



Summer



REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



August 3, 2026





REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



August 3, 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
AN INITIATIVE OF SFJ

MLTPA
MANMOUTH LINKS 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
 - **Ends Today - !**

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Sierra Nevada Conservancy

- Board Members + Staff
- Tours and Board Meeting
 - September 2-3
 - Mono County

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Visit Inyo

- Rebecca Brinegar, *Author*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

SIERRA WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS



Sierra Works

- Sierra Focus Media
- MLTPA Foundation
 - *Mathew Galvan*
 - *Team MLTPA*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



MLTPA Foundation

- Andie Stewart
 - *Research and Policy Analyst*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



MLTPA Foundation

- Jack Yates
- *Project Specialist*

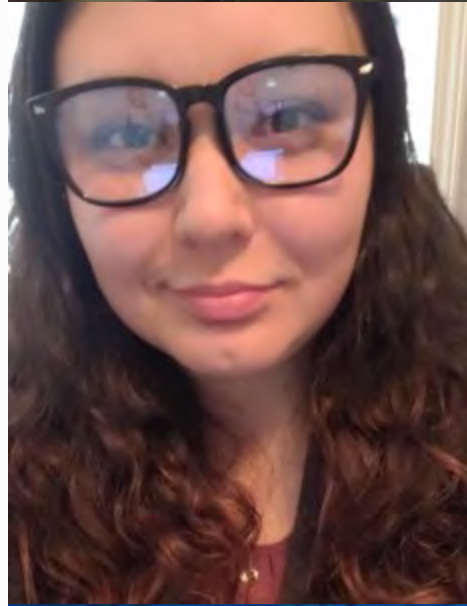
Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Mammoth Mountain Ski Area / Mammoth Lakes Recreation

- Craig Albright
 - *Vice President of Skier Services, MMSA*
 - *President, MLR*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



U.S. Congressman Kevin Kiley

- Natalia Vasquez-Pavichevich
 - *District Representative*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Winter Wildlands

- David Page
 - *Executive Director*



Skiing Death Valley: Outtakes From the Men's Journal Expedition

CALIFORNIA | NARRATIVE

by DAVID PAGE JAN 12, 2010



Across Death Valley, bound for the Panamints. Photo by Christian Pondella.

Once upon a time there was a certain utility to climbing mountains: to get the lay of the land, to see which way to run the wagons, to be the first to do it. That time is gone. And yet there we were, on a long haul to the top of the biggest mountain in the lower 48, in the dark, with skis on our backs.

Hot Links August 31, 2026

- Welcome
 - What is the ESSRP
 - Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)
 - Review the critical documents of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership
 - Origin Story
 - Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan
 - Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative
 - Sierra Works
 - Sierra Works: Discover
- Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells
 - Welcome
 - SNC Board of Directors
 - Sierra Nevada Conservancy to host quarterly Board meeting in Mono County
 - Rebecca Brinegar
 - Farewells
 - Sierra Works – Mat Galvan, Sierra Focus Media

Happenings of Interest



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Inyo National Forest

Forest Service News Release

Media contact: SM.FS.MediaDeskR5@usda.gov

Hiring Permanent Forest Supervisor on the Inyo National Forest

(Bishop, CA, Aug. 28, 2026) – The U.S. Forest Service is hiring a permanent Forest Supervisor for the Inyo National Forest. Current or former federal employees are encouraged to apply. The job announcement opened Thursday, August 27, 2026, and closes Wednesday, Sep. 2. Applications must be submitted through USAJOBS.gov.

How to Apply

Applicants can view the job announcement and submit applications at USAJOBS.gov using the following announcement number. Applicants are encouraged to review the job announcement carefully for deadlines and required materials.

- **Forest Supervisor:** [26-GVA-FS14-13043659-FS](#)

For more information regarding the position contact Acting Forest Supervisor, Stephanie Heller: stephanie.heller@usda.gov

To learn more about Forest Service careers, benefits and upcoming hiring events, visit [Forest Service Careers](#).

About the Forest Service: *The Forest Service has, for more than 100 years, brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology — and rooted in communities — the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live*

Happenings of Interest



Inyo National Forest

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Media contact: SM_FS_MediaDesk@usda.gov

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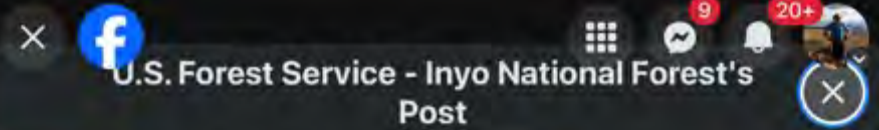


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U.S. Forest Service - Inyo National Forest

August 26 at 11:37 AM · 🌐

The Inyo National Forest is hiring wildland firefighters. Applications are open now through Sept. 22 on USAJOBS.gov.

Applications will be used to fill current vacancies and any positions that may become open. Career opportunities include:

- Fire management officer
- Dispatcher
- Fuels specialist
- Engine operator
- Handcrew
- Interagency hotshot crew
- Fire prevention
- Fire dozer operator
- Apprentice to senior wildland firefighter

Duty stations include Bishop, Independence, Lee Vining, Lone Pine and Mammoth Lakes.

Resumes must be 2 pages max. Any U.S. citizen or national at least 18 years of age can apply. To learn more about careers with Inyo National Forest, visit our website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/inyo/working-with-us/careers>



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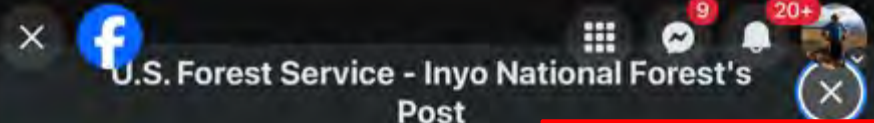


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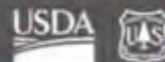
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JOIN OUR TEAM

FOREST SERVICE
WILDLAND FIRE
CAREERS



Banner Image by Steve Gibbs

Staff

Administration • Development • Education • Stewardship • Conservation Science

The staff of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation are indispensable to the organization's mission and sustainability. Through their expertise and dedication, they play a vital role in managing and conserving the Laguna de Santa Rosa's diverse ecosystem. From scientific research and habitat restoration to community education and advocacy, the staff ensures that the foundation's goals of environmental stewardship and wildlife conservation are effectively pursued. Their efforts not only preserve this critical wetlands complex but also inspire others to appreciate and protect this invaluable natural resource for future generations.



Stacy Corless, Executive Director
she/her
xt. 103. Email

Stacy Corless joins the Laguna Foundation as Executive Director September 14, 2026. As the Executive Director, Stacy is responsible for leading the Foundation's strategic direction and day-to-day operations, guiding its work to restore, protect, and inspire appreciation for the Laguna de Santa Rosa. She will oversee the organization's programs, partnerships, and staff, and work closely with the Board of Directors on its mission across conservation, education, and community engagement.

Though new to the North Bay, she is a longtime fan of and visitor to Sonoma County and brings deep experience in conservation, nonprofit leadership, and public service to this role. Her love for the outdoors (and years stewarding headwaters in Mammoth Lakes and the Eastern Sierra) shaped a career at the intersection of people, nature, and public policy. Working to protect public lands in the Sierra motivated her to seek elected office and become relentlessly collaborative and a bit of a policy nerd. During two terms on the Mono County Board of Supervisors and subsequently as a government affairs professional, she built public-private partnerships for wildfire resilience, sustainable recreation, education, and landscape stewardship. These experiences taught her a lot about how to find common ground and bring people together around shared community and environmental goals.

She feels fortunate to be joining a strong, dedicated team with solid programs and plans in place, and looks forward to diving in while exploring the Laguna watershed.

In her free time, Stacy can be found hiking and exploring throughout California and beyond.

Happenings of Interest



Next session on

Tue, Sep 1, 2026 1:00 PM PDT · Starts in 3 days

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Regional Webinar Series

Organized by California's Climate Change Assessment

By [California's Climate Change Assessment](#)

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Register



California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Regional Webinar Series

The Fifth Assessment's Regional Reports are intended to uplift local knowledges and fill demonstrable gaps by collecting climate projections data and new research on climate change impacts in California to help communities adapt to evolving climate conditions. The report teams modeled their research development process after principles set forth by the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)'s participatory research to policy model, engaging directly with communities to strengthen local connections and ensure that the Fifth Assessment is both rooted in and responsive to regional priorities.

Following the release of Regional Reports, each of the teams will host a webinar to engage with the public on their findings, delve into innovative climate solutions, and discuss ways in which the research can inform investment and policy decisions, as well as serve communities with better access to up-to-date climate information.



Sessions



Central Coast

Tue, Sep 1, 2026 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM PDT



North Coast

Thu, Sep 3, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT



Sierra Nevada

Tue, Sep 8, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT



San Diego

Wed, Sep 9, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT



San Joaquin Valley

Thu, Sep 10, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT



San Joaquin Valley

Thu, Sep 10, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT



Sacramento Valley

Tue, Sep 15, 2026 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PDT



Los Angeles

Wed, Sep 16, 2026 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PDT



Inland Deserts

Thu, Sep 17, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT



San Francisco Bay Area

Tue, Sep 22, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

Happenings of Interest



 **California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Regional Webinar Series**

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Sessions



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Sacramento Valley

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Los Angeles

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Inland Deserts

Thu, Sep 17, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT



San Francisco Bay Area

Tue, Sep 22, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

Next session on
Tue, Sep 1, 2026 1:00 PM PDT - Starts

California's Fifth Climate Regional Webinar Series

Organized by California's Climate Change
By [California's Climate Change Assessment](#)

 Share  Favorite

Register



Sierra Nevada

Tue, Sep 8, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT



San Joaquin Valley

Thu, Sep 10, 2026 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

Happenings of Interest

San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition

Account

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT // FESTIVALS

Burning Man's crowd is getting older — and wealthier

By Danielle Echeverria, Staff Writer
Aug 30, 2026

Gift Article

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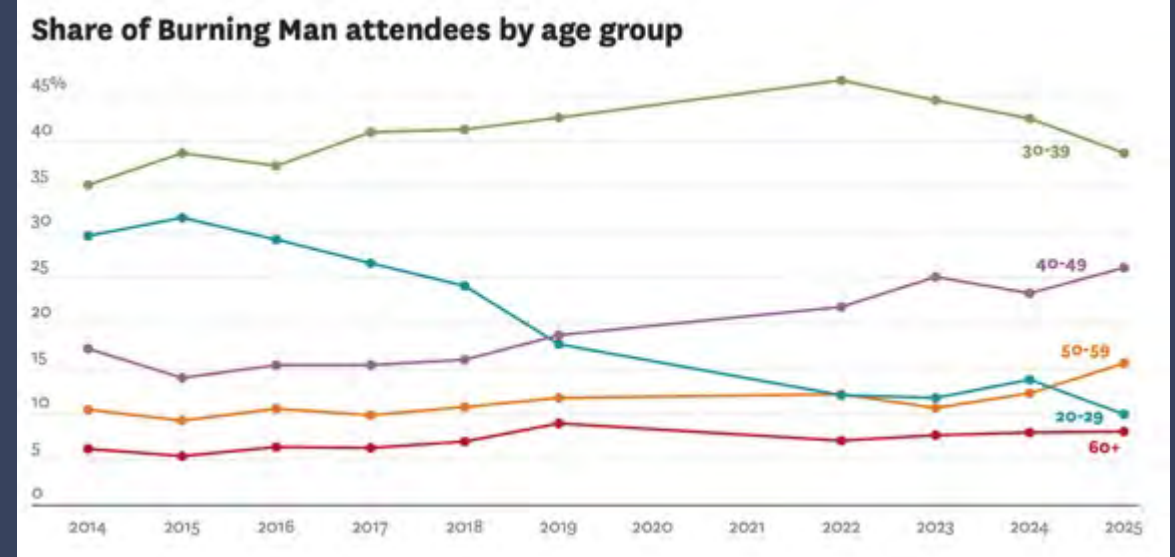
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Attendees gather to watch the burning of "The Chapel of Babel," a work of art by Michael Burlington, during the annual Burning Man Festival in the early morning of September 5, 2023. Thousands of revelers stuck in the mud for days at the Burning Man festival in the US state of Nevada were told they could finally trek home on September 4, 2023, after torrential rain had prompted shelter-in-place orders. With the sun shining on the colorful makeshift community of 70,000 people called Black Rock City, the roads opened Monday afternoon, kicking off the official exit process known as the "Exodus."

JULIE JAMMOT/APF via Getty Images

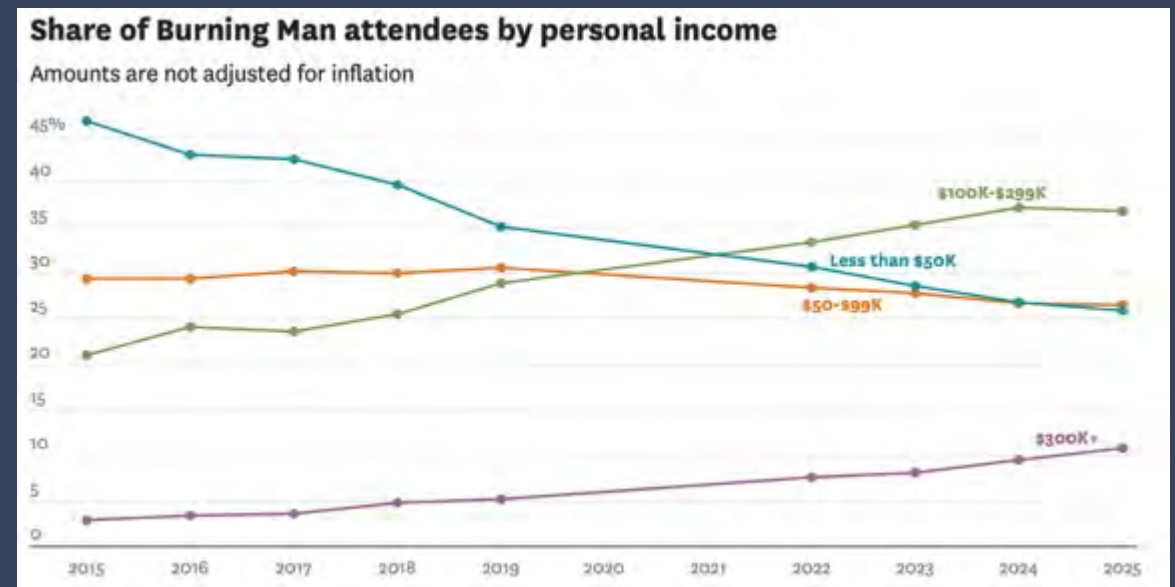
Share of Burning Man attendees by age group



Year	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
2014	28%	34%	16%	9%	5%
2015	30%	37%	13%	8%	4%
2016	28%	36%	14%	9%	5%
2017	25%	40%	14%	8%	5%
2018	23%	40%	15%	9%	6%
2019	17%	41%	17%	10%	8%
2020	15%	42%	18%	10%	7%
2021	14%	43%	19%	10%	6%
2022	11%	45%	20%	11%	6%
2023	11%	43%	24%	9%	7%
2024	13%	41%	22%	11%	7%
2025	9%	38%	25%	14%	7%

Share of Burning Man attendees by personal income

Amounts are not adjusted for inflation



Year	Less than \$50K	\$50-\$99K	\$100K-\$199K	\$200K-\$299K	\$300K+
2015	45%	28%	20%	5%	2%
2016	42%	28%	23%	5%	2%
2017	41%	29%	22%	5%	2%
2018	38%	29%	24%	5%	3%
2019	34%	29%	27%	5%	4%
2020	32%	28%	29%	5%	5%
2021	30%	27%	31%	5%	6%
2022	29%	27%	32%	6%	7%
2023	27%	26%	34%	7%	7%
2024	25%	25%	36%	8%	8%
2025	24%	25%	36%	9%	9%

Happenings of Interest

San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition

Account

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT // FESTIVALS

Burning Man's crowd is getting older — and wealthier

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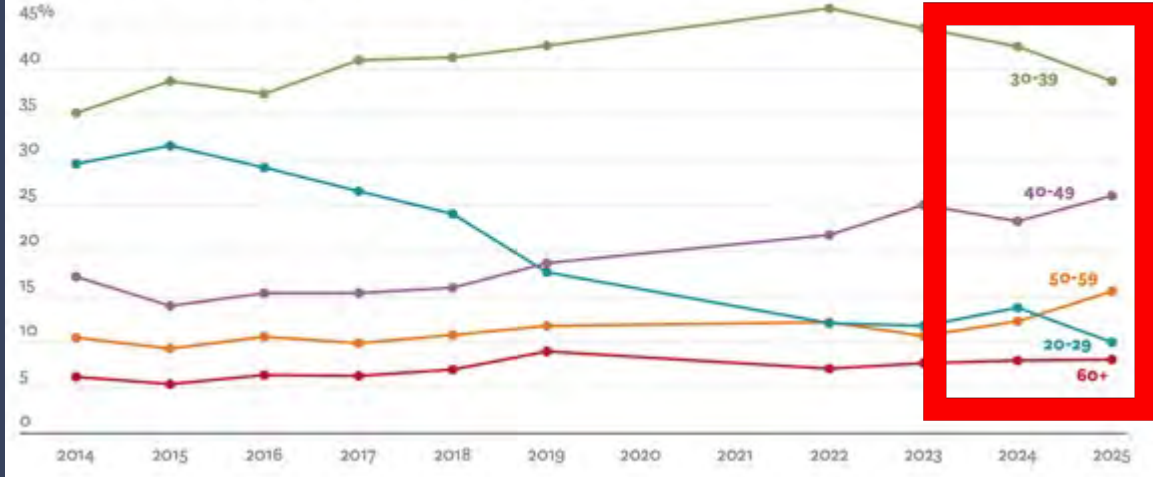


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JULIE JAMMOT/APF via Getty Images

Share of Burning Man attendees by age group

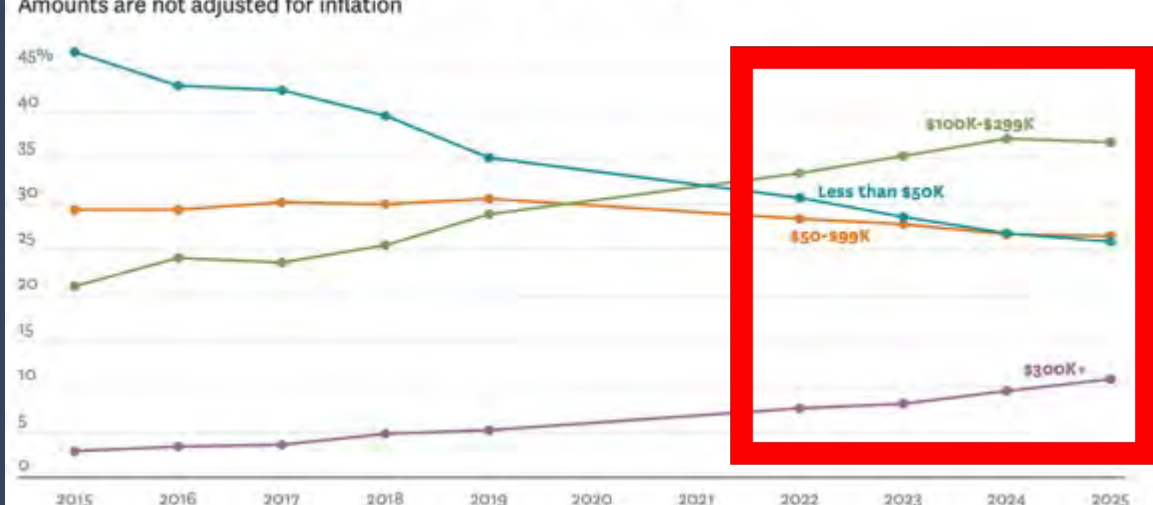
Amounts are not adjusted for inflation



Year	30-39	40-49	50-59	20-29	60+
2014	34%	16%	9%	28%	5%
2015	37%	13%	8%	30%	4%
2016	36%	14%	9%	28%	5%
2017	40%	14%	8%	25%	5%
2018	40%	15%	9%	23%	6%
2019	41%	17%	10%	17%	8%
2020	42%	18%	10%	15%	7%
2021	43%	19%	10%	13%	6%
2022	45%	21%	10%	11%	6%
2023	44%	23%	9%	10%	7%
2024	41%	22%	10%	13%	7%
2025	38%	25%	14%	9%	7%

Share of Burning Man attendees by personal income

Amounts are not adjusted for inflation



Year	\$100K-\$199K	Less than \$50K	\$50-\$99K	\$300K+	\$0-\$49K
2015	20%	45%	28%	2%	2%
2016	23%	42%	28%	2%	2%
2017	22%	41%	29%	2%	2%
2018	24%	38%	29%	3%	2%
2019	27%	34%	29%	4%	2%
2020	28%	32%	28%	5%	2%
2021	29%	30%	27%	6%	2%
2022	32%	28%	27%	6%	2%
2023	34%	27%	26%	7%	2%
2024	36%	25%	25%	8%	2%
2025	36%	24%	25%	9%	2%

Happenings of Interest



Sierra Nevada Conservancy to host quarterly Board meeting in Mono County

State agency to consider new recreation & tourism grants; share update on grant to support community coexistence with gray wolves

Aug 19, 2026 | SNC Updates



June Lake, Mono County. The SNC Board will host its September quarterly meeting in the June Lake area.





SNC BOARD MEETING
September 2 & 3, 2026
Mono County, CA

BOARD MEETING



Board Meeting Agenda

September 2 & 3, 2026 – Southeast Subregion – June Lake, CA

Board Tour

September 2, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

June Mountain Ski Area
3819 CA-158
June Lake, CA 93529

Members of the Board and staff will participate in a field trip to explore issues and activities related to sustainable recreation and wildfire and forest resilience in the Southeast Subregion. Members of the public are invited to participate in the field tour but are responsible for their own transportation and lunch.

Board Reception

September 2, 2026
5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

June Lake Brewing
131 S Crawford Ave
June Lake, CA 93529

Following the Board tour, Boardmembers and staff will attend a reception open to the public.

Board Meeting

September 3, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (End time is approximate)

June Lake Community Center
90 W Granite Ave
June Lake, CA 93529

Happenings of Interest



**AMERICAN
INDIGENOUS
TOURISM**
ASSOCIATION



CALIFORNIA'S STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026
10 AM MDT



COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR

California's Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience

September 9 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am

**John Wentworth, CEO/President, Mammoth Lakes
Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA
Foundation)**



John Wentworth is president and CEO of the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA), where he leads initiatives connecting sustainable outdoor recreation, tourism, forest health, and regional economic development.

MLTPA serves as an industry sector coordinator for sustainable recreation and tourism in the Sierra Nevada region through the California Jobs First initiative. The foundation also convened and delivered "California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience" to the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. The initiative was recognized by Region 5 of the U.S. Forest Service as its Partnership of the Year. MLTPA also supports the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership and its Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative.

Wentworth is a member of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council and serves on several local agency boards, including the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, and Mammoth Lakes Tourism. Since 2018, he has served on the Technical Advisory Council for the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program within the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.

Before beginning his work in outdoor recreation and public service, Wentworth worked in the motion picture industry. His credits include serving as co-producer of "Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me" and "Mulholland Drive," both directed by David Lynch.

**Dawnielle Tehama (Moderator), Education and
Business Development Director, American Indigenous
Tourism Association**



Dawnielle Tehama is a Modoc tourism professional and an enrolled citizen of the Klamath Tribes with deep experience in stewardship, destination development, and Indigenous tourism. She serves as Education and Business Development Director for the American Indigenous Tourism Association, following her work as a

Happenings of Interest



OUTDOORS FOR ALL

Outdoors for All Field Convenings 2026

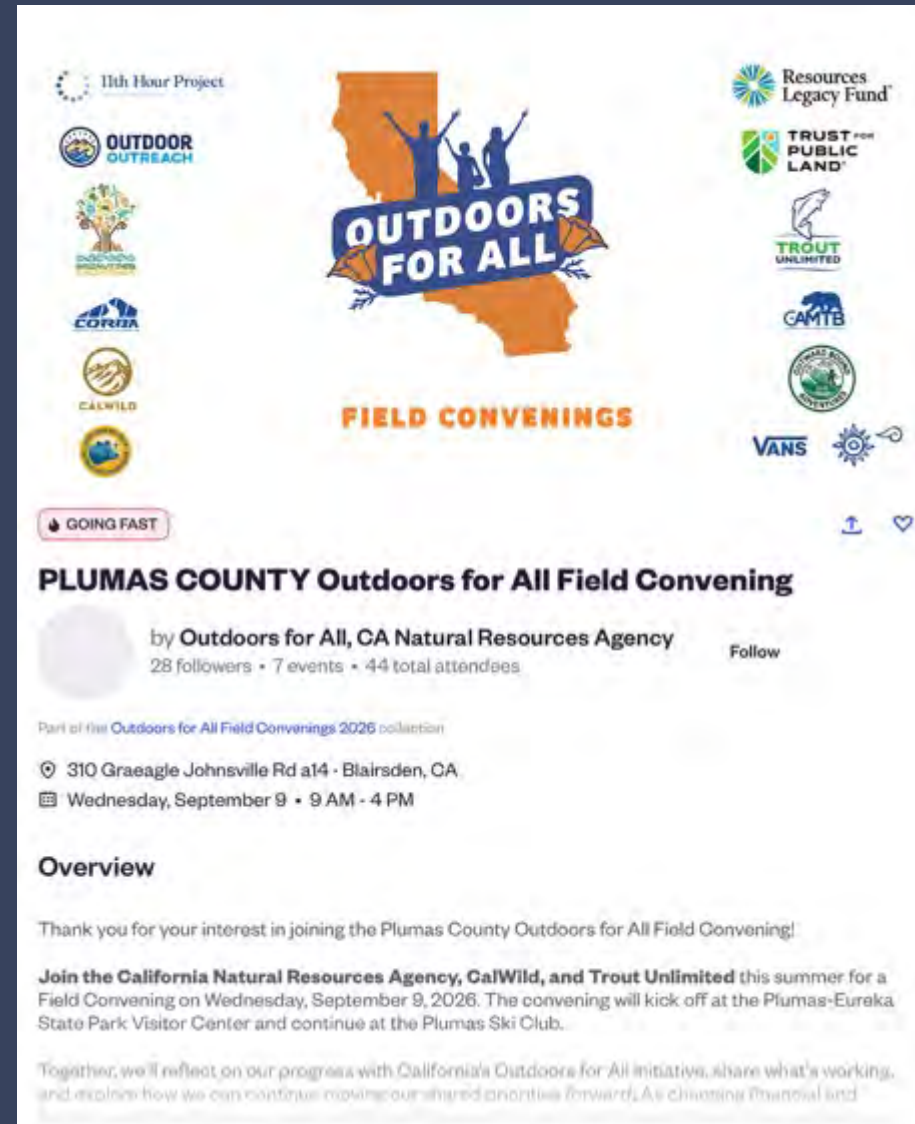
Outdoors for All, CA Natural Resources Agency
28 followers

Continue to shape a California where everyone belongs outdoors! Join one of seven Outdoors for All Field Convenings this summer and help strengthen a movement that connects more Californians to the outdoors and one another.

Events in this collection

Upcoming (8) Past (0)

Event	Date	Time	Location	Cost
MONTEREY Outdoors for All Field Convening	Wednesday	8:00 AM	Devries and Jolene Cassella Community...	Free
PLUMAS COUNTY Outdoors for All Field Convening	Wed, Sep 10	9:00 AM	310 Graeagle Johnsonville Rd a14	Free
YUBA Outdoors for All Field Convening	Wed, Sep 10	9:00 AM	310 Graeagle Johnsonville Rd a14	Free
SACRAMENTO Outdoors for All Field Convening	Thu, Sep 11	9:00 AM	Plumas State Park Visitor Center	Free
LOS ANGELES Outdoors for All Field Convening	Fri, Sep 12	9:00 AM	Watts Community Center	Free
RIVERSIDE Outdoors for All Field Convening	Thu, Sep 14	9:00 AM	California State Park	Free



OUTDOORS FOR ALL

FIELD CONVENINGS

PLUMAS COUNTY Outdoors for All Field Convening

by **Outdoors for All, CA Natural Resources Agency**
28 followers • 7 events • 44 total attendees

Part of the **Outdoors for All Field Convenings 2026** collection

310 Graeagle Johnsonville Rd a14 • Blairsden, CA

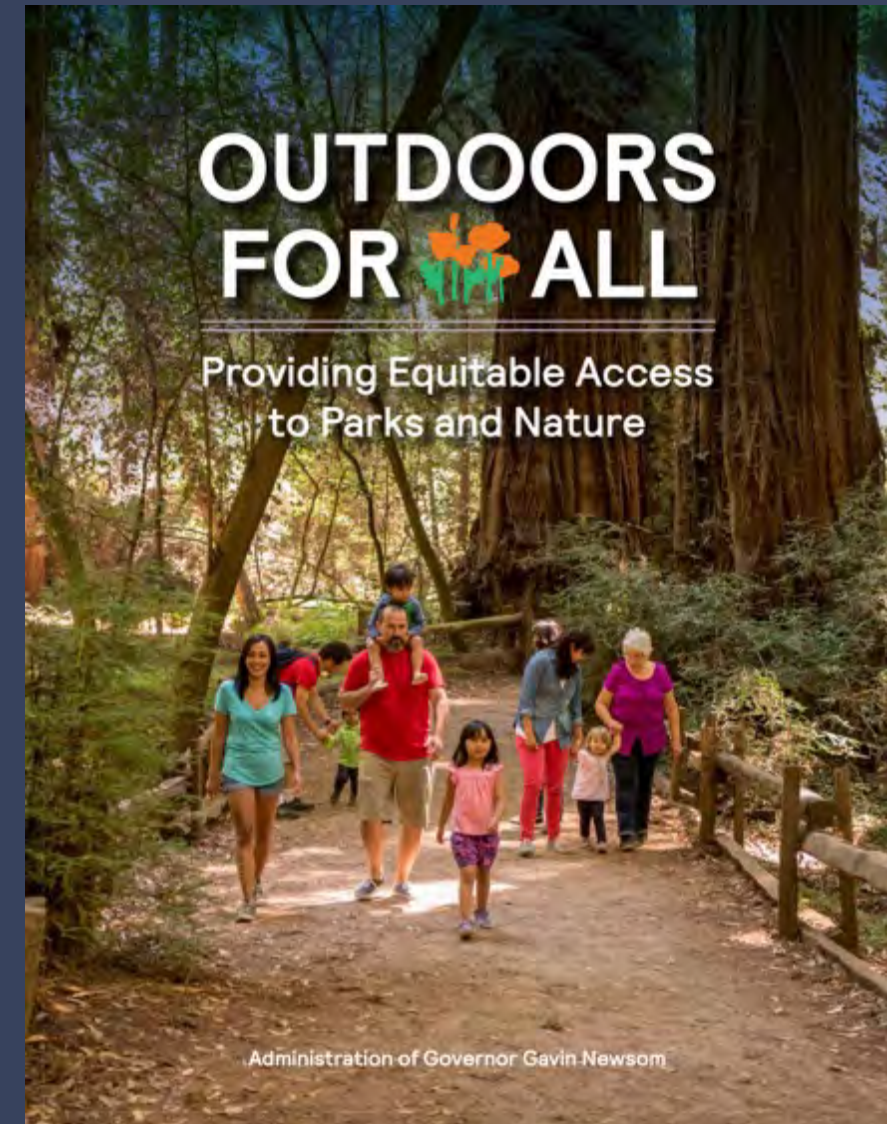
Wednesday, September 9 • 9 AM - 4 PM

Overview

Thank you for your interest in joining the Plumas County Outdoors for All Field Convening!

Join the California Natural Resources Agency, CalWild, and Trout Unlimited this summer for a Field Convening on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. The convening will kick off at the Plumas-Eureka State Park Visitor Center and continue at the Plumas Ski Club.

Together, we'll reflect on our progress with California's Outdoors for All initiative, share what's working, and explore how we can continue moving our shared priorities forward. As changing financial and



Happenings of Interest



In 2024, California set its first climate targets to harness the power of nature to remove and store carbon from our atmosphere, buffer climate impacts, and build California's resilience to future climate-driven extremes including wildfire, drought, flood, extreme heat, and sea level rise.

In January 2026, the California Natural Resources Agency, with support from Trust for Public Land, hosted California's first nature-based solutions summit. The summit brought together a diverse group of leaders to share experiences, provide insights, and celebrate progress to-date.



Forests & Mountain Meadows Nature-Based Solutions Summit

Date: Thursday, September 10, 2026

Time: 9am - 4:30pm

Location: Granlibakken Tahoe, [725 Granlibakken Road, Tahoe City, CA 96145](#)

Co-hosts: California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Tahoe Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Happenings of Interest



Forests & Mountain Meadows - September 10, 2026

Lake Tahoe - Granlibakken Tahoe (Tahoe City, CA)

From towering redwood and sequoia trees to expansive oak woodlands, California's forests currently store the largest amount of carbon on California's lands and serve as the headwaters for a large portion of the state's water supply. Government policy of fire exclusion beginning in the early 20th century, coupled with historic timber harvesting methods, has left California's forests vulnerable to drought, disease, insects, and catastrophic wildfire. Restoring beneficial fire and other nature-based solutions (NBS) like conservation and restoration are critical to building the health and resilience of this important landscape. Mountain meadows are small, but critical wetland ecosystems scattered throughout the state, most commonly found in the high elevation forested headwaters of the Sierra-Cascades. About two-thirds of California's mountain meadows have been lost through conversion to other habitat types, and about half of the remaining meadows are degraded. If restored, they can improve water security, have incredible capacity to store carbon, serve as natural fire breaks, and provide critical habitat for a wide range of biodiversity.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)



Deserts - October 9, 2026

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens (Palm Desert, CA)

California's deserts are extremely unique, supporting endemic biodiversity and wildlife corridors, providing recreational opportunities, and storing carbon, specifically in long-lived, hardy shrubs. These fragile lands are threatened by disturbance and thus need NBS, such as conservation and restoration, to thrive.

[MORE INFORMATION TO COME](#)



Grasslands - October 16, 2026

University of California, Merced (Merced, CA)

Grasslands cover 8% of California and provide a suite of important benefits, including wildlife habitat, water filtration and storage, recreation, livestock grazing, and carbon storage. Grasslands are threatened by degradation, climate change, and conversion to development. NBS, such as conservation, prescribed grazing, and restoration, can help ensure this landscape continues to thrive into the future and deliver benefits to Californians.

[MORE INFORMATION TO COME](#)



Inland Wetlands - November 12, 2026

University of California, Davis (Davis, CA)

California's small, but mighty inland wetlands, such as Delta peatlands, floodplains, and vernal pools, provide significant benefits to California. They ease the effects of drought by improving water quality and supply, recharge groundwater aquifers, mitigate flood impacts, store carbon, and provide habitat rare, native, migratory, and culturally important species. However, these wetlands have experienced significant degradation and loss in the last century; conserving and restoring them is critical to maintain the important benefits they provide.

[MORE INFORMATION TO COME](#)



Communities - Date TBD, 2026

Location TBD

Communities cover 8% of California. These lands include a broad range of urban, suburban, and rural settings, from city centers and town squares, and provide a key opportunity to deliver climate, public health, and other benefits in the places most Californians call home. Expanded urban tree canopy and green spaces mitigate extreme heat, clean air and water, store carbon, create economic opportunities and more.

[MORE INFORMATION TO COME](#)

Forests & Mountain Meadows Nature-Based Solutions Summit

Thursday, September 10, 2026
9 AM - 4:30 PM



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Location: Granlibakken Tahoe, 725 Granlibakken Road, Tahoe City, CA 96145

Co-hosts: California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Tahoe Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Happenings of Interest



DID YOU KNOW?
A COMMUNITY HUB
IS BEING CREATED IN
LAKE ISABELLA!

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!
What do YOU want to see
at YOUR future community hub?

SEP 16
Wednesday, September 16
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Kern River Valley Veterans center
Lake Isabella, CA

Registration

Welcome! To join the event, please register below.

[Register](#)

About Event

We're at an exciting turning point!

Before the architects begin designing the Community Hub, we need the community's final input on what the Hub should include and how it can best serve the people of the Kern River Valley.

Should there be a café? Coworking space? A clinic? Event and gathering spaces? Studios? Or something we haven't imagined yet?

This special co-creation event is your last opportunity to weigh in on the specific **spaces** that will be part of the Community Hub before the design team gets to work.

Presented by
Sierra Shared Spaces

Follow

Hosted By

Kayla Wofford-Nelson, Sierra Shared ...

