

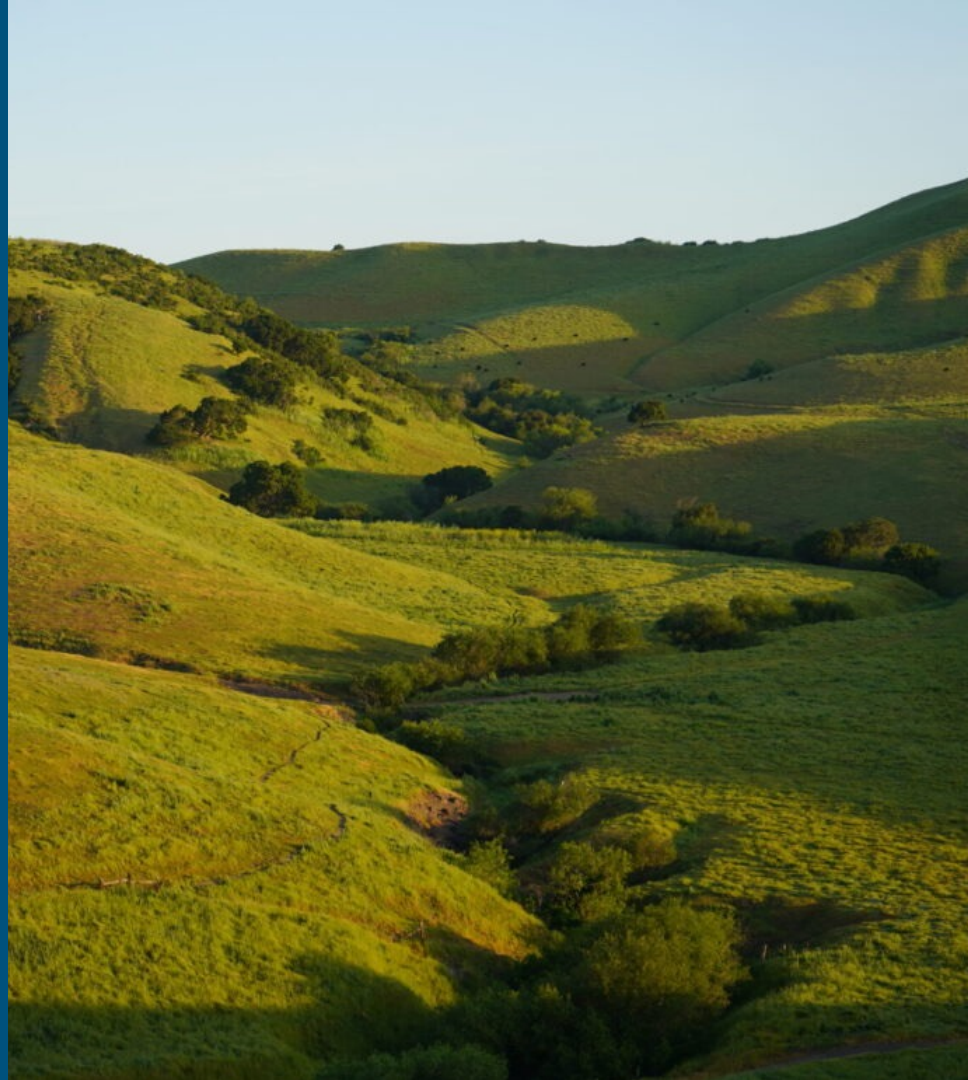
Indigenous Stewardship of Coastal and Ocean Resources

