



Fall



REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



October 6, 2025





REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



October 6, 2025



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.”

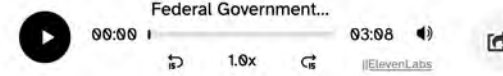
Federal Government Shutdown



Medicare Watch

Federal Government Shuts Down Over Health Care Subsidies

By Casey Schwarz | October 2, 2025 | 3 Comments



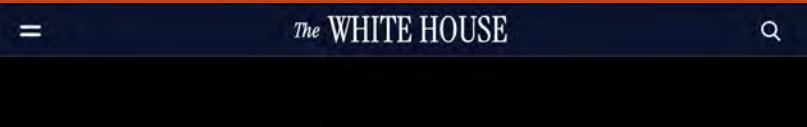
The federal government is currently in a [shutdown triggered by a lack of bipartisan agreement](#) on government funding and access to health care coverage.

Congressional Democrats have [pledged not to vote on a budget extension](#) and end the government shutdown unless Congress extends subsidies for [Affordable Care Act Marketplace plans](#).

Fall Open Enrollment Creating Urgency

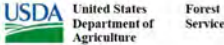
Many Republicans in Congress [argue that there is plenty of time](#) before the end of the year to extend the subsidies, if they should be extended at all. But Marketplace open [enrollment begins November 1](#). This gives little time for Congress to clarify what subsidies will be available before people begin shopping for coverage. [People who shop for plans before the decisions are made](#) could leave without enrolling and it may be hard to reach them later once the prices are updated.

Federal Government Shutdown



Medicare Watch

Federal Government Shuts Down Over Health Care Subsidies



United States Forest Service
Washington Office
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

File Code: 2300
Date: October 3, 2025

Dear Partner:

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and support of important priority work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. I am writing to share information regarding the lapse in appropriations for FY 2026.

During this lapse in appropriations, the Forest Service is operating in accordance with the USDA Shutdown Plan (<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fy2026-usda-lapse-plan.pdf>), with a focus on life, safety, and Administration priorities. This priority work is being carried out by employees who are exempt from furlough and funded by sources other than annual appropriations. Many activities and projects associated with supplemental appropriations (e.g., deferred maintenance projects funded by Great American Outdoors Act, disaster recovery projects funded by American Relief Act, etc.) are still active.

To keep key partners apprised of our operations, I am sharing the following guidance which was provided to our field offices on October 3, 2025. Its intent is to help clarify the type and level of work allowed during this lapse in appropriations. This guidance could change over the course of the lapse in appropriations. If that is the case, we will provide an updated letter.

- Travel:** Travel for Forest Service employees is only allowed for the field delivery of exempt activities related to critical functions by employees designated as exempt. This does NOT include travel for attending meetings, conferences, or other non-critical functions.
- Payments:** Payments will be processed for work performed by contractors or cooperators (contracts, grants, and agreements) deemed appropriate pursuant to the guidance issued for work considered a priority.

For work connected to efforts that are not considered to be a priority, invoices may be submitted for contracts, grants, or agreements during the lapse in appropriations; however, payments will not occur until the lapse in appropriations has ended.

For wildfire and emergency work, the Agency will continue to process payments, including those for casual hires (administratively determined) on emergency assignments.

the
down

- Law Enforcement:** Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) will focus on protecting employees and the public, Forest Service facilities, and developed recreation areas. LEI personnel will collaborate with local law officers as needed to ensure alignment.
- Recreation:** National Forest recreation sites remain open during the Federal government's lapse in funding. However, some services may be limited or unavailable. Our ability to maintain this operational status will be continuously monitored and is subject to change based on budget considerations and Administration priorities. Forest Service employees who directly support developed recreation site operations are continuing to work. Volunteer activities, such as campground hosting, will continue under existing agreements. Outfitter and guide services may continue under existing agreements. Regular seasonal closures will proceed as planned. Visitor centers, unless operated by a third party, will be closed. Concessionaire operations are not impacted by the lapse in funding. Recreation special uses, such as ski areas, are also continuing operations. Partner and contract work under existing funded agreements is currently ongoing and will continue as funding allows.
- Timber Production:** Forest Service timber work is aligned with Executive Order (EO) 14225, "Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production". Therefore, all aspects of active forest management will continue as normal.
- Active Harvest Projects:** Active timber sale contracts, special forest products, and integrated resource contracts (Integrated Resource Timber Contracts and Integrated Resource Service Contracts) will continue. Good Neighbor Authority and agreements that include product removal administered through partners including States, Tribes, counties, and other partners, may continue if the project does not involve funding that may result in violations of the ADA.
- Bid Openings and Stewardship Offerings:** All current advertisements for timber and forest product sales, as well as stewardship contract offerings, will continue as planned. Bid openings and oral auctions may continue, and appropriate sale officers, contracting officers, forest products resource specialists, and collection officers will be available to conduct the sealed bid or oral auctions.
- Timber Contracting Support Functions:** Refunds, bill cancellations, and other transactions should be submitted in accordance with standard processes and procedures. Online processing systems will be available for routine business transactions after annual downtime.
- Special Forest Product Permits:** Over-the-counter sales of special forest products permits will continue because most are firewood permits which have a direct connection to human health and safety. Permits already sold to the public are still valid within their existing terms and conditions, and some permits may still be purchased online.

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- Working Capital Fund Nursery System:** The Working Capital Fund Nursery System and staff, which includes six nurseries and two stand-alone seed extractories, will continue normal operations as they are critical life and safety facilities that process and protect the nation's seed cache and other living biological material and seedlings.
- Reforestation and Stand Improvement Activities:** Reforestation (e.g., planting, seeding, and surveys or certifications), stand improvement (e.g., non-commercial thinning, release, etc.), and other related activities (e.g., site preparation or cone and acorn collection) will continue.
- Environmental Compliance Activities:** It is expected that planning and associated processes for projects pursuant to EOs will continue through the lapse in appropriations. This includes but is not limited to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Endangered Species Act. The Forest Service will continue to work on the nationwide environmental assessment to expedite post-fire recovery in burned areas, facilitating safe infrastructure, healthy forests, and timely recovery of forest products important to rural economies and communities reliant on National Forest Systems lands. This is a Forest Service and USDA priority in response to EO 14225 and Secretarial Memo 1078-006, "Increasing Timber Production and Designating an Emergency Situation on National Forest System Lands".
- Grazing:** In general, the Forest Service will not provide daily oversight of grazing operations except in a few special cases, such as complying with court-mandated, periodic oversight and monitoring direction, or facilitating orderly, end-of-grazing-season removal of livestock.

Upon the enactment of appropriations or a continuing resolution, Forest Service offices and facilities will resume program activities consistent with all applicable Agency and USDA operating procedures.

The Forest Service values your partnership and support. Your resilience during this time is recognized and appreciated. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your Forest Service point of contact with questions. We are committed to supporting our partnership and the important work we do in service to the American public.

Sincerely,

JOHN CROCKETT

Digitally signed by JOHN CROCKETT
Date: 2025.10.03 16:30:48
+0400

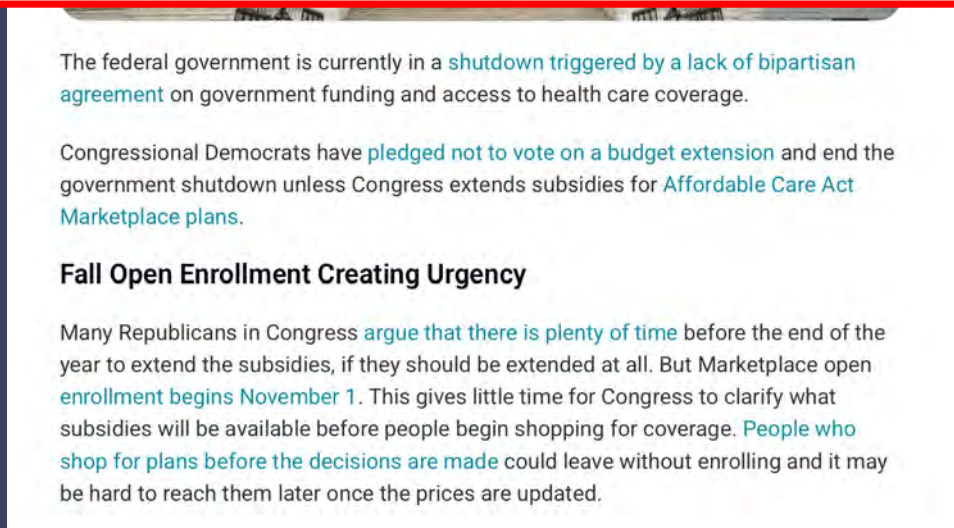
JOHN W. CROCKETT
Deputy Chief, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry
Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest System

year to extend the subsidies, if they should be extended at all. But Marketplace open enrollment begins November 1. This gives little time for Congress to clarify what subsidies will be available before people begin shopping for coverage. People who shop for plans before the decisions are made could leave without enrolling and it may be hard to reach them later once the prices are updated.

Federal Government Shutdown



"The federal government is currently in a shutdown triggered by a lack of bipartisan agreement on government funding and access to health care coverage."



Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells

Alpine

SIERRA WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS



Sierra Jobs First

Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

- Role of the ESSRP
 - Ongoing Information Sharing
 - Preparing for the Recreation and Tourism Working Group

Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells



ESCOG

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments

- Ken Etzel - *Regional Recreation Collaborative Coordinator*

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Alpine

Amador



Inyo County

- CAO Nate Greenberg and Inyo County have made a mutual decision to part ways

Inyo

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U.S. Congressman Kevin Kiley

- Natalia Vasquez – *Regional Representative for El Dorado, Alpine, Mono, & Inyo County*

Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells



U.S. Congressman Tom McClintock

- *Field Representative that might be interested in attending ESSRP meetings - ?*

Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells



Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells



- Jeremy Scheier
- Gregory Carr
- Sintia Kawasaki-Yee
- Joe Meyer
- Patrick Johnston



- Wilfred Nabahe
- Brian Hansen
- Adam Leidy
- Taro Pusina
- Adam Barnett
- Andrew Kennedy

"Unfortunately, due to a lapse in federal appropriations, I have been furloughed and will be away from my desk until funding has been restored. During this time, I will have access, for work purposes, to neither my government email nor voicemail. For more information, please visit usa.gov."








Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells




Robert Redford

- Environmental Activist
- Actor, Director, Producer
- Educator

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Garnet Fire




 100% Contained

60,263 Acres

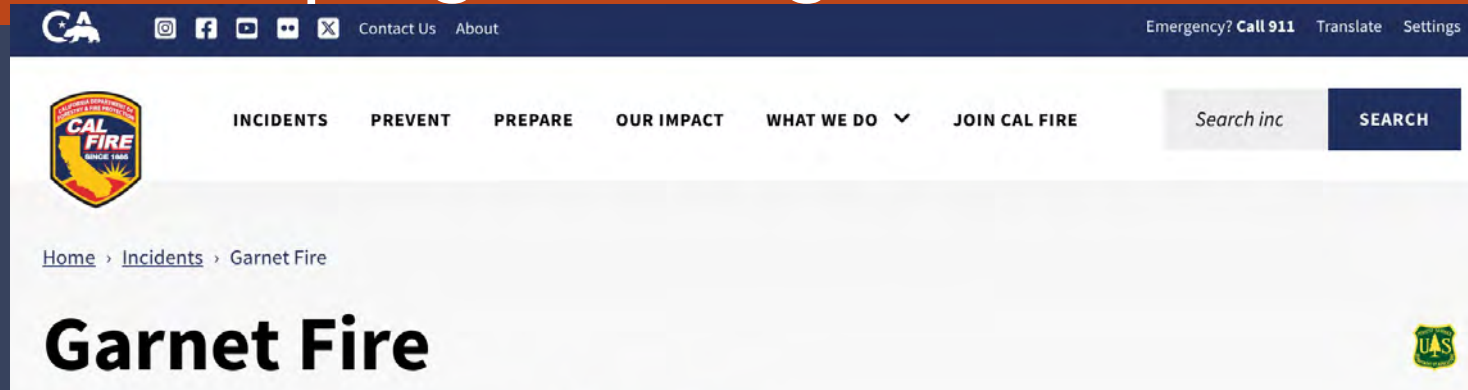
1 County: Fresno

Not a CAL FIRE Incident. Updates will be made as they become available.



Earthstar Geographics | Fresno County Dept. PWP, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bur... Powered by Esri, Genasys and Perimeter

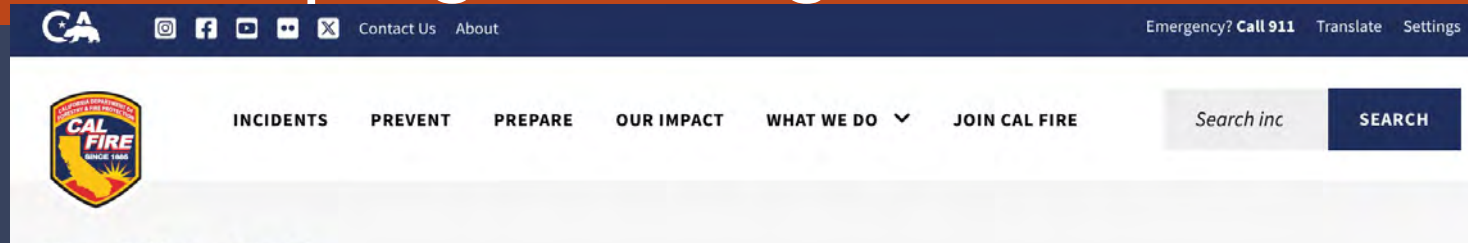
Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells



Due to the government shutdown, our federal firefighting partners may have operational constraints. CAL FIRE stands ready to serve and protect the people, property and natural resources in California regardless of state or federal jurisdiction as we remain fully staffed and available during the fire year while the federal government shuts down, jeopardizing the safety and well being of all.





Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells




"Due to the government shutdown, our federal firefighting partners may have operational constraints. CAL FIRE stands ready to serve and protect the people, property and natural resources in California regardless of state or federal jurisdiction as we remain fully staffed and available during the fire year while the federal government shuts down, jeopardizing the safety and well being of all"



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Garnet Fire





 100% Contained

60,263 Acres


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Not a CAL FIRE Incident. Updates will be made as they become available.





Earthstar Geographics | Fresno County Dept. PWP, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bur... Powered by Esri, Genasys and Perimeter





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CLIMATE

‘All the trees are dead’: An ancient California forest has been wiped out

By [Julie Johnson](#), Staff Writer

Oct 5, 2025

[Gift Article](#)    



The Teakettle Experimental Forest within the Sierra National Forest is 80 miles east of Fresno, pictured in 2017.

U.S. Forest Service

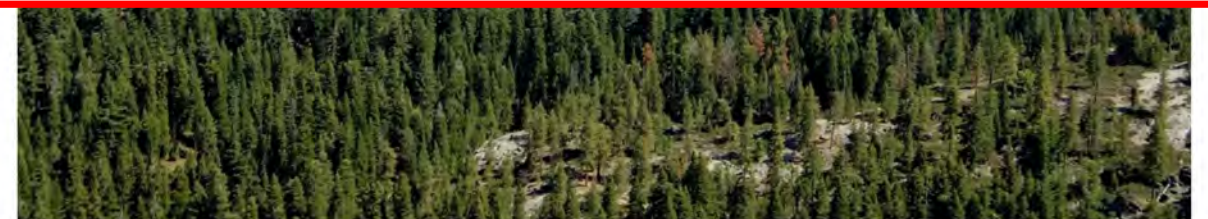
Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells



CLIMATE

'All the trees are dead': An ancient California forest


"Roughly 500 years ago in California's High Sierra, pine cones dropped to the ground and a cycle began. Half a millennia later, U.S. Forest Service scientists began testing strategies to save these now ancient and massive trees in the little-known area east of Fresno called the Teakettle Experimental Forest. They had plans to light a huge prescribed burn to clear overgrowth next year. But then the Garnet Fire ignited amid a lightning storm and scorched all 3,000 federally protected acres on its path through the Sierra National Forest. "



The Teakettle Experimental Forest within the Sierra National Forest is 80 miles east of Fresno, pictured in 2017.
U.S. Forest Service

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Eastern Sierra Council of Governments

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

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USDA Invests in 58 Community Projects to Reduce Wildfire Risk

USDA Press Release

Washington, D.C., September 23, 2025 - Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced the USDA Forest Service is investing \$200 million in 58 projects through the Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program. These investments, thanks to Congressionally mandated funding, help at-risk communities plan for and reduce wildfire risk, protecting homes, businesses, and infrastructure.

“These grants are about putting real resources directly in the hands of the people who know their lands and communities best – America’s foresters. By empowering them, we are protecting homes, businesses, and infrastructure while securing the future of our great American landscape,” **said Secretary Brooke Rollins**. “Keeping forests healthy, resilient, and productive doesn’t come from Washington. It comes from us standing alongside the people and communities we serve, and supporting practical, science-based management that ensures the future of the forests and rural prosperity. This is how we safeguard our heritage, protect future generations, and ensure that America’s land remains the envy of the world.”

“No single organization can address the severe wildfire threats we face today. It is imperative that we work together to protect our forests and communities,” **said Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz**. “For those communities that already have plans in place, these investments will enable immediate, collaborative action to reduce wildfire risk.”

The selected projects span 22 states and two tribes, supporting efforts to develop or update their community wildfire protection plans (PDF, 5.4 MB) and carry out projects to remove hazardous or overgrown vegetation that can fuel fires that threaten lives, livelihoods and resources.

In total, the program is investing \$1 billion over five years to assist at-risk communities, including tribal communities, nonprofit organizations, state forestry agencies and Alaska Native Corporations with planning for and mitigating wildfire risks on lands not managed by federal agencies.

The Forest Service will announce a fourth funding opportunity later this year.

Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Application Round
No category selected

Select a State
CA



List of Projects

Click on a row to pan to the project on the map

Q S...

Bricel and Volunteer Fire Department Hazard Reduction Project
State: CA
Grant Type: Project
Awarded: \$186,592
CWDG Round

Eastern Sierra Communities Wildfire Defense Program



Zoom to Pan

Eastern Sierra Communities Wildfire Defense Program


This grant was awarded during CWDG Round 3 and is located in the state of CA. It is a Project grant, and federal funds appropriated were \$4,649,327.

The Forest Service will announce a fourth funding opportunity later this year.


Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Application Round
No category selected

Select a State
CA

List of Projects
Click on a row to pan to the project on the map

Eastern Sierra Communities Wildfire Defense



The Radical Left Democrats shut down the government. This government website will be updated periodically during the funding lapse for mission critical functions. President Trump has made it clear he wants to keep the government open and support those who feed, fuel, and clothe the American people.

For information on recreation site status on National Forest System lands, please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit>.

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Map labels: Mono Cr, Mono Spr, Wilkerson, Valley

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Hot Links October 6, 2025

- What is the ESSRP
 - Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)
 - Review the critical documents of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership
 - Origin Story
 - Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan
 - Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative
- Federal Government Shutdown
 - Democrats Have Shut Down the Government
 - Federal Government Shuts Down Over Health Care Subsidies
- Welcome, Housekeeping, Furloughs, and Farewells
 - Welcome
 - Sierra Works
 - Ken Etzel - ESCOG's Regional Recreation Collaborative Coordinator
 - County of Inyo and Nate Greenberg Announce Mutual Decision to Part Ways
 - Farewell
 - Keeping Nature in the Picture: An Interview with Robert Redford
 - Eastside Wildfire



Situational Awareness

Happenings of Interest

Happenings of Interest

Saturday, October 04, 2025

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TOURISM: A THERMOMETER OF GLOBAL INSTABILITY

Richard Moor · Sep 15, 2025 · 0







Tourism is a fragile industry, susceptible to global events. Conflict, terrorism, or health emergencies can rapidly alter travel patterns. Recent situations, such as the war in Ukraine, underscore this sensitivity. Europe, a leading destination, faces challenges in balancing safety perception with market diversification.

Ukraine Crisis: Shifting Markets and Perceptions

The war in Ukraine has hurt destinations reliant on Russian tourists like Turkey and Greece. **Sanctions and travel restrictions have effectively shut down the Russian market.** More broadly, the war has created a sense of insecurity in Eastern Europe. Poland and the Baltic states, for instance, have launched reassurance campaigns to distance themselves from associated dangers.

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U.S. TOURISM IN CRISIS: THE FALL IN FOREIGN VISITORS IN 2025

Nils Kraus · Sep 15, 2025 · 0







The United States, a long-favored destination for global travelers, faces a notable reduction in international tourism this summer (2025), affecting border towns, treasured historical spots, and bustling city centers. The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) reports a 7% dip in spending by international tourists, translating to an estimated \$12.5 billion hit to the U.S. tourism industry.

The decline, examined in reports from Tourism Economics, the U.S. Travel Association, and news sources like Reuters and the Financial Times, appears linked to recent immigration policies, a potent U.S. dollar, and evolving views of the nation abroad. Let's consider the drivers, economic consequences, and potential remedies for this worrying trend.

Happenings of Interest



THE COLORADO SUN

Colorado mountain towns see a rare summer slump in visitors as statewide tourism slows

Colorado hosted 95.4 million visitors who spent \$28.4 billion in 2024, an increase largely from day-trippers. The state is worrying about a decline in international visitors who stay longer, spend more.



Jason Blevins

4:00 AM MDT on Aug 4, 2025

Share



International tourists take pictures along Red Mountain Creek at the base of the Crystal Lake Dam as peak fall color is in display along Red Mountain Pass south of Ouray Colo., Friday September 25, 2020. (William Woody, Special to The Colorado Sun)

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HAWAII'S GREEN TAX: A PIONEERING STEP TOWARD SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Justin N. Froyd - Sep 8, 2025



Hawaii is poised to be the first state in the U.S. to enact a green tax specifically on tourism. Starting in 2026, stays at hotels, vacation rentals, and even cruises will have a bit extra tacked on. This tax, adding 0.75% to the current Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT), aims to generate around €85 million a year.

Happenings of Interest

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CHINA ON TRACK TO BECOME THE WORLD'S LEADING SNOW TOURISM DESTINATION

Samuel Dorsi - Sep 15, 2025 0



Once considered quite exclusive, skiing in China is really taking off, positioning the country to perhaps become a major player in snow tourism globally. The China Ski Industry White Paper 2024-2025 indicates impressive expansion, fueled by big investments in facilities, backing from the government, and a growing middle class, generally speaking.

CALIFORNIA

For the first time in human history, Calif.'s glaciers will soon disappear

'We're entering uncharted territory.'

By Julie Brown Davis, Mountain Towns Editor
Oct 2, 2025



Maclure Glacier in Yosemite National Park. Scientists recently discovered that California's glaciers are thousands of years older than previously thought, but the glaciers are projected to disappear between 2050 and 2100.
Courtesy of Andrew Jones



Listen Now: Humans have never experienced a glacier-free California. It's coming

0:00

6:24

1x

by iVestor

California may be known as the Golden State, with its shimmering beaches and warm Mediterranean climate. But clinging to the rooftop of the High Sierra are the last remnants of glaciers that have existed for thousands of years, since the end of the last [Ice Age](#).

Happenings of Interest

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China Goes on Offense

Beijing's Plans to Exploit American Retreat

JEFFREY PRESCOTT AND JULIAN GEWIRTZ

September 29, 2025



Chinese President Xi Jinping speaking in Tianjin, China, September 2025
MAXIM SHEMETOV / REUTERS

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness



Opinion
Fareed Zakaria +

As America fumbles, China races ahead

Xi is building the future while Trump pushes tariffs and fights the woke wars.

October 3, 2025

5 min 721



A robot serves popcorn during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai. (Hector RETAMAL / AFP)

The New York Times



*The Man Behind Trump's Push
for an All-Powerful Presidency*

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China Goes on Offense

Beijing's Plans to Exploit American Retreat

JEFFREY PRESCOTT AND JULIAN GEWIRTZ

September 29, 2025



Chinese President Xi Jinping speaking in Tianjin, China, September 2025
MAXIM SHEMETOV / REUTERS

A great unanswered question of the second Trump administration has been how its outright rejection of the existing global order would affect China's international strategy. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has called this order both "obsolete" and "a weapon being used against" the United States, and in his speech at the United Nations on September 23, President Donald Trump pilloried the "globalist" institution for "creating new problems for us to solve." In the early months of this year, Beijing's response to Washington's attacks on the international order seemed mostly cautious and measured. China traded

Snow
Brains



[VIDEO] 5-Time Verbier Xtreme Snowboard Champion Steve Klassen Catches First Ride Of the Season at Mammoth Mountain, CA

Gregg Frantz | October 3, 2025 | Industry News

Share this article



Steve Klassen is a five-time Verbier Xtreme snowboard champion. Photo Credit: Wave Rave

I Steve Klassen, FIS Freeride World Tour (FWT) Snowboarder, hit Mammoth Mountain, California, on September 30 to grab first tracks of the 2025-26 season. Klassen, who owns Wave Rave, a snowboarding shop with three locations in California—Mammoth, Bishop, and Los Angeles—is one of the most high-profile and high-volume snowboard retail businesses in the industry.

V Klassen was able to snowboard on just a dusting of snow at Mammoth Mountain on September 30; however, the 2025-26 season isn't that far away. Mammoth Mountain plans to begin snowmaking operations in mid-October and is scheduled to open for the season on Friday, November 14. Last season, Mammoth opened on November 15 for the 2024-25 season.

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness



Opinion

Fareed Zakaria +

As America fumbles, China races ahead

Xi is building the future while Trump pushes tariffs and fights the woke wars.

October 3, 2025

5 min 721



A robot serves popcorn during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai. (Hector RETAMAL / AFP)

For about a decade, the United States has been comforted by the notion that China had lost its way. After 35 years of astounding growth, Beijing stumbled internally and abroad. Its leaders cracked down on some of the country's most innovative sectors, from technology to education, driving entrepreneurs into exile or silence. Its "wolf warrior" diplomacy alienated its neighbors from India to Australia to Vietnam.

Happenings of Interest

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China Goes on Offense

Beijing's Plans to Exploit American Retreat

JEFFREY PRESCOTT AND JULIAN GEWIRTZ

September 29, 2025



Chinese President Xi Jinping speaking in Tianjin, China, September 2025
MAXIM SHEMETOV / REUTERS

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The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness



Opinion

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October 3, 2025

5 min



721



A robot serves popcorn during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai. (Hector RETAMAL / AFP)

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The Times-Independent

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Business

Moab businesses continue to face economic challenges

While the Utah Office of Tourism works to bring more international tourists to the state — a key demographic that brings billions of dollars to the U.S. — the Trump administration is narrowing that accessibility.

September 19, 2025

By Lizzie Ramirez



As businesses gear up for tourism to ramp up this fall, those focused on recreation are seeing fewer reservations — sounding the alarm bells that the slower summer season wasn't just an anomaly this year.



Off-highway vehicles motor down Main Street in Moab during the peak tourism year of 2021. Photo by Leah Hogsten/The Salt Lake Tribune

Representatives from the Utah Office of Tourism at the Moab Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon on Sept. 16 outlined obstacles the country is facing in regards to international tourists visiting the state.

Happenings of Interest



"As businesses gear up for tourism to ramp up this fall, those focused on recreation are seeing fewer reservations — sounding the alarm bells that the slower summer season wasn't just an anomaly this year."



Off-highway vehicles motor down Main Street in Moab during the peak tourism year of 2021. Photo by Leah Hogsten/The Salt Lake Tribune

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Happenings of Interest

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CALIFORNIA & CLIMATE

Yosemite mostly keeps up appearances in shutdown

The federal government is keeping the iconic park mostly open, even as it's furloughed much of its staff.



Buses were still unloading tourists at viewpoints across Yosemite National Park on the first day of the government shutdown on Oct. 1. | Camille von Kaenel/POLITICO

SFGATE

CA MINI CROSSWORD

Account

LOCAL

Tourists from around the world blindsided by Muir Woods closure

By **Amanda Bartlett**, Assistant Local Editor
Oct 5, 2025



FILE - Visitors walk through Muir Woods National Monument on July 24, 2025.
Justin Sullivan/Getty Images



Listen Now: Tourists from around the world blindsided by Muir Woods closure

0:00

4:07

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the Everitt

On any given year, Muir Woods National Monument draws hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world to take in the pristine views, trails and wildlife that make up one of the last ancient redwood forests left in the Bay Area.

Happenings of Interest

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San Francisco Chronicle

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Account

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TRAVEL // OUTDOORS

This might be the most frustrating part of the government shutdown of national parks

By Tara Duggan, Staff Writer
Oct 3, 2025

Gift Article



A view of Bridalveil Fall from Big Oak Flat Road at Yosemite National Park.
Brontë Wittpenny/S.F. Chronicle

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This might be the most frustrating part of the government shutdown of national parks

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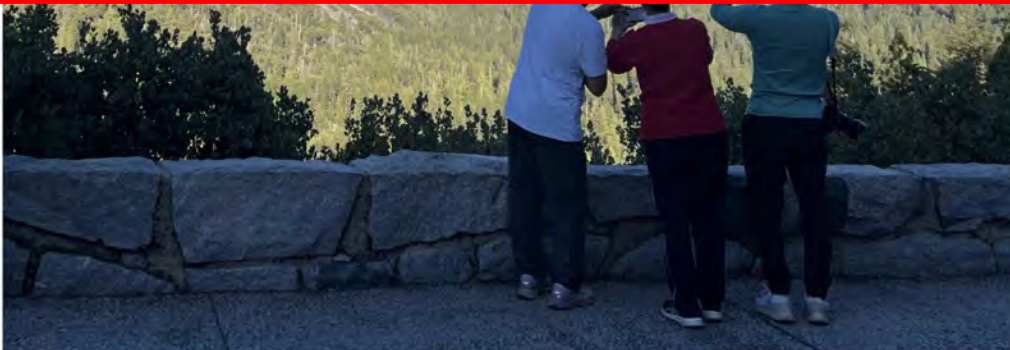
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Trending: National Guard troops | Fatal Yosemite fall | Seth Curry | Speed cameras | KGO anchors | Piedmont crash lawsuit | Hardly Strictly Bluegrass | Bob

TRAVEL // OUTDOORS

This might be the most frustrating part of the government shutdown of national parks

“When the government shuts down, so too does the flow of information for those who wish to visit national parks.”



Buses were still unloading tourists at viewpoints across Yosemite National Park on the first day of the government shutdown on Oct. 1. | Camille von Kaenel/POLITICO



A view of Bridalveil Fall from Big Oak Flat Road at Yosemite National Park.
Brontë Wittpenny/S.F. Chronicle



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Happenings of Interest



Wes Siler's Newsletter

Upgrade to founding


How Bad Will A Shutdown Be For National Parks?

Rural communities could lose hundreds of millions of dollars a day, and that's before mass layoffs

WES SILER
SEP 29, 2025


31 5 10

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If the government shuts down this week, some of the worst impacts will be felt in national parks, and the small rural communities that economically rely on them. A new report from the National Park Service gives us some numbers, which combined with previous shutdowns, allows us to draw some broad conclusions about how bad this could be.

That report is the [2024 National Park Visitor Spending Effects](#), an annual tabulation of total spending from park visitors. It finds that visitors spent \$29 billion in gateway communities last year, a full 10 percent increase from 2023, which held the previous record. That supported over 340,000 jobs, creating \$18.8 billion in labor income. Total spending across visitations to all 433 national park sites along with the subsequent employment and supply chains created \$56.3 billion in total economic output, again a new record.




SFGATE

CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

'Wave of cancellations' hits Yosemite National Park amid government shutdown

By Sam Mauhay-Moore, National Parks Reporter
Oct 2, 2025

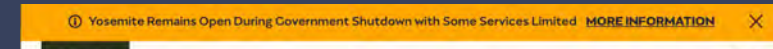
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FILE: Visitors take in the scenery from Tunnel View in Yosemite National Park, Calif., March 23, 2025. George Rose/Getty Images

Listen Now: 'Wave of cancellations' hits Yosemite National Park amid government shutdown 8:00 4:03

Though the gates to Yosemite National Park remain open during the government shutdown, employees are reporting an undercurrent of chaos at the park as a skeleton crew of workers contends with unpaid shifts, furloughed colleagues and widespread uncertainty.



Yosemite Remains Open During Government Shutdown with Some Services Limited MORE INFORMATION

NATIONAL PARK REMAINS OPEN DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Yosemite National Park remains open during the current government shutdown. Park gates are open, although staff is not in place and entry fees are not being collected. The park concessionaire, Yosemite Hospitality, continues operating, food and lodging services are available.

Roads, trails, campgrounds, and sanitation facilities are accessible, though most National Park Service facilities like visitor centers will be closed or limited. Maintenance and emergency services are being continued.

During this period, visitors are strongly urged to practice **Leave No Trace** principles and help protect the park's resources by following our [Nature Rules Guidelines](#).

Regular updates on conditions or safety from NPS staff will be limited. Please plan ahead, honor posted closures, and consult local sources for real-time information.

Other federally managed lands in Mariposa County, such as the Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests and Bureau of Land Management ares, may also experience reduced operations.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR VISIT

Plan Ahead: Be prepared for limited or unavailable services in Yosemite.

Restrooms: Restrooms currently remain available.

Shuttles: Yosemite Valley Shuttles and Mariposa Grove Shuttle are running.

Campgrounds: Campgrounds are open, subject to normal winter or seasonal closures.

Park Concessions Remain Open: Yosemite Hospitality will continue to operate within Yosemite National Park (lodging and food).

Visitor Information and Access: The Yosemite Welcome Center located in Yosemite Valley will be closed. Visitor information centers in gateway communities remain open. For Yosemite maps and more information stop at a visitor center before entering the park.

Happenings of Interest

"The 2024 National Park Visitor Spending Effects...finds that visitors spent \$29 billion in gateway communities last year, a full 10 percent increase from 2023, which held the previous record. That supported over 340,000 jobs, creating \$18.8 billion in labor income. Total spending across visitations to all 433 national park sites along with the subsequent employment and supply chains created \$56.3 billion in total economic output, again a new record."

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Happenings of Interest

The Hotshot Wake Up

Upgrade to founding



BREAKING: DOI Announces Forming Of The U.S. Wildland Fire Servi...

1x 15 30 -48:30

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BREAKING: DOI Announces Forming Of The U.S. Wildland Fire Service. USDA And DOI Issue Memos To Further Unify Wildfire Operations.

"In this Order, "unification" shall not be considered synonymous with "consolidation."

THE HOTSHOT WAKE UP
SEP 15, 2025

On Today's Show:

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A major announcement was made today by the [Department of the Interior](#) and the [United States Department of Agriculture](#). The DOI has announced the creation of the United States Wildfire Service, which unifies all its wildfire programs.


While the new USWFS awaits full unification with the United States Forest Service fire management organization, the two departments will increase the use of existing authorities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of wildland fire management across all involved agencies.

A new fire chief will be appointed for the USWFS "promptly." They note the new chief of the USWFS must possess appropriate wildland fire management experience commensurate with the position.

Share

Joint memos went out from both Departments, which I cover in full. This includes the unification of aviation and vehicles, modification of geographic regions and boundaries, PPE, unification of position descriptions, pay, benefits, prescribed fire, post fire actions, and the use of predictive services to deploy and position resources before wildfires break out.

Government Executive



Firefighters battling the 2017 Thomas Fire in the Los Padres National Forest, Calif. KARI GREER/U.S. FOREST SERVICE VIA FLICKR

Oversight

GAO: Forest Service upgrades to wildfire communications and tracking imperiled by Trump's workforce downsizing

The U.S. Forest Service neither agreed nor disagreed with a recommendation to develop a strategic plan for upgrading systems to track wildfire fighting resources, instead taking issue with the title of the government watchdog's report.

ERICH WAGNER | SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

CLIMATE CHANGE WHITE HOUSE

in f

The Trump administration's early efforts to reduce the size of the federal workforce has delayed the development of new systems to better allow federal wildland firefighters to communicate and the U.S. Forest Service to track wildfire-fighting resources in the field, according to a [new report](#) from the Government Accountability Office.

Conducting operations in remote and often forested areas creates unique challenges: cellular coverage is often limited at best—and towers can be damaged by fires—and satellite phones are both cost-prohibitive and require a clear view of the sky. So wildland firefighters are outfitted with radios, and Forest Service vehicles are monitored via GPS.

Pre Shutdown

E&ENews

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Gift article

Senate panel sets hearing on wildfire, public land bills

Proposals from both parties are among the dozens of bills up for consideration.

BY: GARRETT DOWNS | 09/29/2025 06:31 AM EDT

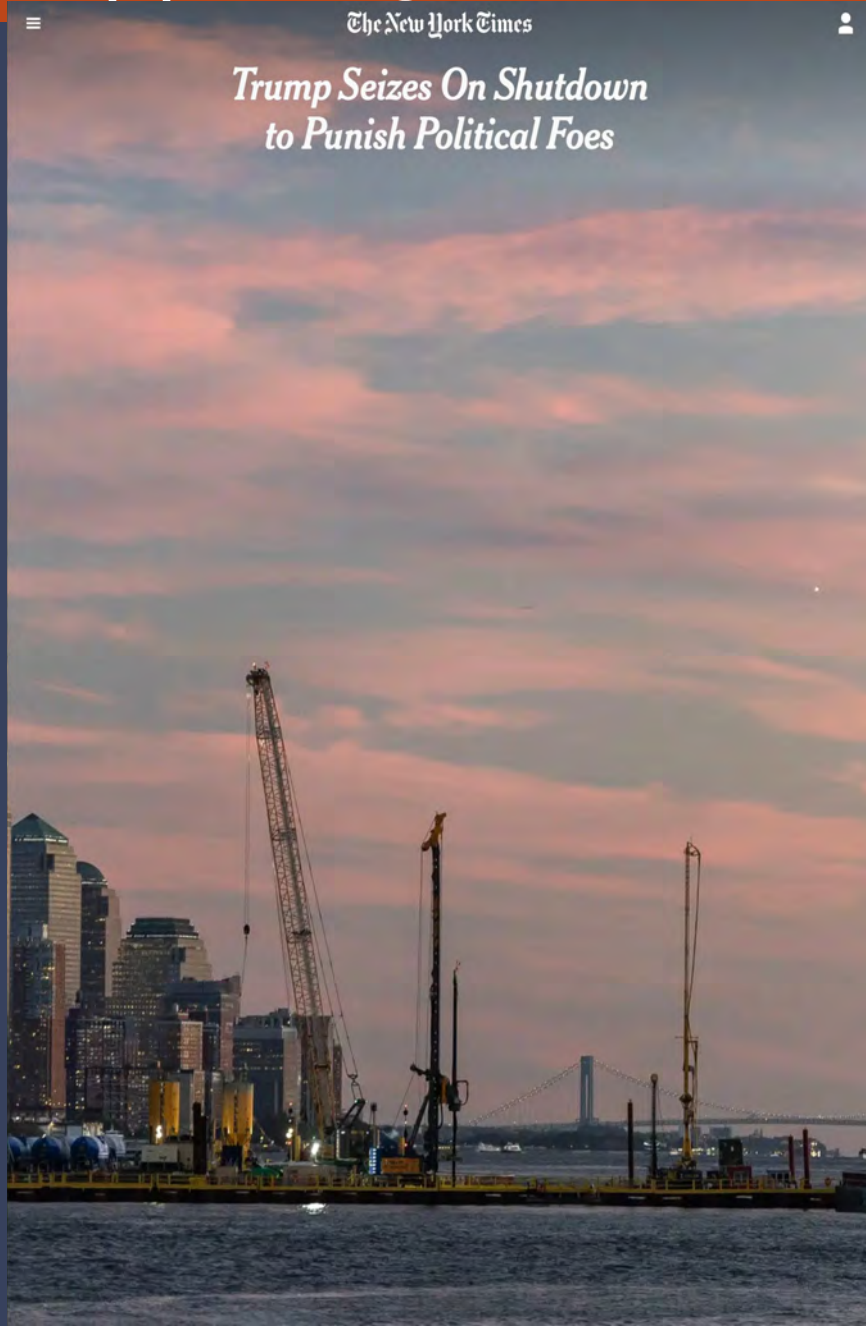


Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) at the Capitol. A panel led by Barrasso and Cortez Masto will hold a hearing on a roster of bills this week. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

E&E DAILY | A Senate Energy and Natural Resources panel will hear testimony on dozens of bills on Wednesday, a sign the committee is moving its attention more toward member legislation after largely focusing on nominees and the GOP megalaw.