12 Going

Michael Batelaan, Kat Barnum and 10 others

Contact the Host

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APPLIED HEALTH

Programs Careers & Alumni + Get Involved Funding + Facilities & Labs + Faculty & Staff Giving

Quick Links

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OUTDOOR ECONOMY SUMMIT
Eureka, California
June 3-5, 2026

HOME / SCHOOL OF APPLIED HEALTH / CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR ECONOMY SUMMIT

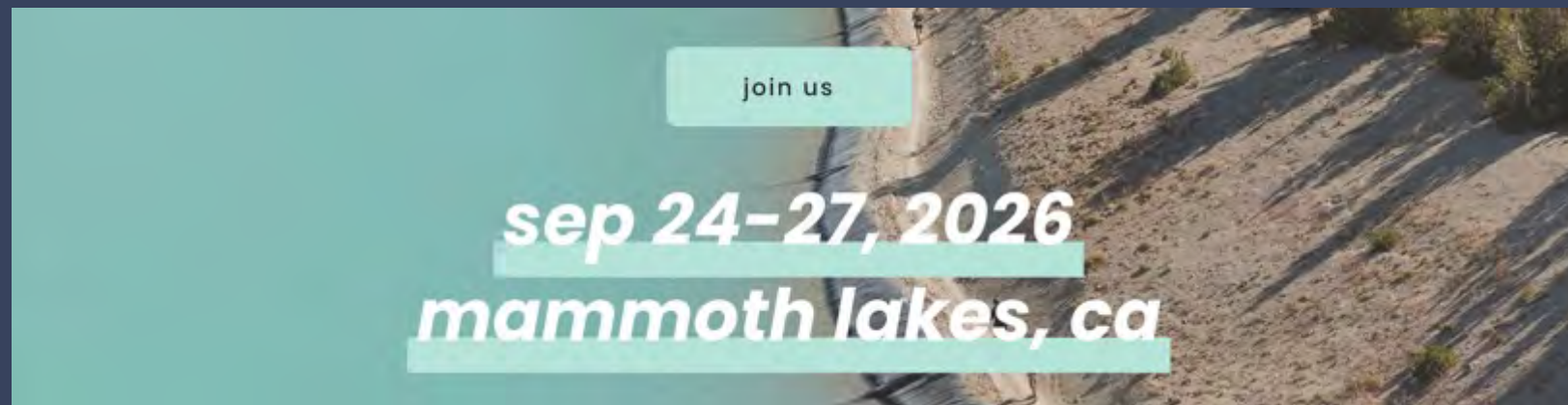
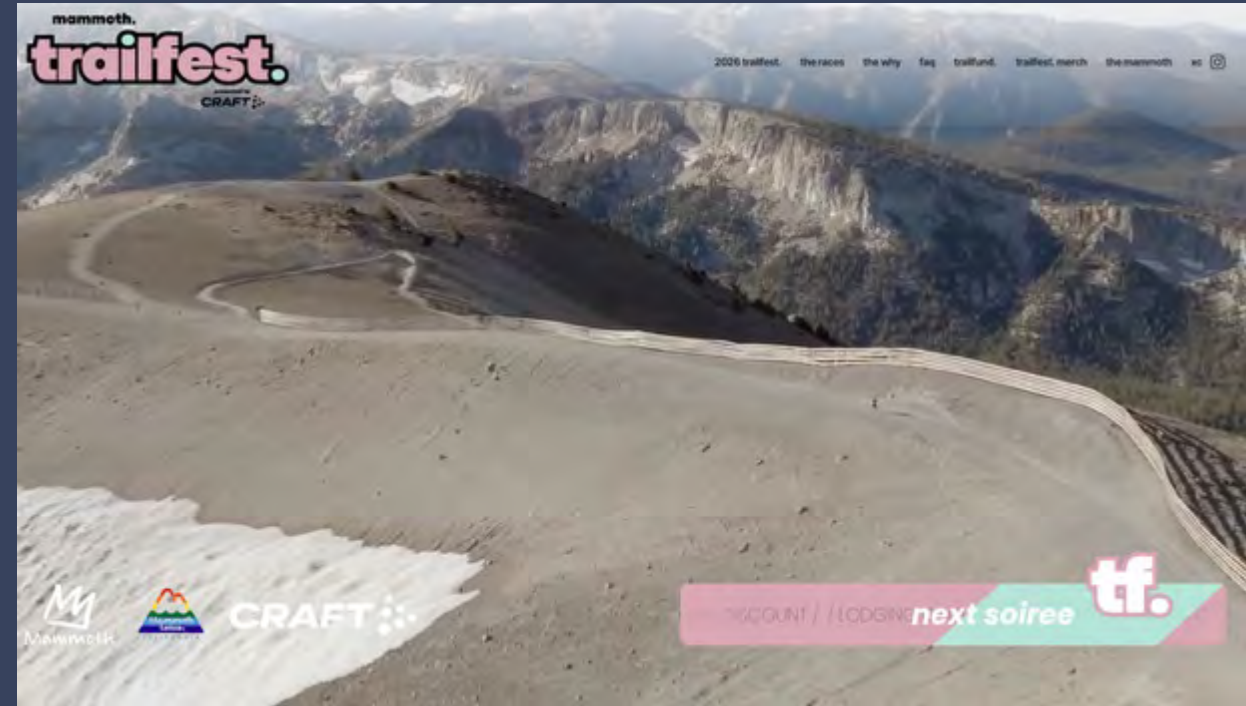
California Outdoor Economy Summit

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

Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest



Jump to:

[Event Details](#) [Sponsorships](#) [Stipends](#) [FAQ](#)



30x30 Partnership 2026 Summit

All are Welcome!

Tuesday, September 29th

California Academy of Sciences

San Francisco, California

Energize • Empower • Evolve

Energize bold action to accelerate progress.

Empower partners to turn goals into results.

Evolve strategies to meet the scale and urgency of 30x30.

[Register Here!](#)



In March, 2025, the Governing Council **finalized its vote** approving 40 projects that best fit the pre-implementation, planning-phase criteria for Catalyst funding under California Jobs First, and with the most potential to align with the **Regional Strategic Plan** to grow climate-resilient, equitable jobs in Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne Counties.

These projects were selected from 47 project applications that were received during the three-month RFP period and reviewed over 600+ people-hours, assessing each project's alignment with the Regional Strategic Plan and state Catalyst criteria.

The contract period to expend the funds began April 1, 2025 and ends September 30, 2026, during which time the projects will receive practical and technical support from the Sierra Jobs First team and Industry Sector Coordinators to ensure they have the maximum positive impact on the Sierra region for generations to come.

We are honored to share their journeys with you here, and hope you'll help spread the word!

Note: Projects are being added to this archive as contracting and information is finalized. For a PDF listing all projects contracted to date, click the button below.

Happenings of Interest

[Strategy](#) [Engagement](#) [Mapping & Data Tools](#) [Open Data](#) [More](#)



Jump to:

[Event Details](#) [Sponsorships](#) [Stipends](#) [FAQ](#)



30x30 Partnership 2026 Summit

All are Welcome!

Tuesday, September 29th

California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco, California

Energize • Empower • Evolve

Energize bold action to accelerate progress.
Empower partners to turn goals into results.
Evolve strategies to meet the scale and urgency of 30x30.

[Register Here!](#)

[About](#) [Collaborative](#) [Strategic Plan](#) [Regional Summary](#)
[Catalyst Projects](#) [Get Involved](#)



SIERRA JOBS FIRST CATALYST PROJECTS

Sept 30

Happenings of Interest



NORTH COAST REGIONAL MEETING

October 1 & 2 - Humboldt County

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

Task Force Releases Draft Five-Year Wildfire & Landscape Resilience Action Plan

[LEARN MORE & VIEW PLAN](#)

Nevada County Sustainability Summit

Sustainability Summit E-Welcome Center

Welcome to the Nevada County Sustainability Summit E-Welcome Center. To promote conservation and the reduction of waste, all of the event materials are located here. Browse the event materials and resources by navigating this site.

Nevada County Sustainability Summit

RURAL PROSPERITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

October 8, 2026



NEVADA COUNTY
CALIFORNIA



Agenda

Come early for coffee and connections, doors open at 9 am.

WELCOME 10:00

PANEL 1 10:15

- Climate Risk by the Numbers

-- WALKING TOUR/BREAK --

PANEL 2 11:20

- Climate Impacts Across Our Key Industries

-- LUNCH --

-- WALKING TOUR/BREAK --

PANEL 3 1:00

- Growing Our Economy Through Climate Solutions

PANEL 4 1:50

- Building Tomorrow: Youth Perspectives

-- BREAK --

Keynote E-Vite 2026 Sustainability Summit Agenda 2:40

- Heidi Sanborn: National Stewardship Action Council

Closing 3:20

Reception 3:30

Happenings of Interest



The California Economic Summit is a convening of regional and statewide leaders from business, community, government, philanthropy, labor, and more to catalyze a New California Economy.

This year's Summit comes at pivotal time for California. In the midst of an election season, the Summit offers a timely opportunity to bring leaders together around a shared, practical agenda for inclusive economic growth, resilience, and shared prosperity. CA FWD's focus this year has been supporting leading gubernatorial candidates and legislators to help them deliver positive change from day one. This year's Summit focuses directly on this work—whether through breakout sessions or plenaries. Summit attendees will have the opportunity to help shape this critical candidate education and help ensure a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economy.

We are excited to highlight Long Beach and the broader region's leadership in areas central to the state's economy, including goods movement, clean energy, infrastructure, workforce, and inclusive economic growth.



THE EVENT

Produced by CA FWD in collaboration with the California Stewardship Network, the annual California Economic Summit convenes regional leaders from business, community, government, philanthropy, labor, and more to catalyze a New California Economy that is resilient, sustainable, and inclusive. The Summit is the place to connect, collaborate, and drive change.

A large banner for the Resilient California Summit. The background is a blue sky with clouds and a mountain range. The text "Resilient California Summit" is in large white letters, with "Explore • Imagine • Catalyze" below it. To the right, the dates "October 20-22, 2026" and the location "SAFE Credit Union Convention Center Sacramento" are listed in yellow. At the bottom, logos for organizing and presenting organizations are displayed.

Resilient California Summit
Explore • Imagine • Catalyze

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

Organized by:

- CA Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
- Climate Resolve
- Farallon Strategies
- CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
- UC DAVIS Institute of the Environment
- INDIGENOUS FUTURES SOCIETY

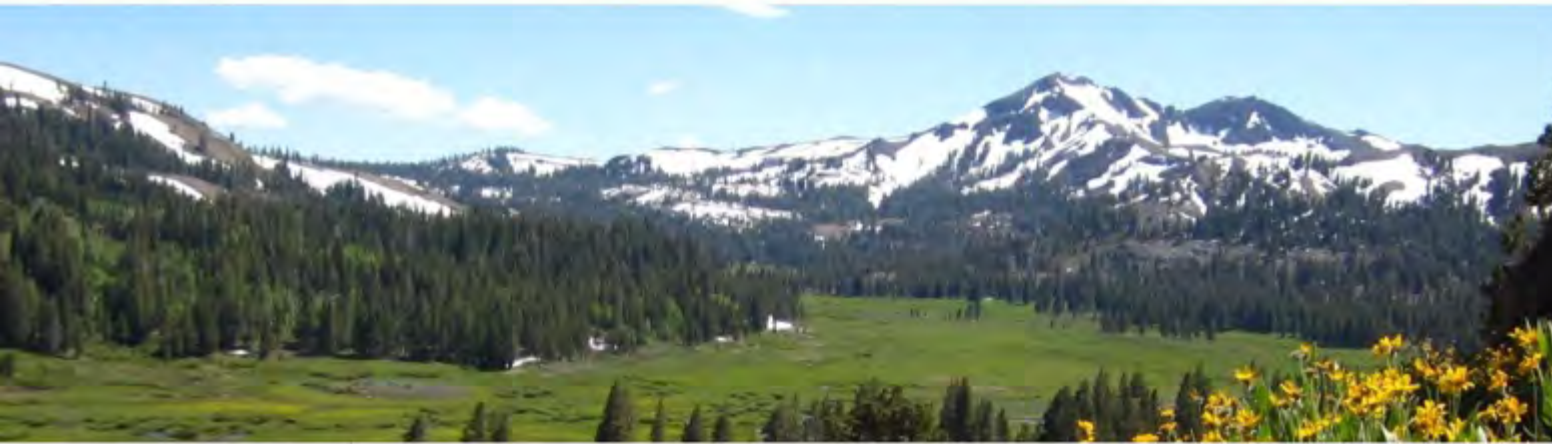
Presented by:

- Packard Foundation
- Resources Legacy Fund
- RESILIENT CITIES CATALYST

Happenings of Interest

ALPINE COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

Search...



Alpine County Becomes New Owner of 1,688-Acre Property on East Fork Carson River

Alpine County News Flash

Posted on August 26, 2026

CaliforniaNewsNow



Alpine County Acquires 1,688-Acre Park Ranch on East Fork Carson River

[Home](#) · [Politics & Elections](#) · Alpine County Acquires 1,688-Acre Park Ranch on East Fork Carson River

By [Steve Levine](#) · Updated August 27, 2026

Alpine County finalized its acquisition of Park Ranch, a 1,688-acre property on the East Fork Carson River near Markleeville, on August 25-26, 2026. The purchase, funded by an [8 million dollar Wildlife Conservation Board grant awarded to Western Rivers Conservancy and Alpine County](#), marks the completion of a multi-year conservation effort that protects critical habitat while expanding public access to the river corridor. The property represents a significant addition to county-owned conservation land in the Eastern Sierra region. Western Rivers Conservancy, a regional land conservation nonprofit, purchased the ranch in phases starting in 2025 before conveying full ownership to Alpine County.

Happenings of Interest

PAYAHUUNADŪ HAS BEEN, AND CONTINUES TO BE, THE HOMELAND OF THE PAIUTE (NUUMU), SHOSHONE (NEWE), AND TIMBISHA PEOPLES.



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WELCOME TO INYO COUNTY

CALIFORNIA'S MOST
DIVERSE
ADVENTURE
DESTINATION

EXPLORE TOWNS →

EXPLORE EVENTS →



LONE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXPANDS TO BECOME INYO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PRESS RELEASES

By Rebecca Brinegar • August 24, 2026



NEW VISIT INYO INITIATIVE CENTERS ON VISITOR EDUCATION, RESPONSIBLE RECREATION AND SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

LONE PINE, Calif. — The Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce has officially expanded its mission to become the Inyo Chamber of Commerce, reflecting an expanded commitment to serving businesses, residents and communities throughout unincorporated Inyo County.

OUR REGION

EXPLORE INYO

From the flowing waters of Payahuunadū to the peaks of the Sierra, and the vast landscapes of Death Valley, explore the communities and places that make Inyo County extraordinary.

LAND OF FLOWING WATER



THE LOWEST



THE HIGHEST



HISTORIC CORE



THE OLDEST



ADVENTURE HUB



LONE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXPANDS TO BECOME INYO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PRESS RELEASES

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Happenings of Interest



OUR REGION

EASTERN SIERRA REGION

VISITOR CONNECTION PACKAGE

A Framework
for the Development
and Implementation of
a Regional Voice for
Sustainable Recreation
in the Eastern Sierra



Funding for this project has been provided by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency of the State of California, under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 65) and in support of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

INDEPENDENCE

BIG PINE

BISHOP

LONE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXPANDS TO BECOME INYO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PRESS RELEASES

By Rebecca Brinegar • August 24, 2026



NEW VISIT INYO INITIATIVE CENTERS ON VISITOR EDUCATION, RESPONSIBLE RECREATION AND SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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Happenings of Interest



Skiers Beware, The El Niño Hype Train Has Officially
Left The Station

Happenings of Interest

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Chris Tomer

@TheChristomer • 35.5K subscribers • 1.2K videos

Meteorologist Chris Tomer lives in Denver, CO. For the last 25 years, Tomer has forecasted the weather for the...[...more](#)

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Skiers Beware, The El Niño Hype Train Has Officially Left The Station

Happenings of Interest

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Q Meteorologist Chris Tomer ...

Hi, I'm Chris Tomer

I'm a meteorologist in Columbus, Ohio.

MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL



Memorable Projects

- 2026 forecasting for Tyler Andrews setting the new speed ascent record on Mount Everest (with oxygen), 9hr55min.
- 2026 forecasting for Erin Ton setting the new women's roundtrip FKT on Aconcagua, 6hr33min.
- 2026 forecasting for Colin O'Brady solo, unsupported crossing of Antarctica (ended at South Pole).
- 2025 forecasting for François D'Haene setting a new FKT (Fastest Known Time) on Nolan's 14 in Colorado, with a supported time of 35hr34min (South to North).
- 2024 forecasting for Jack Kuenzle setting a new ski FKT (Fastest Known Time) on Mont Blanc from Chamonix, France of 4:59:50, 6/5/2024.
- 2024 forecasting for Chris Fisher setting a new FKT (Fastest Known Time) on Ama Dablam from village to summit and back in 11hr20min (ascent time of 6hr44min), 11/3/2024.
- 2024 forecasting for Luke Nelson running the Snowman Race in Bhutan.
- 2023 forecasting for Chris Warner completing all 8000m peaks. Only second American to complete all fourteen 8000-meter peaks. Chris finished with Nanga Parbat, GI&GII, Broad Peak, and then finally Manaslu on 9/20/2023.
- 2023 forecasting for Eric Gilbertson completing all Snow Leopard Peaks (Five highest in former Soviet Union). Eric and climbing partner Andreas finished with Communism Peak on 8/16/2023.
- 2023 forecasting for Jack Kuenzle setting new FKT (Fastest Known Time) roundtrip of Denali in 10:14:57 (6/4/2023).
- 2020-2021 forecasting for Mingma G and Team during the first-ever joint summit of K2 in Winter.

Q Meteorologist Chris Tomer ...

"There's simply no one else I'd trust."



Need a mountain forecast? I provide professional custom forecasts for mountaineers and skiers around the world.

I've worked for over 500 clients over 20 years with a high success rate.

Contact me: chrisdtomer@gmail.com

Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest

Best Guess:

Tahoe: +30%
Mammoth: +30%
Brian Head: +20%
Snowbowl: +20%
CO Southern Mtns: +20%
NM: +20%
Wasatch: 0%

Aspen: 0%
Vail: 0%
Loveland: 0%
Jackson Hole: -10%
Revelstoke: -20%
Sunshine: -20%
Mount Baker: -15%
Schweitzer: -15%
Big Sky: -15%
Killington: +10%

Happenings of Interest

TRAVEL // TAHOE

Excited for big El Niño winter, 3 Tahoe ski resorts announce opening dates

By Gregory Thomas, Staff Writer

Aug 18, 2026

Gift Article



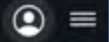
Heavenly Mountain Resort in South Lake Tahoe after a series of huge storms in January 2023. The resort announces its opening date as experts forecast an enormous El Niño pattern that could drench California in ways that meet or surpass the memorable 1982-83 and 1997-98 winters — two monster snow seasons.

Brontë Wittpenn/S.F. Chronicle

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NEWS

“That’s a Wrap”: Multiple Australian Ski Resorts Throw In The Towel

Winter has ended more than a month early at two popular Australian ski resorts.

AUG 24, 2026 11:49 AM EDT



BY MATT LORELLI
Senior Editor, Powder

0



Add us on



Selwyn Snow Resort, Australia, August 24, 2026.

Selwyn Snow Resort

Happenings of Interest

[U.S. Tracker](#) [Europe Tracker](#) [How Much Hotter Is It?](#) [How to Stay Cool](#) [What Is the Heat Index?](#) [H](#)

Stranded French Tourist Dies in Death Valley During 116-Degree Heat

The 68-year-old tourist and his companion were driving through Death Valley National Park on a remote road last week when their car got stuck in mud, officials said.

► Listen · 2:35 min

 [Share full article](#)  



A French tourist and a companion who were traveling through Death Valley National Park became stranded after their car got stuck on a remote road. Mario Tama/Getty Images

Happenings of Interest

U.S. Tracker Europe Tracker How Much Hotter Is It? How to Stay Cool What Is the Heat Index? H

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Listen · 2:35 min

Share full article



A French tourist and a companion who were traveling through Death Valley National Park became stranded after their car got stuck on a remote road. Mario Tama/Getty Images

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Controlled explosion at Nepali hydropower tunnel as rescuers look for 900 missing workers



Summary

- Rescuers in Nepal are trying to reach hundreds of workers who have been trapped in tunnels since Wednesday's massive flash flood
- A controlled blast was carried out at a tunnel at the **Trishuli site in the early hours of Monday**
- 933 hydropower workers from sites across Nepal are missing - in total, **4,247** people are unaccounted for, with at least 903 known to have died
- The number of missing is a sharp rise from 2,502, which was announced on Sunday
- Of those missing, 3,655 are Nepali citizens, with 592 foreigners unaccounted for
- In Tibet, the **official death toll is 16**, with 546 reported missing, according to Chinese state media - while 10 people have been punished for **spreading misinformation online**

Live Reporting

Edited by Imogen James, with reporting from BBC Nepali

06:13

'We've lost hope' - family's fear for hydropower worker

Sara Down-Roberts
BBC Wales



1:04
BBC in valley devastated by floods



1:36
Rescue dogs search for flood victims in Tibet



1:58
Flooded area at hydropower plant

KREM2 News Weather Sports

ADVERTISE WITH US KREM CARES INLAND LIFE CONTESTS MEET THE TEAM

Flash flood in Grand Canyon kills at least 1 with over a dozen people missing, park service says

Visiting the Grand Canyon can be particularly dangerous in the summer because of the risk of flash flooding. Sunny days can turn to downpours within minutes.



NATION/WORLD

Author: JAMIE STENGLE and FELICIA FONSECA (Associated Press)
Published: 4:03 AM PDT August 31, 2026
Updated: 4:03 AM PDT August 31, 2026

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — One person died and about 15 people are missing or unaccounted for after a major flash flood at the **Grand Canyon** forced evacuations, pushed large boulders into the Colorado River and knocked out the **sole water pipeline** that serves tourists and residents, the National Park Service said Sunday.

The body of a 46-year-old man was recovered Sunday evening, Aug. 30 near Crystal Rapids along the Colorado River, the park service said without providing additional details. Officials from an Arizona coroner's office were on scene.

Happenings of Interest

South Tahoe NOW News

\$250k gift funds construction of Lake Tahoe's historic Meeks Ridge Trail; Launches new era for trail network

by News Release
Tuesday, August 4, 2026 - 9:46pm

Facebook X



PROJECT LOCATION-
Meeks Bay to Lost Lake

LAKE TAHOE, Calif. – The [Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association](#) (TAMBA) announced a transformational \$250,000 gift from local philanthropists Kyle and Jessica Aster that will fully fund the 2026 work season on the [Meeks Ridge Trail](#), one of the organization's most ambitious trail projects to date. The generous donation will enable TAMBA to push toward its ultimate goal of completing the final two miles of trail, reconnecting Meeks Bay to Lost Lake on Tahoe's West Shore for the first time in decades and bringing a once-lost historic route back to life.

CALBIKE
CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT ELECTRIC MOBILITY COUNCIL

California Independent Electric Mobility Council

This report outlines the program and highlights important takeaways from the California Independent Electric Mobility Council for statewide regulatory policy, education, and programming.



July 2026

OuterMap

Turn Any Map Image Into A Living, Navigable Experience.

Convert any static map into a dynamic, branded mobile journey. With AI-powered extraction of trails and points of interest, deliver a seamless wayfinding experience your visitors can trust, online or offline.

- No GIS expertise needed
- iOS & Android ready
- Works offline

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Watch the 48-second demo

Hi! How can we help?

SCROLL TO EXPLORE I have a question

Independent Global News

"The Nerd Reich": Author Gil Durán on Big Tech Fascism, Peter Thiel, JD Vance & the War on Democracy

STORY AUGUST 11, 2024

Watch Full Show



Listen Media Options

RELATED

Topics

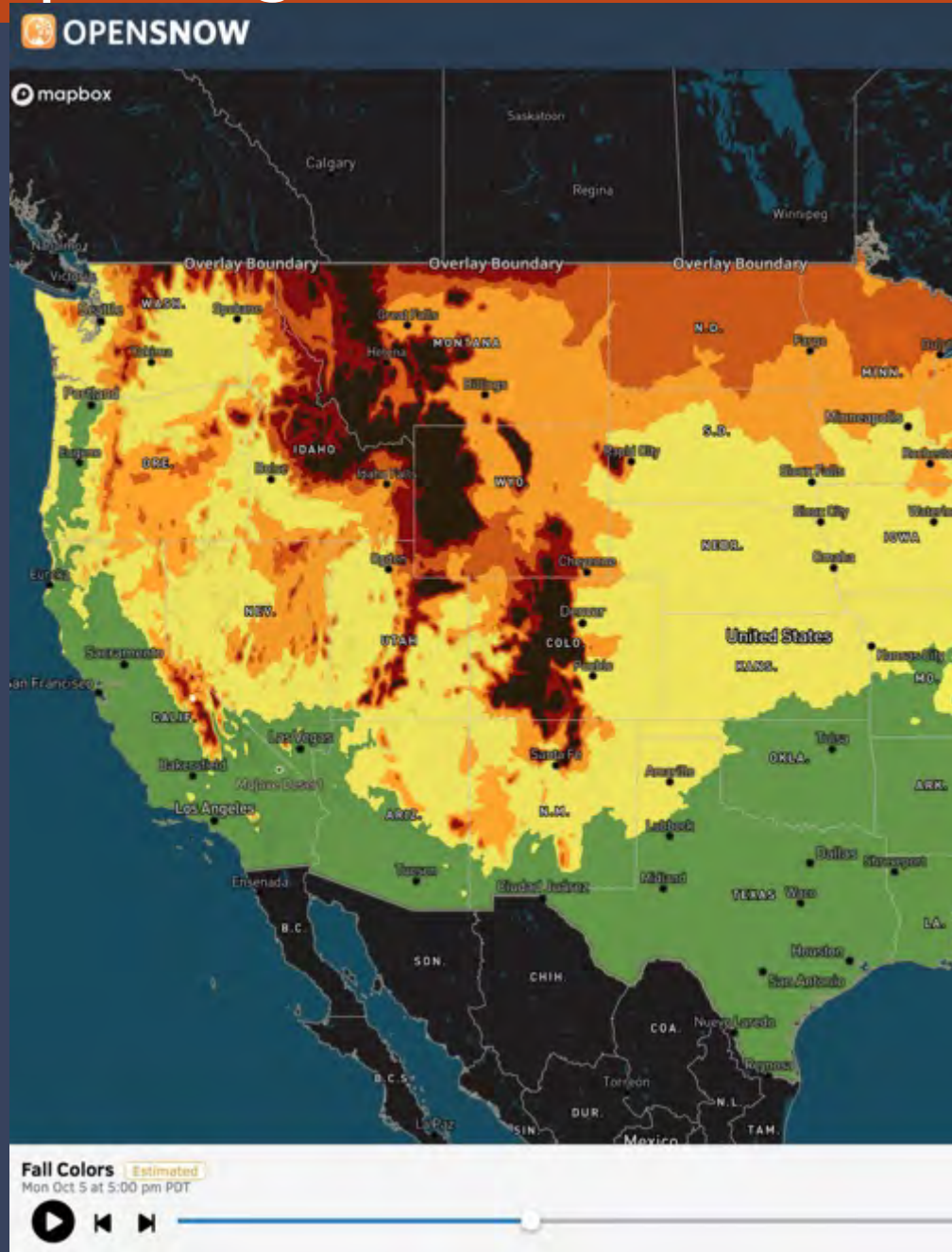
Guests

Links

Transcript

A new book by longtime Bay Area journalist Gil Durán investigates "tech fascism" and its mounting influence on U.S. politics. *The Nerd Reich: Silicon Valley Fascism and the War on Democracy* follows the rise of Vice President JD Vance, the former venture capitalist whose "outsider" campaign for Senate was bankrolled by the billionaire co-founder of PayPal and Palantir, Peter Thiel. Durán traces the ideological lineage of the current Trump administration back from Vance to Thiel and the far-right-wing monarchist Curtis Yarvin, whose "right-libertarian" political theory has long made the rounds among Silicon Valley elite. "These guys were never libertarians," says Durán. "Now that they are the government, we see their true face: They're fascists, and they're authoritarians."

Happenings of Interest



MATADOR NETWORK

At Nevada's Abandoned State Prison, the Ghosts Pay the Bills

NIGHTLIFE | ADVENTURE TRAVEL

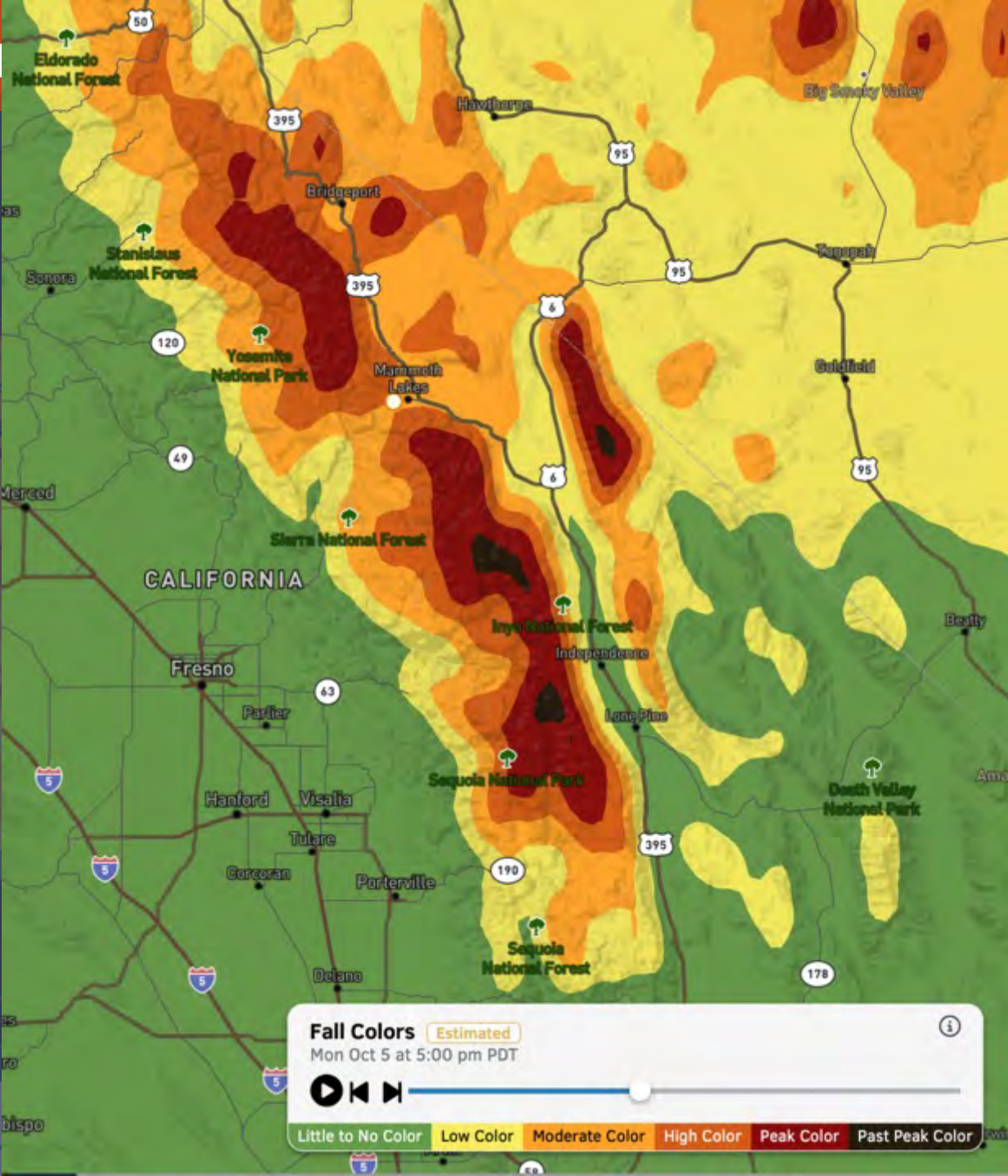
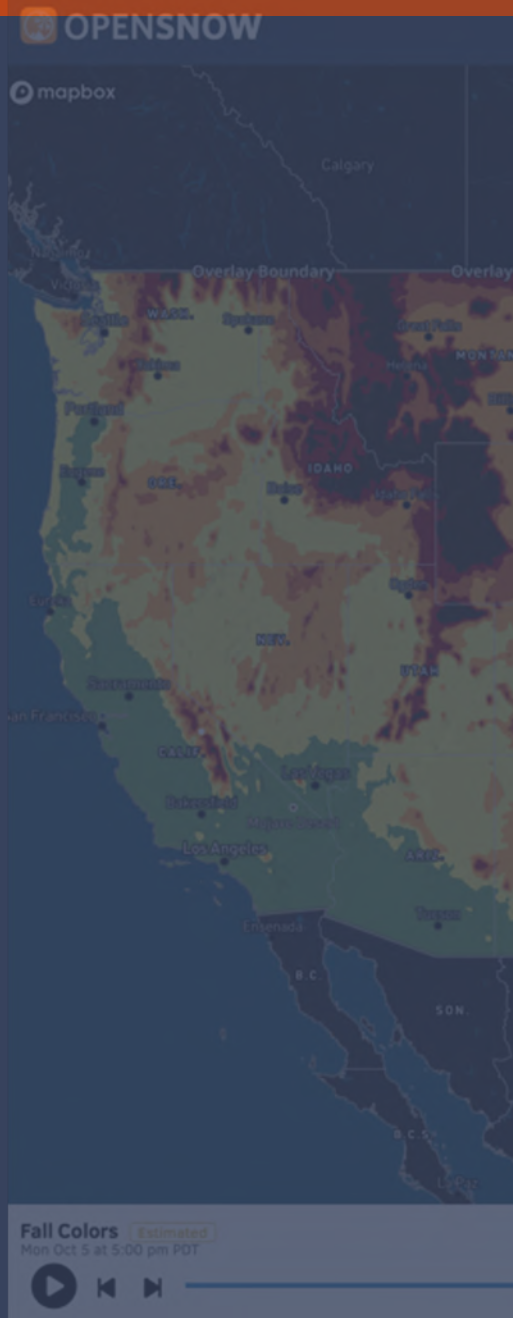
by SUZIE DUNDAS AUG 11, 2026

[f](#) [m](#) [p](#) [x](#) [r](#)

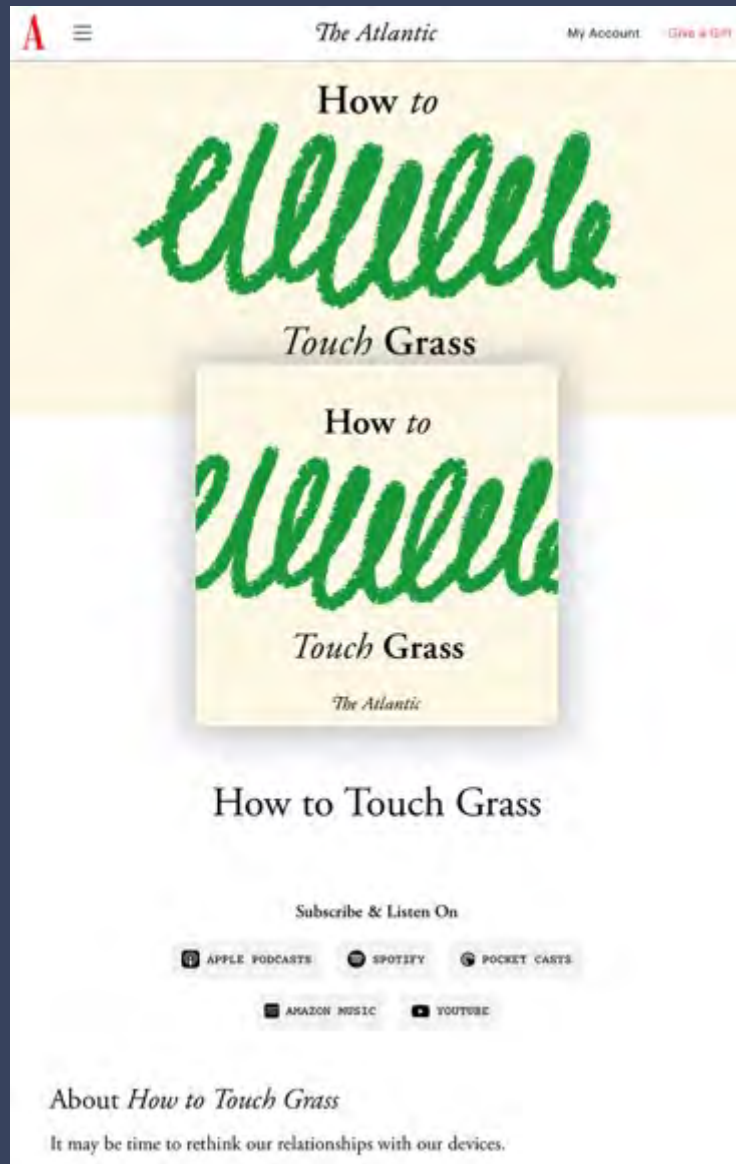
As I pulled into the dusty gravel parking lot at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City, it was hot. Early evening in July still means plenty of heat, and I could feel it, even with the A/C in my car running. The second thing I noticed was a coyote jauntily crossing between me and the old entrance gate, giving me a quick glance as if to remind me these days, this is his territory — it's humans who don't belong. And in some ways, the coyote was right, as the now shuttered prison no longer houses people. But depending on who you ask, it does house ghosts. And plenty of them.

