



TRAILS

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF NEVADA AND THE EASTERN SIERRA FROM THE TOIYABE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Omnibus public lands bill completes long, winding journey

By Don Wolfensberger

The saga of the omnibus public lands bill that President Barack Obama signed into law in late March has been compared by at least one Congress watcher to a long and slow-moving wagon train. On the day that it finally cleared the House, Natural Resources Chairman Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) told his colleagues that “the road leading us here today has been a long one and it has contained a few twists and turns along the way.”

He should know. He and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) were the wagon masters and at times must have felt like they were doubling as a 20-mule team, pulling all 160 wagons. On the one hand, their deft procedural maneuvering out of legislative box canyons was a sight to behold. On the other, it was not a particularly pretty picture from an open-and-orderly-process standpoint.

What ultimately saved the 1,218-page, \$5.5 billion authorization bill (not a spending bill) was the fact that so many Representatives and Senators of both parties had spent so much time and effort on the multitude of projects in the legislation (roughly half to each party).

It all began routinely in the previous Congress when a host of individual public lands bills — designating wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, hiking trails, heritage areas, water projects, and historic preservation initiatives — were reported and began working their way through the process. The House had passed roughly 70 of these over the course of the 110th Congress under the suspension of the rules process. (There is no such thing as a “suspension calendar.”) The



Part of wilderness at last! Thanks to the Boxer-McKeon bill increasing wilderness in California, a bill that became part of the Omnibus Public Lands Bill, we can look forward to enjoying the dazzling springtime display of buttercups in Glass Creek Meadow for many years to come. White Wing peak in background.

suspension process, which is used for small, noncontroversial matters, permits just 40 minutes of debate, allows no amendments and requires a two-thirds vote for passage. That means suspension measures must have bipartisan backing. (Roughly 80 percent of all laws enacted by Congress originate under the House suspension process.)

The Senate committee had reported another 90 individual bills. But all were blocked by “holds” placed on them by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), who objected to considering such measures under the traditional unanimous consent procedure, which allows for no debate or amendments. Coburn was concerned about the cumulative costs involved (when the authorizations are later funded through the appropriations process, which he said was inevitable) and about a variety of issues affecting private-property rights.

In September, Bingaman bundled all 90 of his bills into an omnibus measure and also filed the package as an amendment to a small, House-passed park bill. Both

with all 160 House and Senate projects left over from last year, plus a few unrelated items from another omnibus bill that Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) was unable to pass in 2008. The bill was brought to the Senate floor without the benefit of a committee vote or report. (The closest thing to a committee report publicly available is a 71-

Photos: Bryce Wheeler

page Congressional Research Service summary.) The Majority Leader easily won two cloture motions to prevent filibusters, “filled the amendment tree” to prevent anyone else from offering amendments, and handily won final passage, 73-21, on Jan. 15.

When the omnibus measure came to the House, the leadership decided to bring it up under the suspension process, even though it violated Democratic Caucus Rule 38 “guidelines” against considering under suspension “major legislation” or bills that “make or authorize appropriations in excess of \$100 million.” Under that rule, however, all that is needed to waive the guideline is clearance by the Democratic Steering Committee.

The majority leadership chose the suspension route to avoid any troublesome amendments that might torpedo the package and cause it to be sent back to the Senate. However, Rahall found it necessary at the last minute to attach several amendments to win over more votes. (Only a bill’s majority floor manager can amend a suspension bill.) Despite these tweaks, the bill still fell two votes short of the two-thirds needed to pass.

Ordinarily, if a bill fails under suspension but has majority support, it is taken to the House Rules Committee for a special rule that allows the bill to be reconsidered and passed by majority vote. However, in this instance, the leadership did not want to risk having a minority amendment adopted in a motion to recommit the bill with instructions (something the Rules Committee cannot prohibit).

Instead, House leaders prevailed on Reid to use a House-passed shell bill — a six-page measure authorizing grants to acquire and protect Revolutionary and 1812 war battlefields — and offer the 1,218-page omnibus lands bill as a substitute. In that way, when the bill came back to the House from the Senate, the House could simply adopt a special rule to concur in the Senate amendment without further amendments or motion to recommit, thereby sending the bill straight to the president.

This time Reid did let Coburn offer six amendments, one of which was adopted, See page 12, Omnibus Bill

Nevada ORV registration and commission passes

By Dennis Ghiglieri

In a mixed bag for conservationists, a complex registration bill for “off-highway vehicles” (OHV, or off-road vehicles (ORV)) became law when SB 394 received a two-thirds majority vote in the Nevada legislature to override the earlier veto by Governor Gibbons.

The bill was heavily lobbied for by some OHV groups.

On the positive side, the bill requires that OHVs (ATVs, motorcycles, snowmobiles, etc.) be licensed. The legislation requires an annual fee be set between \$20 and \$30. Some of the money will be used for licensing and titling of the vehicles and for enforcement. The license is to be

See page 12, OHV bill

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CHAPTER & NATIONAL NEWS

Andrea Mead Lawrence, 1932-2009

Conservationists mourn loss of leading activist

The Eastern Sierra, the state, and the nation lost a great woman on March 31, 2009: Andrea Mead Lawrence of Mammoth Lakes, California. Sunday, April 19, 2009, should have been her seventy-seventh birthday. Instead, on that day, hundreds of her friends joined her family at Mammoth Mountain's Main Lodge to remember her life and her accomplishments.

At just nineteen, at the 1952 Winter Olympics in Oslo, Norway, she became the only American athlete ever to win two gold medals in alpine skiing. The record still stands. But those gold medals, which briefly catapulted her to international fame and the cover of *Time* magazine, were just one high point in a remarkable life. She always said that you could be an athlete at that level only for a limited time; what really mattered was what you did with the rest of your life.

In addition to bearing and raising five beautiful children who carry her charisma, intelligence, and grace into the future, she also became an outspoken and determined champion of her community and its long-term well-being. She saw that the health

of the environment could not be separated for long from the health of the community without both suffering. In true, unstoppable, Andrea fashion, she eventually carried this conviction into winning a seat on the Mono County Board of Supervisors, where she served for sixteen years.

At her memorial gathering, there were many speakers praising her, speakers who had worked with her on various issues and governing bodies. She was always the best-prepared, the one who had a deep understanding of the issues and the consequences, and she moved forward with that inimitable combination of strength, determination, and grace that moved others to seek with her a wiser and better future for Mono County, California, and the nation. She had the gift of bringing us along with her gladly, not just of tirelessly reminding us of what we ought to do (though she did plenty of that, too!).

She loved this life and fought to the very end to conquer the cancer that took her. We who loved her are so glad that she survived long enough to know that President Obama had signed the Omnibus Public Lands Bill (see article, page 1), and to rejoice with those at her bedside. She left us physically just a short time later.

Though she is gone in body, her influence and her legacy abide in the hearts and minds of her five biological children and many, many spiritual children. We are so much richer for having had her in our midst.

— K. Morey



Andrea Lawrence in a thoughtful moment.

Next Chapter ExCom Meeting:
July 18, 2009
Mammoth Lakes, CA
See Chapter Website:
<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

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* = Elected ExCom Members		

Procedure set for 2009 Toiyabe elections

By Dave Hornbeck, Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Chair

With the quarterly schedule, the *Toiyabe Trails* newsletter no longer can handle the Chapter/Group election ballot. So this year, we will have a separate ballot mailing early in November. Not only will this take the burden off the *Trails* editor for a special issue, but it should encourage more members to submit ballots for their chapter and group leader selection. Bylaws require the Chapter ExCom to determine and publish the nomination and election cycle dates, and this is being done in this issue because some dates will quickly approach.

For 2009, the Chapter ExCom has set the following dates and deadlines for both Chapter and Group ExCom elections:

SEPTEMBER 18: Deadline for receipt by the Chapter or Group Nominating Committee (NomCom) of names for consideration as candidates for the Chapter or Group ExCom. Each NomCom will contact possible candidates, but any member can submit the name(s) of any member, including their own, for consideration by the Chapter or Group NomCom.

SEPTEMBER 28: Each NomCom reports its slate of willing nominees to Chapter or Group ExCom, and notifies any self-nominee if they have not been selected as a candidate by the NomCom.

OCTOBER 5: The Election Committee causes the production of eligible voter lists for the elections.

OCTOBER 19: Deadline for receipt at Chapter PO Box address of any issue petition or any petition by a Chapter member seeking to be placed on the ballot for Chapter ExCom by petition. To qualify, petitions must be signed by 1.5% of the Chapter members on the eligible voter lists.

NOVEMBER 2 (but no later than November 10): Ballots and candidates' statements mailed to the membership of the Toiyabe Chapter on the eligible voter lists.

DECEMBER 10: Deadline for ballots to be received at the Chapter PO Box address to be counted.

DECEMBER 12 or 13: Ballots counted and winners notified. The exact date, time and place will be determined by the Chapter ExCom at its July or October meeting.

The Chapter NomCom Chair is Jane Feldman (702-648-0699, janefeldman@cox.net). Those interested in Group ExCom nomination should contact their respective Group Chair listed elsewhere in this *Trails*. The 2009 Election Committee Chair is David von Seggern.

Sierra Club launches new online communities

Social networking tools to empower environmental activism

The Sierra Club has launched three new online communities:

- Climate Crossroads: <http://climatecrossroads.org>
- Sierra Student Coalition: <http://ssc.sierraclub.org>
- Sierra Club Trails: <http://sierraclubtrails.org>

The Sierra Club and other activists are increasingly using social-networking tools like Facebook to meet, share information, strategize, and organize.

Social networking is engaging and enjoyable, but more critically, it is immensely powerful. Witness the way candidate Barack Obama utilized social networks to his advantage, and continues to use them to keep in touch with his supporters and promote his legislative agenda.

Anyone can browse the Club's new social-networking sites. Those who wish to participate in the discussion and leverage these tools for their campaigns can do so by creating a user profile, which is simple and takes just a few minutes. Community members will be able to blog, join and create groups, take action, start discussions, circulate petitions, organize rallies, and more.

Through these online communities, activists can come together to tackle climate change, share knowledge of great hiking trails and waterways, or simply swap green living tips and earth-friendly recipes.

E-mail community.manager@sierraclub.org with questions.

Toiyabe Trails

SERVING NEVADA

AND CALIFORNIA'S EASTERN SIERRA

Toiyabe Trails is published six times each year by the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507, to help keep our members well-informed and better able to protect the environment—for our families, for our future.

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Assoc. Editor – Kathy Morey (760-938-2050); km-squared@qnet.com. Kathy does the July-August-September issue.

Deadlines – Contributions are due by the 1st day of the quarter for publication in the following quarter's issue: December 1 for January-February-March; March 1 for April-May-June; June 1 for July-August-September; September 1 for October-November-December.

Submissions – Call or e-mail editor before deadline for late submissions. Submit news, story ideas, photos, and letters-to-the-editor to the editor (contact info above). Please include your name, phone/fax, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. You may send contributions by e-mail or on a PC-compatible disk (Word, text, or ascii). Please send hard copy by snail mail for all submissions on disk. For photo or disk return, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The *Toiyabe Trails* reserves the right to edit all contributions for reasons of space, clarity, or libel.

Subscriptions – *Toiyabe Trails* is free to all Toiyabe Chapter members. Subscription cost for non-members is \$12 per year. To subscribe, send check for \$12, payable to "Toiyabe Chapter," to *Toiyabe Trails* Subscriptions, Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, c/o Treasurer, 1621 Foster Dr., Reno, NV 89509-1111.

Change of address – Postmaster & Members, please send address changes to Sierra Club, Change of Address, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or <address.changes@sierraclub.org>

Membership information – There is a membership coupon in each issue of *Toiyabe Trails*. You can also call the Chapter Membership Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415-977-5663).

