reorganization of the U.S. Forest Service, saying that "in reality this is not a reorganization; it is a dismantling of a 121-year-old institution that manages 193 million acres of public land, an area larger than the state of Texas."

The recently announced plan includes among other things eliminating regional offices, closing of research facilities, while ending certain ongoing research and relocating headquarters employees from Washington, D.C, mostly to Salt Lake City, Utah. It is part of a larger reorganization of the parent Agriculture Department whose other elements also are drawing opposition.



MAY 18 · 39 MIN LEFT

Is Trump taking a chainsaw to the Forest Service?

On Point with M...hna Chakrabarti

▶ Resume



From JCF >

The Trump administration has made dramatic changes to the U.S. Forest Service -- closing nearly every regional office and axing its research budget. Some say it's overdue reform. But critics say public lands won't be protected.

*** Thank you for listening. Help power On Point by making a donation here: wbur.org/giveonpoint

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Hosts & Guests



Meghna Chakrabarti
Host

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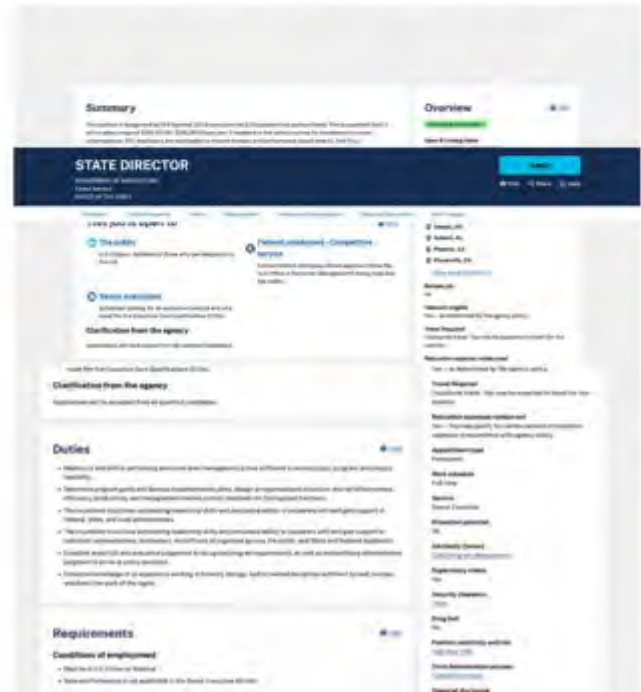
Donations

State Director Jobs Advertised- Apply Now! Application Period Closes 5/20/2026

May 13, 2026 by Sharon

Apologies for the bad screenshooting, here is the link. I'd go for the one in Placerville, but am sadly lacking in executive skills. My thoughts on this will be in a later post.

Maybe we missed it earlier, but the applications close on 5/20 so get yours in there!



2026 Donations

Help us reach our 2026 goal of \$1200 in donations! We didn't achieve our 2025 goal of \$1200 and only received \$970 in donations. Hoping for a better year this year!



\$1,080 raised 5 donations \$1,200 goal

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STATE DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Print

Summary This job is open to Duties Requirements How you will be evaluated

Required documents How to apply

Summary

This position is designated as SES General. USDA structures its SES positions into position levels. This is a position level 2 with a salary range of \$204,122.00 - \$216,010.00 per year. Exceptions to the salary cap may be considered in certain circumstances. SES employees are also eligible to receive bonuses and performance-based awards. Visit <http://www.opm.gov/ses/> for additional information and benefits for SES employees.

Please indicate which location(s) you're applying for.

Learn more about this agency

This job is open to

The public

U.S. Citizens, Nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

Federal employees - Competitive service

Current federal employees whose agencies follow the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's hiring rules and pay scales.

Senior executives

Individuals looking for an executive-level job and who meet the five Executive Core Qualifications (ECQs).

Clarification from the agency

Applications will be accepted from all qualified candidates.

Overview

Reviewing applications

Posted 04/20/26

Location

15 vacancies in the following locations:



- Juneau, AK
- Auburn, AL
- Phoenix, AZ
- Placerville, CA
- Fort Collins, CO

Work site options

Telework eligible
Yes - as determined by the agency policy.

Remote job
No

Relocation expenses reimbursed
Yes - You may qualify for reimbursement of relocation expenses in accordance with agency policy.

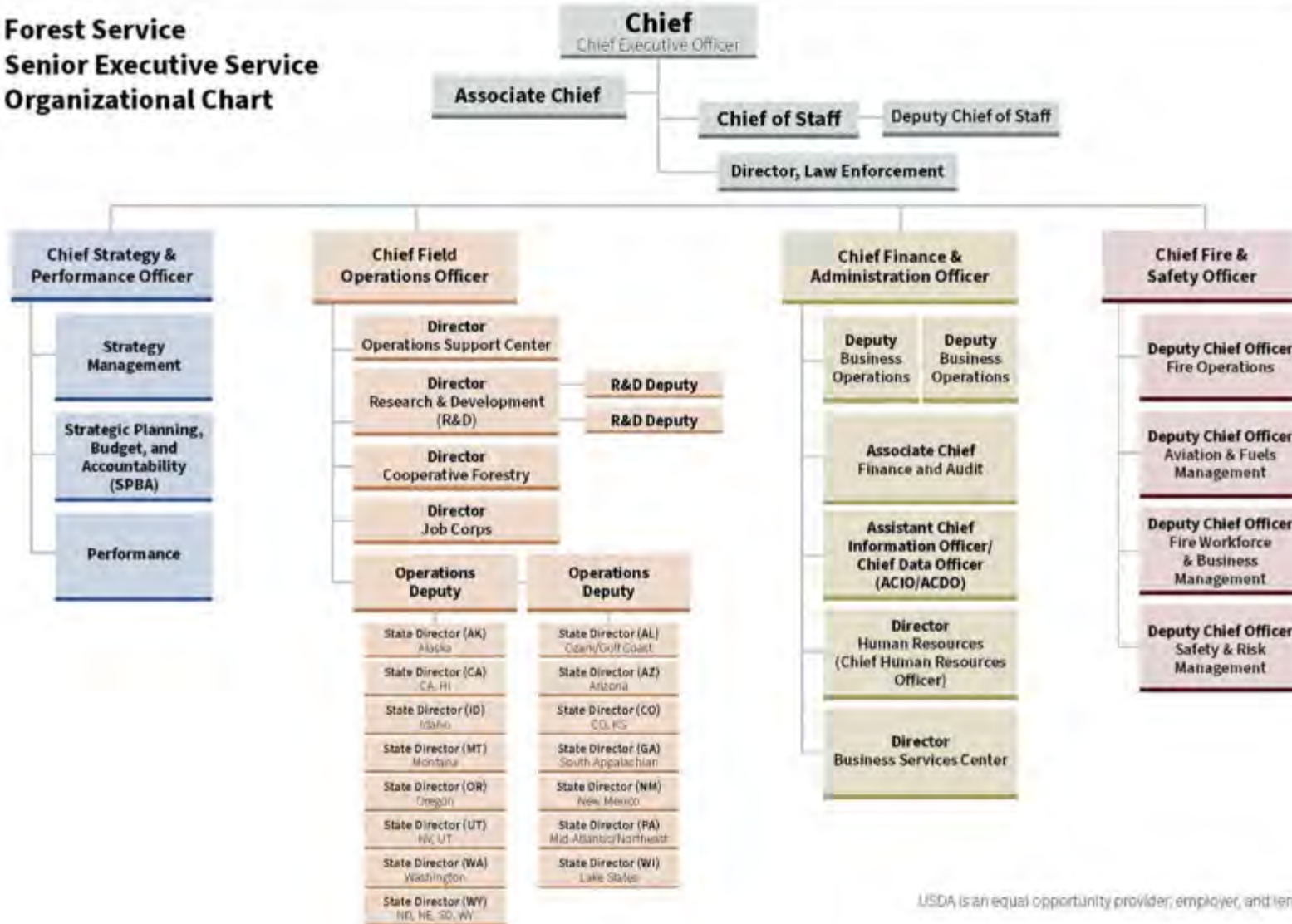




Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

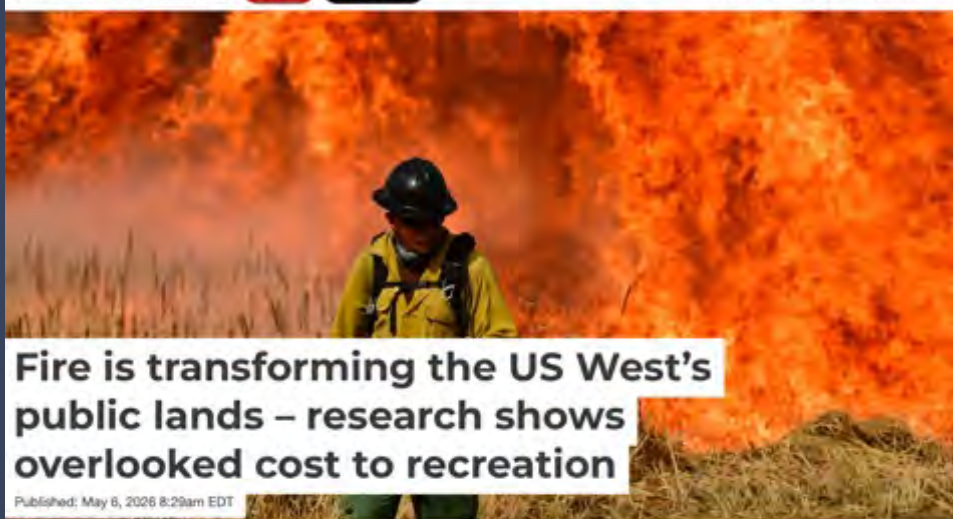
DRAFT DELIBERATIVE

**Forest Service
Senior Executive Service
Organizational Chart**



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





Fire is transforming the US West's public lands – research shows overlooked cost to recreation

Published: May 6, 2026 8:29am EDT

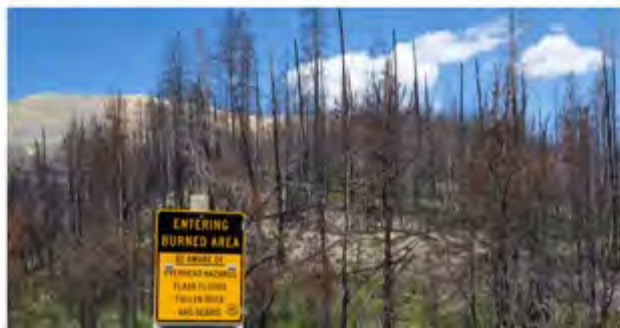
Large-scale wildfires seem to turn visitors away, while prescribed burning may have the opposite effect. Helen H. Richardson/MediaNews Group/The Denver Getty Images



Colorado's two largest fires on record, the [Cameron Peak](#) and [East Troublesome](#) fires, burned hundreds of thousands of acres across some of the state's most visited landscapes in 2020.

The fires scorched trails, campgrounds and beloved ecosystems in and around [Rocky Mountain National Park](#) and the [Arapahoe and Roosevelt national forests](#).

More than five years later, the scars remain stark: blackened hillsides, closed trails and bare slopes where forests once stood. According to [our recent research](#), which has not yet been peer reviewed, the fires caused significant and lasting declines in visitation at the burned sites.



