

BOARD ELECTION WILDLANDS QUESTIONNAIRE

Board Candidate Name: Nancy Muse

1. Land exploration and preservation have been a major part of Sierra Club's agenda since its founding. In recent years climate change and environmental justice have become important issues as well. **Please tell us how you see these issues intersecting and how you would prioritize action and funding to complement that intersection. Please keep your answer to 100 words or less.**

ANSWER: Since the founding of the club, land use has gone through radical changes that could not have been anticipated 133 years ago.. It is estimated that about 6,000 acres per day, 4 acres per minute, of open space and woodlands are lost to development and/or agriculture, which contributes to a loss of natural carbon sequestration and resulting pollution affects the health of frontline communities. There must be a holistic approach as we address and prioritize these issues. Preservation of wild lands is more important now than ever and the club must support a robust campaign to save wild places.

2. The Sierra Club raises a sizable percentage of its funding from appeals based on its work to protect wildlife and wild and natural places yet it does not invest a corresponding amount of money into those programs. **Would you support an increase in funding for the Conservation Campaign and associated Chapter and Grassroots Network led actions as a percentage of the overall budget? Why or why not? Please keep your answer to 100 words or less.**

ANSWER: I completely support an increase in funding for grassroots empowerment in order to facilitate conservation work in their respective communities and states while also plugging in and supporting national campaigns. Highly qualified and experienced staff is critical to conduct trainings and support efficiency of volunteer work. It has been my belief that the Sierra Club must be the leader in conservation and the protection of natural systems upon which all life depends. I have seen much waste that is extraneous to the mission of the club which could be trimmed or minimized. Funding for conservation must be a high priority.

3. The power of the Sierra Club comes primarily from its grassroots base and its participation in larger citizen movements. **As a member of the Board, what specific steps would you support to strengthen our internal volunteer structures (Chapters, Grassroots Network Teams, organizing staff) and diversify our base so that we become representative of the overall population? Please keep your answer to 100 words or less.**

ANSWER: I currently serve on 3 GRN CORE teams, and a 4th CORE team specific to a regional energy team. This experience has given me insight as to how important these teams are in achieving the necessary actions that bring about positive outcomes. As a member of the Board, I would advocate for funding of staff and volunteers to become involved with university programs and students and also increase funding for chapter conservation committees to engage

in actions such as water testing, tree planting, invasive species removal, trail maintenance and also to boost hosting symposia and other community education outreach programs.

4. There are conflicts between uses of and on public lands, with one of the biggest conflicts coming between public land protection and renewable energy siting, transmission and storage. **Describe how you approach decision making regarding the dichotomy between ecosystem protection/restoration and renewable energy siting. Please keep your answer to 100 words or less.**

ANSWER: Agrivoltaics offers much promise for mutually-beneficial land use practices where plantings around solar panels—such as pollinator fields and other select crops—benefit wildlife while also reducing GHG emissions. Various site-specific management plans may be customized for the affected ecosystem which could include the height and placement of the panels, enabling the panels to enhance biodiversity and soil health while also conserving water. Big power producers' persuasion that solar energy production must be centralized is responsible for underutilization of roof top and community solar which, rather, should be a national priority as was the Million Solar Roof initiative.

5. Getting outside to explore the lands that the Sierra Club seeks to protect helps build commitment and passion for our land protection efforts. **What areas have you researched, explored and/or taken action to protect over the last two years?** *Please keep your answer to 100 words or less.*

ANSWER: I have been involved in my community and state to advocate for protection of wild areas and Wilderness including ongoing advocacy for public land, the National Recreation Trail on the local TVA reservation. I work with a state-wide non-profit group's Forest Stewardship and Advocacy committee which supports and strengthens actions such as a local land trust's expansion into areas surrounding a national forest. I have also recently supported the resistance to the US Forest Services proposal for leasing for oil and gas exploration in one of the national forests in my state, also engaging my chapter ExCom.