

NRD Word Search...

Last Qtrs Winners: Josephine Carman & Wanda Brown

SIR NRD Winter Word Search



- NEPA
- CLEAN WATER ACT
- REPATRIATION
- BROWNFIELD
- MAIDU
- SIAD
- PIT RIVER
- NAGPRA
- NERDS
- PAIUTE
- CLEAN AIR ACT
- THPO
- USEPA
- WASHOE
- CEQA



Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7974504/>

Return a completed word search to Environmental Coordinator Aaron Brazzanovich Jr and get entered into our quarterly raffle!!!

SIR Natural Resources Department
745 Joaquin Street, Susanville, CA 96130



The Dirt

SIR Newsletter Insert
Winter 2025

*Cultural and Environmental News
brought to you by the Susanville Indian Rancheria (SIR)
Natural Resources Department (NRD)*



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Group photo of all the participants in the SIR Cultural Monitoring training held December 20-21, 2024 in the Diamond Mountain Casino Willow Room.

Met The NeRD's...



Natural Resources Department Mission Statement:

To assess, protect and enhance the tribal and environmental resources (culture, language, land, air, water) on the ancestral homelands of the tribes and bands of SIR in order to maintain a healthy community and to manage for multiple land uses.



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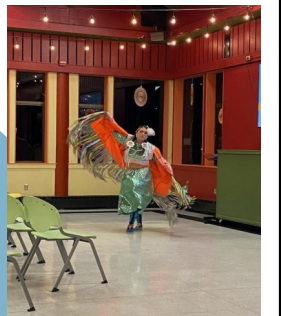
SIR Fuels Crew: Christian Torres, Andrew Hefner, Chaz Moore, and Isao Alokoa.

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745 Joaquin Street, Susanville, CA 96130

LCC/SIR Native American Heritage Night...



The Susanville Indian Rancheria (SIR) was asked to partner with Lassen Community College (LCC) to co-host an event night to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Percy Tejada, (a tribal member of the Greenville Rancheria, serves as the SIR ICWA & Social Services and Education Director for SIR) offered a prayer and song to kickstart the evenings event. Multiple presentations were given, including Madeline McIntire sharing information on the Kammu Takuta band of Northern Paiute and Isao Alokoa sharing some of the Mountain Maidu culture. Ashley McDaniel did a dance demonstration on womens style powwow dancing.



Ashley McDaniel dance demonstration

SIR Cultural Committee Maidu Rep Isao Alokoa held an informational booth to share information about his family history and as well as some of the other Maidu families and history that has been documented from the Susanville/Honey Lake areas. He brought items to share, including a handmade clapper stick that he uses when singing or playing hand game. He also shared a bunch of books that have information about the Maidu people, he also brought a couple of his daughters round house/ round dance skirts as well. He also brought 2 cradle board to share along with one Paiute style cradle board. One of the Maidu cradle boards was made by his Great Aunt Clara Sailors Lecompte Yatām and the other was made by his Aunt Valerie Potts and the Paiute cradle board was made by Paiute Elder Sage Dunn from Nixon, NV. The cradle boards were made for his son Mac Alokoa and his daughter Maelani Alokoa Isao's nephew James Melton also helped will this special event.



Students and visitors at LCC Native American Heritage Night.



SIR OES Coordinator enjoys an Indian Taco.



Rayme Haskin with "Acorns to Oak Trees"

Home Protection Tips...

SIR Cultural Committee

The Susanville Indian Rancheria Cultural Committee is looking for individuals to assist with teaching classes, doing presentations, etc. as it pertains to the cultures of the four tribes of the SIR. If you would like to instruct a class, please contact the SIR Cultural Committee at (530) 251-6382.

Examples include:

- Bow and Arrow Making
- Beading Instructors
- Weaving Instructors
- Clapper Stick Classes
- Drumming/Singing/Dancing Instructors
- Language Speakers
- Other



SIR Tribal Greetings:



- Chimeesunwee Pit River
- Ha sa sa ka Mt. Maidu
- Ha'u eu Paiute
- Hunja Me Hesi Washoe



The SIR Culture Committee hosts monthly meetings the second Monday of each month, 5:30pm at the SIR Resource Center, 735 Joaquin St, Susanville, CA 96130.

