



# Winter



# REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



January 5, 2026





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January 5, 2026



Recording in Progress

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

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

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

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



# What is the ESSRP



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

# What is the ESSRP

Alpine

## SIERRA WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS

CALIFORNIA  
JOBS FIRST  
Sierra Region

SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA  
AN INITIATIVE OF SFJ

MLTPA  
MAMMOTH LAKES TRAIL & PUBLIC ACCESS



### Sierra Jobs First

#### Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

- Role of the ESSRP
  - Ongoing Information Sharing
  - SJF Recreation and Tourism Working Group Updates
  - Through September 2026

# What is the ESSRP

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### Sierra Jobs First

### Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

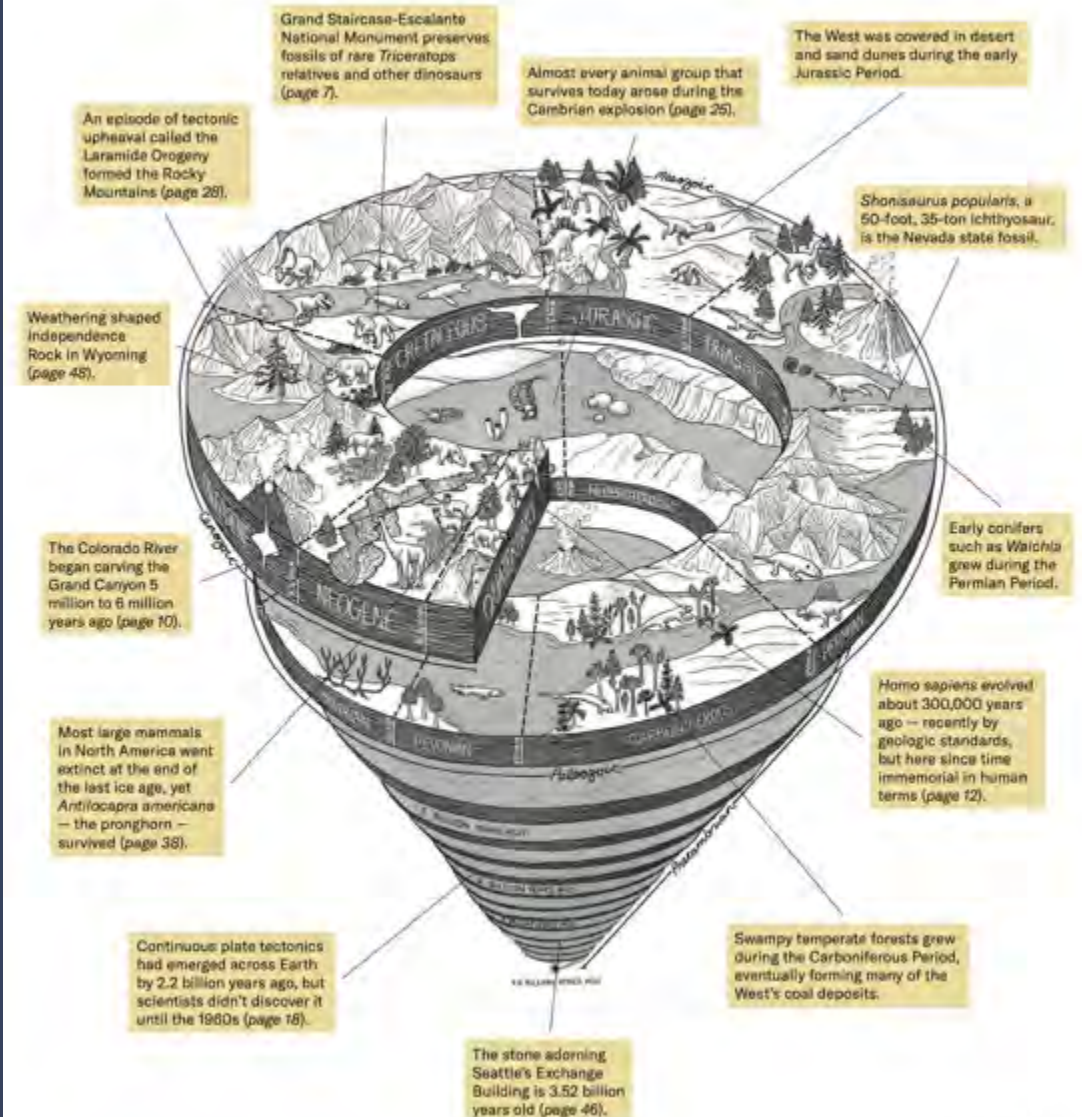
- Role of the ESSRP
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  - Through September 2026



# High Country News



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





# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



## Inyo National Forest

Lesley Yen – *Forest Supervisor*

- October 2020 – January 2026
- “Thanks for letting me join you on the trails for awhile. It’s been an honor to be your Forest Supervisor.”

# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



## Inyo National Forest

Taro Pusina – *District Ranger*

- White Mountain Ranger District
- " ... for personal reasons I'm retiring... again!"



# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

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

## WEATHER

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

By Megan Cassidy, Lucy Hodgman, Staff Writer

Updated Dec 27, 2025 8:23 a.m.

Gift Article f X T M



The Town of Truckee the morning after a winter storm on Friday. The Tahoe and Truckee regions were impacted with blizzard-like conditions that resulted in significant snowfall to the area.

William Hais iStock for the S.F. Chronicle

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

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

## BAY AREA

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

By Jessica Flores, Lucy Hodgman, Staff Writer

Updated Dec 27, 2025 8:24 a.m.

Gift Article f X T M



A sinkhole developed along California Highway 2 in Wrightwood (San Bernardino County) on Wednesday.

Kyle Smit/For the S.F. Chronicle

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

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

# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

Instagram

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Mammoth Lakes, California



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

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



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# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

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Home > News > Local > Snowmobiler Injured In Sierra Nevada Avalanche

## Snowmobiler Injured In Sierra Nevada Avalanche

By B.J. Hansen — Published Dec 30, 2025 12:17 pm



Avalanche Near Latopie Lake

[View Photo](#)

Bridgeport, CA — A group of snowmobilers near Latopie Lake in the Bridgeport area experienced a major avalanche.

The Mono County Sheriff's Office said the avalanche happened at around 11 a.m. on Dec. 29. It was triggered by a snowmobiler at the higher end of severity and caused structures and snapped trees. The SAR team, and was in the area.

Several agencies responded to the injured snowmobiler to assist with the rescue.

The name of the victim or the extent of the injuries was released. The six other snowmobilers escaped the Recreation Area parking lot via their snowmobiles.

No additional details are available.

The search and rescue team put out a statement urging caution in the snow conditions as the avalanche conditions exist\* this time of the year.

Written by BJ Hansen.

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News Obituaries Opinion Sports Special Sections Best Of Classified

## Tahoe residents help rescue snowmobiler in Mono County avalanche





# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

## Power Outage Update: Mono County Remains Without Power from Mono City to Bridgeport No Update From SCE

by News Staff | Dec 26, 2025 | Local News, Mono County | 0 comments

### Power Outage Update: Mono County Remains Without Power from Mono City to Bridgeport

Sierra Wave Media has confirmed with the Mono County Sheriff's Office that power has still not been restored to areas between Mono City and Bridgeport. As of the latest update, there has been no official word from Southern California Edison regarding when power will be restored.

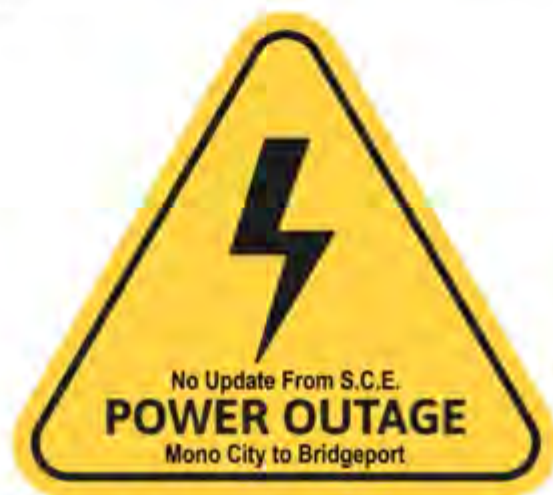
When asked about the timeline for resolution, the Sheriff's Office reported that they have not received any communication from the utility company. Residents in the affected areas are advised to stay prepared for continued outages and await further updates. According to Southern California Edison's website, there are currently over 31 confirmed power outages across the state.

In response to the ongoing situation, the Warming Center has been relocated to the Lee Vining Community Center. Other locations like the Bridgeport Memorial Hall and June Lake Community Center are also designated as Warming Centers. As of now, power remains out from June Lake through Bridgeport, with the exception of Lee Vining, which still has power.

For those in need of shelter, please contact Mono County Dispatch at 760-932-7549, option 7.

Stay tuned for more details as the situation develops.

Southern California Edison, clearer communication with local authorities regarding restoration timelines and recovery plans would be greatly appreciated.



## County warming shelters open amid ongoing power outages

Mammoth Times Staff | Jan 1, 2026



While most of June Lake and Bridgeport have seen their power restored after days of outages following the Christmas Eve storm, a handful of residents are still without power, according to the Mono County Sheriff's Office.

With another storm brewing, Mono County has opened warming centers in June Lake and Bridgeport, where county staff are available to help connect residents with needed resources.

The warming center at June Lake Community Center, 90 W. Granite Ave., will remain open as an overnight warming shelter as needed.

The second center is open at Bridgeport Memorial Hall, 73 School St. N.

Anyone who needs sheltering support or additional assistance is urged to call the Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch at (760) 932-7549, ext. 7.

For additional updates, preparedness information and community resources, visit the READY Mono portal at [ready.mono.ca.gov](https://ready.mono.ca.gov).



### Tags

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# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

the  
sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

Saturday, January 3, 2025

FREE

Vol. 24, No. 1

PAST SHITTY WEEK

HEADLINES

PEOPLE

PERSONALS

REAL ESTATE

YEAR IN REVIEW

2 | LOCAL NEWS

www.thesheetnews.com

THE SHEET | Saturday, January 3, 2025

## THE SHITTY WEEK THAT WAS

Santa delivered nearly five feet of snow just before Christmas in Mammoth Mountain Ski Area in less than 36 hours. Though forecast as a "Christmas miracle," it instead brought a series of mis-

adventures, an avalanche occurred on Lincoln Lake. Murphy, an avalanche mitigation worker on the day they were transported to Mammoth area. His colleague was evaluated for

about operations for the day "due to a incident publicly around 11:30 a.m. a social media that Murphy had died

live, it was his place of purpose, his family wrote in a message, included at

tern Sierra Avalanche Center forecasted and an avalanche warning for the area. beneath slopes steeper than 30 de-

avalanche on Lincoln Mountain earlier was killed after being caught in a slide of snow in 16 hours. (See p. 7 for the

ditions. massive storms following a recorded only 24 inches of snow in

Monday, Dec. 27, 3, 11, 13, 16, 17, 23, and the Village. single terrain primarily in Eagle and

to long, standard lift lines. ending in additional lifts and terrain

alone," wrote Juan Lynch MMSA Vice

to the Street. in the combination of holiday crowds

terrain. However, it did issue full

and, and in some cases below that

pushed, were able to access more

lifts open," Lynch wrote. "Ten days

to visit, the resort had far less terrain

where there were several patrols

Coke's family and ends often

to do this. We have enough paral-

se series. opening Chairs 1, 2, 3, 6, 16, 22, 25,

ing terrain at Main Lodge.

known as "Every Day Day," died

Mountain Ski Patrol was dispatched to

scans skier found upside down in deep

severe began working to unfree the

g measures, including cardiopulmo-

blocks using an automated external

the skier was transported by air-lift

was pronounced dead

in years, then named as Bishop before

thod Albert as a "Carpenter, govern-

ers. He shows up pretty much daily

sheet

News, Views & Culture of the Eastern Sierra

"These are people of the land. The com-

monest day of the New Year. You know

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Ted Carleton

Paige Fisher

Ulla-Britt Libre

Harold Hartley

Jon Klusmire

Spike Todd

P.O. Box 8888

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

706.937.4613 (jackhinchey@yahoo.com)

An additional paper of general circula-

tion, © 2025 The Sheet, all rights reserved.

fully buried by the avalanche; according to the sheriff's office, Officer was on duty

had already dug the person out, but the victim required immediate medical care

and was admitted to a trauma center in Reno.

Mono County Search and Rescue established a base at Bryant Field in Bridge-

port and mobilized volunteers from across the county, including teams on

powder-capable rescue sleds. A California Highway Patrol helicopter from Fresno

also responded but was released after crews confirmed there were no additional

injured or buried individuals.

Power Outage in North Mono County

June Lake and Bridgeport residents endured days without electricity over the

Christmas holiday as prolonged power outages left many without heat, light, or

essential services during freezing winter conditions.

The outage began Christmas Eve, affecting communities from June Lake north

through Bridgeport, and continued through Monday, Dec. 28.

With no estimated restoration time provided for much of the outage, Mono

County officials opened warming centers at the June Lake Community Center, Le

- Mono County Avalanche
- Power Outage
- Skier Death
- Patroller Death

in Bridgeport, which lasted and critically injured one person.

Around 11 a.m. Sunday, the Mono County Sheriff's Office search and rescue

team received a call for a 103 avalanche near Latopie Lake. A 103 avalanche is con-

sidered "very large" and runs the length of about 10 football fields (~3,000 ft).

Two helicopters were dispatched to the scene. A Battle Born Medicine helicopter

out of Canon City, Nevada, arrived first and located one person who had been



# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

## THE SHITTY WEEK THAT WAS

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### Skier Dies at MMSA

A local skier, Raymond John Albert Jr., 71, known as "Every Day Ray," died Christmas Day, resort officials confirmed.

At approximately 12:45 p.m., Mammoth Mountain Ski Patrol was dispatched to Chair 8 after receiving a report of an unconscious skier found upside down in deep snow off of the Hully Gully trail. Guests at the scene began working to unbury the skier before patrol arrived.

Ski patrol immediately initiated life-saving measures, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and administered shocks using an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Emergency care continued on scene until the skier was transported by ambulance to Mammoth Hospital, where the skier was pronounced dead.

Albert lived in a Mammoth condo for many years, then moved to Bishop before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patrick Bernard of Mammoth Lakes described Albert as a "Carpenter, green-thumb, good guy, loved America and Fox News ... He drove up pretty much daily and lived up to his name 'til the end."





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NEWS

### Mammoth Mountain Ski Patroller Dies From Injuries

RIP Cole Murphy.  
DEC 29, 2025 8:33 AM EST


BY MATT LORELLI Senior Editor, Powder

0

Add us on 

Cole Murphy.  
Mammoth Mountain



mammothmountain  5d  
December 28, 2025 - 4:00PM

With profound sorrow, Mammoth Mountain confirms that the Ski Patroller who was critically injured and hospitalized Friday has died from his injuries. Cole Murphy, 30, was an experienced patroller with a deep passion for the mountains and love for his career.

We have included a message from Cole's family in the images above.



  
Mammoth





# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

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Cole Murphy.  
Mammoth Mountain

NEWS

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DEC 29, 2025 8:33 AM EST

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Add us on 

dition


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LOCAL


## California ski patroller Cole Murphy, who died in avalanche, was from Tacoma

By Jon Manley

December 31, 2025 11:36 AM  Gift Article



Murphy Family Courtesy

 Listen to this article

A California ski patroller who died from injuries suffered during avalanche control work at a California ski resort last Friday was from Tacoma.

Cole Murphy, 30, was always proud to tell people he was from Tacoma, according to his family, which still lives in the area.

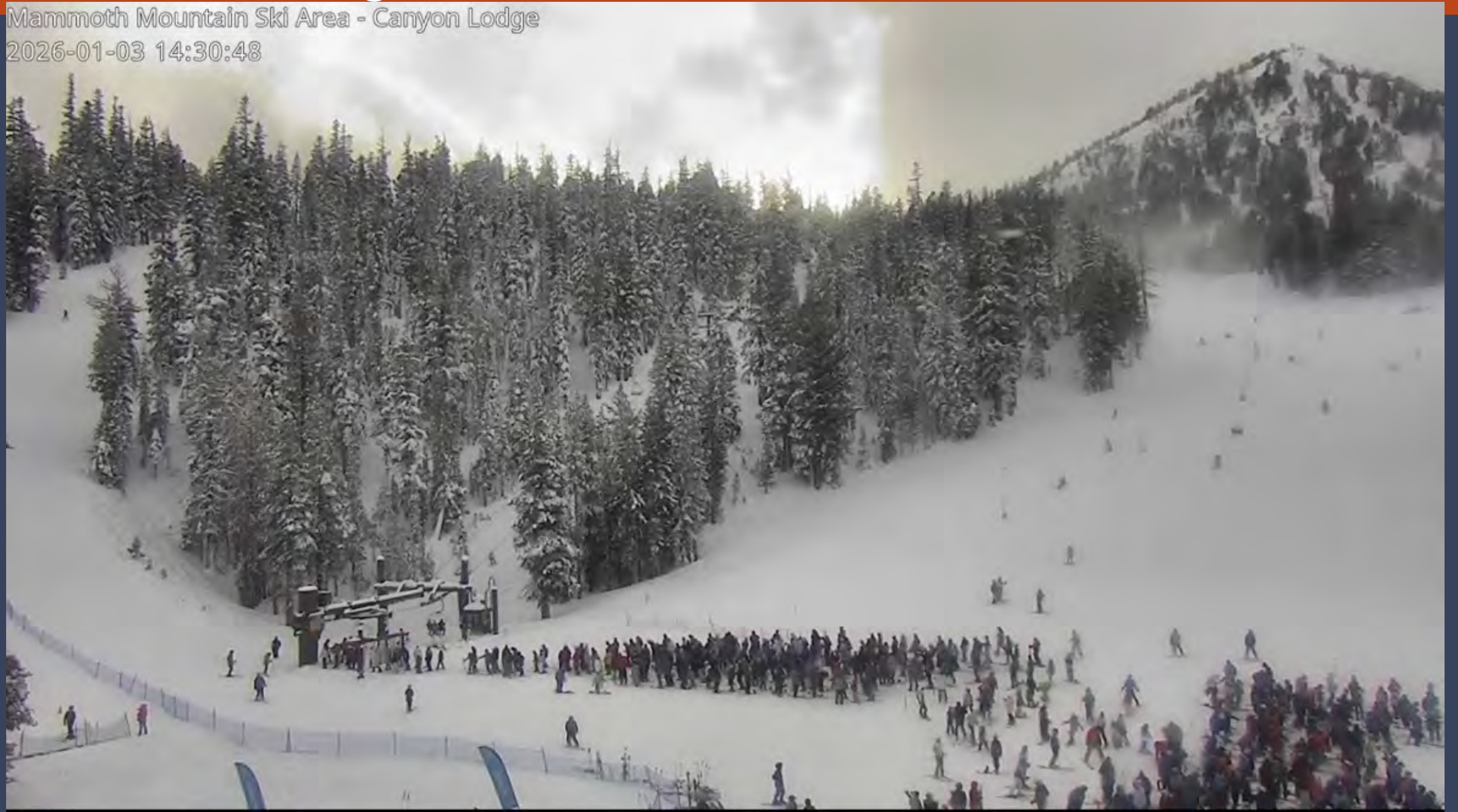
“He always wore Tacoma hats, Tacoma sweatshirts,” said Doug Andreassen, who raised Cole alongside his wife Tracy Murphy, Cole’s mom. “He followed the Seattle Sounders, other sports. People would say, ‘Hey, you’re from Seattle.’ He’d say, ‘No, I’m from Tacoma.’”



# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area - Canyon Lodge

2026-01-03 14:30:48





# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

## POWDER

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Photo: christiannatzger/Getty Images

NEWS

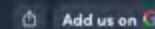
### Telluride Resumes Snowmaking, Is Working To Reopen “As Soon as Possible”

The ski resort closed following a ski patrol strike that began on December 27.

DEC 30, 2025 2:51 PM EST



BY IAN GREENWOOD Staff Writer, Powder



BUSINESS

### Businesses that rely on tourism feel the impact of Telluride Ski Resort closure

Ski patrollers have been on strike for about a week, which prompted the resort to close.



