



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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Shasta Group September Newsletter

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July and August Event Recaps!

Recap of Roadless Rule Action Hour

On Saturday, July 25th we had about 40 people attend the Roadless Rule Action Hour meeting that was supported by several different local environmental organizations. Tom Wheeler from the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) spoke about the history of the Roadless Rule, road ecology and why this rule is so important to keeping our national forests protected from resource extraction threats. Some key takeaways from his presentation included the fact that there are already enough roads in our national forests to circle the Earth 15 times, and that oftentimes the roads are poorly maintained and shed sediment into the rivers and creeks near them, which harms salmon and other fish and increases the turbidity of the water communities rely on to live. Another key point is that new research is showing how wildfires are up to 4 times more likely to start near roads than in roadless areas.



Participants listening to Tom Wheeler's presentation at the Roadless Rule Action Hour. Image by David Ledger

On August 19th, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released for rescinding this Roadless Rule. The public now has until midnight on September

21st to comment on this proposed recision. Without the Roadless Rule in place, 45 million acres are at threat for losing all current protections from logging, road-building and other resource extraction activities.

If you would like to make a comment about this issue, please click this link and then click on the blue comment button in the upper left part of the webpage:
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/FS-2025-0001-223869/comment>

Public Comment Tips:

- Be specific and unique. Do you like to spend time recreating in or near a roadless area? Check this map to see what roadless areas are close to you and which at-risk species live in that area:
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/b6ed7f5059d44ee7b161dc0c23041e0d#> Include this information in your comment!
- Why does this issue matter to you? What are some activities you like to do outside?
- What are you concerned about? You can focus on watershed health, forest health, recreation opportunities, mining threats, etc.

Recap of Eco-Flight Tour around Roadless Areas near Sacramento

On August 6th, we along with the help of a representative from Sierra Club Placer and Tahoe Group invited journalists, photographers and other Sierra Club members to do an EcoFlight around two roadless areas near Sacramento, the Pyramid and North Fork/Middle Fork areas. We got to talk with participants about why these places are so important to protect, and learn about at-risk species that depend on these areas for survival such as the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, Sierra Nevada Red Fox, the Little Brown Bat and more.

Thank you to all who came on the EcoFlight! To learn more about EcoFlight's mission, click here: <https://ecoflight.org/about-us/>

To read a recent news article from the Sacramento Bee that talks about the EcoFlight tour and the Roadless Rule click here:

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article316928823.html>



The Pyramid Roadless Area from the plane. Image by Amberly Clark

Sierra Club Panther Meadows Field Trip

By David Ledger

The August 8th field trip to Panther Meadows brought clear air and pleasant temperatures for the 15 participants to enjoy the wildflowers and beautiful scenery while Redding scorched in temperatures near 108. As an added bonus, Jane Cohn, principal author of Mount Shasta Wildflowers, A Field Guide, gave a free copy of her book to anyone wanting one.

Due to pressures of too many people in a group tending to trample the fragile meadows, the Forest Service requests groups be under 10 people. We split into two groups with Caitlin Bean leading one group and I led the other. Due to a packed parking lot at the lower meadows, we started at the top and walked down and walked back to our cars. This proved to be advantageous as there was a greater variety in the meadows, along the roadside the plants were in thick clusters and many in full bloom.

While only a partial list, there were nine plants in the sunflower family, five in the buckwheat family and four in the heath family which included: Alpine Laurel (*Kalmia polifolia*), Cascade Heather (*Phyllodoce empetrifomis*), Dwarf Huckleberry *Vaccinium caespitosum*) and Pine-mat Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos nevadensis*).



Left: Part of our group at the bottom of the meadows.

Right: Pink-mountain heather at the meadows. The plant can live over 250 years. Images by David Ledger

Upcoming Events!

Sierra Club Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 9th, 6pm

Email us for meeting location

Join us for our Steering Committee meeting on September 9th at 6pm to discuss agenda items, upcoming events and Shasta group priorities. All are welcome to attend, if you would like to join please email us at sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com for the meeting location.

Kapusta Open Space Walk

Anderson Area

Saturday, September 12, 8 am

Sierra Club will lead this walk in the Kapusta natural area near the Sacramento River with many different native (and non-native) plants and many birds, so it will hold a special appeal for plant lovers and birders. It is co-sponsored by the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. This will be a fairly easy walk of about two miles. Expect to see more plants than you can remember as well as many birds. If still in bloom, we will show you a carnivorous plant. We will also see the fish channel cut into the river to help the recovery of salmon. This requires registering for and signing the Sierra Club waiver [HERE](#) to participate. For more information, contact sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com.



