

WORDS OF *the* WILD

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

Monumental Proposals--new and expansion Support grows for Indigenous-led Avi Kwa Ame in Nevada

-- by Christian Gerlach



photo: Christian Gerlach

County, Southern Nevada. Supporters are calling on President Joe Biden to designate the Monument, which would bring to fruition an effort over years to protect the area surrounding the Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness, Grapevine Canyon, and the Spirit Mountain Wilderness. This effort has been led by the Fort Mohave Tribe, or Pipa Aha Macav--People by the River--as they refer to themselves.

Support is growing for another national monument in Nevada. Avi Kwa Ame, as it is known to the Mojave Peoples, or Spirit Mountain, is a proposed National Monument in Clark

Other organizations like the Native Voters Alliance of Nevada, National Parks Conservation Association, Basin and Range Watch, Conservation Lands Foundation, and Nevada Conservation League have also been pushing for further protections. Our Sierra Club Southern Nevada Group Executive Committee member Justin McAfee has led the Sierra Club charge for Avi Kwa Ame's greater recognition and protection since 2018. The area -- *continued page 2*

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Protecting Molok Luyuk or Condor Ridge (Walker Ridge)

-- by Bob Schneider

Molok Luyuk, or Condor Ridge, is a Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation name for the prominent geographical feature, also known as Walker Ridge, along the eastern boundary between Lake and Colusa Counties, in Central California's Inner Coast range. Molok Luyuk and surrounding lands, including Indian Valley, were part of the ancestral homeland of the Hill Patwin people. This vital cultural heritage includes the lands and the cultural practices through which the Hill Patwin lived, including the relationships among the land and the people in the region as well as the specific villages, gathering sites, and burials. Managing the Molok Luyuk region must be viewed through this comprehensive lens.

Condor Ridge is located north of Highway 20 northeast of Clear Lake and is reached by the graveled Walker Ridge Road, which is accessible to cars with high clearance when dry.

From the ridge you can see the grand sweep of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument from the Putah Creek gap to Snow Mountain Wilderness and all the view from Mt Konocti to the Sierra Nevada crest to the east.

The Fight for Condor Ridge

One would think that this special place is already protected. It is not. Four separate wind -- *continued page 3*

Support for Ave Kwa Ame National Monument -- from page 1

is a magnificent and natural extension of the Mojave National Preserve and Mojave Trails National Monument right across the California line. These protections would safeguard a complex, connected natural system to help endangered species, invite more people to enjoy public lands, act as defense against climate disruption, and help toward protecting 30 percent of lands, waters, oceans and green spaces by 2030; known as “30 by 30” this is a critical effort to sustain our planet for those who come after us.

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. The oldest of these ancient wonders have survived for over 900 years. These elders have much to teach us and must be protected.

The surrounding mountain ranges, like the McCullough Range, Spirit Mountains, New York Mountains, and Castle Mountains, are home to many raptor species. Preserving these lands would protect the hunting grounds of these species by ensuring healthy populations of desert fauna they need. The area contains one of the highest known densities of golden eagles in Nevada. In addition, nearly two dozen other species of raptors reside in the proposed monument including bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and Western screech owls. The area has been designated as important to birding for the unique and diverse birds that inhabit these lands other than the birds of prey, including gilded flickers and curved-billed thrashers. Birds are taking the hardest hit from the ongoing extinction crisis, and we need to protect more habitat for them.

The monument would include the Paiute/Eldorado Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), which was established to protect the federally threatened desert tortoise. However, this ACEC is not sufficient to protect all the special species, wildlife corridors, and important historic, cultural, visual, and recreational resources of the region. The designation of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument would be a huge step forward. (See WOW, Dec 2020.)

Among the species with iconic importance to Nevada and deep cultural

significance to local Indigenous people in the proposed monument is the desert bighorn sheep, Nevada’s state mammal. Within the proposed boundaries is an important migratory corridor for a herd of desert bighorn that lives on the steep, rocky slopes of the Castle Mountains and the New York Mountains.

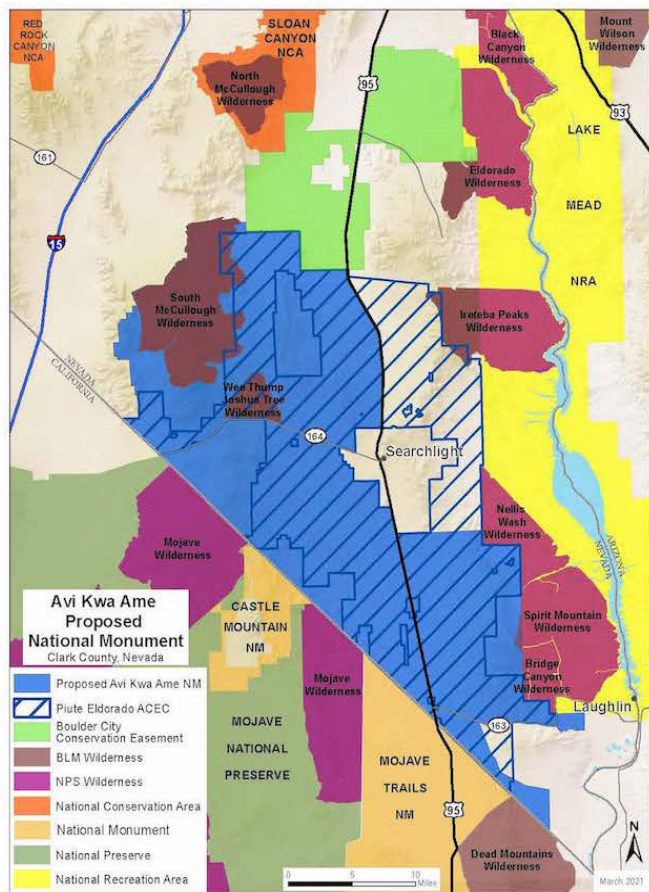
The Castle and New York mountain ranges also house the Crescent Town Site Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The townsite contains a prehistoric mining site of turquoise used by Native Americans like the Southern Paiutes, Western Shoshone, and Mohave peoples going back hundreds of years. The southern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

