



# Round Valley Reader



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Past \* Present \* Future

July 12, 2024

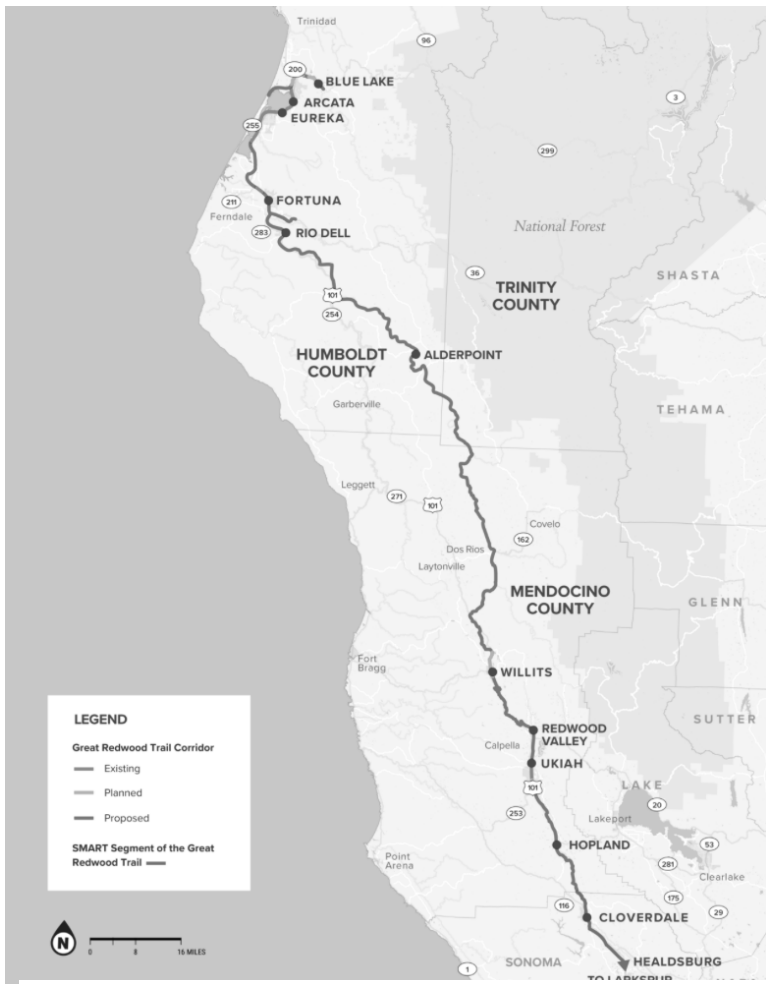


Image from <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org>

## RVAMAC Calls on GRTA to Consider Historical Injustices in Trail Planning

written by Michelle Peñaloza

In a letter dated July 3, 2024, the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council (RVAMAC) addressed Elaine Hogan, Executive Director of the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA), urging the agency to prioritize healing trauma and damage inflicted on Wailaki communities by the State of California. The letter highlights the importance of fostering meaningful relationships with native communities in the GRTA Master Plan.

The letter begins by highlighting the severe impact of state-sanctioned violence and policies against the Wailaki and their neighbors, starting in 1858. These actions included the indenturing, murder, and enslavement of Native people, alongside the forceful removal of children from their families. The letter described these acts as part of a broader legacy of genocide. In 1903, the proposed route for a railroad to connect Humboldt Bay to national rail networks further compounded these injustices. This project aimed to exploit the redwood forests, traditionally stewarded by Wailaki-related tribes, for corporate gain. Survey crews discovered and disregarded sacred and valuable household objects, marking another chapter in the history of displacement and violent disrespect faced by Native communities.

The letter emphasized the ongoing exclusion of Wailaki descendants from their ancestral

lands. "Since the time of their removal (and murder), the descendants of the Wailaki and related people have not been free to return to the canyon," the letter states. "This area, though remote wilderness in our current view, was a bountiful homeland cared for thousands of years by native people. Many, many village sites dot the riverbanks, and at least one settlement is so big that it would properly be called a town."

The letter highlighted the ongoing exclusion of Wailaki descendants from their ancestral lands. "The traces of these home places need to be fully honored, not as obstructions to the intended trail, but as valued earth under the care of a re-emerging Wailaki (Kinest'e) community," the letter from the RVAMAC states. "The state should extend its rights of ownership of the railroad right-of-way for the public purpose of revitalizing the native community's Traditional Ecological Knowledge based understanding and care." The RVAMAC's letter addresses the GRTA: "We ask that four steps be taken: 1) Back up and rethink the priorities. 2) Create relationships with the Wailaki communities, organizations and Tribes as first partners. 3) Ask for process advice from the community rather than ratification of a preexisting plan. 4) Build a timeline that accommodates native community needs." And closes, "As native and non-native citizens of Round Valley we believe that the health of our community depends on a process that is healing for our neighbors."

The council members of RVAMAC include Presiding Officer Kathy Britton, Assistant Presiding Officer Marylou Mileck, Treasurer Dane Downing, Secretary Kay Richards, Council Members Laura Betts, James Russ, Michelle Downey, and Charles Sargenti.

Kay Richards, Secretary of RVAMAC, signed the letter on behalf of council members, also cc'ing the Clerk of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor John Haschak, emphasizing the collective support and importance of this appeal. I wrote to Supervisor Haschak to ask about his thoughts on the letter; he stated via email, "The letter raises important issues. The staff and consultants for the GRTA have been reaching out to the tribes and native communities. The letter points out that more authentic dialogue needs to happen and that the plan must take into consideration that the Great Redwood Trail passes through an area with a long history and many sacred sites along the way. I hear that the Wailaki and other native communities want to make sure that the trail considers the sacredness and special nature of these lands. I appreciate that the RVAMAC listened to and acted on these concerns. I will address the letter at the next GRTA meeting."

