



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

WORDS OF *the* WILD

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Newsletter of the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee

REAL wilderness gathering! p. 4

Update: Progress for Molok Luyuk: Expanding Berryessa/Snow Mountain National

-- by Victoria Brandon

The campaign to protect Molok Luyuk ("Condor Ridge" in the Patwin language, also known as Walker Ridge) has gotten several pieces of legislative good news lately, culminating in a major surprise on the Senate side, when on July 21 the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee unanimously and with full bipartisan support--a great rarity in this polarized Congress -- passed S 4080, Senator Alex Padilla's Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act. A vote by the full Senate may be scheduled in the fall. Earlier in July, the House of Representatives had

already passed a package version of the National Defense Authorization Act that included Representative John Garamendi's HR 6366.

This legislation -- which has no discernable opposition -- will add to the Monument and permanently protect almost 4000 acres of biologically sensitive land with ancient cultural

significance to the Patwin people.

What does this mean for California's effort to protect 30 percent of our land and water by 2030? Designation alone qualifies as a small but tangible step towards meeting this goal, but the bill does much more. First, by establishing a framework for Tribal co-management it -- *continued page 2*

Frank and Jean Randall Tehachapi Preserve created A new Southern Sierra victory for biodiversity protection

As 2022 began, a decade-long effort came to culmination in a major acquisition for the 72,000-acre Frank and Joan Randall Preserve in the Tehachapi Mountains at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, east of Bakersfield. The final acquisition, by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of the 28,000-acre Loop Ranch west of the town of Tehachapi, fulfills the goal of this and allied organizations to establish a true intact wildlife corridor to promote and enhance California's

increasingly threatened biodiversity. The vast preserve will promote geographic and genetic connectivity of wildlife habitat in California, and along with its sprawling rangelands, will be managed to "protect their -- *continued page 2*

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photo: Nancy Nies

On an April 2022 field trip Libby Vincent walks among blue dicks at the Loop Ranch, in the new Randall Preserve, north of Tehachapi.

New Randall Preserve to boost southern Sierra biodiversity in support of 30 by 30 goals --from page 1

ecological value and durability.” It is part of the TNC vision for “a system of resilient wildlife connectivity hubs to allow species to move up and down the state and across elevations.” The Randall Preserve has a broad elevation range, extending from “800 feet up to a high of nearly 7,000 feet.”

The Tehachapi Mountains, which trend mainly east and west, serve as a connector between the Sierra Nevada to the north and the southern California ranges. The Nature Conservancy considered the Loop Ranch area as a critically important conservation landscape, and its acquisition fills in an existing gap of preserved open space between the southern Sierra and the Tehachapi Mts.

Ecological connectivity between conserved landscapes is essential to encourage genetic diversity in wildlife populations. Isolated populations are at risk of inbreeding, and problems arising from this have been observed with certain populations that have undergone study, such as mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains.

According to journalist Jon Hammond in the *Tehachapi News* of Jan 5, 2022, The Loop Ranch property begins “near the location of the Adventist Health Tehachapi Hospital [on the north side of Tehachapi] and extends west all the way to the community of Keene, 10 miles away, often along both sides of Highway 58 as it winds down towards the San Joaquin Valley.” The name ‘Loop Ranch’ comes from the parcel’s position squarely enveloping “the famous Tehachapi Loop railroad feature three miles from Keene”.

Significant funds for recent preserve additions like the Loop Ranch and the 30,000-acre Bear Mountain Ranch, stretching from Bear Valley Springs down to Hart Flat, were provided by a \$50 million donation from philanthropists Frank and Jean Randall. At least eight previous ranch acquisitions, starting in 2012, now comprise the Preserve.

The broad, multi-lane Highway 58 still presents a considerable obstacle to wildlife movements, and TNC biologists

are working with CalTrans to identify highways crossings under and over the 58 freeway—both existing ones, such as culverts, to improve, and new ones needed. There will be many years of study, to determine where additional wildlife crossings will provide the maximum wildlife benefit. Among other things under consideration is turning the existing Broome road overpass into a real wildlife crossing with vegetation.

So far public access to the enormous property is extremely limited. There are likely to be provisions for some guided tours to some parts of the preserve, but further study needs to be done, according to Hammond, to determine where and when that will be “compatible with purpose of the preserve.”

Some cattle-grazing is expected to continue, in part to reduce the wildfire risk associated with the prevalent non-native flammable annual grasses that by now cover most of the area.

Nancy Nies, of CNPS and Sierra Club, whose photo appears on page 1, describes a CNPS April field trip to the new preserve: “On this newly-acquired addition to TNC’s holdings, in the mountains north of Tehachapi (el. 4200), it was still early spring, and the *dichelostemma capitatum* (blue dicks) was at its peak. The purple blooms, against a backdrop of snow-covered mountains to the south, were breathtaking. On various stops along the scenic drive through the ranch, we also enjoyed beautiful displays of popcorn flower, globe gilia, goldfields, and cat-erpillar phacelia – as well as a colony of the rare *diplacus pictus*.”

And longtime Sierra Club members and Bear Valley Springs residents Joe and Bugs Fontaine told us: “We live adjacent to the Randall Preserve. The culmination of this acquisition by the Nature Conservancy is a dream come true. Now the California black bear, bobcat, mountain lion and California condors that soar overhead will have a large and protected habitat for many generations.”

Molok Luyuk Monument expansion bill advances in Congress --from page 1

sets a significant precedent that can influence public lands stewardship not just in California but also everywhere in the nation. The name change serves to underline this historic intention, and also presents an aspirational component, by recognizing that condors soared over this land in the not too distant past, and thanks to recent reintroductions spearheaded by the Yurok tribe (see article, p. 12) chances are good that they will do so again in the not too distant future -- stuff that dreams are made of!

And there’s also another provision—one that has received little public attention but which is also extremely important both in itself and within the 30x30 context: the legislation requires that after more than seven years’ delay the BLM and Forest Service must prepare a management plan for Berryessa Snow Mountain as a whole.

Efforts to protect special places by appropriate designation are exciting, but ongoing on-the-ground strong stewardship is what truly conserves the unique ecological values of special places for future generations—and is of equal importance. For 30x30 targets to be more than aspirational, we need both designation and stewardship, and this campaign offers that model. ∞



Distant views from Molok Luyuk

photo: Neal Uno

(Randall Preserve article compiled by editor from articles in the *Tehachapi News*, with help from Nancy Nies, Paul Gipe, and Bugs Fontaine.)

Update:

Help get Nevada's Avi Kwa Ame protected

-- by Christian Gerlach

The proposed Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) National Monument effort has kept a steady drumbeat calling on President Biden

photo: Christian Gerlach



to proclaim the area as a national monument through his powers under the Antiquities Act. The Honor Avi Kwa Ame Coalition has held a slew of events over the past few months to engage hundreds of volunteers and community members from across Southern Nevada. They gathered tens of thousands of petition signatures to protect southern Nevada's Joshua tree forests—the cultural resources of the Mojave and Southern Paiute Peoples. But still more is needed to achieve the 450,000-acre national monument. (see WOW, April '22, Aug. & Dec. '21, Dec. '20.)

The proposed area is a magnificent extension of the Joshua tree forest and majestic landscapes in the neighboring Mojave National Preserve and Castle Mountains National Monument across the California line. The new monument would safeguard a complex, connected natural system to protect endangered species, invite more people to enjoy public lands, act as defense against climate disruption, and further our goal to conserve 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by 2030. The Avi Kwa Ame National Monument would protect the eastern portion of the world's largest Joshua tree forest, including the world's third largest Joshua tree. These ancient wonders, truly living elders, have survived for over 900 years and have much to teach us.