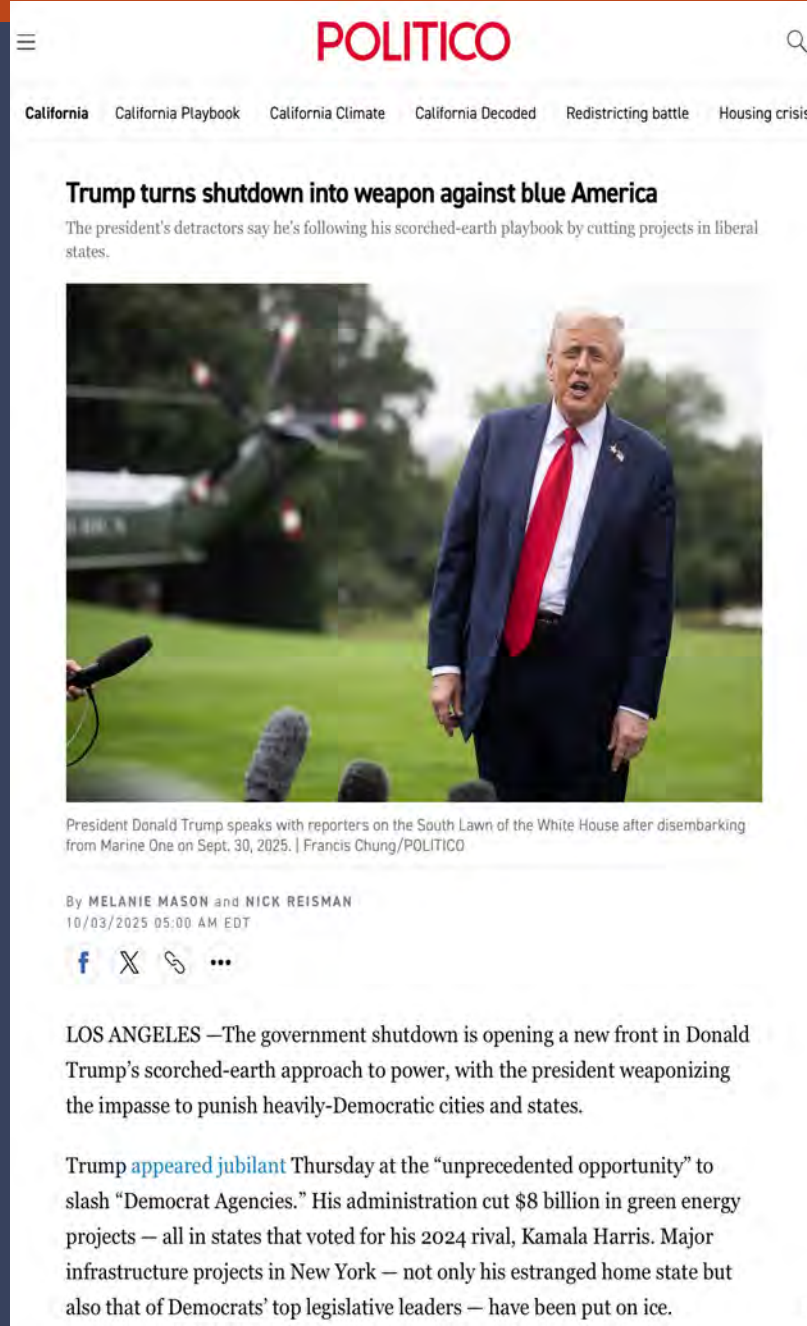
The hearing of the Public Lands, Forests and Mining Subcommittee, led by Chair John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and ranking member Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), will [consider more than two dozen](#) public lands, wildfire and mining proposals. The session will follow tense markup on nominees and a handful of bills where ranking member Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) said Chair Mike Lee (R-Utah) was not doing enough to consult Democrats.

Happenings of Interest



The New York Times

Trump Seizes On Shutdown to Punish Political Foes



POLITICO

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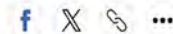
Trump turns shutdown into weapon against blue America

The president's detractors say he's following his scorched-earth playbook by cutting projects in liberal states.



President Donald Trump speaks with reporters on the South Lawn of the White House after disembarking from Marine One on Sept. 30, 2025. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

By MELANIE MASON and NICK REISMAN
10/03/2025 05:00 AM EDT



LOS ANGELES —The government shutdown is opening a new front in Donald Trump's scorched-earth approach to power, with the president weaponizing the impasse to punish heavily-Democratic cities and states.

Trump [appeared jubilant](#) Thursday at the "unprecedented opportunity" to slash "Democrat Agencies." His administration cut \$8 billion in green energy projects — all in states that voted for his 2024 rival, Kamala Harris. Major infrastructure projects in New York — not only his estranged home state but also that of Democrats' top legislative leaders — have been put on ice.

Post Shutdown

Government Executive



Helen Luryi, formerly of the Labor Department, wears a shirt that says "tenacious not traumatized," which is a reference to comments made by OMB Director Russell Vought, during a press conference near the U.S. Capitol. SEAN MICHAEL NEWHOUSE/GOVEXEC

Workforce

Despite layoff threat, some feds see government shutdown as an opportunity to push back on Trump's 'lawlessness'

Federal employees and members of Congress who spoke at Monday's press conference pointed out that agency reductions in force can proceed regardless of whether there's a government shutdown.

SEAN MICHAEL NEWHOUSE | SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

BUDGET

SHUTDOWN

RIFS



With the U.S. Capitol dome as background, Helen Luryi, a former Labor Department employee who lost her job in April, approached the microphone wearing a blue shirt that read "tenacious not traumatized."

"This shirt is a message for Russell Vought," she told the assembled TV cameras and a handful of supporters, referring to the Office of Management and Budget director who has said previously that he wanted to put civil servants "in trauma."

Happenings of Interest



PUBLIC LANDS

What the government shutdown means for public lands

Many parks will stay open, and oil and gas permitting will continue — even as tens of thousands of staff are furloughed at NPS, BLM and USFS.

HighCountryNews

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WILDFIRE

Shutdown causes ‘confusion’ across the Forest Service

Prescribed burns are on hold during shutdown while logging continues.

Kylie MohrOctober 2, 2025

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Nick Fetsch, Forest Service firefighter, uses a drip torch to ignite grasses in a prescribed burn at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in Commerce City, Colorado, in 2016.

Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post via Getty Images

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Shutdown causes ‘confusion’ across the Forest Service

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The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

Community Sourced, Shared and Supported

Menu

FS Chunk of USDA Shutdown Guidance in Toto

October 2, 2025 by Sharon

Thanks to Anonymous for sending this! It seems like a key clause is :

“Management and maintenance of National Forest System lands for their sustained safety and use, including agency contract and permitted activities and public activities that do not require consistent employee oversight.”

I also liked that they called out pack and saddle stock.. “Protection of Federal lands, infrastructure to ensure health and safety of the public such as buildings, waterways, equipment and other property including pack and saddle stock and investments owned by the United States when the suspension of such activities would cause an imminent threat to human life and property.”

Although “property” probably covers it.. Hopefully seed and seedlings are covered under “property” as well.

Forest Service (FS)

FS Lapse Plan Summary Overview	
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Describe specific shutdown activities that will not be completed within one-half day, if applicable. Specify the time and the number of employees necessary to complete each activity.	
There may be instances where orderly shutdown activities will last beyond a half day and some will take up to five days. The Agency will be shutting down activities on over 193 million acres of land across 46 states with over 154 national forests and 500 plus ranger districts in some of the most remote places in the country. This includes closing hundreds of remote recreational sites and other facilities potentially pausing complex operations such as timber sales, and contractor, partner or workforce-led restoration projects which will be made on a case-by-case basis. The agency will work as expeditiously as possible but based on the scale of work and capacity there are instances where it could take up to five days.	
Total number of agency employees expected to be on board before implementation of the plan:	32,390
Total number of agency employees expected to be furloughed under the plan (unduplicated count):	12,744
Total number of employees to be retained under the plan for each of the following categories: (may include duplicated counts)	
(Cat. 1) Compensation is financed by a resource other than annual appropriations:	3,569
(Cat. 2) Necessary to perform activities expressly authorized by law:	0
(Cat. 3) Necessary to perform activities necessarily implied by law:	433
(Cat. 4) Necessary to the discharge of the President’s constitutional duties and powers:	0
(Cat. 5) Necessary to protect life and property:	15,644
Brief summary of significant agency activities that will continue during a lapse. Also include the legal basis for retaining categories of employees who will be carrying out these activities.	
Category 1. Employees already financed from other available funds will continue to work as deemed appropriate to support life and property. This includes employees financed by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Job Corps (transfer funds from Department of Labor)Permanent and trust fund accounts (mandatory appropriations).Cost recovery funds (mandatory appropriations and reimbursable funding)Supplemental and Emergency Supplemental Funding (GAOA, HHA, IRA, Disaster).	

Happenings of Interest



U.S. Department of Agriculture

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! Due to the Radical Left Democrat shutdown, this government website will not be updated during the funding lapse. President Trump has made it clear he wants to keep the government open and support those who feed, fuel, and clothe the American people.

We are here for you

Resources and support for food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

Lapse of Funding Plan

(As of September 30, 2025)

Happenings of Interest

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Category 3: Business functions necessary to support continuing work and the exempt and excepted employees.	
Category 5: This includes but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responding and preparing for wildland fires• Law Enforcement• Emergency and Natural Disasters Response or Preparation and defense preparedness• Implementation of Executive Order (EO) 14225, Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production to increase domestic timber production to protect our national and economic security.• Protection of Federal lands, infrastructure to ensure health and safety of the public such as buildings, waterways, equipment and other property including pack and saddle stock and	

investments owned by the United States when the suspension of such activities would cause an imminent threat to human life and property.

- Contracts in support of cyber security and infrastructure operations to support key positions and essential personnel.
- Management and maintenance of National Forest System lands for their sustained safety and use, including agency contract and permitted activities and public activities that do not require consistent employee oversight.
- Protection of studies where lack of continuation measurements or maintenance would destroy or endanger validity of research findings.
- Agency leadership to ensure alignment of activities.

Brief summary of significant agency activities that will cease during a lapse.

For the period of a lapse decisions on maintaining public accessibility, including special use permits and other activities are reserved for the Chief of the Forest Service (i.e. not delegated):

- Law Enforcement and Investigations Reimbursements may be delayed for more than 500 state, local and tribal law enforcement partners.
- Hazardous Fuels Treatments to reduce fire risk, including prescribed fire, would be reduced.
- Public access to recreation sites would be reduced.
- Special Use Permits processing would be delayed.
- Mineral Regulatory Reform would be delayed.
- Statewide forest inventories would be delayed.
- State Grants for Forest Management and Wildland Fire Preparedness may be delayed. State and local fire departments' ability to train firefighters and acquire necessary equipment may be delayed and states and other cooperators will not receive reimbursement for ongoing forest management work on non-federal lands.
- Applied science including scenario planning for priority fuels treatments and timber market analyses as well as experiments that are timed with prescribed fire/weather timing can be severely impacted.

Should a lapse in appropriations extend for a prolonged period of time (i.e., longer than 5 days), describe the following changes:

- In any points in time when the furlough status of employees may change,
- how many employees would be affected; and
- the legal basis for such changes.

The Agency will review activities continued and paused during a lapse in appropriation and will make necessary adjustments to the employees exempted/excepted/furloughed to protect life and property or continue agency priorities where other available funds exist.

The Agency also reserves the ability to adjust activities between categories, including between those furloughed and exempted/excepted, if it is deemed in the best interest of the Federal government and there is funding availability from sources other than annual appropriations. For example, the activities listed in Category III and V are typically funded by annual appropriations. If it is determined that it is in the best interest of the Department/Agency to sustain critical functions and there are resources other than annual appropriations available, the Agency reserves the flexibility to work the Department and Office of Management and Budget to adjust the Categories for these employees. The Agency may also change the number of employees financed by supplemental funding where appropriate.

If these adjustments are needed, they will be discussed with the Department and Office of Management and Budget to ensure compliance with policy and direction.

Happenings of Interest

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For the period of a lapse decisions on maintaining public accessibility, including special use permits and other activities are reserved for the Chief of the Forest Service (i.e. not delegated):

- Law Enforcement and Investigations Reimbursements may be delayed for more than 500 state, local and tribal law enforcement partners.

Total number of agency employees expected to be on board before implementation of the plan:

32,390

Total number of agency employees expected to be furloughed under the plan (unduplicated count):

12,744

Brief summary of significant agency activities that will continue during a lapse. Also include the legal basis for retaining categories of employees who will be carrying out these activities.

Category 1: Employees already financed from other available funds will continue to work as deemed appropriate to support life and property. This includes employees financed by:

- Job Corps (transfer funds from Department of Labor).
- Permanent and trust fund accounts (mandatory appropriations).
- Cost recovery funds (mandatory appropriations and reimbursable funding)
- Supplemental and Emergency Supplemental Funding (GAOA, IJJA, IRA, Disaster).

Category 3: Business functions necessary to support continuing work and the exempt and excepted employees.

Category 5: This includes but is not limited to:

- Responding and preparing for wildland fires
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency and Natural Disasters Response or Preparation and defense preparedness
- Implementation of Executive Order (EO) 14225, Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production to increase domestic timber production to protect our national and economic security.
- Protection of Federal lands, infrastructure to ensure health and safety of the public such as buildings, waterways, equipment and other property including pack and saddle stock and

analyses as well as experiments that are timed with prescribed fire weather timing can be severely impacted.

Should a lapse in appropriations extend for a prolonged period of time (i.e., longer than 5 days), describe the following changes:

- In any points in time when the furlough status of employees may change,
- how many employees would be affected; and
- the legal basis for such changes.

The Agency will review activities continued and paused during a lapse in appropriation and will make necessary adjustments to the employees exempted/excepted/furloughed to protect life and property or continue agency priorities where other available funds exist.

The Agency also reserves the ability to adjust activities between categories, including between those furloughed and exempted/excepted, if it is deemed in the best interest of the Federal government and there is funding availability from sources other than annual appropriations. For example, the activities listed in Category III and V are typically funded by annual appropriations. If it is determined that it is in the best interest of the Department/Agency to sustain critical functions and there are resources other than annual appropriations available, the Agency reserves the flexibility to work the Department and Office of Management and Budget to adjust the Categories for these employees. The Agency may also change the number of employees financed by supplemental funding where appropriate.

If these adjustments are needed, they will be discussed with the Department and Office of Management and Budget to ensure compliance with policy and direction.

Happenings of Interest



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

File Code: 2300

Date: October 3, 2025

Dear Partner:

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and support of important priority work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. I am writing to share information regarding the lapse in appropriations for FY 2026.

During this lapse in appropriations, the Forest Service is operating in accordance with the USDA Shutdown Plan (<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fy2026-usda-lapse-plan.pdf>), with a focus on life, safety, and Administration priorities. This priority work is being carried out by employees who are exempt from furlough and funded by sources other than annual appropriations. Many activities and projects associated with supplemental appropriations (e.g., deferred maintenance projects funded by Great American Outdoors Act, disaster recovery projects funded by American Relief Act, etc.) are still active.

To keep key partners apprised of our operations, I am sharing the following guidance which was provided to our field offices on October 3, 2025. Its intent is to help clarify the type and level of work allowed during this lapse in appropriations. This guidance could change over the course of the lapse in appropriations. If that is the case, we will provide an updated letter.

- **Travel:** Travel for Forest Service employees is only allowed for the field delivery of exempt activities related to critical functions by employees designated as exempt. This does NOT include travel for attending meetings, conferences, or other non-critical functions.
- **Payments:** Payments will be processed for work performed by contractors or cooperators (contracts, grants, and agreements) deemed appropriate pursuant to the guidance issued for work considered a priority.

For work connected to efforts that are not considered to be a priority, invoices may be submitted for contracts, grants, or agreements during the lapse in appropriations; however, payments will not occur until the lapse in appropriations has ended.

For wildfire and emergency work, the Agency will continue to process payments, including those for casual hires (administratively determined) on emergency assignments.



Caring for the Land and Serving People

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2

- **Law Enforcement:** Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) will focus on protecting employees and the public, Forest Service facilities, and developed recreation areas. LEI personnel will collaborate with local line officers as needed to ensure alignment.
- **Recreation:** National Forest recreation sites remain open during the Federal government's lapse in funding. However, some services may be limited or unavailable. Our ability to maintain this operational status will be continuously monitored and is subject to change based on budget considerations and Administration priorities. Forest Service employees who directly support developed recreation site operations are continuing to work. Volunteer activities, such as campground hosting, will continue under existing agreements. Outfitter and guide services may continue under existing agreements. Regular seasonal closures will proceed as planned. Visitor centers, unless operated by a third party, will be closed. Concessionaire operations are not impacted by the lapse in funding. Recreation special uses, such as ski areas, are also continuing operations. Partner and contract work under existing funded agreements is currently ongoing and will continue as funding allows.
- **Timber Production:** Forest Service timber work is aligned with Executive Order (EO) 14225, "Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production". Therefore, all aspects of active forest management will continue as normal.
- **Active Harvest Projects:** Active timber sale contracts, special forest products, and integrated resource contracts (Integrated Resource Timber Contracts and Integrated Resource Service Contracts) will continue. Good Neighbor Authority and agreements that include product removal administered through partners including States, Tribes, counties, and other partners, may continue if the project does not involve funding that may result in violations of the ADA.
- **Bid Openings and Stewardship Offerings:** All current advertisements for timber and forest product sales, as well as stewardship contract offerings, will continue as planned. Bid openings and oral auctions may continue, and appropriate sale officers, contracting officers, forest products resource specialists, and collection officers will be available to conduct the sealed bid or oral auctions.
- **Timber Contracting Support Functions:** Refunds, bill cancellations, and other transactions should be submitted in accordance with standard processes and procedures. Online processing systems will be available for routine business transactions after annual downtime.
- **Special Forest Product Permits:** Over-the-counter sales of special forest products permits will continue because most are firewood permits which have a direct connection to human health and safety. Permits already sold to the public are still valid within their existing terms and conditions, and some permits may still be purchased online.

3

- **Working Capital Fund Nursery System:** The Working Capital Fund Nursery System and staff, which includes six nurseries and two stand-alone seed extractories, will continue normal operations as they are critical life and safety facilities that process and protect the nation's seed cache and other living biological material and seedlings.
- **Reforestation and Stand Improvement Activities:** Reforestation (e.g., planting, seeding, and surveys or certifications), stand improvement (e.g., non-commercial thinning, release, etc.), and other related activities (e.g., site preparation or cone and acorn collection) will continue.
- **Environmental Compliance Activities:** It is expected that planning and associated processes for projects pursuant to EOs will continue through the lapse in appropriations. This includes but is not limited to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Endangered Species Act. The Forest Service will continue to work on the nationwide environmental assessment to expedite post-fire recovery in burned areas, facilitating safe infrastructure, healthy forests, and timely recovery of forest products important to rural economies and communities reliant on National Forest Systems lands. This is a Forest Service and USDA priority in response to EO 14225 and Secretarial Memo 1078-006, "Increasing Timber Production and Designating an Emergency Situation on National Forest System Lands".
- **Grazing:** In general, the Forest Service will not provide daily oversight of grazing operations except in a few special cases, such as complying with court-mandated, periodic oversight and monitoring direction, or facilitating orderly, end-of-grazing-season removal of livestock.

Upon the enactment of appropriations or a continuing resolution, Forest Service offices and facilities will resume program activities consistent with all applicable Agency and USDA operating procedures.

The Forest Service values your partnership and support. Your resilience during this time is recognized and appreciated. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your Forest Service point of contact with questions. We are committed to supporting our partnership and the important work we do in service to the American public.

Sincerely,

JOHN
CROCKETT

Digitally signed by JOHN
CROCKETT
Date: 2025.10.03 16:35:48
-0400

JOHN W. CROCKETT
Deputy Chief, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry
Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest System

Happenings of Interest



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

2

3

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Deputy Chief, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry
Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest System



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Happenings of Interest

GREENWIRE



Gift article



Shrinking Forest Service falls behind on wildfire prevention

"Operational challenges" have hampered the use of prescribed fire to reduce potential wildfire fuel, according to Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz.



BY: MARC HELLER | 10/03/2025 01:35 PM EDT



Forest Service firefighter Kai Montes battles the Madre Fire as it makes a run along Highway 166 on July 3 in San Luis Obispo County, California. | Noah Berger/AP



Pacific Crest Trail
Association



Dear John,

The federal government shutdown is still underway. While we have some good news for the Pacific Crest Trail, the effects of the shutdown continue to be felt.

The U.S. Forest Service has clarified that PCTA volunteers may continue their work on the trail. Corps crews are also permitted to move forward under existing agreements. This means important trail work doesn't have to stop entirely.

Still, the PCT is not unaffected.

Our federal partners—the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service—are furloughed without pay. This slows communication, approvals, and planning, and it destabilizes the partnerships that trails like the PCT depend on. Even with national guidance permitting our volunteer activities on the trail, we now need to work with local units for project approvals due to these furloughs.

Shutdowns hurt more than the trail—they hurt the people and communities that steward our public lands.

**Please contact your members of Congress
today**

Happenings of Interest

GREENWIRE



Gift article



Shrinking Forest Service falls behind on wildfire prevention

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Forest Service firefighter Kai Montes battles the Madre Fire as it makes a run along Highway 166 on July 3 in San Luis Obispo County, California. | Noah Berger/AP

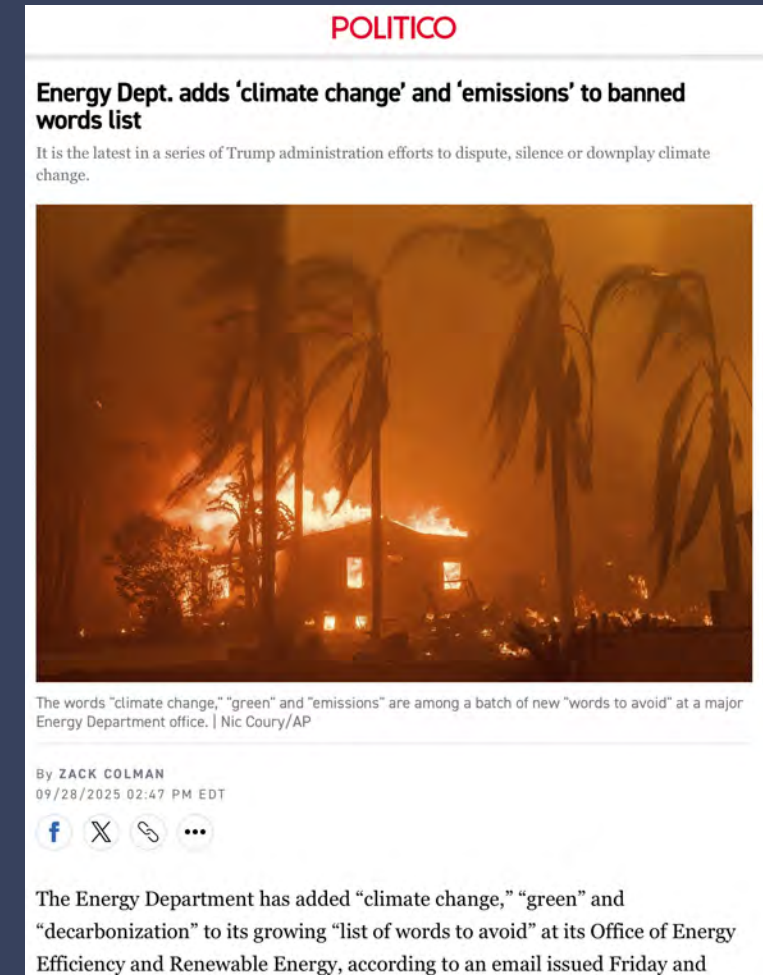
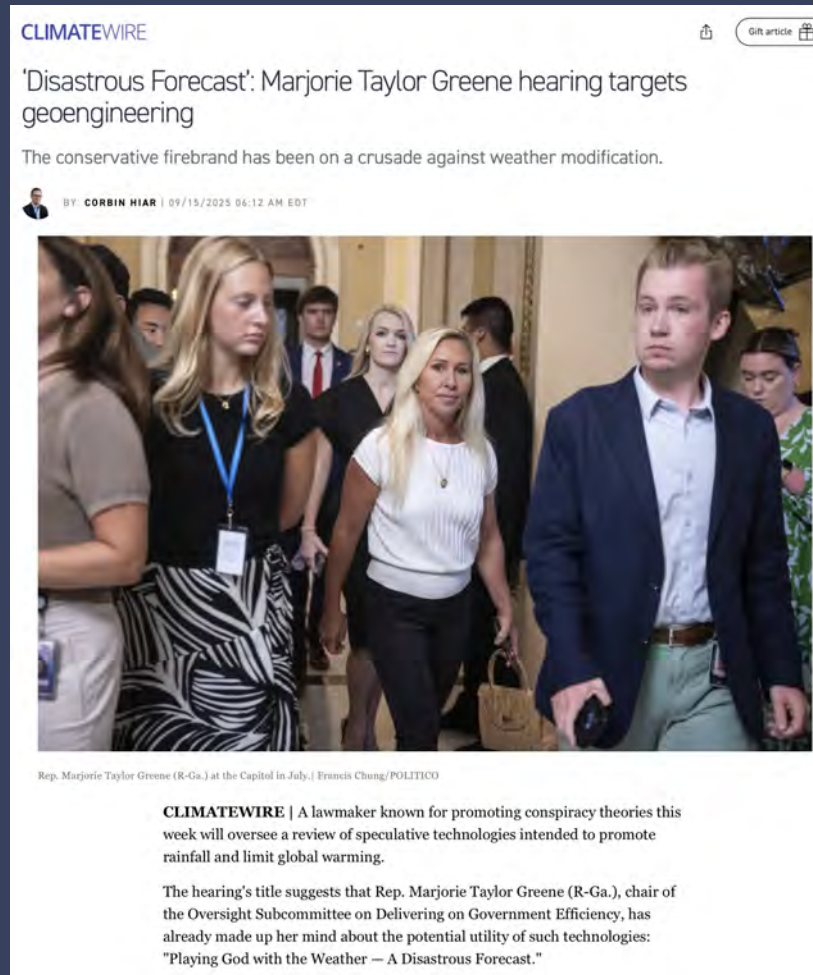


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Shutdowns hurt more than the trail—they hurt the people and communities that steward our public lands.

Please contact your members of Congress today

Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest

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Is that legal? Trump's \$8B cuts in the crosshairs.

White House budget director Russ Vought plans to ax nearly \$8 billion in "Green New Scam funding" in blue states. Critics say the move doesn't pass legal muster.

BY: HANNAH NORTHEY, PAMELA KING, CHRISTA MARSHALL | 10/03/2025 01:41 PM EDT



Energy Secretary Chris Wright is defending the administration's cancellation of nearly \$8 billion in funding for green energy projects amid criticism that the move is illegal. | Mark Schiefelbein/AP

GREENWIRE | Energy Secretary Chris Wright is defending the Trump administration's decision to cancel billions of dollars for climate-related projects — mostly in blue states so far — despite state officials and legal experts insisting the move runs afoul of the law.

Wright said [during an interview on CNN](#) on Thursday that his agency made the ultimate decision to cut the funding after a monthslong review of about 2,400 projects by a small group of seven or eight DOE officials who focused on "business conditions." The secretary also said more cuts, including in red states, are on the horizon.

The cuts were first revealed when White House budget director Russ Vought announced on X that the administration was [axing nearly \\$8 billion](#) in "Green

ENERGYWIRE



Gift article

Exxon CEO: New form of graphite boosts EV battery life, extends range

The invention, now being tested, can increase the life of electric vehicle batteries by as much as 30 percent.

BY: BLOOMBERG | 09/30/2025 06:28 4M EDT

ENERGYWIRE | Exxon Mobil said it has invented a new form of graphite that can increase the life of electric vehicle batteries by as much as 30 percent.

"We've invented a new carbon molecule that will extend the life of the battery by 30 percent," CEO Darren Woods said at the University of Texas at Austin's Energy Symposium on Friday. It's a "revolutionary step change in battery performance."

The invention is being tested by several EV manufacturers, Woods said. Used on the anode side of the battery, the synthetic graphite allows for faster charging, a longer life span and longer range for electric vehicles. Exxon last week announced the [acquisition](#) of several production assets from Chicago-based Superior Graphite, which will enable the company to scale-up manufacturing, with a goal of commercial production by 2029.

The Texas oil giant doesn't intend to become a battery maker but it plans to use its refineries, chemical plants and laboratories to produce some of the materials to be used in the energy transition. It also has plans to extract lithium, a major battery component.

"We don't do wind and solar, we have no issues with wind and solar, but we don't have capability in that space," Woods said. "But we do have capability of transforming molecules and there are enormous opportunities in that space to use hydrogen and carbon molecules to meet the growing demand."

Exxon has long been a player in the vehicle-battery space. The company invented the lithium-ion battery in the 1970s and created the plastic film for the first rechargeable version in 1991. Almost two decades ago, Exxon created a new type of material used to separate battery components.

While Exxon is moving ahead with its battery-material business, the outlook for hydrogen, another targeted growth area, is looking more challenged. The company has [warned](#) it may delay a low-carbon hydrogen and ammonia project in Baytown, Texas, due to a lack of interest from customers.

The shortening of the time frame available to claim hydrogen tax credits under President Donald Trump's so-called [Bie Beautiful Bill](#) may also slow market

GREENWIRE



Gift article

BLM leader talks solar internally as projects languish

A calendar for a top Bureau of Land Management official shows he had internal meetings on solar power in August.



BY: SCOTT STREATER | 10/03/2025 01:38 PM EDT



Solar panels in Las Vegas. | Ethan Miller/Getty Images

GREENWIRE | Weeks after Interior Secretary Doug Burgum imposed new restrictions on solar power development on public land, the Bureau of Land Management's acting leader met several times with other Interior Department officials on solar, according to a calendar of meetings obtained by POLITICO's E&E News through a public records request.

Although the calendar is an indication that solar isn't totally wiped from the BLM agenda, some prominent industry representatives say they've seen no other signs that the Trump administration has altered its position about renewable energy development.

Ben Norris, the Solar Energy Industries Association's vice president of regulatory affairs, said in an emailed statement that they've had no indication that BLM plans to begin incorporating solar into President Donald Trump's "energy dominance" agenda, which thus far has centered on coal and critical minerals mining, as well as oil and gas leasing.

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Who We Are Research Basecamp Night Skies GNAR Initiative Beyond the Trail

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By Jordan W. Smith, Ph.D. | September 29, 2025



Keeping Parks Open Amid Uncertainty

Jordan W. Smith, Ph.D.

Director & Professor



Phone: 4358306294

Email: jordan.smith@usu.edu

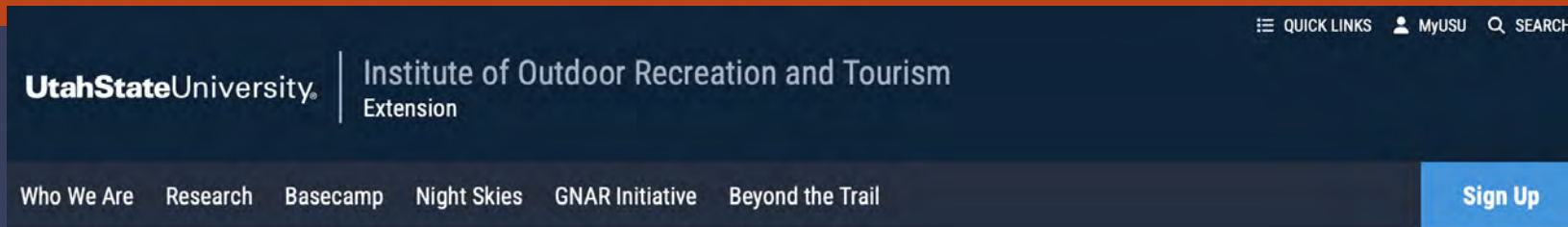
Mailing Address:

5215 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322

Pending Federal Government Shutdowns, National Parks, and their Economies

As a federal shutdown looms, Utah leaders say they will keep the state's crown-jewel national parks—Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, and Zion—open to visitors. Local reporting details contingency funding and operational work-arounds meant to avoid the closed gates, shuttered facilities, and visitor confusion that marked past lapses ([Tavss, 2025](#)). At the same time, retired National Park Service (NPS) leaders are publicly urging Congress to reach a deal to prevent furloughs and service disruptions that reverberate through public-lands communities ([Lind, 2025](#)). The common thread in these stories is straightforward: reliable park access and gateway economic stability are inseparable.

Happenings of Interest



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Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
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Who We Are Research Basecamp Night Skies GNAR Initiative Beyond the Trail

Sign Up

By Jordan W. Smith, Ph.D. | September 23, 2025



Robert Redford's Legacy and Utah's Cultural Tourism

Jordan W. Smith, Ph.D.

Director & Professor



Phone: 4358306294

Email: jordan.smith@usu.edu

Mailing Address:

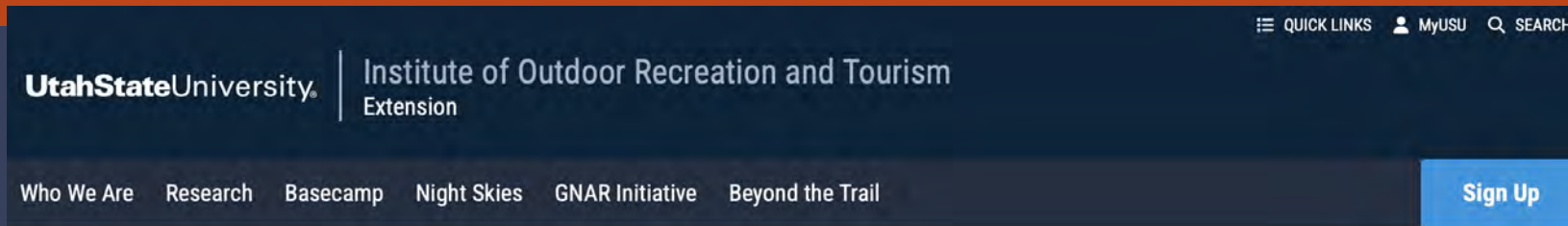
5215 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322

A Life Intertwined with Place

This month, Utah and the broader American West lost one of its most iconic cultural figures. [Robert Redford](#), actor, director, environmentalist, and founder of the Sundance Institute, passed away at age 89. His death, widely covered in outlets like the *New York Times* (Fuller, 2025), is more than the closing of a cinematic chapter. It compels us to reflect on how cultural identity, film, and landscape have become central to Utah's tourism economy and global reputation.

For gateway communities, land managers, and state officials, Redford's life is a reminder of the enduring link between culture and place. He showed that tourism is not simply about visitation numbers, but about meaning-making, storytelling, and the long arc of stewardship.

Happenings of Interest



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Who We Are Research Basecamp Night Skies GNAR Initiative Beyond the Trail

Sign Up

By Jordan W. Smith, Ph.D. | September 15, 2025



Tourism Grants as Tools for Community Identity in Utah

A Small Grant with Local Impact

Grand County recently received \$146,250 in state tourism marketing grants to strengthen visitor outreach efforts ([Ramirez, 2025](#)). While the dollar amount is modest compared to the size of Moab's visitor economy, the investment is strategically significant. For county officials and residents, these funds are not just about marketing for higher visitation—they are about shaping how the region presents itself to the world in ways that meet both community and visitor needs.

In rural Utah, cooperative marketing grants are best understood as tools for defining identity, showcasing stewardship, and ensuring that tourism growth reinforces rather than undermines quality of life. They allow communities to market with purpose: aligning campaigns with values residents care about while maintaining competitiveness in the broader tourism economy.

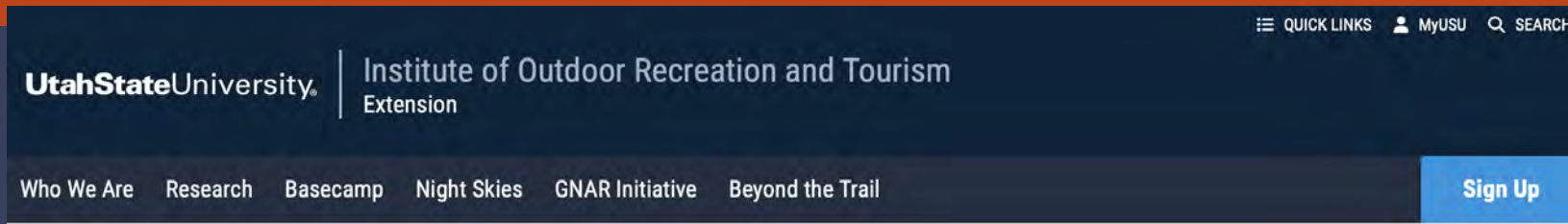
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Email: jordan.smith@usu.edu

Happenings of Interest



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Happenings of Interest

**EASTERN
SIERRA
REGION**

VISITOR CONNECTION PACKAGE

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



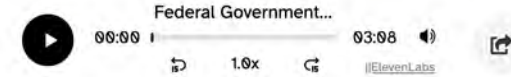
Funding for this project has been provided by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency of the State of California, under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and in support of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.



Medicare Watch

Federal Government Shuts Down Over Health Care Subsidies

By Casey Schwarz | October 2, 2025 | 3 Comments



The federal government is currently in a [shutdown triggered by a lack of bipartisan agreement](#) on government funding and access to health care coverage.

Congressional Democrats have [pledged not to vote on a budget extension](#) and end the government shutdown unless Congress extends subsidies for [Affordable Care Act Marketplace plans](#).

Fall Open Enrollment Creating Urgency

Many Republicans in Congress [argue that there is plenty of time](#) before the end of the year to extend the subsidies, if they should be extended at all. But Marketplace open [enrollment begins November 1](#). This gives little time for Congress to clarify what subsidies will be available before people begin shopping for coverage. [People who shop for plans before the decisions are made](#) could leave without enrolling and it may be hard to reach them later once the prices are updated.

Happenings of Interest

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WhatMatters

Your guide to California policy and politics

Good morning, California.

CA lawmakers overhaul energy and climate policy as session ends



Assemblymembers gather during a floor session the state Capitol in Sacramento on Sept. 12, 2025.
Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

The California Legislature's long, busy and contentious session drew to a close this weekend. Here's what you need to know:

- Lawmakers delivered Gov. Gavin Newsom one of the most sweeping overhauls of California's energy and climate policies in decades.
- Lawmakers paved the way for a building boom near transit stations in many of the state's most populous areas.
- The effort to regulate when AI makes consequential decisions about your life will have to wait yet another year.

Expert Blog

California's End-of-Session Blitz Is a Ray of Sunshine for Climate Progress

The California legislature passes a package of climate action bills as the Trump administration backslides on federal commitments.

September 15, 2025



Merrian Borgeson

Policy Director, California, Climate
& Energy

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Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, Los Angeles | Getty Images

Happenings of Interest

ASCENT

New CEQA Exemption for Parks and Trails Funded by Proposition 4

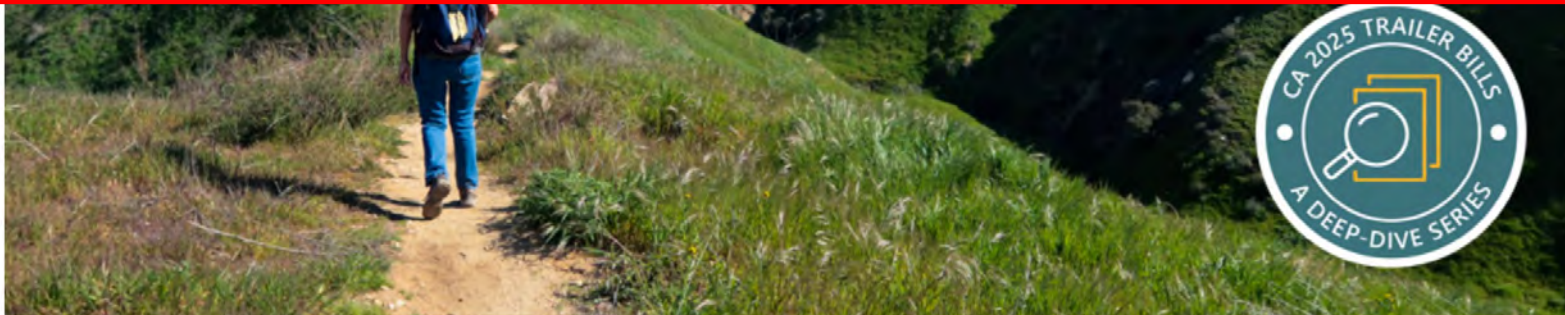


Happenings of Interest

ASCENT

New CEQA Exemption for Parks and Trails Funded by

“Senate Bill (SB) 131 of 2025 includes a new California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for public parks and nonmotorized recreational trail projects funded by the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (i.e., Proposition 4).”

