



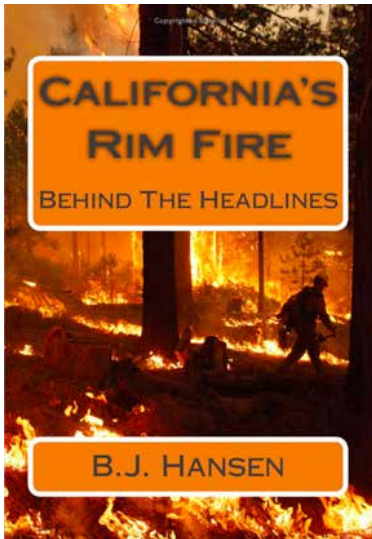
SIERRA CLUB

# The Sequoia

## Join us April 28 for Zoom Presentation On the Rim Fire and Its Aftermath

INSIDE

30 BY 30 - AN ACTION PLAN  
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
ISSUES & UPDATES



*The Rim Fire had all the ingredients of a perfect drama, that's why it became an international news story. It was an out-of-control raging fire that put thousands of homes at risk, ripped through portions of Yosemite National Park, and created concerns about the water supply for San Francisco.*

*"California's Rim Fire: Behind the Headlines" by B.J. Hansen is the culmination of in-depth interviews with several of the key players that responded to the fire and community members who were impacted. It is designed to paint a clear picture of the efforts to stop the fire's progression in its early stages and what led to its explosive growth, the controversial investigation into the cause, how a community rallied together, and the divisive political debates it ignited. Available on Amazon*

On Wednesday, April 28th at 7pm, the Tuolumne Group will host local author and journalist B.J. Hansen in a Zoom session looking back at the the 2013 Rim Fire which engulfed over 250,000 acres of the Stanislaus National Forest and left an indelible mark upon our region.

B.J. Hansen's 2015 book, *California's Rim Fire: Behind The Headlines* details the events and circumstances, some of them unexpected, surrounding this immense natural disaster.

Hansen's presentation will be followed by a discussion and an update from John Buckley of CSERC on the current status of some of the affected areas. ■

**Join us via Zoom on April 28th at 7pm to learn the real stories behind the headlines of the Rim Fire from author B.J. Hansen.**

**Email John Buckley at [johnb@cserc.org](mailto:johnb@cserc.org) to request your personal Zoom invitation in advance of the event.**



U.S. Forest Service photo by Mike McMillan

# Conservation Updates on Local Issues

*John Buckley*



**GRAY WOLVES ARE LISTED AS ENDANGERED IN CALIFORNIA BUT WERE REMOVED FROM THE FEDERAL ROSTER IN JANUARY 2021. PRIOR TO 2011, A GRAY WOLF HAD NOT BEEN SPOTTED IN CALIFORNIA SINCE THE 1920s, WHEN THEY WERE WIPED OUT BY HUNTERS.**

## USFS Prepares to Start Cedar Ridge Project

A years-long USFS planning process to do wildfire risk treatments and forest health actions around Cedar Ridge (northwest of Twain Harte) is about to begin on-the-ground work soon. Cedar Ridge was identified as one of the most vulnerable forest communities where adjacent USFS lands have overly dense forests, thickets of brush, and inadequate areas prepped to fight wildfires.

Once the project starts, fuel reduction treatments will remove small to mid-size trees. Brushfields will be masticated. Strategic fuel breaks will be created, and an abandoned mineshaft will be closed-off for public safety. ■

## Drought Conditions Prevail Again in the Region

Despite a number of good snowstorms over the winter months, the overall snowpack for the local region is less than 2/3 of normal. After a similar dry water year in 2020, the pattern of the combined years shows moderate drought conditions as estimated by the Department of Water Resources. Area residents will be encouraged to make strong efforts to conserve water in order to collectively scale back overall water use in the region. ■

## Solitary Gray Wolf Continues to Roam Across the State

A radio-collared gray wolf named OR-93 traveled from Oregon last year and has now explored much of Northern California, the Sierra Nevada, and even parts of the Central Valley. As of April 1st he was detected in Monterey County after he left the Sierra Nevada region, crossed Interstate 5, and headed west. Biologists guess that he is searching for a mate. ■



*W Eugene Slowik Jr - Wiki Commons*



# 30 by 30 - An Ambitious Strategy to Preserve Biodiversity & Fight Climate Change

Betty Chase

“30 BY 30” is the new rallying cry for conservation activists who are fighting climate change and striving to protect the estimated one million species at risk of going extinct. The 30 by 30 goal aims to conserve at least 30 percent of our planet’s land and ocean by 2030. Government entities across the globe are committing to goals that cascade from countries to states to localities.

## The International Pledge

So far, more than 50 countries have signed on to the international 30 by 30 effort to protect biodiversity and mitigate the effects of climate change. It’s a great start, but many more countries must join together to conserve 30 percent of our planet’s land and ocean by the year 2030.