Author



Kyle Manley
Postdoctoral research
University of Colorado

Disclosure statement

Kyle Manley receives funding from Visiting Fellows Program, funded by cooperative agreement NA22OAR

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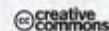
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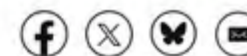
Why Lahaina remains largely untouched nearly 3 years after the fire

Almost three years later, Lahaina's full recovery is still far off



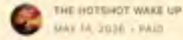
An aerial view over the burn zone in Lahaina on the island of Maui on Feb. 5, 2025. Mengshin Lin/The Washington Post/Getty Images

By **Christine Hitt**, *Hawaii Contributing Editor*
Updated May 14, 2026 10:45 a.m.



Happenings of Interest

What If The West All Goes Up At Once? The Orderly Progression Of A "Normal" Wildfire Season Is Being Tested.



52 3 8

SHARE

Yesterday was a busy day for wildfire resources across the nation, and it continues into today.

While none of these new fires went nuclear, a few had significant potential and ate up a bunch of resources that had been waiting for an assignment. The lingering question that I brought up on [yesterday's show](#) was, why hasn't the Southwest seen the predicted wildfire activity yet?

Snowpacks are low, drought remains present, but now we are seeing 1,200+ acre wildfires in Utah and California, Wyoming popped some timber fires, Montana had some IAs in hard to reach places, Kern County in California is doing Kern County things (large, fast-moving grass fires), Southern Idaho had some larger sized fires, Nebraska is still burning... but no massive fires in Arizona or New Mexico yet.

Yesterday, Utah had a classic steep as hell "desert fire" in Millard County, the Wild Horse Fire. Cedar City, Idaho Panhandle, and Roosevelt Hotshots have likely divided up the ground and are in the process of walking around this ashtray, checking the edge. That fire is 1,200 acres and 5% contained.

"Overnight, the current perimeter held, and crews worked overnight to keep the fire within the already burned area. Fire managers feel confident about the work completed to protect the structures and infrastructure (power lines).



How the Threat of Wildfire Unlocked Acres of New Glades at Sun Valley

POWDER

NEWS

How the Threat of Wildfire Unlocked Acres of New Glades at Sun Valley

Behind the new glades, the Bald Mountain Stewardship Project is meant to protect the resort's forests from looming ecological issues.

MAY 10, 2026 6:31 AM EDT

BY IAN GREENWOOD Staff Writer, Powder

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Photo: Ian Greenwood

Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATEWIRE

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Climate change alarms are flashing. Washington isn't paying attention.

The Trump administration has swept away climate change policies, Democrats are focused on energy costs, and environmental groups have gone quiet.

BY ZACK COLMAN | 10/25/2024 10:15 AM EDT



Photo credit: photo by Mark G. Hill, Wilson, Colorado, Jeremy Branson, AP

CLIMATEWIRE | The climate system's warning signs are blaring, but hardly anyone in Washington has noticed.

In recent months, scientists have revealed new ways climate change is affecting the planet: Higher temperatures threaten to worsen damage from a potentially historic El Niño; a record warm winter in the U.S. West pushed river levels near catastrophic levels; new data shows the planet heating up more quickly, shrinking Arctic ice cover to record lows; a critical ocean current that regulates weather is closer to collapse than previously thought.

Those developments come as the Trump administration has shredded regulations to corral planet-heating gases, hamstrung climate science agencies and dismantled research institutions. Democrats, meanwhile, have shifted their messaging to energy affordability ahead of the midterm elections, and the environmental movement has gone to ground.

CLIMATEWIRE

Get article

A closely guarded plan to cool Earth is revealed

A geoengineering company would use tiny specks of silica to block sun rays — and make billions of dollars.

BY CORBIN HIAR | 10/15/2024 01:17 AM EDT



Stardust Solutions, a geoengineering company, outlined its technology in its studies that the company plans to have peer-reviewed. | The Associated Press/PTX/Getty Images

CLIMATEWIRE | A company that aims to make billions of dollars by cooling the Earth has lifted the veil of secrecy that until now has hidden its plans for preventing sunlight from overheating the planet.

It hinges on aerosol particles that are 125 times smaller than the tiniest grains of sand.

Stardust Solutions has raised \$75 million since 2023 from investors who are betting that global warming could get so out of control that governments might decide to pay the Israeli-U.S. startup to spray millions of tons of sunlight-reflecting aerosols into the stratosphere. Its plans were so guarded that it required scientists to sign nondisclosure agreements before they could study its potentially planet-altering technologies.

CLIMATEWIRE

Get article

GOP lawmakers question federal oversight of sunlight-blocking tech

House Science Chair Brian Babin wants to ensure "rigorous oversight" is applied to companies that seek to alter the atmosphere.

BY CORBIN HIAR | 10/20/2024 06:25 AM EDT



Rep. Brian Babin (R-Iowa), chair of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, during a press conference in Capitol Hill. | Kim Laney/AP

CLIMATEWIRE | Republicans lawmakers have concerns about the government's limited oversight of risky efforts to cool the planet by interrupting sunlight, according to a draft letter obtained by POLITICO's E&E News.

The only legal requirement for organizations involved in geoengineering is to send a one-page weather modification form to NOAA before they try to block sun rays by increasing the reflectivity of clouds or by releasing light-limiting particles into the sky. Most of the forms received by the agency are filled with errors and missing information, a Government Accountability Office audit found earlier this year.

That audit helped spur the leaders of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee to write and sign a letter to NOAA requesting a staff briefing on the agency's supervision of solar geoengineering and weather modification activities. The document was circulated by the committee but never formally sent to the agency.

Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATEWIRE



Senate panel rejects California governor's climate spending plan

The vote is a shot across the bow at the Newsom administration.



BY CAMILLE VON KAENEL | 05/24/2024 06:08 AM EDT



State Sen. Elaine Gomez Reyes spearheaded the effort to force the Newsom administration to stick to a climate spending plan negotiated last year. (Rich Pedroncelli/AP)

CLIMATEWIRE | SACRAMENTO, California — California state senators voted Thursday to reject Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed spending plan for the state's carbon auction revenues. The vote was widely seen as a protest against controversial changes that could cut billions of dollars from the state's climate funding pot.

What happened: The Senate's Budget Subcommittee 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy voted Thursday morning to reject Newsom's proposed spending plan for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. That fund, also known as GGRF, receives roughly \$3 billion to \$4 billion a year from the sale of pollution permits, which helps pay for high-speed rail, Cal Fire and a long list of clean transportation, water, energy and environmental justice programs.

CLIMATEWIRE



Sherrill planning to delay landmark climate change rules

Sherrill is looking to give developers more time by moving the compliance date to next summer.

BY RY RIVARD | 05/24/2024 06:08 AM EDT



Beach lifeguard sit on the bench as low temperatures affected the area during Memorial Day on Monday in Seaside Heights, New Jersey. (Kara Blumauer/AP) via Getty Images.

CLIMATEWIRE | Democratic New Jersey Gov. Mikie Sherrill is planning to delay the [sweeping coastal development rules](#) put in place by her predecessor to prepare for climate change, according to several people familiar with the matter.

The planned pause in the rules, expected to come in the form of a formal notice next week, follows [months of wrangling](#) over the wide-ranging rule package that former Gov. Phil Murphy's (D) administration spent years working on and finalized on his last day in office. New Jersey state Senate President Nick Scutari (D) [pushed](#) the Sherrill administration to nix the rules.

The rules were expected to take full effect on [July 20](#). Projects submitted before then don't need to prepare for sea-level rise in the same way the new rules require.

Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATEWIRE

Senate panel rejects California governor's climate spending plan

The vote is a shot across the bow at the Newsom administration.

BY CAMILLE VON KARNEI | 10/11/2023 10:05 AM EDT



PHOTO: KYLE HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR CLIMATEWIRE. VIDEO: GUY LAWRENCE/GETTY IMAGES FOR CLIMATEWIRE. VIDEO: GUY LAWRENCE/GETTY IMAGES FOR CLIMATEWIRE.

CLIMATEWIRE | SACRAMENTO, California — California state senators voted Thursday to reject Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed spending plan for the state's carbon auction revenues. The vote was widely seen as a protest against controversial changes that could cut billions of dollars from the state's climate funding pot.

What happened: The Senate's Budget Subcommittee 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy voted Thursday morning to reject Newsom's proposed spending plan for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. That fund, also known as GGRF, receives roughly \$3 billion to \$4 billion a year from the sale of pollution permits, which helps pay for high-speed rail, Cal Fire and a long list of clean transportation, water, energy and environmental justice programs.

Resilient California Summit

Explore • Imagine • Catalyze



October 20-22, 2026
SAFE Credit Union
Convention Center
Sacramento

Organized by:



Presented by:



ABOUT THE SUMMIT

Please save **October 20 – 22, 2026** for the three-day **Resilient California Summit** to be held at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento.

The Summit will convene people from across the state to make progress on the policies, partnerships, and practices needed to build resilience as climate change accelerates.

The Summit will feature a diversity of interactive sessions aimed at fostering conversation, sparking new ideas, and giving attendees the resources and tools they need to be successful in their work and communities. Participants will **explore** key insights from California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment, **imagine** the best possible future that remains within reach, and **catalyze** the actions needed to turn that vision into reality.

The Summit is being organized by the **Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation**, **Climate Resolve**, **Farallon Strategies**, the **California Natural Resources Agency**, and **UC Davis Institute of the Environment** – with core support from the **David & Lucile Packard Foundation**, **Resources Legacy Fund**, and **Resilient Cities Catalyst**.

Intended Audience:

We anticipate **1,000 attendees** representing local and regional government, community-based organizations, state agencies, Tribes, nonprofits, academia, the private sector, and additional key partners.

CLIMATEWIRE

Sherrill planning to delay landmark climate change rules

Sherrill is looking to give developers more time by moving the compliance date to next summer.

BY RYAN | 10/11/2023 10:05 AM EDT



PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE/GETTY IMAGES FOR CLIMATEWIRE. VIDEO: GUY LAWRENCE/GETTY IMAGES FOR CLIMATEWIRE. VIDEO: GUY LAWRENCE/GETTY IMAGES FOR CLIMATEWIRE.

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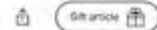
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New Jersey state Senate President Nick Scutari (D) **pushed** the Sherrill administration to nix the rules.

The rules were expected to take full effect on **July 20**. Projects submitted before then don't need to prepare for sea-level rise in the same way the new rules require.

Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATEWIRE



El Niño odds rise as storm and crop threats intensify globally

In addition to disrupting weather patterns globally, "it increases the chance that we will see a record-breaking global average temperature," said a meteorologist.

BY BLOOMBERG | 05/19/2024 04:15 AM PDT



A man walks alongside a dried-up stream in Mutema, Zimbabwe, on July 2, 2024, amidst an El Niño-induced drought. (Aaron Uffner/AP)

CLIMATEWIRE | The odds are rising that a weather-roiling El Niño will emerge in the next few months and strengthen through the year, threatening global crop supplies, altering storm patterns and pushing temperatures toward record highs.