Author: Shallima Maharaj

Published: 4:43 AM MST January 2, 2026

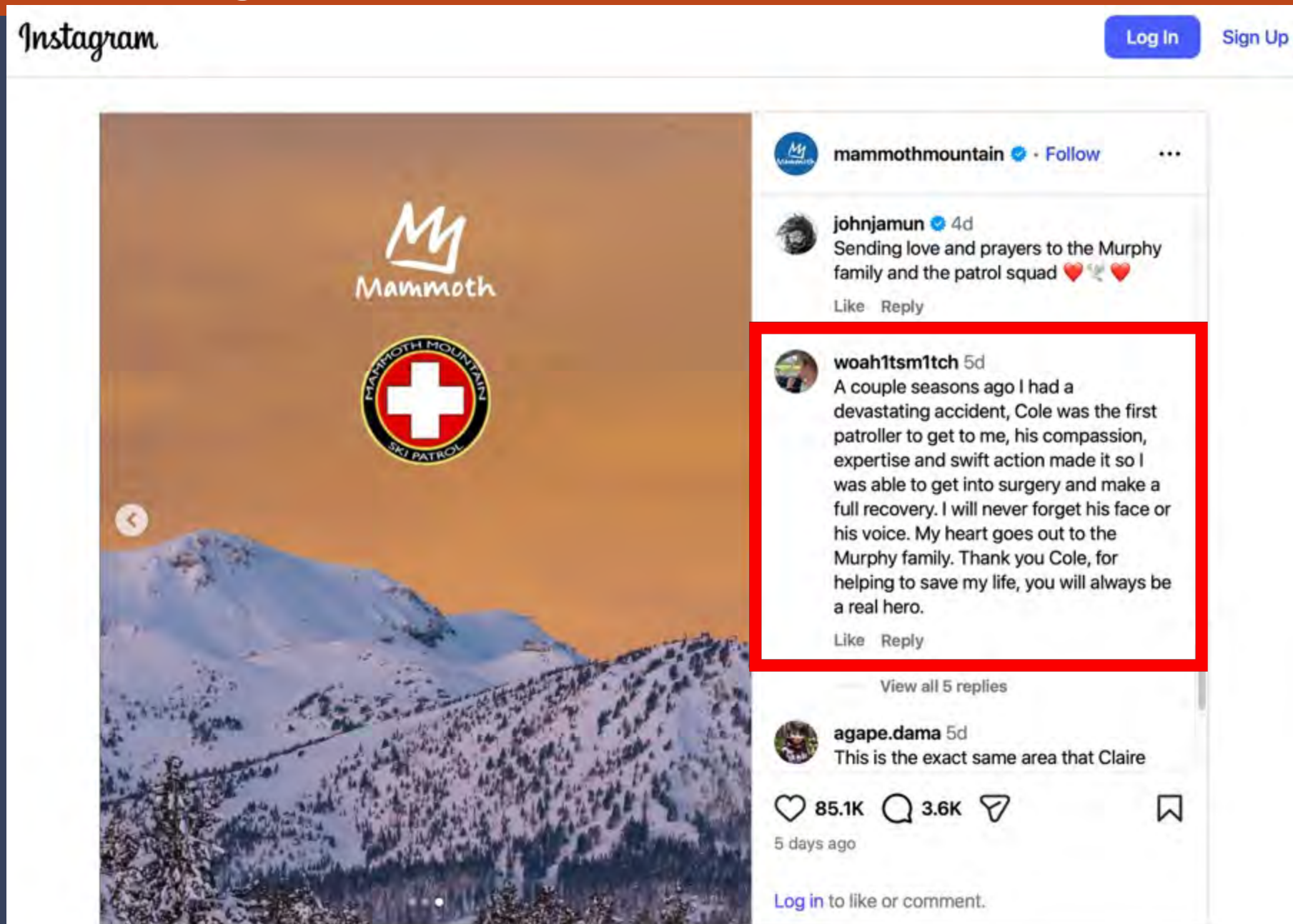
Updated: 4:43 AM MST January 2, 2026



TELLURIDE, Colo. — A strike by Telluride [ski patrollers is approaching its one-week mark](#), and with no end in sight local businesses are facing significant losses.

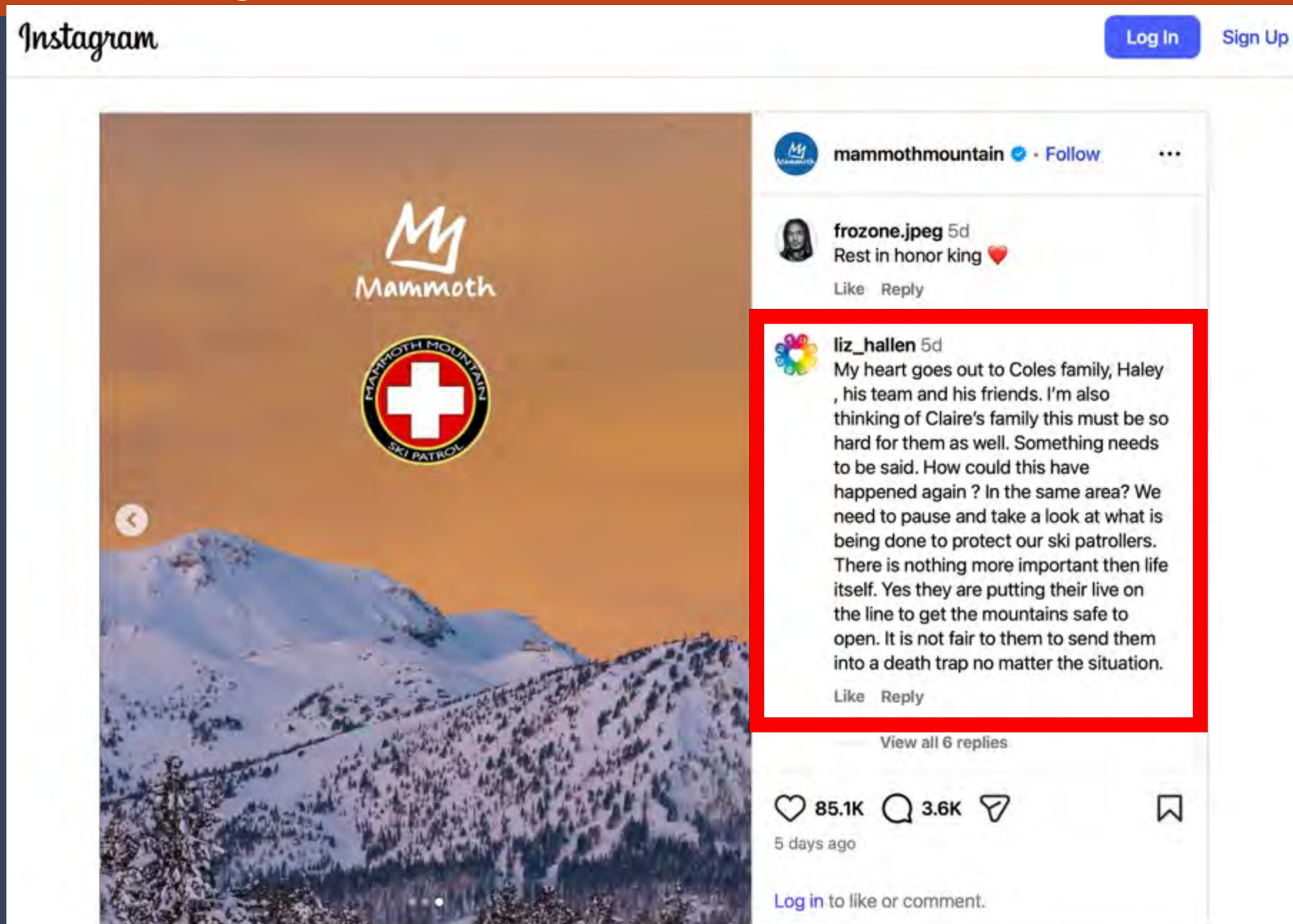
The resort closed on Dec. 27 after the ski patrol union rejected its final offer. Contract negotiations between the union and the resort broke down late last month. According to the union, members are seeking to fix a decades-old compressed wage structure, while the resort claims the union is asking for too much.

# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



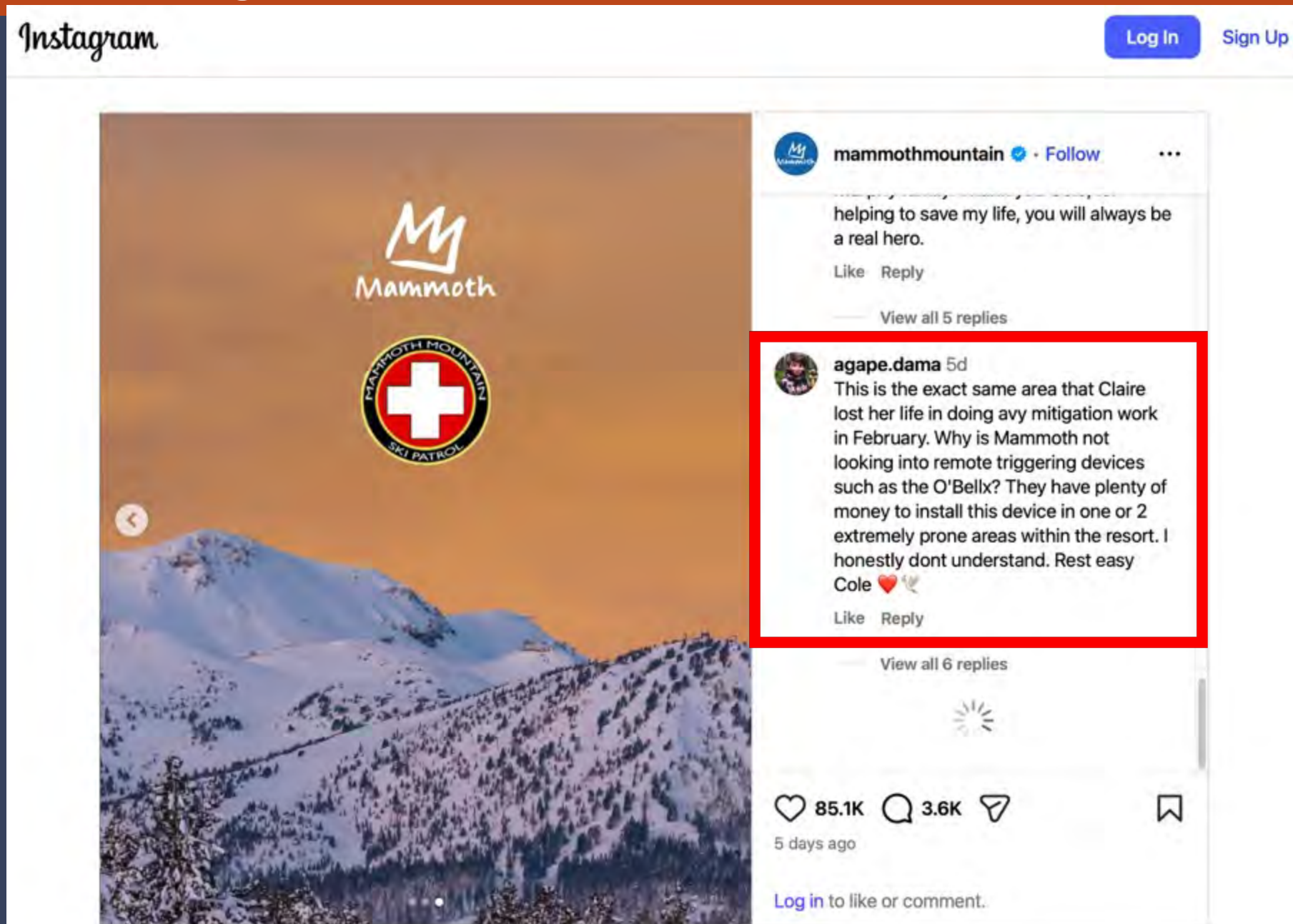


# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells





# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

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r/Mammoth + 5d ago

teechats69

RIP Cole 💔

Mammoth Mountain will have reduced lift and terrain operations on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.





Expected lift and terrain will service lower mountain only. Canyon and Eagle Lodge will open first, Main Lodge will be delayed.

439

67

Related Answers

Mammoth Mountain ski patrol incidents

Mammoth Mountain ski area updates

Mammoth Mountain death news

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
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# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells




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  r/Mammoth · 2d ago

 grapebrigade



**Mammoth has been hit by the perfect storm of crowd issues**


Holidays both lined up for 4 day weekends


A storm dropped 5+ feet of snow


The storms have mostly been snow at resort level making travel into town very doable no longterm closures on 395

A patroller died in a terrible tragedy this has hampered the opening of terrain while enhanced safety and grieving take precedence.

In a very unique circumstance Mammoth has a healthy amount of snow while the rest of the west is struggling especially Big Bear leading to eager snow sport enthusiasts migrating over.

 216



 79

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# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



SINCE 1938

SKI

STAY

SHOP

Road: Open | Parking: Available

## ALIENS AT ALTA?

By Adam Fehr | 03-31-2021 | 11 Comments

### NO, THOSE ARE NOT ALIEN SPACE SHIPS OR MICRO-MOUNTAIN LIVING PODS ON THE SLOPES OF MOUNT BALDY.

No, those are not alien space ships or micro-mountain living pods on the slopes of Mount Baldy. Those space pod-looking things are actually a very integral part of Alta's network of avalanche control systems. While most Alta skiers are familiar with Alta Ski Patrol's avalanche control work via the sounds of explosions on powder mornings, there is a lot more going on around Alta Ski Area, the slopes around the Town of Alta and the slide paths above Highway 210 in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



SKI

STAY

SHOP



Road: Open | Parking: Available



## THE EVOLUTION OF AVALANCHE MITIGATION IN UTAH

By Alta Ski Area | 12-11-2024 |



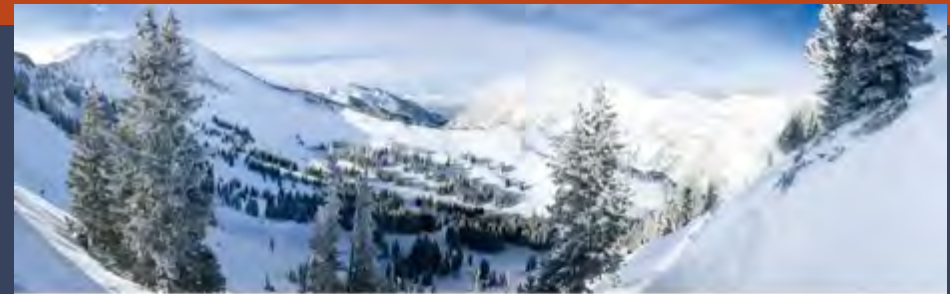
# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



## Wyssen Reference Project Wyssen Avalanche Towers Protect Alta Ski Area

Safety through innovation

**wyssen** avalanche  
control



## Wyssen Avalanche Towers Protect Alta Ski Area

Project:	Wyssen Avalanche Towers Protect Alta Ski Area
Place:	Alta Ski Area, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Utah
Country:	USA
Year:	2021 / 2022
Customer:	Alta Ski Area
Protected Object:	Ski slopes
Installed Systems:	- 9x Wyssen Avalanche Tower 12 shots

### Initial Situation

Little Cottonwood Canyon (LCC) and Alta Ski Area have a long history of avalanche mitigation. Utah State Route 210 is threatened by numerous avalanche paths as it weaves its way to Snowbird, the town of Alta, and Alta Ski Area. Today, with the ever-increasing popularity of skiing, there is frequently bumper to bumper traffic during the winter season. Avalanche professionals in LCC have a lot of pressure to keep the road and ski slopes open. The use of artillery for avalanche mitigation in the United States was started by Monty Atwater in Little Cottonwood Canyon in 1949. Since then, avalanche specific technologies have been developed worldwide, and utilized in LCC to perform avalanche mitigation missions. The first Wyssen Avalanche Tower in the United States was installed across the highway from Alta Ski Area by the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT). Alta Ski Area, UDOT, and Snowbird currently use howitzers to release avalanches. However, the United States military is recommending avalanche artillery programs seek new avalanche mitigation solutions due to aging equipment and ammunition.



Safety through innovation

**wyssen** avalanche  
control

# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

## PRESENTED BY SKI UTAH.

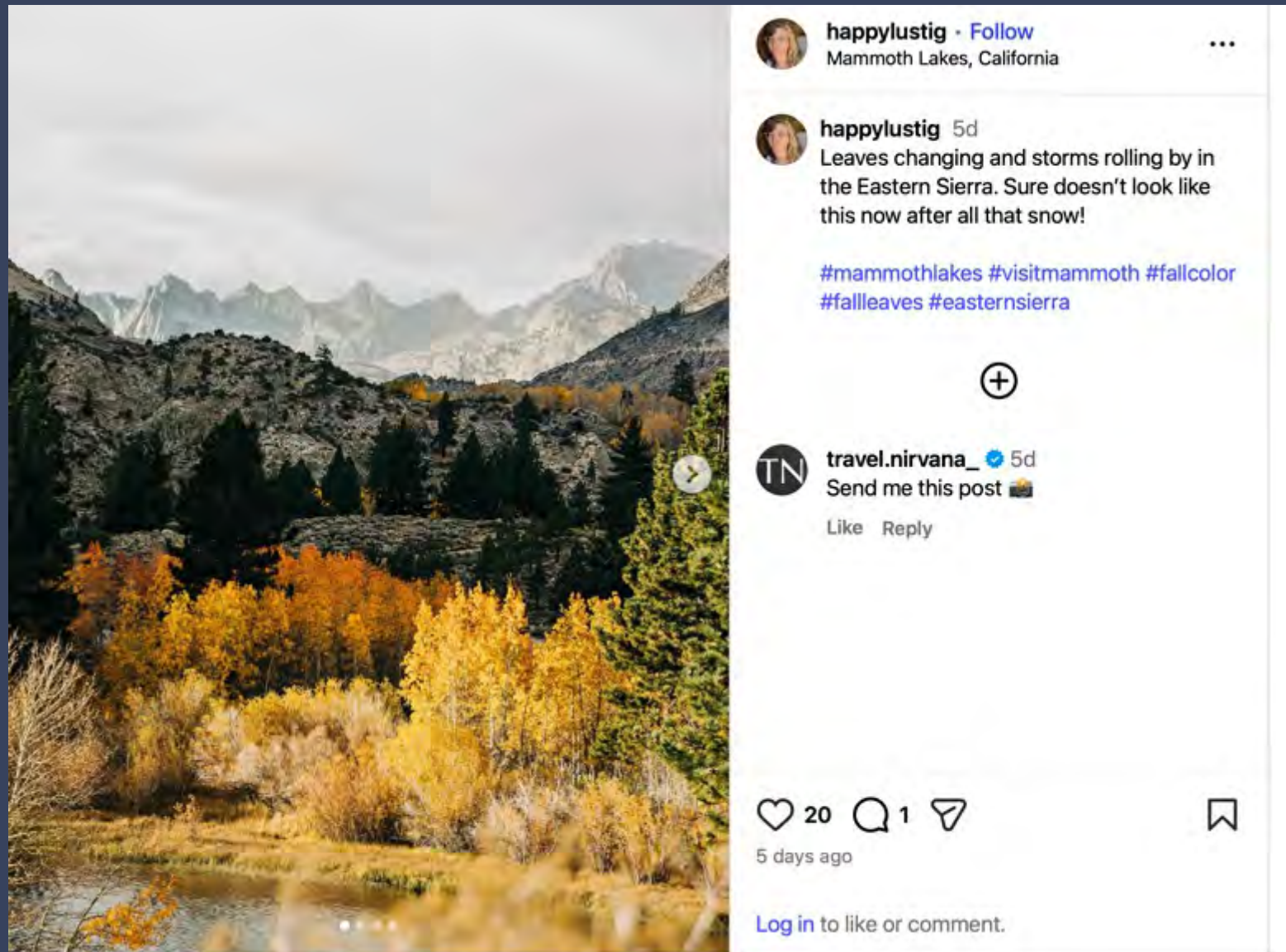
The Evolution of Avalanche Mitigation in Utah by **Ski Utah**.



Video: Tim Jones and Lexi Dowdall



# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells





# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



## Mammoth Community Foundation

*Fire Relief for the Pack Fire - McGee Creek*



Firefighters strengthen containment around Pack Fire



# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

TCD

## Experts sound alarm as disturbing phenomenon unfolds across US: 'Super concerning'

Alyssa Ochs

Sat, December 13, 2025 at 7:30 PM PST  
5 min read

384



Experts sound alarm as disturbing phenomenon unfolds across US: 'Super concerning'

Snowfall remains below average across much of the U.S., signaling a disturbing weather pattern.

Areas that typically see snow by now are warmer and drier, with snowpack levels significantly below historical averages.

### What's happening?

As KUER [reported](#), this phenomenon has been evident in northern Utah, especially in the mountains past the Salt Lake Valley. Parts of this region had only about one-third of the usual snowpack typically seen by the end of November.

TCD

## Driver shares biggest 'surprise' after test driving EV for the first time: 'The love was gone'

Leo Collis

Thu, December 4, 2025 at 10:00 AM PST  
3 min read

15



Driver shares biggest 'surprise' after test driving EV for the first time: 'The love was gone'

You may have heard about the [many benefits of electric vehicles](#). For example, they are much cheaper to refuel than gas-guzzling equivalents, and they cost less to maintain than internal combustion engine-powered cars.

What's more, they produce zero tailpipe pollution when out on the road, meaning you release no planet-warming gases when behind the wheel and don't negatively affect local air quality.

But aside from all that, EVs can also make you fall in love with driving again, as one Redditor attested.

Caltrans District 9's Post



Caltrans District 9 is with Inyo County Sheriff's Office and CHP - Bishop.

12h

State Route 190 is CLOSED from Panamint Springs to Stovepipe Wells in [Death Valley National Park](#) due to flooding. There is no estimated time of reopening. Visit <https://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/> for more information about current road conditions.



# ROAD CLOSED

## TRAFFIC REPORT IN POST



# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

TCD

## Experts sound alarm as disturbing phenomenon unfolds across US: 'Super concerning'

Alyssa Ochs

Sat, December 13, 2025 at 7:30 PM PST  
5 min read

384

TCD

## Driver shares biggest 'surprise' after test driving EV for the first time: 'The love was gone'

Leo Collis

Thu, December 4, 2025 at 10:00 AM PST  
3 min read

15

Caltrans District 9's Post



Caltrans District 9 is with Inyo County Sheriff's Office and CHP - Bishop.

12h

State Route 190 is CLOSED from Panamint Springs to Stovepipe Wells in **Death Valley National Park** due to flooding. There is no estimated time of reopening. Visit <https://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/> for more information about current road conditions.

"I have woken up every single morning since, all week, excited to drive. I love the trip. I come home happy. We're trickle charging at home, and can't imagine having it any other way—which is a big surprise! We were sure we'd need to convince our landlord to let us install a faster home charger. Nah.".

Snowfall remains below average across much of the U.S., signaling a disturbing weather pattern.

Areas that typically see snow by now are warmer and drier, with snowpack levels significantly below historical averages.

### What's happening?

As KUER [reported](#), this phenomenon has been evident in northern Utah, especially in the mountains past the Salt Lake Valley. Parts of this region had only about one-third of the usual snowpack typically seen by the end of November.

