

BOARD ELECTION WILDLANDS QUESTIONNAIRE

RESPONSES FROM MAYA KHOSLA

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.**

Actions that address climate change and environmental justice (EJ) issues are deeply connected to conservation actions supporting our lands and waters. I would focus on funding movements that support true clean energy projects (solar, wind), with siting recommendations that avoid resulting in EJ issues. Wild lands, waters, and communities need to be [protected from oil drilling](#), carbon capture and storage pipelines, pumping, and from [forest extraction for biomass energy](#) – all of which exacerbate the climate crisis while presenting EJ issues due to toxic emissions, facility fires, and leakages. I would also support funding for project-specific explorations.

Hyperlinks: <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/06/g-s1-41154/biden-ban-new-offshore-oil-gas-drilling>
https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/debunking_the_biomass_myth/pdfs/Forest-Bioenergy-Briefing-Book-March-2021.pdf

2. The Sierra Club raises a sizeable 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.**

I would wholeheartedly support an increase in funding for the Conservation Campaign and related actions. In essence, they are critical for survival. We are facing new threats due to development and habitat loss (such as [massive solar energy fields proposed in wild lands](#) and [clear-cuts proposed for forests](#)). I would focus on many of the basics: on accounting for the carbon sequestration and storage capacity of the wild, on supporting grassroots efforts that take strong steps to oppose large-scale developments and [large-scale extraction projects](#), and on specifying fund allocations, to increase our capacity for conservation actions.

Hyperlinks: https://enewspaper.latimes.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=c365ff39-3ca7-4069-9287-9aa4cdbcd76a
<https://johnmuirproject.org/forest-watch/>
<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/conservation-groups-seek-block-logging-projects-giant-sequoia-national-monument>

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.**

Working for the Sierra Club, I would support an increase in funding and related resources to empower grassroots networks and increase participation in movements that address climate change, conserve wild lands, biodiversity, and carbon pools. For more effective projects, we would need to increase support. My work would focus on increasing youth and new-member internships, and on providing unique opportunities so Sierra Club can grow more diverse. I am particularly interested in training programs focused on [visual documentations](#), so new members can explore [the intersection of wilderness, conservation actions, environmental justice issues](#), and grassroots movements.

Hyperlinks: <https://vimeo.com/1028788938?share=copy>
<https://vimeo.com/1053326465?share=copy>

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.**

My professional work has given me opportunities to guide processes and priorities so that renewable energy projects (solar, wind energy) can be positioned in previously developed locations, rooftops and parking lots, to save [our wild places](#). Sierra Club has an excellent siting policy that needs to guide our approval process. I would work to empower chapters and grassroots network teams to follow existing policies, which are not [a matter of debate](#). My work would promote the best course of action to save wild places, to keep protection/restoration efforts distinct from renewable energy sites.

Hyperlinks: https://enewspaper.latimes.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=c365ff39-3ca7-4069-9287-9aa4cdbcd76a
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnRnSh7cxg>

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.**

Over the past 2 years, I have explored the incredible post-fire regeneration of giant sequoias in [Nelder](#), [Redwood Mountain](#), and Freeman Creek Groves, and have documented rare wildlife (fisher, marten, and wolf) using remote cameras. These documentations serve as powerful testimonies for the wild. I have served on the National Sierra Club task force creating the new

Prescribed Fire Policy, and very recently joined the Redwood Chapter Executive Committee and the California Legislative Committee. My writings include multiple comments and declarations to protect forests from logging, and screenwriting for [films](#) to showcase the importance of conservation.

Hyperlinks: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ece3.11213>
<https://www.mdpi.com/2571-6255/7/2/44>
<https://www.mayakhosla.com/rejuvenation-poem>