



Winter



REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



February 2, 2026





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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



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



COUNTY OF ALPINE Office of the County Clerk

Teola L. Tremayne, County Clerk
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board of Supervisors
Ex Officio Registrar of Voters

January 31, 2026

John Wentworth
Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership

RE: Committee/Commission Appointment

Dear John,

At their January 6, 2026, meeting, the Alpine County Board of Supervisors adopted committee assignments for the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership and Supervisor David Griffith was appointed as the Board's liaison to the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership. Supervisor Griffith's address is P.O. Box 158, Markleeville, CA 96120; telephone 530-694-2168. Supervisor Evan Mecal was appointed as the alternate and his address is P.O. Box 158, Markleeville, CA 96120; telephone 530-694-2707.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office at the number/address below.

Sincerely,

Teola L. Tremayne, County Clerk
By: Michelle Minder, Deputy County Clerk
Alpine County

What is the ESSRP

Alpine

SIERRA WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS

CALIFORNIA
JOBS FIRST
Sierra Region

SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA
AND RECREATION OF THE

MLTPA
HAMMOTH LAKE 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

Greetings



You're invited

to the first-ever Outdoors for All Convening, which will celebrate our shared progress in advancing equitable access, strengthen shared priorities, and spark new ideas to expand outdoor access to more Californians.

Tuesday, February 3 | 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
California Natural Resources Agency Building
715 P Street, Sacramento

We look forward to welcoming you.
Please RSVP by Friday, January 16 to
outdoors@resources.ca.gov.



Gloria Sandoval
Deputy Secretary for Access
California Natural Resources Agency
916.803.4409
[Join the Outdoors for All movement!](#)

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Outdoors for All

Welcome to Outdoors for All!

We invite you to explore California's outdoors and support an Outdoors for All.

California is known around the world for its iconic and beautiful outdoor spaces. Yet for too many Californians, these places, recreational activities, and their benefits remain out of reach. The State of California believes in the right of all Californians to have access to recreational opportunities, and to enjoy and protect the cultural, historic, and natural resources found across the Golden State.

Why is it important to prioritize time in the outdoors and safeguard these environments?

- Nature is critical for our physical, mental, and social wellbeing. Research shows that





California Trails Survey

CA Climate Bond

**CALIFORNIA
TRAILS**



CA CLIMATE BOND

- Nature is critical for our physical, mental, and social wellbeing. Research shows that

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



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



Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

Remembering Kathy Jefferson Bancroft



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MANZANAR COMMITTEE ARCHIVES

Select Month



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Please note that the logo of the Manzanar Committee is protected under separate copyright (see bottom of page).

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

Funeral Support for Kathy Jefferson Bancroft



 **Franco Bancroft and Jolie Varela**

 **Donation protected**

Kathy Jefferson Bancroft made her journey home January 25, 2026. Kathy was a fierce land defender and water protector. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and by her precious homelands.

These funds will help support Kathy's family in covering memorial costs and other unforeseen expenses.



\$10,220 raised of 10K

84 donations

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34 people just donated

S

Stephanie Arman
\$20 · Recent donation

L

Laureen Hildebrandt
\$500 · Top donation

D

David McConville
\$300 · 1 d

A

Anna Hohag
\$200 · 22 hrs


K

Krystal Kissinger
\$200 · 1 d

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Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

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CEO Update: Announcing my retirement

President & CEO Caroline Beteta announces her planned retirement

Jan. 15, 2026

Share



Caroline Beteta, President and CEO of Visit California, has announced she will retire in September 2026 after three decades of leadership at the helm of the state's destination marketing organization.

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



MLTPA Foundation

Chelsea Taylor – *Project Specialist*

- Sierra Jobs First – Working Group
- “I have an opportunity here in Oregon for a role with benefits and salary that I am excited to pursue.”

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Whitebark Institute

Dr. Ali Urza – *Forest Health Program Director*

- PhD, MS in Ecology
- Native of Reno, NV
- Lifelong Eastern Sierra Recreator

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Inyo National Forest

Adam Barnett

- Acting Forest Supervisor
- Public Services Staff Officer



CALTRANS District 9

Neil Peacock – *Returning!*

- Supervising Transportation Planner
- Planning and Modal Programs Manager
- Division of Planning, Local Assistance, and Environmental Analysis

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



MLTPA Foundation

Dillon Osleger – *Natural Resources & GIS Manager*

- “The Nation’s Trails are Disappearing”
- “Trail Work: Restoring the Paths and Stories of America’s Public Lands”
- “The Ground Truth”

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Trail Work: Restoring the Paths and Stories of America's Public Lands



TRAIL WORK
Restoring the Paths and Stories of America's Public Lands
DILLON OSLEGER



Hardcover, 8 x 5.25, 256 pages | Pub Date:
May 12, 2026
ISBN: 9781597147132

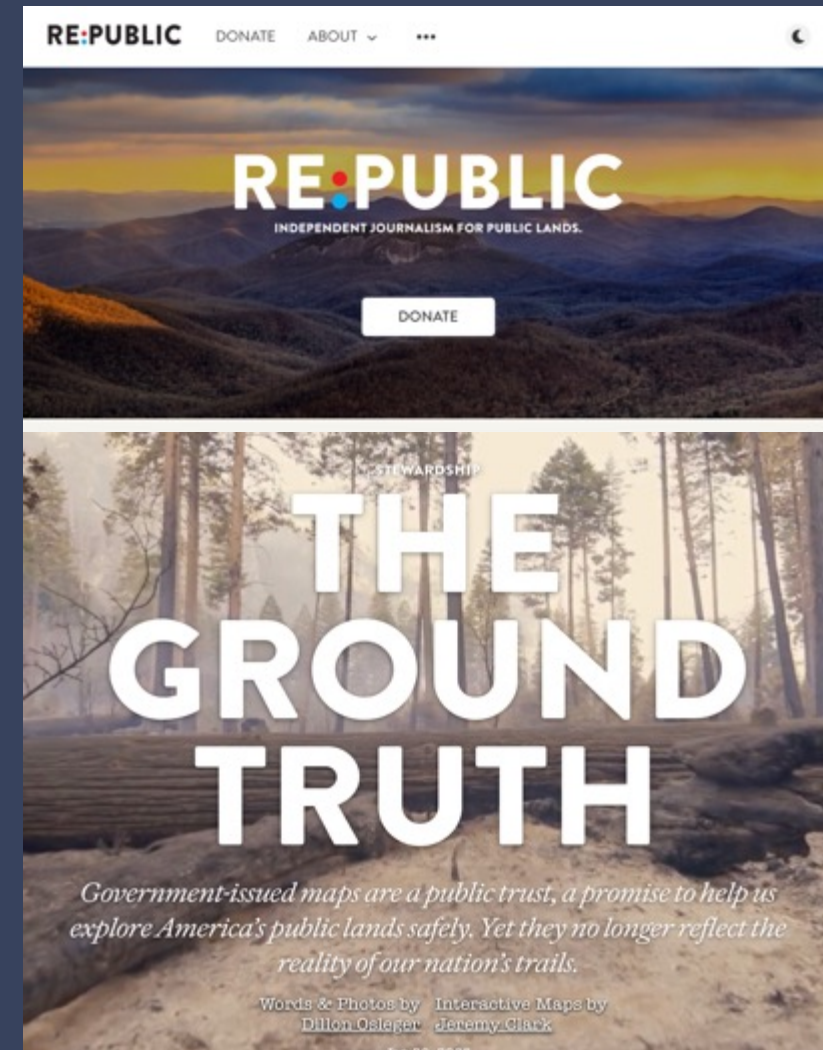
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By Dillon Osleger

Mapping the past—and the future—of American trails.

In *Trail Work*, Dillon Osleger excavates the forgotten trails of the Western United States. He shows how one of the greatest infrastructure investments in the nation's history—paths through our public lands—has been rubbed away by time and deliberate neglect. Osleger unearths the wagon roads, water sources, trap lines, and Indigenous trading trails that once knitted the West together. He reveals centuries of path building, more than two-thirds of a nationwide network of trails and campgrounds, now erased from the map. Dwindling federal investment and privatized timber forests, ranches, and oil fields have blocked access to public lands, prompting Osleger to ask: How can we better care for the places that are claimed for the American public, but are too often abandoned or sold? Osleger has trail eyes like no other from his years as a trail builder, geologist, professional mountain biker, and public



Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Sierra Nevada Alliance

Jenny Hatch – *Executive Director*

- Tribal Ambassador Jobs Program

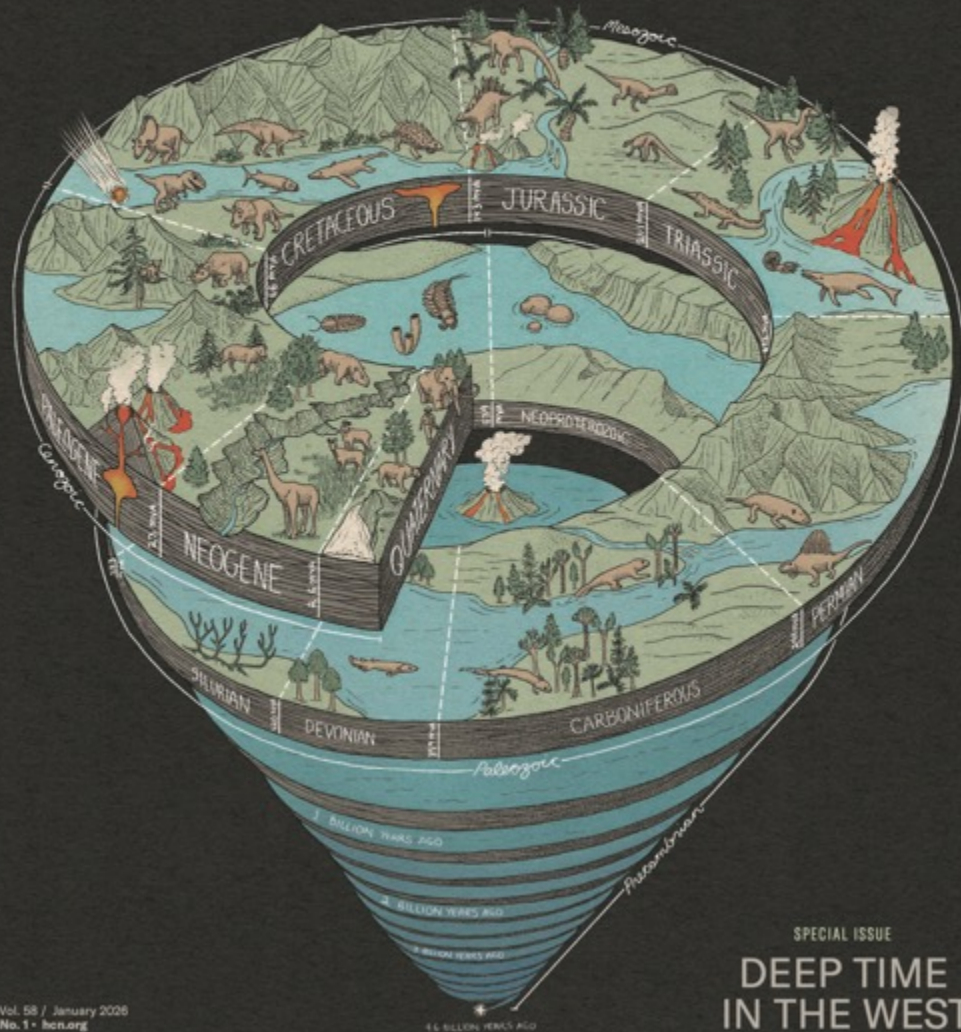
Hot Links February 2, 2026

- What is the ESSRP
 - Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)
 - Review the critical documents of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership
 - Origin Story
 - Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan
 - Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative
 - Sierra Works
 - Sierra Works: Discover
 - Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells
 - Greetings from Sacramento
 - "California's First-Ever Outdoors for All Convening"
 - "California Trails Survey"
 - "Welcome to Outdoors for All! We invite you to explore California's outdoors and support an Outdoors for All. "
 - Farewells
 - Remembering Kathy Jefferson Bancroft
 - Funeral Support for Kathy Jefferson Bancroft



Happenings of Interest for Eastern Sierra Recreation

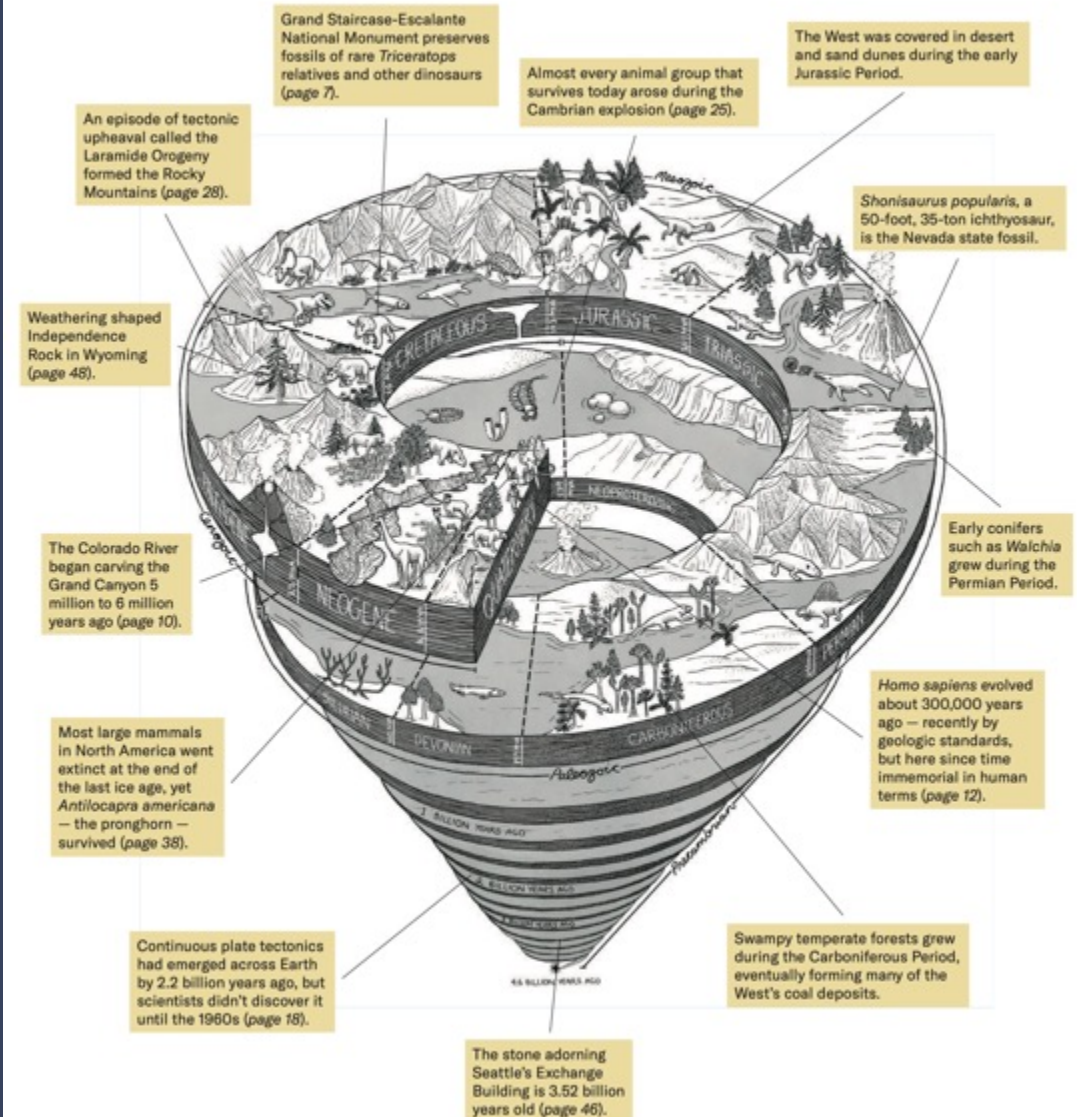
High Country News



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

SPECIAL ISSUE
**DEEP TIME
IN THE WEST**

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



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument preserves fossils of rare *Triceratops* relatives and other dinosaurs (page 7).

An episode of tectonic upheaval called the Laramide Orogeny formed the Rocky Mountains (page 28).

Almost every animal group that survives today arose during the Cambrian explosion (page 25).

The West was covered in desert and sand dunes during the early Jurassic Period.

Shonisaurus popularis, a 50-foot, 35-ton ichthyosaur, is the Nevada state fossil.

Weathering shaped Independence Rock in Wyoming (page 48).

The Colorado River began carving the Grand Canyon 5 million to 6 million years ago (page 10).

Most large mammals in North America went extinct at the end of the last ice age, yet *Antilocapra americana* — the pronghorn — survived (page 38).

Early conifers such as *Walchia* grew during the Permian Period.

Homo sapiens evolved about 300,000 years ago — recently by geologic standards, but here since time immemorial in human terms (page 12).