AI Travel Genius

Happenings of I



Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest



SFGATE



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NATIONAL PARKS

I went to Yosemite's famed backcountry glamping spot. It kicked my butt.

The park's century-old, hut-to-hut hiking trip has many highs and lows.



Sunrise at May Lake reflects off Mount Hoffmann in Yosemite National Park, Calif.

David Quinn/SFGATE

Happenings of Interest



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



Water Basics



What We Do



Programs

DWR's Three-Pronged Strategy to Protect the State Water Project from Golden Mussels

Published: July 29, 2026



Golden mussel mobile lab staff perform hot water immersion studies to determine the minimum duration and temperature to kill adult mussels.

Golden mussels pose a serious and fast-growing threat to California's water infrastructure. As the operator of the State Water Project (SWP), DWR is deploying a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the impact of golden mussel infestation and prevent further colonization. DWR is attacking the problem through several immediate response measures, concentrated investments to strengthen infrastructure, and long-term research and partnerships to improve the state's ability to manage golden mussels.

Immediate Actions: Protecting State Water Project Operations Today

- Vigilant scheduling of inspections, monitoring, and early detection throughout the SWP, including expanded [eDNA analysis](#) for golden mussels.
- Implementing low-dose and sustainable copper treatments as the primary mitigation strategy at facilities. Increasing maintenance, including manual cleaning, flushing pipelines, power washing, and hand-scraping mussels from vulnerable infrastructure.

- Some of DWR's field divisions are installing replacement equipment as needed to limit interruptions in operations.
- Preventing further spread through exit watercraft inspections at mussel-infested SWP reservoirs, decontamination programs, and public outreach encouraging boaters to [Clean, Drain, Dry](#).

Midterm Actions: Building Stronger Protection for Critical Infrastructure

- Applying mitigation measures at priority SWP facilities, including pumping plants, hydropower plants, fish protection facilities, and hatcheries.
- Installation of ultraviolet treatment systems to kill larval (veliger) golden mussels before they settle inside critical cooling, fire protection, and service water pipelines.
- Evaluating and deploying additional mitigation tools, including chemical treatments, antifouling coatings, and operational improvements to reduce biofouling.

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



U.S. Forest Service - Inyo National Forest

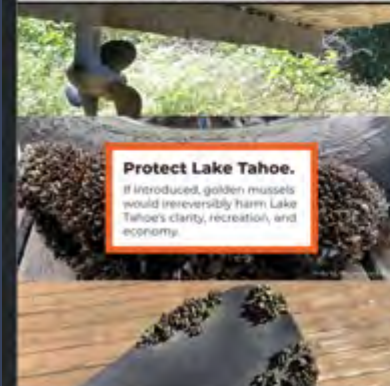
August 3 at 10:01 AM

SAFETY ALERT: Please do your part in stopping the spread of the Golden Mussel.



INVASIVE: NOT IN LAHORE

GOLDEN MUSSELS



Protect Lake Tahoe.

If introduced, golden mussels would irreversibly harm Lake Tahoe's clarity, recreation, and economy.

MUSSELS ATTACH TO EVERYTHING

Strong, adhesive byssal threads attach mussels to surfaces, fouling watercraft and clogging pipes.



In 2024, golden mussels were discovered in the Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta of California. **This was the first time the invader was detected in North America.**

- Since 2024, golden mussels have spread as far south as San Diego.

- It is up to us protect Lake Tahoe!



Invasive Golden Mussel Fast Facts

Status: Invasive
Not in Tahoe

- Tolerate a wide range of aquatic conditions, including salt water, low calcium, and freezing temperatures.
- Microscopic larvae hide in water.
- Grow to densities 200,000 per m².
- There is no way to eradicate them.



Tahoe Keepers and Lake Tahoe Boat Inspections — with Keep Tahoe Blue and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. [Follow](#)

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>



Happenings of Interest

≡ The New York Times

Trump Administration Looks to Give a Swath of Yosemite to a Developer

The proposed land swap would allow easy access to the crown jewel of the national park system. Democrats and former Park Service officials are incensed.

▶ Listen · 7:14 min

📖 Share full article



Visitors walk through Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park. Mike Kai Chen for The New York Times

≡ SFGATE



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NEWS

Trump administration considering trading Yosemite land to private developer

By Kevin Rector, Los Angeles Times
Aug 28, 2026



A view of Lower Merced Pass Lake in Yosemite National Park, Calif.
Getty Images

The Trump administration is considering trading a parcel of Yosemite National Park to a private commercial developer, according to administration officials, members of Congress and documents reviewed by the Los Angeles Times.

≡ San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition

Account

U.S. & WORLD // CALIFORNIA

Trump administration seeks to give away a piece of Yosemite for hotel development

By Kurtis Alexander, Staff Writer
Updated Aug 28, 2026 8:43 p.m.

📖 Gift Article



Upper Yosemite Fall as seen from Cook's Meadow Loop in Yosemite National Park. The Trump administration is considering a land swap that would benefit a hotel developer by providing a possible shortcut into the park.
Brenta Wittgens/S.F. Chronicle

Happenings of Interest



Old rift reopens as Trump administration amends Grand Teton pathway decision

Katie Klingsporn WyoFile.com Aug 26, 2026 [Comments](#)



The Moose-Wilson Road is a common place to view wildlife, as its name suggests. C. Adams/NPS

[f](#) [x](#) [@](#) [✉](#) [📄](#) [📱](#) [🔖](#)

Even though the 7.1-mile Moose-Wilson Road represents a sliver of the 310,000-acre Grand Teton National Park, its fate has fueled years of debate.

And when the National Park Service recently amended a 10-year-old park management plan to allow for the construction of a multiuse path along the busy road, it reopened a rift over the agency's obligation to balance multiple concerns, including wildlife protection, archeological preservation, recreation and safe visitor access. That same pathway was excluded from a 2016 decision.

Pathways & Trail Maps ▾ Trail Conditions Newsletter Signup



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EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTED.



We have exciting news to share: Grand Teton National Park has approved a separated multiuse pathway along the Moose-Wilson corridor.



[Bear bites hiker on Teton Pass](#)

National Park Service to build Moose-Wilson bike path

By Christina MacIntosh / Environmental Reporter Aug 17, 2026 | Updated Aug 17, 2026



Cyclists bike down a section of the Moose-Wilson Road in August 2023. Grand Teton National Park announced Monday that it will build a separate multiuse pathway for cyclists through the corridor. BRADLY J. BONER/Jackson Hole Daily FILE

[f](#) [@](#) [✉](#) [📄](#) [📱](#) [🔖](#)

[📁](#) Gift this article

The National Park Service will move forward with building a separated bike path along Moose-Wilson Road.

Happenings of Interest

My account

US

The Guardian

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

US news US politics Midterms 2026 World Climate crisis Middle East Ukraine US immigration



Texas

'Devastating': bulldozers plough through Big Bend national park as Trump's border work pushes ahead

Heavy machinery seen operating in famous Santa Elena Canyon amid outcry over new wall infrastructure in beloved Texas park

Roque Planas

Fri 14 Aug 2026 15:27 EDT

[Share](#)

Prefer the Guardian on Google

Bulldozers have begun plowing up ground at the mouth of Big Bend national park's famed Santa Elena Canyon as part of the Trump administration's multibillion-dollar "smart wall" expansion on the US-Mexico border, according to new footage taken by activists who have been monitoring the site.

CNN US

Watch Upgrade

US - 5 MIN READ

Feds halt controversial work on border security inside Big Bend National Park

UPDATED AUG 17, 2026

By Ashley Killough, Ed Lavandera



Heavy machinery is seen inside Big Bend National Park in southern Texas on August 15. ...

[+ Follow](#)

All border security construction work in Big Bend National Park is being temporarily suspended, Rodney Scott, commissioner of US Customs and Border Protection, announced Monday.

Scott said in a [video](#) posted to X he had landed in Texas and was on his way to visit the park and talk to local law enforcement and other stakeholders.

Sierra

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SIERRA CLUB

The Big Bend Region Is Losing Irreplaceable Pieces of US History

Beyond its environmental harms, border wall construction in West Texas is destroying archaeological sites

By Margret Grebowicz
August 14, 2026



Santa Elena Canyon in Big Bend National Park. (Mark & Pisside/Getty Images)

In West Texas, locals are near unanimous in their feeling that the Trump administration's plans for a border wall will change the Big Bend region irreparably. Local sheriffs have lamented the economic impacts to the region. Conservationists have bemoaned the ecological toll. And property owners have fretted about land seizures. Different sections of the border are slated for different kinds of barriers and roads, but all of it requires extensive excavation. Just this month, contractors arrived in Big Bend National Park (BBNP) to start bulldozing roads and leveling mountains.

Their plans include surveillance technology, vehicle barriers, and service roads through the national park. Similar structures, including more vehicle barriers, floating buoys meant to block river crossings, and service roads, are planned for the federally protected Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River and Amistad National Recreation Area. And while the destruction of ecosystems and the waiving of environmental laws have

Happenings of Interest

The Guardian US

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

The Guardian view Columnists Letters Opinion videos Cartoons

Opinion US news

Trump's plan to sell off a part of Yosemite is what oligarchy looks like

Rebecca Solnit



Public lands belong to all of us. No one should plunder those lands for profit

Mon 31 Aug 2026 06:00 EDT

< Share 56



📷 'To give away a piece of land is one form of harm to the parks.' Photograph: Anadolu/Getty Images

LINCOLN SQUARE

ARTICLES

Edward Abbey Warned Us About This. Trump Is Doing It Anyway.

The Desert Solitaire author wanted fewer roads in national parks. This White House wants to build a new one in Yosemite for a private developer's profit.

SUSAN J. DEMAS
AUG 28, 2026

176 16 66 Share



"Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit."

— Edward Abbey

Bob Gardner's Federal Check in and Update



ESSRP Strategic Support

- 30 years Federal agency experience
- Chair of Eastern Sierra Land Trust Board of Directors
- Two term Mono County Supervisor
- Raised in Bishop, CA

What they are saying: Leaders from across the state celebrate transformative economic investments through California Jobs First

SACRAMENTO – Yesterday, Governor Gavin Newsom **announced \$48.5 million** in grants through the California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative to support 18 innovative projects throughout the state that will support the creation of 20,000 jobs while advancing regional economic priorities in California's key economic sectors.

Governor Newsom **launched** the Regional Investment Initiative in 2021 to create good-paying, accessible jobs and sustainable economic growth by building statewide collaboratives and identifying regional strengths and opportunities. To date, the initiative has now invested \$434.5 million in communities across California.

This **latest round of awards** spans seven project clusters across 33 counties, focused on advancing the aerospace & defense, advanced manufacturing, high-tech, shipbuilding and quantum sectors. These investments follow the \$80 million that was **distributed** in August 2025, which supported 11 projects across seven economic regions and 18 counties. These projects focused on uplifting the Jobs First pilot sectors – aerospace & defense, agtech & farm equipment, bioeconomy and life sciences – and are expected to create more than 23,000 jobs across California.

Regional leaders, partners and grantees are supporting this historic momentum to uplift California's diverse economic regions and priority industries.

PRESS RELEASE

Cal Poly Maritime Academy Hosts Governor Newsom for Announcement of California Jobs First Grants



AUGUST 27, 2026

More than \$48 million in funding unveiled, including nearly \$6 million to advance the academy's maritime workforce and economic development — among more than \$8 million of investment in the Bay/Delta region's shipbuilding sector

Contact: Matt Lazier
805-756-7109; mlazier@calpoly.edu

VALLEJO, Calif. — Cal Poly Maritime Academy hosted Gov. Gavin Newsom, California State University Chancellor Mildred Garcia, Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong and state, regional and university leaders Wednesday on Mare Island for the announcement of \$48.5 million in California Jobs First investments designed to strengthen key industries, expand workforce development and support the creation of 20,000 jobs statewide.

The announcement included more than \$8.2 million for the Bay/Delta region's shipbuilding sector to strengthen innovation, expand workforce development and curriculum, and improve coordination across the region's shipbuilding network.

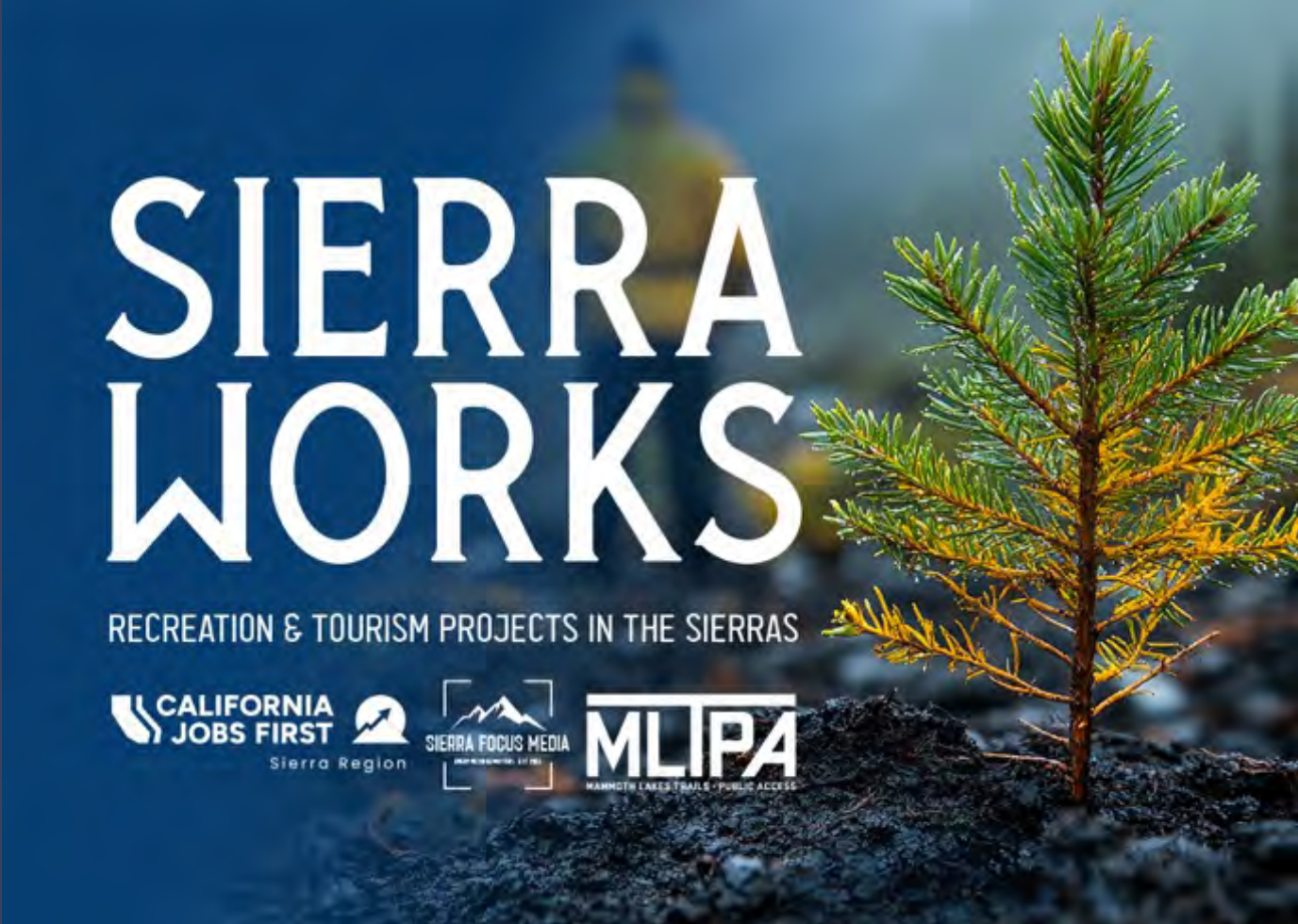
As part of that regional investment, Cal Poly Maritime Academy has been awarded \$5.8 million in California Jobs First funding to advance maritime workforce and industry development initiatives,

Governor Newsom awards \$48.5 million to drive economic growth and advance innovation across the state, supporting the creation of 20,000 new jobs

What you need to know: California is investing \$48.5 million through the California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative to support 18 projects across eight economic regions. The investments are expected to support the creation of 20,000 jobs while advancing regional economic priorities in key sectors across the state.

VALLEJO – Governor Gavin Newsom today joined leaders from Solano County, Cal Poly Maritime Academy and the California Jobs First Bay Area Region on Mare Island to announce \$48.5 million in funding to support 18 projects spanning eight economic regions and 33 counties. These awards, which are expected to support the creation of 20,000 direct and indirect jobs, build on more than four years of regional planning, project development and investment through the **California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative**.





**SIERRA
WORKS**

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS

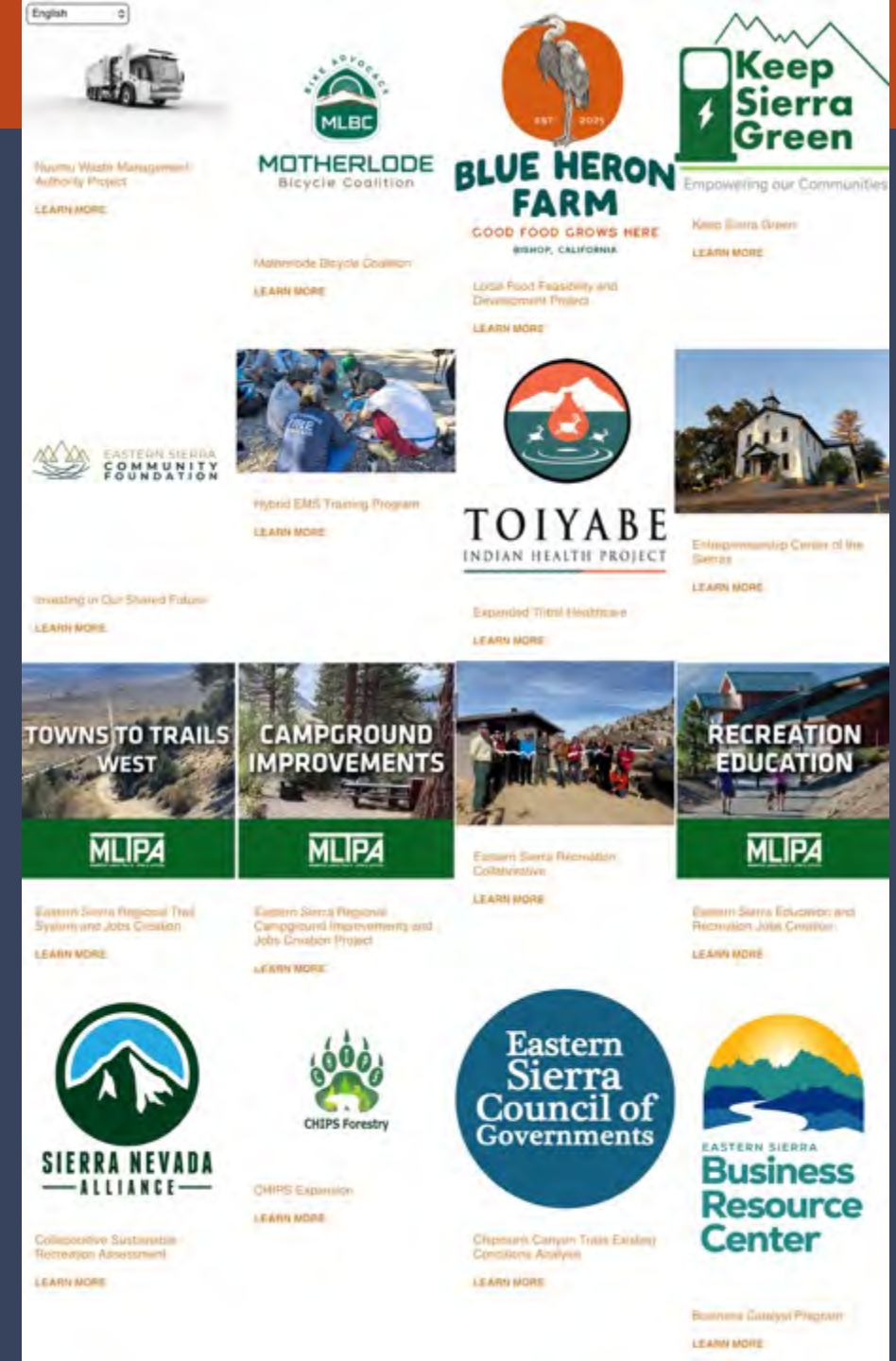
 **CALIFORNIA
JOBS FIRST**
Sierra Region

 **SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA**
IMPROVING THE LIFE OF THE SIERRAS

 **MLTPA**
MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS • PUBLIC ACCESS

Industry Sector Coordination Ends Today – August 31

Sept 30



Sierra Jobs First CATALYST Projects



Erika Harvey

ESSRP Update

To: John Wentworth, Erin Murphy

inbox: 5...@mlipa.org

August 27, 2026 at 1:17 PM

Hi John,

Here is the ESSRP update for the CJF No Cost Ext...

- SBC has received and signed our No Cost Extension Amendment with the state.
- This amendment will allow SBC as the convenor to continue overseeing Catalyst projects and the compliance of approved catalyst projects until June 2027.
- This amendment does not allow us to add money or move money, the only change is the contract end date for catalyst projects.
- As of right now, SBC opened and closed an application window for the 38 catalyst projects to apply for a No Cost Extension amendment. 24 projects applied, and our team is working diligently to review the requests and get back to projects before September 15.
- The No Cost is a unique opportunity that the state has given projects more time to wrap up their goals and deliverables.

Let me know if you need anything else!

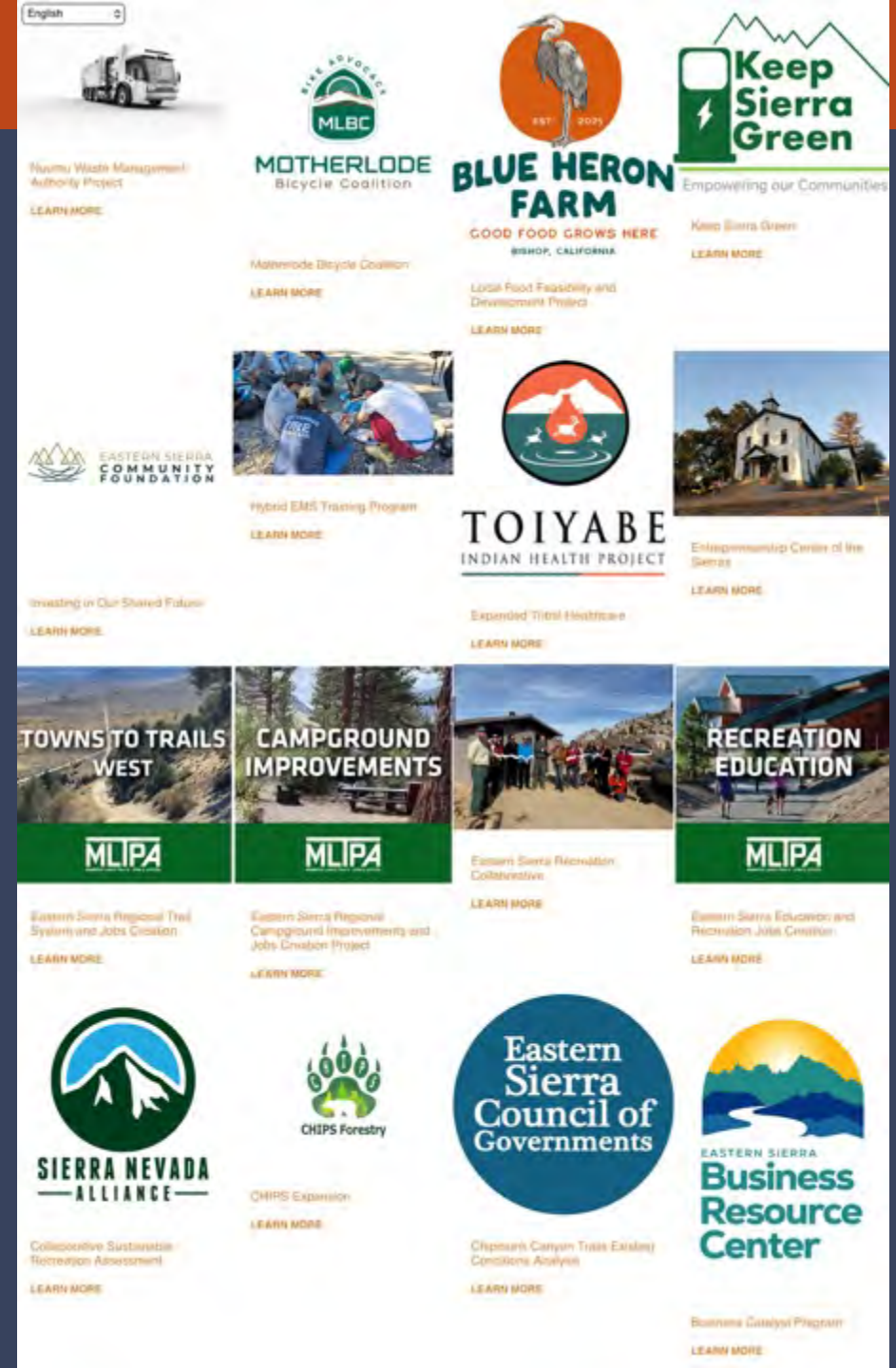


Erika Harvey

Director, Economic Empowerment

eharvey@sierrabusiness.org | (530) 562-4996 ext 118 |

Catalyzing innovative solutions to foster community vitality, environmental quality, economic prosperity, and social fairness in the Sierra Nevada.



* Seven Arts Alliance

THE UNION DEMOCRAT

FEATURED

Sierra art exhibition “from Here to There” makes final stop in Jamestown

Guy McCarthy Aug 28, 2026 Updated Aug 28, 2026



2 of 12



A work by Tuolumne County artist Eleanor BonBon is part of the traveling art exhibition “from Here to There” presented this year in seven Central and Eastern Sierra counties.

THE UNION DEMOCRAT

FEATURED

Sierra art exhibition “from Here to There” makes final stop in Jamestown

Guy McCarthy Aug 28, 2026 Updated Aug 28, 2026



8 of 12



Work by Inyo County artist Rodney Thompson is part of the traveling art exhibition “from Here to There” now in Jamestown.
Courtesy art / Rodney Thompson



Chipmunk Canyon Phase 1 Study

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments
ESCOG Board Update | August 26, 2026

alta

* ESCOG - Chipmunk Canyon Trails Existing Conditions Analysis

What we heard - Public Input Map

52 Features or Destinations:

- Bike trails
- Scenic viewpoints
- Trail junctions
- Rock features
- Local landmarks

CHIPMUNK CANYON

LEGEND

□ Chipmunk Canyon Study Area

● Parking Areas

Trails

— Primary Walking Trails (Strava Data)

— Primary Biking Trails (Strava Data)

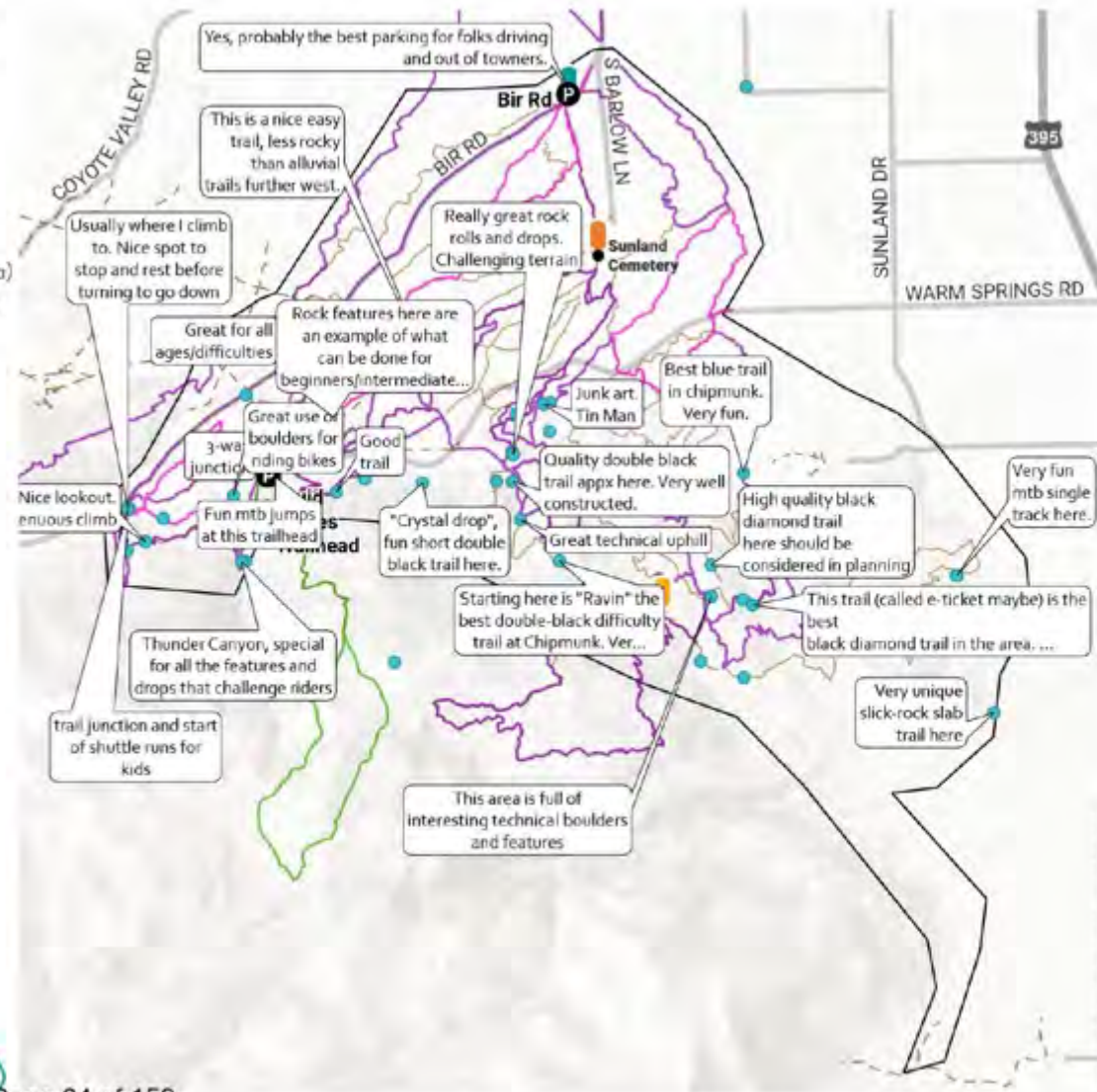
— Other Existing Trails

— BLM Routes

— Druid Stones Trail

Input Map Comments

● Features or Destinations



alta

0 1/4 1/2 MILES

* ESCOG - Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative



Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative

*Building Resilience Through Collaboration in the
Eastern Sierra*

Eastern Sierra Recreation Organizational Landscape Assessment

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) is conducting this assessment to better understand the organizations working in recreation across Inyo and Mono Counties. The goal is to identify existing strengths, clarify organizational roles, understand capacity limitations, and explore opportunities for improved regional coordination. The findings will help determine whether a regional recreation collaborative would add value and what services or tools would best support participating organizations. Thank you for your participation, the survey should take 10-15 minutes.

durt@pacbell.net [Switch account](#)

Not shared



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Google Forms

* MLTPA – Campgrounds – Pleasant Valley

Pleasant Valley Campground

HOME » SERVICES » PARKS & RECREATION » CAMPGROUNDS
» PLEASANT VALLEY CAMPGROUND



Pleasant Valley Campground

You can make a reservation for this campground
at <https://www.reserveamerica.com>

Reservations are currently available through May. June through October is first
come, first served.

Pictures of each site are available at [reserveamerica.com](https://www.reserveamerica.com)

CAMPFIRES ARE CURRENTLY ALLOWED IN THE FIRE RINGS

Location

Via U.S. 395, 6 miles NW of Bishop. Turn north on Pleasant Valley Road. 1 mile to
campground.



AUGUST 2026

John Northmore Roberts & Associates
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS & LAND PLANNERS

Maki Landscape
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

MLTPA

INYO
COUNTY



Pleasant Valley Campground

PLAN VIEW
SCHEMATIC DESIGN





* MLTPA – Campgrounds – Utica Rocky Point

**Forest Service**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MENU

Recreation Region: [Hwy 4 - Calaveras Ranger District](#)

Rocky Point Campground

Rocky Point Campground offers a rustic setting on the shore of Utica Reservoir. Utica Reservoir is set in a granite basin surrounded by red fir and lodgepole pine forest. The area is popular for fishing, camping, and boating. The reservoir has many islands and is kept mostly full. Granite slabs along the shore extend into the water. Elevation is 6,800 feet.





Reservations

General Information

The campground operates on a first-come, first-served basis.

