



Laying To Rest Our Use of the Yahi Name

By Wendy McCall, Yahi Chair

This September our ExCom voted to approve moving forward with changing the name of our organization and laying to rest our use of the Yahi name. We have been told multiple times that the use of the Yahi name by our organization is hurtful and inappropriate given Muir's legacy. The use of this name is not appropriate, nor should it be ours to use. It has created barriers rather than building bridges between our organization and the surviving Indigenous people here on occupied Mechoopda territory, who are actively fighting for climate justice, clean water, and fighting to protect our communities, while restoring the land and teaching Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). The use of this name is not the Mechoopda's or any tribe's right to give and, as the Yahi were completely wiped out due to genocide at the hands of early colonizers, there are no Yahi left to give permission either.

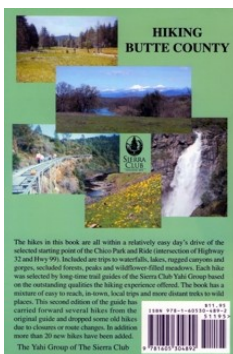
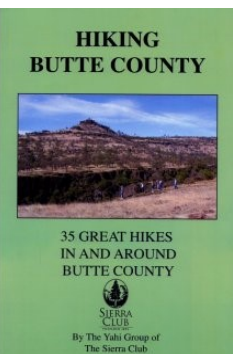
Stepping forward into another year on the Board, I hope to create a more inclusive environment for all who wish to join us. It has been said that the use of the Yahi name was to honor the Yahi people and Indigenous communities. To truly honor the Indigenous communities and the Yahi people we must lay to rest the use of the Yahi name and support the work currently being done by the Indigenous people who still remain.

If our use of the Yahi name has offended or been perceived hurtful to one individual, it is likely that feeling resonates with many and for this reason we will be changing the name of the group. In the article published by Michael Brune last year "Pulling Down Our Monuments", (which I encourage everyone to read) Brune did a great job recognizing the role the Sierra Club has played and the pain it has inflicted on people of color, especially black and Indigenous communities. He acknowledges we can do better, and I believe we can.

*For more information on incredible work being done locally by Mechoopda leader Ali Meders-Knight please visit TEKChico.org and read Grace Marvin's wonderful piece "Learning about the Mechoopda" which was recently in the fall newsletter.

Hiking Butte County

Coordinated by Alan Mendoza



Hiking Butte County is a wonderful field guide to hikes in and around Butte County. It was assembled by the outings leaders in the Yahi Group under the direction of Alan Mendoza. In it you will find descriptions, directions, distances and difficulty information for 35 hikes. This is the only book of its type for this area.

You can purchase it for \$11.95 at **Mountain Sports, The Bookstore** in Chico (118 Main Street) and the **Lake Oroville Visitor Center** (917 Kelly Ridge Road). Or you can order one directly from Alan for \$10 plus shipping. Contact Alan Mendoza, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net.

Yahi Group News



Alan Mendoza
Annette Carey

By Suzette Welch

Yahi Group wishes to express a thank you to Alan Mendoza for stepping in and taking over the position of treasurer on an interim basis while we were looking for a permanent treasurer. Along with being treasurer Alan continued to be the group Outings Chair working to plan hikes while keeping within the Sierra Club Covid19 guidelines. So again, thank you Alan for all that you do to make the Yahi Group function.

We would also like to extend a great big thank you to Annette Carey, Yahi Group Secretary. Annette has been a longtime ExCom member and as well as being secretary. She has decided not to run for re-election this year. She also will not be continuing as Yahi secretary. Annette said that her life is just too complicated these days mainly as a consequence of the Camp Fire.

We in the Yahi Group owe a great deal of thanks to Annette for her many years of service. Annette attended every ExCom meeting and took detailed notes which will become a part of the Yahi Group archives as a history of the club.

We could count on Annette's help every year in setting up the Holiday Party space and providing table decorations. Annette could be counted on to volunteer for tabling at the Snow Goose Festival, Endangered Species Fair and any other tabling event in which the club participated. For all of these services, the club is very grateful.

Since Annette will no longer be secretary, Yahi Group is looking for someone to be on the Yahi ExCom who also would volunteer to be club secretary. So, if you have the skills necessary to be a secretary and would like to be on the Yahi ExCom, please contact Suzette Welch booksontape@rocketmail.com or Wendy McCall lemasterwendy@live.com. This is a great opportunity for someone who would like to guide and influence the direction of the Yahi Group.

2022 Ballots: ExCom and Yahi Name Change

It is time for club members to vote for people to represent them on the Yahi Group Sierra Club Executive Committee (ExCom). We have two candidates up for election this year: John Hollister and Wendy McCall. You can read the Candidates Statements on the ballot form included with this newsletter.

Also, we need to vote on the name change for the Group. Please choose one of these names:

- Oak Group
- Red Willow Group

Please take a few minutes to participate in this important process. Ballots are inserted in the Newsletters which have been mailed out to members. Ballots should be filled out, folded, taped, stamped and mailed by December 31, 2021.