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# Hot Links January 5, 2026

- What is the ESSRP
  - Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)
  - Review the critical documents of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership
  - Origin Story
    - Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan
    - Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative
  - Sierra Works
    - Sierra Works: Discover
  - Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells
    - High Country News
      - Deep Time in the West
  - Farewells
    - Lesley Yen – Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest
    - Taro Pusina – District Ranger, White Mountain Ranger District, Inyo National Forest
  - Christmas Miracle
    - A Christmas miracle: Tahoe, Mammoth ski resorts revel in snow dumps after dry early season





# Happenings of Interest for Eastern Sierra Recreation

# Happenings of Interest



DECEMBER 4, 2025



## The time has come to declare war on AI

A few months ago, my son asked me to buy him a subscription. The product in question was something called Ground News. For \$100 a year, Ground News would assign a bias rating to any news link my son came across. He's an aspiring journalist, and he knows that the journalism industry — which I work in — is rife with misinformation, obfuscation and ulterior political motivations. The kid is only 16. He's not as media literate as his old man is. In theory, a bias sniffer like Ground News might prove valuable.

So I dug around a bit on Ground News to see if it was worth the subscription. And folks, you're not gonna believe this, but it's not. In fact, it buys some of its bias ratings straight from an AI algorithm. Once I discovered that bit of intel, I told the boy that the app was garbage.

Because AI is garbage. It's an inherently antihuman technology that is doing active harm to the now hundreds of millions of people who consume it...

[Read more »](#)



## The AI boom is heralding a new gold rush in the American west

Once home to gold and prospectors, the Nevada desert is now the site of a new kind of expansion: tech datacenters



# Happenings of Interest

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[Read more »](#)

The Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center's reservoir surrounded by desert vegetation.

Once home to gold and prospectors, the Nevada desert is now the site of a new kind of expansion: tech datacenters

can



# Happenings of Interest

POLITICO

EUROPE PRO E&E NEWS

California California Playbook California Climate California Decoded Rebuilding LA 2026 governor's race

## The brawl over the Colorado River is about more than water

The lifeblood of the West is drying up — and scrambling state and local politics.



POLITICO

### Trump officials dive into the West's biggest water war

Interior officials are losing their patience with states as the West's most important river teeters on the brink of crisis.



Colorado River water users are meeting in Las Vegas this week. | AP/ John Locher

By ANNIE SWIDER

12/17/2025 09:31 PM EST



**LAS VEGAS** — The Trump administration is turning up the pressure on Western states to cut a deal to shrink their water use as the drought-stricken Colorado River careens towards crisis.

The Interior Department's top water official on Wednesday urged the seven states that share the Colorado River to move off their hard negotiating positions and begin serious talks — or face a federal intervention that would almost certainly trigger a Supreme Court fight.

"Give your commissioners room to negotiate and room to compromise — and if you can't do that, send us representatives that have the authority to best serve your interests, but are willing to break through the barriers to get to a consensus deal," assistant Interior Secretary Andrea Travnicek said at the waterway's annual conference taking place at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

"The time for serious negotiations is now," she said.



# Happenings of Interest

POLITICO

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# Happenings of Interest

E&E DAILY

## Panel approves bill to hand public land to Utah town

The Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved a dozen land, wildfire and conservation bills during a markup Wednesday.

BY SCOTT STREATER | 12/18/2025 3A:57 AM EST



The "Brian Head Town Land Conveyance Act" from Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Mike Lee (R-Utah) cleared committee Wednesday with no resistance. (PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILIP WANG)

**E&E DAILY** | The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday approved a host of public lands and conservation bills with mostly bipartisan support.

Included among 12 bills approved at the full-committee markup was S. 1860, the "Brian Head Town Land Conveyance Act," from Chair Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Sen. John Curtis (R-Utah).

Lee's bill would hand 24 acres of federal land within the Dixie National Forest in southern Utah to the ski resort town of Brian Head. The plan passed by voice vote with almost no debate.

The town has a population of about 151 people, but it hosts about 300,000 visitors each year during the ski season, the senator said. "That kind of seasonal surge puts enormous strain on local infrastructure, especially public safety," Lee said.

The town needs the 24 acres to expand and modernize its public works facilities to store equipment, such as snow removal vehicles and public safety items, that are suffering "wear and tear" because the town is currently forced to store them outside, he said.

Brian Head



# HAPPY NEW YEAR



Have a Question?



# Happenings of Interest

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Brian Head



UTAH

**SUWA**  
SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS ALLIANCE



**SUWA  
Statement  
on Brian  
Head Land  
Conveyance  
Act Being  
Voted Out of  
the Senate  
Energy and  
Natural  
Resources  
Committee –  
12.17.25**

# Happenings of Interest

E&E DAILY

Gift article

## First permitting bills reach the House floor

House leaders are planning two weeks of debate on permitting legislation. Prospects for the marquee proposal remain in doubt.



BY KELSEY BRUGGEN | 12/4/2025 04:23 AM EST



House Natural Resources Chair Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) with Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) at the Capitol. Westerman is working with leadership on securing support for his National Environmental Policy Act bill. FRANK CHANG/PHOTOGRAPH BY AP

**E&E DAILY** | House Republican leaders are planning two weeks of floor action on permitting, starting with legislation to ease Clean Water Act scrutiny of projects and pipeline permitting reviews.

The action is a major step on the road to a broad permitting compromise that members of both parties want to pass this Congress. But deep divisions persist between and within parties.

House Natural Resources Chair Bruce Westerman (R-W.Va.), for example, has been looking to secure support for the "Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act," H.R. 4776, which would overhaul the National Environmental Policy Act. It's scheduled to reach the floor next week.

Many Democrats say it would go too far in cutting oversight of polluters and public participation. Far-right conservatives [are now saying](#) it would continue federal incentives for renewable energy.

Bills on the floor agenda this week are likely to pass easily. Some are even expected to advance with broad bipartisan backing under a process called

E&E DAILY

Gift article

## House fast-tracks public land, national forest bills

Lawmakers will vote this week to reinstate the Secure Rural Schools program.

BY FINYA SWAI, MARC HELLER | 12/04/2025 06:31 AM EST



Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) is sponsoring legislation to fast-track a House vote this week, to reinstate the Secure Rural Schools program. MARK W. HARRIS/AP

**E&E DAILY** | The House will vote this week on legislation to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools program, which provides federal payments to counties in and around national forests.

The program, typically renewed every two years, lapsed in September 2023, leaving school districts to receive much smaller amounts provided by federal timber sales.

[S. 356](#), from Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), seeks to reauthorize the program and include retroactive payments. The Senate already cleared the bill in June, and backers have been urging House leaders to act.

In some cases, counties and schools saw payments plummet by 80 percent, according to the office of Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.). In total, schools and counties in 41 states have seen a 63 percent shortfall totaling \$177 million, said lawmakers backing the bill.

"This \$177 million loss is devastating for rural communities, leading to school closures, delayed road and bridge maintenance, and reduced public safety services," said a [letter from bill supporters](#) to House leaders.

"These are not abstract policy debates; they are tangible consequences for local governments and the communities that steward untaxed federal lands," the



# Happenings of Interest

## Trump Administration's Public Lands Leadership Begins To Crumble

How an absent interior secretary, incompetence at the Forest Service, and proposed corruption for the BLM are colliding with low gas prices to throw public land management into chaos



WES SILER  
DEC 04, 2025



54



4



15

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Nothing in politics is more important than momentum. Now that the government shutdown is over, and the effects of the second Trump administration's policies are beginning to be felt in people's wallets, all eyes are on next year's mid-terms, in which Republicans themselves fear a total wipeout. Why? Unpopular, incompetent leadership and policies are destroying the programs and places Americans hold dear. Programs and places like public lands.



POLITICO

EUROPE PRO E&E NEWS



Magazine

LETTER FROM MONTANA

## 'I Didn't Vote for This': A Revolt Against DOGE Cuts, Deep in Trump Country

Trump administration policies slashing staffing and funding for public lands are waking a sleeping political giant in Montana. Will either party notice?





Opinion

# The tech fix that can clear the Western range of its barbed wire

**The Washington Post**  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*





# Bob Gardner Federal Budget Updates – January 5, 2026




## ESSRP Strategic Support

- 30 years Federal agency experience
- President of Eastern Sierra Land Trust Board of Directors
- Two term Mono County Supervisor
- Born and raised in Bishop, CA

# Bob Gardner Federal Budget Updates – January 5, 2026






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[ECONOMY](#) • [GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN](#)

## Happy New Year! There's now less than a month until the next potential government shutdown

 **By Eleanor Pringle**  
Senior Reporter, Economics And Markets

[Add us on](#)  

January 2, 2025, 6:24 AM ET



U.S. President Donald Trump signs funding legislation to reopen the federal government as he is joined by House Minority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA), House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), Republican lawmakers and business leaders, during a ceremony in the Oval Office of the White House on November 12, 2025, in Washington, DC.

WIN MCNAMEE • GETTY IMAGES



# Happenings of Interest

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NATIONAL PARKS

## Inside Utah's secret meeting to decide the fate of its national parks

Discussions focused on increasing visitation amid slashes to budget and staffing at national parks

By **Amanda Heldt**, Southwest Contributing Parks Editor  
Updated Dec 12, 2025 2:42 p.m.

f x w m



Dozens of photographers line up on Junction Bridge to photograph the sunset over the Virgin River and the Watchman mountain in Zion National Park, Utah, on Nov. 6, 2018.  
George Rose/Getty Images

On Dec. 1, an unusual closed-door meeting involving high-ranking public lands officials — but no members of the media or the public — went down in Salt Lake City. Participants included Department of the Interior officials; Utah state, county and city representatives; and national park superintendents from across Utah, Arizona and Colorado. Although early details about the gathering were scarce, a leaked agenda stated that the goal was to “provide valuable input for the future planning of our National Parks” in keeping with “the goals of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and President Trump’s agenda.”

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NATIONAL PARKS

## Yosemite National Park employees' pay to drop by as much as \$4 per hour

Park workers face a wage decrease and changes to their performance evaluations

By **Amanda Heldt**, Southwest Contributing Parks Editor  
Updated Dec 17, 2025 11:54 a.m.

f x w m



A rainbow emerges from the mist at the base of Bridalveil Fall in California's Yosemite National Park.  
Gistty Images

The National Park Service has withered under the second Trump administration, losing a large chunk of its funding and a quarter of its workforce. Heading into 2026, the country's national parks and their visitors will be safeguarded by 4,000 fewer employees, and in his 2026 budget proposal, Donald Trump asked Congress for the largest cut in the Park Service's 109-year history, amounting to more than \$1 billion.

Yosemite National Park — the sixth most-visited park, at over 4 million visitors per year — has been hit especially hard by Trump's policies, including recent changes to employee evaluations that could preclude them from raises and promotions, plus a procedural shift that will see many employees' pay decline by as much as \$4 per hour. These disruptions are straining an already exhausted staff, many of whom took on extra, unpaid work during the recent government shutdown. In addition to the immediate impact of these changes on employee well-being, the fear, many say, is that poor ratings could also be used to justify further layoffs in the future.

# Happenings of Interest

## ***National Parks Ordered to Remove Items Promoting D.E.I. From Gift Shops***

The Interior Department said that the review of retail items would ensure gift shops at national parks did not “promote specific viewpoints.”



The Zion Canyon Visitor Center at Zion National Park in Utah in August. Erin Schaff/The New York Times



By **Ashley Ahn**

Dec. 12, 2025

## ***National Parks Drop Free Entrance on M.L.K. Day and Juneteenth***

Visitors will instead get free entry on President Trump’s birthday, which coincides with Flag Day.



Grinnell Lake at Glacier National Park in Montana. The National Park Service will offer free entrance to U.S. citizens and permanent residents on 10 days next year, up from six free days this year. Josh Edelson/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



By **Gabe Castro-Root**

Dec. 8, 2025





Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FS-1262 | February 2025

## Trail Maintenance and Construction Notebook



EXCLUSIVE

## Internal Forest Service report finds 'unpassable trails, unsafe bridges'

The report, obtained by The Post, concludes public lands are deteriorating quickly after the Trump administration cut staff.

Updated December 16, 2025

5 min Summary 236

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Louis Lake within Shoshone National Forest, where older volunteers stepped up to help fill Forest Service staffing gaps created by the Trump administration. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)



By [Hannah Natanson](#)



## Trail Program Status Report

**Background:** The WO Trail Program engaged 290, mostly district-level staff, from all regions to assess current challenges to sustain trail operations and public trail access. Similar challenges are present in wilderness and developed recreation programs.

**Bottomline:** Public access, visitor satisfaction, and recreation-based economic contributions will continue to decline in 2026 and beyond without direction to prioritize investments in recreation generally and the trails program specifically. This would include action in hiring, clearer communication, and improvements around grants and agreement (G&A) management. Without this support, the agency risks losing decades of investment in trail infrastructure.

### Current Challenges & Impacts

- **Districts lost up to 100% of trail staff.** Critical vacancies, staff reassignments, seasonal hiring restrictions, and G&A delays are impeding trail maintenance and partner support. Many AmeriCorps and YCC programs are no longer available. The agency is losing out on tangible partner and volunteer contributions without the staff to coordinate and provide technical oversight. While partners and volunteers augment capacity, they cannot entirely replace agency staff.
- **Hundreds of years of trail expertise lost.** Lost skills are weakening the agency's ability to implement technical projects and oversee partner, volunteer, and contractor work, which is leading to unpassable trails, unsafe bridges, and negative environmental impacts. Skill gaps are in dry stone masonry, rigging, blasting, saw use, construction, mechanized equipment, project management, and partner/volunteer coordination. Animal packer positions are vacant and pack stock programs are at risk; both are critical to keeping wilderness trails open.
- **Widespread burnout and declining morale.** Staff report high stress, unclear priorities, poor communication, inconsistent messaging, and misalignment of priorities and resources. Public access is a department priority, but recreation and trail access programs lack support to be effective. Low morale is leading to staff departures from agency and trail program, loss of skills and capacity, and poor customer service.
- **Operational Gaps**
  - Millions of dollars of unspent grant funds have been returned due to key vacancies, no temporary workforce, and lengthy or stalled agreement processes. Districts are forgoing out-year grant opportunities, resulting in millions of dollars of unrealized future funding.
  - Many districts are unable to conduct basic trail maintenance. Front-country trails are being prioritized; backcountry trails are being abandoned. Deferred maintenance is exponentially compounding.
  - Compliance issues are rising (e.g., illegal motorized use, user-created routes, trash). The public reports missing trail signage, trees blocking access, bridges in disrepair, and tread erosion.

**Impact:** Miles maintained down 22%, miles meeting standard down 19%. Lowest accomplishments in 15 years.
- **Contracting and agreement inefficiencies.** Stalled and unfunded contracts and agreements are putting contractors and partners at risk of insolvency, damaging relationships, and reducing current and future ability to leverage federal investments and partner contributions.

### Immediate Needs

- Expedite temporary seasonal hiring, especially externally-funded. Allow for extensions of externally-funded and disaster-funded Permanent Seasonal Employee (PSE) positions. Exclude temporary seasonals from agency headcount.
- Increase G&A capacity to support the robust partnerships in the trail program
- Provide accurate, consistent messaging from leadership to all levels of the agency. Clearly articulate that recreation and trails are an agency priority.
- Consider restoring direct hire authority for Youth Conservation Corps programs.
- Invest in training in technical trail skills for staff, partners, and volunteers.
- Support continued maintenance of the TACOS mobile app for trail data, condition and accomplishment reporting.

### Voices from the Field

- "My trail program is suffering the worst morale setbacks of all my district programs." –Acting District Ranger
- "To be honest, I heavily lean toward quitting and reinvention if we go another summer without seasonals. I have never lacked for motivation for trail work until now...it feels like we are on the verge of not passing anything on for the future, and that feels like 24 years of trails and wilderness work rolling back to the bottom of the hill." –District Trail Manager
- "I have an org chart of 20 rec staff... I have 6 left... and one GS7 tech to cover 200+ miles of trails, Wilderness, and volunteer coordination." –District Trail Manager
- "We lost 200 years of trail experience this year." –Forest Recreation Manager
- "With the recent loss of so many key positions, we will lose trails that we won't be able to maintain." –Forest Recreation Program Manager
- "We were able to get through the summer doing basic clearing, which kept our overall accomplishment numbers fairly the same, but the reality is the other maintenance tasks such as drainage and brushing did not get done, which maybe wasn't an issue this year, but the cumulative effects will be worse and worse. Then we'll have a huge backlog, even worse than what it was before." –District Trail Employee



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- "My trail program is suffering the worst morale setbacks of all my district programs." –Acting District Ranger
- "To be honest, I heavily lean toward quitting and reinvention if we go another summer without seasonals."

**Widespread burnout and declining morale.** Staff report high stress, unclear priorities, poor communication, inconsistent messaging, and misalignment of priorities and resources. Public access is a department priority, but recreation and trail access programs lack support to be effective. Low morale is leading to staff departures from agency and trail program, loss of skills and capacity, and poor customer service.

### Operational Gaps

- Millions of dollars of unspent grant funds have been returned due to key vacancies, no temporary workforce, and lengthy or stalled agreement processes. Districts are forgoing out-year grant opportunities, resulting in millions of dollars of unrealized future funding.
- Many districts are unable to conduct basic trail maintenance. Front-country trails are being prioritized; backcountry trails are being abandoned. Deferred maintenance is exponentially compounding.
- Compliance issues are rising (e.g., illegal motorized use, user-created routes, trash). The public reports missing trail signage, trees blocking access, bridges in disrepair, and tread erosion.

**Impact:** Miles maintained down 22%, miles meeting standard down 19%. Lowest accomplishments in 15 years.

- Contracting and agreement inefficiencies. Stalled and unfunded contracts and agreements are putting contractors and partners at risk of insolvency, damaging relationships, and reducing current and future ability to leverage federal investments and partner contributions.

## Trail Program Status Report

**Background:** The WO Trail Program engaged 290, mostly district-level staff, from all regions to assess current challenges to sustain trail operations and public trail access. Similar challenges are present in wilderness and developed recreation programs.

**Bottomline:** Public access, visitor satisfaction, and recreation-based economic contributions will continue to decline in 2026 and beyond without direction to prioritize investments in recreation generally and the trails program specifically. This would include action in hiring, clearer communication, and improvements around grants and agreement (G&A) management. Without this support, the agency risks losing decades of investment in trail infrastructure.

### Current Challenges & Impacts

- **Districts lost up to 100% of trail staff.** Critical vacancies, staff reassignments, seasonal hiring restrictions, and G&A delays are impeding trail maintenance and partner support. Many AmeriCorps and YCC programs are no longer available. The agency is losing out on tangible partner and volunteer contributions

### Immediate Needs

- **Expedite temporary seasonal hiring, especially externally-funded.** Allow for extensions of externally-funded and disaster-funded Permanent Seasonal Employee (PSE) positions. Exclude temporary seasonals from agency headcount.
- **Increase G&A capacity** to support the robust partnerships in the trail program
- **Provide accurate, consistent messaging** from leadership to all levels of the agency. Clearly articulate that recreation and trails are an agency priority.
- **Consider restoring direct hire authority** for Youth Conservation Corps programs.
- **Invest in training** in technical trail skills for staff, partners, and volunteers.
- **Support continued maintenance** of the TACOS mobile app for trail data, condition and accomplishment reporting.

### Voices from the Field

- "My trail program is suffering the worst morale setbacks of all my district programs." –Acting District Ranger
- "To be honest, I heavily lean toward quitting and reinvention if we go another summer without seasonals. I have never lacked for motivation for trail work until now...it feels like we are on the verge of not passing anything on for the future, and that feels like 24 years of trails and wilderness work rolling back to the

"To be honest, I heavily lean toward quitting and reinvention if we go another summer without seasonals. I have never lacked for motivation for trail work until now...it feels like we are on the verge of not passing anything on for the future, and that feels like 24 years of trails and wilderness work rolling back to the bottom of the hill." –District Trail Manager

service.

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## Content Analysis for USDA Reorganization: AI Run Amok?

December 9, 2025 by Sharon

[This document](#) has come to my attention, which I believe to be the content analysis of the public comment on USDA Reorganization. It's separated out by the source of comment, employees, retirees, form letter campaigns, and a variety of others. It's quite long and does talk about other parts of USDA than the Forest Service. If I were the FS or the USDA, I would go back and have human beings with experience writing and editing the English language do the analysis, or at least make this one comprehensible. I can't make heads or tails of some of it, and I my guess is that it was done by AI. There is much of interest, so feel free to comment on other sections

### **Category: United States Forest Service (USFS)**

*This section synthesizes insights from 6,292 comments. While 60% of comments express concern, they also provide constructive feedback, with 17% offering positive sentiments and 7% neutral.*

### **Key Themes USFS**

**Regional Offices and Local Expertise:** Stakeholders widely view regional offices as essential for effective, localized decision-making. 34% of comments referred to the elimination of regional offices or loss of regional leadership, with 25% citing specific impacts on environmental planning. Concerns that "The proposal's elimination of the nine regional Forest Service offices, six in the western U.S., where a majority of the national forests are, would concentrate decision-making far away from landscapes that are diverse and face region-specific pressures (e.g. fire risk, invasive species, drought)." This perspective underscores the risk of detaching decision-making from the unique environmental and social complexities of each region.