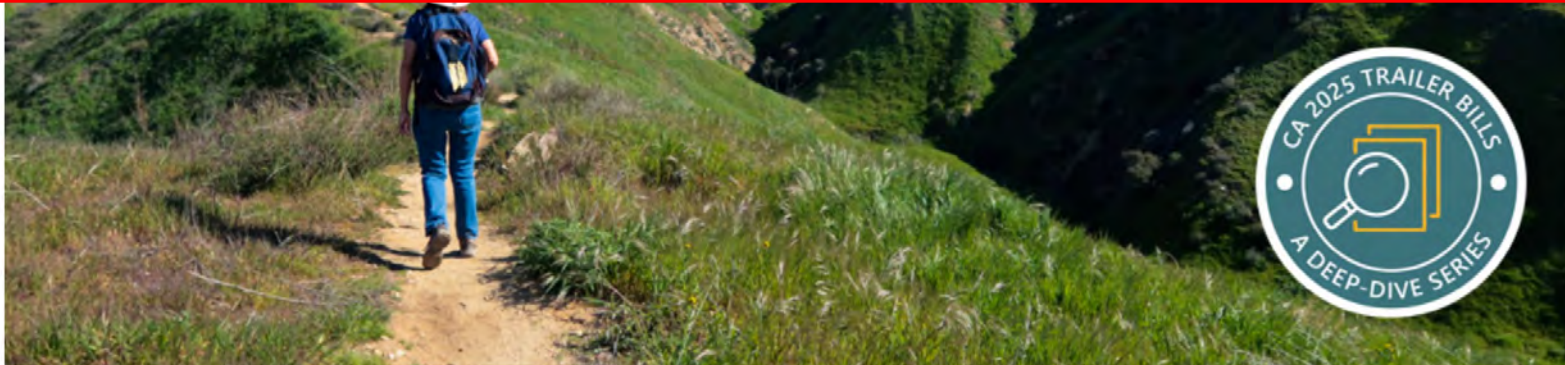


Happenings of Interest

ASCENT

New CEQA Exemption for Parks and Trails Funded by

"This exemption specifically applies to public park or nonmotorized recreational trail facilities funded in whole or in part by Proposition 4, a \$10 billion bond measure focused on increasing California's resilience to the impacts of climate change."



Happenings of Interest

- \$200 million to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) for the Statewide Park Program
- \$200 million to the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for reducing climate impacts on disadvantaged communities and expanding outdoor recreation
- \$100 million to the CNRA and other yet-to-be-determined agencies for enhancing natural resource value and expanding trail access
- \$175 million to CDPR for deferred maintenance
- \$25 million to CNRA for nature education facilities

Happenings of Interest

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SUMMARY

Governor Proposes Multiyear Spending Plan to Implement Proposition 4. In November 2024, voters approved Proposition 4, a \$10 billion bond measure focused on increasing the state's resilience to the impacts of climate change. The Governor has proposed a multiyear spending plan to implement the bond, including appropriations totaling \$2.7 billion in 2025-26. The Governor also proposes shifting some prior appropriations from the General Fund and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to instead be supported by Proposition 4.

Proposed Plan Has Several Merits but Also Comes With Some Trade-Offs. We find that the proposed spending plan generally strikes a balance between quick distribution of funds and thoughtful implementation of programs. In many cases, it phases in funding to account for program readiness and builds on the significant prior funding provided in recent budgets for similar activities. Adopting a multiyear plan would offer a more coordinated, strategic approach and provide more funding certainty to departments and grantees. Despite these advantages, such an approach would make enacting subsequent changes more difficult for the Legislature if its priorities shift or circumstances—such as new fires or droughts—warrant a possible change in focus and timing. In addition, a multiyear approach may not be suitable for all programs because it would limit opportunities for future legislative deliberation over spending choices—which is particularly concerning for activities that are new or not yet well defined.

Administration Made Some Choices the Legislature Will Want to Review. Within some of the bond categories that have multiple allowable activities, the administration has selected the programs on which to target funding. In addition, the Governor's decision to shift the fund source for some programs to Proposition 4 would reduce the total amount of spending on climate-related activities, although this approach would free up funds for other priorities. The Legislature will want to ensure that the administration's choices align with its priorities.

Recommend Legislature Adjust Proposed Plan as Needed to Ensure It Aligns With Legislative Priorities. We offer several suggestions to ensure Proposition 4 spending reflects the Legislature's intent. First, we recommend the Legislature consider approving multiyear spending plans for existing and well-defined programs, but also consider requiring the administration to submit new budget requests in future years for programs that are new and less well-defined. Second, we recommend the Legislature consider clarifying spending guidance in statute for programs where bond language grants discretion around specific spending decisions. Third, we recommend considering requiring enhanced reporting to track how Proposition 4 spending is helping the state make progress toward its most important climate goals. Finally, we recommend the Legislature weigh fund shifts in the context of the overall budget and its highest priorities—if the budget condition requires General Fund reductions, such shifts may become important tools.

Did the suspense kill you? It killed these California bills, too



BY LYNN LA

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025



The Senate Appropriations Committee meets during a suspense file hearing at the Capitol Ar Space in Sacramento on Aug. 29, 2025. Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

Largely out of public view and with [little to no debate](#), lawmakers on Friday sped through hundreds of bills that had new spending attached, rejecting or stalling [more than a quarter of the 686 proposals](#) that were





LAUNCHING CALIFORNIA'S CLIMATE BOND: WHAT'S NEXT?



Monday, September 29, 2025



Noon to 1 p.m.



[Register to Join](#)

State leaders just allocated \$3.3 billion in Climate Bond funding for the coming year, which is the first phase of a historic investment to protect our communities and natural resources in the face of worsening climate change. This funding was made possible by California voters approving a \$10 billion bond through Proposition 4 in 2024. Join us to learn more about how the climate bond will be implemented in coming months. We'll hear from agency leaders, learn actions underway to ensure funds are allocated efficiently and effectively, and chart out next steps for bond funding programs.

Happenings of Interest

LAUNCH WHAT

BOND:

Secretary Speaker Series

About

Secretary Crowfoot hosts monthly discussions with leaders and big thinkers from across California to discuss emerging natural resources issues. This open forum allows for new and different perspectives about how we best steward California's resources.

These events are public, live-streamed on YouTube, and recorded for later viewing. Links to each of these discussions are presented below.

Upcoming Speaker Series Events

Please wait for more upcoming Speaker Series

CONTACT US:

Who We Are

Our Agency's History

Secretary Crowfoot

Secretary Speaker Series

State leaders phase of a his climate change

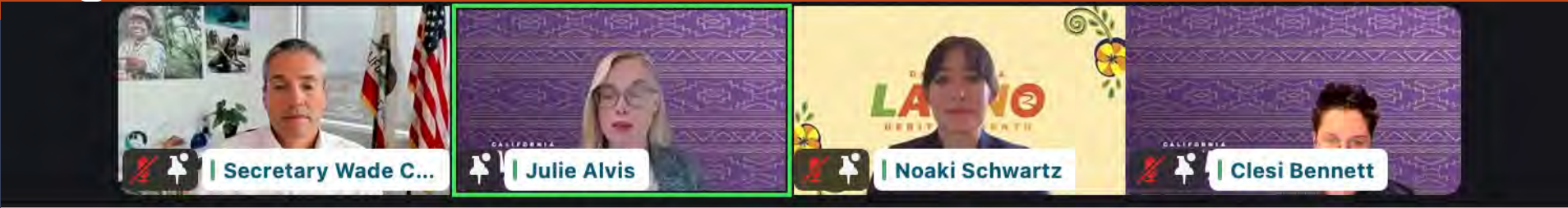
Proposition 4 in 2024. Join us to learn more about how the climate bond will be implemented in coming months. We'll hear from agency leaders, learn actions underway to ensure funds are allocated efficiently and effectively, and chart out next steps for bond funding programs.

the first of worsening bond through

Happenings of Interest



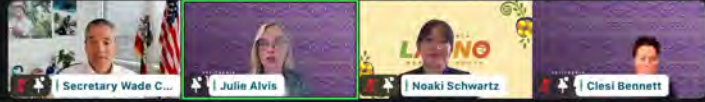
Happenings of Interest



Climate Bond Basics

- In November 2024, California voters approved Proposition 4, referred to as the Climate Bond.
- The bond allows the State to borrow up to \$10 billion for specific purposes described in the Bond Act.
- The Governor and Legislature give authority through the Budget Act to spend from the bond fund on programs and projects.
- Departments report cash needs to the Department of Finance to fund projects, and the State Treasurer's Office provides cash through bond sales based on those projections. The cash is used to reimburse projects.
- This process continues over many years, funding important projects all over the state.

Happenings of Interest



What's In the \$10 Billion Climate Bond?



\$3.8 Billion for Water Quality, Drinking Water, Flood Protection, Drought and Water Resilience



\$1.2 Billion for Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions



\$1.5 Billion for Wildfire Protection and Forest Resilience



\$300 million for Climate Smart Agriculture



\$1.2 Billion for Coastal Protection and Resilience



\$700 Million for Park Creation and Outdoor Access

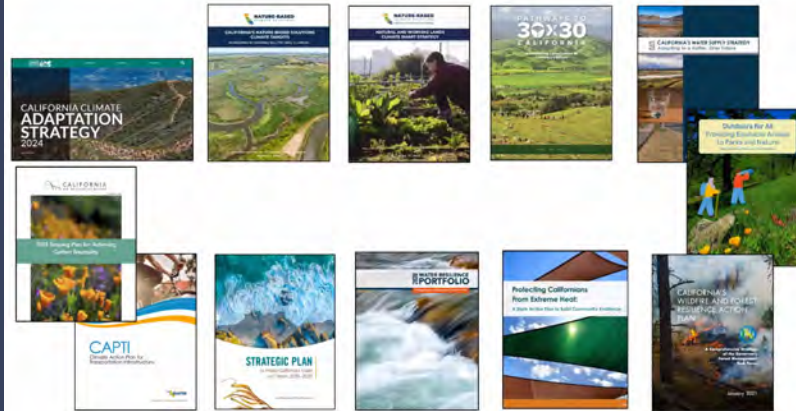


\$450 Million for Extreme Heat Mitigation



\$850 Million for Clean Air and Energy

For more information: [Proposition 4 - CNRA Bond Accountability](#)



Ensuring Funds Flow to Communities That Need it Most

PROP 4 REQUIREMENT: "At least 40 percent of the total bond funding "shall be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities."

Step-by-Step Process

- What benefits will the project provide?
- Who will the project benefit?
- Are the anticipated benefits "meaningful and direct"?
- How will the project count toward the 40 percent requirement?



\$3.3 Billion is Now Authorized to Rollout



~\$1.2 Billion for Water Quality, Drinking Water, Flood Protection, Drought and Water Resilience



~\$390 Million for Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions



~\$415 Million for Wildfire Protection and Forest Resilience
+ \$181 Million in Early Action



~\$153 Million for Climate Smart Agriculture



~\$279 Million for Coastal Protection and Resilience



~\$466 Million for Park Creation and Outdoor Access



~\$110 Million for Extreme Heat Mitigation



~\$275 Million for Clean Air and Energy



How the Money Goes Out to Communities

- Grants programs are managed by many different state departments.
- Programs run according to approved **guidelines** that give authorities for the program, requirements for receiving a grant, and evaluation criteria to make decisions about grant awards.
- Bond statute defines what type of applicants can apply for bond funds



Stay Connected

[Home](#) [Bonds Oversight](#) [Proposition 4 - Climate Bond](#)



[RESOURCES.CA.GOV/BONDS-OVERSIGHT/PROPOSITION-4-CLIMATE-BOND](https://resources.ca.gov/bonds-oversight/proposition-4-climate-bond)

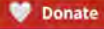


California Natural Resources Agency
Bond Accountability

[BONDACCOUNTABILITY.RESOURCES.CA.GOV](https://bondaccountability.resources.ca.gov)



Happenings of Interest



Search for bills, hearings, people, and more

Issues ▾ Directories ▾ Legislators Data & Methodology

Bills

AB 518: Low-impact camping areas.

Session Year: 2025-2026 House: Assembly

Current Status: **IN PROGRESS** (2025-09-02: Read second time. Ordered to third reading.)



Summary Bill Text Status Votes Supporters & Opponents Analysis

Version: Amended Senate (8/29/2025) ▾

Existing law, the Special Occupancy Parks Act, establishes requirements for the construction, maintenance, occupancy, use, and design of special occupancy parks. Existing law defines special occupancy park to mean any area of private property that provides for the transient occupancy of a recreational vehicle park, temporary recreational vehicle park, incidental camping area, or tent camp.

This bill would specify that, for purposes of that act, a special occupancy park does not include a low-impact camping area, as specified, that is located in a county that has enacted an ordinance, as specified, authorizing low-impact camping and meeting specified requirements. The bill would impose specified requirements on private property offering low-impact camping area sites and on online hosting platforms. The bill would specify that a low-impact camping area to mean any area of private property that provides for the transient occupancy of a temporary sleeping accommodation, as defined, for recreational purposes that is not a commercial lodging facility. The bill would specify that a low-impact camping area is not a special occupancy park if, among other things, it meets certain requirements, including compliance with applicable local requirements relating to waste management, quiet hours, as specified. The bill would require that a county that has authorized low-impact camping areas take specified actions, including, among others, to establish a registry of low-impact camping areas, as specified, and to notify the Department of Housing and Community Development of the county's choices of low-impact camping areas. The bill would also require all state and local eviction processes applicable to a special occupancy park to apply to a low-impact camping area.

BREAKING NEWS · OCT 1, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom expands outdoor access across California



AB 518 expands low-impact camping, signed into law.



hipcamp · Follow
California



hipcamp Edited · 18h
Big news! [@CAGovernor](#) Gavin Newsom has signed AB 518 into law — a historic step to expand camping access across California. This law will open more affordable places to camp, support farmers & ranchers, and rural economies.
Thank you, Governor, for championing Outdoors for All!

[#Hipcamp](#) [#AB518](#) [#OutdoorsForAll](#)



own2handz 12h
translation... all the homeless



596 likes

1 day ago



Add a comment...



Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest

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10 YEARS

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ELECTIONS

2025 California Voter Guide: Your Election Questions, Answered



BY CALMATTERS STAFF

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 UPDATED SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Republish

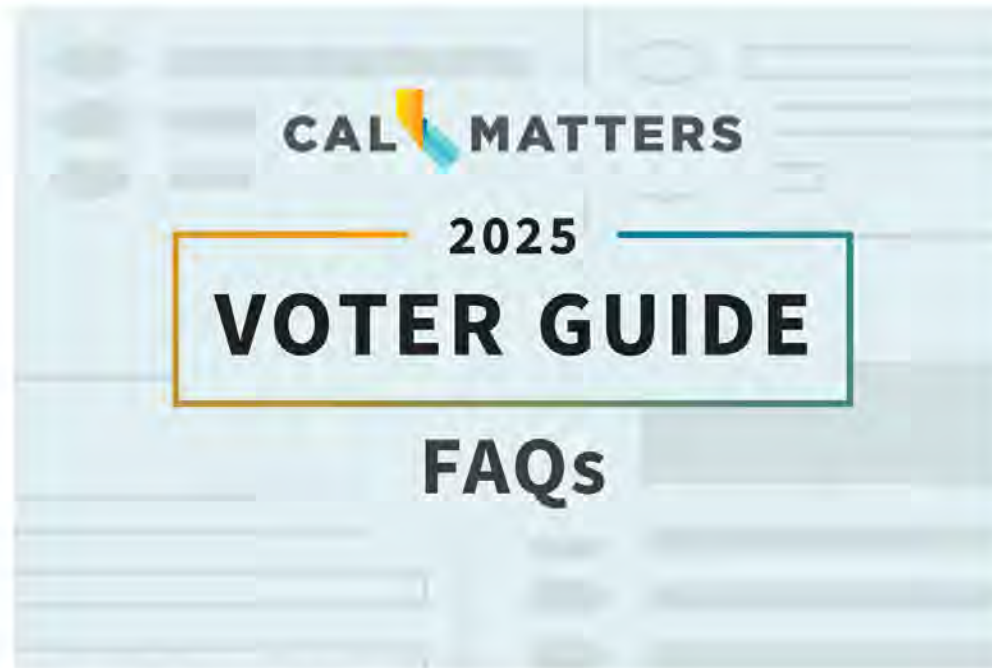


Ilustración de Gabriel Hongsdusit, CalMatters

Where do I vote? Am I registered to vote? Does everyone get a ballot in the mail? Get the answers to your election day questions ahead of California's November 4 special election.

Happenings of Interest

2025 VOTER GUIDE

BY CAL MATTERS

What you need to know to vote in California's Nov. 4 special election on redistricting

All eyes are on California this fall as voters decide whether to approve Proposition 50, a partisan gerrymandering plan with significant stakes far beyond California's borders — for control of the federal government, for President Donald Trump's agenda and for Gov. Gavin Newsom's national ambitions.

Proposition 50 is the only measure on the statewide Nov. 4 special election ballot. If voters approve it, California would temporarily set aside its nonpartisan citizen redistricting commission and adopt new congressional lines that favor Democrats for the next three election cycles.

Here's what your vote would mean:

Voting "YES" means: You want California to redraw its congressional districts to give Democrats a potential advantage in the U.S. House of Representatives. This would counter redistricting efforts in other states seeking to give Republicans an advantage.

Voting "NO" means: You want California's congressional district lines to remain the same, as they were drawn by the state's nonpartisan citizen redistricting commission. This is likely to give Republicans redistricting in other states an advantage in the U.S. House.



Sign up to get reminders and key updates on California's Nov. 4 special election directly in your inbox.

Why trust us? CalMatters has been reporting on what voters need to know about California elections for more than a decade. As a newsroom, our journalism is nonpartisan and independent from commercial or political interests.



How to Vote and Key Dates

OCT 6 Your county elections office will begin mailing out Nov. 4 ballots. You can also pick up a ballot (or vote) at an [Early Voting site](#).

OCT 7 Secure ballot drop-off boxes open

OCT 20 **Last day to register to vote online for the special election.** After Oct. 20, to register or re-register to vote, you must complete [same-day voter registration](#) and request your ballot in person at your county elections office or polling location.

OCT 25 Vote centers open for early in-person voting in all Voter's Choice Act counties

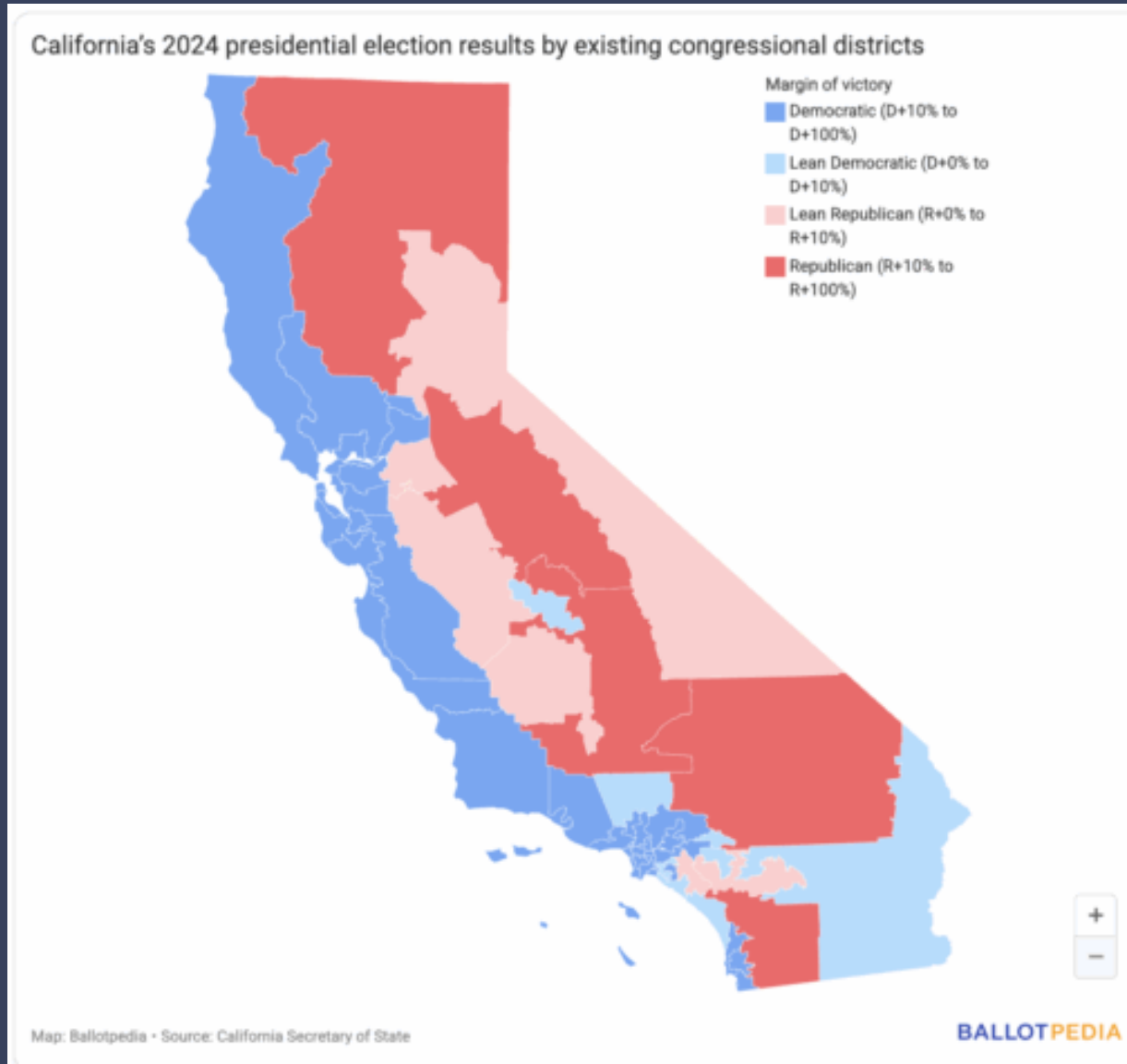
NOV 4 **SPECIAL ELECTION 2025**

CHECK REGISTRATION ↗

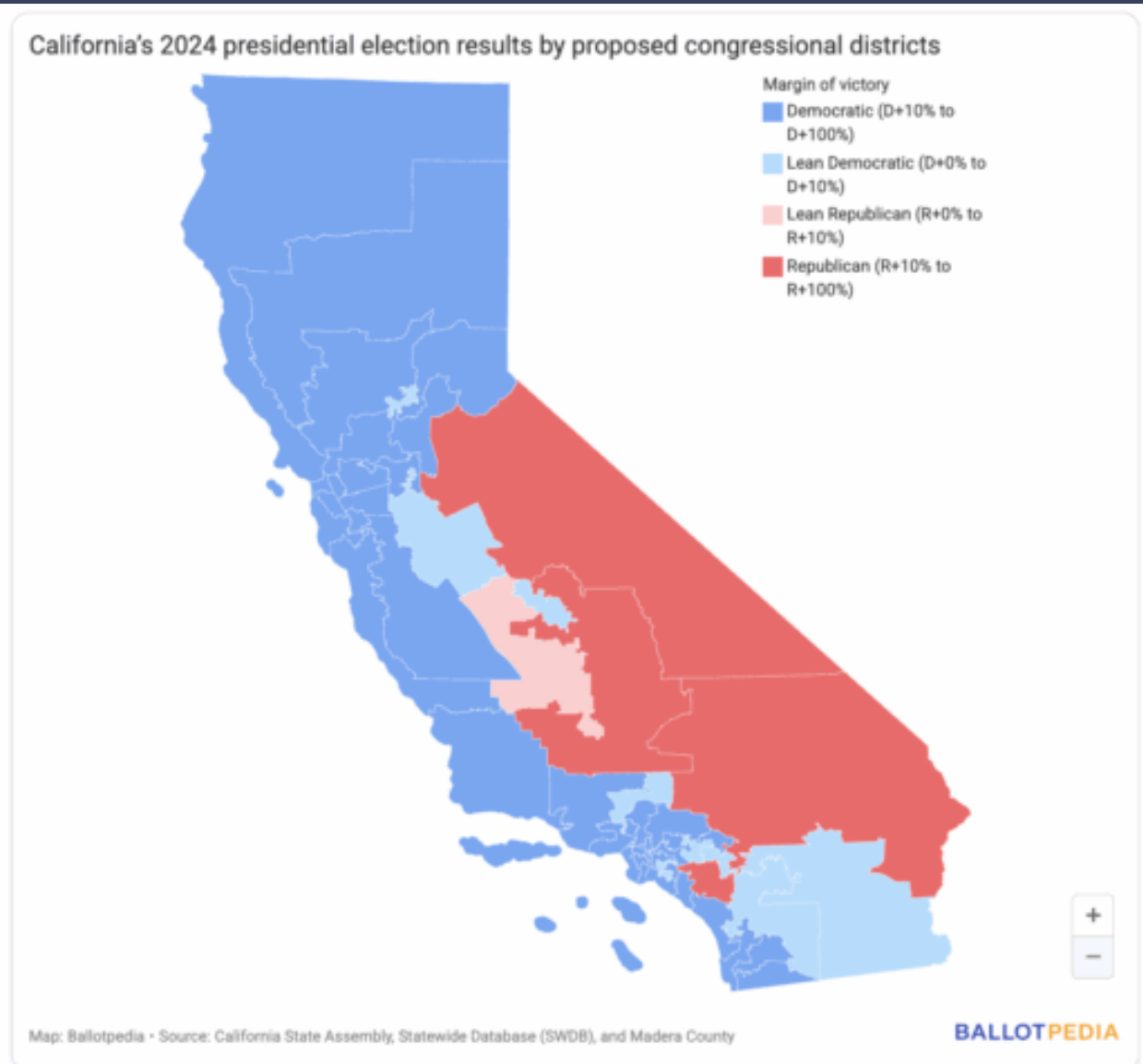
REGISTER TO VOTE ↗

Happenings of Interest

CA 3 - Current



CA 3 - If Prop 50 Approved



Happenings of Interest

E&E DAILY



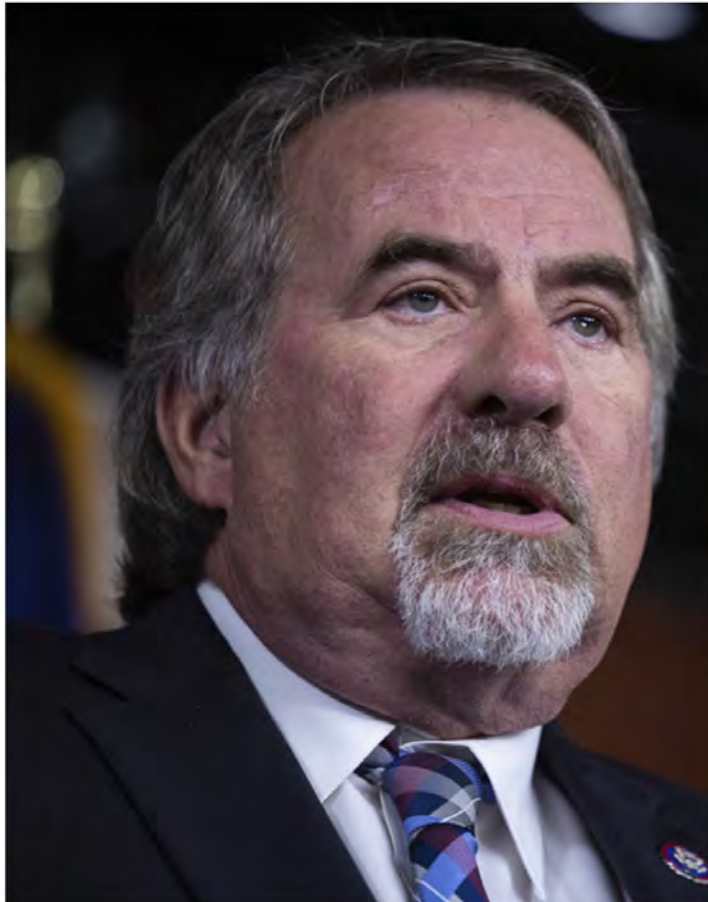
Gift article



Climate hawk poised to boot skeptic in redistricting battle

"The voters will be voiceless," lamented Republican Rep. Doug LaMalfa. Democrats are gleeful.

BY: **GARRETT DOWNS** | 09/16/2025 06:17 AM EDT | UPDATED 09/16/2025 11:36 AM EDT



Western Caucus Chair Doug LaMalfa's future in Congress is under threat from Democrats and Natural Resources ranking member Jared Huffman. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

Happenings of Interest

CLIMATEWIRE



Gift article

California to create first public wildfire model for insurance

Legislation approved Saturday aims to help property owners assess their rate hikes amid a statewide insurance crisis and rising costs.



BY: SAQIB RAHIM | 09/15/2025 06:14 AM EDT



California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara supported state legislation that was passed Saturday and will lead to the creation of the nation's first public wildfire model to help property owners assess their rate hikes. | Rich Pedroncelli/AP

CLIMATEWIRE | California lawmakers passed a bill meant to address consumer complaints about a new method that property insurers in the state are using to set premiums and address an insurance crisis.

Legislation approved Saturday was applauded by consumer groups that have criticized California's new rate-setting method, which lets insurers use computer models to project future wildfire losses.

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

These California desert communities are seeing a gold rush as wealthy residents move in



As dusk settles over the Coachella Valley in August 2023, workers toil in the darkening fields to avoid scorching daytime temperatures. (Gina Ferazzi / Los Angeles Times)



By Terry Castleman
Staff Writer | [Follow](#)

Sept. 15, 2025 3 AM PT

[FOR SUBSCRIBERS](#)



31



9 min



- A Times analysis shows that two of the California communities with the greatest growth in income between 2017 and 2022 were in the Coachella Valley

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

Sierra Jobs First September Updates



Welcome to your September updates from Sierra Jobs First.

In this edition, we're sharing highlights from September's Governing Council meeting, All-Industries Shindig (*pictured above, courtesy of MLTPA*), and Sierra Healthcare Industry Partnership (SHIP) events in Mammoth Lakes, which were valuable opportunities for in-person connection among the Sierra Jobs First community to further the work of the Collaborative and begin planting the seeds for a strong path forward post-September 2026.

We're also excited to share our new Catalyst Projects landing page, where you can now explore deeper project information and details, and also have updates from the team leading the work being done to craft a strategic vision for the transition of the work done by the Sierra Jobs First team over the past three years into the hands of the Collaborative in September, 2026.

Read on for all the updates, and thank you for your continued partnership in this important work.

Thank you,
The Sierra Jobs First Team



September Event Recaps

Sierra Jobs First September Governing Council Meeting Notes and Resources

Capping off a busy, productive, and inspirational week of in-person collaboration for Sierra Jobs First on the Eastside, the Sierra Jobs First Governing Council met for its quarterly meeting September 12 in Mammoth Lakes. The Council heard updates from the Industry Sector Coordinators about the great work being done to get Catalyst projects up and running and put strategies into action. The Council also met with representatives from long-time strategic consultants to Sierra Jobs First, who shared insights on the ways to carry forward the great work of the Sierra Business Council Jobs First, partners, and Collaborative beyond September 2026, when the current terms end. Read more about that below.

[Meeting Notes](#)

Thank You for Making the All-Industry Shindig a Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined the All-Industry Shindig on September 10th! Over 60 people from across the region gathered in Bishop for this in-person event and site visits. From breakfast burritos to big-picture conversations, the day brought together recreation and tourism innovators, sustainable agriculture and working lands advocates, healthcare champions, climate and conservation leaders, Tribal partners, and more.

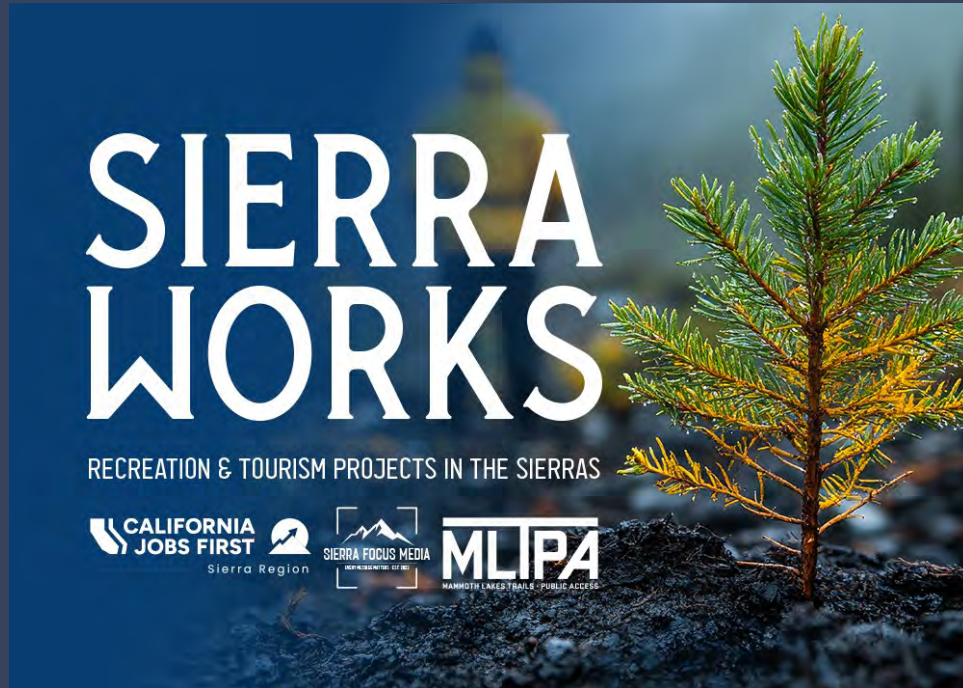
[VIEW A SHORT RECAP VIDEO](#) (thanks to Matt Galvan, of Sierra Focus Media)

The energy in the room was inspiring, showcasing the power of cross-industry collaboration to shape the future of the Sierra economy. We're excited to keep the momentum going — if you'd like to stay involved, sign up to join a Working Group and help carry forward the ideas sparked at the Shindig.

Sierra Healthcare Industry Partnership (SHIP) Meeting Tackles Rural Mental/Behavioral Health Gaps

Also meeting in Mammoth Lakes the week of the September Sierra Jobs First Governing Council meeting, Community Healthcare Industry Sector Coordinators Jen Burrows and Mother Lode Job

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates



Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

Over the course of the week:

- Visited 5 different Recreation & Tourism Catalyst Projects
- Met and mingled with 60+ stakeholders from across all sectors and counties — including elected officials, Catalyst Project leads, future collaborators, and members of the public
- Project Presentations
 - Joint Q + A with ESCOG and Central Sierra Economic Development District
- Joined the Sierra Healthcare Industry Partnership (SHIP) Conference, hosted by Jen Burrows at Motherlode Job Training Center
- Wrapped up with the Quarterly Governing Council

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

- Day 1– Tue. 9/9
 - Catalyst Project Site Tours
- Day 2 – Wed. 9/10
 - All Industry Working Group Meet & Greet
- Day 3 – Thur. 9/11
 - Sierra Health Industry Partnership
- Day 4 – Fri. 9/12
 - Sierra Jobs First Governing Council Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 9 | Presummit Site Visits

Before the Summit, join us for a series of **Catalyst Project tours** across the Eastern Sierra. This is your chance to see projects in action, meet local leaders, and learn about on-the-ground work shaping regional economic development.

Schedule:

- **12:00 PM | Coldwater Campground (Mammoth Lakes, CA)**
Hosts: John Wentworth & Chris Buehrer
- **2:00 PM | Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center (Bishop, CA)**
Hosts: Elaina Kabala & Meryl Picard
- **3:00 PM | Food Sovereignty Program (Bishop, CA)**
Host: Milo Vella
- **4:00 PM | Chipmunk Canyon Site Visit (Bishop, CA)**
Host: Elaine Kabala
- **5:00 PM | Blue Heron Farm + Towns to Trails Route Alignment (Wilkerson, CA)**
Host: Rachel Kulchin

RSVP To Participate

Tour is open to the public but space is limited. Please RSVP to let us know that you are coming!

Coldwater Campground Project Tour



Business Resource Center Project Tour



Sierra Compost – Bishop Paiute Food Sovereignty Project



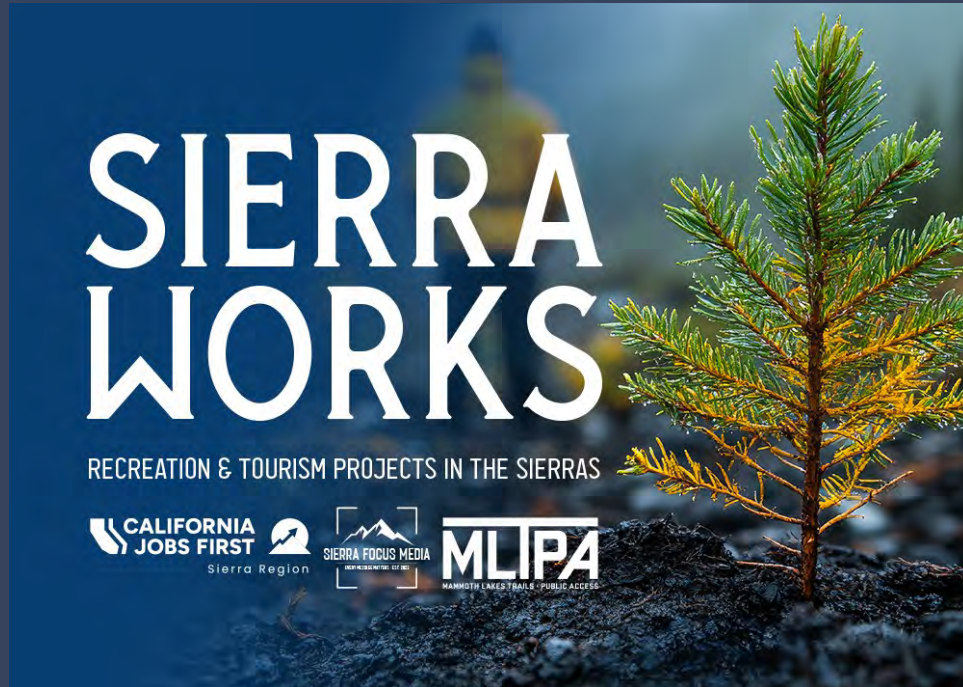
Chipmunk Canyon Project Tour



Blue Heron Farm Project Tour



Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates



Wednesday, Sept. 10 | Summit Agenda

Officially kicking off with Coffee, Free Breakfast Burritos, & Cross Industry Collaboration. Discussions will be centered around our economy's past, present, & future.

Where: Cerro Coso Community College, Bishop, CA

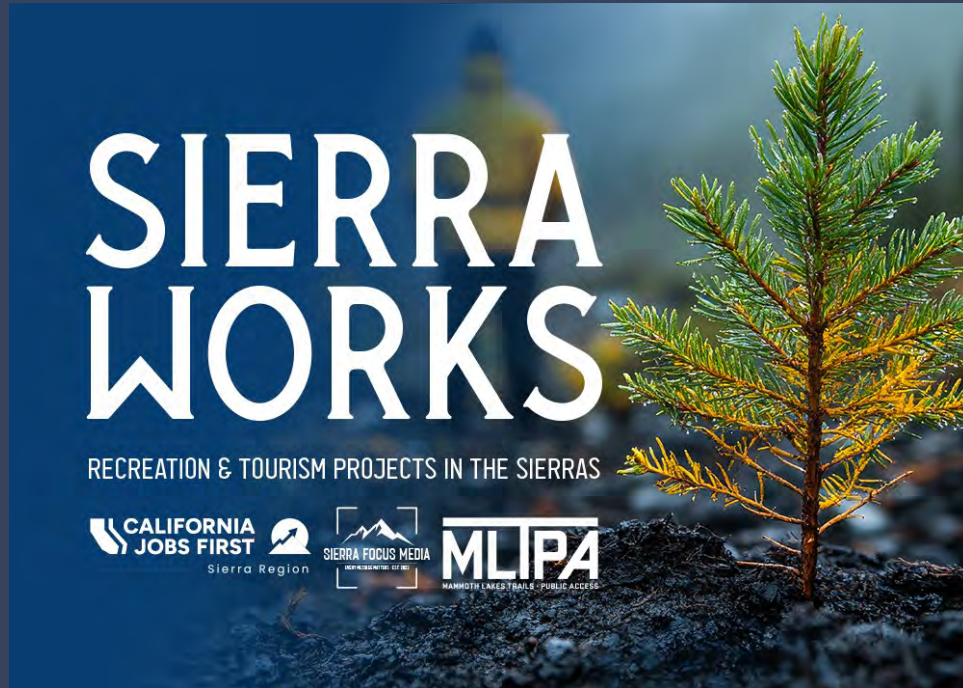
When: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM



- **9am Meet & Greet**
 - Complimentary Breakfast Burritos from Rolling Chef
 - *Catalyst Projects are invited to bring materials to leave at the "Project Corner" to share project information, event/newsletter sign up sheets, contact information, collaborative asks/offers, and more about their projects.*
- **10 am Welcome**
 - Orientation to Jobs First
 - Review of where we've been, where we're going
- **10:20am Project Updates**
 - TED Talk style presentations from a Sierra Jobs First Catalyst Funded Projects
- **11am Future State**
 - **Elaine Kabal**, Eastern Sierra Council of Governments, and **Alex Bloom**, Central Sierra Economic Development District
 - CSEDD/ESCOG Core Areas of Focus
 - Panel and Q&A
 - Lunch and next steps
- **12pm Lunch in Bishop**
 - We encourage attendees to enjoy lunch at a local restaurant! Recommendations will be provided at the event.



Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates



Thursday, Sept. 11 | Sierra Health Industry Partnership

Be part of a high-impact regional gathering focused on **aligning healthcare, education, and workforce priorities across the Sierra**. This no-cost, public event has limited space.

- Mono County Civic Center – 1290 Tavern Rd, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
- 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

[RSVP](#) Here

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates



Friday, September 12 | Sierra Jobs First Governing Council

In-person meeting of the Sierra Jobs First Governing Council and Industry Sector Coordinators. The meeting will be open to the public but space is limited.