I reached out to Marylou Mileck, Assistant Presiding Officer of the RVAMAC, for comment, who added, "Bruce Hillbach-Barger was the person presenting the draft letter. The MAC agrees the trail authority should pay attention to this matter. Personally, I don't think diverting the trail is realistic." Mileck also sent me her own personal comments sent to the GRTA: "Rather than diverting the trail around ancestral lands, I would like to see signage along the trail educating the public using the trail of this part of our history."

I also reached out to Michelle Merrifield, Round Valley Tribal member of Wailaki descent and former coordinator of the Native WAY Program. Merrifield is also a part of the Kinest'e Community Coalition, a Tribal/Community Coalition of concerned community members that have been and have continued voicing substantial concerns to the GRTA about the potential environmental, cultural, and moral impacts of the Great Redwood Trail (GRT) since the fall of 2023. She said up to now, "we are still waiting for a face-to-face consultation with the GRTA and the Tribes."

## FIRE PERSONNEL DISCOVER BURNED HUMAN REMAINS IN MINA FIRE

On July 8, 2024, at 2:17 p.m., Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputies assisted CalFire with a wildfire in the 94500 block of Mina Road, north of Covelo, CA. The fire, started by an escaped burn pile, quickly spread, potentially involving a structure and resulting in one person, 66-year-old Dagmar Stankova, reported missing. Despite efforts, deputies could not access the residence due to the fire's intensity. Early on July 9, suspected human remains were found in the burned structure. While unidentifiable, the remains are believed to be Stankova. An autopsy is pending. As of Wednesday evening, July 10, the Mina Fire was declared "All Clear for Wildfire" and all evac orders and warnings were lifted. Source: *Mendocino Action News*.





## Yuki Trails Sports Activity Day


### 3 on 3 co-ed Youth Basketball Tournament

All participants will receive a t-shirt for participating

### 3 Age Divisions

Please call the family resource center to register your team

- Deadline will be July 15th or when bracket is full
- Phone Number (707) 983-6262



**3rd, 4th, 5th grade**

- 6 Teams
- Single elimination

**Rules**

- First team to 11 wins
- Teams must have 2 boys & 1 girl or 2 girls & 1 boy

**6th, 7th, 8th grade**

- 6 Teams
- Single elimination

**Highschool 9th-12th grade**

- 10 Teams
- Double elimination

Hosted by The Tis-bil Indian Education Center

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE

# CVFD FLEA MARKET

**JULY 13 & 14**  
10 AM - 3 PM

**FREE ENTRY**



**COVELO AIRPORT/ REC CENTER**

**\$10 a booth per day for vendors**  
reserve your spot (707) 354-5545

## YOUTH ACTIVITY DAY

**JULY 17, 2024** **10am-3pm**  
Hidden Oaks




**Basketball Crafts:**

- Clappers
- Hand Games
- Dream catchers
- Seed Balls

**Traditional Dancers**

- Elder Bingo
- Raffles
- Program Booths
- Face Painting
- Lunch Provided
- Story Time
- Jump Houses
- And much more...

Tribal TANF, Round Valley Domestic Violence, Round Valley Housing Authority




### SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM- 2024

(PRE-K THRU 12 TH GRADE)

**DATES: JUNE 24TH THRU JULY 25TH-**  
(BREAK WEEK OF 4TH JULY)

**TIME: 1 TO 3 PM**



## WANT TO SHARE SOMETHING WITH OUR COMMUNITY?

Send your community announcements, story ideas, events, future imaginings, local asks, & advertisements to [coveloarts@gmail.com](mailto:coveloarts@gmail.com)

## MMIP AWARENESS GATHERING

*We want to always honor and remember our MMIP and their families*



**KEY NOTE SPEAKERS**



**Mark Pooley**  
Director  
Investigative Support (AI/AN) UNTHSC  
Center for Human Identification



**AL Pooley**  
Founder & President  
of NAFFA

**Who Should Attend**

- Community Members
- Social Workers
- DV Advocates
- Law Makers
- Law Enforcement
- Tribal Leaders

**Topics to Be Discussed**

- Steps to take if a loved one goes missing
- Supporting Families of MMIP
- Tribal Leaders Panel
- The History of MMIP
- Why We Wear Red
- DV Advocate Panel
- Community Organizing in Response To MMIP

**Save The Date** **VENDORS WELCOME**

10:00am - 4:00PM  
**August 1, 2024**  
Ukiah Valley Conference Center  
200 South School St  
Ukiah Ca, 95482

Lunch Provided  
**For More Info Contact:**  
Diana Billy-Elliott, MSW, ASW  
(707) 234-0086

**REGISTER NOW**



**The Department of Justice has been invited**

## Meet Behaviorist and Autism Specialist, Jillian Guevara

**July, 19 2024**


Autism 101  
10:00AM - 11:00AM

Open discussion or consult  
12:00PM - 1:00PM

Behavior 101  
2:00PM-3:00PM


Round Valley Family Resource Center  
76471 Henderson Lane  
Covelo, CA 95428

Light refreshments will be provided  
Spanish translation available  
Gift card raffle for participants



## Fatherhood & Motherhood is Sacred

**Summer 2024- Thursday Evenings @ 6-8 PM!**



**EVERYONE is Welcome to attend! YOUTH and ADULTS, especially Elders!!!**

**Location: The Round Valley Family Resource Center**

**Food Provided!**

Native American Fatherhood and Families Association  
Fatherhood/Motherhood Is Sacred  
The Family is the Heart of Native American Culture