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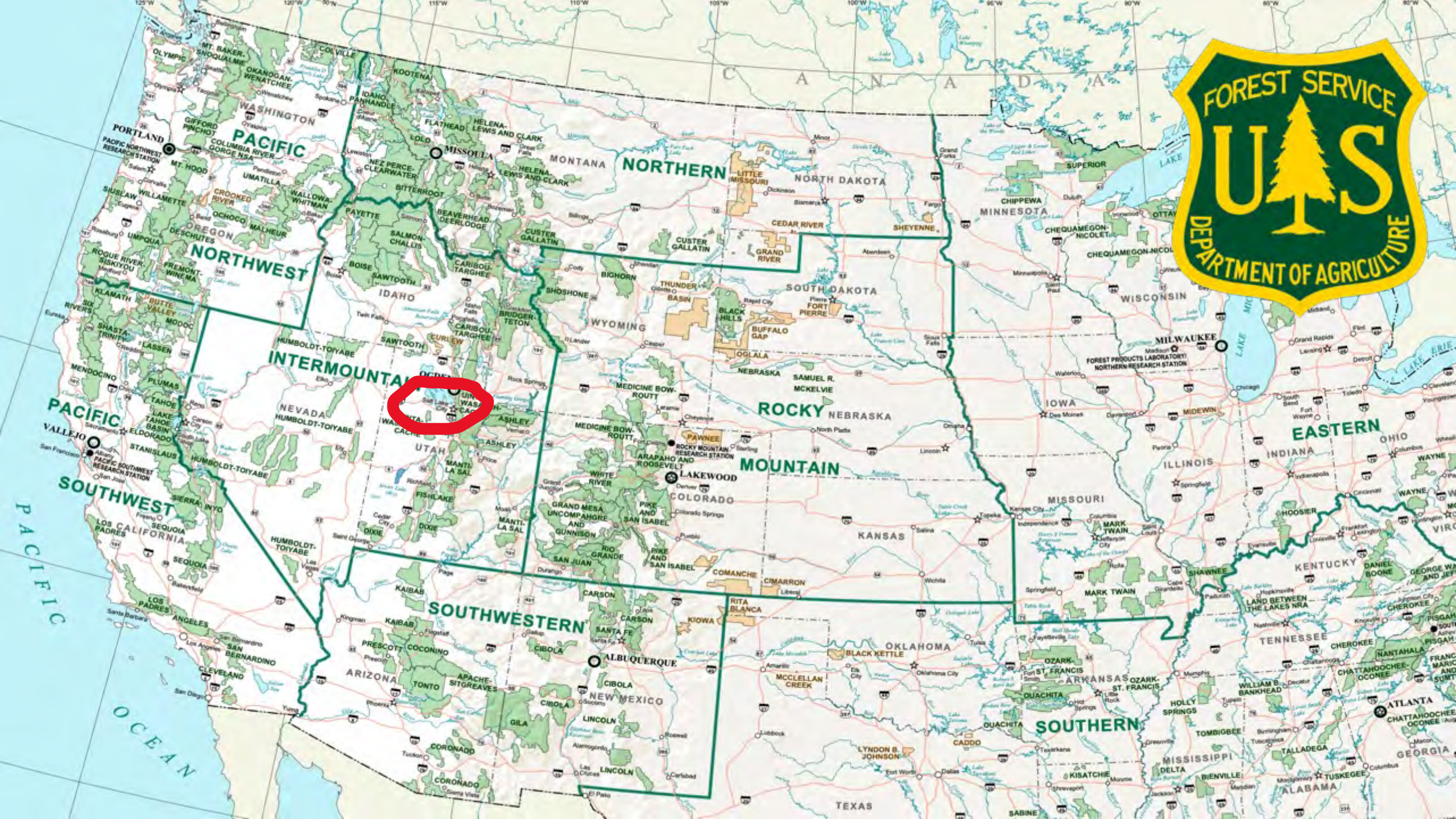
Joseph on [Mountain Pine Beetle Expanding In Ponderosa in Colorado's Front Range-Governor Creates Task Force](#)

Sharon on [Mountain Pine](#)











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Joseph on Mountain Pine Beetle Expanding In Ponderosa in Colorado's Front Range-Governor Creates Task Force  
Sharon on Mountain Pine



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The Hotshot Wake Up

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### The Salt Lake City HQ and a Call for Philanthropists to Become Interested in Good Government

December 8, 2025 by Sharon



Yates Building Current FS HQ Washington DC, next to USDA Building

A number of interesting things have happened over the past week or so..

Saturday- at a meeting it was announced at a meeting that the Forest Service would be moving its headquarters to Salt Lake City if Congress approves. Tim at the Hotshot Wakeup [has a story about this](#), including comments from the Department and other sources.

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[Glenn Monahan](#) on [Laguna Fire: The Wildfire the Forest Service Ignited](#)

## Forest Service Plans To Move D.C. Staff To Salt Lake City As Part Of Reorg Plans. Senators Pen Letter To Chief Schultz Over Hiring And Project Work Numbers.



THE HOTSHOT WAKE UP

DEC 07, 2025

28

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8

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Transcript

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On Today's Show:

✓ Subscribed

- Yesterday, USDA Leadership announced plans to move the Forest Service leadership and senior staff from D.C. to Salt Lake City.
- This is part of the reorganization plan, which will phase out the 9 Regions and create five hubs. This still all hinges on Congressional approval.
- Senators penned a letter to Forest Service Chief Schultz requesting clarification on hiring numbers, staffing, prescribed burns, and fuel mitigation numbers.
- They have nine specific points they want answered by December 12th of this year.
- The inaugural Director of the USWFS.



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The Hotshot Wake Up



## Majority Of Region 5 (California) Fire Chiefs Write Letter To Forest Service Chief Schultz Asking To Contribute In The Reorg Process.



THE HOTSHOT WAKE UP

DEC 14, 2025 - PAID



19



5



4

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This Friday, 14 Fire Chiefs across the majority of California's National Forests signed a letter to Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz and Deputy Chief Dave Lytle regarding the Forest Service's transition to interim operations and upcoming restructuring.

*"We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to these important discussions and look forward to continued collaboration as the agency moves forward."*

*Region 5 Fire Chiefs*

The letter begins by informing the Washington Office that the Chiefs are ready to engage and participate in the ongoing critical conversations regarding the reorganization process.

*"We are grateful for the opportunity to engage in these critical conversations as the Forest Service transitions to interim operations and prepares for restructuring. Building on our shared experiences in Washington, D.C. this past June and mindful of recent developments, including the appointment of Deputy Chief Lytle, we believe this is a pivotal moment to reconnect and contribute meaningfully to shaping the path forward."*





## Two Wildfire Leadership Announcements, at FS and USWFS

December 8, 2025 by Sharon



Also last week, Forest Service appointed David Lytle as Acting Deputy Chief of Fires and Aviation Management. He was the Deputy Chief for R&D, and has had a career mostly in science and research administration (also was State Forester in Ohio, traditionally thought not to be a big fire state). From [the Hotshot Wakeup's coverage](#):

*Lytle has been in federal service for over 15 years, starting as a post-doctoral research ecologist with the North Central Research Station, and spent a decade as a science*

*center director for the US Geological Survey, in the US Department of the Interior. David also served as state forester and chief of the Division of Forestry with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He also worked as a conservation scientist with The Nature Conservancy.*



Also last week, Interior hired Brian Fennessey of the Orange County Fire Authority,

*Fennessey tentatively accepted the USWFS director role, pending the completion of a federal onboarding process, according to [NBC Los Angeles](#).*

It appears that this position was advertised nationally and open to non-federal applicants. [Here's](#) the job advertisement. It appears to be an [SES position](#).

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Joe Reddan on [Mountain Pine Beetle Expanding in Ponderosa in Colorado's](#)

## Chief Brian Fennessey to Take the Helm as Inaugural Director Of The United States Wildland Fire Service (USWFS).

Chief Fennessey's role will begin January 2nd, 2026.



THE HOTSHOT WAKE UP

DEC 06, 2025 - PAID

26

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...

Last night, Orange County Fire Authority Chief Brian Fennessey wrote a letter to all OCFA Firefighters and Professional Staff stating that he had accepted the inaugural position as the Director of the newly created United States Wildland Fire Service.

Chief Fennessey has been a frequent guest and is a friend of the show. This choice by the Department of the Interior shows they are focused on building a mission driven culture in the new Wildfire Service, something Chief Fennessey has been focused on throughout his career and has been incredibly successful in leading the Orange County Fire Authority.

I know his current staff is sad to see him go, but his future leadership in the USWFS is greatly welcomed.

Here is Chief Fennessey's statement on the new appointment and his retirement from his position as Chief of the Orange County Fire Authority.



# Happenings of Interest

E&E DAILY

## USDA reorganization fight tests congressional backbone

Lawmakers' bid to slow the closure of the department's largest research facility rests on iffy legal ground but waves a yellow flag at the Trump administration.

BY MARC HELLER | 12/09/2025 06:10 AM EST



Congress is attempting to use the power of the purse to prevent the closing of the Department of Agriculture's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. | Jacquelyn Martin/AP

**E&E DAILY** | Congress is threatening to use its power of the purse to save a key Department of Agriculture research lab. But that may be little more than bluster in the eyes of the Trump administration.

Deep in the spending package that ended the 43-day government shutdown, Congress inserted a few lines forbidding USDA from using appropriated funds to close or consolidate research facilities — a provision aimed mainly at the department's 6,000-acre flagship Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Maryland — without approval from the House and Senate Appropriations

E&E NEWS PM

## BLM revives Western states liaison job as part of staff reshuffling

Several top Bureau of Land Management senior staffers also are taking jobs as acting state directors.

BY SCOTT STREATER | 12/09/2025 06:10 PM EST



A Bureau of Land Management sign in Washington. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

**E&E NEWS PM** | The Bureau of Land Management is filling a top position created by the Biden administration that serves as a liaison between the agency and Western governors, senior bureau officials confirmed Tuesday to staff.

Sharif Branham, who currently heads the resources and planning directorate, is being reassigned as acting assistant director of the intergovernmental and external affairs directorate. The position was removed from the [BLM leadership page](#) and not filled after the former assistant director, [John Gale](#), left BLM in May.

Reviving the liaison role is part of a senior staff reshuffling that BLM staff began learning about on Monday and also involves several other senior program directors and state office directors.



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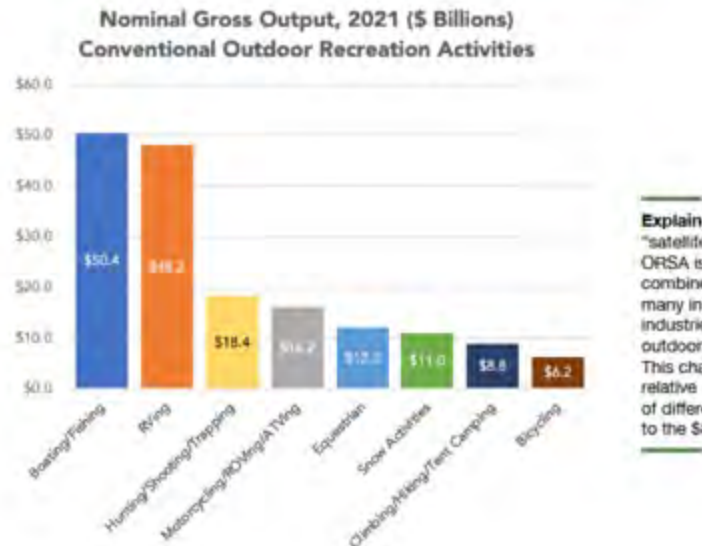
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## The Forest Service Recreation Conundrum- Why Doesn't Megabuck Profits Generate Megabuck Federal Bucks Via Lobbying?

December 4, 2025 by Sharon



OREC Numbers 2021 <https://orrstaging.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/04-OREC-Numbers-2021.pdf>

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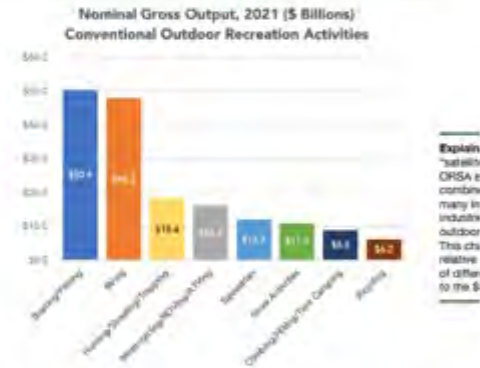
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OREC Numbers 2021 <https://www.forestservice.gov/wc-content/uploads/2023/05/OREC-Numbers-2021.pdf>

### Appendix

Conventional Outdoor Recreation	Other Outdoor Recreation
Bicycling Canoeing Kayaking Fishing (includes Boating) Sailing Other Boating Climbing/Hiking/Trekking Equestrian Hunting/Trapping Shooting (includes Archery) Motorcycling/ATVing Recreational Flying RVing Skiing/Snowboarding	Amusement Parks/Water Parks Festivals/Sporting Events/Concerts Field Sports Game Areas (includes Golfing and Tennis) Air and Land Guided Tours (Outfitted Travel) Water Guided Tours/Outfitted Travel (includes Boating and Fishing Charters) Productive Activities (includes Gardening) Other Outdoor Recreation Activities (4) Multi-Use Apparel and Accessories (Other) (2)

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## OUTDOOR RECREATION ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS & WATERS

*A Valuable  
American Asset*

**O:R** OUTDOOR  
RECREATION  
ROUNDTABLE



# Happenings of Interest



## OUTDOOR RECREATION ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS & WATERS

*A Valuable  
American Asset*

“According to ORR’s latest published research based on federal data, the outdoor recreation industry was worth \$1.2 trillion in 2023, the most recent available data. That’s 2.3% of the U.S. gross domestic product. For context, that means the outdoor recreation economy is larger than that of farming or mining. And it’s not that far from the oil and gas industry, either. That market was worth \$1.55 trillion in 2024 and is approaching \$1.6 trillion this year, according to Towards Chem & Materials’ last report.”

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## OUTDOOR RECREATION ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS & WATERS

*A Valuable  
American Asset*

“One of the more surprising statistics comes from the U.S. Forest Service. The report found that folks recreating in national forests brings in more revenue to the federal government than the timber industry. Recreation support(ed) 161,000 jobs, compared to the combined 103,200 jobs from forest products, livestock grazing, mineral extraction, and energy production,” the report states.

OREC Numbers 2021 [https://www.fs.fed.us/r2/orec/orec\\_numbers/2021/05/08-OREC-Numbers-2021.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/r2/orec/orec_numbers/2021/05/08-OREC-Numbers-2021.pdf)

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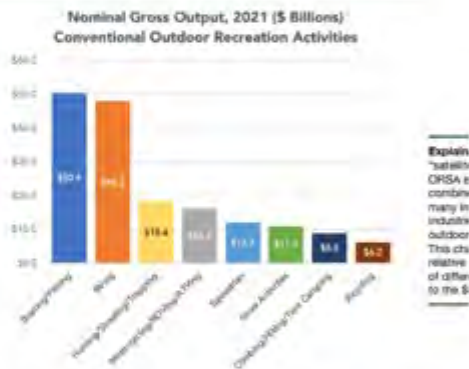
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Deschutes National Forest Finalizes Decision To Allow Class 1, Pedal Assist E-bikes On Select Trails

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## Deschutes National Forest Finalizes Decision to Allow Class 1, Pedal Assist E-bikes on Select Trails

**Release Date:** December 9, 2025

**Bend, Oregon, December 9, 2025**—The Deschutes National Forest has signed the final decision on the *Class 1, Pedal Assist E-bikes on Select Trails* located on select, existing, natural surface trails and paved paths located near Bend, Sisters and Sunriver, Oregon.

Recognizing the growing interest in e-bikes on public lands, the Deschutes National Forest assessed how these bikes fit into existing recreational activities. The Forest gave thoughtful consideration of the ecological and social impacts of this decision balanced with providing increased access for class 1 e-bike users.

The final decision authorizes class 1, pedal assist e-bikes on approximately 161.4 miles of 67 existing soft-surface and paved path trails. Existing trails selected for the inclusion of class 1 pedal assist e-bikes are currently designed for bike use. Trails identified for class 1 pedal assist e-bikes adhere to *Winter Range Closure Season* prohibiting e-bike usage December 1, through March 31, in support of critical deer and elk habitat. Routes identified will open for e-bike use April 1, 2026.

Class 1, pedal assist e-bikes provide assistance only when the rider pedals. Assistance stops when the bike reaches 20 miles per hour. E-bikes that are modified and no longer fit the criteria described above are no longer considered class 1, pedal-assist e-bikes and therefore would not be authorized for use on trails.

Visitors can expect to see updated signage, including information on education and etiquette, as the decision is implemented in the spring. The Forest has conducted compliance monitoring prior to the decision and will continue monitoring to inform ongoing education efforts.

Project documents, including the signed Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), can be viewed on the Deschutes National Forest website here: [fs.usda.gov/r06/deschutes/projects/66475](https://fs.usda.gov/r06/deschutes/projects/66475)

To view an online project map, visit: [usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=5080ef7e7f2d45ac96788cf1a2447a86](https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=5080ef7e7f2d45ac96788cf1a2447a86)

For questions about this project, contact Alicia Bergschneider, Forest Environmental Coordinator, at [alicia.bergschneider@usda.gov](mailto:alicia.bergschneider@usda.gov)



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## California's Proposition 4 – \$100m / now \$45m for Trails

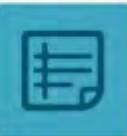
### California Trails Survey

CA Climate Bond



### Help Improve California's Trails

Trails are essential places for recreation, health, mobility, and connection to nature. California is launching a statewide effort to improve access to recreational trails, like hiking, biking, and horseback riding routes, especially for communities that have historically had less access to them. This effort is part of a larger plan to make the outdoors more inclusive and accessible, support climate resilience, honor tribal priorities, and help meet **California's "30x30"** goal (protecting 30% of land and coastal water by 2030).



#### FAQs

Answers to some of your frequently asked questions!

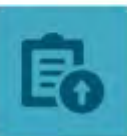
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#### Photo Contest

California Trail Users

[Share your memories here! >](#)



#### Survey

Trail Users, Advocates, and Professionals

[Participate here! >](#)



# Happenings of Interest

## It will not be called “California's Office of Outdoor Recreation”

### THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

#### SECTION 1.

The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Changes to existing law are necessary to facilitate the implementation of recommendations advanced by the California's Outdoors For All Initiative, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development's "Job's First" report and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience report and future similar reports to optimize public recreation access opportunities and support recreation as an economic driver through enhanced engagement in California's outdoors and our natural landscapes.

(b) There are numerous existing non-profit ~~support~~ organizations collaborating with the California Natural Resources Agency and its many departments to promote the health and fitness, mental and economic values of outdoor engagement.

(c) Among the many collaborating organizations, Parks California is a codified support organization dedicated to interfacing with the Department of California State Parks and Recreation to advance priority programmatic and capital improvements projects identified by the department in conjunction with Parks California.

(d) The success of Parks California as a support organization has germinated the seed to create a separate support organization dedicated to collaborating with the California Natural Resources Agency and its departments on the coordination and implementation of several initiatives to facilitate greater engagement in California's outdoors which will lead to beneficial outcomes including economic development opportunities.

(e) Among the many economic benefits that could be realized include expanded branding and promotion of the outdoors on federal, state, regional, local and private lands and stronger federal/state/local collaboration with gateway communities to transition from mining and lumber dependent to recreation-based economies.

(f) Nationwide through the leadership of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and the Confluence of States nearly fifty percent of the states in the union have created some iteration of an office, division or department within state government specifically designed up to capitalize on the health, fitness and economic benefits inherent in the public/outdoors interface.

(g) The California Natural Resources Agency shall consider establishing a new strategic partnership with a nonprofit support organization dedicated to promoting access to the outdoors in all landscapes that would complement and support the work of the agency and other state entities including the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development by bringing new resources, expertise, and flexibility to assist the agency in accomplishing its mission.

#### SEC. 2.

Article XXXX:

#### Article XXXX Public Recreation Access and Outdoor Economy Support Organization

XXX For purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Public Recreation Access and Outdoor Economy support organization" means a nonprofit organization that meets all the following requirements:

(1) is exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

(2) is established for the principal purposes of increasing outdoor access and promoting expanded recreation opportunities on California diverse landscapes to underpin mental, physical and economic health objectives in the state.

(c) If the agency enters into an agreement with a public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization, the support organization, in consultation with the agency, shall do all of the following:

(1) Communicate and coordinate with government entities, partners, friends, and volunteers to ensure that activities undertaken pursuant to the agreement complement, support, facilitate, and amplify ongoing partnerships, programs, and projects in support increasing access to the outdoors.

(2) Engage with public agencies and organizations that manage, operate, and support other and protected lands in the state.

#### XXX.

The director and the Director of Finance, The Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, the Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Director of the Governor's Office and Business Development or their respective designees, may serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the public recreation access and outdoor economy outdoor support organization's board of directors to provide for effective communication and coordination of efforts between the agency and a public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization.

#### XXX.

A public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization is not a state agency or state body.

#### XXX.

(a) If the agency enters into an agreement with a public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization pursuant to Section XXX, the agency and the public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization shall collaborate to develop an annual list of strategic initiatives and projects that are statewide priorities for the agency and for the public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization and that the public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization will undertake in partnership with the agency.

(b) (1) Any initiative or project included on the priority list shall be consistent with the purposes specified in subdivision (a) of Section XXX.

(2) For the first three years of an agreement entered into pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section XXX, the public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization and the department shall prioritize a limited subset of focus areas and projects from the list of purposes specified in subdivision (a) of Section XXX, consistent with paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section XXX.

(c) Any initiative or project included on the priority list involving properties operated or managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation shall be consistent with Sections 5001.2 and 5019.53 regarding protection of the natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values of the state park system.

(d) The agency shall post a copy of the priority list on its Internet Web site and shall provide copies of the list to the chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, the Assembly Committee on Budget, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, and the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife.

#### XXX.

(a) In order to advance the purposes described in subdivision (a) of Section XXX, an agreement between the agency and the public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization pursuant to Section XXX shall, at a minimum, include and specify all the following:

(1) Clear goals and objectives.

(2) Any commitments of oversight, staffing, and coordination that are needed to accomplish the goals and objectives.

(3) Complies with the Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act (Article 7 (commencing with Section 12580) of Chapter 6 of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(b) "Priority list" means the annual list of strategic initiatives and projects developed by the agency and the public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization pursuant to Section XXX.