Operational Hours

+

Restrictions

+

MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS AND PUBLIC ACCESS FOUNDATION

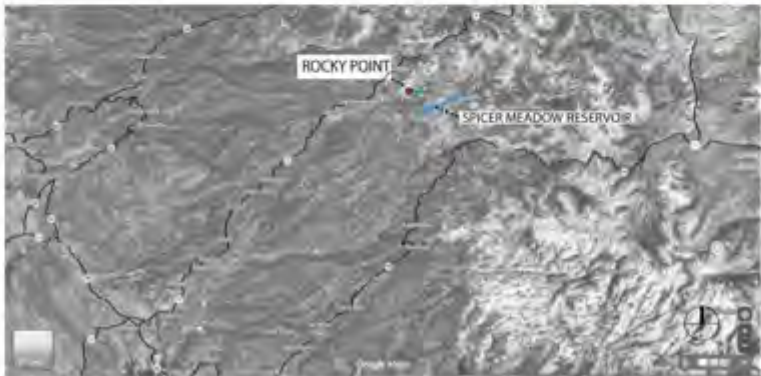
ROCKY POINT CAMPGROUND

STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

LIST OF DRAWINGS

L0.00	COVER SHEET
L0.01	CAMPGROUND CONTEXT MAP
L0.02	SCHEMATIC CAMP SITE TYPICAL DETAILS
L1.00	UTICA - ROCKY POINT CAMPGROUND - OVERALL SITE PLAN
L1.01	UTICA - ROCKY POINT CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT

LOCATION MAPS



PROJECT TEAM

MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS AND PUBLIC ACCESS FOUNDATION
www.mltpa.org
(760) 709 1493

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:
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(510) 843 3666

MAKO LANDSCAPE
Maki Boyle, Project Manager
1225 Rowland Circle
Reno, NV 89509
(415) 515 0879

TRIAD HOLMES ASSOCIATES
Brooks Bryant, Surveyor
549 Old Mammoth Road #202
PO Box 1570
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 934 7588



UTICA ROCKY POINT
CAMPGROUND
SCHEMATIC PLANS
COVER SHEET

MAP TO SCALE

AS SHOWN

AS SHOWN

L0.00

1 OF 5



PROJECT TITLE
ROCKY PT. CAMPGROUND AREA 1
 UTICA RESERVOIR
 TUOLUMNE COUNTY
 CA 95364
 Stanislaus National Forest
 Schematic Design

DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
12/05/24	PRELIMINARY SD	△
05/07/26	DRAFT SD	△
08/25/26	FINAL SD	△

SHEET TITLE
 UTICA ROCKY POINT CAMPGROUND
 SCHEMATIC PLANS
 SITE PLAN

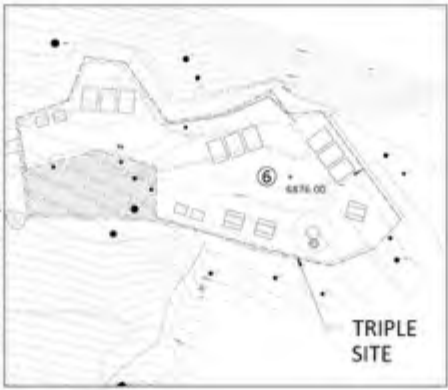
SCALE
 1" = 20'-0"

DESIGNER
 JNA

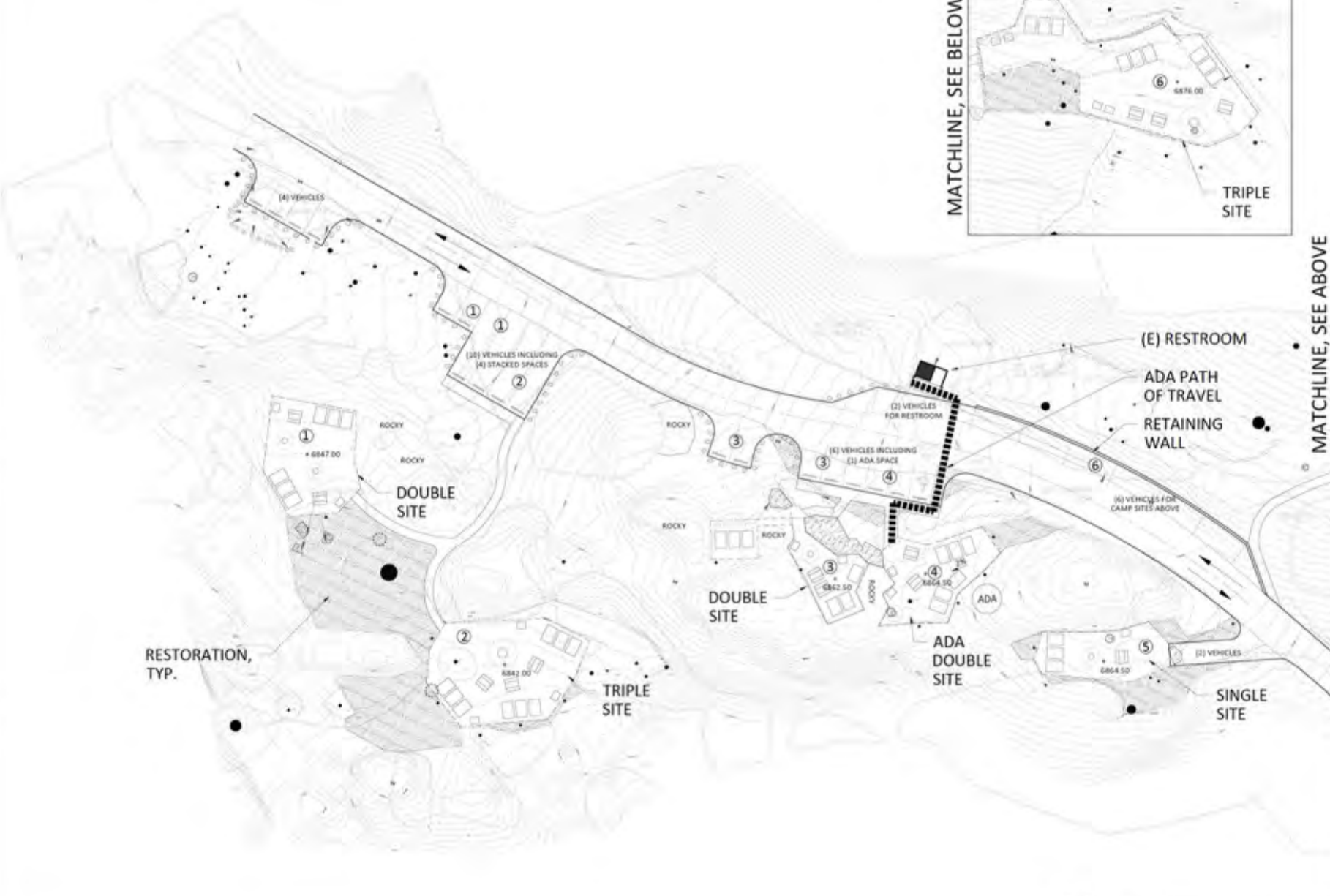
PROJECT NUMBER
 846

SHEET NUMBER
L1.01
 5 OF 5

MATCHLINE, SEE BELOW



MATCHLINE, SEE ABOVE



* MLTPA – Campgrounds

MAMMOTH LAKES TRAIL SYSTEM

Search Mammothtrails

TRAILS DESTINATIONS ACTIVITIES

Coldwater Campground

Overview Map



Set at 9,000 feet in a forest of lodgepole pine above Lake Mary, between the tumbling waters of Coldwater and Mammoth creeks, this popular campground offers convenient access to the John Muir Wilderness (via Duck Pass), the Emerald Lake/Sky Meadows and Heart Lake trails, and a quarter-mile self-guided walking tour of the historic Mammoth Consolidated Mine site. Facilities include flush toilets, drinking water, picnic tables, campfire rings and bear-proof food storage. Open June through September, conditions permitting. Fee required for camping. Reservations for Coldwater Campground can be made online at recreation.gov.

Info Directions

Destination Activities

Public Services

Hours of Operation: All day

Seasons: Summer Fall

Reviews

Submit a review

Your Name:

Your Email:

MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS AND PUBLIC ACCESS FOUNDATION COLDWATER CREEK CAMPGROUND INYO NATIONAL FOREST

LIST OF DRAWINGS

L0.00	COVER SHEET
L0.01	STANDARD CAMPSITE PLANS & TYPICAL SECTIONS
L1.00	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - OVERALL SITE PLAN
L1.01	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT
L1.02	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT
L1.03	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT
L1.04	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT
L1.05	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT
L1.06	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT
L1.07	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT
L1.08	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT
L1.09	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT
L1.10	COLDWATER CAMPGROUND - ENLARGEMENT

LOCATION MAPS



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(510) 843 3666
www.johnnorthmore.com

COLDWATER CAMPGROUND

MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546

Schematic Design

COVER SHEET

L0.00

- 40 ADDITIONAL TREES TO BE REMOVED
- 8 SITES REMOVED
- 8 NEW SITES
- 7A CAMPSITES TOTAL
- 9 RESTROOMS TOTAL
- (D) DISTURBED AREA TO BE RESTORED 137,635 SFT
- NET DISTURBED AREA: 271,004 SFT
(ROADS, SPIRES, TENT PADS, BUILDINGS, PEDESTRIAN PATHS)
- ASPHALT ROADS AND PARKING
- ACCESSIBLE ROUTES (AC)
- CURB CUTS WITH DRAINAGE BASINS
- 2" DRYSTACK RETAINING WALL
- SPEED CONTROL FEATURE



885 Coyote Creek Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 843-7000
www.immunitymultimedia.com

MAMMOTH LAKES,
CA 93546

Schematic Design

Year	Population	Population
1990	100	100
1995	105	105
2000	110	110
2005	115	115
2010	120	120
2015	125	125
2020	130	130
2025	135	135
2030	140	140
2035	145	145
2040	150	150
2045	155	155
2050	160	160
2055	165	165
2060	170	170
2065	175	175
2070	180	180
2075	185	185
2080	190	190
2085	195	195
2090	200	200
2095	205	205
2100	210	210

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Page 10 of 10

OVERALL SITE PLAN

ALL HOTEL SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

Figure 1	Figure 2
-----------------	-----------------

Page 1 of 10

L1.00

MAMMOTH LAKES,
CA 93546

Schematic Design

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
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HISTONE SCHEMATIC DESIGN

WASH STATE

SITE PLAN ENLARGEMENT

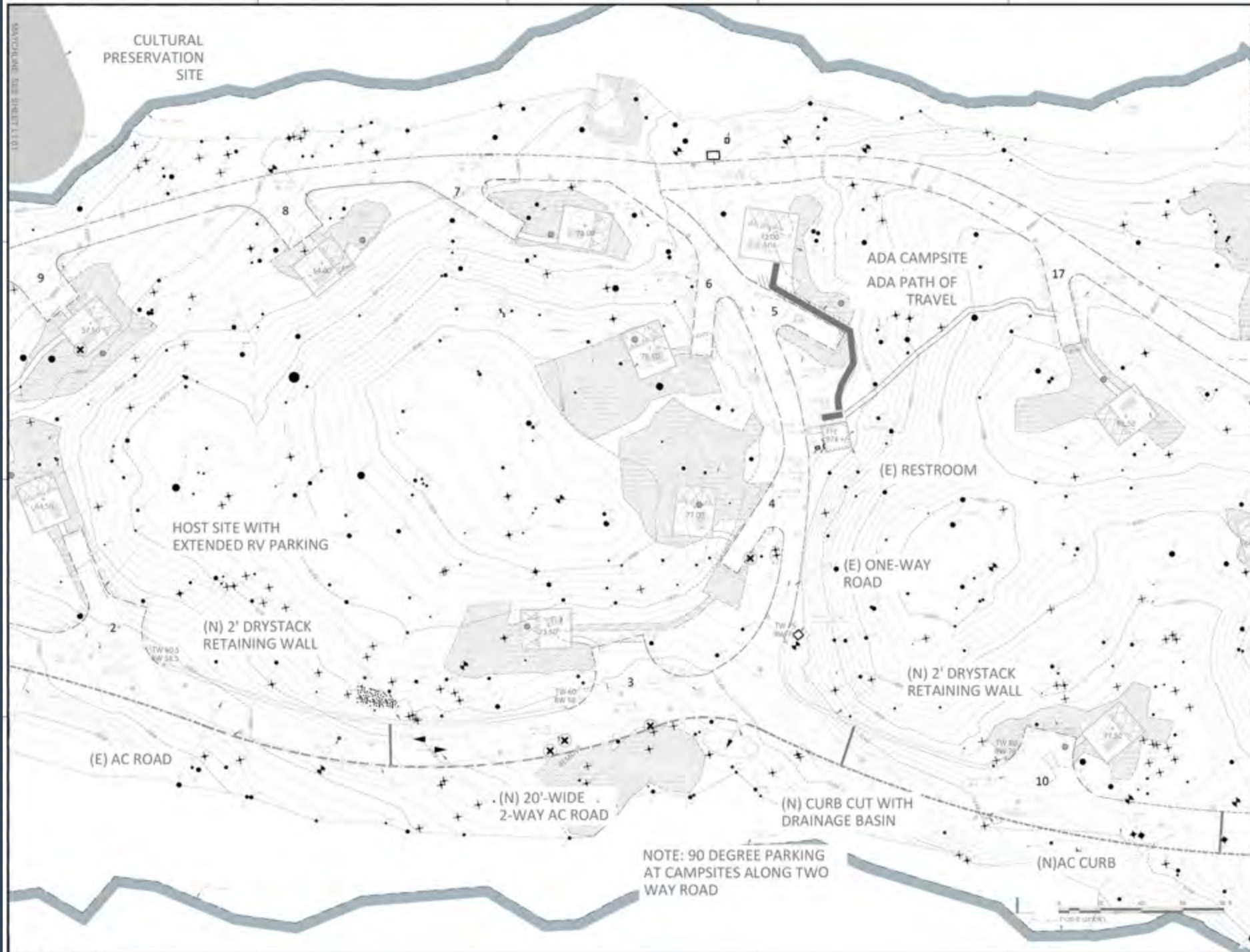
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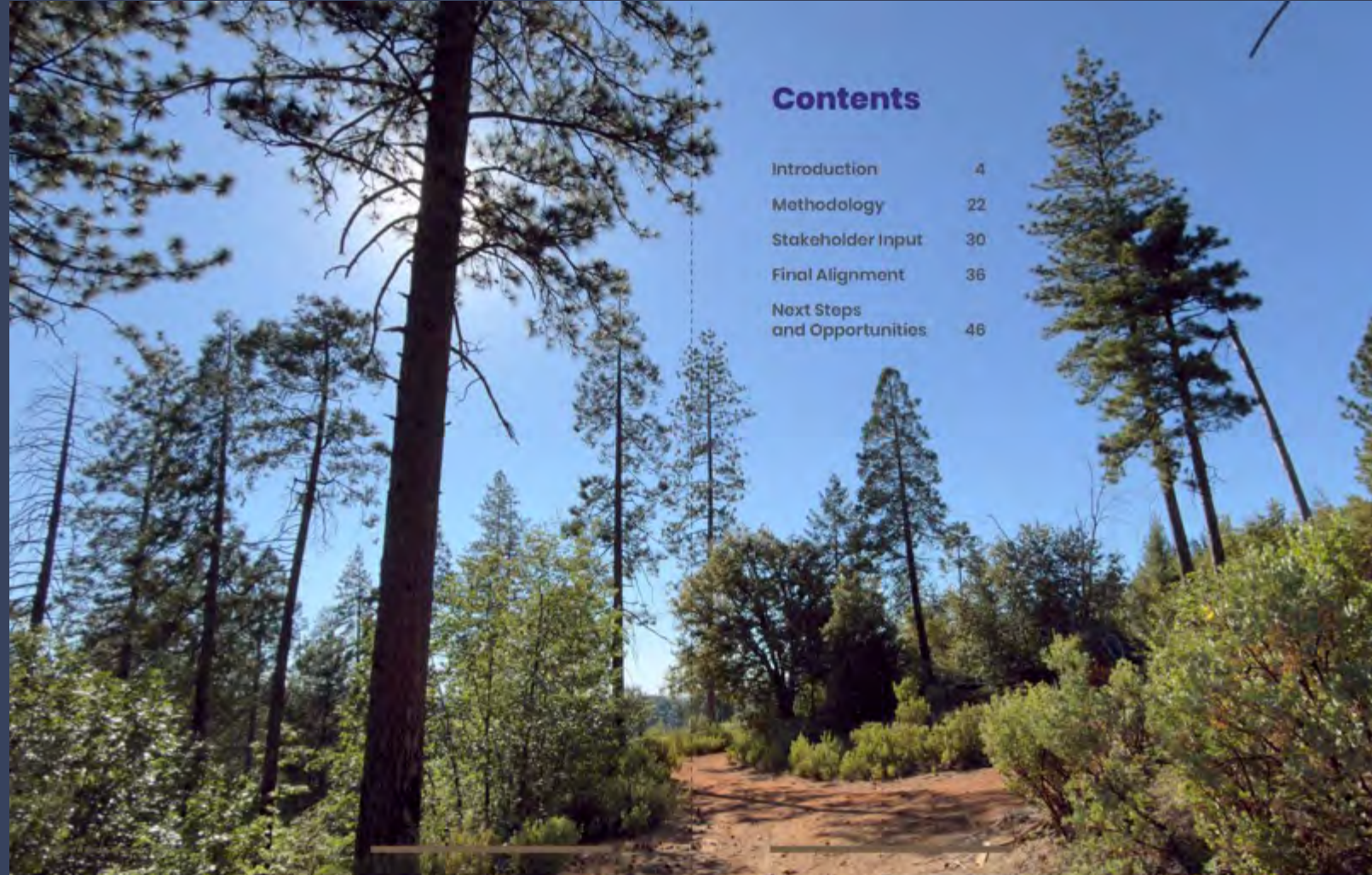
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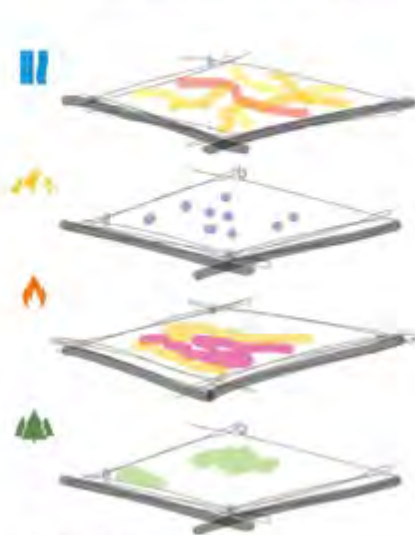
S. SORACE



* MLTPA – Towns to Trails Westside



RASTER INPUTS



Raster inputs are combined and weighted

COST SURFACE



TIER 1: National Forest System (NFS) Trails

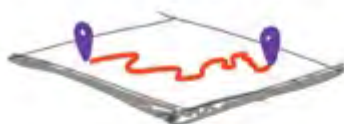
TIER 2: NFS Roads Closed to Motor Vehicles

TIER 3: NFS Unpaved Roads

TIER 4: NFS Paved Roads + Public Local Roads (Functional Class 7)

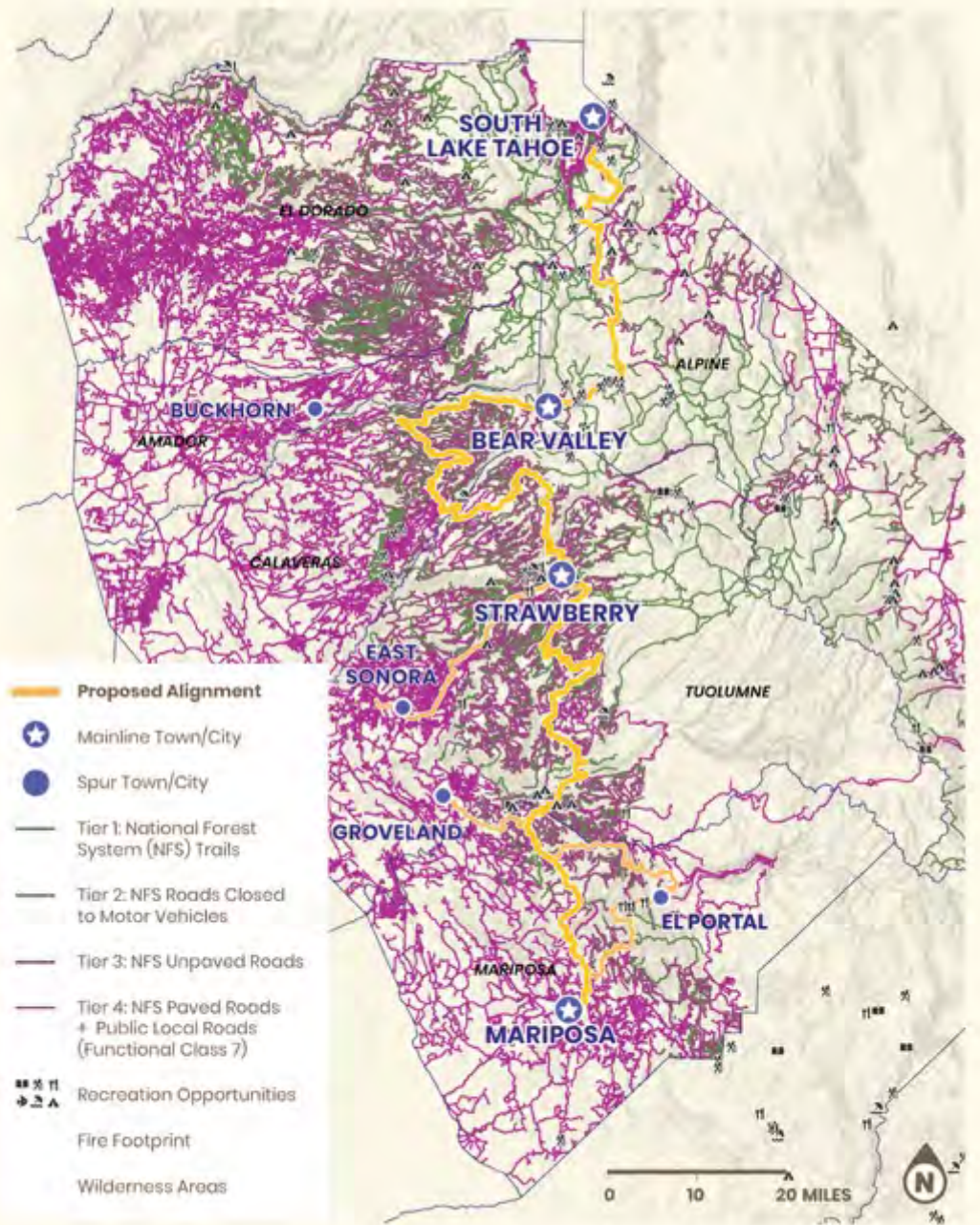
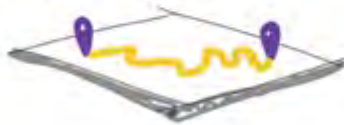
GIS processes a least cost path between a start point and end point

LEAST COST PATH



Path is ground-truthed and reviewed by the public

PROPOSED ALIGNMENT





Final Alignment

Regional Overview

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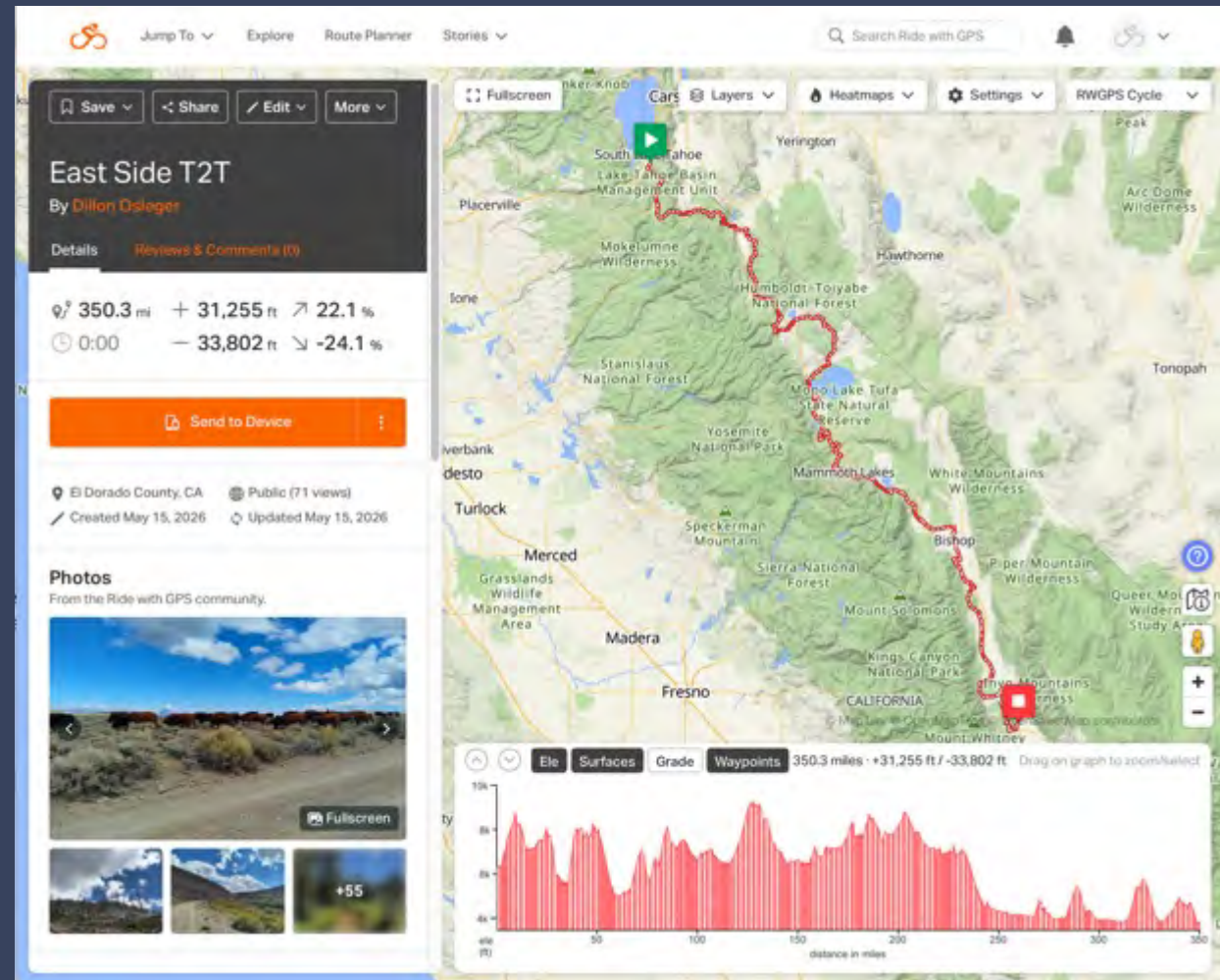
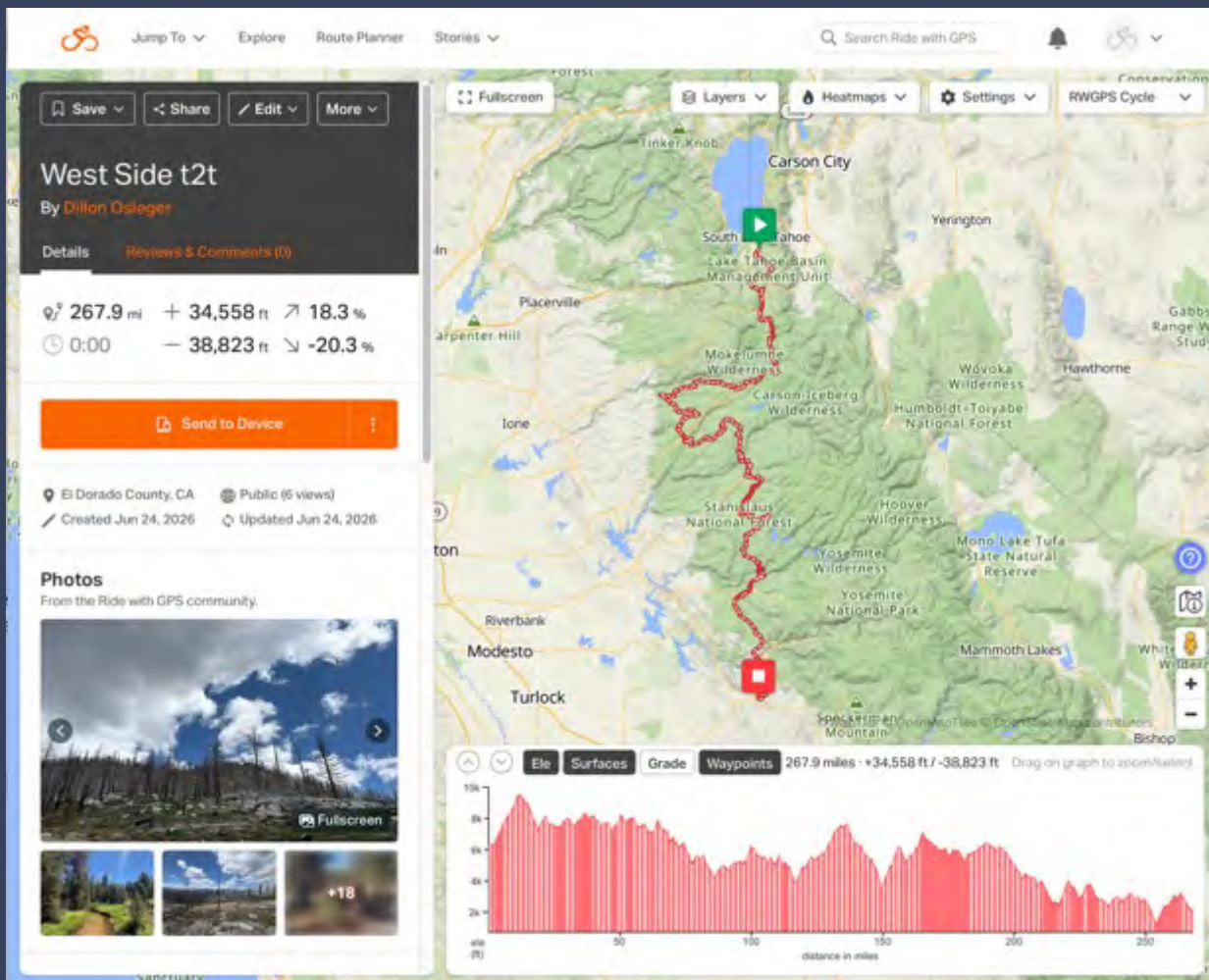
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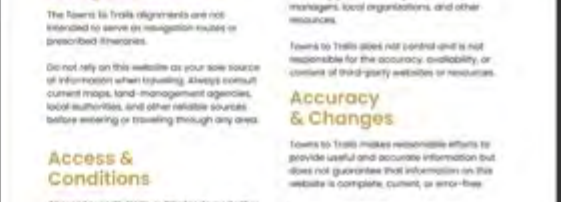
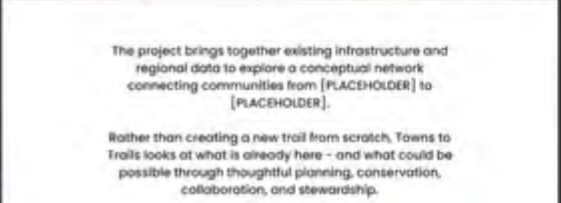




5

Next Steps and Opportunities







ROUTES +ABOUTTERMS OF USE

EASTERN REGIONWESTERN REGIONSUB-LOOPS

Connecting towns, trails, and the landscapes between them.

Towns to Trails is a vision for connecting communities across the Eastern Sierra through a network of existing roads, trails, public lands, and open space.

Explore the Alignments >

A CONNECTED LANDSCAPE

From mountain communities to wide-open high desert, Towns to Trails highlights the landscapes, public lands, and existing infrastructure that helps connect communities across the region.

The project brings together existing roads and trails to envision a more connected future while recognizing the need for thoughtful planning, conservation, stewardship, and continued community engagement.

Routes

ONE CONNECTED VISION

Towns to Trails brings together three alignments across the Eastern Sierra, each offering a different perspective on the region's communities, landscapes, public lands, and existing trail and road infrastructure.

Explore each side of the project to learn more about the landscapes and communities that make up the Towns to Trails vision.

East AlignmentWest Alignment

Explore the eastern alignment and discover the communities, landscapes, and existing infrastructure that shape this side of Towns to Trails.

Discover East >

Discover West >



More than a line on the map.

The Towns to Trails alignments are part of a larger effort to understand how existing infrastructure can connect communities while supporting responsible recreation, conservation, and long-term stewardship.

These alignments represent a vision for connection — not a prescribed itinerary. Conditions, access, land management, and allowable uses can change, so visitors should always confirm current information before traveling.

Learn About Towns to Trails >



ROUTES +ABOUTTERMS OF USE

West Alignment

Where communities meet the landscape.

The western alignment of Towns to Trails connects a collection of prominent two public lands, roads, and trails across the Eastern Sierra.

Explore the Vision >

1,027 MILES13,500 FEET100% K

HARD TO STEEP SLOPESCOLORADO SPRINGS, UTARIDGEL, EAST PASS

WEST ALIGNMENT INTERACTIVE TRAIL MAP PLACEHOLDER

MILE 300 - 310

You'll find gravel roads, trails, and more from 300 to 310.

WEST ALIGNMENT TRAIL DIRECTOR

Ask to edit

Credits



ROUTES +ABOUTTERMS OF USE

A vision for a more connected Eastern Sierra.

Towns to Trails grew from a simple idea: what if the existing roads, trails, public lands, and communities across the Eastern Sierra could be understood as part of a larger connected landscape?

The project brings together existing infrastructure and regional data to explore a conceptual network connecting communities from [PLACEHOLDER] to [PLACEHOLDER].

Rather than creating a new trail from scratch, Towns to Trails looks at what is already here - and what could be possible through thoughtful planning, conservation, collaboration, and stewardship.

Building the Bigger Picture

Towns to Trails is a feasibility and data-gathering effort focused on understanding existing connections across the region.

The work considers the landscape as a whole, including existing roads and trails, public lands, communities, environmental considerations, land management, and the many people and organizations that care for these places.

What Comes Next

A connected trail network takes more than a line on a map.

Future work may include additional environmental analysis, addressing alignment gaps, continued engagement with communities, agencies and tribes, trail identification and labeling, maintenance planning, and integrating wildlife resilience into future trail planning.

Towns to Trails is an evolving vision — one shaped by the land, the people who live here, and the organizations working to care for it.

Credits

Towns to Trails is a collaborative effort led by:



ROUTES +ABOUTTERMS OF USE

Terms of Use

Please read before exploring Towns to Trails.

The Towns to Trails website is provided as an informational resource to help users learn about the Towns to Trails project, its conceptual alignments, surrounding landscapes, and conservation and planning efforts.

By using this website, you agree to the Terms of Use >

Informational Purposes Only

The information presented on this website is provided for general informational, educational, and planning purposes only. Towns to Trails does not provide turn-by-turn navigation, trip planning, or recommendations for specific itineraries.

Maps, alignments, distances, descriptions, photographs, and other information presented on this site may be conceptual, approximate, or subject to change.

Not a Navigation Tool

The Towns to Trails alignments are not intended to serve as navigation routes or prescribed itineraries.

Do not rely on this website as your sole source of information when traveling. Always consult current maps, land-management agencies, local authorities, and other reliable sources before entering or traveling through any area.

Access & Conditions

Access to roads, trails, public lands, and other areas shown on this website may change over time. Conditions, restrictions, weather, fire conditions, construction, maintenance, seasonal conditions, land-management decisions, and other circumstances may affect access or allowable uses.

Users are responsible for determining whether an area is open and whether their intended use is permitted before visiting.

Respect the Land

Please respect public lands, private property, local communities, wildlife, natural resources, and protected regulations.

Stay on designated or legally accessible routes, follow current land-management guidance, respect closures and restrictions, and practice responsible stewardship of the places you visit.

Third-Party Information & Links

This website may reference or link to information maintained by third parties, including government agencies, land managers, local organizations, and other resources.

Towns to Trails does not control and is not responsible for the accuracy, availability, or content of third-party websites or resources.

Safety

Outdoor travel involves inherent risks, including but not limited to changing weather, fire, wildlife, terrain, road conditions, remote locations, and limited access to emergency services.

Users are responsible for assessing conditions, preparing appropriately, and making their own decisions about whether and how to travel.

Accuracy & Changes

Towns to Trails makes reasonable efforts to provide useful and accurate information but does not guarantee that information on this website is complete, current, or error-free.

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Content may not be reproduced, distributed, modified, or used commercially without prior written permission, except where otherwise permitted by law.

Help Shape the Future of Towns to Trails

* MLTPA – Towns to Trails Westside





Bikepacking Lake Tahoe to Mammoth Lakes Showcases the Sierra Nevada's Best Small Towns

CALIFORNIA

by DILLON OSLEGER OCT 14, 2024



AI Travel Genius

The East side of the Sierra Nevada is most often considered as the host to distinct destinations along Highway 395: the 14,505-foot Mt. Whitney towering above the town of Lone Pine, Bishop for its rock climbing, Mammoth Mountain for skiing, and maybe even Bridgeport if you're a fan of summertime rodeo or hot springs. All too often, the 395 is considered a prettier detour alternative to Highway 5, providing a more scenic vista out of the windshield on the way from Los Angeles to Lake Tahoe. The miles inbetween resorts or trailheads for outdoor recreation are simply sped by at 65 miles per hour. It is exactly this fast-paced place hopping that makes the Eastern Sierra one of the last best places in the western United States for finding solitude, nature, and community just off the asphalt. As a local to Lake Tahoe, this is where I escape from the summer and autumn crowds to find groves of orange aspens, clean flowing creeks, and wonders of nature and history, all without a soul in sight, allowing for a slowing down of the pace of life, right in tune with the seasonal change towards winter.



Biking • Mammoth

Could This Become the PCT for Bikes? Inside the Eastern Sierra Towns to Trails Vision

August 19, 2026 Alex Silgalis



Photo by: Jaime Pirozzi • Local Freshies®

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Imagine unloading your bike in South Lake Tahoe and pointing it south.

But you're not in the Eastern Sierra yet.

First, you have to climb out of the Tahoe Basin, cross Armstrong Pass and drop through Charity Valley toward Markleeville. Through Charity Valley, you'd actually be traveling in reverse along part of the route John C. Frémont and Kit Carson used during their brutal 1844 crossing of the Sierra.

Table of Contents

- What Exactly Is Towns to Trails?
- Think Bikepacking, Not Bike Park.
- Pearls on a Chain
- The Eastern Sierra Changes When You Get Out of the Car



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Home Caltrans Near Me District 10 District 10 Current Projects

State Route 4 Pavement Anchor Project

State Route 4 Pavement Anchor Project

Project Description

This project proposes to rehabilitate the existing asphalt concrete (AC) pavement on State Route (SR) 4 in Alpine County from postmile (PM) R0.0 to 31.67. The project limits reside on the United States Forest Service's (USFS) property. The rehabilitation includes overlay, dig outs, cold planning, upgrading AC dikes and curbs, and constructing shoulder backing. This multi-objective "Anchor" Project also proposes to remove and replace the culverts, metal beam guardrails, and roadside signs. The project also proposes to construct a maintenance vehicle pullout (MVP) on SR 89 at PM 10.8.

Current Schedule

Spring 2019 (A)	Project Study Report (M010)
Fall 2022 (A)	Project Approval & Environmental Document (M200)
Spring 2025 (A)	Right of Way Certification (M410)
Summer 2025 (A)	Ready to List (M460)
Spring 2026 (T)	Approved Construction Contract (M500)
Fall 2030 (T)	Project Completion (M600)



Project Benefits

* MLTPA – Towns to Trails Westside



East Side Sierra
Towns to Trails

California

355

USFS, BLM

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL TRAILS

The review identified 13 trails as "potential" trails; these are trails that are projects in progress towards meeting the criteria for "existing trails."

Trail Name	State(s)	Total Distance Currently	Total Distance When Complete	Federal Agency
Towns to Trails	California	355	355	USFS, BLM

stepping stone to completion of some of these large ambitious projects that already have a lot of backing behind them.



