

PEATDUSTER

Volume 55-3 Page 1

Delta-Sierra Group Newsletter

July - October 2024

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Photo - REE

The first environmental action in California.

Surviving the Urban Jungle, A talk on Human/Wildlife Conflict

Presented by Michelle Dodge

Tuesday September 10, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, California

Hosted by San Joaquin Audubon

Free and Open to the Public

This is a special program offered by our Audubon friends. **(Sierra Club members: Please note the date and time.)** As people continue to expand their territory, wild animals find themselves more and more impacted by people. This can result in difficult situations for the wild animals who don't know how to navigate an increasingly urbanized landscape. Michelle Dodge, a wildlife field rescuer, will present her real life photos and stories about helping our wild neighbors.

Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes disturbing, sometimes funny, and sometimes heartwarming, we will hear about rescues of everything from squirrels to owls, from foxes to eagles, and discuss some of the dangers we unintentionally create in suburban America. Come learn about the urban jungle, and how we can become better friends to our wild neighbors.

Michele Dodge in Granite Bay, California. She was an animal crazy kid that grew up to be an animal crazy adult, and has been involved with animals her entire life. She volunteers for several licensed wildlife rescue organizations, working their emergency call phone lines and helping people with complex or dangerous rescues. She also does workshops and



trainings on wildlife, photography, and rescue for many organizations including rescue groups, colleges and wildlife festivals.



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

Please join the Delta-Sierra Group & First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton for the 21st annual San Joaquin County International Coastal CleanUp Day on Saturday, Sept 21, 2024. This is the state's largest volunteer event. Our rivers and levees are an important part of this effort to protect our planet. Ocean trash is a serious pollution problem that affects the health of people, wildlife and local economies. Even though we are inland, trash travels downstream via inland waterways and storm drains, and then, if not removed, this debris will end up in the ocean.

Cleanup is from 9 am to 12 noon. Attendees should meet at 8:30 am for sign-in and instructions. Please meet at the Calaveras River at the Northwest corner of Pacific Avenue and Brookside Drive. Parking is available in the UOP Triangular Parking Lot #8. Here is a map:

<https://www.pacific.edu/sites/default/files/users/user243/stkCampusMap.pdf>

Please visit the website to preregister for the event and to print and complete the waiver form. Minors must have signed waivers from their parent or guardian. Registration and waiver forms will also be available onsite, but it will save time if you download and bring the completed waiver form with you. Here is the website:

<http://www.sjwater.org/Stormwater-Management/California-Coastal-Cleanup>

Please wear closed-toe shoes, a hat or visor, and sunscreen. If you can, please bring your own garden gloves, refillable water bottle, and reusable bucket. Disposable gloves, water, and trash bags will be available at the site. We work in teams of two or three. One more thing - why not bring a friend with you who has never been to an event like this?



Owning, Driving, and Charging an EV is Finally Worth It

Presented by Kris Ibarra, local EV expert and educator

Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church, Stockton

Hosted by Delta-Sierra Group

With gas prices out of control, combined with expanding charging networks, and the lowering cost of battery manufacturing, it has never made more sense to trade your gas car for an electric vehicle. Keep more money in your pocket, never pump gas again, and consider an EV today!

Kris Ibarra, Director of Imaging & Public Relations for the Tesla Owners Club SJV and member of the Electric Vehicle Association of SJV, will offer updated insights into the EV market this Monday just prior to the EV Expo on the following Saturday, June 28, 2024, in Manteca. Get your questions answered at this meeting. Check out the Saturday event:

<https://driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=4177>

As of January 2024, the Rolls-Royce Spectre was the most expensive electric car in the United States, with a base price of \$422,750. The Spectre is described as the "world's first Ultra-Luxury Electric Super Coupé.

As of July 2024, the 2023 Chevrolet Bolt EV 1LT is one of the cheapest electric vehicles (EVs) in the United States, with a starting price of \$27,495. The 2024 Nissan Leaf S is also considered a cheap option, starting at \$29,280. The Leaf S has a 147-hp electric motor and a 40.0-kWh battery pack, which gives it an EPA-rated driving range of 149 miles.

May we suggest some questions you might want to ask:

How do you charge an EV if you live in a two story apartment and your parking spot is a couple hundred feet away?

What kind of range do you get if you have to use the heater or air conditioner?

Do EVs have some kind of warning system giving you a minute to safely get to the side of the road?

How does roadside service work?

Besides rotating tires, what other maintenance service is needed for EVs?

Electric Vehicle Expo

Saturday, September 28, 2024 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Bass Pro Shop parking lot, 1356 Bass Pro Drive, Manteca, CA
 See and ride in electric cars. Steal one if you can.

