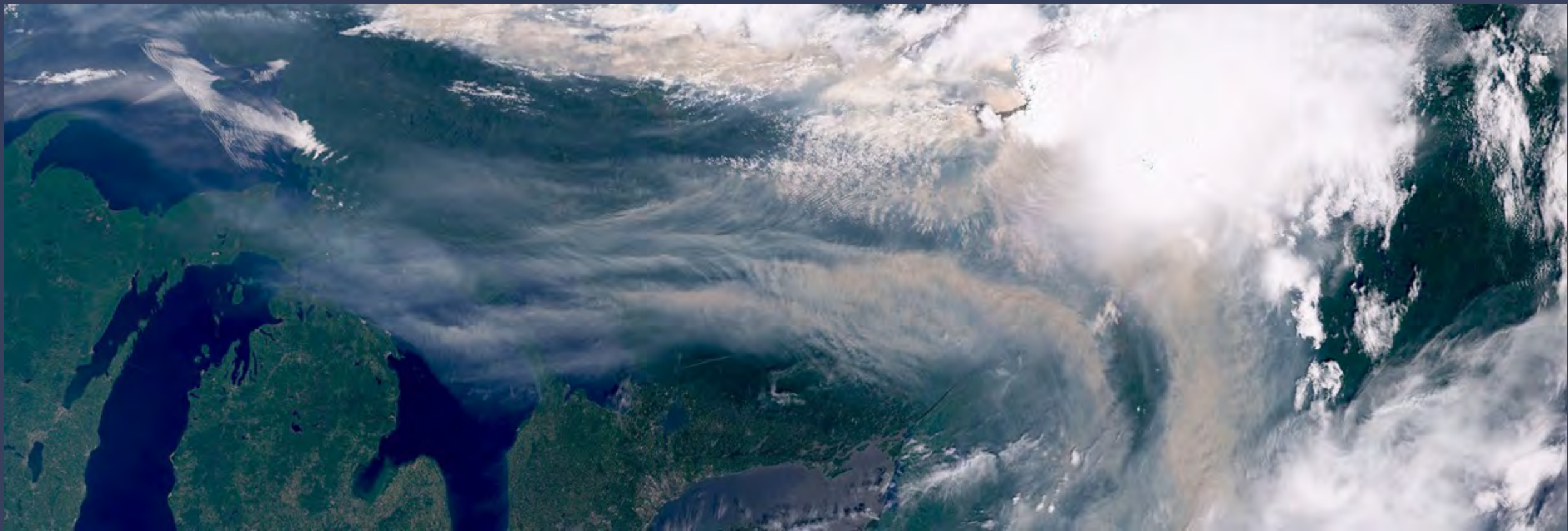




EUMETSAT

Monitoring Weather and Climate from Space



Summer



REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



August 3, 2026





REGULAR PARTNER MEETING



August 3, 2026



Recording in Progress

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

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

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

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

What is the ESSRP



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

What is the ESSRP

Alpine

SIERRA WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS

CALIFORNIA
JOBS FIRST
Sierra Region

SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA
AN INITIATIVE OF SFJ

MLTPA
MANMOUTH LINKS TRAIL & PUBLIC ACCESS



Sierra Jobs First

Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

- Role of the ESSRP
 - Ongoing Information Sharing
 - SJF Recreation and Tourism Working Group Updates
 - **Next to Very Last - !**

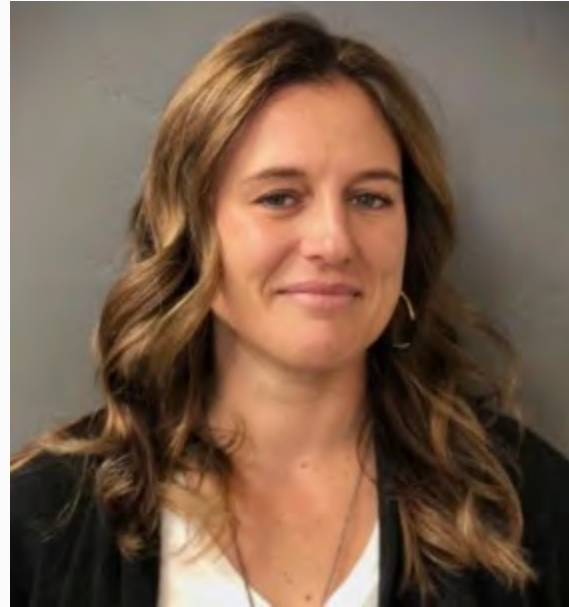
Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



CALTRANS District 9

- Katherine Rzepczynski
 - *Transportation Planning*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



CAL POLY Humboldt

- Geneviève Marchand
 - *Professor, Recreation Administration*
 - *PhD, MBA*
 - *Outdoor Economy Summitt*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Sierra Nevada Conservancy

- Board Meeting & Tours
 - Mono County
 - September 2-3

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Town of Mammoth Lakes

- Chris Bubser
- *Council Member*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



Winter Wildlands

- David Page
 - *Executive Director*

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells



David T. Page

📅 September 7th, 1968 • July 7th, 2026

“and underneath pounded liberty, ready to spring
— Julio Cortázar —
y debajo latía la libertad agazapada”

Hot Links August 3, 2026

Welcome

What is the ESSRP

Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)

Review the critical documents of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership

Origin Story

Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan

Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative

Sierra Works

Sierra Works: Discover

Welcomes, Giving Thanks, and Farewells

Welcome

CALTRANS District 9

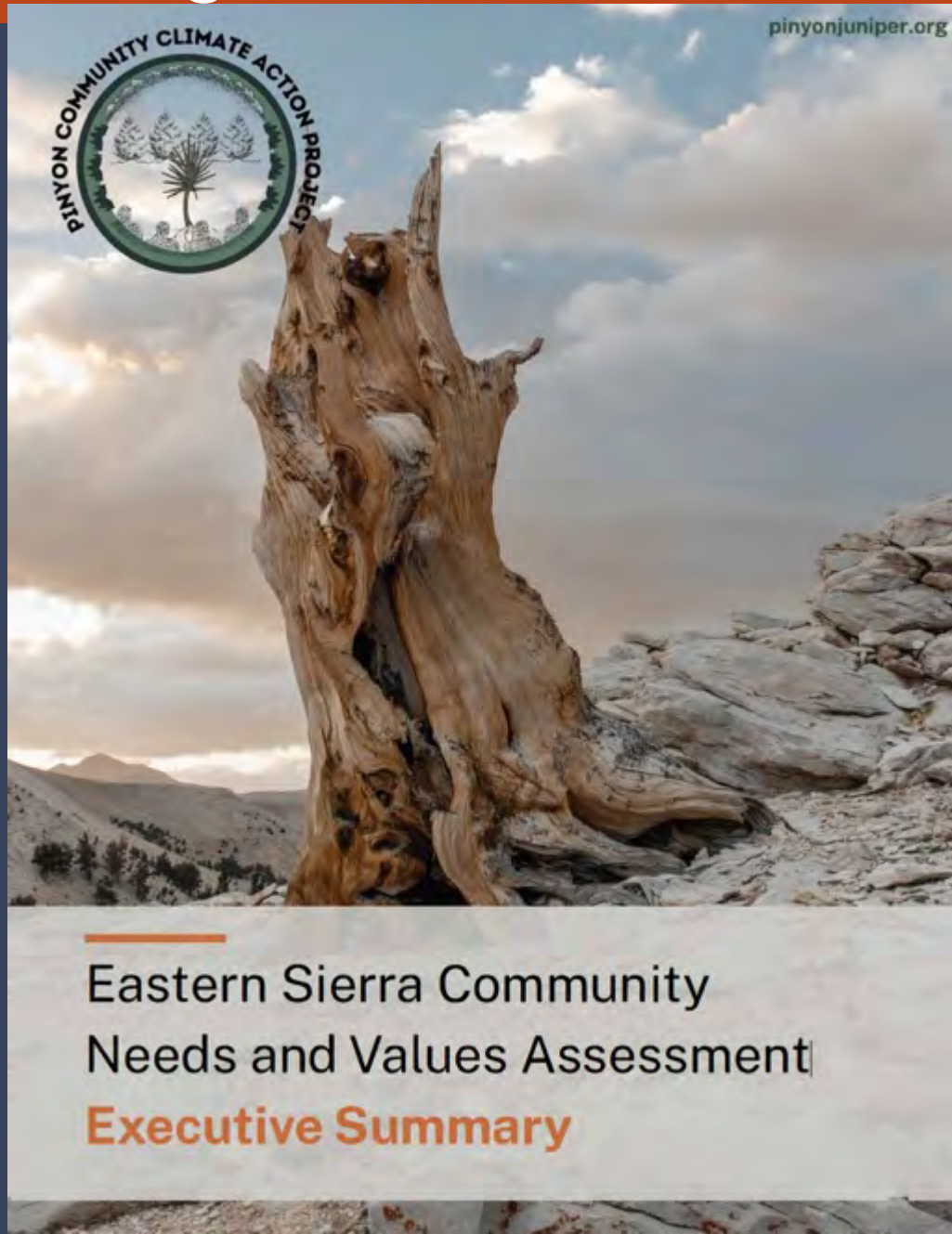
Katherine Rzepczynski Caltrans District 9 Transportation Planning

SNC Board Meeting

September 2 & 3, 2026

Farewells

Happenings of Interest



Community Needs and Values Assessment (CNVA) Feedback Form

Thank you for taking the time to review the Eastern Sierra Community Needs and Values Assessment (CNVA). This short feedback form is designed to gather your valuable insights on the CNVA, which is scheduled to be released sometime next year.

Summary: The purpose of the Eastern Sierra Community Needs and Values Assessment (CNVA) is to establish, define, and illuminate community needs and values in the Eastern Sierra region across several focus areas (e.g., forest management, recreation, cultural values) for current and future generations. Our goal was to bring together community perspectives and knowledge through empirical, social science research and collaboration to help bridge the gap between research, policy, and practice. Special attention is given to the role of forest ecosystems and their unique influence in shaping community health, cultural practices, and ecological resilience for Tribal Nations in the Eastern Sierra.

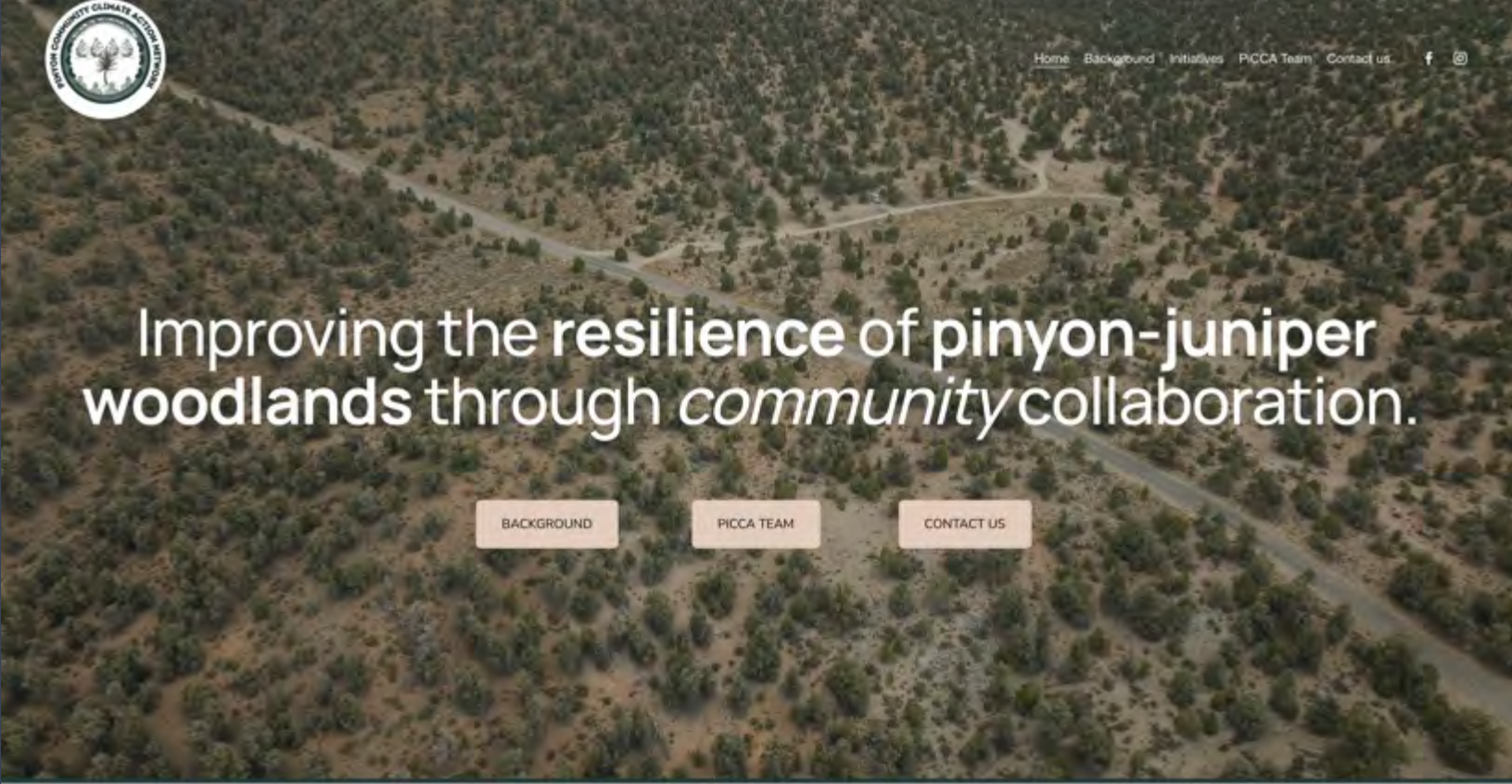
Instructions: This feedback form, which will take 10-15 minutes (or longer for detailed comments) to complete, is structured to gather input on the content, clarity, completeness, and framing of the CNVA. We would greatly appreciate your detailed feedback wherever possible. Yet, if you have limited time, please feel free to focus on the sections that are most applicable to your areas of expertise. When providing input, we encourage you to be as specific as possible (i.e., specify the sentence, paragraph, and page number of the edit you are proposing), particularly when suggesting edits or improvements. Your input is essential to ensure that our findings accurately reflect community priorities and aspirations and we will be sure to review every edit and comment submitted using this form in detail. While we will give every comment careful consideration, this report is developed based on empirical research; therefore, we will maintain the integrity of the research based on the data collected and analysis completed. **We will NOT share any individual responses you provide from this form and we will aggregate responses.**

Thank you! We appreciate your time and effort in completing this form, and we are committed to using your feedback to enhance this work and foster ongoing collaboration. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey!

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

Not shared

Happenings of Interest



 [Home](#) [Background](#) [Initiatives](#) [PiCCA Team](#) [Contact us](#) [f](#) [@](#)

Improving the resilience of pinyon-juniper woodlands through *community* collaboration.

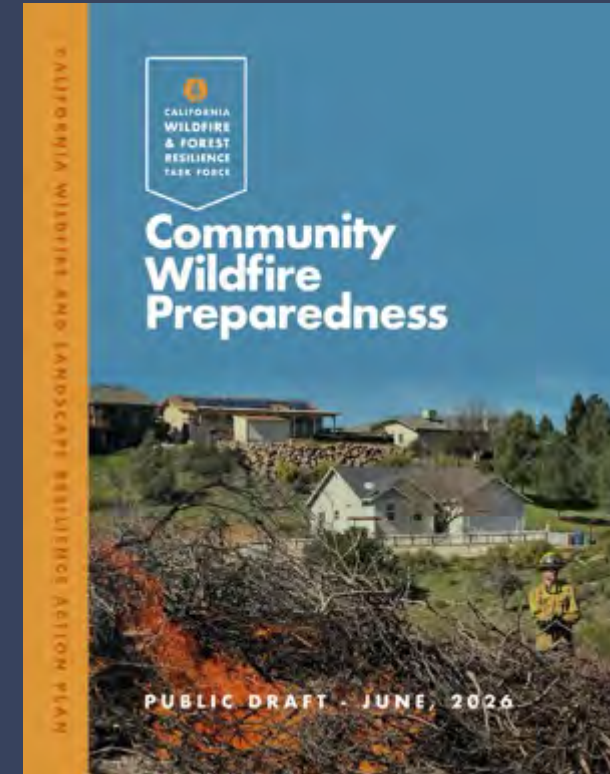
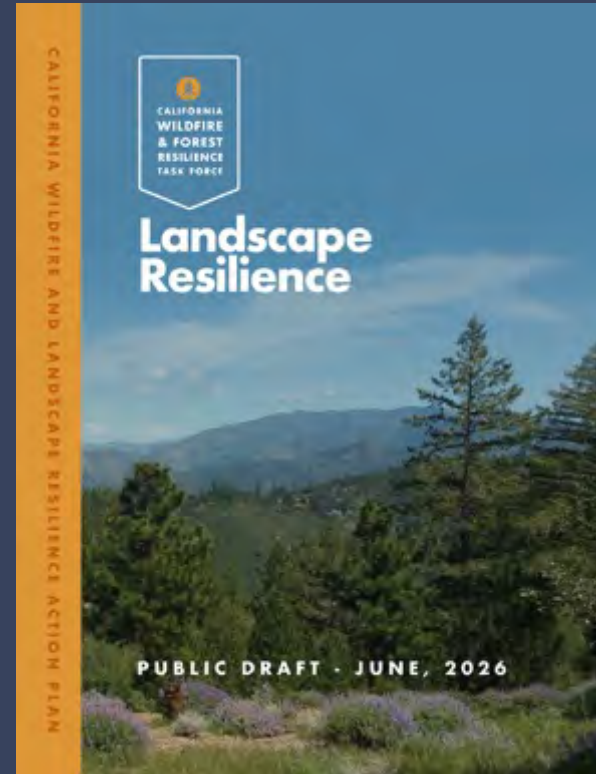
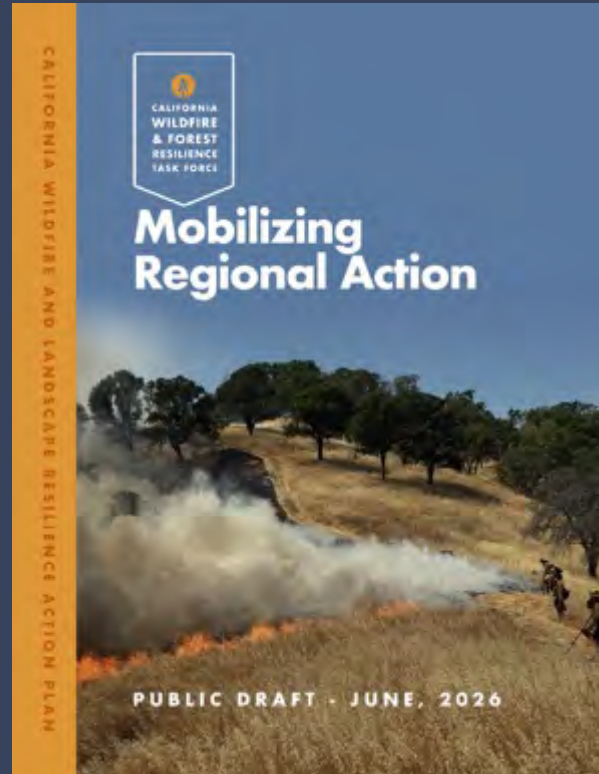
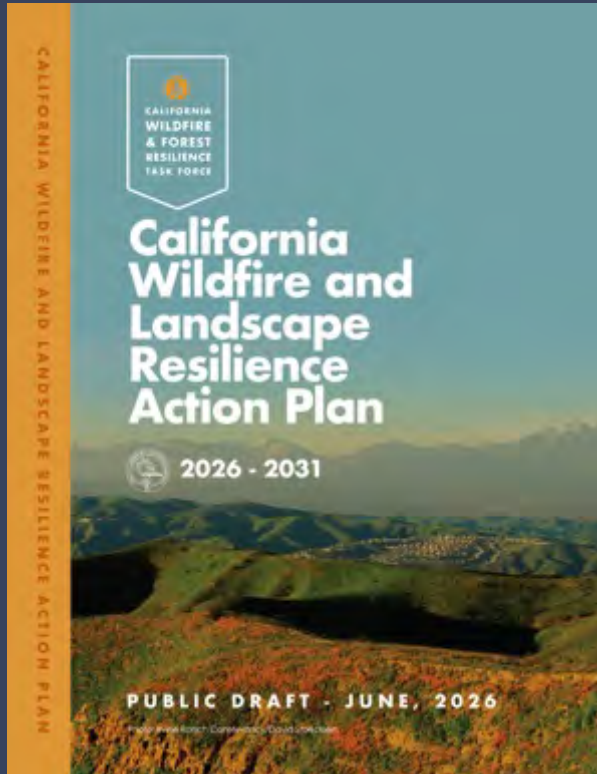
[BACKGROUND](#) [PiCCA TEAM](#) [CONTACT US](#)

What is the PiCCA Network?

Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest



October 22-24, 2026, Ashland, Oregon

The 2026 Summit will take place Thursday-Saturday, October 22-24, in Ashland, Oregon and surrounding areas. The summit combines fun and high impact in-person networking opportunities with conference programming on the important issues of the day, educational content, trails stewardship work parties, and in-field tours and workshops.

Oregon's trails, mountain ranges, scenic rivers, valleys, and canyons, high desert, and iconic coast are treasured by Oregonians and visitors alike. Access to nature and outdoor recreation is foundational to our health and happiness. The outdoors can simultaneously be our refuge to get away from it all and a gathering force to build lifelong, joy-filled connections with each other and with the ecosystems that sustain us. Oregon outdoor recreation is foundational to our communities: driving our state's tourism economy, nurturing a thriving web of local businesses and community partnerships, building understanding of our relationship with the natural world, creating a foundation for a shared sense of identity and belonging.

The summit will bring together Oregon's outdoor community to learn, build relationships, and find solutions to the challenges we face in developing and elevating outdoor recreation opportunities to best serve Oregon communities and celebrate and protect our natural, cultural, and historic wonders. The Summit seeks to accelerate efforts around:

- **Access & Reconnection to Nature:** Increasing inclusion and belonging in the outdoors close to home and in Oregon's iconic landscapes, addressing barriers to access and fostering community resilience, enhancing physical and mental health outcomes, deepening understanding and respect for the ecosystems that sustain us.
- **Sustainable Recreation:** Environmentally responsible recreation, sustainable trails development, destination stewardship, planning, and management that promotes conservation, adapts to climate change impacts, and ensures long-term sustainability, Treaty Rights, and cultural respect.
- **Economic Prosperity:** Fostering strong local and statewide outdoor recreation and tourism economies, creating jobs, strengthening career pathways, supporting local businesses, and promoting equitable economic opportunities within Oregon's outdoor recreation sector.
- **Creativity & Innovation:** Cultivating effective cross-sector partnerships, movement building, resilience, and agile problem-solving, emerging research, and fresh and creative approaches to meet an ever-changing landscape.



Latino Conservation Week 2026 Interest Form

Thank you for your interest in Latino Conservation Week. Please use this form to either share an event or express interest in hosting one. Head to the [LCW website](#) for more information, and please reach out if you have any questions.

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

* Indicates required question

Email *

Your email

Contact Information (First & Last Name) *

Your answer

The logo for the Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance, featuring a stylized tree and the text "WHITEBARK INSTITUTE".

EASTERN SIERRA WILDFIRE ALLIANCE

Next Meeting: August 5th, 2026

Prepare for our Q3 Meeting

- 1. RSVP For Lunch**

Lunch will be provided for in-person attendees. To help us plan accordingly, please let us know if you plan to attend in person by clicking the button below.

[RSVP For August 5 Lunch](#)
- 2. California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience**

In preparation for discussion about whether ESWA should formally adopt California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Alliance please review the following materials:

[Full Joint Strategy](#)

[Joint Strategy Cheat Sheet](#)

Happenings of Interest



Islands

DESTINATIONS > UNITED STATES > CALIFORNIA

This Stretch Of 'California's Most Scenic Drive' Through The Sierra Nevadas Is Lined With Lake Views And Campsites

By Natasha Bourlin ~ July 29, 2026 12:45 pm EST



Campphoto/Getty Images



Islands

DESTINATIONS > UNITED STATES > CALIFORNIA

Forget Lake Tahoe, Visit California's Gorgeous Mountain Gem With Refreshing Waters, Trails, And Fewer Crowds

By Kelley Dukat ~ July 19, 2026 3:45 pm EST



Aoldman/Getty Images

Happenings of Interest





By AWE · July 26, 2026

The Rodeo: One of the Best Eastern Sierra Events You've Probably Never Heard Of

Every July in Bridgeport, a remarkable gathering brings together Western artists, makers, ranchers, cowboys, musicians, poets, and food...

Arts Bridgeport Culture History Mono



By AWE · July 1, 2026

Dark Sky Festival: A Front Row Seat to the Universe

Death Valley Events Inyo Local



By Team Awe · July 1, 2026

Best Restaurants in Mammoth Lakes: Where to Eat in 2026

Food Local Mammoth Mono



By Team Awe · June 10, 2026

Eastern Sierra Pack Stations: A Guide to Horseback Riding and Pack Trips

Big Pine Bridgeport Independence Inyo June Lake Lee Vining Lone Pine Mammoth Mono



By Team Awe

Teens. Broncs. Dirt. Chaos. It's That Time Again: Don't Sleep on the California High School Rodeo Championships

Okay hikers, climbers, trail runners, anglers, and tourists. Did you know one of the coolest events in Bishop...



August 27, 2026 | 12pm PT

An Introduction to the Outdoor Recreation Access and Participation Survey (ORAPS)

Register to Join Us www.recpro.org/events



Webinar: Intro to the Outdoor Recreation Access and Participation Survey

This webinar is brought to you by SORP and NASORLO.

The ORAPS is a cost-efficient, standardized, scientifically rigorous system for collecting and disseminating information on outdoor recreation access, constraints, needs, participation, and benefits for U.S. households at the county, state, and national levels. Modules on access, health, economics, and time in nature are also core to the ORAPS. We have proposed a two-step implementation to the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund program: 1) An initial 50-state survey (plus the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories) to provide baseline national data representative at the state-level, followed by 2) a rotating 5-year cycle collecting county-block-level data in ten states and one U.S. territory per year. This webinar is designed to introduce state liaisons, state park directors, grant administrators, and others who support outdoor access to the ORAPS project and to garner further support for implementation.