Water milfoil in a pond in Kapusta natural area. Image by David Ledger

Native Roots Network Presentation

Tuesday, September 15, 6 pm

IOOF Hall

1504 Market Street (Enter on side door on Butte St.)



The Sierra Club Shasta Group is pleased to announce that Jonathon Freeman from Native Roots Network in Shasta County will be speaking at our September 15th meeting at 6:00 pm with a social time with refreshments including pizza

(while it lasts) starting at 5:30. Come early and meet old and new friends. You can see their website [HERE](#).

Native Roots Network (NRN) is a community-based, Indigenous-led, non-profit organization that aims to build stronger, more vibrant communities by perpetuating traditional Indigenous culture, restoring lands and traditional foods, and developing sustainable, culturally grounded enterprises to restore land, social cohesion, and a sustainable future. NRN team member, Jonathon Freeman, will talk about NRN's work transforming these goals into action. He will share about their recent land acquisition and restoration efforts, their recent deployment of a workforce development pilot project, and future plans to use wood "waste" in the forms of products and biochar. He will talk about their community-based organizing, political education projects and current issues they are monitoring.



Collecting the data for change. Photo by Native Roots Network

National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 26 at 9am

Email us for meeting location

The Bureau of Land management, Horsetown, and Western Shasta RCD are sponsoring this event with help from other local non profits to benefit the lower Clear Creek Greenway. Volunteers will help clean up and repair damaged areas, including picking up trash, removing graffiti, repairing hiking trails, and removing invasive weeds. Wear closed toed shoes, long pants, long sleeves and gloves. A BBQ will follow the workday at 12 pm. You can work at Horsetown or on the Clear Creek Trail. Bring water, hat and gloves, we will provide all equipment. For

more information and for the meeting location contact

sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com.

Redding City Council Candidates Forum

Thursday, October 1st, 5:30pm

Pilgrim Congregational Church

2850 Foothill Blvd.

Shasta Environmental Alliance is partnering with Climate Hope Affiliates Shasta to bring you an environmentally focused Redding City Council Candidate Forum on October 1st. The event will be held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, located at [2850 Foothill Blvd.](#) in Redding. Nine candidates are vying for three open seats on the council. Come hear them share their positions on important local issues like the tree ordinance, the Redding Riverfront Specific Plan, open spaces, preparedness for extreme weather events, and more. This event will be filmed and posted to SEA's YouTube page to be viewed later if you are unable to attend in person. Doors open at 5:30 with the forum beginning at 6pm and wrapping up by 8pm. Please attend if you are able to demonstrate to current and potential future city leaders that environmental and climate issues are a priority for this community.

Conservation Brief Updates

By David Ledger

Surprise Valley Geothermal Exploration Drilling

In the far northeast corner of California near the Oregon and Nevada border is a fertile valley of green pastures, crops, wetlands and grasslands. It is just east of the Warner Mountains. This is where a geothermal company wants to do deep

drilling up to 5,000 feet to test the area for establishing geothermal plants to produce renewable electricity.

However, there are few issues with this. This is the path of the Pacific Flyway where millions of birds migrate from the far north from Alaska to the Sacramento Valley and some on south to Patagonia. The greater sandhill crane is protected in California as endangered and it nests in Surprise Valley. It is also protected under the federal Migratory Bird Act and it is illegal to harm, hunt, kill, or possess them without a federal permit although the Trump Administration is considering weakening these protections.

This is a self contained aquifer and there are concerns of excessive water pumping, lowering the water table, contamination of the water table from deep chemical laden water and changes to wetlands which would adversely affect not only birds, but insects, plants and mammals, the entire food webs.

An Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration was done for the project, but it has many of the mitigation matters and studies deferred until after the project is approved. It appears like this will require a full Environmental Impact Statement due to rare plants in the valley that have not been fully studied, other threatened birds and the drastic changes this could cause from surface and subsurface water issues due to roads to the drilling pads blocking water flow.

The Sierra Club Shasta Group is writing a comment letter on the project and Shasta Birding Society has already commented. Here is the link to the Modoc County Planning Department for the project:

<https://www.countyofmodoc.gov/595/Planning-Projects> The deadline to comment is August 31.

Local Citizens Seek to Ban Data Centers in Shasta County

Our Goal: Ban Data Centers in **ALL** areas of Shasta County



While there are no active attempts to locate an AI Data Center in Shasta County, our open spaces, rural way of life and water resources make us a prime target. These big tech corporations often lay the ground work for their projects before the public is even aware. Once this is done, it is difficult to fight the data center projects. We must take preemptive action to stop them BEFORE they get a foot in the door.

