



The Sequoia

Remembering Bryce Whitmore and the Early Days of California Rafting with Photographer & Author Tyler Childress Sept 24 at Sonora Library

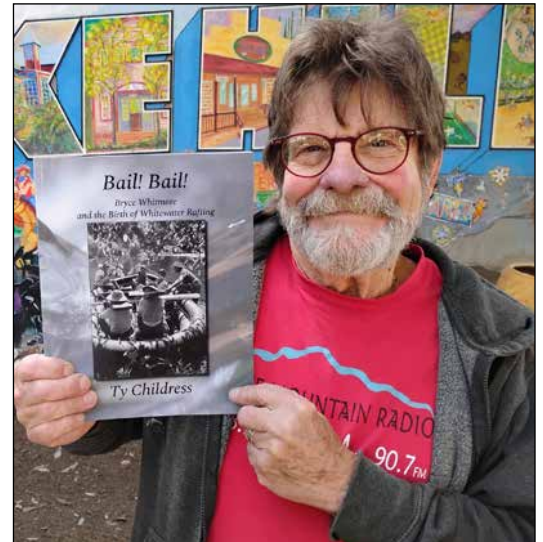
INSIDE

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION WORKS TO WEAKEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS
GREENLEY BYPASS REVIVAL
FIGHT BACK - JOIN OUR EXCOM

JOIN US at 7pm, on Wednesday, September 24th at the Sonora Library for a presentation by photographer, author, and veteran river guide Tyler Childress as he shares images and stories from his new book, *Bail! Bail! - Bryce Whitmore and the Birth of Whitewater Rafting*.

Tyler's book tells the true story of rafting pioneer Bryce Whitmore, a small-town boy from Wooster, Ohio, who starts the first river rafting company in California and Oregon, goes on to invent the first fiberglass river kayak on the West Coast, the first self-bailing raft, and at 97-years-of-age, is inducted into the InterNational White-water Hall of Fame.

Tyler remembers: "In the firmament of white-water rafting and kayaking, Bryce was my pole star. He led me and many other aspiring river guides to follow lives of riverine fervor."



Come meet Tyler, get your book signed, and hear how a rafting guide with a camera and a notebook turned decades of whitewater memories into a moving, often hilarious, tribute to a life well lived. **7pm Wednesday evening, September 24th, at the Sonora Library**



Bryce Whitmore (right) with aspiring river guide, Marty McDonnell of Sierra Mac River Trips.

Space is limited. Come early for best seating. **Doors open at 6:30pm**
7pm Wednesday, Sept 24th at the Sonora Library, 480 Greenley Rd.

*An early oarsman negotiates Razorback rapid on the Stanislaus River in a vintage "basket boat".
Photo by Tyler Childress*



Administration Weakens Environmental Policies, Ramps up Logging, Promotes Oil & Gas, Reduces Staffing for Federal Lands



*We need your voice!
Powerful change is possible when we take action together.
Explore how you can get involved. Go online to:
sierraclub.org/take-action*

A YEAR AGO, it would have been hard to imagine the unprecedented wave of anti-environmental actions that have been unleashed by the current Administration. An early Executive Order mandated that timber production is to be significantly increased on national forest and BLM lands, with a directive to rescind or remove any environmental policies that get in the way. That mandate has resulted in Forest Service staffs openly admitting that their priority is to ramp up logging and other commercial uses.

Actions at the Environmental Protection Agency have been publicized as intended to “drive a dagger into the heart of those believing in Climate Change”. “Drill, baby, drill!” has been a repeated phrase emphasized by the President, even as he ridicules those who oppose his actions to phase out incentives for solar and other alternative energy sources.

The Administration has publicized plans to phase out the Forest Service’s Regional Offices, where a large percentage of FS staff have worked for decades to protect natural resources and to support local national forests. Local forests are struggling to do all the needed work due in part to a reduced number of permanent staff along with the complete elimination of all of the usual seasonal FS staff except for firefighters.

In the local region, the fact that the Tuolumne Group of the Sierra Club participates in a major forest stakeholder group helps to influence to some degree whether there is consensus support for huge Forest Service projects. Because the Administration is shrinking federal agencies, that means that there is a need to hire more private contractors to fill gaps. Often the only funding available may be state grants. Those grants are unlikely to be awarded to federal projects that run counter to local forest stakeholder agreement.

Based on the recently passed national level budget for the federal land agencies, in the near future there will almost certainly be countless restrooms without toilet paper, rare wildlife species with no protective management, roads falling deeper into disrepair, and meadows overgrazed along with streams being polluted. Until there is a significant political shift, federal lands in our vast region face dire conditions.

Think Globally — Act Locally Join Our ExCom Group!

Our Sierra Club Tuolumne Group functions thanks to the efforts of our Executive Committee (ExCom).

ExCom members meet 8 times per year for an hour (currently via Zoom), to discuss and monitor local environmental issues. We plan occasional public presentations and outings, coordinate our newsletter, and in general ensure that the group operates for the benefit of the local environment. Keeping members up to date on relevant local challenges is a large part of our work.

Each year we reach out for new ExCom members. *This year, the situation is critical.* Our Excom group is in dire need of new members.