Electric Vehicles on Display:

Blue Bird school bus
 Cadillac Lyric
 Ford E-Transit
 Ford F-150 Lightning
 Ford Mustang Mach-E
 Kia EV6
 Kia Niro EV
 Polestar 2
 Toyota RAV4 Prime

Rides in Electric Vehicles:

Blue Bird school bus
 Chevrolet Bolt
 Ford F-150 Lightning
 Hyundai IONIC 5
 Hyundai IONIC 6

Performance is often just a case of getting off-road from Point A to Point B. Seen here is my 1962 ragtop at Point A along the Colorado River during spring break. Point B is Mazatlan, Mexico. The Ford Mustang Mach-E is advertised as going 0 to 60 miles per hour in under 4 seconds. This is slow. The quickest EV is the Tesla Model S Plaid, with a 0-60 mph time of 2.3 seconds in Edmunds' testing. For gasoline, the Dodge Challenger SRT demon 170 is the fastest production car to go from 0 to 60 miles per hour in 1.66 seconds. The 2024 Lucid Air Sapphire is the fastest electric car to complete a quarter mile, finishing in 9.3 seconds at 153 mph. In 2015, Jeff Lutz's street-legal Camaro ran the quarter mile in 6.05 seconds at 249 mph. However, if that car is registered in California, he would have to remove all those fancy parts to pass smog.



Beyond the Amazon: The Pantanal of Brazil

Presented by Nancy Muleady-Meachum

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Fireside Room, Central United Methodist Church, Stockton

Hosted by Audubon

Free and open to the public



This is the annual joint meeting of San Joaquin Audubon and the Delta-Sierra Group. **(Sierra Club members: Please note the date and time.)**

Please join us for a look at the largest wetland on the planet, the Pantanal of Brazil, its natural history and ecology.

The Pantanal floodplain in south-central Brazil that extends into northeast Paraguay and southeast Bolivia. It lies mainly within the

Brazilian states of Mato Grosso do Sul and Mato Grosso. The Pantanal is one of the world's largest freshwater wetlands, and the extent of its seasonally dynamic area is estimated to be from 54,000 square miles to 81,000 square miles. The wetlands extend for about 375 miles north-to-south along the banks of the upper Paraguay River and several of its tributaries, including the São Lourenço and the Taquari Rivers.

The Pantanal provides sanctuary for a rich assortment of wildlife, consisting of thousands of varieties of butterflies, hundreds of species of fishes, and many mammals and reptiles, including howler and capuchin monkeys, tapirs, capybaras, anacondas, and caimans. The region is also home to a number of endangered or increasingly rare animals, including the jaguar, giant anteater, cobalt-blue hyacinth macaw, marsh deer, and giant otter.

Among the roughly 600 species of birds that live in the region are the heron, ibis, duck, greater rhea (South America's largest flightless bird), and jabiru stork. As the site of thousands of acres of ranch land on which cattle graze, the Pantanal is also one of Brazil's biggest sources of beef.

Doc Nancy is an Adjunct Professor of biology at Northern Arizona University and Columbia College, Sonora as well as a Visiting Lecturer for the University of Virginia Semester At Sea Program where she taught biology around the world. Doc Nancy was selected by the United States as a Fulbright Scholar and traveled to the Russian Federation to teach at Gorno-Altai State University in southwest Siberia and to conduct research in remote protected areas. As a retired National Park Ranger Naturalist and in Protection, she worked in numerous national Parks throughout the U.S.

She is the author of several books, and lives in the Sierra Nevada with her family. She teaches Biology for Community Education through Columbia College, including the California Nature Series and Adventures on Planet Earth series via Zoom in the Fall.

Doc Nancy has been appointed by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States to the Central California Resource Advisory Council for the Bureau of Land management for a second three-year position in 2023. She also serves as a RAC Member for the US Forest Service.



Internet Photo

VALLEY VENTURES Written by Elaine Gorman

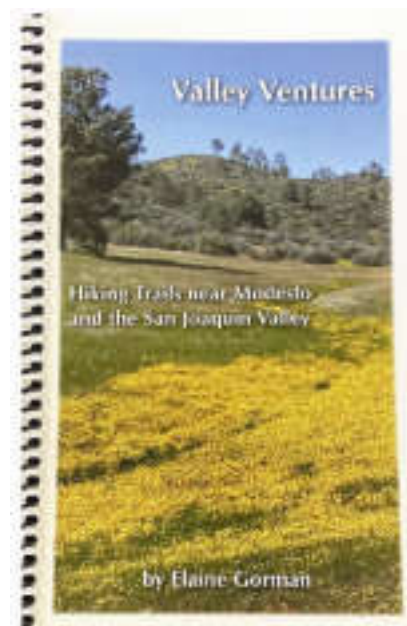
This fabulous book offers 20 hikes that are easily accessible from Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties in the San Joaquin Valley of California. The narrative hike descriptions include directions, mileage, drive time, natural and cultural history, special attractions and hiking tips.

