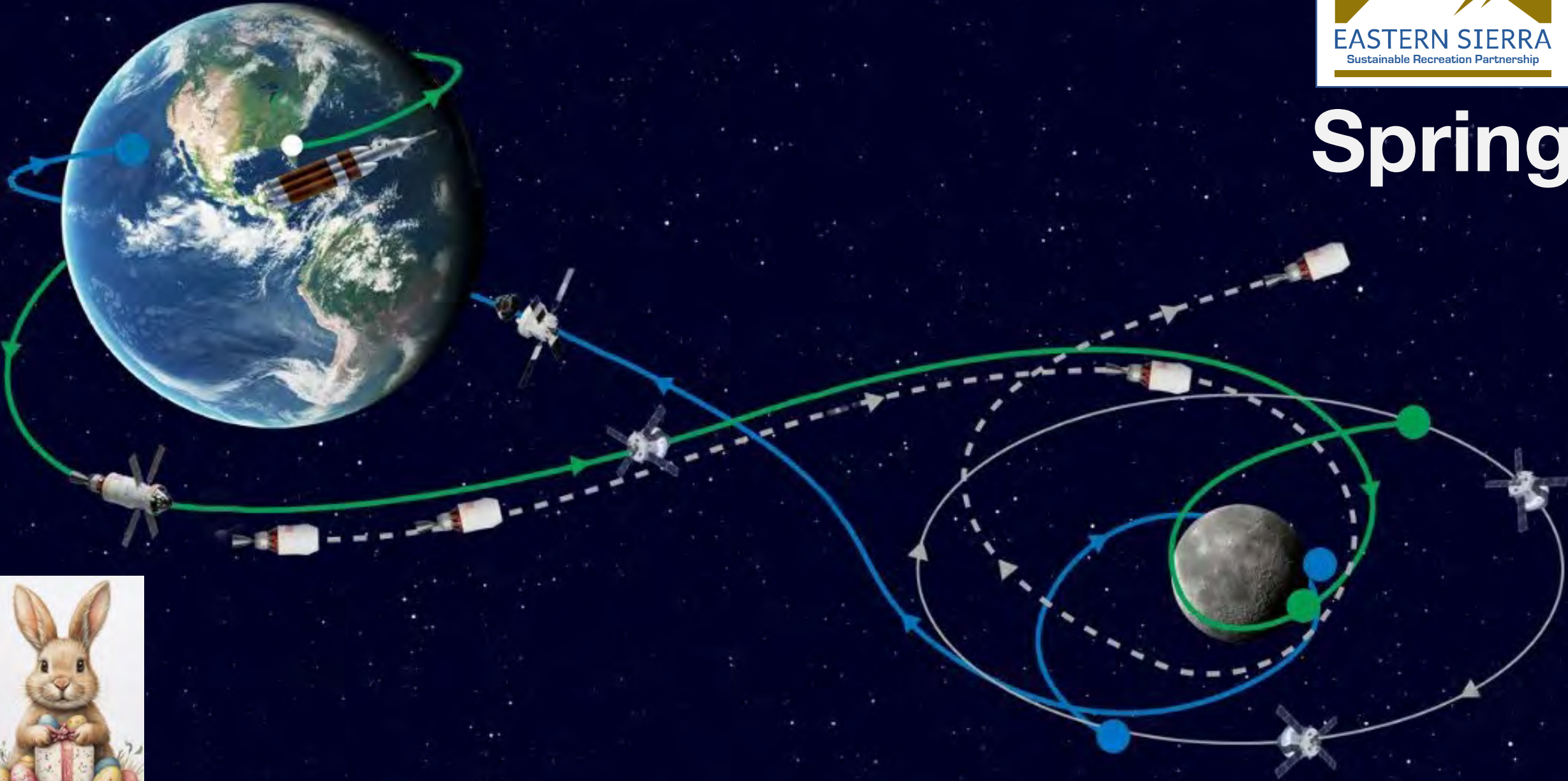




# Spring





# REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



April 6, 2026





# REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



April 6, 2026



Recording in Progress

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

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

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

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

# What is the ESSRP



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

# What is the ESSRP

Alpine

## SIERRA WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS

CALIFORNIA  
JOBS FIRST  
Sierra Region

SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA  
A DIVISION OF THE

MLTPA  
MANMOTH LAKES TRAIL & PUBLIC ACCESS



## Sierra Jobs First

## Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

- Role of the ESSRP
  - Ongoing Information Sharing
  - SJF Recreation and Tourism Working Group Updates
  - **Through August 3, 2026**

# Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



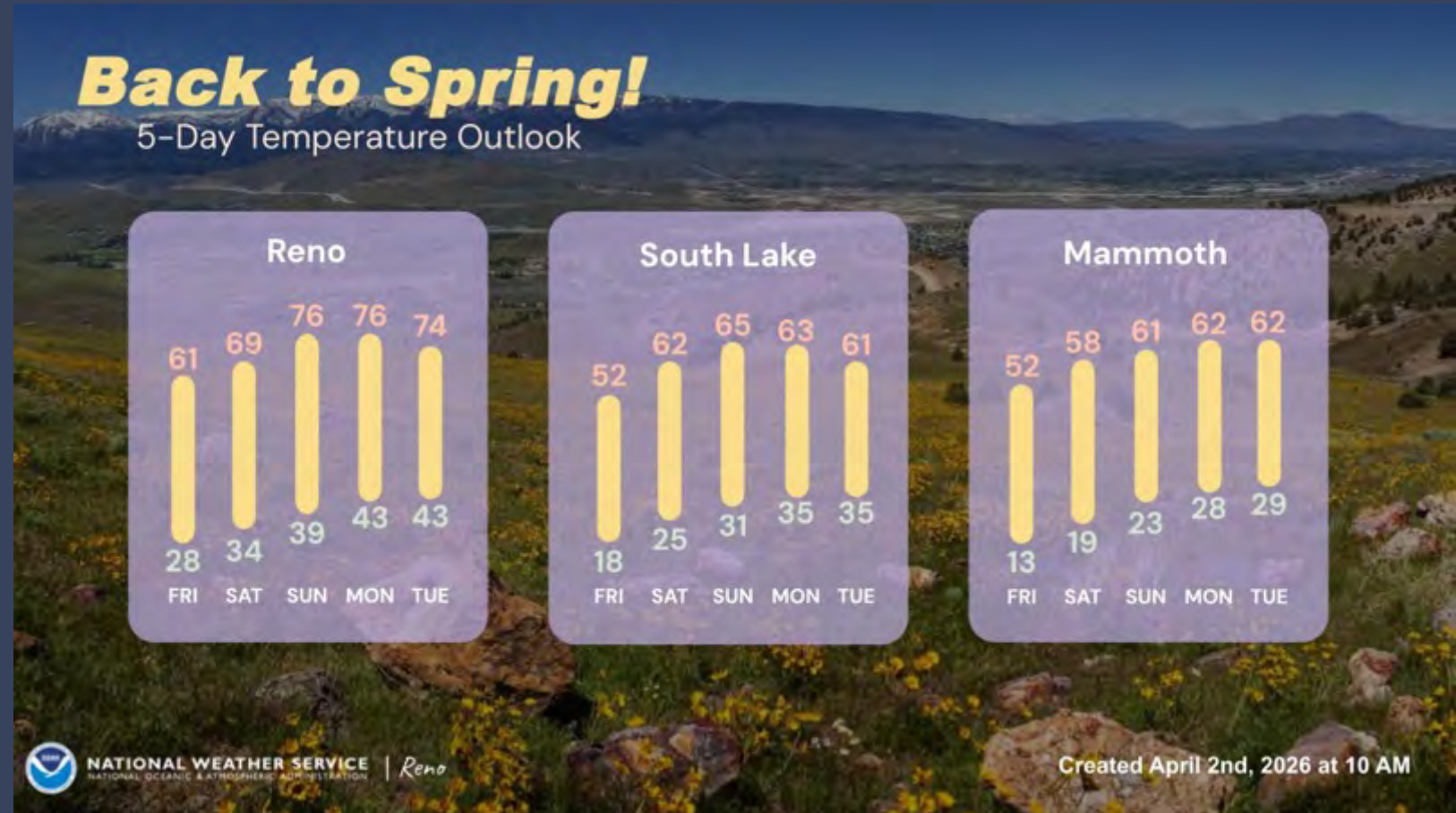
## Bureau of Land Management

- Matt Magaletti
- *Sierra Front Field Office  
Manager, Carson City*

# Hot Links April 6, 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
  - Welcome
    - Matt Magaletti, BLM, Sierra Front Field Office Manager, Carson City
- Happenings of Interest for Eastern Sierra Recreation
  - Regional
    - Spring
      - The overlooked Calif. fine dining outpost with a murderous mountain past
      - 'It's fabulous to be out here': Photos show Death Valley in full bloom
      - In Historic Gold Rush Town, A World-Class Acoustic Concert Hall Rises

# Spring





# Happenings of Interest

TRAVEL // OUTDOORS

## The best time to see Yosemite's waterfalls is now — but the window won't last

By Kurtis Alexander, Staff Writer

April 4, 2026

Gift Article    



TRAVEL // OUTDOORS

## The best time to see Yosemite's waterfalls is now — but the window won't last

By Kurtis Alexander, Staff Writer

April 4, 2026

Gift Article    



# Happenings of Interest

**ALPINE COUNTY  
FOURTH ANNUAL  
ARBOR DAY  
TREE PLANTING**

Hosted by the  
**Forest Health Community Working Group**

ALPINE  
BIOMASS  
COLLABORATIVE

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24  
10:00 A.M. TREE PLANTING  
INDIAN CREEK DAY USE AREA**

Approximately 3 miles from Highway 89 on Airport Road

Pinyon seedlings/seeds provided by  
Washoe Environmental Protection Department.

Jeffrey pine seedlings provided by  
The Sugar Pine Foundation and Liberty Utilities.

Bring a water bottle (water station will be provided), and wear sun protection and  
closed-toed shoes. Goggles and tools will be provided.  
Light refreshments will be provided.

Please contact Clint Celio for more information: [ccelio@alpinecountyca.gov](mailto:ccelio@alpinecountyca.gov)

# Happenings of Interest

≡ **SFGATE**

CA MINI CROSSWORD

Account

FOOD

## The overlooked Calif. fine dining outpost with a murderous mountain past



Convict Lake with a reflection of Laurel Mountain as first light hits the peak.

Getty Images

## In Historic Gold Rush Town, A World-Class Acoustic Concert Hall Rises

By [Leslie Katz](#), Senior Contributor. © Leslie Katz covers the intersection of...

Follow Author



A new acoustic concert hall optimized for classical and choral music is coming to Grass Valley, a historic California Gold Rush town with an arts-appreciating spirit.

GETTY

The cavernous room is still very much a construction site: Steel columns jut from

# Happenings of Interest

SECRET LOS ANGELES Our cities English Secret Club

THINGS TO DO TOP NEWS FOOD & DRINK CULTURE ESCAPES WELLNESS & NATURE SECRET CL

## This California Gold Rush Ghost Town Is Hosting A Rare 8-Mile Run This Spring — Home To The Mines That Built L.A.

Runners looking for a challenge with a Wild West twist can sign up for a race that finishes in one of the state's most unusual destinations.



SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NEWS | LOS ANGELES

## SoCal man dies after falling on rattlesnake while mountain biking

By Gillian Mohney, News Editor  
March 13, 2026

f X B



About 10% to 44% of people who suffer a venomous snake bite will have long-lasting injuries.  
MichaelSvoboda/Getty Images

# Happenings of Interest

SFGATE

CA MINI CROSSWORD

Account

NEWS | BAY AREA & STATE

## The race to save endangered mountain lions in the Calif. desert

An increase in Joshua Tree visitors has meant bad news for local mountain lions



An aerial view shows the Yucca Grade along state Route 62, where nonprofit Mojave Desert Land Trust is in the early stages of planning a new wildlife crossing.  
Mojave Desert Land Trust

# Happenings of Interest

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NEWS | BAY AREA & STATE

## The race to save endangered mountain lions in the Calif. desert

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An aerial view shows the Yucca Grade along state Route 62, where nonprofit Mojave Desert Land Trust is in the early stages of planning a new wildlife crossing.  
Mojave Desert Land Trust

HighCountryNews Donate

WILDLIFE

## Utah's new study aims to kill 'as many cougars as possible'

Critics say the state's attempt to boost ungulate populations lacks scientific grounding and transparency.

Kylie Mohr  
March 24, 2026

Email Save Article More



A mountain lion photographed by a trail cam operated by Utah Mountain Lion Conservation.  
Courtesy of Utah Mountain Lion Conservation

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

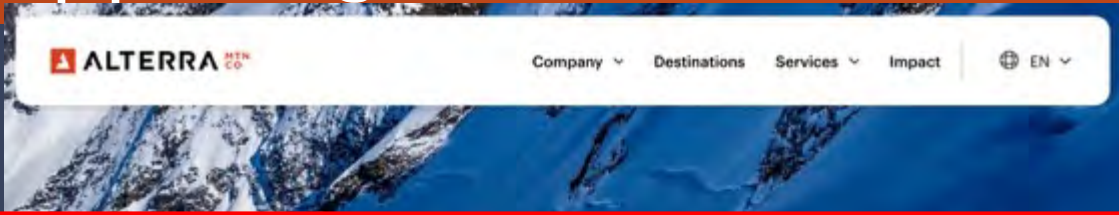
## How the world's largest wildlife crossing became the target of right-wing hate

The giant bridge over US 101 in Agoura Hills should be complete later this year



The Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing crosses U.S. Route 101 on March 7, 2026, in Agoura Hills, Calif.  
Kevin Carter/Getty Images

# Happenings of Interest



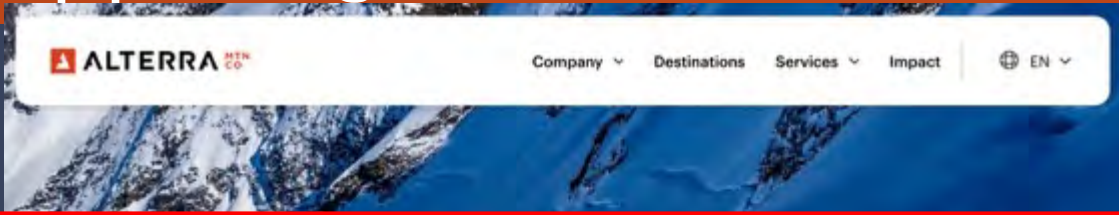
**DENVER, March 10, 2026** — Alterra Mountain Company, the world's leading outdoor recreation company, today announced a leadership transition. Jared Smith has announced his intention to step down from his role as Chief Executive Officer at the end of this season.



## Alterra Mountain Company Announces Leadership Transition

“Serving as CEO of Alterra has been an honor, and I am deeply proud of the incredible people, capabilities and businesses we’ve added to this amazing company. The commitment of the ownership group to these mountains, and to the team members and communities they serve, is truly unique. I’m confident the progress we’ve made has positioned the company well to build on that foundation in the years of growth ahead.”

# Happenings of Interest



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### California faces first sign of a new drought

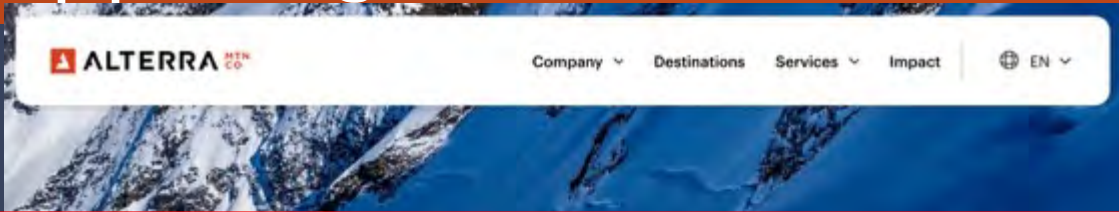
By **Anna FitzGerald Guth**, *Science and climate reporter*  
Updated April 3, 2026 12:36 p.m.



California Department of Water Resources staff members conduct a snow survey in a mostly barren meadow at Phillips Station in El Dorado County on April 1, 2026.

Nick Shockey/California Department of Water Resources

# Happenings of Interest

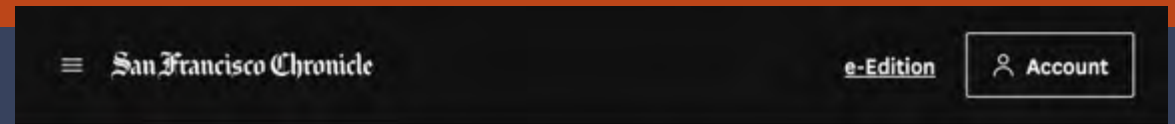


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TRAVEL // OUTDOORS

## Is this the worst Tahoe ski season ever — or just the weirdest?

By Gregory Thomas, Staff Writer

March 28, 2026



# Happenings of Interest

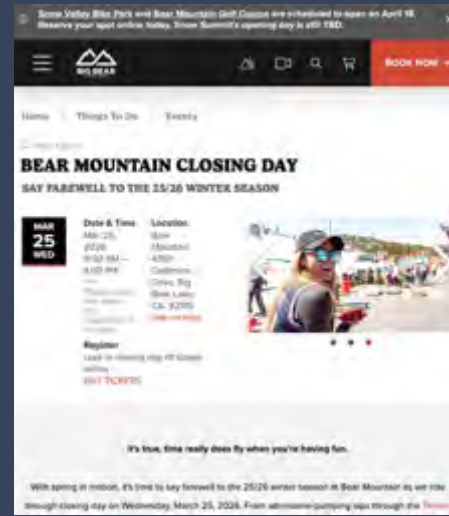
SKI NEWS

## An Updated List Of All The Early Closings At Western U.S. Ski Resorts

Various ski resorts across the Western U.S. are closing earlier than expected due to above-average temperatures and a lack of snow.

### California

- **Badger Pass:** Closed on March 18th.
- **Bear Valley:** Closing March 29th.
- **Big Bear:** Closed on March 25th.
- **China Peak:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Dodge Ridge:** Closed on March 15th.
- **Donner Ski Ranch:** Closed on March 21st, but could reopen if new snow arrives.
- **Granlinbakken Tahoe:** March 24th.
- **Tahoe Donner:** March 22nd.
- **Heavenly:** Closing April 5th.
- **Homewood:** Closed on March 17th.
- **Mountain High Resorts:** Closed March 15th.
- **Mt. Baldy:** May reopen, but needs natural snow.
- **Mt. Shasta Ski Park:** Closed on March 2nd.
- **Northstar:** Closing on April 5th, one week ahead of schedule.
- **Palisades Tahoe:** Originally planning to close on Memorial Day, it's now expected to close the Palisades side in late April, and Alpine Meadows after the first week of April.
- **Sierra-at-Tahoe:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Soda Springs:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Sugar Bowl:** Closing on April 5th.



# Happenings of Interest

## An Updated List Of All The Early Closings At Western U.S. Ski Resorts

### Colorado

- **Aspen Highlands:** Closing on March 29th. Original closing date was April 12th.
- **Beaver Creek:** Closing on March 29th, two weeks ahead of schedule.
- **Buttermilk:** Closed on March 25th. Original planned closing date was April 5th.
- **Chapman Ski Hill:** Closed earlier this month.
- **Ski Cooper:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Cranor Hill:** Didn't operate this winter.
- **Cuchara:** Announced on March 19th that it's closed for the season.
- **Echo Mountain:** Closing March 29th.
- **Eldora:** Closing April 4th.
- **Granby Ranch:** Closing on March 29th, which is a week earlier than originally planned.
- **Hoedown Hill:** Closed on March 8th.
- **Howelsen Hill:** Closed March 22nd.
- **Kendall Mountain:** Last operated February 28th.
- **Lake City:** Hasn't operated this winter.
- **Monarch Mountain:** Closing March 29th.
- **Powderhorn:** Closed March 22nd.
- **Purgatory:** Closing March 29th.
- **Silverton:** Closed March 28th.
- **Snowmass:** Closing April 5th.
- **Steamboat:** Closing date moved up to April 5th.
- **Sunlight Mountain Resort:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Telluride:** Closed after March 31st, but aims to reopen.

### Idaho

- **Bald Mountain:** Didn't operate this winter.
- **Blizzard Mountain:** Likely won't open this winter.
- **Bogus Basin:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Cottonwood Butte:** Didn't open.
- **Kelly Canyon:** Closed earlier this month.
- **Little Ski Hill:** Closed on March 14th.
- **Lost Trail:** Closing April 5th.
- **Magic Mountain:** Never opened.
- **Pebble Creek:** Closure announced on March 12th.
- **Pomerelle:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Rotarun:** Closed March 15th.
- **Schweitzer:** Closing April 5th, one week earlier than expected.
- **Soldier Mountain:** Closure announced on March 6th.
- **Tamarack:** Most lifts closed earlier this week, with the last chair officially closing on March 28th. Originally planned to close on April 13th.

### Utah

- **Beaver Mountain:** Closed March 27th. Originally planned to close on March 29th, but the snowpack melted quicker than anticipated.
- **Cherry Peak:** Closed earlier this month.
- **Deer Valley:** Closing March 29th, which is three weeks earlier than anticipated.
- **Eagle Point:** Closed on Sunday, March 15th.
- **Nordic Valley:** Closed in early March.
- **Powder Mountain:** Closing March 29th. Typically closes in April.
- **Snowbasin:** Closed on March 22nd. Snowbasin typically closes in mid to late April.
- **Snowland:** Technically not an early closing, but Snowland ended its comeback season on March 7th.
- **Sundance:** Closing on March 28th. Originally planned to close in April.

### Montana

- **Bear Paw Ski Bowl:** Hasn't operated this winter.
- **Blacktail:** Closing on March 28th.
- **Bridger Bowl:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Great Divide:** Closed March 29th.
- **Lost Trail:** Closed March 29th.
- **Maverick Mountain:** Closed on March 28th.
- **Turner Mountain:** Closure announced on March 2nd.

### Nevada

- **Diamond Peak:** Closing March 29th.
- **Elko Snowbowl:** Never opened this winter.
- **Lee Canyon:** Closed on March 22nd.

### New Mexico

- **Angel Fire:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Ski Apache:** Closed earlier this month.
- **Ski Cloudcroft:** Closed since February.
- **Pajarito:** Closed earlier this month.
- **Red River:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Sandia Peak:** Closed since February.
- **Sipapu:** Closing March 29th.
- **Ski Santa Fe:** Closed on March 22nd.
- **Taos:** Closing March 29th, which is one week earlier than

# Happenings of Interest

Popular Latest Newsletters *The Atlantic* Saved Stories My Account

CLIMATE

## The West's Winter Has Been a Slow-Moving Catastrophe

Without snow in the mountains, the places that depend on the West's rivers will hurt for water.

By Rebecca Boyle



R.T. Nease / The New York Times

FEBRUARY 14, 2026

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San Francisco Chronicle e-Edition Account

WEATHER // WEATHER FORECASTS

## California's rainy season is running out of time. Will storms return?

By Greg Porter, Senior Meteorologist  
Feb 28, 2026

GR Article f X T



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook  
Valid: March 7 - 13, 2026  
Issued: February 27, 2026

March will probably be wet in every part of the country except California.

San Francisco Chronicle e-Edition Account

CLIMATE

## California cities and farms brace for water cutbacks as snow falls short

By Keith Alexander, Staff Writer  
Feb 28, 2026

GR Article f X T



Snow covers the peaks of Inyo National Forest on Sunday, as seen in Truckee. This month's snowstorms weren't enough to bridge California's snow deficit. Michael Luo/USA Chronicle

# Happenings of Interest

f i

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OUTDOORS

## Ski resort CEO issues warning amid unprecedented trend in US region: 'We can never let [this] happen again'

"We experienced one of the worst ... in the Western U.S. in over 30 years."

By Zachary Ehmann / February 5, 2026



Photo Credit: iStock

Western ski resorts are going through one of the worst seasons in decades. Historic snow drought, labor disputes, and declining international visits are all threatening mountain communities and regional water supplies.

### What's happening?

According to a recent piece in The New York Times, Colorado and Utah are facing catastrophic snowpack deficits as February kicked off. Colorado recorded its lowest statewide snowpack ever, at 57% of typical levels. Utah reached just 62%, approaching the worst performance since measurements began over forty years ago.