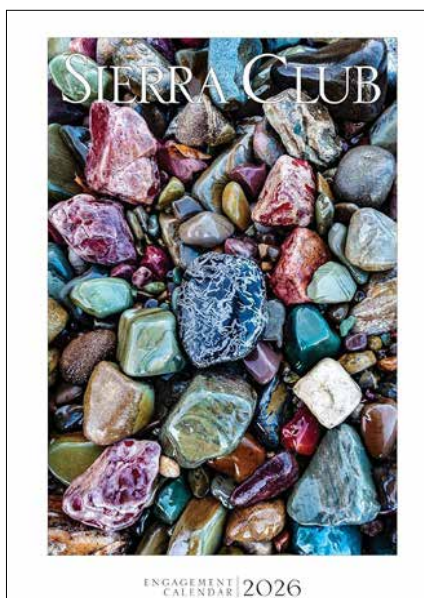
Our meetings are few, but the issues we are watching continue to grow. Several slots that need to be filled for 2026. Any local members are eligible to join the ExCom. *The call to protect our environment has never been more urgent.*

There are many ways to put your skills and interests to work on our ExCom team, all with the knowledge that you are contributing to efforts to protect and preserve our local environment. New members can make an impact and help to determine our group's agenda moving forward.

If you'd like to be a part of our ExCom, or just want to attend one of our meetings to learn more about local issues and meet our members, contact John at johnb@cserc.org.

2026 Calendars Coming Soon

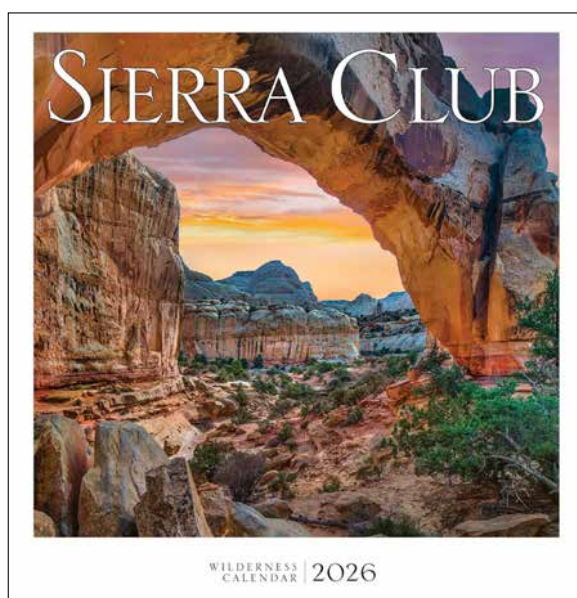
The Perfect Holiday Gift - Calendar Sales Help to Support Our Group



2026 Engagement Calendar - \$20

2026 Sierra Club Calendars will be available for purchase again this year. Our Tuolumne group directly benefits from the sale of these calendars because we get to keep 60% of the sale price!

Loaded with the best nature photography, Sierra Club calendars are both beautiful and functional. They really make great holiday gifts.



2026 Wall Calendar - \$19

To order calendars email Jennie Moiso at johnjen47@hotmail.com, or call 209-533-9417.

In Groveland, you can email Bob Asquith at bobasquith@gmail.com. We can mail your calendars, or arrange to drop them off in person.

New "North-South Connector" Road Could Bypass Sonora

Years in the past, local area citizens debated the proposed construction of a new road dubbed the "North South Connector". The goal would be to divert traffic away from Washington Street in downtown Sonora. The road would extend from the north end of Greenley Road and stretch across to Highway 49 north of Sonora at one of numerous possible connection points.

That dormant plan has recently been resurrected by Tuolumne County and the City of Sonora. In coming months there will be public engagement meetings and eventually a specific proposal released for public comments — especially for those who may be directly affected by the new road location.

National Park Service Intentionally Ramps Up Visitor Levels in Yosemite

For years Yosemite has struggled with traffic jams and congestion due to too many vehicles and visitors. But at a recent presentation to Mariposa County supervisors, new Park Superintendent Ray McPadden stated his goal to significantly increase visitors to Yosemite Park — a position far different than Park Service goals under the previous Administration. McPadden shared that even in the abbreviated 2-month-long day-use reservation system this year, the Park intentionally increased available reservations by 31%. He estimated that Yosemite visitation for this year could jump up by one-half million visitors compared to last year. Many visitors to Yosemite this year have found parking lots jammed with no place to park.



**SIERRA
CLUB**
TUOLUMNE GROUP

P.O. BOX 4440 · SONORA, CALIFORNIA 95370

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sacramento, CA
Permit #2106



**SIERRA
CLUB**
TUOLUMNE GROUP

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

Secretary-Treasurer

Joanne Mccullough, californiacountrymcc@gmail.com

Outings Keith Martin, keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net

Chapter Delegate Keith Martin, keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net

Membership Elaine Hagen, elainehagen@att.net

News Editor Joe David, jd@daviddesign.com

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.

AUTHOR & PHOTOGRAPHER TYLER CHILDRESS SEPTEMBER 24

Tuolumne Sierra Club will host author, photographer, and veteran river guide Tyler Childress for a presentation & book signing Wednesday evening, Sept 24th at 7pm at the Sonora Library, 480 Greenley Rd. FREE - Come early for best seats!

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.