All hikes are within a two hour driving range, from Modesto, but may be even closer if you live in Lodi or Stockton. You'll visit parts of San Joaquin Valley, the foothills, and the eastern Bay Area. Paul Plathe from Delta-Sierra Group is featured in several of these hikes. (Editor's Note: Elaine Gorman is Secretary and Outings Leader for Yokuts Group.)

The price is \$12 directly from Elaine, \$14 if sent by mail and \$14 if purchased from Bookish at 811 West Roseburg Avenue, Modesto (Roseburg Square).

Here is a list of contents:

1. Hiking the Forest Primeval Along the Stanislaus River
2. More than Pelicans
3. Imbolc Along the "T"
4. Even Hikers get the Blues
5. Rockin' the Red Hills
6. I Get (A) Round
7. Spring Ahead on Peoria Mountain
8. Rural Ramble Route, Rock River Road
9. Oracles and Visionaries of Calaveras County
10. A View with No Rooms
11. Morgan Territory: Grinding Rocks and Oak Diversity
12. A Walk through History in Tuolumne County
13. Sunny Sunol Sunday
14. Seek More at Sycamore Grove Park
15. Cosumnes River Treasure
16. Party at Pardee!
17. The Devil Made Me Do It
18. Hiking Arnold Rim Trail
19. Finding John Muir Via Train and Hiking Poles
20. Multimodal Adventure in Pleasanton



Presidents Teddy Roosevelt and Joe Biden Both Had Similar Visions as seen by Robert Evans

The Antiquities Act of 1906 was the first law in the United States to provide general legal protection for cultural and natural resources on federal lands that are of historic or interest. The act was signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 8, 1906 in response to concerns about the loss of information about archeological sites on public lands. The act had several tools to protect these resources.



Teddy Roosevelt & John Muir

The president could designate important federally owned sites or regions as national monuments, or expand existing ones. Since 1906, 105 national monuments have been established, covering almost 63 million acres. Of these, 28 of our 63 national parks were once monuments.

The act required federal agencies to preserve the historic, scientific, commemorative, and cultural values of the archaeological and historic sites and structures on these lands. This includes helping to protect archeological sites from looting and vandalism.

The the Federal Land Policy and Management Act Amendments of 1976 established a unified management system for public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It gave the BLM more control over the acquisition and disposal of federal land. It required the creation of a plan to analyze the environmental value of land and determine if it could be used for public purposes.

It also required the federal government to periodically adjust the use of federal lands to meet changing needs and conditions. This includes the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, such as recreation, timber, minerals, and wildlife. Most important, the amendments declared that public lands would remain in federal ownership, unless it was determined that disposing of a particular parcel would serve the national interest.

The Antiquities Act with amendments wasn't good enough for some archeologists and 40 years ago they formed the Archaeological Conservancy. Today they own or protect about 600 sites throughout America.*

President Joe Biden's 30 by 30 plan is an ambitious conservation initiative aimed at addressing climate change, preserving biodiversity, and protecting natural ecosystems. The plan's primary goal is to conserve 30% of U.S. lands and waters by the year 2030.

The plan aims to protect biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and safeguard ecosystems that provide essential services like clean air, water, and food. By conserving 30% of U.S. lands and waters, the plan seeks to curb the loss of natural habitats and species.

The initiative involves collaboration among federal, state, local, and tribal governments, as well as private landowners, conservation organizations, and other stakeholders. The plan encourages voluntary conservation efforts, recognizing the role of private lands in achieving the 30% target.

The 30 by 30 plan emphasizes the use of scientific research and data to identify and prioritize areas for conservation. This approach ensures that the most ecologically significant and vulnerable areas are protected.

The plan seeks to address historical inequities in conservation efforts by involving communities that have been traditionally underrepresented or disadvantaged. This includes recognizing the role of Indigenous peoples and ensuring that their rights and knowledge are respected in conservation efforts.

In addition to environmental benefits, the plan highlights potential economic advantages, such as job creation in conservation-related industries and the promotion of sustainable tourism. The plan also aims to enhance the resilience of natural resources that are vital to local economies.

By implementing the 30 by 30 plan, the U.S. aims to take a leadership role in global conservation efforts, aligning with international commitments to protect biodiversity and combat climate change.

Lofty goals? Perhaps especially with the time frame. Worthy goals? By all means.