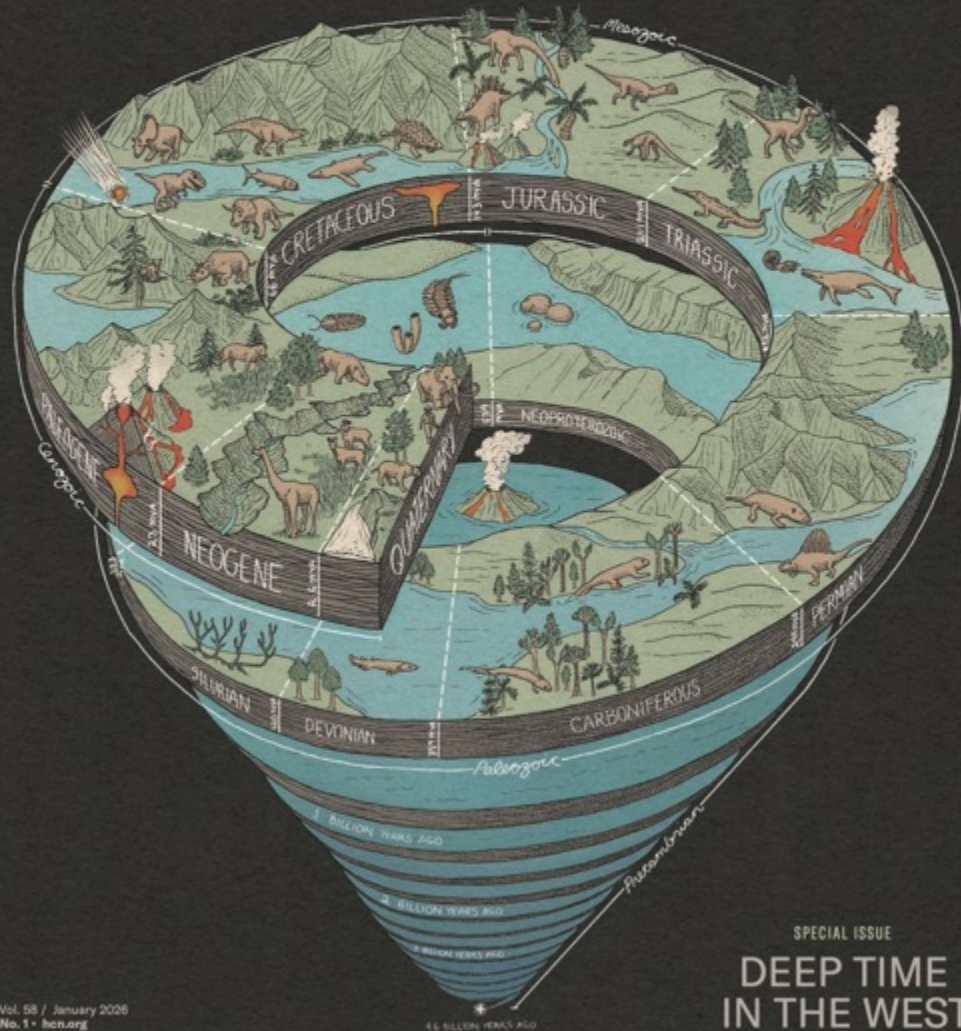
Continuous plate tectonics had emerged across Earth by 2.2 billion years ago, but scientists didn't discover it until the 1960s (page 18).

The stone adorning Seattle's Exchange Building is 3.52 billion years old (page 46).

Swampy temperate forests grew during the Carboniferous Period, eventually forming many of the West's coal deposits.

Happenings of Interest

High Country News



High Country News [Donate](#)

MONUMENTS

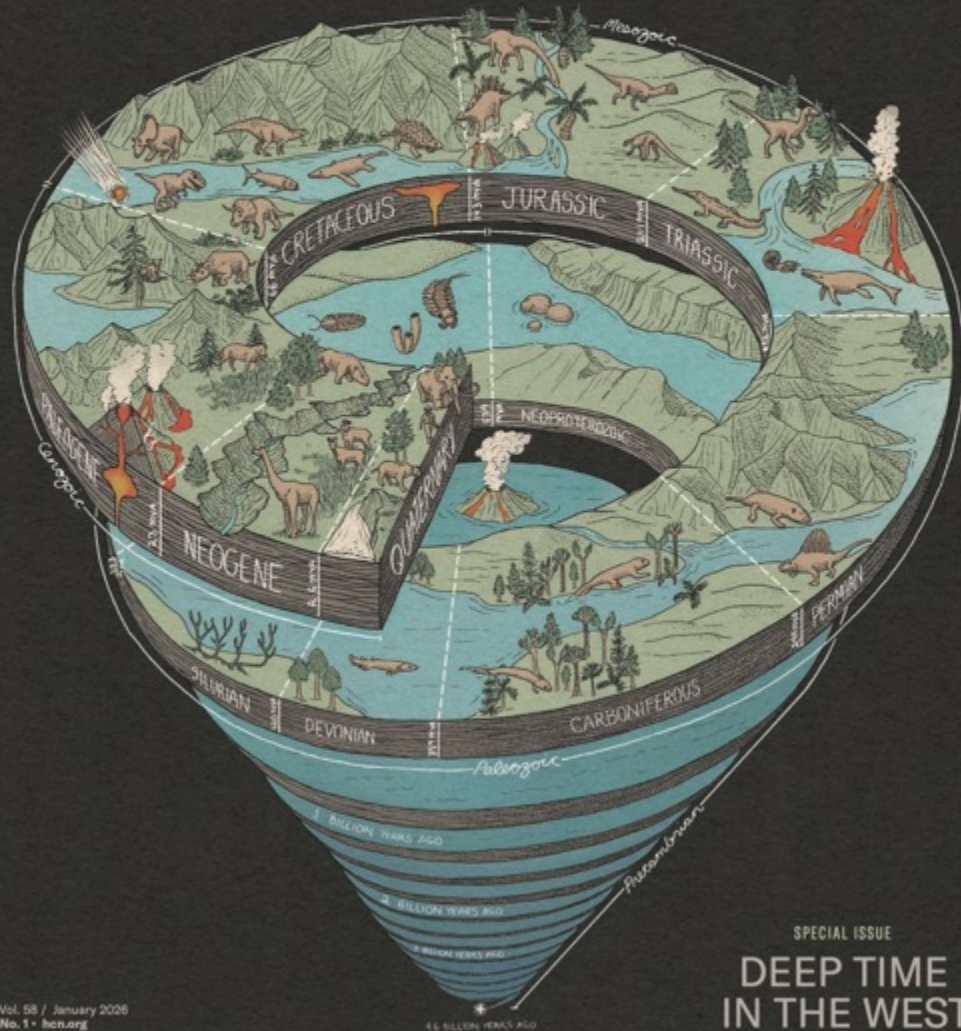
An age-old monument faces modern threats

Scientists say Grand Staircase-Escalante isn't reaching its full research potential.

Shi En Kim January 6, 2026

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High Country News



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REVIEW

'Train Dreams' is an ode to the lonely labor of forestry

In the new film adaptation of Denis Johnson's novella, I saw my own Forest Service career reflected back at me.

Claire K. Thompson January 22, 2026

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Happenings of Interest

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 W



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 Hale Irwin/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 8:31 a.m.

Gift Article f X W



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

Happenings of Interest

San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition Account

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

WEATHER

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

By Megan Cassidy, Lucy Hodgman, Staff writer
Updated Dec 21, 2025 8:23 a.m.

Gift Article f X T



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 Hale/Inquirer 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."

SFGATE

CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NEWS | BAY AREA & STATE

California snowpack jumps more than 600% in just 12 days

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

f X T



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

San Francisco Chronicle


e-Edition Account

BAY AREA

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

By Jessica Flores, Lucy Hodgman, Staff writer
Updated Dec 21, 2025 8:31 a.m.

Gift Article f X T



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Kyle Gillet/For the S.F. Chronicle

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Happenings of Interest

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JANUARY 26, 2026


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

by Ian James

edited by Sadie Harley, reviewed by Andrew Zinin

The GIST

Add as preferred source



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

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

Sections

Los Angeles Times

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

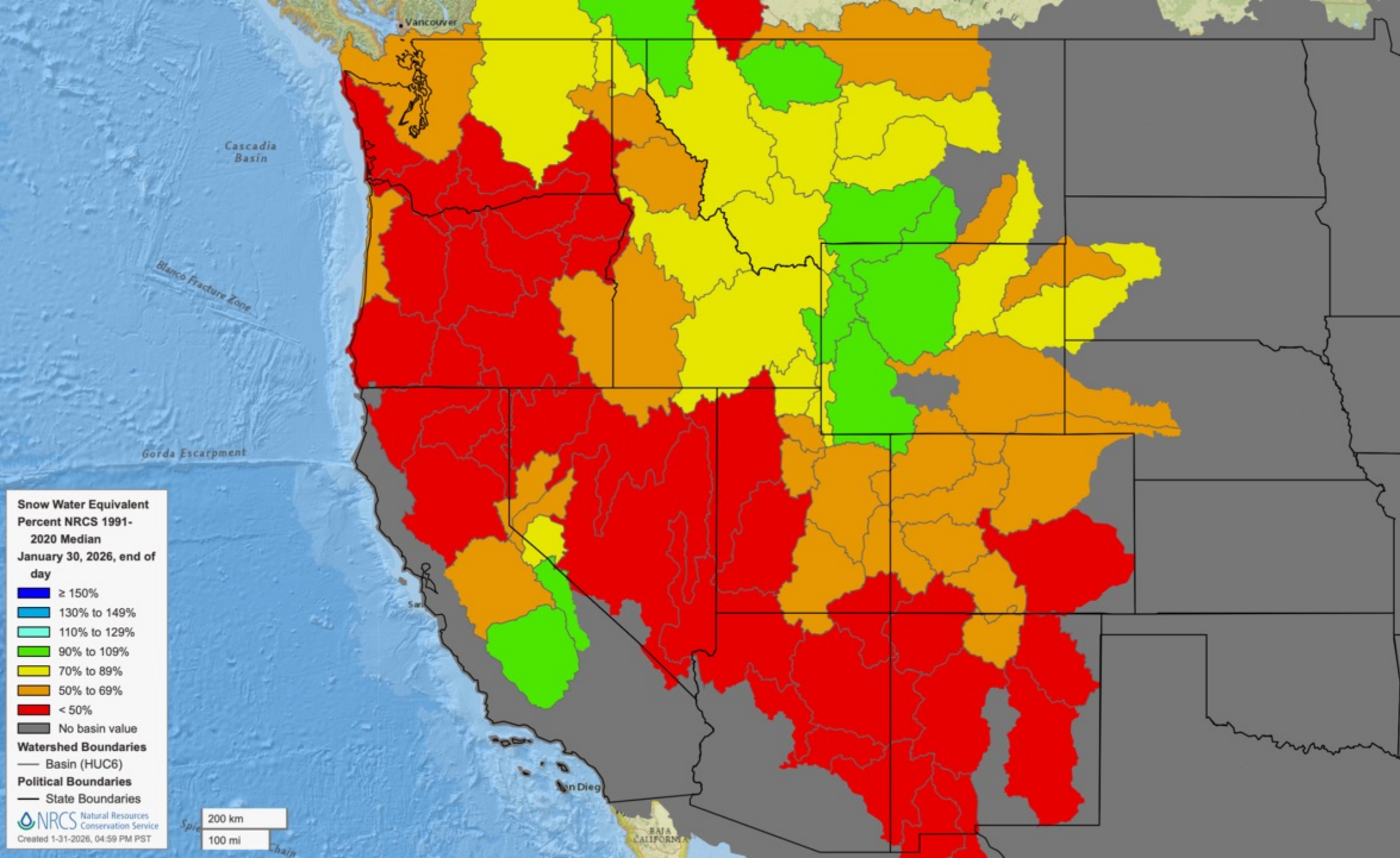
Rain, not snow: Extraordinary warmth leaves mountains less snowy across the West



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



By Ian James
Staff Writer | Follow



Happenings of Interest

Sections

Los Angeles Times




CALIFORNIA

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



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

Happenings of Interest

 U.S. ▾ Politics ▾ World ▾ Opinion Media ▾ Entertainment ▾ Sports ▾ Lifestyle ▾ Health ▾ Video AI MoQ : Log In Watch TV


CONGRESS

Where things stand with the government shutdown and how soon it could end



House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries says Democrats won't support current bill that provides stopgap DHS funding


By **Anders Hagstrom** · Fox News

Published February 2, 2026 6:50am EST




Like 11






HOUSE MUST PASS SPENDING BILLS TO END PARTIAL SHUTDOWN
CAPITOL HILL


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1 hour ago
Where things stand with the government shutdown and how soon it could end



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6 hours ago
Portland mayor demands ICE leave city after federal agents use tear gas on protesters
'Sickening decisions'



10 hours ago
California AG sues hospital that ended gender transition treatment for minors to comply with Trump policies

Bob Gardner Federal Budget Updates – February 2, 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 – February 2, 2026






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POLITICS • 3 MIN READ

House minority leader says Republicans can't rely on Democrats to pass funding bill, raising fears of longer shutdown

UPDATED 1 HR 18 MIN AGO

By  [Manu Raju](#),  [Sarah Ferris](#)



House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a Democrat from New York, speaks during a news conference at the US Capitol in Washington, DC, on January 31. (Graeme Sloan/Bloomberg/Getty Images)

Bob Gardner Federal Budget Updates – February 2, 2026



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

VICE CHAIR, Senator Patty Murray

BILL SUMMARY: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Bill

Bill rejects dramatic cuts proposed by Trump, House Republicans; delivers key funding for public lands, Tribes

Washington, D.C. – The Fiscal Year 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act provides \$42.56 billion in total funding.

Key Points & Highlights – Protecting Public Lands

Public Lands: The bill rejects President Trump's efforts to shortchange America's cherished landscapes by ensuring that resources remain in place to fully support longstanding operations of the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, National Conservation Lands, and the National Forest System. The bill provides the funding necessary to maintain personnel at prior year levels, rejecting President Trump's efforts to entrench damaging staffing cuts, and requires the staffing levels necessary to be able to provide visitor services, facilitate Tribal consultation, ensure public safety, and carry out the science necessary to respond to growing natural threats and increased visitation.

National Park Service: The bill provides \$3.27 billion for the National Park Service, including \$2.87 billion for the operation of the National Park System, which is \$1.15 billion higher than the level requested by President Trump. The bill provides the resources to sustain fiscal year 2024 staffing levels and provides the funding necessary to support a full complement of seasonal staff during fiscal year 2026. The bill also provides \$205 million for the Historic Preservation Fund, including specified funding of \$23.75 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and \$62.15 million for State Historic Preservation Offices. The bill provides funding typically allocated for Line Item Construction Projects with funding for park repairs, while awaiting information about specific construction projects that are shovel-ready.

Forest Service: The bill provides \$6.13 billion for the Forest Service, excluding additional funding for the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve. Of this amount, \$3.7 billion is provided for the Forest Service's non-wildland fire management responsibilities—providing sufficient funds to sustain appropriate staffing levels. The bill rejects the steep \$1.4 billion cut to the Forest Service's non-fire budget proposed by President Trump. The bill provides funding for the Forest Service to improve forest restoration and fire risk reduction efforts on federal lands and through cross-boundary

Bob Gardner Public Lands Budget Updates – February 2, 2026

Summary of Selected Public Lands Budgets Enacted in PL 119-37 (including Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies)									
	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Pres. Request	Pres. Request vs. FY 2025 Enacted	%	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted vs. FY 2025 Enacted	%	FY 2026 Enacted vs. Pres. Request	%
Bureau of Land Management	\$1,411,983	\$899,394	(\$512,589)	-36.3	\$1,378,383	\$ (33,600)	-2.3	\$ 478,989.00	53.2
Land Resources	\$279,424	\$183,613	(\$95,811)	-34.2	\$284,698	\$ 5,274	1.9	\$ 101,085.00	55
Recreation Management	\$72,047	\$26,800	(\$45,247)	-63	\$72,047	\$ -	0	\$ 45,247.00	268
Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Management	\$198,897	\$62,957	(\$135,940)	-68.3	\$198,897	\$ -	0	\$ 135,940.00	316
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1,677,745	\$1,139,279	(\$511,187)	-30.4	\$1,650,466	\$ (27,279)	-1.6	\$ 511,187.00	44.9
National Park Service	\$3,337,172	\$2,116,470	(\$1,220,702)	-36.6	\$3,267,311	\$ (69,861)	-2.1	\$ 1,150,841.00	54.3
Operation of the National Park System	\$2,894,424	\$1,993,974	(\$900,450)	-31.1	\$2,877,195	\$ (17,229)	-.6	\$ 883,221.00	44.2
National Recreation and Preservation	\$89,593	\$11,987	(\$77,606)	-86.7	\$91,596	\$ 2,003	2.2	\$ 79,609.00	664
Historic Preservation Fund	\$168,900	\$11,000	(\$157,900)	-93.4	\$205,059	\$ 36,159	21.4	\$ 194,059.00	1764
Construction	\$172,255	\$99,509	(\$72,746)	-42.2	\$88,461	\$ (83,794)	-48.6	\$ (11,048.00)	-11.1
Forest Service	\$8,551,845	\$2,136,000	(\$6,415,845)		\$8,535,071	\$ (16,774)	-0.2	\$ 6,399,071.00	400
Forest Service Operations	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 759,000	\$ (391,000)	-34	\$ 1,090,600	\$ (59,400)	-5.1	\$ 331,600.00	43.7
Forest and Rangeland Research	\$300,000	\$0	(\$300,000)		\$308,697	\$ 8,697	2.9	\$ 308,697.00	
National Forest System	\$1,863,557	\$1,471,955	(\$391,602)	-21	\$1,857,843	\$ (5,714)	-.3	\$ 385,888.00	26.2
Capital Improvement and Maintenance	\$135,000	\$78,000	(\$57,000)	-42	\$137,250	\$ 2,250	1.7	\$ 59,250.00	76
State, Tribal and Private Forestry	\$283,500	\$0	(\$283,500)		\$310,594	\$ 27,094	9.6	\$ 310,594.00	

Bob Gardner Public Lands Budget Updates – February 2, 2026

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Bob Gardner Public Lands Budget Updates – February 2, 2026

