



Amah Mutsun Land Trust

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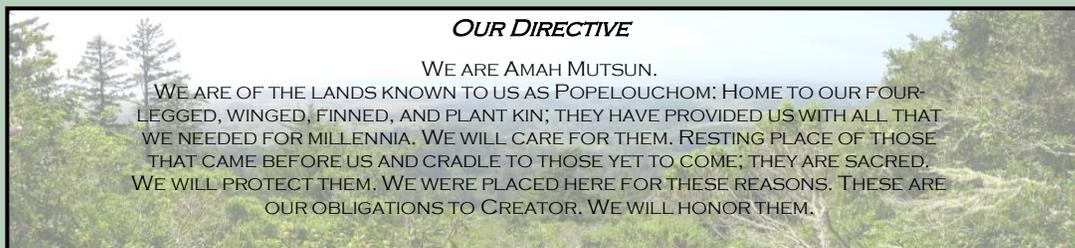
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OUR DIRECTIVE

WE ARE AMAH MUTSUN.
WE ARE OF THE LANDS KNOWN TO US AS POPELOUCHOM; HOME TO OUR FOUR-
LEGGED, WINGED, FINNED, AND PLANT KIN; THEY HAVE PROVIDED US WITH ALL THAT
WE NEEDED FOR MILLENNIA. WE WILL CARE FOR THEM. RESTING PLACE OF THOSE
THAT CAME BEFORE US AND CRADLE TO THOSE YET TO COME; THEY ARE SACRED.
WE WILL PROTECT THEM. WE WERE PLACED HERE FOR THESE REASONS. THESE ARE
OUR OBLIGATIONS TO CREATOR. WE WILL HONOR THEM.

The Amah Mutsun

The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band is comprised of the living descendants of the Mutsun and Awaswas speaking peoples who have continually occupied the greater Monterey Bay area north to Año Nuevo and the region south of San Francisco Bay for countless generations prior to European contact. Although we are not a federally recognized tribe, we are recognized by the State of California as a Tribal Government under State Senate Bill 18. Our Tribe has no Tribal land and receives no financial assistance from either the federal or state governments.

Our creation story tells us that the Creator very specifically chose our people to live upon these lands with the mandate that we care for the four-legged, finned, winged, and plant peoples as well as the lands and waters of Popeloutchom—our homeland. Fire, weeding, spreading propagules, tending, and many other traditional management techniques were used by our ancestors to enhance natural communities and to shape the healthy and productive native plant and animal populations that were witnessed by the first Europeans upon contact.

Our history of interaction with European colonizers, beginning in the late 1700's, traces a path of subjugation and community disintegration under Spanish/Catholic, Mexican, and American occupations, including genocide

of California Indians that was subsidized by the California state legislature in the mid-1800's. We were forcibly removed from our lands and prohibited from continuing our indigenous stewardship practices. Both our people and the land suffered as a result.

Our cultural heritage today is a patchwork-tapestry of stories, traditional life ways, and rituals handed down through generations, woven upon a common past with strong family ties, and illuminated by over 78,000 pages of anthropological field notes held at the Smithsonian Institute of our language and traditional ecological knowledge. Our Tribe is restoring aspects of our indigenous knowledge that have been lost, particularly regarding land management and stewardship. We have no doubt that in spite of our "recent" history, our mandate from the Creator to care for Mother Earth must be honored.

In 2005, our Tribal Council agreed that that we must find a way to re-engage in stewardship of the lands and waters of Popeloutchom even though we owned no land. We began by building partnerships and alliances with public land owners and educational institutions. With support from Sempervirens Fund, The Christensen Fund, and Kalliopeia Foundation, we formed a Tribal land trust.



Our Traditional Territory, known to us in Mutsun as Popeloutchom, stretches from Año Nuevo south along the west slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, Monterey Bay, and the Salinas River. It includes the entire Pajaro and San Benito watersheds, encompassing all of San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties, as well as southern Santa Clara and eastern Monterey Counties.

Amah Mutsun Land Trust

The Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMLT) was established in 2013 and is a Native-led, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We bring an indigenous perspective and unique model of stewardship to San Francisco and Monterey Bay Area lands, where traditional knowledge, active engagement, and scientific inquiry are combined to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources.