Saving land by declaring it a monument goes back to the Antiquities but, even this process is endangered. Enter H.R. 5499 - Congressional Oversight of the Antiquities Act introduced by Republican Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeke from Iowa District 1. Here the text of this terrible bill: H.R. 5499 would require congressional approval of presidential proclamations of national monuments, and reservations of parcels of land as a part of national monuments, within six months of a monument's establishment or before the end of the current session of Congress, whichever is earlier.



Under the bill, if the designation or reservation is not extended or modified by statute during this limited time frame, or the designation or reservation is otherwise rejected by statute, the lands in question cannot be designated as or added to an existing monument by a President for a period of 25 years. The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 5499.



Wow, 25 years? This bill will die in committee, but if Trump is elected you may see it again under a new number. We should remind you that when Trump occupied the White House, he cut President Obama's monuments Bears Ears by 85% and Escalante Staircase by 50%. He took us out of the Paris Climate Accord and he rolled back some 125 environmental regulations.

Trump is not the only guy to alter monuments created by other presidents. In 1915, President Wilson reduced the size of Mount Olympus National Monument by nearly half to open up land for timber production. In 1951, President Roosevelt de-designated Castle Pinckney, which was later transferred to the state of South Carolina. In 1956, President Eisenhower reduced the size of Great Sand Dunes by about 25%.

President Nixon reduced the size of the Virgin Islands National Monument by about 40% in 1969. President Reagan reduced the size of Buck Island Reef National Monument by about 18% in 1986.

**Sidebar* The Archaeological Conservancy produces 4 issues a year of a most fascinating magazine which you get for joining with a donation of as little as \$25 a year at <https://www.thearchcons.org>

Some of the contemporary archaeology projects included a site survey of the region in Nevada where we tested 928 atomic bombs. Another was a study of the death of illegal aliens after they crossed our border. They used a pig carcass to represent humans.

Some were just left on the ground where they "died". For others they spent 15 minutes, the amount of time they believed could be spared, to cover the pig with rocks. They returned 3 weeks later to document the results. This resulted in our border patrol increasing the search area after human remains were found.

One last article: do you know why there are over 100 World War 2 airplanes on the bottom of Lake Superior 20 miles off the shores of Chicago? Many were different types. They are there because of the failure of pilots attempting to land on one of two makeshift aircraft carriers. Over 15,000 pilots were trained where no Japanese or German submarine could reach. The beauty of archaeological news is it never gets old! *End Sidebar*

To demonstrate how important monument creation is to America a list of national parks is provided that started as monuments. Included is the name of the president and year designated. The original monument name follows. Most parks retained that name, but not always. The order is random.

Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming; Franklin D. Roosevelt 1943; ; Jackson Hole National Monument; upgraded 1950.

Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona; Theodore Roosevelt 1906; Grand Canyon National Monument; upgraded 1919.

Acadia National Park, Maine; Woodrow Wilson 1916; Sieur de Monts National Monument; upgraded 1919.

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Zion National Park, Utah; William Howard Taft 1909; Mukuntuweap National Monument; upgraded in: 1919.

Olympic National Park, Washington; Theodore Roosevelt 1906; Mount Olympus National Monument; upgraded in: 1938.

Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah; : Warren G. Harding 1923; Bryce Canyon National Monument; upgraded in: 1928.

Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona; Theodore Roosevelt 1906; Petrified Forest National Monument; upgraded in: 1962.

Death Valley National Park, California; : Herbert Hoover 1933; Death Valley National Monument; upgraded 1994.

Katmai National Park, Alaska; Woodrow Wilson 1918; Katmai National Monument; upgraded 1980.

Lassen Volcanic National Park, California; Theodore Roosevelt 1906; Cinder Cone and Lassen Peak National Monuments; upgraded in: 1916.

Pinnacles National Park, California; Theodore Roosevelt 1906; Pinnacles National Monument; upgraded in: 2013.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico; Calvin Coolidge 1923; Carlsbad Cave National Monument; upgraded in: 1930.

Arches National Park, Utah; Herbert Hoover 1929; Arches National Monument; upgraded in: 1971.

Great Sand Dunes National Park, Colorado; Herbert Hoover 1932; Great Sand Dunes National Monument; upgraded in: 2004.

Joshua Tree National Park, California; Franklin D. Roosevelt 1936; Joshua Tree National Monument; upgraded in: 1994.

Saguaro National Park, Arizona; Herbert Hoover 1933; Saguaro National Monument; upgraded in: 1994.

Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska; Calvin Coolidge 1925; Glacier Bay National Monument; upgraded in: 1980.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Colorado; Herbert Hoover 1933; Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument; upgraded in 1999.