Valentin Lopez

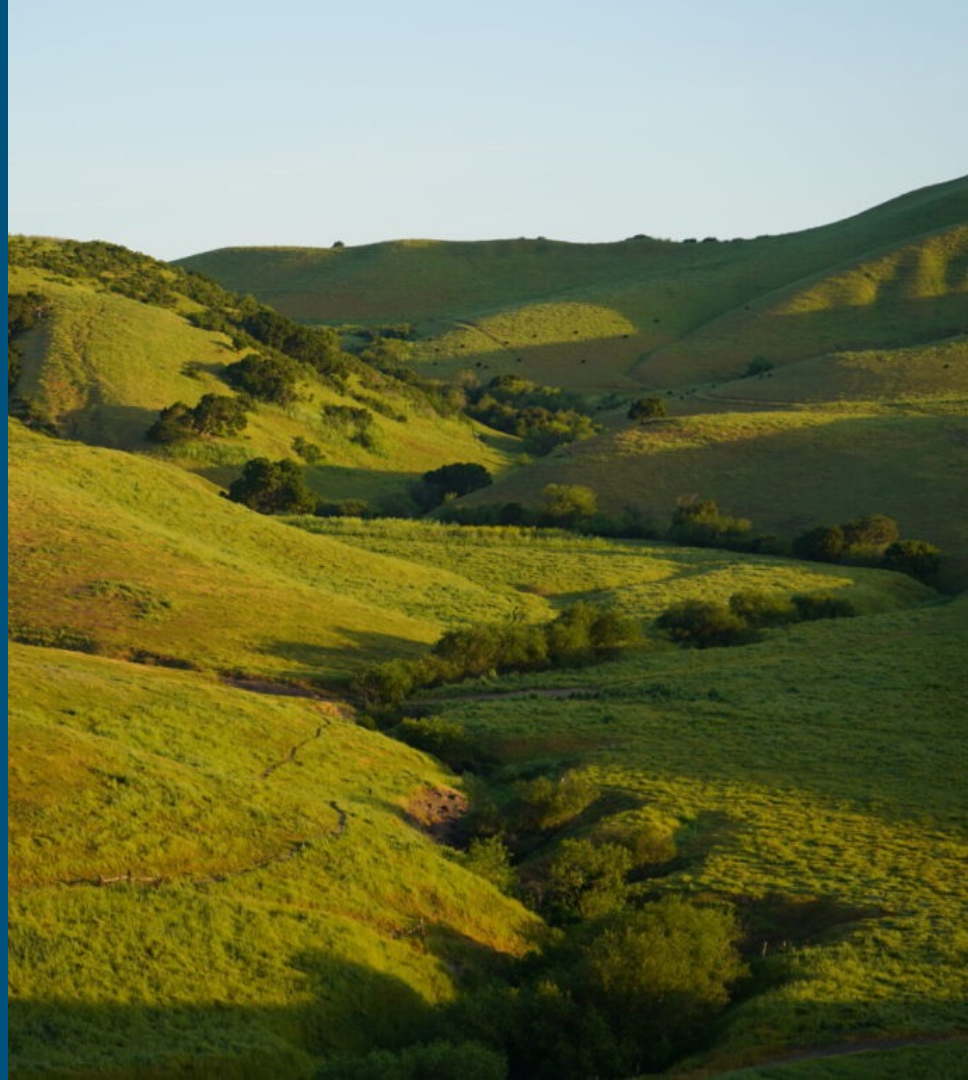
Chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
President of Amah Mutsun Land Trust