Summary of Selected Public Lands Budgets Enacted in PL 119-37 (including Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies)									
	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Pres. Request	Pres. Request vs. FY 2025 Enacted	%	2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted vs. FY 2025 Enacted	%	FY 2026 Enacted vs. Pres. Request	%
Bureau of Land Management	\$1,411,9	\$899,394	(\$512,589)	-36.3	\$1,378,383	\$ (33,600)	-2.3	\$ 478,989.00	53.2
Land Resources	\$279,4	\$183,613	(\$95,811)	-34.2	\$284,698	\$ 5,274	1.9	\$ 101,085.00	55
Recreation Management	\$72,0	\$26,800	(\$45,247)	-63	\$72,047	\$ -	0	\$ 45,247.00	268
Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Management	\$198,8	\$62,957	(\$135,940)	-68.3	\$198,897	\$ -	0	\$ 135,940.00	316
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1,677,7	\$1,139,279	(\$511,187)	-30.4	\$1,650,466	\$ (27,279)	-1.6	\$ 511,187.00	44.9
National Park Service	\$3,337,1	\$2,116,470	(\$1,220,702)	-36.6	\$3,267,311	\$ (69,861)	-2.1	\$ 1,150,841.00	54.3
Operation of the National Park System	\$2,894,4	\$1,993,974	(\$900,450)	-31.1	\$2,877,195	\$ (17,229)	-.6	\$ 883,221.00	44.2
National Recreation and Preservation	\$89,5	\$11,987	(\$77,606)	-86.7	\$91,596	\$ 2,003	2.2	\$ 79,609.00	664
Historic Preservation Fund	\$168,9	\$11,000	(\$157,900)	-93.4	\$205,059	\$ 36,159	21.4	\$ 194,059.00	1764
Construction	\$172,2	\$99,509	(\$72,746)	-42.2	\$88,461	\$ (83,794)	-48.6	\$ (11,048.00)	-11.1
Forest Service	\$8,551,8	\$2,136,000	(\$6,415,845)		\$8,535,071	\$ (16,774)	-0.2	\$ 6,399,071.00	400
Forest Service Operations	\$ 1,150,00	\$ 759,000	\$ (391,000)	-34	1,090,600	\$ (59,400)	-5.1	\$ 331,600.00	43.7
Forest and Rangeland Research	\$300,0	\$0	(\$300,000)		\$308,697	\$ 8,697	2.9	\$ 308,697.00	
National Forest System	\$1,863,5	\$1,471,955	(\$391,602)	-21	\$1,857,843	\$ (5,714)	-.3	\$ 385,888.00	26.2
Capital Improvement and Maintenance	\$135,0	\$78,000	(\$57,000)	-42	\$137,250	\$ 2,250	1.7	\$ 59,250.00	76
State, Tribal and Private Forestry	\$283,5	\$0	(\$283,500)		\$310,594	\$ 27,094	9.6	\$ 310,594.00	

Bob Gardner Public Lands Budget Updates – February 2, 2026

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National Forest System	\$1,863,557	\$1,471,955	(\$391,602)	-21.	\$1,857,843	\$ (5,714)	-.3	\$ 385,888.00	26.2
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State, Tribal and Private Forestry	\$283,500	\$0	(\$283,500)		\$310,594	\$ 27,094	9.6	\$ 310,594.00	

Bob Gardner Projects Policy Updates – February 2, 2026

BLM

- \$3,246,000 for community projects

USFWS

- \$19,115,000 for community projects

National Park Service

- \$250,000 for community projects
- NPS Historic Preservation Fund
 - \$15,596,000 for community projects
- NPS Construction
 - \$3,190,000 for community projects

Bob Gardner Projects Policy Updates – February 2, 2026

US Forest Service

- Forest Service Operations
- Forest and Rangeland Research
- State, Tribal, and Private Forestry
 - \$18,094,000 for community projects

National Forest System

- Capital Improvement and Management
 - \$20,850,000 for community projects

National Forest System

- “The Forest Service shall maintain staffing levels in order to fulfill the mission required under title 7, title 16, title 30, title 43, and title 54, United States Code, including to protect natural and cultural resources, provide and maintain appropriate access and recreation for visitors, provide safety precautions for visitors and staff, maintain physical and natural infrastructure, provide information and respond to stakeholders and the general public, conduct tribal consultation, provide for administrative support, administer forestry assistance programs, provide technical assistance to states, tribes and private landowners, manage energy and minerals resources, and carry out other activities in support of effectively operating the National Forest System and carrying out programs administered by the Forest Service in a timely manner.”

The New York Times

Trump Has Overwhelmed Himself

Feb. 1, 2026



Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

 **NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION**

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PRESS RELEASE | Jan 5, 2026

Senate Rejects Devastating National Park Funding and Staffing Cuts but Leaves Door Open to Future Threats

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"NPCA and park advocates across the country have been sounding the alarm on the need for park funding and staffing for months, and Congress listened." - Theresa Pierno, NPCA's President and CEO



FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES

Angela Gonzales
Director, Communications
agonzales@npca.org
202-419-3732

ISSUES

 Ensuring Park Funding

RECENT POSTS

Erasure of History and Science Spreads At National Parks Across the Country
Jan 27, 2026 

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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www.bea.gov

Media Advisory

Jan. 16, 2026

Contact: Connie O'Connell connie.oconnell@bea.gov
301-278-9003

Coming in March: 2024 Outdoor Recreation Economy Statistics

BEA will release statistics on Thursday, March 5, at 10 a.m. showing the role that outdoor recreation – pursuits like bicycling, RVing, and fishing – plays in the U.S. economy and each state's economy.

The annual statistics for 2024 will include measures of outdoor recreation activities' contributions to gross domestic product (GDP), also known as the activities' value added, for the nation, states, and the District of Columbia. The statistics also include employment and compensation by industry for the U.S. and states, as well as gross output by industry and activity at the national level.

BEA's state and national data on outdoor recreation informs decisions by businesses, policymakers, and managers of public lands and waters. The [Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account](#) stems from a 2016 federal law.

See the [schedule of upcoming BEA news releases](#) for all the latest updates.

###

See the [schedule of upcoming BEA news releases](#) for all the latest updates.

E&EDAILY

Lawmakers push Outdoors Act renewal despite some GOP skepticism

Top Republicans have reauthorizing of the Great American Outdoors Act on the agenda for this year.

BY: KELSEY BRUGGER, AMELIA DAVIDSON | 01/16/2026 04:50 AM EST



House Natural Resources Chair Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) said, "I would love to see the 'Great American Outdoors Act 2.0.'"
Andrew Harsik/AP


Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

ENERGYWIRE

Judge forbids Trump administration from tampering with EV-charging money

The Department of Transportation violated the law when it paused funding for the \$5 billion Biden-era program, a federal judge ruled.

BY DAVID FERRIS | 01/26/2024 07:17 AM EST



A Level 2 EV charger sits in a municipal lot in North Canaan, Connecticut.


A Level 2 EV charger sits in a municipal lot in North Canaan, Connecticut. | Heather Khalifa/AP

E&EDAILY

Democrats say the next IRA will be about 'speed'

Frustrated by the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act's slow rollout, Democrats say their next climate bill must yield benefits voters can see quickly.

BY NICO PORTUONDO, KELSEY BRUGGER | 01/30/2024 04:17 AM EST



Nonprofit & Nonpartisan News

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TECHNOLOGY

California state employees alarmed by demand to prove their citizenship or work eligibility

BY KHARI JOHNSON
JANUARY 25, 2024

Republi



Department of Health Care Services headquarters in Sacramento on Sept. 15, 2022. Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

E&E DAILY

Officials to testify on outdoors law, wildlife trafficking

A pair of House Natural Resources hearings will feature Interior Department and Forest Service officials.

BY: **HEATHER RICHARDS** | 01/20/2024 04:42 AM EST



Wisconsin Rep. Tom Tiffany (R), who chairs the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands, speaking during a hearing on Capitol Hill. | Francis Chung/VOX/ISTOCK

High Country News

Alaska's public lands are a political battleground

PUBLIC LANDS

The first year of the second Trump administration saw a bewildering array of federal actions in the 49th state. Here's your guide to where things now stand.

Victoria Petersen January 19, 2026


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E&E DAILY

Huffman: 'Madman in the White House' threatens outdoor law

A hearing Wednesday took up implementation of the EXPLORE Act, a sweeping public lands package enacted last year.

BY: **HEATHER RICHARDS** | 01/23/2024 04:42 AM EST | UPDATED 01/23/2024 09:57 AM EST



House Natural Resources Chair Bruce Winterstein (R-Ark.) and ranking member David Huffman (D-Calif.) speak over the Trump administration's implementation of the EXPLORE Act. | Francis Chung/VOX/ISTOCK

GREENWIRE

Former BLM head: Public lands at 'breaking point'

Tracy Stone-Manning, who led the agency during the Biden administration, said layoffs, budget cuts and more have "destabilized" the Bureau of Land Management.

BY: **SCOTT STREATER** | 01/26/2024 01:31 PM EST | UPDATED 01/26/2024 02:29 PM EST



Then Bureau of Land Management director Tracy Stone-Manning prepares to testify before a House Appropriations subcommittee on Capitol Hill on March 29, 2023. | Francis Chung/VOX/ISTOCK

SFGATE

NATIONAL PARKS

'Please help': Photos show Death Valley destruction from white Toyota

By **Silas Valentino**, Travel Editor
Jan 28, 2026



A vehicle drives across Eureka Dunes on Dec. 17, 2025, in Death Valley National Park. Courtesy of the National Park Service

GREENWIRE

Judge orders off-highway vehicles off some Mojave desert trails

The aim is to protect a threatened tortoise.

BY: **MICHAEL DOYLE** | 01/28/2024 01:31 PM EST




A Mojave Desert tortoise on a dirt road. | David Bates/NP

A Mojave Desert tortoise, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. | David Bates/NP

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

Department Of Interior Officially Creates The United States Wildland Fire Service.

Transition plans and authorities announced.

 THE HOTSHOT WAKE UP
JAN 12, 2026

36 1 10 Share Transcript

On Today's Show:

johnwentworth@mitpa.or [Subscribe](#)

The Secretary of the Interior officially announced today the creation of the United States Wildland Fire Service. Effective today, the transition period begins, and the unification of wildfire resources within the Department starts.

The Department provided transition plans, framework, and authorities of the new Service, which I cover in full.

Unification of assets, budgets, IT services, and payroll is underway, along with streamlining overhead structures and fully aligning pay structure, position descriptions, and retirement benefits.

A big day for the new United States Wildfire Service.

CPR News

The US Wildland Fire Service has officially launched. Congress decided not to fund it

 By Mountain West News Bureau · Jan. 20, 2026, 9:54 am

SHARE: f X




Eric Thayer/AP Photo

USWFS Chief Brian Fennessy, pictured here when he was still head of the Orange County Fire Authority.

The Hotshot Wake Up

United States Wildland Fire Service Launches New Logo Contest For Wildfire Employees.

 THE HOTSHOT WAKE UP
JAN 23, 2026

21 2 3 Share

The USWFS, under the Department of the Interior, has launched a contest for wildfire employees to create the new logo for the Service. Director Fennessy issued a note this week, welcoming employees to submit their own entries. Most of the crew logos you see on t-shirts for Hotshots, Engines, Helitack, Smokejumpers, and more were created by a crewmember.

There are some pretty sweet crew logos out there.

So, in continuing this tradition, the USWFS is opening the creation of its new logo to the workforce's creative minds.

CLIMATEWIRE

The West's water war arrives in Washington

The Trump administration's hands-off approach to the Colorado River fight has seven states careening toward a water and power crisis.

 BY ANNIE SNIDER | 01/30/2026 04:27 AM EST | UPDATED 01/31/2026 09:45 AM EST



Interior Secretary Doug Burgum

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum has summoned the governors of the seven states that are battling over the Colorado River for a Friday afternoon meeting. | Rebecca Noble/AP

SFGATE

NATIONAL PARKS

CAMINOCROSSWORD

Account

How influencer culture ruined a once-pristine national park lake

AllTrails, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube have forever changed a remote lake

By **Kylie Mohr**, Big Sky Country Contributing Parks Editor
Updated Jan 13, 2026 9:05 a.m.

f X



Delta Lake in Grand Teton National Park on a Monday in early August 2025. Kylie Mohr/SFGATE

GREENWIRE

Burgum summons governors to DC for Colorado River talks

A breakthrough in state negotiations on a new deal for management of the river's water has been elusive.

BY ANNIE SNIDER | 01/23/2026 01:39 PM EST



Boats move along Lake Powell on the Upper Colorado River Basin on June 9, 2021, in Williams, Arizona. | Ross D. Franklin/AP

Boats move along Lake Powell on the Upper Colorado River Basin on June 9, 2021, in Williams, Arizona. | Ross D. Franklin/AP

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NATIONAL PARKS

DOI cracks down on stickers covering Trump's face on national park passes

Your American the Beautiful pass could be voided.

By **Sam Hill**, Pacific Northwest Contributing Parks Editor
Jan 5, 2026

f x t e



New America the Beautiful passes for 2026 feature an image of President Donald Trump, leading some park visitors to protest by placing stickers over the design. U.S. Department of the Interior/Getty Images/Illustration by SFGATE


SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NATIONAL PARKS

Yosemite National Park scraps Firefall reservations despite history of overcrowding

By **Olivia Hebert**, News Reporter
Jan 10, 2026

f x t e



Yosemite National Park's Firefall will likely be a free-for-all in 2026. Vajresh Bhat/Getty Images

Los Angeles Times

National park staff are asking about the citizenship status of visitors



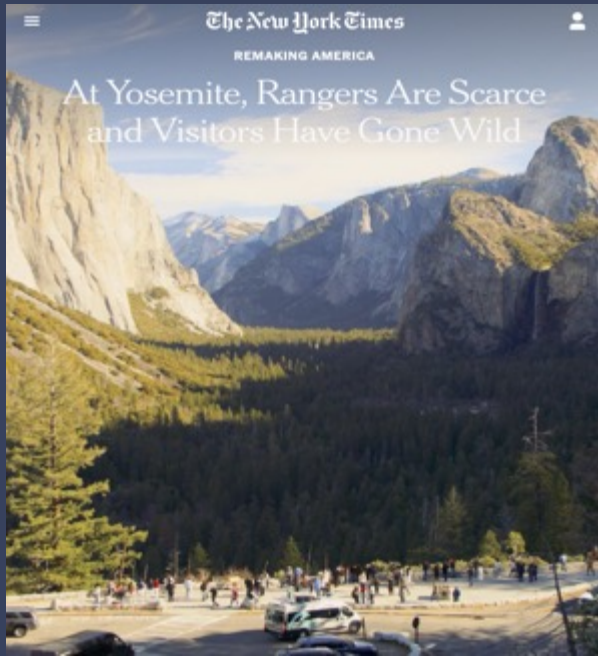
Young visitors dash across Stoneman Meadow at Yosemite National Park last month. (Eric Thayer / Los Angeles Times)

By **Karen Garcia**
Staff Writer | Follow

The New York Times

REMAKING AMERICA

At Yosemite, Rangers Are Scarce and Visitors Have Gone Wild




SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

Exclusive: Aramark tells Yosemite workers it's axing most of their housing rights

"It's basically like a big f---k you"

By **Sam Mauhay-Moore**, National Parks Reporter
Jan 23, 2026

f x t e



FILE: A National Park Service employee guides tourists at a welcome center during snowy weather in Yosemite National Park, Calif., on March 6, 2025. Anadolu/Anadolu via Getty Images


GREEN WIRE

Get article

Burgum tells national parks to ramp up hunting and fishing

Several hunting advocates said a fresh look at access at parks and other public lands is overdue.

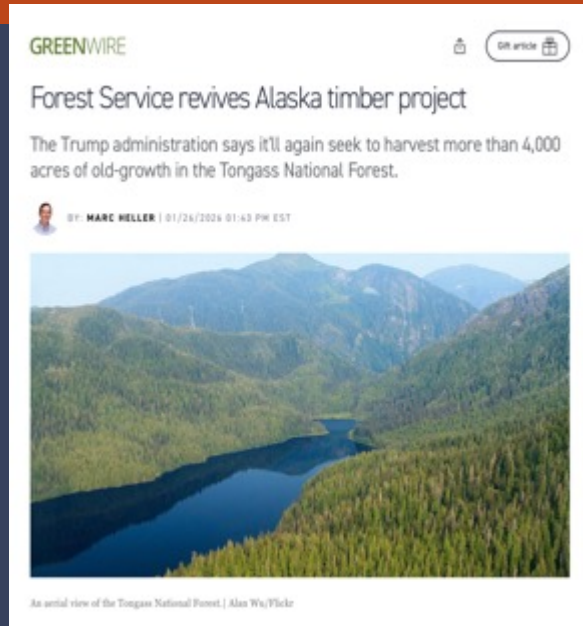
By **RYLAN DIGIACOMO-RAPP** | 01/30/2024 01:18 PM EST



A bull elk stands in tall grass

Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming allows some hunting of elk. C. Adams/National Park Service

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates



The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

Community Sourced, Shared and Supported

Chief Schultz's Interview With Nick Smith on AFRC Podcast: Some Items of Interest

January 6, 2026 by Sharon



USDA Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz visits Fire Station in Downieville on the Shoshone National Forest.

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

Community Sourced, Shared and Supported

Forest Service Trails Budget Increases by 10% in FY 2026 Budget!

January 21, 2026 by Sharon



Dei Nelson and Bill Lee of Lander both worked for the U.S. Forest Service seasonally for decades. In 2025, the men volunteered on the Shoshone National Forest, hoping to fill some gaps created by President Donald Trump's DOGE efforts and other agency cost-cutting measures. (Katie Klingsporn/WyoFile)

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

Community Sourced, Shared and Supported

Transfer of the Forest Service to Interior? Evergreen, Mike Lee, and Andy Kerr

January 6, 2026 by Sharon

Evergreen had a piece today by Jim Petersen called *"the Death of the Forest Service."* Apparently,

Here's the backstory as we know it

A draft copy (RYA25627 4 KV) of Senator Lee's proposed legislation arrived in our inbox on **January 3**. The original reportedly circulated on **October 9**, but it wasn't shared with us at that time.

We don't know who is sharing it now, but it appears to have come from someone within the **Senate Legislative Counsel**.

The five-page draft—which appears to be a work in progress—is titled:

Reorganization of the Forest Service Under the Department of the Interior

That title is misleading.