Trail Name	State(s)	Total Distance Currently	Total Distance When Complete	Federal Agency
Towns to Trails	California	355	355	USFS, BLM
Great Basin Trail	Nevada	657	657	BLM, USFS
Highline National Recreation Trail	Arizona	67	82	USFS
Orogenesis	Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California	~3,500	~3,500	USFS, BLM
Ring the Peak Trail	Colorado	63	87	USFS
Santa Ana Mountains Traverse	California	85	85	USFS
Southern Trek Iditarod Trail	Alaska	84	107	USFS
Tour de Poudre	Colorado	90	90	USFS
Velomont Trail	Vermont	86	485	USFS
Verde Valley Circle Trail	Arizona	~70	150	USFS

See the Potential Trails section for more details on each trail and what is needed to complete or further develop the trail to meet the criteria of an existing trail.

* MLTPA – Eastern Sierra Education and Recreation Jobs Creation





About ▾ Collaborative ▾ Strategic Plan Regional Summary Catalyst Projects Get Involved

Training the Next Generation: Catalyst Project Celebrates Achievements of First Class of Outdoor Professionals



Photo Credit: MLTPA

Training the next generation of Outdoor Recreation professionals is vital to California's public lands, and last week, five students stepped into that future.

Last Wednesday, MLTPA, through its Catalyst award for [Eastern Sierra Education and Jobs Creation](#), along with its partners [Cerro Coso Community College](#) and [Columbine College](#), celebrated a praise-worthy project milestone as five students were celebrated for their achievements in the inaugural class of the training program.

This project is building the pipeline for the next generation of forest, recreation, climate, and conservation professionals as part of a degree pathway program and opening new job and career opportunities in our seven-county region.

Find more info on the program here <https://ca23.usps.gov/H05Skw0Q>

The students are now looking forward to careers protecting and stewarding the public lands we all love as they strengthen the region's outdoor recreation economy.

What's more, per Peter Fuhs, Department Chair and Professor at Cerro Coso: **"All five students have received open job offers, with two accepting positions on the western slope and three considering job placements along the eastern Sierra!"**

 Official Site of the State of California



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Jobs ▾

Keywords

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Enter a keyword and/or location to find jobs.

158

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+ [View Most Recent](#)

5.3

Unemployment Rate

+ [View Details](#)

5,504

Resumes updated this week

+ [Update Your Resume](#)

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector





Sierra Region

[About](#) [Collaborative](#) [Strategic Plan](#) [Regional Summary](#) [Catalyst Projects](#)
[Get Involved](#)

ShinDig 2.0 Welcomed Sierra Jobs First Collaborators to Sonora for Updates, Site Visits, and Networking

ShinDig 2.0 convened a full-day session in Sonora August 21, hosted at Mother Lode Job Training, bringing together project stakeholders, local elected officials, and regional partners to showcase the impact of Sierra Jobs First as the contracting period draws to a close.

The morning session featured presentations highlighting Catalyst Projects from across the region, followed by closing remarks marking the culmination of the Industry Sector Coordinator work.

The afternoon gave attendees the opportunity to tour three regional Catalyst Projects firsthand, offering an on-the-ground look at the work taking shape across the Sierra Jobs First region and where these projects plan to head in the future once Jobs First concludes.



Beautiful Sonora, CA, was the backdrop for this year's All-Industry ShinDig.



Sierra Sourced showcased at Columbia Mercantile.



Suchumunu Farm site visit at Chicken Ranch Rancheria.



Sierra Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

SIERRA WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS



SIERRA WORKS

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



RICA

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION
AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION

Aug 31



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RECREATION PARTNERSHIP](#)[RECREATE RESPONSIBLY
CALIFORNIA](#)[TOWNS TO TRAILS PLAN](#)[BIRPI](#)[INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR
NATIONAL FORESTS](#)[SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND
TOURISM INITIATIVE](#)[RIVERS, TRAILS, AND
CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE](#)[EASTERN SIERRA RECREATION
COLLABORATIVE](#)

Sierra Jobs First



SIERRA JOBS FIRST - COORDINATOR

MLTPA applied for and was awarded a contract to serve as an Industry Sector Coordinator, assisting Sierra Jobs First in support of the "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism" industry sector, in partnership with our colleagues at Sierra Focus Media from the west side of the Sierra.



SIERRA JOBS FIRST - MLTPA PROJECTS

Working with regional partners across the seven-county Sierra Jobs First Region, MLTPA was awarded contracts to develop three recreation and tourism projects using Jobs First Catalyst funding: "Campgrounds", "Towns to Trails - Westside", and "Recreation Education".

Last updated August 12, 2026



This project was funded by [Sierra Jobs First](#) and created to support the initiative's mission of creating a community-led, climate-neutral, inclusive future for our industry in the Sierra region. Through our partnership with [Sierra Business Council](#), regional conveners and fiscal administrators for [California Jobs First](#) in the Sierra region, we provided industry-specific assistance that supported job growth, inclusive workforce development, and economic resilience, while protecting our region's natural lands and vibrant communities.

[OVERVIEW](#)[CALREC VISION](#)[SIERRA JOBS FIRST](#)[Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator](#)[Sierra Jobs First - MLTPA Projects](#)[EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE
RECREATION PARTNERSHIP](#)[RECREATE RESPONSIBLY
CALIFORNIA](#)[TOWNS TO TRAILS PLAN](#)[BIRPI](#)[INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR
NATIONAL FORESTS](#)[SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND
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SIERRA JOBS FIRST - MLTPA PROJECTS

Working with regional partners across the seven-county Sierra Jobs First Region, MLTPA was awarded contracts to develop three recreation and tourism projects using Jobs First Catalyst funding: "Campgrounds", "Towns to Trails - Westside", and "Recreation Education".

Last updated August 12, 2026



This project was funded by [Sierra Jobs First](#) and created to support the initiative's mission of creating a community-led, climate-neutral, inclusive future for our industry in the Sierra region. Through our partnership with [Sierra Business Council](#), regional conveners and fiscal administrators for [California Jobs First](#) in the Sierra region, we provided industry-specific assistance that supported job growth, inclusive workforce development, and economic resilience, while protecting our region's natural lands and vibrant communities.

SIERRA JOBS FIRST PROJECT WEBSITE

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CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST

Sierra Region

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST **SIERRA WORKS** **MLIPA**

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OVERVIEW

CALDEC VISION

SIERRA JOBS FIRST

Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator

Winning Strategy and Sierra RICA

Sierra Goals and Sierra Cohort

Pre-Design Process

Project Needs

Sierra Jobs First - ACTION

EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

RECREATE RESPONSIBLY CALIFORNIA

TOWNS TO TRAILS PLAN

SRP

INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NATIONAL FORESTS

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OVERVIEW

CALPEC VISION

SIERRA JOBS FIRST

Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator

Winning Strategy and Sierra RICA

Sierra Goals and Sierra Cohort

Pre-Design Process

Project Needs

Sierra Region / Sierra Jobs First

Sierra Jobs First - RICA

EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

RECREATE RESPONSIBLY CALIFORNIA

TOWNS TO TRAILS PLAN

SRP

INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NATIONAL FORESTS

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OVERVIEW
CALREC VISION
SIERRA JOBS FIRST
Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator
Winning Grants and Sierra RICA
Sierra Cohort and State Cohort Jobs
Pre-Design Project
Project Update
Wilderness/ Sierra Jobs First

EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE RECREATION PARTNERSHIP
RECREATE RESPONSIBLY CALIFORNIA
TOWNS TO TRAILS PLAN
BIRPT
INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NATIONAL FORESTS
SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND TOURISM INITIATIVE
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Project Description: The goal of the State Recreation and Tourism Cohort was to meet over the 16 months of the Catalyst phase of the California Jobs First initiative and draft a road map/white paper/tool outlining a direction for the future of sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism in California. "Recreation and Tourism" was placed in the "strengthen" category of the State of California's Economic Blueprint, which means it is important but not a priority sector for direct investment. The Recreation and Tourism Cohort brought together organizations, regions, and other entities from across the state working in these sectors because they remained critical to regional economic vitality, as identified in the Jobs First Regional plans. This group was especially important because of changes occurring at the federal level. Historically, California has relied on federal public land systems and institutions to manage and maintain

recreation infrastructure and programming on federal public lands, which make up over half of the state's geography.

State Cohort RICA (Recommendations for Implementation and Collaborative Action)



DOWNLOAD THE STATE COHORT RICA

The State Cohort RICA was developed from the "Recreation and Tourism Symposium of Practice" convened by MLPA & Redwood Region RISE. The recommendations reflect feedback identifying pathways to advance sustainable outdoor recreation, tourism, and arts & culture projects across the state.



DOWNLOAD VISIT CALIFORNIA COMMENTS ON DRAFT RICA

Visit California provided comments on the initial draft of the State Cohort RICA. MLPA and the Redwood Region RISE team worked with Visit California to incorporate their suggestions into the final draft. Visit California's original comments on the draft recommendations are available here.

OVERVIEW
CALREC VISION
SIERRA JOBS FIRST
Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator
Winning Grants and Sierra RICA
Sierra Cohort and State Cohort Jobs
Pre-Design Project
Project Update
Wilderness/ Sierra Jobs First

EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE RECREATION PARTNERSHIP
RECREATE RESPONSIBLY CALIFORNIA
TOWNS TO TRAILS PLAN
BIRPT
INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NATIONAL FORESTS
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State Cohort and State Cohort RICA

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CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST STATE COHORT

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OVERVIEW

CALDEC VISION

SIERRA JOBS FIRST

Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator

Winning Strategy and Sierra RICA

Sierra Cohort and State Cohort Jobs

My Catalyst Project

Projects Tracked

ESSRP Meetings / Sierra Jobs First

Sierra Jobs First Project Website

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CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST STATE ECONOMIC BLUEPRINT

- [California Jobs First State Economic Blueprint](#)

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Below are the Regional Strategic Strategies for all 13 California Jobs First Regions, listed in the numeric order designated by the State. Of these, nine regions have identified Recreation and Tourism as a key economic sector, and five have developed Activation Plans specific to this sector. Where applicable, those Activation Plans are included to highlight related strategies and actions.

- North State Region**
 - [North State Regional Strategy](#)
 - [North State Tourism Activation Plan](#)
- Redwood Region**
 - [Redwood Regional Strategy](#)
 - [Redwoods Regions Rise Arts and Culture Tourism Activation Plan](#)

OVERVIEW

CALDEC VISION

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST

Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator

Winning Strategy and Sierra RICA

Sierra Cohort and State Cohort Jobs

My Catalyst Project

Projects Tracked

ESSRP Meetings / Sierra Jobs First

Sierra Jobs First Project Website

Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership

Recreate Responsibly California

Towns to Trails Plan

SRP

Innovative Finance for National Forests

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 - [Redwoods Regions Rise Arts and Culture Tourism Activation Plan](#)
- Central San Joaquin Region**
 - [Central San Joaquin Regional Strategy](#)
 - [This region is currently documented on the "State Cohort" page.](#)
- Central Coast Region**
 - [Central Coast Regional Strategy](#)
- Kern County Region**
 - [Kern County Regional Strategy](#)
- Los Angeles County Region**
 - [Los Angeles County Regional Strategy](#)
- Island SoCal Region**
 - [Island SoCal Regional Strategy](#)
- Orange County Region**
 - [Orange County Regional Strategy](#)
 - [Orange County Tourism and Cultural Development Activation Plan](#)
- Southern Border Region**
 - [Southern Border Regional Strategy](#)
 - [Southern Border Arts and Culture Activation Plan](#)

VISIT CALIFORNIA REGIONAL STRATEGIES

- Central Coast**
 - [Central Coast Regional Strategy](#)
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- Deserts**
 - [Deserts Regional Strategy](#)
- Gold Country**
 - [Gold Country Regional Strategy](#)
- High Sierra**
 - [High Sierra Regional Strategy](#)
- Island Empire**
 - [Island Empire Regional Strategy](#)
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 - [San Diego Regional Strategy](#)
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- Shasta Cascade**
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Last updated August 20, 2025

OVERVIEW
CALDEC VISION
SIERRA JOBS FIRST
Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator
Working Group and Sierra RICA
State Cohort and State Cohort RICA
My Catalyst Project
ESSRP Meetings / Sierra Jobs First

EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE RECREATION PARTNERSHIP
RECREATE RESPONSIBLY CALIFORNIA
TOWNS TO TRAILS PLAN
BIRPT
INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NATIONAL FORESTS
SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND TOURISM INITIATIVE
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EASTERN SIERRA RECREATION COLLABORATIVE

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Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator



Project Description: MLPA applied for and was awarded a contract to serve as an Industry Sector Coordinator, assisting Sierra Jobs First in support of the "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism" industry sector, in partnership with our colleagues at Sierra Focus Media from the west side of the Sierra. Industry Sector Coordinators were boots-on-the-ground specialists, deeply knowledgeable about the industries and communities they serve. They were available to provide one-on-one, specialized technical assistance and counsel on Catalyst and Implementation processes and protocols and to facilitate representation, engagement, and collaboration within sectors. The Collaborative sought to engage Sector Investment Coordinators to advise on how to fund \$9 million in pre-development activities and provide technical assistance for Catalyst and Implementation Fund grant applications in execution of the California Jobs First Catalyst grant awarded to the region.



WORKING GROUP AND SIERRA RICA
Drawing on input from the regional Working Group, MLPA, in partnership with Sierra Focus Media, developed a set of Recommendations for Implementation and Collaborative Action (RICA) for the Sierra region. Find more information about the Sierra RICA and the working group meetings here.



STATE COHORT AND STATE COHORT RICA
A goal of the State Cohort was to draft a set of Recommendations for Implementation and Collaborative Action (RICA) to guide a sustainable future for outdoor recreation and tourism in the state of California. Find more information on the State RICA and cohort meetings here.



MY CATALYST PROJECT
As Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Sector Coordinators for the Sierra Region, MLPA and Sierra Focus Media, through Sierra Works, supported Catalyst Projects with one-on-one guidance and tools for project development, including technical support and funding resources.



PROJECTS TRACKED
MLPA tracked and cataloged Sustainable Recreation & Tourism projects from the Sierra Jobs First Program that aligned with the Regional Strategy and qualified for Technical Assistance and referrals for Funding Support. Find more information and updates on these projects here.



ESSRP MEETINGS / SIERRA JOBS FIRST
Visit the Sustainable Recreation Partnership webpage to view all of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) meetings which took place during the Catalyst phase of Sierra Jobs First, including downloads for agendas, presentations, and the "Hot Links" used for all meetings.



SIERRA JOBS FIRST PROJECT WEBSITE
Sierra Jobs First has an official website managed by the Sierra Business Council for the state of California identified "Eastern Sierra Region" which includes Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne Counties. The most current documents and information are available here.

My Catalyst Project



framework, project stakeholders received guidance on policy compliance, funding support, and long-term sustainability.

Project Description: As the Industry Sector Coordinator, a key MLPA initiative was to support Catalyst Projects, whether submitted through the Catalyst RFP or introduced after the application deadline.

During the Planning Phase of California Jobs First, the region developed the Regional Strategy to gather data on the economy, demographics, opportunities, climate, and public health. This document then informed the Strategic Plan, which outlines approaches for climate-resilient job growth and economic development aligned with state goals.

The Strategic Plan acted as a guiding tool to evaluate and support Catalyst Projects, ensuring they align with state objectives and facilitate progress through funding opportunities and technical assistance. Through this



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As Industry Sector Coordinators, we offered free Technical Assistance for Catalyst Projects, specializing in recreation strategy, messaging, funding alignment, grant support, tribal engagement, GIS mapping, and policy consultation.



FUNDING SUPPORT

MLPA assembled a database of funding opportunities for sustainable recreation and tourism projects for Sierra Jobs First. This database was a snapshot of opportunities that may align with projects submitted by stakeholders consistent with the SJF Regional Strategy.

OVERVIEW
CALDEC VISION
Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator
Working Group and Sierra RICA
State Cohort and State Cohort RICA
My Catalyst Project
ESSRP Meetings / Sierra Jobs First

EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE RECREATION PARTNERSHIP
RECREATE RESPONSIBLY CALIFORNIA
TOWNS TO TRAILS PLAN
BIRPT
INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NATIONAL FORESTS
SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND TOURISM INITIATIVE
RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE
EASTERN SIERRA RECREATION COLLABORATIVE

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My Catalyst Project



framework, project owners received guidance on policy compliance, funding support, and long-term sustainability.



Last updated August 18, 2020



Our regional coordinators and fiscal administrators provided industry-specific assistance that supports economic recovery, while protecting our region's

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This project collected donated materials from businesses to divert from landfills and offered maker workshops focused on STEAM/STEM education. It included leasing a larger site, hiring educators for underserved communities, and a manager to structure the business.

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ESSRP Meetings / Sierra Jobs First



Welcome!

MLTPA was pleased to provide this web page providing additional information for the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) as part of our role as Industry Sector Coordinator for Sierra Jobs First. For the latest Partnership information, [please be sure to visit the ESSRP web page.](#)

Project Description: The Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership was initiated on July 18, 2017 at a joint meeting of the Mono County Board of Supervisors and the Mammoth Lakes Town Council. Over the next year, representatives of Mono County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the Inyo National Forest, the Humboldt Tolyabe National Forest, the Washington Office of the USFS, and Mammoth Lakes Recreation worked together

to draft and sign a partnership agreement and to secure the funding from Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes for a staff position that currently lives in Mammoth Lakes Recreation. Recent additions to the Partnership include Alpine County (voted to join on August 20, 2019), the City of Bishop (voted to join on September 9, 2019), and Inyo County (voted to join on October 8, 2019).



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OUR WORK

TRAIL SYSTEMS

ABOUT US

CONTACT

SUPPORT

OVERVIEW

CALDEC VISION

SIERRA JOBS FIRST

Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator

Working Group and Sierra RICA

State Cohort and State Cohort RICA

My Catalyst Project

PROJECTS TRACKED

ESSRP MEETINGS / SIERRA JOBS FIRST

SIERRA JOBS FIRST PROJECT WEBSITE

SUPPORT OUR WORK

ESSRP Meetings / Sierra Jobs First

Overview

California Jobs First

ESSRP

Working Group and Sierra RICA

State Cohort and State Cohort RICA

My Catalyst Project

PROJECTS TRACKED

ESSRP MEETINGS / SIERRA JOBS FIRST

SIERRA JOBS FIRST PROJECT WEBSITE

ESSRP Meetings / Sierra Jobs First

Overview

California Jobs First

ESSRP

Working Group and Sierra RICA

State Cohort and State Cohort RICA

My Catalyst Project

PROJECTS TRACKED

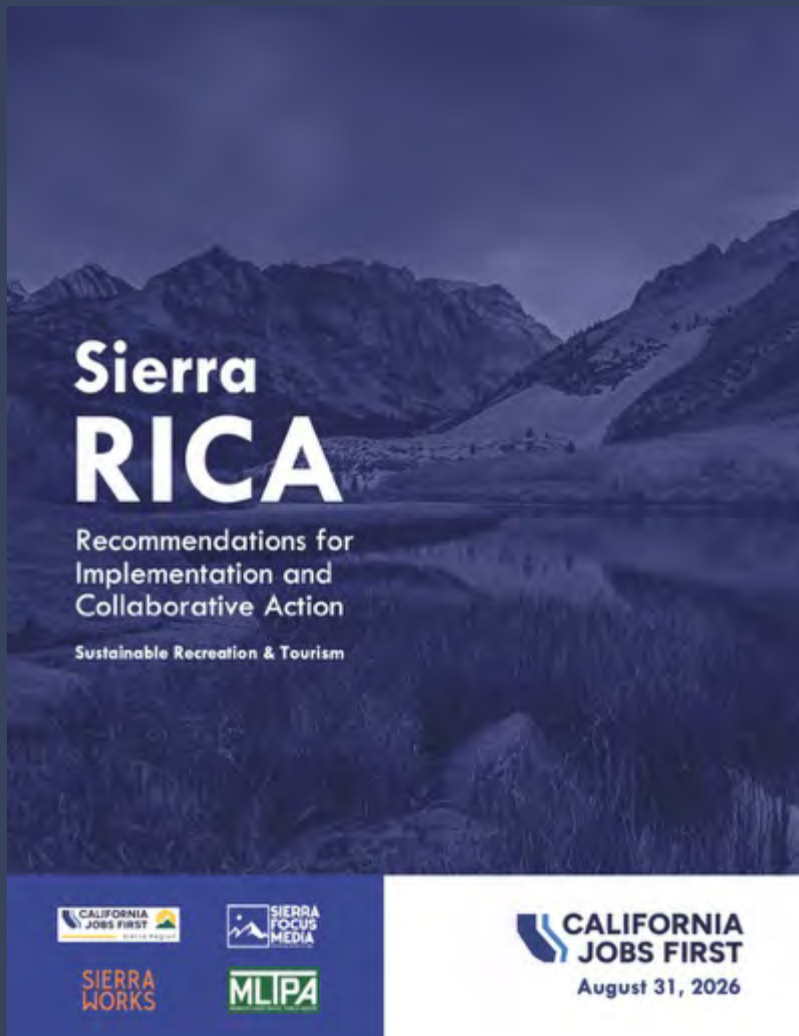
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Sierra Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector



State Cohort RICA

VISIT CALIFORNIA COMMENTS - Draft Comments and Context

Visit California provided comments on the initial draft of the State Cohort RICA document, which was circulated for comment in July 2026 by the State Recreation and Tourism Cohort, a California Jobs First Catalyst Project Initiative led by the MLTPA Foundation and Redwood Region RISE, regional Industry Sector Coordinators for California Jobs First.

What follows are the original draft recommendations for the Sierra Cohort RICA, as produced by the State Recreation and Tourism Cohort, followed by Visit California's original comments. The MLTPA and Redwood Region RISE team worked with Visit California to incorporate its suggestions into the final draft of the State Cohort RICA, including deleting some recommendations in their entirety, which was published on August 31, 2026.

For complete information on the State Recreation and Tourism Cohort and the State Cohort RICA, please visit the project web page here:
<https://mltpa.org/out-work/sierra-jobs-first-1/sierra-jobs-first/recreation-and-tourism-cohort>

ASSETS - RECOMMENDATIONS #1 & #4

1. RECREATION INTEGRATION WITH STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

The State of California, its agencies, and Visit California will collaborate with regional practitioners on state-funded infrastructure planning to integrate opportunities for sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism.

Visit CA Comment: Infrastructure planning falls outside Visit California's statutory mandate under the California Tourism Marketing Act. As an industry-funded marketing organization, Visit California cannot participate in state infrastructure planning, though we commend state and local efforts to enhance visitor experiences.

4. PLACE-BASED EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

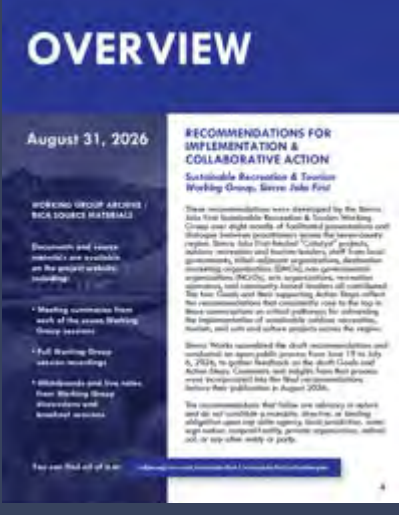
The State of California, through its funding agencies and their grant guidelines, and in collaboration with Visit California and local Destination Marketing Organizations, will fund place-based education and stewardship tools to connect visitors to the cultural, indigenous, and ecological contexts of California's outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities and promote responsible use.

Visit CA Comment: Visit California maintains a robust suite of destination stewardship resources and a dedicated Native American cultural heritage platform, developed in partnership with Tribal leaders and indigenous tourism organizations. While Visit California can provide feedback on similar efforts, the organization cannot allocate resources to fund or directly develop parallel assets that duplicate existing programs.

State Cohort RICA
Visit California Comments

1

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector



OVERVIEW

August 31, 2026

WORKING GROUP ARCHIVE / RICA SOURCE MATERIALS

Documents and source materials are available on the project website, including:

- Meeting summaries from each of the seven Working Group sessions
- Full Working Group session recordings
- Whiteboards and live notes from Working Group discussions and breakout sessions

You can find all of it at: [sierrajobsfirst.snrtsi.com](https://www.snrtsi.com/sierrajobsfirst) (<https://www.snrtsi.com/sierrajobsfirst>)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION & COLLABORATIVE ACTION

*Sustainable Recreation & Tourism
Working Group, Sierra Jobs First*

These recommendations were developed by the Sierra Jobs First Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Working Group over eight months of facilitated presentations and dialogue between practitioners across the seven-county region. Sierra Jobs First-funded "Gateway" projects, outdoor recreation and tourism leaders, staff from local governments, tribal-adjacent organizations, destination marketing organizations (DMOs), NGOs, arts organizations, recreation advocates, and community-based leaders all contributed. The four Goals and nine supporting Action Steps reflect the recommendations that consistently rose to the top in those conversations as critical pathways for advancing the implementation of sustainable outdoor recreation, tourism, and arts and culture projects across the region.

Sierra Works assembled the draft recommendations and conducted an open public process from June 10 to July 6, 2026, to gather feedback on the draft Goals and Action Steps. Comments and insights from that process were incorporated into the final recommendations before their publication in August 2026.

The recommendations that follow are advisory in nature and do not constitute a mandate, direction, or binding obligation upon any state agency, local jurisdiction, sovereign nation, nonprofit entity, private organization, individual, or any other entity or party.

GOAL #1 FUND A REGIONAL INFORMATION-SHARING ENTITY THAT FACILITATES IMPLEMENTATION

Fund a reliable regional entity for the seven-county recreation and tourism network to share information of relevance and broker opportunities between federal agencies, local governments, counties, and community-based practitioners that will advance the intent of the Region's Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative.

ACTION STEP 1 REGIONAL INFORMATION-SHARING AND PROJECT FACILITATION ENTITIES

The state of California, through its relevant agencies and their grant programs, will fund regional information-sharing entities to support collaboration, project development, and implementation.

ACTION STEP 2 ALIGN LOCAL JURISDICTIONS WITH DOI DIRECTIVES ABOUT RURAL GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

Local jurisdictions with incentive opportunities for Gateway Communities to adopt policies and investments to serve as the interface between visitors and public lands, through their established programs, including Federal Directives such as the Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3424.

ACTION STEP 3 REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE HUBS FOR GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy will fund collaborative hubs for cross-jurisdictional collaboration to implement regional programs of special significance with SNCR's "Sustainable Recreation, Tourism, and Equitable Outdoor Access" and its "2025-2026 Action Plan".

ACTION STEP 4 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The CA Office of the Small Business Advocate will consult, through its grant programs, technical assistance and guidance to community-based organizations with governance or administrative questions or as aid to the volunteer organizations.

Sierra RICA

2

GOAL #1

ACTION STEP 5

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND QUICK WINS BUDGETING
The State of California, through its State Comptroller and various funding agencies, will recommend, through its grant guidelines, practitioner-developed project prioritization frameworks and grant-win budget frameworks.

ACTION STEP 6

TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT LIAISON

The State of California's Sierra Nevada Conservancy will fund, through its grant programs, a trained Tribal Engagement Liaison to advise and coordinate with sovereign nations on Sustainable Recreation and Tourism projects.

ACTION STEP 7

CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, AND MANAGEMENT

The State of California's Sierra Nevada Conservancy, through its grant programs, will fund the regional facilitation capacity necessary for cross-jurisdictional grant development, implementation, and management, with a priority on local living.

ACTION STEP 8

SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND TOURISM DATA LIBRARY

The State of California's Sierra Nevada Conservancy, in appropriate state agencies, including local jurisdictions and DMOs, will fund the establishment and maintenance of a regional Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Data Library, including relation, business, workforce, and economic data to further project implementation across the region.

ACTION STEP 9

REGIONAL PLACEMAKING COORDINATION ACROSS SECTORS:

The State of California's Sierra Nevada Conservancy or appropriate state agencies will fund, through their grants or existing programs, the coordination of place-based and community-led placemaking regional strategies across recreation, education, transportation, arts, and economic development entities.

Sierra RICA

6

GOAL #2 ADDRESS BARRIERS THAT OBSTRUCT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Address systemic policy, regulatory, and political barriers that inhibit cross-jurisdictional collaboration and prevent the implementation of sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism projects.

ACTION STEP 1

LEVERAGE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO FUND RECREATION & TOURISM

Local authorities will consider opportunities to fund projects in the recreation and tourism sector through funding resources available through local jurisdictions and their authorities, including sales tax, parcel tax, business improvement districts, special districts including recreation districts.

ACTION STEP 2

DETERMINING LEAD AGENCIES FOR NEPA/CEQA DECISIONS

A regional information sharing body will facilitate and produce, through hosting and/or grant awards, a playbook to help identify lead agencies for NEPA/CEQA decision-making for cross-jurisdictional sustainable outdoor recreation projects.

ACTION STEP 3

INVESTMENTS OF PUBLIC FUNDS IN PARTNER AGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE

A local government entity may, using its available funding and applicable authorities and agreements, invest in qualifying federal or state infrastructure as an economic investment in outdoor recreation assets and programs that sustain local economies.

ACTION STEP 4

ESTABLISH DATA STANDARDS AND BASELINES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION-DEPENDENT ECONOMIES

A regional information-sharing entity will facilitate the production of standards and definitions for outdoor recreation data collection, including net community benefit metrics, using grants or its available funding to inform coastal education across jurisdictions throughout the region.

Sierra RICA

7

GOAL #2

ACTION STEP 5

MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

A regional information-sharing entity will advocate, through its established programs, to ensure that capital investments in local, state, federal, and private recreation infrastructure are sustained throughout their life cycles through appropriate maintenance.

ACTION STEP 6

DEVELOP AND ADOPT ARTS AND CULTURAL PLANS

The California Arts Council will provide targeted technical assistance to address priority specific Arts and Cultural Plan full coverage which will facilitate the unlocking of public and private funding for the rich and placemaking.

ACTION STEP 7

GRANT REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL ORGANIZATIONS

The State of California will reform, through its grant programs, reimbursement requirements for small organizations such that administrative burdens do not effectively exclude them from participating in public grant programs.

ACTION STEP 8

FUND INTEGRATED RECREATION AND ARTS/CULTURE/PLACEMAKING PROJECTS

The State of California, through its Sierra Nevada Conservancy, will make funding available through its grant programs for projects that integrate art and recreation with nature with cultural programming, public art, and community programming.

ACTION STEP 9

CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP WORKFORCE INFRASTRUCTURE

The State of California's Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the California Office of Historic Preservation will fund, through their grant programs, and in partnership with tribal nations, projects that make Indigenous history visible in the built environment of recreation communities, including Indigenous place names, public art in tribal parks, and interpretive infrastructure co-designed with sovereign nations.

ACTION STEP 10

RECOGNIZE ARTS AND PLACEMAKING AS ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The State of California, through its Sierra Nevada Conservancy and Workforce Development Board and their funding agencies, will recognize through their grant guidelines and programming, housing, arts, culture, and placemaking as foundational pillars of regional economic development.

Sierra RICA

8

GOAL #3 BUILD A YEAR-ROUND, EQUITABLE, CAREER- FOCUSED RECREATION WORKFORCE

With tribal participation built into program design, build a year-round, career-focused outdoor recreation and tourism workforce with pathways to careers in land management, NGOs, DMOs, and local government.

ACTION STEP 1

YEAR-ROUND AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Regional partners and local government entities will facilitate and produce, through their established programs, a year-round outdoor recreation ambassador program that includes tribal participation in its design, to convert seasonal positions into formal career pathways.

ACTION STEP 2

A RECREATION WORKFORCE IS A HEALTH SYSTEM COMMUNITY BENEFIT

The California Department of Health Care Access and Information and the California Workforce Development Board will, through their established programs, take regulatory action to designate outdoor recreation workforce development as eligible expenditures under established hospital community benefit obligations, aligning health spending with rural workforce development needs.

ACTION STEP 3

REGIONAL CYCLING AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE CLUSTER

The California Workforce Development Board will establish, through its programs, a place-based workforce model to coordinate workforce investment across recreation, health, equity, and event programming sectors.

ACTION STEP 4

CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP WORKFORCE INFRASTRUCTURE

The California Workforce Development Board, the California Arts Council, and local government entities will, through their established programs, establish dedicated cultural heritage stewardship roles, including arts administration, creative reuse coordination, cultural programming, and community development, as eligible workforce development investments through federal regulatory guidance to integrate arts and cultural workforce development with the broader regional recreation workforce pipeline.

Sierra RICA

9

GOAL #4 REGIONAL RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Implement the recommendations from Sierra Jobs First's "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism" projects and from "A Changing Climate | Vulnerability in California's Eastern Sierra," from the region's "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative" (SRTI):

ACTION STEP 1

DEPLOY "A CHANGING CLIMATE" AS A SCALABLE CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN ACROSS THE SEVEN-COUNTY REGION

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy will invest, through its grant programs, projects that incorporate the analysis and recommendations from "A Changing Climate | Vulnerability in California's Eastern Sierra" into their grant proposals to ensure climate adaptation and enhance regional resilience as a scalable seven-county initiative.

ACTION STEP 2

DEVELOP THE "SRTI CLIMATE: REGIONAL ASSET INVENTORY AND GAP ASSESSMENT"

The State of California, through its funding resources, including the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and its grant programs, will fund the development of the "SRTI Climate: Regional Asset Inventory and Gap Assessment" as recommended by "A Changing Climate | Vulnerability in California's Eastern Sierra", as a scalable seven-county initiative, to prioritize projects, reduce duplication, and target the region's most vulnerable economic assets to climate change.

ACTION STEP 3

DEVELOP THE "SRTI CLIMATE: SUSTAINABLE RECREATION OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM"

The State of California and its funding resources, including the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and its grant programs, will fund the development of the "SRTI Climate: Sustainable Recreation Outreach and Education Program" as recommended by "A Changing Climate | Vulnerability in California's Eastern Sierra", to ensure consistent communication efforts on a scalable seven-county initiative.

Sierra RICA

10

GOAL #4

ACTION STEP 4

SNOW PLAY DATA COLLECTION AND UTILIZATION

California State Parks will fund snow play data collection protocols through its grant programs to align winter recreation infrastructure, including state SNCR Parks, with current and projected snowline conditions for planning, personnel, visitation, and visitor engagement.

ACTION STEP 5

CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE VISITOR MANAGEMENT FUND

The State of California will fund climate-adaptive visitor engagement programs that support on-the-ground outdoor recreation employment, digital information systems, and real-time visitor instructions to communities experiencing increased climate impacts.

ACTION STEP 6

REFORM GRANT REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN COMPRESSED SEASONS

The State of California, through its conservation and their funding programs, will allow applicants to grant reimbursement requirements to provide project-level flexibility for organizations operating in compressed or compressed seasons due to climate change.