There is an 82 percent chance El Niño will develop in the equatorial Pacific between May and July, and a 67 percent chance it will be either a strong or very strong event when it peaks between November to January, the U.S. [Climate Prediction Center](#) said in a Thursday statement.

"El Niño could likely be declared in the next two months," said Nathaniel Johnson, a meteorologist with the U.S. Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory and member of the El Niño forecast team. In addition to disrupting weather patterns globally, "it increases the chance that we will see a record-breaking global average temperature."

The New York Times

A Powerful El Niño Is Forming. If History Is a Guide, It Could Hit Hard.

The biggest episodes of the past have altered the course of human events, according to researchers. An emerging one is drawing historic comparisons.



An illustration published in 1877 depicted a scene in southern India. Millions died from a famine that coincided with an El Niño that year. (Dey/Blackstar/Anadolu, via Getty Images)



By Chico Harlan

May 21, 2024
Leer en español

Well before it was understood, the El Niño phenomenon was leaving its marks on humanity.

El Niño is the name given to powerful shifts in Pacific Ocean winds and water temperatures that can drastically transform global weather patterns. Over the centuries these natural patterns have sparked epic droughts and heat waves, and have intensified epidemics.

GREENWIRE



Sizzling Europe a 'brutal reminder' of global warming, UN climate chief says

Governments and national authorities have issued warnings about the soaring temperatures.

BY FERDINAND KNAPP, ZIA WEISE | 05/22/2024 12:32 PM EDT



A woman shades her face with a fan in front of Jeronimo Monastery in Lisbon, during a heat wave in Lisbon, Portugal, on Wednesday. (Patrícia de Melo/MARCA/AFP via Getty Images)

GREENWIRE | BRUSSELS — The record-smashing heat wave plaguing Western Europe is a "brutal" reminder of the cost of global warming, the United Nations' climate chief has warned.

France has reported several heat-related deaths and the United Kingdom saw its hottest May day on record as the western part of the continent swelters under a heat dome, a persistent high-pressure system trapping hot air beneath it.

The scientific consensus is that heat waves are becoming hotter, longer and more frequent due to human-caused climate change, noted Simon Stiell, executive secretary of the U.N.'s climate body.

"This latest heatwave in Europe is a brutal reminder of the spiraling impacts of the climate crisis, both human and economic," Stiell said in a statement Wednesday. "The main culprit is the world's addiction to burning coal, oil and gas, and destroying forests."

Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The New York Times

GIVE THE TIMES

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The New York Times

GIVE THE TIMES Account

Climate and Environment

Sign up for the Climate Forward newsletter.



LOREN GRANT for The New York Times

S.E.C. Proposes to Kill Climate Change Disclosure Rule

The regulation would have required all publicly traded companies to disclose whether they faced significant risks from climate change and its effects.

1:31 ago · By MAXINE JOSELOW



STEVE GRANITZ for The New York Times

Could New Tech Help Save Some Very Rare Whales?

Innovative systems to keep ships from hitting North Atlantic right whales are coming into use. The Trump administration is weighing whether they can replace a bedrock protection.

May 28, 2026 · By CATHY EINHORN

Diesel Fuel Spilled on National Mall During 250th Event Setup

The Trump administration blamed the two spills on vandalism, though the U.S. Park Police is still investigating the incidents.

May 29, 2026 · By MAXINE JOSELOW and DAVID A. FARRENTHOLD



Greenpeace's Long War With a Pipeline Titan Enters a Strange New Phase

This month, a North Dakota court barred Greenpeace from saying what it wanted in a European court, an unusual move. The environmental group says it is forging ahead.

May 28, 2026 · By KATY TRALCH



The Hole in the Ice at the End of the Earth



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.



Trash or Recycling? Why Plastic Keeps Us Guessing.



A Climate Change Guide for Kids

MAY 25, 2026

2025 Wildfires Were the Costliest Ever, Researchers Say

Severe, hard-to-control blazes in densely populated areas like Los Angeles drove the year's record losses.

By REBECCA GOODMAN



MAY 21, 2026

As Climate Change Extends Europe's Heat Season, Schools Bake

Classrooms can be particularly vulnerable amid climate change, as the hottest times of the year increasingly overlap with the academic calendar.

By CHICO HARJAN and LÉONTINE GALLOS



MAY 21, 2026

Trump Lifts Restrictions on Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands

The president rescinded two executive orders that led to prohibitions on the use of the vehicles in most national parks.

By MAXINE JOSELOW



MAY 16, 2026

Why Green Investors Are Backing Republican Candidates

A PAC representing wind and solar energy interests spent \$1.1 million to boost the Republican primary opponent of Chip Roy, an opponent of renewables. Now they are trying to save a Republican ally in Iowa.

By LISA FRIEDMAN



MAY 16, 2026

Deadly Heat Wave Sweeps Across Western Europe

A deadly heat wave in Europe this month brought record-breaking temperatures. Scientists linked the extreme heat to man-made global warming.

By JONIC MESTREBARDA



MAY 15, 2026

National Park Entrance Fees Are Funding Trump's D.C. Projects

The administration is spending at least \$67 million worth of fees paid by visitors to national parks on fixing D.C. fountains and the Reflecting Pool.

By MARIE JOSEPH and ANDREA TUCKER



Happenings of Interest - Climate



A CHANGING CLIMATE VULNERABILITY IN CALIFORNIA'S EASTERN SIERRA

*Adaptation & Resilience Assessment
Natural Capital & Ecosystem Services Analysis
Recommended Actions*



A CHANGING CLIMATE VULNERABILITY IN CALIFORNIA'S EASTERN SIERRA

Executive Summary



Happenings of Interest - Climate

Recommended Actions

The Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative (SRTI) is an effort funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support the outdoor recreation economy and natural resources of the Eastern Sierra region. The initiative has four tracks, or areas of focus, including a Climate Adaptation & Resilience Assessment. The Project Team for this assessment included an inter-disciplinary technical consulting team and the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation who worked together to produce a final report entitled "A Changing Climate | Vulnerability in California's Eastern Sierra."

The Project Team developed a set of Recommended Actions for the SRTI Study Area to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change-related hazards and increase opportunities for sustainable, resilient recreation in the short-and long-term. These Recommended Actions are based on the results of regional analyses of how the regional ecosystem and recreation economy may be affected by climate change, state and federal guidance, feedback from regional stakeholders, and current resources. The five Recommended Actions are:

- SRTI Climate: Funding-Ready Projects
- SRTI Climate: Regional Asset Inventory
- SRTI Climate: Gap Assessment
- SRTI Climate: Sustainable Infrastructure Master Plan
- SRTI Climate: Sustainable Recreation Outreach and Education

Along with these Recommended Actions, the Project Team has also developed a screening tool to evaluate specific proposed SRTI projects and actions, including those from the other three SRTI tracks, for their ability to support climate resilience and to be implemented effectively.



SRTI Climate: Funding-Ready Projects

The Funding Ready Projects include projects that have climate resiliency and/or sustainability co-benefits, providing these beneficial features along with sustainable recreation improvements. They have been identified by the SRTI "Recreation Stakeholders" or proposed by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and other regional partners. These projects are ready to fund plan preparation, permitting, or construction.



To identify as a Funding Ready Project, a project must meet three criteria, at a minimum: 1) have a defined location, 2) include steps that can be funded, and 3) provide or include physical structures or hazard-reduction programs. Funding Ready Projects are intended to be implemented in the short-term (one to five years) as funding becomes available through federal, state, or public-private partnership sources.

Timeframe	One to five years
Potential Funding	Federal and state programs, grant funding, funding via partnerships

Example Projects:

	Wildfire fuel reduction program <i>Enhances resilience</i>		Evacuation route mapping and signage <i>Enhances resilience</i>
	Buttermilk Climbing Area Recreation Plan <i>Supports sustainable recreation</i>		Markleeville EV Charging Station <i>Improves existing infrastructure</i>



Sierra Seven Arts Alliance

*Creating Resilience and Opportunity
through Collaboration for Sierra Artists*



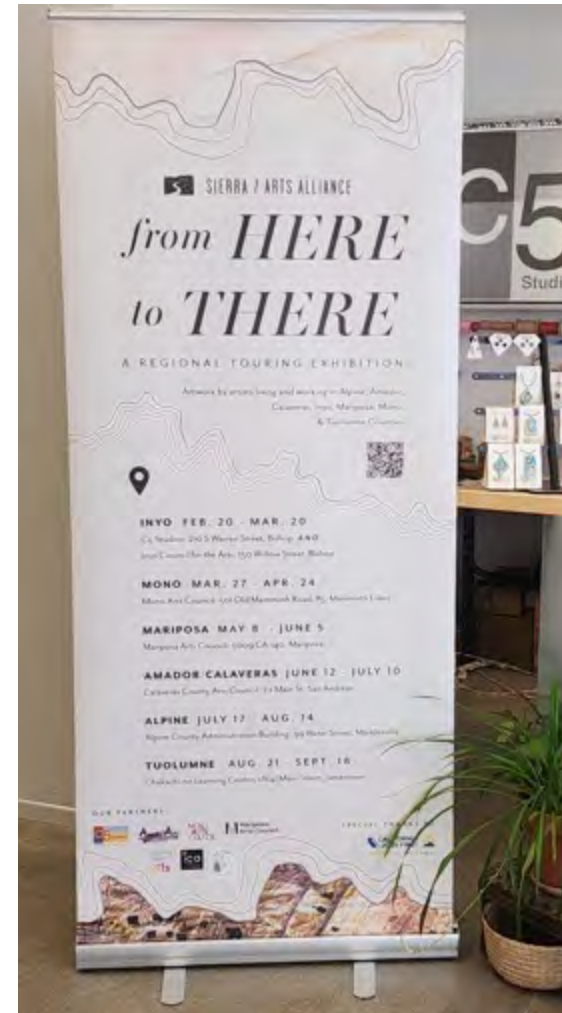


SIERRA 7

ARTS ALLIANCE

Project Updates

Naomi Hart Johnson



From Here to There exhibition catalogue



From Here to There exhibition catalogue



"By elevating cultural tourism we not only provide valuable alternatives to outdoor recreation... we also have opportunities to share the cultural and artistic legacies and stories of the people who call this region home in order to deepen visitors' understanding and appreciation of these places and the people who live here."

Local arts organizations are often functioning in isolation in order to guarantee that a community, not just tourism, is being supported. This is a common effort, as despite an acute hunger for collaborating with each other, under-funded local arts organizations often lack the capacity to develop meaningful relationships. Supporting the challenge of building relationships is the primary focus of this exhibition. The project's long-term goal is to establish a regional network that includes education, mutual support, advocacy for increased local funding and resources, and information and resources throughout the Sierra region, supporting the support of cultural tourism and job creation in the region.

Building upon the landscape itself, the project continues to *From Here to There*, an art project as a collaborative process. The exhibition offers participating artists a valuable opportunity to have their work shown in a public space throughout the region, providing increased exposure to new audiences and communities while contributing to a building average, more connected cultural landscape for the Sierra and beyond.

A glimpse into the future and a look at some of the visitors who call the Sierran region home.