- Mono County Civic Center – 1290 Tavern Rd, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
- 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

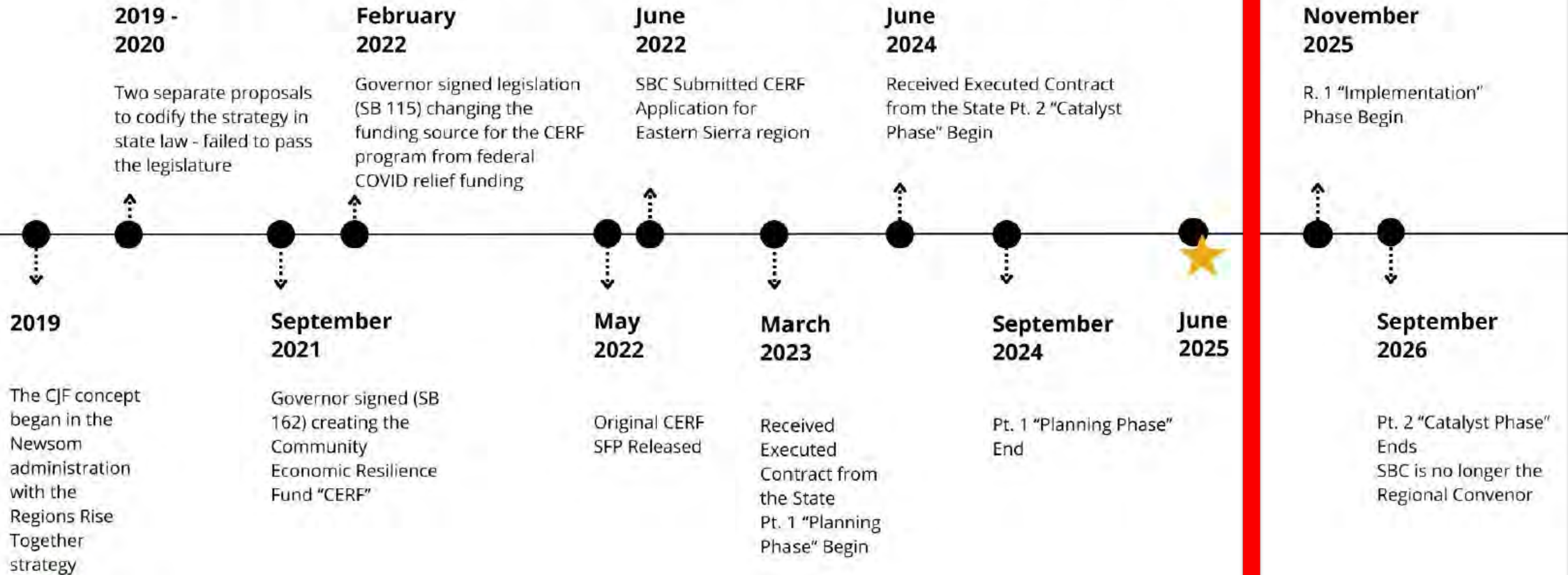
[RSVP here](#)

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

If you participated
in the Shindig,
we'd love your
feedback!



California Jobs First Program





TRANSITION & FUTURE PLANNING

Shaping the Future, Together

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

Transition & Future Planning Overview

Updated September 30, 2025



Background

Since June 2023, the Sierra Jobs First Collaborative, with funding from California Jobs First and administrative support from Sierra Business Council, has brought diverse leaders together to discuss, plan, and fund community-led, climate-forward, and economically resilient initiatives. With state funding for the Sierra Jobs First Collaborative scheduled to sunset in September 2026, now is the time to work on what comes next. In service of this, Sierra Business Council, with support from Agnew::Beck Consulting, is facilitating a planning process to define the Collaborative's future. The 10-month process centers on you, our partners and leaders across the seven-county region. Through interviews, conversations, and shared discussions, we will gather your input on how the Sierra Jobs First Collaborative should continue: whether in its current form, an evolved structure, or something entirely new.

Planning Process Elements

We will blend listening and research into a structured, transparent 10-month process that includes the following elements:

- Formation of a Transition Advisory Committee comprised of Industry Sector Leads, Regional Convenor Partners, and the Sierra Jobs First Tribal Coordinator (see details on page 4)
- Research other Jobs First collaboratives and national models
- Conduct interviews with dozens of Sierra leaders
- Host focus groups
- Distribute a survey
- Gather input from the Sierra Jobs First Governing Council
- Development of future models for consideration
- Development of a Transition Plan and an Implementation Plan based on preferred model

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

Transition & Future Planning Overview

Updated September 30, 2025



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Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

Transition & Future Planning Overview

Updated September 30, 2025



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- Conduct interviews with dozens of Sierra leaders

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Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

Planning Process Outcomes

1. **“Transition & Future Scenario Plan–Models for Consideration:** A summary of feedback, research and models for consideration.
2. **“Proposed Model for Moving Forward:** Presentation deck will expand upon the preferred model decided on by the Governing Council.
3. **“Strategic Plan + Transition Implementation Plan:** Based on the preferred model moving forward, we will develop a short strategic plan and a detailed implementation plan to support next steps.

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

“Four starting points for discussion are beginning to emerge:

1. “**Continuation** - Keep Sierra Jobs First going as a formal, regional collaborative.
2. “**Integration** – Fold specific projects or functions into existing regional entities.
3. “**Sunset** – Wind down Sierra Jobs First as a collaborative, while preserving its most valuable work and relationships.
4. “**Hybrid or New Options** – Explore new structures or models based on stakeholder ideas and best practices.”

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

Transition Advisory Committee Overview (TAC)

The Transition Advisory Committee (TAC) is vital to helping us shape the future of Sierra Jobs First Collaborative as we move through this 10-month planning process. The TAC will provide guidance and feedback to the Core Team, comprised of Sierra Business Council staff and the consulting team at Agnew::Beck Consulting. TAC will be comprised of Industry Sector Leads, Regional Convenor Partners, and the Sierra Jobs First Tribal Coordinator.

- Dr. Jen Burrows, Ed.D, MSN, PHN, RN, Burrows Consulting
Community Healthcare
- Alex Bloom, Mother Lode Job Training
Sustainable Agriculture, Natural & Working Lands, Community
Healthcare, Regional Convenor Partner
- Elaine Kabala, Eastern Sierra Council of Governments
Regional Convenor Partner
- John Wentworth, MLTPA Foundation
Recreation & Tourism
- Matthew Galvan, Sierra Focus Media
Recreation & Tourism
- Travis Nabahe, Nabahe Global Group
Tribal Coordinator

Below is a role description outlining TAC's responsibilities, expected time commitment, and the types of materials they will be asked to review.

Transition Advisory Committee Role

Serve as a sounding board for the Core Team

- Provide feedback on:
 - Input process (interview guide, roster, engagement approach)
 - Survey and key findings
 - Research on collaborative governance models and structures
 - Final deliverables, including governance model options and the transition & implementation plans

Time Commitment

- Approximately 4-6 meetings (on Zoom, estimated at 1 hour each)
- Monthly review of materials via email (estimate 1–2 hours per month)
- **Overall commitment:** approximately 20–25 hours across the 10-month.



Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates

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Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates



Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates



“The 10-month process centers on you, our partners and leaders across the seven-county region. Through interviews, conversations, and shared discussions, we will gather your input on how the Sierra Jobs First Collaborative should continue: whether in its current form, an evolved structure, or something entirely new.”

Inputs

Interviews / Focus Groups

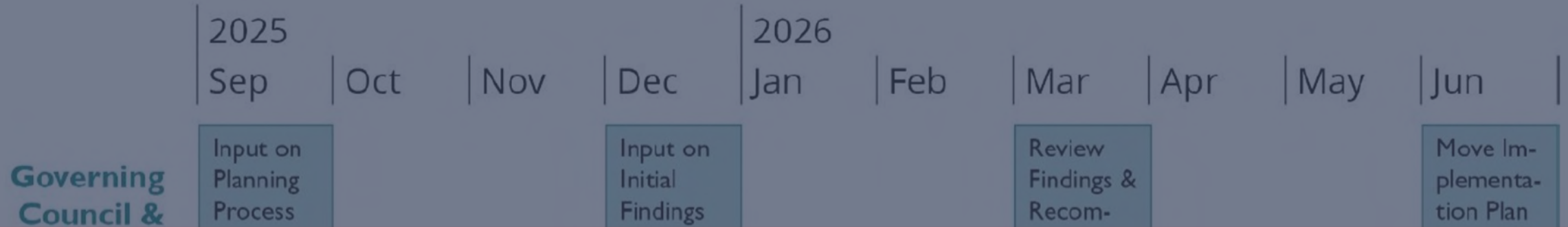
Research Best Practices

Transition
Feasibility Plan

Implementation
Plan

Feedback on Plans

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates



What is a “Collaborative”-?

Meetings

Industry Sector Sessions

Survey

Inputs

Interviews / Focus Groups

Research Best Practices



Produce:
Transition
Feasibility Plan



Produce:
Implementation
Plan

Feedback on Plans

California's 13 Jobs First Regions

California's regions are the driving force behind a resilient and inclusive economy. Empowered to maximize collaboration, innovation, and job creation, each region has developed thoughtful solutions to address its respective needs.



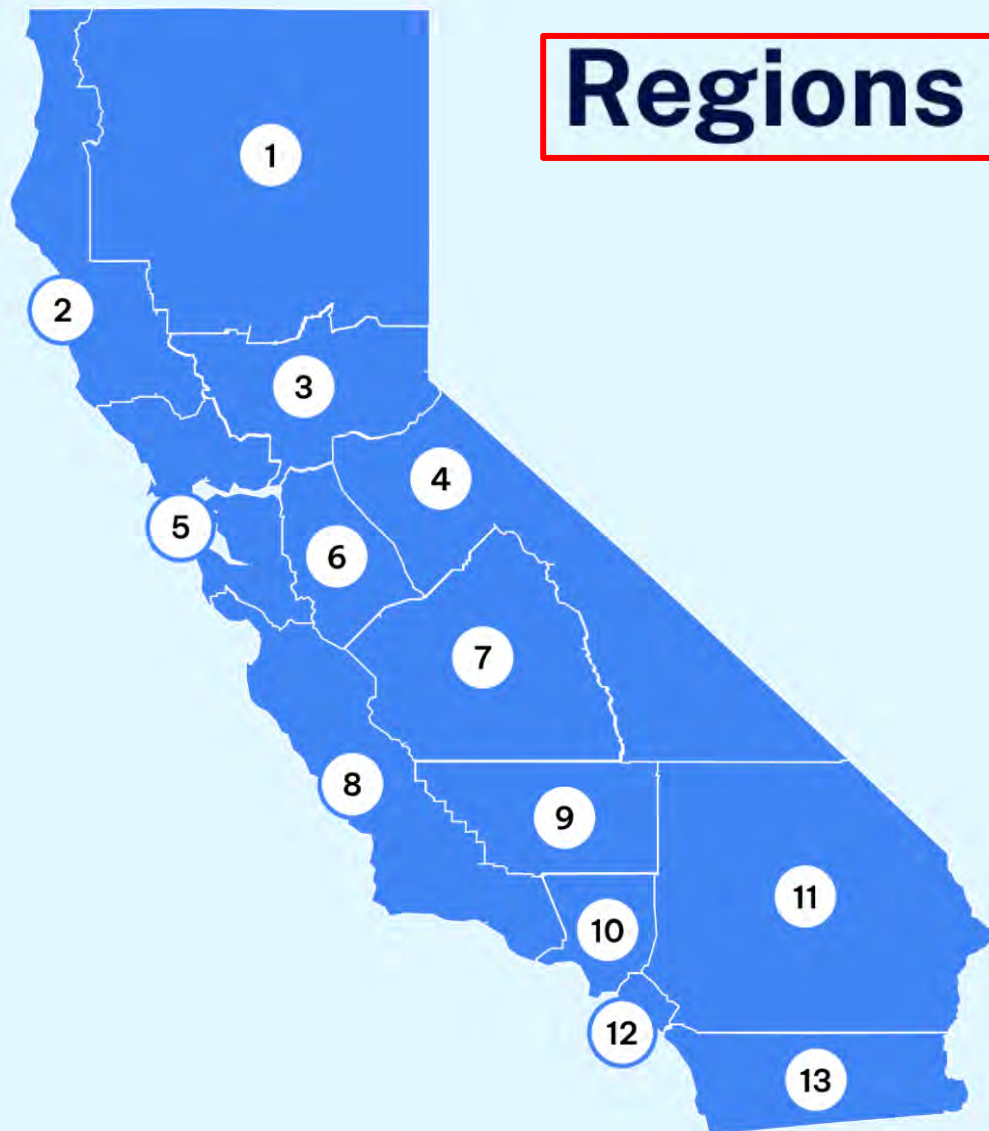
California's 13 Jobs First Regions

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Regions



2. Redwood



3. Capital



4. Sierra



5. Bay Area



6. Northern San Joaquin



7. Central San Joaquin



8. Central Coast



9. Kern County



10. Los Angeles County

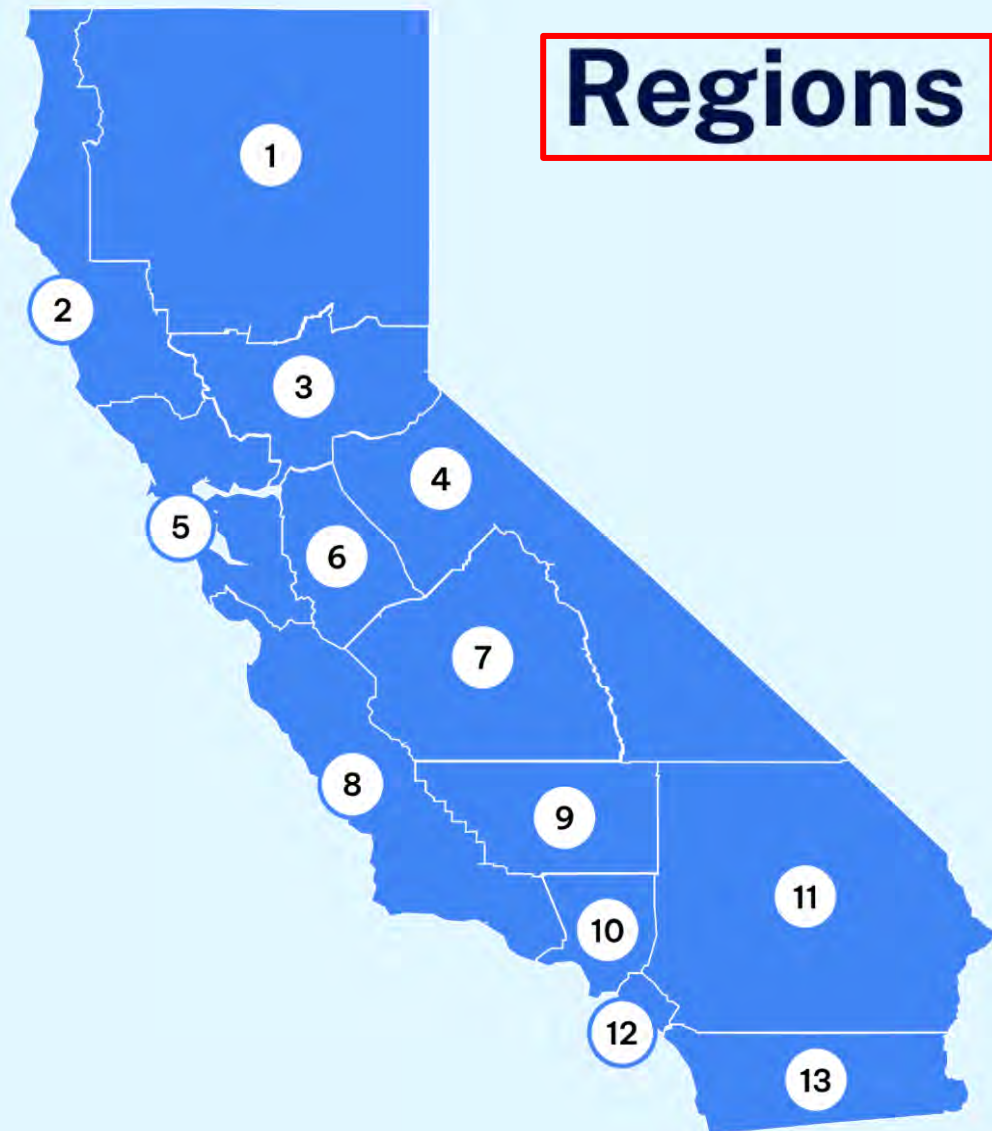


11. Inland SoCal





Regions



2. Redwood



3. Capital



4. Sierra



5. Bay Area



6. Northern San Joaquin



7. Central San Joaquin



8. Central Coast



9. Kern County

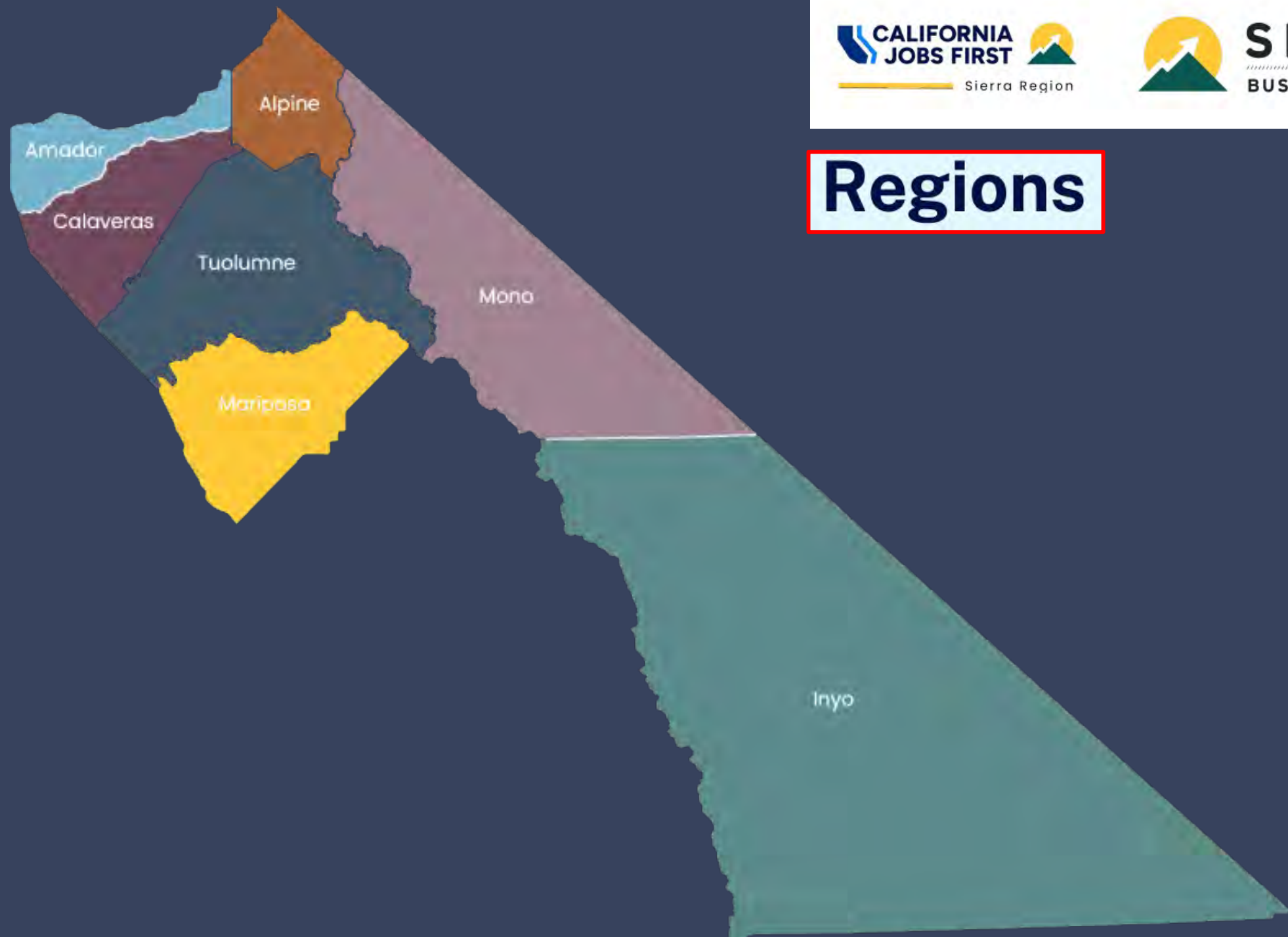


10. Los Angeles County



11. Inland SoCal





Regions

\$80M

Awarded to **11** projects across
7 regions supporting **23,000**
jobs in the following sectors:



Aerospace & Defense



Agtech & Farm Equipment



Bioeconomy



Life Sciences



Regional Investment Initiatives



\$80M

Awarded to **11** projects across
7 regions supporting **23,000**
jobs in the following sectors:



Aerospace & Defense



Agtech & Farm Equipment



Bioeconomy



Life Sciences



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

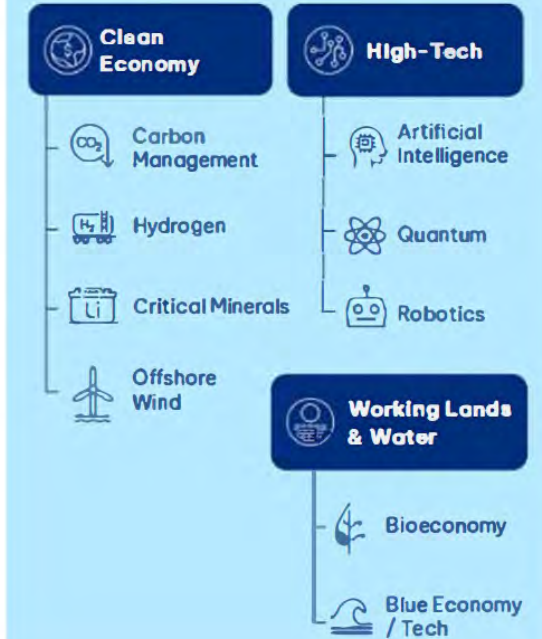
Strengthen



Accelerate



Bet



Anchor



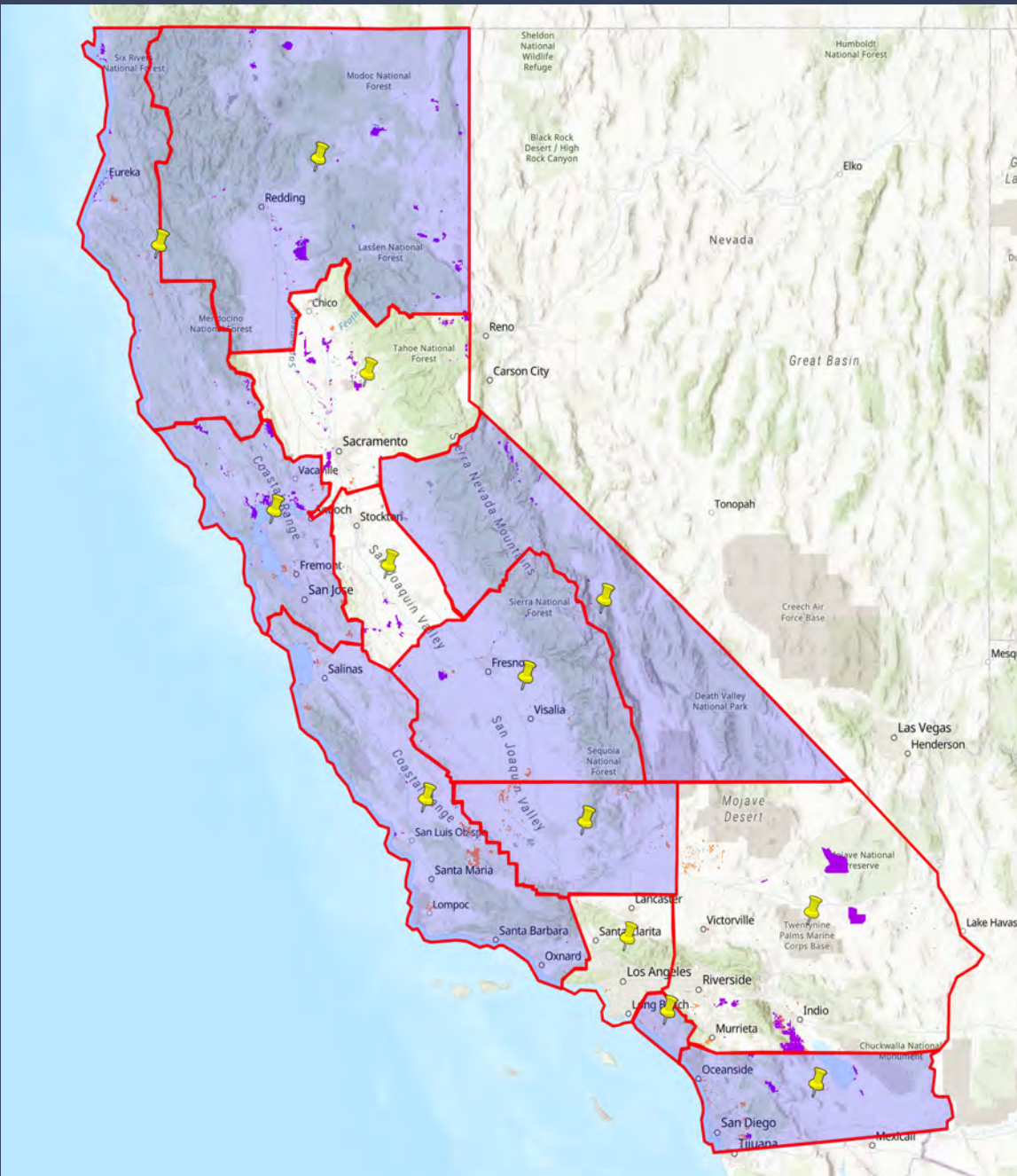
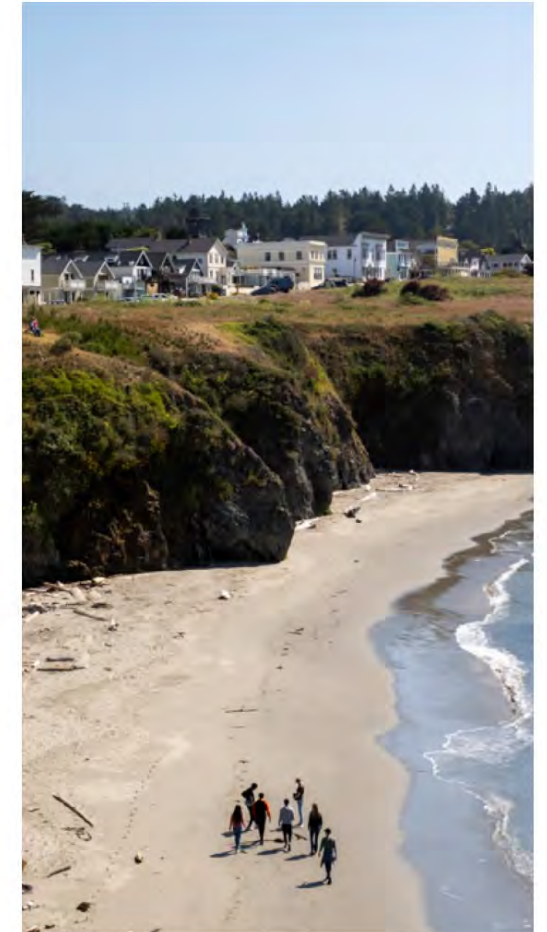
Distinct Regional Economies Informed by Unique Natural Resources & Community Assets

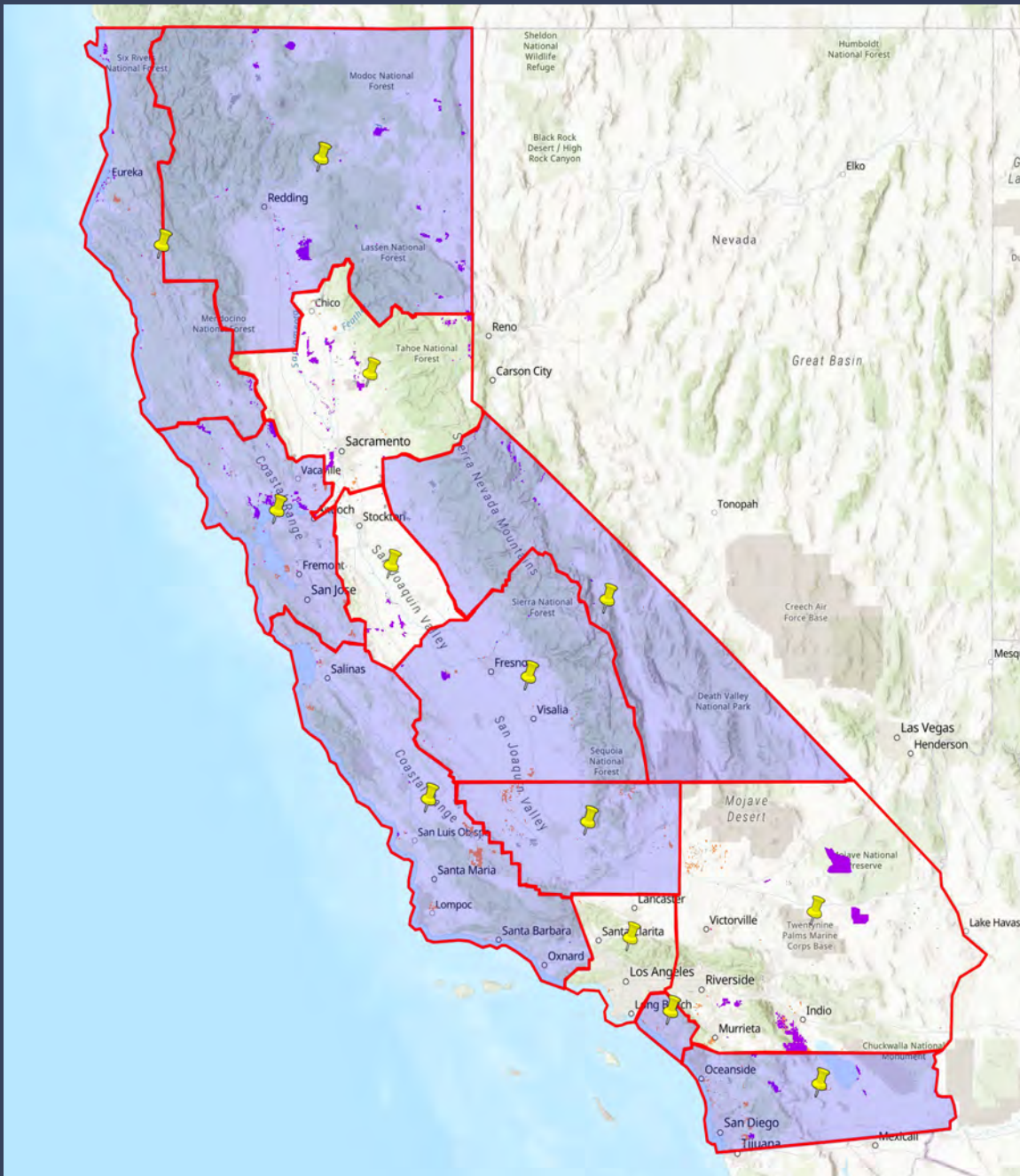
California spans over 160,000 square miles, making it comparable in size to countries like Japan and Sweden.⁸³ Along with this vast scale comes a wide range of topographies and economies defined by these different natural features.

Natural Resources

California has more than 840 miles of coastline, the highest and lowest points in the continental U.S., more than 25,000 square miles of desert, and the tallest trees on the planet.⁸⁴ Our geographic variation is one of the reasons we are home to nine of the country's 61 national parks, the most of any state.⁸⁵ These parks drive significant tourism to California (nearly 11.4 million visitors in 2023),⁸⁶ contributing to the more than \$150 billion travel spend that took place in California in 2023, an all-time high.⁸⁷

Our natural resources also underpin our leadership in other industries, from agriculture to renewable energy. Over one-third of the nation's vegetables and three-quarters of its fruits and nuts are grown in California alone.⁸⁸ We also boast an estimated 340,000 acres of land with potential for solar energy development,⁸⁹ as well as unparalleled deposits of critical minerals necessary for numerous clean technologies that comprise 15% of global rare-earth element supply.⁹⁰