Sierra RICA

11

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector



CONTENTS

Overview	4
Assets	5
Policy & Regulations	6
Funding	7
Data	9
Climate	10
Workforce	11
Collaboratives	12
Branding & Marketing	13
Acknowledgements	14
Further Information	15



Sierra Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

OVERVIEW August 31, 2026 STATE RECREATION AND TOURISM CONSORTIUM (RCA) SOURCE MATERIALS Designs and Source materials are available on the project website, including: - Complete documents, meeting materials, and plans from the "Expansion of Practice" event that took place on April 23, 2026 - Agendas, presentations, and recordings from 14 regional cohort meetings that took place over 2022 and 2025 - A "State Cohort Library" including Regional Strategies from all 13 state first engines along with regional strategies from First California You can find all of it at: https://www.sierrajobsfirst.org/first-california-recreation-and-tourism-sector	ASSETS Natural assets — public lands, parks, trails, or other features — and community assets — community facilities, airports, transit lines, urban areas, urban cultural assets 1. RECREATION INTEGRATION WITH STATE INFRASTRUCTURE The state of California and its agencies will collaborate with regional governments on state-funded infrastructure plans to create opportunities for sustainable outdoor recreation, tourism, and cultural infrastructure. 2. LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS The state of California, in coordination with the National Agricultural Law Center and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, will extend protections for private landowners who provide public recreation access beyond the recreational use immunity already provided in California Civil Code §848 to address liability exposure that discourages private landowner participation in regional recreation networks. 3. EXISTING ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE The state of California, through its funding agencies and their grant guidelines, will strengthen opportunities to restore and maintain historic, rural recreation, cultural, and tourism infrastructure. 4. PLACE-BASED EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP The state of California, through its funding agencies and their grant guidelines, and in collaboration with local Destination Marketing Organizations, Chambers of Commerce, and Main Street Programs, will fund place-based education and stewardship tools to promote responsible and well-cared cultural to cultural, indigenous, and ecological contexts through California's outdoor recreation and tourism. 5. HEALTH AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS The state of California, California Health and Human Services, and rural healthcare providers will integrate outdoor recreation and arts and culture activities into rural community health strategies to position outdoor recreation and cultural engagement as a health and leisure opportunity for residents of rural recreation communities.	POLICY & REGULATIONS Policies or regulations that have opened doors or created roadblocks. Does the policy landscape match conditions on the ground? Could a governance structure bridge the gap? 1. TRIBAL LIAISONS The state of California, through its funding agencies and their grant guidelines that require tribal engagement, will provide funding and technical assistance to tribal nations, tribal nations, and the organizations being served to support state-funded outdoor recreation and tourism projects. 2. STATE PARKS PARTNERSHIPS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES California State Parks will prioritize establishing Good Neighbor Agency agreements with federal partners to ensure continuity of resource management and support for recreational activities. 3. OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION The state of California, through legislative or other means, will establish an office of outdoor recreation, or, in equivalent, to provide statewide support and coordination for California's outdoor recreation sector. 4. INVESTMENTS ON FEDERALLY MANAGED PUBLIC LANDS The state of California, through its funding agencies and their grant guidelines, will encourage the state of California to invest in outdoor recreation infrastructure and programs on federally managed public lands. 5. OUTDOOR RECREATION AND TOURISM ALIGNMENT The state of California and its state agencies will work with tourism, recreation, and cultural organizations to develop joint marketing programs for the regional outdoor recreation and tourism to align with and integrate California's outdoor recreation, cultural, and tourism sectors. 6. CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP WORKFORCE The California Workforce Development Board, the California Arts Council, and local government entities will, through formal regulatory guidance and in alignment with SB 828 and the California Creative Workforce Act of 2021, establish designated cultural heritage stewardship roles in eligible workforce development programs to integrate arts and cultural workforce development into the broader regional workforce pipeline.	FUNDING How well do current funding opportunities align with actual needs and priorities, including reimbursement structures, reimbursement, and the ability to blend multiple sources together? 1/2 1. RCRC SUPPORT The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) will provide technical and financial assistance to eligible identified recreation and tourism organizations with grant needs, including projects that cross county lines in California, while identifying common interests with federal partners in the outdoor recreation and tourism sector. 2. LOCAL JURISDICTIONS FUNDING AUTHORITIES Local jurisdictions will consider opportunities to fund projects in the sustainable outdoor recreation, tourism, and arts and culture sectors using funding authorities available to them, including sales and general taxes, tourism business improvement districts (TBIDs), and special districts such as recreation districts. 3. RECONSTITUTE RECREATION RACS The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) will engage with local partners in its recreation Recreation Resource Advisory Committees (Recreation RACs) to review and establish fire proposals. 4. PRIORITIZE ONGOING NEEDS The state of California, through its funding agencies and their grant guidelines, will ensure that ongoing and maintenance needs of recreation and tourism assets are eligible and supported by state grant funding, alongside capital investment in new or innovative needs. 5. STRENGTHEN THE JOBS FIRST SECTOR The state of California, through its funding agencies, will encourage grant guidelines to support outdoor recreation, tourism, and creative economy projects that will directly and enhance the "Stewardship" sector of the state's Economic Map, as published by California Arts Council.	FUNDING 2/2 6. BLOCK GRANTS FOR MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECTS Relevant state of California grant programs will recognize and model the Regional Forest and Fire Ecosystem Program (RFFEP) Block Grant Model to specifically include and support flexible, multi-year planning horizons for the outdoor recreation and tourism sector as part of multi-benefit project development and funding. 7. CAL FIRE DESIGNATION OF ASSETS CAL FIRE will designate outdoor recreation, cultural, and tourism assets through its grant guidelines on critical community infrastructure to inform fire mitigation work and the creation of state grants. 8. CEQA/NEPA DECISIONS The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) will coordinate with partners to identify recreation and tourism projects delayed by issues in federal capacity and funding opportunities for these projects to achieve "fast-track" status through final joint environmental planning decisions. 9. END-TO-END PLANNING The state of California, through its funding agencies and their grant guidelines, will establish opportunities to fund projects from concept through development to implement funding gaps at the mapping, design, environmental review, or pre-construction stages. 10. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRANTEEES The state of California, through its funding agencies and their grant guidelines, will establish opportunities to fund projects from concept through development to implement funding gaps at the mapping, design, environmental review, or pre-construction stages. 11. INTEGRATED PLACEMAKING The state of California will make funding available through its grant programs to integrate trail and recreation infrastructure projects with cultural programming, public art, and community storytelling.
DATA What data resources exist to support projects — things like valuation numbers, economic impact, or user behavior — and what is missing that should be measured? Who owns the data? 1. JOINT STATE-FEDERAL SOCIOECONOMIC DATA SHARING The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) will establish a socioeconomic data-sharing program for the outdoor recreation and tourism sector between the state of California and federal partners, including the U.S. Forest Service office in Placerville, to manage mutual data-sharing needs. 2. ALIGNMENT OF PRIORITIES The state of California will develop programs will convene biennially to discuss "biennial" priorities for their shared recreation and tourism sector and to establish a shared focus for efficient collaborative efforts. 3. UCAAN COOPERATIVE EXTENSION TECHNICAL SUPPORT UC Agriculture and Natural Resources and its Cooperative Extension (CECE) will support communities working in the outdoor recreation, tourism, and creative economy sectors by providing technical support and data to inform outdoor recreation and tourism programming, infrastructure supporting economic development, and job creation. 4. ECONOMIC TRANSITIONS AND CALED The California Association for Local Economic Development (CAL-LED) will include examples of rural communities transitioning towards recreation, tourism, and cultural economy-based systems as a feature of their Rural Exchange events to provide information and resources to consolidate communities.	CLIMATE Is climate change a threat? Through what pathways (temperature, precipitation, or wildfire) impacts? Can the project be measured in climate outcomes in comparison funding? 1. MULTIPLE-BENEFIT CLIMATE PROJECTS The state of California, through its funding agencies and their grant guidelines, including California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA) programs, will establish opportunities to award funding for multiple-benefit projects addressing climate change that include sustainable outdoor recreation, tourism, and cultural infrastructure. 2. FIRE-HARDENED TRAILS AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and CAL FIRE will, through the California Wildlife and Forest Resilience Task Force, and publish an action-oriented directorate that addresses fire-hardened trail projects for wildfire mitigation in alignment with related Goals and Key Actions from California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildlife Resilience to build resilient California communities. 3. WILDFIRE IGNITION RISK EDUCATION CAL FIRE will, through its grant guidelines, incentivize funding for the implementation of Goals and Key Actions from California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildlife Resilience to support educational opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism users about the risks of wildfire ignition from outdoor recreation activities. 4. BLOCK GRANTS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) will integrate outdoor recreation and tourism in multi-benefit climate fire risk block grant programs for water, forest, and restoration projects to ensure that outdoor recreation is recognized as essential to the health of the environment, communities, and regions. 5. BIOMASS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and CAL FIRE will, through their grant guidelines, incentivize funding for Goals and Key Actions from California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildlife Resilience to include support for sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure and programs when funding biomass removal, utilization, and energy projects. 6. OUTDOOR EDUCATION The California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Natural Resources Agency will coordinate field trips and outdoor education programs, including the Green Schoolyards Initiative, through their funding opportunities and grant programs to create long-term stewards and educators for California's future.	WORKFORCE Are skills, contractors, and project managers available locally? Are there long-term workforce pipelines through necessary industries, local firm programs, workforce development boards? 1. TRAIL STANDARDS AND WORKER CERTIFICATIONS The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), including State Parks, the Wildfire Conservation Board (WCB), and the California Council of Local Governments (CCLG), will establish planning, design, and maintenance standards for trail programs to create career pathways and certifications for trail professionals and employees. 2. INDUSTRY SECTOR SKILLS CODES The California Employment Development Department (EDD) and the California State and Workforce Development Agency will define and disseminate industry sector skills codes for outdoor recreation, tourism, and the arts to improve skills, career-specific data and tracking information for these sectors. 3. SKILLS-BASED WILDFIRE, OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND TOURISM JOBS The state of California, through its funding agencies, will implement recommendations from California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildlife Resilience to provide projects that will create skills-based, greening-wage jobs in the wildfire mitigation, outdoor recreation, and tourism sectors. 4. CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY The California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) will collaborate with the California Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to integrate business skills targeted towards professionals in the outdoor recreation economy into the SBDC's Career Technical Education program. 5. CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS CONTRACT EXEMPTIONS The state of California, through its regulatory authority, will pursue AB 239 exemptions for contracting with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and other workforce training programs to ensure that state policy recognizes outdoor recreation infrastructure and programming as integral to fire mitigation, workforce development, and climate resilience.	COLLABORATIVES Collaborative relationships across jurisdictions, local managers, or third parties - accelerating progress? Showing things down? Would a regional coordination body or structure help? 1. REGIONAL COLLABORATIVES Local jurisdictions, with support from local, state, federal, and philanthropic funding, will create and maintain regional outdoor recreation and tourism collaboratives to provide networking and collaboration opportunities, consistent with other regional collaboratives statewide through a community of practice, connect rural and urban collaboratives to bridge regional divides, and conduct regional cost mapping. 2. REGIONAL COLLABORATIVES AND AGENCY ENGAGEMENT Local, state, and federal agencies will engage with regional collaboratives to align agency priorities with regional capacity and needs, build agency funding and secure monies where available, to provide technical assistance and ecosystem support for the outdoor recreation and tourism sector. 3. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON TOURISM AND OUTDOOR RECREATION The state of California, through relevant state agencies and regional collaboratives, will establish a working group to discuss activities in the outdoor recreation, tourism, and creative economy sectors that cross state with program areas of tourism marketing and other agencies to make recommendations for efficient program delivery.	BRANDING & MARKETING Does the project have a clear identity? How effectively does it speak to the community in funding, to decision-makers? Can it be a tool for advocacy, or building political will? 1. REGIONAL BRANDING AND MARKETING Local jurisdictions, with support from local, state, federal, and private funding, will invest in recreation and tourism collaboratives to facilitate regional branding and marketing among regional Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs), Chambers of Commerce, Main Street Programs, and between urban and rural regions. 2. ECONOMIC TRANSITION GO-BIZ The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) will engage state agency partners and complete labor-to-sector transition case studies and analysis (e.g., from timber or cannabis) to support regions and communities undergoing similar transitions that may be considering investment in outdoor recreation and tourism economies.

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

State Cohort RICA

VISIT CALIFORNIA COMMENTS - Draft Comments and Context

Visit California provided comments on the initial draft of the State Cohort RICA document, which was circulated for comment in July 2026 by the State Recreation and Tourism Cohort, a California Jobs First Catalyst Project initiative led by the MLTPA Foundation and Redwood Region RISE, regional Industry Sector Coordinators for California Jobs First.

What follows are the original draft recommendations for the Sierra Cohort RICA, as produced by the State Recreation and Tourism Cohort, followed by Visit California's original comments. The MLTPA and Redwood Region RISE team worked with Visit California to incorporate its suggestions into the final draft of the State Cohort RICA, including deleting some recommendations in their entirety, which was published on August 31, 2026.

For complete information on the State Recreation and Tourism Cohort and the State Cohort RICA, please visit the project web page here:

<https://mltpa.org/our-work/sierra-jobs-first-1/sierra-jobs-first/recreation-and-tourism-cohort>

ASSETS - RECOMMENDATIONS #1 & #4

1. RECREATION INTEGRATION WITH STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

The State of California, its agencies, and Visit California will collaborate with regional practitioners on state-funded infrastructure planning to integrate opportunities for sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism.

Visit CA Comment: Infrastructure planning falls outside Visit California's statutory mandate under the California Tourism Marketing Act. As an industry-funded marketing organization, Visit California cannot participate in state infrastructure planning, though we commend state and local efforts to enhance visitor experiences.

4. PLACE-BASED EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

The State of California, through its funding agencies and their grant guidelines, and in collaboration with Visit California and local Destination Marketing Organizations, will fund place-based education and stewardship tools to connect visitors to the cultural, Indigenous, and ecological contexts of California's outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities and promote responsible use.

Visit CA Comment: Visit California maintains a robust suite of destination stewardship resources and a dedicated Native American cultural heritage platform, developed in partnership with Tribal leaders and indigenous tourism organizations. While Visit California can provide feedback on similar efforts, the organization cannot allocate resources to fund or directly develop parallel assets that duplicate existing programs.

POLICY AND REGULATION - RECOMMENDATIONS #3 & #5

3. OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

The State of California, through legislative or other means, will establish an office of outdoor recreation, or its equivalent, to provide statewide support and coordination for California's outdoor recreation sector.

Visit CA Comment: The recommendation lacks a clear definition of "statewide support and coordination." Visit California is not opposed to state-level economic development for the outdoor recreation sector, provided these efforts do not duplicate Visit California's existing role in statewide tourism and outdoor recreation marketing.

5. OUTDOOR RECREATION AND TOURISM ALIGNMENT

The State of California, its state agencies, and Visit California will work with tourism and recreation practitioners to develop practical geographies for regional outdoor recreation and tourism to align and integrate California's outdoor recreation and tourism sectors.

Visit CA Comment: To effectively market California's geographic diversity to travelers, Visit California structures consumer messaging around 12 official tourism regions based on shared geography, culture, climate and travel appeal. While regional entities sometimes create sub-regional alignments for local purposes, Visit California will maintain focus on these 12 established regions to preserve clarity, efficiency and alignment in statewide marketing.

DATA - RECOMMENDATIONS #1 & #2

1. VISIT CALIFORNIA DATA DEVELOPMENT

The State of California, its state agencies, and Visit California will work with tourism and recreation practitioners to develop practical geographies for regional outdoor recreation and tourism to align and integrate California's outdoor recreation and tourism sectors.

Visit CA Comment: Visit California will convene and host regional roundtables focused on its data development programs to align its data collection and analysis with the needs of the outdoor recreation and tourism sector and rural regions.

2. JOINT STATE-FEDERAL SOCIOECONOMIC DATA SHARING

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) will establish a socio-economic data-sharing program for the outdoor recreation and tourism sectors between the state of California and federal partners, including the new U.S. Forest Service office in Placerville, to manage mutual data-sharing needs.

Visit CA Comment: Visit California maintains robust travel-related economic impact research for the entirety of the state, by county and tourism region, which should be considered before pursuing or investing in new research that could be duplicative of reporting already being conducted.

COLLABORATIVES - RECOMMENDATION #3

3. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON TOURISM AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

The State of California, through its relevant state agencies, Visit California, and regional collaboratives, will establish a working group to document activities in the outdoor recreation and tourism sector that overlap with the program areas of Visit California and state agencies to make recommendations more efficient program delivery.

Visit CA Comment: Visit California is governed by an industry-led, public-private Board of Commissioners comprising state-appointed leaders, elected industry representatives and regional stakeholders. This statutory board oversees organization performance, program delivery and operational efficiency. While open to informal cross-agency communication, formal interagency working groups tasked with evolving or dictating Visit California's program delivery fall outside our established governance structure.

BRANDING & MARKETING - RECOMMENDATIONS #1 & #2

1. REGIONAL BRANDING AND MARKETING

Local jurisdictions, with support from local, state, federal, and private funding, will invest in recreation and tourism collaboratives to facilitate regional branding and marketing among regional DMOs and between urban and rural regions.

Visit CA Comment: Regional marketing collaboratives already exist across California's DMO network, including several that connect urban and rural destinations within shared marketing regions. Rather than standing up new recreation and tourism collaboratives to perform branding and marketing functions, Visit California encourages outdoor recreation advocates to work within these existing DMO structures. Creating parallel entities to do overlapping marketing work risks diluting brand consistency, competing for the same local and private funding, and duplicating capacity that regional DMOs are already resourced and positioned to provide.

2. STATE TOURISM AND THE ARTS

Visit California and the California Arts Council will collaborate on new program initiatives to support greater inclusion of regional artistic and cultural voices in statewide tourism branding and marketing.

Visit CA Comment: Visit California actively integrates regional artistic, cultural and diverse creative voices across its global marketing campaigns and storytelling channels. Statewide branding strategy and marketing investments must remain data-driven and directed by our relevant committees and board to ensure maximum ROI for California's tourism economy.

For complete information and access to all State Cohort RICA project materials, please visit:

mltpa.org/our-work/sierra-jobs-first-1/sierra-jobs-first/recreation-and-tourism-cohort

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism



CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST



STATE LEADERSHIP

From Blueprint
to Breakthrough

Happenings of Interest

#CABUDGET INFO

Updated end-of-session budget bill information

Hearings, analyses, and bill texts planned or available online

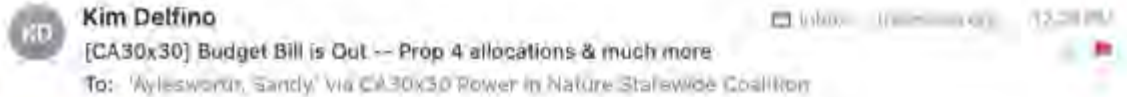
JASON SISNEY

AUG 30, 2026

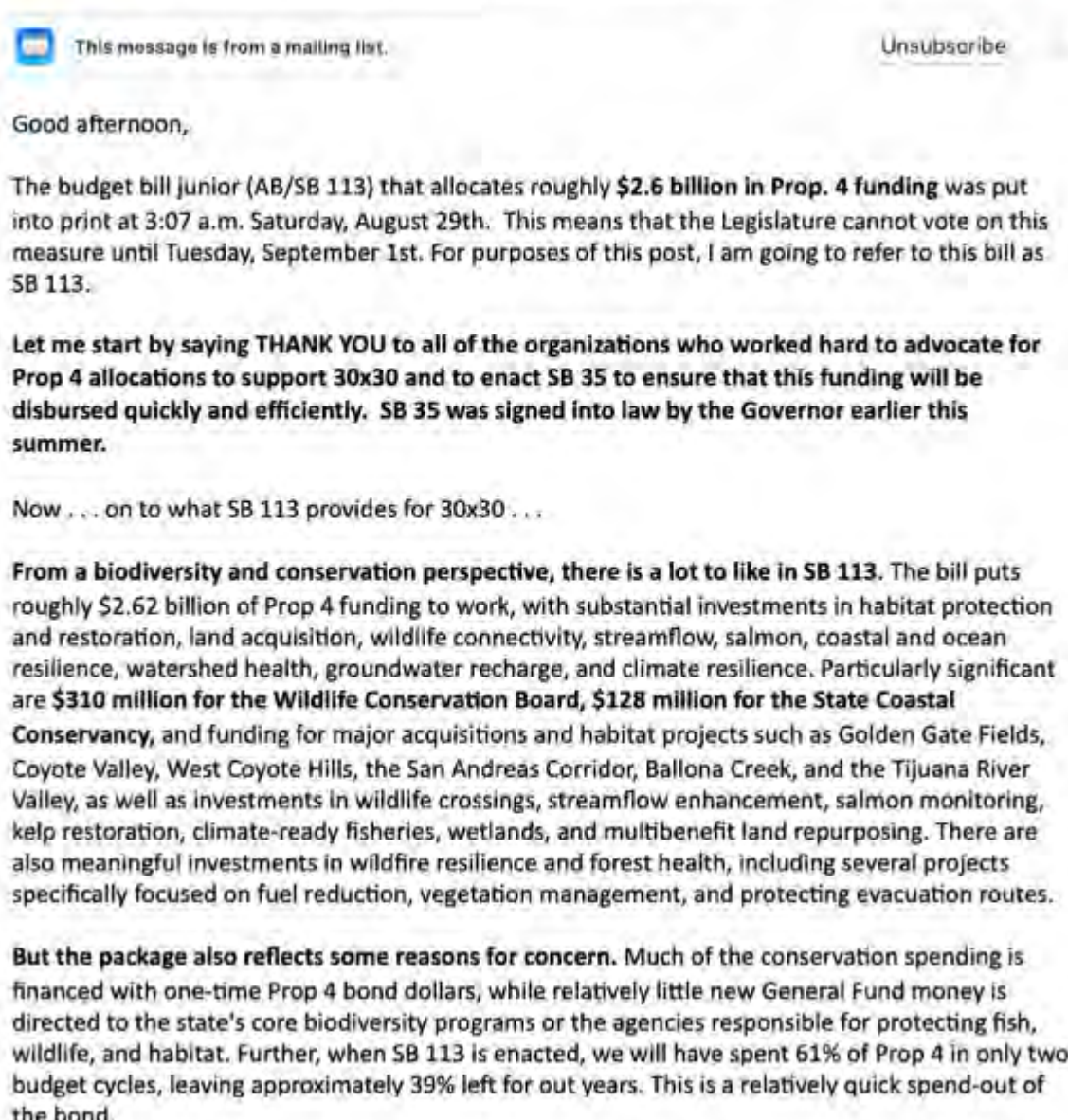
End-of-session California state budget bills are expected for floor votes in the Senate and Assembly on Monday, August 31, and Tuesday, September 1. The list of bills in the end-of-session package is [here](#). The primary budget amendment bill, [AB 113/SB 113](#), includes an urgency clause to facilitate votes on September 1 as discussed [here](#).

Analyses of the end-of-session budget bills are now online in both houses, as linked to my updated post [here](#).

My earlier posts (noted by links to “here” in the paragraphs above) contain answers to some questions I have received.



Kim Delfino
[CA30x30] Budget Bill is Out -- Prop 4 allocations & much more
To: 'Aylesworth, Sandy' via CA30x30 Power in Nature Statewide Coalition



This message is from a mailing list. [Unsubscribe](#)

Good afternoon,

The budget bill junior (AB/SB 113) that allocates roughly **\$2.6 billion in Prop. 4 funding** was put into print at 3:07 a.m. Saturday, August 29th. This means that the Legislature cannot vote on this measure until Tuesday, September 1st. For purposes of this post, I am going to refer to this bill as SB 113.

Let me start by saying THANK YOU to all of the organizations who worked hard to advocate for Prop 4 allocations to support 30x30 and to enact SB 35 to ensure that this funding will be disbursed quickly and efficiently. SB 35 was signed into law by the Governor earlier this summer.

Now . . . on to what SB 113 provides for 30x30 . . .

From a biodiversity and conservation perspective, there is a lot to like in SB 113. The bill puts roughly \$2.62 billion of Prop 4 funding to work, with substantial investments in habitat protection and restoration, land acquisition, wildlife connectivity, streamflow, salmon, coastal and ocean resilience, watershed health, groundwater recharge, and climate resilience. Particularly significant are **\$310 million for the Wildlife Conservation Board, \$128 million for the State Coastal Conservancy**, and funding for major acquisitions and habitat projects such as Golden Gate Fields, Coyote Valley, West Coyote Hills, the San Andreas Corridor, Ballona Creek, and the Tijuana River Valley, as well as investments in wildlife crossings, streamflow enhancement, salmon monitoring, kelp restoration, climate-ready fisheries, wetlands, and multibenefit land repurposing. There are also meaningful investments in wildfire resilience and forest health, including several projects specifically focused on fuel reduction, vegetation management, and protecting evacuation routes.

But the package also reflects some reasons for concern. Much of the conservation spending is financed with one-time Prop 4 bond dollars, while relatively little new General Fund money is directed to the state's core biodiversity programs or the agencies responsible for protecting fish, wildlife, and habitat. Further, when SB 113 is enacted, we will have spent 61% of Prop 4 in only two budget cycles, leaving approximately 39% left for out years. This is a relatively quick spend-out of the bond.

Happenings of Interest

Let me start by saying THANK YOU to all of the organizations who worked hard to advocate for Prop 4 allocations to support 30x30 and to enact SB 35 to ensure that this funding will be disbursed quickly and efficiently. SB 35 was signed into law by the Governor earlier this summer.

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Moreover, while Prop 4 was advertised as an opportunity for competitive grants — for organizations large and small, **this bill directs a substantial amount of funding instead through earmarks**, including many projects with only a limited connection to biodiversity or natural resources conservation.

Happenings of Interest



Action Alert – Contact your legislators NOW to fund wildfire resilience

Dear Wildfire Solutions Coalition members,

We are down to the wire, and we need all hands on deck to ensure that the Legislature does not leave town without fully funding wildfire resilience.

At the end of last week, the Senate proposed a spending plan to increase funding for wildfire resilience and other programs in Tier 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which many Coalition members are supporting. **There is also still time for the Assembly and the Senate to collaborate on a spending plan that includes both GGRF and Prop 4 commitments for wildfire resilience and other climate priorities.** Meaningful funding now can help bridge to a more comprehensive resilience investment strategy in future years.

Please contact your Senator and Assemblymember NOW in support of two wildfire resilience budget priorities:

- Restore and protect the \$200 million that has been traditionally invested in wildfire resilience every year.
- Allocate \$500 million of Prop 4 funding to complete shovel-ready wildfire resilience projects across the state.



FALL DREAMBIKE GIVEAWAY

HAPPENINGS ▾

NEWS

ADVOCACY ▾

MISSION & COALITION

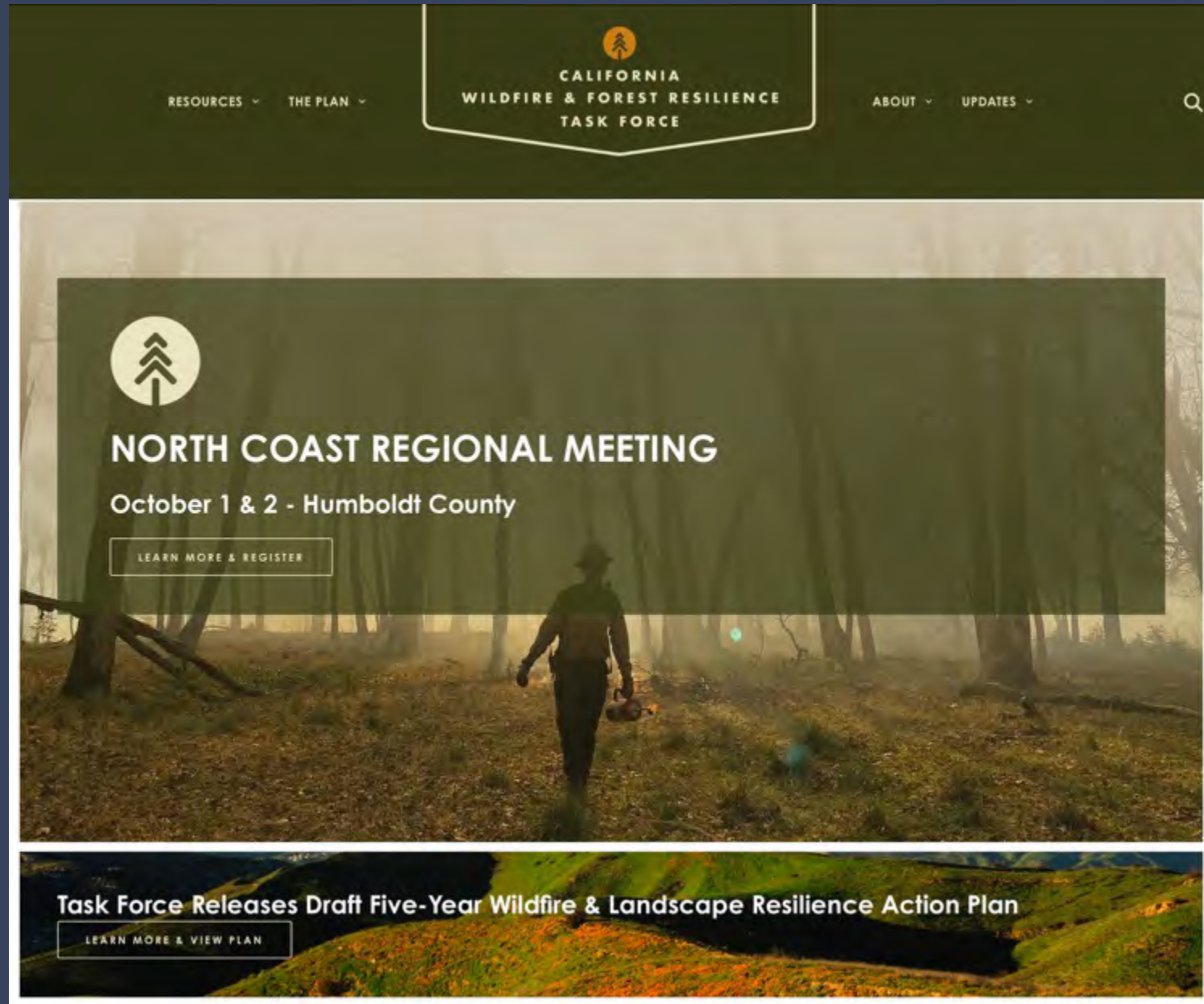
ADVOCACY

July 22, 2026

California AB 2494: A Historic Shift for Our Trails and Open Spaces

California Assembly Bill 2494 (Rogers) is a landmark piece of legislation currently making its way through the state legislature. It's a bill we think the entire cycling and trails community should know about. The bill redefines how California manages its State Demonstration Forests by moving away from outdated mandates focused solely on maximum sustained logging yields. It replaces them with a modern, multi-benefit management strategy that directly impacts recreational access and infrastructure. This legislation isn't just about updating state forest guidelines. It is about shaping the future of access and recreation on all open spaces, including private, public, local, state, and federal lands.

Happenings of Interest





Draft Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan

2026-2031

Partner Review Period Through August 7, 2026



» VIEW THE PLAN

» SHARE YOUR INPUT

» REGIONAL WEBINARS

Happenings of Interest



1.46 Implement California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience: The Task Force's Recreation Work Group will partner with CNRA, DOC, USFS, BLM, and state and local recreation managers, to deliver multi benefit recreation and wildfire resilience projects in and near the wildland urban interface, including fire hardened trails prescriptions and fuels reduction around recreation infrastructure, and will, where appropriate, embed these priorities in Regional Fire and Forest Capacity Regional Priority Plans.



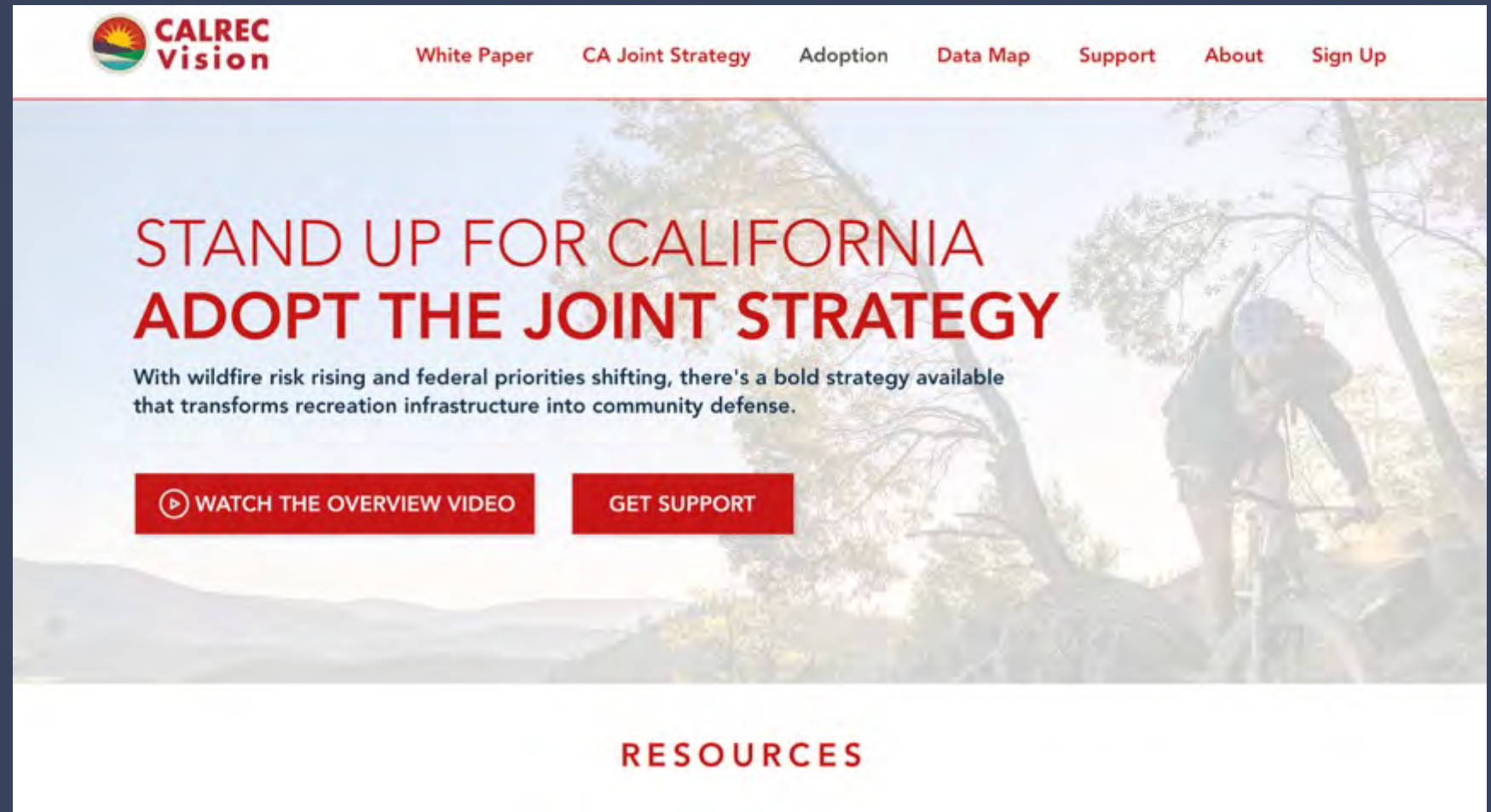
» VIEW THE PLAN

» SHARE YOUR INPUT

» REGIONAL WEBINARS

Happenings of Interest

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



Happenings of Interest

Communities across California are taking action



ADOPTED

- Lake County - June 23, 2026
- Tuolumne County - June 9, 2026
- Placer County - March 10, 2026
- Napa Open Space District - March 9, 2026
- Nevada County - August 12, 2025
- Madera County - June 10, 2025
- Mono County - April 8, 2025
- Inyo County - March 25, 2025
- ESCOG - Feb. 26, 2025
- Town of Mammoth Lakes - January 15, 2025

10

Happenings of Interest

Communities across California are taking action

ADOPTED

- Town of Truckee - August 11, 2026
- Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance – Aug. 5, 2026
- Glenn County – July 28, 2026
- Lake County - June 23, 2026
- Tuolumne County - June 9, 2026
- Placer County - March 10, 2026
- Napa Open Space District - March 9, 2026
- Nevada County - August 12, 2025
- Madera County - June 10, 2025
- Mono County - April 8, 2025
- Inyo County - March 25, 2025
- ESCOG - Feb. 26, 2025
- Town of Mammoth Lakes - January 15, 2025

13

Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest

 U.S. Department of Agriculture

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USDA Announces \$80 Million Investment to Expand Timber Production and Enhance Forest Health in Nevada and Oregon

PRESS RELEASE

USDA Announces \$80 Million Investment to Expand Timber Production and Enhance Forest Health in Nevada and Oregon



PUBLISHED: July 23, 2026

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



USDA announces \$50 million investment to expand timber production, enhance forest health in Nevada

News News | Jul 27, 2026

A

A



Tahoe Forest Products sits near the bottom of Highway 50 as it enters Carson City.

Katelyn Welsh / Tahoe Daily Tribune

CARSON CITY, Nev. – U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Nevada State Director Alida Ceballos today announced that Tahoe Forest Products, LLC. will receive \$50 million to expand timber processing capabilities at its business in Carson City. This significant investment comes through a partnership between the USDA and MapleMark Bank and will enable the business to access guaranteed loan funds to support domestic timber production.

Happenings of Interest



Wildfire liability for dummies (and smarties)

By NOAH BAUSTIN and CAMILLE VON KAENEL | 08/20/2026 07:30 PM EDT

TOP OF THE DAY



We have your wildfire liability breakdown. | Noah Berger/AP

PENCILS DOWN: Gov. **Gavin Newsom** has chosen one of the wonkiest, most complex topics in California politics as the focus of his final legislative push: Who pays for damages after a power company sparks a wildfire? For the mere mortals among us who feel like they're suddenly studying for a final exam in a class they never took, we wrote up a quick guide that's essentially Wildfire Liability for Dummies. (We hope it will be helpful for smarties, too.)



NEWS SPORTS POLITICS RESTAURANTS OPINION GAMES OBITUARIES FINANCE CLASSIFIEDS CAREERS

CAPITOL ALERT

California legislative leaders, Gov. Gavin Newsom announce utility wildfire deal

By Stephen Habbs

Updated August 29, 2026 4:12 PM  Gift Article



A firefighter works a line to prevent the Camp Fire from spreading near a home on Pentz Road in Paradise on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018. Lawmakers are debating potential changes to how the state handles utility-caused wildfires. Hector Amezcua hamezcua@sacbee.com

California legislative leaders and Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a deal Saturday morning to change how the state responds to wildfires sparked by utility companies, ending weeks of speculation and [lengthy negotiations](#).

The agreement, reflected in [Senate Bill 492](#), would create a program to try and more quickly pay claims for damages, [deny short-term bonuses for utility CEOs](#) for a year if the company starts a fire that kills at least one person and put requirements on [attorneys seeking to represent victims](#).

