

Avi Kwa Ame is Nevada's new national monument --from page 1

there were no cut-outs for industry or development -- that the original map did not have Spirit Mountain in it, and that more land was now included than was requested. That was good news to hear.

Avi Kwa Ame is the largest land national monument President Biden has dedicated, and it protects just over half a million acres. This new Monument is



photo: Misty Haji-Sheikh

President Biden proclaims Avi Kwa Ame at March 21 Conservation Summit

a victory in many ways. It took years to build the coalition that included local citizens, Tribes, federal agencies, conservation groups, and more. This effort to protect Avi Kwa Ame is the best led and quickest campaign to get monument dedication in U.S. history. (See WOW, April, Aug, Dec 2022; Aug 2021; Dec 2020.)

Avi Kwa Ame is the source of life, home and is most sacred to the Mojave, Chemehuevi, and some Southern Paiute tribes and is important to other Tribal Nations including the Cocopah, Halchidhoma, Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Kumeyaay, Maricopa, Pai Pai, Quechan, Yavapai and Zuni. The scenic peaks are designated as a Traditional Cultural Property on the National Register of Historic Places. The Gila monster, bighorn sheep, Arizona toad, desert tortoise -- a threatened species, and the Joshua tree all are native to Avi Kwa Ame.

For the Tribes, it means that their spiritual land is preserved for future

generations. It also shows that they are being heard and that they have a broad range of support. This support goes from the local level to Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior, to President Biden and beyond. Avi Kwa Ame will be under co-stewardship: Tribes with the Department of Interior and local communities will work together

to locate and develop a visitor's center and other visitor facilities.

Avi Kwa Ame has ties to Hollywood. Areas to visit and hike include the Walking Box Ranch. Rex Bell and Clara Bow, husband and wife actors in the 1920s, owned a large ranch here (400,000 acres).

Another nearby hiking area is Wee Thump Joshua Tree—one of the 14 new wilderness areas in Clark County established in 2002 and a special favorite of former Nevada Senator Harry Reid, a Searchlight resident. Wee Thump is the Paiute name for "Ancient Ones." And there is Christmas Tree Pass. Trees in this area become decorated each December, but the plastic and metallic decorations are harmful to wildlife. When you go there (especially in months other than December) please help carefully remove tinsel, ornaments and other extraneous items.

Because so many important and threatened desert wildlife species make their home in Avi Kwa Ame, a big focus on wildlife preservation is inevitable. An important aspect of this new designation is that it completes a wildlife corridor from California through Nevada to Arizona. This protected land corridor far exceeds anything that has been done before in allowing wildlife to move in a way that is natural for them as opposed to a manmade fence, bridge, or other built structure that facilitates wildlife movement.

The first National Monument designated by President Biden under the authority of the Antiquities Act

was Camp-Hale Continental Divide National Monument in the Rocky Mountains (53,804 acres). This Colorado monument area was used by the US Army's 10th Mountain Division and later created the skiing and winter sport industry. It is home to unique geology, alpine ecosystems, rare plants and wildlife. It is also sacred land for the Ute tribes.

Castner Range in Texas was used by the U.S. Army for training and live fire. This area is of great scenic beauty and biodiversity as well as archaeological sites of historic and cultural significance. It is the first national monument that the Army will steward for both the military and for public use.

Setting aside 30 percent of our nation's land and waters by 2030 (30 x 30) is a big goal. With the addition of these new national monuments President Biden has now moved us closer to this ambitious goal as he has helped to conserve 567,290 land acres plus 777,000 square miles (equivalent to 497,280,000 acres of land) of the Pacific Ocean. This is truly a time for celebration. ~

(Misty Haji-Sheikh is vice-chair of the Toiyabe Chapter Conservation and Public Lands Team and also serves as vice-chair of the Chapter's Southern Nevada Group)



photo: Misty Haji-Sheikh

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland speaks at Conservation Summit

Importance of Grassland Ecosystems in the Golden State of California

Why education matters at Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve

by Joy Baccei (Director, UC Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve, UC Natural Reserve System) and Tom Hothem (Lecturer and Founding Faculty in Writing, UC Merced Merritt Writing Program)

California springtime calls to mind vibrant grasslands among wildflower-spangled hills and valleys whose lush green meadows turn golden as summer rushes in. But our state's grassland landscapes are now imperiled ecosystems; in the wake of expanding agricultural and infrastructural development—to say nothing of our changing climate—few intact grasslands remain, primarily on conserved lands and easements such as ranch properties and nature preserves.

In the Mediterranean climate of California, grasslands are particularly gorgeous in springtime—especially following historically wet winters, which trigger expansive wildflower superblooms. Year-round, our grasslands are home to many species of endemic plants and animals. These biodiversity hotspots also provide critical ecosystem services, supporting primary plant production and pollination (for habitat, food, forage, and medicine), groundwater aquifer recharge, climate regulation and waste treatment (for nutrient and water cycling and carbon storage), erosion control, and cultural benefits (for education, cultural heritage, recreational opportunities, aesthetic appreciation, and mental and physical well-being).

Many California grasslands are seasonal wetlands with vernal pools: rain-fed, clay hardpan-lined topographic depressions that fill in winter, bloom in spring, and dry out in summer and fall. These occur on ancient soils (that are upwards of five million years old) and cobblestones (over five hundred million years old) that often form into mima mound topography—a mysterious array of small hummocks that may date to when the San Joaquin Valley was an ancient inland sea fed by mighty river deltas.

distinct assemblages of invertebrates, and a diverse array of geological formations. Some liken vernal pools to mini Galapagos Islands, with abundant, isolated species. Vernal pools and grasslands are home to not only six different kinds of fairy shrimp (five species of which are of critical concern), but also endangered amphibians like California tiger salamanders and spadefoot toads. Vernal pool flora represent a kaleidoscope of showy flowering plant species such as meadowfoam (bright white), downingia (light to deep purple), vernal pool monkeyflower (hot pink), vernal pool goldfields (bright yellow), and vernal pool grasses (including Colusa grass, Orcutt grass, and tuctoria) that

is anchored by the 6500-acre Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve (MVPGR), which is located directly adjacent to the University of California at Merced. The MVPGR boasts some of the greatest density of high quality, unimpaired vernal pool wetlands anywhere in the state, and possibly even the world. This uniqueness makes the MVPGR an analog for wilderness in an increasingly urban landscape that was once a vast network of connected grasslands in the Great Central Valley, where tule elk and pronghorn antelope once roamed.