Outline

1. Who are the Amah Mutsun?
2. Current Stewardship
3. Our Future
4. Question & Answer

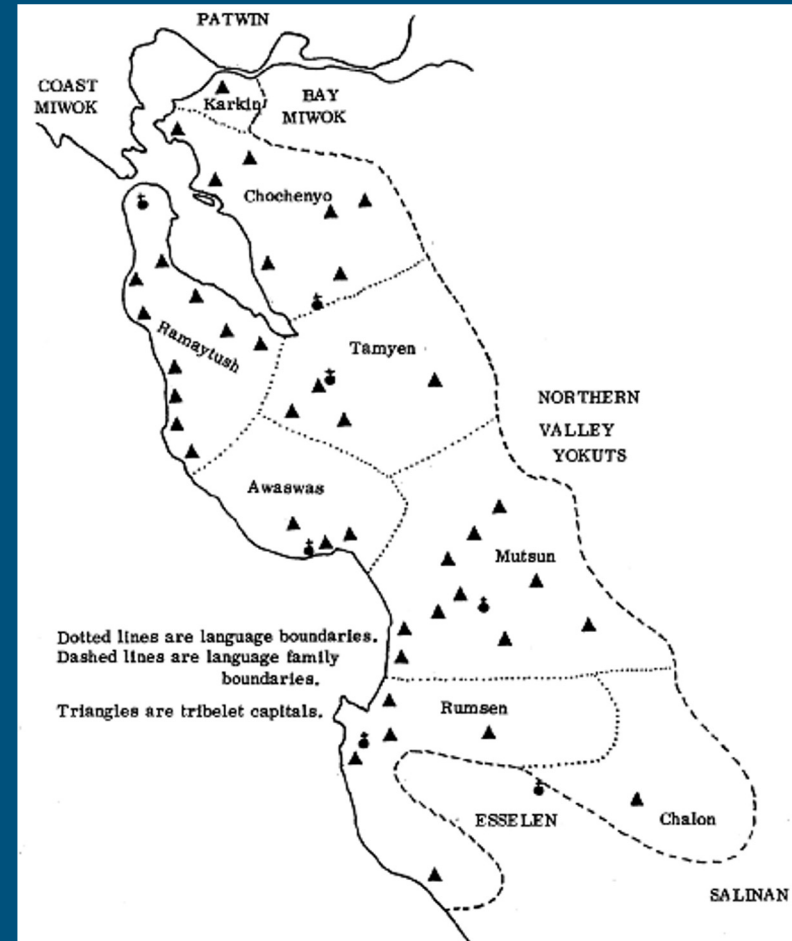


Part 1:
Who are the Amah
Mutsun?



Who are the Amah Mutsun?

- Amah Mutsun Tribal Band descendent of Mutsun speaking peoples taken to Missions Santa Cruz & San Juan Bautista
- Stewarding Mutsun and Awaswas lands
- Over 600 BIA registered members and about 200 waiting to be registered
- Historic and continuous Tribe. Federal recognition was illegally terminated in 1927 with the Dorrington Report
- 3 successive waves of colonization: the Mission Period (1770 – 1834); the Mexican Period (1834 – 1848); & the American Period (1848)
- Visit: amahmutsun.org/history to learn more





How did we get here?

- California Central Coast was one of the most biodiverse landscapes in North America
- Yearly burns ensured balance of resources
- Indigenous people cared for the environment for thousands of years
- Need to restore sacredness

About the Amah Mutsun Land Trust

- Initiative of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band: 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Created in 2013 to serve as a vehicle for the Amah Mutsun to access traditional lands and resources, and restore Indigenous stewardship practices.
- Guided by Chairman Lopez, and a Board of Directors which maintains an Amah Mutsun majority
- Small, but rapidly growing: 12 full-time staff, plus a team of part-time staff, research associates, and volunteers



www.amahmutsunlandtrust.org

Part 2: Current Stewardship





Stewardship Priorities:

- Stewardship Programs:
 - Fire, Native Plants, Ocean & Coast
- Culture, Education, Language
- Protection & preservation of sacred & cultural heritage sites
- Archaeology & historical ecology
- Contributing to land management plans

Cultural Burning:

Bringing good
fire back to the
land





Native plant restoration:

Amah Mutsun Land Trust greenhouse & fields

Salmon monitoring & habitat restoration

Mill Creek dam removal



Elkhorn Slough & Watsonville wetlands

oyster restoration,
sea otters,
harmful algal blooms,
cultural sites



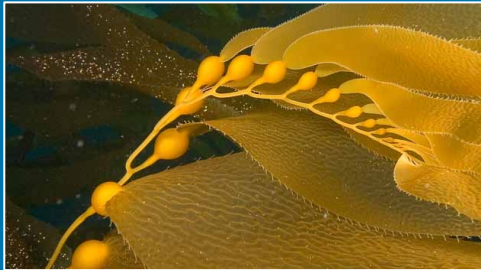
Kelp forest monitoring & restoration

SCUBA diving



Food & health

- Re-introducing tribal members to seafood
- Different ways of catching, preparing, preserving, and cooking
- Location & methods for gathering