The surrounding mountains, like the McCullough Range, Spirit Mountains, New York Mountains, and Castle Mountains, are home to a wide variety of raptor species including golden eagles. These birds of prey

utilize as their hunting grounds the valley and Joshua tree forest that would make up this new national monument. Preserving these lands would give these species the healthy populations of desert fauna they need to survive. The area contains one of the highest known densities of golden eagles in Nevada, and there are also bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and western screech owls. The area is designated as important to birding for the other unique and diverse birds that inhabit these lands, including gilded flickers and curved-billed thrashers. Birds are taking the hardest hit from this ongoing extinction crisis, and we need to protect more habitat for them.

Part of the monument would include the Paiute/Eldorado Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), established to protect the federally threatened desert tortoise. The present ACEC is not sufficient to protect all the region's special species, wildlife corridors and important historic, cultural, visual, and recreational resources. Designating Avi Kwa Ame Monument would be a huge help.

A species with iconic importance to Nevada and deep cultural significance to local Indigenous people that will benefit from Avi Kwa Ame is the desert bighorn sheep, Nevada's state animal. Within the proposed monument is a key migratory corridor for a desert bighorn herd living on the steep rocky slopes of the Castle and New York Mountains.

The Castle and New York mountain ranges within the monument also house the Crescent Town Site Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The townsite contains a prehistoric turquoise mining site used by the Southern Paiutes, Western Shoshone, and Mohave peoples going back hundreds of years. Also within the southern part of the proposed Monument is a section of the historic Mojave Trail—originally used by Mojave and other Indigenous Americans to transport goods from the Southwest to trade with coastal tribes.

The area is of further significance to local Indigenous people, because Spirit Mountain, the Dead Mountains, and surroundings are closely tied to the creation stories, cosmology, and well-being of the ten groups of Yuman-speaking peoples. The area is also important to the Mohave, Chemehuevi Paiute, Moapa Paiute, and Las Vegas Paiute People.

After you've read this article, we need your help signing and spreading the petition

Explore Nevada's Selenite Mountains WSA

Near Gerlach in northwest Nevada, the Selenite Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is a great recreational retreat. Rising from 4,200 feet on the north end near the Black Rock Desert to 7,100 feet on Selenite Peak itself, this magnificent area offers many opportunities for hiking, hunting, and exploring. Great views of the sprawling desert playas and tall granite peaks surround this wild area.

The Selenite Mountains WSA is in the northern part of the Selenite Range in the far western extent of Pershing County. To the north lies the Black Rock Desert and the town of Gerlach.

Pronghorn abound in the area and occupy all but the highest extent of the Selenite Mountains.

-- from Friends of Nevada Wilderness.
<https://www.nevadawilderness.org/>

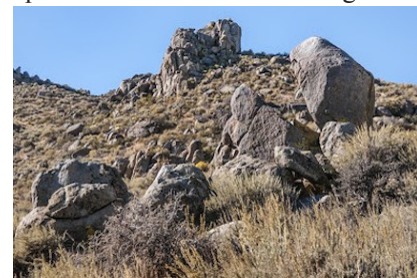


photo: Kurt Kuznicki, PNW

In the Selenite Mountains

(sc.org/AviKwaAme) that sends a letter directly to the White House. We also ask your help writing a letter to the editor or opinion editorial calling on President Biden to protect the area: use our letter-to-the-editor guide (<http://bit.ly/akasclte>). If you will be in Southern Nevada for Public Lands Day around September 24, please join one of many events we plan for that time, including tabling at the Old Mormon Fort State Park's Indigenous Marketplace festival, plus a public science survey and a stargazing event around the Wee Thump Joshua Wilderness.

With your help, we hope the Biden Administration will soon proclaim Avi Kwa Ame a National Monument. We need to urge President Biden to live up to his America the Beautiful initiative, and heed the call to protect 30 percent of our public lands by 2030. Under the Antiquities Act he can preserve his first national monument: Avi Kwa Ame. 🌿

Welcome, New Wilderness Team Leader--JoAnne Clarke

-- by Teri Shore

Sierra Club wilderness advocate JoAnne Clarke was unanimously elected the new Chair of the California/Nevada Wilderness Team, beginning July 1, 2022. A longtime leader in the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club and its Merced Group, JoAnne has actively supported wilderness as part of the Wilderness Team for several years. Anne Henny is stepping down after six years in the Chair role.

"I know I have large shoes to fill, but with help and support I believe we can continue to make the CA/NV Wilderness Team an important component of the California Conservation Committee and the National Sierra Club Grassroots Network," JoAnne said.

JoAnne has served in multiple leadership positions as a Sierra Club volunteer dating back several decades. Her long list of accomplishments ranges from Chair and Conservation Chair of the Merced Group to being elected to the Executive Committee of the Tehipite Chapter and representing it as delegate to the Council of Sierra Club Leaders and a member of their Executive Committee. She worked on many committees and campaigns, and has also been a treasurer of Sierra Club California.

JoAnne has been recognized for these outstanding contributions with several awards including: 2007 Conservation Award, Tehipite Chapter; 2011 Recognition Award, Merced Group; and 2012 Doug Harwell Award, Tehipite Chapter.

JoAnne's ongoing activism in the Sierra Club was interrupted only when she went sailing across the Pacific Ocean with her husband in 2012, when she had to reluctantly resign all of her positions before they left.

"I was employed as an accountant before I retired to sail the South Pacific with my husband in 2012," JoAnne explained. "We sailed our 45-foot sailboat from Hawaii to New Zealand, stopping at numerous atolls and islands

along the way. After a year in New Zealand touring the country, we sailed our boat back to Hawaii and finally back to San Francisco."

Since their return in 2015, she has again immersed herself in all things Sierra Club. (But she hasn't given up sailing and, in fact, the couple now has three boats!) JoAnne expresses her passion for the wild, on land and at sea, through her advocacy by lobbying, writing comments, and getting others to take action to protect existing and create new wilderness areas.

She also spends as much time as possible exploring wilderness, including her favorite landscape, the Ansel Adams Wilderness. "It's close to home and I've spent more time there than the others," she said. "At times, I've gone almost every week." Located between Yosemite National Park and Mammoth Lakes, the original Minarets Wilderness from 1964 was renamed after renowned photographer Ansel Adams since his passing in 1984. Spanning both sides of the Sierra crest, the wilderness encompasses a spectacular high alpine landscape including Devil's Postpile and the Minarets. [Source: <https://www.sierrawild.gov/wilderness/ansel-adams/>]

The desert also calls to JoAnne, and she often hikes there, too.

When asked what draws her to wilderness, she replied: "The wildness. The remoteness. The raw, untouched nature. The need to depend on yourself for survival. The requirement to be self-sufficient. I feel like I'm in heaven!"

As Chair of the CA/NV Team, JoAnne hopes to "promote more wilderness designation in California, Nevada, and everywhere." She noted that "there are many areas all over the Sierra Nevada, and beyond, that have wilderness character that would link and complete connectivity for wildlife habitat and travel."

Other priorities she sees for the CA/NV Wilderness Committee include highlighting the importance of wilderness to state and federal 30x30



Welcome to Wilderness, JoAnne!

Initiatives, defending the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and seeking improvements to the Sierra and Sequoia National Forest management plans. JoAnne had commented as an individual in 2019 on both plans, and is now making her formal objections, due Aug. 15.