Capitol Reef National Park, Utah; Franklin D. Roosevelt 1837; Capitol Reef National Monument; upgraded in: 1971.

Channel Islands National Park, California; Franklin D. Roosevelt 1938; Channel Islands National Monument; upgraded in: 1980.

Gates of the Arctic National Park, Alaska; Jimmy Carter 1978; Gates of the Arctic National Monument; upgraded in: 1980.

Great Basin National Park, Nevada; : William G. Harding 1922; Lehman Caves National Monument; upgraded in: 1986.

Kenai Fjords National Park, Alaska; Jimmy Carter 1978; Kenai Fjords National Monument; upgraded in: 1980.

Kobuk Valley National Park, Alaska; Jimmy Carter 1978; Kobuk Valley National Monument; upgraded in: 1980.

Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida; Franklin D. Roosevelt 1935; Fort Jefferson National Monument; upgraded in: 1992.

Lake Clark National Park, Alaska; Jimmy Carter 1978; Lake Clark National Monument; upgraded in: 1980.

Wrangell – St. Elias National Park, Alaska; Jimmy Carter 1978; Wrangell - St. Elias National Monument; upgraded in: 1980.

White Sands National Park; Hoover 1933; Herbet Hoover 1933; White Sands National Monument; upgraded in: 2019.

Monument status is extremely fragile as we note elsewhere in this newsletter.

President Joe Biden restored the Bears Ears National Monument to the boundaries established by President Obama on December 28, 2016 and retaining protections for an additional 11,200 acres added by Trump who shut down 85% of the rest of the monument.

President Joe Biden restored the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to the boundaries that were in place on January 20, 2017 after Trump shut down 50% of the monument.

President Joe Biden restored protections to the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, as established by President Obama on September 15, 2016. Guess who rolled back these protections. Of course it was now felon Donald Trump.

President Biden has expanded two culturally significant California landscapes: the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in Southern California and Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in Northern California.

In addition he designated the following; Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument Colorado; Castner Range National Monument Texas; Avi Kwa Ame National Monument across the southern tip of Nevada; Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument Arizona.

On this and previous pages we only show monuments that became national parks. What we have no room to show is the massive number of monuments created by our visionary presidents and/or expansions of existing monuments. We choose to show those with over 10.

Let's list them: Barack Obama 33; Bill Clinton 22; Jimmy Carter 17; Theodore Roosevelt 18; Franklin D. Roosevelt 31; Herbert Hoover 17; Dwight D. Eisenhower 12; Calvin Coolidge 18; Woodrow Wilson 18; William Howard Taft 12.

In fairness we report that Trump used the 1906 Antiquities Act only once to establish a new monument creating the 340-acre Camp Nelson National Monument in Kentucky in 2018.



BITS AND PIECES

Bits and Pieces is like the junk drawer in your kitchen or elsewhere in your home. It's where you put stuff when you don't know where to put that stuff.

B&P On The Cover - Kennedy Tailing Wheels

When my daughter was 14 she decided she didn't want to live with her Danish mother in Gilleleje, Denmark, but rather her American father in Stockton, California. She is a citizen of Denmark we adopted from Thailand. I wasn't exactly prepared for this, but saw it as an opportunity to show her more of our lovely state. One place I took her is the Kennedy Tailing Wheels just an hour away. It is the site of one of the first environmental actions in California.

The Kennedy Mine operated from the mid-1850's to 1942. Like any mine there were shafts and tunnels where ore was extracted and crushed in a stamp mill leaving a mass of material called tailings. (I have dug in tailing in Hornitos, Mariposa County and found beautiful quartz crystals. The miners were after gold, however.)

This pulverized waste was piled high beside two old shafts and in January 1911, those waste piles were pummeled by a deluge of 20 inches of rain, an atmospheric river as we call it now. The downpour sent tons of material into creeks and onto farm and ranch lands below. The subsequent flooding washed away farm land in the Dry Creek watershed. Then rumors were heard of a possible lawsuit against the Kennedy Mine and other mines according to the Dispatch {newspaper}. By March farmers had formed an Amador-Calaveras-San Joaquin anti-debris association to seek flood damages. In June "The farmers have organized into a mutual protection association," the paper said.

What happened next is something we can't seem to accomplish today. After two years on March 3, 1913 an agreement was reached whereby there would be "no damages asked; no payment of legal fees; but a demand that the principal mines in the Dry Creek watershed had to impound mine wastes no later than December, 1914 or shut down."

On our visit we climbed to the top of the hill from the parking area and snuck under the barbed wire fence and looked down to Indian Gulch where a dam was constructed creating an impoundment basin. I found a rusty old window frame from the driver's side of a Model A Ford and kept it, thinking I could use it for a picture frame. I still have it.