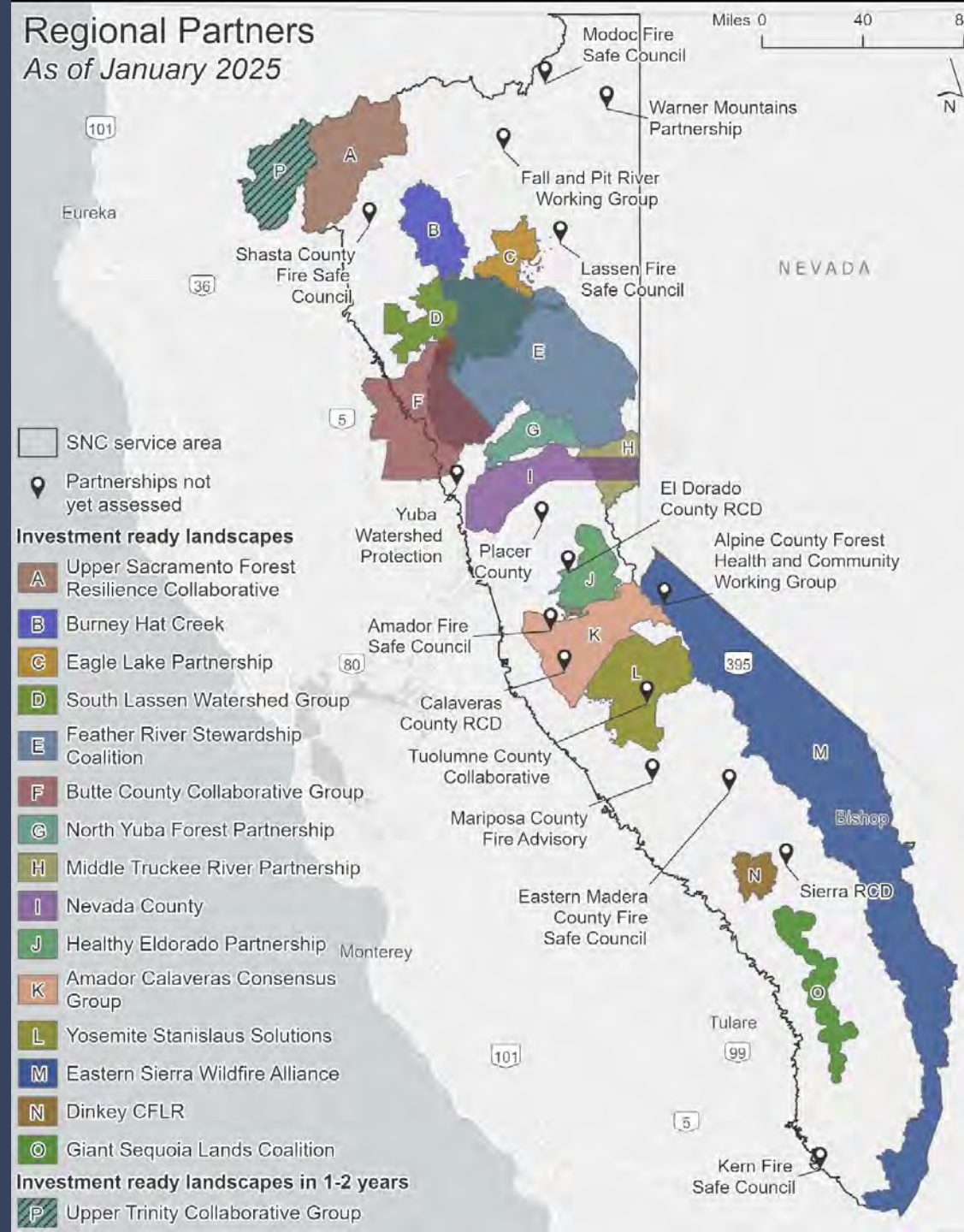
CALREC Vision



RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT



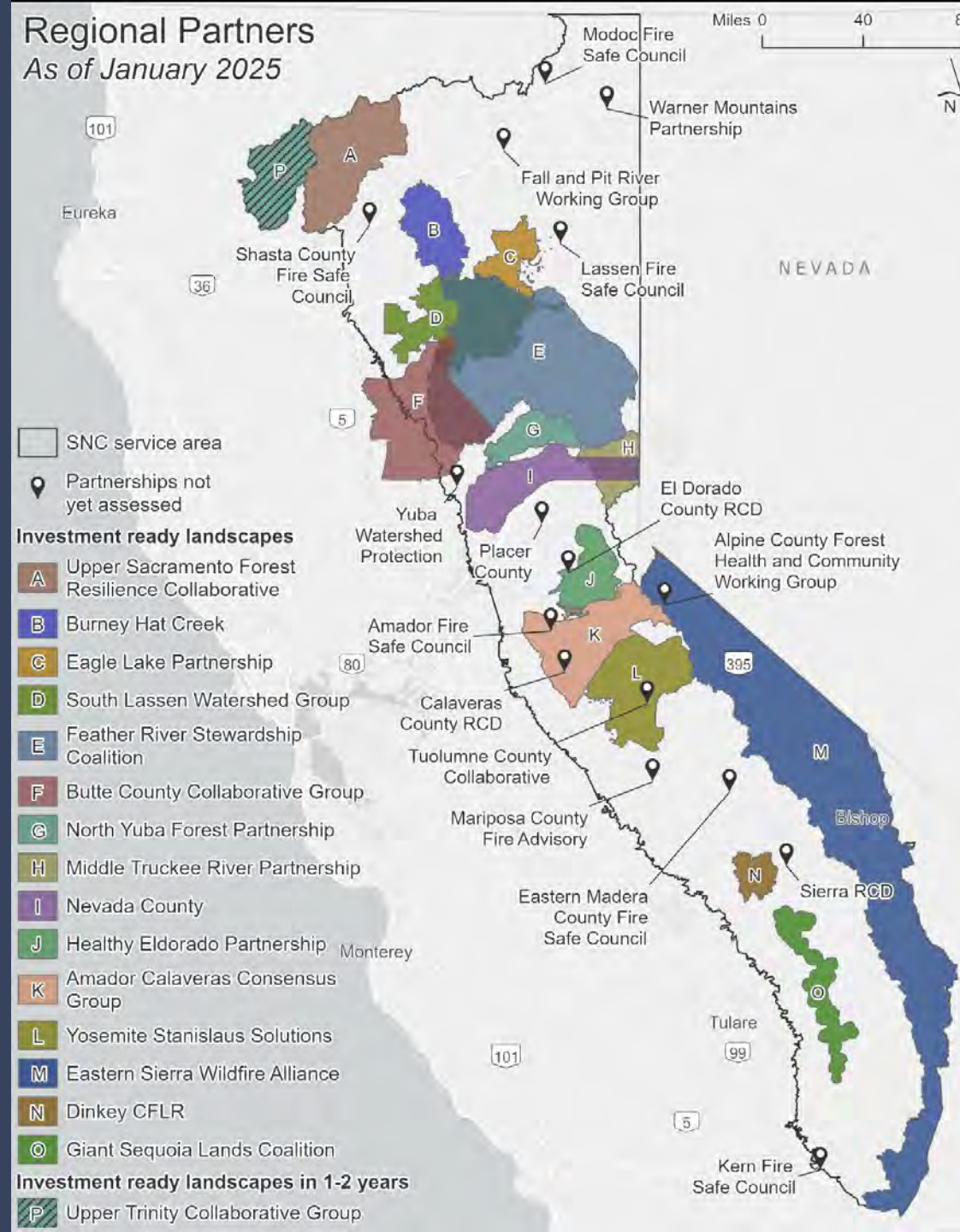
Regional Partners As of January 2025



Collaboratives



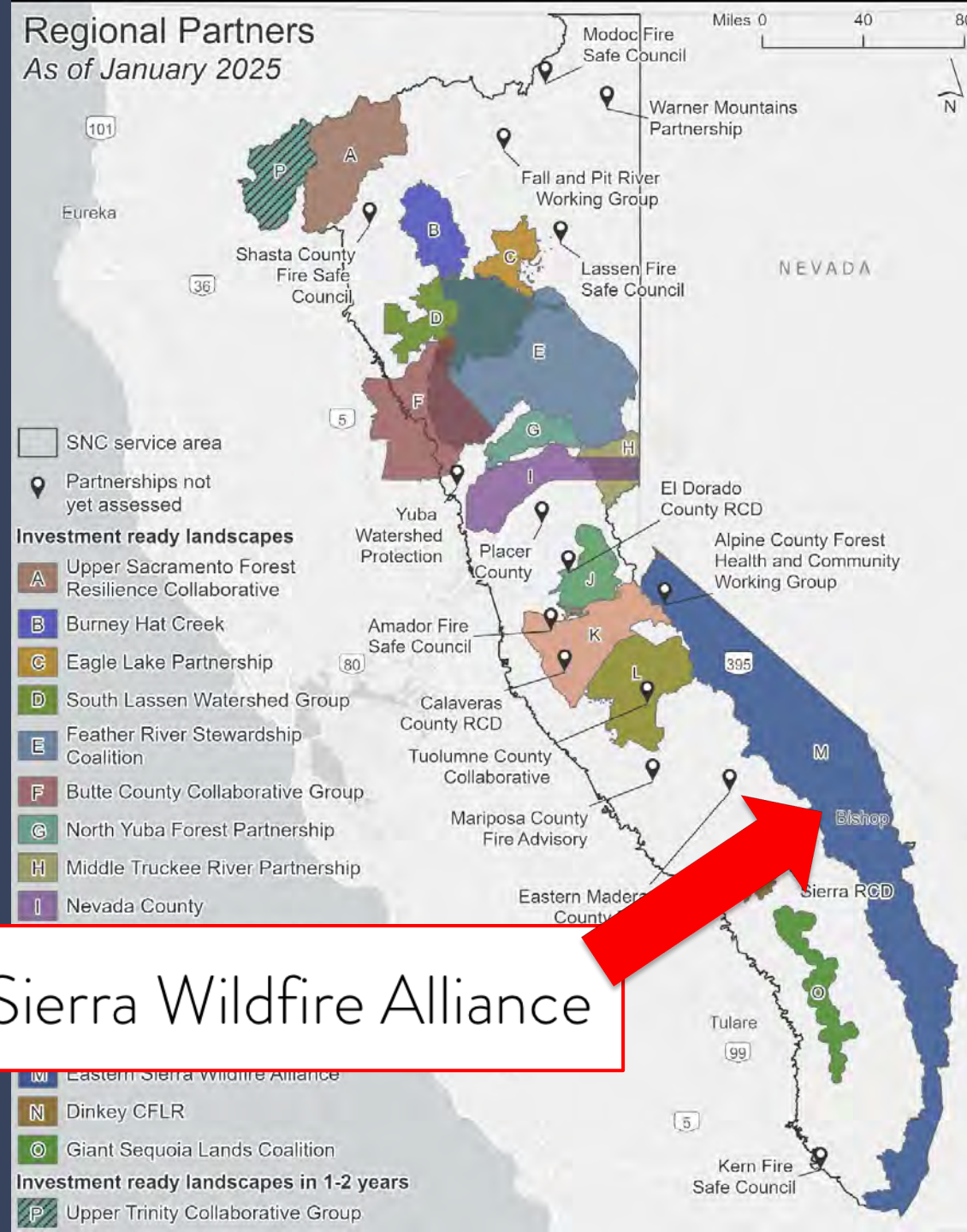
Regional Partners As of January 2025



Collaboratives



Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

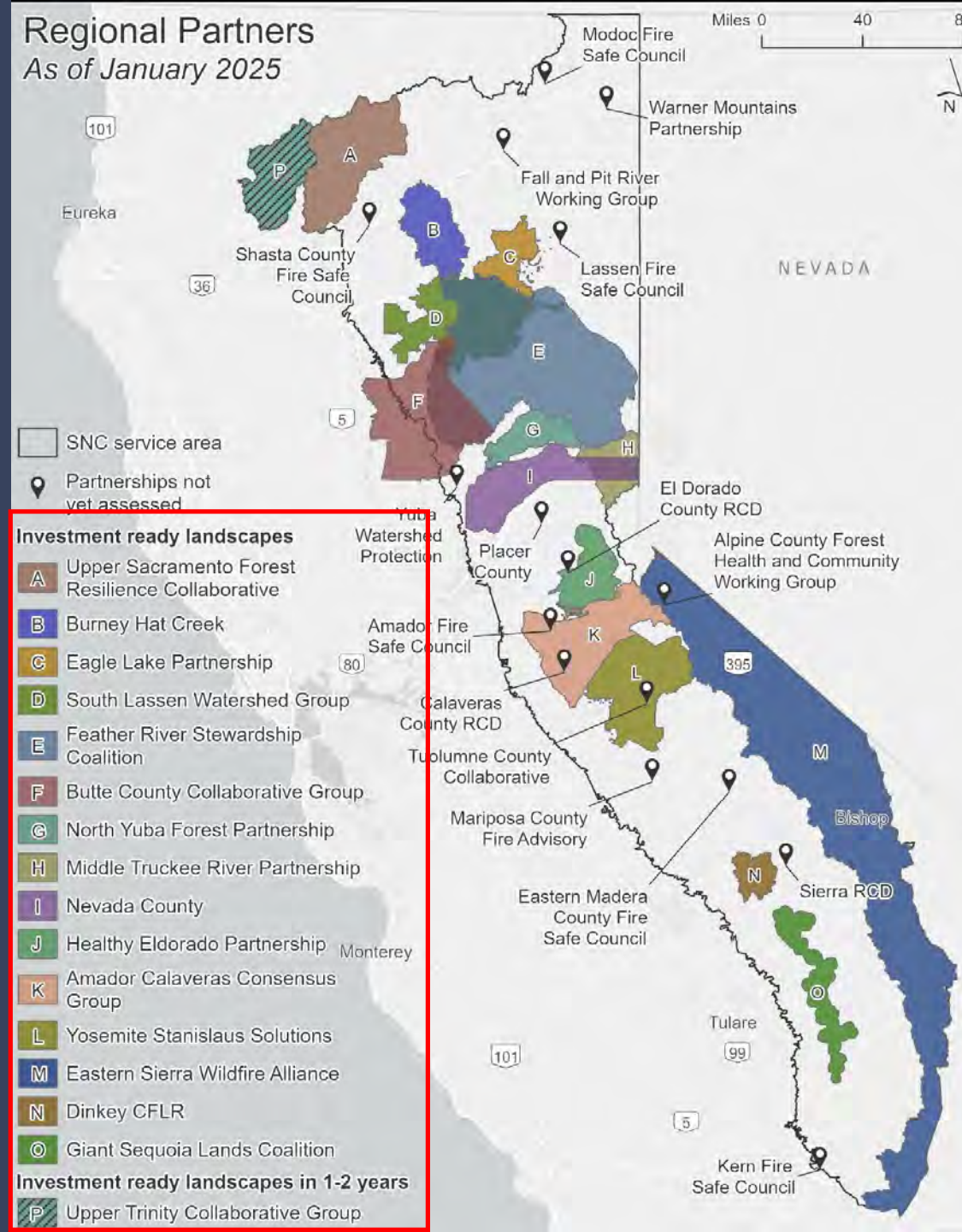


Collaboratives



- Upper Sacramento Forest Resilience Collaborative
- Burney Hat Creek
- Eagle Lake Partnership
- South Lassen Watershed Group
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition
- Butte County Collaborative Group
- North Yuba Forest Partnership
- Middle Truckee River Partnership
- Nevada County
- Healthy Eldorado Partnership
- Amador Calaveras Consensus Group
- Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions
- Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance
- Dinkey CFLR
- Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition

Regional Partners As of January 2025





THE PARTNERSHIP

The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) is a long term, innovative and successful collaboration among Northern California Tribes, counties, and diverse stakeholders. The NCRP region covers over 19,000 square miles – 12% of the California landscape – and includes the Tribal lands and the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Modoc, Siskiyou, Sonoma and Trinity.

Leadership, governance, policy and decision making is provided by the NCRP Leadership Council (LC). Scientific and technical review is provided by the Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC).

The Policies and Procedures Handbook – a “living document” – documents the approved institutional processes and protocols of the NCRP.

[NCRP POLICIES & PROCEDURES HANDBOOK, 2024](#)

EXPLORE



EXPLORE

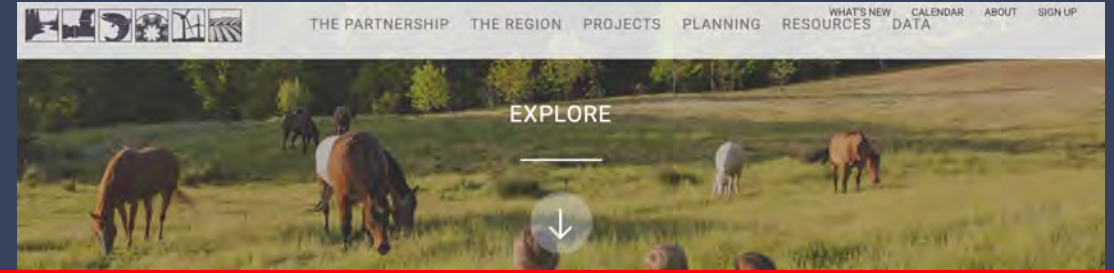
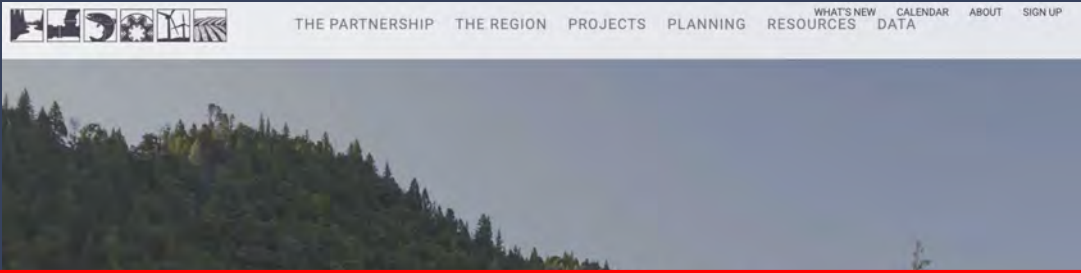


Since 2004, the partnership has engaged in collaborative, integrated planning and project implementation, investing over \$120 million in hundreds of projects that benefit the North Coast Region's communities and watersheds. The NCRP places a strong emphasis on local autonomy, leadership by locally elected Tribal and county representatives, the enhancement of natural and working landscapes, and resolution of failing water and wastewater infrastructure. The partnership has a long term focus on addressing the needs of economically disadvantaged communities – including measurable improvements in clean drinking water, healthy ecosystems and communities.

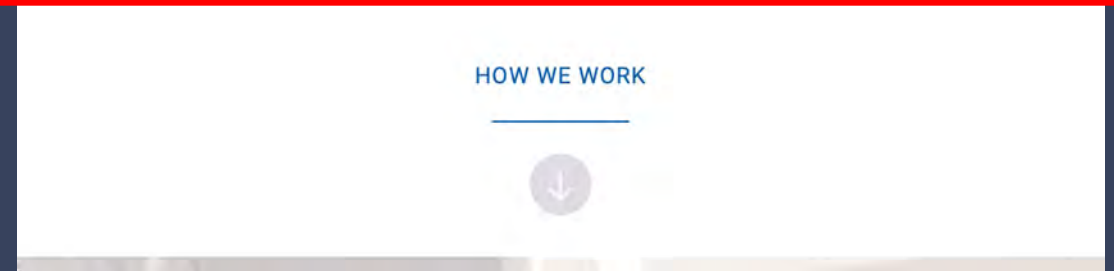
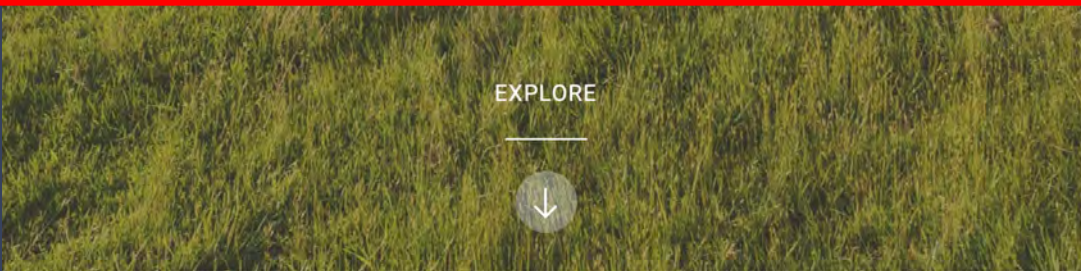
In addition to local and Tribal governments, active partners and stakeholders include water and wastewater service providers, NGOs, watershed groups, resource conservation districts, private landowners, businesses, cities, special districts, federal, state and local agencies, environmental and agricultural groups.

HOW WE WORK





The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) is a long term, innovative and successful collaboration among Northern California Tribes, counties, and diverse stakeholders. The NCRP region covers over 19,000 square miles – 12% of the California landscape – and includes the Tribal lands and the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Modoc, Siskiyou, Sonoma and Trinity.





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[NCRP POLICIES & PROCEDURES HANDBOOK, 2024](#)

EXPLORE



NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP

MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

A document adopted by partners collaborating to create the North Coast Resource Partnership to confirm shared agreements for actions to enhance the quality of life in North Coast landscapes and communities.

Approved by the North Coast Resource Partnership Leadership Council, December 9, 2022

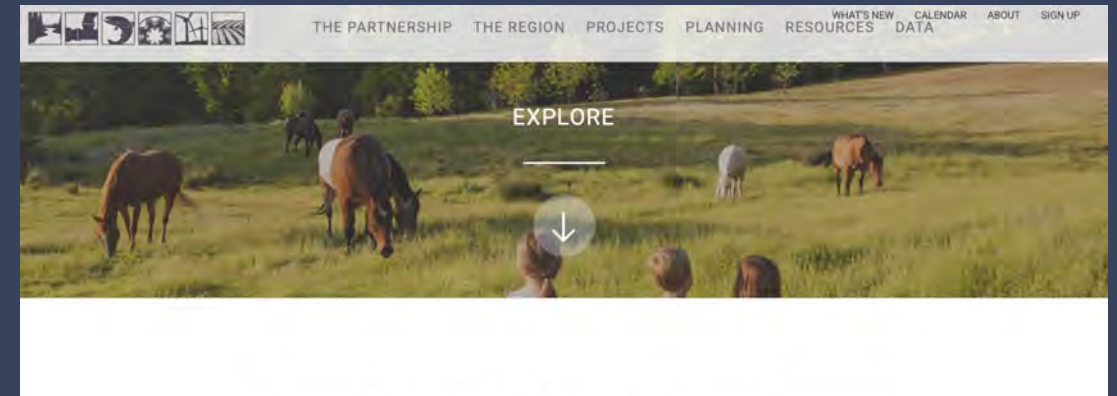
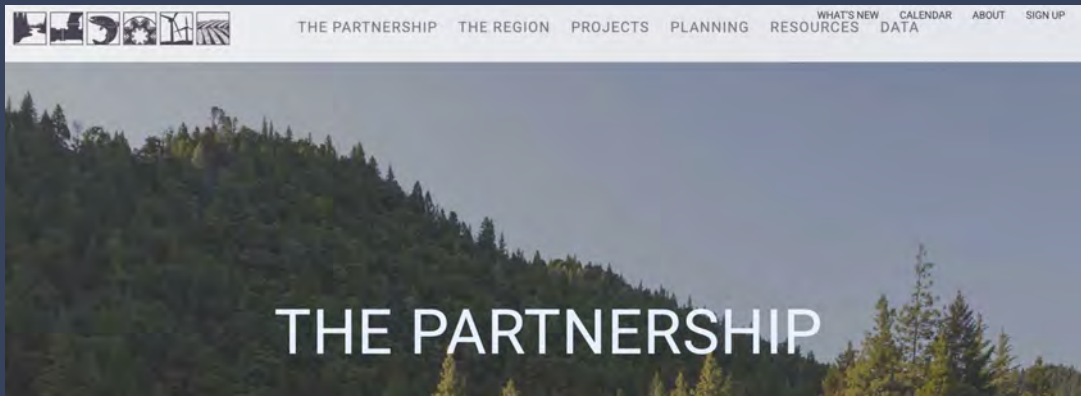
1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Memorandum of Mutual Understandings (MOMU) is to establish a set of mutual understandings between North Coast Tribes, counties, agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), resource conservation districts (RCDs), local governments, and other partners and stakeholders with respect to collaboration on planning and project implementation to enhance the quality of life in North Coast communities and enhance the stewardship of natural landscapes. This collaborative coalition is known as the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP). This MOMU is intended to document long term understandings of the principles and goals of the NCRP. The NCRP requires partners requesting or receiving funding or support from the NCRP to sign onto to this MOMU to confirm their understanding of and commitment to the NCRP principles, goals and processes outlined herein.

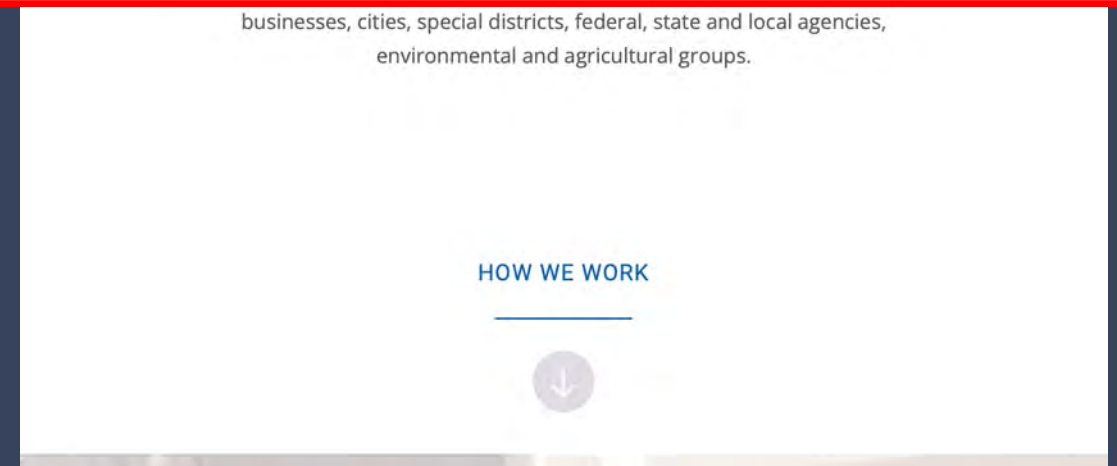
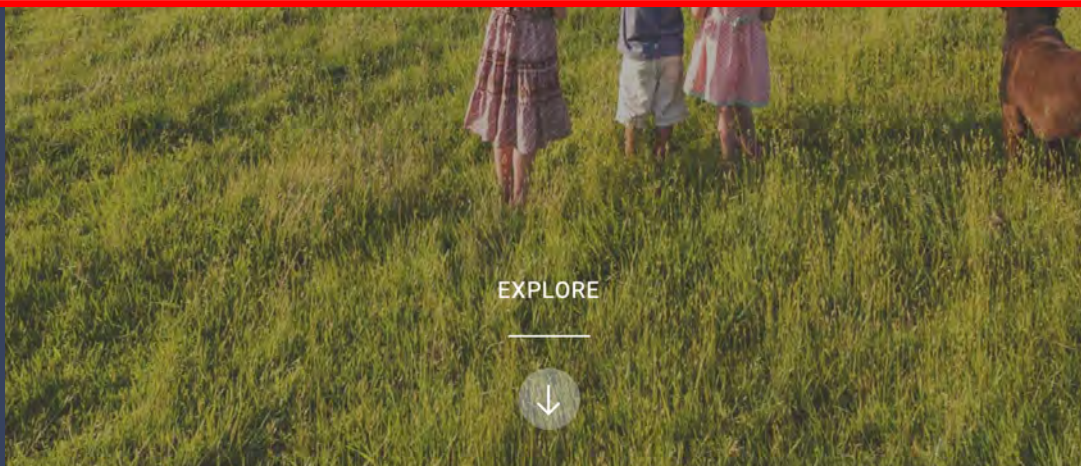
2. BACKGROUND: NORTH COAST REGION & NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP

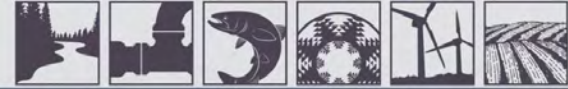
NORTH COAST REGION

- 2.1. The North Coast Region of California, as defined by this MOMU, comprises the Tribal and county lands contained within the North Coast counties of Siskiyou, Modoc, Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino and Sonoma, as well as including the watersheds that comprise the North Coast Hydrologic Region per the State Water Resources Control Board.
- 2.2. Jurisdictional areas of Tribes, counties and individual agencies may lay outside the boundary of the North Coast Resource Partnership Region/North Coast hydrologic region. Where it demonstrably supports the purpose of the NCRP, as determined by the NCRP Leadership Council, collaborations may extend beyond the NCRP regional boundary into full counties, other counties and/or states and Tribal territories. In the case of energy independence endeavors, boundaries may encompass full counties.
- 2.3. The North Coast Region is 19,000 square miles, is 12% of California's geographic area, is a source region for water, biodiversity and forest-based carbon, all of which provide substantial benefits within and beyond the Region.



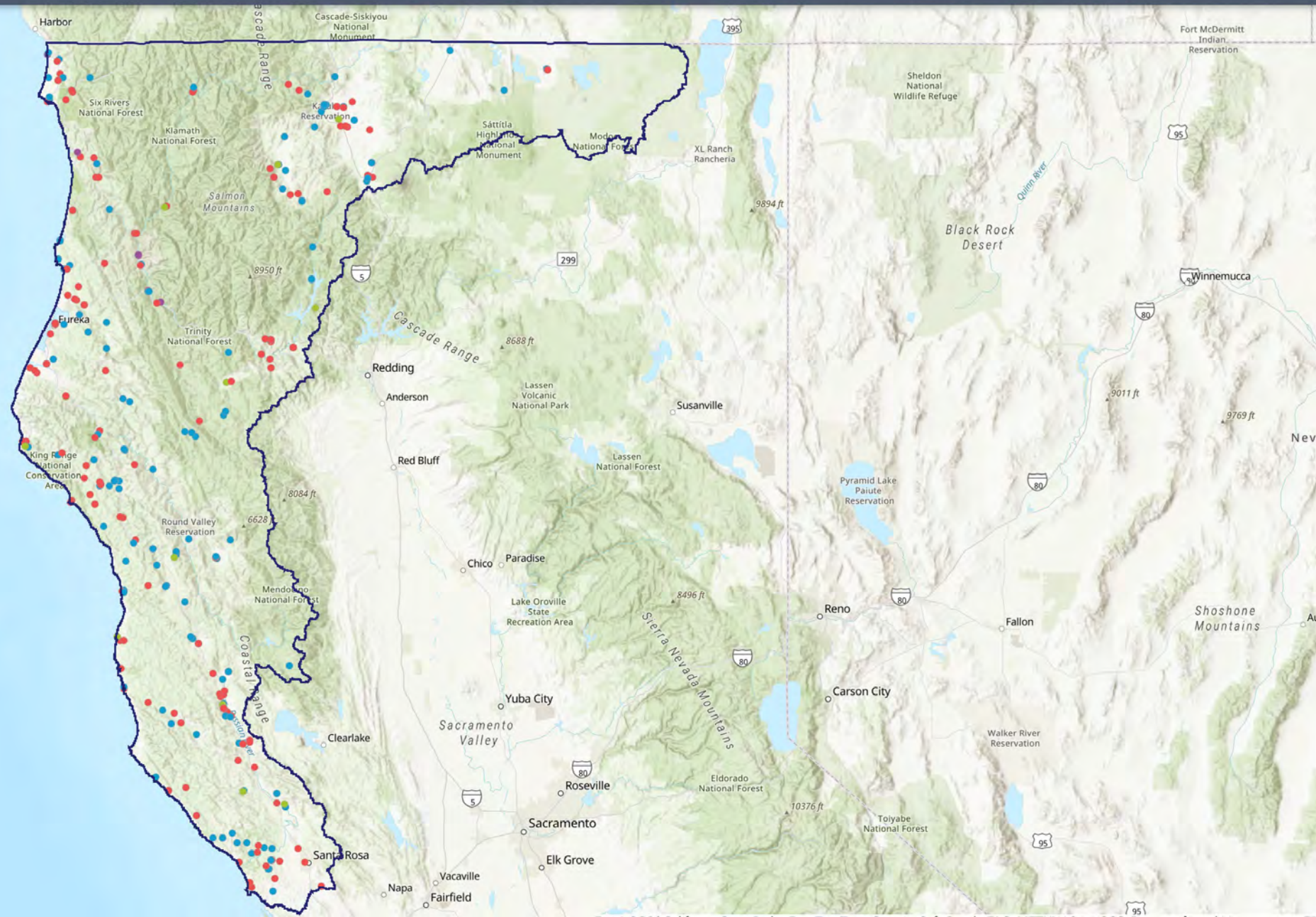
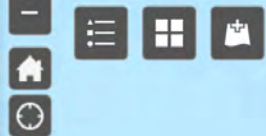
Since 2004, the partnership has engaged in collaborative, integrated planning and project implementation, investing over \$120 million in hundreds of projects that benefit the North Coast Region's communities and watersheds.





NCRP Data

Find address or place







NCRP Data

Find address or place

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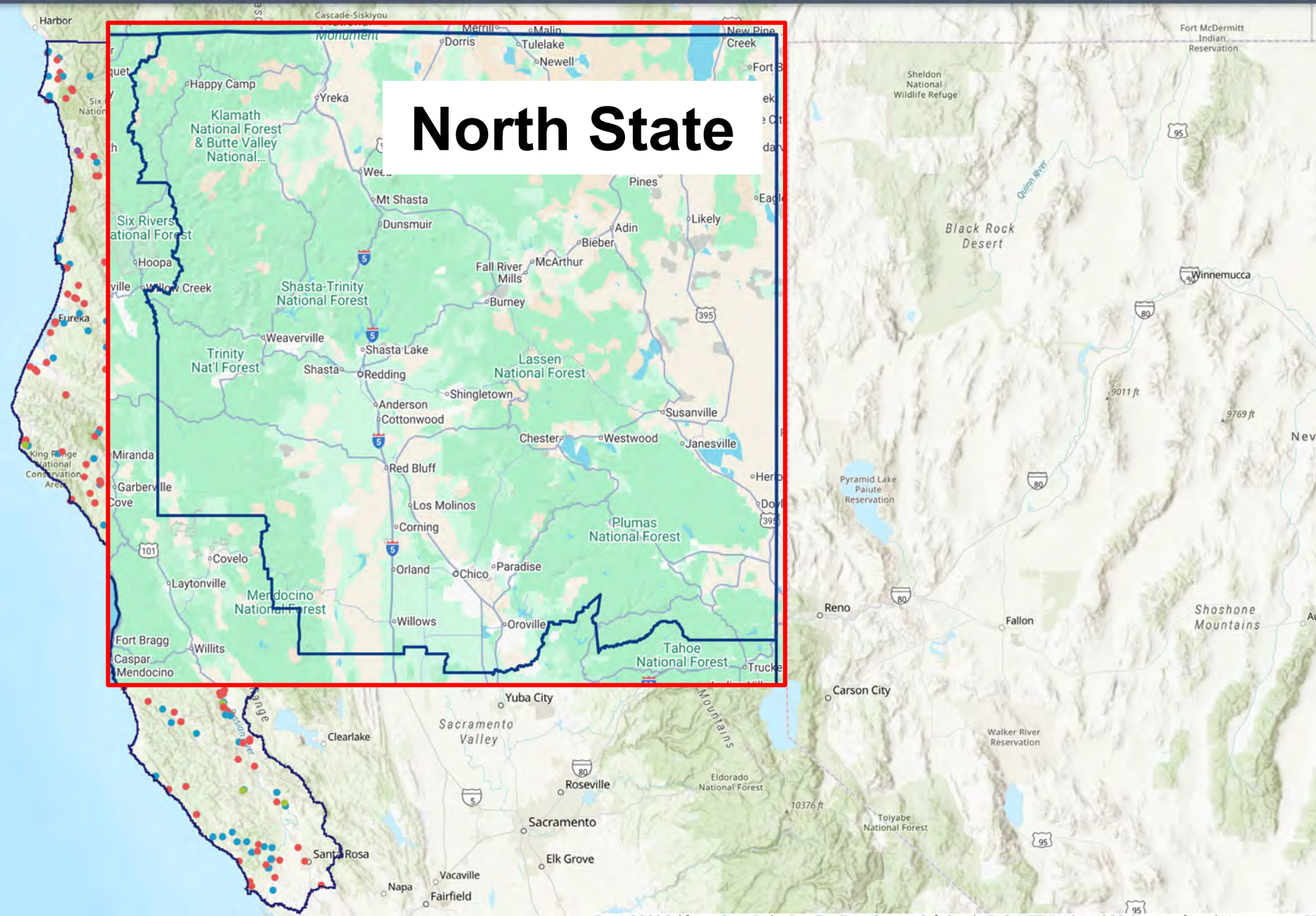
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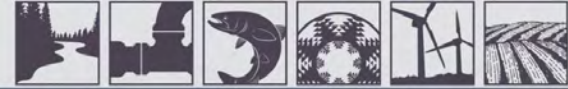
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NCRP Data

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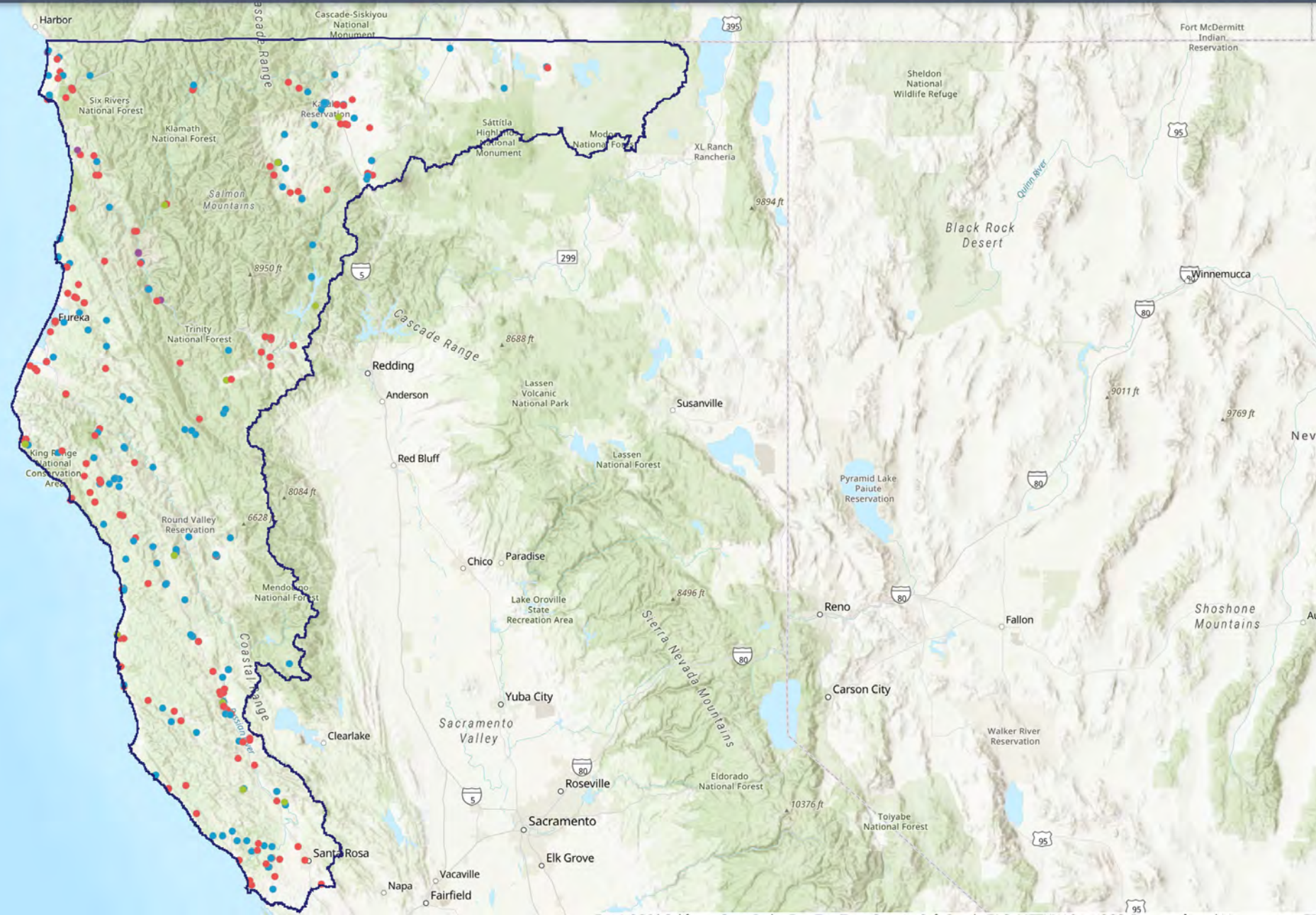
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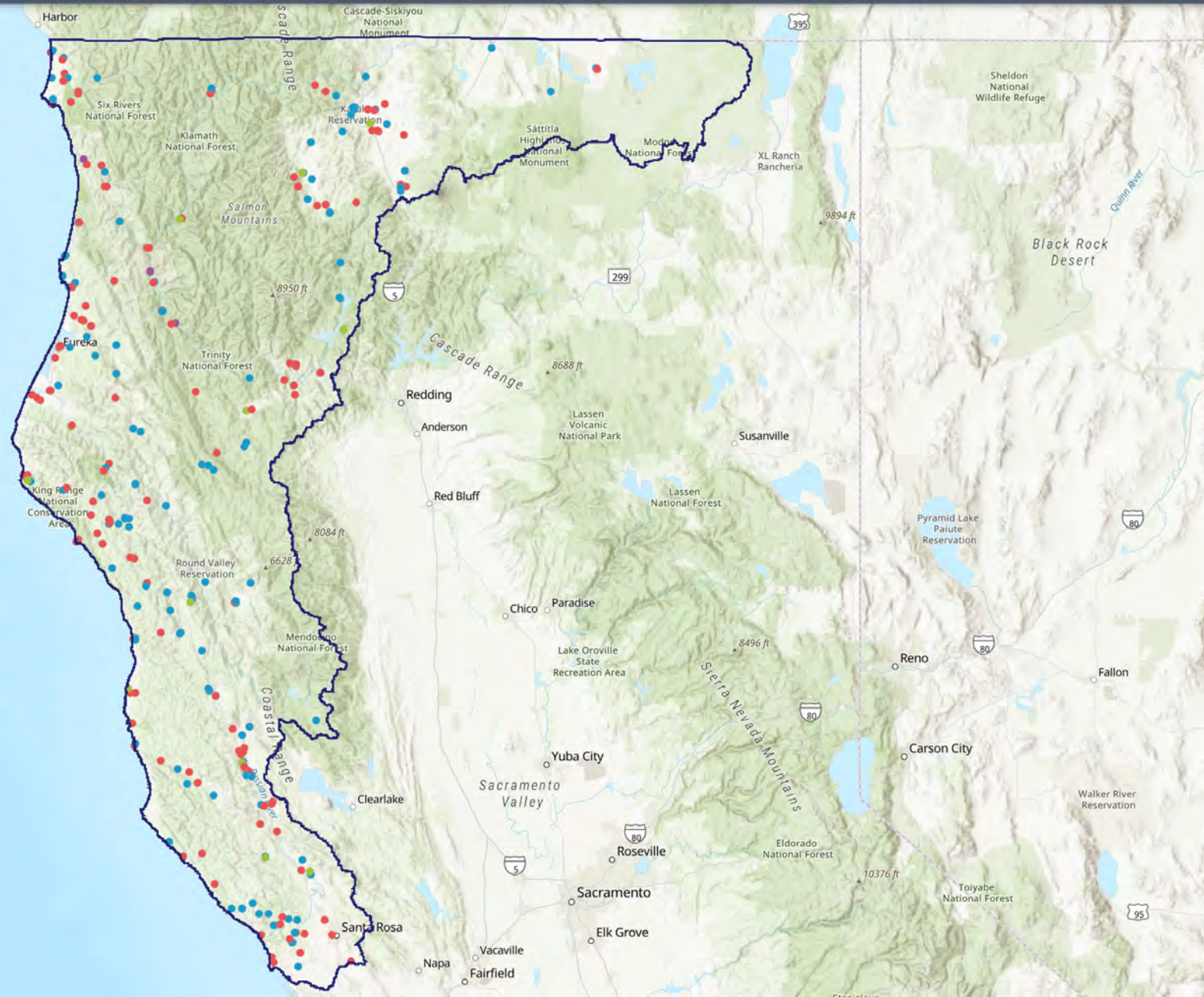
NCRP Data

Layers

- ☒ North Coast Region Boundary
- ☒ NCRP Project Locations
- ☐ County Boundaries
- ☐ Economically Disadvantaged Communities (2020)
- ☐ Tribal Lands
- ☐ Protected Lands (CPAD 2024a Super Units)
- ☐ California Marine Protected Areas [ds582]
- ☐ Watershed Management Areas
- ☐ Hydrologic Areas
- ☐ Hydrologic Units
- ☐ Water Service Providers
- ☐ California NHD Major Rivers and Creeks
- ☐ 303d Listed Streams flow to Critical Coastal Areas
- ☐ 303d Listed Lakes and other Waterbodies
- ☐ Bulletin 118 CA Groundwater Basins
- ☐ National Wilderness Preservation System
- ☐ Non-Federal Lands within Wilderness
- ☐ NOAA Chinook Critical Habitat
- ☐ NOAA Steelhead Critical Habitat
- ☐ NFWS Critical Habitat



Find address or place



Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project

English

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST

Sierra Region

AboutCollaborativeStrategic PlanRegional SummaryCatalyst Projects

Get Involved

SIERRA JOBS FIRST CATALYST PROJECTS

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.

View PDF

PROJECT INFORMATION, NEWS & UPDATES



Tri-County Economic Impact Analysis Of Recreation In Inyo, Mono And Alpine Counties
[Learn More](#)



Sierra Founders Academy
[Learn More](#)



Sierra Arts Organizations Collaborative Network
[Learn More](#)



Nuumu Waste Management Authority Project
[Learn More](#)



Local Food Feasibility And Development Project
[Learn More](#)



mpowering our Communiti

Keep Sierra Green
[Learn More](#)



Investing In Our Shared Future
[Learn More](#)



Hybrid EMS Training Program
[Learn More](#)



Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative
[Learn More](#)



CHIPS Expansion
[Learn More](#)



Chipmunk Canyon Trails Existing Conditions Analysis
[Learn More](#)

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project

English

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST

Sierra Region

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View PDF

PROJECT INFORMATION, NEWS & UPDATES

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



Project Description

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

Amount	Lead Organization	Partners	Counties of Impact	Foundational Elements & Industries
\$204,050	Alpine County	Alpine County Mono County Inyo County Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)	Alpine Mono Inyo	Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Land Use & Tenure Physical Infrastructure Small Business & Entrepreneurship Workforce Development & Education

Sierra Jobs First: "Catalyst Projects" - Recreation & Tourism



SUPPORT OUR WORK

OUR WORK TRAIL SYSTEMS ABOUT US CONTACT SUPPORT

OVERVIEW

CALREC VISION

SIERRA JOBS FIRST

Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator

ESSRP Meetings / Sierra Jobs First

My Catalyst Project

Technical Assistance

Funding Support

Activation Plan and Working Group

Projects Tracked

Recreation and Tourism Cohort

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 TOURISM INITIATIVE

RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

EASTERN SIERRA RECREATION COLLABORATIVE



SIGN UP FOR MLTPA NEWS



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Projects Tracked



Project Description: As part of the Industry Sector Coordinator Team for Recreation and Tourism, we partner with our colleagues at [Sierra Focus Media](#) to collaborate with all of the projects listed below to support their development through the Catalyst phase of Sierra Jobs First, ensuring alignment with the [Sierra Jobs First Strategic Plan](#). Our goals are to provide technical support and to identify funding resources for these Catalyst projects to bring them to life through their ultimate implementation. The individual projects listed below are subject to change as some project contracts are still pending. Once all contracts are fully executed, the Sierra Jobs First team at Sierra Business Council, which serves as the fiscal agent and regional convener for the California Jobs First Sierra region, will publish project updates, including the exact amount of the catalyst award received by each awardee on

[SierraJobsFirst.org](#) and in the [Sierra Jobs First newsletter](#). Through those resources, you can find information on all of the awarded Catalyst projects, not just those in the Recreation and Tourism sector. We encourage you to check back to this page for updates on the Recreation and Tourism projects as we actively engage with these projects and drive progress in the Sustainable Recreation & Tourism sector, and to reach out to MLTPA and Sierra Focus Media at sjfadmin@mltpa.org for more information. If you have questions about any of the Catalyst awards across all sectors, including project descriptions, award amounts, lead organizations, and/or counties/industries/foundational elements addressed, or if you are an awarded project with questions about contracting, invoicing, reporting, or need other administrative help, please reach out to your assigned Sierra Jobs First team liaison directly, or to the general Sierra Jobs Team at jobsfirst@sierrabusiness.org. As it becomes available, you can click on the project's title below to view additional project information.

Recreation & Tourism Catalyst Projects



CHIPMUNK CANYON EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

The project will develop an existing conditions analysis of the unauthorized trail network to inform required environmental review, determine feasibility of a formal trails network, identify and plan for recreation amenities, and engage Tribes and interested communities to in a conceptual rec plan.



CREATIVE REUSE OF CREATIVE ARTS CENTER TUOLUMNE COUNTY

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



EASTERN SIERRA REGIONAL CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS & JOBS CREATION

This project aims to collect donated materials from local businesses otherwise to go to landfill; utilize maker workshops to provide access to resources for STEM and STEAM focused learning and exploration for all ages; and hire necessary professional capacity.