"There is no additional wilderness recommended in the plan; and that should be ongoing," she explained. "They recommended adding 126 miles to wild and scenic rivers, but not any more Wilderness." The CA/NV Wilderness Team will join a coalition of groups submitting comments.

Congratulations JoAnne on your new leadership role; we know you will help us go far! ~

Next Committee Meeting: In-Person at Hutchinson Lodge at Donner Summit

- September 9 to 11: Wilderness Committee first in-person gathering for years!
- Hutchinson Lodge is reserved (on grounds of Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge) for 3 nights--join us for Friday evening social, Saturday for sit-down issues meeting, and then a Sunday hike.
- 3 breakfasts & dinners provided, thanks to our Grassroots Network grant.
- Bunk sleeping quarters, BYO sleeping bag, or camp outside.
- For more information and to sign up, contact chair JoAnne Clarke <jo_clarke@att.net> or vice chair Teri Shore. <terishore@gmail.com>.

Outgoing Chair Anne Henny's accomplishments and new role in outings

-- by Teri Shore

After six years chairing the CA/NV Wilderness Team, trusted leader Anne Henny is stepping down because she is “termed out” and moving over to Outings Chair to focus on bringing more people out into the wilds! Anne will partner with outings “guru” Vicky Hoover, who will continue to share her knowledge and vision as she turns over the reins after decades as outings leader. The pair have already cooperated on various outings to the wilderness of California and Nevada, particularly in the desert.

JoAnne Clarke is stepping up as the new Chair of the CA/NV Wilderness Team (see article, p. 4).

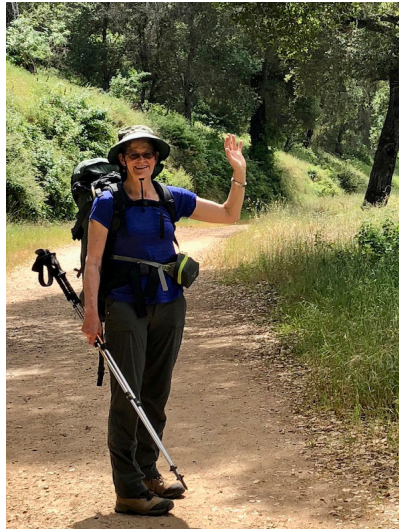


photo: Richard Rollins

Anne heads into Ventana Wilderness from Arroyo Seco trailhead.

Grassroots Network chair.

“She brought the team fresh new ideas, always worked in a team and did not hesitate to ask for advice when needed,” said Vicky Hoover, her predecessor. “And she enjoyed and was very enthused over committee outings.”

Among Anne’s most noteworthy accomplishments as Chair are:

- Developing the Sierra Club 30x30 Taskforce that turned into a separate task force of its own, launched in February 2021--after 30x30 became official state policy. She co-chairs the 30x30 task force with Vicky and is building an effective statewide 30x30 Campaign.
- Advancing new California wilderness bills that passed the House and are now combined in the Senate in the PUBLIC Lands act (Protect Unique and Beautiful Landscapes in California) introduced by Senator Padilla.
- Helping hold back military bombing in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge with the “Don’t Bomb the Bighorn” campaign, keeping expanded military operations in the desert out of last year’s “must pass” Defense Authorization Act (though the Air Force could renew their attempt).
- Developing stronger national climate resiliency policies for the Sierra

Club focused on climate solutions that protect nature to stabilize the climate.

Anne also felt it very rewarding to lead the Native American Land Rights sub-team of the Wildlands and Wilderness Team and develop a guide to implementing the Jemez Principles at the local level. The CA/NV Wilderness Team implemented those policies by involving more by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in wilderness events--such as recent national wilderness workshops--through outreach and grants from the Grassroots Network.

“Our guidance was focused on working with Native American Tribes; and it is crucial for our land preservation, since all the land was stolen from them in the first place,” she said.

Her biggest challenge as Chair was keeping wilderness protection alive during the Trump years when everyone had to keep busy defending existing wild lands and basic environmental protections.

In her new role, Anne hopes to spend more time than ever exploring wilderness. You’ll find her most often in the desert and Eastern Sierra. “I never get back there often enough,” Anne told me. “Pick any wilderness in the Death Valley area, I just love that region, and places in the Mojave Desert and Eastern Sierra. It is endlessly fascinating; every time you look it is different; there is beauty everywhere, color changes with the light; and so much rock! The geology is mind-blowing. The variety of plants and ecotones, it is spellbinding.”

Let’s all plan to experience Anne’s passion, enthusiasm, and dedication by joining her as she guides us on outings out into the wild lands that she loves.

For Anne’s background before becoming CA/NV Wilderness chair, see WOW Dec 2016. ∞



photo: Richard Rollins

Anne & Vicky celebrate 50th Wilderness anniversary in 2014. Now, they’re readying for Wilderness60.



photo: Vicky Hoover

Anne on BLM CA desert service trip; raking out old tread is one step in obliterating old vehicle routes.

As Wilderness Chair, Anne motivated, engaged and expanded the Wilderness Team to protect, defend and enhance wilderness and the natural world. She was extraordinarily successful working on behalf of the Wilderness Team with multiple coalitions to advance wilderness and related state and federal legislation and policies. As a result, Anne and “company” achieved many hard-earned “wins,” too many to spell out here (but described in her thorough CA/ NV Team’s year-end reports— which she carefully prepared as

In Wilderness There is Life: An American Indian Perspective on Theory and Action for Wildlands

-- by Linda Moon Stumpff

(Linda Moon Stumpff, a member of the Apache Nation, is an emeritus professor at Evergreen State College, Washington. This article is abridged from her original article in USDA Forest Service Proceedings RMRS-P-14. 2000, (https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_p014/rmrs_p014_098_102.pdf). See WOW April 2022 for another Native American wilderness perspective; as there are many Native viewpoints, we present this contrasting view now, and will offer a different outlook next issue.)

Abstract—The concept of “origins,” as it relates to wildlands from a Native American perspective, emerges from a cultural understanding of the balancing relationships between humans and nature. Although the concept of origins in this context carries cultural meaning, it is firmly rooted in the ecology of place and long-term experiential knowledge. An examination of multiple and distinctive tribal understandings of wildlands specific to place leads one to some general philosophic principles. These are demonstrated through environmental practices on various tribal and public lands such as the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness (Salish-Kootenai Tribe) and the Sacred Blue Lake (Taos Pueblo). Wildland practices here are value driven and an ethic of reciprocity is embraced. Collaboration with tribes and the acceptance of indigenous knowledge are important contributions to protecting on-tribal lands already under wilderness designation and for creating and maintaining alternative models for protection of wildland values.



The essence of wilderness is not in arguments over postmodern definitions, but in its value as places of origin and life. The idea of wildness as life itself stretches across American Indian cultures in North America....

The cultural significance of wilderness encourages a balancing relationship between humans and nature. It is the primary reason why involvement by indigenous people is critical to future and existing initiatives to sustain wilderness ecosystems.... Tribes maintain a significant knowledge base relevant to sustainable practices within

their cultures.... Tribes hold a significant amount of land (five percent of the United States) that must be considered in efforts to develop a sustainable system. ... Through treaties or Executive Orders of the President of the United States, reservation lands are homelands with reserved rights that are implemented as property rights. Tribes often hold senior water rights. Under the policy of self-determination, tribal governments are staffing their own professional departments and writing their own decision documents. Unique forms of wilderness designation on lands separate from public lands designated under the Wilderness Act of 1964 are evolving. Treaty rights to hunt and fish extend regulatory influence beyond tribal reservation boundaries.