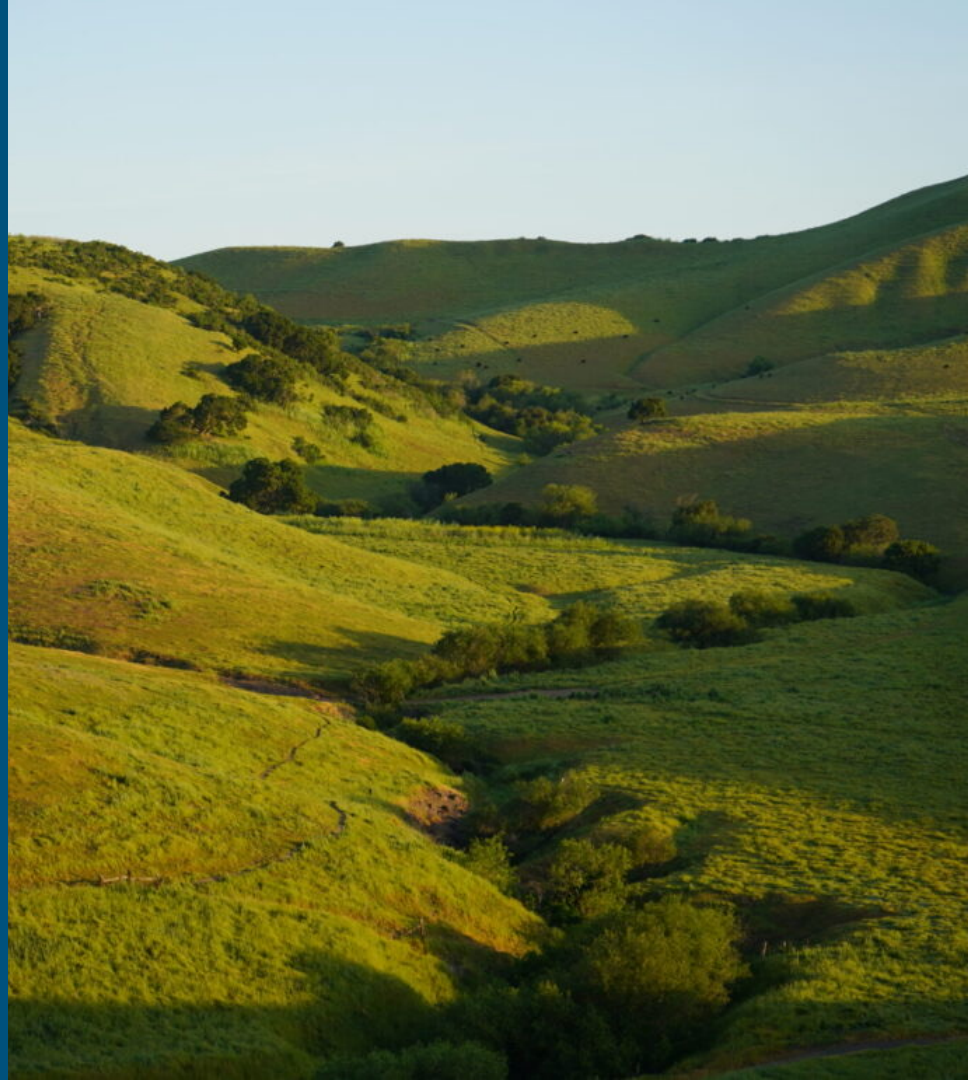
About local indigenous coastal fisheries:

1. Indigenous fishing practices have a long history and changed through time
2. Important species = salmon, herring, sardines
3. Indigenous people fished *throughout* the marine food web, vs. modern commercial fisheries that fish down marine food webs



Illustration: Louis Choris (1795-1828)

Part 3: Our Future



Vision for Future Stewardship

- Culture & Indigenous-Science led
- Revitalizing indigenous knowledge and cultural practices
- Tribes in a leadership role, defining priorities
- Co-management or independent
- The importance of language
 - *"Validation" not "Research"*
 - *"Stewardship" vs. "Management"*
 - *"Agriculture" and "Farming"*





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THANK YOU!

Donate and support the work of the tribe through the Amah Mutsun Land Trust:

amahmutsunlandtrust.org/donate