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates



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Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

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STEWARDSHIP

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THE GROUND TRUTH

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

14 min read



CHECKING IN ON THE CHAOS THEORY

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



PREDICTIONS: 2026

MAJOR SHRINKAGE

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

5 min read



★

PREDICTIONS: 2026

THE RE:PUBLIC YEAR AHEAD

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

7 min read



GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

THE LAST REFUGE

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

9 min read



GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

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

11 min read



★

STEWARDSHIP

THE GROUND TRUTH

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

14 min read



NATIONAL PARKS

STICKER SHOCK

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

7 min read



POLITICS

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

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

8 min read



LAND & INDUSTRY

A TINY LAND DEAL WITH GIANT IMPLICATIONS

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

3 min read



WILDLIFE

SEASONAL MIGRATIONS

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

9 min read





The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

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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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Recent Comments

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

[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



6



8

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On Today's Show:

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- 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.

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

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 06:30 AM EST



Congress is attempting to use the power of the purse to prevent the closure 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 04:10 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.

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates



USDA REORGANIZATION

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF FEEDBACK

December 8, 2025

Overview

On July 24, 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposed a reorganization to refocus its core operations on supporting American agriculture, producers, ranching, and forestry, structured around four pillars: workforce alignment, proximity to customers, bureaucracy reduction, and consolidation of redundant functions. A public comment period was open from August 1 through September 30, 2025. Comments were requested via email to reorganization@usda.gov and open to all interested parties.

This report synthesizes feedback from over 46,845 emails across a variety of stakeholder groups including employees, Congress, tribes, state and local governments, unions, non-profit organizations, educational institutions and citizens. While USDA received a total of 46,845 messages in the reorganization@usda.gov, approximately 14% were duplicative messages, had no text or were spam and marketing emails. Of the 86% of messages remaining, 43% were from duplicative senders. Form-letters or campaign emails comprised 68% of the total messages received.

USDA categorized and analyzed emails received based on sender type and content. Because of the large volume of form and campaign emails, separate analysis was conducted on unique emails versus the entirety of feedback received. The remainder of this document outlines the top themes or concerns and recommendations for each category of feedback. Examples of the most prevalent form letters received are included in the appendix.

Overall Summary of Feedback Excluding Form/Campaign Letters

This dataset comprises over 14,000 public comments submitted during the USDA reorganization proposal review period that were not form or campaign emails. The overwhelming majority of comments (82%) expressed negative sentiment. Five percent expressed positive sentiment and 7% expressed neutral sentiment. A majority of emails were general comments about the USDA Reorganization (53%) followed by the United State Forest Service (USFS) (27%) and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) (10%).

Key Themes

- **Safeguarding the Forest Service Mission:** Comments frequently warned that reorganization would erode the Forest Service's capacity to manage public lands and resources. Stakeholders fear that centralized oversight and budget cuts could compromise ecological management, public access, and employee morale.
- **Loss of Local Oversight and Expertise:** Concerns that reorganization would replace localized knowledge with top-down management, risking misalignment with regional needs. Critics argue that rural and natural resource communities require tailored approaches, which centralized structures may fail to deliver.

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

Community Sourced, Shared and Supported

WGA on Forest Service Reorganization: What Do You Think of State Directors? And Their View of SSAs

January 26, 2026 by Sharon



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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01/20/26

Western Governors share bipartisan recommendations on USDA Reorganization

Upcoming & Recent Events

Governors' Meetings

2025 Winter Meeting
November 20-21
Scottsdale, Arizona
[See Highlights](#)

Chair Initiative Events

Workshop: Governor Hobbs to host Energy Superabundance workshop on energy production and generation
12/17/25

Recommended Comment Considerations

When commenting, please consider the three doors that charitable speech must pass through. The gatekeeper at the door asks, "Is it true?" The second gatekeeper asks, "Is it helpful?" The third gatekeeper asks, "Is it kind?" (adapted from the writings of Krishnamurti by James Martin on p. 169 of his book "Between Heaven and Mirth.")

**2025
Donations**

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

Community Sourced, Shared and Supported

WGA on Forest Service Reorganization: What Do You Think of State Directors? And Their

Recommended
Comment
Considerations

I'm always on the lookout for partisan views submerged under the media sea of our policy issues. One place I look for a nonpartisan view is the Western Governors Association (WGA). They have to agree across partisan divides, and (in my view) tend to be more pragmatic about solutions than national figures, perhaps based on their direct experience with managing agencies, finding common ground and trade-offs within the state, and the complex world of implementation.

01/20/26

Western Governors share bipartisan recommendations on USDA Reorganization



Upcoming & Recent Events

Governors' Meetings

2025 Winter Meeting
November 20-21
Scottsdale, Arizona

[See Highlights](#)

Chair Initiative Events

Workshop: Governor Hobbs to host Energy Superabundance workshop on energy production and generation
12/17/25

Heaven and Mirth.)

2025
Donations

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

Regarding the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the elimination of the regional offices could result in a substantial communication gap between the agency and its partners, who play an increasingly important role in collaborative forest management and shared stewardship agreement implementation. Western Governors encourage you to consider establishing state directors, replicating the model employed by USDA-RD, FSA, and NRCS. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also uses this model, and its efficacy is proven. BLM maintains state directors in nine separate western states, two shared state directors for five western states, and one director for eastern states.

Establishing a state director framework for USFS would ensure strong communication between the agency and states and promote improved collaboration on forest and rangeland management, recreational use, and wildfire mitigation and response. It would also provide a strong local resource for coordinating activities under the Shared Stewardship Agreements executed between states and the USDA.

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

AGREEMENT FOR SHARED STEWARDSHIP OF CALIFORNIA'S FOREST AND RANGELANDS Between the STATE OF CALIFORNIA And the USDA, FOREST SERVICE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by and between the State of California, hereinafter referred to as "the State," and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, hereinafter referred to as "the U.S. Forest Service" and together referred to as "The Parties."

TITLE: Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forests and Rangelands

PURPOSE:

This MOU establishes a joint framework to enhance science-based forest and rangeland stewardship in California. The U.S. Forest Service and the State of California commit to maintain and restore healthy forests and rangelands that reduce public safety risks, protect natural and built infrastructure, and enhance ecological habitat and biological diversity. The Parties agree to develop shared tools, coordinated processes, and innovative approaches to increase the pace, scale, and effectiveness of forest and rangeland stewardship in California.

The U.S. Forest Service and the State of California, through the California Natural Resources Agency, make this commitment in accordance with the following provisions.

STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS:

Restoring healthy forests and rangelands in California will yield both ecological and community benefits. Healthy forests will improve climate resilience and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, safeguard water quality and air quality, protect fish and wildlife habitat, enhance biological diversity, sequester carbon, improve recreational opportunities, and generate good jobs and economic opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

Home to some of the largest, tallest and oldest trees in the world, rich biological diversity, vast watersheds, and spectacular recreation, the grandeur of California's wildlands has captivated generations. California's forests naturally adapted to low-intensity fire, nature's preferred management tool, but Gold Rush-era clearcutting followed by a wholesale policy of fire suppression resulted in the overly dense, ailing forests that dominate the landscape today.

Compounding risks have made it nearly impossible for nature to self-correct. A cycle of catastrophic wildfires, longer fire seasons, severe drought, intense wind, tree mortality, invasive species, and human population pressure threaten to convert conifer forests to shrublands and shrublands to invasive grasses.

wood supply will be available. The Parties will work with stakeholders to develop additional supply signal tools to guarantee multi-year supply contracts and incentivize new investments in wood processing facilities in California.

7. **Improve Access to Sustainable Recreation:** Foster a range of forest and wildland opportunities that reflect the needs of and better serve California's diverse population. The Parties will pursue mission-appropriate and sustainable recreation opportunities in ways that leverage resources and extend capacity through partnerships and alignment around a shared vision of access and diversity. Examples include improved transportation opportunities, more affordable lodging options, increasing accessible trails and facilities, and targeting low income communities that lack access.
8. **Fire-Adapted Communities:** Identify and protect communities most vulnerable to fire impacts. These vulnerability factors include proximity to high fire risk, communities without good ingress or egress corridors and socioeconomic factors that hinder evacuation such as age or car ownership. The Parties will work together to improve fire suppression and fire prevention capabilities that safeguard communities, including but not limited to, these vulnerable populations.
9. **Advance Science and Share Monitoring and Data Analytics:** Leverage scientific expertise and capacity to maintain healthy and resilient forests in a changing climate. Coordinated data will enable stakeholders to adapt priorities and management techniques to the dynamics of California's changing ecosystems. The Parties will:
 - a. **Consolidate Data:** Consider co-locating data teams from State and Federal agencies to reduce redundancy and improve efficiency. Establish joint monitoring methods, joint protocols, and work on developing a single, statewide shared data set that all Parties can utilize and update.
 - b. **Ecological Monitoring:** Consistently monitor forest health, carbon sequestration, biological diversity, watershed quality, and other parameters that impact forest and wildlands in California. The Parties will coordinate closely with environmental organizations and universities to ensure monitoring techniques are addressing the most current ecological concerns.
 - c. **Research and Innovation:** Support long-term research and monitoring efforts. Enhance surveying and monitoring programs such as the Forest Inventory and Analysis program with joint funding contributions, allowing a greater number of monitoring installations to be remeasured more frequently.

MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES:

- A. The Parties are bound by all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. If conflicts arise, the Parties will evaluate how authorities can best achieve the goals of a project.

Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

AGREEMENT FOR SHARED STEWARDSHIP OF CALIFORNIA'S FOREST AND
RANGELANDS
Between the
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
And the
USDA, FOREST SERVICE
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by

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Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATEWIRE



Gift article

'Fantastic' rally exposes Trump's limits as green stocks soar

Capital has continued to flow into renewables. The S&P equity index tracking clean energy has soared 64 percent over the past year.

BY: BLOOMBERG | 01/27/2026 06:13 AM EST

CLIMATEWIRE | The manager overseeing Janus Henderson Investors' flagship sustainable fund says there's little to indicate that President Donald Trump's anti-green rhetoric will derail the rally gripping clean-energy stocks.

"Last year was a perfect example," says Hamish Chamberlayne, head of global sustainable equities and a portfolio manager at Janus Henderson. "Everyone was worried" that Trump's return to the White House would spell the end of renewables. Instead, "it was a fantastic year for renewable energy stocks," he said in an interview. Chamberlayne, who runs the \$2.4 billion Janus Henderson Global Sustainable Equity Fund, says he now regrets he wasn't bolder in piling capital into the rebound that gripped green stocks in 2025.

"I wish we'd invested even more in it," he said. And going forward, "we still see a very strong investment environment for renewable energy." That's as the main S&P index tracking clean energy stocks is on track for its best January since 2019.

Trump kicked off his second term by signing [executive orders](#) designed to eradicate ESG and DEI. His administration has followed through on those threats with efforts to block offshore wind projects and by ending tax credits that had supported the low-carbon economy. And at this year's meeting of the rich and powerful in Davos, organizers [agreed to downplay climate change](#) in order to get Trump to attend.

But capital has continued to flow into renewables. The main S&P equity index tracking clean energy has soared 64 percent over the past 12 months. An S&P index tracking oil stocks, meanwhile, has added about 13 percent in the period while the broad S&P 500 Index is up 15 percent. Green equities have gained as investors bet demand for electricity will keep rising amid a broader electrification trend that favors renewables.

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Trump withdraws US from key climate treaty and dozens of other groups

8 January 2026

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Danny Aeberhard, Rachel Hagan and Matt McGrath, environment correspondent



US President Donald Trump has withdrawn the US from dozens of international organisations, including many that work to combat climate change.

Nearly half of the 66 affected bodies are UN-related, including the Framework Convention on Climate Change - a treaty that underpins all international efforts to combat global warming.

Groups working on development, gender equality and conflict - areas the Trump administration had repeatedly dismissed as advancing "globalist" or "woke" agendas - are also included.

The White House said the decision was taken because those entities "no longer serve American interests" and promote "ineffective or hostile agendas".

E&E DAILY



Gift article

Carbon trade measure slips into spending package

Language from the "PROVE IT Act" was incorporated into funding legislation President Donald Trump signed into law last week.



BY: AMELIA DAVIDSON | 01/27/2026 06:40 AM EST

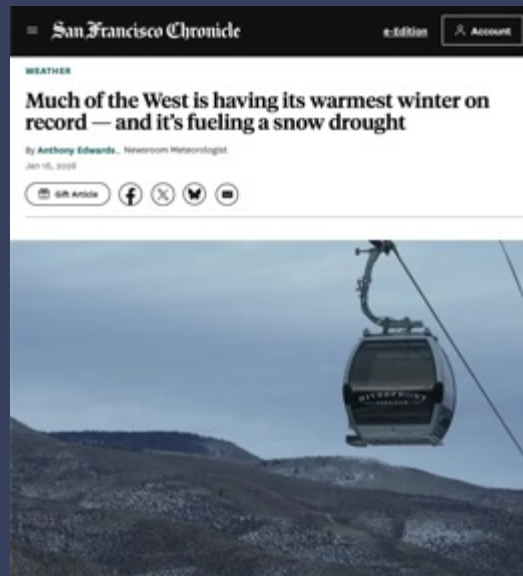
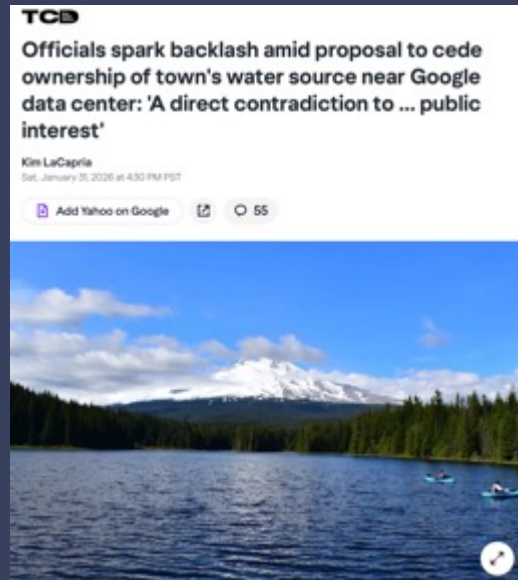


Sens. John Curtis (R-Utah) and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) on Capitol Hill. Both have championed the "PROVE IT Act." | Mark Schiefelbein/AP

E&E DAILY | Congress quietly adopted a much-touted carbon trade bill last week, tucking the measure into a spending package to fund energy and environment agencies.

The "Providing Reliable, Objective, Verifiable Emissions Intensity and Transparency (PROVE IT) Act" — from Sens. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Chris Coons (D-Del.) and John Curtis (R-Utah) — would have the administration study the carbon intensity of American manufacturing to show it compares favorably with other countries.

Happenings of Interest - Climate



Happenings of Interest - Climate

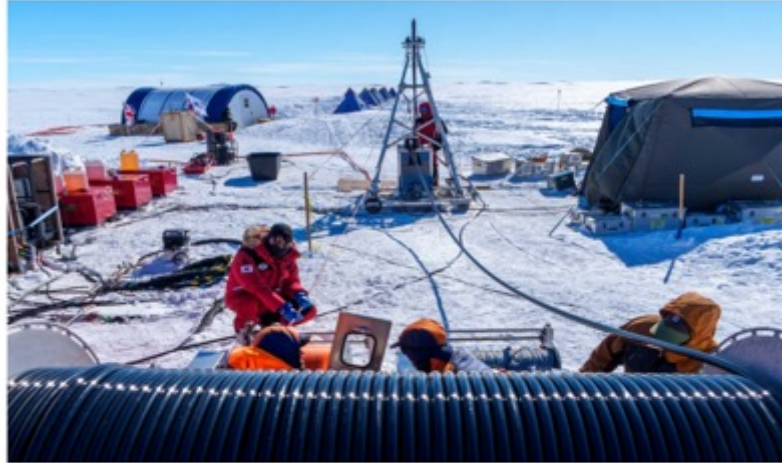
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The New York Times

GIVE THE TIMES

Climate and Environment

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

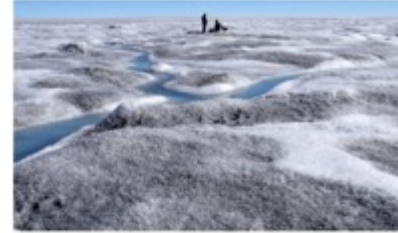


Chang W. Lee/The New York Times

Drilling Is Underway to Examine Antarctica's Melting Ice From Below

A team hopes to place instruments in the waters beneath the colossal Thwaites Glacier, with the help of a drill that uses hot water to punch through ice.

3d ago · By RAYMOND ZHONG



Jenine McCutcheon/University of Waterloo

Something Dark Is Growing on Greenland's Ice. And Melting It Faster.

New studies show how algae grows on ice and snow, creating "dark zones" that exacerbate melting in the consequential region.

3d ago · By SACHI KITAJIMA MULKEY

Why a New Mexico Developer Quit Natural Gas

For John Moscato, a land developer in Las Cruces, N.M., installing gas lines at new home sites was "an ongoing headache." Ditching gas saved him money.

January 29, 2026 · By CARA BUCKLEY



Some Polar Bears Are Getting Fatter Even as Sea Ice Shrinks (for Now)

Seals favored by Svalbard bears are becoming easier to hunt as ice declines, a study found. But researchers say the situation may be temporary.

3d ago · By ERIC NIELER



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



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



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



Trash or Recycling? Why Plastic Keeps Us Guessing.