HighCountryNews Donate

A photograph of a person snowmaking on a ski slope at night. The person is silhouetted against a bright light source, creating a large plume of snow. The scene is dark, with some lights visible in the background. A wooden fence is in the foreground.

WATER

## Snowmaking could be the future of skiing. But at what cost?

As the climate changes, ski resorts have begun relying more on energy and water-intensive machine-made snow.

Susan Shain February 24, 2026

Print Email Save Article More



# Happenings of Interest

The New York Times

BILLIONAIRE BOOM

## Welcome to Wyoming, the Frontier of America's New Gilded Age

Jackson, Wyo., has long been a refuge for the rich. But the last five years saw a boom in wealth of a kind never before seen. Across the country, the 2017 tax cuts minted hundreds of new billionaires.



Jackson, Wyo., Teton County is both the richest county in America and a place that in some areas is struggling to maintain basic services. *WSJ Wirephoto for The New York Times*

WSJ | Barron's | MarketWatch | IBD

WSJ | Buy Side

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



U.S.

## America's 'Most Luxurious Ski Town' Is Tearing Itself Apart

Telluride is in a pitched battle with the eccentric owner of its luxury resort; an attempted 'coup' ends in scandal

The New York Times

## A Crisis in the Alps: Airbnb, Climate Change and Americans

The mountains' resort towns have reached an inflection point, facing changes that threaten their cultures and even survival, as demand for short-term rentals reshapes the landscape.



A view over the Chamonix valley from the Balme-Vallorcine ski area. *Alexandre Juliet/Chamonix-Mont Blanc*

# Happenings of Interest

TRAVEL // TAHOE

## This Tahoe town is losing the fight against 'mushroom homes'

By Brooke Park, Staff Writer  
March 29, 2026



Scott Robbins, a South Lake Tahoe City Council member, stands in front of a vacant house in his neighborhood. Robbins had proposed a cap on second homes, which has stalled.

William Hale Irwin/For the S.F. Chronicle



## ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

We are committed to building a successful, sustainable future for North Lake Tahoe that includes economic health, community vitality, and environmental stewardship.

WHAT WE DO →



BECAUSE OF THE TBID →

APPLY FOR FUNDING →

# Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition

Account

U.S. & WORLD // CALIFORNIA

## A major housing battle is taking place on the edge of Yosemite National Park

By Kurtis Alexander, Staff Writer

March 5, 2026

Gift Article



Dogwoods bloom in Yosemite National Park in the vicinity of Bridalveil Fall in May 2024. Just outside the western boundary of the park, a fight over housing is taking place.

Tracy Barbutes/For the S.F. Chronicle

# Happenings of Interest - Federal



TRAVEL // OUTDOORS

## California national parks hit record attendance in 2025 despite shutdown turmoil

By **Aidin Vaziri**, Staff Writer

March 14, 2026

Gift Article



Visitors look up at El Capitan in Yosemite National Park last May. Nearly 12 million people visited California's national parks in 2025, as Yosemite, Joshua Tree and Death Valley drew record crowds despite shutdown turmoil.

Carlos Avila Gonzalez/S.F. Chronicle

# Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

SFGATE CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

NATIONAL PARKS

## John Oliver launches printable stickers to hide Trump on national park passes

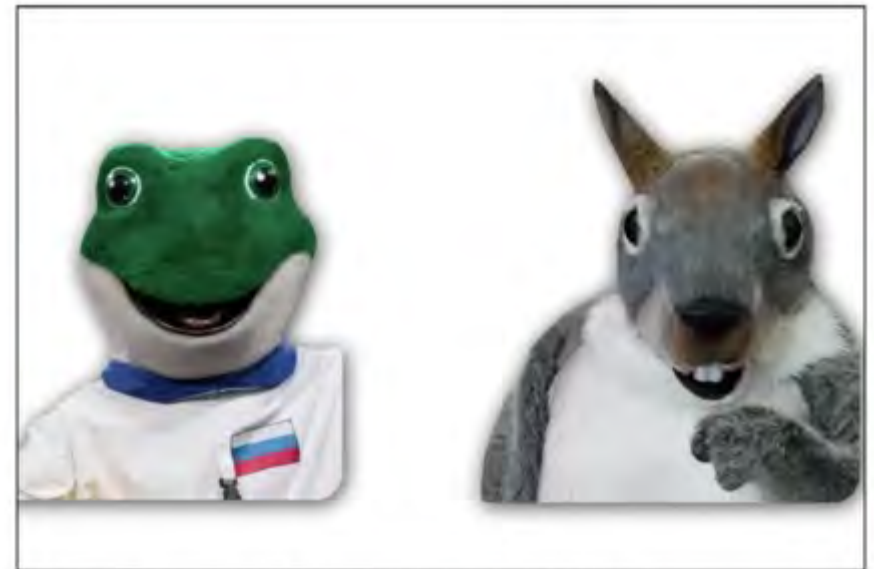
By Sam Hill, Pacific Northwest Contributing Parks Editor  
March 30, 2026

f x t m



John Oliver launched stickers to hide Donald Trump's park pass image.  
Matthew Mloah Wright/Getty Images

Comedian John Oliver is joining the criticism of the 2026 America the Beautiful national park pass design, offering a new workaround for visitors who want to cover up an image of President Donald Trump.



A selection of downloadable stickers from John Oliver's website.  
Screenshot via johnolivergivestrumpheads.com



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Screenshot via johnolivergivestrumpheads.com

# Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

**SFGATE** CA MINICROSSWORD Account

**NATIONAL PARKS**

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By **Sam Hill**, Pacific Northwest Contributing Parks Editor  
March 30, 2026

f x t m



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Matthew Mlcch Wright/Getty Images

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**SFGATE** CA MINICROSSWORD Account

**NATIONAL PARKS**

## National parks employees say SFGATE has been blacklisted by the Interior Department

The move follows critical coverage of new Park Service policies

FILE: Snow-covered Chaos Crags reflects in calm Manzanita Lake at Lassen Volcanic National Park, Calif.  
Getty Images

By **Ashley Harrell**, National Parks Bureau Chief  
March 18, 2026

f x t m

Over the past month, SFGATE's national parks bureau has sent dozens of inquiries to public affairs specialists at the National Park Service. Journalists had questions about everything from the rapidly dwindling snowpack in Lassen Volcanic National Park to the first grizzly bear to wake up in Yellowstone National Park to quicksand in national parks across the American Southwest.

# Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates


**SFGATE** CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

**NATIONAL PARKS**

## 'We're losing that crucial point of contact': The trouble at Yosemite National Park's gates

An unnamed agency spokesperson says everything's fine

By **Ashley Hamell**, National Parks Bureau Chief  
March 21, 2025




A view of the welcome sign near the entrance of Yosemite National Park in California on Dec. 13, 2025. Anashir/Getty Images

**PUBLIC DOMAIN** Search Subscribe Sign In

## Trump's Park Service Nominee and The Niagara Threat

Scott Socha is a long-time executive at hospitality giant Delaware North. His nomination to lead the national parks has sparked fears of commercialization

By **JIMMY TOBIAS**  
MAR 21, 2025



The general store at Yellowstone's Old Faithful, source: AP

**POLITICO**

## The National Park Service race to rewrite history becomes a slog

The agency is considering hundreds of changes to exhibits at parks. It's been an overwhelming task.



Exhibits discussing slavery and the Founding Fathers' ownership of enslaved people are seen at the President's House at Independence National Historic Park on Aug. 9, 2025, in Philadelphia. The National Park Service in January took down the exhibit to comply with an order by President Donald Trump, although it was later partially reinstalled. Matthew Hatcher/AFIP via Getty Images

**HEY SOCIAL**

## BLM nominee Pearce promises Padilla he'll protect Chuckwalla National Monument; some IE groups oppose Trump's pick to lead agency

By **Jon Taglio** February 17, 2025



# Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

**NATIONAL PARKS** NEWS & RESOURCES | Jobs | Parks | Our Impact | Get Involved | Ways to Give

**NEWS**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 7, 2026**

## President's Budget Proposal Slashes National Park Service Funding Amid Ongoing Attacks on National Parks

By [Kurt Repanshek](#), National Parks Editor

*"A cut this massive would be catastrophic. This proposal would only accelerate the damage, putting our national parks at even greater risk and further cut the park staffing that is needed to care for our national treasures." John Garden, NPCA's Sr. Budget & Appropriations Director.*



FILE: White House, Washington, D.C., Oct. 1, 2025. (AP Photo/J. Scott Storch)

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**THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES PROJECT** | **SPECIAL REPORT | FLORIDA REEF**

Home » Interior Department Planning More Changes To National Park Service Staffing

## Interior Department Planning More Changes To National Park Service Staffing

By Kurt Repanshek  
April 2, 2026



**National Park Service In Crisis**

Click to view entire image

Another reorganization could be about to impact the National Park Service.

OUR MEMBERS HAVE POSSIBLE ESSENTIAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN ACADIA NATIONAL PARK. [LEARN MORE](#)


FILE: Acadia National Park, Maine, Oct. 1, 2025. (AP Photo/Chris Wedel)

**SFGATE** CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

**NATIONAL PARKS**

## Trump admin proposing 'catastrophic' cuts to the National Park Service

By [Kylie Mohr](#), Big Sky Country-Contributing Parks Editor  
April 8, 2026



FILE: Grand Canyon National Park ranger Jill Staurowsky looks out from the South Rim while giving a tour to visitors on Feb. 22, 2025, in Grand Canyon, Ariz. (Brandon Bell/Getty Images)

**SFGATE** CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

**NEWS | LOS ANGELES**

## Obama protected this Calif. landscape. Now its future is uncertain.

Sand to Snow National Monument stretches from the desert floor to the highest point in Southern California



FILE: Sand to Snow National Monument, March 19, 2012. (Bureau of Land Management)



## National park advocates ask court to intervene in Trump's history purge

A coalition of park advocates, scientists and rangers is asking a federal court to immediately halt what it describes as a growing campaign to [remove or alter history and science across the country's national parks](#) — warning that if the process isn't stopped now, the damage could spiral while the case plays out.

[Read more »](#)

**SFGATE** CA MINI CROSSWORD Account

**NATIONAL PARKS**

## 3 California national parks broke visitor records. That's likely bad news.

By [Sam Maughy-Moore](#), National Parks Reporter  
March 25, 2026



FILE: People visit Lower Yosemite Falls during winter in Yosemite National Park on Monday, Dec. 8, 2025. (Eric Thayer/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images)

# Happenings of Interest



Countdown to America's 250th Anniversary: 2 months / 29 days

An official website of the United States government  
[Here's how you know](#)

[News](#) [Blog](#) [Employee Resources](#)

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

PRESS RELEASE

## USDA Prioritizing Common Sense Forest Management, Moves Forest Service Headquarters to Salt Lake City

PUBLISHED: March 31, 2026

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

A large circular graphic containing the USDA logo, set against a background of a green field under a blue sky with white clouds.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST

NORTHERN

INTERMOUNTAIN

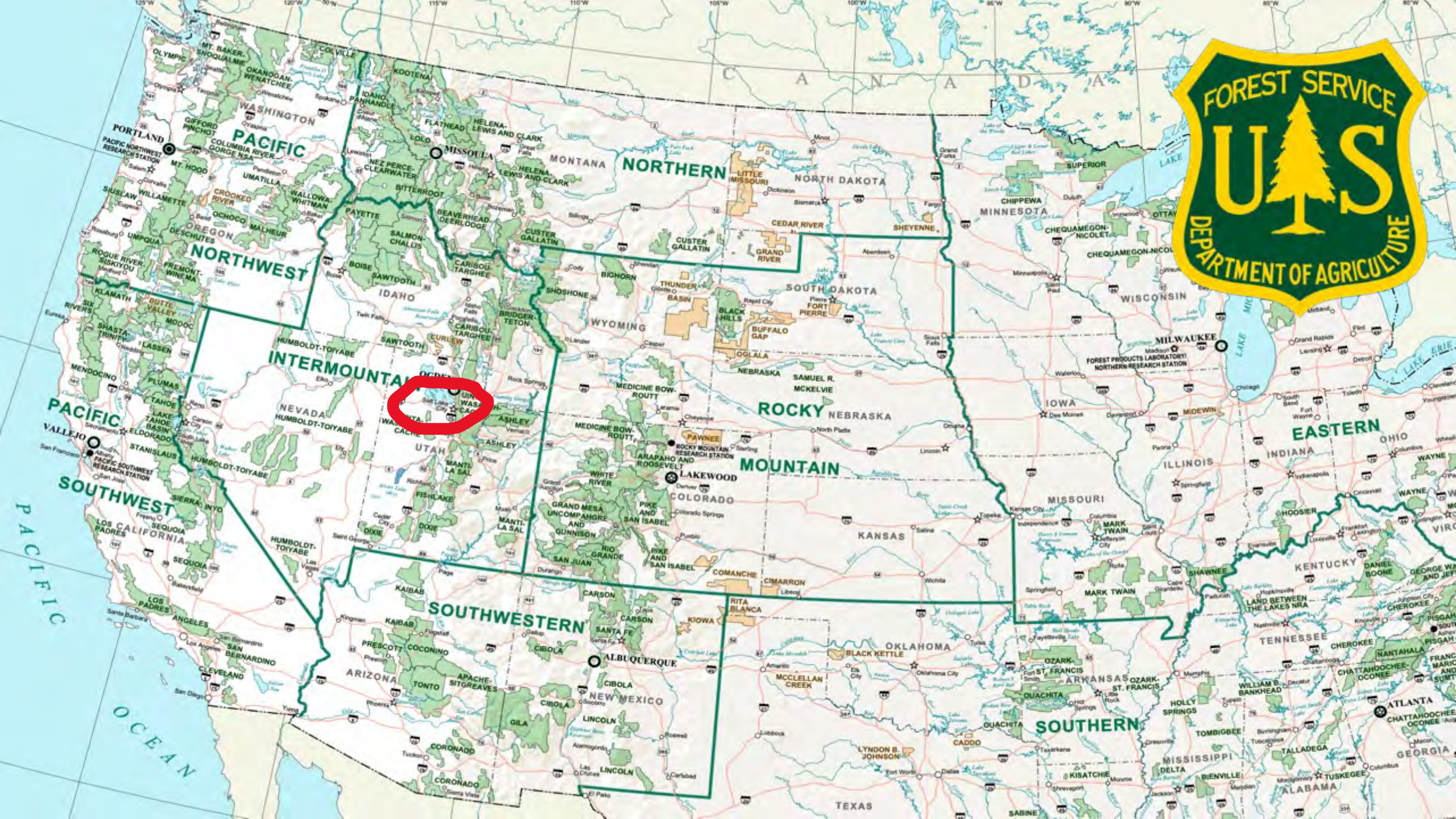
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

SOUTHWESTERN

EASTERN

SOUTHERN



# Happenings of Interest



## Leadership

### Acting Regional Forester Jacque Buchanan



Jacqueline Buchanan, Acting Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region.  
*(USDA Forest Service)*

Jacqueline "Jacque" Buchanan is the Regional Forester for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6), where she leads the management of national forests and grasslands in Oregon and Washington. She has served in this role since Jan. 14, 2024.

Jacque assumed additional interim leadership roles Nov. 2, 2025, and is the Acting Regional Forester of the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) where she manages national forests and grasslands in California, Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. She also supervises the Acting Regional Forester of the Alaska Region (Region 10). Additionally, Jacque is the Forest Service Executive who oversees the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/Planning and Tribal Relations programs.

Jacque has served with the USDA and the Forest Service for more than 30 years. Prior to her current role as Regional Forester, she served as a Deputy Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region for 8 years in Lakewood, CO.

Jacque's career in the Forest Service has been diverse. She has worked extensively in resource management focusing on overall forest health, fire management, range, wildlife, wilderness and Wildfire Crisis Response. She has also worked in International Forestry and has traveled to Brazil, Guyana, and India teaching Fire Leadership courses and helping those countries to establish both Fire and Wilderness management programs.

She has also served as the Director for Renewable Resource in the Rocky Mountain Region, the Forest Supervisor on the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Jackson Hole, WY and was the Deputy and Forest Supervisor on the Lincoln National Forest in the Southern part of New Mexico.

Jacque holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from Pennsylvania State University.



U.S. FOREST SERVICE

## Forest Service overhaul sows confusion, concern

*In the Trump administration's reorganization of the struggling agency, painful echoes of BLM's past moves.*

Christine Peterson March 31, 2026

# Happenings of Interest


**MORE THAN JUST PARKS**

## BREAKING: Trump Administration Orders Dismantling of the U.S. Forest Service

The headquarters is going to Utah. Every regional office is being shuttered. The research program is being destroyed.

JIM RATTIG AND MORE THAN JUST PARKS  
MAY 31, 2020

3,152 594 2,490



Both Governor Spencer Cox (left) and logging executive and USFS Chief Tom Sisk (right) sign partnership agreement.

**The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views**  
Comments, Letters, News and Opinions

Home About Contributors News For Organizations/Institutions New Topics or Guidelines from Readers Planning History

## Reorganization... The Beginning of the Journey: What's In a Headquarters?

July 1, 2020 by Chris

Yesterday I was out and managed to grab the interview with Chris French and Sarah from my phone... I failed to it, and so it set a bit of context for reading the documents and trying to understand all the complexities, which will become more clear as time goes on. I feel the same way about the reorganization as I did about the new Admin. Some things will turn out badly and some things will turn out well, perhaps the things we least expect, for unpredictable reasons. Think energy policy and the shale revolution and data centers. The best we can hope for is an organization that goes for continuous monitoring and adjusting what is working, and fixing what it is not. Across Administrations. Continuous improvement, instead of reinvigoration or random specifics.

There is some speculation thinking out there. My views are based on my experience working on forests in a region, the RCO, and in shared services (employed directly by four forests as an Area Specialist), and as a national resource in the (RFOG Lab), in R&D, NPS and the reorganized-very Programs and Legislation Deputy Area.

If I were to summarize the key points of the interview:

1. Several teams of Forest Service employees were involved in developing the alternatives, and the teams took with at least three key elements.
2. It is important to have an organization that doesn't go over budget (it is sustainable).
3. The FS started thinking about this in the previous Admin when it became clear that they were \$750 mil for Chris Moore said only \$150 mil-over budget.

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**Wes Siler's Newsletter**

## The Sky Is Not Falling On The Forest Service

No, the USFS restructure does not mean a logging free-for-all

NEWSLETTER  
MAY 31, 2020

94 88 20



News broke last night that the administration is planning an agency-wide restructuring of the Forest Service that will include relocating its headquarters from Washington D.C. to Salt Lake City, replacing its regional office system with a state-

**HighCountryNews**

**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**

## Bureau of Indian Affairs could face reorganization, deeper staff cuts

Tribal leaders say previous cuts have already impacted the government's ability to carry out programs in Indian Country.

Anna W. Smith | ANNA@CHRONICLE.COM

Print Email Share Stories

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is facing a significant overhaul, including further staff cuts, according to a statement from a tribal leader during a congressional hearing last week about federal funding for indigenous communities for fiscal year 2027.

"Just this week, we learned that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is planning on releasing and implementing a reorganization plan that will make significant cuts to the staff critical in administering programs and distributing funding to tribal nations," said Mark Macarroz, president of the National Congress of American Indians and chairman of the Pechanga Band of Indians. "This action has been done without consultation with tribal nations and without consideration of the impact it will have on the delivery of programs and services."

**Government Executive**

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Management

## Tribal leaders bash USDA's plan to relocate thousands of staff and shutter offices

Agriculture's reorganization would create inconveniences and damage relationships the tribal governments have worked hard to establish, they told the department.



NEWSLETTER

## APRIL FOOLS

Who are the bigger chumps this week—the American public or the government policymakers tearing down the Endangered Species Act and the Forest Service?

By [Government Executive](#) | April 1, 2020

The joke was on us this April 1. Instead of the usual good-natured pranks and satire, the American people got a one-two punch of new attacks on public lands and waters: the suspension of Endangered Species Act protections in the entire Gulf of Mexico, and the wholesale reorganization of the U.S. Forest Service.

Sure, there were some bright spots. For the second year in a row, the [Texas Butterfly Band](#) "reported" new restrictions on migrating monarch butterflies, who will now have to fly with "Trump Tags" on their wings to certify they are flying north legally. And [Last Week Tonight](#) host John Oliver rolled out a line of [free downloadable stickers](#) to cover President Donald Trump's face on the national parks pass, including a grizzly bear and the wax heads of a half-dozen former presidents.

# Happenings of Interest

A MORE THAN JUST PARKS INVESTIGATION

## The U.S. Forest Service, Dismantled

*On March 31, 2026, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins ordered every Forest Service regional office closed and its national headquarters gutted.*

10

OFFICES CLOSED

59

RESEARCH LABS

193M

ACRES MANAGED

~30K

STAFF AFFECTED



# Happenings of Interest



“I fired off a panicked email to Dillon Osleger, who wrote and mapped “The Ground Truth,” our January story on America’s trails. Dillon is reasonable, and he reminded me of two things: One, that the shuttering of regional offices and staffing cuts were both already announced in 2025. And two, ‘there are enough guardrails within government that force any smash and grab to occur in slow motion.’ ”

“ ‘Of course, when this reorganization does occur,” he cautioned, “it will be a tremendous loss of institutional knowledge at the agency of scientists and long-term staff, since many senior employees will choose early retirement over moving their families across country.’ ”

cuts, according to a statement from a tribal leader during a congressional hearing last week about federal funding for Indigenous communities for fiscal year 2027.

“Just this week, we learned that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is planning on releasing and implementing a reorganization plan that will make significant cuts to the staff critical in administering programs and distributing funding to tribal nations,” said Mark Macarria, president of the National Congress of American Indians and chairman of the Pechanga Band of Indians. “This action has been done without consultation with tribal nations and without consideration of the impact it will have on the delivery of programs and services.”

Management

## Tribal leaders bash USDA's plan to relocate thousands of staff and shutter offices

Agriculture's reorganization would create inconveniences and damage relationships the tribal governments have worked hard to establish, they told the department.

Learning about the Endangered Species Act and the Forest Service

The joke was on this April 1. Instead of the usual good natured pranks and winks, the American people got a new type of joke: attacks on public lands and water, the suspension of Endangered Species Act protections in the entire Gulf of Mexico, and the wholesale reorganization of the U.S. Forest Service.

Now there were some bright spots. For the second year in a row, the Texas Legislative Branch reported new nominations for important research institutions, who will now have to live with “Trump 2.0” as their wage to ensure they are being paid legally. And last week, though not John Oliver asked out a line of 100,000 people to protest President Donald Trump's law on the national parks plan, including the suspension of the Endangered Species Act and the Forest Service.

# USFS Reorganization

"Establishing a western headquarters in Salt Lake City and streamlining how the Forest Service is organized will position the Chief and operation leaders closer to the landscapes we manage and the people who depend on them. This includes supporting our timber growers across the country, including those in the Southeast by prioritizing a regional office and promoting policies that boost timber production, lowering costs for consumers. In the past year we have returned the Forest Service to the leading forestry and fire management organization in the world. Proper forest management means a healthy and productive forest system that provides affordable, quality lumber to build homes right here in America and it means preserving and protecting the beautiful landscapes we are blessed with across this great country." --

**Secretary Brooke L. Rollins**

Simply put, this is for logging.