SIERRA JOBS FIRST - RECREATION AND TOURISM - CATALYST PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Information for this Sierra Jobs First Recreation and Tourism Project is current as of August 20, 2025 and will be updated as additional information becomes available.

To view the complete list of Catalyst projects approved by the Sierra Jobs First Governing Council on March 24, 2025, [please click here](#).

PROJECT NAME

- Eastern Sierra Regional Trail System & Jobs Creation

LEAD PROJECT APPLICANT

- MLTPA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- MLTPA is developing the Westside Towns to Trails Plan as a key component of a future Eastern Sierra regional trail system. This plan will complement the Eastside Towns to Trails Plan as finalized by the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG), which together, may one day form a cross-Sierra trail network linking gateway communities to public lands and each other through outdoor recreation. The Westside Trails Plan focuses on four counties in the California Jobs First Sierra Region, identifying opportunities for trail and infrastructure connectivity between communities, adjacent public lands, and ultimately to three eastside counties via northern Alpine County. Using the same methodology as the Eastside Towns to Trails plan, the Westside Towns to Trails Plan evaluates existing inventoried trail and system road infrastructure, maps potential alignments, works with community stakeholders, and identifies environmental planning needs. The plan also explores opportunities to extend the network into the Central San Joaquin Valley Jobs First Region, including Tulare, Fresno, and Madera counties, as well as Yosemite National Park. This work enhances regional recreation access, supports sustainable tourism, and promotes economic development by improving connectivity across diverse California landscapes, and all through the renewed utilization of existing infrastructure.

Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project

[SUPPORT OUR WORK](#)[OUR WORK](#) [TRAIL SYSTEMS](#) [ABOUT US](#) [CONTACT](#) [SUPPORT](#)

Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator



Project Description: MLTPA is pleased to have been identified as an Industry Sector Coordinator assisting the Sierra Jobs First team in support of the "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism" industry sector for the Sierra Jobs First Collaborative. Industry Sector Coordinators are boots-on-the-ground specialists, deeply knowledgeable about the industries and communities they serve. They are 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 seeks 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.



ESSRP MEETINGS / SIERRA JOBS FIRST

MLTPA is pleased to provide this webpage, which offers downloads for agendas, presentations, and the "Hot Links" used for all of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) meetings taking place during the Catalyst phase of Sierra Jobs First.



MY CATALYST PROJECT

As Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Sector Coordinators for the Sierra Region, we support Catalyst Projects with one-on-one guidance and tools for your projects development. Click "My Catalyst Project" for more information of how to work with us or email us at sjadmin@mltpa.org for free resources.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As Industry Sector Coordinators, we offer free Technical Assistance for Catalyst Projects. MLTPA specializes in recreation strategy, messaging, facilitation, budgeting, funding alignment, grant support, tribal engagement, graphic design, GIS mapping, trail design, and policy consultation.

SIERRA WORKS

Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Coordinators



WELCOME TO SIERRA WORKS

Sierra Works is a regional initiative dedicated to advancing projects that enhance the recreation and tourism sectors, key drivers of the Sierra region's economy.

Led by the Recreation & Tourism Industry Sector Coordinators appointed by Sierra Jobs First, our goal is to foster sustainable growth, support businesses, and strengthen local industries through strategic investments and collaboration.

Funded through the California Jobs First initiative, Sierra Works aligns with broader state efforts to drive economic resilience, promote climate-conscious development, and create long-term prosperity for the region.



Sierra Jobs First: Funding and Technical Assistance

Projects Tracked



Project Description: As part of the Industry Sector Coordinator Team for Recreation and Tourism, we partner with our colleagues at [Sierra Focus Media](#) to collaborate with all of the projects listed below to support their development through the Catalyst phase of Sierra Jobs First, ensuring alignment with the [Sierra Jobs First Strategic Plan](#). Our goals are to provide technical support and to identify funding resources for these Catalyst projects to bring them to life through their ultimate implementation. The

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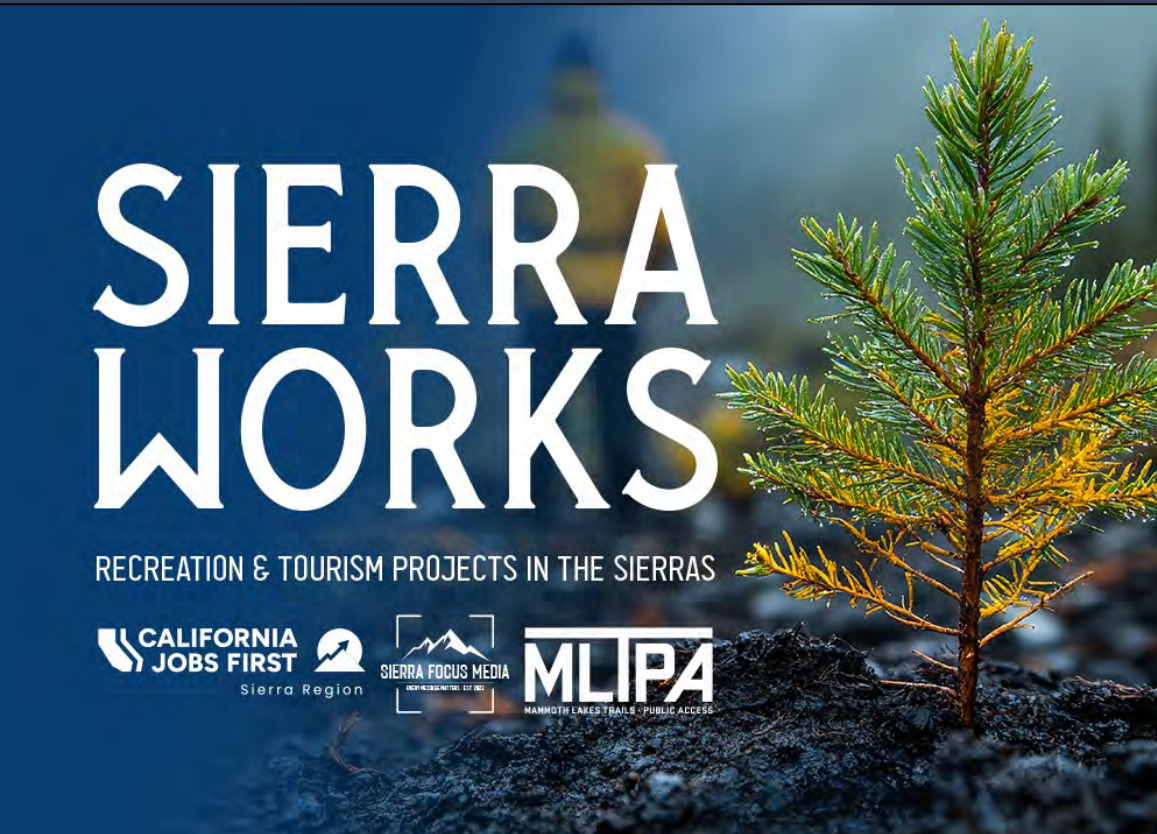
CHELSEA TAYLOR, COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM MANAGER

Chelsea (she/they) is a seasoned strategist with a decade of experience in outdoor recreation and environmental conservation programs, policy, and fieldwork. They specialize in facilitating cross-jurisdictional collaboration, community engagement, and equity initiatives advancing holistic visions of health inclusive of environment, economy, and community. In addition to working with MLTPA, they have been involved in projects with the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, California

Conservation Corps Backcountry Trails Program, the Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps, and the Oregon Trails Coalition. When not working they enjoy spending time outside, playing board games, and learning new skills, currently focused on woodworking!

Contact: chelseataylor@mltpa.org

Sierra Jobs First: "Catalyst Projects" - Recreation & Tourism

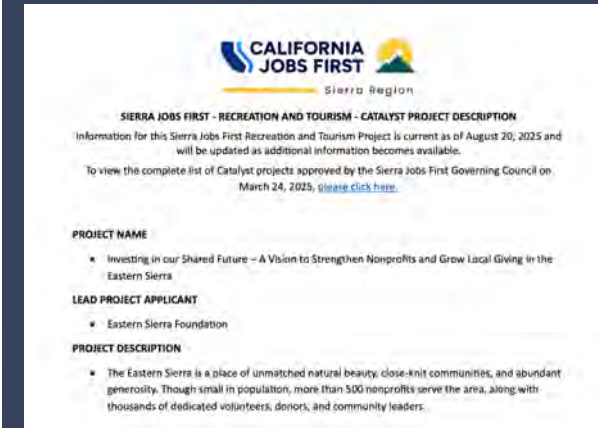


Projects

- Contracted Catalyst Projects
- Contracted via "Other" sectors
- "Walk-On" Projects
 - Projects that did not apply for Catalyst funding, but qualify for Technical Assistance

Sierra Jobs First: "Catalyst Projects" - Recreation & Tourism

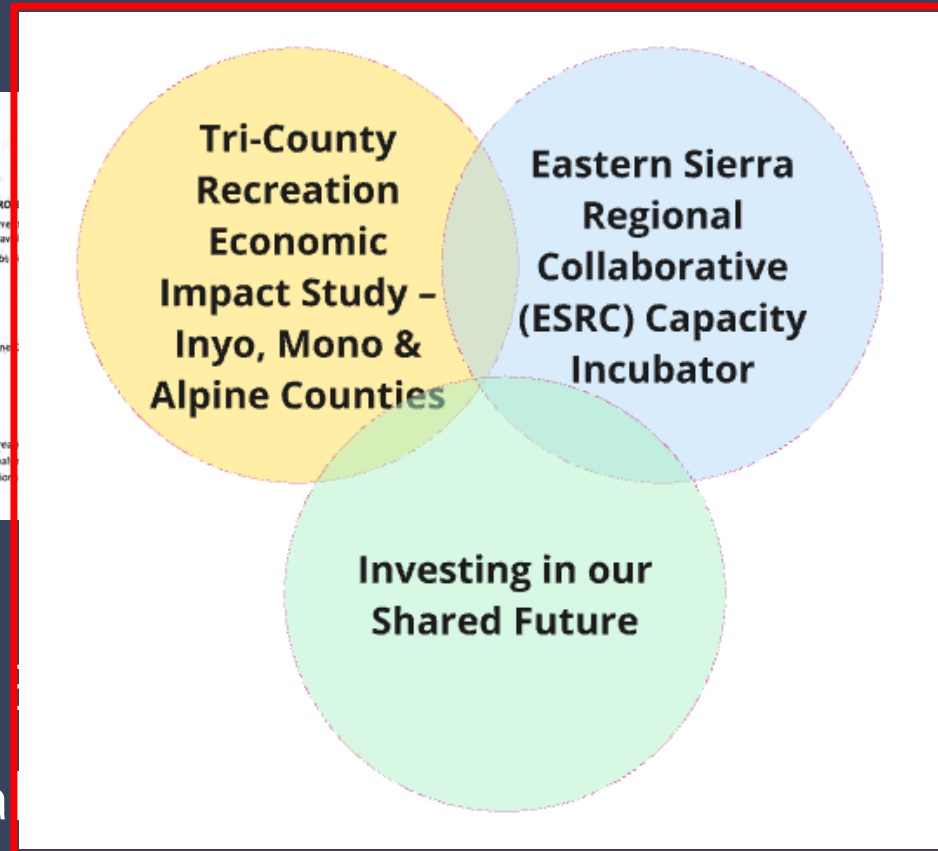
Sierra Jobs First Collaborative: Recreation and Tourism



- Tri-County Recreation Economic Impact Study – *Inyo, Mono & Alpine Counties*
- Eastern Sierra Regional Collaborative (ESRC) Capacity Incubator – *(ESCOG)*
- Investing in our Shared Future – A Vision to Strengthen Nonprofits and Grow Local Giving in the Eastern Sierra - *Eastern Sierra Foundation*

Sierra Jobs First: "Catalyst Projects" - Recreation & Tourism

Sierra Jobs First Collaborative: Recreation and Tourism



- Tri-County Recreation Economic Impact Study – Inyo, Mono & Alpine Counties
- Eastern Sierra Regional Collaborative (ESRC) Capacity Incubator – (ESCOG)
- Investing in our Shared Future – A Vision to Strengthen Nonprofits and Grow Local Giving in the Eastern Sierra

Sierra Jobs First: "Catalyst Projects" - Recreation & Tourism

Sierra Jobs First Collaborative: Recreation and Tourism



- Eastern Sierra Regional Campground Improvements & Jobs Creation - *MLTPA*
- Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project – *Whitebark Institute*

Sierra Jobs First: "Catalyst Projects" - Recreation & Tourism

Coldwater Campground + Fuels Thinning



Sierra Jobs First: "Catalyst Projects" - Recreation & Tourism

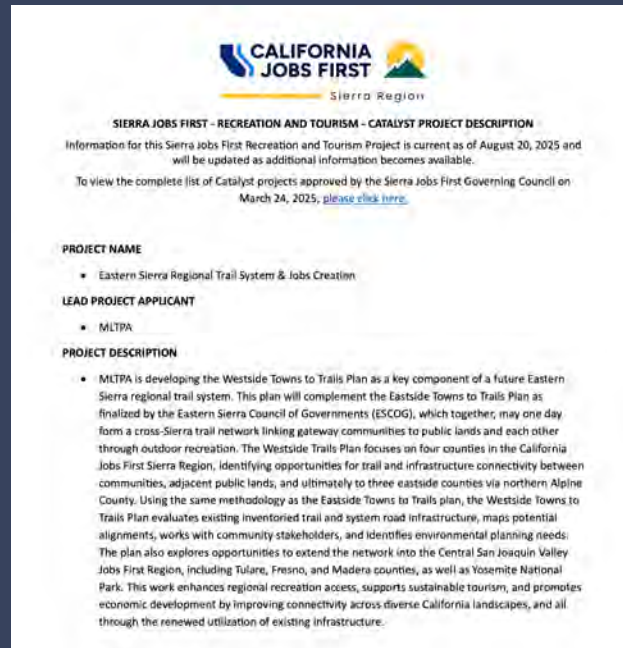
Sierra Jobs First Collaborative: Recreation and Tourism



- Eastern Sierra Regional Campground Improvements & Jobs Creation
- Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project

Sierra Jobs First: "Catalyst Projects" - Recreation & Tourism

Sierra Jobs First Collaborative: Recreation and Tourism



- Eastern Sierra Regional Trail System & Jobs Creation - *MLTPA*
- The Blue Heron Project Feasibility and Development Project – *Blue Heron Project*

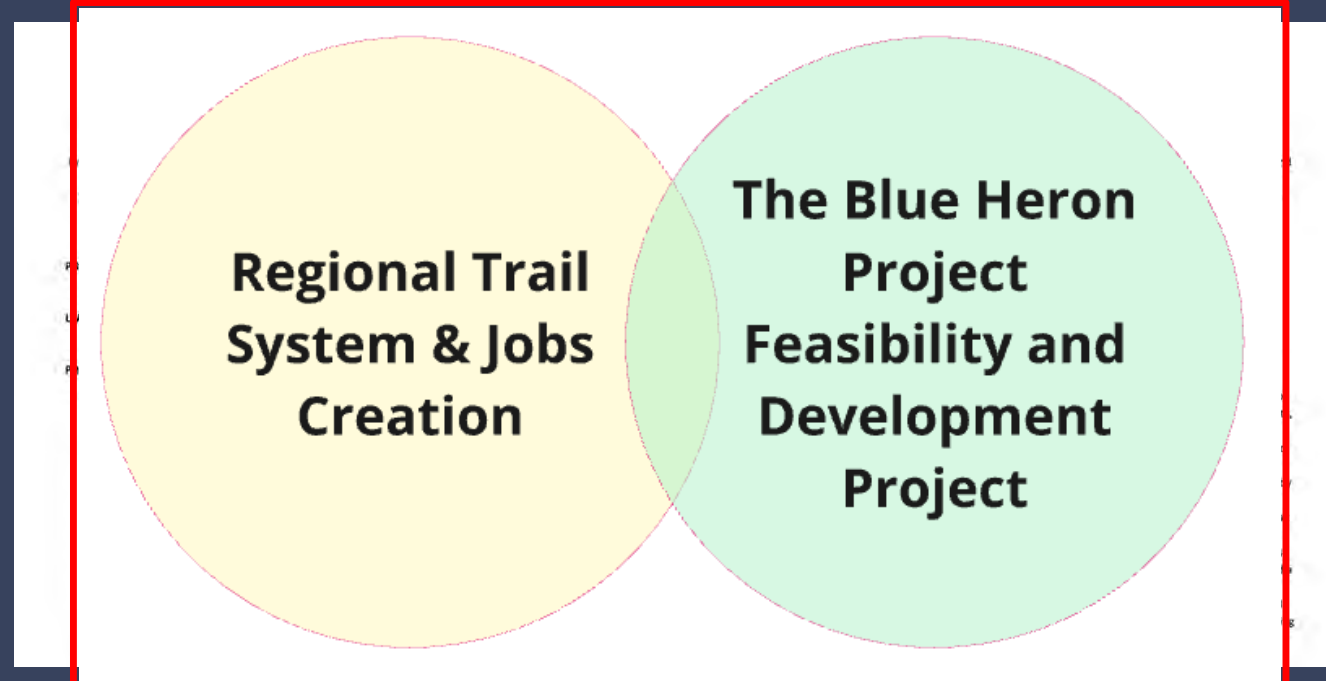
Sierra Jobs First: "Catalyst Projects" - Recreation & Tourism

Towns to Trails access to Blue Heron Farms



Sierra Jobs First: "Catalyst Projects" - Recreation & Tourism

Sierra Jobs First Collaborative: Recreation and Tourism



- Eastern Sierra Regional Trail System & Jobs Creation
- The Blue Heron Project Feasibility and Development Project

Sierra Jobs First: Funding and Technical Assistance

Funding Support



Project Description: As the Industry Sector Coordinator for Sustainable Recreation & Tourism projects, MLTPA is committed to providing funding and policy support to help bring your project to life. To assist you, we have developed a comprehensive database featuring:

- [Funding Opportunities](#) – A curated list of grants and financial resources available in the sustainable recreation and tourism sectors.
- [Policy Documents & Data Resources](#) – A collection of relevant policies, regulations, and data to help inform and guide your project's development.

Beyond these resources, MLTPA offers personalized support to ensure your project aligns with available funding opportunities and meets current policy requirements. MLTPA is here to assist in the grant

application process, helping you navigate funding requirements and maximize your chances of success. We are also here to provide one-on-one policy consultation, offering expert guidance on how to develop your project within the existing regulatory framework.

For more information or to discuss how we can support your project, contact us at sjfadmin@mltpa.org. We look forward to helping you turn your vision into reality.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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



ANDREA STEWART, RESEARCH & POLICY ANALYST

Andrea is a policy analyst with a career dedicated to working at the intersection of environmental justice and human rights, including many years of living and working in the West Bank on questions of law and ethics. Andrea is adept at navigating diverse social and political landscapes. A JD candidate residing in Mammoth Lakes, Andrea combines her legal expertise with a deep understanding of policy development and a passion for fostering a more just and equitable Eastern Sierra. She analyzes federal, state, and local policies

impacting the Eastern Sierra region and beyond, seeking to identify and address systemic inequities. In her free time, Andrea can be found peak bagging, backcountry skiing, climbing, or exploring the foothills on her horse. She holds M.A. and B.A. degrees in Human Rights Law and Political Science, respectively, and hails from a university town in Kansas.

Contact: andreastewart@mltpa.org

Sierra Jobs First - Andie Stewart, Technical Assistance Update



+



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CALREC
Vision

“Cohort of Practice”



CALIFORNIA
JOBS FIRST

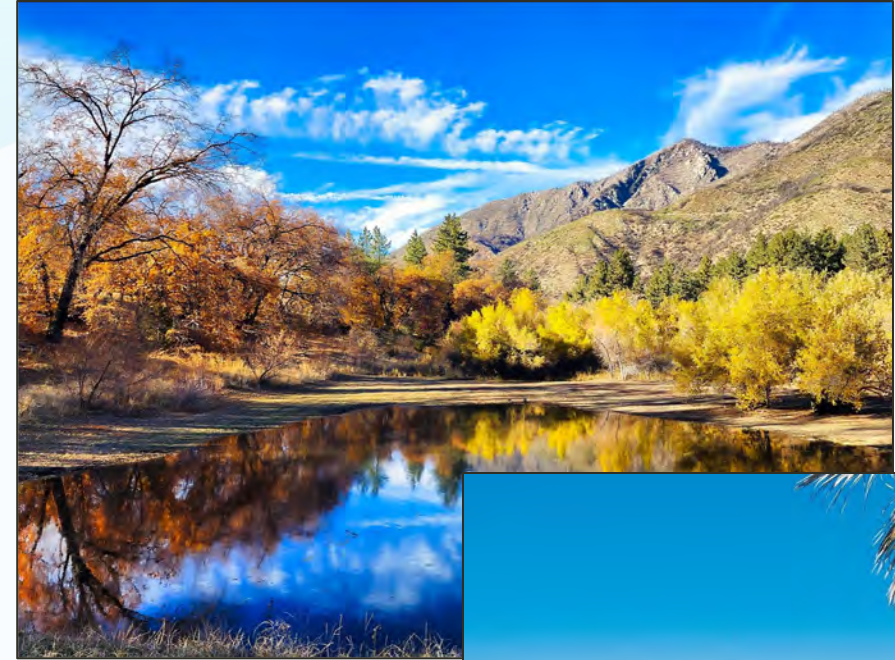


Sierra Region

CA JOBS FIRST - SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT

AGENDA 10/03/2025

- **Welcome/Check-in**
- **Field Notes**
- **Presentations – Session Four**
 - **Sierra San Joaquin**
 - With Sarah Masterson
 - **Explore Local Nature**
 - With Mike Kahn
- **Rays of Sunshine**
- **Adjourn**



CALREC
Vision



CA JOBS FIRST - SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT



Agritourism in the Sierra San Joaquin Region

October 2025
CA Jobs First Outdoor Rec and Tourism



CA JOBS FIRST - SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT



EXPLORE
LOCAL
NATURE

adventure awaits outside your door

“Tech for Good: Connecting People to the Outdoors” - 10/3/2025

Mike Kahn, Founder
mike@explorelocalnature.com



Meet rAInger: Your AI Guide to the Outdoors

- Personalized Guidance: Tailored recommendations for users.
- Recreate Responsibly: Trained on Leave No Trace* & local safety (poison oak, tides, water).
- Inclusively Accessible: 24/7 support in 100+ languages (text, voice, chat).
- A patient, knowledgeable guide for everyone.
- DMO Assist: Destination marketing info integration



Rays of Sunshine

- SB 105 included a surprise allocation of \$20 million for Visit California
- AB 518 (Low-Impact Camping) has been signed by the Governor



THANKS FOR JOINING!

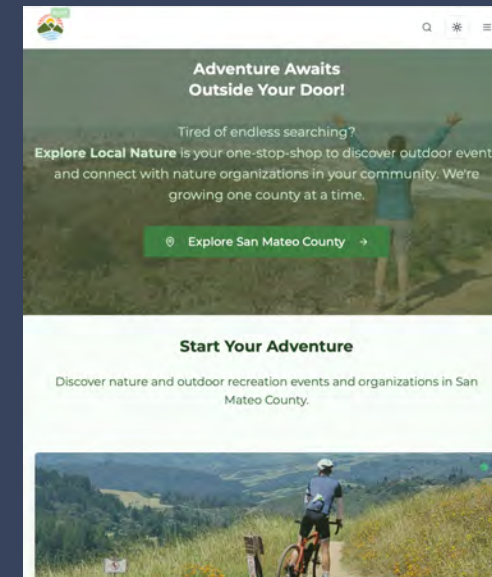
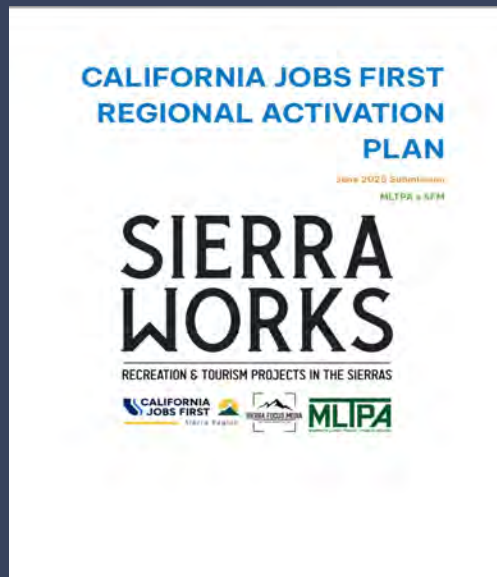
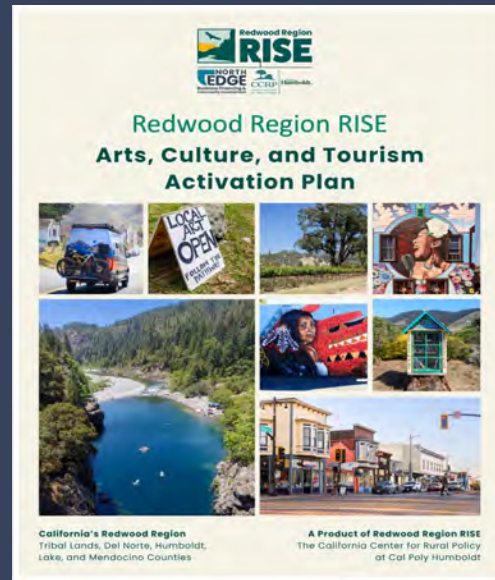
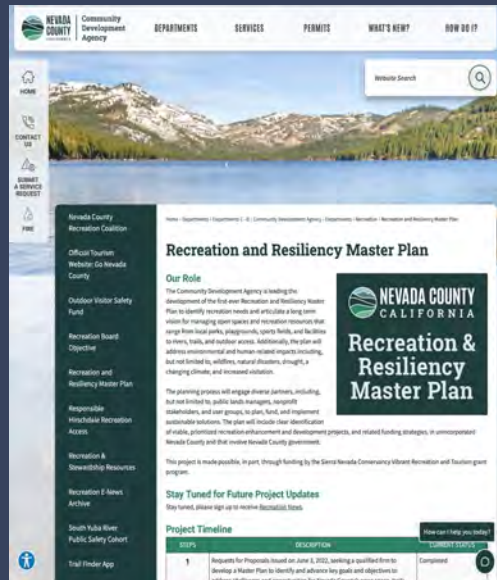
NEXT MEETING

November 7, 1:30 PM

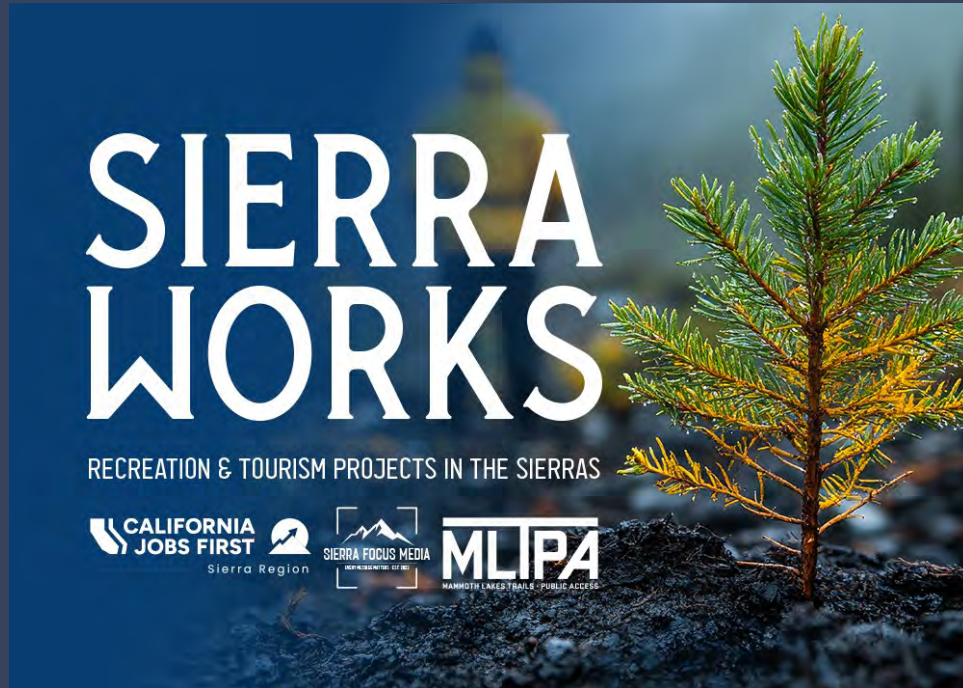


Source: Visit California

California Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Statewide Cohort



Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates



Recreation and Tourism Working Group

WORKING GROUP SIGN-UPS

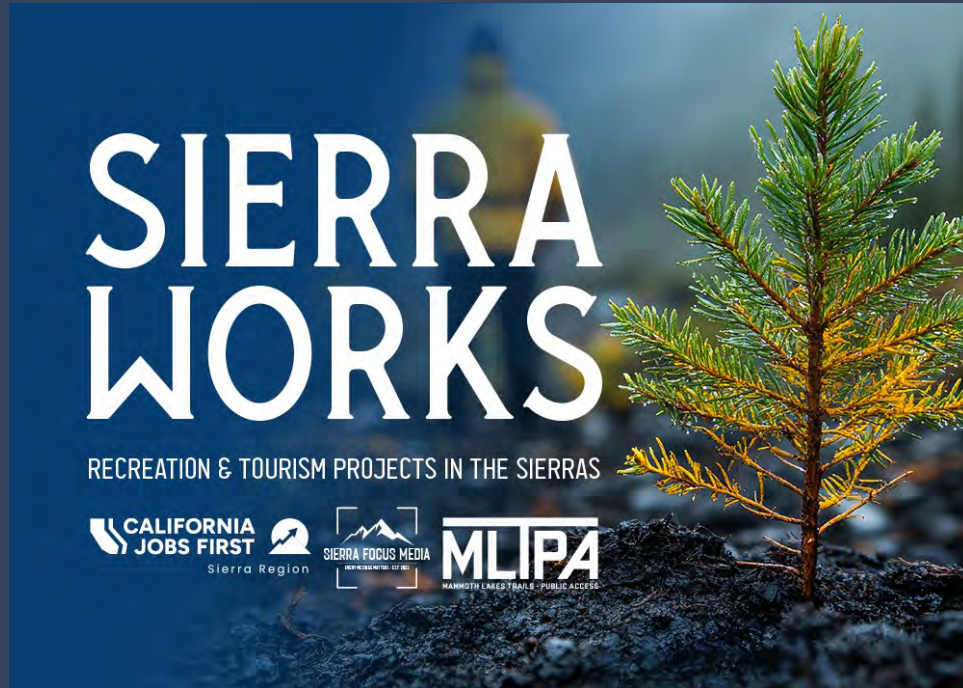
Join a Working Group! We are convening a collaborative **Working Group** to bring together partners, industry leaders, and community stakeholders to exchange ideas, align projects with resources, and drive impactful solutions for recreation and tourism in the Sierra region.

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

Sign-up Today!

[Join Our Working Groups](#)

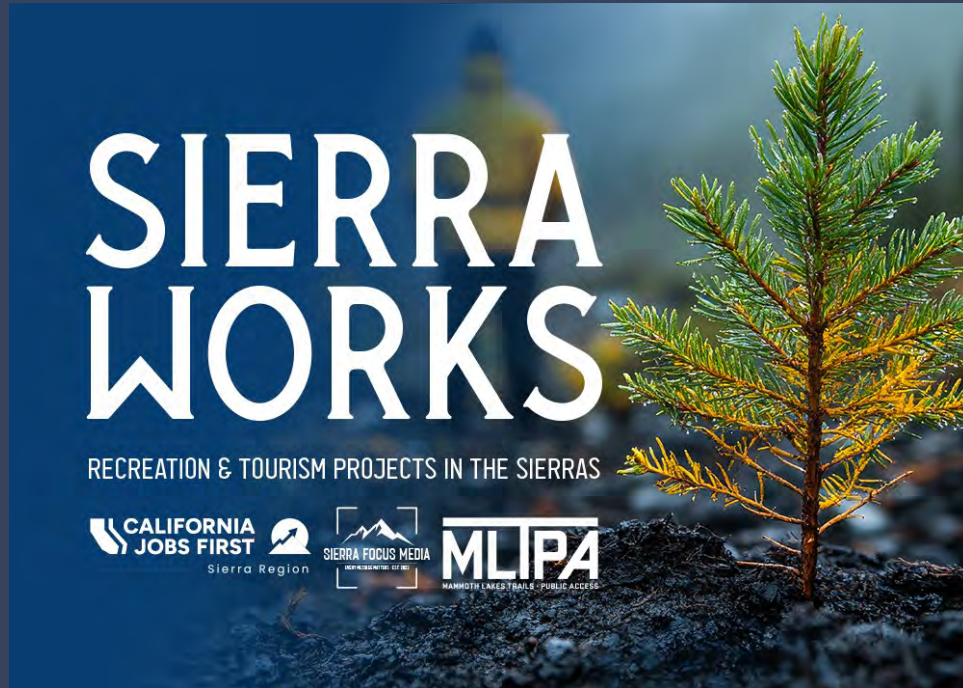
Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates



Recreation and Tourism Working Group

- October 20, 2025
- November 17, 2025
- January 19, 2026
- February 16, 2025
- March 16, 2025
- April 20, 2026
- May 18, 2026
- June 15, 2026
- July 20, 2026
- August 17, 2026

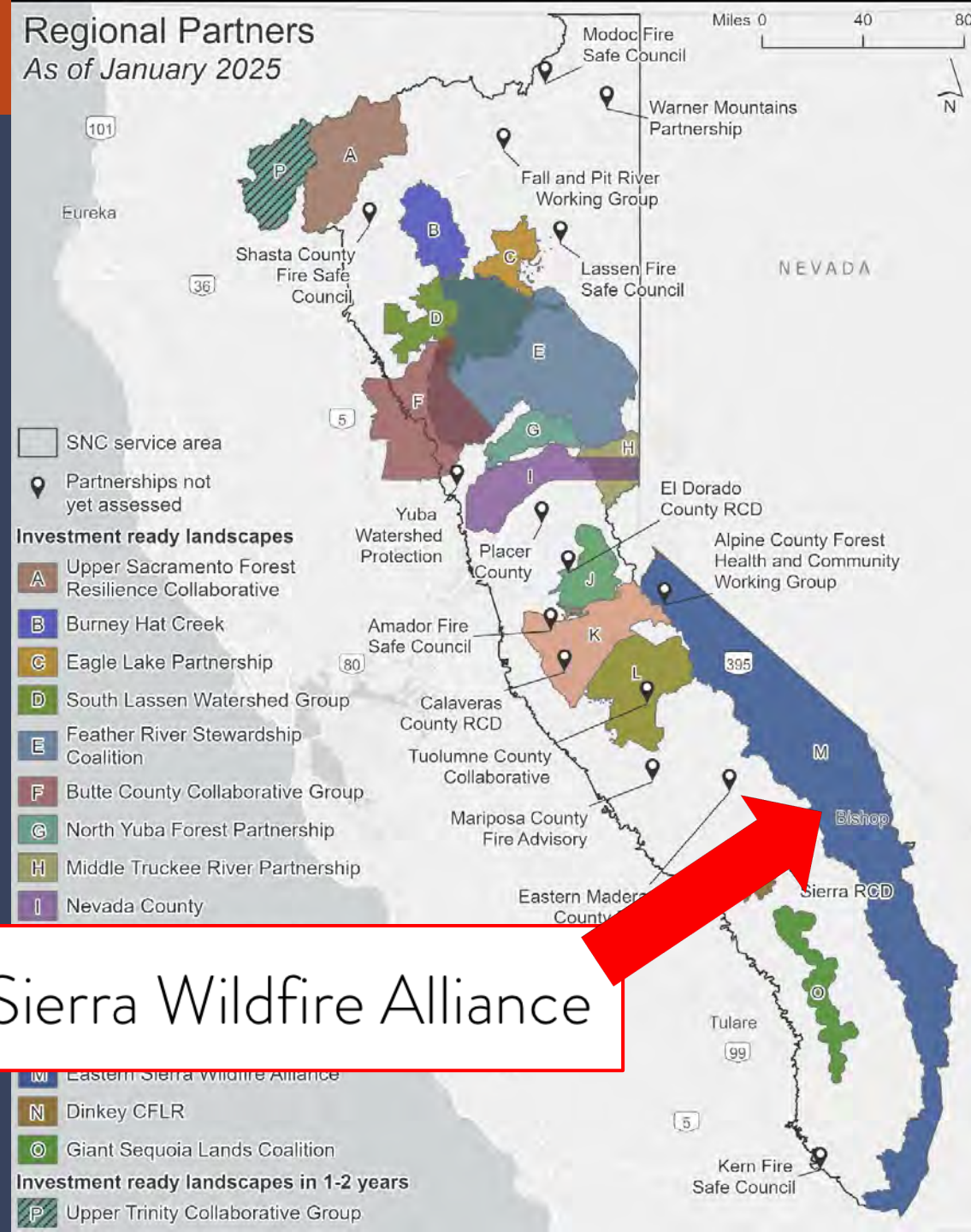
Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Project Updates



Recreation and Tourism Working Group

- ~~October 20, 2025~~
- November 17, 2025 – First Meeting
- January 19, 2026
- February 16, 2025
- March 16, 2025
- April 20, 2026
- May 18, 2026
- June 15, 2026
- July 20, 2026
- August 17, 2026

California Wildfire and Recreation



Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

[Home](#)[About](#)[Projects & Programs](#)[Meetings](#)[Resources](#)[Be Prepared](#)[Fire Safe Councils](#)

Upcoming Meetings

October 16 from 10:00 – 1:00

Inyo County Consolidated Office Building (1360 N Main St, Bishop, CA)
Please save the date. This will be a hybrid meeting. Lunch will be provided for those attending in person. More details coming soon. Thank you!

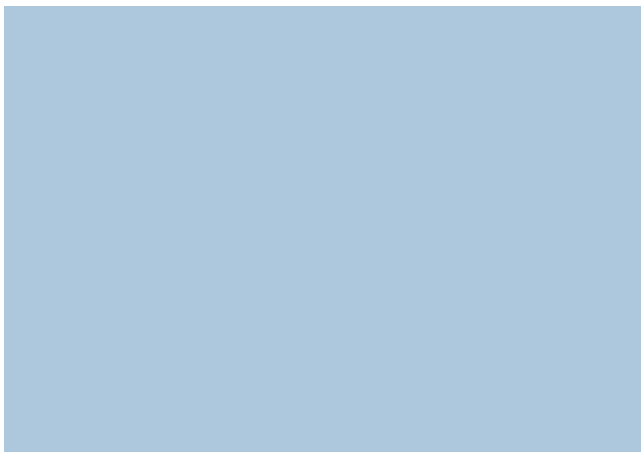
To attend on Zoom. Please register in advance:

California Wildfire and Recreation

ESWA Project Committee

Next Steps





WEST MONO BASIN

Funding for this work is provided by the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments through a California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant and by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

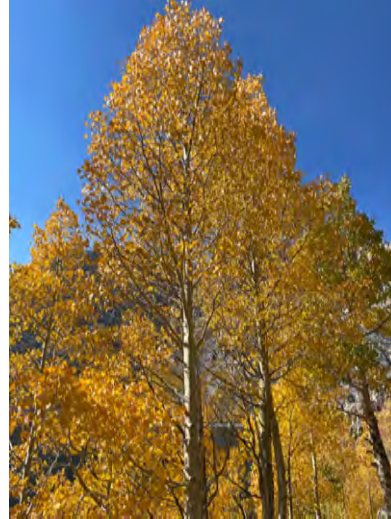
WEST MONO BASIN PROJECT*

- The Inyo National Forest is exploring opportunities to reduce wildfire risk and build ecological and community resilience in the West Mono Basin watershed.
- Whitebark Institute is providing support in the areas of community engagement and environmental planning
- Pre-planning stage
- This is your opportunity to inform what this project ultimately looks like.



