



Restoring Mother Earth



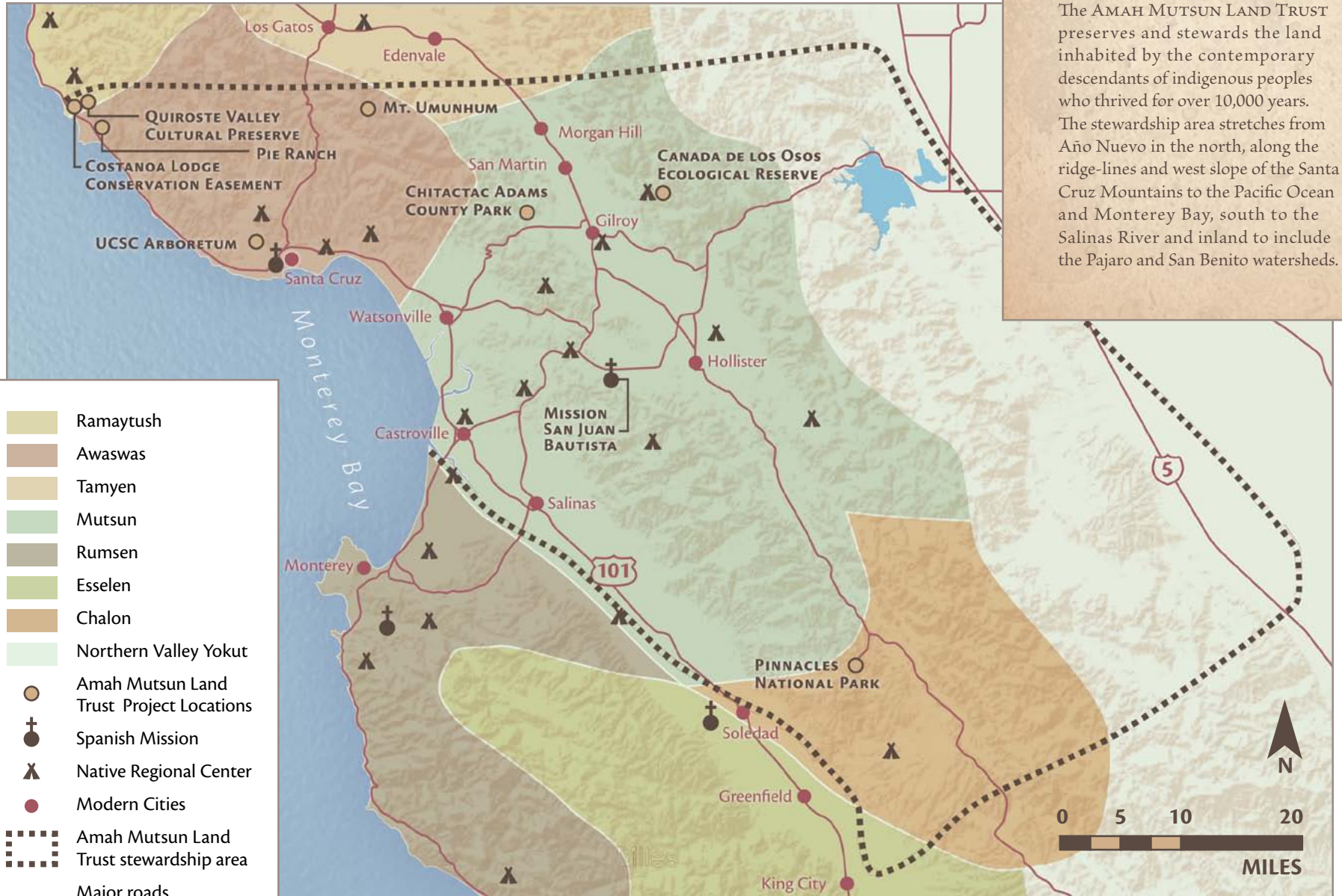
WE ARE AMAH MUTSUN



...of the lands known to us as Popeloutchom. Home to our four-legged, winged, finned, and plant kin; they have provided us with all that we needed for millennia — we will care for them. Resting place of those that came before us and cradle of those yet to come, they are sacred. We will protect them.



