

November Special Offering
Maidu Summit Consortium
Draft 10/31/23

Restore Native Americans' Lands

November is Native American Heritage Month and our special offering will go to the **Maidu Summit Consortium**. The Mountain Maidu in the upper Feather River watershed, like so many other indigenous peoples, lost nearly all their traditional lands through coercion and theft. Now they are slowly reclaiming their homeland and restoring it to ecological and spiritual health. Let us be generous in helping them reclaim their land and heritage.

The various Mountain Maidu groups joined together this century as the Maidu Summit Consortium and in 2019 successfully acquired nearly 3000 acres in Humbug Valley near Lake Almanor and more recently smaller parcels elsewhere. For two years they and hundreds of volunteers worked diligently on restoring meadows and constructing wooden boundary fencing and then the Dixie Fire swept through, burning much of their forestland and all of their restoration efforts.

Undaunted, they have resumed their restoration efforts. Currently they have 10 employees working on recovery from the fire: removing hazardous burned snags, rebuilding fencing, and getting land ready for replanting. Lacking their own resources they have formed or are developing partnerships to achieve their goals: with the U.S. Forest Service, Collins Pine lumber company, the Feather River Land Trust, the California Alliance for Work Force Development, and other public and private organizations. These partnerships are essential but not sufficient; they desperately need undesignated funds for office expenses, administrative staff, and project expenses not covered by the partnership grants. And they dream of building an education and culture center and reclaiming more of their ancestral homeland.

The Mountain Maidu people have been incredibly resilient in the face of genocide, government betrayal, and loss of land. Please be generous in helping these brave and resilient people as they work to reclaim their land and heritage.