Four Points of Understanding Spirit

There are four key components for understanding the role of indigenous people in sustaining wildlands. First, a deep connection to wildlands is embedded in the philosophy and spirit of American Indian tribes. For many tribes, wildlands represent the origin of life and its sustenance.

Ecology

Second, it is important to recognize that tribes possess a critical body of knowledge about wildlands as ecological benchmarks within complex cycles.... On the Klamath National Forest, American Indian basketmakers have taught Forest Service crews to apply prescribed burns at lower temperatures and in more selective plots, demonstrating their accumulated knowledge about the role of fire in local ecosystems.

Knowledge

Third, it is critical to understand the objectives of American Indian practices in wildland areas.... American Indians are the only people in the United States with culturally transmitted knowledge of the factors that have driven change in the 200-to-800-year cycles ...that scientists consider. Okute, a Teton Sioux, illustrated this awareness as he spoke in 1911:

An animal depends a great deal on the natural conditions around it. If the buffalo were here today, I think they would be different from the buffalo of the old days because all the natural conditions have changed. They would not find the same food, nor the same surrounding.

Governance

The practical exercise of culturally based governance, sustained by the knowledge of place, completes the fourth portion of the circle of shared understandings. Despite depredations and poorly formulated advice from federal managers in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (in the U.S. Department of the Interior), much reservation land remains less damaged and developed than adjacent public and private lands,... Indigenous people know the land and they know where the animals are; they live there....

Four Roads to Collaboration: Distinctive Tribal Conceptions of Wildlands

Successful construction of future strategies to protect indigenous relations to wildlands depends on understanding cultural differences.... Traditionally, the European colonists separated the natural and cultural dimensions. The colonial philosophy of Manifest Destiny guided “civilization” of the Western United States through ... a moral authority of human superiority. Standing Bear, an Oglala Sioux, noted:

We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills and the winding streams with tangled growth as ‘wild.’ Only to the White man was nature a ‘wilderness’ and the land ‘infested’ with ‘wild’ animals and savage people.

The second cultural distinction is the connection between wildlands and spiritual value for American Indians. It extends beyond geographic description and life cycle. Human-defined boundaries are not relevant. Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce explained the problem:

The earth was created by the assistance of the sun, and it should have been left as it was.... The country was made without lines of demarcation, and it is no man’s business to divide it. -- *continued page 7*



The third distinction is the American Indian ethic of reciprocity. A gift calls for something in return. Historically, American Indians sustained life through a variety of practices based upon observed historic variation in the environment. At Yosemite National Park, Jay Johnson of the Ahwahnee tribe... convince[d] the National Park Service to allow the collection of a sensitive species of willow for ceremonial use. After gathering, the remaining willows (no longer choked by unnatural density) thrived.

The fourth distinction emerges from restoration. Embedded in American Indian cultural traditions is the idea that human actions have uncertain results, and that results often occur outside human control. Restoration is undertaken with humility.... Tribes must work as sovereign nations,

Only when the human experience can be put back into nature will it be possible to create collaborative preservation strategies that work

in coordination with United States government agencies, to develop ecological restoration initiatives. Some areas under tribal control will be quite difficult to include in wilderness protection due to their ecologically degraded state. Herein is a powerful [reason] for supporting American Indian participation in wilderness designation and active restoration.

Some sacred cultural sites, valued for spiritual restoration, are many miles within designated Wilderness areas, which precludes the use of vehicles. A government official once considered denying tribal elders vehicle access to a religious site by an administrative road, stating, "Your grandfather didn't have a vehicle, he had to walk."

The Chumash elder requesting the access quietly replied, "My grandfather did not need to walk. He lived here."

Recreation values can conflict with traditional religious uses, also Critical knowledge is encoded in cultural practices, institutional relationships, and stories.

Models for Collaboration in Wildlands

.... Wilderness will be enriched for the world by further study of several potential models for collaborative wildland management. A few are considered here.

Federal Management; Tribal Consultation—a Chumash Tribal Model: Sacred Spaces and Sacred Species in Central California

Federal management on public lands through the Wilderness Act of 1964 is the most common model of wilderness administration in the United States. About 70 percent of the 2-million-acre Los Padres National Forest is now under wilderness designation. Today, the Forest Service consults with Chumash Tribal Shamans when planning for prescribed burns there. The Chumash people use lands now within Los Padres National Forest for collecting plant, mineral, and other materials significant to cultural practices. The Forest Service eliminated the requirement for a written permit on this Forest at the request of the Tribe. The Forest Service also... [closed] a popular public campground that was built on a Chumash cemetery. Chumash youth crews, in turn, removed physical evidence of old campgrounds and other nonconforming facilities in the Wilderness. Tribal members participated in the release of the California Condor, referred to as the Great Thunderbird by the Tribes, now an endangered species, into wilderness areas of the Los Padres National Forest.

Legal Transfer and General Exclusion in Sacred Lands—Legal and Limited Use Model for Sacred Sites

The sacred Blue Lake was returned to the Taos Pueblo by legislation in 1996. Because it is the site of important ceremonies, full Tribal control was necessary to protect sensitive values.

Transfer of Private Lands to Tribes—Collaborative Adaptation/Purchase

At Arlecho Creek in Washington State, the Lummi Tribe is regaining land through collaborative support from conservation groups, a corporate donor, and cooperation from a large corporation. Over a period of 10 years, members of

the Lummi Tribe perfected a plan to... purchase 2,240 acres. "Arlecho Creek Forest has been a sacred, spiritual place for many generations of Lummi people and now we know future generations will be able to experience this treasure of nature," said Daryl Hillaire of the Lummi Nation... The Nature Conservancy now holds a conservation easement...., becoming a partner in protecting it for the future.

Land Purchase; Tribal Coalition — Intertribal Wilderness Designation: Northern California's Lost Coast

This model comes out of a coalition of tribes who are organized to purchase land along California's Lost Coast, adjacent to the State-administered Sinkyon Wilderness Area. The general objective of this coalition is to unite land parcels in the area into wilderness protection units, with restorative practices applied in areas ... damaged by logging and other uses.

Formal Tribal Wilderness Designation — Enhanced Cultural Elements

The 89,000-acre Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness in Montana is located within the lands of the Salish-Kootenai Indian Reservation in the area once known as the "Place of Encirclement." It is adjacent to the Mission Mountain Wilderness administered by the USDA Forest Service. Designation and regulation is similar to those areas established under the Wilderness Act. The late Clarence Woodcock, cultural director for the Flathead Reservation, described: ...lands where our people walked and lived. Lands and landmarks carved into the minds of our ancestors through coyote stories and actual experiences. Lands, landmarks, trees, mountain tops, crevices that we should look up to with respect. A special grizzly bear reserve promotes biodiversity values in the Tribal Wilderness....

Building wildland recreation opportunities is important to tribal autonomy. A permit may bring in as much as \$60,000 for a world-class elk hunt. This economic stimulus can make preservation of forests a reality. The majority of permits are currently reserved for tribal members. Value is placed on the uniqueness of well-preserved lands, distinct from non-reservation lands that are experiencing fast urban growth.

-- continued page 8

In Wilderness there is life -- from p. 7

Some wildland areas are important for youth activities. Traditional “runs” are a source of accomplishment and pride for tribal youth. Such activities are often connected to accessing sacred mountain areas. The University of Arizona continues to restrict access for religious use by these “runners” to Mount Graham in Arizona.