Other Sierra Club information – Call the Toiyabe Chapter Chair or Conservation Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5653). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.

Remember with a Memorial Gift

Consider saving a meadow instead of sending flowers.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:
Gift Planning Program
 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
 800-932-4270

Study shows widespread declines in bird populations

Also highlights role of partnerships in conservation

Part I; see Part II in the October-November-December Toiyabe Trails

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today released the first-ever comprehensive report on bird populations in the United States, showing that nearly a third of the nation's 800 bird species are endangered, threatened, or in significant decline due to habitat loss, invasive species, and other threats.

At the same time, the report highlights examples, including many species of waterfowl, where habitat restoration and conservation have reversed previous declines, offering hope that it is not too late to take action to save declining populations.

Just as they were when Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* nearly 50 years ago, the health of birds today is a bellwether of the health of land, water and ecosystems, Salazar said. From shorebirds in New England to warblers in Michigan to songbirds in Hawaii, we are seeing disturbing downward population trends that should set off environmental alarm bells. We must work together now to ensure we never hear the deafening silence in our forests, fields and backyards that Rachel Carson warned us about.

The report, *The U.S. State of the Birds*, synthesizes data from three long-running bird censuses conducted by thousands of citizen scientists and professional biologists. In particular, it calls attention to the crisis in Hawaii, where more birds are in danger of extinction than anywhere else in the United States.

In addition, the report indicates a 40 percent decline in grassland birds over the past 40 years, a 30 percent decline in birds of arid lands, and a high concern for many coastal shorebirds. Furthermore, 39 percent of species dependent on U.S. oceans have declined.

However, the report also reveals convincing evidence that birds can respond quickly and positively to conservation action. The data show dramatic increases in many wetland birds such as pelicans, herons, egrets, osprey, and ducks — a testament to numerous cooperative conservation partnerships that have resulted in protection, enhancement and management of more than 30 million wetland acres.

These results emphasize that investment in wetlands conservation has paid huge dividends, said Kenneth Rosenberg, director of Conservation Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Now we need to invest similarly in other neglected habitats where birds are undergoing the steepest declines.

Habitats such as those in Hawaii are on the verge of losing entire suites of unique bird species, said Dr. David Pashley, American Bird Conservancy's Vice President for Conservation Programs. In addition to habitat loss, birds also face many other man-made threats such as pesticides, predation by cats, and collisions with windows, towers and buildings.

In the *October-November-December* issue, *Part II* discusses solutions and challenges.

Deadline for Oct.-Nov.-Dec. Toiyabe Trails: September 1.

Send all inputs to Editor, Lynne Foster, lfoster@schat.net, 760-387-2634



Clair Tappaan Lodge, near Donner Pass, as seen from the south, celebrates its 75th birthday August 14-16. Nearby Hutchinson Lodge celebrates its 85th birthday at the same time.

Join lodges' gala anniversary celebration

August 14-16, 2009

By Olivia Diaz, Co-Chair, Clair Tappaan Committee

Hikes, s'mores, and brandy around a campfire, stories from long-time users of the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan and Hutchinson lodges, music, music, music, and plenty of other activities will commemorate those lodges' upcoming anniversaries. Save **August 14-16, 2009**, for the celebration!

The Sierra Club owns two lodges near Donner Pass in the Sierra Nevada that this year celebrate significant birthdays: Clair Tappaan Lodge will be 75 years old, and Hutchinson Lodge will be 85. Hutchinson is a smaller lodge located across the ravine and is less known than Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL).

Organized by Ernie Malamud and a group of enthusiastic volunteers, the gala will have several hikes, many on specific themes, on Saturday and Sunday mornings. For those who don't want to hike, there will be interesting demonstrations and activities at both lodges.

The full fee of \$195 for adults will include seven meals (Friday dinner to Sunday dinner), overnight lodging Friday and Saturday nights, and all the activities. For the full price schedule and details about the weekend, please see <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada/gala.html>.

Many of the people who frequented the lodges in the past are coming and will share stories of their times at the two lodges and at the Warming Hut on Signal Hill.

Please join us! Donations received for the event will go into the CTL Account at the Sierra Club Foundation. We will use

these funds to help underwrite schools and other groups that want to bring students to the Sierra Club at Donner Summit for environmental education but can't afford the full price.

Getting to Clair Tappaan Lodge

CTL is located at 7000 feet in California's Sierra Nevada. It's 45 minutes west of Reno and 1.5 hours east of Sacramento via Interstate 80. From I-80 eastbound, take the exit for Soda Springs/Norden — old US 40, also called Donner Pass Road. Go 2.4 miles east on Donner Pass Road. The address is 19940 Donner Pass Road in Norden. Look for the CTL sign on the north.

There is an old, steep footpath (about 40 ft elevation change) leading up to the CTL's south entrance. Slightly to the east is an easier access, this one to the lodge's north entrance. There is a loading/unloading zone (short term parking for dropoffs).

There is an airport shuttle from Reno Airport to the Truckee Train Station, from which you can take a taxi to the lodge. See the CTL website (<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/ctl/accommodations.asp>) for details.

Vilsack: "New activities in roadless areas require approval"

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has ruled that no new activities can take place in roadless areas without his approval. These include logging, road-building, or anything that destroys the roadless character of the area. This completely reverses the policy under the previous administration, which left all decisions on what could happen in roadless areas up to the states.

Spokespersons for all environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, are pleased with this ruling. The newly appointed Forest Service Head is Homer Lee Wilkes, a conservationist from Mississippi.

Clair Tappaan Lodge spring and summer activities

By Olivia Diaz, Volunteer Committee Co-Chair

All year long, Clair Tappaan Lodge offers special events for its guests. Some of the events are included in the cost of overnight lodging and meals (\$50 per night for adult Sierra Club members), while other activities require an additional fee. For details, reservations, and costs for the following activities, please contact the lodge at 800-679-6775 or 530-426-3632, or go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/lodges/ctl/activities.asp>.

May 8-10, 2009. Three-day Silent Meditation Retreat. A silent meditation retreat led by Ajay and Suruchi from Dharamsala, India.

May 14-15. Wilderness First Aid. A fast-paced, hands-on, two-day course covering a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel in the outdoors.

June 21-26. Sierra Serenity. Twelve-step meetings are held each morning followed by group hikes in the Truckee-Tahoe area.

June 26-28. Finding your Way -- Land Navigation Workshop. Learn or polish navigational skills using map, compass, GPS, and altimeters. Bring any tools you may have and learn how to use them from a pro. Instructor: Bill Straka.

August 14-16, 2009. Gala Anniversaries. 75 years for Clair Tappaan Lodge and 85 years for Hutchinson Lodge. See article above.

October 31-November 1. Halloween/Day of the Dead Weekend. Costume parade and contest, pumpkin-carving contests, piñata, musical chairs, games for kids. On Sunday, Day of the Dead installations will be welcome. Bring your own to add to the display.

All summer long, the lodge hosts many 5-7 day national outings and Elderhostel trips. See the website or call the lodge for availability and details.

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group



From the Chair

Hello from the Range of Light Group Chair, Malcolm Clark (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com)!

Let me begin by thanking our past vice chair, Janet Carle, who completed her term in January. Shalle Genevieve now serves as vice chair in addition to continuing as membership chair. Shalle is the person who writes and sends out to Range of Light members our email newsletter.

I thank my predecessor, Brigitte Berman, for her service as group chair the past two years. Brigitte has taken over my position as secretary. The only other change in our officers is Henning Jensen, newly elected to our ExCom, and serving as conservation vice-chair. You will recognize most of the other members in our list of officers as long serving activists in our group.

As for myself, I am a novice when it comes to the Eastern Sierra and the Sierra Club having retired to Mammoth Lakes in 2004. I will need help and advice from long time veterans and other Range of Light members who know much more than I do in order to serve effectively as group chair. I'll be calling on you ROLG members for advice and assistance. And please do phone or email me with your suggestions.

Several of us have become aware that much of the content of the RoLG website needs updating. Shalle Genevieve, Jo Bacon (our webmaster), and Malcolm Clark have just about finished the initial update. Don't expect anything flashy or radical changes in appearance. But you will find more information on conservation issues, more photos throughout the site, a new calendar, and other changes. I hope the revisions will be posted by the time you read this.

Group ExCom Meetings

We usually meet on the **first Monday of each month**. Note that beginning in June, our normal meeting time is changed to **3:30 p.m.** although both day and time are subject to change due to holidays and to accommodate members' schedules. All Sierra Club Members are welcome. Contact Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639; wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com) for meeting location and to confirm date and time. A draft agenda is usually available upon request two or three days before the meeting.

DEADLINE FOR OCT-NOV-DEC TRAILS: SEPT. 1

RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP OFFICERS		
Chair	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639
Vice Chair	Shalle Genevieve	760-934-9668
Secretary	Brigitte Berman	760-924-2140
Conservation	Mary K. Prentice	760-934-0355
Cons. Asst.	Henning Jensen	805-564-8374
Treasurer	Lyle Gaston	760-934-7176
Chapter Del.	Jean Dillingham	760-387-2634
Editor	Lynne Foster	760-387-2634
Hwy Cleanup	John Walter	760-934-1767
Hospitality	Wilma Wheeler	760-934-3764
LORP	Mark Bagley	760-873-5326
Membership	Shalle Genevieve	760-934-9668
Outings	Bryce Wheeler	760-934-3764
Outings Asst.	Dick Baggett	760-924-5749
Programs	Claus Engelhardt	760-872-4596
Publicity	Mary Ann Dunigan	760-924-5982
Webmaster	Jo Bacon	760-934-4932
Web. Emeritus	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

*ExCom members

And finally, our faithful program chair, Claus Engelhardt, asks for your help (see article below). If you have suggestions for a speaker (or other type of program) at our monthly meeting, send your suggestion and any useful information (biography, contact information, etc.) to Claus (engelhardt@cebridge.net).

Range of Light Group Elections

The RoLG already has a nominating committee seeking candidates for our ExCom election at the end of the year. Committee members are Shalle Genevieve (marshalle@earthlink.net), Wilma Wheeler (wilma.bryce@verizon.net), and Malcolm Clark (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com). The three members whose terms end this year are Mark K Prentice, Dick Baggett, and Brigitte Berman. We have not determined whether any or all of these three valuable members will run for an additional term (we hope so!).

In any case, because we seek to offer a choice by fielding more than three candidates, we urge RoLG members to send to any member of our nominating committee your suggestions for someone you think could make a valuable contribution to our ex-com and who you think might be willing to serve. Don't hesitate to suggest yourself as a candidate (self-nomination) if you have time and willingness to serve. We would appreciate having self-nominations and suggested names of other possible candidates by the end of the summer (August 31).

Your help requested!

For many years, the ROL Group has organized and presented regular monthly programs for the enjoyment of our membership. We want to continue these very popular and well-attended events, but we need your help to keep them going.

You as Sierra Club people have diverse interests, including adventure travel, environmental questions and discoveries, local controversies, and the arts. You're some of the most interesting people in the world! Pick your subject and share it with us at a Group meeting.

If you or some one you know is interested in presenting a program to our group, please contact our Program Chairman, Claus Engelhardt, at engelhardt@cebridge.net or by phone at 760 872-4596. He'd appreciate it very much.

VISIT THE

ROLG WEBSITE:

<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/>

rolgroup/

Range of Light Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.
All outings include conservation education activities!
Sierra Club members and non-members are welcome!