Register

Happenings of Interest

Read today's Edition

THE BEE

NEWS SPORTS POLITICS RESTAURANTS OPINION GAMES OBITUARIES FINANCE CLASSIFIEDS CA 80°F

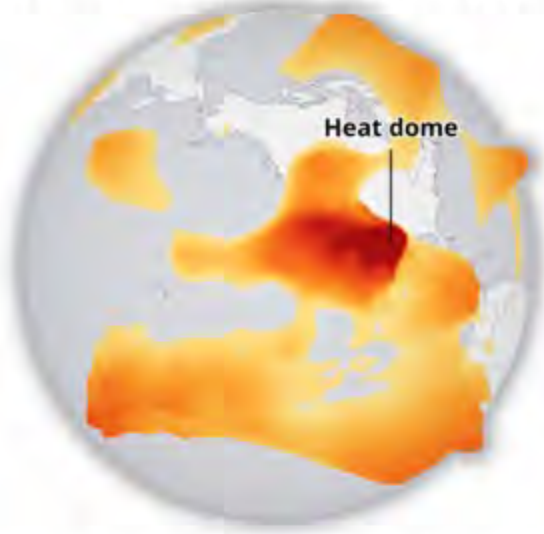
WEATHER NEWS

Largest heat dome on Earth plus El Niño-fueled Genevieve to bake California this weekend

By Sean Macaday

Updated July 30, 2026 2:59 PM [Gift Article](#)

Forecast for heat domes on Friday, July 31



Heat domes are an accumulation of warm, high pressure air high in the atmosphere. The largest on Earth will be over Southern California on Friday. *McClatchy Media*

Happenings of Interest

The Guardian US

NewsOpinionSportCultureLifestyle

US newsUS politicsMidterms 2026WorldClimate crisisMiddle EastUkraineUS immigrationSoccer

Extreme heat
Scorching US heatwave to hit 70 million people with third 'heat dome' in month

Temperatures of 95-105F (35-40C) are expected, spanning Gulf of Mexico coast to the Great Plains and the midwest



Families seek refuge in the pool at the North Hollywood recreation center in Los Angeles, California, on 20 July 2026. Photograph: Chris Torres/EPA

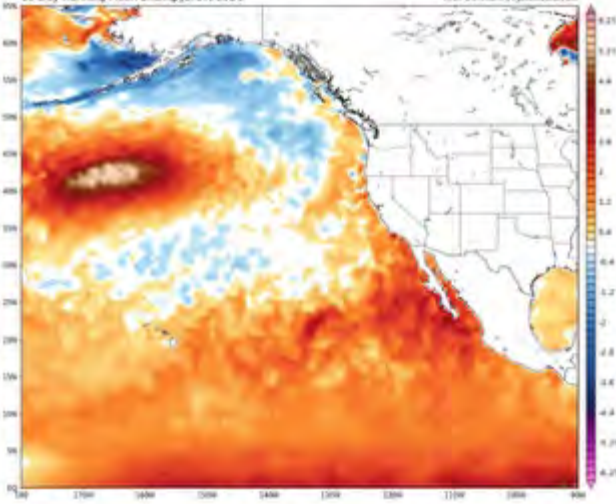
Weather West
California weather and climate perspectives

Building Western ridge will bring double-peaked Southwest U.S. heatwave into August, with elevated humidity persisting in SoCal due to very warm ocean

578 Comments / Weather/Climate Discussion / Daniel Swain / July 28, 2026

Continued ocean warming brings increasingly warm and humid conditions to coastal SoCal

NOAA Coral Reef Watch Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (°C)
15 Day Running Mean Ending Jul 27, 2026



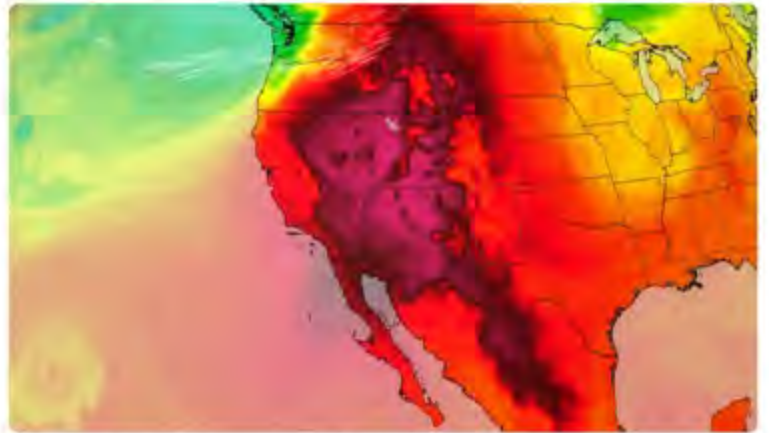
Map of observed sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies across the northeastern Pacific. Over the past 2 weeks, near-shore water temperatures are now well above average along the entire California coast and have approached record levels in parts of the SoCal Bight. (cyclonicwx.com)

CNN Weather WatchSubscribeSign in

WEATHER · 4 MIN READ

A record-challenging heat dome is about to bake the West with the summer's hottest temperatures so far

UPDATED JUL 31, 2026
By Meteorologist Tyler Ory and  Andrew Freedman



Model forecast for soaring temperatures this weekend. (CNN Weather)

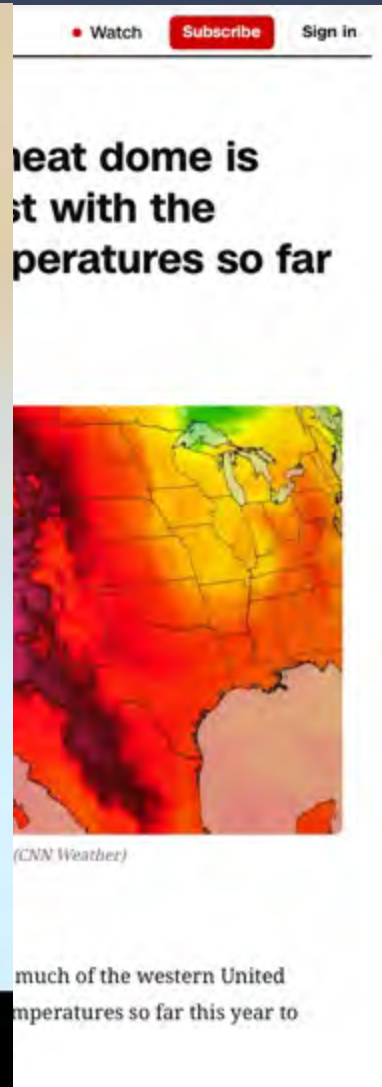


An unusually strong heat dome will scorch much of the western United States this weekend, bringing the hottest temperatures so far this year to tens of millions from California to Canada.

Happenings of Interest



August, but it is probably going to be a very long period

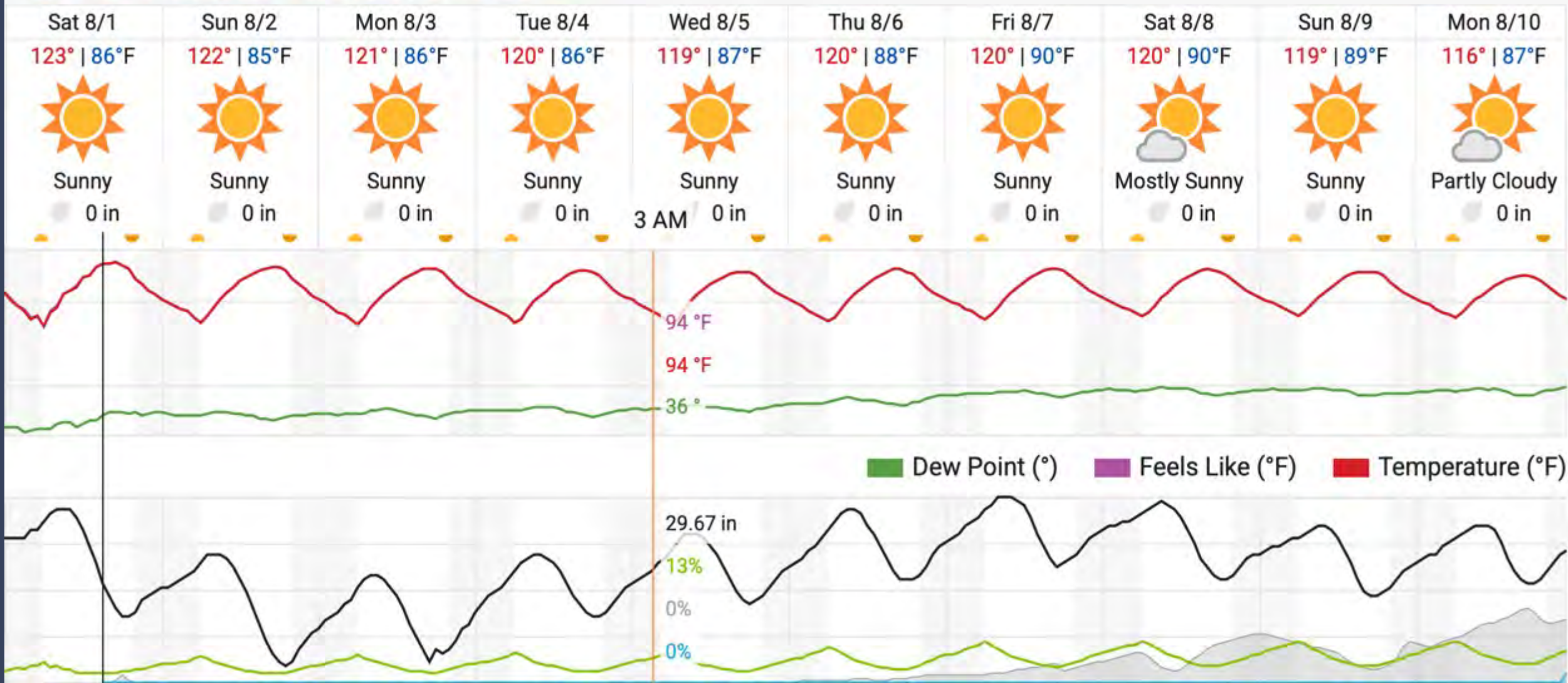


Happenings of Interest

Elev 2677 ft, 36.46 °N, 116.86 °W

Death Valley, CA 10-Day Weather Forecast

☀️ **112° PAHRUMP STATION** | [CHANGE](#) ✓



MOLLY TAFT

SCIENCE JUL 31, 2026 5:00 AM

What's Behind the Heat Wave Scorching Huge Parts of the World

A combination of El Niño, unusually hot ocean waters, and jet stream changes is sending temperatures soaring in the US, Europe, and Asia.



Happenings of Interest

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

NEWS SPORTS POLITICS RESTAURANTS OPINION GAMES OBITUARIES FINANCE CLASSIFIEDS CAREERS

CALIFORNIA

Super El Niño charging 'full steam ahead,' potentially drenching California like never before

By Sean Macaday

Updated July 31, 2026 11:15 PM  Gift Article



Rain clouds roll over downtown Sacramento in 2021. Hector Amezcua hamezcua@sacbee.com

Happenings of Interest

San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition

Account

WEATHER

El Niño is here — and likely to be historic. Here's how California will be impacted

By Anthony Edwards, Newsroom Meteorologist

June 11, 2025

Gift Article



El Niño has arrived. It is expected to be particularly strong and to bring more rain and storms to California, though that is not a guarantee. Here, a rainy San Francisco day is seen in 2023.

Santiago Mejia/S.F. Chronicle

El Niño is here, and it's only getting stronger.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Thursday announced El Niño is present in the tropical Pacific and issued an advisory for the climate pattern that is expected to last through at least March 2027. The agency forecasts greater than 90% odds of a "strong" El Niño and a 63% chance of a "very strong" event by early winter.



ENERGY MIX

SUBSCRIBE

'Planet Already on Fire' as Strong El Niño Adds Fuel, UN and Scientists Warn

August 1, 2025 · Reading time: 5 minutes

Full Story: The Associated Press, with files from The Energy Mix

Author: Seth Borenstein, Edith M. Lederer



CAN Europe/Flickr

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A strengthening El Niño that has already broken records for intensity at its early stages will likely spark even more wild weather worldwide as it grows, "adding fuel to a planet already on fire," United Nations officials warned Friday.

A key area of the Pacific Ocean used to measure the strength of El Niño this week reached its warmest and most intense level ever recorded for the 15th week since it formed, still early in its lifetime, scientists at Columbia University reported.

El Niño—a natural warming of the Pacific near the equator that warps weather patterns worldwide—won't peak for several months and should last through spring 2027, The Associated Press reports. The UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) cautioned on Friday that it will likely trigger extreme heat, drought, and rainfall well into next year.

"Two months ago, I warned that El Niño was arriving on our doorstep. Now it is inside the house—and turning up the heat," United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres told reporters Friday. "We have already endured a summer of extremes—record-shattering heat domes; apocalyptic wildfires raging in Spain, France and far beyond; thousands of lives lost in the scorching conditions."

SEVERE WEATHER EUROPE

Super El Niño Drives an August Weather Shift as Fall and Winter Signals Strengthen

By Anthony Edwards

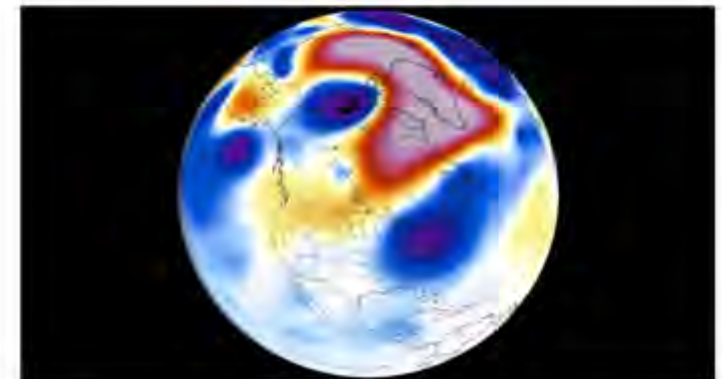
Published: 06/07/2025

Larry Green / Associated Press

A powerful **Super El Niño** is showing rapid development across the tropical Pacific, with increasingly visible **atmospheric impacts**. The latest ocean analysis and forecast data show the event moving toward potential record intensity in late Fall and early Winter, with a **broad circulation response** already emerging in the atmosphere.

July has already produced pressure and temperature patterns across the United States and Canada that closely match past strong El Niño events. The **August forecast** now reveals the next phase of development, as increasing **Pacific forcing** begins to reshape the jet stream, growing its influence into **Fall and Winter**.

In this specialized forecast article, I first break down the latest ocean analysis and **forecast data**, along with the August trends for the **United States, Canada, and Europe**. Then, you will see how the rapidly growing Super El Niño is projected to trigger an **amplified split-flow** pattern moving from late Summer into Fall and Winter.



Happenings of Interest



U.S. Raises Threat of Steep Water Cuts in Lower Colorado River Basin

A federal plan would impose drastic water cuts on Arizona, California and Nevada in dry years over the next decade. A legal battle could follow.

▶ Listen · 8:27 min

 Share full article  



Water from the Colorado River flowing through an irrigation canal in Arizona earlier this month. *Rebecca Noble/Reuters*

 **By Scott Dance**
Reporting from Washington

July 31, 2026

Communities and farms across Arizona, Nevada and California face potentially drastic cuts in the water they can use from the Colorado River over the next decade under a plan the Trump administration published on Friday.



Climate Weather Politics and Policy Environment Climate Solutions Climate Coac

A new Colorado River plan requires water cuts for three states. Deeper cuts are still possible.

Arizona, California and Nevada will be required to curb their use of water from the river by a combined 20 percent over the next two years, according to three officials.

Yesterday at 6:33 p.m. EDT

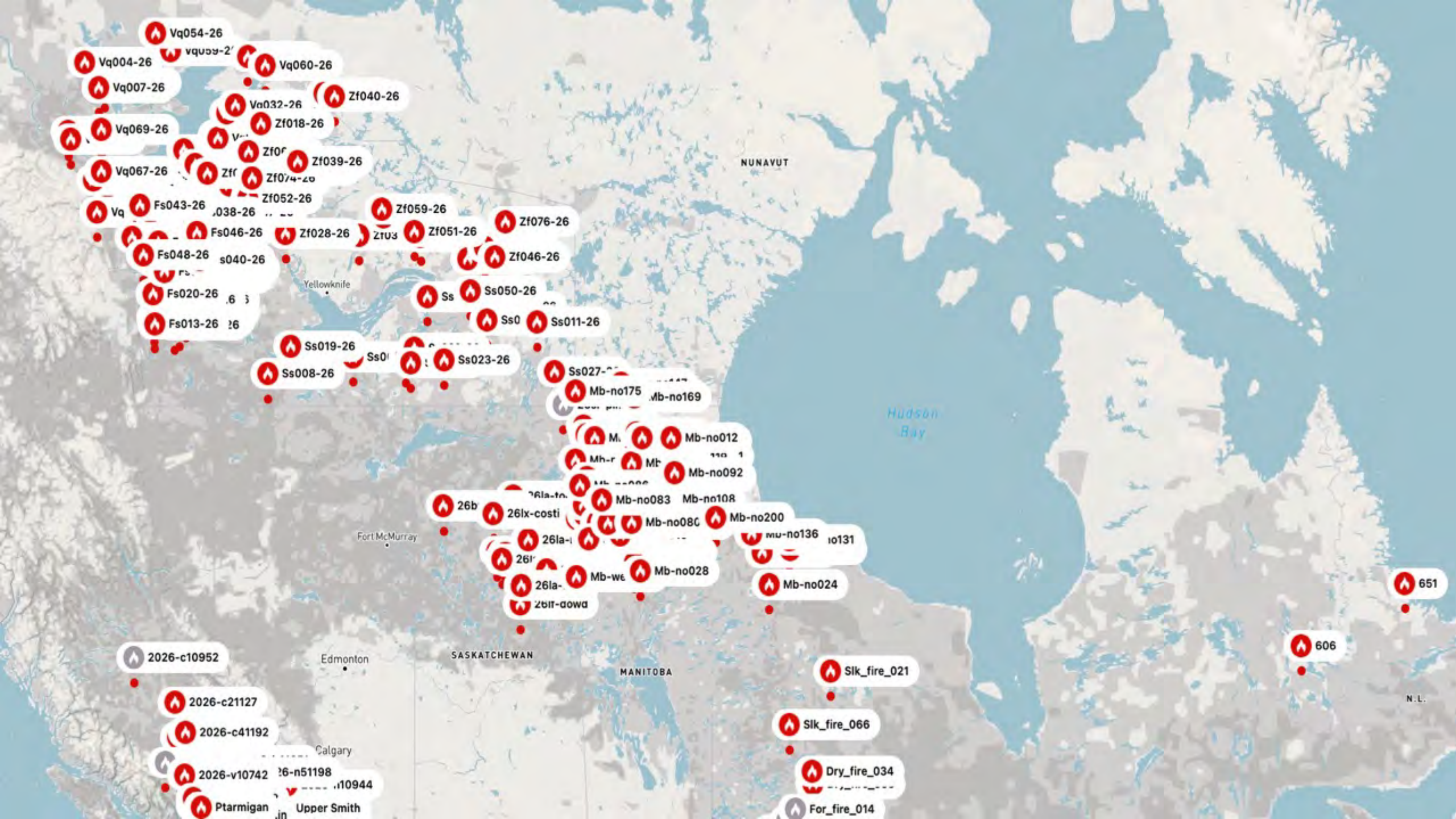
 15 min  Summary   570  Make us preferred on Google



An overlook above Lake Mead, one of the two biggest reservoirs on the Colorado River, near Boulder City, Nevada. *(Corinne Brehm/Reuters)*

By [Sarah Kaplan](#) and [Hannah Knowles](#)

Arizona, California and Nevada will be required to curb their use of the water from the Colorado River by a combined 20 percent over the next two years — and could ultimately face even larger cuts, according to three officials familiar with negotiations over a long-awaited federal plan to rescue the depleted waterway.



Happenings of Interest

The New York Times

North American Wildfires | Wildfire Tracker | Smoke and Air Quality Maps | Protect Yourself From Smoke | Deaths From Wildfire

Wildfire Weather Poses 'Particularly Dangerous Situation' in Pacific Northwest

Forecasters in Washington and Oregon are using their strongest language this weekend to signal a worst-case wildfire threat and get people's attention.

Listen · 5:07 min

Share full article

Forecast risk of fire weather for Saturday

Risk: Elevated Critical Extremely Critical



Notes: Fire weather risk is based on the presence of dry fuels and the forecast for sustained winds, relative humidity, and temperature. Data is as of 1 p.m. Eastern on Aug. 1 and is not available for Alaska and Hawaii. Source: National Weather Service. The New York Times

By Amy Graff

Amy Graff is a reporter on The Times's weather team. She is based in San Francisco.

Published Aug. 1, 2026 Updated Aug. 2, 2026, 4:44 a.m. ET

The New York Times

North American Wildfires | Wildfire Tracker | Smoke and Air Quality Maps | Protect Yourself From Smoke | Deaths From Wildfire

Maps: Tracking Air Quality and Smoke From Wildfires in Canada and the U.S.

By The New York Times
Updated Aug. 2, 2026 at 12:26 p.m. E.T.

Wildfires in Canada, the United States and Mexico often send smoke throughout the continent.

Smoke forecast: Light Medium Heavy



Sun. at 7 p.m.

Note: All times are Eastern time. Data as of 1 p.m. on Aug. 2, 2026. Source: Global Systems Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The New York Times

The New York Times

North American Wildfires | Wildfire Tracker | Smoke and Air Quality Maps | Protect Yourself From Smoke | Deaths From Wildfire

How to Protect Yourself From Wildfire Smoke

Monitor air quality, prepare to stay inside and pay close attention to people with chronic conditions.

Listen · 3:46 min

Share full article

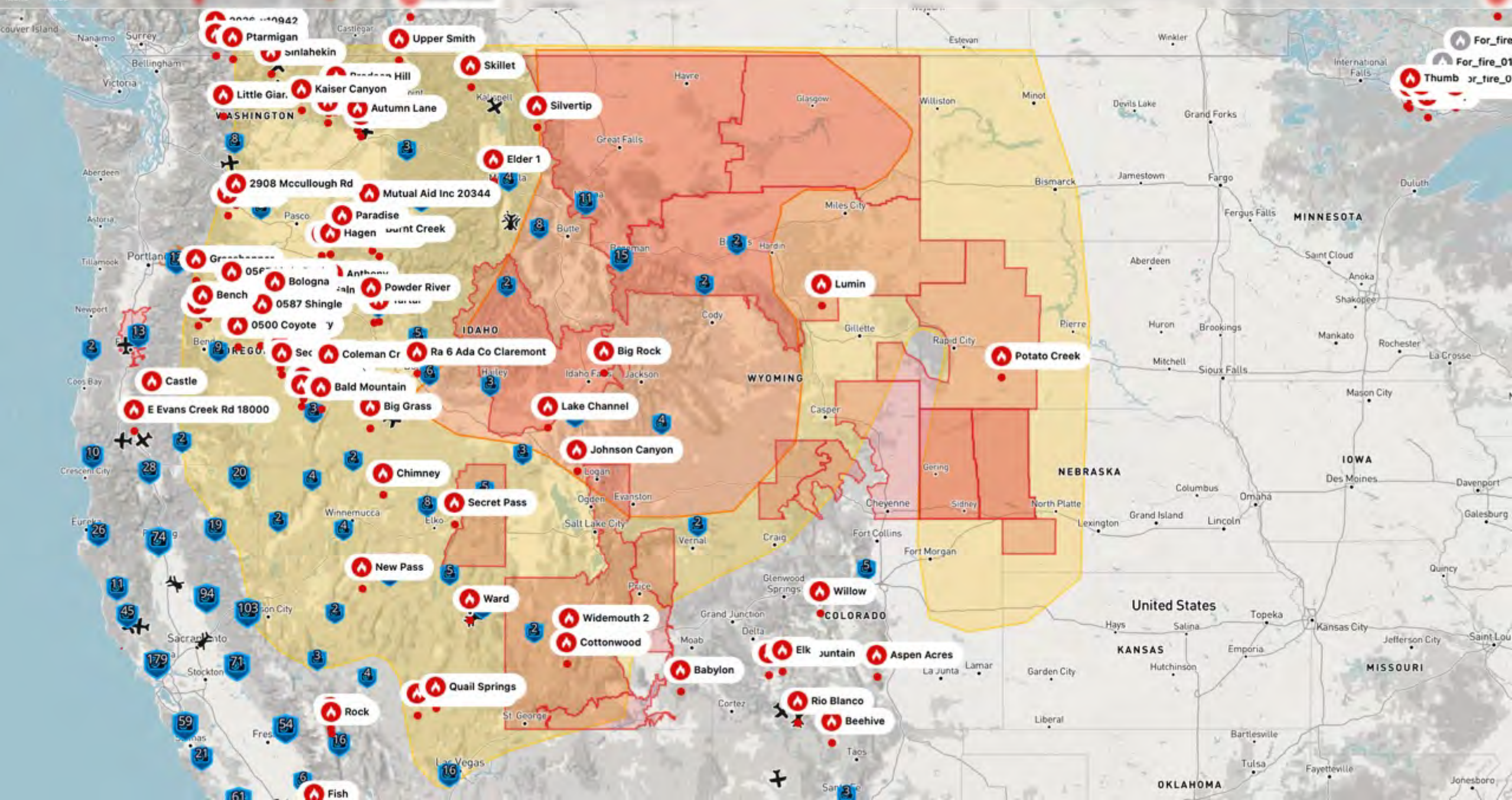


Firefighters conducting a back burn for the Line fire in California. Air quality is poor near several fires in the region. Philip Choung for The New York Times

By Dani Blum

July 16, 2026

Wildfires can generate unhealthy levels of smoke in areas close to where blazes are burning.



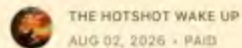
Happenings of Interest

The Hotshot Wake Up



640+ Structures Lost In Spokane, Washington, As Cause Of The Old Trails Fire Is Under Investigation. State Of Emergency Declared. Fires Explode In Utah And Montana.

Entrapment on the Fox Fire in Oregon. 2 wildfire helicopters collide in Greece.



The Hotshot Wake Up Podcast

A Hotshot's view of wildfire and the World.
Weekly worldwide wildfire updates.
Ex Hotshot overhead and crewboss.

- 640+ structures are confirmed lost in Spokane, Washington, due to the Old Trails Fire. The official cause of the fire is under investigation. No confirmed fatalities, but the local fire Chief said that could change based on radio traffic from the fire area.
- A State of Emergency has been declared; the National Guard has been mobilized. In 1991, a fire near Spokane burned 114 homes and killed 2 people, but the Old Trails Fire will likely be the most destructive in Washington history.
- How did so many homes burn? A conversation about the wildland-urban interface.
- Reports of an entrapment on the Fox Fire in Oregon.
- Fires across Montana and Utah also exploded yesterday. Full operational update.
- Two wildfire helicopters collided in Greece, killing 2 firefighters. 150 homes were lost in the fire.

Happenings of Interest

Search all E&E News...

CLIMATEWIRE

Get article

Brutal June heat wave killed as many as 14,000 Europeans

POLITICO calculations show thousands of excess deaths across six worst-hit countries.

