



# The Sequoia

## Join us for Zoom Presentation Featuring Photos from Wildlife Survey Cameras

On Wednesday March 24th at 7pm, the Tuolumne Group offers our members a chance to participate in a Zoom session that will feature a Powerpoint slide show program about wildlife of our region. Caitlyn Rich and John Buckley of the CSERC staff will present more than 100 slides showing photo results from the Center's many years of photo-surveys for at-risk wildlife. Most of the surveys have been in the local national forest and in Yosemite Park.

The program will feature a wide range of photographs of common as well as rare wildlife species, along with some of the stories behind the photo results. Zoom participants will see some truly beautiful photos of wildlife, and learn about the challenges of searching for often-elusive species.

If you're interested in joining us via Zoom on March 24th at 7pm to view these amazing photos – the results of 25 years of surveying wildlife – email John Buckley at [johnb@cserc.org](mailto:johnb@cserc.org) to request a personal Zoom invitation in advance of the event. ■

### INSIDE

WE WELCOME NEW  
SNAP PARTICIPANTS  
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
ISSUES & UPDATES  
WILDLIFE PHOTO ZOOM  
PRESENTATION MARCH 24TH >>



Setting up a baited camera station is like a treasure hunt. We never know what exciting animal may come to get its picture taken. Join us on Zoom, Wed, March 24 @7pm to share our discoveries!

Email [johnb@cserc.org](mailto:johnb@cserc.org) to receive an invitation to this event.



# Conservation Updates on Local Issues

*John Buckley*



## TUD Aims for Takeover of PG&E Facilities Including Pinecrest Reservoir

More than 30 years ago, PG&E signed a contractual agreement to provide free water to Tuolumne County in perpetuity as PG&E manages Lyons Reservoir and its power generation facility above Phoenix Lake. That free water is a great deal for the ratepayers of the Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD). But TUD management and Board members aspire to control water that belongs to PG&E and to control and manage all of PG&E's local area facilities. In the name of "local control" TUD appears willing to stick TUD customers with millions of dollars of costs for maintaining and operating Lyons Reservoir, Pinecrest, and the Main Tuolumne Canal – as well as the purchase price for these major facilities -- despite the fact that TUD already gets all the water it needs for free from PG&E. This is not just an economic matter, but it is also an environmental one, since TUD's track record on conservation is very weak compared to PG&E's. ■



## State Officials Intend to Develop a "30 X 30" Conservation Plan for California....

Echoing a global theme, State leaders have committed to "conserve" 30% of California by 2030. This "30 X 30" campaign offers activists a chance to promote strong conservation measures as key objectives in the plan. It is possible that under this plan, more areas will be set aside to keep them in a natural, "conserved" condition. Others may attempt to shape the plan to get credit for logging lands, livestock ranches, and orchards as long as those uses minimize impacts to nature. Environmentalists strongly endorse making the plan meaningful by actually protecting at least 30% of the state. To engage in this 30 X 30 planning process, sign up at: [outreach@resources.ca.gov](mailto:outreach@resources.ca.gov). ■

# Tuolumne Group Recruits Two New Sierra Nevada Alliance Partnership Participants

Kevin Rice

**I**T IS A PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE that our Tuolumne Group is once again collaborating with the Tuolumne River Trust to sponsor two new participants within the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP). We are proud to introduce our new SNAP participants, Robert Heim and James Hart. SNAP is a program of the Sierra Nevada Alliance through which young environmentalists are placed with partner conservation organizations throughout the Sierra Nevada. During their terms of service, James and Robert will help to restore and monitor impaired Sierra watersheds, as well as provide outreach and education to Sierra residents and visitors on environmental issues.