JUNE THRU AUGUST "FUN AND FITNESS" WEDNESDAY EVENING HIKES

Join us every Wednesday evening at 6 pm at the ML Union Bank parking lot for a hike to get fit and stay fit for summer fun. Explore local trails and learn about our natural surroundings, geology, wildflowers, and trees. All hikes are moderate to easy, completed by dark. Bring water, layered clothes, sturdy shoes. For more info call leader: Dick Baggett (760-924-5749). Dogs OK. **NO WEDNESDAY HIKES IN SEPTEMBER DUE TO EARLY DARKNESS.**

JULY 4 (SATURDAY) TELESCOPE PEAK (11,048) FROM MAHOGANY FLAT

Gradual 3200 ft elev gain on good trail to the summit (highest point in Death Valley NP). Long, 14 mi RT, 8 hr hike. Bring plenty of water, lunch good hiking boots, sunscreen, and camera. Meet at 5 am Mammoth Lakes Union Bank parking lot or 6:30 am at FS Visitor Center just south of Lone Pine at Hwys 395 and 136 or 8 am at trailhead for hikers willing to spend a hot night at Mahogany Flats campground. **MUST CALL LEADER TO SIGN UP FOR THIS TRIP.** Leaders: Bob Hoeven and Anne Rolls (760-935-4512). No dogs (dogs not permitted on NP trails).

JULY 12 (SUNDAY) BUDD LAKE IN YOSEMITE NP

Moderate 5.5 mi. RT, 1500 ft gain hike on trail with wonderful views in all directions, particularly of Cathedral Spire while swimming or lounging at Budd Lake. Bring hiking poles, water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, repellent, etc. Meet 8 am at Mammoth Union Bank or 8:45 am at big pullout on right, just before Yosemite Entrance Station. Bring Park pass. Dinner stop at Whoa Nellie Deli after hike. Leaders: Cindy and Jock: (760-387-2192). No dogs (dogs not permitted on NP trails).

JULY 19 (SUNDAY) VIRGINIA LAKES

Leisurely meander from Virginia Lakes trailhead, exploring the numerous lakes in the Hoover Wilderness, often off-trail, with stops for photos. Up to 4 mi RT, about 800 ft gain, and an optional loop to Moat Lake. Wear sturdy boots, bring lots of water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, repellent etc. Meet 8 am at ML Union Bank parking lot, or 9:15 am at the Virginia Lakes trailhead. Leaders: Maurica Anderson (760-932-7175) and Mary K Prentice (760-934-0355). Dogs OK.

JULY 25 (SATURDAY) COYOTE HUNCHBACK TO SOUTH LAKE

A combined trip where Bishop 4WD Club take ROLG hikers up to Coyote Hunchback Ridge (11,500 ft) from Cerro Coso College. Sierra Club members hike southward along the Ridge, on trail and cross country, down past Lakes Green, Brown and Bluff to shuttle cars at Parcher's Resort near South Lake, 6.5 mi and 2700 ft descent. Space limited to 15 hikers in 6 4WD Club vehicles. **MUST CALL LEADERS TO SIGN UP.** Bring hiking poles, water, lunch,

hat, sunscreen, and money for 4WD gas expenses. Meet 8 am at Mammoth Union Bank parking lot or Bishop Cerro Coso College parking lot at 9 am to join 4WD Club. Leaders: Bryce Wheeler (760-934-3764), and Cindy Ostrowski: (760-387-2192). No Dogs (ND)

AUG 2 (SUNDAY) HALL NATURAL AREA RESERVE VIA SLATE CREEK

Moderate 5 mi RT into the spectacular scientific study area at the base of Mt. Conness bordering Yosemite NP and the Hoover Wilderness. Some cross-country. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, hiking boots, and camera. Meeting time 8 am at ML Union Bank parking lot, or 8:45 am at the Lee Vining Ranger Station, on Hwy 120. Leaders: Dave and Janet Carle (760-872-4596). No dogs.

AUG 9 (SUNDAY) GLASS MTN PEAK (11,140),

Spectacular scenic climb of 1900 ft elevation gain, 3 mile RT in about 4 hr from Sawmill Meadow. Fantastic view from the summit. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, hiking poles, hiking boots, camera and binoculars. Meet 8 am at ML Union Bank parking lot. Leaders: Lisa Buckley (714-262-7828) and Anne Rolls (760-935-4512). Dogs OK.

AUG 16 (SUNDAY) DOROTHY LAKE FROM ROCK CREEK LAKE

A beautiful hike from Rock Creek Lake passing Kenneth Lake to Dorothy Lake on the lateral moraine just west of Wheeler Ridge in the John Muir Wilderness. We will look for a variety of wildflowers and different trees. Moderate 6 mile loop hike, 900 ft gain on good trail. Bring hiking poles, water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, repellent, camera, etc. Meet 8am at ML Union Bank parking lot or 9 am at trailhead on east side of Rock Creek Lake. Leaders: Henning and Grethe Jensen (760-934-7176). Dogs OK.

AUG 23 (SUNDAY) MINARET OVERLOOK TO SAN JOAQUIN HIGH TRAIL TO SILVER LAKE

Two groups start at 10,000 ft trailhead on dirt road on San Joaquin Ridge south of Deadman Summit and traverse on a non-maintained trail past Deadman Pass on the west flank of San Joaquin Ridge to the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail below "Two Teats" at 9650 ft on the Ansel Adams Wilderness Boundary. After lunch, one group goes back to the trailhead and cars, 6.8 mile RT, 350 ft gain. The second group continues northward, exploring a good trail over Agnew Pass by Clark, Gem and Agnew Lakes to Silver Lake trailhead and shuttle cars, 13 mi total hike and 2650 ft descent. Bring hiking poles, water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, camera, etc. Meet 8 am at ML Union Bank parking lot or 8:20 am at Minaret Overlook parking. 4-WD cars needed. Leaders: Henning and Grethe Jensen (760-934-7176) and Bryce and Wilma Wheeler (760-934-3764). Dogs OK.

Please see "ROLG calendar," page 5

Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings

Info: Mary K, 934-0355, or Shalle, 934-9668

TUESDAY, JULY 21 — HAYDEN CABIN MUSEUM, MAMMOTH LAKES.
Outdoor potluck and BBQ. Arrive before 5:00 to spend some time wandering through the very interesting exhibits in the Museum.
Between 5:00 and 6:30, hike/walk in many directions from the Cabin: down Mammoth Creek, out the bike path to "inspiration point," around the hills just up the road. By 6:30 the BBQs will be ready. Bring something to grill, and a dish to share.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18 — OUTDOOR POTLUCK AND BBQ.
Location and details to come.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Details to come.

ROLG Calendar, continued from page 4

AUG 30 (SUNDAY) VALENTINE LAKE FROM SHERWIN LAKES TRAILHEAD.

Hike to Valentine Lake in the John Muir Wilderness from Sherwin Lakes Trailhead. See some of the largest Sierra Junipers in the region, some exceeding 8-ft diameter. 9.5 mi. RT, 1885 ft. elev. gain, moderate trail. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, camera, and hiking boots. Meet 8 am at ML Union Bank parking lot. Leaders: E.L. and Pat Smoogen (760-934-0359). Dogs limited (DL).

SEPT 6 (SUNDAY) NO HIKE — LABOR DAY

SEPT 13 (SUNDAY) MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN BY GONDOLA TO HORSESHOE LAKE OR REDS MEADOW

A gondola ride to the top of Mammoth Mountain starts the day (group fee of about \$10 for each hiker). Experience the 360-degree view of our glorious back yard, then hike down the volcanic Dragon's Back on good trail to McCloud Lake for lunch. The hike then splits: One group goes to shuttle cars at Horseshoe Lake, 3.8 total mi and 2000 ft descent. Learn why many trees are dead in this area. The second group continues down to Reds Meadow Campground and hot spring, 7.6 total mi and 3,700 ft descent. Catch a bus back to the Main Lodge. Bring: hiking poles, sturdy walking shoes or boots, water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, camera, etc. Meet 8 am at ML Union Bank parking lot or 8:15 am at Main Lodge Gondola Building. Leaders: Bryce and Wilma Wheeler (760-934-3764), other leaders TBD. No dogs unless permitted on gondola.

SEPT 20 (SUNDAY) TWENTY LAKES BASIN

Explore a glacier-carved basin with 20 lakes above 10,000 ft, beautiful scenery, located just east of Yosemite Park. Moderate, 8 mi. RT, 1300 ft gain, on road, trail, and strenuous cross-country past Cascade Lake to the ridge overlooking the backcountry of Yosemite. See newly added wilderness. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, camera, and hiking boots. Meet 8 am at ML Union Bank parking lot or 8:45 am at the Lee Vining Ranger Station on Hwy. 120. Leaders: Jean Dillingham (760 648-7109) and John Walter (760 934-1767). Dogs limited.

SEPT 27 (SUNDAY) TAYLOR CANYON/McGEE MEADOW

Explore by car and by hiking Glass Mtn. Wilderness Study Area (WSA), Taylor and Dexter Canyons, and McGee Meadow, with a possible ascent of Glass Mountain. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, camera, and hiking boots. Meet 8 am at ML Union Bank parking lot, or 8:45 am at the junction of Hwys 395 and 120 East ("gravesite"). Leader: John Walter (760-934-1767) and Jean Dillingham (760-648-7109). Dogs OK.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
Your support during our March fundraising campaign is deeply appreciated. Thank you!

RoLG News

Boxer, McKeon, Miller Hailed

Heroes struggled for California wilderness bill

Wilderness advocates throughout California are thrilled by the passage and signing of the Omnibus Public Lands Bill (see page 1), especially advocates in the Eastern Sierra. While the spotlight turned to the national level as this bill became law, we can't forget our California environmental heroes who worked so hard to define the new wilderness areas, cooperate and compromise with other public-lands users, and bring their work to our equally heroic legislators.

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and listen to people for and against the legislation.

Many members of the Range of Light Group were among the "troops" who mapped roads and potential wilderness areas — alas, more people than we can name here. Sally Miller led the Inyo and Mono counties; several of the new wilderness areas are in Mono County. Sen. Boxer's and Rep. McKeon's representatives made many trips to the Eastern Sierra to meet with

and listen to people for and against the legislation.

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Photos: Bryce Wheeler

ROLG hikers pose in the red-fir forest on the edge of Glass Creek Meadow, a fragile area newly added to wilderness (see articles, page 1 and above).



A recent hike took the RoLG to the historic workers' camp for the Spark Plug Mine in the White Mountains. The mine operated till the end of World War II. This photo was taken from the trail to the camp.



Eastern Sierra Land Trust Slates Gala Events

ESLT Art for Conservation Show & Sale Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19 Open to the public, 10am-4pm at CreekHouse at Snowcreek Resort, Mammoth Lakes

The Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) is proud to announce its first Art for Conservation Show and Sale, exhibiting landscape art to help raise awareness for our important land-conservation work. We are honored to partner with an alliance of talented Eastern Sierra artists and the renowned Oak Group, who have created collection of artworks which will include ESLT conservation lands and other treasured landscapes that portray the rugged contrast between the deepest valley and highest peaks.

ESLT is grateful to work with this alliance of artists in an annual Show and Sale portraying the natural beauty of our cherished region and raising awareness to protect our beloved Eastern Sierra. Fifty percent of all sales go to support ESLT's work of preserving Eastern Sierra rural lands.

Mono Basin Geology Tour Saturday, August 22, 9am-1pm

Join the Eastern Sierra Land Trust and geologist Terry Wright for a tour of the south

California Budget Crisis Endangers State Parks

Toiyabe Chapter members in Nevada probably don't follow closely California politics any more than those of us in California keep up with Nevada politics.

But California's budget crisis has received national attention in this recession period. The work of many conservation groups in California was threatened when the governor on December 17 instituted a freeze on state grants from Proposition 50 and 84 bond funds that partially supported these activities.

Sixty percent of surveyed conservation groups in the Eastern Sierra (from Kern County in the south to Modoc County in the north) were affected by the freeze. Many received over half their annual budget from these funds.