Arts organizations are recognizing the value that we have in developing visitors, and we believe that the art-based program is not only the way that visitors to our region choose to recreate, but will improve the level of connection, respect and care that they exhibit for the beautiful places found in this region and for the people who live here. By elevating cultural tourism we not only provide valuable alternatives to outdoor recreation activities, we also have the environmental impact of tourism that we do have opportunities to share the cultural and artistic legacies and stories of the people who call this region home in order to deepen visitors' understanding and appreciation of these places and the people who live here. Through the art, we can create deeper connections, increase our visibility, and have communities prosper.

The Sierra 7 Arts Alliance would like to thank Sierra Business Council and the Sierra 7 Counties for their support for the project through the Sierra 7 Arts Council funding.

OUR PARTNERS

Mariobosa Arts Council

SPECIAL THANKS

TO



from *HERE* to *THERE*

Witness to *From Here to There*, a touring exhibition with six artists, whose work explores the landscape, art, history, and human experience through a combination of creativity, grace, and humanity.

Stretching from the panoramic West Coast mountains to the rugged peaks of the Eastern Sierras, the exhibition traces a path from coastal, through mountain towns, rolling valleys, and forests, and up to the peaks and ridges of the Sierra and beyond.

Partially by the Sierra 7 Arts Alliance, *From Here to There* is a multi-media art exhibition. It is a journey of stories told by artists who have not only worked in the region but also lived in the Sierra Sierras. This collaborative work, made up of seven artists, is a journey of stories, experiences, and a shared connection, and an honor to the place that they and all of us call home.

A Regional Journey in Art & Imagination

One region of art was selected to create a new form of art, a journey in the spirit and history of creative expression. A group of seven artists, mostly women, have come together to create a new form of art, a journey in the spirit and history of creative expression. A group of seven artists, mostly women, have come together to create a new form of art, a journey in the spirit and history of creative expression.

What We Offer:

- **Support for artists** — Creating a platform for artists to share their work, to connect with the community, and to provide a space for their work.
- **Exposure to history and heritage** — Encouraging community to learn, preserve, and share the history of the region.
- **Support for artists and organizations** — Providing and funding for the artists' work, and supporting the artists and their work.

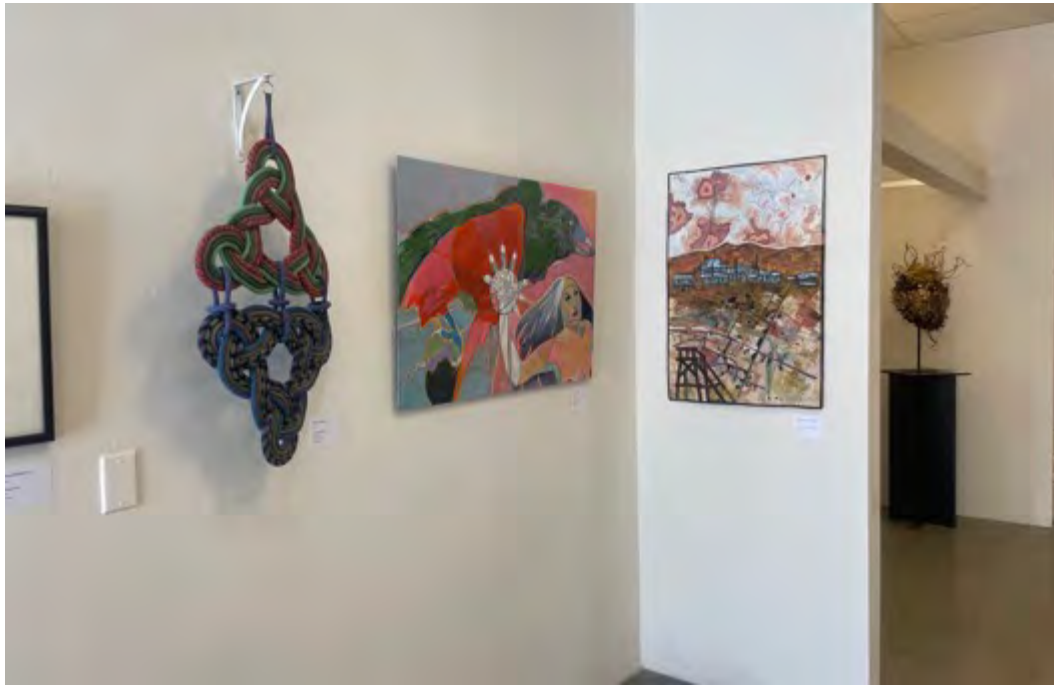
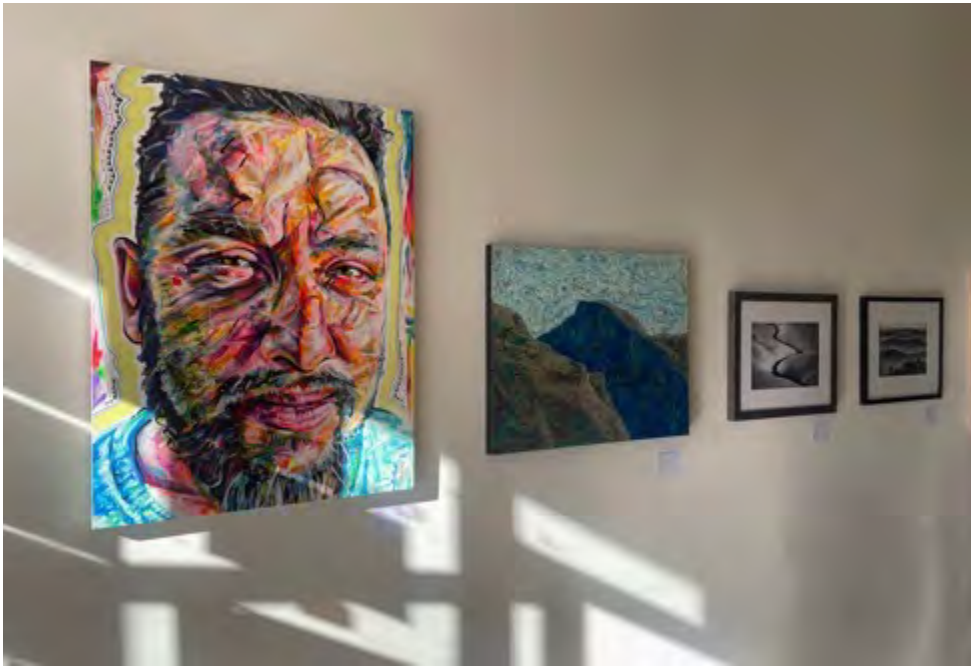
Each artist is a storyteller, a poet, a painter, a sculptor, a musician, and a dancer. Each artist is a storyteller, a poet, a painter, a sculptor, a musician, and a dancer. Each artist is a storyteller, a poet, a painter, a sculptor, a musician, and a dancer.

A Journey for Everyone

This exhibition is not just for art lovers. It is for everyone. It is for the young, the old, the rich, the poor, the artist, the non-artist, the local, the visitor. It is for everyone. It is for the young, the old, the rich, the poor, the artist, the non-artist, the local, the visitor.

Let *From Here to There* be your journey.

It is a journey of stories, experiences, and a shared connection, and an honor to the place that they and all of us call home.



Inyo County





Mariposa County



SIERRA 7

ARTS ALLIANCE

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



The image shows the cover of a report titled "Sierra Works RICA". The background is a blue-tinted photograph of a mountain range with snow. The text "SIERRA WORKS" is in large orange letters on the left, and "RICA" is in large white letters on the right. Below "SIERRA WORKS" is a list of counties: AMADOR | ALPINE | CALAVERAS | INYO | MODO | MARIPOSA | TUOLUMNE. At the bottom left are three logos: "CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST Sierra Region", "Sierra Focus Media", and "MLTPA WAMMOTH-LASSO TRAILS - PUBLIC ACCESS". Below "RICA" is the subtitle "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION".

SIERRA WORKS
AMADOR | ALPINE | CALAVERAS | INYO | MODO | 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

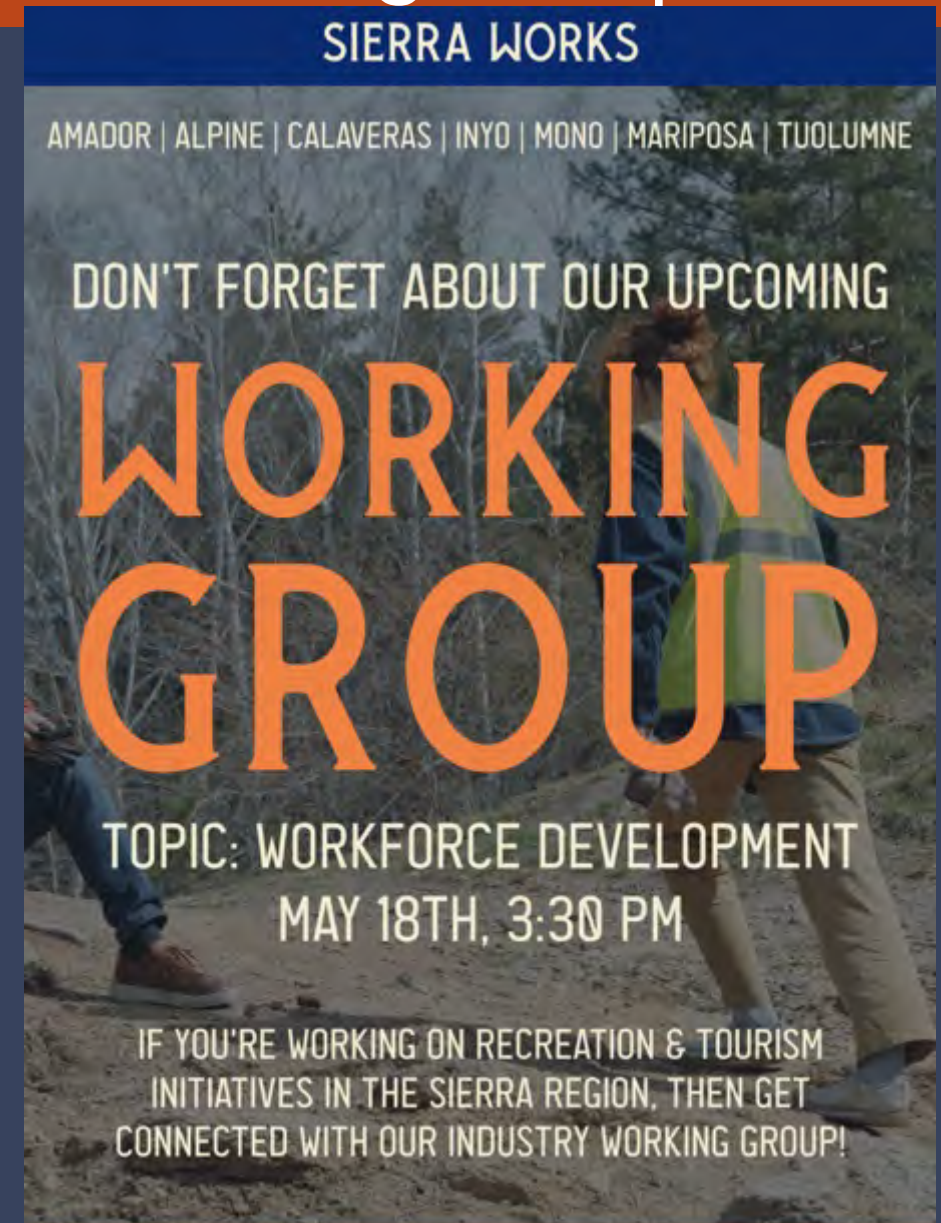


SIERRA WORKS | **RICA**

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION
AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST Sierra Region
MLIPA MOUNTAIN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



SIERRA WORKS

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

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR UPCOMING

WORKING GROUP

TOPIC: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
MAY 18TH, 3:30 PM

IF YOU'RE WORKING ON RECREATION & TOURISM INITIATIVES IN THE SIERRA REGION, THEN GET CONNECTED WITH OUR INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP!

