

North Fork Mono Tribe

Restoration Projects

The North Fork Mono Tribes' Mission is the preservation of the North Fork Mono Tribe's traditions, resources and lands through education, culture, religion and conservation.

The Tribe has several restoration projects on-going in the foothills to the High Sierra's, in Mariposa, Madera and Fresno Counties. Restoration projects are highly valued as they restore the cultural resources for the Tribal members to carry on their generations of traditional living. Many of the Tribal members make their living from native plants. It is important for the basketmakers, gatherers and cultural traditionalist to keep their practices and trades alive.

The tribal members and the Tribe's leaders are some of the front runners when it comes to preservation, restoration and enhancement of the lands and watersheds. When the Mono lived on the land they took care of the land. Now the land is mostly privately owned or controlled by governmental entities.

2008 to 2009 the Tribe's leaders participated with the CA Department of Water Resources in the development of the 2009 CA Water Plan Update. In 2009 the Tribe led the way for an historic Water Summit between 175 California Tribes and some 30 plus State and Federal Agencies. Out of the Water Plan Update a new chapter on Meadow Restoration was developed with on the tribe's Councilmember leading the way and the Chapter was dedicated to him.

The following are some of the ongoing projects the North Fork Mono Tribe is working on. Includes Watershed, County, Project, Partners, Tribal Leader and date project started.

Lost Lake Trail & Deergrass Restoration - Date: Trail, 1985; Deergrass, 2007
Partners: Fresno County Parks & Recreation; Dumna Tribe; San Joaquin River Trust; California Multicultural Center; CIBA members
Volunteers: (20) Fresno Co. Community Service; (60) Carver Academy
Tribal Members: Ron Goode, Lois Conner/Sharon Jones - Dumna
County: Fresno, Lost Lake, Friant, CA
Watershed: San Joaquin River, below Millerton Dam
Resource(s) Restoration: sedgeroot, soaproot, blackberries, alder, gray willow, wormwood, miners lettuce, etc.

Jensen Ranch Native American Garden - Date: 2008 one acre; 2009 five acres
Partners: San Joaquin River Trust & Conservancy; Am Indian Movement; Haslett Basin Band of Mono;
Volunteers: (30) CSUF, Native Am Studies;
Tribal Members: Ron Goode/Laura Wass - AIM, Ron Alec - Haslett Basin
County: Fresno County, N. of Woodward Park, Fresno, CA
Watershed: Lower San Joaquin River Flood Plain
Resource(s) Restoration: 1 acre traditional resources garden donated to Native Community- increased to 5 acres with conceptual plan

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Jackass Meadow Sedgeroot Restoration - Date: 2006

Partners: USFS, Botanist; SCE Hydro; NF Rancheria; Big Sandy Rancheria

Volunteers: (20) Forest Volunteer Trail Crew; (60) Madera High School

Tribal Members: Formally Melvin Carmen; Ron Goode

County: Fresno County, Florence Lake, CA

Watershed: Upper Southfork of San Joaquin River

Resource(s) Restoration: sedgeroot, meadow, mountain sage, etc.

Crane Valley Native Plant Restoration - Date: 2005

Partners: USFS Bass Lake Ranger District

Volunteers: (100) Adopt-a-watershed; (15) SNF; (20) NF Mono Tribe

Tribal Members: Ron Goode, Lois Conner, Richard Lavell

County: Madera County, Crane Valley Rd, Bass Lake, CA

Watershed: Crane Valley, Willow Creek, San Joaquin River

Resource(s) Restoration: 24 plus resources includes berries, sedgeroot, deergrass, yarrow, peppermint tea, soaproot, wild rose, etc.

Horseshoe Bend Historic Mono Trail - Date: 2002

Partners: SCE Hydro; USFS Trail & Arch; FERC; Pacific Legacy

Volunteers: N. Fork Mono Tribe; CSUF Botanist; North Fork Rancheria

Tribal Members: Formally Melvin Carmen; Ron Goode/Gaylen Lee-NFR

County: Madera County, between Redinger and Kerckhoff Reservoirs

Watershed: Willow Creek and the San Joaquin River

Resource(s) Restoration: cultural sites, elderberry, coffeeberry, ground spring runoff, historic Mono trail, & aquatic mussels in the river

Mariposa Creek Deergrass & Sourberry Restoration - Date: 2007

Partners: Kirk/Goode family; Mariposa Williamson Act

Volunteers: (30) gatherers from Mariposa to Auberry;

Tribal Members: Ron Goode, Lois Conner, Myra Kirk-Goode-Choctaw

County: Mariposa County, Buckeye Road, Mariposa, CA

Watershed: 400 acres of private property

Resource(s) Restoration: sourberries, elderberries, & deergrass

Over the past thirty years, the Tribe has been involved in the Relicensing process for P G & E and SCE. Settlements on the hydro projects have included restoration of meadows, trails, and gathering areas. Access, identification and protection of native plant resources, ancestral sites, artifact curation, and historical archiving. Hydro projects destroyed over 100 ancestral sites and continues to damage or eradicate the sites all together. There has been no settlement for the damage done to these sites.