Fortunately, after a budget compromise between the governor and the legislature was reached (and after California was able to sell some new bonds), the freeze was lifted. But one crisis leads to another, and as all media predicted, in the special election of May 19, voters decisively rejected the measures required to institute the compromise.

As of the end of May, the freeze of these funds has not been reinstated, but that does not mean that it will not be. Almost daily since the election, the governor has been announcing new massive spending cuts. One of these would require the closing of all but 59 of the 279 state parks.

Two of those on the list of likely closures are the Bodie State Historical Park (well-preserved 19th century mining town) and the Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve. As opponents of the closure point out, this is a case of penny-wise and pound foolish, as each dollar the state spends for the state parks results in income to the state of \$2.35 from activities at the park and in surrounding communities.

If you are a California resident, you can register your opposition to this proposed action by signing the letter of the Save Our State Parks coalition (http://ga3.org/campaign/budget_may09).

You can do it! Citizen opposition last year caused the state to abandon plans to close 48 state parks.

— Malcolm Clark

Mono Lake, subject of ESLT's upcoming Mono Basin Geology Tour (Aug. 22; see article on ESLT events at left) is threatened by California's state park closures (see article above, righthand column).



Photo: © Stephen Ingram

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

How much “big solar” must the desert suffer?

Smoldering down among the Joshua trees is a sagebrush rebellion. Protectors of desert places are uneasy. Proposals for new, mammoth solar thermal projects, it seems, fly out of utility CEOs and developers’ dockets every week. Will all the wild places suffer more than their fair share? Are processes in place equitable and honest? Let’s try to separate fact from fiction and analysis from greenwashing.

First, let’s stipulate that the climate emergency is horrific. We must cut carbon emissions to zero by 2050 (beyond Sierra Club’s target of 80 percent) and make urgent and radical changes in how we produce and consume energy. Let’s agree that we need large centralized renewable plants as well as distributed local generation.

But let’s also discount evangelists, whether from the environmental movement or from particular energy industries, who object to tests of reason and data for whatever projects they’ve declared to be indispensable on the path to climate salvation.

It is precisely because we have so little time and such limited assets that cool, skeptical analysis and respect for facts must be the order of the day. No longer can we afford to enjoy the luxury of being glib but wrong when billions of dollars, essential infrastructure and whole ecosystems are on the line.

Where RETI went awry

The industry-backed Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (“RETI”) was conceived ostensibly to balance economic and environmental concerns in planning transmission for meeting state mandated renewable energy portfolio standards. RETI’s professed intentions are noble. Designing the optimum architecture of a low-carbon economy is paramount. Bringing stakeholders together to sort out transmission planning is desirable. But let’s also face up to RETI’s shortcomings and act vigorously now to put things right.

At its outset, RETI endorsed the so-called “Big Solar” solution and proceeded to plan for vast amounts of solar energy on native desert public lands. Sagebrush skeptics early on warned that Catellus lands—purchased for conservation with \$40 million of private money—shouldn’t be included.

But RETI took no heed of warnings, and planned vast industrial-scale development on the protected lands that RETI was specifically tasked to avoid. This approach predictably triggered an eruption of protest from federal, state and local electeds dismayed by RETI’s disregard of legacy protections achieved over the last two decades. The skeptics now have allies with clout.

Claims that RETI has been “open and inclusive” are contested. Many desert advocates, major conservation organizations, and independent renewables experts have said that they were marginalized or ignored during various phases of the proceedings. Meetings often were hard to reach and materials not always accessible.

failure to identify and prioritize any significant amount of disturbed lands for siting renewable projects (using disturbed lands being the most important environmental criterion); and a closed, non-transparent process that made only token efforts to engage the public.

RETI was a perfect example of the fact that numbers work well for assessing things like energy potential and economic factors, but that one can’t always reduce environmental concerns to numbers, particularly when any one critical impact is marginalized by relegating it to just one of eight categories.

The recent intervention of Sen. Feinstein to block development on federal lands is clear evidence that a rushed process, one that consistently marginalizes important environmental concerns, has not even served the cause of scaling up renewable energy very well. But the problems associated with such a process go far beyond land use.

RETI’s recent report made assumptions about how much water will be available for desert solar thermal generation projects. On page 3-3, it says, “It is assumed that for each 7,000 people, enough recycled water will be available to cool a 100 MW solar thermal plant.”

The process was rushed: for example, Sierra Club and NRDC filed comments that expressed concern to RETI, on March 18, 2008, about “the short time period that was allowed for review” which effectively denied “individuals and organizations sufficient time to prepare”.

There were concerns with RETI’s environmental ranking process: RETI’s lack of adequate time, tools, and expertise; lack of voting rights for the enviros who are really knowledgeable about the resources being impacted; refusal to use all available data; failure to use accepted methodology; a completely artificial and arbitrary ranking scheme which fractionalized critical environmental impacts to the point where their significance was nil; a weighting system that “balanced” a CREZ’s fractionalized environmental weightings against that CREZ’s robust and intact economic numbers;

No-water dilemma

The problem is that competing uses for recycled water in the desert weren’t calculated. In fact, the shortage of water is already a major crisis in the West, and one that is destined to increase in severity as the impacts of climate change accrue. Without water cooling, power production from solar thermal plants sags in the summer heat—some estimate by up to 15% or more—just when the peak demand is highest.

Failing to protect the productivity of renewable infrastructure from the ravages of climate change would be a serious oversight that would undermine the fundamental goal of getting more energy from renewables.

In addition, the demand for large remote solar thermal may not be what RETI has claimed.

Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.
— Rachel Carson

CANV wilderness committee reports

The CA/NV Wilderness Committee met at Hutchinson Lodge near Donner Pass on May 16. Vicky Hoover, Chair of the Committee, introduced guests including BLM Wilderness Director for CA, Mark Conley; BLM Wilderness Director for NV, Steve Smith; Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Wilderness Specialist, Scott Lamoreux; and Bridgeport Ranger District Wilderness Coordinator, Jeff Weise.

Among the topics discussed was the Omnibus Bill. See article, page 1.

Wild Horses: A Current Crisis

By Rose Strickland

Chapter leaders recently discussed what policies and actions the Sierra Club should adopt and implement on the current wild horses and burros (WH&B) crises. Consideration was given to members’ often passionate opinions as well as to input on possible policies and over 30 years of work by conservationists on public land issues in Nevada, the Eastern Sierra, and other parts of the West.

The Sierra Club has long been active on this issue. With WH&B overpopulations on public rangelands, proposed legislation in Congress, shortfalls in BLM budgets, falling adoption demands, and rumors of BLM using its authority to euthanize excess unadoptable animals, the chapter ExCom voted to reaffirm Sierra Club policies on WH&B and to take a strong role in pending WH&B legislation.

Chapter leaders are developing comments on H.R. See *WH&B*, page 7

RETI itself has downgraded the expected amount from over 10,000 megawatts initially to 6500 megawatts today. It is likely that even this figure is too high in that the early morning energy production from these plants does not fit the peak late afternoon demand for electricity.

Thus only a limited amount of the production profile from solar-thermal plants can be well integrated into California’s demand needs. We think the real range is likely to be 3000 to 5000 megawatts, or 30 to 50 square miles of land. This will be true at least until solar thermal plants are capable of providing overnight energy storage, in a cost effective manner. None of the projects RETI is contemplating would meet these criteria.

Photovoltaics—solar cells that directly convert sunlight into electricity—have multiple advantages over the water and land intensive mega-solar thermal projects. For example, RETI found that the “technical potential” of solar thermal is 3 times the electricity California uses. However, this is dwarfed by RETI’s acknowledgement that photovoltaic solar cells could provide 122 times the state’s total electricity needs.

RETI used past production figures to predict See page 7, *Big Solar*

Legislation, conferences slated

By Marge Sill

Gold Butte National Conservation Area and Wilderness

Legislation for Gold Butte National Conservation Area & Wilderness in Clark County has not yet been introduced in this session of Congress. It is expected before the end of the year.

2010 Western Wilderness Conference

See article on this page, top righthand column.

2009 FWOC Conference

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs will hold its 77th annual conference in Spokane, WA, August 28-30. Since the Toiyabe Chapter has been a member for many years, anyone on the Chapter is invited to attend. For details, please contact Marge Sill (msill@juno.com).

WH&B, continued from page 6

1018, sponsored by Congressman Rahall, which supports needed changes to the BLM’s management and adoption program, but includes provisions that will undermine Congressional mandates for environmental protection, healthy rangeland ecosystems, and multiple use of public lands.

See www.toiyabe.sierraclub.org for more information on the issue.

Big Solar, continued from page 6

the potential to ramp up photovoltaics and thus greatly underestimated the likely future supply of solar cells. [see box] They also continue to insist that the large desert solar thermal projects are more cost effective, despite their own alternatives analysis that showed the possibility for photovoltaics to compete with, and perhaps might even be less costly than, remote desert solar thermal plants—by using thinfilm solar cells that are currently having major cost reductions in manufacturing.

RETI found vast potential for developing solar photovoltaic generation in and around cities and existing substations, but marginalized this option. Questing for land to implant huge solar thermal facilities and transmission lines, RETI overstates the area needed and overlooks how smaller plants could neatly fit adjacent to hundreds of existing substations.

Feed-in tariffs, where anyone can sell solar energy to utility companies, could greatly expand local solar power in California. These green energy payments have worked well in Europe, and have made Germany the world leader in solar cells. Last year Germans installed 1800 megawatts of photovoltaic systems. With annual growth rates running between 60% and 100%, they should be able to build at least 30,000 megawatts over the next decade—a target that RETI dismissed as technically unviable in spite of the fact that the Germans are already doing it.

RETI also suggested that the cost of the

California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee Desert Committee Outings

For questions about, or to sign up for a particular outing, please contact the leader listed in the write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive the outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen at kj.allen@wildblue.com or 661-944-4056.

**JULY 10-12
FRIDAY-SUNDAY**

Nevada Wilderness service. Eastern Nevada’s White Pine County has MANY new wilderness areas. We’ll help the BLM’s Ely office enhance wild values as we put up vehicle barriers, rehab old routes, or remove old guzzlers; specific area to be known later. 3-day car camp service trip with Vicky Hoover; with central commissary (\$15); vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org or (415)977-5527. CNRCC Wilderness Committee

JULY 11-12

SATURDAY-SUNDAY

White Mountains Canyon Exploration. We’ll camp in the Hamill Valley east of Bishop and explore Pellisier and Birch Canyons in two day hikes. I have not found any information on Pellisier Canyon and don’t know whether we can get past the formidable-looking narrows shown on the topo map, but we should definitely take a look. I know the Birch Canyon narrows can be surmounted, but there may be some route-finding involved. We won’t attempt any real rock-climbing. Limit 12. Leader: John Wilkinson, johnfw1@mac.com (408) 876-829 CNRCC Desert Committee

AUGUST 11-16

TUESDAY-SUNDAY

Southern Sierra Backpack Olancho Peak. We leave Las Vegas Aug. 9 and drive to Kennedy Meadows above the Owens Valley (not to be confused with Kennedy Meadow near Sonora). This is one Sierra trip where no permit reservations are needed! We will see the biggest meadow in the Sierra along with a carpet of wildflowers above our highest camp. The first day we arrive at the trailhead and hike in 2 miles and camp by the Kern

local solar option would be daunting. However, this claim is undermined by the fact that the typical German residential customer only pays about a dollar per month on their utility bill for the solar program, an amount that might swell to two dollars per month by 2020. Sunny California should be able to do better than Germany, given our much better solar resource.

Currently there are four bills in the legislature to expand the existing feed-in tariff to a wider range of renewable projects, but these will need to be improved to capture the full benefits of photovoltaics.

