

Tribal Summit On SIERRA NEVADA FOREST HEALTH



INDIGENOUS RESILIENCE AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SIERRA NEVADA

MAIDU MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITE

September 19-20, 2023

Sponsored by
United Auburn Indian Community
Preservation Department

Co Hosted by
The Sierra Fund
Todd's Valley Miwok Maidu Cultural Foundation
University of California, Davis - Institute of the Environment,
Environmental and Climate Justice Hub

United Nations Declaration on THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: ARTICLE 31

...(1) Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literature, designs, sports, and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions, (2) In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

“Culture is Ecology, and
Ecology is Culture”



SUMMIT OVERVIEW

The purpose of this Summit is to recognize that multi-cultural assessments of biodiversity serve as the departure point for a more refined grasp of a region, and that different ways of perceiving and cataloging biodiversity is a bountiful realm for collaboration and respectful learning across cultures.

Indigenous societies of the Sierra Nevada were organized to reflect adaptability to changing and dynamic ecosystems. Far from being passive victims, Indigenous peoples today are improvising, learning, hybridizing technologies and knowledge systems, and challenging and negotiating new environmental and social realities. These responses seek to manage a variety of shocks and stresses as opposed to specific experienced or projected environmental changes, which is important given the unpredictable nature of environmental change.

Place has an anchoring role in resilience. Deep links to place create moral relationships of responsibility to protect and care for the environment, and provide the foundation for the other resilience factors by shaping belief systems, identity, language, knowledge, and livelihood practices.

It is also critical to understand how everything that gives deeper purpose and meaning to all life is being made and nurtured by other creatures, and to see your fate in that of others, even when the family resemblance is largely a leap of faith. We see cousins in creatures where other people see “otherness.” What has been long ignored are the practices and worldviews that Indigenous peoples have with our non-human relatives.

Despite the fact that Indigenous communities of the Sierra Nevada are among the most affected by the loss of biodiversity of the region, Indigenous knowledge and science is nowhere to be found in mainstream environmental policy, land, water, and forest management.

Presently, the pressures of extractive capitalism, and models of resource development, have resulted in conflicting cultural and institutional logics and pressures within non-native and First Nation communities here in the Sierra Nevada.

Around the world, over-reliance on the over-simplification of ecosystems, compromises ecosystem complexity and synergy, in order to maximize resource productivity and streamline management of extraction and harvesting operations.

To only rely on over-simplified use of “Universal Principles,” risks ignoring the very essence of biodiversity itself. We must no longer risk doing so at the expense of the very diversity we wish to honor, and work at rebuilding a world that is more dignified and responsive to our living cultures, environment, and non-human living relations.

2023 SUMMIT PROGRAM

Indigenous knowledges for healing inform disaster recovery and resilience. At this 2-day summit for Sierra Nevada tribes and knowledge bearers, meet speakers and share perspectives on Indigenous led-forest management, protecting cultural ecologies, and related challenges and opportunities facing the people of the Sierra Nevada. Indigenous people have a broad set of knowledge and perspectives that are highly relevant to systemic challenges, disaster resilience, and recovery. All communities can benefit from Indigenous informed responses to recovery.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

- 7:30 - 8:50 am** **Registration and Breakfast**
- 8:50 - 9:00 am** **Invocation (Traditional Leader Prayer)**
 - Honored Guest Rollie Fillmore, Sr. Cultural Preservation Department Representative, Jackson Rancheria
- 9:00 - 9:15 am** **Welcome & Forum Overview**
 - Hon. Chairman Gene Whitehouse, United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC)
 - Becky Johnson, Tribal Administrator, UAIC

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR!



The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) is invested in enriching the community through economic development, education services, and preservation of our Miwok and Nisenan (Southern Maidu) heritage. The historic Auburn Rancheria is in the Sierra Nevada foothills of Auburn, California. Our homelands extend throughout the Sierra Nevada region.

www.auburnrancheria.com

9:15 am - 12:00 pm

SESSION ONE: Contemporary Guardians of Indigenous Lands for the Sierra Nevada



Session Overview: The Indigenous guardian movement goes by many names - Watchmen, Stewards, Rangers, or Guardians. But no matter the name, the goal is the same: to foster tribal natural resources management that increases Indigenous communities' capacity to shape planning, adaptive management, and monitoring in their territories. Broadly, an individual Guardian program reflects the culture, language, laws, and history of a given Indigenous nation in how they design, combine, and implement their activities to create lasting, native-led environmental management.

