



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

From the Chair

Chapter Chairs meet a NEW Sierra Club

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

I was pleased to attend the 1st Annual Chapter Chairs assembly in San Francisco on May 2-4, 2013. Chapter chairs from across the nation (about 80% participation) met to converse with national staff. The purpose of this meeting was for chapter chairs to share their experiences, for national staff to present their programs, and for the chairs to query national staff. The 3-day agenda, plus a lot more documents pertinent to our assembly, will eventually be posted on Clubhouse; but I would like to give you some of my personal perspective.

Although there was some resistance to this meeting from chapter chairs when it was first announced, I believe the overwhelming response at the end of the 3-day assembly was positive, with almost all chairs wanting this to become a regular affair (most likely annual). The communication was truly both ways, with the Club's national staff listening as much as speaking, with chapter leaders outspoken, and both sides seeking answers and solutions to the problems which beset them all.

**A new Sierra Club.** This is a new Club, populated at the national headquarters with young and middle-aged staffers who have come to the Sierra Club with different working experiences

Please see FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR, page 3.



Devil's Hole pupfish. Please see article, this page, and more, with photo of Devil's Hole, on page 7. Photo: Olin Feuerbach.

Devil's Hole pupfish: Can they survive?

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE A FISH living in a large lake or river thousands of years ago. Now imagine that your lake and river start to shrink, shrivel, and finally disappear leaving you in a limestone cavern filled with warm water from a huge, underground aquifer.

Something like this did happen over thousands of years and the fishes' descendants today live in that water-filled, limestone cavern called Devil's Hole in Amargosa Valley, Nevada. It is believed that the Devil's Hole pupfish (*Cyprinodon diabolis*) lives in the most restricted habitat of any vertebrate species. Devil's Hole sits in a rock chasm 60 feet deep that is a window into a vast, underground water system connected to the regional aquifer.

[ People have dived into the warm water depths of Devil's Hole to more than 400 feet -- and still could not see a bottom to the cavern. Devil's Hole is visible from a viewing platform where visitors can see the few square feet of aquifer exposed to the surface.]

The pupfish mostly live in the upper 20 feet of the water-filled cavern, but it is a shallow rock shelf on which they depend for food and spawning habitat. The pupfish are adapted to their harsh environment, but lately they've been struggling -- due to human-caused changes, but perhaps more recently due to other factors, too. At the latest count, the pupfish spring adult population was counted at just 35 individual fish, down from counts of 200 individuals common before 1994; the previous low of just 38

Please see PUPFISH, page 7.

Lake Tahoe protection: Hanging in the balance

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

For decades, development at Lake Tahoe has been governed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) under provisions of the federally commissioned Bi-State Compact between California and Nevada. In December 2012 TRPA formally approved a Revised Regional Plan (RPU), largely due to Nevada's threat to pull out of the compact, which had been enacted in 2011 (SB 271).

**Lawsuit challenges RPU.** Sierra Club and Friends of the West Shore filed a federal lawsuit on 2/11/2013 challenging that RPU. (See last Trails issue for details.) This lawsuit raises four major claims:

- (1) TRPA delegates project approval and review duties to local government in violation of the compact
- (2) the RPU fails to establish and ensure compliance with minimum regional standards for environmental protection of the lake
- (3) the RPU failed to make threshold findings according to the direction of the compact
- (4) the RPU failed to adequately analyze significant environmental impacts in violation of the compact

The press release at the time of the lawsuit can be seen at Earth Justice's website.

**Lawsuit timeline.** The lawsuit reached its first hurdle in April when TRPA filed a motion to dismiss. A hearing on this motion is scheduled for June. At that hearing, it is likely that the question of who pays for the administrative records which TRPA is assembling will be decided. Traditionally, public agencies party to lawsuits bear such costs; TRPA seems to fit the definition of a public agency.

**Nevada repeals SB 271, enacts SB 229.** Meanwhile, the political elements in Nevada were taking a hard look at SB 271 and finding it too harsh. A movement in the legislature to repeal SB 271 was undertaken in earnest starting in February 2013. Due to the fact that TRPA had issued the RPU which Nevada desired, much of the need for SB 271 was removed.

With the push of several interests and with the constructive intent of several Nevada legislators, SB 229 -- to repeal SB 271 -- was enacted by both houses. The governor of Nevada signed SB 229 in early June. This legislation contains a poison pill, however, in that it requires that, unless California passes similar legislation by the end of 2013, the Nevada legislation will be voided.

**Will SB 229 help the lake?** While keeping Nevada in the compact is commendable, thus undoing a 2-year threat to the historic bi-state agreement, this new legislation does NOT guarantee that the lake will get the protection it needs. There are several reasons for this:

- Pending similar legislation in California, SB 229 institutionalizes at the state level the flawed RPU adopted in December 2012 by the TRPA. This plan puts forth new rules for Lake Tahoe

Please see LAKE TAHOE PROTECTION, page 6.

IN THIS ISSUE

- In Memoriam: David Thompson . . . 2
- Summer Desert Trips. . . . . 3
- Range of Light Group . . . . . 4-5
- ROL Volunteers Needed . . . . . 5
- Keep Lake Tahoe Forever Clear . . . 6
- Conservation Briefs . . . . . 6
- Warring Over Wildlife . . . . . 6
- Utah Governor Says NO . . . . . 6
- Threats to NV Wildlife Species . . . 6
- Nevada Sage Grouse . . . . . 7
- Can Devil's Hole Pupfish Survive? . . 7
- Great Basin Group . . . . . 8-9
- Great Basin Peak Section News . . . 8
- 2nd Annual Italian Night for Kids . . 8
- Gusty Day on Bunker Hill . . . . . 9
- S. Nevada Group . . . . . 10-11
- S. Nevada Group Outings . . . . . 11
- Bookshelf: On Extinction . . . . . 11
- Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings . . 12



## TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chair	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net.com
Vice-Chair	David Hornbeck*	DavidHornbeckLaw@msn.com, 775-323-6655
Secretary	Open	
Treasurer	Christa Velasquez*	christa_sg@yahoo.com
At Large	Laurel Ames*	530-541-5752, laurel@watershednetwork.org
At Large	Ann Brauer*	702-879-3376, bluelupine@gmail.com
At Large	Erik Holland*	775-322-3582, erikreno@att.net
At Large	Jean Stoess*	775-322-5326, jstoess@aol.com
At Large	Sharon Marie Wilcox	775-852-5075, kaweah7@gmail.com

## GROUP CHAIRS (DELEGATES TO THE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

Great Basin Group	David von Seggern	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Range of Light Group	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com
S. Nevada Group	Taj Ainlay	702-682-9361, tajainlay@aol.com
Tahoe Area Group	Bob Anderson	775-588-8740, bob-a@sbcglobal.net.com

## ISSUES, OUTINGS, &amp; COMMITTEES

Chapter Delegate	Laurel Ames*	530-541-5752, laurel@watershednetwork.org
Chapter Delegate	Graham Stafford	graham@grahamstafford.com
CNRCC NV Vice Chair	Erik Holland*	775-322-3582, erikreno@aol.com
CNRCC Toiyabe Chap. Del.	Sam O'Brien	sam@rainshadowcchs.org
Conservation Chair	Dennis Ghiglieri	776-329-6118
Elections Chair	Open	
Endangered Species Liaison	Tina Nappe	tnappe@nvcbell.net
Energy Task Force Chair	Joe Johnson	775-348-7192, jj935@juno.com
Environmental Ed. Chair	Jean Dillingham	760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair	Tina Nappe	tnappe@nvcbell.net
Great Basin Peak Section Chair	Sharon M. Wilcox	775-852-5075, kaweah7@gmail.com
Legislative Comm. Chair	Lois Snedden	775-827-2353, loissnedden@aol.com
Lobbyist	Joe Johnson	775-348-7192, jj935@juno.com
Membership Chair	Sharon M. Wilcox	775-852-5075, kaweah7@gmail.com
Mining Comm. Co-Chair	Glenn Miller	775-846-4516, gcmiller@unr.edu
Mining Comm. Co-Chair	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com
National Parks Chair	Marge Sill	msill@juno.com
Nominations Committee	Open	
Outings Chair	Eric Blumensaadt	702-566-9429, 7speeder@cox.net
Outreach & Public Rel. Chair	Launce Rake*	702-451-9363, launcerake@rocketmail.com
Political Co-Chair	Taj Ainlay	702-682-9361, tajainlay@aol.com
Political Co-Chair	Erik Holland*	775-322-3582, erikreno@aol.com
Political Compliance Officer	Pete Sferrazza	775-324-7383, pjsferra@yahoo.com
Public Lands Chair	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118, rosenreno@sbcglobal.net
Ruby Pipeline Task Force Chair	David von Seggern	775-303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Sr. Field Organizing Manager	Rob Smith	602-254-8362, rob.smith@sierraclub.org
Sierra Club Council Delegate	Jane Feldman*	feldman.jane@gmail.com
Sierra Club Council Delegate	David von Seggern	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Sierra Nevada Resilient Habitat Campaign	Sarah Matsumoto	415-977-5579, sarah.matsumoto@sierraclub.org
Sierra Student Coalition	Brian Fadie	702-265-2644, brianfadie@gmail.com
Sierra Student Coalition	Glenn Miller	775-786-0462, gcmiller@unr.edu
Toiyabe Trails Editor	Lynne Foster	760-387-2634, lfoster@schat.net
Water Quality & Habitats	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118, rosenreno@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster	Dennis Ghiglieri	776-329-6118
Wilderness & Wild Lands Chair	Marge Sill	msill@juno.com
Wildlife Co-Chair	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118, rosenreno@sbcglobal.net
Wildlife Co-Chair	Tina Nappe	tnappe@nvcbell.net

\* Chapter ExCom member

## In Memoriam

## David Thompson, M.D.

David was Toiyabe Chapter Chair during the 1960s; he died on April 17, just one day after his 90th birthday celebration. He joined the Club in 1958 and was one of the first members of our chapter. He loved nature, mountain climbing, hiking, skiing, and sailing.

Before a formal Sierra Club policy was established, David – who was an expert on mountain medicine – trained many of us on basic leadership. He emphasized that the leader was responsible for the well-being of each trip member and taught us what to do in an emergency. He emphasized such simple rules as drinking enough water and resting when breathless or not feeling well. Because of David's teaching, we became much better leaders.

The Toiyabe Chapter thanks you, David, for everything you did.

— Marge Sill

## THREATS TO NV SPECIES ...

continued from page 6

all, about 70% of the surface of the Earth is covered with some form of it. But it is now abundantly clear that with overpopulation, misplaced development, and impacts from human alterations to climate, useable water is indeed becoming scarce.