Life after RETI

Bottom line: A finite amount of large solar thermal and transmission may be useful in California’s deserts and remote areas but much less than what has been proposed. No matter what level is needed, there is absolutely no reason why all of this has to be in the desert. Indeed, there is much reason for placing solar thermal plants in the Central Valley, near to population centers, where there is more potential for recycled water, where temperatures are lower (which improves plant efficiency), and where the energy is needed.

This would, of course, reduce the amount of needed transmission lines, and thus might not be popular with utility companies that earn profits based on the cost of their wires. However, such an alternative might make sense for the purposes of energy planning and protecting the environment—while assuring California’s

River—little elevation gain. The next is 8 miles and go from 6150 ft to 8000 ft. and camp by the Kern River again. Day 3 is 4 miles and camp at 9300 ft, our highest camp. Day 4 is the hike with day packs through the wildflowers and an optional hike to the top of Olancho Peak at 12,123 ft., then back the 4 miles to the previous night’s camp. Day 5 hike 8 miles back to where we were the first night; then 2 miles out the last day. Level 3, moderate backpack, much of it on the Pacific Crest Trail. David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com-email preferred). Southern Nevada Group

**AUGUST 22-23
SATURDAY-SUNDAY**

Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest Carcamp. Come with us to the beautiful White Mtns to camp, hike and just relax. On Saturday, we’ll hike the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest on a moderate 5 mile-loop interpretive trail, followed by a picnic lunch and a short optional hike to a nearby old mining cabin. Back at camp we’ll enjoy Happy Hour, a potluck feast and a campfire. Sunday pack up and head home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person, 2 large SASE, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Reserv/Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329, (760) 868-2179. CNRCC Desert Committee

**SEPTEMBER 25-27
FRIDAY-SUNDAY**

Service And Hiking In The Carrizo Plains. This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. There will be an optional and scenic hike high in the Caliente Mountains on Friday. Others may join us for National Public Lands Day on Saturday when we will participate with other volunteers working on improvements for the Soda Lake Overlook. On Sunday we will tour a number of the historic, prehistoric, and geologic sites in the Monument. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310-477-6670), CNRCC Desert Committee

critical renewable goals are met.

No doubt the RETI partisans will continue to push the urgency of climate protection, with a “build-it, damn-it” approach, and say that others are being obstructionists. But this is opposite the truth. Indeed, some of the largest obstructions to building renewables have been created just because environmental concerns were not adequately addressed.

We are seeing just this result with the conflict over inadequate recognition of the protected Catellus lands, but this is just the beginning of troubles unless there is a change of course to a more balanced, open and rational process.

Don’t codify flaws into laws

Activists have made it clear that their top priority with respect to RETI is to make sure that RETI results are not codified into law or used in regulatory processes. This could happen in the near future with the proposals to change the RPS legislation, either by explicit statutory reference or by deference to action by agencies such as the Public Utilities Commission or the Energy Commission.

Equally important, the more visionary initiatives now underway such as desert ecosystem planning proposed by the Governor and desert legislation contemplated by Senator Feinstein could be severely derailed by RETI’s flawed product.

Can we all agree not to let that happen? —Edward A. Mainland is Co-Chair, Energy-Climate Committee, CNRCC Sierra Club California

Save the Date Western Wilderness Conference 2010 New Aims, New Allies

The Western Wilderness Conference 2010 will take place April 8–11, 2010, on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, California. Visit the conference website: www.westernwilderness.org.

Save the date now! For anyone who cares about the wild places of the West—this is one event not to miss!

Although the event will take place in California’s San Francisco Bay Area, wilderness organizations and advocates from all twelve western states, including Alaska, are invited to participate in this grand event.

Why attend? Western Wilderness Conference 2010 will:

- Inspire interested new advocates, including students;
- Re-inspire longtime dedicated wilderness advocates;
- Focus on the role of wild lands in an era of global warming;
- Explore how to incorporate Native American traditional land-ethic and cultural values into wildlands advocacy;
- Promote getting children outside into Nature’s wild places!
- Train activists to advocate more effectively for wild places
- And have fun! Speakers, plenary sessions, workshops, music, meals, outings! It’s all part of the celebration of the West’s wild places.

Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, and Northwest Parks and Wilderness Conference are leading the planning.

—Vicky Hoover, chair, Sierra Club CA/NV Wilderness Committee

Our national parks: a vision for the second century

By John Byrne and Vicky Hoover

In 2016, America’s National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday.

The Sierra Club’s National Parks and Monuments Team wants to share with you our exciting vision for the second century of the National Park Service. National parks are America’s uniquely marvelous contribution to the world.

Our vision focuses on three major concerns that people didn’t have 100 years ago but that today are prevalent in our society: natural areas disappearing, people separated from nature, and the onset of global climate change.

First, the disappearance of our natural areas. It used to be that development occurred as islands in a sea of nature, but today national parks are the natural islands in a sea of development. We see that national parks are needed to preserve important representative places of our natural environment. We envision a significant See page 11, *National Parks*

A Range of Light Group hiker holds an endangered Yosemite toad found on a group hike to Glass Creek Meadow, an area newly added to wilderness



Photo: Byrne Wheeler

Great Basin Gatherings

Great Basin Group News

Are you a lucky winner?!

GBG sets photo contest

Many of our Great Basin Group members have been taking superb photos on our outings, and many of these have been uploaded to our "Gallery" at our home page.

We'd like to give our GBG members more reason to keep taking those fine photos by conducting a contest for 12 photos for a 2010 calendar.

Photos must have been taken on any scheduled outing of the GBG (listed in our outings calendar at any time, past or present). The photo must include one or more GBG members in a natural setting. A maximum of 3 photo entries per member is allowed. See examples below, left.

The deadline for photo submission is August 15, 2009. Submit your entries to David von Seggern (vonsel1@sbcglobal.net).

Chapter, GBG oppose Sierra Club-business partnerships

A few years back, the Sierra Club entered into a business partnership with Clorox to promote a line of "green" products for the home. This action was taken by the board of directors with much controversy within the Club.

In 2008, a task force was appointed at the national level by the board of directors to make recommendations about further business partnerships. The text of the task force's draft policy can be seen at <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/administration/policies/business-partnerships/business-partnerships-draft-policy.aspx>. This draft policy sets forth the criteria against which further business partnerships should be judged.

Entries for judging must be less than 1 MB, so reduce the file size as necessary (e.g., save as a good-quality JPEG). Keep the original high-resolution format for later submission in case your photo is judged to be a winner.

Entries will be judged by an independent panel of photo experts on the basis of our theme of "Enjoying the Natural Beauty of the GBG Area." There will be no more than two winning photos per person.

The 12 winning photos will be published in a calendar available on the web for ordering. Winners each receive a free calendar.

—David von Seggern

It is my opinion and the Great Basin Group's that no such partnerships should exist. On May 2, 2009, the Toiyabe Chapter ExCom passed a resolution concerning the draft policy of the Sierra Club on business partnerships. The full text of the "Resolution to Oppose the Current Draft Policy of the Board-Appointed Business Partnerships Task Force" is long and is available from me or the secretary of the chapter.

The gist of the resolution is to oppose further business partnerships of the club and to disengage the Club from any current such partnerships. This is a contentious issue within the Club, and the vote (7-2, with 1 abstention) was not unanimous at the chapter ExCom.

We will join with other chapters in bringing this concern to the board of directors of the Sierra Club. We welcome input from chapter members on this important issue.

—David von Seggern, Chair, GBG

Sept. GBG Group Meeting: Bats of Nevada

By Valerie Andersen

Nevada Dept. of Wildlife biologist Jenni Jeffers will tell us everything we ever wanted to know about the bats of Nevada at the Great Basin Group's next program meeting (Sept. 10, 7 pm social, 7:30 pm program, at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno). Did you know that there are 23 species of bats in Nevada or that Reno has one of the largest bat colonies in the state? Or that bats eat thousands of mosquitoes each night and fewer than 0.5% contract rabies?

Using radio telemetry and night-vision See page 12, GBG program

Great Basin Group Website:
<<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/gbggroup>>



GBG on the trail — just what the photo contest wants! You, too, can be a Calendar Girl/Boy.



Photos: D. von Seggern

Great Basin Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 775 unless otherwise noted. ALL events include conservation education activities.

CST Nevada Tour Operator — Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator Ref. No. 2008-0041 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

JUNE 30 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy to Moderate Paced Conditioning Hike. Join weekly Tuesday evening hikes through September. Hikes are about 4 mi, with minimal to moderate elevation gain in the parks and foothills of the Reno-Sparks area, about 2 hours. Call hike hotline (473-1445) for details. DL. Leaders: Yvonne Jerome, Karen Todd, Kelly Johns. Moderately easy.

JULY 1 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Generally 4-5 mi RT and elevations gains of 1,000+ ft, in the surrounding foothills of the Truckee Meadows, 2 hours long. Bring plenty of water, trail shoes, and clothing for conditions. Learn about local flora, fauna, places to go. Call the hotline number (473-1445) for weekly details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin. Moderate to Mod. Strenuous.

JULY 2 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderate Conditioning Hike in foothills of Truckee Meadows at moderate pace for 3-4 mi and gains generally under 1,000 ft, 2 hours. Learn about local flora, fauna, places to go. Call hotline (473-1445) for weekly details. DL. Leaders: Gracie Caudill, Bill Myatt. Moderate.

JULY 3-5 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)
Hot Springs for the Fourth Car Camp. Three days of primitive car camping and hot springs on the playa of the Black Rock Desert. Probably leave Thursday evening. Learn about Black Rock Desert and how to Leave no Trace. Call by June 29th to sign up. Trip limit 10. DL. Leader: David Book (843-6443). Easy.

JULY 4 (SATURDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Lola Montez Dayhike. Beautiful lakes with great swimming opportunities. About 8 mi RT, 1,000 ft of gain. Butterflies! DL. Leader: Craig Mastos (786-7742 x106, maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

JULY 7 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 8 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 9 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 11 (SATURDAY) 8:00-4:00 PM
Schneider Cow Camp Loop at Carson Pass. Alternate route to/from Showers Lake through wildflower areas with great vistas. About 10 mi RT, 1800 ft of elevation gain. Learn area history. High-clearance vehicles needed or possible rideshare. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

JULY 11 (SATURDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Jamison Lake Dayhike. Hike from Jamison Mine area to Jamison Lake. About 6.5 mi RT, 1000 ft of gain. Learn mining history. DL. Leader: Craig Mastos (786-7742 x106, maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

JULY 11 (SATURDAY) 8:00-5:00 PM
Carson Pass Wildflower and Photography Hike. Easy-paced hike from Carson Pass to Lake Winnemucca. Will discuss general digital photography with emphasis on close-up flower photography. Bring camera with freshly charged batteries, empty memory card, instruction book. Trip limit 15. DL. Leader: Graham Stafford (retired professional photographer and teacher) (686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com). Easy.

JULY 12 (SUNDAY)
Tahoe Area Wildflower Hike. Carson Pass has the most spectacular, massive display of flowers in the area. Signup and directions: www.wildflowerhikes.com. Leader: Roger Rosenberger. Moderately easy.

JULY 12 (SUNDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Tamarack Peak/Waterfall Loop. Take Tahoe Rim Trail to waterfall, continue to conglomerated-rock outcrop at 9,600 ft. Spectacular views of Lake Tahoe. Return over 9900 ft. summit via high ridgeline. About 6 mi RT, 1300 ft gain. DL. Leaders: Gary Hanneman (425-3742, gphanneman@charter.net), Pat Kleames (359-5089, patkleames@charter.net). Moderate.