Action Agenda

Not all wildland designation need take into account indigenous people—only those we want to be self-sustaining. Only when the human experience can be put back into nature will it be possible to create collaborative preservation strategies that work and that will:

1. Support indigenous people and their sovereign forms of governance that sustain past and present in the environmental continuum.
2. Shape a broader, larger role for American Indian involvement on all federal public lands. Government organizations are downsizing. The knowledge and management ability of tribes, with their professional natural resource departments..., can be used in restoration projects.
3. Develop and support legislative initiatives and institutional mechanisms that work to assist tribes to achieve sustainable land use, with positive benefits for wildlands.
4. Consider opportunities for tribal management of recreational use that avoid the problems of the market-only approach of commercial concessionaires. Emphasize guided, value-added tours and workshops that promote environmental education and provide American Indian youth with job opportunities....
5. Support legislation and administrative policy actions that return sacred sites and special lands of cultural significance to tribal control in order to maintain cultural and biological distinctiveness.
6. Support treaty rights through working to implement court decisions that imply an inherent right to preserve species, waterways, and habitat covered by treaty rights.
7. Support tribally based collaborative efforts with government, private, or corporate entities to establish various forms of land ownership, easements, and

Additional Eastern Sierra lands protected

In early 2022, the Wilderness Land Trust acquired three vital California wild properties for addition to wilderness or potential wilderness--two in the Eastern Sierra, one near Lassen National Park.

An 880-acre land purchase in the Bodie Hills “protects this land from development and mining, boosts resilience of the surrounding landscapes and keeps access to a beautiful spot overlooking Mono Lake and the Eastern Sierra,” according to Aimee Rutledge, Wilderness Land Trust vice president and California specialist.

Overlooking Mono Lake and the Eastern Sierra just south of the Mt. Biedeman Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the Bodie Hills property is known for its mature piñon-juniper forest and seasonal streams. The Bodie Hills link the Sierra Nevada and wildlife migration routes to the high desert plains and wetlands of the Great Basin in California and Nevada.

“These lands, adjacent to the Mount Biedeman WSA, are integral for ecological connectivity of the Mono Basin and Bodie Hills,” says Jora Fogg, policy director, Friends of the Inyo.

The Wilderness Land Trust has now completed five projects totaling more than 6,500 acres in the Bodie Hills region. Thousands of acres of private lands still exist here, affecting several wilderness study areas, areas of critical environmental concern, and the Granite Mountain Wilderness.

Also in the Eastern Sierra, the

tribal regulations to protect wildlands in a sustainable manner.

8. Encourage further research on tribal and indigenous models of land management worldwide as a means to expand sustainable wildland designation...

9. Create educational programs that include indigenous youth in ecology, biology, wildlife, and cultural activities.

Reference

Pinchot, Gifford. 1947. *Breaking new ground*. Washington, DC. Island Press. 522 p. ∞

Wilderness Land Trust transferred a 49-acre mining claim in Upper Lundy Canyon to the Inyo National Forest for permanent protection; it is now a part of the Inyo National Forest and Hoover Wilderness. This high-priority property, just east of Yosemite National Park and west of Mono Lake in Mono County, is viewed from a popular hiking trail into the upper entrance of Lundy Canyon, and its protection from development conserves Mill Creek, safeguards wildlife habitat, and ensures recreational access. The property protects dramatic vistas and vital habitat for endangered

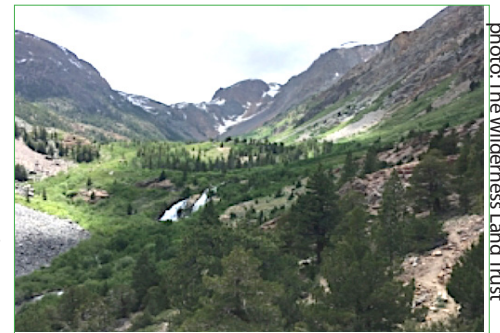


photo: The Wilderness Land Trust

Upper Lundy Canyon in the Hoover Wilderness, CA

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

Mono Lake Committee and Eastern Sierra Land Trust helped the Trust protect this critical landscape.

“Like a final piece of a jigsaw puzzle, this retired inholding completes protection of Lundy Canyon,” says Geoff McQuilkin of the Mono Lake Committee.

Northern California Lassen area acquisition

In northern California’s rugged Lassen National Forest, the Wilderness Land Trust acquired a 35-acre Hat Creek property surrounded by Lassen National Forest roadless area on three sides and connecting to the proposed Lost Creek Wilderness of more than 20,000 acres. This stunning refuge hosts two trout streams – Hat Creek and Lost Creek.

Now safe from development, this landscape is also part of the Klamath-Siskiyou wild area – 11 million acres of connected protected landscapes in northern California and southern Oregon.

Visit <https://wildernesslandtrust.org/> for more information. ∞

Can the Jacumba Wilderness Be Saved? *Conflicting Priorities on the Mexican Border*

-- by Craig Deusche

On February 8, 2019, environmental laws, regulations, and other legal requirements were waived in order to construct barriers and roads to “secure” the Mexican border.¹ Approximately a year later construction of the border wall was initiated in southern California’s Jacumba Wilderness. The environmental damage was shocking. Because the *Desert Report* has described this in detail (Sept. 2020; June 2021), we give only a short summary here. (Also see Craig Detusche’s article, WOW, April 2021)

Environmental Damage:

Two large roads were graded and hardened to provide wilderness access for the construction activities. A very wide, graded road, (set into a deep cement base), now runs alongside the wall. Vehicle tracks abound, with significant destruction to drainages, shrubs, and Native American trails and artifacts.) After Mr. Biden became president in January, 2021, new construction stopped, but the damage remained.

In March 2021, ten months after construction began in the Jacumba Wilderness, Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) filed a lengthy Environmental Stewardship² plan, admitting, for the first time, that the construction might cause significant environmental damage. A brief public comment period ensued, with no public meetings. The plan’s main objective was to secure the border; it promised that environmental consequences would be negligible or minor.

Contrary to the Wilderness Act, the Border Patrol and the construction contractors still have unlimited access to the Jacumba Wilderness. Beginning in May, 2020, Edith Harmon, a resident of Imperial County, has walked in the Jacumba wilderness nearly every week to monitor the work. She has filed dozens of reports with hundreds of photos with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and with CBP. The reports describe environmental damage

and recommendations for alleviation. Among her comments:

-- Border patrol activity should be limited to roads. The numerous vibration sensors and cameras should make off-road travel unnecessary.

-- Berms along the hardened roads should be removed to allow natural water drainage.

-- There must be provision to allow water flow to protect flora where the road along the border has blocked natural drainages.

-- Dragging operations (to reveal foot-prints) should be stopped to preserve the flora. Sensors in place should allow detection of immigration activity.

At her request, Patrick Whipple, then chief enforcement officer for the Border Patrol, accompanied Ms. Harmon into the wilderness. On another occasion, several BLM law enforcement agents met with Ms. Harmon at the wilderness edge. No other administrator from either BLM or CBP has yet accompanied her to observe in person what she has reported.

Legal Challenges:

Several lawsuits have been filed against the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to require damage remediation. One, filed jointly by the California Wilderness Coalition and the Rio Grande International Study Center has recently been resolved in

a Settlement Agreement.³ The DOI and DHS agreed to *consult* with the plaintiffs on remediation work but retained the right to make all decisions. Essentially, there were no promises to actually do anything. Another suit, brought against the DOI by the Center for Biological Diversity, was also resolved in March 2022. A Sierra Club suit remains to be resolved.