#### XXX.

The agency may enter into a statewide agreement with a public recreation access and outdoor economy support organization to facilitate and implement, among other objectives, the findings and recommendations of the Outdoors for All, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development's "Job's First" report and California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force's "Joint Strategy for Sustainable Recreation and Wildfire Resilience" report to develop greater capacity to expand, enhance and complement projects and programs proposed by the agency through the following mechanisms:

(1) To develop and engage new sources of public and private funding for the vast network of outdoor outlets owned, administered or supported by the agency, including philanthropic sources and enterprise and revenue generation activities, where appropriate.

(2) To support marketing and communications activities that promote the programs, amenities, and resources of the agency, its departments, and its partners.

(3) To support projects, programs and policies that facilitate increased outdoor access and visitations, including but not limited to trails to trails projects, the establishment of new trail corridors that connect people to nature and communities to communities and the establishment of bicycle greenway routes or systems.

(4) Enhance outdoor educational opportunities, particularly among younger and more diverse audiences.

(5) To promote the health and well-being of the state's residents.

(6) To establish or improve and support the completion of projects that establish or improve outdoor access and visitor amenities and facilities.

~~(6) To recruit more diverse staffing and improve capacity for state park programs.~~

~~(7) To advance the protection and stewardship of natural, cultural, and historic lands, sites, and resources.~~

(7) To promote strategic research, data collection, economic modeling for, among other things, tracking outdoor recreation trends and outdoor participation rates in California.

(8) Provide communities of interest including regional recreation collaboratives with technical assistance to better inform, educate and capitalize on intrinsic and economic values of public recreation access.

(b) To complement this effort, Collaboration between the California Natural Resources Agency and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development on a suite of interventions designed to promote the outdoors including but not limited to the implementation of the following:

(i) Regional Industry Sector Activation Plans for the Recreation/Tourism sector

(ii) Regional Economic Development Strategies

(iii) Regional tourism strategies that do not duplicate efforts underway by Visit California

(iv) Organizing and prioritizing recommendations rooted in the work of the Wildfire Task Force's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Recreation and Wildfire Resilience

(v) Establish a single point of contact as a federal lands liaison to communicate and respond to federal policies and practices of impact to federal lands within California and stakeholder interests.

# Happenings of Interest

It will not be called “California's Office of Outdoor Recreation”

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS  
FOLLOWS:

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“(a) Changes to existing law are necessary to facilitate the implementation of recommendations advanced by the California’s Outdoors For All Initiative, the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development’s “Job’s First” report and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force’s “Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience” report and future similar reports to optimize public recreation access opportunities and support recreation as an economic driver through enhanced engagement in California’s outdoors and our natural landscapes.”

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the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife  
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# Happenings of Interest

## Outdoor recreation fuels the Nevada economy. A new report shows how much.

**A new estimate credits outdoor activities with vast economic contributions, including keeping people healthier and providing bargain entertainment**

News | Dec 16, 2025

Amy Alonzo The Nevada Independent

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## California's Public Lands

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### U.S. Senators Introduce Bill to Protect and Restore Over 1.7 Million Acres of California Public Lands

Dec 19, 2025 [Advocacy](#) | [Forest and Public Lands Stewardship](#)



On December 17, California's U.S. Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff announced the reintroduction of a sweeping public lands package. The *Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act* would protect and restore over 1.7 million acres of California's public lands throughout northwest California, the Central Coast, and Los Angeles County.

Specifically, the legislation would permanently protect more than 900,000 acres, including over 550,000 acres of new wilderness and nearly 700 miles of wild and scenic rivers. It would also authorize forest restoration and fire-resilience efforts on roughly 871,000 acres in high-risk areas of Humboldt and Trinity counties, aimed at improving water quality, reducing wildfire threats, and preserving outdoor recreation opportunities.

The legislation consists of three bills that have been reintroduced in the House of Representatives including:

- The *Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act*, which is led in the House by Representative Huffman (D-Marina). The bill would permanently protect 484,733 acres of public lands, and 479.8 miles of wild and scenic rivers.
- The *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act*, which is led in the House by Representative Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara). The bill would permanently protect 385,842 acres of public lands, and 199.3 miles of wild and scenic rivers.



# Happenings of Interest

## ENERGYWIRE

### California regulators reject solar plant closure deal over objections from feds, energy companies

The Ivanpah solar power facility is stuck in the middle of an energy policy tug-of-war between state and federal officials.



By **NOAH BAUSTIN** | 12/06/2025 06:33 AM EST



Sunlight reflects off the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System. | Noah Berger/AP

**ENERGYWIRE** | California regulators on Thursday blocked a plan to close a controversial solar power plant, overriding pleas from the facility's owners, the utility that purchases its energy and the federal government to shut it down.

**What happened:** The California Public Utilities Commission voted to reject contract termination agreements that Pacific Gas & Electric negotiated with the owners of the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System under the guidance of the Department of Energy.

"We will absolutely be appealing this decision," Greg Beard, a senior adviser in the DOE's Office of Energy Dominance Financing, said in a statement.

**Why it matters:** The move underscores [Golden State officials' mounting concerns](#) that the Trump administration's hostility to renewable energy will hamper the state's ability to meet rising demand for power.

## San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition

Account

## POLITICS

### Here are 15 new laws that Californians must start following in 2026

By **Sophia Bollag**, Staff Writer

Dec 1, 2025

Gift Article



Declawing cats is prohibited in California as of Jan. 1.

Nicole Fruge/S.F. Chronicle



# Happenings of Interest

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## San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition

Account

## POLITICS

# Here are 15 new laws that Californians must start following in 2026

## New rules for electric bikes and mobility devices



A teenager gives a friend a ride on a throttle-assisted e-bike in Fairfax on April 2, 2025. California residents will see a wide-ranging set of new traffic and safety laws take effect in 2026.

Stephen Lam/S.F. Chronicle



# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



**CAL MATTERS** About Us Newsletters Search

POLITICS

## Proposition 50 passed in California. Here's what you missed

BY JEANNE KUANG AND MARA C. MILLER  
NOVEMBER 1, 2025

Repost

18 River Laguna (library) to Sacramento on Nov. 4, 2025. Photo by Jungth Kim for CalMatters

**IN SUMMARY**

California voters backed Gov. Gavin Newsom's plan to redraw congressional districts in favor of Democrats. It was a big night for him in his rivalry with President Donald Trump.

California voters on Tuesday [overwhelmingly approved Gov. Gavin Newsom's measure](#) that allowed the state to redraw its congressional map in favor of Democrats, pushing back against President Donald Trump's effort to hold onto a Republican-controlled Congress by urging redistricting in Texas.

Tuesday capped off a whirlwind, hyper-partisan two-and-a-half-month campaign for [one of the most expensive ballot measures](#) in state history. Supporters poured more than \$120 million into Newsom's committee supporting the measure. Opponents raised just \$44 million. Outside groups spent \$27 million to try to sway the vote.

**THE BEE** CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS

## Reps. Bera and Kiley will battle in a Sacramento-area showdown for House seat

By David Lightman  
Updated November 4, 2025 9:06 PM

Rep. Ami Bera, who was attending a watch party in Sacramento, answers questions on election night, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025, about Proposition 50 and other national races. By JOSÉ LUIS VILLEGAS

WASHINGTON

**Listen to this article**

Rep. Ami Bera said Tuesday he'll challenge Rep. Kevin Kiley in a Sacramento-area district whose lines are being redrawn to give Bera an advantage.

## California's proposal for new congressional districts

These are the 52 new districts contained within Prop 50, which is on the ballot for the 2025 midterms. Democrats hope to gain five seats in Congress if the newly drawn maps are approved.

See versions of this map for California's [current](#) congressional districts and who won each district in the [2024 House elections](#).

Map: Nicki Camberg/Get the Facts Data Team • Source: [California State Assembly](#), [Redistricting Partners](#)

# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

## District 3

The redrawn District 3 would include parts of Democratic-leaning Sacramento County and removes a large swath of the Eastern Sierra.



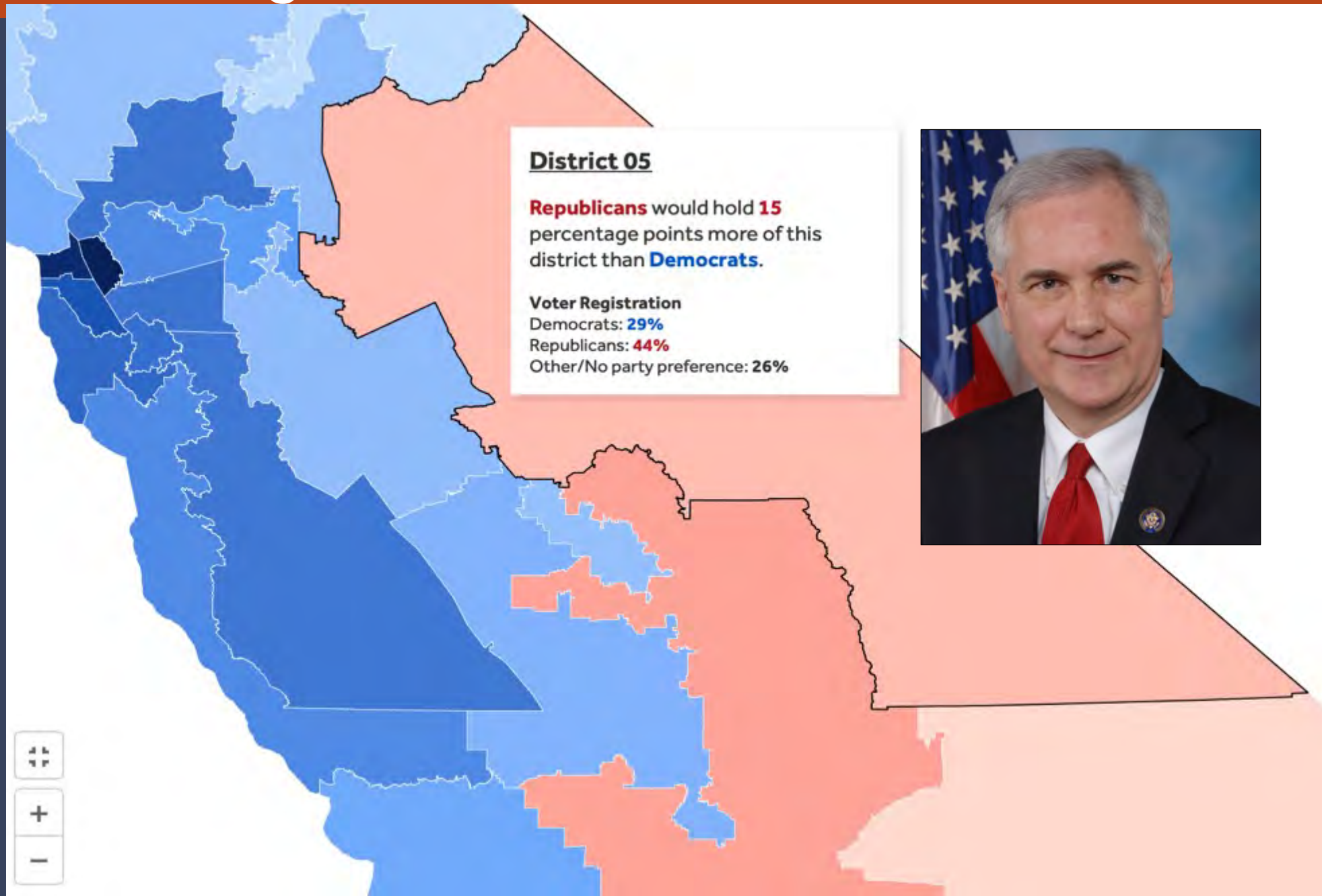
*1 district shape(s) placed. Click  
"Check Results" to see how you  
did!*

**Check Results**

**Clear Map**



# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



# Happenings of Interest

POLITICO


California California Playbook California Climate California Decoded Rebuilding LA 2026 governor's race

Magazine

THE FRIDAY READ

## I Drove 700 Miles Through California's Absurd New Congressional District

I drove the 15-hour and nearly 700-mile journey across the state, traversing mountain ranges and rock slides, dirt roads and agricultural checkpoints, from Marin to Modoc County.



POLITICO

California Playbook California Climate California Decoded Rebuilding LA 2026 go

Democrat.

## California's redrawn 2nd Congressional District encompasses most of the northern reaches of the state

Boundaries of California's 2nd Congressional District

□ New boundary □ Previous boundary



Source: California State Geoportal, California State Assembly  
Claudine Hellmuth/POLITICO



# Happenings of Interest

## A Year of Progress for Tahoe

News | Dec 14, 2025

Hayley Williamson TRPA

As Pacific weather patterns press pause on winter, I find myself reflecting on the past year at Lake Tahoe. Protecting and restoring this incredible place takes persistence and thoughtful work by many, and while progress has been building for decades, 2025 has been a remarkable year.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Governing Board started off the year with updates to the Homewood Mountain Resort master plan and gondola project that included a requirement for the privately owned resort to remain open to the public. The work of our team at TRPA and the West Shore community was critical to the approval of this legacy project. In addition to master plan improvements, a 250-acre forest health project by the resort to reduce wildfire risk is already underway.

Also in early 2025, the agency acted to strengthen Lake Tahoe's protection from aquatic invasive species, specifically the golden mussel recently discovered just a few hours away in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The TRPA Governing Board in March preemptively approved mandatory decontaminations as a new protocol for the Lake Tahoe Watercraft Inspection Program. During the season, watercraft inspectors decontaminated more than 4,700 boats, while roving inspectors recorded close to 17,000 interactions at popular beaches and paddler spots to drive home the critical message to Clean, Drain, and Dry.

The Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) shined more than ever this year. One of the most successful conservation programs in the nation saw a record investment of \$250 million in nearly 40 environmental restoration, forest health, and transportation improvement projects. The multi-sector partnership, collectively called "Team Tahoe," moved the needle to benefit the basin. Water quality projects like the Upper Truckee Marsh South Restoration Project and Marlette Creek Restoration on the East Shore are helping the basin achieve targets to restore lake clarity.

With a very big year for forest resilience projects, EIP partners on the Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team will likely exceed 100,000 acres of forest treatments since the launch of the EIP in 1997. As the basin focuses more of this work along evacuation routes to improve emergency preparedness, TRPA has provided support, including delivery of a nearly \$2 million PROTECT grant to help emergency management agencies prepare communication and transportation systems for increased threats.

SKI RESORTS

## Palisades Tahoe Debuts \$12,000 Ski Club With Priority Lift Lines and Private Lounges

"The Apex Club is the peak of what we offer," said Amy Ohran, president and COO of Palisades Tahoe, in the release.

DEC 5, 2025 6:12 AM EST



BY IAN GREENWOOD Staff Writer, Powder

2



Add us on



A rendering of Palisades Tahoe's Apex Club Mid-Mountain Lounge.  
Photo: Courtesy Palisades Tahoe



# Happenings of Interest

## ALPINE OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

INCLUDES : ALPINE TRAILS ASSOCIATION (ATA)  
AND MARKLEEVILLE DISC GOLF (MDG)

DECEMBER 2025

Welcome to the first edition of the Alpine Outdoor Recreation Association's (AORA) Newsletter! AORA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) all volunteer organization of enthusiasts working in cooperation with County, State and /Federal agencies to improve non-motorized access to public lands in Alpine County CA.



**BUILDING THE FUTURE AND  
PRESERVING OUR LEGACY**

### 2025 has been a good year for ATA accomplishments:

- Curtz Lake Interpretive Trail restoration, including new trail alignment and interpretive sign installation
- General maintenance on over 30 miles of system trails
- Certification of volunteers as Class B bucking sawyers. Donated funds allowed the purchase of new chainsaw and sawyer accessories
- Post-Fire tree clearing (the burned snags are coming down in droves)
- Continued Markleeville Disc Golf development, funding and design. USFS Special Use Permit is expected next spring! The new course will be named TERRAPIN PINES
- ATA volunteers assisted the Forest Health Community Working Group and Alpine Watershed Group in several tree plantings in 2025. Nearly 2000 trees were planted in the Indian Creek Recreation Area!
- Continued trail/road enhancements behind Desolation Hotel – Hope Valley



CHARITY VALLEY TRAIL



THORNBURG CANYON



CURTZ LAKE

## ALPINE OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION



THE BURNSIDE LAKE TRAIL OFFERS A CAPTIVATING JOURNEY THROUGH A DIVERSE LANDSCAPE

### AORA GOALS FOR 2026:

- Continue our work with the BLM to gain approval of a sign plan, new trail alignments, improved access within the Indian Creek Recreation Area
- Resume Trail Maintenance in Spring and discuss expansion of ATA responsibility on USFS system trails
- Begin discussion with Alpine County and Western Rivers Conservancy to establish a trail system and trail connectivity through the newly designated Conservancy land near Markleeville, CA
- Assist Alpine County community development in the Turtle Rock Restoration Project
- Continue negotiations with STPUD, seeking permission to allow public access to sections of their Alpine County land holdings
- Secure the special use permit from USFS and funding from SNC, as well as, private funding to begin construction of the new 27 hole disc golf course on Hot Springs Road, Markleeville CA.
- Continue Training and Certifications for our ATA Volunteers
- Engage the public in planning, and encourage volunteer participation with AORA/ATA/MDG
- Work with businesses and community organizations to promote healthy outdoor recreation within Alpine County
- Encourage Tribal engagement to foster an alliance grounded in respect and co-creation



UPPER CHARITY  
VALLEY TRAIL



ATA CREW AT CURTZ LAKE



MOUNTAIN PENSTEMON  
ON THORNBURG TRAIL



OUR DIRECTOR,  
ANDY LOVELL

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALPINE TRAILS ASSOCIATION PLEASE

[CLICK HERE](#)

[HTTPS://ALPINETRAILS.ORG](https://alpinetrails.org)



# Happenings of Interest



Breaking News

Home / Stories / How Outdoor Ice Skating Became a Winter Tradition in Yosemite National Park

## How Outdoor Ice Skating Became a Winter Tradition in Yosemite National Park

Active NorCal December 15, 2025



Long before lift lines and après-ski became part of winter culture, Yosemite National Park was already carving out its own cold-weather tradition: outdoor ice skating beneath towering granite walls.

Yosemite's first ice skating rink was built in 1929, sparked by the possibility that the park could host the 1932 Olympic Winter Games. While Yosemite ultimately didn't land the Olympics, the ambition left behind something lasting. The original rink covered roughly 60,000 square feet and sat in what is now the Curry Village parking lot—one of the coldest, shadiest spots in Yosemite Valley during winter.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

## California wildlife officials quietly shift on killing a high-profile predator




Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep stand among grass and boulders in California. The wild sheep are one of the rarest large mammals in North America. (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)


By Lila Seidman  
Staff Writer | Follow

Dec. 10, 2025 3 AM PT

- California wildlife officials now allow mountain lions to be euthanized when they threaten endangered bighorn sheep.
- In 2017, wildlife officials stopped the practice. They began relocating lions, and that will continue to be a key tool.
- Mountain lions and Sierra Nevada bighorn are both protected species in the state.

# Happenings of Interest

[ENGLISH](#) [TRIP PLANNER](#) 



## FLIGHT DISCOUNTS

[HOME](#) > [COMMUNITY RESOURCES](#) > [FLIGHT DISCOUNTS](#)

### LOCALS' FLIGHT DISCOUNT

Get away from the east side at a reduced cost when you take advantage of locals-only flight offers, brought to you by Mammoth Lakes Tourism.

Fly out of Mammoth Lakes (MMH) to two Southern California airports on Advanced Air. Or connect to any cities around the country from Bishop (BIH) on United.

Learn more about how locals from anywhere on the east side from Bridgeport to Ridgecrest can access these discounts.



### United Airlines

#### **Bishop (BIH) to San Francisco (SFO)**

##### Winter Service

- Daily flight service **December 11, 2025 – April 4, 2026**
- TWO EXTRA FLIGHTS on Saturdays are offered:
  - December 20 – January 3
  - February 14 – April 4

#### **Bishop (BIH) to Denver (DEN)**

##### Winter Service

- Daily flight service **December 18, 2025 – April 27, 2026**
- TWO EXTRA FLIGHTS on both Fridays and Saturdays are offered December 19 – April 4:
  - Flights arrive Friday PMs & depart Saturday AMs
  - Flights arrive Saturday PMs & depart Sunday AMs

### Advanced Air

#### **Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH) to Hawthorne-LA (HHR) or Carlsbad (CLD)**

##### Winter Service

- Flight service offered on Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays, and Mondays
- Service Dates: **NOW through April 27, 2026**
  - *Holiday Exceptions:*
    - Thanksgiving: No service on Thanksgiving Day – service will operate today (Wednesday 11/26) instead
    - Christmas: No service on Christmas Day – service will operate on Wednesday 12/24 instead

Fly more, save more! Check out Advanced Air's bulk ticket specials with their **Altitude Annual Passes**. These 10 one-way flight packages include tickets that are fully transferable to family and friends. [Learn more here.](#)



# GAMECHANGER



**ZERO cancellations during winter 2024-25,  
only ONE during summer 2025**

# California Wildfire and Recreation



**CALIFORNIA  
WILDFIRE  
& FOREST  
RESILIENCE  
TASK FORCE**

  
**CALIFORNIA  
WILDFIRE & FOREST RESILIENCE  
TASK FORCE**

[RESOURCES](#) - [THE PLAN](#) -

[ABOUT](#) - [UPDATES](#) -



## SACRAMENTO TASK FORCE MEETING RECAP DECEMBER 12, 2025

During the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force's final meeting of 2025, Task Force and CAL FIRE leadership unveiled a slate of announcements that showcase how California's unprecedented investments have led to large sustainable increases in wildfire prevention work with a focus on treatments that matter most.

Additionally, the Task Force provided a preview of the upcoming 2026 Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan, a new 10-year Roadmap to Resilience, and how we are moving beyond measuring progress simply by number of acres treated with new outcome-based measures.

