
Karuk Community Health Clinic

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Karuk Tribe

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11/3/2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission

721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260

Sacramento, CA 95814

VotersFirstAct@crc.ca.gov

Ayukii Citizen Redistricting Commission,

On behalf of the Karuk Tribe, please accept these comments on the Oct. 27 draft visualizations.

We have lived along the Klamath River since time immemorial. Here, we continue to live and practice our cultural traditions, such as hunting, gathering, fishing, basketmaking and traditional ceremonies. We are intimately connected with the Klamath River and continue to reside along the river in Western Siskiyou County and Northeastern Humboldt County. A map of our aboriginal territory along with current fee lands and lands held in trust for the Karuk Tribe are shown in Figure 1. Our unique language, cultural and religious practices, and village sites distinguish our tribe and form a strong community of interest. Through redistricting, it is imperative that we preserve that community of interest.

In redistricting, we also ask that we are kept together with the coast in Congressional District 2. The salmon of the Klamath River is core to our people's existence and has historically been one of the primary foods of our people. Through time, we have cared for the Klamath River through our land and water management and through our ceremony. Today, the Tribe is still actively engaged in work to help fix the environmental and social damage that has harmed our people. This work often fixes our interest and attention to the West. The name "Karuk" means "upriver people," or "upstream" people. We are highly involved and interested in work downriver and work closely with the Yurok Tribe and the Hoopa Tribe as we work to restore the once-great fisheries in our river. Because of this interest, we believe that our interests are best represented by political boundaries that draw us together with the Yurok and Hoopa Tribes together with the coast.



Figure 1 – Karuk Aboriginal Territory

We appreciate recent draft visualizations that both preserve the Karuk Tribe as one community of interest and keep us together with the coast. As you can see in the Oct. 27, 2021 Congressional District visualization, the Karuk’s ancestral territory is almost entirely preserved by this district. Minor modifications to completely preserve it should not be difficult to balance, as much of the areas excluded are low in population.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Yôotva,

Russell “Buster” Attebery
 Karuk Tribe Chairman