

**NAME:** Maya Khosla

***PETITION CANDIDATE***

**CURRENT RESIDENCE:** Sonoma County, California

**CURRENT MEMBER SINCE:** 2018

**OCCUPATION:** Senior biologist/toxicologist, forest protection writer and filmmaker

**SIERRA CLUB LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:** Forest protection activist, Sierra Club Redwood Chapter

**OTHER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:**

Senior Wildlife Biologist (2013-present); Sonoma County Poet Laureate (2018-2020), following the 2017 wildfires; Co-organizer, Sonoma County Climate Summit (2021); Film Director (2015-2016); Co-Director, Turtle Diaries Project, India (2011-2013); 2020 Environmentalist of the Year Award (Sonoma County Conservation Council); 2020 PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award for, "All the Fires of Wind and Light"; screenwriting for "Village of Dust, City of Water," highlighting social justice issues.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I was inspired to join the Sierra Club after a screening and discussion of the powerful film "Burned" (co-organized by several Sierra Club members), about the climate change and community impacts of logging for energy production. I realized the importance of film for communities gathering to galvanize change. At the time I had just completed directing my first environmental film, "Searching for the Gold Spot," exploring the high biodiversity and natural regeneration in wildlands after wildfire, and the "Burned" screening and community taught me about powerful venues where community members informed by film can openly discuss critical climate issues, the biodiversity value of forests, and the importance of keeping carbon in our wildlands to mitigate for climate change.

As a wildlife ecologist, I spend thousands of hours getting to know remote wild places. Just a few weeks ago I walked out into one of the forests in California with a few Sierra Club friends and discovered and filmed a Pacific fisher, one of the rarest animals in western forests, in a place where it was previously not known to occur. If elected, I will bring my on-the-ground experience and knowledge to the Sierra Club Board as I advocate for volunteer leaders, including both conservation and outings, and for bold stances on wildlands protection.

With the Sierra Club becoming so much more open and including so many more people of color, I look forward to supporting this incredible community and giving members whatever I can — so they can step right into the photos represented by the Club's beautiful annual calendars and explore our natural world and its immense values for themselves — through discoveries made by setting foot afield in nature, through screenings (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7Fo8aNOIJU&t=6s>), presentations, and through conversations.

If elected, I promise to do everything I can to promote productive discussions so we can work on the climate change and biodiversity crises together, protecting the beauty of the natural world around us (<https://grassrootschoice.weebly.com/>). I am particularly interested in reaching out to other people of color, and other women of color, in ways that can achieve success in addressing the climate crisis and in discovering and protecting the incredible biodiversity of forests and other natural habitats — for the generations ahead of us.

**CONTACT:** creekshade@gmail.com; phone: 530-263-5158  
WEBSITE: <https://www.mayakhosla.com/>