Concerns of Indigenous communities

The area is of further significance to local Indigenous people as Spirit Mountain, the Dead Mountains, and the surrounding area are closely tied to the creation stories, cosmology, and well-being of the ten groups of Yuman-speaking peoples. Avi Kwa Ame is the traditional and ancestral lands of the Southern Paiutes and Fort Mohave Tribe, or Pipa Aha Macav (People by the River).


The area also has cultural importance to the Mohave People, Chemehuevi Paiute, Moapa Paiute, Las Vegas Paiute, Havasupai, and Hopi people.

The Sierra Club’s Southern Nevada Group passed a resolution of support for an Antiquities Act designation of this proposed national monument. This year for Public Lands Day the Sierra Club’s Our Wild America Campaign worked with community partners and local volunteers on two events focusing on our work to



permanently protect the Avi Kwa Ame or Spirit Mountain traditional and ancestral lands of the Mohave peoples. First, we collected petition signatures at the Indigenous Marketplace and Festival at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Park on September 25 to permanently protect Avi Kwa Ame. (Find the petition at: <https://sc.org/AviKwaAme>)

And on October 2 we worked with the Nevada Bureau of Land Management and Friends of Walking Box Ranch to host a stewardship project at Walking Box Ranch (near Searchlight) in the proposed Avi Kwa Ame Monument. (Find the Sierra Club Video at: <https://youtu.be/pFy-ABDp6dc>)

These monument protections represent an opportunity for our nation to walk the walk of centering equity and justice by helping preserve what is left of the cultural and religious heritage of Indigenous peoples in this region. Designating this Avi Kwa Ame or Spirit Mountain National Monument would be a great step toward achieving these goals for conservation and the rights of Indigenous people.. 
(Christian Gerlach is a Sierra Club *Our Wild America* Organizer in Las Vegas)

Protecting Condor (Walker) Ridge as part of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

-- continued from page 1

development projects have been proposed and now a fifth threatens Condor Ridge. The ecological damage would be huge and wind energy gain marginal at best, according to maps from the California Energy Commission. (See WOW April '21)

We are pleased that fighting to protect Condor Ridge we now have a strong coalition of organizations that includes the Sierra Club, California Native Plant Society, Tuleyome, California Wilderness Coalition, the Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation, Great Old Broads for Wilderness and others. The coalition is working with Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA3) and hopes to get Condor Ridge added to the present Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (BSMNM).

Recent Successes:

1. Tribal Nations have engaged in this fight. They have told us their name for Walker Ridge is Molok Luyuk, or Condor Ridge. Condors once soared here, and they will return. Condors were recently seen at nearby Mt Diablo, just a day's flight away.
2. Congressman Garamendi has released a public discussion draft of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act, which he plans to introduce in Congress soon. This federal legislation will permanently protect more than 3,900 acres of Condor Ridge in Lake County and is one of the Sierra Club's 30

by 30 goals of the Mother Lode Chapter. 3. The Bureau of Land Management has recently undertaken an analysis of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. We have not yet seen their report. But based upon our personal knowledge and the California Wilderness Coalition's survey of potential wilderness areas, the west side of Condor Ridge meets the criteria for wilderness. We will fight for that future designation.

4. The Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation has requested (in their comment letter to Congressman Garamendi on the draft legislation) that Walker Ridge be renamed to Molok Luyuk, Condor Ridge. The Nation has also requested co-management of the BSMNM, which is in accord with President Biden's recent announcement that the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture have created the "Tribal Homelands Initiative." This collaborative effort will improve federal stewardship of public lands, waters, and wildlife by strengthening the role of Tribal communities in land management.

5. Condor Ridge provides an accessible location from which to see much of the National Monument. We have proposed to the BLM that the a site on the Ridge be developed as an ADA accessible site with parking, a boardwalk, viewing platform and interpretive kiosk. It is an ideal place for inclusion and for many to feel and experience this wild place.

and the Indian Valley transform faults cut through the ridge. Condor Ridge now largely consists of the Great Valley Group, the eastern belt of Franciscan, and serpentinite. A large sheet of the Wilber Springs serpentinite covers much of the ridge. As you drive the ridge road you see this deep geologic history of how the continents and this place formed.

Fire is a natural ecological process in fire-adapted landscapes like Condor Ridge. While it can be hard to view right after a large fire like the Pawnee Fire at the south end of the ridge or the Ranch Fire at the north end, it is not long before new signs of growth are seen.

Condor Ridge is renowned for its biological diversity resulting from an overlapping of the Klamath Siskiyou and the San Francisco Bay Area ecozones; and the many endemic plants that grow on serpentine soils. There is also a wildlife corridor north to south for mountain lion, bear, and migratory birds including bald eagles.