One only has to look as far as the desert Southwest and the Colorado River Basin to gauge the seriousness of the situation. The already over-appropriated Colorado River has been named the "most endangered river in America", and a recent government report predicts further declines in flow ranging from 10 to 30%. This threatens wildlife habitat, cities, and agriculture that depend upon it.

One such city is Las Vegas, which has experienced exponential growth during the past two decades. For anyone familiar with basic biological principles (or who has good old common sense), it is clear that such growth is unsustainable in the driest desert in North America. Unfortunately greed, speculation, and focus on short term profits have trumped these principles. Now the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is pursuing plans to mine even more ground water – 27.4 BILLION gallons annually – left from the last ice age. It would be piped almost 300 miles to the Las Vegas Valley to allow for more unsustainable growth and as a hedge against future reduced flows in the Colorado River.

Ethics aside, the pragmatic impacts of this proposal to both the human and natural worlds would be catastrophic at best. The remainder of this article will focus on the wildlife that will be decimated.

## Aquatic Species

Let's start with the smallest and most vulnerable – the spring snails. These creatures are remnants of the Pleistocene Era, when what are now valleys of the Great Basin were lakes and inter-connected wetlands. As climate and the landscape became drier, these connections were broken, and many species likely went extinct. Those that didn't were stranded, often at just one or two springs in their former range. There are at least 25 species of spring snail threatened by the ground water project.

Please see THREATS TO NV SPECIES, page 11.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Create an Environmental Legacy.



Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:

Sierra Club  
Gift Planning Program  
85 Second Street, Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270



## Toiyabe Trails



SERVING NEVADA  
& CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA

*Toiyabe Trails* is published four 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.

**Editor** – Lynne Foster (94 Mountain View Drive, Swall Meadows, Bishop, CA 93514-9207; 760-387-2634; lfoster@schat.net).

**Assoc. Editor** – Kathy Morey (760-938-2050). Kathy usually does one issue each year.

**Deadlines** – Contributions are due by the 1st of the month for publication in the following month'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, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. Please send your contributions by e-mail. If you don't have a computer, please ask a friend to help you. For photo return, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The *Toiyabe Trails* reserves the right to edit all contributions for reasons of space, clarity, slander, 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. Contact Treasurer, Glenn Miller (775-846-4516) for address.

**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.



**FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR...***continued from page 1*

than traditional national program offices (NPOs) and businesses offer. They are eager to press the Sierra Club mission but probably not in the ways that many older members might -- and not in the ways that many of us had become accustomed to in the Sierra Club.

**Funding.** As most of our chapter leaders know, here in Toiyabe Chapter national funding has decreased significantly over the past few years. We were advised (perhaps exhorted) to mount fundraising campaigns within the chapter for operating funds. There will be some support at national for fundraising at chapter level, but this is an effort for which we really need to find our local resources and volunteers.

**National conservation issues.** The national office is pushing two major conservation initiatives and wants to more fully involve the chapters in them. They are: Climate Recovery and Wild America.

(1) **Climate Recovery** centers around the Beyond Coal campaign (the Beyond Oil campaign has already been being folded into Climate Recovery). Next to be folded into Beyond Coal will be the recently rolled out Beyond Gas campaign.

There is some strategic thinking that needs to be done before the Club commits to supporting the near-total elimination of fossil fuels; but when the message can be crafted correctly, I believe the Club will quickly move to this public position. I can tell you that the vast majority of chapter chairs lifted their hand when asked by Director Michael Brune whether the club should adopt that policy.

(2) The **Wild America** campaign is just getting under way, transformed from the *Resilient Habitat* campaign. There was general support among chapter chairs for the name change, as most felt that "resilient habitats" was not a phrase that resonated or stuck with Club members or the public. We will hear more of the Wild America campaign soon.

All in all, it appears to me that we have an eager and competent staff working in San Francisco and across the nation to further the Sierra Club mission. I am glad that the staff is embracing new management and communication practices to do that and that they are informing us just how important those new practices can be.

**ROL HIGHWAY CLEANUP CHAIR NEEDED ...***continued from page 1*

(3) Make any required brief reports to CalTrans. John Walter has done this for over a decade (thanks John!) but has now retired from this job.

This can be quite a fun activity. People never know what they might find! For a description, see the writeup for the next cleanup on these ROL pages.

What can you do. For more information or to volunteer, contact rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com or 760-924-5639.

**Summer Desert Trips**

The CNRCC Desert Committee's purpose is to work for protection, preservation, and conservation of California/Nevada desert.

All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car or high clearance vehicle will be adequate for most trips. For a good guide to desert travel we recommend the Sierra Club book, *Adventuring in the California Desert*, by Lynne Foster.

For questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact leader listed in write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).



Sierra Club California/Nevada  
Regional Conservation Committee

**JULY 4-7 (THU-SUN)****BLACK ROCK DESERT ON JULY 4 WEEKEND**

This will be a very busy weekend in Black Rock. No specific activities planned at this writing, but it's a shame to waste such a long weekend. Probably it'll be a car camp. Possible amateur radio class on Sunday! Info: after 6/15, call David Book (775-843-6443). Leader very familiar with area and can find plenty to do up there. Sorry, no RVs or trailers. Dogs on leash. LNT.

Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

**JULY 26-29 (FRI - MON)****E. NEVADA WILDERNESS SERVICE**

Once again, we partner with Ranger John from BLM in Ely for a scintillating Wilderness service project in eastern Nevada. We've worked in Mt. Grafton Wilderness south of Ely, Highland Ridge, just south of Great Basin National Park, and Becky Peak Wilderness in Schell Creek Range N of Ely. Where will it be this time? Sign up and find out. We do know it will be useful, enjoyable, hard work for wilderness, with pleasing camaraderie in a wild, scenic area. Central commissary offered for usual exorbitant fee. Contact: Vicky Hoover (415-977-5527,

vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

**SEP 14-15 (SAT-SUN)****INDIAN WELLS CANYON SERVICE & HIKE**

Indian Wells Canyon, N of Ridgecrest and adjacent to Owens Peak Wilderness, has been impacted by erosion and by illegal ORV trespass. On Saturday, assist BLM Wilderness Resource Specialist Marty Dickes putting up barriers, concealing illegal routes, and placing signs. If work completed adequately, then Sunday there'll be a hike up into wilderness and perhaps to Owens Peak itself. Ponderosa forest and chaparral should provide a delightful diversion in early fall. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670). Contact: Tom Budlong (TomBudlong@roadrunner.com, 310-476-1731). CNRCC Desert Committee

**SEP 14-15 (SAT-SUN)****BRISTLECONE PINES**

Come with us to beautiful White Mtns to camp, hike, just relax. On Saturday, hike Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest on mod. 5 mi RT interpretive trail, followed by picnic lunch and short optional hike to nearby old

mining cabin. Back at camp, enjoy Happy Hour, potluck feast, campfire. Sunday, pack up and head home. Group size strictly limited. Leader: Lygeia Gerard (760-868-2179).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**SEP 27-29 (FRI-SUN)****SERVICE & HIKING IN CARRIZO PLAINS**

An opportunity to visit and assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Friday, optional scenic hike high in Caliente Mountains. Saturday, join other volunteers in doing trail maintenance for National Public Lands Day. On Sunday, tour some historic, prehistoric, and geologic sites in Monument. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**OCT 12-13 (SAT-SUN)****EXPLORE & SERVE IN CARRIZO PLAINS**

This weekend is part of a continuing project to aid mobility of pronghorn antelope in Carrizo Plain National Monument. Saturday, remove or modify several sections of fence which are in the antelops' way. Sunday, choice of group, either hike in Caliente Range or tour popular viewing areas in plains. An opportunity to combine car camping, day hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**OCT 26-27 (SAT-SUN)****GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA**

Spend Halloween weekend with ghosts of California's colorful past. Primitive camp at historic ghost town of Ballarat in eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Saturday, challenging hike to ghost town of Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler, who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Return to camp for Happy Hour and potluck feast, followed by midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. Sunday, a quick visit to infamous Riley townsite before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Leader: Lygeia Gerard (760-868-2179).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**Range of Light OUTINGS***continued from page 5***AUGUST 11 (SUNDAY)**

**Lamarck Lakes & Wonder Lakes.** About 6 mi RT, 100 ft gain, intermed. difficulty. Dogs OK. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank. Leaders: Brigitte (760-924-2146, jungberman@mac.com), Mary K (760-709-0355, mkp@npgcable.com).

**AUGUST 18 (SUNDAY)**

**TBA.** Contact Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

**AUGUST 25 (SUNDAY)**

**Young Lakes Plateau, Yosemite.** Spectacular vista of Clark Range in Tuolumne Meadows from this plateau on the trail to Young Lakes. About 8-9 mi RT. Mod., continuous climb. Lunch in sky on high plateau. Meet 7:30a, ML Union Bank or 8:15a, Tioga Pass Mobile Mart. Leaders: Mary K (760-709-0355, mkp@npgcable.com), Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

**SEPTEMBER 1 (SUNDAY)**

**TBA.** Contact Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

**SEPTEMBER 8 (SUNDAY)**

**Duck Pass from Coldwater Campground.** Mod.-paced 7.5-mi RT, 1677 ft gain. Optional trip to Duck Lake. Well-maintained trail passes by Arrowhead, Skelton, and Barney Lakes in John Muir Wilderness. Spectacular views of surrounding area from pass. Bring your camera! Dogs OK. Meet 9, ML Union Bank. Leaders: Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

**SEPTEMBER 15 (SUNDAY)**

**Hall Natural Area Reserve bordering Yosemite.** Magnificent glacial lakes basin in shadow of Mt. Conness. Mod. 5 mi RT on and off trail. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank or 8:45a, Lee Vining Ranger Station on Tioga Road. Dogs limited. Leaders: Maurica (760-932-7175, maurica\_and@yahoo.com), Joanne & Dick (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

**SEPTEMBER 22 (SUNDAY)**

**Lundy Canyon fall colors.** Easy but rocky trail hike of about 4 mi RT along Mill Creek to lunch at waterfalls. Dogs limited. Meet 9a, ML Union Bank or 9:45a, trailhead.