# Reorganization



Dillon Osleger  
*Natural Resources & GIS Manager, MLTPA Foundation*

# USFS Reorganization

*\*Facilities that do not appear on the Research and Development lists of retained facilities and facility closures are under evaluation. Further information will be provided as it is available.*

## Research Facility Closures

- Alabama:** Huntsville
- Alaska:** Anchorage
- Arkansas:** Monticello
- California:** Anderson; Fresno; Chico; Fort Bragg; Mt. Shasta; Hat Creek
- Connecticut:** Ansonia; Hamden
- Florida:** Tallahassee
- Hawaii:** Hilo; Volcano
- Illinois:** Evanston
- Kentucky:** Lexington
- Louisiana:** Tioga / Pineville
- Massachusetts:** Westfield
- Maryland:** Baltimore
- Michigan:** East Lansing; Houghton; L'Anse; Wellston
- Minnesota:** Grand Rapids; Ely
- Mississippi:** Leland; Oxford; Saucier; Starkville; Stoneville
- Montana:** Bozeman; Hungry Horse
- Nevada:** Reno
- New Hampshire:** Bartlett
- New York:** Cortland; Lakeville; New York City
- Ohio:** McArthur
- Oregon:** Portland
- Pennsylvania:** Irvine; Long Pond; Williamsport; York
- South Carolina:** Clemson; Huger
- South Dakota:** Rapid City
- Texas:** Nacogdoches
- Vermont:** Burlington
- Virginia:** Blacksburg
- Utah:** Cedar City; Logan; Ogden
- Washington:** Seattle ; Wenatchee
- West Virginia:** Princeton
- Wisconsin:** Prairie du Chien; Wisconsin Rapids



# Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

## We Need To Talk About How We Can Effectively Advocate For Better Public Lands Policy

Why the pro-public lands world's inability to communicate accurately is such a problem, and the steps we can all take to do it better

WES SILER  
SEP 24, 2020

53 10 17



RE:PUBLIC SPECIAL REPORT

# AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED PUBLIC LANDS 2026

*Our country's 640 million acres of public lands and waters are under siege. Here are the most endangered places, what we stand to lose, and our best chances for saving them.*

By Stephanie Pearson • Mar 17, 2026

*This story was co-published with [Outside](#).*

**M**ost Americans have at least one place they hold sacred—a national park traveled to as a kid; a secret wilderness campsite discovered on a first solo backpacking trip; or a river paddled with buddies for decades. These experiences are the definition of American freedom.

The federal government manages a profound amount of land and water—roughly 640 million acres, about 28 percent of our country's mass. That's more than 1.5 times the size of Alaska. The gold standard is our national park system, yet that's only 85 million acres, one-eighth of the pie. The rest is administered by the Bureau of Land Management (245 million acres), the U.S. Forest Service (193 million acres), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (95 million acres). A fifth agency, the Department of Defense, manages about 26 million acres. All of these lands overlap with the traditional homelands of Native peoples whose ancestors have been here for millennia.

SHOW ME THE LIST ↓



## The Republican Threat To Our Public Lands With Steve Schmidt

A recording from Wes Siler and Steve Schmidt's live video

WES SILER AND STEVE SCHMIDT  
MAR 20, 2026

78 21 16

Authors

Wes Siler

Steve Schmidt

Wes Siler: The Warning with Steve Schmidt

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# Happenings of Interest – Federal Updates

## Budget of the U.S. Government

Office of Management and Budget  
Fiscal Year 2027



The screenshot shows the White House website's 'President's Budget' page. The header includes 'THE WHITE HOUSE' and navigation links for NEWS, GALLERY, LIVESTREAM, CONTACT, INVESTMENTS, and SAVE AHE. The main heading is 'President's Budget' with a sub-heading 'APPENDIX' and links for ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVES, HISTORICAL TABLES, SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS, and FY 2026 MID-SESSION REVIEW. A list of links is provided below, including 'Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget', 'Fiscal Year 2027 Topline Fact Sheet', 'Rebuilding Our Military Fact Sheet', 'Stopping the Invasion and Violent Crime Fact Sheet', 'Ending Weaponization of the Federal Government Fact Sheet', 'Cuts to Woke Programs Fact Sheet', and 'Ending the Green New Scam Fact Sheet'. A 'VIEW PRIOR BUDGETS' button is at the bottom.



The screenshot shows the House Committee on the Budget website's fact sheet titled 'Trump's 2027 Budget Puts America Last'. The page includes a 'Download Document' button and a quote from President Trump: "We're fighting wars. We can't take care of daycare... It's not possible for us to take care of daycare, Medicaid, Medicare." — President Trump, April 1, 2026. The text discusses the budget's impact on health care, gas, and groceries, and mentions the cost to American families for basic living expenses due to inflation under Donald Trump in 2025. The source is cited as the Joint Economic Committee Minority.

# Happenings of Interest – Federal Update

## Budget of the U.S. Government

Office of Management and Budget  
Fiscal Year 2027



The screenshot shows the White House website's navigation menu with options for NEWS, GALLERY, LIVESTREAM, and DONATE. The main content area is titled "President's Budget" and includes a list of links for various budget-related documents and fact sheets. A "VIEW PRIOR BUDGETS" button is visible at the bottom.

- [Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget](#)
- [Fiscal Year 2027 Topline Fact Sheet](#)
- [Rebuilding Our Military Fact Sheet](#)
- [Stopping the Invasion and Violent Crime Fact Sheet](#)
- [Ending Weaponization of the Federal Government Fact Sheet](#)
- [Cuts to Woke Programs Fact Sheet](#)
- [Ending the Green New Scam Fact Sheet](#)

Access the official and previous years' budgets of the President's budget proposals and other related publications.

[VIEW PRIOR BUDGETS](#)

AXIOS

Apr 3, 2026 - Politics & Policy

## The most head-turning elements of Trump's 2027 budget proposal



Herb Scribner

[Email](#) [Phone](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#) [Add Axios on Google](#)



President Trump speaks during a Cabinet meeting at the White House on March 26, 2026, as the U.S. and Israel continue a war against Iran that began Feb. 28. Photo: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

President Trump's [2027 budget proposal](#) is here — and it suggests changes to how the U.S. government operates.

**Why it matters:** Many of the decisions align with Trump's long-term goals of consolidating the federal government, pushing out the "woke" agenda, and doubling down on AI and new military technology.

THE COMMITTEE  
ON THE BUDGET  
FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NEWSROOM

### ...t Puts America Last

... of decades... It's not possible for us to take  
... — President Trump, April 1, 2026

... today, and it gets everything wrong, struggling to pay for health care, gas, and liability crisis worse, it puts American lives and continues to allow immigration and unchecked on U.S. soil. It tees up legislation to fund the war and ICE appropriations process. The President is using insight and ignore the will of the

... lies for basic living expenses due to

... ty

# Bob Gardner Federal Budget Updates – April 6, 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

# President Trump's Discretionary FY 2027 Budget Request

- Recreation-related budgets for fiscal year 2027
  - Oct. 1, 2026 to Sept. 30, 2027
- Process status
  - President submitted required formal budget documents last Friday, April 3 (2 months late...)
  - House and Senate Appropriations Committee action begins soon.
  - President's Budget is a request, not final enacted law.
  - Much of this Budget repeats proposals from FY 2026 that the Congress rejected.
- Quick review
  - Selected items of interest from President's Budget Request

# President Trump's Discretionary FY 2027 Budget Request

- **U.S. Forest Service**

- \$968M and 3,537 FTE proposed reduction in National Forest System Management (41% and 30%, respectively)
- \$479M and 978 FTE proposed reduction in Forest Service Operations (44% and 45%, respectively)
- \$311M reduction in State, Local, Tribal, and NGO Conservation Programs (100%)
- \$309M reduction in Forest and Rangeland Research (100%)
- Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness program reduced from \$45M to \$31M (31%)
- 18,423 FTE reduction proposed (61%)

# President Trump's Discretionary FY 2027 Budget Request

- **National Park Service**

- \$1.1B and 2,707 FTE reduction in the total current NPS Budget (32% and 23%, respectively)
- \$757M and 2504 FTE reduction in Operation of the National Park System (26% and 22%, respectively)
- \$170M reduction in NPS Historic Preservation Fund (94%)
- \$40M reduction in NPS Construction (45%)
- \$86M reduction in NPS National Recreation and Preservation (93%)
- \$863M reduction in Visitor Services, Resource Stewardship, Facility Maintenance, and Park Support
- \$136M increase in Park Protection (32%)

# President Trump's Discretionary FY 2027 Budget Request

- **Bureau of Land Management**
  - \$479M and 1,025 FTE reduction in the total current BLM Budget (34% and 18%, respectively)
- Fish and Wildlife Service
  - \$421M and 257 FTE reduction in the current USFWS Budget (24% and 5%, respectively)
- US Wildland Fire Service
  - \$6.9B and 13,189 FTE increase in the total USWFS Budget.

## Conferences and Gatherings

- California Jobs First Investment Summit 2026: April 9-10
- CORP 9th Annual Sacramento Summit April 13-15, 2026
- CA Trails and Greenways: April 14-17
- Sea Otter Classic: April 16-19
- Jobs First Symposium of Practice: April 23
- CSAC Legislative Conference: May 20
- California Outdoor Economy Summit June 3rd-5th, Eureka, CA
- Eastern Sierra Recreation Co-LAB Summit: July 9-11

## SB 1268 Outdoors for All

- “Senate Bill (SB) 1268 would codify the goals and programs of the Outdoors for All initiative, including achieving equitable access to outdoor recreation for all Californians, prioritizing programs and park expansions in underserved communities, and aligning Outdoors for All efforts with the state’s existing outdoor equity and conservation goals.”



### SB 1268 (Gonzalez) Outdoors for All

#### SUMMARY

Senate Bill (SB) 1268 would codify the goals and programs of the Outdoors for All initiative, including achieving equitable access to outdoor recreation for all Californians, prioritizing programs and park expansions in underserved communities, and aligning Outdoors for All efforts with the state’s existing outdoor equity and conservation goals.

#### EXISTING LAW

Assembly Bill (AB) 30 (Kalra, Chapter 939, Statutes of 2022) established the Equitable Outdoor Access Act, which set forth the state’s commitment to ensuring all Californians can benefit from and access the state’s cultural and natural resources.

#### BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

California has 280 state park units,<sup>1</sup> in addition to thousands of regional parks, county parks, and city parks. California also has the nation’s largest outdoor recreation economy, contributing \$54 billion in economic spending and 517,000 jobs.<sup>2</sup>

Research shows that people who visit outdoor spaces for 30 minutes or more during a week have lower rates of depression and high blood pressure, and higher rates of community connection.<sup>3</sup>

However, access to outdoor recreation is not equal across different geographic areas of the state, ethnicities,

income levels, and other demographic factors. A history of exclusionary zoning, discriminatory policies, and underinvestment has resulted in fewer parks and less outdoor access for many communities.<sup>4</sup> Barriers including limited facilities for people with disabilities, the cost of equipment, transportation, and fees, and racial and ethnic discrimination exacerbate these historical inequalities.

In 2021, California launched the Outdoors for All initiative with an initial investment of over \$1 billion,<sup>5</sup> designed to increase access to the outdoors and prioritize equity and underserved communities.<sup>6</sup> The Outdoors for All strategy focuses on six priorities: Establishing Spaces for People and Nature to Thrive, Fostering Belonging, Connecting People and the Outdoors, Co-Creating with Communities, Building Equitable Career Pathways and a Representative Workforce, and Aligning Funding to Achieve Outdoors for All.

This initiative spans the 27 departments at the California Natural Resources Agency and includes programs such as the California State Park Adventure Pass, which provides yearlong, free entry to fourth graders and their families at 19 state parks,<sup>7</sup> grants to local communities for parks infrastructure and programs, and more.

As the federal government repeatedly attacks public lands, deploys federal immigration agents to stage raids in public parks, and rolls back equity programs, it is more important than ever to strengthen the state’s

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=61](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=61)  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ORS&A-California.pdf>  
<sup>3</sup> [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=5953](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=5953)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.calnra.ca.gov/asset/2023/resources/StudyofEquityAccess.pdf>  
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.calnra.ca.gov/asset/2023/resources/EquityAccessStrategyForAllInitiative.pdf>  
<sup>6</sup> <https://www.calnra.ca.gov/asset/2023/resources/EquityAccessStrategyForAllInitiative.pdf>  
<sup>7</sup> [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=5953](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=5953)

## AB-2578 - Public Recreation Access and Outdoor Economy

- “The Outdoor Access and Recreation Economy Act establishes a state recognized NGO to operate and support state investments into equitable access, recreation infrastructure, outdoor jobs, and to help sustain and grow California’s outdoor economy in alignment with initiatives out of California Natural Resources Agency and the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz).”



### Bill Summary

The Outdoor Access and Recreation Economy Act establishes a state recognized NGO to operate and support state investments into equitable access, recreation infrastructure, outdoor jobs, and to help sustain and grow California’s outdoor economy in alignment with initiatives out of California Natural Resources Agency and the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz).

### Background

In 2016, the Bureau of Economic Analysis for the first time in history was directed to identify the economic contribution of the outdoor economy to the nation’s GDP. At the time, it was determined that the outdoor economy represented roughly \$412 Billion in economic output and as a sector far outpacing the annual overall GDP growth of the nation (2.2% versus 1.7%). Today, the economic output associated with outdoors in California represents roughly \$87.9 billion dollars or 7.5% of the national outdoor economic output (\$1.1 Trillion). Taking a cue from unrealized economies associated with the outdoors, 24 states have established separate offices of outdoor recreation (ORECs) to advance further investments in outdoor access. Five years later, Nevada became the fastest growing outdoor economy in the country after establishing the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation in 2019.

### Problem

California has not established an Office of Outdoor Recreation yet. While California has the highest outdoor recreation GDP in the country, our growth and participation rates are amongst the lowest nationally. While California is home to the most national parks per state (9), we are neck in visitations with Utah (5), which was the first state to create an Office of Outdoor Recreation in 2013.

Under the leadership of Governor Gavin Newsom and Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California has

embarked on a series of initiatives that are key to promoting public access, which bears a symbiotic relationship with a healthy outdoor economy. Groundbreaking initiatives such as *30x30* and *Outdoors for All* both have the potential to increase opportunities for nature exploration. It is critically important to further institutionalize these initiatives to ensure the durability and implement the strategies for the future of Californians’ access to nature and outdoor recreation.

### Solution

Given the mental, physical, and economic health benefits associated with the outdoors, AB 2578 fills the state’s aperture as it relates to the possibilities for the future of equitable access and recreation economical benefits by building upon strategic partnerships and investments in the outdoors. AB 2578 creates such a mechanism through the establishment of a state recognized NGO to operate as the decision-making and investment confluence between key public entities including the California Natural Resources Agency and the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) along with local and federal governments, Department of State Parks and Recreation, and non-profits and private sector stakeholders. It allows for the financial backing for a state level entity dedicated to promoting access and the continued health of California’s outdoor economy.

### For More Information:

Katie Chavez, [katie\\_chavez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:katie_chavez@asm.ca.gov)  
Phone: 916.319.2002

### Support

California Outdoor Recreation Partnership (Sponsor)  
Mammoth Lakes Trails Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) (Cosponsor)

## Proposition 4 - Guidelines



March 25, 2026

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: MLTPA Comments on SNC's "Draft Landscape Grant Program Guidelines"

Greetings -

The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) is pleased to offer comments on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's "Draft Landscape Grant Program Guidelines" as the Conservancy's Board prepares to finalize its grant program guidelines at their June 2026 board meeting.

We are greatly encouraged by the significant progress SNC has achieved over the past decade, enabling it to now provide opportunities to "...high-capacity collaborative groups working across multi-jurisdictional landscapes, advancing portfolios of restoration and resilience projects that address ecological and community priorities at a landscape scale..." throughout its service area. MLTPA has monitored and engaged with SNC's efforts starting with the WIP Program in 2015, and continuing through its leadership implementing "California's Wildlife and Forest Resilience Action Plan," establishing a "Landscape Investment Strategy" in 2022, and SNC's ongoing efforts to implement legislatively mandated programs funded by California's "2024 Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, and Protecting Communities and Natural Lands from Climate Risks Bond Act of 2024."

MLTPA offers our specific comments on the "Draft Landscape Grant Program Guidelines" based on the following MLTPA efforts, which we believe are relevant to the "Landscape Grant Program."

- MLTPA currently serves as a contracted Industry Sector Coordinator for Sierra Jobs First, supporting the sustainable recreation and tourism industry sector across seven Sierra Jobs First rural counties, which also live within the SNC's service area.
- MLTPA has been actively engaged with the Eastern Sierra Wildlife Alliance, an identified and operational "Forest Collaborative," serving on both its Governance and Projects committees while also providing GIS and technical support.
- Working with USFS and SNC leadership, MLTPA produced "California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience," recognized as the Partnership of the Year by the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region. MLTPA's efforts have led to the adoption of the Joint Strategy by eight counties and jurisdictions across California to date.

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

[760] 934-3154 [p] [866] 760-0285 [f] [www.mltpa.org](http://www.mltpa.org)



### Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority

March 24, 2026

Angela Avery, Executive Officer  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Proposition 4 Landscape Grant Program Guidelines

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express strong support for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's implementation of Proposition 4 funding within the Sierra Nevada region, and in particular for the Landscape Grant Program (LGP). This investment is both timely and essential for advancing landscape-scale forest and watershed resilience, community protection, and long-term climate adaptation across the Sierra.

The Sierra Nevada region continues to face mounting ecological pressures, including escalating wildfire severity, deteriorating recreation infrastructure, and increased vulnerability to climate-driven hazards. The LGP's focus on high-capacity collaborative groups and multi-benefit projects is exactly the type of strategic, regionally informed investment needed to meet these challenges.

I am especially supportive of the program's emphasis on:

- Funding multi-benefit restoration and resilience projects across multi-jurisdictional landscapes and supporting collaborative groups with demonstrated capacity, technical expertise, and readiness to implement a portfolio of projects at scale.
- Providing resources for proven, scalable approaches that align with state priorities related to wildfire resilience, forest health, watershed function, and nature-based solutions.
- Enabling investments in recreation, tourism, and public access infrastructure, which is an area of critical need across the Sierra, where aging or inadequate facilities limit community access, reduce visitor safety, and diminish local economic opportunities.
- The requirement that Landscape Grants support a clearly defined landscape, a collaboratively prioritized project portfolio, and at least \$10 million in shovel-ready projects ensures that funds from Proposition 4 will translate directly into meaningful, on-the-ground outcomes. ESCOG works closely with the Eastern

DRAFT  
LANDSCAPE  
GRANT PROGRAM  
GUIDELINES

## Proposition 4 - Guidelines



March 25, 2026



Eastern Sierra Council of Governments  
Joint Powers Authority

Grant guidelines are set to be approved at the SNC board meeting in June.

Plan," establishing a "Landscape Investment Strategy" in 2022, and SNC's ongoing efforts to implement legislatively mandated programs funded by California's "2024 Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, and Protecting Communities and Natural Lands from Climate Risks Bond Act of 2024."

MLTPA offers our specific comments on the "Draft Landscape Grant Program Guidelines" based on the following MLTPA efforts, which we believe are relevant to the "Landscape Grant Program."

- MLTPA currently serves as a contracted Industry Sector Coordinator for Sierra Jobs First, supporting the sustainable recreation and tourism industry sector across seven Sierra Jobs First rural counties, which also live within the SNC's service area.
- MLTPA has been actively engaged with the Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance, an identified and operational "Forest Collaborative," serving on both its Governance and Projects committees while also providing GIS and technical support.
- Working with USFS and SNC leadership, MLTPA produced "California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience," recognized as the Partnership of the Year by the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region. MLTPA's efforts have led to the adoption of the Joint Strategy by eight counties and jurisdictions across California to date.

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

[760] 934-3154 [p] [866] 760-0285 [f] www.mltpa.org

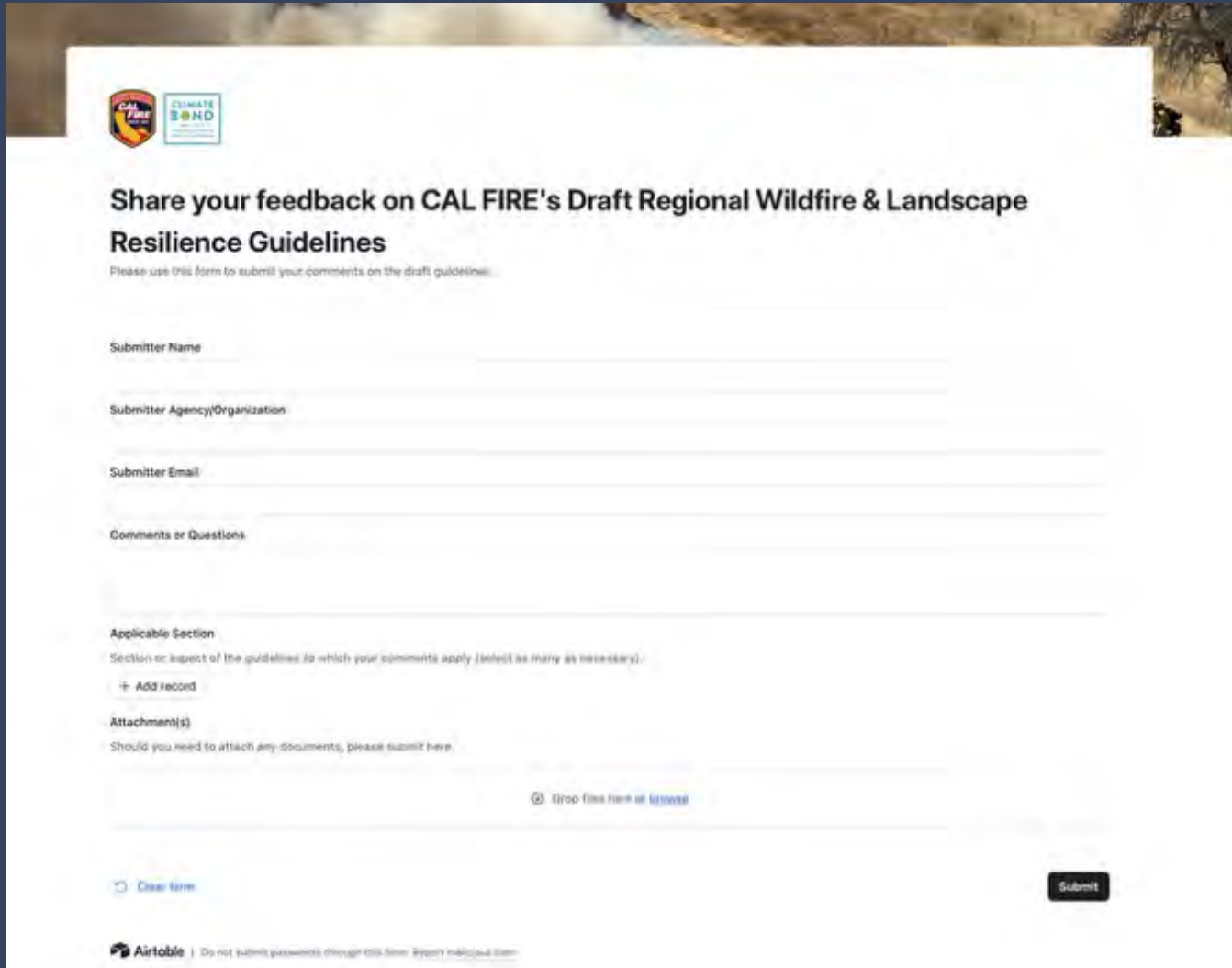
The Sierra Nevada region continues to face mounting ecological pressures, including escalating wildfire severity, deteriorating recreation infrastructure, and increased vulnerability to climate-driven hazards. The LGP's focus on high-capacity collaborative groups and multi-benefit projects is exactly the type of strategic, regionally informed investment needed to meet these challenges.

I am especially supportive of the program's emphasis on:

- Funding multi-benefit restoration and resilience projects across multi-jurisdictional landscapes and supporting collaborative groups with demonstrated capacity, technical expertise, and readiness to implement a portfolio of projects at scale.
- Providing resources for proven, scalable approaches that align with state priorities related to wildfire resilience, forest health, watershed function, and nature-based solutions.
- Enabling investments in recreation, tourism, and public access infrastructure, which is an area of critical need across the Sierra, where aging or inadequate facilities limit community access, reduce visitor safety, and diminish local economic opportunities.
- The requirement that Landscape Grants support a clearly defined landscape, a collaboratively prioritized project portfolio, and at least \$10 million in shovel-ready projects ensures that funds from Proposition 4 will translate directly into meaningful, on-the-ground outcomes. ESCOG works closely with the Eastern

LANDSCAPE  
GRANT PROGRAM  
GUIDELINES

## Proposition 4 - Guidelines



The screenshot shows a feedback form titled "Share your feedback on CAL FIRE's Draft Regional Wildfire & Landscape Resilience Guidelines". The form includes fields for "Submitter Name", "Submitter Agency/Organization", "Submitter Email", and "Comments or Questions". There is also a section for "Applicable Section" with an "Add record" button, and an "Attachment(s)" section with a "Drop files here or to paste" area. A "Submit" button is located at the bottom right of the form. Logos for CAL FIRE and CLIMATE BOND are visible in the top left corner of the form area.