The AMAH MUTSUN LAND TRUST preserves and stewards the land inhabited by the contemporary descendants of indigenous peoples who thrived for over 10,000 years. The stewardship area stretches from Año Nuevo in the north, along the ridge-lines and west slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Pacific Ocean and Monterey Bay, south to the Salinas River and inland to include the Pajaro and San Benito watersheds.



- Ramaytush
- Awaswas
- Tamyen
- Mutsun
- Rumsen
- Esselen
- Chalon
- Northern Valley Yokut
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust Project Locations
- Spanish Mission
- Native Regional Center
- Modern Cities
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust stewardship area
- Major roads



Conservation & Restoration

The Amah Mutsun Land Trust is committed to protecting and celebrating our cultural resources and creating opportunities to engage in traditional ways across the Central California landscapes of our ancestors.

The Amah Mutsun Land Trust uniquely merges conventional land trust approaches with indigenous knowledge, techniques and ideals. Our ancestors did not own the land; rather, they believed they were given the responsibility to care for the land and all its plant and animal inhabitants. To meet these responsibilities, Amah Mutsun Land Trust seeks to restore traditional relationships with landscapes through strategies that include acquisition of fee ownership and conservation easements.

To ensure the meaningful protection of our culturally significant places and resources, we consult and collaborate with public and private agencies such as Pinnacles National Park, University of California, and the California Department of Parks & Recreation. We establish partnerships in order to preserve and restore the lands and waters under their care.

“The productive and diverse landscapes of California were in part the outcome of sophisticated and complex harvesting and management practices.”

Kat Anderson, TENDING THE WILD: NATIVE AMERICAN KNOWLEDGE AND THE MANAGEMENT OF CALIFORNIA’S NATURAL RESOURCES

OUR MISSION

CONSERVE AND RESTORE indigenous cultural and natural resources within the traditional territories of indigenous Mutsun and Awaswas peoples.

STEWARD our lands and waters; combining traditional resource and environmental management with contemporary approaches—ensuring a resilient future for all inhabitants of Popeloutchom and fulfilling our obligation to Creator.

RESEARCH and teach the ways of nature — returning to the path of traditional ecological knowledge that our ancestors followed for thousands of years.



Indigenous Stewardship

The Amah Mutsun Land Trust endeavors to relearn, apply and share traditional ecological knowledge to issues of ecological conservation, resource management, and sustainability in the contemporary world. For over 800 generations, our ancestors engaged with landscapes in ways that transformed the structure, abundance, and diversity of biological resources as part of the ecosystem, not at its expense. We believe indigenous stewardship is *essential* to restoring balance and healing Mother Earth.

Our team is developing and implementing specific indigenous stewardship plans for each property under our Trust's care, in order to promote healthy natural systems and restore the resilience and diversity of native plant and animal populations. We combine sustainable harvesting strategies, proven scientific practices, spiritual elements, and the revitalization of our tribal ecological knowledge and customs to maximize the effect of our work.

By sharing our stewardship workforce, techniques and knowledge with the public, the Amah Mutsun Land Trust magnifies its impact and inspires non-indigenous peoples to connect with their natural world.

“Regardless of our tragic history of the past 230 years, our Elders remind us that our responsibility to preserve and protect Popeloutchum was never rescinded; we must fulfill our obligation to Creator.”