JULY 14 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 15 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 16 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderate-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 18 (SATURDAY) 8:30-6:00 PM
Freel Peak Dayhike. Scenic climb to highest peak in the Carson Range along the TRT from Horse Meadows. Mostly on trail; final 1000 ft are open cross-country. Learn about high-altitude flora. About 12 mi RT and 2000 ft elevation gain. DL. Leaders: Ridge Walker (853-8055, edc@unr.edu). Strenuous.

JULY 18 (SATURDAY) 8:30-5:00 PM
Showers Lake Loop Hike at Carson Pass. Loop through wildflowers. Scenic views along Meiss Ridge. Return via upper Carson River watershed; wildflowers. About 2000 ft and 9 mi. \$5 parking fee at trailhead. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderately Strenuous.

JULY 18 (SATURDAY) 2 PM-
Ice-skating and Swimming in Squaw Valley. Ice-skating at High Camp in Squaw Valley (elevation 8,200 ft., temp around 80°) at outdoor rink with Tahoe view. Big outdoor pool, waterfalls, giant jacuzzi. Dinner in Truckee around 6:30 PM. \$34 for ice-skating, skate rental, tramway ride, use of swimming pool and jacuzzi, and towel with locker. (\$29 tram & swim, no skate; \$24 tram only.) Meet at rink at 2 PM, so be on 1:45 tram. To carpool meet inside McDonald's at shopping center of Mae Anne and West McCarren at 12 noon. ND. Leader: Richard Arbib (685-2600).

JULY 19 (SUNDAY) 8:30 AM-4:00 PM
Castle and Basin Peaks Loop Hike. The first leg leads us to Sierra Club's famous Peter Grubb Ski Hut. Take PCT part way up Basin Peak, then go cross-country to summit at 9,015 ft. After lunch, follow Alps-like cliffside approach over to Castle Peak's 3 summits, highest 9,103 ft. Great 360° views! Descend to return on PCT. About 11 mi RT, See page 9, GBG Outings

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Castle and Basin Peaks Loop Hike. The first leg leads us to Sierra Club's famous Peter Grubb Ski Hut. Take PCT part way up Basin Peak, then go cross-country to summit at 9,015 ft. After lunch, follow Alps-like cliffside approach over to Castle Peak's 3 summits, highest 9,103 ft. Great 360° views! Descend to return on PCT. About 11 mi RT, See page 9, GBG Outings

Great Basin Group ExCom Meetings
Next Meeting:
Contact Valerie Anderson,
775-828-0302,
for location and details.
All members are welcome to attend ExCom meetings.

GBG Outings continued from page 8
2100 ft of elevation gain. DOK. Leader: Gary Hanneman (425-3742, gphanneman@charter.net). Moderately strenuous.

JULY 19 (SUNDAY) 5-9 PM
Keep Washoe Wild! See page 12.

JULY 21 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 22 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 23 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderate-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 23 (THURSDAY) 6:30-8:30 PM
Photography River Walk. Start/end at a designated place for sunset shots. Location will be set the week prior. ND. Trip limit 15. Leader: Graham Stafford (retired professional photographer and teacher) (686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com). Easy.

JULY 25 (SATURDAY) 8:00-6:00 PM
Paradise Lake Dayhike. Fantastic views of Castle Peak and Sierra from PCT on way to beautiful Paradise Lake. High clearance 4-wheel drive vehicles needed to negotiate jeep road to upper parking lot just below Castle Pass. About 12 mi RT, 1200+ ft of elevation gain. DL. Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089). Moderately strenuous.

JULY 25 (SATURDAY) 8:30-5:00 PM
Elephant's Back at Carson Pass Dayhike. Visit Frog, Winnemucca, and Round Top Lakes. Scale the Elephant's Back (sweeping Sierra views). Possibly return by Woods Lake. Wildflowers. Learn area history. About 9.5 mi RT, 2700 ft gain. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

JULY 26 (SUNDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Spooner to Marlette Lakes Dayhike. Hike from Spooner Lake to Marlette Lake and back, about 9.5 mi, 1200 ft gain. Beautiful scenery, wildflowers. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763). Moderate.

JULY 28 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 29 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

JULY 30 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderate-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 1 (SATURDAY) 8:00-7:00 PM
Stanislaus Peak Dayhike. Trek Sierra Crest north of Sonora Pass above 10,000 ft. Final summit ascent cross-country over rocky terrain. Learn about area geology. Great vistas. 10 mi RT, 1800 ft gain. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055, edc@unr.edu). Moderately strenuous.

AUGUST 1 (SATURDAY)
Round Top Wildflower Dayhike. About 8 mi, up to 2000+ gain. Learn about flora. Leader: Roger Rosenberger (To register and get directions, go to the website (www.wildflowerhikes.com). Moderate to strenuous.

AUGUST 2 (SUNDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Tahoe Meadows-South on TRT Dayhike. From Tahoe Meadows south trailhead, follow TRT southward for several mi through forests. Visit viewpoints over Lake Tahoe. About 9 mi RT, 600 ft gain. Learn about TRT. DOK. Leader: Gary Hanneman (425-3742, gphanneman@charter.net). Moderately easy.

AUGUST 2 (SUNDAY) 9:00-4:00 PM
Gourmet Dayhike to Lola Montez. Share

GREAT BASIN GROUP OFFICERS		
Chair	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461
Vice-Chair	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488
Secretary	Julie Woodard*	775-530-1566
Treasurer	Chip Latham*	775-824-4505
Conservation	David von Seggern	775-303-8461
Distribution	Carol Tresner	775-786-0489
Energy	Jeff Hardcastle	775-746-2443
Membership	Cathy Schmidt*	775-323-6316
Outings	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488
Political	Chip Latham*	775-824-4505
Programs	Valerie Andersen*	775-828-0302
Webmaster	Howard Goldbaum	775-772-8579
* ExCom members		

gourmet food in Sierra setting. Bring dish to share. Swim and relax. Optional side trip to Upper Lola Montez. About 7 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Trip limit 15. DL. Leaders: Holly Coughlin (331-7488), Gracie Caudill (626-7873).

AUGUST 4 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 5 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 6 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 8 (SATURDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Chocolate Peak Dayhike. Climb Chocolate Peak from Galena Creek County Park via Church's Pond. Visit Contact Pass and points beyond. About 8-10 mi RT, very steep, 3500 ft gain on rocky terrain. DL. Leaders: Ridge Walker (853-8055, edc@unr.edu), Maureen Reed (358-1019). Strenuous.

AUGUST 8 (SATURDAY) 8:30-5:00 PM
Red Lake and Steven's Peak. Scale two peaks over 10,000 ft in Carson Pass area. Over 2000 ft gain, about 8 mi, mostly off-trail. Wildflowers. For experienced and conditioned hikers. Bad weather will cancel. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderately Strenuous.

AUGUST 9 (SUNDAY) 9:30-3:00 PM
Granite Palisade near Tamarack Peak. Surprising spur hike just off TRT 30 minutes from the Route 431 summit. Vistas. About 4 mi RT, 400 ft gain. DL. Leaders: Gary Hanneman (425-3742, gphanneman@charter.net), Vicki Toy Smith (826-0932, vicki@unr.edu). Easy.

AUGUST 11 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 12 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 13 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 15 (SATURDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Five Lakes Dayhike. In Carson Pass area, traverse from ranger station to Frog, Winnemucca, Round Top, Emigrant, and Caples Lakes. About a 12 mi one-way hike with vehicle shuttle. Gain 1,500 ft with some cross-country boulder scrambling. Learn emigrant wagon trail history. Hikers need to be conditioned and experienced. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

AUGUST 15 (SATURDAY) 8:30-5:00 PM
Grouse Ridge Dayhike. Slow-paced 4 mi RT to Island Lake in Grouse Ridge area. Family hike with time at Island Lake to swim, eat, nap, ect. Photography discussed if requested. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com). Easy.

AUGUST 15-16 (SATURDAY/SUNDAY)
Perseid Meteor Shower on Playa Carcamp. Watch awesome display of meteors across desert skies! Possible side trip to one or more hot springs. Learn about the Black Rock Desert. Primitive camping and with Leave No Trace Principles. DL. Trip limit 10. Leader: David Book (843-6443). Easy.

AUGUST 18 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 19 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 20 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderate Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 20 (THURSDAY) 6:30-8:30 PM
Photography River Walk. Start/end at a designated place for sunset shots. Location will be set the week prior. ND. Trip limit 15. Leader: Graham Stafford (retired professional photographer and teacher) (686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com). Easy.

AUGUST 21-23 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)
Mt. Dana and Saddlebag Lake Loop Carcamp. Saturday, scale Mt. Dana, 6.25 mi RT, 3200 ft gain. Strenuous. Incredible views! Sunday, hike Twenty Lakes Basin loop from Saddlebag Lake, 5 mi using water taxi across Saddlebag (\$9/person RT). Leave after work on Friday by 5:30 PM to make camp that evening. Split cost of campsites. Trip limit 12. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488), Pat Kleames (359-5089). Strenuous and Moderately easy.

AUGUST 23 (SUNDAY) 8:00-5:00 PM
Paradise and Devil's Oven Lakes Dayhike. Skirt Castle and Basin Peaks to see three beautiful Sierra lakes (including Warren Lake). About 12 mi RT loop, 2000+ ft gain. Mostly trail, some cross-country. DL. Leaders: David von Seggern (303-8461), Ileana Tibuleac (781-258-3619). Strenuous.

AUGUST 24 (MONDAY) 6:30 PM
Outings Meeting. Help plan outings for October-December. All members welcome. Bring dish to share. All beverages provided. Call Ron Kaminkow for directions

AUGUST 24 (MONDAY) 6:30 PM
Outings Meeting. Help plan outings for October-December. All members welcome. Bring dish to share. All beverages provided. Call Ron Kaminkow for directions

AUGUST 25 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 26 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 27 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderately Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

AUGUST 29 (SATURDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Thunder Mountain near Carson Pass Dayhike. About 7 mi RT, 2000 ft gain. Scenic views on established trail. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

AUGUST 30 (SUNDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Tahoe Rim Trail toward Kingsbury Grade Dayhike. Trek TRT south from Spooner Summit, return on bike trail, about 8 mi RT, 1000 ft of gain. Tahoe views. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763). Moderate.

SEPTEMBER 1 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

SEPTEMBER 2 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call the hotline at (473-1445) for detailed information.

SEPTEMBER 3 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderate-paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

SEPTEMBER 5 (SATURDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
West Wing of Relay Peak. Approach via FS road up to saddle at 10,000 ft. Take TRT south over summit, traverse, go off-trail to lunch spot. About 12 mi RT, 1800 ft of gain. DOK. Leader: Gary Hanneman (425-3742, gphanneman@charter.net). Moderately strenuous.

SEPTEMBER 8 (TUESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

SEPTEMBER 9 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Fast-paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

SEPTEMBER 10 (THURSDAY) 5:30-8:00 PM
Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

SEPTEMBER 12 (SATURDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Machado Postpiles Day Hike in Carson Pass Area. Similar basalt columns to Devils Postpile near Mammoth, but existence unconfirmed till about 1990. About 5 mi RT, 800 ft gain. Off-trail. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

SEPTEMBER 12 (SATURDAY) 8:00-5:00 PM
Christopher's Loop above Lake Tahoe. Follow FS road onto TRT, head south to viewpoint above Tahoe's Sand Harbor. About 12 mi RT, 2300 ft gain. DOK. Leaders: Gary Hanneman (425-3742, gphanneman@charter.net), Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Strenuous.