Leaders: Maurica (760-932-7175, maurica\_and@yahoo.com), Joanne & Dick (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

**SEPTEMBER 29 (SUNDAY)**

**Morgan Pass to Morgan Lakes.** About 8mi RT, 800 ft gain to 11,000+ ft. Start from Mosquito Flats parking area, follow Morgan Pass trail past a series of lakes and meadows in Little Lakes Valley, up Morgan Pass and down to Upper Morgan Lake for spectacular views. Bring your camera. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank. Dogs OK. Leaders: Joanne & Dick (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

**DEADLINE!**  
**SEPTEMBER 1**  
**FOR**  
**OCT - NOV - DEC ISSUE**



# Range of Light Reflections

## Range of Light Group



### Group News

#### Letter from the Chair

BY MALCOLM CLARK (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com)

**ExCom.** Next meeting: Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 6 pm, Malcolm Clark's home.

**Program Meetings.** In March, **Brigitte Berman** brought fossils to illustrate her presentation, "Ichtyosaurus Fossils in Nevada."

In April, **Lesley Bruns** hosted a premiere showing of Eastern Sierra Land Trust's new video, followed by Q&A.

During May, **Joanne Hihn** gave a photographic summary of the Hihns' hikes since moving here in 2012, as well as an overview of ROL Group summer ROLG outings.

**Outreach.** Shalle Genevieve and Malcolm Clark staffed an ROL Group

table at the *Bishop Paiute Earth Day Celebration* on April 21.

**Outings.** Thursday afternoon outings began on May 23 and will continue through September. Sunday outings are June through September. See details on this page and the next.

**Volunteers, show yourselves!** WE NEED a volunteer to be *Conservation Chair*. ROL Group presently has no organized way to respond to many important conservation items. In the meantime, submit conservation items to [rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com](mailto:rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com).

We also need a *Highway Cleanup Chair* to coordinate our three highway cleanups each year.

Details for both these volunteer opportunities on next page.

#### Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET QUARTERLY (January, April, July, October). The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 6 pm, at the home of Malcolm Clark. All are welcome, but please confirm date, place and time, as meeting date may change in order to assure a quorum at the meeting or because of weather.

Any action items should be submitted to the chair (Malcolm Clark) in time for consideration before the meeting by ExCom members. On items requiring a vote, please include text of proposed resolution (subject to revision by ExCom).

Normally, ExCom acts on proposals in between meetings only when a deadline (e.g., comment letter on BLM or Forest proposal) makes waiting to next ExCom meeting impossible. Submissions or more information: Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639, [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com)).

#### Conservation Updates

- Sierra Club *joined the lawsuit* filed by Owens Valley Committee contesting adequacy of the final ER for expansion of *Crystal Geyser* water plant. Negotiations with Crystal Geyser may resolve the issues.

- *Bodie Partnership Coalition* may by now have hired a staff person to head the campaign to secure federally protected status for the Bodie Hills.

- *BLM rejected our comments* on the inadequacy of the EA on the proposed re-opening of Bishop Mill.

- *ROL Group members (7) attended* a meeting on the draft first stage revision of the *Inyo NF Forest Planning Rule*.

- In May the ROL Group *chair attended the 10th Sierra Cascades Dialogue*

#### Range of Light Group on Facebook!

TO CHECK US OUT, search "Range of Light Group" on Facebook and "Like" us. (Be sure to include "Group.") Check Facebook for updates for group outings, group events, and area conservation news.



ROL Group Website  
<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>  
 &  
 Chapter website  
<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

## Range of Light OUTINGS

### SUMMER WEEKLY OUTINGS

BY JOANNE HIHN & DICK HIHN

**ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!**

**All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.**

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

#### THURSDAY EVENING OUTINGS

Short Mammoth Lakes area hikes. Back before dark. Emphasis on local history, natural history, conservation issues etc., depending on leader's interests. All skill levels welcome, including beginners.

Meet 5:30p Union Bank. Bring water, snacks, hat, sunscreen, camera. Wear substantial shoes or boots; dress in layers. Contact leader for permission to bring your dog. Abominable weather cancels.

##### JULY 4 (THURSDAY)

NO SCHEDULED OUTING.

##### JULY 11 (THURSDAY)

**McGee Canyon to Horsetail Falls evening stroll.** About 3 mi RT, 500 ft gain at mellow pace. Leaders: Sandy & Keith (760-935-4004, [kburnsides@aol.com](mailto:kburnsides@aol.com)).

##### JULY 16 (THURSDAY)

**Barbecue Outing.**

##### JULY 18 (THURSDAY)

**McLeod Lake.** Leader: Sally (760-218-

*session* for discussion of the Region 5 Bio-regional assessment.

- Discussions are progressing well with the Forest Service on a ROL Group *proposal to restore Blue Diamond signs* marking cross-country ski routes in the Mammoth area.

0083, [sges4d@gmail.com](mailto:sges4d@gmail.com)), Melissa (760-937-0499, [melissas1@verizon.net](mailto:melissas1@verizon.net)).

##### JULY 25 (THURSDAY)

**Twin Lakes Ditch.** About 1.5 mi, level, easy. Trace ditch that delivered water to run Mammoth Gold Mill. Leaders: Mary & Mike (805-217-5563, [Mary.Shore@gte.net](mailto:Mary.Shore@gte.net)).

##### AUGUST 1 (THURSDAY)

**TBA.** Contact Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu)).

##### AUGUST 8 (THURSDAY)

**Heart Lake (tentative).** About 2+ mi RT, 550 ft gain, from Coldwater Campground trailhead. Leader: Malcolm (760-924-5639, [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com)).

##### AUGUST 15 (THURSDAY)

**TBA.** Contact Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu)). August 20 (Thursday) Barbecue Outing.

##### AUGUST 22 (THURSDAY)

**TBA.** Contact Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu)).

##### AUGUST 29 (THURSDAY)

**Mammoth & Monte Cristo Mines.** About 2 mi, 500 ft gain, easy. Visit heart of historic Mammoth Mining District. Leaders: Mary & Mike (805-217-5563, [mary.shore@gte.net](mailto:mary.shore@gte.net)).

##### SEPTEMBER 5 (THURSDAY)

**Crystal Lake.** Trail overlooks Lake Basin, passes through beautiful forested area.

Please see ROL OUTINGS, page 5.

## You're Invited!

### Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings Everyone welcome!

For all potlucks, please bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own *non-disposable* table setting. For summer outdoor potlucks, bring a chair, drinks, and something to grill. All dogs must be on leash in area of outdoor potlucks. For months with potluck and program, you are welcome to skip potluck and come only for program. See ROL Calendar for contact info.



Your choice! BBQs ready at 6p. See ROL Calendar for directions and contact info.

#### Sept 17 (Tuesday)

**Potluck & Social, 615 pm**  
**Crowley Lake Community Center**  
**Program: 7 pm**

#### "Water Issues in the Owens Valley"

**Mark Bagley** will speak about past and present activities of Sierra Club and Owens Valley Committee. Mark has worked on these issues for 25 years. He is executive Director of Owens Valley Committee.

#### July 16 (Tuesday) Hayden Cabin Museum, Mammoth Lakes

#### "Outdoor Potluck & BBQ"

Arrive early to walk near Cabin: down Mammoth Creek, out bike path to "inspiration point," around hills just up road. Museum open to 6p. BBQ ready by 6p. See ROL Calendar for contact info.

#### August 20 (Tuesday) Rock Creek Lake Campground Day Use Area

#### "Outdoor Potluck & BBQ"

Come early for optional activities – kayaking, hiking, fishing, photography.

Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our program chair, Mary Shore ([mary.shore@gte.net](mailto:mary.shore@gte.net)). We always need fresh ideas!

#### RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	Malcolm Clark*	760-924-5639
Vice Chair	Sandy Burnside*	<a href="mailto:kburnside@aol.com">kburnside@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Lesley Bruns*	<a href="mailto:lestravel@hotmail.com">lestravel@hotmail.com</a>
Conservation	Open	<a href="mailto:rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com">rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Mary Ann Dunigan	760-924-5982
At Large	Mike Shore*	<a href="mailto:mary.shore@gte.net">mary.shore@gte.net</a>
At Large	Jean Dillingham*	760-648-7109
At Large	Maurica Anderson*	
At Large	Lesley Bruns	<a href="mailto:lestravel@hotmail.com">lestravel@hotmail.com</a>
At Large	Sandy Burnside	<a href="mailto:kburnside@aol.com">kburnside@aol.com</a>
Chapter Del.	Jean Dillingham	760-648-7109
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	Dick Hihn	<a href="mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu">rhihn@skidmore.edu</a>
Co-Chairs	Joanne Hihn	<a href="mailto:jhphotos73@gmail.com">jhphotos73@gmail.com</a>
Programs	Mary Shore	<a href="mailto:mary.shore@gte.net">mary.shore@gte.net</a>
Publicity	Rosemary Jarrett	<a href="mailto:rosemaryjarrett@gmail.com">rosemaryjarrett@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Jo Bacon	<a href="mailto:jbacon22@verizon.net">jbacon22@verizon.net</a>
Webmaster Emeritus	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

\* Voting ExCom member



## Range of Light OUTINGS

continued from page 4

About 3 mi RT. Leaders: Sally (760-218-0083, sges4d@gmail.com), Melissa (760-937-0499, melissas1@verizon.net).

### AUGUST 12 (THURSDAY)

**Sky Meadows.** Classic hike past Emerald Lake to meadow dominated by breathtaking cliffs. About 4 mi RT, 900 ft gain. Leaders: Sally (760-218-0083, sges4d@gmail.com), Melissa (760-937-0499, melissas1@verizon.net).

### AUGUST 19 (THURSDAY)

**TJ & Barrett Lakes.** Loop trail starts at Lake George, swings around Lake Mary. About 4 mi RT. Leaders: Sally (760-218-0083, sges4d@gmail.com), Melissa (760-937-0499, melissas1@verizon.net).

### AUGUST 26 (THURSDAY)

**TBA.** Leaders: Sally (760-218-0083, sges4d@gmail.com), Melissa (760-937-0499, melissas1@verizon.net).

## SUNDAY OUTINGS

**What to bring.** For ALL Sunday outings, bring water, lunch and snacks, layered clothing, appropriate hiking footwear, sunscreen, bug spray (summer), and desired personal items such as cameras, binoculars, and hiking poles. Contact leader for permission to bring your dog. Abominable weather cancels.



Lower Rock Creek: Giant Jeffrey Grove (April 21, 2013). Photo: Joanne Hihn.

**More outings info.** For updates and more information in addition to contact information listed for individual outings, check (1) our web page (<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>), (2) Facebook (search "Range of Light Group"), and (3) local media.

Note: We submit outings information to local media but it does not always get included in their calendar of events and sometimes the published information is not accurate.

### JULY 7 (SUNDAY)

**Glass Mountain.** The drive to the trailhead will take over an hour. About 2.4 mi RT, 1800 ft gain. Use/game trails to summit where panoramic views -- including Crowley Lake and Mono Lake -- are magnificent. Bring your camera! Meet 8a, ML



Lower Rock Creek: Banner takes a refreshing bath in creek (April 21, 2013). Photo: Joanne Hihn.