Our Vision is of a future where the Amah Mutsun, and all people, may once again drink safely from clean and clear flowing waters; tend and gather from vigorous populations of plants; hunt from strong herds of elk and deer; harvest salmon and abalone from healthy fisheries; behold self-sustaining populations of condor and eagle soaring the ridges and valleys; witness the sky darken with waterfowl rising off full lakes and vibrant wetlands; be assured that those who have passed may rest in peace; and know our connection to the land because we live connected to it.

Our goals are to restore and apply the ecological knowledge gained over 10,000 years of indigenous presence to issues of ecological conservation, resource enhancement, and sustainability in the contemporary world. We provide a hopeful and healthful future for our children; protect the sacred sites and resting spirits of our ancestors; access, manage, and harvest the bounty of these lands that sustain the people

Our commitments

- To be stewards of the land, water, and marine environments and to look after the native species that Creator entrusted to our care.
- To work in collaborative partnership with the community to conserve, protect, and heal Mother Earth within the lands of Popeloutchom.
- To restore and enhance the indigenous knowledge of our ancestors and apply this knowledge directly to the land through stewardship practices, sustainable harvesting and management techniques, and protection of cultural and natural resources to maintain healthy and diverse ecosystems long into the future.
- To cultivate relationships and create opportunities for our people to hunt and harvest culturally significant resources in order to reinforce and teach our traditions.
- To facilitate development of partnerships and agreements with those who wish to protect the cultural and natural resources upon the lands under their care.
- To maintain confidentiality in assisting partnering landowners and land managers in their conservation objectives.
- To educate, consult, and partner with the public, land conservation organizations, public agencies, and private landowners on native land stewardship principles and practices.
- To incorporate adaptation strategies that address climate change and promote resilience for humans and native species alike.
- To maintain a professional, effective, and efficient organization based on cultural values and governed with excellence and accountability.

Our partners and allies

The Amah Mutsun value the great work being done by like-minded individuals and organizations in service of our lands and our people. The AMLT creates partnerships, engages in collaborative work, and forms Memorandums of Understanding with these groups to accomplish shared goals in. Our partners include:

Governments and Agencies

- California Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- US National Park Service
- Santa Clara County Parks
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
- Bureau of Land Management
- City of San Juan Bautista
- Cañada de los Osos Ecological Reserve
- City of Santa Cruz

Land Trusts and Conservation Organizations

- Sempervirens Fund
- Bay Area Open Space Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- Land Trust Alliance
- Native Land Trust Council
- Conservation Lands Foundation
- Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
- Peninsula Open Space Trust
- Pie Ranch
- Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network
- Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Educational Institutions

- UC Berkeley
- UC Santa Cruz
- UC Davis
- Stanford University
- California Academy of Sciences
- Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology
- Oakland Museum of California

spiritually and physically; repair and make resilient the natural systems that modern ways have disrupted; integrate traditional knowledge and methods into the science of conservation; guide decisions that affect our lands and well-being; and reunite our people upon Tribally-owned homelands.

Indigenous knowledge, stewardship, and science are integrated into all phases of work by the AMLT. Under indigenous management, natural resources are simultaneously enhanced, honored, and utilized for cultural purposes. We employ ecological monitoring to learn more about the impacts of indigenous management on the contemporary environment, and to ensure management actions are meeting stated stewardship goals. Our stewardship and research expands knowledge about the historical conditions of the California landscape, with practical applications to all protected lands within Amah Mutsun territory.

Our programs ensure both tribal members and the public have the opportunity to engage in constructive, meaningful, and enduring relationships with the land. AMLT employs a Native Stewardship Corps of young-adult Tribal members to implement the research, restoration, and education projects to which we are committed. We also run a summer camp for Native American youth to educate and inspire the next generation of Native stewards. Through volunteer days, publications, lectures, and field trips, we share indigenous knowledge and stewardship methods with all people who call Popeloutchom their home.



Native Stewardship Corps member removes invasive pampas grass to protect native coastal prairies.



The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in collaboration with Pinnacles National Park carried out an experimental burn to test the effects of indigenous management on deergrass, a native bunchgrass traditionally used in basket weaving.



Native plant knowledge is shared with Tribal members and the public at our educational gardens.



Our creation story tells us that Mount Umunhum is the origin of our people, and we partner with the current landowners to protect the unique value of this site.

Results of collaborative ecological and archaeological research at Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve are guiding cultural management of the landscape by AMLT today.