Like many other California grasslands, east Merced County was managed by indigenous peoples like the Yokuts and Miwok, who have lived here for centuries. In the late 1800s, the Smith family began farming livestock here, eventually leaving their ranch to Cyril and Virginia Smith—who established a trust to help preserve agrarian heritage and start scholarships for area students pursuing higher education. Some of this land was ceded to the new UC,

which welcomed its first class in 2005. Inevitably, construction meant that some vernal pool wetlands were lost. State and federal law required compensation to offset these impacts. Thus, the MVPGR conservation lands were established, and the UC worked with neighboring ranchers to place their lands in conservation easements.

Today, the MVPGR is a star location for conservation and research next to UC Merced. Since 2013, the MVPGR has been a part of a growing statewide network of natural reserves and field stations that represent California's major ecosystems. The UC Merced Natural Reserve System—which includes sites in the Sierra Nevada, its foothills, and the San Joaquin Valley—provides

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photo from MVPGR

Showy flowering blooms in grasslands and vernal pools in spring on the MVPGR

bloom in summer, having adapted sticky glandular foliage that helps them avoid desiccation. Of course, the pools are also home to a host of birds—like savannah sparrows, western meadowlarks, and horned larks—and serve as rest stops for many migratory birds along the Western Flyway. Some, like the burrowing owl, sometimes stay for the entire year.

Although California has more than seventeen vernal pool regions, these represent less than ten percent of this once-abundant landform; ninety percent of our state's wetlands have been lost over the past two centuries. But in east Merced County, a network of conservation easements (private lands that are protected in perpetuity from damage or development)

The importance of California grasslands and vernal pool ecosystems -- from page 3

opportunities for students and scholars of all ages to explore the wonders of our natural world and be part of our region's rich environmental heritage.

It is now more important than ever to familiarize students with the natural world, with why we should care about it, and with why we must advocate for it. Our next generation of leaders should un-



MVPGR Student Naturalist Training cohort learning about vernal pool ecology from UC Merced PhD candidate Daniel Toews, who researches vernal pool plant adaptation on the MVPGR.

derstand our imperiled Nature and the ecosystem services and socioeconomic benefits Nature offers us. The protection of our last remaining grasslands and vernal pool landscapes is paramount; if we don't speak up on their behalf and work to protect them, we will lose them.

One way that we can work to protect California landscapes is via the 30 x 30 Initiative, whose three primary goals include: (1) mitigating and building resilience to climate change, (2) protecting and restoring California's unique biodiversity, and (3) expanding equitable access to nature and its benefits. On the MVPGR, staff are hard at work on these goals through active, inclusive research, education, stewardship, and advocacy. We regularly offer impactful field courses, such as the MVPGR Student Naturalist Training and UCM NRS ¿field curious? immersion program—both of which aim to inspire and empower our next generation of leaders by engaging them in STEAM education (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and environ-

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Californians focus on 30x30 at COP 15 In Montreal, State Leaders Call on 196 Nations to find Common Ground to Protect Nature

California brought a robust delegation to Montreal for the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) California in December 2022. Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot and seven elected members of the California Legislature, tribal leaders, scientists, NGOs and philanthropic groups gathered in Montreal and urged leaders from around the world at COP 15 to support more ambitious action to safeguard the diversity of life on earth: [new global biodiversity framework](#) to protect life on earth.

California leaders applauded a landmark global agreement to protect nature reached in Montreal on the final day of COP 15. The signing of the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, being hailed as a “Paris moment for nature,” came days after California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot, seven California legislators, and others in a state delegation included more than 50 climate leaders, arrived in Montreal to call for more ambitious action to safeguard earth's diversity of life.

“California is proving we can protect nature through world-leading actions like 30x30,” said Crowfoot. “And COP 15 shows there is international momentum to collectively protect and restore nature and stem the global crisis of extinction. We're here to urge world leaders to translate talk into action.”

The new agreement includes 23 targets and 4 goals to be accomplished by 2030,

mentally related career opportunities through hands-on field science experiences, wise environmental stewardship, and conservation advocacy. Through these programs, students appreciate, understand, and engage with the ecosystems in their own backyard, and regularly remind us of how much they can contribute to the natural world. ♻️

with the longer-range goal of “living in harmony with nature” by 2050. Central to the agreement is a commitment to preserve at least 30 percent of earth's land and sea by 2030.

California has already embraced this [commitment](#) with its first-in-the-nation 30x30 target. [Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature](#) identifies conservation strategies that hinge on empowering local and regional partners. California leaders emphasized connections between combating climate change and protecting biodiversity. “Climate change and nature loss are two sides of the same coin,” explained California Natural Resources Agency Deputy Secretary Dr. Jennifer Norris. “We can't stabilize our planet without protecting and restoring nature. And protecting all life on earth requires us to get climate change under control.”

While sharing the California experience of the importance of conserving and reconnecting nature, the delegation established international partnerships and forged new global alliances by joining the [High Ambition Coalition](#) Subnational Task Force, which will support 30x30 across the world, and [RegionsWithNature](#), the new U.N. platform for subnational collaboration on protected area stewardship, ecosystem restoration, and the climate-biodiversity nexus.

California leaders also highlighted the [state's plan](#) for the world's largest wildlife overpass, the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, which will provide a vital bridge for mountain lions and other Santa Monica Mountain wildlife to roam safely between two large areas of habitat bordering Highway 101.

Governor Gavin Newsom applauded the Montreal negotiations: “With the agreement signed in Canada, the rest of the world joins our pledge to leave this world and its natural beauty better off for future generations.” ♻️



Ocean Issues You'll Be Hearing About

Excerpts from «Green Life, Latest from Sierra Magazine» --Jan 6, 2022

-- by David Helvarg

From deep-sea mining to clashes over migrants, it's shaping up to be a year of blue issues.

The ocean is in trouble, and people know it. The last major survey on public attitudes, conducted two years ago, found 73 percent of Americans thought the ocean's condition had worsened in the previous decade. Asked what the major threats are, they tended to focus on a few familiar issues such as plastic pollution (96 percent), offshore oil drilling (74 percent), and industrial overfishing (70 percent).

Yet many other problems also trouble our blue planet. Some—rising sea levels, more frequent coastal flooding, and intensified hurricanes—break down the distinction between climate and ocean issues. Here are ten further emerging blue issues.

