

Protecting Sierra Nevada's Public Lands & Federal Workforce

Background

The U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service lost thousands of workers due to budget cuts, which will deeply impact our National Parks, forests, trails, and waters. Ten percent of the U.S. Forest Service jobs were cut, and thousands of NPS and BLM positions were lost. At the same time, the Trump Administration is fast-tracking oil and gas drilling, and prioritizing fossil fuel profits over people and the planet. In California, the federal government owns approximately 48 million acres of land, which represents around 46% of the state's total land area and includes multiple iconic landmarks and biodiversity. What's at stake:

- Selling off public lands for oil drilling, mining and resource extraction
- Rollbacks of California National Monuments
- Weakening the Antiquities Act
- Slashing regulations that protect wildlife, clean air, and clean water
- Severe impacts to wildfire prevention efforts, access to nature, outdoor recreation, and local economies sustained by tourism

Suggested Talking Points

Elected Officials and their staff want to hear from their constituents. Tell your story, tell what is important to you. We have included below talking points to help craft your message, but adapt these messages to your personal & organization's voice and be sure to share information related to your experience with public lands - your experience is the most powerful message.

Staff reductions across Federal agencies

- **We are deeply alarmed by recent staff reductions across federal land management agencies.** These cuts will negatively affect the recreation experience on public lands and waters, harm local economies, and endanger communities by impacting the implementation of wildfire resilience projects. Our entire region, and especially communities and places in Lake Tahoe, Eastern Sierra, and Mammoth Lakes, will be impacted the most with these shortcuts. We are already seeing alarming effects all around us - **share here your experiences or what impacts are you starting to see.**

Public lands protection against drilling, mining, and resource extraction

- **We are deeply concerned by an increased threat of selling off our public lands for drilling, mining and resource extraction.** The sale of public lands threatens local jobs

and quality of life, particularly in Sierra Nevada where outdoor recreation is a key driver of economic activity.

- **We risk not only losing access to our public lands, but also losing the backbone of our local economies.** We love and enjoy our parks and public lands, and we have worked hard for these protections. This region is home to some of the best places to hike, camp, rock climb, stargaze, hunt, fish, ski, four wheel, and snowmobile in the world.
- Our local economies depend on supporting and providing outdoor recreation opportunities. [Some economic stats for California's 3rd congressional district - Representative Kevin Kiley:](#)
 - The district is home to many of California's natural wonders, including Lake Tahoe, Eastern Sierra, Mammoth Lakes, Death Valley National Park, Devils Postpile National Monument, and five national forests.
 - Tahoe Basin attracts 15 million annual recreation visit-day. Tahoe's tourism economy generates about \$4.5 billion dollars in direct spending each year, which amounts to an annual economic impact of more than \$10 billion dollars.
 - Death Valley National Park contributes an estimated \$85.6 million dollars annually to local economies, providing some 1,200 people with work.
 - Visitors to Plumas, Tahoe, and Eldorado National Forests contribute an estimated 83.8 million dollars annually towards the wages and incomes of businesses in the region.
 - Devils Postpile National Monument, which sits right outside of CA-03, contributes some \$7.6 million dollars.
 - Yosemite National Park, which is near CA-03, contributes an estimated 422 million dollars each year to local gateway economies, directly supporting 6,660 jobs.
 - Visit California's "High Sierra" Region, which encompasses parts of CA-03, estimates that the region raises \$3.7 Bi in travel-related spending (lodging, dining, retail, groceries, entertainment) and tourism alone generates 39.6k employment. Visitors Travel to the High Sierra for Scenic Beauty & Recreation.
- Every place that is handed over to the oil, mining, or gas industry is a place where recreation stops. And that will impact our region's local economy deeply.
- Public lands are also an **important buffer against urbanization and other impacts to military installations, training, and testing activities** throughout the state. Opening these lands to incompatible development and activities could impact the military's ability to carry out its mission.
- **These popular places preserve culture, history, and natural places beloved for recreation**, and both Republican and Democratic presidents have designated them.

Who Are Sierra Nevada Representatives

California's 3rd congressional district - Kevin Kiley ([map](#)):

- The district is home to many of California's natural wonders, including Lake Tahoe, Eastern Sierra, Mammoth Lakes, Death Valley National Park, Devils Postpile National Monument, and five national forests.
- [Office locations & contact info](#) or reach out to your direct connection.
- Congressman Kiley has opposed the amendment to defund new national monuments during the FY24 Interior Appropriations amendments process - **so if you reach out to his office, please thank him for opposing that amendment!**
- Congressman Kiley has also worked to get the Lake Tahoe Restoration Reauthorization Act of 2024 passed, which was a big conservation win for the Lake Tahoe Basin- **so if you reach out to his office, please thank him for working to get the Act reauthorized!**

California's 5th congressional district - Tom McClintock ([map](#)):

- The district is home to Yosemite National Park and part of Kings Canyon National Park.
- [Office locations & contact info](#) or reach out to your direct connection.
- Sadly, Congressman McClintock has co-sponsored HR 521 introduced this year that undermines and/or repeal the Antiquities Act.
- A couple of outdoor economic stats for Red. McClintock's district:
 - Yosemite National Park contributes an estimated 422 million dollars each year to local gateway economies, directly supporting 6,660 jobs.

California's 20th congressional district - Vince Fong ([map](#)):

- The district includes the Southern Sierra and is home to Sequoia National Park.
- [Office locations & contact info](#) or reach out to your direct connection.
- Sadly, Congressman Fong has co-sponsored HR 521 introduced this year that undermines and/or repeal the Antiquities Act.

California's 1st congressional district - Doug LaMalfa ([map](#)):

- The district includes the Northern Sierra and Southern Cascades and is home to S  t  tla National Monument, Lassen National Park, and Shasta National Forest.
- [Office locations & contact info](#) or reach out to your direct connection.
- Sadly, Congressman LaMalfa has co-sponsored HR 521 introduced this year that undermines and/or repeal the Antiquities Act.