Lower Rock Creek: Paint brush along the trail April 21, 2013). Photo: Joanne Hihn.

Union Bank. Leaders: Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu), Melissa (760-937-0499, melissas1@verizon.net)

### JULY 13 (SATURDAY)

**Starkweather Trail.** Slow-paced, 4 mi wildflower discovery walk down the Starkweather Trail from Minaret Vista to Starkweather Lake. Allow 2-3 hrs for this mostly downhill hike to view flowers and learn about distribution of trees by elevation. Fee: \$7 for shuttle (exact \$). Optional extension: ride shuttle to park headquarters and hike another mile to Devil's Postpile. We'll supply hand lenses. Meet 8:30a, ML Union Bank or 9a, Minaret Vista Trailhead. No dogs. Leaders: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com), Wilma (760-934-3764, wilma.bryce@verizon.net).

### JULY 14 (SUNDAY)

**Rock Creek to Hilton Creek.** About 10 mi, 1200 ft gain, 3200 ft loss. A one-way, moderately paced hike. Requires car shuttle. Hike by Hilton Lakes and Davis Lake, descend down Hilton Creek to town of Crowley Lake. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank or 8:30a, Crowley Lake Library. Dogs OK. Leaders: Sandy & Keith (760-935-4004, kburnsides@aol.com).

### JULY 21 (SUNDAY)

**Tuolumne River from Tioga Road.** Moderate hike on unmaintained fisherman's track along Tuolumne River, following cascades to lunch above Tuolumne Falls. About 6 mi RT, 500 ft gain. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank or 8:45a, Lee Vining Ranger Station on Tioga Road. No dogs. Leaders: Maurica (760-932-7175, maurica\_and@yahoo.com), Mary K (760-934-0355, mkp@npgcable.com).

### JULY 28 (SUNDAY)

**Ten Lakes Basin.** Trail passes through rocky surroundings around many lakes. Hope to see deer, marmots, grouse and other birds. About 7 mi RT. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank. Leaders: Sally (760-218-0083, salges4d@aol.com), Mike & Mary (805-217-5563, mary.shore@GTE.net).

### AUGUST 4 (SUNDAY)

**Parker Pass Trail to Helen Lake.** Hike in Yosemite National Park from Tioga Pass to Parker Pass Trail, then x-c to Helen Lake for some fishing. About 1500 ft gain, 10 mi RT, intermed. difficulty. No dogs allowed in national park. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank. Leaders: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com), Mary K (760-709-0355, mkp@npgcable.com).

Please see ROL OUTINGS, page 3

## Range of Light CALENDAR

### JULY 16 (TUESDAY)

**Outdoor Potluck & BBQ, Hayden Cabin Museum, Mammoth Lakes.** Arrive early to independently 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. Arrive before 6p to visit Museum. BBQ grill ready by 6p. Please bring something to grill, a dish to share, your own chair, non-disposable place setting, drinks. All dogs need to be on leash in area of gathering. More: Mary K (760-934-0355 mkp@npgcable.com) or Shalle (760-934-9668, marshalle@earthlink.net).

### JULY 17 (WEDNESDAY)

**Highway Cleanup.** This is the Wednesday after our third Tuesday monthly group meeting. Meet at the Crestview rest area, about 5 miles north of town at 8 am. We provide required reflective vests, hard hats, and trash bags -- along with picker-uppers and gloves. We usually finish around 10:30 am. A large group showed up at our May 22nd cleanup and we were finished around 10 am. Who will find the most EXOTIC, UNUSUAL or OUTRAGEOUS trash during this summer's Range of Light Group highway cleanups? Find out when you join group members in the Mammoth area to clean "our" section of Highway 395 north of Mammoth.

### AUGUST 20 (TUESDAY)

**Outdoor Potluck & BBQ, Rock Creek Lake Campground Day Use Area.** Directions: Hwy 395 to turnoff at Tom's Place marked "Crowley Lake Drive/Rock Creek Lake." Head S on Rock Creek Road to just

past Rock Creek Lake Resort/store/restaurant/Pie-in-the-Sky, turn left at Rock Creek Lake Campground. Follow road to end (about 0.6 miles), see day use area on right. We'll be at one of the table/fire pit areas near road. Bring something to grill, a dish to share, your own chair, non-disposable place setting, drinks. Come early for optional activities -- kayaking, hiking, fishing, photography, your choice. BBQs ready at 6p. All dogs need to be on leash in area of gathering. More: Mary K (760-934-0355 mkp@npgcable.com), or Shalle (760-934-9668, marshalle@earthlink.net).

### SEPTEMBER 17 (TUESDAY)

**Program Meeting, Potluck, & Social, Crowley Lake Community Center, Crowley Lake.** Potluck and Social: 6:15p. Please bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own non-disposable place setting. Program: 7p. Mark Bagley will speak about past and present activities of Sierra Club and Owens Valley Committee in addressing water issues in the Valley. Hear about the challenges and successes. Mark has been involved with these issues for 25 years and has been Sierra Club Owens Valley Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) representative since 1997. He is currently also Executive Director of Owens Valley Committee. More info: Mary (805-217-5563).

### SEPTEMBER 18 (WEDNESDAY)

**Highway Cleanup.** This will be our third and final highway cleanup of the year. Info: Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639 or RangeofLight@gmail.com). You can also check our web site or go to Range of Light Group on Facebook.

## Range of Light Volunteers Needed

### Group Conservation Chair or Co-Chairs

IS ROL GROUP "EXPLORING" and "enjoying," but not always "protecting" as it should?

Without a Conservation Chair our Conservation Committee is finding it nearly impossible to protect our spectacular and unique local environment. A headless committee is at a serious disadvantage in addressing the conservation and environmental issues that are constantly arising.

Suggested duties for Conservation Chair (or Conservation Co-chairs) include:

(1) Maintaining relations with BLM, the Inyo National Forest, and various co-operating groups such as the Bodie Partnership Coalition and the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group.

(2) Commenting on scoping proposals, environmental assessments and the like (see letter from the chair in this issue).

(3) Facilitating conservation work days and projects.

(4) Convening and chairing meetings of our Conservation Committee.

The Conservation Chair works with the Conservation Committee which ideally meets monthly or bi-monthly as needed to assess current issues, divide

### Highway Cleanup Chair

A VOLUNTEER (OR TWO) is needed to coordinate the 3-times-a-year cleanup of our 2-mile stretch of Highway 395 south of Crestview Rest Area.

What needs to be done. (1) Bring (or arrange for someone else to bring) the necessary pickup sticks, helmets, vests, bags, gloves, etc, to the meeting place. (2) Get additional bags when needed from the highway maintenance station.

Please see HIGHWAY CLEANUP, page 3

responsibility for response, and forward proposals for suggested action to the ExCom for approval.

**Conservation Committee members also needed.** Perhaps you'd like to be involved in our conservation work, but can't take on the responsibility of being Chair? Instead, you could consider being on our Conservation Committee and working on a particular issue in our area -- for example, renewable energy proposals, sage grouse or other endangered species, OHV problems, etc.

**How to volunteer.** For more info on Range of Light Group's conservation activities, contact rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com or 760-924-5639. We need "protectors" -- please volunteer!



# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

*All you need to  
get to heaven is  
a good pair of boots.*  
— Shelton Johnson

## Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

**Gold Butte Bill Introduced.** Just before the Memorial Day recess, Senator Reid introduced the 348,515-acre Gold Butte National Conservation Area bill to ensure preservation of the scenic, environmental, and cultural values of this important place. The bill includes designation of over 129,000 acres of wilderness in the National Conservation Area and approximately 92,000 acres of wilderness in Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Gold Butte has long

been a top priority for conservation groups in Nevada, including the Sierra Club. For a copy of the bill and a map, please e-mail [msill@juno.com](mailto:msill@juno.com).

**50th anniversaries of Wilderness and Civil Rights Acts.** The following proclamation was introduced in the 2013 session of the Nevada legislature by Senators Aaron Ford and Pat Spearan to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and

*Please see 50th ANNIVERSARIES, page 12.*

## Warring over wildlife: Nevada Legislature ends

BY TINA NAPPE

“WILDLIFE IS A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE,” a former Director of Nevada Department of Wildlife once stated. Certainly there is always a tug of differing philosophies. This session there were: billson trapping, predation management, black bears, sage grouse, invasive species, and falconry.

**AB345.** Introduced to move some of the \$400,000 earmarked for predator control (based on a \$3 hunt application fee) to sage grouse habitat, the bill ended up tightening qualifications for predator management projects. Raven control was one of the rationales for leaving predator control as is.

**SB82.** Introduced to designate the black bear as a protected species and ended up being a resolution to urge continued discussion between the Wildlife Commission and Humane Groups.

**SB213.** Initially required trap visitation every 24 hours, trap identification, and placing a visible flag on traps. The final bill required trap identification and more frequent visitation hours in urban areas, as developed by the Wildlife Commission.

**SJR7.** This resolution to incorporate the right to hunt into the constitution was defeated.

**AB168.** Replaces one farmer or sportsmen on Nevada’s 17 County Advisory Boards to Manage wildlife with a member from the general public.

**SB 213.** For the first time, NDOW will be able to provide penalties for feeding big game, especially bears.

**AB 461.** Nevada will be the first state to have a legislated program to address the decline of sage grouse. Information on this program can be found at <http://sagebrushceco.nv.gov/>. You can also contact me at [tinanappe@gmail.com](mailto:tinanappe@gmail.com).

Finally, some general comments. The legislature adjourned again without investing significant public dollars in the wildlife program. Wildlife belongs to the people, but sportsmen continue provide the basic match funds to access federal funds. A little less than \$500,000 in general funds is contributed to NDOW’s Biodiversity Program. A request to the Governor, for instance, to provide general funds to address nuisance black bears was denied. The NDOW budget is approximately \$31,000,000. Without the reliable contribution of sportsmen, NDOW would have virtually no resources for wildlife.

## Water issues intensify threats to Nevada species (Part I)

BY ROB MROWKA

### Water & Growth

Life is impossible without water. Mother Earth’s life-blood nourishes all that require it. Up until recently, it seemed that there was plenty of water to go around – after

*Please see THREATS TO NV SPECIES, page 2.*

## Water campaign update

### Utah Governor says NO to dividing groundwater

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

On April 3, 2013, Utah Governor Gary Herbert announced his decision to reject a controversial proposal on how to divide groundwater in Snake Valley between Utah and Nevada.