Deep-sea mining

Since the 1970s, there's been talk of mining the potato-size, mineral-rich nodules that cover large swaths of the deep ocean. But only recently has the industrial-scale mining technology, like underwater bulldozers and suction-hose robots, evolved far enough to make it financially feasible. The U.N.'s International Seabed Authority has already granted 18 exploration permits and is supposed to set regulations for commercial exploitation by 2023. Some of the mining companies argue that "harvesting" ocean minerals is essential for green technologies like electric cars and storage batteries for wind and solar power. But hundreds of scientists and ocean explorers have called for a moratorium on mining until we have a better understanding of deep-ocean ecosystems and their role in the carbon cycle. Some companies including Google, Volvo, BMW, and Samsung have joined in the call for a moratorium

-- until the potential impacts of the mining are known.

Offshore wind

With the Biden administration supporting a plan to develop 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030 (enough to power over 22 million homes), the first large wind projects [are] going through the Interior Department's permitting process, including public hearings. There's a real possibility of seeing offshore energy production quickly shift from oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico to offshore wind turbines in the Mid-Atlantic, with its strong offshore winds and close access to large urban energy markets. Opposition to the plans ranges from impacts on the fishing industry and migratory whales to coastal habitat being altered by facilities, and onshoring of cables. Also, going back to a turn-of-the-21st-century battle over wind turbines off Cape Cod, there is deep suspicion of industrialization of the ocean by some coastal residents.

Marine heat waves

Extreme ocean warming of 4°F or more above normal has become common and extensive worldwide in recent years. The North Pacific "warm blob" lasted from 2013 to 2016 followed by additional marine heat waves in 2017, 2019, and 2020. These ocean hot spots contributed to toxic algal blooms that stretched from Alaska to Baja California, Mexico. In 2021, a coastal heat wave in the Northwest (with temperatures reaching 116°F) contributed to the die-off of billions of intertidal creatures. Marine heat waves have also led to mass die-offs of crabs and kelp forests and the shut-down of commercial fisheries.

Saltwater intrusion

The flooding of low-lying coastal areas during storm surges and king tides is the most visible form of saltwater intrusion. But it also occurs when warming, rising ocean water infiltrates freshwater aquifers and coastal groundwater. This is happening now

more rapidly than at any point in recent history. Saltwater intrusion pushing up from below accounts for the "sunny-day flooding" that's now a common occurrence in Miami Beach, Charleston, Annapolis, and other coastal towns. It has also led to populations being displaced due to freshwater contamination and root rot of crops such as sugar and coconut in island nations and territories including Fiji, Tonga, and French Polynesia.

Military conflicts

Increasing competition for ocean resources like oil, minerals, fish, and trade routes is increasing the potential for military conflicts at sea. New flash points include the Arctic Ocean, where Russia is building up its military presence in newly ice-free waters. In the South China Sea, the People's Republic of China, with a rapidly expanding naval presence, is making claims on the exclusive economic zones of the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Vietnam. To strengthen its claims, China has destroyed a number of coral reefs and atolls to build up artificial islands, rejecting a World Court ruling against the practice. The U.S. is stepping up its military presence in the western Pacific and the South China Sea.

Global decline of coral reefs, kelp forests, and phytoplankton

Recent studies have found that half the world's coral has been lost since 1950. Phytoplankton has plummeted by 40 percent in the same period, and kelp forests are declining by 2 percent a year.

Decarbonizing ports

Plans for decarbonization of major ports and shipping hubs got a boost from the LA/Long Beach port complex, which showed that it could economically reduce port pollution and carbon emissions over 70 percent in a few years. This has led to a global climate initiative among major ports. Industry influence over the U.N.'s International Maritime Organization, however, has delayed transition off fossil fuels in the commercial shipping fleet.

Desalinization

The push for ocean *-- continued page 6*

Marine Wilderness is in Danger- An Underwater view

-- by Tamar Draper

When we think of our planet earth—we think of the things we can see. When we think of wilderness we consider majestic mountains, green forests, arid deserts, rugged coastlines. Marine scientists and Scuba divers know there is a whole other wilderness—not easily visible--below the ocean surface. The original Wilderness. Water covers 70 percent of our home planet, and the ocean is the world’s largest ecosystem. So far, scientists estimate, we have knowledge of only 30 percent of ocean species, and more than 80 percent of the ocean is yet to be explored. We know more about the surface of the moon than our ocean floors. I have been diving in the Southern California waters for over 20 years, and I was blown away by the beauty of the kelp forests. As you glide through the kelp, you are swimming with the many, many fish and invertebrates sustained by the kelp. I have also noticed over the years, when diving in the marine protected areas, there are clearly an abundance of



Gliding through the kelp

both small and large creatures, compared with diving outside of these areas.

The ocean wilderness is vast but fragile, and any small change in the conditions can result in the loss of fragile species. I have witnessed first-hand the loss of flora and fauna in our underwater environment. In California, I have seen the kelp die off and partly return. Kelp is very sensitive to changes in temperature in the ocean. In years when the kelp is absent, so are many fish and other creatures who rely on kelp for food and habitat. The good news is that when the kelp is healthy, we see populations of fish and invertebrates increase.

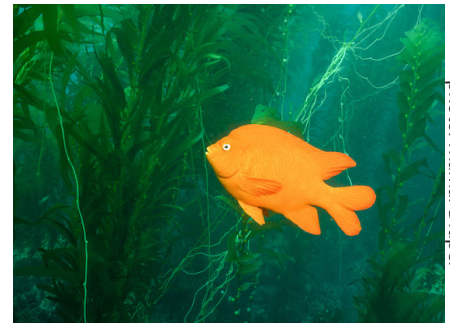
Scientists estimate that at least 50-80 percent of oxygen production on Earth comes from the ocean. The oceans will need protection in order to sustain this resource. California is home to several USA Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). MPAs are areas where the government has placed limits on human activities – these can be at federal or state level, have varying degrees of protection and are mostly no-take zones where it is unlawful to take or harm any living creatures. In these areas wildlife is thriving. I have witnessed first-hand how sea urchins are damaging the marine environment. Without their natural predators such as the California sheephead fish to keep them in check, the urchins can decimate entire kelp forests in a short time.

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number of commercial fisheries. This in turn is leading to growing conflict among fishing groups and nations.