Happenings of Interest



The Community Wildfire Resilience Workgroup, convened in partnership with [Resources Legacy Fund](#), brings together leaders across wildfire science, land use, insurance, finance, and community implementation to advance a coordinated, long-term approach to reducing California's growing wildfire risk to homes, infrastructure, and other parts of the built environment — and to addressing the impacts on our economy, insurance markets, and public budgets.

Why this workgroup — and why now?

Recent years have served as a stark reminder that wildfire risk exists in the built environment and local economies across the state —where people live, work, and rely on stable insurance markets and public services. While the state has made meaningful progress on landscape resilience through more than \$5.6B in investment between 2015 and 2023 and the leadership of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Taskforce, there is still a missing piece: a coordinated approach to reducing risk in and around the built environment and local economies, where communities are most exposed to loss.

This workgroup brings together cross-sector perspectives to advance a cohesive, practitioner-informed agenda that equips decision-makers with practical guidance for reducing wildfire risk in the built environment.

Happenings of Interest

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

Twin Big Sur wildfires shut down Highway 1 as new blaze races toward coast



The Plaskett fire moves closer toward Highway 1 on Friday afternoon. (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection)

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85°

News Election Results Weather Sports Watch Now Telemundo Reno

13,700 residences are inside Hawk Fire evacuation area



Hawk Fire: Watch Duty

By Brenna O'Boyle

Published: Aug. 23, 2026 at 4:42 PM PDT

RENO, Nev. (KOLO) - Washoe Regional Emergency Information Center reported on Sunday, Aug. 23, that 13,700 residences are inside the evacuation area for the 15,040-acre Hawk Fire in Washoe and Sierra counties.

"We do know that structures have been lost in this fire, but the conditions aren't such that we can allow the damage assessment teams in there yet, so we're waiting for that to happen," Truckee Meadows Fire District Chief Richard Edwards said. "So that they can actually give us an accurate number, and then we'll also work to notify the homeowners, similar to what we did with the Bug and Stallion fires."

About 90,000 residents are in the "GET-SET" to evacuate and "GO-NOW" evacuation zones, according to Official Hawk Fire Information on Facebook.

There are 800 people battling the uncontained blaze five miles Northwest of Reno near Verdi, InciWeb said.

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WILDFIRES

Hawk Fire 98% contained after burning 15,085 acres

Jeffrey Meehan

Reno Gazette Journal

Updated Aug. 30, 2026, 10:05 a.m. PT



See aftermath of Reno's Hawk Fire in North Valleys along U.S. 395

A look at the aftermath along U.S. 395 in North Valleys from the Hawk Fire on Aug. 23, 2026.

The Hawk Fire reached 98% containment, one week after the human-caused wildfire forced about 42,000 people to evacuate from northwest Reno and the North Valleys.

The fire burned 15,085 acres across Peavine Peak, with no additional growth reported in the interagency team's Saturday update. It destroyed at least 47 homes and one commercial building and resulted in one reported fatality.

Happenings of Interest



The Atlantic My Account Give a Gift

FLAMES

America's Rural Lands Are Burning

This summer has been a terrible fire season in the U.S.—just not in the most populated places.

By Nancy Walecki

Photo: Getty / AP

The summer of 2026 has been one of extraordinary fires. In Europe, they have burned hundreds of thousands of acres in France and Spain and destroyed homes across England; they killed 13 people in Spain [last month](#), and an elderly couple in Greece [this weekend](#). In Canada, fires have consumed an expanse of forestland larger than Belgium—which is also battling its biggest recorded wildfire. In the United States, about 7.2 million acres have burned, the largest year-to-date area in the past decade and nearly double what it was at this time last year, according to [data](#) from the National Interagency

CLIMATEWIRE [Gift article](#)

Firefighting resources are 'critically low' in record fire year

Memos show a federal group cannot meet "all requested resources" to fight wildfires and "no immediate relief" is expected.

BY SAQIB RAHIM | 09/19/2025 5:18 AM EDT

Lois Austin takes photos of the remains of his father's house after a wildfire destroyed the neighborhood in Spokane, Washington, this month. Extensive wildfires have strained firefighting resources. (Lindsey Wesson/AP)

CLIMATEWIRE | Wildfires across the West have left a national group unable to fill all local requests for firefighting help and have plunged resources to a "critically low" level, according to memos by a federal group that coordinates national fire response.

The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Center said in an [Aug. 14 memo](#) that it cannot "provide all requested resources for every fire" and on Aug. 11 said there is "no immediate relief anticipated." The center helps agencies cooperate on wildfire response and dispatches people, equipment and firefighting aircraft to state and local fire firefighting crews that need help.

Happenings of Interest



The Politicization Of Wildfire: A Rant. Just Four Wildfires Have Cost Nearly \$500M. Wildfire Fatality On The Hawk Fire In Nevada. UTV Rollover Ejection.

THE HOTSHOT WAKE UP
AUG 28, 2019

On Today's Show:

✓ Subscribed

- Putting out wildfires is hard enough, but the constant tit for tat political grandstanding is wearing on the workforce. I express what I've been hearing from the boots on the ground. A classic rant.
- The Hawk Fire in Nevada announced a fatality this morning. A woman who sustained injuries during the initial day of the fire has passed away.
- The Nation remains at a PL5, and we are one lightning bust away from all out chaos again. Full operational update.
- BC wildfire says civilians are stealing their equipment used to protect homes. Alberta wildfire charged over the death of a wildland firefighter.

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

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New York Times Wildfire Story: All the Science We Want You to Know. I. Models With People and Their Work Missing

August 24, 2026 by Sharon

So let's take a look at this NY Times article in depth. First of all, let's frame it the way, say, a 1980's educated forest geneticist might.

1. Due to whatever reasons (some combo of fire suppression, climate change and whatever else) many wildfires today have many acres of dead trees.
2. While pollen can come from far away (my own dissertation) pine seeds don't go as far.
3. Hence, no Mommy trees no seedlings
4. So if you want to get trees back, you need to plant them. We know how to do this. Or at least many retirees know how to do this. Maybe a useful task would be to interview these folks before their knowledge becomes inaccessible?

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Some Background Relevant to Discussion of the Recent New York Times Story on Wildfires

August 24, 2026 by Sharon

Steve posted about the NY Times story and when I first read it, I thought it would be a terrific piece to analyze from the sociology and philosophy of science perspective.

For me, with a background in what used to be called "forest biology" i.e., physiology and genetics of forest trees, it is an example of what some call disciplinary encroachment.

Encroachment vs. Interdisciplinarity

While they both involve cross-boundary work, their motivations and power dynamics are entirely different:

Attribute	Interdisciplinarity	Disciplinary Encroachment
Dynamic	Collaborative & voluntary	Competitive & non-consensual
Power Balance	Equal regard across fields	Subjugation or treasure of one field
Goal	Synthesizing knowledge to solve a problem	Expanding authority, funding, or jobs

Happenings of Interest

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

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Rulemaking Process Initiated on Travel Management: Wyofile Story

August 26, 2026 by Sharon



An ATV rider motors on a Forest Service Road on July 31, 2014, in the Gros Ventre Range. (Ryan Dorgan)

GREENWIRE

Gift article

Interior moves to speed historic reviews as bigger rewrite looms

The Trump administration has been working on a broader revamp of historic preservation regulations that congressional Republicans say slows down federal permitting.



BY IAN M. STEVENSON | 08/24/2026 05:57 PM EDT



Interior Secretary Doug Burgum sits at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Jan. 16, 2025. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

GREENWIRE | Interior Secretary Doug Burgum issued an order last week aimed at speeding up historic preservation reviews often required for energy development and other projects on federal land.

The Thursday [secretarial order](#) instructs agency officials to be timely in their processing of reviews, to create lists of activities that can be exempted from historic evaluations and use alternative arrangements to accelerate reviews. "We're cutting red tape, clearing bureaucratic roadblocks, and making sure government isn't standing in the way of American communities," an Interior spokesperson said Monday. "This Secretary's Order will allow the Department to consider any effects on historic properties in a more meaningful and timely fashion, and require the same of states and tribes."



The Hotshot Wake Up

Shots Fired: Residents Shoot At Wildfire UAS In Washington. Forest Service Files To Rescind Roadless Rule. "Hello?" Missoula Dispatch Coms Go Down.

Multiple arson arrests in Canada. Full operational Update.



THE HOTSHOT WAKE UP
AUG 21, 2026 - PAID

25 6 9

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On Today's Show:

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- Red Flags are forecast into the weekend across the PNW, Northern California, Idaho, and Montana. Full operational update.
- UAS operators attached to a wildfire in Washington report that locals fired on their equipment while they conducted damage assessments for FEMA wildfire relief. They then suspended all operations.
- The USDA announced that the Forest Service has filed a rule to rescind the Roadless Area Rule to better manage wildfire risk across forested landscapes.
- How dry is it? A report from Idaho on a wildfire starting while helitack was attaching a Bambi bucket to a helicopter, after a landing light sparked the grass underneath.
- Full report on the Tender rollover in Oregon on the Fox Fire leading to an air med flight.
- Missoula, Montana dispatch lost all landline functionality during IA response this week. The issue is ongoing.
- Multiple people arrested in Canada on arson charges after a string of wildfires in British Columbia.

Happenings of Interest

GREENWIRE



Interior plans fast track for oil exploration in Alaska's North Slope

The department is moving to reduce environmental reviews for winter oil exploration in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve.



BY IAN M. STEVENSON | 09/27/2024 09:49 PM EDT



An exploratory drilling rig in 2010 at the site of the Willow oil project in Alaska's North Slope. (Conservation/Phillips via AP)

GREENWIRE | The Trump administration is planning to pare down environmental reviews of oil and gas exploration activities over the winter in parts of Alaska's North Slope.

As part of the administration's push to speed oil and gas production, officials at the Interior Department plan to issue a categorical exclusion for winter seismic testing and other exploration activities in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve. The move could potentially mean skipping a public comment period and declining to examine the environmental effects that shock waves, ice roads, airstrips and drilled wells could have on sensitive Arctic tundra ecosystems. The potential for a categorical exclusion in the NPR-A was first reported by [Public Domain](#).

An Interior spokesperson said Wednesday that the department is "working on a proposed categorical exclusion to speed up permitting for winter exploration, including seismic and exploratory drilling operations."

GREENWIRE



Trump's offshore drilling revival survives early court challenge

A federal judge ruled that environmental groups, at least for now, lack standing to bring their case against the Trump administration.



BY NIINA H. FARAH | 08/24/2024 09:44 PM EDT



Environmental groups had warned that oil and gas development in Alaska's outer continental shelf could harm walrus, and other marine species. (Josh Gorkin/Alamy/Photo and Wildlife Service via AP)

GREENWIRE | A federal judge in Alaska has blocked environmental groups' challenge against the Trump administration's decision to reopen millions of acres of offshore waters in the Arctic and elsewhere to oil and gas development.

Chief Judge Sharon Gleason of the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska on Monday ruled the environmental coalition led by the Northern Alaska Environmental Center lacked standing to bring their suit. The groups failed to show they faced imminent harm from President Donald Trump's 2025 decision to reverse his predecessors' orders to permanently close off broad swaths of the outer continental shelf (OCS) from fossil fuel development, she said.

Gleason acknowledged it was likely that the Interior Department planned to issue permits for oil exploration and development, but there were still multiple steps to go before the groups challenging the decision would be harmed.

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AUGUST 27, 2026

Five Horsemen of the Environmental Apocalypse

MIKE BADER



Log loading site, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington Cascades. Photo: Jeffrey St. Clair.

The Trump Administration has released five horsemen to run roughshod over America the Beautiful, playing out their version of Manifest Destiny 2.0 at the expense of all that is good and whole.

In seemingly separate but connected actions, the very agencies entrusted with protecting our national heritage seek to drive threatened and endangered wildlife off the landscape like the native Americans before them. Under a cloak of "efficiency" and "local control," they are wreaking havoc leading to plunder, despoilation and lawlessness, clearing the way for bulldozers and industrial anarchy.

Happenings of Interest

The Guardian US

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

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Utah

Trump dramatically cuts size of two national monuments held sacred by tribes

Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah will lose 'close to a million and a half acres each' and open land to developers and oil industry



Calif Creek canyon valley and the Grand Staircase-Escalante national monument in Utah. Photograph: Wolfgang Kaebler/LightRocket/Getty Images

Coral Murphy Marcos and agencies

Mon 13 Jul 2026 19:45 EDT

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Donald Trump has approved a sharp reduction in the size of two national monuments in Utah held sacred by many **Native Americans**, in the latest move to open US public land to corporate developers and the oil and gas industry.

**NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND**





PROTECTING BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Native nations have spent decades working to protect the sacred twin buttes shaped like the ears of a bear found in southeastern Utah.

Status: Active

The Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, represented by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) continue to fight to protect the invaluable Bears Ears National Monument; protections that Native people advocated to create for many decades. In August 2023, the U.S. District Court dismissed the cases challenging the Biden Proclamation, and the Bears Ears protections were upheld. On appeal, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals returned the case to the district court in June 2026 for further review.



**Wes Siler's Newsletter** [Upgrade to founding](#) 

The Fight Over National Monuments Won't Stop With Bears Ears

Trump plans to re-shrink Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. I fear it won't stop there.

**WES SILER**
Jul 10, 2026

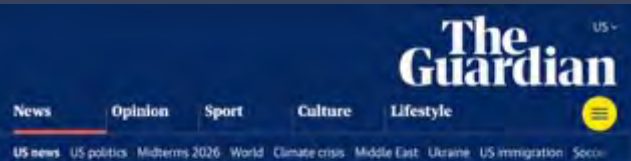
 170  37  48 [Share](#)



According to the [ABC news affiliate](#) in Salt Lake City, President Trump is expected to hold a signing ceremony for an order to re-shrink Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments at 4:30 PM Eastern. Most reports you're going to read about this will treat it as an end goal for the administration's anti-public lands agenda, but it's really just the beginning of something much worse.

While no details on the areas that will be impacted or what implementation may look like are available (I'll update this article when that's available), the order is expected to follow the broad strokes of the action taken during the first Trump administration.

Happenings of Interest



Utah Trump dramatically cuts size of two national monuments held sacred by tribes

Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah will lose 'close to a million and a half acres each' and open land to developers and oil industry



Calif Creek canyon valley and the Grand Staircase-Escalante national monument in Utah. Photograph: Wolfgang Kaebler/LightRocket/Getty Images

Coral Murphy Marcos and agencies

Mon 13 Jul 2026 19:45 EDT

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Donald Trump has approved a sharp reduction in the size of two national monuments in Utah held sacred by many **Native Americans**, in the latest move to open US public land to corporate developers and the oil and gas industry.

Utah's Representatives Sold Off-Roaders, Hunters, Campers, And Their Constituents Out With Latest Attack on Public Lands

You know the only thing you couldn't do in Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante? Mine or develop it.



Photo by: Phil Kessel



By: **Jonathon Klein**
Jul 17, at 8:42am ET

Add Fidespart as a preferred source in Google

9 Comments

"You can virtually not even walk on it."

That's the line that spread throughout the internet like wildfire—apt for **how much of Utah is currently on fire**, partly due to **federal funds being slashed**—**from President Donald J Trump** upon the signing of the Executive Order that reduced Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments by around 90% or, far more illustrative, by 3 million acres. Surrounded by Utah Governor Spencer Cox, Utah Senators Mike Lee and John Curtis, and a host of other state representatives, **they all cheered the President on** as he signed the EO, saying, "Almost 3 million acres, going to be well taken care of now."

GREENWIRE

Gift article

Trump clears path for mining across shrunken Utah monuments

"There's definitely potential," a Utah mining industry official said about the prospect of digging for coal, uranium and other minerals in land removed from the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments.

BY: **HEATHER RICHARDS, HANNAH NORTHEY** | 07/16/2026 01:42 PM EDT |
UPDATED 07/16/2026 03:50 PM EDT



The two fluffs known as the "Bears Ears" stand off in the distance at sunset in the Bears Ears National Monument on May 11, 2017, outside Blanding, Utah. | George Frey/Getty Images

GREENWIRE | President Donald Trump opened the door to mine for coal, uranium and minerals across a massive swath of federal land in Utah on Monday after shrinking the footprint of two national monuments.

The rescissions open up nearly 3 million acres of land, including acreage that could be ripe for mineral exploration and development. That includes coal-rich lands within the footprint of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and uranium deposits near the Bears Ears National Monument, said Brian Somers, president of the Utah Mining Association. "There's definitely potential. The areas around Bears Ears are definitely part of Utah's uranium belt and the lands around, in the Grand Staircase are known to contain some of our largest coal reserves," said Somers. "There's also potential for other critical mineral development in those areas."

Happenings of Interest

GREENWIRE



Gift article



Walz throws up new roadblock to mining near Boundary Waters

The Minnesota governor signed an order that halts permitting of mining projects near the pristine wilderness, undermining a top priority for President Donald Trump and Republicans.

BY: HANNAH NORTHEY, IAN M. STEVENSON | 08/18/2026 01:34 PM EDT |
UPDATED 08/18/2026 06:43 PM EDT



Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (D) speaks in Anaheim, California, on May 31, 2025. | Damian Dovarganes/AP

GREENWIRE | Democratic Gov. Tim Walz moved Tuesday to block mining near the pristine Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota, dealing a blow to Republican efforts that have sought to push forward a copper and nickel project in the region.

The governor signed an [executive order](#) to temporarily prohibit mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and directed state agencies to halt all permitting of mining projects in the Rainy River Headwaters Watershed, which flows into the vast wilderness that includes more than 1,000 lakes and spans 150 miles along the U.S.-Canada border. The order will take effect during the remaining months of Walz's term, but is then vulnerable to repeal.

The New York Times

Climate Forward

August 20, 2026



President Trump signed a measure in June 2025 to block a California rule that would have barred the sale of new gas-powered cars by 2035. Doug Mills/The New York Times

Trump is trying to crush California's environmental protections



By Maxine Joselow

When my editors asked me to write about President Trump and California's climate policies, I was initially hesitant. Hadn't I already written that story during Trump's first term?

It turns out that since returning to office, Trump has gone much further to attack California's position as a leader in environmental protection, with big implications for other states that follow its lead, [as I reported today](#).

Political hires break with tradition at the Forest Service

By bringing political appointees to the Forest Service, the Trump administration puts accountability to the White House at the top of the agency's agenda.



BY MARC HELLER | 06/27/2024 5:14 PM EDT



Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz speaks during a hearing with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on May 13 in Washington. | Anna-Maria Kasper/Getty Images

GREENWIRE | Tom Schultz's appointment was already unusual when Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins plucked him from the timber industry to lead the Forest Service in February 2025, bypassing the agency's career foresters.

Now Schultz, in what's historically a nonpolitical position, is in another atypical situation: He's sandwiched between a presidentially appointed undersecretary he reports to and new political hires who work for him as "senior advisers."

All of these officials are now leading a big reorganization of the agency, which is relocating the headquarters to Salt Lake City, replacing regional offices with state-based leadership and consolidating dozens of research facilities.

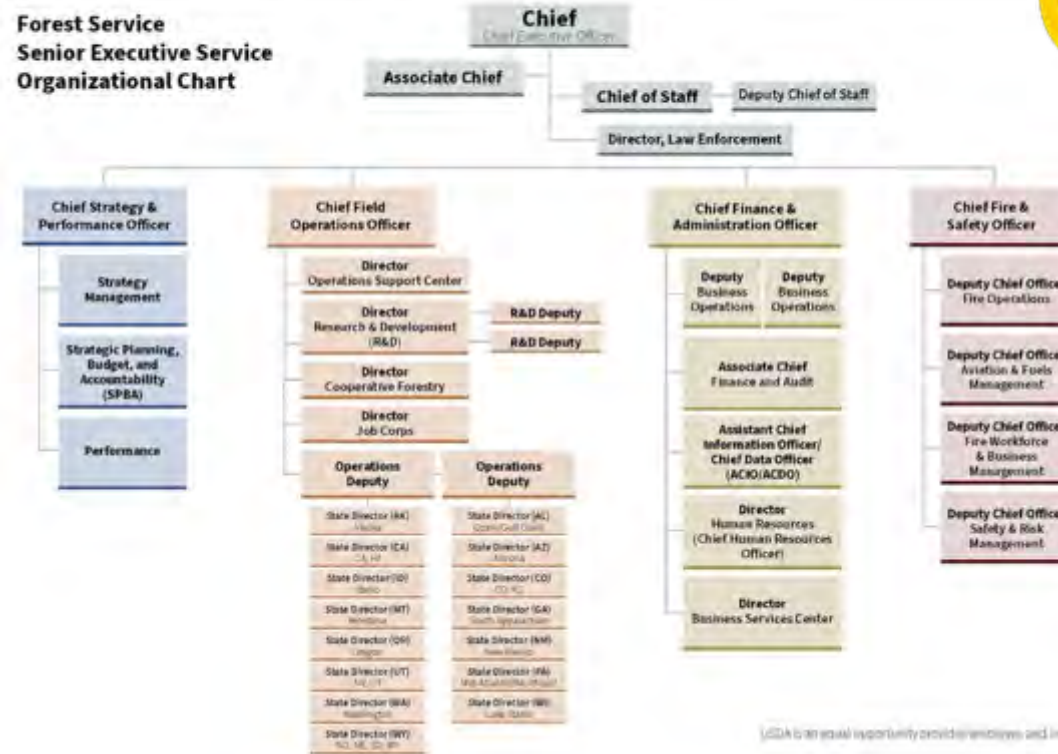
"It's different from the history of the agency," said retired Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, who worked for the agency for more than 30 years before he was picked to lead it during the Obama administration.



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DRAFT DELIBERATIVE

Forest Service Senior Executive Service Organizational Chart



Happenings of Interest

The New York Times *Trump Administration Moves to Allow Logging in Pristine National Forests*

The move to repeal the 'roadless rule' would pave the way for road construction and logging in nearly 45 million acres of untouched back country.

Listen - 6:50 min

Share full article



A bear in the Tongass National Forest of southeast Alaska. Roadless areas make up about 30 percent of all national forest land and are home to more than half of imperiled wildlife, including grizzly bears, wolves, elk, salmon and wolverines. Ron Niebrugge/Alamy

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

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The Missing Middle I: Roadless, Travel Management, and Wildfire Use

August 27, 2026 by Sharon

First of all, for context, a big shout-out to the California Assembly for this (from Jennifer Pahlka):

Last November, I wrote about an experiment in the California Assembly designed to change that. Speaker Robert Rivas launched a pilot called Outcomes Reviews: a structured process by which a legislator and their staff publicly commit to reviewing a law they championed, spend months meeting with the people the law actually affects and researching the outcomes, and then announce what they learned and what they're going to do about it. Earlier this week, his office announced the results of the pilot year. Fifteen Assemblymembers reviewed fourteen laws, covering housing, energy, health care, foster care, wildfire recovery, and more. According to the Speaker's office, the program will continue next session, with more members and more reviews, on its way to becoming a permanent part of how Assembly policy teams work.

Pacific Crest Trail Association



Photo by Carrie Day

What the federal government's latest proposal could mean for the PCT and the trail experience.

Dear John,

I want to share an important update about a federal action that could significantly affect the Pacific Crest Trail and the landscapes that make traveling it such a remarkable experience.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture took the next formal step toward rescinding the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. For more than 25 years, the rule has protected nearly 45 million acres of national forest lands from most new road construction and large-scale timber harvest.

These protections are especially important to the PCT. Our latest analysis identified 63 roadless areas along 288 miles of the trail in California, Oregon and Washington, which is roughly 11% of the entire PCT.

If you have traveled through one of these places, such as the iconic Meiss Meadow near Lake Tahoe, you may not have known it was part of an Inventoried Roadless Area. But you likely experienced what that protection has helped preserve: the rare feeling of moving through a landscape largely untouched by modern development.

Happenings of Interest

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DEFEND THE ROADLESS RULE: PROTECT YOUR LOCAL BACKCOUNTRY ZONES

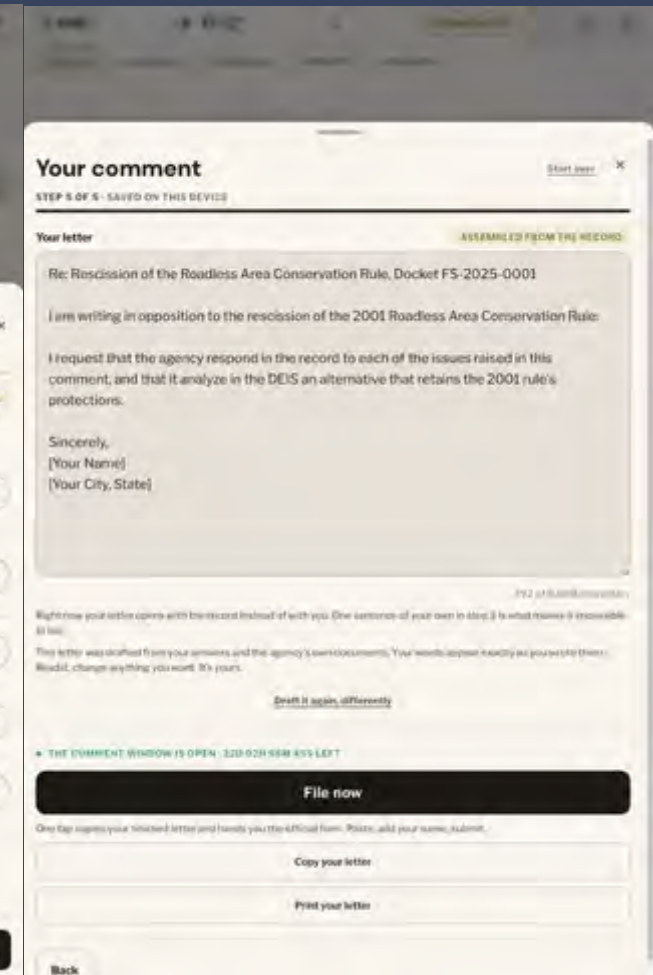
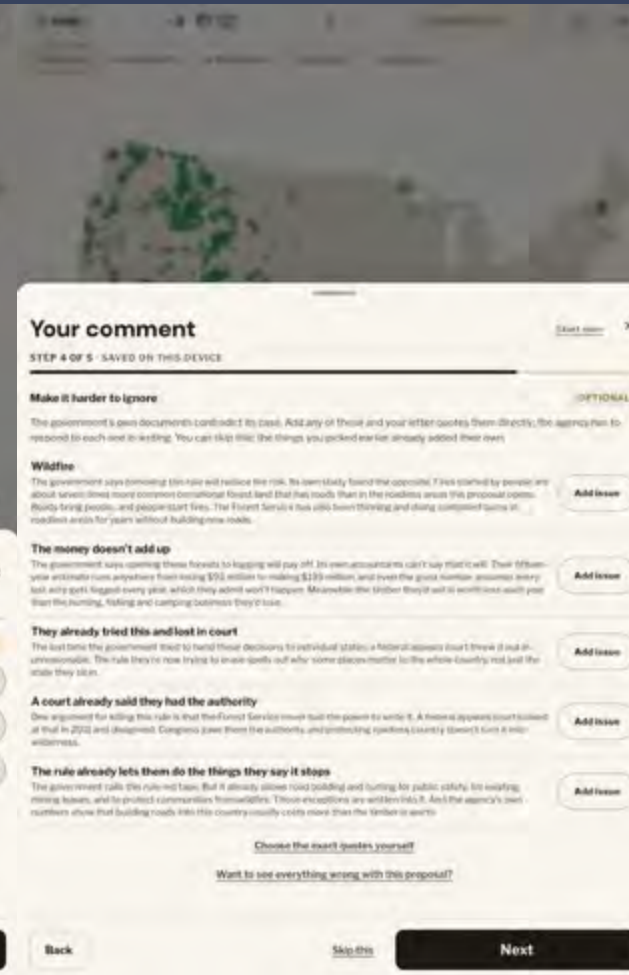
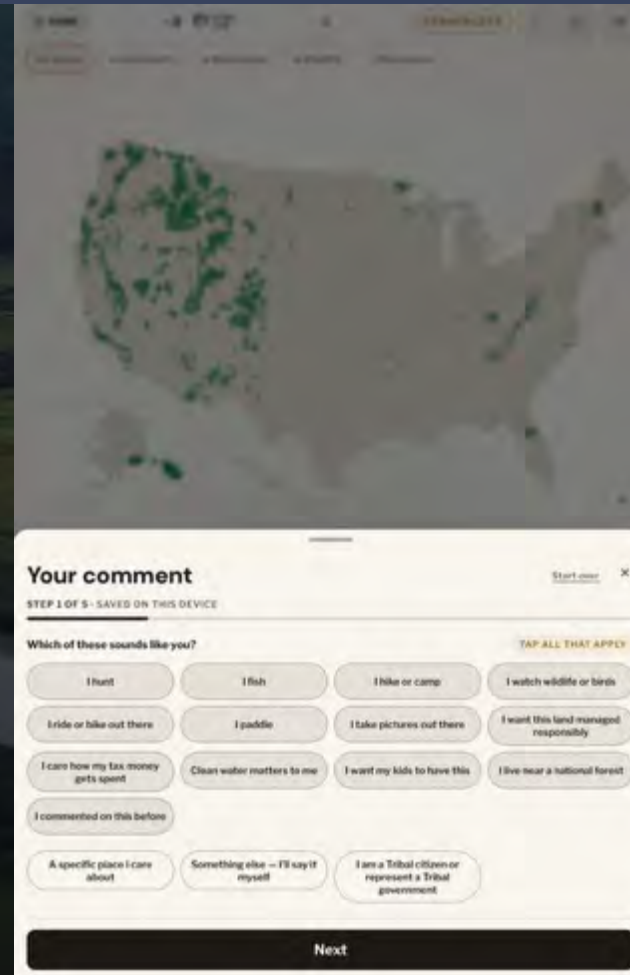
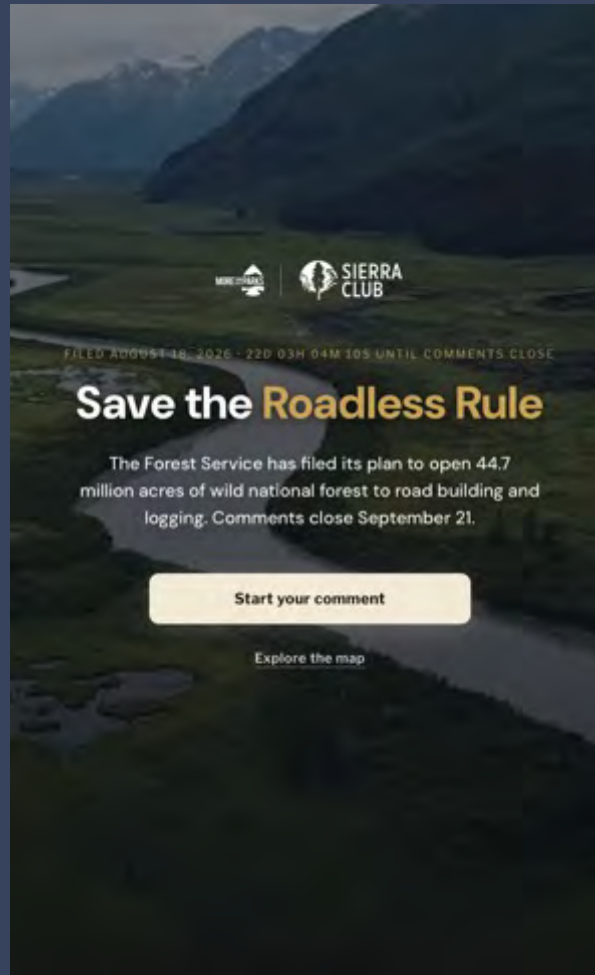
Since 2001, over 50 million acres of multiple-use National Forest land have been protected from logging and development under the Roadless Rule. But now, these protections are in jeopardy.



On August 20, 2026, the [USDA released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(DEIS\)](#) for the 2001 Roadless Rule.

The release of the DEIS represents a new step in the roadless rule decision and another opportunity for public comment. Now is your chance to weigh in on the [Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(DEIS\)](#), which analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed rescission.

Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest

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Find Your Forests

Every green dot is a roadless area, and most stand to lose their only protection. Idaho and Colorado areas keep their state rules. Find the ones near you.

2,898 areas **58.3M** acres **122** forests

FEATURED FORESTS



Tongass

The Largest Intact Temperate Rainforest on Earth

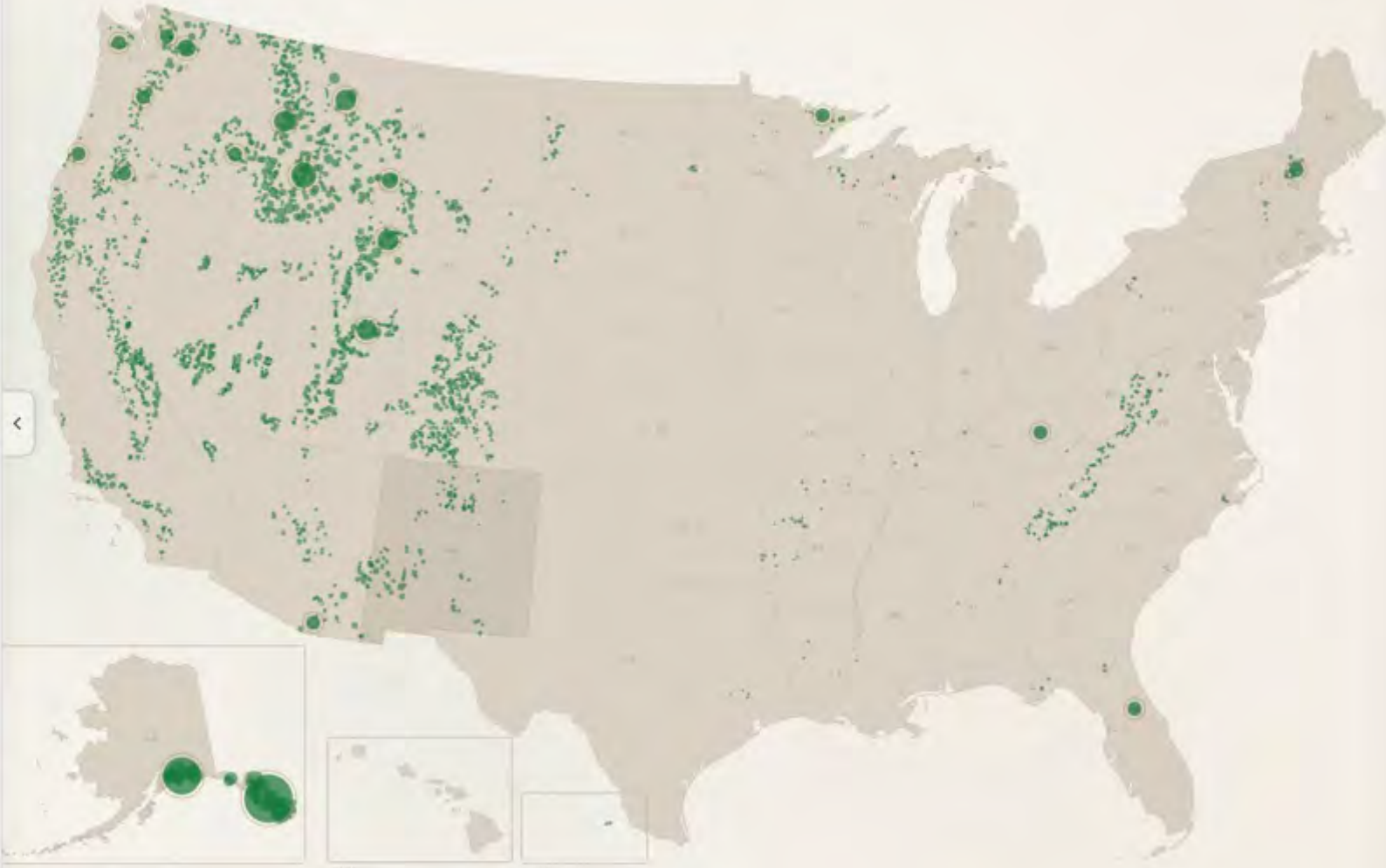
Alaska / 9,339,575 roadless acres

[Old Growth](#)[Watershed](#)[Wildlife Corridor](#)



Chugach

Where the Mountains Meet the Sea



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Find Your Forests

Every green dot is a roadless area, and most stand to lose their only protection. Idaho and Colorado areas keep their state rules. Find the ones near you.

[Find by ZIP](#)

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You are **4 miles** from **Sherwin** in Inyo National Forest, California. There are **10 roadless areas** within 50 miles of you, totaling 120,322 acres. Without the Roadless Rule, every one of them is open to road construction and industrial logging. Sherwin is a 3,140-acre inventoried roadless area in the Inyo National Forest, California. It is one of the smaller areas in the inventory, below 77% of the rest, and areas this size still function as connective habitat between larger blocks.