FINAL REMINDER

Introduction to WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Strategy 1: Enhance access to sustainable recreation and tourism on public lands to expand economic opportunities by creating partnership agreements between local authorities and federal, state, and utility land managers.

ACTION STEP 3

Identify efficient pathways to implement regional plans and priorities through a regional collaborative governance structure consistent with partnership agreements.

- a. Establish agreements between land managers and the full suite of regional capacities in anticipation of implementation efforts.
- b. Identify implementation opportunities for recreation infrastructure and service gaps that will increase capacity through **business expansion and job training in sustainable recreation** ecosystem services, and agritourism. This includes project planning and permitting and implementation of recreation infrastructure, including trails, restrooms, trash collection, campsites, permittees, outfitters, guides, etc.



Regional Strategic Plan – pg. 79



Introduction to WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Strategy 1: Enhance access to sustainable recreation and tourism on public lands to expand economic opportunities by creating partnership agreements between local authorities and federal, state, and utility land managers.

ACTION STEP 4

Identify and leverage innovative financing structures to diversify revenue streams for project implementation consistent with partnership agreements to **create local jobs in sustainable recreation.**

- a.** Monitor federal, tribal, state, and philanthropic funding resources for opportunities consistent with the partnership agreements to access capital and maintenance resources for the region's collaborative, sustainable outdoor recreation economy.
- b.** Consider private investment in public lands where Transit Occupancy Tax is applicable—RV Parks, campgrounds, boating infrastructure, rentals, etc.
- c.** Explore micro-loan programs for entrepreneurs and local businesses for projects that impact the local economy.



Introduction to WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

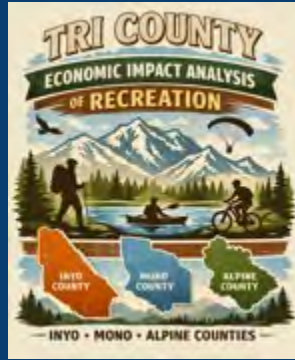
Strategy 3: Diversify and leverage the region's recreation economy with tourism events, amenities, and attractions focused on the unique histories, arts, and cultures of the region's communities and establish new business opportunities in related industries.

ACTION STEP 4

Develop infrastructure to support regional events. Invest in traditional recreation infrastructure that supports attraction for regional sporting events and tournaments in coordination with regional collaborative governance as needed. Leverage these events to **create year-round, high-quality employment for the tourist industry workers** many of whom have seasonal employment without benefits.

- a.** Assess capital investment plans related to traditional recreation infrastructure (local governments, tribal governments, recreation districts, and private sector) and prioritize investment projects.
- b.** Conduct economic impact analysis and feasibility studies on prioritized projects, identify potential funding sources, and plan for implementation.





MEETING RECAPS

Climate Resiliency

- *April 20th*

Regional Identity and Funding

- *March 16th*

Policy Barriers

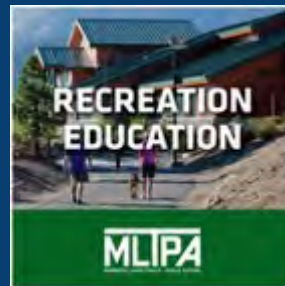
- *February 23rd*

Asset Mapping

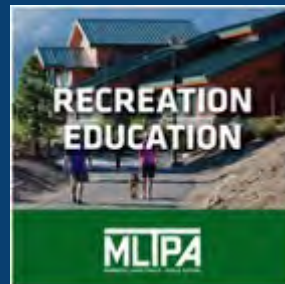
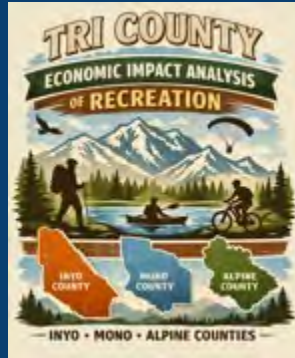
- *January 20th*

Regional Governance

- *November 17th*



MEETING RECAPS



CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST
Sierra Region

Recreation & Tourism Working Group Meeting Recaps
Updated: March 16th, 2026

Regional Identity and Funding
March 16th

Presenting Projects:

- [Sierra Sourced: Tuolumne County Chamber](#)
- [Gold Rush Path: Tuolumne County Transportation Commission](#)

High Level Recap

- Participants zeroed in on how to actually move projects from idea to reality, tying funding strategies to a stronger regional identity.
- Funding does not line up cleanly with local needs, and even when it does, long-term maintenance money and lack of capacity.
- Participants zeroed in on how to actually move projects from idea to reality, tying funding strategies to a stronger regional identity.

Actions for Capacity and Advocacy:

- Utilize consultants, non-profit developers, and fiscal agents to help backfill where public agencies might be understaffed.
- Partner with entities like Career Nexus and local community colleges to train and hire locally based staff for recreation and tourism.
- Leverage the region's role as a primary visitor provider into an identity that resonates with

Immediate Priorities:

- Develop standard protocols that allow prioritized projects to effectively seek to hire non-profit entities when necessary.
- Deploy asymmetrical capacity by pre-vetting a roster of consultants, contractors, and non-profit developers who can backfill for public agencies or sustain projects during reimbursement periods.
- Scaling sustainable recreation tours for legislators to advocate for capacity building.
- Determine who is best positioned to raise the region's voice at the state level.
- Integrate a general resource narrative which connects the Sierra's health to CA's urban centers.

Tensions That Must Be Addressed:

- Balancing the need for a unified regional identity without losing the uniqueness of local spaces.
- Addressing the risk that a regional model may favor jurisdictions that already have the most capacity or population, leaving disinvested or less populous communities behind.
- Bridge the gap between how residents define place-based work versus how visitors and legislators perceive the region (brand-based).

To see all meeting materials, the full recording, and original comments gathered from Working Group Participants on March 16th [visit the website.](#)

Page 1



KEY TAKEAWAYS WE'VE HEARD SO FAR

1. Invest in asymmetrical capacity
2. Brokers are essential
3. Filling in data gaps will function as a financing tool for the future
4. Creating a regional identity requires a cohesive regional structure
5. Climate is both a challenge to manage and a narrative that can be leveraged in accessing funding opportunities.



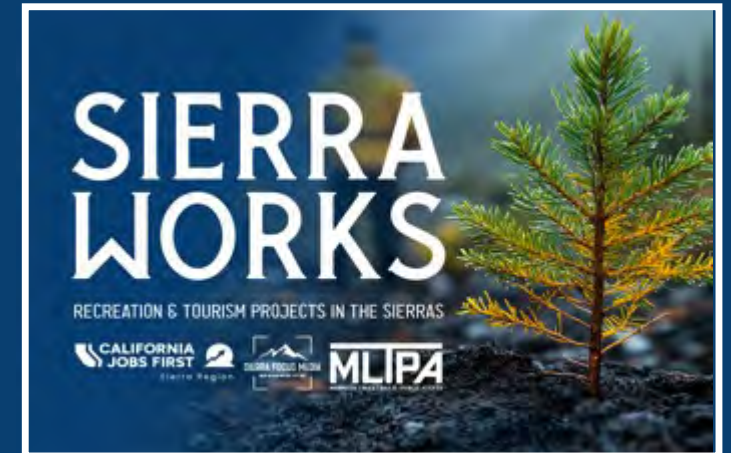
Project presentations & Interviews



**Pathways to Prosperity:
A Regional Multimodal Safety
and Recreation Initiative**
Bradley Booker



**The Collaborative Sustainable
Recreation Assessment**
Shane Farthing



Industry sector coordinator
Andie Stewart



Pathways to Prosperity



Project Description:

- Pathways to Prosperity is a community-driven initiative working to shape a more connected, resilient, and opportunity-rich Sierra region. Supported by funding from the Sierra Jobs First Catalyst Program, the initiative spans Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, and Tuolumne counties and brings together residents, local governments, and partners to identify, plan, and advance a network of safe, accessible multimodal routes and recreation assets. Grounded in a shared vision of equity and sustainability, Pathways to Prosperity prioritizes projects that improve mobility for those without reliable transportation, expand access to outdoor recreation, and strengthen connections between communities, jobs, and local destinations. By developing a pipeline of community-informed, “shovel-ready” projects, the initiative aims to unlock funding, create living-wage jobs, and support long-term economic vitality through sustainable tourism and recreation.

Partners:

- Federal & Private Landowners

Counties:

- Amador
- Alpine
- Calaveras
- Tuolumne



Sustainable Mobility Partnership Program



Project Description:

- The project will focus on developing sustainable mobility (recreation, transportation, and tourism) infrastructure and programming in the Central Sierra region through nurturing partnerships and collaborations with a range of partners from local governments to state agencies, advocating for bicycling at the local and state levels, developing implementable bicycle infrastructure projects with key partners, securing design and implementation funding for specific projects, growing and sustaining our membership, and supporting and hosting events to promote bicycling culture.

Partners:

- CalBike, Tuolumne County Transportation Council, Angels Camp

Counties:

- Tuolumne
- Calaveras
- Amador
- Alpine



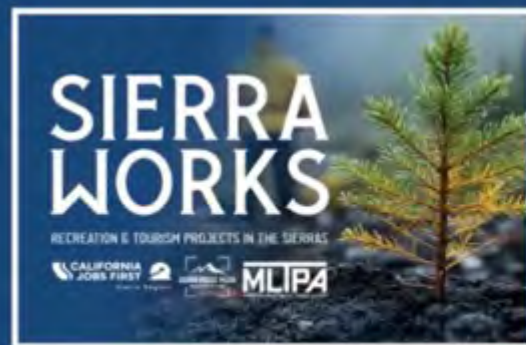
PROJECT PRESENTATIONS & INTERVIEWS



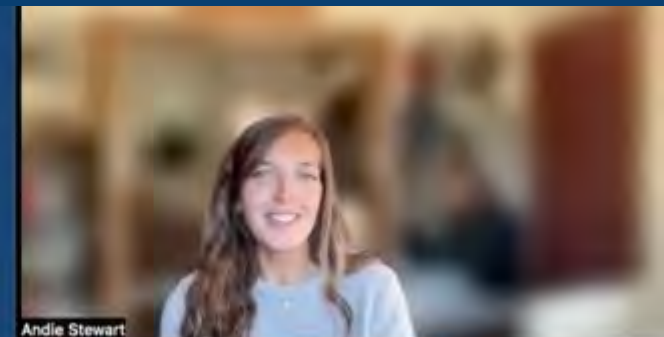
**PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY:
A REGIONAL MULTIMODAL SAFETY
AND RECREATION INITIATIVE**
Bradley Booker



**THE COLLABORATIVE
SUSTAINABLE RECREATION
ASSESSMENT**
Shane Farthing



INDUSTRY SECTOR COORDINATOR
Andie Stewart



Andie Stewart



Bradley Booker



Shane Farthing



MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS • PUBLIC ACCESS

QUESTION #1:

What challenges exist in the recreation and tourism workforce today?