The California Native Plant Society has twice petitioned the Bureau of Land Management to designate all of Condor Ridge as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. There has been no response from the BLM.

This campaign began with many partners battling an ill-conceived industrial-scale wind development project, and we find we are now working to support Tribal efforts to repatriate condors to Condor Ridge. I am particularly happy to have the BSMNM be at the leading edge to incorporate Tribal lore and love for the land directly into management of the region.

What You Can Do:

⇒ Go to the California Native Plant Society web page (<https://www.cnps.org/>) and learn more about Condor Ridge. Join the petition to permanently protect this special place.

⇒ Contact Bob Schneider at verve2006@comcast.net for further information, including how you can donate to the Sierra Club Yolano Group or the Redwood Chapter to help the campaign to add Condor Ridge to the BSMNM. ∞

Background

Condor Ridge is a product of plate tectonics. The Coast Range and Stony Creek thrust faults subducted the Farallon Plate and then the Pacific Plate under the Sierra Nevada Microplate and the North American Plate, and in this process uplifted and faulted Condor Ridge. Now the Bartlett Springs



This large serpentinite boulder on Condor Ridge was once Pacific Ocean Plate crust, then subducted under the North American Plate, and uplifted back to the surface. Serpentine is California's state rock.

Action Alert:

NOAA advances designation of Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary Comments needed by January 10, 2022

On November 9, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced opening of a process to designate a new national marine sanctuary off the coast of central California in a 7,000 square mile area adjacent to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.



The announcement continued: “The designation of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary would protect the region’s important marine ecosystem, maritime heritage resources and cultural values of Indigenous communities, while allowing NOAA to manage compatible uses within its boundaries.

“As directed by President Biden’s Executive Order on [Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#), NOAA and other federal agencies seek to take a holistic approach to curbing and building resilience to climate change. This includes conserving and restoring ocean and coastal habitats, supporting tribally and locally led stewardship and offshore wind and other clean energy projects.”

As Santa Lucia Chapter director Andrew Christie put it, “Our campaign for a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary hit a milestone with the announcement of the designation process in the Federal Register. This is the final stretch in a very long haul in which the Santa Lucia and Los Padres Chapters and Sierra Club California have all played a significant role.

“California’s Central Coast supports extraordinarily high levels of biodiversity. That’s because the Davidson Current, carrying warmer water from the south, and the California Current, carrying cool water from the north, meet and mix in this region. Their intermixing of waters from very different ecosystems and their transport of nutrients, fish, and larvae between coastal habitats makes this one of the rarest bioregions in the world.”

Santa Lucia Chapter’s Jennifer Bauer, a member of the Sierra Club California 30 by 30 task force, points out: “As the first tribal-nominated

marine sanctuary in the U.S., the CHNMS provides a precedent for elevating Indigenous perspectives and knowledge to contribute to state and

national 30 by 30 goals in ocean conservation. What an opportunity for state and federal conservation managers to partner with Indigenous tribes on nature-based solutions to protect 30 percent of our oceans and lands by 2030 and beyond!”

On Nov. 9, the Northern Chumash Tribal Council issued a press release celebrating the NOAA announcement, including a statement by leader Violet Sage Walker (whose op-ed appeared in WOW, August 2021): “Today’s announcement marks a major milestone after more than 40 years of tireless advocacy for ocean protection. Chumash have been the guardians of the Central Coast of California since time immemorial. Visit chumashsanctuary.org to learn more about the proposed sanctuary.”

NOAA requests specific input on the sanctuary name, sanctuary boundary, compatible uses, threats a new sanctuary would address, how best to promote marine science and education initiatives and other topics. NOAA will also host virtual public meetings on December 8, December 13, and January 6, with oral comments from the public. The scoping process will assist NOAA with preparation of draft designation documents, which will be released for further public comment.

Talking points for commenting:

The proposed Chumash Heritage NMS exemplifies the principles of the Biden Administration’s America the Beautiful Report by supporting

and honoring Tribal sovereignty, and supporting Tribal priorities. The designation:

- Will support a Tribally nominated sanctuary;
- Will protect 140 miles of coastline, ocean biodiversity and habitats;
- Aligns with the goals and objectives of the Biden Administration’s America the Beautiful and 30 by 30 plans, including fighting the biodiversity crisis;
- Is a vigorous step in the fight against climate change and a good way to further environmental justice;
- Is part of a more than 40-year fight to protect the waters off the Central Coast.

PLEASE COMMENT on the proposed sanctuary designation **until January 10, 2022**. Comment *electronically* through the Federal eRulemaking Portal, www.regulations.gov. The docket number is NOAA-NOS-2021-0080.

Shortcut for sending comments to NOAA: <https://www.regulations.gov/search?filter=noaa-nos-2021-0080>.

Or send your comment by Mail:

Paul E. Michel, Regional Coordinator;
NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast Office
99 Pacific Street, Building 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

For more info: Paul.Michel@noaa.gov
(831) 241-4217. 🐾

For details on the proposed sanctuary, and on providing comments, go to <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/Chumash-heritage>.



Updated map

Nature Needs Half—Presentation to CA/NV Wilderness committee

--by Joanne Clarke

On October 20, the California/Nevada Wilderness Team sponsored a presentation by Vance Martin and Amy Lewis of the Wild Foundation on the Nature Needs Half movement. This essay describes major topics covered and recommendations made in the presentations by these two leaders of the global “Nature Needs Half” movement (which Sierra Club joined a few years ago.)