CLOSEST TO YOU

Sherwin Inyo NF · CA · 3,140 acres	4 mi	+ ADD TO COMMENT
San Joaquin Inyo NF · CA · 19,662 acres	6 mi	+ ADD TO COMMENT
Laurel McGee Inyo NF · CA · 8,770 acres	8 mi	+ ADD TO COMMENT
Nevahbe Ridge Inyo NF · CA · 302 acres	12 mi	+ ADD TO COMMENT
Glass Mountain	13 mi	

[All Areas](#) [Old Growth](#) [Watershed](#) [Wildlife](#) [Recreation](#)

Happenings of Interest

Wes Siler's Newsletter

Cutting Through Disinformation Around The Roadless Rule Rescission

The sky isn't falling, the Forest Service hasn't been dismantled, and no one is about to bulldoze 44 million acres of untouched forest



WES SILER

AUG 20, 2025



60



16



12

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Take a deep breath everyone, the Roadless Rule is back in the news. Because non-profits need to capture the attention of an easily-distracted public that has a lot more important things to worry about in order to raise money, because publications that sell fear and lies need to scare you, and because it has a sexy name, that means there's a lot of inflammatory headlines out there right now. Don't worry, I'm here to cut through the bullshit so you'll have one less thing keeping you up at night.

What The Roadless Rule Is

Back in the halcyon days of the year 2000, Bill Clinton's United States Forest Service found itself with a problem. It was facing an **\$8.4 billion maintenance backlog** across the **373,000 miles of roads** it was responsible for on a total agency budget of only \$3.4 billion. But nationwide there were 58 million acres of land that might be suitable for logging and hadn't yet been opened up for such.

BREAKING: USDA Moves to Bulldoze Last Unroaded Forests in America

Ninety percent of wildfires start within a half mile of a road. The proposal is to build more of them.



JIM PATTIZ AND MORE THAN JUST PARKS

AUG 18, 2025



247



34



153

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In a [press release this morning](#) USDA proudly announced its decision to rescind the Roadless Rule in its entirety. The release was rife with warnings about wildfire risks, emergencies, and an industry favorite term for aggressive logging — active forest management. It included praise from Republican western governors like Utah's Spencer Cox, a [leading figure in the fight to sell off Americans public lands](#). Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Stephen Vaden explained that the first step to managing forests is having access to them. Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz, a former logging executive, insisted that active management isn't optional, it's essential.

What doesn't appear in the press release is a single mention of the drinking water, wildlife, or old growth forests that depend on roadless areas. There's also no explanation of what an inventoried roadless area is or why they were protected to begin with. It's a document ostensibly about a fire emergency that ends with 44 million acres of national forest opened to logging and road building.

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

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Things Common to All Three Alternatives From Roadless DEIS

August 20, 2026 by Sharon

This is a handy table from the DEIS:

Table 1. 2001 Roadless Rule exceptions (alternative 1) (28 CFR 294.12(b) and 294.12(b) (2001)).	
Road construction, reconstruction, including temporary road construction, is prohibited in inventoried roadless areas, except when:	Timber harvest would be prohibited, though timber may be cut, sold, or removed in inventoried roadless areas if the following exceptions apply.
1) A road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood, fire, or other catastrophic event that, without intervention, would cause the loss of life or property.	Exceptions would be expected to be stringent.
2) A road is needed to conduct a response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) or to conduct a natural resource restoration action under CERCLA, Section 311 of the Clean Water Act, or the Oil Pollution Act.	1) The cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber is needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve one or more of the roadless area characteristics as defined in § 294.11.
3) A road is needed pursuant to reserved or outstanding rights, or as provided for by statute or treaty.	a. To improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat; or
4) Road realignment is needed to prevent irreparable resource damage that results from the design, location, use, or deterioration of a classified road and that cannot be mitigated by road maintenance. Road realignment may occur under this paragraph only if the road is deemed essential for public or private access, natural resource management, or public health and safety.	b. To maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire effects, within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climate period.
5) Road reconstruction is needed to implement a road safety improvement project on a classified road determined to be hazardous on the basis of accident frequency or accident potential on that road.	2) The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is essential to the implementation of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by this subject.
6) The Secretary of Agriculture determines that a Federal Aid Highway project, authorized pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code, is in the public interest or is consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved or acquired and no other reasonable and prudent alternative exists, or	3) The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is needed and appropriate for personal or administrative use, as provided for in 38 CFR part 220, or
7) A road is needed in conjunction with the construction, extension, or removal of a material basin on lands that are under lease by the Secretary of the Interior as of January 12, 2001, or for a new lease issued immediately upon expiration of an existing lease. Such road construction or reconstruction must be conducted in a manner that minimizes effects on surface resources, prevents unnecessary or unreasonable surface disturbance, and complies with all applicable lease requirements, land and resource management plan decisions, regulations, and laws. Roads constructed or reconstructed pursuant to this paragraph must be obliterated when no longer needed for the purposes of the lease or upon termination or expiration of the lease, whichever is earlier.	4) Roadless characteristics have been substantially altered as a result of an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest. Both the road construction and subsequent timber harvest must have occurred after the area was designated an inventoried roadless area and prior to January 12, 2001. Timber may be cut, sold, or removed only as the substantially altered portion of the inventoried roadless area.

Happenings of Interest

Wes Siler's Newsletter

Cutting Through Disinformation: Roadless Rule Rescission

The sky isn't falling, the Forest Service hasn't been bulldoze 44 million acres of untouched forest



WES SILER
AUG 29, 2024

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Take a deep breath everyone, the Roadless Rule is not a profits need to capture the attention of an easily-susceptible audience. It's a fear and lies need to scare you, and because it has so much of inflammatory headlines out there right now. Do not let the bullshit so you'll have one less thing keeping you up at night.

What The Roadless Rule Is

Back in the halcyon days of the year 2000, Bill Clinton's United States Forest Service found itself with a problem. It was facing an \$8.4 billion maintenance backlog across the 373,000 miles of roads it was responsible for on a total agency budget of only \$3.4 billion. But nationwide there were 58 million acres of land that might be suitable for logging and hadn't yet been opened up for such.

BREAKING: USDA Moves to Bulldoze Last Unroaded Forests in America

In a press release this morning USDA proudly announced its decision to rescind the Roadless Rule in its entirety. The release was rife with warnings about wildfire risks, emergencies, and an industry favorite term for aggressive logging — active forest management. It included praise from Republican western governors like Utah's Spencer Cox, a leading figure in the fight to sell off Americans public lands. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Stephen Vaden explained that the first step to managing forests is having access to them. Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz, a former logging executive, insisted that active management isn't optional, it's essential.

What doesn't appear in the press release is a single mention of the drinking water, wildlife, or old growth forests that depend on roadless areas. There's also no explanation of what an inventoried roadless area is or why they were protected to begin with. It's a document ostensibly about a fire emergency that ends with 44 million acres of national forest opened to logging and road building.

Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz, a former logging executive, insisted that active management isn't optional, it's essential.

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The Smokey Wire : National Forest News

News

Created and Supported

by

Three Alternatives From

301 (2001)

Timber harvest would be prohibited, though timber may be cut, sold, or used in inventoried roadless areas if the following exceptions apply. No harvest would be expected to be adjacent.

The cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber is needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve one or more of the roadless area characteristics as defined in § 204.11:

- To improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat, or
- To maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climate period.

The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is essential to the implementation of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by this subpart.

- The Secretary of Agriculture determines that a Federal fee highway project, authorized pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code, is in the public interest or is consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved or acquired and no other reasonable and prudent alternative exists, or
- A road is needed in conjunction with the construction, extension, or removal of a mineral lease on lands that are under lease by the Secretary of the Interior as of January 12, 2001, or for a new lease issued immediately upon expiration of an existing lease. Such road construction or reconstruction must be conducted in a manner that minimizes effects on surface resources, prevents unnecessary or unacceptable surface disturbances, and complies with all applicable lease requirements, land and resource management plan direction, regulations, and laws. Roads constructed or reconstructed pursuant to this paragraph must be utilized when no longer needed for the purposes of the lease or upon termination or expiration of the lease, whichever is sooner.
- The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is needed and appropriate for personal or administrative use, as provided for in 36 CFR part 223, or
- Roadless characteristics have been substantially altered in a portion of an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest. Both the road construction and subsequent timber harvest must have occurred after the area was designated an inventoried roadless area and prior to January 12, 2001. Timber may be cut, sold, or removed only in the substantially altered portion of the inventoried roadless area.

Happenings of Interest

Wes Siler's Newsletter

BREAKING: USDA Moves to Bulldoze Last

Cutting Through Disinformation: Roadless Rule Rescission

The sky isn't falling, the Forest Service hasn't been bulldozing 44 million acres of untouched forest.

WES SILER
AUG 20, 2026

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What The Roadless Rule Is

Back in the halcyon days of the year 2000, Bill Clinton's United States Forest Service found itself with a problem. It was facing an **\$8.4 billion maintenance backlog** across the **373,000 miles of roads** it was responsible for on a total agency budget of only \$3.4 billion. But nationwide there were 58 million acres of land that might be suitable for logging and hadn't yet been opened up for such.

August 20, 2026 by Sharon

Because USFS pays to build logging roads and because the agency was facing a budget crisis, it was easier just to put a hard no on building more than it was to pull money from other priorities. And, fortunately for then-Chief Mike Dombeck, there was a relatively easy solution on the table.

Beginning in the 1970s, USFS had begun inventorying its as-yet undeveloped acres as part of the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation.

The solution? Simply adopting an agency-wide rule that stated USFS would no longer build new roads in designated "Roadless" areas.

Take a deep breath everyone, the Roadless Rule is not a profit grab. The USFS needs to capture the attention of an easily-susceptible public. The fear and lies need to scare you, and because it has so many inflammatory headlines out there right now. Do not let the bullshit so you'll have one less thing keeping you up at night.

What The Roadless Rule Is

Back in the halcyon days of the year 2000, Bill Clinton's United States Forest Service found itself with a problem. It was facing an **\$8.4 billion maintenance backlog** across the **373,000 miles of roads** it was responsible for on a total agency budget of only \$3.4 billion. But nationwide there were 58 million acres of land that might be suitable for logging and hadn't yet been opened up for such.

logging and road building.

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ree Alternatives From

501 (2001):

cut, sold, or removed would be prohibited, though timber may be cut, sold, or removed in inventoried roadless areas if the following exemptions apply. Exemptions would be expected to be infrequent.

The cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber is needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve one or more of the roadless area characteristics as defined in § 204.11:

- To improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat, or
- To maintain, or restore, the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire effects, within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climate period.

The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is incidental to the implementation of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by this subpart.

The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is needed and appropriate for personal or administrative use, as provided for in 36 CFR part 223, or

Roadless characteristics have been substantially altered in a portion of an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest. Both the road construction and subsequent timber harvest must have occurred after the area was designated an inventoried roadless area and prior to January 12, 2001. Timber may be cut, sold, or removed only in the substantially altered portion of the inventoried roadless area.

Happenings of Interest

Wes Siler's Newsletter

Cutting Through Disinformation Around The Roadless Rule Rescission

The sky isn't falling, the Forest Service hasn't been dismantled, and no one is about to bulldoze 44 million acres of untouched forest



WES SILER
AUG 29, 2024

60 18 12

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BREAKING: USDA Moves to Bulldoze Last Unroaded Forests in America

Ninety percent of wildfires start within a half mile of a road. The proposal is to build more of them.



JIM PATTIZ AND MORE THAN JUST PARKS
AUG 18, 2024

247 34 153

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What The Roadless Rule Is Not

I want to make sure everyone understands this: The Roadless Rule does not ban road construction in national forests. It only bans USFS from paying to build roads for the purpose of supporting logging projects, obviously in the areas “protected” by the rule.

Take a deep breath everyone, the Roadless Rule is back in the news. Because non-profits need to capture the attention of an easily-distracted public that has a lot more important things to worry about in order to raise money, because publications that sell fear and lies need to scare you, and because it has a sexy name, that means there's a lot of inflammatory headlines out there right now. Don't worry, I'm here to cut through the bullshit so you'll have one less thing keeping you up at night.

What The Roadless Rule Is

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What doesn't appear in the press release is a single mention of the drinking water, wildlife, or old growth forests that depend on roadless areas. There's also no explanation of what an inventoried roadless area is or why they were protected to begin with. It's a document ostensibly about a fire emergency that ends with 44 million acres of national forest opened to logging and road building.

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

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Menu

Three Alternatives From

Table 1. 2001 Roadless Rule exceptions (alternative 1) (36 CFR 294.12(b) and 294.12(c) (2001))

Road construction, reconstruction, including temporary road construction, is prohibited in inventoried roadless areas, except when:	Timber harvest would be prohibited, though timber may be cut, sold, or removed in inventoried roadless areas if the following exceptions apply.
1) A road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood, fire, or other catastrophic event that, without intervention, would cause the loss of life or property.	Exceptions would be expected to be infrequent.
2) A road is needed to conduct a response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) or to conduct a natural resource restoration action under CERCLA, Section 311 of the Clean Water Act, or the Oil Pollution Act.	1) The cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber is needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve one or more of the roadless area characteristics as defined in § 294.11.
3) A road is needed pursuant to reserved or outstanding rights, or as provided for by statute or treaty.	a. To improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat; or
4) Road realignment is needed to prevent irreparable resource damage that arises from the design, location, use, or deterioration of a classified road and that cannot be mitigated by road maintenance. Road realignment may occur under this paragraph only if the road is deemed essential for public or private access, natural resource management, or public health and safety.	b. To maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem condition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects, within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climate period.
5) Road reconstruction is needed to implement a road safety improvement project on a classified road determined to be hazardous on the basis of accident experience or accident potential on that road.	2) The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is incidental to the implementation of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by this subpart.
6) The Secretary of Agriculture determines that a Federal Aid Highway project, authorized pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code, is in the public interest or is consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved or acquired and no other reasonable and prudent alternative exists; or	3) The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is needed and appropriate for personal or administrative use, as provided for in 36 CFR part 223, or
7) A road is needed in conjunction with the construction, extension, or removal of a mineral lease on lands that are under lease by the Secretary of the Interior as of January 12, 2001, or for a new lease issued immediately upon expiration of an existing lease. Such road construction or reconstruction must be conducted in a manner that minimizes effects on surface resources, prevents unnecessary or unnecessary surface disturbances, and complies with all applicable lease requirements, land and resource management plan direction, regulations, and laws. Roads constructed or reconstructed pursuant to this paragraph must be utilized when no longer needed for the purposes of the lease or upon termination or expiration of the lease, whichever is sooner.	4) Roadless characteristics have been substantially altered in a portion of an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road and subsequent timber harvest. Both the road construction and subsequent timber harvest must have occurred after the area was designated an inventoried roadless area and prior to January 12, 2001. Timber may be cut, sold, or removed only in the substantially altered portion of the inventoried roadless area.

Happenings of Interest

Wes Siler's Newsletter

BREAKING: USDA Moves to Bulldoze Last Unroaded Forests in America

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News

Cutting Roadless

The sky isn't falling
bulldoze 44

WES SILER
AUG 2021

60

Take a deep breath
profits need
important to
fear and lies
of inflammation
the bullshit

What?

Back in the
found itself

the 373,000 miles of roads it was responsible for on a total agency budget of only \$5.4 billion. But nationwide there were 58 million acres of land that might be suitable for logging and hadn't yet been opened up for such.

Things Common to All Alternatives

- 1. No changes are proposed to state-specific rules for Idaho and Colorado**
- 2. No alternatives would compel the amendment or revision of any land management plan.** While the rulemaking would not require such changes, plans may be amended in any manner whatsoever and are revised periodically (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)). Local responsible officials (forest supervisors and regional foresters) would continue to have discretion to amend or revise a land management plan as deemed necessary.
- 3. Any future administrative changes, amendments, or revisions to land management plans would comply with NFMA and planning regulations (36 CFR 219 or the planning directives at FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12).**

It sounds as if, for Alternative 1, forests who wanted to go into the Areas Formerly Known as IRAs would have to do a plan amendment because the management as an IRA was incorporated into post-2001 plans and pre -2001 plans would automatically revert? Others probably understand more.

4. No alternatives would compel or authorize site-specific ground disturbing activities.

5. The reasonable exercise of reserved or outstanding rights for access, occupancy, and use of National Forest System lands within inventoried roadless areas would not be affected. The rights include those that exist by law or by treaty. They include, but are not limited to, the right to provide reasonable access across National Forest System lands to private property, mining claims for locatable minerals under the 1872 Mining Law, land uses protected by Native American treaty rights, and uses under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

I know some folks have raised red flags about strategic minerals. Those are (almost all) locatable and subject to the 1872 Mining Act. So the 2001 is no protection against folks mining them.

6. All alternatives would allow for the continuation, transfer, or renewal of existing land-use authorizations for activities in roadless areas. "Authorizations" refer to land uses allowed under a special use permit, contract, or similar legal instrument. Numerous types of lands and recreation-related authorizations are issued for occupancy and use of National Forest System lands.

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disturbance, and comply with all applicable design requirements, and any resource management plan decision, regulations, and laws. Roads constructed or reconstructed pursuant to this paragraph must be abandoned when no longer needed for the purposes of the lease or open season or expiration of the lease, whichever is sooner.

portion of the inventoried roadless area

road construction, reconstruction involving temporary road
struction, is prohibited in inventoried roadless areas, except when:
road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an
imminent threat of flood, fire, or other catastrophic event that, without
the road, would cause the loss of life or property;
road is needed to conduct a response action under the Comprehensive
Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) or to
conduct a natural resource restoration action under CERCLA, Section 211
of the Clean Water Act, or the Oil Pollution Act;

1) The cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber is
needed for one of the following purposes and will maintain or improve
one or more of the roadless area characteristics as defined in § 294.11:

2) To maintain or restore the characteristics of riparian, or terrestrial
ecosystems, and riparian, or terrestrial resources, including the risk of
erosion, sedimentation, and debris flow, and the range of variability
in the size, shape, and distribution of natural disturbance
regimes of the current climate period;

3) To maintain or restore the characteristics of riparian, or terrestrial
ecosystems, and riparian, or terrestrial resources, including the risk of
erosion, sedimentation, and debris flow, and the range of variability
in the size, shape, and distribution of natural disturbance
regimes of the current climate period;

4) Roadless characteristics have been substantially altered in a portion of
an inventoried roadless area due to the construction of a classified road
and subsequent timber harvest. Both the road construction and
subsequent timber harvest must have occurred after the area was
designated an inventoried roadless roadless area prior to January 12, 2001.
1) cutting, sale, or removal only, or conducted only in a noncommercially altered
portion of the inventoried roadless area.

Happenings of Interest



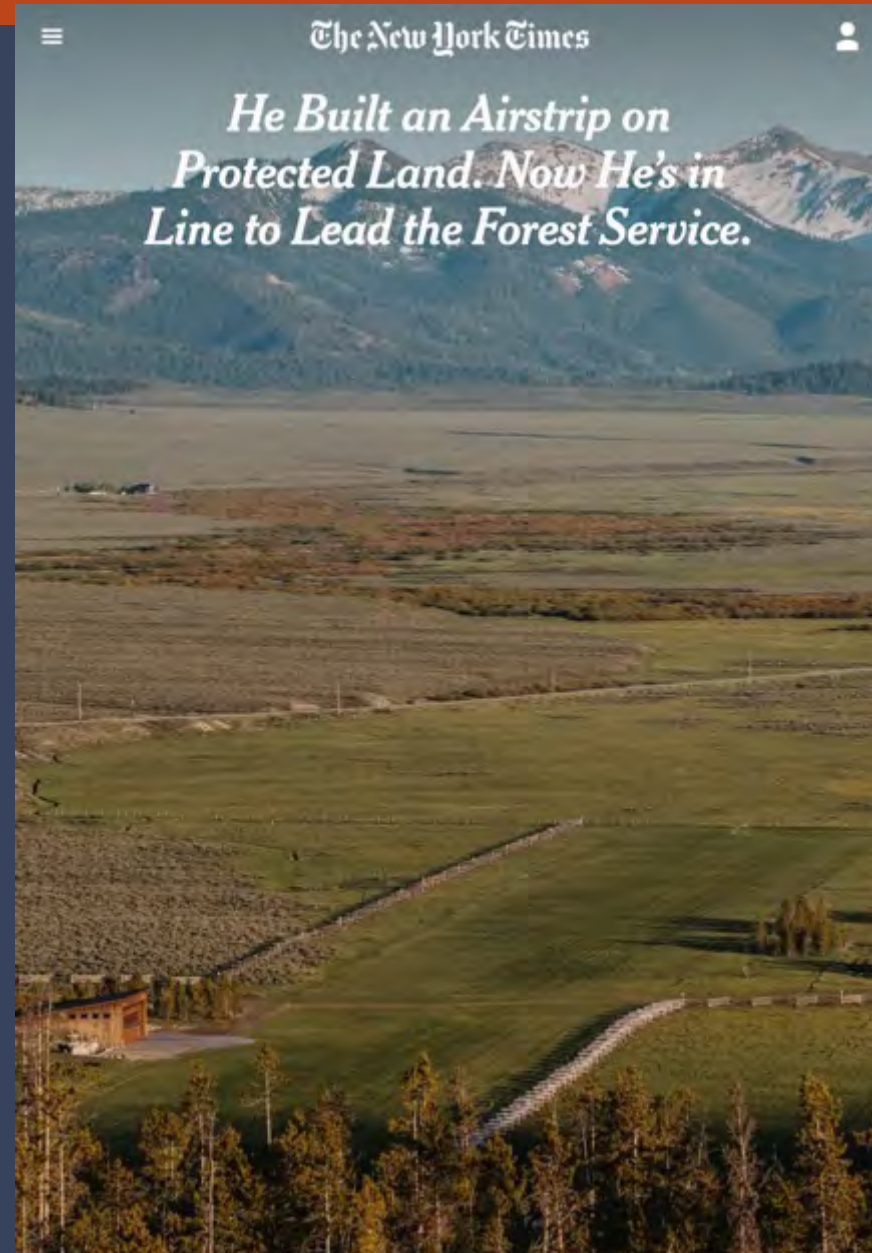
Trump administration

Trump official faces inquiry over claims he diverted wildfire resources to his own property

Exclusive: Michael Boren, a senior official overseeing the US Forest Service, is accused by Democratic senators of 'inappropriate interference'



Michael Boren testifies during a confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill on 3 June 2025 in Washington DC. Photograph: Alex Wong/Getty Images



The airstrip at Mr. Boren's Hell Roaring Ranch in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Idaho. Aaron Agosto for The New York Times

Happenings of Interest

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Emergency response workers pulled from national parks for Trump's 'beautification' of Washington, DC

AUG 25, 2026

By  René Marsh,  Sunlen Serfaty



Photo illustration by Jaxon Lancaster/CNN/Getty Images

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With Donald Trump fixated on his [makeover of Washington, DC](#), members of a specialized team that responds to wildfires, natural disasters and other emergencies in national parks have been sent to the capital to work on the president's pet projects.

The members of the National Park Service's "incident management team" have helped with projects ranging from the [Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool](#) to fountain renovations and removing debris at the East Potomac golf

My Account Give a Gift

NEWSLETTERS

President Trump Has a Pet-Project Docket at the National Parks

The National Park Service changed the way it prioritizes projects so that the president's requests are quickly approved.

By Michael Scherer



Andrew Walker / Bloomberg / Getty

PRESIDENT TRUMP GETS what he wants, when he wants it, from the National Park Service. One and a half million dollars to replace brick pavers in Lafayette Park, across from the White House? Contracting officials at the NPS Washington headquarters found the money within five days last month. A \$170,000 request to remove a fence around the Hains Point golf course, preparing the ground for a new "championship-quality" layout? Six days this summer. And the more-than-\$5 million project to gild equine statues along the nearby Memorial Bridge? That took 12 days.

News Sports Culture Lifestyle Money Travel Premium Climate

News > World > Americas > US politics

Trump has pulled nearly 300 national parks' emergency responders to work on his DC pet projects: report

Workers reassigned to D.C., previously worked for parks across the country, including in Alaska and California. Their duties have since included cleaning up the East Potomac golf course

[Brendan Boonin](#) in New York

Tuesday 25 August 2026 16:19 EDT

2 Comments



Nearly 300 employees from the Park Service's "incident management team" — which responds to wildfires and other emergencies — have been deployed to the capital

National Park Service emergency responders have been recruited to work on President Donald Trump's beautification projects in Washington, D.C., including fountain renovations and repairs to the [Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool](#), according to a new report.

Nearly 300 employees from the Park Service's "incident management team" — which **responds to wildfires** and other emergencies — have been deployed to the capital, **CNN** reported, citing internal documents and agency workers.

Happenings of Interest

GREENWIRE On article

Feds impose Colorado River cuts as reservoirs hit record lows

The administration broke a yearlong negotiating deadlock by putting the immediate burden on the Lower Basin, setting up a potential interstate legal fight.

By **CAROLLE VON KNEBEL** | 2022/08/20 10:40 AM EDT



AP Photo/David J. Phillip. River downstream from Hoover Dam empties into Lake Mead, near Las Vegas. Nevada/Associated Press. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

GREENWIRE | The Trump administration ordered California, Arizona and Nevada to cut back their use of water from the drought-stricken Colorado River over the next two years, setting the stage for a behemoth legal fight.

The Interior Department's decision, issued on Friday in a series of documents detailing a two-year and a 10-year plan, breaks a negotiating logjam between the seven Western states that rely on the river by imposing a short-term operating plan while leaving the larger fight for later. It comes as the critical waterway, which provides water for 40 million people, has shrunk dramatically. The nation's largest reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, have dropped to their lowest levels since they were created.

GREENWIRE On article

Nevada launches legal war over Trump's Colorado River plan

Gov. Joe Lombardo, a Republican facing a tight reelection fight this fall, filed the first lawsuit against the administration's plan for the drought-riddled waterway.

By **AMIE ENDER** | 2022/08/20 10:40 AM EDT



Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo (left) and Attorney General Adam Laxton (right) announce the state's lawsuit against the federal government's plan to cut water from the Colorado River. (AP Photo/Chris Wedel)

GREENWIRE | The state of Nevada on Monday filed the first court challenge against the Trump administration's plan for managing the drought-stricken Colorado River.

What happened: Gov. Joe Lombardo announced the [litigation \(link to federal district court in Nevada, which challenges the plan finalized by the Interior Department\)](#) last week under the National Environmental Policy Act and Administrative Procedure Act.

Lombardo — the only Republican governor in the Lower Basin, which also includes Arizona and California — argued that Interior's plan unfairly saddles those downstream states with sharp water supply cuts.

Aug 23, 2026

Governor Newsom issues statement on federal Colorado River plan

SACRAMENTO — Governor Gavin Newsom today issued the following statement after the U.S. Department of the Interior released its framework for managing the Colorado River over the next two years:

This is a necessary step to protect a river that 40 million Americans depend on, at a time when climate change is driving a regional water crisis that makes every drop of water count. California continues to lead the way forward, growing our economy while cutting our Colorado River water use to the lowest level since 1949.

I appreciate Secretary Burgum's work with California and all seven basin states to get to this point. That said, this operations plan provides only short-term stability. In the coming months, each state across the basin must step up to conserve water and continue to work together across the basin to achieve a durable long-term approach that positions our region for future prosperity. Any long-term solution must share responsibility fairly across all seven states in recognition of the new reality of the Colorado River.

Governor Gavin Newsom

HighCountryNews Search



COLORADO RIVER

What the new rules for a shrinking Colorado River mean for tribal nations

"None of us is in the exact same situation."

Alastair Lee Bittel | August 23, 2022

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NATIONAL PARKS

Human remains found as water levels hit historic low at Lake Mead

By **Madhyana Medina**, News Reporter
Aug 18, 2022

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Print Share



Children frolic on the shore lines on Boulder Beach at the drought-stricken Lake Mead near Las Vegas on July 12, 2022. (Gina Heisey/Los Angeles Times/Kerry Images)

As water levels hit a record-low at Lake Mead, authorities found human remains at Lake Mead National Recreation Area on Sunday.

Police received a report of the remains just before 4 p.m., which authorities categorized as noncriminal, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police told SFGATE in an emailed statement. The remains were found at Boulder Beach, which is located on the western shore of Lake Mead and outside of Las Vegas, the National Park Service

Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The New York Times

Climate and Environment

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



Is That a Solar Farm, or a Train Track? In One Swiss Town, It's Both.

A pilot program placing solar panels between the rails has proven successful enough that the idea is spreading to Italy, France and Korea.

2d ago · By QUINN GLABICK



Paul Lemo for The New York Times

Climate Change Raises Risk of Disasters Like Nepal Floods

Glaciers and permafrost in the Himalayas are melting faster as temperatures rise, though scientists are still studying the exact causes of this week's landslide.

3d ago · By MAXINE JOSELOW and LEO SANDS

After an Airport Bust, Some Rescued Reptiles Found a Haven in the Bronx

China's exotic pet market is driving a spike in animal smuggling, U.S. wildlife officials say. But these turtles are getting a second chance.

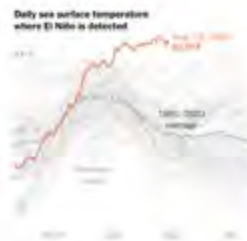
2d ago · By RACHEL NUWER



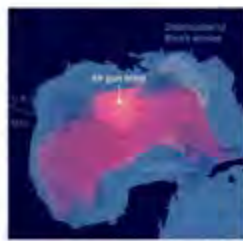
Dolly Parton's Other Legacy: A Fortune Given Away, Dollar by Dollar

The country star supported early childhood literacy, disaster relief, the development of the Covid-19 vaccine and more.

August 27, 2020 · By DAVID GELLES



This Year's Record-Breaking El Niño in 3 Charts



Dive Into a Very Noisy Sea With Some Very Rare Whales



The Science of Climate Change Explained: Facts, Evidence and Proof



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



Trash or Recycling? Why Plastic Keeps Us Guessing.

Aug. 26, 2020

Melting Himalayas

Scientists are still working out the precise cause of the disaster in Nepal, but one thing seems certain: The risk of such events is increasing.



Aug. 29, 2020

Trump's Venezuelan Oil Deal Relies on a Powerful and Divisive Partner

The administration will work with a private Venezuelan oil company that has close ties to the country's government.



Aug. 28, 2020

'Immense' Devastation as Nepal Continues Search for 2,400 Missing in Floods

As rescue efforts entered their fourth day, the scale of destruction came into focus, signaling a daunting recovery for the vulnerable nation.



Aug. 28, 2020

In the Age of Global Warming, Some Fear 'the Entire Himalayas Are Melting'

A glacier unleashed a deadly flood earlier this week. For local trekking guides and climbers, the mountains were already changing.



Aug. 29, 2020

Catastrophic Flood Exposes the Risks of Nepal's Hydropower Bet

The loss of power-generating capacity has raised questions about an ambitious expansion of renewable energy in one of the world's most hazard-prone mountain regions.



Aug. 28, 2020

Trump Says U.S. Has Deal for Control of Large Share of Venezuela's Oil

The president said an agreement between the countries covered more than 65 billion barrels of reserves. A U.S. official said it would involve a partnership with a private company.



[Leer en español](#)

August 28, 2026



A researcher paddled an inflatable kayak equipped with sonar to measure the depths of a meltwater lake on the Ngozumpa Glacier in Nepal last year. Jason Gulley for The New York Times

A melting glacier in Nepal was a time bomb. There are more to come.

By Jason Gulley

Jason Gulley is a professor of geology at the University of South Florida who focuses on glacier hydrology, including in Nepal.

Like much of the world, I watched and rewatched the [videos of the catastrophic flood](#) that have been filtering out of Nepal since Wednesday with horror and sadness.

But unlike many, I have an intimate knowledge of this part of the world, where I first traveled as an undergraduate geology student in 2005 to study how glaciers in the Khumbu region disintegrate into hazardous lakes. I've made six expeditions there over the last two decades.

Because of the remote location, scientists don't know what precisely triggered [Wednesday's disaster](#) — yet. What's clear at this point is that a giant hunk of glacier peeled off the side of the mountain, tumbled down 4,000 vertical feet and slammed into a tributary of the Bhothe Koshi River in China.

Originally misidentified as an earthquake, the mountain-shaking event registered as a 5.2 magnitude seismic event. Moments later, a wall of rocks and water blasted through the Gyirong Port building as the flood barreled down the valley.

The source of the water remains a mystery.

In many catastrophic floods in the Himalaya, glacier lakes are to blame. When Nepal's glaciers were healthy, they bulldozed down mountains and pushed up piles of rocky debris hundreds of feet high to form features glaciologists call moraines.



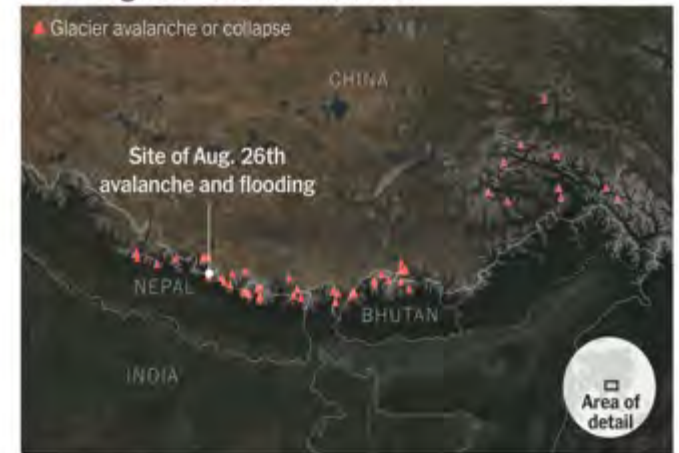
The Sherpa village of Thame, in the Khumbu region of Nepal. Flow from the 2024 glacier flood is visible in the distance. Jason Gulley for The New York Times

As the planet has warmed and temperatures across the Himalaya have soared, glaciers have shriveled, and those moraines have trapped meltwater. That has created lakes that can grow until they replace the glacier feeding them — or until a disturbance causes them to drain catastrophically.

As I [reported last year](#) with the Times climate science reporter Raymond Zhong, a landslide smacked into a glacier in the Khumbu region in 2024, launching a flood wave over the moraine dam that sent 100 million gallons of water through the heart of Thame, a Sherpa village nearby. Luckily, no one died. But the flood destroyed the village's school, medical clinic, several lodges and homes.

Data shows that glacial failures — the scientific term for a category of events that includes ice avalanches, glacier detachments and rock-ice avalanches — have happened dozens of times since 1900 in the China-Nepal border region that was the site of this week's devastation.

Sites of glacier failures since 1900



A map of China and Nepal region with red dots representing glacier collapses. Source: Bashkova, et al., Earth System Science Data, 2026 (preprint). Note: Glacier failures include ice avalanches, rock-ice avalanches and glacier detachments. By The New York Times

While Wednesday's flood had a massive landslide, there didn't appear to be any glacier lakes below it, making it a bit of an anomaly, certain to be studied intensely in the coming years. Some scientists have speculated that the impact of a piece of glacier falling 4,000 feet could have pulverized the ice into water.

But we know that there will be more floods — and some may be far worse than this week's catastrophe.



Debris in what's left of Thame's elementary school. Jason Gulley for The New York Times

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The Interior Department will soon publish a 'categorical exclusion' that will rubber stamp oil and gas development in Alaska's remote National Petroleum Reserve.

Adam Fedarman August 26, 2026



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NATIONAL PARKS

IMPAIRED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Yosemite traffic made headlines this summer, but the longer-term story about national parks involves new patterns of "facade management" and institutional neglect

10 min read



AUGUST 26, 2026

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Falling rocks are endangering national park visitors. Is the heat to blame?

By Sam Hill

Rockfalls are a natural and often unpredictable part of national park landscapes, commonly caused by water, freeze-thaw cycles and erosion. Researchers are also studying how repeated heating and cooling — especially during hot summer weather — can weaken rock and trigger collapses.

"We had all these rockfalls that happened in the summertime when it was a blue-sky day. It hadn't rained for weeks. There was no earthquake. We didn't know why," said Brian Collins, a supervisory research civil engineer with the U.S. Geological Survey.

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, September 22

ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects

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SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



* ESCOG - Chipmunk Canyon Trails Existing Conditions Analysis



Chipmunk Canyon Phase 1 Study

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments
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alta

* ESCOG - Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative



Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative

*Building Resilience Through Collaboration in the
Eastern Sierra*

Eastern Sierra Recreation Organizational Landscape Assessment

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) is conducting this assessment to better understand the organizations working in recreation across Inyo and Mono Counties. The goal is to identify existing strengths, clarify organizational roles, understand capacity limitations, and explore opportunities for improved regional coordination. The findings will help determine whether a regional recreation collaborative would add value and what services or tools would best support participating organizations. Thank you for your participation, the survey should take 10-15 minutes.

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WHITEBARK
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ESSRP Update

August 31, 2026

Partner Updates – In REVERSE Alphabetical Order

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

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

Thank You - !

Next Regular ESSRP Partner Meeting

Monday, October 5, 2026 @ 3:30