



The Sequoia

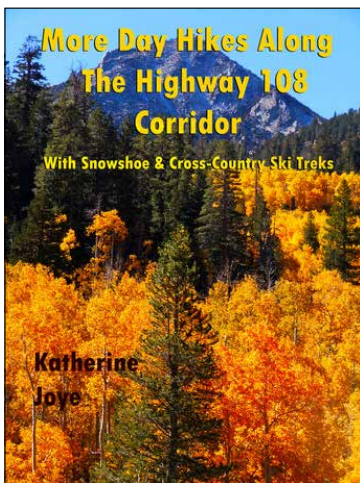
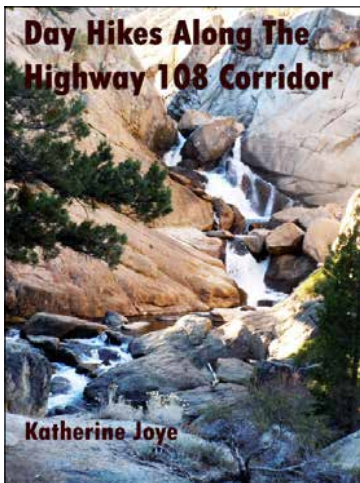
HIKING THROUGH HISTORY Tuolumne Group Hosts California Naturalist and Trail Guide Author Katherine Joye Sept 25 at Library

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Books by Kathi Joye

PLEASE JOIN US at 7:00pm, Wednesday, September 25th at the Sonora Library for a presentation by California naturalist and guide book author Katherine Joye as she shares her experiences and knowledge gleaned from years of documenting hikes in our region.

Tuolumne County, like other California counties, is steeped in geologic and cultural history. Many of the day hikes along the highway 108 corridor reflect this rich past. Quite a number of hiking trails are in areas where evidence of distinct geologic events that formed and shaped the Sierra Nevada Mountains are on full display. A few trails pass by remnants of ancient Me-Wuk communities that resided in the area to hunt, fish and gather. After gold was discovered in California, Tuolumne County was transformed in many ways as people from many nationalities poured into the area to try their hand at mining, all of which is evident along a number of hiking trails particularly at the low to mid-elevations. The Hiking Through History program will present a few examples of hikes in Tuolumne County that reflect its multi-faceted past.

Kathi Joye, a former science teacher and researcher, has published two hiking guides for the highway 108 corridor to serve as a resource for the community and visitors to the area so that they can access the beauty of Tuolumne County via hiking trails. She currently lives in Twain Harte and regularly hikes and runs the local trails with her dogs. She also gets up into the high country to backpack each summer.

Her books, *Day Hikes Along the Highway 108 Corridor* and *More Day Hikes Along the Highway 108 Corridor* will be for sale at the event. Books can also be purchased at Kathi's website: www.kathijoye.weebly.com.



Space is limited. Come early for best seating. **Doors open at 6:30pm 7pm Wednesday, Sept. 25th at the Sonora Library, 480 Greenley Rd.**

UPDATE

Visitor Access Plan for Yosemite Moves to Next Phase

PUBLIC COMMENTS ACCEPTED THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Summer traffic gridlock in Yosemite.



On August 14th, the Park Service released the Yosemite Park Visitor Access Management Draft Plan along with some lengthy environmental analysis. According to the Park Service: “The plan was developed based on lessons learned from previous pilots, employee feedback, stakeholder input, and public comment periods”.

The key reason why the Park is evaluating options for managing vehicles and visitors is the significant amount of traffic jams, over-crowding, and congestion that have become so rampant over recent years. Yosemite Park has always been popular, but due to social media and intense marketing by gateway area businesses, the Park has experienced years of unacceptable congestion and traffic problems. Unfortunately, when the Park Service has attempted to take steps to reduce the number of vehicles, and long delays at entrance stations, business interests and regional politicians have strongly lobbied to curtail any restrictions on vehicles or crowding. Now, with this new Plan, the Park Service is slowly working through a years-long planning process to look at various management options.

Basically, in its new plan, the Park has provided four alternatives for public consideration. Alternative A is a “no action” alternative that would allow unlimited numbers of vehicles to enter the Park each day and to continue to cause traffic jams, crowding, and congestion.

Alternative B and Alternative C would both require day-use reservations -- similar to how the Park is managing visitation this year. Alternative B would be based upon reservations that would either be for entry any time of the day or afternoon entry only.

Alternative C would distribute entries with day-use reservations in two-hour windows for entry. Someone visiting for the day would need to arrive at the entrance station in the two-hour time slot tied to their reservation.

Similar to the no-action alternative, Alternative D would allow unlimited vehicles into the Park. But it would limit private day-use vehicles accessing Yosemite Valley to only those who obtain a Yosemite Valley reservation. Each reservation would tie to a two-hour entry period. While anyone could enter the rest of the Park, only those with a day-use reservation could enter the east end of Yosemite Valley which typically is the busiest part of the Park.

For many years the national Sierra Club has strongly advocated for reservations (as in Alt. B and Alt. C) and for balancing tourism with protection for stressed Park resources.