[VIEW FULL AGENDA](#)

[PRESS RELEASE ON MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

### WELCOME & EXECUTIVE REMARKS



#### Co-chairs

- Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency
- Jason Kulken, U.S. Forest Service

#### Task Force Executive Committee

- Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE
- Anne Cottrell, Rural County Representatives of CA
- Bobby Macaulay, CA State Assoc. of Counties
- Don Hankins, Indigenous Stewardship Network
- Miranda Flores, Governor's Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2025

## Majority of Californians Support Additional Funding to Reduce Threat of Wildfires

SACRAMENTO, CA — New data released from the [Wildfire Solutions Coalition](#), a statewide alliance committed to securing long-term funding for wildfire resilience, and [Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates \(FM3\)](#), found that the majority of California voters strongly support allocating more funding towards wildfire resilience and support a portion of the state's General Fund going towards this effort.

These findings are a powerful sign that Californians are in lockstep with the mission of the Coalition – to increase public and private investment in proactive, science-based solutions that protect communities and landscapes from the increasing threat of catastrophic wildfires.

Surveying more than 600 California voters, the “[Views of Wildfire Prevention Funding](#)” poll found that **68% of respondents** believe that California has a great need or some need for additional funding to reduce the threat of these catastrophic wildfires. More specifically, more than 60% of respondents support dedicating 1% or 2% of the state's General Fund to reducing risk from wildfires and other extreme weather events.

California has developed a rigorous [action plan](#) for improving wildfire resilience. However, sustained, long-term funding is required to fully implement this plan. Prioritizing this investment is necessary to prevent widespread economic loss, support California's natural landscapes, and protect the health of its people. As a growing coalition of more than sixty organizations representing every corner of the state, the Coalition is the leading statewide group focused on securing this investment.

# California Wildfire and Recreation



## Action Plan Timeline – Draft 2025-10-16

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### AUDIENCE

Internal State Partners

Internal Task Force Partners

External/Regional Partners

Executives/GO

Public

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

Sacramento Task Force Meeting



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

STAY UP TO DATE WITH TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES AT OUR ONGOING STATUS MEETINGS.

**DECEMBER  
12  
2025**

CNRA AUDITORIUM  
SACRAMENTO

9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

**In person: No  
registration necessary**

**Via Zoom: Registration  
required**

**ZOOM  
REGISTRATION**

**MARCH  
19-20  
2026**

REGIONAL - SIERRA

**CHICKEN RANCH  
CASINO RESORT,  
JAMESTOWN, CA**

**JUNE  
5  
2026**

CNRA AUDITORIUM  
SACRAMENTO

9:00 AM TO 12:30

**INFORMATION  
TO COME**

**OCTOBER  
1-2  
2026**

REGIONAL - NORTH  
COAST

**RIVER LODGE  
CONFERENCE CENTER,  
FORTUNA, CA**

# Final SJF Governing Council Meeting – December 12, 2025



- Goal is to focus SJF Collaborative on industry working groups during the next 8 months

## Next Recreation & Tourism Working Group Meeting

- Tues. Jan. 20, 2026 @ 3:30-5:00 PM
- Focus on “Asset Mapping”
- Help ensure recommendations are realistic and fundable





# Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Projects

38 project contracts executed

- 13 pilot projects
- 25 planning-stage projects



ESCOG's RFP for Chipmunk Canyon Trails Existing Conditions Analysis closes January 7.

## Recreation & Tourism Project Milestones



Alpine County secured consultant for the Tri-County Economic Impact Analysis of Recreation



MLTPA completed fieldwork for west-side Towns to Trails project and enrolled three students in Columbia College's Forestry Corps Program



Products with **Sierra Sourced** label began appearing at retail, hosted first Farm to Fork dinner and a Branding Town Hall



Tuolumne County Arts partnered with Waste Management to collect and divert 600+ lbs of waste to the Creative Reuse Program, developing classes with Rec Department



**Sierra Seven Arts Alliance** announced call for art for upcoming travelling exhibition, "From Here to There," which will visit all seven counties in Feb - August 2026

# Investing in Rural CA Infrastructure – Event Series



## **Bakersfield, California**

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 9:30am – 2pm  
Kern Agricultural Pavilion

## **Modesto, California**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 9:30am – 2pm  
Stanislaus County Harvest Hall

## **Virtual Tribal Convening**

*Date and registration information TBA*

- Network with key stakeholders in rural infrastructure development
- Learn about funding opportunities and innovative financing solutions
- Share best practices and lessons learned
- Build partnerships to address shared challenges
- Develop strategies for sustainable rural infrastructure investment

*This event is hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), and Self-Help Enterprises.*





## TRANSITION & FUTURE PLANNING

*Shaping the Future, Together*

# Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

## Transition & Future Planning Overview

*Updated September 30, 2025*



**Background:** "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."



# Update from CA Economic Summit



- Position of CA FWD
  - Unify economic development efforts under one agency (building off GO-Biz) to align funding across state programs and articulate clear, statewide strategy
  - Establish formal state-regional relationships using consistent regional boundaries
  - Create regional economic councils with dedicated, annual funding tied to regional plans
- Timeline for implementation will not be fast enough to bridge the funding gap

# Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

SBC advised on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> that they will not be updating the Regional Strategic Plan.



Erin Murphy <erinmurphy@mltpa.org>

## Agenda for MLTPA Progress Report Call 11/18

Kaela Frank <kfrank@sierrabusiness.org>

To: Erin Murphy <erinmurphy@mltpa.org>, John Wentworth <johnwentworth@mltpa.org>, Andrea Stewart <andreastewart@mltpa.org>, Chelsea Taylor <chelseataylor@mltpa.org>

Cc: Erika Harvey <eharvey@sierrabusiness.org>

Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 3:47 PM

Hi MLTPA team,

Thank you for all the updates and conversation today. I wanted to follow up on John's question about the Regional Strategic Plan.

Due to timing and capacity constraints, we are not going to produce an updated version of the Regional Strategic Plan. We've decided that the version that was submitted to the state and approved by the Governing Council will be a closed and dated version that will be archived on the Sierra Jobs First website and it can be cited and referred to in future documents.

I know this updated guidance is different from what we previously discussed. If you have questions or concerns, please follow up directly with Erika. Hopefully this clarity is helpful and lends additional weight to the value of the RICA and the time you are putting into developing it with your working group. You can focus it specifically on the needs of your industry sector, and maintain ownership over it when CJF funding sunsets.

Thank you,  
Kaela



Kaela Frank (she/her)  
Project Coordinator, Sierra Jobs First

kfrank@sierrabusiness.org | (530) 582-4800 ext 115 |  
sierrabusiness.org | sierrajobsfirst.org

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



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Erin Murphy <erinmurfphy@mitpa.org>

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Kate Frank (she/her)  
Project Coordinator, Sierra Jobs First

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# Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

SBC advised on Dec. 2nd that the Governing Council has come to a close, with their final meeting taking place on Dec. 12

Good morning,

As we close out the year, I want to share an important update: **our upcoming meeting will also be the final meeting of the Sierra Jobs First Governing Council.** With the Catalyst program moving into its next phase, the governing council is coming to a close.

I want to sincerely thank you for the time, leadership, and thoughtful engagement you've brought to this process. Your work has shaped the program and helped advance a shared vision for climate resilient, equitable economic growth across the region. The decisions you've made and the partnerships you've supported will continue to benefit our communities long after the council sunsets.

Although this marks the end of the formal governing structure, it's not the end of our work together! We encourage you to stay involved through our industry sector working groups, where your expertise and local leadership remains invaluable. I'll also be reaching out individually in the coming weeks to stay connected and explore future projects and grant opportunities with us at Sierra Business Council.

Thank you for consistently showing up and lending your insight and passion. The progress we've made is because of your commitment.

I look forward to seeing you at our virtual council meeting on December 12th at 9:30am, where we'll celebrate our work over the past few years and highlight the exciting progress and updates emerging from our catalyst projects.

With appreciation,  
Kara



**Kara Bechtle**  
Sierra Jobs First Project Coordinator

[kbechtle@sierrabusiness.org](mailto:kbechtle@sierrabusiness.org) | (530) 214-3807 | [sierrabusiness.org](https://sierrabusiness.org)

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# Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

## Sierra Jobs First

Governing Council Meeting  
December 12, 2025  
Virtual Meeting



## Recreation & Tourism Industry Coordinator Update



## SIERRA WORKS

REC & TOURISM UPDATE



# Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

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# Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

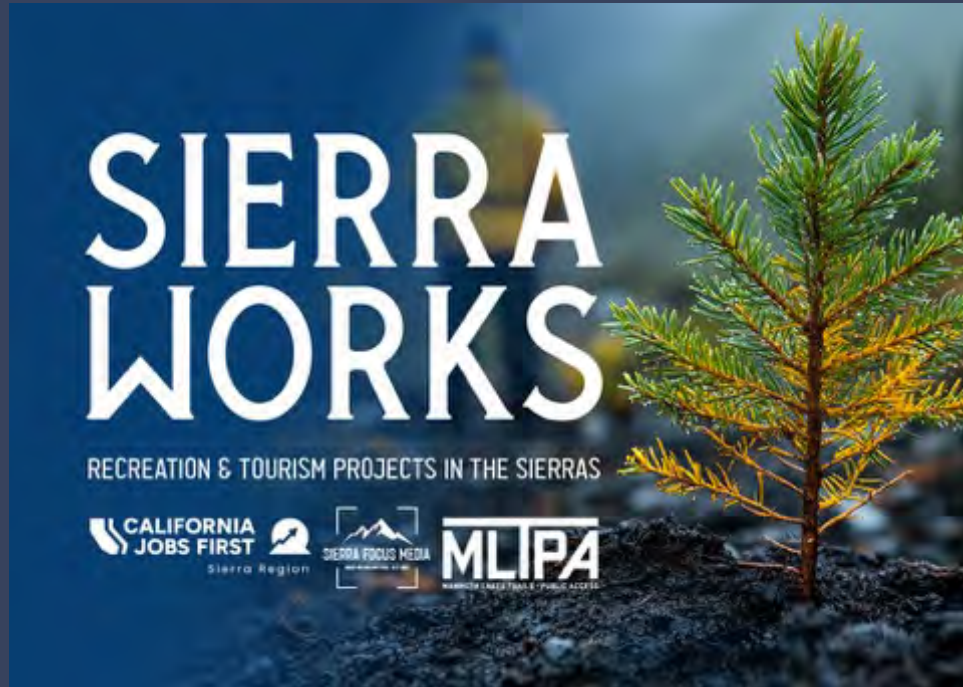


# Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning





# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



## Recreation and Tourism Working Group

### WORKING GROUP SIGN-UPS

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

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

**Sign-up Today!**

[Join Our Working Groups](#)

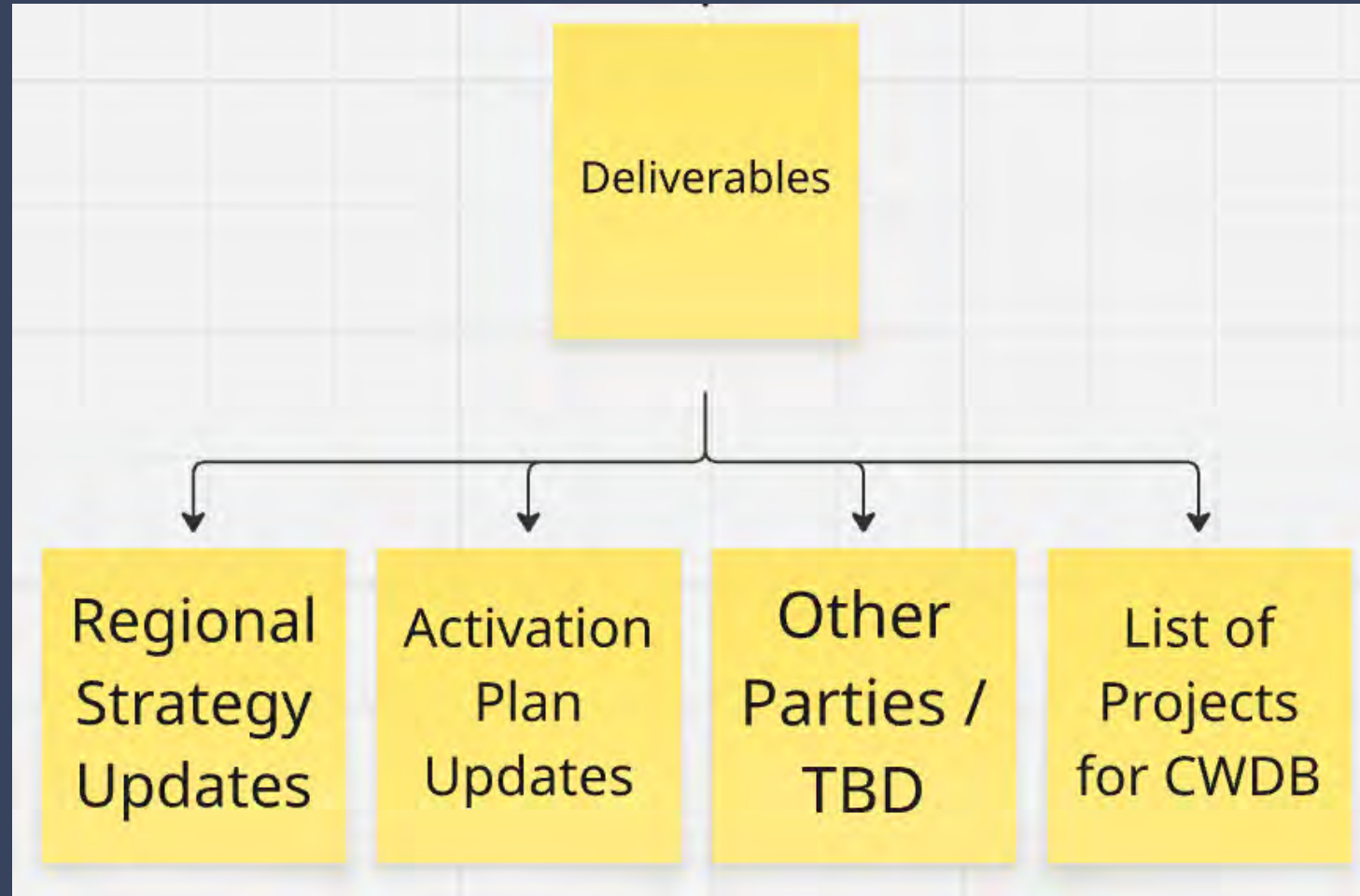
## Goal of the Working Group

**"Recommendations for  
Implementation and Collaborative  
Action" (RICA)**

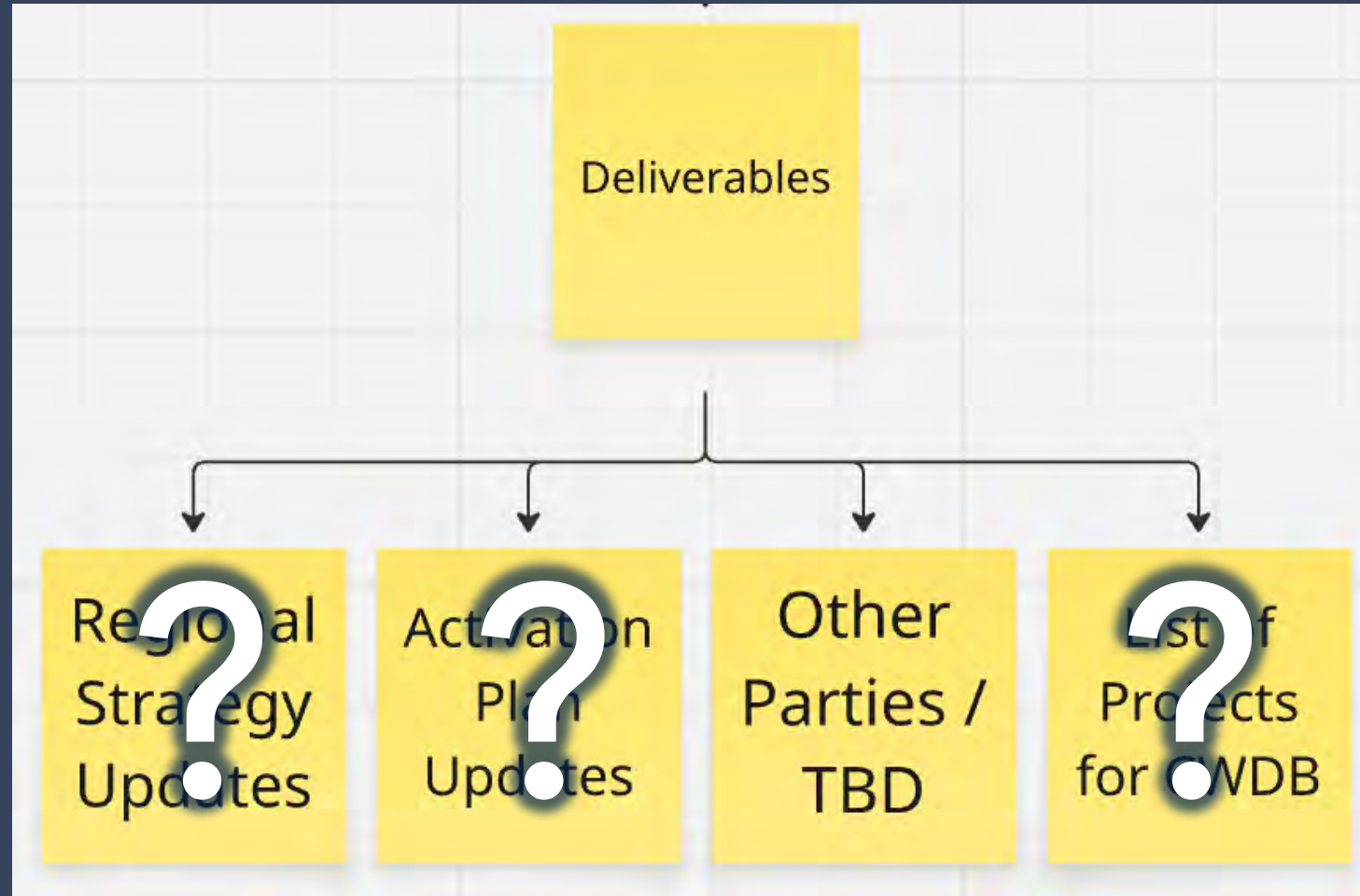
*Recommendations for how we build on the work done so far and carry it forward to align with the funding opportunities that currently exist and those that will exist in the future.*



## Goal of the Working Group

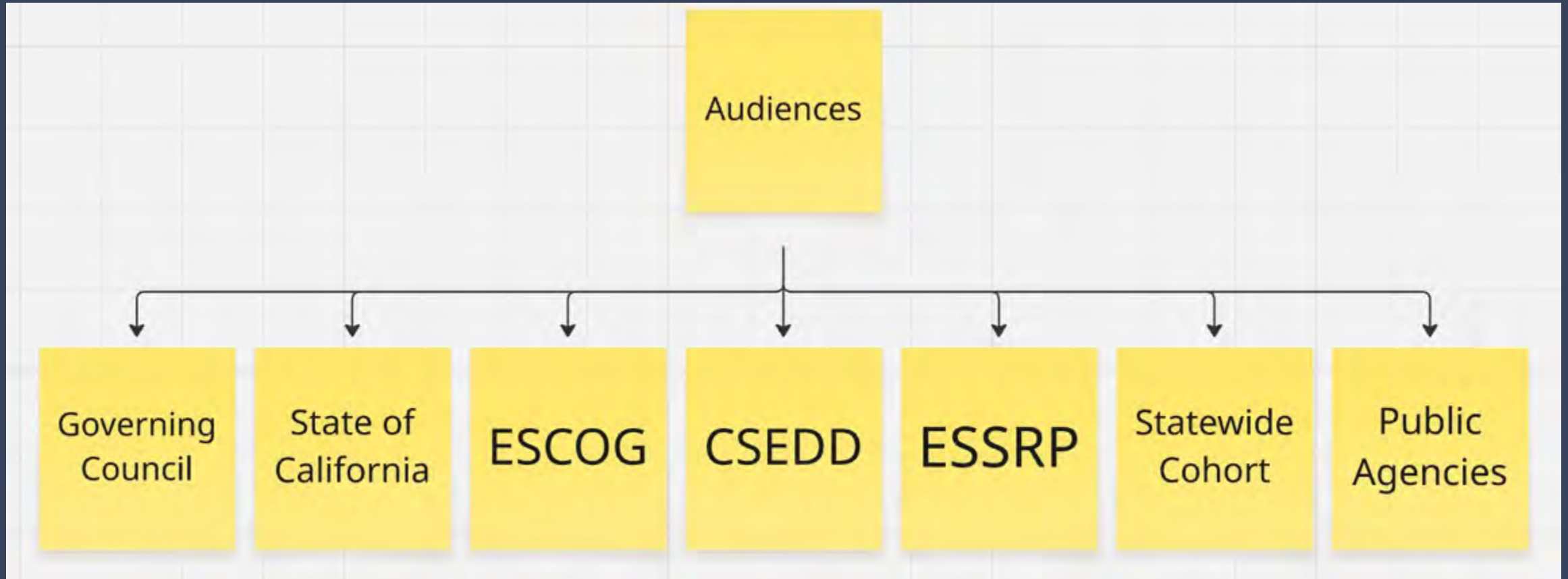


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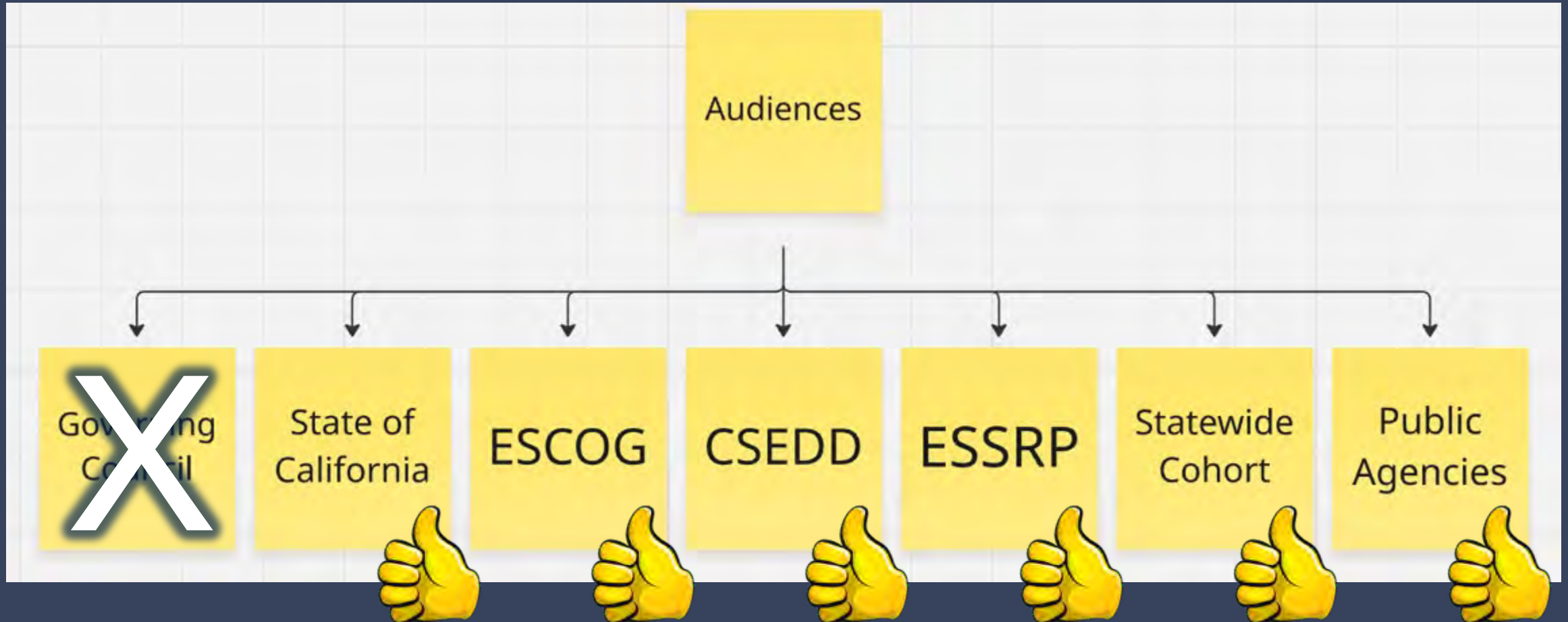




