

# MEDIA ADVISORY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Division of Boating and Waterways | Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division | Office of Historic Preservation

**For Immediate Release**

1/23/2023

**Contact:**

Adeline Yee, Information Officer

[Newsroom@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Newsroom@parks.ca.gov)

Cell: (916) 661-2767

## **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and the Sierra District of California State Parks**

*Truckee, Calif.*—The Sierra District of California State Parks and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California invite members of the media to the signing ceremony of a new 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two government entities. California State Parks operates and manages twelve State Park units located within the original traditional territory of the Washoe People in the Sierra Nevada. California State Parks acknowledges that the Washoe people, the *Waší-šiw*, (*Wa she su*) are the original Native people of these lands and they continue to maintain spiritual importance to the Washoe today. Chairman Serrell Smokey of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and Parks Director Armando Quintero will sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on **Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Visitor Center at Donner Memorial State Park**. The purpose of this MOU is to establish and formalize a government-to-government relationship between the Washoe and State Parks. This MOU will establish a protocol for continuing, open discussions and will outline the responsibilities of State Parks and the Washoe to promote successful consultation, co-management, and collaboration for the mutual benefit of the Washoe and State Parks. The goal of this MOU is to foster a shared stewardship approach and to introduce **Traditional Management Practices (TMPs)** based on Washoe priorities and **Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)** to management of units of the State Park System within the Sierra District. The Washoe Tribe and State Parks recognize that a collaborative approach will facilitate the management and preservation of cultural and natural resources. The MOU will allow for tribal gathering and day-use access for all Washoe tribal members in 12 State Park Units:

- 1. Donner Memorial State Park**
- 2. Kings Beach State Recreation Area**
- 3. Burton Creek State Park**
- 4. Tahoe State Recreation Area**
- 5. Ward Creek Unit**
- 6. Ed Z'Berg-Sugar Pine Point State Park**
- 7. D.L. Bliss State Park**
- 8. Emerald Bay State Park**
- 9. Cascade Creek Unit**
- 10. Washoe Meadows State Park**
- 11. Lake Valley State Recreation Area**
- 12. Grover Hot Springs State Park**

**WHAT:** Media Availability for “Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and the Sierra District of California State Parks”

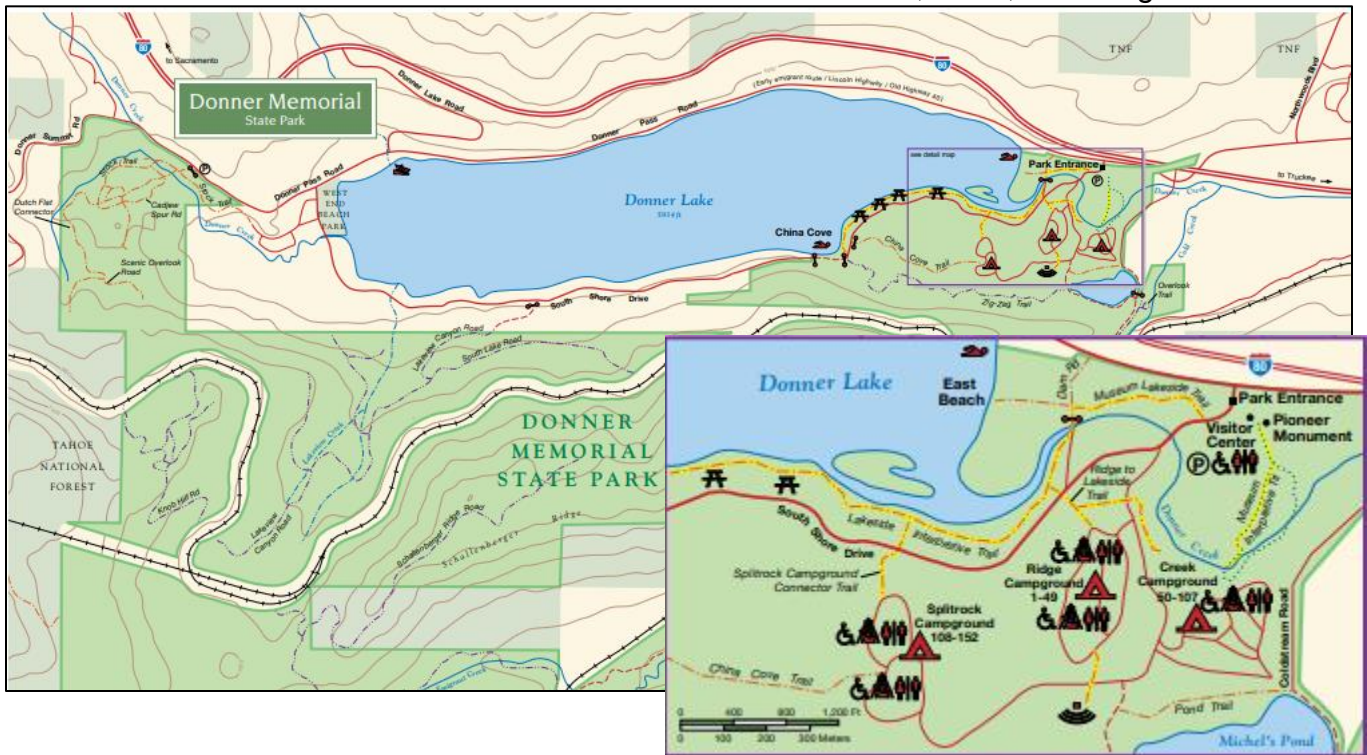
*Media members interested in attending must R.S.V.P. to Information Officer Adeline Yee at the contact above by close of business Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> to confirm attendance and ride-along.*

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 28, 2023  
9 a.m. – noon

**WHERE:** Donner Memorial State Park, Visitor Center  
12593 Donner Pass Road Truckee, CA

**WHO:** California State Parks  
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

**WHY:** Through the Tribal MOU Program, MOUs between California Native American Tribes and California State Parks are created to systematically address cultural and natural resources of concern or interest to the tribes within Park Districts, Units, and Programs.



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