A Climate Change Guide for Kids

Happenings of Interest - State



Happenings of Interest - State



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Snow Summit connects ski industry leaders with key state agencies

Jonathan Changus, Director of External Affairs
Dec. 15, 2025

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Happenings of Interest - State

UCANR Recruit

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

[Apply now](#)

Job #JPF00362

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

APPLICATION WINDOW

Open date: December 9, 2025

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

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

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

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

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Overview

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

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

Happenings of Interest - State

UCANR Recruit

[Home](#) › [Open Recruitments](#) › UC Cooperative Extension Outdoor Recreation Advisor Serving Plumas, Sierra and Nevada Counties (25-19) (JPF00366)

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

[Apply now](#)

Job #JPF00366

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

APPLICATION WINDOW

Open date: December 15, 2025

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

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

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

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

POSITION DESCRIPTION

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

Happenings of Interest



yahoo!news

Groundhog Day 2026: Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, predicting 6 more weeks of winter

It's Groundhog Day ... again.



Kate Murphy, Reporter

Updated Mon, February 2, 2026 at 5:08 AM PST · 5 min read



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553



Groundhog Club handler A.J. Dereume holds Punxsutawney Phil in 2024.
(Barry Reeger/AP)

Happenings of Interest – Regional

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Starving and stranded: Inside the desperate effort to save 24 wild horses near Mammoth



On Jan. 11, a Bishop resident photographed a group of wild horses stuck in deep snow in the Eastern Sierra. These were among horses later rescued in an emergency operation by the U.S. Forest Service. (Blake DeBock)



By Lila Seidman
Staff Writer | Follow

Stories > Statement on Mono Lake Wild Horses Stranded In Snow

Education & Outreach

January 15, 2026

STATEMENT ON MONO LAKE WILD HORSES STRANDED IN SNOW



Author
AWHC Contributor



Happenings of Interest – Regional

CALIFORNIA

California wolves hunt down family horse; Lassen County sheriff begs state for help

By Sharon Bernstein

Updated January 6, 2026 11:57 AM |  Gift Article



Paul Roen, a rancher and Sierra County Supervisor, talks on Sept. 12, 2025, about the impact of wolves on cattle in the Sierra Valley area, despite efforts by federal and state agencies to deter them from approaching livestock. By RENÉE C. BYER

Happenings of Interest – Regional



Forest Service News Release

Contact: SM.FS.MediaDeskR5@usda.gov

Inyo National Forest seeking public input on OHV grant applications, March 3 to May 4

BISHOP, Calif., Jan. 26, 2026 - The Inyo National Forest welcomes public input to develop grant applications for the [California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle \(OHV\) Recreation Division Grant Program](#) recreation funds.

Grants support priority motorized trail maintenance activities and are key to ensuring the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service provides public access to motorized recreationists across the state.

The Forest Service is soliciting public input to reflect the needs of recreation users as we move forward with the next round of grant proposals.

Public comments may be submitted for consideration by:

- Reviewing preliminary grant application at olga.ohv.parks.ca.gov/egrans_ohmvr beginning March 3 through May 4.
- **Public Meeting I Feb. 25, 5:30-6 p.m.**
 - [Inyo National Forest OHV Grant Public Meeting I Meeting-Join I Microsoft Teams](#)
 - +1 323-886-7051 United States, Los Angeles
 - Phone conference ID: 878 309 645#
- **Stakeholder Meeting I Feb. 25, 6:15-6:45 p.m.**
 - [Inyo National Forest OHV Grant Stakeholder Meeting I Meeting-Join I Microsoft Teams](#)
 - +1 323-886-7051 United States, Los Angeles
 - Phone conference ID: 276 307 5#

Forest staff will consider the public comments received as they develop the final grant application for submission in June.

To request more information, contact: Adam Leidy, Adam.Leidy@usda.gov

For additional information about the Law Enforcement grant, contact: Law Enforcement Patrol Captain Laura James, Laura.James@usda.gov

For more information on the Inyo National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/r05/inyo.

PLENA

PLANNING + DESIGN

CONTACT



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[Eastern Sierra Agriculture](#)

EASTERN SIERRA AGRICULTURE ACTIVATION PLAN



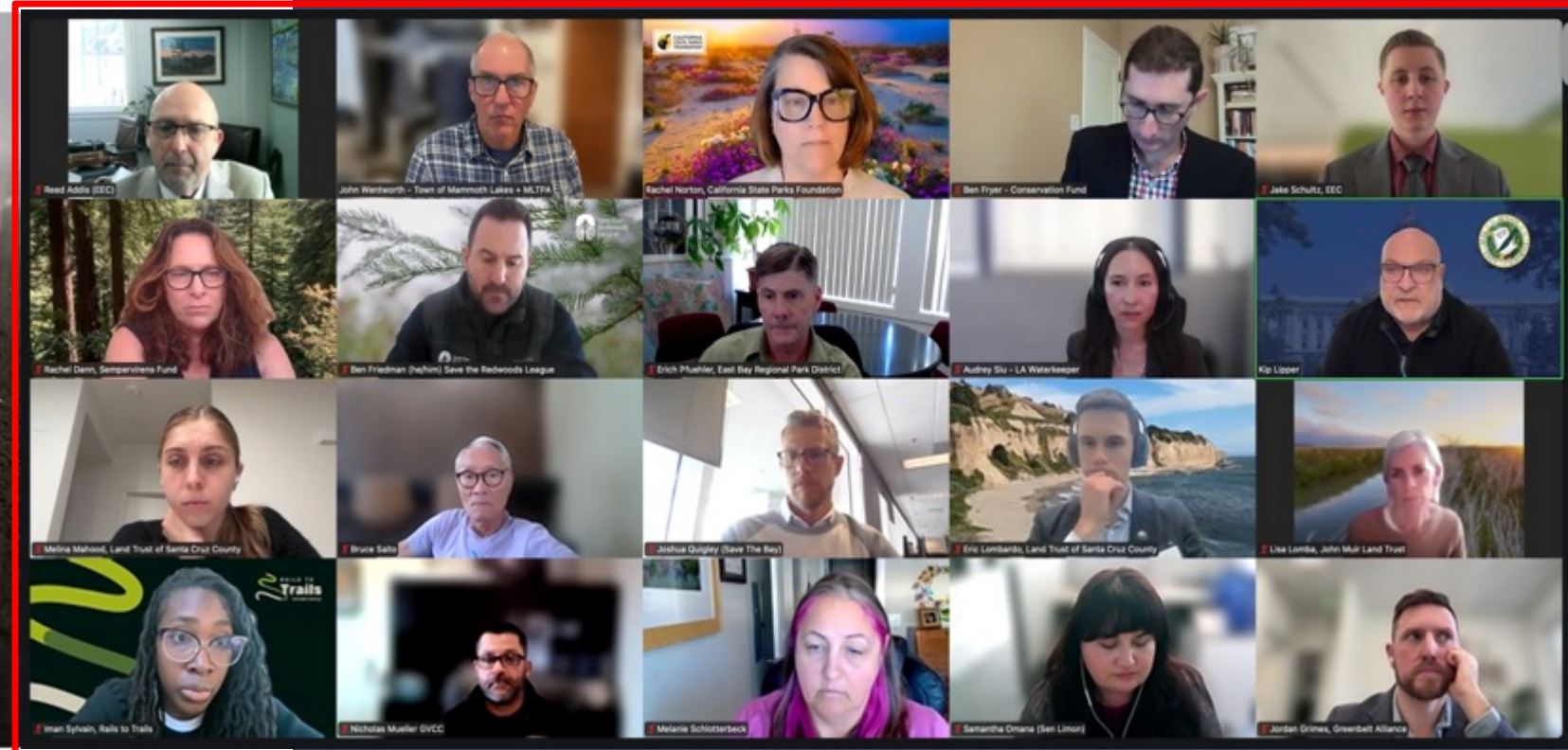
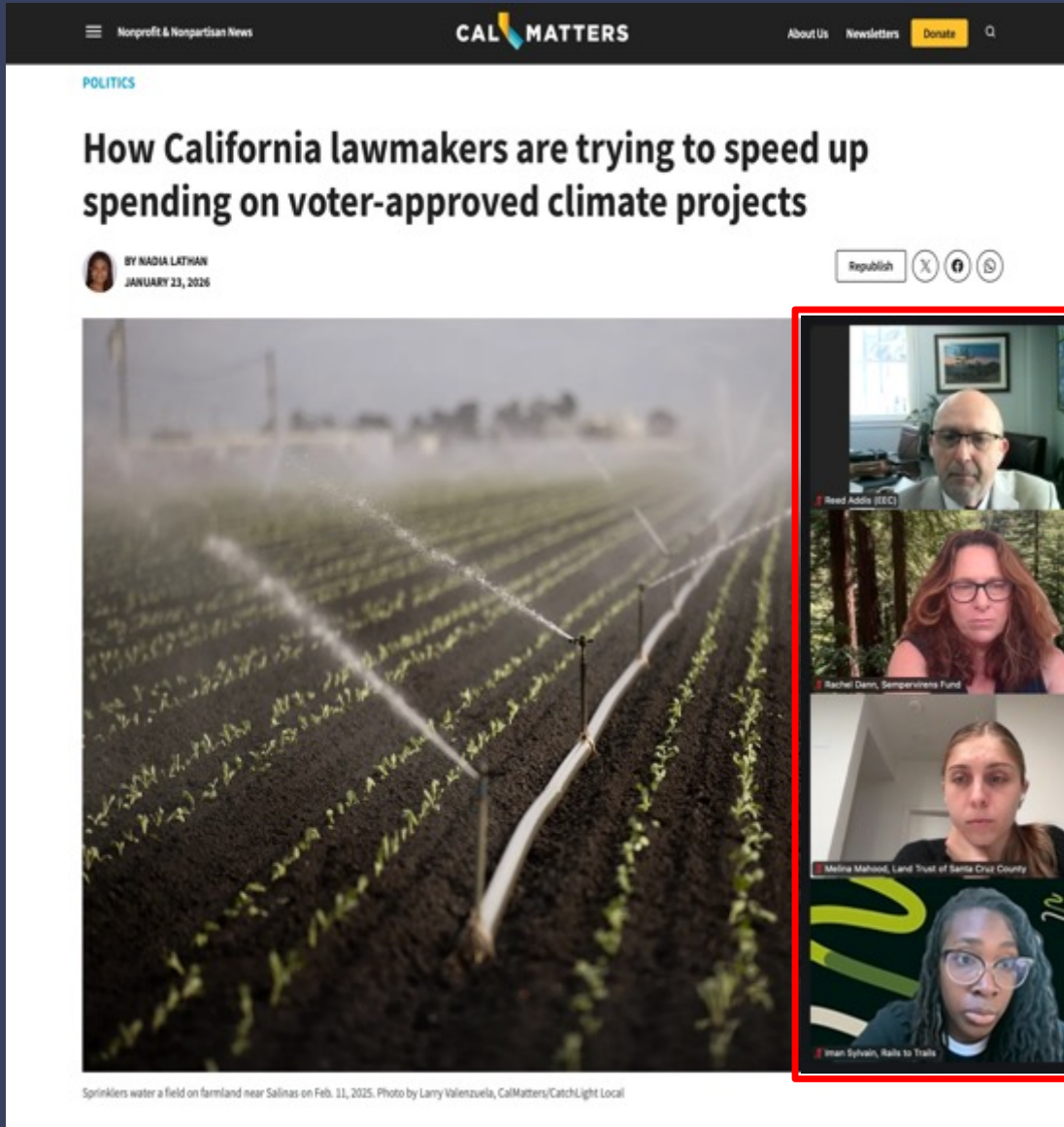


Matt Driscoll

- SNC Area Representative for El Dorado, Alpine, Mono, and Inyo Counties
 - Prop 68 Funding Updates
 - Prop 4 Funding Updates

Eastern Sierra Sustainable Outdoor Recreation - Regional Projects

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



California Wildfire and Recreation



CALIFORNIA
WILDFIRE
& FOREST
RESILIENCE
TASK FORCE



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

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TASK FORCE**



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**REGISTRATION
IS OPEN**

**SIERRA NEVADA
REGIONAL MEETING**

MARCH 19-20, 2026

REGISTER NOW



CALIFORNIA
WILDFIRE
& **FOREST**
RESILIENCE
TASK FORCE



REGISTRATION

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

MARCH 19-20, 2026

REGISTER NOW

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

California Wildfire and Recreation

SB 899: Fire prevention: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force: wildfire smoke.

Session Year: 2025-2026 House: Senate

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

Version: Introduced (1/20/2026) ▼

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Bill Author



Shannon Grove R

Bill Co-Author(s):



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](#)

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



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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
- Contra Costa Mayors Conference in 2026
- East Bay Regional Park District
- East Bay Wildfire Coalition
- East Bay Fire Safe Alliance of FSCs
- Humboldt County
- Mariposa County
- Mendocino County Fire Safe Council
- Napa County
- Placer County
- Plumas County
- Sonoma County
- Tuolumne County
- West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

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CALREC Vision

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RESOURCES

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

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



CALREC
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White Paper

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**NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**



February 9 - On Agenda for Adoption

RESOURCES

- Tuolumne County
- West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

- Amador County
- Butte County
- Calaveras County
- City of Bishop
- City of Richmond
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- Placer County
- Plumas County
- Sonoma County
- Tuolumne County
- West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

EASTERN SIERRA CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

SRTI PROJECT

Lead Agency:
Eastern Sierra
Council of Governments



20/21



INDEPENDENCE
Independence Canyon



LEE VINING
Lee Vining Canyon



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

Campground Improvements GAOA - Work Summary

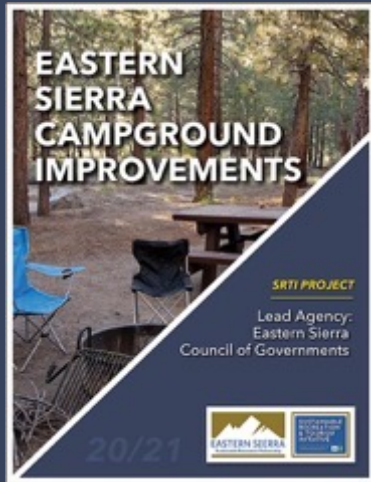
Total Budget \$ 908,242.00

Total Spent \$ 379,270.93

Total Committed to JNRA \$ 390,875.00

CAMPGROUND	LAND MANAGER	PHASE 1: SURVEY	PHASE 2: CONCEPT DESIGN	PHASE 2: SCHEMATIC DEISGN	PHASE 3 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW	PHASE 4: DESIGN DEVELOPMENT (DD)	PHASE 5: CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS (CD)	PHASE 6: CONSTRUCTION
Aspen	Inyo NF	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	INF TO COMPLETE	CONTRACTED	CONTRACTED	
Moraine	Inyo NF	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	INF TO COMPLETE	CONTRACTED	CONTRACTED	
Lower Lee Vining	Inyo NF	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	INF TO COMPLETE	CONTRACTED	CONTRACTED	
Onion Valley	Inyo NF	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	INF TO COMPLETE	CONTRACTED	CONTRACTED	
Upper Grays Meadow	Inyo NF	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	INF TO COMPLETE	CONTRACTED	CONTRACTED	
Lower Grays Meadow	Inyo NF	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	DELIVERED	INF TO COMPLETE	CONTRACTED	CONTRACTED	

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026



Hello Recreate Responsibly California Coalition Members,

We are looking forward to connecting with you at the next Recreate Responsibly Coalition meeting, this coming **Tuesday, January 27th at 8am!**

This month, we want to hear your updates: what efforts are top of mind, how is the government shutdown impacting you, and any other news related to supporting responsible recreation across California.

January 27th Meeting Details

- **Zoom Link** (goes live at 8 a.m.): [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- **Agenda:** [View the Agenda](#)

Add this event to your calendar [with this link](#).

Happenings of Interest

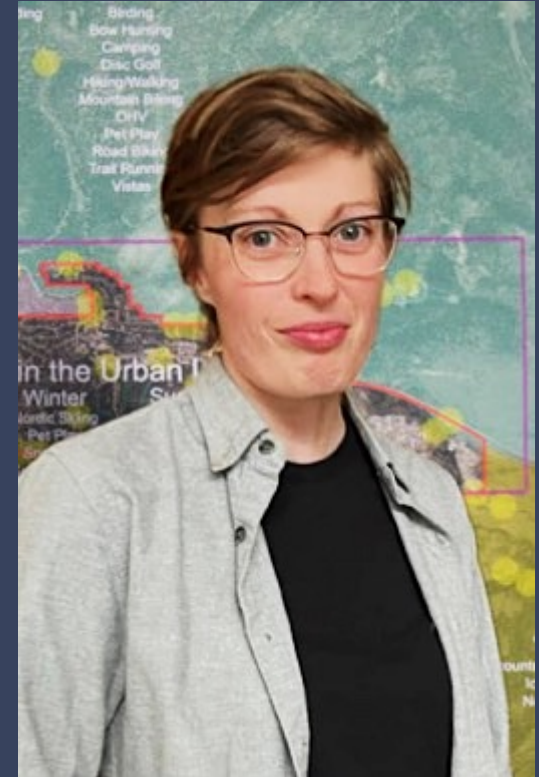
Tuesday, January 27th Webinar: EXPLORE Act 1-year Anniversary

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) is hosting a national webinar convening senior federal leaders, policymakers, and outdoor recreation stakeholders for a candid, forward-looking discussion on the state of EXPLORE Act implementation.