Isaree Katsala - really difficult to get sustainable investments to drive the pipeline for development of jobs.

Betsy Truax - Cost of living is tough in areas of good recreation, number one issue is housing; wages in hospitality is an issue with people working multiple jobs; seasonality is an issue with shoulder seasons being hard

Peter Fuiks - the way the funding comes in is not consistent; we have to sit where the funding comes in, have the money and can you make your project work for this money, there are so many partners in this space and not everyone aligns

January Rodde - Challenge is in finding people who can and want to become part of the workforce.

Robin Belsar - there are many challenges including finding people who are qualified to manage projects that already live here; at the middle management/supervisor level; lots of folks to be the doers, but the next level up is challenging, and there is a lack of qualified work force, probably driven by lack of housing.

Matt G. - is a training gap; retaining talent; automation?

Robin - Yes. All of the above.

Peter Fuiks - Sure, I think that alignment is coming, but it's a bit of a mix of lack of regional capacity SJJF is solving some of that, but without the backbone of the funding to continue catalyst projects, our collective work needs to hop in the next most available funding option to continue the work... is it a fed grant, CA-EDD, educational grant, etc. I think the lack of alignment of large scale funding and local projects is amplified by the lack of capacity to meet the requirements of those money opportunities. Connecting this to the theory of change, is when do we trust the local experientials to develop ongoing long-term sustainable funding for recreation (Mono County just discussed this in their board of supervisors meeting to fund winter recreation trail building). In part, I think the important areas are also put at odds with each other through the competitive grant process (so thankful for the money and opportunities, but the current experience like wildland fire prevention, or recreation, or allied health, etc. So having local alignment on what those specific Key Performance Indicators are (I think the SJJF regional plan was a huge step in that direction). I think there is just a bit more work to be done, that's very exciting.

Mary Watts - there is training needed, leadership and management; could be headed by Cerra Coast; management training is super important.

QUESTION #2:

What opportunities exist in the recreation and tourism workforce today?

Peter Fuiks - From my experience, there are bureaucratic issues that keep us from being flexible to manage funds; want money to go to students through programs; feels bad applying for things...wants ability to be more flexible, and function as a partner that can be counted on; if a million came in, what would drive our next level that we can get to, might go to program enrollment, use monies to tackle KPIs.

John W. - Supplement the loss of jobs in the Federal workforce through DCS agreements (challenge cost share agreements.) Collaborate and work together to build year-round jobs by knitting together and "linking" seasonal workforce opportunities

Mary Watts - "test" that will help senior talented people to have a year-round job. If not, people will search out jobs that are more stable and year-round.

Especially in Mammoth where the summer tourism jobs might be different from the winter tourism jobs.

Rose Day - Dodge Ridge ski resort has need for equipment operators, been building relationships with winter workers and find ops for them or recreation during winter; doesn't have to be specific to a ski resort.

Betsy Truax - we have summer events, and fall we have endurance events, starting to aim October when we have those endurance events; launching a program to see geologic features. Town of Mammoth Lakes has thinking summer recreation programs, can employ seasonal in the summer and manage places like Whitstone Pool; and there's been collaboration on housing as well; great ways to keep year round work force going.

Mary Watts - Not sure if this is relevant but I have ever run the Mammoth Half Marathon - they stopped putting it on after covid and I would love to run it if it ever happens again. That was the most scenic race I have ever run! There was a partnership with the San Diego Half and you got a big medal if you ran both races.

Robin Belsar - employees in guest services are being recruited to other areas (examples of guest services worker now working in RVAC); there may be career ladders available by folks capitalizing on their transferable skills; develop a referral system to find equities jobs that allow them to move to higher paying jobs.

Jan Lopez - Dodge Ridge collaborated with Don Pedro Reservoir to employ seasonal. Also like to add that lifetime workers are not being trained in guest services; so that's an important training that is needed; will keep to push repeat visitors.

Matt G. - huge gap in guest services training.

QUESTION #3:

What does a healthy recreation and tourism workforce need in this region that doesn't exist today?

John W. - robust focused advocacy that represents the needs of constituents; public are a great resource for solutions; how do we elevate the needs of folks to electeds.

Matt G. - electeds are a great connectivity point.

Travis Nabahe - Work with youth in internship opportunities; identify pathways for entrepreneurship for incremental income or primary lifestyle living for residents; incremental income/long-term income; see younger folks who want balanced work life.

Peter Fuiks - employee training, advanced opportunities, not just pipeline development

Robin Belsar - Tracy, I believe many of the skills are transferrable between wildfire resilience and rec/tourism

Shane Farthing - the money we've received on funding bike projects is helping provide an entryway to help it create what we want here for our economy.

Robin Belsar - we have to address the undocumented work force members; Need to send message to congress to keep our undocumented because we need them; advocacy group called "Seat the Table" <https://seatthetable.org/>

Peter Fuiks - complex ecosystem; need a developmental pipeline; need instructor pipeline that can teach folks; need to hire seasonals that need training --- a hub of training to train seasonals; many layers to work force training;

Mary Watts - Dream Act Service Incentive Grant (DSIG) | California Student Aid Commission -Bakersfield College put 24 students through this last year - this funds undocumented students to work; State can fund 1600 students and currently only funding 1300 students

Jimmy John Thompson - work force has always been a problem; Death Valley doesn't really have a tourism program, but we've seen a drop in visitors after super bloom; almost down to nothing; federal politics is draining funds that come to area; hard to find funding

Tracy - Whitebark Institute - How do we establish an entity to house work force; hard to individuals to secure contracts/jobs and have a home to live in;

Bradley - we need homes for our youth who want to work in this area; Amador has 3-year waiting list for housing; really no opportunity to live on incomes that are here; have to build this cog together; these meetings are going to unlock what we want to accomplish as goals; there's hope here, but it's complex.

Darin Martow - new to region; looking forward to following up with others.



01

Regional Governance

November 2025 · ESSRP · Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative (ESCOG)

Session Focus

The opening session asked the foundational question: what kind of regional entity does this seven-county recreation and tourism economy need, and what should it actually do? Two projects anchored the conversation: ESSRP, a voluntary public-public partnership model that has demonstrated cross-county coordination is possible, and the ESCOG's Regional Recreation Collaborative, testing what institutional structure the entity should take.

The session produced a clear and widely-shared vision of the entity's function: action over planning, unified advocacy, technical assistance, and a centralized commitment to environmental stewardship. What it could not yet answer, because no planning session can, was the operational question: who funds the staff, and how does the entity sustain itself between grant cycles?

Wins & Progress / Barriers

PROGRESS & WINS

- ESSRP demonstrates that voluntary cross-county partnership is achievable, organizations will coordinate when given a structured venue to do so
- ESCOG's Collaborative surfaced governance options and created shared vocabulary for discussing regional structure
- Rapid consensus on the entity's function: a Regional Service Layer that enables local action and centralized information-sharing

BARRIERS & PAIN POINTS

- Neither ESSRP nor the ESCOG has a reliable unrestricted funding stream. Both produce real value but struggle long-term to function as business entities
- Organizational form question: what structure requires legal and structural changes for regional organizations can be implemented
- Tribal engagement named as a priority but left undefined. Without a formal protocol, it remains an aspirational goal

RICA UPDATES

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR...

- IMPLEMENTATION
- COLLABORATIVE ACTION
- WHAT'S NEXT



HOW THIS TRANSLATES TO THE RICA

Each policy recommendation in the RICA is expressed in the following structure:

The (AGENCY) will (ACTION) through (MECHANISM) to achieve (OUTCOME).

- *Agency = who owns the action*
- *Action = what the agency will do*
- *Mechanism = policy, funding, program, pilot, etc.*
- *Outcome = what changes or results*

“The California Natural Resources Agency, in partnership with the regional entity, will fund a standing roster of administrative expeditors and facilitators through a pre-vetted contractor framework supported by state operational funding to provide on-demand state-federal coordination capacity to any qualifying recreation project in the seven-county region at no upfront cost to the project.”



California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot at the Jobs First “Symposium of Practice” – April 23, 2026

WELCOME !

◀ *TO THE* ▶

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST
Symposium of Practice

For Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT - SYMPOSIUM OF PRACTICE





WELCOME !

- TO THE -

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST
Symposium of Practice
For Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

RECREATION & TOURISM COUNCIL | SYMPOSIUM OF PRACTICE

April 23, 2026



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION



RECOMMENDATIONS LAB DESIRED OUTCOMES

"The [AGENCY] will [ACTION] through [MECHANISM] to achieve [OUTCOME]"

AGENCY

- who owns the action

ACTION

- what the agency will do

MECHANISM

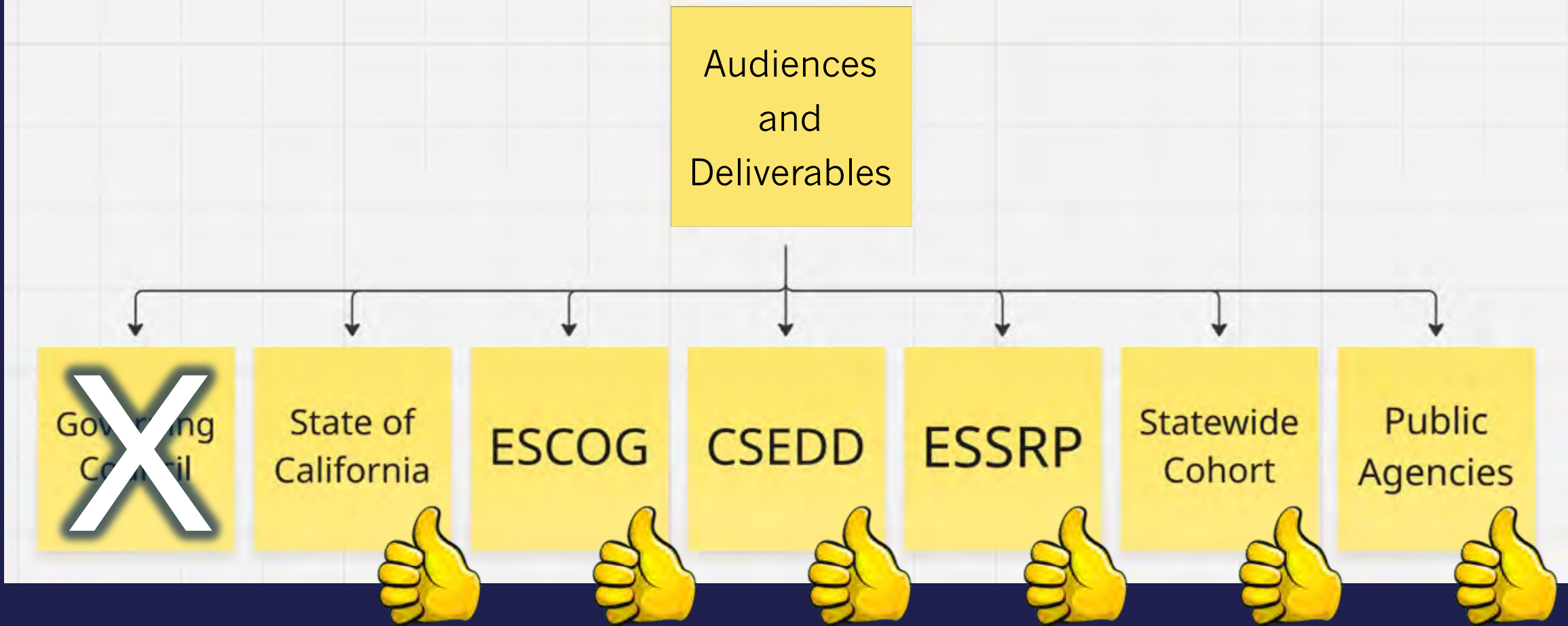
- policy, funding, program, pilot, etc.