**DRAFT**



**Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**

**Climate & Energy Program**

**Regional Wildfire & Landscape Resilience  
Grant Guidelines**



**DRAFT for PUBLIC REVIEW**

**February 25, 2026**

# Happenings of Interest - Climate

The New York Times

LIVE War in the Middle East 25m ago Gas Prices Stephen Miller and Immigration Student Race

## Trump Administration Readies Plans to Dismantle Renowned Science Lab

Proposals include transferring a supercomputer to the University of Wyoming and shifting a space weather lab to a private company.



The National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. Caine Delacy for The New York Times

NBC NEWS MEET THE PRESS POLITICS WATCH SUBSCRIBE

SCIENCE NEWS

## Lawsuit challenges Trump admin's plan to dismantle country's largest climate research lab

The universities that oversee the National Center for Atmospheric Research allege in the suit that the center is "collateral damage" in the Trump administration's ongoing feud with Colorado Gov. Jared Polis.



Listen to this article with a free account

00:00

04:52



The National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., last year.

RJ Sangosti / The Denver Post via Getty Images file

# Happenings of Interest - Climate

The New York Times

GIVE THE TIMES

Heat wave  
March 18



## Across the West, Record Heat Is Colliding With a Snow Drought

Snowpack, a crucial water source for the region, was already scarce after a mild winter. Now, intense heat could make matters worse.

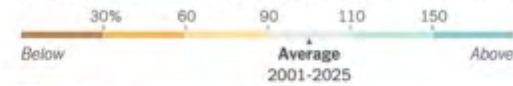
By Mira Rojanasakul, Scott Dance and Sachi Kitajima Mulkey March 21, 2026

Show full article

At this point in a typical year, as the seasons officially turn from winter to spring, snowpack would still be accumulating across the Mountain West.

But this winter wasn't typical, even before a heat wave this past week. It was the warmest on record for six Western states. Snow cover is the lowest level on record for the Colorado River Basin, and across much of the rest of the West, there are record or near-record low amounts of snow.

Current snowpack compared to historical averages



# Happenings of Interest - Climate

The New York Times

GIVE THE TIMES

Heat wave  
March 18



## *Across the West, Record Heat Is Colliding With a Snow Drought*

Snowpack, a crucial water source for the region, was already scarce after a mild winter. Now, intense heat could make matters worse.

By Mira Rojanasakul, Scott Dance and Sachi Kitajima Mulkey March 21, 2026

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Ski trails in Park City, Utah, in February. Mario Tama/Getty Images

# Happenings of Interest - Climate

The New York Times

GIVE THE TIMES

Heat wave  
March 18



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By Mira Rojanasakul, Scott Dance and Sachi Kitajima Mulkey March 21, 2026

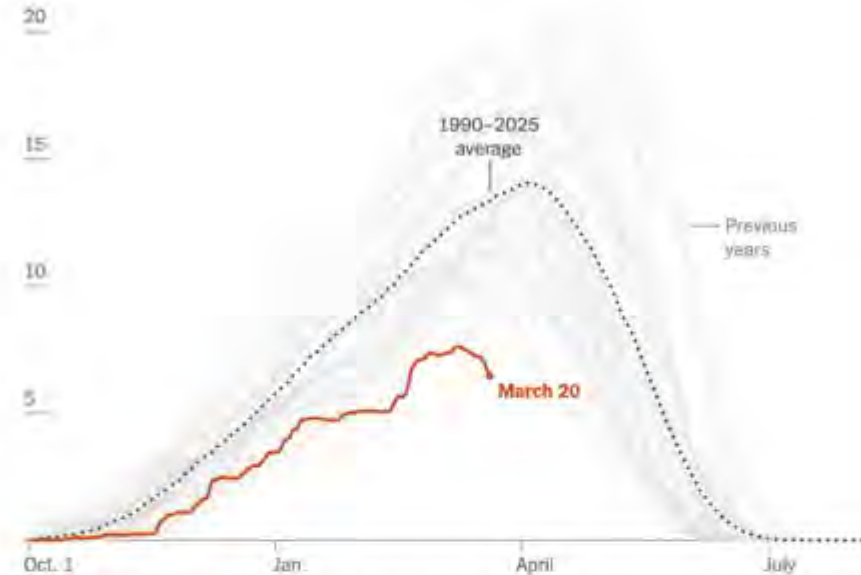
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## Snowpack feeding the Colorado River reaches historic lows

25 inches of snow-water equivalent



Source: USDA National Water and Climate Center

Even after a winter that was the warmest on record for Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Oregon, the heat that set in across much of the West this past week was extreme.

Meteorologists said they were [expecting to set record highs for the month of March](#) in many locations, and the earliest arrivals of 100-degree temperatures in records that go back more than a century.

Across the Colorado River Basin, even at elevations as high as 10,000 feet, temperatures were forecast to surge into the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit on Friday and Saturday, Mr. Moser said, some 15 to 20 degrees warmer than average.

# Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATE

## California in for 'ugly summer' amid one of the worst snowpacks on record

By Kurtis Alexander, Staff Writer

April 1, 2025

Gift Article



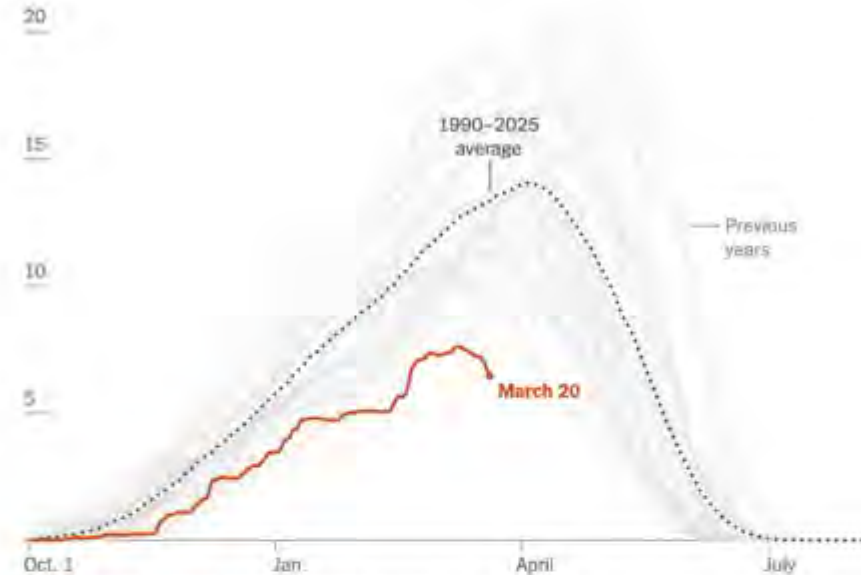
A March heat wave decimated the snowpack at Donner Pass near Truckee, as seen last Friday.

Anthony Edwards/S.F. Chronicle

California is ending the winter season with its second-lowest snowpack in modern times, a troubling distinction reflective of the warming climate, which could, in coming months, pose problems for water supplies, wildfires and wildlife.

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25 inches of snow-water equivalent



Source: USDA National Water and Climate Center

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# Happenings of Interest - Climate



The New York Times

CLIMATEWIRE

## Senate Dems want Zeldin to resign over climate grants

The Democrats say EPA Administration Lee Zeldin misled them about grant cancellations.

BY AMELIA DAVIDSON | 10/29/2024 04:32 AM EDT



EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin speaking on March 18 in Auburn Hills, Michigan. | Paul Taylor/IST

CLIMATEWIRE

## Electricity prices outpace inflation as data centers proliferate

Last year may mark a turning point, where the pace of data center development exceeds the ability of some regional electric grids to keep up.

BY BENJAMIN STORROW | 04/22/2024 04:20 AM EDT



A worker prepares a plot of land for an artificial intelligence data center that works as a virtual power plant being established by private administrator the facility in the Wisconsin Independent Wisconsin | Charles Kandel/AP

FORTUNE

## 'Godfather of AI' says tech companies aren't concerned with the AI endgame. They're focused on short-term profits instead

By Sasha Rogelberg

March 25, 2024, 8:08 AM EDT



Nobel laureate Geoffrey Hinton said the AI endgame is not top of mind for researchers and tech companies. | GREG GAYNE/REUTERS

E&E DAILY

## 'Colossal waste': New York Republicans roast Trump's offshore wind payout

House moderates questioned a reported plan to pay an energy company nearly \$1 billion to give up on offshore wind projects.

BY NICO PORTUONDO, KELSEY BRUGGER | 07/02/2024 04:34 AM EDT



Rep. Nicole Mallioti (R-N.Y.) said the administration should at least allow offshore wind projects already underway to proceed. | BRENDAN CHENG/REUTERS

# Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATEWIRE Get article

## Trump promoted fossil fuels. His war is pushing the world away from them.

As oil prices spike, governments are slashing fuel use and eyeing renewables — threatening to erode global demand for fossil energy.

BY SCOTT WALDMAN, SARA SCHONHARDT | 04/07/2022 04:17 AM EDT



More than 100,000 people gathered in Quito on Tuesday to protest against the government's plan to raise fuel prices. The image shows a dense traffic jam on a city street, with many cars and motorcycles. The scene is captured from an elevated perspective, showing the scale of the congestion.

© AP/WIDEWORLD

CLIMATEWIRE Get article

## A winter without snow depletes Europe's clean energy reservoir

Norway, with its thousands of dams, is often called Europe's biggest battery. But months of dry weather have slashed energy exports.

BY BLUMBERG | 04/07/2022 04:17 AM EDT

CLIMATEWIRE | High in the mountains of southern Norway, where winter is usually measured in meters of snow, engineers are confronting an unfamiliar sight.

Standing atop the Vatndals dam on a recent day, the hydrologist Sveire Eikekland looked out over craggy slopes that should still be blanketed in white powder. The reservoir, large enough to fill nearly a half-million Olympic swimming pools, depends on spring melt to replenish and generate electricity. But after Norway's driest winter in decades, the water level is far below where it should be, prompting companies to limit outflow.

"Less snow means less energy stored in that snow," said Eikekland, who advises power utility A Energi. "There should be more."

Norway, with its thousands of dams, is often called Europe's biggest battery. Under normal conditions, the country's hydropower system produces enough electricity to meet domestic demand and export large volumes. Last year, net sales abroad amounted to about 15 percent of its production.

But months of dry weather have upended that pattern. This winter was Norway's coldest since 2010, the result of persistent high pressure near Greenland that blocked flows of moist Atlantic air into the Nordic region. With little precipitation, snow reserves have fallen to their lowest levels in two

CLIMATEWIRE Get article

## War turned Pakistan into a solar power. Will other Asian nations follow?

Solar has shielded Pakistan from the Iranian energy crisis. But other countries looking to go green could struggle to replicate its success.

BY SARA SCHONHARDT | 04/07/2022 04:17 AM EDT



The image shows a man in a black shirt working on a yellow rickshaw. He is holding a solar panel and appears to be in the process of installing it on the roof of the vehicle. The background is a busy street market with various shops and signs, including 'TCL' and 'Haier'.

© AP/WIDEWORLD

CLIMATEWIRE Get article

## NOAA halts crucial dataset that helps measure Arctic sea ice

The agency says its new dataset is better, but ice measurements will take time. "Bad news for climate monitoring," one scientist lamented.

BY CHELSEA HARVEY | 04/07/2022 04:25 AM EDT



The image is a satellite view of the Arctic region, showing the extent of sea ice. The ice appears as a white and light blue area in the center of the image, surrounded by darker blue ocean water. The image is taken from a high angle, providing a clear view of the ice's shape and distribution.

© AP/WIDEWORLD

CLIMATEWIRE Get article

## Solar panel group buys spread across Michigan as residents band together

In the past few years, a largely grassroots solar installation trend has taken shape across a handful of Michigan towns and counties.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS | 04/07/2022 04:19 AM EDT



The image shows a house with solar panels installed on the roof. The panels are dark and rectangular, arranged in a grid pattern. The house is surrounded by trees and greenery, suggesting a rural or suburban setting.

© AP/WIDEWORLD

CLIMATEWIRE Get article

## 'Gravel gardens' gain ground to cut wildfire and heat risks

When airborne embers land on plant-based garden mulches like pine bark, straw or wood chips, they ignite quickly and risk spreading fire.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS | 04/07/2022 04:18 AM EDT



The image shows a gravel garden with various plants and mulch. The garden is filled with small, light-colored gravel and several plants, including purple flowers and green foliage. The plants are arranged in a way that suggests they are used for landscaping and possibly for fire risk reduction.

© AP/WIDEWORLD

CLIMATEWIRE Get article

## The affordability crunch is pushing Democrats to scale back climate ambitions

The upfront costs of transitioning to clean energy and worries about rising utility bills are forcing tough choices for Democratic leaders.

BY ADAM ATON, MARIE J. FRENCH | 04/07/2022 04:47 AM EDT



The image is a portrait of a man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit and a light blue shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera and appears to be speaking. The background is a blue wall with a yellow anchor logo.

© AP/WIDEWORLD

CLIMATEWIRE Get article

## Hawaii is flooded. The West is baked. The events might be connected.

A top researcher says storms in Hawaii might have helped cause record heat in the West in an "underrecognized" phenomenon.

BY CHELSEA HARVEY | 04/07/2022 04:30 AM EDT



The image is an aerial view of a residential area in Hawaii that has been flooded. The water is a muddy brown color, and it has inundated many houses and streets. The surrounding area is green with trees and vegetation.

© AP/WIDEWORLD

# Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

## Mono Lake water levels are well below what's required. Now some want L.A. to tighten its tap



A canoe tour passes by Mono Lake's famous craggy formations called tufa on Aug. 2, 2025. (Myung J. Chun / Los Angeles Times)



By Ian James  
Staff Writer | Follow

March 21, 2026 4 AM PT

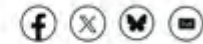
- California water officials commissioned a study by UCLA scientists analyzing why Mono Lake hasn't rebounded as required under a 1994 decision.
- Their findings are stirring debate, with some calling for a pause in L.A.'s water use to allow the lake to rise.

CALIFORNIA

## After 'unprecedented' health threat, Mammoth Lakes is still cautious

There were 3 hantavirus-related deaths in 2025. This year, despite no more infections, officials are still taking it seriously.

By Anabel Sosa, Senior California politics reporter  
April 1, 2026



FILE: Deer mice in a nesting box.  
Michael Siluk/Getty Images

It's been nearly a year since three people died in Mammoth Lakes due to hantavirus, and the popular ski region is still taking precautions seriously.

Justin Caporusso, the Mono County public information officer, told SFGATE in a phone call last month that last year's fatal exposures to hantavirus — which is spread in the Eastern Sierra through the droppings or saliva of infected deer mice — were "a complete seasonal anomaly."

# Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The New York Times

GIVE THE TIMES

## Climate and Environment

Sign up for the Climate Forward newsletter.



Tropez Springs for The New York Times

### In New England, Catching Climate Data Along With Fish

Commercial vessels are deploying high-tech sensors to map a shifting sea, providing critical data for scientists and some help for the industry.

April 1, 2026 · By ERIC MILER and TRISTAN SPINGU



Christy's Vapour for The New York Times

### The 'God Squad' Waives Environmental Rules for Offshore Drilling

The panel voted to override Endangered Species Act restrictions on oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico, home to critically endangered whales and other imperiled wildlife.

March 21, 2026 · By MAGNIE JOSELDW

### This Man Insists Trump Is an 'Environmental Hero'

Edward Russo, the only member of a White House task force, thinks the president doesn't get enough credit for conservation at his golf courses, among other things.



March 22, 2026 · By MAGNIE JOSELDW

### Vermont Hits Back at Trump's Effort to Block 'Climate Superfund' Law

The law would make fuel companies help pay for damages caused by climate change. The administration argues it's unconstitutional.



March 22, 2026 · By KAREN DRACK



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

APR 15, 2026

### Hockey Rinks Turn to Plastic Ice as Planet Warms

Some environmentalists question using plastic to address rising temperatures.

By JEN HILSON and PHOENIX DUKICH



APR 15, 2026

### Forest Service Will Close Research Stations That Study Wildfire Risk

Scientists say their work on fires and climate change could be lost as the agency moves its headquarters to Utah from Washington and shuts 57 research stations.

By OREN KLEIN



APR 15, 2026

### Hershey's Promises to Use Only Real Chocolate After Backlash

The change follows weeks of complaints from a grandson of the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup inventor and other vocal consumers.

By ALICE GALBRAITH



APR 15, 2026

### Republicans Seek Protections for Oil Giants Against Climate Lawsuits

Utah passed a law to insulate oil companies against efforts to make them pay for their role in global warming. A nationwide version is in the works.

By DAVID GREEN and EMILY ZIMICK



APR 15, 2026

### E.P.A. Targets Microplastics and Drugs in Drinking Water

The move drew praise from leaders of the Make America Healthy Again movement who had recently criticized the agency's handling of toxic chemicals.

By ANDREW DASHIKIAN and MAGNIE JOSELDW



APR 15, 2026

### Trump's Budget May Target Climate Programs. Here's What Still Survives.

Efforts to study, prepare for and address climate change have taken a major hit. But a few programs are hanging on thanks to bipartisan support.

By CHRISTOPHER



# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

**SIERRA  
WORKS**

AMADOR | ALPINE | CALAVERAS | INYO | MÓNO | MARIPOSA | TUOLUMNE

**CALIFORNIA  
JOBS FIRST**  
Sierra Region

**SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA**

**MLTPA**  
WAMMOTH-LASSO TRAILS - PUBLIC ACCESS

**RICA**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION  
AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION

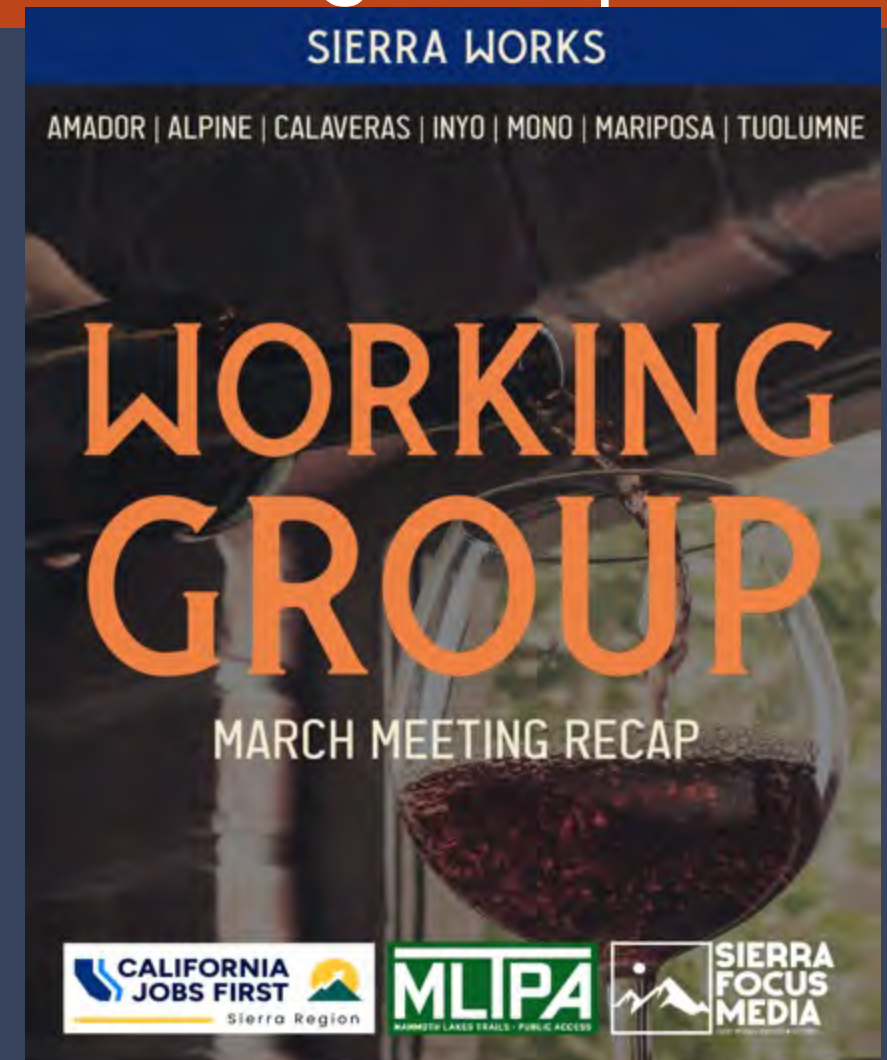
# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group



**SIERRA WORKS**  
AMADOR | ALPINE | CALAVERAS | INYO | MONO | MARIPOSA | TUOLUMNE

**RICA**  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION  
AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION

**CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST** Sierra Region  
**MLIPA** MARIPOSA LAKE TRAILS - PUBLIC ACCESS



**SIERRA WORKS**  
AMADOR | ALPINE | CALAVERAS | INYO | MONO | MARIPOSA | TUOLUMNE

**WORKING GROUP**  
MARCH MEETING RECAP

**CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST** Sierra Region  
**MLIPA** MARIPOSA LAKE TRAILS - PUBLIC ACCESS  
**SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA**

**Thank you to everyone who joined our last working group meeting.**

For those who were unable to attend, this recap summarizes the projects presented and the scenarios discussed by participants. It reflects the core themes, points of tension, and immediate priorities that emerged from the conversation.

[Meeting Presentation \(PDF\)](#)

[Presentations & Interviews \(Video\)](#)

[Meeting Agenda \(PDF\)](#)

# Project presentations & Interviews



Andy Carter

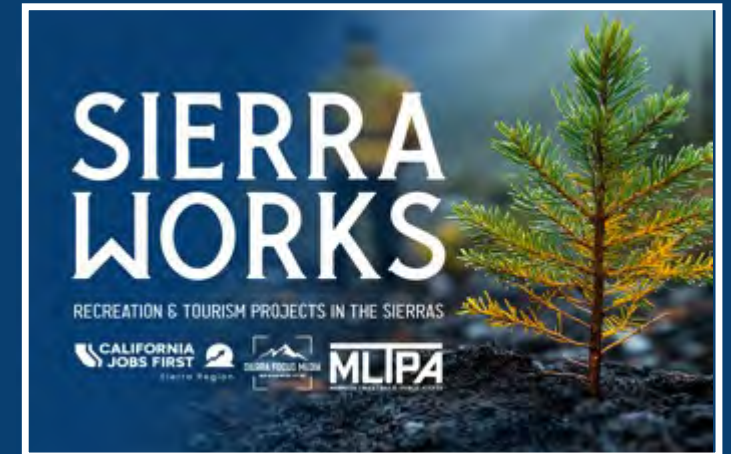
Gold Rush Path  
Tuolumne County Transportation  
Council



SIERRA  
SOURCED

Mathew Galvan

Sierra Sourced  
Tuolumne County Chamber of  
Commerce



Andie Stewart

MLTPA



March 13, 2026

# Project presentations & Interviews



Andy Carter

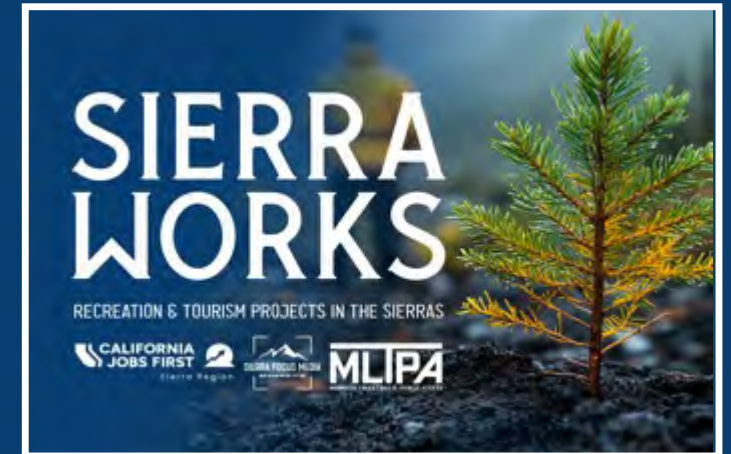
Gold Rush Path  
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SIERRA  
SOURCED

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Sierra Sourced  
Tuolumne County Chamber of  
Commerce



Andie Stewart

MLTPA



March 13, 2026

# GOLD RUSH PATH

## Project Description:

- The completed path will be a Class I facility that stretches over 14 miles to connect Jamestown, Sonora, Columbia and the Chicken Ranch Tribal Lands. The path will improve active transportation, encourage healthy and low emission travel behaviors, increase safety, maximize disadvantaged individuals' access to critical services and enhance community identity.