## The U.S. Pledge

In keeping with his campaign pledge, President Biden issued an executive order on January 27 directing the U.S. federal government to double-down on climate action and committing the U.S. to achieving the 30 by 30 target.

It’s an inspirational and daunting goal. Although the federal government owns about 28 percent of all land in the U.S., most of it isn’t being sustainably managed. Ending fossil fuel extraction from federal lands and U.S. waters is not enough. To meet the 30 by 30 target we must both set aside new lands and improve conservation on private lands.

## The California Pledge

In October 2020, California Governor Newsom signed an executive order that supports the 30 by 30 goal. California state agencies are planning strategies to deploy nature-based solutions to sequester carbon and preserve California’s biodiversity. Working with private landowners will be key, because 90% of the California landmass are natural and working lands: forests, coasts, deserts, wetlands, ranches, farms, orchards, and urban greenspace.

As with all conservation measures, definitions count. What will count as “conservation”? How will competing interests be balanced? It’s up to us to make our voices heard, because inaction will be devastating to the planet.

For 30 by 30 to work, local communities must get involved. The first state outreach meeting for the Sierra Nevada Region is April 28. You can sign up to engage in the 30 by 30 planning process by sending email to [outreach@resources.ca.gov](mailto:outreach@resources.ca.gov) with NBS in the subject line. ■

## CALIFORNIA CLIMATE CHANGE FACTS

### Temperatures Rising

In the last century, Southern California has warmed about 3 degrees fahrenheit, while California as a whole has warmed by 1 to 2 degrees fahrenheit.

On Sept. 6, 2020, Los Angeles County hit its highest recorded temperature when Woodland Hills reached 121 degrees.

The 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 2005, and 7 of the 10 have occurred just since 2014.

### Ocean Warming

More than 90% of the warming that has happened on Earth over the past 50 years has been absorbed by the ocean, warming seas hurt marine life, increase the intensity of storms like hurricanes and tropical cyclones, and drive sea levels higher.

### Snowpack Declining

California depends on mountain snowpacks as natural, frozen reservoirs, but higher temperatures mean that more precipitation falls as rain instead of snow, the snowline is rising, and snow melts earlier.

Since 1915, the average snowpack in western states has declined by between 15 and 30 percent, and the amount of water lost from that snowpack reduction is comparable in volume to Lake Mead.

When the snowpack melts earlier, plants and soils have longer to dry out. A 2016 study found that over 70 percent of the area burned in forest fires between 1970 and 2012 occurred in years where the winter snows disappeared early.

### Sea Level Rising

Rising sea levels will bring more salt-water into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta – the heart of the California water supply system and the source of water for 25 million Californians and millions of acres of prime farmland. To keep out the salt water out, more freshwater will need to be pushed through the Delta, decreasing the amount of water available for people who rely on it.

### Wildfires Increasing

Cal Fire has said publicly that it no longer considers there to be a wildfire season because the season is now all year long. Five of the top 20 largest California wildfires occurred in 2020. Eight of the 10 largest fires in CA history have burned in the past decade.



cubicroot from Pixabay



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Due to COVID-19, the Tuolumne Group Executive Committee is currently only meeting by phone or with online sessions. For information on how to participate in the next ExCom call, contact Elaine Hagen at the email listed below.

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**Secretary**

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**Treasurer** Kevin Rice, [kjrice@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kjrice@ucdavis.edu)

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**News Editor** Joe David, [jd@daviddesign.com](mailto:jd@daviddesign.com)

**We welcome your input and feedback.**

## NOTES & UPDATES

### WED. APRIL 28 • RIM FIRE PRESENTATION WITH B.J. HANSEN

Our Sierra Club Tuolumne Group will host a Zoom presentation with local author and journalist, **B.J. Hansen** who will discuss his book: *California's Rim Fire – Beyond the Headlines*. Followed by updates and discussion. **Details on page 1 of this newsletter.**

### CONNECT WITH YOUR SIERRA CLUB TUOLUMNE GROUP

Want to get more involved with your local Sierra Club group? Interested in joining our Executive Committee? Have a great idea for a local Sierra Club presentation? There are many ways to volunteer for whatever time you are able to share. Interested members are invited to attend our monthly ExCom meetings. Email your ideas to Membership Chair, Elaine Hagen at [elainehagen@att.net](mailto:elainehagen@att.net).

### GET INVOLVED • TAKE ACTION

Today, years of hard-fought environmental protections are under threat—and to influence governments and businesses, we need everyone to speak up and shout out. Explore how you can get involved: go to [www.sierraclub.org/take-action](http://www.sierraclub.org/take-action)

### RATHER RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email either instead of, or in addition to our printed edition, email your request to [mail@sierratuolumne.org](mailto:mail@sierratuolumne.org).

The Sequoia Newsletter is designed to provide local Sierra Club members with a trusted source of information on people, events, and issues impacting our environment. Members can also find additional information on our updated web page: [www.sierratuolumne.org](http://www.sierratuolumne.org).