SEPTEMBER 15 (TUESDAY) 5:30-7:45 PM
Easy-Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

SEPTEMBER 16 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-7:45 PM
Fast-Paced Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

SEPTEMBER 17 (THURSDAY) 5:30-7:45 PM
Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

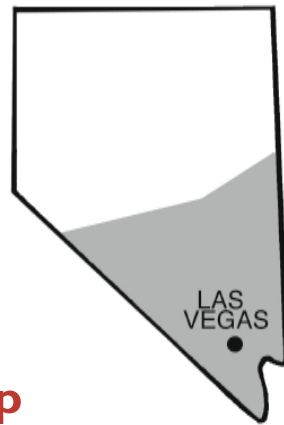
SEPTEMBER 17 (THURSDAY) 6:30-8:00 PM
Photography River Walk. Start/end at a designated place for sunset shots. Location will be set the week prior. ND. Trip limit 15. Leader: Graham Stafford (retired professional photographer and teacher) (686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com). Easy.

SEPTEMBER 19 (SATURDAY) 8:30-4:00 PM
Mt. Rose Dayhike. Fabulous views of Reno and Lake Tahoe. 10 mi RT, 2400 ft gain. Learn about flora and fauna. ND. Leaders: Pat Kleames (359-5089), Doug Cauldwell (331-7814). Strenuous.

SEPTEMBER 19 (SATURDAY) 9:00-2:00 PM
White's Creek Day Hike. Celebrate fall by exploring White's Creek. Slow-paced, friendly. About 4 mi RT, 500 gain possible. Dogs welcome. Leaders: Marge Sill (322-2867

The Mojave Monitor

Southern Nevada Group



Group News

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the second Wednesday of every month (except August and holidays) for the Monthly General Meeting at 7:30 pm. Come socialize, learn what is going on in the environmental community, and hear and see an interesting, educational, slide-show program. See the Calendar (pages 10-11) for dates and details. Conservation Meetings precede the General Meeting in the same room from 6-7 pm. The next Conservation meetings are Wednesday, July 8, and Wednesday, Sept. 9. Contact: Jane Feldman (janefeldman@cox.net). **Group ExCom meetings are 6-8:30 pm on the first Monday of each month, except August**, when the first Monday is a holiday. Location: Sierra Club Office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.), Suite 200C, Las Vegas. The next ExCom meeting date is Monday, Sept. 14. All members welcome. Info: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832).

The next NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBER ORIENTATION has not been scheduled at press time. For information, please call: Taj Ainlay (682-9361). MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT. To put an announcement in our local monthly announcement sheet (available at the General Meeting), please send a brief e-mail to Rita Ransom (rita.ransom@hotmail.com) no later than Tuesday afternoon before the meeting. To make a brief announcement at the meeting, check with Rita, Gary, or another officer before the meeting.

— Yuki Tagaki

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP OFFICERS	
Chair	Kristine Cunningham* 702-285-6832
Vice-Chair	Par Rasmusson* 702-215-9119
Secretary	Par Rasmusson* 702-215-9119
Treasurer	Desiree Saporito 702-875-2668
At Large	Matt Van Note* 702-348-5473
At Large	Teresa Crawford* 702-526-8445
At Large	Scott Stevens* 702-561-1701
Compliance Bart Patterson	702-349-1031
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Cool Cities	Open
Editor	Yuki Tagaki yuki.tagaki@toyabe.sierraclub.org
Hwy Cleanup	Sandee Herlands-Gogatz 702-248-4443
Membership	Taj Ainlay* 702-682-9361
Outings	Jack Sawyer 702-228-3857
Parks, Refuges	Ed Rothfuss 702-277-7098
Political	Teresa Crawford* 702-526-8445
Programs	Gary Beckman 702-648-2983
Publicity	Open
Webmaster	Par Rasmusson* 702-215-9119
Council Delegate	Jane Feldman* janefeldman@cox.net
Energy	Jane Feldman* janefeldman@cox.net
Legal Compliance	Burt Patterson 702-349-1031
*ExCom member	

Ash Meadows Service Trip Improved Pupfish Habitat

By Linda Nation

Twenty members of SNG and one member of GBG met at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) headquarters, Amargosa Valley, Nevada, for two days of service, March 6-7. Organized by Ed Rothfuss, the work consisted of trail rehab and cattail removal, resulting in habitat improvements for the endangered Devils Hole and Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish.

Led by Death Valley National Park fish biologists and wildlife ecologists Mike Bower, Kevin Wilson, and Bailey Gaines, on Friday the group re-marked the designated routes to Devils Hole #1 and #2 and eradicated an old road fast becoming an unofficial trail. Recent research suggests that pupfish feed on debris from native plants in addition to insects and aquatic invertebrates. Fifty thousand annual visitors have trampled the soils into hardpan, virtually eliminating the native plants on the surrounding slopes. Regrowth can occur if visitors simply stay on the trails.

On Saturday led by Ash Meadows NWR Visitor Services Manager Christina Nalen, the group spent the day knee-deep in warm fossil-water springs at the Point of Rocks, cutting cattails and toting the cuttings to an uphill collection point. "Maintenance by cutting is the preferred alternative to chemical spraying," Christina said. Creating open water improves habitat for the pupfish. Cutting stunts the cattails, slowing their return. "Ideally, with cuttings every 2-3 months, cattails can be controlled. That's why efforts by volunteer groups like the Sierra Club are invaluable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

A potluck dinner on Saturday night provided an opportunity for the NPS and NWR staffs to socialize with the volunteers and discuss the management challenges facing the refuge. In addition to familiar threats — invasive plants and animals and wildfires — Ash Meadows faces the threat of drawdown of the water table from industrial operations on the surrounding land. Hundreds of plant and animal species besides the pupfish rely on on-going habitat restoration efforts such as these within the 23,000 acre site.

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All area codes are 702 unless otherwise noted. Please use email when leaders state that they prefer email, especially if you have a long distance telephone number.

Events with asterisks (*) include conservation and/or education activities. Hike Hotline: 702-363-3267.

Nevada Tour Operator Ref. No. 2008-0041.

JULY 5 (SUNDAY)
*Griffith Peak, SMNRA. Up Cathedral Rock Trail to the peak and down the South Loop. Leader: Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 5.

JULY 8 (WEDNESDAY)
Conservation Meeting, Time & Place: 6-7p, before General Meeting; NV Energy Bldg. (see next). Program: TBA. Learn about many issues S. NV Group is involved in and how you can get involved. Light dinner, refreshments. All members, friends, guests, are welcome. Contact: Jane Feldman (janefeldman@cox.net).

JULY 8 (WEDNESDAY)
General Program Meeting, Time & Place: 7:30p; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: "The Challenges Associated with the Changing Face of Natural Resources in Nevada," by Allen Biaggi, Director, Nevada Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Learn about the State divisions within the DCNR including Conservation Districts, State Lands, Water Resources, Environmental Protection, State Parks and Forestry, and the Wild Horse Commission and Natural Heritage Program. Hear how the State budget deficit is affecting the personnel and services and how that affects us, Nevada residents and users. All members and general public are welcome. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

AUGUST 12 (WEDNESDAY)
NO General Program Meeting.

AUGUST 23 (SUNDAY)
*Mount Charleston from Big Falls, SMNRA. Past the beautiful falls and little visited upper valley to the long steep slopes to the South Loop and back. Do you see any mountain lion tracks? Leader: Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 6.

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 2 (SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY)
Service trip to Glacier NP, MT. Five days doing resource project with the park staff. Expect to put in 40 hours of labor making this park even more welcoming and beautiful than we find it. (Ask about wait list for strenuous Sperry Glacier hike to follow on Aug. 29-Sept. 2.) Leader: Ed Rothfuss (277-7098, mrothf9827@aol.com; e-mail preferred).

AUGUST 29 (SATURDAY)
Pahrump Overlook, SMNRA. Hike from the Old Mill camp ground cross country to the Bonanza trail overlooking Pahrump and return on the Bonanza trail to the lower meadow. 8-9 mi. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 4.

AUGUST 30 (SUNDAY)
*Fletcher Canyon to Fletcher Peak, SMNRA. Up and back through one of the most beautiful canyons in the Spring Mountain range. Leader: Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 5.

AUGUST 1 (SATURDAY)
*High Meadows on the South Loop, SMNRA. 12mi to 10,500 ft. We'll be looking for the wild flowers at these high altitudes, explore the meadow, have lunch, and enjoy the views. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 4.

AUGUST 8 (SATURDAY)
*Beginners' Hike in the Spring Mountains. What are the ten essentials on a hiker's checklist? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 1-2.

AUGUST 9 (SUNDAY)
*Mummy's Nose, SMNRA. Spectacular views of Lee Canyon as well as peaks and dry lakes to the north and east. Which way is Yucca Mountain? Leader: Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 5-6.

AUGUST 11-16 (TUESDAY-SUNDAY)
Southern Sierra Backpack: Olancha Peak. [Please note date change.] Leave Las Vegas Aug. 9, drive to Kennedy Meadows above Owens Valley (not the one near Sonora Pass). See biggest meadow in Sierra along with carpet of wildflowers above our highest camp. First day, arrive at trailhead, hike in 2 mi, camp by Kern River; little gain. Next day, 8 mi from 6150-8000 ft, camp by Kern River. Day 3, 4 mi, camp at 9300 ft, our highest camp. Day 4, dayhike thru wildflowers; optionally, bag Olancha Peak (12,123 ft), then back 4 mi to previous night's camp. Day 5, hike 8 mi back to first night's camp. Last day, 2 mi out. David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 3.

SEPTEMBER 12 (SATURDAY)
*Beginners' Hike in the Spring Mountains. What is a common way to measure an hour's worth of sunlight left before nightfall? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 1-2.

SEPTEMBER 13 (SUNDAY)
Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up. Meet at Dunkin' Donuts (two lights west of I-215 on Charleston), then head over to beautify the southern approach to Red Rock. Meet at 8:30 AM. Back for a pizza lunch. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen, and a joke to tell. Leader: Sandee Herlands Gogatz (248-4443, hsandee@yahoo.com), co-leader Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

SEPTEMBER 14 (MONDAY)
Group ExCom Meeting, Time & Place: 6-8:30p; local Sierra Club office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.) Ste. 200B. All members welcome. Contact: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832, krissyssjake@gmail.com).

SEPTEMBER 20 (SUNDAY)
*Mummy Mountain, SMNRA. This hike begins at Trail Canyon and the elevation gain to the top is about 4000 ft. After 4 miles on the trail we leave it and climb up a steep scree slope to a ridge where a trail pick up and goes to the top. Great views in all directions. 12 mi RT. What are the stunted trees on top? Leader: David Hardy 875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 5-6.

SEPTEMBER 26 (SATURDAY)
*Beginners' Hike in the Spring Mountains. What chemical will make the aspen leaves yellow? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 1-2.

SEPTEMBER 27 (SUNDAY)
*Mummy's Toe, SMNRA. Starting at the North Loop, we leap the chutes to the tip of the reclining foot. Which toe is it? Who owns the top of the mountain? Leader: Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 5-6.

OCTOBER 3 (SATURDAY)
*Cathedral Rock, Kyle Canyon, SMNRA. Family hike: all ages (little kids, too!). Friendly dogs welcome. Cool Fall temperatures, Autumn colors (golden aspen trees), and an awesome view of the canyon and surrounding mountains at the top of the Rock. Learn some geology, too. 2.8 mi. RT, 1000 ft gain. Leader: Gary Beckman (648-2983). Level 2.

OCTOBER 11 (SUNDAY)
*Pine Creek, RRCNCA. We start on a trail which ends in about 1.5 mi; after that it is lots of rock scrambling in a very deep sandstone canyon. Expect to see some fall color. Where did the green go? 6 mi RT. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

OCTOBER 14 (WEDNESDAY)
General Program Meeting, Time & Place: 7:30p; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: "Nevada's Reptiles: Snakes, Lizards, and Turtles," by Margie Klein, Nevada State Certified Environmental Educator and Interpreter, Administrator of the Wildlife

OCTOBER 25 (SUNDAY)
*Valley of Fire, LMNRA. Walk loop through shaded canyon, many rock formations. 7-8 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2.

