Sierra Club California-Nevada Wilderness Committee
2021 WORK PLAN

MISSION

- Campaign, educate and collaborate to protect existing and potential federal and state wilderness areas within California and Nevada.
- Advocate for preservation of other public wildlands and waters in California and Nevada through legislation, executive action, and appropriate management.
- Advance education to Sierra Club members and the public on the important values of wilderness, and promote wilderness as a key issue that remains important to the Sierra Club via online presence, meetings, tabling, newsletter, legislative lobbying, and through stewardship and wilderness study outings.

OFFICERS
Chair: Anne Henny
Vice Chair: Vacant
Words of the Wild Editor & Outings Chair: Vicky Hoover
Social Media Coordinator: Geoffrey Smith
Treasurer: JoAnne Clarke
Wilderness Coalition Liaison: Alan Carlton

MEMBERS
The committee includes a wilderness representative from each California/Nevada Sierra Club chapter and several liaisons (see Roster). This group may vote on decisions and positions, while a smaller core team (chair, vice-chair, newsletter editor/outings chair, social media coordinator, treasurer, and two to three others) manage most day-to-day Committee business. General members include interested Sierra Club wilderness activists throughout California and Nevada.

SPECIFIC GOALS
In 2021 we will focus on proactively building a 30x30 campaign in California and Nevada; building more inclusive wilderness leadership and participation; defending Nevada’s Desert National Wildlife Refuge from threatened military expansion; advocating for improvements to the Sequoia and Sierra National Forest Plans and engaging in the expected Northern CA/Southern OR forest plan updates; improving stewardship of wilderness and other natural areas; educating and movement building around wilderness conservation; building team effectiveness; and supporting wilderness legislation/new national monument designations. In all of these areas we’re committed to implementing the Jemez Principles and elevating equity, inclusion and justice.

1. Advance 30x30 in California and Nevada
   Advance the global movement to protect at least half of nature by building a successful 30x30 campaign in California and supporting the Toiyabe Chapter’s 30x30 work in Nevada.
• In collaboration with the Sierra Club California Conservation Committee (CCC) and Sierra Club California, provide our Committee’s leadership and volunteer support in organizing a state-wide Sierra Club 30x30 campaign focused on Governor Newsom’s 10/7/20 Executive Order N-82-20.
• Build political power for both state and federal 30x30 strategies (implementation of California Governor Newsom’s Executive Order and the Presidential Executive Order).
• Advance strong standards for ecosystem protection and restoration, and center social and racial justice and access to nature throughout planning and implementation.

2. Build More Representative Wilderness Leadership and Participation
Our Committee has been awarded $7,700 in Grassroots Network grant funding to improve equity and inclusion of the 2021 National Wilderness Stewardship Workshop (NWW), not only in terms of participation but also presenters and program content. The NWW is planned for November 15-18, 2021 in Roanoke, VA; our participation may be virtual or a combination of in-person and virtual, depending on COVID-19 restrictions. Our grant goals (based on a virtual format) are to:
• Sponsor approximately 35 people—youth, BIPOC, low income, other abled and communities that have been underrepresented in the wilderness conservation and stewardship movement—to attend the 2021 NWW. Some will be recruited by Sierra Club and some by the conference organizers.
• Sponsor honorariums for three or more people from the same underrepresented categories to speak at the 2021 NWW.
• Reimburse registration costs for approximately 15 Wilderness Committee members, potential new members, and supporters in our region.

Our partners are Society for Wilderness Stewardship and the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. Both organizations have extensive networks that complement and do not substantially duplicate our own, including strong professional linkages with educational institutions and federal land management agency personnel. The Society for Wilderness Stewardship strongly shares Sierra Club’s Equity, Inclusion and Justice goals; Executive Director Heather MacSlarrow wrote, “The Sierra Club sponsorship of the 2020 NWW has helped us to make great headway in our longstanding goals of broadening the wilderness stewardship community and building a more diverse and representative cadre of speakers and attendees at the NWW.”

