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the planet

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# Sierra Club Lake Group

## September-October 2022 Newsletter

### Community Forum on Beneficial Fire

Lake Group's first community forum of the fall will be held virtually at 6PM on Tuesday September 14. We are looking forward to welcoming Lindsay Dailey, cofounder and Executive Director of the Lake County-based intertribal nonprofit organization Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance (TERA), who will join us to discuss the growing movement to bring back the use of low intensity, anthropogenic fire as a tool to manage the health of our fire-adapted lands. We will discuss the importance of "good fire", the role of tribes in revitalizing this work, and how TERA is helping catalyze a Native-led resurgence of good fire in Lake County.

Although the meeting is free and open to the public as always, registration is required: everyone who signs up will receive confirmation and Zoom connection details, and a followup email a day or so before the event. To RSVP, go to the Lake Group website at [sierraclub.org/redwood/lake](https://sierraclub.org/redwood/lake) and click the link in the embedded calendar.

### Eel River Progress Report

As previously reported, PG&E's license to operate its "Potter Valley Project" on the main stem of the Eel River expired on April 14: with no party willing to take over the antiquated, seismically vulnerable Scott and Cape Horn dams, PG&E then proposed a schedule for license surrender that drags out for 30 months rather than moving urgently to protect salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Dam removal will eventually provide access to more than 280 miles of prime spawning and nursery habitat for imperiled fish, make the Eel the longest free flowing river in the state and reconnect its headwaters in the Snow Mountain Wilderness to the coastal redwoods in Humboldt County.

By allowing PG&E to prolong the status quo in this lackadaisical manner and failing to require new license conditions recommended by the experts at the National Marine Fisheries Service in the meantime, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is abdicating its responsibilities, so it's not surprising that on August 15 five non-profit conservation organizations led by Friends of the Eel River filed suit, alleging excessive and unlawful "take" of ESA-protected fish species below Scott and Cape Horn Dams.

A coalition of Tribes, conservation groups, and businesses working together for a healthier Eel River has recently set up a new website as a central clearinghouse for information on this evolving story: please bookmark [freetheeel.org](https://freetheeel.org) to keep track of what's going on.

## Save the Date: Talk on Oak Restoration November 10

Please mark your calendars: on Thursday November 10 Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association board member Henry Bornstein will join us to provide a progress report on the reforestation program underway at the Park. A collaboration between State Parks, the City of Clearlake, and AMIA, the project will result in 100 or more native Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) saplings being planted and cared for until established. This virtual event will be free and open to the public as always, but advance registration is required; to register, visit the Lake Group website, [sierraclub.org/redwood/lake](http://sierraclub.org/redwood/lake), and click the link in the embedded calendar.

AMIA is also about to throw a party! On Saturday October 1 everyone is invited to gather in the picnic area for music and refreshments to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Park's creation. For more information about this event call 707 995 2658.

The oak restoration project is financed by fees paid to the City of Clearlake under its Native Tree Protection Ordinance, which requires developers who cut down native oaks either to replant trees of the same species or pay a fee to fund replanting by the city. Projected development projects are expected to result in substantial additional resources over the next few years: what do you think is the most effective way to mitigate for loss of these trees? Unfortunately it takes many years for young trees to begin to sequester meaningful amounts of carbon. Should replanting be required at a higher ratio? Should destruction of healthy trees be forbidden altogether? Would it be helpful to use some of these funds to subsidize tree care on public or private land to minimize future losses? How about a countywide ordinance similar to the one in the city?

We'd love to hear what you think about these questions. To share your views, send an email to Deb Sally at [enviracat1@gmail.com](mailto:enviracat1@gmail.com).

### Lake Group Executive Committee

Deb Sally (Chair, Outings Chair): 707 235 9011,

Ed Robey (Vice Chair) 707 994 8304,

JoAnn Saccato, (Secretary) 707 350-1719

Victoria Brandon (Treasurer, Conservation Chair, Political Chair, newsletter editor, webmaster): 707 994-1931

Tricia Evans (Membership Chair)

Cheri Kessner, 707 263 5787

Sally Peterson, 707 533-3132

*ExCom meetings are usually held at 5:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month, on the Zoom platform. All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm the time and get connection details*



*Highland Springs  
Equestrian Center  
707-279-1903*

*Horse Boarding in a Sublime Setting in the Wine Country  
8900 Wight Way, Kelseyville, CA 95451  
Paul Marchand and Juliana Vidich  
[www.highlandspringsequestrian.weebly.com](http://www.highlandspringsequestrian.weebly.com)*

*Watershed Books*  
Lakeport, California

*305 North Main Street  
707.263.5787*

# Help Wanted: Social Media Coordinator

As part of our efforts to appeal to a broader and more diverse community, Lake Group would like to increase our presence on social media. Currently we have a Facebook page that is occasionally updated by some executive committee members, but aside from our website that page represents our only online presence.

Besides more frequent Facebook posts, it would be great to be able to reach out on Twitter and Instagram, and maybe even TikTok, but none of the Group's current leadership has the capacity to make that happen, so we are looking for a media-savvy supporter who can help out.

If that sounds like YOU please send a text to Deb at 707 235 9011—she would love to hear from you!

## KONOCTI POST

*www.konoctipost.blogspot.com*

**a lake county naturalist's blog**

TAKE A RAMBLE. IT'S FREE.

### Let's Go Digital

Lake Group members are invited to help fight deforestation by receiving this bimonthly newsletter electronically rather than on paper. To get it as an email attachment in pdf format instead, send a request to join the "Lake Group Paper Free" list to [vbrandon95457@gmail.com](mailto:vbrandon95457@gmail.com)—not only does this save some trees, it also benefits the Group financially.

## Sierra Club Endorsements, November 8, 2022

### Federal

US Senate  
Congressional District 04

Alex Padilla  
Mike Thompson

### State

State Senate District 02  
Lt. Governor  
Secretary of State  
Attorney General  
Insurance Commissioner  
Superintendent of Public  
Instruction

Mike McGuire  
Elena Kounalakis  
Dr. Shirley Weber  
Rob Bonta  
Ricardo Lara  
Tony Thurmond

### Statewide Propositions

Prop 1: defend reproductive rights	SUPPORT
Prop 30: new tax on incomes over \$2 million	NEUTRAL
Prop 31: ban flavored tobacco products	SUPPORT

For more information about the Propositions, visit [sierraclub.org/california/2022-endorsements](https://sierraclub.org/california/2022-endorsements)



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