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NO-TRACE PRINCIPLES
1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impact
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

SNG plans memorial for Fred Treat
By Gary Beckman
In memory of our late Group chairman, Fred Treat, who passed away last January, the Southern Nevada Group is planning to purchase an engraved tile for the memorial walkway at the Red Rock Canyon NCA visitors center. Fred loved Red Rock, as the rest of us do. A new visitors center is currently under construction and should be completed by the end of the year. To donate to Fred's memorial, contact Gary Beckman (648-2983, glbeckman@hotmail.com, or at our monthly program meeting) or one of the Group's officers.

How difficult is this hike?
Please note: Your leader takes into account terrain, altitude, scrambling and pace. Discuss these factors.
Level 1. EASY. Up to 5 mi, little elevation gain, trail, easy pace, suitable for beginners.
Level 2. EASY TO MODERATE. About 5-8 mi, less than 1000 ft gain, trail, relaxed pace liberal rest stops.
Level 3. MODERATE. About 5-10 mi, 1000-2000 ft gain, may be off trail, scrambling or high altitude, moderate pace.
Level 4. MODERATE TO STRENUOUS. About 10-15 mi, 1000-3000 ft gain, may be steep grade, cross country, hands on, fast pace.
Level 5. STRENUOUS. About 12-20 mi, 2000-5000 ft gain, demanding pace, expert hikers.
Level 6. VERY STRENUOUS. Over 15 mi, 5000+ ft gain, off trail, high altitude, hands on, exposure, fast pace.

Waivers
ALL PARTICIPANTS on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department (415-977-5528) for a printed version.

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THE TEN ESSENTIALS

1. Map of the area
2. Compass
3. Flashlight w/spare battery and bulb
4. Sunglasses, sunscreen
5. Extra food and water
6. Extra clothing, raingear, hat, mittens, sweater, etc.
7. Waterproof packed matches
8. Candle for fire starting
9. Pocket knife
10. First aid kit

NO-TRACE PRINCIPLES
1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impact
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

Pet policy
DOGS ARE generally not permitted on our outings, unless otherwise stated in the write-up. Watch for these abbreviations: DOK = dogs OK; DL = dogs limited, check with leaders. Local government leash laws apply.

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Book Review

Dolly and Zane Grey — Letters from a Marriage
Edited by Candace C. Kant, UNR Press 2008

The cowboy, a brief phenomenon of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, lives on in the media. The staples of the genre are open space, good versus evil, honesty, rugged individualism, and the horse. No one captured the genre in print better than Zane Grey. During his lifetime he wrote 90 books; many became movies.

He spent part of each year "adventuring" in the west, Florida, and the South Sea Islands. He also wrote books on fishing, establishing New Zealand as a fishing destination. Women other than his wife often accompanied him.

An Easterner by birth, Grey's West was in his imagination. He discovered the genre after reading Owen Wister's *The Virginian*. His first western was published in 1910. He became a millionaire; his expensive habits required a steady stream of publishable material.

His business partner was his wife, Dolly, who managed the business empire and kept the marriage together in spite of his women and his frequent absences. The numerous letters between the Greys document her business skills, her frustration at and then acceptance of his philandering, and the great bond that between them.

His readers, of course, assumed that Grey's life was like his books' heroes'. Dolly's restraint preserved that reputation. Their many letters are windows on his complex, productive life, which fortunately was not limited to imagining cowboys.

— Tina Nappe

and we envision parks becoming more inviting and attractive to them.

We need to expand education programs in national parks to help all visitors learn about our natural world. Programs for on-site visits should attract teachers and students. Classrooms should be linked to parks through the web throughout the academic year as an inducement to visit national parks.

The education programs should relate to all courses of study, academic and non-academic, and should be connected to the Internet so national parks can be learned about and appreciated by everybody, all the time. We should consider reducing park entrance fees, not raising them. Entrance fees discourage use, aggravating an already significant decline in visitation, and they disproportionately affect people with lower income. Entrance fees contribute but a nickel to the National Park Service budget dollar. We can easily afford to expand our National Park system, make it more available to people, and reap the benefits.

Third, fighting global climate change. Not only was this not around 100 years ago, even ten years ago, it wasn't a big concern for many people. We envision parks addressing global warming in at least three ways

1. By educating visitors on the problems and how they, as individuals can help out in their daily lives,

2. By using national parks to do scientific research on changes that are happening, so that we can see what nature is doing and learn what we must do to mitigate the effects of climate change; and by assuring the wild areas in parks will stay wild, such as through wilderness designation, so that national parks can form the core of broad protected areas to make wildlife habitat more resilient. The ability to move as climate changes will allow wildlife adaptations essential for species survival.

3. By making the parks themselves a model of zero emissions in their energy systems and particularly in transportation, which uses a lot of carbon-dioxide emit- See *National Parks*, page 12

Omnibus Bill, continued from page 1
before the Senate passed the bill, 77-20, on March 19. The House followed suit six days later, passing the identical measure, 285-140, after the Rules Committee had turned down 14 amendments requested by Members.

The morals of this long and winding saga are that all politics is local and that bipartisanship trumps everything — from committee consideration and reports to a fair and open floor amendment process.

From the redwood forests to the Gulf Stream waters, this lands bill was made for you and me.

Don Wolfensberger is director of the Congress Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and former staff director of the House Rules Committee.

— Thanks to Sally Miller for having made this article available.

GBG Outings, continued from page 9
to know their camera. DOK. Trip limit 12. Leader: Graham Stafford (retired professional photographer and teacher) (686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com). Easy and fun.

SEPTEMBER 29 (TUESDAY) 5:30-7:30 PM Easy Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

SEPTEMBER 30 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30-7:30 PM Last of Holly's Fast-Paced Conditioning Hikes. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

SEPTEMBER 31 (THURSDAY) 5:30-7:30 PM Moderate Conditioning Hike. Call hotline (473-1445) for details.

GBG program, continued from page 8
equipment, Jenni has conducted extensive research to learn about their foraging, hibernation, migration, and roosting locations. At the meeting you'll learn about her research and the measures that the NDOW is taking to help protect Nevada's rapidly dwindling bat population. All programs are free and open to the public. Info: Valerie Andersen, 775-828-0302.

Obama taps Abbey for BLM

The Toiyabe Chapter and Friends of Nevada Wilderness are pleased with President Obama's nomination of Bob Abbey for Director of the BLM. We are looking forward to working with Bob in helping to manage our public lands during a time of unprecedented social, economic, environmental, and cultural changes in our nation.

With the recent establishment of the National Landscape and Conservation System, we will have numerous opportunities to work with Bob help shape the future of this new land management system and to ensure that our national treasures remain for future generations.

Bob had served eight years as the Nevada State Director, where he provided direction and oversight for 48 million acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. While in Nevada, Bob was recognized for his willingness to communicate with everyone and his ability to manage public lands to enhance local and national economies while assuring the sustainability and ecological health of historic and natural resources.

Deadline for Oct.-Nov.-Dec. Toiyabe Trails: September 1.
Send all inputs to Editor, Lynne Foster, lfoster@schat.net, 760-387-2634

TAHOE GROUP OFFICERS		
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Vice-Chair	Carla Ennis	530-573-1834
Secretary	Bryan Holzbauer*	775-265-1586
Treasurer	Jerry Yeazell	530-588-8216
At Large	Grace Anderson*	
At Large	Bob Anderson*	
At Large	Patricia Hickson*	530-401-1397
Cons. S. Shore	Michael Donahoe*	775-588-5466
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Membership	Kay Edwards*	775-588-4565
Newsletter	Ed Josh Benin	530-541-1371
Outings	Glenn Polochko*	530-587-5906
Webmaster	Bryan Holzbauer*	775-265-1586
*ExCom members		

"Keep Washoe Wild!"

Sunday, July 19, from 5 to 9 pm, the Great Basin Group will celebrate their Keep Washoe Wild campaign at the newly restored Fish Hatchery at Galena Creek Regional Park. The night will include games with door prizes and a great 3-piece dance band (Milestones), and more. Finger foods and soft drinks provided; members may bring their own alcoholic beverages.)

To help reduce waste, bring your own reusable cup or glass. When the band takes a break, we'll update you on Keeping Washoe Wild. Learn about the Reno and Washoe County Open Space and Greenway Plans, the special areas included in the plans, and what you can do to help make these plans succeed.

Parking is limited, so carpool. (Carpoolers with at least 3 people per vehicle will get raffle tickets for door prizes.)

Fee: \$10/person. **Must RSVP to Gracie Caudill by July 12** (626-7873). Info: Valerie Andersen (828-0302).

Directions: Go seven miles up the Mt. Rose Highway (SR 431) from its intersection with U.S. 395. Take the South (second) Entrance into the park. Follow the road up the hill past a lower parking lot. Make a right when at the sign for Marilyn's Pond and Camp WeChMe. Continue about 150 yards to the Fish Hatchery. Drop off people near the Hatchery and then park below to let people less mobile park near the Hatchery.

National Parks, continued from page 11
ting energy. We see all our national parks vigorously promoting public transportation, so that people will be able to go to national parks on trains or other public transit and, once there, will be able to appreciate our natural world without a car.

The United States pioneered the National Park idea, using parks to bring nature closer to life's critical needs. But today we lag behind other countries in using national parks to learn about, protect, and perpetuate our natural world. National parks are ideal places to learn how our natural world reacts and adapts to change. As the potential consequences of and the need to react to global climate change become more and more apparent, these natural areas will take center stage and assume a critical role.

Expanding our system of national parks should be the prime goal of our Second Century of our National Park System. Please help us fulfill this goal so that national parks can play an instrumental role in making a better world for us, for our children and for our grandchildren.

To learn more about the National Parks and Monuments Team, join our efforts, propose new parks near you, or to share concerns for our national parks, contact chair John Byrne jbyrne_97@yahoo.com) or liaison Vicky Hoover (Vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org).

And, why not check out our new Handbook for Expanding National Parks on the Sierra Club website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/committees/nationalparks/downloads/national-parks-handbook.pdf>

Photo: D. von Seggern



OHV damage at Soda Lake, an important bird migration stopover near Fallon, NV.

Photo: D. Ghiglieri

OHV Bill, continued from page 1
displayed on the vehicle and will be at least as large as a license for a highway motorcycle.

An 11-person commission will oversee the distribution of up to 85% of the fee collected. Five members of the commission will be a sportsman and a rancher and representatives from the Association of Counties, law enforcement, and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Six members are OHV users or dealers or racers. The commission controls where on the vehicle the license is placed. (Of course, license visibility is crucial for enforcement.)

The commission also controls the purse-

strings for 60% of the fund for expenditures on OHV trails and facilities including: 1) studies, 2) mapping and signing, 3) land acquisition, 4) maintenance, 5) construction, and 6) restoration of damaged land.

No non-ATV person is included on the commission, and the Governor must make OHV category appointments from a list provided by OHV groups. How many OHVs will be registered and licensed? No one knows according to Kyle Davis with the NV Conservation League.

How will the bill affect OHV management? No one knows. Will the new law help in the control of OHV abuses? That remains to be seen.

Explore and enjoy and protect the planet

You're barking up the wrong tree.
The Sierra Club and over 1.6 million Americans fought hard to protect the last 60 million acres of pristine, roadless areas in our National Forests. But still, logging trucks continue to roll in. Logging in National Parks provides less than 4% of our wood products. So why not recycle, reuse and help save our beautiful National Parks?

Bark with us. Join Sierra Club.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52966, Boulder, CO 80532-2966 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org