## Partners:

- TCTC
- Local Communities

## Counties:

- Tuolumne



March 13, 2026



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- TCTC
- Local Communities

## Counties:

- Tuolumne



# SIERRA SOURCED



# SIERRA SOURCED

## Project Description:

- Sierra Sourced is a regional branding initiative designed to build a Sierra circular economy by creating new B2B pathways and building brand recognition with consumers.

## Partners:

- Regional Chambers
- NGO's
- Industry Partners

## Counties:

- Alpine
- Amador
- Calaveras
- Inyo
- Mariposa
- Mono
- Tuolumne

March 13, 2026



# PROJECT PRESENTATIONS & INTERVIEWS



Andy Carter

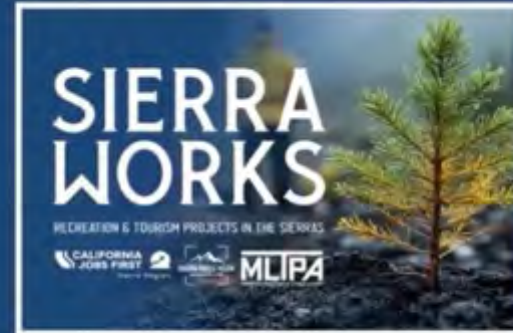
Gold Rush Path  
Tuolumne County Transportation  
Council



SIERRA  
SOURCED

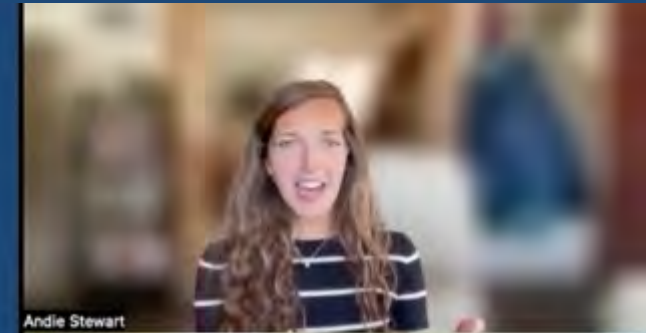
Mathew Galvan

Sierra Sourced  
Tuolumne County Chamber of  
Commerce



Andie Stewart

MLTPA



# GUIDED QUESTIONS OVERVIEW

We have three group questions, and we'll be offering scenarios and then posing questions to understand from YOU (the audience) what policy barriers might keep these projects from moving forward.

Please raise your hand 🙋 or drop feedback in the chat to be collected.



# GUIDED QUESTION #1

Scenario: Your project just received a \$500k implementation grant for a recreation & tourism project. However, the grant expires in 12 months and the Public agency you have partnered with has just informed you that they don't have the staff capacity to support your project for at least 6 months.

Question: What is your next move and why?



# GUIDED QUESTION #2

**Scenario:** A new state funding stream is announced. It specifically excludes “Planning and Development” work and only funds “on-the-ground implementation”. You have a project that is a community priority, but you’re not yet ready to write the grant because your lead agency lacks the \$32k needed to complete the environmental analysis work.

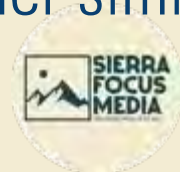
**Question:** If the state will not award funding until the environmental analysis is complete, how will you solve the problem to access these implementation funds?



# GUIDED QUESTION #3

**Scenario:** Imagine that a major statewide Rec & Tourism bill is being drafted in Sacramento. Because the Sierra is currently represented by seven different counties, the state legislators allocate 80% of available funds to more “organized” regions and models like the Coast or the High Desert, leaving the Sierra to compete for the remaining 20%.

**Question:** Assuming the region has established a cohesive regional identity, who will you turn to to advocate for an appropriate fiscal allocation to this region to benefit *your* project(s) and other similar projects?



## SCENARIO #1:

Your project just received a \$500k implementation grant for a recreation & tourism project. However, the grant expires in 12 months and the Public Agency you have partnered with has just informed you that they don't have the staff capacity to support your project for at least 6 months.

## QUESTION:

What is your next move and why?

**Kristy Williams** - There's a fine line between what we can contract out and what an agency can do; had some success in backfilling for agencies

**Danna Stroud** - What was the role of the public agency partner? Are they bringing capacity or additional funding/match?

Meet agency to define the responsibilities they are willing to defer to outside partner agency.

Contract with a consultant, hire out. Find another fiscal agent who has capacity.

Partner with Career Nexus, and have them target recreation and tourism; and partner with education partners as well, to train and hire locally based staff.

**Cathy Galino (Calevaras)** - This happened to her; looking at more partnerships, and found a nonprofit developer who has a project that is shovel ready; work with nonprofits who do have capacity.

**John Wentworth** - This happened with Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and with Federal Government during shutdowns. We have to be prepared for this and be nimble, and we need to be able to pivot and move quickly. We have the advantage of asymmetrical capacity.

**Elaine Kabala** - Determine what scope can be achieved to move the project to a place where it can be advanced in the future if needed.

## SCENARIO #2:

Imagine that a major statewide Rec & Tourism bill is being drafted in Sacramento. Because the Sierra is currently represented by seven different counties, the state legislators allocate 80% of available funds to more "organized" regions and models like the Coast or the High Desert, leaving the Sierra to compete for the remaining 20%.

## QUESTION:

Assuming the region has established a cohesive regional identity, who will you turn to to advocate for an appropriate fiscal allocation to this region to benefit your project(s) and other similar projects?

**Jenny** - We have done sustainable recreation tours for legislators; organized Sierra Day at Capitol; we need funding for capacity building, and not just for project implementation.

**Danna Stroud** - NOTE: Jobs First provided equal distribution of planning and Catalyst funding across the 13 regions. Just sayin'....

Consider engaging with the organized regions for potential partnership opportunities.

There is also the note that these 7 counties aren't the only ones that make up the "Sierra" region - opportunity to bring in other parts of the Sierra for building awareness.

**Shawn Doherty (Agnew Beck)** - Is the question - WHO is advocating for the region? Is that the question?

**John Wentworth** - Reach out to the partners who make up your regional identity to raise the region's voice.

**Travis Nababe** - Look at targeting other regional groups; target folks from other states like Arizona where residents are trying to escape the heat; Canadians love the Sierra Nevada/Death Valley; potential for Sierra Region to host/invite other countries who have their own tourism affairs offices to get California on their map.

**Danna Stroud** - There are existing tourism regions that have identities, including within this region; some counties overlap with more than one region (e.g. counties that are in both gold country and high sierra regions). There is a regional collaborative that created Sierra Region Strategy.

Reach out to neighbors to the north, south, and west of you and see if there's a partnership possibility there.

Lean in to where there's an existing identity that has been created.

**Danna Stroud** - Visit California has created these regions and provides funding for advertising/marketing for those regions, and there is overlap between these regions; find out where you can leverage what is already in place to your benefit.

**Mary Watts** - E. Sierra and Mother Lode Counties face similar challenges. Columbia College/Cerro Coso College could exchange to help on education; geographically hard, but there is some cohesive regional identity may help group be more organized and there could be more collaboration.

**Elaine Kabala** - Opportunity to share resources; but challenges...sometimes in regional model, it comes down to who has most capacity, and they end up getting the most attention; some communities won't get elevated because they don't have resources; saw this in Sierra Jobs First in Inyo County, which includes Death Valley; these communities struggle to get exposure in these efforts; need emphasis on elevating historically disadvantaged communities.

**Shawn Doherty** - catalyst project in the E. Sierra community foundation; if you want to inspire local efforts, there is hesitation where we have to do regional marketing for the area; how do you raise the uniqueness of individual areas within a region; who sees themselves as a region?

When you say where you're from, what do you say? Usually this is placed based, and not region based; we want to get to a place where Sierra means something to folks.

Urban bases and how they see our regionalism is important since that's where our visitors come from.

**Matt Galvan** - regional identity is about solidarity; region is vast, and it's hard to make decisions on how to allocate resources; don't want to lose autonomy.


We need to tell stories on our collaboration; it all starts with our solidarity.

**Danna Stroud** - Those areas - SoCal and Bay Area - are dependent on the Sierra for their water...there is a way to integrate that messaging into an identity that might resonate with those urban areas.



# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

## Meeting Recaps – 4 Working Groups Meetings to Date



### Recreation & Tourism Working Group Meeting Recaps

Updated: March 13th, 2025

#### Regional Identity and Funding

March 5th

**Presenting Projects:**

- [Tara J. Jones/Unit, Tuolumne County Counciling](#)
- [Sara B. Park/Unit, Tuolumne County Transportation Commission](#)

**High-Level Recap:**

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

**Actions for Capacity and Advocacy:**

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

**Immediate Priorities:**


- Develop standard protocols that allow prioritized projects to operationalize to avoid non-profit entities when necessary.
- Deploy experiential capacity by pre-venting a roster of consultants, contractors, and non-profit developers who can backfill for public agencies or launch projects during procurement periods.
- Launch professional development funds for legislators to advocate for capacity building.
- Determine who is best positioned to raise the region's voice at the state level.
- Integrate a general resource narrative which connects the State's health to CA's urban centers.

**Tensions That Must Be Addressed:**

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

To see all meeting materials, the full recording, and original comments gathered from Working Group Participants on March 11th [visit the website](#).

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### Recreation & Tourism Working Group Meeting Recaps

Updated: February 27th, 2025

#### Policy Barriers

February 23rd

**Presenting Projects:**

- [Tara J. Jones/Unit, Tuolumne County Counciling](#)
- [Christina Carson/County Conditions Analysis, ESCO](#)

**High-Level Recap:**

- Participants used three hypothetical scenarios to identify the policy barriers and structural gaps that prevent projects within the region from reaching shovel-ready status.
- The meeting highlighted the disconnect between the recreation assets that generate economic activity for the region, and the limited administrative capacity to execute local priorities.
- Emphasis was placed on the necessity of regional partners, such as Joint Powers Authorities, NCOG, and Counties, to stand in the gap while legacy institutions adjust their stake with regional needs.

**Key Functions if Actions for Policy Navigation:**

- **Invest in the real community benefits:** Use quantitative data to shift the conversation from maintenance costs to investment opportunities.
- **Institutionalize art and placemaking as assets:** Transition art, culture and placemaking work into foundational economic assets by pursuing formal strategic plans to ensure equity.

**Top Five Immediate Priorities for Asset Mapping:**

- Establish agreements for funding and managing work across multiple jurisdictions.
- Adopt regional-level playbooks to inform capital allocation and grant applications.
- Craft Arts/Cultural plans across the region.
- Pursue dedicated infrastructure funding.
- Explore one-stop permitting pilot projects.

**Tensions That Must Be Addressed:**

- **Federal Mandates vs. Local Diversification:** Navigating the policy barriers where federal decision-making limits a local community's ability to diversify its economy.
- **Public Access vs. Revenue Generation:** Balancing community concerns regarding equity when transitioning from free public access to fee-based resource models.
- **Political Will vs. Administrative Capacity:** Managing the risk of stakeholder disenfranchisement when high-level political support fails to translate into timely approval.

To see all meeting materials, the full recording, and original comments gathered from Working Group Participants on February 23rd [visit the website](#).

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### Asset Mapping

January 28th

**Presenting Projects:**

- [Eastern Sierra Regional Education & Recreation Jobs Creation, MLTP](#)
- [Eastern Sierra Regional Transportation Investments & Jobs Creation, NCTA](#)

**High-Level Recap:**

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

**Key Functions if Actions for Asset Mapping:**

- **Align Funding with Regional Realities:** Transition from local-to-county-level spending toward regional models (e.g. ESSRF) that allow resources to flow where the impact is greatest.
- **Asset-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:**

- Consolidate GIS Inventory of Physical Assets
- Subsidize 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 Barriers:** 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 28th [visit the website](#).

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### Regional Governance

November 17th

**Presenting Projects:**

- [ESSRF, Eastern Sierra Recreation Partnership, MLTP](#)
- [Regional Collaboration, ENCOG, Eastern Sierra Council of Governments](#)

**High-Level Recap:**

- The primary function of the entity is relational and network driven: focused on creating value to facilitate conversations and foster genuine connections across sectors and geographies.
- The regional entity should be leveraged from the ground level, highlighting the uniqueness of each community, and should avoid overreach from outside entities.
- This entity should prioritize implementation and funding of projects, highlight success stories, allocate resources across the region, and provide guidance and expertise to expedite projects and navigate barriers.

**Key Functions if Action Bias of Regional Entity:**

- **Action Over Planning:** Focus on implementation & funding of projects.
- **Unified Advocacy:** Focusing on common issues and advocacy across the several 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 transitional structure is allowed to evolve organically.

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

Page 1

## 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.*

# THANK YOU FOR COMING



Next Meeting:

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**“Climate Resiliency”**

Next Month's Feature Presenters:

Laurie Livingston; Tuolumne County Arts Alliance

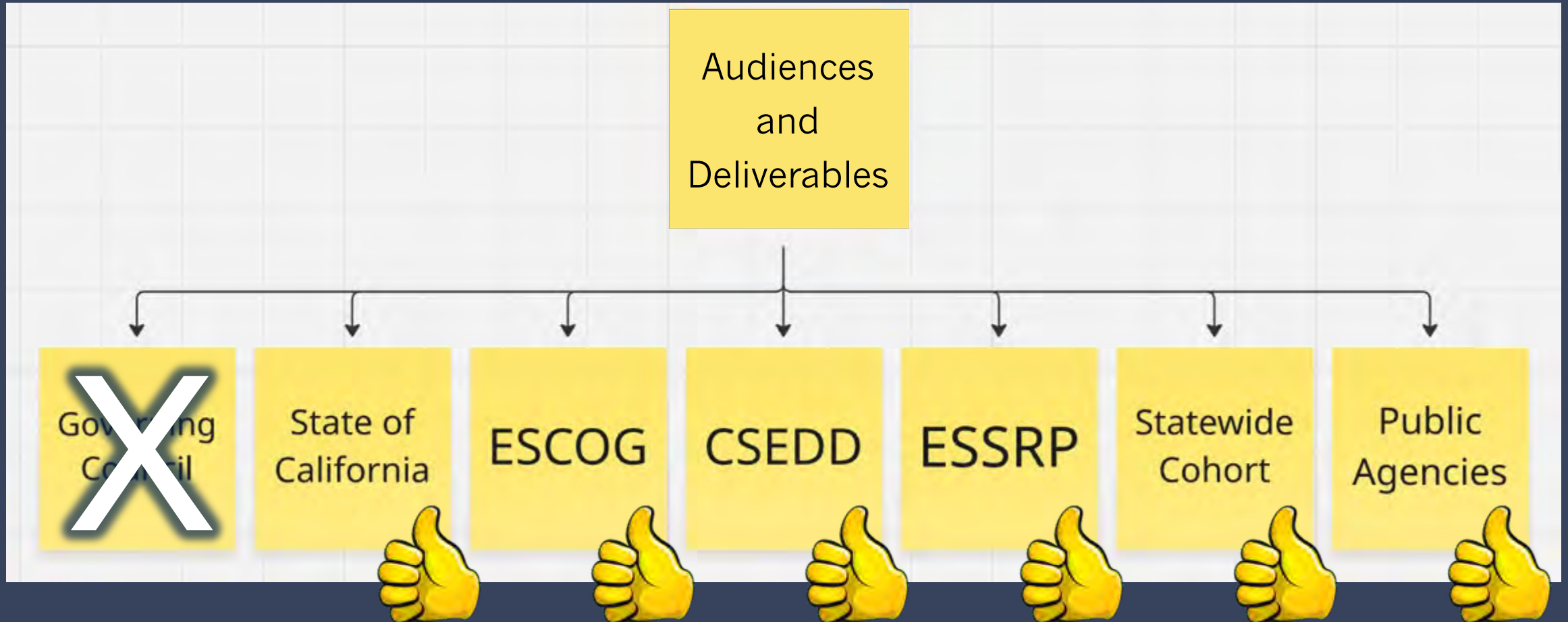
&

Jenny Hatch; Sierra Nevada Alliance & Megan Fiske; Winter Wildlands Alliance

# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

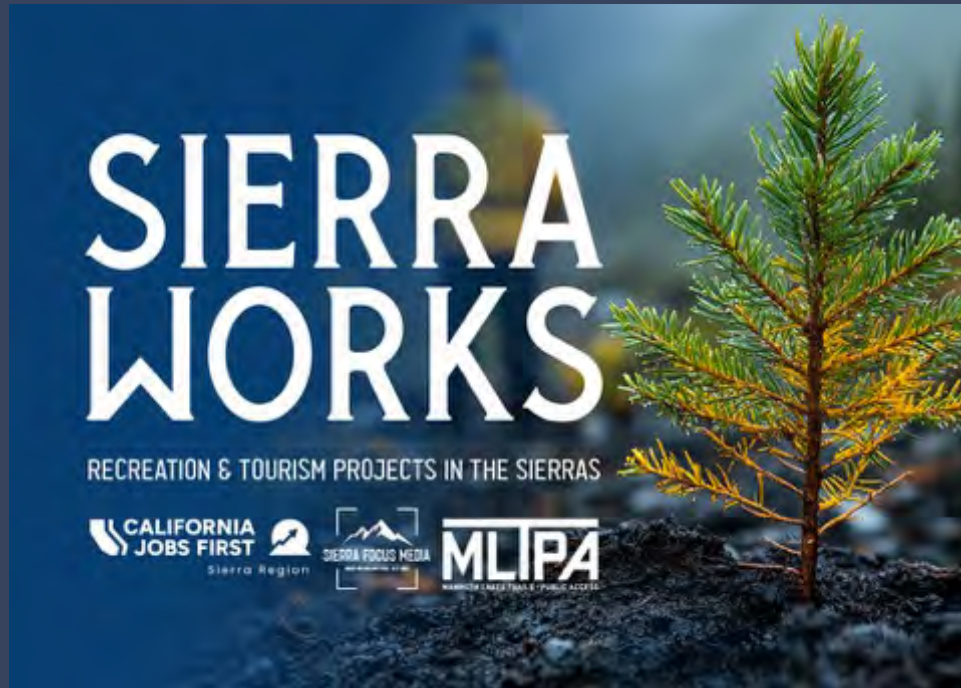
- *Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – Regional Governance*
- *Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> – Asset Mapping*
- *Feb. 23 – Policy Barriers*
- *March 16<sup>th</sup> – Regional Branding & Financing*
- **April 20<sup>th</sup> – Climate Resiliency**
- **May 18<sup>th</sup> – Workforce Capacity**
- **June 15<sup>th</sup> – Arts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

## Goals for the Working Groups



# 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!**

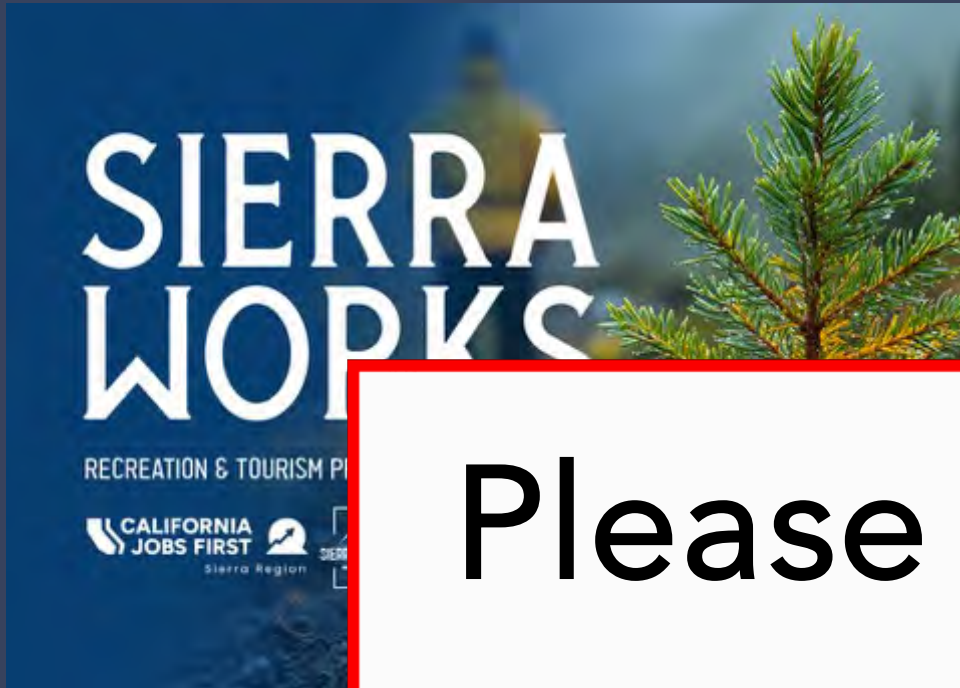
**Sign-up Today!**

[Join Our Working Groups](#)



# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

## Recreation and Tourism Working Group



Please Sign up Now!

### WORKING GROUP SIGN-UPS

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and  
projects with  
on and

ussions, share

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

Sign-up Today!