This was one of the most difficult calls he’s had to make as governor, Herbert said after again visiting with West Desert residents and local elected officials and finding that their opposition had not lessened. “A majority of local residents do not support the agreement with Nevada. Therefore, I cannot in good conscience sign the agreement because I won’t impose a solution on those most impacted that they themselves cannot support.”

The main proponent of the draft agreement, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), responded immediately by expressing disappointment with the governor’s action. The Congressional requirement in the 2004 Lincoln County Lands Act for a bi-state agreement on shared water was interpreted (in the SNWA press release) as a mandate for the proposed draft agreement even though terms are unfavorable to Utah and West Desert residents.

**Locals support Utah governor.** Local residents applauded the decision, thanking the governor for listening to their concerns and beliefs that there is no unused water in Snake Valley available for export by SNWA.

Downwind Salt Lake City residents were relieved as the SNWA project threatened to greatly worsen already serious air quality problems on the Wa-

*Please see GOVERNOR SAYS NO, page 11.*

## LAKE TAHOE PROTECTION . . .

*continued from page 6*

California, SB 229 institutionalizes at the state level the flawed RPU adopted in December 2012 by the TRPA. This plan puts forth new rules for Lake Tahoe that seriously reduce protections for the treasured mountain lake.

• SB 229 includes no new rules that might protect the lake. The most disconcerting part of the RPU is that it shifts authority over future development decisions to local jurisdictions. Our long experience with local jurisdictions on planning and development issues is that they are almost always swayed by the promise of an increased tax base.

• SB 229 also allows the towns and counties to adopt weakened pollution controls that do not meet the minimum environmental requirements established by TRPA.

• Finally, the plan allows for increased development while important standards for environmental quality around the lake are yet unmet.



## Support our efforts to Keep Lake Tahoe Forever Clear

To support our campaign to [Keep Lake Tahoe Forever Clear](#), we are using small water vials\* as pledge tokens and reminders. By buying this water vial, you will be pledging to help with our campaign to [Keep Lake Tahoe Forever Clear](#). Keep and display the vial as a reminder of your commitment to preserve the beauty of Lake Tahoe for this and future generations.

Your contribution will enable us to:

- continue our legal action to stop the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency from putting the faulty revised regional plan into action. The plan fails to protect Lake Tahoe for present and future generations.
- catalyze public opinion to support preservation of the lake.

Your pledge will bring more voices to the argument that the faulty revised plan of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency puts protecting the lake second to development. This is a significant departure from past practice under the bi-state compact which was intended to protect Lake Tahoe from degradation due to overdevelopment. (See Page 1 article in this issue of the *Trails* for details.)

Clip or copy the order blank below and send your pledge check of \$10 each for as many water vials as you want. Your water vial(s) will be delivered via USPS soon. Pass copies of this order blank on to others if possible.

\* The vials are unbreakable plastic, about 2 inches high, and hold a fraction of an ounce of Lake Tahoe water, with an attached card to remind you of our campaign.



## Keep Lake Tahoe Forever Clear

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

May we e-mail you with occasional action alerts?  
If so, please CLEARLY PRINT your e-mail address:

Number of vials:    1    2    3    4    5    other  
                                           
                          \$10   \$20   \$30   \$40   \$50   \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to “Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club.”  
Mail to: Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, P. O. Box 8096, Reno NV 89507



*The earth has  
music for those  
who listen.*  
— George Santayana

## Nevada sage grouse takes center stage

BY TINA NAPPE

“NEVADA IS KNOWN AS the Sagebrush State; restoration and maintenance of the sagebrush ecosystem is essential to wildlife, watersheds, biodiversity and productivity,” states AB 461, Governor Sandoval’s bill to “Restore the Sagebrush Ecosystem.” Nevada became the first state to elevate sage grouse management from Executive Order to statute when Nevada State Legislature approved the legislation on June 3, 2013.

The driving force behind the new law is BLM’s impending draft Environmental Impact Statement (estimated release date September 2013). BLM will provide alternatives for managing sage grouse to comply with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services’ (USFWS) mandate for regulatory sufficiency. The Council’s first goal is to “Stop the Decline”—not an easy task. Last year 600,000 acres burned in Nevada; millions of acres are now “cheat grass” deserts.

Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar suggested states provide an alternative in BLM’s EIS. Nevada and other western states might continue to manage sage grouse if their systems for management are sufficient. Nevada submitted a plan to BLM last July for inclusion in the EIS.

The spur to elevating sage grouse to the state level is that listing the sage grouse as threatened will impact economic productivity. Governor Sandoval’s Greater Sage Grouse Advisory Council (May-June, 2012) recognized the value of a collaborative process among federal, state, local, and private sectors in addressing the top three threats to Nevada sage grouse: fires, weeds, and pinyon juniper invasion. Climate change, livestock and wild horse grazing, recreation, habitat fragmentation, as a result of roads, pipelines, etc., also contribute to and can sustain these negative impacts.

The Sagebrush Council has nine members representing diverse public land interests. Ex-Officio members include the top Nevada BLM, USFWS and Forest Service officials plus the Nevada Directors of Wildlife and Agriculture.

Whether the sage grouse is listed or not listed, federal agencies will rely upon this new system to garner resources and support for habitat improvements. With this new team in place, there is a growing confidence that maybe the Great Basin will not be victimized by fires and weeds – and that, by working together, we can over time contain the damage. We owe this new spirit to the sage grouse, to the environmental organizations which sued, and to Governor Sandoval’s response. For more information on the Sagebrush Council see <<http://sagebrushco.nv.gov/>>

## DEVIL’S HOLE PUPFISH: CAN THEY SURVIVE? . . .

continued from page 1

adult fish occurred in 2006 after a flood washed traps used for research into the pool killing many pupfish. Death Valley National Park has made extensive upgrades to the research and monitoring infrastructure of Devil’s Hole to help prevent another human-caused catastrophe from occurring. The recent decline, however, doesn’t have a single, identifiable cause, according to Jeffrey Goldstein, whose job with the National Park is to see that the fish survive and ultimately thrive.

Devil’s Hole pupfish have been threatened with extermination before. In the mid-20th century agricultural pumping was rapidly draining the aquifer. The dropping water table exposed part of the rock shelf in the pool known to be critical to the pupfish. A court battle in the early 1970s ultimately went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which limited pumping to keep the water level in Devil’s Hole above the the rock shelf.

Since then, pupfish populations were relatively stable although the water level in Devil’s Hole never recovered to pre-pumping levels and remains one foot lower today than in 1960. And today pumping for agriculture continues north and west, in Amargosa Valley, and for residential and agricultural use in Pahrump, NV, about 14 miles to the southeast.

Devil’s Hole pupfish live in water that averages 92.3°F (33.5°C). Available oxygen is far less than most fish species can tolerate. Their food supply is very limited in the winter. Nevertheless, they have persisted for at least 10,000 years in their isolated, water-filled cavern. What now is causing their decline isn’t well understood.

The NPS implemented a plan for Devil’s Hole developed in 2009: the



Devil’s Hole, Death Valley NP. (Photo: Anon.)

Long-term Ecosystem Monitoring Plan (LTEMP for short). The plan calls for a holistic approach to ecosystem monitoring and offers extensive peer-reviews (14 outside experts from the USGS and academia and four internal NPS reviews). LTEMP collects data on eight factors, including water temperature (it’s rising), nutrients (they’re changing), water level (it’s never returned to pre-pumping levels), water quality, and the Devil’s Hole pupfish themselves. The natural food available to the fish is believed to be inadequate, so the NPS supplementally feeds the fish to augment the natural food supply at critical times. Events stress the pupfish

Goldstein reported at the 2013 Devil’s Hole Conference in Death Valley that global climate change may be increas-

ing the temperatures of the water in Devil’s Hole. Temperature measurements between 2009 and 2013 show increases in both summer and winter water temperatures that may reflect increasing air temperatures. Likewise, algae and invertebrates that help make up the ecosystem of Devil’s Hole are shifting.

In 2012 and early 2013 there was a string of natural disturbances – six large, distant earthquakes and a flood. Seismic waves from earthquakes as far away as Mexico or Alaska cause large, temporary water fluctuations in Devil’s Hole. Water levels rise sending waves over the shallow shelf and then drain rapidly into the hole with rushing water running over the shallow shelf. The cycle repeats several times. You can see videos of the effects of the Mexico earthquake on Devil’s Hole at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6h82Pli\\_-0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6h82Pli_-0)>.

Likewise, flash floods send water cascading into Devil’s Hole from intense, local thunderstorms like those which occurred in early August 2012. It is possible that these events – especially the earthquakes that occurred in late March and early April 2012 could have negatively affected spring spawning of the pupfish, says Goldstein.

Questions remain about the long-term causes of the pupfish decline. Is it a change in the ecosystem function? Is it global climate change or lower water levels? Is it a shift in the critters that make up the community structure? NPS biologist Goldstein, in response to a question, expressed a guarded opinion that the pupfish will rebound from this historic low count. I’m keeping my fingers crossed that he’s right.

## DEVIL’S HOLE Death Valley National Park

### FACTS

**Average Temperature:** 92.3°F

**Dissolved Oxygen:** 2.5-3.0 mg/l

**Depth:** Divers have gone down 436 ft; cavern continues deeper

**Elevation:** 2358 feet above mean sea level

**Environment:** Limestone fracture cave exposed at the surface

**Devil’s Hole pupfish:** most restricted habitat of a vertebrate species; pupfish found to 66 feet, but usually above 20 feet; shallow shelf essential for food & spawning habitat

**Location:** Amargosa Valley, Nye County, Nevada

**Features:** Devil’s Hole is part of the Ash Meadows Complex – an extensive wetland composed of large and small springs. Ash Meadows was named for its Velvet Ash Trees (*Fraxinus velutina*).

**Website:** <[www.nps.gov/deva/naturescience/Devil-s-hole.htm](http://www.nps.gov/deva/naturescience/Devil-s-hole.htm)>

### DESIGNATIONS

In 1952, Devil’s Hole was added to then-Death Valley National Monument. (Death Valley became a National Park in 1994.) In 1984, the surrounding large springs and wetlands in Amargosa Valley became the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. See <[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ash\\_meadows/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ash_meadows/)>.

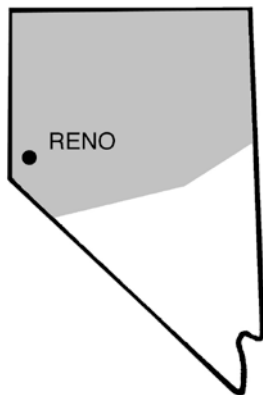
### LOCATION

**How to get to Devil’s Hole.** Access is 8.1 miles north of Death Valley Junction, CA. From NV 373 turn east on Spring Meadows Rd. Drive 5.2 miles (good gravel road) to turn-off to Ash Meadows Nat’l Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. (Check here for information.) From Visitor Center continue 0.6 mi on Spring Meadows Rd, then 1.7 mi on Devil’s Hole Rd.