## Goal of the Working Group



## Goal of the Working Group





# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

## WORKING GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Mathew Galvan**  
Owner & Marketing Strategist  
Sierra Focus Media



**Travis Nabahe**  
Nabahe Global Group



**Bill Keene**  
President/CEO  
Climate Equity Solutions



**Austin McInerney**  
Senior Facilitator  
Climate Equity Solutions



**John Wentworth**  
CEO & Board President  
MLTPA



**Andie Stewart**  
Research & Policy Analyst  
MLTPA



**Chelsea Taylor**  
Comms Program Manager  
MLTPA



**Erin Murphy**  
Operations Manager  
MLTPA



# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

## Meeting #1 – “Regional Governance”

### PROJECT PRESENTATIONS & INTERVIEWS



John Wentworth  
MLTPA & ESSRP

Eastern  
Sierra  
Council of  
Governments

Elaine Kabala  
Regional Collaborative



Practitioners &  
Stakeholders



### INTRODUCTION TO REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

Chapter 4 Foundational Element Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Strategy 1

#### Public Lands Partnership Agreements

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

Regional Strategic Plan – pg. 76





# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

## Meeting #1 – Breakout Groups + Data Collection

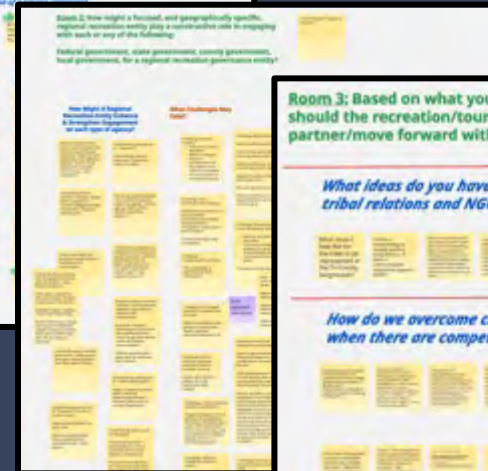
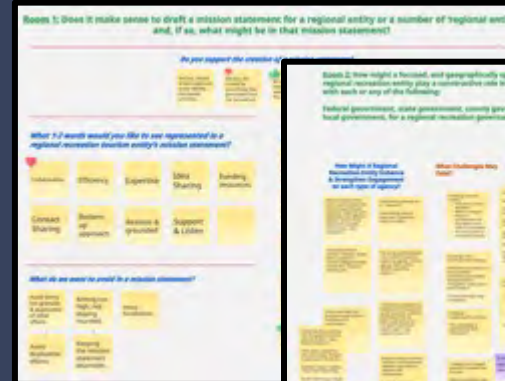
### BREAKOUT GROUPS

**Room 1:** Does it make sense to draft a mission statement for a regional entity or several 'regional entities' and, if so, what might be in that mission statement?

**Room 2:** How might a "regional recreation entity" play a role in expediting project development, with each or any of the following: Federal government, state government, county government, and/or local government.

**Room 3:** Based on what you've heard from the two projects, how should the recreation/tourism sector work with tribes to partner/move forward with work in this region?

**Room 4:** What are the most important and practical components of a regional recreation and tourism governance structure to most benefit the sector?



# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

## Meeting #1 –Data Analysis + RICA Prep

Standardized Code	Code	Key Findings/Note	Source
LOCAL-LED	Organic & Bottom-Up	The creation process should arrive organically as shared priorities are identified.	BR 1
LOCAL-LED	Organic & Bottom-Up	The mission statement and structure should percolate from the ground up.	BR 1
LOCAL-LED	Organic & Bottom-Up	Making sure the real driver is at the community level, and not another outside entity imposing control.	BR 1
LOCAL-LED	Organic & Bottom-Up	Emphasis on the entity being born from local groups and the community level.	BR 1
GOVERNANCE-AVOID	Avoid Central Control	The entity must avoid heavy-handedness or being imposed from the outside or top-down	BR 1
FEASIBILITY	Realistic & Focused	Focus on keeping this realistic and grounded (e.g., words to describe function: "Realistic & grounded").	BR 1
FEASIBILITY	Realistic & Focused	Avoid being too granular.	BR 1
FEASIBILITY	Realistic & Focused	Avoid aiming too high, ensuring the mission statement is attainable.	BR 1
FEASIBILITY	Realistic & Focused	Start small from the beginning.	BR 1
FEASIBILITY	Realistic & Focused	Concern that defining the mission statement is too early in this process.	BR 1
FEASIBILITY	Realistic & Focused	Avoid trying to do too much all at the same time.	BR 4
EFFICIENCY	Leverage & Efficiency	Leverage existing tools (data, planning capacity) so funds are not exhausted to recreate the wheel.	BR 1
EFFICIENCY	Leverage & Efficiency	Avoid duplicative efforts (e.g., concerning SNA's existing work).	BR 1
EFFICIENCY	Leverage & Efficiency	Need to ensure the feedback loop between efforts is efficient and not duplicative.	BR 1
CUSTOMIZATION	Embrace Uniqueness	Maintain consistency while embracing the uniqueness of each community.	BR 1
CUSTOMIZATION	Embrace Uniqueness	The entity must support & listen, adapting to each county's culture & needs.	BR 1
INFORMAL	Governance as Outcome	Regional governance should be an outcome, with an emphasis on informal coordination.	BR 4
CONVENE	Break Silos & Network	Must break silos by doing deep listening to all partners.	BR 4
CONVENE	Break Silos & Network	Core function is simple info sharing/relationship building that remote counties feel is valuable.	BR 4
CONVENE	Break Silos & Network	Get to know all sectors and identify opportunities to coordinate.	BR 4



# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

## Working Group Dates & Topics

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

# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

## SIERRA WORKS

THANK YOU FOR COMING



Next Meeting:

January 20, 2026



# Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Projects - Recreation & Tourism

English



About

Collaborative

Strategic Plan

Regional Summary

Catalyst 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](#)



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



Sierra Sourced  
[Learn More](#)



Sierra Seven Arts Alliance  
[Learn More](#)



Sierra Founders Academy  
[Learn More](#)



Remaking The Eastern Sierra Food System  
[Learn More](#)



Pathways To Prosperity  
[Learn More](#)



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



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



Keep Sierra Green  
[Learn More](#)



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



Hybrid EMS Training Program  
[Learn More](#)



Expanded Tribal Healthcare  
[Learn More](#)



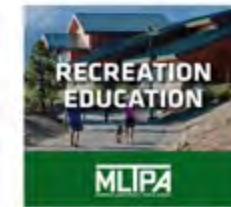
Eastern Sierra Regional Trail System And Jobs Creation  
[Learn More](#)



Eastern Sierra Regional Campground Improvements And Jobs Creation Project  
[Learn More](#)



Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative  
[Learn More](#)

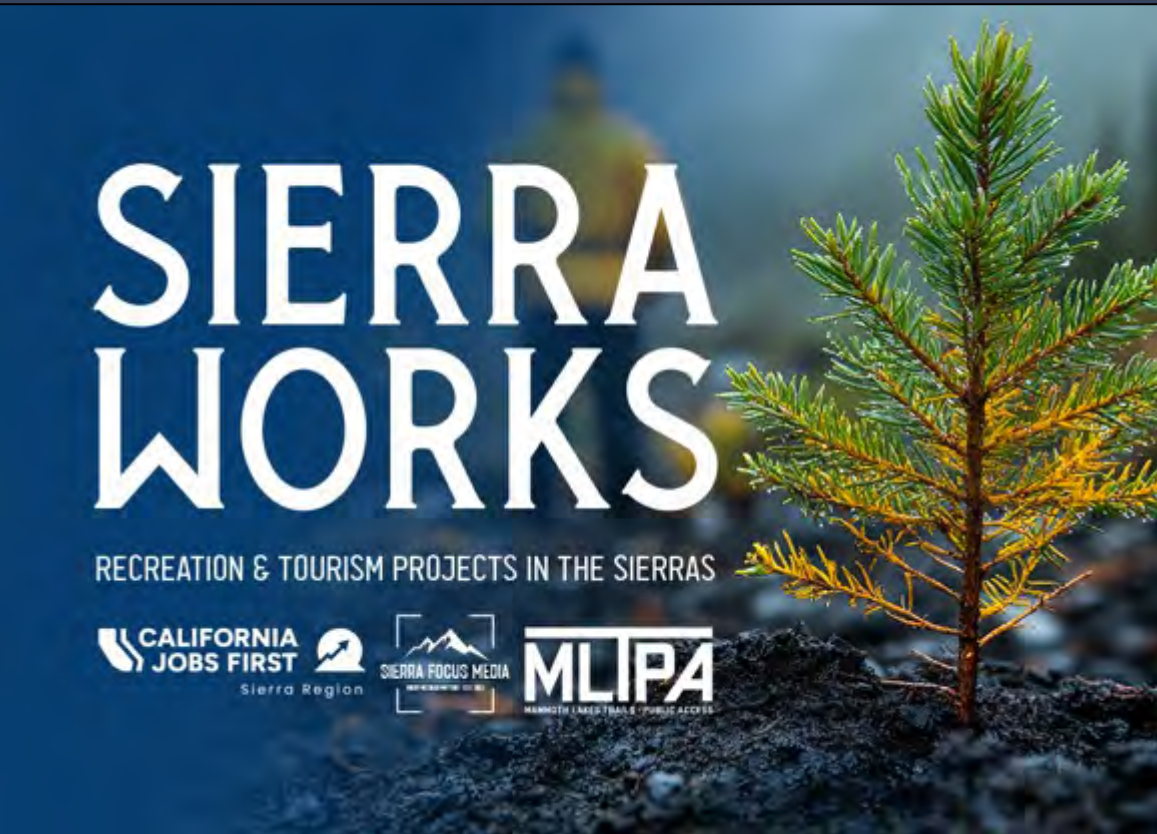


Eastern Sierra Education And Recreation Jobs Creation  
[Learn More](#)

# 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: 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](mailto: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](mailto:andreastewart@mltpa.org)

# Sierra Jobs First - Andie Stewart, Technical Assistance Update

## California's Proposition 4 – \$100m / now \$45m for Trails



**California Trails Survey**  
CA Climate Bond

**California Trails**  
CA CLIMATE BOND



**Help Improve California's Trails**

Trails are essential places for recreation, health, mobility, and connection to nature. California is launching a statewide effort to improve access to recreational trails, like hiking, biking, and horseback riding routes, especially for communities that have historically had less access to them. This effort is part of a larger plan to make the outdoors more inclusive and accessible, support climate resilience, honor tribal priorities, and help meet California's "30x30" goal (protecting 30% of land and coastal water by 2030).

- FAQs**  
Answers to some of your frequently asked questions!  
[Learn more >](#)
- Photo Contest**  
California Trail Users  
[Share your memories here! >](#)
- Survey**  
Trail Users, Advocates, and Professionals  
[Participate Now! >](#)



EASTERN SIERRA - CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST

## Sierra Jobs First

Building a Community-Led, Climate-Forward Economy  
in Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne Counties



**SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA**  
EVERY MESSAGE MATTERS • EST. 2023



**MLTPA**  
MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS • PUBLIC ACCESS





“Cohort of Practice”



# CA JOBS FIRST - SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT

## AGENDA 12/05/2025

- **Welcome/Check-in**
- **Field Notes**
- **Presentations – Session Five**
  - **North State (Siskiyou)**
    - Justi Hansen
  - **California Outdoor Recreation Partnership**
    - Lexie Gretlefeld
- **Rays of Sunshine**
- **Adjourn**



Source: Visit California





# California Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Statewide Cohort



## Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Cohort

Monthly Meeting  
December 5, 2025: 1:30 - 2:30  
[Google Calendar Link](#) | [Zoom link](#)

### AGENDA

TIME	GOAL	PRESENTED BY
1:30-1:35	Welcome & Check-in	All
1:35-1:45	Field Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Updates on newsworthy developments in the sector</li></ul>	John
1:45-2:25	Presentations - Session Five <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Justi Hansen - <a href="#">Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance (North State Region)</a> - <a href="#">South Siskiyou Sustainable Recreation Plan</a></li><li>Lexie Grittlefield - <a href="#">California Outdoor Recreation Partnership</a></li></ul>	Justi/Aaron
2:25-2:30	"Rays of Sunshine" <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sharing new projects, innovative practices, and other positivity</li></ul>	All
2:30	Adjourn Meeting	



Dedicated to advancing rural economic development and community health through sustainable outdoor recreation

- Mt. Shasta Nordic Center
- Recreation & Active Transportation Planning
- Trail Construction & Stewardship
- Mt. Shasta 4<sup>th</sup> July Walk/Run
- 2022 & 2023 Grinduro, CA





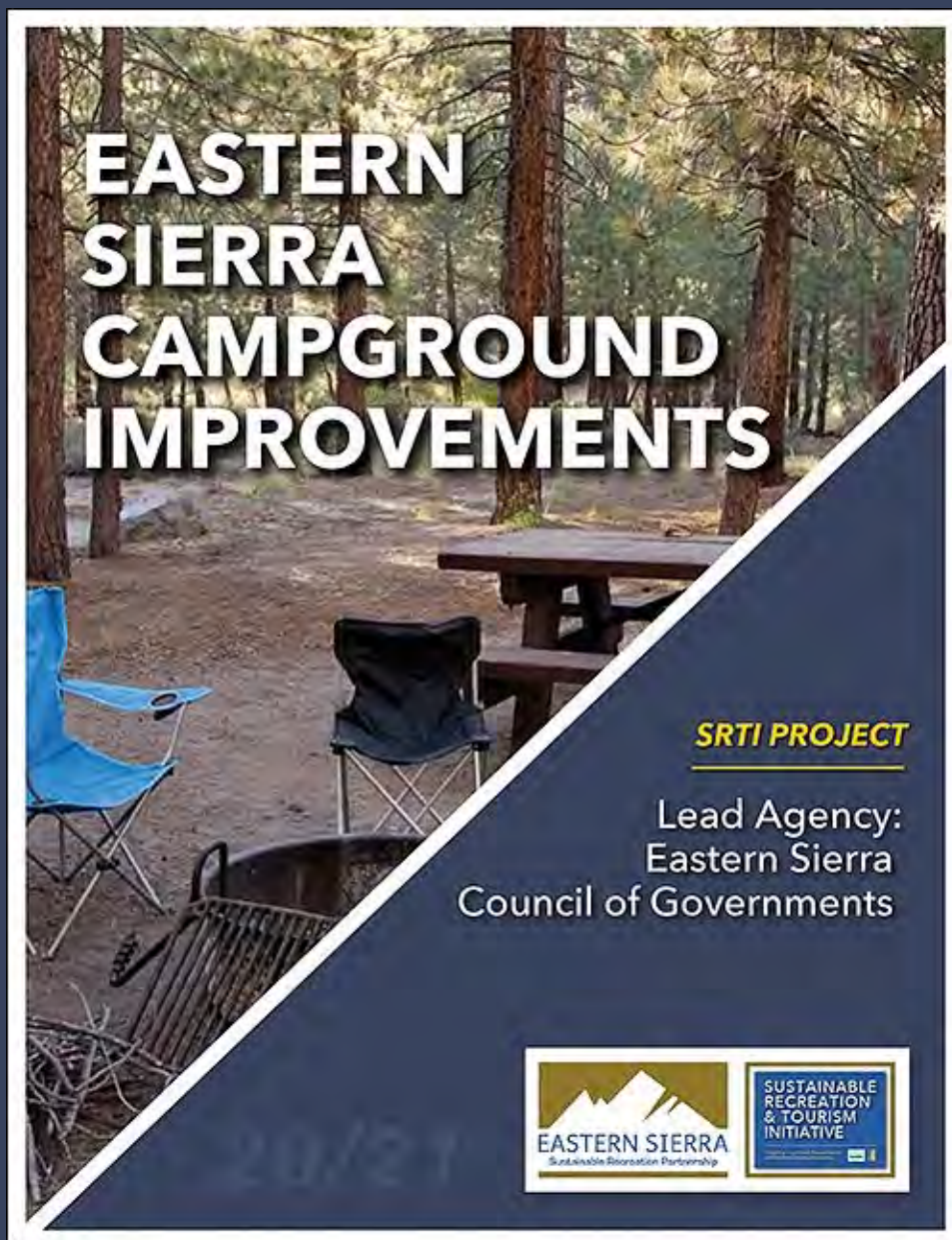


CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR  
RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

Statewide Recreation &  
Tourism Cohort Meeting  
December 5, 2025



# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



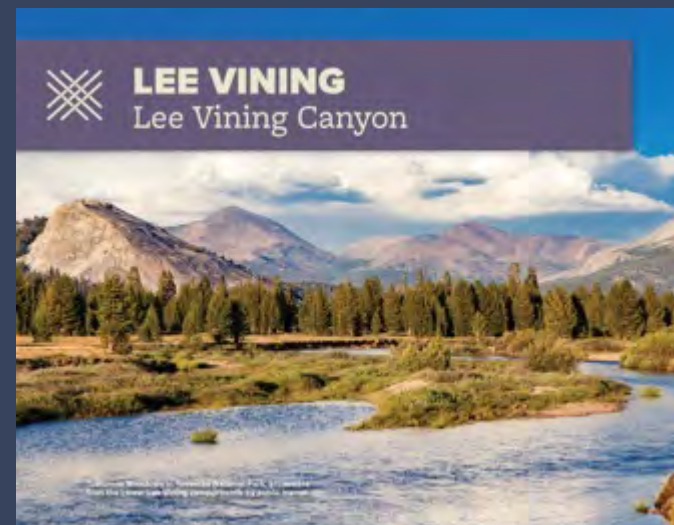
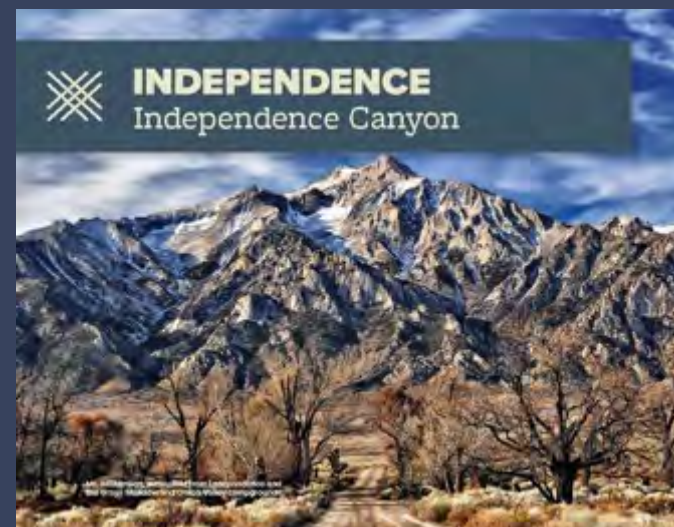
**EASTERN  
SIERRA  
CAMPGROUND  
IMPROVEMENTS**

**SRTI PROJECT**

Lead Agency:  
Eastern Sierra  
Council of Governments

**EASTERN SIERRA**  
Sustainable Recreation Partnership

**SUSTAINABLE  
RECREATION & TOURISM  
INITIATIVE**





# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects





**CALREC**  
**Vision**



# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

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

## STAND UP FOR CALIFORNIA ADOPT THE JOINT STRATEGY

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

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

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# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



[White Paper](#)

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**HARDY BULLOCK**

Nevada County Supervisor, District 5



**BOBBY MACAULAY**

Madera County Supervisor, District 5

# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

- Amador County
- Butte County
- Calaveras County
- City of Bishop
- City of Richmond
- City of Truckee
- East Bay Regional Park District
- East Bay Wildfire Coalition
- Humboldt County
- Marin County
- Mariposa County
- Napa County
- Nevada County
- Placer County
- Plumas County
- Sierra County
- Tuolumne County



The screenshot shows the top section of the CALREC Vision website. At the top left is the CALREC Vision logo, which includes a circular icon with a sun and mountains. To the right of the logo are five navigation links: "White Paper", "CA Joint Strategy", "Adoption", "Data Map", and "Support". The main banner features a background image of trees. The text "STAND UP FOR CALIFORNIA" is in large, red, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, "ADOPT THE JOINT STRATEGY" is in even larger, bold, red, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath this, a paragraph in smaller black text reads: "With wildfire risk rising and federal priorities shifting, there's a bold strategy available that transforms recreation infrastructure into community defense." At the bottom of the banner are two red buttons with white text. The left button has a play icon and says "WATCH THE OVERVIEW VIDEO". The right button says "GET SUPPORT".