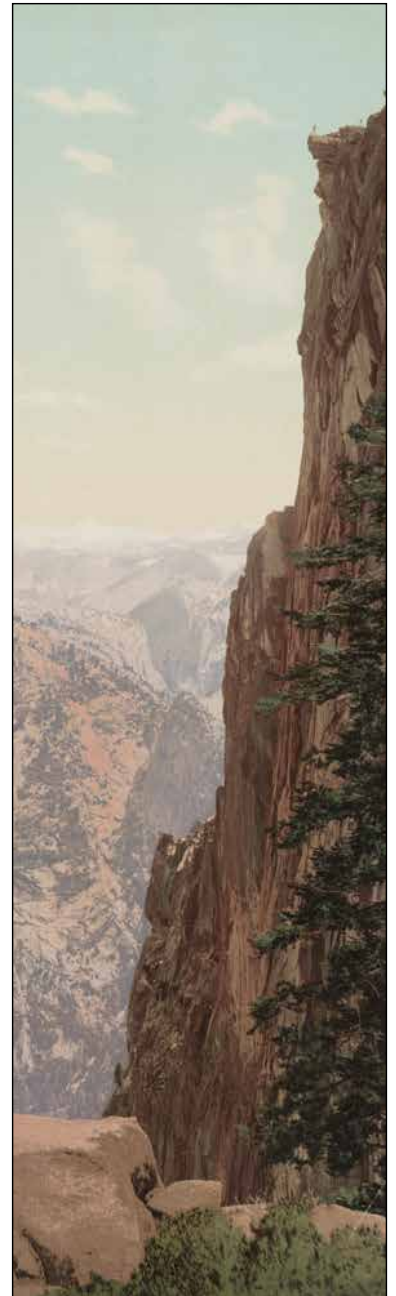
**Robert Heim** grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and developed a deep appreciation for the Sierra Nevada mountains while backpacking the John Muir Trail as a youth. A recent graduate from the Bren School at UC Santa Barbara, Robert holds a master's degree in Environmental Science and Management with an emphasis in Conservation Planning. In 2019, Robert interned with Los Padres ForestWatch, where he used GIS to map illegal off-road vehicle sites in the Los Padres National Forest. This experience instilled Robert with an awareness of the threats to public lands, and motivated him to help restore forests that support native biodiversity and provide benefits to human and natural communities. As a 2020-21 SNAP member with the Tuolumne River Trust, Robert works with a dedicated team on forest and watershed restoration projects in the Stanislaus National Forest. He is excited to be-

come involved with the Motherlode Chapter of the Sierra Club, where he will be assisting with youth outreach efforts in Tuolumne County.



**James Hart** will be serving this year as a Forest Health Specialist with the Tuolumne River Trust. As a native of Tidewater, Virginia, the mountains of California will be a new and exciting place to work and explore. James graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2019 with a degree in Conservation Biology, focusing on botany and forest ecology. He spent his summers during college doing trail work in New England and collecting stream ecology data in southern Wisconsin. After graduating, he took part in a short-term position at a salmon hatchery in Alaska and an AmeriCorps term in eastern Washington State. James was drawn to the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership by the natural resource challenges the region faces and the good that service work can do in furthering conservation goals. He looks forward to partnering with the Motherlode Chapter of the Sierra Club over the coming year and assisting with the group's environmental outreach work here in Tuolumne county. When he's not working, you can find him cycling around, hiking, or playing his guitar.

Working with both the Tuolumne River Trust and the Sierra Club, Robert and James will engage with key environmental issues in the Calaveras and Tuolumne regions, gain first-hand field experience in watershed conservation/restoration, and add an impressive accomplishment to their resume. Our Group will benefit greatly from their expertise and youthful enthusiasm. ■





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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.

**Chair** Jim Bearden, [jbearden@ieeee.org](mailto:jbearden@ieeee.org)

**Secretary**

Karen Swanson, [tuolumnegroupsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:tuolumnegroupsecretary@gmail.com)

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

**Outings** Keith & Beth Martin, [keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net)

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

**Webmaster** Jim Bearden, [jbearden@ieeee.org](mailto:jbearden@ieeee.org)

**Membership** Elaine Hagen, [elainehagen@att.net](mailto:elainehagen@att.net)

**Political Chair** Kara Bechtle, [campaignerkara@gmail.com](mailto:campaignerkara@gmail.com)

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

**We welcome your input and feedback.**

## NOTES & UPDATES

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 24 • ZOOM WILDLIFE PRESENTATION

Join us for a special Zoom presentation by John Buckley highlighting 25 years of Sierra wildlife surveys. Including images of rare wildlife visiting remote cameras in Yosemite and the Stanislaus National Forest. **Presentation details on p.1 of this newsletter.**

### SAVE THE DATE • WED. APRIL 28 • RIM FIRE PRESENTATION

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. More information to come.

### 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).

### 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).