# Great Basin Gatherings



## Great Basin Group

### Message from the Chair

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

#### Congratulations, Joe!

**Earth Day in Reno.** The highlight of the second quarter of 2013 was Earth Day, celebrated in Reno on Saturday, April 20. This year's event seemed to be even larger than ever, an encouraging fact because we hear that many cities across the country have stopped celebrating Earth Day. Your Great Basin Group had a canopy in a prominent place and talked with many people throughout the beautiful day.

**General Meeting programs.** Our April program featured Gail Durham from the Nevada Division of Forestry. Gail spoke about the many insect pests affecting urban and country trees around the state. The pine bark beetle was featured due to its widespread effects, but she discussed many more destructive insects active throughout the state. The pine bark beetle has completely destroyed some sections of forest here and there, but it is not yet as widespread as in the Rockies.

Our May program was presented by world traveler Karin McCollum. Karin

took us from arctic spaces to the tropical jungles, revealing a lot of courage in her mostly solo travels around the world and a knack for captivating photographs.

We take June, July, and August off from program meetings and hope to see our Sierra Club friends again on September 12. The presenter then will be Keoki Flagg, a world-class photographer from Lake Tahoe.

**Nevada legislature.** Some of our Great Basin Group members have been making trips to Carson City for the biennial Nevada legislature. Their support of various bills has augmented the work of Joe Johnson, our lobbyist.

**Joe Johnson receives award.** Congratulations to Joe on his award from the Nevada Conservation League, which was presented at a special reception in Carson City on April 25. Joe's work on legislation important to the Sierra Club has been productive over many, many years.

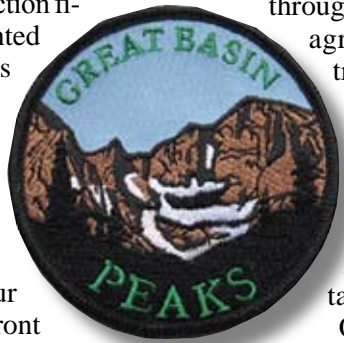
### Great Basin Peak Section News

#### T-shirts at last!

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

The Great Basin Peaks Section finally got their t-shirts printed and ready to wear, plus have enjoyed new peak climbs and Nevada Wilderness Explorations. GBPS t-shirts are now available and information will be on our website soon. The shirts have our Wheeler Peak logo on front (compliments of Erik Holland) and the peak list on the back. (See page 9 for photo.)

This year's adventures started with a **Gold Butte & Nevada Wilderness Exploration**. We photographed endless fascinating formations and petroglyphs



throughout the Gold Butte area agreeing that it was a true treasure for Nevada. Gold Butte is being considered for wilderness designation. You can take action to help by signing the petition at <[www.nevadawilderness.org/take\\_action](http://www.nevadawilderness.org/take_action)>.

Our **Southern Nevada Adventure** took us up *Spirit Mountain*, *McCullough Mountain*, and *Corkscrew Peak* with a tour through Wee Thump Wilderness. The Joshua Trees in Wee Thump are the most amazing I've seen in both size and the display of their beautiful blooms.

This spring members also hiked *Tule*, *Tohakum*, *Job*, and *King Lear Peaks*. The views and feeling of solitude experienced on all great basin peaks never disappoints. A note on Tohakum Peak in the Lake Range—be prepared for a tick fest!

### GREAT BASIN GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Vice-Chair	Valerie Andersen*	775-853-4769	mtnval@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Sue Jacox*	775-849-1890	suejacox@nvbnet
Treasurer	Martin Mace*	775-745-4703	mace.martin@gmail.com
Conservation	Jen Huntley*	775-232-8847	drjenhs@gmail.com
Distribution	Craig Mastos	775-348-1862	
Energy	Jeff Hardcastle*	775-313-8442	jeff.hardcastle@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Graham Stafford*	775-686-8478	graham@grahamstafford.com
Outings	Holly Coughlin	775-331-7488	
Political	Open		
Programs	Valerie Andersen*	775-853-4769	mtnval@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster	Peter Johnson	775-250-2576	peter.j.johnson@charter.net

\* ExCom member

## 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.

### JULY 4-7

#### (THURSDAY-SUNDAY) TBD

**4th of July in Black Rock.** Keep watching or call after 6-15-13 for more info! No specific activities planned as of 2-13, but this will be very busy weekend in Black Rock, there are usually fireworks, too! A shame to waste long weekend so it'll probably be car camp at hot spring. Possible Amateur Radio Class on Sunday. Leader very familiar with area, can find plenty to do. Sorry, no RVs or trailers. High clearance vehicles, primitive camping. Dogs on leash; LNT, so be prepared to pick up after them! Exact dates not set. No legal holiday on Friday 7-5-13, but many people may take 4-day weekend. DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

#### JULY 4 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows.

Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

#### JULY 6 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Showers Lake via Meiss Ridge.** Loop hike begins at Carson Pass/Hwy 88. About 9 mi with scenic views along Meiss Ridge. Return through Upper Truckee River watershed with grassy meadows, usually profusion of wildflowers. Gain about 2000 ft for day. Learn some history of area. Drivers need \$5 cash for parking fee at trailhead. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

#### JULY 11 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Italian Night to Get Kids Outdoors!

July 20 • 6-9 pm • Galena Creek Park

BY KATY CHRISTENSEN, MABELNV@HOTMAIL.COM

Sierra Club believes in every child's right to watch bugs, climb rocks, get muddy, and fall in love with nature! Save the date for the 2nd annual Great Basin Group's summer social supporting *Get Kids Outdoors* adventures! ALL ARE WELCOME

– families, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren, and friends.

*Where:* Galena Creek Park, Fish Hatchery Building

*What:* A night of Italian dining, dancing, silent auction, activities for kids

Come early and take a hike or try fishing! Bring your own drinks (non-alcoholic or beer/wine, but no hard liquor, please). Note: This is an eco-friendly event, so guests are asked to bring their own non-disposable dinnerware (plate, cup, utensils, etc.).

**Contributions.** A minimum donation of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child under 13 is requested. Contributions made by

check are fully tax-deductible. Make checks payable to "Sierra Club Foundation" with the note "Toiyabe Chapter" on the memo line. Tax-deduction receipts will not be supplied for cash donations.

During the past year, over 1000

Please see ITALIAN NIGHT FOR KIDS, page 9.

**Don't forget to visit the**

**Great Basin Group website**

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

**& the Chapter website**

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

Our next outings in June are an overnight trip to *Mount Augusta* and the **Spring Mountain Adventure** to include *Grapevine Peak*, *Mummy Mountain*, and *Harris Mountain*.

The GBPS will celebrate 4 years in July with a potluck and **Outdoor Gear Sale & Exchange**.

**Join us!** For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peak Section at <<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/GreatBasinPeaks.html>>.



DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### JULY 18 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### JULY 25 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.



Great Basin Peaks Section t-shirts modeled at Gold Butte by Larry Dwyer, Mary Brooks, Larry Grant, Sharon Marie Wilcox, and Bob Ralston. Photo: Anon.

### JULY 27 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Elephant's Back Day Hike.** Elephant's Back is at Carson Pass off Hwy 88. Visit Frog, Winnemucca, Round Top Lakes. Scale Elephant's Back, enjoy sweeping views of high Sierra. Possibly return by Woods Lake, including hiking part of emigrant wagon train route. Wild flowers should be in full display. Learn about history of area. About 9.5 mi, some off-trail; 1700 ft gain for day. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

### ITALIAN NIGHT FOR KIDS ...

*continued from page 8*

children, many from low-income neighborhoods, participated in activities facilitated by local outdoor schools and supported by local donations – including our Great Basin Group's support for last summer's event. We need your support to **Get Kids Outdoors!**

**SILENT AUCTION** donations. Contact Sue (755-849-1890, suejacox@nvtbell.net).

**Directions.** Seven miles up Mt. Rose Highway from 395, enter at "Galena Creek Park South Entrance" sign for old fish hatchery building above Marilyn's Pond. Consider carpooling due to limited parking.

**Let us know you'll be there.** Please RSVP for food planning: Holly (775-331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net) or Katy (702-755-2267, mabelnv@hotmail.com).

## Great Basin Group Calendar

*continued from page 8*

### JULY 27 (SATURDAY) 8:30A

**Jamison Lake.** Hike from Jamison Mine area outside Graeagle to Jamison Lake. Learn about old mining operation. Views of waterfall, meadows, lakes, creek crossings

along way. Swimming during lunch at Jamison Lake and traditional ice cream stop after hike are both likely. About 7 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. DL. Leader: Craig Mastos (775-348-1862; maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

### AUGUST 1 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### AUGUST 3 (SATURDAY) 8A

**It's not just a good basin, it's a GREAT BASIN!**

**Devil's Oven Hike.** Hike in at Castle Peak on PCT to Devil's Oven Lake, return via another trail. Hike is usually rife with summer wildflowers. Devil's Oven is small, rarely visited sub-alpine lake

in granite splendor of Sierra. The About 13 mi, 2000 ft gain. DL. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Terry Meredith (terrymeredith01@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

### AUGUST 4 (SUNDAY) 6A

**White Mountain Peak Bag.** Near Bishop, CA. White Mountain is 14,250 ft, making it third highest peak in continental U.S. Hikers must be experienced, conditioned, fit; must have hiked with leader at least once prior to this ascent. About 15.2 mi RT, total gain 3473 ft. Storms or smoke cancel. This is a Great Basin Peak Group summit. Route is on "jeep road." Meet at 6a at trailhead. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

### AUGUST 7 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Join us on our after-work hike to get or stay in shape. Learn about trails in our local area. Call Hike Hotline for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-

1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### AUGUST 8 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### AUGUST 9-11 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

**Perseid Meteor Show in Black Rock Campout.** Camp in Mid-Playa to watch this year's Perseid Meteor shower. Portapotty provided, Potluck/barbecue likely Saturday night! One of best meteor showers of year, because new moon is on 8-6-13, skies will be really good! Side trips to nearby area hot springs likely, right on Emigrant Trail! Meet up Friday, head out. RVs and trailers OK to camping spot; high clearance 2WD or carpool for side trips. Dogs OK, but be prepared to pick up after them and keep on leash. Do you have a ham radio? Bring one to use with two area repeaters! FRS/CB radios helpful but not necessary. Leader very familiar with area! DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

**AUGUST 10 (SATURDAY) 8A Five Lakes, Two Snowbanks Day Hike.** In Carson Pass area. Hike from ranger station to Frog, Winnemucca, Round Top, Emigrant, Caples Lakes. Trip about 12 mi one way, with vehicle shuttle. Gain about 1500 ft with some x-c/boulder scrambling. Learn a bit about history of emigrant wagon trail in area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

## Great Basin Peak Section News

### A gusty July day on Bunker Hill

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX



Bunker Hill Hikers: Mary Brooks, Dave Porter, Ron Moe, and Sharon Marie Wilcox. Photo: Larry Dwyer.