Remediation Planning:

In June, 2022, the BLM and CBP jointly published a remediation plan for the Jacumba Wilderness⁴ -- their first official acknowledgement of damage done. Although notices of the document appeared in several local papers, Ms. Harmon discovered it only by accident and only a week before the public comment period closed. Excluding perhaps the Border Patrol and the construction contractor, Ms. Harmon is far more familiar with the construction than the agencies and Native American tribes officially consulted. It is nicely ironic that one of her pictures previously submitted to CBP appeared in their remediation plan. Her shadow as photographer appears in that photo.

The brief remediation plan⁶ (less than two pages) has what they call a story map. This shows several new wilderness interior wilderness roads and a few other locations highlighted. By clicking on these you can see a short description of the remediation planned for that location.

There is a promise to re-seed “with agency consultation.” No details are given for species, sources of seed, or plans for initial watering. Without more information, it is difficult to make useful comments. In several areas immediately east of the Jacumba Wilderness, the BLM’s cautiously attempted restoration has left only dead brush on bare ground.

One story map photo shows equipment piled at a staging area--with the promise that it will be removed and the area returned to its original condition. Edie Harmon has reported --and her photo shows--that the area was cleared well before -- *continued page 11*



Along the Border Wall

Photo credit: Edie Harmon. (This image was used in the story map with the Remediation Plan, and extracted from it)

A rare little buckwheat leads to global concerns

-- by Beth Deaton

This May, I went on a day trip with the local Sierra Club Range of Light Group to Rhyolite Ridge on the Nevada side of the White Mountains just beyond the Owens Valley to see Tiehm's buckwheat. This is a very rare species of buckwheat, endemic to a handful of acres at the site of a proposed lithium mine in the Eastern Sierra. From the top of the hill, we could look out and see everywhere in the entire world that this little plant will ever grow. It is not simply bad luck that puts its habitat on top of lithium-rich soils; Tiehm's buckwheat has evolved to grow on the lithium beds themselves. It grows best where disturbed soil has brought pale lithium dust to the surface, and it has resisted all efforts to propagate

photo: Patrick Donnelly, Center for Biological Diversity



Tiehm's buckwheat

it elsewhere.

Researchers have attempted to grow these plants in the lab, and in test plots near their natural habitat. We visited the test plots—not a single buckwheat to be seen! At the species' natural site, however, the buckwheat plants are thriving.

Many plants were lost last year, most likely to rodents, though some observers say the damage looked more like the work of a shovel. This year, though, the population had recovered splendidly. During our visit, the area was dotted with tiny desert wildflowers and more horny toads than I have ever seen in a single day. It is also home to bighorn sheep and pronghorn, although we saw none during our visit.

If all goes according to plan, however, this lovely biologically diverse area will soon become the site of an enormous pit mine. Legally mandated buffer zones may or may not be enough to save Tiehm's buckwheat, but even so, much that is beautiful will be lost.

If this were the proposed site of a gold mine, I would not hesitate to oppose it, just as I oppose the two open-pit, cyanide-leach gold mines currently proposed for Hot Creek and Conglomerate Mesa. But lithium is a key component in what currently passes for a plan to draw down our fossil fuel usage and mitigate looming environmental catastrophe.

Still, allowing developers free rein is a recipe for disaster.

Should we focus on saving special places, pushing mining elsewhere? The ability to defend a beloved place requires a degree of political power that many communities lack. What places would we sacrifice to protect this one?

Whatever route we choose, combating climate change will involve difficult choices and sacrifices. That helps to explain why global efforts to date have been woefully lacking. The past optimistic scenario, and the Paris Agreement goal, was to hold warming by the end of this century to 1.5°C above the preindustrial average. A recent report by Climate Action Tracker (2021) found that published pledges and targets would result in a gain of 2.1°C; actual progress, however, has us on track for an estimated 2.7°C of warming by 2100. This is in addition to, and will exacerbate, our other environmental crises: fading biodiversity due to habitat loss, ocean acidification, air and water pollution, and water scarcity, to name a few.

While adaptation will be crucial, it is mitigation that I want to focus on here. The proposed mitigation measures often discussed are: regulation, carbon capture, and alternative energy (Wright & Borse, 2017, 458). Each of these methods has a place in a comprehensive climate response plan, and they have brought some success. The United States reduced its per capita emissions 17% between 1990 and 2018, but remains the 17th highest per capita emitter in the world, 2.45 times higher than the European Union. Worldwide,

however, emissions increased by 49.9% (Ritchie, et al., 2022). Emissions will keep on increasing as long as burning fossil fuels and destroying forests remains the sole means for poor countries, where per capita emissions are still low, to seek the quality of life enjoyed by developed economies.

In addition to natural methods, such as climate-friendly agriculture and planting and preserving forests, some technology can capture pollution from industrial facilities or directly from the atmosphere. But the price tag is high, both in terms of dollars and the energy required to build and run the systems. By some estimates, running sufficient carbon-capture technology to halt climate change would need five times the world's current energy consumption. There is tremendous value to carbon capture because even if we reduced our emissions to zero today, we would still live with the warming effects of the excess greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere.

Alternative energy sources are the core of a successful climate policy. In order to hold warming to a livable level, we must draw down and eliminate our use of fossil fuels and that means maximizing our output of solar, wind, tidal, hydrothermal, geothermal, and maybe even nuclear energy (if it can be done safely) as soon as possible. In 2021, however, only 12.2% of U.S. energy consumption came from renewable sources (U.S. Energy Information Administration, n.d.). The big obstacles to greater adoption of renewables are economic and political. Investing in renewable energy costs more than continuing to rely on fossil fuels (Yoo, et al., 2022, 148). And powerful political factions are heavily vested in the continued production of fossil fuels. The outsized role of wealth in determining governmental policy is a tremendous threat to our ability to protect Nature.

Yet even alternative energy is not without cost, and that brings us back to Tiehm's buckwheat and the lithium mine. Environmental cost of lithium world batteries is high, not only its

-- continued page 11, bottom

Jacumba wilderness threats -- from page 9

the remediation plan was published--even before construction occurred. Her photos show that even before construction, the area was a maze of ORV tracks on otherwise bare ground.

The map promises--with no details, to restore the water drainages that have been impacted by construction. However, the remediation document makes no mention of rehabilitating areas with many tire tracks along washes and on open ground away from graded roads.

CBP representatives told Ms. Harmon that restoration activities will use heavy equipment; the possibility of using hand crews for planting or removing vehicle tracks was not entertained.

Conclusions:

1) The federal agencies with responsibilities in the Jacumba Wilderness have embarrassed themselves. The Bureau of Land Management has used legal excuses to avoid its responsibility

for maintaining wilderness character. The Department of Customs and Border Patrol has shirked a duty to adequately consider the environmental consequences of its actions or collaborate with a wider public familiar with the local geography.

2) Given the facts of immigration and the physical presence of the border wall, it is not realistic to expect that the Jacumba Wilderness can be restored everywhere to its once nearly natural condition. *It is realistic to insist, however, that away from the entrance roads and the wall itself*, the flora, fauna, archeological artifacts, and much of the visual resource should receive all protections enumerated in the Wilderness Act.