The “Half Wild” concept--also led by biologist E.O. Wilson--is the most important vision in conservation. For our own survival and for survival of all life: *Nature needs half the earth.* Scientists strongly recommend protecting at least half of Earth’s land and seas in order to sequester hundreds of tons of carbon and preserve tens of thousands of species. The traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples also compels us to share Earth equally with nature.

Social movements can transform what is possible, making protecting half of Earth achievable. Change comes from community free will: with a strong will, we have the power to bring action. There are two approaches to affecting change: Top down and bottom up; top-down

is not sufficient. We do need strong “top-down” leadership, but we also need a broader more public environmental movement. By building a strong global appreciation for nature, the “audience” determines the outcome and the ideal conditions for change. The rapid expansion of discourse by drawing the public in, involved or passive, can create



global public interest to get people in every city to adopt the issue: in other words, “diffuse agents of change”. Public interest calls for strong policy

LA MITAD PARA LA NATURALEZA!

implementation.

Grassroots and community organizing should look to the past to see what worked and take steps within our own networks to cultivate the public. The message is key for creating opportunity for the public to mobilize.

Use crisis and urgency of the issue.

Vance offered three principles for messaging: 1) Use a positive approach (Mother Earth), 2) fight against perverse subsidies and 3) DIY (give people a job). Topics for a successful agenda could be community priorities, key places, corridors, or initiatives shared by many.

Indigenous Peoples are stewards of nearly 40 percent of Earth’s still-wild places, even though their communities constitute only five percent of the human population. And over 80 percent of Earth’s biodiversity lives on these lands.

Indigenous lifeways and leadership are critical for the future of humanity and the biosphere. There should be ongoing consultation with Indigenous Peoples-- understanding that we have different cultures. The best way to work with them is to LISTEN, “show up and shut up”, make space at the table as equals.

While protecting half of Earth is our ultimate goal--we now work actively on the first step--30 percent by 2030.

Join our CA/NV Committee for some future timely presentations, related to conserving wild places! ☞

National Wilderness Workshop 2021

For the second year in a row, the CA/NV Wilderness Committee received a grant from the Sierra Club’s Grassroots Network to help sponsor attendance at the 2021 National Wilderness Workshop, with a special goal of attracting people from traditionally marginalized categories--youth, BIPOC, low income, other communities often underrepresented in the wilderness conservation stewardship movement. The annual National Wilderness Workshops are sponsored and organized by the Society for Wilderness Stewardship and the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.

In 2020, our grant helped bring substantial new participation from non-traditional communities. That event (see WOW, December 2020) was the first ever held virtually. For 2021, the plan

than last year. Forty-eight people signed was to hold the gathering in Roanoke, Virginia, with some sessions available online for remote viewing. Our wilderness committee began working with the Virginia Chapter and hoped to sponsor a bus load of Roanoke school children for a field trip to Washington, DC to meet their members of Congress. However, ongoing COVID concerns turned the event virtual again; Virginia and DC remain unvisited.

The Workshop overall was highly successful, with 350 people registered, representing wilderness stewards from at least 36 states. More than 100 different stewardship groups and institutions were represented, as well as 68 Forest Service employees, 59 BLM employees, and at least a dozen from National Park Service.

We exceeded our first conservation goal--of sponsoring more participants

than last year. Forty-eight people signed up through the Sierra Club grant-funded registration process. The registration form did not ask for demographic info, so a clear count of BIPOC and youth is not yet available; we estimate that about 30 percent were BIPOC (individual follow-up is ongoing). The event and our sponsorship let us continue raising the importance of wilderness stewardship education and advocacy.

To start the workshop agenda, the four federal wilderness managing agencies’ wilderness leads gave news of their agency’s wilderness programs. Then, sessions discussed active on-the-ground stewardship work in various places; research needs and progress; connecting stewardship with advocacy; expanding inclusiveness to better connect with diverse wilderness users; Indigenous wilderness stewardship; preparing for the Wilderness Act 60th anniversary; technology concerns vs benefits, and more. ☞

California 30 by 30 Campaign Update

-- by Anne Henny and Jenny Binstock

In August, WOW reported on the meteoric trajectory of the Sierra Club's 30 by 30 Campaign in California—starting from almost nothing in February and growing fast. It has only accelerated since. Our statewide Task Force now has representatives from almost all of our 13 Chapters, and we showed up in force at all the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) public engagement workshops during spring and summer. We have submitted and signed on to powerful comment letters to the state.

To date, our activists have supported this process by:

- Attending 14 regional and topical workshops over spring and summer 2021 to provide public comments.
- Helping to shape and support a number of regional comment letters;
- Crafting our own letter of recommendations.

Now we await the draft "Pathways to 30 by 30" document, which will be CNRA's first attempt to synthesize all the preliminary input from the Sierra Club and other stakeholders on how to design and implement the state's 30 by 30 strategy. Our campaign will rally Sierra Club activists across the state to shape a substantive "blueprint" to protect 30 percent of California's lands and waters by 2030. The 30 by 30 Pathways document must be finalized and sent to Governor Gavin Newsom by February 2022, per Executive Order N-82-20.