Last July, GB Peaks Section hikers David Porter, Larry Dwyer, Mary Brooks, Ron Moe, and Sharon Marie Wilcox headed for Bunker Hill in the Toiyabe Range, Lander County's High Point (11,473 ft). Our first stop along Nevada's Loneliest Highway was Austin to fill gas tanks and grab dinner at the Toiyabe Café. Their humorous sign stated "Free Beer Tomorrow".

The entire group connected at Kingston Canyon Campground, a nice Forest Service campground (free, no reservations) located on Kingston Creek. We enjoyed a clear, starry sky before retiring early for our 5 am wake-up call.

A chilly 38-degree morning had us hustling to break camp. Initially, we planned to follow Bob Sumner's hiking

route in Hiking Nevada's County High Points, but decided to do an alternate route that started higher up the range and took us closer to Archie and Edith Peaks. Dave's 4WD allowed us to head up a steep jeep road where we parked on a hilltop above a shepherd's white tent. We followed a faint road to its end then started up the ridge between Archie and Edith.

Ron headed to Archie (11,061 ft), while the rest of the group aimed for Edith (11,038 ft) and Bunker Hill. We topped Edith during strong wind gusts, so quickly continued along the ridge towards Bunker Hill. On this very rocky, windy climb we spotted some nice blooms of rock columbine and polemonium and marveled at the amazing views along the Toiyabe Range.

The rocky ridgeline took us by "summit debris" to Bunker Hill's summit. Ron caught up with us on the summit for register signing, lunch, pictures, and an opportunity to absorb a magnificent 360-degree view.

Our return contoured along the side of Edith following braided animal trails and doing some bushwhacking.

A dinner stop at Middle Gate entertained us with local color and conversations with a couple walking across the U.S. from coast to coast plus a biker pedaling from San Francisco to his new job in Chicago. An interesting end to another great trip in the Great Basin.



Great Basin Peaks t-shirt backs with peak list. Photo: Anon.

### AUGUST 14 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Join us on this after-work outing to get or stay in shape, learn about trails in our local area. Call Hike Hotline for detailed info. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

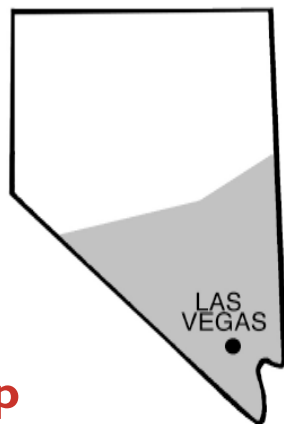
### AUGUST 15 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-

*Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.*



# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Monthly ExCom meetings July 31 and September 21, 2013

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee have moved to **Wednesdays** for the 2nd quarter. Meeting time is 6-8:30 pm at the Sierra Club Office, conveniently located downtown inside the PLAN Building between Garces and Gass at 708 South Sixth Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. There is plenty of free parking on the street and in the rear. Join us on July 31 and September 21 (dark in August).

#### General Program Meetings July 8 and September 9, 2013

THESE INTERESTING AND entertaining meetings are typically held on the **second Monday** of each month. They are also at the Sierra Club office (see above for details of location), unless otherwise noted on the accompanying calendar of events. Please join us on July 8 and September 9 (dark in August). See below for program details and times. All welcome!

All phone numbers indicated below are within the 702 area code unless otherwise noted. All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

#### JULY 8 (MONDAY)

**The Truth About Trapping.** Many people are astounded to learn trapping persists in the 21st century. Find out the facts from Sierra Club member and Sparks resident Trish Swain, Coordinator of Trail Safe Nevada, a grassroots citizen network focused on the trapping issue. Trapping affects public safety and land use as well as humane treatment of wild animals. Trish's presentation will cover some basics of Nevada trapping, National Sierra Club policy opposing trapping, keeping trails safe for people and pets, and ways Sierra Club members can be involved. This will not be disturbingly gory. The case for trap regulation can be made without subjecting an audience to horrifying images. Light refreshments will be served. Info: Jane Feldman (feldman.jane@gmail.com).

#### AUGUST 12 (MONDAY)

No General Meeting ("dark").

#### SEPTEMBER 9 (MONDAY)

**It's Fall & Hiking Season Is Back!** We are pleased to welcome Rae Lathrop and Mauricia Baca of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation, who will give Sierra Club members and friends a presentation on "The current and future state of the trail system in Southern Nevada." Since 2000, OLVF has been helping forge connections between the local community and our spectacular public lands, arranging corporate adoption of trails, conducting public workshops and organizing clean-up projects. Let's learn more about the Foundation's "Neon to Nature" project and their involvement in the

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Eric King*	702-265-2644	brianfadie@gmail.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668	
At Large	Gecko Benjamin*	702-505-0000	
At Large	Open		
At Large	Open		
Coal Power Plants	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Conservation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Endangered Species & Wildlife	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Energy	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Global Warming	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Inner City Outings	Charles Schneider	702-498-3224	charlie_nancy@cox.net
Membership	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Outings	Par Rasmusson	702-215-9119	par@mvdsl.com
Outings	Open		
Parks, Refuges	Ed Rothfuss	406-756-0028	mroth9827@aol.com
Political	Teresa Crawford	702-526-8445	tailspinterry@hotmail.com
Programs	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Publicity	Open		
Transportation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com

\* ExCom member

## Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.

All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

(Please use email when leaders state that they prefer email, especially if you have a long distance telephone number.)

ALL EVENTS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, for owls. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

#### JULY 8 (MONDAY)

**General Program Meeting: "The Truth About Trapping."** Many people are astounded to learn trapping persists in the 21st century. Find out the facts from Sierra Club member and Sparks resident Trish Swain, Coordinator of Trail Safe Nevada, a grassroots citizen network focused on the trapping issue. Trapping affects public safety and land use as well as humane treatment of wild animals. Trish's presentation will cover some basics of Nevada trapping, National Sierra Club policy opposing trapping, keeping trails safe for people and pets, and ways Sierra Club members can be involved. This will not be disturbingly gory. The case for trap regulation can be made without subjecting an audience to horrifying images. Light refreshments will be served. Info: Jane Feldman (feldman.jane@gmail.com).

#### JULY 14 (SUNDAY)

**Rain Tree & Mummy Springs, SMNRA.** From North Loop Trailhead, track up to tree, wander over to lush greenery supported by spring. Where are bristles on a bristlecone pine? About 6 mi RT; 1700 ft gain, 8400 ft to 10,100 ft Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

#### JULY 20 (SATURDAY)

**South Sister, Lee Canyon, SMNRA.** At summit you'll be blown away with a spectacular 360 degree view of Lee Canyon and area. About 6 mi RT; 1100 ft gain. How far and which direction is Yucca Mountain? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 4-5.

#### JULY 27 (SATURDAY)

**Fletcher Peak, SMNRA.** Dress properly for weather! We can always get rain in these mountains. Why do big mountains create their own weather patterns? About 8 mi from 8200-10,000 ft Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

#### AUGUST 10 (SATURDAY)

**Bristlecone Trail, Lee Canyon, SMNRA.** Bring your head lamps for under aspens. We'll see more stars than twinkling lights and look clean-up projects. Let's learn more about the Foundation's "Neon to Nature" project and their involvement in the 100-mile Vegas Valley Rim Trail. Light refreshments will

#### AUGUST 12 (MONDAY)

No General Program Meeting ("dark").

#### AUGUST 17 (SATURDAY)

**"Almost" Full Moon Hike to Cathedral Rock, SMNRA.** You may have done this one in daytime; now join us on this popular hike overlooking lodge and twinkling lights of Kyle Canyon. About 3 mi RT; 1000 ft gain. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2.

#### AUGUST 25 (SUNDAY)

**Stanley B. Springs, Kyle Canyon, SMNRA.** Columbine, wild rose, Englemann spruce, healthy ponderosa pines in stream area, lots of shade from mountain mahogany on way up, always make this canyon a pleasure. About 3 mi. Topping ridge, another mile to make loop from about 7200-8400 ft. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

#### SEPTEMBER 8 (SUNDAY)

**Griffith Peak via Harris Spring Road, SMNRA.** Should see some early fall color along 9 mi RT with gain of 3400 ft from 7600-11,000 ft. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 4-5.

#### SEPTEMBER 9 (MONDAY)

**General Program Meeting: It's Fall & Hiking Season Is Back!** We are pleased to welcome Rae Lathrop and Mauricia Baca of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation, who will give Sierra Club members and friends a presentation on "The Current & Future State of the Trail System in Southern Nevada." Since 2000, OLVF has been helping forge connections between the local community and our spectacular public lands, arranging corporate adoption of trails, conducting public workshops and organizing clean-up projects. Let's learn more about the Foundation's "Neon to Nature" project and their involvement in the

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

**Don't forget to visit the Chapter website**  
<<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>>



## S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

100-mile Vegas Valley Rim Trail. Light refreshments will be served. Taj Ainlay (682-9361).

### SEPTEMBER 21 (SATURDAY)

**Old Bristlecone Trail, SMNRA.** Fall is near and trees are changing colors. What is the green color in the leaves? What happens to it? This 6-mi RT hike is through some beautiful aspens and bristlecone pines. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3.

### SEPTEMBER 28 (SUNDAY)

**White Rock Loop: Red Rock Canyon.** These 6 mi comprise one of most enjoyable hikes at Red Rock Canyon. Great way to exercise - - splendid views while we lunch. Is there any visible disturbance to valley behind White Rock Mountain? Whose cabin slabs were these? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

## GOVERNOR SAYS NO...

continued from page 6

satch Front by dust storms generated in de-watered valleys.

Goshute Tribal leader, Rupert Steele, said the proposal (1) ignored pumping impacts to tribal waters and (2) had inadequate monitoring and mitigation provisions for adverse pumping impacts.

**Delay not a bad thing.** Steve Erickson of the Great Basin Water Network said the delay would provide some breathing room for both states to re-consider options to the proposed agreement.