OUTCOME

- what changes or results

Recommendations to be delivered to state and federal leadership to advance project implementation.

Goals for the Sierra + Symposium Working Groups



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **JUNE 15TH**

Arts, Culture & Placemaking

*Final Topic Themed Meeting!

- **3rd Week of June**

RICA Will be Sent for Review & Comment

- **JULY 20TH**

RICA Review Meeting



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **JUNE 15TH**

Arts, Culture & Placemaking

*Final Topic Themed Meeting!

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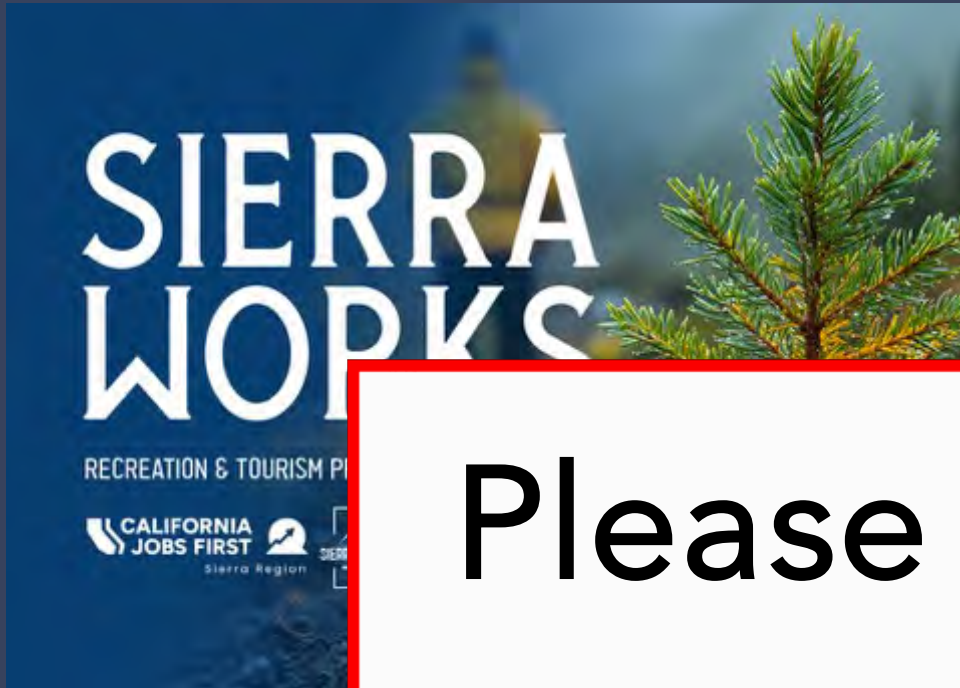
- **JULY 20TH**

RICA Review Meeting



Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

Recreation and Tourism Working Group



Please Sign up Now!

WORKING GROUP SIGN-UPS

Join a Working Group! We are convening a collaborative Working

and
projects with
on and

ussions, share

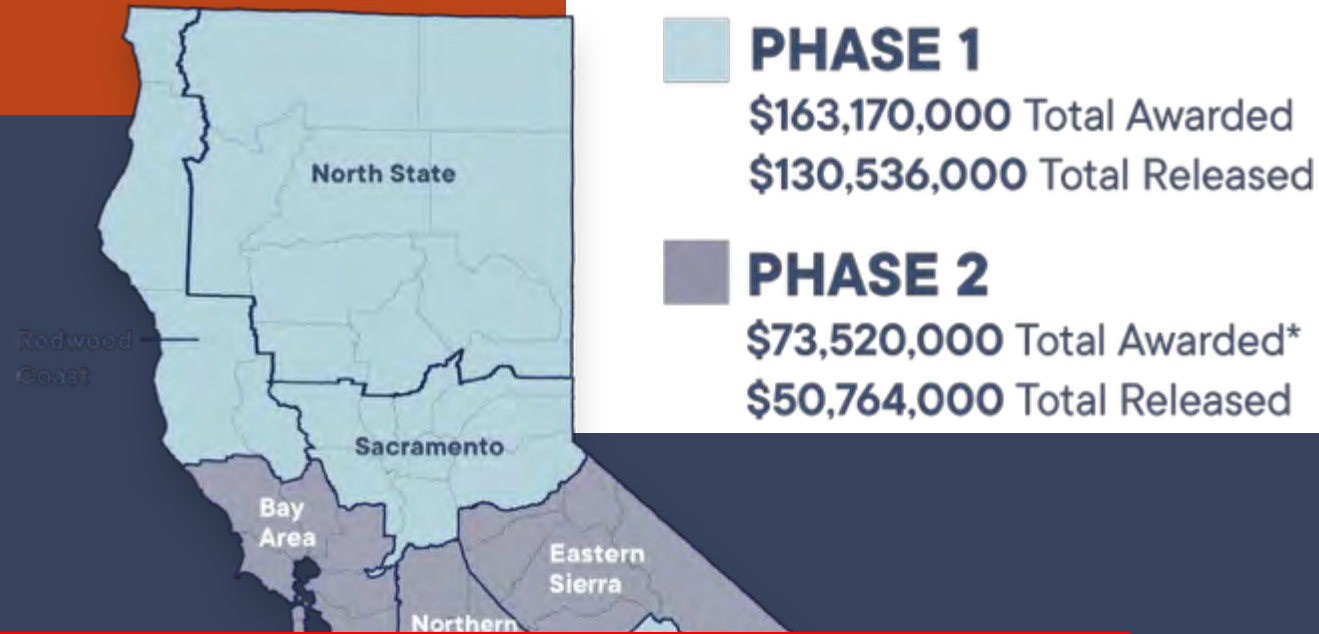
expertise, and help shape the future of our local economy. **Sign up today to get involved and be part of the conversation!**

Sign-up Today!

Join Our Working Groups



Sierra Jobs First: Funding



PHASE 1
\$163,170,000 Total Awarded
\$130,536,000 Total Released

PHASE 2
\$73,520,000 Total Awarded*
\$50,764,000 Total Released

REGIONAL K-16 EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVES GRANT PROGRAM

Powered by
FOUNDATION for CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Released Amount as of 1/10/2025
* Includes \$250,000 from Phase 2: Planning Grant



TRANSITION & FUTURE PLANNING

Shaping the Future, Together

Wrap Dates

Industry Sector Coordinators
August 31

All Catalyst Projects
September 30



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CALREC Vision



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

- Amador County
- Butte County
- Calaveras County
- City of Truckee
- Contra Costa
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Glenn
- Humboldt County
- Lake County
- Marin
- Mariposa County
- Mendocino
- Napa County
- Plumas County
- RCRC
- Santa Barbara
- Shasta
- Sonoma County
- TRPA
- Tuolumne County
- Ventura

CALREC Vision

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

STAND UP FOR CALIFORNIA ADOPT THE JOINT STRATEGY

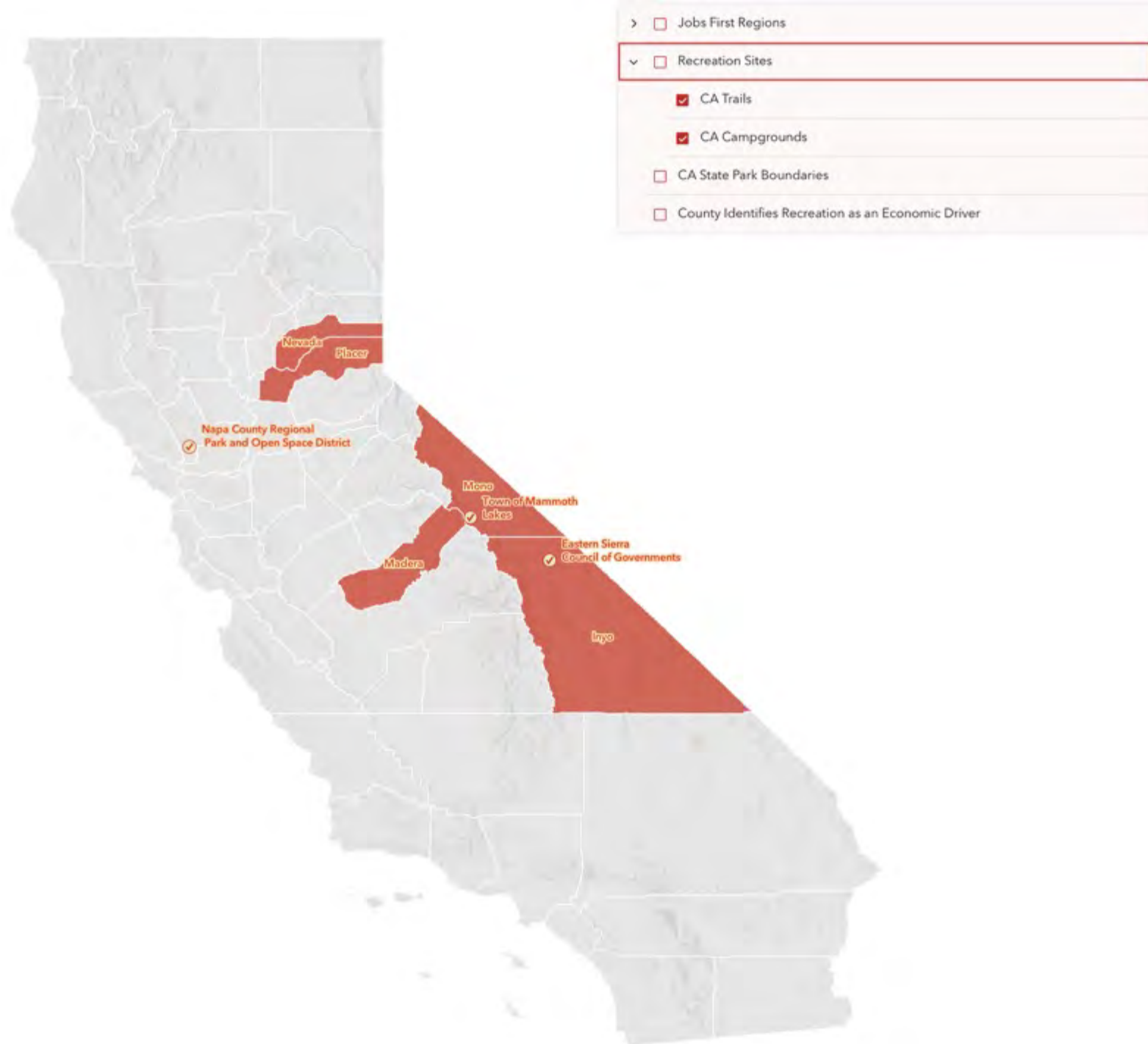
With wildfire risk rising and federal priorities shifting, there's a bold strategy available that transforms recreation infrastructure into community defense.