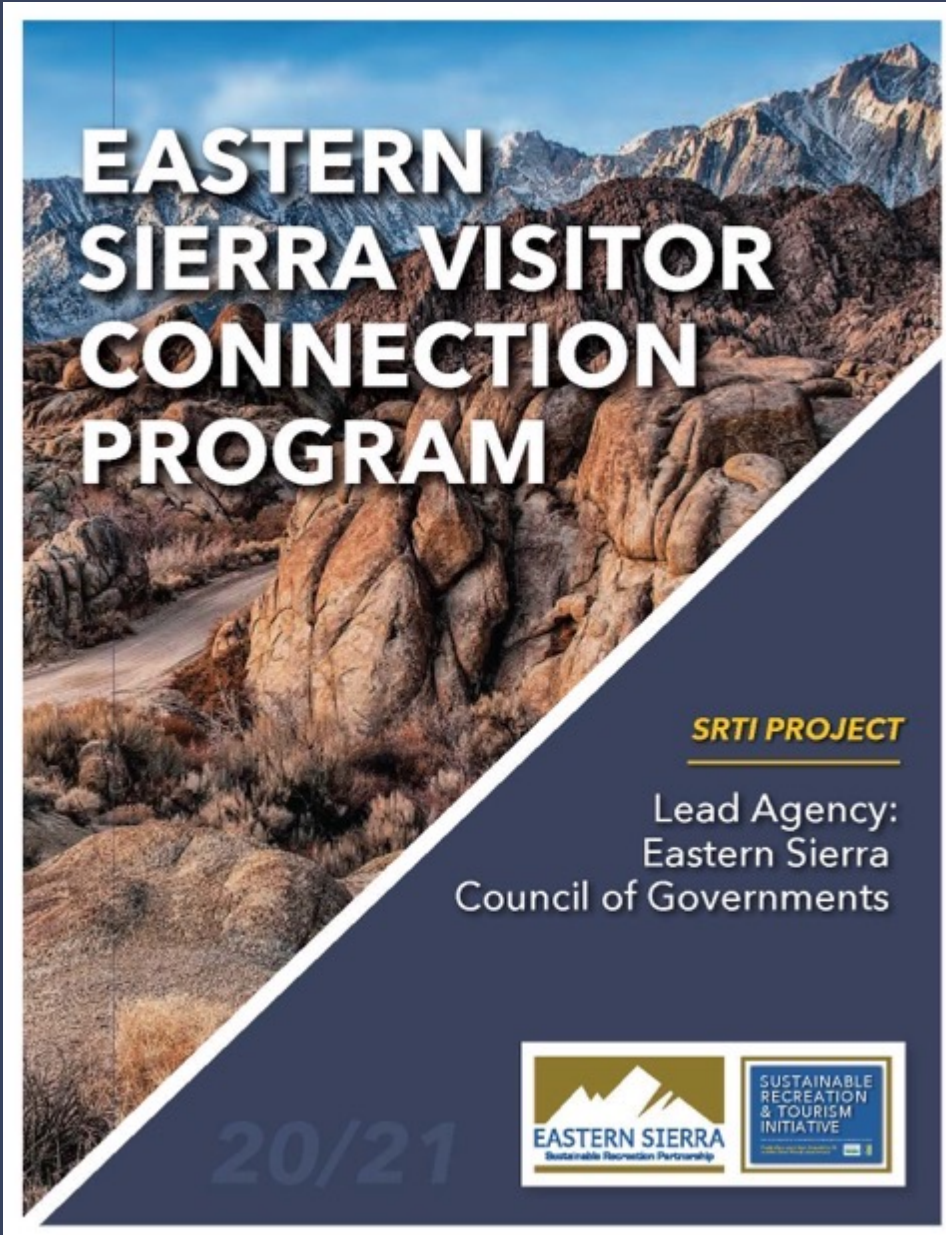
- **January 27, 2026 from 9 - 10 AM PST | 12 - 1:00 PM ET**
- **Virtual (Zoom)** [Registration required](#)

California Trails Survey

Through February, California State Parks and the Natural Resources Agency are asking trail



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

A poster for the Eastern Sierra Visitor Connection Program. The top half features a photograph of a rocky mountain trail with a blue sky and distant peaks. The title 'EASTERN SIERRA VISITOR CONNECTION PROGRAM' is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters. The bottom half is a solid dark blue triangle. Inside this triangle, the text 'SRTI PROJECT' is in yellow, followed by 'Lead Agency: Eastern Sierra Council of Governments' in white. At the bottom are two logos: 'EASTERN SIERRA Sustainable Recreation Partnership' and 'SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM INITIATIVE'. The year '20/21' is printed in large, faint blue numbers at the bottom left.

EASTERN SIERRA VISITOR CONNECTION PROGRAM

SRTI PROJECT

Lead Agency:
Eastern Sierra
Council of Governments

EASTERN SIERRA
Sustainable Recreation Partnership

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM INITIATIVE

20/21

A wildfire awareness poster with an orange background. The main text 'What's lost in a wildfire may never return.' is in white, with a small red flame icon at the end. Below this, a paragraph in dark blue text states: 'Quick to ignite and slow to recover, wildfire is among the top threats to sagebrush ecosystems in the Eastern Sierra.' A stylized illustration of a sagebrush plant is in the center. At the bottom are four logos: 'IGNITE AWARENESS NOT WILDFIRES', 'WHITEBARK INSTITUTE', 'CAL FIRE', and a green diamond logo.

What's lost in a wildfire may never return.

Quick to ignite and slow to recover, wildfire is among the top threats to sagebrush ecosystems in the Eastern Sierra.

IGNITE AWARENESS
NOT WILDFIRES

WHITEBARK INSTITUTE

CAL FIRE



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects





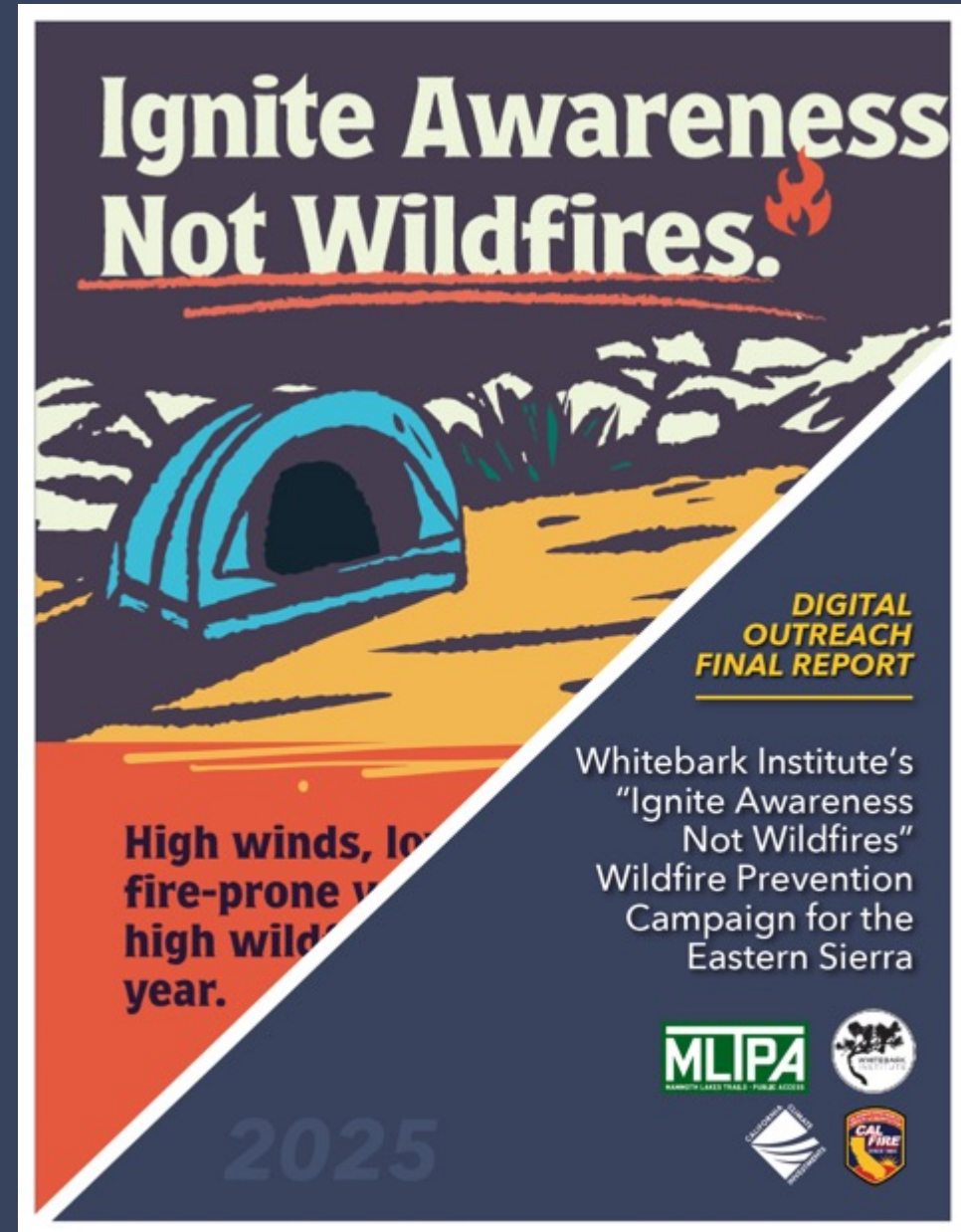
EASTERN SIERRA VISITOR CONNECTION PROGRAM

SRTI PROJECT

Lead Agency:
Eastern Sierra
Council of Governments

20/21









Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires.

**DIGITAL
OUTREACH
FINAL REPORT**

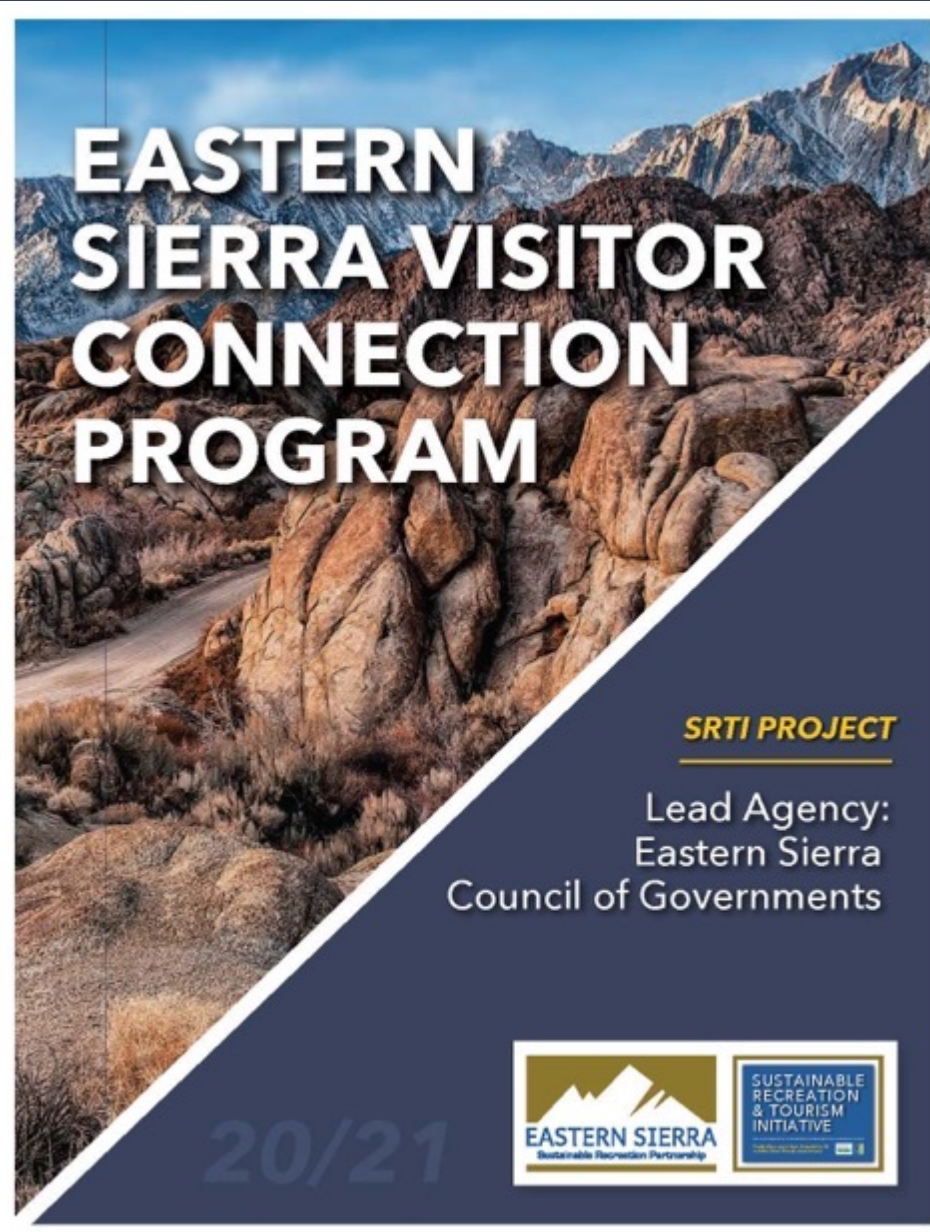
**High winds, low
fire-prone
high wild
year.**

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

2025



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



Eastern Sierra Visitor Connection Program Digital Campaign Implementation April 2024 – December 2025

To: Whitebark Institute

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

Executive Summary

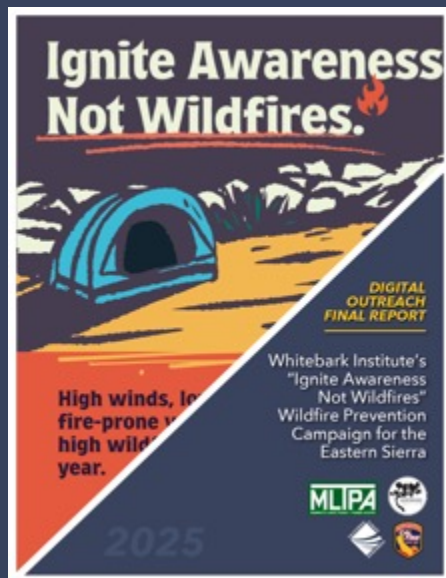
This 22-month electronic/digital media project covered two "fire seasons" including an abbreviated campaign in 2024 and the robust "Ignite Awareness Not Wildfire (IANW)" campaign in 2025. These efforts delivered a combined total of at least **571,117 impressions**.

Fire Season 1 in 2024 was a limited effort with a shortened timeframe, involving 9 partners, and served as an excellent opportunity to set up, test systems, and revise plans as needed.

Fire Season 2 debuted the IANW campaign in 2025, featuring a strong visual design combined with carefully vetted messaging. Outside of the digital efforts, Whitebark Institute supported IANW with extensive in-person and physical outreach, including printed materials such as posters, flyers, stickers, coffee sleeves, and firewood bundle inserts, as well as billboards, event participation, and more. The branded campaign website served as a central resource hub for partners and visitors seeking additional information.

Partners were enthusiastic about the IANW campaign, and a total of 16 partners shared content independently 80 times during the period. Additionally, partners requested to be included in collaborative posts created on the "Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation" accounts. These accounts, which MLTPA staff created in 2019, were originally developed to promote sustainable recreation in the Eastern Sierra as part of the "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative".

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



OVERVIEW

The Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires (IANW) campaign was launched in May 2025 by the Whitebark Institute with funding from CAL FIRE's California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grants Program. The campaign was designed to increase wildfire prevention awareness among visitors across the Eastern Sierra through coordinated digital and on-the-ground outreach.

A core component of the initiative was a nearly eight-month digital media campaign, managed by the MLTPA Foundation, which ran from May through December, 2025. Using a work plan derived from the Visitor Connection Package (an initiative originally funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy), the MLTPA Foundation engaged local partners to help share campaign materials and broaden outreach. In keeping with this work plan, a new website was developed (visitmammoth.org) to quickly and easily share campaign assets with regional partners. This coordinated approach enabled a consistent and wide spread delivery of the established wildfire prevention messaging, ensuring a unified and comprehensive visitor education effort across the Eastern Sierra.

The digital outreach effort described in this report represents one component of the broader "Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires" campaign. While the overall campaign included multiple elements, this report focuses exclusively on the digital outreach activities conducted by the MLTPA Foundation in partnership with regional organizations from May through December 2025.



Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires Campaign | Digital Outreach Program by MLTPA | Final Report | Page 2

METRICS



Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires Campaign | Digital Outreach Program by MLTPA | Final Report | Page 3

DIGITAL ASSETS

IGNITE AWARENESS NOT WILDFIRES (MAIN CAMPAIGN)



Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires Campaign | Digital Outreach Program by MLTPA | Final Report | Page 4

DIGITAL ASSETS CONT.

IGNITE ADVENTURE NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)



IGNITE CONNECTION NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)



IGNITE RESPECT NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)



Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires Campaign | Digital Outreach Program by MLTPA | Final Report | Page 5

VCP TOOLKIT WEBSITE

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



Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires Campaign | Digital Outreach Program by MLTPA | Final Report | Page 6

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS



Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires Campaign | Digital Outreach Program by MLTPA | Final Report | Page 7

HIGHLIGHTS CONT.



Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires Campaign | Digital Outreach Program by MLTPA | Final Report | Page 8

WORDS FROM OUR PARTNERS

BISHOP AREA CLIMBERS COALITION

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

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

VISIT MAMMOTH

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

- SARAHATHA LINDERBERG, SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER, MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM

FRIENDS OF THE INYO

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

- JORDAN MARSHURY, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, FRIENDS OF THE INYO

Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires Campaign | Digital Outreach Program by MLTPA | Final Report | Page 9

TAKEAWAYS FROM WHITEBARK INSTITUTE & MLTPA FOUNDATION

WHITEBARK INSTITUTE

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

By working together through regional collaboration and shared messaging, we can inspire visitors to explore this landscape with respect, understanding, and intention. The Eastern Sierra welcomes a diverse range of visitors, and each partner plays a vital role in reaching them. With joint efforts, we are building a safer, more resilient future for our communities, landscapes, and livelihoods."

- LAURA BEARDSLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHITEBARK INSTITUTE

MLTPA FOUNDATION

"MLTPA's collaboration with Whitebark and the Ignite Awareness campaign originates from the Visitor Connection Working Group and the Eastern Sierra's Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative in 2020. After just eight meetings, the Working Group agreed on a detailed action plan to establish a regional voice for the Eastern Sierra. The 2025 "Ignite Awareness" Campaign was the first fully funded initiative by the Working Group and its partners. We are thrilled with the results, and we're looking forward to the next one."