Aquaculture

The growth of offshore aquaculture is another area to watch. One fast-growing sector—expected to reach \$85 billion in value in a few years—is the farming of seaweed for food, animal feed, and bioplastics. Seaweed can also be used to sequester atmospheric carbon dioxide. ♪



Garibaldi

photo: Tamar Draper

Certain specific creatures are now protected, such as the abalone to the giant sea bass, both of which were over-fished in the past. This protection works! We now regularly see abalone munching along the ocean floor. We also often see giant sea bass (they weigh over 500 lbs and can be 7 ft long!). However, I have witnessed first-hand decline in the number of sharks and rays. These apex predators are slow to regenerate and will require further protection if we are to keep these species.

So, while we have not been great caretakers of our oceans in the past, we are witness to regeneration through protection. Scientists have warned us that if we do not accelerate conservation and protect our nature by 30 percent by 2030, we will see mass extinctions and lose resilience to climate change. So, the time to act is now. We need to preserve our ocean wilderness through protection and education. We can organize local beach clean-ups and even underwater clean-ups. We can also lobby for wider MPAs. We need to provide education on the benefits of ocean life protection, from the consumer to the restaurants to the fishing industry. The ocean is part of our wilderness, and it is fragile.

More information is available from: Monterey Bay Aquarium: <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/act-for-the-ocean/california-ecosystems> California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/Marine> Only One: <https://only.one/read/about-us>

Tamar Draper is a recreational scuba diver, underwater photographer, and nature enthusiast. As a diver in the waters of Southern California and internationally for over 25 years, she was inspired by Jacques Cousteau as a child. She is a member of Great Old Broads for Wilderness. ♪

Ocean Issues you'll hear about

desalinization as a source of water for drinking and irrigation is growing. Aside from the high costs associated with “desal” plants, the major challenges to greening these systems include their intense power demand, “entrainment” (capture of marine wildlife in their intake pipes), and thermal and saline pollution in their outflow.

Sea life on the move

Fish and other marine wildlife migrations from the warming equator toward the poles are already impacting a

To Save Nature, We Must Protect 30 Percent of U.S. Ocean

(from an essay by Alexandra Carter, Center for American Progress)

Long before she alerted the world to the danger of the pesticide DDT, marine biologist Rachel Carson wrote in her book, *The Sea Around Us*:

“It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose, should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist; the threat is rather to life itself.”

Today, in the face of a mass extinction of the plants, animals, and microorganisms that keep our air clean, our water pure, and our food supplies plentiful, her words ring even truer. The planet has lost 60 percent of its wildlife since 1970. Two-thirds of wetlands have disappeared, and nearly 33 percent of reef-forming corals and more than a third of marine mammals are threatened with extinction. At the same time, climate change is making the ocean hotter, more acidic, and less habitable for fish and wildlife.

But the ocean is not just a victim of climate change—it can also be a powerful source of solutions. Protecting the ocean could provide one-fifth of total global greenhouse gas emission reductions needed to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Potential solutions include protecting the blue carbon ecosystems that sequester carbon; housing offshore wind energy needed to achieve a clean future; ensuring that fisheries are climate-ready; and reducing ship speeds. These solutions could ...establish a pathway to protect 30 percent of U.S. ocean habitats and ecosystems by 2030, a goal known as 30 by 30.

Importance of Marine Protected Areas

Protecting 30 percent of the U.S. ocean is key to saving the diversity and abundance of life on Earth. Scientists have found that placing at least 30 percent of the world’s ocean in fully or highly protected marine protected areas (MPAs) is necessary to stem the extinction of ocean wildlife, stabilize our climate, and safeguard our future. The United States has

currently protected 23 percent of its oceans, but more than 99 percent of that area is in the remote Pacific. *Protecting more ocean areas that are closer to heavily populated coastal communities would benefit biodiversity and improve the health and economic outlook for the millions of Americans who rely on the coast and ocean.* Protecting 30 percent of the U.S. ocean near people and ensuring access to more nature would also benefit families with children, low-income communities, and people of color—who are more likely to [lack] the benefits of nature.

Because highly to fully protected MPAs prohibit or reduce industrial fishing activity, many commercial fishermen have been wary of the 30 percent goal. The fishing industry has long believed that the United States’ primary fishery management



Southern California sea kelp

photo: Tamar Draper

law, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) is the only tool that can or should address fishing activity. Thanks to the MSA, U.S. fisheries are indeed among the best managed in the world: the United States has reduced overfishing by setting and enforcing sustainable fishing limits and rebuilding stocks that are recovering from past overfishing.

While the MSA’s success is undeniable, many of its conservation-minded provisions are relatively new additions from the law’s most recent reauthorization in 2007. And although the MSA has a mandate to ensure sustainable long-term fishing operations, this legal mandate does not extend to ensuring healthy oceans or protecting the ocean biodiversity.

At its best, the MSA has reduced pressure on specific species complexes

such as groundfish off the West Coast, allowing those populations to again be fished. But the MSA does little to address the biodiversity impact of climate change.

To provide significant lasting biodiversity benefits, highly to fully protected MPAs are necessary. The MSA does have some habitat protection provisions; the law requires regional fishery management councils to declare essential fish habitat (EFH). Councils consider how such habitat can be conserved and, where practicable, enact measures to protect it. But, the essential fish habitat provisions and their state-based equivalents are underused, and at best, may be minimally protective. In short, the MSA is not a habitat conservation law but a fisheries management tool that regulates fishing on some species and protects a relatively small amount of habitat from certain fishing impacts. This is a relatively small sliver of ocean life. The MSA manages no more than 1 percent of all known species in U.S. waters, and it does little to protect the habitat of those species.

Benefits of MPAs

Expanding ocean MPAs to protect a higher percentage of marine species and habitats does not harm fishing industry interests. For example, expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument had no measurable economic effects on the fishing industry.

However, there is substantial evidence from across the United States that expanding MPAs and decreasing habitat stressors, such as fishing and pollution, helps ocean ecosystems and coastal communities become more resilient to climate change. The U.S. Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge has shown that large MPAs provide substantial large-predator protection for species such as reef sharks, which are a part of healthy functioning reef habitats.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary protects the world’s third-largest barrier reef system, and recent studies have shown that expanded protections are needed to maintain healthy populations of reef-building species of coral. Off of the West Coast, scientists -- continued page 8

California's iconic coast home to one of the most diverse coastal and ocean ecosystems on the planet. To protect our extraordinary marine life and habitats for current and future generations, California has established a network of 124 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), protecting 16 percent of state waters, spanning 1,110 miles from Mexico to the Oregon border.

In 1999 the State Legislature passed the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), to redesign California's pre-existing patchwork of marine protected areas to protect and help sustain its diverse marine life and habitats statewide. The MLPA required California's MPA assemblage to be designed and managed as an ecologically connected network.