Kenddey Mine



While the dam was being constructed, four wheels were built and installed. They actually were moving material before the dam was finished, sort of meeting the December deadline.

Wheels are an awesome 68 feet in diameter and were powered by an electric 15 horse power, 900 revolutions per minute induction motor. Each wheel had a giant belt made of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch canvas, 20 inch wide, 125 feet long, and weighing about 800 pounds. (And you thought changing the belt on your car was tuff!) Basically, all this system did was elevate liquefied material and dump it on a slide where by gravity it went to the next wheel and so on until it reached the last slide into the impoundment area. You'll enjoy your visit to this site.



SNP 1994



BCNP 1928

25-25 Plan or “Nobody Know More About Taxes, The Economy, Inflation, Trade Policies and Energy Independence Than Me.”

Donald Trump's *brilliant* "25-25 Plan" refers to a proposal he invented in 2023 as part of his 2024 presidential campaign. The plan hopes to bring down the cost of living and boost economic growth in the United States by reducing inflation and increasing economic productivity.

Key aspects are: **Reduce Inflation to 2%:** Trump's plan hopes to bring down inflation to 2%. He believes that by reducing inflation, the cost of living for Americans will decrease, leading to more affordable goods and services.

Achieve 5% Economic Growth: The plan also hopes to achieve a 5% annual growth rate in the U.S. economy. This ambitious goal will hopefully create more jobs, increase wages, and boost the overall standard of living. Trump typically argues that this growth can be achieved through a combination of tax cuts, deregulation, and energy independence.

Energy Independence: Trump proposes increasing domestic energy production, particularly in **fossil fuels**, to reduce energy costs and decrease reliance on foreign energy sources. **This would be a disaster for Climate Change and President Biden's visionary 30-30 plan.**

Tax Cuts and Deregulation: Trump's plan includes further tax cuts for individuals and businesses to stimulate economic activity. He also advocates for reducing regulatory burdens on businesses, particularly in sectors like energy and manufacturing, to encourage investment and growth.

Trade Policies: The plan suggests revisiting trade policies to protect American jobs and industries. This could involve renegotiating trade agreements, imposing tariffs on certain imports, or getting companies to produce goods domestically.



Critics of the plan argue that achieving both 2% inflation and 5% economic growth may be simultaneously challenging and could require trade-offs between short-term and long-term economic goals. Trump claims he knows nothing about this plan.

B&P Camp Century As Rediscovered by Robert Evans

Conspiracy theories abound. We may see many of them with the November election. Interesting enough conspiracy is an unlawful, harmful, or evil plan formulated in secret by two or more persons, but technically have you committed a crime if you do not act upon your plan? Use your search engine and type: “list conspiracies” and you’ll get many. Try it! Did you find the President John Kennedy Assassination, 9/11 Cover-Up, Area 51 and the Aliens and the Faked Moon Landings plus a few more? If there is any validity to a conspiracy theory, how do those persons keep their silence for so long? Well, the United States Army kept a secret for 35 years.

I’ll bet you never heard of Camp Century. Neither had I until I read *The Sixth Extinction* where Elizabeth Kolbert casually mentions that Camp Century had a very sinister purpose.

In 1959 the United States Army asked permission from the Danish government to construct a base on Greenland. They wanted to test their prefabricated steel structures, study the 3-mile deep ice sheet and test a small nuclear reactor under Greenland’s harsh environmental conditions. These were all legitimate concerns.



It is one thing to design and assemble steel structures in a toasty warm warehouse, then somehow transport them over the ice pack and assemble them at 40 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. Metal shrinks. (Never send that expensive Martin guitar fully tuned to a place where the temperature may drop. The strings could tighten and pull off the saddle.) In addition to the structures, they had to build the tractors and sleds needed to move the unassembled structures and contents to go inside.

A total of 21 trenches would be cut and covered with arched roofs within which prefabricated buildings were erected. The total length of trenches was 3,000 meters (1.9 miles). These tunnels contained a hospital, a shop, a theater and a church. The total number of inhabitants was about 200.

For climate change scientists, extracted ice cylinders taken from several thousand feet below the surface, can show evidence of atmospheric composition, volcanic eruptions, dust storms and even wind patterns.

Closer to the surface you can see when the United States started testing the 928 atomic bombs for the Los Alamos, New Mexico Manhattan Project, or when Krakatoa erupted and other similar events.

From 1960 when the project started until 1963, the electric supply was provided by the world's first mobile/portable nuclear reactor. It needed cool water to control the reaction. They solved that problem.