- JOHN WENTWORTH, BOARD PRESIDENT, MLTPA FOUNDATION

Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires Campaign | Digital Outreach Program by MLTPA | Final Report | Page 10

Visit Bishop Story Share

INSPECT REGULARLY



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



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

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

805 805

SECURE PROPERLY



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



Follow manufacturer guidelines for installation.



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

818 818

EASTERN SIERRA FIRE TIPS



did you know...

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



FOLLOW TIPS TO PREVENT IGNITIONS →

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

838 841

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

Thank you for being a part of our community!

**#RecreateResponsibly
#VisitBishop**

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

875 877

STAY ALERT



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



Fix any issues immediately to prevent fire risks.

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

792 793

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

BISHOP AREA CLIMBERS COALITION

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

FRIENDS OF THE INYO

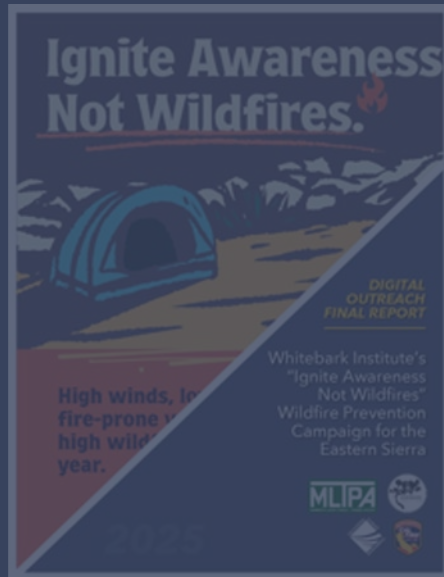
"The Ignite Awareness Campaign has made it effortless to share the simple things anyone can do to prevent the catastrophic wildfires we know all too well. It's been of tremendous value when educating visitors and locals alike on how to respect the land and practice sustainable recreation."

– JORDAN MARBURY, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, FRIENDS OF THE INYO

VISIT MAMMOTH

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

– SAMANTHA LINDBERG, SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER, MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

Eastern Sierra VCP Toolkit

[Current Campaigns](#)

[Archive](#)

[About](#)

[Launch A Campaign](#)



EASTERN SIERRA

VISITOR CONNECTION PROGRAM TOOLKIT

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

ON THIS WEBSITE YOU WILL FIND:

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



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

Eastern Sierra VCP Toolkit

[Current Campaigns](#)

[Archive](#)

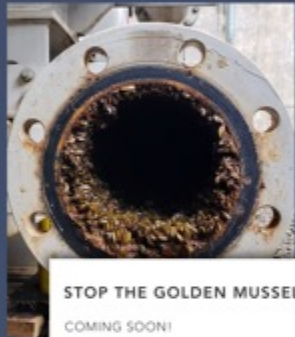
[About](#)

[Launch A Campaign](#)



ALL CAMPAIGNS:

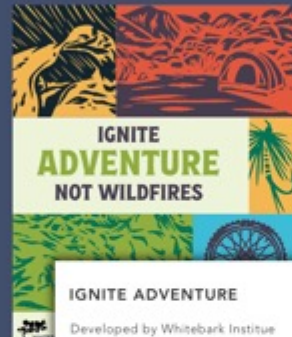
Below are all current campaign resources for the region available through this platform.
Please share this sustainable recreation messaging to our visitor audience at will.



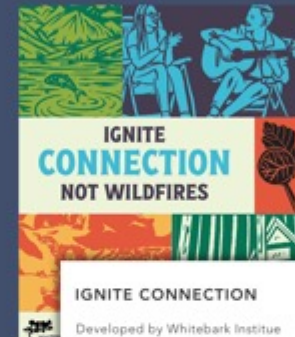
STOP THE GOLDEN MUSSEL
COMING SOON!



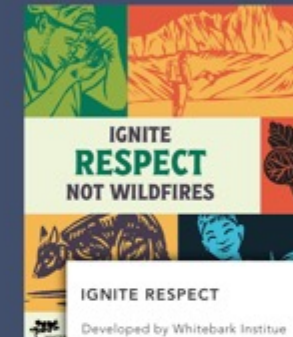
IGNITE AWARENESS
Developed by Whitebark Institute



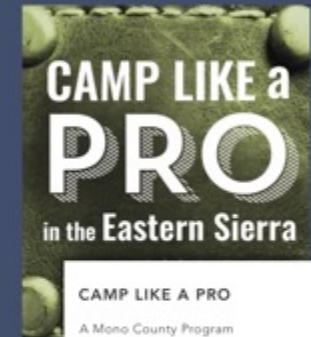
IGNITE ADVENTURE
Developed by Whitebark Institute



IGNITE CONNECTION
Developed by Whitebark Institute



IGNITE RESPECT
Developed by Whitebark Institute



CAMP LIKE A PRO
A Mono County Program

Please direct any inquiries to:

**Mammoth Lakes Trails & Public Access Foundation
(MLTPA)**

Website

mltpa.org

Email

info@mltpa.org

Telephone

(760) 934-3154

Mailing

PO Box 100 PMB 432
Mammoth Lakes, CA
93546-0100

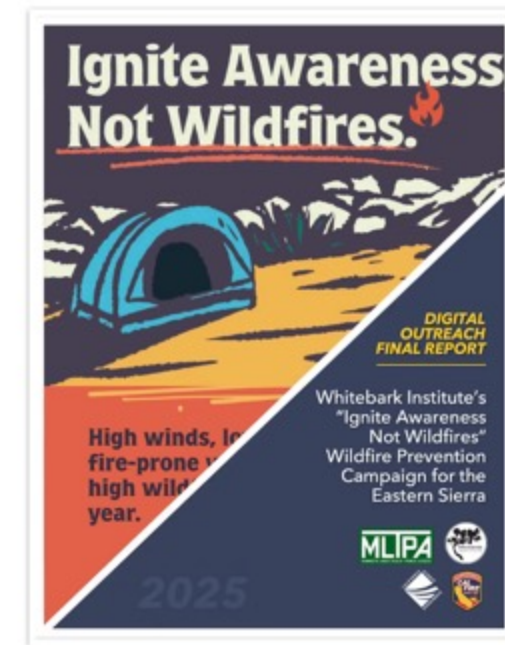
CAMPAIGN ARCHIVE

IGNITE AWARENESS NOT WILDFIRES

Dates Active: May 3 - December 15, 2025

Developed by: Whitebark Institute

Whitebark Institute's "Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires" campaign aims to promote understanding of regionally specific wildfire threats and ways that visitors and community members can do their part to prevent accidental ignitions. The four sub campaigns—[Ignite Awareness](#), [Ignite Adventure](#), [Ignite Connection](#), and [Ignite Respect](#)—originally launched in spring 2025 supported by a grant from CalFire. [The assets are still available for use.](#)



**CLICK IMAGE TO REVIEW THE DIGITAL
OUTREACH FINAL REPORT BY MLTPA**

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

[Home](#)[About](#)[What We Do](#)[Featured Work](#)[Learn](#)[Events](#)[Get Involved](#)

Ignite Awareness, Not Wildfires

IGNITE ADVENTURE. IGNITE RESPECT. IGNITE CONNECTION.

IGNITE AWARENESS NOT WILDFIRES



As climate change drives longer, more intense fire seasons, raising awareness of our wildfire risk has never been more critical. Even a single preventable fire can threaten the communities, ecosystems, and cherished landscapes that define the Eastern Sierra. While natural and prescribed fire play an important role in many of our ecosystems, an accidental ignition could put everything at risk.

Dive in, get informed, and be part of the solution.

[Check Fire Restrictions](#)[Get a Campfire Permit](#)[Check for Fire Weather Warnings](#)

Want to learn more? Explore these topics below.



Golden Mussel Threat



-

Quarterly Hybrid Meetings

Meeting 1: Monday February 9th, 10am-1pm

Mammoth Lakes Civic Center Mono Lake Room
1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA

Meeting 2: Wednesday May 6th, 10am-1pm

Inyo County Consolidated Office Building, Room 101
1360 North Main Street, Bishop CA

Meeting 3: Wednesday August 5th, 10am-1pm

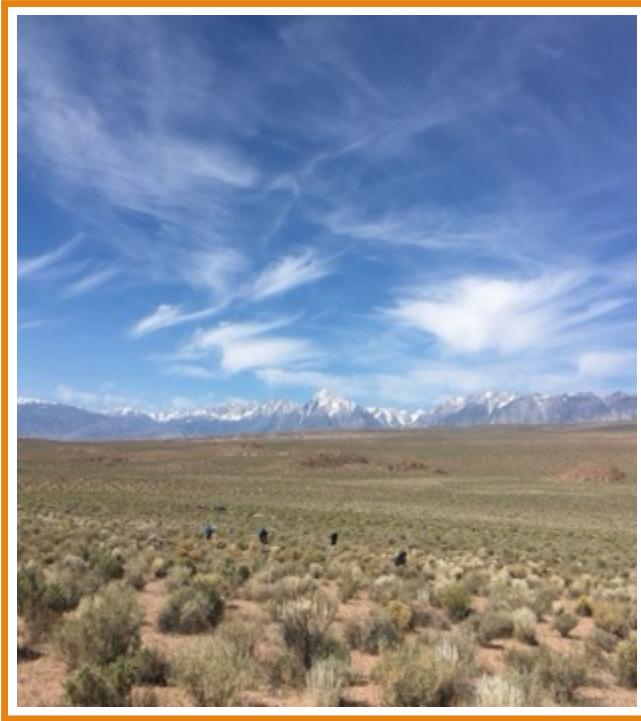
Mammoth Lakes Civic Center Mono Lake Room
1290 Tavern Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA

Meeting 4: Wednesday November 4th, 10am-1pm

Inyo County Consolidated Office Building, Room 101
1360 North Main Street, Bishop, CA

Q1 Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. 2026 ESWA Workplan
- III. MOU Review: Breakout and Discussion
- IV. 2027 Action Plan
- V. Lunch
- VI. Partner Updates and Accomplishments
- VII. Committee Updates

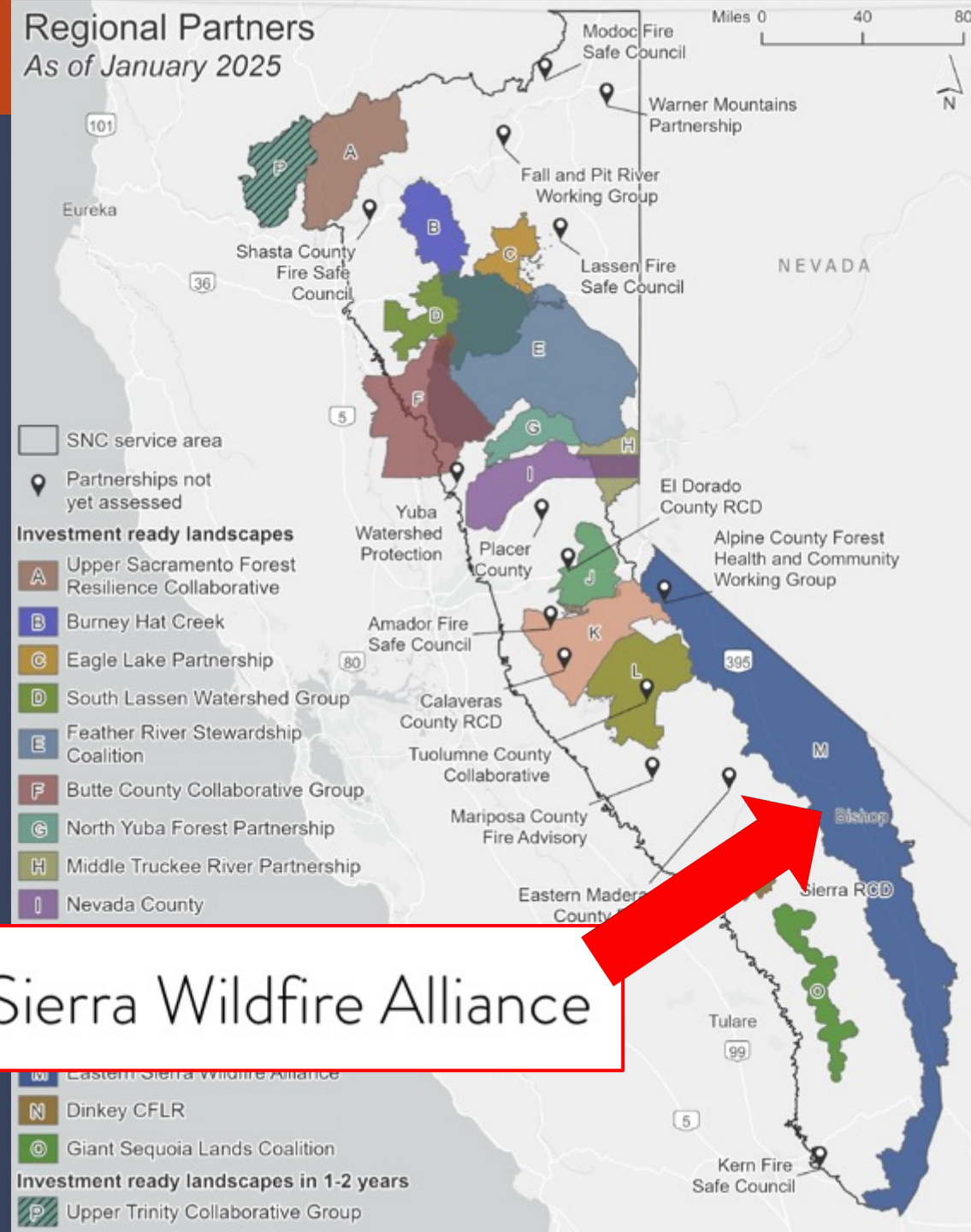


Interested in joining?

Contact:

tracy@whitebarkinstitute.org

California Wildfire and Recreation



Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance



TRANSITION & FUTURE PLANNING

Shaping the Future, Together

Industry Coordinator Meeting

Jan 27, 2026

SJF Future Product Development Update

15-MIN

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

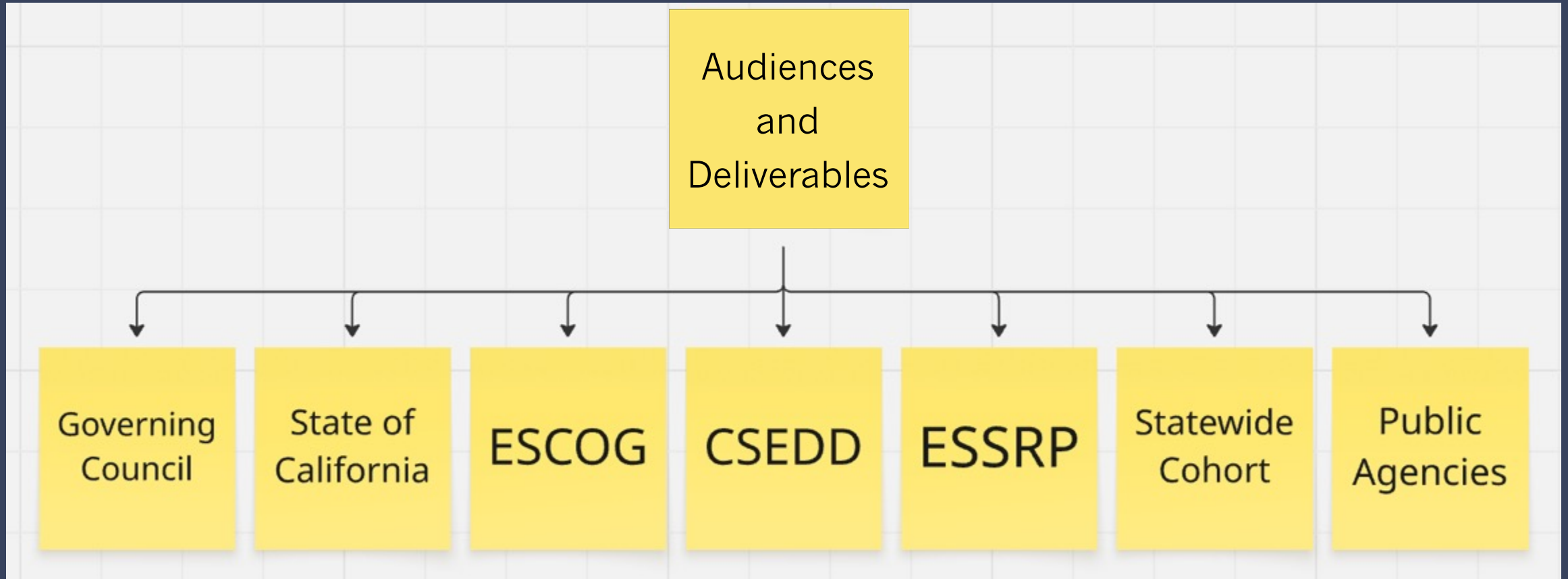


Goal of the Working Group

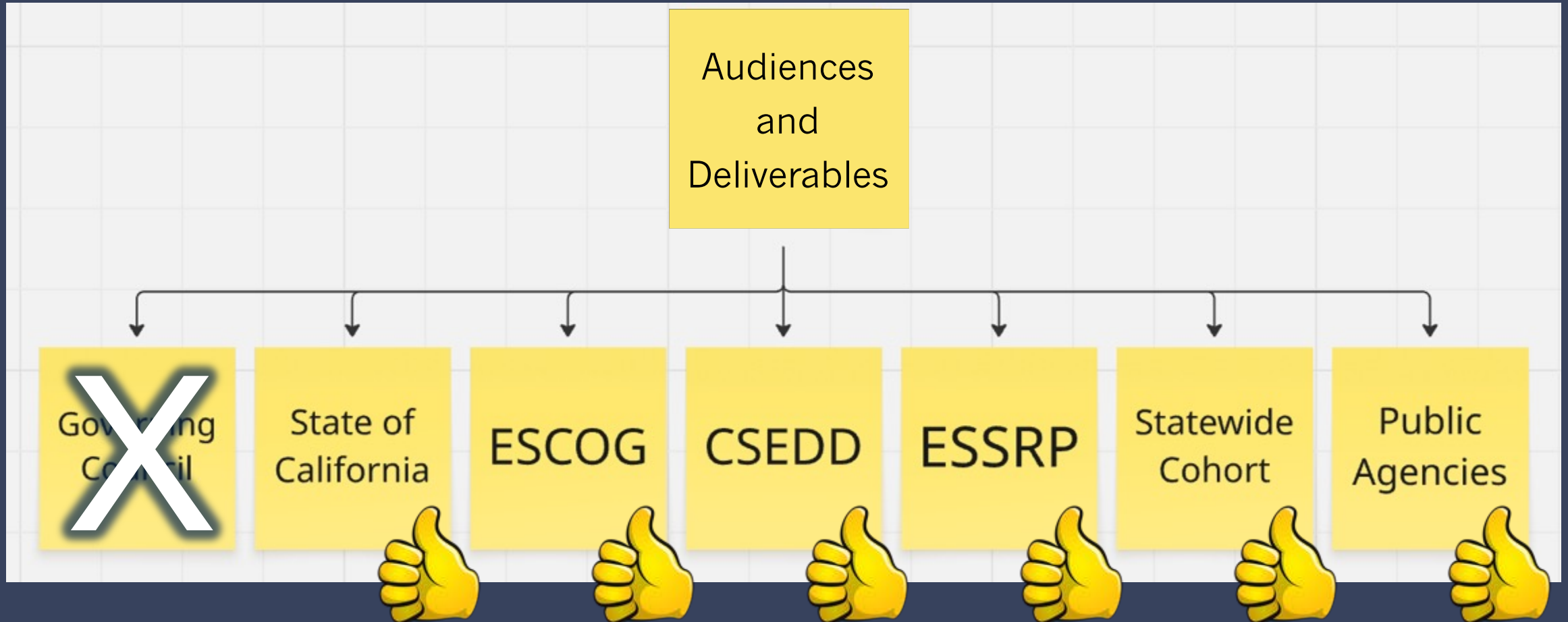
**"Recommendations for
Implementation and Collaborative
Action" (RICA)**

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



Goal of the Working Group



Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



Recreation and Tourism Working Group

WORKING GROUP SIGN-UPS

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

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

Sign-up Today!