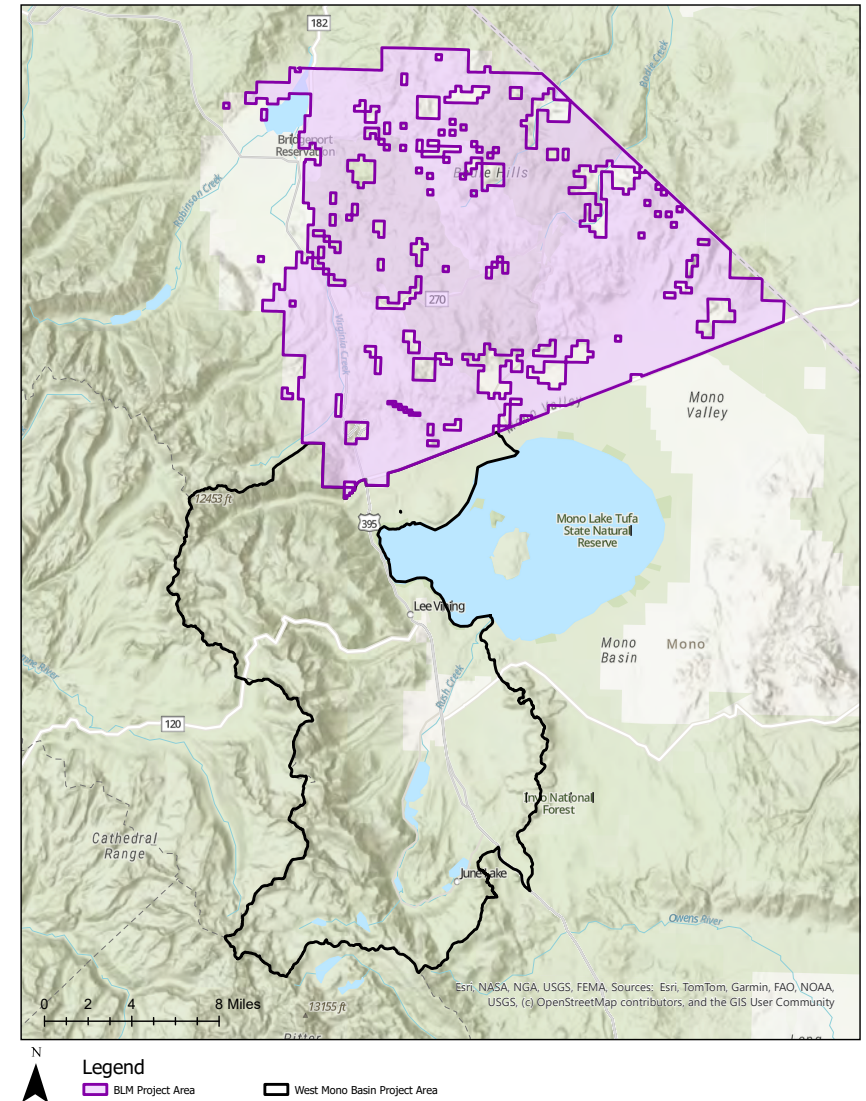
WEST MONO BASIN WATERSHED

- Will generally be limited to vegetation treatments including (but not limited to) actions such as ecological thinning, fuels reduction and restoration treatments that will improve ecosystem health and increase protection for communities.
 - Forests, pinyon-juniper woodlands, riparian corridors, sagebrush
 - Infrastructure
 - Communities
 - Natural and cultural resources



COORDINATED PROJECT PLANNING

- Communities
- Multiple landowners and jurisdictions
 - INF
 - BLM
 - LADWP
 - SCE
 - State and County
 - Private



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION



SCAN QR CODE
to learn more & complete
Whitebark's survey

INF Contact: SM.FS.INFWestMonoBasin@usda.gov

Whitebark Institute Contact: tracy@whitebarkinstitute.org

MONO CITY TUE 10/7

LEE VINING COMMUNITY CENTER
296 MATTLY AVE LEE VINING, CA

LEE VINING MON 10/20

LEE VINING LIBRARY
51710 HWY395, LEE VINING, CA

JUNE LAKE TUE 10/28

JUNE LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
90 W GRANITE AVE, JUNE LAKE, CA

ONLINE WED 11/5

ZOOM LINK - SCAN QR CODE

ALL MEETINGS RUN 6:00-8:00 PM

TIMELINE

October 2025 – Early November 2025

Community Engagement/Information gathering

December 2025 – April 2026

Synthesize results of community input, review existing plans, develop the project(s)

May 2026 – July 2026

Inform public of developed proposed actions through another set of community meetings and gather feedback

August 2026 – May 2028

Environmental Planning

Update the Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan



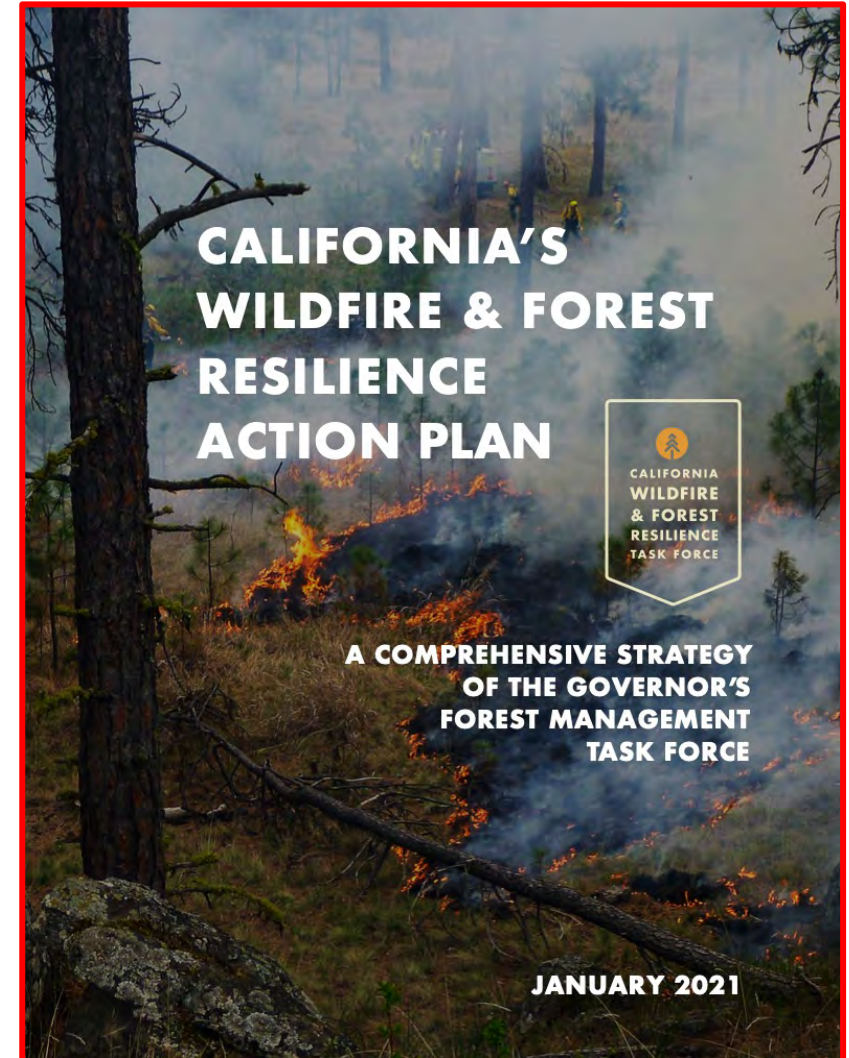
Joint Strategies 2025 Deliverables



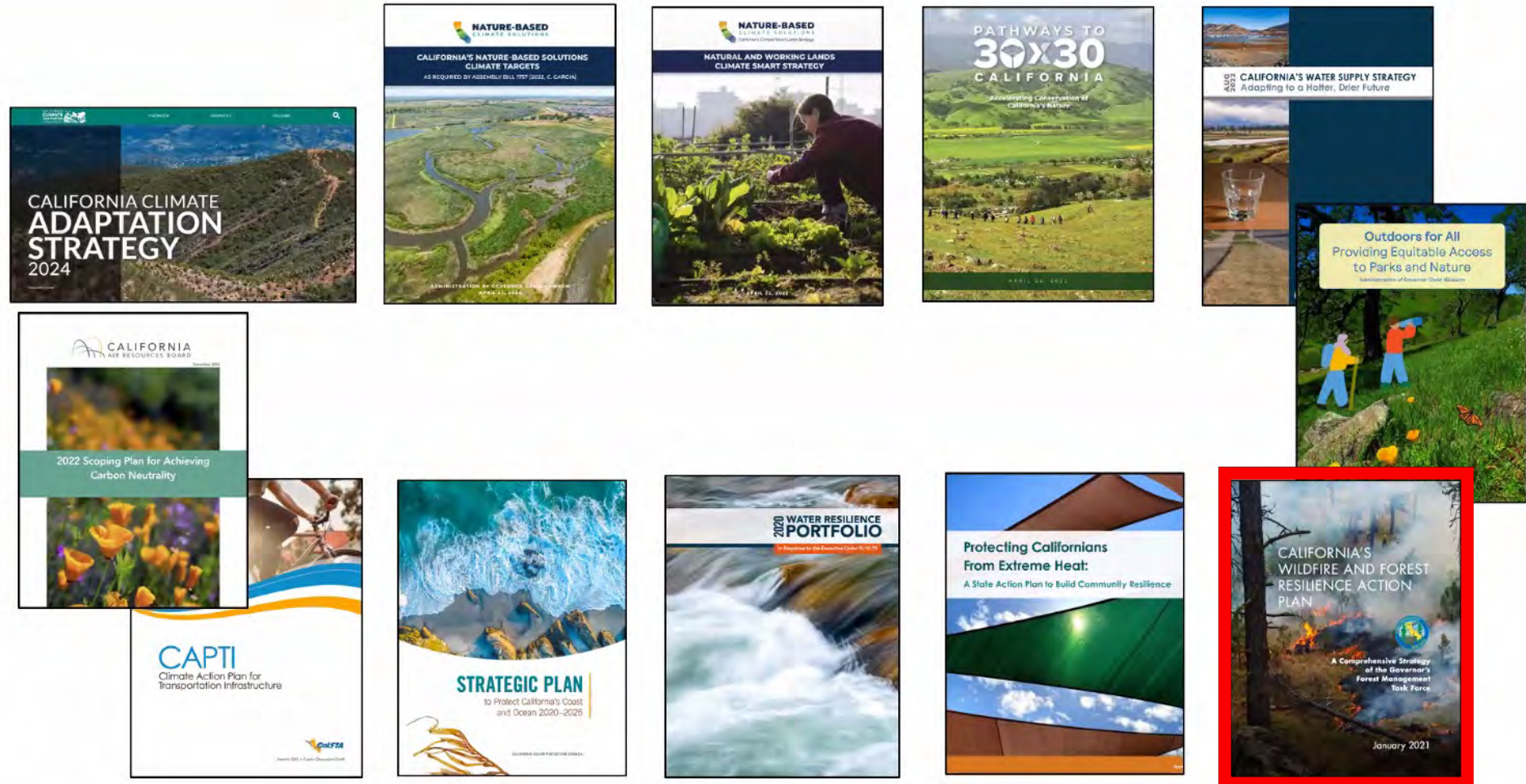
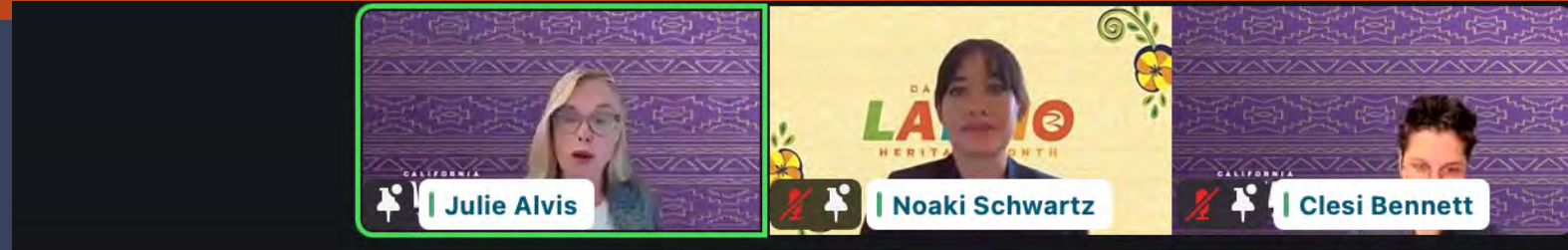
Science and Data



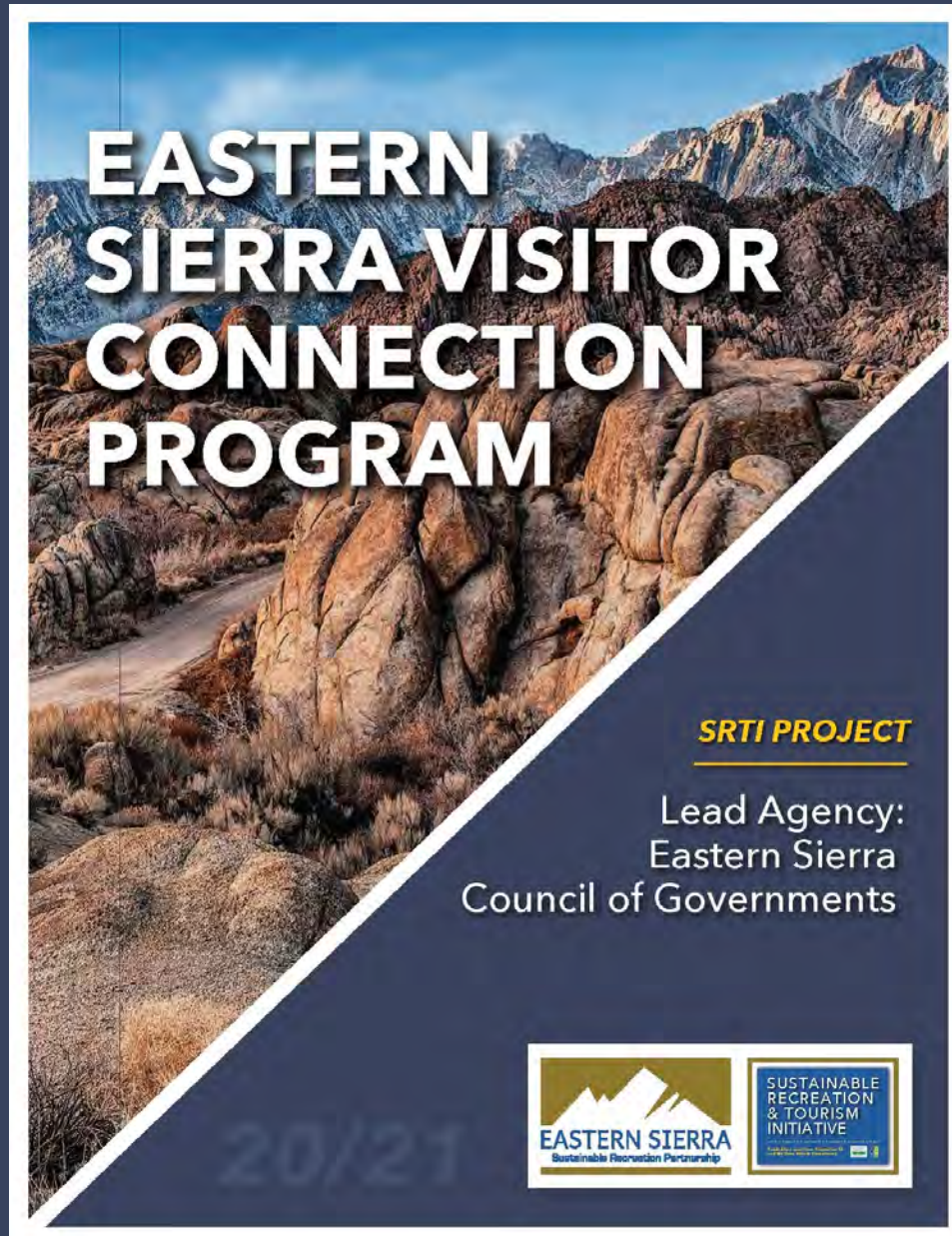
- Science Synthesis and Forest/Range Assessment
- Interagency Treatment Tracker
- Million Acre Modeling and Benefits Assessment
- Core Reporting Metrics



California Wildfire and Recreation



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



MARKETING CONTENT STRATEGY



VCP FIRE - SEASON 2

MAY - OCTOBER 2025



Date: Mar 25, 2025

Goals and objectives: “Ignite Awareness”

Create objectives that align with broader business goals. Separating them into primary, secondary, and long-term will provide focus and strategic direction. Here’s an example:

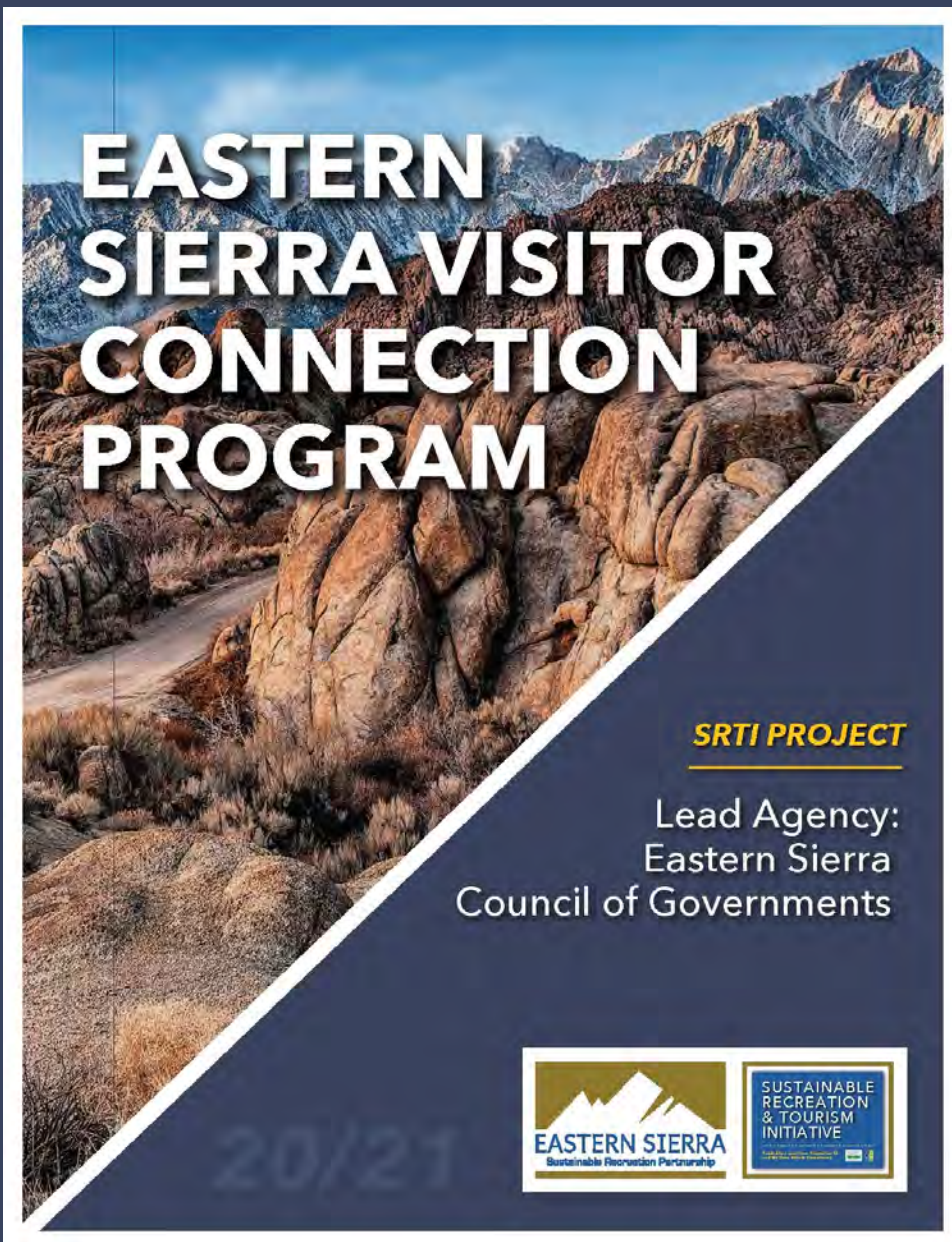
- Primary objective: Increase Impressions over the targeted time frame: **May 2025 - OCT 2025**
- Secondary objective: Increase web traffic conversations to the [Whitebark institute homepage](#).
- Long-term goal: Establish the agency as an trusted force for environmental conservation and wildfire resilience

Demographic analysis of the target audience

Geo-fencing should be a primary focus of this campaign due to the regional nature of our audience. Therefore, we should target areas and demographics most affected by wildfires. This data is based off overall metrics from Whitebark’s Meta business Suite

Geographic location of the target audience

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

A poster for the Eastern Sierra Visitor Connection Program. The top half features a photograph of a rugged, rocky mountain landscape with a dirt road winding through it. The text "EASTERN SIERRA VISITOR CONNECTION PROGRAM" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The bottom half of the poster has a dark blue background. On the right side, the text "SRTI PROJECT" is written in yellow, underlined, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the text "Lead Agency: Eastern Sierra Council of Governments" is written in white, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, there are two logos: the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership logo on the left and the Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Initiative logo on the right. The year "20/21" is faintly visible in the bottom left corner.

EASTERN SIERRA VISITOR CONNECTION PROGRAM

SRTI PROJECT

Lead Agency:
Eastern Sierra
Council of Governments

EASTERN SIERRA
Sustainable Recreation Partnership

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM INITIATIVE

20/21

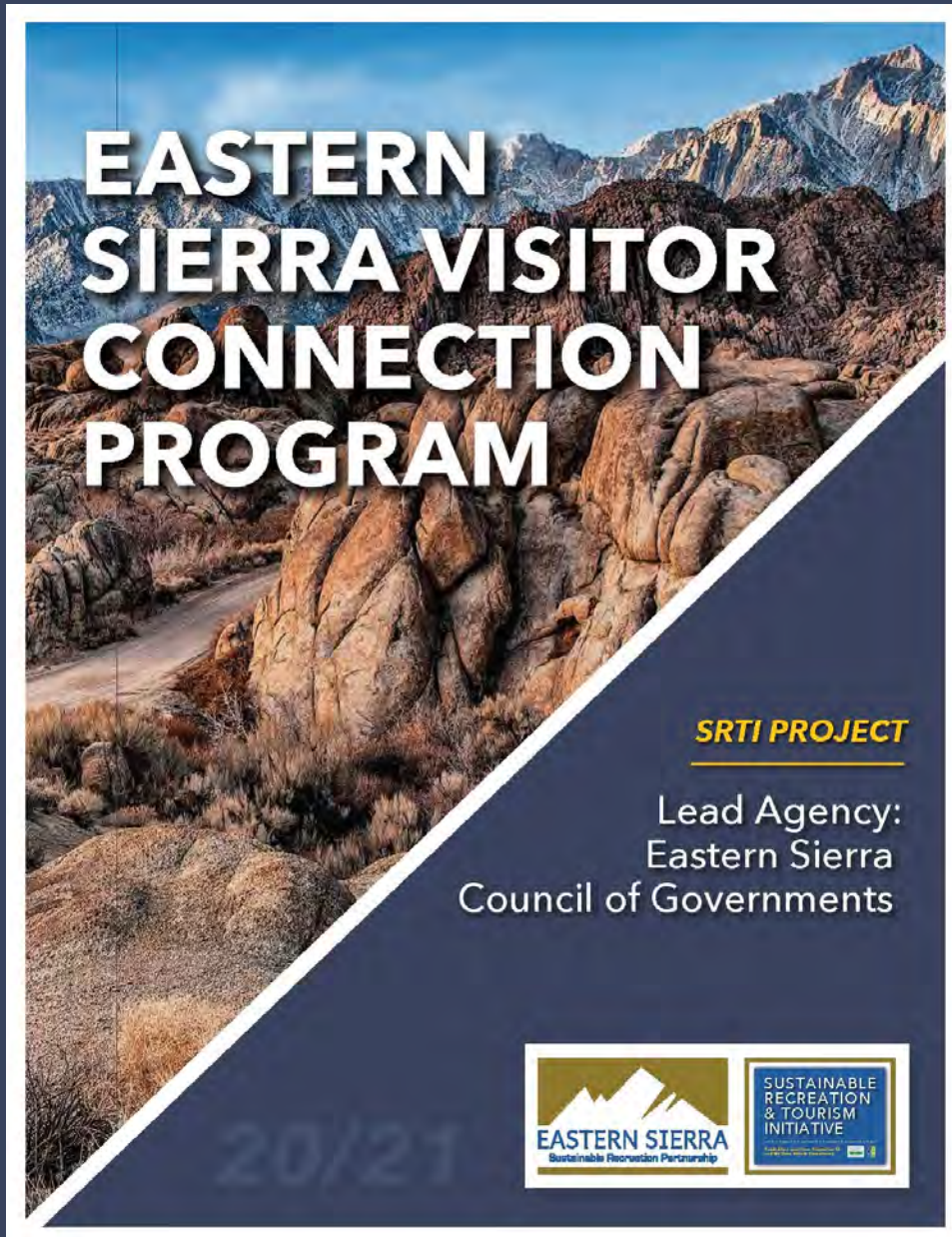


JACK YATES, FUNDING AND COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

In May 2023, Jack obtained a master's degree in media and public engagement from the University of Colorado at Boulder. During this time, he was awarded a fellowship while simultaneously working at CU Boulder's Innovation & Entrepreneurship Initiative. His thesis utilized digital media to detail the economic impacts of climate change on the winter recreation industry entitled Melting Opportunities. Jack also holds two bachelor's degrees in film studies and American history from the University of Vermont. Some of his past professional history includes working for environmental startups, an outdoor media production company, and a political campaign. His favorite forms of outdoor recreation are skiing in the winter and hiking in the summer.

Contact: jackyates@mltpa.org

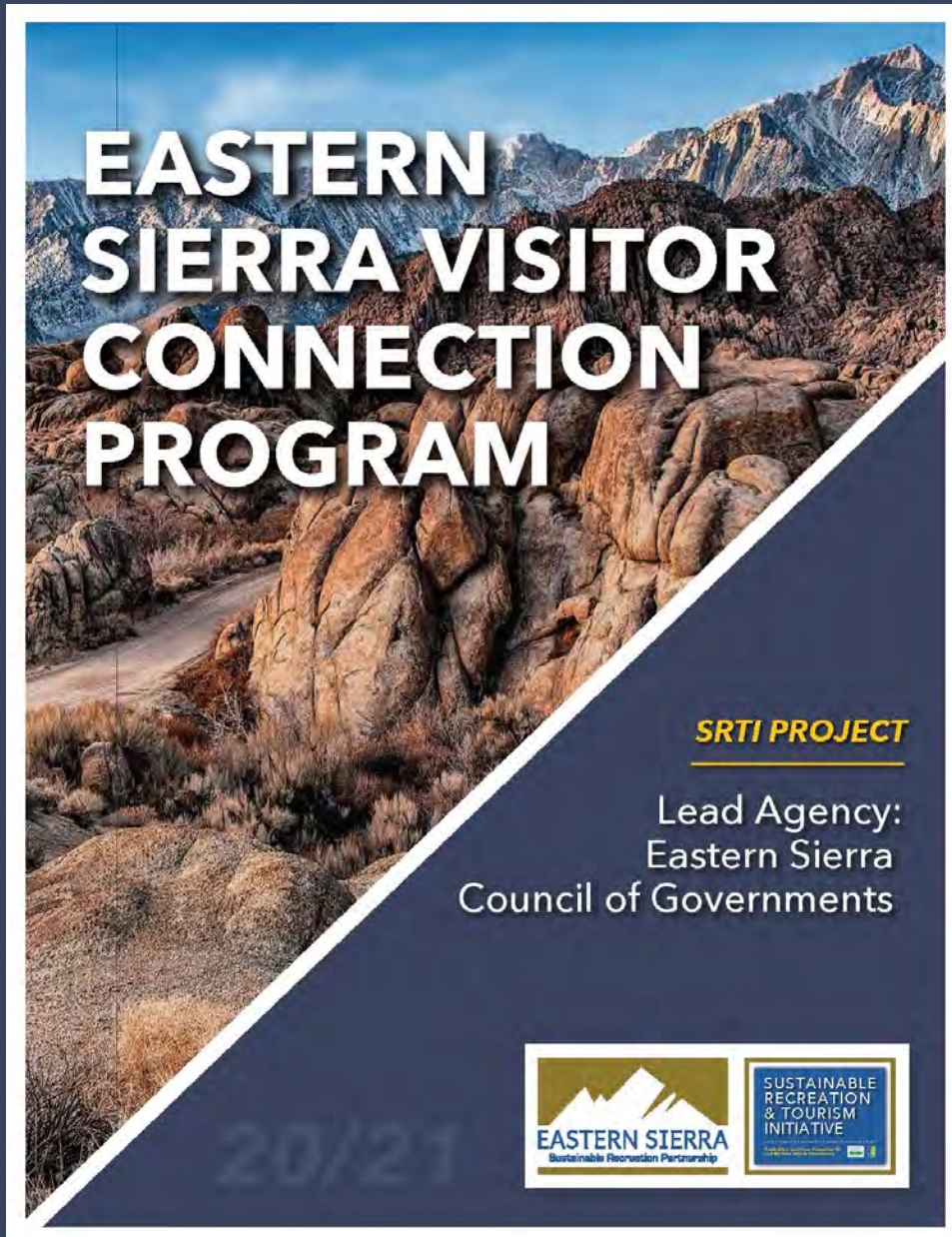
MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



September Results

- Instagram
 - 15,026 impressions (+60.4%)
 - 16,329 reach (+31.17%)
 - 339 site visits (+23.7%)
- Facebook
 - 20,310 impressions (+46.1%)
 - 7,155 reach (+200.8%)
 - 178 site visits (+2,400%)
 - 4 followers gained (+100%)
 - 884 content interactions (+4,410%)

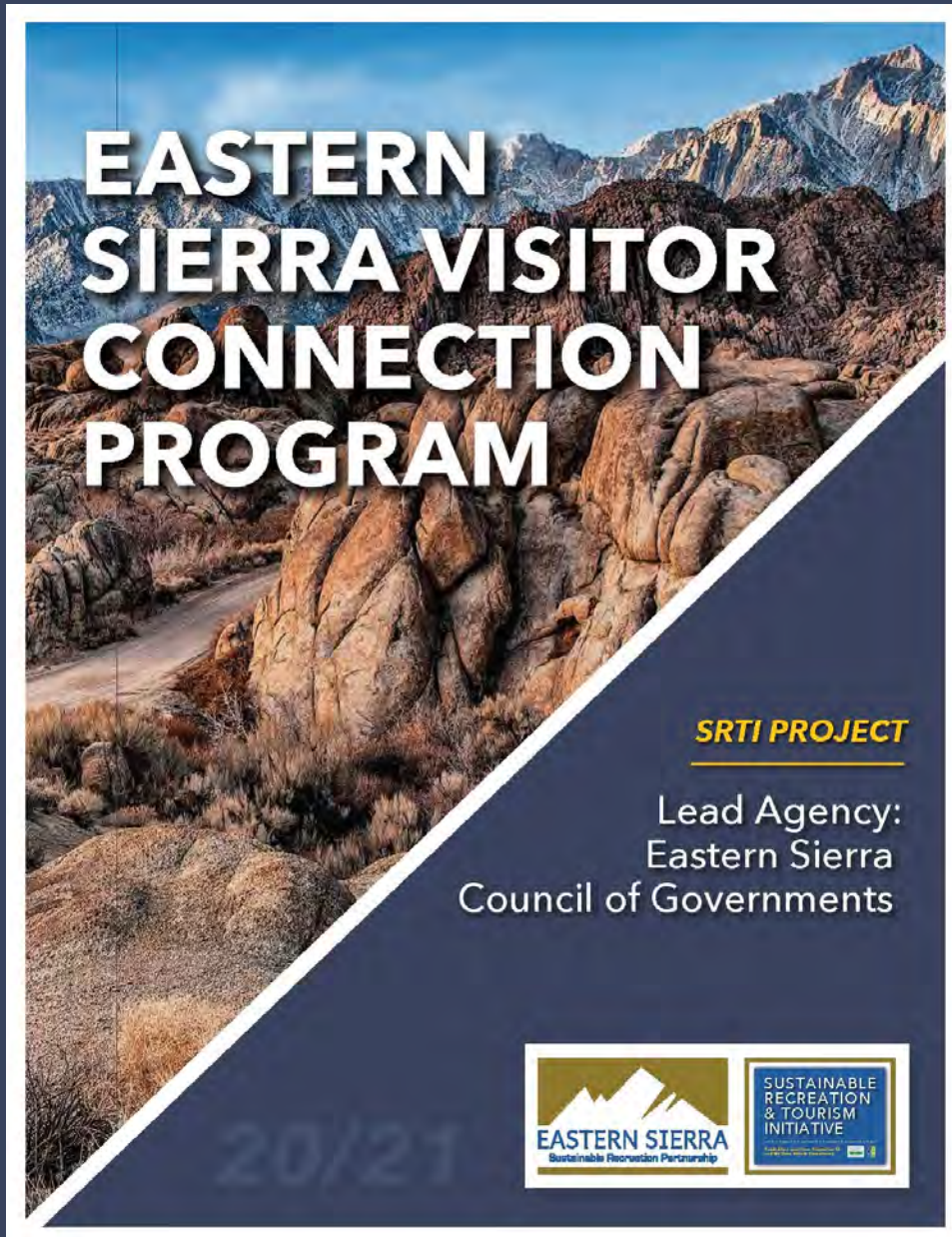
MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



Collaborations & Campaigns

- September: \$200 boosted posts in partnership with Visit Bishop and Mono County Tourism each respectively (\$400 in total)
- Current collaborations underway with Mammoth Mountain, PCTA, and Friends of the Inyo.
- A full analytics report covering the year's campaign is in development.

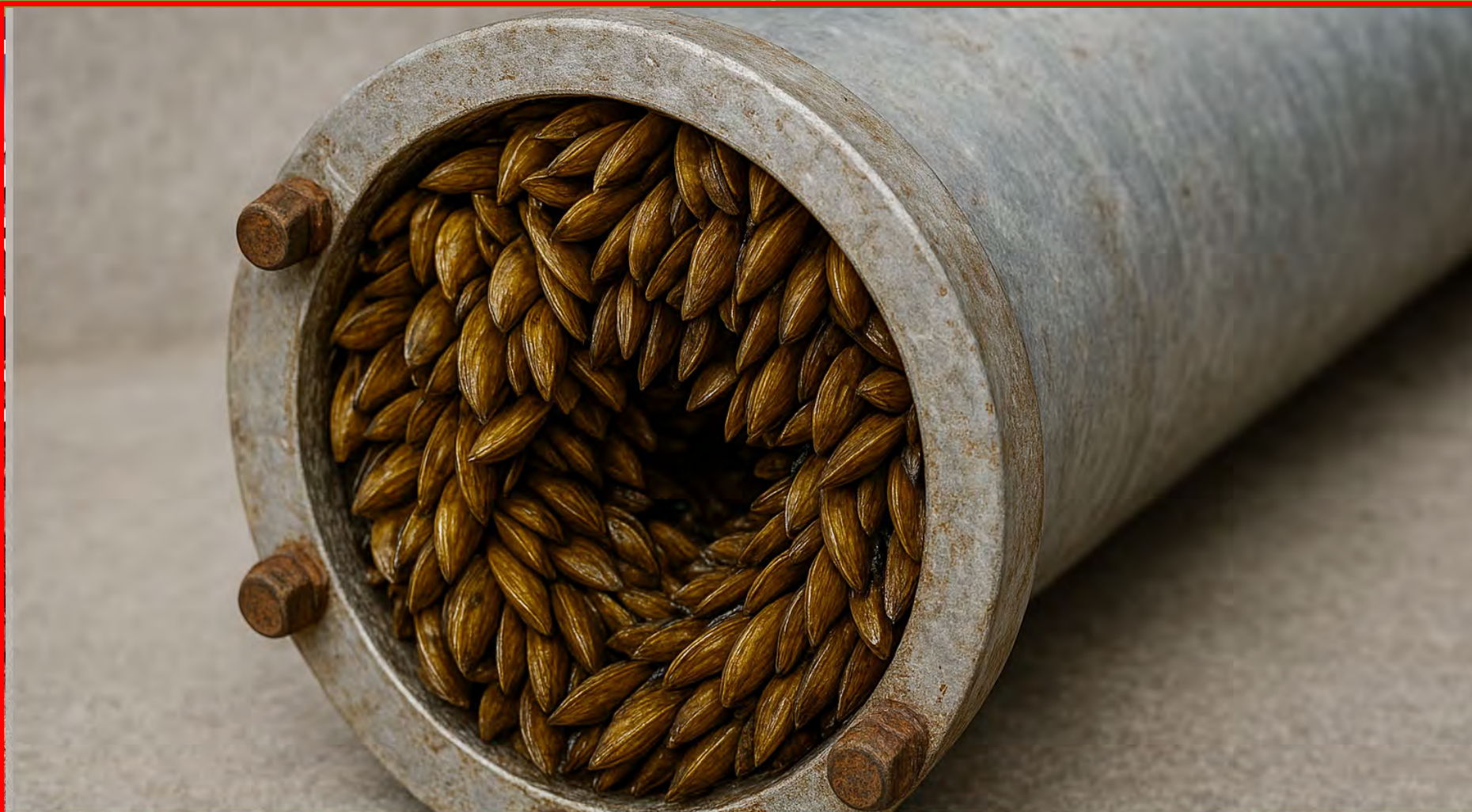
MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



Partial Partner List (33 total)

- Alabama Hills Stewardship Group
- Alpine County / Watershed Group / Chamber / Fire Safe Council
- Bishop Climbers Coalition & Climbing Rangers
- Bishop Visitor Bureau & Chamber of Commerce
- Bureau of Land Management
- California State Parks
- Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra
- Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps
- Eastern Sierra Four Wheel Drive Club
- Sierra Forever (formerly ESIA)
- Friends of the Inyo
- High Sierra Energy Foundation
- Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- Inyo County & Inyo National Forest
- LA Department of Water & Power
- Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce
- Mammoth Lakes Recreation & Tourism
- Mammoth Resorts (Mammoth Mountain)
- Mono County
- Mono Lake Committee
- National Park Service

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



Golden Mussel Threat

Geographic location of the target audience

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MLTPA
TH LAKES TRAILS • PUBLIC ACCESS

primary, secondary, and

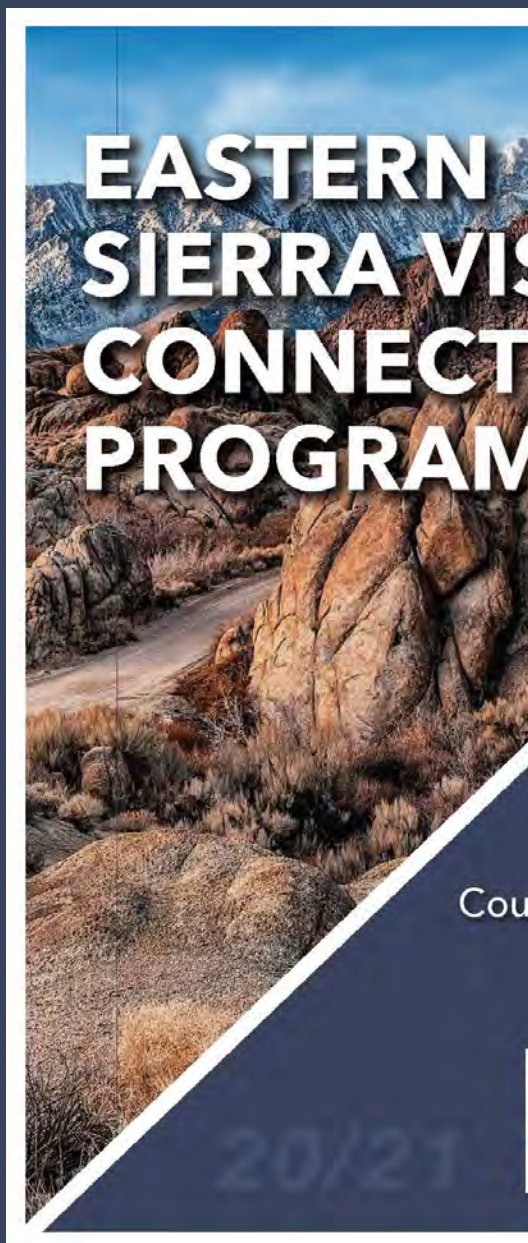
2025 - OCT 2025

[stitute homepage.](#)

conservation and

re of our audience.

This data is based off



E&ENews PM



Gift article 

Colorado River 'infested' with zebra mussels

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



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



A group of zebra mussels.