Susanville Indian Rancheria Cultural Committee Reps:

- Maidu: Isao Alokoa, Marvena Harris
- Paiute: Richard Lent, Madeline McIntire
- Pit River: Janet Crutcher, Anna Townsend
- Washoe: Leah Miller, Ashley Krache

Abandoned Vehicles...

The Susanville Indian Rancheria has an "Abandoned Vehicles Ordinance No. 205-001 Amendment 1.

" which authorizes the tribe to regulate and remove abandoned and nuisance vehicles from SIR Tribal Lands. Section G of the ordinance states "No person who owns, controls, or possesses a Vehicle shall abandon or allow the abandonment of a wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicle, or parts thereof, or a vehicle creating a nuisance to be abandoned on tribal property, or roadways on the Susanville Indian Rancheria. Such wrecked, dismantled, nuisance vehicles or inoperative abandoned vehicle are hereby declared a public nuisance. Their removal is authorized under the terms of this ordinance or under any other legal authority, including, but not limited to, California Vehicle Code Sections 22523, 22685, and 22669".

The Susanville Indian Rancheria Natural Resources Department may be able to assist. To learn more about the SIR's Abandoned Vehicles Ordinance or to schedule a vehicle to be removed, please call SIR NRD Environmental Technician Kurt Merino at (530) 251-5646.



Fuels Crew Update...

Returning Good Fire to the SIR Land

The SIR Forestry Crew wrapped up their 2024 season and proudly completed approximately 36 acres of fuels reduction treatments on the Upper Rancheria SIR property. This work is part of a multi-year BIA Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grant funded project that aims to establish a fuel break where wildland fuels begin to interface with urbanized areas. Selected vegetation types (certain grasses, juniper and specific aged brush) are removed 66 feet wide around sectioned boundaries of the property and hand piled for future prescribed burning.

In 2025, the NRD plans to execute the SIR’s first BIA approved prescribed burn on the Upper Rancheria!

One of the burn main goals is to safely re-introduce prescribed and cultural fire as a stewardship tool to restore black oak stands, bitterbrush and sagebrush habitat through removal of encroaching western juniper and reduction of brush density in a supportive effort to restore habitats within the region to pre-contact conditions. Treatment activities will remove hand piles that were established by the Forestry Crew in 2022, and assist in reducing the potential loss of human life, climate change impacts, and damage to the SIR’s property and natural resources.



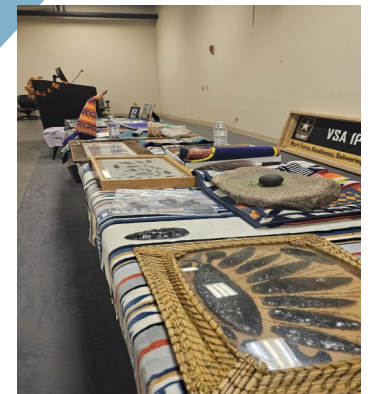
SIAD/SIR Native Heritage Month Luncheon...

November marks the celebration of Native American Heritage Month. The very first celebration of Native American Heritage took place in 1915 at the Annual Congress of the American Indian Association where it was a day acknowledging Native Americans. In 1976 President Gerald Ford signed a joint resolution to proclaim October 10-16, 1976 as “Native American Awareness Week”. Later, in 1990 President George H. W. Bush signed into action a joint resolution designating the month of November as “American Indian Heritage Month”.

The Susanville Indian Rancheria was invited to the Sierra Army Depot (SIAD) to participate in their celebration of Native American Heritage Month with a huge luncheon. Tribal Elder Teresa Dixon and SIR Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Audie Noneo attended on behalf of the Susanville Indian Rancheria.