Denmark granted the Army's wish and the outpost came to be known as Camp Century. For the record Denmark gained authority over Greenland when the union with Norway was dissolved in 1814. According to Wikipedia, Greenland became Danish and was fully integrated in the Danish state in 1953. Now under the Constitution of Denmark, the people in Greenland became citizens of Denmark.

1979, Denmark granted home rule to Greenland; in 2008, Greenlanders voted for the Self-Government Act, which transferred more power from the Danish government to the local Greenlandic government. Under the new structure, Greenland has gradually assumed responsibility for a number of governmental services and areas of competence. The Danish government retains control of citizenship, monetary policy, and foreign affairs, including defense.

Sidebar During his reign, Donald Trump sought to purchase Greenland. On August 18, 2019, when the rumor was confirmed by the White House, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen stated that "Greenland is not Danish. Greenland belongs to Greenland", and called the discussion "absurd". On August 20, 2019, Trump cancelled the state visit scheduled for September 2-3, 2019. He cited a specific reference to Mette Frederiksen's refusal to discuss a possible sale. Trump later said that he was "just kidding" about buying Greenland making him look even more foolish.
End Sidebar



Today, Camp Century is still used as a laboratory for studying Greenland's ice sheet. Kolbert has made several stopovers at Camp Century where she collected information about the ice sheet. She got there by hitching a ride on a C-130 equipped with skis.

You can find Camp Century on Google Earth. It is just a white mass. As the project progressed, the Army made a film. It includes all those typical events you find in other Army documentary films from that period earlier when the construction crew leaves and only the camp dog remains Watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUVnYKIUeQU>

Our Army wasted no time in getting a totally new crew to Camp Century for the real purpose. It was a top secret Cold War project called Project Iceworm. According to documents declassified in 1996, the end goal was to install a vast network of nuclear missile launch sites that could survive a first strike target within the Soviet Union. Camp Century was just a cover project and our government kept this secret for 35 years.

Project Iceworm was to be a system of tunnels 4,000 kilometers (2,500 miles) in length, used to deploy up to 600 nuclear missiles, that would be able to reach the Soviet Union in case of nuclear war.

Within three years after it was excavated, ice core samples taken by geologists demonstrated that the ice sheet was moving much faster than anticipated and would destroy the tunnels and launch stations in about two years. Thus the facility was evacuated in 1965, and the nuclear generator removed. Project Iceworm was canceled, and Camp Century closed in 1966.

According to Wikipedia when the camp was decommissioned in 1967, its infrastructure and waste were abandoned under the assumption they would be entombed forever by perpetual snowfall. A 2016 study found that the portion of the ice sheet covering Camp Century will start to melt by 2100.

If this trend continues and the ice melts, the camp's infrastructure, as well as remaining biological, chemical and radioactive waste will re-enter the environment and potentially disrupt nearby ecosystems. This includes diesel, PCBs and radioactive waste.

Another video about Project Iceworm adds more clarity to this narrative. You can find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-K61DC0uhc>

Last I want to mention Clair Patterson. In collaboration with George Tilton, Patterson developed the uranium–lead dating method into lead–lead dating. By using lead isotopic data from the Canyon Diablo meteorite located in Arizona, he calculated an age for the Earth of 4.55 billion years.

More importantly he determined, through ice-core samples from Camp Century taken in Greenland in 1964 and from Antarctica in 1965, that atmospheric lead levels had begun to increase steadily and dangerously soon after tetraethyl lead began to see widespread use in fuel, when it was discovered to reduce engine knock in internal combustion engines.

Patterson subsequently identified that along with the various other uses of lead in manufacturing, it was the cause of the contamination of his samples. Because of the significant public-health implications of his findings, he devoted the rest of his life to removing as much introduced lead from the environment as possible.

B &P Corn

There is nothing better to welcome the summer than fresh picked sweet corn after you removed the wrappers and the angle silk strings. It's now ready for roasting. This hillbilly process is called "shuckin' the corn". (You can find Earl Scruggs playing his banjo instrumental by that name on YouTube.) But....not all corn is eaten corn.

Corn is the largest crop in the world and number one in the United States. Most of our corn is grown on an average of 90 million acres annually. That's a little more than 140,000 square miles. You find corn in many household products, foods, and beverages. However, one of this grain's main uses is making ethanol and creating destructive land-use change in already vulnerable grasslands.

In the United States, corn is marketed based on a 56-pound bushel, regardless of its test weight. A bushel of shelled corn weighs 56 pounds, while a bushel of corn in the ear weighs 70 pounds.

However, grain buyers may pay for corn based on its dry bushel weight (15–15.5% moisture content) or may discount the price to account for the cost of drying wetter corn. In the period 2021 to 2022, the world produced over 1.4 billion metric tons of corn or a little more than 275 million bushels.