BY ZIA WEISE | 07/14/2024 06:11 AM EDT



People swim in the Seine River in Paris during a heatwave. *Samir/Anadolu Agency/AP*

CLIMATEWIRE | BRUSSELS — Last month's record-breaking heat wave killed thousands across Western Europe, making it one of the continent's deadliest climate disasters.

Preliminary official mortality data and researchers' estimates from the six hardest-hit countries point to at least 14,000 excess deaths during the period of extreme heat, according to POLITICO's analysis. The heat wave, which began around June 18 and lasted until July 1, shattered records in several countries. Scientists found that the extraordinary temperatures would have been virtually impossible without human-caused climate change driven by the burning of fossil fuels.

The figures analyzed by POLITICO include around 2,000 excess deaths in France, 1,740 in Belgium, 6,800 in Germany and 480 in the Netherlands, as well as 810 specifically heat-related fatalities in Spain and an estimated 2,200 heat deaths in the United Kingdom.

A separate dataset published Monday by EuroMOMO, a mortality monitoring service supported by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the World Health Organization, showed that its 27 member countries reported 10,650 excess deaths between June 22 and June 28. Those figures could still change as more data trickles in.

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CLIMATEWIRE

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Forest fire near Paris triggers evacuations

Meanwhile in Spain, 10 people were still unaccounted for Monday from a fire that ripped through a remote southern community last week.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS | 07/14/2024 06:09 AM EDT



A firefighting helicopter flies near wildfire smoke in the Fontainebleau forest region, about 70 kilometers south of Paris, on Monday. *Thomas D'Silva/AP*

CLIMATEWIRE | FONTAINEBLEAU, France — A fire raging in the historic and much-visited Fontainebleau forest south of Paris on Monday prompted evacuations of some residential neighborhoods and disrupted train and highway traffic.

It was among several wildfires in western Europe as the region bakes under its third red-alert heat wave this year.

In Spain, 10 people were still unaccounted for Monday from a fire that ripped through a remote southern expatriate community last week, killing 13 people in one of the country's deadliest blazes.

The Fontainebleau forest fire is unusual for its proximity to the French capital — about 70 kilometers (42 miles). The region hosts the Fontainebleau Chateau favored by Napoleon and is popular with visitors from Paris and beyond.

French President Emmanuel Macron said all necessary means were being deployed to fight the fire of "exceptional scale."

Two water-dumping planes were deployed over the area along with hundreds of firefighters, regional fire service spokesperson Paul Laurain told public broadcaster France-Info.

The head of the regional administration, Pierre Ory, told French media that an investigation is underway and that arson was being considered a possibility.

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CLIMATEWIRE

Get article

China's 'Green Great Wall' tames desert growth, but fight continues

Restored ecosystems in drylands can become increasingly self-sustaining over time, but they still require careful management and long-term monitoring.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS | 07/14/2024 06:09 AM EDT



Workers control weeds Yu Yiduo sows along sand dunes covered by goats' droppings, a part of desertification control efforts, in the Ungulai Earthquake Area near Ordos in China's Inner Mongolia province on June 19. *Ng Han Guan/AP*

CLIMATEWIRE | KUBUQI DESERT, China — For half a century, millions of workers have repeated a task across the deserts in northern China: inserting forearm-length sticks into shifting sand, first in a row, then in an intersecting line, gradually forming a grid. Then saplings are planted at the center of each small square.

The technique, known as "straw checkerboards," is a simple yet widely used method to stabilize sand dunes against the wind and help plants take root by using water supplied through an irrigation system.

The widespread lattice it created across the sand has become the iconic image of China's decades-long campaign against the spreading of desert conditions, known as the Three-North Protective Forest Program or the Green Great Wall.

The generations of work have yielded measurable progress, but scientists caution that preserving the gains will require decades of continued effort.

For a long time, drought, overgrazing and farming removed vegetation, harmed the soil and made areas vulnerable to wind and sandstorms. That kind of degradation of the land over time is known as desertification. The area of desertified land in northern China peaked in 2000, and it has been reduced by over 1,000 square kilometers (400 square miles) each year since then, according to data published by state media.

Happenings of Interest

Search all E&E News...

CLIMATEWIRE

Brutal June heat wave killed as many as 14,000 Europeans

POLITICO calculations show thousands of excess deaths across six worst-hit countries.

BY ZIA WEISE | 07/14/2024 06:11 AM EDT



People swim in the Seine River in Paris during a heat wave. *Saint-Denis, AFP*

CLIMATEWIRE | BRUSSELS — Last month's record-breaking heat wave killed thousands across Western Europe, making it one of the continent's deadliest climate disasters.

Preliminary official mortality data and researchers' estimates from the six hardest-hit countries point to at least 14,000 excess deaths during the period of extreme heat, according to POLITICO's analysis.

The heat wave, which began around June 18 and lasted until July 1, shattered records in several countries. Scientists found that the extraordinary temperatures would have been virtually impossible without human-caused climate change driven by the burning of fossil fuels.

The figures analyzed by POLITICO include around 2,000 excess deaths in France, 1,740 in Belgium, 6,800 in Germany and 480 in the Netherlands, as well as 810 specifically heat-related fatalities in Spain and an estimated 2,200 heat deaths in the United Kingdom.

A separate dataset published Monday by EuroMOMO, a mortality monitoring service supported by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the World Health Organization, showed that its 27 member countries reported 10,650 excess deaths between June 22 and June 28. Those figures could still change as more data trickles in.

Search all E&E News...

CLIMATEWIRE

Forest fire near Paris triggers evacuations

Meanwhile in Spain, 10 people were still unaccounted for Monday from a fire that ripped through a remote southern community last week.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS | 07/14/2024 06:09 AM EDT



A firefighting helicopter flies near wildfire smoke in the Fontainebleau forest region, about 70 kilometers south of Paris, on Monday. *Thomas D'Silva/AP*

CLIMATEWIRE | FONTAINEBLEAU, France — A fire raging in the historic and much-visited Fontainebleau forest south of Paris on Monday prompted evacuations of some residential neighborhoods and disrupted train and highway traffic.

It was among several wildfires in western Europe as the region bakes under its third red-alert heat wave this year.

In Spain, 10 people were still unaccounted for Monday from a fire that ripped through a remote southern expatriate community last week, killing 13 people in one of the country's deadliest blazes.

The Fontainebleau forest fire is unusual for its proximity to the French capital — about 70 kilometers (42 miles). The region hosts the Fontainebleau Chateau favored by Napoleon and is popular with visitors from Paris and beyond.

French President Emmanuel Macron said all necessary means were being deployed to fight the fire of "exceptional scale."

Two water-dumping planes were deployed over the area along with hundreds of firefighters, regional fire service spokesperson Paul Laurain told public broadcaster France-Info.

The head of the regional administration, Pierre Ory, told French media that an investigation is underway and that arson was being considered a possibility.

Search all E&E News...

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

U.S. Forest Service - Inyo National Forest
July 27 at 7:59 PM

Updates for the #RockFire and #CinderComplex are planned to be produced once a day, in the evening.

Cinder Complex
Location: Tinnemaha Road and Taboose Creek Road, North of Aberdeen, Inyo County, CA
Size: 2,784 acres Percent contained: 39%
Unified Command: CAL FIRE, USFS, BLM and Inyo Sheriff
Cause: Lightning Start date: July 24, 2026

Rock Fire
Location: Black Rock Springs Road and Hwy 395, Poverty Hills, Inyo County, CA
Size: 12,008 acres Percent contained: 62%
Unified Command: CAL FIRE, USFS, BLM and Inyo Sheriff
Cause: Under Investigation by CAL FIRE Law Enforcement
Start date: July 20, 2026

CURRENT SITUATION:

There continued to be minimal fire activity across both the Rock Fire and Cinder Complex Monday. However, unconsumed fuels in the interior of both fires continue to smolder. Firefighters continue mopping up hot spots and patrolling for smoke. Fire suppression repair is underway.

WEATHER:

Drier air remains across the region today, with RH dipping to around 10% and temperatures soaring into triple digits. No thunderstorm activity is forecasted through this week. This weather pattern is expected to last for several days.

EVACUATION, SHELTER, AND CLOSURE INFORMATION: Visit Ready Inyo <https://tr.ee/ReadyInyo> for the most current and up to date Road Closures, Shelter Locations and Evacuation information.

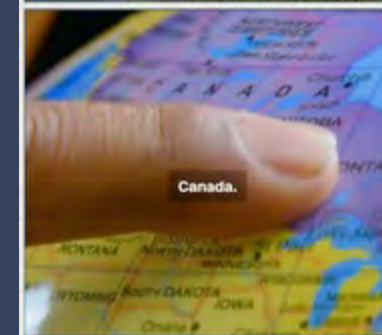
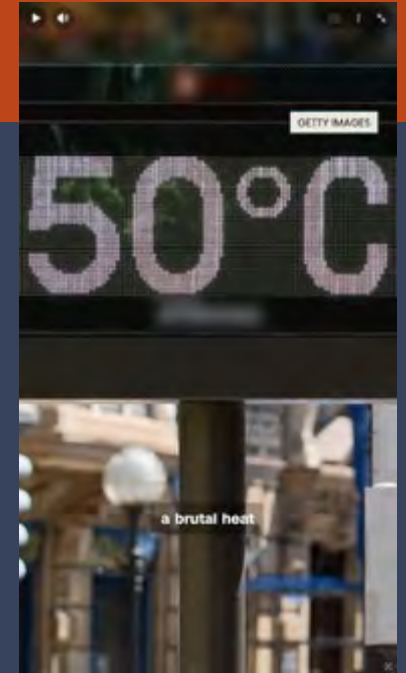
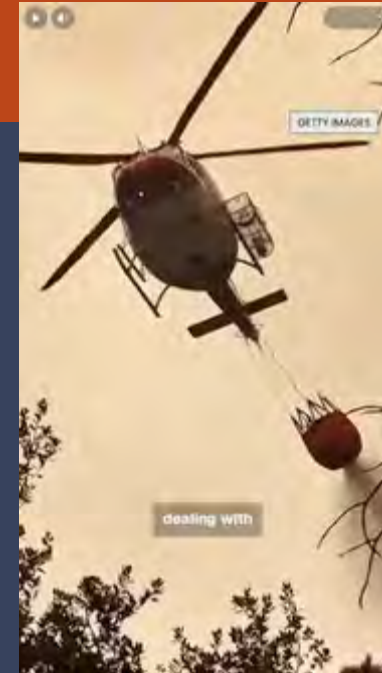
Photo - Smoke activity and fire behavior has greatly decreased on the Rock Fire.



Sydney Quinn and 116 others

8 comments 8 shares

Happenings of Interest



Happenings of Interest - Climate

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The New York Times

Climate and Environment

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



Rebecca Imboden/Reuters

U.S. Raises Threat of Steep Water Cuts in Lower Colorado River Basin

A federal plan would impose drastic water cuts on Arizona, California and Nevada in dry years over the next decade. A legal battle could follow.

1d ago · By SCOTT DANCE



Photo: Lynch for The New York Times

Plug-In Solar Panels Are Starting to Sprout in U.S. Backyards

Ten U.S. states have legalized systems that can be plugged into standard wall outlets. The technology typically does not require permits or electricians.

2d ago · By RYAN PENN and CLAIRE BROWN

Earth's Warming Primed France and Spain to Burn, Scientists Find

The likelihood of hot, dry weather that helps wildfires spread has increased sharply in Europe in recent decades, according to a new report.

2d ago · By RAYMOND ZHONG



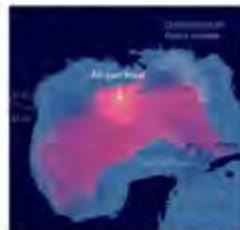
Bipartisan Anger Grows at Pentagon's Delayed 'Forever Chemicals' Cleanups

Hundreds of bases are contaminated with PFAS, which are linked to low birth weight and other risks. Politicians from both parties are demanding explanations.

3d ago · By HIROKO TABUCHI



How to Abandon Your Climate Commitments and Get Away With It



Dive Into a Very Noisy Sea With Some Very Rare Whales



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



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



Trash or Recycling? Why Plastic Keeps Us Guessing.

TIMES VIDEO

A French Village Becomes a Ghost Town After the Wildfires

Wildfires in France have forced tens of thousands of people from their homes and left entire towns deserted along the southwest coast. We visited Claouey, an empty beach town, and found a handful of residents who chose to stay, including one man who's made it his mission to care for all the village pets.

By BETHLEHEM FEJER, ALEX PENA, MICHAEL ANTHONY ADAMS, MARK BOYER and YASU TSUJI



Trump Administration Is Undoing Plans to Boost Workplace Heat Protections

The Biden administration took steps to shield workers from extreme temperatures. The Trump administration is taking a gentler approach with employers.

By SCOTT DANCE



Trump's Fixation on Arctic Ships Led to Billions in No-Bid Contracts

The president decided to buy 11 polar icebreakers after a game of golf with Finland's president. Experts say it's far from clear the United States needs so many.

By CHRISTOPHER FLAVELLE, ANDREA FULLER and NICHOLAS NEHMAS



Extreme Heat Has Transformed What Summer Means Across Generations in Europe

Rising temperatures and more frequent heat waves have changed the feel of the season for today's children, compared with their parents and grandparents.

By JIM TANKERSLEY and TATIANA FIRSOVA



Japan's Rescuers Battle 'Cruel Heat' After Major Earthquake

Kumamoto faces a "double disaster," as rescuers work in 100 degree heat, and shelters with limited air-conditioning put displaced people at risk for heatstroke.

By RIVER AKIRA DAVIS, HISAKO UENO, KUNO NOTOYA and CHANG W. LEE



Happenings of Interest



Becerra is walking a climate tightrope

By ALEX NIEVES | 07/30/2026 07:30 PM EDT

TOP OF THE DAY



Xavier Becerra wants to be a climate goals “realist” — and defender. | Jae C. Hong/AP

PUSH AND PULL: **Xavier Becerra** has made it clear that he’s not wedded to California’s most ambitious climate goals. But President **Donald Trump** could make slowing things down very complicated.

Happenings of Interest

POLITICO

Becerra is walking a climate tightrope

By ALEX NIEVES | 07/30/2026 07:30 PM EDT

TOP OF THE DAY



Xavier Becerra wants to be a climate goals "realist" — and defender. | Jae C. Hong/AP

PUSH AND PULL: Xavier Becerra has made it clear that he's not wedded to California's most ambitious climate goals. But President Donald Trump could make slowing things down very complicated.

Los Angeles Times

California produced over half its May electricity from solar, a world record



Solar panels produce electricity that pumps water to Southern California. The Pastoria Solar Project in Arvin, Calif., in April. (Eric Thayer / Los Angeles Times)

By Blanca Begert
Staff Writer

July 31, 2026 3 AM PT

California hit a major milestone in May, generating more than half its electricity from the sun in what is believed to be a global first, according to [an analysis](#) of federal data.

CANARY MEDIA
Clean energy journalism for a cooler tomorrow

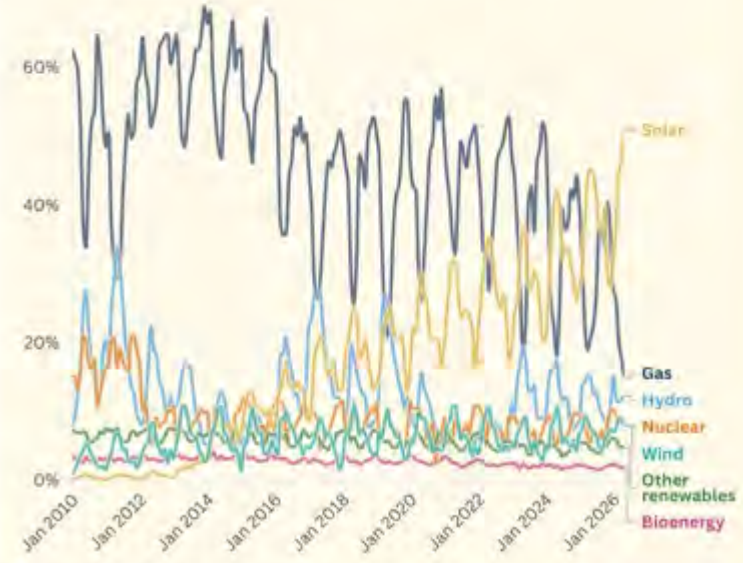
California was mostly solar-powered in May — a global first

No major economy had previously received over half its electricity from solar across an entire month. Thank the mild, sunny spring weather, and batteries.

By Dan McCarthy
31 July 2026

Solar produced half California's electricity in May

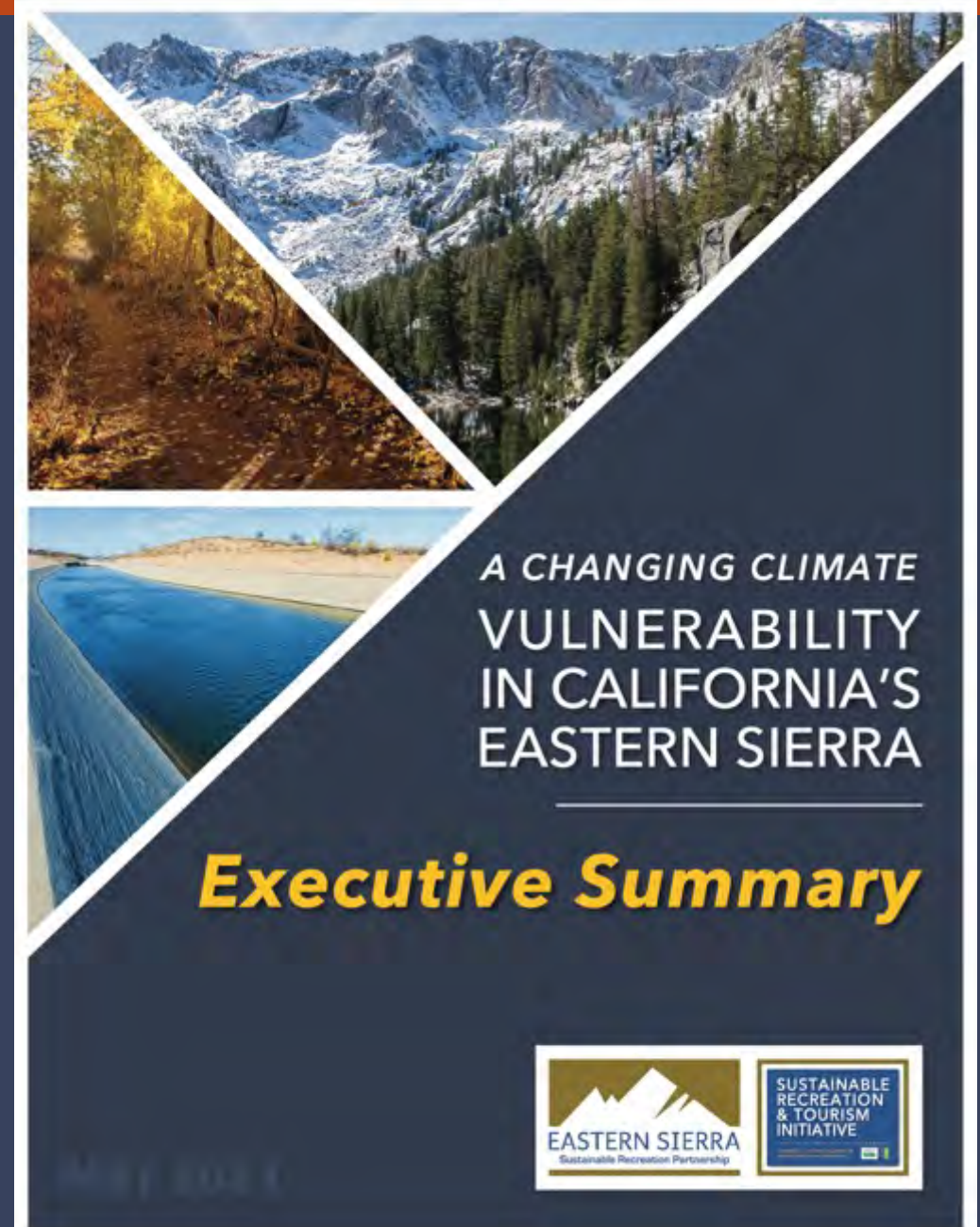
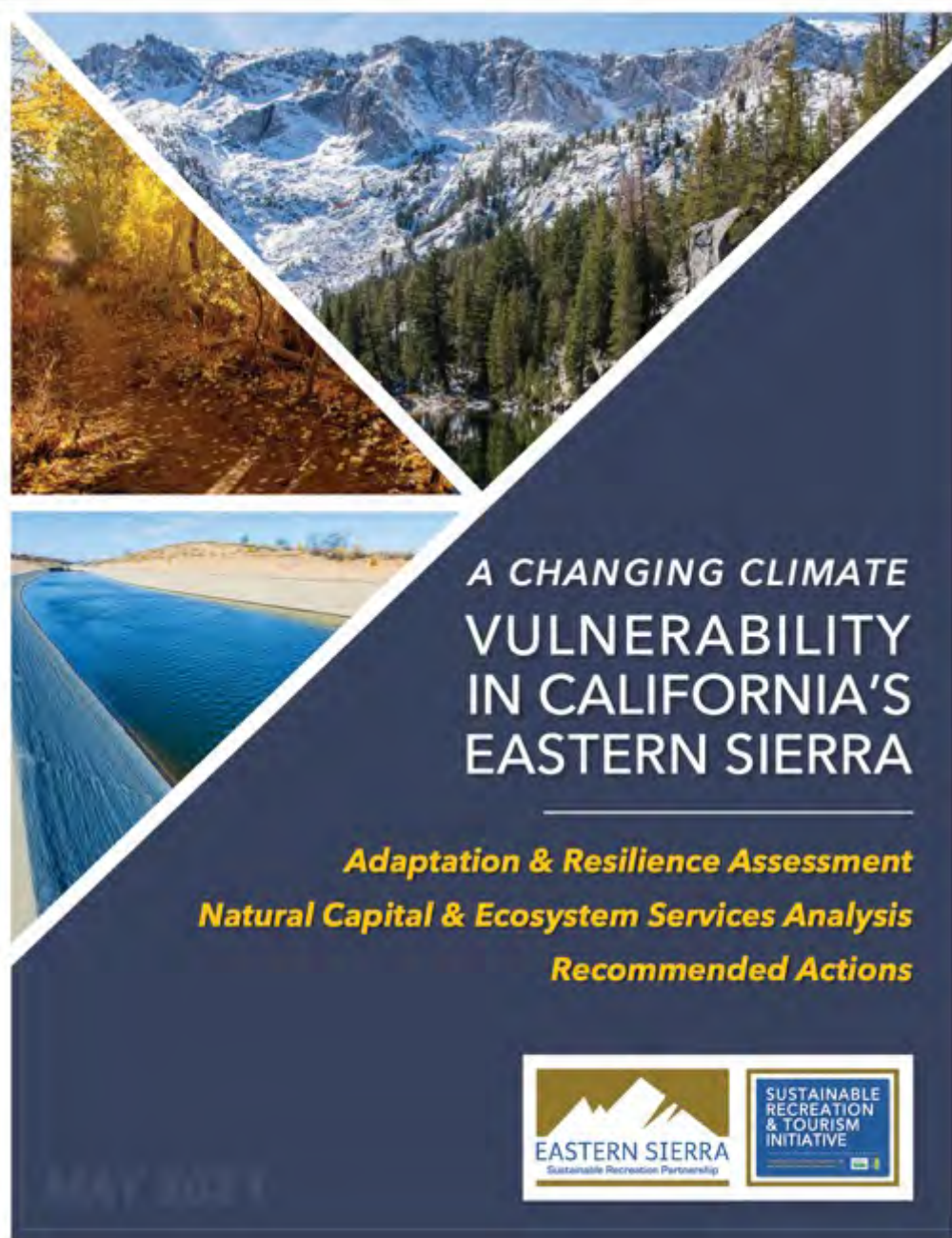
Share of monthly electricity generation, by source



Source: [Ember](#) • Chart by Canary Media
Note: Excludes sources making up less than 1% of electricity generation.

Made with Flourish • Create a chart

Happenings of Interest - Climate



Happenings of Interest



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

Partner Review Period Through August 7, 2026

[LEARN MORE, VIEW PLAN & SHARE FEEDBACK](#)

[REGIONAL WEBINARS](#)



Draft Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan

2026-2031

Partner Review Period Through August 7, 2026



» VIEW THE PLAN

» SHARE YOUR INPUT

» REGIONAL WEBINARS

Happenings of Interest



Attendees learned about the key components of the Action Plan including the framework for mobilizing regional action.

Webinar attendees:

- Learned about the development and key components of the draft Action Plan.
- Had their questions about the Action Plan and the process for submitting comments answered by Task Force staff.
- Explored the Action Plan's framework for mobilizing regional action.
- Heard directly from regional partners working collaboratively to advance wildfire resilience in their region.

Agenda

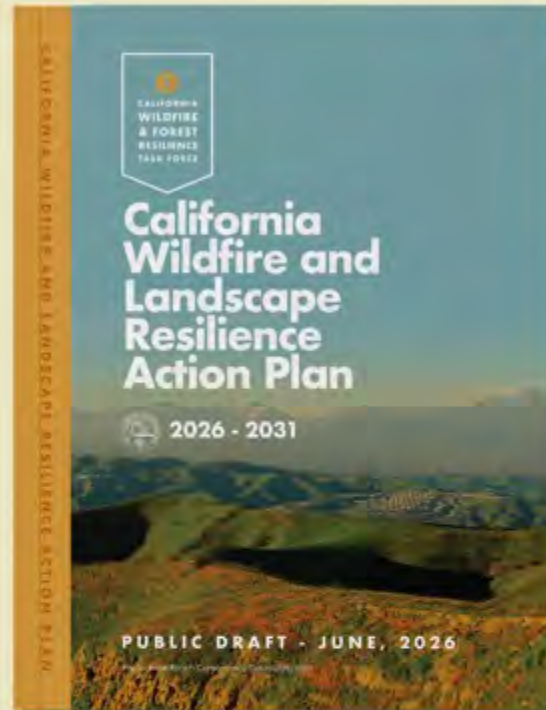
- Introducing the draft Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan (2026 – 2031)
 - Patrick Wright, Task Force Director
- Mobilizing Regional Action through the Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan
 - Patrick Wright, Task Force Director
- Q&A about the Action Plan – Patrick Wright, Task Force Director
- Regional Wildfire Resilience Presentations – Regional Speakers
- Q&A for Task Force Leadership & Regional Speakers
- How to Provide Feedback on the Draft Plan and Stay Engaged



Click on the region to sign up

- **Sierra Nevada:**
July 9, 2:00 – 3:15 PM
- **Southern California:**
July 14, 1:00 – 2:15 PM
- **Northern California:**
July 16, 10:00 – 11:15 AM
- **Central Coast:**
July 16, 2:00 – 3:15 PM

Happenings of Interest



DRAFT WILDFIRE AND LANDSCAPE RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN (2026 - 2031)

Will set the course for addressing California's most pressing wildfire challenges over the next five years. Learn more, view the plan and provide your comments during the partner review period, which closes August 7, 2026.