“Sierra Army Depot (SIAD) extended an invite to Teresa Dixon- Tribal Elder and Audie Noneo- SIR THPO, to share about their Cultural Heritage. There were over 100 people in attendance. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a lunch together with the staff and Base Commander”- Teresa Dixon

“With the use of visual displays for those in attendance, the THPO shared some SIR info on Ancestral Lands and about the tribes that make up the SIR and the rich history each brings, and traditions”- Audie Noneo



Left to Right: Teresa Dixon, Lieutenant Colonel Jason A. Hayes, and Audie Noneo.

Winter Air Quality...



Here Are Some Tips To Improve Air Quality During Winter

Inspect your roof and clean out the gutters: Check for broken shingles and holes, scoop out the leaves and debris from the gutter.

Clean out air Ducts: Clean out air ducts at least once a year replace the furnace filter and check the connections between the furnace and the thermostat

Check your dryer vent to prevent fires: Clear that thick layer of lint trap and ductwork

Have your fireplace and chimney checked: Check for buildup and make sure the damper is functioning properly

Winterize Exterior faucets and sprinkler systems: Insulate your outdoor faucets with a foam cover, drain any excess water from your sprinklers or garden hose.

Check your window and door seals: Check window and door seals for draft or air leaks, caulk over the trouble areas or call in a professional for replacement of window.

	US AQI Level	PM2.5 (µg/m³)	Health Recommendation (for 24 hour exposure)
	Good 0-50	0-12.0	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk.
	Moderate 51-100	12.1-35.4	Sensitive individuals should avoid outdoor activity as they may experience respiratory symptoms.
	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150	35.5-55.4	General public and sensitive individuals in particular are at risk to experience irritation and respiratory problems.
	Unhealthy 151-200	55.5-150.4	Increased likelihood of adverse effects and aggravation to the heart and lungs among general public.
	Very Unhealthy 201-300	150.5-250.4	General public will be noticeably affected. Sensitive groups should restrict outdoor activities.
	Hazardous 301+	250.5+	General public at high risk of experiencing strong irritations and adverse health effects. Should avoid outdoor activities.

Planting Event...

Cultural Planting

The NRD planted over 64 culturally significant trees & shrubs on the Lower Rancheria that included: Black Oak, Blue Elderberry, Chokecherry, Dogwood, Golden Currant, Willow, Yarrow. These species were selected in collaboration with SIR Cultural Committee and were hand-gathered, propagated, and purchased with funding from the USDA—Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Cages and mulch were used during planting to increase moisture retention and protect against weed invasions and animals.



SIR NRD, HLVRCDC, MRCD Host Cultural Monitoring Training

Cultural Monitoring...



Chaz Moore-SIR and Nick Foltz-Ft Bidwell give intros to the group.



Jesus Guerrero receiving his Cultural Monitoring Certificate.



Mary Bobbitt, BLM Eagle Lake Field Office Archaeologist.



SIR Group Photo Left to Right: Jesus Guerrero, Andrew Vasquez, Mario Marquez, Chaz Moore, Kurt Merino, Audie Noneo, Jarred Moore, Isao Alokoa, Erik Nez, Aaron Brazzanovich, Richard Lent, Merv Lent, Valerie Lent, Michelle Lent.

The Susanville Indian Rancheria (SIR) Natural Resources Department (NRD), Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCDC) and the Modoc Resource Conservation District (MRCD) held a Cultural Monitoring training for tribal representatives. The 2 day class took place December 20-21, 2024 with the first day being classroom style instruction at the tribes Resource Center and the second day consisting of a hands-on field day starting out at the Diamond Mountain Casino Willow Room and ending with in the field training on Tribal Lands.



Group Photo: Students for the SIR Cultural Monitoring Training at the Resource Center. The class had approximately 60 students in attendance for the class. This class is the last class for 2024, we will be looking to host a class in spring of 2025.



Erik Nez receives his certificate from Angela Valentine.



Jerome Milton Sr and Walum Hefner receive their certificates.



Audie Noneo-SIR THPO/NAGPRA Officer, Waylon Coats- Tribal Archaeologist with Chawse'e Archaeology