This Network is America's first science-based, statewide MPA network. According to the California Natural Resources Agency, (CNRA) the 124 areas "span our state's entire coastline to conserve tidepools, sandy beaches, submarine canyons, estuaries and kelp forests, and to protect all life that depends on these unique places."

Save Nature: Protect 30 percent -- from page 7

see more and larger fish and invertebrates—an early sign of success for the network of MPAs in California created by the Marine Life Protection Act.

Just as habitat protection cannot replace fisheries management, fisheries management cannot replace habitat protection. Both systems must be used in concert to achieve a sustainable, healthy, and economically robust ocean. By protecting 30 percent of U.S. lands and oceans by 2030, the United States can continue to build its ocean conservation leadership.

At the Center for American Progress, Alexandra Carter is a policy analyst for Ocean Policy; Miriam Goldstein is the managing director for Energy and Environment Policy and the director of Ocean Policy.

During the extensive public comment period around preparation by the CNRA of a plan to achieve 30 by 30, interested citizens and organizations repeatedly urged for expansion of the MPA Network to include at least 30 percent of California's offshore waters. The CNRA however insisted that this could not be considered until after the MPA Network had undergone its Decadal Management review. This review has now taken place.

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Management/Decadal-Review>

In January 2023, State agencies released a comprehensive assessment of how the entire statewide MPA Network performed over its first decade. It reviews the four pillars of the MPA Management Program:

- Outreach and Education,
- Research and Monitoring,
- Enforcement and Compliance,
- Policy and Permitting.

Among the Review's determinations: **We must continue to invest in long-term monitoring to understand how MPAs are meeting the goals of the MLPA and what further steps may be needed to strengthen the Network.

**Adaptively managing our MPA network will be important to meeting our 30x30 goal.

**We must strive to better integrate principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion into all aspects of the management program and recognize Traditional Ecological Knowledge and the roles of California Native American tribes to help sustainably manage and steward our shared marine resources.

Network Performance

Ecological changes resulting from MPAs may take years or decades to detect. In many cases, Management Program activities are ongoing and have not yet resulted in measurable outcomes to evaluate against MPA performance objectives and the MLPA goals. However, the Management Program maintains a long-term view.

Not all MPAs are alike, they vary in size and in amount of protection:

**49 State Marine Reserves cover 9 percent of state waters-no damage or take of all marine resources is allowed.

**60 State Marine Conservation Area cover 6.5 percent of state waters; some recreational or commercial take may occur.

**10 State Marine Conservation Area cover .6 percent of state waters; No take but dredging may continue.

**5 State Marine Recreational Management Areas in .1 percent of state waters allow limited take and legal waterfowl hunting.

**1 State Marine Park (also .1 percent) allows no commercial damage or take.

**14 Special Closures in .1 percent of state waters restrict or prohibit access and boating.

Ecological areas of the MPAs

**Rocky Intertidal habitats—diverse, and well-studied ecosystems.

**Kelp forests and shallow rocky reefs: boost biodiversity, enhance recreation opportunities, and support fisheries.

**Nearshore rocky reefs: provide habitat, and respond to MPA protection in size and abundance of fish.

**Mid-depth and deep reefs: encompass the largest area; are targeted by fisheries.

**Estuaries and coastal marsh habitats—connector between coast and nearshore; heavily impacted by human activities.

**Soft ocean bottoms: deep soft sea floors, have hardly been monitored due to difficulty of assessing remote areas with highly mobile species that may be less likely to benefit from MPA protection.

Success of MPAs relies on compliance and enforcement of laws and regulations. The review compared violations in no-take zones compared to other MPAs. MPA placement and spacing can enhance ecological connectivity. Size affects species and habitat composition.

The review hardly addresses the need expressed by activists to greatly expand the MPA Network over at least 30 percent of state waters. The next wave of protection may be up to us. ↻

Sacramento lobbying day: strong state funding for 30 by 30 urged

-- by Jenny Binstock

In mid-April, staff from Sierra Club's Our Wild America team in California and from Sierra Club California, and our volunteers along with dozens of partners from the California [Power in Nature coalition](#) (of which Sierra Club is a founding member and a leader) descended on the State Capitol in Sacramento to lobby against the Newsom Administration's proposed budget cuts to key programs that will fund 30x30.

Our day kicked off with a coalition press conference ([view the recording here](#)) on the steps of the Capitol building, with partners from all around the state calling on the legislature to fight back against budget cuts that would slash 25 percent (\$1.5 billion) of the state's committed funding for nature-based solutions, climate resilience, coastal programs, and capacity building for 30x30. Speakers were flanked by some really fantastic flags that highlight iconic plant and animal species from the state.

We were joined by Assembly-member Ash Kalra, (D-San Jose) 30x30 champion whose key 30x30 bill back in 2020 built the momentum for the Newsom Administration's executive order in October of that year, committing the state to the 30x30 goal.



Outdoors for All Campaign Interim Associate Director Roberto Morales in one of dozens of lobby meetings at the state Capitol

Our own Moises Cisneros, Our Wild America Organizing Representative for our deserts work, was a featured speaker and knocked it out of the park

highlighting the vital role that protecting **desert landscapes** plays in climate solutions -- our deserts here in California are fragile, highly threatened by development, and, where undisturbed, store about 10 percent of our state's carbon!

After the morning's press conference, our coalition hit up dozens of offices of members from across California for lobby meetings which resulted in a lot of key relationship building for 30x30. We were met with a lot of enthusiasm, support, and eagerness to partner -- but also sobering realities of budget cuts for our state as we deal with the climate crisis, the housing crisis, and so many other urgent and pervasive challenges. **One key takeaway that we emphasized: investing in nature is smart for biodiversity, climate resilience, advancing equity, and overall societal well-being.**

Investing in the 30x30 goal TODAY will pay dividends for the future as our state tackles the climate crisis, inequality, and the nature gap.

Our team and our coalition is SO energized by this week's work to advance 30x30 in California, and ready to continue to push on the legislature to make sure that the ambitious 30x30 plan laid out by the California Natural Resources Agency (a year ago this week) actually has the resources it needs to be implemented and impactful. We are just getting started!

HUGE thanks to our staff and volunteers who made this day possible, from everything from the work done within our coalition to prepare for this fly-in, the traveling to Sacramento, and the pavement pounding that has left blisters on our feet.