Options left to Nevada include a lawsuit against Utah for not signing the draft agreement. But legal experts question whether Congress can force states to negotiate or even intended to do so in the Lincoln County Lands Act, or simply withheld the federal right-of-way if the states could not agree.

A draft agreement reached four years ago through secret negotiations was quickly signed by Nevada officials at that time, but it had not won the Utah governor's approval. That proposal declared 132,000 acre feet of ground-water was available for extraction, but critics assert this amount is a political fiction which does not pass the straight face test.

**More cost-effective approaches available.** SNWA continues to resist more cost-effective approaches, including: (1) increasing water efficiency, (2) obtaining additional water from desalination or other Colorado River supplies, and (3) supporting re-opening the Colorado River Compact, a 91-year-old deal which originally overcommitted the River's water among the seven upper and lower basin states.

1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### AUGUST 21 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Join us on this after-work outing to get or stay in shape, learn about trails in our local area. Call Hike Hotline for detailed info. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### AUGUST 22 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### AUGUST 28 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Join us on this after-work outing to get or stay in shape, learn about trails in our local area. Call Hike Hotline for detailed info. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### AUGUST 29 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### SEPTEMBER 4 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Join us on this after-work outing to get or stay in shape, learn about trails in our local area. Call Hike Hotline for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### SEPTEMBER 5 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### SEPTEMBER 7 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Thunder Mountain Day Hike.** Near Carson Pass. About 7 mi, 2000 ft gain. Scenic views on established trail mostly

## Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

on ridge line. Learn some history of area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

### SEPTEMBER 11 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Join us on this after-work outing to stay or get in shape, learn about trails in our local area. Call Hike Hotline for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### SEPTEMBER 12 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### SEPTEMBER 14 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Machado Postpiles Day Hike: Explore Fire & Ice (?) in Carson Pass Area.** The existence and location of these natural hexagonal basalt columns -- similar to, but believed to be millions of years older than Devil's Postpiles, near Mammoth Lakes -- were not confirmed until about 1990. That's "fire"; "ice" is evidenced by numerous large erratics near beginning of hike and glacial striations. About 5 mi RT, about 800 ft gain. Not on established trail. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

### SEPTEMBER 18 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Join us on this after-work outing to get or stay in shape, learn about trails in our local area. Call Hike Hotline for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### SEPTEMBER 19 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

## THREATS TO NEVADA SPECIES...

continued from page 2

One unfortunate species is the flag pyrg, found only at 4 springs. All of these springs are affected by the project, with reductions in flow conservatively estimated (by the SNWA) to be 17%. Given that habitat for spring snails is tightly tied to the water quality, chemistry, temperature, and flow rate of the springs and their brooks, there is a high likelihood that the flag pyrg will be one of several species of spring snail that will go extinct due to the pumping impacts.

Overall, the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) estimates that between 41 and 203 springs are at a moderate to high risk of negative impacts. Accordingly, the Center for Biological Diversity has filed a lawsuit asking for protections on an accelerated timeframe for the flag pyrg and three other spring snails under the provisions of

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### SEPTEMBER 20-22 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

**National Public Lands Day (Weekend).** Attend National Public Lands Day and camp at Soldier Meadows Hot Spring, one of prettier hot springs in Black Rock. Vault toilet or portapotties. Actual volunteer projects not yet set, but we usually have a work day and a play day. Side trips to other hot springs or area attractions likely, as we'll be right near High Rock Canyon! Potluck Saturday night also likely. If you bring a dog, be prepared to keep it leashed and clean up after it! Probably meet up Friday night, head on up. CB or FRS radio helpful. DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

### SEPTEMBER 25 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Join us on this after-work outing to get or stay in shape, learn about trails in our local area. Call Hike Hotline for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### SEPTEMBER 26 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs allowed, posted on Hike Hotline Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

the Endangered Species Act (ESA). They have also petitioned for 31 other species of spring snails in the Great Basin in Nevada to be listed as endangered, with a decision expected by 2017.

Similar to the case of the spring snails, desert fish are another remnant from wetter times that now find themselves in fragmented and severely limited habitat. At least fifteen species of desert fish are at risk from the impacts of the proposed pumping. The FEIS projects that between 46 and 140 miles of permanent streams will have a moderate to high degree of degradation.

Perhaps the most critically threatened is the White River spinedace, currently listed under the ESA as Endangered. The last five-year status review by the U.S. Fish and

Please see *THREATS TO NV SPECIES*, page 12.



## Bookshelf

### ON EXTINCTION: HOW WE BECAME ESTRANGED FROM NATURE

By Melanie Challenger  
Counterpoint, 2012.

Melanie Challenger's first prose book is a wonderful read. Let me begin by saying what it is not. It is not a strident siren song calling for action on the issue of species extinctions and not an objective or coherently crafted argument for reevaluating humans' interaction with nature. In comparison with, say, with Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* it is only a soft brush of reality.

The subtitle is not effectively described or argued at all. Yet the author manages to make the point in a remarkably compelling manner, and the overall effect is soul chilling. She treats not just species extinctions, but extinctions of languages, of cultures, of industries, and of livelihoods. She does this by probing deeply into her own past experiences, beginning with her youthful forays in Cornwall and continuing to her recent excursions to the polar regions. Along with that, she seamlessly weaves in observations and thoughts of innumerable past authors, from the ancient Greeks to the writers of recent decades.

Clearly the author is well read, and she easily draws on contributions of others even though she herself seems to see things with a thousand pairs of eyes. The early chapters are narrative, often in a seemingly florid prose which may not appeal to all – consider, for example: "Mists moved against the still hedges, slow exhalations of the failing day." But within this, a thesis slowly builds as she leads us from the fallow pastures of Cornwall through the

hulks of the whaling industry in the southern ocean, and finally into the native people's lands in far northern Canada.

Along the way, we are presented with the parallel between humans' extinction of species, culture, and languages – even, sometimes, our own. Although our estrangement from nature is not directly argued or treated, it is revealed by example. Whether Challenger thinks this is a good or bad development is not clear from this book. Even when humans were well connected to nature, it seems they had a poor record on species preservation.

Perhaps our estrangement from nature will give us a perspective allowing us to take effective action to promote the cultural change necessary to arresting extinctions. In the author's extinction narrative, she often mentions the nostalgia humans feel for things lost and destroyed. For this reviewer, a true nostalgia came with the first reading of Challenger's book in the cold, gray days of December.

—David von Seggern

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARIES . . .

continued from page 6

**the Civil Rights Act in 2014.** Wilderness has been the top priority of the Sierra Club since its founding by John Muir. Because of the Club's recent emphasis on environmental justice, it is appropriate that we also celebrate the Civil Rights Act.

### PROCLAMATION

**Whereas**, January 1, 1964, marked the beginning of one of the most important and eventful years in the later history of the United States, a time when Americans worked hard to come together and make the positive changes envisioned by a President we had lost just 40 days earlier, with the tragic assassination of President John F. Kennedy; and

**Whereas**, A national purpose emerged in 1964 as our population, particularly our younger citizens, realized that America was not Camelot and the changes and reforms that were needed required the work and support of all of us, and not just our elected leaders; and

**Whereas**, The American people and the leaders of our democracy focused on crucially important issues of the day such as racial equality, environmental protection, and national security; and

**Whereas**, Following many years of segregation, voter suppression, and private acts of violence, all of which degraded the citizenship rights of African Americans, a civil rights movement supported by America's black population, and many white citizens, evolved in the United States using both direct action and forms of nonviolent resistance to accomplish the goal of racial equality; and

**Whereas**, On June 11, 1963, President Kennedy addressed the nation and asked for legislation that would give "all Americans the right to be served in facilities which are open to the public," including hotels, restaurants, theaters, retail stores and similar establishments, and the United States Congress and President Lyndon B. Johnson took a major step to achieve racial equality through the passage and signing, on July 2, 1964, of the landmark legislation known as the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

**Whereas**, The year 1964 was a time of increased political involvement among America's citizens on a number of diverse topics, such as the war on poverty, voting rights, and the need to protect some of the most pristine and environmentally sensitive lands for the enjoyment of generations to come; and

**Whereas**, Following many years of work by citizens involved in conservation and environmental protection, including members of organized groups such as The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, and National Audubon Society, a bi-partisan Congress passed and President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act on September 3, 1964, which created the National Wilderness Preservation System, initially comprised of 9.1 million acres; and

**Whereas**, The Wilderness System has been enhanced over the years to designate over 106 million acres in the United States, including over three million acres of magnificent wild land in Nevada, of some of the most special and unspoiled lands administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest

Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management; now, therefore, be it

**Proclaimed**, That the members of the Senate of the State of Nevada do hereby commend the efforts of so many Nevadans and other Americans that led to the passage of two historic pieces of federal legislation in 1964, the Civil Rights Act and the Wilderness Act, which were similar in the purpose of promoting the common good; and be it further

**Proclaimed**, That the people of Nevada are urged to conduct public events and inform the public as we recognize and celebrate in 2014 the 50th anniversary of these two monumental laws.

-- Aaron D. Ford, Nevada State Senator, Senate District No. 11 and Patricia (Pat) Spearman, Nevada State Senator, Senate District No. 1

## THREATS TO NEVADA SPECIES . . .

continued from page 11

Wildlife Service (FWS) states that in 2008, just over 1000 individuals were counted in the Flag Spring – Sunnyside Creek system, their only remaining habitat. This fish was once a member of an inter-connected suite of similar species inhabiting the Pleistocene White River, which exists today only as a series of isolated springs and short streams. The FWS gives the spinedace a "2C" endangerment rating, among the highest of any species in Nevada, and they specifically site development of ground and surface water in the habitat area as a significant threat. As with the flag pyrg, the impacts on spring flow, temperature, and chemistry from the SNWA project could easily send this imperiled species into extinction.

### END OF PART I

Rob Mrowka is an ecologist employed by the Center for Biological Diversity, and serves as the Center's Nevada Conservation Advocate. Mrowka was previously employed with the U.S. Forest Service, and later served as the Environmental Planning Manager for Nevada's Clark County. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Great Basin Water Network. He kindly gave permission for the Trails to use this article, which first appeared in the Desert Report's June 2013 issue. Desert Report is a publication of Sierra Club's California/Nevada Desert Committee.



## Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings


Saturday, July 27, 2013  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Saturday, October 19, 2013  
Lake Tahoe

For details,  
contact the Chair,


DAVID VON SEGGERN  
vonseg1@sbcglobal.net  
775-303-8461

All Toiyabe Chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings, which usually begin at 9 am. We reserve a time slot for input from members; if you have an issue on which you want to address the ExCom, please attend. For ExCom members' contact info, see the Chapter Directory on page 2.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet


### All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"  
- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
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"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

1400 1400 1