To see plan & provide your comments, go to: parkplanning.nps.gov/YosemiteVisitorAccess

Find links to the Yosemite Visitor Access Plan Home Page and Comments Page on our local Tuolumne Group Website:
www.sierratuolumne.org

USFS Agrees Not to Log Large Trees in SERAL 2.0 Project, Puts Off Decision Whether to Use Herbicides

Our local Sierra Club group has spent years participating in stakeholder discussions about forest management in our local area. The Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS) group, in particular, has been the forum for discussing logging, herbicide use, wildlife issues, and other national forest issues of concern.

In the recent SERAL 2.0 project, the USFS proposed to log trees up to 40" in diameter for various reasons and to also spray herbicides to control plants on fuel breaks. Herbicides could be used on up to 7,500 acres – 10 square miles. Our Tuolumne Group twice submitted comments opposing both proposals, while otherwise supporting the thinning logging, biomass removal, broadcast burning, and other proposed treatments.

In August, local Forest officials decided to withdraw their proposal to log large trees up to 40" in diameter. That was good news for the environmental community. But the agency put off making a decision until fall about whether to use herbicides across thousands of acres of fuel breaks in the SERAL 2.0 project area. Our Group continues to oppose widespread chemical treatments on the public forest – especially when there are other effective options such as mowing, masticating, shredding, and broadcast burning.

California Shows Progress On Clean Energy Goals

ALEJANDRO LAZO | CALMATTERS

California recently hit a milestone: 100 days this year with 100% carbon-free, renewable electricity for at least a part of each day, as tracked by Stanford University engineering Professor Mark Z. Jacobson. The state notched the milestone while — so far — avoiding blackouts and emergency power reductions this year, even with the hottest July on record.

The state faces a huge challenge in coming years. A series of mandates will require carbon-free energy while also putting more electric cars on roads and electric appliances in homes. California, under state law, must run on 60% renewable energy by 2030, ramping up to 100% by 2045.

There are signs of progress. From January to mid-July of this year, zero-carbon, renewable energy exceeded demand in California for 945 hours during 146 days, equivalent to a month-and-a-half of 100% fossil-fuel-free electricity, according to the California Energy Commission, the agency tasked with carrying out the clean energy mandates.

But California still has a long way to go. Natural gas, which emits greenhouse gases and air pollutants, remains its single largest source of electricity.

What's next: Reliability of the power grid is a top concern as the state switches to solar and wind energy. Unpredictable events like wildfires and winter storms also cause outages, while hot summer months, with air conditioners whirring, strain the supply.

California now has more than 10,000 megawatts of battery capacity, making it the largest supply outside of China. Battery power from large commercial facilities proved its worth during last month's heat wave, Mainzer said.

California may need to more than double its energy generation capacity by 2045 to meet the 100% clean energy target while adding electric cars, appliances and other technologies, said Siva Gunda, who sits on the California Energy Commission.

To do that, California aims to build about 6,000 to 8,000 megawatts of new energy resources each year. The state hit a record last year, adding more than 6,000 megawatts, Gunda said. Each megawatt is enough to serve between 750 and 1,000 homes.

Sierra Club Celebrates Dept of Interior \$195 Million to Protect and Improve National Parks

WASHINGTON, DC —Earlier this year, the Department of the Interior announced funding for dozens of projects across the country to address climate restoration and resilience in National Parks. The \$195 million investment, which comes from the Inflation Reduction Act, will restore ecosystems, provide climate protection for cultural resources, improve visitor safety, invest in volunteer and youth programs, invest in conservation jobs, and much more.

Examples of projects include:

Protection from climate impacts such as wildfires for National Parks
Funding to expand youth and volunteer-focused programs such as the Landscape Stewardship Corps, Pacific Islands Conservation Corps, and YMCA Partnership Program.
Management of invasive plants

Sierra Club Director of the Outdoors for All Campaign, Jackie Ostfeld, released the following statement:

"This forward-looking investment is so important for ensuring that future generations will still have National Parks to enjoy and instill a love for nature in them. Taking action to provide climate-resilient protection for our forests, mountains, and lakes is vital.

"We applaud the administration's investment in youth and volunteer programs, which will provide many young people with the opportunity to explore careers in the conservation and outdoors sectors. This investment will not only work to protect our public lands for current and future visitors, but also establish a next generation of protectors and advocates."



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The Tuolumne Group Executive Committee meets by Zoom ten times each year. For information on how to participate in the next ExCom meeting, email membership chair Elaine Hagen at elainehagen@att.net

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We welcome your input and feedback.

NOTES & UPDATES

CONNECT WITH YOUR SIERRA CLUB TUOLUMNE GROUP

Want to put your support for the environment into action?

Consider joining our Executive Committee. Have a great idea for a local Sierra Club presentation? There are many ways to volunteer with our group.

Interested members are invited to attend one of our ExCom meetings.

Contact Membership Chair, Elaine Hagen at elainehagen@att.net.

“HIKING THROUGH HISTORY” PRESENTATION BY NATURALIST & LOCAL TRAIL GUIDE AUTHOR KATHI JOYE - SEPT. 25TH

Tuolumne Sierra Club will host local trail guide author Kathi Joye for a presentation on Wednesday evening, September 25th at 7pm at the Sonora Library, 480 Greenley Rd. FREE - Come early for best seats! See page 1 for details.

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.

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.