Thanks to: Erin Woolley, Policy Advocate from Sierra Club California for leading the team that lobbied Bay



Organizing rep Moises Cisneros, who also co-leads the Power in Nature Coalition's Inland Deserts Regional Working Group

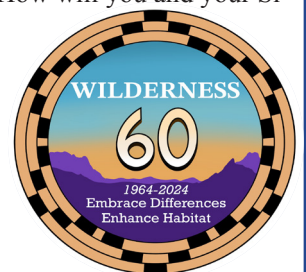
Area legislators and working with our coalition's political strategy team to help shape the lobby day; Range of Light Group leaders and Sierra Club 30x30 Task Force representatives Lynn Boulton and Janet Barth for traveling from the Eastern Sierra to join the rally and lobby meetings; Moises Cisneros and Roberto Morales from the Our Wild America Campaign for blitzing legislators from the Los Angeles and Inland Deserts region; and Ian Brickey from the Our Wild America team and Michael Blenner from Sierra Club California for supporting coalition work on this. 🌱



Jenny and Lynn kick off the morning lobbying session at the state Capitol in Sacramento

What's coming up in 2024?

It's the SIXTIETH anniversary of the Wilderness Act! How will you and your Sierra Club Group celebrate? Next issue of WOW will focus on ways to promote wilderness during the special 60th year.



Hot Topics in Cold Missoula Wilderness Workshop—personal perspective

-- by Kristine Green

-- by Teri Shore

The National Wilderness Workshop 2023 attendees converged under the “M” on the University of Montana campus near the junction of the Rattlesnake and Clark Fork rivers.

The Society for Wilderness Stewardship and the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance hosted the April 17-22 workshop whose presenters and attendees hailed from the wild reaches of the United States. Alabaman Kim Waites accepted the Alliance’s award for Individual Champion of Wilderness Stewardship. Reed Robinson, Lakota Elder and Forest Service Director of Tribal Relations, and Mike Reynolds, Deputy Director, National Park Service, spoke to how the feds are collaborating with Tribes.

Also represented in the mix were Sierra Club volunteers, Forest Service employees, members of the Salish, Ute Mountain Ute, Hopi, Tepehuan, Blackfeet, and other Tribes, and students and professors from the University of Montana as well as the Universities of Washington and Oregon.

Some questioned the essence of the Wilderness Act, which celebrates its 60th anniversary next year. Others planned for its celebration. Is wilderness a place that’s untrammelled by humans, where we can only visit? Is it still wilderness if it was cared for by humans? How should wilderness lands be managed? Or does management of a wild area then negate the wilderness quality? Can it be wilderness only if there aren’t any roads? Can an area really be called wilderness if climbers leave artificial aid devices in the rocks, if single-track paths are hard as asphalt, and noisy fly-overs abound?

Cultural fire practices, prescribed burning and lack thereof were also hot topics. Under threat of a tornado warning herself, Rosalyn LaPier presented virtually regarding food sovereignty. Two planetarium shows featured story-telling by Leo Bird, Blackfeet Knowledge

I admit I felt uncomfortable at times during the Wilderness Workshop. When I heard Native American leaders, scholars and participants describe designated wilderness as a barrier intended to keep them off public lands, I first felt defensive, then sad and hurt.

Hopi leader Alfred Lomahquahu jolted me when he said he believed that

Holder. Attendees got to experience a Hip-Hop/Pow-Wow style performance.

Attendees were treated to a real-life example of “walk the walk, talk the talk” on a field trip to the Bison Range, showcasing restoration of land management to Tribal entities. Through Public Law 116-260, Congress restored the Bison Range to federal trust ownership for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) in 2020. In 1908, the federal government had established the National Bison Range in the middle of the Salish and Kootenai treaty-reserved home, the Flathead Indian Reservation, on land taken without Tribal consent. The present bison herd descends from a free-ranging reservation herd started by Tribal members in the 1800s when plains bison were near extinction. This video explains the history behind the herd: <https://youtu.be/S1WvkSN8zDQ>.

The Bison Range visit included a presentation by Tribal elder, Johnny Arlee, as well as the chance to accept knowledge from other tribal members, Regina Lopez Whiteskunk (Ute Mountain Ute) and Tim Ryan (Salish) and Stephanie Gillin (Salish). Whiteskunk was also a main organizer of the entire workshop along with Heather Macslarrow.

The Wilderness Workshop culminated with the 54th annual KyiYo Powwow Celebration featuring Traditional, Fancy, Grass, Chicken, and Jingle dance categories. ♪

wilderness designation was intended to keep Native people out. Graduate student Stephanie Barron from the University of Montana said during a panel discussion that our national parks were designed to make white people comfortable by removing brown people from the landscape. That shocked me. How could wilderness that brings me so much joy and inspiration inflict pain, oppression and dislocation to people who have belonged to such lands for generations and thousands of years? I listened and learned.

By precluding traditional use of wilderness lands and creating obstacles to easy access to places that many Native American people consider sacred, designation under the 1964 Wilderness Act became an additional barrier to Indigenous people-- who had already faced centuries of dispossession of their lands.

As a white middle class woman and environmentalist who led backpack trips into the Sierra Nevada for the Sierra Club Bay Chapter for 20 years, I had all doors open to me on the land and in life. As a liberal, I thought I was well informed on the history of Native American genocide, land loss, broken treaties, and exclusion. If anything, I thought wilderness should be more tightly regulated, such as removing commercial mule packers and cattle grazing that rips up the earth and pollutes the creeks.

By the end of the workshop, I was encouraged and inspired by the openness and kindness of the Native American speakers and other panelists. They told us how they and their ancestors were directly impacted by U.S. laws enforced by land management agencies. Along the way, the stories of stolen lands and broken promises shifted from my head to my heart.

Through these difficult conversations, we are finding -- *continued page 11*

Wilderness workshop personal perspective -- from page

ways forward to make wilderness more equitable—through partnerships between Tribes, government agencies and non-profits and interpreting the provisions of the Wilderness Act more inclusively. Many examples of what worked and what didn't were presented.

What was great about this workshop was that we had plenty of long breaks to connect with people; and most of the panelists and organizers stayed the whole week to participate in small group break-out sessions where we discussed concepts where Western and indigenous thinking could be in conflict. Such as “doing things the right way,” perfectionism, sense of urgency, and paternalism.

Following are some highlights of my experience. Learn more about the Wilderness Workshop and speakers at <https://www.wildernessstewardship.org/copy-of-home-Learning-from-Tribal-Leaders>.

