

SAVING THE SIERRA

Grassroots Solutions for Sustaining Rural Communities
A One-Hour Radio Documentary by jesikah maria ross & Catherine Stifter



SUSTAINING RURAL PLACES TOOL KIT

Brought to you by the Sierra Business Council in partnership with Saving the Sierra

The Land Health Primer

We all depend upon the earth for our lives, so it is little surprise that the health of the earth is a good harbinger of the health of its people. The land health movement is about helping to heal our land, air and water to provide for a sustainable, healthy and fair future.

Land, air and water provide incredibly important ecosystem services. Ecosystem services are the conditions or processes through which natural systems sustain and fulfill human life. Ecosystem services maintain biodiversity and the production of goods, such as food, fiber, forage, timber, biomass, and water—the stuff that we depend upon to live. These natural processes also purify the air and water, mitigate flood and drought, cycle nutrients into soil to support food production, regulate climate, eliminate waste, and pollinate crops and natural vegetation.

Ultimately how we treat our land, water, air and natural systems will save our lives. The land health movement is dedicated to restoring the health of our lands and natural systems for future generations.

Fortunately there is a growing network of people and organizations that recognize that land health, and the private and public stewardship necessary to restore land health, is the defining challenge of the 21st Century. These groups are working to leverage every tool—new coalitions of unlikely allies, the private sector and markets, carbon sequestration, social fairness and equity, innovation and creativity—to restore land health.

For more information about land health:

SAVING
THE SIERRA

www.savingthesierra.org



www.sbcouncil.org



www.californiastories.org

Pioneering and demonstrating innovative projects and approaches that foster community vitality, environmental quality, economic prosperity, and social justice in the Sierra Nevada.

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Read “The Way of Ignorance—and other essays” by Wendell Barry
www.powells.com/s?kw=The+Way+of+Ignorance&x=0&y=0

or “For the Health of the Land” by Aldo Leopold
www.islandpress.org/books/detail.html?&SKU=1-55963-764-1
(Or purchase them from your local independent bookseller.)

For information about innovative ways to promote land health check out:

The Quivira Coalition
quiviracoalition.org/Land_Health/index.html

For nationally relevant information about the response to climate change go to:
The California Climate Change Portal
www.climatechange.ca.gov

Or Step It Up to learn how to take direct action in your community:
www.stepitup2007.org

For information about forestry and case studies about the local response go to:

The Thriving Forest Compendium
www.thrivingforests.org

For information about the effort to link the land health movement to creating millions of new green collar jobs in America go to:
The Apollo Alliance
www.apolloalliance.org

For information about on the ground projects restoring land health and your opportunity to dig in a take responsibility go to:
The National Association of Resource Conservation Districts
www.nacdnet.org

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For an international database of organizations working to promote land health with an emphasis on incorporating social fairness and global sustainability go to:

WiserEarth

www.wiserearth.org

The Sierra Business Council, and many other organizations, manage programs designed to promote the long-term health of the land, air and water in the Sierra Nevada:

The Sierra Business Council

www.sbcouncil.org

The Sierra Nevada Alliance

www.sierranevadaalliance.org

The Sierra Fund

www.sierrafund.org