Yahi Holiday Party Cancelled

By Suzette Welch

The Yahi holiday party has been cancelled again this year due to Covid 19. We wish everyone Happy Holidays and wonderful new year. Hopefully all of this will be behind us next year, and we will once again be able to get together to celebrate.

Conservation: Needed Changes are Underway

By Grace M. Marvin, Conservation Chair (g-marvin@comcast.net)

Climate Change: All the recent fire, water, and oil disasters we have had might well explain that most Americans are - at last - quite worried about climate change, more so among Democrats but also among a majority of Republicans. Nationally and statewide, many hope that much more progress can be made to address our planet's climate imminent disaster -- beyond recently passed federal and state legislation. And, more personally, let's hope that all cities and counties in our region are updating their climate action plans.

Water: Of course, water issues are related to climate change. Butte County is an example. We have had terrible water problems - such as numerous wells going dry - while current amounts of nut and fruit farming help to diminish water supplies. This situation makes the proposed transfer of vital decision-making to the Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County (AGUBC) suspect, since they would control the Vina Sub Basin, substantively and financially. Indeed, AGUBC is working to form a new District, namely, the Tuscan Water District, which would further their corporate-leaning, behind-the-scenes control. AGUBC is not an open, democratic organization.

But there was some exceptionally good water news for northern California: According to Dan Bacher (*Sacramento Bee* 10/30/21): "On October 27, Fresno Superior Court Judge D. Tyler Tharpe rejected Westlands Water District's proposed permanent federal water contract from the Central Valley Project (CVP) that would have allocated roughly double the amount of water that Los Angeles residents use in a year." It seems that Westlands (largest federal irrigation district in our country) was evading and directly lying about a number of legal procedures, hoping they would not be caught! They would have been able to obtain 1.15 million acre feet of water that the Delta and our state sorely need for fisheries, rivers, farming, nature, and people.

Sierra Club Action: Even while numerous other environmental organizations and some tribal groups achieved this amazing victory against Westlands, I learned from longtime activist Ron Stork that the Sierra Club has a federal lawsuit against Westlands. Moreover, the California Conservation Committee plays a crucial role in educating us about energy, water, and other issues we need to address. If you have Wi-Fi access, I recommend going to www.sierraclub.org/california/cnrcc where you will find both national Sierra Club Policies, and also statewide environmental efforts by Sierra Club California (SCC) to influence legislation in Sacramento. There are also ideas about actions we can take (small and large). Issues the California club lists include *Air Quality & Climate Disruption*, *Beyond Oil*, *Buy Clean*, *Coast & Ocean*, *Biomass Incineration*, *Energy*, *Forests*, *Habitat*, & *Wildlife*.

Importance of DEI (Diversity, Ethnicity and Inclusion). As one of two Mother Lode Chapter delegates to Sierra Club California (SCC), I can help elect delegates to the SCC Executive Committee. We, as voting delegates, have the opportunity to ask questions about candidates, e.g., what they have accomplished and what their personal conservation activism goals are. Given the different ages, genders, and ethnic identifications among them, it seems that many in the SCC are recognizing the need to break away from the image of the club as a whole, that it is dominated by white men who have not yet gotten the message that staff and volunteers of diverse types must be fully respected and not harassed by anyone! Moreover, members of groups that have been marginalized and young people, in general, need to be mentored and others simply appointed to important leadership positions in the club. We,

personally, can encourage the club to meet the social justice goals of DEI on the national, state, and local levels. And for yours truly, it was wonderful to listen Executive Committee candidates promoting immediate and effective responses by the club to any hint of disrespect or discrimination.

Hearing about SCC candidates. Not only are the candidates diverse in ethnicity and age, but prospective members of the Executive team of the SCC have amazing volunteer backgrounds and interests. Most have spent several years volunteering with the club, yet their interests vary - from finding alternatives to energy consuming transportation to advocacy regarding environmental justice issues. Other serious concerns included 1-companies and trucks polluting air in the poorest communities, 2-helping climate refugees, 3-living less consumptive/ wasteful lifestyles, 4-ongoing fracking in the state, 5-showing more respect for people of color and immigrants and more empathic awareness of the injustice they have faced..

At the end of the day (or the SCC election, at least), our state club will include ever more aware, hard-working, and diverse staff and volunteers. May we members support local, state, and national efforts to help our planet and our club.

Forestry News

By Patricia Puterbaugh



Good news - There are several folks around the North State taking on the California private land Timber Harvest Plan (THP) process. Perry Metzger's group is well attended and very informative. We hope they can be effective in looking at and commenting on THPs and making changes to the plans, especially clear cutting. I am not involved in that group, but did attend one of the zoom seminars, and it was excellent. If you want more information regarding private land logging please email me, pmputerbaugh@yahoo.com.

United States Forest Service (USFS) in the Plumas National Forest near us is mostly focused on salvage and restoration. The area around Berry Creek and Feather Falls in the Feather River Ranger District was burned extensively in the North Complex Fire 2020. The North Complex was practically adjacent to forests burned by the Camp Fire. Staff are working on how to "rehab" the Feather Falls trail, Dome Trail (Middle Fork Feather River), Granite Basin area and others. Several wilderness and other local groups are working with Plumas on a restoration plan in response to the fire severity and sensitivity of this special area.

Lassen National Forest will be starting work on the "West Shore Project" which borders Lake Almanor's West side. The Almanor campgrounds will be modernized and "hazard trees" removed. Roads will be widened and work will be done on the very popular bike trail along the lake. Parking areas along Lake Almanor will be upgraded, and the lakeshore will be protected.

Logging and fuels reduction will encompass both sides of Hwy 89 in this area. I have submitted comments, and we also had a face-to-face resolution meeting. The plan was to reduce the tree canopy cover down to 40% in California Spotted Owl (CSO) habitat. There are

no residing spotted owls (they were replaced by barred owls, then the barred owls were removed - a complicated history!) I am hoping the plan will keep at least 50% canopy cover in the area designated as CSO habitat. The entire plan is within the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface). This makes the focus almost entirely on reducing fire danger to the communities.

I regularly attend South Lassen Watershed Group meetings with dozens of locals and Butte County folks to weigh in on Lassen National Forest planning on the Almanor Ranger District (Deer Creek, Mill Creek, Butte Creek, Battle Creek)

Plans are also starting on a Butte Creek headwaters project, Jonesville Project and others on the Almanor Ranger District. Most logging plans are for "rehab", restoration and fuels reduction. As always, my focus is protecting what is left of our old growth forests, wild rivers, and the wildlife dependent on them.

Another Almanor Ranger District Project, "Robbers Creek", is near Swain Meadow. Lots of good meadow restoration planned there.

Eagle Lake Ranger District is doing salvage after the huge Sheep Fire near Susanville and on Bizz Johnson Trail.

I continue to attend Burney-Hat Creek Coalition meetings, focused on the Hat Creek Ranger District. This ranger district has many lands surrounding Lassen National Park. The park is doing some thinning and fuels reduction also.

I will start attending CALWILD/wilderness meetings as a Yahi Group representative when I can!

I am on the Butte County Fire Safe Council board. Our concentration is work surrounding Butte County communities doing fuels reduction, evacuation route work and home hardening. Cohasset is a "green ridge" and we are lucky to have work ongoing from the grants we wrote. I am on the Butte County Forest Advisory Committee as the environment and watershed representative. We weigh in on county issues.

It is a blessing to have all these meetings on Zoom! I do not have to travel as much and can spend more time in Cohasset! However, I do miss visiting the beautiful forests surrounding and in Butte County.

Thanks everyone for all your contributions to our earth! Trish



Taking It To Black Rock

By Wendy McCall, Yahi Chair



BlackRock is among one of PG&E's largest financiers, largest investor in fossil fuels and profiteers of deforestation. I joined Ali along with Mary Kay Benson, Mel Figueroa, Allen Myers, and Carrie Max. We had the honor of helping her paint and bring this mural to life. The hair of the Mechoopda woman was painted using ashes and charred remains of trees from mine and Allen Myers' family property which were destroyed in the camp fire of 2018. The handprints pictured below are those of the kids I work with in Paradise, California who feel the trauma from the fire on a regular basis, the charred trees surrounding them a continuous reminder.

We took these ashes to San Francisco along with other Indigenous leaders and activists who sent a message to our representatives and corporations around the world just prior to the Glasgow COP26 Climate Change Summit to demand that we take climate action now and ask that they not invest in any new fossil fuel projects. Three of us gathered in SF for this cause before, and our message then was clearly not heard. Last time we did so was just two months before climate-fueled fires, sparked by PG&E in 2018 which destroyed our town of Paradise and surrounding communities, killing 86 people, leaving many, including myself without homes, some still having no place to call home. There is nothing fun about having to ask for our kids to inherit a habitable planet. We need climate action now and Indigenous leadership more than ever to help lead us in a better direction. Our kids and the kids of tomorrow are depending on it.

For more info on this incredible action and to hear our messages, please listen in to KZFR's Imagining Community Radio Segment #32 "Butte 350 BlackRock #DefundClimateChaos

Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway

January 27 - 30, 2022

Chico, California



Grab your binoculars, download your bird app, pack a field guide, and get ready for 4 days of action packed field trips led by experienced trip leaders. Join us in the search for winter birds of the Pacific Flyway in the Northern Sacramento Valley. The 2022 festival will focus on being outdoors and offer only field trips due to the ongoing pandemic. Registration starts in early December. Stay tuned and on flight for more updates as the festival takes shape! <https://snowgoosefestival.org/>

Yahi Group Information

2021 Executive Committee

Chair: Wendy Le Master *lemasterwendy@live.com*
Vice Chair: Suzette Welch, *booksontape@rocketmail.com*
Secretary: Annette Carey *annettecare@sbcglobal.net*
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Board Member: Betty Volker *bettyinchico@gmail.com*
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Newsletter Information

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For submissions, comments, or inquiries, contact: Louise Casey, *Louise.Carol.Casey@gmail.com*. Please include name, phone number, and address with each submittal. Short, single-topic articles are preferred. Deadlines for proposed articles and letters to the editor: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1.

Yahi News reserves the right to edit all submissions for reasons of space, clarity and potential libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Yahi Group.

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