What really helped me was the vision and sharing of Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, co-chair of the Wilderness Workshop; she is a member of the Ute Mountain Tribe of Towac and former co-chair of the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition. She was recently appointed by Department of Interior Secretary Haaland to



CA/NV Wilderness Committee members Kristine Green, JoAnne Clarke, Sandra Cattell, Vicky Hoover, and Anne Henny in Missoula. Absent is Teri Shore.

serve on the Bears Ears National Monument Management Advisory Committee.

Throughout the workshop, Regina offered heartfelt reminders to breathe deeply, stretch, and remember that we are all here as a result of generations

before us. She thanked us over and over for “showing up” and being present to engage on challenging realities. At the Bison Range, her song brought us all close to tears with her power and intention.

Regina along with Alfred worked together on the Council to create and protect Bears Ears National Monument. As members of sovereign nations, they negotiated with the U.S. government to achieve the national monument, then to restore it after it was cut back. Alfred told us that they also had a spiritual advisor helping them stay centered, focused and effective to establish Bears Ears. In all my years of environmental activism, it never occurred to me to ask for spiritual guidance--and now I will.

Seasonal Rounds

Tim Ryan, Department Head of Culture and Language Studies at Salish Kootenai College outside of Missoula, showed us the beautiful graphic of the circle of the seasons that depict the plants, animals and weather derived from generations of knowledge about what grows when; what time to harvest, and plant. April is Buttercup Month in the Salish-Kootenai Seasonal Round.

In one of the breakout sessions, we were asked to think about a seasonal round for our places. I thought of wildflowers, butterflies, and whales as bio-indicators for the change of seasons in Sonoma County where I live.

Tim also described a wilderness conflict over protecting culturally modified trees that are hundreds of years old that were used for harvesting sap and vulnerable to wildfire. The scars on the bark of ponderosas, lodgepole pine, larches and other trees are evidence of ancients living on the land. To protect these trees requires clearing the area around them to prevent ignition during wildfires, he said. That has not been typically allowed in wildernesses to date.

Songs and Stories at Bison Preserve

After more than a century, the Bison Range on the Flathead Reservation northwest of Missoula

was finally restored to tribal control by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Due to the rain and snow outside, we gathered in the large warehouse on-site to begin the week-long workshop. Tribal elder Johnny Arlee shared stories and memories of the old ways. A Salish traditional spiritual leader, Johnny teaches both the Salish language and Salish tribal history at the Salish Kootenai College.

He told us about the importance of bitterroot, camas and carrot as food sources. His grandparents called them “visitors” to the land since they are seasonal plants. He shared stories of traditional buffalo hunts where 100 people would go with horses to round up animals that were quickly butchered in the field to bring back meat and hides. Johnny called the buffalo his brother, and sang a buffalo calling song, that sounded the wisdom of the ages, connecting us all inside the warehouse. He told us how he is working to preserve his Native language through stories captured on tape back in 1974, many that still need translation.

“A lot of hardships that the buffalo went through . . . their lives are just so parallel with ours. The buffalo are strong. They’ve survived for all those years. And so have we. We are still going.”

Stephanie Gillin explained that the first calf of the year has been born at the Bison range. She is the Information & Education Program Manager for the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Natural Resources Department. The bison herd consists of 225 bison who give birth to 50 to 60 calves per year. We didn't see any buffalo until we left on the bus and saw a herd grazing on a pasture along the road.

The Range is also home to elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and predators including wolves, grizzly bears. Stephanie invited us all to come back when the roads were not so muddy and the weather more hospitable.

Story and Dance

One night we were privileged to experience song and story combining traditional and modern Tribal perspectives from two Native Canadian women performers. Award-winning multidisciplinary artist, performer, and young leader -- continued page 12

Wilderness workshop personal perspective -- from page 11

Kiera-Dawn Kolson sang her own original songs about women and empowerment. She punctuated her upbeat music with traditional stories told in her unique voice and body movement about Turtle Island and the animals that brought the world into being. She was also a Greenpeace Canada campaigner who worked to win strong protections for the Arctic.

Mz Shellz is a Cree woman and describes herself as an indigenous female EMC, or Femcee. Using a hip-hop beat, she sang about hardships such as domestic violence, but also how to rise above it and embrace women's power. As CEO of the clothing line Native by Nature, Mz Shellz has done it. Learn more about them here: <https://www.facebook.com/KieraDKolson/> <https://mzshellzzz.wordpress.com/>

Agency Evolution and Actions

In my view, the most exciting government agency action presented at the workshop was the Forest Service Tribal Action Plan released in February 2023. https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/Strengthening-Tribal-Relations.pdf.

Developed in response to President Biden's Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, the Tribal Action Plan was completed under the direction of Lakota Native Reed Robinson, director of the USDA Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations.

<https://www.wildernessstewardship.org/copy-of-national-wilderness-workshop?pgid=lg9wfb3b-67a8174c-4161-4bd8-b5c1-ee9bc4ce36ae>

Based on longstanding Forest Service policies, Reed and his team developed the Action Plan for agency staff with specific tasks, protocols and responsibilities for conducting consultations with tribes. "This is not a strategic plan that is just aspirational," Reed explained. "It will hold the U.S. Forest Service accountable for our responsibilities for Tribal consultation. We had the policies in place, but they were not being implemented. The Action Plan will provide baseline standards of performance."

As director, he supervises the Tribal

relations program in Washington D.C. and provides program leadership and direction for all national, regional, research station, and forest/grasslands functions that impact, or may impact Native American/Alaskan Native interests. Reed told us that he hopes the plan will be a model for other federal agencies that are now grappling with how to be effective with Tribal communities and polices. He said that we have 574 sovereign Tribal nations in the United States with rights to negotiate directly with the federal government. They need to be brought directly into policymaking at the beginning, not invited at the end when decisions are already made.

He reported that the federal government is now investing millions of dollars in Indian Country, as a result of major legislation passed by Congress in the past two years. To ensure that Native people are allowed traditional practices in wilderness, we need to have that challenging conversation now.

In addition to Reed, the US Forest Service was well represented at the workshop by many young agency staffers who will become the next generation of leaders on our public lands. The Forest Service Action Plan is available to download at https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/Strengthening-Tribal-Relations.pdf

Alaska Leads the Way on Tribal Partnerships

The Wilderness Society's Meda DeWitt outlined the relationship building now underway between the non-profit community and Tribal leaders in Alaska's Arctic region.