3) The clear lesson is that political influence in our federal bureaucracies makes it impossible to assure responsible land management without the involvement of committed citizens. We must speak; they must listen. ♪



photo: Edie Harmon

Tracks show where vehicles leave hardened road, cross berm, and drive down wash.

- 1) <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/02/08/2019-01379/determination-pursuant-to-section-102-of-the-illegal-immigration-reform-and-immigrant-responsibility>
- 2) https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2022-Jul/FINAL%20EI%20Centro%20%20ESP_06132022_508%20Compliant.pdf
- 3) United States District Court for the District of Columbia: <https://www.docketbird.com/court-documents/Rio-Grande-International-Study-Center-et-al-v-Trump-et-al/Settlement-Agreement/dcd-1:2019-cv-00720-00117-001>
- 4) <https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management/border-barrier-remediation-plan-imperial-county-june-2022>.

Tiehm's Buckwheat future -- from p. 10

impact on places like Rhyolite Ridge but also because of the other highly toxic substances needed. It is likely less harmful in the present moment, however, than continuing to rely on fossil fuels. We can protest this mine, in this place, perhaps halt the project. But the minerals, so greatly demanded, must come from somewhere! Which places will we choose to save? Lithium is recyclable; its wider adoption will help. Other technological fixes are likely, eventually, if they are cost-effective enough for anyone to invest.

The larger problem, however, is more fundamental, not just in the United States, but in all developed economies. Our entire economic model ties prosperity to continually escalating consumption of resources. Imagine for a moment that solar technology to power lithium batteries finally comes into widespread use. I do not picture it being used only for transportation, or only where it will avoid a higher environmental toll. It could be used in every child's toy and every cheap, plastic gewgaw that the marketers dream up to make profits.

Even if we halt this mine and save Rhyolite Ridge, our endless appetite for *more* means that at some point, some other company will stake a claim to the site and open a mine. And every form of resource extraction, no matter how renewable, carries an environmental cost--destructive if natural systems are pushed too far.

Ultimately our ability to build a long-term future for ourselves will depend on building an economy that meets human needs and cares for the environment rather than maximizing profit for a few. That is how we can assure the future of Tiehm's buckwheat, Rhyolite Ridge, and all the natural wonders here east of the Sierra.

(Beth Deaton is a volunteer with the Range of Light Group, Toiyabe Chapter.)

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Condors are flying -- over northern California forests

We have become used to seeing condors soar overhead in central California, with frequent viewings in Pinnacles National Park and the Ventana coast.

But now they have taken flight in northern California too—thus coming closer to repopulating all the ancestral lands of the Yurok people, centered around the Klamath Basin.

In WOW April 2022 we described efforts of the Yurok people to bring to culmination a long, careful project of preparing young condors to be released near Redwood National Park. After September 2020 wildfires forced the evacuation of 44 condors from the Oregon Zoo's breeding facility to the Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey (WCBP) in Idaho, three refugee birds, a female and two males (A0, A1, and A), became the birds planned for release by the Yurok. In a pen with one adult mentor, they met one more young male, A2, to start the North Coast repopulation. But before they could fly, the juvenile condors needed to learn social skills and how to eat in a group. Socialization with other condors has proved vital to condor recovery. .

The Yurok study team also worked closely with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's California Condor Recovery Program, which has led the multiple projects to bring back condors. To better understand the genetic diversity of the species, Jesse D'Elia from USFWS analyzed tissue samples from 93 condors from museums around the world--including one from Humboldt—near

to the Yurok release site. Paying attention to genetics of condors minimizes chances of

inbreeding. Improving genetic diversity boosts a species' ability to survive catastrophes and adapt to change.

Over the past winter, the Yurok quartet were in a San Simeon-area pen in Central California, centered within a free-flying condor flock. Every day the Yurok condors watched wild condors

Run4Salmon — ceremonial journey for salmon restoration

For the seventh year in a row, the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, along with a collective of Indigenous women, activists, and allies embarked on Run4Salmon, a 300-mile Prayer Journey to restore salmon to the Mount Shasta area. Led by Winnemem Wintu Tribe Chief Caleen Sisk, Run4Salmon was a ceremonial guide to restoring salmon to their ancestral home waters. The 300-mile journey started on Mount Shasta and ended at the Pacific Ocean—at the Bay-Delta Estuary's Ohlone site, Glen Cove, Vallejo..

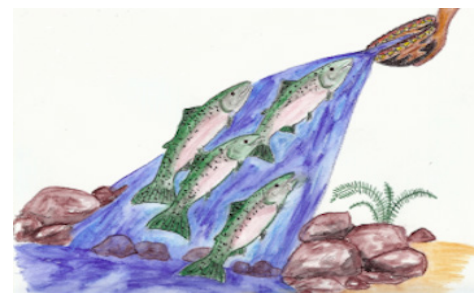
It followed the path of what was once a 'salmon run'--from the spawn-

feed on carcasses left outside the pen by biologists. For the captive juveniles, this was their first time seeing condors in the wild. After six months of this, in March, with renumbered wing tags and the radio and cellular/GPS location tracking transmitters attached, they were transferred to the Yurok release pen near Redwood National Park, for more weeks of training and monitoring by biologists. Yurok Tribe wildlife biologist Chris West, who manages the condor program, said the young condors ate well and maintained healthy weights.

Finally, in May, the release began, after the condors had watched vulture "cousins" outside grabbing scraps left to entice them nearby. Now, inside the pen, A2 and A3 waited separately from the others, and Yurok leader Williams-Claussen moved levers to remotely open the doors. It did not take very many minutes before A3 took some tentative steps to the door, then leaped onto the perch at the opening, and flew like a rocket out into the sky. Seconds later, A2 shot from the perch to join him.

The first free-flying condors above the Yuroks' sacred land—in over a century--soared above redwoods where their ancestors once flew free. ∞ (Much detail on the release and long pre-release efforts is in June *Bay Nature*:

<https://baynature.org/2022/06/09/the-reintroduction-odyssey-of-the-yurok-condors/>.



from run4salmon.org

ing beds of Chinook salmon on the upper McCloud River, down the Sacramento River, through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and into San Francisco Bay. Run4Salmon took place over 3 ½ weeks, from July 8 to 31, featuring paddling, boating, biking, walking, horseback riding, running, and dancing.

Scientists consider salmon a keystone species, and the Winnemem Wintu Tribe consider them 'keepers of the water', essential to keeping waterways healthy for human life and for all other life that depend on rivers. The Winnemem Wintu are 'Salmon People'; salmon have historically been key to their diet, and the Winnemem creation story has salmon giving their voice to humans, so that humans could speak. In exchange, the Winnemem promised to always speak for the salmon, and they do so now—working to restore them to the Mount Shasta area.

The Shasta Dam, built in 1945, blocked the Mt. Shasta Chinook salmon from returning to their McCloud River spawning grounds, and they became extinct. Their extinction has drastically affected the ecosystem of the McCloud River, and sharply degraded the Winnemem Wintu way of life. To correct this past damage, the Tribe seeks a fishway around the Shasta Dam.

Run4Salmon was named a UNESCO Green Citizen Project this past year. The prayer journey raises awareness about current threats to the Winnemem Wintu Tribe's way of life, the importance of both salmon and clean water for the ecosystem, yet it also celebrates resilience and aims to inspire hope in all people about the possibility of ecological balance.

In 2022, Run4Salmon was a 'closed ceremony'; however the public was invited to participate safely online. ∞

(For more information, visit: <http://run4salmon.org/>)

from Wikipedia



to the Yurok release site. Paying attention to genetics of condors minimizes chances of



Outings



Support wilderness the Sierra Club way!

