



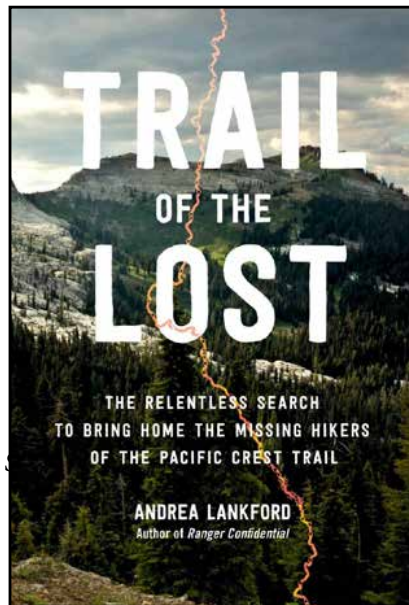
# The Sequoia

Come Explore the “Trail of the Lost”  
Sierra Club to Host Author Andrea Lankford  
7pm, October 25th at the Sonora Library

## INSIDE

TUOLUMNE CHAPTER URGENTLY  
SEEKS NEW EXCOM MEMBERS  
NEW FOREST “HAZARD TREE”  
PLAN MISSES THE MARK

***Trail of the Lost*** is a gripping nonfiction narrative that delves into the cases of three hikers who vanished on the PCT, the people looking for them, and the history, rich subculture, and practices that surround the PCT and those who undertake the 2,650 mile journey from Mexico to Canada.



Local author  
Andrea Lankford  
& the cover of her  
bestselling book,  
Trail of the Lost

Join us Wednesday, October 25th at the Sonora Library at 7pm to meet and hear New York Times bestselling author, Andrea Lankford as she shares her book: *Trail of the Lost* which details the search for three hikers who disappeared on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Local author Andrea Lankford is the author of New York Times bestseller *Trail of the Lost* and *Ranger Confidential*, a National Geographic “Top Ten Book About U.S. Parks,” as well as three trail guides. During her twelve-year career as a law enforcement ranger with the National Park Service, Andrea won several awards for

her criminal investigations. After leaving the ranger ranks, the accomplished outdoorswoman thru-hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, kayaked from Miami to Key West, and was the first, with Beth Overton, to mountain bike the 800-mile Arizona Trail.

Beautifully written, heartfelt, and at times harrowing, New York Times bestseller *TRAIL OF THE LOST: The Relentless Search to Bring Home the Missing Hikers of the Pacific Crest Trail* paints a vivid picture of hiker culture and its complicated relationship with the ever-expanding online realm.

Andrea will talk for 30 minutes about her experiences, followed by another 30 minute question and answer period. Copies of her book will be for sale at her signing table after the event.

BE THERE

This is our first in-person event since we went online during COVID.

Come and reconnect at this interesting presentation. **Doors open at 6:30 7pm Wednesday, October 25th at the Sonora Library, 480 Greenley Rd.**

# Stanislaus NF Proposes Controversial No Limits “Hazard Tree” Logging Plan



***On top of the other flaws, the new Plan as proposed by the Forest Service would go on forever...with no end date or future option for the public to weigh in with comments.***

**I**T IS LIKELY THAT NO ONE OBJECTS to the U.S. Forest Service cutting down dead or dying trees that have any real potential to fall onto roads and threaten public safety. There are many such trees along some sections of roads in the Stanislaus Forest. But a current new “hazard tree removal plan” now up for approval by the Forest Service would allow the cutting of large, green “defect” trees along 2,000 miles of roads within the local national forest.

Claiming large green trees are “hazards” is highly debatable, especially when they are growing at a considerable distance from a road and are clearly not either dead or dying.

Normally most large green trees are “off limits” to logging in the national forests of the Sierra Nevada region. But under the Stanislaus Forest’s Hazard Tree Plan, the Forest staff could mark countless big green trees for removal if a tree has a dead top or if it has a large dead branch or if it shows other so-called “defects.”

Worse, the new Hazard Tree plan allows such debatable trees to be logged as far as 300 feet away from a road, based on the Forest Service claiming that a 200 ft. tall tree can fall its entire length and then somehow send broken tops or branches forward another 100 feet further toward the road. In total, strips a total of 600 feet wide along up to 2,000 miles of roads in the Stanislaus Forest would become authorized for the logging of large green “defect” trees under the Hazard Tree Plan. This would allow a massive number of trees that are neither dead or

dying to be logged along remote, back-country dirt roads that get extremely minimal vehicle use and where there is honestly a very low risk of a green tree suddenly striking a road.

Local conservation activists have pressed the Forest Service to concentrate on dead and dying trees that truly may fall or break and to target those that legitimately might reach a road. It leads to further mistrust of the Forest Service when staff use debatable defects to target large green trees that are important to wildlife and that don’t appear to pose any real hazard risk.

On top of the other flaws, the new Plan as proposed by the Forest Service would go on forever... with no end date or no future option for the public to weigh in with comments. It would be a permanent plan with no future opportunity for activists to point out flaws or point to issues of concern and to ask for changes.

As this newsletter goes to press, the Stanislaus Forest staff is poised to release a final decision for whether to approve the proposed plan or whether to modify it to reduce controversy.