Join Our Working Groups





“Cohort of Practice”



# California Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Statewide Cohort



**CALREC**  
**Vision**

“Symposium of  
Practice” - April 23

**CALIFORNIA**  
**JOBS FIRST**



Sierra Region



# California Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Statewide Cohort



**CALREC**  
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**CALIFORNIA**  
**JOBS FIRST**



Sierra Region



# California Jobs First: Recreation and Tourism Statewide Cohort



**CALREC**  
**Vision**

“Symposium of Practice” - April 23

**CALIFORNIA**  
**JOBS FIRST**



Sierra Region



# CA Jobs First Recreation & Tourism Cohort Symposium of Practice

Sacramento - April 23, 2026



# Symposium Structure

## Project Representatives

- Representatives of Catalyst and related projects from across the state
- Will represent as leaders on behalf of their Projects
- Provide lessons for implementation through the Symposium Filters

## Agency Representatives

- Representatives of State and Federal Agencies
- Will engage with Projects through the Symposium Filters
- Will work with Projects to develop Incentives for Implementation

# Symposium Filters

- Assets
- Policy & Regulations
- Funding
- Data
- Climate Change
- Workforce
- Collaboratives
- Branding



# Sierra Jobs First: Recreation & Tourism Working Group

- Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – Regional Governance
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# Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Projects - Recreation & Tourism

Alpine, Inyo, Mono Counties	Tri-County Recreation Economic Impact Study
Amador Trail Stewardship	Pathways to Prosperity: A regional Multimodal Safety and Recreation Initiative
Eastern Sierra Artists	Sierra Regional Arts Organization Collaborative Network
ESCOG	Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis
ESCOG	Eastern Sierra Regional Collaborative Capacity Incubator
MLTPA	Eastern Sierra Regional Campground Improvements and Jobs Creation
MLTPA	Eastern Sierra Regional Climate and Recreation Jobs Creation
MLTPA	Eastern Sierra Regional Trail System and Jobs Creation
Motherlode Bicycle Coalition	Sustainable Mobility Partnership Program
Sierra Nevada Alliance	The Collaborative Sustainable Recreation Assessment
Tuolumne County Arts Alliance	Creative Reuse Community Arts Center of Tuolumne County
Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce	Sierra Sourced
Tuolumne County Community Development District	Jamestown Specific Plan and Model Toolkit for Town Center Revitalization

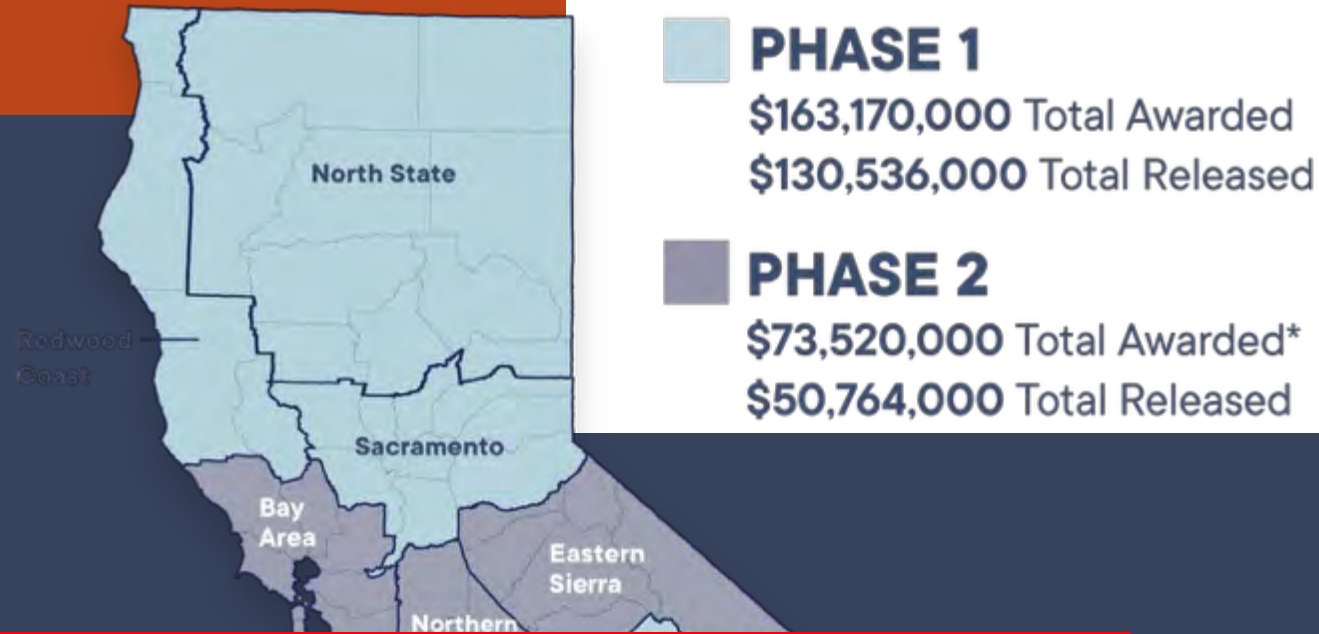
# Sierra Jobs First: Catalyst Projects - Natural & Working Lands

Alpine Biomass Collaborative	Eastern Sierra and Western Great Basin Tree Nursery Feasibility Study
Calaveras County Resource Conservation District	Building Climate Resiliency in the Central Sierra Region
Calaveras Healthy Impact Project Solutions (CHIPS) & Chicken Ranch Me-Wuk	CHIPS Growth and Infrastructure Initiative
Columbia College	Regional Training Center Feasibility Project
Sierra Nevada Alliance	The Sierra Nevada Alliance Natural and Working Lands Careers Initiative
Sonora Union High School District and Mother Lode Job Training	Wildcat Ranch Regional Training Site
Tuolumne County	Tuolumne County Programmatic CEQA Development for Wildfire Fuel Management
Yosemite Clean Energy	Developing an Innovating Biomass and Timber Inventory and Predictive Growth and Yield Model for the Central Sierra Nevada Region to Foster Forest and Bioeconomy Development

## New and Upcoming Funding Opportunities

- K-16 Grant Opportunity
- NFF Collaborative Capacity Grant
- RCP Funding Overview
- Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI) 2026 Grant
- IMBA Trail Accelerator Grants

# Sierra Jobs First: Funding



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

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

**REGIONAL K-16 EDUCATION**  
COLLABORATIVES GRANT PROGRAM

Powered by  
FOUNDATION for CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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

## SIERRA K16 COLLABORATIVE- NOVEMBER 2023 TO JUNE 2028

- Initially focused on Career Pathways: Healthcare, Education, Computer Science/IT
- High Schools (k-12), Community Colleges, UC, CSU, Industry
- Deliverables: Must have two completed pathways by June 2028
- Deliverables: Our collaborative aims to address long-standing social and economic inequities in higher education and workforce participation.
- <https://k16collaborative.org/>



Erin Murphy

Erin Murphy

## TRANSITION & FUTURE PLANNING

*Shaping the Future, Together*



**SIERRA**  
BUSINESS COUNCIL

## Summary from Industry Sector Coordinators/Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Date – February 25, 2026

- This was the last meeting for the Technical Advisory Committee
- SBC is preparing a document “...intended to summarize the SJF Collaborative process, why we did things in a specific way and reminders for what to include in case someone wants to pick this work back up...”
- The document is not a deliverable for the state; it is an SBC document.
- To be drafted by Agnew::Beck and SBC
- SBC will post on the Sierra Jobs First website this summer



# Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

## Summary from Industry

- This was the last meeting
- SBC is preparing a process, why we did this case someone wanted
- The document is not
- To be drafted by Advisory
- SBC will post on the



Monthly Industry Sector Coordinator Meeting  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

- 1. High Level Sector Updates**
  - a. Tribal
  - b. Ag & Natural Working Lands
  - c. Healthcare
  - d. Clean Energy
  - e. Rec & Tourism
- 2. Working Group Updates**
  - a. Tribal
  - b. Ag & Natural Working Lands
    - i. Plans to update Activation Plans
  - c. Healthcare
    - i. Plans to update Activation Plans
  - d. Clean Energy
  - e. Rec & Tourism
    - i. Using the RICA to advocate for the projects in the region and their needs to advance their work forward.
    - ii. Collaboration with ESCOG's Regional Collaborative Project.
- 3. Industry Sector Coordinator End Game Goals**
  - a. Tribal
  - b. Ag & Natural Working Lands
    - i. Has received a K16 Grant to continue this work through 2029
  - c. Healthcare
    - i. Expects to receive grant funding to continue their work past Aug 2026
  - d. Clean Energy
  - e. Rec & Tourism
- 4. ShinDig 2.0 ?**
  - a. Still interested?
    - i. Alpine County – end of July?
    - ii. Focus on high-level report-outs to connect projects for implementation and future efforts.

## Advisory Committee

tee

SJF Collaborative  
or what to include in  
document.



**SIERRA**  
BUSINESS COUNCIL

# 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

[LEARN MORE](#)

# California Wildfire and Recreation



# California Wildfire and Recreation

RESOURCES ~ THE PLAN ~



ABOUT ~ UPDATES ~



## SIERRA NEVADA REGIONAL MEETING RECAP & RECORDINGS

### MARCH 19, 2026

Hosted by Mountain Counties Water Resources Association and Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Task Force's Sierra Nevada Regional Meeting at the Chicken Ranch Casino Resort in Tuolumne County was the largest Task Meeting to date with nearly 500 people registered for in-person attendance and over 350 people joining online. During the meeting, three panels of local leaders provided examples of how partners in the Central Sierra are working across land ownerships, utilizing innovative funding strategies, developing a robust workforce and building necessary infrastructure to bring wildfire projects to scale.

### WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS



#### Tribal Representative

- Kyle Cox, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

#### Co-chairs

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

#### Task Force Executive Committee

- Joe Tyler, CAL FIRE
- Anne Cottrell, Rural County Representatives of CA
- Bobby Macaulay, CA State Association of Counties
- Don Hankins, Indigenous Stewardship Network

# California Wildfire and Recreation

CALIFORNIA  
WILDFIRE & FOREST RESILIENCE  
TASK FORCE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2026

# California Fast Tracks 300 Wildfire Projects in 300 Days

*Progress Highlighted at Wildfire Task Force Regional Meeting*

**What you need to know:** During the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force's Sierra Nevada Regional meeting, California announced it has fast-tracked over 300 critical fuels reduction projects across the state in just over 300 days—enabling a broad cross-section of communities, local fire safe councils, tribes, and organizations to move faster than ever before. Additionally, local partners showcased projects that are strengthening wildfire resilience in the Central Sierra and the Task Force previewed its 2026 Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan.

**Jamestown, California** – On March 19, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association and Sierra Nevada Conservancy hosted the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force's Sierra Nevada Regional Meeting at the Chicken Ranch Casino Resort in Tuolumne County. During the meeting, the Task Force shared an update on California's progress to streamline permitting for wildfire projects, which has enabled a wide range of agencies, tribes, and organizations to move faster than ever before to deliver real results. Three panels of local leaders provided examples of how partners in the Central Sierra are working across land ownerships, developing a robust workforce, and utilizing innovative funding strategies to bring wildfire projects to scale. Lastly, the Task Force provided updates on the development of its 2026 Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan.

## CALIFORNIA FAST-TRACKS 300 PROJECTS ACROSS LAND OWNERSHIPS IN 300 DAYS

Following Governor Newsom's emergency proclamation on wildfire, State agencies including the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), have coordinated to cut red tape and fast-track critical wildfire safety projects across the state, all while maintaining vital environmental safeguards. Through this streamlined process, projects are now being approved in as little as 30 days, saving a year or more of review and red tape for more complicated projects.



# California Wildfire and Recreation

## SHOWCASING LOCAL EFFORTS IN THE CENTRAL SIERRA



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**Unprecedented Collaboration Across Ownerships:** The Sierra Nevada Regional Meeting highlighted how partners are coordinating work across federal, state, tribal, local, and private lands to achieve meaningful landscape-scale impact. A prime example showcased at the meeting is the Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) project, a landmark collaboration that is restoring forest health and reducing wildfire risk across tens of thousands of acres by coordinating treatments across public and private lands—demonstrating how large-scale, science-based forest management can strengthen both ecological resilience and local economies. Another example of how the Central Sierra is overcoming challenges experienced in other parts of the state is the opening of Tuolumne BioEnergy, a new biomass facility in Sonora that will help convert forest waste from fuels reduction projects into renewable energy while supporting local forest management and reducing the amount of material left to burn in wildfires.

**Building a Workforce to Implement Projects at Scale:** Local leaders emphasized that scaling wildfire resilience work requires a skilled workforce. The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk's Tuolumne Rancheria Fire Department shared how they are building tribal leadership in fuels reduction, cultural burning, and community protection. The wildfire technology company BurnBot shared how new technologies are helping accelerate work on-the-ground and how its equipment can help land managers conduct prescribed fire more efficiently and safely. Local businesses are also playing an important role in the Central Sierra. Companies such as Heartwood Biomass are creating jobs while supporting forest health by

# California Wildfire and Recreation

## LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2026 ACTION PLAN

The Task Force provided an overview on the development of the 2026 California Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan, previewing how the Plan will provide a statewide framework to align investments and guide regional and local planning and implementation, with a focus on the measures that reduce risk at scale and improve long-term resilience. The Plan will include two complementary strategies: one focusing on reducing wildfire impacts in and around communities and one focusing on improving landscape health to lower the likelihood and consequences of high-severity wildfire. A statewide framework for mobilizing regional action will support both strategies by aligning planning, permitting, implementation, reporting, and funding—ensuring priorities translate into coordinated work that reduces fire intensity near communities, strengthens preparedness, and enables more efficient projects and expanded use of beneficial fire.



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2026

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# California Wildfire and Recreation



## Recreation Strategy Toolkit

### 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](#)



Communities that have adopted the Strategy

- Inyo County
- Madera County
- Mono County
- Nevada County
- Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Eastern Sierra Council of Governments



CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

PREPARED FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE  
AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE  
DECEMBER 2023

# California Wildfire and Recreation

The Guardian US

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

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

California

## Evacuations ordered as two wildfires break out in southern California

Stiff winds 'spreading the smoke' as Springs fire bears down on Moreno Valley while smaller Crown fire also burning



U.C. San Diego

The Springs fire advances towards Moreno Valley on Friday. Photograph: AP

Roque Planas

10:3 Apr 2026 22:05 EDT

Share

Prefer the Guardian on Google

A pair of wildfires broke out in southern California on Friday, marking the region's first significant burns in a spring that has seen a major heatwave. The fires started in windy conditions that have caused them to spread quickly. The National Weather Service issued a wind advisory for parts of southern California through midday Friday, warning of gusts up to 50mph.

RE:PUBLIC DONATE ABOUT



Photo by Maerwa Joubert/istockphoto

NEWSLETTER

## THE SEASON OF WILDFIRE DREAD

Record drought and vanishing snowpack are testing a federal firefighting force in the middle of an unfinished reorganization.

By [Christina Kohlenstein](#) • Mar 14, 2026

Where I live in Santa Fe, bad snow years are nothing new, but I don't ever recall anything like the winter we just experienced. As I write this on March 22, it is nearly 80 degrees outside and the local ski area was forced to shut down this afternoon, two weeks ahead of schedule.

In a bad snow year, this is when the dread starts to set in. Because in the West, a dry winter doesn't just mean a disappointing ski season. It means fire; summers when I step into my backyard and watch massive plumes of smoke climb the horizon; days when I have to cancel my morning run because the sky has turned that eerie orange from smoke drifting in from fires burning hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miles away—or sometimes right in our own forests surrounding town. It means the National Forests where so many of us hike, camp, and ride all summer long get closed for weeks or months at a stretch—a reminder, more vivid than any policy debate, of what life without access to public lands would actually feel like.

The Hotshot Wake Up Upgrade to founding

## The Summer Wildfire Outlook: Overtime, Hazard, Broken Bodies, And Broken Minds.

New outlook maps released.

THE HOTSHOT WAKE UP APR 02, 2026

41 2 1

Share

Before we dive into the the new Predictive Services Maps that give us our first glimpse into the Summer outlook, one quick point.

When the Forest Service reorganization plan came out, the number one comment was, "This doesn't say anything about combining resources with the USWFS, is that still a thing?"

It actually does, but you have to go to the [USDA press release](#) that followed the Forest Service's initial document. Here is the exact quote from the USDA press release on the Forest Service reorganization:

"This structure ensures the agency's ongoing, close coordination with the Department of the Interior and interagency partners. It will reinforce the unified, national approach essential to effective wildland fire response **until the Forest Service's wildland fire management operations are unified into the U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) within the Department of the Interior (DOI).**"

Pretty straightforward.

Now, I've had a tremendous amount of conversations with wildfire leadership from around the country this week, and one thing is accepted as a near certainty... It's going to be a crazy fire season.

To date, 1.62M acres have already burned, with over 17,000 total fires. Both are way above the 10 year average. That said, I think it's safe to say we have hit a short one week lull, as the priority fire in the Nation currently is the 420 acre Jumping Branch Fire that's 50% contained.



# CALREC Vision



# 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 Save Alliance of FSCs
- Humboldt County
- Lake County
- Mariposa County
- Mendocino County Fire Safe Council
- Napa County
- Napa County Open Space District
- Placer County
- Plumas County
- Sonoma County
- Tuolumne County
- West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council

**CALREC Vision**

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

## STAND UP FOR CALIFORNIA ADOPT THE JOINT STRATEGY

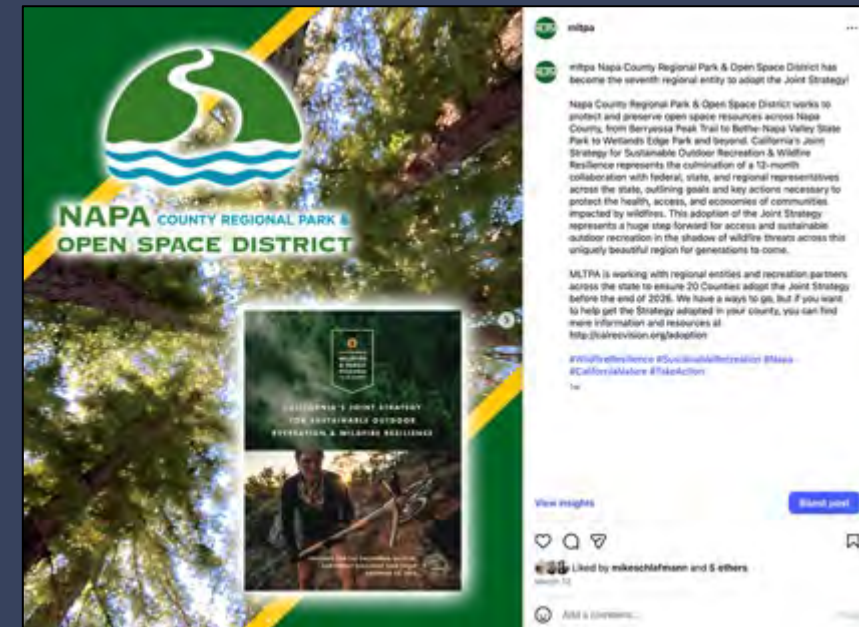
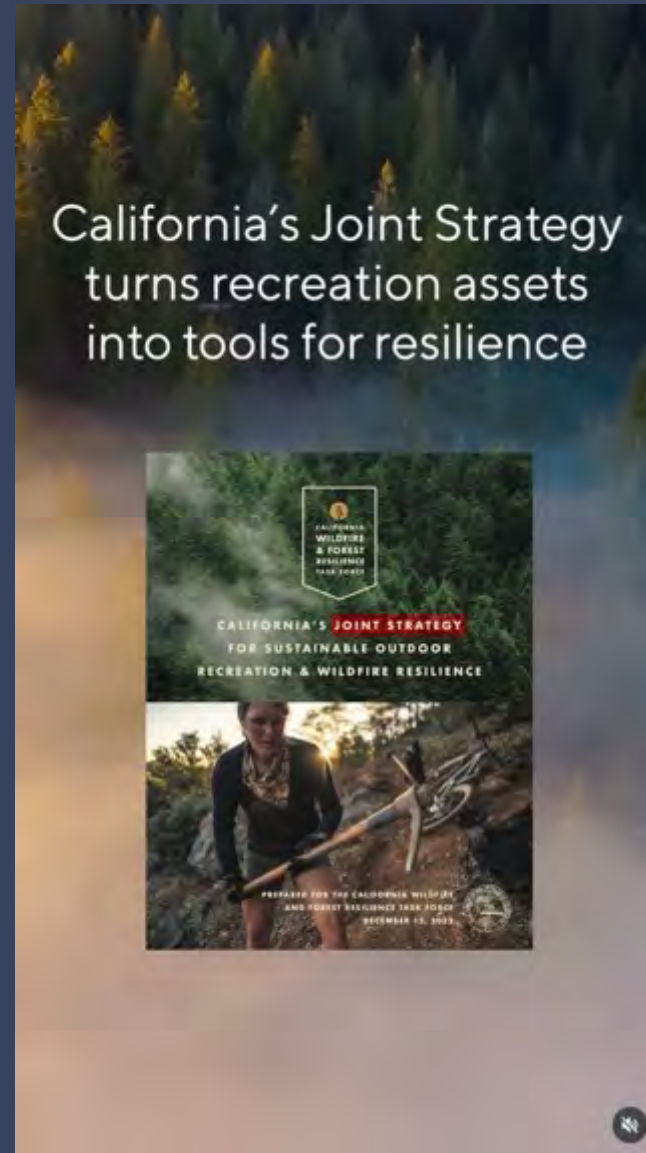
With wildfire risk rising and federal priorities shifting, there's a bold strategy available that transforms recreation infrastructure into community defense.

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

### RESOURCES

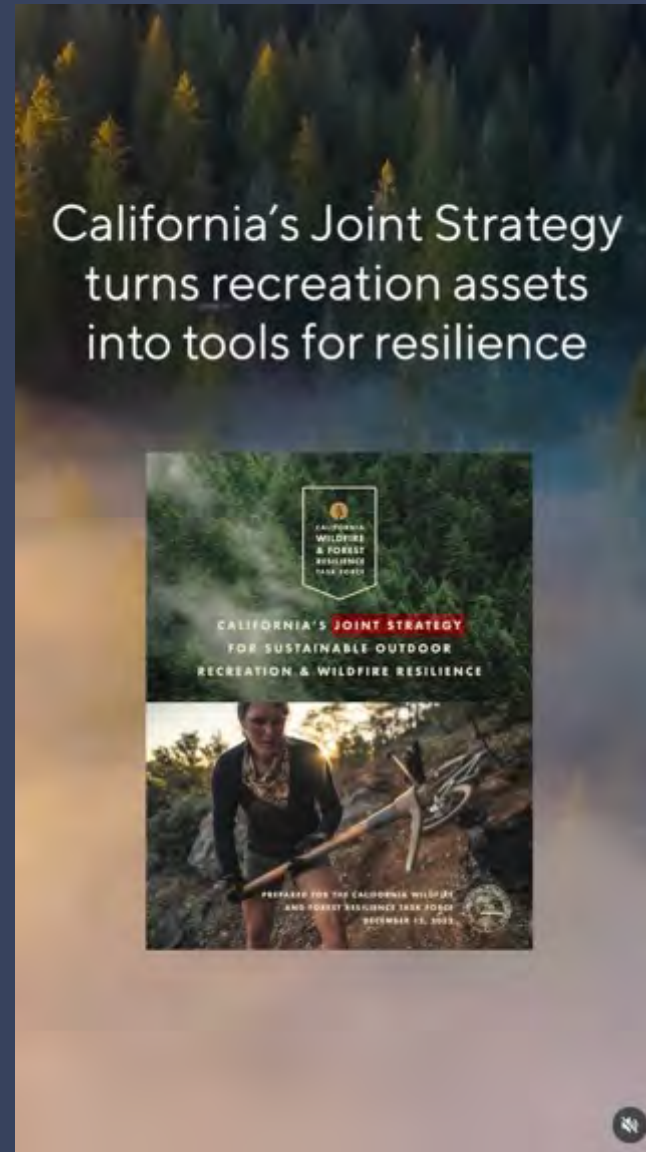
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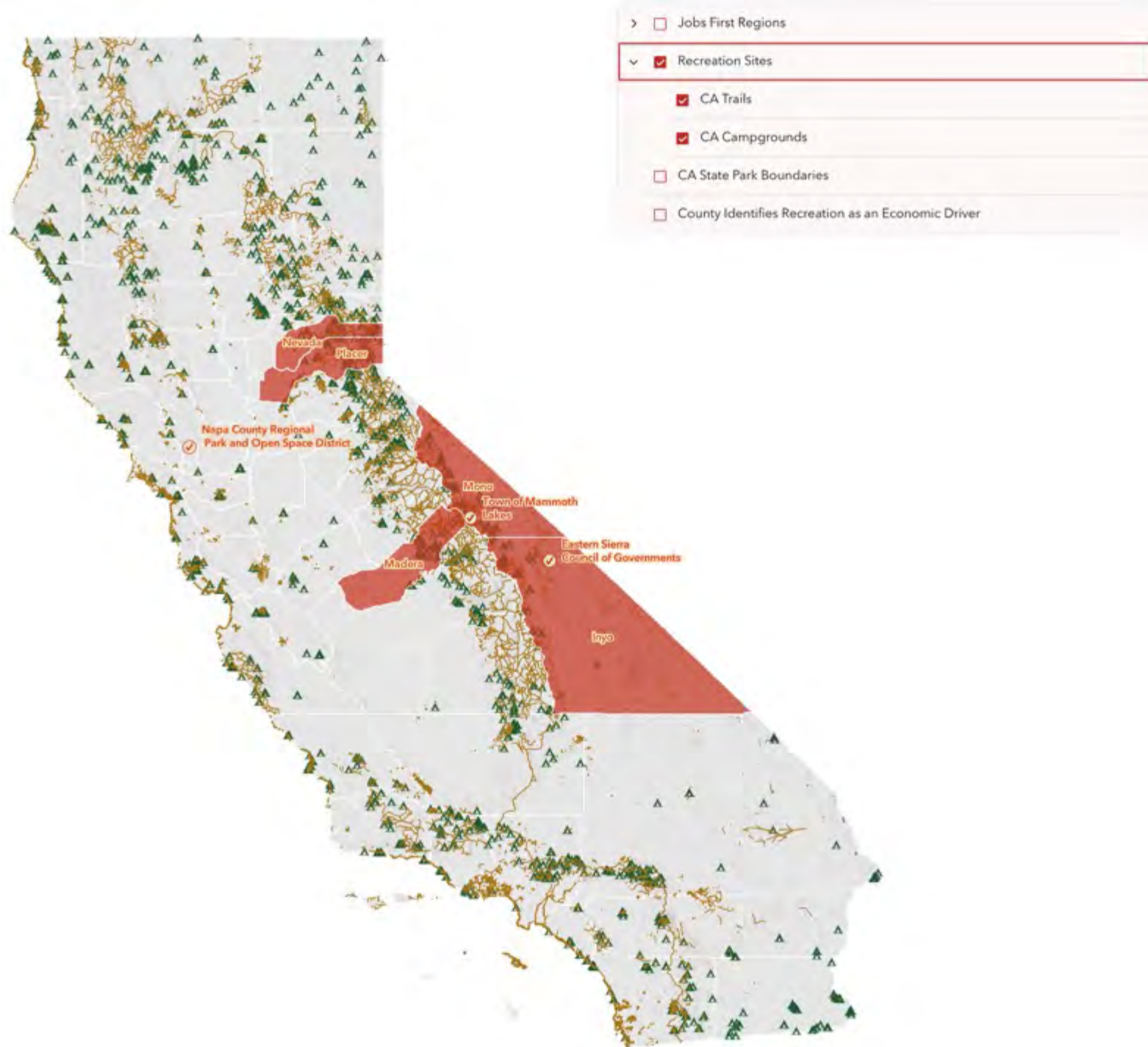
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Draft set of Design Development Documents for the six campgrounds in the Lee Vining and Independence areas of the Inyo National Forest.

## MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS AND PUBLIC ACCESS FOUNDATION LEE VINING AND INDEPENDENCE CAMPGROUNDS INYO NATIONAL FOREST

### SCOPE OF WORK

- RENOVATION OF SIX (6) NATIONAL FOREST CAMPGROUNDS ON THE INYO NATIONAL FOREST INCLUDING RECONFIGURED AND NEW CAMPSITES TO SERVE UP TO SIX PEOPLE EACH (INCLUDING ONE GROUP CAMPSITE AT LOWER LEE VINING), ASSOCIATED VEHICLE PARKING SPURS, MINOR ROADWAY ADJUSTMENTS, NEW VAULT TOILETS, ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS, AND RESTORATION OF DISTURBED AREAS. CAMPGROUNDS OUT OF LEE VINING ALONG 120, TIOGA ROAD, INCLUDE LOWER LEE VINING, ASPEN, AND MORaine CAMPGROUNDS. CAMPGROUNDS OUT OF INDEPENDENCE ALONG ONION VALLEY ROAD PARALLELING INDEPENDENCE CREEK INCLUDE LOWER AND UPPER GRAYS MEADOW AND ONION VALLEY CAMPGROUNDS.
- CONSTRUCTION OF (150) DISCRETE CAMPSITE PADS GRADED AT 2% MAX WITH TIMBER EDGING AND DECOMPOSED GRANITE SURFACING. PADS TYPICALLY SIZED TO ACCOMMODATE UP TO 6 PEOPLE PER SITE, WITH SOME SMALLER AT ONION VALLEY AND GRAYS MEADOW.
- MINOR GRADING TO CREATE LEVEL CAMPSITE PADS AND ACCESSIBLE PATHS OF TRAVEL IN COMPLIANCE WITH ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS (ABAAS).
- CONSTRUCTION OF TIMBER RETAINING WALLS MAX 2'-6" HEIGHT AND TIMBER/LOG STEPS AS REQUIRED BY SLOPE.
- SALVAGE AND REUSE OR REPLACE (1) PICNIC TABLE, (1) FIRE PIT, AND (1) BEAR BOX ON CONCRETE PAD AT EACH CAMPSITE. CLEARANCE TO MEET APPLICABLE STANDARDS. SALVAGE AND REUSE OR REPLACE (1) CAMP SITE NUMBER AND ADDITIONAL WAYFINDING SIGNAGE AS SHOWN ON DRAWINGS.
- INSTALLATION OF FIVE (5) NEW ADA COMPLIANT PRE-FABRICATED VAULT TOILETS. OWNER SUPPLIED AND CONTRACTOR INSTALLED.
- AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) & ABAAS COMPLIANT CAMPSITES AND ACCESS ROUTES TO EACH RESTROOM.
- DG OR COMPACTED DIRT PATHWAYS TO SERVE WALK-IN SITES.
- REMOVAL OF (24) TREES AND PROTECTION OF TREES TO REMAIN.
- INSTALLATION OF (27) WINDSHADE STRUCTURES AND PLANTING (81) TREES WITH INDIVIDUAL WATERING BAGS.
- PROVISION OF TWO-VEHICLE PARKING SPACES WITH CLASS 2 AB AT PARKING SPURS FOR EACH SITE WITH WOODEN OR BOULDER BARRICADE EDGES AND TIMBER WHEEL STOPS.
- SOIL DECOMPACTION, SCARIFICATION, MULCH, AND RESEEDING AT ALL DISTURBED AREAS WITH SELECTIVE REVEGETATION.
- MINOR RE-ROUTING OF EXISTING CLASS 2 AB ROADS.
- REMOVAL OF EXISTING DETERIORATED AC ROADS AND REPLACEMENT WITH CLASS 2 AB SURFACE.
- PROTECTION OF DESIGNATED CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT FEATURES.

### REGIONAL MAP



### PROJECT TEAM

**MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS AND PUBLIC ACCESS FOUNDATION**  
www.mltpa.org  
(760) 729-1493

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:**  
JOHN NORTHMORE ROBERTS & ASSOCIATES  
2507 Newbury Street  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
(510) 843-3666

**MARK LANDSCAPE**  
Matt Boyle, Project Manager  
1225 Rowland Circle  
Reno, NV 89509  
(415) 515-0879

**COST ESTIMATOR**  
R. BORNSTEIN CO.  
PO Box 2359, San Anselmo, CA, 94960-2359  
(415) 259-4927

**CIVIL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS:**  
TRIAD HOLMES ASSOCIATES  
Brooks Bryant, Surveyor  
549 Old Mammoth Road #202  
PO Box 1570  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
(760) 934-7508

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS:**  
WRA  
Matt Richmond, Principal Ecologist  
www.wra-ca.com  
(707) 236-5666

### LOCATION MAPS

#### LEE VINING CREEK CAMPGROUNDS



#### INDEPENDENCE CREEK CAMPGROUNDS



John Northmore Roberts & Associates  
2507 Newbury Street, Suite 6  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
(510) 843-3666  
www.johnrobertsassociates.com

MLTPA  
INYO  
CAMPGROUNDS

351 Pacu Lane  
Bishop, CA 93514

Design Development

DATE: 03/26/26  
DESCRIPTION: DFT DD FOR COST

MLTPA INYO CAMPGROUNDS COVER

Scale: AS NOTED, SCALE IN FEET

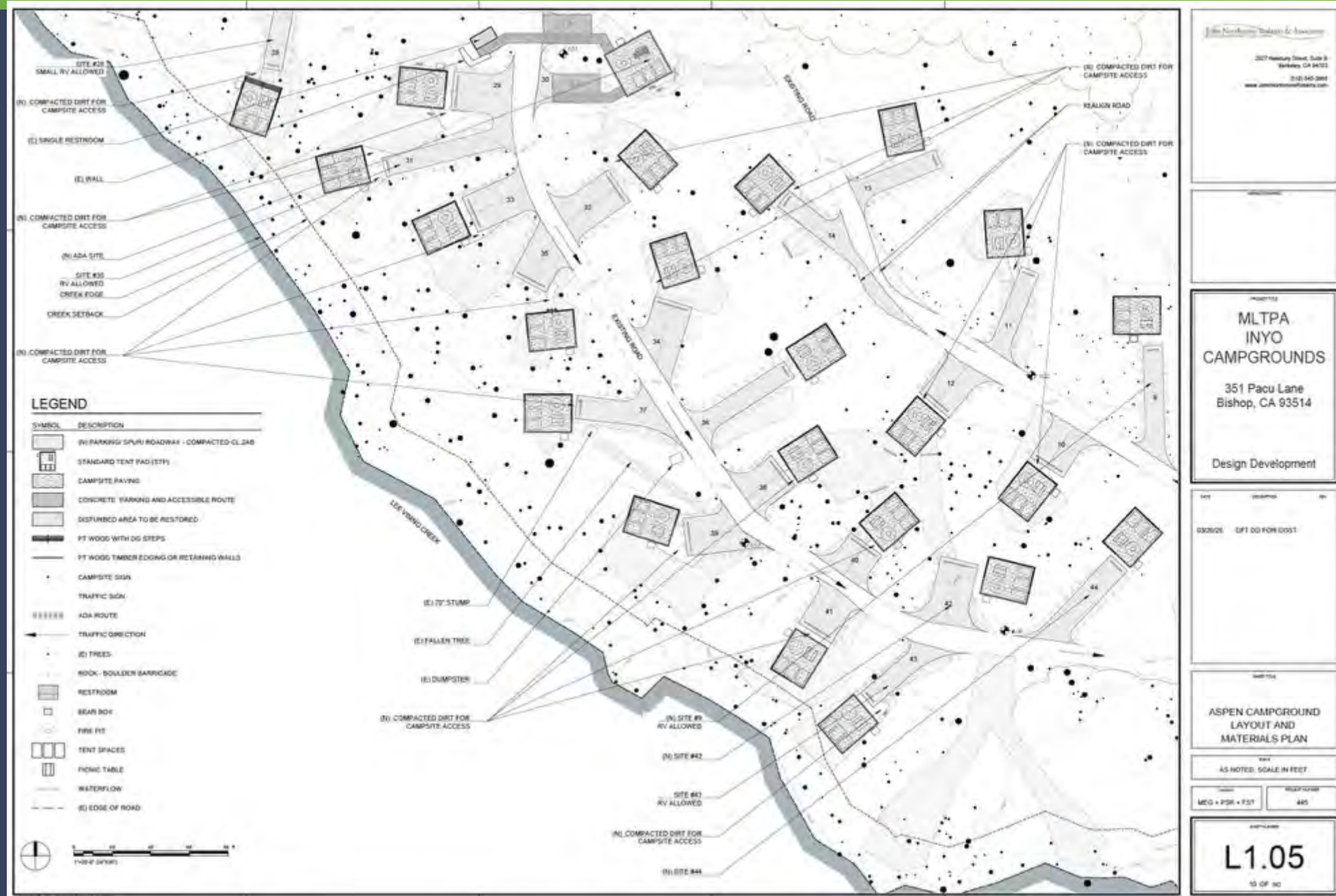
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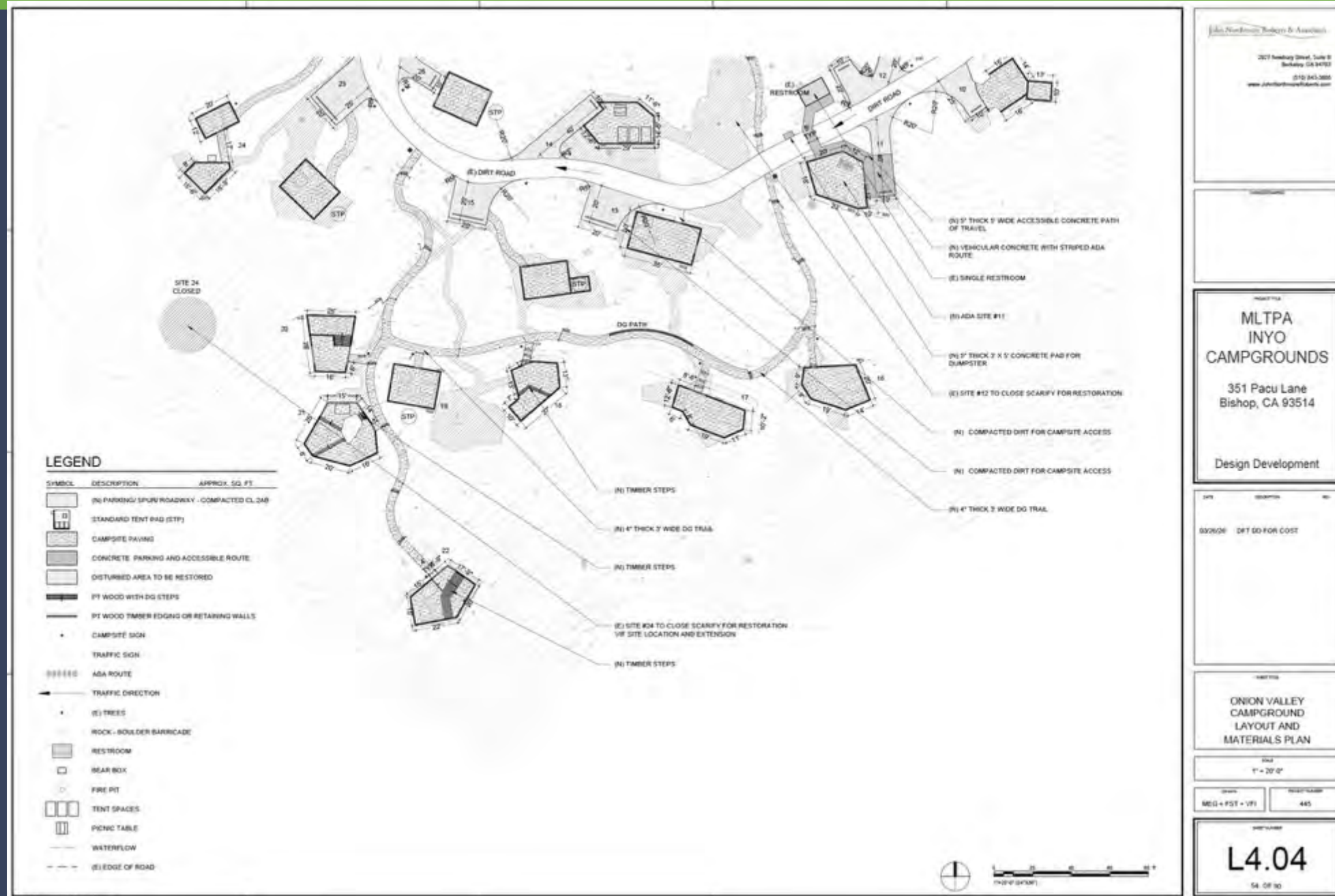
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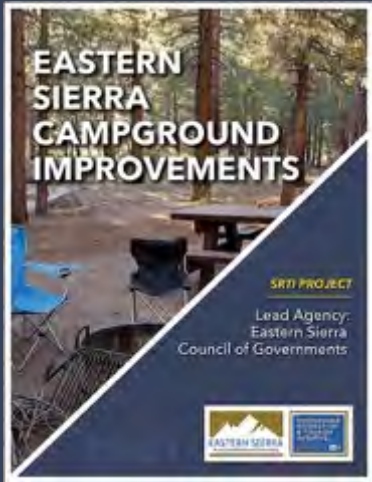


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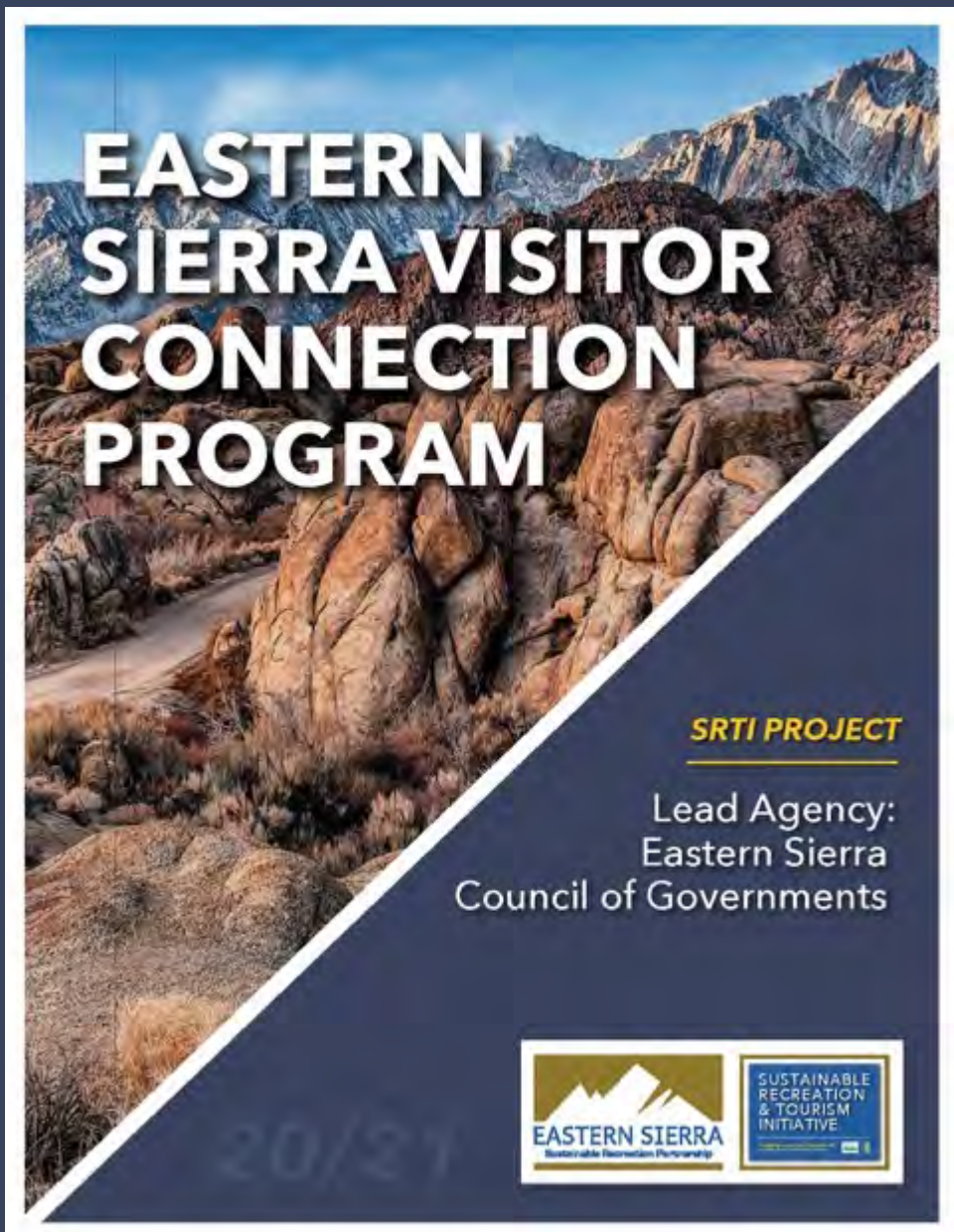
# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



# MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



Next Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, April 28



**EASTERN  
SIERRA VISITOR  
CONNECTION  
PROGRAM**

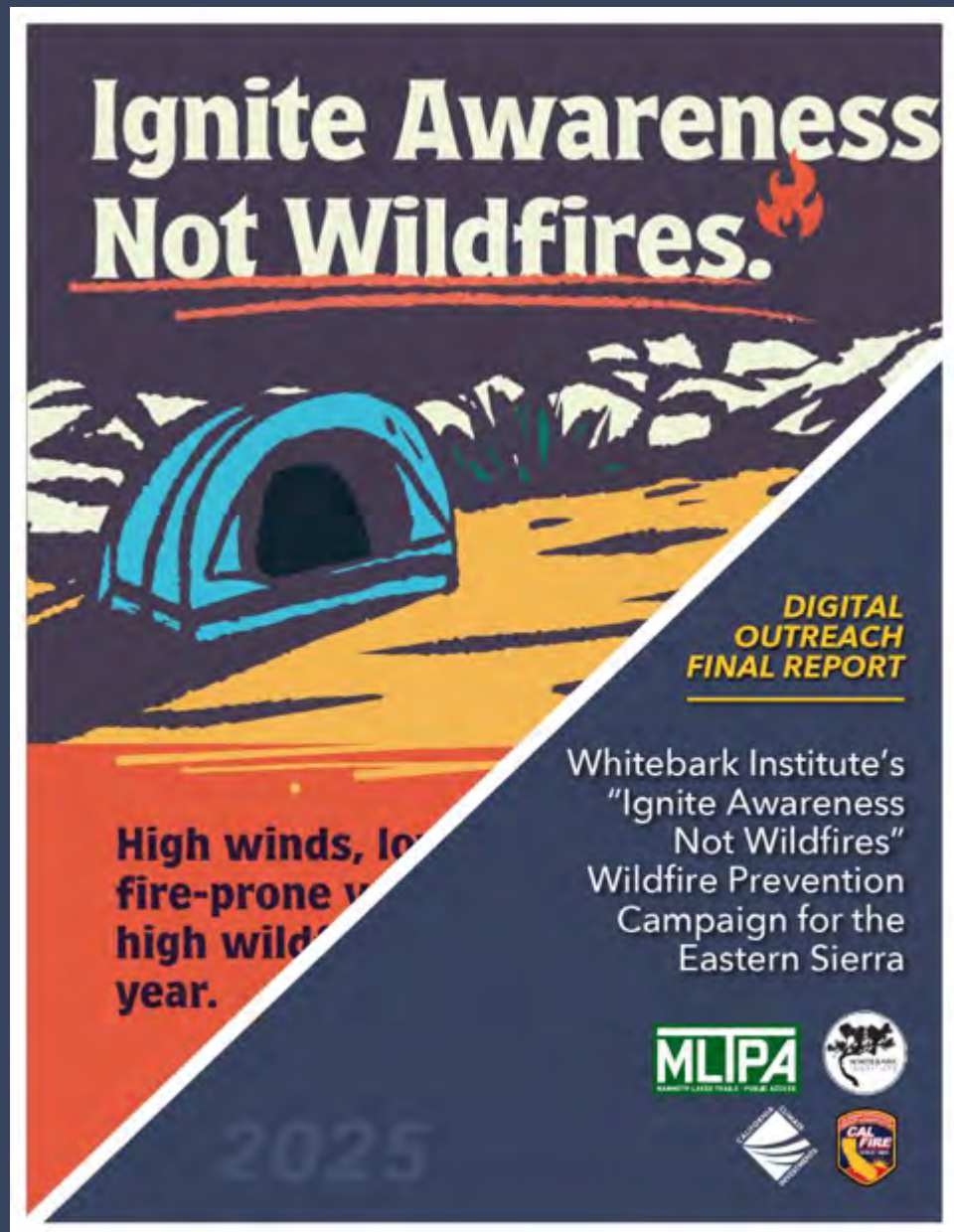
*SRTI PROJECT*

Lead Agency:  
Eastern Sierra  
Council of Governments

**EASTERN SIERRA**  
Sustainable Recreation Partnership

**SUSTAINABLE  
RECREATION & TOURISM  
INITIATIVE**

20/21



**Ignite Awareness  
Not Wildfires.**

*DIGITAL  
OUTREACH  
FINAL REPORT*

High winds, low  
fire-prone vegetation  
high wildfire  
year.

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

**MLTPA**  
MANAGED TRAILS & PUBLIC ACCESS

**CAL FIRE**

2025

# Don't Move a Mussel - !

## Golden Mussel Outreach Committee

"Following Mono and Inyo County's adoption of new protections to keep invasive Golden Mussels out of Eastern Sierra waterways, we're working together to help spread the word and protect the places we all love. This resource hub is designed to give local partners quick access to ready-to-use assets, including key messaging, social media copy, and visuals, to ensure consistent, clear communication across our community. Together, we can help safeguard our lakes, rivers, and world-class fisheries for generations to come."

Main Contacts:

CDFW: Nick Buckmaster — [Nick.Buckmaster@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Nick.Buckmaster@wildlife.ca.gov)

Mono County: Liz Grans — [lgrans@mono.ca.gov](mailto:lgrans@mono.ca.gov)



### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Justin Caporusso/Caporusso Communications  
[justin@caporussocommunications.com](mailto:justin@caporussocommunications.com)  
(916) 412-0571

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Mono County Board of Supervisors Adopts Ordinance to Protect Local Waterways from Invasive Golden Mussel**

**BRIDGEPORT, Calif. (March 26, 2026)** — Committed to preserving the health and beauty of local lakes and rivers, earlier this month the Mono County Board of Supervisors adopted a critical ordinance establishing a mandatory Water Vessel Inspection Program. The proactive measure aims to prevent the introduction of the highly destructive, non-native golden mussel into Mono County waterways.

First detected in California in late 2024, the golden mussel has spread rapidly across the state. Unlike other invasive mussel species, golden mussels can survive in a wider range of temperatures and extreme alpine environments, meaning they pose a severe and imminent threat to the Eastern Sierra's aquatic ecosystems, world-class fisheries, and local economy.

Because trailered water vessels entering Mono County from infested areas are the highest risk for carrying adult mussels and microscopic larvae, the Board recognized that voluntary measures of self-inspection or simple clean-drain-dry protocols are no longer sufficient.

Key components of the new ordinance (Adding Chapter 13.45 to the Mono County Code) include:

- **Mandatory Inspections:** An inspection and decontamination program targeting trailered watercraft is now legally required for water vessels prior to launching in Mono County water bodies.
- **Decontamination:** Vessels found to be at risk will be required to undergo a decontamination process to ensure no invasive species are transferred into local drainages.
- **Regional Collaboration:** This action aligns Mono County with an interagency regional effort, lead by California Department of Fish & Wildlife, to create a united, consistent defense against the golden mussel across the Eastern Sierra.