[SEE THE PLAN](#)

Happenings of Interest

RESOURCES

THE PLAN

CALIFORNIA
WILDFIRE & FOREST RESILIENCE
TASK FORCE

ABOUT

UPDATES

NORTH COAST
REGIONAL MEETING

OCTOBER 1 & 2, 2026

North Coast Regional Meeting – Humboldt County

North Coast Resource Partnership and Humboldt County Resource Conservation District are hosting the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Regional Meeting October 1 at the Bear River Recreation Center and adjacent Tish-Non Community Center. A remote attendance option will be available via Zoom.

The meeting on October 1 will highlight issues of regional importance in the North Coast Region. As usual, we will kick off the day with morning refreshments and a resource fair. On October 2, Task Force partners will host field tours offering immersive opportunities to better understand the critical landscape health and wildfire resilience work being done in the region.

RESOURCES

IN-PERSON
REGISTRATION COMING
SOON

REGISTER FOR
REMOTE
ATTENDANCE VIA
ZOOM

AGENDA
COMING
SOON

Workforce Training in the Wildfire Resilience Sector

Sierra Business Council is conducting a survey on workforce training within California's wildfire resilience sector. Our goal is to strengthen workforce development across the state by identifying gaps in current training opportunities and recommending strategies for workforce investment.

Who Should Take This Survey

You have been invited to participate because of your organization's role:

- Providing workforce training and education related to wildfire resilience, and/or
- Employing/contracting people to implement wildfire resilience work

How Long Will it Take

The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Your responses will be kept confidential, and results will be reported in aggregate.

How Results Will be Used

Your responses will help us better understand existing training programs, identify unmet training needs, and improve training opportunities. Findings will help the [California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force](#) identify the wildfire resilience workforce training needed to support implementation of its 2026-2031 [Action Plan](#), and may also inform other state and regional workforce investments, policy decisions, and program design.

Next Steps

If you have questions about this survey or the research, please contact Emily Blackmer at e_blackmer@sierrabusiness.org.

Thank you in advance for contributing to efforts that support a stronger, more resilient wildfire workforce in California.

Next

Happenings of Interest

GREENWIRE

Get article

Newsom administration pushing for California wildfire liability changes

The governor's support signals momentum behind rethinking how the state pays for the cost of natural disasters.



BY NOAH BAUSTIN | 07/27/2024 12:32 PM EDT



Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) is heading into the end of his final legislative session as governor. | Jeff Chou/AP

GREENWIRE | Gavin Newsom's administration is pushing state leaders to pass a bill in the final month of the legislative session that would revamp how the state pays for the enormous cost of wildfires.

What happened: The governor's office staff laid out the administration's priorities in a meeting this week with state legislative leaders, according to two people familiar with the conversation who were granted anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

Why it matters: The meeting illustrates that the Democratic governor is throwing his weight behind changes to the wildfire risk and insurance systems. The issue is enormously consequential for California's utilities, which are at risk of racking up massive financial liabilities if their equipment causes a wildfire, as well as wildfire victims and the state's insurance companies.

Details: The governor's office is prioritizing ratepayer protection, wildfire mitigation, modifying the tort system and making changes to the state's insurer of last resort, the FAIR plan, according to the people familiar with the meeting conversation.



POLITICO



Wildfire's risky business

By NOAH BAUSTIN | 07/27/2024 07:30 PM EDT

TOP OF THE DAY



Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to overhaul how California pays for wildfire costs. | Ethan Swope/AP

HEATING UP: Gov. **Gavin Newsom's** administration is pushing state leaders to pass a bill in the waning weeks of the legislative session that would revamp how the state pays for the enormous cost of wildfires.

His staff laid out their priorities in a meeting last week with state legislative leaders, two people familiar with the conversation who were granted anonymity to discuss private deliberations [told POLITICO](#).

Newsom throwing his weight behind a wildfire liability deal provides a major boost of momentum for an issue that's been a [hot topic among lawmakers](#) for months, but has thus far failed to materialize in the form of an actual bill.

The governor's staff laid out the administration's broad priorities in the meeting: ratepayer protection, wildfire mitigation, modifying how wildfire victims recover costs, and changing the state's insurer of last resort, the FAIR plan, according to the people familiar with what was discussed.

Happenings of Interest



To the Future Governor of California:

California has wildfire solutions.

As the next governor, you can make them a reality.



The next Governor will help shape California's response to one of the state's most urgent and costly challenges. Immediate, sustained investment in wildfire resilience is essential to protecting communities, stabilizing costs, and reducing long-term risk.



The Wildfire Solutions Coalition

2d •

+ Follow



A major win for California's wildfire resilience.

Governor Newsom has signed AB 35 (Alvarez) into law, helping to ensure that Proposition 4 funding for wildfire resilience reaches communities faster.

By exempting Proposition 4 funding guidelines from the Administrative Procedure Act, AB 35 will reduce unnecessary administrative delays and accelerate investments in wildfire risk reduction, landscape health, and community protection while maintaining transparency and accountability.

This achievement reflects the leadership of Governor Newsom and the California Legislature, as well as the collective advocacy of the Wildfire Solutions Coalition and our partners across California.

Thank you to the more than 35 Coalition Members who joined us in supporting AB 35. Together, we're helping get critical wildfire resilience funding on the ground — before the next fire starts.



AB 35 Signed into Law

Accelerating Proposition
4 funding for wildfire
resilience.

A major win for wildfire resilience.

Thank you to Governor Newsom,
the CA Legislature, and our
Coalition members

Together, we're helping get
critical wildfire resilience funding
on the ground — before the next
fire starts.

Happenings of Interest

San Francisco Chronicle

e-Edition

Account

U.S. & WORLD // CALIFORNIA

Hundreds of wild horses moved into the Mono Lake area. The feds just rounded them up



Wild horses throw up a cloud of dust near Mono Lake as a helicopter presses them toward a catch pen. Federal officials conducted a horse roundup near Lee Vining (Mono County) to reduce the herd's impacts.
Carlos Avila Gonzalez/S.F. Chronicle

By **Kurtis Alexander**, Staff Writer
July 15, 2020

Gift Article

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Listen Now:
Hundreds of wild horses moved into the Mono Lake area. The feds just rounded them up
About 10 Minutes

1x

SEE FULL STORY

LEE VINING, Mono County — With a large, black stallion at the fore, more than 100 wild horses raced headlong through the high-desert scrub, kicking up a tawny cloud of dust on the shores of California's Mono Lake.

Happenings of Interest



Tahoe's bears can get too comfortable with humans. These dogs help bring back healthy fear

Meet Banjo and Badger, the hard-working dogs trained to haze bears and other wildlife so they keep their distance from people.

News News | Jul 30, 2026

Amy Alonzo, The Nevada Independent

A  A

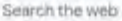


The Nevada Department of Wildlife uses Karelain Bear Dogs to haze bears that have gotten a little too comfortable around humans.

Provided / Nevada Department of Wildlife

LAKE TAHOE, Nev. - Two of Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) top employees look a little shaggy. They wear long fur coats year-round, and they don't collect a salary.

Meet Badger and Banjo, Karelain Bear Dogs that assist the department's bear team — Carl Lackey and Becca Carniello — in managing Nevada's recovering black bear population and intervening when there is a human-bear conflict.



Top Stories: Reflecting Pool case dropped Spain's migrant crisis FIFA ditches proposal Guthrie ransom n

BGR [Follow](#)

Lake Tahoe Homeowners Are Desperately Spending Thousands to Keep Bears From Breaking Into Their Houses

Brittany Vincent
Fri, July 31, 2026 at 5:00 AM PDT
3 min read

   219



Image Credit: Nevada Department of Wildlife.

 **Key takeaways**

- Homeowners around Lake Tahoe are spending thousands of dollars on electric mats, reinforced steel doors, and electrified wiring to keep black bears out of their houses.

[See more](#)

What do you do when you have a massive bear problem? You try everything you can to get rid of them, even if that means using some very strange methods. Homeowners around Lake Tahoe are [spending thousands of dollars](#) to keep black bears out of their houses. Bear break-ins are climbing to record levels this summer. That means some residents are installing electric mats, reinforced steel doors, and even electrified wiring. Some Nevada wildlife officials have even turned to two specially trained dogs to drive the animals off.

Happenings of Interest

Dawn Vereuck's Post



Dawn Vereuck

July 25 at 5:41PM

This is an open letter to Town Council, the Town Manager, MLT, MLPD, Mono County Sherriff, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce & Mammoth Mountain. Please know I am fully aware of the responsibilities of each noted organization, however, being that we are a small community whose economic engine is driven by tourism, it behooves you all to pay attention and work toward a solution to our wildlife concerns. I am also aware that the leaders of our community are



Reply



Tony Rojas · 6m
Thank you, Dawn.

Reply



Judy Bergendahl · 6m
Behind you 🙏

Reply



Nick Macias · 6m
Awesome Dawn! Let Me know the Next time your going to Rush the City Council Mtg

👍👍 I wanna Go!

Reply



Neely Vacura Winder · 6m · by Author

Thank you for your timely letter calling attention to our community's responsibility to protect wildlife. Many of us chose to live here because we value our unique natural environment and the wildlife that shares it. Unfortunately, our town's leadership is not doing enough to uphold those values. Wildlife protection should be a priority, not an afterthought. We need leaders who are committed to responsible stewardship and willing to make decisions that preserve the natural character of our community for future generations. Thank you for raising your voice on this important issue. It's time for our local leadership to do better.

Reply



Virko Ritter Chauran · 6m



Dawn Vereuck

July 25 at 5:41PM · 🌐

This is an open letter to Town Council, the Town Manager, MLT, MLPD, Mono County Sherriff, Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce & Mammoth Mountain. Please know I am fully aware of the responsibilities of each noted organization, however, being that we are a small community whose economic engine is driven by tourism, it behooves you all to pay attention and work toward a solution to our wildlife concerns. I am also aware that the leaders of our community are going to defer to fish and wildlife, which is pathetic.

- Publicly acknowledge current failures in local wildlife management and commit to an action plan with clear timelines.
- Reinvest in a local wildlife management program with experienced leadership & adequate staffing restoring the role that made Mammoth Lakes a worldwide model.
- Implement urgent measures to care for and if necessary, humanely capture and treat injured wildlife, to include veterinary assessment and rehabilitation where appropriate.
- Improve road safety and signage in known wildlife crossing areas and pursue traffic-calming measures to reduce vehicle-wildlife collisions.
- Strengthen community education and enforcement around food storage, trash management, and attractant reduction.
- Convene a public forum with Town Staff, law enforcement, local & nonlocal wildlife experts and the community to report on actions taken and to solicit input.

Protecting our wildlife is an issue where we can act immediately and meaningfully. Please show leadership, restore our wildlife program which will in turn reestablish our credibility as stewards of our environment. It's sad to say, but I and many have little faith in our leaders, but I can't remain silent, I and many others stand at the ready to help implement real solutions.

👍👍 Roy Moyer, Kria Gentry and 226 others

78 comments · 38 shares



Like



Comment



Share

Reply



Kama Newberry · 6m
YESSSSSSSSS!

Reply



Drew Tyree · 6m
The animals but even more important, something needs to be done about those roving packs of kids on ebikes. Its only a matter of time until they getting hit by cars. They clearly have no concept of traffic laws because they are children

Reply



Becky Manross · 6m
Excellent! However, in this day & age, I fear it will fall on "deaf ears." The almighty \$\$\$ is what moves those in charge.

Reply



Amanda Rice · 6m
I sent you a DM

Reply



Rose Van Wie Kujerich · 6m
What would it take to force them to step it up?
I have a couple of ideas that would not be favorable for the town council.

They need some serious proposal to the council. More than just a threat get some real phase 10 of "Snow-balls". You all wanted this. Reap it.

Reply



Cheri Heringer · 5m
👍👍👍

Reply



Kristine Hutchinson · 6m
I am hoping for better outcomes as Mammoth moves forward. Shame on the the City Council.

Reply



Carrie On Ognibene · 5m
"Mammoth Disposal Time to step up your game! Your janky, broken dumpsters with weak latches invite local wildlife to dumpster dive. Please fix or replace these faulty bins now."

Reply

View 1 reply



JK Fiala-Watson · 5m
Extremely well written! ❤️

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



TRANSITION & FUTURE PLANNING

Shaping the Future, Together

Wrap Dates

Industry Sector Coordinators
August 31

All Catalyst Projects
September 30

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



TRANSITION & FUTURE PLANNING

Shaping the Future, Together

Wrap Dates

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September 30

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

Alpine

SIERRA WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS

CALIFORNIA
JOBS FIRST
Sierra Region

SIERRA FOCUS MEDIA
AN INITIATIVE OF THE

MLTPA
MANMOUTH LAKES TRAIL & PUBLIC ACCESS

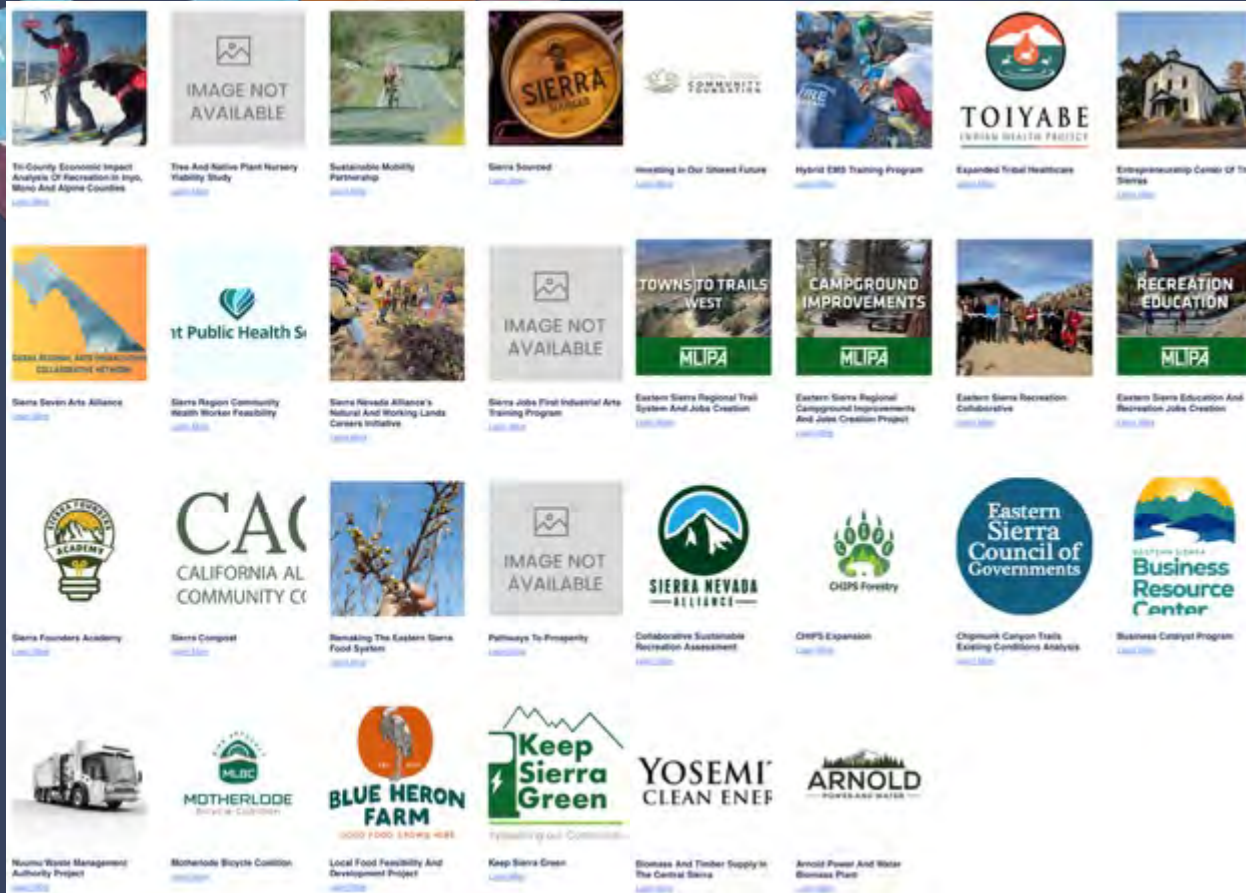


Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

- Industry Sector Coordinators
 - MLTPA Foundation
 - Sierra Focus Media
- Contracts close on Aug. 31
 - Wrapping Up!
- Thank you ESSRP - !
 - Ongoing Information Sharing
 - SJF Recreation and Tourism Working Group Updates

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

Alpine

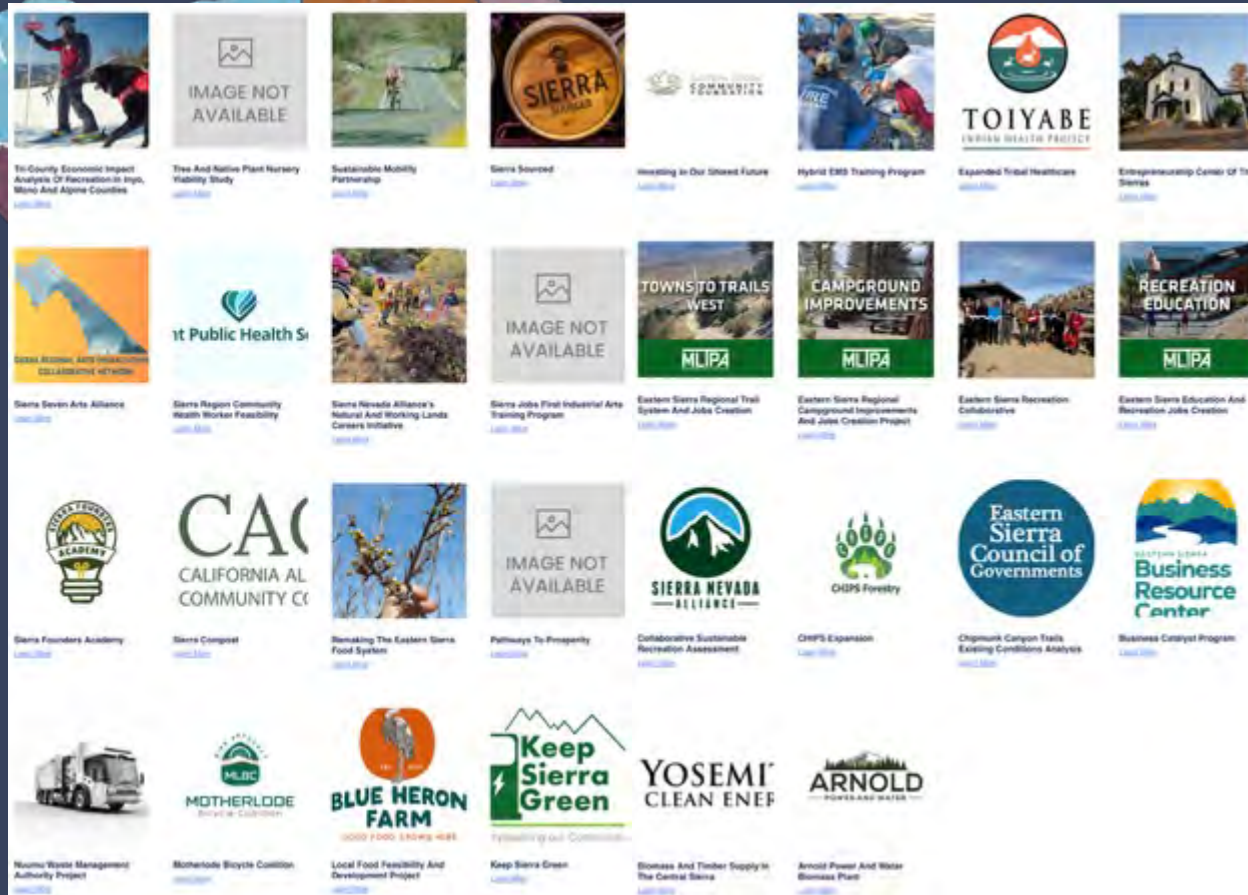


Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

- Catalyst Projects
 - 30 Projects
- **Contracts Close on Sept. 30!**
- Contract Extensions
 - “Any update on your (SBC) contract from EDD for Catalyst project extensions?”
 - “No update yet! Which is a little odd, but not totally off brand for the state.”
- *Erika Harvey, SBC, July 28*

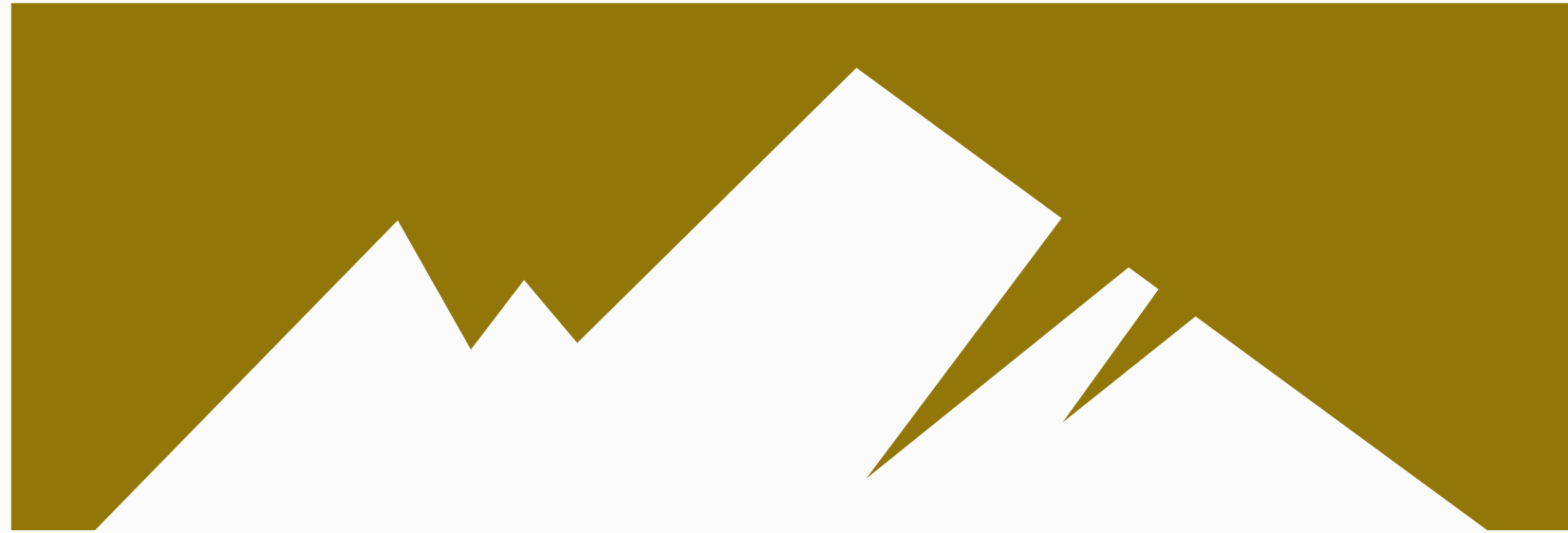
Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

Alpine



Recreation and Tourism Industry Sector

- Catalyst Projects
 - 30 Projects
- Contracts Close on Sept. 30!
- Contract Extensions
 - "Any update on your (SBC) contract from EDD for Catalyst project extensions?"
 - "No update yet! Which is a little odd, but not totally off brand for the state."
 - Erika Harvey, SBC, July 28



EASTERN SIERRA

Sustainable Recreation Partnership



January 4, 2018 – ESSRP

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



SHIP Newsletter

SHIP Will Continue Beyond Sierra Jobs First

As many of you know, the Sierra Jobs First Industry Sector Coordinator's work is scheduled to conclude at the end of **August 2026**. While this marks the completion of an important chapter in our region's economic development efforts, it is **not the end of SHIP**.

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



Community Presentation

EASTERN SIERRA AGRICULTURE ACTIVATION PLAN

PLENA

PLANNING + DESIGN



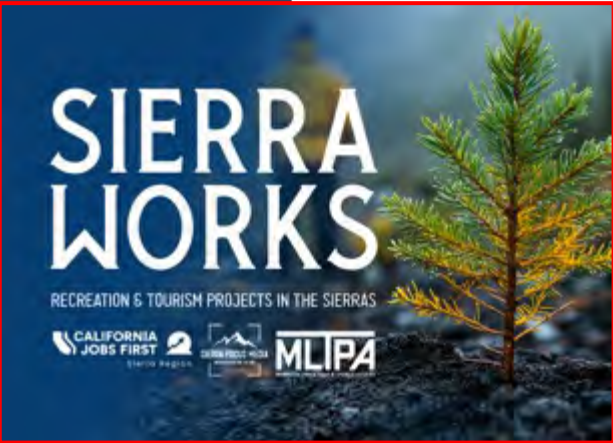
August 17th

10 am - 12 pm

EASTERN SIERRA BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

269 N Main St, Bishop, CA 93514

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



Regional Investment Initiative
Catalyst Program Monthly Progress Report
Period of Performance: May 2024 – September 2026

Organization Information	
CA Jobs First Region: Eastern Sierra Region	
Jobs First Collaborative Name: Sierra Jobs First	
Jobs First Collaborative Website (if applicable): www.sierrajobsfirst.org	
Contract Number: Subaward #: SBC-2024157	
Fiscal Agent	Regional Convener
Lead Name: Michelle Bassard	Lead Name: Erika Harvey
Contact Phone: 530-562-4993	Contact Phone: 530-562-4996 ext 118
Key Activity	Summary
#1 Statewide Cohort of Practice & Symposium of Practice	The team supporting the Statewide Cohort of Practice spent their time in June analyzing and aggregating the data from the April Symposium to develop the draft set of recommendations to be shared with the larger audience in July for review and feedback. We intend to develop an online form allowing stakeholders the opportunity to rank their level of support and provide written feedback for each recommendation, and that comment period will be open for two weeks. Once the comment period is closed,

No Identified Deliverables / Progress Reports Only

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



January 31, 2022– SRTI

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



OUR WORK TRAIL SYSTEMS ABOUT US CONTACT SUPPORT

Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative



Welcome

Project Description: On March 7, 2019, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC)'s Governing Board awarded Proposition 68 funds in the amount of \$618,750 to launch the "Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership: Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative" (SRTI). This action to benefit the SNC's Eastern Sierra sub-region demonstrated a pioneering commitment to California's rural outdoor recreation economy and the natural resources that make it possible. The SRTI's subsequent program of work distributed across four areas of focus (see "tracks" below) was administered by MLTPA on behalf of the ESSRP from July 2019 until the grant's completion in January 2022. MLTPA is pleased to provide this web page in support of the [Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership \(ESSRP\)](#) and the "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative."

Four Tracks of the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative

The four tracks of the "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative" are listed below with links to their individual web pages.



REGIONAL RECREATION STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Initiative convened and facilitated Eastern Sierra recreation stakeholders using mostly digital means in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Stakeholders submitted ideas for desired sustainable recreation projects which were then scored for their stewardship value, benefits for access and equity, and benefits for local communities.



CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT

The Initiative developed and published a climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy for the Eastern Sierra which incorporates a valuation of the region's ecosystem services including the outdoor recreation and tourism economy. The analysis will inform adaptation to climate change and future sustainable recreation investments.



CONNECTION TO THE EASTERN SIERRA VISITOR AUDIENCE

The Initiative convened and facilitated the Visitor Connection Working Group (experienced regional communicators) who collaboratively developed the "Visitor Connection Package", establishing the foundational components of a voice to engage with the Eastern Sierra's visitor audience as part of a regional identity.



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND PRIORITIZATION

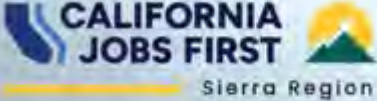
The Initiative provided technical capacity to the ESSRP to identify and prioritize project ideas and then create a portfolio of eight developed sustainable recreation projects along with recommended funding opportunities.

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

[SUPPORT OUR WORK](#)

OUR WORK TRAIL SYSTEMS ABOUT US CONTACT SUPPORT

Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator



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



ESSRP MEETINGS / SIERRA JOBS FIRST

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



WORKING GROUP AND SIERRA RICA

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



STATE COHORT AND STATE COHORT RICA

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



PROJECTS TRACKED

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



MY CATALYST PROJECT

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

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



OUR WORK TRAIL SYSTEMS ABOUT US CONTACT SUPPORT

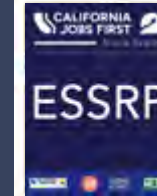
Sierra Jobs First - Coordinator



INDUSTRY SECTOR COORDINATOR



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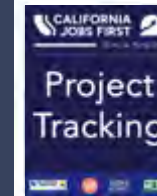
WORKING GROUP AND SIERRA RICA

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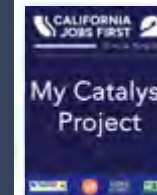
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Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

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ESSRP Meetings / Sierra Jobs First



Welcome!

MLTPA was pleased to provide this web page providing additional information for the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP). For the latest Partnership information, [please be sure to visit the ESSRP web page.](#)

Project Description: The Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership was initiated on July 18, 2017 at a joint meeting of the Mono County Board of Supervisors and the Mammoth Lakes Town Council. Over the next year, representatives of Mono County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the Inyo National Forest, the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest, the Washington Office of the USFS, and Mammoth Lakes Recreation worked together to draft and sign a partnership agreement and to secure the funding from Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes for a staff position that currently lives in Mammoth Lakes Recreation. Recent additions to the Partnership include Alpine County (voted to join on August 20, 2019), the City of Bishop (voted to join on September 9, 2019), and Inyo County (voted to join on October 8, 2019).

Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership Meeting - July 6, 2026

- [View the Agenda](#)
- [View the Meeting Presentation](#)
- [View the Meeting Recording](#)
- [View the Meeting Hotlinks](#)

Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership Meeting - June 1, 2026

- [View the Agenda](#)
- [View the Meeting Presentation](#)
- [View the Meeting Recording](#)
- [View the Meeting Hotlinks](#)

Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership Meeting - May 4, 2026

- [View the Agenda](#)
- [View the Meeting Presentation](#)
- [View the Meeting Recording](#)
- [View the Meeting Hotlinks](#)

Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership Meeting - Apr. 6, 2026

- [View the Agenda](#)
- [View the Meeting Presentation](#)
- [View the Meeting Recording](#)
- [View the Meeting Hotlinks](#)

Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership Meeting - Mar. 2, 2026

- [View the Agenda](#)
- [View the Meeting Presentation](#)

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



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OUR WORKTRAIL SYSTEMSABOUT USCONTACTSUPPORT

My Catalyst Project



My Catalyst Project



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

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

The Strategic Plan now acts as a guiding tool to evaluate and support Catalyst Projects, ensuring they align with state objectives and facilitating progress through funding opportunities and technical assistance. Through this framework, project owners will receive guidance on policy compliance, funding support, and long-term sustainability.



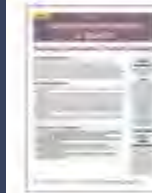
EASTERN SIERRA REGIONAL SUMMARY

The Regional Summary, a key outcome of the California Jobs First Planning Phase (Mar '23 – Sept '24), was submitted to the state in Dec. 2023. It includes data on demographics, economy, opportunities, climate, environment, public health, and a SWOT analysis. This summary informed the Strategic Plan below.



SIERRA JOBS FIRST REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan directs project selection and job growth for Sierra Jobs First. Submitted in August 2024 by the Sierra Business Council, it outlines strategies for climate-resilient job growth and economic development aligned with state goals, promoting a more equitable and just regional economy.



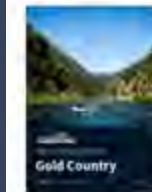
SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

Click above to view the Sustainable Recreation & Tourism section of the Regional Strategic Plan.



HIGH SIERRA REGIONAL STRATEGIC TOURISM PLAN JUNE, 2025

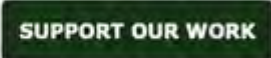
The High Sierra region of California is renowned for its stunning natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities. This effort aimed to enhance, harmonize and validate existing destination plans while examining tourism priorities and opportunities from a regional perspective.



GOLD COUNTRY REGIONAL STRATEGIC TOURISM PLAN JUNE, 2025

The Gold Country is a diverse region known for its rich Gold Rush history, natural beauty and small-town charm. This effort aimed to enhance, harmonize and validate existing destination plans while examining tourism priorities and opportunities from a regional perspective.

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning



OUR WORK TRAIL SYSTEMS ABOUT US CONTACT SUPPORT

Projects Tracked



Project Tracking



Project Description: As part of the Industry Sector Coordinator Team for Recreation and Tourism, we partner with our colleagues at [Sierra Focus Media](#) to collaborate with all of the projects listed below to support their development through the Catalyst phase of Sierra Jobs First, ensuring alignment with the [Sierra Jobs First Strategic Plan](#). Our goals are to provide technical support and to identify funding resources for these Catalyst projects to bring them to life through their ultimate implementation. The individual projects listed below are subject to change as some project contracts are still pending. Once all contracts are fully executed, the Sierra Jobs First team at Sierra Business Council, which serves as the fiscal agent and regional convener for the California Jobs First Sierra region, will publish project updates, including the exact amount of the catalyst award received by each awardee on [SierraJobsFirst.org](#) and in the [Sierra Jobs First newsletter](#). Through those resources, you can find information on all of the awarded Catalyst projects, not just those in the Recreation and



CHIPMUNK CANYON EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

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



CREATIVE REUSE OF CREATIVE ARTS CENTER TUOLUMNE COUNTY

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



EASTERN SIERRA REGIONAL CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS & JOBS CREATION

The Eastern Sierra Regional Campground Improvements and Jobs Creation project will plan renovations for campgrounds across Inyo, Mono, Calaveras, and Tuolumne counties to boost access, use, and climate resilience—advancing the Sierra Jobs First goals of equity, sustainability, and job growth.



EASTERN SIERRA REGIONAL EDUCATION & RECREATION JOBS CREATION

Collaboratively implement recommended actions from "A Changing Climate: Vulnerability in California's Eastern Sierra," as developed by SRTI and ESSRP. Work collaboratively to provide students with project and experiential learning opportunities, such as asset inventory and GPS/GIS spatial data work.



EASTERN SIERRA REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM & JOBS CREATION

This project will complete the Eastern Sierra Regional Trail System via a Westside Towns to Trails Plan that connects to ESCOG's Eastside Plan. It will assess existing infrastructure, conditions, and needs to improve trail connectivity.

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

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Recreation and Tourism Cohort



State Cohort



Project Description: The goal of the Recreation and Tourism Cohort is to meet over the 16 months of the Catalyst phase of the California Jobs First initiative and to draft a road map/white paper/tool laying out a direction for the future of sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism for the state of California. "Recreation and Tourism" has been placed in the "Strengthen" category of the State of California's Economic Blueprint, which means it is important, but not a current sector to receive direct investment. The Recreation and Tourism Cohort is bringing together organizations, regions, and other entities from across the state working in these sectors because it remains an important and critical sector to the economic vitality of regions as identified in the Jobs First Regional plans. This sector is especially important given the current changes happening at the federal level. Historically, the State of California has relied on federal public land systems and institutions to manage and maintain recreation infrastructure and programming on federal public lands, which make up over half of the geography of the state of California.

State Cohort RICA (Recommendations for Implementation and Collaborative Action)

Draft RICA Feedback - July 13th, 2026

- [Companion Guide for Draft RICA Review](#)
- [Draft RICA Review Feedback Form](#)

Recreation and Tourism Symposium of Practice

MLTPA and Redwood Region RISE, with support from California Jobs First, hosted an In-person "Recreation and Tourism Symposium of Practice" event in Sacramento on April 23rd, 2026. This full-day facilitated session was held at the California Natural Resources building and focused on lessons learned during the Catalyst phase of California Jobs First in our respective regions, the barriers to success for developed projects, and recommendations to the state to encourage the implementation of Catalyst projects developed through California Jobs First.

Meeting Materials

- [View the Meeting Agenda](#)

View the Meeting Presentations

- [View the complete Symposium meeting presentation](#)
- [View the Redwood Region's "Arts Nature Trails Constellation Project" presentation](#)
- [View the Sierra Region's "Towns to Trails Project" presentation](#)

Project Interview Summaries by Region

- [Capitol Region - Nevada County](#)
- [Inland So Cal Region - Discover Inland Empire](#)
- [North State - Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship](#)
- [North State Region - Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance](#)
- [Orange Region - Orange County Micro Tourism](#)
- [Redwood Region - Arts Nature Trails Project](#)
- [Redwood Region - Redwood Trail Alliance](#)
- [Sierra Region - Campgrounds](#)
- [Sierra Region - Towns to Trails](#)

Sierra Jobs First: Transition & Future Planning

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Working Group and Activation Plan



RICA

Recommendations for Implementation & Collaborative Action



Project Description: MLTPA, in collaboration with our Industry Sector Coordinator partner, Sierra Focus Media, is developing the Activation Plan for the Sustainable Recreation & Tourism sector of the Eastern Sierra region as part of the California Jobs First initiative.

The Activation Plan will serve as a comprehensive framework for the short-term implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan, guiding efforts to advance and grow the Sierra Jobs First initiative. This plan will outline key strategies, priority actions, and collaborative opportunities to strengthen the region's sustainable recreation and tourism economy.

MLTPA and Sierra Focus Media will submit the Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Activation Plan to the state in June 2025.

We invite stakeholders, community members, and industry partners to engage in this process. To learn more, provide input, or explore opportunities for collaboration, please contact us at sjadmin@mltpa.org.

Sierra RICA (Recommendations for Implementation & Collaborative Action)

Draft RICA Feedback - Revised - July 16, 2026

- [Revised RICA Companion Guide - July 16, 2026](#)

Draft RICA Feedback - June 19, 2026

- [Companion Guide for RICA Draft Review](#)
- [RICA Draft Review Feedback Form - Open until July 6th!](#)

Working Group Meetings

[Recreation & Tourism Working Group Meeting Recaps](#)

Sierra Jobs First Recreation and Tourism Working Group - Jul. 20, 2026

- [View the Agenda](#)
- [View the Presentation](#)
- [View the Meeting Recording](#)
- [View the Survey Results](#)

Sierra Jobs First Recreation and Tourism Working Group - Jun. 15, 2026

- [View the Agenda](#)
- [View the Presentation](#)
- [Project Presentation and Interviews - Arts, Culture & Placemaking](#)
- [View the Meeting Recording](#)
- [View the Meeting Whiteboard](#)
- [View the Survey Results](#)

Sierra Jobs First Recreation and Tourism Working Group - May. 18, 2026

SIERRA WORKS

SIERRA JOBS FIRST
RECREATION & TOURISM

WORKING GROUP MEETING



JULY – FINAL MEETING & RICA REVIEW

07/20/2026

THIS MEETING IS
BEING RECORDED

RICA FEEDBACK IS COMPLETE!



Thank you for your feedback!

Happenings of Interest



**SIERRA
WORKS**

AMADOR | ALPINE | CALAVERAS | INYO | MONO | MARIPOSA | TUOLUMNE
CALIFORNIA
JOBS FIRST
Sierra Region

RICA

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION
AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION

RICA Draft Review

Please provide your feedback on these draft Recommendations for Implementation & Collaborative Action (RICA) for the Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Sector in the Sierra Region of the California Jobs First initiative.

These recommendations have been compiled from the Sierra Works/Jobs First "Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Working Group" convenings from November 2025 through June 2026.

Don't Miss Out: Please share your feedback using a desktop machine for the best experience! You're going to miss out if you just use your phone.

Have Fun!

Start

Happenings of Interest

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 9
500 SOUTH MAIN STREET | BISHOP, CA 93514
(760) 874-8330 | FAX (760) 872-0678 TTY 711
WWW.DOT.CA.GOV



June 29, 2026

Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)
437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Dear ESSRP Team:

On behalf of Caltrans and the Gateway communities we serve, I am pleased to express our strong support for the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership's (ESSRP) RICA program and its vision for sustainable recreation, tourism, and community development across the Sierra Jobs First region.

Gateway Communities Supported by Caltrans

Caltrans is committed to supporting Gateway communities—those cities, towns, Tribes, and unincorporated areas adjacent to public lands, as defined by Department of the Interior Order 3434. These communities are vital partners in visitor management, conservation, and economic vitality. The State transportation infrastructure provides essential access, safety, and connectivity for residents, visitors, and System unit operations.

Highways Supporting RICA Vision and Goals

The State highways, including the US 395 and US 6 corridors, are integral to the RICA vision. They connect communities, facilitate tourism, and enable collaborative stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Caltrans' ongoing work on the US 395 and US 6 Corridor Plan is designed to enhance regional mobility, safety, and economic opportunity. For a description of Caltrans corridor and system planning, please visit the [Caltrans Corridor and System Planning website](#).

Alignment with RICA's Four Goals

The RICA program's four goals—regional information sharing, addressing implementation barriers, workforce development, and climate resilience—are closely aligned with Caltrans' mission and the priorities of Gateway communities:

1. **Facilitating Regional Collaboration:** Caltrans supports information-sharing entities and collaborative hubs that connect federal, state, and local partners.
2. **Removing Barriers:** We work to address policy and regulatory obstacles, ensuring equitable access and sustainable project implementation.
3. **Workforce Development:** Our projects foster year-round, career-focused opportunities in recreation, tourism, and land management.

Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)
June 23, 2026
Page 2

4. **Climate Adaptation:** Caltrans is committed to climate-resilient infrastructure and adaptive visitor management, supporting regional sustainability.

Reference Materials

This letter draws upon the RICA Draft Review, the Sierra RICA Companion Guide, and Department of the Interior Order 3434, which collectively outline the framework for partnership, stewardship, and community engagement.

Contact Information

For further information or collaboration, please contact:

- Ben Downard, Highway Corridor Planning Lead, ben.downard@dot.ca.gov, (760) 874-8319
- Catherine Carr, LDR Coordinator, catherine.carr@dot.ca.gov, (760) 874-8318

We look forward to continued partnership with ESSRP and all stakeholders in advancing the RICA vision for the Eastern Sierra.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Carr

Catherine E. Carr
Senior Transportation Planner
Local Development Review Coordinator
Division of Planning & Environmental
Caltrans - District 9
Cell: 760-874-8318



REVIEW OF FEEDBACK

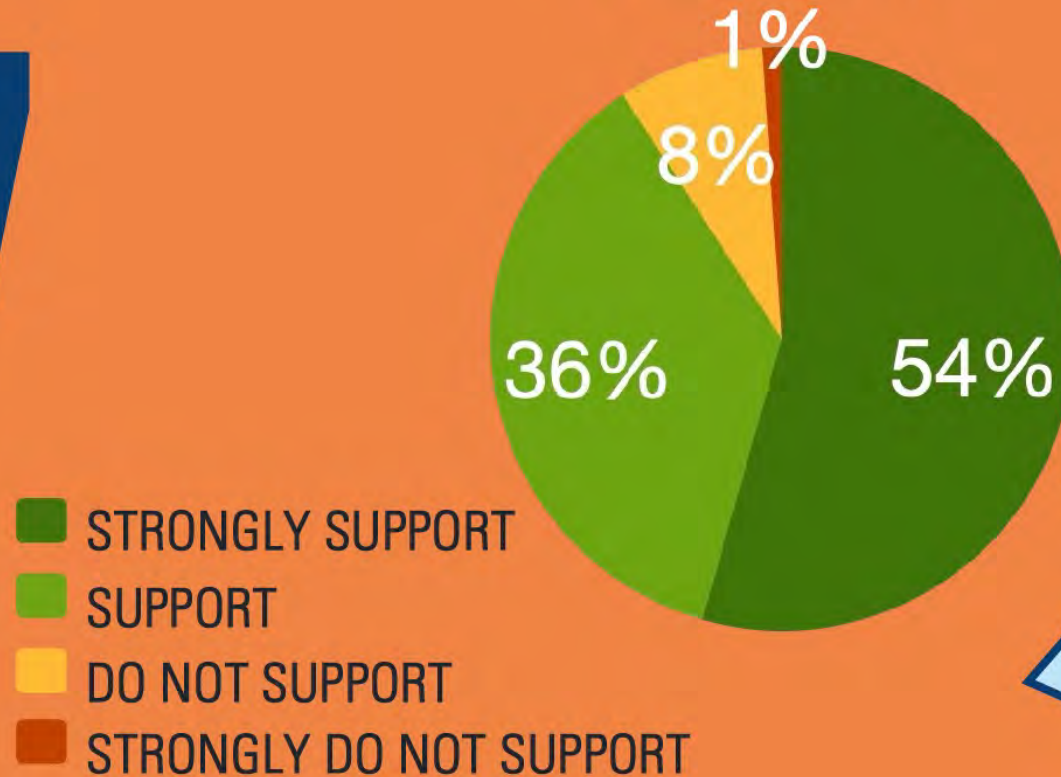
NUMBER OF
RESPONSES

37

OVERALL
AVERAGE LEVEL
OF SUPPORT

OF
REVISIONS

12



Combined
Support of
90%!



REVIEW OF FEEDBACK

AVERAGE LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR GOALS & ACTION STEPS

GOAL # 1 – 89% Support/Strongly Support

GOAL # 2 – 93% Support/Strongly Support

GOAL # 3 – 90% Support/Strongly Support

GOAL # 4 – 89% Support/Strongly Support

FEEDBACK & METHODOLOGY

Feedback Received



Actionable & Next Step Recommendations



Refined Recommendations Based on Feedback

PROPOSED RICA UPDATES

We have adjusted 12 Recommendations based on your feedback. We'll review 5 as a group for a snapshot of the changes.

*Please reference the Revised Companion Guide in the chat to review all revisions.

GOAL #1; ACTION STEP #7

Cross-Jurisdictional Project Development, Implementation, and Management

The State of California's Sierra Nevada Conservancy, through its grant programs, will **fund** ~~allow for~~ the expeditor/facilitation capacity necessary for cross-jurisdictional project development, implementation, and management, **with a priority on local hiring.**

GOAL #3; ACTION STEP #3

Regional Cycling and Active Transportation Workforce Cluster

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

GOAL #3; ACTION STEP #1

Year-Round Ambassador Program

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

SIERRA RICA

GOAL #1 – FUND A REGIONAL INFORMATION-SHARING ENTITY

1. Regional Information-Sharing Entities
2. Align Jurisdictions with DOI Directives
3. Regional Hubs for Gateway Communities
4. Administrative Support
5. Project Prioritization & Budgeting
6. Tribal Engagement Liaison
7. Cross-Jurisdictional Project Development
8. Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Data Library
9. Regional Placemaking Coordination

GOAL #3 – BUILD YEAR-ROUND REC WORKFORCE

1. Year-Round Ambassador Program
2. Recreation Workforce is a Community Benefit
3. Regional Cycling & Transportation Workforce
4. Cultural Stewardship Workforce

GOAL #2 –BARRIERS THAT OBSTRUCT IMPLEMENTATION

1. Fund Local Rec & Tourism
2. Lead Agencies for NEPA/CEQA Decisions
3. Public Funds in Partner Infrastructure
4. Data Standards for Rec Economies
5. Maintenance Funding for Rec Infrastructure
6. Adopt Arts & Cultural Plans
7. Grant Reimbursement Requirements for Small Orgs
8. Fund Integrated Rec & Arts/Culture/Placemaking Projects
9. Cultural Stewardship Workforce
10. Recognize Arts/Placemaking as Economic Infrastructure

GOAL #4 – RESILIENCE & ADAPTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Deploy “A Changing Climate” Across All Seven-Counties
2. Develop “SRTI Climate: Regional Asset & Gap Assessment
3. Develop “SRTI Climate: Rec & Outreach Education Program
4. Snow Play Data & Utilization
5. Climate-Adaptive Visitor Management Fund
6. Reform Grant Reimbursement for Small Seasonal Orgs

CONGRATULATIONS!



RICA Draft Review

Please provide your feedback on these draft Recommendations for Implementation & Collaborative Action (RICA) for the Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Sector in the Sierra Region of the California Jobs First initiative.

These recommendations have been compiled from the Sierra Works/Jobs First "Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Working Group" convenings from November 2025 through June 2026.

Don't Miss Out: Please share your feedback using a desktop machine for the best experience! You're going to miss out if you just use your phone.

Have Fun! We think this will take about *20 minutes* of your time to share your golden insights.

Start



Sierra

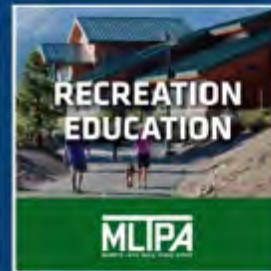
RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



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MEETING RECAPS

Arts, Culture, Placemaking - *June 15th*

Workforce Development - *May 18th*

Climate Resiliency - *April 20th*

Regional Identity and Funding - *March 16th*

Policy Barriers - *February 23rd*

Asset Mapping - *January 20th*

Regional Governance - *November 17th*



Sierra RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



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- The Collaboration of this Working Group is producing a final RICA for publication
- The 20+ Projects working in the Sierra Jobs First Recreation and Tourism Sector!
- Practitioners across 7 Counties of the Sierra Jobs First Region - did not even know each other when the Working Group convened in November 2025.
- CONGRATULATIONS!



Sierra RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



SIERRA
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Allie Larman – Project Interviews

- *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*
- *PKG Center for Social Impact*
- *Summer 2026 Fellow w/MLTPA*



Sierra

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



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State Cohort

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



SIERRA JOBS FIRST
COLLABORATIVE

2024 Strategic Plan

Regional Plan: Part II



Governing Council Approved August 23, 2024

Sustainable Recreation & Tourism

Building a Sustainable Tourism Economy

SECTOR DEFINITION

The Sustainable Tourism Industry Sector includes natural and cultural attractions, arts, outdoor activities, events, and historic sites. Sustainable tourism is focused on current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts and addresses the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities. Data and feedback indicate the region's robust recreation and tourism sector is a critical economic driver. Leveraging the region's natural assets, arts, historic sites, and community events has significant potential for developing quality jobs.

SECTOR SNAPSHOT

Sustainable recreation and tourism dominate the regional economy and represent nearly 25% of all employment.

This industry sector is broad in scope and includes everything from accommodations and lodging to outdoor recreation, arts and cultural attractions, food service, and some retail operations.

The location quotient is 1.64, indicating that 64% more tourism jobs exist in the region than the employment average in California for this sector. The highest number of jobs exist in food service and accommodations for this sector, as listed on the next page. Jobs in these two industries tend to be low-wage jobs. This industry sector represents one of the most significant areas for wage improvement to achieve region-wide income goals, as many jobs in this sector today pay under \$50,000 annually.

Strategies in this sector will need to work to find creative ways to build opportunities for high-quality job growth in these specific industry areas.

OUTCOME STATEMENTS

- › Sierra employees, especially those in the food service and accommodations, can access high-quality jobs in the recreation and tourism sector.
- › Local, state, tribal, federal, and private landowners work together to unlock regional opportunities.
- › Significant regional public and private investments support new opportunities and ongoing maintenance needs in the arts, history, and recreational opportunities.
- › A climate-resilient, environmentally responsible recreation and tourism economy exists in the region.

BY THE NUMBERS

SECTOR LOCATION QUOTIENT

1.64

Sustainable recreation represents an area of economic specialization for the region, with an occupation rate 64% higher than statewide averages across this economic sector. With its high employment numbers, this is an important regional investment area.

TOTAL SECTOR EMPLOYMENT IN REGION 2023

17,642 jobs

**28.1% of
region
employment**

Regionally, about three of every 10 jobs fall within the sustainable recreation sector, indicating that these economies are heavily tied to the continuation and advancement of the local workforce.

SIERRA JOBS FIRST
COLLABORATIVE

2024 Strategic Plan

Regional Plan: Part II



Governing Council Approved August 23, 2024



- There will be no update to the Regional Strategy in this current Jobs First cycle
- Our Regional Convener - the Sierra Business Council – has possession of the master files
- Access to the master files has been requested, but they have not been shared

SIERRA WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS



- Sierra Focus Media and MLTPA will be working through August 31, 2026
- All deliverables mentioned today including an enduring web presence
- SJF ESSRP Meetings
 - August 3, 2026
 - August 31, 2026



RESOURCES

REMINDER!
All Working Group
Meeting Materials
will remain on the



website.



Working Group Meetings

Recreation & Tourism Working Group Meeting Recaps

Sierra Jobs First Recreation and Tourism Working Group - Jun. 15, 2026

- [View the Agenda](#)
- [View the Presentation](#)
- [Project Presentation and Interviews - Arts, Culture & Placemaking](#)
- [View the Meeting Recording](#)
- [View the Meeting Whiteboard](#)
- [View the Survey Results](#)

Sierra Jobs First Recreation and Tourism Working Group - May. 18, 2026

- [View the Agenda](#)
- [View the Presentation](#)
- [Project Presentation and Interviews - Workforce Development](#)
- [View the Meeting Recording](#)
- [View the Meeting Whiteboard](#)
- [View the Survey Results](#)

Sierra Jobs First Recreation and Tourism Working Group - Apr. 20, 2026

- [View the Agenda](#)
- [View the Presentation](#)
- [Project Presentation and Interviews - Climate Resiliency](#)
- [View the Meeting Recording](#)
- [View the Meeting Whiteboard](#)
- [View the Survey Results](#)



RESOURCES



The Final Sierra RICA will be published and available on the MLTPA website in August!



THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!



Please email: sjfadmin@mltpa.org
with any lingering questions.