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

RESOURCES

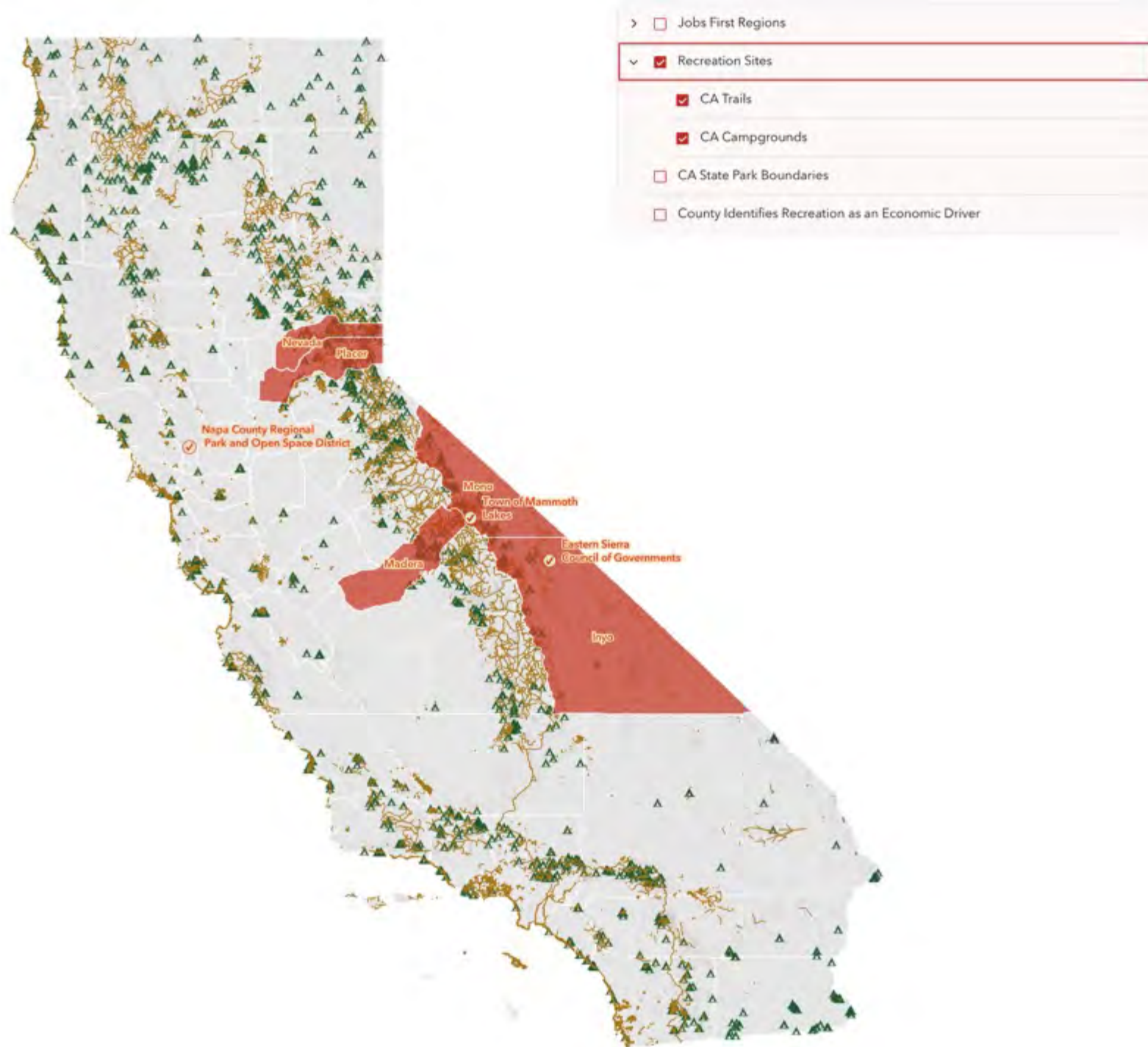
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MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



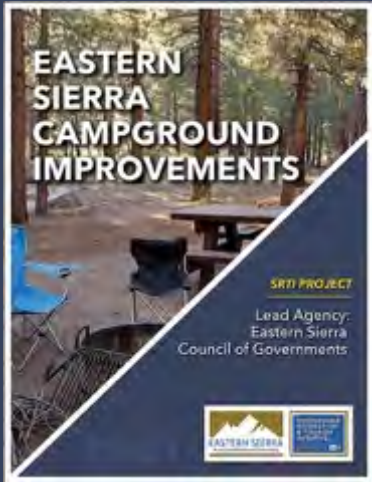
MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



- Inyo County
- Mono County



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, June 23

Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments



SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ESCOG- Sierra Jobs First Catalyst

Chipmunk Canyon

- escog.ca.gov/chipmunk-canyon



SHARE YOUR INPUT ON CHIPMUNK CANYON TRAILS
Help us understand how people use the Chipmunk Canyon trail system today. Your input will help guide future planning and management decisions by considering recreation, resource protection, and cultural values. Thank you for taking part!

TAKE A SHORT SURVEY AND SHARE YOUR INSIGHT ON THE ONLINE PUBLIC INPUT MAP



Chipmunk Canyon Summit

Co-LAB Summit

- July 9-10 Save the Date!

Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments



Sustainable Recreation | **Wildfire Resiliency** | **Working Lands & Agriculture** | **Economic Development**

Save the Date

The Co-LAB Summit

Advancing Regional Collaboration in the Eastern Sierra

July 9-10, 2026
Bishop, CA

Join regional leaders and practitioners for a three-day summit exploring the collaborative work shaping the future of the Eastern Sierra.

Building on momentum already underway across the region, the summit will bring together diverse perspectives to address shared challenges, elevate emerging opportunities, and strengthen regional partnerships.

Brought to you by: **Eastern Sierra Council of Governments** | **Panels** | **Speakers** | **Find out more:**

Interactive Sessions | **Networking** | **Showcase of Innovation & Partnership**





WHITEBARK
INSTITUTE

ESSRP Update

June 1, 2026



Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

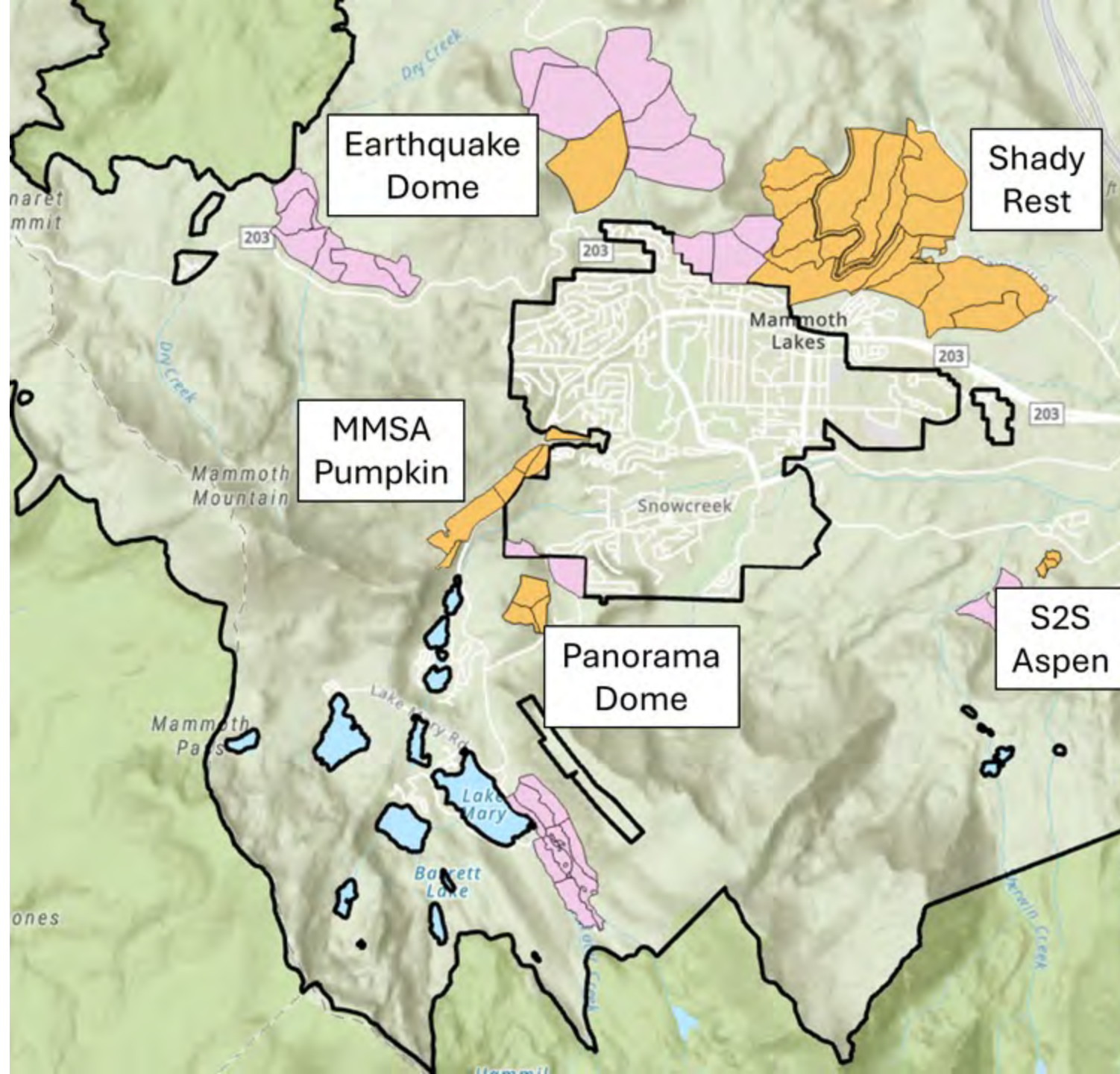
- Next Meeting: Wed August 5
 - Location: TBD
 - Guest speaker: TBD
- Collaborative Project Database
 - Now accepting submissions
 - Wildfire resilience and community preparedness projects in Inyo, Mono & Alpine Counties





2026 Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project

- 1,179 acres planned for Whitebark's implementation projects
 - ~~Coldwater: May 4~~
 - ~~Earthquake, Panorama, Mammoth Mountain: May 13~~
 - Shady Rest Mechanical: June 1
- Some impacts and closures expected in Shady Rest & along Scenic Loop
- <https://whitebarkinstitute.org/2026mammothfuelsreduction/>



Partner Updates – In REVERSE Alphabetical Order

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

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

Thank You - !

Next Regular ESSRP Partner Meeting

Monday, July 6, 2026 @ 3:30