The ordinance will officially go into effect April 9, 2026, just ahead of the busy spring and summer boating and fishing seasons.

The County continues to strongly urge all boaters, anglers, and recreationists to practice the "Clean, Drain, and Dry" method every time they leave a body of water. Thoroughly cleaning

# Don't Move a Mussel - !

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Mono County: Liz Grans — [lgrans@mono.ca.gov](mailto:lgrans@mono.ca.gov)

## Join CDFW at the **EASTERN SIERRA TROUT OPENER TOWNHALL**

April 11, 2026, 5:30 PM

Tallman Pavilion,  
Tri County Fair Grounds, Bishop, CA

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Invasive Species/Golden Mussel Prevention Efforts
  - 2025 CDFW Fisheries Data
  - CDFW Fisheries Management for 2026



# Don't Move a Mussel - !

## Golden Mussel Messaging Toolkit

### DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL!

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

Golden mussels are an invasive freshwater species not yet detected in the Eastern Sierra — and **keeping them out is critical.**

They spread primarily by hitchhiking on boats, trailers, and gear that move between lakes and rivers. **Once they are here, they cannot be removed.**



#### Why Are They Such a Serious Threat?

##### Golden mussels:

- **Attach to almost anything** — docks, rocks, boats, motors, pipes, aquatic plants, even muddy lake bottoms.
- **Survive in a wide range of water temperatures and chemistry**, including low-calcium waters like many Eastern Sierra lakes.
- Can **live outside of water** for periods of time.
- Reproduce rapidly, spawning multiple times per year and producing thousands of microscopic larvae (called veligers) that are **nearly impossible to detect.**



Unlike quagga or zebra mussels, golden mussels are especially capable of surviving in Eastern Sierra conditions.

#### Why Should We Care in the Eastern Sierra?

##### If introduced to the Eastern Sierra, golden mussels can:

- Permanently damage lake and stream ecosystems.
- Deplete plankton that fish depend on for food.
- Threaten recreational fishing, boating, and tourism.
- Clog docks, motors, water delivery systems and pipes.
- Increase water and power costs due to expensive maintenance.



In October 2024, golden mussels were detected in the Port of Stockton. In less than one year, they spread more than 250 miles south.

Our lakes and rivers are highly interconnected. An introduction in one location could spread quickly across the region.

**Prevention is the only solution.**

### What's new: INSPECTION IS REQUIRED BEFORE LAUNCH

New ordinances in Mono and Inyo Counties require inspections before launching any trailer watercraft, including boats and jet skis. Boaters must stop at a Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination (WID) station and receive an **Eastern Sierra mussel sticker** before launching. Launching without an inspection may result in fines, misdemeanor charges, or boat impoundment.

- **Resident boats (Mono or Inyo County):** Inspected once per year before the first launch of the season.
- **Visiting boats:** Inspected when entering Mono or Inyo County before launching.
- **Boats inspected in Inyo County:** That inspection is valid in Mono County for the same month.
- **Any boat that launches outside Mono or Inyo County:** Must be inspected again before launching locally.
- **Everything** (inspection, decontamination, and stickers) is **FREE** at all WID stations.



For ordinance questions or reports, please contact Mono County Sheriff (760-932-7549) or Inyo County Sheriff (760-878-0383).

#### WID Station Locations:

- **Bridgeport:** Location TBD
- **Crowley Lake:** Crowley Lake Fish Camp (LADWP will open this location to all boaters, not only those accessing Crowley Lake. All wakeboard boats must go to Crowley Lake WID.)
- **Bishop:** Vans parking lot (opening weekend only) and 620 S. Main Street

Dates and hours will be posted at: [EasternSierraWID.com](http://EasternSierraWID.com)

Regular pressure washing is not effective. **Only high-temperature, high-pressure decontamination systems at official WID stations are proven to kill mussels and larvae.**



### What Can Local Businesses and Partners Do to Help?

#### 1. Share accurate and clear requirements:

Help customers and guests understand that watercraft inspections are **mandatory and enforced**. Launching without an inspection may result in fines, misdemeanor charges, or boat impoundment.

- Add inspection requirements to your website.
- Include language in reservation confirmations and pre-arrival emails.
- Post reminders on social media, especially before busy weekends.
- Share updates in your newsletters or other communications.
- Business and partner toolkit at [ycptoolkit.org](http://ycptoolkit.org)



#### 2. Direct boaters to WID stations and legal launch sites:

- Inform boaters to visit [EasternSierraWID.com](http://EasternSierraWID.com) for WID locations and hours.
- Explain that launching outside designated marinas or ramps increases risk and many informal launch sites are illegal.

#### 3. Promote Clean, Drain, Dry:

- Clean boats, trailers, and gear of plants and mud.
- Drain all water from boats, livewells, ballast tanks, and equipment.
- Dry everything thoroughly before entering another waterbody.
- **Also check kayaks, paddleboards, float tubes, waders, and fishing gear!**

#### 4. Be a local ambassador:

- If customers have questions, direct them to official county or CDFW resources.
- Emphasize that **early action protects recreation, infrastructure, and local jobs.**
- Possible mussel sightings should be reported to CDFW by email to [invasives@wildfire.ca.gov](mailto:invasives@wildfire.ca.gov) or 866-440-9530. Please take clear, close-up photos that include something (such as a pencil or hand) to show size.

**INVASION OF THE GOLDEN MUSSELS**

**KEEP THEM OUT OF OUR WATERS!**

**THEY'LL DESTROY OUR FISH!**

**EASTERN SIERRA WID**

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

[EasternSierraWID.com](http://EasternSierraWID.com)

GOLDEN MUSSELS ARE AN INVASIVE FRESHWATER SPECIES NOT YET DETECTED IN THE EASTERN SIERRA — **AND KEEPING THEM OUT IS CRITICAL.**

THEY SPREAD PRIMARILY BY HITCHHIKING ON BOATS, TRAILERS, AND GEAR THAT MOVES BETWEEN LAKES AND RIVERS. **ONCE THEY ARE HERE, THEY ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE.**

CLEAN.  
DRAIN.  
DRY.  
INSPECT.



# Don't Move a Mussel - !

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.



# Don't Move a Mussel -!

## Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires.

**DIGITAL OUTREACH FINAL REPORT**

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

High winds, low humidity, and a fire-prone year. High winds, low humidity, and a fire-prone year.

## OVERVIEW

The Ignite Awareness Not Wildfires (INW) campaign was launched in May 2023 by the Whitebark Institute with funding from CAL FIRE's Collaborative Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Program. The campaign was designed to increase wildfire prevention awareness among visitors across the Eastern Sierra through coordinated digital and on-site ground outreach.

A core component of the initiative was a nearly eight-month digital outreach campaign, managed by the MLPA Foundation, which ran from May through December, 2023. Using a media plan derived from the Visitor Connection Program (an initiative originally funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy), the MLPA Foundation engaged local partners to fully share campaign materials and broader outreach. In keeping with this work plan, a new website was developed (transparent and high quality) and existing 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 MLPA Foundation in partnership with regional organizations from May through December 2023.

## METRICS

<b>TOTAL IMPRESSIONS:</b>	<b>470,456</b>	<b>TOTAL # OF POSTS:</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>NUMBER OF PARTNERS:</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>PARTNER ORIGINATED:</b>	<b>80</b>
		<b>PROGRAM ORIGINATED:</b>	<b>25</b>

**REACH:**  
**122,721**

(MANY PARTNERS DID NOT SELF-REPORT REACH. THIS NUMBER IS FROM PROGRAM ORIGINATED POSTS ONLY.)

## DIGITAL ASSETS

IGNITE AWARENESS NOT WILDFIRES (MAIN CAMPAIGN)

IGNITE AWARENESS NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)

## DIGITAL ASSETS CONT.

IGNITE ADVENTURE NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)

IGNITE CONNECTION NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)

IGNITE RESPECT NOT WILDFIRES (SUB-CAMPAIGN)

## 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 [www.vcp.org](http://www.vcp.org) as a means of sharing regional messaging beyond the scope of the Ignite Awareness effort.

## CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

**SYNCHRONIZED POST: MAY 3, WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS DAY ALSO CAMPAIGN KICK OFF**

Partner originated posts:  
 • Total Impressions: 6,160  
 • Total # posts: 13  
 • Total # partners that participated: 8

**NOTE:** By coordinating and timing the campaign around the wildfire preparedness day, the campaign leveraged the high volume of social media activity and visitor engagement during this time.

**FOURTH OF JULY MESSAGE**

Program Originated Post + Partner Originated Posts:  
 • Total Impressions: 74,523  
 • Total # posts: 17  
 • Total # partners that participated: 11

**NOTE:** Digital content aligned with holidays or relevant events increased engagement and social performance.

## HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

**TOP PERFORMING INSTAGRAM POST: JULY 2**

• Total Impressions: 11,000  
 • Reach: 14,350  
 • Interactions: 102

**NOTE:** Posts that were featured in sponsored collaborations with summer organizations generated the highest engagement. These examples included a \$150 paid social and a collaborative collaboration between MLPA, Whitebark Institute, and Visit Mammoth.

**TOP PERFORMING FACEBOOK POST: DECEMBER 9**

• Total Impressions: 10,543  
 • Interactions: 50

**NOTE:** Facebook posts generated the highest engagement. This message included a \$300 paid boost.

## WORDS FROM OUR PARTNERS

**BIGSIP 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 important stewardship messaging alongside other local organizations."

— SARAHAN PAGE, SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR, BIGSIP AREA CLIMBERS COALITION

**VISIT MAMMOTH**

"Stewardship and collaboration are just a few of the core values of 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 content, educational, and interpretive messaging across our channels, from social to our website. With summer approaching at the time of launch, the campaign was perfectly timed. Wildlife and wildlife awareness needed to be a main focus, and the Ignite campaign helped us achieve exactly that."

— SARAHAN LINDBERG, LEAD MARKETING MANAGER, MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM

**FRIENDS OF THE INYO**

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

— JORDAN MARQUEL, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, FRIENDS OF THE INYO

## TAKEAWAYS FROM WHITEBARK INSTITUTE & MLPA FOUNDATION

**WHITEBARK INSTITUTE**

"Whitebark Institute is so across the Eastern Sierra, a really made absolutely sure by the many face-to-face calls and professional means 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."

— LAURA HENNINGTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHITEBARK INSTITUTE

**MLPA FOUNDATION**

"MLPA's collaboration with Whitebark and the Ignite Awareness campaign empowers them to better connect with the Eastern Sierra's Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative in 2023. After just eight meetings, the Working Group agreed on a detailed action plan to establish a regional voice for the Eastern Sierra. The 2023 "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 WESTMORTH, DEANS PRESIDENT, MLPA FOUNDATION

# Don't Move a Mussel - !

## MLTPA Board's Commitment To the "Eastern Sierra Golden Mussel Outreach Committee"

- Adding the committee's digital assets to [www.vcptoolkit.org](http://www.vcptoolkit.org)
- Regular communication to the VCP Partners requesting they share the digital assets on their own social pages/channels.
- Coordinating efforts for synchronized, collaborative, and boosted social media posts.
- Reporting total impressions
- \$15,000 to stand up and provide initial support for this element of the program.



### Eastern Sierra Visitor Connection Program Digital Campaign Implementation Stop the Golden Mussel March 2026 – November 2026

**To:** Eastern Sierra Golden Mussel Outreach Committee

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

**Date:** February 27, 2026

#### Brief – Sustainable Recreation Issue

Eastern Sierra waters are at risk of severe and devastating impacts if the Golden Mussel invades. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has raised the alarm that this is an issue with massive environmental and recreational impacts. Key to preventing the invasion is public outreach, and a regional, multi-jurisdictional Outreach Committee has been formed.

#### Outreach Plan

The committee has developed an outreach plan that is supported by committee member organizations. The plan includes on-the-ground efforts to support boat inspections and decontamination stations, as well as messaging to "Recreational Waterbody Users," including analog collateral (posters, flyers, etc.) and digital assets for websites and social media.

#### The Eastern Sierra Visitor Connection Program ("VCP")

Originated in 2021 by a group of regional agencies and organizations funded by a Proposition 68 grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the **Visitor Connection Program** supports partners in sharing sustainable recreation campaigns across the Eastern Sierra—expanding reach, increasing awareness, and delivering consistent messaging to visitors through a coordinated regional platform.

Currently, the program is being shepherded by the non-profit MLTPA Foundation, and the systems and processes outlined in the 2021 framework are in place and ready for use. These tools support consistent, region-wide sustainable recreation messaging for both the original working group partners and new organizations interested in participating.

Eastern  
Sierra  
Council of  
Governments



## SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

# ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects

**Eastern  
Sierra  
Council of  
Governments**

**Ken Etzel**

*Regional Recreation  
Collaborative Coordinator*

## **Chipmunk Canyon Trails Existing Conditions Analysis**

*Balancing Access, Ecology, and  
Culture in Recreation*

**Eastern  
Sierra  
Council of  
Governments**

- Internal project kick-off complete
- Coordinating with agency partners and tribes to meet in the coming weeks
- Establishing leadership team/partner agreement on the project study area

# 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*



- Steering Committee kick-off complete
- Outreach to key industry sector partners to inform need / opportunity / potential structure over the coming months.
- Coordinating with agency partners and tribes to meet in the coming weeks
- Co-LAB summit (tentatively) July 9/10/11

# ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects




JT Chevalier  
Alpine County


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

*Driving Sustainable Recreation through Data-Informed  
Decisions*



### ALPINE COUNTY


 April 20


 5:30–7:00 PM


 99 WATER ST, MARKLEEVILLE

 [ZOOM LINK HERE](#)

### MONO COUNTY


 April 21


 5:30–7:00 PM

 MEMORIAL HALL  
73 NORTH SCHOOL ST, BRIDGEPORT

 [ZOOM LINK HERE](#)

### INYO COUNTY

 April 22

 5:30–7:00 PM

 BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER  
269 N MAIN STREET, BISHOP

 [ZOOM LINK HERE](#)

The logo for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments is displayed in white text on a dark green rectangular background. The text is arranged in four lines: "Eastern", "Sierra", "Council of", and "Governments".

Eastern  
Sierra  
Council of  
Governments

Ken Etzel

*Regional Recreation  
Collaborative Coordinator*

- First results from Agricultural Study are posted
  - *See link in chat or Hot Links*
- Regional Housing Needs Study is posted
  - *See link in chat or Hot Links*



**WHITEBARK**  
INSTITUTE

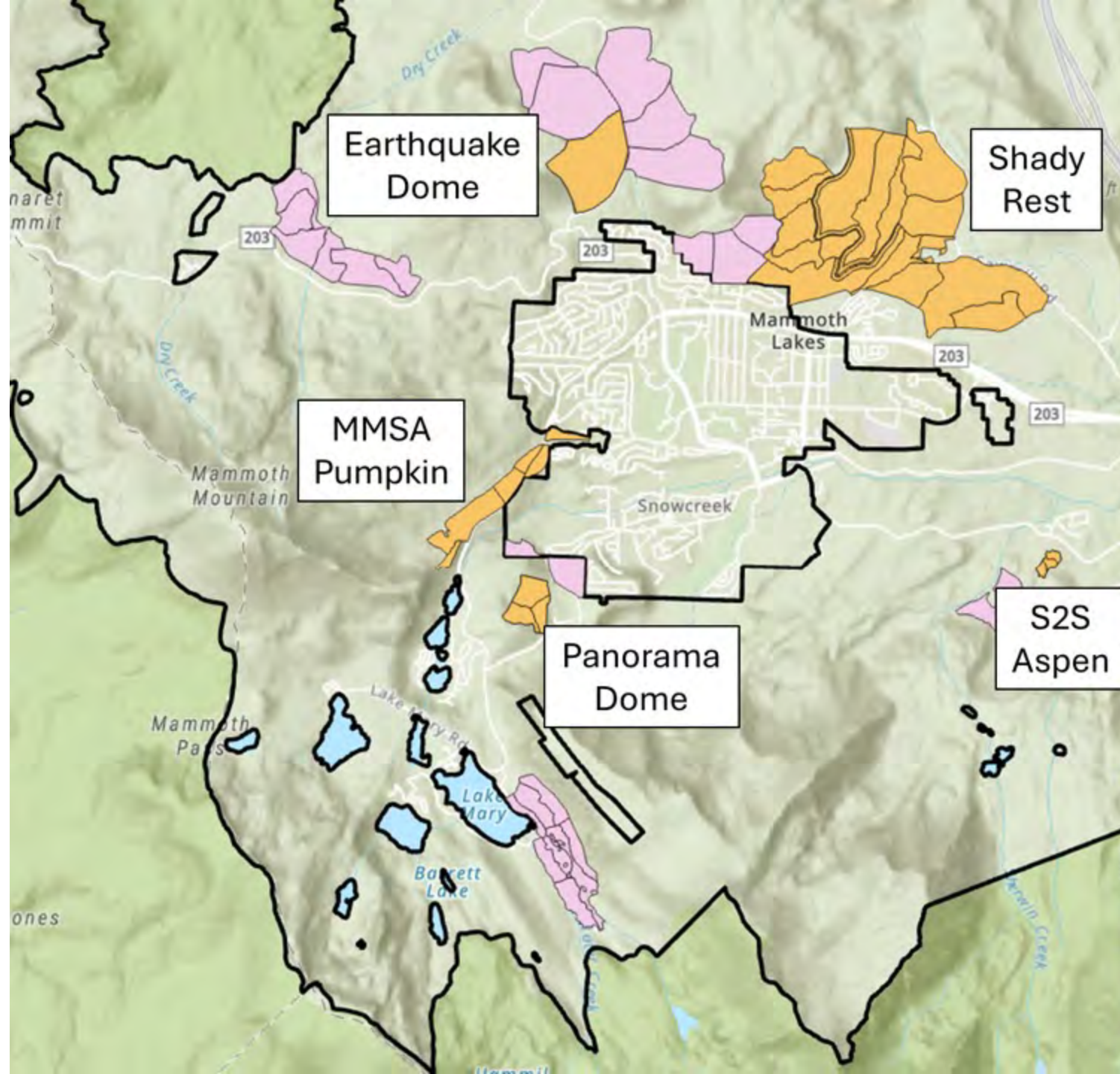
**ESSRP Update**

**6 April, 2026**

# 2026 Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project

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- 1,179 acres planned for Whitebark's implementation projects
- Work begins mid-May
- Majority around Shady Rest
- Additional work to be completed by other partners

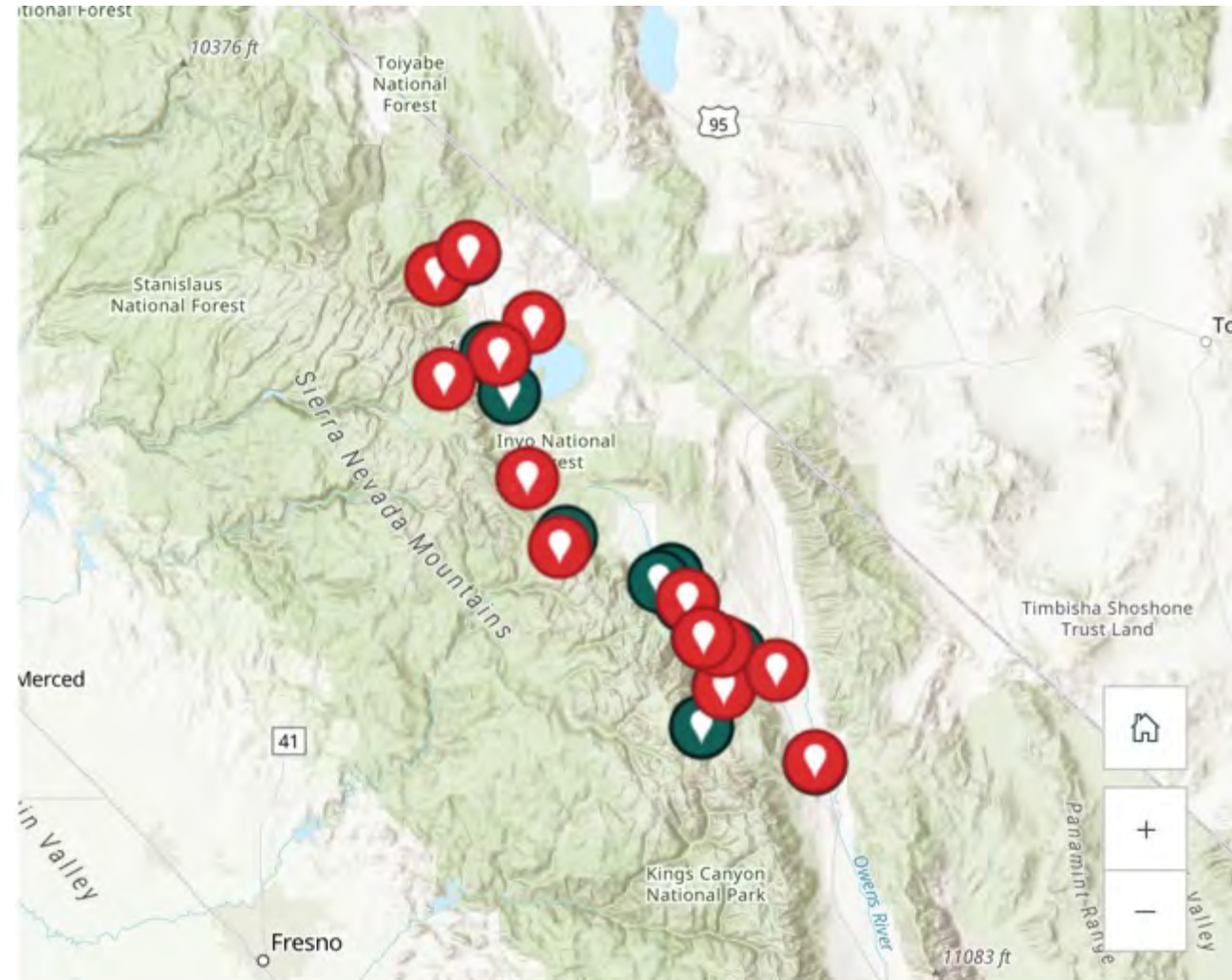




## 2026 Community-Directed Grants Open Now!

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- Grants up to \$5,000 for community driven projects
- Strengthen community resilience & support healthy landscapes
- Applications accepted until May 11, 2026
- More information available: [WhitebarkInstitute.org/community-directed-grants](https://WhitebarkInstitute.org/community-directed-grants)



**EDISON**  
INTERNATIONAL®

## Upcoming Opportunities

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- **Mammoth Lakes' Climate Action and Adaptation Plan**
  - Roadmap in development to increase Town's Climate Resilience
  - **Public Meeting: April 8, 5:30pm**
- **Wildfire Resilience Month**
  - Events to learn and prepare communities
  - Sierra Spark Festival: Bishop May 3
  - Science on Tap
  - Town Clean Up & Sustainability Fair
  - Workshops



**IGNITE AWARENESS NOT WILDFIRES**

**4th Annual Eastern Sierra WILDFIRE RESILIENCE MONTH** Regional Community Events

**MAY 3**  
**SIERRA SPARK!**  
**Wildfire Ready Festival**

- FREE Green Waste Disposal Onsite
- Workshops & Exhibits
- Resources & Demonstrations
- Kid's Zone & Food Trucks
- Participate to Win Prizes

**10am- 2pm**  
**Bishop City Park**

THE FELT CUTOUTS  
LIVE MUSIC!

**MAY 7**  
**Science on Tap Speaker Series**  
**Fire Adapted Forests**  
Sarah M. Bisbing, PhD  
University of Nevada, Reno  
**6:30-7:30pm**  
**Mountain Rambler Brewery, Bishop**

**MAY 16**  
**Mammoth Community Cleanup and Sustainability Fair**  
FREE Green Waste Disposal  
Wildfire Taskforce Resources & BBQ  
**9am-1pm**  
**Community Recreation Center**

**MAY 28**  
**The Wildfire Laboratory**  
**Science That Reduces Ignition Risk**  
Steve Hawks - Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety's Research Center  
**5:30-6:30pm**  
**Online Webinar - Link at website**

**Find MORE community preparedness events near you!**  
**WhitebarkInstitute.org/events**

Funding for this project provided in part by Edison International, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the California Fire Safe Council, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.



# 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, May 4, 2026 @ 3:30