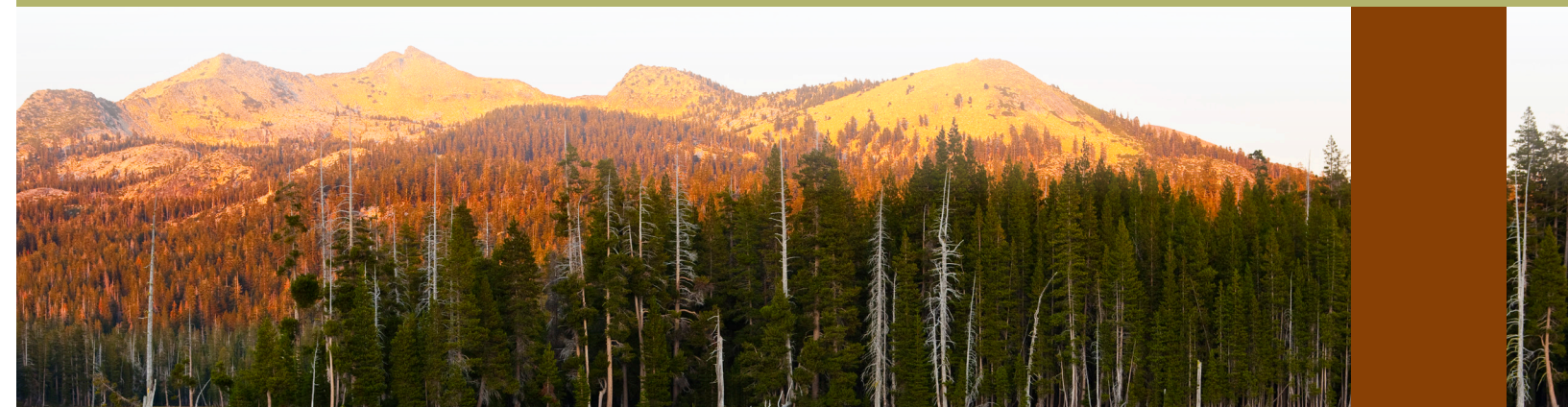
Facilitator: Brian Wallace (Tanku-Nisenan/Tel Mel Ti-Washoe), Board Member, The Sierra Fund

Speakers:

- **Hon. Roberta (Sisaawipam) Conner, Tama'stslikt Cultural Institute**
Contemporary Guardians of Indigenous Lands: Sierra Nevada
- **Hon. Spencer Beebe, Founder EcoTrust US**
Eco Trust and Sierra Salmon Nation
- **Don Hankins, Professor of Geography and Planning at California State University, Chico**
Indigenous Stewardship from the Sierra Nevada and Beyond
- **Material Featured in Session: Indigenous Guardians and Leadership.** created by Hon. Lisa Watt, Manager, Eco Trust USA. Not in Attendance.

“When All Men learn to Respect All Women, they will also learn how to Respect the the Most Powerful of them All, Mother Earth.”

Maria De Jesus, A Grandmother



12:00 - 1:00 pm

Lunch

Hosted by the United Auburn Indian Community

Indigenous inspired and sourced cuisine from Northern California by Monique Sonoquie at Indigenous Forest Foods Fusion.

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Tour of Historic Site Grounds

Meet at registration desk at 1 pm for tour of grounds. Led by Diana Almendariz, Cultural Practitioner of Maidu/ Wintun, Hupa/ Yurok Traditions, Heritage and Experience.



“Properly understood, modern American Indian history has been made by Indian leaders who seized the initiative, brought forth their grievances and proposed solutions, and, more often than not, accomplished the kinds of progress they dared to seek”

From “Blood Struggle” 2009. Charles Wilkenson

2:00 - 5:00 pm

SESSION TWO: Indigenous Directed Disaster Recovery and Resilience

Session Overview: Hear perspectives on Indigenous-led forest stewardship, protecting cultural ecologies, Indigenous-led disaster recovery, and related challenges and opportunities. This session will include discussion of cultural fire and alliance building.

Facilitator: Beth Rose Middleton Manning, Ph.D., U.C. Davis, Department of Native American Studies

Speakers:

- **Dirk Charley, Tribal Liaison, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians**
Cultural Fire & Alliance Building
- **Jonathan Long, Research Ecologist, US Forest Service, PSW Research Station**
Sierra Nevada Forest Health – Cultural Fire Management in Black Oak Forests
- **Ali Meders-Knight, Executive Director, California Open Lands**
T.E.K. Workforce Development: Policies, Planning, and Implementation of Native Leadership in Scoping Work and Creating Co-Stewardship Agreements
- **Danny Manning, Asst. Fire Chief, Greenville Rancheria**
Recovery and Resilience post-Dixie Fire



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

7:30 - 8:30 am

Registration and Breakfast

8:30 - 8:40 am

Invocation (Tribal Elder/Knowledge Keeper)

- *Honored Guest Rollie Fillmore, Sr. Cultural Preservation Department Representative, Jackson Rancheria*

8:40 - 9:00 am

Welcome & Opening Remarks

- *Rebecca Allen, PhD, Director, UAIC Tribal Preservation Department*

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MAIDU MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITE, OUR SPEAKERS, TOUR LEADERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND CATERER MONIQUE SONOQUIE AT INDIGENOUS FOREST FOODS FUSION



“We should be even more frightened of living in a world where the foundation of injustice is honorable and the perpetuation of that injustice acceptable....We should make a future of Justice.”

