

Sierra Club Statement on the Murder of George Floyd

MAY 27, 2020 - Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune and Kamau Wilkins, the Executive Committee Chair of the Sierra Club's Minnesota Chapter, issued the following statement on the murder of George Floyd. Over the course of the last 4 weeks, the Sierra Club has also issued statements condemning police brutality and the violent, racist killings of [Ahmaud Arbery](#) and [Breonna Taylor](#). In July of 2019, the Sierra Club joined forces with a coalition of environmental justice and national environmental groups to release a just and equitable [national climate platform](#) that centers racial, climate and environmental justice to improve the public health and well-being of all communities.

“We all deserve to thrive in safe communities, yet the inhumane, daily assaults on Black and Brown people directly threaten our ability to maintain a healthy planet. The cruel, public lynching of George Floyd is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We cannot expect to come together to protect the planet if racism continues to tear us apart.

“The Sierra Club is committed to confronting the inequality embedded into our society that has allowed these tragedies to persist. If we want to create communities that are truly safe, just and equitable, we must continue fighting for the humanity and the dignity of all people.”

Excerpt from Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune

" ... we need people like you -- people who have joined our outings, who volunteer their time and money to protect their local wilderness -- to become anti-racist allies. You are the person best positioned to make sure that your local trails and birding spots are safe places for people of color. Just like we need to work hard to fight climate change and protect nature, we need to be active in dismantling the racism that is tearing our country apart. Indeed, we [cannot separate](#) these issues. The companies that have profited from fossil fuels and accelerated the climate crisis are the same ones who have benefited from environmental injustice, colonialism, and racism.

[The climate crisis is racist. The answer is anti-racism](#)

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... None of us will end racism through our individual actions. Systemic evils demand systemic changes. But together, we can work to make the outdoors a safe haven for everyone who needs one."