Overall, our statewide 30 by 30 campaign focuses on three key goals: ***ADVANCE A STATEWIDE GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION VISION** that engages our members, networks, and deep local expertise to develop and advance collaborative, locally-driven conservation visions for each region in California; ***BUILD A MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION VISION** that nurtures the connections between nature and

communities, restores justice to those most harmed by problematic land management, and builds a sustained political demand for actions that achieve climate, biodiversity, and access to nature goals;

***STOP HARMFUL POLICIES AND ACTIONS** that undermine efforts to protect biodiversity, heal the climate, and safeguard the life support systems Nature gives--on which we all depend.

To accomplish these ambitious goals, we are mobilizing our incredible Sierra Club base, contributing to regional and statewide coalition efforts, and doing the groundwork for securing wins on local conservation priorities. Our CA 30 by 30 Task Force's initial survey to Chapters on their "Local Conservation Priorities" resulted in a listing of more than 200 places that are important to members from across the state. Our individual Chapter Task Forces focus on local advocacy to protect these special places over the coming decade.

Awesome Wilderness Work

CA/NV Wilderness Committee members at their regular meeting in late August voted to recognize longtime Bureau of Land Management Wilderness and National Conservations Lands lead Bob Wick on his retirement. Bob achieved national renown for his dramatic photography of BLM wildlands all over the west. <https://www.blm.gov/blog/2021-08-12/longtime-blm-photographer-bob-wick-retires-amazing-work-lives>

First in California, and later for BLM nationally, Bob promoted strong BLM wilderness stewardship. He attended some of our Committee's meetings in Shoshone, CA, and worked with us steadily.

The Committee sent Bob a certificate (facsimile here) of our "Appreciation for Wild Excellence" (AWE). He's invited as our guest on any committee outings, and we'll keep on using some of his gorgeous photos at times. ☺

Our recommendations for a 30 by 30 program

The framework of a successful California 30 by 30 program should include planning, public engagement, funding, implementation, monitoring, and accountability.

The planning phase should define protection standards, collect and verify baseline data, and prioritize specific places across the state for protection, ecological restoration, and/or more equitable community access.

Robust funding is crucial to the success of 30 by 30 in California. The "Pathways to 30 by 30" document, expected shortly, should identify preliminary funding needs and sources, including existing state and federal funding streams and innovative new funding opportunities. Funding will be needed for land acquisition from willing sellers, permanent easements, community engagement, and incentives for private landowners to conserve and manage their lands in ways that benefit them, the environment, and communities.

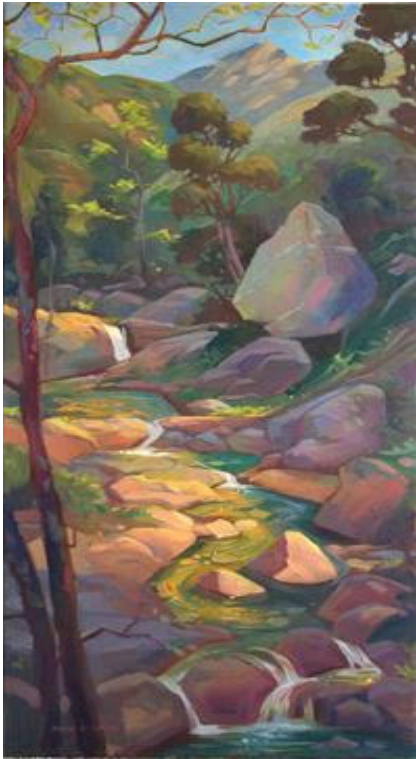
The implementation phase should be started as soon as feasible given the urgency of conserving ecosystems being lost to development and other pressures. Monitoring methods must provide real time transparency for stakeholders to track progress toward 30 by 30. One way to do this is to have a map and list of all the lands included in our 30 by 30 efforts and a habitat management plan for each.

The most exciting--and fun--part of this work is that we're only starting: *we are here for the long haul*. We are deeply invested in building long-term power for 30 by 30 in our state. Please reach out to Anne or Vicky to get involved! (Contact info-back page.) ☺



Art and environment partner in Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara, California was the site of an exciting Climate Change Art Show the weekend of



Creek Flow, Tunnel Creek by Kevin Gleason, as shown in SCAPE Climate Change Benefit art exhibit October 2021

October 23-24, benefitting Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter and the Community Environmental Council (CEC). Once again, the artists from SCAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment) showed their leadership in making art a powerful voice for environmental protection; SCAPE has held a regular series of environmental art shows. They raise environmental awareness – and also help raise funds for environmental organizations.

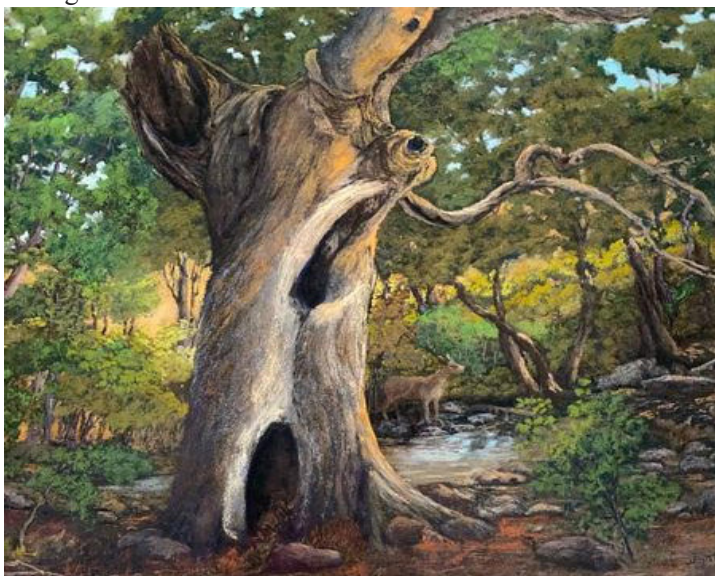
Partnering with the SCAPE Art Show was the CRP (Climate Reality Project) who provided a strong environmental

educational component for the show, held live on October 23-24 at Santa Barbara's Community Arts Workshop venue.

A host of volunteers from SCAPE, the Community Environmental Council, Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter, and the Climate Reality Project all helped make the exhibit a success. SCAPE's exhibits chair Natalie Wilson noted, "I think the most important show in recent years was this one dedicated to Climate Change-- a subject that is so timely and important to our wellbeing and therefore, our lives and our planet." She added: "Although this is an open show, landscapes, figures, still life and abstracts were accepted with special emphasis placed on subject matter that relates to Climate Change."

Bonnie Freeman, SCAPE's representative and show coordinator for the past two years and who also publicized the show, sent WOW news of the event and images of art shown.

As the article in the latest October-November *Condor Call*, the Los Padres Chapter newsletter, promoted the exhibit and emphasized: "For generations, the local Sierra Club and CEC have advocated for a cleaner environment and energy sources, all of which affects our local ecology, and the artists take it from there. Please help support these organizations by participating, buying and even donating." ♪



The Methuselah Oak, Arroyo Hondo Preserve, by Karen Glancy, as shown in SCAPE Climate Change Benefit art exhibit October 2021

Interior Secretary Haaland visits Alcatraz on 52nd anniversary of Indigenous occupation

Excerpts from the Secretary's remarks:

Guw'aadzi haupa – greetings everyone. I am honored to speak today from Alcatraz Island. Like many of the public lands in the care of the Department of the Interior, these lands tell a story, and you can feel it.

In November of 1969, a history began with acts of defiance to "Take the Rock." That history -- in many ways -- paved the way for the Tribal self-determination policies that President Biden and I championed just this week as we gathered with Tribal leaders for the first White House Tribal Nations Summit of this Administration.

In November of 1969, I was almost 9 years old.

I didn't understand it then, but my very existence as a Native child was in some ways an act of defiance against historic policies to exterminate Indigenous cultures, traditions, languages,.... -- us as a group of people.

We ...are the descendants of ancestors who lived in tune with nature, practiced sustainability, and thrived on this continent long before the colonization of North America. Many of us are the descendants of people who endured horrific brutality at the hands of those who oppressed us.

52 years ago, the...federal government had walked away from their promises to help Indigenous people who were forced to relocate to urban areas,... and many Native communities had lost large swaths of their lands.

The occupation of Alcatraz Island by Indigenous people in 1969 was more than a call for action, it was a cry for a sense of community and the lifeways that were stolen from us. Alcatraz was borne out of desperation. Out of this we gained a sense of...visibility in the eyes of the federal government..

We are in a new era. An era in which we can embrace our identities as Indigenous people and be proud of how much we have accomplished. In which the President of the United States gathers Tribal leaders together for a White House Tribal Nations Summit so that the policies we create reflect the needs of Tribes. An era in which we recognize the value of traditional Indigenous knowledge in our efforts to address the climate crisis. ♪

Memoir on travels in remote Nevada and California with Edmund C Jaeger

-- by Bruce Trotter

Years ago, in 1973 and 1974, I drove Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger, the desert naturalist, into the wilds of Nevada on trips during June. He loved the Nevada topography with its north/south trending ranges. We camped in beautiful, remote pinyon country, well hidden from any highway, to do nature study and relax along stream sides—especially in Jack Creek, Paradise Valley near Idaho, and in the Jarbidge. It was just like a Hollywood movie—living close to the land, cooking over an open fire, and drifting from place to place. We carried five gallons of extra gas for his 1969 Jeep Wagoneer—traveling long distances between gas stations. He slept inside the Wagoneer, on a bed on top of three wooden drawers.

I inherited that Jeep and kept it for twenty years, continuing to explore, often in Nevada, on my own. (The Jeep, by then historic, later was donated to the Riverside Museum.) These unique experiences have remained as vital memories for me. Our Nevada ventures were in those two years only, but I also took many trips with Dr. Jaeger to wild places in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Baja California.

Let me describe Dr. Jaeger's lifestyle a little further: his long career of nature writings, education, and mentoring hinged on one major aspect of his life: his love of camping and observation of nature. Jaeger's long interest in being in wild, unspoiled places required some form of transportation to those places from his home in Riverside, California—where he had lived since 1906—when he was just 19 years old. From his teaching job in Palm Springs beginning in 1915-16 his natural inquisitiveness brought him face to face with many new exciting adventures in wild nature.

Edmund traveled for some years with a sure-footed burro—taking notes and sketching desert specimens or scenery. With patience, he learned much and his observations were keen. He camped at various water holes and became—in his own words—a “tramp”—befriending old prospectors and colorful local folks. He was passionate about living a simple life close to

the beauty and strength of nature.

After dirt roads penetrated farther into the back country in the 1920s and '30s, Edmund took to the automobile as a camping tool. By the 1940s and '50s he was using a Plymouth station wagon (as seen in his February 1953 *National Geographic* article about his documentation of hibernating poorwills.) In the late 1950s Jaeger began to use 4-wheel drive vehicles, starting with a rugged Willys jeep.