From “Upstream” 2018.
Ferrell Cunningham. Maidu Summit Consortium & Conservancy

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

SESSION THREE: Indigenous Experiences in Forest Health for the Sierra Nevada

Session Overview: Healing-informed approaches to disaster recovery offer opportunities to better support all communities affected by disasters, by unsettling assumptions and enabling holistic understandings of complex interactions between multiple disasters, community contexts, and systemic inequities.

Facilitator: Joan Clayburgh, Executive Director, The Sierra Fund

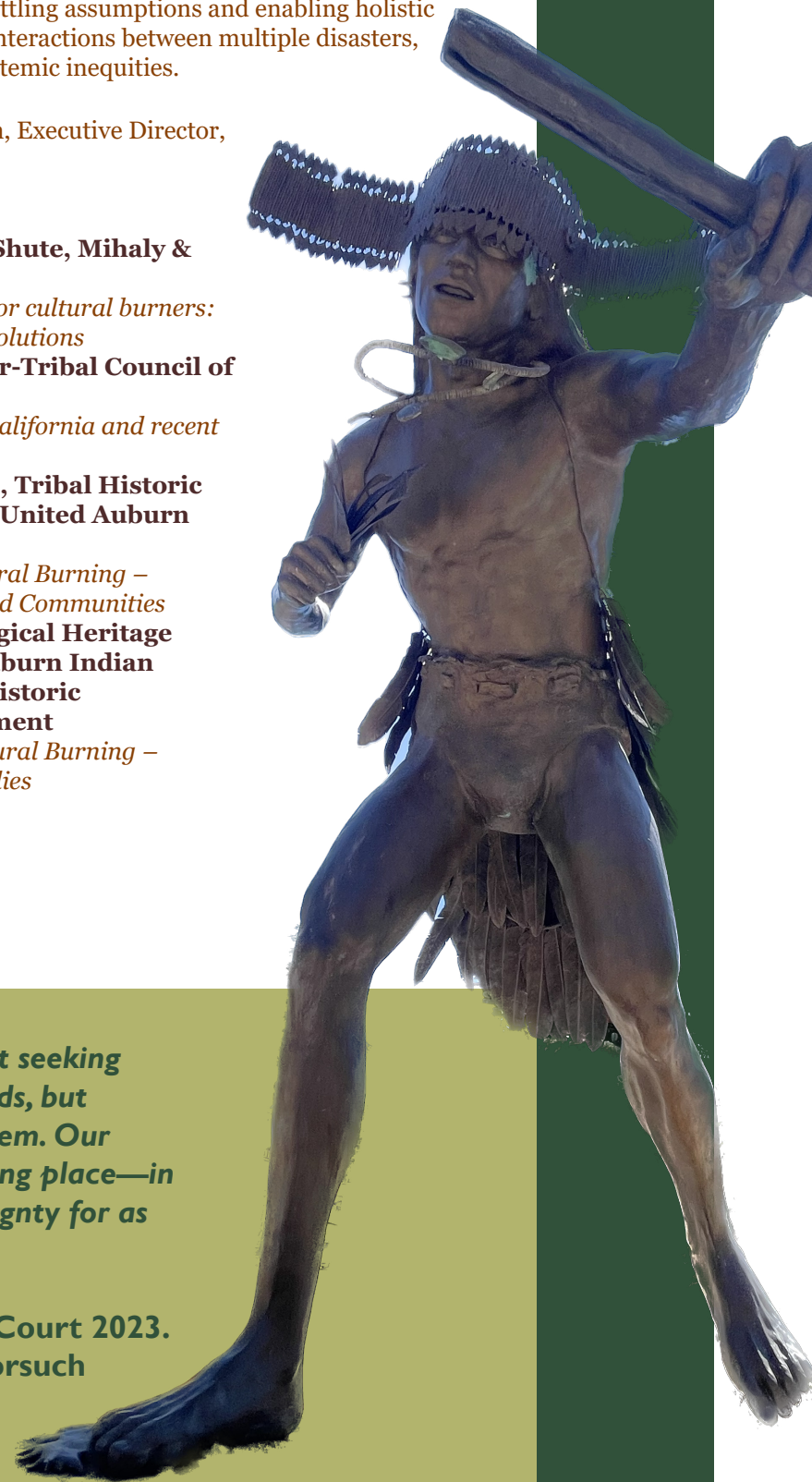
Speakers:

