



North Fork Mono Tribe
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September 6, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the North Fork Mono Tribe, I the Tribal Chairman, submit this support letter to Unite the Parks in hopes of in-stilling a stronger and futuristic ideal management of our Sacred Forest lands.

We are a State Recognized Aboriginal Tribe with a homeland encompassing 1.4 million acres in the central Sierra Nevada region; our homeland covers a major portion of the Sierra National Forest; three counties – all of eastern Madera County – portions of southeastern Mariposa County and northeastern Fresno County, as well as Devil's Post Pile National Monument and a bit of Inyo National Forest.

For hundreds of years, we traveled from the foothills of this area, over the mountains to the Eastern Sierra, trading, gathering, hunting and living in our homeland. This area has since been devastated by poor land management practices, which have made the forest vulnerable. In the past decade, the recent drought, beetle-kill, and wildfires have weakened our forest. The Creek Fire burned 378,000 plus acres in the heart of our homeland, and left bare earth, where oaks, conifers and native cultural plants once thrived abundantly.

We are now at work restoring meadows and performing cultural burns on this landscape, to recreate the paradise that once was, and to nurture and rejuvenate life back on the landscape to provide resources for our people as well as the plants and animals. All the species are our relatives, they inhabit the earth with us, and we are the stewards. Our work on the land creates a guardianship for humanity, because our trees and meadows absorb carbon and help fight climate change on a warming planet already suffering from the consequences of the failure to halt carbon emissions.

Commercialized logging of our old growth trees, grazing in our meadows, and the use of herbicides to kill native plant species are not activities that serve or protect wildlife or human life; these practices create setbacks for us on the path to healing. Meadows were once bombed or blasted to allow the water in the meadows to drain so farmed animals could graze the meadow grass. There are some 10,000 meadows that all need some sort of repair or restoration.

Therefore, on behalf of the Tribal Council, I wish to express our support for the national monument concept, as presented to us by Unite the Parks and Deanna Wulff and mostly expressed in Bill HR 9600, which was introduced in 2022. We support the idea of addressing these issues and practices and reestablishing our native trails. preserving cultural sites and resources, sacred sites, creating maps with Native American placenames, holding our ceremonies, and, above all, healing the land with Native American ecological knowledge, traditional cultural practices and spirituality.

Sincerely

Ron W. Goode

Hon. Ron W. Goode, Tribal Chair