Corn is a cash crop because it's used as food and in many other products that include industrial alcohols and many everyday items like, medicines, cosmetics, bioplastics, crayons, toothpaste and salad dressing.

It's also the most widely produced feed grain in the United States, where it's a key ingredient in livestock feed. In the US, about a third of the corn crop is used to feed cattle, hogs, and poultry.

Another 6% of the corn grown in the US is used to make high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS). In 2021, the US produced just over 7.5 million tons of dry weight HFCS. You find that HFCS is a common ingredient in many food products, including soft drinks, sauces, breads, and fast food.

However, around 40% of corn grown in the US is used for ethanol. As demand for biofuel crops has surged, so has the conversion of native grasslands into croplands.

In 2021 18% or 1.6 million acres of grassland habitat was lost to agricultural conversion in the U.S. and Canadian Great Plains and plowed up for corn crops according to a World Wildlife Fund report.

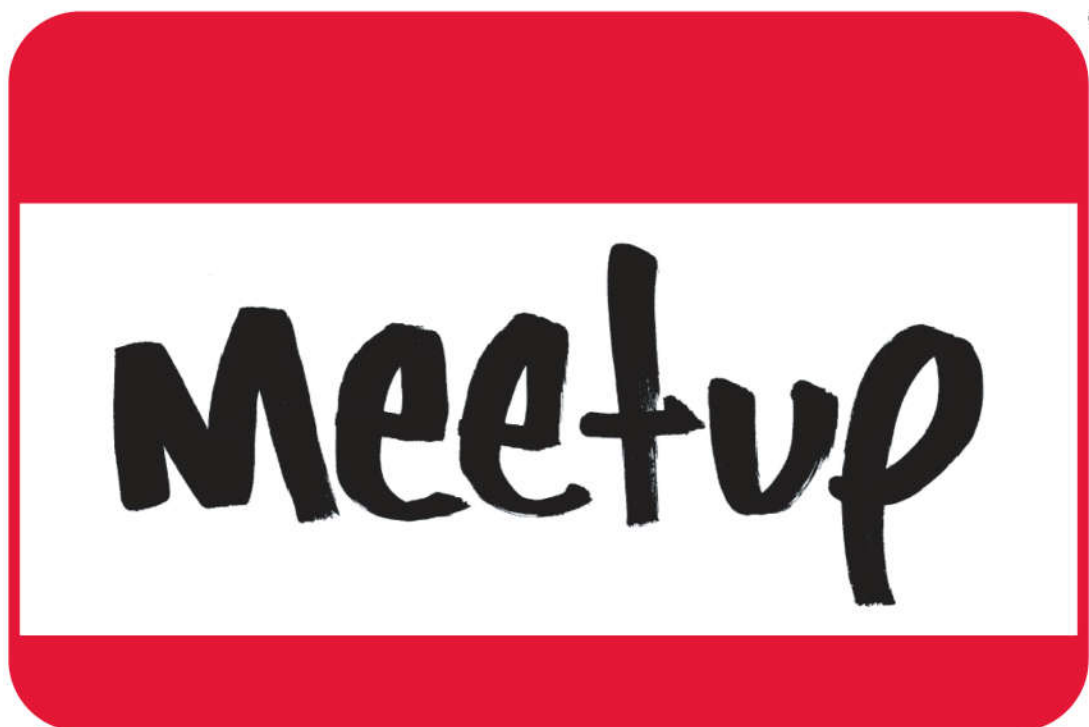
A more recent report as of April 11, 2024 states grassland habitat and their associated wildlife species have been declining for decades. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology released a new mapping tool that demonstrates the extent of these losses from 1992 to present. On average, our nation is losing 2.5 million acres of grasslands annually. That's almost 4000 square miles.

One critical protection for US grasslands is the Farm Bill. In 2023, World Wildlife Fund championed several updates to the bill, providing recommendations to Congress aimed at ending habitat conversion, preventing food loss and waste.

The Farm Bill plays a role in protecting grasslands through conservation programs and incentives for sustainable practices. The 2014 Farm Bill's Sodsaver provision, for example, reduces crop insurance subsidies for tilling native prairie.

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<https://www.meetup.com/S-M-S-SierraClub>



**We have been in operation since October 2011 and
now have 2720 members.**



Please practice & promote the responsible use of ecosystems & resources.

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Please mail or
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Well, I want to say to the climate deniers: Get real. And I want to say to those who know about climate change: Let's do some walking rather than just talking. And for the populations as a whole, they must call their leaders to account, and they must insist that this matter, this existential matter for all humanity, be addressed with urgency. We have to get net zero by 2050.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet