



SIERRA CLUB

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enjoy,
and protect
the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group

March-April 2021 Newsletter

Community Forum: Tribal EcoRestoration

Lake Group’s next community forum will be held virtually at 6PM on Thursday April 8: Lindsay Dailey, cofounder and Executive Director of the Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance (TERA) will share the groundbreaking work of TERA, a cross-cultural, multi-organizational collaborative that seeks to revitalize ecology, economy, and culture through indigenous-led stewardship. In partnership, TERA is working toward a vision of healing our land and communities. . To learn more about TERA’s activities, please visit their website, tribalecorestoration.org

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

“30 X 30” for Our Land and Water

Sierra Club California has recently rolled out a new priority initiative that aligns perfectly with many of Lake Group’s existing conservation goals.

On October 7, 2020 Governor Gavin Newsom issued an Executive Order making California the first state in the nation to embrace a formal effort to permanently protect 30 percent of its land and water by 2030, a commitment that was recently confirmed by Biden Administration establishment of the same goal for the nation as a whole. In California, we’re a lot closer to

getting there than any other state except Alaska, and robust progress in advancing protections here is essential to meet the larger national objective.

Of course there’s a lot of work to do in order to achieve meaningful conservation and restoration of California’s natural spaces, especially since it’s also essential to prioritize equity and accessibility of our public lands.

Nonetheless, here in Lake County our ongoing conservation campaigns—ranging from our longstanding commitment to protect Clear Lake and its watershed, to efforts to follow up on the creation (con’t)

(30X30, con't) of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument with ongoing engagement in its management, to the restoration of healthy populations of salmon and steelhead in the Eel River, to participation in the creation of National Forest and National Monument management plans (and lots more)—already provide a blueprint for the kind of work that needs to be done.

So it's not surprising that when the state organization recently sent out a survey to gauge volunteer interest in participating in the 30 X 30 campaign they got more responses from Redwood Chapter than any other in California, and more than half of them came from Lake Group!



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a lake county naturalist's blog

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Let's Go Digital

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

Lake Group Executive Committee

Denise Rushing (Chair, Climate Chair): 560-1166

Ed Robey (Vice Chair) 994 8304,

Deb Sally, (Secretary, Outings Chair) 995-2125,

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

vbrandon95457@gmail.com

Tricia Evans (Membership Chair), *m*

Cheri Kessner, 263 5787

JoAnn Saccato, 350-1719

ExCom meetings are held at 5:30PM on the third Wednesday of the month, on the Zoom platform. All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm time and connection details

Protecting the Clear Lake Hitch: Litigation Possible

In December 2020 the US Fish and Wildlife Service denied protection to the Clear Lake hitch under the Endangered Species Act. This decision concluded a process that began in 2012 with a petition from the Center of Biological Diversity alleging that this native fish, endemic to Clear Lake, had experienced dramatic population declines and could be in danger of extinction.

CBD has now announced its intention to back up its petition by bringing suit against the agency: "it's inconceivable that a federal agency could arrive at a decision that contradicts the findings of native fish experts, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and California Fish and Game Commission," said spokesman Jeff Miller. Since this dubious determination was taken in the waning days of the last administration in the context of a more generalized assault on ESA protections (ten other imperilled species were also denied protection) the Biden administration may reverse it—but if not, it's good to know that the hitch will have their day in court.

BSMNM: Weighing in on Trails

As part of a diverse group of environmental groups, the Sierra Club has been participating in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ongoing trails and travel management process within the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (BSMNM). A well-designed, well-constructed, ecologically and culturally sensitive trail and maintenance system is critical to maximizing access to BSMNM and adjacent wild public lands in a sustainable, appropriate way.

Sustainability and appropriateness depends on a number of factors, starting with siting trails in suitable locations for the designated uses. Sustainable trails also need to have minimal impact to the area's natural systems, wildlife and historical and cultural resources, to follow natural contours while keeping water off and users on, and to require no more than routine maintenance.

Based on these considerations, the BLM planners were requested to

- coordinate trails planning with the broader pending BSMNM Management Plan;
- start by inventorying Lands with Wilderness Characteristics within the Monument;
- map and evaluate fuel breaks in the area, many of which are informally used as trails though usually unsuited for that purpose;
- explore new approaches to fire prevention and management, with a central focus on indigenous perspectives and methods;
- systematically identify trails in need of maintenance, and locations for new trails that would enhance access to our public lands and increase awareness of their beauty, value and importance.

Another public workshop is tentatively planned later in the spring, perhaps as early as April -- we'll be there!

Outings

Help Wanted: Outing Leaders. No experience needed, just a love for brisk exercise in the out-of-doors. There are many good reasons to become an Outing leader, including an opportunity for autocracy: as leader *you* get to choose where to go, and when. Interested? Get in touch with Outings Chair Deb Sally at 235-9011 or enviracat1@gmail.com

Rent This Space

The Lake Group now accepting (in other words, selling) advertisements in this newsletter: a two-inch (business card size) ad like this costs \$25 per issue, or—Great Bargain—\$100 for a year (six issues) To submit an ad send an email to vbrandon95457@gmail.com or call Victoria at 994-1931.



305 North Main Street
707.263.5787



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Sierra Club Lake Group
PO Box 1645
Lakeport, CA 95453