For the last 20 years of his life,



Designating his own camp spot

from 1963 to 1983, Dr. Jaeger used two Jeep Wagoneers, nearly identical. He was 76 years old when he bought his first one, and it proved a godsend to him, as it was sturdy, maneuverable, versatile, and compact—yet roomy enough for his camping gear and perhaps two other people. Dr. Jaeger had the Wagoneer outfitted with a homemade wooden bed, under which three sliding drawers held canned goods and other supplies and pulled open to the side, accessed from the right rear door.

Also in the back of the vehicle, Jaeger carried an old folding metal table, two folding stools, a cook box, and a five-gallon can of water and another of gasoline. Another sliding drawer opened rearward, and rested on the tailgate when it was opened. The

tailgate served as additional table space for the camp kitchen.

The front bench seat could carry three people; Dr. Jaeger, since he was short, would sit in the middle when he had two people with him.

In addition to his explorations into Nevada and other farther places, he had a favorite weekend camping retreat spot closer to home that he called Camp 47. It was 47 miles from his home in Riverside—he never told anyone just where it was. Here he went on short notice to get away, perhaps do lesson plans, and return to town reenergized for the next work week.

The four-wheel drive allowed Dr. Jaeger to travel to private camp spots away from people. This he called “designating his own camp spot”. He would find three rocks to build a fireplace. Sometimes he stayed at a campsite he had used before as evidenced by a Jaeger fireplace already set up.

His trademark fireplace consisted of one large flat-sided rock set on edge as a backstop and two smaller rocks about one and a half feet apart on either side. Dr. Jaeger then placed two 24-inch long iron rods on the side rocks to form a platform for his Dutch oven or another pot to heat water. Firewood was fed from the front as needed for even cooking. He had a special aluminum tube to store the fire irons, closed by wooden plugs at both ends.

With the metal table up, the open-fire cooking dinner in a Dutch oven, and hot cocoa in your mug, camping in a beautiful desert wash at evening couldn't get much better. Some of the mystique and romance of these settings cannot be easily repeated today, but it is indeed a part of American Western history. Dr. Jaeger was the right person at the right time to do what he did, and he did it very well. He died at 96, probably the last of the old-time naturalists, widely acknowledged as “dean of the American deserts.”

(Bruce Trotter is an environmentalist living in southern California who has enjoyed trips with the Desert Peaks Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. He has worked to purchase woodlands and wetlands in Illinois to be forever protected as open space and to benefit environmental education, scientific research, and wildlife conservation.)



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

MLK weekend winter service trip from partner organization Ventana Wilderness Alliance

Jan 14-17, 2022 – Fri - Mon Backpack Three Nights Pine Ridge Trail from China Camp,

HIKE 4 miles from trailhead at China Camp to Divide Camp on the Pine Ridge Trail with VWA Trail Crew Leader Betsy MacGowan. We will brush sections of the trail on the hike in, and work to make the trail stock-passable to Divide Camp. Sat and Sun we'll keep brushing and may also clear some trees that are down between Divide Camp and Pine Ridge. Fairly easy hike in; hike out a bit of a challenge! You may participate in part of the trip—with leader approval in advance. Work for all abilities--beginner to expert. Tools and instruction provided for brushing/tread work.

BRING: Sturdy work clothes with long sleeved shirts and long pants; sturdy footwear. A daypack to carry your water and lunches for each day. Bring enough containers to carry at least 3 liters; ALL food for 4 days/3 nights. (No water on hike or at work location; but water at Divide Camp.)

MEET: Jamesburg 7 a.m. at end of paved section of Tassajara Rd, at a large turnaround with many cars and trash cans. If you pass this turnaround and drive uphill on the dirt section of Tassajara Rd, you have gone too far. (Or 7:30 at China Camp.) **DON'T BE LATE!** **NOTE:** Meetup directions may not be best. In your mapping program, search for 39171 Tassajara Rd, Carmel Valley, CA 93924. Contact leader Betsy MacGowan for details, using the Meetup messaging feature.

A spring desert service trip

March 25-28, 2022 -- Fri - Mon CA Desert Wilderness Service

Mojave Trails National Monument will be the site of our Wilderness Committee yearly service trip with wilderness staff of BLM's Needles field office--join us car-camping in Snaggletooth Recreation Area half an hour south of Needles. Our tasks are likely to include signing, graffiti removal, and trail defining--and fun is assured. Optional central commissary. Contact Vicky Hoover, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.

Trip report

In late October members of the CA/NV Wilderness Committee enjoyed

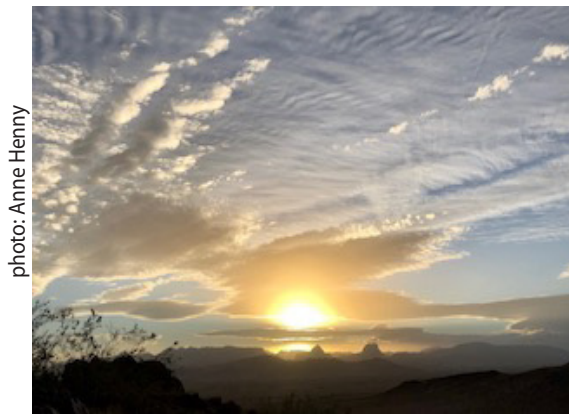


photo: Anne Henny

Chemehuevi Valley sunset--over Mopah Peaks

a long-weekend car camping trip in the eastern California desert--south of Needles in the Chemehuevi Valley. The San Gorgonio Chapter invited us to join them to view lands that were early on intended for inclusion in the Mojave Trails National Monument; the group has a goal of future Monument expansion to achieve this original vision. ~



photo: Vicky Hoover

Gold Butte outing, 2010

Gold Butte National Monument notes fifth anniversary

President Obama designated this 300,000-acre Southeast Nevada monument on December 28, 2016, the same day he proclaimed Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. Around the year 2000, environmentalists had become concerned by damage done by greatly increased but unregulated visitation and convinced the Bureau of Land Management to manage the area more protectively; their pressure led to the national monument proclamation. Wilderness Committee members have visited this beautiful Mojave desert area often since 1998; most recently on a March 2021 camping trip. (WOW, April 2021)