**CALREC Vision**

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

## STAND UP FOR CALIFORNIA

# ADOPT THE JOINT STRATEGY

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

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



# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

- Amador County
- Butte County
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The screenshot shows the top section of the CALREC Vision website. At the top left is the CALREC Vision logo, which consists of a circular icon with a sun and mountains next to the text "CALREC Vision". To the right of the logo is a navigation bar with five links: "White Paper", "CA Joint Strategy", "Adoption", "Data Map", and "Support". Below the navigation bar is a large banner with a background image of trees. The banner features the text "STAND UP FOR CALIFORNIA" in large, bold, red capital letters, followed by "ADOPT THE JOINT STRATEGY" in even larger, bold, red capital letters. Below this text is a paragraph in smaller black font: "With wildfire risk rising and federal priorities shifting, there's a bold strategy available that transforms recreation infrastructure into community defense." At the bottom of the banner are two red buttons. The left button contains a play icon and the text "WATCH THE OVERVIEW VIDEO". The right button contains the text "GET SUPPORT".

**CALREC Vision**

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

## 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.

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# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

- Amador County
- Butte County
- Calaveras County
- City of Bishop



Napa County: “Hi John and Stacy. It was great talking to you this week. I shared some of this with NCRPOSD Staff Chris Cahill and Andrew Brooks and they are interested in learning more. Chris and Andrew are copied on this email, so feel free to set up a conversation with them. Thanks all, and hope you have a great Thanksgiving break!”

- Mariposa County
- Napa County
- Nevada County
- Placer County
- Plumas County
- Sierra County
- Tuolumne County





- Amador County
- Butte County
- Calaveras County
- City of Rich...



- Napa County
- Nevada County
- Placer County
- Plumas County
- Sierra County
- Tuolumne County

# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

- Amador County
- Butte County



Happy Holidays, Mr. Wentworth!

Circling back now that we have an approved calendar of Board hearings in 2026. Are you available February 17<sup>th</sup> instead? Please also send along any staff or board resolution templates too.

Warm regards,

**Erika Seward, MSE, CPRP**

Parks Administrator

Department of Agriculture, Parks, & Natural Resources

O: (530) 889-6819 | C: (530) 906-1056

E: [eseward@placer.ca.gov](mailto:eseward@placer.ca.gov)



- Placer County
- Plumas County
- Sierra County
- Tuolumne County



# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



## Recreate Responsibly Updates

### Recreate Responsibly Winter Reminders

In California, your winter recreation options remain vast - you can head to a snowy peak, enjoy warm desert afternoons, watch the king tides, or maybe experience a bit of all three. Whatever your adventure this season, plan ahead, check conditions, and recreate responsibly based on your location and activity.

From rain and mud to big waves and icy trails, conditions can change quickly. Always check the weather and site-specific updates before heading out. Dress for the season and let someone know your plans.

- Take a look at [these tips](#) and feel free to use the [messaging toolkit](#) from the Recreate Responsibly Winter Edition.

If your adventures include rivers, lakes, or the coast, remember waves are bigger, cold water is dangerous, and currents remain swift. Coastal visits can also bring King Tides, so check tide forecasts, stay back from the water, and watch for sneaker waves and strong currents.

- Learn more about [California King Tides](#)

### Celebrating America's 250th in Our National Parks

America's National Parks has launched a dedicated page to help the public prepare for the 250th

BRING SOME  
OF THESE!



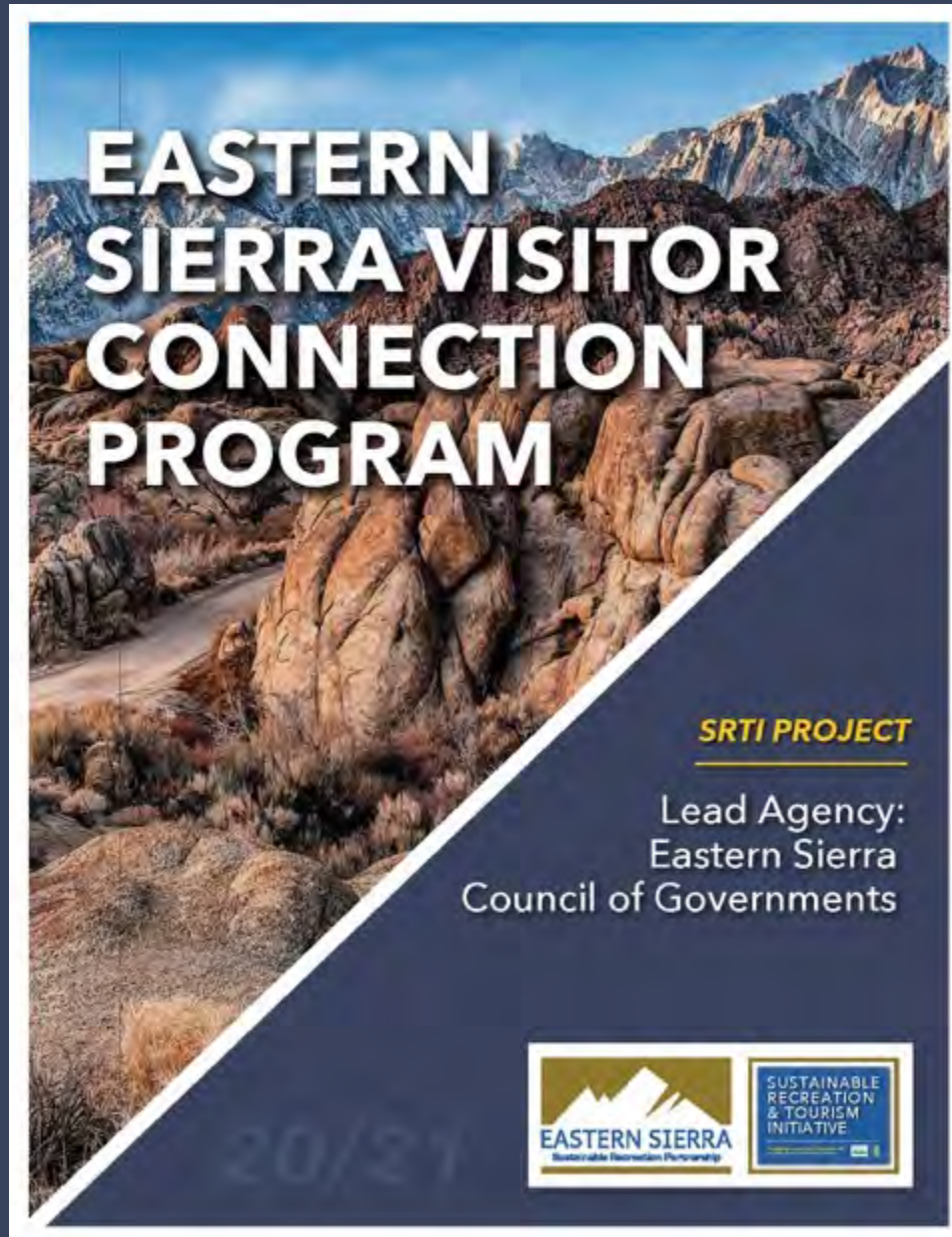
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) is providing these communication services.

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

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



# 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



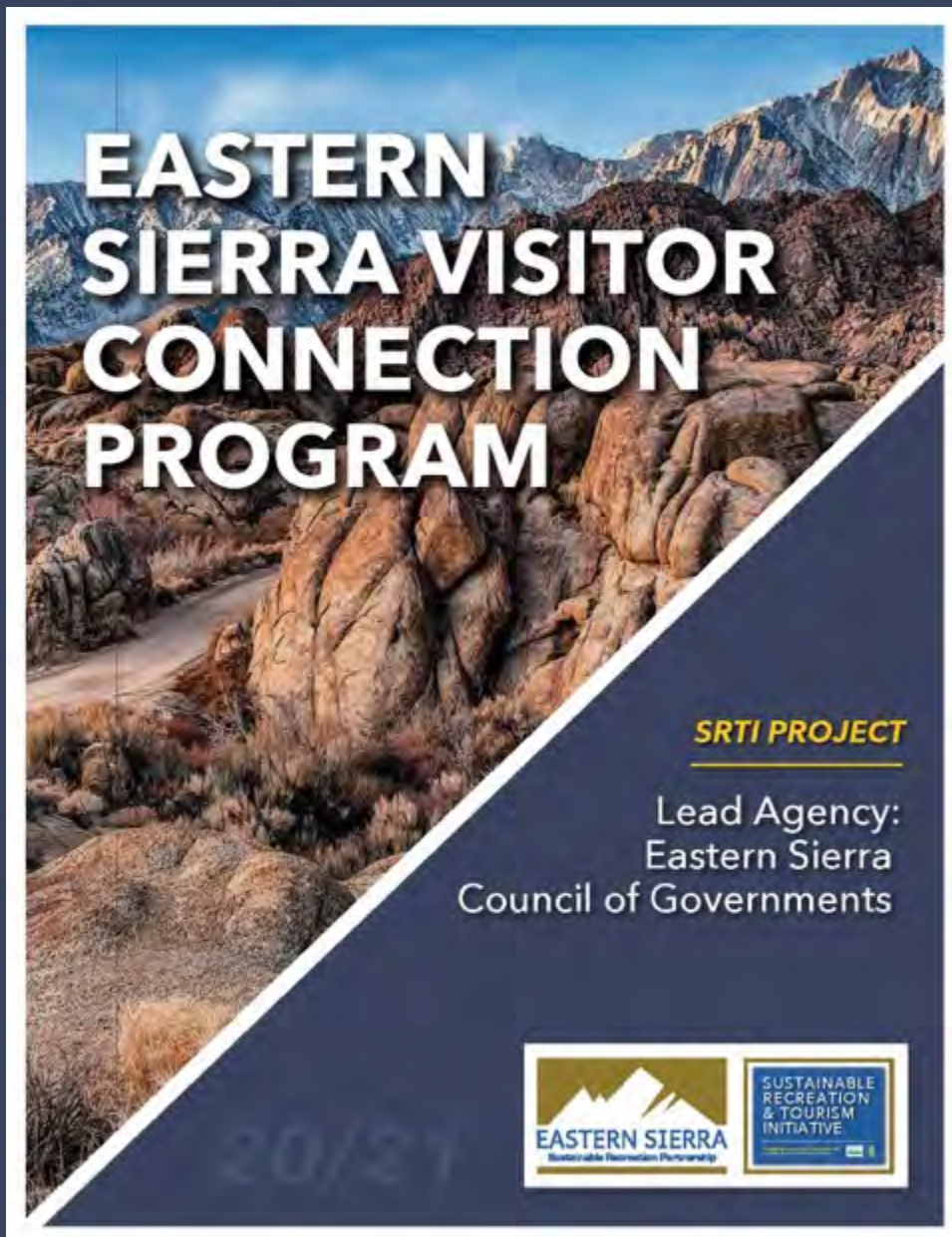
## Collaborations & Campaigns

- 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***

Stewardship Group  
Fire Safe Council  
Climbing Rangers  
Board of Commerce  
Land Management  
California State Parks  
Sports Eastern Sierra  
Conservation Corps  
Wheel Drive Club  
er (formerly ESIA)  
Friends of the Inyo  
Energy Foundation  
the National Forest  
o National Forest  
of Water & Power  
Board of Commerce  
reation & Tourism  
Innsmouth Mountain)  
Mono County  
Lake Committee  
National Park Service



# ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects

Eastern  
Sierra  
Council of  
Governments

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[WHAT WE DO](#)

[MEETINGS](#)

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Eastern  
Sierra  
Council of  
Governments

## SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



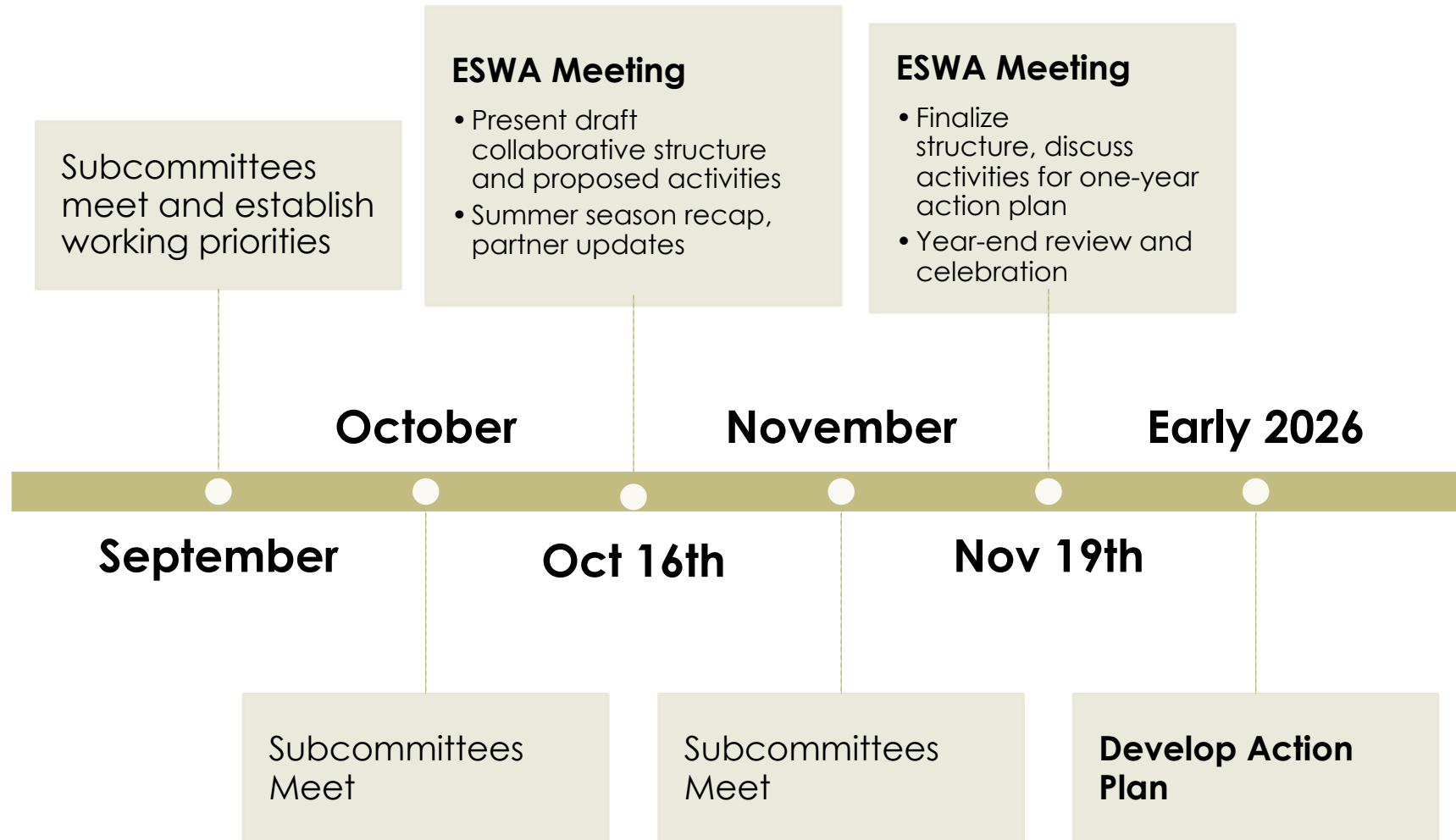




# Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

- Collaboration of agencies, communities, non-profits, utilities, Tribes, and others working to advance regional resilience
- 2025 effort to refine collaborative structure & decision-making
- Focus on communities & landscapes throughout region
- Strong collaborative approach that includes diverse partners is essential to demonstrate funding readiness

# ESWA 2025 Timeline





# Wildfire Alliance Meeting – February 9th

## ESWA 2026 Meetings



**Annie Crowley**

Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

Inbox - ...rth@mltpa.org

December 23, 2025 at 2:59 PM



**Siri Found an Event**

Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

Mon, Feb 9 at 10:00 AM

Add



Please save the date for the next **Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance meeting on February 9th between 10am and 1pm, location to follow.** This will be a hybrid meeting.

**To join the meeting remotely over Zoom, please register in advance by following this link:**

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/91YGmLdITnGVow5s61M8\\_w](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/91YGmLdITnGVow5s61M8_w)



Mail Attachment.ics



# Wildfire Alliance Project Subcommittee – Feb. Request

## ESWA 2026 Meetings



Tracy Misiewicz

Inbox - TOML Email

December 15, 2025 at 12:07 PM

Re: 2026 ESWA meeting scheduling - Do these dates work?

To: Stacy Corless, Cc: Kristen Pfeiler, Wendilyn Grasseschi, Paul McFarland & 5 more

[Details](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Thank you, Stacy!

Please consider Monday February 8th or the 22nd as alternatives for the first meeting. The remaining options remain as follows:

Monday, February 8th or 22nd, 10am - 1pm

Wednesday May 6th, 10am - 1pm

Wednesday Aug 5th, 10am - 1pm

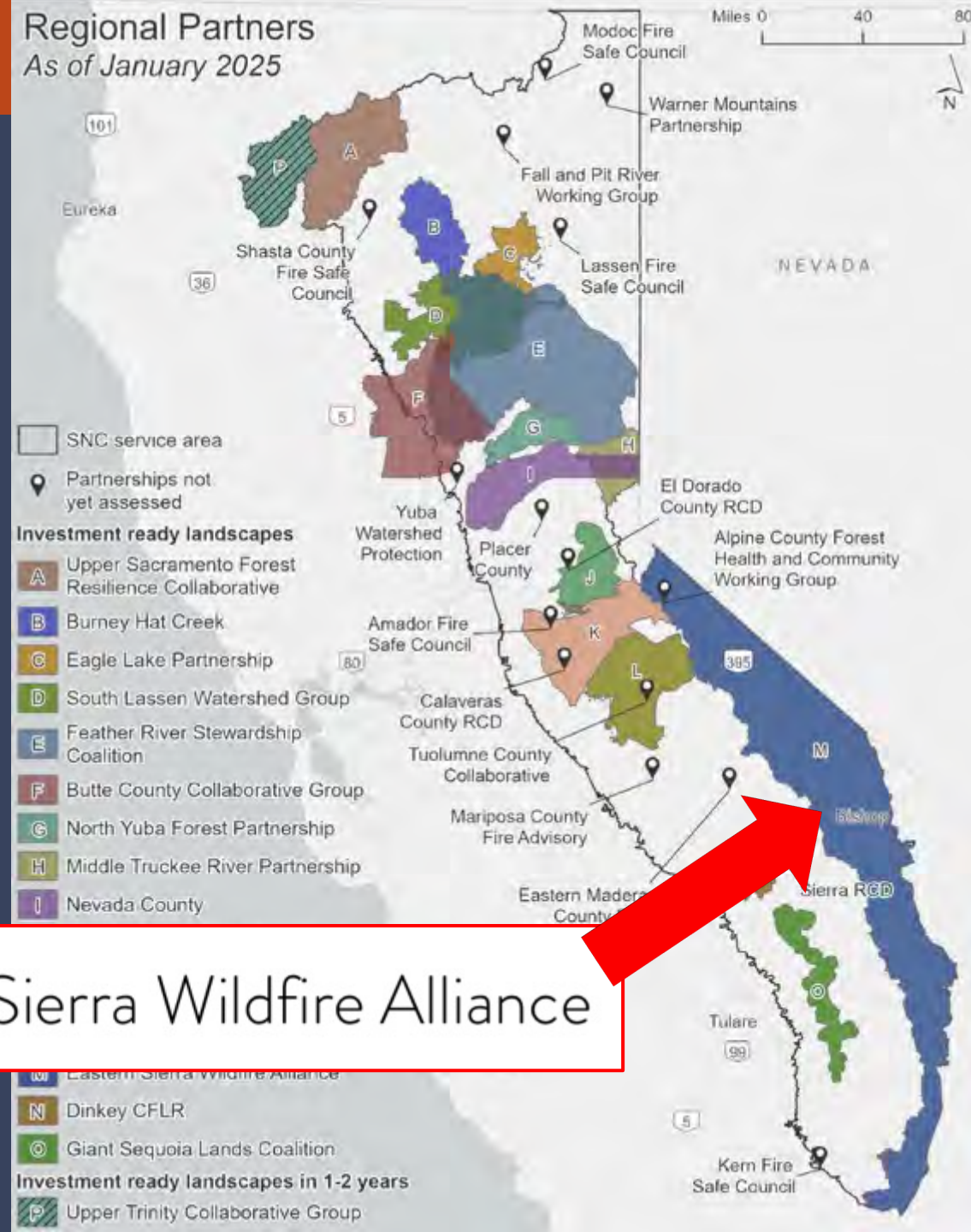
Wednesday Nov 4th, 10am - 1pm

Thanks!

All good things,  
Tracy



# California Wildfire and Recreation



Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

# Partner Updates – In REVERSE Alphabetical Order

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



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

Thank You - !

Next Regular ESSRP Partner Meeting  
Monday, February 2, 2026 @ 3:30