MENT STRATEGY

ASON 2

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Separating them into primary, secondary, and
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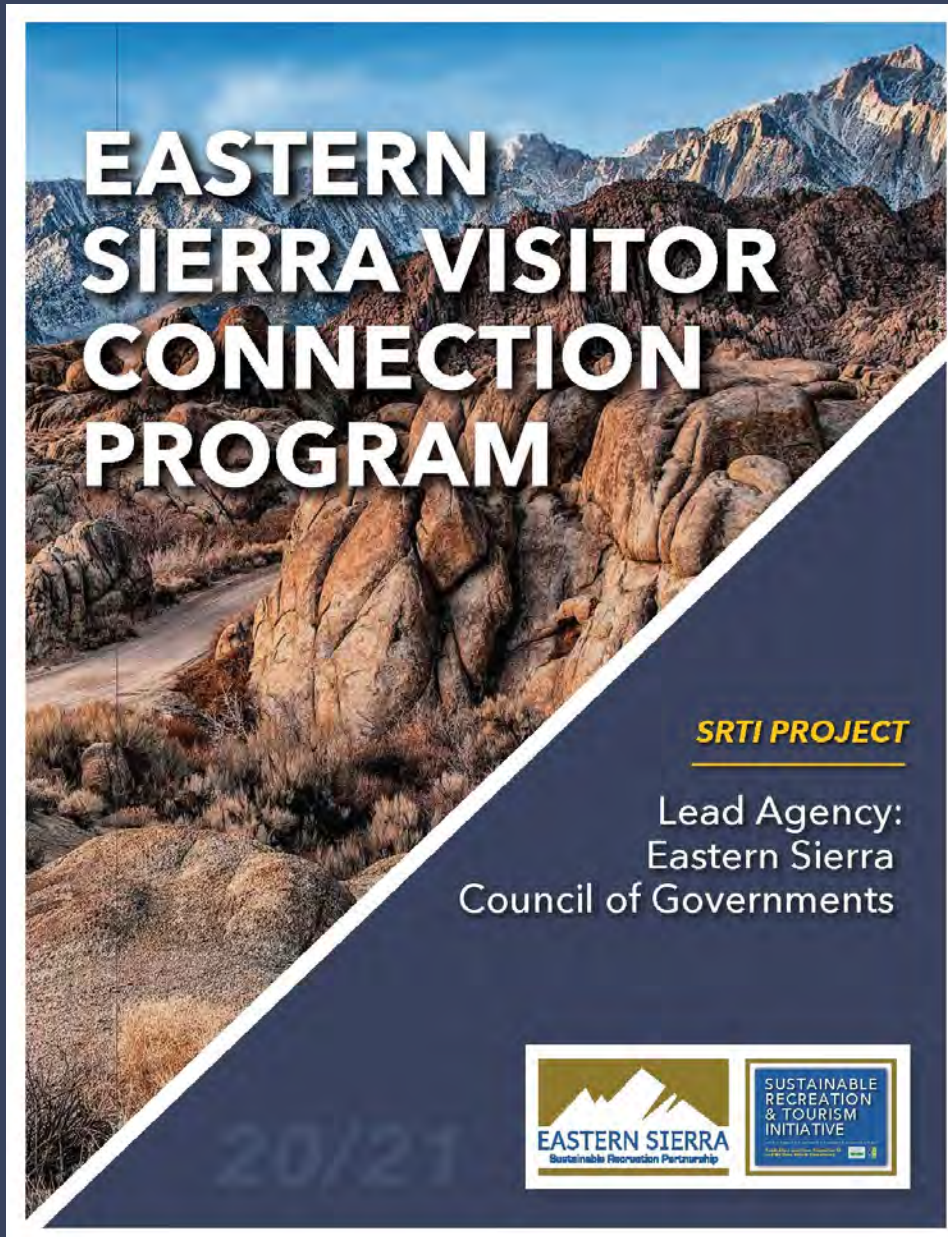
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MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



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Date: Mar

Goals a

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long-term

- Primary
- Second
- Long-term wildfire

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Geo-fencing
Therefore,
overall met

Geographic location of the target audience



MEDIA CONTACT:

Justin Caporusso/Caporusso Communications
justin@caporussocommunications.com
(916) 412-0571

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eastern Sierra Mussel Prevention Collective to Launch Pilot Program This Labor Day Weekend to Protect Local Waters from Invasive Species

EASTERN SIERRA, Calif. - (August 26, 2025) – A new coalition of federal and state agencies, and local governments, the Eastern Sierra Mussel Prevention Collective, announced today that it will establish two watercraft inspection and decontamination (WID) stations over Labor Day weekend. This pilot project is a proactive effort to protect the region's pristine lakes and rivers from the rapidly spreading threat of aquatic invasive species (AIS), including the recently detected Golden Mussel.

The Eastern Sierra Mussel Prevention Collective is a joint effort between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the U.S. Forest Service, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Southern California Edison, Mono County, and Inyo County.

The two WID stations will operate over the busy holiday weekend to intercept boaters and other watercraft users traveling into the Eastern Sierra. The stations will be located at:

- Mono Basin Visitor Center in Lee Vining.
- Diaz Lake, just south of Lone Pine.

The schedule for the stations will be as follows:
Friday, August 29 - Monday, September 1
7:00 am - 5:00 pm

The goal of this pilot program is to develop a framework and test logistics for WID stations in 2026 in not only these two locations but possibly others.

The primary purpose of this initiative is to prevent the spread of Golden Mussels and other AIS. The Golden Mussel, which was first detected in the U.S. in California in October 2024, poses a significant and evolving threat to the region. These mussels have rapid growth rates, can colonize a wide range of surfaces, and have been known to clog vital infrastructure, including

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2025

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MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

**EASTERN
SIERRA
REGION**

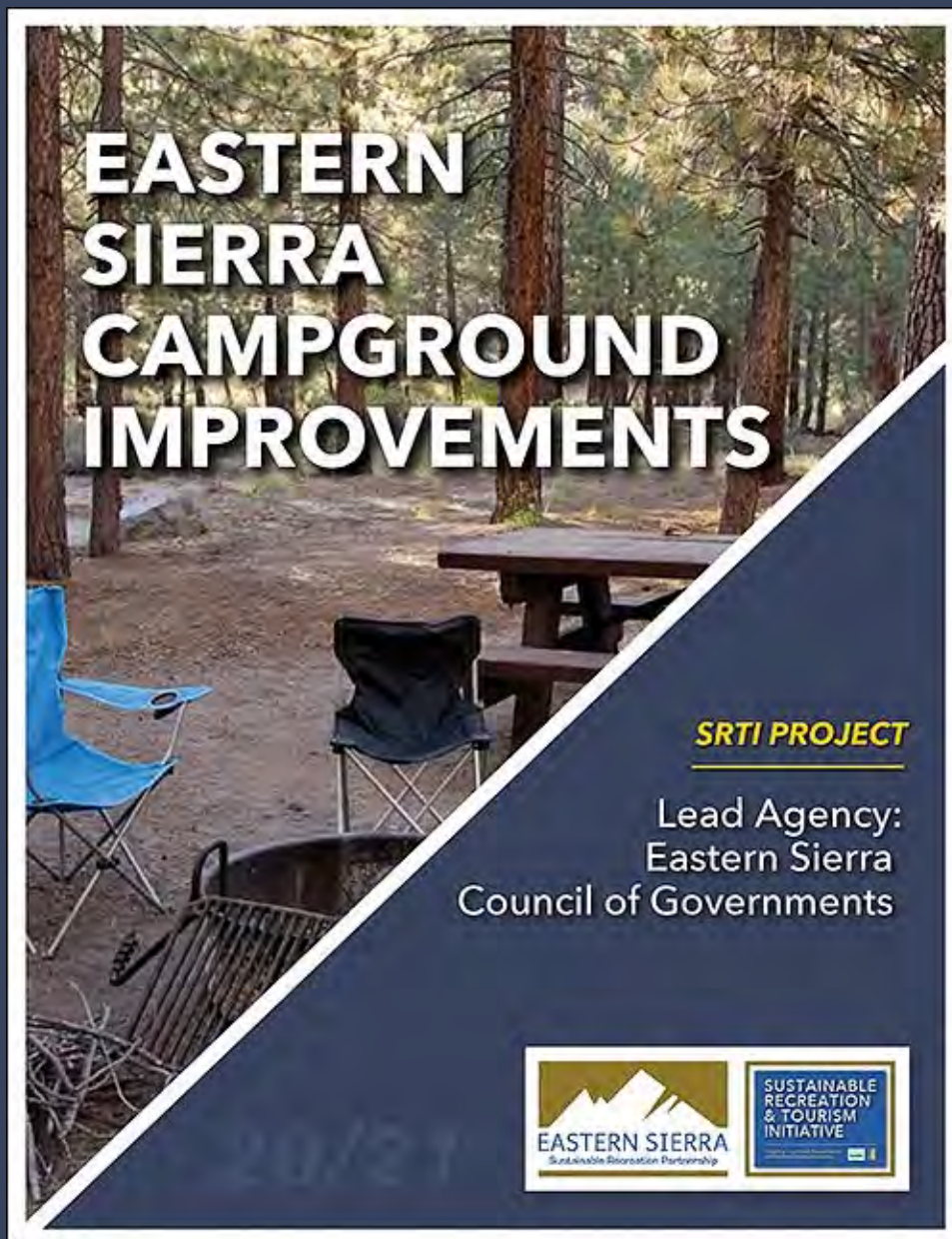
VISITOR CONNECTION PACKAGE

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 68) and in support of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



**EASTERN
SIERRA
CAMPGROUND
IMPROVEMENTS**

SRTI PROJECT

Lead Agency:
Eastern Sierra
Council of Governments

EASTERN SIERRA
Sustainable Recreation Partnership

**SUSTAINABLE
RECREATION
& TOURISM
INITIATIVE**



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

USDA Forest Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		FS-1500-19 (VER. 05/24) OMB No. 0596-0217 EXP: 05/31/2027	
MODIFICATION OF GRANT OR AGREEMENT		PAGE 1 OF 1	
1. U.S. FOREST SERVICE GRANT/AGREEMENT NUMBER: 24 CS-11050400-006	2. RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR GRANT or AGREEMENT NUMBER, IF ANY:	3. MODIFICATION NUMBER: 1	
4. NAME/ADDRESS OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE UNIT ADMINISTERING GRANT/AGREEMENT (unit name, street, city, state, and zip + 4): Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Ln., Bishop, CA 93514		5. NAME/ADDRESS OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE UNIT ADMINISTERING PROJECT/ACTIVITY (unit name, street, city, state, and zip + 4): Same	
6. NAME/ADDRESS OF RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR (street, city, state, and zip + 4, county): Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation, PO Box 100 #432, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546		7. RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR'S HHS SUB ACCOUNT NUMBER (For HHS payment use only):	
8. PURPOSE OF MODIFICATION			
CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:	This modification is issued pursuant to the modification provision in the grant/agreement referenced in item no. 1, above.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CHANGE IN PERFORMANCE PERIOD: extend to June 30, 2027		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CHANGE IN FUNDING: add \$435,000		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES: correct cooperator address		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (Specify type of modification): additional scope item		
Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the Grant/Agreement referenced in 1, above, remain unchanged and in full force and effect.			
9. ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR DESCRIPTION OF MODIFICATION (add additional pages as needed): see attached			
10. ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION (Check all that apply):			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revised Scope of Work		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revised Financial Plan		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: justification for modification		
11. SIGNATURES			
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: BY SIGNATURE BELOW, THE SIGNING PARTIES CERTIFY THAT THEY ARE THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES AND AUTHORIZED TO ACT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS FOR MATTERS RELATED TO THE ABOVE-REFERENCED GRANT/AGREEMENT.			
11.A. SIGNATURE (Signature of Signatory Official)	11.B. DATE SIGNED	11.C. U.S. FOREST SERVICE SIGNATURE	11.D. DATE SIGNED
11.E. NAME (type or print): John Wentworth	11.F. NAME (type or print): Lesley Yen		
11.G. TITLE (type or print): CEO/Board President	11.H. TITLE (type or print): Forest Supervisor		
12. G&A REVIEW			
12.A. The authority and format of this modification have been reviewed and approved for signature by:			12.B. DATE SIGNED
U.S. Forest Service Grants & Agreements Specialist			

USFS Agreement No.:	24-CS-11050400-006		Mod. No.:	1	
Cooperator Agreement No.:					
Note: This Financial Plan may be used when: (1) No program income is expected and (2) The Cooperator is not giving cash to the FS and (3) There is no other Federal funding					
Agreements Financial Plan (Short Form)					
Financial Plan Matrix:	Note: All columns may not be used. Use depends on source and type of contribution(s).				
	FOREST SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS		COOPERATOR CONTRIBUTIONS		
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Noncash	Cash to Cooperator	Noncash	In-Kind	Total
COST ELEMENTS					
Direct Costs					
Salaries/Labor	\$6,290.00	\$392,875.50	\$100,000.00	\$12,844.80	\$512,010.30
Travel	\$0.00	\$2,579.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,579.04
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies/Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other					\$0.00
Subtotal	\$6,290.00	\$395,454.54	\$100,000.00	\$12,844.80	\$514,589.34
Coop Indirect Costs		\$39,545.45	\$0.00		\$39,545.45
FS Overhead Costs	\$0.00				\$0.00
Total	\$6,290.00	\$434,999.99	\$100,000.00	\$12,844.80	
Total Project Value:					\$554,134.79
Matching Costs Determination					
Total Forest Service Share =			(f)		
(a+b) ÷ (e) = (f)			79.64%		
Total Cooperator Share			(g)		
(c+d) ÷ (e) = (g)			20.36%		
Total (f+g) = (h)			(h)		
			100.00%		

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

USDA Forest Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		FS-1500-19 (VER. 03/24) OMB No. 0596-0217 EXP: 05/31/2027	
MODIFICATION OF GRANT OR AGREEMENT		PAGE 1 OF 1	
1. U.S. FOREST SERVICE GRANT/AGREEMENT NUMBER: 24-CS-11050400-006	2. RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR GRANT or AGREEMENT NUMBER, IF ANY:	3. MODIFICATION NUMBER: 1	
4. NAME/ADDRESS OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE UNIT ADMINISTERING GRANT/AGREEMENT (unit name, street, city, state, and zip + 4):		5. NAME/ADDRESS OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE UNIT ADMINISTERING PROJECT/ACTIVITY (unit name, street, city, state, and zip + 4):	


USFS Agreement No.:	24-CS-11050400-006	Mod. No.:	1
Cooperator Agreement No.:			
Note: This Financial Plan may be used when: (1) No program income is expected and (2) The Cooperator is not giving cash to the FS and (3) There is no other Federal funding			

"... current status is that the request to approve the agreement modification is at the departmental level. Not really sure who that would be..."


REFERENCED GRANT/AGREEMENT:		11.B. DATE SIGNED		11.C. U.S. FOREST SERVICE SIGNATURE		11.D. DATE SIGNED	
11.A. SIGNATURE							
(Signature of Signatory Official)				(Signature of Signatory Official)			
11.E. NAME (type or print): John Wentworth				11.F. NAME (type or print): Lesley Yen			
11.G. TITLE (type or print): CEO/Board President				11.H. TITLE (type or print): Forest Supervisor			

12. G&A REVIEW	
12.A. The authority and format of this modification have been reviewed and approved for signature by:	12.B. DATE SIGNED
 U.S. Forest Service Grants & Agreements Specialist	


Total Forest Service Share =	(f)
(a+b) ÷ (e) = (f)	79.64%
Total Cooperator Share	(g)
(c+d) ÷ (e) = (g)	20.36%
Total (f+g) = (h)	(h)
	100.00%




moosemutlow24




MLTPA Foundation



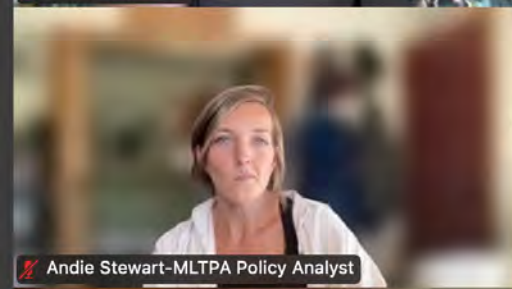
Chris Bubser, Mammoth Lakes (she/her)



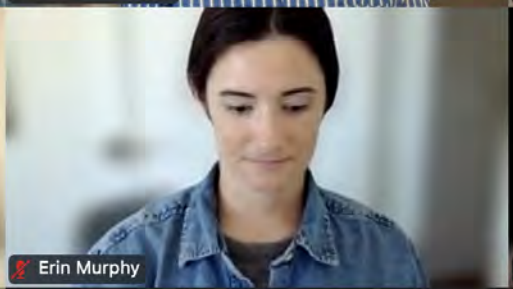
Kaela Frank | SBC



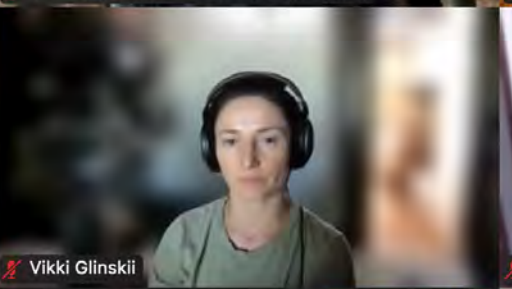
Bob Gardner



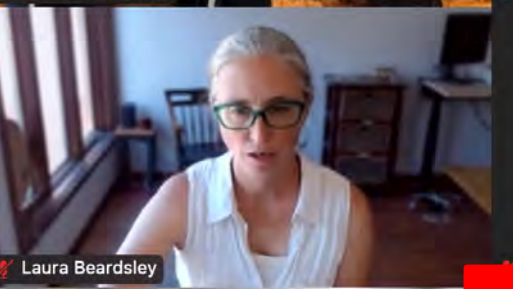
Andie Stewart-MLTPA Policy Analyst




Erin Murphy




Vikki Glinskii




Laura Beardsley



Marshall




Jane V Hsu (BACC/Bishop Climbers)




Rick Kattelmann

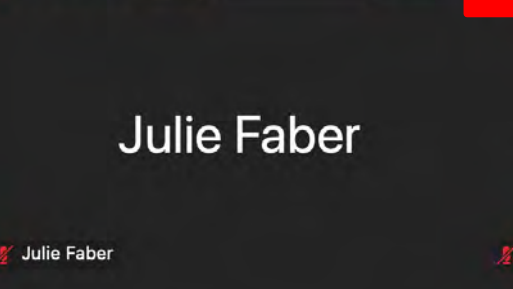
Ask to unmute



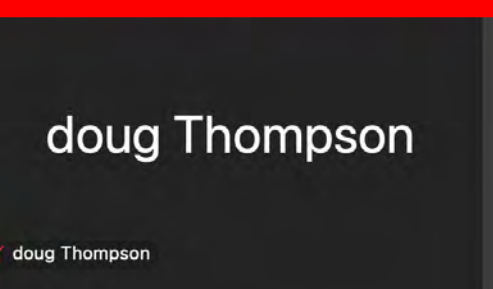
Shavati - Nevada County




Rick Kattelmann




Chelsea Taylor - MLTPA




Kevin



Darlene Schuetz (She/Her)



Kristy Williams




Andrew Mulford - Town of Mammoth Lakes

Julie Faber

Julie Faber

doug Thompson

doug Thompson



Jack Yates

Maggie Flaherty, sh...

Maggie Flaherty, she/her, BPT

Lauren Breitenbac...

Lauren Breitenbach, Caltrans D9

Adam Barnett - Iny...

Adam Barnett - Inyo NF

Bella Brownwood,...

Bella Brownwood, Sierra Business Council

From: Horvat, Chelyssa Chelyssa.Horvat@mail.house.gov
Subject: RE: ESSRP - Final Agenda + Low-Res Presentation for July 7, 2025
Date: July 7, 2025 at 5:18 PM
To: johnwentworth@mltpa.org
Cc: Vasquez, Natalia Natalia.Vasquez@mail.house.gov

Hi John,

Thank you for having Congressman Kiley on today. He really enjoyed his time with the ESSRP!

If you can provide more information for Natalia and I about the campground that is waiting for \$400,000 to be reauthorized, we would be happy to look into that issue.

Also, please feel free to share our contact information with any groups that may be

If you can provide more information for Natalia and I about the campground that is waiting for \$400,000 to be reauthorized, we would be happy to look into that issue.

Congressman Kiley)

Please, also, don't hesitate to reach out to us should you like to have Congressman Kiley on an ESSRP meeting again in the future!

Regards,

Chelyssa Horvat

Chelyssa Horvat
District Director
U.S. Congressman Kevin Kiley, CA-03
Phone: 916-724-2575
Email: Chelyssa.Horvat@mail.house.gov

CONGRESSMAN
KEVIN KILEY

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Project



Justification for Modification

24-CS-11050400-006 Inyo Campground Improvement Project

Initial agreement funds: \$163,654 GAOA from FS, \$206,671 from cooperator

Modification funds: \$435,000 GAOA from FS, \$112,845 from cooperator

The cooperator has completed the initial scope items in this agreement to provide engineering surveys and schematic designs for the renovation of six Inyo NF campgrounds. These campgrounds are long overdue for redesign and renovation to meet the needs of current visitors and to improve resilience to natural disturbances like floods and wildfires. The modification will fund the next step in the project. The cooperator will prepare a construction document package and construction cost estimate ready for bidding.

If this modification is not approved, the six campgrounds will continue to degrade, deferred maintenance costs will continue to accumulate, and the public will be unable to fully access and enjoy their public lands due to the physical limitations of the campgrounds (such as: inadequate fire clearances, parking spaces too small for modern vehicles, not meeting accessibility guidelines, campsites too small for larger families, campsites not level or comfortable, restrooms outdated, and roads too narrow for RVs and emergency vehicles). **In addition, \$2,000,000-\$4,000,000 in new local economic activity will be forgone annually if the campgrounds are not upgraded and do not meet the needs of current visitors.**

Additional Scope Item

Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) shall:

Hire, supervise, and manage a contracted landscape architecture firm that will provide a bid ready construction plan set and construction cost estimate for six campgrounds, based on the schematic designs provided in item B, that is ready for bid. Plan set to include: cover sheet, index, accessibility plan, demolition, layout and materials, dimensions and profiles, grading and drainage, restoration, details and notes.

USDA Forest Service

FS-1500-19 (VER. 05/24)
OMB No. 0596-0217
EXP: 05/31/2027

NT OR AGREEMENT		PAGE 1	OF 1
NT/COOPERATOR GRANT or NT NUMBER, IF ANY:		3. MODIFICATION NUMBER: 1	
4	5. NAME/ADDRESS OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE UNIT ADMINISTERING PROJECT/ACTIVITY (unit name, street, city, state, and zip + 4): Same		
7	7. RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR'S HHS SUB ACCOUNT NUMBER (For HHS payment use only):		
OF MODIFICATION			
to the modification provision in the grant/agreement			
extend to June 30, 2027			
operator address			
ditional scope item			
rant/Agreement referenced in 1, above, remain unchanged and in			
ATION (add additional pages as needed):			
NTATION (Check all that apply):			
GNATURES			
NING PARTIES CERTIFY THAT THEY ARE THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES R RESPECTIVE AREAS FOR MATTERS RELATED TO THE ABOVE-			
11.C. U.S. FOREST SERVICE SIGNATURE		11.D. DATE SIGNED	
(Signature of Signatory Official)			
11.F. NAME (type or print): Lesley Yen			
11.H. TITLE (type or print): Forest Supervisor			
&A REVIEW			
een reviewed and approved for signature by:		12.B. DATE SIGNED	

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

From: Kennedy, Andrew - FS, CA <andrew.kennedy@usda.gov>
Subject: REPLY DUE: SIGNATURE REQUEST, Modification for agreement (24-CS-11050400-006) between Inyo National Forest and Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation
Date: September 18, 2025 at 8:13 AM
To: johnwentworth@mltpa.org
Cc: Yen, Lesley - FS, CA <lesley.yen@usda.gov>, Barnett, Adam - FS, CA <adam.barnett@usda.gov>, Martinez-roacho, Hugo - FS, CA <Hugo.Martinez-Roacho@usda.gov>



Good Morning John,

I hope that this message finds you well.

The reason for this message is to gain your signature on the attached modification to the agreement between the INF and MLTPA, the reason that I am sending this, and not Adam, is, alas, he is away on annual leave. There are three modifications to the agreement;

1. The performance period of the agreement was extended to June 30, 2027.
2. Additional funds were added, totaling \$435,000.00.
3. Lastly, the scope of the agreement was amended to add:
 - a. Mammoth Lakes Trail and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) shall:
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Please sign the attached modification and return to this email. Grants Management Specialist Hugo Martinez-Roacho, cc'd on this message, will process the modification upon its return and we will provide a finalized modification to you for your records.

Thanks, the INF greatly appreciates you and the support of MLTPA. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Kindly,

A 1 /

From: Martinez-roacho, Hugo - FS, CA <Hugo.Martinez-Roacho@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 12:53 PM

To: Barnett, Adam - FS, CA <adam.barnett@usda.gov>; Kennedy, Andrew - FS, CA

<andrew.kennedy@usda.gov>

Subject: SIGNATURE REQUEST: 24-CS-11050400-006 MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS MOD 001

Andrew and Adam,

WO Budget has approved the commitments. Forward MOD 001 to Cooperator for signature and send it back to me so that I may obtain a signature from Lesley Yen.

Hugo Martinez-Roacho
Grants Management Specialist
Forest Service
Region 5, Office of Grants and Agreements
Hugo.Martinez-Roacho@usda.gov
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

From: Yen, Lesley - FS, CA <lesley.yen@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 8:37 AM

To: Kennedy, Andrew - FS, CA <andrew.kennedy@usda.gov>; Linse, Kimberly - FS, CA <Kimberly.Linse@usda.gov>

Cc: Barnett, Adam - FS, CA <adam.barnett@usda.gov>; Martinez-roacho, Hugo - FS, CA <Hugo.Martinez-Roacho@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: SIGNATURE REQUEST: 24-CS-11050400-006 MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS MOD 001

Agreement modification is signed. Thanks all!



Lesley Yen
Forest Supervisor

Forest Service
Inyo National Forest

p: 760-873-2550
c: 530-510-1217
lesley.yen@usda.gov

351 Pacu Lane
Bishop, CA 93514

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

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Lesley Yen
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Forest Service
Inyo National Forest
p: 760-873-2550
c: 530-510-1217
lesley.yen@usda.gov
351 Pacu Lane
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MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

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MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

USDA Forest Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		FS-1500-19 (VER. 05/24) OMB No. 0596-0217 EXP: 05/31/2027	
MODIFICATION OF GRANT OR AGREEMENT		PAGE 1 OF 8	
1. U.S. FOREST SERVICE GRANT/AGREEMENT NUMBER: 24-CS-11050400-006		2. RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR GRANT or AGREEMENT NUMBER, IF ANY: 001	
3. MODIFICATION NUMBER: 001			
4. NAME/ADDRESS OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE UNIT ADMINISTERING GRANT/AGREEMENT (unit name, street, city, state, and zip + 4): Pacific Southwest Region, Grants and Agreements 1323 Club Dr Vallejo, CA 94592-1111		5. NAME/ADDRESS OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE UNIT ADMINISTERING PROJECT ACTIVITY (unit name, street, city, state, and zip + 4): Inyo National Forest 351 Pacu Lane Bishop, CA 93514	
6. NAME/ADDRESS OF RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR (street, city, state, and zip + 4, county): MLTPA Foundation PO Box 100 Pmb #432 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546-6324		7. RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR'S HIS SUB-ACCOUNT NUMBER (For HIS payment use only):	
8. PURPOSE OF MODIFICATION			
CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:	This modification is issued pursuant to the modification provision in the grant/agreement referenced in item no. 1, above.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CHANGE IN PERFORMANCE PERIOD: extend to June 30, 2027		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CHANGE IN FUNDING: add \$435,000		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (Specify type of modification): additional scope item		
Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the Grant/Agreement referenced in 1, above, remain unchanged and in full force and effect.			
9. ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR DESCRIPTION OF MODIFICATION (add additional pages as needed): see attached			
10. ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION (Check all that apply):			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revised Scope of Work		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revised Financial Plan		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other justification for modification		
11. SIGNATURES			
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: BY SIGNATURE BELOW, THE SIGNING PARTIES CERTIFY THAT THEY ARE THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES AND AUTHORIZED TO ACT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS FOR MATTERS RELATED TO THE ABOVE-REFERENCED GRANT/AGREEMENT.			
11.A. MLTPA FOUNDATION SIGNATURE: John Wentworth	11.B. DATE SIGNED:	11.C. U.S. FOREST SERVICE SIGNATURE: Lesley Yen	11.D. DATE SIGNED:
(Signature of Signatory Official)		(Signature of Signatory Official)	
11.E. NAME (type or print): JOHN WENTWORTH		11.F. NAME (type or print): LESLEY YEN	
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U.S. Forest Service

OMB 0596-0217
FS-1500-17B

Attachment:

USFS Agreement No.: 24-CS-11050400-006

Mod. No.: 1

Cooperator Agreement No.:

Note: This Financial Plan may be used when:
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Agreements Financial Plan (Short Form)

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Matching Costs Determination	
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Total Cooperator Share (c+d) + (e) = (g)	20.36%
Total (f+g) = (h)	100.00%

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



OUR WORK

TRAIL SYSTEMS

ABOUT US

CONTACT

SUPPORT

SUPPORT OUR WORK

OVERVIEW

CALREC VISION

SIERRA JOBS FIRST

EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

RECREATE RESPONSIBLY CALIFORNIA

TOWNS TO TRAILS PLAN


BIRPI

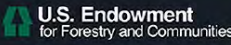


INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NATIONAL FORESTS

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND TOURISM INITIATIVE

RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE


EASTERN SIERRA RECREATION COLLABORATIVE





Innovative Finance for National Forests Program


Project Description: On May 11, 2020, MLTPA was advised that a partnered grant application with the Inyo National Forest, Inyo County, California, was selected for funding by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. The grant will support the development of a recreation infrastructure project that will improve the recreational experience for visitors to the Inyo National Forest and surrounding lands. The project will include the development of a new campground, the improvement of existing campgrounds, and the development of a new trail system. The project will also include the development of a new interpretive program and the development of a new visitor center. The project will be completed by October 2025.



U.S. Endowment

for Forestry and Communities

infrastructure, as local campgrounds are not meeting the needs of contemporary recreationists. The project has the potential to leverage non-federal capital resources for recreation infrastructure improvements, and may serve as a replicable model for other public lands. Addressing the campgrounds' need for improved recreation infrastructure and capital improvements will enhance revenues from visitors, enhance revenues to local communities, diversify business opportunities, and all while protecting natural resources and adapting and promoting resilience to climate change. On October 11, 2021, the [U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities](#) announced \$2.2 million in additional grant funding for eleven awards to support development of finance models that seek to leverage private sector capital to support resilience of the National Forest System and surrounding lands, and \$376,811 was awarded to [Quantified Ventures](#) to continue work on the Inyo National Forests Campground project.




SIGN UP

FOR

MLTPA

NEWS



SUPPORT

August 15, 2025: Grant Deadline for NFF Grant

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

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MLTPA Campground Construction Documents - Grants Portal

Grants Portal

MLTPA Campground Construction Documents

Organization Legal Name	MLTPA Foundation (Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation)	Contract Number	25-01147
Project Title	MLTPA Campground Construction Documents	Request Record Type	Innovative Finance Competitive
Matching Requirement for Applicant(Text)		Status	Submitted
Matching Requirement for Applicant		Request Owner	John Wentworth
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)	LU5KB3CH2AJ4	Submission Date	8/15/2025
		Classification	Federal Subrecipient

FINANCIAL

Funding Source Total	\$0.00	Indirect Cost Rate	
		Does org currently have a NICRA?	
		NICRA Provided	

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MLTPA Campground Construction Documents - Grants Portal

IPNF Co-creation

PROJECT NARRATIVE

IPNF Problem Statement

The opportunity for the project was identified by Inyo NF staff in the fall of 2019. In February 2020, MLTPA submitted and was awarded an IPNF Grant for the "Inyo National Forest Campgrounds Business Plan" project, USE 20-00086. In June 2021, Quantified Ventures submitted a follow-up application, "Financing Innovative Partnerships for Recreation Infrastructure," USE 21-0027, as an IPNF Pilot project. During this phase, the Inyo NF awarded a permit to a private concessionaire, securing \$3 million in private financing for campground improvements. In fall 2024, Quantified Ventures concluded their participation in the project, with the understanding that MLTPA would complete the necessary technical drawings for a Pilot project involving six campgrounds, utilizing contractors hired through a State of California Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant for "Eastern Sierra Campground Improvements." Both parties agreed that Construction Drawings were essential for identifying additional non-federal funding opportunities, necessary for a competitive bidding process to carry out campground improvements. The currently approved technical step. The currently approved grade site surveys. A key component of the project is the final and most important step of administration and subsequent funding. Alternative funding sources are critical for attracting non-federal funding to the project.

IPNF National Forest System Nexus

USFS staff have played vital roles in the project and through the Pacific Southwest National Forest Finance staff regularly attend national Conservation Finance partnership capacity through all campgrounds are not currently providing authorized agency review unit capacity with deliverables.

organizations receiving project funding have been with the project, has worked in 2019. To avoid providing leadership specialist is the project manager. Staff Officer, has been serving as the architecture firm delivered Scenic States (JNRA) daily-conscious of a campground six-person campers have encountered. ki Landscape, successfully led public National Park Service in USFS policy processing of application to NF capacity for the Construction. However, the application complete Construction end, Inyo NF is to unlock additional clarity as to how (E) will respond

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IPNF Payors

The six project campgrounds are managed by a concessionaire under a Granger-Thye Act special use permit. This authority allows for advance payment of improvement costs, "consolidated fee offsets", by the permittee against future revenue. The Inyo NF expects the permittee to contribute \$3 million to construction contracts once this project's bid packages are complete. In addition, the expansion of the awarded Inyo NF concession permit includes seven additional facilities, increasing revenue available for campground project construction and allowing for the advance purchase of five new vault toilets identified in the Schematic Plans funded by the project to date, an additional \$600,000 value. The first pages and the signature page of the campground concession permit, showing the facilities included and the permit term, are included in this application as the "payor letter of support." The balance of the permit includes confidential/proprietary information that cannot be shared publicly.

IPNF Financing Sources

Financing and/or upfront capital will not be required for this project.

IPNF Project Description

Six active campgrounds on the Inyo National NF have been identified to serve as the project's Pilot, including

U.S. Forest Service

Attachment:

USFS Agreement No.:

24-CS-11050400-006

Mod. No.:

1

Cooperator Agreement No.:

Note: This Financial Plan may be used when:

- (1) No program income is expected and
- (2) The Cooperator is not giving cash to the FS and
- (3) There is no other Federal funding

Agreements Financial Plan (Short Form)

Financial Plan Matrix:

Note: All columns may not be used. Use depends on source and type of contribution(s).

	FOREST SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS		COOPERATOR CONTRIBUTIONS		(e) Total
	(a) Noncash	(b) Cash to Cooperator	(c) Noncash	(d) In-Kind	
COST ELEMENTS					
Direct Costs					
Salaries/Labor	\$6,290.00	\$392,875.50	\$100,000.00	\$12,844.80	\$512,010.30
Travel	\$0.00	\$2,579.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,579.04
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies/Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other					\$0.00
Subtotal	\$6,290.00	\$395,454.54	\$100,000.00	\$12,844.80	\$514,589.34
Coop Indirect Costs		\$39,545.45	\$0.00		\$39,545.45
FS Overhead Costs	\$0.00				\$0.00
Total	\$6,290.00	\$434,999.99	\$100,000.00	\$12,844.80	\$554,134.79
Total Project Value:					\$554,134.79

Matching Costs Determination

Total Forest Service Share =	(f)
(a+b) ÷ (c) = (f)	79.64%
Total Cooperator Share	(g)
(c+d) ÷ (e) = (g)	20.36%
Total (f+g) = (h)	(h)
	100.00%



Dear MLTPA Foundation (Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation),


Your application for the MLTPA Campground Construction Documents project has been received. We will review and be in touch regarding next steps.


Thank you for your submission.

Regards,

United States Endowment for Forestry and Communities
subawards@usendowment.org
864-233-7646

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

From: Barnett, Adam - FS, CA adam.barnett@usda.gov 
Subject: RE: [External Email]MLTPA - Additional MLTPA Contributions for CCSA Amendment
Date: July 23, 2025 at 12:34 PM
To: John Wentworth johnwentworth@mltpa.org
Cc: Kristy Williams kristywilliams@mltpa.org, Erin Murphy erinmurphy@mltpa.org, Barnett, Adam - FS, CA adam.barnett@usda.gov



Hi John, unfortunately, I think we need to reassess the timing for this project. Looking at the NEPA file for the campgrounds, I see that we still need to complete formal tribal consultation and some degree of public scoping. I mistakenly thought that this was done already. There is no way to get that done before Aug 15 for the IFNF RFP. So, the final NEPA decision would have to wait until this winter.

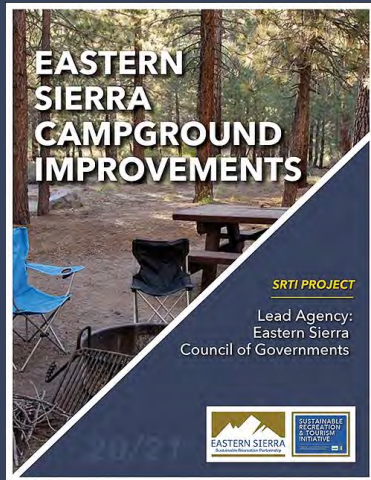
~~We can still try to add funds to the agreement, but we wouldn't want to finalize the construction bid package until tribal consultation and public scoping were completed. As I've said before, I also think the odds of getting the agreement modified before the end of FY25 are pretty low due to capacity constraints and new layers of approval needed, but I think it is still worth trying since the GAOA funds might go away at the end of FY26 otherwise.~~

To modify the existing Challenge Cost Share agreement, we need to show at least 20% contribution from MLTPA. That's about \$80k for the mod. The contribution needs to be made during the performance period of the agreement which started 4/23/2024. Can you provide a breakdown similar to the one below that we used for the original agreement budget to account for an additional \$80k+ contribution by MLTPA?

I'm available to discuss today or Friday. I'm in the field all day tomorrow.

Thanks

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects





CALREC Vision



California Wildfire and Recreation

THE WILDFIRE THREAT IS REAL.

Recreation can help.



CALIFORNIA VALUES ARE AT RISK.

Wildfire, climate change, and federal priorities threaten California's sustainable outdoor recreation, public lands, and way of life.



Our Solution...

California's Joint Strategy For Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience

Adopt It NOW!



A Joint Strategy for California

Led by the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTAP), "California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience" is a bold, action-ready Joint Strategy that transforms recreation infrastructure and programming into community defense against climate-driven wildfire.



The wildfire threat is REAL.

Recreation can help.

ACT NOW

Climate change is reshaping familiar terrain, wildfire risk is rising, and federal policies now prioritize natural resource extractions over all else. California's ecosystems, our outdoor recreation infrastructure, economy, and way of life are all at risk.

This matters to you.



Our Landscape Defines Us

From Yosemite's granite cliffs to Big Sur's rugged coast, California's landscapes define who we are. But did you know that over 50% of California's landmass is managed by the federal government? The health of these federally managed places determines the health of our communities and economies. Wildfire, underfunding, and poor management threaten not only our iconic scenery but also the recreation infrastructure that keeps these lands accessible.

Outdoor Recreation in California is Being Dismantled

California has no dedicated statewide recreation infrastructure. We have always relied on the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and other federal agencies to manage recreation programs and infrastructure on their lands. While recent efforts to sell public lands have stalled, the future is uncertain. Communities must act now to preserve trails, public access, and their outdoor recreation economies.



*CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California, 2020.

Outdoor recreation in CA generates

\$81.5 BILLION

(Outdoor Industry Association, 2023).

and supports

545,000 DIRECT JOBS

California Values are at Risk

California's identity is rooted in stewardship, innovation, and equitable access to the outdoors. Conservation goals such as 30x30, nature-based climate solutions, and inclusive recreation are essential to our way of life. These values are at risk when federal priorities emphasize resource extraction over sustainable outdoor recreation.

50% of CA's landmass is managed by the federal government

Recreation Infrastructure is Economic Infrastructure

Outdoor recreation is a cornerstone of California's economy. California Jobs First is a statewide economic framework that calls for building regional economies rooted in local strengths. In many communities, outdoor recreation is that strength. Investing in trails, campgrounds, and public access creates job opportunities, attracts visitors, and keeps small businesses thriving.

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

- Amador County
- Butte County
- Calaveras County
- City of Bishop
- City of Truckee
- CSAC
- Humboldt County
- Madera County
- Marin County
- Mariposa County
- Motherlode Job Training Center
- Nevada County
- Placer County
- Plumas County
- RCRC
- Sierra County
- Tuolumne County

CALREC Vision

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

STAND UP FOR CALIFORNIA. ADOPT THE JOINT STRATEGY.

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

[DOWNLOAD THE FACT BOOKLET](#) [WATCH THE OVERVIEW VIDEO](#)

TOOLKIT FOR ADOPTING THE JOINT STRATEGY

Everything your community needs to adopt California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience.

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



Other Events & Important Dates

Under the Redwoods: Sempervirens Fund Webinar Series

In this webinar series, Sempervirens invites experts and thinkers to join them to explore our magnificent redwood forests, what makes redwoods so special, why they thrive here and nowhere else in the world, and what they mean to us in our lives. **Webinars are the last Tuesday of each month (January - October) from 1 - 2 PM PT.**

- [Register for the July 26th Webinar:](#) Researching Redwoods, Michael Jones, Ph.D., Univ. of California
- [Learn more >>](#)

Winter Wildlands Alliance Grassroots Advocacy Conference

September 11-14th, 2025

With climate disruption, agency underfunding, and mounting pressure on our public lands, this year's conference will explore how we can build more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable systems for the future. Expect dynamic workshops, engaging panel discussions, shared meals, and plenty of time for music and outdoor fun in the spirit of "summer camp for winter advocates."

- [Learn more and register here.](#)

BRING SOME
OF THESE!



Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) is providing these communication services.

MLTPA Foundation, P.O Box 100 PMB #432, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)

Partner Updates – In Alphabetical Order

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

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

Thank You - !

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