- **Sara Clark, Partner, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger**
Legal and policy issues for cultural burners: barriers and emerging solutions
- **Irvin Jim, Chair, Inter-Tribal Council of California**
Inter-Tribal Council of California and recent efforts
- **Hon. Matthew Moore, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, United Auburn Indian Community**
Part I: Indigenous Cultural Burning – Healing Tribal Lands and Communities
- **Zack Emerson, Ecological Heritage Specialist, United Auburn Indian Community, Tribal Historic Preservation Department**
Part II: Indigenous Cultural Burning – Building Support and Allies



“Often, Native American tribes have come to this court seeking justice only to leave with bowed heads and empty hands, but that is not because this court has no justice to offer them. Our Constitution reserves for the tribes a place—an enduring place—in the structure of American life. It promises them sovereignty for as long as they wish to keep it.”

From “Haaland v. Brackeen” U.S. Supreme Court 2023.
Justic E. Neil Gorsuch



12:00 - 2:00 pm

Lunch

Hosted by the United Auburn Indian Community.

Indigenous inspired and sourced cuisine from Northern California by Monique Sonoquie at Indigenous Forest Foods Fusion.

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Tour of New Exhibit, Art is Education, Education is Art

Meet at registration desk at 1 pm for tour. Tour and artwork led by Yaqui artist, educator and social activist Stan Padilla.

2:00 - 4:00 pm

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION SESSION: Strategies, Funding, Capacity Building, and Supplemental Resources

Session Overview: Western conservation, disaster recovery science and policy falls short on including Indigenous people in environmental dialogues and denies them the social and economic resources to recover and prepare for environmental change, land loss and increased access to the cultural ecology of the Sierra bioregion. This session is intended to allow participants to discuss in small groups and then report back to the full group ideas about the direction, challenges and opportunities impacting our Indigenous Resilience and Healing such as Indigenous Land Trusts, Tribally led Co-Management, Cooperative Agreements, Service First Agreements, MOU’s, Inter Agency Models, Inter-Tribal Models, Regional, National & International Indigenous Models, and Networks.



4:00 - 5:00 pm

Closing Session—Accords of Friendship and Cooperation

Closing thoughts, actionable guidance, and strategic follow-up.

- *Brian Wallace (Tanku-Nisenan/Tel Mel Ti-Washoe), Board Member, The Sierra Fund.*

Invitation for Closing Prayer or Travel Song.

ABOUT YOUR CO-HOSTS

The Todd's Valley Miwok Maidu Cultural Foundation

To preserve and protect the local California Indian heritage through education, restoration of native land, and celebration of cultural practices.



The Todd's Valley Miwok Maidu Cultural Foundation was founded in May of 1995 with the goal of preserving the traditional culture and artifacts of the local California Indians and educating the public about California Indian culture. Many members of the Todd's Valley Miwok Maidu Cultural Foundation are descendants of Miwok, Maidu, and Nisenan cultures and belong to the Colfax-Todd's Valley Consolidated Tribe. Our ancestors once thrived in the mountains and foothills of the Northern and Central Sierra Nevada.

Want to know more? Contact fmragle@gmail.com

The Sierra Fund

Founded in 2001, The Sierra Fund's mission is to protect and restore the resiliency of the ecosystems and communities of the Sierra Nevada in the face of the uncertainties brought on by climate change.



We envision a Sierra that is a healthy place to live, work, visit and raise a family; with clean air, water, and soil; with all who benefit from our region being empowered to protect and restore our communities and natural resources for multiple generations.

Want to know more? Contact us at info@sierrafund.org

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UC Davis Institute for the Environment, Environmental and Climate Justice Hub



UC DAVIS
Institute of the Environment

The Institute of the Environment's mission is to understand, solve, and communicate urgent environmental, climate, energy, and health challenges using research, education, and public engagement with a deep commitment to environmental and climate justice. A program of the Institute, the Environmental and Climate Justice Hub, provides a central place to coordinate and enhance research, teaching, and outreach activities that address environmental and climate injustices, with a focus on building collaborations with Indigenous communities and Nations.

Want to know more? Contact us at environment@ucdavis.edu.

RESOURCES

Check out the Tribal Summit Resources page with information on Indigenous perspectives, traditional land management, guardianship toolkits, and systemic challenges and injustices at:

www.sierrafund.org/tsrd/



TO ACCESS RESOURCE PAGE
SCAN ME WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA!

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