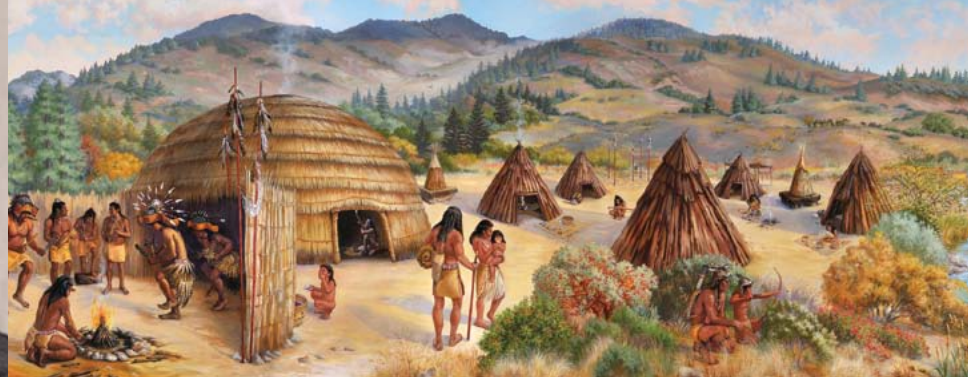
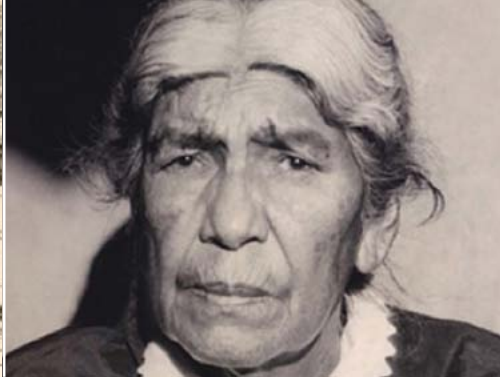
Valentin Lopez, PRESIDENT » AMAH MUTSUN LAND TRUST

Research and Education

Our vision is a future where all people feel our connection to the land because they have a close relationship with it. To achieve this vision, the Amah Mutsun Land Trust is committed to cultivating our understanding of nature's ways and sharing our traditional ecological knowledge both within our tribal membership and with the broader public.

We partner with universities, state and local government agencies, and other institutions to participate in research that seeks to recover, understand, and refine traditional ecological knowledge and stewardship. We promote *sound science* that recognizes and addresses changing ecosystems and climate. Adhering to our traditions, the Amah Mutsun continue on a path of learning through listening to our plant and animal kin.

Working with schools and communities in our tribal territory, we develop programs and curricula that convey our indigenous perspectives and native ways to members of the broader public. We teach traditional and contemporary land management principles and methods that reflect Amah Mutsun values.



Our Challenges

The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and Mother Earth have faced parallel challenges over the last 250 years. The arrival of Europeans in California in the late 1700's brought great change to the native plants, animals and peoples of our region. Our people were persecuted, made to forsake our native identity, and many were forced to move away from our tribal lands.

The demise of an indigenous culture—the people once closest to a particular area of land—has nearly *always* been followed by a decline in the ecological health of that land.

Starting in the 1760's, the Industrial Revolution sparked technology and advancements that serve as the point of origin for climate change. With continued innovation and increasing globalization into the 21st century, humans have put Mother Earth in grave peril. Climate change, famine, overpopulation, declining resources, loss of agricultural biodiversity, soil erosion, and water and air pollution are challenging our ways of life.

Within the Amah Mustun Tribal Land, the abalone inhabiting parts of our coastline are threatened. Green sturgeon, which can grow to a length of fourteen feet, no longer swim up our creeks. Plants that have been part of Amah Mutsun cuisines, myths, stories, and songs for eons are disappearing. The tanoaks that make up much of our forests are being devastated by sudden oak death.

"When the Indians are gone, all will follow" – *Guarani Shaman*

Your Opportunity to Help

The Amah Mutsun are taking the very best from our history to build a stronger connection with the land of our ancestors. Contemporary environmental groups and land trusts are beginning to recognize the importance and challenges of sustainable land stewardship. Through our indigenous stewardship model, we speak to these issues by fostering a new environmentalism that restores personal relationships with nature. We seek to build a world where people may once again play the roles of gatherer, hunter, steward, storyteller, mythmaker, singer, dancer, reveler and reverencer.

How You can Get Involved

MAKE A DONATION

Online at www.amahmutsunlandtrust.org

SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE

Send an email to info@amahmutsunlandtrust.org

The threats to human, animal and
plant life on Earth cannot be addressed
in isolation or without collaboration.
Let's heal Popeloutchom together.



The AMAH MUTSUN TRIBAL BAND
previously known as the SAN JUAN BAND

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