--May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. -- Edward Abbey

A northern California Service trip



photo: Lisa Ross

From left to right: John Livingston, Yo Sadohara, Marti Weidert sitting, Ray Pfister, Judy Wavers, Ray Pfister and David Ledger/ The green trees in the background are respouting black oaks about 15 feet tall with the dead mother tree in the middle.

On July 7, Sierra Club volunteer and outings leader and member of Shasta Environmental Alliance David Ledger led a work party watering, pruning back brush, and putting gunny sacks on tree cages sheltering previously planted tree seedlings on BLM land outside of Redding. As David described it: “We put about 90 jugs of water on all the trees, the most we have done at one time. This will help the seedlings go another three weeks. And thank you to all who have helped in the past.”

David Ledger started Shasta

Memorial Day Wilderness Service trip

The wilderness committee’s Memorial Day service outing went to the Park Range Wilderness Study Area, (WSA) in remote central Nevada, south of Eureka. The project, organized by wilderness ranger Robert Valenzuela from the BLM’s Ely, NV office, helped close—by hiding their beginning stretches--four small vehicle routes leading into the WSA off the main dirt route through the area. These were illegal

Environmental Alliance several years ago, with groups like California Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, and Audubon. They oppose rare plant removal in the Redding area.

Marti Weidert gives us background for this project: “In late July, 2018, the Carr Fire broke out at nearby Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Tinder-dry brush plus high winds drove the fire in all directions, then it raced across BLM land and torched the western front of the city next to BLM land. Hundreds of homesburned, massive evacuations were ordered; people fled. Two years after the fire, David Ledger obtained the native oak acorns from Sierra Club and Native Plant volunteers. Sierra Club member Karen Little donated many. The seedlings sprang up from acorns planted inside cages last year and two years ago by David Ledger’s volunteers. He hopes to water the seedlings every three weeks throughout our summer.”

routes that served no needed destination and were not cherry-stemmed, thus our “erasing” them protected the integrity of the reserved wild area. Route erasure involved lots of hard work digging up dead plants nearby and replanting in the route tread, raking, arranging rocks and other vegetation for the portion of these routes visible from the main “highway”. And finally pounding in carsonite signs....

The trip—our first time working in a Wilderness Study Area rather than a designated Wilderness--also helped participants understand the importance of caring for wilderness study areas protectively even though they are not (yet) designated wilderness--but they are potential wilderness and should be kept eligible, managed as vital protected habitat.

Robert is retiring from the BLM, so this was our last chance to work with him. Good luck, Robert, we’ll miss YOU! ☺

vnh



photo: Vicky Hoover

Road-hiding crew hard at work

Ventana Wilderness Alliance service trip

Sept 30 – Oct 3 – Fri-Mon

Carrizo Trail Backpack--3 nights

Fri meet 8 a.m. Road 6 at the turn off from main paved road. Backpack 3.2 miles to Carrizo Springs Camp on Carrizo Trail and work on brush and tread in half mile before camp. Sat hike 2.5 miles to where we cleared fallen trees Memorial Day weekend, and clear brush from this section on--as we fight rapid regrowth of brush that follows any fire in Ventana Wilderness. Strenuous hike with elevation gain. BRING: Sturdy work clothes & footwear, daypack, water containers for 3 liters, head net for bugs! ALL FOOD for 4 days/3 nights. Water in camp, not on trail. Questions or to sign up: Betsy MacGowan, VWA crew leader: <https://www.meetup.com/ventana-wilderness-alliance-meetup/events/287343682/> or bmacgowan@hotmail.com.

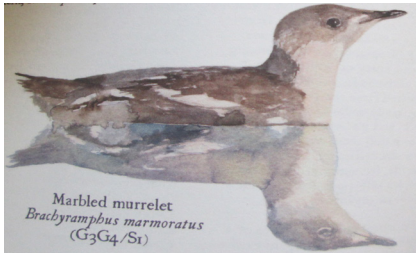


photo: Robert Valenzuela

The Memorial Day group-with Robert’s special frosted cake showing map of the WSA.

Art and Science blend together in *The Coasts of California*, new offering from Obi Kaufmann...

To describe Nature and highlight the broad variety making up the natural world, there may be two principal ways to go about it—through science and through art. In this newest version of his California field atlas series, author Obi Kaufmann interweaves the



two methods into a nearly seamless whole. Which comes first? Depends on your point of view – to me, while the science accentuated throughout the book is impressive, it is the amazing watercolor images of so many plant and animal species – and of maps, that leave the most memorable impressions. Each picture is a miniature art treasure.

As a so-called field atlas, one might expect a larger-format tome, but this book makes up for its “normal” size in reaching well over 500 pages of text—followed by an additional nearly 100 pages of notes, acknowledgments, etc. And—hardly a page of the book is not enriched by one or more hand-drawn images—land and seascapes, critters, flowers, and charming maps.

Why “coasts” in the plural? Does our state have more than one coast? Kaufmann divides the California coast into 24 segments, each poetically titled and lovingly described starting in the north with “Of salmon and spruce—the Del Norte Coast” and on past “Of seals and sage—the Año Nuevo coast, and “Of canyons and creeks—the Santa Monica coast”, to “Of cactus and clouds—the



San Diego coast.” Kaufmann effectively connects the different “coasts” as he describes a walk the length of the California coastal trail; you can join vicariously.



Central coast image

He’s in tune with urgent ecological needs—in a powerful final chapter, he presses for vigorous protection; for example, remarking on “corridor ecology”—the need to “preserve key linkages” within natural landscapes. The specter of sea-level rise hovers over all—illustrated with intriguing maps of future “worst-case scenarios”—as the Pacific inundates the central valley....

The book calls for “emergence of a way to regard nature that transcends its physicality and utility—that sees nature as more than property—as a legacy that is inherently, intrinsically valuable.” Governor Newsom’s executive order of 2020, that “commits to conserving 30 percent of the state’s lands and coastal waters by 2030” is noted in a timeline

of “Policies and Protection”.

Obi Kaufmann’s new book has so many more notable features than we can mention—here we simply seek to draw attention. We hope you’ll be able to acquire this remarkable book or find it in your library.

Heyday Books, Berkeley, CA. 2021. Hardbound, \$55.

(images from the book used with author’s permission) vnh

<https://www.heydaybooks.com/catalog/the-coasts-of-california-a-california-field-atlas/> ∞

Sierra Club’s California/Nevada Wilderness Committee, an issue committee of the California Conservation Committee, advocates for preservation of unroaded, undeveloped public lands in a wild state through legislation, 30 by 30 conservation, and appropriate management, and sponsors stewardship and wilderness study outings.

Chair: JoAnne Clarke, chair: Tehipite Chapter: (209) 233-7380:
Heather Anderson (559) 681-6305: Arts and Wildlands liaison
Judy Anderson (818) 248-0402: wilderness management
Victoria Brandon (707) 994-1931: Redwood Chapter coordinator
Joyce Burk (760) 252-3820: Southern CA forests co-chair
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OPEN-San Francisco Bay, Santa Lucia Chapter coordinators--volunteers sought.

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❖❖ Land Acknowledgement ❖❖
The Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter operates on Chumash land, the First Peoples of the central coast for over 13,000 years. The traditional Chumash Indian homeland encompasses 7,000 square miles along the California coast and the Santa Barbara Channel Islands from the beaches of Malibu north to Paso Robles.