3. Defend Nevada’s Desert National Wildlife Refuge from Threatened Military Expansion
• Continue working with Toiyabe Chapter, national organizing staff in Nevada, and our coalition partners to prevent the U.S. Air Force from expanding the Nevada Test and Training Site into the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and prevent the Navy’s proposed expansion of Fallon.
• The top goal is to keep the proposals out of defense spending authorizations and any legislation sponsored by the Nevada congressional delegation. #Don’t Bomb the Bighorn!
4. **Advocate for Improvements in the Sierra, Sequoia National Forest Plan Revisions and expected Northern CA/Southern OR Forest Plan update process**
   - Coordinate with Tehipite and Kern Kaweah Chapters, national Land, Water, and Wildlife staff, and the Environmental Law Program to leverage the Sierra Club’s September 28, 2019 comment letter.
   - Continue collaborating with Sierra Nevada Forest Planning Coalition, Redwood and Mother Lode Chapters, and other partners on new CA/OR forest plan updates starting in 2021.

5. **Improve Stewardship of Wilderness and Other Natural Lands and Waters**
   - Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, organize at least two wilderness stewardship outings with 6-20 participants, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Bring on and mentor one or more new outings leaders.
   - Elevate the importance of monitoring, studying, and defending existing protected places in the face of climate disruption, recreational overuse, and other stressors--both in the work of our Committee and the Sierra Club’s priorities.

6. **Educate and Movement Build**
   - Produce three issues of Committee newsletter, *Words of the Wild*, to raise awareness inside the Sierra Club and the general public on the urgency of protecting Earth’s remaining wild places.
   - Maintain and improve Committee websites, focusing on the Grassroots Network site which allows for direct updates by the core team. Encourage members to post on Facebook page, and use of listserv and AddUp alerts to mobilize action for public lands protection.

7. **Build Team Effectiveness**
   - Continue holding monthly leadership Zoom meetings; expand the core team.
   - Hold at least two larger virtual meetings for all Committee members starting in spring. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the annual joint meeting in Shoshone, CA with the CA/NV Desert Committee has been canceled.
   - Continue coordinating with related Grassroots Network Teams, especially the Wildlands and Wilderness Team, and related issue committees of the California Conservation Committee--for our purposes, still the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC)--principally Desert, Southern California Forests, State Forests, State Parks, and Off-Road Vehicle Task Force.
   - Work to expand participation and activism in the California/Nevada Wilderness Committee and wildlands issues in the Chapters. Actively work to implement the Jemez Principles and elevate equity, inclusion and justice in our public lands work.

8. **Promote Wilderness Legislation and National Monument Designations**
   Track and influence local, state and federal legislation and policies related to public lands and waters of California and Nevada in coordination with Sierra Club legislative staff,
chapters, campaigns, other Grassroots Network teams (especially the national Wildlands and Wilderness Team), coalition partners, and other allies. The focus in 2021 will be on:

- Exploring new wilderness legislation in the Sierra Nevada and Modoc Plateau (with allies and partners coordinated by California Wilderness Coalition), and
- Supporting three existing bills already before Congress:
  - Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act (HR 2250/S. 1110)
  - Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (HR 2199/S. 1111)
  - San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act (HR 2215/S. 1109)
- Supporting establishment of Amargosa Basin National Monument near Death Valley National Park, California, and Avi Kwa Ame, or Spirit Mountain, National Monument in Clark County, Nevada.

RESOURCES NEEDED

We have been awarded a Grassroots Network Grant of $7,700 to broaden attendance and diversity of the virtual and/or in-person National Wilderness Workshop November 15-18, 2021 in Roanoke, VA.

We plan to continue relying heavily on our Sierra Club Zoom license through the Grassroots Network. We also would benefit from staff support to assist in arranging any larger and helping with social media outreach/action alerts and funding to print and mail three annual issues of the Committee newsletter, Words of the Wild.