[Join Our Working Groups](#)

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

WORKING GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mathew Galvan
Owner & Marketing Strategist
Sierra Focus Media



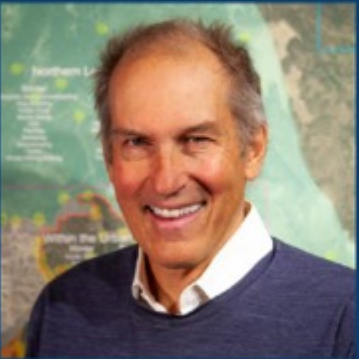
Travis Nabahe
Nabahe Global Group



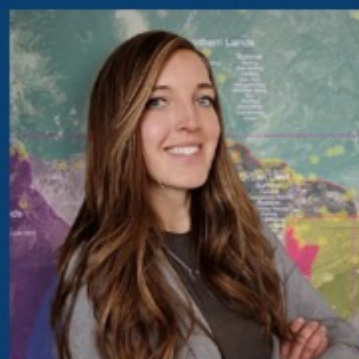
Bill Keene
President/CEO
Climate Equity Solutions



Austin McInerny
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”

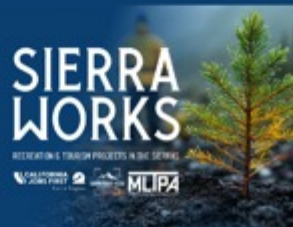
PROJECT PRESENTATIONS & INTERVIEWS



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

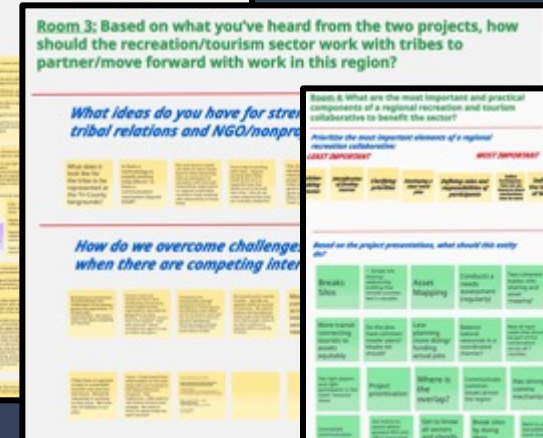
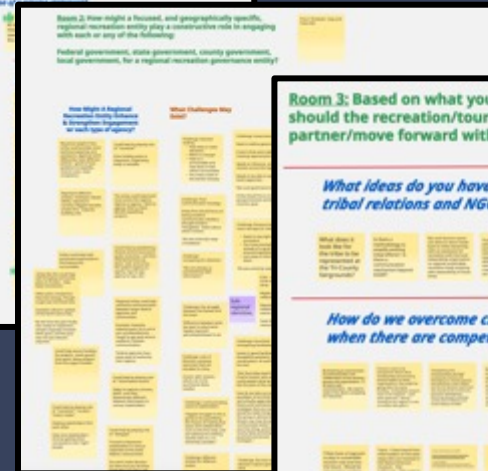
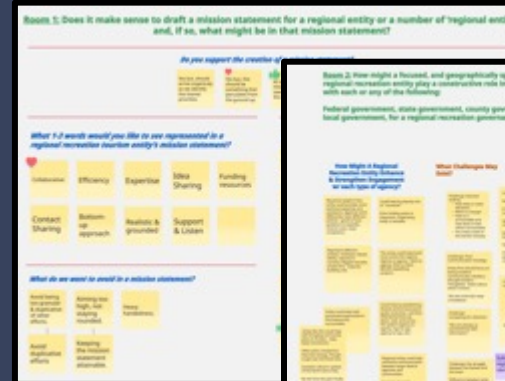
BREAKOUT GROUPS

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?



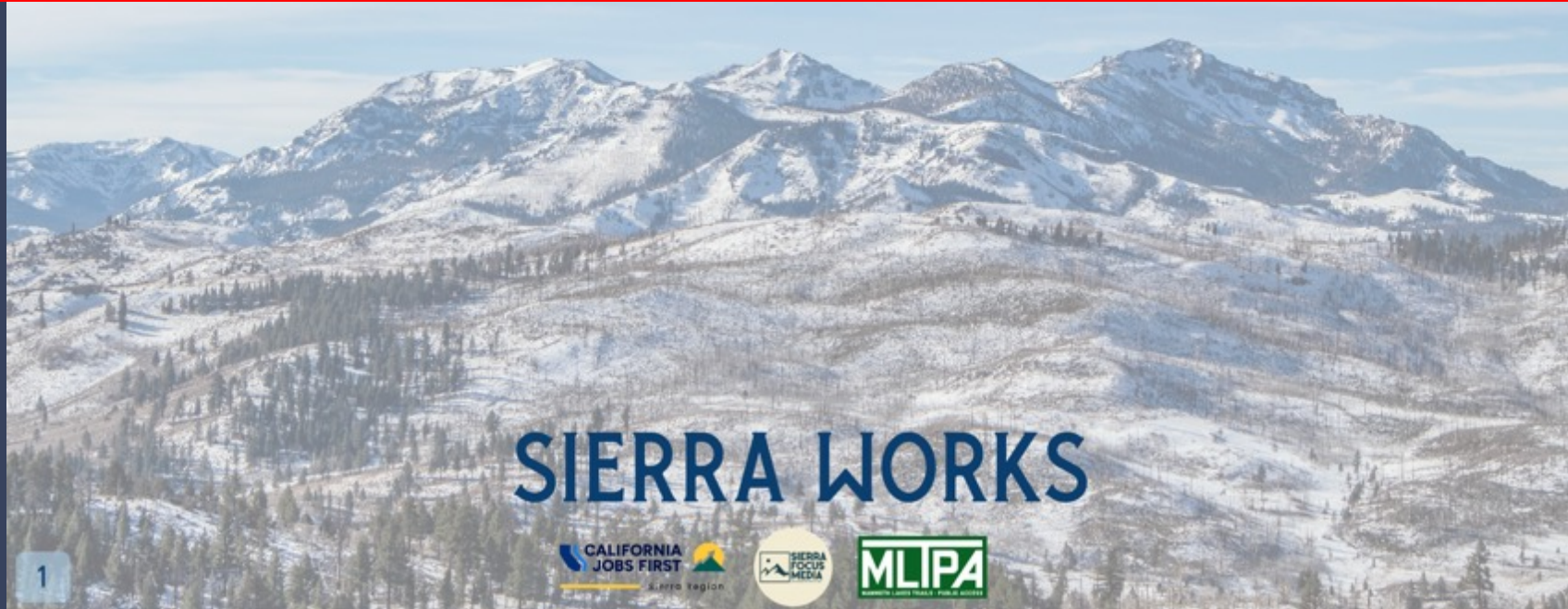
Meeting #2 – “Asset Mapping”



Meeting #2 – “Asset Mapping”

WELCOME!

Asset mapping is a “*A tool/exercise communities use to understand local strengths*”



Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

Meeting #2 – “Asset Mapping”

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS & INTERVIEWS



Kristy Williams



Robyn Gorecki



John Wentworth



INTRODUCTION TO INVENTORY ASSET MAPPING

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

ACTION STEP 2

Through a regional collaborative governance structure consistent with partnership agreements, identify efficient pathways to create plans and establish policies to reflect regional priorities.

- a. Create regional sustainable recreation plans by identifying assets, gaps, partners, and implementation strategies with land managers.
- b. Prioritize tribal engagement.
- c. Attract and develop partnerships with recreation/entertainment/resort organizations, including the California Outdoor Recreation Partnership.
- d. Work with the film industry and local film commissioners/visitor bureaus.

ACTION STEP 3

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

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



Regional Strategic Plan – pg. 76



Meeting #2 – Breakout Groups + Data Collection

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

Data Analysis + Recommendations 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

Data Analysis + Recommendations Prep



Recreation & Tourism Working Group Meeting Recaps

Updated: January 20th, 2026

Asset Mapping January 20th

Presenting Projects:

- [Eastern Sierra Regional Trail System and Jobs Creation: MLTPA](#)
- [Eastern Sierra Regional Campground Improvements & Jobs Creation: MLTPA](#)

High-Level Recap:

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

Key Functions // Actions for Asset Mapping:

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

Top Five Immediate Priorities for Asset Mapping:

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

Tensions That Must Be Addressed:

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



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

Regional Governance November 17th

Presenting Projects:

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

High-Level Recap:

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

Key Functions // Action Bias of Regional Entity:

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

Top Five Immediate Priorities for a Regional Entity:

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

Tensions the Regional Entity Must Address:

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

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

Governance

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

Asset Mapping

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

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

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

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

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

Driving Sustainable Recreation



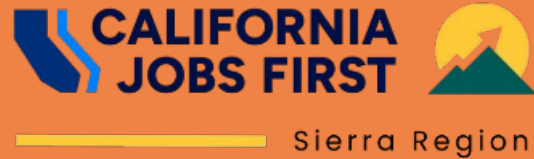
Chipmunk Canyon Trails Existing Conditions Analysis

*Balancing Access, Ecology, and
Culture in Recreation*



SIERRA WORKS

THANK YOU FOR COMING

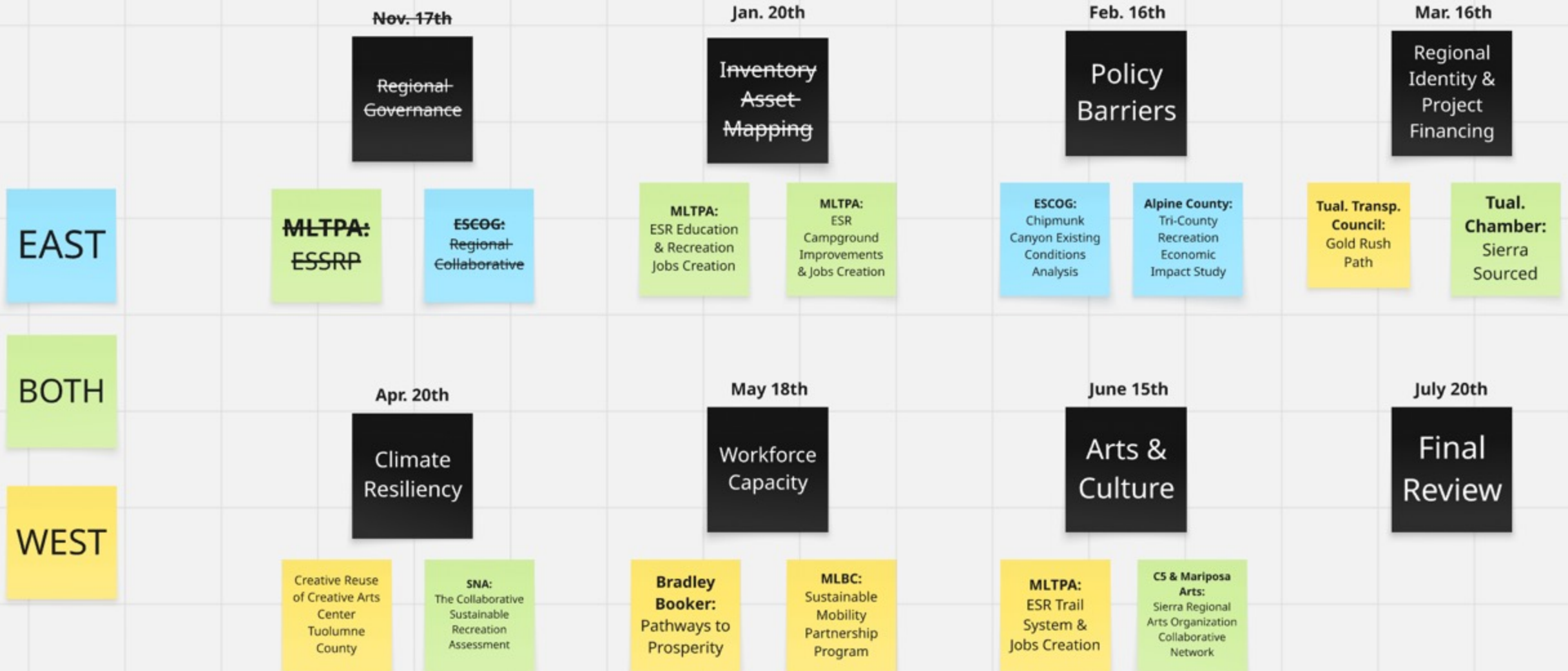


Next Meeting:
February 23, 2026
“Policy Barriers”

Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

- Nov. 17th – Regional Governance
- Jan. 20th – Asset Mapping
- Feb. 23 – Policy Barriers
- March 16th – Regional Branding & Financing
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Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Projects - Recreation & Tourism

English

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST

Sierra Region

AboutCollaborativeStrategic PlanRegional SummaryCatalyst Projects

Get Involved

SIERRA JOBS FIRST CATALYST PROJECTS

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

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

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

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

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

View PDF



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](#)



Nuumo 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](#)



“Cohort of Practice”





CALREC
Vision

Next Meeting - Friday Feb. 6



CALIFORNIA
JOBS FIRST



Sierra Region

ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects

Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments

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SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects

**Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments**

Ken Etzel

*Regional Recreation
Collaborative Coordinator*

Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative

*Building Resilience Through
Collaboration in the Eastern Sierra*



ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects

**Eastern
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Chipmunk Canyon Trails Existing Conditions Analysis

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**Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments**

ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects

**California Association for
Local Economic Development**

Everything Econ Dev ▾ Legislation ▾ Econ Dev Resources ▾ **Trainings & Events ▾** Membership ▾ About CALED ▾

Q

CALED Rural Economic Development Exchange

In May of 2018, the CALED Board approved the creation of a Rural Economic Development Exchange that allows CALED to direct some resources to support our efforts to help rural economic developers connect, share resources, and engage in policy conversations/initiatives. Specifically, CALED is committed to:

Exchange Goals:

- Convene rural economic development stakeholders at least one time per year (outside of CALED's Annual Conference)
- Include a Rural Exchange opportunity at the conference for resource providers to share updates on how they can support rural economic development as well as showcase best practices
- Work with USDA Rural Development in California to identify ways CALED can support their priorities and promote their work/grants.
- Share what we learn with partners that may be in a position to assist in addressing priorities, challenges, solutions, and resources to grow rural economies

If you haven't seen it yet, make sure to check out the [California Rural Infrastructure Finance Guidebook](#).

Econ Dev News

> [Economic Development Analysis of Governor's Proposed FY 26-27 Budget](#)
January 20, 2026

Webinar Wednesdays



CALED's Webinar Wednesday is free for our members. For non-members the cost is \$85.00 per webinar. All CALED webinar's will be held from



Community Survey Local Food (*Inyo & Mono Counties*)

We invite you to share your insights on local food purchasing habits, motivations, and challenges.

Your valuable responses will inform the Eastern Sierra Agriculture Activation Plan and will help our local producers improve access to fresh, delicious, and sustainable food in our region. By participating, you contribute to strengthening our community and supporting the farmers, ranchers, and artisans who play a vital role in our local economy.

In this survey, "local food" refers to products grown, raised, or crafted within Inyo and Mono Counties.

Thank you for taking the time to help us support a thriving local food system!

Estimated time: ~5-8 minutes

Your answers are confidential. You will be notified via email if you are a recipient of the \$50 gift card.

johnwentworth@mltpa.org [Switch account](#)



* Indicates required question

Email *

Your email

Partner Updates – In Alphabetical Order

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

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

Thank You - !

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