# Our Local Sierra Club Needs You— Join Our ExCom Group!

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

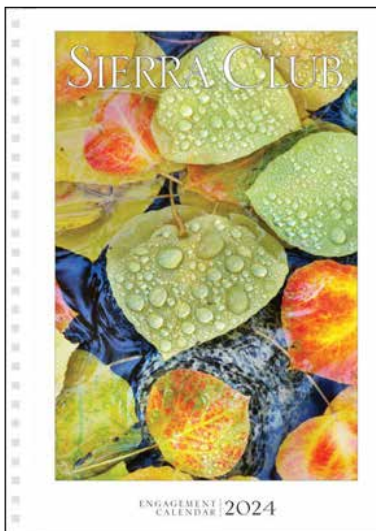
ExCom members meet just 8 times per year for an hour (currently via Zoom), to discuss and monitor local environmental issues. We plan occasional public presentations and outings, coordinate our newsletter, and in general ensure that the group operates for the benefit of the local environment. Keeping 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. There are several slots that need to be filled for 2023. Any local members are eligible to run for the ExCom. *Are you interested in joining?*

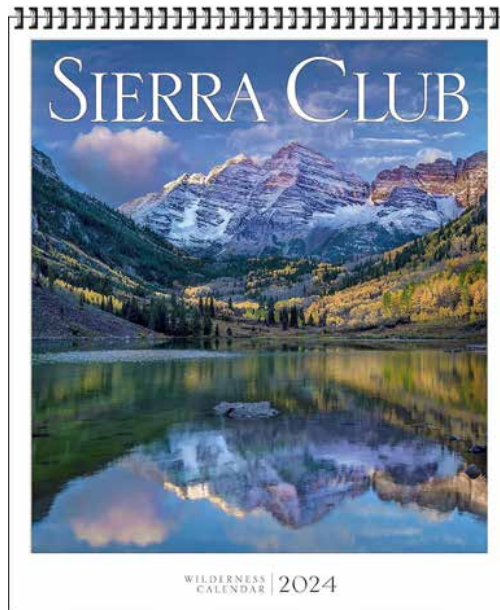
There are many ways to put your skills and interests to work on our ExCom team, all with the knowledge that you are contributing to efforts to protect and preserve our local environment. New members can make an impact and help to determine our group's agenda moving forward.

If you would like to be a part of our ExCom or attend one of our meetings, contact John Buckley at [johnb@cserc.org](mailto:johnb@cserc.org) for details so you can join with others to help the Tuolumne Group to keep functioning effectively.



Engagement Calendar

Wilderness (wall) Calendars are \$19  
Engagement (desk) Calendars are \$20



Wall Calendar

## 2024 Sierra Club Calendars On Sale Now

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

2024 Sierra Club Calendars are now available for purchase. 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.

To order calendars email Jennie Moiso at [johnjen47@hotmail.com](mailto:johnjen47@hotmail.com), or call 209-533-9417.

In Groveland, you can email Bob Asquith at [bobasquith@gmail.com](mailto:bobasquith@gmail.com). We can mail your calendars, or arrange to drop them off in person. *Calendars will also be on sale at our event on October 25th.* (see page 1)

### LOCAL CONSERVATION NOTES

#### Managed Fires in the Forests

This summer the Forest Service brought in fire crews from around the State to help do large prescribed burns for over 3,000 acres around the Pinecrest area. The broadcast burn treatments consume surface and ladder fuels in forest stands with a goal to minimize harm to the medium and large trees. The project was very successful.

The Forest Service decided not to suppress a lightning fire (called the Bone Fire) north of Cherry Lake, and to instead “manage” the wildfire to allow it to burn under control to consume forest fuels until it eventually reached roads to contain it. That strategy worked, and the Bone fire was allowed to spread over 1,100 acres.

In September the Quarry Fire was also managed by the Forest Service instead of being put out. After weeks of crews lighting some areas with drip torches and drones, the Quarry Fire was intentionally allowed to spread to more than 5,500 acres. Forest Service reports for both “managed” wildfires claim that the fires are meeting objectives, but the public has not yet been allowed to access the large Quarry Fire area due to safety issues. It may not be until next summer that we learn how positive or negative the fires were for habitat, scenic values, and other affected resources.

#### Yosemite Visitor Access Plan Inches Forward

Park Service officials continue to hold periodic public comment sessions for input on the Visitor Access Plan for Yosemite National Park. As explained by the Park staff, the critically important management plan for how to handle crowds and congestion won't be ready for a decision until the end of 2024. In the meantime, representatives of the national Sierra Club are pressing the Park Service to set clear limits on vehicles to protect resources and to ensure positive visitor experiences for visitors.

Tuolumne County's board of supervisors recently voted to oppose day use reservations to control excessive numbers of visitors. The County has consistently taken positions to please business interests who profit from maximum levels of visitors.



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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 meeting, contact Elaine Hagen at the email listed below.

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

**Secretary-Treasurer**

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

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

**Chapter Delegate** Keith Martin, [keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net)

**Climate Action Chair** Gisselle Bourns,  
[tsclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:tsclimateaction@gmail.com)

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

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

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

### AUTHOR ANDREA LANKFORD OCT. 25, 7PM SONORA LIBRARY

Sierra Club Tuolumne Group hosts local author Andrea Lankford whose new book, *TRAIL OF THE LOST: The Relentless Search to Bring Home the Missing Hikers of the Pacific Crest Trail* is currently on New York Times' Bestseller List. Details on page 1.

### 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).