Four key points for why we are fighting:

- Water Exploitation** - data centers consume enormous amounts of water daily to cool their systems. In a state facing recurring droughts, our water belongs to humans, local wildlife, and agriculture - not industrial server warehouses.
- Energy Demand** - Skyrocketing Energy Bills - AI infrastructure demands massive amounts of electricity and brand new transmission lines. Local ratepayers and existing businesses should not bear the disproportionate costs of fueling these corporates facilities.
- Destroying Community Character** - Shasta County depends on recreation, tourism, agriculture, and small businesses. We chose this region for its rural environment, natural beauty, and slower pace of life. Massive industrial campuses do not align with our long term community vision.
- Public Health Risks** - These projects bring documented, ongoing noise pollution from 24/7 cooling generators and heavy industrial infrastructure footprints. Our Goal is to have establish a complete ban on Data Centers in ALL of Shasta County.

Get Involved - Visit our Website

nodatacentershastacounty.org

Email us @ nodatacentershastacounty@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook:

No Data Centers in Shasta County



Sign the Petition



Follow us on Instagram:

No Data Centers in Shasta County



Two local residents of Shasta County, Kathy Grissom and Ashley Rudolf, decided to take matters into their own hands and start a movement to ban data centers from Shasta County.

They emphasized that this is a non-partisan effort, not affiliated with any organization. Their mission is to gather enough signatures from residents to show Shasta County officials that local citizens adamantly oppose AI Data Centers. Although there have been no known attempts to locate a data center in Shasta County, they feel our open spaces, rural way of life and water resources make us a prime target and state that tech companies often lay the groundwork before the public is even aware.

Therefore, they decided to take preemptive action. If you agree, go to the linked website below and sign their petition (Shasta County residents only). They will also be collecting signatures on paper petitions throughout the county and then with enough support will urge our local officials to take action.

They can also use your support in gathering signatures. Please email them at nodatacentershastacounty@gmail.com if you are interested in helping gather signatures, they need people in all areas of the county.

You can sign their online petition at Change.org here: <https://c.org/S6jTWGYgyx>

Their website is here: <https://www.nodatacentershastacounty.org/>

Solar Project in Blue Oak Woodland Withdrawn

The Battle Creek Bottom Solar Project near Manton has been withdrawn following a lawsuit filed by Manton resident Marily Woodhouse. This project was for a 25 acre solar project in a blue oak woodland on a parcel over 300 acres, with several areas that did not have trees. Blue oaks are a very important keystone species in a habitat.

Their acorns provide food for birds, squirrels, deer, bear, and insect larvae while their leaves provide places for insipid wasps to lay eggs, creating a small gall sometimes resembling a star or other shapes and of course certain insects like

to eat their leaves. In some years, insects may completely defoliate a blue oak, but usually it comes back with a new set of leaves the same season when the insects have moved on. The underside of leaves in mid to late summer provide a habitat for a variety of small species in their lower surface. Then of course in the soil beneath the trees is another ecosystem called the rhizosphere. This was a lawsuit against the project in large part based on the biological surveys.

Correctional Facility on Eastside Road Plans Withdrawn by Shasta County

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors voted to officially withdraw their lease with the City of Redding for 90 acres of land between Eastside Road and the Sacramento River at their August 25 meeting. Previously Sheriff Johnson had previously announced that a study showed that a correctional facility at the site was not environmentally viable. Ashley Wayman, River Ridge Homeowners Association president, had asked Supervisor Kelstrom to put it on the agenda, which he did and it passed 4 - 0.

Volunteers Needed!

As the reorganization of the Sierra Club gets moving, we need volunteers. Do you have a few hours you can volunteer each month? Fill out this [google form](#) or contact sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com if interested or have any questions.

Steering Committee: This committee meets monthly and recommends and approves projects for the Shasta Group.

Conservation Committee: This committee would meet as needed and largely virtually or through emails to discuss conservation issues the Shasta Group should address.

Programs: This position would involve recruiting public speakers for meetings.

Publicity: This position would involve notifying local media, local groups and individuals about Sierra Club Activities.

Executive Committee: This is the governing body of the Shasta Group. It involves attending a monthly meeting and making decisions on the direction and activities of the group. We want those dedicated to protecting our local environment.

Follow us on our social media pages!

Instagram: @sierraclub.shastagroup

Facebook: Sierra Club Shasta Group

Email: sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com

Website: www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/shasta