By taking tribal members, staff and agency representatives on long excursions on the land, they hope to build trust and collaboration that results in inclusive and robust policies. Simple acts like having tea and coffee every week for two years with a Tribal elder have helped realize the way forward, Meda told us.



Sierra Club Workshop participants Teri Shore, Ken Cline, and Sandra Cattell; Ken, chair of Sierra Club's Native American Land Rights Team, came all the way from Maine

Making the Wilderness Act work for all

From a purely policy angle on the Wilderness Act, I gained the most insight from how to move forward as a Sierra Club wilderness advocate from the talk by Adrienne Lindholm, the Wilderness Stewardship Program lead for the National Park Service in Alaska. Her main point was that the existing text and policy in The Wilderness Act of 1964 can provide for inclusivity including Tribal access for traditional activities. The issue is how that text is interpreted and implemented by government agencies.

She also explained that Alaska wilderness areas specifically provide for traditional hunting and gathering through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) which allows harvest of wildlife in national preserves in Alaska for subsistence purposes by local rural residents.

The Wilderness Act's most contested word is probably "untrammeled." Several Native participants interpreted this key phrase as "no human presence." Designated Wilderness has been called the "Land of No." However, the word means "uncontrolled" or unmanipulated", and Adrienne suggested that we can view it as: "where humans practice humility, respect and restraint relating to the natural world."

Some criticize the Act for its emphasis on solitude. She offers this interpretation: "opportunity for connection not disrupted by sights and sounds of people's machines and technology." For me, this perspective offers the most encouragement for how we can move forward to bring Tribal perspectives and -- continued page 14



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

Spring Wilderness Service trip-Easter weekend

It's springtime again and that denotes a wilderness committee trip to the California desert. This year was no exception; we worked again with Mona Daniels, wilderness lead in the Bureau of Land Management's Needles field office. Again we camped at the BLM's Snaggletooth recreation site, south of Needles, and we worked with Mona on getting wilderness boundary signs on the south side of the Stepladder Mountains Wilderness--and in part also along the north part of the Turtle Mountains Wilderness--where the two protected areas are separated only by the narrow "Turtle Mountain" dirt road. Where signs already stood in place, we prepped them for re-use by spray painting over the sun-bleached



photo: Anne Henny

Moises on pancakes



Beavertail in bloom

photo: Moises Cisneros



A favorite right near camp

photo: Anne Henny

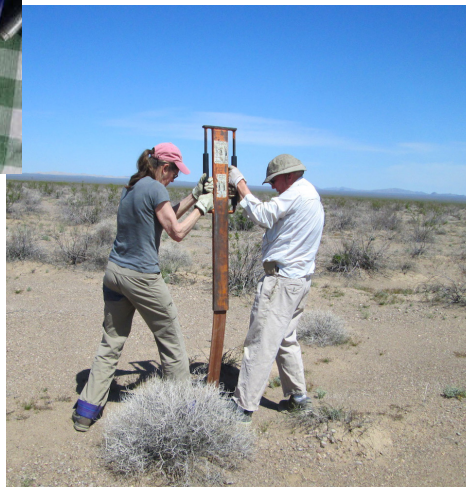


photo: Vicky

Anne & Ralph pound in a wilderness boundary signpost

tattered remnants of old stickers, and later placing fresh new stickers on the posts. Directed by the committee's new outings leader, Anne Henny, we had a big group -- just about 20 participants most of the time, including some very welcome newcomers, and enjoyed perfect spring weather--windfree for once, and a fine glow of festivities all around.

And, at end of the trip, three of us headed north to camp overnight in the brand new Avi Kwa Ame National Monument--to celebrate this grand new protection (see article pp 1-2.) vnh



photo: Moises Cisneros

Rene, Vicky, Anne, and Moises



photo: Moises Cisneros

Carol & Vicky



photo: Moises Cisneros

Our desert camp setting



photo: Vicky Hoover

Celebrating Avi Kwa Ame at Christmas Tree Pass--Anne & Jim

Wilderness workshop personal perspective -- from page

needs into existing policy frameworks without subjecting the Wilderness Act to changes and weakening by extractive industries and destructive recreational activities such as off-road vehicle use and mountain biking.

What's next?

Sierra Club has certainly embarked on a path to become more informed about tribal issues. The Sierra Club collaborates with Tribal partners across the country, for example to halt fossil fuel projects and pipelines and to protect areas like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Chaco Canyon, the Greater Grand Canyon region, and Bears Ears National Monument. The Wildlands and Wilderness Grassroots Network Team has a group actively supporting Native American land rights which developed guidance for applying the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing in Wildlands Protection. That team works to strengthen the Sierra Club's relationships with Tribal

communities and to support Tribal co-stewardship of public lands.

Recently, the Tehipite Chapter passed a resolution supporting federal recognition for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Tribe, that was approved by the Board of Directors, and made a significant donation to the tribe's efforts. (WOW, April 2020)

I personally plan to "show up" more for Native and Indigenous people in Sonoma County and see where it takes me. For example, I plan to go to the Indigenous Peoples Gathering 2023 on May 20 & 21 at Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa.

I thank the Sierra Club CA/NV Wilderness Team, specifically Anne Henny, JoAnne Clarke, and Vicky Hoover, for making it possible for me to participate and be transformed by the Wilderness Workshop. ♪

Teri Shore is vice-chair, NV Wilderness Team, and active in Sierra Club Sonoma Group, Redwood Chapter



Planning team for National wilderness workshop recognized at the event--two of our participants included here-JoAnne and Anne

Next Committee Meeting: May 18 -- Virtual event via Zoom, with program:

• Lynn Boulton, Chair of the Toiyabe Chapter's Range of Light Group, based in the Eastern Sierra, will present:

The Harms of Exploratory Drilling

This presentation Includes the fight against the use by the Forest Service of "categorical exclusions" in California and Nevada and how categorical exclusions have been used to circumvent environmental protections.

For more information and to sign up, contact chair JoAnne Clarke <jo_clarke@att.net> or vice chair Teri Shore. <terishore@gmail.com>.

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.

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 OPEN--San Francisco Bay, Kern Kaweah, Santa Lucia Chapter coordinators--volunteers sought.

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Gone forever, my perfect sea,
every droplet, every wave,
Like spoiled children
They destroyed the gift I gave.
My oceans once upon a time
How sublime -- they used to be.

-- Neptune

(In Metropolitan Opera pastiche, the Enchanted Island, from 2012; Placido Domingo as Neptune)

<https://www.metopera.org/season/on-demand/opera/?upc=811357015025>