State Cohort

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



“Symposium of Practice” – April 23rd



10 Recreation and Tourism Cohort Meetings

CA JOBS FIRST - TOURISM & OUTDOOR RECREATION COHORT

AGENDA 06/06/2025

- Welcome/Introductions
- Field Updates
- Introducing Cohort Process/Goals
- "Ray of Sunshine" Best Practices & Good News



CA JOBS FIRST - TOURISM & OUTDOOR RECREATION COHORT

AGENDA 07/11/2025

- Welcome/Check-in
- Field Notes
- Regional Presentations
 - Sierra Region
 - Coastal Region/Nevada County
- "Ray of Sunshine" Moment



CA JOBS FIRST - TOURISM & OUTDOOR RECREATION COHORT

AGENDA 08/01/2025

- Welcome/Check-in
- Field Notes
- Presentations - Session Two
 - Redwood Region
 - UC ANR
- Inter-regional Comparative Analysis - Introduction
- "Rays of Sunshine"
- Adjourn



CA JOBS FIRST - SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT

AGENDA 10/03/2025

- Welcome/Check-in
- Field Notes
- Presentations - Session Four
 - Sierra San Joaquin
 - Santa Monica Mountains
 - Explore Local Nature
 - Santa Monica Mountains
- Rays of Sunshine
- Adjourn



CA JOBS FIRST - SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT

AGENDA 11/07/2025

- Welcome/Check-in
- Field Notes
- Presentations - Session Four
 - North State (Stark/You)
 - Judd/Henry
 - UC ANR UCCE
 - Santa Monica Mountains
 - Santa Monica Mountains
- Rays of Sunshine
- Adjourn



CA JOBS FIRST - SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT

AGENDA 12/05/2025

- Welcome/Check-in
- Field Notes
- Presentations - Session Five
 - North State (Stark/You)
 - Judd/Henry
 - California Outdoor Recreation Partnership
 - Santa Monica Mountains
- Rays of Sunshine
- Adjourn



CA Jobs First Recreation & Tourism Cohort In-Person Convening Sacramento - April 23, 2026



Across the state over 8 months



State Cohort Draft RICA

Please provide your feedback on these draft Recommendations for Implementation & Collaborative Action (RICA) for the Statewide Recreation & Tourism Cohort of Practice.

These recommendations have been compiled from the "Recreation and Tourism Symposium of Practice". The full-day facilitated session was held at the California Natural Resources building on April 23rd, 2026, and focused on lessons learned during the Catalyst phase of California Jobs First in our respective regions, the barriers to success for developed projects, and recommendations to the state to encourage the implementation of Catalyst projects developed through California Jobs First.

Don't Miss Out: Please share your feedback using a desktop machine for the best experience!

Have Fun!

Start



State Cohort

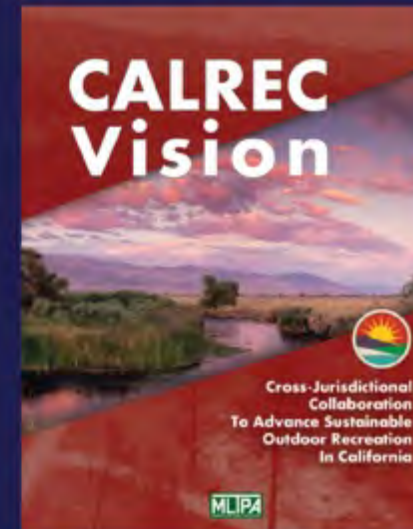
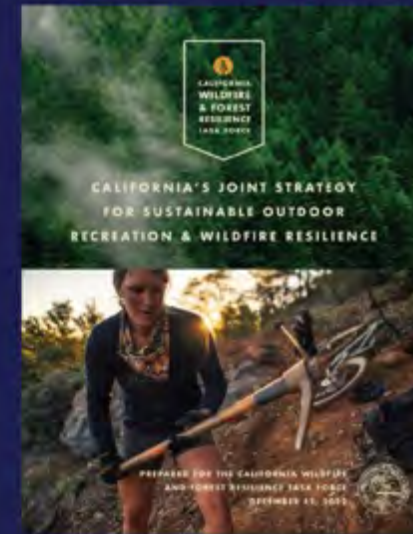
RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



Feedback Closed July 29!







HOME / SCHOOL OF APPLIED HEALTH /
CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR ECONOMY SUMMIT

California Outdoor Economy Summit

Join the Inaugural Outdoor Economy Summit

At a defining moment for **California's outdoor economy**, this inaugural summit convenes those working in and alongside outdoor recreation to build more **resilient economic development**, through equitable careers, stronger natural landscapes, and place-based futures for communities across the state.

California Outdoor Economy Summit

June 3rd-5th, 2026
Eureka, CA







CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST

2026 Investment Summit



STATE LEADERSHIP

From Blueprint
to Breakthrough



April 9, 2026

Sierra

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



State Cohort

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST



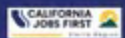
STATE LEADERSHIP

From Blueprint
to Breakthrough

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST

Sierra RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation and
Collaborative Action



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CALIFORNIA
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August 31, 2026

State Cohort RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation and
Collaborative Action



CALIFORNIA
JOBS FIRST

August 31, 2026

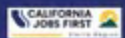


STATE LEADERSHIP

From Blueprint
to Breakthrough

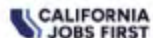
Sierra RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation and
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MLIPA



August 31, 2026

State Cohort RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation and
Collaborative Action



August 31, 2026

Currently In Production
Available August 31



SIERRA INDUSTRY SHINDIG

2.0

Save the Date!

Friday Aug 21st

Mother Lode Job Training Center – Sonora, CA

Networking, Project Presentations,
& Project Tours



Happenings of Interest



The graphic features a central orange map of California with a blue banner across it that reads "OUTDOORS FOR ALL" in white capital letters. Above the banner are silhouettes of three people (two adults and one child) with their arms raised in celebration. Surrounding the map are several logos: "OUTDOOR OUTREACH" (top left), "TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND" (top right), "GREENLATINOS CALIFORNIA" (middle left), "CORBA" (bottom left), "CALWILD" (bottom left), "TROUT UNLIMITED" (middle right), "CAMTB" (bottom right), and "OUTWARD BOUND ADVENTURES" (bottom right). A small upward arrow icon is located at the bottom right of the graphic area.

Collection

Outdoors for All Field Convenings 2026

[Outdoors for All, CA Natural Resources Agency](#)

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

Happenings of Interest

 SAN DIEGO Outdoors for All Field Convening Thu, Aug 27 • 10:00 AM Sweetwater Summit Regional Park (Community Room) Free	 MONTEREY Outdoors for All Field Convening Wed, Sep 2 • 9:00 AM Dennis and Janice Caprara Community Center Free	 PLUMAS COUNTY Outdoors for All Field Convening Wed, Sep 9 • 9:00 AM Plumas Ski Club, Free	 FRESNO Outdoors for All Field Convening Tue, Sep 15 • 9:00 AM Woodward Park Regional Library Free
 SACRAMENTO Outdoors for All Field Convening Thu, Sep 17 • 9:00 AM River Bend Outdoor Educational Site Free	 LOS ANGELES Outdoors for All Field Convening Fri, Sep 18 • 9:00 AM Hahamongna Watershed Park Free	 RIVERSIDE Outdoors for All Field Convening Thu, Sep 24 • 9:00 AM California Citrus State Historic Park Free	

ADVOCACY



July 22, 2026

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

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

CALL TO ACTION: Stand Up for Our Trails. Stand Up for Our Demonstration Forests.

We need your voice! The success of AB 2494 depends on the active engagement of the cycling and trails community.

Contact your state representatives today and request their support for AB 2494. Tell them that equitable trail access, sustainable forestry, and modern land management matter to you and your community! Let's ensure this historic shift becomes a reality.

Happenings of Interest



30x30 Partnership 2026 Summit

Jump to:

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



30x30 Partnership 2026 Summit

All are Welcome!

Tuesday, September 29th

California Academy of Sciences

San Francisco, California

Energize · Empower · Evolve



California's 2026 Nature Based Climate Solutions Summits

July - November 2026

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

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

We are keeping the conversation going with **eight landscape-specific Nature Based Solutions (NBS) summits** through 2026. The eight landscape-specific summits build on these conversations by diving into the details for increasing the pace and scale of NBS implementation.



Forests - Date TBD, 2026

Location TBD

From towering redwood and sequoia trees to expansive oak woodlands, California's forests currently store the largest amount of carbon on California's lands and serve as the headwaters for a large portion of the state's water supply. Government policy of fire exclusion beginning in the early 20th century, coupled with historic timber harvesting methods, has left California's forests vulnerable to drought, disease, insects, and catastrophic wildfire. Reintroducing beneficial fire and other NBS like conservation and restoration are critical to building the health and resilience of this important landscape.

[MORE INFORMATION TO COME](#)

Resilient California Summit

Explore · Imagine · Catalyze



October 20-22, 2026

SAFE Credit Union
Convention Center
Sacramento

Organized by:



Presented by:



ABOUT THE SUMMIT

The inaugural Resilient California Summit, taking place October 20-22, 2026, at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento, will convene people from across the state to make progress on the policies, partnerships, and practices needed to build resilience as climate change accelerates.

The Summit will feature a diversity of interactive sessions aimed at fostering conversation, sparking new ideas, and giving attendees the resources and tools they need to be successful in their work and communities. Participants will **explore** key insights from California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment, **imagine** the best possible future that remains within reach, and **catalyze** the actions needed to turn that vision into reality.

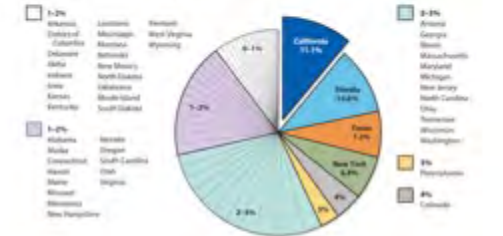
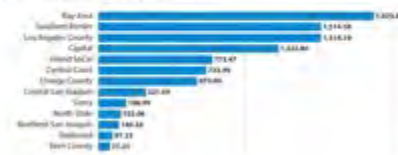
Organizers:

The Summit is being organized by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, Climate Resolve, Farallon Strategies, the California Natural Resources Agency, UC Davis Institute of the Environment, and Indigenous Futures Society – with core support from the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, Resources Legacy Fund, and Resilient Cities Catalyst.

Intended Audience:

We anticipate **1,000 attendees** representing local and regional government, community-based organizations, state agencies, Tribes, nonprofits, academia, the private sector, and additional key partners.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources



Happenings of Interest

POLITICO

Your favorite EV is out of stock

By ALEX NIEVES | 07/28/2026 07:30 PM EDT

TOP OF THE DAY



California's electric vehicle future is in flux. | Nam Y. Huh/AP

NUMBERS GAME: President **Donald Trump** has taken a sledgehammer to California's electric vehicle ambitions since returning to office. Now, the Iran war is giving the EV market new life.

But just how strong the resurgence will be could come down to how many electric models car manufacturers send to dealerships around the state in the coming months.

EVs and plug-in hybrids accounted for roughly 19 percent of all new vehicles sold in the state between April and June, according to data the California Energy Commission released last week. While that figure falls well below the high-water mark of nearly 30 percent last summer, it represents a notable turn around after six months of decline. (The rebound also comes on the heels of the single worst quarter for the EV sector since 2021.)

Trump's announcement last July that he planned to end a \$7,500 federal tax credit for EV buyers spurred a mad dash from Californians to snatch up electric vehicles. Once that move was finalized at the end of September, EV market share collapsed, plummeting to less than 14 percent through March.

SLATE

The Slate Essentials Latest Build & Shop Sign In Premium

THE MOST AFFORDABLE TRUCK IN AMERICA.*

The Blank Slate has the essentials from \$24,990.***
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(We used the range, not the price.)

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Keep it as a two-seat pickup. Or get it as a five-seat SUV or Fartback. Your call.

START ORDERING

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The Slate Essentials Latest Build & Shop Sign In Premium

WRAPS FOR ANY VIBE.



BROWSE WRAPS

200+ ACCESSORIES. AND COUNTING.

Over 80% of them are under \$500. Featuring a variety of items only yours has never been inside (or drove) before.

SEE EVERYTHING



SLATE X CRAYOLA

Our first-ever collab is powered by the joy of self-expression. Let's get colorful.

SEE THE COLLAB



Happenings of Interest

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A camping, hiking, horseback riding adventure

East Bay Hills Hike & Ride

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400 miles (and growing!) of trail adventures in San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Berkeley, Oakland, the Peninsula, San Jose, Fremont, and beyond!

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Our Journey to Become a National Scenic Trail

The Bay Area Ridge Trail has embarked on a journey to become a National Scenic Trail!

On January 28, 2026, U.S. Representative Jared Huffman and U.S. Senator Adam Schiff, along with U.S. Senator Alex Padilla and every member of the Bay Area delegation, [introduced legislation](#) to help designate the Bay Area Ridge Trail as a National Scenic Trail (NST). This historic move would place the Ridge Trail alongside just 11 other trails nationwide—including the Appalachian and Pacific Crest—that claim this prestigious distinction.

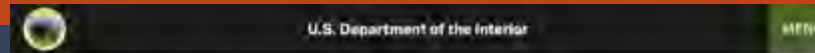


Happenings of Interest

OUTDOOR
INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION

8 WAYS THE EXPLORE ACT POSITIVELY IMPACTS THE OUTDOOR INDUSTRY

DISCOVER HOW THE EXPLORE ACT
EMPOWERS THE OUTDOOR INDUSTRY,
FROM BOOSTING RECREATION ACCESS
TO DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH.



Home Interior Seeks Nominations For Long-Distance Biking Trails

Interior Seeks Nominations for Long-Distance Biking Trails on Public Lands

07/02/2026
Last edited 07/02/2026

The Department of the Interior are seeking public input related to identifying and developing long-distance biking trails, as part of work underway to implement provisions of the [Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act](#).

The Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act, Section 121 of the EXPLORE Act, directs the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to identify no fewer than 10 long-distance biking trails that make use of existing trails and roads, and no fewer than 10 areas where there is an opportunity to develop or complete future long-distance biking trails. The Departments will ensure the appropriate tribal consultation takes place prior to the establishment of trails.

"Our public lands belong to the American people, and the Trump administration is fully committed to expanding access, supporting rural economies, and promoting robust multiple-use recreation on federal acreage," said **Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum**. "By cutting red tape, harnessing the power of local partnerships, and utilizing existing infrastructure, this initiative will establish premier long-distance biking corridors that fuel local tourism while ensuring we remain responsible stewards of our nation's abundant natural resources."

Members of the public may nominate trails and areas for consideration using the Bureau of Land Management's web-based [National Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act Nomination Tool](#). Trail and recreation managers, partner organizations, and other parties with an interest in biking on public lands are especially encouraged to provide input. Nominations will be accepted through August 3, 2026.

The online nomination tool allows individuals to draw proposed routes on a digital map and input information about the routes in the system. People may nominate existing or potential trails using the following parameters:

- The trail is at least 80 miles long and publicly accessible.
- A majority of the trail is on federally managed public land (including lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation).
- The proposed route makes use of existing designated or otherwise officially available roads and trails.
- The trail is primarily on dirt or natural surface (short connector routes on paved or improved roads may be acceptable).
- The trail is open to bicycle use (not located within designated wilderness areas).
- The trail avoids conflicts with other trail uses, specifically other bicycling, hiking, horseback riding or pack and saddle stock uses; and purposes for which a trail was established under the National Trails System Act, if applicable.
- Ideally, nominated trails or areas have partner organizations or volunteer groups identified to assist with trail development and maintenance.

LONG LIVE LONG TRAILS

A report by the Biking on Long Distance Trails (BOLT) Coalition



CONTENTS

History of the BOLT Act
What Does the BOLT Act Do?
Formation of the BOLT Coalition
Developing a Trails Inventory
Criteria Used to Classify Trails
Summary of Existing Trails*
Summary of Potential Trails*
Honorable Mentions
Our Vision for the Future of Long Distance Trails

Existing Trails
Potential Trails

*This is not intended to represent an exhaustive list nor is it representative of trails that will ultimately be selected for recognition by the Federal Land Management Agencies, but we believe that it captures many of the candidates based on the BOLT criteria in the law.

Cover: Arizona Trail | Kurt Belander
Back Cover: Kenai MTB Trail | Cameron Sanders

Kenai MTB Trail | Cameron Sanders

Happenings of Interest



TOWNS TO TRAILS PLAN

Alpine County, Mono County, Inyo County

East Side Sierra
Towns to Trails

California

355

USFS, BLM

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL TRAILS

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

Generally, we see identifying them as potential as being a great stepping stone to completion of some of these large ambitious projects that already have a lot of backing behind them.



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

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

The screenshot displays the Ride with GPS interface for a route titled "West Side t2t" by Dillon Osleger. The route is 267.9 miles long, with a total elevation gain of 34,558 feet and a total descent of 38,823 feet, resulting in a net descent of 20.3%. The route is located in the Sierra Nevada region, passing through Carson City, South Lake Tahoe, and Mammoth Lakes. The map view shows the route in red, with various geographical features and landmarks labeled. The photo gallery shows a series of images from the ride, including a view of a forest fire. The elevation graph shows the route's profile, with a red line representing the elevation and a blue line representing the distance. The graph is labeled with "Elev", "Surfaces", "Grade", and "Waypoints". The route is marked with a green square at the start and a red square at the end. The interface includes navigation controls, a search bar, and a "Send to Device" button.

West Side t2t
By Dillon Osleger

Details [Reviews & Comments \(0\)](#)

📍 267.9 mi + 34,558 ft ↗ 18.3 %
⌚ 0:00 - 38,823 ft ↘ -20.3 %

[Send to Device](#)

📍 El Dorado County, CA 🌐 Public (6 views)
📅 Created Jun 24, 2026 🔄 Updated Jun 24, 2026

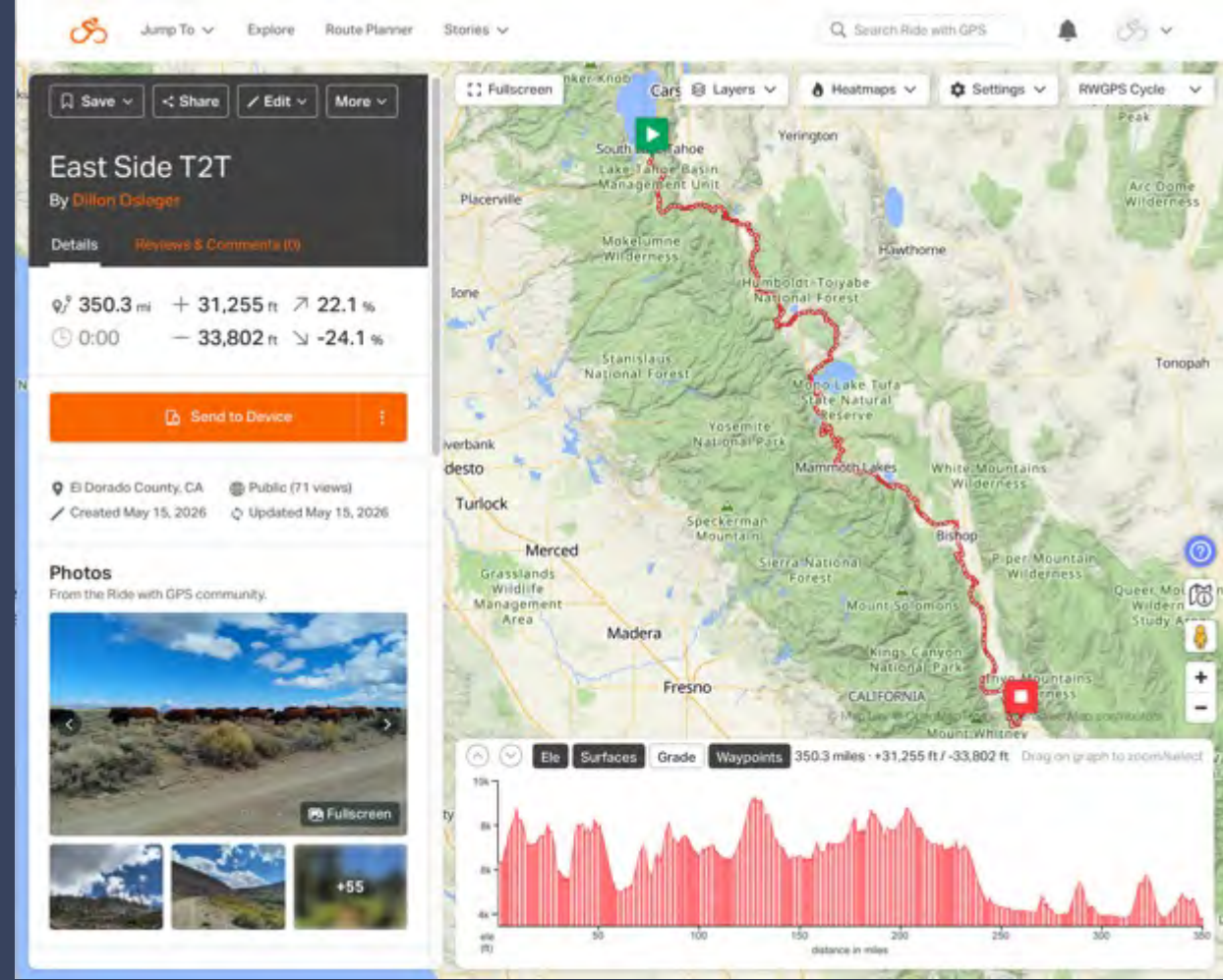
Photos
From the Ride with GPS community.

[Fullscreen](#)

[+18](#)

Waypoints 267.9 miles · +34,558 ft / -38,823 ft [Drag on graph to zoom/pan](#)

10k
8k
6k
4k
2k
0k
0 50 100 150 200 250
distance in miles



Happenings of Interest

[Priorities ▾](#)[Programs ▾](#)[Resources ▾](#)[Membership ▾](#)[Leadership](#)[News](#)[ORR Events ▾](#)[Calendar](#)[SUPPORT](#)

Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and Confluence of States Release First National Disaster Resilience Playbook for State Outdoor Recreation Leaders



New Resource, Developed in Partnership with Confluence of States and Supported by The VF Foundation, Helps Protect America's \$1.3 Trillion Outdoor Recreation Economy Before, During, and After Natural Disasters

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Workforce

The biggest story in the federal workforce cuts isn't how many left, it's who wasn't replaced

COMMENTARY | The data suggest the workforce reduction reshaped not just the size of government, but the expertise available to carry out its work, one expert argues.

JULY 13, 2026

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WORKFORCE RIGHTS/GOVERNANCE

Proposed NDAs for federal employees could face constitutional obstacles

"They have been clear throughout recent history that federal employees can speak out on matters of public concern," said Jules Torti.

 Terry Gerton
July 8, 2026 3:06 pm 10 min read



Guest: Jules Torti

Title: Counsel for Protect Democracy

Summary: The Office of Personnel Management's proposal to institute a standardized NDA that federal workers could be required to sign as a condition of employment has made for much discussion in federal workforce circles. While many are concerned with the chilling effect it could have on workers, some are wondering about the possible violation of first amendment rights.

The Federal Drive with Terry Gerton provides expert insights on current events in the federal community. [Read more interviews](#) to keep up with daily news and analysis that affect the federal workforce. Reach out to Terry and the Federal Drive producers with feedback and story ideas at FederalDrive@federalnewsnetwork.com.

Happenings of Interest

Government Executive

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TRENDING: GSA | RETIREMENT BENEFITS | THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN | UNIONS | DPM



The draft NDA included language stating that it does not conflict with the Whistleblower Protection Act, and that whistleblowers may continue to disclose information either to Congress or their agency's inspector general's office. LIDHP/GETTY IMAGES

Workforce

OPM proposes requiring all feds to sign an NDA

Experts warned the measure, when combined with the federal HR agency's new power to target employees' suitability for federal employment, creates a new pathway for Trump administration officials to purge those deemed insufficiently loyal to the president.

MAY 26, 2026

FEDERAL NEWS NETWORK

TRENDING: Pentagon pauses CMMC phase two | Dems: MSPB decision threatens to data

WORKFORCE | POLICY | ANALYSIS

Proposed NDAs for federal employees could face constitutional obstacles

"They have been used throughout history that federal employees can speak out on matters of public concern," said Jules Torti.

**Terry Gerton**
July 6, 2026 3:06 pm 10 min read



Guest: Jules Torti

Title: Counsel for Protect Democracy

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GREENWIRE

Get article

Trump's gag order sends shivers down feds' spines

If civil servants break a proposed nondisclosure agreement — or refuse to sign it — they could be fired by their agencies.

BY: KEVIN BOGARDUS, HANNAH NORTHEY | 05/27/2024 9:23 PM EDT



President Donald Trump governs Friday after speaking at Westwood Community College in Suffolk, New York. New Braunfels/AP

GREENWIRE | President Donald Trump wants everyone in government to sign a nondisclosure agreement. Federal employees see it as another attempt by his administration to intimidate them.

The Office of Personnel Management on Wednesday published in the *Federal Register* a *proposal* to have civil servants sign a governmentwide NDA. The measure is designed to have new and existing employees acknowledge and agree with laws already in place to safeguard "non-public, confidential, or proprietary information."

If those employees break the NDA — or refuse to sign it — they could be fired by their agencies.

Happenings of Interest

NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
COUNTIES

NACo®

What Your County Should Do Now

1. **County attorneys:** Review the [proposed rule](#) — particularly the new discretionary grant termination authority, expanded pass-through entity obligations, new event-services requirements and the reclassification of 2 CFR Subtitle A from policy guidance to binding federal regulation.
2. **County officials:** Use [NACo's template comment letter](#) to submit formal comments, personalized with your county's specific grant programs and local examples of how the proposed changes could affect service delivery and budgets.

“The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposes to revise the Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance to improve government-wide policies and requirements related to the management of grants, cooperative agreements, and other forms of assistance.”

transportation, housing, public health, emergency management and more. The public comment period closes **July 13, 2026**.

To assist counties, NACo has developed an [online resource hub](#) and [comprehensive analysis](#).

3,069

3,069 counties will be directly impacted

\$1.1T

\$1.1 trillion in federal grants governed by this rule annually

proposed rule could affect your county's federal grant programs, operations, and capacity.

Sessions run **4–5 p.m. ET** on the following dates:

- Thursday, June 25
- Tuesday, June 30
- Thursday, July 2
- Tuesday, July 7

Your input will directly shape NACo's formal comment letter ahead of the July 13 deadline.

[Join via Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 270 302 425 517 545 | Passcode: 4oL9XY9q

Happenings of Interest



2 CFR 200.204

- Requirement for all discretionary awards, including noncompetitive awards, to be issued pursuant to a NOFO

2 CFR 200.201(b) and 2 CFR 200.333

- Prohibition of the issuance of fixed amount awards and subawards unless otherwise authorized by statute

2 CFR 200.329

- New performance monitoring requirements for recipients and the Federal awarding agency

2 CFR 200.341

- Creation of an option to issue a stop work order

2 CFR 200.421

- Imposing significant limitations on advertising and marketing costs.