Here is the start of the detailed, descriptive proclamation five years ago:

Establishment of the Gold Butte National Monument December 28, 2016 By the President of the United States of America

In southeast Nevada lies a landscape of contrast and transition, where dramatically chiseled red sandstone, twisting canyons, and tree-clad mountains punctuate flat stretches of the Mojave Desert. This remote and rugged desert landscape is known as Gold Butte.

The Gold Butte area contains an extraordinary variety of diverse and irreplaceable scientific, historic, and prehistoric resources, including vital plant and wildlife habitat, significant geological formations, rare fossils, important sites from the history of Native Americans, and remnants of our Western mining and ranching heritage. The landscape reveals a story of thousands of years of human interaction with this harsh environment and provides a rare glimpse into the lives of Nevada's first inhabitants, the rich and varied indigenous cultures that followed, and the eventual arrival of Euro-American settlers. Canyons and intricate rock formations are a stunning backdrop to the area's famously beautiful rock art.... ~

☞ **Range of Light Group** ☞
Land Acknowledgement

The lands to the north have been home to the Numu people since time immemorial:
Walker River Paiute Tribe
Yerington Paiute Tribe,
Bridgeport Indian Colony,
Utu Utu Gwaitu Tribe (Benton),
Mono Basin Kutzadika'a and the
Sierra Me-wuk

The lands to the south have been home to the Numu people since time immemorial:
Bishop Paiute Tribe,
Big Pine Tribe,
Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the
Mono Basin Kutzadika'a

The lands to the southeast have been home to the Newe people since time immemorial:
Timbisha-Shoshone Tribe

From Lynn Boulton, Group chair, for the Sierra Club's Range of Light Group, based in the Eastern Sierra covering Mono and Inyo Counties

Next Wilderness meeting --
January 19, 2022. Program:

"Inclusivity in Wilderness Communication"

Join by Zoom as the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee starts off the new year on January 19, with a special program! In addition to regular committee business--laying out plans for 2022, promoting 30 by 30, and starting to get ready for 2024's big celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act--we'll have a special presentation on "Communicating effectively to broaden the wilderness community" by Lisa Ronald, Wildlands Communications Director and webmaster for "Wilderness.connect" at the University of Montana's Wilderness Institute.

As Lisa states: "Amid an ongoing global pandemic, racial tensions, and skyrocketing public lands visitation, the wilderness community is challenged to embrace and enhance equity, diversity, justice and inclusion. Adapting the way we communicate about wilderness is important for inclusivity transformation. We will highlight interactive exercises with examples that reveal inadvertent exclusivity in communications norms, and describe tangible strategies we can all use to better connect with diverse and traditional wilderness users."

Contact chair Anne Henny for Zoom info to join at
<anneth16@sbcglobal.net>. ☞

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 and appropriate management, and sponsors stewardship and wilderness study outings.

Chair: Anne Henny, SF Bay Chapter (510) 289-2294
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
Cindy Buxton (619) 934-0323: San Diego Chapter coordinator
Alan Carlton (510) 769-3403: Forest Planning liaison
Sandra Cattell (661) 714 -2850: Angeles Chapter coordinator
JoAnne Clarke (209) 233-7380: Tehipite Chapter coordinator
Larry Dwyer (775) 786-8564: Toiyabe Chapter coordinator
Steve Evans (916) 442-3155: Wild & Scenic Rivers
Joe Fontaine (661) 821-2055: Wilderness Watch, Kern Kaweah Ch.
Terry Frewin (805) 966-3754: CA Desert areas
Hermi Hiatt (702) 361-1171: Friends of Nevada Wilderness
James Hines (805) 340-9266: Los Padres Chapter & Wildlife coord.
Vicky Hoover (415) 977-5527: Newsletter editor, Outings coordinator
John Moore (916) 731-7153: Mother Lode Chapter coordinator
Mike Painter: (415) 752-3911: Californians for Western Wilderness
Richard Popchiak (831) 818-6255: Ventana Chapter coordinator
Geoffrey Smith (858) 442-1425: Wilderness Listserv manager
OPEN: -San Francisco Bay, San Geronio, and Santa Lucia Chapter coordinators--vokunteers sought;

Wilderness Committee on social media

Grassroots Team Page:

<https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/teams/sierra-club-californianevada-wilderness-team>

CNRCC Team Page:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/california/cnrcc/wilderness>

Facebook Address: <https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubCANVWilderness/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SierraClubCAWLD>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sierraclubcanvwilderness>

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"The quenching of life's exuberance will be more consequential to humanity than all of present-day global warming, ozone depletion and pollution combined."

-- E. O. Wilson