Happenings of Interest

Senate leaders are deciding whether to block President Donald Trump from finalizing a plan to put political appointees in charge of approving grants, Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins said Thursday.

"I have made very clear that I oppose the new rule," the Maine Republican told reporters. "So I hope we'll take advantage of this opportunity to delay it. But that's up to the leadership."



3 DAYS AGO

Top senators consider **blocking Trump's grant shakeup** in spending stopgap

It's now "up to leadership" whether to head off the controversial changes, Sen. Susan Collins said.



JENNIFER SCHOLTES
07/30/2026, 5:14PM ET

POLITICO

Senate leaders are deciding whether to block President Donald Trump from finalizing a plan to put political appointees in charge of approving grants, Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins said Thursday.

"I have made very clear that I oppose the new rule," the Maine Republican told reporters. "So I hope we'll take advantage of this opportunity to delay it. But that's up to the leadership."

Happenings of Interest

The Smokey Wire : National Forest News and Views

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Where's the (Legal) Beef or Brief?: New York Times Piece on Leaked USDA Memo

June 6, 2026 by Sharon

Thanks to Ted Z. for finding [this NY Times piece](#).

According to the NY Times, there is an undated secretarial memorandum which they obtained (?). They could have linked to the memo, but did not, which always makes me curious.

The undated Agriculture Department secretarial memorandum, which was reviewed by The New York Times, directs the U.S. Forest Service to identify which closed "roads, trails, areas, airstrips and waterways" in each national forest might be considered for year-round recreation access.

The memo would also immediately allow off-road vehicles in areas that the Forest Service has recommended to Congress should be granted wilderness protections. Right now, ATVs are not allowed in many of those areas, which are treated as if they were protected already. That move alone affects about 5 million acres, primarily in Idaho and Montana.

Recommended Comment Considerations

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

2026

The New York Times

[Administration](#) [Discrimination Cases](#) [Past Presidents](#) [Trump's Personal Earnings](#) [Approval Rating](#)

U.S. Forest Service to Open Millions of Acres to Off-Road Vehicles, Memo Shows

The forthcoming order echoes President Trump's decision to repeal executive orders that have protected other public lands from vehicles for decades.

Listen · 4:55 min

[Share full article](#)



The memo directs the U.S. Forest Service to identify which closed "roads, trails, areas, airstrips and waterways" in each national forest might be considered for year-round recreation access. Paul Ratje for The New York Times

Happenings of Interest

E&E DAILY



Public lands enter the Blanche confirmation fight

Utah Republican Sen. John Curtis sought assurances from the attorney general nominee over his state's rights to some federal lands.



BY: AMELIA DAVIDSON | 07/31/2024 09:45 AM EDT | UPDATED 07/31/2024 11:32 AM EDT



Sen. John Curtis (R-Utah), seen here in the Capitol, met with acting Attorney General Todd Blanche this week. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

E&E DAILY | Utah Republican Sen. John Curtis used his audience with acting Attorney General Todd Blanche this week to broach a long-standing battle over ownership of more than 35,000 miles of roads on public lands, the senator's office confirmed Thursday.

Blanche has been making the rounds on Capitol Hill to secure Senate GOP support for his nomination. Some Republicans are seeking assurances from the White House before supporting Blanche.

The conversation with Curtis, first reported by [Deseret News](#) revolved around a repealed federal mining law that set ownership rights over roads that cross public lands. Utah is currently [fighting the federal government in court](#) over who has control over tens of thousands of miles of road once designated by the law.

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

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



Photo by: WESTx1000



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

Add RideApart as a preferred source in Google

9 Comments

"You can virtually not even walk on it."

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

Happenings of Interest



Story by Elizabeth Hightower Allen, as told by BLM staff. Photo: BLM Staff, Public Lands Photo Project.

NEWSLETTER START YOUR ENGINES

By Elizabeth Hightower Allen, as told by BLM staff. Photo: BLM Staff, Public Lands Photo Project.

We had a lot of questions when President Trump rescinded two executive orders that had governed off-road vehicle use on our public lands since the 1970s, canceling what he said were "ill-defined and arbitrary environmental and social standards."

Did this mean you could ride dirt bikes and OHVs anywhere on public lands? What about national parks? Wilderness areas? Would users be confined to dirt and gravel roads, or could they motor wherever their vehicles could go? And when would it all take effect?

As summer recreation has moved into high gear, we asked author Christopher Solomon to find out. Solomon, who lives in north-central Washington, is a seasoned journalist who has written about public lands for Outside, The New York Times, and others. (Look for more stories from him in RE:PUBLIC in coming months.)

New policies are already in the pipeline, including plans for both the Forest Service and the BLM to open up wilderness study areas to off-road travel. As Laura Peterson, a senior staff attorney at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, told Solomon, "The reality is that these changes will start pretty quickly."

Even off-road enthusiasts are divided about whether that's a good thing. "The OHV community is not a monolith," Solomon writes, "and there are different views about what to make of all this." The Blue Ribbon Coalition supports increased access, while Jonathon Klein, editor in chief of the motorcycle site RideApart, argues that the changes benefit industry. "The administration doesn't care about your off-roading," he wrote in June. "...It cares about mineral extraction." —Elizabeth Hightower Allen



Happenings of Interest

The Guardian US

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

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

Utah

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

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



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

Coral Murphy Marcos and agencies

Mon 13 Jul 2026 19:45 EDT

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

**NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND**





PROTECTING BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

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

Status: Active

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



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

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

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

**WES SILER**
Jul 10, 2026

 170  37  48 [Share](#)



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

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

Happenings of Interest

GREENWIRE



Gift article

Trump clears path for mining across shrunken Utah monuments

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

BY: HEATHER RICHARDS, HANNAH NORTHEY | 07/14/2024 11:43 PM EDT | UPDATED: 07/14/2024 03:50 PM EDT



The two bluffs known as the "Bears Ears" stand off in the distance at sunset in the Bears Ears National Monument, Utah. (Graphic: Getty Images)

The two bluffs known as the "Bears Ears" stand off in the distance at sunset in the Bears Ears National Monument, Utah. (Graphic: Getty Images)

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

The rescissions open up nearly 3 million acres of land, including acreage that could be ripe for mineral exploration and development. That includes coal-rich lands within the footprint of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and uranium deposits near the Bears Ears National Monument, said Brian Somers, president of the Utah Mining Association.

"There's definitely potential. The areas around Bears Ears are definitely part of Utah's uranium belt and the lands around, in the Grand Staircase are known to contain some of our largest coal reserves," said Somers. "There's also potential for other critical mineral development in those areas."

E&E NEWS PM



Gift article

Trump admin draws fire for plan to lift Biden-era oil ban near national park

Oil and gas leasing is currently barred within 10 miles of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park.



BY: HEATHER RICHARDS | 07/30/2024 04:12 PM EDT



Visitors approach Pueblo Bonito, the largest archaeological site at Chaco Culture National Historical Park in northwestern New Mexico, on Aug. 28, 2021. (Cody Aronson/AP)

E&E NEWS PM | The Trump administration's proposal to end a Biden-era oil ban around the Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico is sparking pushback from some tribal governments, state leaders and environmental groups.

The administration plans to lift a 20-year ban on oil and gas lease sales and new mining claims near the park, arguing the policy had unfairly cut off energy resources that could be responsibly produced. The plan, detailed in an environmental review released July 15, was a nod to the Trump administration's support for federal energy development. Yesterday it closed a two-week opportunity for public comment on the proposal. Joey Sanchez, the chair of the All Pueblo Council of Governors — a coalition of Pueblo government leaders — said removing the moratorium would be a "profound mistake."

Political hires break with tradition at the Forest Service

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



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



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

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

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

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

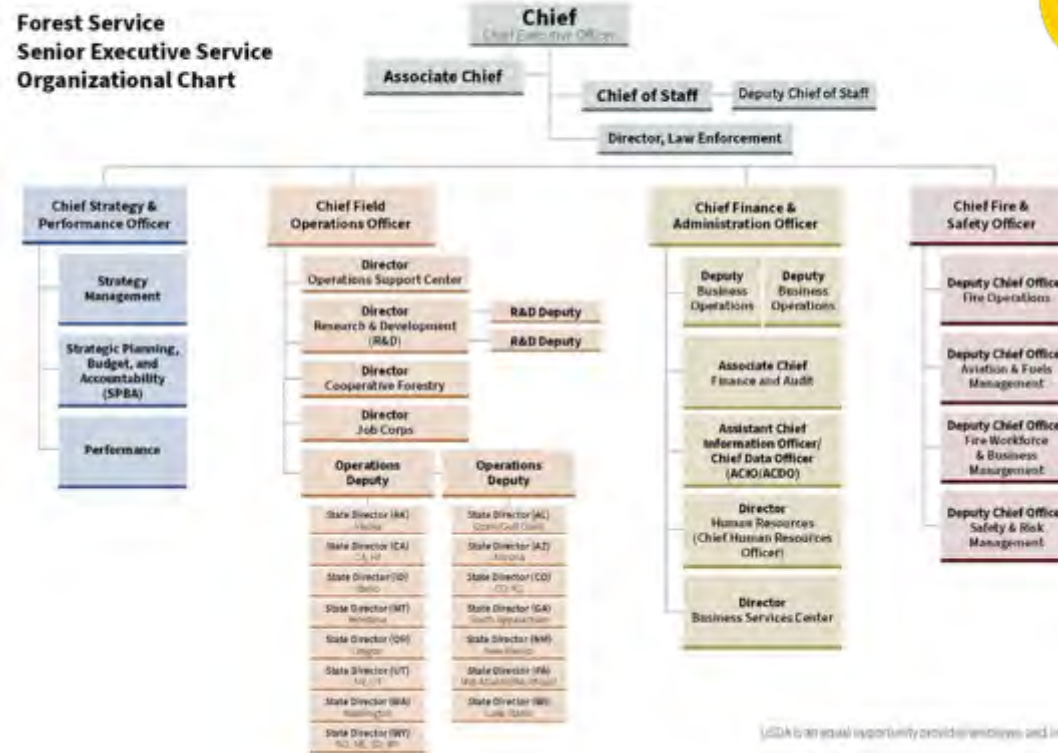
"It's different from the history of the agency," said retired Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, who worked for the agency for more than 30 years before he was picked to lead it during the Obama administration.



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DRAFT DELIBERATIVE

Forest Service Senior Executive Service Organizational Chart



Happenings of Interest

Environment & Energy

Forest Service Chief Eyes More State Control of Federal Land (1)

July 1, 2026, 10:42 AM PDT; Updated: July 1, 2026, 11:35 AM PDT



Bobby Magill
Reporter



Allison Prang
Reporter



Utah's Dixie National Forest near the town of Brian Head.
Photographer: Bobby Magill/Bloomberg Law



The US Forest Service is considering giving states and local counties more control over national forests and other public lands, Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz said Tuesday.

"You think about the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, and we delegate primacy to the states to manage those programs under state authorities," Schultz said, speaking at the Western Governors' Association's annual meeting in Utah. "And that's what we're thinking about."

The Forest Service in a statement on Wednesday denied the agency is pursuing "primacy" specifically. But Schultz's statements suggest the Trump administration's possible next steps would give more control

Forest Service Chief Considering Giving States Control of National Forests

Tom Schultz told a room of governors he's "thinking about" it. The governors had already said yes in writing. And the state first in line is suing to take 18.5 million acres of your land outright.



WILL PATTIZ AND MORE THAN JUST PARKS

JUL 12, 2026 - PAID



185



68



102

Share



U.S. Forest Service photo of Tom Schultz by Preston Keres

There's a moment at every heist where the inside man stops pretending.

For the Forest Service, that moment came on June 30, in a conference room at the Stein Eriksen Lodge above Park City, where the Western Governors' Association held its annual meeting. Tom Schultz, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, stood in front of the governors of the American West and told them he's "thinking about" giving states more control over managing the national forests inside their borders.

Chief Tom Schultz details, defends largest Forest Service reorganization in a century

Three months after the announcement, hiring is underway for a relocated headquarters and a controversial state-centered model

BY MIKE KOSHMRL - JULY 6, 2026 4:24 PM



PARK CITY, UTAH—The U.S. Forest Service received roughly 300 applications for the 15 new state director jobs created during a major agency reorganization that's dissolving regional offices the agency's first chief, Gifford Pinchot, created nearly 120 years ago.

That's 20 applications per job, on average, for well-paying "senior executive service" positions at a federal agency that employs roughly 30,000 staff.

It's a figure that, to many, suggests stunningly little interest in the jobs and a reminder that it remains a tough time to be a Forest Service employee tasked with managing 193 million acres of the United States.

Happenings of Interest

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

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Forest Service publishes proposed rule to redefine, streamline guidance for employees

Forest Service publishes proposed rule to redefine, streamline guidance for employees

Changes to manual, handbooks to simplify direction, more quickly make management decisions

Press Office

(Washington, D.C., June 30, 2026) - The U.S. Forest Service is inviting public comment on a proposed rule to modernize its directives system – the agency's internal documentation that guides how employees carry out their work. The proposal would redefine the agency's manual and handbooks to reduce procedural burdens, encourage innovation and return decision-making authority to employees closest to the land.

"Today, the Forest Service maintains more than 900 chapters of national guidance and thousands of additional regional and unit-level supplements," said **Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz**. "Half of these directives are more than 20 years old, and many exceed 100 pages in length. By streamlining our directives, we can empower local decision-making and innovation so that employees make smart, informed decisions that benefit the land and the American people."

Under the proposal:

- **Forest Service Manuals** codify the agency's official policy, practices and procedures. The updates would provide the minimum mandatory direction necessary to ensure legal compliance, employee safety, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.
- **Forest Service Handbooks** are guidance to implement policy and technical instructions. The updates would become non-binding guidance – practical advice to help employees do their jobs – eliminating inflexible mandates and prescriptive procedures.

This proposed rule is part of a larger effort to modernize the Forest Service directives system. The agency also intends to rescind most regional and unit-level directive supplements, creating more consistent expectations for employees, partners, visitors, and customers across all Forest Service units. National directives will also be revised to reflect the agency's reorganization, with authorities delegated as close to the field level as possible.

The public comment period is open for 30 days. To view the proposed rule and submit comments, visit [Regulations.gov](#).

Wild Narrative Project

The Forest Service Wants to Change One of Its Least-Visible Decision-Making Systems. Few Americans Know It Exists.

WILD NARRATIVE PROJECT AND JENNIFER CAUGHLIN
JUL 28, 2026

Most Americans assume decisions about their national forests are governed by federal law. They are. But those laws are only part of the story.

Behind every grazing permit, vegetation treatment, recreation permit, and countless other management decisions lies a far less visible system of internal agency manuals, handbooks, and judgment calls.

While Congress writes laws and federal agencies adopt regulations, Forest Service employees responsible for managing 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands rely on these internal directives to translate broad policy into everyday decisions.

Most Americans never see those directives.

Yet they shape how federal employees interpret regulations, administer permits, and respond to changing conditions across landscapes held in trust for the benefit of every American.

Now, the U.S. Forest Service wants to fundamentally change how those internal instructions work.

The proposal

A proposal published at the end of June would make agency handbooks advisory rather than mandatory, expanding employees' discretion to depart from handbook guidance when exercising professional judgment. The proposal would also reduce the number of future handbook revisions subject to public notice and comment, allowing many changes to occur without the public review process that has accompanied previous revisions.

David Rezendes's Post

David Rezendes
July 26 at 2:51 PM

I know we are all busy with life and data centers but please go and help put a stop to This before the dead line

Public Announcement!

The U.S. Forest Service has proposed a new rule (RIN 0596-AD74) that could radically change how public lands are managed, and it could deeply impact future Family Gatherings.

The Forest Service wants to update its internal rulebook (the Manual and Handbooks) to give itself more flexibility.

1. **Less Input:** The rule would allow the agency to delete or cancel existing internal policies without asking for public comment first.
2. **Fast-Tracked Closures:** Local forest managers would get more power to bypass standard hurdles, making it easier for them to issue sudden, last-minute site closures or camping restrictions.
3. **Unpredictable Enforcement:** Law enforcement and field officers would have more leeway to change enforcement tactics and camping violations on the spot, rather than sticking to fixed, uniform rules.

Because the Family operates without official permits, we rely heavily on fair, predictable rules and legal transparency. This change makes it much easier for the agency to shift the goalposts right as a gathering begins.

No one should have the right to bypass the current rules without true public oversight! If they want to change the regulations in their massive, 900-page rulebook, they need to do it transparently and give the public more than a mere 30 days to comment.

WE NEED TO VOICE OUR CONCERNS NOW!

The public comment period closes on July 31, 2026. It only takes a few minutes to let them know that public lands require public transparency.

How to comment:

1. Go to [Regulations.gov](#)
2. Search for Docket ID: FS-2026-0067 (or RIN 0596-AD74)
3. Click "Comment" and tell them why public oversight is needed for management practices on public land.

Share if you can! Thanks!

Happenings of Interest



EMERALD
CURTAIN
COLLECTIVE



Sign-on Letter. Tell the Forest Service to Keep Its Handbooks Binding and the Public Involved

[← View All Calls to Action](#)

This Call to Action Has Expired

The deadline for this action has passed. Please [view current calls to action](#) to find opportunities to take action today.

Deadline: July 30, 2026 at 9:00am PDT

Why this Matters

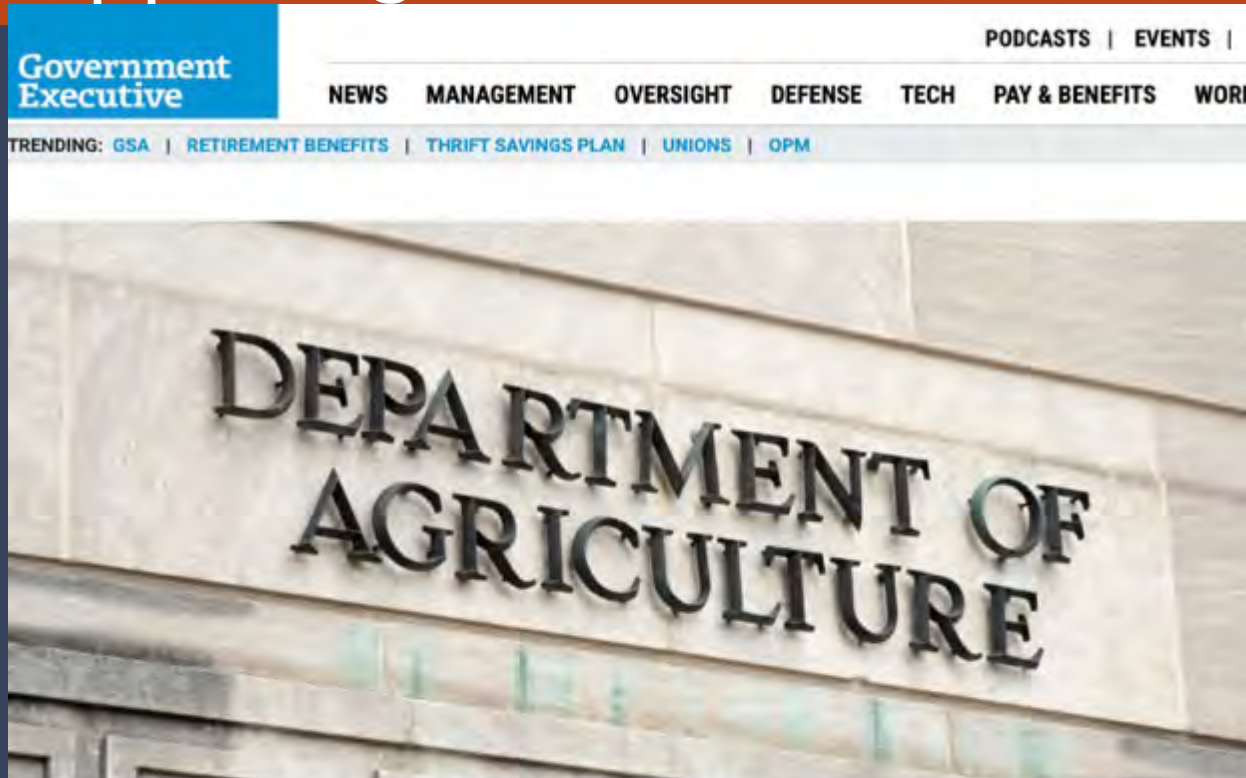
On July 1, 2026, the Forest Service proposed a rule (36 C.F.R. Parts 200 and 216, RIN 0596-AD74) that would downgrade its Handbooks from binding procedure to advisory suggestions and shrink the public's right to notice and comment when agency guidance changes. Handbooks are where the practical rules live: how the agency monitors wildlife, consults with Tribes, manages wilderness and grazing, and writes forest plans. If they become optional, staff can set them aside without explaining why, and the public loses its window to weigh in.

That reaches our coast directly. The Siuslaw National Forest runs the length of the central Oregon Coast Range, including the old-growth Sitka spruce at Cape Perpetua south through the Oregon Dunes. Every decision made in that forest follows the procedures this rule would unravel. Less consistency in the agency means less accountability to the neighbors who live beside these forests.

A group of former members of the federal advisory committee for the Forest Service planning rule, including attorneys and scientists from Silvix Resources and The Wilderness Society, drafted a very specific and detailed [coalition comment letter](#) asking the agency to withdraw the rule. Organizations and individuals can add their names before the letter is submitted on July 30, 2026. If you want to learn more of the gory details, please read the sign-on letter, it contains so much information!

Note: You can also send your own personal comment. Comments directly to the Forest Service are due by July 31, 2026.

Happenings of Interest



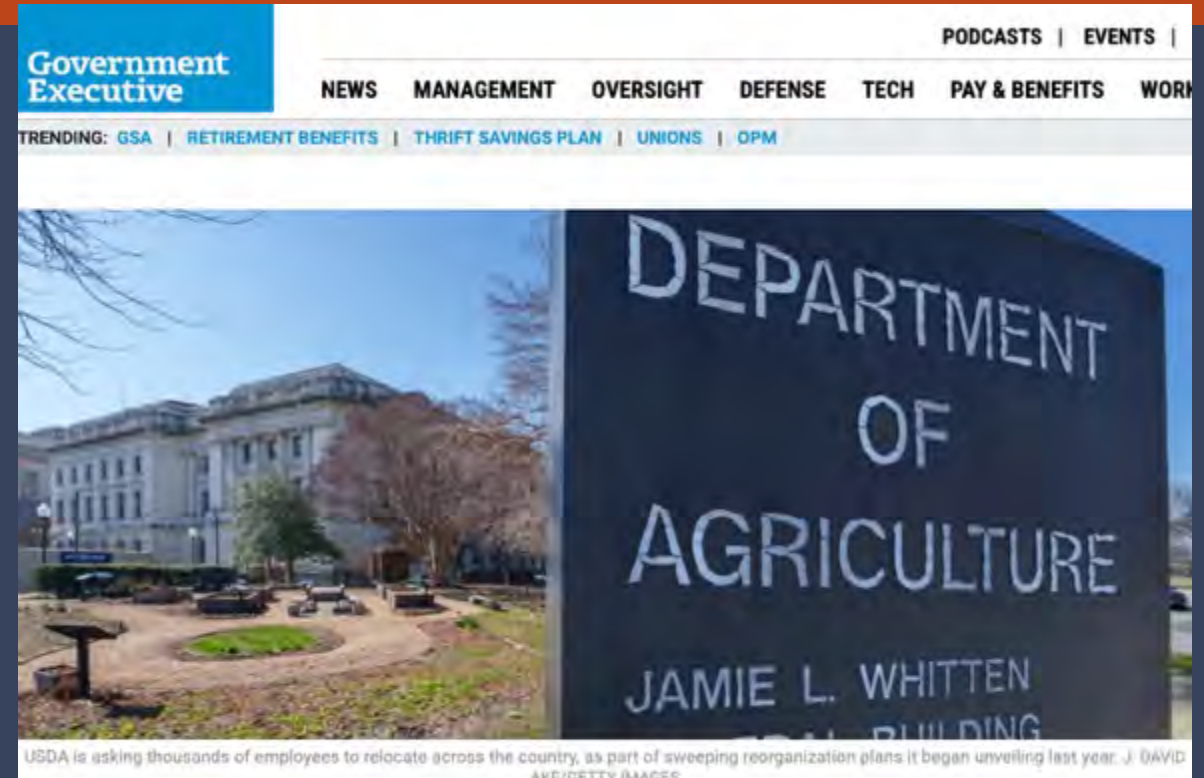
The Agriculture Department is moving thousands of employees out of the Washington, D.C., area. KELLEHER PHOTOGRAPHY / GETTY IMAGES

Management

Unions sue to block USDA reorganization, arguing it's a RIF in disguise

A court filing says that impacted employees must report to their new assigned locations across the country by this fall.

JULY 7, 2026



USDA is asking thousands of employees to relocate across the country, as part of sweeping reorganization plans it began unveiling last year. J. DAVID AKE/GETTY IMAGES

Workforce

As USDA relocation deadlines near, employees say questions remain unanswered

Employees say they still lack key details about exemptions, moving costs and next steps as USDA continues issuing relocation notices.

JULY 27, 2026

Happenings of Interest

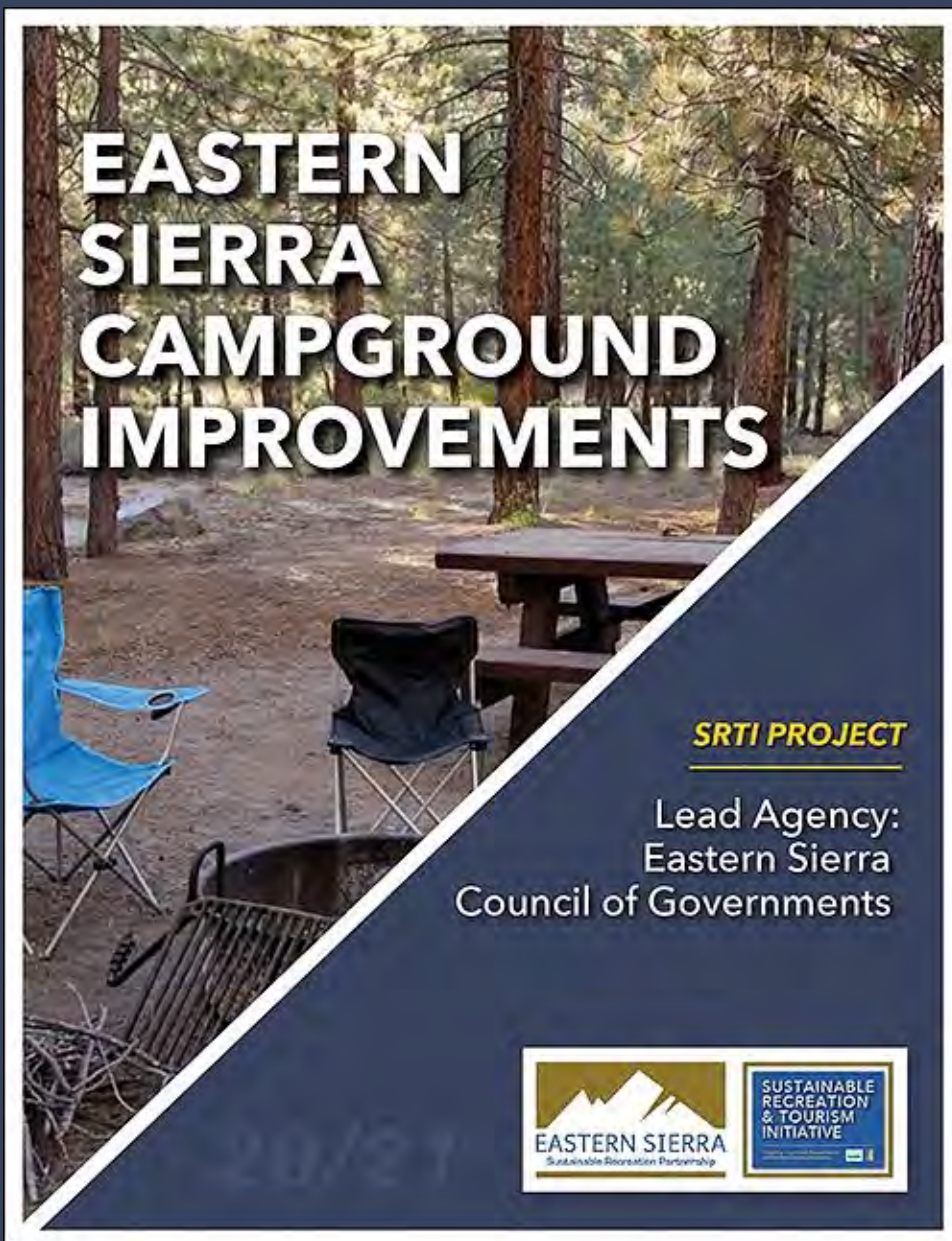


Outreach

- EASTERSIERRAWID.com
- Other Resources:
 - Business/Local one sheet
 - Visitor handouts: postcard, table tent
 - Poster
 - Email/Website banner
 - A-Frames and road signage
 - Social media and digital assets
- <https://monocounty.ca.gov/economic/page/mono-county-fish-wildlife-programs>
- <https://www.vcptoolkit.org/golden-mussels>



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



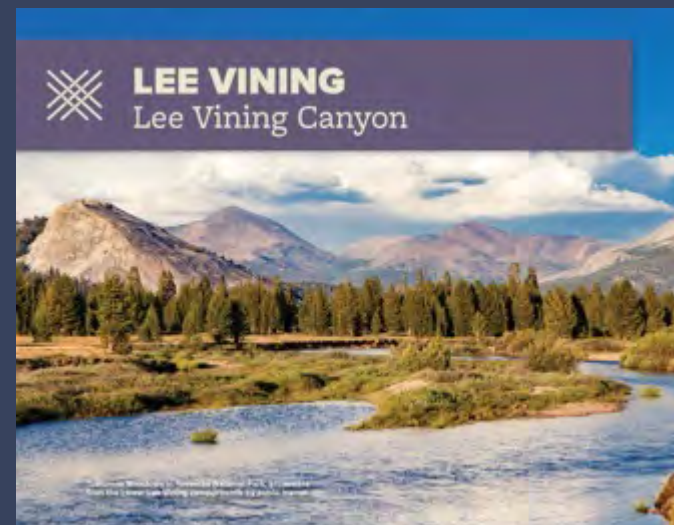
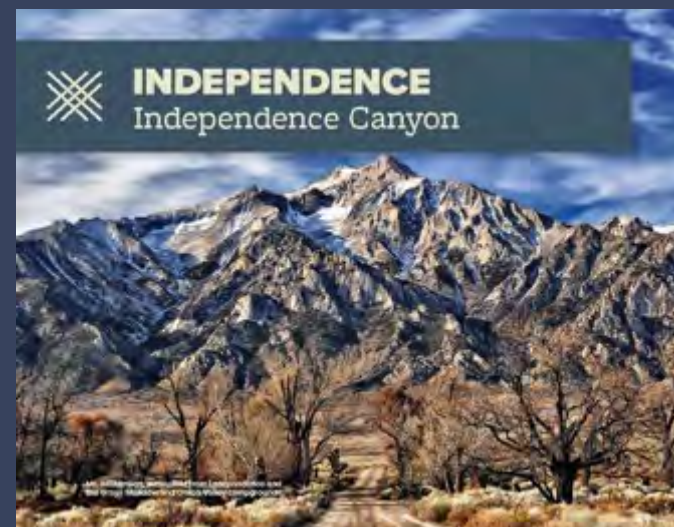
**EASTERN
SIERRA
CAMPGROUND
IMPROVEMENTS**

SRTI PROJECT

Lead Agency:
Eastern Sierra
Council of Governments



20/21



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

"I just got confirmation today that the concession will be able to purchase all 5 double vaults needed for the three LV campgrounds. So, we should be able to get them all installed this fall."
Adam Barnett, Inyo NF



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects



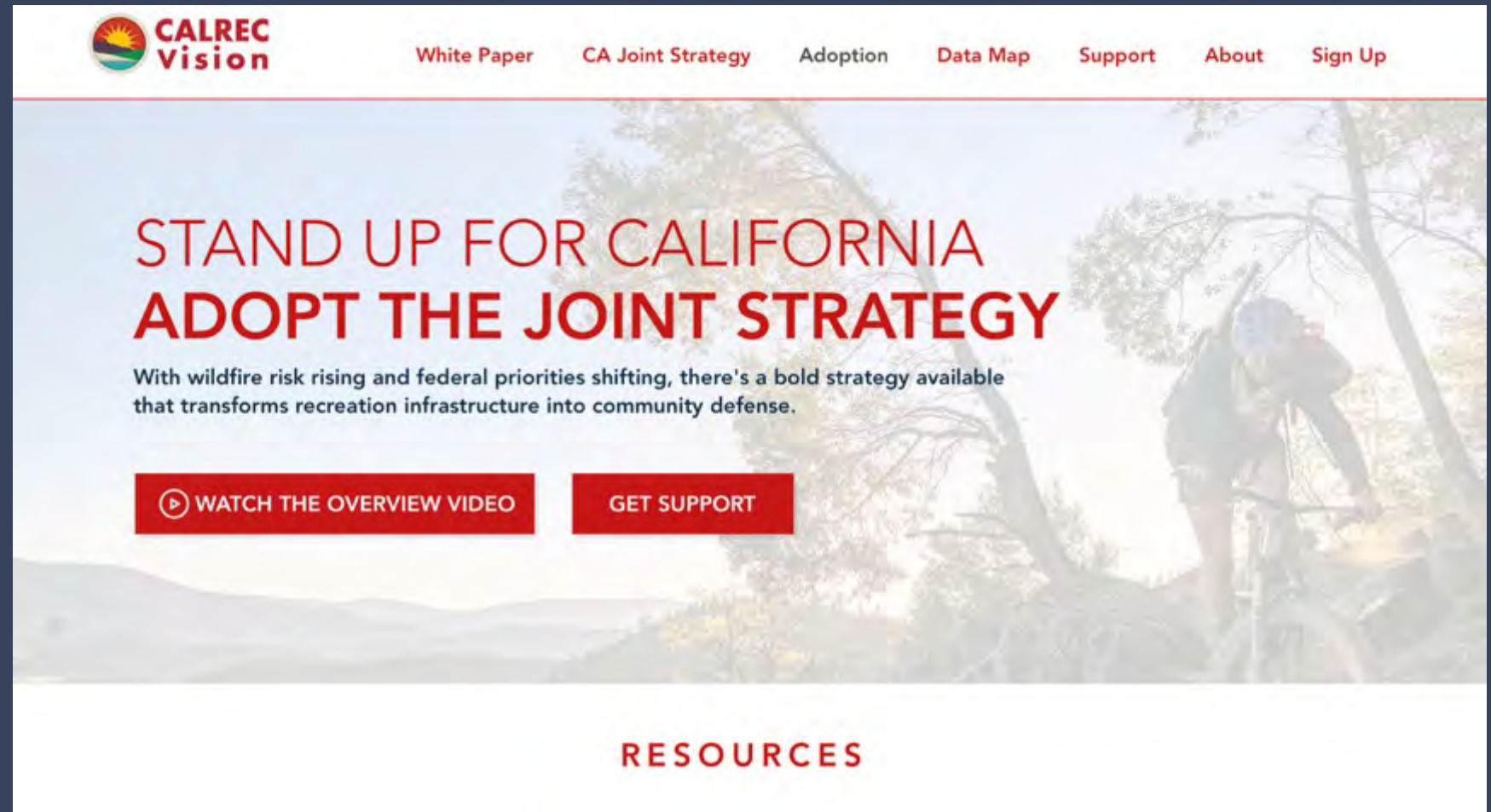
Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, August 25



CALREC
Vision

MLTPA Sustainable Recreation Projects

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



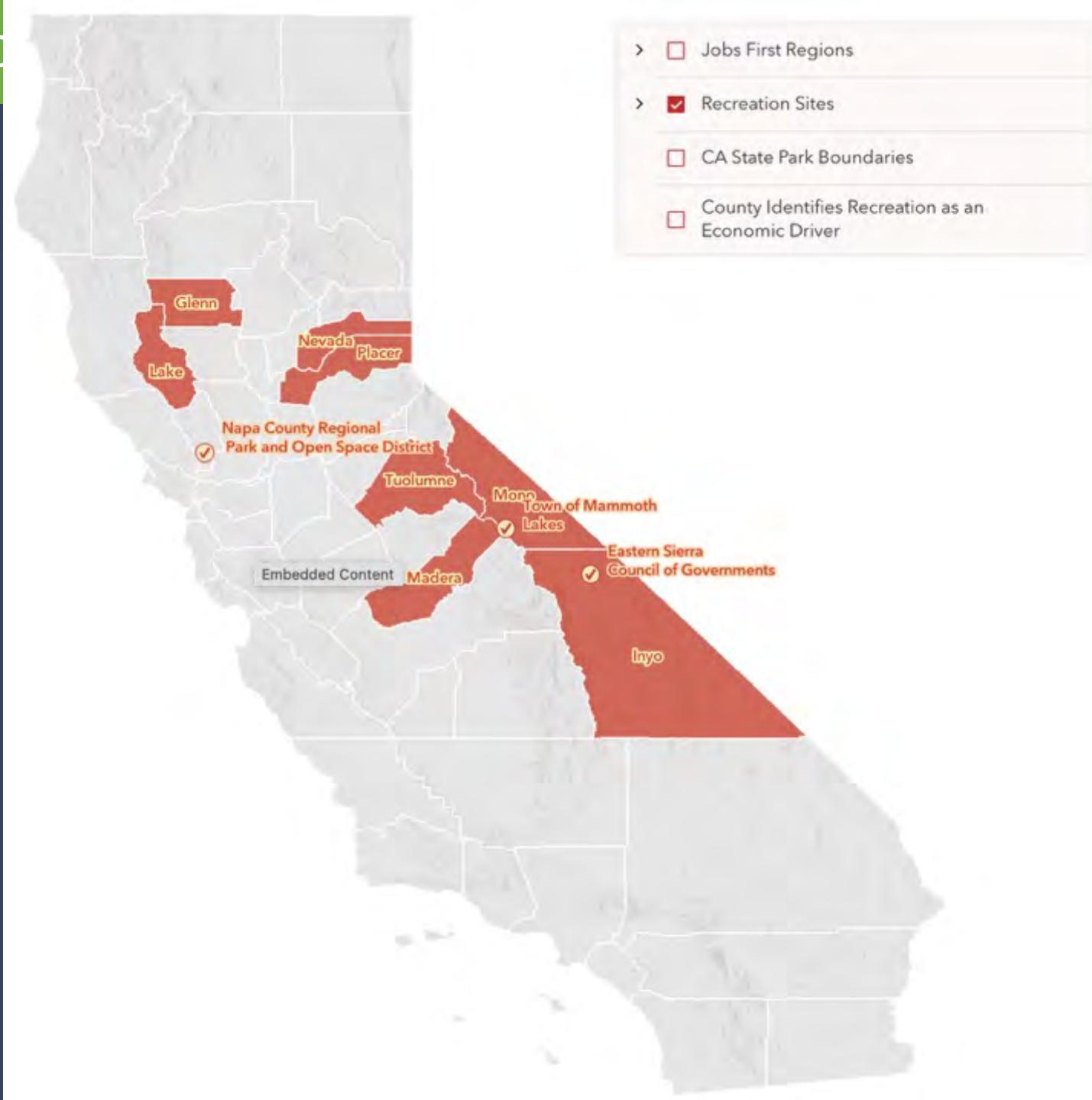
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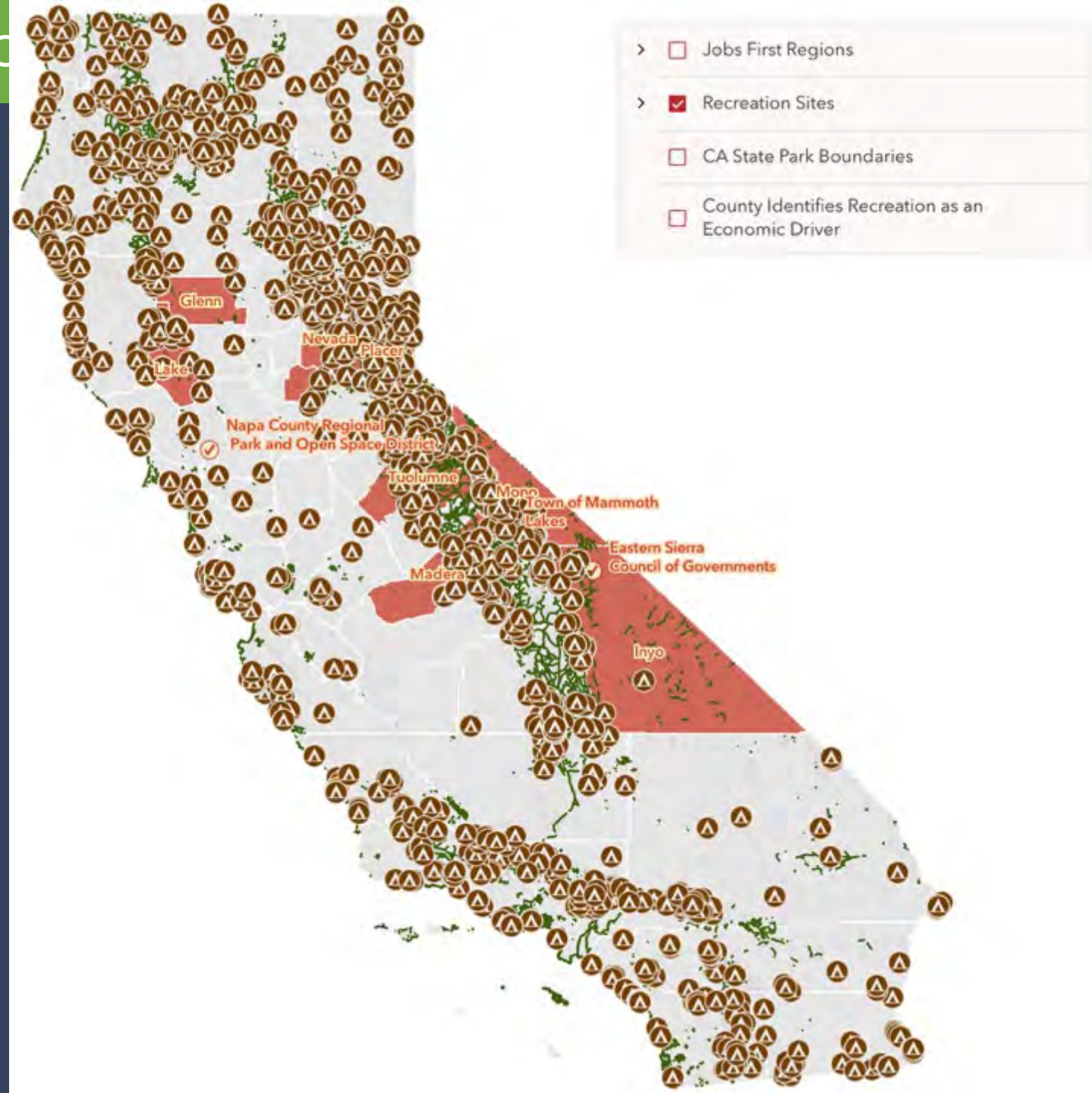
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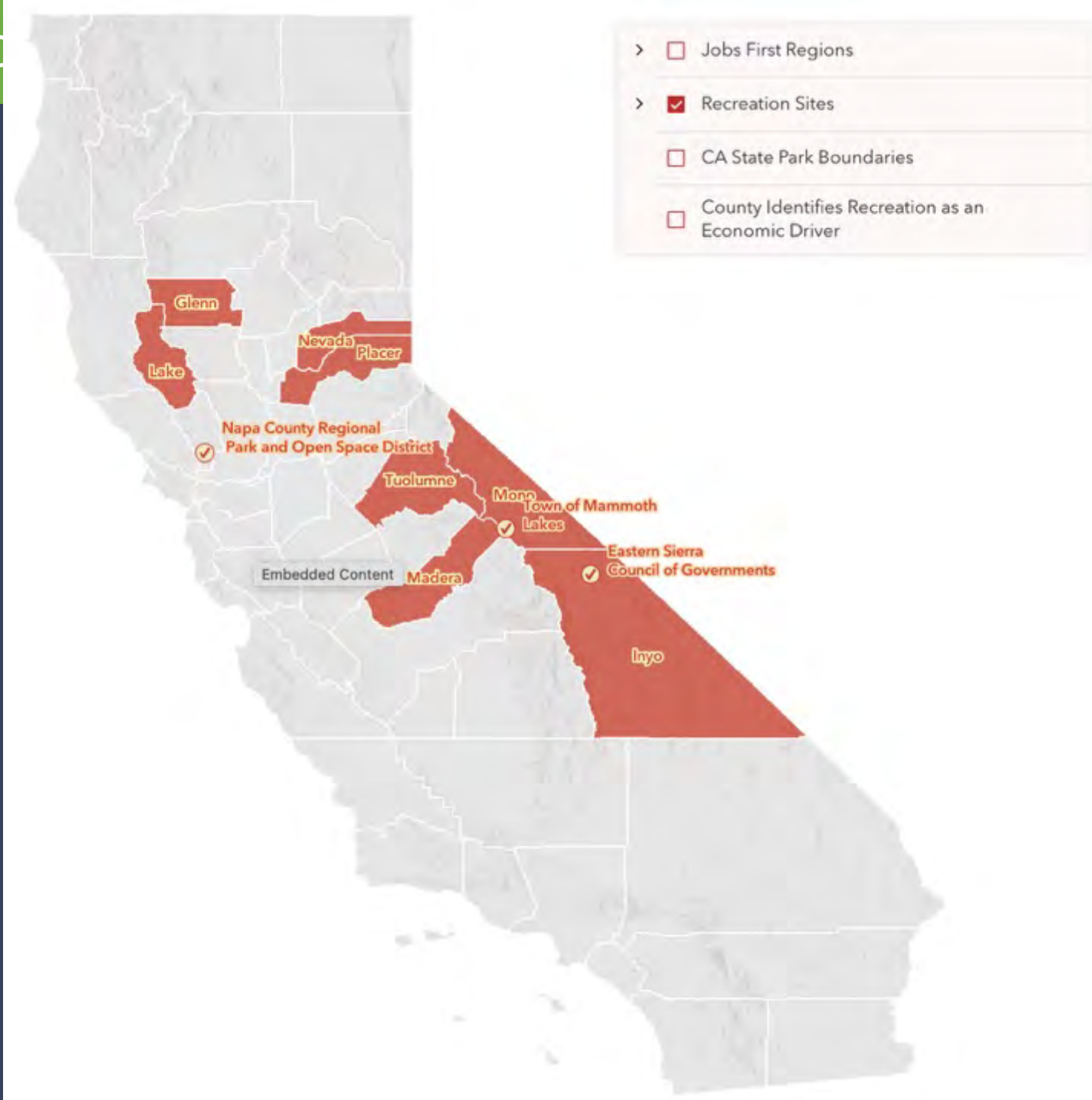
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Happenings of Interest



**AMERICAN
INDIGENOUS
TOURISM**
ASSOCIATION



CALIFORNIA'S STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026
10 AM MDT



WESTERN SERIES
COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR

California's Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience

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

This webinar will explore California's Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience, a collaborative framework that supports work at the intersection of land use, forest health, outdoor recreation, and tourism.

Presenters will discuss how the strategy is being implemented in California and how its approach could support Native Nations and communities in California and across the country. Attendees will learn how the framework can help inform recreation and tourism planning while advancing forest health, community safety, and long-term resilience.



**AMERICAN
INDIGENOUS
TOURISM**
ASSOCIATION



Partner Programs

Happenings of Interest



Webinars & Presentations

The American Indigenous Tourism Association has teamed up with industry and federal partners to develop a regular series of webinars on resource development opportunities and other tourism-related topics. Most webinars are designed to equip organizations with the information needed to find and apply for funding opportunities that support cultural heritage tourism development. Others provide needed information on challenges and obstacles facing the tourism industry. All webinars are free to members and the general public can attend for a per webinar fee. Join us for one or for the entire series.



[White Paper](#) [Joint Strategy](#) [Adoption](#) [Maps](#) [Support](#) [About](#)

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

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National Park Service & Tribal Relations
American Indigenous Tourism Association
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE & TRIBAL RELATIONS
JUNE 10, 2026
10 AM MDT
[Watch on YouTube](#)

Monitoring Your Burn Rate: How to Monitor Your Burn Rate
American Indigenous Tourism Association
MONITORING YOUR BURN RATE: HOW TO MONITOR YOUR BURN RATE
MAY 13, 2026
10 AM MDT
[Watch on YouTube](#)

Sexy Budget Narratives
American Indigenous Tourism Association
SEXY BUDGET NARRATIVES
MAY 6, 2026
10 AM MDT
[Watch on YouTube](#)

Session 2: Engaging Responsible Visitors Through Your Story
American Indigenous Tourism Association
SESSION 2: ENGAGING RESPONSIBLE VISITORS THROUGH YOUR STORY
FEBRUARY 17
10 AM MDT
[Watch on YouTube](#)

Session #1: Engaging Responsible Visitors Through Your Story
American Indigenous Tourism Association
SESSION #1: ENGAGING RESPONSIBLE VISITORS THROUGH YOUR STORY
FEBRUARY 3
10 AM MDT
[Watch on YouTube](#)

Culturally Appropriate Fire Response
American Indigenous Tourism Association
CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE FIRE RESPONSE
DECEMBER 9, 2025
10 AM MDT
[Watch on YouTube](#)

Session #2 - Troubleshooting Federal Award Challenges
American Indigenous Tourism Association
SESSION #2 - TROUBLESHOOTING FEDERAL AWARD CHALLENGES
DECEMBER 3, 2025
10 AM MDT
[Watch on YouTube](#)

Protecting Night Skies and Economic Benefits: Incorporating Dark Sky Programming in Support of Your Recreation and Land Use Plans
American Indigenous Tourism Association
PROTECTING NIGHT SKIES AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS: INCORPORATING DARK SKY PROGRAMMING IN SUPPORT OF YOUR RECREATION AND LAND USE PLANS
NOVEMBER 18, 2025
10 AM MDT
[Watch on YouTube](#)

Session #1: Federal Procurement
American Indigenous Tourism Association
SESSION #1: FEDERAL PROCUREMENTS
NOVEMBER 5, 2025
10 AM MDT
[Watch on YouTube](#)

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 - !



ESCOG Sustainable Recreation Projects

Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments

[ABOUT](#)

[WHAT WE DO](#)

[MEETINGS](#)

[CONTACT](#)

Eastern
Sierra
Council of
Governments

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Co-LAB Summit 2026

- *Eastern Sierra Collaborative Initiative*

Chipmunk Canyon *Existing Conditions Analysis*

Survey and Input Map- May 27-June 29

353 Survey responses

250 Input Map Comments

(81 unique participants)

SURVEY CLOSES: JULY 15!





WHITEBARK
INSTITUTE

ESSRP Update

August 3, 2026

Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

- **Next meeting: Aug 5, 10 am –1 pm**
 - Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience
 - Project Prioritization Framework
 - Partner & Committee Updates

*In Mammoth: Mono Lake Room at Mammoth Civic Center
Please RSVP in advance*

<https://www.eswildfirealliance.org/meetings>



2026 Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project

- Implementation Underway!
 - Promote healthy & resilient forests
 - **Earthquake Dome** – Through July 21
 - **Shady Rest**- Through Sept 15
 - **Reds Meadow** – Through Aug 30
 - **Aspen** – Through Oct 31
 - **Panorama Dome** – COMPLETE
 - **Mammoth Mountain** - COMPLETE
- Up to date information by area:
 - <https://whitebarkinstitute.org/2026mammothfuelsreduction/>



Upcoming Opportunities

- **Science on Tap**
 - Latte Da – August 5th
 - Distant Brewing – September 8th
- **Tending: Art, Fire & Community in a Changing Climate**
 - Mono Arts Council thru Sept 14
- **Mono Basin Resilience Series**
 - Aug 15 – Jeffrey Pine Field Trip
 - Aug 22- Aspen Field Trip
 - Oct 10 – Wildfire Resilience Workshop



WHITEBARK INSTITUTE

SCIENCE ON TAP
SERIES 2026

Alexandra Urza, Ph.D.
Research Ecologist

Pinyon-Juniper Ecology and Stewardship in an Era of Rapid Change

August 05, 6:00 pm
Latte Da Cafe
Lee Vining, CA

EDISON
Funding provided in part by Edison International and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of the California Climate Investments Program.



tending:
ART, FIRE, AND COMMUNITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Join us for a special seasonal show

RECEPTION
Saturday, August 10th 6:00pm - 8:00pm
at the Mono Arts Council

EXHIBIT
Exhibit opens June 10th and runs through September 14th

MONO ARTS COUNCIL



WEST MONO BASIN
- RESILIENCE SERIES -

SAVE THE DATE

Jeffrey Pine Forest Field Trip
Saturday, August 15
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Aspen Ecosystem Field Trip
Saturday, August 22
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Wildfire Resilience Workshop
Saturday, October 10
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM



WHITEBARK INSTITUTE

SCIENCE ON TAP
SERIES 2026

Hugh D. Safford, Ph.D.
Vegetation and Fire Ecologist
Department of Environmental Science and Policy at the University of California-Davis

Nutcrackers and Nighttime Warming: Unexpected Treeline Dynamics in the Southern Sierra Nevada

September 08, 6:00 pm
Distant Brewing
Mammoth Lakes, CA

EDISON
Funding provided in part by Edison International and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 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

The September meeting will Happen On...

Monday, August 31, 2026 @ 3:30